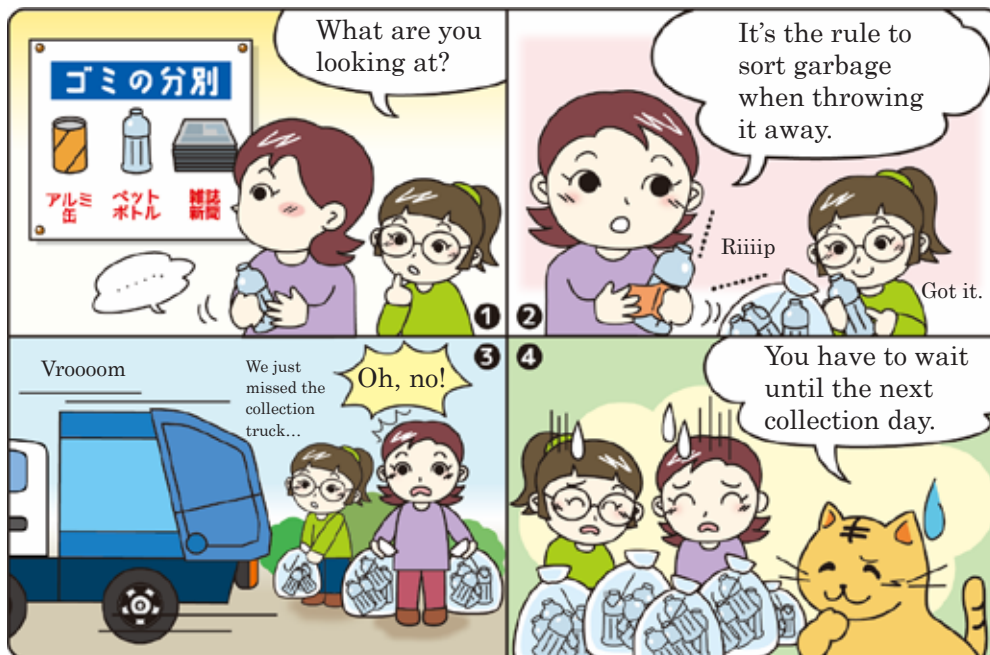


Topics

- Let's Learn about Japanese Rules through Manga: Throwing Away Garbage
- ◇ Make Your Life in Japan More Enjoyable! ~Watch NHK WORLD-JAPAN~
- ◇ How Hiragana and Katakana Came to Be
- Kokugonomori “Words with Similar Meanings”

Let's Learn about Japanese Rules through Manga

— Throwing Away Garbage —



If a bag of mixed, unsorted garbage is left at the garbage collection point, it cannot be properly treated and recycled. It could even lead to accidents at the garbage processing facility. Additionally, failure to follow the local rules for garbage sorting and collection dates and times could result in a buildup of garbage at the collection point, which can lead to unsanitary conditions and unpleasant smells. Therefore, let's be sure to follow all established rules.

“とも” provides helpful advice on living in Japan, tips for learning the Japanese language, and other such information, in Japanese with furigana and nine foreign languages (Vietnamese, Chinese, Filipino, Indonesian, Thai, Cambodian, Burmese, Mongolian, and English). The Japanese version is available on paper, and the foreign language versions are available in PDF format on JITCO’s website for viewing on a smartphone, PC, or other such device. We hope you make good use of these resources. (<https://www.jitco.or.jp/ja/tomo/>)



# Make Your Life in Japan More Enjoyable!

Acquiring accurate information is crucial for your daily life in Japan. NHKワールドJAPAN, an international broadcast service operated by Japan's public media organization, NHK, provides a wide range of multi-language information via TV, radio, and the Internet. It also offers an app that provides helpful contents for learning the Japanese language. The app also sends emergency information to your smartphone in case of a major disaster such as an earthquake. You can scan the QR code and experience the app for yourself.



## Download the NHK WORLD-JAPAN app!

- ☆ Offers a host of contents for learning Japanese
- ☆ Broadcasts NHK news in 19 languages
- ☆ Delivers simultaneous streaming of international broadcasts with multilanguage subtitles
- ☆ Provides on-demand streaming of TV and radio programs
- ☆ Sends notices of earthquake and tsunami emergency information to your smartphone
  - ※ These notices are available in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Portuguese.



## Living in Japan multilanguage information program

Also broadcast on NHK ラジオ第2

Date/time: Sundays 13:10–13:30 [Rerun] The following Saturday

Languages: English, Chinese, Vietnamese, Portuguese (changes weekly)

Provides helpful guidance for international residents in Japan from the perspective of each language community.



## Chatroom Japan

A program that invites international residents in Japan to share their thoughts and views about Japan.

In linkage with a website, the highs, lows, and concerns about living in Japan are addressed through fresh eyes.

Share your opinions and concerns!



## News

Live streamings of the following programs are available via the NHK WORLD-JAPAN website and app

■ **NHK NEWSLINE (Monday to Friday) Every hour on the hour (XX:00) / (Saturday & Sunday) Every hour on the hour** ※ Except for 4:00 a.m. from Tuesday to Saturday

The core news program broadcast on NHK WORLD-JAPAN, delivering the latest world news, economic data, and weather forecasts, with a focus on Japan and Asia, at every hour on the hour, every day.

■ **NEWSLINE ASIA 24 (Monday to Friday) 3:00 p.m.**

An expanded version of NHK NEWSLINE, including relays from various locations in Asia.

■ **NEWSLINE IN DEPTH (Monday to Friday) 8:27 p.m.**

Delves into the truth behind various events and incidents, from an in-depth look at headline news to local topics that spark interest.

■ **NEWSROOM TOKYO (Monday to Friday) 8:00 p.m.**

A weekday-night news program that reviews the day's events in Japan and Asia and delivers news with depth and clarity, accompanied by commentary from experts and reporters.

## ANIME MANGA EXPLOSION

Features a series of major anime and manga that are well-known by overseas fans, to close in on the secret behind the creation of anime and manga in Japan.



## How Hiragana and Katakana Came to Be

Japanese has two types of phonograms (characters that do not hold specific meanings but simply represent sounds): hiragana and katakana. Both are uniquely Japanese characters derived from kanji characters, which are ideograms (characters that represent meanings). However, why do two types of characters, hiragana and katakana, exist for the same sound?

It is said that kanji was introduced to Japan from China around the 1st century. It was adopted in Japan because there were no written characters in Japan until then. However, since kanji from China could not fully express the Japanese language, the characters were separated from their meanings and their sounds were borrowed into Japanese. These characters were called manyogana. For example, the hiragana character “も” was expressed using the kanji character “毛” in manyogana. The name is said to come from the Manyoshu, the oldest collection of Japanese poetry, which was written mainly in manyogana.

However, manyogana was so diverse and complex that many characters were difficult to write. Therefore, manyogana came to be simplified, and the simplified forms became hiragana around the 9th century. This was during the Heian Period, considered a period of aristocratic culture. Men used kanji in public, and hiragana was mainly used for private affairs or by women. Until then, only scholars and a small number of learned individuals could read and write, but the emergence of hiragana allowed more people to

become literate. As a result, letter and essay writing and Japanese poetry developed, and women’s literature became popular. The Tale of Genji is a representative literature of this period, written by female novelist Murasaki Shikibu, who is currently featured as the main character of the latest NHK epic drama series.

Meanwhile, katakana was invented by taking a portion from each manyogana character. It is said that men mainly used these characters to jot down memos to themselves when studying classical Chinese literature.

Few countries use three different types of characters the way Japan uses kanji, hiragana, and katakana, and this is why learning Japanese is said to be difficult. We hope that a bit of knowledge about how hiragana and katakana developed will deepen your interest in learning the Japanese language.



(Left) From manyogana to katakana:  
(Right) From manyogana to hiragana

## Kokugonomori

This is an exercise for learning Japanese words and kanji and their usage. Think of the correct answers while having fun! (Answers are provided on the next page.)

意味がにている言葉をえらんで  
に書きましょう。

意味がにている言葉

わめく 美しい かがやく となる たより にぎる かおり

