



**CONBAT+**



# Japanese calligraphy

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For the student

Aine Furlong



Japanese calligraphy

**Áine FURLONG**

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## 1. DISCOVERING JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY

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Grouping: 

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### WORKSHEET 1

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- a. Look at the short film shown on <http://markun.cs.shinshu-u.ac.jp/japan/shodou/index-e.html>. (The explanations are in English). It shows you how to write Japanese characters. You can also study **Document 1** on Japanese calligraphy and/or go back to the site to see an interactive version of the Katakana table.

<http://markun.cs.shinshu-u.ac.jp/japan/japan/Katakana1.html>

- b. Practise writing a French/German/Italian or Portuguese noun of your choice in Japanese in **Document 1**. Can you copy the other nouns that are shown on **Document 1**?
- c. Can you pronounce these words from other languages (**Document 1**)?



DOCUMENT 1:

**From Spanish**

フラメンコ from "flamenco"

サルサ from "salsa" (Portuguese?)

ルンバ from "rumba"

タンゴ from "tango"

**From French**

バカンス from "vacances"

シネマ from "cinéma"

カフェー from "café"

カフェオレ from "café au lait"

ショコラ from "chocolat"

クロワッサン from "croissant"

エクレア from "éclair"

タルト from "tarte"

ガトー from "gâteau"

**From Italian**

イタリア from "Italia"

パスタ from "pasta"

スパゲッティ from "spaghetti"

ピッツァ from "pizza"

**From Portuguese**

パン from "pan"

サンバ from "samba"

**From German**

アルバイト from  
"Arbeit", which just means  
"work"



**From English:**

ジョン

jon John

ジョージ

jōji George

マリー

marī Marie

マイケル

maikeru Michael

ピーター

pītā Peter



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## 2. LET'S STUDY JAPANESE (A LITTLE)

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**Grouping:**



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### WORKSHEET 1

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- a. Study the Katakana table (**Document 2**) and call each syllable out loud. Follow the recommended reading direction. Now, can you guess where the first page of a Japanese book is located? And the last page? Do you know other languages that behave in the same manner?





CONTENT BASED TEACHING + PLURILINGUAL/CULTURAL AWARENESS CONBAT

JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY



### 3. HISTORY OF THE KATAKANA TABLE

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**Grouping:**

#### WORKSHEET 1

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Now that you studied the katakana table, can you find one, two or three pieces of information in the **Document 3** text?

Here are some questions to help you:

How many signs are there?

How many vowels are there?

How many consonants are there?

How old is the Katakana table?

Who invented the Katakana table?

What is the table used for?

How were you able to guess the answers?

#### DOCUMENT 3

The katakana table comprises 45 basic signs which are still in use today. There are 5 vowels a i u e o which are combined with 40 consonants with additional modified consonants. The katakana table was devised by Buddhist monks over 1000 years ago. Today the table is used to write nouns that have been borrowed from other languages and to transcribe foreign names.



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## 4. JAPANESE CALLIGRAPHY ON A STONE

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**Grouping:**

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### WORKSHEET 1

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Cut a square in the white cardboard (10 cm).

Cut a smaller square in the black card board (6cm).

Glue the black square onto the white square.

Draw Japanese calligraphy by using English names and foreign nouns imported into Japanese through katakana (example : マイケル *maikeru* Michael).

Write a Word in katakana on each side of the white cardboard, with a black marker.

Write your favourite katakana sign on the pebble, using the white Tipex pen.

Glue the pebble in the centre of the black cardboard.

Sign your name in katakana at the bottom of the painting.

Admire your work and show it to the class.