

# The Japanese Systems

# of Writing



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## Hiragana ひらがな

- THE MOST COMMONLY USED READING/WRITING SYSTEM.



- 46 BASIC CHARACTERS
- WHEN IT DOUBT- USE HIRAGANA!

## Katakana カタカナ

- 46 BASIC CHARACTERS THAT REPRESENT THE SAME SOUNDS AS THEIR HIRAGANA COUNTERPARTS
- USED TO PHONETICALLY SPELL OUT NON-JAPANESE WORDS
- USED TO EMPHASIZE WORDS, INCLUDING ONOMATOPOEIC OR MIMETIC, ON TV SHOWS, AND IN MANGA



## Kanji 漢字

- ADOPTED FROM CHINESE "HAN" CHARACTERS
- THOUSANDS EXIST BUT ONLY AROUND 2,000 ARE USED REGULARLY
- EVEN JAPANESE PEOPLE LEARN THEM VERY SLOWLY, STARTING WITH APPROXIMATELY 80 SIMPLE CHARACTERS IN THE 1ST GRADE



## Special

### FURIGANA

- SMALL HIRAGANA CHARACTERS HOVERING ABOVE OR BESIDE KANJI



### ROMAJI

- SYSTEM OF WRITING THAT USES ROMAN CHARACTERS TO SPELL JAPANESE WORDS- ROMAJI



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