

# Karuta Practice Readers

Every Karuta match needs a reader, but if you don't have a live one, what can you do? Most players practice with reading apps such as Wasuramoti (download from [Google Play](#)) or 百首読み上げ (download from the [Apple Store](#)). However, since there's more and more Karuta matches getting uploaded to youtube these days, I thought I'd share some recordings you can listen to online! Listening to recordings of readers who are reading for matches can be beneficial for a few reasons:

**1) Gives you a variety of reading voices/styles to listen to.** If you're too used to just one reader, it can be jarring to listen to a different reader and can throw off your concentration.

**2) Gives you a feeling of what a real match is like (including length).** With an app, you choose when to move to the next card, but in a tournament, you're often sitting for long periods of time and waiting for other players to finish putting back their cards. It's important to get used to this pacing as well!

Both are important if you want to prepare for real matches in the future! The only issue is, you can't exactly listen to the same recording over and over, since you'd get used to the reading order 😊. My suggestion is to occasionally switch between a reading app (which can read the cards randomly but doesn't have many voice options), and online recordings (which reads in a fixed order, but you get a wider variety of voices and you can feel how long it takes to play a full match).

Here's my list of matches and online reader recordings that I thought were decent quality and long enough to play a full match. Please comment if you know of other videos out there!

## Meijin/Queen Matches

*\*All of these videos come from the All Japan Karuta Association's Youtube Page ([全日本かるた協会](#))*

*\* I only included matches that appeared to be recorded without the commentary, since sometimes the commentators continue to talk while the reader is reading.*

*\*Some matches do not get down to the last card, because most Karuta matches don't. I tried to choose ones that got close to the last card, and also tried to include a variety of readers.*

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66th Meijin match, Round 4

**Reader: Kusuda Noriyuki (楠田 倫之)**

The cards they used: \*\*\*

Total cards read: 98/100

Link: <https://youtu.be/EK9QFicHx78?t=50>



*\*\*Warning: In the recording, someone close to the camera keeps clearing their throat (I don't know if they do it during the reading at any point though)*

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65th Queen Match (2021), Round 2

**Reader: Inaba Shuuji** (稲葉 修至)

The cards they used:

Total cards read: 95/100

Link: <https://youtu.be/92FczVmJUcw?t=40>



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67th Meijin Match (2021), Round 1

**Reader: Nishida Yoshiyuki** (西田 好幸)

The cards they used:

Total cards read: 90/100

Link: <https://youtu.be/bBg9T5fKA0E?t=59>



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64th Queen Match (2020), Round 5

**Reader: Yamashita Michiko** (山下 迪子)

The cards they used:

**Total cards read: 82/100**

Link: <https://youtu.be/ldOvW4OFHAI>



## Other Karuta Matches

*\*I found some other recordings of Karuta matches on the All Japan Karuta Association's Youtube Page ([全日本かるた協会](#))*

*\*I tried to include videos that had clear recordings of the reader's voice, no narration, and also which read at least 80 cards~90 cards.*

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44th Women's Tournament, Semi-final

**Reader: Unknown (female reader)**

Total cards read: Unknown... The last pair go until *unmeisen*, so likely more than 90 cards.

Link: <https://youtu.be/0G8KRJGoPZU?t=882>

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44th Women's Tournament, Final

**Reader: Unknown (female reader)**

Total cards read: Unknown... The last pair end with 4 cards, so around 90 cards, give or take.

Link: <https://youtu.be/H0LNRdx4Rgl?t=1078>

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2nd Chihayafuru Cup (2021), Third place decider match

**Reader: Inaba Shuuji** (稲葉 修至)\*I think

Total cards read: 91/100

Link: <https://youtu.be/LW-jAkztDTw?t=27>

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2nd Chihayafuru Cup (2021), Semi-finals

**Reader: Kusuda Noriyuki** (楠田 倫之)

Total cards read: 88/100

Link: <https://youtu.be/dxcB0TmAm5Q?t=67>

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