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Michael L. Kluemper



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Michael L. Kluemper

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Many people are surprised to learn that the world’s leading publisher of books on Asia had humble beginnings in the tiny American state of Vermont. The company’s founder, Charles E. Tuttle, belonged to a New England family steeped in publishing.

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CONTENTS

Kanji Explained
The Kana: Hiragana and Katakana
A Guide to the Illustrations

CHAPTER 1

NUMBERS and COLOURS

Numbers
Colors

CHAPTER 2

PERSON

Person
Good
Family
Woman and Child
Man on the Move

CHAPTER 3

THE BODY

Self
Body
Mouth
Eye and Ear
Heart and Blood
Hand and Foot

CHAPTER 4

ACTIONS

Stride
Stand and Stop

Sliding
Power
Say
Directions

CHAPTER 5

PLANTS

Rice and Tree
Fancy Tree
Bamboo
Grass
Rain
Seasons

CHAPTER 6

ANIMALS

Cow and Pig
Horse and Sheep
Dog, Bear, and Fur
Bird and Fish
Shellfish
Bugs and Meat

CHAPTER 7

THE WORLD

Sun
Time
Moon
Fire
Metal
Water
Soil, Earth
Mountain
Dotted Cliff
Stone

CHAPTER 8

MEDIEVAL JAPAN

King and Samurai

Arrow

Spirits

CHAPTER 9

TOOLS

Sword and Blade

Brush, Ax, Divining Rod

Bow

Arrow and Halberd

Field and Well

CHAPTER 10

VEHICLES and BUILDINGS

Vehicles

Furniture

Gate

Roof

Enclosures

CHAPTER 11

GARMENTS

Garments and String

Towel

Shape and Size

Index



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<http://www.tuttlepublishing.com/japanese-kanji-made-easy-downloadable-cd-content>

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KANJI EXPLAINED

Introduction This book is designed to offer the reader clues for remembering and making sense of kanji—the Japanese characters of Chinese origin. It contains many of my attempts to create stories on the spot for kanji after kanji on my classroom whiteboard. The drawings and brief descriptions I use may draw from historical meanings, or they may vary wildly from their roots, but they are designed to act as mnemonic devices to help my students memorize those kanji. Those drawings and stories are captured in this book.

To better understand kanji, it is helpful to know some history. Chinese characters are considered one of the oldest consistently used writing systems in the world. Though we know that the ancient Chinese have been using characters to write with for more than 3,000 years, these symbols were only codified into an orderly writing system by the Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi after he came to power in 221 B.C. In the 5th century C.E., through religious and trade missions, this writing system arrived in Japan, along with other imports, such as Buddhism. As Buddhism became more popular and methods of dissemination were needed, the Japanese began to modify and adapt Chinese characters to develop their own written language.

The Japanese Writing System Adapting Chinese characters to suit the Japanese language has resulted in a writing system that many consider difficult and cumbersome, yet it is rich in beauty and expressive possibilities. The three types of Japanese character each serve a specific purpose.

Kanji are characters that come from China and are used to express the key meanings of words. Each character usually has several different pronunciations, determined by context. While somewhat daunting in number and complexity, studying the kanji in the context of their original meanings or the mnemonic drawings found in this book can be fun and entertaining.

Hiragana are phonetic characters derived from kanji. For example, the hiragana character あ is a simplification of the Chinese character 安. Each hiragana has one sound and, unlike kanji, has no inherent meaning. Hiragana is used when there is no Chinese character for a Japanese word, and for verb endings and grammatical particles. It is possible to write Japanese using only hiragana. By doing so, however, much of the richness and poetry of kanji is lost.

Katakana, like hiragana, are phonetic characters derived from kanji, each having one sound. There are the same number of katakana characters as hiragana, and they replicate the hiragana sounds. But katakana is generally used to write words of foreign origin, onomatopoeic expressions, scientific or technical terms, and sometimes the names of Japanese companies.


Hiragana and katakana are referred to collectively as “kana.” A kana chart, along with mnemonic illustrations and stories to aid memorization can be found on pages [8–13](#).

The Building Blocks of Kanji Kanji can be broken down into smaller components referred to as “radicals,” which are linked to either the pronunciation or the meaning of the kanji. Radicals come in various sizes and shapes. For example, the entire kanji can be a radical: 山 (*yama* – mountain) is both a kanji in and of itself, and a radical. Radicals can also be incorporated into more complicated kanji and can appear in different positions in each kanji—all or part of the top, bottom, left, or right portions of a kanji. Each kanji has one “core” radical from which its meaning or pronunciation is derived and by which it can be classified. Here are some examples of one radical and the many kanji in which it is found: 山 YAMA, meaning mountain (entire kanji) 島 SHIMA, meaning island (bottom left) 岸 GAN, as in ^{KAI GAN}海岸, meaning beach (top) 仙 SEN, meaning hermit (right); also found in the name of a northern city, ^{SEN DAI}仙台

The kanji 山 is clearly a pictograph representing “mountain.” Some kanji, however, though they may have been meaningful pictographs thousands of years ago, are less relevant today. In this book, I have taken

the liberty of giving some more obscure kanji “new” meanings so that they can be more easily memorized.

How To Use This Book The kanji in this book are roughly grouped by similar radical or meaning. Each kanji is illustrated with a drawing to help you visually remember some distinctive part of that kanji. A story accompanies each illustration as a further aid to memorization. The elements of each illustration and the accompanying information are broken down and explained on page 14.

The accompanying  provides native speaker pronunciation of the readings of every kanji in the book, along with models of the sample vocabulary words that are given for each kanji. Each vocabulary word is followed by a pause in the recording to allow you to repeat the word yourself.

The index at the back of the book lists all the basic meanings that are given for the kanji at the head of each entry.

Whether you bought *Japanese Kanji Made Easy* because you are simply curious, or whether you are formally studying Japanese and its writing system, this book has been designed to be entertaining. I sincerely hope that you enjoy looking at, reading, and learning with this book as much as I enjoyed creating it. It is my further hope that these drawings and descriptions inspire you to create your own mnemonic hints, in a fun and abstract way. Think creatively and enjoy the experience of learning more about kanji and the Japanese writing system.

Michael L. Kluemper

THE KANA: ひらがな **HIRAGANA**



A

あ is a swooshing set of strokes like the A in dAnce.



I

い is the shape of the sides of your mouth as you make a long E sound.



U

う is an ear with someone at the back of the class yelling "oo!", "oo!" to answer a question.



E

え is a similar shape to the letter Z, but with the vowel sound found in the British pronunciation of "zEd".



O

お can be pictured as an Oval planet in orbit.



KA

か looks like a Karate kick.



KI

き looks like a Key turning in a lock.



KU

く is the mouth of a PaKUman.



KE

け is like the KE in basKEt.



KO

こ is the shape of the mouth of a hungry KOi fish.



SA

さ is like a SOck that might be better spelled as SAck.



SHI

し is like a fiSHIng hook.



SU

す has a loop in the second stroke and is long like a noodle in SOUp.



SE

せ - is in the shape of e and sounds like "e" (as in Egg) with an "s" in front.



SO

そ - is shaped like the end of a SOfa.



TA

た - sounds like the TA in a spinning TOp and looks like the lines it makes as it turns.



CHI

ち looks like a chicken chirping for her chicks but sounds like the first part of "CHEEks".



TSU

つ is like a long TSUnami.



TE

て is like a TEble (table).



TO

と is one TOe in the air and the other straight ahead.



NA

な is a person about to tie a kNOt.



NI

に is like the side view of a KNEE.



NU

ぬ is like two long NOOdles floating in soup.



NE

ね looks like it's made up of the two English letters that spell its pronunciation: n and an upside down e.



NO

の is similar to the symbol for NO in a smoking sign.



HA

は is like a Japanese boy in a HAt waving his HAnd saying "HAi!" to answer a question.



HI

ひ is shaped like a big mouth laughing: HI, HI, HI.



FU

ふ is like a person sneezing saying aaaaFU.



HE

へ is one HEck of a hill.



HO

ほ is like Santa waving and saying "HO HO HO!".



MA

ま is like a MArshmallow making its way round and round on a skewer.



MI



み looks like the letter “m” and sounds like the ME in “Medium”.



MU

む has an “oo” sound like す, with a mark and a tail that have been MOved to the right.



ME

め is the ME in raMEn, and is long, curvy, and delicious like the む in noodles.



MO

も is like し, but like with one MO’ notch on the hook for one MO’ fish having been caught.



YA

や is a hippo making a large YAwn.



YU

ゆ is Uncle Sam moving his hand up, around, and at you, saying, "I want YOU."



YO

よ is like a hand signal for someone who says "YO!"



RA

ら is shaped like the base of the ear and the side of the face of a Raccoon.



RI

り is like the end of a juicy rib ready for the gRIll.



RU

る is like the letter "r" with a LOOp on the end.



RE

れ is shaped like a leg (the Japanese might say "REg") with a foot at the end.



RO

ろ is like the letter "r" with an Open curl on the end.



WA

わ is shaped somewhat like an ancient haniWA horse sculpture.



O

を is shaped like a man jumping Over an obstacle.



N

ん, while shaped somewhat more like an h, is a tall "n", often used as an eNding sound.

Kana Combinations (hiragana • katakana)

KYA

きゃ • キャ

KYU

きゅ • キュ

KYO

きょ • キョ

SHA

しゃ • シャ

SHU

しゅ • シュ

SHO

しょ • ショ

CHA

ちゃ • チャ

CHU

ちゅ • チュ

CHO

ちょ • チョ

NYA
にや・ニヤ

NYU
にゆ・ニユ

NYO
によ・ニヨ

HYA
ひゃ・ヒヤ

HYU
ひゅ・ヒユ

HYO
ひょ・ヒヨ

MYA
みゃ・ミヤ

MYU
みゅ・ミユ

MYO
みよ・ミヨ

RYA
りゃ・リヤ

RYU
りゅ・リュ

RYO
りょ・リヨ

カタカナ **KATAKANA**



A

ア looks like a dArt.



I

イ is one of many pEople you will see in this book.

The image shows the kanji character 'ウ' (U) in a stylized, calligraphic font. It consists of a vertical line on the left, a curved line on the right, and a small hook at the top.

U

ウ is like a tOOl that could be used to lOOsen a nut.

The image shows the kanji character 'エ' (E) in a stylized, calligraphic font. It consists of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line on the right, and a small hook at the bottom.

E

エ looks like an "H" on its side and is pronounced with the beginning sound of this letter (EHch).

The image shows the kanji character 'オ' (O) in a stylized, calligraphic font. It consists of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line on the right, and a small hook at the bottom.

O

オ has an (Opening at the bottom that could close soon.

The image shows the kanji character 'カ' (KA) in a stylized, calligraphic font. It consists of a vertical line on the left, a horizontal line on the right, and a small hook at the bottom.

KA

カ wields lots of power just like the kanji カ.



KI

キ looks like it could go on a KEY ring along with the hiragana き.



KU

ク is shaped like a quiz (KUizu in Japanese) paper that has just been graded.



KE

ケ is like KElp, a seaweed eaten quite often by Japanese.



KO

コ looks like a COmb that's missing its teeth.



SA

サ is the American English pronunciation for the first part of the word sock (" SAck").



SHI

シ has marks similar to a capital letter " E".



SU

ス is for the SUit that goes with this bowtie.



SE

セ, like the hiragana せ, could have a small letter "e" CEntered on it almost perfectly.



SO

ソ is like a Soft cushion.



TA

タ looks like it's time (タイム or TAimu in katakana) for the moon to come out from behind the clouds.



CHI

チ is like a CHEERleader performing.



TSU

ツ is a series of downward "oo" sounds written in romaji as u and U.



TE

天 is a table (read TEble), similar to the hiragana て.



TO

卜 is the shape of a divining rod and in ancient China, TOrtoise shells were used to divine the future.



NA

ナ is like a nice (NAice) girl in the middle of a curtsy.



NI

二 is the same as the kanji for 2 and shares its pronunciation.



NU

ヌ looks like the string and tag for a NEW bottle of sake.



NE

ネ is like the head and antlers of a sacred deer, stretching his NEck.



NO

ノ is one stroke finished as another is about to be made for an 'X' to signify NO.



HA

ハ is the same as the kanji for 8, HAchi, and has the same pronunciation as its first syllable.



HI

ヒ is like a ladle of coffee (koHlin Japanese) just pulled from the HEAt.



FU

フ is like a scarF protecting you from sneezes like you find in hiragana ふ.



HE

へ, like the hiragana へ, is one HEck of a hill.



HO

ホ is the first sound in HOtto, the Japanese word for hot, and the way the Japanese like their tea.



MA

マ is like I am pointing my thumb to myself (MAi is the Japanese pronunciation of "my").



MI

ミ is three things lined up which would be counted in Japanese as Mitsu (≡つ).



MU

ム is a person pointing to himself as if using the French word to ask "MUa?"



ME

メ is the first sound of the word MExico and looks a bit like the letter X.



MO

𐄎 is similar to hiragana む, but the notch line for one MO' fish is a bit higher up the hook.



YA

𐄏 is like a ball of YArn and two knitting needles.



YU

𐄐 sounds like the letter "U", and looks like a "U" flipped over and lying on its side.



YO

𐄑 is like a good comb to use on YOur hair.



RA

ラ is the RA in zebRA.



RI

リ is the same in katakana as in hiragana!



RU

ル is for a ROUte change that you might not see if you are driving too fast.



RE

レ is a REba- (the Japanese word for "lever") on a wall, waiting to

be pulled.



RO

𠃉 has a sound that is almost like the English "RO", as in ROll.



WA

𠃊 looks like a windshield wiper (WAipa in Japanese).



O

𠃋 is a rare character you might only see if you sail Over the sea in a boat.



N

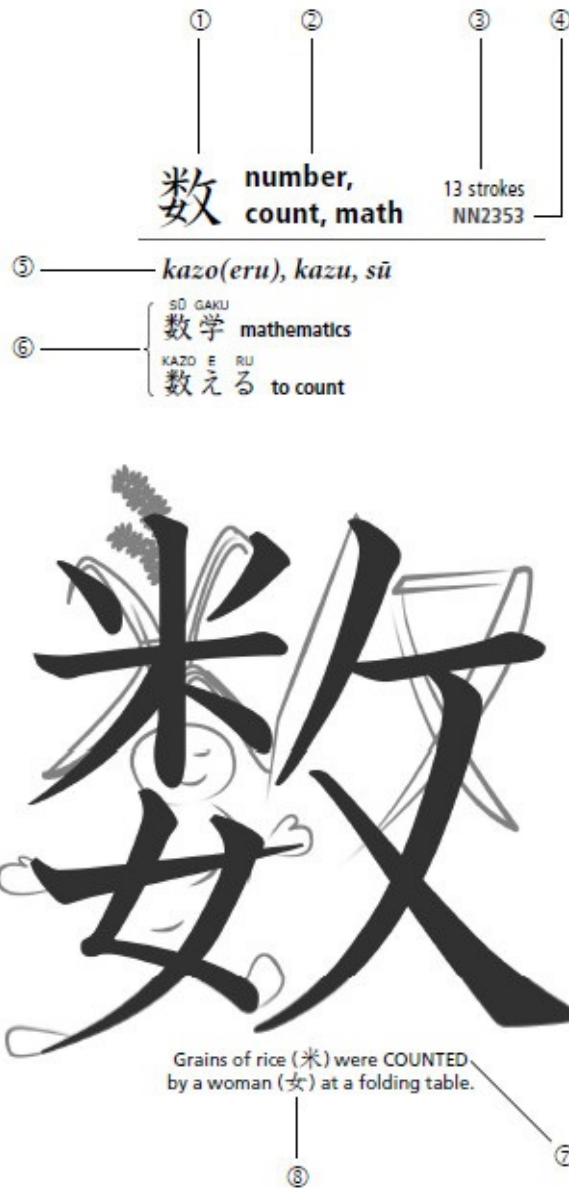
𠃌 is like the crisscross rope pattern of an ancient JomoN period

pot.

Kana Notes

- The hiragana ゝ and katakana ヱ, when following kana that end in “o” or “u” sounds, serve to lengthen the preceding vowel. In katakana, the symbol ー is used to lengthen any vowel that precedes it.
- A small つ (hiragana) or ツ (katakana) serves to double the consonant that follows.
- The symbol っ changes unvoiced sounds to voiced sounds: *k* becomes *g*; *s* becomes *z*; *t* becomes *d*; and *h* becomes *b*.
- The symbol っ changes *ha*, *hi*, *fu*, *he*, and *ho* sounds to *pa*, *pi*, *pu*, *pe*, and *po*.

A GUIDE TO THE ILLUSTRATIONS



1. The kanji.
2. English meanings of the kanji.
3. The number of pen strokes needed to write the kanji.
4. The entry number for the kanji in *The New Nelson Japanese-English Character Dictionary*.
5. Some common readings of the kanji in Japanese. Those readers wishing

to know which readings are of Chinese origin (*on-yomi*), and which are of Japanese origin (*kun-yomi*) should refer to a dictionary such as *The New Nelson*.

6. Sample vocabulary words. The pronunciation is given in small capitals over the sample word. A macron over a vowel (as in the one on the letter U of the word SŪGAKU in the above example) indicates that the vowel sound is long. The 📄 that accompanies this book gives native-speaker pronunciation of the readings and the vocabulary words.
7. The meaning of the kanji is written in capitals.
8. Many kanji contain elements that can be stand-alone kanji, or elements that are common radicals closely associated with a particular meaning. When the story that accompanies each illustration allows, these kanji and radicals are highlighted in brackets.

CHAPTER 1

NUMBERS and COLORS

数

number,
count, math

13 strokes
NN2353

kazo(eru), kazu, sū

SŪ GAKU

数 学 mathematics

KAZO E RU

数 える to count



Grains of rice (米) were COUNTED by a woman (女) at a folding table.

色

color

6 strokes
NN4956

iro, shiki

KI IRO
黄色 **yellow**

KE SHIKI
景色 **scenery**



A snake has patterns of COLOR and a barbed tongue.

Numbers 数

一

one

1 stroke
NN0001

hito(tsu), ichi

ICHI

一 **one**

HITO TSU

一 つ **one [thing]**



ONE stroke for ONE.

二

two

2 strokes
NN0072

futa(tsu), ni

NI

二 two

FUTA TSU

二 つ two [things]



TWO strokes for TWO.

三

three

3 strokes
NN0008

mi(tsu), san

SAN

三 three

MI TSU

三 つ three [things]



THREE strokes for THREE.

四

four

5 strokes
NN0938

yo(tsu), yon, shi

YON

四 four

YO TSU

四 つ four [things]



four [things]

五

five

4 strokes
NN0077

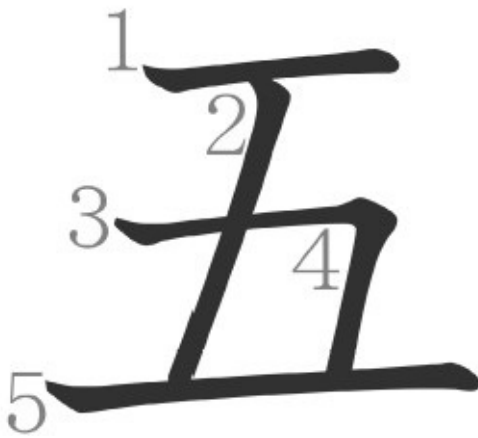
itsu(tsu), go

GO

五 **five**

ITSU TSU

五 っ **five [things]**



FIVE is only a four-stroke kanji, but there are FIVE segments.

六

six

4 stroke
NN0371

mu(tsu), roku

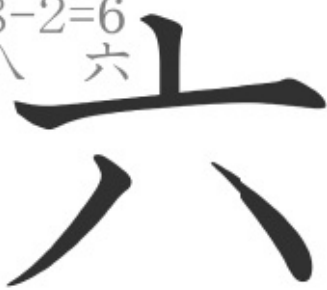
ROKU

六 six

MU TSU

六 つ six [thing]

8-2=6
八 六



Two strokes away from eight (八), you have SIX.

八

eight

2 stroke
NN0369

ya(tsu), hachi

HACHI

八 **eight**

YA TSU

八 つ **eight [thing]**



In EIGHT hundred years, the volcano that looks like an EIGHT will erupt.

七

seven

2 stroke
NN0003

nana, nana(tsu), shichi

NANA

七 **seven**

NANA TSU

七 つ **seven [thing]**



SEVEN includes elements of the two sounds of its name,

SHI CHI
し **and** ち

九

nine

2 stroke
NN0057

kokono(tsu), kyū

KYŪ

九 **nine**

KOKONO TSU

九 つ **nine [thing]**



The angle of the clearest right angle starts at NINE and ends at noon.

十

ten

10 stroke
NN0598

tō, jū

JŪ

十 **ten**

TŌ KA

十 日 **the tenth [day of the month]**

A large, bold calligraphic character for the number ten (十). The character is a cross shape, with a vertical stroke and a horizontal stroke. The vertical stroke is slightly curved at the top and bottom, and the horizontal stroke is also slightly curved. The character is rendered in a dark grey or black color.

In Roman numerals, an X is the Roman numeral for TEN, but the kanji for TEN is rotated to look like a cross.

百

hundred

6 stroke
NN3864

hyaku

HYAKU

百

hundred



A white (白) band of paper wraps around one HUNDRED one dollar bills.

千

thousand

3 stroke
NN0599

chi, sen

SEN

千 thousand

CHI BA KEN

千葉県 Chiba Prefecture



This is the profile of a centurion who has guarded a place for one THOUSAND years.

円

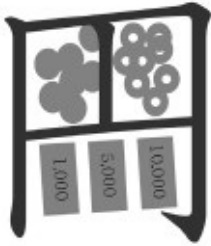
yen, circle

4 stroke
NN0385

maru(i), en

HYAKU EN

百 円 **100 yen**



A change drawer has two divisions for CIRCLE-shaped YEN coins and a larger space for YEN notes.

万

ten thousand

3 stroke
NN0007

man, ban

ICHI MAN

一 万 **ten thousand**

BAN ZEN

万 全 **perfection**



One (一) place where counting takes a turn and starts in a slightly different direction (方) in Japanese is at the number TEN THOUSAND.

半

half, middle

5 stroke
NN0608

naka(ba), han

HAN BUN

半 分 **half**

SAN JI HAN

三 時 半 **half past three o'clock**

NAKA BA SU GI

半 ば 過 ぎ **beyond the middle**



Two identical HALVES are cut with precision by a samurai sword.

発

departure, emit, start from

9 stroke
NN3860

ha(tsu), hotsu, hatsu

SHUP PATSU

出 発 **departure**

HAP PYŌ

発 表 **announcement, publication**

BAKU HATSU

爆 発 **explosion, eruption**



As you begin your DEPARTURE from your tent in the morning, you may choose from one of two (二) paths for your journey.

卒

graduate, soldier, private

8 stroke
NN0615

sotsu

SOTSU GYŌ

卒 業 **graduation**

CHŪ SOTSU

中 卒 **junior high graduate**



Under the roof, two people (人) out of ten (十) GRADUATE with honors.

單

simple, one, single, merely

9 stroke
NN0620

tan

KAN TAN

簡 單 **simple**

TAN GO

單 語 **vocabulary**



The SIMPLE addition of planting merely three bits of knowledge in a field (田) can reap benefits ten-fold (十).

協

co-, cooperation

8 stroke
NN0617

kyō

KYŌ RYOKU

協 力 cooperation, collaboration

KYŌ KAI

協 会 association, society, organization



When ten (十) or more people multiply their power (力) through COOPERATION, they are stronger.

博

Dr., PhD, wide knowledge

12 stroke
NN0621

haku

HAKA SE

博 士 **doctorate, PhD, learned person**

HAKU BUTSU KAN

博 物 館 **museum**

A large, bold Japanese character '博' (Haku) is shown. The character is composed of a vertical stroke on the left, a horizontal stroke at the top, and a horizontal stroke at the bottom. The top horizontal stroke contains a grid of ten small squares, each with a cross inside, representing 'ten fields'. The bottom horizontal stroke contains a ruler-like scale, representing 'measured'. Small arrows and numbers indicate the stroke order for writing the character.

A person with a PhD oversees ten (十) fields (田) and has a WIDE KNOWLEDGE that can be measured (寸).

Colors 色

黒

black

11 strokes
NN7052

kuro, koku

KURO I
黒 い **black**

KOKU BAN
黒 板 **blackboard**



Soil (土) from the bottom of a freshly plowed field (田) runs BLACK as ink.

白

white

5 strokes
NN3863

shiro, haku, byaku

SHIRO I

白 い **white**

HAKU CHŌ

白 鳥 **swan**

BYAKU YA

白 夜 **the midnight sun**



Striking a match on the sun might initially produce very hot WHITE light.

的

bull's eye, mark, adjective ending

8 stroke
NN3867

mato, teki

MOKU TEKI

目 的 **purpose, goal**

NI HON TEKI

日 本 的 **typically Japanese**

MATO

的 **mark, target**



In a field of white (白), a man pulls a plow right through the soil on the MARK he was aiming for.

皆

all, everything

9 strokes
NN3869

mina, minna, kai

MINA SA N

皆 さ ん all

MINNA

皆 all, everyone

KAI MOKU

皆 目 entirely

皆

Comparing (比) EVERYTHING that is white (白) as the sun, you will still find variation.

皇

emperor

9 strokes
NN3870

kō, ō

KŌ KYŌ

皇 居 **Imperial Palace**

KYŌ KŌ

教 皇 **Pope**

HŌ Ō

法 皇 **Pope**



The EMPERORS and kings (王) in a foreign land wear white (白).

赤

red

7 strokes
NN5840

aka, seki, shaku

AKA I

赤 い red

SEKI JŪ JI

赤 十 字 Red Cross



The roots of the soil (土) are RED in color.

緑

green

14 strokes
NN4528

midori, ryoku

MIDORI

緑 green

SHIN RYOKU

新 緑 new green leaves



Heavily sowed grass thickens in GREEN layers when watered (水) well.

青

blue, green

8 strokes
NN6557

ao, sei

AO I
青 い **blue**

SEI SHUN
青 春 **youth**



A plant sprouts its second set of branches on a BLUE moon (月).

変

unusual, change, strange

9 strokes
NN0001

ka(waru), hen

TAI HEN

大 変 **very, greatly**

HEN KŌ

変 更 **change, modification**

KA WA RU

変 わ る **to be changed**



The UNUSUAL root vegetables used in the stew cooking on the folding table under the lid smell a little STRANGE.

黄

yellow

11 strokes
NN7045

ki, ō, kō

KI IRO

黄色 yellow, amber

I Ō

硫黄 sulphur



The grill has tens (十) of people ready to eat the organic YELLOW squash and other veggies skewered sideways (横).

橙

bitter orange

16 strokes
NN2877

daidai, tō

DAIDAI

橙 bitter orange

TŌ SEKI SHOKU

橙 赤 色 orange-red, fire red



If you climb (登) the mountain beside the tree (木) to see the ORANGE sunset, take plenty of beans (豆) for energy.

紫

purple, violet

12 strokes
NN4486

murasaki, shi

MURASAKI

紫

purple

SHI GAI

SHI 外

ultraviolet



When mixing PURPLE grapes for grape juice with a dipper, stop (止) if you spill any on your clothes as the threads (糸) will stain.

灰

ashes, cremate

6 strokes
NN3396

hai, kai

HAI IRO

灰 色 **grey, ash color**

HAI NI NA RU

灰 になる **to be cremated**



In the shade of a cliff (厶) were found the ASHES of a fire (火).

紅

crimson, deep red

9 strokes
NN4441

beni, kurenai, kō, ku

KŌ CHA

紅 茶 **black tea**

KUCHI BENI

口 紅 **lipstick**

KARAKU RENAI

唐 紅 **crimson**



Through a string (糸) of costly construction (工) projects, the company's books fell into a deep CRIMSON shade of red.

茶

tea

9 strokes
NN5033

cha, sa

O CHA

お 茶 **tea**

SA DŌ

茶 道 **tea ceremony**



TEA leaves, like cut grass, are dried after a person (人) pulls them from a plant, and keeps them in bunches of 10 (十).

CHAPTER 2

PERSON

人

person, man

2 strokes
NN0099

hito, jin, nin

NI HON JIN

日 本 人 Japanese person

NANI JIN

何 人 What nationality (is s/he)?



A PERSON stands on two legs.

Person 人, 亻

仙

hermit, wizard

5 strokes
NN0120

sen

SEN DAI

仙 台 **Sendai [city]**

SUI SEN

水 仙 **daffodil**



A HERMIT often lives on mountains and can sometimes be a WIZARD.

仕

attend, serve (gentleman, samurai)

5 strokes
NN0123

tsuka(eru), shi

SHI GOTO

仕 事 **job**

SHI KATA

仕 方 **way of doing**



An retainer would SERVE his samurai and ATTEND to all his needs.

佐

assistant, help

7 strokes
NN0155

sa

HO SA

補 佐 aid, help

SA TŌ

佐 藤 Sato [surname]



The person on the left (左) will HELP the other climb upon an I-beam.

侍

waiter, samurai, serve

8 strokes
NN0192

samurai, ji

SAMURAI

侍

samurai

JI SU RU

侍

する

to serve



A SAMURAI accompanies his master to a temple (寺).

仲

go-between, relationship

6 strokes
NN0140

naka, chū

NAKA YO SHI

仲 良し **close friend**

CHŪ NIN

仲 人 **match maker**

A large calligraphic character '仲' (Naka) is shown. The character is composed of a vertical stroke on the left and a horizontal stroke on the right. The vertical stroke is numbered 1 and has an arrow pointing downwards. The horizontal stroke is numbered 2 and has an arrow pointing to the right. The horizontal stroke is shaded with wavy lines. The character is written in a bold, black, calligraphic style.

A GO-BETWEEN gets in the middle (中) of things to help foster a new RELATIONSHIP.

佑

help, assist

7 strokes
NN0150

yū, u

TEN YŪ

天 佑 **divine aid**

YŪ SUKE

佑 介 **Yusuke [male name]**



A person comes to HELP the person on the right (右) climb upon a box.

住

dwell, reside

7 strokes
NN0164

su(mu), jū

SU MU

住 む **to reside**

JŪ TAKU

住 宅 **residence, housing**



A man had to ask the landlord for permission to RESIDE in the building where he wanted to LIVE.

付

attach, adhere

5 strokes
NN0124

tsu(ku), tsu(ke), ~zuke, fu

TSU KE RU

付 け る **to attach**

HI ZUKE

日 付 **date**

FU SEN

付 箋 **sticky-note, post-it**



A man measures (寸) a space to ATTACH new fixtures and to ADHERE pictures to the wall.

休

rest

6 strokes
NN0142

yasu(mu), kyū

YASU MU

休 む **to rest**

KYŪ JITSU

休 日 **day off**



A person can REST against a tree (木).

供

accompany

8 strokes
NN0195

sona(eru), tomo, kyō, ku

KO DOMO

子 供 **child**

KYŌ SHUTSU

供 出 **delivery**



A third person ACCOMPANIES his two friends at table.

作

make, build

7 strokes
NN0167

tsuku(ru), saku, sa

TSUKU RU

作 る **to make**

SAKU BUN

作 文 **writing [essay, etc.], composition**

SA GYŌ

作 業 **operation, work**



This man will **MAKE** finishing touches on his new bookcase.

伸

expand, stretch, increase

7 strokes
NN0163

no(basu), shin

NO BA SU

伸 ば す **to lengthen**

SHIN SHUKU

伸 縮 **elastic**



A person **STRETCHES** to read a tall sign post as an advertiser
EXPANDS his business.

伝

transmit

6 strokes
NN0141

tsuta(eru), den

TSUTA E RU

伝 える **to transmit**

TE TSUDA U

手 伝 う **to lend a hand**

DEN SETSU

伝 説 **legend, folklore**



A person TRANSMITS two (二) lines of information to me.

使

use

8 strokes
NN0196

tsuka(u), shi

TSUKA U

使 う **to use**

SHI YŌ

使 用 **utilization, application**



A man USES a table saw to cut one piece of wood.

借

borrow, rent

10 strokes
NN0259

ka(riru), sha

KA RI RU

借 り る **to rent**

SHAK KIN

借 金 **debt**

Truly old (昔) things are only BORROWED by us over tens (十) and tens of days (日), or RENTED.

入

enter, insert

2 strokes
NN0366

i(reru), hai(ru), nyū

HAI RU

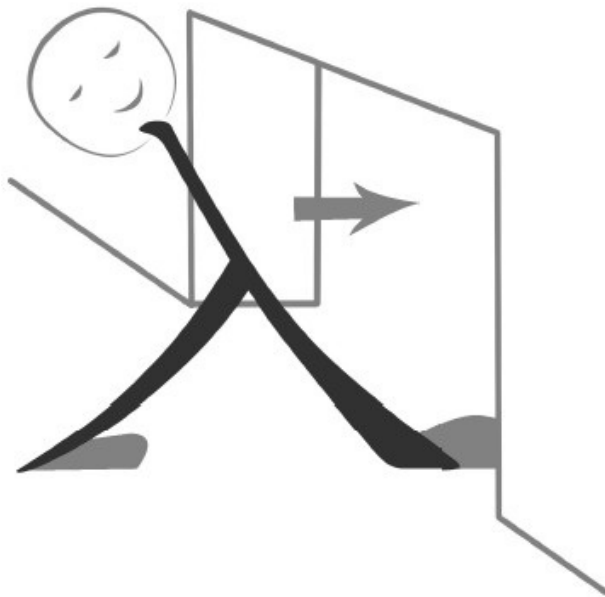
入 る **to go in**

I RE RU

入 れ る **to put in**

NYŪ GAKU SHIKI

入 学 式 **school entrance ceremony**



A person (人) leans back as he ENTERS a room.

内

inside, within, between, house, home

4 strokes
NN0386

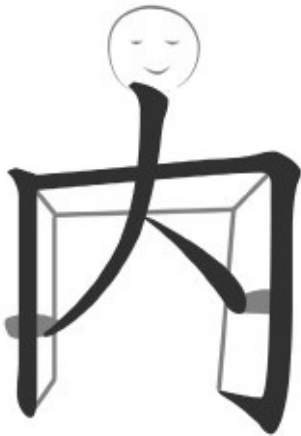
uchi, nai

UCH

内 **within, house, home**

AN NAI

案内 **information, to guide**



A person (人) hangs INSIDE an enclosure.

今

now

4 strokes
NN0112

ima, kon, kin

IMA

今 **now**

KON SHŪ

今 週 **this week**



NOW, look at the person (人) in mid-air jumping a hurdle.

会

meeting, meet, association, join

6 strokes
NN0143

a(u), kai, e

KAI SHA

会社 **company**

A U

会う **to meet**

SHA KAI

社会 **social studies**



I will MEET with another to rehearse one or two (二) lines.

傘

umbrella

12 strokes
NN0283

kasa, san

KASA

傘

umbrella

SAN KA

傘

下

affiliated



One man acts as an UMBRELLA for four to ten (十) of his closest friends.

全

all, entire

6 strokes
NN0145

matta(ku), sube(te), zen

ZEN BU

全 部 **all, everything**

SUBE TE

全 て **all, everything**

MAT TAKU

全 く **really, truly**



ALL people in a king's (王) ENTIRE realm were his subjects.

化

change, take the form of, -ization

4 strokes
NN0580

ba(keru), ka, ke

BUN KA

文 化 **culture, civilization**

BA KE RU

化 け る **to take the form of**

O BA KE

お 化 け **goblin, ghost**



A person uses a spoonful of spice to CHANGE the flavor and make it TAKE THE FORM OF a new dish.

何

what

7 strokes
NN0169

nan, nani, ka

NAN

何 **or**

NANI

何 **what**



When someone wonders WHAT something is, he might both measure it for size and taste it.

仮

temporary, assumed (name), informal

6 strokes
NN0144

kari, ka

KA SŌ
仮 想 **virtual**

KARI NI
仮 に **temporarily**

A large, bold calligraphic character '仮' (kari) is shown. To its left, a small, faint illustration depicts a man in a white shirt and dark pants standing at the base of a cliff, setting up a table. The cliff is represented by a simple line drawing of a rock formation.

A man sets up a TEMPORARY table at the base of a cliff (厩).

例

example

8 strokes
NN0193

tato(eru), rei

TATO E BA

例 え ば **for example**

REI

例 **example**



A person holds up the kanji for evening (夕) that has been cut with a knife as an EXAMPLE of how to maximize efforts.

便

convenience

9 strokes
NN0219

tayo(ri), ben, bin

BEN RI

便利 **convenient**

YŪ BIN

郵便 **mail**



A tall mailbox is a CONVENIENCE for a tall person.

傷

wound, injure, pain

13 strokes
NN0301

kizu, ita(mu), shō

SHŌ SHIN

傷 心 **heartbreak**

FU SHŌ

負 傷 **wound**

ITA MU

傷 む **to be damaged, to go bad**



A person with too much sun (日) can become INJURED or their hair may fall out from the stress of their WOUNDS.

俵

bag, bale, sack

10 strokes
NN0243

tawara, hyō

HYŌ SŪ

俵 数 **number of bales**

KOMED AWARA

米 俵 **bag of rice**



A wealthy merchant took BAGS of garments (衣) to the samurai (士) lord as tax.

個

individual, counter for articles

10 strokes
NN0258

ko

DŌ NA TSU NI KO

ドーナツ 2 個 **two doughnuts**

KO JIN

個人 **private person, individual**

個

A person has a box with an INDIVIDUAL object that is very old (古).

値

price, cost, value

10 strokes
NN0257

ne, atai, chi

KA CHI
価値 **value**

NE DAN
値段 **price**

ATAI SU RU
値する **to be worth, to deserve**

A large calligraphic character '値' (chi) is shown. The character is composed of a vertical stroke on the left, a horizontal stroke at the top, and a large '直' (chi) radical on the right. The '直' radical is further divided into a '目' (eye) radical and a '十' (ten) radical. Small numbers and arrows indicate the stroke order for writing the character.

A person should PRICE goods on a shelf with his own eyes (目) at least ten (十) times to check COSTS.

倍

double, twice, times

10 strokes
NN0252

bai

NI BAI
二 倍 **twice**

BAI SŪ
倍 数 **multiple**



A person standing (立) on a box can be heard TWICE as loud.

側

side

11 strokes
NN0275

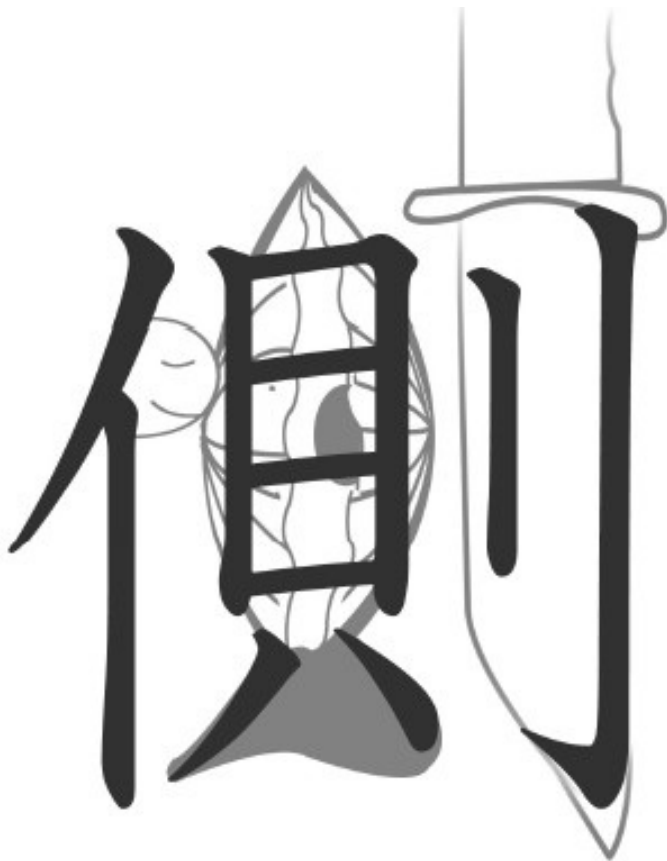
gawa, soba, soku

MIGI GAWA

右 側 **right [hand] side**

SOKU MEN

側 面 **side, dimension, profile**



A person opens a shellfish (貝) by inserting his knife on its SIDE.

他

other, another

5 strokes
NN0122

hoka, ta

HOKA NI

他 に **in addition, besides**

TA NIN

他 人 **another person, stranger**



A person looks at his fishing bobber in the pond to see if he has caught ANOTHER fish.

停

halt, stopping

11 strokes
NN0273

tei

TEI SHI

停止 **interruption, ban**

BA SU TEI

バス停 **bus stop**



A person HALTS at a bus STOP to read the posted bus schedule.

位

rank, about, some

7 strokes
NN0162

kurai, gurai, i

DO RE KURAI

どれ位 **how long/far/much**

ICHI I

一位 **first [ranking]**



The person on the left is ABOUT half as wide as the person standing.

件

affair, case, matter

6 strokes
NN0130

ken

KEN SŪ

件 数 **number [of things]**

JI KEN

事 件 **affair**



How many cows (牛) a man had was a MATTER of his wealth and showed the state of his AFFAIRS.

介

mediate, concern oneself with

4 strokes
NN0108

kai

JI KO SHŌ KAI

自己紹介 **self-introduction**

KAI NYŪ

介入 **intervention**



When a man (人) CONCERNS HIMSELF with the details of a situation he needs to **MEDIATE**, he will pull back the curtain to reveal what he needs.

倉

warehouse, cellar

10 strokes
NN0255

kura, sō

KURA

倉 **storehouse**

SŌ KO

倉 庫 **storehouse, warehouse**

KOME GURA

米 倉 **rice granary**



A man (人) opens the door to go down to the CELLAR to get food for the mouths (口) of his children.

俳

haiku, actor

10 strokes
NN0254

hai

HAI YŪ
俳 優 **actor**

HAI JIN
俳 人 **haiku poet**



An ACTOR walks through an opening in the barbed curtain ready for critics.

悲

grieve, sad

12 strokes
NN1897

kana(shii), hi

KANA SHI I

悲 しい **sad**

HI GEKI

悲劇 **tragedy, disaster**



No use to GRIEVE over how to pass through a spiked gate, just put your heart (心) into it and don't be SAD if you fail.

非

mistake, negative, non-

8 strokes
NN6563

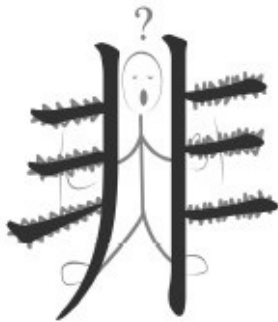
ara(zu), hi

HI JŌ GUCHI

非常口 **emergency exit**

ARA ZU

非ず **it is not so, never mind**



Thinking about going through this spiked gate would be a MISTAKE.

保

protect, guarantee, keep

9 strokes
NN0222

tamo(tsu), ho

HO KEN

保 険 **insurance**

HEI WA O TAMO TSU

平 和 を 保 つ **to maintain [preserve] peace**



A person PROTECTS the mouth (口) of a creature living atop a tree (木).

係

person in charge, duty

9 strokes
NN0217

kaka(ru), kakari, kei

KAKARI CHŌ

係 長 **manager**

KAN KEI

關 係 **relation**



The PERSON IN CHARGE is cutting off long threads (糸).

低

short, lower, humble

7 strokes
NN0166

hiku(i), tei

SE GA HIKU I

背が低い **one**

SAI TEI

最低 **least, lowest, worst**



The man put a block under the corner of this woven piece because one corner was too SHORT.

修

discipline, study, master, conduct oneself
well

10 strokes
NN0260

osa(meru), shū

SHŪ RI

修理 **repairing**

OSA ME RU

修める **to conduct oneself**



Even if sitting at a folding table, a DISCIPLINED man with a staff should
CONDUCT HIMSELF WELL wearing the ornaments of his ancestors.

仁

virtue, charity

4 strokes
NN0110

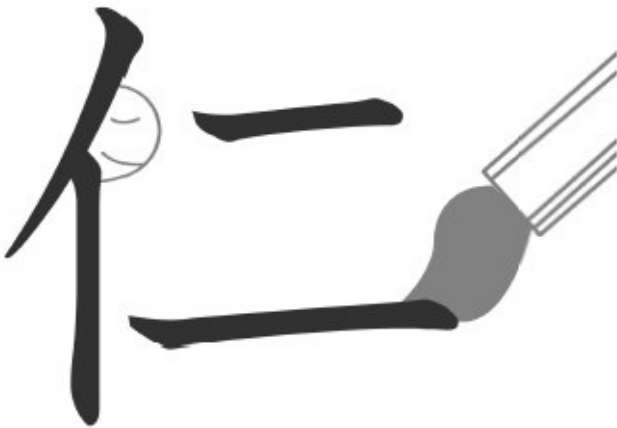
jin, ni, nin

JIN GI

仁 義 **humanity and justice**

NI Ō

仁 王 **Deva King guardian deities**



A generous person (人) will often have two (二) strong values: CHARITY and VIRTUE.

病

ill, sick

10 strokes
NN3798

ya(mu), byō, hei

BYŌ KI
病 気 **ill, sick**

YA MI TSU KI
病 み 付 き **addicted to**

RYŪ KŌ BYŌ
流 行 病 **epidemic**



A person (人) caught two ailments climbing from a dotted cliff (广), and now ILL, has a blanket on him as he rests inside (内).

信

faith, truth, trust

9 strokes
NN0221

shin

SHIN JI RU

信 じ る **to believe**

SHIN GŌ

信 号 **traffic light**



A person you TRUST, says (言) the TRUTH.

气

spirit, atmosphere, mood

6 strokes
NN3025

ki, ke

DEN KI

電 氣 **electricity, [electric] light**

NIN KI

人 氣 **popular**

One (一) energetic person (人) in an excited MOOD, is about to parasail off a cliff and land where the X marks the spot.

以

by means of, because

5 strokes
NN0109

mot(te), mochi(iru), i

I JŌ

以上 **more than**

MAE MOT TE

前 以 て **in advance, beforehand**



BY MEANS OF a mirror, a man (人) views his image.

似

resemble, imitate

7 strokes
NN0138

ni(ru), ji

NI TE I RU

似 て い い **resembling**

RUI JI HIN

類 似 品 **imitation, similar articles**



A man (人) uses a mirror to help him RESEMBLE the person he wants others to see.

Good 良

良

good, pleasing, skilled

7 strokes
NN4954

yo(i), i(i), ryō

YO I I I
良 い, 良 い **good**

SAI RYŌ
最 良 **the best, ideal**



One thing on a sunny day (日) that is GOOD is SKILLFULLY marked by an X.

食

eat, food

9 strokes
NN6674

ku(u), ta(beru), shoku

KU U

食 う **to eat, to make a living**

TA BE RU

食 べ る **to eat**

SHOKU JI

食 事 **meal**



The number one good (良) thing under the sun (日) below my roof involves EATING FOOD.

根

root, radical

10 strokes
NN2670

ne, kon

YA NE
屋根 **roof**

KON KYO
根拠 **basis, foundation**

KON JŌ
根性 **temper, nature**



A tree (木) is a good (良) RADICAL and is the radical for this kanji.

飯

meal, boiled rice

12 strokes
NN6679

meshi, han

GO HAN

ご 飯 **cooked rice, meal**

TA DA MESHI

タ ダ 飯 **free meal**

A large, stylized calligraphic representation of the Japanese character '飯' (meshi). The character is composed of several strokes. The top part features a small tuft of grass, and the middle part shows a picnic table with a chair. The bottom part of the character is formed by a long, sweeping stroke that resembles a cliff or a picnic table leg.

Eat (食) a MEAL of BOILED RICE by a cliff (厩) on a picnic table.

飲

drink, take (medicine)

12 strokes
NN6680

no(mu), in

NO MU

飲 む **to drink, to take medicine**

IN SHOKU KIN SHI

飲 食 禁 止 **no food or drink allowed**



Along with food (食), comes a capped flask to DRINK from.

養

foster, bring up, develop

15 strokes
NN6691

yashina(u), yō

YASHINA U

養 う **to rear, to maintain**

EI YŌ

栄 養 **nutrition, nourishment**



Sheep (羊) are BROUGHT UP and DEVELOPED for their wool and later to eat (食) their meat.

酒

sake, alcohol

10 strokes
NN6160

sake, shu

SAKE

酒 sake, alcohol

NI HON SHU

日本酒 Japanese sake



Water splashes on the side of a SAKE bottle with a little left in the bottom and a stopper on top.

節

season, period, occasion, verse, melody

13 strokes

NN4299

fushi, setsu

KI SETSU

季節 **season**

FUSHI ME

節目 **turning point**



A good (良) SEASON begins with bamboo shoots (竹) sprouting.

Family 家族

家

house, home

10 strokes
NN1337

ie, ya, uchi, ka, ke

IE

家 **house**

YA NUSHI

家 主 **landlord**

UCHI

家 **home**

KA ZOKU

家 族 **family**

NAKAGAWA KE

中川 家 **the Nakagawa household**



In some parts of Asia, one kept pigs under the HOUSE to eat scraps and keep things clean.

父

father

4 strokes
NN3516

chichi, fu, tō

CHICHI

父 [my] father

O TŌ SA N

お 父 さ ん father



The FATHER has big broad shoulders and a wide stance.

族

tribe, family

11 strokes
NN2399

zoku

KA ZOKU

家 族 **family**

MIN ZOKU

民 族 **ethnic group, people**

BU ZOKU

部 族 **tribe, clan**

A large calligraphic character '族' (zoku) is shown. The character is composed of the radical '方' (direction) on the left and '矢' (arrow) on the right. The '方' radical is written with a horizontal stroke at the top, a vertical stroke on the left, and a diagonal stroke on the right. The '矢' radical is written with a horizontal stroke at the top, a vertical stroke on the left, and a diagonal stroke on the right. The character is written in a bold, black ink style with arrows indicating the direction of each stroke.

Focusing his attention in the direction (方) of his FAMILY, a man with an arrow (矢) focuses on feeding his TRIBE at home under a roof.

母

mother

5 strokes
NN3005

haha, bo, kā

HAHA

母 [my] mother

O KĀ SA N

お 母 さ ん mother



This MOTHER has two breasts and is very Picasso-esque in her pose.

兄

older brother

5 strokes
NN0344

ani, kei, kyō, nii

ANI

兄 **my older brother**

O NII SA N

お 兄 さ ん **the older brother of another**

KYŌ DAI

兄 弟 **siblings, brothers**



My OLDER BROTHER has a big mouth and struts around with his long legs.

弟

younger brother

7 strokes
NN1685

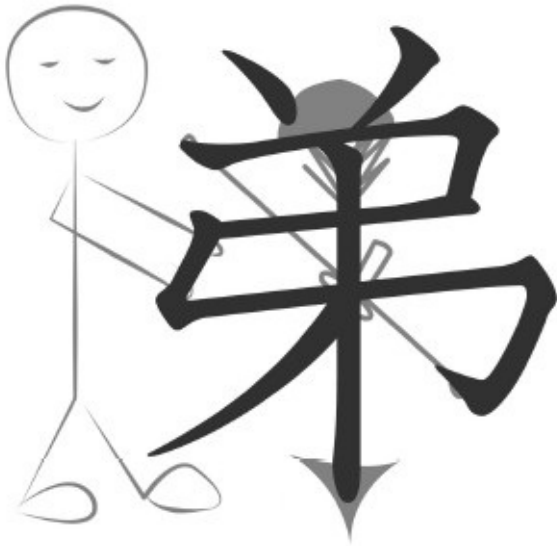
otōto, dai, tei, de

OTŌTO

弟 my younger brother

DE SHI

弟子 pupil



My YOUNGER BROTHER had a bow and arrow, sword, and samurai helmet.

婚

marriage

11 strokes
NN1242

kon

KE KKON

結婚 **marriage**

RI KON

離婚 **divorce**



In MARRIAGE, there are many layers to be discovered about a woman (女) every day (日)

税

tax, duty

12 strokes
NN4146

zei

ZEIKIN

税金 **tax**

DATSUZEI

脱税 **tax evasion**



My older brother (兄) was so mean, he charged me a TAX to climb the fancy tree (禾) in the backyard!

妹

younger sister

8 strokes
NN1199

imōto, mai

IMŌTO

妹 **my younger sister**

SHI MAI

姉 妹 **sisters**



My YOUNGER SISTER has a tree house.

夫

husband

4 strokes
NN1136

otto, fū, bu

FŪ FU

夫 婦 **married couple**

MOTO OTTO

元 夫 **ex-husband**

DAI JŌ JŌ

大 丈 夫 **all right**



If there is a HUSBAND, there are usually two people hugging and in love.

男

male

7 strokes
NN3731

otoko, dan, nan

OTOKO

男 male

OTOKO NO KO

男 の 子 boy

DANSEI

男性 male

A large, stylized Japanese character '男' (otoko) is shown. The character is composed of a top part '田' (rice field) and a bottom part '力' (strength). The character is rendered in a bold, black font with a slight shadow and motion lines, giving it a dynamic appearance.

Traditionally, MALES were the people who used strength (力) in the rice field (田).

嫁

marry into, bride

13 strokes
NN1256

yome, totsu(gu), ka

O YOME SA N

お 嫁 さ ん **bride**

TEN KA

転 嫁 **shifting [blame, costs], remarriage**



Once the woman (女) became a BRIDE, she became a part of the home (家.)

婦

lady, woman, wife, bride

11 strokes
NN1243

fu

FŪ FU

夫 婦 **married couple, spouse**

SHU FU

主 婦 **homemaker**



The WOMAN (女) stereotypically folded clothes on a table after taking them off the line.

女

female

3 strokes
NN1173

onna, me, jo, nyo, nyō

ONNA NO HITO

女 の 人 **woman**

KANO JO

彼 女 **her, she**

Ō JO

王 女 **princess**



This FEMALE is relaxing, legs crossed, hands openly welcoming.

姑

mother-in-law

7 strokes
NN1194

shūtome, ko

SHŪTOME

姑 mother-in-law

KO SOKU

姑 息 unfair, underhanded



A MOTHER-IN-LAW is sometimes a woman (女) who has old (古), useful knowledge.

孫

grandchild, descendant

10 strokes
NN1296

mago, son

MAGO

孫 grandchild

SHI SON

子 孫 descendant, offspring



A GRANDCHILD is a child (子) that might be the thread (糸) that creates the continuation of a bloodline.

氏

surname, clan

4 strokes
NN3020

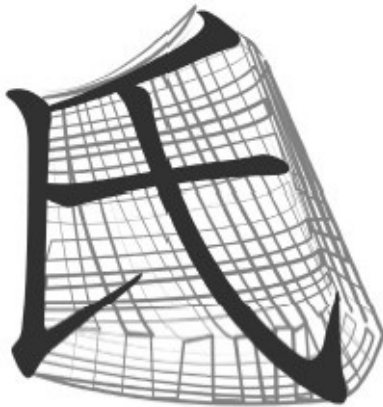
uji, shi

UJI BITO

氏 人 **clan member**

SHI MEI

氏 名 **full name**



Like this woven fabric, my SURNAME has layers of history woven through it by various members of our CLAN.

娘

daughter, girl

10 strokes
NN1230

musume

MUSUME

娘 **daughter**

HAKO I RI MUSUME

箱 入 り 娘 **girl who has led a sheltered life**



A female a child (女) DAUGHTER often brings good (良) smiles to parents.

民

people, nation, subject

5 strokes
NN3021

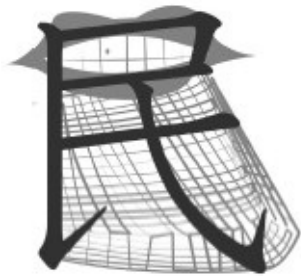
tami, min

MIN ZOKU

民 族 people, ethnic group

NAN MIN

難 民 refugee



Varying mouths (口) of PEOPLE and languages are woven together to make up a NATION's SUBJECTS.

Woman 女 and Child 子

好

fond of, like

6 strokes
NN1180

kono(mu), su(ku), kō

KONO MU
好 む **to prefer**

SU KI
好 き **liking, fondness**

KŌ BUTSU
好 物 **favorite food**



Stereotypes say females (女) generally LIKE children (子).

共

together, both, all

6 strokes
NN0373

tomo, kyō

KYŌ TSŪ

共 通 **commonness, community**

RYŌ HŌ TOMO

兩 方 共 **the two, both**



Friends stand TOGETHER atop a volcano.

仔

offspring

5 strokes
NN0119

ko, shi

KO INU

仔 犬 **puppy** [also written as 子犬]



A person's child (子) is their OFFSPRING.

子

child

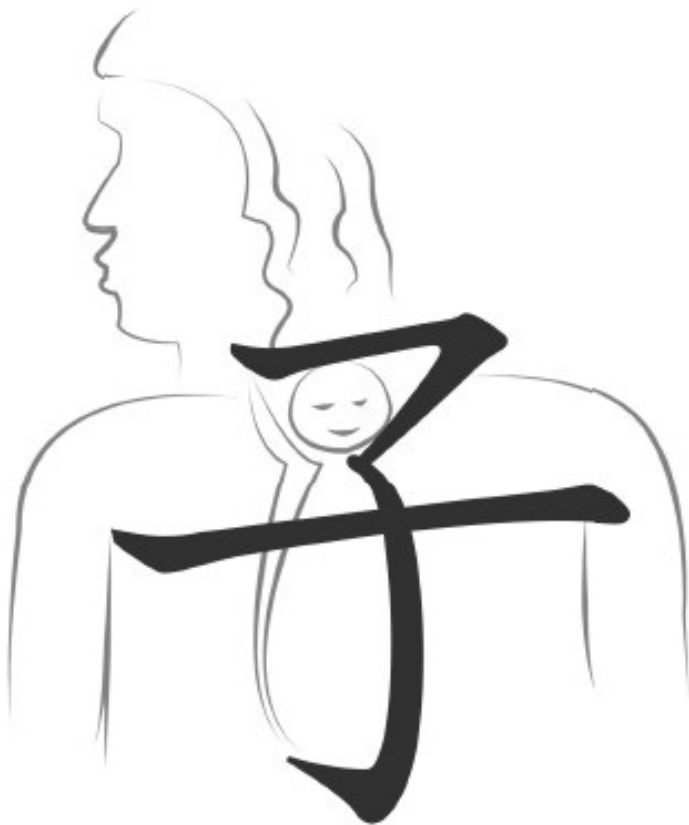
3 strokes
NN1281

ko, shi, su

KO DOMO
子 供 **child**

BŌ SHI
帽 子 **hat, cap**

YŌ SU
様 子 **appearance, condition**



A small CHILD was often bundled up and strapped to the back of its parent to go places.

妻

wife, spouse

8 strokes
NN1200

tsuma, sai

TSUMA

妻 wife

GO SAI

後妻 second wife



The artist loves his WIFE but grips his favorite brush (筆) as much as the woman (女) he loves.

委
女

committee, entrust to

8 strokes
NN1204

yuda(neru), i

I IN KAI

委員会 **committee, commission**

KYŌ IKU I IN KAI

教育委員会 **board of education**

YUDA NE RU

委ねる **entrust to**



The fancy trees (禾) in this park were ENTRUSTED TO a preservation COMMITTEE by a wealthy woman (女).

姿

figure, shape, form

9 strokes
NN1216

sugata, shi

SHI SEI

姿 勢 **attitude, posture**

OTOKO SUGATA

男 姿 **man's appearance**



After meeting a man, a woman (女) should look at his heart and next (次) his FORM and FIGURE.

始

commence, begin

8 strokes
NN1203

haji(meru), shi

HAJI ME RU

始 め る **to initiate, to begin**

KAI SHI

開 始 **start, beginning**



When the woman (女) of the house gives the thumbs up, you will hear it from her mouth (口) that the party can COMMENCE.

姫

princess

10 strokes
NN1217

hime, ki

HIME JI SHI

姫 路 市 **Himeji City**

SHIRA YUKI HIME

白 雪 姫 **Snow White**

BI KI

美 姫 **beautiful maiden**



A PRINCESS is a young woman (女) who might have to be viewed through a screen.

臣

retainer, subject, minister

7 strokes
NN4894

shin, jin

DAI JIN

大 臣 **cabinet minister**



Behind the MINISTER'S desk were many cubby holes in which to put notes about the SUBJECTS of the kingdom.

要

need, key point

9 strokes
NN5515

kaname, i(ru), yō

HITSU YŌ

必 要 **necessary, essential**

I RU

要 る **to need, to want**

YŌ ZU

要 図 **rough sketch**



The woman (女) pulled down a projection screen on the west (西) wall to help lay out three KEY POINTS.

存

suppose, be aware of, believe

6 strokes
NN1284

son, zon

HO ZON

保 存 **conservation, preservation**

SON ZAI

存 在 **existence, being**



When people have children (子) they ARE AWARE OF the importance of rising to one (一) newer and higher level.

孝

filial piety, respect for elders

7 strokes
NN1289

kō

KŌ KŌ
孝 行 **filial piety**

OYA FU KŌ
親 不 孝 **undutiful to one's parents**



At the Obon festival, Japanese go to the ground (土) that was tilled by their parents and grandparents as a way for a child (子) to show RESPECT FOR ELDERERS.

字

character, letter, section of village

6 strokes
NN1285

aza, ji

KAN JI

漢 字 Chinese character

MO JI

文 字 letter [of alphabet]

NUMA DATE AZA

沼 館 字 section of [the town of] Numadate



A child (子) under the roof of home first learns to write his LETTERS and CHARACTERS.

季

season

8 strokes
NN1292

ki

KI SETSU

季節 **season**

SHI KI

四季 **four seasons**



Fancy trees (禾) are good for children (子) to learn about the SEASONS.

学

study, learning

8 strokes
NN1294

mana(bu), gaku

MANA BU

学 ぶ **to learn**

GAK KŌ

学 校 **school**



Three bits of knowledge trickle down through the roof above a child (子) for her to STUDY.

教

teach, faith, doctrine

11 strokes
NN2345

oshi(eru), kyō

OSHI E RU

教 える **to teach**

KYŌ KA SHO

教 科 書 **textbook**



Ground (土) is broken to build a place to TEACH children at tables.

営

occupation, perform, conduct (business)

12 strokes

NN0857

itona(mu), ei

EI GYŌ

営 業 **business, trade**

ITONA MU

営 む **to run a business, to carry on [ceremony]**



To CONDUCT good business, at least three bits of training should happen under the roof so that mouths (口) will PERFORM with one voice.

Man on the Move 径

径

diameter, path, method

8 strokes

NN1730

kei

KEI

徑 **diameter**

HAN KEI

半 徑 **radius**



A man on the move (辵) goes round a table to measure the DIAMETER of a PATH in the ground (径).

役

service, role, duty, drafted labor

7 strokes
NN1726

yaku, eki

YAKU NI TA TSU

役 に 立 つ **to be helpful**

SHI EKI

使 役 **employing, using**

A large, bold calligraphic character for the Japanese word '役' (yaku). The character is written in a traditional style with thick, expressive strokes. It features a prominent vertical stroke on the left and a sweeping horizontal stroke at the bottom, with various smaller strokes and flourishes that give it a dynamic and artistic appearance.

Men on the move (役) perform their DUTY more than someone with legs up on a table.

往

journey, chase away, let go, going, travel

8 strokes

NN1733

ō

ō FUKU

往復 **round-trip**



Lots of moving men (𠂔) would accompany the master (主) on his JOURNEY or TRAVELS.

律

rhythm, law, regulation, control

9 strokes
NN1740

ritsu, richi

HŌ RITSU
法 律 law



A man on the move (亻) uses a brush (聿) to record LAWS.

待

wait, depend on

9 strokes
NN1741

ma(tsu), ma(chi), tai

MA TSU

待 つ **to wait**

MA CHI

待 ち **waiting**

SHŌ TAI

招 待 **invitation**



A man on the move (彳) WAITS at a temple (寺).

得

gain, can

11 strokes
NN1755

e(ru), u(ru), toku

A RI E NA I

あり 得 ない **unable to...**

U RU

得 る **to be able to...**

TOKU I

得 意 **one's strong point**



A man on the move (彳), when the sun (日) rises, takes measure (寸) of what he can GAIN in the coming day.

術

art, technique, skill

11 strokes
NN1754

jutsu

GEI JUTSU

芸 術 **the arts**

BI JUTSU

美 術 **fine art**



A moving man (術), painting the katakana symbol 術, shows off his ART SKILL beside his sale sign.

彼

he, that, the

8 strokes
NN1732

kare, kano, hi

KARE

彼 **he, him**

KANO JO

彼 女 **she, her**

HI GAN

彼 岸 **equinox**



HE stops by a cliff (厩) and notices that a table is now attached to it.

徊

wandering

9 strokes
NN1738

samayo(u), kai

HAI KAI

徘徊 **loitering, roaming**

HŌ KAI

彷徨 **walking around aimlessly**

A large, stylized Japanese character '徊' (hái) is shown. The character is composed of a radical '彳' (chí) on the left and a '回' (huí) on the right. The '回' radical is depicted with a square frame containing a circle, with four arrows indicating a clockwise path around the circle. The '彳' radical is shown with three arrows indicating the direction of the strokes.

A man on the move (彳) sometimes goes around a mouth many times (回) when WANDERING.

後

behind, back, later

9 strokes
NN1742

nochi, ushi(ro), ato, go, kō

NOCHI HO DO

後 ほど **after this**

USHI RO

後 ろ **back, behind**

ATO

後 **after**

GO GO

午 後 **p.m.**

A large, stylized calligraphic representation of the Japanese character '後' (kō). The character is written in a bold, expressive style with visible brushstrokes. Small arrows and numbers are overlaid on the character to indicate the correct stroke order for writing it. The character consists of a '人' (person) radical on the left and a '冫' (ice) radical on the right, with a '辶' (movement) radical at the bottom.

This moving man (人) is heading BEHIND the folding table to thread (糸) a needle.

徳

ethics, virtue

14 strokes
NN1767

toku

BI TOKU
美徳 **virtue**

DŌ TOKU
道徳 **morals**



A man on the move (彳) with good ETHICS takes ten (十) looks (目) at things from all sides and uses a VIRTUOUS heart (心) to make decisions.

従

accompany, obey, submit to, comply

10 strokes
NN1745

shitaga(u), jū

SHITAGA U

従 う to abide [by rules]

FUKU JŪ

服 従 obedience, submission



A man on the move (辵) OBEYS overhead traffic signals as he goes on foot (足).

街

boulevard, street, town

12 strokes
NN1759

machi, gai, kai

GAI RO

街 路 **highway, main road**

MACHI NAKA

街 中 **in the city, downtown**



A man on the move (彳) walks down a BOULEVARD in the TOWN, where the land (土) has billboards.

徒

companions, people, on foot

10 strokes
NN1746

to

TO HO

徒 歩 **walking, going on foot**

KI RI SU TO KYŌ TO

キ リ ス ト 教 徒 **Christians**

SEI TO

生 徒 **pupil**



A man on the move goes ON FOOT across the land (土).

CHAPTER 3

THE BODY

体

body

7 strokes
NN0165

karada, tai, tei

KARADA

体 body

TAI JŪ

体 重 [body] weight

TEI SAI

体 裁 presentation



The trunk is the main part of a person's BODY.

Self 自

自

oneself, self

6 strokes
NN4900

ji, shi

JI BUN
自 分 **myself, yourself**

JI YŪ
自 由 **freedom, liberty**

SHI ZEN
自 然 **nature**



The SELF is often thought of as being behind the eye (目). The arrow points to it.

仏

Buddha

4 strokes
NN0111

hotoke, butsu

DAI BUTSU

大 仏 **big Buddha [statue]**

HOTOKE SAMA

仏 様 **the Buddha**



Once a man finds his true self, he is on the way to becoming a
BUDDHA.

云

say

4 strokes
NN0074

i(u), un

UN JI

云 爾 **such as**

UN NUN

云 々 **and so on**



I myself have to SAY two (二) lines of speech.

臭

stinking, ill smelling, odor

9 strokes
NN4901

kusa(i), nio(u), shū

KUSA I

臭 い **stinking, smelling**

AKU SHŪ

悪 臭 **stink, odor**

KŌ SHŪ

口 臭 **bad breath**

From the bottom-side of one's self (自), a big (大) ODOR might be released that is ILL-SMELLING.

至

climax, reach, arrive, attain

6 strokes
NN4903

ita(ru), shi

ITA RU

至 る **to arrive**

GE SHI

夏至 **midsummer**



I myself will eventually REACH the promised land (±) and ATTAIN peace.

身

somebody, person, body

7 strokes
NN5928

mi, shin

SHUS SHIN

出 身 **person's origin [town, city]**

SHIN CHŌ

身 長 **height [of body]**



A PERSON stands wide-eyed (目), with a sword at the side of his BODY.

公

public, governmental

4 strokes
NN0372

ōyake, kō

KŌ EN

公 園 **public park**

KŌ KYŌ

公 共 **public, community**



In a PUBLIC GOVERNMENTAL bureaucracy, eight (八) signatures often must approve something I myself write.

去

gone, past, quit, leave

5 strokes
NN0665

sa(ru), kyo, ko

KA KO

過去 **the past, bygone days**

KYO NEN

去年 **last year**

HASHI RI SA RU

走り去る **to run away**



When I myself dug in the soil (土), I found a relic of the PAST.

参

going, visit

8 strokes
NN0666

mai(ru), san

MAI RU

参 る **to visit [shrine or grave]**

SAN KA

参 加 **participation**



I myself am GOING on a big (大) VISIT to three shrines.

己

self

11 strokes
NN1540

onore, ko, ki

ONORE O SU TE RU

己 を 捨 て る **to rise above oneself**

JI KO

自 己 **self, oneself**



This snake can turn and look back upon its SELF.

卷

9 strokes

scroll, volume, book, part, roll up, wind up NN1545

ma(ku), ma(ki), kan

MA KU

卷 く **to roll**

MA KI ZU SHI

卷 き 寿 司 **rolled sushi**

IK KAN

一 卷 **volume one [book]**



A man makes big (大) ROLLING motions to attract snakes.

予

beforehand, previous, myself, I

4 strokes
NN0068

yo

YO TEI

予 定 **plans, arrangement**

YO YAKU

予 約 **reservation**



I PREVIOUSLY went to a place on a map that I MYSELF call home.

Body 体

指

finger, point to, indicate, put into

9 strokes
NN2152

yubi, sa(su), shi

YUBI

指 **finger**

SHI DŌ

指 導 **leadership**



The FINGERS of a hand (扌) wiggle back and forth to INDICATE how to stir the soup with a ladle on a sunny day (日).

舌

tongue, reed, clapper

6 strokes
NN4917

shita, zetsu

SHITA

舌 **tongue**

NEKO JITA

猫 舌 **dislike of very hot food or drink**



A TONGUE with more than a thousand (千) taste buds is sticking out of this mouth (口).

胃

stomach

9 strokes
NN4793

i

I TSŪ

胃痛 stomachache

I GAN

胃癌 stomach cancer



If you eat too much, your STOMACH grows like a fertile field (田), month (月) by month.

話

tale, talk

13 strokes
NN5608

hana(su), hanashi, wa

HANA SU

話 す **to talk**

HANASHI

話 **conversation**

SHU WA

手 話 **sign language**



When having a TALK, we use words (言), mouths (口), and tongues (舌).



heart, spirit, mind

4 strokes
NN1780

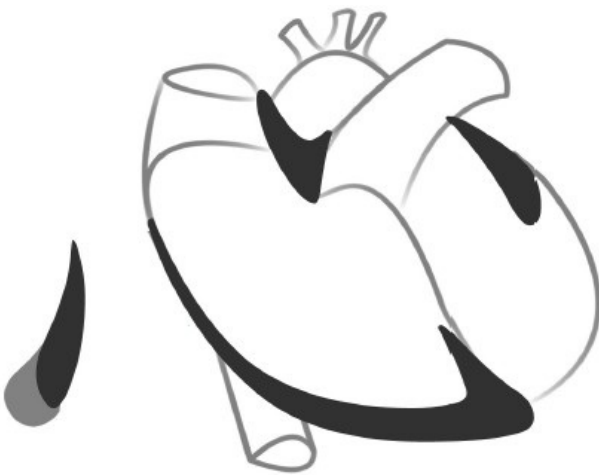
kokoro, shin

KOKORO

心 heart, spirit

SHIN PAI

心 配 worry, concern



This HEART has four SPIRITED lines representing the four chambers.

手

hand

4 strokes
NN2060

te, shu, zu

TE

手 **hand**

SEN SHU

選 手 **player [in a game]**

JŌ ZU

上 手 **skillful**



The kanji for HAND has four strokes, just as a hand has four fingers.

足

leg, foot

7 strokes
NN5856

ashi, ta(riru), soku

ASHI

足 **foot, leg**

FU SOKU

不 足 **insufficiency**

TA RI RU

足 り る **to be sufficient**



This person has a mouth atop a body with a forward-facing arm and an exaggerated FOOT.

頭

head, counter for large animals

16 strokes
NN6639

atama, kashira, tō, zu

ATAMA

頭 **head**

SEN TŌ

先 頭 **head, lead**



A bean (豆) counter might count LARGE ANIMALS, adding up the HEADS of cows and horses, or leaves (頁) of books.

背

stature, height, back, defy

9 strokes

NN4794

se, somu(ku), hai

SE GA TAKA I

背 が 高 い **tall [person]**

HAI KEI

背 景 **background, scenery**

SOMU KE RU

背 ける **to turn one's face away**



If one's STATURE were so tall that it was north (北) of the moon (月) that HEIGHT would DEFY reality.

顏

face

18 strokes
NN6648

kao, gan

KAO

顏 **face**

KŌ GAN

紅 顏 **rosy cheeks**



A person stands on a cliff (厂) with her FACE looking out, past the leaves (頁) of the book.

面

mask, face, surface

9 strokes
NN6566

omo, omote, tsura, men

OMO SHIRO I

面白 い interesting

MEN

面 mask

GA MEN

画面 screen [computer, TV]



A MASK with one eye (目) lies on its side with its handle on top.

口

mouth

3 strokes
NN0685

kuchi, kō

KUCHI

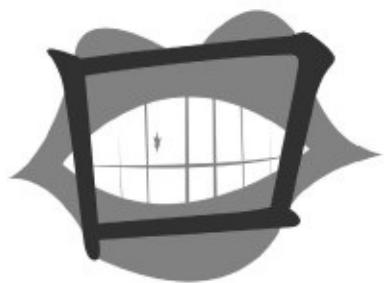
口 **mouth**

I RI GUCHI

入 じ 口 **entrance**

KA KŌ

火 口 **crater**



This is an open MOUTH.

目

eye, look, insight

5 strokes
NN3906

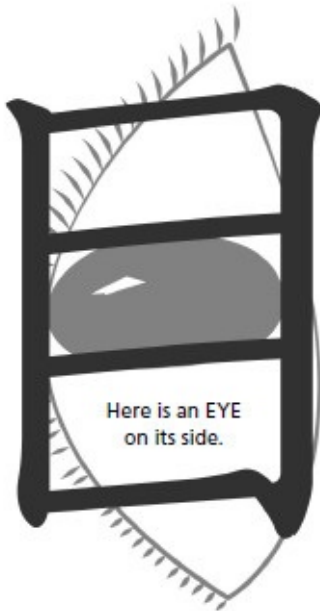
me, ma, moku

ME

目 eye

MOKU TEKI

目 的 purpose, goal



Here is an EYE on its side.

眼

eyeball

11 strokes
NN3935

manako, me, gan, gen

ME GANE

眼鏡 spectacles, glasses

NIKU GAN

肉眼 the naked eye



My eyes (目) are not good (良), so I need glasses for my EYEBALLS.

耳

ear

6 strokes
NN4715

mimi, ji

MIMI

耳 ear

JI BI KA

耳 鼻 科 **concerning the ear, nose, and throat**



An EAR with a dangling earring.

鼻

nose, snout

14 strokes
NN7082

hana, bi

HANA

鼻 nose, snout

JI BI KA

耳 鼻 科 concerning the ear, nose, and throat



I use my NOSE to take a whiff myself (自) of the fragrance of the field (田) above the gate.

首

neck

9 strokes
NN6719

kubi, shu

KUBI

首 neck

SHU TO

首 都 capital



I myself (自) have a very little NECK below a very fancy collar.

頁

page, leaf

9 strokes
NN6614

pēji, ketsu

GO PĒJI

五 頁 page 5 [the katakana word for page, ページ, is more common]



The spiral of a shellfish (貝) curls around like one (一) to one hundred (百) LEAVES or PAGES of a book.

順

obey, order, turn

12 strokes
NN6619

jun

JUN BAN

順 番 **turn [in a line]**

KA KI JUN

書 き 順 **stroke order**

川順

The natural ORDER of a river (川) is to flow down hill as though turning the pages (頁) of a book from front to back.

Mouth 口

呼

call out to, invite

8 strokes
NN0769

yo(bu), ko

YO BU

呼ぶ **to call out to, invite**

KO KYŪ

呼吸 **breath**



This person is waving her arms to CALL OUT TO a friend.

和

soften, harmony, Japanese style

8 strokes
NN0770

nago(yaka), yawa(ragu), wa

HEI WA

平 和 **peace**

YAWA RA GU

和 ら ぐ **to soften, to calm down**

NAGO YA KA

和 や か **mild, calm, gentle**



Sitting beside a fancy tree (禾), one mouth (口) whispers SOFT,
peaceful HARMONIES.

司

official, director, administer

5 strokes
NN0698

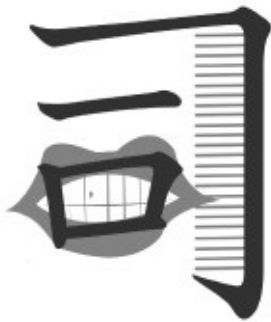
tsukasado(ru), shi

SU SHI

寿司 **sushi**

TSUKASADO RU

司 る **to rule, to govern**



The DIRECTOR spoke to make the new policy OFFICIAL.

号

number, item, counter for clothing sizes,
train numbers, and robots

5 strokes
NN0692

gō

BAN GŌ

番 号 **series of numbers**

SHIN GŌ

信 号 **signal, traffic light**

SAN GŌ SHA

3 号 車 **train car 3**



The mother had a big smile as her child made a first (一) attempt at writing his NUMBER five.

句

phrase, sentence

5 strokes
NN0693

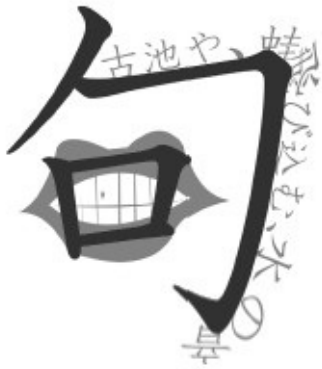
ku

MON KU

文 句 **complaint**

HAI KU

俳 句 **haiku poem**



When you don't know how to say the right SENTENCE, use your mouth (口) to talk around the word or PHRASE until you succeed.

可

can, must, should

5 strokes
NN0701

ka

KYO KA

許 可 **permission, approval**

KA NŌ

可 能 **possible**



You **CAN** include the person radical (亻) with this to write “what” (何), but you **SHOULD** not add it with this kanji meaning **CAN** or **MUST**.

古

old

5 strokes
NN0702

furu(i), ko

FURU I

古 い **old [thing, not person]**

CHŪ KO SHA

中 古 車 **used car**



An OLD cross atop an OLD headstone.

台

pedestal, a stand, counter for machines
and vehicles

5 strokes
NN0699

dai, tai

TAI FŪ

台 風 **typhoon**

ICHIDAI

一 台 **one machine, vehicle**



Sometimes my mouth (口) talks a lot like I am on

寄

draw near, gather, send

11 strokes
NN1345

yo(ru), yo(seru), ki

KI FU

寄 付 **contribution, donation**

TOSHI YO RI

年 寄 り **old people, the aged**



Under a roof with a chimney, a big (大) group GATHERS to listen to one (一) mouth (口) talk about what they must (可) SEND.

后

empress, queen, after, behind

6 strokes
NN0704

kō

KŌ GŌ
皇后 (Japanese) empress

Ō KŌ
王后 queen



The number two (二) most highly ranked mouth (口) in the realm is that of the QUEEN.

吏

officer, an official

6 strokes
NN0706

ri

KŌ RI
公 吏 **public official**



You must be trained by the OFFICIAL to use (使) the equipment.

向

yonder, facing, beyond

6 strokes
NN0712

mu(ku), mu(kō), kō

MU KŌ

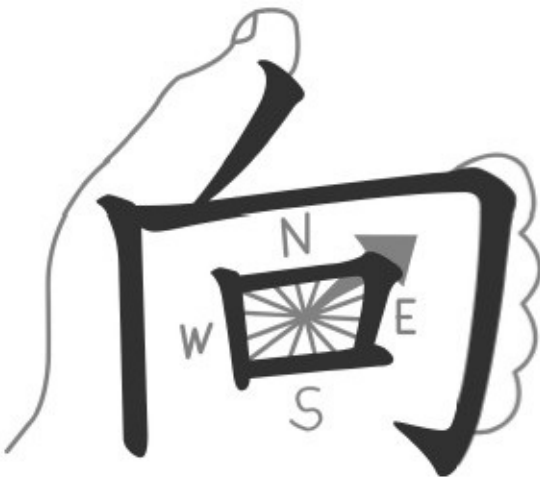
向 こう **opposite side, other side**

MU KI

向 き **direction, orientation**

HŌ KŌ

方 向 **direction**



This hand is holding a compass **FACING** northeast.

各

each, every

6 strokes
NN0714

kaku, ono'ono

KAKU JI

各 自 **individual, each**

KAKU EKI

各 駅 **each station**



EACH and EVERY way you look at a folding table from the top, it might still look like a square (口).

合

fit, suit, join

6 strokes
NN0715

a(u), a(waseru), gō

A U

合 う to match, to suit

MA NI A U

間 に 合 う to be in time for



When a man (人) tries on one (一) thing that SUITS him, his (口) will say happy things if it actually FITS.

名

name, distinguished, reputation

6 strokes
NN0716

na, mei, myō

NA MAE

名前 **name**

YŪ MEI

有名 **famous**

MYŌ JI

名字 **surname, family name**



As a child, I remember hearing my mother's mouth (口) calling my NAME to come in for the evening (夕).

呂

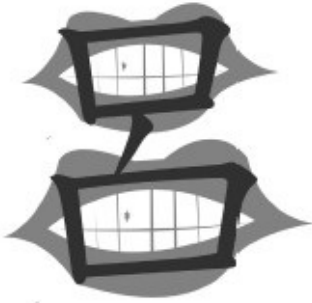
spine, backbone

7 strokes
NN0728

ro

〇 FU RO

お 風 呂 **bathhouse, bathtub**



Two vertebrae shaped like mouths (口) are connected to form a BACKBONE (呂).

告

revelation, inform

7 strokes
NN0744

koku, tsu(geru)

KŌ KOKU

広 告 **advertisement**

TSU GE RU

告 げ る **to tell, to inform**



A REVELATION is seen as the soil (土) sprouts new life (生) and a mouth (口) INFORMS us of it.

同

same, agree, equal

6 strokes
NN0717

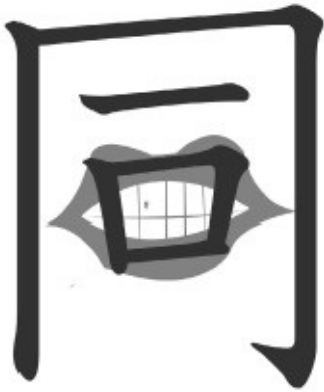
ona(ji), dō

ONA JI

同 じ **same, equal**

DŌ JI

同 時 **at the same time**



Looking at all sides of a situation, you must **AGREE** to say that things are **SAME** on both sides and totally **EQUAL**.

君

name suffix, old boy, you

7 strokes
NN0746

kimi, ~kun

BE N KUN

ベ ン 君 **Ben**

KIMI

君 **you**



You use your mouth (口) to refer to a familiar OLD BOY, especially if he has an epaulet on his shoulder.

命

life, fate, destiny

8 strokes
NN0767

inochi, mei, myō

IS SHO KEN MEI

一 所 懸 命 **very hard, with utmost effort**

UN MEI

運 命 **fate**



A man (人) says (口) a few words that FATE has chosen and digs a path to his own DESTINY as a farmer would using a hoe in a field.

京

capital

8 strokes
NN0093

kyō, kei

TŌ KYŌ
東京 **Tokyo**

KYŌ TO
京都 **Kyoto**

KEI HIN
京 浜 **Tokyo and Yokohama area**



This looks like a lantern that would have been at the gates of the ancient CAPITAL.

味

flavor, taste

8 strokes
NN0766

aji, aji(wau), mi

AJI

味 **flavor, taste**

SHU MI

趣味 **hobby**



The TASTE of the fruit from the upper branches of the tree has the best FLAVOR.

品

goods, articles

9 strokes
NN0792

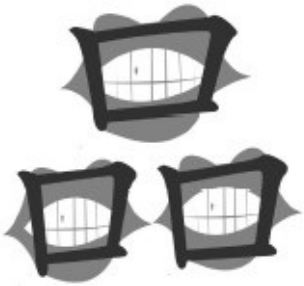
shina, ~hin

SHOKU HIN

食品 **foodstuffs**

SHINA MONO

品物 **goods, articles**



With three mouths (口) to feed, one must purchase a lot of GOODS.

咽

be choked, smothered

9 strokes
NN0788

mu(seru), in

MU SE RU

咽 せ る **to choke over, to be choked by**

IN KŌ

咽 喉 **throat**



If something big (大) is put in a mouth, the person can BE CHOKED.

周

circumference, circuit, lap

8 strokes
NN0768

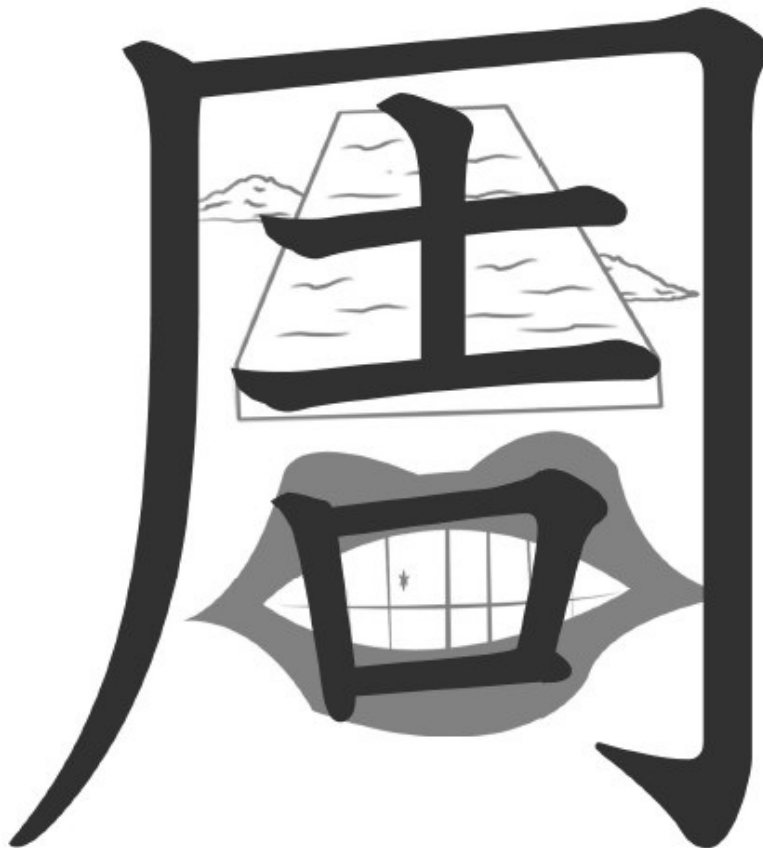
mawa(ri), shū

MAWA RI NO HITO

周 り の 人 **surrounding people**

SE KAI IS SHŪ

世 界 一 周 **round-the-world trip**



Taking a CIRCUIT not even all of the way around the property, the mouth (口) exclaimed with surprise how large the CIRCUMFERENCE of the land (土) was.

否

negate, no, refuse, decline

7 strokes
NN0742

ina, iya, hi

HI TEI

否定 **denial**

INA KA

否か **... or not**



To REFUSE the roots, say NO with your mouth (口) was.

不

negative, un-, bad

4 strokes
NN0013

NN0013

FU AN
不 安 **unease**

FU SEI
不 正 **injustice, iniquity**



Roots exist, but only in the NEGATIVE space we don't see below ground.

杯

cup, counter for cupfuls

8 strokes
NN2586

sakazuki, hai

NI HAI

二 杯 **two cupfuls**

KAN PAI

乾 杯 **a toast**



The glass had nothing in it before it was put next to the maple tree (木), but now has a CUPFUL of fresh syrup.

歌

sing, song

14 strokes
NN2945

uta, uta(u), ka

UTA

歌 **song, sing**

UTA U

歌 う **to sing**

KA SHU

歌 手 **singer**



The mouths (口) of the chorus SING on risers as the conductor directs.

欠

lack, gap, fail

4 strokes
NN2928

ka(keru), ka(ku), ketsu

KA KE RU

欠ける **to be damaged**

FU KA KETSU

不可欠 **indispensable**



A person (人) waves his hands back and forth as a conductor, filling in the GAP with a musical pause.

次

next, order, sequence

6 strokes
NN2929

tsugi, tsu(gu), ji, shi

TSUGI

次 **next**

JI NAN

次 男 **second son**

SHI DAI NI

次 第 に **gradually, in turn**



The two marks of ice on the left show that a SEQUENCE of events is occurring; NEXT the two hands of the person strike to break them down.

喜

rejoice, take pleasure in

12 strokes
NN0858

yoroko(bu), ki

YOROKO BU

喜 ぶ to be delighted, to be glad

KI GEKI

喜 劇 comedy, funny show



When a samurai (士) sees leaves begin to sprout, his mouth (口) might open and REJOICE in PLEASURE IN what he sees.

器

utensil, implement, instrument

15 strokes
NN0898

utsuwa, ki

SHOK KI

食 器 **tableware**

UTSUWA NO CHII SA I

器 の 小 さ い **intolerant [of others' misbehavior]**



Four mouths (口) sitting around a big (大) table need UTENSILS to eat dinner.

辞

resign, word, term

13 strokes
NN6000

ya(meru), ji

JI SHO

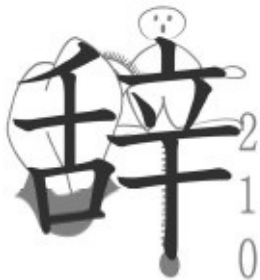
辞書 **dictionary**

O JI GI

お辞儀 **bow, bowing**

YA ME RU

辞める **to quit**



Students often have WORDS on the tips of their tongues (舌) that are a bit spicy (辛).

唱

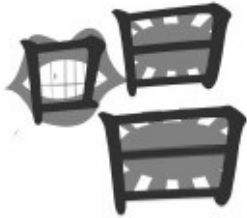
recite, chant

11 strokes
NN0829

tona(eru), shō

GAS SHŌ

合 唱 **chorus**



A slow CHANT or RECITATION about the sun (日) echoes.

囁

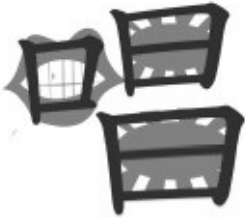
whisper, murmur

21 strokes
NN0928

sasaya(ku)

SASAYA KU

囁 く to whisper, murmur



Three ears (耳) lean in to hear someone WHISPER a secret.

Eye 目 and Ear 耳

着

wear, arrival

12 strokes
NN3938

ki(ru), tsu(ku), chaku

KI RU

着 る to wear

TŌ CHAKU

到 着 arrival



Goldilocks saw a wolf WEARING sheep's (羊) clothing upon her ARRIVAL at grandma's house.

省

focus, government ministry

9 strokes
NN3916

habu(ku), sei, shō

HABU KU

省 𠄎 **to omit**

KI SEI

歸 省 **homecoming**



A seated man with a sword uses his eye (目) to FOCUS on a few (少) details.

直

straight away, honesty, fix, repair

8 strokes
NN3908

tada(chini), nao(ru), choku, jiki

SHŌ JIKI

正 直 **honesty**

TADA CHI NI

直 ち に **directly, in person**

NAO RU

直 る **to be repaired**

CHOKU SETSU

直 接 **direct, firsthand**



When ten (十) eyes (目) see an issue STRAIGHT AWAY, they can surely REPAIR it.

県

prefecture

9 strokes
NN3918

ken

AKI TA KEN

秋 田 県 Akita Prefecture



When your eyes (目) look at the divisions in Japan in slightly smaller (小) sections, you can examine individual PREFECTURES.

冒

risk, face, defy

9 strokes
NN3915

oka(su), bō

BŌ KEN

冒 険 **risk, adventure**

OKA SU

冒 す **to face**



You RISK sunburn when the sun (日) is high and wide, but it is easier to FACE when you shield your eyes (目).

覚

memorize, learn

12 strokes
NN5529

obo(eru), sa(meru), kaku

OBO E RU

覚 え る **to memorize**

KAN KAKU

感 覚 **sense, feeling, intuition**



Bits of knowledge are **LEARNED** through **MEMORIZATION**, looking (見) at and studying them completely.

且

moreover, also, furthermore

5 strokes
NN0017

ka(tsu), sho

KA TSU

且 つ **also**

ZAN SHO

暫 且 **little while**



I knew you were there. And FURTHERMORE, I saw your eye peek from above the table's edge, and ALSO knew you were under it.

署

signature, police station

13 strokes
NN4643

sho

SHO MEI

署 名 **signature**

KEI SATSU SHO

警 察 署 **police station**



One day (日), a person who used a blade to till his neighbor's land (土) had to go to the POLICE STATION to put his SIGNATURE on some papers for all eyes to see.

置

placement, put, set

13 strokes
NN4645

o(ku), chi

O KU
置 < **to put**

I CHI
位置 **place, situation, position**



You can use your eyes (目) to determine furniture PLACEMENT up to ten (十) different ways before SETTING a permanent location.

罪

guilt, sin, crime

13 strokes
NN4644

tsumi, zai

YŪ ZAI

有 罪 **guilt**

TSUMI NO NA I

罪 の な い **guiltless**



People who are GUILTY of serious CRIME are lined up behind the barbed gates from where they look.

見

look, opinion

7 strokes
NN5522

mi(ru), mi(eru), ken

MI RU
見 る **to look**

I KEN
意 見 **opinion**



Walk about and LOOK at things around you.

視

inspection, look at

11 strokes
NN5525

shi

SHI RYOKU

視 力 **eyesight**

JŪ SHI

重 視 **importance, stress**



When deciding to believe in ghosts or not, we must look (見) carefully and give a thorough INSPECTION of the evidence.

親

parent, familiarity

16 strokes
NN5534

oya, shita(shii), shin

RYŌ SHIN

両 親 **both parents**

SHIN SETSU

親 切 **kindness**

SHITA SHI I TOMO DACHI

親 しい 友 達 **close friend**



PARENTS stand (立) on top of a tree to watch their young.

觀

outlook, appearance

18 strokes
NN5538

kan

KAN KŌ

觀 光 **sightseeing**



A person looks (見) carefully at the APPEARANCE of an old bird (隹) to consider its future OUTLOOK.

看

watch over, see

9 strokes
NN3919

mi(ru), kan

KAN BAN

看 板 **sign, signboard**

KAN GO SHI

看 護 師 **nurse**

MI RU

看 る **to look after [often medically]**



If you WATCH OVER the sick, you often look over the patient and check with a hand (手) for fever.

真

true, reality

10 strokes
NN3926

ma, shin

SHA SHIN

写 真 **photograph**

MA S SU GU

真 っ 直 ぐ **straight [ahead]**



Ten (十) eyes (目) look to examine the table and see what the TRUE REALITY might be.

相

inter-, mutual, together

9 strokes
NN3920

ai, sō, shō

AI TE

相 手 **opponent** [sports, etc.]

SHU SHŌ

首 相 **Prime Minister**

SŌ TŌ

相 当 **befitting, worthy of**



Using your eyes (目) you can see the branches of a tree (木) bending TOGETHER gracefully.

願

petition, request, hope

19 strokes
NN6653

nega(u), ~negai, gan

O NEGA I

お 願 い wish

GAN SHO

願 書 written petition

願

Below a cliff (厂), in a meadow (原), I will write pages (頁) of poetry to my love before making a marriage proposal REQUEST.

題

topic, subject

18 strokes
NN6645

dai

MON DAI GAI

問 題 外 **unthinkable, out of the question**

SHUKU DAI

宿 題 **homework**



One has big shoes to fill to examine in sunlight, the pages (頁) on a TOPIC being studied.

類

sort, variety, genus

18 strokes
NN6647

tagu(i), rui

SHU RUI

種 類 **variety, type**

TAGU IMARE NA

類 希 な **unique, rare**



There is a VARIETY of rice (米) with mostly big (大) grains like the pages (頁) of a book.

聖

holy, saint, master

13 strokes
NN4727

sei, shō

SEI JITSU

聖 日 **holy day**

SEI JIN

聖 人 **saint, sage, holy man**



The king (王) might lend an ear (大) grains like the pages (耳) to the words of SAINTS or other HOLY messages that encourage him to be the MASTER of the kingdom.

聞

hear, ask, listen

14 strokes
NN4732

ki(ku), bun

KI KU

聞 < to listen, hear

SHIN BUN

新聞 newspaper



Put your ear (耳) to the gate (門) to LISTEN to the answer to what you ASKED.

職

post, work, employment

18 strokes
NN4742

shoku

SHOKU GYŌ

職 業 **occupation**

SHŪ SHOKU

就 職 **finding employment**

TAI SHOKU

退 職 **retirement [from office]**



When looking for EMPLOYMENT, keep your ears (耳) open for sounds (音) of WORK and possibly fight for it, but not with halberds (戈) preferably.

嚴

stern, strictness, rigidity

17 strokes
NN0663

kibi(shii), ogosoka, gon, gen

KIBI SHI I

嚴 し い **strict, rigid**

I GEN

威 嚴 **dignity, majesty**



A mother bird feeds her young above a cliff (厂) and uses her ear (耳) to RIGIDLY listen for for anyone dropping food at the folding table.

Heart 心, 忄 and Blood 血

感

emotion, feeling, sensation

13 strokes
NN1928

kan

KAN JI RU

感 じ る **to feel, to sense**

KAN SHA

感 謝 **thanks, gratitude**



When one (一) has an EMOTION and says what he is FEELING in his heart (心) at the base of a cliff (厂), he might be tempted to employ a halberd (戈).

愛

love, affection

13 strokes
NN1927

ito(shii), ai

AI SU RU

愛する **to love**

ITO SHI GO

愛し子 **beloved child**



When taking your heart (心) out of its normal container and laying it out on a folding table, LOVE and AFFECTION come forth.

忠

loyalty, fidelity, faithfulness

8 strokes
NN1801

chū

CHŪ JITSU

忠 実 **faithful, loyal**

CHŪ KOKU

忠 告 **advice, warning**



LOYALTY can be judged if FAITHFULNESS is in the middle (中) of one's heart (心).

態

attitude, condition, figure, appearance

14 strokes
NN1947

tai

JŌ TAI

状 態 **current status, condition**

TAI DO

態 度 **attitude**



When I myself look at the moon (月) and stars, I can see in my heart (心) the APPEARANCE and the CONDITION of the universe.

恩

grace, kindness, favor

10 strokes
NN1851

on

ON JIN

恩 人 **patron**

ON KEI

恩 恵 **grace, favor**



A man in a box will react with GRACE if shown care and KINDNESS with all one's heart (心).

悶

be in agony, worry

12 strokes
NN1895

mon, moda(eru)

MON MON

悶々 **worrying endlessly**



Putting your heart (心) into passing through a closed gate can cause
WORRY and AGONY.

恕

excuse, tolerate, forgive

10 strokes
NN1834

jo

KAN JO

寛 恕 **forgiveness**

JO SU RU

恕 する **to forgive**



The woman (女) could TOLERATE the words from others' mouths (口) and could FORGIVE with all her heart (心).

怒

angry, be offended

9 strokes
NN1820

ika(ri), oko(ru), do

OKO RU

怒 る **to get angry**

IKA RI

怒 り **anger, hatred**

DO NA RU

怒 鳴 る **to shout**



The woman (女) at the table became ANGRY when OFFENDED and her heart (心) was broken.

忍

endure, conceal, put up with, bear

7 strokes
NN1787

shino(bu), nin

NIN JA

忍者 **ninja**

SHINO BI

忍び **stealth**



A CONCEALED blade pierces the heart (心) of a person who ENDURES trouble.

急

hurry, emergency, sudden, steep

9 strokes

NN1823

iso(gu), kyū

ISO GU

急 ぐ **to hurry**

KYŪ KŌ

急 行 **express [train, etc.]**

A large, bold calligraphic character for '急' (hurry). The character is written in black ink with a white outline. It features a prominent top stroke that curves downwards and to the right, followed by a horizontal stroke, and a bottom stroke that curves upwards and to the right. The overall shape is dynamic and expressive, reflecting the meaning of 'hurry'.

The top two marks are like the katakana symbol コ, bent by the SUDDEN speed of someone leaving in a HURRY with all his heart (心).

思

think

9 strokes
NN1824

omo(u), shi

OMO U

思 う **to think**

SHI KŌ

志 向 **intention, aim**



A farmer THINKS about his field (田) with all his heart (心).

忽

in a moment, instantly, all of a sudden

8 strokes
NN1799

kotsu

KOTSU ZEN

忽 然 **sudden, unexpected**

SO KOTSU

粗 忽 **careless, rude**



ALL OF A SUDDEN, the dream in my heart (心) of having a dog
INSTANTLY disappeared.

志

intention, plan, motive, hopes

7 strokes
NN1785

kokoroza(su), kokorozashi, shi

I SHI

意志 **will, intention**

KOKOROZA SU

志 す **to plan, to intend**



A samurai (士) puts his heart (心) into his PLANS, HOPES, and INTENTIONS.

忘

forget

7 strokes
NN1784

wasu(reru), bō

WASU RE RU

忘 れ る **to forget**

BŌ NEN KAI

忘 年 会 **year-end party**



The lid was put on the pot, but in his heart (心) he FORGOT that it was broken on one side.

亡

deceased, the late, dying, perish

3 strokes
NN0086

na(kunaru), bō

SHI BŌ

死 亡 **death, to pass away**

NA KU NA RU

亡 く な る **to die**



An urn for the DECEASED sits broken.

息

breath, respiration

10 strokes
NN1850

iki, soku

IKI GI RE

息切れ **shortness of breath**

KYŪ SOKU

休息 **rest, relaxation**



BREATHING gives oxygen to one's self (自) and helps the heart (心) keep going.

想

concept, think, idea, thought

13 strokes
NN1922

omo(u), sō

SŌ ZŌ

想像 **imagination, guess**

SHI SŌ

思想 **thought, ideology**

RYŌ OMO I

両思 **い mutual love**



THINK of a tree (木) being admired with the eye (目) and the heart (心)
and creating a CONCEPT of serenity.

意

idea, mind, taste, thought

13 strokes
NN1926

i

I MI

意味 **meaning**

I KEN

意見 **opinion, view**



He stands (立) on the sun (日), taking to heart (心) the full IDEA of the meaning of life.

憲

constitution, law

16 strokes
NN1988

ken

KEN PŌ

憲 法 **constitution**

KEN PEI

憲 兵 **military police**



When a roof with a chimney is pushed up by a plant that keeps growing tall limbs and you must turn your eyes (目) sideways, you must put your heart (心) into a new CONSTITUTION to control things.

情

feelings, emotion, passion

11 strokes
NN1898

nasa(ke), jō

JŌ HŌ

情報 **news, gossip**

NASA KE

情 け **pity, sympathy**



This heart (心) is FEELING blue (青) in the moonlight, a symbolic EMOTIONAL release.

悔

repent, regret

9 strokes
NN1848

ku(yamu), kuya(shii), kai

KŌ KAI

後悔 **regret, remorse**

KU YA MU

悔やむ **to mourn**

KUYA SHI I

悔しい **annoying, frustrating**



A person looking at every (毎) day on a calendar may with a little bit of their heart, REGRET things.

憎

hate, detest

14 strokes
NN1969

niku(mu), zō

NIKU I

憎 い **hateful, abominable**

ZŌ O

憎 悪 **hatred**



With one's heart stretched to the limit as a field (田) goes without much sun (日) one begins to DETEST the condition, but not HATE the life it brings.

快

cheerful, pleasant, agreeable, comfortable

7 strokes

NN1802

kokoroyo(i), kai

KAI TEKI

快 適 pleasant, agreeable

KOKOROYO I

快 い pleasant, agreeable



Even a man holding a broken box can be CHEERFUL when he sees something good and even the smallest heart (心) is stretched to new heights.

慢

ridicule, laziness

14 strokes
NN1968

man

KŌ MAN

高 慢 **arrogant, proud**

JI MAN

自 慢 **pride, boast**



Despite RIDICULE, this small person with a big heart exercises LAZINESS on a hot day (日) as he lays his eyes on top of a table to rest.

忙

busy, occupied, restless

6 strokes
NN1783

isoga(shii), bō

ISOGA SHI I

忙 し い **busy**

TA BŌ

多 忙 **busy, pressure of work**



A RESTLESS heart (↑) is BUSY, thinking about cleaning up a broken pot.

惚

fall in love with, admire

11 strokes
NN1893

ho(reru)

UNU BO RE RU

自 惚 れ る **to be conceited**

HITO ME BO RE

一 目 惚 れ **love at first sight**



When one FALLS IN LOVE WITH a pet dog, a small heart (♡) can be stretched large.

生

life, genuine, birth

5 strokes
NN3715

i(kiru), u(mare), u(mareru), nama, sei

I KI RU

生きる **to live**

U MA RE

生まれ **birth, birthplace**

NAMA BI I RU

生ビール **draft beer**

GAKU SEI

学生 **student**



Like growth spurts of plants and trees, a person has many stages of LIFE that their mother might have marked on a wall.

性

sex, gender, nature

8 strokes
NN1822

saga, sei, shō

JO SEI

女性 **woman, female**

KUCHI SAGA NA I

口 性 ない **to gossip, critical**

AI SHŌ

相 性 **affinity, compatibility**



Though their hearts (心) are the same, the male GENDER tends to go through many stages of life (生) at different speeds to the female SEX.

失

lose, error, fault, loss

5 strokes
NN1141

ushina(u), shitsu

SHITSU REI

失 礼 **impoliteness, excuse me**

SHIP PAI

失 敗 **failure/mistake**

USHINA U

失 う **to lose**



The ERROR was thinking that she could carry a plant that was too big to see over, as it caused her to LOSE balance.

必

invariably, certain, inevitable

5 strokes
NN1781

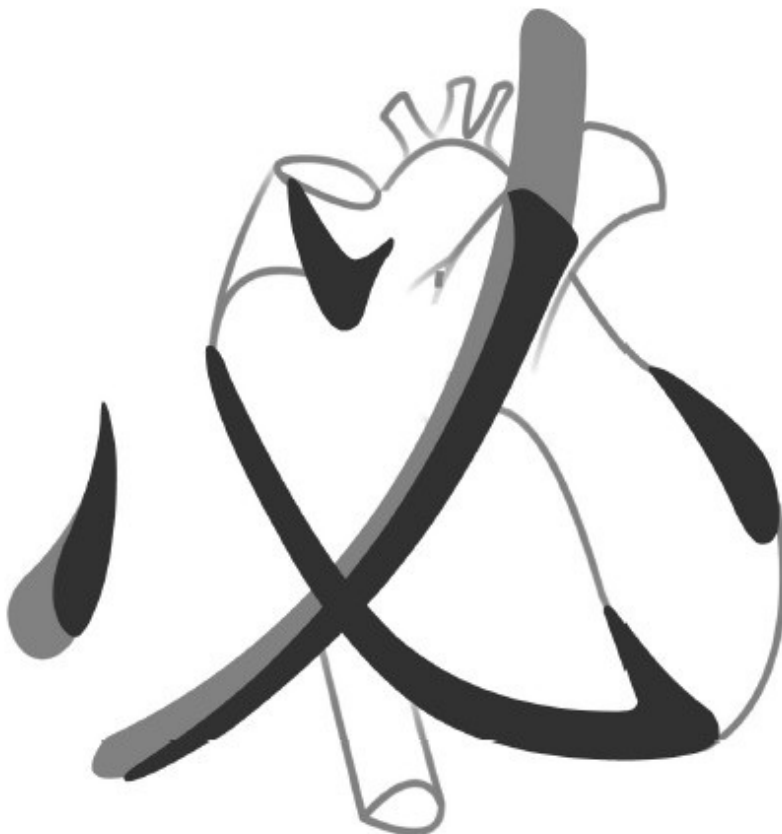
kanara(zu), hitsu

KANARA ZU

必 ず **without fail**

HITSU YŌ

必 要 **necessary**



Cross your heart (心) when you make a pledge: it is CERTAIN to happen.

応

apply, answer, accept

7 strokes
NN1789

kota(eru), ō

KOTA E RU

応 える **to respond, to live up to**

Ō JI RU

応 じる **to respond, to accept**



When you APPLY yourself and put your heart (心) into ACCEPTING a challenge, you will be able to climb even the highest dotted cliff (广).

悪

bad, wrong, evil

11 strokes
NN1873

waru(i), aku

WARU I

悪 い bad, in the wrong, sorry

AKU MA

悪 魔 devil, Satan



The weight of Asia (亜) pressing down on one's heart (心) is BAD.

票

ballot, label, sign

11 strokes
NN4089

hyō

NYŪ KIN HYŌ

入金票 **deposit slip**

TŌ HYŌ

投票 **voting, poll**



A large map, with the LABELS for directions sits like a SIGN above a placard.

皿

blood

6 strokes
NN5411

chi, ketsu

KETSU ATSU

皿 庄 **blood pressure**

CHI

皿 **blood**



An unseen chip in a plate (皿) might draw a drop of BLOOD.

皿

dish, plate, a helping

5 strokes
NN3885

sara

sara ARA I

皿 洗 い **dishwashing**

O SARA

お 皿 **blood**

CHŪ ZARA

中 皿 **medium-sized dish**



A drying rack is full of freshly washed DISHES.

盟

alliance, oath

13 strokes
NN3899

mei

DŌ MEI

同盟 **alliance, union**

KA MEI

加盟 **participation, affiliation**

CHŪ ZARA

中皿 **medium-sized dish**



A drying rack is full of freshly washed DISHES.

盆

basin, tray, Bon Festival

9 strokes
NN3889

bon

〇 BON

お 盆 **Bon Festival**

BON SAI

盆 栽 **bonsai, miniature potted plant**



To understand the parts (分) of the BON FESTIVAL is to know that families gather, and usually have many plates (皿) of food, thinking of ancestors.

盛

boom, prosper

11 strokes
NN3895

mo(ru), saka(ru), sei

SEI DAI

盛大 **grand, prosperous**

SAKA N

盛ん **popular, prosperous**

MO RI A GA RU

盛り上がる **to swell, to rise**



The community PROSPERED after digging a mine in the side of a cliff (厂) with halberds (戈) and had plates (皿) of food in celebration of the BOOM.

Hand 手, 扌 and Foot 足

批

criticism, strike

7 strokes
NN2086

hi

JI KO HI HAN
自 己 批 判 **self-criticism**

HI HAN TEKI
批 判 的 **critical**

HI HYŌ
批 評 **criticism, review**



A hand (扌) compares (比) CRITICALLY the two similar shapes.

折

fold, break, fracture, bend

7 strokes

NN2094

ori, o(ru), setsu

〇 RU

折る **to break**

KOS SETSU

骨折 **bone fracture**



To BREAK hard material by hand (折), you might need an ax (斤).

扶

aid, help, assist

7 strokes
NN2089

fu

FU YŌ

扶 養 support [family]



A man used both hands (扌) to ASSIST in carrying a box.

投

throw, discard, abandon

7 strokes
NN2095

na(geru), tō

NA GE RU

投 げ る **to cast away, to face defeat**

TŌ SHI

投 資 **investment**



Use your hands (扌) to pick up an old chair-desk that someone DISCARDED, and put it on the table.

招

beckon, invite, summon, engage

8 strokes
NN2124

mane(ku), shō

SHŌ TAI

招 待 **invitation**

MANE KU

招 < **to invite**



With her hand (扌) on her sword she INVITES another to speak.

押

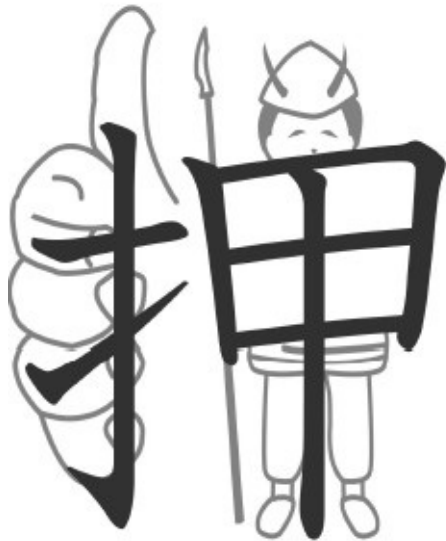
push, stop, check, subdue, attach

8 strokes
NN2128

o(su)

○ SU
押 す **to push, to apply pressure**

○ SHI DA SU
押 し 出 す **to push something out**



A hand (扌) PUSHES a shield (甲) down into the earth, signifying that others should STOP.

捉

catch, capture

10 strokes
NN2159

tora(eru), soku

TORA E RU

捉 える **to capture**

TO RA WA RE RU

捉 ら わ れ る **to be caught**



To CAPTURE someone, you have to use your hands (扌), shout with your mouth (口), and be fast on your feet (足).

接

touch, contact, piece together

11 strokes
NN2213

setsu, tsu(gu)

CHOKU SETSU

直 接 **direct, firsthand, immediate**

SES SU RU

接 する **to touch, to come in contact with**



Give a thumbs up to a woman (女) who can stand (立) up and PIECE TOGETHER things.

持

hold, have (possession of)

9 strokes

NN2151

mo(tsu), ji

MO TSU

持 っ **to hold, to have**



In a hand (扌) one HOLDS temple (寺) offerings.

拡

broaden, extend, expand, enlarge

8 strokes

NN2118

hiro(garu), kaku

KAKU DAI

拡 大 **enlargement, magnification**

HIRO GE TA UDE

拡 げ た 腕 **outstretched arms**



I EXTEND my hands (扌) from end to end to measure the height of the dotted cliff (厂) myself to BROADEN my understanding.

払 pay

5 strokes
NN2062

hara(u), futsu

HARA U

払 う to pay [money, a bill]



I like to PAY my bills by hand (払).

打

strike, hit, knock, pound

5 strokes
NN2063

u(tsu), da

U TSU

打 つ **to beat [a drum], to hit**

AN DA

安 打 **safe hit [baseball]**



Using a hand (手) to HIT a tack can hurt.

授

impart, instruct, grant

11 strokes
NN2208

sazu(keru), ju

SAZU KE RU

授 け る **to award, to teach**

JU GYŌ

授 業 **class, instruction**



You need a good hand (才) to IMPART information and INSTRUCT others on test-taking skills under a roof at a table.

描

sketch, compose, write, draw, paint

11 strokes

NN2196

ega(ku), ka(ku), byō

KA KU

描 < **to draw**

BYŌ SHA

描 写 **depiction, description**



With a skillful hand (扌) grass was SKETCHED behind the field (田).

走

run

7 strokes
NN5845

hashi(ru), sō

TAN KYO RI SŌ

短 距 離 走 **short-distance race**

HASHI RU

走 る **to run**



Lots of land (±) passes by as one RUNS.

赴

proceed, get, become

9 strokes
NN5847

omomu(ku), fu

OMOMU KU

赴 𠂔 **to proceed forward**

FU NIN

赴 任 **moving for a new job**



If worried, you will PROCEED to or GET to a fortune teller (卜) across the land (土) by running.

趣

gist, proceed to, tend to

15 strokes
NN5854

omomuki, shu

OMOMUKI

趣 **gist**

SHU MI

趣 味 **hobby**



PROCEEDING TO the airport gate across the land (土), we sometimes run, listen, and if there's time, sit at a table.

起

wake up

10 strokes
NN5849

o(kiru), o(koru), ki

O KI RU

起 き る **to wake up**

O KO RU

起 こ る **to happen**



If running across the land (土) and you see a snake, you will WAKE UP and be more attentive.

配

distribute, spouse, exile

10 strokes
NN6163

kuba(ru), hai

SHIN PAI

心 配 **worry, concern**

KUBA RU

配 る **to distribute**



DISTRIBUTE some of the snake oil from the bottle between the SPOUSES.

路

path, route, road, distance

13 strokes
NN5876

ji, michi, ro

DŌ RO

道 路 **road, highway**

KAI JI

海 路 **sea route**



A person stops (止) at the end of a ROUTE where the picnic table stands and people sit and talk.

元

beginning, ancient currency

4 strokes
NN0343

moto, gen, gan

GEN KI

元 氣 **healthy, energetic**

GAN TAN

元 旦 **New Year's Day**



In the BEGINNING, one had to carry ANCIENT CURRENCY.

光

ray, light

6 strokes
NN0349

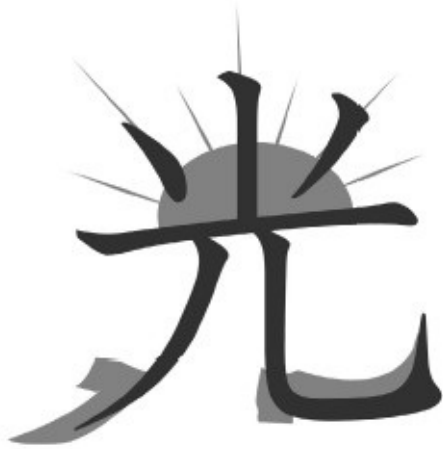
hika(ru), kō

HIKA RU

光 る **to shine**

NIK KŌ

日 光 **sunlight**



RAYS of LIGHT encourage us to take long hikes on two legs.

先

before, previous

6 strokes
NN0350

saki, sen

SEN SEI
先 生 **teacher**

SEN SHŪ
先 週 **sea route**



The leaves from that plant in the soil (土) sprouted just BEFORE you walked.

兒

newborn babe, child, young of animal

7 strokes
NN0355

ko, ji, ni

KO JI

孤 兒 **orphan**

JI DŌ

兒 童 **school-age children**

SHŌ NI KA I

小 兒 科 医 **pediatrician**

A large, bold, black Japanese character '兒' (ji) is displayed. The character is composed of a top radical '日' (sun) and a bottom radical '儿' (child). Small grey arrows are overlaid on the character to indicate the correct stroke order for writing: starting from the top left of the '日' radical, moving right, then down, then right again, and finally down to the top of the '儿' radical. The '儿' radical is written with a single continuous stroke that curves from the top left to the bottom right.

Seeming like only one day earlier, in former (旧) times, when the CHILD was a NEWBORN BABY, she started to walk on two legs.

党

party, faction, clique

10 strokes
NN0363

tō

MIN SHU TŌ

民 主 党 **Democrat Party**

KYŌ WA TŌ

共 和 党 **Republican Party**

党

My older brother (兄) thought he was bright (光) when he learned about political PARTIES and FACTIONS.

鬼

ghost, devil, ogre

10 strokes
NN6833

oni, ki

ONI

鬼 **devil**

KO ONI

小鬼 **elf, goblin**

KYŪ KETSU KI

吸血鬼 **vampire**



Popping its head up from a field (田) is a DEVIL with huge legs and horns.

CHAPTER 4

ACTIONS

来

come, next

7 strokes
NN2565

ku(ru), rai

KU RU
来 る **to come**

RAI SHŪ
来 週 **next week**



A man waves his hands to stop as he COMES close to a signpost.

行

go, journey

6 strokes
NN5419

i(ku), okona(u), yu(ku), ~yu(ki), kō

I KU
行 く **to go**

TŌ KYŌ YU KI
東 京 行 き **bound for Tokyo**

RYO KŌ
旅 行 **trip**



Two men hover until the light tells them to GO.

Stride 𠂔

辺

environs, boundary, vicinity

5 strokes
NN6011

be, hen

KO NO HEN

この辺 **this vicinity**

UMI BE

海辺 **seashore, beach**

SHŪ SHŪ

周辺 **circumference, outskirts**



The defensible areas the sword (刀) can reach are the paths around the BOUNDARY and the near VICINITY.

近

near

7 strokes
NN6021

chika(i), kin

SAI KIN

最近 **recently**

CHIKA I

近 い **close, near**



My grandfather kept the ax (斤) NEAR the door so he could grab it as he strode on the path to the woodpile.

送

escort, send

9 strokes
NN6039

oku(ru), sō

OKU RU

送 る **to send [a thing]**

MI OKU RU

見 送 る **seeing off, escort**

HŌ SŌ

放 送 **broadcast**



To help SEND another to the afterlife, people stride (夊) in procession to ESCORT someone to heaven (天).

返

return, answer, fade, repay

7 strokes
NN6020

kae(su), hen

KAE SU

返 寸 **to return**

HEN JI

返 事 **reply**



If you borrow the table RETURN it to the end of the path at the base of the cliff (厂).

追

chase, drive away, follow

9 strokes
NN6042

o(u), tsui

〇 U

追 う **to chase, to run after**

TSUI HŌ

追 放 **exile, eviction**



Mouths (口) give directions to FOLLOW a path closely.

速

quick, fast

10 strokes
NN6060

haya(i), sumi(yaka), soku

HAYA I

速 い fast, quickly

KYŪ SOKU

急速 rapid [progress, etc.]

SUMI YA KA

速 やか speedy, prompt



Striding (走) too FAST, he hit a tree (木) and yelled ouch with his mouth!

達

accomplished, reach, pluralizes some
words

12 strokes
NN6088

~*tachi, tatsu*

SOKU TATSU

速 達 **express, special delivery**

WATASHI TACHI

私 達 **we**

TAS SEI

達 成 **achievement**



On the land (土) near the path, sheep in the PLURAL nibble the grass until they have ACCOMPLISHED their goal.

進

advance, proceed, progress

11 strokes
NN6073

susu(mu), shin

SUSU MU

進 む **to advance, to go forward**

SHIN PO

進 歩 **progress, improvement**



An old bird (隹) ADVANCES slowly by walking on a path.

道

road, street, teachings

12 strokes
NN6091

michi, dō

MICHI

道 road, street

SHO DŌ

書 道 calligraphy

KEN DŌ

劍 道 kendo [lit: way of the sword], Japanese fencing



Use a big sliding path or ROAD to go through a narrow neck (首) between places.

運

carry, luck, destiny, transport

12 strokes
NN6092

hako(bu), un

UN DŌ
運 動 **exercise**

KIN UN
金 運 **economic fortune**



With its cover intact, the little cart (車) was TRANSPORTED to its DESTINY at the end of the path.

遊

play

12 strokes
NN6093

aso(bu)

ASO BU

遊 ぶ **to play, to enjoy oneself, to have a good time**

ASO BI NI I KU

遊 び に 行 く **to go on a trip, to go and visit [a friend]**

MIZU ASO BI

水 遊 び **playing in water**



A path in the direction (方) of a person and child (子) often leads to PLAY.

違

difference, differ

13 strokes
NN6099

chiga(u), i

CHIGA I MA SU
違 います **it is different**

MA CHIGA I
間 違 い **mistake**

I HAN
違 反 **violation [of law]**



The radicals in this kanji seem to DIFFER a lot from similar radicals: (力) has two one (一) stroke DIFFERENCES from five (五) and the bottom one DIFFERS from year (年) by two strokes.

連

take along, lead

10 strokes
NN6062

tsu(reru), tsura(naru), ren

TSU RE TE I KU

連れて行行 **to escort, to take [someone of equal or lower status]**

REN RAKU

連絡 **contacting, getting in touch**



A cart (車) can be used to TAKE ALONG things on a long path.

通

traffic, pass through, commute

10 strokes
NN6063

tō(ru), ~dō(ri), kayo(u), tsū

KAYO U

通 う **to commute**

MEI JI DŌ RI

明 治 通 り **Meiji Street**

FU TSŪ

普 通 **usual, generally**

TŌ RU

通 る **to go past, to go by**



To walk a COMMUTE you might USE (用) crosswalks to PASS THROUGH TRAFFIC safely.

選

elect, select, prefer

15 strokes
NN6114

era(bu), sen

ERA BU

選 ぶ **to choose**

SEN SHU

選 手 **player**



People stride (辶) to polling places to make themselves heard when they SELECT names on ballots to ELECT leaders.

遠

distant, far

13 strokes
NN6101

tō(i), en

TŌ I

遠 い far, distant

EI EN

永 遠 eternity



DISTANT lands (±) were spoken of by a person who moved his arms a lot when he spoke as he strode down the path home.

Stand 立 and **Stop** 止

立

stand up, stand

5 strokes
NN4223

ta(tsu), ritsu

TA TSU
立 つ **stand**

KŌ RITSU
公 立 **public [institution]**



A short man is taller when he STANDS.

音

sound, noise

9 strokes
NN6607

oto, on

ON GAKU

音 楽 **music**

OTO

音 **sound**



If you were to stand (立) on the sun (日) there would be a loud NOISE before you were evaporated.

童

juvenile, child

12 strokes
NN4239

warabe, dō

DŌ DŌ

童 話 **fairy-tale**

WARABE UTA

童 歌 **children's [folk] song**



JUVENILE tales speak of a CHILD standing (立) on the edge of the field (田) on land (土) in the village (里).

章

badge, chapter

11 strokes
NN4235

shō

BUN SHŌ

文 章 sentence, article



Standing (立) up on the sun (日) early (早), at least ten (十) times, would be enough to earn BADGE of endurance.

競

compete with, race, bout

20 strokes
NN4244

kiso(u), kyō

KYŌ SŌ
競 走 **race**

KISO U
競 う **to compete with**



Two older brothers (兄) stand up (立) and COMPETE WITH each other until the BOUT determines the dominant one.

億

hundred million

15 strokes
NN0321

oku

ICHI OKU

一 億 **one hundred million**



A person makes a really loud sound (音) with all of his heart (心) as he just won ONE HUNDRED MILLION yen.

商

make a deal, selling, merchant

11 strokes
NN0832

akina(u), shō

SHŌ BAI

商 売 trade, business

AKINA I

商 い trade, business



A MERCHANT auctions goods while standing up (立) to MAKE A DEAL atop a stand with a bidder's open mouth (口) below.

産

products, give birth, yield

11 strokes
NN3716

u(mu), san

SEI SAN

生 産 **production, manufacture**

U MU

産 む **to give birth to, to deliver**



Standing (立) on a highpoint like a cliff (厂) you can see the YIELD of fields and watch animals GIVE BIRTH (生).

止

stop, halt

4 strokes
NN2954

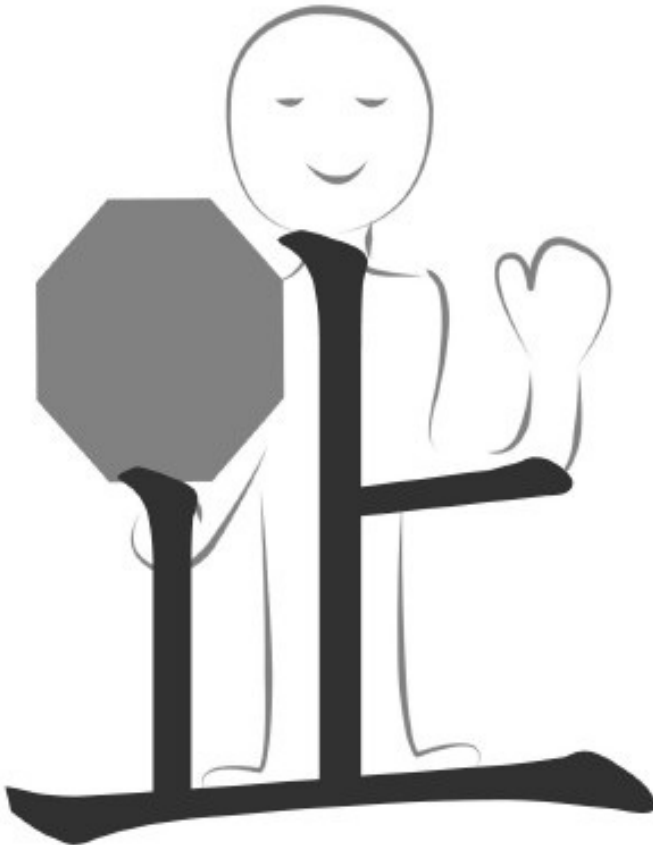
to(maru), shi

TO MA RU

止 ま る **stop**

KIN SHI

禁 止 **prohibition, ban**



A man stands with his arm out, directing others to HALT with a STOP sign.

歩

walk

8 strokes
NN2958

aru(ku), ho, po

ARU KU

歩 く **to walk**

SAN PO

散歩 **a walk**



When you WALK, you can stop (止) and sit down a few (少) times along the way.

正

correct, justice

5 strokes
NN2955

tada(shii), sei

TADA SHI I

正 しい **correct**

SEI KAKU

正 確 **accurate, exact**

FU SEI

不 正 **injustice**



When he stops (止) on the exact one spot, he is CORRECT.

Sliding 阪

阪

heights, slope

7 strokes
NN6428

saka, han

Ō SAKA
大阪 **Osaka**

HAN SHIN
阪神 **Osaka-Kobe**



A child slides down the SLOPE of a cliff (厶) to the table at the base.

降

descend, precipitate, fall, surrender

10 strokes
NN6450

o(riru), fu(ru), kō

O RI RU

降 り る **to get off [a train, bus]**

FU RU

降 る **to precipitate [rain, snow]**

KŌ SAN

降 参 **giving up**



Everyone worries when a child who is not even a year (年) old starts to get down from a folding table or DESCEND a pole.

陸

land

11 strokes
NN6461

riku

TAI RIKU

大 陸 **continent**

HOKU RIKU

北 陸 **region west of Tokyo on the Japan Sea side**



A child slides down to level LAND to jump from one pile of ground (±) to another pile of ground (±).

院

institution, temple, school

10 strokes
NN6447

in

BYŌ IN
病 院 **hospital**

DAI GAKU IN
大 学 院 **graduate school**



A child starts to descend down to the main floor of the INSTITUTION when he smells a wealth (元) of cookies from the SCHOOL cafeteria.

隊

regiment, party

12 strokes
NN6468

tai

GUN TAI

軍 隊 **army, troops**

HEI TAI

兵 隊 **soldier**



A child playing army slides down the grass by the pig, as his REGIMENT of soldiers tries to find him.

階

story, stair

12 strokes
NN6469

kai

GO KAI
五 階 **fifth story**

KAI DAN
階 段 **staircase**



A child starts to slide down a pole to compare (比) two STORIES of a white (白) building.

陽

sunshine, positive

12 strokes
NN6470

hi, yō

TAI YŌ

太 陽 **sun**

YŌ KI

陽 氣 **cheerful, merry**



A child slides and plays on a day with SUNSHINE with one (一) of his furry dogs.

際

verge, when

14 strokes
NN6478

kiwa, sai

KOKU SAI

国 際 **international**

KIWA DO I

際 ど い **edgy**



A child is on the VERGE of sliding down to a festival past the sign toward a table and snacks WHEN offered the chance that only comes every few moons (月).

部

section, department

11 strokes
NN6146

bu

KEN DŌ BU

剣道部 **kendo club**

BU CHŌ

部長 **section leader**



A SECTION leader stands (立) on a box to keep track of the children in each DEPARTMENT.

都

metropolis, capital

11 strokes
NN6148

miyako, to, tsu

TO KAI

都会 **city**

KYŌ TO

京都 **Kyoto**

TSU GŌ

都合 **circumstances, condition**



In CAPITAL cities, they often break ground (土) in the sun (日) to build skyscrapers with views of the METROPOLIS.

郡

county, district

10 strokes
NN6143

gun

MA DI SO N GUN
マ デイ ソ ン 郡 **Madison County**



A familiar person of rank (君) in the COUNTY watches out for children up and down the DISTRICT.

Power 力

功

achievement, success

5 strokes
NN0522

kō, ku

DAI SEI KŌ
大 成 功 **huge success, big hit**

KŌ SEKI

功績 **achievements, merit**



The **ACHIEVEMENT** of the architect was due to the use of I-beam construction (工) and power (力) that drove him to **SUCCESS**.

工

craft, construction, work

3 strokes
NN1532

kō, ku

KŌ JŌ
工場 **factory**

DAI KU
大工 **carpenter**

JIN KŌ
人工 **man-made, artificial**



I-beams such as this are often used in CONSTRUCTION.

力

power, strain

2 strokes
NN0521

chikara, ryoku, riki

CHIKARA

力 power

TAI RYOKU

体 力 stamina



The two blades of this sickle need lots of POWER to wield them.

努

toil, diligent

7 strokes
NN0527

tsuto(meru), do

DO RYOKU

努 力 **great effort, exertion**

TSUTO ME TE

努 め て **as much as possible**



The woman (女) would TOIL at her table where she DILIGENTLY exerted a lot of power (力) and energy.

加

add, increase, include

5 strokes
NN0523

kuwa(eru), ka

SAN KA

参加 **participation**

KUWA E RU

加える **to sum up, to include**



He has the power (力) to INCREASE yield to ADD more mouths (口) that can be fed.

助

help, rescue, assist

7 strokes
NN0530

tasu(keru), jo

TASU KE RU

助 け る **to help, to rescue**

JO GEN

助 言 **advice, suggestion**



Keep your eyes (目) above leaning ground and use your power (力) to RESCUE someone in need.

効

merit, efficiency, benefit

8 strokes
NN0535

ki(ku), kō

KI KU

効 < **to be effective**

YŪ KŌ

有 効 **validity, availability, effectiveness**



One must practice mixing and mingling (交) things like your father (父) did under his roof to gain power (力), to MERIT respect, and to BENEFIT from your actions.

勞

labor, reward for, toil

7 strokes
NN0531

itawa(ru), negira(u), rō

ITAWA RU

勞 る **to sympathize with**

RŌ DŌ

勞 働 **manual labor**

NEGIRA U

勞 う **to thank for, to reward for**



From three bits of knowledge we learn under the roof at school, we know we will be REWARDED FOR the power (力) we exert in our LABOR and studies.

勇

courage, bravery

9 strokes
NN0541

isa(mu), yū

YŪ KI
勇氣 **bravery, courage**

ISA MI ASHI
勇み足 **rashness**



When I have the COURAGE, I put my heart and soul and all of my power (力) into my field (田).

勉

exertion

10 strokes
NN0543

ben

BEN KYŌ
勉 強 **study**

BEN GAKU
勉 学 **study, pursuit of knowledge**



An older brother (兄) will have more power (力) through the EXERTION of his efforts despite the barbs that may crop up.

勤

diligence, serve, become employed

12 strokes

NN0552

tsuto(meru), kin

TSUTO ME RU

勤 め る **to be employed [at]**

TSŪ KIN

通 勤 **commuting to work**



Young people might BECOME EMPLOYED to cut grass for days on end (日) on an extra long plot of land (土), exerting lots of power (力) and DILIGENCE.

勝

victory, win

12 strokes
NN0553

ka(tsu), masa(ru), shō

KA TSU

勝 つ **to win**

MASA RU

勝 る **to excel, to surpass**

YŪ SHŌ

優勝 **championship, overall victory**



Once every few moons (月), a man flaps his arms in VICTORY after using all of his power (力) to buy the ticket (券) to WIN.

動

move, motion

11 strokes
NN0549

ugo(ku), dō

UGO KU

動 く **to move**

JI DŌ DO A

自 動 ド ア **automatic door**



To MOVE heavy (重) things, you need more power (力).

働

work

13 strokes
NN0297

hatara(ku), dō

HATARA KU

働 < **to work**

RŌ DŌ

劳 働 **labor**



A person with power (力) to move heavy (重) things WORKS hard.

重

heavy, heap up, pile up

9 strokes
NN6207

omo(i), kasa(neru), jū

OMO I
重 い heavy

JŪ YŌ
重 要 important, momentous

KASA NE RU
重 ね る to pile up



A HEAVY cart (車) needs two sets of wheels.

Say 言

言

say, speech

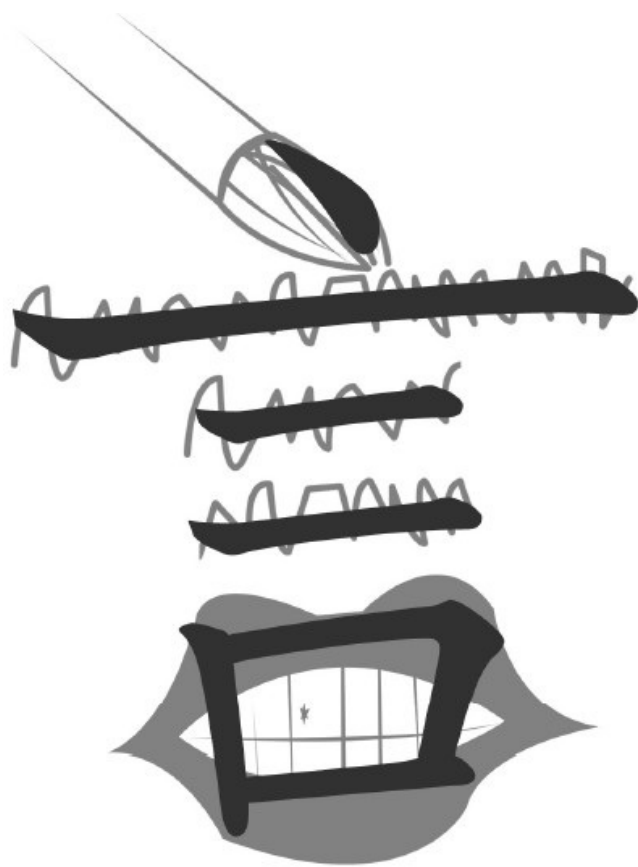
7 strokes
NN5552

i(u), koto, gen

I U
言 う **to say**

KOTO BA
言 葉 **word[s]**

GEN GO
言 語 **language**



Several lines of SPEECH are SAID.

訓

instruction, explanation

10 strokes
NN5562

kun

KUN REN

訓 練 **practice, training**

NAN KUN

難 訓 **difficult reading of a kanji**



The teacher's speech (言) and INSTRUCTION flowed like a river (川) during her explanation.

計

plot, plan, scheme

9 strokes
NN5555

haka(ru), kei

HAKA RU

計 る **to measure, survey**

TO KEI

時計 **watch, clock**



Go over a PLAN for a SCHEME that someone says and review it ten (十) times before implementation.

記

scribe, account

10 strokes
NN5563

shiru(su), ki

KI JI
記事 **article**

SHIRU SU
記す **to note, to write down**



Words (言) a SCRIBE makes an ACCOUNT of on a long, snake-like scroll.

詩

poetry, poem

13 strokes
NN5610

shi

SHI JIN

詩 人 **poet**

EI SHI

英 詩 **English poetry**



Words (言) and chants at a temple (寺) were often similar to POETRY.

語

word, speech, language

14 strokes
NN5628

kata(ru), go

NI HON GO

日 本 語 Japanese language



If five (五) people say (言) words, they become LANGUAGE.

試

test, try, attempt

13 strokes
NN5611

tame(su), shi

SHI KEN
試 験 **test**

SHI AI
試 合 **match, game**

TAME SU
試 す **to test, to try out**



To say (言) that you will ATTEMPT to use an I-beam (工) to hold up a sword TESTS your abilities.

説

rumor, opinion, theory

14 strokes
NN5627

to(ku), setsu

SHŌ SETSU

小説 **novel**

DEN SETSU

伝説 **tradition, legend**

KU DO KU

口説く **to persuade, to coax**



An older brother (兄) sprouts horns as he says (言) RUMORS to get someone in trouble.

談

discuss, talk

15 strokes
NN5643

dan

JŌ DAN

冗談 **joke, funny story**

TAI KEN DAN

体験談 **story of one's experience**



The words (言) lead to a lot of fiery (火) language as they DISCUSS the issue.

調

investigate, look up

15 strokes
NN5647

shira(beru), totono(u), chō

SHIRA BE RU

調 べ る **to investigate, look up**

CHŌ WA

調 和 **harmony**



INVESTIGATE what someone said (言) by speaking about it next to a piece of land (土).

Directions 方

方

direction, person

4 strokes
NN2389

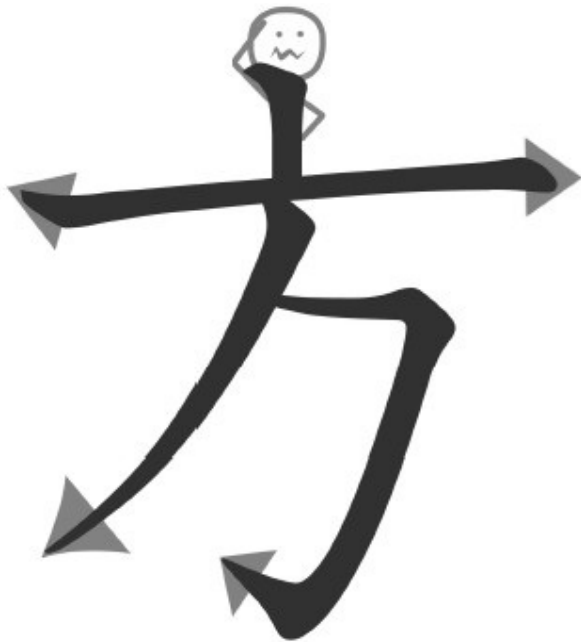
kata, hō

KO NO KATA

この方 **this person**

HŌ HŌ

方法 **method, manner**



A PERSON is often faced with a variety of alternatives before choosing the best DIRECTION.

東

east

8 strokes
NN2596

higashi, tō

HIGASHI

東 east

TŌ KYŌ

東京 Tokyo



If you look at the sun rising behind a tree, you're facing EAST.

西

west

6 strokes
NN5514

nishi, sei, sai

NISHI

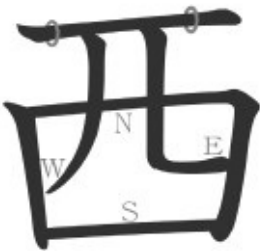
西 west

SEI YŌ

西 洋 the West, Western countries

KAN SAI

関 西 Kansai [western region of Japan including Osaka]



A map hangs from a screen and shows four directions clockwise: north, east, south, and the last is WEST.

旅

trip, travel

10 strokes
NN2396

tabi, ryo

TABI

旅 **trip, travel**

RYO KŌ

旅 行 **trip, travel**

HITORI TABI

一人 旅 **traveling alone**

A large calligraphic character for the Japanese word 'tabi' (travel). The character is written in a bold, expressive style. It features ten numbered arrows indicating the stroke order: 1. Top left horizontal stroke, 2. Top left vertical stroke, 3. Top right vertical stroke, 4. Middle horizontal stroke, 5. Middle right vertical stroke, 6. Bottom right vertical stroke, 7. Bottom right horizontal stroke, 8. Bottom left vertical stroke, 9. Bottom left horizontal stroke, 10. A curved stroke at the bottom right.

For a TRIP, people choose a direction (方), and go that way, waving their arms as they sometimes stumble on their TRAVELS.

南

south

9 strokes
NN0619

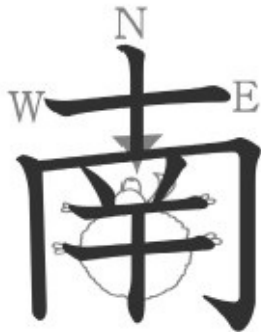
minami, nan

MINAMI

南 south

NAN BEI

南 米 South America



The compass points toward the open enclosure to New Zealand in the SOUTH where lots of sheep (羊) are raised.

北

north

5 strokes
NN0581

kita, hoku

KITA

北 north

HOK KAI DŌ

北 海 道 Hokkaido [lit. north sea road]



A table stands on end with a dipper beside it, both pointing upwards or NORTH.

上

above, up

3 strokes
NN0010

ue, a(garu), jō

UE

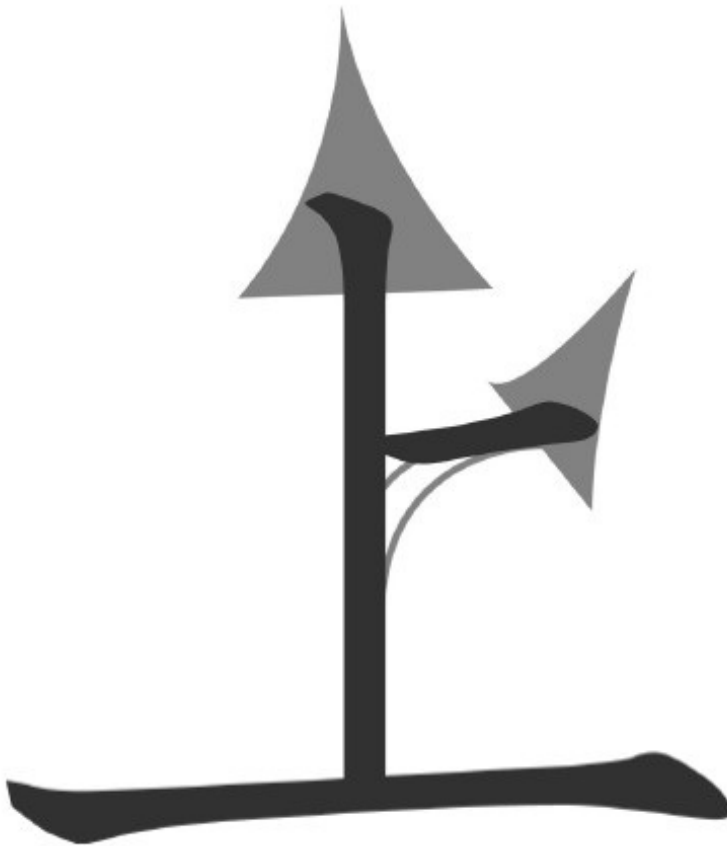
上 above, up

A GA RU

上 がる to rise, go up

JŌ ZU

上 手 skillful



A sapling grows mostly ABOVE ground.

下

below, down, descend, give

3 strokes
NN0009

shita, sa(garu), kuda(ri), ka

SA GA RU

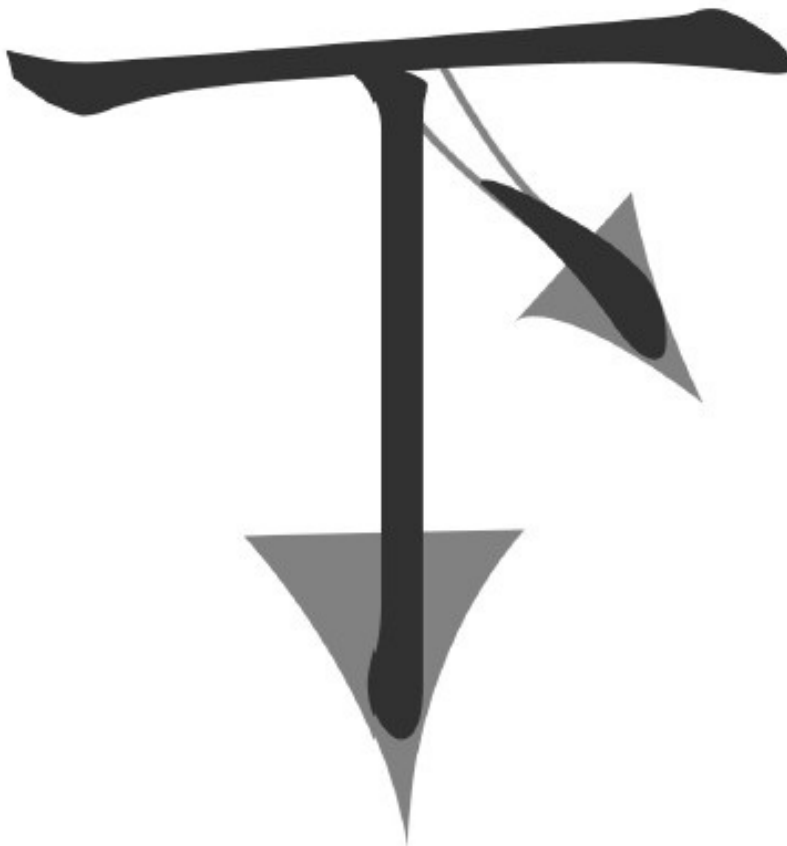
下 が る **to go down**

KUDA RI

下 り **down-train [going away from Tokyo]**

CHI KA

地 下 **basement**



These two lines or roots are BELOW ground.

右

right

5 strokes
NN0700

migi, yū

MIGI

右 **right**

SA YŪ

左 右 **left and right**



On a scale, the solid block is on the RIGHT side.

左

left

5 strokes
NN1535

hidari, sa

HIDARI

左 left

左 left

With a play on words and languages, the **L^eIFT** is not as heavy on a scale when there is an I-beam.

CHAPTER 5

PLANTS

植

plant

12 strokes

NN2751

u(eru), shoku

U E RU
植 え る **to plant**

SHOKU BUTSU
植 物 **plant (n.)**



PLANT trees (木) and trim or fix (直) them as bonsai by cutting each at least ten (十) times, keeping your eye (目) on their appearance on the shelf.

Rice 𠂇 and Tree 木

米

rice, USA

6 strokes
NN4380

kome, bei, mai

KOME

米 **uncooked rice**

BEI KOKU

米 国 **USA**

GAI MAI

外 米 **foreign rice**



RICE grains emerge from a rice plant as the leaves begin to bend down like branches of a tree (木).

粉

flour, powder

10 strokes
NN4390

ko, kona, fun

KO MUGI KO

小麦粉 **flour**

KONA GONA

粉々 **very small pieces**

KA FUN

花粉 **pollen**



You grind rice (米) into smaller parts (分) with a sword (刀) to make FLOUR or POWDER.

料

fee, materials

10 strokes
NN2374

ryō

ZAI RYŌ

材 料 **ingredients**

RYŌ RI

料 理 **cuisine**

KYŪ RYŌ

給 料 **salary, wages**

MU RYŌ

無 料 **free, no charge**



A key MATERIAL in preparing rice (米) is a measuring container (斗).

木

tree, wood

4 strokes
NN2531

ki, moku, boku

MOKU YŌ BI

木 曜 日 **Thursday**



This is a TREE with a cross branch and two drooping branches.

本

book, origin, main, true

5 strokes
NN2536

moto, hon

KUMA MOTO KEN

熊 本 県 **Kumamoto Prefecture**

HON

本 **book**

HON MONO

本 物 **genuine article**



The ORIGIN of a tree can be discovered in its roots.

林

grove, woods

8 strokes
NN2590

hayashi, rin

HAYASHI

林 woods

KO BAYASHI

小林 Kobayashi [surname]

NŌ RIN

農林 agriculture and forestry



A couple of trees grow in a small GROVE or WOOD.

禁
示

prohibition, ban

13 strokes
NN4098

kin

KIN EN

禁 煙 **no smoking**

KIN SHI

禁 止 **prohibition, ban**



In and around the woods (林) in late summer, you see signs (示) for a fire BAN.

歴

curriculum, passage of time

14 strokes
NN2964

reki

REKI SHI

歴 史 **history**

GAKU REKI

学 歴 **academic background**



Looking at the PASSAGE OF TIME, one might dig in the side of a cliff (厂) to find the petrified remains of an ancient woods (林) and stop (止) to write a CURRICULUM on how to study the site.

森

forest

12 strokes
NN2749

mori, shin

MORI

森 forest

AO MORI KEN

青 森 県 Aomori Prefecture

SHIN KAN

森 閑 silence



Three trees overlap at the edge of a FOREST.

丘

hill, knoll

5 strokes
NN0019

oka, kyū

OKA

丘 **hill**

SA KYŪ

砂丘 **sand dune**



Unlike a cliff (厩), rolling HILLS undulate in differing directions.

兵

soldier, troops, army

7 strokes
NN0374

hei

HEI SHI
兵 士 **soldier**

KAKU HEI KI
核 兵 器 **nuclear weapons**



Guns of SOLDIERS pointed at the top of a hill (丘) where the enemy is hiding.

桜

cherry

10 strokes
NN2664

sakura, ō

SAKURA

桜 cherry [tree]

Ō KA

桜花 cherry blossom



Beside a CHERRY tree (木), petals flutter as a lone woman (女) sits.

松

pine tree

8 strokes
NN2592

matsu, shō

MATSU

松 pine [tree]

SHŌ CHIKU BAI

松 竹 梅 pine, bamboo, and plum [an auspicious grouping]



I can see a PINE TREE, and those trees (木) are green much more than eight (八) months a year.

梅

plum

10 strokes
NN2666

ume, tsu, bai

TSU YU

梅 雨 **rainy season**

UME BO SHI

梅 干 し **dried plum**

BAI KA

梅 花 **plum blossom**



When I think of a flowering tree (木), every (毎) time I think of a PLUM tree.

机

table, desk

6 strokes
NN2543

tsukue, ki

TSUKUE

机 desk

KI JŌ

机上 on the desk



My grandparents had DESKS made of wood (木) with seats attached.

処

deal with, condemn, place

5 strokes
NN0435

tokoro, sho

SHO BUN

処 分 **dealing [with a problem]**

TO RA E DOKORO

捕 ら え 処 **in short, in brief**



When things slide off a folding table we must DEAL WITH them and put them on a more sturdy table (几), and try to fix the first table without CONDEMNING it.

板

plank, board, stage

8 strokes
NN2595

ita, ban

KOKU BAN

黒 板 **blackboard**

YUKA ITA

床 板 **floorboard**



Beside the tree (木), the table made of wooden PLANKS at the base of the cliff (厂) was where they would build the STAGE.

札

paper money, tag

5 strokes
NN2533

fuda, satsu

SEN EN SATSU

千 円 札 **1,000 yen bill**

KI RI FUDA

切 り 札 **trump card**



Bonsai trees (木) are expensive and I was hooked into spending a lot of PAPER MONEY instead of just a few coins for one.

枝

branch, limb, counter for branches

8 strokes
NN2591

eda, shi

KO EDA

小枝 **twig**

EDA MAME

枝豆 **edamame bean**



There were ten (十) tree (木) BRANCHES sitting on the table.

柱

pillar, post, support

9 strokes
NN2631

hashira, chū

HANA P PASHIRA

鼻 っ 柱 **bridge of the nose**

CHŪ SEKI

柱 石 **corner stone, pillar**

DAI KOKUBA SHIRA

大 黒 柱 **mainstay, central pillar [of a building]**



The lord (主) with his wooden (木) staff, was a PILLAR of the community.

材

lumber, timber, talent

7 strokes
NN2561

zai

ZAI RYŌ

材 料 **ingredients, materials**

JIN ZAI

人 材 **talented person**

The image shows the Japanese character '材' (zai) in a calligraphic style. To its right is a diagram illustrating the stroke order for writing the character. The diagram consists of the number '10' at the top, a horizontal line with a minus sign below it, and the number '9' at the bottom. A vertical line with an arrow points from the '10' down to the horizontal line, and another vertical line with an arrow points from the horizontal line down to the '9', indicating the sequence of strokes.

The TALENTED person began working with LUMBER when he was not even 10 years old (十才), but just 9.

村

village

7 strokes
NN2564

mura, son

MURA

村 **village**

SAN SON

山 村 **mountain village**



The trees (木) next to the VILLAGE can be measured (寸) in abundance.

枚

counter for flat, thin objects

8 strokes
NN2582

mai

ICHI MAI

一枚 **one sheet**



A SHEET of paper slides off the table next to the tree (木) from which it was made.

検

examination, investigate

12 strokes
NN2752

ken

KEN SA

検 査 **investigation** [customs, factory]

KETSU EKI KEN SA

血 液 検 査 **blood test**



To be a person (人) who can successfully INVESTIGATE bonsai trees (木), carry one (一) box of supplies home to begin your EXAMINATION.

校

exam, school

10 strokes
NN2669

kō

GAK KŌ
学 校 school



Long ago, your father (父) might SCHOOL you under a roof by the tree (木).

交

mingle, mixing, coming and going

6 strokes
NN0090

maji(waru), ma(jiru), kō

KŌ KAN

交 換 **exchange**

KŌ TSŪ

交 通 **transportation, traffic**



Dad (父) is trying to keep a lid on things between his busy life of COMING AND GOING.

格

status, rank

10 strokes
NN2668

kaku

SEI KAKU

性 格 **character, personality**

SHI KAKU

資 格 **qualifications**



When he rose in RANK, he sat next to the tree (木) at the picnic table and he said he would carve another notch.

横

sideways, side, horizontal

15 strokes
NN2854

yoko, ō

YOKO HAMA

横 浜 **Yokohama**

Ō BŌ

横 暴 **violence, oppression**



At the **SIDE** of a tree is a yellow (黄) grill where tens (十) of people are ready to eat the organic veggies skewered **SIDEWAYS**.

模

imitation, copy

14 strokes
NN2825

mo, bo

MO YŌ

模 樣 **pattern, design**

DAI KI BO

大 規 模 **large-scale**



You can grow a COPY of a bonsai tree (木), but like blades of grass, on sunny days (日), they can become too big (大).

橋

bridge

16 strokes
NN2879

hashi, kyō

HASHI

橋 **bridge**

TEK KYŌ

鉄 橋 **railway, iron bridge**



The BRIDGE was as tall as the trees (木), and was a big (大), long span with a mouth (口) on each side as it arched over the river.

機

machine, opportunity, airplane

16 strokes
NN2880

ki

HI KŌ KI

飛行機 airplane

KI KAI

機械 machine, mechanism



A person (人), looks up at the electric lines leading to a trimming MACHINE for trees (木), that looked like an old-fashioned halberd (戈).

構

posture, build, pretend

14 strokes
NN2823

kama(eru), kō

KAMA U

構 う **to care, to mind**

KŌ SEI

構 成 **organization, configuration**



Rather than PRETEND it is not all there, an artist BUILDS an extension on his easel to draw all of a tall tree (木).

極

poles, extremely

12 strokes
NN2753

kiwa(meru), kyoku

KIWA ME TE

極 め て **exceedingly, extremely**

NANKYOKU

南 極 **South Pole, Antarctica**

HOK KYOKU GUMA

北 極 熊 **polar bear**



It can be an EXTREMELY difficult hobby to grow bonsai trees (木) but it is one (一) that is relaxing as you sit at a table pruning and talking.

果

to accomplish, fruit, reward, achieve

8 strokes
NN2594

hata(su), ka

HA TA SU

果 た す **to accomplish**

SEI KA

青 果 **fruits and vegetables**



A farmer's REWARD is when the trees (木) in his field (田) bear lots of FRUIT.

課

chapter, lesson

15 strokes
NN5644

ka

HŌ KA GO

放 課 後 **after school**

DAI SAN KA

第 三 課 **chapter three**



Each CHAPTER of learning, giving basic LESSONS for farmers, talks (言) about how to work in fields (田) or with trees (木).

巢

rookery, hive, cobweb, den

11 strokes
NN2705

su

HACHI NO SU

蜂 の 巢 **beehive**

FURU SU

古 巢 **old haunts**



A ROOKERY could be thought of as a field (田) of birds in a treetop.

条

article, item, strike

7 strokes
NN2563

jō

JŌ KEN

条件 **condition, requirement**

SHIN JŌ

信条 **creed, belief**



As an ARTICLE of faith, a folding table made of wood (木) should be a stronger ITEM.

染

dye, color, paint

9 strokes
NN2636

so(meru), shi(miru), sen

SO ME RU

染 め る **to paint, to dye**

SHI MI RU

染 み る **to pierce, to soak in**

SEN RYŌ

染 料 **dye**



For our tie-dyeing, three drops of DYE are used nine (九) times before hanging the shirts on wooden (木) hangers to dry.

楽

music, comfort, ease

13 strokes
NN2790

tano(shii), gaku, raku

TANO SHI I

楽 しい fun, enjoyable

ON GAKU

音 楽 music

RAKU

楽 comfortable



A white (白) bird flaps its wings, at EASE on his perch in a tree (木).

案

plan, suggestion, ponder

10 strokes
NN2667

an

TEI AN

定 案 **proposal, proposition**

AN NAI

案 内 **information, guidance**



Under the roof with a chimney the woman (女) will PLAN where to put the wooden (木) furniture.

栄

flourish, prosperity, glory

9 strokes
NN2635

saka(eru), ha(e), ei

EI YŌ

栄 養 **nutrition**

SAKA E RU

栄 え る **to prosper**

MI BA E

見 栄 え **show, display, appearance**



With a few sprinkles of knowledge, you can make a bonsai tree (木)
under the roof FLOURISH.

束

bundle, sheaf, ream

7 strokes
NN2559

taba, soku

YAKU SOKU

約 束 **promise**

TABA NI NA T TE

束 になっ て **in a bunch**



BUNDLE wood (木) through the mouth (口) of a band of string.

末

end, close, posterity

5 strokes
NN2534

sue, matsu

SUEK KO

末 子 **youngest child**

SHŪ MATSU

週 末 **weekend**



The longest branch is CLOSE to the top END of the tree (木).

業

business, vocation, arts, performance

13 strokes
NN2789

waza, gyō

KŌ GYŌ

工 業 [manufacturing] industry

NŌ GYŌ

農 業 agriculture

WAZA

業 performance, vocation



See four tumbling positions of a trapeze artist as he swings over a tree (木) in his PERFORMANCE.

査

investigate

9 strokes
NN2630

sa

CHŌ SA

調 査 **survey, investigation**

KETSU EKI KEN SA

血 液 検 査 **blood test**



When raising bonsai trees (木) keep peeking at them with your eye (目) to INVESTIGATE how they grow.

未

un~, not yet, still, even now

5 strokes

NN2535

ima(da), mi

MI RAI

未 来 **the [distant] future**

IMA DA NI

未 だ に **even now**



This is the tree-house dad built that my half sister (妹) has NOT YET seen.

Fancy Tree 未

私

丨

7 strokes
NN4124

watashi, shi

WATASHI

私 丨

SHI RITSU

私 立 **private [establishment]**



I stand by my favorite fancy tree (禾).

移

shift, move, catch (cold, fire)

11 strokes
NN4141

utsu(ru), i

I DŌ
私 動 **transfer, migration**

I JŪ
移 住 **immigration**

UTSU RU
移 る **to move [house], to transfer [department]**



Fancy trees (禾) SHIFT colors many (多) times and MOVE our minds with their beauty.

程

degree, moderation, limit

12 strokes
NN4144

hodo, tei

NOCHI HODO

後 程 **later on, eventually**

KŌ TEI

行 程 **distance**



The king (王) said he liked fancy trees (禾) only in MODERATION.

秒

second(s)

9 strokes
NN4129

byō

ICHI BYŌ

一 秒 **one second**

BYŌ YO MI

秒 読み **countdown**



Fancy trees (禾) trees seem to change colors by a few (少) shades every SECOND.

科

department, course, selection

9 strokes
NN4130

ka

RI KA
理 科 science



Under the shade of a fancy tree (禾) one can use a dipper to sample a couple of COURSES.

Bamboo 竹

穀

cereals, grain

14 strokes
NN4157

roku

KOKU MOTSU

穀 物 **grain, cereal, corn**



A samurai (士) up a fancy tree (禾) would make sure to cover his master's GRAIN as he knelt down next to the table.

種

species, seed, kind, variety

14 strokes
NN4159

tane, shu

TANE

種 **seed**

SHU RUI

種 類 **kind, type**



Fancy trees (禾) create different KINDS of heavy (重) things that fall called SEEDS.

積

volume, contents, pile up, amass

16 strokes
NN4176

tsu(mu), seki

TSU MU

積 む **to pile up, to stack**

SEKI NEN

積 年 **long-standing**



On fancy trees (禾), branches grow in VOLUMES above previous ones and you can see shells PILE UP from shellfish (貝) eaten at picnics.

竹

bamboo

6 strokes
NN4246

take, chiku

TAKE

竹 **bamboo**

CHIKU WA

竹 輪 **fish-paste cake**



Two sections of BAMBOO with young leaves grow fast.

笑

laugh

10 strokes
NN4256

wara(u), e(mu)

WARA U

笑 う **to laugh**

E GAO

笑 顔 **smiling face**



The big (大) performer with young bamboo (竹) in the background raises his cane before bowing and LAUGHS with the crowd.

策

scheme, plan

12 strokes
NN4284

saku

SAKU RYAKU

策 略 **scheme, tactic**

SHIS SAKU

失 策 **blunder, slip**



The SCHEME to slow the expansion of the bamboo (竹) was to plant trees (木) with thorns around it.

笛

flute, pipe, whistle

11 strokes
NN4268

fue, teki

FUE

笛 **flute**

MA TEKI

魔 笛 **magic flute**



A bamboo (竹) FLUTE is blown toward a field (田) to make the crop grow.

曲

bend, music, melody, curve

6 strokes
NN2418

ma(garu), kyoku

MA GA RU

曲 が る **to turn**

IK KYOKU

一 曲 **melody**



The MUSIC sheet on the stand is ready for someone to TURN the page as the MELODY progresses.

典

code, ceremony, law

8 strokes
NN0375

ten

SHIKI TEN

式 典 **ceremony, rites**

KO TEN

古 典 **old book**



Sometimes the LAW needs to bend (曲).

筋

muscle, fiber

12 strokes
NN4286

suji, kin

KIN NIKU

筋 肉 **muscle**

SUJI CHIGA I

筋 違 い **cramp,**



Like the growing strength of bamboo (竹), every month (月), my
MUSCLE FIBERS become greater.

第

No., residence

11 strokes
NN4272

dai

DAI ICHI
第一 No. 1

DAI SAN KA
第三課 Chapter 3

DAI NI TĀ MI NA RU
第二ターミナル Terminal 2



Drawing small pieces of bamboo (竹) rather than straws, my younger brother (弟) wanted to show that he was NUMBER one.

答

solution, answer

12 strokes
NN4285

kota(eru), tō

KOTA E RU

答 え る **to answer, to reply**

KOTA E

答 え **answer, response**

GO TŌ

誤 答 **mistaken response**



These two bamboo shoots (竹) match (合) in a correct SOLUTION and ANSWER the problem.

算

calculate, divining

14 strokes
NN4316

san

SAN SŪ

算 数 **arithmetic**

YO SAN

予 算 **estimate, budget**



CALCULATING bamboo (竹) shoots waving within eyesight can be like
DIVINING a stranger's fortune.

管

pipe, tube, wind instrument

14 strokes
NN4317

kan

KAN RI

管 理 **control, management [of business, etc.]**

MŌ SAI KAN

毛 細 管 **capillary**



Bamboo (竹) that grows on the roof can be used as PIPES, TUBES, or WIND INSTRUMENTS.

箱

box, chest, bin

15 strokes
NN4331

hako

HAKO

箱 **box**

GO MI BAKO

ゴミ箱 **trash bin**



The bamboo (竹) poles were over a BOX made of wood (木) with three shelves.

筆

writing or painting brush, writing

12 strokes
NN4288

fude, hitsu

FUDE

筆 **brush**

EN PITSU

鉛筆 **pencil**



A bamboo (竹) WRITING BRUSH should be held firmly in the hand with all five fingers.

文

sentence, literature

6 strokes
NN2364

fumi, bun

KOI BUMI

恋 文 **love-letter**

BUN GAKU

文 学 **literature**



An inkwell sits on a wide table, ready for SENTENCES to be written.

等

and so forth, [first] class, quality

12 strokes
NN4287

hito(shii), nado, tō

BYŌ DŌ

平 等 **equality, evenness**

HITO SHI I

等 し い **equal, similar**

NADO

等 **and so forth**



Bamboo (竹), cedar, AND SO FORTH are used as QUALITY building materials in temples (寺) in Japan.

Grass 草

草

grass, herb

9 strokes
NN5032

kusa, sō

KUSA

草 **grass**

HŌ REN SŌ

菠 薐 草 **spinach**



GRASS grows well on days (日) with a lot of sun and after ten (十) can be quite tall.

芸

technique, art, craft, performance

7 strokes
NN4978

gei

GEI SHA

芸者 **geisha**

GEI JUTSU

芸術 **[fine] art, the arts**



Making CRAFT with only two (二) blades of grass by myself, would indeed be a PERFORMANCE and ART.

花

flower

7 strokes
NN4980

hana, ka

HANA

花 **flower**

KA BIN

花 瓶 **vase**



Through grassy herbs, changes in the form of FLOWERS will pop up.

英

England, English

8 strokes
NN5008

ei

EI KOKU

英 国 **traditional name for England**

EI GO

英 語 **English**



With grassy herbs in the background, an ENGLISH gardener holds a box of plantings.

苦

suffering, bitter

8 strokes
NN5009

kuru(shii), niga(i)

KURU SHI I

苦 し い **painful, difficult, agonizing**

NIGA TE

苦 手 **poor [at], weak [in]**

NIGA I

苦 い **bitter**



Old (古) grass might taste really BITTER and definitely make you feel like you are SUFFERING.

荷

baggage, load, cargo

10 strokes
NN5059

ni, ka

NI MOTSU

荷物 **luggage**

TE NI MOTSU

手荷物 **hand luggage**



The man had plants in the CARGO that came by mail and measured under the limit where he would be taxed.

葉

leaf

12 strokes
NN5129

ha, yō

KOTO BA

言 葉 **language, word[s]**

AO BA

青 葉 **young leaves**



The world (世) of blades of grass is like that of the LEAVES of a tree (木).

菜

vegetables, greens, side dish

11 strokes
NN5097

na, sai

YA SAI
野菜 **vegetable**

SŌ ZAI
総菜 **side dish**

NA P PA
菜っ葉 **greens, leaf vegetable**



Often green like grass, VEGETABLES are a leafy dish eaten just before rice (米).

落

fall, drop, come

12 strokes
NN5130

o(chiru), raku

O CHI RU

落ちる **to fall down**

RAKU TAN

落胆 **discouragement, disappointment**



Grassy herbs FALL gingerly, as DROPS of water drizzle on a folding table where a dry mouth quenches its thirst.

薬

medicine, chemical

16 strokes
NN5224

kusuri, yaku

KUSURI

薬 **medicine**

YAK KYOKU

薬 局 **pharmacy**



The MEDICINE made of grass or herbs can help make you feel better so you can fly like a white (白) bird in a tree (木).

薄

dilute, thin, weak [tea,coffee]

16 strokes
NN5225

usu(i), haku

USU I

薄 い weak, watery; light

USU AJI

薄 味 weak flavor



Blades of grass lightly washed with the water on the side of ten (十) fields (田) have a WEAK flavor.

Rain 雨

雨

rain

8 strokes
NN6518

ame, u

Ō AME

大雨 **heavy rain**

U TEN

雨天 **rainy weather**



Through a window, you can see drops of RAIN against the glass.

電

electricity

13 strokes
NN6526

den

DEN KI

電 氣 **electricity**

TEI DEN

停 電 **power outage**



It can be an ELECTRIC experience to fly a kite in the rain (雨).

曇

cloudy weather, cloud up

16 strokes
NN2518

kumo(ru), don

KUMO RI

曇 日 cloudiness, cloudy weather

DON TEN

曇 天 dull [cloudy] weather



On a day (日) with rain (雨), the CLOUDY WEATHER blocks me myself from seeing the sun.

雪

snow

11 strokes
NN6520

yuki, setsu

YUKI

雪 snow

KŌ SETSU

降雪 snowfall



SNOW is essentially frozen, fluffy rain (雨) that piles up in layers.

雲

cloud

12 strokes
NN6522

kumo, un

KUMO

雲 cloud

SEI UN

星雲 nebula



I myself say one CLOUD is nice, but two (二) CLOUDS might bring rain (雨).

雷

thunder, lightning bolt

13 strokes
NN6525

kaminari, rai

KAMINARI

雷

thunder, lightning

RAI U

雷

雷

thunderstorm



When rain (雨) falls on rice fields (田), THUNDER rolls and LIGHTNING flashes.

Seasons 季節

春

spring

9 strokes
NN2453

haru, shun

HARU

春 **spring**

RAI SHUN

来 春 **next spring**



Three months into a year brings SPRING and plants flourish in extended sunlight.

夏

summer

10 strokes
NN1120

natsu, ka

NATSU YASU MI

夏 休 み **summer vacation**

KA KI KŌ SHŪ

夏 期 講 習 **summer school**



Wishing SUMMER was more than one hundred (百) days long, we sat on the folding table in the yard.

秋

autumn, fall

9 strokes
NN4131

aki, shū

AKI

秋 **fall**

SHŪ KI

秋 氣 **fall air**



In AUTUMN, the colors of fancy trees (禾) resemble fire (火).

冬

winter

5 strokes
NN0410

fuyu, tō

FUYU

冬 **winter**

TŌ MIN

冬 眠 **hibernation**



Sometimes an icy WINTER seems to go on and on as snowflakes pile up below the folding table.

CHAPTER 6

ANIMALS

猫

cat

11 strokes
NN3586

neko, byō

NEKO

猫 cat

MANE KI NEKO

招 き 猫 **inviting [lucky] cat**

AI BYŌ KA

愛 猫 家 **cat lover**



The furry tail of a CAT is just there, in the grass by the field (田).

Cow 牛 and Pig 豚

牛

cow

4 strokes
NN3532

ushi, gyū

USHI
牛 **cow**

GYŪ NYŪ
牛 乳 **milk**



This profile of a COW incorporates a view of its head and horns turned to the side.

牧

care for, shepherd, feed

8 strokes
NN3537

boku

BOKU SHI

牧 師 **pastor, minister**

BOKU JŌ

牧 場 **farm [livestock], ranch**



Kobe beef cows (牛) are CARED FOR and eat as if they FEED at picnic tables.

特

special

10 strokes
NN3541

toku

TOKU NI

特 に particularly, especially

TOKU BETSU

特 別 special



Cows (牛) are SPECIAL at Hindu temples (寺).

物

thing, object, matter

8 strokes
NN3538

mono, butsu

MONO

物 **thing**

DŌ BUTSU

動物 **animal**

TA BE MONO

食べ物 **food**



It is not a cow, but it is definitely a furry THING.

豚

pork, pig

11 strokes
NN5743

buta, ton

BUTA NIKU

豚 肉 **pork**

TON KA TSU

豚 カ ツ **pork cutlet**



In the light of the moon (月), a PIG hangs from a hook, its tail curled, four legs splayed outward with its body hanging down.

象

elephant, shape

12 strokes
NN5744

shō, zō

IN SHŌ

印 象 **impression**

ZŌ

象 **elephant**



See the long curved tusks of this ELEPHANT, its legs, and its tail.

農

agriculture, farmer

13 strokes
NN6008

nō

NŌ JŌ
農 場 **farm** [agriculture]

NŌ GYŌ
農 業 **agriculture**

農

In AGRICULTURE, FARMERS' tractors curve (曲) around the tables at the bases of cliffs (厶) twice (二).

像

statue, picture, portrait

14 strokes
NN0308

zō

BUTSU ZŌ

仏 像 **Buddhist image [statue]**

GA ZŌ

画 像 **picture**



A person next to an elephant (象) stands as still as a STATUE to get his PICTURE taken.

Horse 馬 and Sheep 羊

馬

horse

10 strokes
NN6725

uma, ba

UMA

馬 **horse**

BA SHA

馬車 **horse drawn cart**

BA KA MONO

馬鹿者 **stupid person, idiot**



The HORSE has a large bridled head, four legs, and a long tail.

駅

station

14 strokes
NN6735

eki

TŌ KYŌ EKI

東 京 駅 **Tokyo Station**

EKI BEN

駅 弁 **[local] box lunch bought at a station**



Horses (馬) took people to the STATION where an open mouth (口) announced the measure of time before the next departure.

驗

verification, effect, testing

18 strokes
NN6758

ken

SHI KEN

試 驗 **examination, test**

KEI KEN

經 驗 **experience**



A thoroughbred horse (馬) undergoes TESTS by two people who talk about the results.

羊

sheep

6 strokes
NN4658

hitsuji, yō

HITSUJI

羊 **sheep**

YŌ MŌ

羊 毛 **wool**



This SHEEP has three (三) main parts including two big ears, a tail, and its legs.

美

beauty, beautiful

9 strokes
NN4660

utsuku(shii), bi

UTSUKU SHI I

美 しい beautiful

BI JIN

美人 beautiful person

BI JUTSU

美術 art



Long ago, a man with a big (大) BEAUTIFUL sheep (羊) was considered fortunate.

僕

me, I (male)

14 strokes
NN0313

boku

BOKU

僕 me, I [male]



The boy acrobat said “Watch ME flip over this tree (木).”

幸

happiness, blessing, fortune

8 strokes
NN1595

saiwa(i), shiawa(se), kō

SHIAWA SE

幸 せ **happiness, good fortune**

FU KŌ

不 幸 **sorrow, misfortune**

SAIWA I

幸 い **fortunately, blessedness**



When a little sheep (羊) sees fertile soil (土) full of lush grass its
HAPPINESS in its good FORTUNE shows.

様

way, manner, polite suffix

14 strokes
NN2821

sama, yō

O KYAKU SAMA

お客様 **polite way of addressing a customer**

SAMA ZAMA

様々 **various**

YŌ NI

様に **in order to, so that**



There is a MANNER in which you should keep sheep (羊), with trees (木) for shade and also water (水) close by.

議

deliberation, consultation

20 strokes
NN5716

gi

KAI GI

会 議 **meeting, conference**

GI CHŌ

議 長 **chairman, speaker [of assembly, etc.]**



During DELIBERATION, they said (言) that the sheep (羊) should be sheared using hand (扌) tools similar to halberds (戈).

遅

slow, late, back

12 strokes
NN6089

oso(i), chi

OSO I

遅 い slow, late

CHI KOKU

遅 刻 late, tardy



A slow sheep (羊) saunters through a gate on the path home from a LATE evening of grazing.

Dog 犬, Bear 熊, and Fur 毛

犬

dog

4 strokes
NN3553

inu, ken

INU

犬 **dog**

YA KEN

野 犬 **stray dog**



A big DOG about to eat a bone.

熊

bear

14 strokes
NN3468

kuma

KUMA

熊

bear

KUMA MOTO KEN

熊

本

県

Kumamoto Prefecture



If I myself saw a BEAR by the light of the flickering moon (月), its paws might look like big spoons.

状

status quo, conditions, circumstances

7 strokes
NN3556

jō

JŌ TAI

状 態 **current status, condition**

JŌ KYŌ

状 況 **state of affairs [around you]**



CIRCUMSTANCES seemed good for the dog (犬) to catch the bone.

能

ability, talent, skill

10 strokes
NN4809

nō

SAI NŌ

才 能 **talent, ability**

KA NŌ SEI

可 能 性 **likelihood, possibility**



When I myself spend a month (月) stirring the soup that is my TALENT and ABILITY, with dipper after dipper, improvement can be seen.

毛

fur, hair, down

4 strokes
NN3013

ke, mō

KAMI NO KE

髪 の 毛 **hair**

MŌ FU

毛 布 **blanket**



This HAIRY thing has scruffy FUR.

狐

fox

9 strokes
NN3568

kitsune

KITSUNE

狐

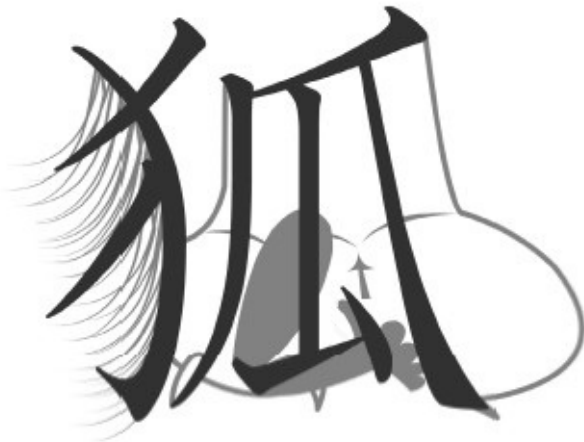
fox

GIN GITSUNE

銀

狐

silver fox



You can easily recognize the long hairs of a tail of a FOX, but I myself have only seen its three-toed paw and nail (爪) prints.

犯

crime, sin, offense

5 strokes
NN3554

oka(su), han

OKA SU

犯 す **to commit [an offence]**

HAN NIN

犯 人 **offender, criminal**

HAN ZAI

犯 罪 **crime**



Long hairs were found at the scene of the CRIME after police went around and around looking for clues.

狸

tanuki, Japanese raccoon

10 strokes
NN3578

tanuki

TANUKI

狸 **tanuki, Japanese raccoon**

TANUKI SO BA

狸 そば **soba with tempura batter**



The long hair of a TANUKI's tail is going into his burrow in the ground (土) just beside the field (田).

独

single, spontaneously

9 strokes
NN3574

hito(ri), doku

DOKU SHIN

独 身 **single, unmarried**

KO DOKU

孤 独 **solitude, loneliness**



By the hair of its tail, the insect lives, SPONTANEOUSLY greeting every SINGLE day with excitement.

Bird 鳥, 隹 and Fish 魚

鳥

bird

11 strokes
NN6931

tori, chō

TORI I
鳥 居 **Shinto shrine gate**

HAKU CHŌ
白 鳥 **swan**



This BIRD has a little feather on its head and its tail feather gracefully draped behind.

鳴

chirp, cry

14 strokes
NN6939

na(ku)

NA KU

鳴 < **to chirp**



A bird's beak CHIRPS like a mouth (口).

雜

miscellaneous

14 strokes
NN6507

zatsu, zō

ZAS SHI

雜誌 **magazine**

FUKU ZATSU

複雜 **complicated**

O ZŌ NI

お雑煮 **New Year's soup dish**



It is difficult for an old bird (隹) to decide where to roost among nine (九) MISCELLANEOUS trees (木).

集

gather, meet, flock

12 strokes
NN6500

atsu(maru), shū

ATSU MA RU

集 ま る **to meet**

GUN SHŪ

群 集 **group [of living things], crowd**



A FLOCK of old birds (雀) GATHERS to MEET in a tree (木).

難

difficult, impossible, trouble

18 strokes
NN6515

kata(i), muzuka(shii), nan

YURU SHI GATA I

許 し 難 い **hard to forgive**

MUZUKA SHI I

難 し い **difficult**

KU NAN

苦 難 **suffering, distress**



A big old bird (隹) pokes its beak in the grass to get a mouthful (口) of worms, but they are DIFFICULT to find and it only gets one (一) big (大) one.

羽

feather, counter for birds

6 strokes
NN4675

hane, wa

HANE DA KŪ KŌ
羽 田 空 港 **Haneda Airport**

SAN WA
三 羽 **three birds**

HANE
羽 **feather, plume**



Each of these two wing FEATHERS are split.

魚

fish

11 strokes
NN6845

sakana, gyo

SAKANA

魚 fish

KIN GYO

金 魚 goldfish



The FISH flips up out of the water in the field (田).

習

learn

11 strokes
NN4681

nara(u), shū

NARA U

習 う **to learn**

JI SHŪ

自 習 **self-study**



Two feathers from the wings (羽) of a white (白) bird are left as it LEARNS to fly.

酉

west, zodiac sign of the rooster

7 strokes
NN6157

tori

TORI DOSHI

酉 年 year of the rooster



In this bottle is sake from the WEST.

漁

fishing, fishery

14 strokes
NN3309

asa(ru), ryō

ASA RU

漁 る **to look for, to fish**

RYŌ SHI

漁 師 **fisherman**



You can go FISHING for fish (魚) in the water.

Shellfish 貝

貞

upright, consistency

9 strokes
NN5768

tei

TEI SŌ

貞 操 **chastity, virtue**

TEI RETSU

貞 烈 **extreme faithfulness**



The fortune teller (卜) predicted with CONSISTENCY where the UPRIGHT shellfish (貞) would be found.

負

defeat, negative, beat, owe

9 strokes

NN5769

ma(keru), o(u), fu

MA KE RU

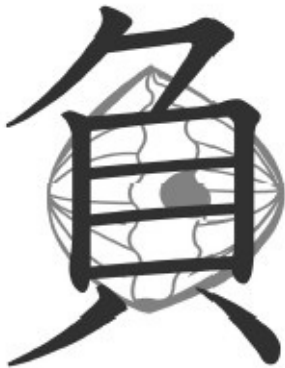
負 け る **to lose, to be defeated**

O U

負 う **to bear**

FU SHŌ

負 傷 **injury, wound**



A shellfish (貝) will suffer DEFEAT when a sharp object cracks it open.

貝

shellfish, shell

7 strokes
NN5766

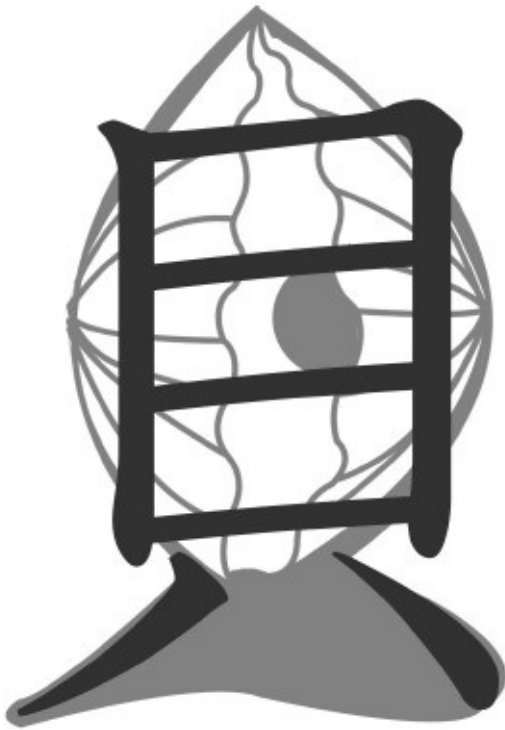
kai

KAI

貝 shellfish

MA KI GAI

巻き貝 spiral shell



A SHELLFISH looks like a winking eye (目).

貯

savings, store, lay in

12 strokes
NN5791

ta(meru), cho

TA ME RU

貯 め る **to save**

CHO CHIKU

貯 蓄 **savings**



STORE your SAVINGS of shellfish (貝) in the building with the roof and the chimney.

貨

freight, goods, property

11 strokes
NN5781

ka

KA MOTSU

貨物 **cargo, freight**

GAI KA DA TE

外貨建て **rate in foreign currency**



People (人) would scoop up GOODS or PROPERTY and pay for them with the shellfish (貝) shells in ancient Japan.

費

cost

12 strokes
NN5786

tsui(yasu), hi

TSUI YA SU

費 や す **to spend, to devote**

KAI HI

会 費 **meeting expense**



Charts show the COST of goods could be paid for in shellfish (貝) in the past.

買

buy

12 strokes
NN5793

ka(u), bai

KA U

買 う **to buy**

BAI BAI

売 買 **trade, buying and selling**



The shelves here are fully stocked with shellfish (貝) to BUY.

賞

prize, reward

15 strokes
NN5815

shō

IT TŌ SHŌ

一 等 賞 **first place prize, blue ribbon**

SHŌ HIN

賞 品 **prize, trophy**



The person schooled with the right bits of knowledge on how to open shellfish (貝) easily won the biggest PRIZE in the competition.

質

substance, quality, matter

15 strokes
NN5817

shitsu

SHITSU MON

質 問 **question**

HIN SHITSU

品 質 **[material] quality**

SHICHI YA

質 屋 **pawn shop**



As a MATTER of QUALITY control, two workers check for pearls in shellfish (貝) they harvested with their small axes (斤).

員

employee, member

10 strokes
NN0808

~in

KAI SHA IN

会 社 員 **company worker**

TEN IN

店 員 **store employee**



The supermarket EMPLOYEE stocks the empty shelves with shellfish (貝) customers can buy to feed hungry mouths (口).

慣

get used to, become experienced

14 strokes
NN1970

na(reru), kan

NA RE RU

慣 れ る **to become accustomed to**

SHŪ KAN

習 慣 **custom, manners**



When you GET USED TO something, you take it a little bit to heart (心) and like learning to eat shellfish (貝) you BECOME EXPERIENCED with it every (毎) time you try.

測

plan, scheme

12 strokes
NN3244

haka(ru), soku

SHIN CHŌ O HAKA RU

身長を測る **to check someone's height**

JIS SOKU

実測 **survey, actual measurements**



The PLAN for the picnic was to find shellfish (貝) in the water, use a knife to open them, and eat them while they were fresh.

Bugs 虫 and Meat 肉

虫

insect, bug, temper

6 strokes
NN5275

mushi, chū

KON CHŪ

昆 虫 **insect, bug**

MUSHI BA

虫 齒 **a bad tooth**



INSECTS can be found inside (中) every ecosystem and often have segmented legs.

蚕

silkworm

10 strokes
NN5290

kaiko, san

SAN SHI

蚕 糸 **silk thread**



The most heavenly (天) bug (虫) in Asia is the SILKWORM.

風

wind, air, style

9 strokes
NN6663

kaze, fū

KAZE

風 **wind**

WA FŪ

和 風 **Japanese style**



The walls of the house of a bug (虫) bend in the WIND.

肉

meat

6 strokes
NN4753

niku

GYŪ NIKU

牛 肉 **beef**

NIKU DAN GO

肉 团 子 **meatballs**

HI NIKU

皮 肉 **cynicism, sarcasm**



A double set of ribs can be seen in the MEAT carcass hanging for sale in a market.

爪

claw, talon

4 strokes
NN3509

tsume, sō

TSUME O TO GU

爪 を と ぐ **to sharpen one's claws**

SŌ GA

爪 牙 **claws and fangs**



Three TALONS are visible on this CLAW.

串

kebab, skewer

7 strokes
NN0030

kushi

KUSHI

串 skewer, kebab

TAKE GUSHI

竹 串 bamboo skewer



A mouthwatering SKEWER has pieces of meat and vegetables.

皮

skin, leather, hide

5 strokes
NN3878

kawa, hi

HI FU
皮膚 **skin**

HI NIKU
皮肉 **sarcasm, irony**

KAWA
皮 **skin [of fruit, vegetable]**



Below a cliff (厂), a table is set up with a sign on a stake above, letting customers know about the sale on fresh vegetables in their SKINS.

CHAPTER 7

THE WORLD

世

generation, world, society, public

4 strokes

NN0020

sei, se, yo

SE KAI

世界 **the world, society**

KO NO YO

この世 **this world, the present life**

SE WA

世話 **assistance, looking after**



Lines echo as they zoom out so that GENERATIONS can view the WORLD from space.

Sun 日

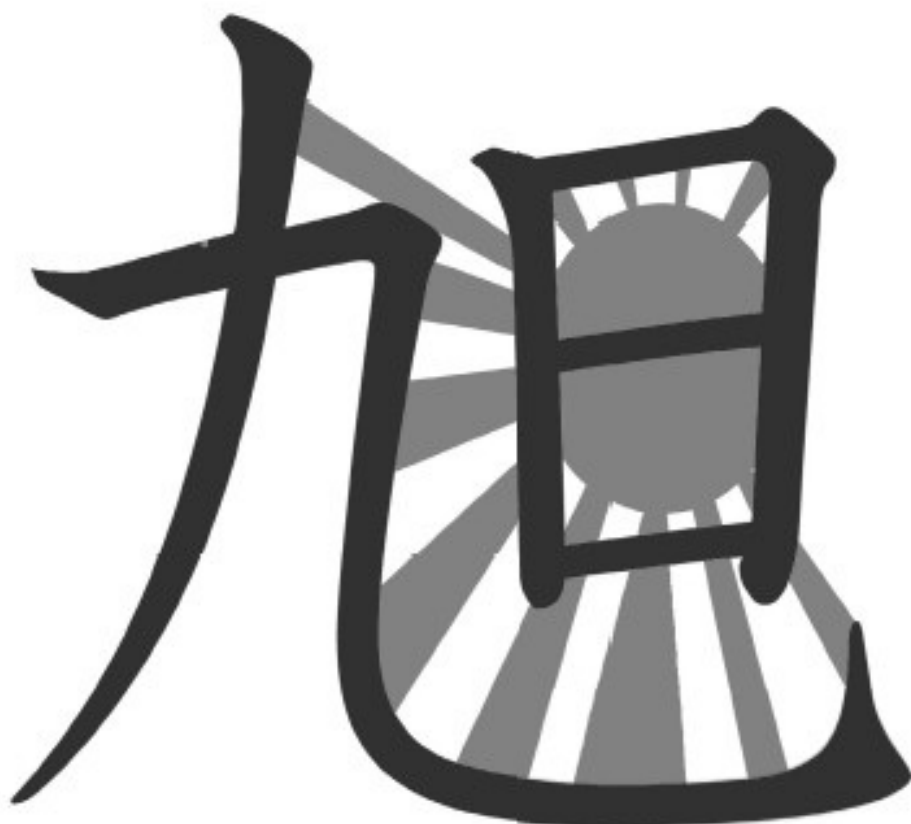
旭

rising sun, morning sun

6 strokes
NN2416

kyoku

KYOKU JITSU KI
旭 日 旗 **rising sun flag**



By nine (九) o'clock, the RISING SUN meant it was time to get up.

旦

daybreak, dawn, morning

5 strokes
NN2411

tan, dan

DAN NA

旦 那 **master [of household], husband [infor.]**

GAN TAN

元 旦 **[morning of] New Year's Day**



The sun (日) was just above the horizon at DAYBREAK.

昔

once upon a time, old times

8 strokes
NN2433

mukashi, seki

MUKASHI MUKASHI

昔 々 **long long ago**

SEKI JITSU

昔 日 **old days**

ONCE UPON A TIME, tens (十) of years ago, on one (一) day (日), an old couple reminisced about OLD TIMES.

早

early

6 strokes
NN2419

haya(i), sō

HAYA I

早 い **early**

SŌ KYŪ

早 急 **urgent**



For young people, seeing the sun (日) before ten (十) o'clock may be EARLY.

昨

yesterday, previous

9 strokes
NN2449

saku

SAKU NEN

昨 年 **last year**

SAKU JITSU

昨 日 **yesterday**



These shelves were made (作) a day (日) earlier, YESTERDAY.

昭

shining, bright

9 strokes
NN2446

shō

SHŌ WA

昭 和 Showa era [1926–89]



The Showa era in Japan was like a BRIGHT day (日), when swords (刀) were put down in favor of talking.

明

bright, light

8 strokes
NN2435

a(ku), aka(rui), mei, myō

AKA RU I

明 る い **bright**

SETSU MEI

説 明 **explanation**

SHŌ MEI SHO

証 明 書 **certificate [of...], credentials**



When the sun reflects off the moon, nights are the BRIGHTEST.

暑

hot

12 strokes
NN2484

atsu(i), sho

ATSU I

暑 い hot

SHO CHŪ MI MA I

暑 中 見 舞 い summer greeting card



A reflection of a HOT sun cuts through the soil (土) like a samurai blade.

晴

clear up

12 strokes
NN2488

ha(reru), sei

HA RE

晴 れ **clear weather**

HA RE RU

晴 れ る **to clear up [weather]**

SEI TEN

晴 天 **fine weather**

晴

A sunny (日) day has CLEAR blue (青) skies.

映

reflect, reflection, protection

9 strokes

NN2448

utsu(ru), ei

EI GA

映 画 **movie, film**

UTSU RU

映 る **to be reflected**



A person holds a pinhole camera box steady to take a REFLECTION image of the sun.

暖

warmth

13 strokes
NN2502

atata(kai), dan

ATATA KA I

暖 か い **warm**

DAN BŌ

暖 房 **heater**



With the WARMTH of the air that day (日), one (一) of my friends (友) began to break into a heavy sweat.

晦

dark, disappear

11 strokes
NN2454

kai, tsugomori

KAI JŪ

晦 渋 **hidden [talents, etc.], concealment**

Ō TSUGOMORI

大 晦 **the last day of the year**



The sun (日) DISAPPEARS every (毎) calendar day and DARK skies settle in.

暗

dark

13 strokes
NN2503

kura(i), an

KURA I

暗 い **dark**

AN GŌ

暗 号 **secret code**



Standing (立) between two suns (日), it would seem DARK because the light would blind you.

星

star

9 strokes
NN2452

hoshi, sei

HOSHI

星 **star**

KA SEI

火 星 **Mars**

星

When a STAR is born (生), the new sun (日) burns brightly.

昧

dark, foolish

9 strokes
NN2444

mai

AI MAI

曖昧 **vague, unclear**

AI MAI SA

曖昧さ **ambiguity**



Even during the day (日) it is DARK under a tree with extra branches, though it might seem FOOLISH in the middle of summer.

昏

dark, evening

8 strokes
NN2431

kon

KŌ KON

黄昏 dusk, twilight



With the layers of clouds in the sky in the DARK of EVENING encroached though the sun (日) had not even set.

旺

flourishing, successful

8 strokes
NN2427

ō

ō SEI

旺 盛 **full of vim and vigor**

ō ZEN

旺 然 **prosperous**



The king's (王) reign was FLOURISHING and every day (日) was more SUCCESSFUL than the one before.

晶
晶

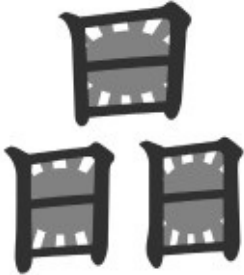
sparkle, crystal

12 strokes
NN2482

shō

SUI SHŌ

水 晶 **crystal**



Good CRYSTAL will SPARKLE like three suns (日).

昌

prosperous, bright, clear

8 strokes
NN2428

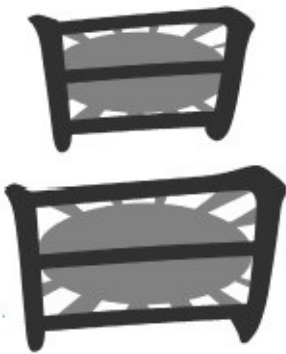
masa, shō

SHŌ HEI

昌 平 **tranquility**

MASA HIRO

昌 弘 **Masahiro [male name]**



When every day (日) has more and more sunshine, the sky is BRIGHT and farmers are PROSPEROUS.

是

just so, this

9 strokes
NN2451

kore, ze

KORE

是 **this** [written in hiragana]

ZE HI TO MO

是非とも **by all means**



THIS image of a sun (日) is sitting JUST SO, on a platter being carried around on foot (足).

普

universal, wide(ly), generally

12 strokes
NN2489

fu

FU TSŪ

普通 **ordinary, usual**

FU DAN

普段 **usual, everyday**



The runners were **GENERALLY** prepared for the heat of the sun (日) on race day.

易

easy, simple

8 strokes
NN2432

yasa(shii), eki

TA BE YASU I

食 べ 易 い **easy to eat**

BŌ EKI

貿 易 **[foreign] trade**



SIMPLE daily (日) care for some furry things (物) is not always EASY.

旧

old things, old friend, former

5 strokes
NN2412

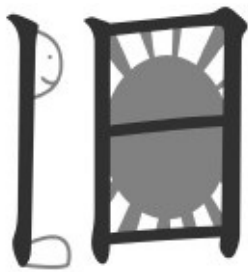
kyū

KYŪ YŪ

旧 友 **old friend**

KYŪ YAKU

旧 約 **[foreign] trade**



Think about one day (日) with an OLD FRIEND.

景

scenery, view

12 strokes
NN2487

kei

KEI KI GA I I

景 気 が い い **good conditions**

KE SHIKI

景 色 **scenery, landscape**



The VIEW of the SCENERY on a clear day (日) in the capital (京) was incredible.

暫

temporarily, a while, long time

15 strokes
NN2510

shibara(ku), zan

SHIBARA KU

暫 < for a while [usu. in hiragana]

ZAN TEI

暫 定 tentative, temporary



A cart (車) was TEMPORARILY halted by a logger with an ax (斤) one day (日).

甘

sweet, sugary

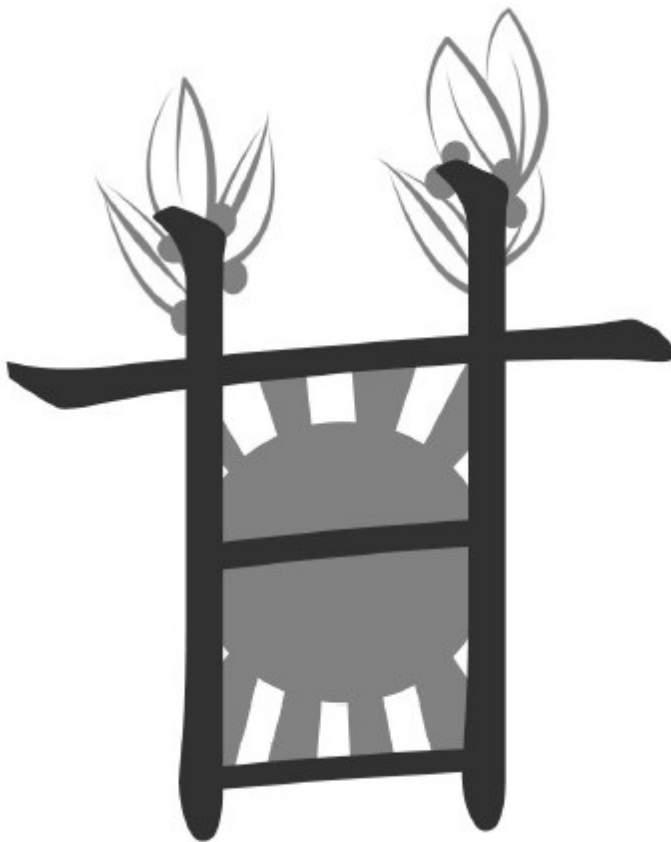
5 strokes
NN3710

ama(i), kan

AMA I
甘 い **sweet**

AMA E RU
甘 える **to behave like a spoiled child**

KAN MI RYŌ
甘 味 料 **sweeteners**



In the heat of the sun (日), flower buds smell SWEET for bees, and SUGARY berries begin to ripen.

香

incense, smell

9 strokes
NN6722

ka, kao(ri), kō

KAO RI

香 匂 **aroma, fragrance**

KŌ SUI

香 水 **perfume**

KA GAWA KEN

香 川 県 **Kagawa Prefecture**



A fancy tree (禾) has a strong SMELL in the heat of the sun (日).

最

utmost, most, extreme

12 strokes
NN2492

motto(mo), sai

SAI KIN

最 近 **recently, these days**

MOTTO MO

最 も **most, extremely**

A large, bold calligraphic character '最' (sai) is shown. The character is composed of a top radical '日' (sun) and a bottom radical '取' (take). Small arrows and numbers indicate the stroke order for writing the character.

A case of EXTREME sunburn happened when she was lying on the picnic table in the sun (日), and she even burned her ears (耳).

厚

thick, kind

9 strokes
NN0651

atsu(i)

ATSU I

厚 い **thick, heavy, cordial**

ATSU GI RI

厚 切 り **thickly sliced food**



The THICK shadow of the cliff (厂) provided shelter in the middle of the day (日) for children (子) and they thanked it for being so KIND as to provide the shade.

暴

outburst, fret

15 strokes
NN2511

aba(reru), bō

RAN BŌ

乱 暴 **rude, violent**

ABA RE MONO

暴 れ 者 **roughneck**



On a day (日) when we were together (共), there was an OUTBURST of noise when water (水) spilled and my friend began to FRET.

日

day, sun

4 strokes
NN2410

hi, nichi

NI HON

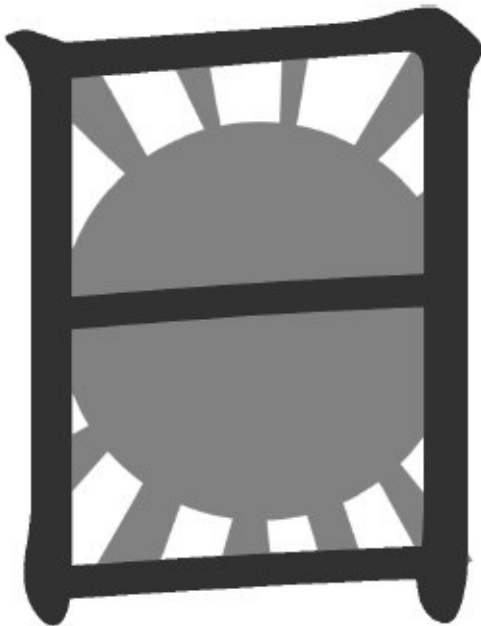
日 本 **Japan**

SO NO HI

そ の 日 **that day**

NICHI YŌ BI

日 曜 日 **Sunday**



Originally a circle with a dot, the SUN was soon represented as if it were a window from which to see the new DAY.

昼

daytime, noon

9 strokes
NN2450

hiru, chū

HIRU

昼 **noon**

CHŪ SHOKU

昼 食 **lunch**



The sun (日) passed through the doorway at NOON.

晚

nightfall, night

12 strokes
NN2491

ban

KON BAN

今晚 **this evening**

HITO BAN

一晚 **one night, evening**



The time of day (日) when an older brother (兄) must carefully examine his future possibilities is at NIGHT when he is ready to pull his hair out.

曜

weekday

18 strokes
NN2522

yō

MOKU YŌ BI

木 曜 日 **Thursday**



A sun (日) brings light to the feathers of an old bird (隹) as it shakes in the morning to bring in a new WEEKDAY.

週

week

11 strokes
NN6070

shū

KON SHŪ

今 週 **this week**



It takes a WEEK to walk around the soil (土) of a field to plant food for hungry mouths.

Time 時

時

time, hour

10 strokes
NN2462

toki, ~doki, ji

NI JI

二 時 **two o'clock**

TOKI DOKI

時 々 **sometimes**



TIME was told throughout the day (日) as the temple (寺) bell was struck on the HOUR.

每

every

6 strokes
NN3006

mai

MAI NICHI

每 日 **every day**

MAI KAI

每 回 **every time**



A person looks EVERY day at their calendar.

毒

poison, germ

8 strokes
NN3007

doku

O KI NO DOKU NI

お 気 の 毒 に **my sympathies**

YŪ DOKU

有 毒 **poisonous**



The soil (土) that was given one (一) extra chemical, not scheduled on the calendar, might turn to POISON or have GERMS.

年

year

6 strokes
NN1593

toshi, nen

TOSHI

年 year, age

ICHI NEN SEI

一 年 生 first year student



Every YEAR I get a birthday cake where many parts represent the past twelve months.

午

noon, zodiac sign of the horse

4 strokes
NN0604

uma, go

UMA DOSHI

午 年 year of the horse

GO GO

午 後 p.m.

午

Two strokes of the little hand above ten (十) is NOON.

Moon 月

月

month, moon

4 strokes
NN2530

tsuki, getsu, ~gatsu

SEN GETSU
先 月 **last month**

ICHI GATSU
一 月 **January**

TSUKI
月 **moon**



It is easy to see the crescent MOON with part of an eye (目) visible.

有

possess, have, exist

6 strokes
NN4756

a(ru), yū

YŪ MEI
有名 **famous**



To HAVE name recognition and POSSESS fame is like being a star jumping over the moon (月).

朝

morning, dynasty

12 strokes
NN4838

asa, chō

ASA

朝 **morning**

CHŌ SHOKU

朝 食 **breakfast**



The sun (日) comes up in the MORNING by 10:10 (十十) though the moon (月) may still be in the sky.

服

clothing

8 strokes
NN4775

fuku

YŌ FUKU

洋服 **Western clothing**

SEI FUKU

朝服 **uniform**

服

A month's (月) clothing had been hung on a big hook and then folded on the table.

育

bring up, raise

8 strokes
NN4773

soda(tsu), iku

KYŌ IKU

教 育 **education**

SODA TSU

育 つ **to be raised**



I myself was BROUGHT UP over many moons (月), RAISED under the same roof.

夜

night, evening

8 strokes
NN1129

yo, yoru, ya

YORU

夜 **evening**

KON YA

今 夜 **this evening**

YO NAKA

夜 中 **midnight**



A person is home for the NIGHT with a roof over his head, sitting at a folding table.

夕

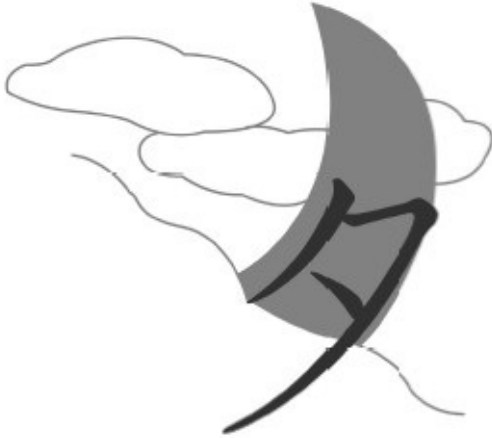
evening

3 strokes
NN1123

yū

YŪ SHOKU

夕 食 **evening meal**



Also katakana TA 夕, this is like a moon (月) that is partially hidden in the EVENING by a cloud.

外

outside

12 strokes
NN1125

soto, gai

SOTO

外 **outside**

GAI KOKU JIN

外 国 人 **foreigner**



In the evening (夕), you might step OUTSIDE of your routine and seek out a fortune teller (卜).

多

many, frequent, much

6 strokes
NN1127

ō(i), ta

ō I

多 い **many, numerous**

ō KU

多 く **many, largely**

TA BUN

多 分 **probably**



MANY evenings (夕) it is nice to FREQUENT cafes.

静

quiet

14 strokes
NN6560

shizu(ka), sei

SHIZU KA

静 か quiet

REI SEI

冷 静 calm, composure



A plant sprouts its second set of branches on a blue (青) moon (月) and all is QUIET as a man wearing epaulets walks past.

祭

celebrate, worship, deify

12 strokes
NN4092

matsu(ri), sai

O MATSU RI

お 祭 り **festival, carnival**

SAI JITSU

祭 日 **national holiday**



In the evening, we CELEBRATE the festival by lifting up a table above a sign (示).

期

period, time, term

12 strokes
NN4836

ki

JI KI
時 期 **time, season, period**

GAK KI
学 期 **semester, school term**



At least one month's (月) TIME is the average PERIOD for flower buds and small berries to develop in pots with periods of extra long sunlight (日).

用

use, business

5 strokes
NN3721

mochi(iru), yō

SHOKU YŌ ABURA

食 用 油 **cooking oil**

YŌ I

用 意 **preparation, arrangements**

MOCHI I RU

用 い い **to utilize, to make use of**



To USE things efficiently, divide a moon (月) in half to make sure that you have the best BUSINESS plan.

痛

pain, hurt, damage

12 strokes
NN3814

ita(i), tsū

ITA I

痛 い **painful, sore**

ZU TSŪ

頭 痛 **headache**



The thorns on the side of the dotted cliff (疒) can HURT and I myself will make use (用) of the first aid kit.

望

hope

11 strokes
NN4819

nozo(mu), bō

NOZO MU

望 む **to desire, to wish for**

SHITSU BŌ

失 望 **disappointment, despair**



I HOPE to fix or replace the broken container by next full moon (月)
before the king (王) notices it.

Fire 火, 灬

火

fire

4 strokes
NN3394

hi, ka

HI
火 **fire**

KA YŌ BI
火 曜 日 **Tuesday**



Two logs leaning against each other create sparks of FIRE.

灯

lamp, a light

6 strokes
NN3395

hi, tō

DEN TŌ

電 灯 **electric light**

HI O TSU KE RU

灯 を 点 け る **to turn on the light**



Like a spark of fire (火), the LAMP post was a very bright LIGHT.

炭

charcoal, coal

9 strokes
NN3413

sumi, tan

SUMI

炭 charcoal

SEKI TAN

石 炭 coal



At the base of a mountain (山), by a cliff (厩), we used CHARCOAL to grill burgers.

災

disaster, calamity

7 strokes
NN3400

wazawai, sai

SAI GAI

災 害 calamity, disaster

WAZAWA I

災 い calamity, disaster



It is a DISASTER when winds fans a fire (火).

熟

mellow, ripen, acquire skill

15 strokes
NN3472

u(reru), juku

U RE

熟 れ ripeness, maturity

JUKU DOKU

熟 読 careful reading



If the bar is held high over the mouths (口) of children (子), they will learn lots and become well-rounded (丸) and ACQUIRE SKILL as if on fire.

燃

burn, blaze, grow

16 strokes
NN3490

mo(eru), nen

MO E RU

燃 え る **to burn**

NEN PI

燃 費 **fuel consumption, gas mileage**



The dog (犬) sat by the fire (火) BURNING every evening (夕).

熱

heat, temperature, fever

15 strokes
NN3473

atsu(i), netsu

NETSU

熱 fever

ATSU I

熱 い hot [thing]; passionate, hot [temper]

NES SHIN

熱 心 enthusiasm



I have a previous (先) memory of a fire circle (丸) on my grandparents' land (土), involving the HEAT of a camp fire and a FEVER of dancing and singing. Japanese.

為

do, change, make, benefit, reach to

9 strokes

NN3411

tame, na(ru), i

NO TAME NI

の 為 に **because**

KŌ I

行 為 **act, deed**

NA RU

為 る **to become**



When a bird (鳥) with talons makes a REACH TO grab you, you know you should have made a CHANGE to DO things differently.

点

mark, point, decimal point

9 strokes
NN3412

ten

MAN TEN

満点 **perfect score**

KYŪ TEN

九点 **nine points**



When you have good fortune (占) and you are on fire, your DECIMAL POINTS are in the correct places and you get all of the possible POINTS on a test.

然

sort of thing, so, if so, well

12 strokes
NN3435

shika(shi), zen

TŌ ZEN

当 然 **natural, as a matter of course, deserved**

SHI ZEN

自 然 **nature, naturally, spontaneously**

SHIKA SHI NA GA RA

然 し な が ら **however, nevertheless**



In the evening (夕), dogs (犬) are the SORT OF THINGS with four legs that sleep at the foot of a bed and ensure that everything is WELL.

照

illuminate, shine

13 strokes
NN3457

te(ru), shō

SAN SHŌ

参 照 **reference, biographical reference**

TE RA SU

照 ら す **to shine on**



On a day (日) when the sun is SHINING, it can cut like a knife (刀) and you might say that it is hot as blazes.

無

nothingness, none, not

12 strokes
NN3439

na(i), mu, bu

NA KU NA RU

無 くなる **to be lost [luggage, etc.]**

MU RYŌ

無 料 **free [of charge]**

BU JI NI

無 事に **safely, without problems**



NO person lies on a bed of nails over flames with NOTHING happening.

Metal 金

金

gold

8 strokes
NN6211

kane, kin

O KANE

お 金 **money**

KIN YŌ BI

金 曜 日 **Friday**



The king (王), came to greet his people wearing lots of shiny GOLD and jewels.

鉄

iron

13 strokes
NN6253

tetsu

CHI KA TETSU

地 下 鉄 **subway**

TETSU

鉄 **iron**



The king's gold (金) was not strong enough, so the archer used IRON tipped arrows.

銀

silver

14 strokes
NN6268

gin

GIN KŌ
銀 行 **bank**

GIN
銀 **silver**



SILVER is almost as good (良) as the king's gold (金).

鏡

mirror

19 strokes
NN6341

kagami, kyō

KAGAMI

鏡 **mirror**

SŌ GAN KYŌ

双 眼 鏡 **binoculars**



The king (王) stood (立) in front of the MIRROR to look at his gold (金).

録

record

16 strokes
NN6298

roku

KI ROKU

記 録 **record, minutes**

ROKU ON

録 音 **[audio] recording**

録

The RECORD of the king's gold (金) was said to be layers deep and flow like water (水).

当

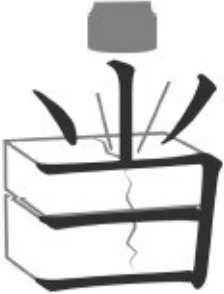
hit, right, appropriate, win a prize

6 strokes
NN1706

a(taru), tō

HON TŌ

本 当 **truth, reality**



When trying to HIT the right mark and break a stack of boards, focus well.

Water 水, 氵

水

water

4 strokes
NN3030

mizu, sui

MIZU

水 **water**

SUI YŌ BI
水 曜 日 **Wednesday**



Fingers grasp a stream of WATER as it flows from the faucet.

氷

ice, icicle, hail, freeze

5 strokes
NN3032

kōri, kō(ru), hyō

KŌRI

氷 **ice**

KA KI GŌRI

か き 氷 **shaved ice [flavored snow cone]**

HYŌ ZAN

氷 山 **iceberg**



When water (水) FREEZES to ICE, it can crack the top of a container.

海

ocean, sea

9 strokes
NN3133

umi, ~kai

UMI

海 ocean

NI HON KAI

日 本 海 Sea of Japan



OCEAN water splashes from the SEA every (毎) day of the calendar year.

求

request, want, wish for, require

7 strokes

NN3036

moto(meru), kyū

MOTO ME RU

求 め る **to want, to seek**

YŌ KYŪ

要 求 **demand, requisition**



If you have only one (一) drop of water, you WANT more.

永

eternity, long, lengthy

5 strokes
NN3031

naga(i), ei

NAGA I

永 い **long [time]**

EI KYŪ

永 久 **eternity**



Droplets of water (水) evaporate over a LONG period time though it may seem like an ETERNITY.

湖

lake

12 strokes
NN3240

mizuumi, ko

MIZUUMI

湖 lake

BI WA KO

琵琶湖 Lake Biwa



The water from the old (古) LAKE shimmered in the light of the moon (月).

流

current, a sink, flow

10 strokes
NN3160

naga(reru), ryū, ru

NAGA SHI

流 し **a sink**

NI RYŪ

二 流 **second-rate, inferior**



When I wash in a SINK, I feel good and the water FLOWS like a river (川).

港

harbor

12 strokes
NN3242

minato, kō

KŪ KŌ
空 港 **airport**

MINATO MACHI
港 町 **port city**



Tens (十) of people and a snake meet together (共) at the HARBOR to say goodbye to departing ships.

池

pond, reservoir

6 strokes
NN3042

ike, chi

IKE

池 pond

DEN CHI

電池 battery [i.e., reservoir of energy]



A bobber shows that the water level is rising as it collects in a POND.

波

wave

8 strokes
NN3101

nami, ha

NAMI

波 **wave**

TSU NAMI

津 波 **tsunami, tidal wave**

NŌ HA

脳 波 **brain waves**



Water splashes in WAVES against a cliff (厂) where a table has to be tied down.

洗

wash

9 strokes
NN3131

ara(u), sen

ARA U

洗 う **to wash**

SEN TAKU

洗 濯 **laundry**



Water is used to WASH seedlings planted previously (先).

浴

bathe, bask in

10 strokes
NN3153

a(biru), yoku

A BI RU

浴 び る **to bathe, to bask in**

KAI SUI YOKU

海 水 浴 **sea bathing**



A person (人) rests between peaks in a valley to talk and BATHE in the water.

注

pour, irrigate

8 strokes
NN3103

soso(gu), chū

SOSO GU

注 ぐ **to pour**

CHŪ I

注 意 **caution**

CHŪ MON

注 文 **order**



The lord of the estate would allow one to IRRIGATE fields or POUR water.

混

mix, blend

11 strokes
NN3204

ma(jiru), kon

MA JI RU

混 じ る **to be mixed, to be blended with**

KON ZATSU

混 雑 **confusion, congestion**



As compared (比) to adding equal parts of water and sunlight (日) to MIX things, that method is not as effective.

泳

swim

8 strokes
NN3090

oyo(gu), ei

OYO GU

泳 ぐ **to swim**

SUI EI

水 泳 **swimming**



Water (水) splashes as someone dives off of a board to SWIM.

泣

cry, weep, sob

8 strokes
NN3104

na(ku)

NA KU

泣 < to cry



Someone stands (立), CRYING tears of sadness.

激

violent, get excited, enraged

16 strokes
NN3350

hage(shii), geki

HAGE SHI I

激 し い **violent, furious**

KYŪ GEKI

急 激 **sudden, radical**



The water washed white (白) in different directions (方) in a VIOLENT rain on the picnic table.

油

oil, fat

8 strokes
NN3106

abura, yu

ABURA

油 oil, fat

SEKI YU

石 油 oil, petroleum, kerosene



Draining the water from a field (田) and drilling down, they found OIL!

湯

hot water, bath

12 strokes
NN3245

yu, tō

O YU

お 湯 hot water, hot bath

NET TŌ

熱 湯 boiling water



HOT WATER, heated by the sun (日), is one (一) important thing to have when bathing your furry creatures.

潮

salt water, tide, opportunity

15 strokes
NN3336

shio, chō

MAN CHŌ

満 潮 **high tide, high water**

ASA SHIO

朝 潮 **morning tide**



In the morning (朝), the water splashes as the TIDE of SALT WATER shifts.

温

warm

12 strokes
NN3246

atata(kai), on

ATATA KA I

温 か い **warm**

ON SEN

温 泉 **hot spring [spa]**



Use WARM water every day (日) to wash the dishes (皿).

涼

refreshing, nice and cool

11 strokes
NN3198

suzu(shii), ryō

SUZU SHI I

涼 しい **cool**

SEI RYŌ

清 涼 **cool, refreshing**



A NICE AND COOL rain misted on the lanterns of the capital (京).

準

semi-, correspond to, conform, level

13 strokes

NN3278

jun

JUN BI

涼 し **preparation**

SUI JUN

水 準 **level, standard, water level**



Water LEVEL can be determined by a tall old bird (隹) like a stork, standing in it after taking ten (十) steps.

源

source, origin

13 strokes
NN3274

minamoto, gen

SHI GEN

資 源 **resources**

DŌ GEN

同 源 **the same origin**

源

Water at the base of the cliff (厂) has its ORIGIN in a little (小) white (白) spring.

減

decrease, dwindle

12 strokes
NN3249

he(ru), gen

HE RU
減 る **to decrease [size or number]**

GEN SHŌ
減 少 **decrease, decline**



The water level began to DECREASE as one (一) leader told his soldiers to put down their halberds (戈) at the base of the cliff (厂) and help sandbag.

漢

Sino~, China

13 strokes
NN3281

kan

KAN JI
漢 字 Chinese characters

漢

CHINA has lots of grasses and rice in water filled fields, with a big (大) challenge to feed many mouths (口).

治

cure, heal, be at peace

8 strokes
NN3100

osa(maru), nao(su), ji

OSA MA RI

治 ま り **conclusion**

NAO SU

治 す **to cure, to heal**

SEI JI

政 治 **politics, government**



I myself use water to help CURE my parched mouth (口).

沿

run alongside, follow along

8 strokes
NN3096

so(u), en

KAWA ZO I

川 沿 い **alongside the river**

EN SEN

沿 線 **along the railway line**



Water splashes **ALONGSIDE** my face eight (八) times before I finally acknowledge it and say that it's raining.

派

group, clique, school (of)

9 strokes
NN3126

ha

RIP PA

立 派 **splendid, elegant**

HA DE

派 手 **loud, flashy**



Water splashes repeatedly against a GROUP of pillars supporting a dock.

洋

ocean, Western style

9 strokes
NN3130

yō

SEI YŌ
西 洋 **Pacific Ocean**

YŌ FUKU
洋 服 **Western-style clothes**



Water splashes as the sheep (羊) imported from the WEST continue grazing.

法

method, rule, law

8 strokes
NN3107

hō

HŌ HŌ

方 法 **method, way**

HŌ RITSU

法 律 **law**



The METHODS and LAWS governing water use on my land (±) are important.

活

lively, being helped, living

9 strokes
NN3132

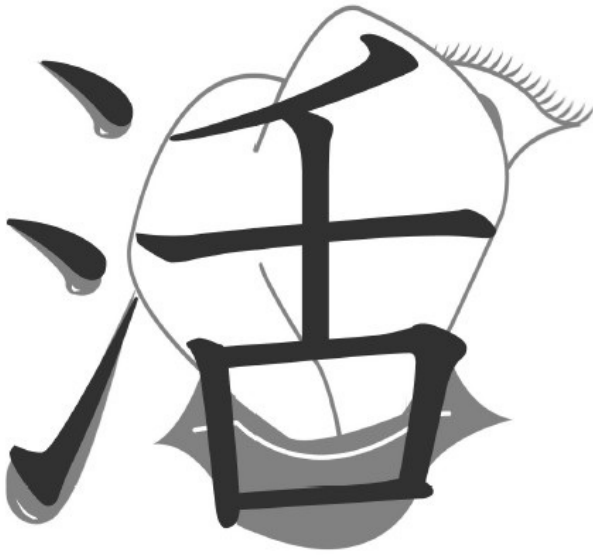
i(kiru), katsu

SEI KATSU

生 活 **lively, living**

KATSU DŌ

活 動 **action, activity**



A huge tongue (舌) pokes out of a mouth (口) to taste the flavors of LIVING.

深

deep, heighten, intensify

11 strokes
NN3206

fuka(i), shin

FUKA I

深 い **deep, dense, profound**

SHIN KAI

深 海 **deep sea**



The depth of the water began to INTENSIFY until it was DEEP and tables floated above the tops of trees (木).

消

extinguish, blow out

10 strokes
NN3158

ki(eru), ke(su), shō

KE SU

消 す **to erase, to delete, to power down**

KI E RU

消 える **to go out, to disappear**



As the water splashed, the moon's (月) light was about to **EXTINGUISH** as it went down behind the sun.

清

pure, cleanse

11 strokes
NN3205

kiyo(i), sei

SEI KETSU

清 潔 **clean, hygienic**

KIYO ME RU

清 め る **to purify, to cleanse**



To CLEANSE your body and mind, dip in blue (青) waters under leaves lit by the moon (月).

決

decide, fix, agree upon

7 strokes
NN3070

ki, ketsu

KI ME RU

決 め る **to decide, to determine**

O KI MA RI

御 決 ま り **standard, set, routine**

HAN KETSU

判 決 **judicial decision**



After the water damage, the person needs to DECIDE how to FIX the broken side of this box.

況

condition, situation

8 strokes
NN3086

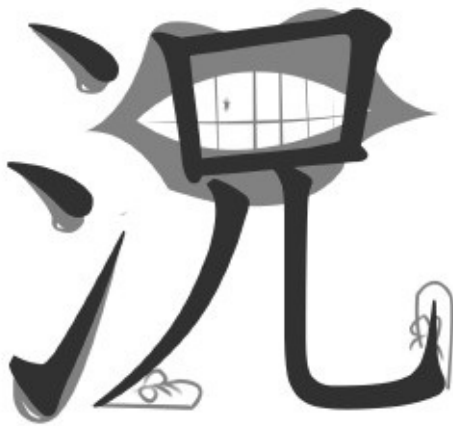
kyō

FU KYŌ

不況 recession, depression

JIK KYŌ

実況 real condition, live



Bathing with water helped my older brother's (兄) smelly CONDITION improve.

浜

sea coast, beach

10 strokes
NN3152

hama

HAMA BE
浜 辺 **beach**

YOKO HAMA
横 浜 **Yokohama**



Water splashes onto the BEACH along the COAST at the base of a hill (丘).

川

river, stream

3 strokes
NN1526

kawa, sen

KAWA

川 **river**

KA SEN

河 川 **rivers**



Three strokes of a large RIVER flow downward.

州

state, province

6 strokes
NN1529

shū

KA RI FO RU NI A SHŪ

カリフォルニア州 **state of California**

HON SHŪ

本州 **island of Honshu**



Within the river (川), several independent island STATES exist.

洲

continent, sandbar, island

9 strokes
NN3120

shū, su

SHIRA SU

白 洲 **bar of white sand**

GŌ SHŪ

豪 洲 **Australia**

A large, bold calligraphic character for the Chinese character '洲' (Continent). The character is rendered in a traditional style with thick, expressive strokes. The left side of the character features a vertical stroke with several horizontal strokes branching off to the left, resembling a stylized '水' (water) radical. The right side consists of a single, thick vertical stroke that tapers slightly at the top and bottom.

A large state (州) surrounded by an ocean of water might be a
CONTINENT.

泉

spring, fountain

9 strokes
NN3095

izumi, sen

KO IZUMI

小 泉 **Koizumi [surname]**

ON SEN

温 泉 **hot spring [spa]**



White (白) water (水) flows from a SPRING.

線

line, track

15 strokes
NN4548

sen

YAMA NOTE SEN

山 手 線 **Yamanote Line**

GIN ZA SEN

銀 座 線 **Ginza Line**



A spring (泉) of white (白) water (水) flows in a LINE like a thread (糸).

原

meadow, original, field, primitive,
wilderness

10 strokes
NN0652

hara, gen

GEN IN

原 因 **cause, origin**

NO HARA

野 原 **field**

原

Under a cliff (厂), a MEADOW has a small (小) white (白) stream and is a very PRIMITIVE WILDERNESS.

Soil, Earth 土, 土

坂

slope, incline

7 strokes
NN0985

saka

Ō SAKA
大阪 **Osaka**

NOBO RI ZAKA
上り坂 **ascent, upgrade**



Earth and soil (土) slip down the SLOPE of a cliff (反) past a table where people often sit.

場

location, place

12 strokes
NN1058

ba, jō

BA SHO

場所 **place, location**

KŌ JŌ

工場 **factory, mill**



The furry animal likes to lie in the PLACE where the sun (日) and warm soil (土) keep it cosy.

土

soil, earth, ground

3 strokes
NN0966

tsuchi, do, to

TSUCHI

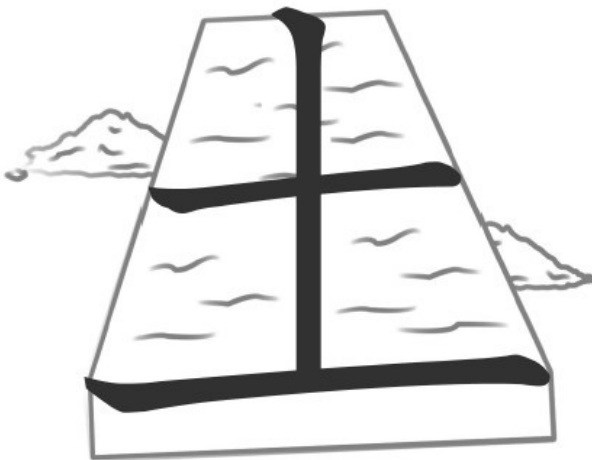
土 soil, ground

DO TE

土地 bank, mound

TO CHI

土手 plot of land, soil



The SOIL of fields in Japan looks like the GROUND is divided into squares from this angle.

境

boundary, border, region

14 strokes
NN1085

sakai, kyō

SAKAI ME

境 目 **boundary line**

KAN KYŌ

環 境 **environment, circumstance**



At the BORDER of the land (土) centurions would stand (立) guard, looking (見) for intruders on a sunny (日) day.

地

ground, earth

6 strokes
NN0976

chi, ji

TO CHI

土地 **plot of land**

CHI ZU

地图 **map**



A man had lots of GROUND, and dug a pond (池) in the EARTH so he could fish and draw water for his crops.

埋

buried, filled up, hidden

10 strokes
NN1020

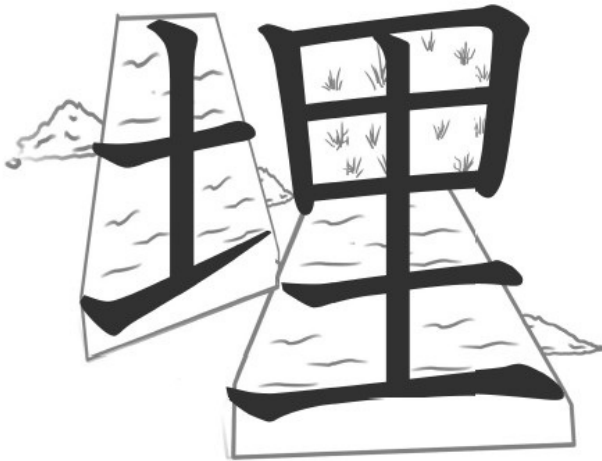
u(meru), mai

U ME RU

埋 め る **to bury [in ground]**

MAI ZŌ

埋 蔵 **buried treasure, treasure trove**



With high ground (土) on two sides, the field (田) is mostly HIDDEN or BURIED from sunlight.

坑

pit, hole

7 strokes
NN0987

kō

KIN KŌ
金 坑 **gold mine**



Long legs walk deep into a PIT in the soil (土) below a roof to mine for gemstones.

域

range, region, limits

11 strokes
NN1030

iki

CHI IKI

地 域 **area, region**



Defending his land (土) with sharp halberds (戈) successfully, the samurai declared this REGION to be off LIMITS to his enemies.

均

level, average

7 strokes
NN0988

kin

HEI KIN

平 均 **average, balance**



Soil (土), broken with a plow and planted, will give an AVERAGE harvest without fertilizer.

塩

salt

13 strokes
NN1075

shio, en

SHIO

塩 salt

EN SO

塩素 chlorine



A man's mouth (口) often needs the SALT of the ground (土) added to his dish (皿) of food.

在

exist, outskirts, suburbs

6 strokes
NN0975

a(ru), zai

GEN ZAI

現 在 now, current, present time



A person skips around the OUTSKIRTS of the land (土).

増

increase, add, augment

14 strokes
NN1088

fu(eru), zō

FU E RU

増える **to increase, to multiply**

ZŌ RYŌ

増量 **to increase in volume or quantity**



Across the land (土) where there was sun (日), fields (田) began having an INCREASED yield.

勢

force, energy, military strength

13 strokes
NN0558

ikio(i), sei, ze

Ō ZEI

大 勢 crowd, great number of people

Ji SEI

時 勢 spirit of the age, trends

IKIO I

勢 い force, vigor, energy



Soil (土) crossed over by the legs of FORCES to show MILITARY STRENGTH and power (力) create a new circle (丸) of peace over time.

厶

pressure, push, overwhelm, oppress

5 strokes
NN0970

atsu

ATSUR YOKU

厶 力 **pressure, arm-twisting**

KETSU ATSU

血 厶 **blood pressure**



When a farmer's land (土) is under the shade of a cliff (厶), there is **PRESSURE** to give it more sunlight so the shade does not **OPPRESS** growth.

型

mold, type, model

9 strokes
NN1010

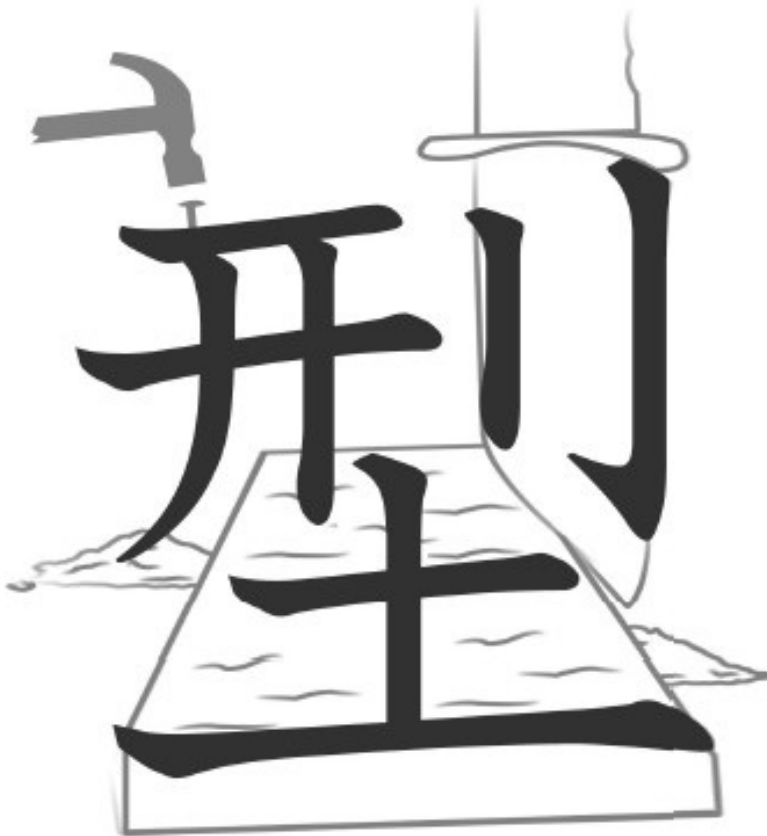
kata, ~gata

KETSU EKI GATA

血 液 型 **blood type**

KO GATA

小 型 **small size**



To MOLD or shape a MODEL in mud, a knife can be used to open (開) holes in the soil (土).

堂

public hall

11 strokes
NN1037

dō

SHOKU DŌ

食 堂 **dining hall**

KŌ KAI DŌ

公 会 堂 **public hall**



A PUBLIC HALL is a place where mouths (口) talk in the morning sun and it is often fertile ground (土) for alternative decision making.

報

report, news

12 strokes
NN1059

hō

JŌ HŌ

情報 **news, gossip**

SOKU HŌ

速報 **breaking news**

A large, stylized Japanese character '報' (hō) is shown. The character is composed of a top radical '土' (earth) and a bottom radical '羊' (sheep). The character is rendered in a bold, black font. The top radical '土' is a trapezoid with a horizontal line across the middle. The bottom radical '羊' is a stylized sheep's head with a curved line for the neck. The character '報' is formed by combining these two radicals. The character is shown with stroke order annotations: small numbers 1 through 12 are placed at the start of each stroke, and arrows indicate the direction of the strokes. The character is positioned to the left of the main text block.

When your land (土) has a lucky little sheep (羊), you should keep a tight lip on the REPORT or NEWS about it.

基

fundamental, foundation

11 strokes
NN1040

moto, ki

KI HON TEKI

基 本 的 **fundamental, standard**

KI CHI

基 地 **military base**



The **FUNDAMENTALS** of growing sweet (甘) berries and flowers in the soil (土) are important to learn.

声

voice

7 strokes
NN0989

koe, sei

KOE

声 voice

ON SEI

声 声 voice

BI SEI

美 声 beautiful voice



When a samurai (士) came to the door people knew because of a VOICE announcing his presence.

Mountain 山

考

consider, think over

6 strokes

NN4697

kanga(eru), kō

KANGA E RU

考 え る **to consider, to think about**

SHI KŌ

思 考 **thought, consideration**



CONSIDER how soil (土) cracks or splits in crooked lines in summer heat as if cut with a sword or a hoe.

老

old man, old age, grow old

6 strokes

NN4696

o(iru), fu(keru), rō

RŌ JIN

老人 **the aged, old person**

TOSHI O I RU

年 老 いる **to grow old**

FU KE RU

老 ける **to age, to grow old**



If one works in the soil (土), cutting it with a blade and then stirring it up, using a hoe like a ladle you will quickly reach OLD AGE.

者

someone, person

8 strokes
NN4698

mono, sha

I SHA

医者 **doctor**

WAKA MONO

若者 **young man, youth**



Soil is cut by a PERSON who does the tending of the earth by day (日).

山

mountain

3 strokes
NN1439

yama, san

YAMA

山 **mountain**

FU JI SAN

富士山 **Mt. Fuji**

TO ZAN

登山 **mountain climbing**



A MOUNTAIN peak stands tall.

谷

valley

7 strokes
NN5730

tani, koku

TANI GAWA

谷 川 **mountain stream**

TANI MA

谷 間 **valley, ravine**



Between mountain peaks is a VALLEY where a person (人) lived and talked (口) about how much he liked it.

岸

beach

8 strokes
NN1459

kishi, gan

KAI GAN

海 岸 **coast, beach**

KAWA GISHI

川 岸 **riverbank**



Near the base of a mountain (山) cliff (厩), plunging into the sea, is a drying rack for BEACH towels.

岩

boulder, rock, cliff

8 strokes
NN1461

iwa, gan

GAN EN

岩 塩 **rock salt**

KAI GAN

海 岸 **coast, beach**



A large ROCK lies at the base of the mountain (山).

島

island

10 strokes
NN1476

shima, tō

SHIMA

島 **island**

BA RI TŌ

バリ島 **Bali Island**



A large bird sits on an ISLAND, the top of an undersea mountain (山).

出

go out, exit, take out, leave

5 strokes
NN0445

de(ru), da(su), shutsu

DE RU

出 る **to go out**

DA SU

出 す **to take out**



When you can see the twin mountains (山), you are about to EXIT the plains and LEAVE flatlands behind.

両

both, two

6 strokes
NN0023

ryō

RYŌ SHIN

両 親 **parents**

RYŌ GAE SU TSU

両 替 す す **to exchange money**



BOTH halves of this one kanji with a mountain (山) and frame nearly mirror each other.

Dotted Cliff 广

广

wide, broad, spacious

5 strokes
NN1604

hiro(i), kō

HIRO I
広 い **wide, spacious**

HIRO SHIMA
広 島 **Hiroshima**

KŌ DAI
広 大 **huge, very large**



I myself am almost as WIDE as this dotted cliff (广).

床

bed, floor

7 strokes
NN1608

toko, yuka, shō

YUKA

床 **floor**

TOKO NO MA

床 の 間 **alcove for display of art or flowers**

KI SHŌ

起 床 **getting out of bed**



At the base of the dotted cliff (宀), trees (木) covered the forest FLOOR.

庁

government office

5 strokes
NN1603

chō

KAN CHŌ

官 庁 **government office, authorities**

HON CHŌ

本 庁 **central government office**



The GOVERNMENT OFFICE is at in the ward (丁) at the base of the dotted cliff (厂).

序

preface, beginning

7 strokes
NN1607

jo

JO BUN

序 文 **preface, introduction**

KŌ JO

公 序 **public order**



I (予) will get on the stool and start at the BEGINNING but first I should PREFACE with the reason why the cliff is dotted (广).

府

borough, govt. office, urban prefecture

8 strokes
NN1611

fu

SEI FU
政 府 **government**

BAKU FU
幕 府 **shogunate**



At the base of the dotted cliff (广) is the BOROUGH where the GOVERNMENT OFFICE is and where officials control the units of measure (寸). Japanese

店

store, shop

8 strokes
NN1613

mise, ten

MISE

店 **shop, store**

HON TEN

本 店 **main branch**



Below a dotted cliff (宀) sits a fortune teller's (占) SHOP.

度

degree, occurrence, time

8 strokes
NN1616

tabi, do

MO U ICHI DO
もう一度 **one more time,**

SO NO TABI NI
その度に **each time**

A large, bold calligraphic character '度' (do) is shown. The character is written in black ink with a white background. The top part of the character is a horizontal bar with a small tuft of grass on the left side. Below this bar, there are two more horizontal bars, one above the other, with a small tuft of grass on the left side of the top one. The bottom part of the character is a large, sweeping curve that starts from the left and goes down and then up to the right. The character is written in a style that suggests movement and flow, with arrows indicating the direction of the strokes.

Each TIME we picnic under the dotted cliff (厂), we swing on the swing next to the table, going at least seventy-five DEGREES in the air on each OCCURRENCE.

底

bottom, sole, depth

8 strokes
NN1612

soko, tei

KAI TEI

海 底 **bottom of the ocean**

SOKO BIKA RI

底 光 じ **inner glow or light**



The **BOTTOM** of the dotted cliff (广) beneath the net is the lowest or shortest (低) point of **DEPTH**.

庭

courtyard, garden, yard

9 strokes
NN1618

niwa, tei

NIWA

庭 **garden**

KA TEI

家 庭 **household, family**



At the base of the dotted cliff (宀) is a GARDEN where archers and samurai with fancy helmets take long strides (彳) around the YARD.

座

seat, cushion, sit

10 strokes
NN1619

suwa(ru), za

SUWA RU

座 る **to sit**

ZA SEKI

座 席 **seat**



In the shade of the dotted cliff (宀) are two people (人) SEATED on the ground (土).

庫

warehouse, storehouse

10 strokes
NN1617

kura, ko

REI ZŌ KO

冷蔵庫 **refrigerator**

SHA KO

車庫 **garage**

KURA I RE

庫入れ **warehousing**



The carts (車) of goods are ready to unload in the WAREHOUSE at the base of the dotted cliff (宀).

Stone 石

石

stone, rock

5 strokes
NN3985

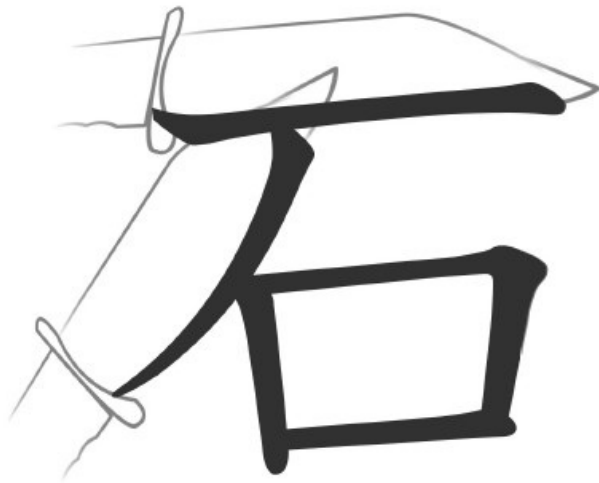
ishi, seki

SEKI YU

石 油 **petroleum**

SEK KEN

石 鹼 **soap**



A sharpening STONE is used to sharpen knives from multiple angles.

研

polish, sharpen

9 strokes
NN3991

to(gu), ken

KEN KYŪ

研 究 **research, investigation**

TO GU

研 ぐ **to sharpen, to hone**



One uses a stone (石) to SHARPEN a blade, moving it up and down, side to side.

砂

sand

9 strokes
NN3992

sunā, sa

SUNA

砂 sand

SA TŌ

砂糖 sugar



As if cut by a blade, stones (石) are broken down over time to smaller (小) and smaller particles until they become SAND.

破

rip, tear, destroy

10 strokes
NN3999

yabu(ru), ha

HA KAI

破 壊 **destruction**

YABU RU

破 る **to tear, to defeat, to smash**



Sharpened stones (石) fell from the cliff (厂), DESTROYING the table.

磁

magnet, porcelain

14 strokes
NN4029

ji

JI SHAKU

磁石 magnet, compass

JI SEI

磁性 magnetism



MAGNETS stick together like stones (石) sewn together by threads (糸).

CHAPTER 8

MEDIEVAL JAPAN

城

castle

9 strokes

NN1011

shiro, jō

〇 SHIRO

お 城 castle

〇 SAKA JŌ

大 阪 城 **Osaka Castle**



To defend the soil (土), high on a cliff (厂), a CASTLE was built from boulders quarried from below and defended with halberds (戈).

King 王 and Samurai 士

王

king, rule

4 strokes
NN3619

ō SAMA
王 様 **king**

JO ō
女 王 **queen**



The KING (王) is the top tier of three (三) levels of society.

玉

jewel, jade, ball

5 strokes
NN3620

tama, ~dama, gyoku

TAMA NE GI

玉 ねぎ **onion**

HYAKU EN DAMA

DAMA 円玉 **100-yen coin**

SUI GYOKU

翠玉 **emerald, jade**



The young king (玉) is bouncing his BALL.

主

lord, chief, principal

5 strokes
NN0038

meshi, omo, shu

SHU JIN

主 人 **head [of a household]**

OMO DA TSU

主 立 つ **to be important**



A LORD wears a large feather in his hat.

球

ball, sphere

11 strokes
NN3643

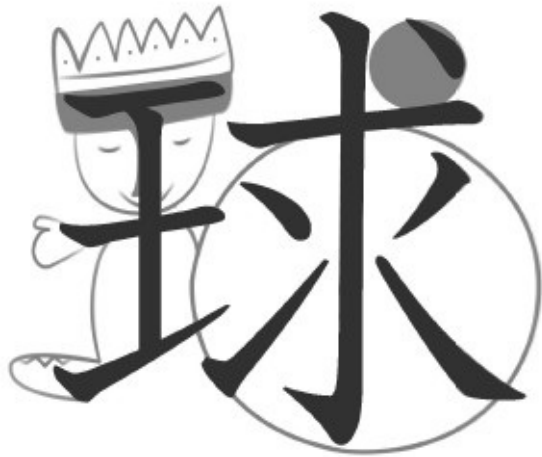
tama, kyū

CHI KYŪ

地 球 **the earth, the globe**

YA KYŪ

野 球 **baseball**



The king (王) had to be convinced that the world was a SPHERE composed mostly of water (水).

班

squad, unit, group

10 strokes
NN3636

han

HAN CHŌ

班 長 **team leader**

HAN IN

班 員 **member of a group**



Each member of this GROUP is like a king (王) after everyone set down their blades and became friends.

理

logic, reason, truth

11 strokes
NN3644

ri

RYŌ RI

料理 **cooking, cuisine**

RI KAI

理解 **understanding, comprehension**



A good king (王) ruled fields (田) and lands (土) with REASON,
searching for TRUTH.

現

present, existing, actual

11 strokes
NN3645

arawa(reru), gen

GEN ZAI

現 在 **now, current**

ARAWA RE RU

現 れ る **to appear, to come into sight**



A king (王) should be PRESENT in his kingdom and see (見) what is ACTUALLY going on.

士

gentleman, samurai

3 strokes
NN1117

shi

BEN GO SHI

弁 護 士 **lawyer**

HEI SHI

兵 士 **soldier**



A SAMURAI with broad shoulders sits upright like a perfect GENTLEMAN.

表

surface, table, chart, diagram

8 strokes
NN5422

omote, arawa(su), hyō

HYŌ SU

表 す **to express**

OMOTE DŌ RI

表 通 り **main street**

AWARA SU

表 す **to reveal**



A samurai (士) had an inferior fold his garments (衣) on a flat SURFACE.

Arrow 矢

結

tie, bind, contract, join

12 strokes
NN4492

musu(bu), yu(u), ketsu

KEK KON

結 婚 **marriage**

MUSU BU

結 ぶ **to tie up**

KAMI YU I

髪 結 い **hairdresser**



You may speak to a samurai (士) and use a string (糸) to JOIN into a BINDING CONTRACT of fortune.

吉

good luck, joy, congratulations

6 strokes

NN0711

kichi, kitsu

FU KITSU

不吉 **ominous, sinister**

KICHI REI

吉 例 **festive annual custom**



Say GOOD LUCK and later CONGRATULATIONS to a samurai (士) before and after a battle.

売

sell

7 strokes
NN0990

u(ru), bai

U RU
売 る **to sell**

SHŌ BAI
商 売 **trade, commerce, occupation**



Eventually, as the wars ended, samurai needed new occupations and many began to SELL shoes in jars with lids.

矢

dart, arrow

5 strokes
NN3976

ya, shi

YUMI YA

弓 矢 **bow and arrow**

IS SHI

一 矢 **an arrow, [a] retort**



This archer, with a feather in his cap, has his arms stretched wide to shoot an ARROW.

知

know, wisdom

8 strokes
NN3978

shi(ru), chi

SHI T TE I RU

知 っ て いる **to know**

CHI JIN

知 人 **friend, acquaintance**



The archer KNOWS how to hit a target through experience and WISDOM.

短

short (length)

12 strokes
NN3982

mijika(i), tan

MIJIKAI

短 い short

TANKI

短 気 short temper



An SHORT archer needs a SHORT dart (矢) to pierce a bean (豆).

豆

bean, pea

7 strokes
NN5735

mame, tō

MAME

豆 bean, pea

TŌ FU

豆腐 tofu, bean-curd



When one (一) BEAN is planted, it sprouts to feed hungry mouths (口).

登

ascend, climb up

12 strokes
NN3862

nobo(ru), tō, to

TO ZAN

登 山 **mountain climbing**

TŌ ROKU

登 録 **registration, entry**

YAMA NOBO RI

山 登 り **mountain climbing**



To CLIMB a mountain by sunset, take plenty of beans (豆) to fill your stomach for energy on the ASCENT.

疑

doubt, distrust, question

14 strokes
NN3777

utaga(u), gi

UTAGA U

疑 う to doubt, distrust

GI MON

疑 問 question, problem



When an archer uses a ladle to stir DISTRUST in others, he himself must have a plan to duck and use his feet to run.

Spirits 不

神

gods, mind, soul

9 strokes
NN4087

kami, jin, shin

KAMI SAMA

神 様 **gods, god**

SHIN TŌ

神 道 **Shinto**



The rented property is haunted by a tortured SOUL.

祖

ancestor, founder

9 strokes
NN4083

so

SO FU

祖 父 **grandfather**

SO SEN

祖 先 **ancestor**



The names of the spirits of our ANCESTORS are listed on markers in the graveyard.

福

fortune, luck

13 strokes
NN4105

fuku

KŌ FUKU

幸 福 **happiness, well being**

FUKU OKA SHI

福 岡 市 **Fukuoka City**



May the spirits with one (一) voice wish you LUCK and FORTUNE for your fields (田).

社

company, association, shrine

7 strokes
NN4065

sha, ja

JIN JA
神社 **Shinto shrine**

KAI SHA
会社 **company**

SHA KAI
社会 **social studies [subject]**



A spirit of the soil (土) gives blessings to a new COMPANY or ASSOCIATION formed.

礼

salute, bow, thanks, ceremony

5 strokes
NN4061

rei

REI

礼 **to bow**

SHITSU REI

失 礼 **discourtesy, excuse me**



When meeting a spirit, BOWING while on your knees might be necessary.

祝

celebrate, congratulate

9 strokes
NN4085

iwa(u), shuku

IWA I

祝 い **congratulations, celebration**

SHUKU JITSU

祝 日 **national holiday**



My big-mouth (口) older brother (兄) would always CELEBRATE the spirit of our ancestors.

CHAPTER 9

TOOLS

具

tool, utensil, ingredients

8 strokes
NN0376

gu

DŌ GU
道 具 **tool, utensil**

GU AI
具 合 **condition, state**



Use your eyes (目) to look for TOOLS and INGREDIENTS to prepare dinner at the table.

Sword 刀 and Blade 刃

刀

sword, saber, knife

2 strokes
NN0448

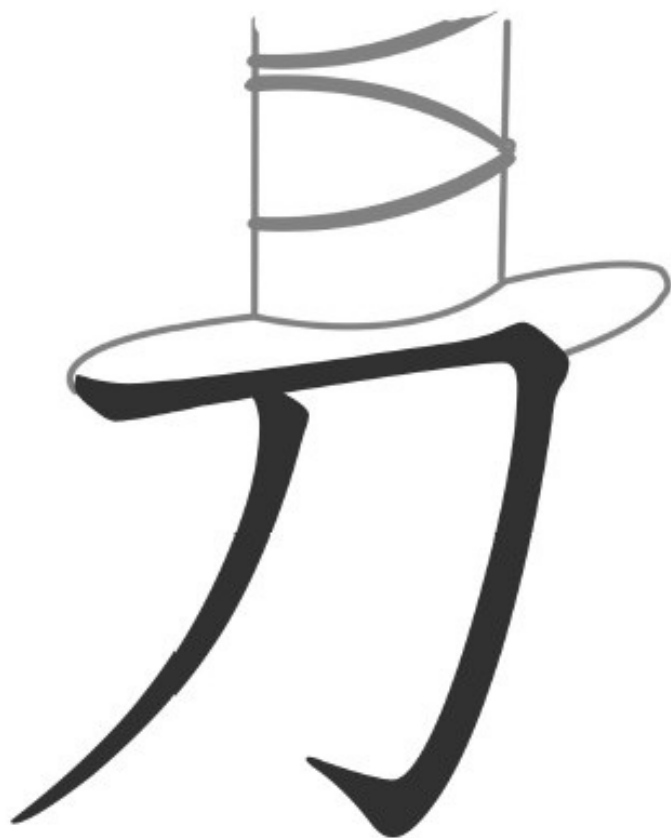
katana, tō

KATANA

刀 **sword, saber**

KO TŌ

古 刀 **old sword**



The hilt of this **SWORD** is above the sharp blade.

分

part, minute, understanding

4 strokes
NN0454

wa(karu), wa(keru), bun, fun, pun, bu

WA KA RU

分かる **to understand**

WA KE RU

分ける **to divide**

SAN PUN

三分 **three minutes**

KI BUN

気分 **feeling, mood**



Within MINUTES, I was able to UNDERSTAND how to use the sword (刀) to cut the plank in half.

初

first time, beginning

7 strokes
NN0469

haji(me), sho

SAI SHO

最 初 **beginning**

HAJI ME TE

初 め て **for the first time**



Japanese mythology states that in the BEGINNING, the sword (刀) of a spirit cut through the sea and the drops from its tip became the islands of Japan.

券

ticket

8 strokes
NN0473

ken

SHOK KEN

食 券 **meal ticket**

KŌ KŪ KEN

航 空 券 **airline ticket**



This person has the one (一) extra big (大) TICKET, waving his arms with excitement after winning the prize sword (刀).

切

cut, cut off, be sharp

4 strokes
NN0453

ki(ru), setsu

SHIN SETSU

親 切 **kindness, gentleness**

KI RU

切 る **to cut, to turn off [lights]**

KIP PU

切 符 **ticket**



In the movie Seven (七) Samurai, many swords (刀) CUT many people and things.

刷

printing, print

8 strokes
NN0479

su(ru), ha(ku), satsu

IN SATSU

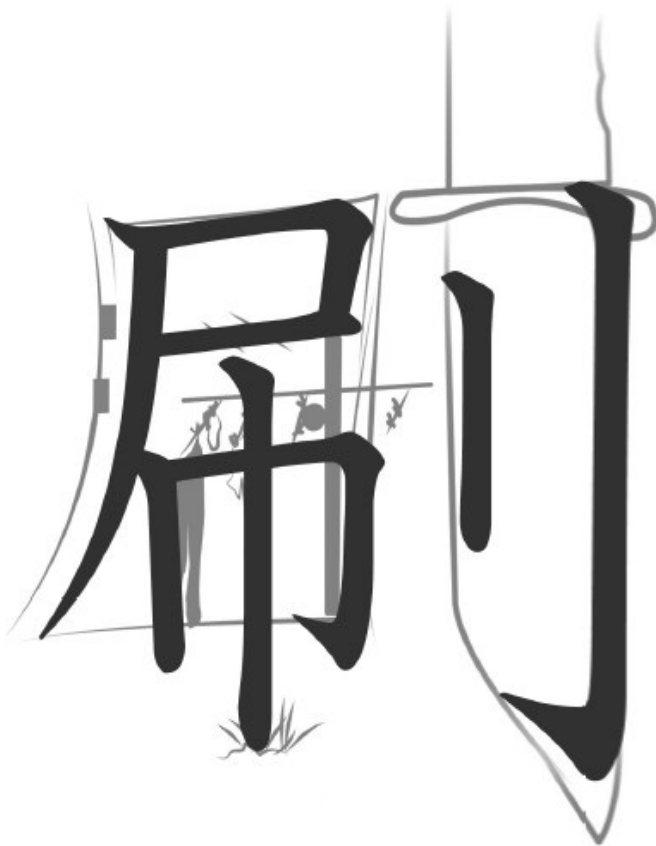
印 刷 **printing**

SU RU

刷 る **to print**

HA KE

刷 毛 **brush**



Through an open door, freshly PRINTED fabric can be seen drying and ready to be cut with a knife.

前

in front, before

9 strokes
NN0490

mae, zen

MAE

前 **before**

GO ZEN

午前 **a.m.**



Some say the blades of grass IN FRONT of the house grow quicker you don't cut them with a knife BEFORE a full moon (月).

制

system, law

8 strokes
NN0481

sei

SEI FUKU

制服 **uniform**

KIN SEI

禁制 **prohibition, ban**

A large calligraphic character '制' is shown. The character is composed of two parts: '生' (shēng, meaning 'born') on the left and '制' (zhì, meaning 'system, law') on the right. The '生' part is written with a vertical stroke and a horizontal stroke, with arrows and numbers indicating the stroke order: 1 for the vertical stroke, 2 for the horizontal stroke, and 3 for the top horizontal stroke. The '制' part is written with a vertical stroke and a horizontal stroke, with arrows and numbers indicating the stroke order: 4 for the vertical stroke, 5 for the horizontal stroke, 6 for the top horizontal stroke, 7 for the bottom horizontal stroke, and 8 for the right vertical stroke.

From the time you were born (生) there has been a SYSTEM for where to put laundry and a list of LAWS or rules that sometimes cut like a knife into your fun.

創

start, create, hurt

12 strokes
NN0506

tsuku(ru), sō

SŌ RITSU

創 立 **establishment, founding**

SŌ ZŌ

創 造 **creation**



When you CREATE a new wine, you START in the cellar (倉), preparing the fruit with a sharp knife.

副

vice-, duplicate

11 strokes
NN0503

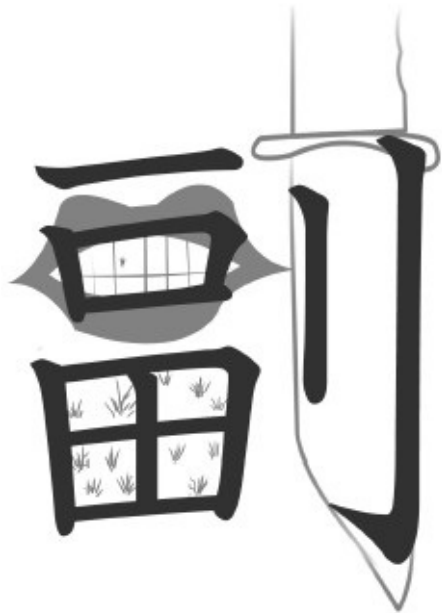
fuku

FUKU SHOKU

副 食 **side dish**

FUKU SHI

副 詞 **adverb**



He uses his mouth (口) to talk about how he DUPLICATED his success in the field (田) with a new plow that cut like a knife.

割

proportion, divide, comparatively, break

12 strokes

NN0507

wa(ru), wari, katsu

WA RE RU

割 れ る **to be smashed, to split**

YAKU WARI

役 割 **part, role**

BUN KATSU

分 割 **division**



Under a roof with a chimney, two pieces of land (±) are DIVIDED with a knife so that COMPARATIVELY more mouths (口) can eat.

劇

drama, play

15 strokes
NN0517

geki

GEKI JŌ
劇 場 **theater**

KA GEKI
歌 劇 **opera**



A DRAMA unfolds when a tiger (虎) pounces on a pig (豕) and claws and teeth clash like knives.

刊

publish, carve, engrave

5 strokes
NN0456

kan

SHIN KAN SHO
新 刊 書 **new book**

CHŌ KAN
朝 刊 **morning paper**



An image can be PUBLISHED once the ENGRAVING has fully dried (干) on the line.

判

judgment, signature, stamp

7 strokes
NN0465

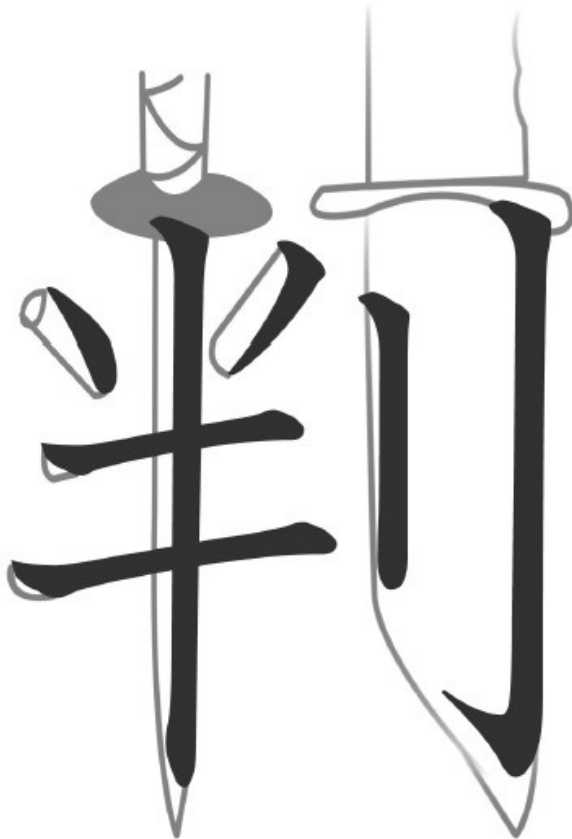
han, ban

HAN KO

判 子 seal, stamp

SAI BAN

裁 判 trial, judgment



A JUDGMENT was made with a simple SIGNATURE to split things in half (半) with a knife.

利

profit, advantage, benefit

7 strokes
NN0466

ki(ku), ri

RI YŌ

利 用 **use, utilization**

RI SHI

利 子 **interest**

RYŌ KI KI

両 利 き **ambidexterity**



A fancy tree (禾), when cut with a huge knife can lead to a huge PROFIT for one, but is of BENEFIT to all as is.

別

separate, branch off, another

7 strokes

NN0467

waka(reru), betsu

TOKU BETSU

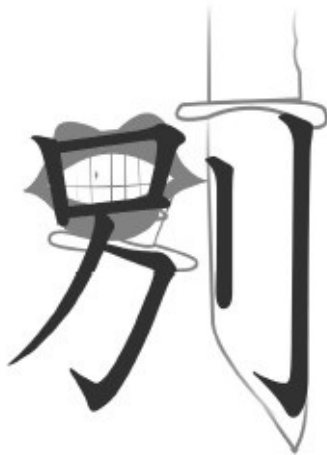
特 特 **special**

BETSU NI

別 に **[not] particularly, separately**

WAKA RE

別 れ **parting, farewell**



Using their mouths (口) to argue, one person realized the knife of ANOTHER was bigger than his own sword (刀) and he decided to SEPARATE.

列

file, row, column

6 strokes
NN0460

retsu

ICHI RETSU

一 列 [a] row, line

TOK KYŪ RES SHA

特 急 列 車 **express train**



One evening (夕), the knives were all lined up in a ROW.

Brush 聿, Ax 斤, Divining Rod 卜

書

write

10 strokes
NN2463

ka(ku), sho

KA KI MA SU

書 き ま す **to write**

TO SHO KAN

図 書 館 **library**



Four fingers of a hand holding a brush (筆) are WRITING the character for sun.

建

build

9 strokes
NN1660

ta(teru), ken

TATE MONO

建 物 **building**

KENS ETSU

建 設 **construction**



To BUILD something, first use a brush (筆) to draw a plan and then take long strides (走) to complete it correctly.

康

ease, peace

11 strokes
NN1621

kō

KEN KŌ
健 康 **health**

KEN KŌ JIN
健 康 人 **healthy person**



At the base of a dotted cliff (广) is a place where one can live with EASE, grabbing water (水), and easily writing in a journal with brush (聿) and ink.

健

health, strength, persistence

11 strokes
NN0278

ken

KEN KŌ
健 康 **health**

KEN ZAI
健 在 **in good health**



To remain in good HEALTH and STRENGTH, a person should take long strides (及) and brush (聿) his teeth after eating.

争

contend, dispute, argue

6 strokes
NN0069

araso(u), sō

SEN SŌ
戦 争 war

ARASO I
争 い dispute, quarrel



When you ARGUE and someone throws barbs during the DISPUTE, an official wearing epaulets can stop it.

事

matter, fact, thing (tangible)

8 strokes
NN0071

koto, ji

TA BE RU KOTO

食 べ る 事 **eating**

SHO KUJI

食 事 **a meal**

JI KO

事 故 **accident**



Her hand grabs a skewer with only one THING to put in her mouth (口) on the end.

卜

divining, fortune-telling

2 strokes
NN0622

uranai, boku

BOKU SHA

卜 者 **fortune teller**



This DIVINING rod works great for FORTUNE-TELLING.

斤

ax, counter for loaves of bread

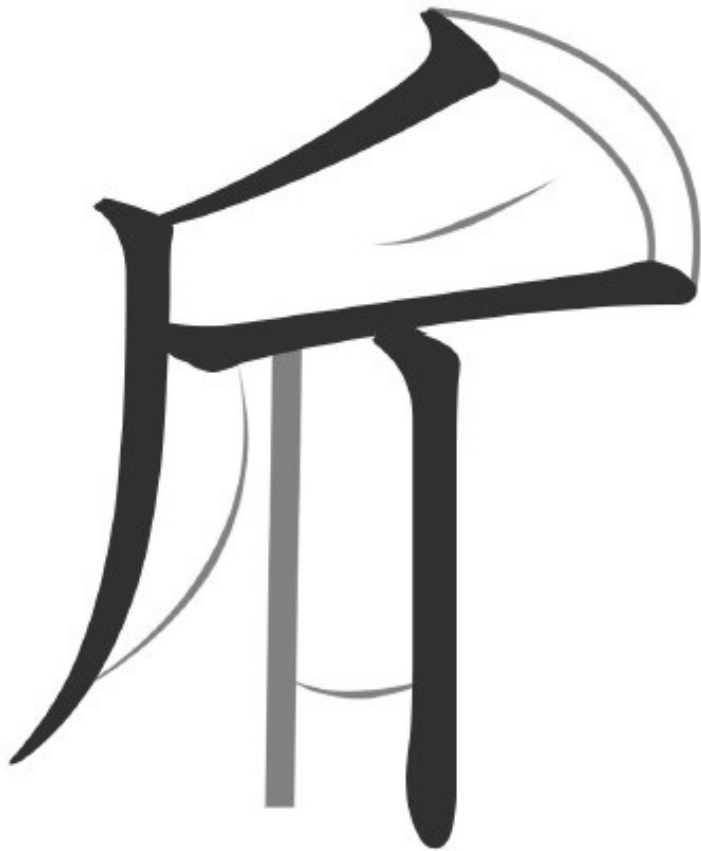
4 strokes
NN2379

kin

FU KIN
斧 斤 **ax**

KIN RYŌ
斤 量 **weight**

SAN KIN
三 斤 **three loaves of bread**



The blade of this AX is very long and sharp.

占

fortune-telling, forecasting, occupy

5 strokes

NN0624

shi(meru), urana(u), sen

SHI ME RU

占 め る **to occupy, to hold**

URANA U

占 う **to tell a fortune**

SEN RYŌ

占 領 **occupation, capture**



To say what he sees when FORTUNE-TELLING he uses rods and other tools in FORECASTING someone's future.

新

new

13 strokes
NN2387

atara(shii), shin

ATARA SHI I

新 し い new

SHIN BUN

新 聞 newspaper

SHIN SHA

新 車 new car



Lean your ax (斤) against a tree and stand (立) on top of the tree (木) to see NEW things in the distance.

Bow 弓

弓

bow (archery, violin)

3 strokes
NN1678

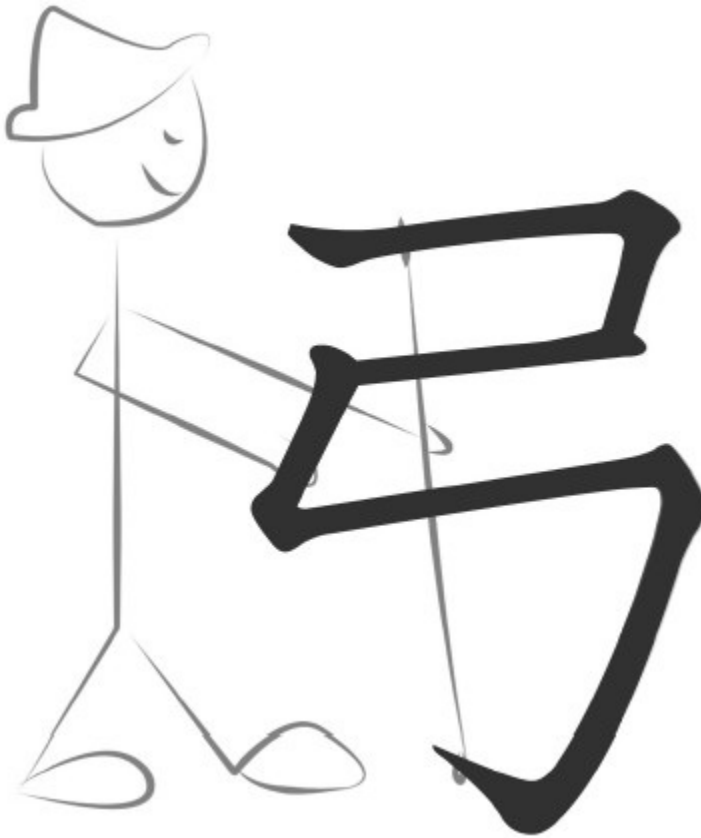
yumi, kyū

YUMI

弓 **bow**

KYŪ DŌ

弓 道 **Japanese archery**



The Japanese BOW has a deep bend where the archer holds it.

引

pull, tug, jerk, quote

4 strokes
NN1681

hi(ku), in

HI KU

引 く **to pull, to draw** [attention, etc.]

IN RYOKU

引 力 **gravity**



In archery, you PULL the string of the bow (弓) while holding the arrow.

弱

weak, frail

10 strokes
NN1692

yowa(i), jaku

YOWA I

弱 い weak, frail

JAKU SHA

弱者 weak person, the weak



These two bows (弓) had WEAK strings that just snapped.

張

lengthen, stretch, spread

11 strokes
NN1694

ha(ru), chō

SHUT CHŌ

出 張 **official tour, business trip**

HA RU

張 る **to link [website]**

HI P PA RU

引 っ 張 る **to pull tight, to drag**



The string of a bow (弓) must STRETCH a long (長) distance.

強

strong

11 strokes
NN1695

tsuyo(i), shi(iru), kyō

TSUYO I

強 強 **strong**

BEN KYŌ

勉 強 **study**

SHI I TE

強 いて **by force**



A bug (虫) that I myself consider STRONG can sometimes pull a big bow (弓).

Arrow 弋 and Halberd 戈

武

warrior, military, chivalry, arms

8 strokes
NN2959

bu, mu

BU SHI

武士 **samurai**

BU YŪ

武勇 **bravery**



A WARRIOR might shout halt (止) and stand firm with his arrow (弋).

残

remainder, leftover, balance

10 strokes
NN2976

noko(ru), zan

NOKO RU

残 る **to remain**

ZAN NEN

残 念 **regret**



As a half moon (月) rises, the LEFTOVERS from the day's three (三) meals and the halberd (戈) used to cut them remain.

歳

age

13 strokes
NN2962

sai, sei

NAN SAI

何 歳 **how old?**

O SEI BO

お 歳 暮 **end of the year, year-end gift**



When small children reach a certain AGE, you hope they will stop (止) before the edge of a cliff (厂) to read the sign (示) by the barricade of halberds (戈).

式

ceremony, function

6 strokes
NN1676

shiki

SOTSU GYŌ SHIKI

卒 業 式 **graduation ceremony**

KŌ SHIKI

公 式 **formal, official**



A CEREMONY took place as construction (工) began and the royal guard, armed with arrows (弋), stood in full regalia.

成

turn into, become, grow

6 strokes
NN2025

na(ru), sei

SO SEI
組 成 **composition, constitution**

SŌ SEI
早 成 **early completion**

NA RI TE
成 じ 手 **candidate**

NARI TA KŪ KŌ
成 田 空 港 **Narita Airport**



A halberd blade (戈) was used to dig hole to plant a seed in the side of

the cliff (厶) so that it can GROW and BECOME shade.

我

ego, our, oneself

7 strokes
NN2028

ware, ga

WARE WARE

我 々 **we**

GA MAN

我 慢 **patience**

KE GA SU RU

怪 我 する **to be injured**



A strong EGO made us take our hands (手) and twirl OUR halberds (戈) to show off.

戦

war, battle, match

13 strokes
NN2037

tataka(u), sen

SEN SŌ
戦 争 war

TATAKA U
戦 う to fight, to battle, to struggle against



A simple (单) crossing of halberd blades (戈) in a BATTLE can lead to WAR.

裁

tailor, judge, decision

12 strokes
NN5454

ta(tsu), saba(ku), sai

SAI BAN

裁 判 **trial, judgment**

TA CHI

裁 ち **cutting, cut out [a pattern]**

SABA KU

裁 く **to judge**



A DECISION on land (±) rights is sometimes made violently with halberds (戈).

Field 田 and Well 井



rice field

5 strokes
NN3727

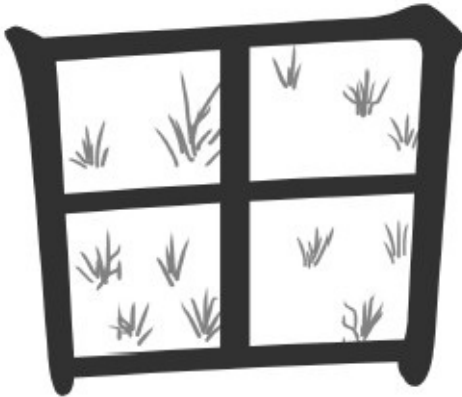
ta, den

TA YAMA

田 山 **Tayama [surname]**

YU DEN

油 田 **oil field**



This is an aerial view of RICE FIELDS.

畑

farm, field

9 strokes
NN3741

hatake

HATAKE

畑

farm, field

MUGIB ATAKE

麦

畑

wheat field



Like fire (火), the FARM land and FIELDS (田) turn gold in late summer.

界

world

9 strokes
NN3739

kai

SE KAI

世 界 world

SE KAI JŪ

世 界 中 around the world



The WORLD seems to revolve around a field (田) on a hill above a house.

町

town

7 strokes
NN3729

machi, chō

SHITA MACHI

下 町 **downtown**

CHŌ NAI

町 内 **in the town**



Most small TOWNS have fields.

丁

block, ward

2 strokes
NN0002

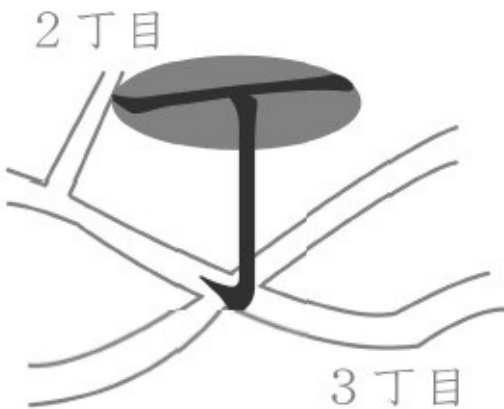
chō, tei

TEI NEI

丁 寧 **polite, courteous**

NI CHŌ ME

二 丁 目 **second ward of a district**



A tack is used to pinpoint a location on a map of a WARD or town.

里

village, parents' home

7 strokes
NN6206

sato, ri

KYŌ RI

郷 里 **birth-place, home town**

FURU SATO

古 里 **one's home town**



The VILLAGE of my PARENTS' HOME on the farm was on land (土) just below the field (田).

野

plains, field

11 strokes
NN6208

no, ya

YA KYŪ

野 球 **baseball**

YA SAI

野 菜 **vegetables**

NO HARA

野 原 **field**



This pinpoint marks the block (丁) where the FIELDS of your parents' home (里) were.

留

detain, fasten, halt

10 strokes
NN3750

to(meru), todo(meru), ryū, ru

RYŪ GAKU SEI

留 学 生 **exchange student**

RU SU

留 守 **being away from home, house-sitting**

TODO ME RU

留 め る **to cease**



I myself was DETAINED when I lost my sword (刀) in the field (田) and had to search for it.

由

wherefore, reason

5 strokes
NN3724

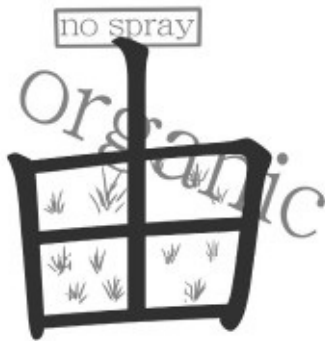
yoshi, yū

SHI RU YOSHI MO NA I

知 る 由 も な い **no way of knowing**

JI YŪ

自 由 **freedom, liberty**



A signpost on the edge of a field states the REASON why the field is special.

画

brush-stroke, picture

8 strokes
NN3733

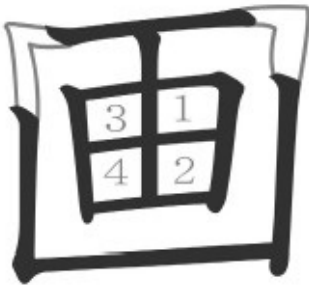
ga

EI GA

映画 **movie, film**

MAN GA

漫画 **manga**



A four-panel manga PICTURE about fields (田) can be seen on the TV screen.

略

abbreviation, omission

11 strokes
NN3755

ryaku

SHIN RYAKU SHA

侵 略 者 **aggressor**

SHŌ RYAKU

省 略 **omission, abbreviation**



Beside the field (田), there is a empty folding table where the owner voiced an OMISSION about forgetting to order food for the party.

畳

tatami mat, floor

12 strokes
NN3763

tatami, jō

TATAMI

畳 **tatami mat**

YO JŌ HAN

四 畳 半 **4.5 tatami-mat floor**



TATAMI MATS look like the squares of fields (田).

異

uncommon, unusual

11 strokes
NN3757

koto(naru), i

KOTO NA RU

異 なる **to differ**

I GI

異 議 **objection, dissent**



It is UNCOMMON to see a field (田) where tens (十) of friends come to help plant without having a table full of food to celebrate the work completed.

番

turn, number in a series

12 strokes
NN3762

ban

SAN BAN

三 番 **third, number three**

DEN WA BAN GŌ

電 話 番 号 **telephone number**



It is easier to NUMBER IN A SERIES rows of rice (米) fields (田) to help remember which one is which.

量

quantity, weight, consider

12 strokes
NN6209

haka(ru), ryō

TA RYŌ

多 量 **large quantity**

HAKA RI

量 じ **measurements**



There is always a day (日) when one (一) CONSIDERS the quantity of grain from the fields (田) on their land (土).

甲

armor, high (voice)

5 strokes
NN3725

kō

KŌ

甲 armor

KIK KŌ

龜 甲 tortoise shell



A shield of ARMOR held up by a spike.

申

to be called, have the honor to

5 strokes
NN3726

mō(su)

MŌ SU

申 す **to be called**

MŌ SHI KO MI

申 し 込 み **application, offer**



A sign is posted and ready TO BE CALLED home to a new advertiser's ad.

井

well, town, community

4 strokes
NN0076

i, sei

I DO

井 戸 **water well**

SHI SEI

市 井 **the street, town**



A view down the WELL that belongs to the COMMUNITY.

井

bowl, bowl of food

5 strokes
NN0037

donburi, don

DONBURI MONO

井 物 **bowl of rice with food on top**

TEN DON

天 井 **tempura**



The BOWL OF FOOD was like a well (井) of rice.

耕

till, cultivate

10 strokes
NN4710

tagaya(su), kō

TAGAYA SU

耕 す **to till, to cultivate**

SUI KŌ

水 耕 **hydroponics**

NŌ KŌ

農 耕 **agriculture**



A farmer used a plow (耒) made of wood with three (三) blades to TILL a field and then dug a well (井) to store the CULTIVATED grain.

CHAPTER 10

VEHICLES and BUILDINGS

館

building, large building (facility)

16 strokes

NN6701

kan

TAI IKU KAN

体 育 館 **gymnasium**

RYO KAN

旅 館 **Japanese inn**



LARGE BUILDINGS often have places to eat (食) as well as bureaucrats (官).

車

car, cart

7 strokes
NN5939

kuruma, sha

KURUMA

車 car, cart

DEN SHA

電車 train



Viewing a CART from the top, you can see a box, long axle, and two large wheels.

Vehicles 乗り物

乗

ride, board

9 strokes

NN0054

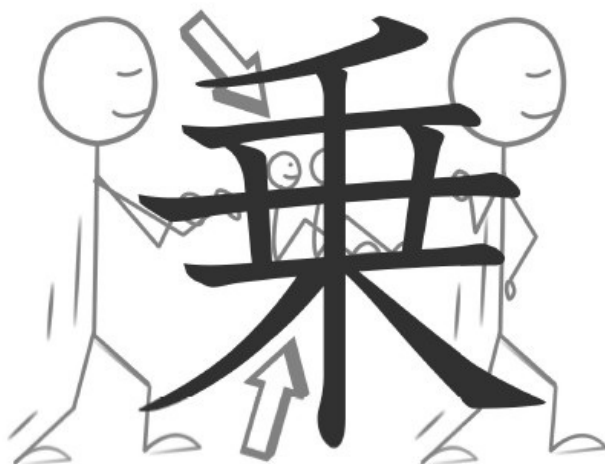
no(ru), jō

NO RU

乗 る **to ride**

JŌ BA

乗 馬 **horse riding**



People used to RIDE in palanquins in East Asia.

軽

light, unimportant

12 strokes
NN5953

karu(i), kei

KARU I

軽 い **light [not heavy]**

KEI SHI

軽 視 **making light of**



Using the cart (車) to move the table to new ground (土) was LIGHTLY strenuous.

軍

army, troops, war

9 strokes
NN5943

gun

GUN TAI

軍 隊 **army, troops**

SHŌ GUN

将 軍 **shogun, generalissimo**



The armor plating of this vehicle (車) is for the ARMY to guarantee protection of the TROOPS.

転

revolve, turn around

11 strokes
NN5948

koro(bu), ten

UN TEN

運 転 **driving**

JI TEN SHA

自 転 車 **bicycle**

KORO BU

転 ぶ **to fall down**

KAI TEN

回 転 **rotation, revolution**



A car (車) can TURN AROUND when I myself use my two (二) hands to help.

輪

wheel, ring, circle

15 strokes
NN5973

wa, rin

YUBI WA

指 輪 [finger] ring

GO RIN

五 輪 the Olympics



Volumes (冊) of instruction manuals are written about fixing the WHEELS and parts of cars (車).

冊

counter for bound volumes

5 strokes
NN0389

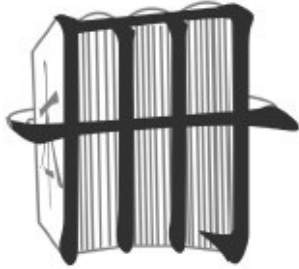
satsu

SAN SATSU

三

冊

three volumes



This is a set of BOUND VOLUMES.

船

ship, boat

11 strokes
NN4939

fune, sen

KURO FUNE

黒 船 **black ship**

U CHŪ SEN

宇 宙 船 **space ship**



A BOAT billows smoke as a person yells land ahoy as they see a small island volcano.

航

navigate, cruise, fly

10 strokes
NN4933

ko

KŌ KAI

航海 **sail, voyage**

KŌ KŪ BIN

航空便 **airmail**



A boat (舟) is ready to NAVIGATE carefully under the lid and around the bends ahead.

飛

fly, scatter

9 strokes
NN6672

tō(bu), hi

TO BU

飛ぶ **to fly, jump**

HI KŌ KI

飛行機 **airplane**

A large, stylized Japanese character '飛' (to fly). The character is composed of a ladder-like structure on the left and a bird-like shape on the right with wings spread. The character is rendered in a bold, black font.

After using the ladder to climb up the cliffs, two friends FLY off of the edge, flapping their arms like wings.

Furniture 家具

友

friend

4 strokes
NN0672

tomo, yū

TOMO DACHI
友 達 **friend**

YŪ JIN
友 人 **friend**



A FRIEND leans across a table to shake your hand.

又

furthermore, again, on the other hand

2 strokes
NN0668

mata

MATA

又 **again**

MATA WA

又 は **or, otherwise**



Every evening my mother said that it was AGAIN time to set the table.

受

accept, undergo, receive

8 strokes
NN0678

u(keru), ju

U KE RU

受ける to receive, to get, to suffer [injury]

JU KEN BEN KYŌ

受験勉強 studying for a test



ACCEPT the challenge of UNDERGOING an exam on the three bits of knowledge at the table to RECEIVE an A+.

反

anti-

4 strokes
NN0674

so(ru), han

HAN TAI

反 対 **opposition, reverse, opposite**

HAN SU RU

反 する **to be contrary to**

SO RA SU

反 らす **to bend, warp**



I expected the table below the cliff (厩) to be ready for our picnic, but the OPPOSITE was true and we had to wait for others to finish.

収

income, obtain

4 strokes
NN0675

osa(meru), shū

SHŪ NYŪ

収 入 **income, revenue**

SEI KŌ O OSA ME RU

成 功 を 収 め る **to achieve success**



OBTAIN your ticket for the event from the table with the ticket sign.

取

take, fetch

8 strokes
NN0679

to(ru), shu

TO RU

取 る **to take, to choose**

TOSHI O TO RU

年 を 取 る **to grow old, to age**

SHU TOKU

取 得 **acquisition**

A large calligraphic character for 'take' (取) is shown. The character is written in a bold, black ink style. It consists of a vertical stroke on the left, a horizontal stroke at the top, and a diagonal stroke on the right. The character is surrounded by a light gray, semi-transparent outline that shows the stroke order and direction of the brush strokes. The character is positioned in the center of the page.

Sit at a table and use your ears (耳) to listen for signs from your opponent to know when to TAKE an opportunity to win.

戸

door

4 strokes
NN2048

to, ko

E DO

江戸 Edo [old name for Tokyo]

KO GAI

戸外 open-air, outdoors



Picture a swinging DOOR hinged to the top of the doorframe above.

扇

fan, folding fan

10 strokes
NN2056

ōgi, sen

SEN PŪ KI

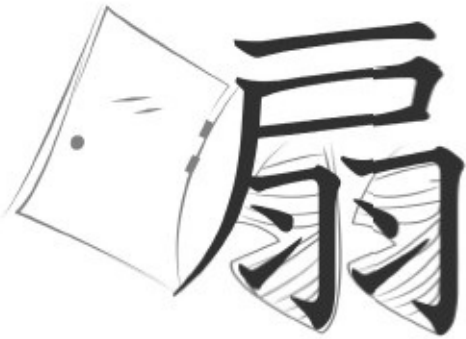
扇 風 機 **electric fan**

SEN SU

扇 子 **folding fan**

ŌGI GATA

扇 形 **fan shape**



At the door (戸), the FAN blew like the wings (羽) of a bird.

所

place

8 strokes
NN2054

tokoro, sho

TOKORO

所 place

BA SHO

場所 place, location



Beside the door (戸) is the PLACE where my grandfather left the ax (斤).

局

office, affair, conclusion

7 strokes
NN1412

tsubone, kyoku

YŪ BIN KYOKU

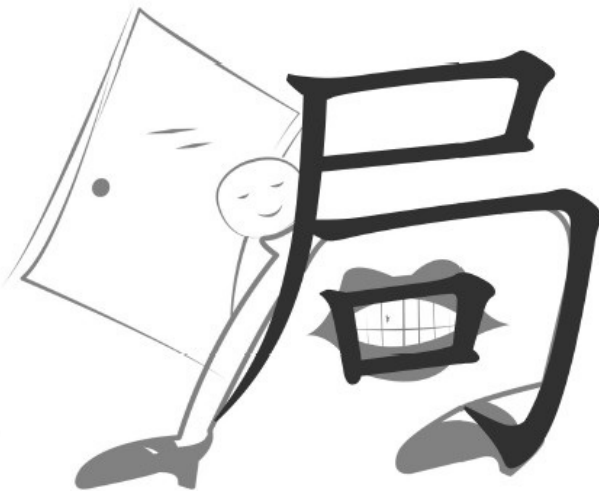
郵便局 **post office**

YAK KYOKU

薬局 **pharmacy**

O TSUBONE SAMA

お局様 **an older lady at work**



People often feel the need to take huge steps over the mouths (口) of officials as they walk through the door of a government OFFICE.

届

deliver, arrive, report, forward

8 strokes
NN1413

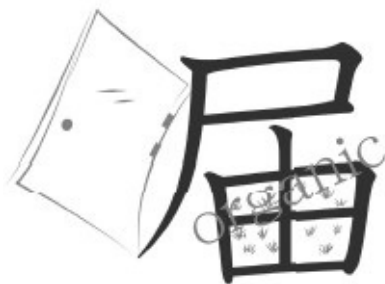
todo(keru), todo(ku)

TODO KU

届 く **to reach, arrive**

TODO KE RU

届 ける **to deliver, forward**



What is the reason (由) for the special food to be DELIVERED through a open door?

居

reside, be, exist

8 strokes
NN1416

i(ru), kyo

I MA

居 間 **living room** [Western style]

JŪ KYO

住 居 **residence**



In college people often walk through doors into old (古) space where they RESIDE with many others.

展

unfold, expand

10 strokes
NN1425

ten

TEN KAI

展 開 **development, evolution**

TEN RAN KAI

展 覽 会 **exhibition**



Coming through an open door with a friend, we saw that someone had just UNFOLDED the ironing board.

屋

house, shop, dealer, seller

9 strokes
NN1421

ya, oku

HON YA

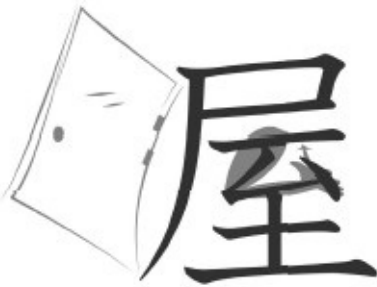
本 屋 **bookstore**

YA NE

屋 根 **roof**

KA OKU

家 屋 **house, building**



I myself walked in the door of the SHOP, but did not see the DEALER.

Gate 門

門

gate

8 strokes
NN6381

kado, mon

MON

門 **gate**

KADO MATSU

門 松 **New Year's pine decoration**



The GATE stands ajar.

閑

leisure

12 strokes
NN6390

kan, ka

KAN KO DORI GA NA KU

閑 古 鳥 が 鳴 く **empty store or restaurant**

NOD OKA

長 閑 **tranquil, calm**



The abandoned gate (門) has a tree (木) LEISURELY growing in the middle.

間

interval, space

12 strokes
NN6391

aida, ma, kan

AIDA

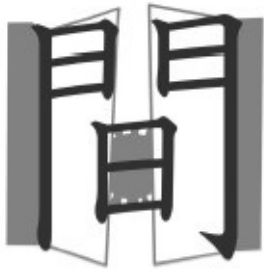
間 space [between]

MA MO NA KU

間 も な く soon, before long

JI KAN

時間 time, hours



The sun (日) is visible through the crack in the gate (門) for a short INTERVAL of time.

閉

closed, shut

11 strokes
NN6385

to(jiru), shi(meru), hei

TO JI RU

閉じる **close [books]**

SHI ME RU

閉める **close [doors, windows, etc.]**

HEI TEN

閉店 **closing shop**



The gate (門) is CLOSED with a katakana 才 indicating it is poised to be reopened.

開

open, unfold, unseal

12 strokes
NN6393

hira(ku), a(keru), kai

HIRA KU

開 く **to open books**

A KE RU

開 け る **to open doors, windows, etc.**

KŌ KAI

公 開 **open to the public**



The gate (門) is OPEN as the 开 radical is pulled into the open position.

問

question, ask, problem

11 strokes
NN0830

to(i), mon

SHITSU MON

質 問 **a question**

MON DAI

問 題 **a problem**

TOI ICHI

問 1 **question #1**



If a PROBLEM exists and a QUESTION needs to be asked, put your mouth (口) to the gate (門) and ASK it.

関

connection, gateway

14 strokes
NN6402

seki, kan

SHIMONO SEKI

下 関 **Shimonoseki [city]**

KAN SAI

関 西 **Kansai region**

KAN TŌ

関 東 **Kanto region**



Samurai form a barrier at the GATEWAY to the next region.

Roof 𠃉, 𠃊

写

copy, describe, be photographed

5 strokes
NN0400

utsu(su), sha

SHA SHIN

写真 **photograph**

UTSU SU

写す **to duplicate, to film, to photograph**



Emerging from her vessel, a contortionist poses as she is about to BE PHOTOGRAPHED.

室

room

9 strokes
NN1327

muro, shitsu

KYŌ SHITSU

教室 **classroom**

MURO MACHI

室町 **Muromachi** [era from the 1300–1500s]



A ROOM for myself would have a nice roof with a chimney, but even a dirt floor (土) would do.

富

wealth, enrich, abundant

12 strokes
NN1349

to(mu), fu

TO MU

富 む **to be rich**

FU JI SAN

富 士 山 **Mt. Fuji**



Under a roof with a chimney, one (一) mouth (口) of a man spoke of the WEALTH he could enjoy if the yield of his fields (田) was ABUNDANT.

宿

inn, lodging

11 strokes
NN1344

yado, shuku

YADO YA

宿 屋 **inn**

SHUKU DAI

宿 題 **homework**

MIN SHUKU

民 宿 **guesthouse**



For **LODGING** under the roof of an **INN**, you often pay up to one hundred (百) dollars for a night.

客

guest, visitor, customer

9 strokes
NN1329

kyaku, kaku

O KYAKU SA N

お 客 さ ん **customer**

RYO KAKU

旅 客 **passenger [transport]**



A GUEST under a roof in an inn with a chimney says his reservation number to the person behind the table.

宮

Shinto shrine, palace

10 strokes
NN1336

miya, kyū, gū

JIN GŪ

神 宮 **high-status Shinto shrine**

KYŪ DEN

宮 殿 **palace**



Under the roof with a chimney of a SHINTO SHRINE or a PALACE, a network of mouths (口) chant and link together like a spine (呂) to support the gods or royals.

容

contain, form, looks

10 strokes
NN1335

yō

YŌ I

容 易 **easy, simple**

NAI YŌ

内 容 **subject, contents**



The plan was to for a person (人) to FORM everything under this roof with a chimney into a place where eight (八) others could join (合) together.

宝

treasure, wealth, valuables

8 strokes
NN1320

takara, hō

HŌ SEKI

宝 石 **jewel, gem**

TAKARA KU JI

宝 くじ **lottery**



A TREASURE to children under the roof with a chimney beyond other VALUABLES is their favorite ball (玉).

宗

religion, sect, main point, origin

8 strokes
NN1321

shū

SHŪ KYŌ

宗 教 **religion**



The main DENOMINATION of the RELIGION has a steeple on the roof and an altar to show (示) the MAIN POINTS the SECT practices.

官

bureaucrat, government

8 strokes
NN1322

kan

KEI KAN

警官 policeman

KAN RYŌ

官僚 bureaucrat, bureaucracy



Outside of the GOVERNMENT building, there was a one-man guardhouse with a small roof and chimney.

宙

mid-air, air, space, sky

8 strokes
NN1318

chū

U CHŪ

宇 宙 **universe, space**

U CHŪ RYO KŌ

宇 宙 旅 行 **space travel**



With SPACE, you can plant a garden that will be fruitful, the reason (由) being that you can have a roof with a chimney over young plants and then give them more AIR.

空

empty, sky

8 strokes
NN4192

sora, a(ku), su(ku), kū

SORA

空 sky

KŪ KŌ

空 港 airport

KŪ FUKU

空 腹 hunger

A KI KAN

空 き 缶 empty can

SU KU

空 く to become less crowded, to be hungry



In the EMPTY space below the roof is a hole (穴) from which you can see the SKY.

穴

hole, cave, den

5 strokes
NN4187

ana, ketsu

HANA NO ANA

鼻 の 穴 **nostril**

KE ANA

毛 穴 **pore [in skin]**



A HOLE through a chimney on a roof lets smoke out, similar to a hole in the top of a volcano.

窓

window

11 strokes
NN4201

mado, sō

MADO

窓 window

DŌ SŌ KAI

同 窓 会 reunion



A hole (穴) through which you can see the real me is a WINDOW to my heart (心).

実

reality, truth, fruit

8 strokes
NN1324

mi, jitsu

JITSU WA

実 は **as a matter of fact, by the way**

JIK KEN

実 験 **experiment**



Under a roof with a chimney, the REALITY of three (三) heavy TRUTHS is carried by the person (人) in question.

安

cheap, peaceful

6 strokes
NN1311

yasu(i), an

YASU I
安 い **cheap**

AN ZEN
安 全 **safe**



It is sometimes CHEAPER for a woman to be under the roof shopping online than out.

宣

proclaim, say, announce

9 strokes
NN1328

sen

SEN GEN

宣 言 **declaration, proclamation**

SEN DEN

宣 伝 **publicity, advertisement**



Under a roof with a chimney, one (一) can see the sunlight (日) over one (一) clear line of the PROCLAMATION.

宜

fine, regards, good

8 strokes
NN1317

yoro(shii), yoro(shiku), gi

YORO SHI KU

宜 し く **best regards**

JŌ GI

情 宜 **friendly feelings, fellowship**



Under a roof with a chimney, when one's GOOD eye (目) is to the ground, things are FINE.

完

perfect, completion, end

7 strokes
NN1315

kan

KAN ZEN

完 全 **perfection**

KAN SEI

完 成 **complete, completion**



With a wealth (元) of PERFECT straight A scores by the children under the roof with a chimney, they ENDED well.

究

research, study

7 strokes
NN4189

kyū

KEN KYŪ

研 究 **study, research**

KEN KYŪ SHA

研 究 者 **researcher**

究₌₉

To do RESEARCH, you poke at least nine (九) holes (穴) through theories and beliefs and STUDY the findings.

寒

cold

12 strokes
NN1350

samu(i), kan

SAMU I

寒 い **cold**

GEN KAN

厳 寒 **intense cold**



It is COLD out, but inside, under a roof with a chimney, logs are stacked on the hearth with a fire that has just been lit.

守

guard, protect, defend

6 strokes
NN1310

mamo(ri), shu, su

MAMO RU

守 る **to protect**

RU SU

留 守 **being away from home**

GEN SHU

厳 守 **strict observance**



To PROTECT your new roof and chimney, measure (寸) it and GUARD it by making sure it is sealed well.

察

guess, presume, judge, understand

14 strokes
NN1360

satsu

KEI SATSU

警察 **police**

KAN SATSU

觀察 **observation, survey**



Police have to JUDGE a situation when called to enter a home with a roof with a chimney when a party becomes as loud as a festival (祭).

示

show, indicate, point out

5 strokes
NN4060

shime(su), shi

SHIME SU

示 す **to demonstrate**

SHI JI

指 示 **indication, directions**



A signpost SHOWS important information, POINTED OUT by the flashing light.

密

secrecy, minuteness, density (of
population)

11 strokes
NN1343

hiso(ka), mitsu

HI MITSU

秘 密 **secret**

KOKORO HISO KA NI

心 密 かに **oneone**



While at home under a roof with a chimney, I discussed the certainty (必) of a lower DENSITY of population in the mountain (山) village than in the plains below.

突

stab, thrusting, pierce

8 strokes
NN4191

tsu(ku), totsu

TOTSU ZEN

突 然 **abrupt, sudden**

TSU KI KUZU SU

突 き 崩 す **to crush, to break through**



Under a roof with a chimney, a person with legs is hit by a big (大) surprise THRUSTING upward from below.

害

harm, injury

10 strokes
NN1333

gai

HI GAI

被害 [suffering] damage, injury, harm

SAI GAI

災害 calamity, disaster



When plants grow (生) and threaten to break the roof by the chimney, one should yell before someone gets HARMED or sustains an INJURY.

寝

lie down, sleep, rest, bed

13 strokes
NN1353

ne, shin

NE RU
寝る **to sleep**

HIRU NE
昼寝 **nap**

SHIN SHITSU
寝室 **bedroom**



Under a roof with a chimney, we will SLEEP on the cot standing on its side against the wall with layers of the futon BEDS and blankets folded on a table.

定

determine, fix, decide

8 strokes
NN1323

sada(meru), tei, jō

YO TEI

予 定 **plans, schedule**

KAN JŌ

勘 定 **bill, calculation [of debt]**

SADA ME SHI

定 め し **surely**



Under a roof with a chimney, someone filling big shoes will FIX the bar to DETERMINE how far he will go.

Enclosures □, □, □



capture, criminal, arrest

5 strokes
NN0937

tora(wareru), shū

SHŪ JIN

囚 人 **prisoner**



A person (人) surrounded by walls has been CAPTURED and is a PRISONER.

因

cause, factor

6 strokes
NN0939

china(mu), in, yo(ru)

IN SHI

因子 **factor, element**

CHINA MU

因む **to be associated [with]**

YO RU

因る **to be due to, to be caused by**



The CAUSE was a big (大) FACTOR of conditions within an enclosure.

団

group, association

6 strokes
NN0940

dan, ton

FU TON

布 団 **futon**

DAN GO

団 子 **dumpling**



An enclosure that frames a GROUP of measured (寸) feathers is half a futon.

回

~times, revolve, turn

6 strokes
NN0941

mawa(ri), mawa(ru), kai

KAI TEN ZU SHI

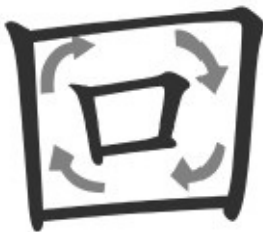
回 転 寿 司 **conveyor belt sushi**

DŌ MAWA RI

胴 回 り **waist size**

MAWA RU

回 る **to turn, revolve**



I TURN round and round many TIMES looking for something.

井

surround, encircle

7 strokes
NN0945

kako(mu), i

FUN I KI

雰 困 氣 mood, ambience



Here is a well (井) SURROUNDED on all sides.

困

quandary, become distressed

7 strokes
NN0946

koma(ru), kon

KOMA RU

困 る **become di stressed**

HIN KON

貧 困 **poor, needy**



This tree (木) is in a QUANDARY and IS DISTRESSED by being limited by its enclosure.

囿

map, plan drawing

7 strokes
NN0947

haka(ru), zu, to

CHI ZU

地 囿 **map**

HAKA RU

囿 る **to plot, to design**

TO SHO KAN

囿 書 館 **to plot, to design**



Roads and buildings are noted on a MAP.

固

harden, solid, clot

8 strokes
NN0949

kata(maru)

KATA MA RU

固 まる **to harden, clot**



A square piece of bread HARDENS as it becomes old (古).

国

country

8 strokes
NN0950

kuni, koku

KUNI

国 country

CHŪ GOKU

中 国 China



A king has his ball within the walls of his COUNTRY.

帰

to return, to arrive at

10 strokes
NN1564

kae(ru), ki

KAE RU

帰 る **to return**

KI KOKU

帰 国 **return to one's country**



You must RETURN home to finish the laundry and cloths (巾) stacked up, and sharpen your knife before cooking dinner.

園

park, garden

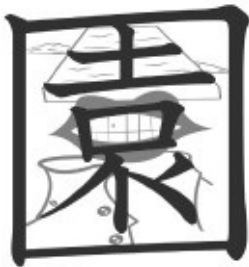
13 strokes
NN0962

sono, ~en

KŌ EN
公 園 **park**

DŌ BUTSU EN
動 物 園 **ZOO**

HANA ZONO
花 園 **flower garden**



People wore formal clothes when walking and talking in the grounds (±)
of a walled PARK.

再

again, twice, second time

6 strokes
NN0391

futata(bi), sai

FUTATA BI

再 び **again**

SAI SEI

再 生 **playback, regeneration**



Framing the soil (土) TWICE (二) like the “ga” in 漫画 (manga), right side up, and upside down.

匹

equal, counter for small animals

4 strokes
NN0584

hiki, hitsu

NI HIKI

二 匹 **two small animals**

HIT TEKI

匹 敵 **comparing with**



The SMALL ANIMAL jumped from its box and its little legs helped it scamper away.

区

ward, district

4 strokes
NN0585

ku

KU BETSU

区 別 **distinction**

MINATO KU

港 区 **Minato Ward**



An "X" marks the center of the DISTRICT.

医

doctor, medicine

7 strokes
NN0590

i

I SHA
医者 **doctor**

I GAKU
医学 **medical science**



As an archer in an open enclosure targets his mark, a DOCTOR targets illness.

CHAPTER 11

GARMENTS

衣

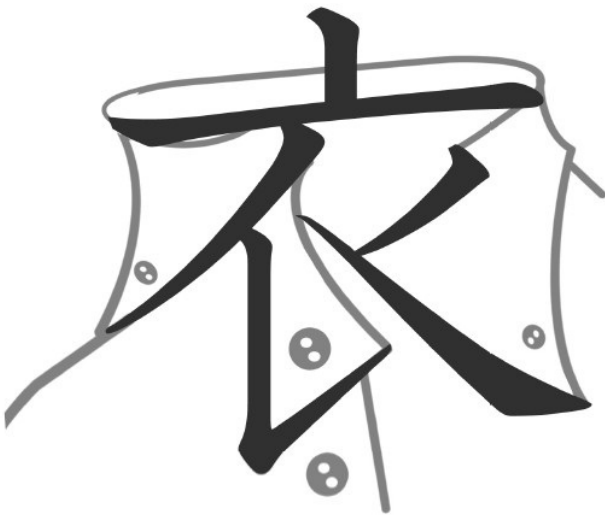
garment, clothes

6 strokes
NN5420

koromo, i

I SHŌ
衣 装 **clothing, costume**

KOROMO GA E
衣 替 え **seasonal change of clothing**



The GARMENTS are pressed and hanging.

Garments 衣 and String 糸

裏

back, rear, reverse

13 strokes

NN5462

ura, ri

URA

裏 back [side]

SHU RI KEN

手 裏 劍 shuriken, small throwing blade



Below the roof of my parent's home (里) is the field (田) at the REAR of the land (土) where my garments (衣) are kept.

糸

thread, silk

6 strokes
NN4431

ito, shi

ITO

糸 **thread, string**

AKA I ITO

赤 い 糸 **red string**

IS SHI

一 糸 **one string**



A man with a needle can make several stitches with THREAD (糸).

緒

cord, strap, beginning

14 strokes
NN4521

o, sho

IS SHO NI

一 緒 に **together [with]**

HANA O

鼻 緒 **sandal strap**

Like a thread (糸) tying land (土) and sun (日), the CORD has bound us together since the BEGINNING.

納

obtain, reap, supply

10 strokes
NN4453

osa(meru), nō, na

NAT TŌ

納 豆 **natto** [fermented soybeans]

OSA ME

納 め **the last, the end**

TAI NŌ

滞 納 **delinquency**



The person (人) that takes the time to sew threads (糸) of camaraderie inside (内) his company OBTAINS a steady SUPPLY of goodwill in return.

純

genuine, purity, innocence

10 strokes
NN4454

jun

JUN SUI

純 粹 **pure, true**

JUN KIN

純 金 **solid gold**



Long, GENUINE threads (糸) of PURITY can be pulled out of a lidded pot when heated.

絹

silk

13 strokes
NN4499

kinu

KINU GO SHI

絹 ご し **silken [tofu]**

KINU ITO

絹 糸 **silk thread**



Threads (糸) of SILK are spun by the mouths (口) of SILKworms in the light of the moon (月).

終

end, finish

11 strokes
NN4471

o(waru), tsui, shū

O WARU

終 わる **to finish**

TSUI NI

終 に **finally**

SHŪ RES SHA

終 列 車 **last train**



A string (糸) of days ENDS with winter (冬) with flakes of snow falling.

組

association, assemble, unite

11 strokes
NN4470

ku(mu), kumi, so

KU MU

組 む **to assemble**

BAN GUMI

番組 **program [TV]**

RŌ SO

労組 **labor union**



Stitched together by common threads (糸), people UNITE their eyes behind the shelves and ASSEMBLE in familiar groups.

紙

paper

10 strokes
NN4455

kami, shi

KAMI

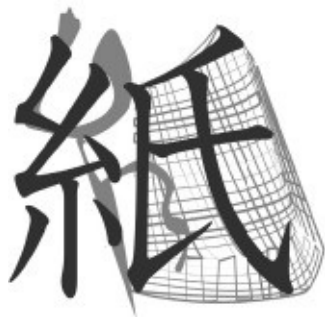
紙 **paper**

O RI GAMI

折 じ 紙 **origami [paper folding]**

WA SHI

和 紙 **Japanese paper**



Threads (糸) or fibers of pulp are crisscross-layered to make PAPER.

細

dainty, to get thin, narrow

11 strokes
NN4472

hoso(i), koma(kai), sai

HOSO I
細 い **thin**

KOMA KA I KO TO
細 か い こ と **minor details**

SHŌ SAI
詳 細 **details**



Examining the NARROW fields (田) woven like colored threads (糸) in many parts of rural Japan can be enjoyable.

系

lineage, system

7 strokes
NN4433

kei

KA KEI

家 系 **family lineage**

DŌ KEI

同 系 **affiliated**



Tracing the single highest thread (系) of your family LINEAGE can be interesting.

経

sutra, pass through, expire

11 strokes
NN4473

he(ru), kei, kyō

KEI ZAI

経 済 **economics**

HE RU

経 る **to elapse**

O KYŌ

お 経 **sutra**



Threads (糸) of wood grain can be seen to PASS THROUGH the surface of the table on the ground (土).

続

continue, series

13 strokes
NN4500

tsuzu(ku), zoku

TSUZU KU

続 < **to continue**

ZOKU HEN

続 編 **sequel**



The samurai (士) turned salesman hopes for a string (糸) of sales (売) to CONTINUE.

絡

entwine, get caught in

12 strokes
NN4484

kara(mu), raku

REN RAKU

連 絡 **contact**

KARA MU

絡 む **to pick a quarrel, to find fault**



Threads (糸) of organization can become ENTWINED when a folding table is set up by a big mouth (口) looking to GET CAUGHT IN a fight.

繪

picture, drawing, painting

12 strokes
NN4488

e, kai

E

繪 picture, drawing, or painting

E HON

繪本 picture book

KAI GA

繪画 picture, painting



I made threads (糸) of various colors meet (会) to form a PICTURE.

給

salary, bestow on

12 strokes
NN4489

tama(u), kyū

KYŪ RYŌ
給 料 **salary**

TAMA U
給 う **to grant**



If you speak well, a string (糸) of luck may BESTOW a good SALARY.

級

class, rank, grade

9 strokes
NN4437

kyū

KAI KYŪ

階 級 class, rank, grade

GAK KYŪ

学 級 [school] class

JŌ KYŪ

上 級 advanced class, higher grade, senior

級

Through a string (糸) of luck, he was able to climb the steep GRADE on a shaky ladder to advance in RANK.

紀

chronicle, account, history, annals

9 strokes
NN4439

ki

NI JŪ IS SEI KI
2 1 世 紀 **21st century**

KI GEN
紀 元 **era**



HISTORY winds through as threads (糸) make ourselves (己) who we are.

約

promise, approximately

9 strokes
NN4440

yaku

YAKU SOKU

約 束 **promise**

YO YAKU

予 約 **reservation**

KEI YAKU

契 約 **contract**

When dyeing thread (糸), PROMISE to use the ladle to remove it in APPROXIMATELY the required time.

練

practice, train, drill

14 strokes
NN4530

ne(ru), ren

REN SHŪ

練 習 **practice**

NE RU

練 る **to knead**

A large calligraphic character '練' (ren) is shown in a bold, black font. The character is composed of several strokes, with arrows and numbers indicating the order and direction of each stroke. The character is set against a light, textured background that resembles a cloud or a soft, billowy shape.

You will learn well through a string (糸) of PRACTICE sessions starting in the morning when the sun is in the east (東), rising from behind a tree (木).

縮

shrink, wrinkle, reduce

17 strokes
NN4585

chiji(mu), shuku

SHUKU SHŌ

縮 小 **reduction, curtailment**

CHIJI MU

縮 む **to shrink**



For lodging (宿) in a string (系) of hotels, you can REDUCE costs if you stay with the same company.

率

ratio, rate, coefficient

11 strokes
NN3618

hiki(iru), sotsu, ritsu

KAKU RITSU

確 率 **probability**

HIKI I RU

率 いる **to lead**

SOS SEN

率 先 **taking the initiative**



Under a lid, threads (糸) have been piled up at a fast RATE, and a RATIO of ten (十) to one are small strands.

干

dry, parch

3 strokes
NN1589

ho(su), kan

KAN SHŌ

干 渉 **interference, intervention**

HO SU

干 す **to air, to dry**



This clothesline will DRY your clothes well.

辛

spicy, bitter, hot

7 strokes
NN5996

kara(i), tsura(i), shin

KARA I

辛 い **spicy, bitter, hot**

SHIO KARA I

塩 辛 い **salty**

SHIN BŌ

辛 抱 **patience, endurance**

TSURA SA

辛 さ **pain, bitterness**



A person stands up (立) tall after a number two (二) SPICY HOT rating on the scale.

Towel 巾

巾

towel, hanging scroll

3 strokes
NN1547

kin

FU KIN

布巾 **tea towel**

ZŌ KIN

雑巾 **dust cloth**



Laundry, TOWELS, and freshly printed HANGING SCROLLS are hung from a drying line.

市

market, city

5 strokes
NN1549

ichi, shi

SHI JŌ
市場 **market [concept]**

SHI CHŌ
市長 **mayor**

TOYO TA SHI
豊田市 **Toyota City**



In the CITY, we could use laundry facilities to wash towels (巾).

布

linen, cloth

5 strokes
NN1548

nuno, fu

FU KIN

布 巾 **tea towel**

SAI FU

財 布 **wallet, purse**

NUNO JI

布 地 **fabric**



Sometimes when the CLOTHS were hanging on the line, my brother would try to jump over them!

希

hope, beg, request, pray

1 strokes
NN1553

mare, ki

KI BŌ

希 望 hope, wish

GOKU MARE

極 希 extremely rare



An X marks the spot where one HOPES to find fresh linens (布).

席

seat, occasion, place

10 strokes
NN1561

seki

SHUS SEKI

出 席 **to appear, to attend**

KES SEKI

欠 席 **absence, non-attendance**

ZA SEKI

座 席 **seat**



By a dotted cliff (广) is a swing where you can have a SEAT next to drying towels (巾).

師

expert, teacher, master

10 strokes
NN1562

shi

KYŌ SHI
教 師 **teacher**



A TEACHER meticulously posts informational charts and often talks to his MASTER.

帶

sash, belt, obi, zone

10 strokes
NN1563

o(biru), obi, tai

KURO OBI

黒 帯 **black belt [martial arts]**

OBI BAN GUMI

帯 番組 **TV program in the same weekly time slot**

NET TAI U RIN

熱 帶 雨 林 **tropical rainforest**



Safety BELTS are important for children on swings while a mother hangs out the towels (巾).

常

usual, regular

11 strokes
NN1569

tsune, jō

HI JŌ NI

非 常 に **very, extremely**

TSUNE NI

常 に **always, constantly**



It was USUAL for people to talk on sunny days about a REGULAR system for how to better clean towels (巾).

帳

notebook, account book, album

11 strokes
NN1568

chō

DEN WA CHŌ

電 話 帳 **telephone book**

TE CHŌ

手 帳 **notebook**



Like folded towels (巾) from the line, the NOTEBOOK containing his telephone numbers was a very long (長) set of pages.

Shape 形 **and Size** 大きさ

形

shape, form, style

7 strokes
NN1713

katachi, kei, gyō

KATACHI

形 **shape, form**

KEI SHIKI

形式 **form, method**

NIN GYŌ

人形 **doll, puppet**



A kimono stand is being constructed, for an actor who with a simple hair ornament, changes his SHAPE and FORM for kabuki plays.

平

even, flat, peace

5 strokes
NN1590

tai(ra), hira, hei

HIRA TE

平 手 **open hand**

HEI WA

平 和 **peace**



A level rests FLAT on top of his head and he balances, slightly waving his arms up and down in a slow and PEACEFUL way.

角

angle, corner, horn

7 strokes
NN5543

kado, tsuno, kaku

SAN KAKU

三 角 **triangle**

KADO

角 **corner**

TSUNO

角 **horn, antler**



Between months (月), turn a CORNER for a new direction.

丸

round, full, perfection, roll up

3 strokes

NN0034

maru, maru(i), gan

MARU I

丸 い **round**

HI NO MARU

日 の 丸 **the Japanese flag**

GAN YAKU

丸 薬 **pill**



In Japan, adding one more ROUND egg to nine (丸), makes a standard FULL package of ten eggs.

央

center

5 strokes
NN1140

ō

CHŪ ō

中 央 **central, center**

SHIN ō

震 央 **epicenter [of earthquake]**



Here is a person holding a box in the CENTER of his body.

中

in, inside, middle

4 strokes
NN0028

naka, chū

NAKA

中 **middle, inside**

CHŪ GAK KŌ

中 学 校 **middle school**



The arrow struck through the MIDDLE of the target.



concave, hollow, sunken

5 strokes
NN0444

heko(mi), boko, ō

DEKO BOKO ō TOTSU
凸 凹 **or** 凹 凸 **unevenness, roughness**

ō HAN
凹 版 **intaglio [printing]**



The CONCAVE surface of this square gives a hint that it is HOLLOW.

危

dangerous, fear, uneasy

6 strokes
NN0629

abu(nai), ki

KI KEN

危険 **danger, hazard**

ABU NA I

危ない **dangerous**



DANGER can happen after stepping into barbs atop a cliff (厂) that can cause oneself (己) to twist and writhe in pain or FEAR of it.

比

compare, ratio

4 strokes
NN3010

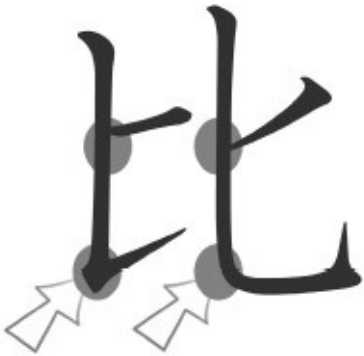
kura(beru), hi

KURA BE RU

比 べ る **to compare**

TAI HI TEKI

对 比 的 **contrasting**



COMPARE the two sides of this kanji, and see that they are slightly different.



convex, brow, uneven

5 strokes
NN0443

deko, totsu

ō TOTSU DEKO BOKO
凹 凸 or 凸 凹 unevenness, roughness

TOP PAN
凸 版 relief printing

TOTSU RE N ZU
凸 レンズ convex lens



The top of this box protrudes in a CONVEX manner.

大

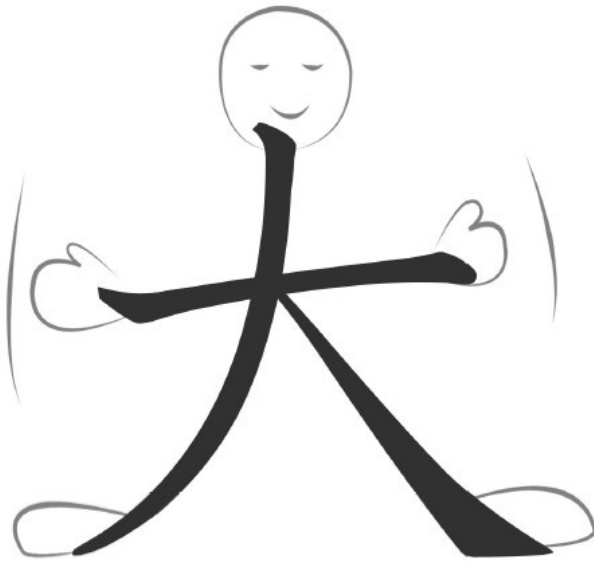
large, big

3 strokes
NN1133

ō(kii), dai

ō KI I
大 き い **big**

DAI GAKU
大 学 **university**



This person looks **BIG** with outstretched arms.

天

heavens, sky

4 strokes
NN1138

ama, ten

TEN KI

天 気 **weather**

AMA NO GAWA

天 の 川 **Milky Way**



A big (大) person stretches wide and tall and reaches the HEAVENS.

太

plump, thick, fat

4 strokes
NN1137

futo(i), futo(ru), ta

FUTO I

太 い **plump, fat, thick**

FUTO RU

太 る **to become fat**

TA RŌ

太 郎 **Taro [male name]**



The big (太) dog swallows too many bones and becomes FAT.

奮

stirred up, flourish

16 strokes
NN1172

furu(u), fun

FURU I TA TSU

奮 い 立 つ **to cheer up**

KŌ FUN

興 奮 **excitement, stimulation**



When a big (大) old bird (隹) flies, it STIRS UP water ripples in the rice fields (田).

奏

play music, complete

9 strokes
NN1156

kana(deru), sō

EN SŌ KAI

演奏会 **concert**

KANA DE RU

奏 で る **to play an instrument [esp. stringed]**



When she would PLAY MUSIC on her big (大) three (三) stringed instrument, it was like a gift from heaven (天).

奈

what

8 strokes
NN1147

na

NA RA
奈良 **Nara**



WHAT changes for Japan did the big (大) sign (示) indicate?.

高

tall, high, expensive

10 strokes
NN6796

taka(i), kō

TAKA I

高 い **high, expensive**

KŌ KŌ

高 校 **high school**



TALL pagodas were EXPENSIVE to build.

小

little, small

3 strokes
NN1389

chii(sai), ko, shō

KO MUGI

小麦 **wheat**

SHŌ GAK KŌ

小学校 **elementary school**



A person crouches down in a SMALL pose.

長

long, leader

8 strokes
NN6379

naga(i), chō

NAGA I

長 い **long**

KŌ CHŌ SEN SEI

校長 先生 **school principal**



LONG cloths sit on the ironing board.

少

few, little

4 strokes
NN1390

suku(nai), suko(shi), shō

SUKU NA I

少 ない **few, scarce**

SUKO SHI

少 し **small quantity, little**

SHŌ SHOKU

少 食 **light eating**



A small (小) quantity is cut in half and only a FEW are left.

寺

(Buddhist) temple

6 strokes
NN1373

tera, ji

TERA

寺 **temple**

TŌ DAI JI

東 大 寺 **Todaiji Temple**



A multistoried TEMPLE on the land (土) has a large bronze bell hanging from the eaves.

寿

longevity, congratulations, one's natural
life

7 strokes
NN1374

kotobu(ku), kotoho(gu), ju, su

SU SHI

寿 司 **sushi**

JU MYŌ

寿 命 **life span**

KOTOHO GU

寿 < **to congratulate**



CONGRATULATE someone who is living right and seems to cut through a measured (寸) three (三) decades of LONGEVITY, in no time at all.

対

opposite, versus

7 strokes
NN1375

tai, tsui

NI TAI SHI TE
〜 に対 して **toward**

HAN TAI
反 対 **opposition, resistance**



It is good to create writings (文) where you give measured (寸) information, and then contrast it with the OPPOSITE point of view.

専

specialty, exclusive, mainly

9 strokes

NN1377

moppa(ra), sen

SEN KŌ

専 攻 **major subject, special study**

SEN MON KA

専 門 家 **specialist, expert**

MOPPA RA

専 ら **wholly, solely**



The rows of SPECIALITY vegetables were measured (寸) and staked out in rows of ten (十) in the EXCLUSIVE fields (田).

尺

Japanese unit of measurement

4 strokes
NN1404

shaku

SHAKU HACHI

尺 八 **shakuhachi flute**

SAN JAKU

三 尺 **3 shaku**



A person opens his mouth (口) wide as he MEASURES a length of string.

INDEX

Note: Page numbers correspond to the print edition.

abandon 投 74

abbreviation 略 177

ability 能 118

about 位 30

above 上 94

abundant 富 186

accept 応 72

accept 受 182

accompany 供 25

accompany 從 46

accomplish 果 102

accomplished 達 81

account 記 91

account 紀 199

account book 帳 202

achieve 果 102

achievement 功 88

acquire 熟 138

actor 俳 31

actual 現 161

add 加 88

add 増 152

adjective ending 的 20

adhere 付 25
administer 司 54
admire 惚 71
advance 進 81
advantage 利 169
affair 件 30
affair 局 184
affection 愛 66
afflicted 患 69
after 后 55
again 又 182
again 再 194
age 歲 173
agony 悶 67
agree 同 57
agree upon 決 148
agreeable 快 70
agriculture 農 115
aid 扶 74
air 風 124
air 宙 188
airplane 機 101
album 帳 202
alcohol 酒 35
all 皆 20
all 全 27
all 共 40

all of a sudden 忽 68
alliance 盟 73
also 且 62
amass 積 106
ancestor 祖 164
ancient currency 元 78
angle 角 203
angry 怒 67
annals 紀 199
announce 宣 189
another 他 30
another 別 169
answer 応 72
answer 返 80
answer 答 107
anti- 反 182
appearance 觀 63
appearance 態 66
apply 応 72
appropriate 当 140
approximately 約 199
argue 争 170
armor 甲 178
arms 武 173
army 兵 97
army 軍 180
arrest 囚 192

arrival 着 61
arrive 至 48
arrive 届 184
arrive at 歸 184
arrow 矢 162
art 術 45
art 芸 109
article 条 103
articles 品 58
arts 業 104
ascend 登 163
ashes 灰 22
ask 聞 65
ask 問 185
assemble 組 197
assist 佑 25
assist 扶 74
assist 助 89
assistant 佐 24
association 会 27
association 社 164
association 团 192
association 組 197
assumed (name) 仮 28
atmosphere 氣 33
attach 付 25
attach 押 75

attain 至 48
attempt 試 92
attend 仕 24
attitude 態 66
augment 增 152
autumn 秋 112
average 均 151
aware of 存 42
ax 斤 171

back 後 45
back 背 51
back 遲 117
back 裏 196
backbone 呂 57
bad 不 59
bad 惡 72
badge 章 84
bag 袋 29
baggage 荷 110
balance 殘 173
bale 袋 29
ball 球 160
ball 玉 160
ballot 票 72
bamboo 竹 106
ban 禁 97
basin 盆 73

bask in 浴 143
bath 湯 144
bathe 浴 143
battle 戰 174
be 居 184
beach 浜 148
beach 岸 155
bean 豆 163
bear 忍 67
bear 負 122
bear 熊 118
beautiful 美 116
beauty 美 116
because 以 33
beckon 招 74
become 赴 77
become 成 174
become distressed 困 193
become employed 勤 90
become experienced 慣 123
bed 床 156
bed 寢 191
before 先 78
before 前 167
beforehand 予 49
beg 希 201
begin 始 41

beginning 元 78
beginning 序 156
beginning 初 166
beginning 緒 196
behind 後 45
behind 后 55
being helped 活 147
believe 存 42
below 下 94
belt 帶 202
bend 折 74
bend 曲 107
benefit 効 89
benefit 為 138
benefit 利 169
bestow o 給 199
between 内 27
beyond 向 56
big 大 205
bin 箱 108
bind 結 162
bird 鳥 120
birth 生 71
bitter 苦 109
bitter 辛 200
bitter orange 橙 22
black 黑 20

blaze 燃 138
blend 混 143
blessing 幸 117
block 丁 175
blood 血 73
blow out 消 147
blue 青 21
board 板 99
board 乘 180
boat 船 181
body 体 47
body 身 48
boiled rice 飯 34
Bon Festival 盆 73
book 卷 49
book 本 96
boom 盛 73
border 境 150
borough 府 156
borrow 借 26
both 共 40
both 兩 155
bottom 底 157
boulder 岩 155
boulevard 街 46
boundary 边 80
boundary 境 150

bout 競 84
bow 礼 164
bow (archery, violin) 弓 172
bowl 井 178
bowl of food 井 178
box 箱 108
branch 枝 99
branch off 别 169
bravery 勇 89
break 折 74
break 割 168
breath 息 69
bride 嫁 38
bride 婦 38
bridge 橋 101
bright 昭 127
bright 明 127
bright 昌 129
bring up 養 35
bring up 育 134
broad 広 156
broaden 拓 75
brow 凸 204
brush 筆 108
brush-stroke 画 176
Buddha 仏 48
bug 虫 124

build 作 26
build 構 102
build 建 170
building 館 179
bull's eye 的 20
bundle 束 104
bureaucrat 官 187
buried 埋 151
burn 燃 138
business 業 104
business 用 136
busy 忙 71
buy 買 123
by means of 以 33

calamity 災 137
calculate 算 108
call out to 呼 54
called 申 178
can 得 45
can 可 55
capital 京 57
capital 都 87
capture 捉 75
capture 囚 192
car 車 179
care for 牧 114
cargo 荷 110

carry 運 82
cart 車 179
case 件 30
castle 城 159
cat 貓 113
catch 捉 75
catch (cold, fire) 移 105
cause 因 192
cave 穴 188
celebrate 祭 136
celebrate 祝 164
cellar 倉 31
center 央 204
cereals 穀 106
ceremony 典 107
ceremony 礼 164
ceremony 式 173
certain 必 72
change 變 21
change 化 28
change 為 138
chant 唱 60
chapter 章 84
chapter 課 102
character 字 42
charcoal 炭 137
charity 仁 32

chart 表 161
chase 追 81
chase away 往 44
cheap 安 189
check 押 75
cheerful 快 70
chemical 藥 110
cherry 桜 98
chest 箱 108
chief 主 160
child 子 40
child 兒 78
child 童 84
China 漢 146
chirp 鳴 120
chivalry 武 173
choked 咽 58
chronicle 紀 199
circle 円 18
circle 輪 181
circuit 周 58
circumference 周 58
circumstances 状 118
city 市 201
clan 氏 39
clapper 舌 50
[first] class 等 108

class 級 199
claw 爪 124
cleanse 清 148
clear 昌 129
clear up 晴 127
cliff 岩 155
climax 至 48
climb up 登 163
clique 党 78
clique 派 146
close 末 104
closed 閉 185
clot 固 193
cloth 布 201
clothes 衣 195
clothing 服 134
cloud 雲 111
cloud up 曇 111
cloudy weather 曇 111
coal 炭 137
cobweb 巢 102
code 典 107
coefficient 率 200
cold 寒 190
color 色 15
color 染 103
column 列 169

come 来 79
come 落 110
comfort 樂 103
comfortable 快 70
coming and going 交 100
commence 始 41
committee 委 41
community 井 178
commute 通 83
companions 徒 46
company 社 164
comparatively 割 168
compare 比 204
compete with 競 84
complete 奏 205
completion 完 189
comply 從 46
compose 描 76
concave 凹 204
conceal 忍 67
concept 想 69
concern oneself with 介 31
conclusion 局 184
condemn 處 98
condition 態 66
condition 況 148
conditions 狀 118

conduct (business) 營 43
conduct oneself well 修 32
conform 準 145
congratulate 祝 164
congratulations 吉 162
congratulations 寿 207
connection 関 185
consider 考 154
consider 量 177
consistency 貞 122
constitution 憲 69
construction 工 88
consultation 議 117
contact 接 75
contain 容 187
contend 争 170
contents 積 106
continent 洲 149
continue 続 198
contract 結 162
control 律 44
convenience 便 28
convex 凸 204
cooperation 協 19
copy 模 101
copy 写 186
cord 緒 196

corner 角 203
correct 正 85
correspond to 準 145
cost 值 29
cost 費 122
count 數 15
counter for articles 個 29
counter for birds 羽 121
counter for bound volumes 冊 181
counter for branches 枝 99
counter for clothing sizes, train numbers, and robots 号 54
counter for cupfuls 杯 59
counter for large animals 頭 51
counter for loaves of bread 斤 171
counter for machines and vehicles 台 55
counter for small animals 匹 194
counter for thin, flat objects 枚 100
country 国 193
county 郡 87
courage 勇 89
course 科 105
courtyard 庭 157
cow 牛 114
craft 工 88
craft 芸 109
create 創 167
cremate 灰 22

crime 罪 62
crime 犯 119
criminal 囚 192
crimson 紅 22
criticism 批 74
cruise 航 181
cry 鳴 120
cry 泣 144
cultivate 耕 178
cup 杯 59
cure 治 146
current 流 142
curriculum 歷 97
curve 曲 107
cushion 座 157
customer 客 186
cut 切 166
cut off 切 166

dainty 細 198

damage 痛 136
dangerous 危 204
dark 暗 128
dark 晦 128
dark 昧 128
dark 昏 129
dart 矢 162

daughter 娘 39
dawn 旦 126
day 日 132
daybreak 旦 126
daytime 昼 132
deal with 处 98
dealer 屋 184
deceased 亡 68
decide 決 148
decide 定 191
decimal point 点 139
decision 裁 174
decline 否 59
decrease 減 145
deep 深 147
deep red 紅 22
defeat 負 122
defend 守 190
defy 背 51
defy 冒 61
degree 程 105
degree 度 157
deify 祭 136
deliberation 議 117
deliver 届 184
den 巢 102
den 穴 188

density (of population) 密 191

department 部 87

department 科 105

departure 発 19

depend on 待 44

depth 底 157

descend 降 86

descend 下 94

descendant 孫 39

describe 写 186

desk 机 98

destiny 命 57

destiny 運 82

destroy 破 158

detain 留 176

determine 定 191

detest 憎 70

develop 養 35

devil 鬼 78

diagram 表 161

diameter 径 44

differ 違 82

difference 違 82

difficult 難 120

diligence 勤 90

diligent 努 88

dilute 薄 110

direction 方 93
director 司 54
disappear 晦 128
disaster 災 137
discard 投 74
discipline 修 32
discuss 談 92
disease 患 69
dish 皿 73
dispute 争 170
distance 路 77
distant 遠 83
distinguished 名 56
distribute 配 77
district 郡 87
district 区 194
distrust 疑 163
divide 割 168
divining 算 108
divining 卜 171
do 為 138
doctor 医 194
doctrine 教 43
dog 犬 118
door 戶 183
double 倍 29
doubt 疑 163

down 下 94
down 毛 119
Dr. (PhD) 博 19
drafted labor 役 44
drama 劇 168
draw 描 76
draw near 寄 55

drawing 圖 193
drawing 繪 199
drill 練 200
drink 飲 35
drive away 追 81
drop 落 110
dry 干 200
duplicate 副 168
duty 係 32
duty (tax) 稅 37
duty 役 44
dwell 住 25
dwindle 減 145
dye 染 103
dying 亡 68
dynasty 朝 134

each 各 56
ear 耳 53
early 早 126

earth 土 150
earth 地 150
ease 樂 103
ease 康 170
east 東 93
easy 易 130
eat 食 34
effect 驗 116
efficiency 効 89
ego 我 174
eight 八 17
elect 選 83
electricity 電 111
elephant 象 115
emergency 急 67
emit 發 19
emotion 感 66
emotions 情 70
emperor 皇 20
employee 員 123
employment 職 65
empress 后 55
empty 空 188
encircle 圍 192
end 末 104
end 完 189
end 終 197

endure 忍 67
energy 勢 152
engage 招 74
England 英 109
English 英 109
engrave 刊 168
enlarge 拓 75
enraged 激 144
enrich 富 186
enter 入 27
entire 全 27
entrust to 委 41
entwine 絡 198
environs 辺 80
equal 同 57
equal 匹 194
error 失 71
escort 送 80
eternity 永 141
ethics 德 46
even 平 203
even now 未 104
evening 昏 129
evening 夜 135
evening 夕 135
every 各 56
every 每 133

everything 皆 20
evil 惡 72
exam 校 100
examination 檢 100
example 例 28
exclusive 專 207
excuse 恕 67
exertion 勉 89
exile 配 77
exist 有 134
exist 在 152
exist 居 184
existing 現 161
exit 出 155
expand 伸 26
expand 擴 75
expand 展 184
expensive 高 206
expert 師 202
expire 經 198
explanation 訓 91
extend 擴 75
extinguish 消 147
extreme 最 131
extremely 極 102
eye 目 52
eyeball 眼 52

face 顏 52
face 面 52
face 冒 61
facing 向 56
fact 事 171
faction 党 78
factor 因 192
fade 返 80
fail 欠 59
faith 信 33
faith 教 43
faithfulness 忠 66
fall 降 86
fall 落 110
fall 秋 112
fall in love with 惚 71
familiarity 親 63
family 族 36
fan 扇 183
far 遠 83
farm 畑 175
farmer 農 115
fast 速 81
fasten 留 176
fat 油 144
fat 太 205
fate 命 57

father 父 36
fault 失 71
favor 恩 66
fear 危 204
feather 羽 121
fee 料 96
feed 牧 114
feeling 感 66
feelings 情 70
female 女 38
fetch 取 183
fever 熱 138
few 少 206
fiber 筋 107
fidelity 忠 66
field 原 149
field 畑 175
field 野 176
figure 姿 41
figure 態 66
file 列 169
filial piety 孝 42
filled up 埋 151
fine 宜 189
finger 指 50
finish 終 197
fire 火 137

first time 初 166
fish 魚 121
fishery 漁 121
fishing 漁 121
fit 合 56
five 五 16
fix 直 61
fix 決 148
fix 定 191
flat 平 203
flavor 味 58
flock 集 120
floor 床 156
floor 疊 177
flour 粉 96
flourish 榮 103
flourish 奮 205
flourishing 旺 129
flow 流 142
flower 花 109
flute 笛 107
fly 航 181
fly 飛 181
focus 省 61
fold 折 74
folding fan 扇 183
follow 追 81

follow along 沿 146
fond of 好 40
food 食 34
foolish 昧 128
foot 心 51
force 勢 152
forecasting 占 171
forest 森 97
forget 忘 68
forgive 恕 67
form 姿 41
form 容 187
form 形 203
former 旧 130
fortune 幸 117
fortune 福 164
fortune-telling 占 171
fortune-telling 卜 171
forward 届 184
foster 養 35
foundation 基 153
founder 祖 164
fountain 泉 149
four 四 16
fox 狐 119
fracture 折 74
frail 弱 172

freeze 冰 141
freight 貨 122
frequent 多 135
fret 暴 131
friend 友 182
fruit 果 102
fruit 實 188
full 丸 203
function 式 173
fundamental 基 153
fur 毛 119
furthermore 且 62
furthermore 又 182

gain 得 45
gap 欠 59
garden 庭 157
garden 園 194
garments 衣 195
gate 門 185
gateway 關 185
gather 寄 55
gather 集 120
gender 性 71
generally 普 130
generation 世 125
gentleman 士 161
genuine 生 71

genuine 純 197
genus 類 64
germ 毒 133
get 赴 77
get caught in 絡 198
get excited 激 144
get used to 慣 123
ghost 鬼 78
girl 娘 39
gist 趣 77
give 下 94
give birth 產 85
glory 榮 103
go 行 79
go out 出 155
go-between 仲 24
gods 神 164
going 往 44
going 參 49
gold 金 140
gone 去 49
good 良 34
good 宜 189
good luck 吉 162
goods 品 58
goods 貨 122
government 官 187

government ministry 省 61

government office 府 156

government office 庁 156

governmental 公 49

grace 恩 66

grade 級 199

graduate 卒 19

grains 穀 106

grandchild 孫 39

grant 授 76

grass 草 109

green 綠 21

green 青 21

greens 菜 110

grieve 悲 31

ground 土 150

ground 地 150

group 派 146

group 班 160

group 団 192

grove 林 97

grow 燃 138

grow 成 174

grow old 老 154

guarantee 保 32

guard 守 190

guess 察 190

guest 客 186

guilt 罪 62

haiku 俳 31

hail 冰 141

hair 毛 119

half 半 18

halt 停 30

halt 止 85

halt 留 176

hand 手 51

hanging scroll 巾 201

happiness 幸 117

harbor 港 142

harden 固 193

harm 害 191

harmony 和 54

hate 憎 70

have 有 134

have 持 75

have the honor to 申 178

he 彼 45

head 頭 51

heal 治 146

health 健 170

heap up 重 90

hear 聞 65

heart 心 51

heat 熱 138
heavens 天 205
heavy 重 90
height 背 51
heighten 深 147
heights 坂 86
help 佐 24
help 佑 25
help 扶 74
help 助 89
helping 皿 73
hermit 仙 24
herb 草 109
hidden 埋 151
hide 皮 124
high 高 206
high [voice] 甲 178
hill 丘 97
history 紀 199
hit 打 76
hit 当 140
hive 巢 102
hold 持 75
hole 坑 151
hole 穴 188
hollow 凹 204
holy 聖 65

home 内 27
home 家 36
honesty 直 61
hope 願 64
hope 望 136
hope 志 161
hope 希 201
hopes 志 68
horizontal 橫 101
horn 角 203
horse 馬 116
horse 午 133
hot 暑 127
hot 辛 200
hot water 湯 144
hour 時 133
house 内 27
house 家 36
house 屋 184
humanity 仁 32
humor 俳 31
hundred 百 18
hundred million 億 85
hurry 急 67
hurt 痛 136
hurt 創 167
husband 夫 38

I 予 49
I 私 105
I (male) 僕 117
ice 冰 141
icicle 冰 141
idea 想 69
idea 意 69
if so 然 139
ill 病 33
ill-smelling 臭 48
illuminate 照 139
imitate 似 33
imitation 模 101
impart 授 76
implement 器 60
impossible 難 120
in 中 204
in front 前 167
in a moment 忽 68
incense 香 131
incline 坂 150
include 加 88
income 収 183
increase 伸 26
increase 加 88
increase 增 152
indicate 指 50

indicate 示 190
individual 個 29
inevitable 必 72
inform 告 57
informal 佻 28
ingredients 具 165
injure 傷 29
injury 害 191
inn 宿 186
innocence 純 197
insect 虫 124
insert 入 27
inside 内 27
inside 中 204
insight 目 52
inspection 視 63
instantly 忽 68
institution 院 86
instruct 授 76
instruction 訓 91
instrument 器 60
intensify 深 147
intention 志 68
inter- 相 64
interval 間 185
invariably 必 72
investigate 調 92

investigate 檢 100

investigate 查 104

invite 呼 54

invite 招 74

iron 鐵 140

irrigate 注 143

island 洲 149

island 島 155

item 号 54

item 条 103

-ization 化 28

jade 玉 160

Japanese raccoon 狸 119

Japanese-style 和 54

jerk 引 172

jewel 玉 160

join 会 27

join 合 56

join 結 162

journey 往 44

journey 行 79

joy 吉 162

judge 裁 174

judge 察 190

judgment 判 169

just so 是 129

justice 正 85

juvenile 童 84

kebab 串 124

keep 保 32

key point 要 42

kind 種 106

kind 厚 131

kindness 恩 66

king 王 160

knife 刀 166

knock 打 76

knoll 丘 97

know 知 162

label 票 72

labor 勞 89

lack 欠 59

lady 婦 38

lake 湖 142

lamp 灯 137

land 陸 86

language 語 92

lap 周 58

large 大 205

large building 館 179

late 亡 68

late 遲 117

later 後 45
laugh 笑 106
law 律 44
law 憲 69
law 典 107
law 法 147
law 制 167
lay in 貯 122
laziness 慢 70
lead 連 83
leader 長 206
leaf 頁 53
leaf 葉 110
learn 覺 62
learn 習 62
learning 学 43
leather 皮 124
leave 去 49
leave 出 155
left 左 94
leftover 殘 173
leg 足 51
leisure 閑 185
lengthen 張 172
lengthy 永 141
lesson 課 102
let go 往 44

letter 字 42

level 均 151

lie down 寢 191

life 生 71

life 命 57

light 光 78

light 灯 137

light 輕 180

lightning bolt 雷 111

like 好 40

limb 枝 99

limit 程 105

limits 域 151

line 線 149

lineage 系 198

linen 布 201

listen 聞 65

literature 文 108

little 小 206

little 少 206

lively 活 147

living 活 147

load 荷 110

location 場 150

lodging 宿 186

logic 理 161

long 永 141

long 長 206

long time 暫 130

longevity 壽 207

look 目 52

look 見 63

look at 視 63

look up 調 92

looks 容 187

lord 主 160

lose 失 71

loss 失 71

love 愛 66

lower 低 32

loyalty 忠 66

luck 運 82

luck 福 164

lumber 材 99

machine 機 101

magnet 磁 158

main 本 96

main point 宗 187

mainly 專 207

make 作 26

make 為 138

make a deal 商 85

male 男 38

man 人 23

manner 樣 117
many 多 135
map 圖 193
mark 的 20
mark 点 139
market 市 201
marriage 婚 37
marry into 嫁 38
mask 面 52
master 修 32
master 聖 65
master 師 202
match 戰 174
materials 料 96
math 数 15
matter 件 30
matter 物 114
matter 質 123
matter 事 171
me (male) 僕 117
meadow 原 149
meal 飯 34
measurement 寸 207
meat 肉 124
mediate 介 31
medicine 藥 110
medicine 医 194

meet 会 27
meet 集 120
meeting 会 27
mellow 熟 138
melody 節 35
melody 曲 107
member 員 123
memorize 覚 62
merchant 商 85
merely 单 19
merit 効 89
method 徑 44
method 法 147
metropolis 都 87
mid-air 宙 188
middle 半 18
middle 中 204
military 武 173
military strength 勢 152
mind 心 51
mind 意 69
mind 神 164
mingle 交 100
minister 臣 41
minute 分 166
minuteness 密 191
mirror 鏡 140

miscellaneous 雜 120
mistake 非 31
mix 混 143
mixing 交 100
model 型 152
moderation 程 105
mold 型 152
money 金 140
month 月 134
mood 氣 33
moon 月 134
moreover 且 62
morning 旦 126
morning 朝 134
morning sun 旭 126
most 最 131
mother 母 36
mother-in-law 姑 39
motion 動 90
motive 志 68, 161
mountain 山 154
mouth 口 52
move 動 90
move 移 105
much 多 135
murmur 囁 60
muscle 筋 107

music 樂 103

music 曲 107

must 可 55

mutual 相 64

myself 予 49

name 名 56

name suffix 君 57

narrow 細 198

nation 民 39

nature 性 71

navigate 航 181

near 近 80

neck 首 53

need 要 42

negate 否 59

negative 非 31

negative 不 59

negative 負 122

new 新 171

newborn babe next 次 59

next 来 79

nice and cool 涼 145

night 晚 132

night 夜 135

nightfall 晚 132

nine 九 17

no 否 59

no. 第 107
noise 音 84
non- 非 31
none 無 139
noon 昼 132
noon 午 133
north 北 93
nose 鼻 53
not 無 139
not yet 未 104
notebook 帳 202
nothingness 無 139
now 今 27
number 数 15
number 号 54
number in a series 番 177

oath 盟 73
obey 従 46
obey 順 53
obi 帶 202
object 物 114
obtain 収 183
obtain 納 196
occasion 節 35
occasion 席 201
occupation 營 43
occupied 忙 71

occupy 占 171
occurrence 度 157
ocean 海 141
ocean 洋 146
odor 臭 48
offended 怒 67
offense 犯 119
office 局 184
officer 吏 56
official (n.) 吏 56
official (n.) 司 54
offspring 仔 40
ogre 鬼 78
oil 油 144
old 古 55
old age 老 154
old boy 君 57
old friend 旧 130
old man 老 154
old things 旧 130
old times 昔 126
older brother 兄 37
omission 略 177
on foot 徒 46
on the other hand 又 182
once upon a time 昔 126
one — 16

one 单 19

one's natural life 寿 207

oneself 自 48

oneself 我 174

open 開 185

opinion 見 63

opinion 說 92

opportunity 機 101

opportunity 潮 144

opposite 对 207

oppress 压 152

order 次 59

order 順 53

origin 本 96

origin 源 145

origin 宗 187

original 原 149

other 他 30

our 我 174

outburst 暴 131

outlook 觀 63

outside 外 135

outskirts 在 152

overwhelm 压 152

owe 負 122

page 頁 53

pain 傷 29

pain 痛 136
paint 描 76
paint 染 103
painting 繪 199
palace 宮 187
paper 紙 197
paper money 札 99
parch 干 200
parent 親 63
parents' home 里 176
park 園 194
part 卷 49
part 分 166
party 党 78
party 隊 86
pass through 通 83
pass through 經 198
passage of time 歷 97
passion 情 70
past 去 49
path 徑 44
path 路 77
pay 払 76
pea 豆 163
peace 康 170
peace 平 203 [be at]
peace 治 146

peaceful 安 189
pedestal 台 55
people 民 39
people 徒 46
perfect 完 189
perfection 丸 203
perform 營 43
performance 業 104
performance 芸 109
period 節 35
period 期 136
perish 亡 68
persistence 健 170
person 人 23
person 身 48
person 方 93
person 者 154
person in charge 係 32
petition 願 64
PhD 博 19
photographed 写 186
phrase 句 54
picture 像 115
picture 画 176
picture 繪 199
piece together 接 75
pierce 突 191

pig 豚 115
pile up 重 90
pile up 積 106
pillar 柱 99
pine tree 松 98
pipe 笛 107
pipe 管 108
pit 坑 151
place 处 98
place 所 183
place 場 150
place 席 201
placement 置 62
plains 野 176
plan 志 68, 161
plan 計 91
plan 案 103
plan 策 106
plan 測 123
plan 圖 193
plank 板 99
plant 植 95
plate 皿 73
play 遊 82
play 劇 168
play music 奏 205
pleasant 快 70

pleasing 良 34

plot 計 91

plum 梅 98

plump 太 205

pluralizes some words 達 81

poem 詩 91

poetry 詩 91

point 点 139

point out 示 190

point to 指 50

poison 毒 133

poles 極 102

police station 署 62

polish 研 158

polite suffix 樣 117

pond 池 142

ponder 案 103

porcelain 磁 158

pork 豚 115

portrait 像 115

positive 陽 87

possess 有 134

post 職 65

post 柱 99

posterity 末 104

posture 構 102

pound 打 76

pour 注 143
powder 粉 96
power 力 88
practice 練 200
pray 希 201
precipitate 降 86
preface 序 156
prefecture 県 61
prefer 選 83
present 現 161
pressure 压 152
presume 察 190
pretend 構 102
previous 予 49
previous 先 78
previous 昨 126
price 值 29
primitive 原 149
princess 姬 41
principal 主 160
print 刷 167
printing 刷 167
private 卒 19
prize 賞 123
problem 問 185
proceed 赴 77
proceed 進 81

proceed to 趣 77
proclaim 宣 189
products 產 85
profit 利 169
progress 進 81
prohibition 禁 97
promise 約 199
property 貨 122
proportion 割 168
prosper 盛 73
prosperity 榮 103
prosperous 昌 129
protect 保 32
protect 守 190
protection 映 127
province 州 149
public 公 49
public 世 125
public hall 堂 153
publish 刊 168
pull 引 172
pure 清 148
purity 純 197
purple 紫 22
push 押 75
push 压 152
put 置 62

put into 指 50
put up with 忍 67

quality 等 108
quality 質 123
quandary 困 193
quantity 量 177
queen 后 55
question 疑 163
question 問 185
quick 速 81
quiet 靜 135
quit 去 49
quote 引 172

race 競 84
radical 根 34
rain 雨 111
raise 育 134
range 域 151
rank 位 30
rank 格 101
rank 級 199
rate 率 200
ratio 率 200
ratio 比 204
ray 光 78
reach 至 48

reach 達 81
reach to 為 138
read 讀 92
reality 真 64
reality 實 188
ream 束 104
reap 納 196
rear 裏 196
reason 理 161
reason 由 176
receive 受 182
recite 唱 60
record 錄 140
red 赤 21
reduce 縮 200
reed 舌 50
reflect 映 127
reflection 映 127
refreshing 涼 145
refuse 否 59
regards 宜 189
regiment 隊 86
region 境 150
region 域 151
regret 悔 70
regular 常 202
regulation 律 44

rejoice 喜 60
relationship 仲 24
religion 宗 187
remainder 殘 173
rent 借 26
repair 直 61
repay 返 80
repent 悔 70
report 報 153
report 屆 184
reputation 名 56
request 願 64
request 求 141
request 希 201
require 求 141
rescue 助 89
research 究 190
resemble 似 33
reservoir 池 142
reside 住 25
reside 居 184
residence 第 107
resign 辭 60
respect for elders 孝 42
respiration 息 69
rest 休 25
rest 寢 191

restless 忙 71
retainer 臣 41
return 返 80
return home 歸 193
revelation 告 57
reverse 裏 196
revolve 轉 180
revolve 回 192
reward 果 102
reward 賞 123
reward for 勞 89
rhythm 律 44
rice 米 96
rice field 田 175
ride 乘 180
ridicule 慢 70
right 右 94
right 当 140
rigidity 嚴 65
ring 輪 181
rip 破 158
ripen 熟 138
rising sun 旭 126
risk 冒 61
river 川 149
road 路 77
road 道 82

rock 岩 155

rock 石 158

role 役 44

roll up 卷 49

roll up 丸 203

rookery 巢 102

room 室 186

rooster 酉 121

root 根 34

round 丸 203

route 路 77

row 列 169

rule 法 147

rule 王 160

rumor 說 92

run 走 77

run alongside 沿 146

saber 刀 166

sack 俵 29

sad 悲 31

saint 聖 65

sake 酒 35

salary 給 199

salt 塩 151

salt water 潮 144

salute 礼 164

same 同 57

samurai 侍 24
samurai 士 161
sand 砂 158
sandbar 洲 149
sash 帶 202
savings 貯 122
say 云 48
say 言 91
say 宣 189
scatter 飛 181
scenery 景 130
scheme 計 91
scheme 策 106
scheme 測 123
school 院 86
school 校 100
school of 派 146
scribe 記 91
scroll 卷 49
sea 海 141
sea coast 浜 148
season 節 35
season 季 43
seat 座 157
seat 席 201
second time 再 194
seconds 秒 105

secrecy 密 191
sect 宗 187
section 部 87
section of village 字 42
see 看 64
seed 種 106
select 選 83
selection 科 105
self 自 48
self 己 49
sell 売 162
seller 屋 184
selling 商 85
semi- 準 145
send 寄 55
send 送 80
sensation 感 66
sentence 句 54
sentence 文 108
separate 別 169
sequence 次 59
series 続 198
serve 仕 24
serve 侍 24
serve 勤 90
service 役 44
set 置 62

seven 七 17
sex 性 71
shape 姿 41
shape 象 115
shape 形 203
sharp 切 166
sharpen 研 158
sheaf 束 104
sheep 羊 116
shell 貝 122
shellfish 貝 122
shepherd 牧 114
shift 移 105
shine 照 139
shining 昭 127
shining 明 127
Shinto shrine 宮 187
ship 船 181
shop 店 157
shop 屋 184
short 低 32
short 短 163
should 可 55
show 示 190
shrine 社 164
shrink 縮 200
shut 閉 185

sick 病 33
side 側 30
side 橫 101
side dish 菜 110
sideways 橫 101
sign 票 72
signature 署 62
signature 判 169
silk 糸 196
silk 絹 197
silkworm 蚕 124
silver 銀 140
simple 單 19
simple 易 130
sin 罪 62
sin 犯 119
sing 歌 59
single 單 19
single 獨 119
sink (n.) 流 142
Sino- 漢 146
sit 座 157
situation 況 148
six 六 17
sketch 描 76
skewer 串 124
skill 術 45

skill 能 118
skill 熟 138
skilled 良 34
skin 皮 124
sky 宙 188
sky 空 188
sky 天 205
sleep 寢 191
slope 阪 86
slope 坂 150
slow 遲 117
small 小 206
smell 香 131
smothered 咽 58
snout 鼻 53
snow 雪 111
so 然 139 [and]
so forth 等 108
sob 泣 144
society 世 125
soften 和 54
soil 土 150
soldier 卒 19
soldier 兵 97
sole 底 157
solid 固 193
solution 答 107

some 位 30
somebody 身 48
someone 者 154
song 歌 59
sort 類 64
sort of thing 然 139
soul 神 164
sound 音 84
source 源 145
south 南 93
space 間 185
space 宙 188
spacious 広 156
sparkle 晶 129
special 特 114
specialty 專 207
species 種 106
speech 言 91
speech 語 92
sphere 球 160
spicy 辛 200
spine 呂 57
spirit 氣 33
spirit 心 51
spontaneously 独 119
spouse 妻 41
spouse 配 77

spread 張 172
spring 春 112
spring 泉 149
squad 班 160
stab 突 191
stage 板 99
stair 階 87
stamp 判 169
stand (n.) 台 55
stand (v.) 立 84
stand up 立 84
star 星 128
start 創 167
start from 發 19
state 州 149
station 駅 116
statue 像 115
stature 背 51
status 格 101
status quo 狀 118
steep 急 67
stern 嚴 65
still 未 104
stinking 臭 48
stirred up 奮 205
stomach 胃 50
stone 石 158

stop 押 75
stop 止 85
stopping 停 30
store 貯 122
store 店 157
storehouse 庫 157
story 階 87
straight away 直 61
strain 力 88
strange 變 21
strap 緒 196
stream 川 149
street 街 46
street 道 82
strength 健 170
stretch 伸 26
stretch 張 172
strictness 嚴 65
strike 批 74
strike 打 76
strike 条 103
strong 強 172
study 修 32
study 学 43
study 究 190
style 風 124
style 形 203

subdue 押 75
subject 民 39
subject 臣 41
subject 題 64
submit to 從 46
substance 質 123
suburbs 在 152
success 功 88
successful 旺 129
sudden 急 67
suffer from 患 69
suffering 苦 109
sugary 甘 131
suggestion 案 103
suit 合 56
summer 夏 112
summon 招 74
sun 日 132
sunken 凹 204
sunshine 陽 87
support 柱 99
suppose 存 42
supply 納 196
surface 面 52
surface 表 161
surname 氏 39
surrender 降 86

surround 圍 192

sutra 經 198

sweet 甘 131

swim 泳 143

sword 刀 166

system 制 167

system 系 198

table 机 98

table 表 161

tag 札 99

tailor 裁 174

take 取 183

take along 連 83

take the form of 化 28

take (medicine) 飲 35

take out 出 155

take pleasure in 喜 60

tale 話 50

talent 材 99

talent 能 118

talk 話 50

talk 談 92

tall 高 206

talon 爪 124

tanuki 狸 119

taste 味 58

taste 意 69

tatami mat 畳 177
tax 税 37
tea 茶 22
teach 教 43
teacher 師 202
teachings 道 82
tear 破 158
technique 術 45
technique 芸 109
temper 虫 124
temperature 熱 138
temple 院 86
temple (Buddhist) 寺 207
temporary 仮 28
temporary 暫 130
ten 十 17
ten thousand 万 18
tend to 趣 77
term 辞 60
term 期 136
test 試 92
testing 驗 116
thanks 礼 164
that 彼 45
the 彼 45
theory 說 92
thick 厚 131

thick 太 205
thin 薄 110
thin 細 198
thing 物 114
thing 事 171
think 思 68
think 想 69
think over 考 154
this 是 129
thought 想 69
thought 意 69
thousand 千 18
thread 糸 196
three 三 16
throw 投 74
thrusting 突 191
thunder 雷 111
ticket 券 166
tide 潮 144
tie 結 162
till 耕 178
timber 材 99
time 時 133
time 期 136
time 度 157
times 倍 29 ~times 回 192
together 共 40

together 相 64
toil 努 88
toil 勞 89
tolerate 恕 67
tongue 舌 50
tool 具 165
topic 題 64
touch 接 75
towel 巾 201
town 街 46
town 町 175
town 井 178
track 線 149
traffic 通 83
train 練 200
transmit 伝 26
transport 運 82
travel 往 44
travel 旅 93
tray 盆 73
treasure 宝 187
tree 木 96
tribe 族 36
trip 旅 93
troops 兵 97
troops 軍 180
trouble 難 120

true 真 64
true 本 96
trust 信 33
truth 信 33
truth 實 188
truth 理 161
try 試 92
tube 管 108
tug 引 172
turn 順 53
turn 番 177
turn 回 192
turn around 轉 180
turn into 成 174
twice 倍 29
twice 再 194
two 二 16
two 兩 155
type 增 152

umbrella 傘 27
un- 不 59
un- 未 104
uncommon 異 177
undergo 受 182
understand 察 190
understanding 分 166
uneasy 危 204

uneven 凸 204
unfold 展 184
unfold 開 185
unimportant 輕 180
unit 班 160
unite 組 197
universal 普 130
unseal 開 185
unusual 變 21
unusual 異 177
up 上 94
upright 貞 122
urban prefecture 府 156
USA 米 96
use 使 26
use 用 136
usual 常 202
utensil 器 60
utensil 具 165
utmost 最 131

valuables 宝 187
value 值 29
valley 谷 154
variety 類 64
variety 種 106
vegetables 菜 110
verge 際 87

verification 驗 116

verse 節 35

versus 对 207

vice- 副 168

vicinity 辺 80

victory 勝 90

view 景 130

village 村 100

village 里 176

violent 激 144

violet 紫 22

virtue 仁 32

virtue 德 46

visit 参 49

visitor 客 186

vocation 業 104

voice 声 153

volume 卷 49

volume 積 106

wait 待 44

waiter 侍 24

wake up 起 77

walk 步 85

wandering 徧 45

want 求 141

war 戰 174

war 軍 180

ward 丁 175
ward 区 194
warehouse 倉 31
warehouse 庫 157
warm 温 145
warmth 暖 128
warrior 武 173
wash 洗 143
watch over 看 64
water 水 141
wave 波 142
way 樣 117
weak 弱 172
weak (tea, coffee) 薄 110
wealth 富 186
wealth 宝 187
wear 着 61
week 週 132
weekday 曜 132
weep 泣 144
weight 量 177
well 然 139
well 井 178
west 西 93
west 酉 121
Western-style 洋 146
what 何 28

what 奈 206
wheel 輪 181
when 際 87
wherefore 由 176
while 暫 130
whisper 囁 60
whistle 笛 107
white 白 20
wide 広 156
wide knowledge 博 19
widely 普 130
wife 婦 38
wife 妻 41
wilderness 原 149
win 勝 90
win a prize 当 140
wind 風 124
wind instrument 管 108
wind up 卷 49
window 窓 188
winter 冬 112
wisdom 知 162
wish for 求 141
within 内 27
wizard 仙 24
woman 婦 38
wood 木 96

woods 林 97

word 辭 60

word 語 92

work 職 64

work 工 88

work 働 90

world 世 125

world 界 175

worry 悶 67

worship 祭 136

wound 傷 29

wrinkle 縮 200

write 描 76

write 書 170

writing 筆 108

wrong 惡 72

yard 庭 157

year 年 133

yellow 黄 21

yen 円 18

yesterday 昨 126

yield 産 85

yonder 向 56

young of animal 兎 78

younger brother 弟 37

younger sister 妹 37

zone 帯 202

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