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Timothy G. Stout

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Timothy G. Stout : Japanese Hiragana Katakana for Beginners: First Steps to Mastering the Japanese Writing System (CD-ROM Included) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Japanese Hiragana Katakana for Beginners: First Steps to Mastering the Japanese Writing System (CD-ROM Included):

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By eksA very good book to learn Hiragana! I like how the book provides detailed instructions for the strokes and has spaces to practice. I also like that it has a vocabulary review every once in a while. I downloaded a blank hiragana practice sheet to complement this book.
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By A. Lynne This book is amazing. Correlates Japanese characters to memorable animated scenarios. I've had the book about a week and complete memorization and writing practice for one new character a day. The book also includes words that use the Japanese characters being introduced so that you can have a head start on vocabulary. This method is very fun and highly motivating. I just gave away my French audio method discs because I'm accelerating so quickly with understanding this language. I also plan on purchasing the new Kanji method book by this author that is set to come out later this year. Overall, an excellent method book that's thorough with a solid foundation to progress to more advanced study. Very pleased!

The method that's helped thousands in the U.S. and Japan learn Japanese successfully. The Japanese language has two basic writing systems, hiragana and katakana, in addition to the one that uses Chinese characters or Kanji. This handy book teaches you a new mnemonic-based method to read and write the basic 92 hiragana and katakana characters. Along with its sister book: Japanese Kanji for Beginners it provides a complete introduction to written Japanese. Memorable picture mnemonics help you to learn the characters by associating their shapes and sounds with combinations of images and English words already familiar to you. Clear examples and engaging exercises offer opportunities to read, write, use and practice all 92 primary hiragana katakana characters, plus the remaining kana that stand for more complex sounds. Polish your knowledge with word searches, crossword puzzles, fill-in-the-blanks, timed recognition quizzes, and other engaging activities. The CDROM allows you to print out flashcards (featuring the same mnemonic images taught in the book) to help you review and practice, even while you are on the go.

"As a whole I find this book to be a useful tool to learning the characters of both writing systems. I especially like the vocabulary usage at the bottom of each character's page. If you are looking for a book to get you started with Japanese I think this is a good place to start." BenLearnsJapanese.com blog
About the Author Timothy G. Stout lived in Japan for 20 years and has taught Japanese language for 23 years in public and private schools, and at the university level. While teaching at the American School in Japan he conducted research on the use of keyword mnemonics in the instruction of Japanese. Stout has a Doctorate in Education (EdD) from Utah State University, an M.A. in Japanese Pedagogy from Columbia University and a B.A. in Japanese Teaching from Brigham Young University. He currently teaches Japanese at Utah Valley University, and resides in Lehi, Utah with his wife and five children. Stout is the author of Japanese Hiragana and Katakana for Beginners and Let's Learn Japanese, both available from Tuttle.