

## Nihongo (Japanese) Perapera (fluent) Newsletter

Once a month language-focused newsletter designed for both new and seasoned Japanese learners to use as a resource for study.



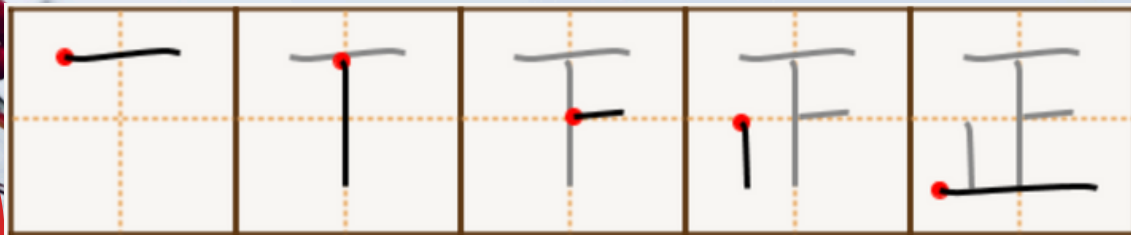
Let's study! 勉強(べんきょう)しましょう!

今月の漢字

correct

正

訓読み: ただ(しい/す), まさ  
音読み: セイ, ショウ

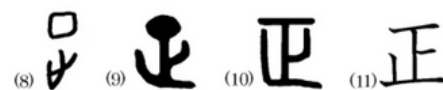


### 5 strokes

#### Associated Common Words

正月 (しょうがつ) - new year  
正解 (せいかい) - correct answer  
正夢 (まさゆめ) - prophetic dream

#### The History of the Kanji 正



Noriko K. Williams ©2013

### 四字熟語 - よじじゅくご (4 Character Idiom)

せいせいどうどう

正々堂々

Fair and square; someone who tackles things head-on without resorting to tricks or underhanded tactics

#### Example

昔の侍は、刀で一対一で戦う

前にお互いの名前を言って、挨拶をしてから、  
正々堂々と戦った。

Mukashi no samurai wa, katana de ichitaiichi de tatakau  
mae ni otagai no namae wo itte, aisatsu wo shite kara,  
seiseidoudou to tatakatta.

Samurai warriors in the past would exchange names and greetings before engaging in one-on-one fights with katana, fighting fair and square.

### ことわざ (proverb)

さんど め しょうじき

三度目の正直

Third time's the charm

#### Example

仕事の面接にまた落ちてしまったけど、  
「三度目の正直」と言うように、面接にも慣れてきたし、今度こそは受かるように頑張ろう。

Shigoto no mensetsu ni mata ochite shimatta kedo,  
"sando me no shoujiki" to iu you ni, mensetsu ni mo narete  
kita shi, kondo koso wa ukaru you ni ganbarou.

Although I ended up failing a job interview again, "third time's the charm" as they say[.] As I've gotten accustomed to interviews, I will do my best in order to pass this time for sure.

### 日本を旅しよう! -Exploring Japan-

#### 石川県(いしかわけん) - Ishikawa Prefecture

##### Fast facts!

-Ishikawa Prefecture is located approximately in the geographical center of the Japanese archipelago & includes the western stretch of the Japanese Alps in the southwest and nearly all of the Noto Peninsula in the north

-**Kanazawa Castle** is a large, partially restored Japanese castle in the capital city Kanazawa. The castle has burnt down and been rebuilt many times over the centuries, with only two storehouses and the Ishikawa-mon Gate surviving the most recent fires of 1881

-The famous Kenroku-en Garden, which once formed the castle's private outer garden, is adjacent to the castle

-For more information about Ishikawa, check out our [December 2021](#), [August 2022](#), and [February 2024](#) issues!







白米千枚田 - Shiroyone Senmaida Rice Fields

The Shiroyone Senmaida (meaning 1000 white rice paddies) are rice fields located on the northern side of the Noto Peninsula on a steep slope facing the Sea of Japan. "The area of each rice terrace is as small as 18m², and the difference in elevation is about 50m, making it impossible to use large agricultural machinery" ([source](#)).

# Dialect Discovery

## 石川弁 - いしかわべん

- ほる (*horu*; to throw away) すてる
- おとと (*ototo*; fish) さかな
- はがやしい (*hagayashii*; annoying, noisy) うるさい
- 着る (*kiru*; to cover, spread out) 敷(し)く

To read about JET Alum Allen's experience living and teaching in Ishikawa Prefecture,

[click here!](#)



JSB MEETS JET ALUMNI

Allen Wan  
Ishikawa 石川県

JSB Meets JET Alumni  
Allen Wan!

## クイズタイム!

1. 私はお正月におばあさんからお年玉を（ ）。

*At New Year's, I received a new year's gift from my grandmother.*

a) もらいました b) あげました c) くれました

2. 漢字の間違いを（ ）直す。

*Fix the mistakes in the kanji correctly.*

a) 正しい b) 正しく c) 正し

3. 彼から電話がかかってきた時、（ ）出かけようとしていたところだった。

a) まともに b) まさか c) まさに



うまどし  
☆午年

We are transitioning from the Year of the Snake to the Year of the Horse (*uma doshi*)! "February 17 sees the beginning of the Year of the Fire Horse, which occurs every 60 years in the Chinese calendar and is known as a period of rapid change" and transformation. Major disruptions are more likely than usual this year, but "the Fire Horse is also associated with groundbreaking progress."

Sources: [one](#) and [two](#)

## Winter Clothing Vocab! - 冬物の単語!

冬物 (ふゆもの) - winter clothing, goods

マフラー - (thick) scarf, muffler

靴下 (くつした) - socks, stockings

ズボン下(した) - long underwear

耳(みみ)あて - earmuffs

上着 (うわぎ) - coat, jacket, outerwear

手袋 (てぶくろ) - gloves, mittens

雪靴(ゆきぐつ), スノーブーツ - snow boots

セーター - sweater

ビーニー - beanie

新年会

Connect with JSB!

*Shinnenkai*

Tuesday, February 17, 2026 | 6:00 PM

Hojoko

Hojoko

JSB members are welcome to join us for a *shinnenkai* new year gathering at Hojoko in Boston!

Celebrate the start of 2026, connect with the community, and enjoy great Japanese izakaya fare in this friendly reception-style gathering.

For more information and to register, visit [here](#).

2026

明けましておめでとうございます!  
今年もどうぞよろしくお祈いします。



Answer key: 1. a 2. b 3. c