

JAPANESE

Character Writing

for
dummies[®]
A Wiley Brand

Practice your
way to writing

105

JAPANESE CHARACTERS

with stroke-by stroke
instructions and plenty of
space to practice!

Hiroko Chiba, PhD

Vincent Grépinet



Japanese Character Writing

by Hiroko Chiba, PhD
and Vincent Grépinet

for
dummies
A Wiley Brand

Japanese Character Writing For Dummies®

Published by: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030-5774, www.wiley.com

Copyright © 2020 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey

Published simultaneously in Canada

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, scanning or otherwise, except as permitted under Sections 107 or 108 of the 1976 United States Copyright Act, without the prior written permission of the Publisher. Requests to the Publisher for permission should be addressed to the Permissions Department, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 111 River Street, Hoboken, NJ 07030, (201) 748-6011, fax (201) 748-6008, or online at <http://www.wiley.com/go/permissions>.

Trademarks: Wiley, For Dummies, the Dummies Man logo, Dummies.com, Making Everything Easier, and related trade dress are trademarks or registered trademarks of John Wiley & Sons, Inc., and may not be used without written permission. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., is not associated with any product or vendor mentioned in this book.

LIMIT OF LIABILITY/DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY: WHILE THE PUBLISHER AND AUTHOR HAVE USED THEIR BEST EFFORTS IN PREPARING THIS BOOK, THEY MAKE NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES WITH RESPECT TO THE ACCURACY OR COMPLETENESS OF THE CONTENTS OF THIS BOOK AND SPECIFICALLY DISCLAIM ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE. NO WARRANTY MAY BE CREATED OR EXTENDED BY SALES REPRESENTATIVES OR WRITTEN SALES MATERIALS. THE ADVICE AND STRATEGIES CONTAINED HEREIN MAY NOT BE SUITABLE FOR YOUR SITUATION. YOU SHOULD CONSULT WITH A PROFESSIONAL WHERE APPROPRIATE. NEITHER THE PUBLISHER NOR THE AUTHOR SHALL BE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES ARISING HEREFROM.

For general information on our other products and services, please contact our Customer Care Department within the U.S. at 877-762-2974, outside the U.S. at 317-572-3993, or fax 317-572-4002. For technical support, please visit <https://hub.wiley.com/community/support/dummies>.

Wiley publishes in a variety of print and electronic formats and by print-on-demand. Some material included with standard print versions of this book may not be included in e-books or in print-on-demand. If this book refers to media such as a CD or DVD that is not included in the version you purchased, you may download this material at <http://booksupport.wiley.com>. For more information about Wiley products, visit www.wiley.com.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2019953292

ISBN 978-1-119-47543-9 (pbk); ISBN 978-1-119-47545-3 (ebk); ISBN 978-1-119-47534-7 (ebk)

Manufactured in the United States of America

V10016044_120619

dummies
making everything easier

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
About This Book	1
Foolish Assumptions	2
Icons Used in This Book	2
Where to Go from Here	3
CHAPTER 1: Wrapping Your Head around Japanese Writing and Pronunciation	5
Brief History of Three Writing Scripts: Kanji, Hiragana, and Katakana	5
Taking a cue from Chinese writing — Kanji	5
Creating writing scripts better suited to Japanese — hiragana and katakana	6
Pronouncing Japanese Sounds	7
Making Variations of Sounds	8
Two diacritical marks	8
Long vowels	9
Small ya, yu, yo	9
Small tsu	10
When to Use Kanji	10
CHAPTER 2: Exploring the Nature of Japanese Kanji	13
Getting to Know the Four Types of Kanji	13
Pictographs	13
Simple ideographs	14
Compound ideographs	14
Phonetic-ideographic characters	15
On'yomi versus Kun'yomi Readings	15
Okurigana	15
Kanji compounds	16
Sound shifts in kanji compounds	16
What Are Kanji Radicals?	17
Positions of Radicals	17
Writing Kanji	18
Stroke order	18
Types of strokes	19
CHAPTER 3: 105 Characters	21
APPENDIX: BLANK GRIDS FOR EXTRA PRACTICE	75

Write and recognize 105 basic kanji characters

More than 128 million people speak Japanese. The first step toward becoming one of them is learning to write the kanji characters that make up this ancient language, and here's the perfect place to start! Although Japanese is considered one of the most complicated writing systems, this step-by-step guide makes it easy to start writing these characters and provides an initial understanding of the language. You'll find examples of how each kanji is used, the order for drawing the lines, space to practice, and much more.

Inside...

- Discover the origins of kanji script
- Find out how characters are structured
- Understand line order
- Grasp hiragana annotations
- Explore kanji compounds
- Practice writing each character
- Learn various pronunciations

Hiroko Chiba, PhD, is professor of Japanese at DePauw University, where she teaches all levels of Japanese language and directs the Japanese language program.

Vincent Grépinet is the author of the French language editions of *Japanese For Dummies* and *Korean For Dummies*.

Cover Image: © anants/iStockphoto

Go to Dummies.com[™]
for videos, step-by-step examples,
how-to articles, or to shop!

dummies[®]
A Wiley Brand

Foreign Language/Japanese
\$14.99 USA/\$17.99 CAN/£12.99 UK

ISBN 978-1-119-47543-9

