# Katakana Renshu Shitajuki

## Dear Colleagues,

I would like to share this practice mat with you as it seems to be very difficult to obtain a good font in the UK. The font I used is especially developed for compulsory education (shougakkou + chuugakkou), and Japanese pupils learn Hiragana/Katakana/Kanji looking at this font. This is the closest font to the hand writing. I have added some support such as stroke order and relationships between strokes. It is an image so you can use whatever your computer environment is.

#### How to use this mat

- Print them on **both sides** of a card so that the card would have a complete chart. I use a laser printer if you want to create 30 cards, print first half of the chart on all 30 cards first, then turn them over to print the latter half of the chart.
- Laminate the cards so that pupils can practice writing using white board markers. They can learn how to write katakana with correct stroke orders by tracing them. The writing can be wiped with tissue papers. My pupils write names and colour them before laminating it seems that they keep the interest longer when they personalise the mat.

Have you seen 'Shitajiki' that Japanese pupils use? This is a type of Shitajiki for reading / writing practice.

## Warning

Because the font model is calligraphy writing, the beginning of a stroke is 'wavy'. Some pupils tend to learn this wavy stroke beginning and exaggerate them. You need to warn your pupils not to copy the wavy beginnings, especially Shi, N, Tsu. So, He. I may update this mat using the other font to avoid this problem in the future.

## Copyright

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I hope this mat would improve your pupils' writing.

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