

## Rendaku

Rendaku is a phenomenon that can affect the pronunciations of kanji in compound words, when kanji appear in the middle or at the end of a word. Kanji pronunciations that contain the consonants in the following table can change as shown below.

ch → j (e.g., chi → ji)	k → g (e.g. koto → goto)
f → b (e.g., fun → bun)	s → z (e.g., sushi → zushi)
f → p (e.g., fuku → puku)	sh → j (e.g., sha → ja)
h → b (e.g., hito → bito)	t → d (e.g., toki → dokи)
h → p (e.g., hai → pai)	ts → z (e.g., tsukai → zukai)

If you cannot find a kanji pronunciation that you are seeking in the Pronunciation Index starting on page 524, it may have been affected by rendaku. If so, you may be able to use the table above to help find it.

In the Kanji Catalogue starting on page 401, we are unable to provide retrieval cues for all of the alternative pronunciations associated with the rendaku phenomenon. For this reason, you will sometimes see a kanji pronunciation without an accompanying cue in the Catalogue. For example, 人 hito, reference # 13, can also be pronounced “bito,” but only a retrieval cue for “hito” is provided. [The cue is “Hiro**Hito** was a 人 **hito** (person)...”] In reference # 13, and in some other kanji references, we use a superscripted “1” to identify pronunciations like bito<sup>1</sup>, for which no retrieval cues are provided. The footnote to which this superscript refers appears only on page 403.

In some words, two Japanese kanji are repeated, one after the other, and the second kanji is replaced by the repetition symbol ィ. If this repetition occurs with kanji pronunciations that are affected by rendaku, the second kanji may be pronounced differently from the first one, in accordance with the rules of rendaku. For example, 木々 kigi = many trees, 人々 hitobito = people, 口々 kuchiguchi = every mouth, 久々 hisabisa = a long time ago, 曰々 hibi = every day, 国々 kuniguni = countries, 時々 tokidoki = sometimes, 様々 samazama = various and 花々 hanabana = flowers.

For some words containing the repetition symbol ィ, like 少々 shoushou (a little) and 次々 tsugitsugi (one after the other), the rules of rendaku are not applied, and both kanji are pronounced in the same way. Words like 色々 iroiro (various), which don’t contain any of the consonants listed in the table above, are obviously not affected by rendaku.

## Kanji Pronunciation Index

The alphabetizing system for the Kanji Pronunciation Index places blank spaces first and then the letter "a," followed by the other letters in alphabetical order.

Some kanji pronunciations are non-standard, i.e., they are neither on'yomi (Chinese readings) nor kun'yomi (Japanese readings), and they only appear in a single word. We call these pronunciations **exceptional** because they are unique exceptions to the standard ways in which the kanji are pronounced, and we mark them with **italics** in this book.

For example, consider the word 海女 *ama* (female pearl diver), which we italicize in romaji. The **italics** tell us that the “a” pronunciation is exceptional, meaning that when “a” is used as a pronunciation for 海, it is neither on'yomi nor kun'yomi, and it is used in only one word. The same thing is true for the “ma” pronunciation in this word.

Japanese people use kanji combinations for some words without breaking the words into separate pronunciations for each kanji. In spite of that, we have chosen to break such words into separate pronunciations whenever it seemed practical to do so, so that it students would be able to look them up easily.

For example, 足袋 *tabi* (Japanese socks) is recognized as a single word by Japanese people, not as a combination of two kanji with different pronunciations that can be combined. The same thing is true for 今日 *kyou* (today), 一日 *tsuitachi* (the first of the month), 昨日 *kinou* (yesterday), 大人 *otona* (adult), and so forth. The pronunciations that we assign to the individual kanji in these words are only intended to help people who are looking up pronunciations in this book, and they have no other significance.

There are two words used in this book that contain kanji with exceptional pronunciations which cannot be practically divided into separate sounds for each kanji: *obaasan* お祖母さん (grandmother) and *ojiisan* お祖父さん (*ojiisan*) (grandfather). These two pronunciations, “*baa* 祖母” and “*jii* 祖父,” are the only ones listed in this Index as **combinations** of kanji.

Finally, please note that sometimes **stem forms** of verbs, i.e., pre-masu forms, are used as pronunciations for kanji. For example, *hanashi*, derived from 話します *hanashimasu* (to speak), is a possible pronunciation of 話. Also, 読 *yomi*, derived from 読みます *yomimasu* (to read), is a possible pronunciation of 読. In this Index, we include a number of pronunciations based on stem forms, but there are may be others that we omit.

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A 合 – 294	Atai 値 – 571	Ben 勉 – 474
A 悪 – 313	Atama 頭 – 93	Ben 便 – 481
A 海 – 337	Atara 新 – 389	Beni 紅 – 247
A 開 – 413	Atata 暖 – 38	Betsu 別 – 561
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Chi 値 – 571	Dan 暖 – 38	Eki 易 – 402
Chichi 父 – 143	Dan 男 – 109	Eki 役 – 557
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