How to Read the Listings in the Kanji Catalogue

The listing for 飲 (to drink) is reproduced in the left column for illustration purposes. See the column on the right for explanations of the material found in the different sections of the listing.

| 399. 飲 | PRONUNCIATIONS: Please note that, in some cases, pronunciations are italicized, indicating that they are “exceptional.” See the discussion of exceptional pronunciations on page 523. |
| MEANINGS: These are not intended to suggest that the kanji can necessarily be used by itself in Japanese writing. Many kanji, including this one, must be used in combination with other characters. |
| EXAMPLES: These are words that illustrate the use of this kanji, with their pronunciations and meanings. |
| DESCRIPTION: In this section, we describe the kanji as an image. 飲 contains two radicals. The radical on the left is 食, which is a kanji in its own right (# 398). Although 食 means “to eat,” it isn’t used as a word by itself, so we show it as part of the word 食(べる). The reason that we enclose べる in parentheses is to indicate that it isn’t really important here. The emphasis is on 食 as a component of 飲. |
| The radical on the right resembles an oil derrick, in our opinion. |
| CUES: “Cues” are verbal retrieval cues, or homophones, that match the pronunciations of the kanji. You will find two Cues in this sentence: “Nomads on the Moon” and “Insane.” Please compare these Cues to the pronunciations shown in the first section. Note that only the primary Cues “No” and “In,” which match the pronunciations of the kanji itself, are shown in bold capitalized text. The secondary Cue “Moon,” which is intended to help you to remember the “mu” sound in the word “nomu,” is simply capitalized. |
| The CUES section also demonstrates the use of at least one word that contains the kanji under discussion. In this example, that word is “飲む nomu.” The pronunciation of the kanji is shown in bold underlined text. |
| COMPARE: In this section we call attention to other kanji that are similar to the kanji under discussion, either because their images are similar, as in this example, or because their pronunciations are the same. The parentheses around ご suggest that ご is not the focus of this comparison. Instead, the focus is on 食. |

**PRONUNCIATIONS:** no, in  
**MEANINGS:** to drink or swallow  
**EXAMPLES:** 飲む nomu = to drink or swallow; 飲食 inshoku = drinking and eating  
**DESCRIPTION:** on the left, 食(べる) taberu (to eat, #398); on the right, an oil derrick which drinks oil from the ground  
**CUES:** when the Nomads on the Moon 食 (eat), they 飲む nomu (drink) oil from the ground and then act Insane  
**COMPARE:** (ご)飯 gohan = meal, cooked rice, #400
Kanji Catalogue

Simple Shapes

1. 一

PRONUNCIATIONS: ichi, hito, itsu, tsui*tachi

MEANING: one

EXAMPLES: 一 ichi = one; 一つ hitotsu = one item; 一人 hitori = one person; 唯一の yuiitsu no = only, exclusive; 一日 tsuitachi = 1st of the month; 一日 ichinichi = one day

CUES: I wrote the number 一 ichi (one) on my arm, and my skin became Itchy; Hiro Hito is 一人 hitori (one person), and he Eats 一つの hitotsu no (one) Sweet apple on 一日 tsuitachi (the 1st of the month)

2. 二

PRONUNCIATIONS: ni, futa, futsu*ka, ha

MEANING: two

EXAMPLES: 二 ni = two; 二つ futatsu = two items; 二人 futari = two people; 二日 futsuka = the 2nd of the month, two days; 二十日 hatsuka = the 20th of the month; 二十歳 hatachi = 20 years old

CUES: my Niece is 第二位 dai ni i (number two rank) in her class; I bought 二つの futatsu no (two) Full Tanks of helium and dropped one on my Feet (feet) on 二日 futsuka (the 2nd of the month) and the other on my Hats on 二十日 hatsuka (the 20th of the month)

3. 三

PRONUNCIATIONS: san, mitsu, mi, sha*misen

MEANING: three

EXAMPLES: 三 san = three; 三つ mitsu = three items; 三日 mikka = 3rd of the month; 三越 Mitsukoshi = name of a department store; 三味線 shamisen = three-stringed Japanese lute

CUES: Santa’s hat cost 三ドル sandoru (three dollars); when my family Meets him, we feed him a Meal, and he gives us 三つ mitsu no (three) presents to Share

4. 回

PRONUNCIATIONS: kai, mawa

MEANINGS: times, to rotate

EXAMPLES: 三回 sankai = three times; 回る mawaru = to turn, intransitive; 回す mawasu = to turn, transitive

DESCRIPTION: this looks like a square kite

CUES: I wash Kites in Madonna’s Washing machine and watch them 回る mawaru (rotate) many 回 kai (times)

5. 品

PRONUNCIATIONS: pin, shina, hin

MEANINGS: goods, grade, class

EXAMPLES: 返品 henpin = returned goods; 品物 shinamono = merchandise; 品質 hinsatsu = quality

DESCRIPTION: three boxes

CUES: these three Pink boxes contain Shiny Artistic 品物 shina mono (goods) for Hindus
6. 四
PRONUNCIATIONS: yon, yo, shi
MEANING: four EXAMPLES: 四yon = four; 四つyottsuzhree four items; 四日yokkay4th of the month; 四方shihou = all four directions DESCRIPTION: this looks like the floor diagram of a house; it has four sides but is divided into three spaces CUES: Yonder, there are 四件のyonken no (four) houses occupied by Yodelers, who perform 四つのyottsuzhree songs and take care of 羊 during all 四季shiki (four seasons)

7. 呂
PRONUNCIATION: ro MEANINGS: spine, backbone EXAMPLE: 風呂furo = bath, bathhouse, bathtub DESCRIPTION: this resembles two stacked vertebrae CUES: when I Row, my vertebrae stick out; afterwowards I put on my Robe and walk to the 風呂furo (bath)

8. 中
PRONUNCIATIONS: chuu, naka, juu
MEANINGS: inside, middle EXAMPLES: 散歩中sanpo chuu = in the middle of a walk; 真ん中mannaka = middle; 中村Nakamura = a family name; 一日中ichinichijuu = all day long DESCRIPTION: this kanji resembles yakitori (skewered chicken) CUES: 中村さんNakamura-san (Mr. Nakamura) Chews on some yakitori 中naka (inside) his car parked outside the National Cathedral and drinks Juice COMPARE: 申すmousu = to humbly say, # 10

9. 虫
PRONUNCIATIONS: mushi, chuu
MEANING: insect EXAMPLES: 虫mushi = worm, insect, bug; 害虫gaichuu = harmful insects DESCRIPTION: 中naka (inside, # 8) with an insect on the ground below CUES: I heard a Mushy song about this 虫mushi (insect), which lies on the ground and tries to go 中 (inside) a house to Chew up the furniture

10. 申
PRONUNCIATIONS: mou, moushi, shin
MEANING: to humbly say EXAMPLES: 申すmousu = to humbly speak; 申込書moushikomisho = application form; 申請するshinsei suru = to apply or request DESCRIPTION: two lips stitched together CUES: Moses 申すmousu (speaks humbly) after his lips are stitched together with thread on a Mormon Ship by a Shinto priest COMPARE: 中naka = inside, middle, # 9

11. 立
PRONUNCIATIONS: ta, ri, ritsu, da, dachi
MEANING: to stand EXAMPLES: 立つtatsu = to stand; 立派rippa = splendid; 起立するkiritsu suru = to stand up; 目立つmedatsu = to stand out; 夕立yuudachi = evening rain shower DESCRIPTION: a tattletale standing on two shaky legs CUES: this Tattletale 立つtatsu (stands) and faces his critics, who Ridicule him for wearing Ritz clothes and for driving an old Datsun and eating Damp Cheese NOTE: a number of kanji pronunciations are understood to include a small つtsu at the end, which means that consonants that follow them are doubled, or "hardened"; for example, in 立派rippa (splendid), where ri is followed by a consonant, the p is doubled; in contrast, in 起立kiritsu (to stand up), where there is no consonant following ri, the つtsu becomes a large っtsu and is voiced
12. 泣
PRONUNCIATIONS: na, kyuu
MEANING: to cry  EXAMPLE: 泣く naku = to cry; 泣ぐ goukyuu = lamentations, wailing  DESCRIPTION: on the left, a water radical, suggesting a connection with water, like crying; on the right, 立 (つ) tatsu (to stand, # 11)  CUES: when Nancy is Cooped up in the house, she 立 (stands) and 泣く naku (cries), and she looks Cute
ALSO COMPARE: 位 kurai = rank, # 270
wind-swept hair 入る hairu (enters) the house and says "Hi Ruth" before giving her some asymmetrical fruit from Nyuuuyokoku (New York) that was Irradiated to kill germs

13. 人
PRONUNCIATIONS: hito, bito1, to, nin, jin, ri, na  MEANING: person  EXAMPLES: 人 hito = person; 恋人 koibito = lover; 玄人 kurouto = expert, professional; 素人 shirouto = amateur; 人間 ningen = human being; 日本人 nihonjin = Japanese person; 一人 hitori = 1 person; 大人 otona = adult  DESCRIPTION: a symmetrical person with two long legs  CUES: HiroHito was a 人 hito (person) with long legs and Toes who admired Ninjas and who wore Jeans when he wanted to look Really Natural  COMPARE: 入(る) hairu = to enter, #14; 八 hachi = eight, # 15

14. 入
PRONUNCIATIONS: hai, nyuu, i  MEANINGS: to enter, to put into  EXAMPLES: 入る hairu = to enter; 入学 nyuugaku = entering a school; 入れる ireru = to put into; 気に入ると ki ni iru = to like  DESCRIPTION: compared to 人 hito (person, # 13), 入 is more asymmetrical, with a line at the top extending to the left, suggesting wind-swept hair  CUES: this 入 (person) with

1  "Bito" follows the rules of rendaku (see p. 522). The superscript 1 indicates that we don’t provide a separate retrieval cue for it.

15. 八
PRONUNCIATIONS: hachi, you, ya, ha  MEANING: eight  EXAMPLES: 八 hachi = eight; 八日 youka = the 8th of the month, eight days; 八つ yattsu = eight items; 八百 happyaku = eight hundred  DESCRIPTION: 八 resembles the Eiffel tower; in addition, both "Eiffel" and "eight" start with "ei"  CUES: as we left to see the Eiffel tower, 八 hachi (eight) chicks were Hatching from Yolks on our Yacht in the Harbor  COMPARE: 人 hito = person, # 13

16. 公
PRONUNCIATIONS: kou, ooyake, ku  MEANING: public  EXAMPLES: 公園 kouen = park; 公 ooyake = public; 公家 kuge = the Imperial court  DESCRIPTION: at the top, 八 hachi (eight,# 15); at the bottom, the katakana character ム mu (the sound made by a cow)  CUES: in the 公園 kouen (park), there are 八 (eight) ム (cows) with thick Coats, and several Old Yaks, for 公の ooyake no (public) use on Cooler days

17. 六
PRONUNCIATIONS: roku, mui, mu, ro  MEANING: six  EXAMPLES: 六人 rokunin = six people; 六日 muika = the 6th of the month, six days; 六つ yattsu = six objects; 六本木 Roppongi = a district in Tokyo  DESCRIPTION: a mother with a wide skirt  CUES: confined in the Lockup, a mother hen gathers 六 roku (six) chicks under her skirt, to keep them away from Muy (very, in Spanish) hungry Moonies who might want to Roast them
18. 十
PRONUNCIATIONS: ta, too, jiu, ju, ji, tsu
MEANINGS: ten, full  EXAMPLES: 二十歳 hatachi = 20 years old;  十 too = 10; 十日 tooka = 10 days, the 10th of the month; 十 juu = 10; 十分 juubun = enough; 十分 jippun, also pronounced jippun, = 10 minutes; 二十日 hatsuka = the 20th of the month
NOTE: 十分 juubun (enough) and 十分 jippun, also pronounced jippun (10 minutes), are spelled in the same way
DESCRIPTION: this looks like a "t" which is the first letter of the word "ten" in English and the word "too" in romaji
CUES: we have 十 jiuu (ten) Tall cans of Tomato Juice in the Jeep, in a Tsuitcase (suitcase)

19. 高
PRONUNCIATIONS: taka, kou, daka
MEANINGS: high, tall, expensive
EXAMPLES: 高い takai = high, tall, expensive; 高校 koukou = high school; 円高 endaka = rise in the yen’s value
DESCRIPTION: a tower made from tall cans, with a roof on top  CUES: these Tall Cans have been stacked to create a 高い takai (tall) Korean tower in Dakha, with a roof

20. 七
PRONUNCIATIONS: nana, shichi, nano
MEANING: seven  EXAMPLES: 七つ nanatsu = seven items; 七時 shichiji = 7:00; 七日 nanoka = 7th of the month, seven days
DESCRIPTION: this is an upside-down 7
CUES: Nancy’s Nanny gave her 七 nana (seven) bites of Sheep Cheese for taking a Nap with Norma

21. 宅
PRONUNCIATION: taku  MEANINGS: house, home  EXAMPLES: お宅 otaku = your honorable home; 帰宅 kitaku = the return home
DESCRIPTION: at the top, a bad haircut; at the bottom, 七 shichi (seven, # 20), wearing a hat  CUE: in this 宅 taku (home), 七 (seven) Tall people are Cooped up, wearing hats to hide their bad haircuts
COMPARE: 民 min = people, # 375

22. 千
PRONUNCIATION: sen, chi, zen
MEANING: thousand  EXAMPLES: 千 sen = 1,000; 千葉 Chiba = name of a prefecture in Japan; 三千 sanzen = 3,000
DESCRIPTION: this resembles the katakana character チ chi, which could stand for cheese
CUES: a Senator keeps 千 sen (1,000) blocks of Cheese at the Zen center

23. 手
PRONUNCIATIONS: te, de, shu, ta, zu
MEANING: hand  EXAMPLES: 右手 migi te = right hand; 派手 hade = flashy, colorful; 運転手 untenshu = driver; 下手 heta = unskilful; 上手 jouzu = skillful
DESCRIPTION: a hand belonging to Ted Cruz, with six fingers at the top and a wrist curving to the left at the bottom  CUES: when Ted Shooed away a Tarantula in Zurich, I noticed that his 手 te (hand) has six fingers

24. 又
PRONUNCIATION: mata  MEANING: again  EXAMPLES: 又 mata = again; 又は mata wa = alternatively  DESCRIPTION: a simple table belonging to a matador
CUE: the Matador liked this table so much that he bought it 又 mata (again)
COMPARE: 文 bun = sentence, # 25
25. 文
PRONUNCIATIONS: mon, bun, bumi
MEANINGS: sentence, script, culture
EXAMPLES: 文句 monku = complaint; 文 bun = sentence; 文化 bunka = culture; 恋文 koibumi = love letter
DESCRIPTION: an object, possibly a cultural artifact, on 又 (“again,” # 24), but this resembles a simple table
CUES: a Monk says that Daniel Boone’s business is Booming, and as a result he has donated an artifact reflecting his 文化 bunka (culture) which we are displaying on this 又 (table)

26. 支
PRONUNCIATIONS: shi, sasa, tsuka
MEANINGS: to support; a branch
EXAMPLES: 支社 shisha = branch office; 支店 shiten = branch store; 支持する shiji suru = to support; 支える sasaeru = to support; 差支え sashitsukae = hindrance, inconvenience, trouble
DESCRIPTION: at the top, 士 shi (man, warrior, # 66), which helps us to pronounce this; at the bottom, 又 mata ("again," # 24), but this resembles springy legs
CUES: according to our sales spreadsheets, this 士 (man) with 又 (springy legs) who works at our 支社 shisha (branch office) is selling lots of Salty Sandwiches, ever since we sent him a Tsuitcase (suitcase) of Caffeine
COMPARE: 枝 eda = branch, # 128

27. 卒
PRONUNCIATIONS: sotsu, so
MEANINGS: to end, sudden
EXAMPLES: 卒業 sotsugyou = graduation; 卒倒する sottou suru = to faint or swoon
DESCRIPTION: a double-breasted kimono, hanging from a hanger
CUES: Sottish Superman wore a double-breasted kimono to his 卒業 sotsugyou (graduation), where he sang a Solo

28. 卵
PRONUNCIATIONS: tamago, ran
MEANING: egg
EXAMPLES: 卵 tamago = egg; ゆで卵 yudetamago = boiled egg; 卵黄 ran’ou = egg yolk
DESCRIPTION: two eggs containing yolks
CUE: I will eat these two 卵 tamago (eggs) with Tamale and Goat cheese on my Ranch

29. 点
PRONUNCIATIONS: ta, tsu, ten
MEANINGS: spot, dot
EXAMPLES: 点てる tateru = to perform the tea ceremony; 点く tsuku = to ignite or turn on, intransitive; 点ける tsukeru = to ignite or turn on, transitive; 百点 hyakuten = 100 points
DESCRIPTION: a portable cannon, which is small enough to be stored in a tsuitcase (suitcase), on a walking platform
CUES: a Tall starter removes this small portable cannon from his Tsuitcase (suitcase), aims it at the starting 点 ten (dot) and 点ける tsukeru (ignites) it to signal the start of a Tennis match

30. 久
PRONUNCIATIONS: kyuu, hisa, ku
MEANINGS: long time, lasting
EXAMPLES: 永久に eikyuu ni = forever, permanently; 久しぶり hisashiburi = after a long time; 屋久島 Yakushima = an island south of Kyushu
DESCRIPTION: a cute dancer with a ponytail
CUES: this Cute dancer asks for a man’s sash, but she waits until after His Sash Is Buried under the chicken Coop
久しご hiashiburi (for a long time)
31. 当
PRONUNCIATIONS: tou, ata, a
MEANINGS: just, right  EXAMPLES:
本当 hontou = truth; 当然 touzen =
naturally, deservedly; 当り atari = per,
apiece, used as a suffix (this can also be
spelled 当たり); 当たり前の atarimae
no = right, reasonable, natural; 手当て
teate = medical treatment; 突き当たり
tsukiatari = T-intersection  DESCRIPTION: at
the top, a switch with three prongs; at the
bottom, a tool with three toes for dividing toast
CUES: this is a tool with a three-pronged
switch and three Toes which will 当然
touzen (naturally) divide Toast in an 当た
り前の atarimae no (reasonable) way, and
they are using it at the Atari company
to prevent Arguments

32. 日
PRONUNCIATIONS: hi, nichi, bi, ka, jitsu,
you, ni, nou, su, ta, tachi, te
MEANINGS: day, sun
EXAMPLES: 日にち hinichi = date; 一日
ichinichi = one day; 日曜日 nichiyoubi =
Sunday; 二日 futsuka = the 2nd day of the
month, 2 days; 二十日 hatsuka = the 20th
of the month; 平日 heijitsu = week day; 今日
kyou = today; 日本 Nihon = Japan; 日光
Nikkou = sunshine, a town and a national park
in Japan; 昨日 kinou = yesterday; 明日
asu = tomorrow; 明日 ashita = tomorrow;
一日 tsuittachi = the first day of the month;
明後日 asatte = the day after tomorrow,
usually written あさって   NOTE:
ichinichi and tsuittachi are both spelled 一日;
also, asu and ashita are both spelled 明日
DESCRIPTION: a rectangle divided into two
halves  CUES: 日光 nikou (sunshine)
brings Heat to the Niches near the Beach,
where we Call on Jittery Superintendents,
Yogis and Neanderthals with long Noses to
Supervise Taxi drivers who are at Taching roof
signs to their Texas-sized cabs

33. 昔
PRONUNCIATIONS: mukashi, seki, jaku
MEANINGS: old days, ancient times
EXAMPLE: 昔 mukashi = olden times;
昔日 sekijitsu = old times; 今昔 konjaku =
past and present  DESCRIPTION: at the top,
bushes; at the bottom, 日 hi (sun, # 32)
CUES: nowadays old people fund Museums
with Cash, but in 昔 mukashi (the olden
days), all they had was the 日 (sun), a couple
of bushes, and a Selfish King named Jack

34. 早
PRONUNCIATIONS: haya, baya, sou, sa
MEANING: early  EXAMPLES: 早い hayai
= early; 素早い subayai = speedy, nimble;
早退 soutai = leaving early; 早速 sassoku
= immediately, sudden  DESCRIPTION: a 日
hi (sun, # 32) on an unstable base; this
resembles a spinning top  CUES: Prince
Harry’s Yacht features a spinning top that was
Sold in Saskatchewan and spins 早い hayai
(early) in the morning
COMPARE: 速(い) hayai = fast, # 359

35. 晩
PRONUNCIATION: ban  MEANING: evening
EXAMPLE: 今晚 konban = this evening
DESCRIPTION: the vertical 日 hi (sun, # 32)
on the left is cancelled by the horizontal 日 on
sturdy legs on the right, causing things to be
dark; there’s a fish head on top of the 日
on the right, and there are long banana tree roots
below it  CUE: we eat fish and Bananas in the
晩 ban (evening), when 日 (suns) cancel
each other, and it’s dark
COMPARE: 映画 eiga = movie, # 36
36. 映
PRONUNCIATIONS: utsu, ei, ha
MEANINGS: to be imaged, to be reflected
EXAMPLES: 映す utsusu = to project on a screen, or to be reflected; 映画 eiga = movie; 映える haeru = to shine or look attractive
DESCRIPTION: these two 日 (suns, # 32) do not cancel each other, as they do in 晩 ban (evening, # 35); instead, the 日 on the right is a movie screen on a stand, and the projector utilizes the 日 on the left
CUES: by Utilizing this 日 (Sun) on the left, we can 映す utsusu (project) 映画 eiga (movies) about Apes in Hawaii onto the screen on the right
ALSO COMPARE: 英 (語) eigo = the English language, # 43

37. 晴
PRONUNCIATIONS: ha, ba, sei, har*umi
MEANING: to clear up
EXAMPLES: 晴れる hareru = to clear up, to be sunny, to refresh (spirits), to be cleared (of a suspicion); 素晴らしい subarashii = wonderful; 晴天 seiten = fair weather; 春海通り Harumi Doori = name of a street in Tokyo
DESCRIPTION: on the left, 日 (sun, # 32); on the right, 青 (い) aoi (blue, # 155)
CUES: in Hawaii, when the weather 晴れる hareru (clears up), we see this 日 (sun) next to a 青 (blue) sky, and we can sit in a Bar and watch Sails moving out in the Harbor
COMPARE: 暗 (い) kurai = dark, # 268

38. 暖
PRONUNCIATIONS: atata, dan
MEANING: warm (atmosphere)
EXAMPLES: 暖かい atatakai = warm (atmosphere); 暖める atatameru = to warm up the atmosphere, transitive; 暖房 danbou = heating, heater
DESCRIPTION: on the left, 日 (sun, # 32); on the lower right, 友 (達) tomodachi (friend, # 459), who radiates waves of heat above his head
CUES: my 友 (friend) Ataturk with a Tan radiates heat as he sits in this 暖かい atatakai (warm) 日 (sun) and waits for Dan's Boy
COMPARE: 温 (かい) atatakai = warm (objects), # 257; 温 (める) atatameru = to warm up an object, such as water, # 257

39. 円
PRONUNCIATIONS: en, maru, maro
MEANINGS: yen, round, circle
EXAMPLES: 千円 sen’en = 1,000 yen; 円い marui = round; 円やか maroyaka = round, mild taste, mellow
DESCRIPTION: 日 (sun, # 32) on its side, with legs
CUES: 千円 sen’en (1,000-yen) coins are 円い marui (round) like the 日 (sun); if they grow legs, they will be able to dance and Entertain people who are Marooned in Mars Orbit
COMPARE: 丸 (い) marui = round, # 866, which is the kanji that is usually used to spell marui = round

40. 声
PRONUNCIATIONS: koe, sei
MEANING: voice
EXAMPLES: 声 koe = voice; 声援 seien = cheering, support
DESCRIPTION: at the top, 士 shi (man, warrior, # 66); below that, 日 (day, or sun, # 32) on its side, with a handle on the left, resembling a co-ed holding a mask, with openings for her eyes
CUES: this 士 (man)’s girlfriend is a Co-Ed who wears a mask when they go Sailing; the mask doesn’t block her mouth or affect her 声 koe (voice)