

第1課

だいいっか

ユニット1

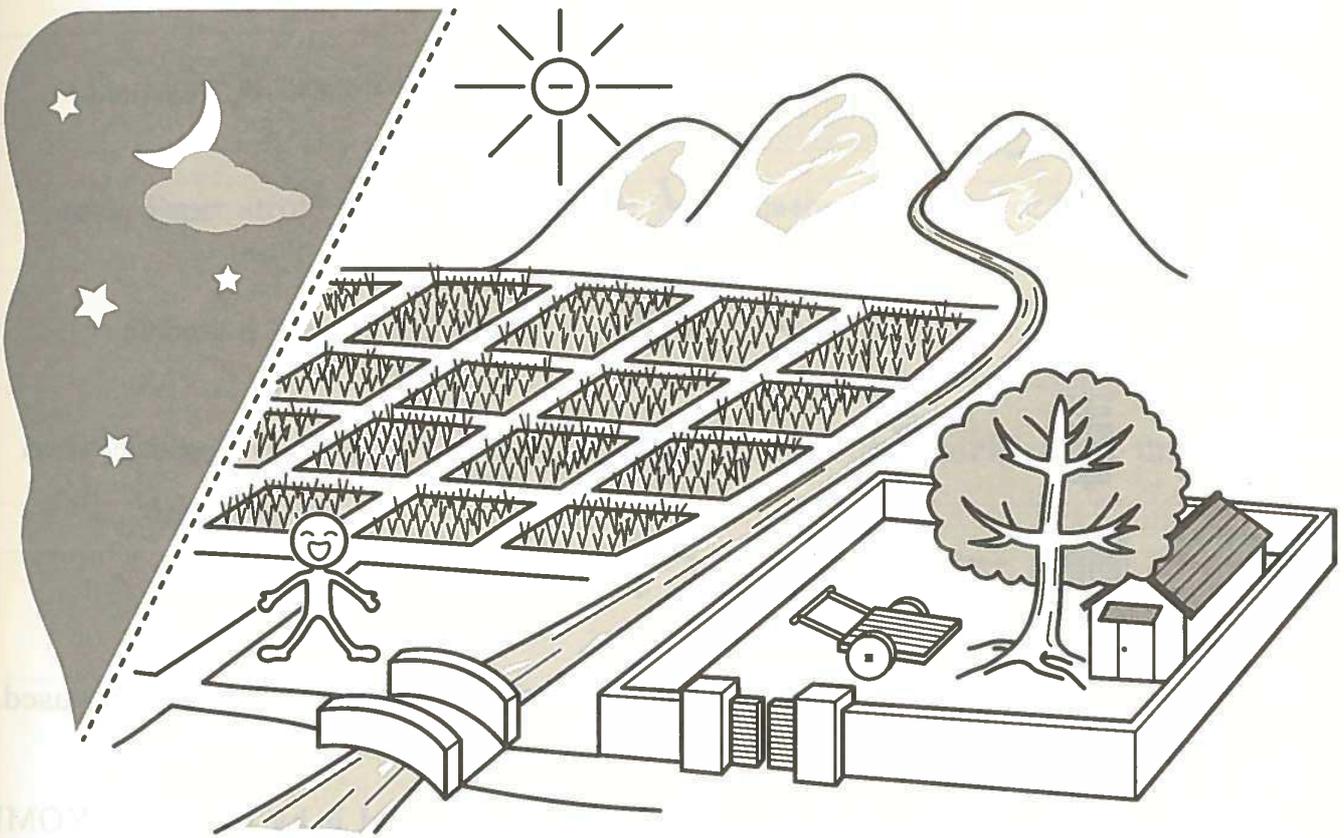
漢字のはなし (Kanji Topics)

かんじ

絵からできた漢字 -1- (Kanji from Pictures -1-)

The ancient Chinese drew pictures of things they saw around them. These pictures were simplified over time and given a square shape to make them easier to write. Eventually these pictures evolved into the kanji we use today. The shape of each kanji, therefore, is related to its original meaning.

Look at the following picture.



Guess the meanings of the kanji characters below.

1. 山
2. 川
3. 田
4. 木
5. 日
6. 月
7. 人
8. 口
9. 車
10. 門

These kanji characters were made from very primitive picture as follows. Usually each kanji has least two ways of being read; the so-called “KUN YOMI (=KUN, Japanese reading)” and “ON YOMI (=ON, Chinese reading)”.

Picture	→	Kanji	“KUN”	“ON”	Meaning				
	→		→		→	日	ひ	ニチ	sun, day
	→		→		→	月	つき	ゲツ ガツ	moon, month
	→		→		→	木	き	モク (ボク)	tree
	→		→		→	山	やま	サン	mountain
	→		→		→	川	かわ	(セン)	river
	→		→		→	田	た	デン	rice field
	→		→		→	人	ひと	ジン ニン	man, person
	→		→		→	口	くち	コウ	mouth
	→		→		→	車	くるま	シャ	vehicle, wheel
	→		→		→	門	(かど)	モン	gate

※ () reading is rarely used.

When a single kanji is used as a word, we usually read it by its “KUN YOMI (=KUN, Japanese reading)”, which gives its meaning. When one kanji is used together with another to make a word, we often read them by their “ON YOMI (=ON, Chinese reading)”. Generally speaking, however, the way of reading a kanji should be decided according to each individual word.

2-1 漢字のかきかた (Writing Kanji)

<きほんのルール (Basic Rules) >

Rule 1: Make every kanji the same size and balanced within a square.

Example.



Rule 2: Follow the basic stroke order.

(1) Write from left to right. 

(2) Write downward. 

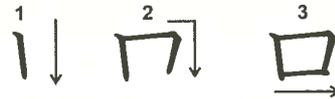
(3) Draw strokes from the top to the bottom as follows.



(4) Draw strokes from the left to the right in the following order.



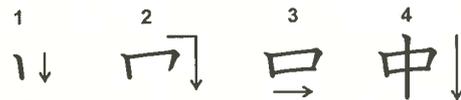
(5) Draw a square in the following way.



(6) When there is a figure in the square, the line which closes the square is drawn last.



cf. When a stroke line passes through a square, draw that stroke last.



Rule 3: There are three basic ways to end a stroke.

(1) Stop

(2) Stretch

(3) Hook



漢字	いみ	くんよみ	オンヨミ	(かくすう)
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5 川 river かわ / -がわ (セン) (3)

川	川	川																	

川(かわ) river 小川(お・がわ) brook, stream
 ナイル川(がわ) the Nile River

6 田 rice field た / -だ デン (5)

田	田	田	田	田															

田(た) rice field 山田(やま・だ) Japanese surname
 田中(た・なか) Japanese surname 水田(すい・でん) rice field

7 人 person ひと ジン ニン (2)

人	人																		

人(ひと) person 日本人(に・ほん・じん) Japanese (person)
 * 1人(ひとり) one person 3人(さん・にん) three people

8 口 mouth くち / -ぐち コウ (3)

口	口	口																	

口(くち) mouth 出口(で・ぐち) exit
 入口(いり・ぐち) entrance 人口(じん・こう) population

漢字	いみ	くんよみ	オンヨミ	(かくすう)
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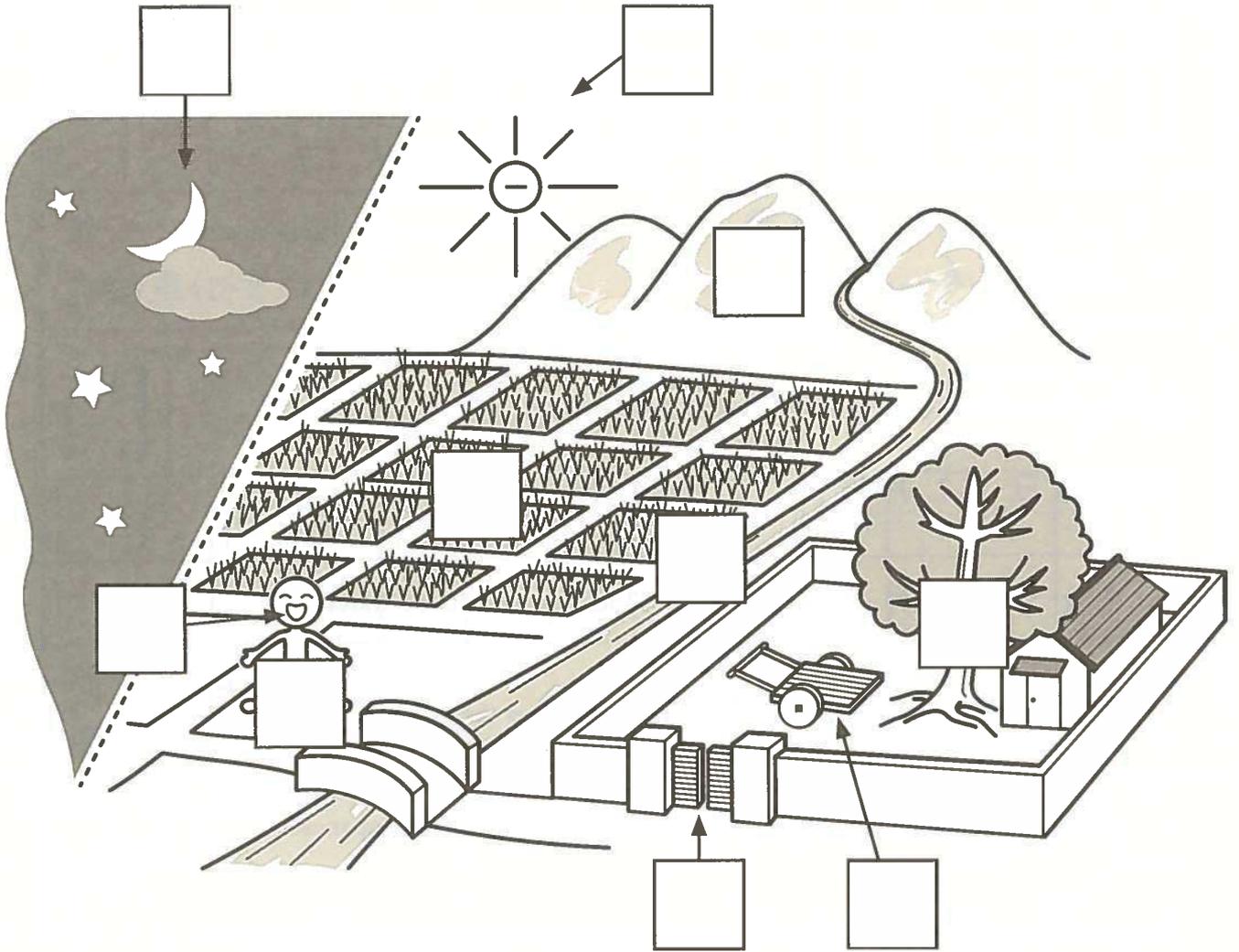
車	vehicle wheel	くるま	シャ	(7)												
					一	一	一	一	一	車						
車(くるま) car, wheel		電車(でん・しゃ) train														
自動車(じ・どう・しゃ) car, automobile		水車(すい・しゃ) waterwheel														

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門	gate	(かど)	モン	(8)													
					丨	冂	冂	冂	冂	門	門	門					
門(もん) gate		專門(せん・もん) specialty															

2-3 かきれんしゅう (Writing Exercises)

I. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate kanji.



1. tree

き

2. person

ひと

3. mouth

くち

4. the sun

ひ

5. the moon

つき

6. river

かわ

7. mountain

やま

8. rice field

た

9. car

くるま

10. gate

もん

II. Write the appropriate kanji based on the meaning of the word.

1. January

1

いち がつ

2. February

2

に がつ

3. March

3

さん がつ

4. April

4

し がつ

5. May

5

ご がつ

6. June

6

ろく がつ

7. July

7

しち がつ

8. August

8

はち がつ

9. September

9

く がつ

10. October

10

じゅう がつ

11. November

11

じゅういち がつ

12. December

12

じゅうに がつ

13. train

電

でん しゃ

14. Sunday

曜

にち よう び

15. Monday

曜

げつ よう び

16. Thursday

曜

もく よう び

17. Mt. Tsukuba

筑波

つく ば さん

18. Mt. Fuji

富士

ふ じ さん

19. population

じん こう

20. specialty

専

せん もん

21. Japanese (person)

本

にほん じん

22. Mr./Ms. Yamada

さん

やま だ

23. Mr./Ms. Yamakawa

さん

やま かわ

24. the Tone River

利根

とね がわ