

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:
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, 欠 (an
oil derrick) which
drinks oil from the
ground

CUES: when the
Nomads on the Moon
食 (eat), they behave
like this 欠 (oil
derrick) and 飲む
nomu (drink) oil
from the ground, and
then they act **Insane**

COMPARE: (こ)飯
gohan = meal,
cooked rice, # 400

PRONUNCIATIONS: Please note that, in some cases, pronunciations are italicized, indicating that they are “exceptional.” See the discussion of exceptional pronunciations on page 510.

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, 欠, 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: “**N**omads on the Moon” and “**I**nsane.” 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 欠 suggest that 欠 is *not* the focus of this comparison. Instead, the focus is on 飯.

Kanji Catalogue

Simple Shapes

0001. 一 PRONUNCIATIONS: **ichi, hito, itsu, tsui** MEANING: one

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

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) **Tsuite** (sweet) apple on 一日 **tsuitachi** (the 1st of the month)

0002. 二 PRONUNCIATIONS: **ni, futa, futsu, 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 **Foots** (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)

0003. 三 PRONUNCIATIONS: **san, mitsu, mi, sha** MEANING: three EXAMPLES: 三 san = three; 三つ mitsu = three items; 三越 Mitsukoshi = name of a department store; 三日 mikka = the 3rd of the month; 三味線 shamisen = three-stringed Japanese lute

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

0004. 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 this **Kite** in **Madonna**'s **Washing machine** and watch it 回る **mawaru** (rotate) many 回 **kai** (times)

0005. 品 PRONUNCIATIONS: **pin, shina, hin** MEANINGS: goods, grade, class

EXAMPLES: 返品 henpin = returned goods; 品物 shinamono = merchandise; 品質 hinshitsu = quality DESCRIPTION: three boxes CUES: these three **Pink** boxes contain **Shiny** Artistic 品物 **shina**mono (goods) for **Hindus**

0006. 四 PRONUNCIATIONS: **yon, yo, shi** MEANING: four EXAMPLES: 四 yon =

four; 四つ yottsu = four items; 四日 yokka = 4th of the month; 四季 shiki = four seasons DESCRIPTION: this looks like the floor diagram of a house; it has four sides but is divided into three spaces CUES: over **Yonder**, there are 四件の **yonken** no (four) houses with four sides like this, occupied by **Yodelers** who perform 四つの **yottsu** no (four) songs and take care of **Sheep** during all 四季 **shiki** (four seasons)

COMPARE: 西 nishi = west, # 464

0007. 呂 PRONUNCIATION: **ro** MEANINGS: spine, backbone

EXAMPLE: 風呂 furo = bath, bathhouse, bathtub DESCRIPTION: this resembles two stacked vertebrae CUES: when I **Row**, these vertebrae stick out; afterwards I put on my **Robe** and walk to the 風呂 **furo** (bath)

0008. 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 this yakitori 中 naka (inside) his car parked outside the National Cathedral and drinks Juice COMPARE: 申(す) mousu = to humbly say, # 10; 内 uchi = inside, # 396

0009. 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 story about this 虫 mushi (insect), which lies on the ground and tries to go 中 (inside) a house to Chew up the furniture

0010. 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 these lips are stitched together with thread on a Mormon Ship by a Shinto priest

COMPARE: 中 naka = inside, middle, # 8

0011. 立 PRONUNCIATIONS: ta, ri,

ritsu, da, dachi, date 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; (天橋)立

amanohashidate = a sandbar in Kyoto Prefecture DESCRIPTION: a tattletale standing on two shaky

legs CUES: this Tattletale 立つ tatsu (stands) and faces his critics, who Ridicule him for wearing Ritzzy clothes and for driving an old Datsun, eating Damp Cheese, and carrying a Damp Teddy bear COMPARE: 泣(く) naku = to cry, # 12; 位 kurai = rank, # 270

0012. 泣 PRONUNCIATIONS: na, kyuu

MEANING: to cry EXAMPLE: 泣く naku = to

cry; 号泣 goukyuu = lamentations, wailing DESCRIPTION: on the left, a water radical, which reminds us of tears; 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) tears like this, and she looks Cute

ALSO COMPARE: 位 kurai = rank, # 270

0013. 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 like these 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

0014. 入 PRONUNCIATIONS: hai, nyuu,

i, iri 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 ki ni iru = to like; 入口

iriguchi = entrance DESCRIPTION: compared to

人 hito (person, # 13), 入 is more asymmetrical, with a line at the top extending to the left, suggesting

¹ “Bitō” follows the rules of rendaku (see p. 509). The superscript ¹ indicates that we don’t provide a separate retrieval cue for it.

wind-swept hair **CUES:** this 人 (person) with this wind-swept hair 入る hairu (enters) the house and says "Hi Ruth" before giving her some asymmetrical fruit from **Nyuu**yooku (New York) that was Irradiated to kill germs, but Ruth is Irritated by this

0015. 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, which begins with "ei," like the word "eight"
CUES: as we left to see this Eiffel tower, 八 hachi (eight) chicks were **Hatching** from **Yolks** on our **Yacht** in the **Harbor**
COMPARE: 人 hito = person, # 13

0016. 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) like these with thick **Coats**, and several **Old Yaks**, for 公の ooyake no (public) use on **Cooler** days

0017. 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 muttsu = six objects; 六本木 Roppongi = a district in Tokyo
DESCRIPTION: a mother with a wide skirt
CUES: confined in the **Lockup**, this mother hen gathers 六 roku (six) chicks under this skirt, to keep them away from **Muy** (very, in Spanish) hungry **Moonies** who might want to **Roast** them

0018. 十 **PRONUNCIATIONS:** ta, too, juu, 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 juppun, also pronounced jippun, = 10 minutes; 二十日 hatsuka = the 20th of the month
NOTE: 十分 juubun (enough) and 十分 juppun (10 minutes), which can be also pronounced jippun, are written 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 juu (ten) **Tall** cans of **Tomato Juice** for the **Jury** in the **Jeep**, in a **Tsuitcase** (suitcase), and we've arranged them in the shape of a 十

0019. 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 this 高^い takai (tall) **Courthouse** in **Dakha**, with a roof
COMPARE: 橋 hashi = bridge, # 139

0020. 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**

0021. 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, which resembles a roof; at the bottom, 七 shichi (seven, # 20), wearing a hat **CUE:** in this 宅 taku (home), 七 (seven) **Tall** people are **Cooped** up under this roof, and they all wear hats like this