

How to type in Japanese

1. Hiragana

How to type the 46 basic hiragana characters, hiragana with tenten (`) and maru (°), and hiragana combined with small や *ya* ゆ *yu* よ *yo*. To type hiragana, simply type in the equivalent romaji letters.

E.g. いただきます *i ta da ki ma su* (Let's eat)

Special cases:

a) The character ん:

You need to type 'n' twice.

E.g. ほん *ho nn* (Book)

b) The particle は:

Although it is pronounced 'wa', you type 'ha'.

E.g. わたしは～。 *wa ta shi ha* (I am...)

c) The particle を:

Although it is pronounced 'o', you type 'wo'.

E.g. りんごを～。 *ri nn go wo* (...the apple)

d) Double consonants (small つ *tsu*):

To type a small つ *tsu*, you need to type the consonant of the character after the つ twice.

E.g. やった! *ya tta* (Yes!)

がんばって! *ga nn ba tte* (Good luck!)

e) Long vowels:

Even if it is pronounced differently, type each character the way it is spelled in hiragana.

E.g. おはよう *o ha yo u* (Good morning)

※Although it is pronounced *ohayoo*, you type *o ha yo u* (おはよう).

2. Katakana

To type Katakana, type the words as you do for hiragana and then press space bar. You will be able to choose the word in katakana from the drop down list.

Special cases:

a) Long vowels:

For long vowels in katakana, type a dash symbol (ー). See number 5 below.

E.g. コーヒー ko - hi - (Coffee)

b) Small vowels:

To type small アイウエオ, type 'x' before the vowel.

あ / ア	い / イ	う / ウ	え / エ	お / オ
xa	xi	xu	xe	xo

E.g. ディズニーランド de xi zu ni - ra nn do (Disneyland)

There are shortcuts for some special combination sounds:

	ウィ wi	ウェ we	
ヴァ va	ヴィ vi	ヴェ ve	ヴォ vo
		シェ she	
		ジェ je	
		チェ che	
ツァ tsa	ツイ tsi	ツェ tse	ツォ tso
ファ fa	フィ fi	フェ fe	フォ fo

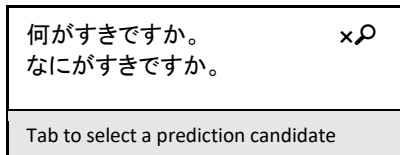
E.g. ジェニファー je ni fa - (Jennifer)

3. Kanji

As with katakana, first type the word in hiragana and then change the word to kanji by pressing space bar, and then choosing the appropriate kanji from the list.

You can type in sentences, not just a word. For example, if you type a sentence and hit the space bar, the drop down list shown below will appear. Pick the sentence with the most appropriate kanji.

E.g. なにがすきですか。



4. Punctuation

To type the Japanese punctuation below, type the English symbols shown underneath them on the chart.

Japanese	、	。	「 」	・
English	,	.	[]	/

E.g. わたしは、にほんじんです。 [wa ta shi ha, ni ho nn ji nn de su.](#)

[\(I am Japanese.\)](#)

5. Symbol

To type Japanese symbol for the long vowel sound, type the small dash in English shown in the chart below.

Japanese	—
English	-

E.g. やった—！ [ya t ta -!](#) (Yay!)

6. Emoticon (Kaomoji)

If you type かおもち (ka o mo ji) and then press the space bar, you can choose from a list of common emoticons.

E.g.

Japanese	Kaomoji	English translation
うれしい	(*^▽^*)	Happy.
びっくり	(°Д°)	Surprised.
ごめんなさい。	m(____)m	Sorry.
わーい!	ヾ(*´▽`*)ノ	Yay!

Note:

There are many types of emoticons and they are now being used all over the world. There are also emoticons that have been developed in different countries. For example, there are emoticons that represent the upper body, which has become popular in the Western world. ˘_(ツ)_ノ This emoticon not used among Japanese people so it is interesting to discover new types of emoticons.

Useful websites

You can find free excises to practice typing in Japanese online on the websites below:

Useful websites	
1	TOFUGU. “How to install a Japanese keyboard on Apple, Windows, computers, phones you name it!” : https://www.tofugu.com/japanese/how-to-install-japanese-keyboard/ ➤ This website has the information of how to install a Japanese keyboard function.
2	TOFUGU. “How to type in Japanese” : https://www.tofugu.com/japanese/how-to-type-in-japanese/ ➤ This website provides how to type in Japanese.
3	TOFUGU. “The wonderful world of Kaomoji” : https://www.tofugu.com/japanese/kaomoji/ ➤ This website shows various Kaomoji.
4	Practice typing in Japanese: CosCom Language Service. “How to type Japanese.” : https://www.coscom.co.jp/learnjapanese801/ ➤ This website has 11 lessons to practice typing in Japanese. Japanese online self-help utility. “How to type in Japanese” https://laits.utexas.edu/japanese/joshu/japanizing/howto_typing_jpn.php ➤ This has very basic practice exercises for typing.