

Part-3

During her stay in Japan Rina has mastered 70 basic Kanji Characters. Let's study them one by one.



漢字 Kanji

About Kanji

Kanji (漢字) is one of the three scripts used in the Japanese language. Kanji script consists of Chinese characters, which were first introduced to Japan in the 5th century via Korea.

Until 5th Century the Japanese language itself had no written form. In the 5th century Japanese Buddhist monks brought the Chinese text written in the Chinese language i.e. in Kanji (ideograms) to Japan. Since then Japan adopted Kanji Script.

電車

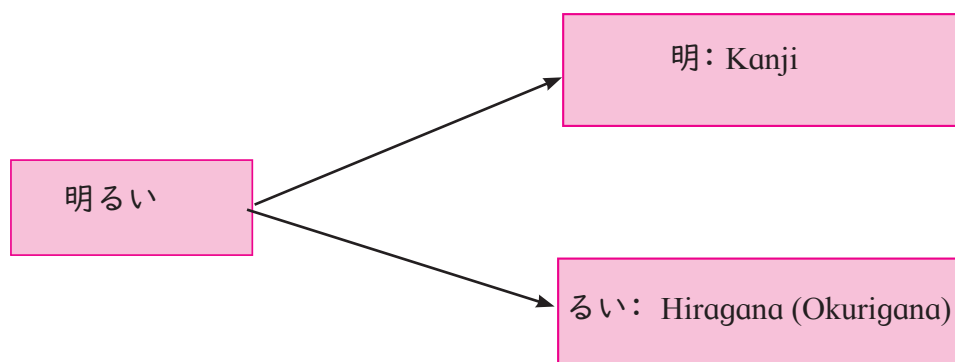
Kanjis are ideograms, i.e. each character has its own meaning and corresponds to a word. By combining kanji characters, more words are created and these words are called as “Jukugo”. For example, the combination of “electricity (電)” with “car (車)” means “電車—Densha” it means “train”.

Kanji Reading

When adopting the characters, the Japanese not only introduced the characters' original Chinese pronunciations, but also associated them with the corresponding, native Japanese words and their pronunciations/reading. As a result, most of the kanji characters have two readings, (On yomi- Chinese Reading. This is shown in Katakana) and (kun yomi-Japanese Reading. This is shown in Hiragana)

The Kun-reading (kun-yomi 訓読み) is the native Japanese reading associated with the meaning of a Kanji. Every kanji has 3D effect i.e. Meaning, On reading and Kun reading.

Kanjis are used for writing nouns, adjectives, adverbs and Verbs. But unlike the Chinese language, Japanese language cannot be written entirely in kanji. For grammatical endings and words without corresponding kanji the Hiragana syllables are used they are called “Okurigana”. See the example below.



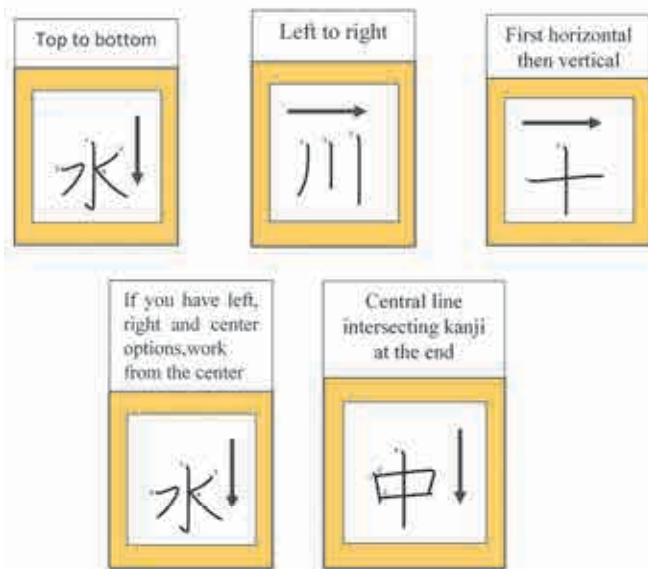
Number of Kanji Characters

There are approximately ten thousand of kanji characters, of which 2000 to 3000 are required to understand newspapers. A set of 2136 characters has been officially declared as the “kanji for everyday use required”.

Stroke Order

Each kanji character consists of stroke order (hitsu jun 筆順). The rules for stroke order were developed to facilitate writing and reading, and also to give a Kanji character a balanced and esthetical appearance.

As a general rule, Kanji characters are written from left to the right and from the top to the bottom. General rules to write kanji characters:

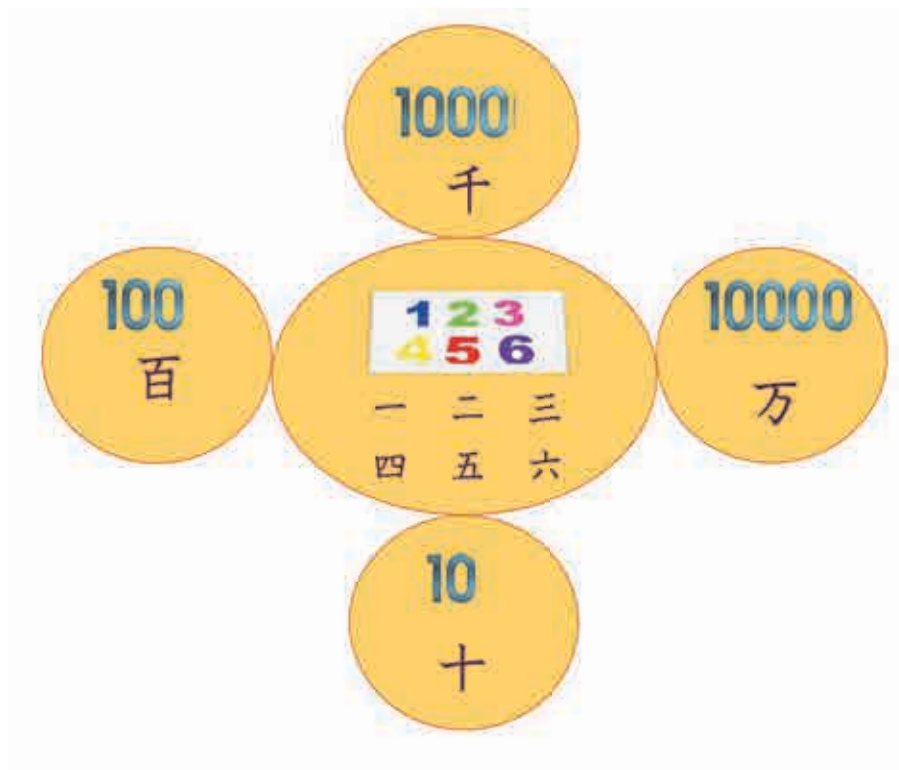


- Top to bottom
- Left to right
- First horizontal then vertical
- If you have left, right and center options, work from the center
- Central line intersecting kanji at the end

Let's begin and learn simple basic kanjis.



Unit 1
Kanji Characters of Numbers



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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
One	イチ	ひと・つ	- 一月 (いちがつ) January - 一本 (いっぽん) One long object * - 一人 (ひとり) One person

二

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Two	ニ	ふた・つ	- 二月 (にがつ) February - 二本 (にほん) Two long objects - 二人 (ふたり) Two persons

* For example banana, pencil, pen, tree etc.

三

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Three	サン	みっ・つ	▪ 三月（さんがつ） March • 三本（さんぼん） Three long objects • 三人（さんにん） Three persons

四

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Four	1. ヨン 2. シ	よっ・つ	▪ 四月（しがつ） April • 四本（よんぼん） Four long objectss • 四人（よにん） Four persons

五

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Five	ゴ	いつ・つ	• 五月（ごがつ） May • 五本（ごぼん） Five long objects • 五人（ごにん） Five persons

六

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Six	ロク	むっ・つ	▪ 六月（ろくがつ） June • 六本（ろっぽん） Six long objects • 六人（ろくにん） Six persons

七

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Seven	シチ	なな・つ	- 七月（しちがつ） July - 七本（ななほん） Seven long objects - 七人（ななにん／しちにん） Seven persons

八

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Eight	ハチ	やっ・つ	- 八月（はちがつ） August - 八本（はっぽん） Eight long objects - 八人（はちにん） Eight persons

九

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Nine	1. キュウ 2. ク	このの・つ	- 九月（くがつ） August - 九本（きゅうほん） Nine long objects - 九人（きゅうにん） Nine persons

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Ten	ジュウ	とお	- 十月（じゅうがつ） October - 十本（じゅうぽん） Ten long objectss - 十人（じゅうにん） Ten persons

百

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Hundred	1. ヒャク 2. ビャク 3. ピャク	—	▪ 三百 (さんびゃく) Three Hundred ▪ 四百 (よんひゃく) Four Hundred

千

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Thousand	1. セン 2. ゼン	—	• 三千 (さんぜん) Three Thousand • 八千 (はっせん) Eight Thousand

万

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Meaning	On Reading	Kun-Reading	Jukugo-Words
Ten Thousand	マン	—	• 一万 (いちまん) Ten Thousand • 二万 (にまん) Twenty Thousand

れんしゅうしましょう. Let's practice

1. かせんのかんじをかきましょう。Write the kanji of underlined word.

れいExample : かぞくは ごにんです。

ごにん : 五にん

1. たんじょうびは はちがつ です。

はちがつ :

2. でんわばんごうは 4 3 2 1 の 4 5 9 6です。

4 5 9 6 :

3. かさを さんぼん ください。

さんぼん :

2. ただしいよみかたに○をつけましょう。Let's draw a circle to the correct reading of the kanji.

れい Example: 九がつ

れい Example: しがつ ろくがつ くがつ じゅうがつ

1. 五百

よんひゃく ろっぴゃく にひゃく ごひゃく

2. 三ねん

にねん はちねん ごねん さんねん

3. 八千

ろくせん はっせん きゅうせん さんぜん

3. つぎの ばんごうの かんじをかきましょう。Write Following Numbers in Kanji.

1.

れい Example: ① 26: 二十六 ② 245: 二百四十五

35:

49:

387:

621:

768:

1000:

4. ただしくないかんじをけしましょう。Let's strike off the incorrect kanji.

れい Example: ごひゃく: 六百 五百

1. せんえん : 万えん 千えん

2. ろくせん : 七千 六千

3. よんじゅう : 八十 四十

Self-check:

If Score of above exercises is more than 80% go ahead. If not learn again.

