



# KCP eZasshi 雜誌 June 2010

June 2010

## In this eZasshi

[A KCP book on hiragana](#)

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It's June, summer's right in front of us, and we're asking you to . . . read! No, really--what better way to lounge at the beach, the park, or your favorite meadow than to be dreaming in Japanese? Read on.

## A KCP book on hiragana

In 2007, the talented staff at KCP created this book/DVD-  
**Virtual Hiragana Class in One Week**  
(published by Bonjinsha)

Katsushika Hokusai

Learn Japanese through proverbs

# Virtual Hiragana Class

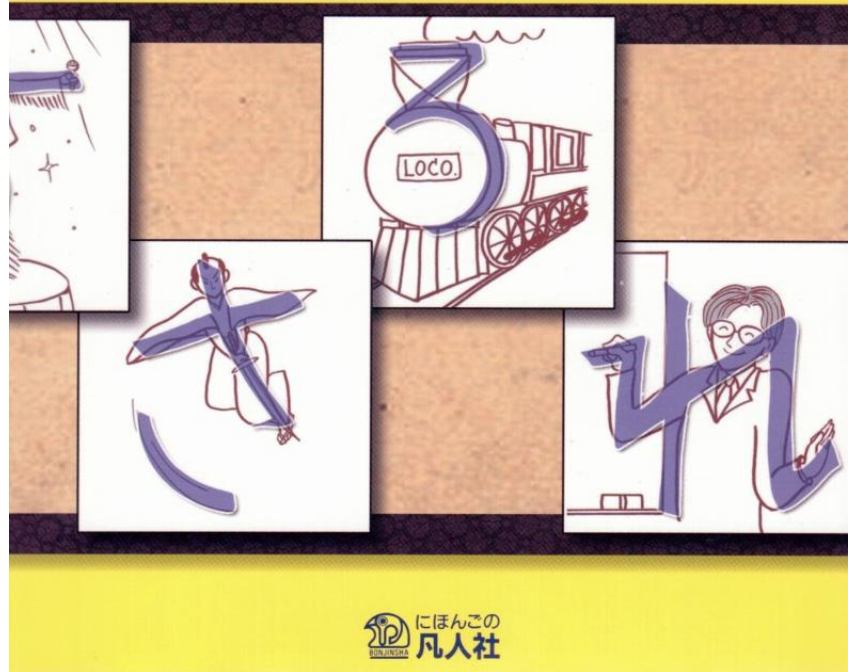
## in One Week

~ Learning Japanese Characters on DVD ~

DVDで学ぶ  
ひらがな一週間

学校法人 KCP 学園  
KCP 地球市民日本語学校

KCP International Japanese Language School  
Japanese Language and Culture for the Global Community



It's a fun, very educational workbook getting you up to speed with these basic characters in one week. This bilingual workbook includes romaji for basic pronunciation, but it mostly uses visuals to help you remember the phonetics when you see these characters.

The course teaches pronunciation and writing of Hiragana by showing their appearance and using simple sentences. Each of the 8 units

consists of a lecturer on screen teaching the Hiragana individually, explaining stroke order, common errors, pronunciation and more. The workbook has clear, short explanations, written practice, and simple fun tasks. Visual associations aid in memorizing each character. You'll also pick up basic vocabulary through the quizzes.

It's not widely available in the U.S. . . . Prices top out at around \$52, but the Kinokuniya Bookweb has it for under \$30. When you click the link below, choose Bookweb USA and type Virtual Hiragana into the search box. Much of the info is in kanji, but click a shopping cart symbol at the right of the page to see the order form. Click "In English" just above the form. The site figures your nearest Kinokuniya branch store, or you can have it mailed (and pay the shipping cost).

To buy the virtual class-[Kinokuniya](#)

(Company info-[Kinokuniya Company Ltd.](#), founded in 1927, is the largest bookstore chain in Japan, a leading importer of information products like books, journals, and electronic databases, and the operator of a Yahoo award-winning online bookstore.)

If you want to get closer to the Japanese language-and to Tokyo-this is a fine start that's not too spendy.

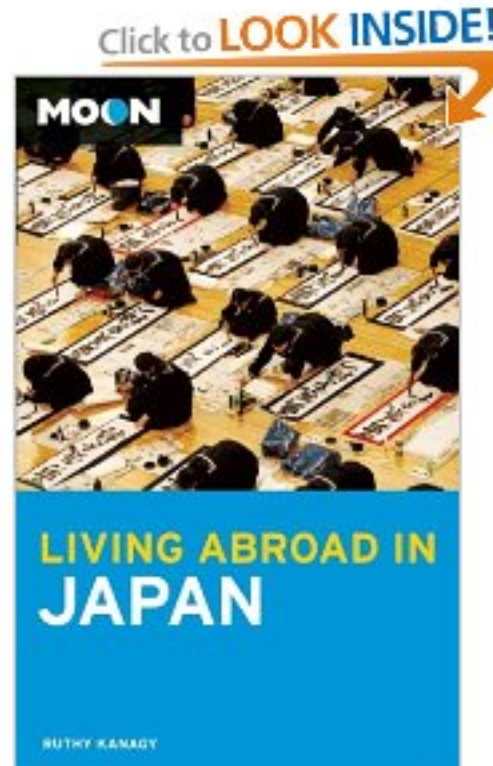
[The KCP Program](#)

## Travel books follow-on

We did a [WordPress post](#) a while back about travel books for Japan and Tokyo. Reading a travel book is a great way to get some history, culture, geography, a good dose of practicalities, and a real taste of life there. It's not expensive and it might spark some ideas for you of how to get over there!

We received a few suggestions from readers and fans, for books we hadn't included. Here they are.

**Living Abroad in Japan** (Moon Living; Ruth Kanagy)



From an Amazon review-

I lived in Japan in my youth, speak the language, and often visit my Japanese friends, I found much new information that was helpful for planning to live in Japan again. Ruth Kanagy illustrates her guidebook with beautiful original photographs and gives accurate descriptions and background explanations, social customs, and the Japanese lifestyle.

This book is a useful guide for planning a quality short trip, including important money saving details that a travel agency won't tell you. It's also great for longer stays, an extended work project, or even relocation to Japan.

## Eyewitness Travel Guide to Japan (Dorling Kindersley publishing)



This one was recommended by KCP alum Matt Henry. He heavily praised the photography and layout in it.

From an Amazon review-

This book is chock full of useful info and wonderful photographs. I particularly like their suggested "walks," tours (such as Kiso Valley or Saga Pottery area), and maps.

Other highlights are detailed diagrams (such as the Gassho-zukuri houses and Toshu-gu Shrine in Nikko) and lots of photos and descriptions. Japan is a fabulous place to engage with the culture; this book can help you make the leap from reading/observing to engaging, since it takes away the reams and reams of text found in other books. It's not at its best as a standalone reference, though.



[More books, from our website.](#)

## What our students say--choices and sensei

We've just gotten fresh responses to the exit survey from the fall 2009 and early 2010 programs. We'll excerpt from this periodically.

Here are answers to two of the questions.

### How did you hear about KCP and why did you choose us?

- Referred by a friend; a good length of study for the price. /
- Internet (google search for Japanese language courses); an intensive and quick way to learn the Japanese language. /
- Through my college Study Abroad program. It was the most rigorous and intensive of the three programs offered. /
- Through the Univ. of Southern Maine's International Affairs dept.; for the university credit. /
- In the CCIS catalog. My university doesn't offer Japanese, and I was extremely interested in learning it. /
- studyabroad.com. After getting into an English as a Second language field, I decided that now was the time to pick it up again, as Japan is a prime job market for ESL /

### What teachers (sensei) do you recommend?

- Anraku-sensei, Miyake-sensei, and Kawamura-sensei helped me improve my Japanese greatly. /

- Kawamura-sensei, Saito-sensei, and Kamisaka-sensei, all fantastic instructors, made me want to impress them./
- Kamisaka-sensei, Iwai-sensei, and Saito-sensei are all excellent. /
- Saitou Yoshihiro-sensei is KCP's most valuable staff member--a highly-skilled presenter and positive personality. /
- Uematsu-sensei, Kono-sensei, and Saito-sensei went above and beyond to help me. /
- Anraku-sensei makes her classes interesting. /
- Morinaga-sensei is extremely helpful; her encouragement is more than enough to keep me motivated and studying.
- Konno-sensei (because she is KCP's most beautiful sensei) /
- Suzuki-sensei is the best! She explains everything clearly and gives off fun energy for learning. Takastu-sensei is always funny and very concerned with my progress. Imae-sensei acts everything out hilariously and creates a game show atmosphere. /
- Konno-sensei is lively, pleasant, involves us, and often deviates from the textbook with real-life scenarios. /
- I highly recommend all three of my teachers: Yamada-sensei, Konno-sensei, and Kawamura-sensei. /
- Takatsu-sensei and Suzuki-sensei were both excellent./
- Kawamura-sensei and Anraku-sensei always come prepared and keep us motivated. /
- Morunaga-sensei is absolutely wonderful. /

[Past student comments](#)

## **Katsushika Hokusai, a Japanese treasure**

Want to indulge in some Japanese art that's uncannily beautiful and accessible?



Check out our [WordPress post on Katsushika Hokusai](#).

**KCP International USA**  
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Bellingham, Washington 98228-0028



## Learn Japanese through proverbs

蛙の子は蛙

Romaji--Kaeru no ko wa kaeru.

Meaning--Child of a frog is a frog; Like father, like son.

## Upcoming program deadlines





Always think ahead!

The application deadline for the **Fall 2010** semester is **June 7**.

For the **2011 spring extended program**, you have until **July 8** to apply.

\* \* \* \* \*

Happy June, kicking back, and reading,  
**Mike and the KCP International team**

***KCP Japanese Language School . . .  
full immersion for the motivated student.***

**[www.kcpinternational.com](http://www.kcpinternational.com)**

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