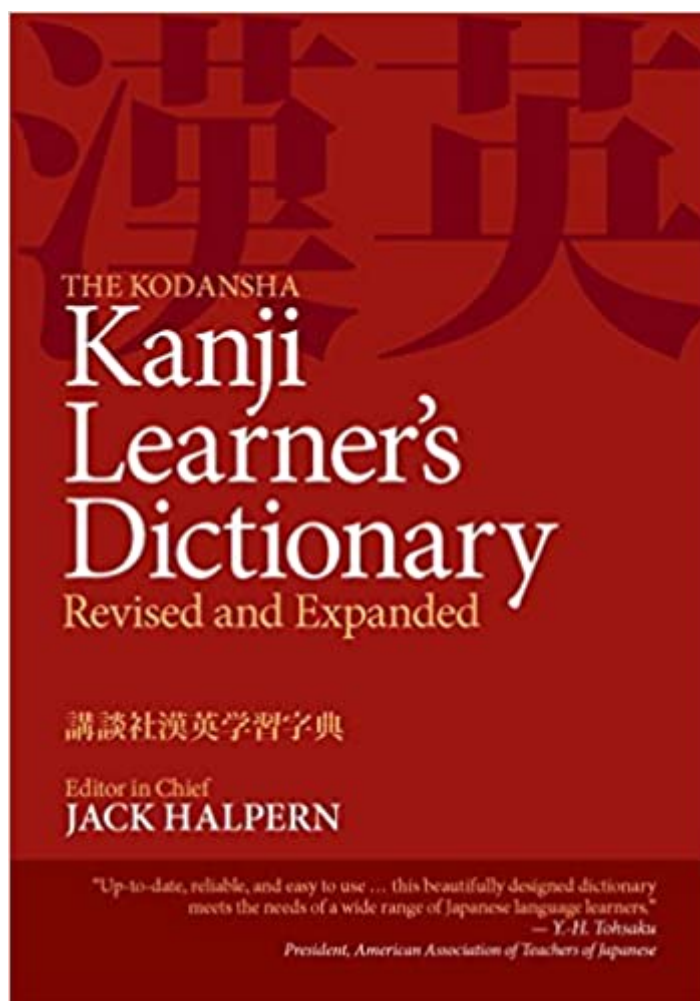


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The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary: Revised And Expanded



Synopsis

With *The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary: Revised and Expanded*, learners finally have at their fingertips accurate and in-depth information on all the kanji prescribed by the Japanese government. In all, 3,002 characters – 772 more than in the first edition – fill its pages, making it the most comprehensive and up-to-date dictionary of its kind. The main goal of the dictionary is to give the learner instant access to a wealth of useful information on kanji, including their meanings, readings, stroke order, and usage in compounds. Compounds pose a special problem for learners. Normally one must memorize them as unrelated units. A unique feature of this dictionary that overcomes this difficulty is the core meaning, a concise keyword that defines the dominant sense of each kanji, followed by character meanings, or specific senses the kanji can have when used in the living language. Together these features help learners understand the logic behind compound formation. Another unique feature is the System of Kanji Indexing by Patterns (SKIP), a revolutionary indexing system that has gained widespread popularity because it enables the user to locate characters as quickly and as accurately as in alphabetical dictionaries. With SKIP, all one needs to do to find a kanji is identify the geometrical pattern to which it belongs, then count the strokes in each part of that pattern – a much speedier process than searching by traditional methods. These features, and many more, make this dictionary the most powerful kanji-learning tool ever devised.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Up-to-date, reliable, and easy to use | this beautifully designed dictionary meets the needs of a wide range of Japanese language learners."
"Y.-H. Tohsaku, President, American Association of Teachers of Japanese"
"A must for those who wish to overcome the obstacles posed by the study of kanji | an excellent tool that allows even beginners to look up kanji with ease."
"Akito Ozaki, President, The Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language

Editor-in-Chief Jack Halpern is the CEO of The CJK Dictionary Institute (CJKI) in Japan. The institute is one of the world's prime sources for CJK (Chinese, Japanese, and Korean) dictionaries, and specializes in compiling comprehensive CJK and Arabic lexical databases. A lexicographer by profession, Halpern spent sixteen years compiling the New Japanese-English Character Dictionary, also newly revised and republished as The Kodansha Kanji Dictionary.

I could not be happier with this dictionary. I have been studying kanji daily for 3 years now and, up until my recent purchase of the Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary, I have used Hadamitzky and Spahn's Japanese Kanji and Kana guide (which is also an excellent resource, especially for beginners). My favorite feature of the Kodansha dictionary is the three major methods of lookup it provides. This includes the System of Kanji Indexing by Patterns (SKIP), an On-Kun index, and a radical index. It is also nice to have all of the official Jinmei kanji in one place. Worth noting is that a firm grasp of hiragana and katakana is necessary for easy use of this dictionary as it does not provide romanized readings of kanji or compounds. Overall, an excellent resource that is well-worth the price.

Similar looking kanji have always been nightmare for me. Therefore, I needed a printed dictionary where the kanji are categorized according to their similarity, and the radicals. I think this is what called "jibiki" in Japanese. I also recommend "Dictionary of Japanese Grammar" book for beginners. They go along together for a good self study pack. I do not like subject-oriented books like Genki or Minna no Nihongo, I would like to study the way the most people would say "boring". It is also time saver. Don't get me wrong, the dictionary is pretty much fun to use. You just have to get used to categorizing systems-there are four- to find whatever you are looking for quickly. I presumably fall in somewhere between the beginner and the intermediate level, I can recognize and read up to 600 kanji, and hundreds of words made of kanji, but I have yet to notice any mistakes. For more advanced vocabulary, it would be better if there were more words of the given kanji, but it is not essential for the beginner or lower intermediate. It's very tiny, pocket-sized but a little bit thick. The

most used kanji are in red, others in black. The design, page color, fonts, etc. are adjusted so it won't be tiring for your eyes. There is one thing I wanted to be different. Cover is too thin, so I fear that I will damage it if I don't carry very carefully. It comes with a case, but I wish there was a hard cover version.

I just got my copy of this book today and I'm really happy it was worth the price, I have the previous edition too but I must say this is by far the best (compact) and update kanji dictionary I own by now. It has the official kanji list 2,136 of 2009 reform and much more kanji; the most outstanding feature of this edition is that every kanji is given its readings (ON/kun) using KANA instead of romaji which was the previous book, every entry has many compounds showing the use and frequency of that character plus its proper stroke order (except the kanji for names or Jinmeiyou Kanji have no stroke order shown) which help you to memorize them properly...at the end it explain the sounds of Japanese language using the IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) for improving your pronunciation if you want to know nowadays kanji this is the DICTIONARY for you!!

I got this to supplement the ancient Nelson kanji dictionary that is often frustrating to use. Although I didn't read this dictionary's intro closely, I am still able to use it easily. I can locate a character in minutes if not seconds where the Nelson's traditional look-up method drove me nuts. What I like is that the examples provided for each character include words in which that character is NOT the first one in the word. This enables me to find many words faster. In the Nelson, only the words BEGINNING with that character are given as examples. The larger type is also easier to read and there is a step-by-step stroke diagram if you care to learn the proper order.

I really like this dictionary. The information it gives for each character is amazing. Like most dictionaries, it details in the beginning how to use it, and just what each piece of information tells you. I really appreciated that the print is clear and of a sufficient size that one doesn't need a magnifying glass to use it. I like the radical listing on each page, showing earlier and later radicals, printing in red the one that page ends with. In addition to the page numbers, the entry number guide on the bottom of the page gives the user another way to find each character.

I'm so happy I had this pre-ordered, even though I had to wait so long. Still, it has everything I need, even the name-kanji. It's really very helpful, especially since the 1,906 kanji in the six grade levels (in other kanji books) are not enough to read the newspapers or TV headlines. Happy to say that

this dictionary is the best one I have ever purchased since I started learning Nihongo. I highly-recommend it to everyone learning kanji, it's worth buying!

Every student of the Japanese language MUST have this dictionary. Once you learn how to use it and look up Kanji, you will always keep it close by. I realize that there are websites and Apps that act as written dictionaries. But, there is something just awesomely convenient and streamlined about being able to read a physical page that had all the information you need to know about a certain Kanji. It's been my experience that websites and Apps do not provide nearly as much information as this written dictionary does. This dictionary is a good investment. Good luck and happy learning!

Really great Kanji reference and learning tool, I love the organization of everything in this book. I use this book as a study tool mostly. I'm just going from front to back and writing the Kanji over and over on graph paper (that and some Apps)

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