Maudric
Everyday Japanese, one walk at a time

# Hiragana pictures

ひらがなの絵・1 of 3



あ a

**Apple!**

*Sounds like the a in apple, but more open.*



い i

**Bee!**

*Sounds like the ee in bee, but shorter.*



う u

**Moon!**

*Sounds like the oo in moon, but shorter.*



え e

**Escalator!**

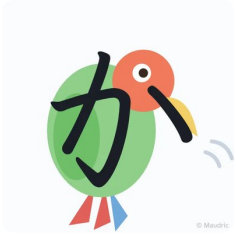
*Sounds like the e in egg.*



お o

**Doughnut!**

*Sounds like the o in go, but shorter.*



か ka

**A parrot: “Ka!”**

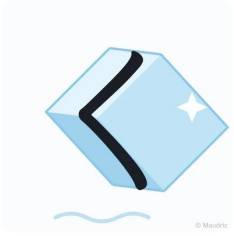
*Sounds like the ca in car (without the r).*



き ki

**Kick!**

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



く ku

**Cool!**

*Sounds like the coo in cool, but shorter.*



け ke

**Kettle!**

*Sounds like the ke in kettle.*



こ ko

**Cocoa!**

*Sounds like the co in cocoa, but shorter.*



さ sa

**Samurai!**

*Sounds like the sa in samurai.*



し shi

**Ship!**

*Sounds like shee, but shorter.*



す su

**Sumo!**

*Sounds like the su in sumo.*



せ se

**Celebration!**

*Sounds like the se in set.*



そ so

**Espresso!**

*Sounds like the so at the end of espresso, but shorter.*



た ta

**Tap!**

*Sounds like tah.*



ち chi

**Cheetah!**

*Sounds like the chee in cheetah, but shorter.*



つ tsu

**Tsunami!**

*Sounds like the tsu in tsunami. Don't forget the t: say "ts-oo", not "soo".*



て te

**Tentacle!**

*Sounds like the te in ten.*



と to

**Toast!**

*Sounds like the to in toast, but shorter.*

**Stroke order for every letter, and a free weekly kana quiz:**
maudric.com/kana/pictures

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# Hiragana pictures

ひらがなの絵・2 of 3



な na

**Na-na-na!**

*Sounds like nah.*



に ni

**Knitting!**

*Sounds like knee, but shorter.*



ぬ nu

**Noodles!**

*Sounds like the noo in noodles, but shorter.*



ね ne

**Net!**

*Sounds like the ne in net.*



の no

**Piano!**

*Sounds like no, but shorter.*




は ha

**Ha-ha!**

*Sounds like the ha in "ha-ha!"*



ひ hi

**Heel!**

*Sounds like the hee in heel, but shorter.*



ふ fu

**Food!**

*Sounds like the foo in food, but softer: halfway to "hoo".*




へ he

**Help!**

*Sounds like the he in help.*



ほ ho

**Hose!**

*Sounds like the ho in hose, but shorter.*



ま ma

**Mask!**

*Sounds like the ma in mask.*



み mi

**Meteor!**

*Sounds like the me in meteor, but shorter.*



む mu

**Moose!**

*Sounds like the moo in moose, but shorter.*



め me

**Medal!**

*Sounds like the me in medal.*



も mo

**Moth!**

*Sounds like the mo in moth.*

## How to use the pictures

Say the English word, picture the scene, then trace the letter with your finger. Cover the words and test yourself: can you say the sound from the picture alone?

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# Hiragana pictures

ひらがなの絵・3 of 3



や ya

**Yap!**

*Sounds like the ya in yap.*



ゆ yu

**Unicorn!**

*Sounds like the u in unicorn (said "yoo").*



よ yo

**Yo-yo!**

*Sounds like the yo in yo-yo, but shorter.*



ら ra

**Racket!**

*Sounds like the ra in racket, but with a light flick of the tongue (between r and l).*



り ri

**Ribbon!**

*Sounds like the ri in ribbon, but with a light flick of the tongue (between r and l).*



る ru

**Ruby!**

*Sounds like the ru in ruby, but with a light flick of the tongue (between r and l).*



れ re

**Record!**

*Sounds like the re in record, but with a light flick of the tongue (between r and l).*



ろ ro

**Rocket!**

*Sounds like the ro in rocket, but with a light flick of the tongue (between r and l).*



わ wa

**Wagon!**

*Sounds like the wa in wagon.*



を wo

**Wok!**

*Sounds like the wo in wok, but usually said just "o", like お.*



ん n

**Fan!**

*Sounds like the n at the end of fan.*

## Sounds

The English words are only a guide: Japanese vowels are short and clean, and the Japanese r is a light flick of the tongue, between r and l. を is usually said just “o”, like お.

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