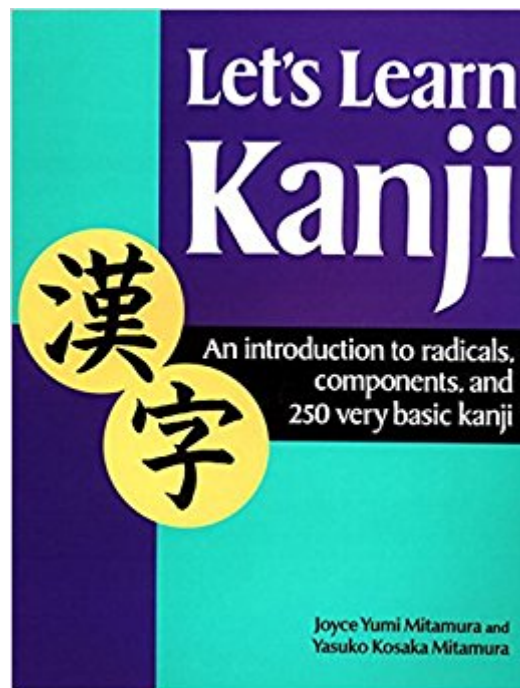




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# Let's Learn Kanji: An Introduction To Radicals, Components And 250 Very Basic Kanji



## Synopsis

Everyone agrees that it is possible to learn to speak Japanese in a reasonable amount of time, but no one has ever said that about reading and writing it. It is widely held that spoken and written Japanese require separate efforts by the student, as if these two aspects were in fact distinct languages. A first step toward alleviating this situation was taken by Yasuko Mitamura in 1985 with the publication of *Let's Learn Hiragana* and *Let's Learn Katakana*, which continue to help thousands of students every year to master these two forms of Japanese script. Now, *Let's Learn Kanji* goes to the heart of the problem: the learning of kanji (i.e., Chinese characters as they are used in Japan). Not simply a brilliant exposition but also a workbook, it teaches the student how to write the basic strokes, how to put these together into full-fledged kanji, and how kanji function in the context of example sentences. Progress is continually checked, and the student is encouraged through quizzes and exercises. The result: 250 fundamental characters learned almost painlessly.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

JOYCE KOSAKA MITAMURA was an experienced and respected educator who taught Japanese in California for many years.

Very systematic approach that I'd imagine anybody could use. I appreciate the way they show the order of strokes, and also the exercises. Learning this stuff for the first time at the age of near 70 is a great mental challenge ... esp. since I've never been 'right brain' (ie visual) kind of person, but the

method they use is successful for me (and, no avoiding use of the right side of the brain for this stuff).

This book breaks down radicals and the different types of radicals present in Kanji. A non-Japanese or Chinese speaker will no doubt have a lot more work to do in the way of learning kanji and this is a useful resource for doing so.

My daughter loves this book. If you are desiring to learn Japanese, this is the place to start.

Very explanatory and useful tool. A must have for learning.

it is being used, and I am happy

I got this since it was so highly recommended. However, it's very hard to make sense of by yourself. It only presents to you various kanji and expects you to memorize them. It doesn't really teach you how to use them in a sentence and trying to figure out their pronunciations is difficult. Wouldn't recommend to beginners.

This book has been a useful addition to my collection of Japanese study books. I had previously studied James Heisig's book, REMEMBERING THE KANJI, which was helpful in learning the system by which Kanji are formulated. Kanji are after all only graphic symbols of ideas and the more complex kanji are assembled from simpler graphic parts which themselves can have meaning. The Mitamura book gives all of the Japanese names of the various radicals and also of other non-traditional but useful components. I think it was easier to absorb because I had gone through the Heisig book first. Mitamura has exercises that help one to learn how to analyze an unknown kanji from its graphic parts. Both of these books together helped me learn this method of analyzing an unknown kanji. I recommend using these two books together with a graded reader like KANJI FROM THE START by Martin Lam and Shimizu Kaoru. After going through these three books I found myself reading Japanese newspapers with only occasional breaks to consult my Kanji Dictionary (Nelson).

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