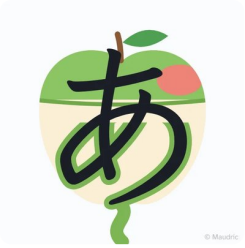
Maudric
Everyday Japanese, one walk at a time

Hiragana: the あ row

あいうえお



あ a

Apple!

Sounds like the a in apple, but more open.

Apple! Someone is peeling it, and the skin coming off in one long curl makes the loop.





い i

Bee!

Sounds like the ee in bee, but shorter.

Bee! The two strokes are the bee's antennae, one a little longer than the other.





う u

Moon!

Sounds like the oo in moon, but shorter.

Moon! The big curve is a crescent moon, and the short stroke above it is a shooting star.





え e

Escalator!

Sounds like the e in egg.

Escalator! The short stroke is someone stepping on at the top. Follow the long stroke down the escalator to the floor at the bottom, just as you write it.





お o

Doughnut!

Sounds like the o in go, but shorter.

Doughnut! The loop is the doughnut, the cross is a fork stuck into it, and the little stroke is a sprinkle flying off.



Writing practice: trace the grey letters, then write your own

あ あ あ

い い い

う う う

え え え

お お お

Stroke order, all the rows and a free weekly kana quiz:
maudric.com/kana/pictures/a

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