## WRITING WORDS

If you can write all of the *HIRAGANA* characters, along with their voiced and bilabialized counterparts and combination characters, you have only a short way to go before you can read and write words, phrases, and sentences.

This section will teach you how double consonants and long vowels are made, and give you some practice at writing words. Words in this section were selected for writing practice only, not for vocabulary study. We advise that you NOT waste time looking up their meanings.

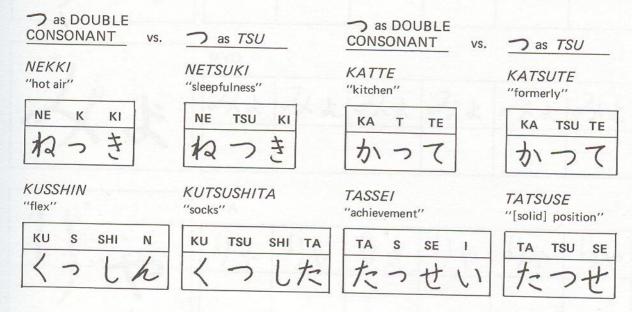
## DOUBLE CONSONANTS

There are certain consonant sounds in the Japanese sound system that may be doubled, specifically /K/, /S/ (including /SH/), /T/ (including /CH/), and /P/. Note that only voiceless consonants may be doubled.

In each case the double consonant is represented in HIRAGANA by a small TSU ( $\supset$ ) placed immediately BEFORE the consonant sound to be doubled, as in the examples below.



Notice that the TSU (  $\supset$  ) character is smaller than it would normally be written. Compare the following pairs:



Practice writing the following words that have double consonants. First, **TRACE** the *HIRAGANA* characters as shown, being careful to follow correct stroke order and direction as learned previously. Then write the words, character for character, in the blank spaces. These words were selected for writing practice only. We advise that you NOT waste time looking up their meanings.)



NOTE: Don't be confused when you see words that are romanized with double N, such as ZANNEN, KONNICHI, MINNA, etc. These are not treated as double consonants in HIRAGANA, since the first N is represented by the character &, as follows:

ZANNEN

za N NE N thah KONNICHI

KO N NI CHI

MINNA

MI N NA みんな

The character for TSU ( ) is NEVER used to double the consonant N.

## LONG VOWELS

Long vowels are usually represented in  $R\overline{O}MAJI$  by a vowel with a line over it, as in  $OK\overline{A}SAN$ ,  $SENSH\overline{U}$ ,  $ON\overline{E}SAN$ , OSAKA. The vowel I (and in some other forms of romanization, A, O, E, and U as well, may be romanized by repeating the vowel, as in ONIISAN and CHIISAI.

In HIRAGANA long vowels are usually represented by placing (A), (I), (I), (I), (I), (I), (I), (I), (I), (I), or (I) immediately after the character that has the corresponding vowel sound. In other words, as follows:

OKĀSAN

o KA A SA N おかあさん ONIISAN

o NI I SA N おにいさん SENSHU

SE N SHU U

ONESAN

O NE E SA N おねえさん ŌSAKA

0 0 SA KA おおさか

The exception to this rule is that the vowel O is often elongated by use of the character  $\frac{2}{O}$ /(U), instead of お (O). Ordinarily, お is used to elongate an O that BEGINS a word, as in OSAKA (お か さ か) and OKII (お お き い). When the long O is in the MIDDLE of a word or at the END of a word, the character  $\frac{2}{O}$  is more often used, as in

GAKKŌ

GA K KO U がっこう RYOSHIN

b) si lh

Rare exceptions to this rule should be memorized as you come across them. (Appendix B includes a brief list of common exceptions.)

Now practice writing the following words that have long vowels. First, **TRACE** the *HIRAGANA*, then write each word, character for character, in the space provided. Always be careful to follow the appropriate stroke order as learned previously.

