





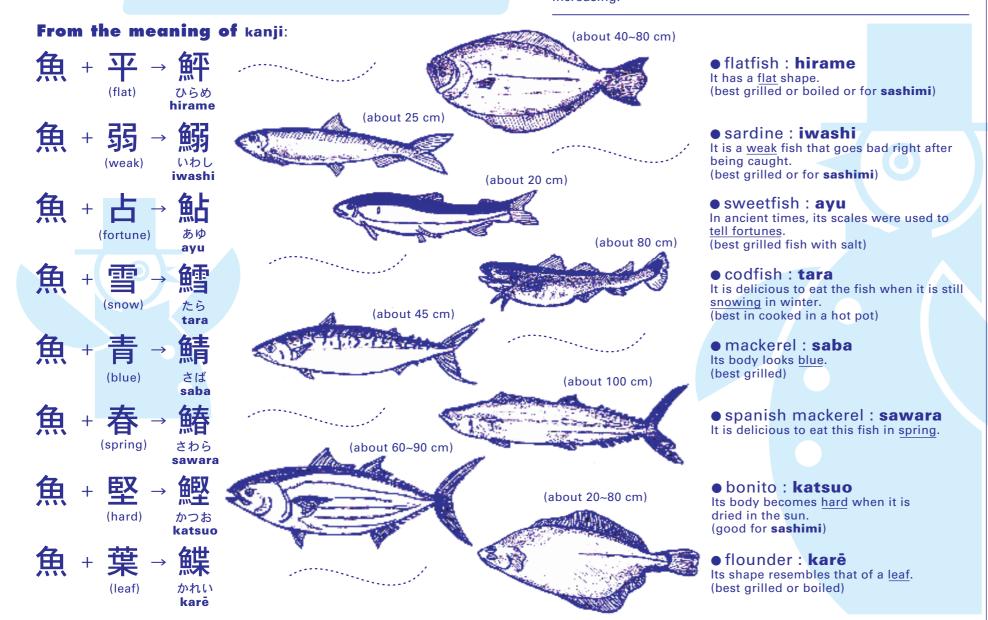
Pero Pero Penguin's

5-minute Japanese Class by Hitomi Hirayama

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I went to the **sushi** restaurant near my house last night. Recently, I have been able to order various kinds of **sushi** because I've learned the names of some of the fish. It's still hard for me to remember some of the names, so I order by looking at a menu posted on a wall, which is written in **hiragana**. Last night, a Japanese man who was sitting next to me told me that it would be interesting to know what **kanji** are used for what fish and why. Ms. Hirayama, can you help?

■■■ I also love **sushi**. In some **sushi** restaurants, they use an interesting green-tea cup with the names of many fish on it. Many Japanese find it hard to read the names of fish in **kanji**. If you remember them, your Japanese friends will be impressed. Why not try to surprise them? I may be making an unnecessary comment here, but, recently, it seems more and more fish are cut into slices and sold in packages at supermarkets. So, there is little opportunity to see a whole fish, and the number of children and young adults who cannot recognize different kinds of fish is increasing.





Proverbs that relate to fish

Using the clues provided, complete the proverbs.

1. Being suddenly awakened to the truth (literal meaning: the scales fall from one's eyes). It refers to being able to understand clearly and being awakened to the real truth.

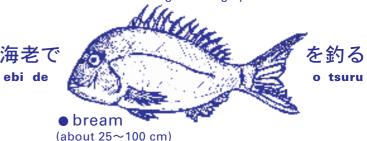
目から me kara



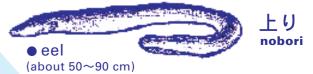
Cheating on counting (literal meaning: counting mackerel).
 It means to cheat when counting to benefit oneself. For example, a woman pretends she is younger or weighs less than she really does.



3. Throwing a sprat to catch a mackerel (literal meaning: catching a sea bream by using a shrimp). It refers to using a small investment as bait to gain a huge profit.



4. Increasing at an unbelievable rate (literal meaning: rising eel) It is about prices, positions, temperature, stock prices, etc., rising at an unbelievable rate.



5. One is apt to think that the fish that got away was very big. When something isn't achieved at the last minute, one often thinks the loss is larger than it actually is.



1.目 から 鱗 me kara uroko 4.鰻 上り unagi nobori 鯖 を 読む 3.海老 で 鯛 を 釣る saba o yomu ebi de tai o tsur 逃がした 魚 は 大きい

nigashita sakana wa dki

With cooperation from Yasuhiro Koga and illustrations by Ayako Tanaka