

Ready, Set, NihonGO!

な ま え か ん じ か

あなたの名前を漢字で書くと… <2>

に ほ ん ご くに な ま え か ちゅうごく かんこく のぞ
日本語であなたの国の名前を書くと中国や韓国などを除いて、ほとんどの国はカタ
カナになります。でも漢字で書くこともあるんですよ。「アメリカ」、「独逸」、
オーストラリア ことば あ
「濠太刺利」などです。このように、カタカナの言葉に漢字を当てはめることは、
ひかてきかんたん
比較的簡単にできます。

せ かい ゆうめい まち すで き つか
国や世界の有名な町については、既に決まっている漢字を使わなければなりません。
ひと じぶん かんが たの
でも人の名前となると、自分で考えることができるので、とても楽しいですよ！
だいいちごう しょうかい けんさく
Nihongo-Proのニュースレター第1号で紹介されているサイトで検索してみてもいい
にほんじん ゆうじん し あ き じしょ かたて
ですし、日本人の友人や知り合いに聞いてみると、辞書を片手に考えてくれるかもしれ
ませんね。

わたし いま なんど たの
私も今までに何度か、「漢字で名前を書いて」と頼まれたことがあります。たいてい
ひと せいかく きぼう あ なか われ じょうでき
は、その人の性格や希望に合った名前を考えます。その中で、我ながら上出来だと思
おも
ったものをいくつか紹介しようと思います。

ちよくやく なが げい せかいじゅう よろこ
セルゲイ(Sergei)→世流芸 …直訳は「世界に流れる芸」、つまり「世界中を喜ば
げいたつしゃ い み こ かれ
せることのできる芸達者」という意味を込めています。彼といると、楽しくて、みんなが
えがお えら
笑顔になるので、この漢字を選びました。ちなみにもし、あなたの名前が「セルジュ
ばしよ しあわ
(Serge)」だったら、「世流寿(＝世界のいろいろな場所に 幸せをもたらす)」という漢
字にしてもいいかもしれませんね。

アンナ(Anna)→杏奈 …この名前は日
本人でも使う名前なので、漢字にする

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OKUBO Kazumi

Nihongo-Pro Teacher

Kazumi Okubo
teaches private
lessons at all levels
except advanced.

Okubo-sensei is
originally from
Shizuoka prefecture,
but she and her
husband now live in
Berlin. She has also
taught Japanese
while staying in
Russia (and speaks
Russian), making her
a leading member
among Nihongo-
Pro's international
teachers.

Delve deeper with these kanji web sites:

→ [Place and country names written in kanji](#)

→ [Katakana words written in kanji](#)

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のも簡単ですが、「杏」はアンズ、「奈」はリンゴを意味しています。彼女の周りではとても良い香り(=よい雰囲気)がしそうですね。この漢字が使える他の名前は、「アントニーナ(Antonina)」→杏都新奈(=よい雰囲気)でフレッシュな感じ)です。

オリガ(Olga)→緒里香...「香」という字が最後にあり、とても優しい感じがします。

アレクセイ(Alexey)→有久世偉...「りっぱだ」という意味の「偉」、「とても長い時間」という意味の「久」などから、「永遠に素晴らしい、りっぱだ」という意味になります。

自分の名前を漢字で書くとどうなるかなあと思っている方、書いてみたいけどちょっと難しいと思っている方、ぜひこのニュースレター宛てにご連絡ください。あなたにぴったりの漢字を大久保和美がおつけします!

えいやく

英訳 ENGLISH TRANSLATION

Writing your own name in Kanji

If you write your own country's name in kanji, almost all countries, except China and Korea, are written in katakana. But, they can be written in kanji, too: 亜米利加 (America), 独逸 (Germany), 濠太刺利 (Australia), and so on. Matching kanji to katakana words like this is fairly easy.

For countries or famous place names, we have to use the kanji already chosen. But for a person's name, it's a lot of fun to do the matching yourself! You can use the site we introduced in the first edition of this newsletter, or, if you ask a Japanese friend, he might pull out a dictionary in one hand and give it some thought for you.

I've occasionally been asked to write someone's name in kanji. Generally, I try to come up with a name that fits the person's personality, hopes, and so on. I'd like to show you a few of the ones I think turned out quite well, if I do say so myself.

セルゲイ (Sergei) → 世流芸 It literally means "artistry that runs throughout the world." In other words, it has the meaning of "a versatile performer who can entertain the world over." I

chose these kanji because everyone laughs and has a great time with him. By the way, if your name is セルジュ (Serge), the kanji 世流寿 ("brings happiness to places throughout the world") might be a good choice.

アンナ (Anna) → 杏奈 This name is used by Japanese people as well, so it's easy to put into kanji. 杏 means anzu (apricot) and 奈 means ringo (apple). There's always a good fragrance (i.e., a good feeling) around someone named Anna. These same kanji can also be used in アントニーナ (Antonina) → 杏都新奈, which means "good feelings and a refreshing vibe."

アレクセイ (Alexey) → 有久世偉 Built from 偉 ("fine, magnificent") and 久 ("a very long time"), these kanji mean "eternally magnificent."

If you wonder what your own name would be like in kanji, but think it might be too hard to do, please do write to us (support@nihongo-pro.com). I (Kasumi Okubo) will be happy to find the perfect kanji for you!

Haiku 最も短いミステリー



MUKAI Hitoshi
Nihongo-Pro Teacher

Mukai-sensei teaches private lessons at all levels except advanced.

Mukai-sensei's work teaching Japanese takes him all over the world. After a two-year teaching stint in Hungary, he is now staying in Vietnam.

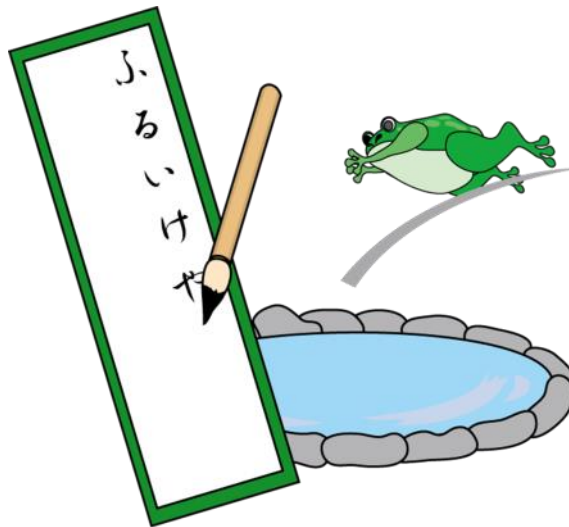
Mukai-sensei comes from the [Kansai region](#) of Japan. Though he generally teaches using standard Japanese, he also offers lessons in [Kansai-ben](#), the very distinct dialect of Japanese used in Kansai.

みなさんは俳句をご存知ですか。

俳句とは17文字で表される、とても短い詩のことです。あまりに短いので、その俳句の作者が伝えたいことが何なのか、簡単にはわかりません。読む人は、作者の意図をいろいろと想像し、解釈するのです。まるで、正解のない推理小説のようですね。

しずか 閑さや いわ 岩に い しみ入る せみ 蝉の声 こえ 芭蕉 ばしろう

これは、江戸時代の俳人、松尾芭蕉の句です。現代風に言うと「本当に静かなあ。あんなにうるさい蝉の鳴き声まで、岩に染み通っていくようだ。」ですね。蝉が鳴いているのに「静か」とは、どういうことでしょうか。作者の意図を推理してみてください。



ちなみに私は今年の9月から、ベトナムに住んでいます。ベトナムは、芭蕉の句とは反対に、とてもにぎやかなところですよ。ベトナム語は声調が6つもあり、会話は時に歌を歌っているかのように聞こえます。私もベトナム語を早く覚えて、歌のような会話に加わりたいと思っています。

エトランゼ 異邦人 さくら 桜 さ ころ 咲く頃 げんちじん 現地人 ゆめおいびと 夢追人

4月になると、私が勤務している日本語学校から、大勢の学生が日本に留学します。学生達は皆、故郷を離れる寂しさを大きな希望で包み込み、旅立っていきます。異国に送り出す親御さんの気持ちを考えると、物悲しくなってきます。

げんき 元気だと みおく 見送る背中 せなか さくら な 桜泣く さとおや 里親

みなさんも、心に感じた瞬間を17文字で表現してみませんか。

Haiku: A Mystery at Its Tiniest

Have you heard of haiku poems?

Haiku is a extremely short poem of just 17 syllables (Japanese characters). Owing to the poem's brevity, it isn't easy to understand what the author is wanting to say. The reader needs to imagine the author's mood and intention and interpret the poem on that basis. It's just like a mystery novel with no final conclusion.

shi zu ka sa ya i wa ni shi mi i ru se mi ko e ba shoo
閑 さや 岩に しみ入る 蟬の聲 芭蕉

Such quietude / the cicada's call seeping into the stone. (By Matsuo Bashō)

This was written by [Matsuo Bashō](#), a haiku poet from the Edo period in Japan. Put in modern terms, it means, "It's really quiet—so much so that even the cicadas' noisy screeching seems to soak into the stones." Amid the noise of cicadas, what would "really quiet" mean? Try to figure out what the author means.

By the way, I moved to Vietnam in September. Vietnam is a busy, bustling place—quite the opposite of the scene in Bashō's poem. The Vietnamese language has six tonal accents, at times making it sound like the speaker is singing a song. I want to learn Vietnamese quickly, and get engaged in these "singing" conversations.

e to ra n ze sa ku ra sa kuko ro ge n chi ji n yu me o i bi to
異邦人 桜 咲く頃 現地人 夢 追人

Strangers / the time of cherry blossoms / the local people. (By a person pursuing a dream)

In April, a large group of students at the Japanese language school where I teach will go to Japan on a foreign exchange program. Each one will set out on the journey, anxious about leaving home but filled with hope and excitement. (*Translator's note: A more literal translation might be, "Each one will set out on the journey, lonesomeness about leaving home wrapped by big hopes."*) I feel a little sad thinking about those parents sending their kids off to a foreign land.

ge n ki de to mi o ku ru se na ka sa ku ra na ku sa to o ya
元気だと 見送る背中 桜 泣く 里親

"Take care" / as the child walks away (his back to me) / cherry blossoms weeping. (By a person who feels like a parent)

Please give it a try yourself—express something you felt, even a passing emotion, in a poem of just 17 syllables.

里親 literally means "foster parent," but here it is closer to "someone who feels about the children in his care like a parent feels about his own children." Watching his students embark on their journey to Japan, Mukai-sensei imagines the emotions of their parents.

Learn more about haiku poetry:

[Haiku at Wikipedia](#)

[How to write a haiku poem](#)

Haiku Basics

Poetry of any form in a foreign language is among the most difficult material to understand. As Mukai-sensei points out, the 17-syllable limitation of haiku makes it even more challenging, but rewarding when you fathom the author's intent.

A good haiku captures an emotion; the annotation to the right of the poem tells you whose. The kanji that appear in haiku often have poetic, or non-standard, readings. The kanji are chosen to convey subtle nuances. For example, quietude is usually written 静かさ, but written 閑さ it means a calm, unhurried, un-busy quietness. Likewise, 異邦人 (foreigner) is commonly pronounced いほうじん, but Mukai-sensei chose エトランゼ (from French *étranger*, "stranger") to convey the nuance of a stranger in a new land. In this case, the kanji convey the meaning to readers (including many native Japanese readers) unfamiliar with the term エトランゼ.

Themes from nature, such as 桜 (cherry blossoms), are a common element in haiku. Sakura bloom in early spring, just about the time the Japanese school year starts in April. A phrase such as 桜 泣く (sakura weep) can mean the flower petals are falling, as if weeping at the child's departure.