

漢字



Kanji Introduction

かんじのしょうかい

What is Kanji?

- It is the use of Chinese characters in Japanese writing
(It is imported from China in approximately 500~600AD)
- There are thousands of Kanji
(approximately ~4000 Kanji, and ~3000 used daily)
- Each kanji represents a secret message
- Each kanji has at least two ways of reading

When do we use Kanji?

- Words originated from China: 漢字 etc
- Content words:
 - Nouns: 人權 (human rights) etc
 - Adjectives: 基本的 (fundamental) etc
 - Verbs: 食べる (eat) etc
- Kanji is not used for particles

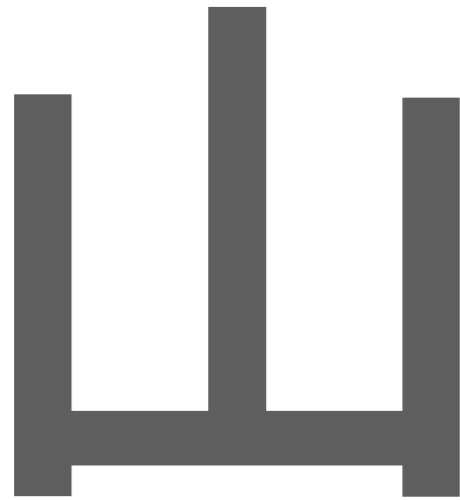
日本憲法第十一条

国民はすべての**基本的人権の享有**を妨げられない。
この**憲法が国民に保障する基本的人権は侵すことのできない永久の権利**として**現在及び将来の国民に与えられる。**

Constitution of Japan Article 11

The people shall not be prevented from enjoying any of the fundamental human rights. These fundamental human rights guaranteed to the people by this Constitution shall be conferred upon the people of this and future generations as eternal and inviolate rights.

How to read Kanji?



サン On-reading おんよみ 音読み

- The way of reading that is adopted from Chinese
- It is used generally in sino Japanese compound words

富士山 ふじ**さん** Mount Fuji

やま Kun-reading くんよみ 訓読み

- Japanese reading
- You know the meaning of the word when you listen to

山 (**やま**) にいきます。



How Kanji was formed?

There are 4 main ways that Kanji was formed.

①しょうけいもじ 象形文字

Drawing of concrete objects/phenomena



木 (tree)



甲骨文



金文



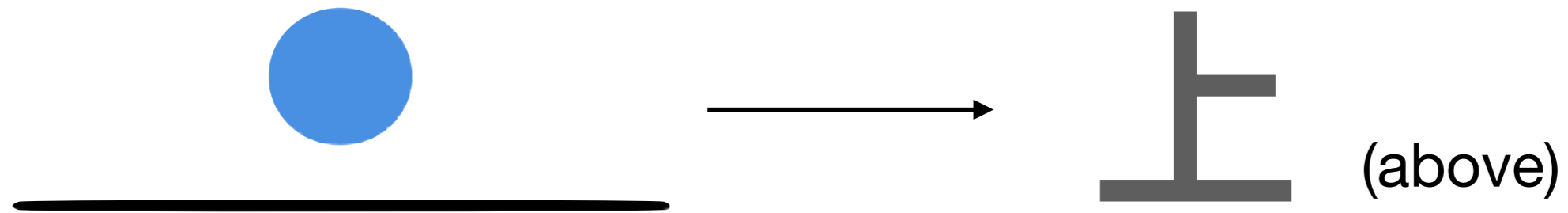
小篆



楷书

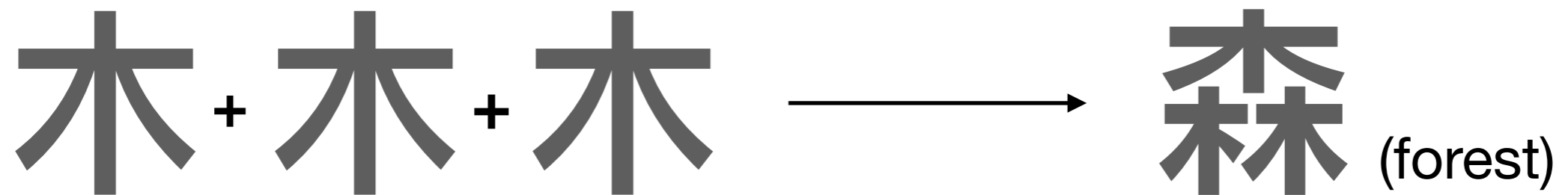
② しじもじ 指事文字

Representation of an abstract concept



③ かいもじ 会意文字

Combination of meanings



④ けいせいもじ 形成文字

Combination of a component that conveys the general meaning and a component that represents the pronunciation



日 (sun). This part of the character works as the meaning indicator.

青 (blue), and its on-reading is セイ. This is the component which indicates pronunciation.

- This character means “sunny”
- There are two ways to read it:
 - セイ (on-reading)
 - はれ (kun-reading)

What do you notice?

Radical

On-Reading

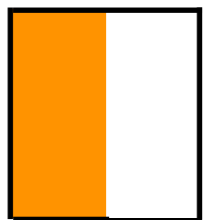
Meaning

	青	青	セイ	Blue
氵 water	青	清	セイ	Pure
日 sun	青	晴	セイ	Sunny
米 rice	青	精	セイ	Spirit/Energy
言 to say	青	請	セイ	Request

Radicals

- The building blocks of Kanji !!!!
- There are around 200 radicals
- Radicals are categorized mainly into seven groups

1. へん



晴

2. つくり



助 Help

3. かんむり



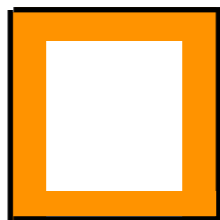
花 Flower

4. あし



点 Dot

5. かまえ



四 Four

6. たれ



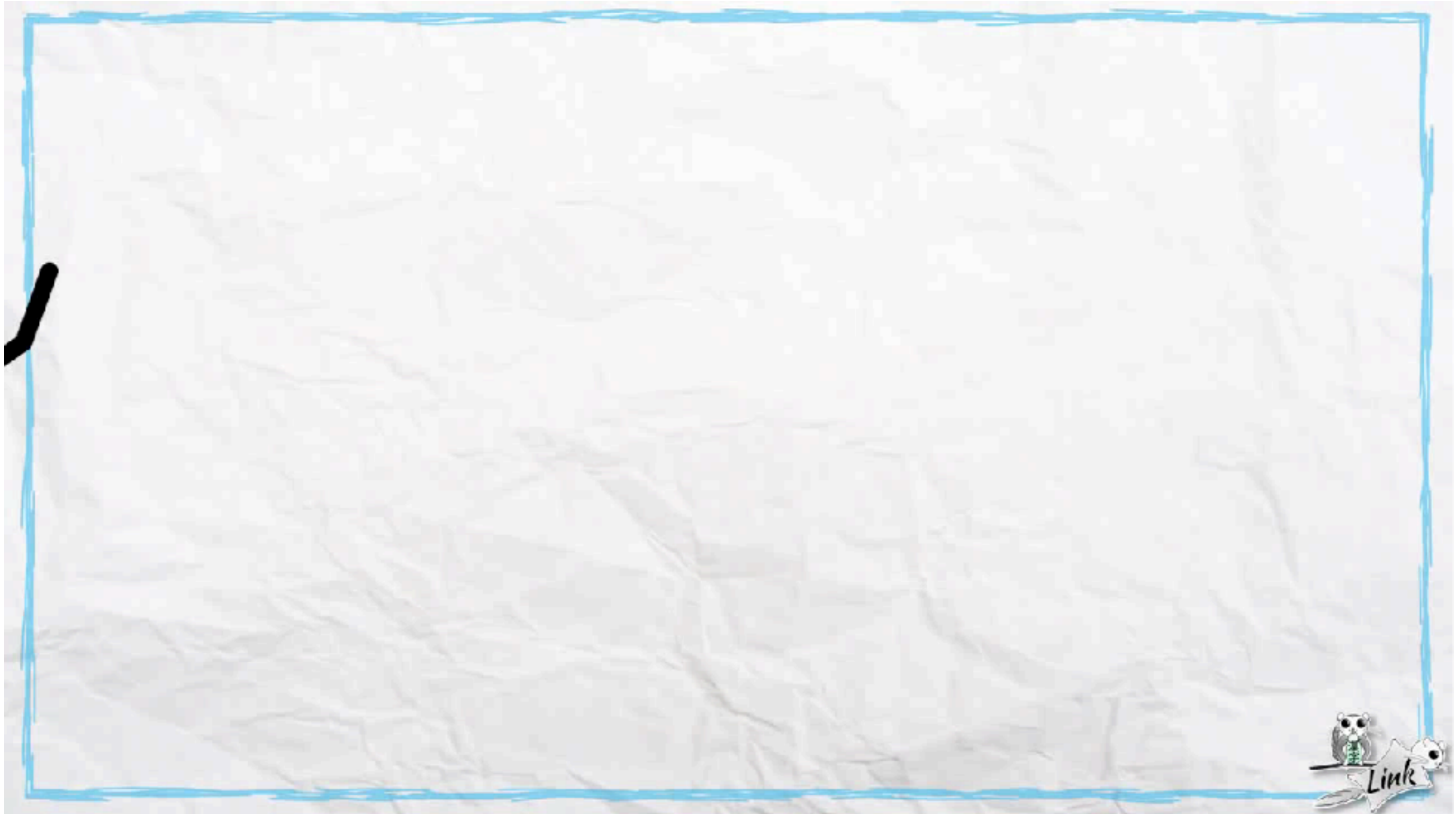
広 Spacious

7. にょう



逃 Escape

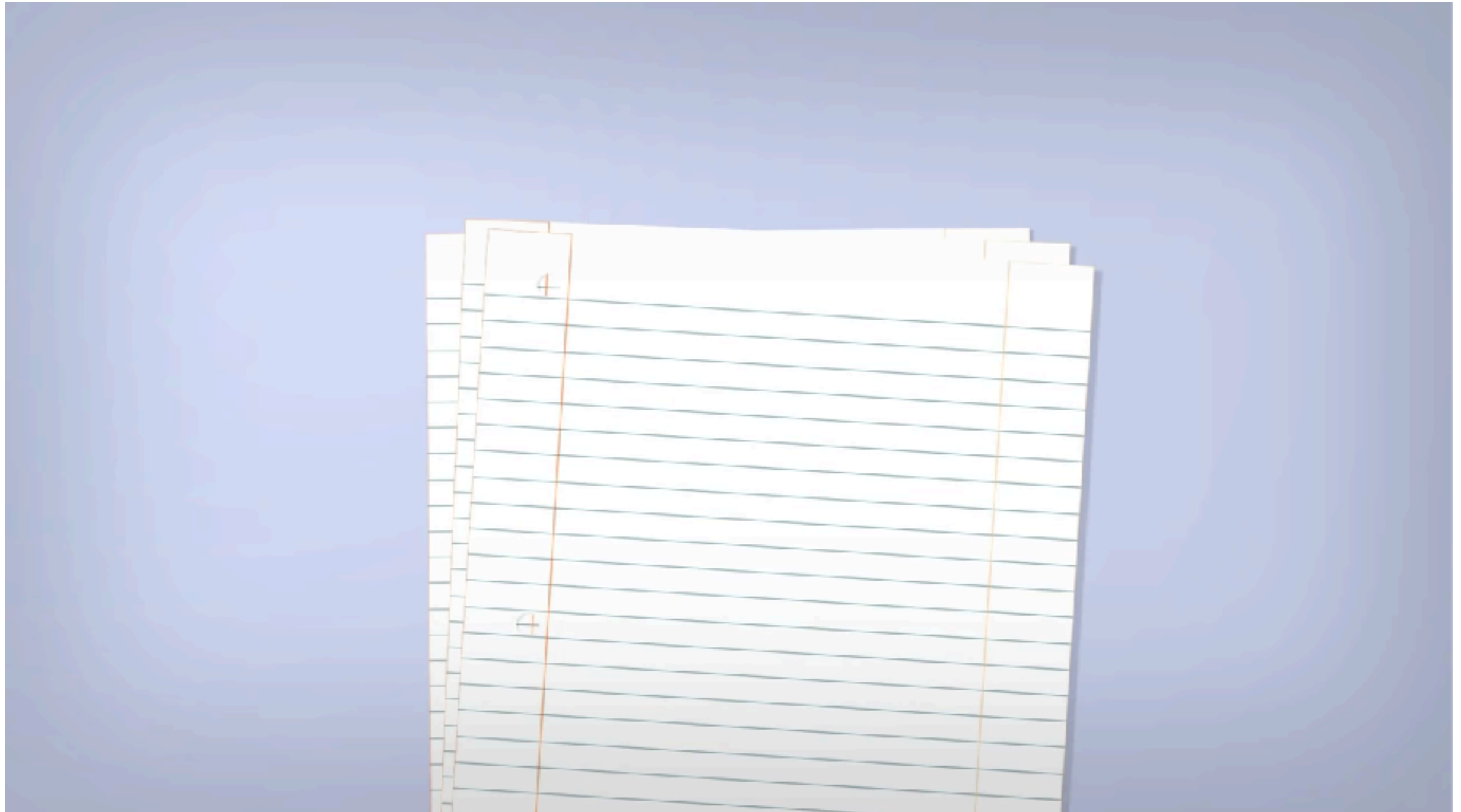
Radicals



How to write Kanji?

- Write from left to right
- Write from top to bottom
- Pay attention to 1. Stop 2. Release 3. Hook
- Balancing and Spacing and overall shape is important

Stroke Orders



Hanzi & Kanji

- They are written differently 鐵 - 铁 - 鉄 (iron)
(traditional - simplified - japanese)

- Homograph

手纸 vs. 手紙 勉強 vs. 勉強 老婆 vs. 老婆
(toilet paper) (letter) (unwilling) (study) (wife) (old lady)

- Words using same characters and have identical meanings may be ordered differently.

和平 vs. 平和 (peace)

- Kanji made in Japan

働

work

畑

cultivated field

鱈

cod

鯨

orca

Why do we need to use Kanji?

- Homophones and Homographs

-かんしょう	鑑賞	Appreciation
-かんしょう	観賞	Watching
-かんしょう	干渉	Interference
-かんしょう	完勝	Complete Victory
-かんしょう	感傷	Sentiment
-かんしょう	奸商	Profiteer

- Readability

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にほんけんぽうだいじゅういちじょう

こくみんはすべてのきほんてきじんけんのきょうゆうをさまたげられない。このけんぽうがこくみにほしょうするきほんてきじんけんはおかすことのできないえいきゅうのけんりとしてげんざいおよびしょうらいのこくみんにあたえられる。

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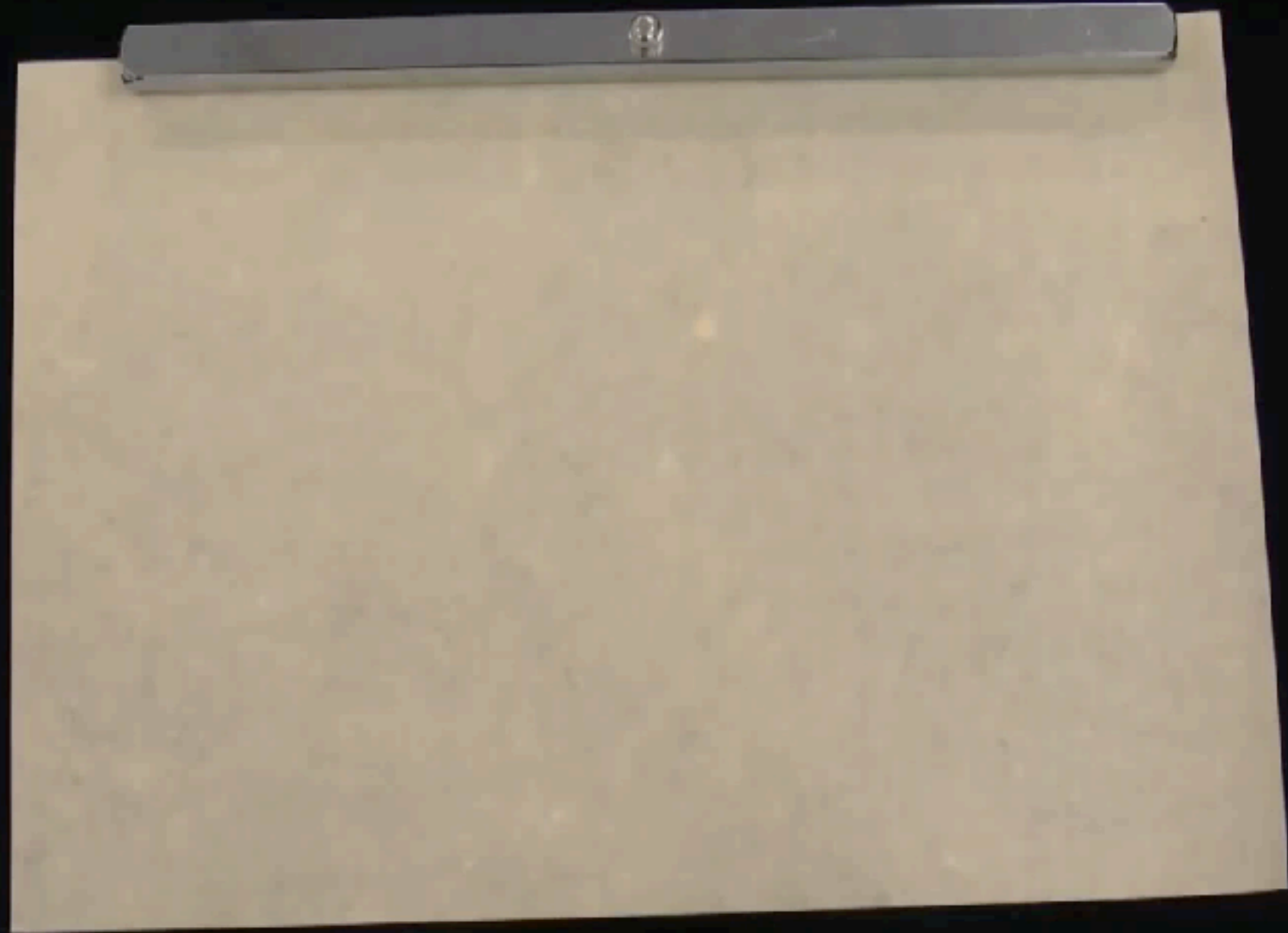


POTATO JASON

Foreign Talent with 4 Months Career

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqragQq63Js>

“The Hardest Chinese Character”



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdRz6kpNORQ&index=10&list=LL3watv93foo2tf3y7UBUtJw>