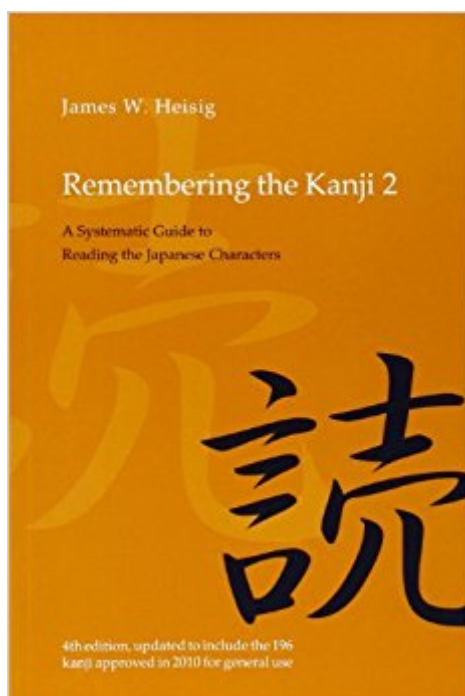


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Remembering The Kanji 2: A Systematic Guide To Reading Japanese Characters



Synopsis

Following the first volume of Remembering the Kanji, the present work provides students with helpful tools for learning the pronunciation of the kanji. Behind the notorious inconsistencies in the way the Japanese language has come to pronounce the characters it received from China lie several coherent patterns. Identifying these patterns and arranging them in logical order can reduce dramatically the amount of time spent in the brute memorization of sounds unrelated to written forms. Many of the “primitive elements,” or building blocks, used in the drawing of the characters also serve to indicate the Chinese reading that particular kanji use, chiefly in compound terms. By learning one of the kanji that uses such a “signal primitive,” one can learn the entire group at the same time. In this way, Remembering the Kanji 2 lays out the varieties of phonetic pattern and offers helpful hints for learning readings, that might otherwise appear completely random, in an efficient and rational way. Individual frames cross-reference the kanji to alternate readings and to the frame in volume 1 in which the meaning and writing of the kanji was first introduced. A parallel system of pronouncing the kanji, their “Japanese readings,” uses native Japanese words assigned to particular Chinese characters. Although these are more easily learned because of the association of the meaning to a single word, the author creates a kind of phonetic alphabet of single syllable words, each connected to a simple Japanese word, and shows how they can be combined to help memorize particularly troublesome vocabulary. The 4th edition has been updated to include the 196 new kanji approved by the government in 2010 as “general-use” kanji.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

James W. Heisig is a permanent research fellow at the Nanzan Institute for Religion and Culture in Nagoya, Japan.

Very neat concept on learning Kanji, however, some of the author's references are hard to relate to. Also, having to come up with your own at the end is hard because you don't want to overlap with ones you've already used.

Do not get this until you've mastered the first book in the series. Complete them in order.

Great product, came in pristine condition and is easy to understand. I suggest purchasing all three plus the kana book for self-learning, but try to get a penpal to learn exactly how to speak so you don't make mistakes. One huge tip: learn their customs, their rules on behavior and conduct, and their culture if you plan to go there one day.

My son loves this learning series. He is self-taught and finds this program very effective. Great explanation of concepts.

First of all, if you decide to buy Vols. 1 and 2 of Remembering the Kanji, be sure that your Vol. 2 copy was published AFTER your copy of Vol 1. Vol. 2 presents the readings of kanji whose writing was learned in Vol. 1. Cross-referencing in Vol. 2 to Vol. 1 is elemental to Heisig's method. If your copy of Vol. 2 was published BEFORE your copy of Vol. 1, the cross-referencing in Vol. 2 is basically *totally* out of whack. You have two options to correct the situation: (1) go kanji-by-kanji in Vol. 2 and manually, laboriously, hunt down the out-of-sequence kanji in Vol. 1 and make the cross-reference corrections in Vol. 2.--extremely time consuming and laborious, considering 2,200 kanji are involved, or (2) buy a later edition of Vol. 2 with the correctly numbered cross-referencing. I chose option 2, weighing the cost of buying the second (correct) copy of Vol. 2 versus the aforementioned manual correction. Second, I have read a negative review or two. I'll respect the reviewers' negative opinions, but I won't agree with them. Learning kanji as a foreign speaker requires dedication, hard work, and time. I suspect many of the negative reviews were written by

those lacking the requisite dedication, or not willing or able to put in the hard work and time necessary, or both. I'm at most 2 months away from completely learning the writing and key word of each of the 2,200 presented in Volume 1. It will have taken almost a year to get through the book, but my comprehension of a dense, printed page of Japanese text is going from what looked like Martian last summer, to something looking much more familiar, with which I am becoming comfortable now. Before picking up these Heisig books, I despaired of ever truly learning the kanji, but since then I have become fully confident that I am well along the path to reaching the goal of reading Japanese proficiently. A year and a half from now I'll be reading and comprehending online Japanese newspapers, magazines, et cetera. Finally. Finally.

I stopped after I finished the first book and then realized a year later that I would have wasted all my time unless I learned the second. I completed both volumes. The kanji is the short cut to the language. Learning it will be infinitely more fun and easier when you can read all the characters. This was the best decision I could have made in regards to my learning and by far the most time consuming. I put the breaks on everything else, grammar, vocabulary and only focused on these 2 volumes for 4 consecutive months in order to complete them. I am going to outline what I did to do this. My biggest tip is DON'T LEARN TO WRITE THEM. Is it really that helpful? We all type all the time anyway, it will literally triple the amount of time it takes to complete the books if you learn to write them. The N5-N1 exams are all multiple choice anyway you don't have to write anything other than your name at the top. Buy it then find a way to get it on your phone so you use it side by side with the anki deck and just flip between the two <https://ankiweb.net/shared/decks/heisig> First read this book <http://www..com/The-Memory-Book-Classic-Improving/dp/0345410025> That book gave me the foundation for using mnemonics, you don't need to read all of it just the beginning and associations and the section on foreign language is enough. I only read those parts anyway lol. You have to have the technique to create the most ridiculous, large and graphic story's you can and that book helps you learn how to do that. Second YOU HAVE TO GET ANKI FLASH CARDS It's a \$20 investment if you get the app but it is the only reason I have been able to learn grammar vocab and memorize these 2 books. You will find corresponding decks for the 2 hesing volumes on anki web. Third YOU HAVE TO REVIEW EVERYDAY While I was in the bathroom, during all my breaks and lunches, while I was at stop lights "don't do that", while I was doing nothing and when I first woke up or when I was going to sleep I would review if you want to do this in 4 months or less you will spend 1-2 hours everyday doing reviews on your anki flash cards. I would wake up early Saturday and Sunday morning and would not leave my room for 4-6 hours and would memorize 250

characters over the weekend, divide that over Saturday and Sunday and would review them for the rest of the week, even if you are still weak and forget them the next day don't worry you have 5 days to refine your recognition and at least it's now in your head. And honestly I am not that smart and I was still able to do this, it's purely a time commitment and a grind that's all. If you're passionate about your Japanese study like I am this will not be a problem. I was still reviewing all my grammar and vocab on my anki decks everyday too so I never forgot anything while I completed the volumes.

This book organizes and makes sense of an insanely difficult part of the Japanese language. (If you haven't started Japanese at all yet, I'd recommend you do Korean instead, the letters are purely phonetic) No, it is not super similar to the first book, but the way the pronunciation work is completely different from the base meanings in kanji, so it can't be helped a slightly deviated approach was used. Overall I picked things up pretty quickly in this book. I actually went through this more quickly than I memorized the kanji in the first place using the first book. I think the pronunciations are grouped as logically as is possible, and these groups are presented in an order that makes sense as well. This was certainly much easier to pick up than other Japanese textbooks, which just throw endless pronunciations at you and admonitions to memorize as quickly and randomly as possible. Overall, I'm very happy with this book.

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