

JAPANESE-ENGLISH DICTIONARY OF KANJI SYNONYMS

類義漢字和英字典

Editor-in-chief
Jack Halpern
The CJK Dictionary Institute, Inc.

Introduction

The words of a language form a closely linked network of interdependent units. The meaning of a word or expression cannot really be understood unless its relationships with other closely related words are taken into account. For example, such words as *kill*, *murder*, and *execute* share the meaning of 'put to death', but differ considerably in usage and connotation. Similarly, in Japanese there are many kanji that share a common meaning but differ in detail, such as 破 BREAK, 崩 CRUMBLE, 壞 BREAKDOWN and 折 BREAK OFF. Intermediate and advanced learners of Japanese need to distinguish between such similar kanji in order to gain a full understanding of their individual shades of meaning.

First Kanji Thesaurus

The CJK Dictionary Institute (CJKI) is pleased to announce the completion of the **Japanese-English Dictionary of Kanji Synonyms**, a new type of reference work that enables intermediate and advanced learners deepen their understanding of how kanji synonyms are used in contemporary Japanese. Based on the author's world renowned **The Kodansha Kanji Dictionary** (Kodansha USA), this new work serves as the first ever bilingual kanji thesaurus.

The new work offers complete guidance on the precise distinctions between characters of similar meaning, referred to as **kanji synonyms**. Since a proper understanding of the meanings of each character is essential for the effective mastery of the Japanese vocabulary, this is of considerable benefit to the serious student. *Characters* here refers to single characters (one kanji possibly followed by kana) that function mostly as *word elements* (components of compounds words), rather than independent words. Thus this work is basically a *character dictionary* (字典), rather than a word dictionary (辞典), an important distinction.

Based on a systematic approach and a firm theoretical foundation, this dictionary enables users to quickly find characters from their meanings, then study those meanings in contrast to other characters that share the same basic concept but differ, often subtly, in meaning.

Kanji Synonym Groups

Characters are presented in groups of related meanings, referred to as **synonym groups**. The group members, each followed by their **core meanings**, are semantically interrelated and are classified under a **shared concept**, given in bold red capitals, as shown below.

KINDS OF WATER

水 WATER
湯 HOT WATER
汽 STEAM
氷 ICE
淵 DEEP WATER

AGREE AND APPROVE

贊 APPROVE OF
可 APPROVE
認 RECOGNIZE
諾 CONSENT
承 AGREE TO
肯 ASSENT
容 tolerate

Distinctive Features

Based on **The Kodansha Kanji Dictionary**, this dictionary provides various features that are useful to both learners and educators alike:

1. 1,245 **Synonym Groups** bring together kanji that have the same **shared concept** under a single entry.
2. Tens of thousands of compound words illustrate the function of each character as a word-element.
3. It is ordered alphabetically by **shared concept**.

4. Covers 5,630 synonym members from the Jōyō Kanji, Jinmei Kanji and non- Jōyō Kanji character sets.
5. Multiple indexes for quickly locating entries by SKIP pattern, by shared concept, by On-Kun reading, by core meaning and by radical.

It is noteworthy that since the shared concepts are ordered alphabetically, this dictionary functions like a *thesaurus in dictionary form*, a genre that revolutionized thesaurus compilation.

Effective Learning Aid

This dictionary serves as a powerful learning aid because it clearly shows the differences and similarities between closely related kanji. This is achieved in four ways:

1. The alphabetically-arranged headwords, representing the **shared concept** for each synonym group, show how the group members *resemble* each other.
2. The **core meanings** show at a glance how the group members *differ* from each other.
3. The **character meanings** show in greater detail the distinctive features of each group member.
4. The numerous **compound words** illustrate how each kanji functions (mostly) as a word element.

It is important to note that the core meanings and character meanings serve as a practical guide to kanji usage because they are based on *actual* occurrences, as illustrated by the many compounds, rather than the numerous historical and archaic meanings often found in conventional kanji dictionaries.

In-depth Understanding

Let us see how this dictionary helps the learner gain an in-depth understanding of four members of the synonym group BREAK (see the Appendix for the full entry).

破 ▶**BREAK**

break, smash

破壊する はかいする break (down), destroy, wreck

壊 ▶**BREAK DOWN**

break down, destroy, smash; (of a dam) burst

壊滅 かいめつ destruction, annihilation

崩 ▶**CRUMBLE**

crumble, collapse

崩壊する ほうかいする collapse, crumble, break down, cave in

折 ▶**BREAK OFF**

break off (as a branch), break (a bone), snap (in two), split

折半 せっばん halving

The **core meanings**, preceded by the symbol ▶, are described in more detail by the **character meanings**. In this case 'break, smash' for 破 and 'break down, destroy, smash etc.' for 壊. As can be seen, whereas 破 means to break in general, 壊 refers to destruction, 折 implies the application of a sudden force to such things as branches and bones, 崩 denotes breaking into small pieces, and so on. The many compound words (only one for each member is shown above) illustrate how each kanji functions as a word element; that is, its meaning as a morpheme on the word formation level.

Comparing the character meanings and illustrative compounds of the synonym group members to each other provides a deeper understanding of their (often subtle) differences and similarities. Studying such closely related characters together, rather than as isolated units, helps the user better understand their distinctive features while stimulating a desire to learn.

The CJK Dictionary Institute

CJKI is one of the world's prime sources for CJK and Arabic dictionary data. It published learner dictionary and smartphone app, and is contributing to CJK information processing technology by providing comprehensive lexical resources.

The CJK Dictionary Institute, Inc.
34-14, 2-chome, Tohoku, Niiza-shi
Saitama 352-0001
JAPAN
Phone: 048-473-3508 Fax: 048-486-5032
Email: jack@cjki.org Website: www.cjk.org

BREAK

破 ▶ **BREAK**
ハ ㊦1478

break, smash

破壊する はかいする break (down),
destroy, wreck

破片 はへん fragment, broken piece,
scrap

破損 はそん damage, breakdown

破碎する はさいする crush, smash, crack
to pieces

破滅 はめつ ruin, destruction, wreck,
collapse, downfall

爆破 ばくは blasting, blowing up, explo-
sion

難破 なんぱ shipwreck

打破する だはする break down, over-
throw, abolish

拉 ▶ **crush**
ひし(ぐ) ㊦0372

㊦ crush, squash

取り拉ぐ とりひしぐ crush

㊦ discourage

打ち拉がれる うちひしがれる be strick-
en [overcome, overwhelmed] (with
grief, etc.); be utterly defeated

崩 ▶ **CRUMBLE**
ホウ ㊦2863

crumble, collapse

崩壊する ほうかいする collapse, crum-
ble, break down, cave in

崩落 ほうらく collapse, cave-in; crash; (of
the market) decline

挫 ▶ **SPRAIN**
ザ ㊦0519

㊦ sprain, twist

捻挫 ねんざ sprain

㊦ bruise, injure
挫傷 ざしょう contusion

壊 ▶ **BREAK DOWN**
カイ ㊦0934

break down, destroy, smash; (of a dam)

burst

壊滅 かいめつ destruction, annihilation

破壊する はかいする break (down),
destroy, wreck

崩壊 ほうかい collapse, crumbling,
breakdown, cave-in

全壊 ぜんかい complete collapse

決壊 けっかい rip, break

倒壊する とうかいする collapse, be de-
stroyed, crumble

毀 ▶ **break down**
こわ(す) ㊦2246

break (down), destroy, smash, take apart;
spoil, mar, upset

取り毀す とりこわす demolish, pull down

折 ▶ **BREAK OFF**
セツ ㊦0297

(separate through the application of a sudden bend-
ing force) break off (as a branch), break (a
bone), snap (in two), split

折半 せつぱん halving

折衷 せつちゅう compromise, eclecticism

骨折 こっせつ bone fracture

割 ▶ **crack**
わる) ㊦2284

㊦ crack, break

コップを割る こつぷをわる crack [break]
a glass

㊦ split, chop (wood)

割り印 わりいん tally impression

割り箸 わりばし half-split (disposable)
chopsticks

Sample Pages

二つ割り ふたつわり cutting in two; one half

裂 ▶SPLIT
レツ ㊦3331

㊦ (separate or become separated into pieces)

split, tear, crack

破裂 はれつ explosion, bursting

核分裂 かくぶんれつ nuclear fission

㊦ crack, fissure

裂傷 れっしょう lacerated wound

亀裂 きれつ crack, fissure

碎 ▶CRUSH UP
サイ ㊦1458

crush up, break into pieces, smash

砕岩機 さいがんき rock crusher

砕氷船 さいひょうせん ice breaker

砕石 さいせき quarrying

破碎する はさいする crush, smash, crack to pieces

粉碎する ふんさいする pulverize, shatter, smash, crush

爆砕する ばくさいする blast, blow to pieces

玉砕 ぎよくさい death for honor

摧 ▶CRUSH UP
サイ ㊦0849

crush up, break into pieces, smash

破摧する はさいする crush, smash, crack to pieces

玉摧する ぎよくさいする die but never surrender

潰 ▶CRUSH
つぶ(す) ㊦0919

crush, smash, batter, squash; scrap, junk

缶を潰す かんをつぶす crush a can

WAYS AND ROUTES

道 ▶WAY (path)
ドウ ㊦3888

[also suffix] way, path, road, track
 道路 どうろ road, street, way
 道程 どうてい distance, journey, itinerary;
 process
 鉄道 てつどう railway
 街道 かいどう thoroughfare, highway
 軌道 きどう track, railway; planetary
 orbit; beaten track
 歩道 ほどう sidewalk, footpath

径 ▶PATH
ケイ ㊦0347

(narrow) path, footpath, shortcut
 径路 けいろ path; process
 捷径 しょうけい path, lane
 山径 さんけい mountain path
 小径 しょうけい path, lane

軌 ▶TRACK
キ ㊦1832

(wheel) track, rut, path
 軌跡 きせき locus; tracks
 軌道 きどう track, railway; planetary
 orbit; beaten track
 railway track
 軌条 きじょう rails

線 ▶LINE
セン ㊦1760

(public transportation route) line, track, route
 線路 せんろ (railway) line, track
 路線 ろせん route, way, line
 沿線の えんせんの along a railway line
 脱線 だっせん derailment; deviation,
 aberration

東海道線 とうかいどうせん Tokaido Line
 二番線 にばんせん Track No. 2

漕 ▶WATERWAY
レイ ㊦0957

waterway, water route, channel, fairway
 漕標 れいひょう elegant channel mark
 waterway, water route, channel, fairway
 for small boats
 漕標 みおつくし channel mark
 漕を引く みおをひく leave a wake be-
 hind

途 ▶WAY (route)
ト ㊦3853

way, route, course, road, path
 途中で とちゅうで on the way
 途上で とじょうで on the way
 途中で ちゅうとで halfway, in the middle
 発展途上国 はってんとじょうこく devel-
 oping countries
 前途 ぜんと one's future, prospects;
 distance yet to cover
 帰途 きと one's way home, return trip

路 ▶ROAD
ロ ㊦1936

[also suffix] road, route, way
 路上 ろじょう on the road, road
 路面 ろめん road surface
 路線 ろせん route, way, line
 路地 ろじ alley, lane
 道路 どうろ road, street, way
 空路 くろ air route, airway
 線路 せんろ (railway) line, track
 通路 つうろ passage, pathway, alley, aisle
 悪路 あくろ bad road
 滑走路 かつそうろ runway

筋 ▶ **wayside** すじ ㊦3319

[in compounds] **wayside, roadside, route, way**

道筋 みちすじ route, course, way
東海道筋の町 とうかいどうすじのまち
towns on the Tokaido
川筋 かわすじ course of a river; land
along a river

通 ▶ **street** とお(り) ㊦3855

street, avenue, road

大通り おおどおり main street
suffix after names of streets [avenues]
青山通り あおやまどおり Aoyama Street

街 ▶ **city street** カイ ㊦0702

city street, thoroughfare, crossroads

街道 かいどう thoroughfare, highway
街頭 がいとう street
街灯 がいとう street lamp

辻 ▶ **CROSSROADS** つじ ㊦3958

crossroads, crossing, intersection

四つ辻 よつつじ crossroads, intersection

street, roadside, street corner

辻占 つじうら slip of paper with a
fortune-telling message

辻辻に つじつじに at every crossing, at
every street corner

辻君 つじぎみ streetwalker, nightwalker

辻説法 つじせっぽう street preaching

辻店 つじみせ street stall

岐 ▶ **forked road** キ ㊦0285

forked road, branch road

岐路 きろ forked road, crossroad

巷 ▶ **THE STREETS** コウ ㊦3097

the streets, the town

陋巷 ろうこう narrow, dirty backstreet

柳巷花街 りゅうこうかがい [archaic] red-
light district