

How to Type Japanese

This short memo describes how to use Japanese on computers in the DPO, and in particular how to type Japanese characters and send/receive Japanese e-mail. The explanation is minimal and you are supposed to know how to use the editor `emacs` and the mailer program `pine` to some extent.

Type Japanese

There are some Japanese input tools in `emacs`, and this memo only describes one of them. The following setup is required. You need to add the content of `/export/emacs/share/emacs/20.6/.emacs.japanese` in your `.emacs` file. If you do not have `.emacs` file in your home directory, you can just copy the file:

```
club:mk303: cp /export/emacs/share/emacs/20.6/.emacs.japanese .emacs
```

(The underlined part is what you are supposed to type) You need to do it only once.

Then, you start `emacs` by

```
club:mk303: emacs -fn r16 &
```

`'-fn r16'` specifies a font set which is suitable for Japanese. When started, `emacs` is in English mode. To type Japanese, you need to enter Japanese mode by pressing `C-\` (this means 'press and hold the Control key and type `\`'). `emacs` then asks you which input mode you want to use. So type

```
Input method: japanese
```

You will notice that a Hiragana appears on the screen! Type `C-\` to go back to English mode. You need to specify the language once in a session. So next time you type `C-\`, the input mode becomes Japanese mode without asking anything. However, you need to do the same when you start `emacs` again.

Now you can type Japanese using the Ro-maji input method. Let's try something like 'My name is XXXX.' After confirming that you are in Japanese mode, you can first type `watashino`. Observe that the Japanese characters (Hiragana's, to be exact) you have typed are underlined. Hit the Return key to confirm them. It seems nonsense to confirm them, but it is important when inputting Kanji's. Continue and type `namaeha`. Then type your name. Now your name is shown in Hiragana's. To convert it into Katakana's, you need to type (the capital) `K` (before hitting the Return key). If you are happy, press the Return key. Then type `desu`. and the Return key to complete. If you hit the Space key before the Return key, what you have typed will be converted into Kanji's (sorry, but how to type Kanji's appropriately will not explained here). If you hit the Space key by mistake and want to change it back in Hiragana's, type (the capital) `H`.

If you want to convert confirmed Hiragana's into Katakana's, you first need to select them. Move your cursor on the beginning of the selection, then type `C-` . Then move your cursor to the end of the selection. Type `M-x japanese-katakana-region` (`M-x` means to press and release the Escape key and then to type `x`). You should be seeing Katakana's. Actually you do not have to type `japanese-katakana-region` in full. Type `jap` and then hit the space key, `emacs` completes the command up to `japanese-`. Now you only have to type `ka` and hit the space key twice to see the whole command.

Send/Receive Japanese E-mail

We can use `pine` to send and receive Japanese e-mail. However, the terminal window does not handle Japanese characters and you cannot use `pine` to read and write Japanese e-mail. To send e-mail, you need first to create a Japanese file using `emacs`. Then, you can read the file in composing mode in `pine` by typing `C-r` and specifying the file name. If you receive Japanese e-mail, type `e` to export the content to a file. Then you can read the file in `emacs`.

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