

Time out!



When we call 'Time out!' we are signalling it's time for a break. You have been working hard on your Japanese language, so we think it's time to slow things down a bit so you can get some energy back before we push on.

- 🕒 In **Time out!**, however, we won't be stopping the clock; in fact we will start it running as you learn:
 - to tell the time when it's 5, 15, 25 (etc.) minutes past the hour
 - to tell the time when it's 10, 20, 30 (etc.) minutes past the hour
 - to read and write the kanji 時, 分 and 半.
- 🕒 In this chapter you will also come of age as a Japanese reader as you 'trash' roomaji.



べんきょうページ pe e ji



It's five past

55 ぶん gojuugofun
or
5 ぶんまえ gofun mae

45 ぶん yonjuugofun

35 ぶん sanjuugofun



5 ぶん gofun

15 ぶん juugofun

25 ぶん nijuugofun

いま、何じですか。



1じ15ぶんです。

It's ten past

50 ぶん gojuppun
or
10 ぶんまえ juppun mae

40 ぶん yonjuppun



10 ぶん juppun

20 ぶん nijuppun

30 ぶん sanjuppun
or はん

いま、何じですか。



7じ20ぶんです。



かんじ

Here are some new *かんじ* for you to practise.

minute

4 strokes



5分	ごふん	5 minutes
10分	じゅっふん	10 minutes

o'clock, hour

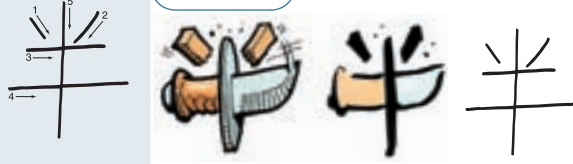
10 strokes



1時	いちじ	one o'clock
9時20分	くじにじゅっふん	9:20
何時	なんじ	what time?

half

5 strokes



4時半	よじはん	4:30
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しましよう

Where will you park?

These two car parks, **A** and **B**, are near each other in Tokyo. One of them is open around the clock, the other closes overnight. The one that stays open has special night rates. (夜間 *よかん* means 'during the night'.) Prices are, of course, in 円 *yen*.

- I parked in **A** from 11 am until 1 pm. How much would I have saved if I'd parked in **B**?
- I parked in **A** from 10 pm until 11 pm. How much would I have saved if I'd parked in **B**?
- I'm a slow learner. I parked in **A** again and went to a movie that finished at midnight. What problem did I face when I went to pick up my car?



It's five past



じ ぶん
3時 25分 です。

- ▶ To tell the time at 5 past the hour, you simply add 5分 *gofun* to the 時 *ji* time.

For example, when it's 5 past six (6:05 on your digital clock) you say 6時 5分 です。
rokuji gofun desu.

Now it's easy to go around the clock and tell the time at every '5 past' time: 15, 25, 35, 45, 55 分。



It's ten past

- ▶ To tell the time at 10 past the hour, you simply add 10分 *juppun* to the 時 *ji* time.

For example, when it's 10 past six (6:10 on your digital clock) you say 6時 10分 です。
rokuji juppun desu.

Now it's easy to go around the clock and tell the time at every '10 past' time: 20, 30, 40, 50 分。

- ▶ Remember that Japanese has a 'half' when it comes to time.

6時 半 です。 It's half past six.



じ ぶん
9時 20分 です。

Is it 'past' or 'to'?

- ▶ Once the clock ticks past the half-hour mark, you can read it as 'past' the hour it has left or 'to' the hour it is approaching.

2時 50分 です。 It's 2:50.

or

3時 10分 まえ です。 It's 10 to three.

- ▶ まえ means 'before' or 'in front of'. It is mainly used with '10 to' and '5 to' times.



じ ぶん
2時 50分 です。
じ ぶん
3時 10分 まえ です。

たんご

～時	... o'clock	5分 ごとぶん	5 minutes
～時半	half past ...	10分 じゅつぶん	10 minutes
～分、～分	... minutes	まえ	before, in front of



口れんしゅう



2



だい
三
か



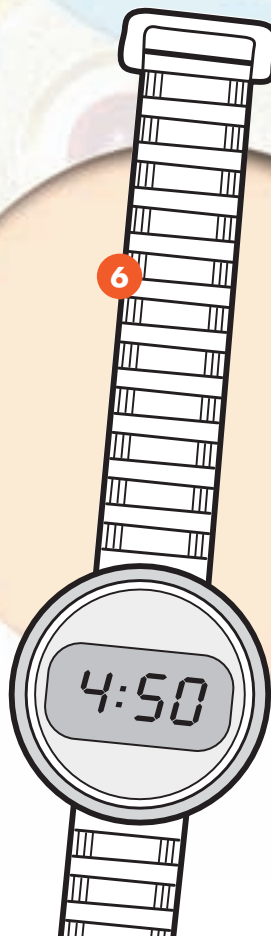
4



5



6



Warm-up

Look at the times pictured on this page and choose one to say in 日本語. Your partner will point to the clock or watch showing that time. Then they will say a time for you to point to.

The aim is to be able to tell the time on all the clocks and watches, so help each other if you get stuck. がんばって!



7

8



9



10



11



12



だい
三
か

Talking seriously

With your partner, decide who will be talking about the clocks numbered 1–6 and who will be specialising in 7–12.

Now point to a clock or watch in your partner's territory and politely ask what time it is. Don't forget to say thanks when you get your answer. Then your partner will point to a clock or a watch and ask you the time. If you need to buy some thinking time before you answer, throw in some Japanese 'ums' and 'ahs'.



Let's trash roomaji!

We know you have been feeling restless about roomaji. Why, you ask, are you still reading Japanese with roomaji tacked on to the ひらがな and かんじ? After all, you don't still ride around with training wheels fixed to your bike.

It's time to become a fully-fledged Japanese reader now, time to enjoy the privilege of reading ひらがな and かんじ without roomaji getting in the way. This is a real coming of age: it means more independence, it means getting there under your own steam.

Reading without roomaji



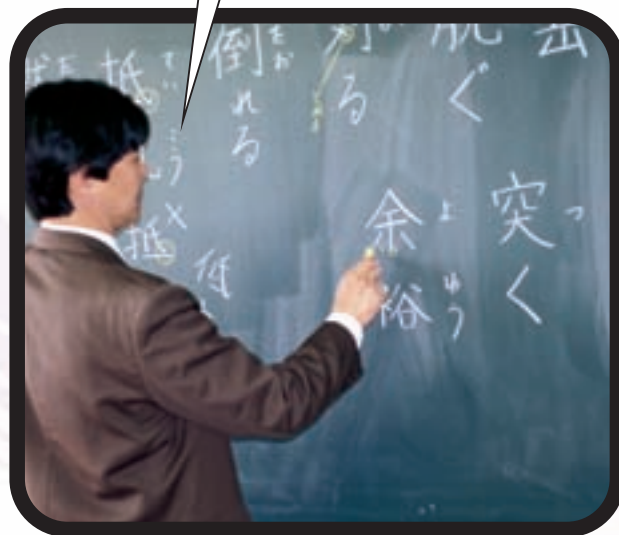
Reading with roomaji



What an important moment this is! What a cause for celebration! You are now ready for your 'さようなら roomaji' party in which the main event is the ceremonial dumping of roomaji into a rubbish bin.

Your teacher will be planning a final ひらがな test before the party, so take this last chance to really learn every corner of the ひらがな chart. がんばれ!

このじは、何ですか。



The じ of かんじ (and the ji of roomaji) means 'letter' or 'symbol', and この means 'this'. So if an occasional ひらがな or かんじ slips your mind, you can always ask: 先生、このじは、何ですか。

Never be afraid to ask. Learning to read Japanese is a long journey and Japanese students are always learning new characters and revising old ones.

At least, with roomaji in the trash, you can make the journey without those training wheels.

しましろう

Sign here

Now that you are a real ひらがな reader, here are some Japanese signs for you to try your skills on. They are all names of places around town. Notice how sign-writers always go for attractive, interesting-looking lettering.

Point to four of the signs, say よんで, and your trusty partner will read what it says. They will then test you on the other four.

