RAHUL, AIKO & FRIENDS / VOLUME 12

# The Hands That Make Japan

Five craft traditions



日本の手仕事を訪ねて

Japanese for adult beginners / English guidance

**Sanjay Bagaria**

# The carved line

Tokyo woodblock workshop



**1 Printmaker**

絵をもとに版木を彫ります。

E o moto ni hangi o horimasu.

We carve the block from the design.

**2 Rahul**

細い線ですね。

Hosoi sen desu ne.

Those are fine lines.

**3 Ananya**

道具を見てもいいですか。

Dōgu o mite mo ii desu ka.

May I look at the tools?

**4 Printmaker**

はい、こちらからどうぞ。

Hai, kochira kara dōzo.

Yes, from this side, please.

Read 1 > 2 > 3 > 4. Japanese, romaji, then English.

# The carved line

Read the Japanese. Write the romaji. Check the preceding comic.



**READ AND RECALL**

Who speaks?
What changes?
What would you ask?

**LANGUAGE LENS**

〜をもとに gives a basis.

**YOUR TURN**

Say what the carver works from.

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Yes, from this side, please.

# Language approach and creation notes

**LANGUAGE APPROACH**

Ask a useful question, read an answer, then try it yourself. The comic supplies Japanese, romaji and English. Practice removes romaji so you can recall the reading. Longer cultural vocabulary is recognition material; this reader is not a complete grammar course.

**CREATION NOTES**

The four friends investigate together. Their conversations are fictional; source codes support the cultural notes. The scenes use invented dialogue and visits. Illustrations are original AI-generated interpretations.



Sanjay Bagaria is a technocrat, author, and Japanese language mentor with over three decades of corporate leadership experience at leading Japanese multinational companies.

Through Rahul and Aiko’s illustrated journeys, he brings language and culture together, helping readers discover Japanese life while learning the words and expressions to describe, discuss, and share their experiences.

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