

Module 2-1 Mora and Duration in Japanese

In this module:

- You will learn mora and duration in Japanese.
- You will practice counting the number of morae in words correctly.

In Japanese, the basic unit for timing is called a mora. Important rules about morae are:



- The length of one hiragana character is one mora. It is represented as ○.

Example: 1. わたし
○○○
(I)

- Long vowels are two morae. For example, え (e) has one mora (○) while ええ (ee) has two morae (○○).

Example: 2. え / ええ 3. おばさん / おばあさん
○ ○○ ○○○○ ○○○○○
(picture/yes) (aunt/grandmother)

- Give one mora to small つ and ん sounds.

Example: 4. がっこう 5. こんばんは
○○○○ ○○○○○
(school) (Good evening.)

- Palatal sounds (ex. りょ) have two hiragana characters, but they only receive one mora.

Example: 6. りょう / りょう
○ ○ ○○○
(dormitory/use)

Watch the following video to learn about morae (or beats) and duration in Japanese:

<http://enunciate.arts.ubc.ca/japanese/intonation/duration/>

Practice I: Write a slash (/) after each mora and count the mora of each word/phrase below.

	Words	The Number of Mora
Example	が/く/せ/い/	4
1	いま	
2	こくさいかんけい	
3	おはよう	
4	しつれいします	
5	りょこう	
6	はっぴやく	
7	いっしょに	
8	いっしゅうかん	
9	ひやく	
10	きゅうじゅう	

Practice II: Listen to the audio files, write down the words/phrases you hear, and count the mora of the words/phrases.

	Audio File	Words You Hear	The Number of Mora
Example	 2-1-2	ありがとう	5
1	 2-1-3		
2	 2-1-4		
3	 2-1-5		
4	 2-1-6		
5	 2-1-7		
6	 2-1-8		
7	 2-1-9		
8	 2-1-10		
9	 2-1-11		
10	 2-1-12		