KANJI

PICT·O·GRAPHIX

OVER 1,000 JAPANESE KANJI AND KANA MNEMONICS
Michael Rowley

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Introduction

How do you study the written Japanese characters known as kanji? If you are a child in a Japanese school, you write each kanji hundreds of times at your desk. After a while, by sheer persistence, it sticks in your memory. If you are not a Japanese schoolchild, you probably do what I did. You stare at each kanji and make up a story in your head that you can mentally "attach" to the kanji to help you recall its meaning when you meet it again in the future. This kind of mental memory aid is called a "mnemonic" device. In this book I provide mnemonic devices in the form of text and pictures for over 1,000 kanji, or about half of all the kanji in general use in Japanese newspapers and other printed material.

Kanji developed from pictures used by the Chinese several thousand years ago to represent the world around them. Some types of kanji have retained their pictographic forms and look very much like the objects they represent. The group of kanji called pictographs are stylized representations of actual physical objects:

```
川 山 門 木 柳 材
riv er 55 m oun tain 167 g ate 110 1 tre e 126 w illow 128 t imber 152
```

Symbols use logical designs to indicate more abstract notions:

```
上 下 中
over 942 under 943 middle 950
```

Ideographs put two pictographs or symbols together to create a related idea:

```
日 + 月 = 明
sun 1 moon 14 bright 8
```

The above three types of kanji are fairly easy to remember. The group of kanji called phono-ideographs, however, are more challenging. These kanji combine an element that gives a clue to pronunciation with an element that hints at the "subject matter" of the kanji. Most kanji—perhaps 80%—fall into this category. The theme element, called a radical, may itself be a stand-alone kanji or some graphic variant of one. TREE 126, for example, is a character by itself. Used as a radical it usually indicates something made of wood or relating to trees:
The right-hand elements here give a clue to pronunciation. The problem is that they may have little or nothing to do with the character’s meaning. This makes creating a mnemonic for them much more difficult. But even pictographic forms have often been simplified and stylized over the centuries. The kanji STOP 1205, for instance, has changed greatly from its original depiction of a footprint:

\[ \text{脚 止 止 止} \]

**HOW TO USE THIS BOOK**

The organization of this book differs from that used in most kanji-learning books for Westerners, where characters appear in order of frequency or in the order used in Japanese schools. Since the whole point of mnemonics is to create associations, I have grouped my kanji thematically with their cousins and near cousins in sound, meaning, or appearance. There is no formal pedagogical basis for my organization. My goal was simply to discover graphic and mnemonic affinities, thus bringing kanji together that are normally very distant from each other in dictionaries as well as people’s minds.

My kanji selections do include several that are not on the list of kanji approved for general use by the Japanese Ministry of Education. They are here because they were visually interesting to me. By the same token, several common kanji have been excluded because frankly I couldn’t come up with a satisfactory visual or textual mnemonic. For a comprehensive, graduated course in kanji, see Kenneth G. Henshall’s very fine book, *A Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters* (Charles E. Tuttle, 1988). I have relied heavily on Henshall’s book, which was especially useful for its kanji definitions and its descriptions of kanji elements and origins. For simplicity and economy of space, I have occasionally made modifications to Mr. Henshall’s listings.

You may find it easier to learn the complex kanji if you begin with the stand-alone characters and the other elements used as radicals. Many of these basic kanji and kanji elements are presented here alongside the large-format illustrations. Flip through the book and concentrate on these characters first.

The smaller entries on each two-page spread often incorporate the basic elements presented in the large-format illustrations. A few character entries appear without an illustration. Illustrations of the elements that appear in these characters can be found using the schematics and cross-reference numbers at the bottom of each entry.
GUIDE TO THE ENTRIES

The standard kanji entries in this book include the following information:

1. **DAMP, MOIST, HUMID**

2. 湿

3. SHITSU

4. shimeru/su

5. The sun evaporates water, making the air **humid**.

6. water 66 sun 1 wet 11

1. **Meaning in English.** For the most part the kanji definitions are drawn from Henshall's book. Definitions that treat the whole kanji as a semantic form are somewhat misleading and imprecise, however. The meaning of any kanji is best gleaned from the many words it is used to represent. When the entry kanji is used in Japanese only as an element within other kanji, the definition is enclosed in quotation marks.

2. **Reference number.** A sequence number used in the index and in kanji cross-references.

3. **Kanji character.** A plain typeset form was selected for each entry character to make the association with the visual mnemonic more clear. This form is commonly encountered in printed materials. (Kanji written by hand sometimes look very different from their typographic forms.)

4. **On (borrowed Chinese) reading.** Always in upper case. These pronunciations (**on-yomi**) derive from those used in China when the kanji was first brought to Japan. The Japanese adapted the Chinese sounds to their own speech. The same character may have been imported several times, each time with a different reading, thus producing the multiple readings in use today.

5. **Kun (Japanese) reading.** Always in lower case. These pronunciations (**kun-yomi**) represent native Japanese words "fitted" to the imported kanji. Most Japanese verbs and adjectives are kun readings. Underlined letters represent verbal or adjectival inflections that are not a part of the kanji's actual reading.

6. **Visual mnemonic.** I have taken many liberties in creating the pictures that go with the kanji. Sometimes I have tried to preserve the historical etymology of the character; elsewhere I have abandoned it in favor of something that, to my eyes, made more sense. I usually used the identical drawing to represent the same kanji element in different visual mnemonics, but not always. I have,
for example, taken creative license with the element MOUTH 566 (also used to express "opening," or "enclosed"), drawing it instead as a tomato in CULTIVATE 246 and a box in DOUBLE 631. I have also

口 培 倍
mouth 566 cultivate 246 double 631

willfully visually "confused" certain elements that Japanese teachers are always insisting must never be confused. One example: the interchanging of SOIL 101 and WARRIOR 753. The schematic of elements (see number 8, below) identifies the correct form.

土 士
soil 101 warrior 753

7. Text mnemonic. Keyed to the visual mnemonic. The keywords are in boldface type.

8. Schematic of elements. Each box indicates the position of one of the main elements in the kanji. The element may be a radical, or it may be another kanji (if it is another kanji, its shape as an element may be compressed or slightly altered). The schematic boxes are not used when the entry kanji is a stand-alone kanji or is a radical or element with no other use except as a combining form. And again, sometimes I have had to concoct and interpret elements when none, according to Henshall

and others, may actually exist. While the schematic of elements is a helpful reference aid, keep in mind that it is a guideline only.

9. Element meaning. Refers to the first definition given for the kanji or radical used as an element in the entry kanji. I have tried to use the meaning of the element in the visual and text mnemonics.

10. Cross-reference number. Refers to the sequential reference number of the element used in the entry kanji.

11. Notes reference number. Some characters have elements whose meanings are archaic or that correspond to no stand-alone character or radical in Japanese, such as the right side of PLACE 28. Other characters, like COCOON 307, are too complex graphically to describe with a simple schematic:

場 藤
place 28 cocoon 307

Comments on such complex elements appear in a numbered Notes section at the back of the book. These comments are referenced by "n-000" instead of a cross-reference number. Again, much of the information here derives from Henshall’s book, which describes the kanji elements in detail.
In addition to kanji, Japanese uses two phonetic syllabaries, hiragana and katakana. Each syllabary of forty-six characters represents the same sounds. The cursive hiragana are used to write words not normally written in kanji and for verb endings and parts of speech. The angular katakana are used for emphasis and to write words and names not of Japanese or Chinese origin.

GOGOODBYE

KANNA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hiragana</th>
<th>katakana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
|さ|マ
|よう|ク
|なら|ド

(u) | (u) |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>さ</td>
<td>ま</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>よう</td>
<td>ク</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>なら</td>
<td>ド</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(hiragana) (katakana)
A - KA

**A**

ああ

Ah! I see the letter “A”.

**A**

ア a

Ah! I see the letter “A”.

**KA**

カ ka

Cut the sausage.

**KA**

カ ka

Cut the sausage.

**I**

いい

Hawaii.

**I**

イ i

Eat with chopsticks.

**KI**

キー k

Key.

**KI**

キ k

Key.

**U**

う u

Uhh!

**U**

ウ u

Uhh!

**KU**

ク kū

Koo-foo bird.

**KU**

ク kū

Cocoon.

**E**

え e

Exotic bird.

**E**

エ e

Elevator doors.

**KE**

ケ ke

Keg.

**KE**

ケ ke

A tilted letter “K”.

**O**

お o

Olive.

**O**

オ o

On and Off Switch.

**KO**

コ ko

Coin.

**KO**

コ ko

A street corner.
sa さ Sob.

sah ｻ ｻ She has a funny smile.

ta た ta Tomahawk.

shi し She has flowing hair.

sui す Su Soon the sprout will bloom.

su す Suit hanger.

tsu つ tsu It's a snake.

se せ Say.

se せ Say.

ten て Ten.

so そ Sew a zigzag stitch.

so そ Sew a stitch.

to と A thorn in my toe.

so そ The "t" in toe.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hiragana</th>
<th>Katakana</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>な</td>
<td>ナ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knot.</td>
<td>Knot.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>は</td>
<td>ハ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ha, ha, ha.</td>
<td>Break it in half.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>に</td>
<td>ニ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knee.</td>
<td>Two needles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ひ</td>
<td>ヒ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hee, hee, hee.</td>
<td>He’s sitting down.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>む</td>
<td>ヌ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noodle held by chopsticks.</td>
<td>Violence is in the news.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ふ</td>
<td>フ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
<td>Who?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ね</td>
<td>ネ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net a big fish.</td>
<td>I never go to church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>へ</td>
<td>ヘ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This way to heaven.</td>
<td>This way to heaven.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>の</td>
<td>ノ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NO Smoking.</td>
<td>NO Smoking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ほ</td>
<td>ホ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half a whole note.</td>
<td>Holy cross.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MA

ま
A baby cries, "Mama."

マ
Mama’s breast.

MAMA

ヤ
Yak.

YA

ヤ
Yak.

MI

み
Me, I’m 21.

ミ
Do, re, mi.

MI

ゆ
Trying to make a U-turn.

ユ
You are number one.

MU

む
A cow says, "Moo."

ム
A cow says, "Moo."

MU

ヨ
Yo-yo.

ヨ
Yodel.

ME

め
Me is Japanese for "eye."

メ
Mexico.

ME

やゆよ

YO

These kana written small turn ki, shi, chi, ni, hi, mi, ri, into kya, sha, cha, nya, hya, mya, rya; kyu, shu, chu, nyu, hyu, myu, ryu; and kyo, sho, cho, nyo, hyo, myo, ryo.

DOUBLERS

The kana U is used to double the O and U vowel sounds of other kana: ko→kō, ku→kū, etc.

MO

も
Catch mo’ fish with this.

モ
Catch mo’ fish with this.

MO

う

つ

Certain consonants are doubled when preceded by a smaller, silent tsu, as in: さっし zasshi
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hiragana</th>
<th>Katakana</th>
<th>Translation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ら</td>
<td>ラ</td>
<td>Roger the rabbit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ろ</td>
<td>ロ</td>
<td>Rain and lightning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>わ</td>
<td>ワ</td>
<td>Wasp.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>の</td>
<td>ノ</td>
<td>The sound of “n”.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>な</td>
<td>ナ</td>
<td>Three rubies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ね</td>
<td>ネ</td>
<td>Rain shoe.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ん</td>
<td>ノン</td>
<td>Three rubies rolled away.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ね</td>
<td>ネ</td>
<td>Rotating a nut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>せ</td>
<td>セ</td>
<td>Vocal cord vibrations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>す</td>
<td>ス</td>
<td>Nicks and cuts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>す</td>
<td>ス</td>
<td>Leg and tail of kangaroo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>そ</td>
<td>ソ</td>
<td>The cowboy said, “Whooa.”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>な</td>
<td>ナ</td>
<td>An arrow head.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Nonvoiced Sounds**

- ぱ (Soda) pop sound.

**Voiced Sounds**

- ば (Soda) pop sound.

This mark changes the pronunciations of ha, hi, fu, he, and ho to popping sounds: pa, pi, pu, pe, and po.

This mark changes the pronunciations of all the kana in the series beginning ka, sa, ta, and ha to vibrating sounds: ga, za, da, and ba.
KANJI COMPOUNDS

Each kanji has meaning by itself. Kanji also can be combined in kanji compounds, or *jukugo*, to form new meanings, much as root words, prefixes, and suffixes are combined in English. The compound meaning "world," shown at right, is composed of SE 1081, meaning WORLD, and KAI 203, meaning BOUNDARY. Other combinations include:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAPAN</th>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>日本</td>
<td>二月</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ni Hon</td>
<td>Ni Gatsu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sun 1, origin 125</td>
<td>two 898, month 14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOREIGNER</th>
<th>EXIT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>外人</td>
<td>出口</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gai Jin</td>
<td>De Guchi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>outside 13, person 363</td>
<td>emerge 955, opening 566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT</th>
<th>LETTER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>学生</td>
<td>手紙</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gaku Sei</td>
<td>Te Gami</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>study 839, gain 214</td>
<td>hand 579, paper 974</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Sun

The sun shines outward from its center.

SUN, DAY 1

The sun rises each day.

CLEAR, BRIGHT 4

The sun and a candle shine clear and bright light.

WARM 7

The sun warms water in a tray.

As clear as a day with two suns.

As bright as a day with three suns.

The sun evaporates water, making the air humid.

PROSPEROUS, GOOD, CLEAR 2

REFLECT, SHINE 5

CRYSTAL, CLEAR, BRIGHT 3

DAMP, MOIST, HUMID 6

SUN, hi - ka

SHÔ

El

utsuru / su, haeru

SHÔ

SHITSU

shimeru / su

KÔ

ON

atatakai / meru

18
**The Moon**

As **bright** as the sun and moon together.

**MORNING, COURT**

The **morning** is shared by the sun and the moon.

**DARK, GLOOMY**

Gloomy people see the **dark** shadow instead of the sun.

**OUTSIDE, OTHER, UNDO**

He went **outside** and **undid** his pants when nature called.

**MOON**

A crescent **moon** in the clouds.
The Day

From dawn...

... til noon, we measure the land.

We can only escape the sun's heat in late evening.

The sun rises through the grass early in the morning.

Three stars were seen at dawn.
One day is **past** ...

... and one more **child** is born.

Life is **easy** in the sunshine.

The **bright light** of the sun glints off the sword.

The sword is **illuminated** by the sun above and fire below.

Raise your hand in the **frying** hot sun.

... where **hot water springs** up.

On the **sunny** side of the hill ...

... is a **place** in the soil ...
Time

It's noon—straight up.

We plant rice every year.

I've been waiting a long time.

I will now recite ...

... my heartfelt thoughts.

What time is it now?
A child as young and green as a new season's rice plants.

Inescapable summer heat.

Ten days of sunshine in June.

Rice stalks turn the fiery colors of autumn.

Permit me to speak at noon.

I've got the autumn blues.

Winter snow and ice impede my progress.
A boat is tossed by the wind.

Drops of rain come...

... and clouds swirl...
Lightning flashes and thunder echoes in the field.

- Thunder, Lightning 48

Dew is on the Russian road.

- Dew, Reveal, Small, Russia 51

An electrical field travels down the wire.

- Electricity 49

People transmit clouds of contagious diseases.

- Convey, Transmit 52

I shake and tremble at the foot of a cliff.

- Shake, Tremble 50

Rain is part of the atmosphere.

- Atmosphere 53

As an element this means cloud. Alone, it is a rarely used character meaning "speak." See 840.
Water

A flowing river.

A person flows downstream.

Rivulets diverge from the mainstream.

A calamity of flood and fire.
A ship in the middle of the open sea.

Together, two people come to the harbor to see their reflection.

Sittin' on the dock of the bay.

Deep water engulfs the trees.

This is the radical for water.

The sea is the mother of life.

Water penetrates the cave.
Wash

Wash with water.

Swirling steam.

Tears cannot wash the dirt of your dishonor.

Bathe in a valley of water.
**SHALLOW, LIGHT**

Splash in the shallow water.

- **water** 66
- **halberds** 801

**FLOAT, FLEETING**

A hand lets a child float in the water.

- **water** 66
- **hand** 611
- **child** 447

**BOIL, GUSH**

A gushing fountain of boiling water.

- **water** 66
- **emerge n** 78

**DAX, DEFENSE**

Clothes dry on the line.

- **KAN** horu, hiru

**DEPEND ON, DUE TO, REASON**

Depending on where you place the drill in the field ...

- **YU, YU** yoshi

**SOURCE, ORIGIN**

The spring is our source of water.

- **water** 66
- **origin** 81

**SWEAT**

This sweater makes me sweat.

- **KAN** ase, asebamu

**OIL**

... you may have gushing oil.

- **YU** abura

**SPRING**

A spring ...

- **white** 45

**PLAIN, ORIGIN**

... originates from the plain.

- **GEN** hara

- **cliff** n 81
- **spring** 80
Fire

This is a radical for fire.

Light the lamp with fire.

Roast barbeque.

The flames of two fires ...

... become faint because of the rain.

Two samurai screamed when threatened by menacing flames.

Exposed to the violent heat of the sun ...

... a firecracker explodes in a burst of fire.

FIRE 83

KAKU odosu/kasu

BÖ, BAKU abareru/ku

BURST, EXPLODE 90

FLAME 86

PALE, LIGHT, FAINT 87

VIOLENCE, EXPOSE 89

BURST, ROAST 85

LIGHT, LAMP 84

THREATEN, MENACE 88

FIRE 83

SHŌ yaku/keru

KA hi

fire 83

Hi

fire 83

Hi

fire 83

Hi

fire 83

Hi

fire 83

Hi

high n-20

fire 83

fire 83

EN honō

fire 83

water 66

flame 86

mouth 566

red (x2) n-65

sun 83

offer n-89

burst n-90
ICE

This element means ice.

It's freezing in the east.

When it's cold, the shrubs have no leaves.

Snow: rain you can hold in your hand.

I can see the frost forming on the tree.
Hal draws up the area's boundaries.

A man puts his hand against the sloping cliff.

The sun shines on the embankment of soil.

Miners work in a hole deep in the earth.

The hands oppose management.
Metal

Two gold nuggets in the soil.

A metal fish lure.

The metal needle points ten degrees north.

He stands in front of the metal mirror.

A little metal chain.

Hal flips a metal coin.
A path winds through the **lawn**.

- grass 126  path n-111

**My duty** is to **work** in the garden.

- grass 124  flower 119  power 745

**Planting** is a **skill** and an **art**.

- grass 124  speak n-117

**A hand cuts the grassy stalks** from the soil.

- grass 124  hand 600  soil 101

**Hal makes the grass grow thickly.**

- grass 124  halberd 801

A **Chinese flower** grows among the grass.

- grass 124  flower n-118

**A chrysanthemum** in the grass, with rice-colored petals.

- grass 124  rice 217

The plants change into **flowers**.

- grass 124  change 374

This person takes in the **sweet smell** of the grass.

- grass 124  person 386
Cylindrical bamboo tubes ...

... are used as pipes in the officials' building.

Bamboo reeds.

This is the radical for grass, though a number of other elements have the same shape, such as hands in character 122.
Trees

A tree with spreading branches.

Birds gather in a tree.

Blossoms flourish on the tree.

Three birds nest in a fruit tree.

The roots of a tree are cylindrical.

A willow tree.

A heron balances in a tree.
Hands **take** acorns from the tree.

Hal **plants** a tree in the soil.

Plant **a** tree in the soil.

Magnetic **poles** are at the **extreme** ends of earth.

The **body** is the "root" of a person.

Plants and trees generate **leaves**.
**Divide** a tree to **analyze** it.

**FIREWOOD, KINDLING**

I cut the tree into **kindling**.

**SHEET, COUNTER**

Slice the tree into **sheets**.

**Forest**

Two trees make a **forest**.

**IMMATURE, NOT YET**

This tree is **immature**.

**END, TIP**

This tree has a big **tip**.

**Woods**

Three trees mean **woods**.
**Limbs** 146

The limbs are like branches of flesh.

- Flesh 267  branch 148

**Drum** 147

Beat the drum with a branch.

- soil 101 miniature 245 branch 148

**Branch, Support** 148

A hand holds up a branch.

**Kill** 149

Kill the trees.

- tree 126 hand w/ax 792

**Branch Off** 150

Mountain trails branch off.

- mountain 167 branch 148
Timber

People have a talent for turning assets into timber.

A talent for turning assets into wealth.

Hal made a wooden device.

Trees are cut into boards.
A wooden **table**.

- Tree 126
- Desk n-157

I read a book on making **fences**.

- Tree 126
- Book 868

A **box** made of bamboo and wood.

- Bamboo 123
- Tree 126
- Eye 538

Three books sit atop a wooden **bookshelf**.

- Tree 126
- Apply 595

A tree is cut into a **pillar** for the master's house.

- Tree 126
- Master 734

**Varnish** resins ooze like water from a tree.

- Water 66
- Tree 126
- Water 57

It took two months to build these wooden **shelves**.

- Tree 126
- Month (×2) 14

A wooden **club**.

- Tree 126
- Respectful 703

Leave nothing but **cut branches**.

- Tree 126
- Leave 956
Mountains & Valleys

MOUNTAIN 167

SAN
yama

A three-peaked
mountain.

VALLEY, GORGE 168

KOKU
hani, ya

Enter the valley.

RICH, PLENTIFUL 170

GREED, DESIRE 171

WORDLY, VULGAR, CUSTOM 169

俗

ZOKU

Having left the valley of vulgar
customs, this person became worldly.

vulgar

rights

worldly

rich

So greedy he could eat the valley.
Two dark and lonely paths thread into the mountain.

He made slow progress to the top of the mountain.

The pass runs above and below the mountain.

A ravine between mountain peaks.

The mountain will crumble in two months.

A person stands upright on the edge of a cliff.

How strange to step off the cliff.

A visitor approaches our house.
Stones

**ASSIST, HELP** 181

**FURTHERMORE, BESIDES** 182

### 組 (グループ, アセンブル)

**SO**

- kumi, kumu

... and **assemble** them with string...

- thread 964
- cairn 182

### 阻 (妨げる)

**SO**

- habamu

... to **obstruct** the hill and **impede** our enemies....

- hill 1094
- cairn 182

### 祖 (祖先)

**SO**

... who took the lives of our **ancestors**.

- religion 896
- cairn 182

---

With a little **help** we can ...

- cairn 182
- power 1023

... pile the stones **beside** or on top of each other....
A hand **reclaims** the land by clearing it of stones.

- hand 580
- stone 190

A **crag** is a stone outcropping on a mountain.

- mountain 167
- stone 190

The plow is **honed** on a stone.

- stone 190
- uniformity n-187

A **rock** at the base of a cliff.

A **magnet** is a stone with magical threads of force.

- stone 182
- occult (x2) n-172

**Charcoal** comes from the mountain.

- mountain 167
- fire 83

**Ashes** at the foot of the cliff.

- cliff n-81
- fire 83

**Sand** is small stones.

- stone 190
- little 926
Cave

Examine nine caves.
- hole 194
- nine 905

By hand, we probed behind a tree to search for a cave opening.
- hand 580
- hole 194
- tree 126

The cave sheltered eight people.
- roof 1144
- eight 904

Big John lunged from the cave.
- hole 194
- big 913

The empty sky, seen through a window in a cave.
- hole 194
- construction 1054

Fire fine pottery in the kiln.
- hole 194
- fine 290
- fire 82

A body pulled from the cave showed extreme suffering.
- hole 194
- body 459
- pull 817
# Readings

A single kanji can have multiple sounds or readings. Kanji were borrowed from China and used both for their phonetic values (the on-yomi, shown in capital letters), which shifted over time, and for words of native Japanese origin (the kun-yomi, shown in lowercase letters). Which reading to use for a character depends on context and what characters it is grouped with.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FOOD</th>
<th>SIGHTSEEING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>食物</td>
<td>見物</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tabe</td>
<td>KEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat 232</td>
<td>see 343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mono</td>
<td>BUTSU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thing 277</td>
<td>thing 277</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DINE</th>
<th>SPLENDID</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>食事</td>
<td>見事</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHOKU</td>
<td>mi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eat 232</td>
<td>see 343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JI</td>
<td>goto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>act 590</td>
<td>thing 590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ONE O'CLOCK</th>
<th>BRIEF</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>一時</td>
<td>一時</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ICHI</td>
<td>i(t)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>one 897</td>
<td>one 897</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JI</td>
<td>toki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>time 691</td>
<td>time 691</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Field & Plant

A rice field.

Two people mediate over ... n=202

... the boundaries of the field.

The paddy is burned dry and made into a field.

Under whose roof will go the riches of the field?

A surveyor walks around the outline of each field.

WEALTH, RICHES 204

FU, FÜ

tomi, tomu

ABBREVIATE, OUTLINE 203

RYAKU

FARM, DRY FIELD 204

hata, hatake
**RIDGE, EDGE** 207

畔

 Hond aze

The ridges divide the paddy and hold in water.
- field 201
- half 907

**POISON** 210

毒

DOKU

Mom ate a poisonous plant!
- grow 214
- mother 446

**BIRTH, PRODUCE** 213

産

SAN

umu

My garden produces plants.
- stand 627
- grow 214

**SEEDLING, SAPLING, SHOOT** 208

苗

BYO, MYO
nae, nawa

Seedlings shoot up from the field.
- grass 124
- field 201

**BARLEY, WHEAT** 211

麦

BAKU
mugi

Check on the growth of the wheat.
- grow 214
- slow progress 1218

**TATAMI MAT, SIZE, FOLD, REPEAT** 209

畳

JÔ
tatami, tatamu

Shoes are for the field, not the tatami.
- field 201
- besides 182

**TILL, PLOW** 212

耕

KÔ
lagayasu

A plow tills the soil well.
- plow n-212
- well n-212

**SACRIFICE** 215

牲

SEI

A cow's life is sacrificed.
- cow 275
- life 214

**STAR** 216

星

SEI, SHO
hoshi

The sun: a life-giving star.
- sun 1
- life 214
Rice

In Japan, rice is bought at grain stands.

- rice 217
- stand 627

A ladle is used to measure the rice.

- rice 217
- measure 886

The town's daily food is rice.

- rice 217
- quantity n-219

Chop the rice into powder.

- rice 217
- divide 1025

Japan won't buy American rice.

Rice, America 217

Neighbor, Adjoin 220

I'll borrow rice from my neighbor on the adjoining hill.

- hill 1094
- rice 217
- stop n-220

The fragrant rice dries in the sun.

- rice plant 231
- sun 1

Work, Earn Money 223

Kō, Ka Kasegu

Earning money to bring home rice.

- rice plant 231
- home 281

Fragrance, Incense 224

Kō, Ka Kaoru/ri
Hands wield axes to harvest the grains from the soil.

Our rice products earn a pile of money.

Sort the grains of rice in a sectioned box.

We profit by cutting grain ...

At harvest time we feast on fowl.

... but lose the grain to workers' stipends.

This rice plant radical represents "grain."
Eat

食

SHOKU
taberu, kuu

Eat a bowl of food.

LARGE BUILDING, HALL

館

KAN

Keep eating and you'll have to keep your butt in a large building.

FOOD, EAT

232

STARVE

234

A starving body eats itself.

food 323  roof 1144  buttocks 466

STARVE, HUNGER

235

Food on the table makes me hungry.

food 232  table 157

COOKED RICE, FOOD

飯

HAN

mushi

Cooked rice eaten in a cupped hand.

eat 232  turning hand n-27

REAR, SUPPORT

YOH

yashinai

I support myself by rearing sheep.

sheep 290  eat 232

SECTION, LESSON

課

KA

Her speech lesson bears fruit.

speak 840  fruit 240
FRUIT, RESULT, CARRY OUT  240

果
KA
hate, hatasu

JUICE, SOUP, LIQUID  243

汁
Jū
shiru

CULTIVATE, GROW  246

-training
BB
tsuchikau

Fruit from the trees in the field.
- field 201  - tree 126

Ten parts water makes a good soup.
- water 66  - ten 906

I grew a mouth-watering tomato.
- soil 101  - stand 627  - mouth 566

VEGETABLE  241

菜
SAI
na

SALT  244

塩
EN
shio

COMPENSATE  247

賠
BAI

Vegetables grow between the grass and the trees.
- grass 124  - hand 609  - tree 126

I put Earth salt on my dish of eggs.
- soil 101  - opening 566  - dish 265

I was compensated with money ...
- money 708  - stand 627  - mouth 566

EGG, ROE  242

卵
RAN
tamago

BEANS, MINIATURE  245

豆
TŌ, ZU
mame

DIVIDE, CUT UP  248

剖
BŌ

Two eggs.

A tiny bowl of beans.

... when my tomato was cut up.
- stand 627  - mouth 566  - knife 1037
Wine

"WINE" 249

A wine jar.

ALCOHOL, SAKÉ 250

酒

SHU
sake, saka

Pour out the sake.

FERMENT, YEAST 252

酵

KÔ

The young wine needs yeast to ferment.

CURD, DAIRY PRODUCE 253

酪

RAKU

Jars of dairy products are left on each doorstep.

BOTTLE, JUG, JAR 256

瓶

BIN
kame

A bottle and a jug.

DISTRIBUTE 254

配

HAI
kubaru

I'll distribute the wine personally.

SEVERE, CRUEL, HARSH 255

酷

KOKU

The wine has a severe, harsh taste.

water 66 wine 249

wine 249 nine 903 ten 906

wine 249 grow 214 mouth 566

wine 249

pair n−256

vessel n−256
In a profitable year my dish overflows.

益 (Eki, Yaku masu)

A bowl on a tray.

益 (Eki, Yaku)

Tray

Dish, Bowl, Plate, Tray 261

益 (Eki, Yaku masu)

A tray is used for cutting.

盆 (Bon)

REWARD, TOAST 259

酬 (Shū)

Drink a toast to the state.

盤 (Ban)

TRAY, BOWL, PLATE 260

Cap the tray.

益 (Eki, Yaku masu)

I cry over what'll be stolen next—my dish!

盜 (Tō nusumu)

STEAL 262

Serve wine with a ladle.

酌 (Shaku kumu)

SERVE WINE, LADLE, SCOOP 264

益 (Eki, Yaku masu)

Measure ten spoonfuls of liquid.

升 (Shō masu)

LIQUID MEASURE 263

Measure liquid with a ladle.

勺 (Shaku)

LADLE, MEASURE 265

益 (Eki, Yaku masu)
Meat

肉 (NIKU)
This meaty steak serves two people.

"FLESH, MEAT" 267
This radical can mean either flesh 266 or moon 14 depending on the character it's in.

BE LIKE, BE LUCKY 268
You'll be lucky if you get a little meat.

3 little 926  3 meat 267

FAT, GREASE 271
The fat of the meat...

3 meat 267  3 tasty 272

PARE, REDUCE 269
Pare the little piece of meat.

3 little 926  3 meat 267  3 knife 1037

SWEET, PRESUME UPON 272
...is sweet.

甘 (KAN)
amai / eru / yakasu

EXTINGUISH, VANISH, CONSUME 270
A little water extinguishes the burning meat.

3 water 66  3 little 926  3 meat 267

TASTY, GOOD, GIST 273
I spoon tasty things into my mouth.

3 spoon n-273  3 mouth n-273

FAT 274
Trim the fat off the sides of the meat.

3 meat 267  3 side 386
"Fire-flower" burns a picture in your mind, while "flowering fire" is much more playful than the English "fireworks." Words like "interesting" and "genius" make you wonder how they came to be. Compounds like "adult" and "tomorrow" have assigned readings that can't be guessed at from their kanji. Dōbutsu, "animal," at right, literally means "move thing."

**Interesting Words**

- FIREWORKS
  - 花火
  - hana   bi
  - flower 116 fire 83
- SPARK
  - 火花
  - hi     bana
  - fire 83 flower 116
- INTERESTING
  - 面白
  - omo    shiroi
  - face 469 white 936
- GENIUS
  - 鬼才
  - ki     sai
  - devil 645 talent 871
- ADULT
  - 大人
  - otona
  - big 913 person 363
- TOMORROW
  - 明日
  -asu
  - bright 8 sun 1

**3 Animals**
Cow, Pig, & Sheep

This is the cow with the crumpled horn.

Drive the cow to **pasture**.

- **cow** 275
- **strike** 802

To get milk you pull on the cow's **thing**.

- **cow** 275
- **thing** n-277

A cow's horn **explains** a lot about its life.

- **horn** 280
- **knife** 1023
- **cow** 275

A horn bends at an **angle**.
A sty is a **house** for pigs.

- roof 1144
- pig 279

We use a **pig** for its meat.

- meat 267
- pig 279

**GROUP, FLOCK**

- LORD 282

The lord of the sheep attends his **flock**.

- lord 417
- sheep 290

A sheep is sacrificed on the altar to bring **good fortune**.

- altar 696
- sheep 290

**FRESH, VIVID, CLEAR** 283

- FISH 283

Fine **fresh** fish.

- fish 354
- sheep 290

**BEAUTIFUL, FINE** 287

- SHEEP 287

Big **beautiful** sheep.

- sheep 290
- big 913

**ARRIVE, WEAR** 288

- SHEEP 288

I like to **wear** wool myself.

- sheep 290
- self 542

**CHASE, PURSUE** 289

- MOVE 289

In **pursuit** of a pig.

- move 1153
- pig 279

**SHEEP, FINE, PRAISEWORTHY** 290

- YO 290

Sheep are **fine** assets.
Horse

A horse lies on its side.

This tends to look more like a horse, if you picture it on its side.

A horse stays by his master.

The horse is disturbed by a snake.

Surprise a horse with a stick and it will respect you.
**Respect** 295

敬

KEI

uyamay

I'll beat some **respect** into you.

- humility n-295
- strike 802

**Sword, Bayonet** 298

剣

KEN

tsurugi

... checks his **sword** ...

- all n-297
- sword 1023

**Station** 301

駅

EKI

Load the horse at the **station**.

- horse 291
- measure 884

**Warn, Reproach** 296

警

KEI

He **warned** me of the hand with the stick.

- respect 295
- speak 840

**Investigate** 299

検

KEN

... and **investigates** behind trees ...

- tree 126
- all n-297

**Rider** 302

騎

KI

A strange **rider** mounts ...

- horse 291
- strange 179

**Examine** 297

騒

KEN

A good scout **examines** his horse ...

- horse 291
- all n-297

**Steep, Severe, Perilous** 300

険

KEN

kewashii

... before making camp in the **steep** and **perilous** hills.

- hill 1094
- all n-297

**Pack Horse, Poor Quality** 303

駄

DA

... but the **poor pack horse** keels under the weight of the fat man.

- horse 291
- fat 914
Bugs

**FIREFLY**  
萤火虫
KEI  
hotaru

*Firefly*: a radiant insect.

- fire n-305
- insect 304

**BARBARIAN**  
蛮人
BAN

*His barbaric smell is attracting bugs.*

- red 929
- insect 304

**MOSQUITO**  
蚊子
ka

*A textbook case of mosquito bites.*

- insect 304
- text 834

**IMPURE, TURBID, VOICED**  
污浊
DAKU  
nigoru/su

*Use a net to rid the impure water of insects.*

- water 66
- net 987
- insect 304

**COCOON**  
茧
KEN  
mayu

*In the grass, an insect made a cocoon of thread.*

- grass 124
- thread 964
- insect 304

**TOUCH, FEEL, CONTACT**  
触
SHOKU  
fururu, sawaru

*An insect's hornlike antennae: *feelers.*

- horn 280
- insect 304
Snakes & Birds

Insect 304 originally came from a drawing of a snake and in some kanji carries the meaning snake.

Snake, Serpent 312

He fell when bit by a snake.

Strong 313

A strong snake can pull with its tail.

Island 316

A bird flies above the island mountains.

Crane, Stork 317

The crane is next to another bird.
Plumage

Only birds can leave from the cliffs that separate us.

Scorched foul.

A big scarecrow stirs up and excites the bird in the field.

A big bird is snatched by the man with the gun.
A bird washing its wings.

Birds fly south.

She wears a strange mask and wings.

"See you next time, I've gotta fly."

A bird flapping its wings over the rice field.

Wing feathers.
Heron

This element means heron.

Bird watching.

Encourage heron preservation.

Rejoice and sing like a bird.
A big, spotted dog.

Dog

This element means dog.

PROTECT  339
HUNT  340

SHU, SU  mamoru
SHU  karī/ru

A man protects the house ...

They go hunting for birds ...

The mask of a beast.

The child bravely touches the fierce dog's dish.

... usually catching one in the grass.
A pair of eyes admires the beautiful deer.
- group n-344
- deer 343

A big-eared elephant.

A tiger vs. a pig with swordplay is an intense drama.
- tiger 353
- pig 279
- sword 1023
The tiger's cruel, oppressive paw ...
- tiger 353
- hand n-347

The circus tiger plays around the fire.
- tiger 353
- play n-350
- halberd 801

A tiger rips open a man's skin and eats his guts.
- tiger 353
- stomach n-351

... guards the prisoner of war ...
- tiger 353
- man 419

A tiger with gaping jaws.
- tiger 353
- tiger n-352

This element means tiger.

... and this gives the prisoner's wife anxiety.
- tiger 353
- give 834
Sea Creatures

FISH 354

魚
GYO
uo, sakana
I caught four fish ...

FISHING 355

漁
GYO, RYŌ

... salt-water fishing.
水 66 魚 354

TORTOISE, TURTLE 356

亀
KI
kame

The turtle wears a shell.

SHELL, ARMOR, HIGH, 1ST 357

甲
KŌ, KAN
kōra

A turtle's shell is its armor.

DRAGON 338

竜
RYŪ, RYŌ
tatsu

A roaring dragon.

ATTACK 359

襲
SHÜ
osou

The dragon attacks by burning clothing.
火 359 衣 1021

WATERFALL 360

滝
taki

The waterfall roars like a dragon.
水 66 竜 358

WHALE 361

鯨
GEI
kujira

The whale is a capital fish!
魚 354 资本 1077
REPEATING KANJI

A word for "people" in Japanese is hitobito, shown at right. The upper kanji is hito 363, PERSON. The lower character is a graphic device similar to ditto marks (""), in English, indicating that the previous character is repeated. Sometimes, the pronunciation of the second character is changed slightly to make it easier to say.

SOMETIMES

時々
toki
time 691 (x2)

堂々
dō
hall 1130 (x2)

GRAND

VARIABLE

色々
iro
colors 927 (x2)

々々
ware
self 794 (x2)

WE

INCREASINGLY

益々
masu
gain 257 (x2)

少々
shō
few 925 (x2)

A LITTLE BIT
People

"PERSON" 362

A person taking a step.

This is the radical for person.

I'll meet a personal friend on a cloudy day.

EXPATRIATE 366

The expatriate...

SCARCE, DESTITUTE 365

The destitute person stands alone.

BRIDGE 367

...crossed the wooden bridge.
**People**

**Benevolent, Humanity**

仁

JIN, NI

This **benevolent** person cares for two people.

- person 362
- two 898

**Submit, Follow, Lie Down**

伏

FUKU

fusu/seru

The dog **lies** down before its master.

- person 362
- dog 335

**Rank, Extent**

位

I

kurai

A person of lower **rank** bows to a person of higher standing.

- person 362
- stand 627

**Serve, Work, Do**

仕

SHI, JI

tsukaeru

This person **serves** the samurai.

- person 362
- samurai 753

**Reach, Extend**

及

KYÜ

oyobi/bu/bosu

Reach out and **extend** an open hand.

- person 362
- hand n-373

**Load, Burden**

荷

KA

ni

What is that person’s **load**? Grass?

- tree 157
- what? n-371
A young person changes into a seated old man.

People in Washington have big principles and few ethics.

Every generation must pay its dues.

A hermit lives in the mountains.

Two people sit on the ground floor.
I'm in the middle of a personal relationship.

"Lefty" here is my assistant.

The samurai attends this temple.

The attendant greets ... 

I am prepared for the cliff dwellers.

... the couple traveling together.

I'll use this fence to keep them out.
Person

方
Hō kata
The person points in that direction.

放
Hō hanasu/tsu
This person was released after being beaten.

方
Bō katawara
Put it beside that standing person.

Flag
KI kata
A person waves a flag.

Perform, Charity
SHI, SE hodokosu
A drama is performed for charity.

Visit, Inquire
Hō otozureru, tazuneru
I asked him directions during my visit.
A person comforts a family member who is low.

A hand reaches out for a resistant family member.

Twins are always compared.

A multitude of descendants sit under the sun.

A hand strikes out at the sit-in.

There are no people with big heads ...

... in my family.

My family resides in a mansion.

A multitude of descendants sit under the sun.

A hand strikes out at the sit-in.
People's Burdens

If you're not industrious, I'll beat you with a stick.

The big eye of government watches the ever-burdened people.

I'll teach piety to you with this stick.

The burden a child bears: filial piety.
**HOT (WEATHER)**

暑

SHO
atsui

Carrying a heavy burden in the sun makes you **hot**.

- sun 1
- person 408

**COOK, BOIL**

煮

SHA
niru/eru/yasu

A burdensome bag of victuals is **cooked** in the fire.

- person 408
- fire 82

**TORTURE, HIT**

拷

GŌ

He is beaten and **tortured** for being inconsiderate.

- hand 580
- consider 409

**PERSON**

者

SHA
mono

Every **person** has burdens to carry.

- burden 402
- sun 1

**CONSIDER**

考

KŌ
kangaeru

I sometimes stop to **consider** ...

**AGED MAN, TO GROW OLD**

老

RŌ
oi, oiru

... if these burdens will crush me as I **grow old**.
Woman & Man

女  WOMAN  411  
Jo, nyō, nyo
onna, me

姫  NOISY, IMMORAL  412  
KAN
kashimashii

This woman ...

... tends to be noisy in groups.
woman 411 woman 411 woman 411

She takes pleasure in giving advice ...
woman 411 give 835

BEGIN, FIRST  414  

始
shi
hajimeru/maru

... but is the first to open her mouth ...
woman 411 self 411 mouth 566

FIGURE, SHAPE  415  
姿
shi
sugata

... and cry over her figure.
next 555 woman 411
Many characters containing the elements for "woman" and "man" reflect the times in which they were created.

Two women tease a man from both sides.
- woman (x2) 411
- man 419

A tycoon with a cigar.
- hand w/stick n-417
- mouth 566

A man works in the field.
- field 201
- power 745

Falconry is a sport for powerful males.
- elbow n-418
- bird 319

The samurai shows his strength.
- big n-420
- samurai 753

The samurai strikes a majestic pose on the lawn of his villa.
- grass 124
- manly 420
Marriage

If you’re too dependent, marriage will box you in.

woman 66
depend n-422

WIFE

The wife is handed a broom.

woman 411
hand w/broom 1052

CONTACT, JOIN

His hand reaches out to join hers.

hand 1052
stand 627
woman 411

MISTRESS

A man stands by his mistress.

stand 627
woman 411

EXQUISITE, ODD

This woman is a little odd.

woman 411
little 924
MARRY, BRIDE 428

嫁
KA
yome, totsugu

The house of the bride looks like a pigsty.
woman 411  house 281

PEACE, SETTLED 431

妥
DA

A woman’s hand brings peace.
hand 580  woman 411

RESTFUL, EASE, CHEAP 429

安
AN
yasui/maru

A woman under the roof makes for cheap labor.
roof 1144  woman 411

AUTHORITY, THREATEN 432

威
I
odosu

The woman threatens Hal’s authority.
halberd 801  woman 411

HUSBAND, MAN 434

夫
FU, Fū
otto

Her husband wears a hairpin.

BANQUET 430

宴
EN
utage

The woman gave us everything under the sun at the banquet.
roof 1144  sun 1  woman 411

MARRIAGE 433

婚
KON

A person sits on a hopechest next to a woman, waiting for marriage.
woman 411  family 396  sun 1

HELP, SUPPORT 435

扶
FU

A husband lends a helping hand.
hand 580  husband 434

扶
K1

Look to the husband as the standard.
husband 434  watch 543

STANDARD, MEASURE 436
Family

**Father**

父

*FU*  
chichi

A father picks up his child.

**Elder Sister**

姉

SHI  
one

My elder sister lives in the city.

**Younger Sister**

妹

MAI  
imōto

My immature younger sister lives in the country.

**Elder Brother**

兄

KEI, KYŌ  
an

An elder brother is a mouth on two legs.

**Younger Brother**

弟

TEI, DAI, DE  
ōtōto

My snot-nosed younger brother.

**Clan, Family**

族

ZOKU

A family's coat of arms is displayed on a flag.

*Flag*  
n-387

*Arrow*  
818
EACH, EVERY

母

Mother

A woman’s nipples become dark during motherhood.

MOTHER

乳

Breasts, Milk

A woman holds a child to her breast.

CHILD

The grandchild is my descendant.

Descendants, Grandchildren

I, ME, SELF, YOU

I, myself, kneel before you.

Like, Good, Fine

... likes to be held by a woman.
Self

In Japan, a person indicates him- or herself by pointing to the nose the way Westerners point to the chest.

Wombs are flesh-launching platforms.

I sued him for his public accusation.

We had a righteous discussion.

I keep a personal supply of rice.

The pine tree is in public parks.

He's sitting on the platform by himself.

This element means splitting or dividing.

WOMB 451

ACCUSE, SUE 453

DISCUSSION 452

I, PRIVATE, PERSONAL 454

PUBLIC, FAIR, LORD 457

PINE 458

STAND, PLATFORM 455

SPLIT 456

KO 457

SHO 453

GI 452

SHI 454

TAI 451

mouth 566

split 456

self 450

self 450

public 457

tree 126

public 457

flesh 267

platform 455

speak 840

public 457

speak 849

righteousness 794

rice plant 231

self 450

wata(ku)shi

matsu

oyake

86
LOOK-ALIKE KANJI

In a writing system that uses more than 2,000 characters it is not surprising that some characters look very similar. (Imagine the difficulty of Chinese: one dictionary lists more than 48,000 characters.) The kanji karada 134, BODY, at right can easily be mistaken for yasumi 138, REST. Note the horizontal line within the right-hand element of BODY.

BODY 134  REST 138  SUBMIT 369

体 体 体

karada  yasumi  fuseru

COME 1219  TIP 145  NOT YET 144

来 未 未

kuru  sue  mada

BIG 913  FAT 914  DOG 335

犬 太 太

okii  futoi  inu
Body

This element can mean body, and sometimes appears as a miscopying of door 1113.

Urine drops from a bent-over body.

An evil brain thinks only of the flesh.

A corpulent body.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Body Parts</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Buttocks</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ HAO 580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Hand 580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Arm 267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Flesh 267</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ Moustache 913</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Buttocks**: This element means buttocks.
- **Buttocks**: This element also means buttocks.
- A mask covers his face.
- A hand grasps a buttocks.
- Government officials in the House are asses.
- A pig sticks its nose in a field of grass.
- A fleshy arm.
- A moustache and a big smile.
Flesh & Bone

BONE 472

骨

KOTSU bone

A bone protrudes from the flesh.

vertebrae 474 flesh 267

SKIN, TEXTURE, GRAIN 473

肌

KI hada

The skin covers the flesh.

flesh 267 desk n-157

"VERTEBRA" 474

This element means vertebra.

He has the same fleshy torso as always.

flesh 267 same 889

INTESTINE 476

腸

CHÔ harawata

The meat I ate wasn’t easy on my intestines.

flesh 267 sun 1 rays n-26

SLIP, SLIDE, SMOOTH 477

滑

KATSU suberu, nameraka

A wet, slippery bone.

water 66 bone 472
A cross-your-heart bra supports fleshy breasts.

Veins are little streams in the flesh.

Two professors sit back to back and defy each other.

The flesh of the womb protects the child.

Like a door on a hinge, the arm swings from the shoulder.

Muscles as sinewy as bamboo.

Long, bulging muscles.
Skin

A hand pulls back the skin to disclose the innards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hand</th>
<th>580</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>skin</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A hand scrapes the skin.

| Hi | kawa |

Change your old leather shoes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>leather</th>
<th>485</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>change</td>
<td>374</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I broke open my skin on a rock.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>rock</th>
<th>190</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>skin</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A leather hide.

| KAKU | kawa |

So tired, only skin holds me together.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sick</th>
<th>655</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>skin</td>
<td>486</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bits of rice get stuck in your teeth.

The aged man ordered some new teeth.

Sink your fangs into a tasty bird.

Hands that pinch, claws that grasp.

This element means fang.

Claws with sharp nails.

The aged man ordered some new teeth.

Sink your fangs into a tasty bird.

Hands that pinch, claws that grasp.
Heart

Blood flows from a stabbed heart.
- water 66
- necessarily n-497

This form of the heart radical looks like blood rushing through one's veins. It often suggests feelings.

My feelings come from the core of my heart.

Suddenly, I grasped my heart. It was an emergency.
It's a mystery who stabbed the samurai.

It's a mystery who stabbed the samurai.

My heart is not happy, but sad.

Our hearts will grieve and mourn the deceased.

Can you endure a blade in your heart?

Set the table for the wake.

His heart has the will of a samurai.

It's his nature to express his feelings.

The samurai recorded his speech.

KAI, KE oyashii/shimu

KETSU chi

He's bloody.

HI kanashii/shimu

TÔ itamu

NIN shinobu

Our hearts will grieve and mourn the deceased.

Can you endure a blade in your heart?

Fear spread through our hearts.

various

TABLE, EXCEL, HIGH 508

TAKE

SEI, SHÔ saga

SEX, NATURE 509

WILL, INTENT 511

SHI kokorozashi, kokorozasu

Samurai 753

Heart 499

BLINK, BLOW 506

BLOOD 506

SAD 504

GRIEVE, MOURN 507

ENDURE, STEALTH 510

FEAR, AFRAID 505

卓 TAKU

志 SHI

志 RECORD, JOURNAL 512

various

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Love

REN
koi, koishii

His heart's filled with love.
- red 65 - heart 498

LOVE, BELOVED 513

Unless you uncover your heart, love's progress is slow.
- hand 609 - heart 499 - progress n-516

THINK

SHI
omou

Thinking involves both the heart and brain.
- field 201 - heart 499

ANXIOUS, DISEASE, BE ILL 514

KAN
wazuray

He is so anxious his heart is tied in knots.
- pierce n-514 - heart 499

LOYALTY, DEVOTION 515

CHU

My loyalty comes straight from the middle of my heart.
- middle 954 - heart 499

JOY 516

ETSU

Shout for joy.
- heart 498 - brother 438

96
Hate

BAD, HATE  522

AKU, O warui
A bad heart, full of hatred.

slave 520  heart 499

SLAVE, SERVANT, GUY  520

奴
DO yatsu, yakko

... he beats the slave woman.

woman 520  hand 600

COMPOSED, DISTANT  521

悠 YÜ

INDIGNANT, ANGRY  523

憤 ikidōru

The crowd becomes angry about money.

person 362  strike 802  heart 499

heart 498  ten (x3) 906  money 708

ANGRY, IN ILL HUMOR  524

憤 FUTSU

The blood of his heart boils and gushes with anger.

heart 498  boil n–78
Head, Neck, & Hair

As an element, this means head. It is a rarely used character meaning page.

HAN, BON
wazurai/washi

I am tormented by a fire in my head.

fire 83 head 525

SEQUENCE, COMPLIANCE

JUN

The sequence: shampoo head, rinse in river.

river 55 head 525

RECEIVE, TOP

CHO
itadaki, itadaku

I got a nail in the top of my head.

exact 1089 head 525

HEAD, TOP, START

TŌ, ZU
atama, kashira

That’s using your bean, er, head!
His **jaw** hangs from his head.

**Hair** in a comb.

A **neck** X-ray.

A **tail** is often a tuft of hair.

Which **way** in this neck of the woods?

**Hair** (of the head) is a girl’s best friend.
Eye

I shade my eye to **look**.

- hand 579
- eye 538

The eyes of the people are **sleepy**.

- eye 538
- people 395

The ministry’s examination will **omit** a few things.

- few 924
- eye 538

Get on your hands and knees when **looking** upon the altar.

- altar 696
- look 543
remember waking to see the sun shine over the roof.

I remember waking to see the sun shine over the roof.

My heart pumps blood to my ears when I'm ashamed.

A watchful eye looks over the subjects.

Use your ears, eyes, and heart to listen carefully.

Your parents keep a sharp eye on you.

A sage is a leader who listens to what his people have to say.
Mouth

A gaping mouth *sings songs* toward the second-story window.

- singing n-552
- gaping mouth 553

The *cooked* food goes from the fire to a gaping mouth.

- fire 83
- gaping mouth 553

LACK 553

欠

KETSU
kaku/keru

This gaping mouth *lacks teeth.*

- freeze 94
- gaping mouth 553

NEXT, FOLLOW 555

次

JI, SHI
tsugi, tsugu

One yawn *follows* another.

- freeze 94
- gaping mouth 553

BLOW, BREATHE OUT 556

吹

SUI
fuku

Breathe *out* through a gaping mouth.

- mouth 566
- gaping mouth 553
A samurai shouts for **joy**.

- samurai 753
- mouth 566

**Inhale** carbon monoxide, **suck** on a cigarette.

- mouth 566
- reach 373

A golfer **shouts** "FORE!"

- mouth 566
- sudden n-558

**In one breath**, I blew away the milkweed flower.

- mouth 566
- exhale n-562

A mouth **vomits** dirt.

- mouth 566
- soil 101

**Inscribe** your name in metal.

- metal 105
- name 565

**Peace** is a mouth full of **soft** rice.

- rice plant 231
- mouth 566

The mouth is an **opening** in the face.
CARRY IN ONE'S HAND, BRING 567

携
KEI
tazusowaru/eru

To carry a bird in one's hand.
- hand 580  - bird 319  - hand n-567

MANAGE, MANIPULATE 570

操
SŌ
misao, ayatsuru

He manages to manipulate the packages by the Christmas tree.
- hand 580  - goods 1038  - tree 126

CHALLENGE, DEFY 573

挑
CHO
idomu

Others flee, but I defy the omen.
- hand 580  - omen 1170

CHOOSE, SELECT 568

択
TAKU
erabu, yoru

I'll hand pick my selection after studying all the measurements.
- hand 580  - measure 884

CLUMSY, POOR 571

拙
SETSU
tsutanai, mazui

My hands are as clumsy as two left feet.
- hand 580  - leave 956

PAY, SWEEP AWAY, RID 574

払
FUTSU
haru

Rid yourself of people who don’t pay.
- hand 580  - nose 450

SEARCH 569

捜
SŌ
sagasu

To search with a lantern in one's hand.
- hand 580  - expound 698  - hand 600

THROW, CAST 572

投
TŌ
nageru

I will throw this ax.
- hand 580  - hand w/ax 792

INSERT, PINCH, SQUEEZE 575

挟
KYŌ
hasamaru/mu

I need a hand—they put the big squeeze on me.
- hand 580  - squeeze n-575
A hand taps a white drum.

A hand slipped out of my hand and was lost.

A common hand radical looks like this.

I was wrapped in an embrace.

I have a shiny coin in the palm of my hand.
**MEET, JOIN, FIT** 583

**ERASE, RUB, PAINT** 586

**CHASE, SEIZE** 589

**PICK UP, GATHER, TEN** 584

**PULL OUT, PLUCK** 587

**THING, MATTER, ACT** 590

**LOAD, BOARD** 585

**PUSH** 588

**LAW, CONTROL** 591

**WRITING BRUSH** 592

---

合

The lid **fits** the mouth of the jar.

| person 363 | one 897 | mouth 566 |

抹

Erase the **paint** with the end of my brush.

| hand 580 | end 145 |

逮

Chase the animal and **seize** it by the tail.

| move 1153 | hand grasping n-389 |

拾

A hand **picks up** the lid.

| hand 580 | fit 583 |

抽

Pull out in this direction.

| hand 580 | cause 76 |

事

What is that **thing** in your hand?

| signboard n-1153 | hand 597 |

搭

Load grass into the container.

| hand 580 | grass 124 | fit 583 |

押

Push in this direction.

| hand 580 | shell 357 |

律

The written **law** of the road.

| road 1192 | writing n-591 |

筆

A bamboo **brush**.

| bamboo 123 | writing n-592 |
Hold

争
sō
arasoy

The knife was used in the conflict ...

淨
jō

...and later washed clean of blood.

水 66
conflict 593

適用, 廢, MARK, APPROPRIATE 595

當
tō
ataru/teru

A few coins hit the spot.

水 924
hand 597

"HOLDING" 597

書

SHO
koku

Practice writing the kanji for "sun."

writing n-596
sun 1

This hand is usually shown holding something.
Reach

A hand reaches out in friendship.

This is a hand, too.

Work with your left hand ...

... eat with your right.

Our hands get warm from pulling on the rope all day.
Give

A hand plucks a friend from danger.

A basket swings from one hand to the other.

A grant is given.

A raised hand is offered a diploma in the performing arts.

A baccalaureate address filled with praise and honor.
Leg

DANCE, LEAP  615

He dances and leaps over the fence.

LEAP, DANCE, RUSH  616

Leap to catch a flying bird.

URGE, PRESS  614

SOKU
unagasu

I urge my son to run.

LEG, SUFFICIENT  617

SOKU
ashi, tariru

An outstretched leg.
TRACE, REMAINS  618

A bird left traces of footprints in the sand.

SEKI
ato

FOLLOW, COMPLY  621

JÜ
shitagau

FOLLOWER, FUTILITY  624

TO
ada, itazura

Abird left traces of footprints in the sand.

I run from the path of the complacent followers ...

path 1192  follow n-621  leg 617

It's futile to follow such a fast runner.

path 1192  run 625

SPRING, JUMP, LEAP  619

跳
CHÖ
haneru, tobu

CROSS, EXCEED, EXCEL  622

越
ETSU
koeru/su

RUN  625

走
SÖ
hashiru

Leap a trillion feet

Leg 617  trillion 1170

... and run to cross beyond the lance-wielding sentry.

Run on the ground.

Run 625  halberd 801

ARISE, WAKE, CAUSE  620

起
KI
chū/ku/ku/su

HOLD, CARRY, OFFER  623

提
TEI, CHÖ
sageru

PROCEED, GO  626

赴
FU
omomoku

I arise, stretch, and run out of the house in the morning.

My legs and hands carry the day.

Proceed when the signal permits.

Run 625  announce n-626
Stand

A standing person.

COMPETE, BID 628

競

KYŌ, KEI kisou

A standing-room-only crowd watches two brothers compete.
- stand (x2) 627
- brother (x2) 438

WEEP, CRY 629

泣

KYŪ naku

Stand weeping in a puddle of tears.
- water 66
- stand 627

TRADE, DEAL, SELL 630

商

SHŌ akinai

Stand at a booth and make a deal.
- stand 627

ROW, LINE, RANK, ORDINARY 633

並

HEI nami, narabi/bu

Stand in line.
- prostution n-630

DOUBLE, FOLD 631

倍

BAI

The person’s height is double that of the standing man.
- person 362
- stand 627

ATTEND, ACCOMPANY 632

陪

BAI

The attendant stood on a box on a hill.
- hill 1094
- stand 627

FURIGANA

Small hiragana (and sometimes katakana) symbols can be placed above or to the side of a kanji character to indicate its correct pronunciation. These small kana, called furigana, are commonly given for younger readers and whenever there is some question as to how a kanji is read. Kanji used in personal names, for example, often have nonstandard readings, while some kanji are only used in particular contexts and may not be familiar even to educated adult readers. The word “spirit” at right, is read bōrei.

The same kanji, nagai 915, is used in Mr. Hasegawa’s title, shachō, and in his family name. The different readings of the kanji are indicated by furigana.
Spirit

A spirit stands in the falling rain.

LEAVE, CRUEL, HARM

To stab them to the bones is cruel.

SPLIT, RIP, REND

Rip the clothes to shreds.

FIERCE, INTENSE

A fierce line of fire.
UGLY, INDECENT  640

醜

SHŪ
minikuj

Alcohol is an ugly devil in a bottle.
- alcohol  231  
- devil  645

DEMON, WITCH, EVIL SPIRIT  641

魔

MA

A demon lives in a building in the forest.
- building  1143  
- forest  142  
- devil  645

SOUL, SPIRIT  643

魂

KON
	tama, tamashii

A spirit in a cloud.
- cloud  54  
- devil  645

DEMON, DEMON  645

鬼

KI
oni

A horned devil roams the fields.

LOWLY, MEAN, DESPISE  644

LOWLY, MEAN, DESPISE  644

LOWLY, MEAN, DESPISE  644

TOMBSTONE, MONUMENT  646

碑

HI

TOMBSTONE, MONUMENT  646

The devil hides near the tombstone.
- stone  190  
- mean  644

BEWITCH, CHARM  642

魅

MI

The devil easily charms the immature.
- devil  645  
- immature  145

THE DEVIL IS LOWLY AND MEAN.

The devil is lowly and mean.

THE DEVIL HIDES NEAR THE TOMBSTONE.
Pain

BAD LUCK, EVIL, DISASTER 647

KYŌ

... to be eaten by an evil monster.

- bad luck 647
- legs 647

WORRY, DISTRESS, ANNOY 649

NŌ

nayamashii/nu/masu

My heart and brain are worried.

- heart 498
- brain n-645

SPIRIT 659

気

KI, KE

My spirit rises like steam.

- vapors n-650
- rice n-650
The arrow causing the illness is removed swiftly ...
- illness 655
- arrow 818

... and is put in the medic's box when a patient heals.
- enclosed n-652
- arrow 818

To fools, knowledge is a sickness.
- illness 655
- know 560

A big illness caused me to stay in bed.
- enclosed 778
- big 913

He has a painful illness.
- illness 655
- use 385

As an element this means illness.

An epidemic strikes.
- illness 655
- hand w/ax 792

He did a kind-hearted favor.
- cause 653
- heart 499

Symptoms correctly identify illness.
- illness 655
- correct 826
Dead Bodies

Lost, he slumped over and died.

He died in the rough water...

My heart is so busy I'll die.

They who forgot me have no heart.
DANGEROUS  664
KI
abunai, ayai
Be careful on a dangerous cliff ...
□ man on cliff n-664 □ slumped body 667

MISFORTUNE, DISASTER  665
YAKU
... or there will be misfortune.
□ cliff n-81 □ slumped body 667

CRIME, ASSAULT  666
HAN
okasu
The man was assaulted by a dog.
□ dog 338 □ slumped body 667

ISLISTERED, PANIC  668

IRRATIONAL, RASH  669

BLIND  670

The rough waters made him panicky.
To die for a woman is irrational.
Dead, blind eyes.

This means slumped body.
Past

古  OLD (PAST)  671

An old tombstone.

KO　furuji

WITHER, DECAY  672

枯  KO　kareru/rasu

An old tree withers.

Brothers, we shall overcome.

PAST, REASON  673

故  KO　yue

A violent past gives way to reason.

He is buried outside the village.

BURY  676

埋  MAI　umaru/meru, uzumoreru

PAINFUL, BITTER  674

苦  KU　kurushii/shimu, nigai

The old grass tastes bitter.

It's suitable to visit the grave.

SUITABLE, FIT, GO  677

適  TEKI

move 1153  appropriate n-677
He struck his **enemy** and killed him.

His tears **drip** ...

...because she, not he, is the **legitimate heir**.

A look of **mourning**.

I **hate** how my heart still **mourns**.
Heaven is one big place.

The greedy miser revels in his net worth.

He guards every inch of the temple.

Cows were special and worshiped.

The temple sun dial tells the time.
Shrine

This element means *religion*.

Bow at the altar.
- altar 696
- kneeling figure n-692

The *calamity* was remembered at the altar.
- altar 696
- bones 474

Quickly *pass* the pile of bones.
- move 1153
- bones 474

A *shrine* with an earthen altar.
- altar 695
- soil 101

The preacher expounds the word of *God*.
- altar 696
- expound 698

Ten words he *spoke* out of his mouth.
- mouth 566
- ten 906

Stop at the altar for *happiness*.
- altar 696
- stop 1205
Religion

FESTIVAL, WORSHIP  700

祭
sai
matsuru, matsuri

Offering meat at the festival.
- meat 267
- hand 600
- show 701

SHOW  701

示
ji, shi
shimesu

Show devotion at the altar.

PRIEST, BOY, TOWN  702

坊
bo

The boy becomes the town priest.
- soil 101
- person 362

OFFER, RESPECTFUL  703

奉
ho, bu
tatematsuru

I respectfully offer my prayer.

OCCASION, EDGE, CONTACT  706

際
sai
kiwa

On this occasion we worship on the edge of the hill.
- hill 1094
- festival 700

RELIGION, MAIN  700

宗
shū, sō

Practice religion at the main altar.
- roof 1144
- show 701

LOFTY, NOBLE, REVERE  708

崇
sū
agameru

In the lofty mountains is a noble religion.
- mountain 167
- religion 704
The development of kanji characters began in China in about 2,000 B.C. when people scratched designs into clay pots and tortoise shells to represent the world around them. Lacking a written language, the Japanese borrowed the writing system (and many pronunciations) of Chinese and Korean migrants in the 3rd or 4th century A.D. Simplified, stylized, and miscopied over the centuries by both the Chinese and the Japanese, many kanji today look very different from their pictographic ancestors.

Chikara 745, POWER, shown at right, may come from a drawing of an arm with bulging biceps. Others see it as a stooping man working with a spade or pitchfork or as a hand forcefully pressing down.
Money

I buy a lot with my net income.

Shells were once used as money.

Cutting my meager income made me poor.

Money and weapons are standard measures.

Yen from a banker's window.
RECOMPENSE, REDEEM 713

A person redeems ...

DEFEAT, BEAR, LOSE 716

The one defeated bears the financial burden.

DEBT, LOAN 719

A farmer goes into debt.

PRIZE, PRAISE 714

... a monetary prize.

LOSS, SPOIL, MISS 717

The official's money is lost. There's zero left!

DUTY, ENTRUST 720

My master entrusts me with my duties.

BESTOW 715

Money was bestowed on the field hand.

PIERCED 718

Old coins were pierced for threading.

WAGES, FEE 721

CHIN

My duties are high, my wages are low.

CHASTITY, VIRTUE 722

TEI

Virtue is being above taking money.
Wealth

Wealthy money changers.

Replace the money they lend you.

I'll trade money for that knife.

When you sell, money changes hands.
STORE, SAVE  727

貯

CHO

tokuwaeru

Store your savings under our roof.

HAPPINESS, LUCK  731

幸

KŌ

saiwai, shiawase, sachi

What luck to find yen on the ground.

BRIBE, PROVIDE, BOARD  732

賄

WAI

makanay

Bribed with money and steaks.

PRECIOUS, REVERED  728

貴

KI

kattoi/bu, tōtoj

My precious things ...

PRESENT, GIVE  733

贈

Zō, sō

okuru

These presents cost a pile of money.

LEAVE, BEQUEATH  729

遺

I, YUI

... I leave behind.

MEMBER, OFFICIAL  730

員

IN

An official makes money with his mouth.

129
**Master**

**MASTER, OWNER, MAIN** 734

A lamp indicates the home of the **master**.

---

**POUR, NOTE**

Be careful **pouring** water on the lamp.

- water 66
- master 734

**KOTO (JAPANESE HARP)** 731

Play the **koto** for the two kings. Now!

- king 743
- king 743
- now 31

**PRESENT, OFFER** 738

**Present** the king...

- mouth 566
- king 743

**EXTENT, ORDER** 739

... with the rice he **ordered**.

- rice plant 231
- present 738
**King**

A pure white emperor.

A group of kings.

The ruler is a mad dog.

A jeweled imperial seal.
Power

**Power, Strength, Effort** 745

**RYOKU, RIKI chikara**

**Powerful** biceps.

**BRAVE, SPIRITED** 746

**Yū isomashii**

A **brave** man.

**THREATEN, COERC** 747

**KYŌ**

odo(ka)su, obiyakasu

They threatened to beat his flesh to a pulp.

- power (x3) 745
- meat 267

**COOPERATE** 748

**KYŌ**

**Cooperation** increases power tenfold.

- ten 906
- power (x3) 745

**LABOR, TOIL** 749

**RŌ**

**Labor** and **toil** at the break of dawn.

- shine n-749
- power 745
A farmer strives to improve his crop a thousandfold.
- strive n-750  - power 745

A soldier reaches for his weapon.

The military vehicles shine.
- shine 869  - military 869

An armored military vehicle.
- roof 1144  - vehicle 1187

A hand commands the vehicle.
- hand 580  - army 752
(Never Budge an) Inch

All boarded up and closed off.

He verbally attacked me.

If you fight outside the gate I'll knock your bean off.

He will shoot anybody.

He opposes any violent texts.

The big commander urges violence.
**VALUE, ESTEEM, YOUR**

- 尊
- SON
  - lattoj/bu, tōtoj

A hired hand guards the **valuable** wine jar.
- wine 249
- inch 759

**INSULT, HUMILIATE**

- 辱
- JOKU
  - hazukashimeru

He trembles in **humiliation** at being held captive.
- tremble n-50
- inch 759

Captured by hand.
- hand 580
- hold n-774

**COMMAND, ABOUT TO**

- 将
- SHŌ
  - masa

I'm about to hand the **commander** plans.
- offer n-768
- hand 611
- inch 759

**ATTACH, APPLY**

- 付
- FU
  - tsuku/keru

He **attaches** a medal to a person ...
- person 362
- inch 759

**EXCLUSIVE, SOLE**

- 専
- SEN
  - moppara

I am the **sole** captive.
- hold n-775
- inch 759

**ENDURE, BEAR**

- 耐
- TAI
  - taeru

Endure being behind bars.
- wet n-769
- inch 759

**ATTACH**

- 附
- FU

... **attached** to the hill regiment.
- hill 759
- attach 771

**BIND**

- 縛
- BAKU
  - shibaru

The prisoner’s hands are **bound** with thread.
- thread 775
- sole 775

**BLESSING, KINDNESS**

- 恵
- KEI, E
  - megumu

He is **kind** to the captured people.
- hold n-773
- heart 499
Enclosed

In a certain region of the country.

...in a section of town...

...is a garden...

I have a map.

This box often means enclosed.
... with a big hole that leads deep inside ...

... of jewels.
- king 743
- dot n-785

But I have difficulty getting it ...
- enclosed 778
- tree 126

... the walls that surround ...
- enclosed 778
- surround n-783

... for I am a prisoner.
- enclosed 778
- person 363

... the king's treasure ...
- roof 1144
- jewel 785
**Attack** from chariots.

- cart: 1187
- hand w/ax: 100
- hand: 579

**Destruction** by fire and water.

- water: 66
- fire: 83
- halberd: 801

**A commander admonishes** ten men.

- halberd: 801
- ten: 906

**History** is filled with wars.

- My weapon is an extension of myself.

- me: n-794
- halberd: 801

**He died** of a hatchet wound.

- water: 66
- hand w/ax: 792

**He is so self-righteous.**

- fine: 290
- self: 794

**Assault** people throughout the ward.

- ward: 780
- hand w/ax: 792
The commander plunders for money.

People are cut down with halberds.

This element means lance or halberd.
Strike with a Stick

A hand holding a stick means strike, coerce, or cause to do.

Rivals strike at each other.

A spear carrier, I'm struck until I perform my duties.

Wishing to reform, I beat myself.

A decorated lance.
Clear the path.

From a secret path come faint cries of a tiny man being beaten.

I was attacked by a striking construction worker.

People are forcefully removed by hand.

Speak in defense of bird protection.

I'll master my stroke with practice.

Crowds are dispersed by force.

Money was lost with the defeat.

Drive a herd of horses with a stick.
Bow & Arrow

**弓**

KYū

yumi

An archery bow ...

**An arrow is a simple weapon.**

**单**

TAN

**Bullets** beat simple bows and arrows.

**弹**

DAN

hiku, hazumu, tama

**BULLET, SPRING, PLAY**

815

**Simple, single, unit**

816

**SHI**

ya

... and arrow.

**Arc-shaped bows.**

**Arc, Arch, Bow**

820

**KO**

tatakay, ikusa

Each warrior fights with a simple weapon.

**Simple, Single, Unit**

816

**2 persons** n-822

**Arrow** 818

**Leg** 87

**I doubt we'll catch the suspects.**

**Doubt, Suspect**

812

**GÎ**

utagay

**Weak**

819

**JAKU**

yowaj

Two weak bows.

**BOW, ARCHERY**

817

**Arrow** 818

**BOW**

817

**Bow** 817

**Bow** 817

**Bowed**

817

**Round**

820

**Rounded**

n-820

**Thread** 964

**Thread** 964

A bow is strung with thread.
The tense and voice of Japanese verbs are indicated by "trailing kana," or okurigana, which are added to the kanji that represents the verb root. For example, the verb narau, "to learn," shown at right, uses the kanji SHU 326 for the root nara- and the kana と to create the plain, present-tense form. Other forms—past, negative, passive, etc.—are similarly indicated by kana following the root.
Learn

Correct, proper posture.

SEI, SHŌ tado shii / su

A woman raises and educates her child.

person n-58  flesh 267

Mix, exchange

交

Kō majiru, kawasu

Mix them up.

Ceremony, form

式

SHIKI

Hal is sworn in at the official ceremony.

halberd 801  construction 1054

Trial, test

試

SHI kokoromiru, tamesu

He speaks out at the trial.

speak 840  ceremony 827

Proof

証

SHŌ akashi

Here is proof that my words are correct.

words 840  correct 826

School, check

校

Kō

In schools ideas are exchanged by tree 126  exchange 831

Comparison

較

Kaku, Kō

Compare the cartloads of goods.

vehicle 1187  exchange 831
The woman opens her mouth to give advice.

He's **writing** an “X” in the sand.

The **pattern** is “written” in thread.

This man **gives** generously.

The child is **learning**.

I don't **understand**. This doesn't look **finished**.
Speak

**WORD, SAY, SPEAK 840**

He spoke four words.

**GEN, GON**

koto, iy

- feelings n-840
- mouth 566

Every day I must stand and say something knowledgeable.

- word 840
- stand 627
- halberd 801

If you trust me, believe what I say.

- person 362
- word 840

**SUE, APPEAL 842**

The lawyer's words repelled the suit and led to an appeal.

- word 840
- repel 1076

**INVITE, TEMPT, LEAD 843**

I was tempted, led on, with an invitation to have ...

- word 840
- rice plant 231
- reach n-840

**PRISON, LITIGATION 843**

A good argument at litigation can hound a man into prison.

- dog 338
- word 840
- dog 335

- rice plant 231
- hand n-567

... excellent rice.
Fifty words of **language** ...

He **talks** like his tongue is aflame.

Identify the part of **speech** of each of the four words spoken.

... filled fifty hearts with new **perception**.

His **lessons** flow like a river.

He **corrected** my pronunciation of the letter "t."

What she said was filled with **mistakes**.

Endure his words and you will **recognize** how true they are.

Sing a **song** while swinging the basket.
Read

DOKU, TOKU
yomu
He reads the words from the book.
word 840  soil 101  call n-856

RECITE, PREACH
SHÔ
tonaeru
They recite with clear voices.
mouth 566  clear 2

PREACH, EXPLAIN
SETSU
toku
His words preach brotherly love.
word 840  split 456  brother 4

PHRASE, CLAUSE  857
句
KU
He wraps his tongue around a phrase.
wrap 944  mouth 566

SEIZE, ADHERE TO  858
拘
KÔ
kakawaru
A hand adheres to his mouth.
hand 580  phrase 857

ANSWER  860
答
TÔ
kotaeru
He answered a question about bamboo.
bamboo 123  join 583
**Seal, Sign, Symbol**

印

IN
shirushi

A “top secret” seal.

片

HEN
kata

The man in the chair is holding one of a pair of aces.

**Roll, Reel, Volume**

巻

KAN
maki, maku

This rolled up document speaks volumes about my personal life.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>hands</th>
<th>personal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>863</td>
<td>445</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Print, Board**

版

HAN

Paper is pressed against a board to make prints.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>piece</th>
<th>against</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>865</td>
<td>957</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Argument, Opinion**

論

RON

When we got into an argument over the book’s opinions, he walked out.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>speech</th>
<th>person</th>
<th>book</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>840</td>
<td>362</td>
<td>868</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Translation**

訳

YAKU
wake

Translation means carrying words from one language to another.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>word</th>
<th>measure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>840</td>
<td>884</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Book, Volume**

冊

SATSU

A bound book.
The Arts

LIGHT, SHINE, BRILLIANCE 869

光

Kō
hikari, hikaru
The candle light shines brilliantly.

TALENT, YEAR OF AGE 871

才
Sai

He shows great theatrical talent for someone his age.

INFER, PUSH AHEAD 874

推
Sui
osu

I infer that the hand is pushing the bird forward, not backward.

EXIST, KNOW, THINK 872

存
Son, zon

I teach my child all that I know of existence.

PRESSURE 875

圧
atsu

My friend Cliff is under a lot of pressure.

CODE, RULE, PRECEDENT 870

典
Ten
nori

A book of legal codes and precedents.

Dwell, countryside, be 873

在
Zai
aru

A farmer dwells in the countryside.

MATCH, ANIMAL COUNTER 876

匹
Hitsu
hiki

Two wrestlers in loincloths have a sumo match.
**BEND, MELODY**  
曲
KYOKU
magaru/geru
The music stand holds my melody.

**PICTURE, STROKE**  
画
GA, KAKU
The picture has simple strokes.

**ILLUSION, MAGIC**  
幻
GEN
maboroshi
The illusion is done with invisible threads.

**CARVE, SCULPTURE**  
彫
CHÔ
hori
The artist carves delicate features in his sculpture.

**PLEASURE, MUSIC**  
楽
RAKU, GAKU
tanoshii/shimu
The music brings pleasure to my ears.

**SOUND**  
音
ON, IN
oto, ne
I can’t stand The Sound of Music.

**MEDICINE, DRUG**
薬
YAKU
kusuri
Some grasses are "pleasure drugs."

These two kanji together form the word for music.
Metric measures are based on ten.

I measure with calipers.

The diameter of a circle is the same in all directions.

I pace off the measure with my feet.

This line is the starting point.

Many moons ago—99 months to be exact.
A pair of coins are on both sides of the scale.

Both halves of the melon are full of water.

Now the box contains a puppet.

Keep a supply of sticks on hand in the storage box.

What's in the box?
Numbers

ONE 897
ICH, ITSU
hito-

One finger.

TWO 898
NI
futa-

Two fingers.

THREE 899
SAN
mi-

Three fingers.

EIGHT 904
HACHI
ya-

Eight is easily divided in half.

FOUR 900
SHI
yon, ya-

A square has four corners.

FIVE 901
GO
itsu-

Find the number five.

SIX 902
ROKU
mu-

Five plus one is six.

NINE 905
KYU, KU
kokono-

A broken number nine.
Fractions are numbers.

Here’s the “t” in thousand.

The price tag says a hundred cents.

I broke it in half—right down the middle.

An odd, upside-down two.

Two strokes of the banker’s pen.
Sizes

**FAT** 914

太

TAI, TA
futoi/tu

See the fat man with the big belly button.

- big 100
- two n-914

**HOLLOW, CONCAVE, DENT** 978

A concave figure.

**LONG, SENIOR** 915

長

CHÔ
nagai

Long hair is a sign of old age.

**CONVEX, PROTRUSION** 918

A convex figure.

**BIG** 913

大

"It was this big!"

**STRETCH** 916

張

CHÔ
haru

Pulled back, his hair stretches a long way.

- pull 817
- long 915

**ROUND, CIRCLE, BALL, SHIP** 919

丸

GAN
maru, marui

Curl up in a ball.
The blanket has a plaid pattern and a delicate fringe.

This seesaw is flat and calm.

The criticism was even and fair.

The square was built on level ground.
Colors

A variety of **sensual colors** are squeezed from the tubes.

**COLORS, SENSUALITY 927**

A red construction sign.

**KŌ, KU** kurenai, beni

**BLACK 931**

Black soot is on the BBQ grill.

**INK, INKSTICK 932**

An inkstick is made of black soot.

**赦** FORGIVENESS 933

I'll forgive you after you're beaten red.

**COLOR 928**

**RED 929**

Rays of light shine on the **colorful** hand-picked tree blossoms.

A red cross is on the first aid kit.

**INK** sumi

**SAI** irodoru

**SEKI, SHAKU** akai

**black 931**

**soil 101**

**fire 82**

**red 929**

**strike 802**
The blue thread is dyed in sweet blueberries.

DARK BLUE, DYE  934

KON

The blue thread is dyed in sweet blueberries.

thread  964  sweet  272

GREEN  935

RYOKU, ROKU
midori

Pour the green liquid over the thread.

thread  964  liquid n-935

WHITE  936

HAKU
shiroj

A white ray of sunshine.

CLEAR, BRIGHT  938

Bright and sunny with clear blue skies.

Bright and sunny with clear blue skies.

sun  1  blue  937

SPRIT, VITALITY  939

SEI, SHÔ

Eat blue/green rice for vitality.

rice  217  blue  937

FEELING, PITY  940

JÔ, SEI
nasake

Pity me, my heart feels blue.

heart  498  blue  937

WHITE  936

FEELING, PITY  940

JÔ, SEI
nasake

Pity me, my heart feels blue.

heart  498  blue  937

PURE, CLEAN  941

SEI, SHÔ
kiyoi/meru

The water is a pure, clear blue.

water  66  blue  937
UP, TOP, OVER, GO UP 942

The tops of plants grow up from the ground.

WRAP, ENVELOP 944

Wrap myself in a warm blanket.
- encircle 949
- self 445

GUN, CANNON 945

The cannon fires stones wrapped in gun powder.
- stone 190
- wrap 944

TIRES, SATIATE 947

I'm tired of eating; let's wrap things up.
- eat 232
- wrap 944

BASE, UNDER, LOWER 943

The lower parts grow under the ground.

KA, GE
- shita, shimo, sagaru/geru, oriru, kudaru

THIRST, PARCHED 946

The sun wrapped me in heat and made me thirsty.
- water 66
- sun
- dry up n-946

FROTH, BUBBLE, FOAM 948

A bubble is air wrapped in water.
- water 66
- wrap 944

“COVER, ENCIRCLE” 949

This element means cover, encircle, and protect.
Positions

A line through the middle of the opening.

He didn’t enter the crowded tent.

He emerged from the tent feeling put out.

We kept things inside the tent.

Our supply of thread is stored inside the tent.
Oppose

He opposed the movie with a thumb's down.
- turn over n-957
- hand 600

He rejected the handout by covering his mouth.
- hand 580
- not 960

Burn the books till there are none.
- book 868
- fire 82

He dislikes something.

It was not really him; he was acting.
- person 362
- not 960

He always says no.
- not 958
- mouth 566
STROKE ORDER

Kanji are written according to rules of stroke order established long ago by calligraphers and teachers. Generally: (1) strokes are written from top to bottom and from left to right; (2) horizontal crossing strokes precede vertical crossing strokes; (3) enclosures are drawn first, but a closing line at bottom is drawn last; (4) strokes that slant from right to left are written before strokes that slant left to right; (5) piercing vertical lines are written last. There are many exceptions, however. In the kanji DŌ 534 of dōgu, meaning “tool,” shown at right, the element MOVEMENT 1153 that stretches from upper left to lower right is actually written last. In the examples here, stroke order numbers have been placed at the beginning point of each stroke.

DŌ
way 534

GU
equipment 1039
Thread

Silk comes from a worm.

Editing a book is like knitting words.

Spin a spool of thread.

The wooden reel turns thread.
Hal asks how much thread ...

... is needed for the wooden loom ...

... to weave a scarf for his son.

Fine threads.

The thread is entwined on the loom.
This **paper** is made of stringy fibers.

- thread 964
- family 396

Thread, water, and rays of sunshine travel in a **line**.

- thread 964
- white 936
- water 57

Thread has **accumulated** in the field.

- field 201
- thread 964

This person is **involved** in finding ...

- person 362
- lineage 977

**IN Volvement** 976

**STRAW, CORD** 977

Two knots are tied in the **straw cord**

- thread 964
- twist n-979

**lineage, connection** 977

... where one string **connects** to another.

- hand n-977
- thread 964

**Finish** 980

The ends of the string are **finished** with a knot.

- thread 964
- winter 42
**STRANGLE, WRING**

絞

Kō

shibori, shimeru

This mixed-up person *strangles* people with string.

- thread 964
- mix 831

**BIND, TIGHTEN, CLOSE**

締

TEI

shimarù/meru

Bind the broom straws with thread.

- thread 964
- stand 627
- broom n-982

**STOP, FASTEN**

留

RYŪ, RU

komaru/meru

Stop and help me *fasten* this package.

- family n-983
- knife 1023
- field 201

**NET, NETWORK**

網

Mō

ami

The dead body is entwined in a *net*.

- thread 964
- net n-984
- die 660

**ELEMENT, BASE, BARE**

素

SO, SU

moto

A plant is made of threadlike *elements*.

- plant 214
- thread 964

**FINE, NARROW**

細

SAI

hosoi, komakai

The field is as *narrow* as thread.

- thread 964
- field 201

**“NET”**

This element means *net*, but also looks like an eye on its side.

**GAUZE, NET, INCLUDE**

羅

RA

GAUZE, NET, INCLUDE 988

A *gauze net* and a rope ...

- net 987
- thread 964
- bird 319

... *fastened* to its leg hold the bird.

- thread 964
- bird 319
Baskets

This element means basket.

The woman finds it necessary to carry the basket on her head ...

- basket 990
- woman 411

Votes are collected in the basket.

- basket 990
- altar 701

A wordy lecture on baskets.

- speak 840
- baskets 995

A sign is marked with a slip of paper.

- tree 126
- vote 993

With inflation, you need baskets of money to buy anything.

- money 708
- baskets 995
**Needles**

A new ax is needle-sharp.

- **NEW**
  - SHIN  
  -alarashite, arata
- **ADMINISTER**
  - SAI

Needles were used to fill the **ditch** with water.

- **DITCH, CHANNEL**
  - KO
  - mizo, dobu

Move quickly to **avoid** getting a needle in your rear.

- **AVOID**
  - HI
  - sakeru

Baskets were built from trees.

- **BUILD, MIND**
  - KO
  - kamay/eru

Any bad **habit** can be cured by a needle in your rear.

- **HABIT, KINK**
  - HEKI
  - kuse

Baskets are **built** from trees.

- **NEW**
  - SHIN
  - alarashite, arata

Needles are administered in this building.

- **ADMINISTER**
  - SAI

A sharp needle.

- **SHARP, BITTER**
  - SHIN
  - karai, tsurai

This element means **needle**.
Cloth

"CLOTH" 1007
This element means cloth.

CLOTH, SPREAD 1008
FU nuno
A hand spreads out the cloth.
- hand 598 - cloth 1007

DESIRED, SCANTY 1009
KI, KE
I desire to cut this cloth pajama top into a scanty negligee.
- weave n-1009 - cloth 1007

EMPEROR 1010

REGISTER, DRAPE 1011

COTTON 1014
Cloth is made of white cotton thread.
- thread 964 - white 936 - cloth 1007

JOURNEY 1015
Clothing fit for a journey.
- flag n-387 - clothing 1021

A cloth sail.
- cloth 1007 - wind n-1012

A cloth tent protects you from the sun and itchy grass.
- grass 124 - sun 1 - cloth 1007

What is an emperor but a man standing in fine clothes?
- stand 627 - cloth 1007

Cloth and long hair drape down her back.
- cloth 1007 - long 915

綿

綿

1007 - 1015

170
wear manly gear.

I keep my clothes on the shelf.

Reportedly, the reward was yen plus clothes.

I wear manly gear.

I keep my clothes on the shelf.

Reportedly, the reward was yen plus clothes.

The label is on the inside lining of the clothes.

Hal decides to cut the sleeves from his clothes.

He hung his clothes on the fruit tree while running naked.
Knife

A mighty sword...

... has a sharp blade.

I fell into confusion when my lifeline divided in two.

Stabbing is punished by imprisonment.

The thorn pierces like a knife.

The chopped wood becomes an engraved bedpost.

A bedpost was made of a tree's core.

Speaking gets the knife/net punishment.
Ingraving tools.

The fork splits into two prongs.

Cut and shear with scissors and a knife.

This element means knife.
Equipment

Three opened boxes of goods.
- opening 566
- opening 566
- opening 566

Stereo and video equipment.
- eye 538
- utensil n-1039

A big kitchen utensil.
- opening (x4) 566
- big 913

I wish I could put a shut-off valve on his speech.

Nuts rotate around bolts.
- enclose 778
- opening 566

This umbrella can comfortably shade four people.
- enter 950
- person (x4) 363

HIT, STRIKE
Every house can buy two brooms at one honest, cheap price.

A hand sweeps the broom.

The woman dislikes housework.

I'm returning your broom.

This building is used for ordinary work.

A mop soaked up the water.

Two brooms are combined into one.

This element shows a hand holding a broom.
Build

功
KŌ, KU

He offers his construction services.

CONSTRUCTION, WORK

A carpenter's square is used in construction.

BUILD

The Japanese commonly build their homes of bamboo and wood.

MERIT, SERVICE 1053

CONSTRUCTION 1054

power 745

CHIKU
kizuku

BAMBOO 123
work 1054
common 105

MEDIocre, common 1056

BON, HAN
oyoso

This common person tries to hide his mediocrity.
TRIBUTE  1057

KÔ, KU
mitsugu

The tribute was paid with money and construction labor.
construction 1054    money 708

LARGE BEAM, FLAG POLE  1061

KÔ
chigi

A wooden beam is used in construction.
tree 126    construction 1054

BECOME, MAKE, CONSIST  1065

SEI, JÔ
naru/su

Hal becomes a maker of things with his ax.
halberd 100    exact n-1065

MAKE  1058

作用
SAKU, SA
tsukuru

What shall I make with my saw?
person 362    adze n-1058

SUSPEND, HANG DOWN  1062

SUI
tareru/rasu

The blankets hang on the drying racks.
metal 105    hang down 1062

CASTLE  1066

城
JÔ
shiro

In Hal’s hands, earth is piled up and becomes a castle.
earth 101    become 1065

VINEGAR, SOUR  1059

SARI
su, suppai

Vinegar is made from alcohol.
alcohol 249    adze n-1058

SPINDLE, SINKER  1063

SUI
tsumu, omori

The metal sinker hangs in the water.
metal 105    hang down 1062

PROSPER, HEAP, SERVE  1067

SEI, JÔ
mori, sakaru/n

Hal’s dish is heaping with rice.
become 1065    dish 261

LIE, DECEIVE  1060

SUI
nemuru

Lies are fabricated words.
words 840    adze n-1058

SLEEP  1064

When I’m sleepy my eyelids hang down.
eye 538    hang down 1062

SINCERITY  1068

SEI
makoto

Hal’s sincere. His words become true.
word 840    become 1065
**Ax**

**Ax, weight 1072**

A **weighty ax.**

**Pawn** two **quality** axes for some money.

- ax (x2) 1072
- money 708

**Crafstman 1073**

A **craftsman** keeps his tools in a box.

- enclosed 778
- ax 1072

**Bend, break, occasion 1071**

**Pledge, vow, oath 1074**

I **pledge** never to break my word.

- break 1071
- word 840

**Die, pass on, death 1075**

Death breaks life’s motion.

- movement 1153
- break 1071

**Cut, decline, warn, judge 1069**

**断**

**Dan**

kotowaru, tatsu

**Cut** up the rice.

- rice 217
- ax 1072

**Quality, pawn 1070**

**質**

shitsu, shichi, chi

**Pawn** two **quality** axes for some money.

- ax (x2) 1072
- money 708

**Sekisho**

**斥**

**Seki**

shirizokeru

I **repelled** it with an ax.
RADICALS

Thousands of kanji are built from a few hundred basic elements. Of these basic elements, roughly eighty of the most frequently used elements are known as radicals. Radicals often indicate the "topic" of a character. Kanji with the radical SOIL 101 often have meanings associated with soil or ground, such as BA 28, PLACE, in basho, "location," shown at right. Below are a handful of frequently used radicals.

WATER 66  FIRE 82  SOIL 101

GRASS 124  HEART 498  HAND 580

WORD 840  KNIFE 1037  MOVE 1153
Places

A capital building surrounded by small dwellings.

Capital can also be seen as a stone lantern outside the capital city.
longitude and latitude lines on a world map.

I buy clothes in the city market.

A samurai stands in a field before the village.

Lattice and design motifs from Asia.

High-rise apartments all look the same—of no interest.

This sign shows what town you’re in ...

In a building in China, a hand practices k’ung fu chops.

A sentry protects every inch of our village.

... but this sign tells you exactly what block you’re in.
Village

People flock to the metropolis to sell their wares.

Lord of the county.

A mail bag waits at the relay station.

This element means village when on the right side of a character and hill when on the left. Picture a flag placed on a hill to mark a village.
The institute is on the hill.

A vehicle is camped on the hill.

Lowly folk don't compare to His Majesty.

A person defends his position on the hill.

We plant a flag on our land.

It's slow progress reaching the peak of the hill.
Gate

門 [GATE, DOOR 1101]  
MON  
kado  
Two doors form a gate.

閉 [LEISURE, QUIET 1102]  
KAN  
There's a quiet, peaceful scene of trees outside my gate.

Gate 1101  Tree 126
**CLOSE, SHUT 1103**

A post holds the gate shut.

- A post holds the gate shut.
  - gate 1101
  - talent 871

**FACTION, CLAN LINEAGE 1106**

One faction attacks outside the gate.

- One faction attacks outside the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - attack 800

**SUDDEN ENTRY, INQUIRE 1109**

Suddenly, a horse entered the gate.

- Suddenly, a horse entered the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - horse 291

**OPEN 1104**

Two hands open the gate.

- Two hands open the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - hands n-1104

**DARKNESS, GLOOM 1107**

Gloom stood at the gate, shrouded in darkness, making no sound.

- Gloom stood at the gate, shrouded in darkness, making no sound.
  - gate 1101
  - sound 883

**BARRIER, CONNECTION 1110**

A barrier prevents me from leaving the gate.

- A barrier prevents me from leaving the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - bar n-1110

**SPACE, GAP 1105**

Sunshine pours through the gap in the gate.

- Sunshine pours through the gap in the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - sun 1

**BE OBSTRUCTED 1108**

The gate obstructs my view of the mountain.

- The gate obstructs my view of the mountain.
  - gate 1101
  - mountain 167

**ASK 1111**

Ask by putting your mouth to the gate.

- Ask by putting your mouth to the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - ear 551

**HEAR, ASK, LISTEN 1112**

Hear more with your ear to the gate.

- Hear more with your ear to the gate.
  - gate 1101
  - mouth 566
**Door**

半间**saloon door**.

A **furnace** has fire behind its door.

**TEAR**

Big John shed **tears** when his wife walked out the door.

**PLACE, SITUATION**

The **place** to chop wood is by the door.

**FAN**

A **fan** is like a flapping door.

**STORE, BUILDING**

Go through a door to reach the **store**.
Automatic **doors** slide open in opposite directions.

Deliver the pizza to my door.

A drawbridge door covers the **moat**, but people still have trouble leaving.

The lord of the **palace** shakes an ax at all who come to his door.

You must **crouch** to leave through this strange door.

We built this **fence** to keep people out.

Wear shoes when **walking** outdoors.

Drops of rain **leak** through the door.

I often have to **dig** them out by hand.
A chalice is used in **temples** and **halls**.
- roof 1144
- opening 566
- soil 101

**Home** is a roof over your head.
- roof 1144
- open up n–1133

**Government office** workers give themselves medals.
- building 1143
- attach 771

The prince lives in a two-storied **palace**.
- roof 1144
- joined blocks n–1131

**Reach** for some flowers to decorate the **house**.
- roof 1144
- reach 1135

**The sign marks the government agency.**
- building 1143
- exact 1089

The **lodge** holds a hundred people.
- roof 1144
- person 362
- hundred 909

**Reach** for the plant in the soil.
- arrow n–1135
- soil 101

**Spread** your hand wide.
- hand 580
- wide 1139

**I have a wide and spacious building for myself.**
- building 1143
- private 450
Building & Roof

Store the cart in the garage.

This element means building.

This element means roof.

This place seats one person.

The store is...

The alcove is a bonsai tree.

... occupied by a green grocer.
Shelter

停

A person stops ...
- person 362
- inn 1149

亭

INN, PAVILION 1149

... at the inn.

"SHELTER" 1147

TALL, HIGH, SUM 1150

高

KÖ
taka, takaj

An expensive high-rise building.
- shelter 1147
- tower n-1150

QUARTER, ENCLOSURE 1151

郭

KAKU

Children’s quarters are on the hill.
- shelter 1147
- child 447
- village 104

PRIVATE SCHOOL 1152

塾

JUKU

A child attends a mediocre private school.
- castle n-1152
- mediocre 1056
- soil 10
**RA DING S**

Kanji in dictionaries can be found by three methods: radical search, stroke counting, and pronunciation. Each method is laborious and uncertain. Which element is the defining radical? Which is the correct reading of several possibilities? Even after you identify the reading/meaning of an individual character, you may then have to search in a separate compound dictionary to find the definition of a word like *ryōkō*, at right, which means "trip," "travel," or "journey." Kanji dictionaries are usually arranged by radical and stroke count. Word dictionaries are arranged in the order of the syllabaries—*a, i, u, e, o, ka, ki, ku, ke, ko*, etc.

**TRIP 1015**

*radical: .GetHashCode()*

*stroke count: 10*

*readings: RYO, tabi*

*other meanings: TRAVEL, JOURNEY*

**GO 1192**

*radical: .GetHashCode()*

*stroke count: 6*

*readings: KŌ, AN, GYŌ, iku, okonau, -yuki*

*other meanings: CONDUCT, COLUMN*
Move

"MOVEMENT" 1153

This element means movement.

A CROSSING 1155

達
tsuiji
cross ten intersections ...

PASS, WAY, COMMUTE 1156

通
TSU
toru/su, kayou
... and pass many things as I commute to work.

GO AROUND 1157

巡
JUN
meguru
Go around the river.

LOST, PERPLEXED 1154

迷
MEI
meyou
I got lost searching for rice.

- move 1153
- rice 277
- move 1153
- use 385
- move 1153
- river 35
Move fast!

A speedy delivery of a bundle of branches.

Press on, for dawn is drawing near.

There was an excess of material for building the road.

The road was built with excess materials.

It returns in the opposite direction.

I follow out of respect.
**Escape**

**FLEE, RUN AWAY**

逃
nigeru/gasu, nagareru/su
Run away from omens.

- move 1153
- omen 1170

**ESCAPE, AVOID**

免
manukareru
Escape on your hands and knees to avoid capture.

**OBSTRUCT, INTERRUPT**

遮
sha saegiru
The fire obstructs us from escaping

- move 1153
- multitude n-1168

**ESCAPE, FAST, EXCEL**

逸
itsu soreru/rasu
Move fast to escape.

- move 1153
- escape 1167
A trillion people were frightened by the omen.

Men with swords guard the boundary.
- move 1153
- sword 1023

Retreat from the scary sight.
- move 1153
- stop/stare 1178

Flee from the prison.
- move 1153
- capture n-773

This way “chopped” time off our journey. We are near.
- move 100
- ax 100

I resent people staring at me.
- heart 498
- stop/stare 1178

Move your butt in hot pursuit.
- move 1153
- buttocks 466

She’s walking upside down just to be contrary.
- move 1153
- big n-1175

As an element this can mean stop and stare with bulging eyes and gaping mouth.

I took an alternate path and got lost.
- move 1153
- lose 577
Boat

SHŪ
fune, funa-

Row the oars of the boat.

My voyage begins from the shelter of the dock.

GENERAL, TIME, CARRY

The boat carries the ax-wielding general.

SEN
fune, funa-

The hull of a ship is an opening made of wood.
HAL loads the cart with soil.

This cart carries things from the field.

Nine times the cart got stuck in the rut.

A person pulls the rickshaw.

The wheel fell off my cart.

The axle was the cause of my problem.
Road

**GO, CONDUCT, COLUMN 1192**

**行**

KŌ, GYŌ, AN
iku, yuku, okonau

... goes into
town?

**PATH, DIRECT 1193**

**径**

KEI

Cut a **direct path** through the jungle.

path 1192 hand 600 soil 101

**WANDER ABOUT 1195**

**彷**

HŌ

That person **wandered** about in all directions.

path 1192 direction 386

**ROLE, SERVICE, DUTY 1196**

**役**

YAKU, EKI

Ax-wielding sentries do their **duty**.

path 1192 hand w/ax 792

**GO, GONE, PAST 1194**

**往**

Ō

My master has **gone** down this path.

path 1192 master 743

**SUBJUGATE, TRAVEL 1197**

**征**

SEI

You must only **travel** the correct path.

path 1192 correct 826
Three Thunderbirds roar down the road.

The car rolls and tumbles in a cloud of smoke.

A man tries to move the heavy car with all his power.

Gain merit by trying to move the heavy, burning car.

We worked to get the car to move on its own power.
Stop...

各
KAKU
onoono

Step in each box.

- slow progress 1218
- opening 566

処
SHO

I do business deals at my desk.

- slow progress 1218
- desk n-157

PLAN, UNDERTAKE
1206

We plan to stop that person.

- person 363
- stop 1205

步
aruku, ayumu

We walk a little then stop a while.

- stop 1205
- little 924

WALK
1207

CROSS OVER, LIAISE 1208

The deals are based on handshakes.

- hand 580
- deal with 1210

STOP 1205

止
SHI
tomaru/meru

Stop.

BASE, BASIS
1211

抛
KYO, KO
yoru

Walk across the river.

- water 66
- walk 1207
**ENTWINE, CONNECT**

He became **entwined** in the thread.

- thread 964
- each 1209

**FALL, DROP**

Each person **falls** on the wet grass.

- grass 124
- water 66
- each 1209

**CABINET, CHAMBER**

Each official retreated to his **chamber**.

- gate 1101
- each 1209

**GUEST, VISITOR**

Each man is a **guest** at this house.

- roof 1144
- each 1209

**ROAD, ROUTE**

We leg it down each and every **road**.

- leg 617
- each 1209

**FOLLOW, SLOW PROGRESS**

This element suggests slow progress, or stops and starts.

**KÔ**

It's slow work **descending** these steps.

- hill 1094
- slow progress 1094

---

* & Start Again*
Come follow me.

I will meet...

He went to greet his friend at the turnstile.

... my companion ...

This person respectfully looks up at his friend by the turnstile.

... for our Hot Tub Encounter Group.

The turnstile restrains visitors.
These brief notes give information about elements not covered in the main text. The evolution of phonetic, symbolic, and graphic connotations over centuries makes it difficult to fully describe the meaning of each element. See Kenneth Henshall's A Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters, from which much of this information is derived.

n-6 wet  Part of a phonetic element meaning "wet."

n-9 rise  The sun rising through the grass. Compare with EARLY 19.

n-13 crack  Phonetic meaning.

n-18 winged bird  See WING 330 and BIRD 319.

n-19 grass  Variant of GRASS 124.

n-20 clear/high  Entry 20 refers to the element’s phonetic meaning of "clear." Entry 85 refers to a Chinese character meaning “high.”

n-21 high  Phonetic meaning.

n-22 kneeling  From a pictograph of a person kneeling.

n-23 big-eyed lizard  May refer to the chameleon which can change colors.

n-26 rays  From a pictograph of rays of sunlight. Distinguish from EASY 23.

n-40 mask  From a pictograph of a summer festival mask.

n-43 branches  From a pictograph of branches.

n-49 lightning  From a pictograph of lightning.

n-50 tremble  Phonetic meaning.

n-58 person  From a pictograph of an upside-down child. Compare with CHILD 447.

n-62 planks  From a pictograph of a tree cut in half.

n-65 red  Variant of RED 929.

n-68 previous  As a stand-alone character, this element has the readings SEN, saki.

n-69 steam  From a pictograph of swirling vapors.

n-70 stagnant  From a pictograph of a waterweed.

n-78 emerge  Refers to a geyser; can also mean "boil."

n-81 cliff  From a pictograph of a cliff.

n-89 offer  From a pictograph of two hands holding an offering.

n-93 plants  Picture a variant of LIFE 214 doubled.

n-94 crack  Represents a crack in the ice.

n-102 creature  From a pictograph of a scorpion.

n-106 scene  Picture it as a standing mirror. Distinguish from LOOK 543.

n-111 path  May derive from MOVEMENT 1153.

n-117 speak  As a stand-alone character, this has the readings UN, IU, and is sometimes used to mean "speak." It can also mean "cloud." See entry 54.

n-118 flower  From a pictograph of a flower.

n-122 hands  From a pictograph of two hands. Graphically identical to GRASS 124.

n-125 roots  Think of the line as representing the roots of a tree. Distinguish from TREE 126.

n-127 shine  Picture rays of light radiating outward.

n-128 flow  Looks graphically similar to a bent willow.

n-130 basket  From a pictograph of a basket.

n-133 extreme  Phonetic meaning.

n-137 upright  As a stand-alone character, this has the readings CHOKU, JIKI, naoru, sugu.

n-157 desk  From a pictograph of a table or desk.

n-170 clothes  This is the radical form for CLOTHING 1021. Distinguish from the radical RELIGION 695.

n-172 thread (x2)  A variant of THREAD 964.

n-175 slow progress  Actually a combination of SLOW PROGRESS 1218 and a variant of COW 275.

n-176 insert  From a pictograph of a person being squeezed by a person on either side.
n-177 plant From a pictograph of a plant.
n-187 uniformity From a pictograph of uniform gridwork, such as a lattice window or a grill.
n-202 person Picture PERSON 362 and its mirror image.
n-212 well As a stand-alone character, this has the reading 了.
n-219 quantity As a stand-alone character, this has the readings RYO, haka ru.
n-220 stop A variant of SLOW PROGRESS 1218.
n-256 pair Convoluted etymology, acc. to Henshall.
n-256 vessel From a pictograph of a vessel.
n-257 water A variant of WATER 57.
n-295 humility From a pictograph of a bent-over body.
n-297 all Convoluted etymology, acc. to Henshall, meaning "all" in the sense of "bringing together," with the extension "examine."

n-336 protect Phonetic meaning. See also BASKET 130.
n-341 leap Phonetic meaning.
n-344 group Phonetic meaning.
n-347 hand Variant of HOLDING 597.
n-350 play Phonetic meaning.
n-351 stomach As a stand-alone character, this has the reading 了.

n-359 dragon Old style of DRAGON 358.
n-366 tower A variant of TALL 1150, which comes from a pictograph of a tower.
n-371 what? As a stand-alone character, this has the readings KA, nani, nan.
n-373 hand A variant of HAND 600.
n-374 fallen person From a pictograph of a fallen or seated person.
n-375 order Phonetic meaning of “put in order.”
n-384 use Possibly a variant of USE 385. Convoluted etymology acc. to Henshall.

n-387 flag From a pictograph of a flag fluttering.
n-387 device Obscure. Acc. to Henshall, it is from a picture of a winnowing mechanism for cleaning grain.
n-417 hand w/stick A variant of HOLDING 597.
n-418 elbow From a pictograph of an elbow.
n-420 big Henshall has an interesting discussion about whether the element here means "big" or "bed."

n-422 depend From a Chinese meaning of "depend on." Note similarity to BE IN DIFFICULTY 786.
n-449 breast This element's shape suggests a woman's breast. See n-692, "kneeling figure."

n-478 lungs Symbolizes a lung, with the element at right for "flesh" supporting the meaning.
n-483 north As a stand-alone character, this has the readings HOKU, kita.
n-494 order As a stand-alone character, this has the readings REI, RYO.

n-497 necessarily As a stand-alone character, this has the readings HITSU, kanarazu.

n-500 pull apart From a pictograph of an archer's hand pulling on a bow.

n-502 crouch From a pictograph of a crouching person.
n-514 pierce Depicts two objects pierced by a stake.
n-516 progress The element SLOW PROGRESS 1218.

n-542 nose Entire character comes from a pictograph of a nose.

n-546 subject As a stand-alone character, this has the readings SHIN, JIN.

n-546 person Acc. to Henshall, this represents a person bending over to stare at water in a bowl.

n-552 singing Phonetic meaning.
n-558 sudden Phonetic meaning.
n-562 exhale Symbolic meaning.
n-567 hand Think of this as REACH 373.
n-575  squeeze  Think of this as two men back to back being squeezed from top and bottom.

n-589  hand grasping  From a pictograph of a hand grasping an animal’s tail.

n-596  writing  From a pictograph of a hand holding a brush.

n-603  hands w/rope  Comprises HAND REACHING DOWN 609, HAND REACHING UP 600, and a knotted rope.

n-607  basket  From a pictograph of a basket.

n-621  follow  From a pictograph of PERSON 363 doubled.

n-626  announce  Phonetic meaning.

n-630  prostitution  Graphically similar to a character meaning “sell.”

n-649  brain  From a pictograph of a brain. Imagine the X marking the brain enclosed in a skull topped with hair.

n-650  vapors  From a pictograph. See STEAM 69.

n-650  rice  A simplification of RICE 217.

n-652  enclosed  A simplification of ENCLOSED 778.

n-664  man on cliff  From a pictograph of a bent figure on a cliff.

n-677  appropriate  Phonetic meaning.

n-692  kneeling figure  From a pictograph of a kneeling person.

n-716  bent figure  From a pictograph of a bent figure.

n-717  official  As a stand-alone character, this has the reading IN.

n-718  pierce  From a pictograph of money threaded on a string.

n-720  burden  Phonetic meaning. It looks like WARRIOR 753 carrying a load.

n-725  exchange  Acc. to Henshall, this is from a picture of a horse’s bit, suggesting “change of direction.”

n-731  person  Of convoluted etymology

n-733  give  Phonetic meaning.

n-742  press  Phonetic meaning.

n-749  shine  From a pictograph of FIRE 83 doubled.

n-750  strive  Phonetic meaning.

n-754  hands  From a pictograph of two hands wielding an ax, as a soldier does in battle.

n-761  bean + inch  Convoluted etymology. Derives from a character meaning “hit.”

n-768  offer  Phonetic meaning.

n-769  wet  Phonetic meaning. Obscure relation to endure.

n-773  hold  Acc. to Henshall, from a pictograph of a child holding a toy.

n-780  enclosures  The enclosed X is a simplification of what was originally three enclosed squares.

n-783  surround  Phonetic meaning.

n-785  dot  Acc. to Henshall, the dot was used to distinguish a pictograph of a string of beads from the similarly shaped character KING 743.

n-794  me  Phonetic meaning.

n-809  hemp  Acc. to Henshall, a simplification of plants.

n-820  rounded  Phonetic meaning.

n-822  2 persons  Two persons, one fallen, the other crouched.

n-834  man  From a pictograph of a man opening his mouth to brag. Evolved into meaning of “give.”

n-840  feelings  Phonetic meaning.

n-853  administer  As a stand-alone character, this has the readings SHI, tsukasadoru.

n-863  hands  From a pictograph of hands rolling rice. This is the kanji used in temaki sushi.

n-872  dam  From a pictograph of a dam; borrowed meanings lead to “exist.”

n-878  circumference  As a stand-alone character, this has the readings SHI, mawari.
n-881 thread Borrowed meaning from graphically similar character meaning occult.
n-881 illusion Unclear origin and meaning.
n-882 drum From a pictograph of a tasseled drum.
n-888 flat Phonetic meaning.
n-895 seek out Phonetic meaning.
n-914 two A simplification of TWO 898 to suggest twice as big and fat.
n-925 little dot Whole character was once written as four little dots.
n-935 liquid A variant of WATER 57.
n-936 ray Acc. to Henshall, the entire character derived from a picture of a pointed thumbnail. It is easier to think of this top element as a “ray.”
n-946 dry up Phonetic meaning.
n-957 turn over Phonetic meaning.
n-972 leek Convoluted etymology acc. to Henshall.
n-979 twist Phonetic meaning.
n-982 broom From a pictograph of a broom. Often shown with a hand as in BROOM 1052.
n-1002 needle + buttocks A combination of SHARP 1005 and BUTTOCKS 466.
n-1009 weave From a pictograph of interwoven sticks.
n-1012 wind Actually a stand-alone character (BON, HAN, oyoso) meaning “mediocre,” but used here as a simplification of WIND 44.
n-1019 hand w/tool From a pictograph of a hand with a tool.
n-1020 seize Graphically identical to entry n-1019, but this element comes from a pictograph of a hand seizing a bent-over figure.
n-1027 thorn This combines a tree with a pointed element to suggest “thorn.”
n-1028 pig A variant of PIG 279.

n-1032 bone A variant of VERTEBRA 474.
n-1036 shears From a pictograph of shears.
n-1039 utensil From a pictograph of a pair of hands holding up a kettle; came to mean “equipment.”
n-1049 follow A very simplified variant of CHASE 1172.
n-1058 adze From a pictograph of an adze.
n-1065 exact A variant of BLOCK 1089.
n-1096 origin As a stand-alone character, this has the readings GEN, GAN, moto.
n-1099 mound From a pictograph of mounds of earth.
n-1104 hands From a pictograph of two hands reaching to open the gate.
n-1110 bar Phonetic meaning.
n-1123 walk From an old character meaning “walk.” Includes SLOW PROGRESS 1218.
n-1128 fence Phonetic meaning.
n-1131 joined blocks Symbolic meaning suggesting, acc. to Henshall, “connected rooms.”
n-1133 open up Phonetic meaning.
n-1135 arrow The whole character comes from a pictograph of an arrow reaching its destination.
n-1150 tower From a pictograph of a tower.
n-1152 castle From a pictograph of a castle.
n-1158 fast Phonetic meaning.
n-1169 multitude As a stand-alone character, this has the reading SHO.

n-1175 big An inversion of BIG 913.
n-1220 east From a doubling of EAST 91.
n-1223 bending person From a pictograph of a person bending to greet someone.
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