

- A Beginner's Guide To -

# The 5 Biggest *Genkouyoushi* *Mistakes* You can Easily Avoid

[FunJapaneselearning.com](http://FunJapaneselearning.com)

Genkouyoushi げんこうようし is Japanese squared writing paper. It's used for composition. But sadly, many learners cannot use it properly.

Using this guide, you can write Japanese on Genkouyoushi confidently!



## The 5 Biggest Genkouyoushi Mistakes You can Easily Avoid

*Have you ever tried to write Japanese on  
Genkouyoushi げんこうようし?*

Genkouyoushi げんこうようし is Japanese squared writing paper. Japanese kids use it in school for composition.

Some Japanese exams provide Genkouyoushi for writing tests. It raises interest among Japanese learners in Genkouyoushi.

But, unfortunately, not many people know how to use Genkouyoushi properly.

It is because most Japanese textbooks are written horizontally, and they don't show you how to write on Genkouyoushi. You don't have many opportunities to see examples of Genkouyoushi writing.

As a Japanese teacher, I found several common mistakes people made. Once you read this article, you can easily avoid them!

## Mistake 1 Starting Point

Start writing from the top left, not the top right.



The Japanese language has two versions of writing, horizontal and vertical, which not many languages have.

It's confusing.

Many people know that, if you write horizontally, you write from left to right. If you write vertically, you write from top to bottom.

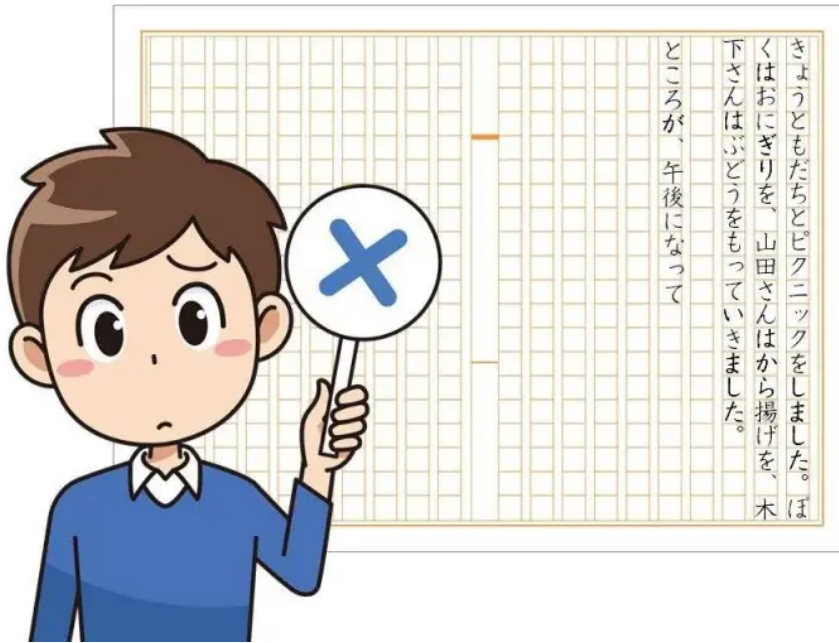
But some people don't know when you write vertically, you start from the right top corner and write to the bottom. When you write the following line, it should be on the left of the previous line.

It looks like this.



## Mistake 2 Paragraph

Miss one blank line to start a new paragraph.



This is also a common mistake.

When you start a new paragraph, the top cell of a new line should be blank. Your writing starts with a second cell.



## Mistake 3 Comma and Period (Full-stop)

Write a comma or a period in the same cell as a letter.



This is a tricky part.

In most cases, you need to give one cell to write a comma, called 読点 (と  
うてん) or a period, called 句点 (くてん).



However, you cannot put a comma or a period into the top cell of a new line; you need to put it into the last cell of a previous line.

See the example below.



## Mistake 4 Small letters

Write a small letter, such as ゑ, in one cell.



Small letters, such as や、ゆ、よ、つ should be in one cell.

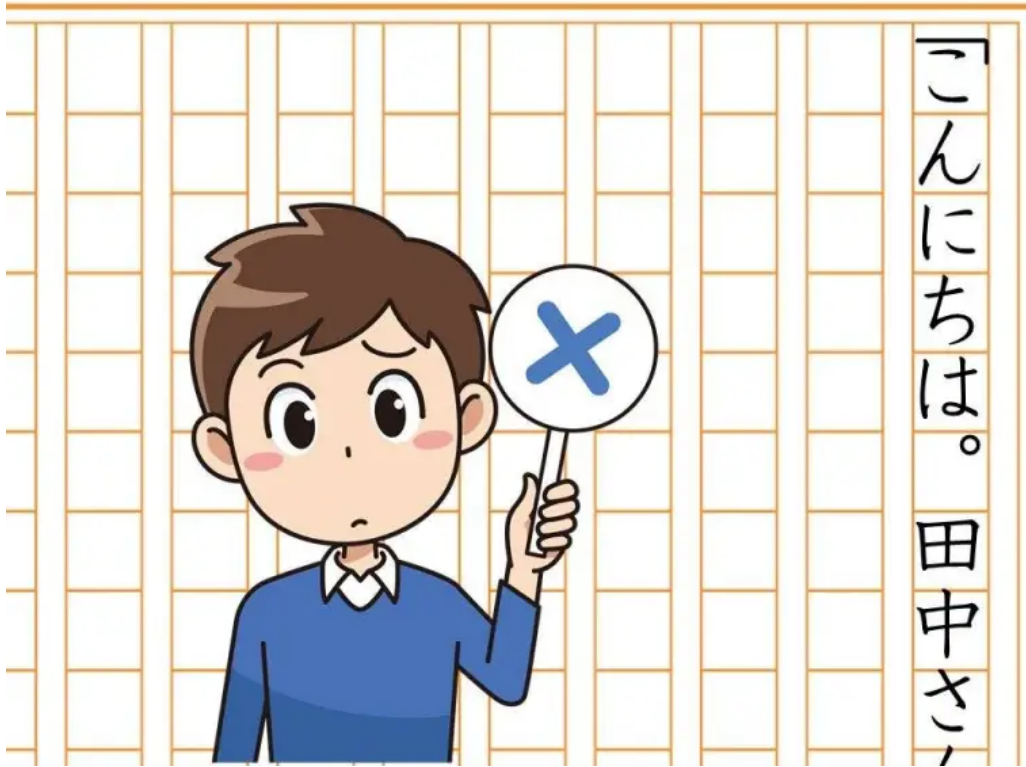
Look at the example.



If these letters come to a top cell, it's OK. But if you'd like, you can place them in the last cell of a previous line.

# Mistake 5 Quotation mark

Write a quotation mark and a letter in the same cell



Please give one cell for each quotation mark.



At the end of a quote, a period and a quotation mark are in the same cell.



If it's happened in the last cell, please write a letter, a period and a quotation mark in the same cell. Quite crowded!





Get The Nihongo Notebook Series  
To Learn More

# This series is NOT just another Genkouyoushi notebook.

It includes useful information such as the rules of vertical writings (did you know the difference between horizontal writings and vertical writings?), the Genkouyoushi exercises to write accurately, the checklists to revise your composition and more!

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