

BRaille CHART (for readers)

50-sound-table

ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko
サ sa	シ shi	ス su	セ se	ソ s
タ ta	チ chi	ツ tsu	テ te	ト to
ナ na	ニ ni	ヌ nu	ネ ne	ノ no
ハ ha	ヒ hi	フ fu	ヘ he	ホ ho
マ ma	ミ mi	ム mu	メ me	モ mo
ヤ ya	ユ yu	ヨ yo		
ラ ra	リ ri	ル ru	レ re	ロ ro
ワ wa				

Voiced consonants (dakuon), Semi-voiced consonants (handakuon)

ガ ga	ギ gi	グ gu	ゲ ge	ゴ go
ザ za	ジ ji	ズ zu	ゼ ze	ゾ zo
ダ da	ヂ ji	ヅ zu	デ de	ド do
バ ba	ビ bi	ブ bu	ベ be	ボ bo
パ pa	ピ pi	プ pu	ペ pe	ポ po

Yōon and so on

キャ ya	キュ kyū	キョ kyo	ギャ gya	ギュ gyū	ギョ gyo
シャ sha	シュ shu	ショ sho	ジャ ja	ジュ ju	ジョ jo
チャ cha	チュ chu	チョ cho	チャ ja	チュ ju	ジョ jo
ニャ nya	ニュ nyū	ニョ nyo			
ヒャ hya	ヒュ hyū	ヒョ hyo	ビャ bya	ビュ byū	ビョ byo
ミャ mya	ミュ myū	ミョ myo	ピャ pya	ピュ pyū	ピョ pyo
リャ rya	リュ ryū	リョ ryo			

ン n (ン) (nasal sound)
ッ small tsu (ツ) (sokuonfu)
ー long vowel mark(ー) (chōonfu)

Numbers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	10	123
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Alphabet

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j
k	l	m	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
u	v	w	x	y	z				

Main punctuation marks in Japanese

。 koten	、 toten	？ question mark	！ exclamation mark
～ bar line	… ellipsis	「 」 kagi bracket	（ ） parenthesis
foreign letter sign	capital letter sign	first linking mark	

Main punctuation marks in English

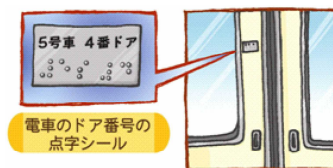
capital letter sign	. period	, comma	; semicolon	: colon
? question mark	! exclamation mark	- hyphen	' apostrophe	
- - - dash	… ellipsis	/ slash	() parenthesis	

LET'S READ BRAILLE !

Tenji-wo yon-de miyō !

Braille, as shown in the picture on the right, can be found in many places: elevators, washing machines, postboxes, handrails at train stations, ticket vending machines, and even on canned beer, wood glue, bottles of jam, sauce, *tofu* containers, and more. Let's try to find them!

What do they say? When you find Braille, try reading it!



Braille stickers for train door numbers



●The Birth of Braille

The Braille system used worldwide today was invented by **Louis Braille** of France (January 4, 1809 – January 6, 1852) when he was 16 years old, in 1825.



Louis Braille

The year 2025 marks 200 year since the invention of Braille.

At the age of three, Louis Braille lost his sight due to an injury. He studied at the Royal Institute for Blind Youth in Paris, where he learned by reading books with embossed letters by touching them with his fingers. However, this method made it difficult to read quickly or write independently. Braille sought to create a writing system that would allow blind individuals to read and write freely, enabling communication with others and the pursuit of knowledge. Through his efforts, he developed the

Braille system, which allows visually impaired people to read and write quickly and independently.

In Japan, Romanized Braille was first introduced in 1887 (Meiji 20).

Konishi Nobuhachi, vice principal of the Tokyo School for the Blind and Deaf, was deeply moved by the students' excitement upon encountering Braille and felt a strong desire to develop a Japanese Braille system. Teachers and students collaborated to devise various proposals. As a result, on November 1, 1890 (Meiji 23), a system proposed by teacher Ishikawa Kuraji was officially adopted as Japanese Braille.

Today, November 1 is recognized as "Japanese Braille Day" to commemorate the establishment of Japanese Braille.

"Braille" is...

Characters that blind people read with their fingers. In contrast, the characters we read with our eyes are called "ink characters."

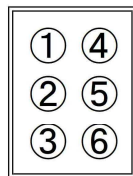
● How Japanese Braille works

The basic unit of Braille is called a "cell."

Each cell consists of six dots, three high and two wide.

Dots ①, ② and ④ represent the vowels (a, i, u, e, o).

⠁	⠇	⠥	⠊	⠏
①	①②	①④	①②④	②④
ア a	イ i	ウ u	エ e	オ o



(Number of dots in a cell)

The remaining **dots, ③, ⑤ and ⑥**, are combined to represent consonants.

For example, the **ka** row is formed by adding **dot ⑥** to the vowels (a, i, u, e, o).

⠁⠬	⠇⠬	⠥⠬	⠊⠬	⠏⠬
カ ka	キ ki	ク ku	ケ ke	コ ko

Other consonants are created in the same way. Please refer to "Braille Chart" on the last page.

sa row: adding dots ⑤ and ⑥	ta row: adding dots ③ and ⑤
na row: adding dot ③	ha row: adding dots ③ and ⑥
ma row: adding dots ③, ⑤ and ⑥	ra row: adding dot ⑤

The **ya** row and the characters "**wa**," "**wo**," and "**n**" have slightly different patterns.

⠏⠬	⠇⠬	⠥⠬	⠊⠬	⠏⠬	⠏⠬
ヤ ya	ユ yu	ヨ yo	ワ wa	ヲ wo	ン n

Voiced consonants (*dakuon*), semi-voiced consonants (*handakuon*), and *yōon* sounds are represented using two cells.

Voiced consonants are indicated by placing **dot ⑤** before the character.

⠠⠁	⠠⠇	⠠⠥	⠠⠊	⠠⠏
ガ ga	ギ gi	グ gu	ゲ ge	ゴ go

For semi-voiced consonants (pa, pi, pu, pe, po), **dot ⑥** is placed in front.

⠠⠁	⠠⠇	⠠⠥	⠠⠊	⠠⠏
パ pa	ピ pi	プ pu	ペ pe	ポ po

For *yōon* sounds (such as "kya," "kyu," and "kyo"), **dot ④** is placed in front. However, be aware that this differs from the way they are written in standard (ink-printed) Japanese characters.

⠠⠁	⠠⠇	⠠⠥
キャ kya	キュ kyu	キョ kyo

The last page contains a "Braille Chart" of the main Braille characters. Braille can represent not only languages from around the world, such as Japanese, English, French, and Chinese, but also most characters and symbols used in school subjects, such as mathematics, science, and music.

● Key points on how to write in Japanese Braille

Kana usage

Kana usage in Braille is almost the same as "Modern *Kana* Usage". However, the following two points are unique to Braille.

(1) *Joshi* (postpositional particle) *ha'* (は) and *he'* (へ) are written as they are pronounced: *'wa'* (ワ) and *'e'* (エ).

Bokuha hon'yahe iku. (I go to the bookstore.) → Bokuwa ⠏ hon'yae ⠏ iku.

(2) Long sounds, which become *'u'* (う) in *kana*, are written using long vowel mark (dots ② and ⑤).

sansuu (arithmetic)	→ sansū	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
Toukyou	→ Tōkyō	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
otousan (father)	→ otōsan	⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

Numbers

(1) Numbers are preceded by a number sign (⠼) and written continuously up to four digits. Numbers such as *man*, *oku*, and *cho* should be written in *kana*.

500	→	⠼⠠⠠⠠	2009	→	⠼⠠⠠⠠⠠	
1 man 5 sen 3 byaku (15,300)	→	1 man	⠏	5300	→	⠼⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠

(2) The "word" following a number should be written consecutively. The "A" row and "Ra" row have the same form as numbers, so when a "word" that starts with one of the letters "a, i, u, e, o, ra, ri, ru, re, ro" follows, the first linking mark (dots ③ and ⑥) is inserted between them to distinguish between numbers and *kana*.

1 kai	→	⠼⠠⠠⠠	500 nin	→	⠼⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠	5 en	→	⠼⠠⠠⠠⠠⠠
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Alphabet

The alphabet is preceded by a foreign letter sign (⠠), and capital letters are marked with a capital letter sign (⠨).

abc	→	⠠⠠⠠⠠	B 1	→	⠠⠠⠠⠠
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Word separation

(1) Since all Braille characters are written in *kana*, words are separated into meaningful units, with one blank space between them.

Kyōha asakara yoku harete iru. (Today the sky has been clear and sunny since the morning.)
→ Kyōwa ⠏ asakara ⠏ yoku ⠏ harete ⠏ iru.

(2) Write a person's name with one blank space between the surname and given name.
Ishikawa Kuraji → Ishikawa ⠏ Kuraji Rui · Buraiyu (Louis Braille) → Rui ⠏ Buraiyu

* If you are interested, please check out the website of the National Association of Institutions of Information Service for Visually Impaired Persons

Website : <https://www.naiiv.net/zensijokyo/>



" Braille 200th Anniversary Project "

(Published November 1, 2008 ; partially revised in 2025)

Edited and published by Braille Authority of Japan

c/o Ounkai 4-11-14-102 Takadanobaba, Shinjuku-ku, Tokyo 169-0075, Japan

Website : <http://www.braille.jp/>

