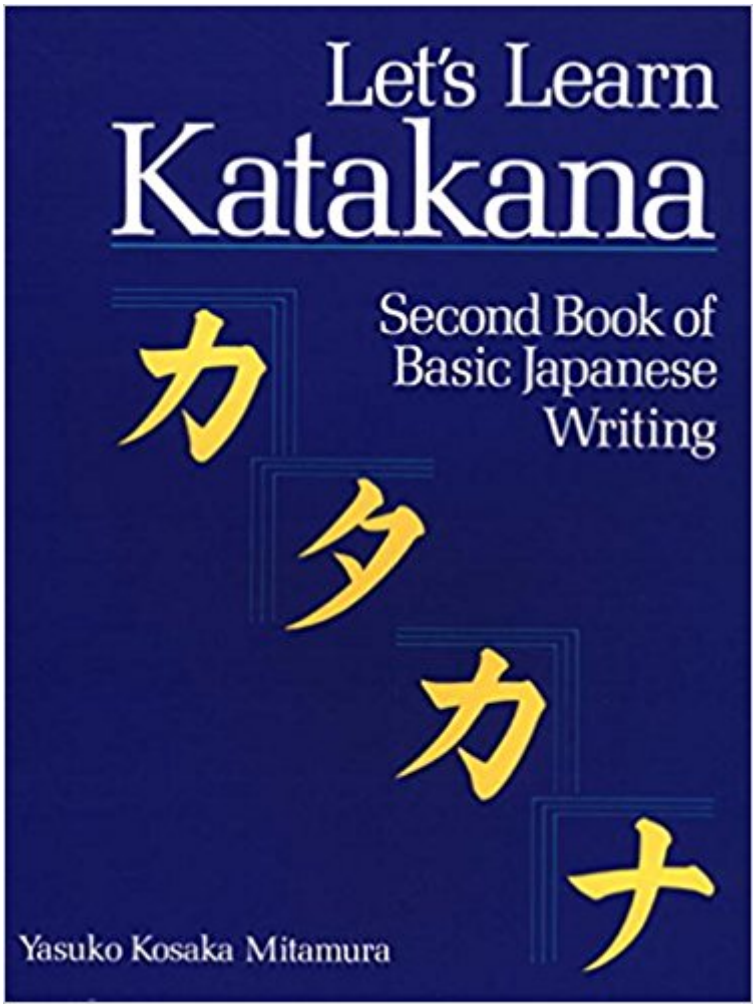
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Let's Learn Katakana: Second Book Of Basic Japanese Writing



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Synopsis

There are three types of Japanese script--katakana, hiragana, and kanji. It is possible to read Japanese knowing only a limited number of kanji, but it is not possible with only a limited number of katakana or hiragana--one must know all of them. Let's Learn Katakana, and its companion volume Let's Learn Hiragana, is a textbook that introduces the learner to the basics of one of these fundamental Japanese scripts. Being a workbook, it contains all the exercises that allow the student to master katakana by the time the book has been finished. Let's Learn Katakana is a classic in the field, and the huge number of students that have used it successfully is a sign of its preeminence as a self-study guide.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

JOYCE KOSAKA MITAMURA was an experienced and respected educator who taught Japanese in California for many years.

[Following is the Preface to the book, slightly abridged.] Preface Up until now, the significance of Katakana in written Japanese has been neglected in teaching Japanese as a foreign language. Even students who become familiar with the symbols often do not have a clear understanding of the entire Katakana syllabary and its many applications. For the most part, the conventional method of introducing Katakana in Japanese language instruction has been limited to words of foreign origin. A shortcoming of this method is that it emphasized reading Katakana and did not provide sufficient

practice in writing. In fact, only basic everyday words such as those for chocolate, handkerchief, ice cream, milk, necktie and the like were used as examples. Actually, Katakana is not confined to foreign words; the ways it is used are extremely varied, and it is often the appropriate way to write many Japanese words, such as the names of plants and animals, onomatopoeic expressions, domestic telegrams and so on. The most conspicuous use of Katakana is seen in the recent trend to give words a special nuance, usually by stressing certain words to make them stand out. This new use is found in all the latest magazines and advertisements and seems to be on the increase. Due to the varied and expanding use of Katakana, teaching needs to be updated. Students should be able to read and write Katakana, as well as know when to use it. Continual practice and exposure to Katakana, as provided by diligent use of this workbook, will lead to eventual mastery of this form of writing. This workbook has been designed, like its companion volume Let's Learn Hiragana, with sufficient explanation and examples to allow students of Japanese to learn Katakana on their own, without the aid of an instructor. Special note should be made of the fact that the words in the examples and exercises are not words ordinarily written in Hiragana and here transcribed into Katakana for the sake of instruction. They are words carefully selected because they are always or in certain circumstances written in Katakana. There are five chapters in this book. Chapter 1 introduces the forty-six basic Katakana and twenty-three modified symbols. The contracted syllables, and the twenty-five additional syllables found only in Katakana, are given in chapter 2, which first explains the general guidelines for writing words in Katakana. Chapter 3 shows various words of Japanese origin that are written in Katakana. Chapter 4 gives guidelines and exercises for transcribing foreign words into Katakana. In chapter 5 there are review exercises. Answers to the exercises are given in Appendix A, and the derivation of Katakana is outlined in Appendix B. For convenience, the format of this workbook has been kept the same as the companion Hiragana book. As in the previous volume, the Modified Hepburn System is used throughout for Romanization of Japanese words.... --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Wouldn't be my first choice if I knew what I do now. That said it WAS in fact my first exposure to Katakana. It tends to go with the idea that you should write them a quite a few times to learn them, that gives you practice reading and writing. Were I in a position to give suggestions to a new learner I'd simply tell them to skip any books that are completely about the kana and try and find some pictographs online for them. You can easily find vocab lists online that are written in kana which will give you more practice that going through this books drills will. That said I'd also warn that katakana will have much less exposure than hiragana, so it will probably take more time to build a solid

memory of them.The book Kanji pict-o-graphixs has a table of katakana and hiragana with picture mnemonics to help learning them.

Simple book that goes by the process of introducing the writing, and then goes on with giving you words and making you write them a couple times over for you to remember them. The words are later used in sentences were it makes you refresh on what the word means and is used for. I should say this is only for true beginners, as it doesn't necessarily go into too much depth about the writing. I loved it, but only wish it went a little bit more deeper.

While this is the companion book to Let's Learn Hiragana and suggested as a second, it can be read on its own. It has step-by-step instructions on stroke order.Exercises include:Filling in the kana, writing the romaji word in katakana, writing the katakana word in romaji. It also has other games/exercises that are fun and useful in helping you remember the katakana.I recommend in addition, making your own flash cards with the character on front and a picture, word(s), and the romaji translation on back for easy memorization and recall. Or you can buy flash cards.However you don't NEED flash cards, as this book is very comprehensive and gives you plenty of opportunity to read, write, remember, and speak words written in Katakana.- This has the 46 basic Katakana, the 33 yoon, the 18 dakuon, 5 handakuon, just as the Hiragana book does, but it also includes 25 additional syllables that hiragana does not, meant for foreign words.It introduces you to new words, but there are also some of the same English or Japanese words as the Hiragana book, but obviously you write them differently using the Katakana system.Very helpful. Fun. There's nothing difficult or boring about it. No teacher needed, just this wonderful book for individual study!

I have purchased this book and Let's Learn Hiragana because I kept seeing the both of them pop up as a 'must haves' on various websites. Turns out they came highly recommended for good reason! The instructions are very clear and straightforward, and I really like the fact that they after each set of kana taught, they provide you with exercises that gives you a chance to not only practice what you learned, but to start getting a feel for some vocabulary at the same time. I was able to learn all the Hiragana in about a week, and I have been in the process of learning Katakana while keeping myself refreshed on the Hiragana. I would definitely recommend this book series to anyone who is just starting out with Japanese.

This is the second book in a series of 3. It's laid out in a similar fashion as Let's Learn Hiragana, and

it assumes you've completed the book. Let's Learn Katakana starts you out with a brief explanation on what katakana is and why you'd be interested in learning it. Then it sets you off showing you how to write characters (lessons are in chunks of 15, 15 and 16 characters) and includes stroke-order. Once you learn a chunk of characters, they have you writing words using what you learned, before moving onto the next section. This brings me to one of my 2 complaints about this book:1) Since you're supposed to know hiragana before you learn katakana (according to most methods of learning Japanese,) this book takes very little time to show you how "ga" would be derived from "ka" and so on.2) I've noticed that the book will drill you on words that use characters that you may not have encountered in your studies. For example, they want you to write "hechima" in katakana before you learn how to write "ma."While worth mentioning, I feel the complaints are rather small, and one can work around them with very little effort. Over all, I'd highly recommend this book to anyone trying to learn how to write in Japanese!

This book, along with a sister volume on hiragana, are excellent ways to learn to read and write Japanese. Katakana, as well as hiragana, constitute kana, which (along with adopted Chinese characters, or kanji) form the Japanese writing system. To learn hiragana and katakana, it is essential to apply it to actual words. This book does that. It is not just rote memorization. You learn to write sentences in Japanese. It is probably one of the best, most practical, books to learn it.

I have pretty much the same comments on this as the first book in the series: It's a great resource for self-study. I'd suggest that you work your way through "Let's Learn Hiragana" first, although you could probably take the two books in either order.

This is a great way for individuals looking to start learning Japanese to become acquainted with the katakana alphabet.

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