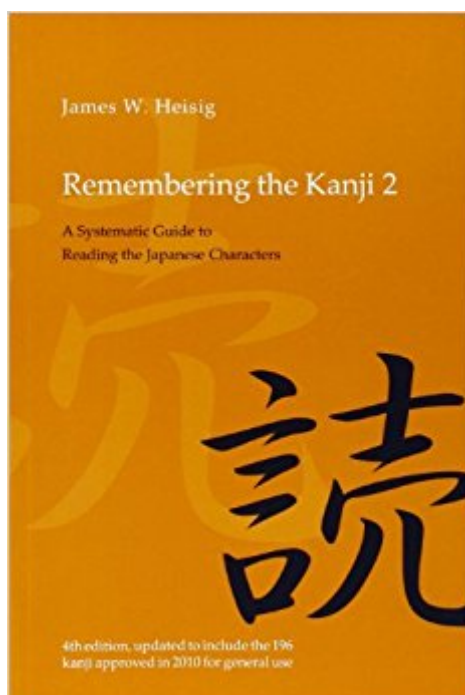


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# Remembering The Kanji 2: A Systematic Guide To Reading Japanese Characters



## 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

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.

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.

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