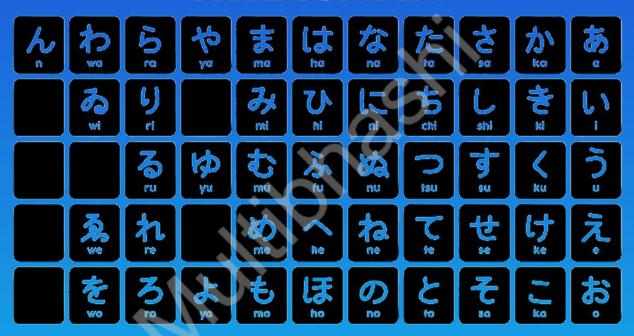


### HIRAGANA



## Introduction to Hiragana





# **Class Objective**

I will be able to understand the concept of Hiragana.



#### Hiragana

Hiragana is derived from a style of Chinese calligraphy called cursive form. All Japanese students are first taught how to write Hiragana at school as they are the basic component of the Japanese language. It is possible to write a Japanese article in Hiragana only. But the problem is that there is no space between two Japanese words as in English and Japanese has a lot of Chinese terms that share the same pronunciation. Hiragana-only articles are difficult to read even for native Japanese.



Katakana Katakana is derived from radicals or components of Kanji. For example, after WWII, they are only used to write non-Chinese loanwords (e.g. カメ **5**(kamera) for 'camera').



Kanji

Kanji is generally hated by Japanese learners and even native students.

First, Kanji can convey complicated meaning while keeping the length

of the phrase short. Modern Japanese writing system usually mixes Kanji

with Hiragana and Katakana.



#### Romaji

This fancy name actually refers to Latin alphabet or simply English alphabet used to romanize Japanese. I find that quite a lot of Beginner's Japanese textbooks in the English speaking world teach Japanese in Romaji.



