


Module 2-4: The Japanese Syllabic Nasal ん Sound


In this module:

- You will learn how to pronounce the Japanese syllabic nasal ん sound correctly.
- You will practice pronouncing words with this sound.

The Japanese syllabic nasal sound is the ん sound in にほん and こんにちは. When the word has the syllabic nasal sound, you give it one mora.

Examples:  2-4-1

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. せかい
○○○
(world) | せんかい
○○○○
(thousand times) |
| 2. かじ
○○
(house work) | かんじ
○○○
(kanji) |

Practice I: Listen to the audio file and practice pronouncing the following words and phrase.  2-4-2

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. ごぜん
○○○
(a.m.) | 2. ほんや
○○○
(book store) | 3. でんわ
○○○
(telephone) |
| 4. ぶんか
○○○
(culture) | 5. きょねん
○ ○○
(last year) | 6. ぜんぜん
○○○○
(not at all) |
| 7. おんせん
○○○○
(hot springs) | 8. ひるごはん
○○○○○
(lunch) | 9. こんばんは
○○○○○
(Good evening.) |

Practice II: Practice with a Sound Recognition Device (ex. Siri, Google)

1. If you have access to a sound recognition/search device, say words and phrase (1) through (9) below to the device. Were the words and phrase recognized correctly? (Before speaking to the device, you may need to change the input mode into Japanese.)

If the words and phrase have been recognized correctly, the device will display the following words and phrase.

	Say these words	The device will display these		Say these words	The device will display these
1	ごぜん	午前	6	ぜんぜん	全然
2	ほんや	本屋	7	おんせん	温泉
3	でんわ	電話	8	ひるごはん	昼ご飯
4	ぶんか	文化	9	こんばんは	こんばんは
5	きょねん	去年			

2. If the words and phrase are not recognized correctly, keep trying until they are. Did you figure out any tips for pronouncing the sounds correctly?