

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.

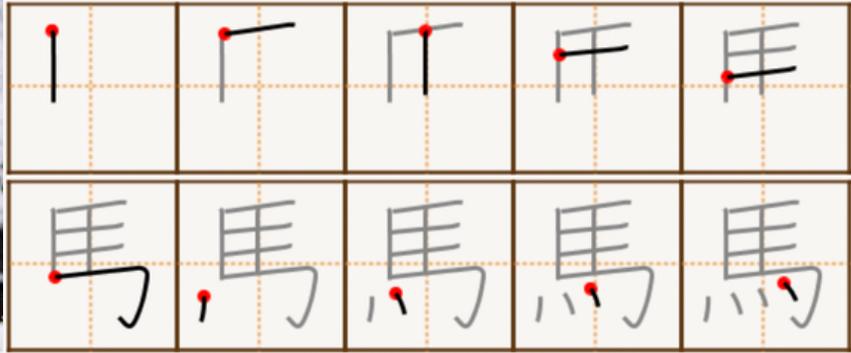
Let's study! 勉強(べんきょう)しましょう!

今月の漢字

horse

馬

訓読み: うま, ま
音読み: バ, メ, マ



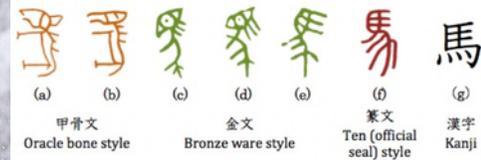
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Associated Common Words

乗馬(じょうば) - horse riding
馬車(ばしゃ) - horse-drawn carriage
絵馬(えま) - wooden plaque filled out with wishes hung in shrines

History of Kanji 馬

Noriko K. Williams © 2014 2015



四字熟語 - よじじゆくご (4 Character Idiom)

ぎゅういんばしょく
牛飲馬食

Drinking like a cow and eating like a horse; heavy eating and drinking

Example

年を取ると、若いころのように食べ放題や飲み放題のレストランに行っても牛飲馬食できなくなってきた。

Toshi wo toru to, wakai koro no you ni tabehoudai ya nomihoudai no resutoran ni ittemo **gyuuinbashoku** dekinakunattekita.

As I get older, I can no longer eat and drink as heavily as when I was younger, even when going to all-you-can-eat or all-you-can-drink restaurants.

ことわざ (Proverb)

かじば ばかちから
火事場の馬鹿力

When placed in an urgent situation like a fire, humans can unconsciously exert incredible strength that would normally be unthinkable; superhuman strength

Example

締め切りの前日まで企画書さえできていなくてどうなるかと思ったが、「火事場の馬鹿力」で前夜に一気に仕上げる事ができた。

Shimekiri no zenjitsu made kikakusho sae dekiteinakute dou naru ka to omotta ga, "**kajiba no bakadikara**" de zena ni ikki ni shiageru koto ga dekita.

I was worried that I wouldn't even have a proposal ready until the day before the deadline, but with a little "superhuman strength" I was able to finish it all in one go the night before.

日本を旅しよう! -Exploring Japan-

沖縄県(おきなわけん) - Okinawa Prefecture



Fast facts!

- Okinawa is the southernmost and westernmost Japanese prefecture and is made up of over 150 islands
- Okinawa officially became a prefecture during the early Meiji period. Before then, it was a semi-independent kingdom ruled by the Ryukyuan people, but under the influence of both Japan and China
- The prefecture's main economic activities include tourism, tuna fishing, cattle raising, sugar refining, and pineapple canning
- Shuri Castle**, a Ryukyuan *gusuku* castle in Naha, was the palace of the Ryukyu Kingdom between 1429 and 1879 and was almost destroyed in the 1945 Battle of Okinawa
- For more information about Okinawa, check out our October 2022 and May 2025 issues!





American Village

The Mihama American Village in Chatan is located on a former U.S. military base that has since been redeveloped into a lively entertainment complex. Stepping into the area, one can easily feel transported back to the 1950s, surrounded by retro American aesthetics and architecture. This small sprinkle of America set within Japan has become a popular tourist destination, particularly for school trips among Japanese high school students.

Dialect Discovery

沖縄口 - うちなーぐち

- 今日拝なびら (chuu wuganabira) - hello
- 長ーさやー (nageesayaa) - long time no see
- 嘉例 (karii) - cheers/good health
- めんそーれー (mensooree) - bon voyage

To read about JET Alum Laura's experience living and teaching in Okinawa Prefecture,

[click here!](#)



JSB MEETS JET ALUMNI
Laura Escher
 Okinawa 沖縄県

JSB Meets JET Alumni
 Laura Escher!

クイズタイム!

1. 北海道^{ほっかいどう}に行って、馬^{うま} () 乗^のってみたいです。

I want to go to Hokkaido and try to ride a horse.

a. を b. で c. に

2. あいさんは来年日本^{らいねんにっぽん}で働^{はたら}こうと () 。

Ai-san is thinking about working in Japan next year.

a. 思います b. 思っています c. 思うつもりです

3. 先生^{せんせい}に宿題^{しゅくだい}を () 注意^{ちゅうい}された。

a. 忘れないように b. 忘れないために c. 忘れられないように



☆ 恵方巻

On February 3rd in Japan, a holiday known as Setsubun is celebrated with the eating of a rice roll called *ehomaki*. The name translates directly to “lucky direction rolls.” Originating from the Kansai region, these rolls are traditionally eaten in silence while facing the year’s designated lucky direction, a practice believed to bring good fortune. They are typically made with rice, egg, kanpyo, shiitake, and eel, representing the Seven Lucky Gods. This year, the lucky direction is south-southeast!

Olympics Vocab! - オリンピックの単語!

- 冬季五輪 (とおきごりん) - Winter Olympics
- 競技 (きょうぎ) - Competition/sport
- 開催 (かいさい) する - To hold or host
- 山岳 (さんがく) スキー - Ski mountaineering
- 金 (きん) メダル - Gold medal

- 表彰台 (ひょうしょうだい) - Podium
- 応援 (おうえん) する - To cheer on
- 選手 (せんしゅ) - Athlete/competitor
- 開会式 (かいかいしき) - Opening ceremony
- 閉会式 (へいかいしき) - Closing ceremony

ONLINE LAUNCH EVENT

MONKEY: NEW WRITING FROM JAPAN, VOL. 6 HORROR

Your Host of Ghosts!

KAORI FUJINO

HIDEO FURUKAWA

KENDALL HEITZMAN

LAUREL TAYLOR

ROLAND KELTS

MOTOYUKI SHIBATA

Join us online Tuesday, March 3 to celebrate the worldwide launch of **MONKEY: New Writing from Japan, Vol. 6 – Your Host of Ghosts!**

These award-winning authors and their lauded translators will discuss what it means to write and translate in our contemporary world filled with its own omnipresent horrors. It will be a unique transcultural literary celebration not to be missed!

For more info and to register, [click here!](#)

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