

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 frequently occurring words [*] to select 50 JLPT-N5 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.

KUMADEx

Learn 25 JLPT-N4 Vocab with Pictures

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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 こ
女の子 onnanoko

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 11 Expr.

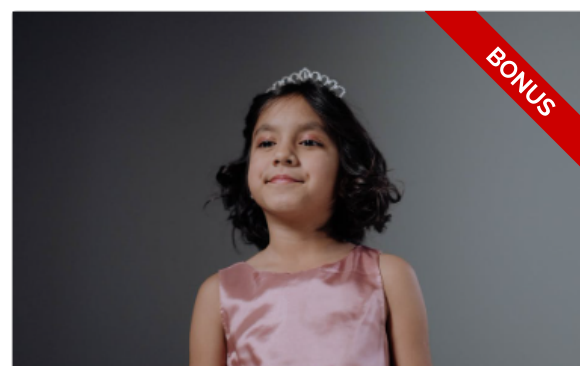
Noun (common)

1. girl; daughter; baby girl

EXAMPLE

エミはおんなこ。
Emi is a good girl.

2. young woman



じょう
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。
ryouke

She was a rather prim and proper young lady.



おとこ こ
男の子 otokonoko

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 11 Expr.

Noun (common)

1. boy; son; baby boy

EXAMPLE

おとこ こ だれ
あの男の子は誰?

Who's that boy?

2. young man



ぼっ
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



ねえ
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



にい
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
伯母さん obasan

JLPT N2 JLPT N5 Noun (common)

Honorific/respectful lang. Familiar lang.

Written w/ kanji only

1. aunt



おじ
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

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 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

はい きつえん かんけい 肺ガンは喫煙と関係がある。

There is a connection between smoking and lung cancer.

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 いっしゅう 世界を一周したい。

I want to travel around the world.

2. sphere; circle; world

Noun (common)

3. world-renowned; world-famous

の-adj.

EXAMPLE

マクドナルドはハンバーガーで
せ かい てき ゆうめい 世界的に有名だ。

McDonald's is world-famous for its hamburgers.

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)

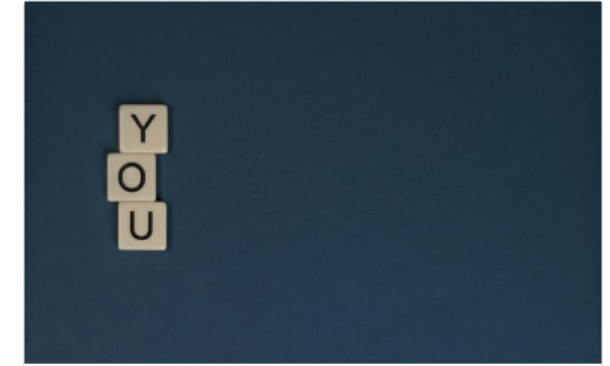
1. dot; spot; point; speck; mark
2. mark (in an exam, etc.); grade; score; points
EXAMPLE
もう少しで満点がとれたのに。
I almost got a perfect score.
3. point (in a game); score; goal; run
EXAMPLE
アメフトでタッチダウンは6点になる。
In American football, a touchdown scores six points.
4. point (in geometry)



しゃかい
社会 shakai

Common JLPT N4 Noun (common)

1. society; public; community; the world
EXAMPLE
しゃかい へんか
社会が変化している。
Society is changing.
2. social studies
Abbr.
EXAMPLE
しゃかい じゅぎょう じゅうきせい はな
社会の授業で銃規制について話し合った。
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 つ
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



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

せつめい い
説明は要りません。

I don't need an 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

きょういく かてい はじ
教育は家庭に始まる。

Education begins at home.

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 ひと
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
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 どうかとく 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



BONUS

こくさい
国際 kokusai

Common JLPT N4 の-adj. Noun (common)

1. international

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.



BONUS

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



BONUS

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



BONUS

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

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

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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.

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