

## Temari Kai Glossaries Japanese Ordering Characters / Katakana

These characters are used in the Japanese writing system to indicate the specific ordering of steps in a sequence. This is the parallel to English/Roman languages where one would follow in order 1, 2, 3, .... or a, b, c, ....). These [Katakana](#) characters that are the most often used in the Japanese books to indicate the order of stitching when following pattern diagrams. There are a few books that use Hiragana characters, some of which are the same as Katakana, but not all. If you have a book that does not match these on the patterns, this is why.

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<u>Character</u>	<u>Romanji</u>	<u>English Equivalent</u>	<u>English Pronunciation</u>
イ	i	1 or A	ee as in "beet"
ロ	ro	2 or B	ro as in "row"
ハ	ha	3 or C	ha as in "hah"
ニ	ni	4 or D	nee as in "knee"
ホ	ho	5 or E	ho as in "hole"
ヘ	he	6 or F	he as in "heat"
ト	to	7 or G	to as in "toe"
チ	chi	8 or H	chi as in "cheek"
リ	ri	9 or I	ree as in "reek"
ヌ	nu	10 or J	nu as in "newt"
ル	ru	11 or K	ru as in "ruby"
ヲ or オ	o	12 or L	o as in "oat"

The Japanese writing system is very complex, based on several sets of characters that serve different purposes. The main sets are Kanji, Hiragana and Katakana. Kanji characters are pictorial ideograms (i.e. little pictures of ideas) originally coming from the Chinese and adapted to Japanese culture. Katakana and Hiragana were added to "customize" the system into Japanese culture; both are sets of phonetic symbols used to build words or concepts. Hiragana are most commonly used for native Japanese words that did not have a Kanji counterpart; Katakana are most often used to indicate foreign words originating outside of native Japanese culture. [More information about the Japanese writing system can be found here.](#)

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