

FEATURES OF THIS DICTIONARY

本字典の特徴

Below is a description of the principal features of this dictionary, with emphasis on how they are useful to the learner. See the **Introduction** on p. 17a for a discussion of dictionary aims. To derive maximum benefit from the dictionary, consult also the **Guide to the Dictionary** on p. 35a, which describes the entry format in detail and supplements the information here.

1 LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

The primary aim of this dictionary is to serve as an effective *learner's* dictionary, as a powerful learning aid that promotes understanding and stimulates a desire to learn. It incorporates most of the features of its parent work, the **New Japanese-English Character Dictionary**, as well as some new and unique features that enable the learner to gain an in-depth, systematic understanding of character meanings. The most important of these are described below.

1.1 Core Meaning

A striking feature of this dictionary is the presentation of a **core meaning** for each entry character. This is a concise keyword that provides a clear grasp of the central or most fundamental concept that links the principal senses of a character into a single conceptual unit.

Consider **KEEP**, one of the core meanings of 留:

► **KEEP**

① cause to remain in a given place or condition:

② [original meaning] **KEEP in place, keep from moving, keep in position**

③ **KEEP in custody, detain**

④ **KEEP for future use, leave behind**

By grasping that the central concept represented by 留 is **KEEP**, it is immediately clear that such seemingly unrelated ideas as “pay

attention to” and “detain” are merely variants of the same basic concept. The core meaning thus *integrates* widely differing senses into a single conceptual unit.

The core meaning is useful to the learner in five ways:

1. It serves as a concise keyword that conveys the character's most fundamental meaning.
2. It acts as the central pivot that links the principal meanings of a character to each other.
3. It provides an instant grasp of the meaning and function of the character as a word-building element.
4. It helps illustrate the differences and similarities between *kun* homophones and easily confused characters.
5. It is easy to memorize, since it conveys a character's meaning as a concise **thought package**.

A brief glance at the character meanings makes the above relationships clear, thanks to the use of **RED CAPITALS** both for the core meanings and for the **core words** (words in a character meaning that match a core meaning). This is a new feature not found in any other dictionary.

The core meaning is unique to the NJECD and the **Kanji Integrated Tools** (KIT). Since it functions as a concentrated thought package that appeals to the learner's powers of asso-

ciation, it is widely praised by students and educators as an effective learning aid.

1.2 In-depth Meanings

A central feature of this dictionary is the in-depth manner in which it treats meaning. Not only are the character meanings clear, complete, and accurate, but they include meanings found only in KIT dictionaries.

The principal features that contribute to clarity of meaning are:

1. The core meaning.
2. Clear and accurate character meanings.
3. The ordering of senses in a manner that shows their interrelatedness.
4. Numerous illustrative compounds.

The precisely worded character meanings are presented in a manner that shows exactly how each character is used as a word element, and how the hundreds of thousands of compound words in Japanese can be generated from a stock of a few thousand building blocks.

1.3 Interrelatedness

To provide the learner with a clear understanding of character meaning, the meanings are presented in a manner that shows the **interrelatedness** between individual senses. Four features achieve this aim:

1. The red **core words** make the relation between senses instantly obvious.
2. The **senses are ordered** in a manner that shows their interrelatedness.
3. The **sense division numbers** establish a logical hierarchy between character senses.
4. The **explanatory glosses** (e.g. "(of a vehicle)") show how the senses differ from one another, while the **supplementary glosses** (e.g. "—said esp. of God") provide additional discrimination.

Together these features help integrate the senses so that they can be perceived as a structured unit, rather than as an arbitrary list, as

shown on the right.

1.4 Order of Senses

Unlike traditional dictionaries, which usually order senses chronologically, this dictionary presents the senses in a **cogent order that shows their interrelatedness**. The core meaning serves as the basis of organization, and the various senses are grouped around it in clusters so that they can be perceived as a logically structured, psychologically integrated unit.

留, for example, has several distinct senses, but they are clustered around the core word **KEEP** in a way that shows their differences and similarities, greatly reducing the burden of memorization. If the senses were arranged as shown in the left column below, they would appear to be an arbitrary list, rather than as a structured unit.

Arbitrary List	Expansion from Core
Ⓐ keep from moving	KEEP in place
Ⓑ detain	KEEP in custody
Ⓒ leave behind	KEEP for future use

1.5 Degree of Importance

The **degree of importance** of each sense is indicated by typographical differences and labels for three levels of study (see p. 41a).

1.6 Compounds and Examples

The meanings of each character are normally illustrated by numerous high-frequency compounds that provide useful examples of each sense. All the compounds needed for the intermediate level, and numerous compounds for the advanced level, are given.

Unlike other dictionaries, the compounds are classified by meaning in a way that clearly shows how they are formed from their constituent parts, which makes it easy to infer the meanings of unlisted compounds.

A new feature of this dictionary is the **sub-sense indicators**, which are tiny letters that

show the beginning of a new subsense group in the compounds list. This makes it obvious how the entry character contributes its meaning to each compound.

2 READER'S DICTIONARY

The student learning how to read contemporary Japanese faces several difficulties, such as the need to identify more than 2000 characters, many of which have complex shapes, as well as the need to learn their thousands of readings and meanings. Moreover, numerous characters have multiple readings and meanings, and there is no reliable way to determine which one applies in a particular instance.

In addition to being a learner's dictionary, this dictionary also has been designed as a *reader's* dictionary. The various features described below enable the reader to locate the readings and meanings of unknown characters and compounds with little effort.

2.1 Efficient Indexing System

The lack of an efficient scheme for ordering kanji has long been a source of frustration to learners and native speakers alike. Looking up characters by traditional radicals, or by most alternative systems, is both laborious and unreliable.

A major feature of this dictionary, unique to KIT dictionaries, is the speed and facility with which entries can be looked up. The **System of Kanji Indexing by Patterns** (SKIP) classifies each character under four easy-to-identify geometrical patterns: ■ 1 left-right, □ 2 up-down, ▢ 3 enclosure, and ■ 4 solid. Within each group the characters are further subdivided to achieve maximum access speed.

Designed for efficiency and ease of use, SKIP enables the user to locate entries as quickly and as accurately as in alphabetical dictionaries. Since the system can be learned by beginners in a short time, many Japanese language educators consider it an important advance in

kanji lexicography, and a growing number of electronic dictionaries have implemented it as part of their retrieval systems.

2.2 Five Lookup Methods

To assure maximum convenience to the user, this dictionary provides a choice of five methods of looking up characters:

1. The **Pattern Index** allows characters to be quickly located from their SKIP numbers.
2. The **Scan Method** is a shortcut for locating some characters almost instantly.
3. The **On-Kun Index** lists the characters alphabetically by both their *on* and *kun* readings.
4. The **Radical Index** lists the characters by their traditional radicals.
5. The **Direct Method** allows characters to be located without using any index.

2.3 System of Guides

The various guides in the margins of the page have been carefully designed to facilitate the speedy location of entry characters.

2.4 Character Readings

Seven kinds of readings are given: principal readings, *on* readings, *kun* readings, special readings, unapproved readings, other readings, and name readings. The readings are given in romanized transcription, with parentheses indicating *okurigana* endings. Unapproved readings are given only when they are sufficiently important to learners.

2.5 Importance of Readings

The relative importance of readings is shown by various typographical conventions, such as distinguishing **unapproved readings** from ordinary readings by a superscript solid triangle [▲], and preceding **name readings** with ㊦.

2.6 Character Forms and Styles

This dictionary presents three kinds of character forms and calligraphic styles, which were methodically checked by experts to ensure their accuracy. A much more detailed

treatment is given in the NJECD.

1. The **standard form** is the form given in the official **Jōyō Kanji** and **Jinmei Kanji** lists, which are widely used in the media, government, and education. All entry characters are given in the standard form.
2. The **nonstandard form** is the traditional variant used in prewar literature and in names. **Appendix 4** lists 386 variant forms, which includes important variants of Jinmei Kanji and all variants appearing in the Jōyō Kanji list.
3. The **square style** (楷書 *kaisho*), which is the standard handwritten style, appears in the last frame of the stroke order diagram.

2.7 Easily Confused Forms

Some characters, such as 幣 *hei* 'currency' and 弊 *hei* 'evil practice', are very similar in form but unrelated in meaning. Some of these are so similar that even native speakers tend to confuse them. Such characters are cross-referenced to each other in the NOTE section. A new feature of this dictionary is that these characters are followed by their core meanings, which aids the learner in easily grasping their differences.

2.8 Romanization

All character readings, headwords, and compounds are transcribed in the Hepburn system of romanization, set in easy-to-read sans serif boldface type to distinguish them from other explanatory matter. A description of the system and kana tables are given in **Appendix 3. Kana and Romanization**.

3 WRITER'S DICTIONARY

The student learning how to write Japanese faces several difficulties, such as the large number of characters and their complex shapes, the need to learn the correct stroke order, and the numerous homophones.

In addition to being a learner's dictionary, this dictionary has also been designed as a *writer's*

dictionary. The features that make it a convenient tool for writing are described below.

3.1 Stroke Order Diagrams

To write a character in the proper form, it is necessary to learn the stroke order. The **stroke order diagrams**, in which the last frame shows the full character in the standard square style, indicate the stroke order.

Thoroughly researched for accuracy, these diagrams were prepared by experts specifically for this dictionary and the NJECD. Unlike other reference works, which rely heavily on cross-referencing, the order of writing is presented stroke-by-stroke to ensure maximum convenience to the user.

3.2 Kun Homophones

Japanese has numerous **kun homophones**. These are *kun* words that are pronounced the same but written differently, and usually differing in meaning, as shown below.

上る *noboru* go up (steps, a hill)
登る *noboru* climb, scale
昇る *noboru* ascend, rise (up to the sky)

Although *on* homophones, such as 機構 *kikō* 'mechanism' and 帰港 *kikō* 'returning to the harbor', are very common, they are not likely to be confused since each character conveys a distinct meaning. On the other hand, many *kun* homophones are written with a bewildering variety of characters that are often close in meaning. For example, 解ける *tokeru* and 溶ける *tokeru* are interchangeable in the sense of 'melt, thaw' but not in the sense of 'come loose'. Thus *kun* homophones are easily confused, even by native speakers, and pose special problems to the learner.

To help the learner overcome these problems, the **HOMOPHONES** section lists groups of *kun* homophones and their entry numbers. These act as a network of cross-references for quickly identifying and locating each member of a group from any of the others.

A new feature of this dictionary is that each homophone cross-reference is followed by its core meaning, which allows the user to immediately identify their differences without consulting the corresponding entry character.

By using the cross-references to compare the meanings and compounds for each homophone, the learner can grasp the often subtle differences between them. These meanings, which are derived from the **usage notes** of the NJECD, are based on several years of research as part of the first full-scale analysis of *kun* homophones to be presented in English.

In conclusion, the **HOMOPHONES** section helps the learner distinguish between the meanings of words pronounced alike, thereby providing a better understanding of each. It also helps the learner write with greater precision by assisting in the selection of the character most appropriate to the context.

Since the complex problems inherent in *kun* homophones have been mostly ignored by existing reference works, this feature should prove to be of great value to the student.

3.3 Okurigana Endings

The *kun* readings in the entry-head data include parentheses that indicate **okurigana** endings in conformity with the official rules published by the Ministry of Education. The headwords and compounds also follow these rules when applicable. Important nonstandard variations are given when necessary.

3.4 Stroke Counting

The ability to count strokes is necessary both for writing the characters correctly and for using character dictionaries effectively. The following information is provided:

1. The reference data box gives the **stroke-count data** for each entry character.
2. The principles of stroke counting are explained in **Appendix 2. How to Count Strokes**, along with charts to help speed up

the counting process.

3. Difficult-to-count characters are cross-referenced at common *incorrect* stroke-count locations.

4 OTHER FEATURES

4.1 Character Importance

Since this dictionary is aimed at learners, considerable effort has been made to indicate the **degree of importance** of the entry character, based on the most recent and comprehensive statistical surveys. This enables the learner to know the importance of each character, and helps the teacher compile graded lessons. The following information is provided:

1. The **frequency level** of the entry character, which divides the characters into four subclasses, is given in the reference data box (see p. 37a for details). Levels **A** and **B**, the first 1000 characters, account for about 95% of all kanji appearing in newspapers.
2. The **frequency ranking** of the entry character is given in the reference data box. This is the relative frequency of occurrence of a character in newspapers, based on a survey of some 24 million kanji published in July 1998, just before this dictionary went to press (see p. 910 for details).
3. The **grade** indicates the **entry type** (Jōyō Kanji or Jinmei Kanji) and the school grade during which the character is taught. A grade of 1 to 6 indicates a character in the 1006 **Education Kanji** taught in the six elementary school grades.
4. **Important characters** are presented in red. This means that the character in question is either in the Education Kanji list, or is one of the 1000 most frequent characters (frequency levels **A** or **B**). Some learners may wish to concentrate on these 1183 characters in the initial stages of study.
5. Appendix 5 lists the top 1000 characters by **frequency ranking**, along with their core meanings. This is useful to both the learner and the teacher.

4.2 Character Codes

For the convenience of learners using computers and those needing more advanced information, the reference data box gives character codes and the NJECD entry number.

1. The **Kuten** number is used for indexing characters in the Japanese character set standard JIS X 0208-1997. This is useful for entering kanji codes in computer systems or when consulting standards and electronic dictionaries.
2. The **Unicode** value is given for each entry character, which should be useful to computer users. This conforms to the international character standard ISO 10646, which is rapidly gaining popularity as an international character set.
3. The **NJECD Entry Number** is convenient for looking up the entry character in the **New Japanese-English Character Dictionary**, which gives a more comprehensive treatment, including synonyms, usage notes, compound formation articles, orthographic variants, and other features.

4.3 System of Labels

A labeling system including status, subject, and functional labels gives information on etymology, style, function, level of formality, etc., providing practical guidance on the style and usage associated with each sense.

4.4 Character Functions

Each character may have various grammatical and syntactic **functions**. An important function of kanji is their role as **word elements**; that is, their ability to form numerous compound words by being combined with each other. Words can be formed by adding an **affix** (suffix or prefix) to a base, or by joining **combining forms** with each other. For example, **-済 -zumi** 'completed' is attached to **点検 tenken** 'inspection' to yield **点検済 tenkenzumi** 'inspection completed'.

The functions of each character as an independent word (free form) or word element (affix or combining form) are indicated, while the meanings of independent words are clearly distinguished from those of word elements.

4.5 Character Etymology

This dictionary presents the following information on radicals and character etymology.

1. The reference data box gives the **radical** and **radical number** for each entry character. This aids in understanding its etymology, since radicals often function as semantic components, and is also useful for looking up characters in other dictionaries.
2. The traditional radicals of **lost-radical** characters are given in the **Radical Index**.
3. The **Quick Reference Radical Chart** gives convenient access to information on radicals, including standard and variant forms, stroke-counts, and radical names.
4. The **original meaning**, which is the first meaning associated with a character after its formation in China (rarely Japan), is often given, especially when it helps clarify the character's meaning or helps illustrate how the senses are interrelated.
5. A description of how to use traditional radical indexes effectively.

4.6 User Friendliness

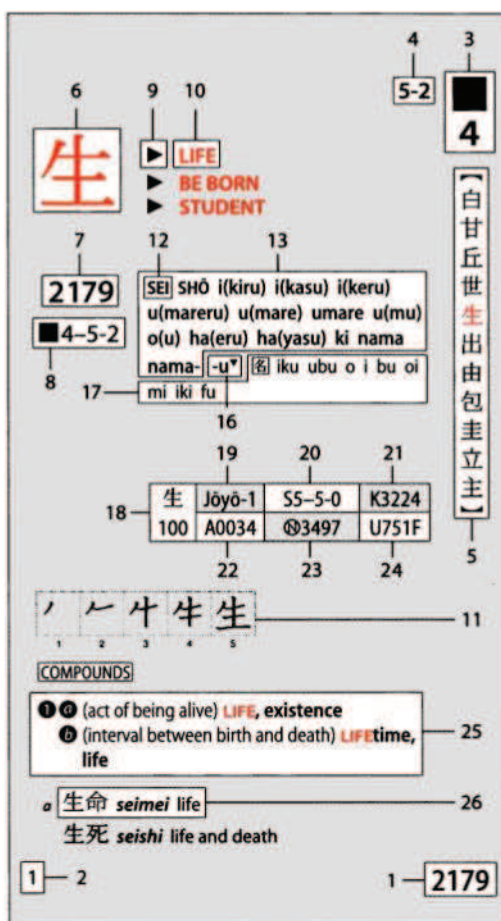
Another feature of this dictionary is a layout that is both visually attractive and easy to use. Typographical design with the aid of cutting-edge font technology was used to achieve a harmonious blend of font styles and weights (Adobe's **Myriad** and **Minion** multiple master fonts for English and Heisei Mincho for Japanese). Some of the world's leading font designers, such as Adobe's Robert Slimbach, have contributed to this effort, which has resulted in an esthetically pleasing design that stimulates a desire to browse and to truly *enjoy* studying kanji.

EXPLANATORY CHART

凡例图表

The **Explanatory Chart** shows the layout of the entry. The lightface numerals refer to the section numbers of the **Guide to the Dictionary** on p. 35a, where the format is explained.

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COMPOUNDS	
25 character meaning	6
26 compound word	6



* Items that do not appear in this chart.

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27	INDEPENDENT headword	7
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KUN		
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31	alternative form	8
32	noun adjective	8
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34	<i>kun</i> word element	8
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NOTE		
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INDEPENDENT	
27	29
【sei 生】	LIFE, living; [humble] I
【shōjiru (=shōzuru) 生じる(=生ずる)】 28	
happen, arise, be produced; produce, create, cause; grow	
KUN	
【ikiru 生きる】	30
31	35
【umare 生まれ, 生】	[also suffix] birth; origin, lineage
【(nama - 生-)】 34	
SPECIAL READINGS	
芝生 <i>shibafu</i> lawn, turf	36
生憎 [▲] <i>ainiku</i> unfortunately, unluckily; I am sorry, but...	37
HOMOPHONES	
<i>ikeru</i>	
埋 BURY ⇒ ㊦403	38
<i>umareru</i> 産 GIVE BIRTH ⇒ 2075	39
<i>umu</i> 産 GIVE BIRTH ⇒ 2075	40

静 1138	【shizuka 静か】	32
	shizuka na 静かな QUIET, silent, still; calm, tranquil, gentle, quiet	

泥 0241	【doro¹ 泥】	33
	MUD, mire, slush, dirt	

未 2184	NOTE	41
	★do not confuse with 未 NOT YET ⇒2185	
未 2185	NOTE	
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生 ▶ **LIFE**
▶ **BE BORN**
▶ **STUDENT** — 42

COMPOUNDS

52 54 — 46

① ② (act of being alive) **LIFE**, existence — 53

③ (interval between birth and death) **LIFETIME**, life

43

④ ((living organisms) **LIFE**, living things) — 51

⑤ (be alive) **live, exist** — 47

① ④ **BE BORN**

⑥ bear, give birth to

a 生家 *seika* house where one was born

⑦ (bring into existence) **produce, give rise to** — 45

⑧ [original meaning] (of plants) **grow** — 44

⑨ [also suffix] **STUDENT, pupil**; scholar — 55

KUN

【ikeru 生ける】**arrange** (flowers) — 48

渋 【shibui 渋い】
0377 ① **ASTRINGENT, puckery, rough** — said esp. of the taste of unripe persimmons — 49

昭 ▶ **LUMINOUS**
SHŌ
0602

COMPOUNDS

① ② [original meaning, now rare] (emitting light) **LUMINOUS**, bright, shining — 50

③ (enjoying the glory of enlightened rule) **enlightened, glorious, illustrious**

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KUN
【ikiru 生きる】
 ① (be alive) **live, exist**
 ② (make a living) **live (on), subsist**

61 58 59 60
 a 生き *iki* freshness; stet
 生き物 *ikimono* living creature — 56

62
 生ける屍 *ikeru shikabane* living corpse
 b 人はパンのみにて生きるに非ず *Hito wa pan nomi nite ikuru ni arazu* Man does not live by bread alone — 57

値
 0081 ① [also suffix] *math* **VALUE**

63 65

静
 1138 ①② [original meaning] (free from noise)
QUIET, still, silent — 64

究 incorrect classification
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恒悔 etc. incorrect classification
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GUIDE TO THE DICTIONARY

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The aim of this **Guide to the Dictionary** is to describe the various conventions used in the dictionary, including the entry format, as well as to define the meanings of technical terms, labels, glosses, and the like. The **Guide** deals mostly with *presentation*, with a primary emphasis on format. How this information is useful to the learner is treated in **Features of This Dictionary** on p. 25a.

The **Explanatory Chart** on p. 31a describes the entry layout, while the meanings of symbols and abbreviations are given in **Abbreviations and Symbols** on p. 45a. The appendixes and indexes are described in their respective introductions.

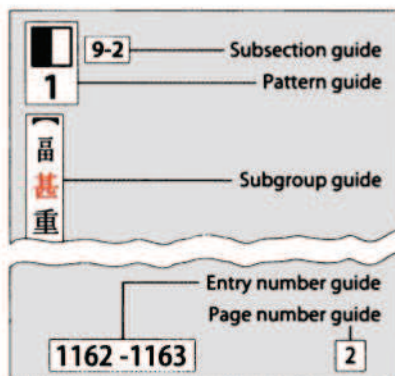
1 ENTRIES AND GUIDES

1.1 Guides

The various **guides** printed in the outer corners and margins of the page have been carefully designed and laid out to facilitate the speedy location of entries.

1. The **entry number guide** in the lower, outer corner of a page consists of boldface

numerals that indicate the entry number range for that page. Use it for locating a character when the entry number is known.



2. The **page number guide** consists of bold-face numerals centered at the bottom of each page. In the introductory pages, page numbers are followed by the letter **a**. Entry numbers, not page numbers, are used in cross-references to entry characters.

3. The **SKIP Guides**, which consist of the **subsection**, **pattern** and **subgroup** guides, are described in §2.7 on p. 881.

1.2 Entry Character

The **main entry** for a character consists of the **entry-head data** and all the explanatory matter for that character. The large character at the head of each entry, set in the modern Heisei Mincho typeface, is the **entry character**. **Important characters** are set in red. This means that the character in question is either in the **Education Kanji** list, or is one of the 1000 most frequent characters (see §4 below).



1.3 Entry-Head Data

The **entry-head data** consists of the entry character (§1.2), the entry number (§1.4), the SKIP number (§1.5), the core meaning (§2), character readings (§3), the reference data box (§4), and the stroke order diagram (§5). Each item is described in the section indicated in parentheses.

1.4 Entry Number

The boldface numeral below the entry character is the **entry number**, which uniquely identifies the entry characters throughout the dictionary, the appendixes, and the indexes for reference and cross-reference. The entry number appears as a four-digit zero-padded numeral (e.g. **0023**, rather than **23**).

1.5 SKIP Number

The **SKIP number** of the entry character, which appears below the entry number, consists of the **pattern symbol** followed by hyphenated numerals used to locate characters according to SKIP rules, e.g. 1-2-5 for 体. See §2.3 on p. 876 for details.

1.6 Types of Entries

This dictionary contains a total of 2808 entry characters: 2230 **main entries** and 578 **cross-reference entries**. These are classified into three types:

1. The 1945 characters in the official **Jōyō Kanji** list (常用漢字表) published in 1981, widely used in the mass media, government, and education.
2. The 285 characters in the **Jinmei Kanji** list (人名用漢字) revised in 1997, an official list of kanji approved for use in personal names.
3. The 578 **cross-reference entries** at locations where a character might be mistakenly looked for under an incorrect pattern classification or incorrect stroke-count. See §2.6 on p. 880 for details.

2 CORE MEANINGS

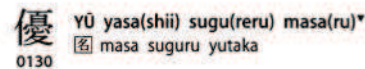
The **RED CAPITALIZED** words preceded by the symbol ▶ convey the **core meaning** or core meanings of the entry character.



The core meaning is one of the central features of this dictionary. It represents the fundamental concept(s) linking the principal senses of a character. The use of red for both the core meanings and the **core words** in the **equivalents** (see §12.5) makes the relation between the senses visually obvious.

3 CHARACTER READINGS

The romanized transcriptions immediately below the core meanings are the **readings** of the entry character.



Seven types of readings are given:

- 1. Principal readings** The first reading given is the most common or representative reading of a character. The principal reading is nearly always the *on* reading, but for characters that do not have an *on* reading, the *kun* reading is used.
- 2. Approved On readings** The Sino-Japanese or Chinese-derived reading, given in capital letters. A hyphen indicates a variant of an approved reading used for euphony; e.g., -NÔ for 応 as a variant of ô in 反応 *hannô*.
- 3. Approved Kun readings** The native Japanese reading, given in lowercase letters. *Okurigana* (kana endings) conforming to the official rules published by the Ministry of Education are shown in parentheses. If a *kun* reading includes a hyphen, it functions only as a word element.
- 4. Special readings** In exceptional cases, a component of what is considered a **special reading** (see §9) in the Jōyō Kanji list can be isolated as a reading in its own right. For example, the 𠄎 in 𠄎𠄎 *dekoboko* can be isolated as having the reading *boko*. Such a reading is similar to an ordinary *kun* reading, and is marked by an asterisk (e.g. *boko**).
- 5. Unapproved readings** Marked by a superscript solid triangle (▲), this is a reading that is not listed in the Jōyō Kanji list. Such readings are in principle excluded from this dictionary, but are given on the occasions when they are sufficiently important to learners (e.g. 仏 *FUTSU*▲).
- 6. Other readings** Marked by a superscript inverted solid triangle (▼), this is an unapproved or rare reading frequently used in names but not important enough to learners as an ordinary reading. Thus KUN head-words and compounds are not given for

these readings.

- 7. Name readings** These readings, called *nanori* (名乗り), appear to the right of the symbol 囿, and are used exclusively, or almost exclusively, in personal, family, and place names, but not in ordinary words. All such readings, both *kun* and *on*, are given in lowercase letters.

If a name reading and an ordinary (non-name) reading are pronounced the same but differ only in *okurigana*, as in 偲ぶ and 偲 for *shinobu*, only the ordinary reading is given. Similarly, if a reading or a derived reading (such as 行き *yuki* from 行 < *yuku*) can be used in both names and ordinary words, it is listed only among the ordinary readings.

4 REFERENCE DATA BOX

The **reference data box** gives reference and classification data.

日 1915	日	Jōyō-1	S4-4-0	K3892
	72	A0001	㊦3027	U65E5

The reference data box consists of seven items:

- 1. Radical** The **radical** and traditional **radical number** for the entry character. If the form of the radical differs considerably from the parent radical, then a variant form similar to the form actually appearing in the character is given.

The radical given for **lost-radical** characters is a new radical based on the simplified form of the entry character (see §3 on p. 959). It is distinguished by a superscript triangle (△) following the radical number.

人 1275	人	Jōyō-2	S6-2-4	K1881
	9△	A0006	㊦2020	U4F1A

2. **Grade** The characters are divided into the following three categories:

- a. **Jōyō + number** One of the 1006 characters in the **Education Kanji list** (学年別漢字配当表) revised in 1989, which must be learned in the six years of elementary school. The number indicates one of the six school grades during which the character is taught.
- b. **Jōyō** A character in the **Jōyō Kanji list** published in 1981 but not in the Education Kanji list; that is, a character taught in grades 7 to 9.
- c. **Names** A character in the **Jinmei Kanji list** revised in 1997.

3. **Strokes** Hyphenated numerals consisting of (1) the total stroke-count, (2) the stroke-count of the radical portion, and (3) the stroke-count of the nonradical portion. The total of the second and third parts equals the first part.

4. **Kuten** A “K” followed by four digits indicates a number used for indexing characters in the Japanese character set standard JIS X 0208-1997. The first two digits indicate the 区 *ku* (‘row’) and the second two digits the 点 *ten* (‘cell’).

5. **Frequency Level and Ranking** A frequency level letter from A to D is followed by the **frequency ranking**, a number that indicates the frequency of occurrence of the entry character in contemporary newspapers, based on statistical surveys published in July 1998 (see p. 910 for details).

The frequency level was assigned by dividing the characters into the four groups shown in the table below. For example, Level A includes all characters up to frequency ranking 500. The **Total** column, which gives the cumulative number of characters in this dictionary, differs slightly from the **Freq. Ranking** column, because some of the characters in the survey are not found in this dictionary.

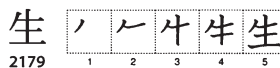
Freq. level	Count	Total	Coverage	Freq. Ranking
A	496	496	80%	500
B	497	993	95%	1000
C	572	1565	99%	1600
D	665	2230	99.8%	...

“B0784” (at 昭), for example, represents a Level B kanji that has a frequency ranking of 784. “9999” represents low-frequency characters that were not assigned a frequency ranking in the surveys.

6. **NJECD Entry Number** The symbol ㊦ followed by a number indicates the entry number of the character in the **New Japanese-English Character Dictionary**, upon which this dictionary is based. If the entry character is not found in the first edition of the NJECD at that position, its position in future editions is indicated by a decimal point. For example, “㊦65.5” means that 伽 is to be found between entry numbers ㊦65 and ㊦66.
7. **Unicode** A “U” followed by a hexadecimal number indicates the international code assigned to the entry character by the Unicode character encoding standard (version 2.0, published in 1996).

5 STROKE ORDER DIAGRAM

The **stroke order diagram** shows the order in which the strokes of the entry character should be written. The order of writing is presented stroke by stroke, and tiny numerals indicate the position of each stroke in the sequence. Stroke order diagrams are given for all Jōyō Kanji entries.



6 COMPOUNDS SECTION

This section lists the meanings of the main entry character as an *on* word element. Each sense is nearly always accompanied by compounds and examples and their English equivalents, arranged in an order that shows their semantic interrelatedness.

生 COMPOUNDS
2179 ① ② (act of being alive) **LIFE, existence**
③ (interval between birth and death)
LIFETIME, life
a 生命 *seimei* life
生保(=生命保険) *seiho* (=seimei *hoken*) life insurance

If a character meaning has more than one sense, these are subdivided by sense division numbers. See §12 and §13 for details on meanings and compounds.

7 INDEPENDENT SECTION

This section lists the meanings of the entry character as an **independent on word**. The **INDEPENDENT headword** consists of a one-character *on* word, with or without particles, auxiliaries, or inflections, that can be used on its own. Thus 害 *gai* and 害する *gaisuru* are treated as separate entries. Each meaning is often accompanied by examples and their English equivalents.

害 INDEPENDENT
1457 【**gai 害**】 **HARM, evil, ill effect; damage**
飲酒の害 *inshu no gai* ill effects of drinking
【**gaisuru 害する**】 **HARM, injure, damage**

The absence of the **INDEPENDENT** section indicates that the entry character is not commonly used as an independent word.

8 KUN SECTION

This section lists the meanings of the entry

character as a *kun* word or word element. The senses are arranged in an order that shows their semantic interrelatedness, and are usually accompanied by compounds and examples and their English equivalents.

行 KUN
0157 【**iku 行く**】
① **GO, proceed, leave for; attend; visit**
行き着く *ikitsuku* arrive at, get to
⋮
【**-yuki 行き, -行**】 suffix **bound for, for**
東京行きの列車 *tōkyōyuki no ressha* train (bound) for Tokyo

The **KUN headwords** are presented in the following format:

1. If a headword has two readings or written forms, they are listed separated by a comma. The first, like 行き above, is usually more common than the second.
2. If a **KUN** headword includes a hyphen, it functions only as a word element (affix or combining form) in all its senses. In the example above, 行 functions as a word element in the final position.
3. If a *kun* word is an adjectival noun (na-adjective), the **KUN** headword in the heavy square brackets [] does not include な *na*, but is followed on the next line by a secondary headword in boldface (but not in brackets) that does include な *na*.

静 KUN
1138 【**shizuka 静か**】
shizuka na 静かな QUIET, silent, still; calm, tranquil, gentle, quiet

Adjectival nouns can also be used as adverbs by replacing な *na* with に *ni*. These forms are not necessarily listed separately.

4. If two **KUN** headwords have the same written form but differ in function (*homographs*), they are treated separately and distinguished by small superscript numerals, e.g. *doro*¹, *doro*².

9 SPECIAL READINGS SECTION

This section lists compound words having **special readings** and their English equivalents. A special reading applies to words composed of two or more characters, when the reading of the word as a whole is unrelated to the normal readings of the individual characters. For example, 明日 ‘tomorrow’ is read *ashita*, though 明 and 日 cannot be independently read as *a* or *ashi* or *shita*.

Approved special readings are those listed in the appendix to the Jōyō Kanji list; **unapproved** ones, followed by a superscript triangle ([△]), are those that are not. The unapproved ones are only given if they are sufficiently important to the learner.

生 SPECIAL READINGS
2179 芝生 *shibafu* lawn, turf
生憎[△] *ainiku* unfortunately, unluckily;
I am sorry, but...

10 HOMOPHONES SECTION

This section lists groups of homophones and their entry numbers for cross-reference, enabling the user to locate information about any group member from any of the others.

日 HOMOPHONES
1915 *hi* 陽 SUN ⇒0453
asahi
旭 RISING SUN ⇒1890
朝日 ⇒1114, 1915

The term **homophone** as used in this dictionary refers to a member of a group of *kun* words or word elements, often etymologically related, that are pronounced alike but written differently and often have different meanings. Sometimes, homophones not in this dictionary are also given, with a © indicating the entry number in the NJECD.

1. Each group member is followed by its *first* core meaning as an entry character, which occasionally may not match the homophone's meaning as a KUN headword. Comparing the core meanings provides an understanding of each homophone's fundamental meaning.
2. The HOMOPHONES sections form a network of cross-references that point to the entry characters for each group member. Comparing the meanings and compounds of each member provides a more thorough understanding of their differences and similarities.

11 NOTE SECTION

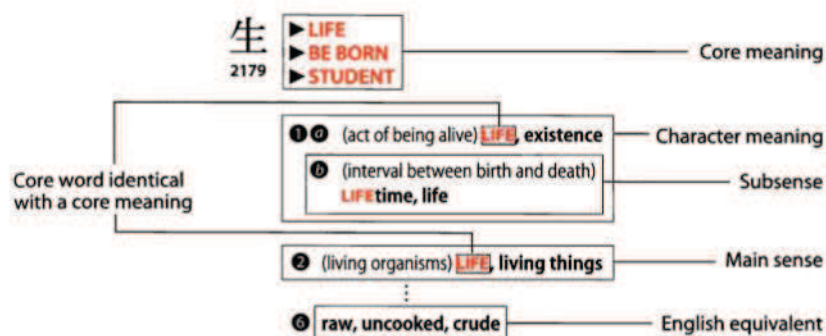
Introduced by ★, the NOTE section directs attention to characters of similar form that are easily confused. These characters are always cross-referenced to each other.

未 NOTE
2184 ★do not confuse with 未 NOT YET ⇒2185
未 NOTE
2185 ★do not confuse with 未 LAST PART
⇒2184

Each character is followed by its first core meaning, which clarifies their differences.

12 CHARACTER MEANINGS

The detailed presentation of character meanings is one of the principal features of this dictionary. **Character meaning** is defined as the meaning of an *on* word element, a KUN headword, or an INDEPENDENT *on* headword. The meanings, which consist of explanatory glosses and English equivalents, may be preceded by sense division numbers, functional labels, status labels, or subject labels, and are sometimes followed by explanatory glosses. Each of these elements is described below.



12.1 Order of Senses

The senses are arranged in an order that shows their semantic interrelatedness; an English keyword, often a **core word** such as **LIFE** in the above example, serves as the basis of organization, and the various senses are grouped in clusters in a manner that shows how they are interrelated.

The senses of a compound or example are normally given in order of descending frequency or importance.

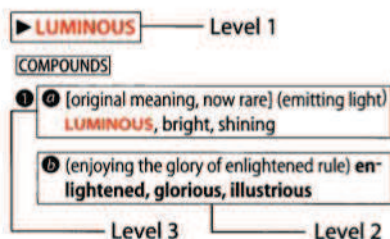
12.2 Sense Division

The character meanings are often subdivided by a system of dark-circled sense division numbers (such as ① and ②), subsense division letters (such as ㉑ and ㉒), and semicolons and commas in a manner that shows the semantic relationship between the senses and subsenses (see example above). The senses of compounds and examples are subdivided only by semicolons.

If the COMPOUNDS section has only one **main sense** that is not subdivided into **subsenses**, it is identified by a solid black circle ●.

12.3 Degree of Importance

The **degree of importance** of each character sense is indicated by various typographical devices and labels.



The degree of importance is divided into three levels.

Level 1: Core meaning—The most important sense, which is essential for the beginner, provides a basic understanding of the character.

Level 2: Important meaning—An English equivalent displayed in boldface signifies an important, usually high-frequency, meaning essential for beginning and intermediate learners.

Level 3: Rare or archaic meaning—An English equivalent displayed in lightface, accompanied by temporal labels (§14.2), signifies rare and archaic senses. These can be safely ignored by learners.

Since this dictionary is aimed at beginning and intermediate learners, almost all the

equivalents are level 2 meanings. Level 3 meanings and compounds are only given in the exceptional cases when they promote understanding, or if they are the only ones that exist for that entry character.

12.4 Explanatory Gloss

Explanatory glosses supplement the equivalents in order to clarify their meanings. These are of two kinds. The **subject guide phrase** is a brief parenthetical phrase beginning with “of” that restricts the equivalent, especially as a typical subject of an intransitive verb.

伸 ② (of stock prices) rise
0051

The **explanation** is a description, rather than a translation, of the meaning or grammatical function. If necessary, a full lexicographic **definition** is given.

折 【oru 折る】
0189 ① (separate through the application of a sudden bending force) **BREAK OFF** (as a branch), **break** (a bone), **snap** (in two), **split**

12.5 The English Equivalent

The **English equivalent** (or “equivalent”), the central part of the character meaning, refers to synonymous or nearly synonymous words or phrases that are an English translation of a Japanese word or word element (see §12 for illustration). The **core word** is often the first word of the equivalent, sometimes modified by a qualifying word or phrase, that is identical with a core meaning.

The equivalent is presented in the following format:

1. An **explanation** or **definition** replaces the equivalent in the case of culture-bound terms or function words such as particles.
2. The **core words** are set in **RED CAPITALS** to make it visually obvious how the various

senses are related to the core meaning.

3. **Boldface** is used in character meanings (but not in compounds) to distinguish the equivalents visually from other explanatory matter, and to indicate level 2 importance (§12.3).
4. **Parenthetical adjuncts** sometimes accompany the equivalent to indicate a typical object of a transitive verb, a subject of a verb, and the like.

12.6 Supplementary Gloss

Introduced by a dash, the **supplementary gloss** typically consists of a phrase, beginning with “said of” or “used in,” that supplements the equivalent by restricting its range of application, by describing its grammatical function, and so on.

渋 【shibui 渋い】
0377 ① **ASTRINGENT**, **puckery**, **rough**—said esp. of the taste of unripe persimmons

12.7 Functions of Kanji

The **function** of a character as a free word and word element is indicated by various means. The following functions are indicated:

1. Free words
2. Combining forms
3. Affixes (suffixes or prefixes)
4. Grammatical/syntactic functions
5. Numerals
6. Function words
7. Abbreviations
8. Counters
9. Units
10. Titles
11. Phonetic substitutes
12. Symbols
13. Names
14. Special readings

Some of these are briefly described herein, but the learner need not be concerned with the technical details, since the structure of the entry usually makes it obvious. The basic principles are:

1. Character meanings in the COMPOUNDS section refer to the meanings of the character as a combining form. But if the sense is preceded by a label such as “[suffix]” or “[prefix],” that meaning functions exclusively as an affix.
2. Meanings in the KUN section function as independent *kun* words, unless they are preceded by the label “[in compounds]” that shows that it is used only as a combining form.
3. Meanings in the INDEPENDENT section function as independent *on* words.

For a full description of character functions, refer to pages 197a to 202a of the NJECD.

13 COMPOUNDS AND EXAMPLES

13.1 Section Format

Each sense of a character meaning is usually illustrated by compounds and examples. **Compound** or **compound word** refers to a combination of two or more words or word elements having their own lexical meaning that together function as a single word (e.g. 携行する *keikō suru* ‘carry along, bring’). **Example** refers to a word other than a compound or to an illustrative phrase or sentence (e.g. 杖を携える *tsue o tazusaeru* ‘carry a stick in one’s hand’).

The compounds and examples are presented in the following format:

1. A Japanese word or phrase is followed by the romanized transcription and the English equivalent. The format of the equivalent generally follows that of the character meanings (§12). See Appendix 3 on p. 900 for details on romanization.
2. Characters used in compounds and examples are sometimes followed by a superscript *x* (^x), which indicates that the character in question is not one of the 2230 main entry characters in this dictionary.

13.2 Subsense Indicators

The compounds and examples are grouped by meaning in a manner that shows how they are formed from their constituent parts; that is, they are grouped together under the same main sense that they illustrate.

If a **main sense** is divided into **subsenses**, the compounds are listed under the same main sense and subdivided into groups by subsense. Within each (sub)sense group, compounds in which the entry character appears in the initial position precede those in which it does not.

The **subsense indicators**, which consist of tiny letters to the left of the compounds, indicate the beginning of a new subsense group; that is, that the compounds from that point onwards illustrate only the subsense(s) indicated by the tiny letters.

効	COMPOUNDS
0849	㊦ EFFECT, efficacy (esp. of drugs), virtue ㊧ (state of being operative or in force) EF- FE CT, effectiveness, validity <i>a</i> 効果 <i>kōka</i> effect, efficacy; result 効率 <i>kōritsu</i> efficiency : <i>ab</i> 効力 <i>kōryoku</i> effect, efficacy; effect (as of a law), validity 有効な <i>yūkō na</i> effective, valid 無効 <i>mukō</i> invalidity, ineffectiveness <i>b</i> 発効する <i>hakkō suru</i> become effective, take effect, come into force

In the example, the tiny *a* indicates that 効果 and 効率 illustrate subsense ㊦; the *ab* that 有効な and 無効 illustrate both subsenses ㊦ and ㊧; and the *b* that 発効する illustrates subsense ㊧.

14 LABELS

A labeling system including functional, status, and subject labels provides guidance on etymology, style, function, level of formality, etc.

14.1 Functional Labels

Functional labels indicate various grammatical and syntactic functions associated with a sense. These are of four kinds: part-of-speech, usage, word-formation, and miscellaneous.

1. **Part-of-speech labels**, set in italics, are sometimes given. This includes *particle*, *pronoun*, *vi* (intransitive verb), and *vt* (transitive verb). The part of speech is usually made clear by the wording of the equivalent. Labels appear mostly when it is necessary to eliminate ambiguity.
2. The **usage label**, enclosed in square brackets, indicates how a word or word element is used, especially its syntactic function and the grammatical construction in which it normally appears. These labels do not have a fixed form. Typical ones include: “[in the form of...]” (form in which the word is normally used), “[followed by...]” and “[in negative constructions].”
3. The **word-formation label**, enclosed in square brackets, indicates the function of a form as a word element (affix or combining form). The absence of a word-formation label before the equivalent of an *on* word element indicates that the character functions as a combining form in that sense. The absence of such a label before the equivalent of a **KUN** headword indicates that that headword functions as an independent word that may or may not also function as a combining form in that sense.

The following labels appear: prefix, also prefix, suffix, also suffix, also prefix and suffix, verbal prefix, verbal suffix, in compounds. If a label does not begin with “also”, the function is exclusive. Thus, “prefix” means the sense is used only as a prefix.

4. **Miscellaneous functional labels**, such as “[auxiliary],” and “[emphatic]”, indicate various functions.

14.2 Status Labels

The **status label** restricts the sense to a particular time, level of style, or level of formality. Status labels are of four kinds.

1. The **etymological label**, which appears in the form “[original meaning],” indicates that the sense is the first meaning of the character after its formation. Though etymological labels appear quite often, the treatment of original meanings is not exhaustive.
2. The **temporal label**, enclosed in square brackets, restricts the accompanying sense to a particular time. The absence of a temporal label indicates that the sense is current in Modern Japanese.

Temporal labels are of two kinds: “[rare]” (infrequent in Modern Japanese) and “[archaic]” (used especially in the classics) (see illustration in §12.3). Rare and archaic senses are given only in special cases where no other meanings or compounds exist, or when essential for understanding.

3. The **stylistic label**, set in italics, restricts the sense to a particular level of style. The following labels appear: *literary* (language of literature), *elegant* (language of poetry), *colloq* (spoken language), *slang* (extremely informal), and *vulgar* (social taboo).
4. The **formality label**, enclosed in square brackets, restricts the sense to a particular level of formality. The following labels appear: “[honorific]” (elevating subject's status), “[humble]” (lowering subject's status), “[polite]” (*desu-masu* style), and “[belittling]” (showing contempt or abuse).

14.3 Subject Labels

This **subject label**, in italics, identifies the field to which the sense applies. It is often an abbreviation, as *chem* for “chemistry.” These abbreviations are listed with their full forms in **Abbreviations and Symbols** on p. 45a.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS

略語・記号表

LABELS

<i>anat</i>	anatomy
<i>biol</i>	biology
<i>bot</i>	botany
<i>chem</i>	chemistry
<i>colloq</i>	colloquial
<i>elec</i>	electricity
<i>geol</i>	geology
<i>gram</i>	grammar
<i>math</i>	mathematics
<i>phys</i>	physics
<i>vi</i>	intransitive verb
<i>vt</i>	transitive verb

SKIP SYMBOLS AND ABBREVIATIONS

etc.	in cross-reference entries, other characters of similar structure
<i>P</i>	incorrect pattern classification (in Pattern Index)
<i>ps</i>	incorrect pattern classification and stroke-count (in Pattern Index)
<i>s</i>	incorrect stroke-count (in Pattern Index)
SKIP	System of Kanji Indexing by Patterns
▣ 1	left-right pattern
▣ 2	up-down pattern
▣ 3	enclosure pattern
■ 4	solid pattern
□ 1	top line (solid subpattern)
□ 2	bottom line (solid subpattern)
▤ 3	through line (solid subpattern)
□ 4	others (solid subpattern)

SYMBOLS IN ENTRY-HEAD DATA

▶	core meaning
()	encloses <i>okurigana</i> of <i>kun</i> readings
^{1, 2}	<i>kun</i> readings of exactly the same form
-	<i>kun</i> reading used as word element
*	special reading that can be isolated
▲	unapproved reading

▼	unapproved/rare reading used in names
㊦	reading(s) used only in names

REFERENCE DATA BOX

^	new radical based on simplified character form
S	Stroke-count information
K	Kuten number
A-D	frequency level
㊦	NJECD entry number
U	Unicode

OTHER SYMBOLS AND MARKS

【】	encloses subentry headwords (KUN and INDEPENDENT headwords)
① ②	sense division numbers
㉑ ㉒	sense division letters
●	unnumbered sense in COMPOUNDS section
▲	unapproved special reading in SPECIAL READINGS section
×	character not found as an entry character in this dictionary
◦	lost-radical character (in Radical Index)
⇒	introduces cross-references
§	precedes section numbers in cross-references
=	precedes alternative forms or readings
()	1. <i>okurigana</i> endings 2. explanatory glosses 3. optional omissions ($A(B) = A$ or AB) 4. alternative forms/readings
[]	1. most labels 2. alternatives ($A [B] C = AC$ or BC)
/	1. sometimes indicates alternatives 2. separates sentences
—	precedes supplementary glosses
-	KUN headword used as word element
:	coordinates two parts of an English equivalent