day 1 hello! · hiragana 1

Say hello, introduce yourself and ask “Are you …?”

Every friendship in Japan starts with one word: はじめまして.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
いいえ	iie	no	いいえ、トムです。 No, I'm Tom.
はい	hai	yes; here you are	はい、アンナです。 Yes, I'm Anna.
ええ	ē	yes (relaxed)	ええ、結衣です。 Yes, I'm Yui.
こんにちは	konnichiwa	hello; good afternoon	こんにちは、アンナさん。 Hello, Anna.
おはようございます	ohayōgozaimasu	good morning	おはようございます、アンナさん。 Good morning, Anna.
はじめまして	hajimemashite	nice to meet you	はじめまして、アンナです。 Nice to meet you. I'm Anna.
です	desu	is, am, are (polite)	アンナです。 I'm Anna.
か	ka	(turns a sentence into a question)	トムさんですか。 Are you Tom?
さん	san	Mr, Ms (after a name)	結衣さんですか。 Are you Yui?
どうぞ	dōzo	please, go ahead; here you are	はい、どうぞ。 Here you are.
よろしく	yoroshiku	pleased to meet you	アンナです。どうぞよろしく。 I'm Anna. Pleased to meet you.
すみません	sumimasen	excuse me; sorry	あのう、すみません。 Um, excuse me.
あのう	anō	um, er (to get attention)	あのう、トムさんですか。 Um, are you Tom?
じゃあ	jā	well then, OK	じゃあ、どうぞ。 OK then, go ahead.

pattern x です · x ですか

name / thing | **です** | **か**

です is the polite “is, am, are”: アンナです means “I'm Anna”. Japanese leaves out “I” and “you” when they're clear. Add か at the end and it becomes a question, with no change in word order: アンナさんですか, “Are you Anna?”

トムです。 **tomu desu** I'm Tom.

結衣さんですか。 **yuisan desu ka** Are you Yui?

はい、結衣です。 **hai yui desu** Yes, I'm Yui.

いいえ、アンナです。 **iie anna desu** No, I'm Anna.

dialogue looking for anna

yui おはようございます。あのう、すみません。
ohayōgozaimasu anō sumimasen · Good morning. Um, excuse me.

anna はい。
hai · Yes?

yui アンナさんですか。
annasan desu ka · Are you Anna?

anna ええ、アンナです。
ē anna desu · Yes, I'm Anna.

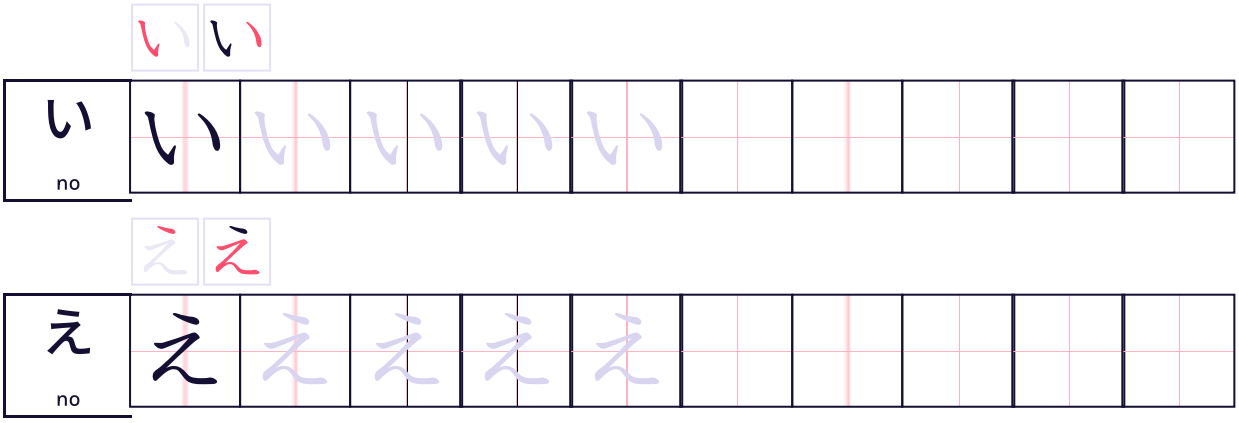
yui はじめまして、結衣です。
hajimemashite yui desu · Nice to meet you. I'm Yui.

anna 結衣さん！はじめまして。どうぞよろしく。
yuisan hajimemashite dōzo yoroshiku · Yui! Nice to meet you. I'm so glad to meet you.

yui よろしく！じゃあ、どうぞ。
yoroshiku jā dōzo · Great to meet you! Right, this way.

anna はい！
hai · OK!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



は は は

は は (topic: as for …)	は	は	は	は	は					

こ こ

こ hello; good afternoon	こ	こ	こ	こ	こ					

ん

ん hello; good afternoon	ん	ん	ん	ん	ん					

に に に

に に in, at, on; to (a place, a time, a person)	に	に	に	に	に					

ち ち

ち hello; good afternoon	ち	ち	ち	ち	ち					

お お お

お good morning	お	お	お	お	お					

good to know · Today's ten hiragana: the five vowels あ い う え お (a, i, u, e, o) and the k-row か き く け こ (ka, ki, ku, ke, ko). Almost every Japanese syllable ends in one of those five vowels. Japanese vowels are short and clean, as in Spanish or Italian: い is “ee”, う is “oo” with relaxed lips, え is “e” as in “pet”. In こんにちは the last kana is は, but you say “wa”. Tomorrow's particle は does the same. Put さん after other people's names, never after your own: “I'm Anna” is アンナです. おはようございます is “good morning”, until about 10 or 11; こんにちは is for the daytime. In the evening it’s こんばんは (day 5).

You just had your first conversation in Japanese. はじめまして, and welcome!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 2 what's this? · hiragana 2

Japanese N5 in 70 days
unit 1 · hiragana & hello

Point at things near you, near the other person or far away, and say what they are.

これ, それ and あれ let you talk about anything you can point at, even before you know its name.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
は	wa	(topic: as for …)	これはかばんです。 This is a bag.
これ	kore	this (near me)	これはひらがなです。 This is hiragana.
それ	sore	that (near you)	それはかばんですか。 Is that a bag?
あれ	are	that (over there)	あれは|いすですか。 Is that a chair over there?
どれ	dore	which one	かばんはどれですか。 Which one is the bag?
そう	sō	so, like that	はい、そうです。 Yes, that's right.
ひらがな	hiragana	hiragana	それはひらがなですか。 Is that hiragana?
かばん	kaban	bag	あれはかばんですか。 Is that a bag over there?
いす	isu	chair	これは|いすです。 This is a chair.
めがね	megane	glasses	それはめがねですか。 Are those glasses?
いつ	itsu	when	いつですか。 When is it?
じゃ	ja	well then (short for じゃあ)	じゃ、これは？ OK, and this one?
ありがとう	arigatō	thanks	ありがとう、結衣さん。 Thanks, Yui.

pattern これは x です: this is x

これ・それ・あれ | は | thing | です

は marks the topic, what you're talking about: これは… is “as for this…”. It's written は but said “wa”. これ is near me, それ is near you, あれ is over there, away from us both, and どれ asks “which one?”.

これはひらがなです。 **kore wa hiragana desu** This is hiragana.

それはかばんですか。 **sore wa kaban desu ka** Is that a bag?

あれはめがねです。 **are wa megane desu** Those are glasses, over there.

どれですか。 **dore desu ka** Which one?

dialogue the pointing game

yui アンナさん、これは？
annasan kore wa · Anna, what's this?

anna かばんです！
kaban desu · It's a bag!

yui そうです！じゃ、それは？
sō desu ja sore wa · Right! OK, and that, by you?

anna これは…めがねです。
kore wa megane desu · This? These are glasses.

yui はい、そうです。じゃ、あれは？
hai sō desu ja are wa · Yes, that's right. And that one, over there?

anna あれは…いすですか。
are wa isu desu ka · That's… a chair?

yui そうです！
sō desu · Yes!

anna ありがとう、結衣さん！
arigatō yuisan · Thanks, Yui!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

よ
よ
…, you know! (tells something new)

う
good morning

ま ま ま

ま good morning	ま	ま	ま	ま	ま					

す す

す good morning	す	す	す	す	す					

め め

め nice to meet you	め	め	め	め	め					

し

し nice to meet you	し	し	し	し	し					

て

て nice to meet you	て	て	て	て	て					

か か か

か か (turns a sentence into a question)	か	か	か	か	か					

good to know · Today's kana: さ し す せ そ (sa, shi, su, se, so) and た ち つ て と (ta, chi, tsu, te, to). Three break the pattern: し is “shi”, ち is “chi”, つ is “tsu”. Ko-so-a-do: これ (this, near me), それ (that, near you), あれ (that, over there), どれ (which?). The same four starts come back in ここ, そこ, あそこ, どこ on day 4. Notice the switch in the game: Yui points at something near Anna and says それ; Anna answers これ, because for her it's near. In は (the particle), ひらがな and かばん, watch the line between ha and wa: only the particle is “wa”.

Now you can point at the world and name it. Look around you: これは…?
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day 3 mine and yours · hiragana 3

Say whose something is, and say “too”.

の and も are tiny, but you'll use them in almost every conversation.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
の	no	's, of (A の B)	これはトムさんのはがきです。 This is Tom's postcard.
も	mo	too, also	それも結衣さんのかばんですか。 Is that Yui's bag too?
この	kono	this … (+ noun)	このかばんですか。 Is it this bag?
その	sono	that … near you (+ noun)	そのはがきですか。 Do you mean that postcard?
あの	ano	that … over there (+ noun)	あのちゃわんですよ。 It's that rice bowl over there.
どの	dono	which … (+ noun)	どのかばんですか。 Which bag?
あなた	anata	you	これはあなたのはがきですか。 Is this your postcard?
どなた	donata	who (polite)	どなたですか。 Who is it?
ね	ne	…, isn't it? (asks you to agree)	そうですね。 Yes, that's right.
よ	yo	…, you know! (tells something new)	トムさんのはがきですよ。 Here, Tom, it's your postcard!
はがき	hagaki	postcard	はがきですか。ありがとう！ A postcard? Thanks!
ちゃわん	chawan	rice bowl; tea bowl	それは結衣さんのちゃわんです。 That's Yui's rice bowl.
せっけん	sekken	soap	せっけんです。どうぞ。 It's soap. Here you are.

pattern a の b: tom's postcard

owner **の** **thing**

の links two nouns, owner first: トムさんのはがき is “Tom's postcard”. も means “too, also” and takes the place of は: これもトムさんのはがきです, “this is Tom's postcard too”.

結衣さんのめがねです。 **yuisan no megane desu** They're Yui's glasses.

これもトムさんのはがきです。 **kore mo tomusan no hagaki desu** This is Tom's postcard too.

あなたのかばんですか。 **anata no kaban desu ka** Is it your bag?

dialogue a postcard for tom

tom はい。どなたですか。
hai donata desu ka · Yes? Who is it?

anna こんにちは。アンナです。あのう、トムさんですか。
konnichiwa anna desu anō tomusan desu ka · Hello, I'm Anna. Um, are you Tom?

tom はい、トムです。
hai tomu desu · Yes, I'm Tom.

anna これ、トムさんのはがきですよ。
kore tomusan no hagaki desu yo · This is your postcard, Tom.

tom はがき？ありがとう！
hagaki arigatō · A postcard? Thanks!

anna このせっけんもどうぞ。
kono sekken mo dōzo · And please take this soap too.

tom せっけんですか。
sekken desu ka · Soap?

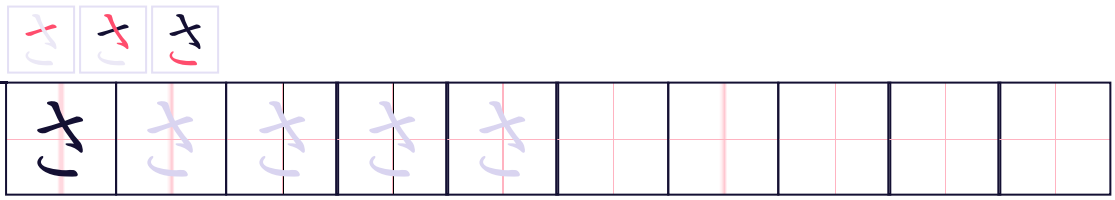
anna はい。はじめまして、どうぞよろしく。
hai hajimemashite dōzo yoroshiku · Yes. Nice to meet you, and I hope we'll be good neighbours.

tom ありがとう、アンナさん。よろしく！
arigatō annasan yoroshiku · Thank you, Anna. Nice to meet you too!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

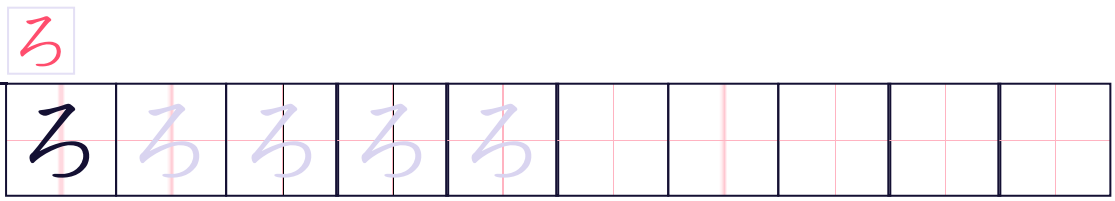
さ

Mr, Ms (after a name)



ろ

pleased to meet you



く

く
pleased to meet you

み み

み
excuse me; sorry

せ せ せ

せ
excuse me; sorry

あ あ あ

あ
um, er (to get attention)

の

の
の
's, of (A の B)

れ れ

れ
this (near me)

good to know · Today's kana: な に ぬ ね の and は ひ ふ へ ほ. ふ sits between “fu” and “hu”: blow softly, without touching your lip with your teeth. これ, それ, あれ stand alone; この, その, あの need a noun after them: このはがき, this postcard. どれ and どの work the same way. ね checks the other person agrees (…, isn't it?); よ tells them something new (…, you know!). せっけん has a small っ: a tiny pause before the k, “sek-ken”. You'll meet small kana properly on day 5.

One little の and you can say whose anything is. Anna has a neighbour now, and you have twenty more hiragana.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

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day 4 where is it? · hiragana 4

Japanese N5 in 70 days
unit 1 · hiragana & hello

Say where things and people are: “There's a … here.”

あります and います answer every traveller's favourite question: where is it?

words

word	kana	meaning	example
ここ	koko	here	ここにいすがあります。 There's a chair here.
そこ	soko	there (near you)	そこにかばんがありますよ。 There's a bag right there, by you.
あそこ	asoko	over there	あそこにトムさんがいます。 Tom's over there.
どこ	doko	where	めがねはどこですか。 Where are my glasses?
が	ga	(marks the subject)	ここにかばんがあります。 There's a bag here.
に	ni	in, at, on; to (a place, a time, a person)	あそこにおばあさんがいます。 There's an old lady over there.
ある	aru	to be, to exist (things)	めがねがありません。 My glasses aren't here.
いる	iru	to be, to exist (people, animals)	トムさんがいません。 Tom isn't here.
みんな	minna	everyone	みんないますか。 Is everyone here?
おじいさん	ojiisan	grandfather; old man	あのおじいさんはどなたですか。 Who's that old gentleman?
おばあさん	obāsan	grandmother; old woman	ここにおばあさんがいます。 There's an old lady here.
おじさん	ojisan	uncle; man (middle-aged)	あのおじさんは鈴木さんです。 That man is Mr Suzuki.
おばさん	obasan	aunt; woman (middle-aged)	どのおばさんですか。 Which lady?

pattern あります・います: there is

place に **thing / person** が **あります・います**

あります is “there is” for things; います is for people and animals, anything alive that moves by itself. The place comes first with に, the thing or person with が. The negatives are ありません and いません.

そこにかばんがありますよ。 **soko ni kaban ga arimasu yo** There's a bag right there, by you.

あそこにおばあさんがいます。 **asoko ni obāsan ga imasu** There's an old lady over there.

トムさんはどこにいますか。 **tomusan wa doko ni imasu ka** Where's Tom?

dialogue where's tom?

ms yamada みんないますか。
minna imasu ka · Is everyone here?

anna あのう、トムさんがいません。
anō tomusan ga imasen · Um, Tom isn't here.

ms yamada トムさんはどこですか。
tomusan wa doko desu ka · Where's Tom?

anna あそこです！あそこにトムさんがいますよ。
asoko desu asoko ni tomusan ga imasu yo · Over there! Tom's over there.

tom すみません！すみません！
sumimasen sumimasen · Sorry! Sorry!

anna トムさん、あのおじさんはどなたですか。
tomusan ano ojisan wa donata desu ka · Tom, who's that man?

tom 鈴木さんです。
suzukisan desu · That's Mr Suzuki.

mr suzuki こんにちは！みんな、どうぞよろしく。
konnichiwa minna dōzo yoroshiku · Hello, everyone! Nice to meet you all.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

そ

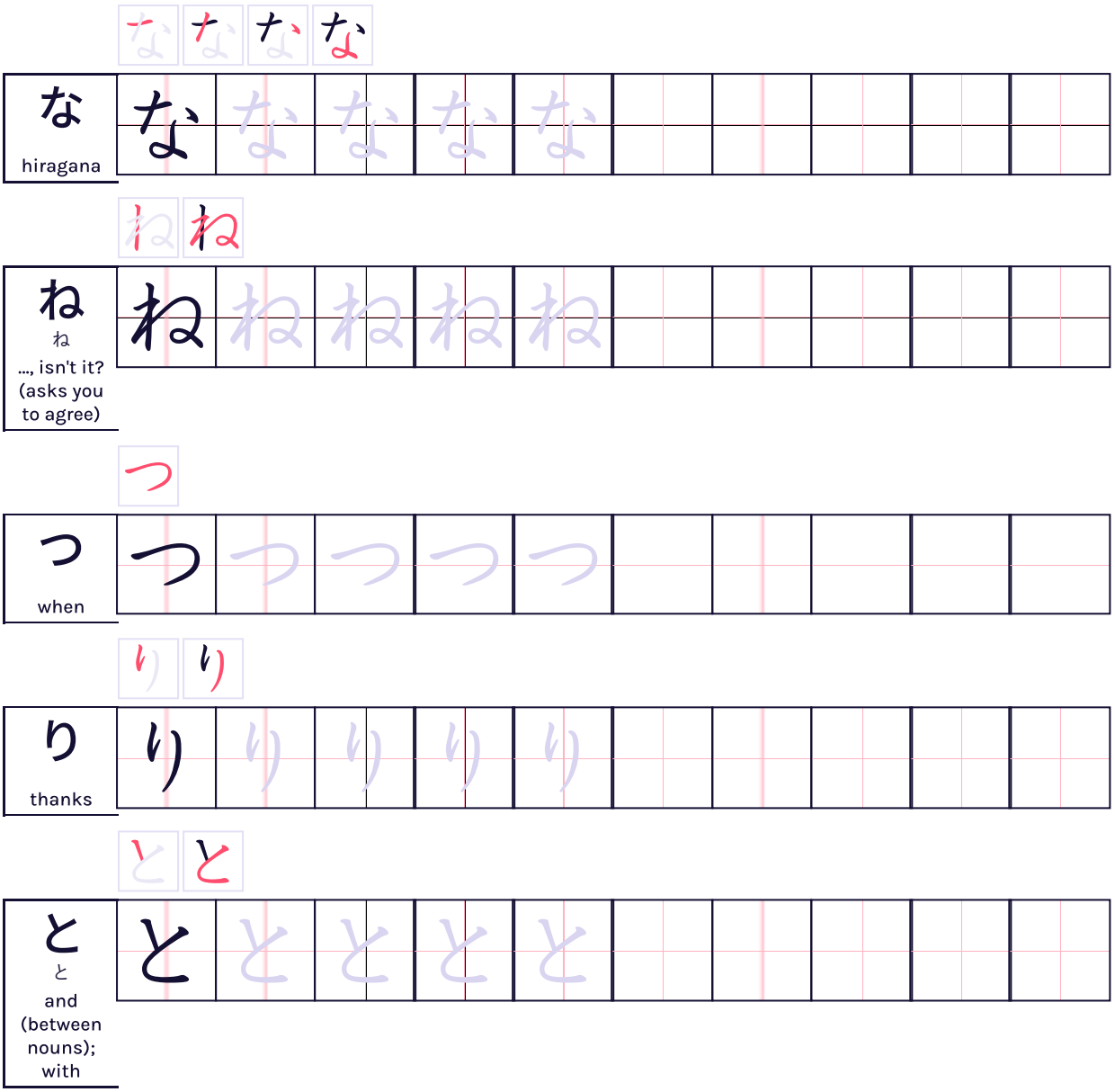
そ that (near you)

ひ

ひ hiragana

ら ら

ら hiragana



good to know · Today's kana: ま み む め も, や ゆ よ and ら り る れ ろ. The Japanese r is one light tap of the tongue, somewhere between r, l and d. おじいさん (long い) is a grandfather or an old man; おじさん (short) is an uncle or a man about your parents' age. The long vowel changes the word, so hold it! The same goes for おばあさん and おばさん. ここ, そこ, あそこ, どこ follow the same ko-so-a-do pattern as これ, それ, あれ, どれ. In conversation, は and が often drop out when the meaning is clear: みんないますか.

あります, います: now you can find anything, and anyone. Even Tom.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 5 i get it! · hiragana 5

Say what you do and don't do, and use the phrases of every Japanese meal.

With を and ~ます you can build thousands of sentences: just swap the verb.

words

word	kana	meaning	example
を	o	(marks the object)	めがねをかけます。 I'll put my glasses on.
する	suru	to do	じゃあ、そうします。 OK, I'll do that.
わかる	wakaru	to understand	すみません、わかりません。 Sorry, I don't understand.
できる	dekiru	can do; to be able to	ひらがなができます。 I can read and write hiragana.
かける	kakeru	to put on (glasses); to hang	めがねをかけません。 I don't wear glasses.
なくす	nakusu	to lose (something)	トムさんはよくめがねをなくします。 Tom often loses his glasses.
ちょっと	chotto	a little; a bit	ちょっとわかります。 I understand a little.
よく	yoku	often; well	はい、よくわかります。 Yes, I understand it well.
ゆっくり	yukkuri	slowly; take your time	ゆっくりどうぞ。 Take your time.
ごめんなさい	gomennasai	I'm sorry	ごめんなさい、結衣さん。 Sorry, Yui.
いただきます	itadakimasu	(said before eating)	じゃあ、いただきます！ Well then, let's eat!
ごちそうさまでした	gochisōsama deshita	thank you for the meal	ごちそうさまでした、鈴木さん。 Thank you for the meal, Mr Suzuki.
さようなら	sayōnara	goodbye	さようなら、みんな。 Goodbye, everyone.
こんばんは	konbanwa	good evening	トムさん、こんばんは。 Good evening, Tom.

pattern を + verb ます • ません

thing **を** **verb** **ます・ません**

を (said “o”) marks the thing you do something to: めがねをかけます, “I put on my glasses”. Polite verbs end in ます (I do, I will) or ません (I don't, I won't), and the verb always comes last. わかります and できます are special: they take が.

めがねをかけません。 **megane o kakemasen** I don't wear glasses.

トムさんはよくかばんをなくします。 **tomusan wa yoku kaban o nakushimasu** Tom often loses his bag.

ちょっとわかります。 **chotto wakarimasu** I understand a little.

じゃあ、そうします。 **jā sō shimasu** OK, I'll do that.

dialogue tom's glasses

mr suzuki こんばんは！はい、どうぞ。
konbanwa hai dōzo · Good evening! Here you are.

anna ありがとう。いただきます！
arigatō itadakimasu · Thank you. Itadakimasu!

tom いただきます。あのう…めがねがありません。
itadakimasu anō megane ga arimasen · Itadakimasu. Um... my glasses are gone.

anna トムさんはよくめがねをなくしますね。
tomusan wa yoku megane o nakushimasu ne · You often lose your glasses, don't you, Tom?

tom そうですね…ごめんなさい。
sō desu ne gomennasai · I do... sorry.

mr suzuki めがね？ここにありますよ。
megane koko ni arimasu yo · Glasses? They're right here!

tom ありがとう！じゃあ、めがねをかけます。
arigatō jā megane o kakemasu · Thanks! Right, glasses on.

anna ごちそうさまでした。さようなら！
gochisōsama deshita sayōnara · Thank you for the meal. Goodbye!

mr suzuki さようなら！
sayōnara · Goodbye!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

も
も
too, also

た
you

き
postcard



わ
rice bowl; tea bowl



け
soap



ふ
fu
hiragana fu



る
to be, to exist (things)



を
を
(marks the object)



good to know · Today finishes the hiragana: わ, を (said “o”, used only as the particle) and ん, the one kana that is just a sound, “n”. Two little marks ゛ make a sound voiced: か + ゛ = が, さ + ゛ = ざ, た + ゛ = だ, は + ゛ = ば. A small circle ゜ turns は into ぱ: は + ゜ = ぱ. So ご in ごめんなさい is こ + ゛. A small ゃ ゅ ょ blends with the kana before it: ち + ゃ = ちゃ (cha), as in ちゃわん. A small っ doubles the next sound with a tiny pause: ちょっと is “chot-to”, ゆっくり is “yuk-kuri”. ます often sounds like “mas”: the final u almost disappears, just like in です. Three greetings for the day: おはようございます in the morning, こんにちは in the daytime, こんばんは in the evening. さようなら is goodbye.

You know all 46 hiragana now, and every word in Japanese can be written with them. That's a real milestone.
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