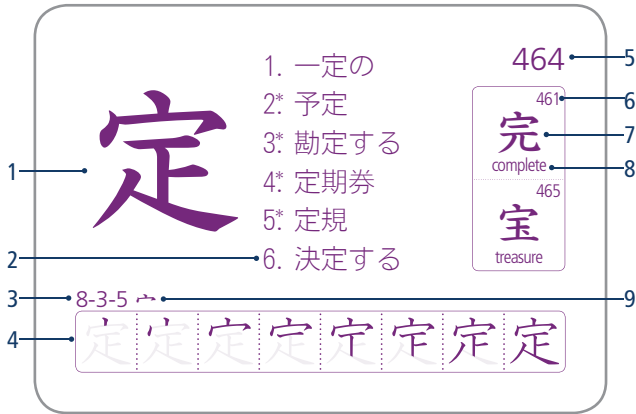


Japanese Kanji Flashcards, Volume 2

■ Guide to the Cards



Card Front

- 1. Main kanji.** A single kanji character is written on the front of each card in large, brush type.
- 2. Kanji compounds.** Each card contain six compound kanji words, composed in part from the card's MAIN KANJI character. Readings and English meanings for these compounds are shown on the card's flip side. Our criteria for selecting compounds includes giving priority to words which may officially appear on the Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) and other commonly used words, as well as attempting to demonstrate a given kanji's multiple readings and meanings.

An asterisk ("*") shown beside to a compound's ordinal number indicates that the word is an official JLPT vocabulary. However, please note that a variation of the word form may actually appear on the JLPT. For example, if the word "予約" (よやく) appears marked with an asterisk, then the verb form "予約する" may also appear on the JLPT. In the case of the adjective "簡単な" (かんたんな), the form "簡単" may appear on the test.

- 3. Count of strokes.** The hyphenated numeral consists of 1) the total stroke-count, 2) the stroke-count of the radical portion, and 3) the stroke-count of the nonradical portion. The total of the second and third parts equals the first part. These numbers are useful when

looking up the kanji in some dictionaries.

4. **Stroke order diagram.** Each card includes a stroke-by-stroke diagram to writing the kanji. Writing kanji often as part of your studies is encouraged. Kanji practice note pads can be purchased online: www.whiterabbitpress.us
sales@whiterabbitpress.us
5. **Card reference number.** A unique numeric identifier is shown on the front of the card in the upper right-hand corner. This reference number is also used in the index and in LOOK-ALIKE CROSS-REFERENCES.
6. **Look-alike cross-reference number.** The CARD REFERENCE NUMBER of the LOOK-ALIKE KANJI CHARACTER.
7. **Look-alike kanji character.** Kanji characters visually similar to the MAIN KANJI are shown here. Observing the differences between these look-alikes and the MAIN KANJI may help hone your abilities to discern and recognize the kanji.
8. **Meaning of look-alike.** The English meaning of the LOOK-ALIKE KANJI CHARACTER.
9. **Radical.** The MAIN KANJI radical. Radicals are traditionally used to order entries in Chinese and Japanese character dictionaries.

10 → テイ/ジョウ
 11 → さだ・める/さだ・まる/さだ・か
 12 → fix, determine, decide, set, settle, lay down, establish
 13 → roof/building correct
 14 → 1. いったいの fixed; definite; regular; settled; standard
 2. よてい a schedule; a plan; a program; an estimate
 3. かんじょうする to count; to reckon; to calculate
 4. ていきけん a commuter pass; a season ticket
 5. じょうぎ a (measuring) ruler; a rule; a square
 6. けっていする to decide [determine] (to do); to settle (on)

Card Back

10. **On (borrowed Chinese) reading.** The Chinese reading(s) of the main kanji are shown in katakana script.
11. **Kun (Japanese) reading.** Written in hiragana script you will find the Joyo yomi (readings) for the main kanji as designated by Japan's

Ministry of Education. In a few cases the official readings were too numerous to list in their entirety. Readings which are not commonly used are shown in parentheses.

12. Meaning of kanji in English. We have selected the most common meanings for display here.

13. Schematic of elements. We have selectively chosen to indicate the composition of some kanji by breaking them down into separate elements, indicated by these diagrams. These diagrams and their associated English meanings are presented as memory-aids and are not always an accurate reflection of the true origins of the kanji.

The complex Darwinism of kanji evolution has made defining these elements the most problematic aspect of creating these kanji cards. The modern form of a given kanji is often composed of elements chosen for phonetic, rather than symbolic, reasons; elements which have survived in a miscopied form; and other historic simplifications and decisions about which modern scholars continue to speculate and debate.

For a deeper understanding of the origin and evolution of kanji we recommend Kenneth G. Henshall's A Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters [Charles E. Tuttle, 1998].

14. Reading and meaning of example compounds. The Japanese reading of each compound is shown in hiragana script followed by an English definition.

Please note the follow conventions used in forming our definitions:

1. Abbreviations

In order to economize on space while maintaining concise definitions, the following abbreviations have been employed:

so. = someone

sth. = something

Example: きょうきゅうする to supply [provide, furnish] so. with sth.

2. Countability of Nouns

Nouns which are both countable and uncountable are prefaced with an "a" or "an" shown in parentheses. For example, bankruptcy can be countable, as in "A bankruptcy wipes out all a person's eligible debts usually within nine months," or

uncountable, as in “Enron is facing bankruptcy.”

Example: はさん (a) bankruptcy; insolvency; a failure

3. Word Substitution

Words included within brackets can be used in place of preceding words or phrases.

Example: れいをあげる to give [cite] an example [instance]

The preceding example can be expanded to include each of the follow definitions:

- to give an example
- to cite an example
- to give an instance
- to site an instance

Example: しょじゅん the first 10 days [the early part] of the month

In this example, the bracketed phrase can be used to replace the entire prior phrase to create the following two definitions:

- the first 10 days of the month
- the early part of the month

4. Clarifying Words

Words shown in parentheses (except for “a” and “an” as discussed in COUNTABILITY OF NOUNS) are included to clarify the definition.

Example 1: びょうしん the second hand (of a watch)

Example 2: とりけす to cancel (an order); to withdraw; to take back

In the above example “an order” is included in parentheses in order to clarify the definition. Take care to understand that while the word in parentheses often represents a typical case it is often not the only possible usage. For example, in EXAMPLE 2 above the word とりけす could also be used when speaking of cancelling a reservation or cancelling a plan. Please consult a quality Japanese-English dictionary when uncertain about word usage.

15. Definition of element. Definition of the kanji or radical used as an element in the entry meaning of schematic element. See SCHEMATIC OF ELEMENTS above for more details.

16. Progress Bar. The cross-hair on the progress bar indicates the current card position within volume two. The extreme left position corresponds to the first volume two card (#285), and the extreme right corresponding to the final volume two card (#1023).