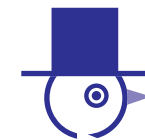


Kanji

木 魚 言



Design : Masako Ban

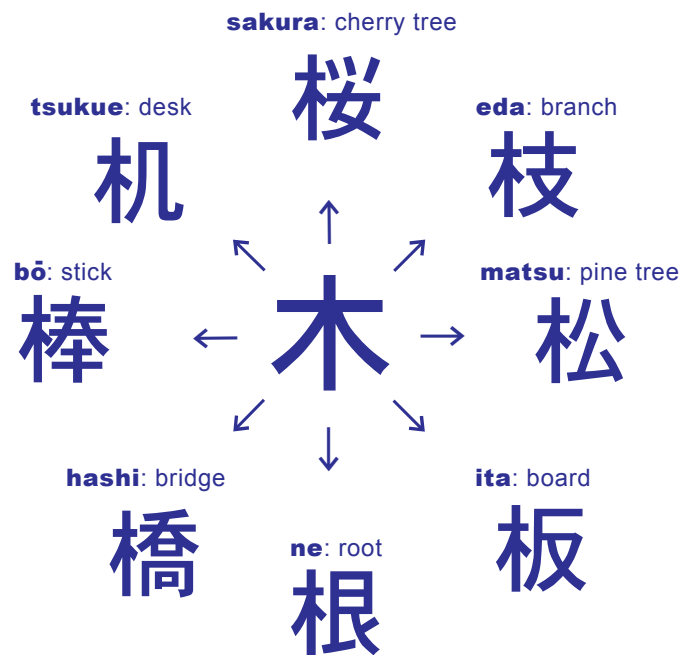


Hirayama-san, I've been studying Japanese but feel it very difficult to memorize **kanji**. Characters are too complicated, and there are too many of them. How can I memorize them easily? Please teach me how to memorize them if you know some good methods. This year, I'm going to work hard to learn **kanji**.

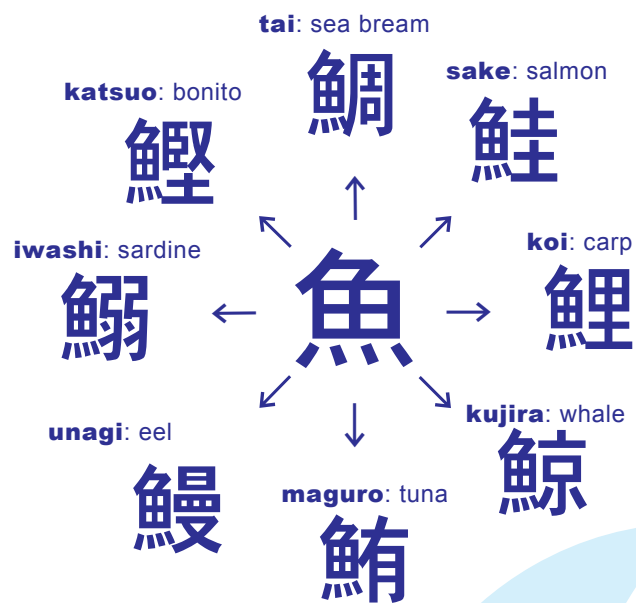
■■■ You mean you want to memorize **kanji** easily. Japanese kids learn 1,006 **kanji** characters in primary school (80 in their first year, 160 in their second year, 200 in their third year, 200 in their fourth year, 185 in their fifth year and 181 in their sixth year). Pole-san, I'd like to show you how to study **kanji** in a relatively short period.

Kanji is composed of the combination of many small **kanji** elements. This time, I'll present various **kanji** that include 木 (tree), 魚 (fish) and 言 (say, tell).

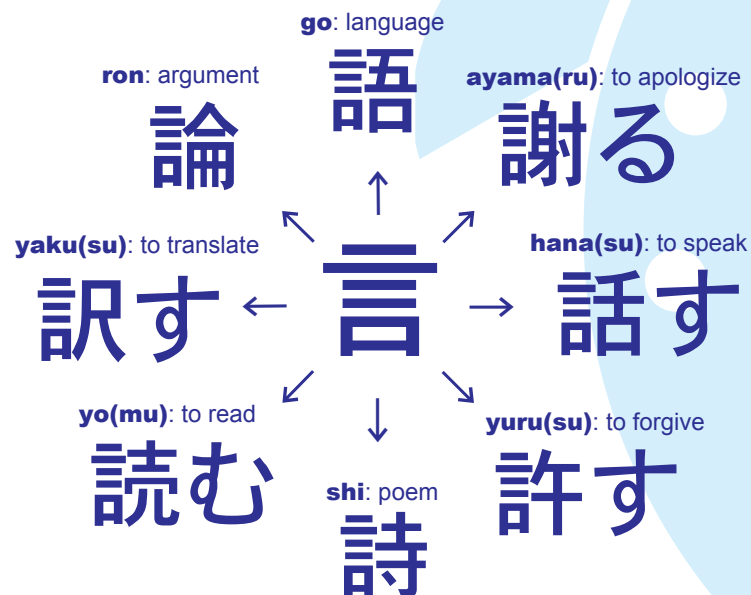
Kanji characters related to tree from "木"



Kanji characters related to fish from "魚"



Kanji characters related to language from "言"



2) 鰻のぼり unagi nobori

The phrase literally describes an eel swimming vertically to the surface, meaning figures and records rise rapidly.

3) 逃がした魚は大きい nigashita sakana wa ōki

The phrase literally means that the fish that gets away looks bigger than it really is, meaning what you lose always looks better than it really is.

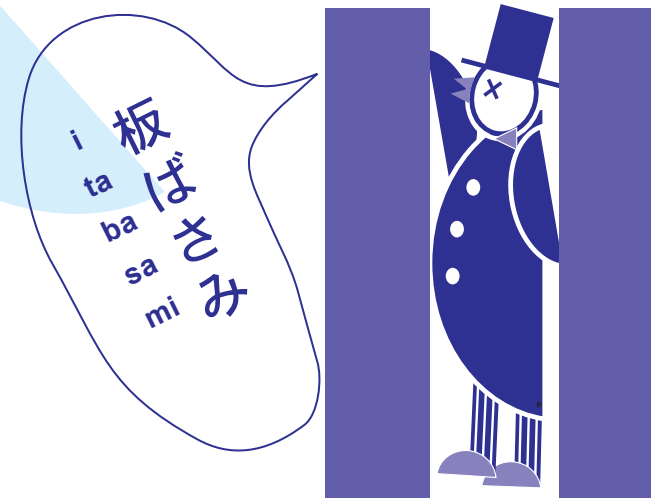
4) 言語道断 gongodōdan

Too bad or outrageous to describe.
→ Outrageous, out of the question.

[Exercise]

Choose the correct phrases from those listed at left to complete the sentence.

- a) 元カレは今や社長だって！ **moto kare wa ima ya shachō datte!**
(My ex-boyfriend is currently the president of a company! I let a good thing pass me by.)
- b) 理由も言わないで突然クビを切るなんて **da!**
riyū mo iwanaide totsuzen kubi o kiru nante **da!**
(Firing employees without telling them the reason is outrageous.)
- c) あの芸人は去年は人気が **dattakedo**
今年はどうかな？ **kotoshi wa dō kana?**
(That comedian's popularity drastically increased last year, but I wonder how he will do this year.)
- d) 妻と母がもめると、私は **jōtai desu**
tsuma to haha ga momeruto watashi wa **jōtai desu**
(When my wife and mother get into an argument, I'm always trapped in between.)



1) 板ばさみ ita basami

The phrase literally means to be caught between two pieces of boards, meaning to be trapped in a dilemma and not able to take either side.

Answers: a) - 3) b) - 4) c) - 2) d) - 1)