



SAKURA サクラ

Smart and studious, Sakura is the brightest of Naruto's classmates, but she's constantly distracted by her crush on Sasuke. Her goal: to win Sasuke's heart!

NARUTO ナルト

When Naruto was born, a destructive fox spirit was imprisoned inside his body. Spurned by the older villagers, he's grown into an attention-seeking trouble-maker. His goal: to become the village's next *Hokage*.

SASUKE サスケ

The top student in Naruto's class, Sasuke comes from the prestigious Uchiha clan. His goal: to get revenge on a mysterious person who wronged him in the past.





Yamanaka Ino 山中いの

Though Ino and Sakura were once close friends, their bitter rivalry for Sasuke's affection has turned them against each other.



Hyuga Neji 日向ネジ

Neji shares many traits with Hinata, including the all-seeing Byakugan eye. But what is their relationship?



Hyuga Hinata 日向ヒナタ

This shy young kunoichi (female ninja) has a monster crush on Naruto.



Gekko Hayate 月光ハヤテ

As the proctor of the third portion of the exam, Hayate has the job of stepping in and stopping any fight where there's a clear winner...to prevent unnecessary bloodshed.

THE STORY SO FAR...

Twelve years ago, a destructive nine-tailed fox spirit attacked the ninja village of Konohagakure. The *Hokage*, or village champion, defeated the fox by sealing its soul into the body of a baby boy. Now that boy, Uzumaki Naruto, has grown up to become a ninja-in-training, learning the art of *ninjutsu* with his classmates Sakura and Sasuke.

Naruto, Sasuke and Sakura (along with six other teams of student ninja) have moved on to the third portion of the Chūnin (Journeyman Ninja) Selection Exam—a series of no-holds-barred, one-on-one bouts that begin with a set of preliminary matches. As the preliminaries continue, Sakura faces off against her rival, Ino! Although strategic taunting by Sakura seems to have sent her opponent over the edge, Ino craftily distracts Sakura long enough to trap her into succumbing to the Mind Transfer Technique (Shintenshin no Jutsu), Ino's signature move!

With Sakura under her control, Ino has all but won the match...or has she?!