



STUDY GUIDE OF THE 2,136 JOYO KANJI


甲骨文 oracle bone-style form; 金文 bronzeware-style form; 説文 seal-style form in 説文解字; 篆文 seal-style form; 正字 orthographic-style kanji; 旧字 (kyuji) old-style kanji; and 新字 (shinji) present-day kanji


I PARTS OF THE BODY

1 Eye

1a 目 “eye; to see” [from an eye] 目省看 

SG-0001	目	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
		to see, experience, estimate; important; an eye, marking, unit	め・ま モク・ボク	me, ma moku, boku	目	1 7 7 7 目 5
F-0038	目 A	 <p>1 2 3 4</p> <p>甲骨文 1 甲骨文 2 金文 3 説文 4</p> <p>1, 2, and 3 were the outline of an eye, showing the pupil and the whites of the eye. They meant “eye, seeing.” In 4, the shape was given a 90-degree turn and became a vertical shape. Different functions of the eye gave rise to various meanings, including “important” (from keeping eyes on something); “to experience” (from encountering); “marking” or “target”; “estimation” (from eyeballing something); and “unit of classification.” The kanji 目 means “to see, experience, estimate; important; an eye, marking, unit.” <目></p>	<p>1 2, and 3 were the outline of an eye, showing the pupil and the whites of the eye. They meant “eye, seeing.” In 4, the shape was given a 90-degree turn and became a vertical shape. Different functions of the eye gave rise to various meanings, including “important” (from keeping eyes on something); “to experience” (from encountering); “marking” or “target”; “estimation” (from eyeballing something); and “unit of classification.” The kanji 目 means “to see, experience, estimate; important; an eye, marking, unit.” <目></p>	<p>目の前 in front of, within one’s reach [めのまへ]; ~に目がない to like very much without reservation [~にめがなしい]; 目方 weight [めかた]; 四人目 fourth person [よにんめ]; 目の当たりにする to see with one’s own eyes [まのあたりにする]; 注目する to pay attention to [ちゅうもくする]; 目的 purpose [もくてき]; 面目をつぶす to be disgraced, lose face [めんほくをつぶす]</p>		

SG-0002	省	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
		to look carefully, reflect, omit; government ministry	かえり-みる・はぶ-く セイ・ショウ	kaeri-miru, habu-ku see, shoo	目	1 1 1 小 少 省 省 9
F-0258	省 A	 <p>1 2 3 4 5</p> <p>甲骨文 1 金文 2 説文 3 説文 4 説文 5</p> <p>1 through 5 all comprised “an eye” and “a plant sprouting” above the eye, which was used for the sounds <i>see/shoo</i> to mean “a little.” Together they signified squinting in an effort to look carefully, and thus the character meant “to examine carefully, reflect on.” 省 also meant “to inspect the land and properties under one’s control.” It also became used for other derived meanings such as “to abbreviate” (from blocked vision, or 少 “little” in 4) and “government ministry.” The kanji 省 means “to look carefully, reflect, leave off; government ministry.” <少 目></p>	<p>1 through 5 all comprised “an eye” and “a plant sprouting” above the eye, which was used for the sounds <i>see/shoo</i> to mean “a little.” Together they signified squinting in an effort to look carefully, and thus the character meant “to examine carefully, reflect on.” 省 also meant “to inspect the land and properties under one’s control.” It also became used for other derived meanings such as “to abbreviate” (from blocked vision, or 少 “little” in 4) and “government ministry.” The kanji 省 means “to look carefully, reflect, leave off; government ministry.” <少 目></p>	<p>省みる to reflect [かえりみる]; 省く to omit, leave off [はぶく]; 反省する to reflect [はんせいする]; 自省 self-reflection [じせい]; 省略する to leave out, shorten [しょうりやくする]; 経済産業省(経産省) Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) [けいざいさんぎょうしょう]; けいさくしょう; 省力化 labor-saving, elimination or reduction of labor [しょうりよくか]</p>		

SG-0003	看	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
		to watch attentively	カン	kan	目	一 三 手 看 看 9
F-1101	看 C	 <p>1 2</p> <p>説文或体 1 説文 2</p> <p>1 comprised 𠄎 “a streamer fluttering high,” used for the sound <i>kan</i>, and 目 SG-0001 “an eye,” together signifying “to look afar.” 2 comprised “a hand with five fingers showing” (手, a variation of 手 SG-0072) and “an eye.” Together they signified a hand shading the eyes in the bright sun to help one to see farther. 2 became the kanji 看 and means “to watch attentively.” <手 目></p>	<p>1 comprised 𠄎 “a streamer fluttering high,” used for the sound <i>kan</i>, and 目 SG-0001 “an eye,” together signifying “to look afar.” 2 comprised “a hand with five fingers showing” (手, a variation of 手 SG-0072) and “an eye.” Together they signified a hand shading the eyes in the bright sun to help one to see farther. 2 became the kanji 看 and means “to watch attentively.” <手 目></p>	<p>看護する to care for the sick [かんごする]; 看護師 nurse [かんごし]; 看板 signboard, the public face of an organization [かんばん]; 看過する to turn a blind eye to, fail to notice [かんかする]; 看病 tending to a sick person, nursing [かんびょう]; 看守 prison guard, warden [かんしゅ]</p>		

1b 相 “facing each other; mutual” [from an eye and a tree facing each other]; *soo* 相 想 箱 𠂔

SG-0004 相	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
	to face each other; mutual; phase, aspect, government minister	あい ソウ・ショウ	ai <i>soo, shoo</i>	目	一十才相相 9
相 A F-0107	<p>1, 2, 3, and 4 comprised “a tree” (木 SG-0608) and “an eye” (目). A person and a tree facing each other signified “to face each other; mutual.” More specifically, the character meant “looking at a phase or an aspect” of a matter. It also came to mean “government minister,” in the sense of someone who keeps a close eye on changing situations. The kanji 相 means “to face each other; mutual; phase, aspect, minister.” <木目></p>	<p>相手 partner, opponent [あいて]; 相談する to talk over, consult [そうだんする]; 相思相愛 two people in love with each other [そしあい]; 血相を変える to change facial color, become angry [けっそうをかえる]; 人相 facial features, physiognomy [にんそう]; 円相場 the yen exchange rate [えんそつあひ]; 首相 prime minister [しゅしょう]</p>			

SG-0005 想	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
	idea; to imagine, recall, visualize	ソウ・ソ	<i>soo, so</i>	心	木和相相相想 13
想 A F-0398	<p>The seal-style form comprised 相, “facing each other” (used for the sound <i>soo</i>), and 心 SG-0187 “heart/mind.” When one squarely faces one’s thoughts and ideas, they also recall and visualize them in their mind. The kanji 想 means “idea, to imagine, recall, visualize.” <相 心></p>	<p>想像する to imagine, visualize [そうぞうする]; 感想 impression, reactions, feelings [かんそう]; 空想 idle fancy, imagination [くそう]; 予想 expectation, surmise [よそう]; 連想 association of ideas [れんそう]; 想定 projection, supposition [そうてい]; 回想 retrospection, recollection [かいそう]; 愛想のいい friendly, affable [あいそでのいい]</p>			

SG-0006 箱	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
	box	はこ	hako	竹	𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 15
箱 B F-1063	<p>The seal-style form comprised 竹 SG-0759 “bamboo” and 相 SG-0004 “facing each other,” used for the sound <i>soo</i>. Pliable materials such as bamboo sheathe were used to make lightweight baskets. When traveling, two bamboo baskets were hung facing each other on either side of a horse. The kanji 箱 means “box.” <𠂔 相></p>	<p>箱 box [はこ]; 箱入り in a box, boxed, precious [はこいり]; 薬箱 medicine box [くすりばこ]; 重箱 nest of boxes (for food) [じゅうばこ]</p>			

1c 直 “straight, direct” [from an eye looking straight]; *choku/shoku/chi* 直 置 值 植 徳 殖 𠂔

SG-0007 直	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
	to straighten, do over; direct, immediate, straight	ただ-ちに・なお-す チヨク・ジキ	tada-chini, nao-su <i>choku, jiki</i>	目	一十方直直 8
直 A F-0160	<p>1 was “an eye” (目) with “a straight line” above it. An eye looking straight at something meant “straight.” In 2, a small dot on the straight line above the eye emphasized “straight,” and a curved line signified “to straighten” and “to do over” (L). A straight way was a direct, immediate way, and thus the character also meant “direct; at once.” The kanji 直 means “to straighten, do over; direct, immediate, straight.” <目 一></p>	<p>直ちに straightaway [ただちに]; やり直す to start afresh, redo [やりなおす]; 一直線 a straight line [いちちよくせん]; 直行する to go without stopping [ちよくこうする]; 直前 immediately before [ちよくぜん]; 日直 day duty [にちよく]; 正直 honest, earnest [しよくじき]; 直々に in person, personally [じまじきに] // 直ぐ at once, immediately [すぐ]</p>			

SG-0008 置	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
	to place, leave, lay	お-く チ	o-ku <i>chi</i>	网	𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 𠂔 13
置 A F-0373	<p>The seal-style form comprised “a net (网, 𠂔) to catch birds,” and 直 “straight, direct,” used for the sound <i>chi</i>, together signifying a net placed straight up to catch birds. The kanji 置 means “to place, leave, lay.” <𠂔 直></p>	<p>置く to place, lay something [おく]; 一日置き every other day [いちにちおき]; 一いちにおき; 置物 a decorative object [おきもの]; 物置 storeroom, shed [ものおき, ものおき]; 位置 position [いち]; 放置する to leave as it is [ほうちする, ほうちする]; 処置する to dispose of, treat [しょちする]</p>			

	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
SG-0009 値	value, approximation, pricing	ね・あたい チ	ne, atai chi	人	人 亻 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 10
値 A F-0515	説文 The seal-style form comprised “a person” (亻, bushu <i>ninben</i> “an act that a person does”), and 直 “straight, direct,” used for the sound <i>chi</i> . It signified a person looking directly at something to assess its value. The kanji 値 means “value, approximation, pricing.” <亻直>				値 price [ね]; value, worth [あたい]; 値下げ lowering of price [ねさげ]; 値段 price [ねだん]; 値打ち value, worth [ねうち]; 価値 value [かち]; 数值 numerical value [すうち]

	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
SG-0010 植	to plant; plant, vegetation	う-える シヨク	u-eru shoku	木	一 十 木 𠂇 𠂇 植 12
植 B F-0822	説文 In 1 and 2, 木 SG-0608 “tree” was combined with 直 SG-0007 “straight” in 1, and 置 SG-0008 “to place” in 2. Both right-side components were used for the sound <i>shoku</i> . When planting a tree, one placed the tree straight up. The kanji 植 means “to plant; plant, vegetation.” <木直>				植える to plant [うえる]; 植木 garden tree [うえき]; 田植え planting out rice seedlings [たうえ]; 植物 plant [しょくぶつ]; 植民地 colony [しょくみんち]; 植樹祭 tree planting ceremony [しょくじゆさい]

	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
SG-0011 徳	goodness, virtue, merit, good act	トク	toku	イ	イ 彳 徳 徳 徳 14
徳 B F-0909	説文 1, 2, and 3 comprised “an eye with a straight line above it” (𠂇) and “a crossroads, conduct” (彳), signifying “conducting oneself in an upright manner.” In 4 and 5, “a heart” (心 SG-0187) was added for “morality.” The line (from 亠 in 直) above 心 in 6 and 7 disappeared in the shinji. From the sense of being moral and properly conducting oneself, the kanji 徳 means “goodness, virtue, merit, good act.” <イ 𠂇 心>				1 道德 morality, morals [どうとく]; 人徳 one’s natural goodness [じんとく]; 悪徳業者 crooked businessman [あくとくぎやうしゃ]; 背徳行為 immoral conduct [はいとくこうい] // 徳利 sake serving bottle [とっくり] (phonetic substitute kanji)

	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
SG-0012 殖	to increase, multiply (money/investment)	ふ-える シヨク	hu-eru shoku	歹	一 𠂇 歹 歹 殖 殖 殖 12
殖 D F-1627	説文 The seal-style form comprised “skeletal remains” (歹), and 直, used for the sound <i>shoku</i> (from the kanji 植 SG-0010 “to plant”). Decayed animal bones make good fertilizer for plants to grow strong and multiply. The kanji 殖 means “to increase, multiply (money/investment).” <歹直> (Note: For a group of kanji that contains 歹 bushu <i>kabane/gatsuhen</i> , please see SG-0277 through SG-0283.)				殖える to increase [ふえる]; 増殖 multiplication, increase [ぞうしょく]; 生殖 reproduction, generation [せいしょく]; 繁殖 breeding, propagation [はんしょく]

1d “eye with an eyebrow” 夢 蔑眉 𠂇

	Meanings	Kun and On	Romaji	Bushu	Stroke Order and Number
SG-0013 夢	dream	ゆめ ム	yume mu	夕	一 𠂇 𠂇 𠂇 夢 夢 13
夢 A F-0505	説文 1 and 2 comprised “a bed placed vertically” and “a person lying on a bed with their eyes open wide.” The person was “seeing a dream.” 3 comprised “eyes with big eyebrows” (𠂇) and “a moon (夕)” that was covered, signifying “darkness or night,” or “the body,” from its relation to 月, bushu <i>nikuzuki</i> . What one saw at night while asleep was a dream. The kanji 夢 means “dream.” <𠂇 夕>				夢 dream [ゆめ]; 夢見る to dream [ゆめみる, ゆめみ]; 夢物語 fantastic story, empty story [ゆめものがたり]; 夢中になる to become preoccupied [むちゆうになる]; 悪夢 nightmare [あくむ]

