

3 strokes

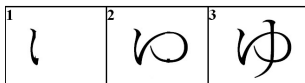
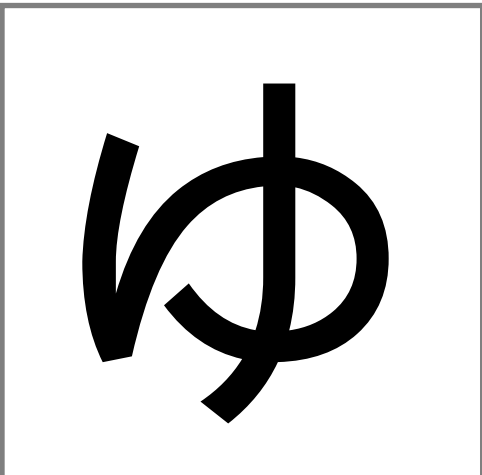
**Rōmaji:** YA  
sounds like: Yacht

**Mnemonic:**

- A Y**A**cht with its sail blowing in the wind.



や	や								
や	や								



2 strokes

**Rōmaji:** YU  
sounds like: YOU

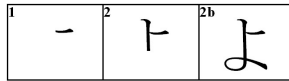
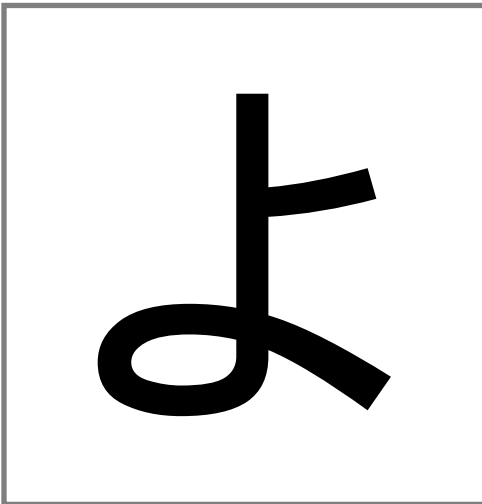
There is no *yi* or *ye* sound. That is why we are on *yu* now.

**Mnemonic:**

- If you look closely, you may see a “y,” “o,” and “u”. That spells “YOU”

ゆ	ゆ								
ゆ	ゆ								

2 strokes

**Rōmaji:** yo

sounds like: YO-YO

**Mnemonic:**

- It is a fancy YO-YO trick.

よ	よ								
よ	よ								

The や, ゆ, and よ can be used in two ways:

1) as “letters” to make words

2) or...

Take a look at the lower back cover where it says “plus small やゆよ.” Remember not to panic and then come back here. It looks scary but, really, it isn’t too complicated.

### ***There is a pattern.***

In every case, a consonant sound is combined with a small や *ya*, ゆ *yu*, or よ *yo*. And the consonant sound has already been decided for you! It is always those under the “i” column. Look at the chart on the front or back (left) cover. Starting with the “k” row, we see き, し, ち, に, ひ, み, and り are used. (all i’s)

Now, notice the sound changes. き *ki* + や *ya* = きや *kya*

Easy isn’t it? You can think of the smaller や, ゆ, or よ as taking away the “i” sound in the first character. You may be saying, “What is the difference between きや *kiya* and きゃ *kya*?” First, the sound is different. “KI YA” (two syllables) versus “KYA” (one syllable). Second, the meaning can be totally different.

## Let's practice the small やゆよ

The following table shows all the hiragana you have learned with a small や, ゆ or よ. The last line [r line] will be studied next.

き+y	きや <i>kya</i>	きゆ <i>kyu</i>	きよ <i>kyo</i>
し+y	しや <i>sha</i>	しゆ <i>shu</i>	しよ <i>sho</i>
ち+y	ちや <i>cha</i>	ちゆ <i>chu</i>	ちよ <i>cho</i>
に+y	にや <i>nya</i>	にゆ <i>nyu</i>	によ <i>nyo</i>
ひ+y	ひや <i>hya</i>	ひゆ <i>hyu</i>	ひよ <i>hyo</i>
み+y	みや <i>mya</i>	みゆ <i>myu</i>	みよ <i>myo</i>
り+y	りや <i>rya</i>	りゆ <i>ryu</i>	りよ <i>ryo</i>

**NOTE:** We didn't write the し and ち rows with a "y" in the romaji. If we were to write *sya* (as many Japanese people do) the sound to the foreigner will be different. Both ways are correct—One being more "correct" to the Japanese understanding of the writing system and the other being more "correct" to the pronunciation.

Write "190" in Japanese

To write 190 in Japanese, you need to write **100** and **9** and **10**.

100	9	10
<i>hyaku</i>	<i>kyuu</i>	<i>juu</i>

[Remember to use う to make the *kyu* and *ju* longer; We will write "*ju*" since we haven't covered that yet.]

じゆ

hya ku

kyu u

ju u

ち	ち						
ち	ち						
ち	ち						
ち	ち						

ゆ	ゆ						
ゆ	ゆ						
ゆ	ゆ						
ゆ	ゆ						

ち	ち						
ち	ち						
ち	ち						
ち	ち						

