

JAPANESE KANJI MADE EASY

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Michael L. Kluemper

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The Tuttle Story: “Books to Span the East and West”

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

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KANJI EXPLAINED

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Michael L. Kluemper

THE KANA: ひらがな HIRAGANA



A

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



I

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



U

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



E

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



O

Ո can be pictured as an Oval planet in orbit.



KA

Կ looks like a KArate kick.



KI

Ք looks like a KEY turning in a lock.



KU

↖ is the mouth of a PaKUman.



KE

↖ is like the KE in basKEt.



KO

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



SA

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



SHI

し is like a fiSHInG hook.



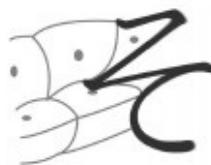
SU

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



SE

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



SO

そ - is shaped like the end of a SOfa.



TA

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



CHI

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



TSU

つ is like a long TSUnami.



TE

て is like a TEble (table).



TO

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



NA

な is a person about to tie a kNOT.



NI

に is like the side view of a KNEE.



NU

ぬ is like two long NOOdles floating in soup.



NE

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



NO

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



HA

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



HI

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



FU

ふ is like a person sneezing saying aaaaFU.



HE

へ is one HEck of a hill.



HO

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



MA

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



MI

み looks like the letter "m" and sounds like the ME in "MEdium".



MU

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



ME

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



MO

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



YA

Ѱ is a hippo making a large Yawn.



YU

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



YO

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



RA

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



RI

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



RU

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



RE

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



RO

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



WA

わ is shaped somewhat like an ancient haniWA horse sculpture.



O

を is shaped like a man jumping Over an obstacle.



N

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

Kana Combinations (hiragana • katakana)

KYA

きや・キヤ

KYU

きゅ・キュ

KYO

きょ・キヨ

SHA

しゃ・シャ

SHU

しゅ・シュ

SHO

しょ・ショ

CHA

ちや・チャ

CHU

ちゅ・チュ

CHO

ちょ・チョ

NYA
に ゃ • ニ ゃ

NYU
に ゅ • ニ ゅ

NYO
に ょ • ニ ょ

HYA
ひ ゃ • ヒ ゃ

HYU
ひ ゅ • ヒ ゅ

HYO
ひ ょ • ヒ ょ

MYA
み ゃ • ミ ゃ

MYU
み ゅ • ミ ゅ

MYO
み ょ • ミ ょ

RYA
り ゃ • リ ゃ

RYU
り ゅ • リ ゅ

RYO
り ょ • リ ょ

カタカナ **KATAKANA**



A

ア looks like a dArt.



I

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



U

宀 is like a tool that could be used to loosen a nut.



E

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



O

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



KA

力 wields lots of power just like the kanji 力.



KI

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



KU

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



KE

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



KO

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



SA

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



SHI

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



SU

ク is for the SUit that goes with this bowtie.



SE

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



SO

ヽ is like a SOft cushion.



TA

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



CHI

チ is like a CHEERleader performing.



TSU

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



TE

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



TO

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



NA

女 is like a nice (NAice) girl in the middle of a curtsey.



NI

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



NU

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



NE

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



NO

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



HA

↗ is the same as the kanji for 8, Hachi, and has the same pronunciation as its first syllable.



HI

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



FU

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



HE

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



HO

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



MA

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



MI

☰ is three things lined up which would be counted in Japanese as MIttsu (三つ).



MU

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

MEXICO

ME

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



MO

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



YA

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



YU

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



YO

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



RA

Λ is the RA in zebRA.



RI

り is the same in katakana as in hiragana!



RU

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



RE

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

be pulled.



RO

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



WA

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



O

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



N

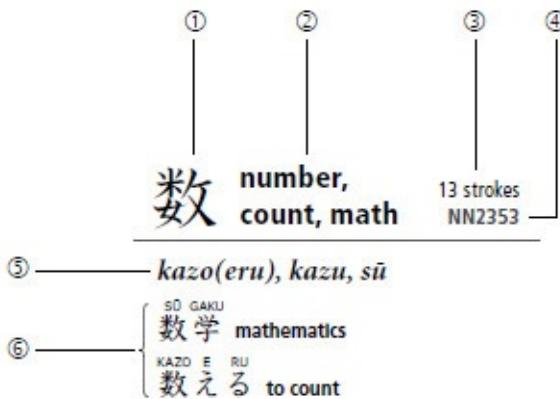
⊜ is like the crisscross rope pattern of an ancient JomoN period

pot.

Kana Notes

- The hiragana ょ and katakana ヲ, when following kana that end in "o" or "u" sounds, serve to lengthen the preceding vowel. In katakana, the symbol ゅ is used to lengthen any vowel that precedes it.
- A small り (hiragana) or リ (katakana) serves to double the consonant that follows.
- The symbol も changes unvoiced sounds to voiced sounds: *k* becomes *g*; *s* becomes *z*; *t* becomes *d*; and *h* becomes *b*.
- The symbol る changes *ha*, *hi*, *fu*, *he*, and *ho* sounds to *pa*, *pi*, *pu*, *pe*, and *po*.

A GUIDE TO THE ILLUSTRATIONS



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

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

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

CHAPTER 1

NUMBERS and COLORS

数

number,
count, math

13 strokes
NN2353

kazo(eru), kazu, sū

SŪ GAKU
数 学 mathematics

KAZO E RU
数 え る to count



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

色 color

6 strokes
NN4956

iro, shiki

KI IRO
黃 色 yellow

KE SHIKI
景 色 scenery



A snake has patterns of COLOR and a barbed tongue.

Numbers 数

— one

1 stroke
NN0001

hito(tsu), ichi

ICHI
— **one**

HITO TSU
— つ **one [thing]**



ONE stroke for ONE.

二

two

2 strokes

NN0072

futa(tsu), ni

NI

二 two

FUTA TSU

二 つ two [things]



TWO strokes for TWO.

三

three

3 strokes
NN0008

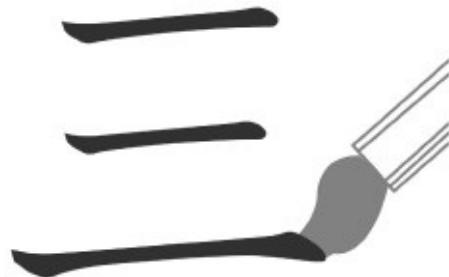
mi(tsu), san

SAN

三 three

MI TSU

三 つ three [things]



THREE strokes for THREE.

四

four

yo(tsu), yon, shi

5 strokes

NN0938

YON

四 four

YO TSU

四 つ four [things]



four [things]

五

five

4 strokes
NN0077

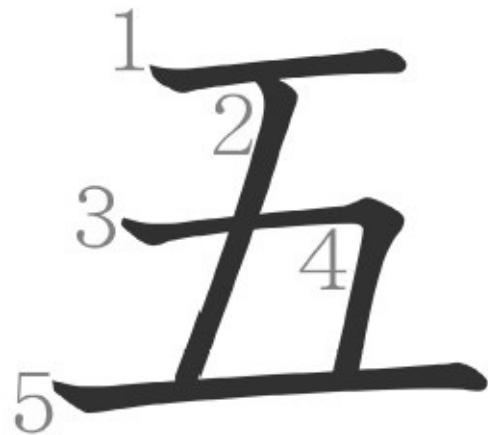
itsu(tsu), go

GO

五 five

ITSU TSU

五 つ five [things]



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

六

six

4 stroke
NN0371

mu(tsu), roku

ROKU

六 six

MU TSU

六 つ six [thing]

8-2=6
八 六
六 六

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

八

eight

ya(tsu), hachi

2 stroke

NN0369

HACHI

八 eight

YA TSU

八 つ eight [thing]



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

七

seven

2 stroke
NN0003

nana, nana(tsu), shichi

NANA

七 seven

NANA TSU

七 つ seven [thing]



SEVEN includes elements of the two sounds of its name,

SHI CHI
し and ち

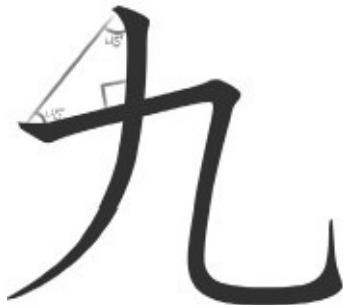
九
nine

2 stroke
NN0057

kokono(tsu), kyū

KYŪ
九 nine

KOKONO TSU
九 つ nine [thing]



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

十

ten

10 stroke
NN0598

tō, jū

JŪ

十 ten

TŌ KA

十 日 the tenth [day of the month]



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

百

hundred

6 stroke
NN3864

hyaku

HYAKU

百

hundred



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

千

thousand

chi, sen

3 stroke

NN0599

SEN

千 thousand

CHI BA KEN

千 葉 県 Chiba Prefecture



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

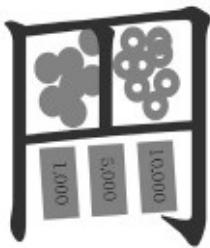
円

yen, circle

4 stroke
NN0385

maru(i), en

HYAKU EN
百 円 100 yen



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

万

ten thousand

3 stroke
NN0007

man, ban

ICHI MAN

一 万 ten thousand

BAN ZEN

万 全 perfection



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

半 half, middle

5 stroke
NN0608

naka(ba), han

HAN BUN
半 分 half

SAN JI HAN
三 時 半 half past three o'clock

NAKA BA SU GI
半 ば 過 ぎ beyond the middle



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

発

departure, emit, start from

9 stroke

NN3860

ha(tsu), hotsu, hatsu

SHUP PATSU

出 発 departure

HAP PYŌ

発 表 announcement, publication

BAKU HATSU

爆 発 explosion, eruption



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

卒

graduate, soldier, private

8 stroke

NN0615

sotsu

SOTSU GYŌ

卒 業 graduation

CHŪ SOTSU

中 卒 junior high graduate



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

单

simple, one, single, merely

9 stroke

NN0620

tan

KAN TAN

簡 单 simple

TAN GO

单 語 vocabulary



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

協

co-, cooperation

8 stroke

NN0617

kyō

KYŌ RYOKU

協 力 cooperation, collaboration

KYŌ KAI

協 会 association, society, organization



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

博

Dr., PhD, wide knowledge

12 stroke
NN0621

haku

HAKA SE
博 士 doctorate, PhD, learned person

HAKU BUTSU KAN
博 物 館 museum



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

Colors 色

黒

black

11 strokes
NN7052

kuro, koku

KURO I
黒 い black

KOKU BAN
黒 板 blackboard



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

白

white

5 strokes
NN3863

shiro, haku, byaku

SHIRO I

白 い white

HAKU CHŌ

白 鳥 swan

BYAKU YA

白 夜 the midnight sun



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

的

bull's eye, mark, adjective ending

8 stroke

NN3867

mato, teki

MOKU TEKI

目 的 purpose, goal

NI HON TEKI

日 本 的 typically Japanese

MATO

的 mark, target



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

皆

all, everything

9 strokes

NN3869

mina, minna, kai

MINA SA N

皆 さ ん all

MINNA

皆 all, everyone

KAI MOKU

皆 目 entirely



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

皇

emperor

9 strokes
NN3870

kō, ō

KŌ KYO
皇 居 Imperial Palace

KYŌ KŌ
教 皇 Pope

HŌ Ō
法 皇 Pope



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

赤 red

7 strokes
NN5840

aka, seki, shaku

AKA I
赤 い red

SEKI JŪ JI
赤 十 字 Red Cross



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

綠 green

14 strokes
NN4528

midori, ryoku

MIDORI
綠 green

SHIN RYOKU
新 緑 new green leaves



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

青

blue, green

8 strokes

NN6557

ao, sei

AO I

青 い blue

SEI SHUN

青 春 youth



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

変

unusual, change, strange

9 strokes

NN0001

ka(waru), hen

TAI HEN

大 変 very, greatly

HEN KŌ

変 更 change, modification

KA WA RU

変 わ る to be changed



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

黄

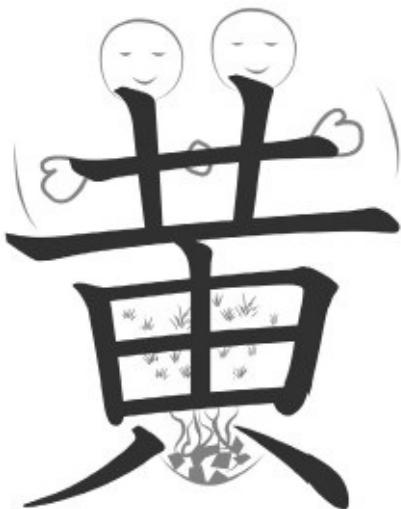
yellow

11 strokes
NN7045

ki, ō, kō

KI IRO
黃 色 yellow, amber

I ō
硫 黃 sulphur



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

橙

bitter orange

16 strokes

NN2877

daidai, tō

DAIDAI

橙 bitter orange

TŌ SEKI SHOKU

橙 赤 色 orange-red, fire red



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

紫

purple, violet

12 strokes
NN4486

murasaki, shi

MURASAKI

紫

purple

SHI GAI

SHI 外 ultraviolet



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

灰

ashes, cremate

6 strokes

NN3396

hai, kai

HAI IRO

灰 色 grey, ash color

HAI NI NA RU

灰 に な る to be cremated



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

紅

crimson, deep red

9 strokes
NN4441

beni, kurenai, kō, ku

KŌ CHA
紅 茶 black tea

KUCHI BENI
口 紅 lipstick

KARAKU RENAI
唐 紅 crimson



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

茶 tea

9 strokes
NN5033

cha, sa

O CHA
お 茶 tea

SA DŌ
茶 道 tea ceremony



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

CHAPTER 2

PERSON

人

person, man

2 strokes
NN0099

hito, jin, nin

NI HON JIN
日 本 人 Japanese person

NANI JIN
何 人 What nationality (is s/he)?



A PERSON stands on two legs.

Person 人, 亼

仙

hermit, wizard

5 strokes
NN0120

sen

SEN DAI
仙 台 **Sendai** [city]

SUI SEN
水 仙 **daffodil**



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

仕

attend, serve (gentleman, samurai)

5 strokes

NN0123

tsuka(eru), shi

SHI GOTO

仕 事 job

SHI KATA

仕 方 way of doing



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

佐

assistant, help

7 strokes
NN0155

sa

HO SA

補 佐 aid, help

SA TŌ

佐 藤 Sato [surname]



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

侍

waiter, samurai, serve

8 strokes

NN0192

samurai, ji

SAMURAI

侍 samurai

JI SU RU

侍 す る to serve



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

仲

go-between, relationship

6 strokes

NN0140

naka, chū

NAKA YO SHI

仲 良 し close friend

CHŪ NIN

仲 人 match maker



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

佑

help, assist

7 strokes
NN0150

yū, u

TEN YŪ
天 佑 divine aid

YŪ SUKE
佑 介 Yusuke [male name]



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

住 dwell, reside

7 strokes
NN0164

su(mu), jū

SU MU
住 む to reside

JŪ TAKU
住 宅 residence, housing



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

付

attach, adhere

5 strokes

NN0124

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

TSU KE RU

付 け る to attach

HI ZUKE

日 付 date

FU SEN

付 箋 sticky-note, post-it



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

休

rest

6 strokes
NN0142

yasu(mu), kyū

YASU MU
休 む to rest

KYŪ JITSU
休 日 day off



A person can REST against a tree (木).

供 accompany

8 strokes
NN0195

sona(eru), tomo, kyō, ku

KO DOMO
子 供 child

KYŌ SHUTSU
供 出 delivery



A third person ACCOMPANIES his two friends at table.

作 make, build

7 strokes
NN0167

tsuku(ru), saku, sa

TSUKU RU
作 る to make

SAKU BUN
作 文 writing [essay, etc.], composition

SA GYŌ
作 業 operation, work



This man will MAKE finishing touches on his new bookcase.

伸

expand, stretch, increase

7 strokes

NN0163

no(basu), shin

NO BA SU

伸 ば す to lengthen

SHIN SHUKU

伸 縮 elastic



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

伝
transmit

6 strokes
NN0141

tsuta(eru), den

TSUTA E RU
伝 え る to transmit

TE TSUDA U
手 伝 う to lend a hand

DEN SETSU
伝 説 legend, folklore



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

使
use

8 strokes
NN0196

tsuka(u), shi

TSUKA U
使 う to use

SHI YŌ
使 用 utilization, application



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

借 borrow, rent

10 strokes
NN0259

ka(riru), sha

KA RI RU
借 り る to rent

SHAK KIN
借 金 debt



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

入

enter, insert

2 strokes

NN0366

i(reru), hai(ru), nyū

HAI RU

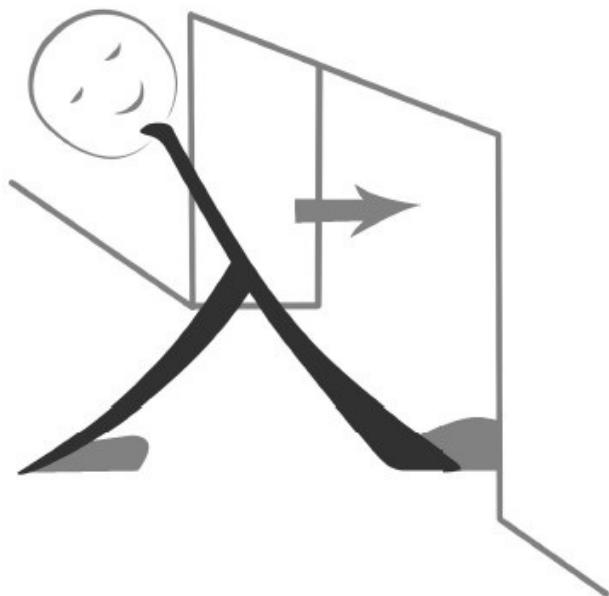
入 る to go in

I RE RU

入 れ る to put in

NYŪ GAKU SHIKI

入 学 式 school entrance ceremony



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

内

inside, within, between, house, home

4 strokes
NN0386

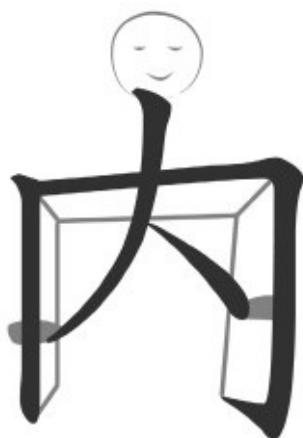
uchi, nai

UCH

内 within, house, home

AN NAI

案 内 information, to guide



A person (人) hangs INSIDE an enclosure.

今

now

4 strokes

NN0112

ima, kon, kin

IMA

今 now

KON SHŪ

今 週 this week



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

会

meeting, meet, association, join

6 strokes

NN0143

a(u), kai, e

KAI SHA

会 社 company

A U

会 う to meet

SHA KAI

社 会 social studies



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

傘

umbrella

12 strokes
NN0283

kasa, san

KASA

傘

umbrella

SAN KA

傘

下 affiliated



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

全 all, entire

matta(ku), sube(te), zen

6 strokes
NN0145

ZEN BU
全 部 all, everything

SUBE TE
全 て all, everything

MAT TAKU
全 < really, truly



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

化

change, take the form of, -ization

4 strokes

NN0580

ba(keru), ka, ke

BUN KA

文 化 culture, civilization

BA KE RU

化 け る to take the form of

O BA KE

お 化 け goblin, ghost



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

何

what

7 strokes
NN0169

nan, nani, ka

NAN

何 or

NANI

何 what



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

仮

temporary, assumed (name), informal

6 strokes

NN0144

kari, ka

KA SŌ

仮 想 virtual

KARI NI

仮 に temporarily



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

例

example

8 strokes
NN0193

tato(eru), rei

TATO E BA

例 え ば for example

REI

例 example



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

便 convenience

9 strokes
NN0219

tayo(ri), ben, bin

BEN RI
便 利 convenient

YŪ BIN
郵 便 mail



A tall mailbox is a CONVENIENCE for a tall person.

傷

wound, injure, pain

13 strokes

NN0301

kizu, ita(mu), shō

SHŌ SHIN

傷 心 heartbreak

FU SHŌ

負 傷 wound

ITA MU

傷 む to be damaged, to go bad



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

俵

bag, bale, sack

10 strokes
NN0243

tawara, hyō

HYŌ SŪ

俵 数 number of bales

KOMED AWARA

米 俵 bag of rice



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

個

individual, counter for articles

10 strokes

NN0258

ko

DŌ NA TSU NI KO
ドー ナ ツ ニ ク　two doughnuts

KO JIN
個 人 private person, individual



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

值 price, cost, value

10 strokes
NN0257

ne, atai, chi

KA CHI
価 値 value

NE DAN
值 段 price

ATAI SU RU
值 す る to be worth, to deserve



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

倍

double, twice, times

10 strokes
NN0252

bai

NI BAI

二 倍 twice

BAI SŪ

倍 数 multiple



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

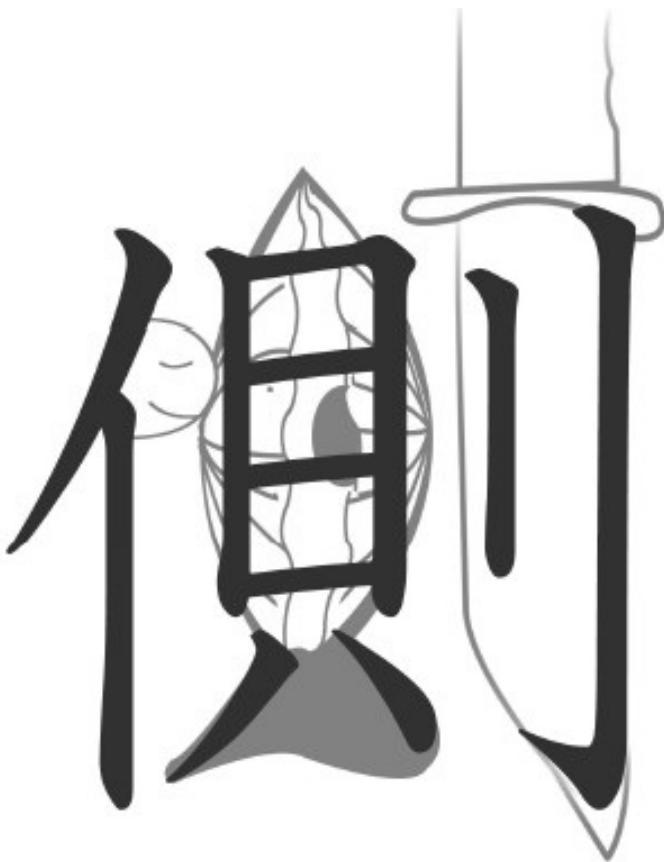
側 side

11 strokes
NN0275

gawa, soba, soku

MIGI GAWA
右 側 right [hand] side

SOKU MEN
側 面 side, dimension, profile



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

他

other, another

5 strokes

NN0122

hoka, ta

HOKA NI

他 に **in addition, besides**

TA NIN

他 人 **another person, stranger**



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

停

halt, stopping

11 strokes
NN0273

tei

TEI SHI
停 止 interruption, ban

BA SU TEI
バ ス 停 bus stop



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

位

rank, about, some

7 strokes

NN0162

kurai, gurai, i

DO RE KURAI

ど れ 位 how long/far/much

ICHI I

一 位 first [ranking]



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

件

affair, case, matter

6 strokes

NN0130

ken

KEN SŪ

件 数 number [of things]

JI KEN

事 件 affair



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

介

mediate, concern oneself with

4 strokes

NN0108

kai

JI KO SHŌ KAI
自 己 紹 介 self-introduction

KAI NYŪ
介 入 intervention



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

倉

warehouse, cellar

10 strokes

NN0255

kura, sō

KURA

倉 storehouse

SŌ KO

倉 庫 storehouse, warehouse

KOME GURA

米 倉 rice granary



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

俳

haiku, actor

10 strokes
NN0254

hai

HAI YŪ

俳 優 actor

HAI JIN

俳 人 haiku poet



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

悲
grieve, sad

12 strokes
NN1897

kana(shii), hi

KANA SHI I
悲 し い sad

HI GEKI
悲劇 tragedy, disaster



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

非

mistake, negative, non-

8 strokes

NN6563

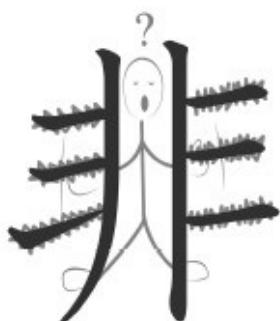
ara(zu), hi

HI JŌ GUCHI

非 常 口 emergency exit

ARA ZU

非 ず it is not so, never mind



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

保

protect, guarantee, keep

9 strokes

NN0222

tamo(tsu), ho

HO KEN

保 險 insurance

HEI WA O TAMO TSU

平 和 を 保 つ to maintain [preserve] peace



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

係

person in charge, duty

9 strokes

NN0217

kaka(ru), kakari, kei

KAKARI CHŌ

係 長 manager

KAN KEI

関 係 relation



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

低

short, lower, humble

7 strokes

NN0166

hiku(i), tei

SE GA HIKU I
背 が 低 い one

SAI TEI
最 低 least, lowest, worst



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

修

discipline, study, master, conduct oneself
well

10 strokes
NN0260

osa(meru), shū

SHŪ RI

修 理 repairing

OSA ME RU

修 め る to conduct oneself



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

仁

virtue, charity

4 strokes

NN0110

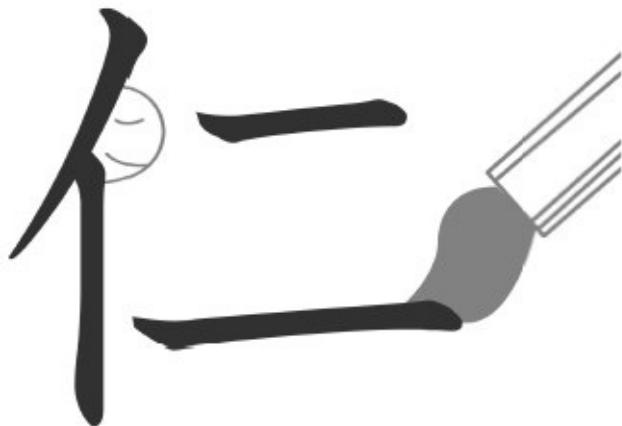
jin, ni, nin

JIN GI

仁 義 humanity and justice

NI Ō

仁 王 Deva King guardian deities



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

病 ill, sick

ya(mu), byō, hei

10 strokes
NN3798

BYŌ KI
病 気 ill, sick

YA MI TSU KI
病 み 付 き addicted to

RYŪ KŌ BYŌ
流 行 痘 epidemic



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

信

faith, truth, trust

9 strokes
NN0221

shin

SHIN JI RU
信 じ る to believe

SHIN GO
信 号 traffic light



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

氣

spirit, atmosphere, mood

6 strokes

NN3025

ki, ke

DEN KI

電 氣 electricity, [electric] light

NIN KI

人 氣 popular



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

以

by means of, because

5 strokes

NN0109

mot(te), mochi(iru), i

I JŌ

以 上 more than

MAE MOT TE

前 以 て in advance, beforehand



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

似

resemble, imitate

7 strokes

NN0138

ni(ru), ji

NI TE I RU

似 て い い resembling

RUI JI HIN

類 似 品 imitation, similar articles



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

Good 良

良

good, pleasing, skilled

7 strokes

NN4954

yo(i), i(i), ryō

YO I I I
良 い， 良 い **good**

SAI RYŌ
最 良 **the best, ideal**



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

食

eat, food

9 strokes

NN6674

ku(u), ta(beru), shoku

KU U

食 う to eat, to make a living

TA BE RU

食 べ る to eat

SHOKU JI

食 事 meal



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

根

root, radical

10 strokes

NN2670

ne, kon

YA NE

屋 根 roof

KON KYO

根 抛 basis, foundation

KON JŌ

根 性 temper, nature



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

飯

meal, boiled rice

12 strokes
NN6679

meshi, han

GO HAN
ご 飯 cooked rice, meal

TA DA MESHİ
夕 ダ 飯 free meal



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

飲

drink, take (medicine)

12 strokes

NN6680

no(mu), in

NO MU

飲 む to drink, to take medicine

IN SHOKU KIN SHI

飲 食 禁 止 no food or drink allowed



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

養

foster, bring up, develop

15 strokes

NN6691

yashina(*u*), *yō*

YASHINA U

養 う to rear, to maintain

EI YŌ

栄 養 nutrition, nourishment



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

酒

sake, alcohol

10 strokes
NN6160

sake, shu

SAKE

酒 sake, alcohol

NI HON SHU

日本酒 Japanese sake



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

節

season, period, occasion, verse, melody

13 strokes

NN4299

fushi, setsu

KI SETSU

季 節 season

FUSHI ME

節 目 turning point



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

Family 家族

家

house, home

10 strokes
NN1337

ie, ya, uchi, ka, ke

IE

家 house

YA NUSHI

家 主 landlord

UCHI

家 home

KA ZOKU

家 族 family

NAKAGAWA KE

中川 家 the Nakagawa household



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

父

father

4 strokes

NN3516

chichi, fu, tō

CHICHI

父 [my] father

O TŌ SA N
お 父 さ ん **father**



The FATHER has big broad shoulders and a wide stance.

族

tribe, family

11 strokes
NN2399

zoku

KA ZOKU

家 族

family

MIN ZOKU

民 族

ethnic group, people

BU ZOKU

部 族

tribe, clan



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

母

mother

5 strokes
NN3005

haha, bo, kā

HAHA

母 [my] mother

O KĀ SA N
お 母 さ ん mother



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

兄 older brother

5 strokes
NN0344

ani, kei, kyō, nii

ANI

兄 my older brother

O NII SA N

お 兄 さ ん the older brother of another

KYŌ DAI

兄 弟 siblings, brothers



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

弟 younger brother

7 strokes
NN1685

otōto, dai, tei, de

OTŌTO
弟 my younger brother

DE SHI
弟子 pupil



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

婚

marriage

11 strokes
NN1242

kon

KE KKON

結 婚 marriage

RI KON

離 婚 divorce



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

税

tax, duty

12 strokes
NN4146

zei

ZEIKIN

税金 tax

DATSUZEI

脱税 tax evasion



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

妹 younger sister

8 strokes
NN1199

imōto, mai

IMŌTO
妹 my younger sister

SHI MAI
姉 妹 sisters



My YOUNGER SISTER has a tree house.

夫 husband

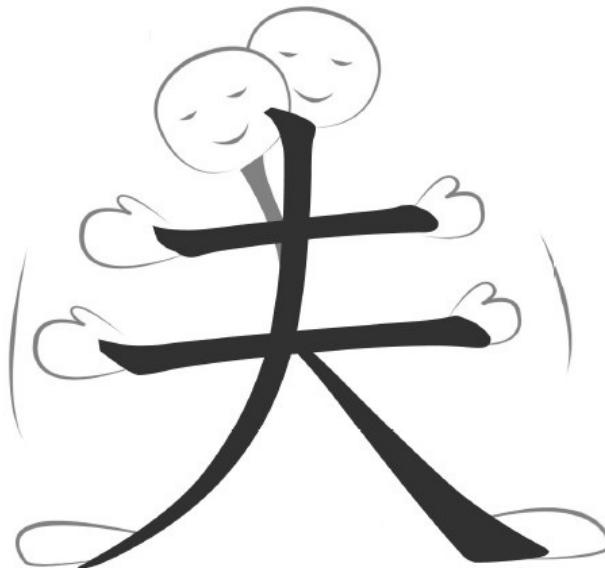
4 strokes
NN1136

otto, fū, bu

FŪ FU
夫 婦 married couple

MOTO OTTO
元 夫 ex-husband

DAI JŌ JŌ
大 丈 夫 all right



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

男 male

7 strokes
NN3731

otoko, dan, nan

OTOKO
男 male

OTOKO NO KO
男 の 子 boy

DANSEI
男性 male



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

嫁

marry into, bride

13 strokes
NN1256

yome, totsu(gu), ka

O YOME SA N
お 嫁 さん bride

TEN KA
転 嫁 shifting [blame, costs], remarriage



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

婦

lady, woman, wife, bride

11 strokes
NN1243

fu

FŪ FU
夫 婦 married couple, spouse

SHU FU
主 婦 homemaker



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

女

female

3 strokes
NN1173

onna, me, jo, nyō, nyō

ONNA NO HITO
女 の 人 woman

KANO JO
彼 女 her, she

Ō JO
王 女 princess



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

姑

mother-in-law

7 strokes
NN1194

shūtome, ko

SHŪTOME

姑

mother-in-law

KO SOKU

姑 息

unfair, underhanded



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

孫

grandchild, descendant

10 strokes
NN1296

mago, son

MAGO

孫

grandchild

SHI SON

子

孫 descendant, offspring



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

氏

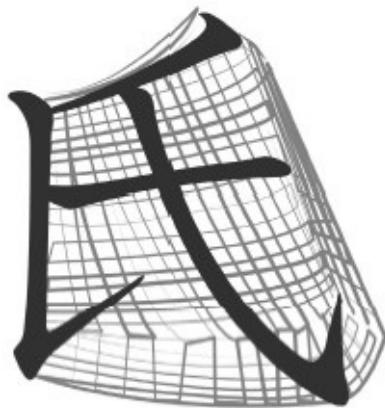
surname, clan

4 strokes
NN3020

uji, shi

UJI BITO
氏 人 clan member

SHI MEI
氏 名 full name



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

娘

daughter, girl

10 strokes
NN1230

musume

MUSUME

娘

daughter

HAKO I RI MUSUME

箱 入 里 娘

girl who has led a sheltered life



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

民

people, nation, subject

5 strokes
NN3021

tami, min

MIN ZOKU

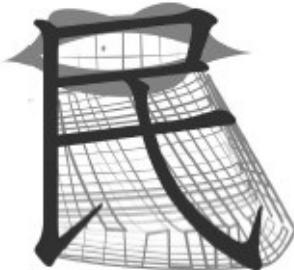
民 族

people, ethnic group

NAN MIN

難 民

refugee



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

Woman 女 and Child 子

好

fond of, like

6 strokes
NN1180

kono(mu), su(ku), kō

KONO MU
好 む to prefer

SU KI
好 き liking, fondness

KŌ BUTSU
好 物 favorite food



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

共

together, both, all

6 strokes

NN0373

tomo, kyō

KYŌ TSŪ

共 通

commonness, community

RYŌ HŌ TOMO

両 方 共

the two, both



Friends stand TOGETHER atop a volcano.

仔

offspring

5 strokes

NN0119

ko, shi

KO INU

仔 犬 puppy [also written as 子犬]



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

子

child

3 strokes

NN1281

ko, shi, su

KO DOMO

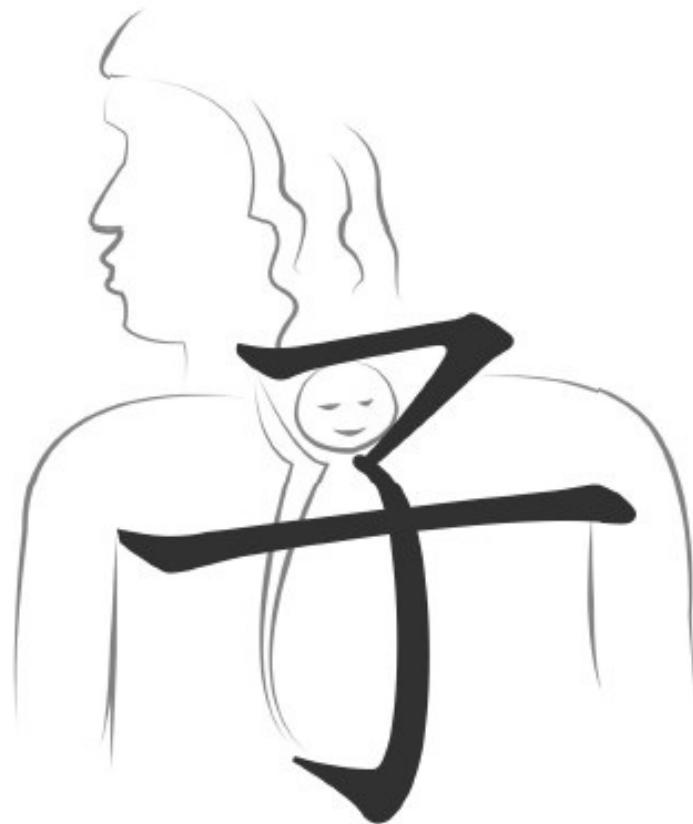
子 供 child

BŌ SHI

帽 子 hat, cap

YŌ SU

様 子 appearance, condition



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

妻

wife, spouse

8 strokes
NN1200

tsuma, sai

TSUMA

妻 wife

GO SAI

後 妻 second wife



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

委

committee, entrust to

8 strokes

NN1204

yuda(neru), i

I IN KAI

委員会 committee, commission

KYŌ IKU I IN KAI

教育委員会 board of education

YUDA NE RU

委ねる entrust to



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

姿

figure, shape, form

9 strokes
NN1216

sugata, shi

SHI SEI

姿 勢 attitude, posture

OTOKO SUGATA

男 姿 man's appearance



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

始

commence, begin

8 strokes

NN1203

haji(meru), shi

HAJI ME RU

始 め る to initiate, to begin

KAI SHI

開 始 start, beginning



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

姫
princess

10 strokes
NN1217

hime, ki

HIME JI SHI
姫 路 市 Himeji City

SHIRA YUKI HIME
白 雪 姫 Snow White

BI KI
美 姫 beautiful maiden



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

臣

retainer, subject, minister

7 strokes

NN4894

shin, jin

DAI JIN

大 臣 cabinet minister



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

要
need, key point

9 strokes
NN5515

kaname, i(ru), yō

HITSU YŌ
必 要 necessary, essential

I RU
要 る to need, to want

YŌ ZU
要 図 rough sketch



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

存

suppose, be aware of, believe

6 strokes

NN1284

son, zon

HO ZON

保 存 conservation, preservation

SON ZAI

存 在 existence, being



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

孝

filial piety, respect for elders

7 strokes

NN1289

kō

KŌ KŌ

孝 行 filial piety

OYA FU KŌ

親 不 孝 undutiful to one's parents



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

字

character, letter, section of village

6 strokes

NN1285

aza, ji

KAN JI

漢 字 Chinese character

MO JI

文 字 letter [of alphabet]

NUMA DATE AZA

沼 館 字 section of [the town of] Numadate



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

季

season

8 strokes
NN1292

ki

KI SETSU

季 節 season

SHI KI

四 季 four seasons



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

学
study, learning

8 strokes
NN1294

mana(bu), gaku

MANA BU
学 ふ to learn

GAK KŌ
学 校 school



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

教

teach, faith, doctrine

11 strokes

NN2345

oshi(eru), kyō

OSHI E RU

教 え る to teach

KYŌ KA SHO

教 科 書 textbook



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

營

occupation, perform, conduct (business)

12 strokes

NN0857

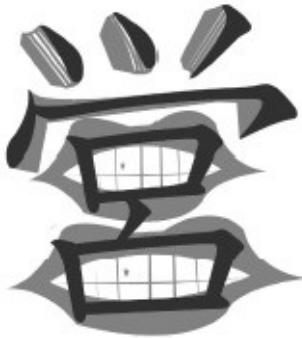
itona(mu), ei

EI GYŌ

營 業 business, trade

ITONA MU

營 む to run a business, to carry on [ceremony]



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

Man on the Move 行

徑

diameter, path, method

8 strokes

NN1730

kei

KEI

徑 diameter

HAN KEI

半 徑 radius



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

役

service, role, duty, drafted labor

7 strokes

NN1726

yaku, eki

YAKU NI TA TSU
役 に 立 つ to be helpful

SHI EKI
使 役 employing, using



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

往

journey, chase away, let go, going, travel

8 strokes

NN1733

ō

ō FUKU

往 復 round-trip



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

律

rhythm, law, regulation, control

9 strokes

NN1740

ritsu, richi

HŌ RITSU
法 律 law



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

待

wait, depend on

9 strokes

NN1741

ma(tsu), ma(chi), tai

MA TSU

待 つ to wait

MA CHI

待 ち waiting

SHŌ TAI

招 待 invitation



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

得
gain, can

11 strokes
NN1755

e(ru), u(ru), toku

A RI E NA I
あ り 得 な い **unable to...**

U RU
得 る **to be able to...**

TOKU I
得 意 **one's strong point**



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

術

art, technique, skill

11 strokes

NN1754

jutsu

GEI JUTSU

芸 術

the arts

BI JUTSU

美 術

fine art



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

彼 he, that, the

8 strokes
NN1732

kare, kano, hi

KARE
彼 he, him

KANO JO
彼 女 she, her

HI GAN
彼 岸 equinox



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

徊

wandering

9 strokes
NN1738

samayo(u), kai

HAI KAI

徘徊 **loitering, roaming**

HŌ KAI

彷徊 **walking around aimlessly**



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

後

behind, back, later

9 strokes

NN1742

nochi, ushi(ro), ato, go, kō

NOCHI HO DO

後 ほ ど after this

USHI RO

後 ろ back, behind

ATO

後 after

GO GO

午 後 p.m.



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

徳

ethics, virtue

14 strokes

NN1767

toku

BI TOKU

美德 virtue

DŌ TOKU

道徳 morals



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

従

accompany, obey, submit to, comply

10 strokes

NN1745

shitaga(u), jū

SHITAGA U

従 う to abide [by rules]

FUKU JŪ

服 従 obedience, submission



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

街

boulevard, street, town

12 strokes

NN1759

machi, gai, kai

GAI RO

街 路 highway, main road

MACHI NAKA

街 中 in the city, downtown



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

徒

companions, people, on foot

10 strokes

NN1746

to

TO HO

徒 步 walking, going on foot

KI RI SU TO KYŌ TO

キリスト教徒 Christians

SEI TO

生徒 pupil



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

CHAPTER 3

THE BODY

体
body

7 strokes
NN0165

karada, tai, tei

KARADA
体 body

TAI JŪ
体 重 [body] weight

TEI SAI
体 裁 presentation



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

Self 自

自

oneself, self

6 strokes
NN4900

ji, shi

JI BUN
自 分 **myself, yourself**

JI YŪ
自 由 **freedom, liberty**

SHI ZEN
自 然 **nature**



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

仏

Buddha

4 strokes
NN0111

hotoke, butsu

DAI BUTSU

大 仏

big Buddha [statue]

HOTOKE SAMA

仏

様

the Buddha



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

云

say

4 strokes

NN0074

i(u), un

UN JI

云 爾 such as

UN NUN

云 兮 and so on



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

臭

stinking, ill smelling, odor

9 strokes

NN4901

kusa(i), nio(u), shū

KUSA I

臭 い stinking, smelling

AKU SHŪ

惡 臭 stink, odor

KŌ SHŪ

口 臭 bad breath



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

至

climax, reach, arrive, attain

6 strokes

NN4903

ita(ru), shi

ITA RU

至 る to arrive

GE SHI

夏 至 midsummer



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

身

somebody, person, body

7 strokes

NN5928

mi, shin

SHUS SHIN

出 身 person's origin [town, city]

SHIN CHŌ

身 長 height [of body]



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

公

public, governmental

4 strokes

NN0372

ōyake, kō

KŌ EN

公 園 public park

KŌ KYŌ

公 共 public, community



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

去

gone, past, quit, leave

5 strokes

NN0665

sa(ru), kyo, ko

KA KO

過 去 the past, bygone days

KYO NEN

去 年 last year

HASHI RI SA RU

走 り 去 る to run away



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

參

going, visit

8 strokes

NN0666

mai(ru), san

MAI RU

參 る to visit [shrine or grave]

SAN KA

參 加 participation



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

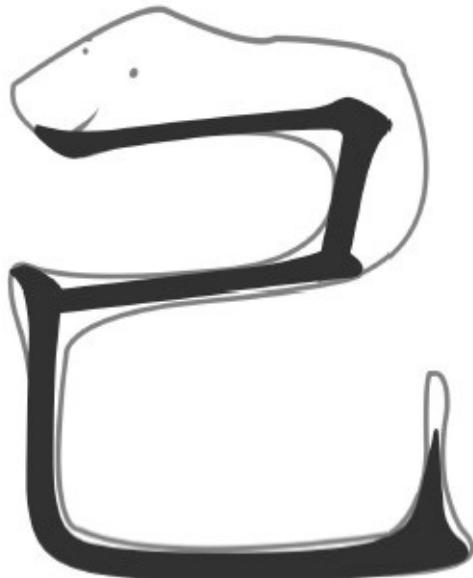
己
self

11 strokes
NN1540

onore, ko, ki

ONORE O SU TE RU
己 を 捨 て る **to rise above oneself**

JI KO
自 己 self, oneself



This snake can turn and look back upon its SELF.

卷

scroll, volume, book, part, roll up, wind up 9 strokes

NN1545

ma(ku), ma(ki), kan

MA KU

卷 く to roll

MA KI ZU SHI

卷 き 寿 司 rolled sushi

IK KAN

一 卷 volume one [book]



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

予

beforehand, previous, myself, I

4 strokes

NN0068

yo

YO TEI

予 定 **plans, arrangement**

YO YAKU

予 約 **reservation**



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

Body 体

指

finger, point to, indicate, put into

9 strokes

NN2152

yubi, sa(su), shi

YUBI

指 finger

SHI DŌ

指 導 leadership



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

舌

tongue, reed, clapper

6 strokes

NN4917

shita, zetsu

SHITA

舌 tongue

NEKO JITA

猫 舌 dislike of very hot food or drink



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

胃

stomach

9 strokes
NN4793

i

I TSŪ
胃 痛 stomachache

I GAN
胃 癌 stomach cancer



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

話 tale, talk

13 strokes
NN5608

hana(su), hanashi, wa

HANA SU
話 す to talk

HANASHI
話 conversation

SHU WA
手 話 sign language



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



heart, spirit, mind

4 strokes

NN1780

kokoro, shin

KOKORO

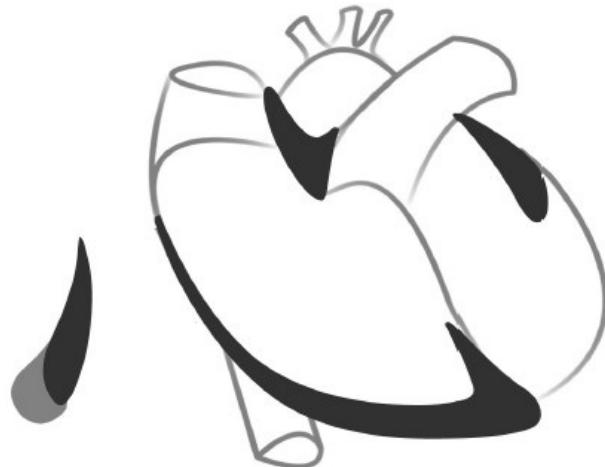


heart, spirit

SHIN PAI



配 worry, concern



This HEART has four SPIRITED lines representing the four chambers.

手 hand

4 strokes
NN2060

te, shu, zu

TE
手 hand

SEN SHU
選 手 player [in a game]

JŌ ZU
上 手 skillful



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

足 leg, foot

7 strokes
NN5856

ashi, ta(riru), soku

ASHI
足 foot, leg

FU SOKU
不 足 insufficiency

TA RI RU
足 り る to be sufficient



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

頭

head, counter for large animals

16 strokes

NN6639

atama, kashira, tō, zu

ATAMA

頭 head

SEN TŌ

先 頭 head, lead



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

背

stature, height, back, defy

9 strokes

NN4794

se, somu(ku), hai

SE GA TAKA I

背 が 高 い tall [person]

HAI KEI

背 景 background, scenery

SOMU KE RU

背 け る to turn one's face away



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

顏

face

18 strokes

NN6648

kao, gan

KAO

顏 face

KŌ GAN

紅 顏 rosy cheeks



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

面

mask, face, surface

9 strokes

NN6566

omo, omote, tsura, men

OMO SHIRO I

面 白 い interesting

MEN

面 mask

GA MEN

画 面 screen [computer, TV]



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



mouth

3 strokes

NN0685

kuchi, kō

KUCHI



mouth

I RI GUCHI

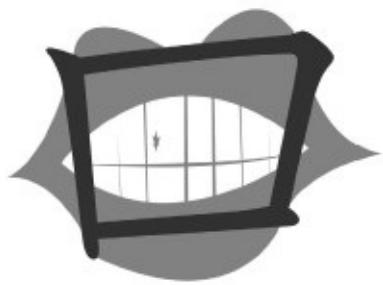


入 り 口 entrance

KA KŌ



火 口 crater



This is an open MOUTH.

目

eye, look, insight

5 strokes
NN3906

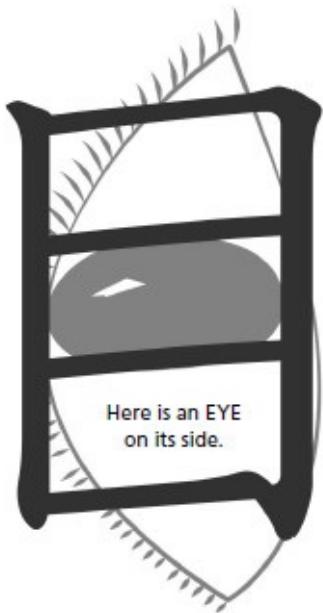
me, ma, moku

ME

目 eye

MOKU TEKI

目的 purpose, goal



Here is an EYE on its side.

眼 eyeball

11 strokes
NN3935

manako, me, gan, gen

ME GANE
眼 鏡 spectacles, glasses

NIKU GAN
肉 眼 the naked eye



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

耳

ear

6 strokes

NN4715

mimi, ji

MIMI

耳 ear

JI BI KA

耳 鼻 科 concerning the ear, nose, and throat



An EAR with a dangling earring.

鼻

nose, snout

14 strokes

NN7082

hana, bi

HANA

鼻 nose, snout

JI BI KA

耳 鼻 科 concerning the ear, nose, and throat



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

首
neck

9 strokes
NN6719

kubi, shu

KUBI
首 neck

SHU TO
首 都 capital



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

頁

page, leaf

9 strokes
NN6614

pēji, ketsu

GO PĒJI

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



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

順

obey, order, turn

12 strokes
NN6619

jun

JUN BAN
順 番 turn [in a line]

KA KI JUN
書 き 順 stroke order



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

Mouth 口

呼

call out to, invite

8 strokes
NN0769

yo(bu), ko

YO BU
呼ぶ to call out to, invite

KO KYŪ
呼吸 breath



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

和

soften, harmony, Japanese style

8 strokes

NN0770

nago(yaka), yawa(ragu), wa

HEI WA

平 和 peace

YAWA RA GU

和 ら ぐ to soften, to calm down

NAGO YA KA

和 や か mild, calm, gentle



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

司

official, director, administer

5 strokes

NN0698

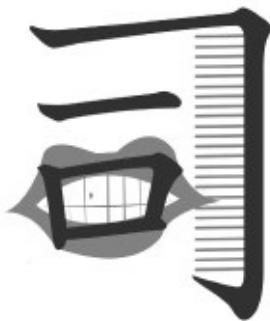
tsukasado(ru), shi

SU SHI

寿 司 sushi

TSUKASADO RU

司 る to rule, to govern



The DIRECTOR spoke to make the new policy OFFICIAL.

号

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

5 strokes
NN0692

gō

BAN GŌ

番 号 series of numbers

SHIN GŌ

信 号 signal, traffic light

SAN GŌ SHA

3 号 車 train car 3



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

句

phrase, sentence

5 strokes

NN0693

ku

MON KU

文 句 complaint

HAI KU

俳 句 haiku poem



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

可

can, must, should

5 strokes
NN0701

ka

KYO KA

許 可 permission, approval

KA NŌ

可 能 possible



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

古 old

5 strokes
NN0702

furu(i), ko

FURU I
古 い old [thing, not person]

CHŪ KO SHA
中 古 車 used car



An OLD cross atop an OLD headstone.

台

**pedestal, a stand, counter for machines
and vehicles**

5 strokes
NN0699

dai, tai

TAI FŪ

台 風 typhoon

ICHIDAI

一台 one machine, vehicle



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

寄

draw near, gather, send

11 strokes

NN1345

yo(ru), yo(seru), ki

KI FU

寄 付 contribution, donation

TOSHI YO RI

年 寄 𠮶 old people, the aged



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

后

empress, queen, after, behind

6 strokes

NN0704

kō

KŌ GŌ

皇 后 (Japanese) empress

Ō KŌ

王 后 queen



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

吏

officer, an official

6 strokes

NN0706

ri

KŌ RI
公 吏 public official



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

向

yonder, facing, beyond

6 strokes

NN0712

mu(ku), mu(kō), kō

MU KŌ

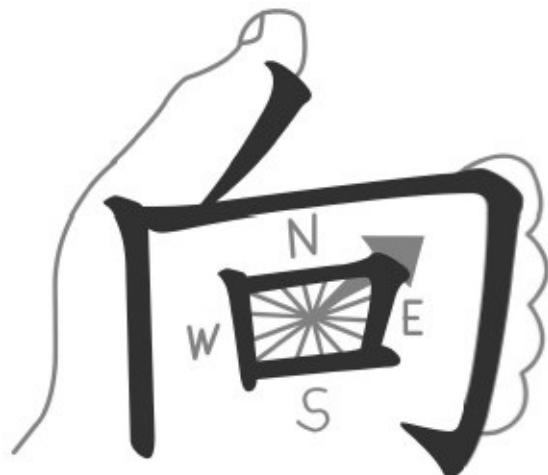
向 こう opposite side, other side

MU KI

向 き direction, orientation

HŌ KŌ

方 向 direction



This hand is holding a compass FACING northeast.

各
each, every

6 strokes
NN0714

kaku, ono'ono

KAKU JI
各 自 individual, each

KAKU EKI
各 駅 each station



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

合

fit, suit, join

a(u), a(waseru), go

6 strokes

NN0715

A U

合 う to match, to suit

MA NI A U

間 に 合 う to be in time for



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

名

name, distinguished, reputation

6 strokes

NN0716

na, mei, myō

NA MAE

名 前 name

YŪ MEI

有 名 famous

MYŌ JI

名 字 surname, family name



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

呂

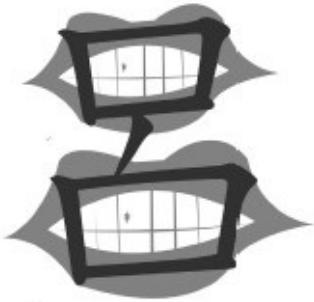
spine, backbone

7 strokes
NN0728

ro

O FU RO

お 風 呂 bathhouse, bathtub



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

告

revelation, inform

7 strokes

NN0744

koku, tsu(geru)

KŌ KOKU

広 告 advertisement

TSU GE RU

告 げ る to tell, to inform



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

同

same, agree, equal

6 strokes
NN0717

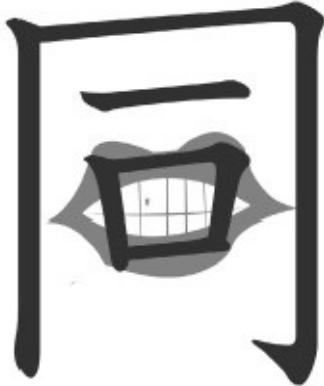
ona(ji), dō

ONA JI

同 じ same, equal

DŌ JI

同 時 at the same time



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

君 name suffix, old boy, you

7 strokes
NN0746

kimi, ~kun

BE N KUN
ベ ン 君 Ben

KIMI
君 you



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

命

life, fate, destiny

8 strokes

NN0767

inochi, mei, myō

IS SHO KEN MEI

一 所 懸 命 very hard, with utmost effort

UN MEI

運 命 fate



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

京 capital

8 strokes
NN0093

kyō, kei

TŌ KYŌ
東 京 Tokyo

KYŌ TO
京 都 Kyoto

KEI HIN
京 湾 Tokyo and Yokohama area



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

味

flavor, taste

8 strokes

NN0766

aji, aji(wau), mi

AJI

味 flavor, taste

SHU MI

趣 味 hobby



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

口
品

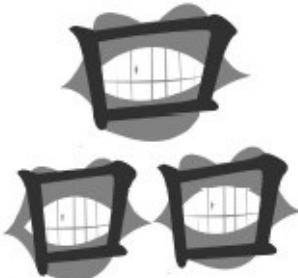
goods, articles

9 strokes
NN0792

shina, ~hin

SHOKU HIN
食 品 foodstuffs

SHINA MONO
品 物 goods, articles



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

囙

be choked, smothered

9 strokes

NN0788

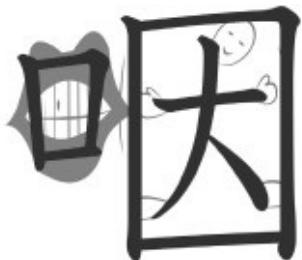
mu(seru), in

MU SE RU

咽 せ る to choke over, to be choked by

IN KŌ

咽 喉 throat



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

周

circumference, circuit, lap

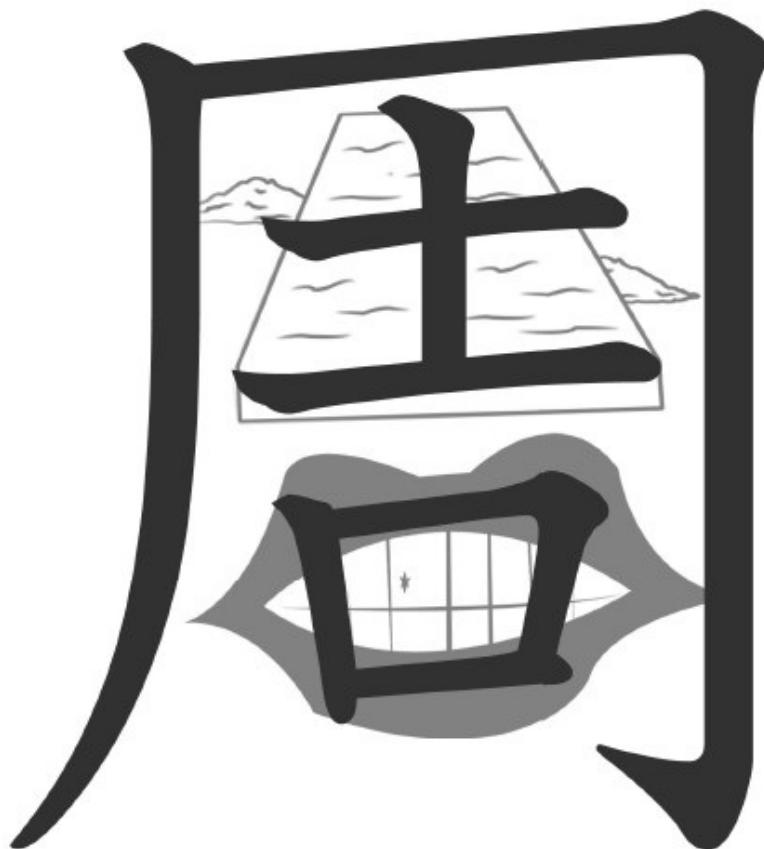
8 strokes

NN0768

mawa(ri), shū

MAWA RI NO HITO
周 り の 人 surrounding people

SE KAI IS SHŪ
世 界 一 周 round-the-world trip



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

否

negate, no, refuse, decline

7 strokes

NN0742

ina, iya, hi

HI TEI

否 定 denial

INA KA

否 か ... or not



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

不

negative, un-, bad

4 strokes

NN0013

NN0013

FU AN

不 安 **unease**

FU SEI

不 正 **injustice, iniquity**



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

杯

cup, counter for cupfuls

8 strokes

NN2586

sakazuki, hai

NI HAI

二 杯 two cupfuls

KAN PAI

乾 杯 a toast



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

歌 sing, song

14 strokes
NN2945

uta, *uta(u)*, ka

UTA
歌 song, sing

UTA U
歌 う to sing

KA SHU
歌 手 singer



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

欠

lack, gap, fail

4 strokes
NN2928

ka(keru), ka(ku), ketsu

KA KE RU
欠 け る to be damaged

FU KA KETSU
不 可 欠 indispensable



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

次

next, order, sequence

6 strokes

NN2929

tsugi, tsu(gu), ji, shi

TSUGI

次 next

JI NAN

次 男 second son

SHI DAI NI

次 第 に gradually, in turn



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

喜

rejoice, take pleasure in

12 strokes

NN0858

yoroko(bu), ki

YOROKO BU

喜 ぶ to be delighted, to be glad

KI GEKI

喜 劇 comedy, funny show



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

器

utensil, implement, instrument

15 strokes
NN0898

utsuwa, ki

SHOK KI
食 器 tableware

UTSUWA NO CHII SA I
器 の 小 さ い intolerant [of others' misbehavior]



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

辞

resign, word, term

13 strokes

NN6000

ya(meru), ji

JI SHO

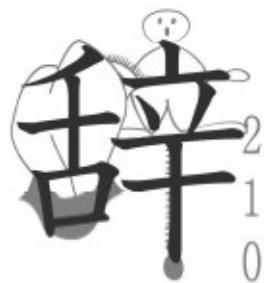
辞 書 dictionary

O JI GI

お 辞 儀 bow, bowing

YA ME RU

辞 め る to quit



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

唱

recite, chant

11 strokes
NN0829

tona(eru), shō

GAS SHŌ
合 唱 chorus



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

囁

whisper, murmur

21 strokes
NN0928

sasaya(ku)

SASAYA KU
囁 く to whisper, murmur



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

Eye 目 and Ear 耳

着

wear, arrival

12 strokes
NN3938

ki(ru), tsu(ku), chaku

KI RU
着 る to wear

TŌ CHAKU
到 着 arrival



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

省

focus, government ministry

9 strokes

NN3916

habu(ku), sei, shō

HABU KU

省 く to omit

KI SEI

帰 省 homecoming



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

直

straight away, honesty, fix, repair

8 strokes

NN3908

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

SHŌ JIKI

正 直 honesty

TADA CHI NI

直 ち に directly, in person

NAO RU

直 る to be repaired

CHOKU SETSU

直 接 direct, firsthand



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

県

prefecture

9 strokes
NN3918

ken

AKI TA KEN
秋 田 県 Akita Prefecture



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

冒

risk, face, defy

9 strokes

NN3915

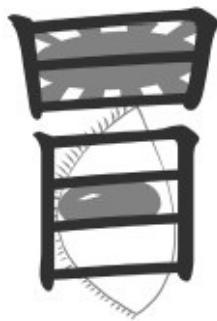
oka(su), bō

BŌ KEN

冒 険 risk, adventure

OKA SU

冒 す to face



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

覚

memorize, learn

12 strokes

NN5529

obo(eru), sa(meru), kaku

OBO E RU

覚 え る to memorize

KAN KAKU

感 覚 sense, feeling, intuition



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

且

moreover, also, furthermore

5 strokes

NN0017

ka(tsu), sho

KA TSU

且 つ also

ZAN SHO

塹 且 little while



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

署

signature, police station

13 strokes

NN4643

sho

SHO MEI

署 名 signature

KEI SATSU SHO

警 察 署 police station



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

置

placement, put, set

13 strokes

NN4645

o(ku), chi

O KU

置 〈 to put

I CHI

位 置 place, situation, position



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

罪

guilt, sin, crime

13 strokes

NN4644

tsumi, zai

YŪ ZAI

有 罪 guilt

TSUMI NO NA I

罪 の な い guiltless



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

見

look, opinion

7 strokes

NN5522

mi(ru), mi(eru), ken

MI RU

見 る to look

I KEN

意 見 opinion



Walk about and LOOK at things around you.

視

inspection, look at

11 strokes

NN5525

shi

SHI RYOKU

視 力 eyesight

JŪ SHI

重 視 importance, stress



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

親 parent, familiarity

16 strokes
NN5534

oya, shita(shii), shin

RYŌ SHIN
両 親 both parents

SHIN SETSU
親 切 kindness

SHITA SHI I TOMO DACHI
親 し い 友 達 close friend



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

觀

outlook, appearance

18 strokes

NN5538

kan

KAN KŌ

觀 光 sightseeing



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

看

watch over, see

9 strokes
NN3919

mi(ru), kan

KAN BAN

看 板 sign, signboard

KAN GO SHI

看 護 師 nurse

MI RU

看 る to look after [often medically]



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

真

true, reality

10 strokes
NN3926

ma, shin

SHA SHIN

写 真 photograph

MA S SU GU

真 つ 直 ぐ straight [ahead]



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

相

inter-, mutual, together

9 strokes

NN3920

ai, sō, shō

AI TE

相 手 opponent [sports, etc.]

SHU SHŌ

首 相 Prime Minister

SŌ TŌ

相 当 befitting, worthy of



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

願

petition, request, hope

19 strokes
NN6653

nega(u), ~negai, gan

O NEGA I
お 願 い wish

GAN SHO
願 書 written petition



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

題

topic, subject

18 strokes
NN6645

dai

MON DAI GAI

問 題 外 unthinkable, out of the question

SHUKU DAI

宿 題 homework



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

類

sort, variety, genus

18 strokes

NN6647

tagu(i), rui

SHU RUI

種 類 variety, type

TAGU IMARE NA

類 希 な unique, rare



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

聖

holy, saint, master

13 strokes
NN4727

sei, shō

SEI JITSU

聖 日 **holy day**

SEI JIN

聖 人 saint, sage, holy man



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

聞

hear, ask, listen

14 strokes

NN4732

ki(ku), bun

KI KU

聞 く to listen, hear

SHIN BUN

新 聞 newspaper



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

職

post, work, employment

18 strokes

NN4742

shoku

SHOKU GYŌ

職 業 occupation

SHŪ SHOKU

就 職 finding employment

TAI SHOKU

退 職 retirement [from office]



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

嚴

stern, strictness, rigidity

17 strokes
NN0663

kibi(shii), ogosoka, gon, gen

KIBI SHI I
嚴 し い strict, rigid

I GEN
威 嚴 dignity, majesty



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

Heart 心, † and Blood 血

感

emotion, feeling, sensation

13 strokes
NN1928

kan

KAN JI RU
感 じ る **to feel, to sense**

KAN SHA
感 謝 **thanks, gratitude**



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

愛

love, affection

13 strokes

NN1927

ito(shii), ai

AI SU RU

愛 す る to love

ITO SHI GO

愛 し 子 beloved child



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

忠

loyalty, fidelity, faithfulness

8 strokes

NN1801

chū

CHŪ JITSU

忠 実

faithful, loyal

CHŪ KOKU

忠 告

advice, warning



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

態

attitude, condition, figure, appearance

14 strokes
NN1947

tai

Jō TAI
状 態 current status, condition

TAI DO
態 度 attitude



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

恩

grace, kindness, favor

10 strokes
NN1851

on

ON JIN

恩 人 patron

ON KEI

恩 惠 grace, favor



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

悶

be in agony, worry

12 strokes

NN1895

mon, moda(eru)

MON MON

悶 々 worrying endlessly



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

恕

excuse, tolerate, forgive

10 strokes
NN1834

jo

KAN JO

寛 恕 forgiveness

JO SU RU

恕 す る to forgive



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

怒

angry, be offended

9 strokes

NN1820

ika(ri), oko(ru), do

OKO RU

怒 る to get angry

IKA RI

怒 り anger, hatred

DO NA RU

怒 鳴 る to shout



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

忍

endure, conceal, put up with, bear

7 strokes

NN1787

shino(bu), nin

NIN JA

忍 者 **ninja**

SHINO BI

忍 び **stealth**



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

急

hurry, emergency, sudden, steep

9 strokes
NN1823

iso(gu), kyū

ISO GU

急 ぐ to hurry

KYŪ KŌ

急 行 express [train, etc.]



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

思

think

9 strokes
NN1824

omo(u), shi

OMO U

思 う to think

SHI KŌ

志 向 intention, aim



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

忽

in a moment, instantly, all of a sudden

8 strokes

NN1799

kotsu

KOTSU ZEN

忽 然 sudden, unexpected

SO KOTSU

粗 忽 careless, rude



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

志

intention, plan, motive, hopes

7 strokes

NN1785

kokoroza(su), kokorozashi, shi

I SHI

意 志 will, intention

KOKOROZA SU

志 す to plan, to intend



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

忘
forget

7 strokes
NN1784

wasu(reru), bō

WASU RE RU
忘 れ る to forget

BŌ NEN KAI
忘 年 会 year-end party



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

亡

deceased, the late, dying, perish

3 strokes

NN0086

na(kunaru), bō

SHI BŌ

死 亡 death, to pass away

NA KU NA RU

亡 く な る to die



An urn for the DECEASED sits broken.

息

breath, respiration

10 strokes

NN1850

iki, soku

IKI GI RE

息 切 れ shortness of breath

KYŪ SOKU

休 息 rest, relaxation



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

想

concept, think, idea, thought

13 strokes

NN1922

omo(u), sō

SŌ ZŌ

想 像 imagination, guess

SHI SŌ

思 想 thought, ideology

RYŌ OMO I

両 思 い mutual love



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

意

idea, mind, taste, thought

13 strokes
NN1926

i

I MI

意味 meaning

I KEN

意見 opinion, view



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

患

afflicted, disease, suffer from

11 strokes

NN1871

wazura(u), kan

KAN JA

患 者 [a] patient

WAZURA U

患 う to suffer from



Loyalty (忠) is one thing, but if it is doubled, it can be like a DISEASE and AFFLICT your heart (心).

憲

constitution, law

16 strokes
NN1988

ken

KEN PO
憲 法 **constitution**

KEN PEI
憲 兵 **military police**



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

情

feelings, emotion, passion

11 strokes

NN1898

nasa(ke), jō

JO HŌ

情 報 news, gossip

NASA KE

情 け pity, sympathy



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

悔

repent, regret

9 strokes

NN1848

ku(yamu), kuya(shii), kai

KŌ KAI

後 悔 regret, remorse

KU YA MU

悔 や む to mourn

KUYA SHI I

悔 し い annoying, frustrating



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

憎

hate, detest

14 strokes

NN1969

niku(mu), zō

NIKU I

憎 い hateful, abominable

ZŌ O

憎 悪 hatred



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

快

cheerful, pleasant, agreeable, comfortable

7 strokes

NN1802

kokoroyo(i), kai

KAI TEKI

快 適 pleasant, agreeable

KOKOROYO I

快 い pleasant, agreeable



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

慢

ridicule, laziness

14 strokes
NN1968

man

KŌ MAN

高 慢 arrogant, proud

JI MAN

自 慢 pride, boast



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

忙

busy, occupied, restless

6 strokes

NN1783

isoga(shii), bō

ISOGA SHI I

忙 し い busy

TA BŌ

多 忙 busy, pressure of work



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

惚

fall in love with, admire

11 strokes

NN1893

ho(reru)

UNU BO RE RU

自 惚 れ る **to be conceited**

HITO ME BO RE

一 目 惚 れ **love at first sight**



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

生 life, genuine, birth

5 strokes
NN3715

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

I KI RU
生 き る to live

U MA RE
生 ま れ birth, birthplace

NAMA BI I RU
生 ビ 一 ル draft beer

GAKU SEI
学 生 student



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

性

sex, gender, nature

8 strokes

NN1822

saga, sei, shō

JO SEI

女 性 woman, female

KUCHI SAGA NA I

口 性 な い to gossip, critical

AI SHŌ

相 性 affinity, compatibility



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

失

lose, error, fault, loss

5 strokes

NN1141

ushina(u), shitsu

SHITSU REI

失 礼 **impoliteness, excuse me**

SHIP PAI

失 敗 **failure/mistake**

USHINA U

失 う **to lose**



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

必

invariably, certain, inevitable

5 strokes

NN1781

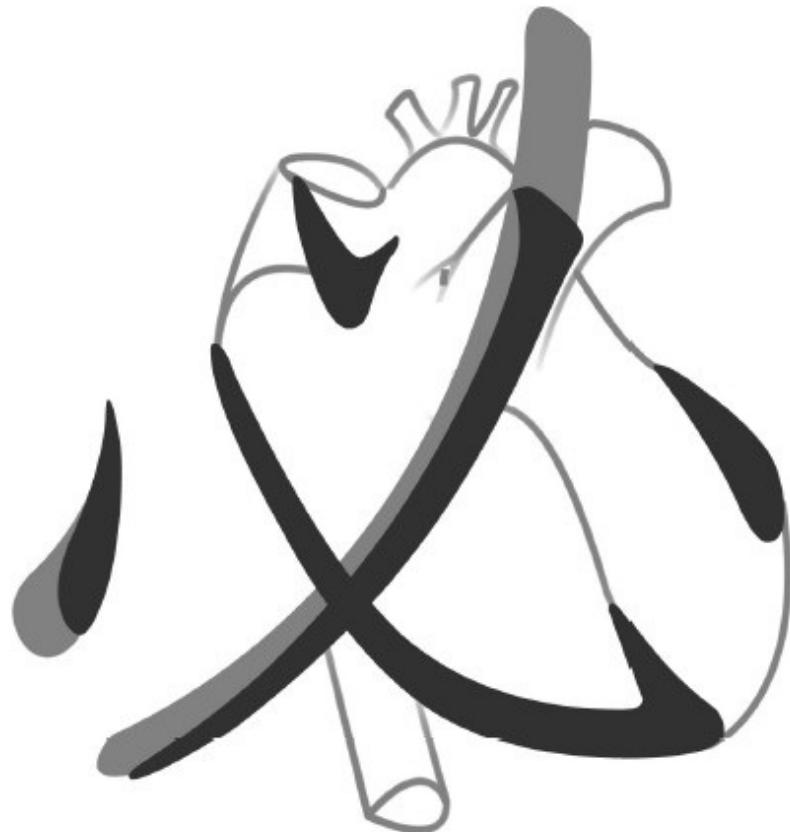
kanara(zu), hitsu

KANARA ZU

必 ず without fail

HITSU YŌ

必 要 necessary



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

応

apply, answer, accept

7 strokes

NN1789

kota(eru), ō

KOTA E RU

応 え る to respond, to live up to

Ō JI RU

応 じ る to respond, to accept



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

惡

bad, wrong, evil

11 strokes

NN1873

waru(i), aku

WARU I

惡 い bad, in the wrong, sorry

AKU MA

惡 魔 devil, Satan



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

票

ballot, label, sign

11 strokes

NN4089

hyō

NYŪ KIN HYŌ

入 金 票 deposit slip

TŌ HYŌ

投 票 voting, poll



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

血

blood

6 strokes
NN5411

chi, ketsu

KETSU ATSU

血

压

blood pressure

CHI

血

blood



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

皿

dish, plate, a helping

5 strokes

NN3885

sara

sara ARA I

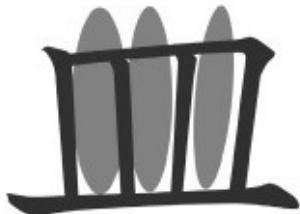
皿 洗 い dishwashing

O SARA

お 皿 blood

CHŪ ZARA

中 皿 medium-sized dish



A drying rack is full of freshly washed DISHES.

盟

alliance, oath

13 strokes

NN3899

mei

DŌ MEI

同 盟 alliance, union

KA MEI

加 盟 participation, affiliation

CHŪ ZARA

中 皿 medium-sized dish



A drying rack is full of freshly washed DISHES.

盆

basin, tray, Bon Festival

9 strokes

NN3889

bon

O BON

お 盆 Bon Festival

BON SAI

盆 栽 bonsai, miniature potted plant



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

盛

boom, prosper

11 strokes

NN3895

mo(ru), saka(ru), sei

SEI DAI

盛 大 grand, prosperous

SAKA N

盛 ん popular, prosperous

MO RI A GA RU

盛 り 上 が る to swell, to rise



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

Hand 手, 才 and Foot 足

批

criticism, strike

7 strokes
NN2086

hi

JI KO HI HAN
自 己 批 判 self-criticism

HI HAN TEKI
批 判 的 critical

HI HYŌ
批 評 criticism, review



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

折

fold, break, fracture, bend

7 strokes

NN2094

ori, o(ru), setsu

O RU

折 る to break

KOS SETSU

骨 折 bone fracture



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

扶

aid, help, assist

7 strokes

NN2089

fu

FU YŌ

扶 養 support [family]



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

投

throw, discard, abandon

7 strokes

NN2095

na(geru), tō

NA GE RU

投 げ る to cast away, to face defeat

TŌ SHI

投 資 investment



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

招

beckon, invite, summon, engage

8 strokes

NN2124

mane(ku), shō

SHŌ TAI

招 待 invitation

MANE KU

招 < to invite



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

押

push, stop, check, subdue, attach

8 strokes

NN2128

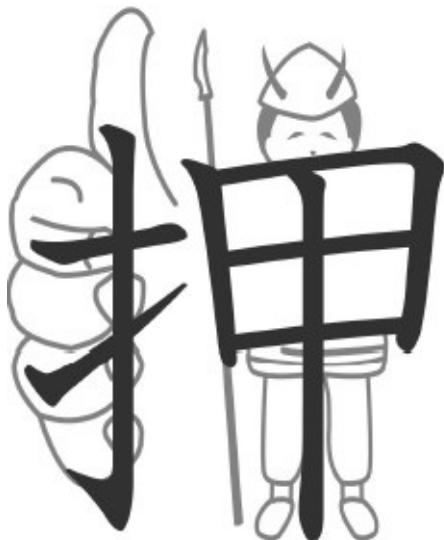
o(su)

O SU

押す to push, to apply pressure

O SHI DA SU

押し出す to push something out



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

捉 catch, capture

10 strokes
NN2159

tora(eru), soku

TO RA WA RE RU
捉 ら わ れ る to capture

TO RA WA RE RU
捉 ら わ れ る to be caught



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

接

touch, contact, piece together

11 strokes

NN2213

setsu, tsu(gu)

CHOKU SETSU

直

接 direct, firsthand, immediate

SES SU RU

接

する to touch, to come in contact with



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

持

hold, have (possession of)

9 strokes

NN2151

mo(tsu), ji

MO TSU

持 つ to hold, to have



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

拡

broaden, extend, expand, enlarge

8 strokes

NN2118

hiro(garu), kaku

KAKU DAI

拡 大 enlargement, magnification

HIRO GE TA UDE

拡 げ た 腕 outstretched arms



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

払

pay

5 strokes
NN2062

hara(u), futsu

HARA U

払 う to pay [money, a bill]



I like to PAY my bills by hand (払).

打

strike, hit, knock, pound

5 strokes

NN2063

u(tsu), da

U TSU

打 つ to beat [a drum], to hit

AN DA

安 打 safe hit [baseball]



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

授

impart, instruct, grant

11 strokes

NN2208

sazu(keru), ju

SAZU KE RU

授 け る to award, to teach

JU GYŌ

授 業 class, instruction



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

描

sketch, compose, write, draw, paint

11 strokes

NN2196

ega(ku), ka(ku), byō

KA KU

描 く to draw

BYŌ SHA

描 写 depiction, description



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

走 run

7 strokes
NN5845

hashi(ru), sō

TAN KYO RI SŌ
短 距 離 走 short-distance race

HASHI RU
走 る to run



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

赴

proceed, get, become

9 strokes

NN5847

omomu(ku), fu

OMOMU KU

赴 〈 to proceed forward

FU NIN

赴 任 moving for a new job



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

趣

gist, proceed to, tend to

15 strokes

NN5854

omomuki, shu

OMOMUKI

趣 gist

SHU MI

趣 味 hobby



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

起 wake up

10 strokes
NN5849

o(kiru), o(koru), ki

O KI RU
起 き る to wake up

O KO RU
起 こ る to happen



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

配

distribute, spouse, exile

10 strokes

NN6163

kuba(ru), hai

SHIN PAI

心 配 worry, concern

KUBA RU

配 る to distribute



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

路

path, route, road, distance

13 strokes
NN5876

ji, michi, ro

DŌ RO

道 路 road, highway

KAI JI

海 路 sea route



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

元

beginning, ancient currency

4 strokes

NN0343

moto, gen, gan

GEN KI

元 氣 healthy, energetic

GAN TAN

元 旦 New Year's Day



In the BEGINNING, one had to carry ANCIENT CURRENCY.

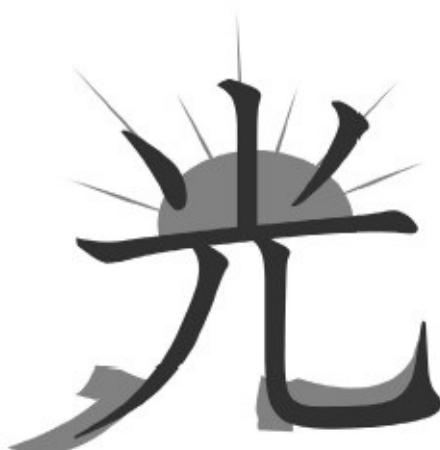
光
ray, light

6 strokes
NN0349

hika(ru), kō

HIKA RU
光 る to shine

NIK KŌ
日 光 sunlight



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

先

before, previous

6 strokes
NN0350

saki, sen

SEN SEI

先 生 teacher

SEN SHŪ

先 週 sea route



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

兒

newborn babe, child, young of animal

7 strokes

NN0355

ko, ji, ni

KO JI

孤 兒 orphan

JI DŌ

兒 童 school-age children

SHŌ NI KA I

小 児 科 医 pediatrician



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

党

party, faction, clique

10 strokes

NN0363

tō

MIN SHU TŌ

民 主 党 Democrat Party

KYŌ WA TŌ

共 和 党 Republican Party



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

鬼

ghost, devil, ogre

10 strokes
NN6833

oni, ki

ONI

鬼 devil

KO ONI

小 鬼 elf, goblin

KYŪ KETSU KI

吸 血 鬼 vampire



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

CHAPTER 4

ACTIONS

来

come, next

7 strokes
NN2565

ku(ru), rai

KU RU

来る to come

RAI SHŪ

来週 next week



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

行

go, journey

6 strokes

NN5419

i(ku), okona(u), yu(ku), ~yu(ki), kō

I KU
行 く to go

TŌ KYŌ YU KI
東 京 行 き bound for Tokyo

RYO KŌ
旅 行 trip



Two men hover until the light tells them to GO.

Stride 行

辺

environs, boundary, vicinity

5 strokes
NN6011

be, hen

KO NO HEN
こ の 辺 this vicinity

UMI BE
海 辺 seashore, beach

SHŪ SHŪ
周 辺 circumference, outskirts



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

近

near

7 strokes
NN6021

chika(i), kin

SAI KIN

最 近 recently

CHIKA I

近 い close, near



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

送 escort, send

9 strokes
NN6039

oku(ru), sō

OKU RU
送 る to send [a thing]

MI OKU RU
見 送 る seeing off, escort

HŌ SŌ
放 送 broadcast



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

返

return, answer, fade, repay

7 strokes

NN6020

kae(su), hen

KAE SU

返 す to return

HEN JI

返 事 reply



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

追

chase, drive away, follow

9 strokes

NN6042

o(u), tsui

O U

追 う to chase, to run after

TSUI HŌ

追 放 exile, eviction



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

速

quick, fast

10 strokes
NN6060

haya(i), sumi(yaka), soku

HAYA I

速 い fast, quickly

KYŪ SOKU

急 速 rapid [progress, etc.]

SUMI YA KA

速 や か speedy, prompt



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

達

accomplished, reach, pluralizes some words

12 strokes
NN6088

-tachi, tatsu

SOKU TATSU

速 達 express, special delivery

WATASHI TACHI

私 達 we

TAS SEI

達 成 achievement



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

進

advance, proceed, progress

11 strokes

NN6073

susu(mu), shin

SUSU MU

進 心 to advance, to go forward

SHIN PO

進 步 progress, improvement



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

道

road, street, teachings

12 strokes

NN6091

michi, dō

MICHI

道 road, street

SHO DŌ

書道 calligraphy

KEN DŌ

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



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

運

carry, luck, destiny, transport

12 strokes

NN6092

hako(bu), un

UN DŌ

運動 exercise

KIN UN

金 運 economic fortune



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

遊

play

12 strokes

NN6093

aso(bu)

ASO BU

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

ASO BI NI I KU

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

MIZU ASO BI

水 遊 び playing in water



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

違

difference, differ

13 strokes
NN6099

chiga(u), i

CHIGA I MA SU
違 い ま す it is different

MA CHIGA I
間 違 い mistake

I HAN
違 反 violation [of law]



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

連

take along, lead

10 strokes

NN6062

tsu(reru), tsura(naru), ren

TSU RE TE I KU

連 れ て 行 行 to escort, to take [someone of equal or lower status]

REN RAKU

連 絡 contacting, getting in touch



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

通

traffic, pass through, commute

10 strokes

NN6063

tō(ru), ~dō(ri), kayo(u), tsū

KAYO U

通 う to commute

MEI JI DŌ RI

明 治 通 り Meiji Street

FU TSŪ

普 通 usual, generally

TŌ RU

通 る to go past, to go by



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

選

elect, select, prefer

15 strokes

NN6114

era(bu), sen

ERA BU

選 ぶ to choose

SEN SHU

選 手 player



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

遠

distant, far

13 strokes
NN6101

tō(i), en

TŌ I

遠 い far, distant

EI EN

永 遠 eternity



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

Stand 立 and Stop 止

立

stand up, stand

5 strokes
NN4223

ta(tsu), ritsu

TA TSU
立 つ stand

KŌ RITSU
公 立 public [institution]



A short man is taller when he STANDS.

音

sound, noise

9 strokes
NN6607

oto, on

ON GAKU

音 樂

music

OTO

音

sound



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

童

juvenile, child

12 strokes
NN4239

warabe, dō

DŌ DŌ

童 話 fairy-tale

WARABE UTA

童 歌 children's [folk] song



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

章

badge, chapter

11 strokes
NN4235

shō

BUN SHŌ
文 章 sentence, article



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

競

compete with, race, bout

20 strokes
NN4244

kiso(u), kyō

KYŌ SO
競 走 race

KISO U
競 う to compete with



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

億

hundred million

15 strokes
NN0321

oku

ICHI OKU

一 億 **one hundred million**



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

商

make a deal, selling, merchant

11 strokes

NN0832

akina(u), shō

SHŌ BAI
商 壳 trade, business

AKINA I
商 い trade, business



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

產

products, give birth, yield

11 strokes

NN3716

u(mu), san

SEI SAN

生 產 production, manufacture

U MU

產 む to give birth to, to deliver



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

止 stop, halt

4 strokes
NN2954

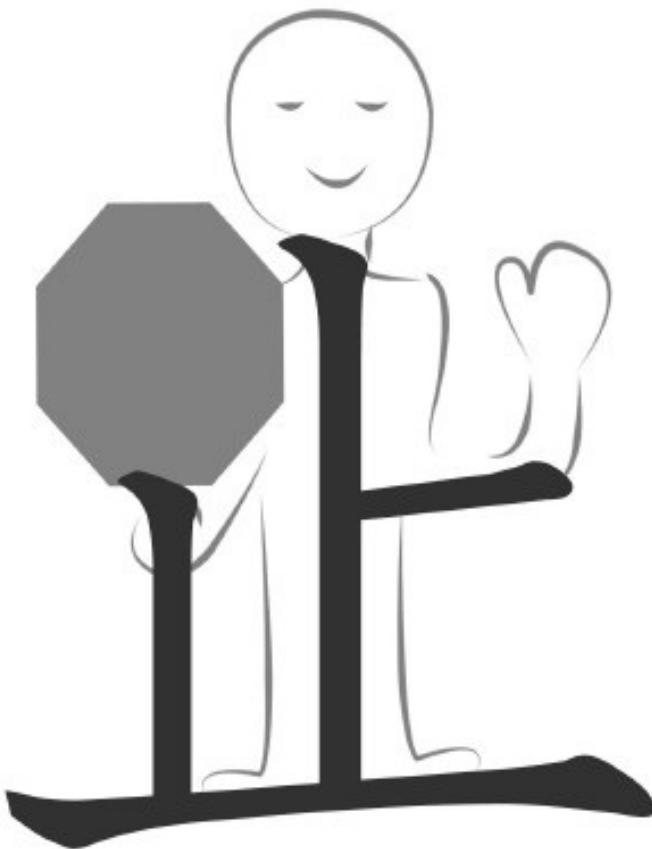
to(maru), shi

TO MA RU

止 ま る stop

KIN SHI

禁 止 prohibition, ban



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

歩

walk

8 strokes
NN2958

aru(ku), ho, po

ARU KU

歩 < to walk

SAN PO

散 步 a walk



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

正

correct, justice

5 strokes
NN2955

tada(shii), sei

TADA SHI I
正 し い correct

SEI KAKU
正 確 accurate, exact

FU SEI
不 正 injustice



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

Sliding フ

阪

heights, slope

7 strokes
NN6428

saka, han

Ō SAKA
大 阪 **Osaka**

HAN SHIN
阪 神 **Osaka-Kobe**



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

降

descend, precipitate, fall, surrender

10 strokes

NN6450

o(riru), fu(ru), kō

O RI RU

降 り る to get off [a train, bus]

FU RU

降 る to precipitate [rain, snow]

KŌ SAN

降 参 giving up



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

陸 land

11 strokes
NN6461

riku

TAI RIKU
大陸 continent

HOKU RIKU
北 陸 region west of Tokyo on the Japan Sea side



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

院

institution, temple, school

10 strokes

NN6447

in

BYŌ IN

病院 hospital

DAI GAKU IN

大学院 graduate school



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

隊

regiment, party

12 strokes

NN6468

tai

GUN TAI

軍 隊 army, troops

HEI TAI

兵 隊 soldier



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

階

story, stair

12 strokes

NN6469

kai

GO KAI

五 階 fifth story

KAI DAN

階 段 staircase



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

陽

sunshine, positive

12 strokes

NN6470

hi, yō

TAI YŌ

太 陽 sun

YŌ KI

陽 氣 cheerful, merry



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

際

verge, when

14 strokes
NN6478

kiwa, sai

KOKU SAI
国 際 international

KIWA DO I
際 ど い edgy



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

部

section, department

11 strokes

NN6146

bu

KEN DŌ BU
剣 道 部 kendo club

BU CHŌ
部 長 section leader



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

都 metropolis, capital

11 strokes
NN6148

miyako, to, tsu

TO KAI
都 会 city

KYŌ TO
京 都 Kyoto

TSU GŌ
都 合 circumstances, condition



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

郡

county, district

10 strokes
NN6143

gun

MA DI SO N GUN
マ デイ ソン 郡 Madison County



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

Power 力

功

achievement, success

5 strokes
NN0522

kō, ku

DAI SEI KŌ
大 成 功 huge success, big hit

KŌ SEKI

功 績 achievements, merit



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

工

craft, construction, work

3 strokes

NN1532

kō, ku

KŌ JŌ

工 場 factory

DAI KU

大 工 carpenter

JIN KŌ

人 工 man-made, artificial



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

力

power, strain

2 strokes
NN0521

chikara, ryoku, riki

CHIKARA

力

power

TAI RYOKU

体 力

stamina



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

努

toil, diligent

7 strokes

NN0527

tsuto(meru), do

DO RYOKU

努 力 great effort, exertion

TSUTO ME TE

努 め て as much as possible



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

加

add, increase, include

5 strokes

NN0523

kuwa(eru), ka

SAN KA

参 加 participation

KUWA E RU

加 え る to sum up, to include



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

助

help, rescue, assist

7 strokes

NN0530

tasu(keru), jo

TASU KE RU

助 け る to help, to rescue

JO GEN

助 言 advice, suggestion



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

効

merit, efficiency, benefit

8 strokes

NN0535

ki(ku), kō

KI KU

効 < to be effective

YŪ KŌ

有 効 validity, availability, effectiveness



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

労

labor, reward for, toil

7 strokes
NN0531

itawa(ru), negira(u), rō

ITAWA RU

労 る to sympathize with

RŌ DŌ

労 勵 manual labor

NEGIRA U

労 う to thank for, to reward for



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

勇

courage, bravery

9 strokes
NN0541

isa(mu), yū

YŪ KI

勇 氣 bravery, courage

ISA MI ASHI

勇 み 足 rashness



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

勉

exertion

10 strokes
NN0543

ben

BEN KYŌ

勉 強 study

BEN GAKU

勉 学 study, pursuit of knowledge



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

勤

diligence, serve, become employed

12 strokes

NN0552

tsuto(meru), kin

TSUTO ME RU

勤 める to be employed [at]

TSŪ KIN

通 勤 commuting to work



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

勝 victory, win

12 strokes
NN0553

ka(tsu), masa(ru), shō

KA TSU
勝 つ to win

MASA RU
勝 る to excel, to surpass

YŪ SHŌ
優 勝 championship, overall victory



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

動

move, motion

11 strokes
NN0549

ugo(ku), dō

UGO KU

動 く to move

JI DŌ DO A

自動ドア automatic door



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

動
work

13 strokes
NN0297

hatara(ku), dō

HATARA KU
動 < to work

RŌ DŌ
勞 動 labor



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

重

heavy, heap up, pile up

9 strokes
NN6207

omo(i), kasa(neru), jū

OMO I

重 い heavy

JŪ YŌ

重 要 important, momentous

KASA NE RU

重 ね る to pile up



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

Say 言

言

say, speech

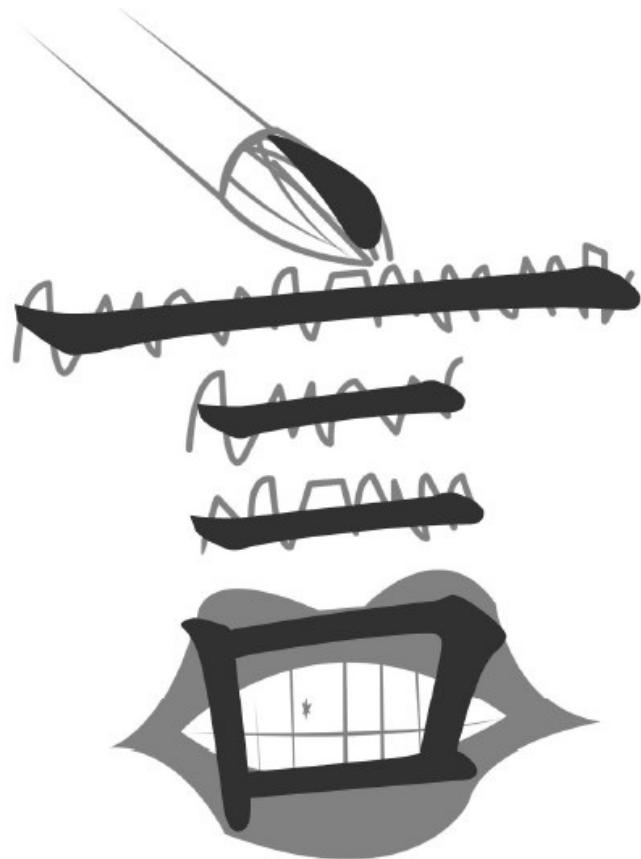
7 strokes
NN5552

i(u), koto, gen

I U
言 う to say

KOTO BA
言 葉 word[s]

GEN GO
言 語 language



Several lines of SPEECH are SAID.

訓川

instruction, explanation

10 strokes
NN5562

kun

KUN REN

訓 練 practice, training

NAN KUN

難 訓 difficult reading of a kanji



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

計

plot, plan, scheme

9 strokes

NN5555

haka(ru), kei

HAKA RU

計 る to measure, survey

TO KEI

時 計 watch, clock



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

記

scribe, account

10 strokes
NN5563

shiru(su), ki

KI JI

記 事 article

SHIRU SU

記 す to note, to write down



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

詩

poetry, poem

13 strokes

NN5610

shi

SHI JIN

詩人 poet

EI SHI

英詩 English poetry



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

語

word, speech, language

14 strokes

NN5628

kata(ru), go

NI HON GO

日 本 語 Japanese language



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

試

test, try, attempt

13 strokes

NN5611

tame(su), shi

SHI KEN

試 驗 test

SHI AI

試 合 match, game

TAME SU

試 す to test, to try out



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

說

rumor, opinion, theory

14 strokes

NN5627

to(ku), setsu

SHŌ SETSU

小 說 novel

DEN SETSU

伝 説 tradition, legend

KU DO KU

口 説 < to persuade, to coax



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

談

discuss, talk

15 strokes

NN5643

dan

JŌ DAN

冗 談 joke, funny story

TAI KEN DAN

体 驗 論 story of one's experience



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

調

investigate, look up

15 strokes
NN5647

shira(beru), totono(u), chō

SHIRA BE RU

調 べ る to investigate, look up

CHŌ WA

調 和 harmony



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

Directions 方

方

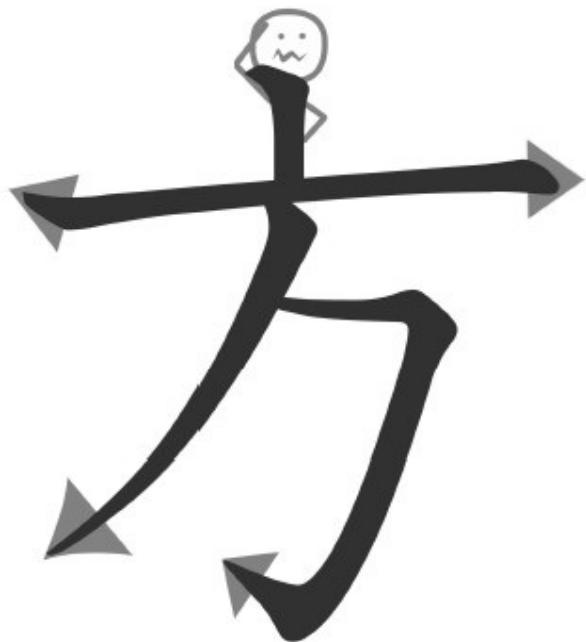
direction, person

4 strokes
NN2389

kata, hō

KO NO KATA
この方 this person

HŌ HŌ
方法 method, manner



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

東

east

8 strokes
NN2596

higashi, tō

HIGASHI

東

east

TŌ KYŌ

東京

Tokyo



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

西

west

6 strokes
NN5514

nishi, sei, sai

NISHI

西 west

SEI YŌ

西 洋 the West, Western countries

KAN SAI

関 西 Kansai [western region of Japan including Osaka]



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

旅

trip, travel

10 strokes

NN2396

tabi, ryo

TABI

旅 trip, travel

RYO KŌ

旅 行 trip, travel

HITORI TABI

一人 旅 traveling alone



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

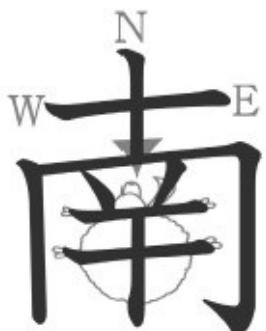
南 south

9 strokes
NN0619

minami, nan

MINAMI
南 south

NAN BEI
南 米 South America



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

北 north

5 strokes
NN0581

kita, hoku

KITA
北 north

HOK KAI DŌ
北 海 道 Hokkaido [lit. north sea road]



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

上

above, up

3 strokes
NN0010

ue, a(garu), jō

UE

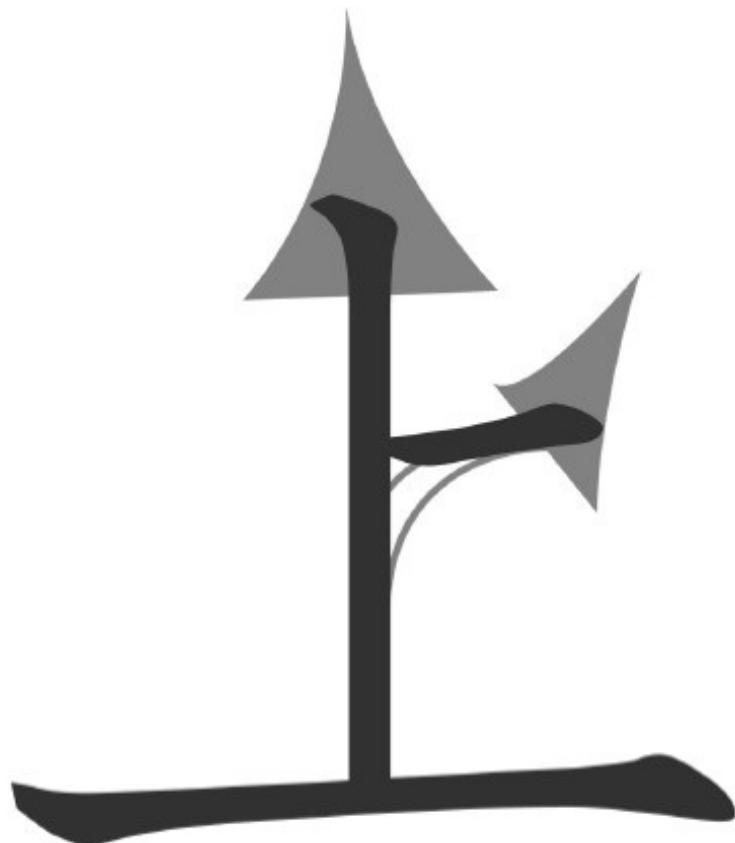
上 above, up

A GA RU

上 が る to rise, go up

JŌ ZU

上 手 skillful



A sapling grows mostly ABOVE ground.

下

below, down, descend, give

3 strokes

NN0009

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

SA GA RU

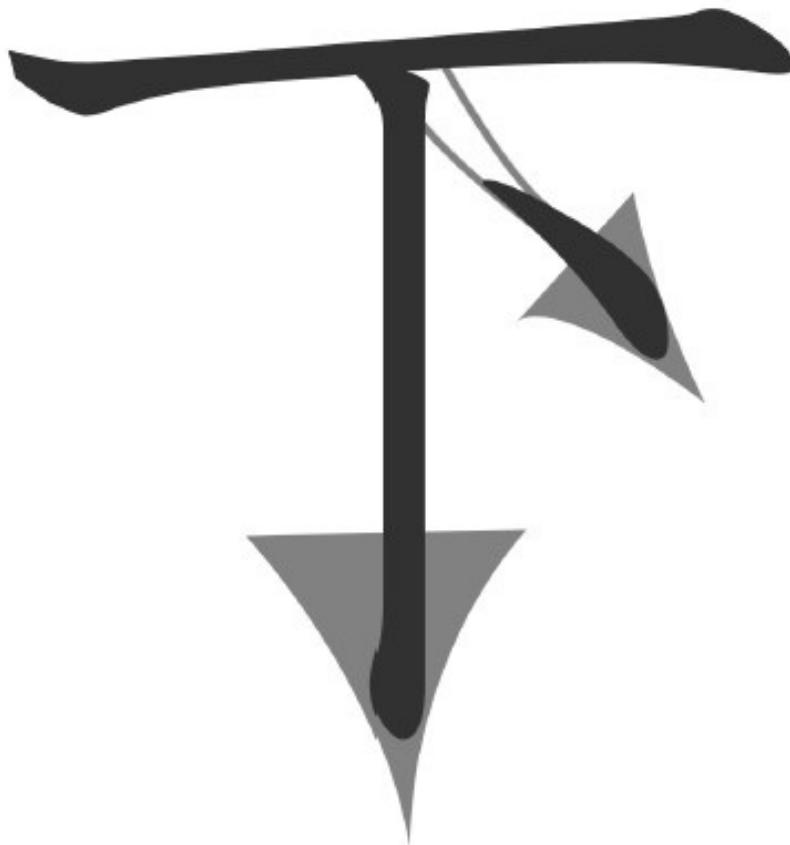
下 ガ ル to go down

KUDA RI

下 リ down-train [going away from Tokyo]

CHI KA

地 下 basement



These two lines or roots are BELOW ground.

右

right

5 strokes

NN0700

migi, yū

MIGI

右 right

SA YŪ

左 右 left and right



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

左 left

5 strokes
NN1535

hidari, sa

HIDARI
左 left



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

CHAPTER 5

PLANTS

植

plant

12 strokes
NN2751

u(eru), shoku

U E RU
植 え る to plant

SHOKU BUTSU
植 物 plant (n.)



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

Rice 禾 and Tree 木

米

rice, USA

6 strokes
NN4380

kome, bei, mai

KOME

米 uncooked rice

BEI KOKU

米 国 USA

GAI MAI

外 米 foreign rice



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

粉 flour, powder

10 strokes
NN4390

ko, kona, fun

KO MUGI KO
小 麦 粉 flour

KONA GONA
粉 々 very small pieces

KA FUN
花 粉 pollen



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

料

fee, materials

10 strokes

NN2374

ryō

ZAI RYŌ

材 料 ingredients

RYŌ RI

料 理 cuisine

KYŪ RYŌ

給 料 salary, wages

MU RYŌ

無 料 free, no charge



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

木

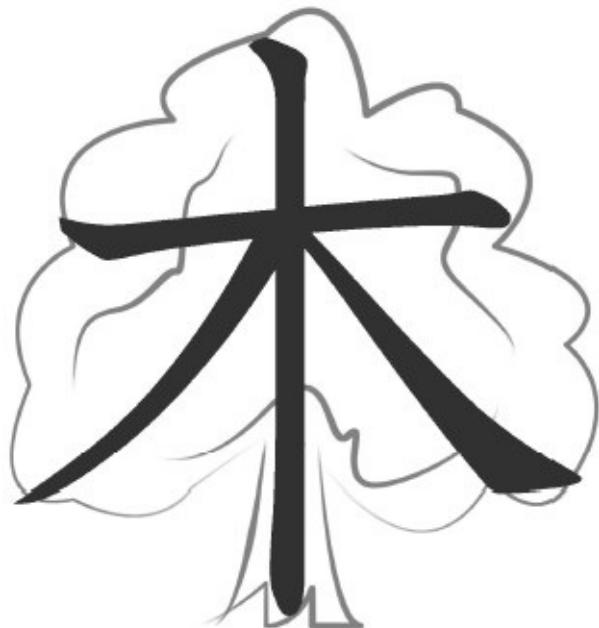
tree, wood

4 strokes

NN2531

ki, moku, boku

MOKU YŌ BI
木 曜 日 Thursday



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

本

book, origin, main, true

5 strokes

NN2536

moto, hon

KUMA MOTO KEN
熊 本 県 Kumamoto Prefecture

HON
本 book

HON MONO
本 物 genuine article



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

林

grove, woods

8 strokes

NN2590

hayashi, rin

HAYASHI

林

woods

KO BAYASHI

小 林

Kobayashi [surname]

NŌ RIN

農 林

agriculture and forestry



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

禁

prohibition, ban

13 strokes
NN4098

kin

KIN EN

禁 煙 no smoking

KIN SHI

禁 止 prohibition, ban



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

歷

curriculum, passage of time

14 strokes

NN2964

reki

REKI SHI

歷 史 history

GAKU REKI

学 歷 academic background



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

森
forest

12 strokes
NN2749

mori, shin

MORI
森 forest

AO MORI KEN
青 森 県 Aomori Prefecture

SHIN KAN
森 閑 silence



Three trees overlap at the edge of a FOREST.

丘

hill, knoll

5 strokes
NN0019

oka, kyū

OKA

丘 hill

SA KYŪ

砂 丘 sand dune



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

兵

soldier, troops, army

7 strokes

NN0374

hei

HEI SHI

兵 士 soldier

KAKU HEI KI

核 兵 器 nuclear weapons



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

桜

cherry

10 strokes

NN2664

sakura, ō

SAKURA

桜 cherry [tree]

Ō KA

桜 花 cherry blossom



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

松

pine tree

8 strokes

NN2592

matsu, shō

MATSU

松 pine [tree]

SHŌ CHIKU BAI

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



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

梅 plum

10 strokes
NN2666

ume, tsu, bai

TSU YU
梅 雨 rainy season

UME BO SHI
梅 干し dried plum

BAI KA
梅 花 plum blossom



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

机 table, desk

6 strokes
NN2543

tsukue, ki

TSUKUE
机 desk

KI JŌ
机 上 on the desk



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

処

deal with, condemn, place

5 strokes

NN0435

tokoro, sho

SHO BUN

処 分 dealing [with a problem]

TO RA E DOKORO

捕 ら え 処 in short, in brief



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

板

plank, board, stage

8 strokes
NN2595

ita, ban

KOKU BAN

黒 板 blackboard

YUKA ITA

床 板 floorboard



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

札

paper money, tag

5 strokes

NN2533

fuda, satsu

SEN EN SATSU

千 円 札

1,000 yen bill

KI RI FUDA

切 利 札

trump card



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

枝

branch, limb, counter for branches

8 strokes

NN2591

eda, shi

KO EDA

小 枝 twig

EDA MAME

枝 豆 edamame bean



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

柱

pillar, post, support

9 strokes

NN2631

hashira, chū

HANA P PASHIRA

鼻 つ 柱

bridge of the nose

CHŪ SEKI

柱 石

corner stone, pillar

DAI KOKUBA SHIRA

大 黒

柱

mainstay, central pillar [of a building]



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

材

lumber, timber, talent

7 strokes

NN2561

zai

ZAI RYŌ

材 料 ingredients, materials

JIN ZAI

人 材 talented person



$\frac{10}{-1}$
9

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

村

village

7 strokes
NN2564

mura, son

MURA

村 village

SAN SON

山 村 mountain village



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

枚

counter for flat, thin objects

8 strokes

NN2582

mai

ICHI MAI

一 枚 one sheet



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

檢

examination, investigate

12 strokes

NN2752

ken

KEN SA

檢 査 investigation [customs, factory]

KETSU EKI KEN SA

血 液 檢 査 blood test



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

校

exam, school

10 strokes
NN2669

kō

GAK KŌ
学 校 school



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

交

mingle, mixing, coming and going

6 strokes

NN0090

maji(waru), ma(jiru), kō

KŌ KAN

交 換 exchange

KŌ TSŪ

交 通 transportation, traffic



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

格

status, rank

10 strokes
NN2668

kaku

SEI KAKU

性 格 character, personality

SHI KAKU

資 格 qualifications



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

横

sideways, side, horizontal

15 strokes

NN2854

yoko, ō

YOKO HAMA

横

浜

Yokohama

Ō BŌ

横

暴

violence, oppression



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

模

imitation, copy

14 strokes
NN2825

mo, bo

MO YŌ

模 樣 pattern, design

DAI KI BO

大 規 模 large-scale



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

橋
bridge

16 strokes
NN2879

hashi, kyō

HASHI
橋 bridge

TEK KYŌ
鐵 橋 railway, iron bridge



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

機

machine, opportunity, airplane

16 strokes

NN2880

ki

HI KŌ KI
飛 行 機 airplane

KI KAI
機 械 machine, mechanism



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

構

posture, build, pretend

14 strokes

NN2823

kama(eru), kō

KAMA U

構 う to care, to mind

KŌ SEI

構 成 organization, configuration



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

極 poles, extremely

12 strokes
NN2753

kiwa(meru), kyoku

KIWA ME TE
極 め て exceedingly, extremely

NANKYOKU
南 極 South Pole, Antarctica

HOK KYOKU GUMA
北 極 熊 polar bear



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

果

to accomplish, fruit, reward, achieve

8 strokes

NN2594

hata(su), ka

HA TA SU

果 た す to accomplish

SEI KA

青 果 fruits and vegetables



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

課

chapter, lesson

15 strokes
NN5644

ka

HŌ KA GO
放 課 後 after school

DAI SAN KA
第 三 課 chapter three



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

巢

rookery, hive, cobweb, den

11 strokes

NN2705

su

HACHI NO SU

蜂 の 巢 beehive

FURU SU

古 巢 old haunts



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

条

article, item, strike

7 strokes
NN2563

jō

JŌ KEN

条件 condition, requirement

SHIN JŌ

信 条 creed, belief



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

染

dye, color, paint

9 strokes

NN2636

so(meru), shi(miru), sen

SO ME RU

染 め る to paint, to dye

SHI MI RU

染 み る to pierce, to soak in

SEN RYŌ

染 料 dye



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

樂

music, comfort, ease

13 strokes
NN2790

tano(shii), gaku, raku

TANO SHI I
樂 し い fun, enjoyable

ON GAKU
音 樂 music

RAKU
樂 comfortable



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

案

plan, suggestion, ponder

10 strokes
NN2667

an

TEI AN
定 案 proposal, proposition

AN NAI
案 内 information, guidance



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

榮

flourish, prosperity, glory

9 strokes

NN2635

saka(eru), ha(e), ei

EI YŌ

榮 養 nutrition

SAKA E RU

榮 え る to prosper

MI BA E

見 榮 え show, display, appearance



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

束

bundle, sheaf, ream

7 strokes

NN2559

taba, soku

YAKU SOKU

約 束 promise

TABA NI NA T TE
束 に な つ て in a bunch



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

末

end, close, posterity

5 strokes

NN2534

sue, matsu

SUEK KO

末 子 youngest child

SHŪ MATSU

週 末 weekend



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

業

business, vocation, arts, performance

13 strokes
NN2789

waza, gyō

KŌ GYŌ

工 業 [manufacturing] industry

NŌ GYŌ

農 業 agriculture

WAZA

業 performance, vocation



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

查
investigate

9 strokes
NN2630

sa

CHŌ SA
調 査 survey, investigation

KETSU EKI KEN SA
血 液 檢 査 blood test



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

未

un~, not yet, still, even now

5 strokes

NN2535

ima(da), mi

MI RAI

未 来 the [distant] future

IMA DA NI

未 だ に even now



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

Fancy Tree 禾

私 |

7 strokes
NN4124

watashi, shi

WATASHI
私 I

SHI RITSU
私 立 private [establishment]



I stand by my favorite fancy tree (私).

移

shift, move, catch (cold, fire)

11 strokes

NN4141

utsu(ru), i

I DŌ

私 動 transfer, migration

I JŪ

移 住 immigration

UTSU RU

移 る to move [house], to transfer [department]



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

程

degree, moderation, limit

12 strokes

NN4144

hodo, tei

NOCHI HODO

後 程 later on, eventually

KŌ TEI

行 程 distance



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

秒

second(s)

9 strokes
NN4129

byō

ICHI BYŌ
一 秒 **one second**

BYŌ YO MI
秒 読 み **countdown**



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

科

department, course, selection

9 strokes

NN4130

ka

RI KA
理 科 science



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

Bamboo 竹

穀

cereals, grain

14 strokes

NN4157

koku

KOKU MOTSU
穀 物 grain, cereal, corn



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

種

species, seed, kind, variety

14 strokes

NN4159

tane, shu

TANE

種 seed

SHU RUI

種 類 kind, type



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

積

volume, contents, pile up, amass

16 strokes
NN4176

tsu(mu), seki

TSU MU

積 む to pile up, to stack

SEKI NEN

積 年 long-standing



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

竹 bamboo

6 strokes
NN4246

take, chiku

TAKE
竹 bamboo

CHIKU WA
竹 輪 fish-paste cake



Two sections of BAMBOO with young leaves grow fast.

笑

laugh

10 strokes
NN4256

wara(u), e(mu)

WARA U
笑 う to laugh

E GAO
笑 風 smiling face



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

策

scheme, plan

12 strokes
NN4284

saku

SAKU RYAKU

策 略 scheme, tactic

SHIS SAKU

失 策 blunder, slip



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

笛

flute, pipe, whistle

11 strokes

NN4268

fue, teki

FUE

笛 flute

MA TEKI

魔 笛 magic flute



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

曲

bend, music, melody, curve

6 strokes

NN2418

ma(garu), kyoku

MA GA RU

曲 が る to turn

IK KYOKU

一 曲 melody



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

典

code, ceremony, law

8 strokes

NN0375

ten

SHIKI TEN

式 典 ceremony, rites

KO TEN

古 典 old book



Sometimes the LAW needs to bend (曲).

筋

muscle, fiber

12 strokes

NN4286

suji, kin

KIN NIKU

筋 肉 muscle

SUJI CHIGA I

筋 違 い cramp,



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

第

No., residence

11 strokes

NN4272

dai

DAI ICHI

第一 No. 1

DAI SAN KA

第三 課 Chapter 3

DAI NI TĀ MI NA RU

第二 ターミナル Terminal 2



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

答

solution, answer

12 strokes
NN4285

kota(eru), tō

KOTA E RU

答 え る to answer, to reply

KOTA E

答 え answer, response

GO TŌ

誤 答 mistaken response



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

算

calculate, divining

14 strokes

NN4316

san

SAN SŪ

算 数 arithmetic

YO SAN

予 算 estimate, budget



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

管

pipe, tube, wind instrument

14 strokes

NN4317

kan

KAN RI

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

MŌ SAI KAN

毛 細 管 capillary



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

箱

box, chest, bin

15 strokes
NN4331

hako

HAKO

箱 box

GO MI BAKO

ゴ ミ 箱 trash bin



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

筆

writing or painting brush, writing

12 strokes

NN4288

fude, hitsu

FUDE

筆 brush

EN PITSU

鉛 筆 pencil



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

文

sentence, literature

6 strokes

NN2364

fumi, bun

KOI BUMI

恋 文 love-letter

BUN GAKU

文 学 literature



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

等

and so forth, [first] class, quality

12 strokes

NN4287

hito(shii), nado, tō

BYŌ DŌ

平 等 equality, evenness

HITO SHI I

等 し い equal, similar

NADO

等 and so forth



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

Grass 草

草

grass, herb

9 strokes

NN5032

kusa, sō

KUSA

草 grass

HŌ REN SŌ

菠 蓿 草 spinach



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

芸

technique, art, craft, performance

7 strokes

NN4978

gei

GEI SHA

芸 者 geisha

GEI JUTSU

芸 術 [fine] art, the arts



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

花 flower

7 strokes
NN4980

hana, ka

HANA
花 flower

KA BIN
花 瓶 vase



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

英

England, English

8 strokes

NN5008

ei

EI KOKU

英 国 traditional name for England

EI GO

英 語 English



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

苦

suffering, bitter

8 strokes

NN5009

kuru(shii), nigai(i)

KURU SHI I

苦 し い painful, difficult, agonizing

NIGA TE

苦 手 poor [at], weak [in]

NIGA I

苦 い bitter



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

荷

baggage, load, cargo

10 strokes

NN5059

ni, ka

NI MOTSU

荷 物

luggage

TE NI MOTSU

手 荷 物

hand luggage



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

葉

leaf

12 strokes
NN5129

ha, yo

KOTO BA
言 葉 language, word[s]

AO BA
青 葉 young leaves



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

菜

vegetables, greens, side dish

11 strokes

NN5097

na, sai

YA SAI

野 菜 vegetable

SŌ ZAI

総 菜 side dish

NA P PA

菜 つ 葉 greens, leaf vegetable



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

落

fall, drop, come

12 strokes
NN5130

o(chiru), raku

O CHI RU
落 ち る to fall down

RAKU TAN
落 胆 discouragement, disappointment



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

藥

medicine, chemical

16 strokes

NN5224

kusuri, yaku

KUSURI

藥

medicine

YAK KYOKU

藥 局

pharmacy



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

薄

dilute, thin, weak [tea,coffee]

16 strokes

NN5225

usu(i), haku

USU I

薄 い weak, watery; light

USU AJI

薄 味 weak flavor



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

Rain 雨

雨

rain

8 strokes

NN6518

ame, u

Ō AME
大 雨 **heavy rain**

U TEN
雨 天 **rainy weather**



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

電

electricity

13 strokes
NN6526

den

DEN KI
電 氣 electricity

TEI DEN
停 電 power outage



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

曇

cloudy weather, cloud up

16 strokes

NN2518

kumo(ru), don

KUMO RI

曇 𠂔 cloudiness, cloudy weather

DON TEN

曇 天 dull [cloudy] weather



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

雪

snow

11 strokes
NN6520

yuki, setsu

YUKI

雪 snow

KŌ SETSU

降 雪 snowfall



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

雲

cloud

12 strokes
NN6522

kumo, un

KUMO

雲

cloud

SEI UN

星

雲 nebula



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

雷

thunder, lightning bolt

13 strokes
NN6525

kaminari, rai

KAMINARI

雷

thunder, lightning

RAI U

雷

雷 thunderstorm



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

Seasons 季 節

春

spring

9 strokes
NN2453

haru, shun

HARU
春 spring

RAI SHUN
来 春 next spring



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

夏
summer

10 strokes
NN1120

natsu, ka

NATSU YASU MI
夏 休 み summer vacation

KA KI KŌ SHŪ
夏 期 講 習 summer school



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

秋

autumn, fall

9 strokes

NN4131

aki, shū

AKI

秋 fall

SHŪ KI

秋 気 fall air



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

冬

winter

5 strokes
NN0410

fuyu, tō

FUYU

冬 winter

TŌ MIN

冬 眠 hibernation



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

CHAPTER 6

ANIMALS

猫

cat

11 strokes
NN3586

neko, byō

NEKO

猫 cat

MANE KI NEKO
招 き 猫 inviting [lucky] cat

AI BYŌ KA
愛 猫 家 cat lover



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

Cow 牛 and Pig 豚

牛

cow

4 strokes
NN3532

ushi, gyū

USHI
牛 COW

GYŪ NYŪ
牛 乳 milk



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

牧

care for, shepherd, feed

8 strokes

NN3537

boku

BOKU SHI

牧 師 pastor, minister

BOKU JŌ

牧 場 farm [livestock], ranch



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

特
special

10 strokes
NN3541

toku

TOKU NI
特 に particularly, especially

TOKU BETSU
特 別 special



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

物

thing, object, matter

8 strokes

NN3538

mono, butsu

MONO

物 **thing**

DŌ BUTSU

動物 **animal**

TA BE MONO

食 べ 物 **food**



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

豚
pork, pig

11 strokes
NN5743

buta, ton

BUTA NIKU
豚 肉 pork

TON KA TSU
豚 カツ pork cutlet



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

象

elephant, shape

12 strokes

NN5744

shō, zō

IN SHŌ

印 象 impression

ZŌ

象 elephant



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

農

agriculture, farmer

13 strokes
NN6008

nō

NŌ JŌ
農 場 farm [agriculture]

NŌ GYŌ
農 業 agriculture



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

像

statue, picture, portrait

14 strokes
NN0308

zō

BUTSU ZŌ

仏 像 Buddhist image [statue]

GA ZŌ

画 像 picture



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

Horse 馬 and Sheep 羊

馬

horse

10 strokes
NN6725

uma, ba

UMA

馬 horse

BA SHA

馬 車 horse drawn cart

BA KA MONO

馬 鹿 者 stupid person, idiot



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

駅
station

14 strokes
NN6735

eki

TŌ KYŌ EKI
東 京 駅 Tokyo Station

EKI BEN
駅弁 [local] box lunch bought at a station



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

驗

verification, effect, testing

18 strokes

NN6758

ken

SHI KEN

試 驗 examination, test

KEI KEN

經 驗 experience



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

羊

sheep

6 strokes

NN4658

hitsuji, yō

HITSUJI

羊

sheep

YŌ MŌ

羊 毛

wool



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

美

beauty, beautiful

9 strokes

NN4660

utsuku(shii), bi

UTSUKU SHI I

美 し い beautiful

BI JIN

美 人 beautiful person

BI JUTSU

美 術 art



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

僕

me, I (male)

14 strokes

NN0313

boku

BOKU

僕

me, I [male]



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

幸

happiness, blessing, fortune

8 strokes

NN1595

saiwa(i), shiawa(se), kō

SHIAWA SE

幸 せ happiness, good fortune

FU KŌ

不 幸 sorrow, misfortune

SAIWA I

幸 い fortunately, blessedness



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

様

way, manner, polite suffix

14 strokes

NN2821

sama, yō

O KYAKU SAMA

お 客 様 polite way of addressing a customer

SAMA ZAMA

様 々 various

YŌ NI

様 に in order to, so that



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

議

deliberation, consultation

20 strokes
NN5716

gi

KAI GI
会 議 meeting, conference

GI CHŌ
議 長 chairman, speaker [of assembly, etc.]



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

遲

slow, late, back

12 strokes

NN6089

oso(i), chi

OSO I

遲 い slow, late

CHI KOKU

遲 刻 late, tardy



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

Dog 犬, Bear 熊, and Fur 毛

犬

dog

4 strokes

NN3553

inu, ken

INU
犬 dog

YA KEN
野犬 stray dog



A big DOG about to eat a bone.

熊

bear

14 strokes
NN3468

kuma

KUMA

熊 bear

KUMA MOTO KEN
熊 本 県 Kumamoto Prefecture



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

狀

status quo, conditions, circumstances

7 strokes

NN3556

jō

JŌ TAI

狀 態 current status, condition

JŌ KYŌ

狀 況 state of affairs [around you]



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

能

ability, talent, skill

10 strokes
NN4809

nō

SAI NŌ

才 能 talent, ability

KA NŌ SEI

可 能 性 likelihood, possibility



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

毛

fur, hair, down

4 strokes

NN3013

ke, mō

KAMI NO KE

髪 の 毛 hair

MŌ FU

毛 布 blanket



This HAIRY thing has scruffy FUR.

狐

fox

9 strokes
NN3568

kitsune

KITSUNE

狐

fox

GIN GITSUNE

銀

狐

silver fox



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

犯 crime, sin, offense

5 strokes
NN3554

oka(su), han

OKA SU
犯 す to commit [an offence]

HAN NIN
犯 人 offender, criminal

HAN ZAI
犯 罪 crime



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

狸

tanuki, Japanese raccoon

10 strokes
NN3578

tanuki

TANUKI

狸 tanuki, Japanese raccoon

TANUKI SO BA

狸 そ ば soba with tempura batter



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

独

single, spontaneously

9 strokes

NN3574

hito(ri), doku

DOKU SHIN

独 身

single, unmarried

KO DOKU

孤 独

solitude, loneliness



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

Bird 鳥, 雉 and Fish 魚

鳥

bird

11 strokes

NN6931

tori, chō

TORI I
鳥 居 Shinto shrine gate

HAKU CHŌ
白 鳥 swan



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

鳴

chirp, cry

na(ku)

14 strokes

NN6939

NA KU

鳴 < to chirp



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

雜

miscellaneous

14 strokes
NN6507

zatsu, zō

ZAS SHI
雜 誌 magazine

FUKU ZATSU
複 雜 complicated

O ZŌ NI
お 雜 煮 New Year's soup dish



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

集 gather, meet, flock

12 strokes
NN6500

atsu(maru), shū

ATSU MA RU
集 ま る to meet

GUN SHŪ
群 集 group [of living things], crowd



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

難

difficult, impossible, trouble

18 strokes

NN6515

kata(i), muzuka(shii), nan

YURU SHI GATA I

許 し 難 い hard to forgive

MUZUKA SHI I

難 し い difficult

KU NAN

苦 難 suffering, distress



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

羽

feather, counter for birds

6 strokes

NN4675

hane, wa

HANE DA KŪ KŌ

羽 田 空 港 Haneda Airport

SAN WA

三 羽 three birds

HANE

羽 feather, plume



Each of these two wing FEATHERS are split.

魚 fish

11 strokes
NN6845

sakana, gyo

SAKANA
魚 fish

KIN GYO
金 魚 goldfish



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

習

learn

11 strokes
NN4681

nara(u), shū

NARA U
習 う to learn

JI SHŪ
自 習 self-study



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

酉

west, zodiac sign of the rooster

7 strokes

NN6157

tori

TORI DOSHI

酉

年 year of the rooster



In this bottle is sake from the WEST.

漁

fishing, fishery

14 strokes
NN3309

asa(ru), ryō

ASA RU

漁 る to look for, to fish

RYŌ SHI

漁 師 fisherman



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

Shellfish 貝

貞

upright, consistency

9 strokes
NN5768

tei

TEI SŌ

貞 操 chastity, virtue

TEI RETSU

貞 烈

extreme faithfulness



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

負

defeat, negative, beat, owe

9 strokes

NN5769

ma(keru), o(u), fu

MA KE RU

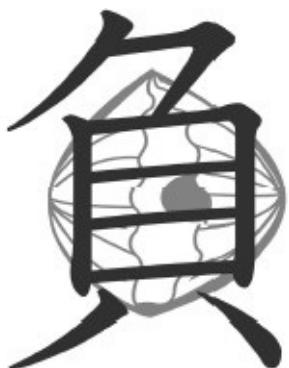
負 け る to lose, to be defeated

O U

負 う to bear

FU SHŌ

負 傷 injury, wound



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

貝

shellfish, shell

7 strokes
NN5766

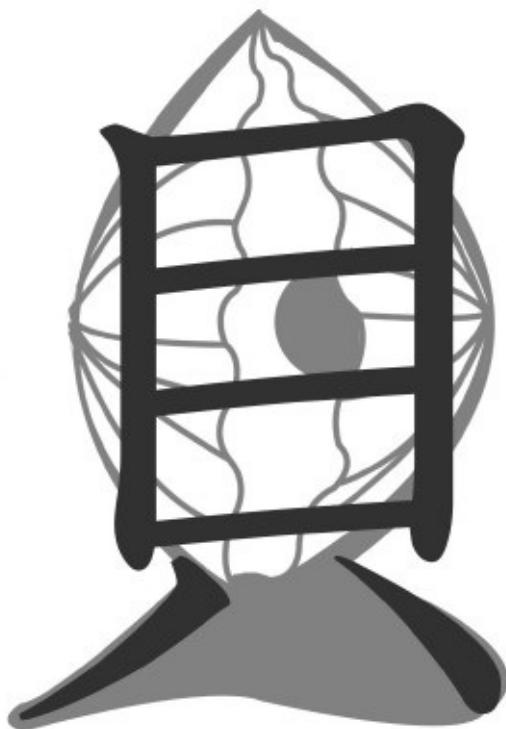
kai

KAI

貝 shellfish

MA KI GAI

卷 き 貝 spiral shell



A SHELLFISH looks like a winking eye (目).

貯

savings, store, lay in

12 strokes

NN5791

ta(meru), cho

TA ME RU

貯 め る to save

CHO CHIKU

貯 蓄 savings



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

貨

freight, goods, property

11 strokes

NN5781

ka

KA MOTSU

貨 物

cargo, freight

GAI KA DA TE

外 貨 建 て rate in foreign currency



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

費

cost

12 strokes
NN5786

tsui(yasu), hi

TSUI YA SU

費 や す to spend, to devote

KAI HI

会 費 meeting expense



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

買 buy

12 strokes
NN5793

ka(u), bai

KA U
買 う to buy

BAI BAI
壳 買 trade, buying and selling



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

賞

prize, reward

15 strokes

NN5815

shō

IT TŌ SHŌ
一 等 賞 first place prize, blue ribbon

SHŌ HIN
賞 品 prize, trophy



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

質

substance, quality, matter

15 strokes
NN5817

shitsu

SHITSU MON

質 問 question

HIN SHITSU

品 質 [material] quality

SHICHI YA

質 屋 pawn shop



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

員

employee, member

10 strokes

NN0808

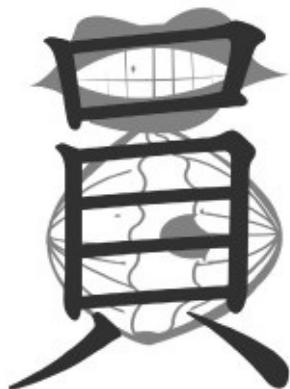
~in

KAI SHA IN

会 社 員 company worker

TEN IN

店 員 store employee



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

慣

get used to, become experienced

14 strokes
NN1970

na(reru), kan

NA RE RU

慣 れ る to become accustomed to

SHŪ KAN

習 慣 custom, manners



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

測 plan, scheme

12 strokes
NN3244

haka(ru), soku

SHIN CHŌ O HAKA RU
身 長 を 測 る to check someone's height

JIS SOKU
実 測 survey, actual measurements



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

Bugs 虫 and Meat 肉

虫 insect, bug, temper

6 strokes
NN5275

mushi, chū

KON CHŪ
昆 虫 insect, bug

MUSHI BA
虫 齒 a bad tooth



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

蚕

silkworm

10 strokes
NN5290

kaiko, san

SAN SHI
蚕 糸 silk thread



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

風

wind, air, style

9 strokes
NN6663

kaze, fū

KAZE

風 wind

WA FŪ

和 風 Japanese style



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

肉

meat

6 strokes
NN4753

niku

GYŪ NIKU
牛 肉 beef

NIKU DAN GO
肉 团 子 meatballs

HI NIKU
皮 肉 cynicism, sarcasm



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

爪

claw, talon

4 strokes
NN3509

tsume, sō

TSUME O TO GU
爪 を と ぐ to sharpen one's claws

SŌ GA
爪 牙 claws and fangs



Three TALONS are visible on this CLAW.

串

kebab, skewer

7 strokes
NN0030

kushi

KUSHI

串

skewer, kebab

TAKE GUSHI

竹

串 bamboo skewer



A mouthwatering SKEWER has pieces of meat and vegetables.

皮

skin, leather, hide

5 strokes

NN3878

kawa, hi

HI FU

皮 膚 skin

HI NIKU

皮 肉 sarcasm, irony

KAWA

皮 skin [of fruit, vegetable]



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

CHAPTER 7

THE WORLD

世

generation, world, society, public

4 strokes
NN0020

sei, se, yo

SE KAI
世 界 the world, society

KO NO YO
こ の 世 this world, the present life

SE WA
世 話 assistance, looking after



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

Sun 日

旭

rising sun, morning sun

6 strokes
NN2416

kyoku

KYOKU JITSU KI
旭 日 旗 rising sun flag



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

旦

daybreak, dawn, morning

5 strokes

NN2411

tan, dan

DAN NA

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

GAN TAN

元 旦 [morning of] New Year's Day



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

昔

once upon a time, old times

8 strokes

NN2433

mukashi, seki

MUKASHI MUKASHI

昔

々

long long ago

SEKI JITSU

昔

日

old days



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

早 early

6 strokes
NN2419

haya(i), sō

HAYA I
早 い early

SŌ KYŪ
早 急 urgent



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

昨

yesterday, previous

9 strokes
NN2449

saku

SAKU NEN

昨 年 last year

SAKU JITSU

昨 日 yesterday



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

昭

shining, bright

9 strokes

NN2446

shō

SHŌ WA

昭 和 Showa era [1926–89]



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

明

bright, light

8 strokes

NN2435

a(ku), aka(rui), mei, myō

AKA RU I

明 る い bright

SETSU MEI

説 明 explanation

SHŌ MEI SHO

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



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

暑
hot

12 strokes
NN2484

atsu(i), sho

ATSU I
暑 い hot

SHO CHŪ MI MA I
暑 中 見 舞 い summer greeting card



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

晴

clear up

12 strokes
NN2488

ha(reru), sei

HA RE

晴 れ clear weather

HA RE RU

晴 れ る to clear up [weather]

SEI TEN

晴 天 fine weather



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

映

reflect, reflection, protection

9 strokes

NN2448

utsu(ru), ei

EI GA

映 画 movie, film

UTSU RU

映 る to be reflected



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

暖

warmth

13 strokes
NN2502

atata(kai), dan

ATATA KA I
暖 か い **warm**

DAN BŌ
暖 房 **heater**



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

晦

dark, disappear

11 strokes

NN2454

kai, tsugomori

KAI JŪ

晦 淚 hidden [talents, etc.], concealment

Ō TSUGOMORI

大 晦 the last day of the year



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

暗

dark

13 strokes
NN2503

kura(i), an

KURA I

暗 い dark

AN GŌ

暗 号 secret code



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

星 star

9 strokes
NN2452

hoshi, sei

HOSHI
星 star

KA SEI
火 星 Mars



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

昧

dark, foolish

9 strokes
NN2444

mai

AI MAI

曖昧 vague, unclear

AI MAI SA

曖昧さ ambiguity



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

昏

dark, evening

8 strokes

NN2431

kon

KŌ KON

黃 昏

dusk, twilight



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

旺

flourishing, successful

8 strokes

NN2427

ō

ō SEI

旺 盛 full of vim and vigor

ō ZEN

旺 然 prosperous



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

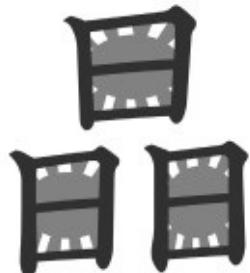
日晶

sparkle, crystal

12 strokes
NN2482

shō

SUI SHŌ
水 晶 crystal



Good CRYSTAL will SPARKLE like three suns (日).

昌

prosperous, bright, clear

8 strokes

NN2428

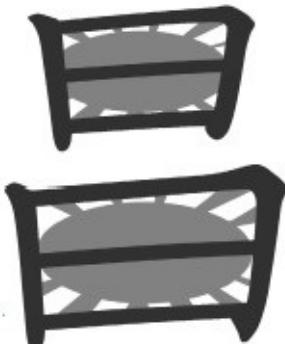
masa, shō

SHŌ HEI

昌 平 tranquility

MASA HIRO

昌 弘 Masahiro [male name]



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

是 just so, this

9 strokes
NN2451

kore, ze

KORE
是 this [written in hiragana]

ZE HI TO MO
是 非 と も by all means



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

普

universal, wide(ly), generally

12 strokes

NN2489

fu

FU TSŪ

普 通 ordinary, usual

FU DAN

普 段 usual, everyday



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

易

easy, simple

8 strokes

NN2432

yasa(shii), eki

TA BE YASU I
食 べ 易 い easy to eat

BŌ EKI
貿 易 [foreign] trade



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

旧

old things, old friend, former

5 strokes

NN2412

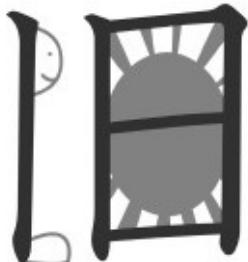
kyū

KYŪ YŪ

旧 友 old friend

KYŪ YAKU

旧 約 [foreign] trade



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

景

scenery, view

12 strokes

NN2487

kei

KEI KI GA I I

景 気 が い い good conditions

KE SHIKI

景 色 scenery, landscape



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

暫

temporarily, a while, long time

15 strokes

NN2510

shibara(ku), zan

SHIBARA KU

暫 < for a while [usu. in hiragana]

ZAN TEI

暫 定 tentative, temporary



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

甘

sweet, sugary

5 strokes
NN3710

ama(i), kan

AMA I

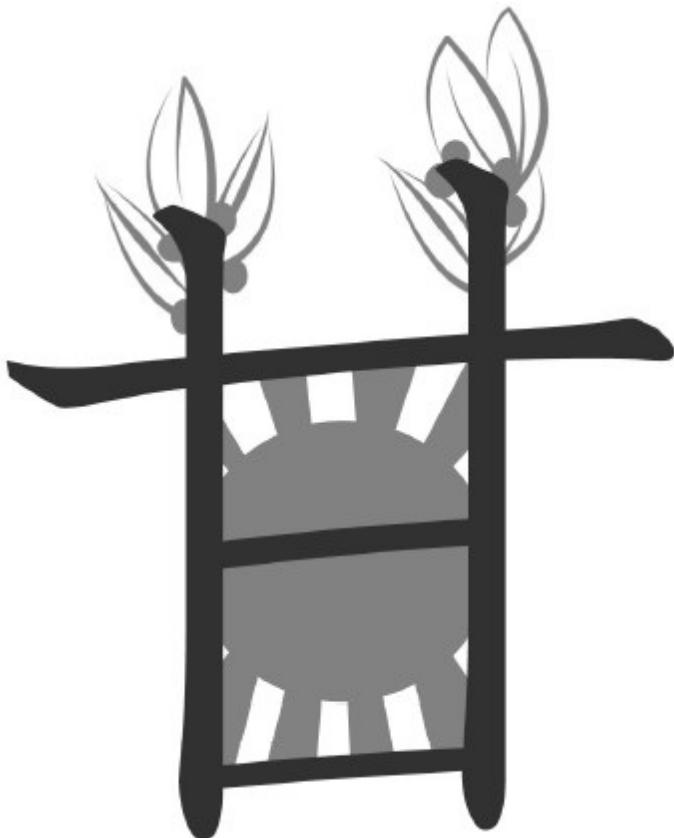
甘 い sweet

AMA E RU

甘 え る to behave like a spoiled child

KAN MI RYŌ

甘 味 料 sweeteners



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

香

incense, smell

9 strokes

NN6722

ka, kao(ri), kō

KAO RI

香 い) aroma, fragrance

KŌ SUI

香 水 perfume

KA GAWA KEN

香 川 県 Kagawa Prefecture



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

最

utmost, most, extreme

12 strokes

NN2492

motto(mo), sai

SAI KIN

最 近 recently, these days

MOTTO MO

最 も most, extremely



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

厚

thick, kind

9 strokes

NN0651

atsu(i)

ATSU I

厚 い thick, heavy, cordial

ATSU GI RI

厚 切 り thickly sliced food



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

暴

outburst, fret

15 strokes

NN2511

aba(reru), bō

RAN BŌ

乱 暴 rude, violent

ABA RE MONO

暴 れ 者 roughneck



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

日

day, sun

4 strokes

NN2410

hi, nichi

NI HON

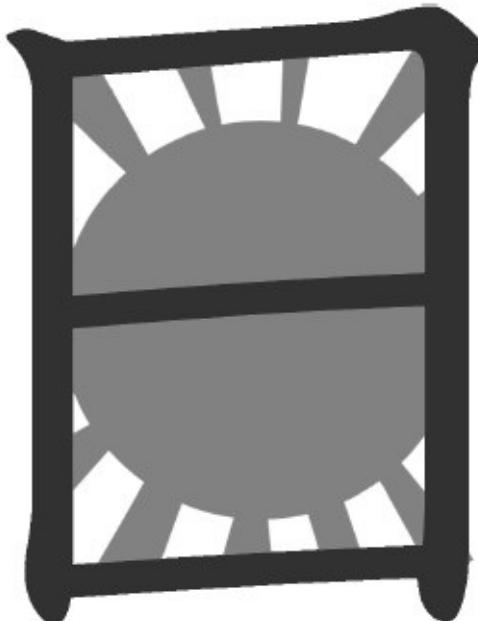
日本 Japan

SO NO HI

その日 that day

NICHI YŌ BI

日曜日 Sunday



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

昼

daytime, noon

9 strokes
NN2450

hiru, chū

HIRU

昼 noon

CHŪ SHOKU

昼 食 lunch



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

晚

nightfall, night

12 strokes
NN2491

ban

KON BAN

今 晚 this evening

HITO BAN

一 晚 one night, evening



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

曜

weekday

18 strokes
NN2522

yō



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

週

week

11 strokes
NN6070

shū

KON SHŪ
今 週 this week



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

Time 時

時

time, hour

10 strokes
NN2462

toki, ~doki, ji

NI JI
二 時 two o'clock

TOKI DOKI
時々 sometimes



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

毎

every

6 strokes
NN3006

mai

MAI NICHİ

毎 日 every day

MAI KAI

毎 回 every time



A person looks EVERY day at their calendar.

毒

poison, germ

8 strokes

NN3007

doku

O KI NO DOKU NI
お 気 の 毒 に my sympathies

YŪ DOKU
有 毒 poisonous



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

年
year

6 strokes
NN1593

toshi, nen

TOSHI
年 year, age

ICHI NEN SEI
一 年 生 first year student



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

午

noon, zodiac sign of the horse

4 strokes

NN0604

uma, go

UMA DOSHI

午 年 year of the horse

GO GO

午 後 p.m.



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

Moon 月

月

month, moon

4 strokes

NN2530

tsuki, getsu, ~gatsu

SEN GETSU
先月 last month

ICHI GATSU
一月 January

TSUKI
月 moon



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

有

possess, have, exist

6 strokes

NN4756

a(ru), yū

YŪ MEI

有名 famous



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

朝

morning, dynasty

12 strokes

NN4838

asa, chō

ASA

朝 morning

CHŌ SHOKU

朝 食 breakfast



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

服

clothing

8 strokes

NN4775

fuku

YŌ FUKU

洋 服 **Western clothing**

SEI FUKU

朝 服 **uniform**



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

育

bring up, raise

8 strokes

NN4773

soda(tsu), iku

KYŌ IKU

教 育 education

SODA TSU

育 つ to be raised



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

夜

night, evening

8 strokes

NN1129

yo, yoru, ya

YORU

夜 evening

KON YA

今 夜 this evening

YO NAKA

夜 中 midnight



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

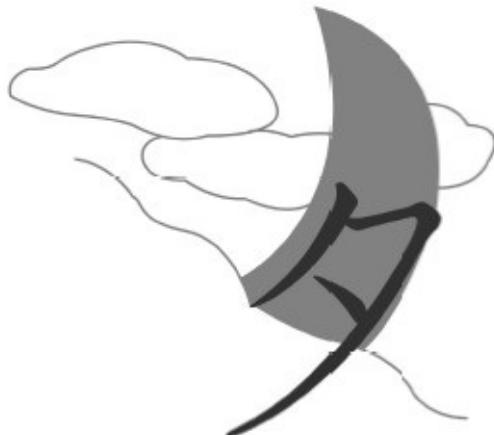
夕

evening

3 strokes
NN1123

yū

YŪ SHOKU
夕 食 evening meal



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

外

outside

soto, gai

12 strokes

NN1125

SOTO

外 **outside**

GAI KOKU JIN

外 国 人 **foreigner**



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

多

many, frequent, much

6 strokes

NN1127

ō(i), ta

Ō I

多 い many, numerous

Ō KU

多 く many, largely

TA BUN

多 分 probably



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

靜

quiet

14 strokes
NN6560

shizu(ka), sei

SHIZU KA

静 か quiet

REI SEI

冷 静 calm, composure



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

祭

celebrate, worship, deify

12 strokes
NN4092

matsu(ri), sai

O MATSU RI
お 祭 り **festival, carnival**

SAI JITSU
祭 日 **national holiday**



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

期

period, time, term

12 strokes
NN4836

ki

JI KI

時 期 time, season, period

GAK KI

学 期 semester, school term



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

用
use, business

5 strokes
NN3721

mochi(iru), yō

SHOKU YŌ ABURA
食 用 油 cooking oil

YŌ I
用 意 preparation, arrangements

MOCHI I RU
用 い い to utilize, to make use of



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

痛

pain, hurt, damage

12 strokes

NN3814

ita(i), tsū

ITA I

痛 い painful, sore

ZU TSŪ

頭 痛 headache



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

望 hope

11 strokes
NN4819

nozo(mu), bō

NOZO MU
望 む to desire, to wish for

SHITSU BŌ
失 望 disappointment, despair



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

Fire 火, ...

火 fire

4 strokes
NN3394

hi, ka

HI
火 fire

KA YŌ BI
火 曜 日 Tuesday



Two logs leaning against each other create sparks of FIRE.

灯

lamp, a light

6 strokes
NN3395

hi, tō

DEN TŌ
電 灯 electric light

HI O TSU KE RU
灯 を 点 け る to turn on the light



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

炭

charcoal, coal

9 strokes
NN3413

sumi, tan

SUMI

炭 charcoal

SEKI TAN

石 炭 coal



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

災

disaster, calamity

7 strokes

NN3400

wazawai, sai

SAI GAI

災 害 calamity, disaster

WAZAWA I

災 い calamity, disaster



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

熟

mellow, ripen, acquire skill

15 strokes

NN3472

u(reru), juku

U RE

熟 れ ripeness, maturity

JUKU DOKU

熟 読 careful reading



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

燃

burn, blaze, grow

16 strokes
NN3490

mo(eru), nen

MO E RU
燃 え る to burn

NEN PI
燃 費 fuel consumption, gas mileage



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

熱

heat, temperature, fever

15 strokes
NN3473

atsu(i), netsu

NETSU

熱 fever

ATSU I

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

NES SHIN

熱 心 enthusiasm



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

為

do, change, make, benefit, reach to

9 strokes

NN3411

tame, na(ru), i

NO TAME NI

の 為 に because

KŌ I

行 為 act, deed

NA RU

為 る to become



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

点

mark, point,decimal point

9 strokes

NN3412

ten

MAN TEN

滿 点 perfect score

KYŪ TEN

九 点 nine points



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

然

sort of thing, so, if so, well

12 strokes
NN3435

shika(shi), zen

TŌ ZEN

当 然 natural, as a matter of course, deserved

SHI ZEN

自 然 nature, naturally, spontaneously

SHIKA SHI NA GA RA

然 し な が ら however, nevertheless



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

照

illuminate, shine

13 strokes
NN3457

te(ru), shō

SAN SHŌ

参 照 reference, biographical reference

TE RA SU

照 ら す to shine on



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

無

nothingness, none, not

12 strokes
NN3439

na(i), mu, bu

NA KU NA RU

無 く な る to be lost [luggage, etc.]

MU RYŌ

無 料 free [of charge]

BU JI NI

無 事 に safely, without problems



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

Metal 金

金

gold

8 strokes
NN6211

kane, kin

O KANE
お 金 money

KIN YŌ BI
金 曜 日 Friday



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

鉄

iron

13 strokes
NN6253

tetsu

CHI KA TETSU
地 下 鉄 subway

TETSU
鉄 iron



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

銀

silver

14 strokes
NN6268

gin

GIN KŌ
銀 行 bank

GIN
銀 silver



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

鏡
mirror

19 strokes
NN6341

kagami, kyō

KAGAMI
鏡 mirror

SŌ GAN KYŌ
双 眼 鏡 binoculars



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

錄

record

16 strokes
NN6298

roku

KI ROKU
記 錄 record, minutes

ROKU ON
錄 音 [audio] recording



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

当

hit, right, appropriate, win a prize

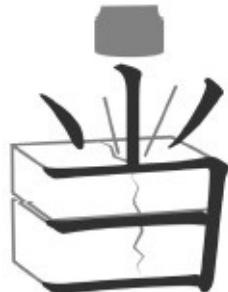
6 strokes

NN1706

a(taru), tō

HON TŌ

本 当 truth, reality



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

Water 水, 涅

水

water

4 strokes

NN3030

mizu, sui

MIZU

水 water

SUI YŌ BI
水 曜 日 Wednesday



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

氷

ice, icicle, hail, freeze

5 strokes

NN3032

kōri, kō(ru), hyō

KŌRI

氷 ice

KA KI GŌRI

か き 氷 shaved ice [flavored snow cone]

HYŌ ZAN

氷 山 iceberg



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

海 ocean, sea

9 strokes
NN3133

umi, ~kai

UMI
海 ocean

NI HON KAI
日 本 海 Sea of Japan



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

求

request, want, wish for, require

7 strokes

NN3036

moto(meru), kyū

MOTO ME RU

求 め る to want, to seek

YŌ KYŪ

要 求 demand, requisition



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

永

eternity, long, lengthy

5 strokes

NN3031

naga(i), ei

NAGA I

永 い long [time]

EI KYŪ

永 久 eternity



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

湖

lake

12 strokes

NN3240

mizuumi, ko

MIZUUMI

湖

lake

BI WA KO

琵

琶 湖 Lake Biwa



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

流

current, a sink, flow

10 strokes

NN3160

naga(reru), ryū, ru

NAGA SHI

流 し a sink

NI RYŪ

二 流 second-rate, inferior



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

港
harbor

12 strokes
NN3242

minato, kō

KŪ KŌ
空 港 airport

MINATO MACHI
港 町 port city



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

池

pond, reservoir

6 strokes

NN3042

ike, chi

IKE

池 pond

DEN CHI

電 池 battery [i.e., reservoir of energy]



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

波
wave

8 strokes
NN3101

nami, ha

NAMI
波 wave

TSU NAMI
津 波 tsunami, tidal wave

NŌ HA
脳 波 brain waves



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

洗 wash

9 strokes
NN3131

ara(u), sen

ARA U
洗 う to wash

SEN TAKU
洗 灌 laundry



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

浴

bathe, bask in

10 strokes

NN3153

a(biru), yoku

A BI RU

浴 び る **to bathe, to bask in**

KAI SUI YOKU

海 水 浴 **sea bathing**



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

注 pour, irrigate

8 strokes
NN3103

soso(gu), chū

SOSO GU
注 ㄔ to pour

CHŪ I
注 意 caution

CHŪ MON
注 文 order



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

混 mix, blend

11 strokes
NN3204

ma(jiru), kon

MA JI RU
混 じ る to be mixed, to be blended with

KON ZATSU
混 雜 confusion, congestion



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

泳

swim

8 strokes
NN3090

oyo(gu), ei

OYO GU

泳 ぐ to swim

SUI EI

水 泳 swimming



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

泣

cry, weep, sob

8 strokes

NN3104

na(ku)

NA KU

泣 < to cry



Someone stands (立), CRYING tears of sadness.

激

violent, get excited, enraged

16 strokes

NN3350

hage(shii), geki

HAGE SHI I

激 し い violent, furious

KYŪ GEKI

急 激 sudden, radical



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

油 oil, fat

8 strokes
NN3106

abura, yu

ABURA
油 oil, fat

SEKI YU
石 油 oil, petroleum, kerosene



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

湯

hot water, bath

12 strokes

NN3245

yu, tō

O YU

お 湯 hot water, hot bath

NET TŌ

熱 湯 boiling water



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

潮

salt water, tide, opportunity

15 strokes
NN3336

shio, chō

MAN CHŌ

満 潮 high tide, high water

ASA SHIO

朝 潮 morning tide



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

温
warm

12 strokes
NN3246

atata(kai), on

ATATA KA I
温 か い warm

ON SEN
温 泉 hot spring [spa]



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

涼

refreshing, nice and cool

11 strokes

NN3198

suzu(*shii*), ryō

SUZU SHI I

涼 し い cool

SEI RYŌ

清 涼 cool, refreshing



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

準

semi-, correspond to, conform, level

13 strokes

NN3278

jun

JUN BI

涼し preparation

SUI JUN

水準 level, standard, water level



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

源 source, origin

13 strokes
NN3274

minamoto, gen

SHI GEN
資 源 resources

DŌ GEN
同 源 the same origin



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

減

decrease, dwindle

12 strokes

NN3249

he(ru), gen

HE RU

減 る to decrease [size or number]

GEN SHŌ

減 少 decrease, decline



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

漢

Sino~, China

13 strokes
NN3281

kan

KAN JI
漢 字 Chinese characters



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

治

cure, heal, be at peace

8 strokes

NN3100

osa(maru), nao(su), ji

OSA MA RI

治 ま り conclusion

NAO SU

治 す to cure, to heal

SEI JI

政 治 politics, government



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

沿

run alongside, follow along

8 strokes

NN3096

so(u), en

KAWA ZO I

川 沿 い **alongside the river**

EN SEN

沿 線 **along the railway line**



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

派

group, clique, school (of)

9 strokes
NN3126

ha

RIP PA
立 派 splendid, elegant

HA DE
派 手 loud, flashy



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

洋

ocean, Western style

9 strokes
NN3130

yō

SEI YŌ

西 洋 **Pacific Ocean**

YŌ FUKU

洋 服 **Western-style clothes**



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

法

method, rule, law

8 strokes
NN3107

hō

HŌ HŌ

方 法 method, way

HŌ RITSU

法 律 law



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

活

lively, being helped, living

9 strokes

NN3132

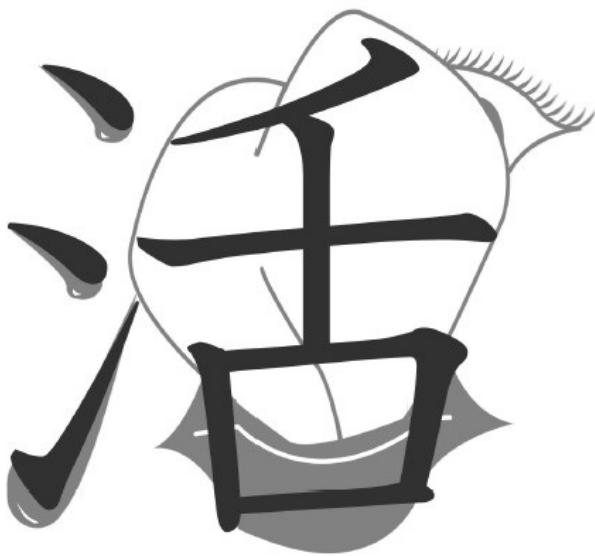
i(kiru), katsu

SEI KATSU

生 活 lively, living

KATSU DŌ

活 動 action, activity



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

深

deep, heighten, intensify

11 strokes

NN3206

fuka(i), shin

FUKA I

深 い deep, dense, profound

SHIN KAI

深 海 deep sea



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

消

extinguish, blow out

10 strokes

NN3158

ki(eru), ke(su), shō

KE SU

消 す to erase, to delete, to power down

KI E RU

消 え る to go out, to disappear



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

清

pure, cleanse

11 strokes
NN3205

kiyo(i), sei

SEI KETSU

清 潔

clean, hygienic

KIYO ME RU

清 め る

to purify, to cleanse



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

決

decide, fix, agree upon

7 strokes

NN3070

ki, ketsu

KI ME RU

決 め る to decide, to determine

O KI MA RI

御 決 ま り standard, set, routine

HAN KETSU

判 決 judicial decision



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

況

condition, situation

8 strokes
NN3086

kyō

FU KYŌ

不 惡 recession, depression

JIK KYŌ

実 惡 real condition, live



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

浜

sea coast, beach

10 strokes
NN3152

hama

HAMA BE

浜 辺 beach

YOKO HAMA

横 浜 Yokohama



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

川

river, stream

3 strokes
NN1526

kawa, sen

KAWA

川 river

KA SEN

河 川 rivers



Three strokes of a large RIVER flow downward.

州

state, province

6 strokes
NN1529

shū

KA RI FO RU NI A SHŪ
カ リ フオ ル ニ ア 州 state of California

HON SHŪ
本 州 island of Honshu



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

洲

continent, sandbar, island

9 strokes

NN3120

shū, su

SHIRA SU

白 洲 bar of white sand

GŌ SHŪ

豪 洲 Australia



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

泉

spring, fountain

9 strokes

NN3095

izumi, sen

KO IZUMI

小 泉 Koizumi [surname]

ON SEN

温 泉 hot spring [spa]



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

線

line, track

15 strokes
NN4548

sen

YAMA NOTE SEN
山 手 線 Yamanote Line

GIN ZA SEN
銀 座 線 Ginza Line



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

原

meadow, original, field, primitive,
wilderness

10 strokes
NN0652

hara, gen

GEN IN

原 因 cause, origin

NO HARA

野 原 field



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

Soil, Earth 土, 壴

坂

slope, incline

7 strokes
NN0985

saka

Ō SAKA
大 阪 Osaka

NOBO RI ZAKA
上 り 坂 ascent, upgrade



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

場

location, place

12 strokes
NN1058

ba, jō

BA SHO

場 所 place, location

KŌ JŌ

工 場 factory, mill



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

土

soil, earth, ground

3 strokes

NN0966

tsuchi, do, to

TSUCHI

土

soil, ground

DO TE

土

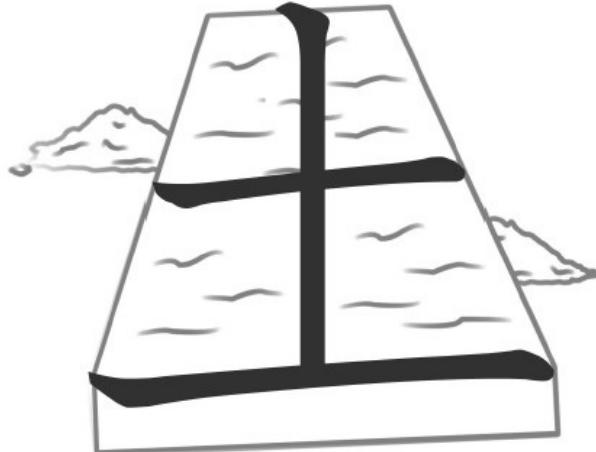
bank, mound

TO CHI

土

hand

plot of land, soil



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

境

boundary, border, region

14 strokes
NN1085

sakai, kyō

SAKAI ME

境 目 boundary line

KAN KYŌ

環 境 environment, circumstance



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

地

ground, earth

6 strokes

NN0976

chi, ji

TO CHI

土 地 plot of land

CHI ZU

地 図 map



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

埋

buried, filled up, hidden

10 strokes

NN1020

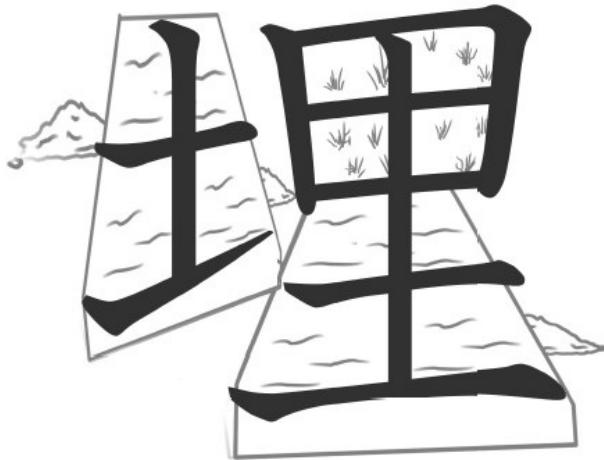
u(meru), mai

U ME RU

埋 め る to bury [in ground]

MAI ZŌ

埋 蔵 buried treasure, treasure trove



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

坑

pit, hole

7 strokes
NN0987

kō

KIN KŌ
金 坑 gold mine



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

域

range, region, limits

11 strokes

NN1030

iki

CHI IKI

地 域 area, region



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

均

level, average

7 strokes
NN0988

kin

HEI KIN
平 均 average, balance



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

鹽 salt

13 strokes
NN1075

shio, en

SHIO
鹽 salt

EN SO
鹽 素 chlorine



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

在

exist, outskirts, suburbs

6 strokes

NN0975

a(ru), zai

GEN ZAI

現 在 now, current, present time



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

増

increase, add, augment

14 strokes

NN1088

fu(eru), zō

FU E RU

増 え る to increase, to multiply

ZŌ RYŌ

増 量 to increase in volume or quantity



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

勢

force, energy, military strength

13 strokes

NN0558

ikio(i), sei, zei

Ō ZEI

大 勢 crowd, great number of people

JI SEI

時 勢 spirit of the age, trends

IKIO I

勢 い force, vigor, energy



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

圧

pressure, push, overwhelm, oppress

5 strokes

NN0970

atsu

ATSUR YOKU

圧 力 pressure, arm-twisting

KETSU ATSU

血 圧 blood pressure



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

型

mold, type, model

9 strokes

NN1010

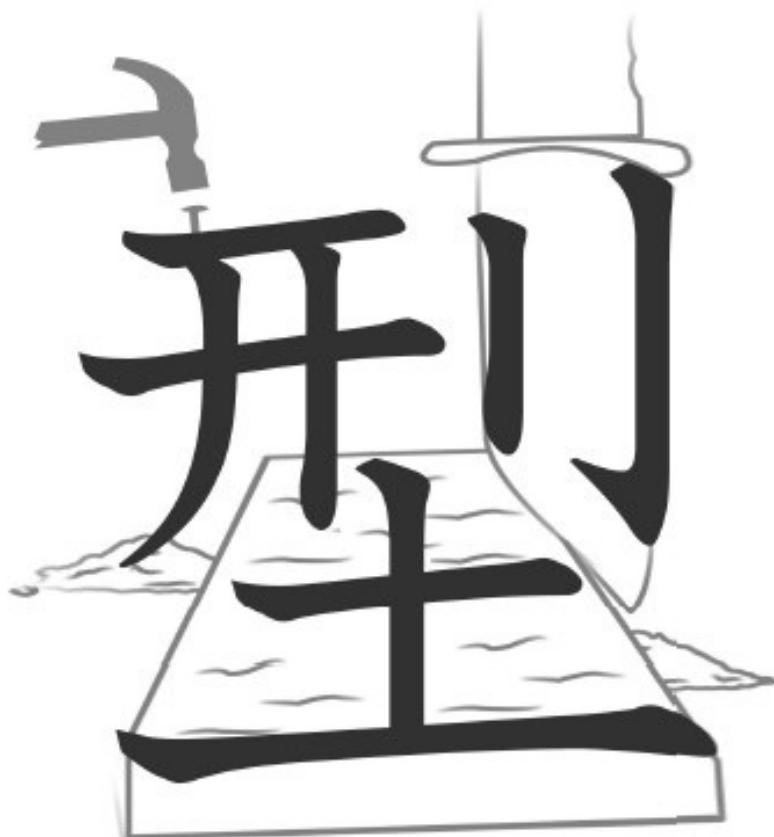
kata, ~gata

KETSU EKI GATA

血 液 型 blood type

KO GATA

小 型 small size



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

堂

public hall

11 strokes
NN1037

dō

SHOKU DŌ
食 堂 dining hall

KŌ KAI DŌ
公 会 堂 public hall



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

報

report, news

12 strokes
NN1059

hō

JŌ HŌ

情 報 news, gossip

SOKU HŌ

速 報 breaking news



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

基 fundamental, foundation

11 strokes
NN1040

moto, ki

KI HON TEKI
基 本 的 fundamental, standard

KI CHI
基 地 military base



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

声

voice

7 strokes
NN0989

koe, sei

KOE

声 voice

ON SEI

声 声 voice

BI SEI

美 声 beautiful voice



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

Mountain 山

考

consider, think over

6 strokes
NN4697

kanga(eru), kō

KANGA E RU
考 え る to consider, to think about

SHI KŌ
思 考 thought, consideration



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

老

old man, old age, grow old

6 strokes

NN4696

o(iru), fu(keru), rō

RŌ JIN

老人 the aged, old person

TOSHI O I RU

年 老 い る to grow old

FU KE RU

老 け る to age, to grow old



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

者

someone, person

8 strokes

NN4698

mono, sha

I SHA

医 者 doctor

WAKA MONO

若 者 young man, youth



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

山 mountain

3 strokes
NN1439

yama, san

YAMA
山 mountain

FU JI SAN
富士山 Mt. Fuji

TO ZAN
登山 mountain climbing



A MOUNTAIN peak stands tall.

谷 **valley**

7 strokes
NN5730

tani, koku

TANI GAWA
谷 川 **mountain stream**

TANI MA
谷 間 **valley, ravine**



Between mountain peaks is a VALLEY where a person (人) lived and talked (口) about how much he liked it.

岸
beach

8 strokes
NN1459

kishi, gan

KAI GAN
海 岸 coast, beach

KAWA GISHI
川 岸 riverbank



Near the base of a mountain (山) cliff (厓), plunging into the sea, is a drying rack for BEACH towels.

岩

boulder, rock, cliff

8 strokes
NN1461

iwa, gan

GAN EN

岩 塩 rock salt

KAI GAN

海 岸 coast, beach



A large ROCK lies at the base of the mountain (山).

島

island

10 strokes
NN1476

shima, tō

SHIMA

島 island

BA RI TŌ

バリ島 Bali Island



A large bird sits on an ISLAND, the top of an undersea mountain (山).

出

go out, exit, take out, leave

5 strokes

NN0445

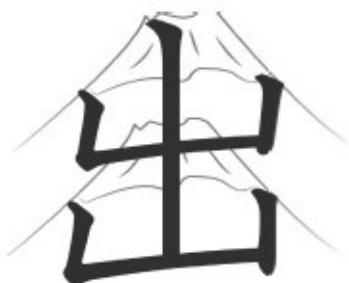
de(ru), da(su), shutsu

DE RU

出 る to go out

DA SU

出 す to take out



When you can see the twin mountains (山), you are about to EXIT the plains and LEAVE flatlands behind.

両

both, two

6 strokes
NN0023

ryō

RYŌ SHIN

両 親 parents

RYŌ GAE SU TSU

両 替 す す to exchange money



BOTH halves of this one kanji with a mountain (山) and frame nearly mirror each other.

Dotted Cliff 广

広

wide, broad, spacious

5 strokes
NN1604

hiro(i), kō

HIRO I
広い wide, spacious

HIRO SHIMA
広島 Hiroshima

KŌ DAI
広大 huge, very large



I myself am almost as WIDE as this dotted cliff (廣).

床
bed, floor

7 strokes
NN1608

toko, yuka, shō

YUKA
床 floor

TOKO NO MA
床 の 間 alcove for display of art or flowers

KI SHŌ
起 床 getting out of bed



At the base of the dotted cliff (广), trees (木) covered the forest FLOOR.

厅

government office

5 strokes
NN1603

chō

KAN CHŌ

官 庁 government office, authorities

HON CHŌ

本 庁 central government office



The GOVERNMENT OFFICE is at in the ward (丁) at the base of the dotted cliff (广).

序

preface, beginning

7 strokes

NN1607

jo

JO BUN

序 文 **preface, introduction**

KŌ JO

公 序 **public order**



I (予) will get on the stool and start at the BEGINNING but first I should PREFACE with the reason why the cliff is dotted (广).

府

borough, govt. office, urban prefecture

8 strokes

NN1611

fu

SEI FU

政府 government

BAKU FU

幕府 shogunate



At the base of the dotted cliff (廣) is the BOROUGH where the GOVERNMENT OFFICE is and where officials control the units of measure (寸). Japanese

店

store, shop

8 strokes
NN1613

mise, ten

MISE

店 shop, store

HON TEN

本 店 main branch



Below a dotted cliff (广) sits a fortune teller's (占) SHOP.

度

degree, occurrence, time

8 strokes

NN1616

tabi, do

MO U ICHI DO
も う 一 度 **one more time,**

SO NO TABI NI
そ の 度 に **each time**



Each TIME we picnic under the dotted cliff (广), we swing on the swing next to the table, going at least seventy-five DEGREES in the air on each OCCURRENCE.

底

bottom, sole, depth

8 strokes

NN1612

soko, tei

KAI TEI

海 底 bottom of the ocean

SOKO BIKA RI

底 光 丂 inner glow or light



The BOTTOM of the dotted cliff (广) beneath the net is the lowest or shortest (低) point of DEPTH.

庭

courtyard, garden, yard

9 strokes

NN1618

niwa, tei

NIWA

庭 garden

KA TEI

家庭 household, family



At the base of the dotted cliff (广) is a GARDEN where archers and samurai with fancy helmets take long strides (爻) around the YARD.

座 seat, cushion, sit

10 strokes
NN1619

suwa(ru), za

SUWA RU
座 る to sit

ZA SEKI
座 席 seat



In the shade of the dotted cliff (广) are two people (人) SEATED on the ground (土).

庫

warehouse, storehouse

10 strokes
NN1617

kura, ko

REI ZŌ KO
冷 藏 庫 refrigerator

SHA KO
車 庫 garage

KURA I RE
庫 入 れ warehousing



The carts (車) of goods are ready to unload in the WAREHOUSE at the base of the dotted cliff (广).

Stone 石

石

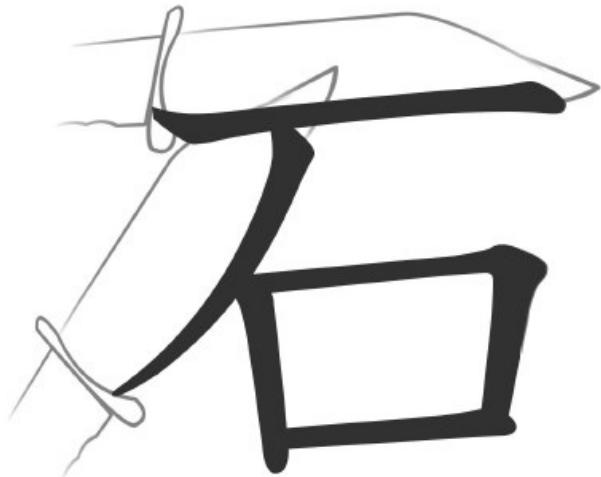
stone, rock

5 strokes
NN3985

ishi, seki

SEKI YU
石 油 petroleum

SEK KEN
石 鹼 soap



A sharpening STONE is used to sharpen knives from multiple angles.

研

polish, sharpen

9 strokes
NN3991

to(gu), ken

KEN KYŪ

研 究 research, investigation

TO GU

研 ぐ to sharpen, to hone



One uses a stone (石) to SHARPEN a blade, moving it up and down, side to side.

石少

sand

9 strokes
NN3992

suna, sa

SUNA

砂 sand

SA TŌ

砂 糖 sugar



As if cut by a blade, stones (石) are broken down over time to smaller (少) and smaller particles until they become SAND.

破

rip, tear, destroy

10 strokes

NN3999

yabu(ru), ha

HA KAI

破 壊 destruction

YABU RU

破 る to tear, to defeat, to smash



Sharpened stones (石) fell from the cliff (厓), DESTROYING the table.

磁

magnet, porcelain

14 strokes
NN4029

ji

JI SHAKU

磁 石 magnet, compass

JI SEI

磁 性 magnetism



MAGNETS stick together like stones (石) sewn together by threads (糸).

CHAPTER 8

MEDIEVAL JAPAN

城

castle

9 strokes
NN1011

shiro, jō

O SHIRO

お 城 castle

Ō SAKA JŌ

大 阪 城 Osaka Castle



To defend the soil (土), high on a cliff (厂), a CASTLE was built from boulders quarried from below and defended with halberds (戈).

King 王 and Samurai 士

王

king, rule

4 strokes
NN3619

ō SAMA
王様 **king**

JO Ō
女王 **queen**



The KING (王) is the top tier of three (三) levels of society.

玉

jewel, jade, ball

5 strokes

NN3620

tama, ~dama, gyoku

TAMA NE GI

玉 ね ぎ onion

HYAKU EN DAMA

DAMA 円 玉 100-yen coin

SUI GYOKU

翠 玉 emerald, jade



The young king (王) is bouncing his BALL.

主 lord, chief, principal

5 strokes
NN0038

meshi, omo, shu

SHU JIN
主 人 head [of a household]

OMO DA TSU
主 立 つ to be important



A LORD wears a large feather in his hat.

球

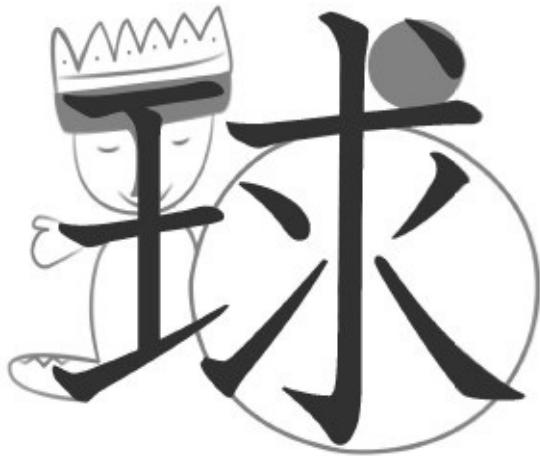
ball, sphere

11 strokes
NN3643

tama, kyū

CHI KYŪ
地 球 the earth, the globe

YA KYŪ
野 球 baseball



The king (王) had to be convinced that the world was a SPHERE composed mostly of water (水).

班

squad, unit, group

10 strokes

NN3636

han

HAN CHŌ

班 長 team leader

HAN IN

班 員 member of a group



Each member of this GROUP is like a king (王) after everyone set down their blades and became friends.

理

logic, reason, truth

11 strokes

NN3644

ri

RYŌ RI

料 理 cooking, cuisine

RI KAI

理 解 understanding, comprehension



A good king (王) ruled fields (田) and lands (土) with REASON, searching for TRUTH.

現

present, existing, actual

11 strokes

NN3645

arawa(reru), gen

GEN ZAI

現 在 now, current

ARAWA RE RU

現 れ る to appear, to come into sight



A king (王) should be PRESENT in his kingdom and see (見) what is ACTUALLY going on.

士

gentleman, samurai

3 strokes

NN1117

shi

BEN GO SHI
弁 護 士 lawyer

HEI SHI
兵 士 soldier



A SAMURAI with broad shoulders sits upright like a perfect GENTLEMAN.

表

surface, table, chart, diagram

8 strokes

NN5422

omote, arawa(su), hyō

HYŌ SU

表 す to express

OMOTE DŌ RI

表 通 り main street

AWARA SU

表 す to reveal



A samurai (士) had an inferior fold his garments (衣) on a flat SURFACE.

Arrow 矢

結

tie, bind, contract, join

12 strokes
NN4492

musu(bu), yu(u), ketsu

KEK KON
結 婚 **marriage**

MUSU BU
結 ぶ **to tie up**

KAMI YU I
髪 結 い **hairdresser**



You may speak to a samurai (士) and use a string (糸) to JOIN into a BINDING CONTRACT of fortune.

吉

good luck, joy, congratulations

6 strokes

NN0711

kichi, kitsu

FU KITSU

不 吉 ominous, sinister

KICHI REI

吉 例 festive annual custom



Say GOOD LUCK and later CONGRATULATIONS to a samurai (士) before and after a battle.

壳
sell

7 strokes
NN0990

u(ru), bai

U RU
壳 る to sell

SHŌ BAI
商 壳 trade, commerce, occupation



Eventually, as the wars ended, samurai needed new occupations and many began to SELL shoes in jars with lids.

矢

dart, arrow

5 strokes

NN3976

ya, shi

YUMI YA

弓 矢 bow and arrow

IS SHI

一 矢 an arrow, [a] retort



This archer, with a feather in his cap, has his arms stretched wide to shoot an ARROW.

知

know, wisdom

8 strokes

NN3978

shi(ru), chi

SHI T TE I RU
知 つ て い る to know

CHI JIN
知 人 friend, acquaintance



The archer KNOWS how to hit a target through experience and WISDOM.

短

short (length)

12 strokes
NN3982

mijika(i), tan

MIJIIKA I
短 い short

TAN KI
短 気 short temper



An SHORT archer needs a SHORT dart (矢) to pierce a bean (豆).

豆

bean, pea

7 strokes
NN5735

mame, tō

MAME

豆

bean, pea

TŌ FU

豆

腐 tofu, bean-curd



When one (一) BEAN is planted, it sprouts to feed hungry mouths (口).

登

ascend, climb up

12 strokes

NN3862

nobo(ru), tō, to

TO ZAN

登 山 mountain climbing

TŌ ROKU

登 錄 registration, entry

YAMA NOBO RI

山 登 㠭 mountain climbing



To CLIMB a mountain by sunset, take plenty of beans (豆) to fill your stomach for energy on the ASCENT.

疑

doubt, distrust, question

14 strokes

NN3777

utaga(u), gi

UTAGA U

疑 う to doubt, distrust

GI MON

疑 問 question, problem



When an archer uses a ladle to stir DISTRUST in others, he himself must have a plan to duck and use his feet to run.

Spirits 术

神

gods, mind, soul

9 strokes

NN4087

kami, jin, shin

KAMI SAMA

神 様 gods, god

SHIN TŌ

神 道 Shinto



The rented property is haunted by a tortured SOUL.

祖

ancestor, founder

9 strokes
NN4083

so

SO FU

祖 父 grandfather

SO SEN

祖 先 ancestor



The names of the spirits of our ANCESTORS are listed on markers in the graveyard.

福

fortune, luck

13 strokes
NN4105

fuku

KŌ FUKU

幸 福 happiness, well being

FUKU OKA SHI

福 岡 市 Fukuoka City



May the spirits with one (ー) voice wish you LUCK and FORTUNE for your fields (田).

社

company, association, shrine

7 strokes

NN4065

sha, ja

JIN JA

神 社 Shinto shrine

KAI SHA

会 社 company

SHA KAI

社 会 social studies [subject]



A spirit of the soil (土) gives blessings to a new COMPANY or ASSOCIATION formed.

礼

salute, bow, thanks, ceremony

5 strokes

NN4061

rei

REI

礼 to bow

SHITSU REI

失 礼 courtesy, excuse me



When meeting a spirit, BOWING while on your knees might be necessary.

祝

celebrate, congratulate

9 strokes
NN4085

iwa(u), shuku

IWA I

祝 い congratulations, celebration

SHUKU JITSU

祝 日 national holiday



My big-mouth (口) older brother (兄) would always CELEBRATE the spirit of our ancestors.

CHAPTER 9

TOOLS

具

tool, utensil, ingredients

8 strokes
NN0376

gu

DŌ GU
道 具 tool, utensil

GU AI
具 合 condition, state



Use your eyes (目) to look for TOOLS and INGREDIENTS to prepare dinner at the table.

Sword 刀 and Blade 刃

刀

sword, saber, knife

2 strokes
NN0448

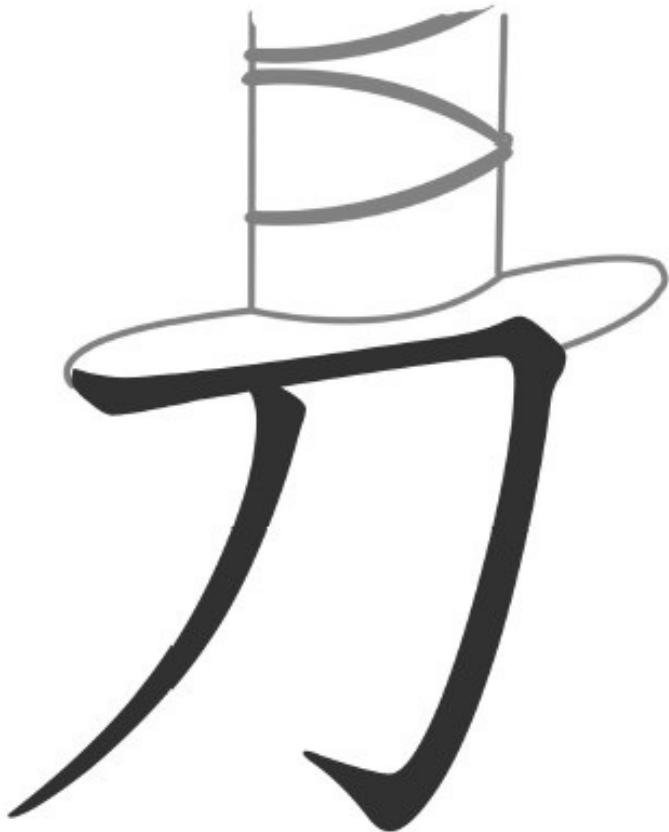
katana, tō

KATANA

刀 sword, saber

KO TŌ

古 刀 old sword



The hilt of this SWORD is above the sharp blade.

分

part, minute, understanding

4 strokes

NN0454

wa(karu), wa(keru), bun, fun, pun, bu

WA KA RU

分 か る **to understand**

WA KE RU

分 け る **to divide**

SAN PUN

三 分 **three minutes**

KI BUN

氣 分 **feeling, mood**



Within MINUTES, I was able to UNDERSTAND how to use the sword (刀) to cut the plank in half.

初

first time, beginning

7 strokes

NN0469

haji(me), sho

SAI SHO

最 初 beginning

HAJI ME TE

初 め て for the first time



Japanese mythology states that in the BEGINNING, the sword (刀) of a spirit cut through the sea and the drops from its tip became the islands of Japan.

券

ticket

8 strokes
NN0473

ken

SHOK KEN
食 券 meal ticket

KŌ KŪ KEN
航空券 airline ticket



This person has the one (一) extra big (大) TICKET, waving his arms with excitement after winning the prize sword (刀).

切

cut, cut off, be sharp

4 strokes

NN0453

ki(ru), setsu

SHIN SETSU

親 切 kindness, gentleness

KI RU

切 る to cut, to turn off [lights]

KIP PU

切 符 ticket



In the movie Seven (七) Samurai, many swords (刀) CUT many people and things.

刷

printing, print

8 strokes

NN0479

su(ru), ha(ku), satsu

IN SATSU

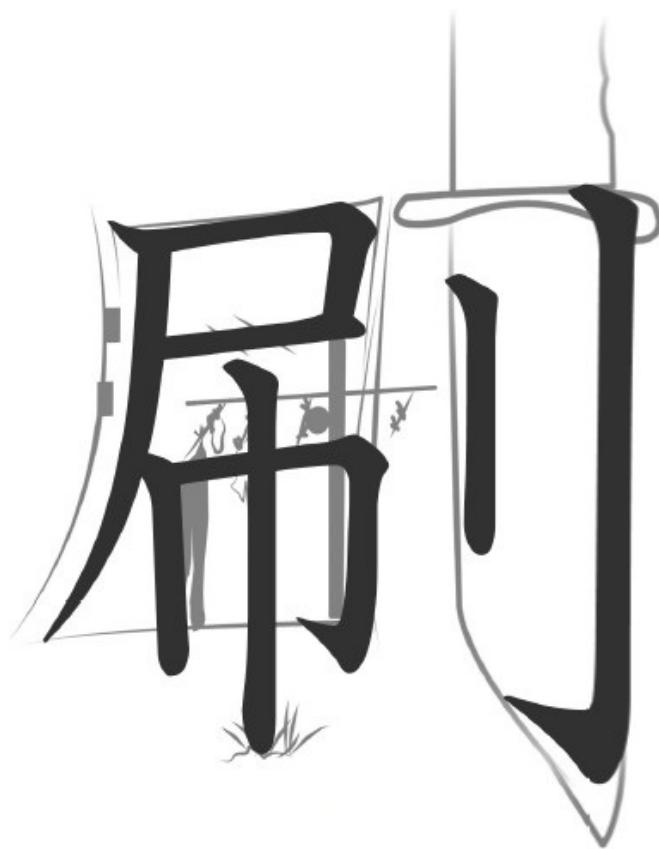
印 刷 printing

SU RU

刷 る to print

HA KE

刷 毛 brush



Through an open door, freshly PRINTED fabric can be seen drying and ready to be cut with a knife.

前

in front, before

9 strokes
NN0490

mae, zen

MAE
前 before

GO ZEN
午 前 a.m.



Some say the blades of grass IN FRONT of the house grow quicker you don't cut them with a knife BEFORE a full moon (月).

制
system, law

8 strokes
NN0481

sei

SEI FUKU
制 服 uniform

KIN SEI
禁 制 prohibition, ban



From the time you were born (生) there has been a SYSTEM for where to put laundry and a list of LAWS or rules that sometimes cut like a knife into your fun.

創

start, create, hurt

12 strokes
NN0506

tsuku(ru), sō

SŌ RITSU

創 立 establishment, founding

SŌ ZŌ

創 造 creation



When you CREATE a new wine, you START in the cellar (倉), preparing the fruit with a sharp knife.

副

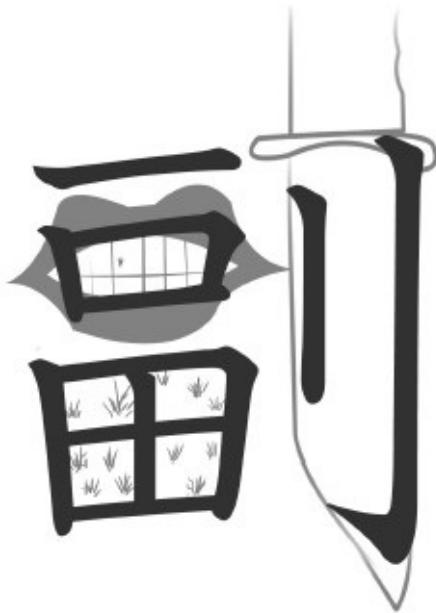
vice-, duplicate

11 strokes
NN0503

fuku

FUKU SHOKU
副 食 side dish

FUKU SHI
副 詞 adverb



He uses his mouth (口) to talk about how he DUPLICATED his success in the field (田) with a new plow that cut like a knife.

割

proportion, divide, comparatively, break

12 strokes

NN0507

wa(ru), wari, katsu

WA RE RU

割 れ る **to be smashed, to split**

YAKU WARI

役 割 **part, role**

BUN KATSU

分 割 **division**



Under a roof with a chimney, two pieces of land (土) are DIVIDED with a knife so that COMPARATIVELY more mouths (口) can eat.

劇

drama, play

15 strokes

NN0517

geki

GEKI JŌ

劇 場 theater

KA GEKI

歌 劇 opera



A DRAMA unfolds when a tiger (虎) pounces on a pig (豕) and claws and teeth clash like knives.

刊

publish, carve, engrave

5 strokes

NN0456

kan

SHIN KAN SHO
新 刊 書 new book

CHŌ KAN
朝 刊 morning paper



An image can be PUBLISHED once the ENGRAVING has fully dried
(干) on the line.

判

judgment, signature, stamp

7 strokes

NN0465

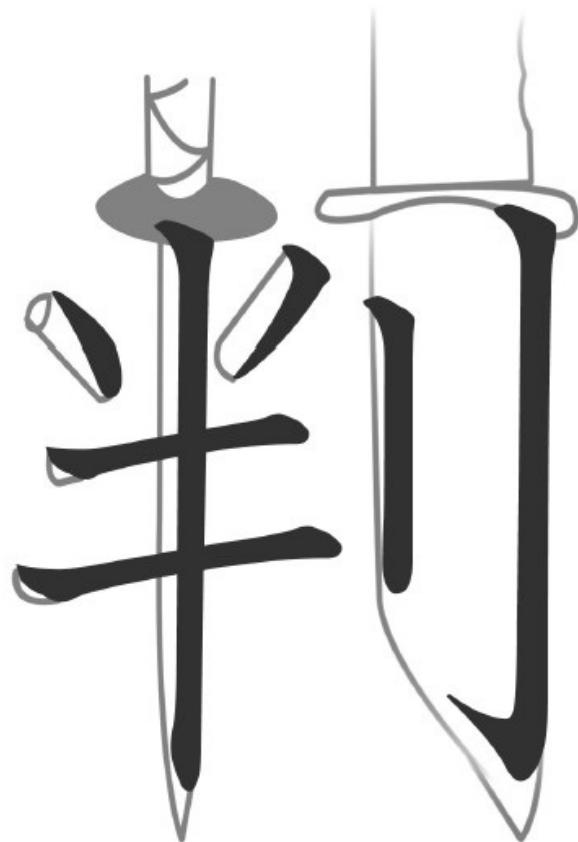
han, ban

HAN KO

判 子 seal, stamp

SAI BAN

裁 判 trial, judgment



A JUDGMENT was made with a simple SIGNATURE to split things in half (半) with a knife.

利

profit, advantage, benefit

7 strokes

NN0466

ki(ku), ri

RI YŌ

利 用 use, utilization

RI SHI

利 子 interest

RYŌ KI KI

両 利 き ambidexterity



A fancy tree (禾), when cut with a huge knife can lead to a huge PROFIT for one, but is of BENEFIT to all as is.

別

separate, branch off, another

7 strokes

NN0467

waka(reru), betsu

TOKU BETSU

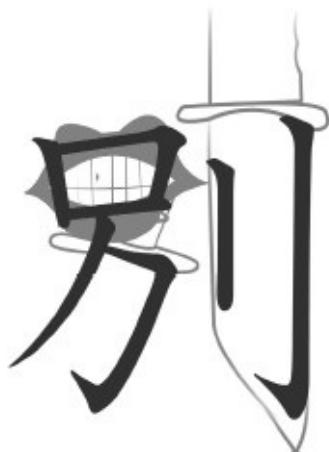
特 特 special

BETSU NI

別 に [not] particularly, separately

WAKA RE

別 れ parting, farewell



Using their mouths (口) to argue, one person realized the knife of ANOTHER was bigger than his own sword (刀) and he decided to SEPARATE.

列

file, row, column

6 strokes
NN0460

retsu

ICHI RETSU

一 列 [a] row, line

TOK KYŪ RES SHA

特 急 列 車 express train



One evening (夕), the knives were all lined up in a ROW.

Brush 筆, **Ax** 斧, **Divining Rod** 卜

書

write

10 strokes
NN2463

ka(ku), sho

KA KI MA SU
書 き ま す **to write**

TO SHO KAN
図 書 館 **library**



Four fingers of a hand holding a brush (筆) are WRITING the character for sun.

建 build

9 strokes
NN1660

ta(teru), ken

TATE MONO
建 物 building

KENS ETSU
建 設 construction



To BUILD something, first use a brush (聿) to draw a plan and then take long strides (攵) to complete it correctly.

康

ease, peace

11 strokes
NN1621

kō

KEN KŌ
健 康 health

KEN KŌ JIN
健 康 人 healthy person



At the base of a dotted cliff (广) is a place where one can live with EASE, grabbing water (水), and easily writing in a journal with brush (聿) and ink.

健

health, strength, persistence

11 strokes

NN0278

ken

KEN KŌ

健 康 health

KEN ZAI

健 在 in good health



To remain in good HEALTH and STRENGTH, a person should take long strides (爻) and brush (聿) his teeth after eating.

爭

contend, dispute, argue

6 strokes

NN0069

araso(u), sō

SEN SŌ

戦 爭 war

ARASO I

争 い dispute, quarrel



When you ARGUE and someone throws barbs during the DISPUTE, an official wearing epaulets can stop it.

事

matter, fact, thing (tangible)

8 strokes

NN0071

koto, ji

TA BE RU KOTO
食 べ る 事 eating

SHO KUJI
食 事 a meal

JI KO
事 故 accident



Her hand grabs a skewer with only one THING to put in her mouth (口) on the end.

卜

divining, fortune-telling

2 strokes

NN0622

uranai, boku

BOKU SHA

卜 者 fortune teller



This DIVINING rod works great for FORTUNE-TELLING.

斤

ax, counter for loaves of bread

4 strokes

NN2379

kin

FU KIN

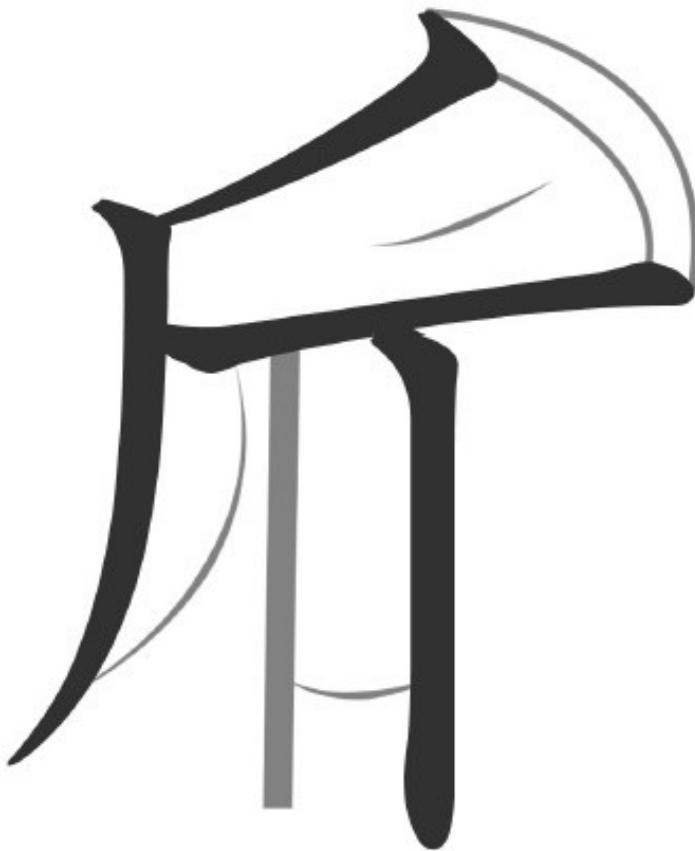
斧 斤 ax

KIN RYŌ

斤 量 weight

SAN KIN

三 斤 three loaves of bread



The blade of this AX is very long and sharp.

占

fortune-telling, forecasting, occupy

5 strokes

NN0624

shi(meru), urana(u), sen

SHI ME RU

占 め る to occupy, to hold

URANA U

占 う to tell a fortune

SEN RYŌ

占 領 occupation, capture



To say what he sees when FORTUNE-TELLING he uses rods and other tools in FORECASTING someone's future.

新

new

13 strokes

NN2387

atarā(shii), shin

ATARA SHI I
新 し い new

SHIN BUN
新 聞 newspaper

SHIN SHA
新 車 new car



Lean your ax (斤) against a tree and stand (立) on top of the tree (木) to see NEW things in the distance.

Bow 弓

弓

bow (archery, violin)

3 strokes

NN1678

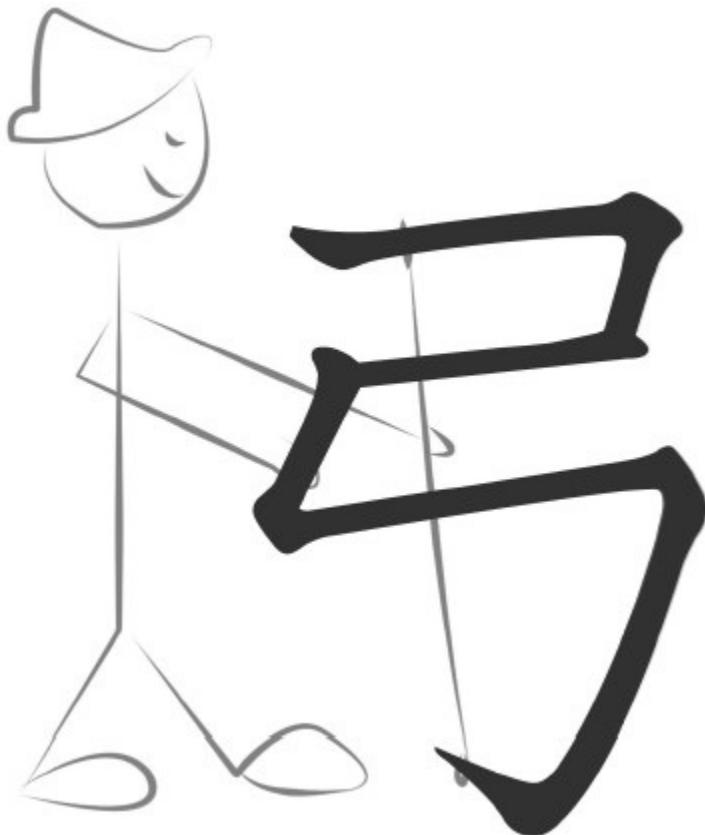
yumi, kyū

YUMI

弓 bow

KYŪ DŌ

弓 道 Japanese archery



The Japanese BOW has a deep bend where the archer holds it.

弓

pull, tug, jerk, quote

4 strokes
NN1681

hi(ku), in

HI KU

弓 < to pull, to draw [attention, etc.]

IN RYOKU

引 力 gravity



In archery, you PULL the string of the bow (弓) while holding the arrow.

弱

weak, frail

10 strokes

NN1692

yowa(i), jaku

YOWA I

弱 い weak, frail

JAKU SHA

弱 者 weak person, the weak



These two bows (弓) had WEAK strings that just snapped.

張

lengthen, stretch, spread

11 strokes

NN1694

ha(ru), chō

SHUT CHŌ

出 張 official tour, business trip

HA RU

張 る to link [website]

HI P PA RU

引 つ 張 る to pull tight, to drag



The string of a bow (弓) must STRETCH a long (長) distance.

強
strong

11 strokes
NN1695

tsuyo(i), shi(iru), kyō

TSUYO I
強 強 strong

BEN KYŌ
勉 強 study

SHI I TE
強 い て by force



A bug (虫) that I myself consider STRONG can sometimes pull a big bow (弓).

Arrow も and Halberd 戈

武

warrior, military, chivalry, arms

8 strokes
NN2959

bu, mu

BU SHI
武 士 **samurai**

BU YŪ
武 勇 **bravery**



A WARRIOR might shout halt (止) and stand firm with his arrow (弋).

残

remainder, leftover, balance

10 strokes

NN2976

noko(ru), *zan*

NOKO RU

残 る to remain

ZAN NEN

残 念 regret



As a half moon (月) rises, the LEFTOVERS from the day's three (三) meals and the halberd (戈) used to cut them remain.

歲
age

13 strokes
NN2962

sai, sei

NAN SAI
何 歲 how old?

O SEI BO
お 歲 暮 end of the year, year-end gift



When small children reach a certain AGE, you hope they will stop (止) before the edge of a cliff (厓) to read the sign (示) by the barricade of halberds (戈).

式

ceremony, function

6 strokes

NN1676

shiki

SOTSU GYŌ SHIKI
卒業式 graduation ceremony

KŌ SHIKI
公式 formal, official



A CEREMONY took place as construction (工) began and the royal guard, armed with arrows (弋), stood in full regalia.

成

turn into, become, grow

6 strokes

NN2025

na(ru), sei

SO SEI

組 成 composition, constitution

SŌ SEI

早 成 early completion

NA RI TE

成 り 手 candidate

NARI TA KŪ KŌ

成 田 空 港 Narita Airport



A halberd blade (戈) was used to dig hole to plant a seed in the side of

the cliff (⌞) so that it can GROW and BECOME shade.

我

ego, our, oneself

7 strokes

NN2028

ware, ga

WARE WARE

我 々 we

GA MAN

我 慢 patience

KE GA SU RU

怪 我 す る to be injured



A strong EGO made us take our hands (手) and twirl OUR halberds (戈) to show off.

戦

war, battle, match

13 strokes
NN2037

tataka(u), sen

SEN SŌ

戦 爭 war

TATAKA U

戦 う to fight, to battle, to struggle against



A simple (单) crossing of halberd blades (戈) in a BATTLE can lead to WAR.

裁

tailor, judge, decision

12 strokes

NN5454

ta(tsu), saba(ku), sai

SAI BAN

裁 判 trial, judgment

TA CHI

裁 ち cutting, cut out [a pattern]

SABA KU

裁 < to judge



A DECISION on land (土) rights is sometimes made violently with halberds (戈).

Field 田 and Well 井

田

rice field

5 strokes

NN3727

ta, den

TA YAMA

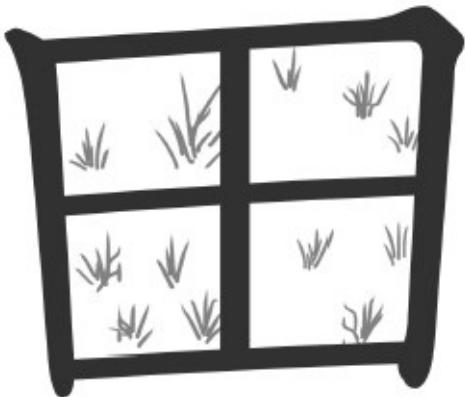
田 山

Tayama [surname]

YU DEN

油 田

oil field



This is an aerial view of RICE FIELDS.

畠

farm, field

9 strokes

NN3741

hatake

HATAKE

畠

farm, field

MUGIB ATAKE

麦

畠

wheat field



Like fire (火), the FARM land and FIELDS (田) turn gold in late summer.

界

world

9 strokes
NN3739

kai

SE KAI

世 界 world

SE KAI JŪ

世 界 中 around the world



The WORLD seems to revolve around a field (田) on a hill above a house.

町
town

7 strokes
NN3729

machi, chō

SHITA MACHI
下 町 downtown

CHŌ NAI
町 内 in the town



Most small TOWNS have fields.

丁

block, ward

2 strokes
NN0002

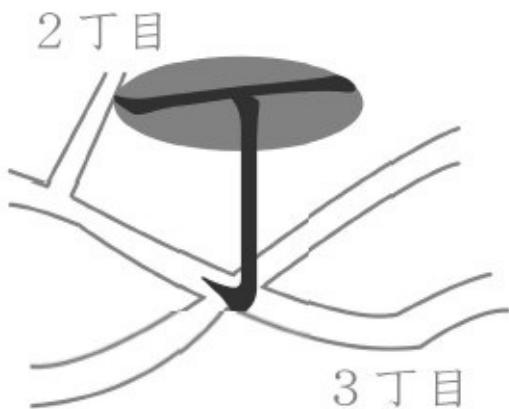
chō, tei

TEI NEI

丁 寧 polite, courteous

NI CHŌ ME

二 丁 目 second ward of a district



A tack is used to pinpoint a location on a map of a WARD or town.

里

village, parents' home

7 strokes

NN6206

sato, ri

KYŌ RI

郷 里 birth-place, home town

FURU SATO

古 里 one's home town



The VILLAGE of my PARENTS' HOME on the farm was on land (土) just below the field (田).

野
plains, field

11 strokes
NN6208

no, ya

YA KYŪ
野 球 baseball

YA SAI
野 菜 vegetables

NO HARA
野 原 field



This pinpoint marks the block (丁) where the FIELDS of your parents' home (里) were.

留

detain, fasten, halt

10 strokes

NN3750

to(meru), *todo*(meru), ryū, ru

RYŪ GAKU SEI

留 学 生 exchange student

RU SU

留 守 being away from home, house-sitting

TODO ME RU

留 め る to cease



I myself was DETAINED when I lost my sword (刀) in the field (田) and had to search for it.

由

wherfore, reason

5 strokes

NN3724

yoshi, yū

SHI RU YOSHI MO NA I

知 る 由 も な い no way of knowing

JI YŪ

自 由 freedom, liberty



A signpost on the edge of a field states the REASON why the field is special.

画

brush-stroke, picture

8 strokes

NN3733

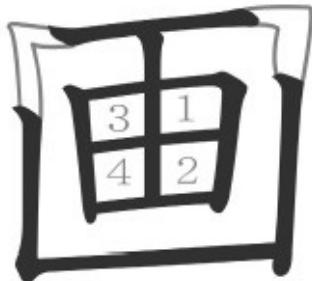
ga

EI GA

映 画 movie, film

MAN GA

漫 画 manga



A four-panel manga PICTURE about fields (田) can be seen on the TV screen.

略

abbreviation, omission

11 strokes

NN3755

ryaku

SHIN RYAKU SHA

侵 略 者 aggressor

SHŌ RYAKU

省 略 omission, abbreviation



Beside the field (田), there is an empty folding table where the owner voiced an OMISSION about forgetting to order food for the party.

畳

tatami mat, floor

12 strokes
NN3763

tatami, jō

TATAMI

畳

tatami mat

YO JŌ HAN

四

畠 半 4.5 tatami-mat floor



TATAMI MATS look like the squares of fields (田).

異

uncommon, unusual

11 strokes

NN3757

koto(naru), i

KOTO NA RU
異 な る to differ

I GI
異 議 objection, dissent



It is UNCOMMON to see a field (田) where tens (十) of friends come to help plant without having a table full of food to celebrate the work completed.

番

turn, number in a series

12 strokes

NN3762

ban

SAN BAN

三 番 third, number three

DEN WA BAN GŌ

電 話 番 号 telephone number



It is easier to NUMBER IN A SERIES rows of rice (米) fields (田) to help remember which one is which.

量

quantity, weight, consider

12 strokes
NN6209

haka(ru), ryō

TA RYŌ

多 量 large quantity

HAKA RI

量 日 measurements



There is always a day (日) when one (一) CONSIDERS the quantity of grain from the fields (田) on their land (土).

甲

armor, high (voice)

5 strokes

NN3725

kō

KŌ

甲 armor

KIK KŌ

龜 甲 tortoise shell



A shield of ARMOR held up by a spike.

申

to be called, have the honor to

5 strokes

NN3726

mō(su)

MŌ SU

申 す to be called

MŌ SHI KO MI

申 し 込 み application, offer



A sign is posted and ready TO BE CALLED home to a new advertiser's ad.

井

well, town, community

4 strokes
NN0076

i, sei

I DO
井 戸 water well

SHI SEI
市 井 the street, town



A view down the WELL that belongs to the COMMUNITY.

丂

bowl, bowl of food

5 strokes
NN0037

donburi, don

DONBURI MONO

丂 物 bowl of rice with food on top

TEN DON

天 丂 tempura



The BOWL OF FOOD was like a well (丂) of rice.

耕

till, cultivate

10 strokes

NN4710

tagaya(su), kō

TAGAYA SU

耕 す to till, to cultivate

SUI KŌ

水 耕 hydroponics

NŌ KŌ

農 耕 agriculture



A farmer used a plow (耒) made of wood with three (三) blades to TILL a field and then dug a well (井) to store the CULTIVATED grain.

CHAPTER 10

VEHICLES and BUILDINGS

館

building, large building (facility)

16 strokes
NN6701

kan

TAI IKU KAN
体 育 館 gymnasium

RYO KAN
旅 館 Japanese inn



LARGE BUILDINGS often have places to eat (食) as well as bureaucrats (官).

車

car, cart

7 strokes
NN5939

kuruma, sha

KURUMA

車

car, cart

DEN SHA

電

車 train



Viewing a CART from the top, you can see a box, long axle, and two large wheels.

Vehicles 乗り物

乗

ride, board

9 strokes
NN0054

no(ru), jō

NO RU
乗 る to ride

JŌ BA
乗 馬 horse riding



People used to RIDE in palanquins in East Asia.

輕

light, unimportant

12 strokes

NN5953

karu(i), kei

KARU I

輕 い light [not heavy]

KEI SHI

輕 視 making light of



Using the cart (車) to move the table to new ground (土) was LIGHTLY strenuous.

軍

army, troops, war

9 strokes

NN5943

gun

GUN TAI

軍 隊 army, troops

SHŌ GUN

將 軍 shogun, generalissimo



The armor plating of this vehicle (車) is for the ARMY to guarantee protection of the TROOPS.

転

revolve, turn around

11 strokes

NN5948

koro(bu), ten

UN TEN

運 転 driving

JI TEN SHA

自 転 車 bicycle

KORO BU

転 ぶ to fall down

KAI TEN

回 転 rotation, revolution



A car (車) can TURN AROUND when I myself use my two (二) hands to help.

輪

wheel, ring, circle

15 strokes
NN5973

wa, rin

YUBI WA
指 輪 [finger] ring

GO RIN
五 輪 the Olympics



Volumes (冊) of instruction manuals are written about fixing the WHEELS and parts of cars (車).

冊

counter for bound volumes

5 strokes

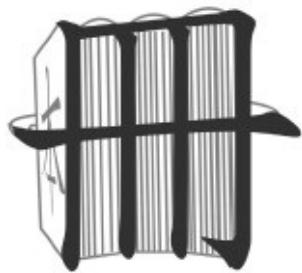
NN0389

satsu

SAN SATSU

三 冊

three volumes



This is a set of BOUND VOLUMES.

船

ship, boat

11 strokes

NN4939

fune, sen

KURO FUNE

黒 船 black ship

U CHŪ SEN

宇宙船 space ship



A BOAT billows smoke as a person yells land ahoy as they see a small island volcano.

航

navigate, cruise, fly

10 strokes

NN4933

ko

KŌ KAI

航 海 sail, voyage

KŌ KŪ BIN

航 空 便 airmail



A boat (舟) is ready to NAVIGATE carefully under the lid and around the bends ahead.

飛

fly, scatter

9 strokes

NN6672

to(bu), hi

TO BU

飛 ぶ to fly, jump

HI KŌ KI

飛 行 機 airplane



After using the ladder to climb up the cliffs, two friends FLY off of the edge, flapping their arms like wings.

Furniture 家具

友

friend

4 strokes

NN0672

tomo, yū

TOMO DACHI
友 達 friend

YŪ JIN
友 人 friend



A FRIEND leans across a table to shake your hand.

又

furthermore, again, on the other hand

2 strokes

NN0668

mata

MATA

又 again

MATA WA

又 は or, otherwise



Every evening my mother said that it was AGAIN time to set the table.

受

accept, undergo, receive

8 strokes

NN0678

u(keru), ju

U KE RU

受 け る to receive, to get, to suffer [injury]

JU KEN BEN KYŌ

受 験 勉 強 studying for a test



ACCEPT the challenge of UNDERGOING an exam on the three bits of knowledge at the table to RECEIVE an A+.

反

anti-

4 strokes
NN0674

so(ru), han

HAN TAI

反 対 **opposition, reverse, opposite**

HAN SU RU

反 す る **to be contrary to**

SO RA SU

反 ら す **to bend, warp**



I expected the table below the cliff (匚) to be ready for our picnic, but the OPPOSITE was true and we had to wait for others to finish.

収

income, obtain

4 strokes
NN0675

osa(meru), shū

SHŪ NYŪ

収入 income, revenue

SEI KŌ O OSA ME RU

成功を 収める to achieve success



OBTAINT your ticket for the event from the table with the ticket sign.

取 take, fetch

8 strokes
NN0679

to(ru), shu

TO RU
取 る **to take, to choose**

TOSHI O TO RU
年 を 取 る **to grow old, to age**

SHU TOKU
取 得 **acquisition**



Sit at a table and use your ears (耳) to listen for signs from your opponent to know when to TAKE an opportunity to win.

戸

door

4 strokes
NN2048

to, ko

E DO

江 戸 Edo [old name for Tokyo]

KO GAI

戸 外 open-air, outdoors



Picture a swinging DOOR hinged to the top of the doorframe above.

扇

fan, folding fan

10 strokes
NN2056

ōgi, sen

SEN PŪ KI
扇 風 機 electric fan

SEN SU
扇 子 folding fan

ŌGI GATA
扇 形 fan shape



At the door (戸), the FAN blew like the wings (羽) of a bird.

所

place

8 strokes

NN2054

tokoro, sho

TOKORO

所 place

BA SHO

場 所 place, location



Beside the door (戸) is the PLACE where my grandfather left the ax (斤).

局

office, affair, conclusion

7 strokes

NN1412

tsubone, kyoku

YŪ BIN KYOKU

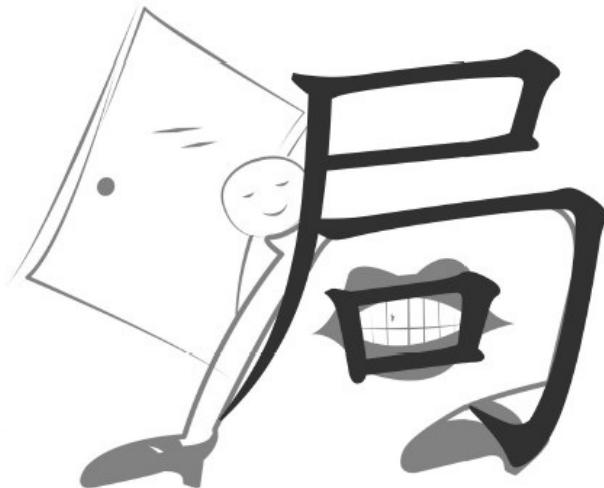
郵便局 post office

YAK KYOKU

薬局 pharmacy

O TSUBONE SAMA

お局 様 an older lady at work



People often feel the need to take huge steps over the mouths (口) of officials as they walk through the door of a government OFFICE.

届

deliver, arrive, report, forward

8 strokes

NN1413

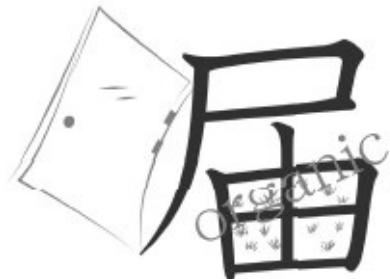
todo(keru), todo(ku)

TODO KU

届 く **to reach, arrive**

TODO KE RU

届 け る **to deliver, forward**



What is the reason (由) for the special food to be DELIVERED through a open door?

居

reside, be, exist

8 strokes

NN1416

i(ru), kyo

I MA

居 間 living room [Western style]

JŪ KYO

住 居 residence



In college people often walk through doors into old (古) space where they RESIDE with many others.

展

unfold, expand

10 strokes
NN1425

ten

TEN KAI
展 開 development, evolution

TEN RAN KAI
展 覧 会 exhibition



Coming through an open door with a friend, we saw that someone had just UNFOLDED the ironing board.

屋

house, shop, dealer, seller

9 strokes

NN1421

ya, oku

HON YA

本 屋 bookstore

YA NE

屋 根 roof

KA OKU

家 屋 house, building



I myself walked in the door of the SHOP, but did not see the DEALER.

Gate 門

門

gate

8 strokes

NN6381

kado, mon

MON
門 gate

KADO MATSU
門 松 New Year's pine decoration



The GATE stands ajar.

閑

leisure

12 strokes

NN6390

kan, ka

KAN KO DORI GA NA KU
閑 古 鳴 く empty store or restaurant

NOD OKA
長 閑 tranquil, calm



The abandoned gate (門) has a tree (木) LEISURELY growing in the middle.

間

interval, space

12 strokes

NN6391

aida, ma, kan

AIDA

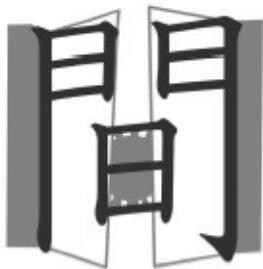
間 space [between]

MA MO NA KU

間 も な く soon, before long

JI KAN

時 間 time, hours



The sun (日) is visible through the crack in the gate (門) for a short INTERVAL of time.

閉

closed, shut

11 strokes

NN6385

to(jiru), shi(meru), hei

TO JI RU

閉 じ る close [books]

SHI ME RU

閉 め る close [doors, windows, etc.]

HEI TEN

閉 店 closing shop



The gate (門) is CLOSED with a katakana 才 indicating it is poised to be reopened.

開

open, unfold, unseal

12 strokes

NN6393

hira(ku), a(keru), kai

HIRA KU

開 く to open books

A KE RU

開 け る to open doors, windows, etc.

KŌ KAI

公 開 open to the public



The gate (門) is OPEN as the 才 radical is pulled into the open position.

問

question, ask, problem

11 strokes

NN0830

to(i), mon

SHITSU MON

質 問 a question

MON DAI

問 題 a problem

TOI ICHI

問 1 question #1



If a PROBLEM exists and a QUESTION needs to be asked, put your mouth (口) to the gate (門) and ASK it.

関

connection, gateway

14 strokes

NN6402

seki, kan

SHIMONO SEKI

下

関

Shimonoseki [city]

KAN SAI

関

西 Kansai region

KAN TŌ

関

東 Kanto region



Samurai form a barrier at the GATEWAY to the next region.

Roof ↗, ↛

写

copy, describe, be photographed

5 strokes

NN0400

utsu(su), sha

SHA SHIN
写 真 photograph

UTSU SU
写 才 to duplicate, to film, to photograph



Emerging from her vessel, a contortionist poses as she is about to BE
PHOTOGRAPHED.

室 room

9 strokes
NN1327

muro, shitsu

KYŌ SHITSU
教 室 classroom

MURO MACHI
室 町 Muromachi [era from the 1300–1500s]



A ROOM for myself would have a nice roof with a chimney, but even a dirt floor (土) would do.

富

wealth, enrich, abundant

12 strokes

NN1349

to(mu), fu

TO MU

富 む to be rich

FU JI SAN

富 士 山 Mt. Fuji



Under a roof with a chimney, one (一) mouth (口) of a man spoke of the WEALTH he could enjoy if the yield of his fields (田) was ABUNDANT.

宿 inn, lodging

11 strokes
NN1344

yado, shuku

YADO YA
宿 屋 inn

SHUKU DAI
宿 題 homework

MIN SHUKU
民 宿 guesthouse



For LODGING under the roof of an INN, you often pay up to one hundred (百) dollars for a night.

客

guest, visitor, customer

9 strokes

NN1329

kyaku, kaku

O KYAKU SA N
お 客 さん customer

RYO KAKU
旅 客 passenger [transport]



A GUEST under a roof with a chimney says his reservation number to the person behind the table.

宮

Shinto shrine, palace

10 strokes

NN1336

miya, kyū, gū

JIN GŪ

神 宮 high-status Shinto shrine

KYŪ DEN

宮 殿 palace



Under the roof with a chimney of a SHINTO SHRINE or a PALACE, a network of mouths (口) chant and link together like a spine (呂) to support the gods or royals.

容

contain, form, looks

10 strokes

NN1335

yō

YŌ I

容 易 easy, simple

NAI YŌ

内 容 subject, contents



The plan was to for a person (人) to FORM everything under this roof with a chimney into a place where eight (八) others could join (合) together.

宝

treasure, wealth, valuables

8 strokes

NN1320

takara, hō

HŌ SEKI

宝 石 jewel, gem

TAKARA KU JI

宝 くじ lottery



A TREASURE to children under the roof with a chimney beyond other
VALUABLES is their favorite ball (玉).

宗

religion, sect, main point, origin

8 strokes

NN1321

shū

SHŪ KYŌ

宗 教 religion



The main DENOMINATION of the RELIGION has a steeple on the roof and an altar to show (示) the MAIN POINTS the SECT practices.

官

bureaucrat, government

8 strokes

NN1322

kan

KEI KAN

警 官 policeman

KAN RYŌ

官 僚 bureaucrat, bureaucracy



Outside of the GOVERNMENT building, there was a one-man guardhouse with a small roof and chimney.

宙

mid-air, air, space, sky

8 strokes

NN1318

chū

U CHŪ

宇 宙 universe, space

U CHŪ RYO KŌ

宇 宙 旅 行 space travel



With SPACE, you can plant a garden that will be fruitful, the reason (由) being that you can have a roof with a chimney over young plants and then give them more AIR.

空 empty, sky

8 strokes
NN4192

sora, a(ku), su(ku), kū

SORA
空 sky

KŪ KŌ
空 港 airport

KŪ FUKU
空 腹 hunger

A KI KAN
空 き 缶 empty can

SU KU
空 く to become less crowded, to be hungry



In the EMPTY space below the roof is a hole (穴) from which you can see the SKY.

穴

hole, cave, den

5 strokes

NN4187

ana, ketsu

HANA NO ANA
鼻 の 穴 nostril

KE ANA
毛 穴 pore [in skin]



A HOLE through a chimney on a roof lets smoke out, similar to a hole in the top of a volcano.

窓

window

11 strokes
NN4201

mado, sō

MADO

窓 window

DŌ SŌ KAI

同 窓 会 reunion



A hole (穴) through which you can see the real me is a WINDOW to my heart (心).

実

reality, truth, fruit

8 strokes

NN1324

mi, jitsu

JITSU WA

実 は as a matter of fact, by the way

JIK KEN

実 驗 experiment



Under a roof with a chimney, the REALITY of three (三) heavy TRUTHS is carried by the person (人) in question.

安

cheap, peaceful

6 strokes

NN1311

yasu(i), an

YASU I

安 い cheap

AN ZEN

安 全 safe



It is sometimes CHEAPER for a woman to be under the roof shopping online than out.

宣

proclaim, say, announce

9 strokes

NN1328

sen

SEN GEN

宣 言

declaration, proclamation

SEN DEN

宣 伝

publicity, advertisement



Under a roof with a chimney, one (一) can see the sunlight (日) over one (一) clear line of the PROCLAMATION.

宜

fine, regards, good

8 strokes

NN1317

yoro(*shii*), yoro(*shiku*), *gi*

YORO SHI KU

宜 し く best regards

JŌ GI

情 宜 friendly feelings, fellowship



Under a roof with a chimney, when one's GOOD eye (目) is to the ground, things are FINE.

完

perfect, completion, end

7 strokes

NN1315

kan

KAN ZEN

完 全 perfection

KAN SEI

完 成 complete, completion



With a wealth (元) of PERFECT straight A scores by the children under the roof with a chimney, they ENDED well.

究

research, study

7 strokes
NN4189

kyū

KEN KYŪ
研 究 study, research

KEN KYŪ SHA
研 究 者 researcher

究 =⁹

To do RESEARCH, you poke at least nine (九) holes (穴) through theories and beliefs and STUDY the findings.

寒

cold

12 strokes
NN1350

samu(i), kan

SAMU I

寒 い cold

GEN KAN

嚴 寒 intense cold



It is COLD out, but inside, under a roof with a chimney, logs are stacked on the hearth with a fire that has just been lit.

守

guard, protect, defend

6 strokes

NN1310

mamo(ri), shu, su

MAMO RU

守 る to protect

RU SU

留 守 being away from home

GEN SHU

嚴 守 strict observance



To PROTECT your new roof and chimney, measure (寸) it and GUARD it by making sure it is sealed well.

察

guess, presume, judge, understand

14 strokes

NN1360

satsu

KEI SATSU

警 察 police

KAN SATSU

觀 察 observation, survey



Police have to JUDGE a situation when called to enter a home with a roof with a chimney when a party becomes as loud as a festival (祭).

示

show, indicate, point out

5 strokes

NN4060

shime(su), shi

SHIME SU

示 す to demonstrate

SHI JI

指 示 indication, directions



A signpost SHOWS important information, POINTED OUT by the flashing light.

密

secrecy, minuteness, density (of population)

11 strokes
NN1343

hiso(ka), mitsu

HI MITSU

秘 密 secret

KOKORO HISOKA NI
心 密 か に oneone



While at home under a roof with a chimney, I discussed the certainty (必) of a lower DENSITY of population in the mountain (山) village than in the plains below.

突

stab, thrusting, pierce

8 strokes

NN4191

tsu(ku), totsu

TOTSU ZEN

突 然 abrupt, sudden

TSU KI KUZU SU

突 き 崩 す to crush, to break through



Under a roof with a chimney, a person with legs is hit by a big (大) surprise THRUSTING upward from below.

害

harm, injury

10 strokes
NN1333

gai

HI GAI
被 害 [suffering] damage, injury, harm

SAI GAI
災 害 calamity, disaster



When plants grow (生) and threaten to break the roof by the chimney, one should yell before someone gets HARMED or sustains an INJURY.

寢

lie down, sleep, rest, bed

13 strokes

NN1353

ne, shin

NE RU

寝 る to sleep

HIRU NE

昼 寝 nap

SHIN SHITSU

寝 室 bedroom



Under a roof with a chimney, we will SLEEP on the cot standing on its side against the wall with layers of the futon BEDS and blankets folded on a table.

定

determine, fix, decide

8 strokes

NN1323

sada(meru), tei, jō

YO TEI

予 定 plans, schedule

KAN JŌ

勘 定 bill, calculation [of debt]

SADA ME SHI

定 め し surely



Under a roof with a chimney, someone filling big shoes will FIX the bar to DETERMINE how far he will go.

Enclosures □, □, □

囚

capture, criminal, arrest

5 strokes

NN0937

tora(wareru), shū

SHŪ JIN

囚 人 prisoner



A person (人) surrounded by walls has been CAPTURED and is a PRISONER.

因

cause, factor

6 strokes

NN0939

china(mu), in, yo(ru)

IN SHI

因 子 factor, element

CHINA MU

因 む to be associated [with]

YO RU

因 る to be due to, to be caused by



The CAUSE was a big (大) FACTOR of conditions within an enclosure.

団

group, association

6 strokes

NN0940

dan, ton

FU TON

布 团 futon

DAN GO

团 子 dumpling



An enclosure that frames a GROUP of measured (寸) feathers is half a futon.

回

~times, revolve, turn

6 strokes

NN0941

mawa(ri), mawa(ru), kai

KAI TEN ZU SHI

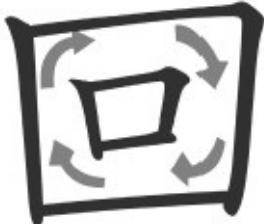
回 転 寿 司 conveyor belt sushi

DŌ MAWA RI

胴 回 り waist size

MAWA RU

回 る to turn, revolve



I TURN round and round many TIMES looking for something.

井

surround, encircle

7 strokes
NN0945

kako(mu), i

FUN I KI
霧 囲 気 mood, ambience



Here is a well (井) SURROUNDED on all sides.

困

quandary, become distressed

7 strokes

NN0946

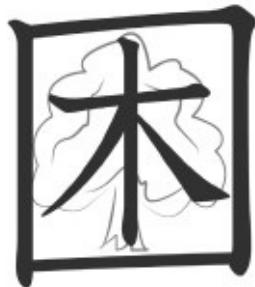
koma(ru), kon

KOMA RU

困 る become di stressed

HIN KON

貧 困 poor, needy



This tree (木) is in a QUANDARY and IS DISTRESSED by being limited by its enclosure.

匸

map, plan drawing

7 strokes
NN0947

haka(ru), zu, to

CHI ZU

地 図 map

HAKA RU

図 る to plot, to design

TO SHO KAN

図 書 館 to plot, to design



Roads and buildings are noted on a MAP.

古

harden, solid, clot

8 strokes
NN0949

kata(maru)

KATA MA RU
固 ま る to harden, clot



A square piece of bread HARDENS as it becomes old (古).

国

country

8 strokes
NN0950

kuni, koku

KUNI

国 country

CHŪ GOKU

中 国 China



A king has his ball within the walls of his COUNTRY.

帰

to return, to arrive at

10 strokes

NN1564

kae(ru), ki

KAE RU

帰 る to return

KI KOKU

帰 国 return to one's country



You must RETURN home to finish the laundry and cloths (巾) stacked up, and sharpen your knife before cooking dinner.

園

park, garden

13 strokes
NN0962

sono, ~en

KŌ EN

公 園 park

DŌ BUTSU EN

動 物 園 zoo

HANA ZONO

花 園 flower garden



People wore formal clothes when walking and talking in the grounds (土) of a walled PARK.

再

again, twice, second time

6 strokes

NN0391

futata(bi), sai

FUTATA BI

再 び again

SAI SEI

再 生 playback, regeneration



Framing the soil (土) TWICE (二) like the “ga” in 漫画 (manga), right side up, and upside down.

匹

equal, counter for small animals

4 strokes

NN0584

hiki, hitsu

NI HIKI

二 匹 two small animals

HIT TEKI

匹 敵 comparing with



The SMALL ANIMAL jumped from its box and its little legs helped it scamper away.

区

ward, district

4 strokes
NN0585

ku

KU BETSU
区 別 distinction

MINATO KU
港 区 Minato Ward



An "X" marks the center of the DISTRICT.

医

doctor, medicine

7 strokes
NN0590

i

I SHA
医 者 doctor

I GAKU
医 学 medical science



As an archer in an open enclosure targets his mark, a DOCTOR targets illness.

CHAPTER 11

GARMENTS

衣

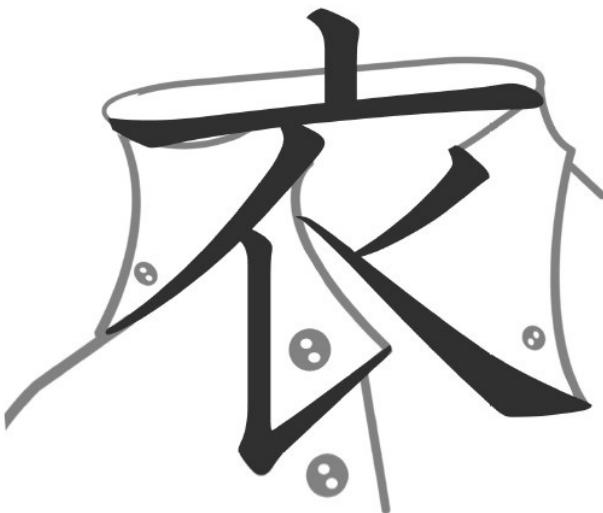
garment, clothes

6 strokes
NN5420

koromo, i

I SHŌ
衣 装 clothing, costume

KOROMO GA E
衣 替 元 seasonal change of clothing



The GARMENTS are pressed and hanging.

Garments 衣 and String 糸

裏

back, rear, reverse

13 strokes
NN5462

ura, ri

URA

裏 back [side]

SHU RI KEN

手 裏 剑 shuriken, small throwing blade



Below the roof of my parent's home (里) is the field (田) at the REAR of the land (土) where my garments (衣) are kept.

糸

thread, silk

6 strokes
NN4431

ito, shi

ITO

糸 thread, string

AKA I ITO

赤 い 糸 red string

IS SHI

一 糸 one string



A man with a needle can make several stitches with THREAD (糸).

縒

cord, strap, beginning

14 strokes

NN4521

o, sho

IS SHO NI

一 縒 に together [with]

HANA O

鼻 縒 sandal strap



Like a thread (糸) tying land (土) and sun (日), the CORD has bound us together since the BEGINNING.

納

obtain, reap, supply

10 strokes

NN4453

osa(meru), nō, na

NAT TŌ

納 豆 natto [fermented soybeans]

OSA ME

納 め the last, the end

TAI NŌ

滯 納 delinquency



The person (人) that takes the time to sew threads (糸) of camaraderie inside (内) his company OBTAINS a steady SUPPLY of goodwill in return.

純

genuine, purity, innocence

10 strokes

NN4454

jun

JUN SUI

純 粹 pure, true

JUN KIN

純 金 solid gold



Long, GENUINE threads (糸) of PURITY can be pulled out of a lidded pot when heated.

絹

silk

13 strokes
NN4499

kinu

KINU GO SHI
絹 ご し silken [tofu]

KINU ITO
絹 糸 silk thread



Threads (糸) of SILK are spun by the mouths (口) of SILKworms in the light of the moon (月).

終

end, finish

11 strokes

NN4471

o(waru), tsui, shū

O WARU

終 わる to finish

TSUI NI

終 に finally

SHŪ RES SHA

終 列 車 last train



A string (糸) of days ENDS with winter (冬) with flakes of snow falling.

組

association, assemble, unite

11 strokes

NN4470

ku(mu), kumi, so

KU MU

組 む to assemble

BAN GUMI

番 組 program [TV]

RŌ SO

労 組 labor union



Stitched together by common threads (糸), people UNITE their eyes behind the shelves and ASSEMBLE in familiar groups.

紙 paper

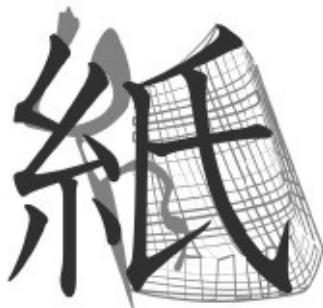
10 strokes
NN4455

kami, shi

KAMI
紙 paper

O RI GAM
折 紙 origami [paper folding]

WA SHI
和 紙 Japanese paper



Threads (糸) or fibers of pulp are crisscross-layered to make PAPER.

糸

dainty, to get thin, narrow

11 strokes

NN4472

hosō(i), koma(kai), sai

HOSO I

糸 い thin

KOMA KA I KO TO

糸 か い こ と minor details

SHŌ SAI

詳 糸 details



Examining the NARROW fields (田) woven like colored threads (糸) in many parts of rural Japan can be enjoyable.

系

lineage, system

7 strokes
NN4433

kei

KA KEI

家 系 family lineage

DŌ KEI

同 系 affiliated



Tracing the single highest thread (糸) of your family LINEAGE can be interesting.

経

sutra, pass through, expire

11 strokes

NN4473

he(ru), kei, kyō

KEI ZAI

経 済 economics

HE RU

経 る to elapse

O KYŌ

お 経 sutra



Threads (糸) of wood grain can be seen to PASS THROUGH the surface of the table on the ground (土).

続

continue, series

13 strokes
NN4500

tsuzu(ku), zoku

TSUZU KU

続 く to continue

ZOKU HEN

續 編 sequel



The samurai (士) turned salesman hopes for a string (糸) of sales (壳) to CONTINUE.

絡

entwine, get caught in

12 strokes

NN4484

kara(mu), raku

REN RAKU

連 絡 contact

KARA MU

絡 む to pick a quarrel, to find fault



Threads (糸) of organization can become ENTWINED when a folding table is set up by a big mouth (口) looking to GET CAUGHT IN a fight.

繪

picture, drawing, painting

12 strokes

NN4488

e, kai

E

繪 picture, drawing, or painting

E HON

繪 本 picture book

KAI GA

繪 画 picture, painting



I made threads (糸) of various colors meet (会) to form a PICTURE.

給

salary, bestow on

12 strokes

NN4489

tama(u), kyū

KYŪ RYŌ

給 料 salary

TAMA U

給 う to grant



If you speak well, a string (糸) of luck may BESTOW a good SALARY.

級

class, rank, grade

9 strokes
NN4437

kyū

KAI KYŪ

階 級 class, rank, grade

GAK KYŪ

学 級 [school] class

JŌ KYŪ

上 級 advanced class, higher grade, senior



Through a string (糸) of luck, he was able to climb the steep GRADE on a shaky ladder to advance in RANK.

紀

chronicle, account, history, annals

9 strokes

NN4439

ki

NI JŪ IS SEI KI
2 1 世 紀 21st century

KI GEN
紀 元 era



HISTORY winds through as threads (糸) make ourselves (己) who we are.

約

promise, approximately

9 strokes

NN4440

yaku

YAKU SOKU

約 束 promise

YO YAKU

予 約 reservation

KEI YAKU

契 約 contract



When dyeing thread (糸), PROMISE to use the ladle to remove it in APPROXIMATELY the required time.

練

practice, train, drill

14 strokes
NN4530

ne(ru), ren

REN SHŪ

練 習 practice

NE RU

練 る to knead



You will learn well through a string (糸) of PRACTICE sessions starting in the morning when the sun is in the east (東), rising from behind a tree (木).

縮

shrink, wrinkle, reduce

17 strokes
NN4585

chiji(mu), shuku

SHUKU SHŌ

縮 小 reduction, curtailment

CHIJI MU

縮 む to shrink



For lodging (宿) in a string (糸) of hotels, you can REDUCE costs if you stay with the same company.

率

ratio, rate, coefficient

11 strokes

NN3618

hiki(iru), sotsu, ritsu

KAKU RITSU

確 率 probability

HIKI I RU

率 い る to lead

SOS SEN

率 先 taking the initiative



Under a lid, threads (糸) have been piled up at a fast RATE, and a RATIO of ten (十) to one are small strands.

干

dry, parch

3 strokes
NN1589

ho(su), kan

KAN SHŌ

干 涉

interference, intervention

HO SU

干 す

to air, to dry



This clothesline will DRY your clothes well.

辛

spicy, bitter, hot

7 strokes

NN5996

kara(i), tsura(i), shin

KARA I

辛 い spicy, bitter, hot

SHIO KARA I

塩 辛 い salty

SHIN BO

辛 抱 patience, endurance

TSURA SA

辛 さ pain, bitterness



A person stands up (立) tall after a number two (二) SPICY HOT rating on the scale.

Towel 巾

巾

towel, hanging scroll

3 strokes
NN1547

kin

FU KIN
布 巾 tea towel

ZŌ KIN
雜 巾 dust cloth



Laundry, TOWELS, and freshly printed HANGING SCROLLS are hung from a drying line.

市 market, city

5 strokes
NN1549

ichi, shi

SHI JŌ
市 場 market [concept]

SHI CHŌ
市 長 mayor

TOYO TA SHI
豊 田 市 Toyota City



In the CITY, we could use laundry facilities to wash towels (巾).

布

linen, cloth

5 strokes

NN1548

nuno, fu

FU KIN

布 巾 tea towel

SAI FU

財 布 wallet, purse

NUNO JI

布 地 fabric



Sometimes when the CLOTHS were hanging on the line, my brother would try to jump over them!

希

hope, beg, request, pray

1 strokes

NN1553

mare, ki

KI BŌ

希 望 hope, wish

GOKU MARE

極 希 extremely rare



An X marks the spot where one HOPES to find fresh linens (布).

席

seat, occasion, place

10 strokes

NN1561

seki

SHUS SEKI

出 席 to appear, to attend

KES SEKI

欠 席 absence, non-attendance

ZA SEKI

座 席 seat



By a dotted cliff (广) is a swing where you can have a SEAT next to drying towels (巾).

師

expert, teacher, master

10 strokes
NN1562

shi

KYŌ SHI
教 師 teacher



A TEACHER meticulously posts informational charts and often talks to his MASTER.

帶

sash, belt, obi, zone

10 strokes

NN1563

o(biru), obi, tai

KURO OBI

黒 帯 black belt [martial arts]

OBI BAN GUMI

帶 番 組 TV program in the same weekly time slot

NET TAI U RIN

熱 帶 雨 林 tropical rainforest



Safety BELTS are important for children on swings while a mother hangs out the towels (巾).

常

usual, regular

11 strokes

NN1569

tsune, jō

HI JŌ NI

非 常 に very, extremely

TSUNE NI

常 に always, constantly



It was USUAL for people to talk on sunny days about a REGULAR system for how to better clean towels (巾).

帳

notebook, account book, album

11 strokes

NN1568

chō

DEN WA CHŌ

電 話 帳 telephone book

TE CHŌ

手 帳 notebook



Like folded towels (巾) from the line, the NOTEBOOK containing his telephone numbers was a very long (長) set of pages.

Shape 形 and Size 大きさ

形

shape, form, style

7 strokes

NN1713

katachi, kei, gyō

KATACHI

形 shape, form

KEI SHIKI

形 式 form, method

NIN GYŌ

人 形 doll, puppet



A kimono stand is being constructed, for an actor who with a simple hair ornament, changes his SHAPE and FORM for kabuki plays.

平

even, flat, peace

5 strokes

NN1590

tai(ra), hira, hei

HIRA TE

平 手 open hand

HEI WA

平 和 peace



A level rests FLAT on top of his head and he balances, slightly waving his arms up and down in a slow and PEACEFUL way.

角

angle, corner, horn

7 strokes
NN5543

kado, tsuno, kaku

SAN KAKU

三 角 triangle

KADO

角 corner

TSUNO

角 horn, antler



Between months (月), turn a CORNER for a new direction.

丸

round, full, perfection, roll up

3 strokes

NN0034

maru, maru(i), gan

MARU I

丸 い round

HI NO MARU

日 の 丸 the Japanese flag

GAN YAKU

丸 薬 pill



In Japan, adding one more ROUND egg to nine (九), makes a standard FULL package of ten eggs.

央

center

5 strokes
NN1140

ō

CHŪ ō
中 央 central, center

SHIN ō
震 央 epicenter [of earthquake]



Here is a person holding a box in the CENTER of his body.

中

in, inside, middle

4 strokes
NN0028

naka, chū

NAKA

中 middle, inside

CHŪ GAK KŌ

中 学 校 middle school



The arrow struck through the MIDDLE of the target.

凹

concave, hollow, sunken

5 strokes

NN0444

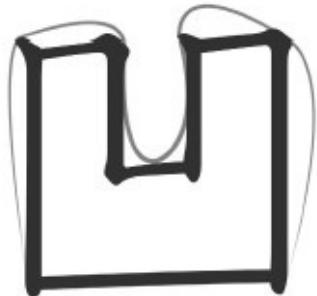
heko(mi), boko, ō

DEKO BOKO Ō TOTSU

凸 凹 or 凹 凸 unevenness, roughness

Ō HAN

凹 版 intaglio [printing]



The CONCAVE surface of this square gives a hint that it is HOLLOW.

危

dangerous, fear, uneasy

6 strokes

NN0629

abu(nai), ki

KI KEN

危 險 danger, hazard

ABU NA I

危 な い dangerous



DANGER can happen after stepping into barbs atop a cliff (厓) that can cause oneself (己) to twist and writhe in pain or FEAR of it.

比

compare, ratio

4 strokes

NN3010

kura(beru), hi

KURA BE RU

比 べ る to compare

TAI HI TEKI

対 比 的 contrasting



COMPARE the two sides of this kanji, and see that they are slightly different.



convex, brow, uneven

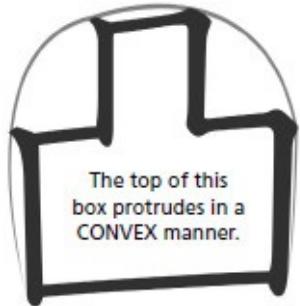
5 strokes
NN0443

deko, totsu

ō TOTSU DEKO BOKO
凹 凸 or 凸 凹 **unevenness, roughness**

TOP PAN
凸 版 **relief printing**

TOTSU RE N ZU
凸 レ ン ズ **convex lens**



The top of this box protrudes in a CONVEX manner.

大

large, big

3 strokes
NN1133

ō(kii), dai

Ō KI I
大 き い big

DAI GAKU
大 学 university



This person looks BIG with outstretched arms.

天

heavens, sky

4 strokes

NN1138

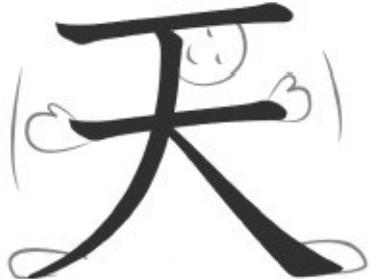
ama, ten

TEN KI

天 气 weather

AMA NO GAWA

天 の 川 Milky Way



A big (太) person stretches wide and tall and reaches the HEAVENS.

太 **plump, thick, fat**

4 strokes
NN1137

futo(i), futo(ru), ta

FUTO I
太 い **plump, fat, thick**

FUTO RU
太 る **to become fat**

TA RŌ
太 郎 **Taro [male name]**



The big (大) dog swallows too many bones and becomes FAT.

奮

stirred up, flourish

16 strokes

NN1172

furu(u), fun

FURU I TA TSU

奮 い 立 つ to cheer up

KŌ FUN

興 奮 excitement, stimulation



When a big (大) old bird (隹) flies, it STIRS UP water ripples in the rice fields (田).

奏

play music, complete

9 strokes

NN1156

kana(deru), sō

EN SŌ KAI

演 奏 会 concert

KANA DE RU

奏 で る to play an instrument [esp. stringed]



When she would PLAY MUSIC on her big (大) three (三) stringed instrument, it was like a gift from heaven (天).

奈

what

8 strokes
NN1147

na

NA RA
奈 良 Nara



WHAT changes for Japan did the big (大) sign (示) indicate?.

高

tall, high, expensive

10 strokes

NN6796

taka(i), kō

TAKA I

高 い high, expensive

KŌ KŌ

高 校 high school



TALL pagodas were EXPENSIVE to build.

小

little, small

3 strokes
NN1389

chii(sai), ko, shō

KO MUGI

小 麦 wheat

SHŌ GAK KŌ

小 学 校 elementary school



A person crouches down in a SMALL pose.

長

long, leader

8 strokes

NN6379

naga(i), chō

NAGA I

長 い long

KŌ CHŌ SEN SEI

校 長 先 生 school principal



LONG cloths sit on the ironing board.

少

few, little

4 strokes
NN1390

suku(*nai*), suko(*shi*), shō

SUKU NA I

少 な い few, scarce

SUKO SHI

少 し small quantity, little

SHŌ SHOKU

少 食 light eating



A small (少) quantity is cut in half and only a FEW are left.

寸

measurement

3 strokes
NN1372

sun

SUN ZEN
寸 前 on the verge of



This vertical and horizontal square is used to take a MEASUREMENT of the dot on the inside.

寺

(Buddhist) temple

6 strokes

NN1373

tera, ji

TERA

寺 temple

TŌ DAI JI

東 大 寺 Todaiji Temple



A multistoried TEMPLE on the land (土) has a large bronze bell hanging from the eaves.

寿

longevity, congratulations, one's natural
life

7 strokes
NN1374

kotobu(ku), kotoho(gu), ju, su

SU SHI

寿 司 sushi

JU MYŌ

寿 命 life span

KOTOHO GU

寿 < to congratulate



CONGRATULATE someone who is living right and seems to cut through a measured (寸) three (三) decades of LONGEVITY, in no time at all.

対

opposite, versus

7 strokes

NN1375

tai, tsui

NI TAI SHI TE
～に 対 し て toward

HAN TAI
反 対 opposition, resistance



It is good to create writings (文) where you give measured (寸) information, and then contrast it with the OPPOSITE point of view.

専

specialty, exclusive, mainly

9 strokes

NN1377

moppa(ra), sen

SEN KŌ

専 攻 major subject, special study

SEN MON KA

専 門 家 specialist, expert

MOPPA RA

専 ら wholly, solely



The rows of SPECIALITY vegetables were measured (寸) and staked out in rows of ten (十) in the EXCLUSIVE fields (田).

尺

Japanese unit of measurement

4 strokes
NN1404

shaku

SHAKU HACHI

尺 八 shakuhachi flute

SAN JAKU

三 尺 3 shaku



A person opens his mouth (口) wide as he MEASURES a length of string.

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