

Japanese Writing System

The Japanese script consists of three different character sets: **Kanji** (several thousands of Chinese characters) and **Hiragana** and **Katakana** (two syllabaries of 46 original characters and some derived syllabaries each; together called **Kana**). **Kanji** characters are pronounced through **Hiragana** while non-native Japanese words (e.g. English, French, German, Bengali, and Hindi etc.) can be expressed using **Katakana**. Japanese texts can be written in two ways: In western style i.e. horizontal rows from top to bottom of the page or in traditional Japanese style i.e. in vertical columns from the right to left side of the page. Both writing styles exist side by side at this present age.

私は日本語が上手に話したいです。

I want to speak Japanese fluently.

Script 1: horizontal writing western style

私は日本語が上手に話したいです。

I want to speak Japanese fluently.

Script 2: vertical writing traditional Japanese style

Apart from these traditional scripts a fourth script also exists which is targeted at non-Japanese speakers who cannot read **Kanji** or **Kana**. Thus it is used to transliterate Japanese terms in text written in English. This method of writing is referred to as **Rōmaji** i.e. Romanization of Japanese language using Latin script (Aa, Bb, Cc,...etc.).

Example of Kanji, Hiragana and Rōmaji & meaning in English

日本 → 日(に) 本(ほん) → にほん → Nihon → Japan

Example of Katakana, Rōmaji & meaning in English

インド → Indo → India

Sounds interesting, isn't it?!!!! Why wait!!!! Reach us...

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