

1. Why do we use IPA rather than a romanization system for characterizing Japanese sounds?
2. Explain the difference between kana and kanji in your own words. How does furigana help relate the two?
3. Identify which portions of the following sentence are written in hiragana, and write out the equivalent rōmaji for these portions: 皆さん、こんにちは！
4. Interestingly, the kanji for the word *hiragana* is 平仮名, and the kanji for the word *katakana* is 片仮名. Note that they both end with the kanji 仮名, or *kana*. Explain why the first is pronounced *hiragana* rather than *hirakana*, while the second is still pronounced *katakana*. Use the concept of *rendaku* voicing to help defend your answer.
5. Which **mora**, when written in hiragana, requires the most strokes to write? Consider a handakuten mark to be a single stroke and a dakuten mark to be two strokes. If there is more than one, please provide all such mora that satisfy this condition.
6. How do language syntax and semantics differ?
7. Briefly describe the significance of the いろはうた.
8. How many **more** kanji characters are part of a standard university education compared to a high school education? That is, if a student were studying the Japanese language in Japan, approximately how many more kanji characters would the student have to learn after completing his or her high school education?
9. What is the difference between the voiced and the unvoiced *odoriji*? Be sure to mention visual differences as well as functional differences.
10. Consider the following romanization technique, known as **modified Hepburn romanization**:
 - *aa*: Indicated by a macron: *ā*.
 - *ii*: Written out as *ii*.
 - *uu*: Written out as *uu* if at the end of some form of a verb, otherwise is indicated by a macron: *ū*.
 - *ee*: Indicated by a macron: *ē*.
 - *oo*: Written out as *oo*.
 - *ou*: Written out as *ou* if at the end of some form of a verb, otherwise is indicated by a macron: *ō*.
 - *ei*: Written out as *ei*.
 - All other combinations: Written out explicitly.
11. Romanize each of the following hiragana phrases using the traditional Hepburn romanization:
 - A. ぼっちゃん
 - B. おんなで
 - C. がんばってください
 - D. ろっぴゃくえん
 - E. おもてざしぎ
12. What is the significance of the phrase in Question 11(B)?
13. Use hiragana to write each of the following twenty-five Japanese names. Note that each of them are three morae long, so each answer should have exactly three kana.
 - A. *Toshio, Akiko, Keiko, Satoshi, Eiko*
 - B. *Seiko, Atushi, Takako, Seichi, Takeshi*
 - C. *Toshiyo, Yuuta, Megumi, Cheiko, Tatsuo*
 - D. *Yuriko, Sachie, Hajime, Hitomi, Shinji*
 - E. *Sasuke, Hinata, Sakura, Naruto, Kakashi*
14. Write the word for *katakana* using each of the following:
 - A. Modified Hepburn romanization
 - B. Standard IPA
 - C. Hiragana
15. Which *gojūon* character has a palatalized consonant in its pronunciation by default? What does this mean?
16. Define, in your own words, each of the following terms:
 - A. Mora
 - B. ごじゅうおん
 - C. ごじゅうおんはんだくてん
 - D. ようおん
 - E. ようおんはんだくてん
 - F. Geminate
 - G. Iteration mark
 - H. Grammatical particle
17. What would be the correct romanization of こんど?
18. Show the correct stroke order for each of the following hiragana characters by using arrows. Also provide the rōmaji and the correct IPA pronunciation for each one.
 - A. ぢ、づ、ぢゃ、ぢゅ、ぢょ
 - B. じ、ず、じゃ、じゅ、じょ
 - C. ち、ちゃ、ちゅ、ちよ

19. The following sentences are written in rōmaji. Write them in hiragana. Remember the corresponding punctuation marks in Japanese and the fact that there are no spaces between Japanese words!
- Ano kane mochi wa, biru no no okujō kara, issenmai no ita cho korēto o baramaita.
 - Bēkon no nioi ga suru to omotte chikadzuitara, manmato otoshi ana ni ochite shimatta.
 - Sono tōge ika wa, pagu no katachi no sara o tsukuru koto de yū meinanoni, inu giraidesu.
 - Moshi kondo uso o tsuitara, torokeru chīzu de guruguru maki ni shite ōbun ni ireru wa yo.
 - Kei sa tsukan no naka ni, katsura o kabutte iru hito wa nan nin gurai iru nodeshou ka.
 - Boku no otousan wa, mukashi gojira to sumou de shōbu o shite yokatta koto ga aru nda ze.
 - Ojisan wa neta kirinanode, watashi ga katte ni hige to wakige o aoi ro ni somemashita.
 - Dono kuni mo kakuba kudan nanka tsukau no o yamete, makura de sensō o sureba īnoni.
 - Ashi no tsume o kiru toki ni, porotto tsume no kakera ga tonde, kimi no fudeba ko ni haitta yo.
 - Gakkō no sensei ga, hitasura koku ban keshi de koku ban o keshi teru eiga o totte mita.
20. Explain what is meant by the term “modern Japanese”. What time period does this phrase refer to?
21. Explain the role of the *hentaigana* as the precursor of hiragana in written Japanese prior to the invention of modern Japanese. What were similarities and differences between hentaigana and hiragana?
22. Complete the following table of ようおんはんだくてん. Three kana have already been completed for you.
- | | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <i>gya</i> | <i>gyu</i> | <i>gyo</i> | <i>ja</i> | <i>ju</i> | <i>jo</i> |
| | | | | | |
| <i>dja</i> | <i>dju</i> | <i>djo</i> | <i>bya</i> | <i>byu</i> | <i>byo</i> |
| ぢゃ | ぢゅ | ぢょ | | | |
| <i>pya</i> | <i>pyu</i> | <i>pyo</i> | <i>ya</i> | <i>yu</i> | <i>yo</i> |
| | | | | | |
23. The three hiragana characters already given in Question 22 have incorrect romanizations. What are their correct romanizations, and why are the provided ones wrong?
24. Explain the difference between きょ and きよ. What function do the small characters serve?
25. Certain world languages, like Tamil, have no distinction in characters between using them as voiced/unvoiced. For example, the Tamil *ka* is often used as *ga* in both spoken and written aspects, as there is no native *ga* in Tamil (i.e. it is “simulated”). The voicing is all in context of usage, so the listener and the reader must be quite knowledgeable about the language. Another example is the Tamil *pa*, which is sometimes pronounced *ba* or even *ha*, depending on context, as Tamil has no *h*-row or *b*-row consonants. That is, Tamil **never** marks a consonant to indicate that it should be voiced. The voicings are said to be *implicit*. A language that **always** marks its consonants when they are voiced is said to be *explicitly-voiced*. Is it true that Japanese is explicitly-voiced? If so, what mark do we use to do indicate (semi-)voicings?
26. In what context is the retroflex flap used in hiragana? How does the retroflex flap cause certain hiragana characters to be pronounced differently from their expected pronunciations due to romanization?
27. Three characters that should logically exist in the gojūon have actually never been part of hiragana. What are these three characters, and what characters are used as substitutions? Why are these valid substitutions?
28. Which three characters from the gojūon are used as particles in Japanese? How does this alter their pronunciations in the context of larger sentences?
29. Rewrite each of the following words in hiragana without using any functional marks:
- さゝぎ
 - いすゞ
 - おゝの
 - みすゞ
 - のゝむら
 - よゝぎこうえん
30. Concisely write each of the following hiragana words in rōmaji using the traditional Hepburn romanization:
- けっか
 - さっさと
 - こっち
 - まっちゃ
 - いっしょ
 - みっつ
 - しんよう
 - あんない
 - とうきょう
 - ちょうおんぷ