

Chapter One: Kanji 1-10

And so begins your kanji journey and it couldn't get any easier! (And believe me, it won't!)

JLPT N5: 1 / 100 | 1 Stroke



On: イチ

Kun: ひと・つ

Meaning: one; 1

REMEMBER: It is a number "1" on its side. Draw the single stroke from left to right.

一 *ichi*—one; the number one

一番 *ichi ban*—#1; the best

世界一 *se kai ichi*—the best in the world

一人 *hitori*—one person; alone

Example Sentence:

どこが一番いいところですか？

doko ga ichiban ii tokoro desu ka?

Where is the best place?

[*ichiban* is often used this way to show the best of something: *ichiban oishii*--the most delicious]

Two lines = two, logical!; A little harder, but don't run for the aspirin yet!)

JLPT N5: 2 / 100 | 2 Strokes



On: ニ

Kun: ふた・つ



Meaning: two; 2

Two lines make Two!

Stroke Order:



二 *ni*—two

第二 *dai ni*—the second

二月 *ni gatsu*—February [the 2nd month]

Example Sentence:

フロリダの12月は暑いですか？

furorida no juunigatsu wa atsui desu ka?

Is December in Florida pretty hot?

[Foreign (non-Japan) place names and people's names are written in katakana unless there is a kanji for the name.]

Three lines = 3

JLPT N5: 3 / 100 | 3 Strokes

————

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On: サン

Kun: みっ・つ

Meaning: three

Write the three strokes from top to bottom. Remember the middle is shorter.

Stroke Order:

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————

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三 *san*—three

三角 *san kaku*—triangle

三月 *san gatsu*—March [the 3rd month]

Example Sentence:

三月に日本にいきます。
san gatsu ni nihon ni ikimasu.
I'm going to Japan in March.

[The months are easy in Japanese: a number + *gatsu*]

Think of two little legs dangling in a FOUR sided box.

JLPT N5: 4 / 100 | 5 Strokes

On: シ

Kun: よん; よっ・つ

Meaning: four

Stroke Order:

四 *yon* or *shi* – four [both pronunciations mean “four” but they are used in different contexts.]

四級 *yon kyuu*—4th grade

四月 *shi gatsu*—April [the 4th month]

Example Sentence:

四匹のねこを飼っています。

yonhiki no neko wo katteimasu.

I have four cats.

[The verb for owning/having pets is 飼う *kau*—not to be confused with the verb “to buy” which is 買う *kau*.]

This is modern art. 五 is an artist's impression of the number 5. [well, it kind of looks like the number!]

JLPT N5: 5 / 100 | 4 Strokes

On: コ

Kun: いつ・つ

Meaning: five

Pay attention to the stroke order below.

五 *go*—five

五月 *go gatsu*—May [the 5th month]

五ヶ月 *go ka getsu*—five months [So far we have seen that adding a number between 1-12 with *gatsu* makes the month names. But here is how to say a duration of months: # + *ka* + *getsu*—notice it is “*getsu*” not “*gatsu*”]

Example Sentence:

十五まで数えます。

juugo made kazoemasu.

I can count to fifteen.

[The made here means "until" or "up to (fifteen)"]

A picture of a man stretching his hands and legs is the character for "6."

JLPT N5: 6 / 100 | 4 Strokes

On: ロク

Kun: むっ・つ

Meaning: six

Make sure the legs do not touch the top part.

六 *roku*—six

六日 *mui ka*—the 6th of the month

六月 *roku gatsu*—June [the 6th month]

Example Sentence:

六個ほしいです。

rokko hoshii desu.

I want six of them.

[Sometimes *roku* has a sound change before certain sounds. Listen to the sound file to get it down. (see last page for a link to download the sound files)]

A diagonal line through a "L" means "7."

JLPT N5: 7 / 100 | 2 Strokes

七

On: シチ

Kun: なな・つ

Meaning: seven

Start with the (almost) horizontal line.

七七

七 *shichi* or *nana*—seven

七不思議 *nana fushigi*—the Seven Wonders

七月 *shichi gatsu*—July [the 7th month]

Example Sentence:

こんばん、「七人の侍」をみます。

konban, shichinin no samurai wo mimasu.

I will watch "Seven Samurai" tonight.

[Seven Samurai is a famous movie by Akira Kurosawa.]

If you have studied katakana, you will notice this looks like "ha." So *H*Achi = 8

JLPT N5: 8 / 100 | 2 Strokes

On: ハチ

Kun: やっ・つ

Meaning: eight

Don't confuse this with 人 *hito* (person).

八 *hachi*—eight

八年間 *hachi nen kan*—8 years

八月 *hachi gatsu*—August [the 8th month]

Example Sentence:

今月の二十八日は私の誕生日です。
kongetsu no juunihachi nichi wa watashi no tanjoubi desu.
The 28th of this month is my birthday.

Don't confuse this one with 力 chikara(power)

JLPT N5: 9 / 100 | 2 Strokes

九

On: キュウ;ク

Kun: ここの・つ

Meaning: nine

Don't forget to make the hook at the end.

九九

九 *kyuu* or *ku*—nine

九ヵ月 *kyuu ka getsu*—nine months

九月 *ku gatsu*—September [the 9th month]

Example Sentence:

今月は九月です。
kongetsu wa kugatsu desu.
This is September.

5 + 5 = +

JLPT N5: 10 / 100 | 2 Strokes



On: ジュウ

Kun: と; とう

Meaning: ten

Start with the horizontal line.



十 *juu*—ten

十九 *juu kyuu*—19 [lit. 10 and 9]

九十 *kyuu juu*—90 [lit. 9 and 10]

十二月 *juu ni gatsu*—December [the 12th month]

Example Sentence:

わたしは十九歳です。
watashi wa juukyuu sai desu.
I am nineteen.