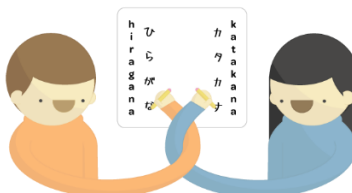




333 East 47th Street
New York, NY 10017

japansociety.org

Language Center



LEARN TO READ HIRAGANA AND KATAKANA

Please Note: These workshops will be conducted online via Zoom. To participate fully, you will need access to a device with internet, microphone, and camera (such as a laptop, smartphone, or tablet). Please note that all times listed are New York time (ET).

These mini-workshops offer the beginning student of Japanese the opportunity to quickly and efficiently master the reading of the two Japanese syllabaries, hiragana and katakana. It is these two writing systems, in combination with the more complex kanji (ideograms which represent meaning), which constitute the written Japanese language.

Hiragana was developed from the cursive style of kanji at the beginning of the Heian era (794 – 1192). Its function is to represent sound rather than meaning, and it is used to write native Japanese words as well as verb inflections, adjectival endings, etc.

Katakana was developed in the Nara period (710 – 794) by either simplifying the kanji imported from China or by squaring off its cursive style. It is used to represent foreign names and words imported into the Japanese language, for onomatopoeic and mimetic words, certain slang expressions, telegrams, technical terms, and so forth.

Hiragana Workshop: Friday, January 9 6:30-8:30 pm ET

Katakana Workshop: Friday, January 16 6:30-8:30 pm ET

Although it is not required to show your face or video online, we **highly recommend having your video on** if possible. Seeing each other's facial expressions is a part of conversation and language learning. **We also ask that every participant be able to participate via their microphone.** If you do not have one of these capabilities or would like to discuss accommodations, please contact us at language@japansociety.org.

These workshops are designed for adults aged 18 and above.

Instructor: **Ms. Kazue Kurahara** earned a BA from Hunter College and an MA in Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language from NYU. She holds teaching certifications in both Japanese and English as a Second Language. She has taught Japanese at various institutions, including New York University, Hunter College, Pace University, and The New School. She is the scriptwriter and host of Japan Society's YouTube series "Uki Uki NihonGO! + Culture."

HOW TO REGISTER

Workshop capacity is limited! To guarantee a seat, please register as soon as possible. If the workshop reaches full capacity, a waitlist may be available. Please email language@japansociety.org.

Tuition (each workshop): \$42 Nonmembers

\$35 Japan Society members / Japan Society Corporate members

Inclusive of fees, where applicable.

Registration may be completed online (preferred) or by phone at (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293, or in-person (please inquire for hours). When registering through the website, note only one ticket per type (e.g. member, nonmember) per class can be added to a cart. If you have trouble, please purchase as separate transactions or contact the Language Center office.

Registrants will receive a **Welcome Email** and **Zoom link** from language_inquiries@japansociety.org on:

the afternoon of Wednesday, January 7, 2026 (for the Hiragana Workshop)

the afternoon of Wednesday, January 14, 2026 (for the Katakana Workshop)

Questions? Please email us at language@japansociety.org, or call at (212) 715-1269 or (212) 715-1293.

PLEASE NOTE

Cancellation Policy: Cancellations are accepted until **12 pm ET, TWO business days before the workshop begins**. The Language Center's business days are Monday - Friday, except for most federal holidays. After this deadline, cancellations are not accepted and tuition is not refundable or transferable for any reason (including for credit). Upon cancellation, the tuition paid minus the nonrefundable administrative fee (\$5 per workshop) will be refunded.

Cancellation requests can be made either by phone or email, but they must be received by the office by the cancellation deadline. Otherwise, cancellation requests will not be fulfilled.

Japan Society also reserves the right to cancel any workshop if sufficient enrollment is not obtained. In such cases, students already enrolled will receive full refunds (no administrative fee).

By registering for a workshop, you accept and agree to the above terms of the cancellation policy.

We do not record our workshops, and recording of these workshops is prohibited.