

## 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:** (ニ)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: “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 ニ suggest that ニ 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; 一ツ hitotsu = one item; 一人 hitori = one person; 唯一の yuiitsu no = only, exclusive; 一日 tsuitachi = 1<sup>st</sup> of the month

**CUES:** I wrote the number 一 ichi (one) on my arm, and my skin became **Itchy**; HiroHito is 一人 hitori (one person), and he **Eats** 一つの hitotsu no (one) **Tsuite** (sweet) apple on 一日 tsuitachi (the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month, two days; 二十日 hatsuka = the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> of the month) and the other on my **Hats** on 二十日 hatsuka (the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> of the month; 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**

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

**0006. 四 PRONUNCIATIONS:** yon, yo,

**shi MEANING:** four **EXAMPLES:** 四 yon = four; 四つ yottsu = four items; 四日 yokka = 4<sup>th</sup> 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 yunken 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 Ritzy 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,

bito<sup>1</sup>, to, nin, jin, ri, na MEANING: person

**EXAMPLES:** 人 hito = person; 恋人 koibito = lover; 玄人 kurototo = 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

<sup>1</sup> “Bito” follows the rules of rendaku (see p. 509). The superscript <sup>1</sup> 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 **Nyuuyooku** (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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> of the month; 十 juu = 10; 十分 juubun = enough; 十分 juppun, also pronounced jippun, = 10 minutes; 二十日 hatsuka = the 20<sup>th</sup> 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 = 7<sup>th</sup> 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