



日本語ぺらぺらニュースレター

For the Language Lovers!

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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!

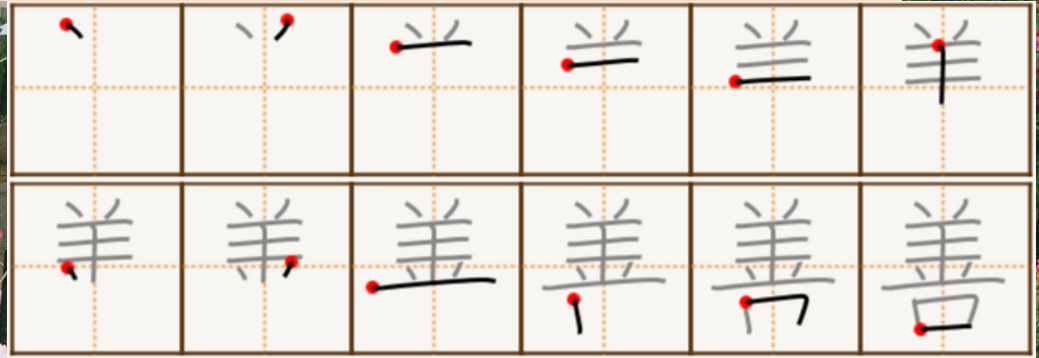
今月の漢字

good[ness]

善

訓読み: よ(い), い(い), よ(く)

音読み: ゼン, セン



12 strokes

Associated Common Words

善悪 (ぜんあく) - right and wrong

改善 (かいぜん) する - to improve

偽善 (ぎぜん) - hypocrisy

History of Kanji 善



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四字熟語 - よじじゅくご (4 Character Idiom)

いちにちいちぜん

一日一善

Doing a good deed each day

Example

「一日一善」を心がけて、今日から毎日公園のごみ拾いをすることにしました。

“Ichinichi ichizen” wo kokorogakete, kyou kara mainichi kouen no gomi hiroi wo suru koto ni shimashita.

Keeping in mind to “do a good deed each day,” I’ve decided to pick up trash in the park every day starting today.

ことわざ (Proverb)

ぜん いそ

善は急げ

Move with haste on anything you believe to be right; strike while the iron is hot

Example

相手先からうちの会社と契約したいと連絡が来た。時間がある時に来てくださいと言われたが、「善は急げ」というので、今日契約しに行っておこう。

Aitesaki kara uchi no kaisha to keiyaku shitai to renraku ga kita. Jikan ga aru toki ni kite kudasai to iwareta ga, “zen wa isoge” to iu no de, kyou keiyaku shi ni itte okou.

We got word from the other party that they want to sign a contract with our company. Although we were told to come when we have time, “strike while the iron is hot” as they say, so let’s go and sign the contract today.

日本を旅しよう! -Exploring Japan- 熊本県(くまもとけん) - Kumamoto Prefecture

Fast facts!

-Kumamoto is located in central Kyushu and faces the Amakusa Sea
-The prefecture is often referred to as the “Land of Fire” (*Hi no Kuni*) because of its prominent active volcano Mount Aso

-**Kumamoto Castle** is one of its most popular tourist attractions, along with its mascot Kumamon, a bear renowned for its cuteness

-The region is famous for its abundant hot springs and delicious fresh strawberries and *mikan* (mandarin oranges)

-The capital Kumamoto City is also home to high-quality groundwater that supplies over 700,000 people

-The legendary swordsman Miyamoto Musashi wrote his book *The Book of Five Rings* in Kumamoto, which is also the place where he spent his final years



くまモン Kumamon

Kumamon is the notorious mascot and fan favorite of Kumamoto Prefecture. First created in 2010, Kumamon is an active “sales manager” who has successfully generated over \$8 billion in revenue. While he was originally created to promote the Kyushu Shinkansen, his role has since expanded to support many businesses and encourage tourism in the region. His royalty-free existence has created a surge in merchandising. He even traveled to other countries to help raise funds following the April 2016 earthquakes in Kumamoto.



Dialect Discovery 熊本弁 - くまもとべん

- あとぜき (atozeki): close the door (戸(と)を閉(し)める)
- たいぎゃ (taigya): very, really (とても、すごく)
- むしゃんよか (mushan yoka): cool, handsome (かっこいい)
- はいよ (haiyo): here you go / okay (どうぞ、わかった)

クイズタイム!

1. 休みは () 行きませんでした。

I did not go anywhere during the holidays.

a. どこに b. どこでも c. どこにも

2. 善()悪()みんなで決めたルールには従わなければいけない。

For better or worse, we have to accept the rules everyone decided on.

a. いと b. いでも c. くも

3. どんな状況でも () を尽くそう。

a. 最善 b. 親善 c. 慈善

The Tatebayashi Koinobi Festival in Gunma



☆ゴールデンウィーク

Golden Week is a major holiday period in Japan that runs from April 29 to May 5 or 6 and is centered around national holidays and travel. Starting on April 29 with Showa Day, which honors the late Emperor Showa, the holiday week encompasses numerous festivals and events. Many people take this time to travel domestically or abroad. The term was originally coined in 1951 by Daiei Film Co. to describe a peak revenue period, combining it with the radio term “Golden Time.”

Good Luck Vocab! - 幸運の単語!

運(うん) - luck

幸運(こううん) - good luck

不運(ふうん) - bad luck

願い事(ねがいごと) - wish

お守(まも)り - amulet

おみくじ - fortune slip

縁起(えんぎ)がいい - auspicious

縁起物(えんぎもの) - lucky charm

招き猫(まねきねこ) - beckoning cat (thought to bring good luck)

千羽鶴(せんばづる) - garland of 1000 paper cranes



JSB Members Only

Connect with JSB!

Picnic at Cambridge Common
featuring Kokoro Don Cafe
Tuesday, June 16 | 6-8pm



Join JSB members and staff for a picnic dinner on Tuesday, June 16 at Cambridge Common! Whether you are a new or longtime member, this is a great opportunity to meet others in the community, connect over shared interests, and enjoy Japanese food.

For more info and to register, click [here!](#) This event is open to current JSB Members only. Not yet a member? [Join today!](#)

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