



SAKURA サクラ

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

NARUTO ナルト

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

SASUKE サスケ

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





Ebisu エビス

Once tutor to Konohamaru (the Honorable Grandson of the Hokage), Ebisu has now been assigned to train Naruto for the final phase of the Chûnin Exam.



Hayate ハヤテ

A jônin from Konohagakure and proctor of the third stage of the Chûnin Exam.



Baki バキ

Jônin leader of Gaara, Kankuro and Temari — the trio of ninja from Sunagakure (The Village Hidden in Sand).



Kakashi カカシ

Although he doesn't have an especially warm personality, Kakashi is protective of his students.



Orochimaru 大蛇丸

This nefarious master of disguise placed a mysterious curse-mark on Sasuke and hopes to mold Sasuke into his successor.



Kabuto カブト

A spy for Orochimaru's village of Otogakure (The Village Hidden in the Sound), Kabuto has been living a double life in Konohagakure since childhood.

THE STORY SO FAR...

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

Nine candidates — including Naruto and Sasuke — have made it past the preliminary rounds of the third Chûnin Exam, and they begin a month-long period of preparation for the finals.

Meanwhile, Orochimaru orders Kabuto to kidnap Sasuke...but Kakashi catches Kabuto in the act. Although Sasuke is safe, Kabuto escapes — but not before his true identity is revealed. Now training with elite tutor Ebisu, Naruto practices a water-walking exercise at the local hot spring.

But when a peeping tom and a giant toad knock out his instructor, what's Naruto to do?!



Jugo
重吾



Karin
香燐



Suigetsu
水月



Konan
小南



Pain
ペイン



Madara
マダラ



Shima
シマ



Fukasaku
フカサク



Itachi
イタチ

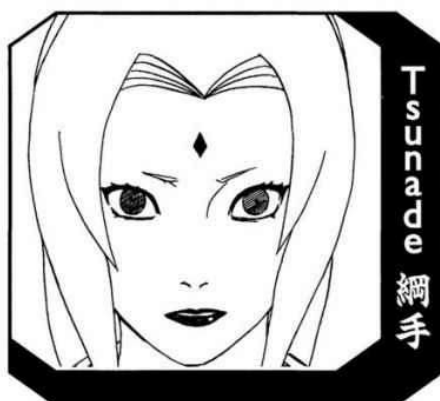
THE STORY SO FAR...

Naruto, the biggest troublemaker at the Ninja Academy in the Village of Konohagakure, finally becomes a ninja along with his classmates Sasuke and Sakura. They grow and mature through countless trials and battles. However, Sasuke, unable to give up his quest for vengeance, leaves Konohagakure to seek Orochimaru and his power...

Two years pass. Naruto grows up and engages in fierce battles against the Tailed Beast-targeting Akatsuki. Elsewhere, after winning the heroic battle against Itachi and learning his older brother's true intentions, Sasuke allies with the Akatsuki and sets out to destroy Konoha!

The Akatsuki leader Pain assaults Konoha in search of the nine-tailed biju-bearing Naruto! With fierce and violent skill, he lays waste to Konoha. When Naruto returns home to face the enemy, the results of his senjutsu training are apparent, but will it be enough to defeat the Akatsuki...?!

CHARACTERS





Yamanaka Ino 山中いの

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



Hyuga Neji 日向ネジ

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



Hyuga Hinata 日向ヒナタ

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



Gekko Hayate 月光ハヤテ

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

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

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