

Kumadex

by Mario Hayashi, Kuma Learn

Learn 25 JLPT-N2 Vocab with Pictures

MINI-EBOOK WITH BONUS VOCAB!

Introduction: Learn Japanese Visually

Learning Japanese can seem a tall order, with so many unfamiliar words! Luckily, there are great resources to learn from, including WaniKani, DuoLingo and Genki. These resources help you learn using various approaches, such as *audial* and *kinaesthetic* techniques (e.g. games).

Kuma Learn offers you a *visual* approach to learning Japanese vocabulary. Some words lend themselves well to visual presentation and that's why we've made you a picture dictionary for Japanese: *Kumadex*.

We looked at frequently occurring words [*] to select 25 JLPT-N2 words in this mini-eBook. They're only a fraction of all the words in the Japanese language but I hope it serves as a useful guide. If you like this eBook, do sign up to the newsletter! www.kumalearn.com/newsletter.

* See Acknowledgements: Centre for Translation Studies, Leeds University.

Learn 25 JLPT-N2 Vocab with Pictures

by Mario Hayashi, Kuma Learn

DOTONBORI

道頓堀

ASAHI



道頓堀



アサヒビ

徳兵衛

中和第Ⅱビ

ZEKOVIA DE VACATION

How to read this eBook



Image

Photograph to help you learn the Japanese word.

Label

Some words are bonus words. Free extra words! We call this おまけ (*o-ma-ke*): bonus or freebie.

くま
熊 kuma

Common Noun (common)

1. bear (any mammal of family Ursidae)

Word

The Japanese word, in *kanji* with one reading in *furigana* (hiragana to help you read kanji). The reading is also written in *romaji*, or romanised Japanese, for convenience.

Only one reading is shown. Some words have multiple readings but we focus on the common reading to make it easier for you to learn.

Tags

Words are labelled with parts of speech (noun, verb, adjective, etc.), how common a reading is and where they appear (Genki, JLPT).

Meanings

Some words have over ten meanings. But we've focused on the top three to five, so that it's easier for you to learn.

Education

Education – 教育 (*kyou-iku*) – is a big part of Japanese culture! From an early age, many parents send their children to extracurricular 塾 (*juku*) classes. These classes are sometimes extremely high in demand, as some have a very good track record for getting students into good schools and universities. It's common for students who excel at school to use 塾 as their main education. Students study long hours to do well in their 入学試験 (*nyuu-gaku-shiken*) entrance exams. This is especially true when you're preparing for university entrance exams. Some students go to a 予備校 (*yobikou*) exam prep school if they feel they've fallen behind at school. There are of course challenging aspects to education; for many, the pressure is real, as a lot of expectations are placed on them. In this chapter, you'll learn common words in education.

From school to university

- 保育園 (*ho-iku-en*) means nursery
- 幼稚園 (*you-chi-en*) is kindergarten
- Primary school is called 小学校 (*shou-gakkou*)
- Middle school is 中学校 (*chuu-gakkou*)
- 高等学校 (*koutou-gakkou*) is high school

- 大学 (*daigaku*) is university
- 大学院 (*daigakuin*) is graduate school

Some of them are abbreviated often:

- 高等学校 is simply 高校 (*koukou*)

There are different names for students:

- 幼稚園児 (*youchienji*) is a pre-schooler
- 小学生 (*shou-gaku-sei*) means primary school student
- 中学生 (*chuu-gaku-sei*) is a middle schooler
- 高校生 (*koukou-sei*) is a high school student
- 大学生 (*daigaku-sei*) is a university student
- 受験生 (*juken-sei*) is used to describe students studying for entrance exams

You'll also hear these words being used occasionally:

- 児童 (*ji-dou*) for students in primary education. This means, generally, 小学生.
- 生徒 (*sei-to*) for students in secondary education. Generally this means 中学生 and 高校生. But it can include 小学生.
- 学生 (*gaku-sei*) usually means students in higher education. So that's 大学生.

That's a lot of ways to name students!

Education

People at school and uni

How do we describe some of the staff members?

- 先生 (*sen-sei*) and 教師 (*kyou-shi*) both describe teacher
- 教員 (*kyou-in*) means staff member
- 園長先生 (*en-chou-sensei*) is the principal at a pre-school
- 校長先生 (*kou-chou-sensei*) is the principal of a school
- 学者 (*gaku-sha*) is a researcher; 講師 (*kou-shi*) is a lecturer
- 教官 (*kyou-kan*) is an instructor or professor

Attending school

Here are some words around attending school:

- 通学 (*tsuu-gaku*) means commuting to school; 通う (*kayo-u*) can be used too
- 登校 (*tou-kou*) means going to school
- 在学 (*sai-gaku*) describes enrolling at school

When you attend school or university, there's usually a fee. The fee is called 学費 (*gaku-hi*).

While at school or uni

- 勉強 (*ben-kyou*) means study; 習う (*nara-u*) is to learn
- 自習 (*ji-shuu*) means self-teach
- 宿題 (*shuku-dai*) is homework!

Names of places at school or uni

- 校舎 (*kou-sha*) describes the school building
- 校庭 (*kou-tei*) means school premises
- 教室 (*kyou-shitsu*) is a classroom
- 講堂 (*kou-dou*) is a lecture hall

Timetables, subjects and classes

- 学期 (*ga-kki*) describes semester
- 時間割 (*ji-kan-wari*) means timetable
- 学科 (*ga-kka*) is often means department
- 学業 (*gaku-gyou*) describes classwork
- 科目 (*ka-moku*) describes course or curriculum
- 学級 (*ga-kkyuu*) means class (of students) or school grade

Vocab for education



ようちえん
幼稚園 **youchien**

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

1. kindergarten

EXAMPLE

なら わたし ようちえん とき
それ習ったの、私が幼稚園の時だ
よ。

I learned that when I was in
kindergarten.



しょうがっこう
小学校 **shougakkou**

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 23 Noun (common)

1. primary school; elementary
school; grade school

EXAMPLE

きみ しょうがっこう い
君、小学校に行ってるの?

Do you go to an elementary school?



ちゅうがっこう
中学校 **chuugakkou**

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. junior high school; middle
school; lower secondary
school

EXAMPLE

かれ ちゅうがっこう はい
彼は中学校に入った。

He entered junior high school.



こうとうがっこう
高等学校 **koutougakkou**

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. senior high school; high school

EXAMPLE

かれ こうとうがっこう せいと
彼は高等学校の生徒ではありません
ん。

He is not a high school student.

JLPT-N2 Vocab



ほか
その他 sonohoka

そのた
その他 sonota

Common JLPT N1 JLPT N2 Expr.

1. the rest; the others

Noun (common) の-adj.

EXAMPLE

ほかの人からも、同じ質問があるので、ここでお答えします。

As others are asking the same question, I will answer the question here.

2. in addition (to that); besides that; other than that; and other ...

Adv. noun の-adj.

EXAMPLE

ほかにできることはないか。

Are there things that can be done other than that?



しりょう
資料 shiryō

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common) の-adj.

1. materials; data; document

EXAMPLE

この資料が信頼できるかどうか疑わしい。

It is questionable whether this data can be relied on.



なが
長い nagai

Common JLPT N2 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 7 Adj.

1. long (distance)

EXAMPLE

ながい距離を走るコツ

The secret to running long distance

2. long (time); lengthy

EXAMPLE

ながい和平交渉を経て、現在の平和がある。

The peace we have today is the result of lengthy peace talks.



つく
作る tsukuru

Common JLPT N1 JLPT N2 JLPT N5

Godan verb w/ る ending Transitive verb

1. to make; to produce; to manufacture; to build; to construct

EXAMPLE

棚を作るつもりなの?

Are you going to make a shelf?

2. to prepare (food); to brew (alcohol)

3. to raise; to grow; to cultivate; to train

EXAMPLE

この場所を野菜を作るのに使っていますか。

Can I use this area to raise vegetables?

JLPT-N2 Vocab



はつばい
発売 hatsubai

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. sale; offering for sale; release (for sale); launch (product)

EXAMPLE

コンサートチケットは当所で発売
中です。

Concert tickets are on sale at this office.



さつえい
撮影 satsuei

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. photography (still or motion); photographing; filming; shooting; (video) recording

EXAMPLE

パノラマ写真を撮影する方法

Ways to shoot a panorama photo



きそ
基礎 kiso

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common) の-adj.

1. foundation; basis

EXAMPLE

基礎を固めることは大切です。

It is important to strengthen the foundation.



はし
箸 hashi

Common JLPT N2 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 8

Noun (common)

1. chopsticks

EXAMPLE

ルーシーは箸が使えない。

Lucy can't use chopsticks.

JLPT-N2 Vocab



おうえん
応援 ouen

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

- aid; assistance; help;
reinforcement; rooting;
barracking; support; cheering

EXAMPLE

どっちのチームを^{おうえん}応援している
の？

Which team are you rooting for?



かんそう
感想 kansou

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

- impressions; thoughts;
feelings; reactions

EXAMPLE

^{かんそう} ^き
感想を聞かせてください

Please let me know your thoughts



きかい
機械 kikai

Common JLPT N2 JLPT N3 Noun (common)

- machine; mechanism

EXAMPLE

^{きかい} ^{こしょうちゅう}
この機械は故障中だ。

This machine is out of order.



かてい
過程 katei

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

- process; course; mechanism

EXAMPLE

^{かてい} ^{たいせつ}
過程が大切です。

The process is important.

JLPT-N2 Vocab



よろこ
喜び yorokobi

Common JLPT N2 JLPT N3 Noun (common)

1. joy; delight; rapture; pleasure; gratification; rejoicing; congratulations; felicitations

EXAMPLE

おおよろこ
大喜びでやりました。

We did it with the greatest pleasure.



じっかん
実感 jikkan

Common JLPT N2

1. to actually feel; to have a real feeling (that ...); to experience personally

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

EXAMPLE

あき じっかん けいしょく
秋を実感する景色

The scenery that makes you experience the autumn (season)



とうけい
統計 toukei

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する の-adj.

1. statistics

EXAMPLE

とうけい ものがた かぎ
統計はすべてを物語るとは限らな
い。

Statistics don't always tell the whole story.



しょせき
書籍 shoseki

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

1. book; publication

EXAMPLE

しょせき じつ ふる
この書籍は実に古いものだ。

This book is really old.

JLPT-N2 Vocab



じどう
児童 jidou

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

1. children; juvenile

EXAMPLE

としょかん じどうしょ
図書館にはたくさんの児童書がある。

We have a lot of children's books in the library.



めざ
目指す mezasu

Common JLPT N2 Godan verb w/ す ending

Transitive verb

1. to aim at; to have an eye on

EXAMPLE

ワールドカップを**めざ**せ!

Let's aim for the World Cup!

2. to go toward; to head for

EXAMPLE

ゴールを**めざ**して**はし**る

To run towards the finish line



こうし
講師 koushi

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

1. lecturer

EXAMPLE

こうし はや はな わ ひと
講師が早く話すので分かる人がす
くなかった。

Because the lecturer speaks quickly
few people could follow him.



とういつ
統一 touitsu

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. unity; consolidation;
uniformity; unification;
compatible

EXAMPLE

デザインを**とういつ**する

Consolidate the design

JLPT-N2 Vocab



はっそう
発想 hassou

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. idea; conception; way of thinking

EXAMPLE

はっそう き か
発想を切り換えよう

Let's change our way of thinking

2. expression

EXAMPLE

えいご はっそう ことば
英語で発想した言葉をそのまま
にほんご き
日本語にするのは気をつけてくだ
さい

Please be careful of using English
expressions directly in Japanese



ていし
停止 teishi

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. stoppage; coming to a stop;
halt; standstill

EXAMPLE

そのエレベーターは急 停止した。

That elevator came to an abrupt
halt.

2. ceasing (movement, activity,
etc.); suspension (of
operations); interruption (e.g.
of electricity supply); cutting
off

EXAMPLE

すぐに作業を停止するように命じ
た

He ordered the immediate
suspension of operations



せんでん
宣伝 senden

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. publicity; advertisement;
advertising; propaganda

EXAMPLE

この事件は会社のいい宣伝になっ
た。

This event was good publicity for
the company.



なかみ
中身 nakami

Common JLPT N2 Noun (common) の-adj.

1. contents; interior; substance;
filling; (sword) blade

EXAMPLE

かれ はこ なかみ
彼は箱の中身をあけた。

He emptied the box of its contents.

About the Author

Hi, I'm Mario! I speak three languages (English, German, Japanese) and make software for a living.

Thanks for reading this mini-eBook. I started the Kumadex project for those who want to explore a visual approach to learning Japanese.

Your feedback and support is greatly appreciated, and will help shape Kuma Learn in the future. Reach out to me at mario@kumalearn.com if you have any comments or suggestions.

If you enjoyed this mini-eBook and want get updates about new learning resources, subscribe to the newsletter! www.kumalearn.com/newsletter.



Mario Hayashi, Kuma Learn

Email: mario@kumalearn.com

Twitter: [@logicalicy](https://twitter.com/logicalicy)

Attributions

Cover

Osaka-Jo, Osaka; Photo by [Bagus Pangestu](#) on [Pexels](#)

Page 3

Dotonbori, Osaka; Photo by [Haugenzhays Zhang](#) on [Pexels](#)

Page 4

Kuma; Photo by [Rasmus Svinding](#) on [Pexels](#)

Page 7

Youchien;
Shougakkou;
Chuugakkou;
Koutougakkou;

Page 8

Sonota; Photo by [Markus Spiske](#) on [Pexels](#)
Shiryuu; Photo by [Lukas](#) on [Pexels](#)
Nagai; Photo by [Simon Migaj](#) on [Pexels](#)
Tsukuru; Photo by [Andrea Piacquadio](#) on [Pexels](#)

Page 9

Hatsubai; Photo by [Artem Beliaikin](#) on [Pexels](#)
Satsuei; Photo by [Terje Sollie](#) on [Pexels](#)
Kiso; Photo by [Rodolfo Quirós](#) on [Pexels](#)
Hashi; Photo by [TheBusyBrain](#) on Flickr under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Page 10

Ouen; Photo by [Tembela Bohle](#) on [Pexels](#)
Kansou; Photo by [Andrea Piacquadio](#) on [Pexels](#)
Kikai; Photo by [Pixabay](#) on [Pexels](#)
Katei; Photo by [Andrea Piacquadio](#) on [Pexels](#)

Page 11

Yorokobi; Photo by [Rodrigo Feksa](#) on [Pexels](#)
Jikkan; Photo by [Andrea Piacquadio](#) on [Pexels](#)
Shoseki; Photo by [Karolina Grabowska](#) on [Pexels](#)
Toukei; Photo by [Lukas](#) on [Pexels](#)

Page 12

Jidou; Photo by [Amina Filkins](#) on [Pexels](#)
Mezasu; Photo by [Vlad Chețan](#) on [Pexels](#)
Koushi; Photo by [ICSA](#) on [Pexels](#)
Touitsu; Photo by [fauxels](#) on [Pexels](#)

Attributions

Page 13

Hassou: Photo by [Pixabay](#) on [Pexels](#)

Teishi: Photo by [Pixabay](#) on [Pexels](#)

Senden: Photo by [Negative Space](#) on [Pexels](#)

Nakami: Photo by [Ketut Subiyanto](#) on [Pexels](#)

Acknowledgements

Kumadex is an independent project made by Mario Hayashi of Kuma Learn, a Tugboat Coding product. The project has already taken many months to create and I'm sure I'll be spending many more to continuously keep improving it!

The data used in Kumadex comes from a number of projects. Kuma Learn is extremely thankful to the creators and contributors of these projects, who have made projects like Kumadex possible.

JMdict

JMdict is a project created by Jim Breen. It's a general, Japanese-English dictionary managed by the Electronic Dictionary Research and Development Group (EDRDG), Jim Breen and a team of volunteers. The vast majority of words that appear in Kumadex come from JMdict.

Tatoeba

Example sentences that appear in Kumadex come from the Tatoeba project, which is a large database of sentences and translations.

Wanakana

Wanakana is an open-source Javascript library for detecting and transliterating between Hiragana, Katakana and Romaji.

Acknowledgements

Kuroshiro

Kuroshiro is an open-source Javascript library for converting Japanese sentences to Hiragana, Katakana or Romaji with furigana.

Centre for Translation Studies, Leeds University

The Centre for Translation Studies of Leeds University offers a word frequency list based on their Japanese language corpus. This list is used by Kumadex to order words by their frequency in Japanese text that the Centre for Translation Studies has studied.

Wiktionary

Wiktionary's JLPT word list has been used to help select words to include in this mini-eBook.

Genki

Some words reference their appearance in Genki, a textbook series loved by many Japanese language learners.

Acknowledgements

Pexels

A vast majority of the excellent pictures shown in Kumadex are made by photographers and contributors of [Pexels](#).

Wikimedia

[Wikimedia](#) is another source of images used in Kumadex.

Flickr

A small number of images are also sourced from [Flickr](#).

If you would like to give back to the community of people who make projects like Kumadex possible, some of the projects listed above accept for contributions and/or donations.