

There is no need to turn this sheet in - this is only for your information.

- Notes on Katakana Writing

(1) In katakana writing, all the second vowels of the long vowels: i.e. aa, ij, uu, ee, and oo are represented by “—” in horizontal writing (e.g. koohij (#1), yooku reen (#2)) but “|” in vertical writing (e.g. teepu (#3)) (cf. This rule differs from the one for writing in Hiragana).

1.	ko	o	hi	i
	コ	—	ヒ	—
	'coffee'			

2.	yo	o	ku	.	re	e	n
	ヨ	—	ク	.	レ	—	ン
	'York Lanes'						

3	
te	テ
e	
pu	プ
teepu 'tape'	

4.	
no	ノ
k	ツ
ku	ク
nokku 'knock'	

5.	
jo	ジ
	ヨ
n	ン
jon 'John'	

(2) The first segment of the double consonants (e.g. tt, kk, pp) is represented by a **small size katakana for tsu** (e.g. nokku (#4), hottodoggu(#6)).

(3) One box is used to write a small character.

(4) A 'centered dot' (・) is usually used to separate people's names (e.g. #9) and sometimes multiple words in a phrase (e.g. #2). If the phrase is perceived as one word, the dot can be omitted (cf. #2 vs. #10).

(5) Syllables with a voiced consonant are represented by a symbol called *dakuten* (looks like two very short lines). Addition of *dakuten*, placed at the right top corner of the character, converts the sound as follows: k→g, s→z, t→d, and h→b (e.g. #6). Addition of a symbol called *handakuten* (looks like a small circle) converts the sound as follows: h→p (e.g. #7, #8).

6.	ho	t	to	do	g	gu
	ホ	ッ	ト	ド	ッ	グ
	'hotdog'					

7.	su	u	pu
	ス	—	プ
	'soup'		

8.	kya	n	pa	su	
	キ	ヤ	ン	パ	ス
	'campus'				

(6) Palatalized sounds with y (e.g. kya, byu, gyo) are represented by a small size katakana for ya (ヤ), yu (ユ), or yo (ヨ) preceded by katakana with i-sound as in #5 and #8.

(7) Innovative combinations are used to write non-native Japanese sounds such as ti (cf. #9), and wo (cf. #10). See <http://buna.arts.yorku.ca/japanese/ejlt/katakana.pdf> for the entire list.

9.	ti	mu	.	ho	o	to	n	
	テ	ィ	ム	.	ホ	—	ト	ン
	'Tim Hortons'							

10.	su	ta	a	wo	o	zu	
	ス	タ	—	ウ	ォ	—	ズ
	'Star Wars'						