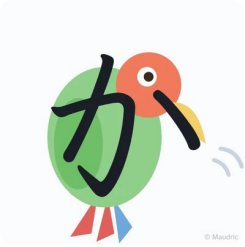
Maudric
Everyday Japanese, one walk at a time

Hiragana: the か row

かきくけこ



か ka

A parrot: “Ka!”

Sounds like the ca in car (without the r).

A parrot squawking “Ka!” The little stroke is its open beak, and the rest of the letter is its body and tail.





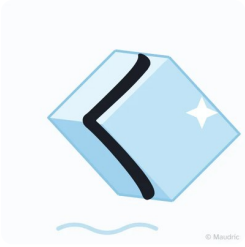
き ki

Kick!

Sounds like key (kick is shorter, but close).

Kick! A footballer: the two short strokes are the arms out for balance, the long stroke is the kicking leg, and the curve at the bottom is the ball curling away.





く ku

Cool!

Sounds like the coo in cool, but shorter.

Cool! An ice cube: the く is the two edges coming towards you from its nearest corner.





け ke

Kettle!

Sounds like the ke in kettle.

Kettle! The stroke on the left is the handle, the short stroke across the top is the spout, and the long curving stroke is the side of the kettle.





こ ko

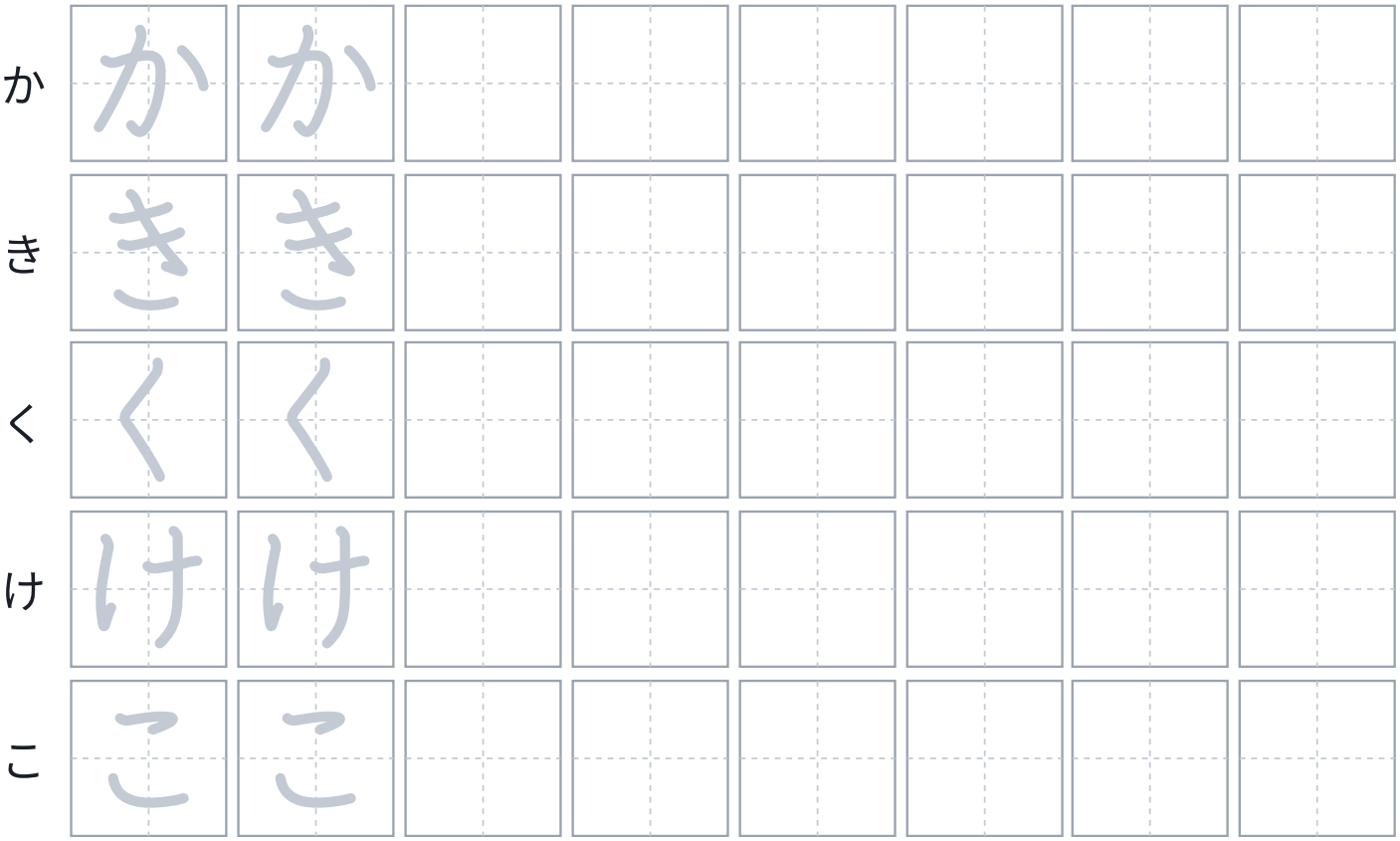
Cocoa!

Sounds like the co in cocoa, but shorter.

Cocoa! The bottom stroke is the curve of the mug, and the top stroke is the steam rising off a hot cup of cocoa.



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



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

Pictures © 2026 Michael Reeves · Maudric. All rights reserved. Free to print for personal use. Stroke order: KanjiVG, © Ulrich Apel, CC BY-SA 3.0.