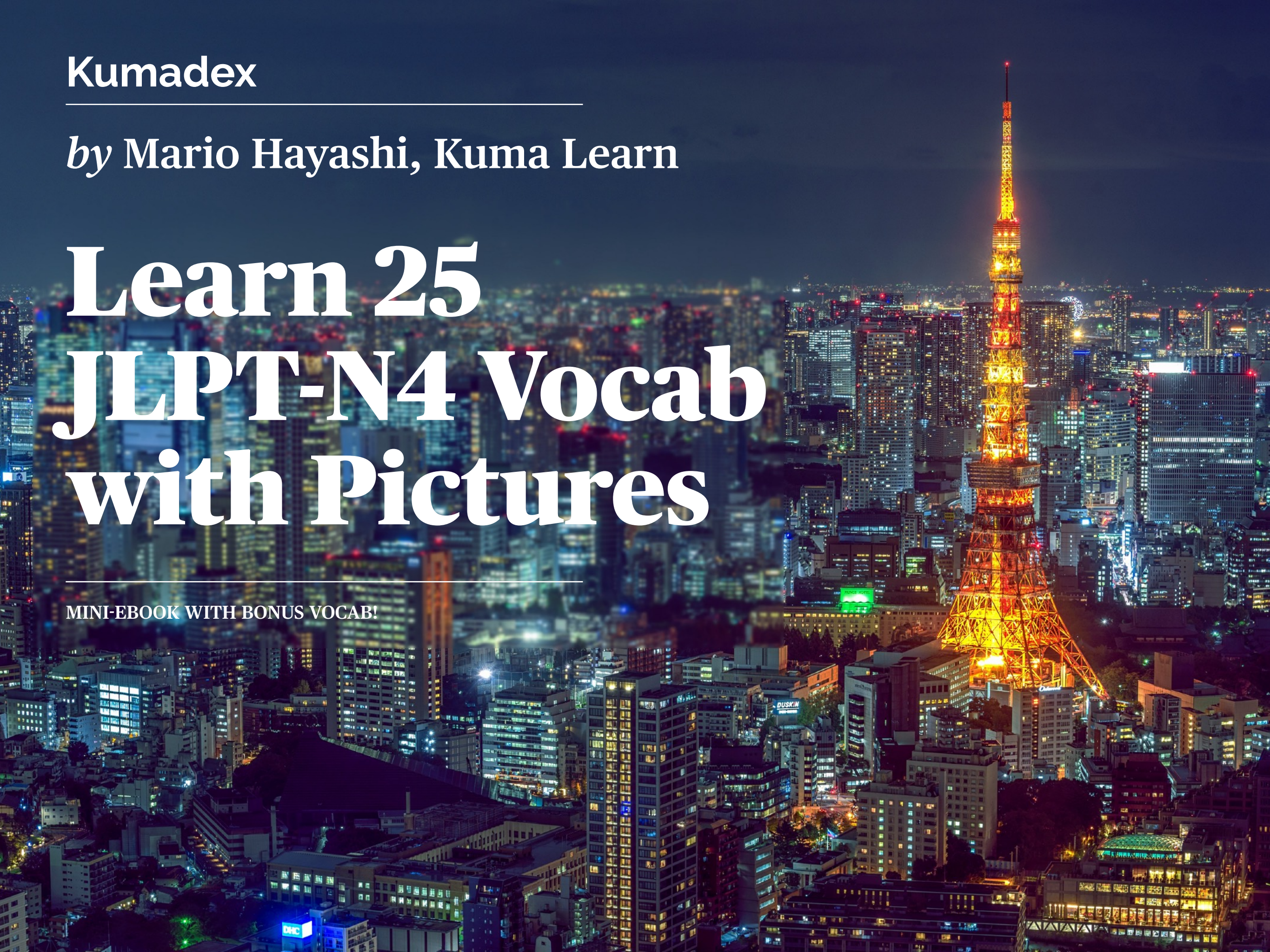


Kumadex

by Mario Hayashi, Kuma Learn

Learn 25 JLPT-N4 Vocab with Pictures

MINI-EBOOK WITH BONUS VOCAB!



Introduction: Learn Japanese Visually

Getting started with 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 the frequently occurring words [*] to select the 25 JLPT-N4 words in this mini-eBook. They are only a fraction of all the words in the Japanese language but I hope it serves as a useful guide to get started.

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

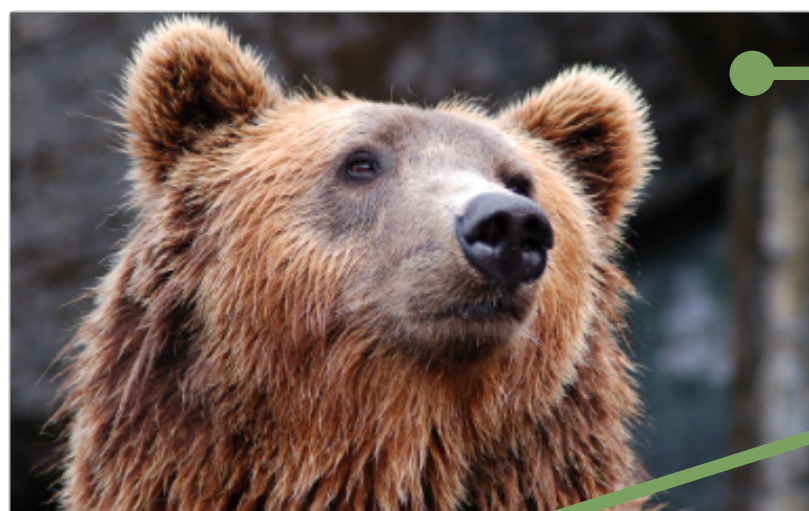
KUMADEx

Learn 25 JLPT-N4 Vocab with Pictures

by Mario Hayashi, Kuma Learn



How to read this eBook



Image

Photograph to help you learn the Japanese word.

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 the reading is and where they might appear (Genki, JLPT).

Meanings

Words can have several 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.

くま
熊 kuma

Common Noun (common)

1. bear (any mammal of family Ursidae)

How age affects describing wo/men

How you describe a woman or man is often based on their age. To describe a girl or boy, 女の子 (*onna-no-ko*) and 男の子 (*otoko-no-ko*) are used, respectively; a young woman is an お姉さん (*onee-san*), while a young man is an お兄さん (*onii-san*); a middle-aged woman is an おばさん (*oba-san*); a middle-aged man is an おじさん (*oji-san*). 女性 (*jo-sei*), 男性 (*dan-sei*) and 方 (*kata*) are neutral ways to describe women and men.

女の子 and 男の子 are used for children up to their teenage years. お嬢さん (*ojou-san*) and お坊ちゃん (*obo-cchan*) are used too but they can connote “brat” so be careful!

How age affects describing wo/men

お姉さん (*onee-san*) and お兄さん (*onii-san*) become おばさん (*oba-san*) and おじさん (*oji-san*), respectively, somewhere between age 30 and 40. Think of it in literal terms: お姉さん means *sister* and おばさん means *aunt*; most people become an aunt between age 30 and 40. The transition between *brother* and *uncle* is similar. Be careful with おばさん and おじさん, which suggest “middle-aged”. Many place value on youth and you could offend by suggesting someone is middle-aged. Refrain from using おばさん and おじさん to address someone you don’t know. However, those familiar with the nuances might use them to joke around with friends (calling someone *onii-san*)!

How age affects describing wo/men



おんなのこ
女の子 onnanoko

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 11 Expr.

Noun (common)

1. girl; daughter; baby girl

EXAMPLE

おんな こ だれ
この女の子は誰?

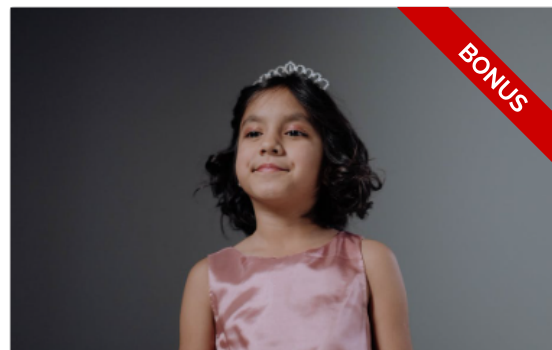
Who is this girl?

2. young woman

EXAMPLE

おんな こ こいびと たいきん も
あの女の子は恋人が大金を持っていたことを知らなかった。

The young woman didn't know her boyfriend was loaded.



おじょうさん
お嬢さん ojousan

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 22 Noun (common)

1. (another's) daughter

Polite lang.

2. young lady

EXAMPLE

かのじょ
彼女はいささかとりすました良家
のお嬢さんだった。

She was a rather prim and proper young lady.



おとこのこ
男の子 otokonoko

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 11 Expr.

Noun (common)

1. boy; son; baby boy

EXAMPLE

わたし おとこ こ
私は男の子です。

I'm a boy.

2. young man



ぼっちゃん
坊ちゃん botchan

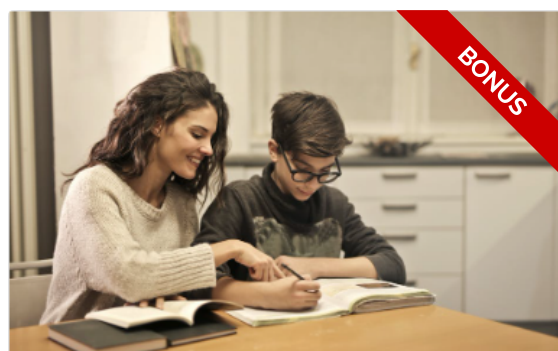
Common JLPT N1 JLPT N2 Noun (common)

1. son (of others); boy; young master

Honorific/respectful lang.

2. green young man from a well-to-do family; young man innocent of the ways of the world

How age affects describing wo/men



おねえさん
お姉さん oneesan

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 1 Noun (common)

1. older sister; elder sister

Honorific/respectful lang.

EXAMPLE

ねえ あ
お姉さんに会いたいです。

I want to meet your older sister.

2. young lady

3. miss

4. ma'am

5. older girl



おにいさん
お兄さん oniisan

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 1 Noun (common)

1. older brother; elder brother

Honorific/respectful lang.

EXAMPLE

きみ にい
君はお兄さんにそっくりだよ。

You look just like your older brother.

2. young man; buddy; fella; laddie



おばさん
伯母さん obasan

JLPT N2 JLPT N5 Noun (common)

Honorific/respectful lang. Familiar lang.

Written w/ kanji only

1. aunt



おじさん
伯父さん ojisan

JLPT N2 Noun (common) Written w/ kanji only

1. uncle

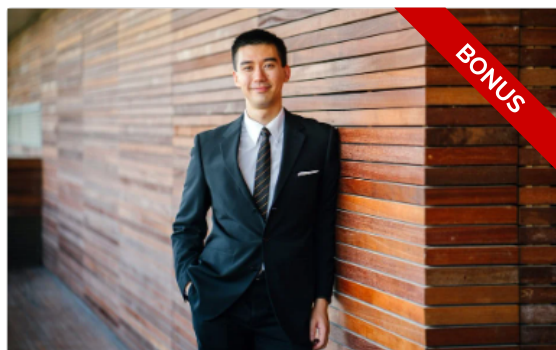
Honorific/respectful lang. Familiar lang.

2. old man; mister

Familiar lang.

3. manybar goatfish (Parupeneus multifasciatus)

How age affects describing wo/men



だんせい
男性 dansei

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common) の-adj.

1. man; male

EXAMPLE

だんせい だれ
あの男性は誰ですか。

Who is that man?

2. masculine gender



じょせい
女性 josei

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common) の-adj.

1. woman; female

EXAMPLE

じょせい うつく
その女性は美しい。

The woman is beautiful.

2. feminine gender



かた
方 kata

Common JLPT N5 Noun (common)

1. direction; way

EXAMPLE

かれ い かた あらた
彼は生き方を改めた。

He amended his way of living.

2. person; lady; gentleman

Honorific/respectful lang.

EXAMPLE

かくじんかくよう ものごと かた
各人各様の物事のやり方がある。

Each person has his own way of doing things.

JLPT-N4 Vocab



ひ
日 hi

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 16 Adv. noun

Noun (temporal)

1. day; days
2. sun; sunshine; sunlight
3. case (esp. unfortunate); event



おも
思う omou

Common JLPT N4 Godan verb w/ う ending

Transitive verb

1. to think; to consider; to believe; to reckon

EXAMPLE

かれ おも りゆう
彼をよく思うのはそれだけの理由がある。

All the more so to think well of him.

2. to think (of doing); to plan (to do)
3. to judge; to assess; to regard
4. to imagine; to suppose; to dream
5. to expect; to look forward to



かんけい
関係 kankei

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. relation; relationship; connection

の-adj.

EXAMPLE

りょうしゃ ま かんけい
両者の間に関係はない。

There is no connection between them.

2. participation; involvement; concern

の-adj.

EXAMPLE

わたし かんけい
私には関係ない。

This doesn't concern me.

3. influence; effect

の-adj.



せかい
世界 sekai

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 10

1. the world; society; the universe

Noun (common)

EXAMPLE

せかい きじん す
世界は奇人の巣だ。

The world is a den of crazies.

2. sphere; circle; world

Noun (common)

EXAMPLE

せかい むずか
この世界は難しい

This world is difficult.

3. world-renowned; world-famous

の-adj.

JLPT-N4 Vocab



き
気 ki

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. spirit; mind; heart
2. nature; disposition
3. motivation; intention
4. mood; feelings
5. ambience; atmosphere; mood



てん
点 ten

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. dot; spot; point; speck; mark

EXAMPLE

ろんでん
論点がわかる。

I see the point of the argument.

2. mark (in an exam, etc.); grade; score; points

EXAMPLE

さいてん
採点しましたか。

Did you grade the tests?

3. point (in a game); score; goal; run

EXAMPLE

かれ しけん てん
彼は試験で85点をとった。

He scored 85 on the exam.

4. point (in geometry)



しゃかい
社会 shakai

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. society; public; community; the world

EXAMPLE

ぼうりょく しゃかい
暴力は社会のガンだ。

Violence is the cancer of our society.

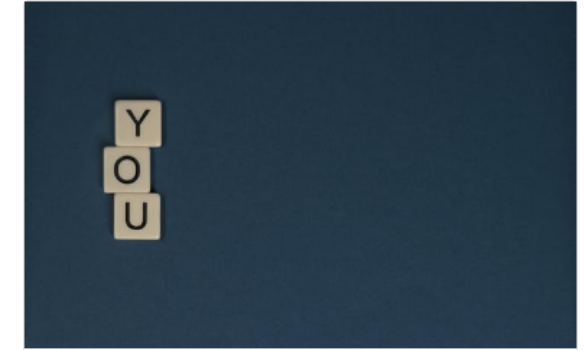
2. social studies

Abbr.

EXAMPLE

しゃかい じゅぎょう じゅうぎせい はな
社会の授業で銃規制について話し
あ
合った。

We discussed gun control in social studies class.



きみ
君 kimi

Common JLPT N4

1. you; buddy; pal

Pronoun Male term/lang. Familiar lang.

EXAMPLE

きみ だれ
君は誰?

Who are you?

2. monarch; ruler; sovereign; (one's) master

Noun (common)

JLPT-N4 Vocab



ちから
力 chikara

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. force; strength; might; vigour; vigor; energy

EXAMPLE

ちから っ
力が尽きた。

My strength is all gone.

2. capability; ability; proficiency; capacity; faculty

EXAMPLE

わたし ちから むり
これは私の力では無理です。

This is beyond the compass of my ability.

3. efficacy; effect

4. effort; endeavours; endeavors; exertions



あいだ
間 aida

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 4 Adv. noun

1. space (between); gap; interval; distance

Noun (common)

2. time (between); pause; break

Noun (temporal)

3. span (temporal or spatial); stretch; period (while)

Noun (common) Noun (temporal)

4. relationship (between, among)

Noun (common)

5. members (within, among)

Noun (common)



ぼく
僕 boku

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 5 Pronoun

1. I; me

Male term/lang.

EXAMPLE

ぼく
僕もだよ。

Me, too.

2. you

3. manservant

EXAMPLE

かれ たねかのじょ げ ぼく
彼はある種彼女の下僕だな。

He's some kind of manservant for her.



けんきゅう
研究 kenkyuu

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. study; research; investigation

EXAMPLE

かれ けんきゅう むちゅう
彼は研究に夢中だ。

His study absorbs him.

JLPT-N4 Vocab



けいざい
経済 keizai

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 2 Noun (common)

1. economy; economics

EXAMPLE

かれ けいざい せんもん か
彼は経済の専門家だ。

He is an expert in economics.

2. finance; (one's) finances;
financial circumstances

EXAMPLE

わたし しょうらい かいしゃ けいざいじょうたい みっせつ
私の将来は会社の経済状態と密接
かんけい
に關係している。

My future is closely bound up with
the finances of my firm.

3. being economical; economy;
thrift



じだい
時代 jidai

Common JLPT N4 Noun (temporal)

Noun (common)

1. period; epoch; era; age

EXAMPLE

げんだい げんしりょく じだい
現代は原子力の時代だ。

We live in the atomic age.

2. the times; those days

EXAMPLE

かれ ほうほう じだいおく
彼の方法は時代遅れだ。

He's behind the times in his
methods.

3. oldness; ancientness; antiquity

4. antique; period piece

Abbr.



こころ
心 kokoro

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. mind; heart; spirit

EXAMPLE

こころ いた
心が痛みます。

My heart's aching.

2. the meaning of a phrase
(riddle, etc.)



せつめい
説明 setsumei

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

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

1. explanation; exposition

EXAMPLE

かんけつ せつめい
簡潔な説明をしろ。

I need a concise explanation.

JLPT-N4 Vocab



きょういく
教育 kyouiku

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

1. education; schooling; training; instruction; teaching; upbringing

EXAMPLE

かれ きょういくはたけ そだ
彼は教育畑で育った。

He has had a long teaching career.

2. culture; cultivation; education

EXAMPLE

かれ きょういく ひと
彼は教育のある人だ。

He is a man of education.



しょうかい
紹介 shoukai

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

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

1. introduction; presentation; referral; listing

EXAMPLE

しょうかい
紹介ありがとう。

Thank you for your referral.



ぎじゅつ
技術 gijutsu

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. technology; engineering

EXAMPLE

かれ しごと ぎじゅつ かん
彼の仕事は技術に関する。

His work is in engineering.

2. technique; skill

EXAMPLE

だれ かれ ぎじゅつ みと
誰もが彼の技術を認めた。

Everyone recognized his skill.

3. art; craft

EXAMPLE

われわれ ぎじゅつ こうせい つた
我々は技術を後世に伝えなければ
ならない。

We must hand down our craft to
posterity.



いけん
意見 iken

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

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

1. opinion; view; comment

EXAMPLE

かのじょ いけん ただ
彼女の意見は正しい。

She is right in her opinions.

JLPT-N4 Vocab



さいご
最後 saigo

Common JLPT N4

1. end; conclusion

Noun (common)

EXAMPLE

さいご せいこう
最後は成功します。

You will succeed in the end.

2. last; final; latest; most recent

の-adj.

EXAMPLE

さいご
それで最後だ!

That's the last straw!

3. no sooner than; once; right after (often having negative consequences)

Expr.



かんがえる
考える kangaeru

Common JLPT N4 Ichidan verb Transitive verb

1. to think (about, of); to think over; to ponder; to contemplate; to reflect (on); to meditate (on)

EXAMPLE

ぜんてい だとう かんが
その前提が妥当かどうかよく考えるべきだ。

You ought to think over whether the premise is valid or not.

2. to consider; to bear in mind; to allow for; to take into consideration

EXAMPLE

せいぶつ なか じんるい どくとく かんが
生物の中で人類が独特であると考えるのはたやすい。

It is easy to consider man unique among living organisms.



かのじょ
彼女 kanojo

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 12

1. she; her

Pronoun

EXAMPLE

かのじょ ある
彼女は歩く。

She walks.

2. girlfriend

Noun (common)

EXAMPLE

かのじょ わたし こいびと
彼女は私の恋人だ。

She is my girlfriend.



にっき
日記 nikki

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 18 Noun (common)

1. diary; journal

EXAMPLE

にっき
日記をつける。

I keep a diary.

JLPT-N4 Vocab



こくさい
国際 kokusai

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. international

の-adj.

EXAMPLE

えいご こくさいご
英語は国際語になった。

English has become an international language.

2. diplomatic intercourse

Obsolete



ばしょ
場所 basho

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. place; location; spot; position

EXAMPLE

す ばしょ
住むべきよい場所。

That is a good place to live.

2. room; space

EXAMPLE

きかい ばしょ
その機械は場所をとる。

The machine takes a lot of room.

3. basho; wrestling tournament



かたち
形 katachi

Common JLPT N3 JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. form; shape; figure

EXAMPLE

りんご かたち まる
林檎の形は丸い。

An apple is round in shape.

2. visage



さいしょ
最初 saisho

Common JLPT N4 の-adj. Adv. noun

Noun (temporal)

1. beginning; outset; first; onset

EXAMPLE

かれ さいしょ き
彼が最初に来た。

He came first.

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 the visual content in this mini-eBook and want to learn more with pictures, subscribe to Kuma Learn's email newsletter.



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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.

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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.

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Pexels

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

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.

Wikimedia

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