**Etymological Dictionary of Han/Chinese Characters**

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Preface Glyph Interpretations and Character Meanings

EDHCC contains approximately 6000 entries explaining the connections between glyph and original meanings in Old Chinese, a subject of interest to students of both Chinese (Mandarin, Yue, Wu, Gan, Hakka etc.) and Japanese.

The meanings attached to the characters in the modern languages are a mishmash, marked by cases such as those in which

・The original sense of a character remains, and is the only meaning

・The original sense has disappeared and been replaced with acquired meanings ・The original sense and acquired meanings coexist

・The original sense is retained in Chinese but has dropped in Japanese

・The original sense is retained in Japanese but has dropped in Chinese

・The Chinese and Japanese meanings fully coincide

・The Chinese and Japanese meanings partially coincide

・The Chinese and Japanese meanings do not coincide

EDHCC accounts for the meanings borne by the characters in modern Japanese. Treatment of the meanings in modern Mandarin etc. will be presented elsewhere, and in a different format.

Section Notes

・The Han/Chinese characters were also used in Korean and Vietnamese, but they are excluded from consideration here because use of the characters has been either greatly de-emphasized (in Korea) or largely relegated to history (in Vietnam). Note that the meanings borne by the characters in Korean and Vietnamese followed Chinese usage closely.

・Acquired meanings are of three types: Associated, extended and borrowed. Associated and extended meanings are illustrated by 彪. This originally indicated a tiger-stripe pattern, which is still a meaning in Chinese and Japanese. In Chinese, but not Japanese, 彪 also means "tiger," "tiger cub" and "tiger-like," meanings arising by association with the animal producing the pattern originally indicated. In Japanese, 彪 also means "pattern" (in general), which arises by association with the specific type of pattern originally indicated. Further, Japanese also has the meanings "speckled" and "mottled," which are by extension from "pattern" (in general), being other types of patterns.

Borrowed meanings are discussed in Section III.

・Among the traditional forms of the Han/Chinese characters used in Chinese and Japanese, a small number exhibit minor graphic distinctions. The EDHCC forms are the Japanese ones.

I The Types of Han/Chinese Characters

The traditional 六書 classification system identifies four types of characters. (Two other categories concern usage rather than composition.) The four types are:

Pictographs (Chinese: 象形字; Japanese 象形文字)

Ideographs (Chinese: 指事字; Japanese: 指示文字)

Semantic compounds (Chinese: 會意字; Japanese: 会意文字)

Phonetic compounds (Chinese: 形聲字; Japanese: 形声文字).

However, the corpus of characters is more accurately reflected by the following classification scheme.

1) Single-element characters

2) Dual-element characters

3) Irregular characters

Single-element characters are nearly all depictions of objects. A handful (ex: 上 下 帝) are depictions of abstract concepts. Approximately 5% of the EDHCC corpus consists of the single element type.

Dual-element characters are comprised of a phonosemantic element and a semantic element (for shorthand, the phonosemantic and the semantic). Both elements bear on the character's meaning, with the phonosemantic also suggesting the character's pronunciation. For EDHCC classification

purposes, this category also includes characters that appear to be irregular but which analysis reveals originated as regular dual-element characters (see the example of 設 below). Regular dual element characters, in combination with irregular characters that originated as such, account for approximately 94% of the EDHCC corpus.

Truly irregular characters have multiple elements and do not follow the normative phonosemantic + semantic pattern of dual-element characters. Fewer than 1% of the EDHCC corpus consists of this type.

Section Notes

・ Any given element may function as a phonosemantic or a semantic. There are over one hundred characters in common use in which 土 is the semantic, but in characters such as 里 塞 吐 社 and 肚, 土 is the phonosemantic.

・ Nearly all characters listed in the Appendix (Made-in-Japan Characters) are of semantic + semantic formation. However, while these glyphs are inspired by Han/Chinese characters, they are not Han/Chinese characters per se.

・The (truly) irregular characters appear to have been devised as substitutes for regular dual-element characters, in the manner that 体 (7 strokes) came to replace 體 (23 strokes). The upside of character substitution is that the amount of labor required to express a term in writing is reduced. The drawback is that the pronunciations of substitute characters are anomalous. For example, the Old Chinese pronunciation of 位 is unlike 立, that of 休 is unlike 木, and neither is like 亻/人.

Aside from the formation pattern 亻/人 + (Element 2), substitute characters were also created by doubling (棗 弱 竝 兓 戔 芻 多 臸), tripling (畾 磊 惢 品 晶 劦) or even quadrupling (嚚 器) elements. In most cases it is not possible to identify the characters that were replaced, but 淼, which triples 水 to create a variant form of 渺, is suggestive of one of the processes at work.

The limited number of irregular characters in the corpus is likely the result of cost/benefit analysis. Although the pronunciations of 400-500 single-element characters can be memorized in a matter of months, when thousands of compound characters with anomalous pronunciations are added to the mix, the memorization period cannot help but extend into years (the very situation in Japanese). Another consideration is the profound correlation between sounds and meanings in Old Chinese; the ancient literati were no doubt wary of changes weakening the correlation between the two. Ultimately, given a choice of conveying terms with fewer strokes, or of retaining the intuitiveness of the pronunciations of the thousands of dual-element characters, the ancient Han chose the latter, though a small percentage of irregular characters remained in the corpus.

For Further Reading

・ The article "The Phantom Category of Chinese Characters" details the various processes according to which the dual-element characters that acquired graphic irregularities came into existence.

・ For the correlation between sounds and meanings in Old Chinese, see the articles "Kanji Etymology and the ABC Etymological Dictionary of Old Chinese" and "Iconicity of Chinese Characters."

II Abbreviated Forms

It is common for abbreviated forms to appear in dual-element characters. Sometimes the abbreviation is evident even in the modern versions of the characters, as when the lower four strokes of 鳥 disappear in 梟 島 and 裊 or the bottom portion of 高 drops in 亭 臺 and 豪. This phenomenon may also be discerned with 金 in 釜, 在 in 存, 頁 in 戛, 弟 in 第, 壹 in 壼, 監 in 臨 and so on.

In some cases the abbreviation is only revealed by inspecting historical forms of the characters, which indicate the presence of 侖 in 典, 鼎 in 貞, 丞 in 承, 史 in 唐 , 艸 in 生, and both 昜 and 曰 in 昌, among other examples.

The most frequent use of abbreviated forms is illustrated by the characters 桴 艀 and 蜉. All three are written with the element 孚, which in derivative characters typically lends the influence "envelop/enclose," as in 俘 浮 莩 郛 殍 and 孵. In 桴 艀 and 蜉, however, the 孚 element lends the influence "float," which is via 浮. In other words, with respect to 桴 艀 and 蜉, 孚 functions as an abbreviated form of 浮.

Many other examples of this type of abbreviation may be offered. Here are a dozen: Character Apparent Element Actual Element Abbreviated

襤 監 濫

賚 來 勑

箠 垂 捶

癜 殿 澱

犢 �� 贖

裋 豆 豎

垤 至 室

顫 亶 邅

忒 弋 代

芷 止 沚

虘 且 狙

魦 少 沙

A handful of independent characters were devised as abbreviated forms of entire characters, three examples being 痒 (originating in 癢), 隻 (originating in 雙), and 飧 (originating in 餐).

III Borrowed meanings (Sound loans)

Many characters have acquired meanings they did not originally bear, hence the designation "borrowed meanings" (假借・仮借). As suggested by the alternate designation "sound loans," the practice was for the term conveyed by the character acquiring the borrowed meaning to be a homonym of the term conveyed by the character from which the meaning was borrowed.

The most common type of borrowing involves characters sharing an identical element. The four stroke character 屯 originally indicated a swelling bud, but came to bear the meanings "camp" or

"barracks," borrowed from the thirteen-stroke 頓. Likewise, permitting 御 to convey the meaning "defend" (borrowed from 禦) reduces the stroke count by five.

Note that although this type of borrowing most often resulted in characters conveying meanings belonging to characters written with a greater number of strokes, the reverse is sometimes the case. Compare 騙 vis-à-vis 諞 and 羞 vis-à-vis 忸.

Borrowing was also encouraged by cultural advances. The need for written expressions of abstractions such as the cardinal points and the four seasons arose long after the invention of the earliest set of characters. Given a choice of creating new characters or adapting existing ones to the purpose, the Han chose the latter method (originally, 北 南 東 and 西 had nothing to do with directions, nor 春 夏 秋 and 冬 with the seasons).

IV Factors Complicating Interpretations of Han/Chinese Characters

Seldom can meaning of a dual-element character be readily intuited from its constituent elements. As we have seen, two complicating factors are the use of abbreviated forms and the accretion of borrowed meanings. Abbreviated forms misdirect our search for conceptual relations, while borrowed meanings make nonsense of the semantic chain linking a term's original sense and its acquired meaning(s).

A third complicating factor is that the conceptual or semantic influence exerted by a given phonosemantic is not necessarily the same in all its derivative characters. Here are some examples of how this tendency manifests itself.

Character/Original Sense Influence One Influence Two

古 expectorate old, old hard; dried out

dried out (= hard) food 估 姑 詁 苦 固 枯

干 thick bar pressed thick bar press against

against a combatant 肝 軒 杆 刊 汗 旱

義 use a bladed weapon blade-like ceremony

in a ceremonial sacrifice 嶬 礒 蟻 儀 檥 議

果 round fruit round fruit

彙 踝 裹 菓 祼 夥

申 bolt of lightning bolt of lightning stretch

stretching from sky to earth 坤 神 電 伸 抻 紳

Some phonosemantics exert several distinct influences in derivative characters. Character/Original Sense Influence One Influence Two Influence Three

氐 press the low point or press low foundation foundation of an object 抵 牴 觝 坻 彽 祗 底 柢 砥

壽 aged person following ridge long and curved long span a long, curved ridge 壔 疇 幬 濤 鑄 儔 禱 躊

單 simple weapon used simple → single weapon fanning motion with a fanning motion 禪/禅 襌 觶 彈/弾 戰/戦 樿 憚 蟬 驒

襄 insert seized goods insert supple/soft seize; sack in soft/supple sacks 曩 鑲 壤/壌 孃/嬢 穰 攘 囊

A fourth complicating factor is of course changes in the forms of the characters. For example, it makes no sense to interpret 設 as 言 words + 殳 action indicator, as the 言 element was originally a chisel and 殳 originally a hand + a bar. 設 is an example of a character that appears to be irregular but originated as a regular dual-element character.

V Differences in Character Meanings in Chinese and Japanese

There is a high degree of correspondence in the principal meanings the characters convey in Japanese and in Chinese. Here are the main reasons for distinctions of meaning, where they exist.

1) Retention/loss of original significations

In Chinese, some characters retain original significations that disappeared before entering Japanese, or that entered Japanese but subsequently dropped. Examples: 啀 屁 配 鐚 席 煜 翌 羂 渫 慶 禰 策 素 裊 駛 習 廟 剋 雪 托 蝕 升 襲 褪 樸 朴 嵐 鸛 匹 森 拶.

Conversely, in Japanese, some characters retain original significations that dropped in Chinese. Examples: 庸 采 捨 躑 友 馭 圮 鐔 獷 捎 瀦 墅 翊 嵌 轗 紝 燠 檞 蓧 叨 凅 酤 盬 胳 騫 狗 彀 癃 院 邐 癆 餾 茲 楚 舊 鬮 仍 若 臬 异 首 竺 篤 枓 娉 聘 埠 笨 癈 寫 嘖 崢 鬆 面 緬 涅 榻 耦 殄 揣 尋 示 卬 慁 關 鬯 實 嘻 佰 賁 蕡 范 拚 辦 辯 佩 羞 彌.

2) The primary meanings in each language are distinct, but equally well follow from the original sense of the term. For instance, 葫 is 胡 (rough, covering substance) + 艹 grass/plant, indicating a type of vegetation with a rough surface. In Chinese, the reference is to "gourd" or "calabash," while in Japanese it is "garlic." As another example, 鯊 is 沙 sand + 魚 fish, indicating a creature that inhabits the sands of shallow waters. In Chinese, 鯊 indicates a "shark," while the meaning in Japanese is "goby."

Here are some other characters of this nature:

稻 貍 舍/舎 讜 啀 枷 鞚 薛 瀦 廞 箝 疢 貰 魛 綦 鱒 棧/桟 夋 彊 齷 窿 佹 溜 嘸 廡 茨 囁 楚 倖 圉 慷 枚 孥 茹 禰 嵾 俵 痞 笨 藩 寫/写 慫 葱 饌 諒 懣 嚀 廈 榎 姫 兢 潯 淀 缶 帚 懟 饎

3) Borrowed meanings are found in one of the languages, but not both.

Characters with borrowed meanings in Chinese that are not meanings in Japanese: 塙 用 杜 撐 梲 麃 漂 槓 紅 詵 伊 柬 硝 銷 予 迤 佗 翊 柘 尻 薀 秩 淋 荏 恢 傾 迨 睽 巤 哄 丑 紐 雕 叨 央 凅 盬 夥 倡 拽 剗 漠 隮 呫 點 謠 翏 摎 扈 胡 渠 去 騫 幵 栞 繭 弄 樁 廱 杌 娩 撝 累 得 麻 靡 舞 隶 鎭 逗 湑 瀟 呆 丘 踽 冉 殷 碼 娉 別 覆 斥 津 搢 宿 縱 剉 疾 涼 莽 訥 奈 頤 克 規 趁 軫 揣

端 彖 祇 抑 啓 休 怪 匯 設 討 準 撲 扑 乎 呼 咋 犯 沛

Characters with borrowed meanings in Japanese that are not meanings in Chinese: 庸 采 翅 篦 駄 哈 玦 緌 恔 懽 齟 乍 偖 昱 磔 鉉 閉 遺 贅 悴 兼 扠 俠 沓 墺 襖 斛 檞 葯 泱 嚮 嬰 梗 柄 莨 絣 苹 套 冲 誅 遉 嘽 鱓 碌 鰕 巴 臂 瘻 拈 卓 踞 衙 偃 巾 候 勾 姤 廓 凌 棙 槇 緝 輯 樣 臙 芝 舃 阡 樔 咲 撰 坐 砌 瘥 蠡 忍 入 侵 膳 羨 瑞 顓 托 丸 詘 循 諷 鬨 嘘 陌 噴 憑 弁 鞴

4) Characters having borrowed meanings in both Chinese and Japanese, but with the borrowed meanings conveying something different in each language: 盪 朶 綏 允 杷 斂 所 擬 款 裛 苟 奐 和 儡 輒 仄 偲 聳 亮 蹣 詫 厥 食 聿 賁 馮 佩

5) Reinterpretation

In Chinese, a small number of characters have primary or secondary meanings that derive from reinterpretation. For example, 櫓 originally indicated a scull, or an oar, in the sense of a wooden object drawn up out of the water and moved from one side to the other to propel a vessel. However, 櫓 later acquired the additional meanings "watchtower" and "turret," a result of reinterpreting the "drawn upward" aspect of the character as indicating a high wooden construction. Another example of reinterpretation in Chinese involves 菹, which combines 苴 (plant matter) and 氵/水 water, originally indicating vegetation at water's edge. Later, 氵/水 was understood as brine in which vegetation is pickled, and thus the additional meaning "pickled vegetables." Other characters reinterpreted in Chinese include 爬 擘 膀 坏 輊 舳 艫 and 甬.

These additional significations are carried over in Japanese, so that the Chinese and Japanese meanings overlap. However, certain characters were also reinterpreted in Japanese to convey particular meanings that did not enter Chinese.

For example, 鐚 originally indicated soft metal, a meaning retained in Chinese. In Japanese, though, the character was reinterpreted as 惡/悪 bad + 金 money for the Japanese-only meaning "bad money." Another example is the meaning "woods/grove in the vicinity of a shrine" attached in Japanese to 杜, a result of taking 土 as an abbreviated form of 社 (神社 = Shinto shrine).

Other characters reinterpreted in Japanese and lacking equivalent meanings in Chinese include 鍔 係 箘 朸 瓴 籟 鐐 裱 偲 槊 錆 柿 鰍 錠 灘 柁 沖 and 鮎.

VI Disclaimer

All characters in EDHCC display correctly in the software used to create the dictionary. The author regrets but assumes no responsibility for character corruption stemming from conversion to PDF or other formats.

VII Key to Symbols and Terms used in the Interpretations

# = phonosemantic element in dual-element characters

→ = leads to the idea/meaning

← = results from the idea/meaning

\*(word/phrase)\* = meanings borne by the character in modern Japanese Shinjitai (新字体) = (variant form of a) character designated to replace a traditional character

**The Etymological Interpretations**

古 (5)　コ；ふる（い・びる・めかしい）

The relevant oracle bone form of 古 combines 口 mouth + an object filling it → expectorate \*old\*, \*dried out\*, \*hard\* food → \*dry up\*; \*stale\* → \*used\*; \*old-fashioned\*.

苦 (8)　ク；くる（しい・しみ・しむ・しめる）；にが（い）

古# hard; dried out + 艸 grass/plant → \*bitter\* plant that makes the mouth go dry → \*stubborn\*; \*pain\*; \*agony\*; \*suffering\*; \*hardship\*; \*trying\* (experience); \*exert oneself\*; \*worry\*; \*distress\*; \*pressure\*; \*torment\*; \*torture\*; \*be at a loss\*; \*embarrassment\*.

固 (8)　コ；かた（い・まる・める）

古# hard; dried out + 囗 circular enclosure → harden about an object → \*hard/harden\*; \*stiff/stiffen\* → \*resolute\*; \*stubborn\*. Other extended meanings include \*tight\*, \*firm\*, \*rigid\*, \*strict\*, \*solid\*, \*jell\*, \*fortify\*, \*collect\*, \*settle\*, and \*settle down\*.

個　(10)　コ；カ

As per 固# (hardened/hard object) + 人 person → objects and people distinguished one by one (compare 箇 as well as 各) → \*individual\*; \*item\* → \*counter\*.

箇　(14)　カ

As per 固# (hardened/hard object) + 竹 bamboo → hard pieces of bamboo → \*counter\* (← bamboo pieces used as counters) → \*this\*; \*that\* (← count this piece, count that piece).

个　(3)　カ；コ

The left-hand portion of the character 竹 bamboo, serving as an abbreviated form of 箇 \*counter\*.

故　(9)　コ；ゆえ

古# hard; dried out + 攵 action indicator → harden into fixed reality → \*old\*; \*die\*; \*the late\* (referring to a deceased person) → \*old acquaintance\*; \*reason\*; \*cause\*; \*circumstances\*; \*past\* (← by reason of past circumstances ← stand firm upon established premises, for example, "because such and such is so, therefore X").

枯 (9)　コ；か（らす・れる）

古# hard; dried out + 木 tree/wood → \*dried out\* tree/wood → \*wither\*; \*die\*; \*be seasoned\*.

居　(8)　キョ；い（る）

古# hard + 尸 buttocks → seat oneself on a hard surface → settle/set in place → \*be present\* → \*exist\* (compare 有, 在, and 存) → \*stay\*; \*live\*.

据　(11)　キョ；す（える・わる）

As per 居# (settle/set in place) + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*set\*; \*place\*; \*settle down to\*; \*settle upon\*.

湖　(12)　コ；みずうみ

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 水 water → (originally, a silted) \*lake\*. Now a lake in the general sense of the word.

戸　(4)　コ；と

Originally the left half of 門 gate, representing a rectangular \*door\* → \*household\*; \*counter for houses\*.

雇　(12)　コ；やと（い・う）

戸# door + 隹 short, squat bird → caged bird → \*employ\*; \*hire\* (← workers likened to caged birds). \*Pay\* is an extended meaning (← provide funds to keep the services of an employee).

顧　(21)　コ；かえり（みる）

As per 雇# (caged bird) + 頁 head → caged bird looking about nervously (compare 瞿) → \*look back\* → \*consider\*; \*review\*; \*reflect on\*; \*take note of\*; \*pay attention to\*.

姑 (8)　コ；しゅうとめ

古# old + 女 woman → aged woman → \*mother-in-law\* (mother of one's husband); \*aunt\* (sister of one's father). \*For the time being\* is a borrowed meaning.

怙　(8)　コ

古# old + 心 heart/emotions → something old on which one can \*rely/depend\* → \*parent\*.

沽　(8)　コ

古# hard; dried out + 水 water → drought-prone body of water. \*Buy\* and \*sell\* are borrowed meanings, via 估.

詁 (12)　コ

古# old + 言 words → \*old language/term\* → \*meaning of an old term\*; \*interpret an old term/text\*.

辜　(12)　コ

古# hard; dried out + 辛 (cutting tool → punish) → severe (= hard) punishment for a \*crime\*.

胡 (9)　ゴ；コ；ウ

古# hard; dried out + 肉 flesh → rough, dry beard covering the jowls → \*barbarian\* (← bearded foreigner) → \*of foreign origin\* (← barbarian foreigners). Compare 蕃.

葫 (12)　コ；にんにく

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 艸 grass/plant → type of vegetation with a rough surface. In Japanese, 葫 refers to \*garlic\*.

瑚　(13)　ゴ；コ

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 玉 jewel → jewel-encrusted, ritual \*food stand\*. The compound 珊瑚 refers to coral.

糊　(15)　コ；のり

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 米 rice → rice \*paste\* used as a rough, covering substance → \*paste on\*; \*starch\*.

醐　(16)　ゴ

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 酉 alcohol container (→ fermentation) → butterfat (covering milk) → \*butter cream\*.

涸　(11)　コ；か（らす・れる）

As per 固# (hardened/hard object) + 水 water → water that has evaporated, leaving an object dried up and hardened → \*dry up\* → \*exhaust\*.

痼　(13)　コ

As per 固# (hardened/hard object) + 疒 illness → \*chronic illness\* (causing the body to harden).

錮　(16)　コ

As per 固# (hardened/hard object) + 金 metal → (of the cracks/grooves of a mold) \*fill with molten metal\*, which hardens to create a unified object → \*confine\*.

倨　(10)　キョ

As per 居# (settle/set in place) + 人 person → person actually or figuratively settled in place and possessed of an \*arrogant\* attitude. Compare 踞.

裾　(13)　キョ；すそ

As per 居# (settle/set in place) + 衣 clothing → \*hem\* of a skirt or \*cuff\* of trousers (← end point of a garment where the fabric gathers/settles). \*Foot of a mountain\* is via a Japanese extension of the sense of this character.

踞　(15)　キョ；うずくま（る）

As per 居# (settle/set in place) + 足 leg/foot → \*crouch\*; \*squat\*. \*Arrogant\* is a borrowed meaning, via 倨.

鋸　(16)　キョ；のこぎり

As per 居# (settle/set in place) + 金 metal → the set teeth of a \*saw\*.

貉　(13)　カク；むじな

As per 各# (hard) + 豸 animal that ambles along the ground → slow-moving animal with a ferocious (= hard) bite → \*badger\*. The variant form 狢 replaces 豸 with 犬 dog/beast.

扈 (11)　コ

As per 邑 (kneel and spread arms in obeisance) + 戸# door → retinue of prostrate subjects attending by a door → \*obey\*; \*follow\*.

估 (7)　コ

古# old + 人 person → vendor of old goods → \*merchant\* → \*sell\*; \*price\*; \*evaluate\*.

罟　(10)　コ；あみ

古# hard; dried out + 罒 net → hard, dried out \*net\*.

凅 (10)　コ；こお（る）

As per 固# (hardened object) + 氷 ice → \*freeze\*.

餬　(18)　コ

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 食 food/eating → \*rice porridge\* (← poor/rough food) → \*live on rice porridge\* (in poverty).

岵　(8)　コ

古# hard; dried out + 山 mountain → \*hill\*/mountain covered with hard rocks.

酤 (12)　コ；ひとよざけ

古 here an abbreviated form# of 苦 bitter + 酉 alcohol container → bitter \*liquor\*. \*Alcohol vendor\* is a borrowed meaning, influenced by 估 merchant.

鈷　(13)　コ

古# hard; dried out + 金 metal → hard piece of cast metal → \*cobalt\*.

楛　(12)　コ

苦# bitter + 木 tree/wood → \*coarse-barked tree\*, painful to the touch → \*coarse\*.

盬 (18)　コ；しお；もろ（い）

古# hard; dried out + an abbreviated form of 鹽 salt → \*rock salt\* → \*land or waters from which salt is extracted\*. Also, \*brittle\* (← crumbly piece of salt).

嘏 (14)　カ；ケ；さいわ（い）

As per 叚 (overlay) + 古 here an abbreviated form# of 祜 prosperity; happiness → \*prosperity\*; \*happiness\* → \*great/large\* (← figurative, overlapping layers of prosperity/felicity).

蝴 (15)　コ

As per 胡# (rough, covering substance) + 虫 insect/creature → insect/creature with a rough covering substance. The compound 蝴蝶 (sometimes written 胡蝶) refers to a butterfly.

祜 (10)　コ；さいわ（い）

古# old + 示 altar/the supernatural → \*prosperity\* and \*happiness\* bestowed by the heavens (accruing from proper veneration of ancestors).

呉 (7)　ゴ

The relevant seal inscription form is 口# mouth + a head leaning forward → mouths figuratively intersecting in rowdy conversation. The pronunciation of the character simulates the sound of animated conversation, or quarreling. The ancient Chinese kingdom of Wu (Japanese: \*Go\*) is a borrowed meaning → \*China\*.

娯 (10)　ゴ

As per 呉# (rowdy) + 女 woman → enjoy a woman in rowdy circumstances → \*pleasure\*; \*enjoyment\*. 娯 was devised to replace 呉.

虞 (13) グ；おそれ

As per 呉# (rowdy) + 虍 tiger → tigers locked in combat (compare 麌 and 牾). \*Give careful thought to\* is a borrowed meaning, as are \*be anxious about\*, \*fear\*, \*apprehension\* and

\*concern\*.

誤 (14)　ゴ；あやま（り・る）

As per 呉# (rowdy) + 言 words → quarrel involving a \*mistake\* → \*err\*.

五 (4)　ゴ；いつ；いつ（つ）

The relevant oracle bone form of this character shows two crossing lines between two parallel lines. The meaning \*five\* may be connected with the idea that, when counting to ten on one hand, a person first counts to five, then crosses back the other way to reach ten.

悟 (10)　ゴ；さと（り・る）

As per 吾# (crossing) + 心 heart/emotions → crossing point between ignorance and \*understanding\*, \*enlightenment\* or \*comprehension\* (compare 晤) → \*perception\*; \*realization\*; \*notice\*.

語 (14)　ゴ；かた（る）

As per 吾# (crossing of words) + 言 words → the crossing of words in conversation → \*converse\*; \*talk\*; \*tell\* → \*narrate\*; \*saying\*; \*word\*; \*language\*. 語 was devised to replace 吾.

芽 (8) ガ；め；め（ぐむ）

As per 牙# (mesh; cross) + 艸 grass/plant → buds that mesh → \*bud\* → \*sprout\*; \*shoot\* → \*sign\*; \*beginnings\*; \*omen\* (← buds, sprouts or shoots as harbingers of something new).

邪 (8) ジャ

As per 牙# (mesh; cross) + 邑 village/settlement → a crossroads settlement → \*evil\* (← superstitious association of crossroads with misfortune) → \*wrong\*; \*illness\*.

與 (14) ヨ；あた（える）　Shinjitai 与 (3)

The relevant bronzeware inscription form shows two objects meshing, to which a seal inscription form adds two pairs of hands → raise an object in unison (compare 擎) → \*work jointly\*; \*participate\*. \*Give\* and \*grant\* are borrowed meanings.

擧 (18)　キョ；あ（がる・げて・げる）　 Shinjitai 挙 (10)

As per 與# (raise in unison) + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*raise\*; \*action\*; \*pick up\*; \*do/perform\*; \*all/all together\*; \*in a body\*. Also, \*indicate\* and \*demonstrate\* (← raise significant points), along with \*nominate\*, \*arrest\* and \*hold\* (a ceremony) (← group actions).

譽 (21) ヨ；ほま（れ）　 Shinjitai 誉 (13)

As per 與# (raise in unison) + 言 words → raise words of \*praise\* in unison → \*honor\*; \*glory\*; \*fame\*; \*renown\*; \*reputation\*.

虛 (12)　キョ　 Shinjitai 虚 (11)

An abbreviated form# of 盧 (sunken) + an element deriving from a seal inscription form of 丘 (geologic basin) → basin notably sunken in the middle (e.g., for the foundation of a building; compare 亞) → \*hollow\*; \*empty\* → \*false\*; \*untrue\*; \*fool\*.

御 (12)　ゴ；ギョ；お；おん；み

As per 卸# (whip) + 彳 movement → whip a horse in driving a chariot → \*manage\*; \*control\*; \*tame\*. Also, \*honorary prefix\* (originally, with reference to one who manages/controls). \*Defend\* is a borrowed meaning via 禦.

塑 (13) ソ

As per 朔# (conjunction of beginning and end points) + 土 earth → \*clay figure\*; \*model\* (that returns to clay when destroyed).

互 (4)　ゴ；たが（い）

A depiction of two notched sticks that fit together in crossing → \*mutual\*.

兒 (8) ジ；ニ Shinjitai 児 (7)

The relevant seal inscription form shows, as depicted in 思, a profusion of fine bones in fontanels (open spaces in an infant's skull over which the skull bones eventually fuse) + 儿 person → \*infant\*; (very young) \*child\*.

家 (10)　カ；ケ；いえ；や

宀 roof/building + 豕 pig/boar, here a variant form of 亥# (pig/boar stretched taut for slaughter) → pigs/boars confined in a hut or shed and awaiting slaughter → \*house\*/\*household\* → \*home\*; \*family\*; \*shop\*; \*store\*; \*business\* → \*dealer\*; \*seller\*; \*specialist\* (← tradesman operating a particular business).

嫁 (13)　カ；とつ（ぐ）；よめ

家# household + 女 woman → woman sent to another household → \*marry\* (off a daughter) → \*bride\*; \*one's wife\*; \*one's daughter-in-law\*.

稼 (15)　カ；かせ（ぐ）

As per 家# (hut/shed) + 禾 grain/rice → \*harvested crops\* in a storehouse → \*plant crops\*; \*earn a living\*; \*work\* → \*gain\* (← work).

車 (7) シャ；くるま

A depiction of the frame of a \*vehicle\* with dual seats → \*wheel\*; \*wheel-shaped object\*; \*automobile\*.

庫 (10)　コ

車# vehicle + 广 building → \*storehouse\* for covering vehicles.

處 (9) ショ　 Shinjitai 処 (5)

夂 leg/foot pointed downward + 几# desk/table → stop and rest on/against a desk, chair, or other furniture (compare 居) → \*place\*; \*point in time\* (place an object where it belongs). Later, 虍 tiger was appended to suggest the pronunciation, but the present form reverts to the original.

據 (16)　キョ；コ　 Shinjitai 拠 (8)

As per 豦# as described in 劇 (fierce) + 手 hand/action indicator → fierce martial activity resulting in occupation of an enemy position → \*base\* → \*point of origin\*.

假 (11)　カ；かり　 Shinjitai 仮 (6)

叚# false + 人: \*false\*; \*deceptive\*; \*artificial\*; \*fake\* → \*temporary\*; \*provisional\* (← false

condition that is only temporary) → \*lend\*; \*borrow\* (← temporary loan as opposed to a permanent gift/grant). \*Leisure\* is a borrowed meaning, via 暇. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character emphasizing the "false" rather than the "conceal" aspect of overlaying the body with a garment, the original sense of 叚.

暇 (13)　カ；ひま

As per 叚# (overlay) + 日 sun/day → figurative overlaying of days/time, creating a surplus → \*leisure\* (time).

下 (3)　カ；ゲ；お（りる・ろす）；くだ（さる・す・る）；さ（がる・げる）；した；しも　 The relevant oracle bone form of this character is a depiction of one line below another, suggesting the idea of \*under\* (contrast 上) → \*low\*; \*lower\*; \*below\*; \*down\*; \*subordinate\*; \*descend\*. Extended meanings from "down" or "below" include \*come/go down\*; \*fall\*; \*drop\*; \*hang\* (down/from); \*hand down\*; \*younger\*; \*have diarrhea\*; \*abort\* (a fetus); \*step/move back\*; \*withdraw\*; \*leave the capital\*; \*retire\* and \*surrender\*. By further extension are \*carry\*, \*remove\* and \*clear a table\* (← take down from a table); \*grate\* (← grated shavings that fall below); \*give\* and \*do someone the favor of \*(← hand ← hand down); \*obtain\* (← be handed/given); and \*latter half\* (← bottom/lower of two halves).

價 (15)　カ；あたい　 Shinjitai 価 (8)

賈# buy; trade + 人 person → merchant evaluating (= setting a \*price/value\* on) commodities.

夏 (10)　カ；ゲ；なつ

A depiction of a dancer whose face is covered by a large, square mask (compare 欺). \*Summer\* is an extended meaning (dance performed in celebration of summer).

亞 (8) ア Shinjitai 亜 (7)

A depiction of a square or rectangular foundation, \*subordinate\* to and pressured by the structure that fills it (compare 虛) → \*sub\*. \*Asia\* is via the phonetic construction 亞細亞.

去 (5)　キョ；さ（る）

The relevant oracle bone form of this character is 囗 circular enclosure + 大 stand outstretched. However, the phonetic evidence suggests that 大 was originally 屰# reverse, suggesting "reverse course and \*withdraw\* from a particular place" → \*leave\*; \*go\*; \*pass\* (away from); \*disappear\* → \*last\* (October etc.) (← past ← pass). Also, \*resign\* (a post) and \*divorce\* (← take leave of). Recall that although the modern forms are distinct, the earliest form of 屰 is 大 written in reverse.

巨 (5)　キョ

A depiction of a large/great framing square (carpenter's tool), with arms at distant ends → \*ruler\*; \*large/huge\* → \*much/many\*.

拒 (8)　キョ；こば（む）

As per 巨# (distant) + 手 hand/action indicator → keep another person at a distance in defending oneself → \*defend\*; \*refuse\*; \*deny\*.

距 (12)　キョ

As per 巨# (distant) + 足 leg/foot → \*spur\* (that keeps the digits of a fighting cock separated/at a distance from each other) → \*distance\*.

午 (4)　ゴ

A depiction of a square-headed mallet, two or more of which would be used in alternation when pounding grain in the mortar framing the mallets. Latter half of a unit of measurement (e.g., for a group of twelve, 午 covers 7-12) as well as \*11 A.M. to 1 P.M.\* and \*noon\* are associated meanings in the sense of the alternating point of a given day. \*Horse\* (as the seventh sign of the Chinese zodiac) and \*south\* are borrowed meanings. In derivative characters such as 忤 and 許, 午 exerts the conceptual influence "yield," via the image of yielding so another person can carry out a task such as pounding grain.

許 (11)　キョ；ゆる（す）

As per 午# (yield) + 言 words → yielding words → \*allow\*; \*accept\*; \*acknowledge\*; \*admit\*; \*permit\* → \*forgive\*; \*pardon\*; \*excuse\*.

基 (11)　キ；もと；もとい

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 土 earth → square, earthen \*foundation\* → \*basis\*; \*origin\*.

期 (12)　キ；ゴ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 月 moon → \*cycle\*; \*period\* (← lunar cycle conceived of as proceeding around a square/rectangular backdrop; compare 稘 as well as 季 and 週).

棋 (12)　キ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 木 tree/wood → rectangular, wooden playing board → \*shogi\*; (the game of) \*go\*.

欺 (12) ギ；あざむ（く）

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure → (square-)masked figure (compare 夏) → \*deceive\*; \*trick\*; \*cheat\* (← masked, deceptive appearance).

碁 (13)　ゴ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 石 stone → game in which stone pieces are used on a rectangular board/table → (the game of) \*go\*. Unlike 棋, which can refer to both go and shogi, 碁 refers only to go.

旗 (14)　キ；はた

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + the pennant/banner element described in 旅 → rectangular \*flag/pennant/banner\*.

示 (5) ジ；シ；しめ（す）

A depiction of a frame-shaped altar, where the \*gods\* \*manifest\* their will → \*show\*; \*indicate\*; \*display\*; \*express\*. In dual-element characters, 示 nearly always functions as a reference to supernatural forces in general.

机 (6)　キ；つくえ

几# desk/table + 木 tree/wood (for emphasis/clarification) → (wooden) \*desk\*. 意 (13) イ

As per 音# (contained) + 心 heart/emotions → keep contained in the heart (compare 念) → (deep) \*thought\*; \*mind\*; \*signification\*.

疑 (14) ギ；うたが（い・う・わしい）

As per 矣# (come to a stop) + an obsolete element of unclear composition and signification. \*Question\* may be regarded as originating in the idea of "stop and interrogate a person," leading to the associated meanings \*suspicion\* and \*doubt\*.

擬　(17) ギ

As per 疑 (come to a stop) + 手 hand/action indicator → bring to a stop. \*Imitate\*,\*resemble\* and \*model on\* are borrowed meanings.

醫 (18) イ Shinjitai 医 (7)

As per 殹# (contain; cover) + 酉 alcohol container → medicinal brew in a container → \*doctor\*; \*cure\*. The present form combines 匸 contain/conceal and 矢 arrow, a character originally indicating arrows stretching from beyond a quiver or other container. 医 combines 匸 contain/conceal and 矢 arrow → arrows stretching from beyond a quiver or other container.

姫 (10)　キ；ひめ

The element now appearing as 臣(subject; retainer) was originally ��# as described in 煕 (confine in the jaw/mouth → confine). The addition of 女 woman indicated a woman confined within a palace (compare 嫁) → female palace slave. Via the intermediary sense of "courtly retainer," the character came to indicate a mistress, or court lady, and eventually a \*princess\*. \*Honorific title for a woman of high rank\* is by association.

劾 (8) ガイ

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 力 power/energy → stretch a slack object, making it taut → (criminal) \*investigation\* (← tighten a loose collection of facts and bring to a conclusion).

該 (13) ガイ

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 言 words → words of warning that cause the hearer to go taut → \*warn\* → \*apply (to)\*; \*pervade\* → \*the said thing/individual\* (← the particular warning in question).

戒 (7)　カイ；いまし（め・める）

廾# pair of hands + 戈 spear/halberd → \*admonish\* or \*prohibit\* by the threat of force → \*warn\*; \*instruct\*.

械 (11)　カイ

戒# admonish + 木 tree/wood → \*weapon(s)\*; \*shackles\* (← wooden contrivances used in admonition/punishment) → \*device\*; \*machine\*.

己 (3)　コ；キ；おのれ

A depiction of a primitive loom consisting of two sticks, between which threads are stretched or raised. In derivative characters, 己 suggests "arise." \*Oneself\*, \*sixth in a series\* and \*sixth calendar sign\* are borrowed meanings.

忌 (7)　キ；い（まわしい・み・む）

己# arise + 心 heart/emotions → arousal of fear, \*disgust\* or \*hatred\* → \*shun\*; \*avoid\*; \*abstain from\*; \*taboo\* (← shun that which one detests).

改 (7)　カイ；あらた（まる・めて・める）

己# arise + 攵 (strike) → strike to arouse/raise, inaugurating a \*reform\* or amendment (compare 變) → \*amend\*; \*renew\*; \*anew\*; \*correct\* → \*replace\*; \*improve\*; \*change\*; \*check\*; \*again\*; \*another time\* → \*be formal/ceremonious\*.

紀 (9)　キ

己# arise + 糸 thread → raise threads. \*History\*, \*narrative\* (record) and \*chronicle\* are borrowed meanings, via 記.

記 (10)　キ；しる（す）

己# arise + 言 words → words that rise from a writing medium → \*notation\*; \*record\*; \*memory\*; \*mark\*; \*marker\* → \*write down\*; \*mention\*.

起 (10)　キ；お（きる・こす・こる）

己# arise + 走 run/action indicator → arise and \*cause\* to \*occur\* → \*arise/awaken\*; \*generate\*; \*start\*; \*begin\*; \*establish\* → \*originate in\*; \*stay awake\*.

企 (6)　キ；くわだ（てる）

As per 止# (stand straight) + ��a variant of 人 person → stand on tiptoes, alert to carry out a \*plan\*, \*plot\* or \*scheme\* (compare 跂 and 僥) → \*attempt\* (← attempt to carry out a plan).

支 (4) シ；ささ（える）

The relevant seal inscription form is 又# hand/action indicator + a branch → skillfully manipulate a \*branch\* → \*support\* (← branch-like, Y-shaped object used as a support); \*hold\* (in check) (← forked stick that keeps an enemy at bay).

岐 (7)　キ

支# branch + 山 mountain → mountain path that branches → \*branch off\*; \*forked road\*.

技 (7) ギ；わざ

As per 支# (skillfully manipulate) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*technique\* involving skillful manipulation → \*skill\* → \*accomplishment\*.

枝 (8) シ；えだ

支# branch + 木 tree/wood → \*branch\*; \*bough\*; \*twig\*. 枝 was devised to replace 支 after the latter came to refer to "branch" in primarily abstract senses.

解 (13)　カイ；ゲ；と（かす・く・ける）

角# horn + an element combining 刀 sword/knife and 牛 cow → \*remove\* cattle horns in butchering → \*dismember\*; \*break\*; \*release\*; \*unravel\*; \*disentangle\*; \*untie\*; \*loosen\*; \*solve\*; \*melt\* → \*understand\*; \*explain\* → \*dispel\* (← dispel doubts and obtain understanding) → \*cancel\*. \*Comb\* is by extension from "disentangle."

肢 (8) シ

支# branch + 肉 flesh → \*the limbs\*, likened to branches → \*arms and legs\*. Also, \*branch element\*.

魚 (11) ギョ；うお；さかな

A depiction of the hard, dried skeleton of a \*fish\*.

漁 (14) ギョ；リョウ

魚# fish + 水 water → pull fish from water → \*fishing\*.

几 (2)　キ

A depiction of a tall \*desk/table\*.

牙 (4) ガ；ゲ; きば

A depiction of fangs or tusks that mesh with or cross over the bottom teeth (compare 齬 and 顎) → \*fang\*; \*tusk\*. Also, \*tooth/teeth\*.

襾 (6) ア；カ

A depiction of a square or rectangular container with a \*cover\* placed atop it → \*place atop/upon\*. Compare 於.

賈 (13)　カ

As per 襾# (covered container) + 貝 commodities → commodities in a covered container → \*buy\*; \*trade\*; \*merchant\*.

懈 (16)　カイ；ケ

As per 解# (remove a protective element) + 心 heart/emotions → strip away tense/guarded emotions → \*be relaxed\*. Also, \*laziness\*.

邂 (17)　カイ

As per 解# (remove a protective element) + 辵 movement (→ action indicator) → remove a barrier/partition and make an unexpected find → \*chance/unexpected encounter\*.

蟹 (19)　カイ；かに

As per 解# (protective element) + 虫 insect/creature → \*crab\* with a protective shell. Compare 蝦.

妓 (7) ギ；キ

As per 支# (skillfully manipulate) + 女 woman → \*female entertainer\* skilled in singing, dancing and the musical arts. Also, \*prostitute\* (← provider of sexual entertainment; compare 娼).

馭 (12) ギョ

An abbreviated form# of 支 (skillfully manipulate) + 馬 horse → \*tame/handle\* (a horse) → \*control\*. Compare 御.

於 (8) オ；ヨ；お（いて・ける）

Two parallel lines suggesting an immobile pile of objects + the pennant/banner element described in 旅 → flagstaffs of military standards thrust into and filling gaps in parallel objects → \*on\*; \*at\*;

\*in\*. \*With respect to\* and \*concerning\* are borrowed meanings.

祇 (8) ギ；シ

示# altar/the supernatural + 氏 family/clan → altar for worshiping a tutelary \*earth god\*. \*Solely\* and \*only\* are borrowed meanings. Distinguish 祇 from 祗.

吾 (7)　ゴ；わ（が）；われ

As per 五# (cross) + 口 mouth → crossing of words in conversation. \*I\*, \*my\*, \*our\*, \*one's own\*, \*oneself\*, and \*ego\* are borrowed meanings.

鼯 (20) グ；むささび

As per 吾# (crossing) + 鼠 rat/mouse → \*flying squirrel\* of an X-shaped crossing pattern when in flight.

齬 (22)　ゴ

As per 吾# (crossing) + 齒 teeth → irregular tooth that crosses in front or behind another tooth → \*irregular teeth\*; \*cross\* → \*conflict\*.

其 (8)　キ；その；それ

Originally, a depiction of a square or rectangular winnow. The relevant bronzeware inscription form appends 几# desk/table. \*That\* is a borrowed meaning.

箕 (14)　キ；み

As per 其# (winnow) + 竹 bamboo → bamboo \*winnow\* → \*winnowing fan/fork\*. 箕 was devised to replace 其 after the latter's transformation of meaning.

麒 (19)　キ；ギ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 鹿 deer → a \*fabulous creature\* said to make perfect right angles in turning. The creature is supposed to have the trunk of a deer, the tail of a cow and the hooves and mane of a horse, and to emit a multicolored glow (see 麟). The compound 麒麟 refers to the male and female of the beast, with 麒 normally understood to represent the former and 麟 the latter. 麒麟 also applies to the \*giraffe\*, an animal which may have been the model for the imaginary beast.

矣 (7) イ

The relevant seal inscription form indicates an arrow hitting a squarish, lumpy target and coming to a stop. For the idea of stopping, compare 處 and 醫. 矣 was eventually employed as a \*particle\* indicating the completion of an action.

埃 (10) アイ；ほこり

As per 矣# (come to a stop) + 土 earth → \*dust\* settled over stationary objects.

挨 (10) アイ

As per 矣# (come to a stop) + 手 hand/action indicator → cause to come to a stop in order/sequence → \*push\* (from behind) → \*approach\*. 挨 is rarely used except in the compound 挨拶 (greeting).

殹 (11) エイ

As per 医# (arrows stretching from beyond a quiver or other container) + 殳 action indicator → echoing sound produced by objects striking each other in a container → \*echo\*.

瑕 (13)　カ；きず

As per 叚# (overlay) + 玉 jewel → \*flaw/blemish\* overlaying the surface of a jewel → \*defect\*; \*mistake\*; \*fault\*.

蝦 (15)　カ；えび

As per 叚# (overlay) + 虫 insect/creature → \*shrimp\* (with a layered shell) → \*lobster\*. Compare 鰕, the Made-in-Japan character 蛯, and 蟹.

霞 (17)　カ；かすみ；かす（む）

As per 叚# (overlay) + 雨 rain/natural phenomena → \*reddish clouds\* or \*haze\* that overlays the sky → \*dim\*; \*blurred\*.

啞 (11) ア；おし

As per 亞# (downward pressure) + 口 mouth → blockage of the throat (compare 唉) → \*mute\*.

椏 (12) ア

As per 亞# (downward pressure) + 木 tree/wood → the \*crotch\* of a tree (upon which heavy branches exert downward pressure).

炬 (9)　キョ；コ

As per 巨# (large/great) + 火 fire → large \*torch\*.

杵 (8) ショ；きね

As per 午# (mallet) + 木 tree/wood → \*wooden mallet\* → \*pestle\*. 杵 was devised to replace 午.

碍 (13) ゲ；ガイ

A variant form of 礙, replacing 疑 with 㝵 as described in 得: \*obstacle\*; \*hindrance\*.

礙 (19) ゲ；ガイ

As per 疑# (come to a stop) + 石 stone → obstructive boulder that stops progress → \*obstacle\*; \*hindrance\*.

亥 (6) ガイ；カイ；い

A depiction of a pig/boar stretched taut for slaughter on a frame. \*Boar\* (as the \*twelfth sign of the Chinese zodiac\*), \*twelfth\* and \*9 P.M. to 11 P.M.\* are borrowed meanings.

駭 (16) ガイ

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 馬 horse → horse gone tense in fright or surprise (compare 驚 and 咢) → \*startle/surprise\*; \*be startled/surprised\*.

骸 (16)　カイ；ガイ；むくろ

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 骨 bone → taut, skeletonized \*body\* → \*bone(s)\*; \*skeleton\*; \*corpse\*. Also, \*framework\* (← skeleton as the bony framework of the body).

杞 (7)　コ；キ

己# arise + 木 tree/wood → \*willow\* (← tree with flexible branches that both bend and rise).

隘 (13) アイ；ヤク

益/益# fill/full + 阜 piled earth → \*narrow\* mountain pass, nearly filled by the cliffs on both sides. Compare 阨.

縊 (16) イ；くび（る・れる）

益/益# fill/full + 糸 thread → head filling a noose in hanging/strangulation → \*hang\*; \*strangle\*.

榎 (14)　カ；えのき

夏# summer + 木 tree/wood → \*hackberry\* (← tree resistant to the heat of summer).

鐚 (20) ア；びた

As per 惡# (be pressured → be pressed) + 金 metal → soft metal, pressed into a particular shape. \*Bad money\*, as in the compound 鐚銭(びたぜに), is via a Japanese reinterpretation of this character as 惡 bad + 金 money.

矩 (10)　ク；さしがね

As per 巨# (large/great framing tool) + 矢 arrow (→ ancient measuring implement) → \*carpenter's square\* → \*standard\*. Compare also 榘 as described in 渠. For the use of 矢 to indicate a measuring implement, compare the original left-hand element of 規.

渠 (12)　キョ；かれ；みぞ

榘 combines 矩 carpenter's square + 木 tree/wood → a wooden carpenter's square. 渠 is an abbreviated form# of 榘 + 水 water → \*ditch/channel/canal\* shaped like a carpenter's square.

滸 (14)　コ；ほとり

As per 許# (be accepting) + 水 water → riverbank/\*shore\* (that absorbs the pounding of water) → \*vicinity\*.

墟 (15)　キョ；あと

As per 虛# (sunken) + 土 earth → \*ruins\* that have sunk into the earth.

冀 (16)　キ；こいねが（う）

異# different + 北 north → a region in northern China (now identified with \*Hebei Province\*) famed for a special breed of horse, 騏, which featured a distinctive (= different) square pattern on the hide, blue-black in color. \*Hope\* and \*wish for\* are borrowed meanings.

驥 (27)　キ

As per 冀# (special breed of horse) + 馬 horse → \*thoroughbred horse\* → \*talent\*(ed person). 驥 was devised to replace 冀 after 冀 lost its connection with horses.

煕 (14)　キ；ひか（る）；やわ（らぐ）

��derives from a depiction of a square jaw, taken broadly as a body part enabling the mouth to close upon and contain food (compare 頷) and thus associated with confinement. 巸 is ��(confine)

+ 巳 (fetus) → fetus confined in a womb. 煕 is as per 巸# (confine) + 火 fire → brilliant fire, confined to a particular place → \*bright\*; \*shine\*. \*Spread\* is via a Japanese reinterpretation of the character (fire spreading within a confined space), as is \*abate\* (← abating fire) → \*relax\* (← ease ← abating fire).

誡 (14)　カイ；いまし（める）

戒# admonish + 言 words → verbal admonition/warning → \*admonish\*; \*warn\*.

伎 (6) ギ；キ

As per 支# (skillfully manipulate) → \*skill\*; \*talent\*; \*ability\* → \*deed\*. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

訝 (11) ガ；ゲ；ゲン；いぶか（しい・しむ・る）

As per 牙# (mesh; cross) + 言 words → words exchanged in crossing paths → \*meet\*. Also, \*suspicion\* and \*doubt\* (← cautious attitude toward a stranger).

谺 (11)　カ；こだま

As per 牙# (mesh; cross) + 谷 valley → crossing point of two or more gorges → \*gorge\*. \*Echo\* is an associated meaning (← sound crossing between gorges). In ancient Japan, echoes were believed to emanate from \*tree spirits\*.

耶 (9) ヤ；ジャ；か

An abbreviated form# of 邪 (crossroads settlement) + 耳 ear → cross-question → (grammatical) \*interrogative\* (← crossroads taken in a figurative sense). 耶 is also used for transliterations.

揶 (12) ヤ

Originally 捓, which is 邪# evil + 手 hand/action indicator → meddle (= cause a bad influence) → \*tease/make fun of\*.

伍 (6)　ゴ

五# five + 人 person → (a group/company of) \*five people\*; (the number) \*five\*.

梧 (11)　ゴ；あおぎり

As per 吾# (crossing) + 木 tree/wood. The character originally referred to crossing wooden bars used as a prop. \*Chinese parasol tree\* is a borrowed meaning.

嶼 (17) ショ；しま

As per 與# (raise in unison) + 山 mountain → \*island\* (← mountain-like protrusion rising from a body of water).

輿 (17) ヨ；こし

An abbreviated form# of 與 (raise in unison) + 車 vehicle → raise/\*shoulder\* a \*palanquin\* → \*many\*; \*all\* (← many people uniting to shoulder a load).

欅 (22)　キョ；けやき

擧# raise + 木 tree/wood → tree with rising (not perpendicular or falling) branches → \*zelkova\* tree.

倪 (10) ゲイ

兒# infant(ile) + 人 person → (feeble) infant. (Sidelong) \*glance\* and \*stare\* are borrowed meanings (via 睨).

睨 (13) ゲイ；にら（む）；ね（める）

兒# infant(ile) + 目 eye → squint/\*stare\* like an infant → (sidelong) \*glance\*.

茣 (10)　ゴ

As per 呉# (intersect) + 艸 grass/plant → a \*species of grass resembling mugwort\*, and used for weaving (compare 茣蓙 ゴザ rush mat).

蜈 (13)　ゴ

As per 呉# (intersect) + 虫 insect → insect with a multitude of legs that cross in propulsion. The compound 蜈蚣 refers specifically to a centipede.

禦 (16) ギョ；ふせ（ぐ）

As per 御# (whip) + 示 altar/the supernatural → festival/ceremony held to drive off evil → \*ward off\*; \*resist\*; \*block\*; \*defend\*.

遽 (17)　キョ；あわ（ただしい）；にわか

As per 豦# as described in 劇 (fierce) + 辵 movement/action indicator → sudden, fierce activity → \*sudden(ly)\*. \*Fear\* is a borrowed meaning (compare 虞).

冴 (7)　ゴ；さ（える）

As per 牙# (mesh; cross) + 氷 ice → biting \*cold\*; \*freeze/freezing\*. Also, \*clear\* (← cold, limpid sky).

椰 (13) ヤ

耶# a variant form of 邪 (crossroads settlement) + 木 tree/wood → \*(coconut) palm\* (← tree often found in arid crossroads settlements).

錏 (16) ア；しころ

As per 亞# (downward pressure) + 金 metal → steel armor weighing on the body → \*armor neckplates\*. Compare 鍜 and 錣.

圄 (10)　ゴ；ギョ

As per 吾# (crossing) + 囗 circular enclosure → \*prison\*; \*imprison\* (← crossing point between liberty and captivity). For the idea of a prison, compare 圉.

晤 (11)　ゴ；あき（らか）

As per 吾# (crossing) + 日 sun/day (→ bright) → crossing point between darkness (= ignorance) and brightness (= \*enlightenment\*; compare 悟) → \*clarity\*. \*Meet\* and \*have a meeting\* are borrowed meanings.

牾 (11)　ゴ；さか（らう）

As per 吾# (crossing) + 牛 cow → cattle crossing horns in butting heads (compare 麌) → \*go against\*; \*be contrary/opposed to\*.

衙　(13) ガ；ギョ；ゴ；つかさ

As per 吾# (crossing) + 行 (straight, crossing roads) → \*government office\* (← crossing point where residents and officials meet). Compare 廨. \*Erect a barricade\* is a borrowed meaning.

寤 (14)　ゴ；さ（める）

As per 吾# (crossing) + an abbreviated form of 寢 sleep → \*awaken\* (← crossing point between states of consciousness). \*Clarity\* may be regarded either as an extended sense, or as a borrowed meaning via 悟.

稘 (13)　キ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 禾 grain/rice → one full agricultural cycle → \*one cycle\*; \*a full month\*; \*a full year\*. Compare 期 as well as 季 and 週.

祺 (13)　キ；さいわ（い）

其 here an abbreviated form# of 期 (one full agricultural cycle) + 示 altar/the supernatural → full/abundant blessings from the gods (compare 福 with this same meaning), such as manifested in a rich harvest → \*fortunate\*; \*free of worry\*. For the connection between abundance and (good) fortune, compare also 吉.

騏 (18)　キ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 馬 horse → \*horse with blue-black skin\* (of an angular pattern); \*blue-black\*. Also, \*fast horse\* (compare 冀).

垓 (9) ガイ；カイ

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 土 earth → \*remote area\* (← figurative end of a stretch of earth); \*border of a remote area\*. The minor meaning \*one hundred billion\* is via the notion of a figure with a long stretch of zeros; compare 億.

孩 (9) ガイ；カイ

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 子 child → \*baby\* suckling at a taut, milk-filled breast → \*babyish\*; \*immature\*.

睚 (13) ガイ；まぶた；にら（む）

厓 here a variant form of 圭# (neat) + 目 eye → neatly shaped eye → \*eyelid\*. Also, \*stare/glare\*.

鞋 (15) アイ；カイ；くつ

As per 圭# (cone-shaped) + 革 leather → (cone-shaped, pointy) \*footwear\*.

苣 (8)　キョ；ちさ

As per 巨# (great/large) + 艸 grass/plant → large plant. The compound 萵苣 refers to lettuce. \*Torch\* is a borrowed meaning via 炬.

秬 (10)　キョ；くろきび

As per 巨# (great/large) + 禾 grain/rice → large variety of grain → \*black millet\*. Compare 粔.

鉅 (13)　キョ

As per 巨# (great/large tool) + 金 metal → (\*great/large\*) metallic, \*hook-shaped tool\* → \*metallic\*; \*steel\*.

冱 (6)　ゴ；こお（る）

As per 互# (fit together) + 氷 ice → \*freeze\* (← fuse in freezing; compare 冴).

圉 (11) ギョ；ゴ；ひとや

As per 幸# (handcuffed prisoner) + 囗 circular enclosure → \*prison\* (compare 圄); \*ostler\*.

廨 (16)　カイ

As per 解# (protective element) + 广 building → protected \*government office\*. Compare 衙.

忤 (7)　ゴ；さか（らう）

As per 午# (yield) + 心 heart/emotions → \*go against\*; \*be contrary/opposed to\* (← resist by shrinking inward or back; compare 去 and 嫌).

淤 (11) オ；ヨ；どろ；にご（る）

As per 於# (fill gaps) + 水 water → \*silt/clog up\*; \*be clogged\*.

覬 (17)　キ；のぞ（む）

As per 豈# (pile of food on a stand) + 見 (affix one's sight on) → \*covet\* (← covet food). Usually, the nuance is that of coveting something above one's station, or otherwise unreasonable.

跂 (11)　キ；ギ；つまだ（てる）

支# branch + 足 leg/foot → \*have one or more extra toes\*. \*Stand on tiptoes\* (compare 企 and 僥) and \*wish for something remote\* (compare 望) are borrowed meanings.

遐 (13)　カ；とお（い）；はる（か）

As per 叚# (overlay) + 辵 movement → set people/things at a progressively greater distance from each other → \*be separated by a great distance\*; \*far\*.

鰕　(20)　カ；えび

As per 叚# (overlay) + 魚 fish → \*shrimp\*; \*prawn\* (compare 蝦). \*Salamander\* is a borrowed meaning.

頤 (16) イ；あご；おとがい

As per ��# as described in 煕 (jaw) + 頁 head (for emphasis/clarification) → \*jaw\*. Also, \*raise the jaw\*; \*raise the jaw and thrust it in the direction of a person/object\*. \*Nourish\* is by further extension (← raise in the manner of closing a child's jaws around food) → \*raise/rear\*.

麌 (18)　ゴ；おじか

As per 呉# (rowdy) + 鹿 deer → deer locked in combat (compare 虞 and 牾) → \*hart\*; \*stag\*; \*buck\* (male deer).

廈 (13)　カ；いえ

夏# summer + 广 building → summer residence → \*house\*.

丫 (3) ア

A depiction of a \*forked branch\* → \*forked/bifurcated object\*. Compare 支.

唉 (10) アイ；ああ

As per 矣# (come to a stop) + 口 mouth → strangled sound (compare 誒) that stops in the throat without being properly voiced → \*utterance of lamentation/pain\* → \*alas\*.

瘀 (13) オ；ヨ

As per 於# (fill gaps) + 疒 illness → \*hematoma\* (← pile-like localized swelling filled with extravasated blood).

迓 (8) ガ；ゲ；むか（える）

As per 牙# (mesh; cross) + 辵 movement → cross paths in meeting → \*move/go to meet\*; \*meet\* (in hosting a guest).

檞 (17)　カイ；かしわ

As per 解# (protective element) + 木 tree/wood → \*pine resin\* (← protective coating). (Variety of) \*oak\* is a borrowed meaning in Japan, via confusion with 槲.

屺 (6)　キ

己# arise + 山 mountain → \*mountain\* that rises gradually.

庋 (7)　キ

支# branch + 广 building → shelves branched about a pantry → \*cupboard\* → \*put away\*; \*to store\*.

芰 (7)　キ；ひし

支# branch + 艸 grass/plant → \*water caltrop\* (the fruit of which has branching, well-defined lines). Compare 菱.

琪 (12)　キ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 玉 jewel → beautiful, rectangular \*jewel\*.

綦 (14)　キ

As per 其# (square/rectangular) + 糸 thread → rectangular piece of fabric. In Chinese 綦 is associated with the color "dark gray," but in Japanese \*light green\* (← particular hue of such a fabric). \*Shoelaces\* is either by association with the fabric, or a borrowed meaning.

誒 (14)　キ；ああ

As per 矣# (come to a stop) + 言 words → strangled sound (compare 唉) that stops in the throat without being properly voiced → \*sigh\*.

儗 (16) ギ；なぞら（える）

A variant form of 擬 imitate, replacing 手 with 人 person (→ human agency) → \*mimic/imitate\*

(another person) → \*draw an analogy\*.

胠 (9)　キョ

A variant form of 胳 the \*sides of the body\*; \*armpits\*.

祛 (10)　キョ

去# withdraw + 示 altar/the supernatural → cause unwelcome spirits to withdraw → \*exorcise\* (and thereby \*purify\*) → \*expel\*.

袪 (10)　キョ；コ；そでたもと

去# withdraw + 衣 clothing → \*cuff\* (← part of a garment turned back on itself) → \*sleeve\*.

粔 (11)　キョ

As per 巨# (great/large) + 米 rice → large variety of grain (compare 秬) → \*rice\*. The compound 粔籹 refers to a confection made of toasted then sweetened rice.

詎 (12)　キョ；いやしく（も）；なん（ぞ）

As per 巨# (distant) + 言 words → \*interjection expressing opposition\* to another person's words (← distancing words) → \*expression of provision\* (If...; Supposing that...) (← theoretical argument at a distance from actual circumstances).

蘧 (20)　キョ

As per 遽# (fierce activity) + 艸 grass/plant → Dianthus superbus, also known as \*fringed pink\*, traditionally used as a contraceptive to counteract frenzied sexual activity.

籧 (23)　キョ

As per 遽# (fierce activity) + 竹 bamboo → roughly weave with strips of bamboo. The compound 籧篨 refers to bamboo matting.

迕 (8)　ゴ；さか（らう）；たが（う）

As per 午# (pound) + 辵 movement/action indicator → pound and jumble a melange of grain → \*be jumbled\*. \*Go against\* and \*defy\* are borrowed meanings, via 忤.

忮 (7) シ；そこ（なう）

As per 支# (skillfully manipulate) + 心 heart/emotions → \*perverse\* (= manipulative) behavior → \*aggressive behavior\*.

豉 (11) シ；みそ

As per 支# (skillfully manipulate) + 豆 bean → mash beans and create a fermented paste → \*fermented soybean paste\* (miso).

騃 (17) シ；ガイ

As per 矣# (come to a stop) + 馬 horse → horse that stops and refuses to budge → \*stupid\* (← willfully stubborn) → \*foolish\*.

硨 (12) シャ

車# here in its minor sense of a wheel-shaped object + 石 stone (→ rock-like object) → \*giant

clam\*.

飫 (13) ヨ；オ；あ（きる）

A variant form of 餘 (surplus food), with 夭# replacing 余. The idea of surplus food leads in 飫 to the meaning \*be/become satiated\*. Also, \*drinking party\* and \*banquet\*.

逆 (9) ギャク；さか（さ・さま・らう）

屰# reverse + 辵 movement → \*reverse\*; \*go against\*; \*invert\*; \*opposite\*; \*upside-down\*; \*inside-out\*; \*defy\*; \*disobey\*; (go to) \*meet\*; \*in advance\*.

惡　(12) アク；オ；わる（い）　 Shinjitai　悪　(11)

As per 亞# (downward pressure) + 心 heart/emotions → hatred/resentment induced by being pressured → \*evil\*; \*wicked\*; \*bad\*; \*hatred\* → \*wrong\* (← bad attitude, answer etc.). There is a possibility that the graphically similar ��(one's true nature) described in 德 has influenced the meanings of 惡 in a reverse, negative sense.

却 (7)　キャク

去# withdraw + 卩 kneeling figure → \*withdraw\* in a kneeling position → \*contrary\*.

脚 (11)　キャク；キャ；あし

却# withdraw + 肉 flesh → \*leg\* (← body part allowing one to withdraw).

億 (15) オク

As per 意# (contained in the heart). \*One hundred million\* is a borrowed meaning. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one (although in this case too the original sense eventually changed).

憶 (16) オク

As per 意# (contained in the heart) + 心 heart/emotions → various thoughts contained in the heart → \*think\*; \*remember\*.

厄 (4) ヤク

An abbreviated form# of 却 (withdraw in a kneeling position) + 厂 cliff → withdraw in a kneeling position from a cliff → \*be at a loss\* (← be unable to progress) → \*misfortune\*; \*disaster\*.

抑 (7) ヨク；おさ（える）

The relevant seal inscription form is 手 hand/action indicator + an element# that is 印 (press down upon a person in forcing him/her to kneel) written in reverse → push/press down upon another in forcing him to kneel → \*exert pressure\*; \*restrain\*; \*hold down\*; \*control\* → \*suppress\*; \*repress\*. The present form uses 卬.

刻 (8)　コク；きざ（み・む）

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 刀 sword/knife → \*cut/chop\* at a taut object → \*notch\*; \*carve\*; \*engrave\*.

核 (10)　カク

As per 亥# (stretched taut) + 木 tree/wood → taut/hard seed or kernel (belonging to fruit or nuts

grown on trees) → \*hard seed\*; \*core\* → \*nucleus\*; \*nuclear\*.

克 (7)　コク

The relevant oracle bone form of this character shows a helmeted head# + 儿 person → helmeted warrior, stretched to full height (compare 亟). \*Overcome\* and \*conquer\* are borrowed meanings.

革 (9)　カク；かわ

A depiction of a tautly stretched animal hide, one being made into \*leather\* → \*make taut\*. Also, \*reform\* (← renew an object by stretching it tautly).

極 (12)　キョク；ゴク；きわ（まる・めて・める）

As per 亟# (stretch to full height/length) + 木 tree/wood → wooden pillar stretching between ceiling and floor → \*extreme\*; (positive/negative) \*pole\*; \*end\*. Also, \*exhaust\* (← exhaust/come to the end of one's resources).

益 (10) エキ

The relevant seal inscription form is 皿 dish/plate/bowl + the character 水 (water) turned on its side, indicating liquid filling a container → \*fill\* → \*advantageous\*; \*benefit\* (← possess full resources) → \*profit\* (← employ one's advantages to gaining profit). Note a variant form 益.

隔 (13)　カク；へだ（たる・て・てる）

As per 鬲# (partition) + 阜 piled earth → an earthen \*barrier/partition\* → \*interpose\*; \*separate\* → \*interval\*; \*be distant/apart from\*; \*lie beyond\* → \*distinction\*; \*discrimination\*; \*reserved attitude\*; \*estranged\*.

各　(6)　カク；おのおの

The relevant oracle bone form of this character shows a leg and an object → strike a hard object and come to a stop → \*strike something hard and come to a stop\* → \*each\*; \*every\* (← strike one hard object after another; for these meanings, compare 個) → \*various\*.

客 (9)　キャク；カク

As per 各# (come to a stop) + 宀 roof/building → stop to rest in a covered structure → \*guest\*; \*customer\* → \*traveler\*; \*freeloader\*.

格 (10)　カク；コウ

As per 各# (come to a stop) + 木 tree/wood → wooden stick used to stop the doors of a gate (compare 閣) → \*be stopped up\*; \*be blocked\* (with); \*standard\*; \*rank\* (← stick used as a standard of length) → \*substance\*; \*frame-shaped\* → \*correct\*; (grammatical) \*case\*.

閣 (14)　カク

As per 各# (come to a stop) + 門 gate → stakes or stones used to stop the doors of a gate (compare 格) → \*tower\*; \*palace\*; (political) \*cabinet\* (← supports for something built atop).

擱 (17)　カク

As per 閣# (cause to stop) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*catch hold of and stop\* → \*put/lay down\*.

恪 (9)　カク；つつし（む）

As per 各# (hard) + 心 heart/emotions → unwavering (= hard/firm) \*respect\* → \*reverent attitude\*.

挌 (9)　カク

As per 各# (hard) + 手 hand → hard \*punch\* → \*(fist)fight\*; \*strike\*.

骼 (16)　カク

As per 各# (hard) + 骨 bone → dried, hard \*bone(s)\*; \*skeleton\*; \*bleached bone(s)\*.

胳 (10)　カク

各# each + 肉 flesh → each \*side of the body\* → the \*sides of the body\*; \*armpit(s)\*. Compare 胠, 脇 and 亦.

額 (18) ガク；ひたい

客# guest/customer + 頁 head (→ group of people) → \*notice board\* to attract guests/customers → \*amount\* (← fee displayed on a notice board). \*Forehead\* is a borrowed meaning, via a character combining 頁 and 各 rather than 客.

詻 (13)　カク；ガク；ギャク

As per 各# (hard) + 言 words → harsh words → \*dispute\*.

咢 (9) ガク

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is 口 mouth (doubled) + 屰# reverse → voices or drumbeats figuratively crossing back and forth → \*drumming\*. \*Surprise\* is a borrowed meaning via 愕.

愕 (12) ガク

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 心 heart/emotions → feeling of \*surprise/astonishment\* when events develop contrary to expectations → \*be flustered\*; \*panic\*.

萼 (12) ガク

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 艸 grass/plant → \*stem and calyx\* (← plant elements that cross).

諤 (16) ガク

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 言 words → frank exchange of words → \*speak openly/frankly/bluntly\*.

鍔　(17) ガク；つば

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 金 metal → faces of a blade crossing/meeting an edge → \*blade edge\*. \*Sword guard\* is via reinterpretation (← protective implement that crosses the sword blade when placed over it).

顎 (18) ガク；あご

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 頁 head → \*jaw\* (enabling the crossing back and forth of the upper and lower teeth in chewing; compare 鰐). For "jaw," compare 頤 and 齶.

鰐 (20) ガク；わに

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 魚 fish (→aquatic creature) → \*alligator\*; \*crocodile\* (← creatures with jagged teeth that cross back and forth in chewing; compare 顎). The compound 鰐鮫 refers to a shark; compare 鮫, where the idea is also that of a shark's crossing teeth.

隙 (13) ゲキ；すき；ひま

The right-hand element# originally combined 小 small (doubled) + 白 white (→ light) → faint light emanating small fissures. 隙 adds 阜 piled earth → \*fissure/crack/crevice\* in a mound or wall → \*discord\* (← fissure between individuals). Also, \*spare time\* (← open space in one's schedule).

棘 (12)　キョク

朿# thorn doubled → \*thorns\* → \*severe\*; \*stinging\*. Compare 棗.

亟 (9)　キョク

The relevant oracle bone form of this character shows a person, stretched to full height, standing between two lines. A bronzeware inscription form adds an element combining 口 mouth and 攴 action indicator → speak and act with the body in a state of tension from head to toe → \*hasten\* (← tense action) → \*urgent\*; \*sudden\* (← urgent/sudden condition causing one to hasten). A seal inscription form replaces 攴 with 又 hand/action indicator.

堊 (11) ア；アク

As per 亞# (downward pressure) + 土 earth → mud/soft earth pressed down on construction materials in plastering → \*clay\*; \*plaster\*; \*coat\* (v.).

扼 (7) ヤク；アク

Originally a variant form of 抑 (push/press down upon another in forcing him to kneel) with the specific sense of gripping tightly in exerting pressure → \*choke\*; \*compress\*; \*tighten\*. \*Yoke\* is a borrowed meaning via 軛. For the idea of choking, compare 嗌.

阨 (7) アイ；ヤク

As per 厄# (be at a cliff; be at a loss) + 阜 piled earth → \*be at an impasse\* at a \*gorge\*; \*be at a loss/in distress\*. Also, \*narrow\* (← narrow gorge; compare 隘).

軛 (11) ヤク；くびき

厄 here an abbreviated form# of 扼 (grip tightly) + 車 vehicle → \*yoke\* gripping the throat of a beast of burden.

剋 (9)　コク；か（つ）

克# overcome + 刀 sword/knife → \*overcome\*/\*vanquish\* enemies by cutting them down → \*win\*.

嗌 (13) アイ；アク；エキ；のど

益/益# fill/full + 口 mouth → fill/stick in the \*throat\*, causing choking → \*choke\*. Compare 扼. 龠 (17) ヤク；ふえ

Originally, 冊# (bamboo slats) + 口 mouth/hole (doubled, not tripled as at present) → bamboo \*flute\* with multiple holes, covered by the fingers in being played. The element atop the tripled 口 in the modern form is an etymologically unrelated accretion.

臆 (17) オク；ヨク

As per 意# (contained in the heart) + 肉 flesh → \*heart\*; \*chest\*; \*breast\* (← physical seat of the heart, regarded as the source of \*thought\*). \*Timidity\* is a borrowed meaning.

鬩 (18) ゲキ；ケキ；せめ（ぐ）

兒# infant(ile) + 鬥 battle → \*fight/quarrel\* like small children.

鶚 (20) ガク；みさご

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 鳥 bird → \*osprey\* (← raptor crossing the tips of its talons in squeezing fish).

齶 (24) ガク

As per 咢# (cross, especially, cross over, or back and forth) + 齒 teeth → upper teeth crossing over the lower in biting/chewing → \*jaw\* (bone enabling the crossing back and forth motion of chewing). Compare 頤 and 顎.

籥 (23) ヤク；ふえ

As per 龠# (bamboo flute) + 竹 bamboo (for emphasis/clarification) → \*short flute\* with either three or six holes. \*Key\* (to a lock) is a borrowed meaning via 鑰.

鑰 (25) ヤク；かぎ

As per 龠# (oblong object) + 金 metal → (key of a) \*lock\* equipped with a cylinder → \*key\*; \*to lock (up)\*. Also, \*vital point\* and \*pivot\* (← vital point at which a lock opens).

謚 (17) シ；おくりな

益/益# fill/full + 言 words → \*posthumous name\*, conferred while the exploits of the deceased are recited in full (compare 誄). 諡, which replaces the element at top right with 兮, is a variant form.

鷁 (21) ゲキ；あおさぎ

益/益# fill/full + 鳥 bird → replica of a green heron (or of a legendary bird) placed on the prow of a ship as a talisman to guard against a ship being filled with water in a storm → \*green heron\*.

檍 (17) オク；ヨク

As per 意# (contained in the heart) + 木 tree/wood → \*ilex\* (holly), a flowering plant in which small birds take refuge. Compare 柊.

膈 (14)　カク

As per 鬲# (partition) + 肉 flesh → \*diaphragm\* partitioning the abdomen and chest.

郤 (10) ゲキ；キャク；ケキ

谷# valley + 邑 village/settlement → valley settlement. Later, the term came to refer to a \*depression\* and a proper name, as well as in Chinese medicine to denote the space between bone and muscle.

殛 (12)　キョク；ころ（す）

As per 亟# (stretch to full height/length) + 歹 severed bone/death → stretch a victim for slaughter → \*kill\*; \*execute\*.

屰 (6) ゲキ；ギャク

Originally, 大 written upside down → \*reverse\* (← invert) → \*go against\*; \*defy\*.

薏 (16) ヨク；イ

As per 意# (contained in the heart) + 艸 grass/plant → plant containing numerous tiny seeds. The compound 薏苡 refers to Job's tears/tear grass.

搤 (13) ヤク；アク

益/益# fill/full + 手 hand/action indicator → \*grip\* an object tightly, filling the hand → \*tighten\*.

瀹 (20) ヤク；ひた（す）

As per 龠# (oblong object) + 水 water → oblong object used in soaking/boiling → \*soak\*; \*boil\*.

丮 (4) ケキ

A depiction of a \*kneeling figure with arms extended\*.

仰 (6) ギョウ；あお（ぐ）；おお（せ）

卬# look up at + 人 person (for emphasis/clarification) → \*look up at/to\*; \*respect\*; \*revere\* → \*depend on\*; \*another person's commands/wishes\* → \*take\* (poison/medicine) (at another person's command).

迎 (7) ゲイ；むか（える）

卬# look up at + 辵 movement → assume a kneeling position in order to \*greet\* a respected visitor → \*welcome\*; \*receive\*; \*meet\*.

境 (14)　キョウ；ケイ；さかい

As per 竟# (border) + 土 earth (for emphasis/clarification) → \*border\*; \*boundary\* → \*area\*. Also, \*circumstances\* (← situation in which one is fixed ← fixed border).

鏡 (19)　キョウ；かがみ

As per 竟# (border) + 金 metal → metal bordering a \*lens\* → \*mirror\* → \*model\*; \*in the light of\*; \*consider\*; \*clear\*; \*spectacles\*.

京 (8)　キョウ；ケイ

A depiction of one of a pair of expansive structures on high ground (compare 高) → \*high hill\* → \*metropolis\*; \*capital\* (← large settlement in sunny/bright heights safe from dangers such as floods or surprise attacks).

景 (12) ケイ

As per 京# (expansive) + 日 sun/day → expansive \*view\* obtainable on a bright, clear day → \*scene\*.

影 (15) エイ；かげ

As per 景# (expansive) + 彡 pattern → \*image\*; \*reflection\*; \*figure\*; \*trace\*; \*shape\* (← expansive images of patterns in reflection) → \*shadow\* (← emphasis on the shaded rather than the light portion, the reverse being the case for \*light\*). Compare 映.

鯨 (19) ゲイ；くじら

As per 京# (expansive) + 魚 fish → \*whale\* (← expansive sea creature).

強 (11)　キョウ；ゴウ；し（いる）；つよ（い・まる・める）

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is a shape indicator suggesting the horned head of a beetle + 虫 insect → beetle. A seal inscription form adds 弓# bow, functioning as an abbreviated form of 彊 (strong, tautly stretched bow), leading to the meanings \*strong\*, \*strength\*, and \*force\* → \*compel\*; \*coerce\*; \*intensify\*. Returning to the seal inscription form, this referred to a hard shelled beetle, making 強 弓 + a variant form of the bronzeware inscription character (beetle).

競 (20)　キョウ；ケイ；きそ（う）；せ（る）

The relevant seal inscription form is 誩# + 从. 誩 is 言 words (doubled) → verbal disputation. 从 is a variant form of 従 (people in close formation). The combination of elements suggests verbal competition → \*compete\* → \*auction\*.

行 (6)　コウ；ギョウ；アン；い（く）；おこな（う）；ゆ（く）

A depiction of straight and crossing roads extending into the distance → \*go\*; \*movement\*; \*procession\*; \*road\* → \*line\* (of people) → \*conduct\*; \*do\*; \*perform\* (← carry out an action).

衡 (16)　コウ

As per 行# (straight and crossing) + an element combining 大 stand outstretched and an abbreviated form of 角 horn → straight, crossing bars used to hold down the horns of cattle → \*scale\*; \*measure\*; \*weigh\* (← bars used in making measurements ← wooden bars).

坑 (7)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 土 earth → \*hole,\* \*pit\* or \*shaft\* stretching deep into the earth (compare 阬) → \*bury\*.

抗 (7)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 手 hand/action indicator → stretch the arms straight out in resistance or opposition → \*resist\*; \*oppose\* → \*rival\*; \*compete\*.

航 (10)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 舟 boat → boats sailing in grand alignment → \*sail\*; \*navigate\*; \*vessel\*.

央 (5) オウ

大 stand outstretched + a bar-like object → person standing outstretched, a pole with heavy objects at both ends extending beyond the shoulders → \*center\*; \*middle\* (← pressure exerted on the center of the body).

英 (8) エイ

As per 央# (stretch) + 艸 grass/plant → gorgeous plant, stretching at length → \*brilliance\*;

\*superiority\* (← surpass others ← stretch at length). \*England\* and \*English\* are via the phonetic construction 英吉利.

映 (9) エイ；うつ（す・る）；は（える）

As per 央# (stretch) + 日 sun/day → sun stretching/\*shining\* over a wide area (compare 影) → \*reflection\*; \*projection\* (← dark spot attending to sunlight striking an object) → \*shade\*; \*shape\*. Also, \*match/go with\* and \*be conspicuous\* (← reflect) → \*be attractive\* (← striking).

鄕 (13)　キョウ； ゴウ　 Shinjitai 郷 (11)

An abbreviated form# of a variant of 卿 (be positioned opposite) + 邑 village/settlement → villages/settlements that face/are opposed at a distance → \*village\*; \*countryside\* → \*rural\*.

響 (20)　キョウ；ひび（き・く）

鄕 here a variant form of 卿# (be positioned at opposite sides) + 音 sound → transmission of \*sound\* through space from point of origin to point of reception → \*resonance\*; \*reverberation\*.

向 (6)　コウ；む（かう・き・く・ける・こう）

The relevant oracle bone form of this character is 宀 roof/building + a hole# → smoke being compressed through a ventilation hole and escaping to the outside of a structure → \*face (toward)\*; \*head toward\*; \*direction\*. Extended meanings include \*confront\*; \*advance upon\*; \*approach\*; \*become/grow\*; \*turn to\*; \*point at\*; \*send\* (a messenger); (on) \*the other side\*; \*opposite direction\* and \*beyond\*. Also, \*position\* (on a matter) and \*be inclined to do\* (← the approach one takes to an issue); \*allocate to\* (← time/objects one directs toward a matter); \*destination\* (← head toward); \*the other party\* (← person one faces); and \*suitability\* (← be appropriately suited to face a situation). For the idea of smoke passing through a ventilation hole, compare 囱 as described in 窓 as well as 匆, a variant form of 囱.

享 (8)　キョウ

A depiction of one of a pair of gates positioned at opposite ends of an enclosure → \*entertain guests\*; \*enjoy\* (← entertainment taking place in such a structure) → \*receive\* (entertainment/a privilege etc.) (← be the recipient of entertainment).

香 (9)　コウ；かお（り・る）；こうば（しい）

The relevant seal inscription form combines 甘# sweet + 黍 millet → sweet \*fragrance/scent\* of boiled millet wafting through the air → \*incense\*; \*perfume\*; \*savory\* (smell).

凝 (16) ギョウ；こ（らす・る）

As per 疑# (come to a stop) + 氷 ice → flowing water coming to a stop in hardening into ice → \*rigidity\*; \*concentration\*; \*stiff\*. \*Strain\*, \*be absorbed in\*, \*fix attention on\* and \*elaborate\* (v.) are extended meanings.

肯 (8)　コウ

A variant form of 肎 ( 冖 cover + 肉 flesh), indicating an arm hanging from a shoulder (compare 肩) and covering the side of the body. \*Consent\*, \*agreement\* and \*permission\* are borrowed meanings. In Old Chinese, neither 冖 nor 肉 conveys the pronunciation of this character, suggesting that a) one (or both) of the original components differed or b) one functioned as an abbreviated form of a now-obsolete character.

恆 (9)　コウ　 Shinjitai 恒 (9)

As per 亙# (moon crossing the evening sky → fixed phenomenon) + 心 heart/emotions → constancy likened to that of the moon crossing the sky every evening → \*constantly\*; \*always\*; \*fixed\* → \*habitual\* (← always).

興 (16)　コウ；キョウ；おこ（す・る）

The relevant seal inscription form combines 同 same + 與# (raise in unison) → work together to \*raise\*, \*build\* or \*promote\* → \*interest\*; \*prosperity\* (← raise interest; build up funds). \*Prevalent\* is an extended meaning.

刑 (6) ケイ

The relevant oracle bone form of 开# is a depiction of handcuffs stretching about a prisoner's wrists, framing them in punishment. A bronzeware inscription form curves the vertical strokes. 刑 adds 刀 sword/knife → \*punish\* (by confinement, severing of body parts or by other means).

型 (9) ケイ；かた

As per 刑# (frame) + 土 earth → clay framed in the \*mold\* shaping it → \*model\* → \*pattern\*; \*type\*; \*design\*; \*conventional form/idea\*; \*basic technique\* (in martial arts).

形 (7) ケイ；ギョウ；かた；かたち

As per 开# as described in 刑 (frame) + 彡 pattern → (frame-like and other, various) shapes and patterns → \*shape\*; \*pattern\*; \*form\*; \*style\*.

耕 (10)　コウ；たがや（す）

A variant form of 开# as described in 刑 (frame) + 耒 plow → \*till\* or \*cultivate\* with a frame shaped plow.

幸 (8)　コウ；さいわ（い）；さち；しあわ（せ）

A depiction of handcuffs for confining the movement of prisoners. \*Good fortune\* and \*happiness\* are extended meanings (← a prisoner's good fortune to escape his handcuffs).

敬 (12) ケイ；うやま（う）

The relevant seal inscription form of the left-hand element# is 人 person + an element combining horns and a mouth → person who cries out and goes stiff with fear upon being charged by a ram. 敬 adds 攵 action indicator → \*be stiff/formal/ceremonious\* (compare 改 and 僵) → \*respect\*. Note that the left-hand element of 敬 is etymologically distinct from the independent character 苟.

警 (19) ケイ

As per 敬# (stiff; upright) + 言 words → cause others to go stiff/upright by admonishing or warning them → \*warn\* → \*regulate\*; \*alarm\*; \*careful\*.

驚 (22)　キョウ；おどろ（かす・き・く）

As per 敬# (stiff; upright) + 馬 horse → startled horse that stiffens in attention (compare 篤) → \*surprise\*; \*astonishment\* → \*fright\*; \*shock\*; \*wonder\*; \*marvel\*.

徑 (10) ケイ Shinjitai 径 (8)

巠# is 巛 (a variant form of 川) river between a horizontal line at top and 工 at bottom (originally

土 earth) → river/watercourse extending between two distant points. 徑 adds 彳 movement → proceed along an extensive \*path\* → \*diameter\*; \*direct\*.

莖 (10) ケイ；くき Shinjitai 茎 (8)

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 艸 grass/plant → long \*stalk\*/\*stem\*.

經 (11) ケイ；へ（る）　 Shinjitai 経 (11)

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 糸 thread → long, \*warp threads\* passed through a loom → \*longitude\*; \*pass through\* → (of time) \*pass/elapse\*. \*Sutra\*, \*reason\* and \*manage\* are from the idea of the thread of a discourse, while \*experience\* is via "pass through." Compare also 營.

輕 (12) ケイ；かる（い）　 Shinjitai 軽 (12)

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 車 vehicle → long, lightweight vehicle → \*light\*; \*lessen/lighten\*; \*make light of\*.

慶 (15) ケイ

An abbreviated form# of 愛 (dragged down) + an abbreviated form of 鹿 deer → celebrate the dragging down/capture of a deer → \*felicitation\*; \*congratulations\*; \*blessing\*.

康 (11)　コウ

庚# (firm husk) + four marks suggesting scattered rice → firm, taut husk of a grain plant → \*healthy\*; \*sound\* (← firm and taut). 康 was devised to replace 庚 after 庚 acquired its borrowed meanings.

更 (7)　コウ；さら（に）；ふ（かす・ける）

As per 丙# (spread) + 攴 action indicator → stretch a rope (compare the derivative character 綆, a rope attached to a well bucket). The meanings \*replace\* and \*change\* likely owe to the drawing of fresh well water to replace that which has been used, or dried up. (Still) \*more\* and \*further(more)\* are borrowed meanings, as are \*grow late\* and \*stay up late\*.

硬 (12)　コウ；かた（い）

As per 更# (stretch) + 石 stone → line of stones stretching between two points → \*hard\* (as a rock) → \*stiff\*; \*stern\*; \*obstinate\*.

剛 (10)　ゴウ

As per 岡# (hard rope/cable) + 刀 sword/knife → cutting implement able to slice through a \*strong\* or \*hard\* object such as rope or cable.

綱 (14)　コウ；つな

As per 岡# (hard rope/cable) + 糸 thread (for emphasis/clarification) → \*rope\*; \*cord\*; \*cable\* → (figurative) \*lifeline\*. Compare 緪 and 綆.

鋼 (16)　コウ；はがね

As per 岡# (hard rope/cable) + 金 metal → metal bar/rod → \*steel\*.

杏 (7)　キョウ；アン；あんず

口# mouth + 木 tree/wood → \*apricot\* (← tree fruit savored in the mouth). Compare 梅, a closely related fruit thought to be beneficial for pregnant women on account of its voluminous production.

盈 (9) エイ

A variant form of 乃 (soft and clingy) + 皿# dish/plate/bowl → \*fill\* a dish with (soft) food → \*be/become full\*; \*satisfy\*.

亨 (7)　キョウ；コウ

Originally the same character as 享 (one of a pair of gates positioned at opposite ends of an enclosure) → \*smooth passage\* (← unhindered passage between gates).

嬰　(17) エイ

賏# is an abbreviated form of 賡 (continue without interruption) + 貝 shell → string of shells, made into a necklace. 嬰 adds 女 woman → shell necklace extending about a woman's neck → \*extend about\*. \*Baby\* and (musical) \*sharp\* are borrowed meanings.

亙 (6)　コウ

Depiction of the moon crossing the evening sky from end to end → \*cross over\*; \*extend/go/run all the way across/through\*; \*range\* (over/about). Some dictionaries list 亙 as a variant form of 亘, but they are separate characters.

畺 (13)　キョウ

田 field (doubled) bounded and partitioned by three horizontal lines → tightly demarcated fields, about which \*border\* markers stretch → \*boundary\*.

彊 (16)　キョウ

As per 畺# (tight; taut) + 弓 bow → \*strong\*, tautly stretched bow → \*strengthen\*.

竟 (11)　キョウ；ケイ；つい（に）

As per 音# (contained) + 儿 person → person whose movement is contained on reaching a distant border → \*come to an end\* → \*finally\*; \*at last\*.

亢 (4)　コウ

The relevant seal inscription form combines an abbreviated form of 大 stand outstretched + two vertical lines# indicating an elongated neck → raise one's head, stretching the throat → \*raise\* (the head upright); \*proud\*; \*arrogant\*; \*high\*.

杭 (8)　コウ；くい；わた（る）

As per 亢# (stretch) + 木 tree/wood → \*wooden stake\* stretching straight upward. \*Proceed\* (over water) is a borrowed meaning.

卿 (10)　キョウ；ケイ

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is 即 (kneel immediately beside a table piled high with food) + an element# showing an additional person on the other side of the table → two figures positioned on opposite sides of a table. 卿 was originally used with exclusive reference to elder members of families who were permitted to eat in front of an altar. However, over time it came to designate the rank of an aristocrat → \*noble\*; \*lord\*; \*minister\*; \*head of a government agency\*. \*You\* is via the use of the term by a ruler toward a subordinate.

饗 (22)　キョウ

鄕 here a variant form of 卿# (be positioned at opposite sides of a table) + 食 food/eating → host seated across and at a distance from banquet guests → \*host\* (a \*banquet\*). 饗 was devised to replace 卿 after 卿 acquired its extended meanings.

黥 (20) ケイ；ゲイ；いれずみ

As per 京# (expansive) + 黑 black → expansive dark \*tattoo\* on a criminal's face.

桁 (10)　コウ；けた；ころもかけ

As per 行# (straight and crossing) + 木 tree/wood → straight and crossing beams/girders → \*beam\*; \*girder\* → \*rack for hanging kimono\*; \*abacus bar\* → \*digit/(numerical) placeholder\*.

秧 (10) オウ；なえ

As per 央# (stretch) + 禾 grain/rice → (rice) \*seedling\* stretching energetically skyward.

殃 (9) オウ

As per 央# (stretch) + 歹 severed bone/death → have one's limbs stretched in torture → \*calamity\*; \*misfortune\*.

馨 (20) ケイ；かお（り・る）

As per 殸# as described in 聲 (carry over a distance) + 香 fragrance → fragrance carrying over a distance → \*fragrant\*; \*be fragrant\*.

荊 (9) ケイ；いばら

刑# punishment + 艸 grass/plant → \*thorn\* plant from which a \*whip\* used in punishment is fashioned.

勁 (9) ケイ

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 力 power/energy → extensive, long-lasting \*strength\* → \*strong\*; \*tough\*. Compare 勍.

逕 (11) ケイ；ただ（ちに）；みち

In effect, a variant form of 徑 (\*path\*; \*diameter\*; \*direct\*), replacing 彳 with 辵 (both elements indicating "movement"). 逕 also bears the borrowed meaning \*at once\*.

脛 (11) ケイ；すね；はぎ

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 肉 flesh → the \*shin\* (← portion of the leg extending from knee to ankle) → \*leg\*.

痙 (12) ケイ

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 疒 illness → extensive, long-lasting twitching or spasms → \*twitch\*; \*spasm\* → \*cramp\*; \*convulsive fit\*.

頸 (16) ケイ；くび

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 頁 head → (long) \*neck\* extending between the head and torso → \*throat\*; \*head\*.

鴦 (16) オウ；おしどり

As per 央# (stretch) + 鳥 bird → \*female mandarin duck\*, with a stripe on both sides of the head stretching from the eyes to the back of the head. Compare 鴛.

瑛 (12) エイ

英# brilliance + 玉 jewel → lustrous, \*sparkling jewel(ry)\*. Also, a \*transparent jewel\* (such as crystal or quartz).

霙 (16) エイ；ヨウ；みぞれ

英# brilliance + 雨 rain/natural phenomena → blinding \*sleet\*, likened to blinding brilliance.

倖 (10)　コウ；さいわ（い）

幸# good fortune + 人 person → imperial visitation (i.e. the good fortune to be visited by the emperor in person) → \*good fortune\*; \*favor\* (← be favored with a visit from a high personage).

薑 (16)　キョウ；コウ；はじかみ

As per 畺# (tight; taut) + 艸 grass/plant → \*ginger\* (← plant with tightly demarcated rhizomes).

橿 (17)　キョウ；かし

As per 畺# (tight; taut) + 木 tree/wood → variety of \*oak\* the bark of which is tightly demarcated.

憬 (15)　キョウ；ケイ；あこが（れる）

As per 景# (expansive) + 心 heart/emotions → expansive longing → \*long for\*.

襁 (16)　キョウ；むつき

強# strong + 衣 clothing → cloth tied tightly (= strongly) about part of the body → \*cord stretched tautly\* (about an infant carried on one's back); \*swaddling clothes\*. Also \*diaper\*, another type of cloth-based product used by infants.

昂 (8)　コウ；ゴウ；あ（がる）；たかぶ（る）

卬# look up at + 日 sun/day → \*raise\* one's head to observe the sun → \*rise\* (high); \*look up\*. Also, \*haughty\* (← take a superior attitude) and \*tense\* (← high emotions).

磬 (16) ケイ

As per 殸# as described in 聲 (percussion instrument) + 石 stone → lapidary \*percussion instrument\*.

謦 (18) ケイ；しわぶき

As per 殸# as described in 聲 (carry over a distance) + 言 words → a resonant voice → \*cough\*; \*clear the throat\* (← resonant noises emanating from the throat).

癭 (22) エイ

嬰# extend about + 疒 illness → \*swelling\* extending about the neck.

瓔 (21) エイ；ヨウ

As per 嬰# (necklace) + 玉 jewel → \*necklace\*. 瓔 was devised to replace 嬰 after 嬰 acquired its

borrowed meanings.

伉 (6)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 人 person → \*stand\* (← stand upright in courageous opposition); \*take direct action against an opponent\*. Also, \*partner/opponent of equal strength\*.

吭 (7)　コウ；のど

As per 亢# (the throat) + 口 mouth → \*throat\*; \*windpipe\*. 吭 was devised to replace 亢 after the latter took on its extended meanings.

頏 (13)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 頁 head → \*bird alighting\* (from directly overhead). (Human) \*throat\* is a borrowed meaning via 吭.

怏 (8) オウ；ヨウ

As per 央# (stretch) + 心 heart/emotions → \*dissatisfaction\* (← emotional stretching/torture; compare 殃) → \*grudge\*.

泱　(8) オウ

As per 央# (stretch) + 水 water → expansive stretch of \*agitated\* water → \*swell up\*; \*billow\* (compare 沆). \*Stagnant\* and \*collected water\* are borrowed meanings.

鞅 (14) オウ；ヨウ；むながい

As per 央# (stretch) + 革 leather → \*leather strap\* (stretching from a horse's breast to its saddle, or binding its midsection) → \*be pressured\*.

僵 (15)　キョウ；たお（れる）

As per 畺# (tight; taut) + 人 person → \*die and go stiff\*; \*rigor mortis\*. For stiffening of the body compare 敬, and see also 殭 (effectively a variant form of 僵).

疆 (19)　キョウ；さかい

彊# strong + 土 earth → fortified, earthen \*border/boundary\*.

兢 (14)　キョウ

As per 克# (stretch) (doubled) → stretch to one's full height in watchfulness (compare 企) → \*be watchful/discreet\*.

剄 (9) ケイ；くびき（る）

巠 here an abbreviated form# of 頸 throat + 刀 sword/knife → \*slit a throat\*.

勍 (10) ケイ；つよ（い）

京 here an abbreviated form# of 鯨 whale (→ powerful creature) + 力 power/energy → \*strong\*. For the meaning "strong," compare 強 and 勁.

嚮　(19)　キョウ；コウ；さき；む（かう）

鄕 here a variant form of 卿# (be positioned at opposite sides) + 向 advance upon → \*head off/out\*

or \*guide\* another to a distant destination. \*Be (in the) past\* is a borrowed meaning via 曏.

檠 (16) ケイ；ゆだめ

As per 敬# (stiff; upright) + 木 tree/wood → \*tool\*/frame for straightening a bow (by pulling tightly on both ends).

絎 (12)　コウ；く（ける）；ぬ（う）

As per 行# (straight and crossing) + 糸 thread → \*straight edge\* (of the hem of a garment etc.); \*sew\* (in a straight line). The verb くける refers specifically to \*make a blind stitch\* (sew in a manner that the threads are hidden from view).

纓 (23) エイ；ヨウ；ひも

嬰# extend about + 糸 thread → \*crown strings\* (running down each side of the head, and tied beneath the jaw); \*tie crown strings\*. Also, a \*string\* worn by women as a sign of betrothal, as well as a \*decoration\* attached to the back of a crown.

耿 (10)　コウ

火 fire + 耳 ear, with the meaning \*bright\*. 耳 is a replacement element, with the identity of the original element being uncertain.

螯 (17)　ゴウ

Effectively a variant form of 蟹 crab, though 螯 came to emphasize the crab's \*claw\*. (In derivative characters 敖 lends the conceptual influence "spread/roam without restraint," an image inapplicable to the limited mobility of a crab claw.)

盎 (10) オウ；あふ（れる）

As per 央# (stretch) + 皿 dish/plate/bowl → small-mouthed, wide-bellied \*pot\* → \*abundant\* (← abundant capacity) → \*overflowing\*.

曏 (17)　キョウ；さき（に）

鄕 here a variant form of 卿# (be positioned at opposite sides) + 日 sun/day → one day figuratively facing another day through intervening time → \*a previous day\*; \*once (upon a time)\*; (just) \*before\*.

蠁 (19)　キョウ；コウ

鄕 here a variant form of 卿# (be positioned at opposite sides) + 虫 insect → \*pupa\*; \*chrysalis\* (faced over space and time by the adult insect after it emerges).

殭 (17)　キョウ；たお（れる）

As per 畺# (tight; taut) + 歹 severed bone/death → \*die and go stiff\*; \*rigor mortis\*. 殭 is effectively a variant form of 僵.

韁 (20)　キョウ；きずな

As per 畺# (tight; taut) + 革 leather → leather drawn tautly against a horse or beast of burden → \*reins\*; \*bridle\*.

卬 (4) ギョウ；ゴウ；あお（ぐ）

The relevant seal inscription form is 人 person + 卩 here an abbreviated form# of 却 (withdraw in a kneeling position) → kneeling person looking up at a standing one → \*look up at\* → \*high\*.

陘 (10) ケイ；ギョウ

As per 巠# as described in 徑 (extensive) + 阜 piled earth → long \*gorge/mountain pass\*.

鉶 (14) ケイ；ギョウ

刑# punishment + 金 metal → punishment involving a metallic cauldron/vessel → \*lidded, tripod vessel\* (used in sacrificing animals).

儆 (14) ケイ；いまし（める）

As per 敬# (stiff; upright) + 人 person (→ human agency) → cause another to go stiff/upright in admonishing or warning → \*admonish\*; \*warn\*.

擎 (16) ケイ；ささ（げる）

As per 敬# (stiff; upright) + 手 hand/action indicator → raise an object high and upright with both hands → \*raise high with both hands\* (compare 與).

罄 (17) ケイ；つ（きる）；むな（しい）

As per 殸# as described in 聲 (percussion instrument) + 缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase → empty container (← which when struck produces the same hollow sound as the 殸 instrument) → \*empty\*; \*run out of\*.

沆 (7)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 水 water → \*long stretch of water\* (compare 泱). Also, in a vertical application of the same idea, a \*tall jet/spray of water\*.

阬 (7)　コウ

As per 亢# (stretch) + 阜 piled earth → \*hole\*, \*pit\* or \*shaft\* stretching deep into the earth. Compare 坑.

炕 (8)　コウ；あぶ（る）

As per 亢# (stretch) + 火 fire → stretch objects over a fire for drying → \*dry by fire\* → \*bake\*.

珩 (10)　コウ；ギョウ

行# (straight and crossing) + 玉 jewel → a horizontally aligned \*jewel\* at the top of a vertical string of jewels hung from the waist.

璜 (16)　コウ

As per 黃# (extend) + 玉 jewel → light reflected from a jewel and extending a great distance (a meaning retained in the compound 璜璜). However, 璜 came also to refer to a particular type of \*jeweled ornament\* used as a waistband accessory, specifically, a disk-shaped precious stone (璧) cut in half.

緪 (15)　コウ

恆# fixed + 糸 thread → object fixed in place by stretching a rope taut → \*stretch taut\*; \*large rope\*. Compare 綱 and 綆.

蘅 (19)　コウ

As per 衡# (bars) + 艸 grass/plant → a long, straight plant. The compound 杜蘅 refers to Pollia japonica.

荇 (9)　コウ；あさざ

行# (straight and crossing) + 艸 grass/plant → Nymphoides peltata, also known as \*yellow floating heart\* (← water plant the stalk and flower of which cross at the waterline).

鴴 (17) ギョウ；コウ；ちどり

行# (straight and crossing) + 鳥 bird → \*plover\* (← bird that lines up in great numbers at the shoreline, and over whom the tide crosses). Compare 鵆.

庚 (8)　コウ；かのえ

A depiction of a \*firm\* husk. \*Seventh in a series\* and \*seventh calendar sign\* are borrowed meanings.

慷 (14)　コウ

As per 康# (firm and taut) + 心 heart/emotions → taut emotions → \*impassioned\*.

糠 (17)　コウ；ぬか

As per 康# (firm husk of a grain plant) + 米 rice → \*rice chaff\* (← by-product of husked rice) → \*rice bran\*.

賡 (15)　コウ

庚# firm + 貝 commodities → firm, uninterrupted supply/chain of commodities → \*continue without interruption\*.

岡 (8)　コウ；おか

网# net + 山 mountain → \*hill/knoll\* associated with the production of and/or trapping by use of nets. In derivative characters, 岡 lends the semantic influence "hard rope/cable."

梗　(11)　キョウ；コウ

As per 更# (stretch) + 木 tree/wood → long \*branch\* or piece of wood → \*stalk\*; \*stem\*. Also, \*block\* (with a wooden bar). \*Almost entirely\* is a borrowed meaning.

粳 (13)　コウ；うるち

As per 更# (stretch) + 米 rice → taut, non-glutinous \*rice\*. 粳 and 秔 convey the same term.

綆 (13)　コウ；つるべなわ

As per 更# (stretch) + 糸 thread → \*well rope\* tautly stretched in drawing water. For rope, compare 綱 and 緪. 綆 was devised to replace 更 after 更 acquired its extended meanings.

骾 (17)　コウ

As per 更# (stretch) + 骨 bone → long bone stuck in the throat that cannot easily be dislodged → \*bony\*; \*unyielding\*.

鯁 (18)　コウ；のぎ

更 here an abbreviated form# of 骾 bony + 魚 fish → \*fish bones\*. \*Morally upright person\* is a borrowed meaning, via the "unyielding" sense of 骾.

秔 (9)　キョウ；コウ；うるち

As per 亢# (stretch) + 禾 grain/rice → taut, non-glutinous \*rice\*. 秔 and 粳 convey the same term.

甘 (5)　カン；あま（い・える・やかす・んじる・んずる）

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is 口 mouth + a line#, indicating (sweet/rich) food contained and thus concealed within the mouth → \*tasty\*; \*mild\*; \*delicious\* → \*sweet\* (← sweet food contained in the mouth) → \*indulgent\*; \*lenient\*; \*spoil\* (a person) (← be overly sweet) → \*insufficiently serious\*; \*overly optimistic\*; \*loose\*; \*take advantage\* → \*be content\* (with); \*be resigned\* (to); \*accept\* (← indulge oneself and take the easy way out).

紺 (11)　コン

As per 甘# (contain) + 糸 thread → fabric contained in (\*dark blue\*) dye. Compare 褐.

敢 (12)　カン

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is 甘# (contain) + an element combining two hands and a slash indicating a cover → dare to remove covered or contained objects of great value → \*daring\*; \*brave\* (← daring attempt).

嚴 (20) ゲン；ゴン；おごそ（か）；きび（しい）　 Shinjitai 厳 (17)

Abbreviated and variant form of 嵒 cliff + 敢# (covered) → rugged geologic feature such as a cliff covering the side of a hill/mountain → \*severity\*; \*strictness\* (← rugged) → \*solemnity\*.

岩 (8) ガン；いわ

山 standing in for either the lower portion of 嵒 or the 山 at the top of 巖 (both: \*cliff\*; \*crag\*; \*rock\*) + 石 stone for clarification.

炎 (8) エン；ほのお

火 fire (doubled) as an abbreviated form of 焱, 火 fire (tripled) → consuming blaze that encompasses objects in flames → \*flame\*. The phonetic evidence suggests that 焱 is itself a variant of a non-attested character indicating a great fire that consumes. Compare 焰.

鹽 (24) エン；しお　 Shinjitai 塩 (13)

As per 監# (container) + 鹵 salt/alkali → container of \*salt\* → \*chloride\*.

嫌 (13) ケン；いや；いや（がる）；きら（い・う）

As per 兼# (gather then put/store away → keep concealed) + 女 woman → woman kept concealed → \*disagreeable\*/\*unpleasant\* (← disagreeable situation) → \*hate\*; \*dislike\*; \*antipathy\*; \*unwilling to do\* (← shrink from) → \*doubt\*.

謙 (17) ケン

As per 兼# (gather then put/store away → keep concealed) + 言 words → speak with \*modesty\* or \*humility\* (← conceal how one actually evaluates one's own abilities).

欠 (4) ケツ；か（かす・く・け・ける）

A depiction of a bent, open-mouthed figure (with food contained in the mouth) → \*yawn\* (← open mouth). 欠 now also bears the senses of 缺 (hole scooped into earthenware to create a container), accounting for the meanings \*scoop out\* → \*lack\*; \*miss/be missing\*; \*break\* (off); \*chip\* (off); \*broken piece\*; \*fragment\* → \*flaw\*.

陷 (11)　カン；おちい（る）；おとしい（れる）　 Shinjitai 陥 (10)

As per 臽# (contain in a cavity) + 阜 piled earth → earthen object that collapses and sinks into a cavity → \*fall\*; \*sink\* → \*ensnare\*; \*entrap\*; \*capture\*; \*pitfall\*.

今 (4)　キン；コン；いま

A depiction of one object contained and concealed within another. It is likely the concealing object was originally a mouth (compare 含 and 吟, as well as 甘 and 音). \*Now\* is a borrowed meaning.

含 (7) ガン；ふく（む・める）

As per 今# (contain) + 口 mouth → \*contain in the mouth\*; \*contain\*; \*include\*. Extended meanings include \*bear (in mind)\*, \*have\*, \*hold\* and \*imply\*, as well as \*give instructions\* and \*understand\* (← give instructions that the hearer takes in and comprehends).

吟 (7) ギン

As per 今# (contain) + 口 mouth → indistinct sound contained within the mouth (compare 音) → \*groan\*; \*moan\*; \*hum\*; \*sing\*; \*recite\* → \*poem\*. 吟 and 含 are an example of a pair of characters devised from the same elements but expressing different meanings; for another example, see 忙 and 忘.

念 (8) ネン

As per 今# (contain) + 心 heart/emotions → \*thought/idea\* contained deep within the heart (compare 意) → \*caution\* (← profound idea).

琴 (12)　キン；こと

As per 今# (contain) + 玨 (玉 jewel in abbreviated form, and doubled), here a shape indicator suggesting the outline of a particular musical instrument → musical instrument in which the sound is enclosed within a sealed base → \*koto\* (Japanese harp/zither).

陰 (11) イン；かげ；かげ（る）

侌# is 云 (rising vapors) + 今 (contain) → be clouded over and gloomy. 陰 adds 阜 piled earth → cloud-shadowed side of a hill → \*be clouded over\*; \*shadow\*; \*dark\*; \*obscure\* → \*back/behind\*; \*negative\*; \*gloomy\*.

飲 (12) イン；の（む）

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is as per 酓# (contain alcohol) + 欠 (cavity) → pour (a drink/medicine) into the mouth → \*drink\*; \*swallow\*; \*take\* (medicine) → \*smoke\* (tobacco) (← consume with the mouth). Eventually, 酓 was replaced by 食 food/eating. Note a variant form 飮.

金 (8)　キン；コン；かな；かね

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is as per 今# (contain) + an element combining 土 earth

and random marks → \*gold\* contained here and there within the earth → \*money\*; \*metal\*; \*yellow\*; \*golden\*.

減 (12) ゲン；へ（らす・る）

As per 咸# (shut) + 水 water → (partially) shut off the flow of water → \*reduce\*; \*decrease\*; \*diminish\*; \*dwindle\*; \*subtract\* → \*be hungry\*.

感 (13)　カン

咸# (shut) + 心 heart/emotions → \*emotion/feeling\* that shuts off sensation (= moves/affects one to the point of muteness or immobility).

憾 (16)　カン

As per 感# (shut off sensation) + 心 heart/emotions → heart figuratively shut off/down by \*regret\*.

音 (9) オン；イン；おと；ね

The relevant seal inscription form shows 言# words + a line in the mouth element at the bottom → \*indistinct utterance\* contained in (not emanating as speech from) the mouth (compare 吟) → \*sound\*; \*noise\*; \*tone\* → \*news/word of\*; \*ON reading\* of a Han/Chinese character (← read a character by its Sino-Japanese sound; the contrast is to 訓, where the idea is to grasp the signification of a character).

暗 (13) アン；くら（い）

As per 音# (indistinct) + 日 sun/day → scant light → \*dark\*; \*dim\* → \*secretly\*; \*hidden\*; \*gloomy\*; \*ignorant\*.

禁 (13)　キン

林# forest + 示 altar/the supernatural → sanctified ground contained within a forest, access to which is prohibited → \*prohibition\*; \*abstain\*; \*rule\*.

襟 (18)　キン；えり

As per 禁# (contain) + 衣 clothing → outer layer of clothing containing one beneath it → \*collar\*. Compare 衿.

勘 (11)　カン

甚# extreme + 力 power/energy → penetrate deeply in considering/investigating → \*consider thoroughly\*; \*perception\*; \*intuition\* (← profound insight). Compare 含 and 念.

堪 (12)　カン；タン；たえ（る）

甚# extreme + 土 earth → \*endure\* extreme pressure exerted by an earthen construction → \*bear\*; \*(with)stand\* → \*fitting\* (← fit to endure pressure).

應 (17) オウ；こた（える）　 Shinjitai 応 (7)

As per the top element# of 鷹 (trained bird of prey) + 心 heart/emotions → \*accede\* (as a trained bird accedes to commands) → \*agree (to)\* → \*respond\*; \*reply\*; \*react\*; \*be fitting\*; \*be suited\*. Also, \*reward\* and \*return\*.

凵 (2)　カン

A depiction of a \*hole/depression\* or container in which something is encompassed or concealed.

广 (3) ゲン

An abbreviated form of 廣 (long building): \*building\*.

艶 (19) エン；つや；つや（めく・やか）

艷 is 豐 abundance + 色 color/appearance → rich color → \*gloss\*; \*luster\*; \*sheen\* → \*sexy\*; \*seductive\*; \*bewitching\*; \*charming\*. However, 艷 has been supplanted by 艶.

函 (8)　カン；はこ

The relevant bronzeware inscription form combines 凵# (container) + an arrow → place arrows inside a \*box\*/case → \*place inside\*.

涵 (11)　カン

函# place inside + 水 water → place objects in water to \*soak\* → \*immerse/be immersed\*.

奄 (8) エン

As per 申# (stretch) + 大 stand outstretched → stretch to \*cover\* (and \*conceal\* or \*protect\*) an object. Compare 掩.

俺 (10) エン；おれ

奄# cover/conceal + 人 person → cover/conceal oneself. \*I\* and \*me\* are borrowed meanings.

庵 (11) アン；いおり

奄# cover/conceal + 广 building → small dwelling covered with a thatched roof → \*hermitage\*; (Buddhist) \*monastery\*.

掩 (11) エン

奄# cover/conceal + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*cover\*/\*conceal\*.

罨 (13) エン；アン

奄# cover/conceal + 罒 net → \*cover\* fish in catching with a net → \*catch\*.

咸 (9)　カン；みな

Originally, 甘# (contain) + 戈 spear/halberd → armed soldiers shutting off/containing territory → \*all (together)\* (← close ranks ← shut tight).

緘 (15)　カン；とじ（る）

As per 咸# (shut) + 糸 thread → \*shut\* and \*seal\* with thread → \*close\*.

緎 (15)　カン；と（じる）

Effectively a variant form of 緘 (shut and seal with thread), referring to a \*seam\* that binds material shut. Also, \*contain\*. In 緎, the 咸 of 緘 is replaced by 或.

鹹 (20)　カン

As per 咸# (shut) + 鹵 salt/alkali → salt contained in a shut mouth (compare 鹽) → \*salty\* taste that causes the lips to pucker.

衿 (9)　キン；えり

As per 今# (contain) + 衣 clothing → overlapping and thus containing part of a garment → \*collar\*; \*lapel\* (compare 襟) → \*neck\*. Note how the same combination of elements is employed to create different meanings in 衾.

衾 (10)　キン；ふすま

As per 今# (contain) + 衣 clothing → bedclothes in which to contain the body → \*bedding\*; \*quilt\*. Note how the same combination of elements is employed to create different meanings in 衿.

唸 (11) テン；うな（る）

As per 念# (contain) + 口 mouth → chant/recite in a mumbled voice (compare 吟 and 噤) → \*hum\*; \*groan\*; \*moan\*; \*growl\*; \*snarl\*.

酓 (11) エン

As per 今# (contain) + 酉 alcohol container → contain alcohol → \*accumulate\* → \*bitter\* (← bitterness of fermented liquor).

禽 (13)　キン

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is as per 今# (contain) + a net with a handle → contain (birds) in a net in capturing (compare 罕) → \*capture\*; (captive) \*bird\* → \*captive\*. A seal inscription form adds a depiction of an animal's buttocks.

擒 (16)　キン；とりこ

禽# capture + 手 hand/action indicator → \*capture\* → \*seize\*; \*captive\*. 擒 was devised to replace 禽 after the latter came to refer primarily to the birds and animals captured.

檎 (17)　キン；ゴ

禽# capture + 木 tree/wood → harvest tree fruit with a net. The compound 林檎 refers to an apple.

臽 (8)　カン

臼 here a variant form of 函# place inside + 人 person → person contained/concealed within a \*hole/cavity/pit\* (compare 禍, 陷, 俗 and 凶).

焰 (12) エン；ほのお；ほむら

As per 臽# (contain in a cavity) + 火 fire → \*flame\* of a pit fire. Note that 炎 may substitute for 焰 in compounds.

閻 (16) エン

As per 臽# (contain in a cavity) + 門 gate → concealing village \*gate\*, with posts dropped in holes. \*Beautiful\* is a borrowed meaning.

餡 (17) アン

As per 臽# (contain in a cavity) + 食 food/eating → \*meat, vegetables or sweets crammed into a bun\* → \*bean jam\* (← type of filler).

坩 (8)　カン；つぼ

As per 甘# (contain) + 土 earth → \*earthen pot\* (in which to contain things) → \*earthenware\*.

酣 (12)　カン；たけなわ

As per 甘# (contain) + 酉 alcohol container → be filled with alcohol → joy (← riotous drinking party) → \*be at the height of\*; \*be in full swing\*.

鉗 (13)　カン；ケン；つぐ（む）；はさみ

As per 甘# (contain) + 金 metal → contain an object in a metal frame → \*pincers\* → \*restrain oneself\*; \*shut one's mouth\*. Compare 鋏.

厭 (14) エン；オン；あ（きる）；いと（う）

猒# was originally 口 mouth + an obsolete element (肉 flesh and 犬 dog/beast) → the disagreeable sensation of rich/fatty meat pressing upon the intestines → \*be satiated\*; \*become tired/sick of\*. 厭 adds 厂, an accretion of uncertain function. For a cognate term in Old Chinese involving rich food, compare 甘.

欽 (12)　キン；コン

金 here an abbreviated form# of 鉗 restrain oneself + 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure → restrain oneself and bow in the presence of someone or something inspiring \*respect\* or reverence → \*revere\*.

錦 (16)　キン；にしき

金# gold + 帛 cloth/silk → silk into which gold is woven → \*brocade\* → \*fine clothing\*; \*beautiful\*.

諳 (16) アン；そら（んじる）

As per 音# (indistinct sound) + 言 words → murmur (compare 喑) → \*memorize\*; \*learn by heart\* (← murmur in memorizing).

鷹 (24) オウ；ヨウ；たか

广 + an obsolete character# of uncertain signification that combines 人 person + 隹 short, squat bird. It seems likely that the 人 + 隹 character indicated a bird trainer/handler, and that 广 building was appended to suggest a birdhouse. + 鳥 bird (for emphasis/clarification) → \*hawk\* (or other bird of prey).

柑 (9)　カン

甘# sweet + 木 tree/wood → tree bearing sweet fruit → (mandarin) \*orange\*; \*tangerine\*; \*citrus\*.

疳 (10)　カン

As per 甘# (contain) + 疒 illness → \*gastroenteric disorder afflicting children\*, the origin of which is contained deep within the body → \*childhood illness(es)\*.

拑 (8)　カン；ケン

As per 甘# (contain) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*contain\*; \*restrain\*; \*clamp\*. Also, by a figurative application, \*repress speech\*.

箝 (14)　カン；ケン；はさ（む）

拑# clamp + 竹 bamboo → bamboo object facilitating clamping → \*clamp down\*; \*sandwich\* (v.) → \*shut one's mouth\*; \*remain silent\*.

嵌 (12)　カン；は（まる・める）

The lower element# is as per 甘 (contain) + 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure → contain food in the cavity of the mouth. 嵌 adds 山 mountain → \*gorge\*; \*depression\*. \*Inlay\*; \*fit into\* and \*embed\* are borrowed meanings.

魘 (24) エン；ヨウ；うな（される）

As per 厭# (press upon) + 鬼 ghost; demon → be pressed upon by a fearsome spirit → (have a) \*nightmare\*.

瞰 (17)　カン；み（る）

As per 敢# (covered) + 目 eye → observe clandestinely, from a high spot → \*spy\*; \*look\*; \*watch\* (from above).

嵒 (12) ガン；いわ

A depiction of large rocks embedded in and protruding from a mountain \*cliff\* → \*crag\*; \*rock\*.

癌 (17) ガン

As per 嵒# (large, embedded rocks) + 疒 illness → rock-like, cancerous tumor → \*cancer\*.

巖 (23) ガン；いわ；いわお；けわ（しい）

As per 嚴# (rugged side of a mountain) + 山 mountain → rugged \*cliff\* → \*rock\*; \*crag\*; \*steep\*; \*precipitous\*. 巖 was devised to replace 嚴 after 嚴 acquired its associated meanings.

巌 (20) ガン；いわ；いわお；けわ（しい）

A variant form of 巖.

頷 (16)　カン；ガン；あご；うなず（く）

As per 含# (contain in the mouth) + 頁 head → the jaw (which closes to contain food in the oral cavity) → \*chin\* (that enables containment in the mouth). \*Nod\* (the head) is by association with the up and down movement made by the jaw in chewing.

稔 (13) ネン；ジン；ニン；つ（む）；とし；みの（る）

As per 念# (contain) + 禾 grain/rice → ripening of grain contained in a husk → \*ripen\* (compare 莟) → \*harvest\*. Also, \*year\* (← harvest as completion of a cycle; compare 年 and 歳).

蔭 (14) イン；かげ

陰# shadow + 艸 grass/plant → \*shade\* cast by vegetation → \*protect\* (← protect by covering in shade) → \*help\* (← protective assistance).

撼 (16)　カン；うご（かす）

As per 感# (shut off sensation) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*shake\* a person/creature insensate → \*move\*.

噤 (16)　キン；つぐ（む）

As per 禁# (contain) + 口 mouth → mumbled voice/sound contained in the mouth (compare 吟 and 唸)→ \*shut one's mouth\* (compare 箝) → \*shut\*.

莟 (10) ガン；カン；つぼみ

As per 含# (contain) + 艸 grass/plant → \*the full stem and spears of a rice plant about to blossom\*; \*bud\* (compare 晗, which also features the idea of an object about to make its appearance). Compare also 稔 (grain contained in a husk).

黔 (16) ケン；くろ（い）

As per 今# (contain) + 黑 black → \*black\*; \*grow dark\* (← be contained in darkness).

淹 (11) エン；ひた（す）

奄# cover/conceal + 水 water → \*cover with water\*; \*soak\*. Also, \*stop\* (← immobilize by covering with water).

菴 (11) アン；いおり

奄# cover/conceal + 艸 grass/plant → \*thatched structure\*. 菴 is effectively a variant form of 庵 hermitage.

閹 (16) エン

奄# cover/conceal + 門 gate (→ palace gates) → \*castrated (palace) servant\* (← servant ministering to females secluded within a palace; compare 后).

淦 (11)　カン；あか

金# metal + 水 water → \*scale\* (referring to the mineral deposit covering and obscuring the original surface of an object). Also, \*bilge water\*.

銜 (14)　カン；ガン；くつわ；ふく（む）

金# metal + 行 (straight, crossing roads) → metallic, T-shaped \*horse's bit\*, contained in the animal's mouth when the horse bites down upon it → \*place/hold in the mouth\*. Also, \*keep in mind\* (← thoughts contained within; compare 憶). Logically, the classifier for 銜 should be 行, but it is traditionally given as 金.

儼 (22) ゲン；おごそ（か）

As per 嚴# (rugged) + 人 person → \*solemn\*; \*majestic\* (← figuratively rugged individual). Also, \*stern\* and \*firm\*.

坎 (7)　カン；あな

As per 欠# (cavity) + 土 earth → \*hole\*/\*depression\* in the earth (← cavity ← open-mouthed) → \*cause to fall into a hole\*; \*cut a hole into\*; \*dig a hole\*; \*fall into a difficult situation\*.

戡 (13)　カン；か（つ）

甚# extreme + 戈 spear/halberd → \*cut deeply and kill\*.

蚶 (11)　カン

As per 甘# (contain) + 虫 insect/creature → \*ark shell\* (contained firmly within its protective covering).

轗 (20)　カン

As per 感# (shut off sensation) + 車 vehicle → vehicle shut off/down (by falling into a hole) → \*vehicle fallen into a hole and rendered immobile\* → \*be in difficulty\*.

黯 (21) アン；くら（い）

As per 音# (indistinct) + 黑 black → \*dark and gloomy\* → \*depressed emotions\*.

黶 (26) エン；ほくろ

As per 厭# (press upon) + 黑 black → \*mole\*; \*skin blemish\*; \*facial mole\* (← dark object pressing upon/covering the skin; compare 靨).

龕 (22) ガン；カン

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 龍 dragon → \*chamber carved into a cliff or stupa\* and containing a Buddhist image or treasures; \*case in which a Buddhist image is contained\*. Here, as in 寵, 龍 represents a treasured object.

盦 (16) アン

As per 酓# (contain alcohol) + 皿 dish/plate/bowl → \*lidded vessel\*; \*lid\*. Also, \*hermitage\* (← roofed/lidded hut; compare 庵).

黤 (20) アン；オン

奄# cover/conceal + 黑 black → covered and therefore \*black\* or \*dark\*.

喑 (12) イン；オン；おし

As per 音# (indistinct sound) + 口 mouth → \*sob\* (← indistinct sounds contained in the mouth; compare 諳). Also, \*mute\* (← state in which nothing distinct is conveyed orally) → \*remain silent\*.

瘖 (14) イン

As per 音# (indistinct sound) + 疒 illness → illness rendering one unable to produce distinct words (compare 喑) → \*dumb\*; \*mute\*; \*unable/unwilling to speak\*.

廕 (14) イン

陰# shadow + 广 building → covering structure that provides both \*shade\* and \*protection\* → \*cover\*.

弇 (9) エン；おお（う）

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 廾 pair of hands → (press the hands together to) \*cover\* or \*hide\*.

揜 (12) エン；おお（う）

弇# cover + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*cover\*; \*cover and hide\*. 懕 (18) エン

厭# be satiated + 心 heart/emotions (for emphasis/clarification) → \*be satiated\* → \*be content\*.

饜 (23) エン；あ（きる）

厭# be satiated + 食 food/eating → \*eat one's fill\*; \*be satiated\*.

厴 (19) エン；へた

As per 厭# (press upon) + 甲 (armor/helmet) → \*shell\* (← protective armor that presses upon the body of the creature occupying it) → \*operculum\* (botanical/zoological term for a lid/cover).

灎 (23) エン

豔# combines 豐 abundance + 盍 (press down and) cover → abundant contents spilling from a covered container. 灎 adds 水 water → spilling/\*overflowing water\* → \*flowing/moving water\*. Compare 溢.

欿 (12)　カン

As per 臽# (contain in a cavity) + 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure → crave to fill a physical or emotional cavity → \*be discontent/dissatisfied\*.

憨 (16)　カン

As per 敢# (covered) + 心 heart/emotions → \*foolish\* (← keep one's knowledge/intentions covered, causing one to appear foolish). For the idea of failing to articulate one's ideas, compare 感.

嶔 (15)　キン

欽# revere + 山 mountain → \*steep and high mountain\* that inspires reverence.

廞 (15)　キン；ギン

As per 欽# restrain + 广 building → within an enclosed structure, ready the equipment required by a deterring military force → \*obstruct\* (← deter); \*align\* (← align equipment).

嗛 (13) ケン；カン；キョウ；ふく（む）

As per 兼# (gather then put/store away) + 口 mouth → (mouth/cheek) \*pouch\* (of a monkey or squirrel) → \*hold\*; \*contain\*. \*Insufficient\* is a borrowed meaning, via 歉.

晗 (11)　カン

含# contain + 日 sun/day → the sun, as yet contained in darkness but about to make its appearance → \*pre-dawn\*. Compare 莟, which also features the idea of an object just about to make its appearance.

崟 (11) ギン

As per 金# (contain) + 山 mountain → rugged mountain (containing protruding boulders; compare 嵒) → \*steep, rugged mountain\*.

闇 (17) アン；オン；くら（い）；と（じる）；やみ

As per 音# (indistinct) + 門 gate → scant light penetrating a gate (compare 暗) → \*dark\*; \*dim\* → \*secret(ly)\*; \*clandestine(ly)\*; \*hidden\*.

建 (9) ケン；コン；た（つ・てる）

聿 implement held upright to carve/draw characters (→ upright object) + an abbreviated form# of 延 extend → extend vertically in making erect (compare 寒) → \*build/erect\* → \*establish\*.

健 (11) ケン；すこ（やか）

建# erect + 人 person → healthy person, standing fully erect → \*health\*; \*vigor\*.

干 (3)　カン；ひ（る）；ほ（す）

A depiction of a forked stick or \*thick bar\*, one functioning as a \*shield\* and employed by being \*thrust\* or pressed against a combatant in \*defense\*. \*Dry\*, \*ebb\*, \*draw/drain off\* and \*empty\* (a glass) are borrowed meanings.

刊 (5)　カン

As per 干# (press against) + 刀 sword/knife → press with a bladed implement in shaving or engraving → \*shave\*; \*engrave\* → \*publish\* (← arrange wooden slats by length, trimming the edges).

汗 (6)　カン；あせ

As per 干# (press against) + 水 water → \*sweat\* pressing against the skin.

肝 (7)　カン；きも

干# thick bar + 肉 flesh → \*liver\* (← bar-shaped, vital organ) → \*courage\* (compare English "guts," as also in 腹 or 膽).

岸 (8) ガン；きし

厈# is as per 干 (press against) + 厂 cliff → shore/coast adhering to a cliff. 岸 adds 山 mountain to emphasize high/steep ground functioning as a \*bank\*, \*shore\* or \*coast\*.

軒 (10) ケン；のき

干# thick bar + 車 vehicle → long, upward-curving shafts attached to a \*cart\* → \*rise high\*; \*eaves\* (← shape association) → \*house\*; \*counter for houses\*.

幹 (13)　カン；みき

An abbreviated form# of 乾 (rise high) + 干 thick bar → high-rising tree with a thick \*trunk\* → \*main part\*; \*vitality\*.

乾 (11)　カン；かわ（かす・く）

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is 乙 (rise) + an element# combining 日 sun/day and a pennant/banner → the sun likened to a flag that rises high in and adheres to the sky → \*high and bright sky\* → \*dry\* (← air/water that rises due to heat).

研 (9) ケン；と（ぐ）

As per 幵# (grind) + 石 stone → \*grind\* a stone → \*hone\*; \*polish\*; \*sharpen\* → \*wash rice\* (← remove impurities ← polish).

漢 (13)　カン

The relevant oracle bone form of ��shows the stretched hide of an animal tied to a frame + 火 fire

→ stretch an object for drying over a fire. According to this process the object shrinks, leaving a minute remainder. 漢 is as per ��# (stretch) + 水 water → great, stretching river → the Milky Way (← constellation likened to a great, flowing river). The meaning \*China\* comes from a broad application of 漢's use in the name of the Hanshui River (漢水) in Hubei Province. Also, \*man\* (← ordinary male ← general populace ← general term for China).

勤 (12)　キン；ゴン；つと（まる・める）

As per ��# as described in 漢 (stretch over a fire) + 力 power/energy → \*work diligently\*; \*industrious\* → \*employment\*. Also, \*be fit for/equal to\* (a task).

謹 (17)　キン；つつし（む）

As per ��# as described in 漢 (minute) + 言 words → pay minute attention to one's words → circumspection → \*consideration\*; \*caution\*; \*restraint\*; \*humility\* → polite term of \*respect\* for another.

獻 (19) ケン Shinjitai 献 (13)

鬳 is composed of 虍 tiger + 鬲 tripod cooking vessel/cauldron → tripod cooking vessel with tiger and other decorations. 獻 is 鬳# + 犬 dog/beast → \*offer\* a sacrificial vessel filled high with meat of a dog/wild beast → \*present\*.

寒 (12)　カン；さむ（い）

The relevant seal inscription form is 宀# roof/building + an element combining piled bricks/stones and 廾 pair of hands → create layers of building materials in raising a shelter. Later, 氷/ 冫 ice was added at bottom to emphasize a structure offering protection from the \*cold\*.

閒 (12)　カン；ケン；あいだ；ま

門# gate + 月 moon → bright light splitting and illuminating the \*gap\*/\*space\* between the two sides of a gate (compare 間) → \*between\*; \*among\*; \*room\*; \*during\*; \*pause/interval\*; (passage of) \*time\* (← gap).

間 (12)　カン；ケン；あいだ；ま

門# gate + 日 sun/day → bright light splitting and illuminating the \*gap\*/\*space\* between the two sides of a gate (compare 閒) → \*between\*; \*among\*; \*room\*; \*during\*; \*pause/interval\*; (passage of) \*time\* (← gap).

簡 (18)　カン

間# gap + 竹 bamboo → collection of bamboo \*slats\* with gaps between them → \*papers\*; \*letters\*; \*documents\* (← texts written on bamboo slats) → \*omit\* (← gap) → \*simple\* (← simplify by omitting).

見 (7) ケン；み（える・せる・る）

儿# human figure + 目 eye → person whose sight is fixed on an object he is being shown → \*see\*; \*look\*; \*observe\*; \*be visible/in sight\*; \*appear\*; \*viewpoint\*. Also, \*show\*, \*examine\*, and \*care for\* (← observe) → \*make a pretense of\* (← for show alone). A seal inscription form rotates the eye vertically.

現 (11) ゲン；あらわ（す・れる）

見# appear + 玉 jewel → gem appearing from the earth in being excavated → \*appear\*; \*emerge\*

→ \*actual\*; \*real\*; \*existing\* (← actuality/reality of that which has appeared/emerged) → \*current\*; \*the present\*. Also, \*show\* (← cause to appear).

件 (6) ケン

牛 cow + 人# person → person sorting the meat and bones of a dismembered cow carcass (compare 解) → \*item\*; \*case\* (← sort through one by one).

肩 (8) ケン；かた

A variant form of 肯 (originally, an arm hanging from a shoulder) → \*shoulder\*.

看 (9)　カン

手 hand + 目, here an abbreviated form# of 見 fix sight upon → hand affixed above the eye to shade it and improve focus → \*see\*; \*watch\*.

遣 (13) ケン；つか（う・わす）

The relevant oracle bone form of the right-hand element# combines 㠯 as described in 官 (wrapped objects) + a pair of hands → pass/send a wrapped object to someone else. 遣 is the right-hand element# + 辵 movement (for emphasis/clarification) → \*send/dispatch\* → \*expend\*; \*spend\*; \*present\*. Also, \*manipulate\* (← manipulate in sending/dispatching). Also, \*consume\* (← consume what is sent one).

顯 (23) ケン Shinjitai 顕 (18)

㬎# combines 日 here an abbreviated form of 旱 dry up + 絲 thread(s) → silk threads exposed for drying in the sun. 顯 adds 頁 head → expose and make \*manifest\* a person's head (specifically, a severed head; compare 縣 as described in 県) → \*visible\*; \*clear\* → \*noticeable\*; \*remarkable\*. Despite appearances, 㬎 has no etymological connection with 濕 or 隰.

安 (6) アン；やす（い）

宀# roof/building + 女 woman → woman resting/at ease indoors → \*be at ease/peace\* → \*cheap\*; \*inexpensive\* (← cheap enough to be purchased with ease).

案 (10) アン

As per 安# (rest in/on) + 木 tree/wood → rest the elbows on a wooden desk or table. \*Consider\* and \*plan\* are borrowed meanings via 按 → \*proposal\*; \*worry\*.

宴 (10) エン

An abbreviated form# of 晏 (settle) + 宀 roof/building → settle in /down to an indoors \*feast\* or \*banquet\*. Compare 讌.

憲 (16) ケン

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is an abbreviated form# of 害 (cut) + 目 eye → (full/partial) cutting off of vision (compare 瞎). A seal inscription form adds 心 heart/emotions to suggest the (full/partial) cutting off of one's desires as well → \*law\* (← create the rule of law by restricting desires; compare 律, 埒, 法 and 笵) → \*constitution\*.

閑 (12)　カン

門# gate + 木 tree/wood → wooden bolt placed across the door of a gate, confining the persons, animals or objects contained within → \*block\* → \*rule\*; \*obey\*. Also, \*quiet\*, \*tranquility\* and \*leisure\* (← pass time quietly, tranquilly or leisurely within an enclosure).

言 (7) ゲン；ゴン；い（う）；こと

The relevant oracle bone form of this character is 辛# needle/cutting tool + 口 mouth → \*speak\* sharply/distinctly, the tongue likened to a needle in the mouth → \*words\*; \*say\*; \*talk\*; \*tell\*; \*express\*; \*order\*; \*call\*; \*mean\*; \*speech\*.

顏 (18) ガン；かお

As per 彦# (handsome/well-formed) + 頁 head → \*face\*; \*forehead\*; \*countenance\*; \*appearance\* → \*influence\* (← face/person that carries weight). 顏 was devised to replace 彦 after 彦 acquired its associated meanings. Compare the form 顔.

顔 (18) ガン；かお

As per 彦# (handsome/well-formed) + 頁 head → \*face\*; \*forehead\*; \*countenance\*; \*appearance\* → \*influence\* (← face/person that carries weight). 顔 was devised to replace 彦 after 彦 acquired its associated meanings. Compare the form 顏.

臣 (7) シン；ジン

The relevant oracle bone form of this character is a variant form of 見 (person whose sight is fixed upon an object he is being shown), the person here being understood as a \*subject\* or \*retainer\* → \*retain\* (a person); \*serve\* (as a retainer). As an independent character, 臣 is regarded as consisting of seven strokes, but some sources enumerate it as six when it appears as an element in a derivative character (compare the treatment of stroke counts in 此).

堅 (12) ケン；かた（い）

As per 臤# (adhere) + 土 earth → tightly adhering earth → \*hard\*; \*solid\*; \*firm\* → \*serious\*; \*formal\*.

緊 (15)　キン

As per 臤# (adhere) + 糸 thread → tightly adhering threads → \*tense\*; \*hard\*; \*tight\*.

賢 (16) ケン；かしこ（い）

As per 臤# (adhere) + 貝 commodities → tightly packed collection of valuable goods → estimable (← goods worthy of esteem) → \*wisdom\*/\*intelligence\* (← wise enough to evaluate properly).

筋 (12)　キン；すじ

Originally 竹 bamboo + a depiction of connected joints (now written 肋) → the hard portion of bamboo between the joints, used in bow-making. \*Muscle\*, \*line\*, \*lineage\*, and \*thread/plot\* (of a story or line of reasoning) derive from the distinct lines of the bamboo, with \*reason\*, \*logic\* and (information) \*source\* by extension. Regarding the progression from "line" to "reason/logic," compare 理.

因 (6) イン；よ（って・る）

The relevant oracle bone form of this character shows bedding upon which a person lies/adheres (that is, over which the person is superimposed) → \*depend\*; \*cause\*; \*be connected with\* (←

superimposition) → \*be based on\*; \*be due to\*; \*therefore\*; \*consequently\*.

姻 (9) イン

As per 因# (superimpose) + 女 woman → superimposition of one family upon another in \*marriage\*.

恩 (10) オン

As per 因# (superimpose) + 心 heart/emotions → feelings of \*gratitude\* that superimpose themselves on the heart and adhere → \*favor\*. Compare 懇.

隱 (17) イン；かく（す・れる）　 Shinjitai 隠 (14)

The element above 心 in 㥯 was originally 爪 claw/hand + an element combining a symbol in the shape of 工 + another hand → use one hand on top and the other on the bottom to cover and conceal a 工-shaped object. The addition of 心 heart/emotions suggests secrets concealed firmly in the heart. To 㥯# (conceal), 隱 adds 阜 piled earth → earthen wall behind which objects are concealed → \*hide/conceal\*.

穩 (19) オン；おだ（やか）　 Shinjitai 穏 (16)

As per 㥯# as described in 隱 (conceal) + 禾 grain/rice → conceal and reserve a supply of harvested crops → \*calm\*; \*quiet\*; \*peaceful\* (← conceal one's volatile feelings from others) → \*moderate\*.

印 (6) イン；しるし

The relevant seal inscription form is 爪 claw/hand + a variant of the abbreviated form# of 宛 (bending figures) seen in 怨 and 苑 → press down on a person in forcing him/her to kneel → \*seal\* (← make an impression by pressing down) → \*print\*; \*impress\*; \*mark\*; \*sign\*; \*symbol\*.

煙 (13) エン；けむり；けむ（る）

The relevant oracle bone form of 垔 shows a potter's wheel to which clay adheres in the pottery making process. 煙 is as per 垔# (adhere) + 火 fire → \*smoke\* that adheres to walls and ceilings → \*soot\*; \*fumes\*; \*smoky\*; \*dimly visible\*.

斤 (4)　キン

A depiction of the blade of an ax adhering to and cutting an object → \*ax\*. \*Unit of weight\* (originally 256g, 600g following the T'ang Dynasty, and 500g in modern China) derives from the use of axes as counterweights (compare 質).

近 (7)　キン；ちか（い）

As per 斤# (adhere) + 辵 movement → draw \*near/close\*.

弦 (8) ゲン

As per 玄# (link) + 弓 bow → \*bowstrings\* linking the two ends of a bow → (musical instrument) \*strings\*.

懸 (20) ケン；ケ；か（かる・ける）

As per 縣# as described in 県 (hang suspended) + 心 heart/emotions → emotional state likened to

hanging suspended → \*hang\* (suspended); \*be undecided\*; \*be distant/apart\* → \*offer\* (a prize) (← hold out an enticement at a tantalizing distance).

恨 (9)　コン；うら（む・めしい）

As per 艮# (adhere) + 心 heart/emotions → \*resentfulness\*; \*hold a grudge\* (← negative feelings adhering to the heart) → \*blame\*; \*reproach\*; \*be bitter\*; \*hate\* → \*regret\*; \*repent\* (← regret/repent of one's resentfulness).

限 (9) ゲン；かぎ（り・る）

As per 艮# (adhere) + 阜 piled earth → earth adhering in a pile in functioning as a barrier → \*border\*; \*limit\* → \*restrict\*; \*to the greatest extent possible\*.

根 (10)　コン；ね

As per 艮# (adhere) + 木 tree/wood → \*root\* of a tree adhering to the earth → \*bottom\*; \*base\*; \*origin\*; \*natural character\*.

眼 (11) ガン；まなこ

As per 艮# (adhere) + 目 eye → \*eye\* (fixed upon an object; compare 見 and 臣).

銀 (14) ギン

As per 艮# (adhere) + 金 metal → \*silver\* polish adhering to metal → \*currency\*.

墾 (16)　コン

貇 combines 艮 (adhere) with 豸 animal that ambles along the ground → teeth of a sharp-toothed beast adhering to an object or to the piece of food being gnawed → gnaw. 墾 is as per 貇# (adhere) + 土 earth → agricultural tool adhering to the soil in \*cultivation\*.

懇 (17)　コン；ねんご（ろ）

As per 貇# as described in 墾 (adhere) + 心 heart/emotions → adhering/lasting feelings of \*cordiality\* or \*sincerity\* (compare 恩) → \*courteous\*; \*intimate\*.

厂 (2)　カン

A depiction of a \*cliff\* concealing objects atop it (as observed from below; compare 厃 as described in 詹) → \*shape indicator\*.

巾　(3)　キン；はば

A depiction of fine \*cloth\* draped about/over an object, the two ends of the cloth in neat alignment → \*cloth wrapped about the head\*. \*Width\* is a borrowed meaning.

艮 (6)　コン；ゴン；うしとら

The relevant seal inscription form is an abbreviated form of 見 see + 匕 double-pronged eating implement → blade adhering to the eye of a slave who is blinded in having it gouged out. \*Northeast\* (as a direction in the zodiac) is a borrowed meaning.

痕 (11)　コン；あと

As per 艮# (adhere) + 疒 illness → \*scar\* adhering to the skin → \*mark\*; \*trace\*.

艱 (17)　カン

As per 艮# (adhere) + ��as described in 漢 (stretch over a fire) → \*distress\*; \*trouble\* (← suffering/hardships consequent to adhering directly to a fire) → \*difficult\*; \*hard\*. Compare 難.

齦 (21) ギン

As per 艮# (adhere) + 齒 teeth → the \*gums\*, to which the teeth adhere. Compare 齗.

殷 (10) オン；イン；アン

Reverse image of 身# pregnant (→ fecund) + 殳 action indicator → (make) \*abundant\*; \*prosperous\*; \*flourishing\*. The \*Yin Dynasty\* (c. 1766 to c. 1050 B.C.E.; also known as the 商 Shang) is a borrowed usage.

虔 (10) ケン

As per 文# (fine, detailed pattern) + 虍 tiger → (striped) tiger. \*Respect\* and (act with) \*reverence\* are associated meanings (← dangerous creature eliciting reverence).

牽 (11) ケン；ひ（く）

As per 玄# (link) + an element combining 牛 cow and 冖 cover (→ bar used to hold down the horns of cattle; compare 衡) → \*drag/draw\* a cow with a rope → \*lead\*. Also, \*be involved in/with\* (← be directly connected ← drag with a rope).

愆 (13) ケン

衍# overflow + 心 heart/emotions → \*error\*/\*mistake\* committed due to overflowing emotion → \*fault\*; \*offense\*; \*transgression\*.

侃 (8)　カン

The combination of 人 person and 口 mouth is a variant# of 信 (person speaking sincerely/truthfully). 侃 adds 川 (powerful, flowing) river → powerful sincerity → \*strong and possessed of integrity/righteousness\* → \*strong\*.

燕 (16) エン；つばくら；つばくろ；つばめ

A depiction of a \*swallow\*, the nests of which adhere to the walls of caves or cliffs. \*Relaxation\* and \*enjoyment\* are borrowed meanings; compare 讌.

焉 (11) エン；いずく（んぞ）

A depiction of a swallow, and may be regarded as a variant form of 燕 (swallow). \*How\*, \*why\*, \*where\* and \*then\* are borrowed meanings.

嫣 (14) エン

焉# swallow + 女 woman → charming, \*beautiful woman\*, likened to a swallow.

按 (9) アン

As per 安# (rest in/on) + 手 hand/action indicator → rest a hand on (forcefully) → \*press down upon with the hand(s)\* → \*rub\*. Also, \*examine/investigate\* (← press an object in various spots in examining it).

晏 (10) アン

As per 安# (rest in/on) + 日 sun/day → \*setting of the sun\* (sun resting/settling on the horizon; compare 旰) → \*late\* (← late in the day); \*quiet\* (that accompanies the end of the day).

鞍 (15) アン；くら

As per 安# (rest in/on) + 革 leather → \*saddle\* (upon which the rider's buttocks rest).

鰋 (20) エン；なまず

匽 hide + 魚 fish → fish hidden in muddy, stagnant water → \*catfish\*.

鮟 (17) アン

Variant form of 鰋 (fish hidden in muddy, stagnant water). The compound 鮟鱇 (アンコウ) refers to an anglerfish.

彦 (9) ゲン；ひこ

The combination of elements is unclear, but the Old Chinese pronunciation suggests that the original idea was that of a rugged, well-formed face (compare 顏/顔) adhering to the head in the manner that 厂# a cliff adheres to the side of a mountain (compare the lower element of 嚴/厳). \*Handsome\* is an associated meaning, with \*accomplished\* and \*splendid\* extended meanings in the sense of qualities associated with a handsome male. In 彦, the traditional form of the element atop 厂 is that seen in 顏, 諺 and 偐.

諺 (16) ゲン；ことわざ

As per 彦# (handsome; well-formed) + 言 words → \*maxim\*; \*proverb\* (← well-formed words).

云 (4)　ウン；い（う）

A depiction of vapors rising from a heat source and adhering to walls or the ceiling → \*mumble\*; \*say\* (← vaporous/ambiguous utterances).

耘 (10)　ウン

As per 云# (adhere) + 耒 plow → plow adhering to soil → \*weed\* (v.).

柬 (9)　カン；ケン

Originally a sack (compare 東) + an abbreviated form# of 炎 (consuming blaze) → place a sack over a fire to separate the contents → \*choose\*/\*select\* (← choose between separated objects).

諫 (16)　カン；いさ（める）

As per 柬# (separate) + 言 words → verbally \*correct a mistake\* (← separate the true from the false) → \*admonish\*; \*remonstrate\* with or \*dissuade\* (a superior) (← correct).

臤 (8)　カン；ケン

As per 臣# (fix upon) + 又 hand/action indicator → (cause to) adhere. \*Hard\* and \*wise\* are borrowed meanings.

幵 (6) ケン

干# thick bar (doubled), suggesting pieces of wood being ground down into alignment → \*flat\*; \*level\*; \*smooth\*; \*even\* (adj.).

栞 (10)　カン；しおり

As per 幵# (aligned pieces of wood) + 木 tree/wood → \*wooden path marker\*; \*signpost\* → \*bookmark\*. 栞 was devised to replace 幵 after 幵 lost its connection with pieces of wood.

旱 (7)　カン；ひでり

As per 干# (press against) + 日 sun/day → sunlight pressing against and drying up the land → \*dry up\*; \*drought\*.

悍 (10)　カン

旱# dry up (→ be/become rough) + 心 heart/emotions → \*rough\*; \*brutish\* → \*courageous\*. Also, \*strong\*.

稈 (12)　カン；わら

旱# dry up + 禾 grain/rice → \*dried up stalk\* of a grain plant → \*straw\*.

駻 (17)　カン

旱 here an abbreviated form of 悍 fierce + 馬 horse → \*untamed/unbroken horse\* → \*rage\*; \*run wild\*.

腱 (13) ケン

建# erect + 肉 flesh → \*tendon\* (allowing muscles to extend and/or raise bones).

鍵 (17) ケン；かぎ

建# erect + 金 metal → raise a metal latch/bolt → \*key\* (of a piano, electronic device etc.).

槿 (15)　キン

As per ��# as described in 漢 (minute) + 木 tree/wood → Hibiscus syriacus (compare 舜), the flowers of which have little or no detectible scent.

饉 (20)　キン

As per ��# as described in 漢 (minute) + 食 food/eating → \*paucity of food\*; \*famine\* → \*starvation\* (← minute quantity of food). Compare 饑 and 稀.

澗 (15)　カン

間# gap + 水 water → \*valley river\* (running through a mountain) → \*valley\*.

癇 (17)　カン；ひきつけ

閒# gap + 疒 illness → \*spasms\*; \*convulsions\*; \*fit\* (← medical conditions that occur at gaps/intervals; compare 痃) → \*irritability\*; \*hot temper\*.

蜆 (13) ケン；しじみ

As per 見# (fix upon) + 虫 insect/creature → variety of \*fresh-water clam\* (← creature firmly affixed to its shell; compare 蛤 and 辰).

硯 (12) ケン；すずり

As per 見# (fix upon) + 石 stone → \*inkstone\* (to which ink is affixed).

筧 (13) ケン；かけい；かけひ

As per 見# (fix upon) + 竹 bamboo → bamboo/wooden \*water pipe\* affixed in place → \*conduit\*.

翰 (16)　カン

An abbreviated form# of 乾 (rise high) + 羽 feather/wing → (long, hard) feather raised in being used as a writing implement → \*writing brush\* → \*letter\* (← writing produced by such a brush). \*Fly high\* is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character.

蹇 (17) ケン；あしなえ

As per the upper element# of 寒 (raise in layers) + 足 leg/foot → \*lameness\* forcing one to raise one's leg in slow, layered motions → a \*cripple\*. Also, \*suffer\* and \*be troubled\*.

譴 (21) ケン；せ（める）；とが（める）

遣# send; dispatch + 言 words → \*reprimand\* delivered by an envoy → \*reproach\*.

匽 (9) エン；かく（す）；ふ（す）；ふ（せる）

An abbreviated form# of 晏 (settle) + 匸 contain/conceal → set an object in place, hiding it away → \*hide\*; \*secrete\*. \*Bend\* is a borrowed meaning.

堰 (12) エン；せき；せ（く）

As per 匽# (set in place) + 土 earth → pack earth and set in place to create a \*dam\* → \*dam up\*.

奸 (6)　カン；おか（す）

As per 干# (press against) + 女 woman → have (illicit) contact with a woman → \*evil/wicked deed\*; \*villainy\*. Compare 姦.

姦 (9)　カン；かしま（しい）

奻# is 女 woman (doubled) → quarreling women. 姦 adds another 女 element to emphasize inappropriate behavior → \*wicked\*; \*immoral\*. \*Adultery\* is a borrowed meaning, likely influenced by 奸 (have illicit contact with a woman) → \*obscene\*; \*debauched\*. \*Noisy\* is via the original sense of "quarrel."

杆 (7)　カン；てこ

干# thick bar; shield + 木 tree/wood → wooden \*rod\*, \*pole\* or \*shield\*.

竿 (9)　カン；さお

干# thick bar + 竹 bamboo → \*bamboo pole\* → \*pole\*. Also, \*neck\* of a violin or shamisen.

韓 (17)　カン；から

An abbreviated form# of 幹 (rise high) + 韋 circumambulate → \*fence\* that rises high in surrounding and blocking off a well. \*Korea\* and \*name of a particular country in ancient China\* are borrowed meanings.

雁 (12) ガン；かり

A variant form of the element minus 鳥 as described in 鷹 (hunting hawk), indicating a bird targeted as prey by hunting hawks → \*wild goose\*.

贋 (19) ガン；にせ

As per 雁# (wild goose) + 貝 commodities → goods made to resemble geese, used as decoys → \*imitation\*; \*counterfeit\*; \*sham\*; \*fake\*.

這 (11) ゲン；シャ；この；これ；は（う）

辵 movement + 言# words → meet, then speak. \*This\* and \*crawl\* are borrowed meanings.

腎 (12) ジン；シン

As per 臤# (adhere) + 肉 flesh → the testes, which adhere to the scrotum. \*Kidney/the kidneys\* is a borrowed meaning.

慳 (14)　カン；ケン；お（しむ）

As per 堅# (adhere) + 心 heart/emotions → emotional adherence to possessions → \*stingy\*, \*miserly\*.

鰹 (22) ケン；かつお

As per 堅# (adhere tightly) + 魚 fish → \*skipjack\* (tuna; aka \*bonito\*), with tightly compact meat.

慇 (14) イン

As per 殷# (abundant) + 心 heart/emotions → demonstrate abundant concern/regard for others → \*attentiveness\*; \*courtesy\*. Compare 懃.

湮 (12) イン；エン；しず（む）

As per 垔# as described in 煙 (adhere) + 水 water → \*sink\* and adhere to the bottom of a body of water → \*bury\*.

嚥 (19) エン；の（む）

燕# swallow + 口 mouth + \*swallow\*/\*gulp\* in the manner of the (avian) swallow, a voracious consumer of insects. Compare 咽.

僅 (12)　キン；わず（か）

As per ��# as described in 漢 (minute) + 人 person → \*barely\*; \*merely\*; \*few\*; \*little\*. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

菫 (11)　キン；すみれ

A variant form of ��# as described in 漢 (minute) + 艸 grass/plant → minute/small flowering plant → a \*violet\*.

瑾 (15)　キン

As per ��# as described in 漢 (minute) + 玉 jewel → \*jewel\*, reduced in size but rendered beautiful by cutting and polishing.

懃 (17)　キン；ゴン；ねんごろ

勤# diligent + 心 heart → be diligent in attending to another person's needs (compare 慇) → \*solicitous\*; \*courteous\*; \*polite\*.

芹 (7)　キン；せり

As per 斤# (adhere) + 艸 grass/plant → \*celery\* (that grows in close proximity to bogs, marshes and other bodies of water). \*Parsley\* is a borrowed meaning.

舷 (11) ゲン；ふなばた

As per 玄# (link) + 舟 boat → \*gunwale\* (or \*saxboard\*), the top edge of the two sides of a boat, linking the bow to the stern.

鉉　(13) ケン；ゲン；つる

As per 玄# (link) + 金 metal → stand/holder linked to a tripod vessel. \*Pot handle\* is a borrowed meaning.

咽 (9) イン；エツ；エン；のど；の（む）；むせ（ぶ）

As per 因# (superimpose) + 口 mouth → food superimposed over the pharynx in swallowing → \*swallow\* (compare 嚥) → \*throat\*. Also, \*choke\*.

扞 (6)　カン；ふせ（ぐ）

As per 干# (press against in defense) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*use a shield in protection\*; \*fight/ward off\*; \*pin/render immobile\*. Also, \*resist\* and \*restrain\*.

罕 (7)　カン；まれ

干# thick bar + a variant form of 网 net → \*long-handled bird-catching net\* (compare 禽). \*Rare\* is a borrowed meaning.

骭 (13)　カン

干# thick bar + 骨 bone → \*shin\*; \*shinbone\*.

垠 (9) ギン；かぎり

As per 艮# (adhere) + 土 earth → geographical \*boundary\* (← edge of a plain adhering to the foothills where mountains begin) → \*limit\*. Also, \*riverbank\* and \*shore\* (← border of land and water).

很 (9)　コン；もと（る）

As per 艮# (adhere) + 彳 movement → adhere to one's position obstinately → \*obstinacy\* → \*be irrationally committed to a bad cause\* → \*quite\* (← great degree ← excessive degree).

狠 (9)　コン；ガン；もと（る）

As per 艮# (adhere) + 犬 dog/beast → \*sounds produced by dogs (adhering in) fighting/biting each other\* (compare 獄). \*Perversion\* is a borrowed meaning.

跟 (13)　コン；くびす

As per 艮# (adhere) + 足 leg/foot → \*heel\* (← body part that adheres to the ground) → \*follow\*; \*accompany\* (← follow on the heels of another).

覲 (18)　キン；まみ（える）

��as described in 漢, here an abbreviated form# of 謹 humility + 見 see → \*imperial audience\*.

搴 (14) ケン；と（る）；ぬ（く）

As per the upper element# of 寒 (raise in layers) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*raise\*. Also, \*pull up/out\*.

謇 (17) ケン；ども（る）

The upper element of 寒, here an abbreviated form# of 蹇 lame + 言 words → \*stutter\* (← speech impediment) → \*sigh of lamentation\*. \*Speak frankly/correctly\* is a borrowed meaning.

騫 (20) ケン

The upper element of 寒, here an abbreviated form# of 蹇 lame + 馬 horse → \*lame horse\*. Also, \*lack\* (← lame horse lacking full powers).

嫻 (15)　カン；なら（う）；みやび（やか）

閑# leisure + 女 woman → woman of leisure → \*learn\*; \*be accomplished\*; \*elegant\*; \*refined\* (← all by association with leisured women).

繝 (18) ケン；カン

閒# gap + 糸 thread → interweave over a gap in fabric → \*embroidered pattern\*.

臙　(20) エン；のど

燕# swallow + 肉 flesh → \*rouge\* (the lustrous color of a swallow's feathers). \*Throat\* is a borrowed meaning, either directly via 咽 (throat) or indirectly via 嚥 swallow (→ throat).

讌 (23) エン

燕 here an abbreviated form# of 嚥 swallow/gulp + 言 words → drink and converse at a \*banquet\* or \*drinking party\* (compare 宴) → \*relax\* → \*open oneself up to\*.

茵 (9) イン；しとね

As per 因# (superimpose) + 艸 grass/plant → \*cushion\*; \*mattress\* (← products made of layers of plant matter).

偐 (11) ゲン；ガン；にせ

As per 彦# (well-formed) + 人 person (→ human agency) → create well-formed (but \*counterfeit\*) goods → \*fake\*. Compare 贋.

偃　(11) エン；ふ（せる）；や（める）

As per 匽# (set in place) + 人 person → \*lay (the body) down/low\*; \*lay (a weapon/tool) down\* and take a rest. \*Weir\* is a borrowed meaning, via 堰.

揀 (12)　カン

柬# choose; select + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*choose\*; \*select\*.

瀚 (19)　カン；ひろ（い）

As per 翰# (raise → rise) + 水 water → rising water covering a \*vast\* expanse. 甄 (14) ケン

As per 垔# as described in 煙 (adhere) + 瓦 tile/earthenware → \*ceramics\*; \*porcelain\* (← earthenware to which glaze adheres). Also, \*distinguish between\* (superior and inferior products).

痃 (10) ゲン；ケン

As per 玄# (link) + 疒 illness → linked series of spasms (compare 癇) → \*cramps\*.

矜 (9)　キン；キョウ；あわ（れむ）；つつし（む）；ほこ（る）

As per 今# (contain) + 矛 pike/halberd → \*halberd handle\* (in which the weapon is contained). \*Be proud of\*, \*pity\* and \*piteous person\* are borrowed meanings.

釿 (12)　キン；ギン

斤# ax + 金 metal → a type of \*hatchet\*.

頞 (15) アン；はなすじ

As per 安# (rest in/on) + 頁 head → the \*bridge of the nose\* (← object that adheres to the front of the head as the ears adhere to the sides; compare 耳).

鴳 (17) アン；ふなしうずら

As per 安# (rest in/on) + 鳥 bird → \*quail\* (← bird at rest, and adhering closely to the vegetation that conceals and protects it).

裀 (11) イン；しとね

As per 因# (superimpose) + 衣 clothing → \*undergarment\* superimposed upon (= covering) the chest and trunk (but not the limbs). Also, \*coverlet\* (← sheets/blankets that cover a sleeping mat; compare 絪).

絪 (12) イン

As per 因# (superimpose) + 糸 thread → (woven) \*coverlet\* superimposed upon (= covering) a sleeping mat. Compare 裀.

禋 (14) イン

垔 here an abbreviated form# of 煙 smoke + 示 altar/the supernatural → smoke accompanying a \*sacrifice\* → \*offer/make a sacrifice\*.

闉 (17) イン；ふさ（ぐ）

As per 垔# as described in 煙 (adhere) + 門 gate → \*gate\* adhering to the outer of two curved walls enclosing a fortress → \*close off\*, concealing objects within.

癮 (22) イン

隱# conceal + 疒 illness → concealed illness in the form of a \*craving\*, (bad) \*habit\* or \*addiction\*.

鼴 (22) エン

匽# hide + 鼠 rat/mouse → \*mole\* hidden in the earth.

笴 (11)　カ；カン；やがら

As per 可# (bend) + 竹 bamboo → bamboo bent to form an \*arrow shaft\* (compare 簳).

旰 (7)　カン；く（れる）

As per 干# (press against) + 日 sun/day → setting sun pressing against the western horizon → \*sunset\*; \*dusk\*. Compare 晏.

玕 (7)　カン

干# thick bar + 玉 jewel → stick-shaped \*accessory\* attached to clothing.

莧 (10)　カン；ガン；ひゆ

As per 見# (fix upon) + 艸 grass/plant → species of \*amaranthus\* with bright yellow flowers (that capture one's attention) and edible leaves.

瞯 (17)　カン；うかが（う）

閒# gap + 目 eye → \*peep\*; \*spy on\* (← gaze through a gap in a wall).

簳 (19)　カン；やがら

幹# trunk + 竹 bamboo → \*trunk of a bamboo tree\*. Also, \*shaft of an arrow\* (← trunk-like object made of bamboo; compare 笴).

炘 (8)　キン

As per 斤# (adhere) + 火 fire → adhere to a fire → \*hot\* → \*brilliant\* (← brilliant fire).

靳 (13)　キン；むながい

As per 斤# (adhere) + 革 leather → \*leather strap\* adhering to a horse (stretching from breast to saddle, or binding the midsection; compare 鞅).

嚚 (18) ギン

臣# subject; retainer + 口 mouth/hole (quadrupled to indicate a number of mouths) → \*noisy conversation\* among persons of low rank → \*noisy\*; \*foolish\*.

齗 (19) ギン；はぐき

As per 斤# (adhere) + 齒 teeth → the \*gums\*, in which the teeth adhere. Compare 齦.

祆 (9) ケン

天# the heavens + 示 altar/the supernatural. The compound 祆敎 (祆教) refers to Zoroastrianism, and the compound 火祆 to Ahura Mazda (God).

梘 (11) ケン；カン

As per 見# (fix upon) + 木 tree/wood → affix a wooden \*plug\* → \*coffin cover\* (← cover an opening).

揅 (15) ケン；ゲン；みが（く）

研# grind; sharpen + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*grind\*; \*sharpen\*. Also, \*study\* and \*research\* (← sense of putting one's nose to the grindstone).

褰 (16) ケン；かか（げる）；はかま

As per the upper element# of 寒 (raise in layers) + 衣 clothing → \*raise\* a \*garment covering the lower half of the body\*. Compare 摳.

繾 (20) ケン

遣# wrapped + 糸 thread → wrap with thread to attach → \*attached\*; \*inseparable\*.

巘 (23) ケン；ゲン

As per 獻# (be filled high) + 山 mountain → high, steep \*mountain\* → \*peak\*.

甗 (21) ゲン

As per 鬳# as described in 獻 (cooking vessel) + 瓦 tile/earthenware → \*earthenware vessel\* (for steaming grain).

蠲 (23) ケン

益/益# fill/full + 蜀 (adhere) → centipedes swarming (= fully covering) vegetation → \*centipede\*. \*Clear\* and \*pure\* are borrowed meanings.

唁 (10) ゲン；とむら（う）

言# words + 口 mouth → utter words of \*condolence\*. Compare 喭.

喭 (12) ゲン；ケン

As per 彦# (handsome; well-formed) + 口 mouth → utter well-formed words of \*condolence\*. Compare 唁.

犍 (13) ケン

建 here an abbreviated form# of 腱 tendon + 牛 cow → cut tendons in castrating bulls → \*castrated bull\*; \*castration\*.

鞬 (18) ケン；ゆぶくろ

建# erect + 革 leather → leather \*quiver\* placed upright on a horse.

蝘 (15) エン；オン

匽# hide + 虫 insect/creature → \*cicada\* (← creature that remains hidden in the earth for years before emerging). The compound 蝘蜓 refers to a gecko.

氤 (10) イン

As per 因# (superimpose) + 气 rising vapors (→ air/atmosphere) → \*heavy fog/mist\* (← layers of fog).

甲 (5)　コウ；カン

Originally, a depiction of objects being pressed down, suggesting "press down on objects in containing them" → \*armor\*; \*helmet\*; \*shell\*. From the bronzeware inscription style onward, however, the character becomes a depiction of a hard, seed-bearing \*husk\*. \*First in a series\* and \*first calendar sign\* are borrowed meanings.

岬 (8)　コウ；みさき

As per 甲# (press down on) + 山 mountain → mountain gorge (pressed down on by cliffs on both

sides). Compare 峽. However, the character has been applied to land jutting into the sea and pressed upon by water on both sides, therefore \*cape\* or \*promontory\*.

押 (8) オウ；お（さえ・さえる・し・す）

As per 甲# (press down on) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*press\*/\*push\* down on → \*thrust\*; \*shove\*; \*hold down\*; \*stop\*; \*stamp\* (papers/a passport etc.); (a) \*weight\*; \*pressure\* → \*seize\*; \*catch\*; \*arrest\* → \*control\* (← restrain and control). 押 was devised to replace 甲 after the latter came to refer to a husk or shell.

壓 (17) アツ Shinjitai 圧 (5)

As per 厭# (press upon) + 土 earth → \*pressure\* exerted on the earth by a heavy object → \*press\*.

凹 (5) オウ

A depiction of a concave object sunken in the middle due to pressure from above → \*concave\*; \*indented\*; \*hollowed out\*.

挾 (10)　キョウ；はさ（まる・む）　 Shinjitai 挟 (9)

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 手 hand/action indicator → press/be pressed between → \*insert\*; \*interpose\*; \*be caught/sandwiched between\*.

峽 (10)　キョウ　 Shinjitai 峡 (9)

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 山 mountain → \*ravine\*/\*gorge\* pressed between cliffs. Compare 岬.

狹 (10)　キョウ；せば（まる・める）；せま（い）　 Shinjitai 狭 (9)

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 犬 dog/beast → be pressed on by wild animals, with nowhere to turn → \*narrow\* (← narrow margin for escape) → \*small\*; \*reduce\*; \*narrow-minded\*.

脅 (10)　キョウ；おど（かす・す）；おびや（かす）

As per 劦# as described in 協 (pressure from two sides) + 肉 flesh → the two sides of the body, under pressure → \*threaten\* (← be threatened by attackers at both sides; compare 狹) → \*frighten\*; \*fear\*; \*be scared\*; \*startle\*.

業 (13) ギョウ；ゴウ；わざ

A depiction of a stand with notched wooden supports on both ends. Heavy bells and/or drums were suspended from a wooden bar that was placed atop of (and connected) a pair of such stands (compare 對), exerting pressure upon the notches → \*work/act\* (← create notches) → \*skill\*; \*occupation\*. Also, \*karma\* (← result of acts taken).

及 (3)　キュウ；およ（び・ぶ・ぼす）

The relevant oracle bone form of this character shows a person + a hand reaching toward another person (compare 服) → \*reach/extend\* and press a hand on the back of a fleeing person → \*overtake\* → \*amount to\*; \*equal\*. By further extension are \*and\* and \*as well as\* (← equally), while \*come to\*, \*exert\* (upon) and \*affect\* derive from the original sense of exerting pressure with one's hand.

吸 (6)　キュウ；す（う）

As per 及# (press on) + 口 mouth → press the lips together in sucking in air → \*suck\* (compare

哈, 歙 and 噏) → \*breathe\*; \*inhale\*; \*take in\* → \*absorb\*; \*smoke\* (tobacco).

級 (9)　キュウ

As per 及# (press on) + 糸 thread → pieces of fabric of various quality, pressing on each other in being inspected → \*rank\*; \*class\*; \*grade\* (← levels of quality) → \*head\* (← make promotions contingent on the taking of heads on the battlefield).

急 (9)　キュウ；いそ（ぐ）

The relevant seal inscription form shows 急 to have originally consisted of 及# (press on) + 心 heart/emotions → feelings of being pressed upon → \*rush\*; \*hurry\*; \*hasten\* → \*sudden\*; \*emergency\*; \*steep\*.

合 (6)　ゴウ；カッ；ガッ；あ（う・わす・わせる）

As per 口# (cavity → open container) + an abbreviated form of 今 (contain) → press/fit together a lid on a container, containing objects inside → \*fit\*; \*join\*; \*put together\*; \*meet\*. Extended meanings include \*suit\*; \*match\*; \*agree/coincide with\*; \*correspond to\*; \*be correct\*; \*add\* (to); \*combine\*; \*set/adjust\* (a device); \*adapt oneself to\*; and \*check\* (with/against).

給 (12)　キュウ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 糸 thread → fit together pieces of fabric → \*supply\*; \*supplement\*; \*fill\*; \*give\*; \*salary\*.

泣 (8)　キュウ；な（かす・かせる・く）

As per 立# (exert continuous downward pressure) + 水 water → \*teardrops\* pressing on the cheeks → \*cry\*; \*sob\*; \*weep\* → \*moan\*; \*regret\*.

邑　(7) ユウ；オウ；くに；むら

巴 here a variant of 丮# (kneeling figure with arms extended) + 囗 circular enclosure → subjects pressed into an enclosed space, who kneel and extend their arms in obeisance → \*village\*; \*settlement\*; \*town\*. Confusingly, when used as an element in a dual-element character, 邑 is written as 阝, the same simplification as employed for 阜 piled earth. The difference is that 邑 appears on the right (examples: 邦, 邸, or 郊) while 阜 appears on the left (examples: 防, 限, or 陷).

叶 (5)　キョウ；かな（う）

口 mouth + 十# (gather) → voices gathered in harmonious supplication → \*harmonize\*. Also, \*be realized/have one's prayer answered\* (← grant a group's wish/request).

劫 (7)　ゴウ

去# withdraw + 力 power/energy → \*coerce\* others into withdrawing. \*Long period of time\* derives from the compound 劫波, a transliteration of the Sanskrit kalpa.

怯 (8)　キョウ；コウ；おび（える）；ひる（む）

去# withdraw + 心 heart/emotions → \*shrink from\* in fear → \*be fearful\*; \*cowardice\*.

夾 (7)　キョウ

大 person standing outstretched + a depiction# of two persons → one individual pressed between two others → \*insert\*; \*sandwich\* between.

莢 (10)　キョウ；さや

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 艸 grass/plant → \*shell/pod\* (that sandwiches the bean contained inside).

鋏 (15)　キョウ；はさみ；やっとこ

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 金 metal → \*pincers\*; \*tongs\*; \*scissors\* (← metallic implements between which objects are pressed). Compare 鉗.

頰 (16)　キョウ；ほお；ほほ

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 頁 head → the jaw (← part of the head that enables food and other objects to be pressed between the upper and lower rows of teeth). \*Cheeks\* is via a different perspective on sandwiching with regard to the head (i.e., cheeks between which food in the mouth is pressed).

呷 (8)　コウ；あお（る）

As per 甲# (press down upon) + 口 mouth → \*gulp\* (down); \*swallow\* → \*inhale\*; \*drink\*. Also, \*quack\* (← loud noise produced in gulping).

狎 (8)　コウ；な（れる）

As per 甲# (press down upon) + 犬 dog/beast → discipline an animal to \*tame\* it → \*be accustomed to\*; \*be on intimate terms with\* → \*be overly familiar with\*; \*make light of\*.

胛 (9)　コウ

As per 甲# (press down upon) + 肉 flesh → \*shoulder blade\* (pressing down upon the muscles beneath).

笈 (9)　キュウ；おい

As per 及# (press on) + 竹 bamboo → (bamboo) \*container\* for clothes, books and other objects, carried on the back.

姶 (9) オウ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 女 woman → woman fitted with heavy clothes (compare 袷) → \*beautiful\*; \*good-looking\*.

恰 (9)　コウ；あたか（も）

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 心 heart/emotions → \*fit\* one's heart; \*match\* one's ideas → \*precisely\*; \*just (as)\*; \*as though\*. The pronunciation カッ in compounds derives from カフ, an old Japanese pronunciation of this character.

盒 (11)　コウ；ふたもの

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 皿 dish/plate/bowl → \*lidded utensil\*.

袷 (11)　キョウ；コウ；あわせ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 衣 clothing → heavy \*lined garment\* (← lining precisely fitted to the fabric) → \*lined kimono\*. Compare 姶.

翕 (12)　キュウ；あ（う）；あつ（まる・める）

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 羽 feather/wing → retracted wings, pressed tightly in covering a bird's body → \*put together\*; \*gather\* → \*happen\* (← putting together or gathering regarded as an occurrence).

蛤 (12)　コウ；はまぐり

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 虫 insect/creature → \*clam\* (← creature encased in a tightly sealed shell). Compare 蜆.

閤 (14)　コウ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 門 gate → \*small, side door/gate\* fitted into the side of a larger gate → (woman's) \*chamber\* (compare 閨). Also, (government/public) \*office\* and \*palace\*.

靨 (23) ヨウ；えくぼ

As per 厭# (press upon) + 面 face → \*dimple(s)\*. Compare 黶.

盍 (10)　コウ

Originally, the element at top# was not 去 but rather that described in 抑 (now written as 卬, but originally 印 in reverse → hold down). The addition of 皿 dish/plate/bowl suggests the idea of pressing a \*cover\* down upon a container → \*meet\* (← meeting of cover and container). \*Why\* is a borrowed meaning.

蓋 (13) ガイ；カイ；コウ；おお（う）；ふた

盍# (press down and) cover + 艸 grass/plant → roof thatched/covered with grass → \*cover\*; \*lid\*.

俠　(8)　キョウ；きゃん

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 人 person → person of rank, sandwiched by bodyguards → \*chivalry\* (← dedicate oneself unstintingly to the service of another). \*Tomboy\* is a borrowed meaning.

侠 (8)　キョウ；きゃん

A variant form of 俠. For meanings, see 俠.

脇 (10)　キョウ；わき

Effectively a variant form of 脅# (one's side), with the 肉 flesh element repositioned, and emphasizing the physical points the \*armpits\* and the \*sides/flanks\* → \*side\*. Compare 胳 and 亦.

捻 (11) ネン；テン；ジョウ；ねじ（る）；ね（じる）；ひね（る）

As per 念# (contain) + 手 hand → \*twist\* an object contained between fingers → \*nip\*; \*turn\*; \*twirl\*.

揖 (12) ユウ；シュウ

As per 咠# as described in 葺 (press) + 手 hand → hands pressed together at the breast in making a greeting → \*bow\* → \*come together\*; \*assemble\*. Also, \*yield\*.

峇 (9)　コウ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 山 mountain → vertical mountain \*cave\* (with a cover fitted over the entrance).

洽 (9)　コウ；あまね（く）

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 水 water → large volume of \*water covering an extensive area\* → \*far and wide\*; \*moisten\*. Also, \*harmony of thought/emotion\* (← bring into uniformity ← cover extensively; compare 勰).

匣 (7)　コウ；はこ

As per 甲# (press down upon) + 匚 enclosure → (lidded) \*box\*. Compare 篋.

閘 (13) オウ；コウ

As per 甲# (press down upon) + 門 gate → plate of a \*sluice\* or \*floodgate\* pressing down in closure → \*opening and closing of a gate\* (compare 沍). Compare also 闔.

溘 (13)　コウ

盍# (press down and) cover + 水 water → \*sudden/abrupt\* (cessation) (← suddenly slam a lid on a water container, cutting off the flow of liquid).

闔 (18)　コウ；と（じる）

盍# (press down and) cover + 門 gate → \*close\* (the \*leaf\* of) a \*door\*. Compare 閘. Also, \*put away\* and \*contain in entirety\* → \*all\*.

愜 (12)　キョウ；こころよ（い）

匧# combines 夾 (be pressed between) + 匚 enclosure → contents tightly pressed into a container. Compare 匣. 愜 adds 心 heart/emotions → heart filled with contentment/satisfaction → \*be satisfied\*; \*be comfortable\*.

篋 (15)　キョウ；はこ

As per 匧# as described in 愜 (contents tightly pressed into a container) + 竹 bamboo → (rectangular, bamboo) \*box\*, chest or case. Compare 匣.

陜 (10)　キョウ；コウ；せま（い）

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 阜 piled earth → \*mountain pass/narrow gorge\* (compare 岬 and 峽). Also, (sandwiched between and therefore) \*narrow\*.

筴 (13)　キョウ；サク；めどぎ

As per 夾# (pressed between) + 竹 bamboo → variety of \*bean plant\* (compare 荅), the stalk of which was used in divination (compare 筮 and 蓍). Also, \*bamboo writing brush\* and \*chopsticks\* → \*insert\* and \*sandwich between\*, as well as \*inscribed tablets\*.

岌 (7)　キュウ；ギュウ

As per 及# (press on) + 山 mountain → (perilously) \*high and steep mountain\* with large boulders pressing against each other.

悒 (10) ユウ；うれ（える）

As per 邑# (press) + 心 heart/emotions → \*be depressed\*; \*have a heavy heart\* (← negative

emotions pressing on the heart).

曄 (14) ヨウ

華# brilliant + 日 sun/day → \*shine\* brilliantly → \*thriving\*.

磕 (15)　カイ；カツ；コウ

盍# (press down and) cover + 石 stone → forcefully \*press\* a stone/earthenware cover into place → \*sound of rocks or drums struck in turn\* (← two hard objects knocking against each other).

汲 (6)　キュウ；く（む）

As per 及# (press on) + 水 water → \*draw water\* (← lower a bucket to the point that it presses down beyond the surface of well water) → \*scoop\* (up/out); \*ladle\* (out) → \*pour\* (tea).

噏 (15)　キュウ；す（う）

As per 翕# (press) + 口 mouth → \*compress\* the lips in sucking in breath (compare 吸, 哈 and 歙) → \*inhale\* → \*absorb\*.

勰 (15)　キョウ

As per 劦# as described in 協 (harmonious cooperation) + 思 (fine) → a fine and \*harmonious\* meeting of the minds (compare 洽) → \*peaceful\*.

柙 (9)　コウ；おり

As per 甲# (press down upon) + 木 tree/wood → (lidded) \*animal cage\* → (place in a) \*box\*.

祫 (11)　コウ；ギョウ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 示 altar/the supernatural → \*commemorate ancestors jointly\* (i.e. a \*festival\* in which ancestors both proximate and distant in the bloodline are jointly commemorated).

嗑 (13)　コウ

盍# (press down and) cover + 口 mouth → press the teeth upon seeds or other food in biting/cracking. The compound 嗑嗑 however refers to the act of speaking.

挹 (10) ユウ；く（む）

As per 邑# (press) + 手 hand/action indicator → \*press one's hands to one's chest\*. \*Scoop\*, \*dip\* and \*ladle/pour out\* are borrowed meanings.

浥 (10) ユウ；オウ；うるお（う）

As per 邑# (press) + 水 water → press liquid out of an object, leaving it \*moist\*/\*damp\*.

裛　(13) ユウ

As per 邑# (press) + 衣 clothing → press clothing over oneself → \*clothe oneself\* → \*cover a book\*. \*Fragrance\* is a borrowed meaning.

饁 (19) ヨウ；おく（る）

盍# (press down and) cover + 食 food/eating → \*cooked meal placed in a container and transported to field laborers\*. Compare 饟.

哈　(9)　ゴウ

As per 合# (press/fit together) + 口 mouth → press the lips together in sucking in air (compare 吸, 歙 and 噏). The \*opening and closing of a fish's mouth\* is a borrowed meaning → \*school of fish\*.

加 (5)　カ；くわ（える・わる）

A variant of 可 (bend/cup a hand about the mouth to amplify the voice in shouting), with \*add\*, \*append\* and \*increase\* being associated meanings (← add a hand atop the mouth to increase the volume of one's voice). Also, \*join\* (in) and \*inflict\* (← join in something inflicting damage/injury).

架 (9)　カ；か（かる・ける）

As per 加# (place atop) + 木 tree/wood → wooden framework atop which something is constructed → \*put on\*; \*build\* → \*span\*; \*bridge girder\*.

賀 (12) ガ

As per 加# (place atop) + 貝 commodities → congratulatory presents piled high → \*congratulations\*.

可 (5)　カ

The relevant oracle bone form of this character is a representation of a bent hook + 口 mouth → bend/cup a hand about the mouth to amplify the voice in shouting → shout/laugh/sing in a loud voice. \*Possible\* is an extended meaning (← make it possible to be heard at a distance), with \*approve\* by further extension (← approve of what has been made possible).

河 (8)　カ；かわ

As per 可# (bend) + 水 water → long \*river\* with multiple bends. Compare 川.

歌 (14)　カ；うた；うた（う）

As per 哥# (sing) + 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure → \*sing\* → \*song\* → \*poem\*; \*tanka\*. 歌 was devised to express the original meaning of 哥 after the latter was borrowed to express "elder brother."

何 (7)　カ；なに；なん

Originally, a depiction of a person bearing on the shoulder a load hung from a long pole. The bronzeware and seal inscription forms, though, are 人 + 可# (bend). \*What\* is a borrowed meaning.

荷 (10)　カ；に

As per 何# (bear a load) + 艸 grass/plant → \*lotus\* (← plant borne on water). \*Bear a load\*, (a) \*load\*, \*burden\* and \*undertake\* are meanings applied after 何 was borrowed to express "what."

奇 (8)　キ

As per 可# (bend) + 大 stand outstretched → person bending/leaning in an unusual position, on account of being lame → \*strange\*; \*wondrous\*.

寄 (11)　キ；よ（せる・る）

As per 奇# (lean) + 宀 roof/building → \*lean on\* or \*draw near\*/toward a building → \*approach\*; \*bring near\*; \*call at/upon\*; \*step aside\* → \*depend on\*; \*gather\* (← call at another person's dwelling for food and shelter) → \*add\* (up to) (← gather). Also, \*entrust\* (← be entrusted with the care of others) and \*send\* (← have objects brought to another).

崎 (11)　キ；さき

As per 奇# (lean) + 山 mountain → mountainous headland → \*cape\*; \*promontory\*. Compare 埼 and 碕.

騎 (18)　キ

As per 奇# (lean) + 馬 horse → rider leaning on a horse → \*horse riding\*; \*counter for horsemen\*.

我 (7) ガ；わ；われ

The relevant oracle bone form of this character is a variant of 戈 spear/halberd, indicating a weapon/knife with a serrated blade (i.e., a blade the teeth of which are in alignment).

餓 (15) ガ；うえ；う（える）

As per 我# (bladed weapon → blade-like) + 食 food/eating → lean, blade-like appearance of a starving person (compare 飢) → \*hunger\*; \*starvation\*.

義 (13) ギ

As per 我# (bladed weapon) + 羊 sheep → use a bladed weapon to sacrifice a sheep in a ceremony → \*honor\*; \*justice\*; \*meaning\*.

儀 (15) ギ

As per 義# (ceremony) + 人 person (→ human agency) → conduct a \*ceremony\* → \*rules\* → \*follow\*; \*obey\* (good standards) (← follow/obey rules). \*Matters\* is a borrowed meaning.

犧 (20) ギ Shinjitai 犠 (17)

羲 is a variant form# of 義 (sacrifice in a ceremony). 犧 adds 牛 cow → \*sacrifice\* a cow.

議 (20) ギ

As per 義# (ceremony) + 言 words → ceremonious \*deliberation\* → \*debate\* → \*dispute\*.

宜 (8) ギ

The relevant bronzeware inscription form is 宀 roof/building + 多# (originally, piled meat) → tall, neat pile of meat in a room → \*good\*; \*right\* (← neat).

戲 (17) ギ；たわむ（れる）　 Shinjitai 戯 (15)

An abbreviated form# of 虛 (sunken) + an element combining 豆 (food stand, here a shape indicator) and 戈 spear/halberd (the combination indicating a particular type of bladed weapon) → sink a spear in a hole in the ground as a trap for game → \*sport with\* (← hunt for sport ← hunt). \*Laugh uproariously\*, \*frolic\*, \*joke\*, \*play\*, \*tease\* and \*flirt\* are by figurative association with "sport with" → \*theater\*; \*drama\*; \*show\*.

皆 (9)　カイ；みな；みんな

比# line up + 白. 白 replaces an obsolete element of uncertain signification, and the reason for the

selection of 白 is also obscure. \*All\*, \*everyone\* and \*everything\* appear to be connected with the general idea of lining up many people/objects.

階 (12)　カイ

As per 皆# (line up) + 阜 piled earth → aligned steps/stairs → \*step\*; \*stair\* → \*ladder\*; \*class\*; \*floor\*.

肌 (6)　キ；はだ

As per 几# (tall → tall and lean) + 肉 flesh → \*skin\* of a lean/starving person (compare 飢).

飢 (10)　キ；う（える）

Effectively a variant form of 饑, combining 几# (tall → tall and lean) + 食 food/eating → long, lean appearance of one suffering from a lack of food (same as for 餓) → \*hunger\* (for); \*starve\*.

啓 (11) ケイ

启# combines 戸 door + 口 mouth → slow, careful deliberations (compare 議 and 計) that result in the opening of a (figurative) door to understanding → open; commence. 啓 adds 攵 action indicator → \*enlighten\*; \*address\* (an idea).

開 (12)　カイ；あ（く・ける）；ひら（く・ける）

The relevant seal inscription form is 門 gate + 幵# (align) → \*open\* wide the tall doors of a gate, to an equal degree → \*make/drill a hole\*; \*be space between\*; \*develop\*; \*begin\*; \*hold\* (a party/meeting etc.) (← throw open the doors); \*release\*.

衣　(6) イ；エ；ころも

A depiction of a garment billowing over the body → \*clothing\*; \*wear\*; \*dress\*; \*cover\* → (in cooking) \*coating/batter/icing\*.

依 (8) イ

As per 衣# (billowing garment) + 人 person (→ human agency) → \*conceal oneself\* in/behind another person's billowing garment → \*lean against\*; \*depend (upon)\* → \*request\*.

既 (10)　キ；すで（に）

To 旡# (engorgement) the relevant oracle bone form of 既 adds a heaping plate of food → become engorged on a heaping plate of food → \*already\* (← have already reached a limit).

祈 (8)　キ；いの（り・る）

As per 斤# (adhere) + 示 altar/the supernatural → figuratively adhere to the gods in imploring them to grant one's wishes → \*pray\*; \*wish/hope\* (for).

幾 (12)　キ；いく

A variant form of 我# (bladed weapon) + an obsolete character doubling 幺 slender thread → slice threads repeatedly, \*little by little\*, causing them to become \*minute\* and \*almost equal\* in size → \*slight\*; \*(a) few\*; \*some\* (← minute in size or quantity). Also, \*almost\*. \*How much/many\* and \*which\* are borrowed meanings.

機 (16)　キ；はた

幾# minute + 木 tree/wood → wooden \*device\* such as a \*loom\* in which cogs and other moving

parts come into minute contact → \*machine\* → \*opportunity\* (← interplay of circumstances that create a new opportunity).

希 (7)　キ

The relevant seal inscription form shows two sets of intersecting lines + 巾# cloth → long piece of cloth (compare 衣) with fine cross-stitches → \*rare\* (← rare, high-quality cloth) → \*desire\*/\*hope\* (← desire/hope to obtain something rare).

系 (7) ケイ

Variant form of 奚 (row of aligned slaves) → \*connect\*; \*link\*; \*lineage\*; \*relation\*; \*system\*.

係　(9) ケイ；かか（り・る・わり・わる）

系# connection + 人 person (→ human agency) → \*connect\*; \*link\*; \*lineage\*; \*relation\* → \*affect\*; \*modify\* (a verb). \*Person in charge\* is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of this character.

溪 (13) ケイ Shinjitai 渓 (11)

As per 奚# (aligned) + 水 water → stream/river aligned to the contours of a \*valley\*. Compare 谿.

雞 (18) ケイ；にわとり

As per 奚# (aligned) + 隹 short, squat bird → domesticated birds in alignment → \*chicken\*; \*hen\*; \*rooster\*; \*fowl\*.

鷄 (21) ケイ；にわとり　 Shinjitai 鶏 (19)

As per 奚# (aligned) + 鳥 bird → domesticated birds in alignment → \*chicken\*; \*hen\*; \*rooster\*; \*fowl\*. 鷄 is a variant form of 雞.

計 (9) ケイ；はか（らう・る）

十 (gather) + 言# words → speak in plotting → \*plot\*; \*arrange\* → \*see to\*; \*handle\*; \*measure\*; \*weigh\*; \*judge\*; \*determine\*; \*total\*; \*accounts\*.

携 (13) ケイ；たずさ（える・わる）

攜 is as per 雟# (carry) + 手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification) → \*carry\*; \*bring/take along\* → \*participate\*; \*be involved/engaged in\*. 隽 is a simplified form of 攜.

繼 (20) ケイ；つ（ぐ）　 Shinjitai 継 (13)

The right-hand element# combines 幺 slender thread (quadrupled) + bisecting lines → sever, then link the tips of threads extending beyond a framing object. 繼 adds 糸 thread for emphasis/clarification, but 繼 came to indicate \*inherit\*, \*succeed to\* or \*accede to\*, in the sense of linking generations. \*Resume\* is an associated meaning.

匸 (2) ケイ

A depiction of a long container (conceptually, beyond which objects stretch) → \*contain\*; \*conceal\*. Distinguish 匸 from 匚.

旡 (4)　キ

A depiction of a person with an engorged belly → \*engorgement\*. Also, \*choke\* (← choke in