

Kanji Tests

Those who are learning Japanese are able to obtain, even outside Japan, internationally recognized certificates evidencing how well they know Japanese. This applies especially to the two internationally widespread test systems known as the

日本語能力試験 **Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT)**

and the

日本漢字能力検定 **Japan Kanji Aptitude Test (the "Kanken")**,

which are offered in various levels of difficulty.

For further information, see <https://www.jlpt.jp/e/> for the JLPT language test, and https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kanji_Kentei for the Kanken kanji test.

The two PDF files below list all the kanji and their level of difficulty under both test systems. Level 1 is not included in the Kanken list, because it contains so many kanji (about 4,000) and because the test for this level (as for level 2-2) is offered only in Japan.

A feature of these kanji lists is that within each level the Jōyō Kanji are arranged in the same order in which they appear in the widely available textbook and lexicon of Japanese writing [Japanese Kanji and Kana](#). The 617 kanji of levels N5 to N3 of the JLPT as well as almost all the 640 kanji of levels 10 to 7 of the Kanken kanji test are included in the writing workbook [Japanese Kanji and Kana Workbook](#). In both the JLPT and the Kanken lists, each kanji is presented together with its sequential reference number in **Kanji and Kana** and the **Workbook**. This gives the user, for every kanji, the quickest possible access to its test-relevant information, including its sequence of writing strokes, its readings, its meanings, and important multi-kanji compounds in which it appears.

A further advantage is that in **Kanji and Kana** and the **Workbook** you will encounter only compounds made up of kanji you have learned before, assuming you learned them in the sequence in which they are presented there. And finally, with these two books you have the assurance that all the data, including how to write and read the kanji and the compounds made from them, is based on the official guidelines of the Japanese Ministry of Education, the very institution that recognizes these two JLPT and Kanken certificates attesting to knowledge of the Japanese language and its kanji.

Learners who work with [The Learner's Japanese Kanji Dictionary](#) or [The Kanji Dictionary](#) also have the advantage of the quickest possible access to all the important information about the individual kanji. That is because the JLPT and Kanken lists include for each kanji, besides its lookup reference number in **Kanji and Kana** and in the **Workbook**, its descriptor (e.g., 4k9.21) telling where it can be found in these two kanji dictionaries.

Information about kanji in the JLPT list N1 which are not included in **Kanji and Kana** and appear mostly in proper names can be looked up in the supplementary PDF file [Jinmei-yō Kanji](#).

Wishes for success in your tests from
Wolfgang Hadamitzky

Buckow (Germany), February 2018