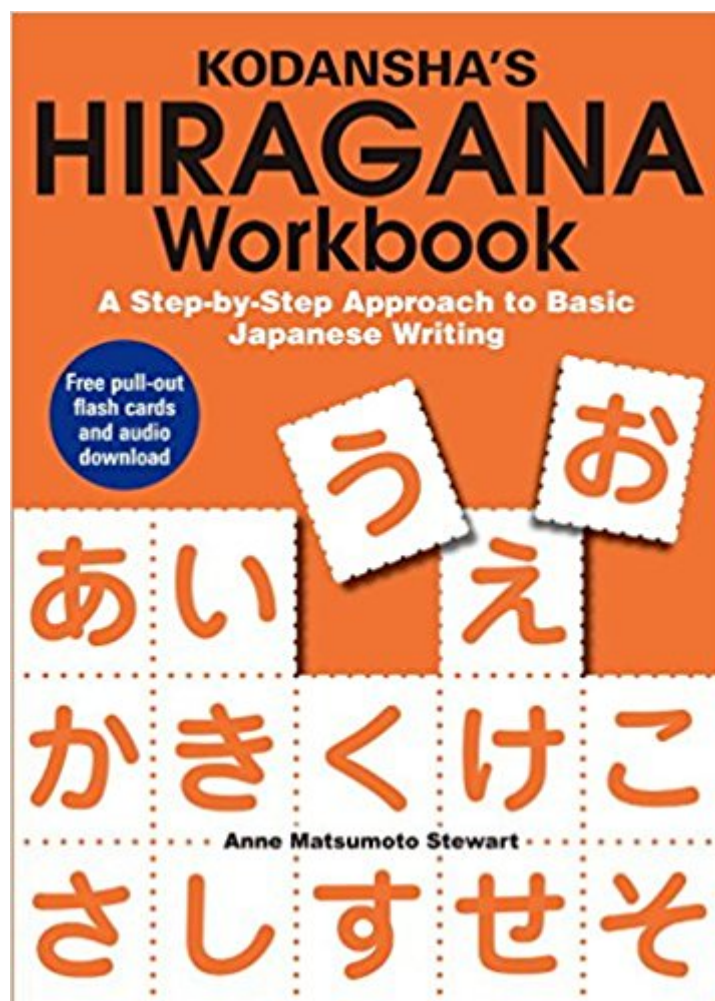


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# Kodansha's Hiragana Workbook: A Step-by-Step Approach To Basic Japanese Writing



## Synopsis

Beginner-level students wishing to read Japanese need to learn hiragana, the most basic of three Japanese scripts, used for writing words of native origin. Kodansha's Hiragana Workbook is an all-new, streamlined workbook designed precisely for such students. It introduces all aspects of the script • reading, writing, and pronunciation • in a fun, accessible format, packed with illustrations and exercises. One page each is devoted to the 46 basic characters. These include instructions for character formation and space to practice writing, as well as a selection of vocabulary for further reading and writing. The vocabulary are all commonly used words that students can put to immediate use in conversation; and their readings • pronounced by a professional voice actor • are available as free downloads from the Net. Frequent review pages allow students to test their understanding of the hiragana at various stages. The appendixes offer additional practice exercises, as well as grids for playing hiragana Battleship and Bingo. There are also 120 pull-out flashcards for playing Memory, Scrabble, and other games.

## Book Information

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Kodansha International; Workbook edition (September 7, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1568364415

ISBN-13: 978-1568364414

Product Dimensions: 7.5 x 0.3 x 10.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 43 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #207,333 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #95 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > Japanese #1962 in Books > Reference > Dictionaries & Thesauruses > Foreign Language Dictionaries & Thesauruses #2799 in Books > Reference > Foreign Language Study & Reference

## Customer Reviews

ANNE MATSUMOTO STEWART is a professional Japanese language instructor with more than 20 years of experience teaching at all levels, from kindergarten through university. She pursued graduate studies at Tokyo University of Foreign Studies and Cornell University and has authored and co-authored Japanese language instruction books. She is a member of the Association of Teachers of Japanese and the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers, and currently

teaches and resides in Seattle.

Combined with other applications this book was very helpful in learning how to write and recognize the characters and it was also helpful in learning how to pronounce them when combined with the audio files. The only thing I found a little confusing and wish was touched on more is the different styles of hiragana for the same letter. For instance on the book cover you can see "sa" and "ki" have the down stroke and bottom attached, where as the version you learn in the book doesn't do that. Also, "so" on the cover isn't drawn that way in the book. "ri" and "fu" in the book look different than how I've seen them displayed in the memrise app. This isn't a huge problem, but it would have been nice to include some reasoning and different styles. The cover is not secured to the book and falls off easily. This book worked very well for me as an adult and I bought another copy for a third grader and they seem to be having no problem with it combined with a little outside guidance.

I've got three different workbooks for Hiragana and Katakana, and this one (along with her Katakana one) is my favorite. You learn a character, then have to write it alone a few times, then you start writing words. You can download the media files to hear how each word should sound (they're free). I like how often it has you writing the characters, and as long as you read them aloud while writing them, you shouldn't have any issue memorizing them in as little as a day :3 It does teach both vertical and horizontal which I thought was very helpful. Another good thing - when you're writing the words - except in vertical work pages found at the end of a lesson - it never gives you Romaji. You start off with Hiragana and only see that, with the exception of the vertical writing. It gives you the word, you trace it once in Hiragana, then write it yourself in Hiragana. The other workbooks I had used always put the Romaji and have you write the Hiragana. Well, what good is that? In workbooks like that I found myself relying on Romaji because it's familiar. I can honestly say I have mastered Hiragana because of this book. :3

I'm a beginner at learning Japanese and have been buying tons of different study supplies to help. If you're at the stage where you are memorizing Hiragana/Katana, this series of books is excellent. You get a ton of practice writing different words and characters and it really drills into your mind what each of the characters are. It doesn't go into grammar or rules of the language but it's a great supplemental tool to help you memorize the characters.

Easy to follow. My two boys 11 and 14 really enjoy working on their hiragana. I just wish that the

flash cards did not have the English vowel equivalent on the back. I think it's actually harder to learn that way. It makes the brain think that there is a correlation between English and Japanese. I would have preferred that the back simply showed the word used to demonstrate the sound i.e. father for the "a" sound.

This is a really helpful workbook for learning hiragana, and honestly the best workbook I've seen so far. It teaches you the hiragana in an easy to understand way and gives lots of opportunity to practice. Each lesson page uses the hiragana previously learned in the book to form words and help you retain what you've learned. It's the perfect length, it's not too long but still contains a large amount of material. There are punch-out flashcards in the back for every character and an additional page of blank flashcards. I'd really recommended this for beginners as an easy and thorough way to learn hiragana, or for a good book to practice hiragana you've already learned.

I got this for my daughters (six and eight years old) to help them begin to read in Japanese and develop their vocabulary. Their dad and I speak Japanese so they're familiar with the sounds, but as they don't speak Japanese themselves they were nervous to begin. However this book was laid out in a clear, efficient manner so that they could easily work through it at their own pace. I also like how it immediately begins to teach words that use the kana, so they can begin to read and write full words right from the beginning. As both a 12 year language teacher and an 18 year language learner, this is one of the better beginning script books I've seen, both for kids or adults.

This was an extremely easy to use and extremely helpful work book!! I've been using this book to teach myself how to write Hiragana and this book works very well to emphasize the important usage of each character. Though, there are just a few things that are inconsistent. If you look at the front cover you'll see the characters for ki, and sa, and so. These are written slightly different within the book so you'll have to look through the internet to find out which is which. (It was only a minor point but still an important detail).

Work pages are really good quality and you can erase them and redo the exercises several times, if you want. It introduces vocab at a nice pace as well. I also purchased Japanese Hiragana and Katakana for Beginners but I find myself using this book more in general.

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