Greetings from Ritsumeikan University.

We are pleased to provide you with a *hiragana* practice set that includes a hiragana chart, exercise sheets and online videos demonstrating how to write hiragana. Hiragana is one of the three scripts of

the Japanese language. The first page of the set shows the complete hiragana chart with all the

characters. We would like you to study hiragana before coming to Japan. You should be able to

recognize hiragana before starting the course in Japan, as you will be expected to learn the scripts

within a very limited amount of time once the course starts.

The chart shows you the full set of hiragana. Each hiragana represents a combination of a consonant

sound and a vowel sound. Each column is made up of 5 hiragana ordered from top to bottom

according to the vowel sounds a, i, u, e, and o.

The first column is made up of hiragana for these 5 vowel sounds. Each column after that is made up

of hiragana beginning with a different consonant sound. For example, the second column is made up

of hiragana starting with the consonant sound 'k'. These are ka, ki, ku, ke and ko. After the second

column, each column (moving from right to left). is for hiragana starting with the consonant sounds

`s`,`t`,`n`,`h`,`m`,`y`,`r,`and `w`.

Please print out the exercise sheets before starting the writing practice. Use the exercise sheets while

viewing the instructor's explanation on how to write the hiragana. The key point that we would like

you to pay attention to when you practice is the stroke order. The instructors will show you which

line you should first start with and how to follow. The exercise sheets also show the numbers for the

order. It is important to follow the correct order, because this affects how you learn the other two

scripts in the Japanese classes. Also, please pay attention to how to draw the lines for each stroke.

Let's start now. Get the practice sheets ready, and view the instructor's explanation. Practice writing

the hiragana while following the instructions. At the end of the sheets, you will find words that are

made up of the hiragana that you have learned so far. Practice writing these words.

We are expecting you to practice repeatedly until you can recognize the hiragana instantly. You may

have a lot of questions regarding the writing method, pronunciations and other things. We will be

happy to discuss those questions when you get to Ritsumeikan.

We hope you enjoy practicing, and look forward to seeing you in Kyoto!

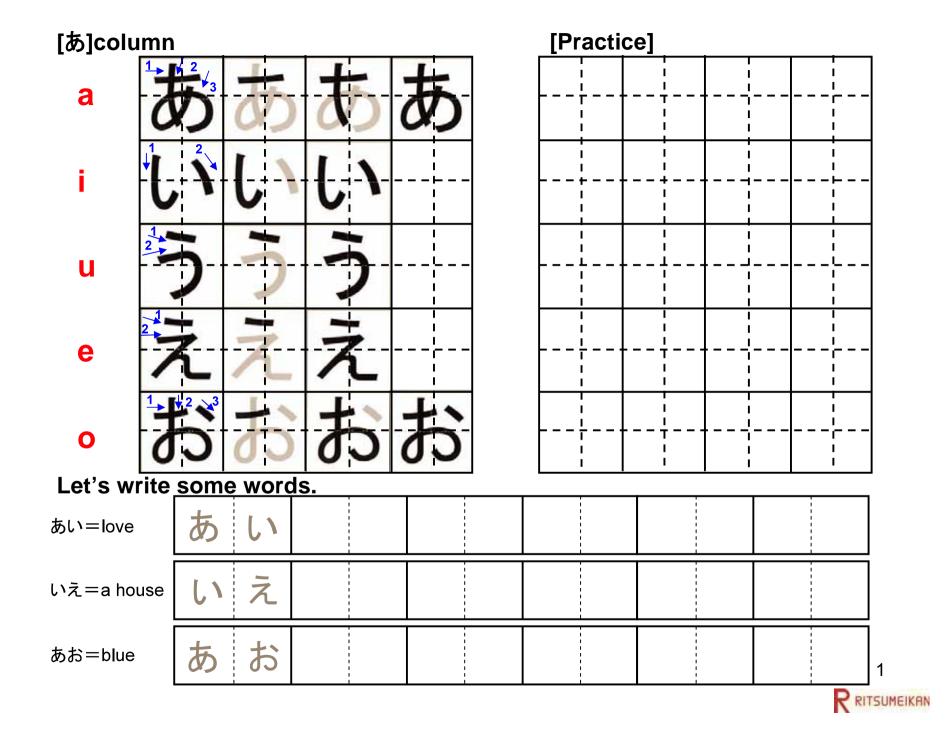
Ritsumeikan University

The Center for Japanese Language Education

50音表 Hiragana Chart

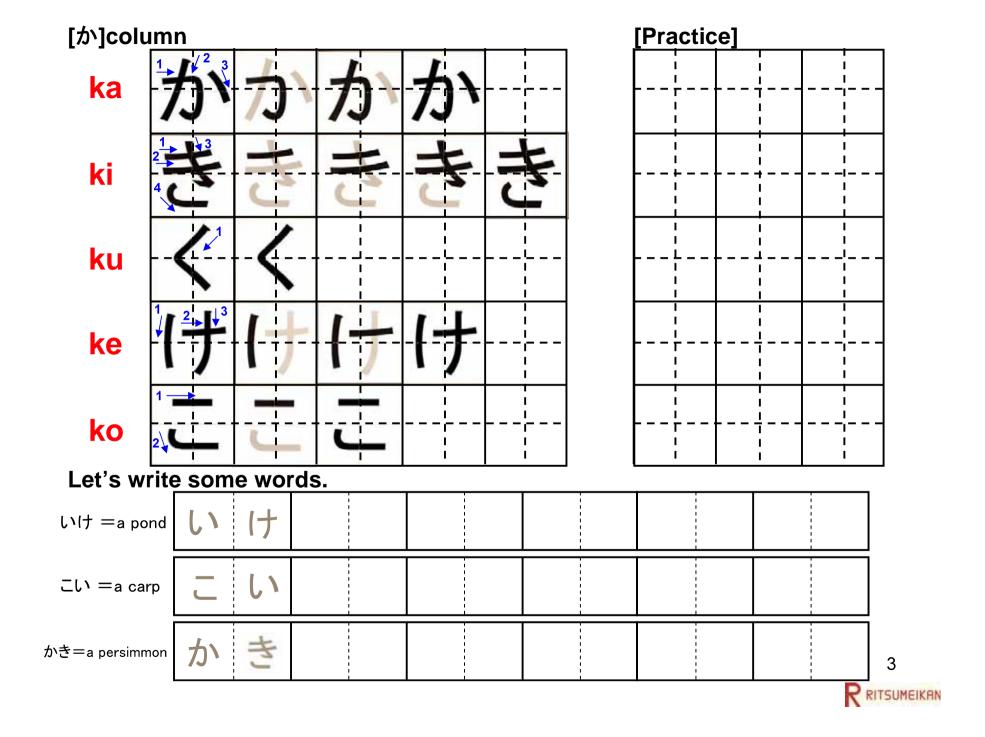
わ	ري	や	ま	は	な	た	と	か	あ
	り		4	ろ	11	ち	را	牝	しり
を	る	ゆ	Ç	ふ	な	7	p	<	う
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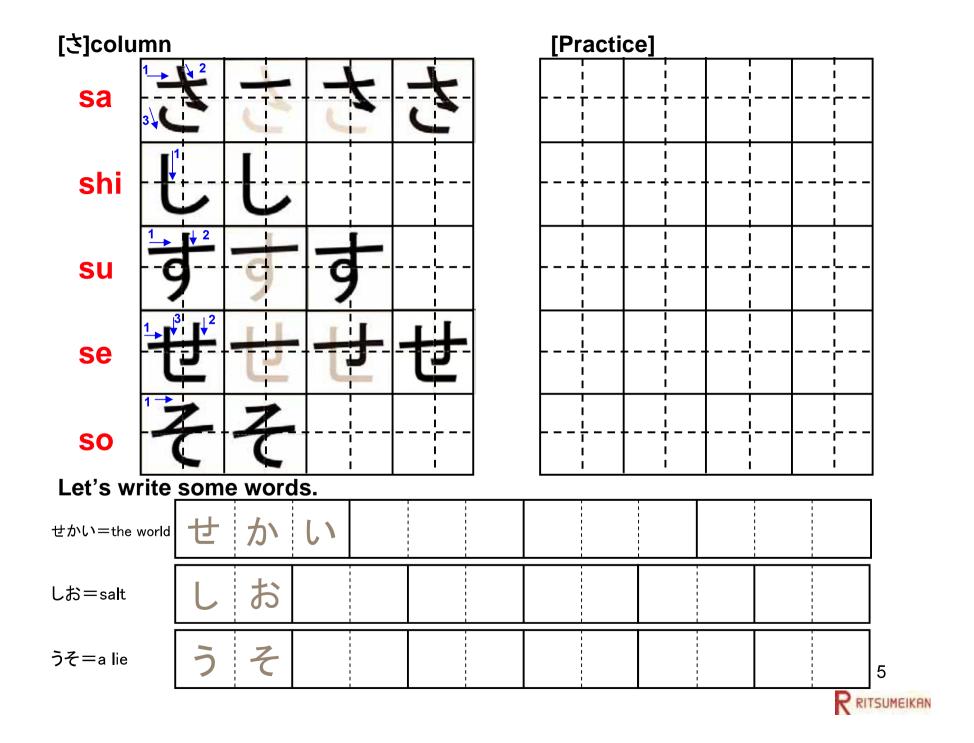
[あ]column





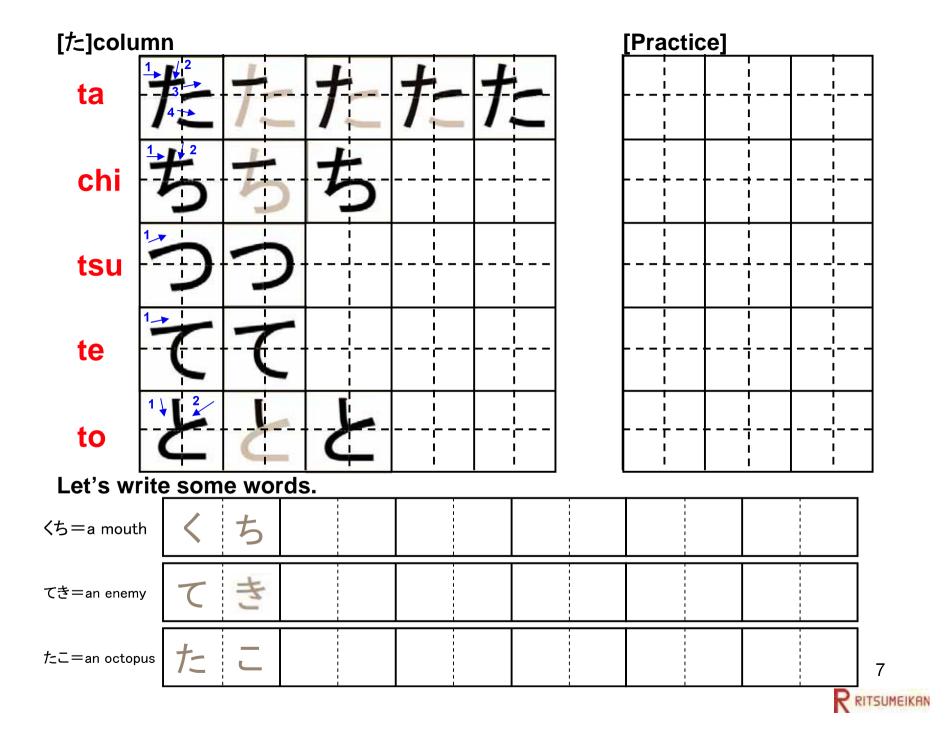
[か]column

えき= a railway station								
あき=autumn								
いか=a squid								
かお=a face								
•								
けいこ=practice			 				 	
'								
くうき=air	 		 	 	 	 	 	
	<u>i </u>	i	<u>i </u>	<u>i </u>	I	<u>i </u>		<u>i </u>



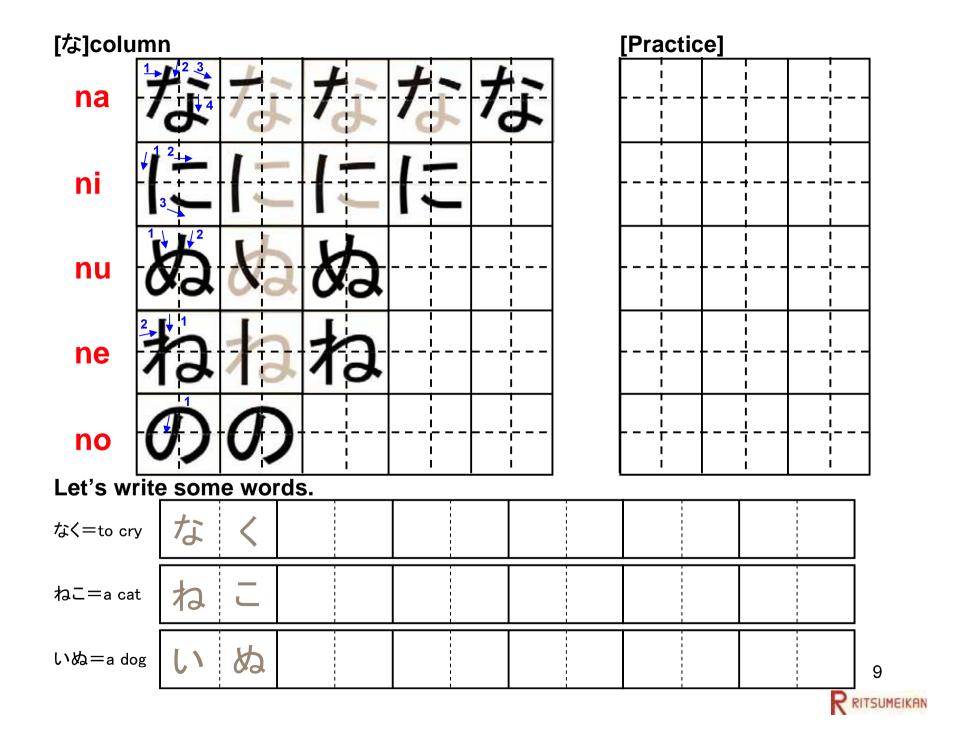
[さ]column

あし=a leg										
そうさ=										
an investigation										
すいか= a watermelon										
さとう=sugar	 	 		 		 	 			
あいさつ= a greeting		 			1 1 1 1 1				1 1 1 1 1	
せいかつ= a life	1 1 1 1	 	1 1 1 1	1 1 1 1	 	 			 	1 1 1 1
a IIIC	! ! !	 	 	 	 	! ! !		 	! !	! ! !



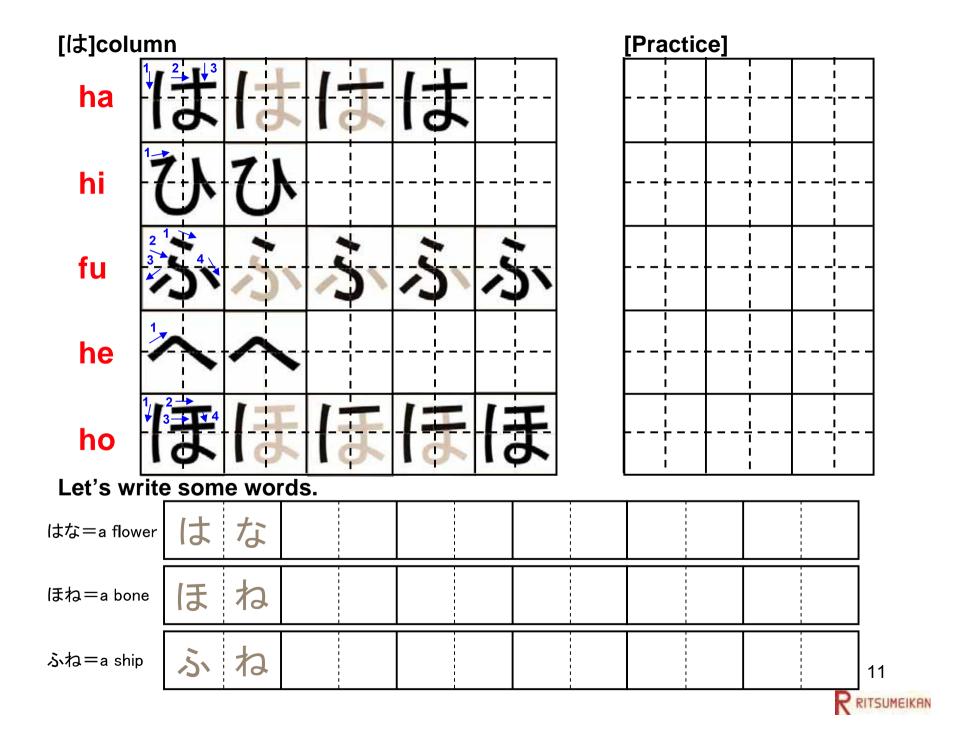
[た]column

			_			_		
くつ=shoes	 							
	1							
てき=an enemy	 				 			1 1 1 1 1
とかい=a city	 	 						
つくえ=a desk	! ! ! ! !	! ! ! !	 	 	! ! ! !		 	
たいこ=a drum								
ちかい=near								
					 			•



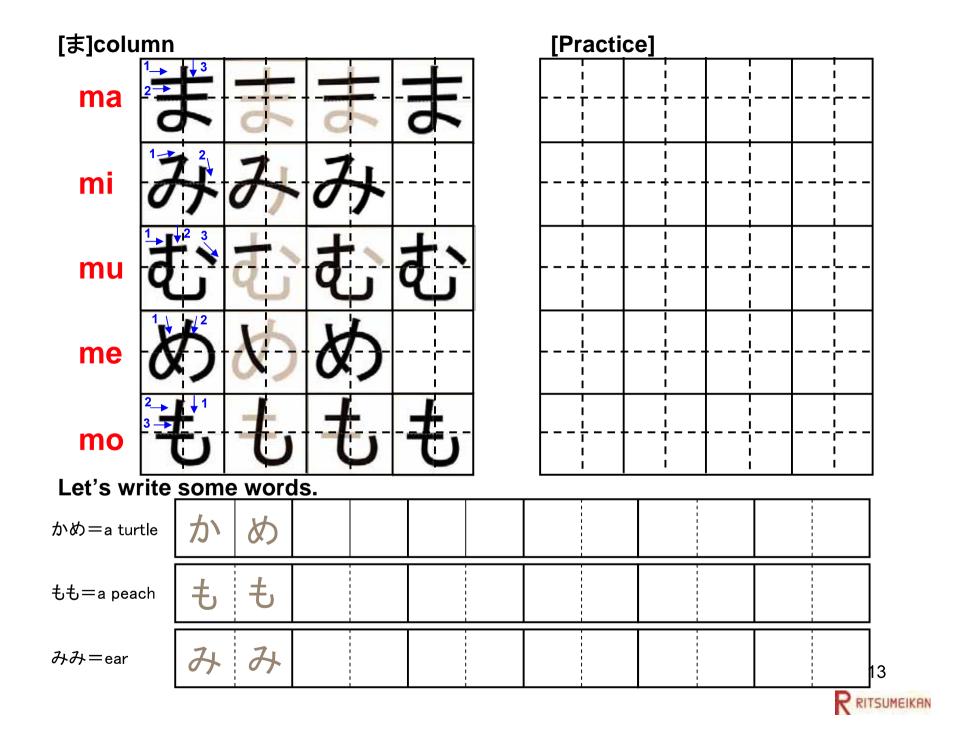
[な]column

にく=meat	 				 			
						-		
おに=an ogre								
なつ=summer								
のうか= a farmhouse								
きつね=a fox	 	 			 	 	 	
さかな=a fish								
	l							l .



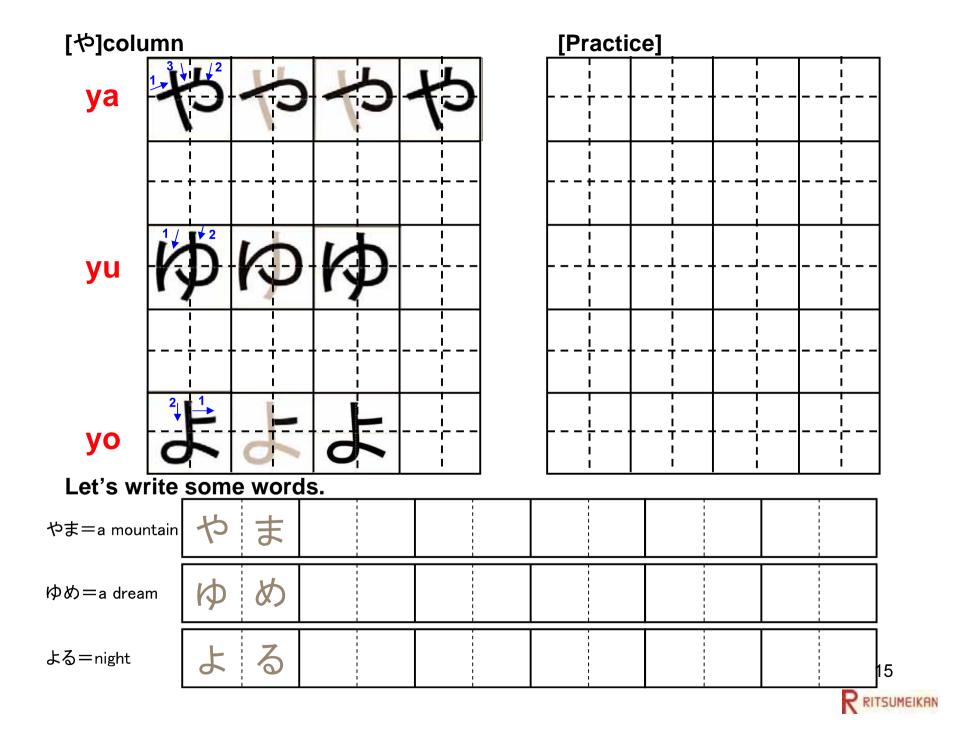
[は]column

ふね=a boat	 	 		 			
へそ= the belly button	1 1 1 1 1 1						
ほし=a star	1						1
ひろい=wide	1 1 1 1 1						
はかせ= a doctor/ an expert				 			
はたけ=a farm							
						1	·



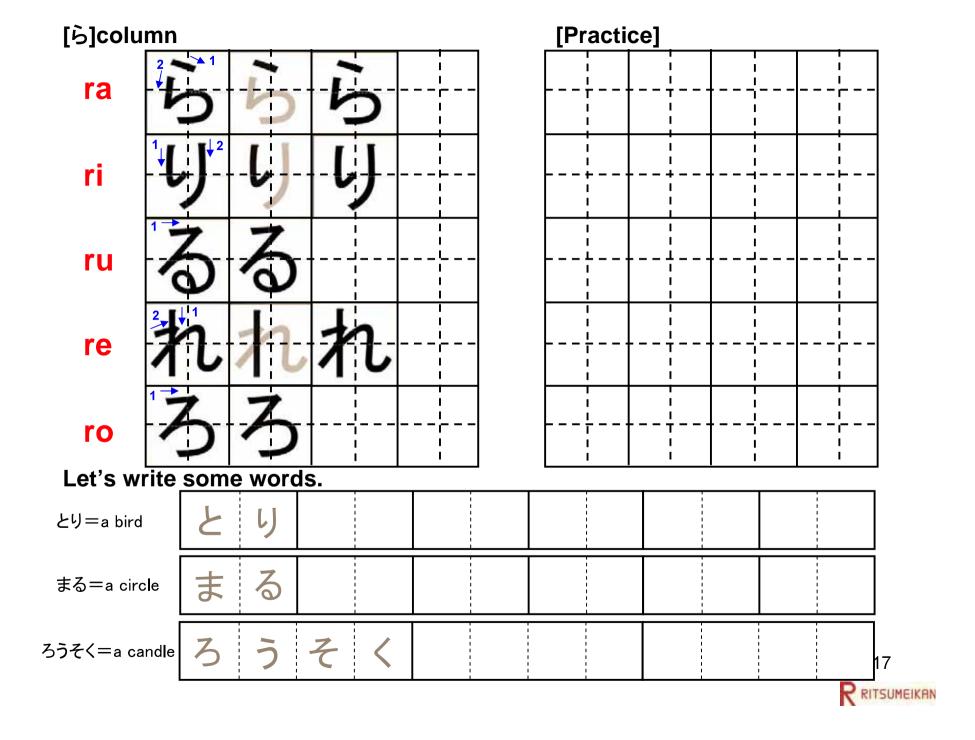
[ま]column

			_		_	_		_		
まめ=a bean	 			 		 				
うみ=the sea										
むし=an insect						1 1 1 1 1				
はさみ= scissors	1 1 1 1 1 1									
きもの=Kimono	 	 	 	 		 	 		 	
									1	
もうふ= a blanket		 				 				



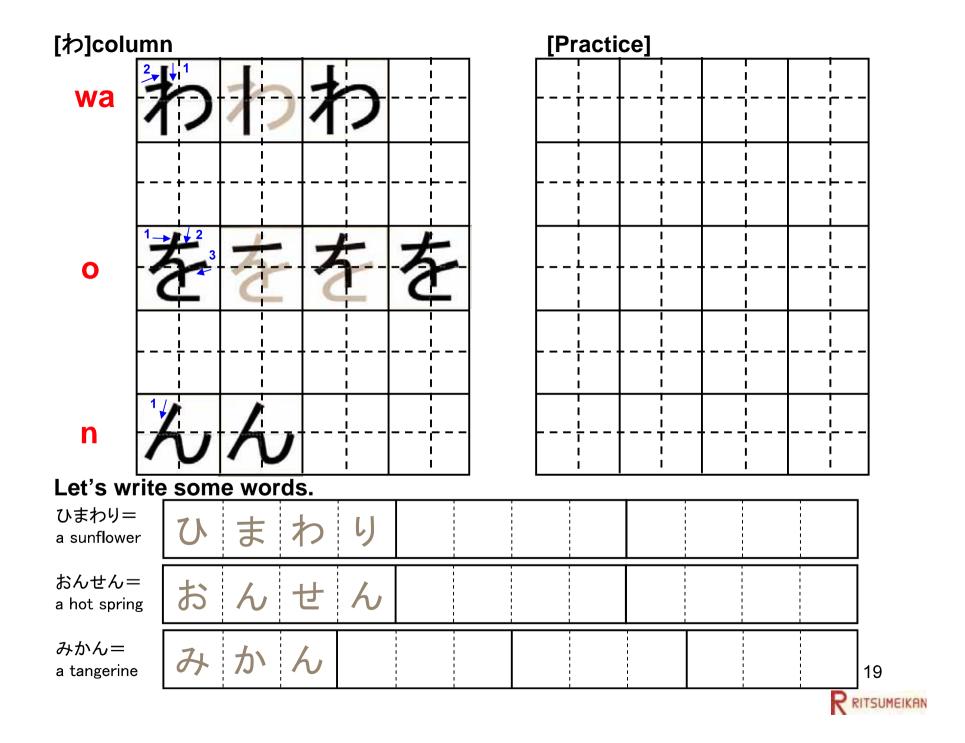
Let's practice more [や]column

ゆき=snow			 	 			
よなか= midnight							
やさい= vegetables		 	 	 		1	
ゆかた=a yukata- Informal summer kimono							
ひよこ=a chick							
やきいも= a baked sweet potato				 			



Let's practice more [ら]column

さる=a monkey						
ろうか= a corridor						
さくら= a cherry tree						
れきし=history						
のはら=a field						
のりもの= a vehicle						



[わ]column

かわ=a river					 			
わかめ= a kind of seaweed								
いわし= a sardine		1 1 1 1 1 1	 	1 1 1 1 1 1	 	1 1 1 1 1 1	 	
					•		•	
ふとん= <i>Futon</i> - Japanese bedding								
'								
しんかんせん= Shinkansen					 			