

# REMEMBERING THE KANJI

VOL. 2

*A Systematic Guide to  
Reading Japanese Characters*

James W. Heisig

*FOURTH EDITION*

Errata in the 1st Printing

23 January 2015



University of Hawai'i Press  
HONOLULU

# Introduction

AS THE TITLE SUGGESTS, the present book has been prepared as a companion volume to *Remembering the Kanji: A Complete Course on How Not to Forget the Meaning and Writing of Japanese Characters*. It presumes that the material covered in the first book has already been mastered and concentrates exclusively on the pronunciation of the Japanese characters. Those who approached the study of the kanji in a different manner may find what is in these pages of some use, but it has not been designed with them in mind.

As I explained in the Introduction to the previous volume, if it is the student's goal to acquire proficiency in using the Japanese writing system, the entire set of "general-use characters" (常用漢字) need to be learned. To insist on studying them in the **order** of importance or frequency generally followed in Japanese schools is pointless if some other order is more effective as a means to that final goal. A moment's reflection on the matter is enough to dispose of the common bias that the methods employed by those who come to Japanese as a foreign language should mirror the methods used by the Japanese themselves to learn how to read and write. Accumulated experience and education—and in most cases an energetic impatience with one's own ignorance—distinguish the older student too radically from Japanese schoolchildren to permit basic study habits to be taken over with only cosmetic changes. A clearer focus on the destination should help the older student chart a course more suited to his or her time, resources, and learning abilities—and not just run harder and faster around the same track.

Perhaps the single greatest obstacle to taking full advantage of one's privileged position as an adult foreigner is a healthy fear of imposing alien systems on Japanese language structures. But to impose a system on ways of learning a language does not necessarily mean to impose a system on the language itself. To miss this distinction is to risk condemning oneself to the worst sorts of inefficiency for the worst sorts of reasons.

Obviously the *simplest* way to learn Japanese is as the Japanese themselves do: by constant repetition, without interference, in a closed cultural environment. Applied to the kanji, this involves drilling and drilling and drilling until the forms and sounds become habitual. The simplest way, alas, is also the most

them, may come as such a surprise that you are tempted to make some use of the coincidence. Resist the temptation.

Second, it is best not to try to learn *on* and *kun* readings at the same time for the same character. The idea of “conquering” a character in its entirety will be supported by nearly every textbook on the kanji that you pick up, but is nearly as mistaken as trying to learn to write and read the kanji at the same time. Once you have learned the general-use characters, you will have a much better base from which to learn the meaning, writing, and readings of new characters *en bloc* as you meet them. Until then, cling to the Caesarean principle of “divide and conquer.”

Third, with few exceptions, it seems preferable to learn the several possible Chinese readings of a given character as they come up, in isolation from one another. When second or third readings appear, reference to earlier frames will inform you of the fact. You will no doubt notice that the quickest way to complete the information on your flash cards is to rush to INDEX V and start filling them in. If you do, you might end up with a tidy set of cards that are no longer of any use for review, or else find yourself reviewing what you haven’t yet studied. In either case, you would be sidestepping the entire method on which this book is based. Be sure to read the instructions on pages 303–5 before doing anything with your cards.

Fourth, certain Japanese sounds undergo phonetic alterations when set alongside other sounds. For example, 一本, 二本, 三本 are read *ippon*, *nihon*, *sambon*, the syllable *hon* being like a chameleon that changes to suit its environment. Some of these alterations are regional, some standard. In any case, they are best learned by trial-and-error rather than by a set of rules that are more complex than they are worth.

Fifth, a word about Chinese compounds (熟語, じゅくご). With a grain of salt, one might compare the blend of Japanese (*kun*) and Chinese (*on*) words to the blend of Anglo-Saxon and Latin-Greek words in English. Generally, our words of Anglo-Saxon root are richer in meaning, vaguer, and more evocative than those of Latin-Greek root, which tend to precision and clarity. For instance, the word “glass” can suggest a whole range of possible images and meanings, but as soon as we substitute its Latin equivalent, “vitrine,” we have narrowed it down to a more concrete meaning. The presence of Chinese words (generally a compound of two or more *on* readings) in Japanese performs a similar narrowing, specifying function, while the native Japanese words reverberate wider and deeper meanings.

In much the same way that we combine Anglo-Saxon words with Latin and Greek words (for example, in the term “fiberglass”), Japanese will occasionally mix *on* and *kun* readings in the same compound. As a rule, I have avoided

讓	ジヨウ	1648
R-102	讓歩 じょうほ	concession; compromise
壤	ジヨウ	1649
R-103	土壤 どじょう	the soil
釀	ジヨウ	1647
R-104	釀造 じょうぞう	brewing; distillation
可	カ	97
R-105	可能 かのう	possibility
何	カ	1087
R-106	幾何学 きかがく	geometry
苛	カ	240
R-107	苛酷 かこく	rigor; severity
荷	カ	1088
R-108	出荷 しゅっか	shipping; consignment
歌	カ	508
R-109	校歌 こうか	school song
河	カ	157
R-110	河川 かせん	rivers; rivers and streams

底 R-157	海底 かいてい	テイ	bottom of the sea	1975
邸 R-158	私邸 してい	テイ	private residence	1984
適 R-159	商 適切	テキ てきせつ	apt; fitting	473
敵 R-160	敵地 てきち	テキ	enemy territory	475
摘 R-161	指摘 してき	テキ	pointing out; indication	709
滴 R-162	一滴 いってき	テキ	one drop	474
倍 R-163	音 三倍	バイ さんばい	triple; three times The signal primitive must stand to the right, alone.	1067
培 R-164	培養 ばいよう	バイ	nurture; cultivate	516
陪 R-165	陪食 ばいしょく	バイ	dining with a superior	1396

<p>賠</p> <p>R-166</p>	<p>バイ</p> <p>賠償 ばいしょう</p>	<p>R-1276</p> <p>compensation; indemnity</p>	<p>515</p>
<p>半</p> <p>R-167</p>	<p>ハン</p> <p>半分 はんぶん</p> <p>The signal primitive must stand clearly on its own.</p>	<p>R-1276</p> <p>half</p>	<p>1286</p>
<p>判</p> <p>R-168</p>	<p>ハン</p> <p>判定 はんてい</p>	<p>R-1274</p> <p>judgment</p>	<p>1289</p>
<p>畔</p> <p>R-169</p>	<p>ハン</p> <p>湖畔 こはん</p>	<p>R-1277</p> <p>lakeside; along a lake</p>	<p>1288</p>
<p>伴</p> <p>R-170</p>	<p>ハン</p> <p>同伴 どうはん</p>	<p>R-1275</p> <p>company; companion</p>	<p>1287</p>
<p>講</p> <p>R-171</p>	<p>講義 こうぎ</p> <p>コウ</p>	<p>lecture</p>	<p>1957</p>
<p>構</p> <p>R-172</p>	<p>機構 きこう</p> <p>コウ</p>	<p>organization; structure</p>	<p>1959</p>
<p>購</p> <p>R-173</p>	<p>購入 こうにゆう</p> <p>コウ</p>	<p>purchase; buying</p>	<p>1958</p>
<p>溝</p> <p>R-174</p>	<p>排水溝 はいすいこう</p> <p>コウ</p>	<p>waterway; drainage ditch</p>	<p>1960</p>

寮 R-184	寮長 りょうちよう	リョウ	1844	dormitory superintendent
瞭 R-185	明瞭 めいりよう	リョウ	1843	clear; apparent
療 R-186	療養 りょうよう	リョウ	1845	medical care; recuperation
采 R-187	采地 さいち	サイ	791	fief; domain
採 R-188	採点 さいてん	サイ	792	grading exams
菜 R-189	野菜 やさい	サイ	793	vegetables
彩 R-190	彩色 さいしき	サイ	1850	coloring
喻 R-191	俞 比喻 ひゆ	ユ	308	metaphor
輸 R-192	輸出 ゆしゆつ	ユ	307	exports
愉 R-193	愉楽 ゆらく	ユ	675	pleasure; joy

賂 R-200	口 賄賂 わいろ bribe	313
	Strictly speaking this character does not belong in this group, but it seems a good place to learn it. See also FRAMES R-1466-74.	
露 R-201	口 露骨 ろこつ frank; plain	1377
幣 R-202	へイ 紙幣 しへい paper money	1118
蔽 R-203	へイ 隠蔽 いんぺい cover-up	1119
弊 R-204	へイ 弊害 へいがい evil; abuse	1120
及 R-205	キュウ 普及 ふきゆう dissemination	743
吸 R-206	キュウ 吸収 きゆうしゆう absorption	744
級 R-207	キュウ 高級 こうきゆう top grade; high quality	1453
知 R-208	チ 知恵 ちえ wisdom	1308



憤		フン		1283
R-218	義憤	ぎふん	righteous indignation	
墳		フン		1282
R-219	古墳	こふん	tumulus; old burial grounds	
呉		ゴ		2046
R-220	呉服	ごふく	dry goods; draperies	
娛		ゴ		2047
R-221	娯楽	ごらく	amusement; entertainment	
誤		ゴ		2048
R-222	誤解	ごかい	misunderstanding	
編	扁	ヘン		1966
R-223	編集	へんしゅう	editing	
偏		ヘン		1964
R-224	偏見	へんけん	bias	
遍		ヘン		1965
R-225	普遍	ふへん	universal	
慈	茲	ジ		1490
R-226	慈愛	じあい	kindness and love	

洗	セン	264
R-254	洗車    せんしゃ    car wash	
銑	セン	288
R-255	銑鉄    せんてつ    pig iron	
新	シン	1619
R-256	新聞    しんぶん    newspaper	
薪	シン	1620
R-257	薪水    しんすい    fuel and water	
親	シン	1621
R-258	親切    しんせつ    kind; thoughtful	
侵	シン	1231
R-259	侵入    しんにゆう    invasion	
浸	シン	1232
R-260	浸水    しんすい    flooding	
寢	シン	1233
R-261	寢室    しんしつ    bedroom	
章	ショウ	464
R-262	文章    ぶんしょう    a sentence (of writing)	

弦 R-290	ゲン 正弦 せいげん	1487 sine (of an angle)
舷 R-291	ゲン 舷窓 げんそう	2015 porthole
善 R-292	ゼン 慈善 じぜん	1112 benevolence
膳 R-293	ゼン お膳 おぜん	1113 table tray; serving of food
繕 R-294	ゼン 修繕 しゅうぜん	1433 repair; mending
遠 R-295	エン 袁 永遠 えいえん	R-56 429 eternity
園 R-296	エン 庭園 ていえん	629 (Japanese) garden
猿 R-297	エン 野猿 やえん	430 wild monkey
帝 R-298	テイ 帝国 ていこく	466 empire

矯	キョウ	1306
R-317	矯正 きょうせい reform; correction	
嬌	キョウ	461
R-318	愛嬌 あいきょう affable; charming	
侯	コウ	1767
R-319	王侯 おうこう kings and princes	
喉	コウ	1768
R-320	咽喉 いんこう throat	
候	コウ	1769
R-321	候補 こうほ candidacy	
屈	クツ	1140
R-322	退屈 たいくつ boredom	
掘	クツ	1141
R-323	採掘 さいくつ working a mine; mining	
窟	クツ	1420
R-324	洞窟 どうくつ cavern; grotto	
建	ケン	R-2255
R-325	建議 けんぎ submission of a proposal	417

畿 R-335	キ 近畿 きんき	capital suburbs (around Kyoto)	1483
機 R-336	キ 機会 きかい	opportunity	1482

Having completed the larger of the “pure groups,” we now come to the more difficult: those with only 2 kanji. Although the groups are small, learning them by means of their signal primitives will come in useful later, once you have left the confines of the general-use kanji. That is to say, many of the signal primitives we are learning here are not restricted to the characters we treat.

録 R-337	ロク 録 きろく	record; annals	1226
緑 R-338	ロク 緑青 ろくしょう	verdigris; green rust	R-2345 1471

The following character is an example of a glyph that serves as a “signal primitive” *only when it stands on its own*. Elsewhere (e.g., R-1810 and R-1947) it can taken another reading. We will other examples of this (cf. R-551 and R-1090).

元 R-339	ガン 元日 がんど	New Year’s Day	R-1088 63
頑 R-340	ガン 頑固 がんど	stubborn; hardheaded	65
協 R-341	キョウ 協力 きょうりよく	cooperation	937

界 R-414	世界	カイ せかい	world	266
戒 R-415	戒律	カイ かいりつ	(Buddhist) precepts	730
械 R-416	機械	カイ きかい	machine; mechanism	732
壊 R-417	衰 崩壊	カイ ほうかい	destruction; collapse	427
懐 R-418	述懐	カイ じゅっかい	reminiscences	891
貫 R-419	貫通	カン かんつう	piercing; penetration	106
慣 R-420	習慣	カン しゅうかん	custom; habit; convention	674
換 R-421	奂 交換	カン こうかん	interchange; exchange	1122
喚 R-422	召喚	カン しょうかん	<b>summons</b>	1121

勇	ユウ			1509
R-441	勇氣	ゆうき	bravery; “manhood”	
湧	ユウ			1510
R-442	湧出	ゆうしゅつ	eruption; gushing forth	
荒	コウ			527
R-443	荒野	こうや	wasteland	
慌	コウ			671
R-444	恐慌	きょうこう	panic; alarm	
愛	アイ			796
R-445	愛情	あいじょう	affection	
曖	アイ			797
R-446	曖昧	あいまい	vague; unclear	
懇	コン			2123
R-447	懇親会	こんしんかい	social reunion; reception	
墾	コン			2124
R-448	開墾	かいこん	reopening a wasteland	
骨	コツ			1383
R-449	骨髓	こつずい	bone marrow	

郷	キヨウ	R-2283	1993
R-459	故郷 こきょう	one's native place; hometown	
響	キヨウ		1994
R-460	影響 えいきょう	influence	
境	キヨウ	R-2150	523
R-461	境界 きょうかい	boundary	
鏡	キヨウ		522
R-462	鏡台 きょうだい	mirror-stand; dresser	
慢	マン		892
R-463	我慢 がまん	patience; tolerance	
漫	マン		893
R-464	漫画 まんが	comic book; comics	
明	メイ	R-1691	20
R-465	説明 せつめい	explanation	
盟	メイ		1558
R-466	同盟 どうめい	association; alliance	
民	ミン		1976
R-467	国民 こくみん	people (of a country)	



託 R-486	タク 神託 しんたく	oracle; revelation	2066
呈 R-487	テイ 謹呈 きんてい	compliments of the author	280
程 R-488	テイ 程度 ていど	extent; degree	960
班 R-489	班 班長 はんちょう	squad or section leader	1315
斑 R-490	ハン 斑点 はんでん	specks; dots	1865
亭 R-491	テイ 料亭 りょうてい	Japanese-style restaurant	333
停 R-492	テイ 停止 ていし	suspension; ban	1051
徹 R-493	徹 徹底的 てつていき	thoroughgoing; radical	951
撤 R-494	テツ 撤回 てっかい	withdrawal; revocation	822

塔 R-557	荅 トウ 270 金字塔 きんじとう pyramid; monumental work
搭 R-558	トウ 698 搭乘 とうじょう boarding (a vessel)
座 R-559	坐 ザ 1100 座席 ざせき seat
挫 R-560	ザ 1101 捻挫 ねんざ sprain
念 R-561	ネン 1715 記念 きねん commemoration
r-捻 R-562	ネン 1716 捻挫 ねんざ sprain
疾 R-563	シツ 1819 疾風迅雷的 しっふうじんらいてき lightning fast
嫉 R-564	シツ 1820 嫉妬 しつと jealousy
就 R-565	シュウ R-2238 2121 就職 しゅうしょく taking up a job

蹴 R-566		シュウ		<b>2122</b>
	蹴球	しゅうきゅう	soccer (old term)	
訃 R-567	ト	フ		<b>363</b>
	訃報	ふほう	death notice	
赴 R-568		フ		<b>412</b>
	赴任	ふにん	post; assignment	
搜 R-569	叟	ソウ		<b>1201</b>
	搜索	そうさく	manhunt; search	
瘦 R-570		ソウ		<b>1818</b>
	瘦身	そうしん	slender body; lean figure	

The kanji featured in the following two frames are unique in that each allows a common second reading. Learn the next four frames as a unit.

会 R-571		カイ	R-573	<b>814</b>
	会計	かいけい	accounts; accountant	
絵 R-572		カイ	R-574	<b>1446</b>
	絵画	かいが	picture; painting	
会 R-573		エ	R-571	<b>814</b>
	会釈	えしゃく	salutations; a bow	

## CHAPTER 3

# One-Time Chinese Readings

THE CHARACTERS brought together in this chapter should be learned well before passing on to the rest of the book. Knowing them will remove another obstacle from the long road that lies ahead.

This collection of “one-time” readings sifts out all the *on-yomi* (Chinese readings) that are *not* homonyms, at least not in the confines of the standard readings on which this book is based. We have already learned of these readings in CHAPTER 1:

世 = セ 部 = ヘ 衿 = ネ 寸 = スン 奴 = ヌ

This means that the sounds セ, ヘ, ネ, スン, and ヌ will not appear elsewhere in these pages as a reading for any kanji.

The characters these one-time Chinese readings belong to may, of course, take additional readings (see the cross-reference numbers) and phonetic transformations may in fact yield the same sound in certain cases, but the sounds will not be assigned to any other character of those learned in VOL. 1 as a standard reading.

圧		アツ		163
R-575	圧迫	あっぱく	oppression	
域		イキ		380
R-576	境域	きょういき	precincts	
育		イク		821
R-577	教育	きょういく	education	

茶 R-597	チャ 紅茶 こうちゃ	R-1115 (black) tea	267
弟 R-598	デ 弟子 でし	R-1538 disciple	1328
泥 R-599	デイ 泥酔 でいすい	dead drunk	1135
溺 R-600	デキ 溺死 できし	death by drowning	1324
納 R-601	ナツ 納豆 なっとう	R-1742, 2185, 2321, 2323 fermented soybeans	1456
肉 R-602	ニク 肉親 にくしん	blood relative	1098
日 R-603	ニチ 一日 いちにち	R-1704 one day	12
若 R-604	ニヤク 老若 ろうにやく	R-2101 young and old	237
寧 R-605	ネイ 丁寧 ていねい	politeness; courtesy; civility  Though the same primitive element appears in both kanji of this compound, it does not serve as a signal primitive.	897

勿論 R-615		モチ		1128
		ロン	R-1002	1961
	勿論	もちろん	obvious; beyond dispute	
物 R-616		モツ	R-1111	1129
	食物	しょくもつ	foodstuffs	
辣 R-617		ラツ		1798
	辣腕	らつわん	shrewdness	
力 R-618		リキ	R-1200	922
	馬力	ばりき	horsepower	
陸 R-619		リク		1631
	陸上	りくじょう	on shore	
律 R-620		リチ	R-1815	939
	律義	りちぎ	honesty; integrity	
略 R-621		リヤク	R-1473	314
	略語	りゃくご	abbreviation	
賄 R-622		ワイ		84
	収賄	しゅうわい	accepting a bribe	
惑 R-623		ワク		661
	迷惑	めいわく	trouble; inconvenience	

貝 R-629 56	唄 R-630 57	頁 R-631 64	肌 R-632 70	汐 R-633 115
埼 R-634 164	垣 R-635 165	畑 R-636* 178	鯉 R-637 188	柏 R-638 211
杵 R-639* 212	梢 R-640 213	棚 R-641 214	杏 R-642 215	柿 R-643 441
株 R-644 236	荻 R-645 257	辻 R-646 297	幌 R-647 438	匕 R-648 476
匂 R-649* 478	頃 R-650 479	乞 R-651 501	茨 R-652 511	柝 R-653* 553
虹 R-654 559	滝 R-655 576	誰 R-656 598	日 R-657 620	串 R-658 649

## CHAPTER 5

# Semi-Pure Groups

THE KANJI treated in this chapter differ from those of CHAPTER 2 only in one significant detail: the signal primitive bears a uniform reading for all but *one* of the characters in which it appears. Here again, secondary or tertiary readings for the kanji do not necessarily follow the rule. The point is only that one of the assigned readings of the character is not affected at all by the semi-pure group to which it belongs by virtue of its signal primitive.

Let us take a group of 6 kanji, the first 5 of which show a common reading based on the lead character which serves as a signal primitive for the others:

次 R-736	次第	シ しだい	R-1749 gradually; little by little	510
姿 R-737	姿勢	シ しせい	posture	513
資 R-738	資本	シ しほん	capital; funds	512
恣 R-739	恣意	シ しい	arbitrariness; whim	641
諮 R-740	諮問	シ しもん	consultation	514



昼	チユウ		1156
R-795	昼食	ちゅうしょく	lunch; noon meal

経	ケイ	R-2396	1460
R-796	経験	けいけん	experience

軽	ケイ		774
R-797	軽食	けいしょく	snack; light meal

茎	ケイ		772
R-798	花茎	かけい	flower's stem

径	ケイ		947
R-799	径路	けいろ	route; course

怪	カイ		773
R-800	奇怪	きかい	strange; weird

肖	ショウ		119
R-801	肖像画	しょうぞうが	a portrait (painting)

消	ショウ		155
R-802	消化	しょうか	digestion

硝	ショウ		120
R-803	硝煙	しょうえん	gunpowder smoke

宵 R-804	シヨウ 徹宵 てっしょう	201 all through the night
削 R-805	サク 削減 さくげん	124 reduction; curtailment

In the following group of characters, the signal primitive is immediately evident as the first member of the group. Be careful to note that earlier (FRAMES R-473-474) this same signal primitive was itself part of another signal primitive with an entirely different reading.

辰 R-806	シン 辰宿 しんしゆく	2164 house of the Dragon (in the Sino-Japanese zodiac)
震 R-807	シン 震動 しんどう	2166 quake; shock
娠 R-808	シン 妊娠 にんしん	2168 pregnancy
振 R-809	シン 三振 さんしん	2167 3 strikes (in baseball)
唇 R-810	シン 口唇 こうしん	2169 lips
辱 R-811	ジヨク 屈辱 くつじょく	R-591 2165 humiliation; disgrace

裁	裁	サイ	424
R-812	裁縫	さいほう	sewing; needlework
載		サイ	383
R-813	記載	きさい	mention (in the press)
栽		サイ	382
R-814	栽培	さいばい	cultivation; growing
織		セン	1929
R-815	繊維	せんい	fiber; textiles
併	并	ヘイ	1107
R-816	併用	へいよう	joint use
塀		ヘイ	1136
R-817	塀	へい	fence
餅		ヘイ	1590
R-818	煎餅	せんべい	rice crackers
	The reading of the first kanji in the word above will be introduced in the following chapter (FRAME <span style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">R-1110</span> ).		
瓶		ビン	1109
R-819	花瓶	かびん	flower vase
票		ヒョウ	1732
R-820	投票	とうひょう	casting a vote

漂 R-821	ヒョウ 漂白 ひょうはく	bleaching	1733
標 R-822	ヒョウ 目標 もくひょう	target; aim	1734
慄 R-823	リツ 戦慄 せんりつ	shivering; trembling  (Note: This character belongs in Chapter 10 and the group should be pure.)	1736
福 R-824	フク 福祉 ふくし	(social) welfare	1171
副 R-825	フク 副詞 ふくし	adverb	93
幅 R-826	フク 全幅 ぜんぷく	full extent; all	435
富 R-827	フ 富士山 ふじさん	R-2347 Mt. Fuji	205
億 R-828	オク 一億円 いちおくえん	100 million yen	1058
憶 R-829	オク 記憶 きおく	memory (of something)	679

意 R-831	イ 用意      ようい	654 preparation; arrangements
旨 R-832	シ 要旨      ようし	493 the gist; essentials
指 R-833	シ 指導      しどう	711 guidance
脂 R-834	シ 脂肪      しぼう	494 fat
詣 R-835	ケイ 参詣      さんけい	495 visit a Shinto shrine
固 R-836	コ 頑固      がんこ	622 stubborn; persistent
個 R-837	コ 個人      こじん	1047 an individual
錮 R-838	コ 錮疾      こしつ	623 chronic disease
箇 R-839	カ 一箇月      いっかげつ	2185 one month  This character is commonly abbreviated to the <i>katakana</i> ケ, as in FRAME R-586, which uses the a similar exemplary compound with that writing.

硬 R-858	コウ 硬貨 こうか	750 coin (solid money)
便 R-859	ビン・ベン 郵便 便利 ゆうびん べんり	1066 post; mail convenient
壁 R-860	辟 壁画 へき へきが	1616 a mural (painting)
璧 R-861	へき 完璧 かんぺき	1617 perfect; impeccable
癖 R-862	へき 病癖 びょうへき	1826 (personal) weakness; bad habit
避 R-863	ヒ 不可避 ふかひ	1618 unavoidable
謄 R-864	脞 謄本 とうほん	1296 transcript; certified copy
騰 R-865	トウ 沸騰 ふっとう	2144 boiling
藤 R-866	トウ 葛藤 かっとう	1295 feud; discord

The phonetic group to which the first character belongs will appear in CHAPTER 7 (FRAMES R-1306 and 1311).

錠 R-895	錠	ジヨウ じょう	lock	409
綻 R-896	破綻	タン はたん	bankruptcy	1439
綱 R-897	綱領	コウ こうりょう	general plan; main point	2114
鋼 R-898	鋼鉄	コウ こうてつ	steel	2113
剛 R-899	剛健	ゴウ ごうけん	strong; robust	2115
般 R-900	一般	ハン いっぱん	general; average	2016
搬 R-901	運搬	ハン うんぱん	conveyance; transport	2018
盤 R-902	円盤	バン えんばん	disc; discus	2017
毛 R-903	毛布	モウ もうふ	blanket	2062

員 R-948	イン 船員 せんいん	59 sailor; member of the crew
韻 R-949	イン 音韻 おんいん	R-1415 520 phoneme; vocal sound
損 R-950	ソン 損失 せんしつ	719 loss
堪 R-951	カン 堪忍 かんにん	1907 forgiveness; tolerance
勘 R-952	カン 勘定 かんじょう	1906 payment of a bill
甚 R-953	ジン 甚大 じんたい	1905 enormous
群 R-954	ゲン 大群 たいぐん	1247 large crowd
郡 R-955	ゲン 郡会 ぐんかい	1986 a county assembly
君 R-956	クン 君主 くんしゅ	1246 monarch



告 R-1021		コク	R-1119	262
	広告	こうこく	advertising	
酷 R-1022		コク		1539
	残酷	ざんこく	cruel	
造 R-1023		ゾウ		299
	構造	こうぞう	structure	

We conclude this chapter with three characters related by a common primitive element but sharing Chinese pronunciations unevenly.

識 R-1024	戠	シキ		521
	知識	ちしき	knowledge; intelligence	
職 R-1025		シヨク		887
	職員	しょくいん	an employee	
織 R-1026		シキ・シヨク		1432
	組織	そしき	organization; formation	
	織機	しょつき	loom	

辞 典		ジ	R-1625	1613
		テン		1969
R-1084	英和辞典	えいわじてん	English-Japanese dictionary	
完		カン		199
R-1085	完全	かんぜん	complete	
都		ト	R-1172, 1483	1989
R-1086	京都	きょうと	Kyoto	
報		ホウ		1625
R-1087	電報	でんぼう	telegram	
元		ゲン	R-339	63
R-1088	元気	げんき	lively; alive and well	
漢 字		カン		1701
		ジ		197
R-1089	漢字	かんじ	kanji	
冗 談		ジョウ		321
		ダン		374
R-1090	冗談	じょうだん	joke	
住 所		ジュウ	R-1451	1027
		シヨ		1208
R-1091	住所	じゅうしょ	address	

光 R-1196	コウ 日光 にっこう (city of) Nikkō; sunlight	125
海 R-1197	カイ 北海道 ほっかいどう Hokkaidō	500
湾 R-1198	ワン 台湾 たいわん Taiwan	1886
筆 R-1199	ヒツ 鉛筆 えんぴつ lead pencil	1014
力 R-1200	リョク 協力 きょうりょく cooperation	922
読 R-1201	トク 読本 とくほん a reader	372
媛 R-1202	エン 才媛 さいえん talented, accomplished woman	2100
事 R-1203	ジ 火事 かじ a fire	1240
父 R-1204	フ 祖父 そふ grandfather	1366
母 R-1205	ボ 祖母 そぼ grandmother	105

忙 R-1286	ボウ 多忙 たぼう	665 very, very busy
網 R-1287	モウ 放送網 ほうそうもう	1473 broadcasting network
盲 R-1288	モウ 盲目 もうもく	525 blindness
曾 R-1289	ソ 曾孫 そうそん	R-48, 594 great-grandchild
層 R-1290	ソウ 知識層 ちしきそう	1146 intelligentsia
僧 R-1291	ソウ 禪僧 ぜんそう	1057 Zen priest
増 R-1292	ゾウ 増加 ぞうか	541 augmentation; increase
憎 R-1293	ゾウ 憎心 ぞうしん	673 hatred; spite
贈 R-1294	ソウ・ゾウ 寄贈 贈呈 きそう ぞうてい	542 donation offering; present

霧 R-1341	ム 霧散 むさん	dispersion; dissipation	1314
柔 R-1342	ジュウ・ニユウ R-1104 柔道 じゅうどう 柔和 にゅうわ	judo gentleness; mildness	1312
分 R-1343	フン・ブン・ブ R-1038, 1180, 1235 五分 ごふん 自分 じぶん 大分 だいぶ	5 minutes oneself greatly; considerably	844
粉 R-1344	フン 粉末 ふんまつ	powder	988
紛 R-1345	フン 紛議 ふんぎ	dissension; controversy	1458
雰 R-1346	フン 雰囲気 ふんいき	atmosphere; ambience	2184
盆 R-1347	ボン 盆栽 ぼんさい	dwarfed “bonsai” plants	1557
貧 R-1348	ビン・ヒン R-1253 貧乏 びんぼう 貧富 ひんぷ	destitute; poor rich and poor	845
頒 R-1349	ハン 頒布 はんぷ	distribution	846

産 R-1393		サン	R-781	1681
	不動産	부동산	real estate	
牲 R-1394		セイ	R-780	1680
	犠牲	ぎせい	sacrifice	

## C. REMAINING MIXED GROUPS

As indicated earlier, this final class of mixed groups is by far the most difficult and—unfortunately—the most numerous. Despite the many exceptions, it pays to learn these characters in their respective groups. Fortunately, a good number of the characters included for the sake of completeness have already been learned under another rubric.

As before, characters that have more than one standard reading are treated in full here with exemplary compounds provided for each of their readings.

地 R-1395	也	チ・ジ	R-1049, 1100	554
	地図 地震	ちず じしん	map earthquake	
池 R-1396		チ		555
	電池	でんち	battery	
施 R-1397		シ・セ		1124
	施行 布施	しこう ふせ	enforcement; execution alms; offering (to a priest)	
也 R-1398		ヤ	R-38	2236
	也寸志	やすし	Yasushi (personal name for a man)	

諸 R-1479	シヨ 諸国 しょこく	(various) countries	1351
著 R-1480	チヨ 著者 ちよしゃ	author	1347
猪 R-1481	チヨ 猪勇 ちよゆう	foolhardy courage	1352
緒 R-1482	シヨ・チヨ 一緒 情緒 いっしょ じょうちよ	together heartstrings; emotionalism	R-1061 1444
都 R-1483	ト・ツ 京都 都合 きょうと つごう	Kyoto conditions	R-1086, 1172 1989
賭 R-1484	ト 賭博 とばく	gambling	1354

陽 R-1485	易 太陽 ヨウ たいよう	R-1246, 2071 sun	1397
The signal primitive at play in this and the following frames has its own reading, as was learned back in <a href="#">FRAME 1233</a> .			
揚 R-1486	ヨウ 掲揚 けいよう	hoisting; raising	717

演 R-1726	エン 演説 えんぜつ	address; speech	2163
興 R-1727	コウ 復興 ふっこう	revival; rehabilitation	1533
言 R-1728	ゲン 言明 げんめい	(press) statement	357
範 R-1729	ハン 範囲 はんい	sphere; range	1516
氾 R-1730	ハン 氾濫 はんらん	deluge	1518
潰 R-1731	カイ 潰瘍 かいよう	ulcer	1911
了 R-1732	リョウ 終了 しゅうりょう	conclusion; ending	101
決 R-1733	ケツ 決勝 けっしょう	decision (of a contest)	1770
黒 R-1734	コク 黒板 こくばん	blackboard	186
興 R-1735	キョウ 興味 きょうみ	interest; appeal	1533



評 R-1756	ヒョウ 評論家 ひょうろんか	critic; commentator	1599
依 R-1757	イ 依頼 いらい	R-2393 dependency	1045
否 R-1758	ヒ 否定 ひてい	denial; negation	1303
実 R-1759	ジツ 事実 じじつ	fact	1694
維 R-1760	イ 明治維新 めいじいしん	Meiji Restoration	1441
改 革 R-1761	カイ カク 改革 かいかく	reform; reformation  <b>Note: The first character, 改, could well have been included in the mixed group in R-1323–1329.</b>	567 2041
皇 R-1762	コウ 皇居 こうきよ	R-1686 Imperial Palace	279
折 衝 R-1763	セツ シヨウ 折衝 せっしょう	negotiations	1211 1811
礎 R-1764	ソ 基礎 きそ	foundation; basis	421

費用		ヒ		1326
		ヨウ		1265
R-1773	費用	ひよう	expenses	
拓		タク		703
	R-1774	開拓	かいたく	reclamation (of wasteland)
携		ケイ		742
	R-1775	携帯	けいたい	portable
象		ショウ	R-513	2130
	R-1776	気象	きしょう	weather
混		コン		487
	R-1777	混乱	こんらん	disorder; confusion
		<p>Note: This kanji may also be linked to R-2167 as its “signal primitive.”</p>		
条		ジョウ		319
	R-1778	条約	じょうやく	treaty
件		ケン		1032
	R-1779	事件	じけん	affair; matter
向		コウ		195
	R-1780	意向	いこう	intention; inclination
答		トウ		1018
	R-1781	回答	かいとう	reply; answer

栄 R-1830	エイ 光栄 こうえい	glory; honor	348
臨 R-1831	リン 臨時 りんじ	special; extraordinary	918
逆 R-1832	ギャク 逆転 ぎゃくてん	reversal; turnabout	2109
視 R-1833	シ 視察 しさつ	inspection	1174
牧 R-1834	ボク 牧師 ぼくし	(Protestant) pastor	351
悪 R-1835	アク 悪魔 あくま	R-2259 devil	1951
易 R-1836	イ 容易 ようい	R-1233 easy; facile	1130
委 R-1837	イ 委員会 いいんかい	committee <b>This kanji may also serve as a signal primitive for R-1913.</b>	979
井 R-1838	シヨウ 天井 てんじょう	R-44, 2091 ceiling	1946
牙 R-1839	ゲ 象牙 ぞうげ	R-876 ivory	2053

## CHAPTER 9

# A Potpourri of Readings

THE MAIN THING the kanji of this chapter have in common is that they do not fit the previous categories and are a bit too common to leave for the final chapter. It is arguable that a few of the compounds might have been included in the last chapter, and some left for the next. But there is no getting around the fact that we have come to the point where we must enlist the full assistance of brute memory.

To make the leftovers a little less formidable, I have cooked up a potpourri of exemplary compounds that I hope you find interesting or instructive enough to hold your attention while you are learning them. In some cases this has meant choosing an unusual compound; the readings, in any event, are commonly used.

The ages of 25, 42, and 62 for men and 19, 33, and 37 for women have traditionally been regarded as bad-luck years in Japan. Though not all the numbers are remembered by people today, no one is likely to forget 42, and no woman 33, especially as those years draw close. (Note that the second character is read with its *kun-yomi*.)

厄

ヤク

1519

R-1919

厄年

やくどし

bad-luck year

There is one word among all the *on-yomi* that is virtually identical to English in sound and meaning.

缶

カン

2116

R-1920

缶

かん

can

As we noted earlier in FRAME 1335, Japanese likes to link the names of two places by taking one character from each and forming a new compound. Sometimes this involves putting an *on-yomi* where the original names use a *kun-yomi*, or sometimes an **alternative on-yomi**. The following example shows both of these procedures at work.

京	ケイ	R-1030	334
浜	ヒン		1430
R-1962	京浜線	けいひんせん	Tokyo-Yokohama (railway) Line

Another example of the same usage links the names 青森 (あおもり) and 函館 (はこだて) to identify the tunnel that links the two cities.

函	カン		2051
R-1963	青函	せいかん	Aomori-Hakodate (Tunnel)

The everyday Japanese expression for the conjunction in any case or anyhow has been assigned kanji that mean literally “horns on the rabbit.” The word for “rabbit” appeared in a note to FRAME 2126 of VOL. 1.

角	カク		1953
R-1964	兎に角	とにかく	in any case; anyhow

For festive occasions the Japanese serve a steamed glutinous rice with red beans.

赤	セキ	R-2264	1880
R-1965	赤飯	せきはん	rice with red beans

English refers to the two halves of a game as “first” and “second,” but Japanese speaks of “before” and “after.”

後	コウ	R-1076	1479
R-1966	後半	こうはん	the second half

The opposite of pessimism (see FRAME 1551) is given here. The last two characters, incidentally, are the usual way of denoting an “ism.”

	楽	ラク	R-1120	1872
R-1967	楽観主義	らっかんしゅぎ	optimism	

While we are at it, let us take the time to learn the terms for two more “isms” in Japanese.

	宜	ギ		1922
	享	キョウ		330
R-1968	便宜主義	べんぎしゅぎ	opportunism	
	享楽主義	きょうらくしゅぎ	hedonism	

Another way of describing an “ism” is with the suffix 論, which carries the particular connotation of an intellectual system of thought. Here is an example of that usage.

	唯	ユイ	R-2317	595
R-1969	唯物論	ゆいぶつろん	materialism	

Like the English term “wake,” the Japanese carries the sense of staying up through the night.

	通	ツ	R-1018	1511
	夜	ヤ		1115
R-1970	通夜	つや	wake; vigil	

Here we learn the name for the famous Japanese sword, world-renowned for its strength and precise craftsmanship.

	刀	トウ		87
R-1971	日本刀	にほんとう	Japanese sword	

The order that English uses for expressing things in pairs is often reversed in Japanese. For instance, we say “food and drink,” but Japanese says:

	飲		イン		1584
R-1981	飲食		いんしょく	food and drink	

Or again, we say “north and south,” but Japanese says:

	南		ナン	R-2401	1740
R-1982	南北		なんぼく	north and south	

The Buddhist monk who wanders homelessly in search of the truth is likened to the “clouds” and “water” that move ceaselessly.

	雲		ウン		452
R-1983	雲水		うんすい	novice (Zen) monk	

The character 自 can be used as a prefix to indicate either the sense of the English prefix “auto-” or to refer to oneself. An example of the former was seen earlier (FRAME 1101). Here we see the latter usage.

	炊		スイ		509
R-1984	自炊		じすい	fixing one’s own meal	

We sometimes meet Japanese words that can only be used with negative endings, even though the meaning in English is entirely positive.

	如		ジョ	R-2403	104
R-1985	如才		じょさい	slick; smooth	

The terms for high (and low) blood pressure are constructed exactly as in English.

	血		ケツ		1556
R-1986	高血圧		こうけつあつ	high blood pressure	

Japanese uses the same character for the wick of a candle, the plastic refill of a ballpen, and the stamen of a flower (from which its writing is derived).				
	芯		シン	647
R-1987	芯	しん	wick	
The character 義 is used commonly in Japanese as a prefix to indicate in-laws. A similar, curious usage appears in this frame.				
	齒		シ	1255
R-1988	義齒	ぎし	false tooth	
The idea of falling into one's own trap is expressed in Japanese as "tying oneself up with one's own rope."				
	繩		ジョウ	1477
R-1989	自繩自縛	じじょうじばく	falling into one's own trap	
This frame should give you an idea how helpful the signal primitives can be. Even if you don't remember the <i>on-yomi</i> of the second character (FRAME R-778), you should have no trouble guessing it.				
	覚		カク	347
R-1990	覚醒剤	かくせいざい	stimulants; narcotics	
Japanese speaks of grammar as the laws governing letters.				
	文		ブン	R-966
	法		ホウ	R-2073, 2407
R-1991	文法	ぶんぽう	grammar	1861 813



<p>The Japanese phrase for a slowdown strike is closer to the British term “work-to-rule.” (The usual term for strike is ストライキ, commonly abbreviated to its first two syllables.)</p>			
順		ジュン	136
R-1992	順法	じゅんぽう	a slowdown strike
<p>Japanese also has a word for a walkout strike:</p>			
罷		ヒ	2188
R-1993	罷業	ひぎょう	walkout; strike
<p>The names you see on Japanese tombstones commonly end with the character for family, the custom being for a family to share a grave site. The Chinese reading of the kanji differs from that already learned.</p>			
家		ケ	R-307 580
R-1994	福田家	ふくだけ	the Fukuda family
<p>Where English speaks of getting “off the ground,” Japanese speaks of “getting on the tracks.”</p>			
軌		キ	306
R-1995	軌道に乗る	きどうにのる	getting started; inaugurating
<p>The piracy which has moved from the seas into the world of illegal copies and clones has made the same linguistic shift in Japanese.</p>			
賊		ゾク	381
R-1996	海賊版	かいぞくばん	pirated edition
<p>The Japanese term in this frame is a nearly literal rendering of the French phrase <i>raison d'être</i>, which has found its way into English.</p>			
存		ソン	R-595 739
R-1997	存在理由	そんざいりゆう	<i>raison d'être</i>

In the same way that the etymology of the English word excellent suggests something that rises above the rest of the pack, the Japanese compound in this frame suggests something that “excels” by “deviating” from the norm.

秀	シュウ	980
逸	イツ	2127

R-2009 秀逸 しゅういつ excellent

“Precious stones” become “treasured stones” in Japanese.

宝	ハウ	273
---	----	-----

R-2010 宝石 ほうせき precious stones

Here is another example of a compound whose meaning you can decipher by recalling the key-word meanings assigned the kanji in VOL. 1.

威	イ	389
---	---	-----

R-2011 威圧的 いあつてき overpowering

In English, children have to learn where cotton comes from; in Japanese, it is clear from the kanji.

綿	メン	1467
---	----	------

R-2012 綿花 めんか raw cotton

The colorful Japanese phrase for giving one’s seal of approval has one “banging out one’s judgment on a drum.” (Strictly speaking this kanji uses the signal primitive of R-1520–1525.)

鼓	コ	1552
---	---	------

R-2013 太鼓判 たいこばん seal of approval

The two compounds in this frame offer a typical example of what a big difference the long vowel can make in Japanese: a slight slip of the vocal cords and a handshake turns into a foul smell.

## CHAPTER 10

# Supplementary Readings

THE FINAL CHAPTER dealing with the Chinese readings falls into two parts of roughly equal length. In the first part I have included what seem to me the most useful of the remaining readings to know—or at least, those least unusual. The second half of the chapter picks up all the leftovers, uncommon and close to obsolescence as some of them may be. Without wishing to slight the reasons which the Ministry of Education and Science has for deciding that all of these readings belong to the general-use kanji, the fact remains: if there is one part of the book you would be justified in skimming over lightly and not cracking your skull to master at this stage of your language study, it is this last section.

### A. COMMON SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

璽	ジ		2194
R-2072	国璽	こくじ	great seal of the state
法	ハツ	R-1991, 2407	813
R-2073	法度	はつと	ordinance; prohibition
右	ユウ	R-1885	82
R-2074	左右	さゆう	right and left; both sides
欄	ラン		1756
R-2075	欄外	らんがい	margin (of a printed page) This kanji may be linked to the mixed group R-1442–1446.

挿 R-2085	ソウ 挿入 そうにゆう	insertion	1197
陵 R-2086	リョウ 陵墓 りょうぼ	imperial mausoleum	1636
至 R-2087	シ 至当 しとう	propriety; reasonableness	815
巡 R-2088	ジュン 巡回 じゅんかい	patrol; rounds	303
飾 R-2089	シヨク 裝飾 そうしよく	ornamentation	1587
御 R-2090	ギョ 制御 せいぎよ	R-1035 regulation; controls	1500
井 R-2091	セイ 油井 ゆせい	R-44, 1838 oil well	1946
妄 R-2092	モウ 妄想 もうそう	R-2341 fantasy; delusion <b>This kanji shares a signal primitive with R-1283–1288.</b>	526
羅 R-2093	ラ 羅列 られつ	enumerate	1442
耕 R-2094	コウ 農耕 のうこう	agriculture	1949

拘 R-2095	コウ 拘束 こうそく	706 constraint; restraint
拠 R-2096	キヨ 根拠 こんきよ	R-2149 722 basis; foundation
色 R-2097	シヨク 特色 とくしよく	R-1226 1890 characteristic; distinctive feature
悠 R-2098	ユウ 悠然 ゆうぜん	1031 perfect composure
棟 R-2099	トウ 病棟 びょうとう	544 hospital ward  This kanji may be tied to the mixed group R-1442-1446.
准 R-2100	ジュン 批准 ひじゅん	602 ratification
若 R-2101	ジャク 若干 じゃっかん	R-604 237 few; small number
遮 R-2102	シャ 遮断 しゃだん	1276 quarantine
蒸 R-2103	ジョウ 蒸発 じょうはつ	2049 evaporation
凡 R-2104	ボン 平凡 へいぼん	R-328 66 commonplace; ordinary

傲 R-2153	ゴウ 傲岸 ごうがん	arrogant	1054
拭 R-2154	シヨク 払拭 ふっしょく	sweep away; eradicate	695
墜 R-2155	ツイ 墜落 ついらく	(airplane) crash	1404
虐 R-2156	ギャク 虐殺 ぎゃくさつ	massacre	2153
析 R-2157	セキ 分析 ぶんせき	analysis	1207
惧 R-2158	グ 絶滅危惧種 ぜつめつきぐしゅ	endangered species	680
賦 R-2159	フ 月賦 げつぷ	monthly installment	404
糾 R-2160	キュウ 糾弾 きゅうだん	censure; arraignment	1627
沸 R-2161	フツ 沸騰 ふつとう	boiling	1325
歳 R-2162	セイ 歳暮 せいぼ	end-of-the-year present	551

悼 R-2163	トウ 追悼 ついとう	mourning	668
石 R-2164	シヤク 磁石 じしゃく	R-1863, 2352 magnet	118
麓 R-2165	ロク 山麓 さんろく	foot of the mountain	2155
米 R-2166	マイ 新米 しんまい	R-611 new rice	987
昆虫 R-2167	コン	R-1777	483
	チュウ 昆虫 こんちゅう	insects; bugs	556
示唆 R-2168	シ	R-1875	1167
	サ 示唆 しさ	suggestion	828
宮 R-2169	グウ 神宮 じんぐう	R-2192, 2257 Shinto shrine	1110
剥 R-2170	ハク 剥奪 はくだつ	usurp	1227
岳 R-2171	ガク 山岳 さんがく	hills and mountains	1428

竹 R-2181	チク 松竹梅 しょうちくばい See FRAME 1602 for an explanation of this term.	pine, bamboo, plum	1007
不 R-2182	ブ 不用心 ぶようじん	carelessness; insecurity	1302
平 R-2183	ビョウ 平等 びょうどう	equality	1596
作 R-2184	サ 作業 さぎょう	work; operation	1224
出納 R-2185	スイ	R-590	829
	トウ 出納 すいとう	R-601, 1742, 2321, 2323 cash-accounting; receipts and expenses	1456
児 R-2186	ニ 小児 しょうに	infant	62
椎 R-2187	ツイ 椎骨 ついこつ	vertebrae	597
雑 R-2188	ゾウ 雑煮 ぞうに Note that the second kanji is read with its <i>kun-yomi</i> .	rice cakes boiled in broth with vegetables	604



就	ジュ	R-565	2121
R-2238	成就 じょうじゆ	attainment; accomplishment	

## B. UNCOMMON SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

謀	ム	R-907	1897
R-2239	謀反 むほん	rebellion; conspiracy	
宰	サイ		1615
R-2240	首宰 しゆさい	supervision; presidency	
執	シュウ	R-1876	1623
R-2241	我執 がしゆう	egotism; self-assertion	
想	ソ	R-278	656
R-2242	愛想 あいそ	civility; amiability	
従	ジュ	R-401, 2363	942
R-2243	従三位 じゆさんみ	third rank, second grade	
羨	セン		592
R-2244	羨望 せんぼう	envy	
		This kanji may be tied to the mixed group R-1570–1578.	
貢	ク	R-121	85
R-2245	年貢 ねんぐ	annual tribute	
香	キョウ	R-1845	977
R-2246	香車 きょうしゃ	a “spear” in Japanese chess	

華 嚴 經 R-2396		ケ	R-1247	1704
		ゴン	R-1928	2086
		キョウ	R-796	1460
	華嚴經	けごんきょう	<i>Avatamsaka Sutra</i> , a Buddhist text treasured in particular by the Kegon (Hua-yen) sect	
解 R-2397		ゲ	R-1702	1955
	解脱	げだつ	liberation; salvation	
回 R-2398		エ	R-1185	630
	回心	えしん	conversion	
尼 R-2399		ニ		1133
	尼僧	にそう	Buddhist nun	
修 R-2400		シュ	R-1901	1858
	修行	しゅぎょう	ascetic exercises; discipline	
南 阿 陀 R-2401		ナ	R-1982	1740
		ア		1391
		ダ		2952
	南無阿弥陀仏	なむあみだぶつ	“Refuge in the name of Amida Buddha”	
和 尚 R-2402		オ	R-12	963
		ショウ		196
	和尚	おしょう	title of respect for a monk	

1–100, 101–200, etc. as we did in VOL. 1. After you have acquired a sizeable number of cards for drill, you will have to set up for yourself a routine for drilling (a) from meaning to writing, (b) from exemplary compound to *on-yomi*, and (c) from inflected kanji to *kun-yomi*. If you worked your way faithfully through VOL. 1, you may feel that there is no longer any need for the first drill. In that case I recommend that you drill the writing directly from the *hiragana kun-yomi* on the BACK.

#### PRIMITIVE PHONEMES

Unlike the primitive elements of VOL. 1 and the signal primitives of this book, the primitive phonemes presented in the present section are not intended for use *as far as possible*, but only *as far as necessary*. They have been designed as a crutch to help you with words that cause you difficulty. This means that you should not apply them retroactively to words you already know, nor should you use them to learn masses of new vocabulary isolated from the context of your reading or conversation.

Accordingly, the SYLLABARY OF PRIMITIVE PHONEMES displayed below should not be slavishly memorized but only consulted when needed. Once you have studied the examples that follow and experimented with the method on your own, you should be able to determine how best to make use of it or to alter it for your own purposes.

What you *must* take a moment out to memorize before going any further is the 11-syllable “a-b-c” that will enable you to find your way around Japanese dictionaries and word-lists arranged in dictionary order like those of this chapter and the INDEXES. Carry it around with you on a slip of paper and run it through your mind again and again if you must, but do not let another day go by without learning it:<sup>1</sup>

あ・か・さ・た・な・は・ま・や・ら・わ・ん

The table below uses a combination of *on-yomi* and *kun-yomi*, indicated in the pronunciation column by *katakana* and *hiragana* respectively. These are followed by the voiced or “muddied” sounds (see FRAME 2030), lengthened syllables, and finally diphthongs.

1. A simple mnemonic device to simplify the learning of this sequence can be found in my *Remembering the Kana* (Honolulu:University of Hawai‘i Press, 2006), beginning at the end of LESSON 2 of the *Hiragana*.

滅ぼす ▶ **to destroy** ▷ ほろぼす

Paint yourself a picture in your mind’s eye as vivid as the phantom ship in Coleridge’s “Rime of the Ancient Mariner.” See the ghosts and demons and goblins flying *kites* stretched with human skin and tailed with *backbones*, fluttering gently in the breeze—a portrait of **destruction**.

Still within the compass of the key words of VOL. 1, notice how the same word can have two meanings—and kanji—and hence require different stories built up of the same primitive phonemes:

塩 ▶ **salt** ▷ しお

潮 ▶ **tide** ▷ しお

The common phonemes are し (*die*) and お (*tail*). If we were obliged to proceed from the word to the meaning we would be in trouble, but since we are learning the readings of the kanji, the duplication does not pose any great problem. In the first case, you may picture **salt** in its function as a ritual purifier in a *sumō* bout in which one of the wrestlers has been done in. The surviving wrestler takes out a **salt**-shaker and sprinkles the *tail* of a horse, which begins to wave its rear parts over the *dead* wrestler... And for the second, picture a morning **tide** of *tails* washing ashore, a *death* omen to the surrounding inhabitants.

Lastly, we need to see how an entry in the SYLLABARY OF PRIMITIVE PHONEMES may also be used by itself to represent a word composed of only that sound (minus the inflection). Here is an example:

張る ▶ **to lengthen** ▷ はる

は, we recall from an earlier example, means *tooth*. Imagine that you, like beavers and rats and squirrels, have *teeth* that grow beyond the size of your mouth so that you must constantly be gnawing at something to keep them short. And so you chew away at your desk, your bed, the living room furniture, and most of your house, until one bright morning you discover the cause: you had been using a special toothpaste called **Lengthen** which you mistakenly supposed was intended to give your teeth a “longer life.”

We may conclude this introduction to the use of the SYLLABARY OF PRIMARY PHONEMES with a drill of *kun-yomi*. You should have no trouble in any of them if you take your time.

鬼 ▶ **devil** ▷ おに

浮く ▶ **float** ▷ うく

乏しい ▶ **destitute** ▷ とぼしい

株 ▶ **stocks** ▷ かぶ

- 乏 R-1253  
 貌 R-2196  
 貿 R-1233  
 膨 R-2105  
 剖 R-2193  
 妄 R-2341  
 北 R-612  
 僕 R-363  
 撲 R-364  
 牧 R-1834  
 墨 R-1857  
 目 R-2070  
 睦 R-2290  
 朴 R-2376  
 木 R-2322  
 発 R-1671  
 法 R-2407  
 没 R-2269  
 勃 R-2197  
 坊 R-1427  
 本 R-1082  
 反 R-1331  
 奔 R-2066  
 翻 R-2209  
 盆 R-1347  
 凡 R-2104  
 煩 R-2394
- 【マ】**  
 麻 R-137  
 摩 R-138  
 磨 R-139  
 魔 R-140  
 妹 R-1281  
 味 R-1282  
 每 R-1129  
 枚 R-1187  
 埋 R-2134  
 米 R-2166  
 膜 R-772  
 幕 R-773  
 末 R-310  
 沫 R-311  
 抹 R-312  
 慢 R-463  
 漫 R-464
- 万 R-1068  
 満 R-1766
- 【ミ】**  
 ミ 美 R-45  
 未 R-1278  
 味 R-1279  
 魅 R-1280  
 眉 R-2202  
 密 R-555  
 蜜 R-556  
 脈 R-613  
 冥 R-2297  
 妙 R-1533  
 明 R-1691  
 名 R-2252  
 命 R-2266  
 ミン 民 R-467  
 眠 R-468
- 【ム】**  
 ム 武 R-22  
 牟 R-41  
 無 R-1219  
 矛 R-1339  
 務 R-1340  
 霧 R-1341  
 夢 R-2206  
 謀 R-2239
- 【メ】**  
 メイ 銘 R-386  
 名 R-385  
 明 R-465  
 盟 R-466  
 命 R-1077  
 迷 R-1679  
 鳴 R-1951  
 冥 R-2298  
 メツ 滅 R-614  
 メン 面 R-369  
 麵 R-370  
 免 R-1213  
 綿 R-2012
- 【モ】**  
 モ 模 R-2141  
 茂 R-2378  
 モウ 毛 R-50  
 耗 R-904  
 亡 R-1283  
 望 R-1284  
 網 R-1287  
 盲 R-1288  
 猛 R-1861  
 妄 R-2092  
 木 R-1075  
 目 R-1225  
 黙 R-1858  
 モチ 勿 R-615  
 モツ 物 R-616  
 モン 文 R-966  
 紋 R-967  
 問 R-1135  
 門 R-1149  
 聞 R-2251
- 【ヤ】**  
 ヤ 冶 R-2299  
 也 R-1398  
 野 R-1630  
 夜 R-1970  
 約 R-1166  
 訳 R-1167  
 薬 R-1176  
 役 R-1705  
 厄 R-1919  
 躍 R-2228  
 疫 R-2272  
 益 R-2391
- 【ユ】**  
 ユ 喻 R-191  
 愉 R-192  
 愉 R-193  
 諭 R-194  
 癒 R-195  
 由 R-1460  
 油 R-1461  
 遊 R-2258  
 ユイ 由 R-2316
- 遺 R-1895  
 唯 R-1969  
 ユウ 勇 R-441  
 湧 R-442  
 憂 R-507  
 優 R-508  
 有 R-1164  
 郵 R-1359  
 由 R-1460  
 裕 R-1614  
 融 R-1797  
 誘 R-1884  
 友 R-1909  
 遊 R-1935  
 雄 R-2059  
 右 R-2074  
 猶 R-2077  
 悠 R-2098  
 幽 R-2229
- 【ヨ】**  
 ヨ 与 R-27  
 予 R-1627  
 預 R-1628  
 余 R-1636  
 譽 R-2018  
 ヨウ 謡 R-501  
 搖 R-502  
 要 R-503  
 腰 R-504  
 容 R-505  
 溶 R-506  
 踊 R-1020  
 曜 R-1071  
 陽 R-1485  
 揚 R-1486  
 瘍 R-1487  
 羊 R-1570  
 洋 R-1571  
 様 R-1572  
 養 R-1573  
 窯 R-1574  
 幼 R-1767  
 用 R-1773  
 葉 R-1979  
 擁 R-2122