Kanji Lesson by Takeshi

Class 1: Introduction

Takeshi (綾小路 武)

TV Takeshi

Table of contents

Contents

- About the instructor

- Introduction to the class

- Kanji basics: Part 1

  - What is Kanji?

  - Classifications of Kanji

Introduction

About the instructor

- Alias: Takeshi Ayanokoji (綾小路 武)
  あやのこうじたけし

- You can call me **Takeshi**.

- Final degree: Bachelor of Economics (Osaka University)

- Certifications

  - JLPT N1

  - Kanji Kentei Level 2 (漢字検定; Kanji Aptitude Test)
    かんじけんてい

Introduction

- Objective: "Let's master Kanji together"

- This class covers all 2,136 Joyo Kanji (常用漢字
じょうようかん じ
)

- Scared of the numbers? Fear not, you can take your time as much as you like!

- **Prerequisites**

  - Understanding Hiragana (ひらがな) and Katakana (カタカナ) .

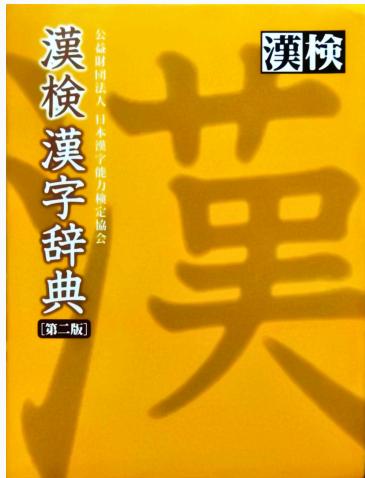 - JLPT is not necessary, but it helps understand the class better.

Introduction

- Viewers will be able to:
  - Write and read Kanji.
  - Determine the radical (部首) of Kanji.
  - Correctly determine okurigana (送り仮名).
  - Understand two-letter (熟語), three-letter (三字熟語) and four-letter compounds (四字熟語).
  - Differentiate Kanji words with the same sound (同音異義語).

Introduction

- The class will start from Japanese Grade 1 level of Kanji (Kanken Level 10) and finishes at Japanese High School level (Kanken Level 2).

- Exercises will be provided on my GitHub (refer to video description).

- Kanken Kanji Jiten (Second Edition)

- All Kanji will follow this dictionary, and
  じょうようかん じ ひょう
  常 用漢字 表 (Joyo Kanji Table)

  announced by the Cabinet of

  Japan.

Basics of Kanji

Basics of Kanji: What is Kanji?

- Kanji (漢字 かんじ) = Chinese characters

- Its origin is unclear.

- Japanese started using Kanji around AD 650, and developed 万葉仮名 まんようがな writing system.

- Kanji began its use of sound indication, and certain Kanji evolved into ひらがな and カタカナ.

Origin of Hiragana and Katakana

9

Basics of Kanji: Classifications of Kanji

- Pictogram (象形)
- Ideogram (指事)
- Compound (会意)
- Phono-semantic (形声)
- Derivative cognates (転注)
- Phonetic loan (仮借)

Classifications of Kanji: Pictogram

- Pictogram (象 形 しょうけい) = Letters representing a picture.

- There are about 600 Kanji of this type.

Classifications of Kanji: Pictogram

Classifications of Kanji: Ideogram

- Ideogram (指事 <ruby>し じ</ruby>) = Letters which indicate **abstract ideas**.

- Ex. 上 (Up), 下 (Down), 本 (Book, base), 刃 (Blade)

- 本 = 木 + 一

- 刃 = 刀 + 丶

- There are about 120 Kanji of this type.

Classifications of Kanji: Compound

- Compound (会意 かい い) = Kanji made up of 2 or more Pictogram and Ideogram.
- Newly made Kanji will have new meanings and pronunciation.
- 日 (Sun) + 月 (Moon) = 明 (Bright)
- 木 (Tree) + 木 (Tree) = 林 (Wood)
- 木 (Tree) + 木 (Tree) + 木 (Tree) = 森 (Forest)

Classifications of Kanji: Compound

- Some Compound Kanji are Made in Japan.
- Japanese-made Kanji = 国字(こくじ)
- 働 (Labor) = イ (Person) + 動 (Move)
- 畑 (Field) = 火 (Fire) + 田 (Rice field)
- 峠 (Mountain pass) = 山 (Mountain) + 上 (Up) + 下 (Down)

Classifications of Kanji: Phono-semantic

- Phono-semantic (形声 けいせい) = Kanji made from 2 parts.

  - Meaning part.

  - Sound part.

- About 80% of Kanji belong to this category.

Classifications of Kanji: Phono-semantic

Meaning part	Sound part	Kanji	Meaning
氵 (Water)	可 (カ)	河	River
	先 (セン)	洗	Wash
木 (Tree)	反 (ハン)	板	Board
	主 (チュウ)	柱	Pillar
糸 (Thread, yarn)	吉 (ケツ)	結	Tie, unite
	扁 (ヘン)	編	Knit

Classifications of Kanji: Phono-semantic

- Some Phono-semantic Kanji consist of a sound part which has its own meaning. As a subcategory, this kind of Kanji is called "Compound Phono-semantic" (会意形声)
- 圣 (ケイ) means "straight"
- 青 (セイ) means "blue, clear"

Classifications of Kanji: Phono-semantic

Part 1	Part 2	Kanji	Meaning
圣 (ケイ)	艹	茎	Stalk
	彳	径	Straight, small path
	車	軽	Going straight, light car
青 (セイ)	氵	清	Clear water
	日	晴	Clear sky
	争	静	Peaceful (clear of quarrel)

Types of Phono-semantic

- Phono-semantic Kanji consist of 2 parts:
    - Meaning part
    - Sound part
- These two parts have 8 ways of combination depending on their positions.

Combinations of Phono-semantic Kanji

No.	Meaning part	Sound part	Examples	Combination
1	Left side	Right side	鋼 (コウ)	金 + 岡
			体 (タイ)	イ + 本
			悟 (ゴ)	忄 + 吾
2	Right side	Left side	敗 (ハイ)	貝 + 攵
			彩 (サイ)	采 + 彡
			戦 (セン)	単 + 戈

Combinations of Phono-semantic Kanji

No.	Meaning part	Sound part	Examples	Combination
3	Above	Bottom	管 (カン)	竹 + 官
			崩 (ホウ)	山 + 朋
			突 (トツ)	穴 + 大
4	Bottom	Above	型 (ケイ)	土 + 刑
			想 (ソウ)	心 + 相
			響 (キョウ)	音 + 郷

Combinations of Phono-semantic Kanji

No.	Meaning part	Sound part	Examples	Combination
5	Outside	Inside	圏 (ケン)	囗 + 巻
			街 (ガイ)	行 + 圭
			匿 (トク)	匚 + 若
6	Inside	Outside	聞 (モン)	耳 + 門
			気 (キ)	メ + 气

Combinations of Phono-semantic Kanji

No.	Meaning part	Sound part	Examples	Combination
7	-	Top-right	趣 (シュ)	走 + 取
			近 (キン)	辶 + 斤
			魅 (ミ)	鬼 + 未
8	-	Bottom-right	房 (ボウ)	戸 + 方
			庭 (テイ)	广 + 廷
			癖 (ヘキ)	疒 + 辟

Classifications of Kanji: Derivative Cognates

- Derivative cognates (転注
てんちゅう
) = Extending the original meaning of
  Kanji into a new one, regardless of the origin of that character.

Examples of Derivative Cognates

Kanji	Original meaning	New meaning
楽	Music (音楽)	Fun (楽しい)
悪	Bad (悪い)	Hate (嫌悪)
好	Good (好い)	Like (好む)
節	Section (of bamboo) (節)	Chastity (貞節)

Classifications of Kanji: Phonetic Loan

- Phonetic loan (仮借 かしゃ) = Using a Kanji in a completely different meaning by borrowing its sound.
- This also includes foreign words like country names, which are similar to how Chinese use Hanzi to represent the sound of these words.
- 印度 いんど = India
- 英吉利 いぎりす = United Kingdom -> 英 エイ
- 亜米利加 あめりか = USA -> 米 ベイ

Examples of Phonetic Loan

Kanji	Sound	Original meaning	New meaning
東	トウ	Bag tied with a stick	East
豆	トウ	A tableware	Bean
来 (來)	ライ	Wheat	Come

Next Class

- Radical (部首 ぶ しゅ)
- Sounds of Kanji (音読み おん よ 、訓読み くん よ)
- Kanji compound (熟 語 じゅく ご)