

漢
字
を
教
え
る

Japanese CPD, 16th February 2024
Post-Primary Languages Ireland

Teaching Kanji

Keisuke Honda | 本田 啓輔
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Dublin City University

Introduction

Person

Name: **Keisuke Honda** | 本田 啓輔
Places: Tokyo > Dublin > Tsukuba > London > St Albans > Dublin
Hobbies: Languages; Writing systems; Manga; Music; Food; Travelling

Work

JFL: 2012 – Present
Affiliation: Dublin City University (DCU Futures + SALIS)
Duties: JFL classes (A1 – A2) + activities (incl. JP writing system)



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Research

Subject: Grapholinguistics | 文字論, 文字言語学
Interests: JP writing system + typology of writing systems
ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4228-5406>



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About me

Introduction > 1 > 2 > 3

Person

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About me

Introduction > 1 > 2 > 3



Applied Language and Translation Studies (ALTS)

JP language modules

JP-related modules

Second language

Translation / Linguistics modules

Business Studies International (INTB)

JP language and culture modules

Business modules

DCU Futures

Main degree programme

JP elective



ng



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[Click here](#)

Personal
Name
Places
Hobbies
Work
JFL:
Affiliated
Duties
Research
Subjects
Interests
ORCID

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Personal Grapholinguistics

Name *[T]he interdisciplinary field focused on the study of all aspects of writing.*

Places (Meletis & Dürscheid 2022:2)

Hobbies My research work

- JP writing system: Kanji, hiragana, katakana, rōmaji, okurigana
- Theory of writing and typology of writing systems
- Comparison (Akkadian, Egyptian, Mayan, etc.)
- JFL in UK Higher Education

Research My other research interests

- JFL and JP writing system teaching
- JFL teachers' perception of JP writing system
- JP phonology, morphology, word-formation

ORCID



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[Click here](#)

L1 Japanese
 English
 Other

JFL Primary
 Secondary
 Tertiary
 Private
 Saturday Class (heritage)
 N/A

Kanji JFL
 Heritage
 Not teaching



**Various backgrounds
+ common interest**



ID: 142-495-447

<https://vevox.app/#/m/142495447>

寺 /JI, tera/ ‘temple’ – Which reading is originally from Japanese?

1. /JI/
2. /tera/
3. Both /JI/ and /tera/
4. Neither /JI/ nor /tera/



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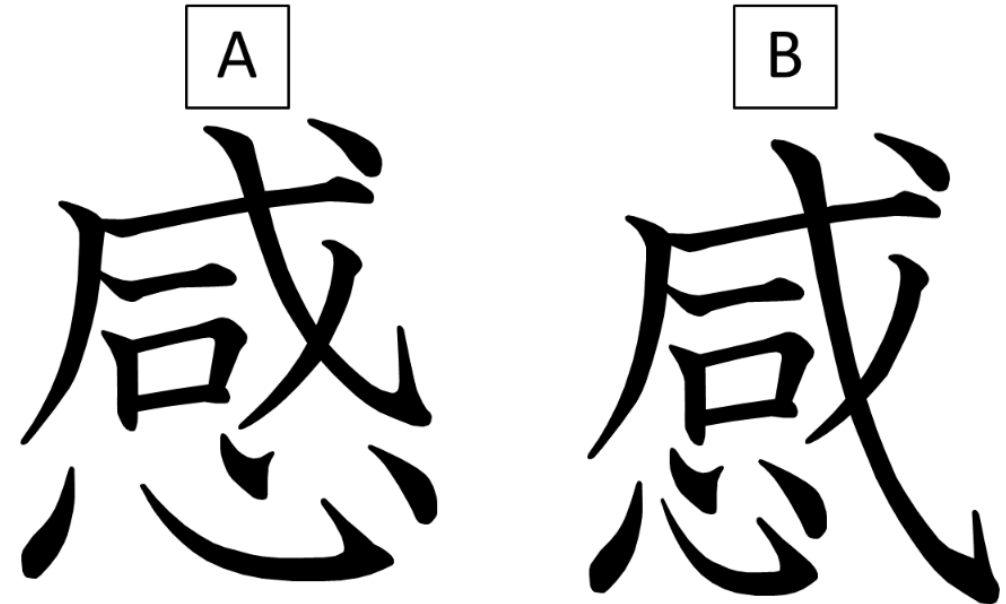
Neither reading originates in Japanese. Today, /JI/ is classified as *on yomi* and /tera/ as *kun yomi*. However, historically /JI/ was imported from Chinese and /tera/ was from either Sanskrit or Korean.



/KAN(jir-u)/ ‘feel’ – Which kanji is correct, A or B?

1. A
2. B
3. Both A and B
4. Neither A nor B

A B




/KAN(jir-u)/ ‘feel’ – Which kanji is correct, A or B?

1. A
2. B
3. Both A and B
4. Neither A nor B

It depends on what you mean by ‘correct’. Option A is widely used in printing, including textbooks. Option B is the traditional kanji form commonly used in calligraphy.

A

B



挨拶 /AI.SATSU/ ‘greeting’ – What do 挨 and 拶 mean individually?

1. ‘Meet’ and ‘Talk’
2. ‘Push’ and ‘Shove’
3. ‘Peace’ and ‘Harmony’
4. ‘Argue’ and ‘Fight’



挨拶 /AI.SATSU/ ‘greeting’ – What do 挨 and 拶 mean individually?

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The word 挨拶 derives from 一挨一拶, meaning ‘one push, one shove’. It represents dialogical catechesis in the Zen tradition, where two monks exchange verbal – or even physical – blows to see the counterpart’s understanding of Buddhism.



葡萄 /BU.DŌ/ ‘grape’ – What do 葡 and 萄 represent individually?

1. Meanings: ‘Portugal’ and ‘Fruit’
2. Sounds: /BU/ and /DŌ/
3. Both meanings and sounds
4. Neither meanings nor sounds



葡萄 /BU.DŌ/ ‘grape’ – What do 葡 and 萄 represent individually?

1. Meanings: ‘Portugal’ and ‘Fruit’

2. Sounds: /BU/ and /DŌ/

3. Both meanings and sounds

4. Neither meanings nor sounds

The kanji 葡 and 萄 were invented in Chinese to indicate the pronunciation of the word for ‘grape’, which was originally imported from Greek or Uzbek. Neither character conveys any meaning on its own.



What do (we think) we know about kanji?

What do (we think) we teach about kanji?

Revisiting 'kanji teaching'

1. Why teach kanji?
2. Teach what? Teach how?
3. Activities? Resources?

Revisiting 'kanji teaching'

1. Why teach kanji?

- “ I don't teach kanji
- “ Unfamiliarity with Kanji in general and with stroke order

2. Teach what? Teach how?

3. Activities? Resources?

Revisiting 'kanji teaching'

1. Why teach kanji?

2. Teach what? Teach how?

- “ How to teach kanji and how I can help students memorize them.
- “ Degree of kana and kanji to include in an eight-week module at primary school
- “ Teaching kanji with the **vocab**?
- “ A big step between being able to **read kanji** and being able to **write them**
- “ I try to teach **radicals**... but my students still struggle to remember the **readings**.
- “ Different readings of kanji in different combinations
- “ Stroke order can be a challenge
- “ Unfamiliarity with Kanji in general and with **stroke order**

3. Activities? Resources?

Revisiting ‘kanji teaching’

1. Why teach kanji?

2. Teach what? Teach how?

3. Activities? Resources?

- “ Creating teaching materials that learning Kanji **enjoyable** for the students is difficult.
- “ Ways of teaching kanji that are **effective but also interactive**.
- “ I would like students to be more **active**.
- “ **Apps** that support independent / partially supported learning of kana and kanji for ab initio learners
- “ 視覚に優しい漢字の本を探しています。生徒の特性に合わせて、本を選ぶことができるようになれるといいなと考えています。

Revisiting 'kanji teaching'

1. Why teach kanji?
2. Teach what? Teach how?
3. Activities? Resources?

“ It would be great if **participants were to share** recommended approaches and apps in addition to the advice of the guest speaker.

1. Why teach kanji?

Questioning the premise

1. Why teach kanji? > 2 > 3

Teacher's viewpoint

“【質問38】 教師が何を伝えたら、
学習者は「漢字は必要だ」と思うでしょうか。

Learner's viewpoint

- Why not prioritise speaking?
- Why not use rōmaji / kana?
- Why learn so many kanji?
- Why not ditch kanji?
(like you tried before!)



[Japan Foundation](http://www.japanfoundation.org)

Discussion 1

1. Why teach kanji? > 2 > 3

Why teach kanji?

- Is it really necessary?
- Why / why not?



[Padlet](#)

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3. Tap three dot (:).
4. Choose 'Open post'.

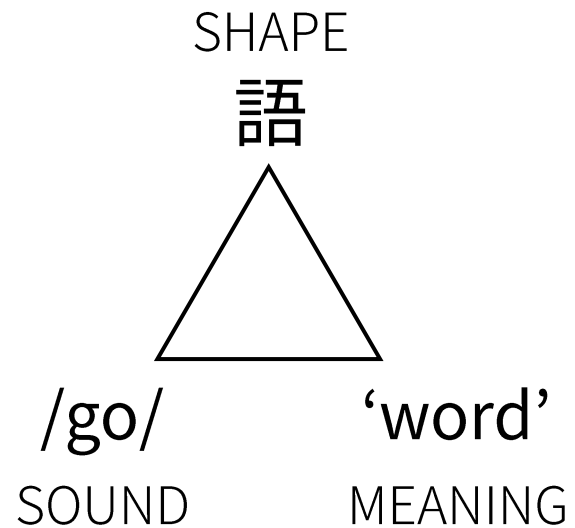
2. Teach what? Teach how?

Kanji as a type of writing

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Views on writing

Chinese tradition

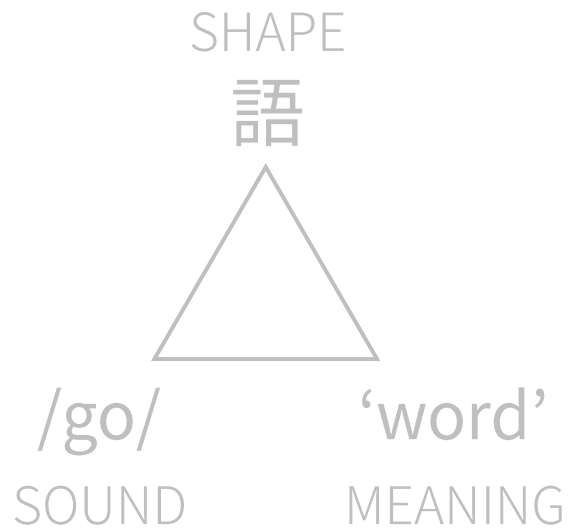


Kanji as a type of writing

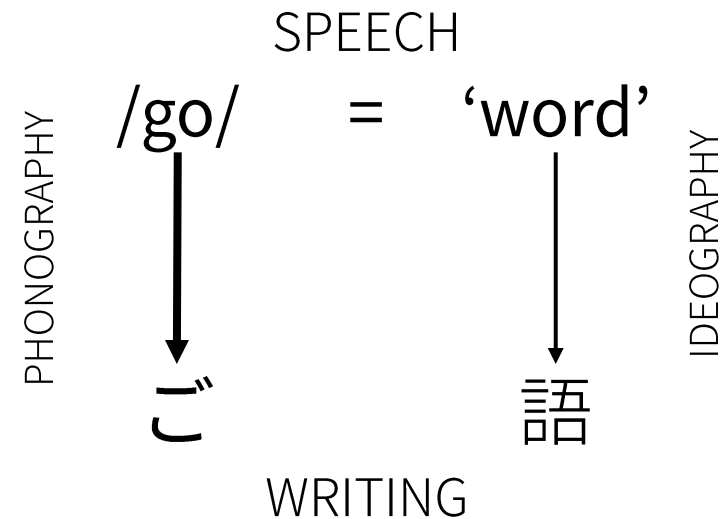
2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Views on writing

Chinese tradition



Western tradition

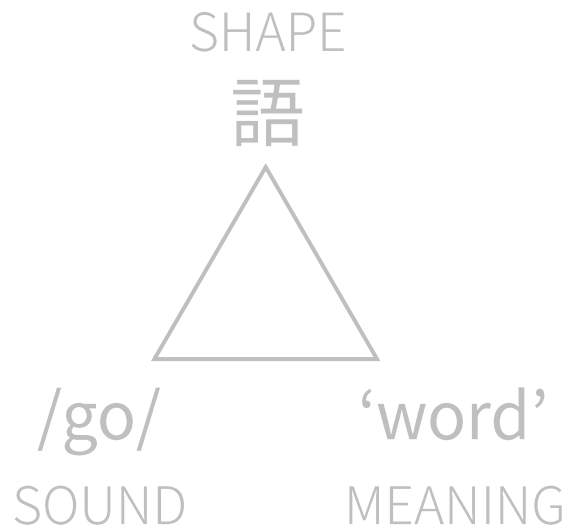


Kanji as a type of writing

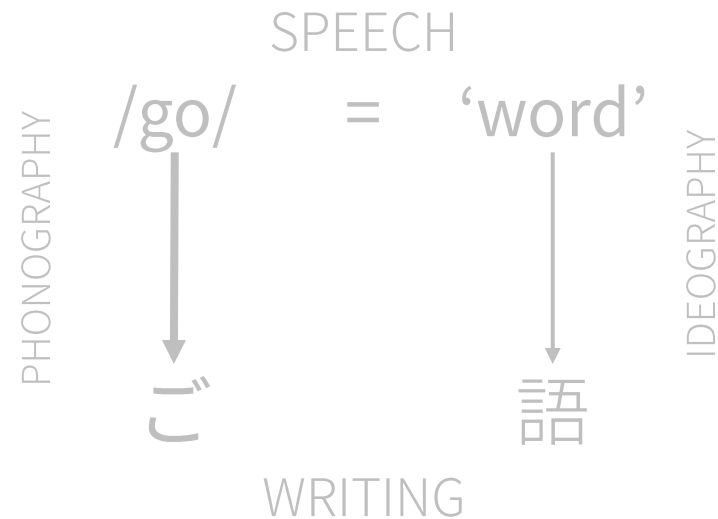
2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Views on writing

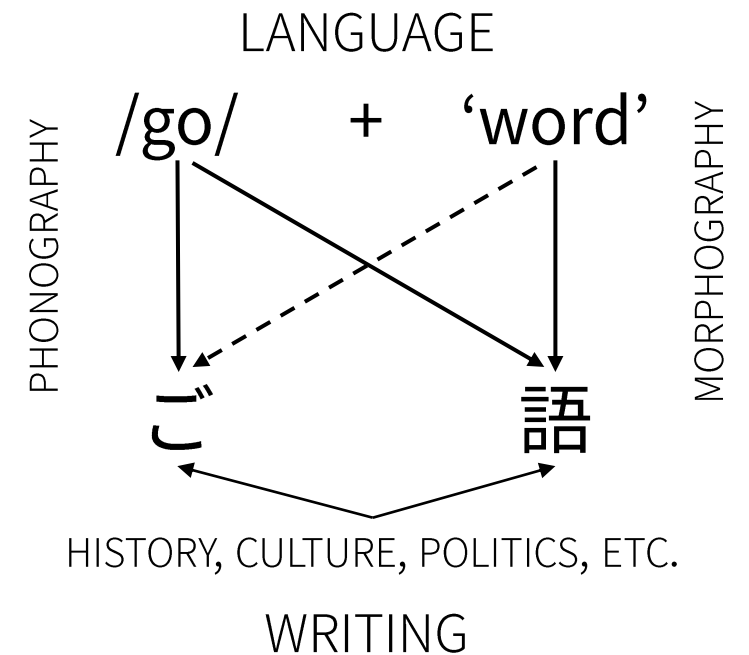
Chinese tradition



Western tradition



Grapholinguistics



Reading kanji

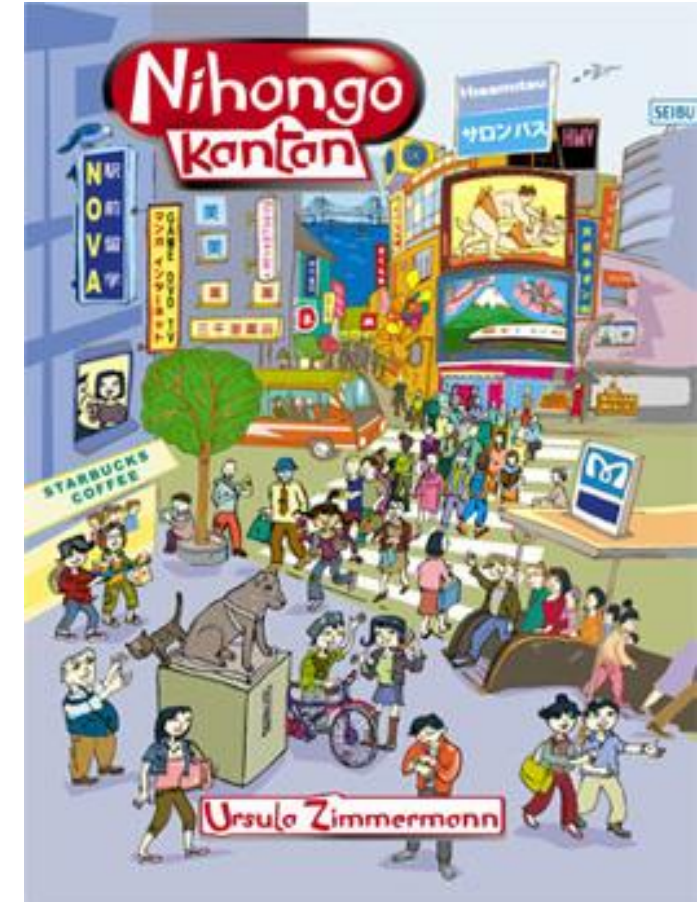
2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Views on kanji

Kanji → Word

第七課
7

かんじ 漢字			いみ		くんよみ		おんよみ		No. of Strokes	れい 例			
6	語		language, word		かたーる		ゴ		14	にほんご 日本語 Japanese			
			言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	えいご 英語 English		
			言	言	言	語	語	語	語	ごがく 語学 language			



PPLI

Reading kanji

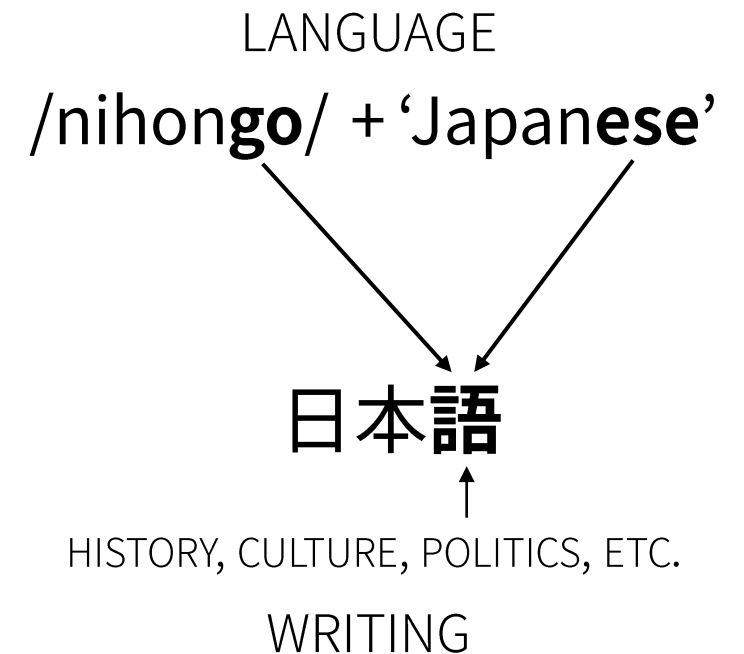
2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Views on kanji

Kanji → Word

かんじ 漢字		いみ		くんよみ		おんよみ		No. of Strokes		れい 例				
第七課 7	6	語	language, word		かたーる		ゴ		14		にほんご 日本語 Japanese			
			言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	
			言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	言	

Word → Kanji



Discussion 2-1

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Kanji first? Word first?

- Pros & cons?
- Integration?
- Experience?



[Padlet](#)

1. Scan QR code.
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3. Tap three dot (:).
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Reading kanji

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Vocab map + kanji map



頭の中で、ことばのネットワークがどんどん広がる！

語彙マップで覚える 漢字と語彙

初級 1400

Learn 1400 elementary-level kanji and vocabulary items using a word map

通过单词表记住汉字和词汇 初级 1400

어휘 지도로 외우는 한자와 어휘 초급 1400

徳弘康代 監修・著

イベント (ibento) 誕生日 (tanjoubi) 旅行 (ryokou) 飛行機 (hikooki)

おめでとう (omedetoo) 帰国 (kikoku) 記念 (kinen) 日 (bi) 祝日 (shukujitsu)

北海道 (Hokkaido) 結婚 (kekkon) 式 (shiki) 日本 (Nihon) 来ます (kimasu) 行きます (ikimasu) へ (e) に (ni) します (shimasu)

N4・N5 レベル

入門 初級 中級 上級

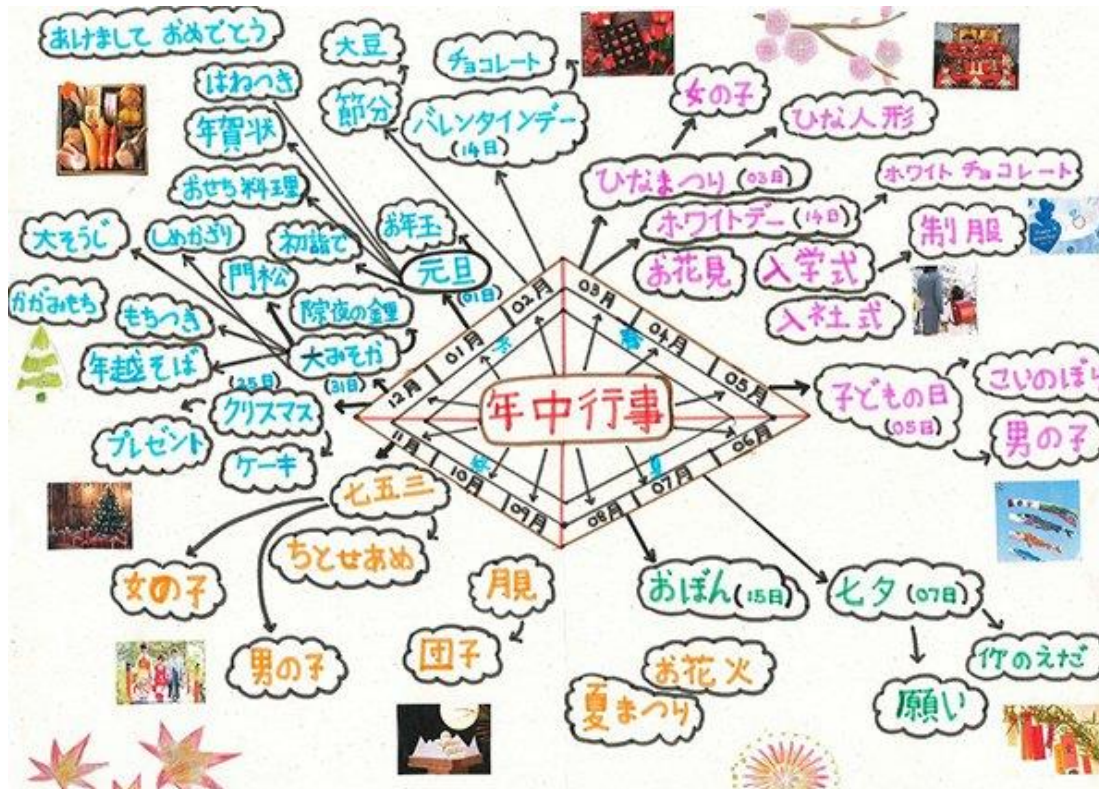
Jリサーチ出版

Jリサーチ出版

Reading kanji

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Vocab map + kanji map



[Japan Foundation](#)



[Lannilan](#)

Writing kanji

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Teacher's viewpoint

Handwriting should be neat in the right stroke order.

Learner's viewpoint

- Why handwrite?
- Why not type for 'neat' writing?
- Why bother with stroke order?



[yoshishirosato1981](https://www.youtube.com/user/yoshishirosato1981)

Writing kanji

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Continuous + linear / discontinuous + planar

Continuous + Linear

J a p a n e s e

Discontinuous + Planar

日 本 語

Views on functionality and aesthetics

Contrastive

文
乂
父
交
艾
⋮

formal difference
= semantic difference

Not contrastive

文
文
文
文
文
⋮

formal difference
≠ semantic difference

Writing kanji

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Views on functionality and aesthetics

Legible?



ありがたい声

Neat?



字が汚い！

Skillful?



すらすら
筆ペン練習帳

Ideal?

乱
筆
乱
文

HGS教科書体

Discussion 2-2

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Handwriting? Stroke order?

- Pros & cons?
- When do we handwrite?
- Experience?



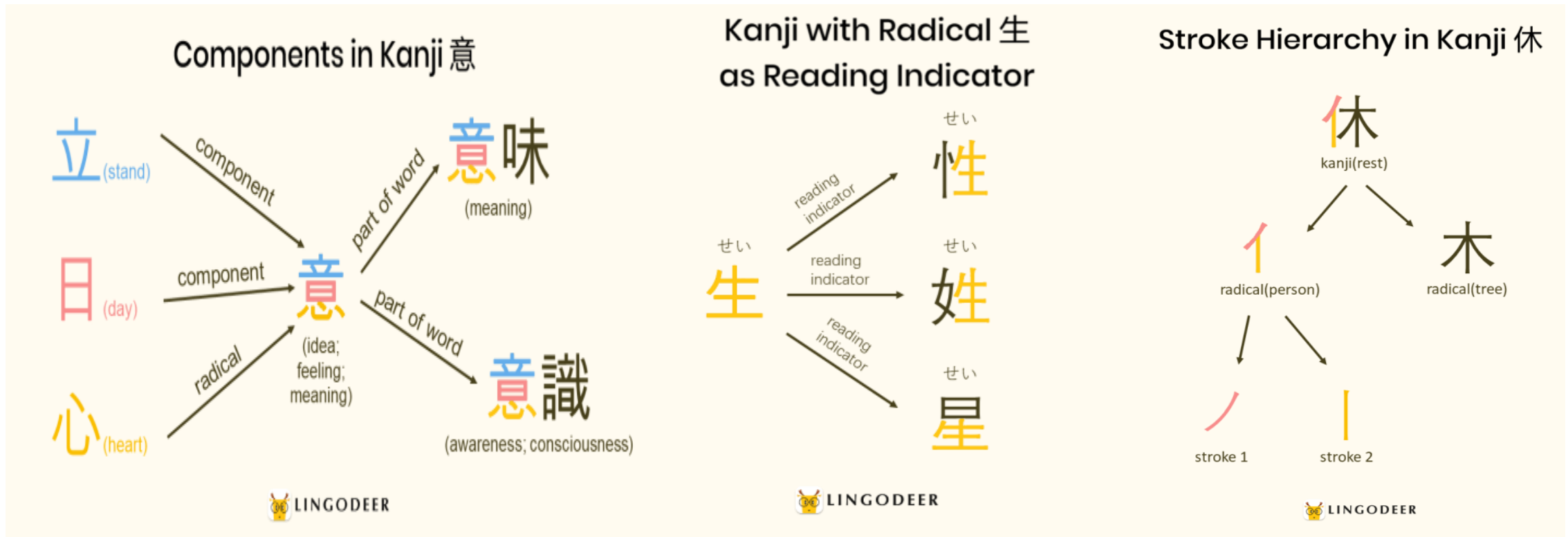
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Writing kanji

2. Teach what? Teach how? > 3

Handwriting as a learning technique



[LingoDeer](https://www.lingodeer.com/)

小学校で学習する文字の PowerPointスライド

- Microsoft Japan
- Free & customisable
- Hiragana & katakana
- Kanji (JP elementary school; 1,182)



<https://www.microsoft.com/ja-jp/enable/ppt/moji>

漢

Resources

3. Activities? Resources?

小学校で学習する文字の PowerPointスライド

- Microsoft Japan
- Free & customisable
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<https://www.microsoft.com/ja-jp/enable/ppt/moji>



3. Activities? Resources?

Activities

3. Activities? Resources?

Some examples

- Kolourful kanji
- Odd-one out
- Correct kanji
- Kanji shiritori
- Create new kanji



Activities

3. Activities? Resources?

Some examples

- Kolourful kanji
- Odd-one out
- Correct kanji
- Kanji shiritori
- Create new kanji

Shape

河河河
河河河
何河河

Sound

河貝会
回階海
開解界

Meaning

河水雨
茶火汁
血海川

Activities

3. Activities? Resources?

Some examples

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- Odd-one out
- Correct kanji
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河河河
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河貝会
回階海
開解界

Meaning

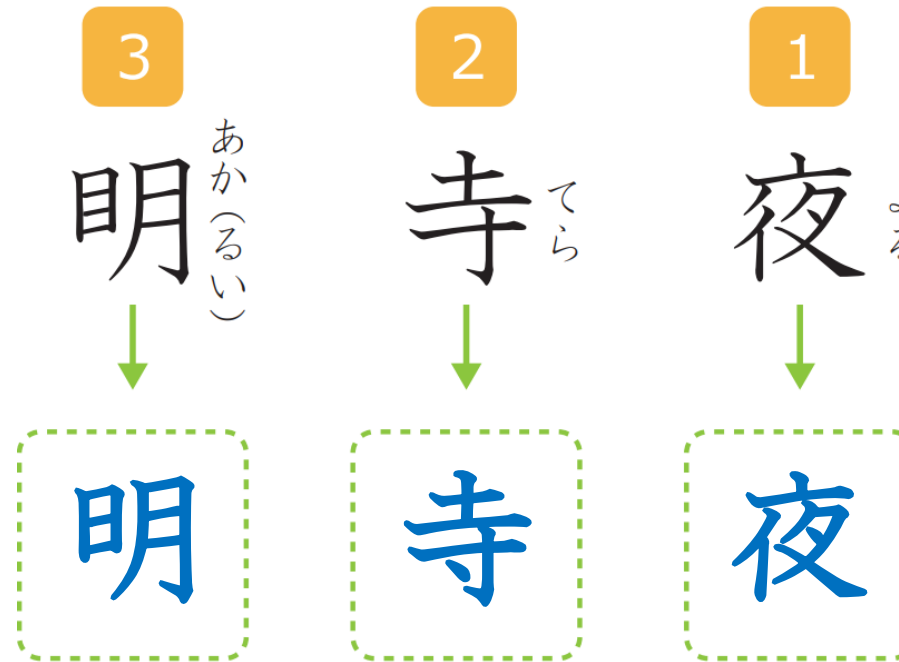
河水雨
茶火汁
血海川

Activities

3. Activities? Resources?

Some examples

- Colourful kanji
- Odd-one out
- Correct kanji
- Kanji shiritori
- Create new kanji



学習プリント.com

Activities

3. Activities? Resources?

Some examples

- Kolourful kanji
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- Kanji shiritori
- Create new kanji

Shape

言
話
語
調
⋮

Sound

王
牛
週
歌
⋮

Meaning

本
字
読
書
⋮

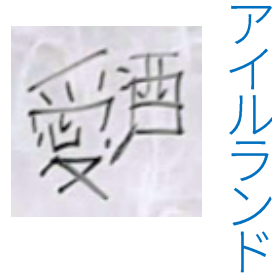
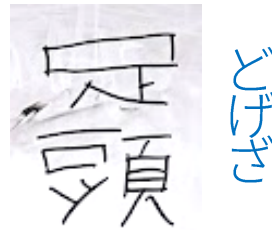
Activities

3. Activities? Resources?

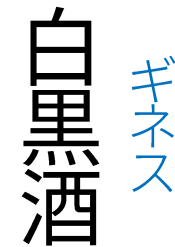
Some examples

- Colourful kanji
- Odd-one out
- Correct kanji
- Kanji shiritori
- Create new kanji

Character



Word



Some useful websites & apps

- [NIHONGO eな](#)
- [Kanji Alive](#)
- [The Kanji Map](#)
- [学習プリント.com](#)
- [ぷりんときっず](#)
- [かきかたプリントメーカー](#)
- [GENKI Kanji for 3rd Ed. app](#) (Android, iOS)
- [Japanese Kanji Study app](#) (Android only)
- [小学校で学習する文字のPowerPoint スライド](#)

Discussion 3

3. Activities? Resources?

Activities? Resources?

- In-class?
- Self-learning?
- Apps?
- Websites?
- Books?



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Conclusion

Revising 'kanji teaching'

1. Why teach kanji?
2. Teach what? Teach how?
3. Activities? Resources?



[Slides](#)



[Padlet](#)

ありがとうございました。