

Smart Kanji Book

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Many Thanks to:

- James W. Heisig, author of Remembering the Kanji, without whom this book probably wouldn't exist.
- The [EDICT](#) project for giving me permission to use its dictionary data released under [CC-BY-SA](#) license in the full book without releasing it under the same license.
- The [KanjiVG](#) project for providing stroke order diagrams. In the full book version, these diagrams are in a separate easy to print 13 page PDF to respect the CC-BY-SA license.

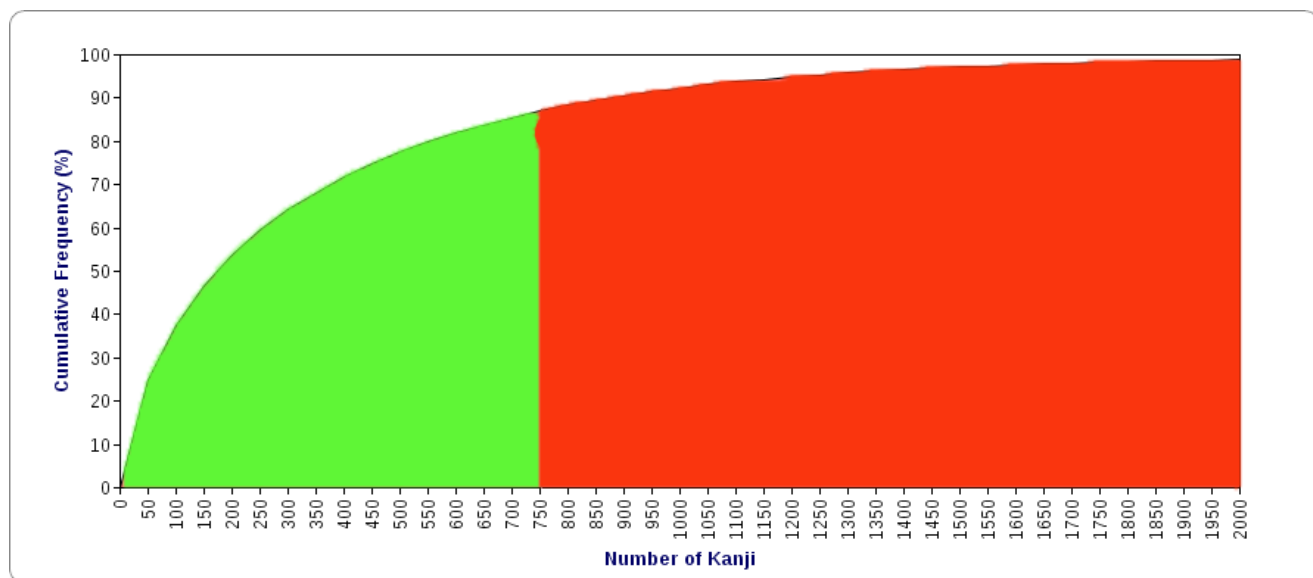
Introduction

Welcome to Smart Kanji Book!

Dear Frustrated Kanji Learner, RTK Dropout or Japanese Newbie, welcome to Smart Kanji book! In this thrilling adventure, you'll learn to remember 734 kanji composed of about 90 primitives with stories and 2193 common vocabulary words containing them. Very soon, you'll be amazed at your ability to read maps, then simple articles and eventually most of the Internet without looking up kanji. What, you're doubting?

Why stories? The best way to understand the difference between rote memorizing and component association is to try both, rather than reading lengthy theories. So if you're unsatisfied with rote memorizing, you're welcome to try this book's free sample; otherwise, you should try to memorize common composed kanji to appreciate the added value of stories.

Why only 734 kanji? Because kanji frequency follows a power law distribution: about 550 most common kanji make up 80% of Wikipedia total kanji use. Since this book is designed to teach good Japanese reading skills as easily as possible, it includes all of these kanji plus 180 more, totalling 87% of wikipedia kanji use.



Why learn vocabulary along the way? If you're familiar with Heisig's book 'Remembering the Kanji' or you fear to be drowning in vocabulary, don't worry, learning vocabulary actually makes learning kanji easier. Because word-kanji associations mean more connections, which helps remembering, and they give you a precise understanding of kanji meaning, which makes them unconfusable.

How to read this book.

Contents This book is composed of 13 unequal themed chapters covering 734 kanji and about 90 primitives, that is, characters that have no meaning alone but are used as components in other kanji. Some primitives have their own frames but some are 'nested' into kanji frames because they're unprintable with common fonts.

How to learn a kanji or primitive If the character is a pictogram, you should imagine and draw the object it represents until it seems obvious the pictogram represents this object.

If the character is composed, then make a story:

1. Read the book's story then reword it and imagine it in your own way.
2. In your story, emphasize the kanji's keyword(s) and the components' keywords
3. Check the stroke order diagram if necessary and slowly write each part of the kanji while repeating the corresponding keywords out loud or in your head.
4. Rewrite the kanji from the story without looking at the book. If you have any doubts, change the story to something you remember better. For example, if you have trouble remembering component order, you might want to order keywords in the story too.
5. Read vocabulary words, they only contain kanji you've already seen so far. Most importantly, you should make connections between kanji and words such as 'aha, ground + drawing = map!'. Secondly, you can remember pronunciation of words you think are important, but it's unnecessary for reading comprehension. Definitions aren't trimmed in order to give you a precise idea of the meaning and the importance of the word.

The whole process can take anywhere from 3 to 10 minutes, feel free put a kanji aside if you feel stuck on it.

Dictionary abbreviations you need to know

uk Usually written in Katakana only. However, it's sometimes useful to know the kanji.

pref/suf Prefix, Suffix

n Noun

adj-(i/na) i/na adjective, see your grammar textbook.

adj-no 'no adjective', typically a noun that's often used as an adjective with ④.

vt/vi Transitive/Intransitive verb, see your grammar textbook.

How to revise The ideal way to revise is to use the two Anki deck coming with this book: one has keywords front and kanji back while the other has words front and meaning back. The former trains you to exactly remember kanji from components and stories and the latter trains you to understand words while reading. You don't need to remember every word's pronunciation.

If you can't access a computer, you can still revise by skimming this book but don't make it a habit because you without active training, it's harder to remember kanji and understand words.

The best way to read To start reading, you need three things:

1. At least some kanji knowledge, which you'll get as you progress through this book.
2. Grammar familiarity. [Tae Kim's Japanese Grammar Guide](#) is a must-read if you don't have at least an intermediary level.
3. A dictionary browser extension: Rikaichan if you use Firefox or Rikaikun if you use Chrome.

Wikipedia is a good start if you have no idea what to read. When you have finished this book and want to learn less common kanji, I recommend [Reviewing the Kanji](#).

Chapter 1

Pictograms and first associations

In this chapter you'll learn simple pictograms that are very common both as kanji and primitives in other kanji. If you haven't already, please open or print [stroke_order.pdf](#).

Numbers

一, 二, 三 : one, two, three

Roman numerals turned for vertical reading.

一 ひと (num) 1 one; (n) 2 for one thing. 3 only. 4 (not) even; (n-adv) 5 just (e.g. "just try it")

二 に (num) two

三 さん (num) 1 three; (pref) 2 tri-

Note: as a part of another kanji, 一 can represent the floor (if it's down) or ceiling (if it's up)

口 : mouth, hole

Pictogram of a round hole like a mouth. Among kanji, there are no circles.



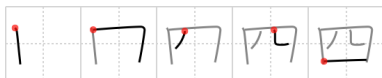
口 ぐ (n) 1 (Buddh) mouth; speech; (suf,ctr) 2 counter for people or implements.

厶 : pair of human legs

四 : four

口, 儿

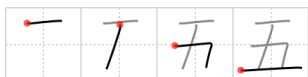
You can learn it as a different arabic 4 or imagine a giant family of four at a square table eating human legs for dinner.



四 し (num) four

五 : five

三 + 2 more lines = 5. Also it looks like a 5.



五 い (num) five.

六, 七, 八 : six, seven, eight

These three are optional, but pretty easy to remember: 六 looks like a 666-daemon with a hat and a cloak; 七 is eerily similar to 7 and think of 八 as ∞ .

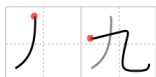
六 ろく six

七 しち/なな seven;

八 はち seven;

九 : nine

You can view it as a 9 or a 'n' for 'nine'.



九 きゅう (num) nine

丶 : drop

丸 : round

丸, 丶

Find your own way to round a 9 by adding a drop or using it to cut.

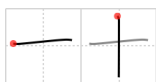


丸い まるい (adj-i) 1 round; circular; spherical. 2 harmonious; calm

丸める まるめる (v1,vt) 1 to make round; to roll up; to curl up. 2 to seduce; to cajole; to explain away. 3 to round off (a fraction). 4 (arch) to lump together

十 : ten, needle

Pictogram for a ¥10 needle.



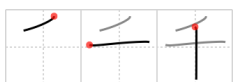
十 じゅう (num) 10; ten

十一 じゅういち (n) 1 11; eleven. 2 (uk) Hodgson's hawk-cuckoo (*Cuculus fugax*); Horsfield's hawk cuckoo

千 : thousand

、, +

You can imagine a dropper or a 10 with two more drops (10 0 0).



千 せん (num) 1,000; thousand

勺 : bound together

万 : ten thousand (one man)

一, 勺

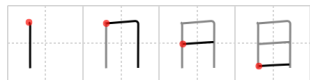
As you probably know, Japanese count by man's (1,0000) instead of thousand's . Imagine a banker packing up a 1,0000 yen coins or dollar bills and see the height of the pile or stash.



万 ばん (adv,pref) many; all.

日 : sun, day

Pictogram of the round sun with the brightest part in the middle.



日 か (n-suf) 1 day of month; (ctr) 2 counter for days.

日々 にちにち (n-adv,n-t) every day; daily; day after day; days (e.g. good old days).

白 : white, pure

丩, 日

Raw white light is a sort of drop of the sun.

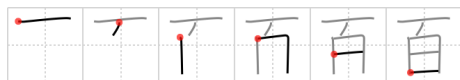


白い しろい (adj-i) white

百 : one hundred

一, 白

Imagine a ceiling so dirty you have to paint it 100 times to make it look clean!



百 ひゃく (num) 100; hundred

Day Parts

早 : early, quick

日, 十

WTF, the sun is up and it's already 10? Quick, quick, quick!!!! If today were Saturday though, it would be too early to move...



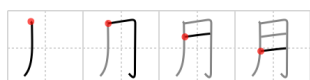
早い はい (adj-i) 1 fast; quick; hasty; brisk. 2 early (in the day, etc.); premature.
3 (too) soon; not yet; (too) early. 4 easy; simple; quick

早くも はやくも (n) already; as early as.

早々 そうそう (n-suf,n-adv) 1 as soon as...; just after...; immediately after...; (adv)
2 hurriedly; in haste; quickly; promptly; early

月 : moon, month

Pictogram: compare a waning moon to the sun. Remember that in most cultures a month a moon cycle 28 days. Also, as a component, it will sometimes mean 'flesh'



月 がつ (n-suf) month (of the year); used after number or question word (e.g. nan or nani).

三月 さんがつ (n-adv) March

明 : bright, tomorrow

日, 月

The sun and the moon are brightest sources of light in the day and night, respectively. Tomorrow is when the sun succeeds the moon.



明日 あした (n-t) tomorrow

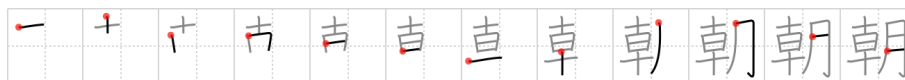
明るい あかるい (adj-i) 1 bright; colourful. 2 cheerful. 3 familiar (with); knowledgeable (about). 4 fair (e.g. politics); clean

明らか あきらか (adj-na,n) obvious; evident; clear; plain

朝 : morning

十, 日, 十, 月

In the morning, Appolo/Amun-Ra/God takes the sun between needles (it's hot and the tool is convenient) and throws away the moon.



朝 あさ (n-adv,n-t) morning

早朝 そうちょう (n-adv,n-t) early morning

夕 : evening

Pictogram of an evening crescent moon.



夕 ゆう evening

多 : many

夕, 夕

2-evening delivery? That's wayyy too many! I'm a millennial child, I want instant gratification!



多い おおい (adj-i) many; numerous

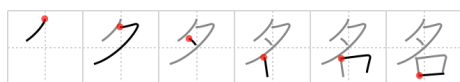
多く おおく (adv) many; much; largely; abundantly; mostly.

多 た (n,pref) multi-

名 : name

夕, 口

The NSA and the TSA have just made a law which forces you to keep saying your name with your mouth (don't try to circumvent with a smartphone) every 10 seconds when it gets dark for security reasons...



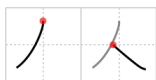
名づける なづける (v1,vt) to name (someone).

あだ名 あだな (n,vs) nickname.

Big, Small

人 : person

Simplified pictogram of a person: the head and arms are missing.



人 ひと (n) person.

Note: As a component, it will have a slightly different form and we'll picture an übermensch like Segata Sanshiro (you should google if you don't know him), James Bond or Chuck Norris.

火 : fire

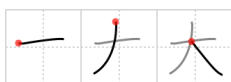
Pictogram of a flame or of a burning teepee/shelter.



火 か (n) 1 (abbr) Tuesday. 2 fire (second of the five elements).

大 : big

Pictogram of a big St Bernard dog with 4 paws stretched out. We'll use 'big dog' as a primitive meaning.



大きな おおきな (adj-pn) big; large; great

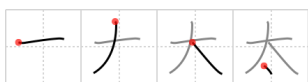
大 おお (pref) big; large.

大きく おおしく (adv) in a big way; on a grand scale.

太 : fat

大, 丶

The big dog fat dog (or its big fat owner) is dropping drops of shit.



太 ふと (n-pref,n) 1 fat; fatty; (n-pref) 2 grand; magnificent; excellent.

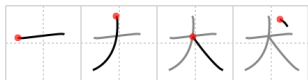
太い ふとい (adj-i) 1 fat; thick. 2 deep (of a voice). 3 daring; shameless; brazen. 4 (sl) lucky (billiards)

太る ふとる (v5r,vi) to grow fat (stout, plump); to become fat; to gain weight; .

犬 : dog

大, 丶

A regular dog is a drop of a big dog.

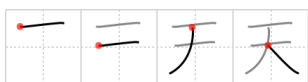


犬 いぬ (n) dog

天 : weather, sky

一, 大

The sky is the Biggest Ceiling... Remember how old kanji are.

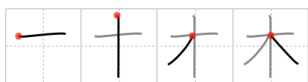


天 あま (n) sky.

天明 てんめい (n) 1 dawn; daybreak. 2 Temmei era (1781.4.2-1789.1.25).

木 : tree, wood

Pictogram of a tree.



木 き (n) tree; wood; timber

大木 たいぼく (n) large tree

本 : book, origin

木, 一

A shady book manufacturer and publisher cuts one slice in a tree to make one book. Also, since this kanji is in the word 'ほんと': truth, the manufacturer guarantees everything that's in their book is true... why don't you trust!



本ほん (n) 1 book; volume; script; (pref) 2 this; present. 3 main; head. 4 real; regular; (suf,ctr) 5 counter for long cylindrical things; counter for films, TV shows, etc.; counter for goals, home runs, etc.; counter for telephone calls; .

日本 にっぽん (n) Japan.

日本人 にっぽんじん (n) Japanese person; Japanese people.

休: to rest

人, 木

Segata Sanshiro is resting (meditating, actually) against a tree.

休む やすむ (v5m,vi) 1 to be absent; to take a day off. 2 to rest; to have a break. 3 to go to bed; to (lie down to) sleep; to turn in; to retire. 4 to stop doing some ongoing activity for a time; to suspend business

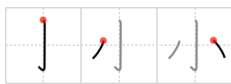
休み やすみ (n) 1 rest; recess; respite. 2 vacation; holiday; absence; suspension. 3 dormancy (of a silkworm prior to moulting)

休める やすめる (v1,vt) to rest; to suspend; to give relief

小: small

丶, 丶, 丶

Pictogram of a cute little thing with arms along its side.



小さな ちいさな (adj-pn) small; little; tiny.

小さい ちいさい (adj-i) small; little; tiny

小 お (pref) 1 small; narrow. 2 familiar prefix. 3 slightly; a bit.

少: few

小, 丶

A big drop turned into a few (three) smaller drops. Between size and quantity, the difference is just a drop anyway...



少し すこし (adv,n) 1 small quantity; little; few; something. 2 little while. 3 short distance

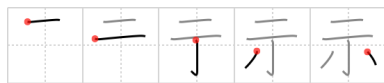
少ない すくない (adj-i) few; a little; scarce; insufficient; seldom

少なくとも すくなくとも (adv) at least

示: show

二, 小

One, TWO, THREEE... Two 4th-graders drop their towels to show their little dicks in the boys changing room... or not, it may be a joke.



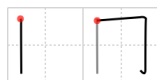
示す しめす (v5s,vt) 1 to (take out and) show; to demonstrate; to tell; to exemplify; to make apparent. 2 to point out (finger, clock hand, needle, etc.). 3 to indicate; to show; to represent; to signify; to display

示し しめし (n) discipline; revelation

明示 めいじ (n,adj-no,vs) specification; explicit statement

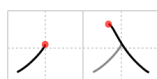
Inside, Outside

冂 : belt



入 : enter, get in

Pictogram of a teepee/igloo/whatever entrance.



入る いる (v5r,vi) to get in; to go in; to come in; to flow into; to set; to set in

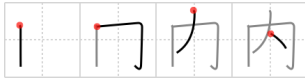
入れる 入れる (v1,vt) 1 to put in; to let in; to take in; to bring in; to insert; to set (a jewel, etc.); to ink in (e.g. a tattoo). 2 to admit; to accept; to employ; to hire. 3 to accept; to comply; to grant; to adopt (a policy, etc.); to take (advice, etc.); to listen to; to pay attention to. 4 to include. 5 to pay (one's rent, etc.). 6 to cast (a vote). 7 to make (tea, coffee, etc.). 8 to turn on (a switch, etc.). 9 to send (a fax); to call

入口 いりくち (n,adj-no) entrance; entry; gate; approach; mouth.

内 : inside

人, 冂

Mistaaa Boonndd, thiis bèèlt wiill keeep you insiide... Oh, and seatbelts keep you inside your car, too.

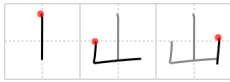


内 うち (n,adj-no) 1 inside; within. 2 while. 3 among; amongst; between; (pn,adj-no) 4 we (referring to one's in-group, i.e. company, etc.); our. 5 my spouse; (n) 6 (arch) imperial palace grounds. 7 (arch) emperor; (pn,adj-no) 8 (ksb:) I (primarily used by women and children); me

その内 そのうち (adv,uk) before very long; soon; eventually; sooner or later; of the previously mentioned

山 : mountain

Pictogram: remember kanji avoid curved shapes as much as they can.



山 さん (suf) Mt (suffix used with the names of mountains); Mount.

山々 やまやま (n) 1 (many) mountains; (adv) 2 (uk) very much (esp. wanting to do something one cannot); greatly; really

大山 たいざん (n) great mountain

出 : exit, get out

The exit of some imaginary world (kinda like Mordor) or some tunnel is between two mountains.



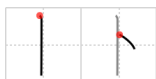
出る でる (v1,vi) 1 to leave; to exit; to go out; to come out; to get out. 2 to leave (on a journey); to depart; to start out; to set out. 3 to move forward. 4 to come to; to get to; to lead to; to reach. 5 to appear; to come out; to emerge; to surface; to come forth; to turn up; to be found; to be detected; to be discovered; to be exposed; to show; to be exhibited; to be on display. 6 to appear (in print); to be published; to be announced; to be issued; to be listed; to come out. 7 to attend; to participate; to take part; to enter (an event); to play in; to perform. 8 to be stated; to be expressed; to come up; to be brought up; to be raised. 9 to sell. 10 to exceed; to go over. 11 to stick out; to protrude. 12 to break out; to occur; to start; to originate. 13 to be produced. 14 to come from; to be derived from. 15 to be given; to get; to receive; to be offered; to be provided; to be presented; to be submitted; to be handed in; to be turned in; to be paid. 16 to answer (phone, door, etc.); to get. 17 to assume (an attitude); to act; to behave. 18 to pick up (speed, etc.); to gain. 19 to flow (e.g. tears); to run; to

bleed. 20 to graduate

出す だす (v5s,vt) 1 to take out; to get out. 2 to put out; to reveal; to show. 3 to submit (e.g. thesis); to turn in. 4 to publish; to make public. 5 to send (e.g. letter). 6 to produce (a sound); to start (fire). 7 to serve (food); (suf,v5s) 8 to begin ...; to start to ...; to burst into ...

出かける でかける (v1,vi) 1 to go out (e.g. on an excursion or outing); to leave; to depart; to start; to set out. 2 to be about to leave; to be just going out.

ト : magic wand



ト うら (n,arch) fortune-telling; divination.

トする ぼくする (vs-s) to tell (a person's) fortune; to divine; to fix; to choose.

トウ うらなう (v5u) to tell a fortune; to predict; to choose; to settle; to fix.

外 : outside

夕, ト

Think D&D or Harry Potter: alone in a weird city in the late creepy evening with just a magic wand.



外 がい (n-suf) outside of; not covered by.

外す はずす (v5s,vt) 1 to unfasten; to undo. 2 to remove; to take off; to deinstall. 3 to leave; to step out; to slip away. 4 to miss (a target)

外出 がいしゅつ (n,vs) outing; trip; going out

Above, Below

上 : above

ト, 一

This multi-function magic wand can... stand above the floor!



上 う え (n,adj-no,n-adv,n-suf) 1 above; up; over; elder (e.g. daughter). 2 top; summit. 3 surface; on. 4 before; previous. 5 superiority; one's superior (i.e. one's elder). 6 on top of that; besides; what's more. 7 upon (further inspection, etc.); based on (and occurring after). 8 matters concerning...; as concerns 9 since (i.e. "for that reason"); (n-suf) 10 (hon) suffix indicating higher social standing. 11 (arch) place of one's superior (i.e. the throne). 12 (arch) emperor; sovereign; shogun; daimyo. 13 (arch) noblewoman (esp. the wife of a nobleman); .

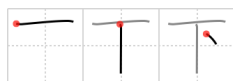
上げる あげる (v1,vt) 1 to raise; to elevate. 2 to do up (one's hair). 3 to fly (a kite, etc.); to launch (fireworks, etc.); to surface (a submarine, etc.). 4 to land (a boat). 5 to show someone (into a room). 6 to send someone (away). 7 to enrol (one's child in school); to enroll. 8 to increase (price, quality, status, etc.); to develop (talent, skill); to improve. 9 to make (a loud sound); to raise (one's voice). 10 to earn (something desirable). 11 to praise. 12 to give (an example, etc.); to cite. 13 to summon up (all of one's energy, etc.). 14 (pol) to give. 15 to offer up (incense, a prayer, etc.) to the gods (or Buddha, etc.). 16 to bear (a child). 17 to conduct (a ceremony, esp. a wedding); (v1,vi) 18 (of the tide) to come in; (v1,vi,vt) 19 to vomit; (aux-v,v1) 20 (uk,pol) to do for (the sake of someone else); (suf,v1) ㉑ to complete ㉒ (hum) to humbly do ...

上がる あがる (v5r,vi) 1 to rise; to go up; to come up; to ascend; to be raised. 2 to enter (esp. from outdoors); to come in; to go in. 3 to enter (a school); to advance to the next grade. 4 to get out (of water); to come ashore. 5 to increase. 6 to improve; to make progress. 7 to be promoted; to advance. 8 to be made (of profit, etc.). 9 to occur (esp. of a favourable result). 10 to be adequate (to cover expenses, etc.). 11 to be finished; to be done; to be over. 12 (of rain) to stop; to lift. 13 to stop (working properly); to cut out; to give out; to die. 14 to win (in a card game, etc.). 15 to be spoken loudly. 16 to get stage fright. 17 to be offered (to the gods, etc.). 18 (hum) to go; to visit. 19 (hon) to eat; to drink. 20 to be listed (as a candidate). ㉑ to serve (in one's master's home). ㉒ (in Kyoto) to go north; (suf,v5r) ㉓ (after the -masu stem of a verb) indicates completion

下 : below

一, ト

That's not all: this great magic wand can also lie below the ceiling! 25% off and free shipping.



下 か (suf,adj-no) under (being in said condition or environment).

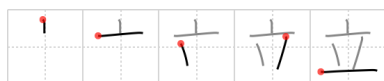
下さる くださる (v5aru) 1 (hon) to give; to confer; to bestow. 2 (hon) to kindly do for one; to oblige; to favour; to favor

下げる さげる (v1,vt) 1 to hang; to suspend; to wear (e.g. decoration). 2 to lower;

to reduce; to bring down. 3 to demote; to move back; to pull back. 4 to clear (plates); to remove (food, etc. from table or altar)

立 : stand

Pictogram for a vase standing up. Actually, the top two strokes are the primitive for 'top hat' as in 六.



立つ たつ (v5t,vi) 1 to stand; to rise; to stand up. 2 to find oneself (e.g. in a difficult position). 3 to depart (on a plane, train, etc.)

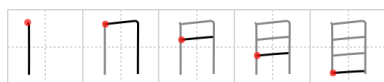
立てる たてる (v1,vt) 1 to stand up; to put up; to set up; to erect; to raise. 2 to thrust into; to bury into; to dig into. 3 to make (a noise); to start (a rumour); to raise (a cloud of dust, etc.); to cause. 4 to make; to establish; to set up; to develop; to formulate. 5 to put up (a political candidate); to make (one's leader). 6 to treat with respect; to give (someone) their due; to make (someone) look good; to avoid embarrassing (someone). 7 to sharpen; to make clear. 8 to shut; to close. 9 to make tea (macha); to perform the tea ceremony. 10 to divide by; (suf,v1) 11 to do ... vigorously

立ち上がる たちあがる (v5r,vi) 1 to stand up; to get up. 2 to rise. 3 to recover. 4 to take action; to start. 5 (sumo) to make the initial charge. 6 (comp) to start up; to boot up

Eye

目 : eye

SRLY 目 _ 目? Dis iz a pictogram for eye: draw an eye with only two color and get rid of round shapes.



目 め (n) 1 eye; eyeball. 2 eyesight; sight; vision. 3 look; stare; glance. 4 an experience. 5 viewpoint. 6 stitch; texture; weave; (suf) 7 ordinal number suffix. 8 somewhat; -ish

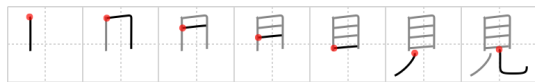
目立つ めだつ (v5t,vi) to be conspicuous; to stand out

目つき めつき (n) look; expression of the eyes; eyes.

見 : see

目, 儿

This new NSA device, an Eye with very long Legs and great zoom, allows them to See everything.



見る みる (v1,vt) 1 to see; to look; to watch; to view; to observe. 2 to look over; to look on; to assess; to examine; to judge. 3 (uk) to look after; to keep an eye on; to take care of. 4 to view (e.g. flowers, movie). 5 (uk) to try; to try out. 6 (uk) to see that...; to find that...

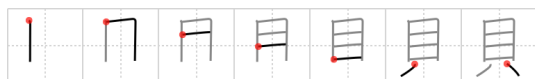
見える まみえる (v1,vi) 1 (hum) to have an audience; to meet; to see. 2 to face (an enemy); to confront. 3 to serve (esp. as one's wife).

見せる みせる (v1,vt) to show; to display

貝 : shell(fish)

目, animal legs

A weird shellfish, with just an eye and small legs (NOTE: these legs are animal legs, shorter than human legs). It looks a lot like Pokemons Kabuto and Shellder (just google).



貝 かい (n) shell; shellfish

貝がら かいがら (n) shell.

ほら貝 ほらがい (n,uk) conch (Charonia tritonis); trumpet shell.

Note: As a component, we'll use 'currency' as a meaning, since shellfishes were used as a currency in a few African cultures.

負 : to lose, to surrender

勺, 貝

Tied up, the shellfish Pokemon has to surrender (in a Pokeball?).



負ける まける (v1,vi) 1 to lose; to be defeated. 2 to succumb; to give in; to surrender;

to yield. 3 to be inferior to. 4 to break out in a rash due to (e.g. lacquer, shaving, etc.); (v1,vt) 5 to reduce the price; to lower the price; to give a discount on

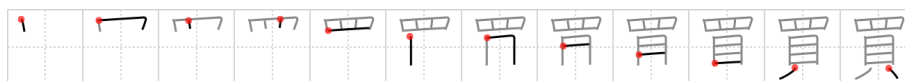
負う おう (v5u,vt) 1 to bear; to carry on one's back. 2 to take responsibility for; to accept a duty. 3 to be injured. 4 to owe

負け まけ (n) defeat; loss; losing (a game)

買 : buy

目 (90°), 貝

As we'd like to take all of your money (currency), we'd like you to cover your eyes with a couple of shells as you enter the store and make stupid purchases. Thank you for your understanding and please come back often. Sincerely, A Brand You Hate.



買う かう (v5u,vt) 1 to buy; to purchase. 2 to value; to have a high opinion. 3 to stir; to provoke

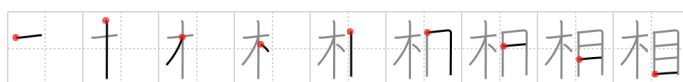
買い かい (n) 1 buying; shopping. 2 buyer. 3 purchase

買い出し かいだし (n) purchase; buying in quantity

相 : inter-something, minister

木, 目

The stupid minister (that is, politician) is having inter-course with his secretary behind that tree and feels 100% safe from prying eyes! Alternatively, he can fuck the tree itself in front of the cameras.



相 あい (pref) together; mutually; fellow.

外相 がいしょう (n) Foreign Minister

人相 にんそう (n,adj-no) physiognomy; looks; countenance

自 : oneself

丶, 目

Japanese girls often point their fingers at their nose (drop between eyes) to mean 'I, myself' instead of or in addition of using a pronoun like (w)atashi.



自ら おのずから (adv) naturally; as a matter of course.

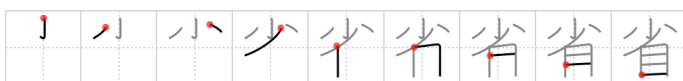
自 ころ (ok,pref) self-.

自白 じはく (n,vs) confession; acknowledgement; acknowledgment

省 : focus, cut down

目, 小

Focus is when your eye is focused on a few things (figuratively) or a small area (literally).



省 しょう (n,n-suf) 1 ministry; department. 2 province (of China); (n-pref) 3 saving; conserving.

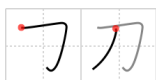
省く はぶく (v5k,vt) 1 to omit; to leave out; to exclude; to eliminate. 2 to curtail; to save; to cut down; to economize; to economise

省みる かえりみる (v1,vt) 1 to look back (e.g. over shoulder or at the past); to turn around. 2 to reflect on the past; to reconsider; to review. 3 to reflect on oneself; to introspect; to contemplate oneself. 4 to consider (usu. used in negative); to concern oneself about; to pay attention to; to take into consideration

Sword

刀 : sword, dagger

Pictogram of a curved katana and a straight wakizashi... or a sword in a bending person's ass.



刀 かたな (n) 1 (single-edged) sword; katana. 2 (arch) dagger; knife

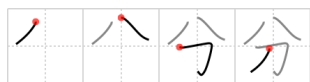
太刀 たち (n) long sword

一刀 いっとう (n) 1 sword; blade. 2 single stroke.

分 : part, minute, understand

入, 刀

Theorem: if a anything is entered by a sword, it's cut into several pieces. Special cases: a clock is cut into minutes and a textbook is cut into bits of knowledge.



自分 じぶん (pn,adj-no) 1 myself; yourself; oneself; himself; herself. 2 I; me; .

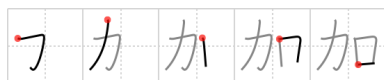
分 ふん (n) 1 minute. 2 fun (one tenth of a monme, 5.787 grains)

分かる わかる (v5r,vi) 1 to understand; to comprehend; to grasp; to see; to get; to follow. 2 to become clear; to be known; to be discovered; to be realized; to be realised; to be found out

加 : add

力, 口

Well, just picture force feeding.



加える くわえる (v1,vt) to append; to sum up; to add (up); to include; to increase; to inflict

加わる くわわる (v5r,vi) 1 to be added to; to be appended. 2 to join in (e.g. a group of friends); to participate. 3 to increase (e.g. heat); to gain in (e.g. influence); to grow; to gather (speed). 4 to be subject to (e.g. pressure)

加 か (n) 1 addition; increase. 2 (abbr) Canada

切 : cut

七, 刀

If you think of 七 as a pair of scissors, you get a pair of scissors and a dagger. If you think of 七 as seven, you get seven samurais.

切る きる (suf,v5r,vt) 1 to cut; to cut through; to perform (surgery). 2 to sever (connections, ties). 3 to turn off (i.e. the light). 4 to terminate (i.e. a conversation); to hang up (the phone); to disconnect. 5 to punch (a ticket); to tear off (a stub). 6 to open (something sealed). 7 to start. 8 to set (a limit); to do (something) in less or within a certain time; to issue (stamps, vouchers, etc.). 9 to reduce; to decrease; to discount. 10 to shake off (water, etc.); to let drip-dry; to let drain. 11 to cross; to traverse. 12 to criticize sharply. 13 to act decisively; to do (something noticeable); to go first; to make (certain facial

expressions, in kabuki). 14 to turn (a vehicle). 15 to curl (a ball); to bend; to cut. 16 to shuffle (cards). 17 to dismiss; to sack; to let go; to expulse; to excommunicate. 18 to dig (a groove); to cut (a stencil, on a mimeograph). 19 to trump. 20 (in Go) to isolate (an opponent's stone). ㉑ to start a fire (with wood-wood friction or by striking a metal against stone). ㉒ to draw (a shape) in the air (with a sword, etc.); (suf,v5r) ㉓ (after the -masu stem of a verb) to finish; to complete

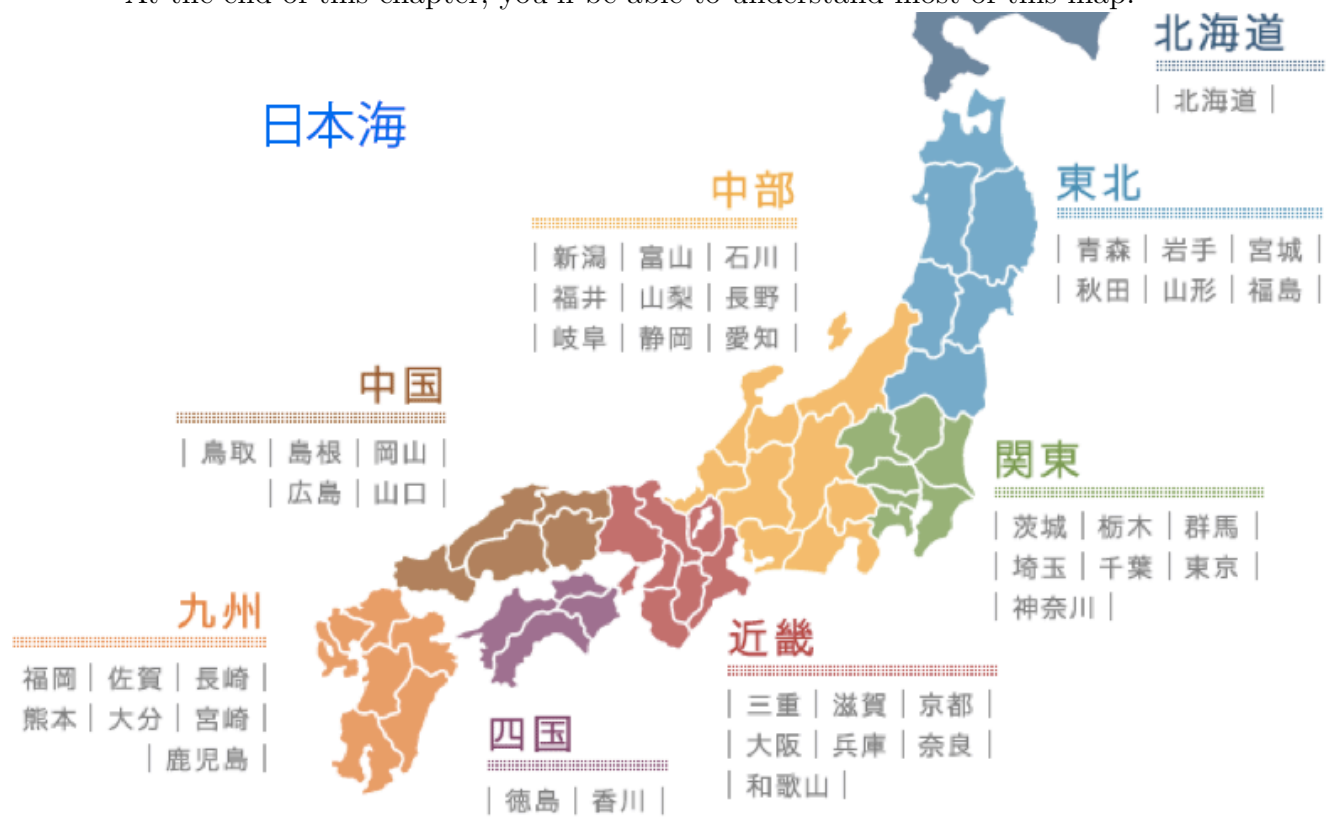
切れる きれる (v1,vi) 1 to break; to snap; to be cut; to split; to crack. 2 to be injured. 3 to wear out; to be worn out. 4 to break; to burst; to collapse. 5 to wear off; to stop working; to go dead. 6 to expire (time limit, etc.); to run out; to become due. 7 to run out (of stock, etc.); to be exhausted; to be used up; to be sold out; to be out of. 8 to be broken off (e.g. of a relationship); to break up; to have severed ties; to be cut off; to be disconnected. 9 to cut well; to be sharp. 10 to be sharp-minded; to be keen; to be shrewd; to be quick-witted; to be able. 11 to be short of; to drop under (a certain figure); to beat (e.g. a record time). 12 to dry off. 13 to curve; to veer. 14 to shuffle (cards). 15 (col) to get angry; to snap; to blow one's top; to lose one's temper; to flip; (suf,v1) 16 to be able to do completely

大切 おおぎり (io,n) 1 large cut (e.g. of meat). 2 last piece of the day's programme; last act of a play; comic dialogue as the last item in vaudeville, music hall, etc..

Chapter 2

Map

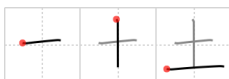
At the end of this chapter, you'll be able to understand most of this map!



Map

土 : soil, ground

Pictogram for a needle, like Excalibur or a grave cross, planted in soil.



土 つち (n) 1 earth; soil; dirt; clay; mud. 2 the earth (historically, esp. as opposed to the heavens); the ground; the land. 3 low-quality torinoko-gami (containing mud). 4 (period of) refraining from construction in the direction of the god of the earth (in On'youdou)

本土 ほんど (n) mainland; one's home country; the country proper

出土 しゅつど (n,vs) archeological excavation (archaeological)

也 : scorpion



地 : land (lot)

土, 也

Just picture a land whose ground is full of scorpions (or Pokemons). It's heavily discounted.

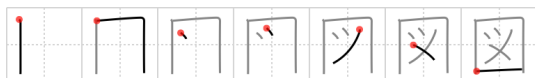
地 じ (n) 1 (abbr) ground; land; earth; soil. 2 the region in question; the local area. 3 skin. 4 texture; fabric; material; weave. 5 base; background. 6 one's true nature. 7 narrative (i.e. descriptive part of a story). 8 real life; actuality. 9 (in the game of go) captured territory. 10 noh chorus. 11 (in Japanese dance) accompaniment music. 12 (in Japanese music) basic phrase (usu. repetitive). 13 base part (of multiple shamisens).

土地 とち (n) plot of land; lot; soil

地上 ちじょう (n,adj-no) 1 above ground; surface. 2 earth; world

図 : map, chart

Pictogram for a treasure map.



地図 ちず (n) map

図 ず (n,n-suf) 1 drawing; picture; diagram; figure; illustration; chart; graph. 2 sight; scene

図る はかる (v5r,vt) 1 to plot; to attempt; to plan; to devise; to design. 2 to take in; to deceive. 3 to aim for; to have something in mind. 4 to refer A to B

Directions

方 : direction

一, 刀

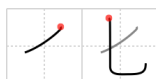
Taadaaaaa: this sword over a reversed top hat works as a compass! Even if it stops working, you can still use the sword and ask for direction...

方 え (suf) suffix used as a rough indicator of location, direction, time, etc..

一方 いっぽう (n) 1 one (esp. of two); the other; one way; the other way; one direction; the other direction; one side; the other side; one party; the other party; (conj) 2 on the one hand; on the other hand. 3 whereas; although; but at the same time; meanwhile; in turn; (n-adv,n-suf) 4 (after noun, adjective-stem or plain verb) just keeps; being inclined to ...; tending to be ...; tending to do ...; continuously ...; just keeps on ...ing; only

地方 じかた (n,adj-no) 1 area; locality; district; region; province. 2 countryside; rural area. 3 coast (esp. as seen from the water). 4 person singing ballads in noh; person in charge of music in a Japanese dance performance.

匕 : spoon

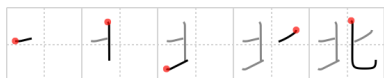


匕 かい (ok,n) spoon.

一匕 いっぴ (n) 1 (obsc) one spoon. 2 one dagger.

北 : north

I learned this kanji as a pictogram for N as in 'North' because it's hard to come up with a compelling story for it.



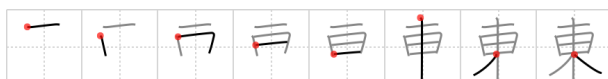
北 きた (n) 1 north. 2 (arch) north wind

北方 ほっぽう (n,adj-no) northern (district); northward

東 : east

木, 日

Picture or google 'sun rising behind a tree', a Japanese cliché.



東 あずま (n) 1 (arch) eastern Japan (esp. Kamakura or Edo, from perspective of Kyoto or Nara); eastern provinces. 2 (arch) east. 3 (abbr) six-stringed Japanese zither.

東北 とうほく (n) 1 north-east. 2 Tohoku (northernmost six prefectures of Honshu);

東方 とうほう (n,adj-no) 1 eastern direction. 2 the Orient

辛 : spicy

立, 十

Some food like wasabi, curry and Thai food are so spicy they make you wanna stand up as if you were sat on needles.

辛い からい (adj-i) 1 spicy; hot. 2 salty. 3 harsh (criticism); severe (punishment); strict. 4 painful; bitter; difficult; tough

辛うじて かりうじて (adv,uk) barely; narrowly; just manage to do something

幸 : happiness

一, 辛

Though one perfectly dosed bite of this kind a food can bring you happiness.

幸せ しあわせ (adj-na,n) happiness; good fortune; luck; blessing

幸い さいわい (adj-na,n) 1 happiness; blessedness; luck; fortune; felicity; (adv) 2 luckily; fortunately

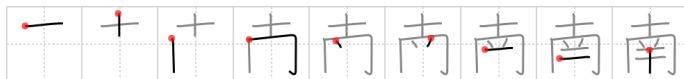
幸 こう (n) good luck; fortune; happiness.

匚 : belt, glass cover

南 : south

幸, 口

For men, instant gratification (happiness) is south of one's belt.



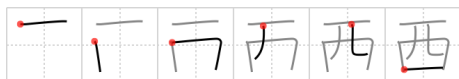
南 みなみ (n) south

南方 なんぽう (n,adj-no) south; southern; southward

西 : west

四, 方

West is the fourth cardinal direction.



西 せい (n,abbr) Spain.

東西 とうざい (n,adj-no) 1 east and west. 2 Orient and Occident; East and West; (exp) 3 (abbr) Ladies and Gentlemen!; Your attention, please!; roll-up, roll-up

西方 さいほう (n) 1 western direction. 2 (Buddh,abbr) Western Pure Land (Amitabha's Buddhist paradise).

中 : middle, dans

丨, 口

Pictogram for a stick or dick in the middle of a hole.



中 うち (n,adj-no) 1 inside; within. 2 while. 3 among; amongst; between; (pn,adj-no) 4 we (referring to one's in-group, i.e. company, etc.); our. 5 my spouse; (n) 6 (arch) imperial palace grounds. 7 (arch) emperor; (pn,adj-no) 8 (ksb:) I (primarily used by women and children); me.

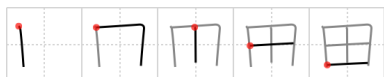
中には なかには (adv) some (of them); among (them).

その中 そのなか (exp,adv) wherein; therein; thereinto.

Nature

田 : rice field

Pictogram of a simple rice field divided into four parts... just picture a western field seen from a hill or satellite.



田 た (n) rice field

小田 おだ (n,arch) rice field (usu. small).

Note: As a component, we'll see 田 as an oversimplified brain.

林, 森 : wood, forest

tree

Two trees represent the woods, three represent a big forest.

林 はやし (n) woods; forest; copse; thicket

林立 りんりつ (n,vs) stand close together

森 もり (n) 1 forest. 2 shrine grove

森林 しんりん (n,adj-no) forest; woods

水 : water

This pictogram is pretty hard; you can imagine some stick dropping in water and recopy it a dozen times.



水 すい (n) 1 (abbr) Wednesday. 2 shaved ice (served with flavored syrup). 3 water (fifth of the five elements).

水中 すいちゅう (n,adj-no) underwater

水上 すいじょう (n) aquatic; on the water

夕 : walking legs

冬 : winter

夕, ヨ

In winter, your pair of legs is often walking on ice.



冬 ふゆ (n-adv,n-t) winter

冬休み ふゆやすみ (n) winter vacation

永 : eternity

丶, 水

An hour is to eternity what a drop of water is to oceans.

永 とこしえ (adj-na,n,adj-no) eternity; perpetuity; immortality.

永い ながい (adj-i) long (time); lengthy.

永らえる ながらえる (v1,vi) to have a long life; to live a long time.

泳 : swim

水, 永

Many people (especially in Antiquity) fear swimming because to them, it means staying in water for eternity... It would be for anyone trying to swim through an ocean.

泳ぐ およぐ (v5g,vi) to swim

泉 : fountain

白, 水

A fountain is water from a white source.

泉 いずみ (n) spring; fountain

泉水 せんすい (n) 1 garden pond; miniature lake. 2 fountain

母 : mother

Pictogram of a mother's two breasts.



母 あも (ok,n,hum) mother.

お母さん おかあさん (n,hon) mother

母さん かあさん (n) mother

毎 : every

lying down, 母

Nested lying down primitive. Every life starts out lied down in one's mother's uterus, which led Freud to believe that every man wants to lie down with his mother ever after.

毎日 まいにち (n-adv,n-t) every day

毎朝 まいあさ (n-adv,n-t) every morning

毎月 まいげつ (n-adv,n) every month; each month; monthly

海 : sea

水, 毎

(Almost) every drop of water comes back to the sea. The sea is every drop of water.

海 うみ (n) sea; beach

海外 かいがい (n,adj-no) foreign; abroad; overseas

ハハ : boiling

魚 : fish

勺, 田, ハ

Put a bunch of bound up fishes on the squared grill and boil their brains; savor.



魚 うお (n) fish.

鳥 : bird

白, 一, tail feather

Pictogram of a white bird with a long tail feather.



鳥 とり (n) 1 bird. 2 bird meat (esp. chicken meat); fowl; poultry

小鳥 ことり (n) 1 small bird; songbird. 2 (chn) birdie; dickeybird; dickybird

白鳥 しらとり (n) 1 swan (Cygnus Bechstein, Cygnus ssp.). 2 white-feathered bird.

島 : island

鳥, 山

The bird lands on a mountain in the middle of water, aka an island

島 しま (n) 1 island. 2 (uk) territory (of a prostitute, organized crime gang, etc.); turf

川 : stream

Pictogram for a stream.



川 かわ (n) 1 river; stream; (suf) 2 the river; (suffix used with the names of rivers)

州 : state

、, 川

If you look at a US map, states are really just drops of land between rivers.

州 しゅう (n) 1 state; province; county; department (of ancient China). 2 continent; (suf) 3 (arch) (after someone's name) dear

九州 きゅうしゅう (n) Kyushu (southernmost of the four main islands of Japan)

北九州 きたきゅうしゅう (n) Kitakyushu (city).

消 : extinguish, erase

水, 小, 月

On the left, a small moon with a little white spark. On the right, water to extinguish it.

消える きえる (v1,vi) to go out; to vanish; to disappear

消す けす (v5s,vt) 1 to erase; to delete; to cross out. 2 to turn off power. 3 to extinguish; to put out. 4 (sl) to bump off

かき消す かきけす (v5s,vt) to erase; to drown out (e.g. noise, sound).

From Street to Country

丁 : street

Pictogram of a T-intersection.



丁 ちょう (ctr) 1 counter for sheets, pages, leaves, etc.. 2 counter for blocks of tofu; counter for servings in a restaurant. 3 counter for long and narrow things such as guns, scissors, spades, hoes, inksticks, palanquins, candles, jinrikishas, shamisen, oars, etc.; (n) 4 even number. 5 109.09 m.

丁目 ちょうめ (n) district of a town; city block (of irregular size)

Note: It's also the pictogram of a nail so we'll use that meaning as a kanji part.

行 : go, column

丶, 人, 一, 丁

It's hard to make a story with parts, so you can see a pictogram of a boat moving downward. Katakana trick: ite, as in Monthy Python's Romani ite domum scene, is a Latin imperative for 'go'.



行く いく (v5k-s,vi) 1 to go; to move (in a direction or towards a specific location); to head (towards); to be transported (towards); to reach. 2 to proceed; to take place. 3 to pass through; to come and go. 4 to walk. 5 to do (in a specific way). 6 to stream; to flow; (aux-v) 7 to continue; (v5k-s,vi) 8 (uk) to have an orgasm; to come; to cum. 9 (uk,sl) to trip; to get high; to have a drug-induced hallucination; .

行う おこなう (v5u,vt) to perform; to do; to conduct oneself; to carry out

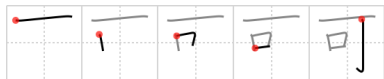
行 ぎょう (n) 1 line (i.e. of text); row; verse. 2 (Buddh) carya (austerities). 3 (Buddh) samskara (formations). 4 (abbr) running script (a semi-cursive style of kanji)

Note: As a component, the left part will mean column and the whole kanji will mean boulevard.

可 : can, possibility

丁, 口

Obama's 2008 campaign: tons of mouths in the street shouting 'yes we can!'. Very often in France, union and workers in the same situation: 'yes we can get what we want!'. As a kanji part, we'll use the other meaning of 'can'.



可 か (n,n-suf) passable; acceptable; tolerable; fair

可い べい (aux) 1 (uk,arch,ktb:,thb:) word used at sentence-end (like a particle) to indicate speculation, volition or invitation. 2 should; must.

可き べき (aux) 1 (uk) should (suf. to verbs); must; that one ought to; to be done. 2 (passive ending) -able.

河 : river

水, 可

Imagine a river in a half can of water, with a big can a water as source and many small cans as destination. It sounds like a level in a recent Mario game.

河 かわ (n) 1 river; stream; (suf) 2 the river; (suffix used with the names of rivers)

大河 たいが (n) large river

河口 かこう (n,adj-no) mouth of river; estuary

何 : what

人, 可

What in the world is impossible for Segata Sanshiro / Chuck Norris / James Bond? No, they can do anything.



何 なに (int,pn,adj-no) 1 what; (n) 2 (col) euph. for genitals or sex

何とか なんとか (exp,adv,n) 1 something; something or other; so-and-so. 2 somehow; anyhow; one way or another

何でも なんでも (exp,adv) 1 (uk) any; whatever one likes; by all means; anything; everything; (exp) 2 (uk) I am told; I understand; they say; I hear

奇 : strange

大, 可

Big dog served in a can... It's strange; welcome to China!

奇 き (adj-na,n) strange; unconventional.

奇人 きじん (n) queer fellow; odd fellow; eccentric person; crank; oddball; freak.

奇しくも くしくも (adv) strangely; oddly; miraculously; mysteriously.

町 : town, neighborhood

田, 丁

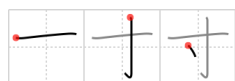
Many small and medium towns in rural areas are literally a bunch of streets surrounded by rice fields, just one farmer neighborhood.

町 ちょう (n) 1 town; block; neighbourhood; neighborhood. 2 street; road. 3 109.09 m. 4 0.99 hectares.

下町 したまち (n) 1 low-lying part of a city (usu. containing shops, factories, etc.). 2 Shitamachi (low-lying area of eastern Tokyo near Tokyo Bay, inc. Asakusa, Shitaya, Kanda, Fukugawa, Honjo, Nihonbashi, Kyobashi and surrounds)

町人 ちょうにん (n) merchant

寸 : glued to



一寸 いっすん (n) 1 one sun (approx. 3.03 cm). 2 a little bit (of time, distance, etc.).

寸 すん (n) sun (approx. 3.03 cm).

寸分 すんぶん (n-adv,n-t) tiny bit.

村 : village

木, 寸

Video game analogy: in RPG's, villages are often near dangerous forests (but only if you get in!). In RTS's (like Age Of's), villages are often near trees (-> wood) and mines (-> gold).

村 むら (n) village

村人 むらびと (n) villager

山村 さんそん (n) mountain village

付 : to attach, to adhere

人, 寸

Segata Sanshiro's equipment is not attached but glued to him, just as his ideals are figuratively.

付く つく (v5k,vi) 1 to be attached; to be connected with; to adhere; to stick; to cling. 2 to remain imprinted; to scar; to stain; to dye. 3 to bear (fruit, interest, etc.). 4 to be acquired (of a habit, ability, etc.); to increase (of strength, etc.). 5 to take root. 6 to accompany; to attend; to follow; to study with. 7 to side with; to belong to. 8 to possess; to haunt. 9 to be lit; to be lighted. 10 to be settled; to be resolved; to be decided. 11 to be given (of a name, price, etc.). 12 to be sensed; to be perceived. 13 to be lucky; (suf,v5k) 14 (after -masu stems, onomatopoeic and mimetic words) to become (a state, condition, etc.).

付ける つける (v1,vt) 1 to attach; to join; to add; to append; to affix; to stick; to glue; to fasten; to sew on; to apply (ointment). 2 to furnish (a house with). 3 to wear; to put on. 4 to keep a diary; to make an entry. 5 to appraise; to set (a price). 6 to bring alongside. 7 to place (under guard or doctor). 8 to follow; to shadow. 9 to load; to give (courage to). 10 to keep (an eye on). 11 to establish (relations or understanding). 12 to turn on (light)

付 づけ (n-suf) dated (e.g. a letter); date of effect (e.g. a rule change).

广 : cave

府 : prefecture, province

广, 付

The prefecture decided to solve overcrowding by expanding into caves... You have to adhere because a slight majority of inhabitants voted for them a few years ago...

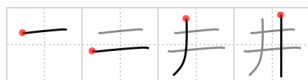
府 ふ (n) 1 (metropolitan) prefecture (of Osaka and Kyoto). 2 the centre or seat (of) (center). 3 (government) office.

府中 ふちゅう (n) 1 provincial capital (under the ritsuryo system); provincial office. 2 public place of imperial rule.

出府 しゅつぷ (n,vs) going to the capital; working in a government office.

井 : well

Pictogram of a fenced well. Today, this kanji is mostly used in the context of oil.



天井 てんじょう (n) ceiling; ceiling price

井 い (n) well.

井 : surround

井, pent in

Google Kakariko Village, a Zelda (most notably OOT) village pent in around a well.

囲む かこむ (v5m,vt) 1 to surround; to encircle; to enclose; to fence; to wall in. 2 to besiege; to lay siege to. 3 to play (go, shogi, etc.)

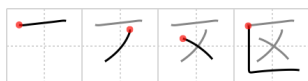
囲う かこう (v5u,vt) 1 to enclose; to surround; to encircle; to fence; to wall in. 2 to shelter (e.g. a criminal); to shield; to hide; to protect. 3 to keep (e.g. a mistress). 4 to store (vegetables, fruit, etc.); to preserve. 5 (arch) to protect; .

囲い かこい (n) enclosure; paling; storage

区 : ward, district

匚, 叉

This pictogram speaks for itself to me but you can imagine Shibuya, the district full of weird leg-crossing eccentric girl or Akihabara, the district full of X-gadgets like Xboxes or Xperias.



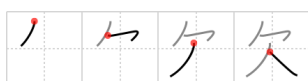
区 く (n) ward; district; section

地区 ちく (n,adj-no) district; section; sector

区分 くぶん (n,vs,adj-no) division; section; demarcation; partition; segmentation; subdivision; (traffic) lane; compartment; classification; sorting

欠 : yawn, lack

Actually, the top component is slightly different from 'lied down', so you can see a Manga-style pictogram of a person yawning because she lacks interest or energy.



欠ける かける (v1,vi) 1 to be chipped; to be damaged; to be broken. 2 to be lacking;

to be missing. 3 to be insufficient; to be short; to be deficient; to be negligent toward. 4 (of the moon) to wane; to go into eclipse

欠く かく (v5k,vt) 1 to chip; to nick; to break; to crack. 2 to lack

欠かす かかす (v5s,vt) to miss (doing); to fail (to do)

欧 : Europe

区, 欠

Japanese people work/study long hours and have a ton more available entertainment than the average European. To them, Europe is the district of the world where you yawn and lack Japanese products, which are always released in Japan first then in America and finally in Europe.

西欧 せいおう (n,adj-no) Western Europe

欧州 おうしゅう (n) Europe

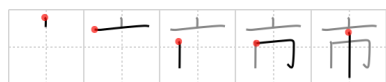
北欧 ほくおう (n,adj-no) Northern Europe; land of the Norsemen; Scandinavia

巾 : towel

市 : market, municipality

一, 巾

In France at least, you can see a few beach tourists wandering through the food or tourist market wearing nothing but a top hat and a towel. By extension, this kanji also mean the whole municipality around the market.



市 いち (n) market; fair

市内 しない (n,adj-no) (within a) city; local

乙 : hook



直 : to fix, directly

十, 目, 乙

If you hook a needle in your eye, go to a hospital immediately and see if they can fix it.

直す なおす (v5s,vt) 1 to cure; to heal. 2 to fix; to correct; to repair; (aux-v) 3 to do over again (after -masu base of verb). 4 (ksb:) to replace; to put back as it was. 5 to convert (into a different state); to transform

直 あたい (n) Atai (post-Taika hereditary title often given to regional administrators).

直ちに ただちに (adv) at once; immediately; directly; in person; automatically

県 : prefecture

県, 小

A Japanese prefecture is a small piece of land that trains cross 'straightaway' and that's 'straightforward' to administer.

県 あがた (n) 1 territory (pre-Taika: under the Yamato court; Heian: under a provincial governor, etc.). 2 (arch) countryside.

県立 けんりつ (adj-no,n) prefectural (institution)

県内 けんない (adj-no) within the prefecture

置 : placement, position

目, 直

In supermarkets, products you're supposed to buy like a mindless Cyclops are placed straight in front of your eye.

置く おく (v5k) 1 to put; to place. 2 to leave (behind). 3 (uk) to do something in advance (usu. following te-form verb)

置いて おいて (iK,conj,uk) at; in; on.

高 : high, tall

ㄣ, 口, 冂, 口

Two kids trying to look tall; the top one is wearing a hat and standing over the belt of the weird suit.

高い たかい (adj-i) 1 high; tall. 2 expensive

高 こう (suf) 1 (abbr) high school; (pref) 2 high-.

高まる たかまる (v5r,vi) to rise; to swell; to be promoted

京 : capital city

高, 小

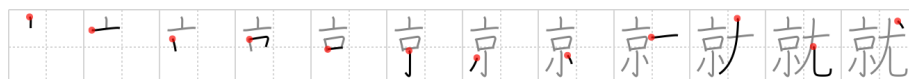
The capital city is the huge town full of tall buildings and full of small people.

東京　とうきょう　(n) Tokyo

京 きょう (n) 1 imperial capital (esp. Kyoto). 2 final word of an iroha-uta; (num) 3 10¹⁶; 10,000,000,000,000,000; ten quadrillion (short scale); ten thousand billion (long scale)

就 : to take over, to start 高, 犬, one human leg


What's the next big trendy thing that's taking over Tokyo and other capitals? A new pet/robotic shop that sells (robotic) small dogs with one humanoid robotic leg!



就く つく (v5k) 1 to ascend (the throne); to accede. 2 to take (seat, position, course, etc.); to assume. 3 to start (on a journey); to commence; to depart. 4 to study (under teacher); to be an apprentice

就いて ついて (uk) about; concerning; as to; regarding

就ける つける (v1,vt) 1 to install (a king, emperor, etc.). 2 to appoint (to a post).
3 to assign (to study under).

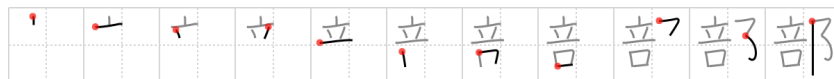


: muzzle

β : city wall

部: (de)part(ment) 音, ㄅ

The inner city is the part where everyone is a dangerous muzzled criminal or noisy party guy. Said Oversheltering Suburban Mom.



部分 ぶぶん (n) portion; section; part

部 ぶ (n,n-suf) 1 department (in an organization); division; bureau. 2 club. 3 part; component; element. 4 category; (ctr) 5 counter for copies of a newspaper or magazine

一部 いちぶ (n-adv,n) 1 one part; one portion; one section; some. 2 one copy (e.g. of a document)

丰 : bush

邦 : domestic (home country)

丰, 邦

Your native country Kanto/Jhoto/Any-Pokemon-universe is full of impassable bushes around city walls.



邦 くに (n) 1 country; (the) state. 2 region. 3 (obs) province (of Japan). 4 home (i.e. hometown, home country). 5 (arch) land; earth.

邦人 ほうじん (n) 1 Japanese national (esp. one living overseas). 2 fellow countryman; .

本邦 ほんぽう (n) this country; our country.

防 : defense, protection

防, 方

Draw a typical medieval city: there is one city wall gate for each cardinal direction and it's defended by guards.

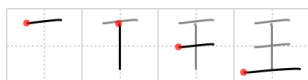
防ぐ ふせぐ (v5g,vt) to defend (against); to protect; to prevent

消防 しょうぼう (n) fire fighting; fire department

王 : king

一, 土

The King is the One who reigns over the Soil. In European monarchies, he used to get his power from God (the sky, ceiling).



王 おう (n,n-suf) 1 king; ruler; sovereign; monarch. 2 king (for senior player) (shogi). 3 tycoon; magnate; champion; master

王さま おうさま (n,hon) king.

皇 : The Emperor

白, 王

The Emperor is very important in Japan, like a white supreme king.

天皇 すめらぎ (n) Emperor of Japan.

玉 : ball, jewel

丿, 王

The king owns a lot of jewellery but only one pair of drops of family jewels (aka. balls)...

目玉 めだま (n) 1 eyeball.

国 : country

口, 玉

Japanese think of their country as gems pent in a bunch of islands.

国 くに (n) 1 country; (the) state. 2 region. 3 (obs) province (of Japan). 4 home (i.e. hometown, home country). 5 (arch) land; earth

中国 ちゅうごく (n) 1 China. 2 South-west most region of Honshu; middle of a country; the Hiroshima area

外国 がいこく (n,adj-no) foreign country

Road

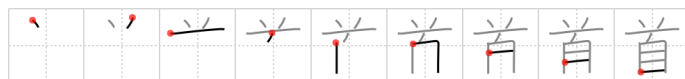
丿

: horns

首 : neck

丿, 自

Neck is what fits your V-shaped collar on yourself. If you don't like that human analogy, feel free to make your own monster analogy.



首 おうと (n,arch) Obito (hereditary title, often given to powerful regional families).

首相 しゅしょう (n) Prime Minister; Chancellor (Germany, Austria, etc.); Premier;

小首 こくび (n) head.

丿 : road

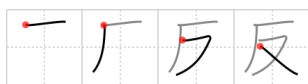
又もや またもや (adv,uk) again (and again); once again.

又は または (conj,exp,uk) or; otherwise

反 : anti

𠂇, 又

An anti-some-group-of-people cuts their crotches and throws them over a cliff!



反省 はんせい (n,vs) reflection; reconsideration; introspection; meditation; contemplation; .

反 たん (n) 1 variable measure of fabric (28.8 cm in width); for kimonos: at least 10 m in length; for haori: at least 7.27 m in length; for other clothes: at least 6.06 m in length. 2 300 tsubo (991.74 meters square, 0.24506 acres). 3 six ken (10.91 m).

反す かえす (v5s,vt) 1 to return (something); to restore; to put back. 2 to turn over; to turn upside down; to overturn. 3 to pay back; to retaliate; to reciprocate; (suf,v5s) 4 (after the -masu stem of a verb) to repeat ...; to do ... back

返 : return, come back

辶, 反

For a retailer (especially online), a return means the product making the anti-road and them paying the anti-money...

返す かえす (v5s,vt) 1 to return (something); to restore; to put back. 2 to turn over; to turn upside down; to overturn. 3 to pay back; to retaliate; to reciprocate; (suf,v5s) 4 (after the -masu stem of a verb) to repeat ...; to do ... back

返る かえる (v5r,vi) 1 to return; to come back; to go back. 2 to turn over; (suf,v5r) 3 (after the -masu stem of a verb) (to become) extremely; (to become) completely; .

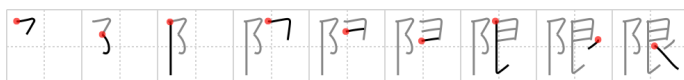
くり返し くりかえし (n,vs,adj-no,adj-na) 1 repetition; repeat; reiteration; iteration; refrain; cycle; (n-adv) 2 repeatedly.

艮 : fixed by, rooted in

限 : limit

阝, 艮

The city limits are fixed by city walls.



限り かぎり (n-adv,n) 1 limit; limits; bounds. 2 degree; extent; scope. 3 as far as possible; as much as possible; to the best of one's ability; very much. 4 unless (after neg. verb). 5 the end; the last; (suf) 6 as long as; only

限る かぎる (v5r,vt) 1 to restrict; to limit; to confine; (v5r,vi) 2 to be restricted to; to be limited to; to be confined to

限りなく かぎりなく (adv) without end; exceedingly.

退 : move back, retire

艮, 讠

Once you're rooted in a house and are near the end of the carrier road, you retire.

退く しりぞく (v5k,vi) 1 to step back; to move back. 2 to leave (the presence of a superior); to withdraw; to retreat; to concede. 3 to resign; to retire; to quit; .

退ける しりぞける (v1,vt) to repel; to drive away; to repulse; to reject.

退出 たいしゅつ (n,vs) leaving (e.g. work at end of day); withdrawal (e.g. from a noble's or superior's presence); exit (e.g. from a market).

根 : root

木, 艮

Roots are what root/fix a tree in the soil.

根 こん (n) 1 stick-to-itiveness; perseverance; persistence. 2 radical (esp. one that tends to ionize easily). 3 (math) root. 4 (Buddh) indriya (faculty of the body having a specific function, i.e. the sensory organs).

根本 こんぽん (n,adj-no) root; source; origin; foundation; base; principle

Rocky Hills

A sage is blocking the road: "If you want to continue your quest to the perilous Rocky Hills, you need to go to <http://smartkanjibook.com> and bring back the magic book..."