

SPELLING OF THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE IN ROMAN CHARACTERS

by

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At the present day there exist two current systems for spelling the Japanese language in Roman characters: one, the *Hebourn* system; the other, the *Nippon* system.

The evolution of the *Hebourn* system is due to Dr HEBORN. It is built up according to the English pronunciation; its history dates much farther back than that of the *Nippon* system by which its use has now been to a great extent superseded.

The *Nippon* system was drawn up at a later date by Dr A. TANAKADATE and his collaborators, in conformity with the composition of the 50 Japanese sounds. Being more systematic and simpler in construction, its use has become more and more widespread; several years ago the army and the navy officially adopted this system.

The spelling of the two systems respectively, and their pronunciation, are given in the following tables.

CATEGORY. <i>Catégorie</i>	JAPANESE LETTERS. <i>Lettres Japonaises</i>	SYSTEM. <i>S Y S T E M E</i>		PRONUNCIATION. <i>PRONONCIATION</i>	
		NIPPON.	HEBORN.	ENGLISH. <i>Anglais</i>	FRENCH. <i>Français</i>
The 50 simple sounds, including 5 radical sounds (vowels). <i>Les 50 sons simples, y compris les 5 sons radicaux (voyelles).</i>					
5 radical sounds (vowels). 5 sons radicaux (voyelles)	ア	a	a	a	a
	イ	i	i	i	i
	ウ	u	u	u	ou
	エ	e	e	e	é
	オ	o	o	o	o
K	カ	ka	ka	ka	ca
	キ	ki	ki	ki	qui
	ク	ku	ku	ku	cou
	ケ	ke	ke	ke	qué
	コ	ko	ko	ko	co
S	サ	sa	sa	sa	sa
	シ	si	shi	shi	si
	ス	su	su	su	sou
	セ	se	se	se	sé
	ソ	so	so	so	so
T	タ	ta	ta	ta	ta
	チ	ti	chi	chi	tsi
	ツ	tu	tsu	tsu	tsou
	テ	te	te	te	té
	ト	to	to	to	to

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		NIPPON.	HEBORN.	ENGLISH. <i>Anglais</i>	FRENCH. <i>Français</i>
N	ナ	na	na	na	na
	ニ	ni	ni	ni	ni
	ヌ	nu	nu	nu	nou
	ネ	ne	ne	ne	né
	ノ	no	no	no	no
H	ハ	ha	ha	ha	ha
	ヒ	hi	hi	hi	hi
	フ	hu	fu	fu	hou
	ヘ	he	he	he	hé
	ホ	ho	ho	ho	ho
M	マ	ma	ma	ma	ma
	ミ	mi	mi	mi	mi
	ム	mu	mu	mu	mou
	メ	me	me	me	mé
	モ	mo	mo	mo	mo
Y	ヤ	ya	ya	ya	ia
	イ	i	i	i	i
	ユ	yu	yu	yu	iou
	エ	e	e	e	é
	ヨ	yo	yo	yo	io

CATEGORY. <i>Catégorie</i>	JAPANESE LETTERS. <i>Lettres Japonaises</i>	SYSTEM. <i>SYSTEME</i>		PRONUNCIATION. <i>PRONONCIATION</i>	
		NIPPON.	HEBORN.	ENGLISH. <i>Anglais</i>	FRENCH. <i>Français</i>
R	ラ	ra	ra	ra	ra
	リ	ri	ri	ri	ri
	ル	ru	ru	ru	rou
	レ	re	re	re	ré
	ロ	ro	ro	ro	ro
W	ワ	wa	wa	wa	oi
	ヰ	wi	wi	wi	oui
	ウ	u	u	u	ou
	ヱ	we	we	we	oué
	ヲ	wo	wo	wo	ouo
The soft sounds. <i>Les sons doux</i>					
G	ガ	ga	ga	ga	ga
	ギ	gi	gi	gi	gui
	グ	gu	gu	gu	gou
	ゲ	ge	ge	ge	gué
	ゴ	go	go	go	go
Z	ザ	za	za	za	za
	ジ	zi	ji	ji	zi
	ズ	zu	zu	zu	zou
	ゼ	ze	ze	ze	zé
	ゾ	zo	zo	zo	zo

CATEGORY. <i>Catégorie</i>	JAPANESE LETTERS. <i>Lettres Japonaises</i>	SYSTEM. <i>S Y S T E M E</i>		PRONOUNCIATION. <i>PRONONCIATION</i>	
		NIPPON.	HEBORN.	ENGLISH. <i>Anglais</i>	FRENCH. <i>Français</i>
D	ダ	da	da	da	da
	ヂ	di	ji	ji	dzi
	ヅ	du	zu	zu	dzou
	テ	de	de	de	dé
	ド	do	dp	do	do
B	バ	ba	ba	ba	ba
	ビ	bi	bi	bi	bi
	ブ	bu	bu	bu	bou
	ベ	be	be	be	bé
	ボ	bo	bo	bo	bo
P	パ	pa	pa	pa	pa
	ピ	pi	pi	pi	pi
	プ	pu	pu	pu	pou
	ペ	pe	pe	pe	pé
	ポ	po	po	po	po
The combined sounds. <i>Les sons composés</i>					
K	キヤ	kya	kya	kya	quia
	キユ	kyu	kyu	kyu	cu
	キョ	kyo	kyo	kyo	quio
	クワ	kwa	—	kwa	quoi

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		NIPPON.	HEBORN.	ENGLISH. <i>Anglais</i>	FRENCH. <i>Français</i>
S	シヤ	sya	sha	sha	cha
	シユ	syu	shu	shu	chou
	シヨ	syo	sho	sho	cho
T	チヤ	tya	cha	cha	tsia
	チユ	tyu	chu	chu	tsu
	チヨ	tyo	cho	cho	tsio
N	ニヤ	nya	nya	nya	gna
	ニユ	nyu	nyu	nyu	gnu
	ニヨ	nyo	nyo	nyo	gno
H	ヒヤ	hya	hya	hya	hia
	ヒユ	hyu	hyu	hyu	hu
	ヒヨ	hyo	hyo	hyo	hio
M	ミヤ	mya	mya	mya	mia
	ミユ	myu	myu	myu	mu
	ミヨ	myo	myo	myo	mio
R	リヤ	rya	rya	rya	ria
	リユ	ryu	ryu	ryu	ru
	リヨ	ryo	ryo	ryo	rio

CATEGORY. <i>Catégorie</i>	JAPANESE LETTERS. <i>Lettres Japonaises</i>	SYSTEM. <i>S Y S T E M E</i>		PRONOUNCIATION. <i>P R O N O U N C I A T I O N</i>	
		NIPPON.	HEBORN.	ENGLISH. <i>Anglais</i>	FRENCH. <i>Français</i>
G	ギヤ	gya	gya	gya	guia
	グユ	gyu	gyu	gyu	gu
	ギョ	gyo	gyo	gyo	guio
	グワ	gwa	—	gwa	guoi
Z	ジヤ	zya	ja	ja	zia
	ジユ	zyu	ju	ju	zu
	ジョ	zyo	jo	jo	dzio
D	ヂヤ	dya	ja	ja	zia
	ヂユ	dyu	ju	ju	zu
	ヂョ	dyo	jo	jo	dzio
B	ビヤ	bya	bya	bya	bia
	ビユ	byu	byu	byu	bu
	ビョ	byo	byo	byo	bio
P	ピヤ	pya	pya	pya	pia
	ピユ	pyu	pyu	pyu	pu
	ピョ	pyo	pyo	pyo	pio
The <i>N</i> sound. — <i>Le son N</i>					
N	ン	n	n	n	n

APPENDICULAR RULES
FOR THE NIPPON SYSTEM.

(1) For the long sounds, the \wedge (circumflex accent) is placed on the vowels.

Ex. :- Tôkyô Kyôto Kôbe

(2) For the sound *N*, occurring before vowels or before *Y*, an ' (apostrophe) is placed after *N*.

Ex. :- Kon'ya (to-night ; ce soir).

APPENDICULAR RULES
FOR THE HEBORN SYSTEM.

(1) For long sounds, - is placed above vowels.

Ex. :- Tôkyô Kyôto Kôbe

(2) Before *B*, *M* and *P*, *N* is changed into *M*.

Ex. :- Shimbun (newspaper, journal).
Kokusai Remmei (League of Nations, Société des Nations)
Pompu (pump, pompe).

APPENDICULAR RULE
FOR BOTH SYSTEMS.

For short sounds, the consonant is doubled in both systems.

Ex. :- Hokkaidô.

