2020 FALL
LEARN TO READ HIRAGANA AND KATAKANA

UPDATE: ONLINE WORKSHOPS VIA ZOOM
To participate fully, you will need access to a device with internet, microphone, and camera (such as a laptop, smartphone, or tablet). Further instructions will be provided before the workshop begins. Please note that all times listed are New York time (ET/UTC-04:00).

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.

The workshops are taught by Ms. Kazue Kurahara. Ms. 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 currently hosting Japan Society’s YouTube series "Uki Uki NihonGO! + Culture.

Hiragana Workshop: Friday, August 28 6:00-8:00 pm
Katakana Workshop: Friday, September 4 6:00-8:00 pm

--------------REGISTRATION INFORMATION--------------

1. Tuition: Mini-Workshops (each workshop): nonmembers $37, Japan Society members $30

2. Updated 3/25/2020: Registration may be completed online (recommended) at www.japansociety.org/language, or by phone at (212) 715-1269. At the moment, we are only taking payment in the form of credit or debit cards (no checks or cash). We are no longer accepting mailed registrations; if you mailed us a registration form after March 9, we may not have received it. Please call us at (212) 715-1269.

3. Class size is limited. Acceptance will be acknowledged by email or phone.

4. Tuition is non-refundable and non-transferable (including for credit) for any reason after 12 pm noon, the business day before your workshop starts. All refunds are subject to a $5 service charge, including those requested by the deadline date. No partial registration or auditing is permitted. Please note that cancellations are accepted by phone only. Cancellations via e-mail are not accepted.

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