Kumadex

by Mario Hayashi, Kuma Learn

Learn 50 JLPT-N5 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 <u>WaniKani</u>, <u>DuoLingo</u> and <u>Genki</u>. These resources help you learn using various approaches, such as *audial* and *kinaesthetic* techniques (e.g. games).

<u>Kuma Learn</u> 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 50 JLPT-N5 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.

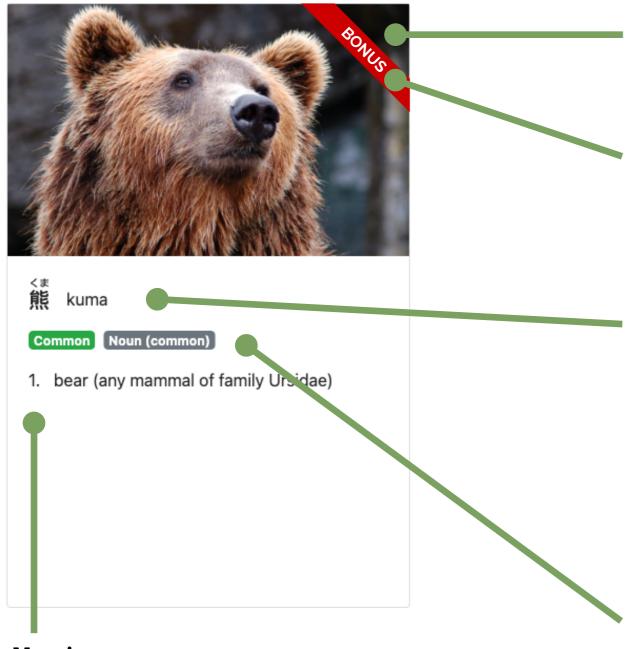
* See Acknowledgements: Centre for Translation Studies, Leeds University.

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KUMAI

How to read this eBook



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.

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.

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.

<u>Only one reading is shown</u>. 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).

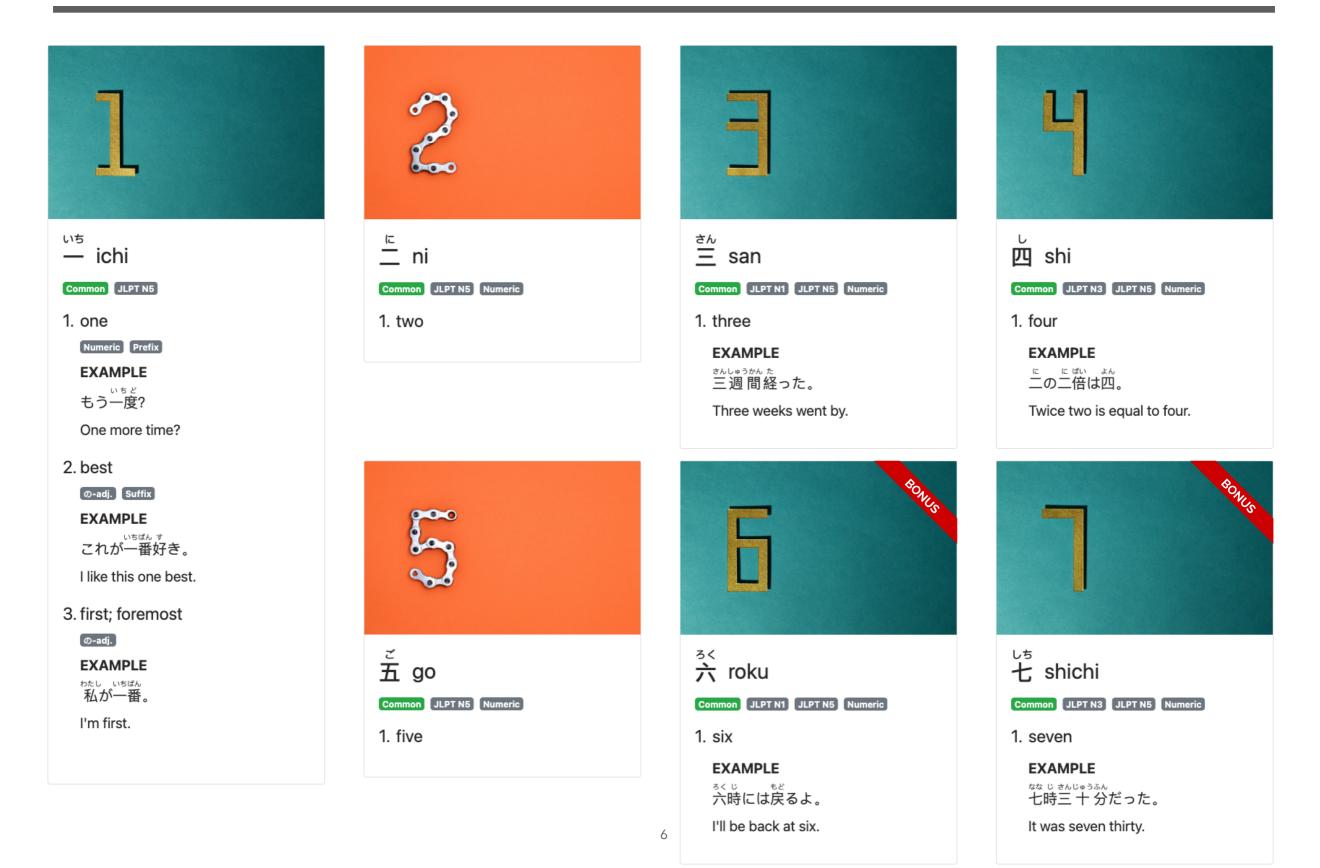


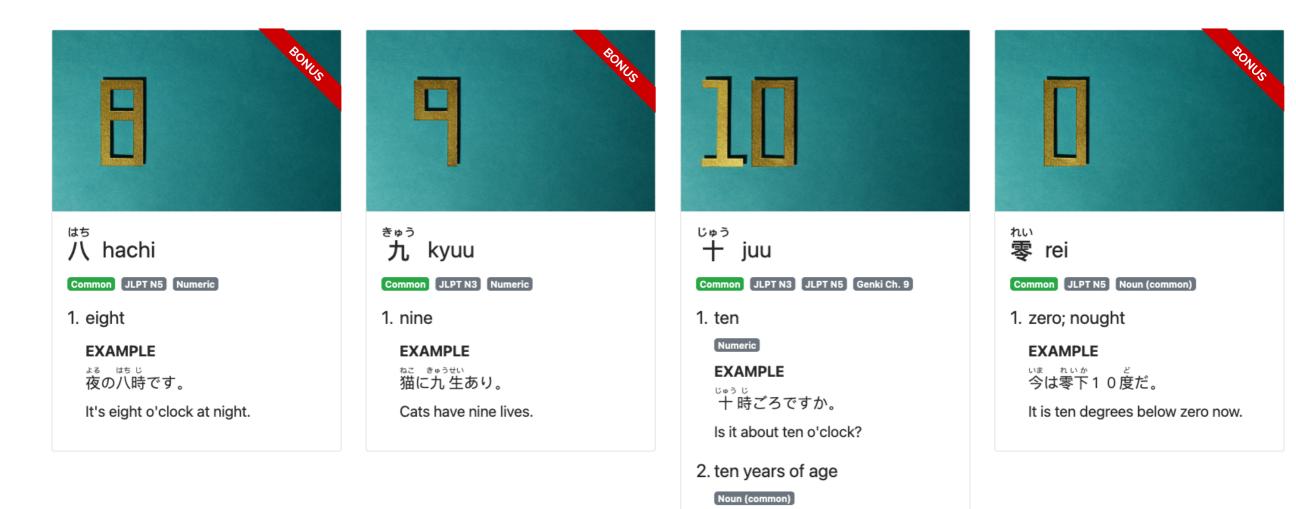
The Japanese number system is logical. Once you can count up to ten, you'll know how to count up to 99. This is because, after ten, numbers are expressed as sums of numbers we've already learned: eleven is "ten-and-one" (十一, *jiu-ichi*); 99 is "nine-tens-and-nine" (九十九, *kyuu-jiu-kyuu*).

When reading and writing Japanese, you'll often see decimal digits (numbers 0 to 9) being used instead of kanji, as it can get a bit difficult to read for larger numbers!



HOLETO







Once you can count up to 100, you'll be able to count up to 999. The number 999 is "nine-hundreds-nine-tens-and-nine" (九百九十九, *kyuu-hyaku-kyuu-jiu-kyuu*). Similarly, count up to 1,000 and you can count up to 9,999!

From 10,000, it's a bit different to the Western system because 10,000 has its own name: 万, *man*. So, 34,000 is "three-ten-thousands-four-thousands". That's a mouthful!

The Japanese currency denominations are: 1, 5, 10, 50, 100, 500, 1,000, 5,000 and 10,000 円 (*yen*). So, learn to count up to 10,000 and you can count money.



HOILIO





1. 100; hundred

EXAMPLE ^{ぎっぷ ひゃく} 切符は百ユーロです。

The ticket costs 100 euros.



⁺ **f** sen

Common JLPT N5 Numeric

1. 1,000; thousand

EXAMPLE ^{ぜんえん} 千円で足りる? Is a thousand yen enough?



^{素ル} 万 man

Common JLPT N5

1. 10,000; ten thousand

Numeric

EXAMPLE 1 万円でたりる?

Is ten thousand yen enough?

2. myriad

Noun (common) Ø-adj.

3. everything; all

Adv. noun

EXAMPLE ^{かぜ、まんびょう もと} 風邪は万病の元。

A cold often leads to all kinds of

disease.



There are many ways to "I" in Japanese. It's often influenced by age, gender and situation.

For example, boys often use 僕 (*boku*), until they grow out of it in their teenage years when 俺 (*ore*) is adopted. Many men use 俺 (*ore*), whereas 私 (*watashi*) is used by both men and women in formal contexts. In informal contexts, women still use 私 (*watashi*) but men often revert back to 俺 (*ore*) or 僕 (*boku*).

There's also an extremely polite version of 私: *watakushi*. In day-to-day Japanese however, you'll hear women use *watashi* or *atashi*.



How to say "I"









^{ਛ<} 僕 boku

Common JLPT N4 Genki Ch. 5 Pronoun

1. l; me

Male term/lang.

_{ぼく} 僕もだよ。

Me, too.

2. you

3. manservant

brt the transfer of the transfer to the transf

がれ 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.



^{じぶん} 自分 jibun

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 17 Pronoun

1. myself; yourself; oneself; himself; herself

EXAMPLE じ^{ぶん}しん 自分を信じて。

Believe in yourself.

2. l; me

EXAMPLE

じぶんました。

Even I was defeated.

3. you

Kansai-ben

EXAMPLE ^{じぶんがって やっこ} 自分勝手な奴だな。

You always try to get what you want.



Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 4 Noun (common)

1. man; person

EXAMPLE あの人誰? Who is that person?

2. human being; mankind; people

EXAMPLE ^{かと} 人がいる。

There are people.

- human (Homo sapiens);
 humans as a species
 Written w/ kanji only
- 4. character; personality

EXAMPLE がれ あじ 彼は味のある人だ。 He is quite a character.



をし 年 toshi Common JLPT N5 Noun (common)

1. year

EXAMPLE よいお^{とし}を。 Happy New Year!

2. age; years

EXAMPLE もう^{どし}たよ。 I feel my age.

3. past one's prime; old age **EXAMPLE** がれっとし 彼も年のせいで弱くなった。

He's become frail in his old age.



なか 中 naka Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 4 Noun (common) 1. inside; in EXAMPLE

[╈]ーに入れて。 Let me in.

2. among; within

EXAMPLE リスは枝の中に隠れた。 A squirrel hid among the branches.

3. center (centre); middle

EXAMPLE ^{みずうみ まんなか} 湖の真中に、その島がある。 In the middle of the lake lies the island.

4. during; while



なに 何 nani Common JLPT N3 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 1 1. what Pronoun EXAMPLE ^{なに} 何? What? 2. you-know-what; that thing Pronoun EXAMPLE すか。 What's that thing in your right hand? 3. whatsit; whachamacallit; what's-his-name; what'-sher-name Pronoun



じかん 時間 jikan

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 14 Noun (common)

1. time

EXAMPLE

じかんしゅうりょう 時間終了。

Time's up.

2. hour

EXAMPLE 3時間待った。

We waited three hours.

3. period; class; lesson

EXAMPLE ^{ごじかんめ} 五時間目ですか。

Is it fifth period?



^{まえ} 前 mae

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 4

1. in front (of); before (e.g. the house)

Noun (common) Suffix

2. ago; before; previously; prior; (minutes) to (the hour)

Adv. noun Noun (temporal) Suffix

^{じまえ} 7時前にね。

See you a little before 7.

3. front (of something); head (e.g. of a line); fore part

Noun (common)

4. front (e.g. seat); previous (e.g. entry in a list); prior; former



^{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} がた 各人各様の物事のやり方がある。 Each person has his own way of doing things.



^{じぶん} 自分 jibun

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 17 Pronoun

1. myself; yourself; oneself; himself; herself

EXAMPLE ^{じぶん}しん 自分を信じて。

Believe in yourself.

2. l; me

EXAMPLE ^{じぶん} 自分でも負けた。

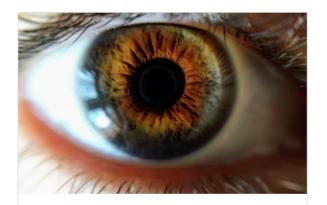
Even I was defeated.

3. you

Kansai-ben

EXAMPLE ^{じぶんがって やっこ} 自分勝手な奴だな。

You always try to get what you want.



- © me Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 7 Noun (common)
- 1. eye; eyeball
- 2. eyesight; sight; vision
- 3. look; stare; gaze; glance
- 4. notice; attention; observation; eyes (of the world, public, etc.)
- 5. an experience



- ^{ほん} 本 hon
- Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 2
- 1. book; volume; script

Noun (common) EXAMPLE いい本だ。

lt's a good book.

2. counter for long cylindrical things; counter for films, TV shows, etc.; counter for goals, home runs, etc.; counter for telephone calls

Suffix Counter



はなし 話 hanashi Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 19 Noun (common)

1. talk; speech; chat; conversation

EXAMPLE ^{なに はなし} 何の話? What're you talking about?

2. topic; subject

EXAMPLE

話をそらすなよ。

- Don't change the subject.
- 3. discussions; negotiation; argument

EXAMPLE

そういった話をしていると議論に なってしまう。

That kind of talk leads to arguments.



[∋]₹ 上ue

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 4 Noun (common)

1. above; up; over; elder (e.g. daughter)

ற-adj. Adv. noun Noun, as suffix

EXAMPLE

その上に座るな。

Don't sit upon it.

2. top; summit; head (e.g. of a staircase)

EXAMPLE ^{いえ おか うえ} 家は丘の上にある。

The house is on top of the hill.

- 3. surface
- 4. before; previous

@-adj. Adv. noun

5. superiority; one's superior; one's elder



おなじ 同じ ONAji Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 14

 same; identical; equal; uniform; equivalent; similar; common (origin); changeless; alike
 Prenominal noun/verb Noun (common)

EXAMPLE ^{おな もの} くだ 同じ物を下さい。 Please give me the same thing.

2. anyway; anyhow; in either case



しごと 仕事 shigoto

1. work; job; labor; labour; business; task; assignment; occupation; employment

EXAMPLE しごとちゅう 仕事 中です。 I am working.

2. work



ぃぅ **言う iu**

Common JLPT N3 JLPT N5

(Godan verb w/ う ending)

1. to say; to utter; to declare

EXAMPLE ^{あらた} 改めて言う事はない。 I have nothing particular to say.

2. to name; to call

3. to go (e.g. "the alarm went ping"); to make a noise



いえ 家 ie

Common JLPT N5 Noun (common)

1. house; residence; dwelling

EXAMPLE 家はどこ?

Where's your house?

2. family; household

EXAMPLE ^{かれ いえ ほま} 彼は家の誉れだ。

He is an honor to his family.

3. lineage; family name

EXAMPLE かのじょ かれ いえがら かれ けっこん 彼女は彼の家柄のために彼と結婚 した。

She married him for the sake of his family name.

かいしゃ 会社 kaisha

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 7 Noun (common)

1. company; corporation

EXAMPLE

会社が赤字になる。

The company is in deficit.

2. workplace

dictatorial /,drktetorial like a dictator. 2 overbearing orially adv. [Latin: related a 01 played at risks, diction /'dikf(ə)n/ n. manner ciation in speaking or singing dictio from dico dict- say] dictionary /'dikfənəri/ n. (p. book listing (usu. alphabetic cut into risky, explaining the words of a lan giving corresponding words in es) dilanguage. 2 reference book e efined ed to the terms of a part いみ 意味 imi JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 12 Noun (common) Noun/participle taking aux. verb する】

1. meaning; significance; sense

どういう意味?

What's the meaning of this?



<に 国 kuni

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 7 Noun (common)

1. country; state

EXAMPLE ^{かれ くにちゅう たび} 彼は国 中を旅した。

He traveled around the country.

2. region

EXAMPLE

その国のその地域ではよく嵐が 発生した。

There were storms in that region of the country.

- 3. national government; central government
- 4. home (i.e. hometown, home country)



^{ぁれ} 彼 are

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 2

 that (indicating something distant from both speaker and listener (in space, time or psychologically), or something understood without naming it directly)

Pronoun Written w/ kanji only

2. that person

Pronoun

3. hey; huh?; eh?

Interjection (kandoushi) Written w/ kanji only





て 手 te Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 7 Noun (common)

- 1. hand; arm
- 2. handle
- 3. hand; worker; help
- 4. trouble; care; effort
- 5. means; way; trick; move; technique; workmanship



^{ぉぉぃ} 多い ooi

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 12 Adj.

1. many; numerous; a lot

EXAMPLE ^{ふゆ かじ おお} 冬は火事が多い。 There are a lot of fires in the winter.

- 2. large quantity; large amount
- 3. frequent; common

EXAMPLE かれ 彼らには、共通点が多い。 They have a lot in common.



ことば 吉葉 kotoba Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 13 Noun (common)

1. language; dialect

EXAMPLE ^{ことば まな まもしる} 言葉を学ぶのは面白い。 Learning languages is interesting.

2. word; words; phrase; term; expression; remark

EXAMPLE

合言葉?

Password?

3. speech; (manner of) speaking

EXAMPLE ^{かれ ことばすう すく} 彼は言葉数が少ない。

He is brief of speech.

4. learning to speak; language acquisition



^{ほか} 他 hoka

Common JLPT N3 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 18

1. other (place, thing, person); the rest

Noun (common) Ø-adj.

EXAMPLE

彼はついにクラスの他の者を抜いた。

He finally got ahead of the rest of class.

- 2. outside; beyond Noun (common) Ø-adj. Written w/ kanji only
- 3. nothing except; nothing but; nothing apart from; nothing aside from; no choice (but to)

EXAMPLE ^{ey ほか なに み} 霧の他には何も見えなかった。

We could see nothing but fog.



よい 良い yOi Common JLPT N1 JLPT N3 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 3 Adj.

1. good; excellent; fine; nice; pleasant; agreeable

EXAMPLE ^{ょ たび} 良い旅を!

Have a nice trip.

2. sufficient; enough; ready; prepared

EXAMPLE がれ、さけ、のののでも良い年齢だ。 He is old enough to drink.

- 3. profitable (deal, business offer, etc.); beneficial
- 4. OK; all right; fine; no problem



,[#] mise

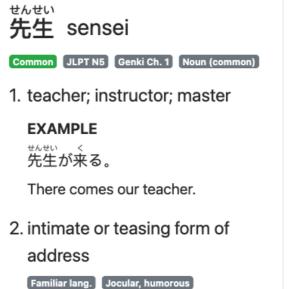
Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 13 Noun (common)

 store; shop; establishment; restaurant

EXAMPLE がれっかせいい 彼は店に行った。

He went to the store.







えいが 映画 eiga Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 3 Noun (common) の-adj. 1. movie; film EXAMPLE えいが い 映画に行くの? Are you going to a movie?

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こども 子供 kodomo Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 4 Noun (common

EXAMPLE ^{こどもたち みなね} 子供達は皆寝た。

1. child

All the children went to bed.



^{すこし} sukoshi

Common JLPT N5 Adverb Noun (common)

 small quantity; little; few; something

> EXAMPLE ^{すこ ばだきむ} 少し肌寒い。 There is a little chill in the air.

2. little while

EXAMPLE もう^{ずご}しいてはいかがですか。 Why don't you stay a little while?

3. short distance



Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 4 Noun (common)

1. photograph; photo; picture; snapshot; snap

EXAMPLE 写真見せて。 Show me the picture.

2. movie

EXAMPLE



^みる miru

Common JLPT N5 Ichidan verb

1. to see; to look; to watch; to view; to observe

Transitive verb

EXAMPLE ^{ばんぐみ み} この番組見る?

Do you want to watch this program?

- 2. to examine; to look over; to assess; to check; to judge
- 3. to look after; to attend to; to take care of; to keep an eye on

Transitive verb

EXAMPLE

^{かれ ろうじん} 彼は老人なので、面倒を見るのは ^{きみ やくめ} 君の役目だ。

Now that he is old, it is your duty to look after him.



だいがく 大学 daigaku Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 1 Noun (common)

1. university; college

EXAMPLE ^{だいがくせい} 大学生です。 I am a college student.

- 2. former central university of Kyoto (established under the ritsuryo system for the training of government administrators)
- 3. the Great Learning (one of the Four Books)



^{だれ} dare

Common JLPT N1 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 2

Pronoun

1. who

EXAMPLE ^{だれ} 誰?

Who?



すき 好き suki Common JLPT N5 Noun (common)

1. liked; well-liked; favourite; favorite

な-adj.

EXAMPLE ^ず 好きな食べ物は? What's your favourite food?

2. in love (with); loved; romantically interested (in)

な-adj.

EXAMPLE ^{かれ} 彼らはそれが好きでした。 They loved it.

- 3. faddism; eccentricity
- 4. the way one likes; (as) it suits one



^{ぉぉきな} 大きな ookina

Common JLPT N5 pre-noun adj. (rentaishi)

1. big; large; great

EXAMPLE ^{訪 いちほ} 大きな一歩だよ。

That's a big step.



いく 行く iku JLPT N1 JLPT N5 Godan verb - いく special Intransitive verb

1. to go; to move (in a direction or towards a specific location); to head (towards); to be transported (towards); to reach

EXAMPLE

行くべきだ。

I ought to go.

- 2. to proceed; to take place
- 3. to pass through; to come and go
- 4. to walk

EXAMPLE

そこまで歩いて行くのはめんどう くさい。

It's too much trouble to walk there.



でんわ 電話 denwa JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 1 Noun (com Common o-adj.

1. telephone call; phone call Noun/participle taking aux. verb する

EXAMPLE ^{でんわ} 電話しよう。

Let's make a phone call.

2. telephone (device); phone Abbr. EXAMPLE

^{でんわ} 電話です。 You are wanted on the phone.



がっこう 学校 gakkou Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 3 Noun (common) 1. school

EXAMPLE ^{がっこう} 学校はどう? How's school?



もの 物 mono

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 12 Noun (common)

1. thing; object; article; stuff; substance

EXAMPLE ^{ゎす もの} 忘れ物ない?

Did you forget anything?

2. one's things; possessions; property; belongings

EXAMPLE

ブライアンは自分の物を置き忘れ

た。

Brian left his belongings behind.

3. things; something; anything; everything; nothing

EXAMPLE 忘れ物ない? Did you forget anything?

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Common JLPT N3 JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 10

1. number one; first; first place

Noun (common) Ø-adj.

EXAMPLE ^{わたし いちばん} 私が一番。

I'm first.

2. best; most

Adverb

EXAMPLE

^{けんこう いちばん} 健康が一番です。

Health is the most important thing.

3. game; round; bout

Noun (common)



^{ゕずうみ}湖はこの辺りが一番深い。

The lake is deepest around here.



^{ぉんがく} 音楽 ongaku

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 3 Noun (common)

1. music

EXAMPLE ^{おんがく す} 音楽は好き? Do you like music?



またらしい 新しい atarashii Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 5 Adj.

1. new; novel; fresh; recent; latest; up-to-date; modern

EXAMPLE ^{たまご あたら} この卵は新しい。

These eggs are fresh.



たかい 高い takai Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch.2 Adj. 1. high; tall EXAMPLE がか高い。 The waves are high. 2. expensive; high-priced EXAMPLE でも着いよ。 It's expensive though. 3. high (level); above average (in degree, quality, etc.)

4. loud

He was snoring loudly while he

slept.



みず 7k mizu

- Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 3 Noun (common)
- 1. water (esp. cool, fresh water, e.g. drinking water)
- 2. fluid (esp. in an animal tissue); liquid

EXAMPLE

^{みず えきたい} 水は液体である。 Water is a liquid.

- 3. flood; floodwaters

EXAMPLE はし おおみず なが 橋は大水で流された。

The bridge was carried away by the flood.

4. water offered to wrestlers just prior to a bout



えいご 英語 eigo

Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 1 Noun (com

の-adj.

1. English (language)



しつもん 質問 shitsumon Common JLPT N5 Genki Ch. 11 Noun (common) Noun/participle taking aux. verb する の-adj. 1. question; inquiry; enquiry

EXAMPLE

よい質問だ。

It's a good question.



ところ 所 tokoro

Common JLPT N5 Noun (common) Suffix

1. place; spot; scene; site

EXAMPLE わが家にまさる所なし。

There is no place like home.

2. address

Written w/ kanji only

3. district; area; locality

Written w/ kanji only

EXAMPLE

その商店街は私達の家から簡単に 行ける便の良い所にある。

The shopping district is easily

accessible from our house.

4. one's house

Written w/ kanji only

5. point; aspect; side; facet

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 <u>Kuma Learn</u> in the future. Reach out to me at <u>mario@kumalearn.com</u> 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 <u>Kuma Learn</u>'s email newsletter.



Mario Hayashi, Kuma LearnEmail:mario@kumalearn.comTwitter:@logicalicy

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Wikimedia

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Flickr

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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.