



The CJKI Chinese Learner's Dictionary

英解汉字学习词典

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0. Overview

The primary goal of this dictionary is to give the learner a thorough understanding of how Chinese characters (hanzi) are used in contemporary Chinese by providing instant access to a wealth of useful information on the meanings, readings, and compounds for the most frequently used characters. Thanks to the use of a revolutionary lookup method, the user can locate characters as quickly as in alphabetical dictionaries.

1. Key features

- **Over 3,500** entry characters and more than 30,000 compound words
- **Multiple lookup methods**, including the revolutionary SKIP system
- **Core meanings** instantly convey each character's fundamental concept
- **Precise meanings** show how characters contribute to the meanings of compounds
- **Frequency statistics** based on a corpus of one billion words

- Detailed **stroke-order diagrams**
- Various **character codes**, including Unicode
- **Fully supports HSK** – all words included, classified by level
- **Useful Appendixes** to aid the reader
- **Attractive layout** for relaxed browsing
- Accurate **part-of-speech** codes

2. Why a new Chinese dictionary?

Though the number of Chinese learners in the world exceeds 30,000,000, existing dictionaries have various drawbacks (discussed below) that make them unsuitable for learners. **The CJKI Chinese Learner's Dictionary** answers the urgent need for an easy-to-use Chinese character dictionary, compact enough to be easily carried around, yet detailed enough to satisfy the practical needs of the serious learner.

Here, for the first time, is a totally new work that enables learners to gain an in-depth understanding of how Chinese characters are used in contemporary Chinese. The new dictionary is based on *The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary* (KALD), which has become a standard reference work for learning Japanese kanji and has enjoyed the praise of world-renowned scholars and countless learners worldwide. This dictionary inherits the outstanding features that has made KALD so popular, and fully responds to the Chinese learner's specific needs, such as full coverage of words and characters required for the HSK proficiency tests.

3. How is this dictionary different?

This dictionary was designed specifically to overcome the various deficiencies found in existing Chinese learners dictionaries by providing many distinct features that put it in a class of its own.

Core Meaning. The *core meaning* is a unique and valuable feature, a concise keyword that defines the most dominant meaning of each character, which is followed by in-depth meanings that clearly show how a few thousand basic building blocks are combined to form countless compound words. For example, BREAK conveys the essential meaning of 破 as an easy-to-remember *thought package*, and shows how the various senses are variants of the same concept, so the reader can grasp both their differences and similarities.

Up-to-Date Coverage. The contents are up to date and include common neologisms that other dictionaries miss, such as 打车 *dǎchē* 'catch a taxi' and 充电 *chōngzǎi* 'charge one's cell phone'.

SKIP System. Another unique feature is the *System of Kanji Indexing by Patterns* (SKIP), an indexing system that enables the user to locate characters as quickly and as accurately as in alphabetical dictionaries. Originally developed for Japanese kanji, this efficient system can be learned in a very short time and is easy to use. Widely used in various paper and electronic dictionaries, SKIP has gained widespread popularity throughout the world.

Character Meanings. Many dictionaries often do not provide character meanings on the word building level. Even in the cases where it is given, the meaning is often too vague or abstract. Clear, complete, and accurate *character meanings*, illustrated by numerous compounds and examples, are grouped around the core meaning in a logically structured manner that allows them to be perceived

as an independent word (free) or word element (bound), and how countless compounds are generated from a few thousand basic units.

In-depth Meanings. The meanings are presented in clusters around a core meaning so that they can be perceived as a logically structured, psychologically integrated unit. Each sense is illustrated by numerous compounds and examples arranged in a way that shows how they are formed from their constituents.

Pinyin Readings. This dictionary gives accurate pinyin for every Chinese word and character. In some dictionaries, the pinyin is only given for the character itself, sometimes only when it appears as part of a word, while in others pinyin is not given for compounds and examples.

Reference data. This dictionary is also an excellent reference tool. It provides a host of supplementary information such as the Traditional Chinese and Japanese character forms, Japanese readings, character codes, frequency ranking, the HSK level, and more.

Attractive Design. Another distinctive feature is a layout that is both visually attractive and easy to use. Typographical design with the aid of cutting-edge font technology is used to achieve a harmonious blend of font styles and weights, resulting in an esthetically pleasing design that stimulates a desire to browse and to truly enjoy studying Chinese characters.

Stroke Order. Unlike other dictionaries, which rely heavily on cross-referencing, the order of the writing is presented stroke-by-stroke for every character to ensure maximum convenience to the user.

Compliance with HSK. The *Hànyǔ Shuǐpíng Kǎoshì* (汉语水平考试) is the world's most well-known Chinese language proficiency test aimed at assessing learners' language skills. This dictionary includes all characters and words used in all HSK levels and indicates the HSK level for each word.

4. Is it easy for beginners to use?

For the first time, learners of Chinese have at their fingertips a wealth of information on Chinese characters that is linguistically accurate and carefully adapted to their practical needs. Modern linguistic theory has been effectively integrated with sophisticated information technology to produce a powerful learning tool.

Many Chinese character dictionaries are not designed with the beginner in mind. Often, confusing organization and/or lookup methods hinder the learner from finding the desired entry, assuming that the reader has some background knowledge before using the dictionary. The lack of an efficient system for ordering Chinese characters has long been a source of frustration to learners of Chinese. The traditional method of looking up by radicals is time-consuming and unreliable. To overcome these difficulties, this dictionary uses the popular lookup method called SKIP (invented by the author).

This system has gained popularity among users of Japanese kanji dictionaries and dictionary software, since it enables even beginners to locate characters as quickly and as accurately as in alphabetical dictionaries. Since the system can be learned in a very short time and is easy to use, this dictionary is an extremely convenient learning tool.

5. What are the drawbacks of existing dictionaries?





The most common drawbacks of existing dictionaries, all of which this dictionary has successfully addressed, are listed below.

- Many dictionaries do not provide character meanings on the word building level.
- Current dictionaries are not up to date and don't include very common words like 打□ and 充□.
- Compound words do not always have pinyin.
- Stroke order for every element of the character on a stroke-by-stroke basis is not commonly shown.
- Stroke order diagrams are sometimes unsuitable as a model for writing.
- English equivalents are often too vague.
- The lookup methods are not always intuitive for beginners, often assuming some background knowledge.
- Some dictionaries are large and clumsy to use or hold.
- The design is poor, resulting in fonts that are sometimes too small and illegible.

6. SYSTEM OF KANJI INDEXING BY PATTERNS

SKIP

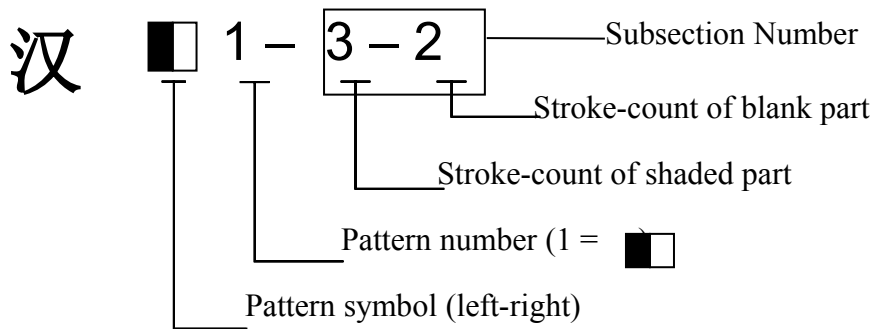
■ 字型式検字法

No.	Pattern	Classification	Examples
1	 LEFT-RIGHT	clear space	相 ₄₋₅ 代 ₂₋₃ 情 ₃₋₈ 小 ₁₋₂ 川 ₁₋₂ 州 ₂₋₄ 順 ₁₋₁₁ 傾 ₂₋₁₁
		conceptual space	扱 ₃₋₃ 級 ₆₋₃ 歡 ₁₁₋₄ 街 ₃₋₉ 町 ₅₋₂ 翻 ₁₂₋₆ 髓 ₁₀₋₉ 伺 ₂₋₅
2	 UP-DOWN	clear space	示 ₁₋₄ 二 ₁₋₁ 三 ₁₋₂ 言 ₁₋₆ 公 ₂₋₂ 谷 ₂₋₅ 父 ₂₋₂ 多 ₃₋₃
		conceptual space	芳 ₃₋₄ 合 ₂₋₄ 響 ₁₁₋₉ 桑 ₂₋₈ 系 ₁₋₆ 雀 ₄₋₇ 券 ₆₋₂ 春 ₅₋₄
		horizontal line	寺 ₃₋₃ 空 ₃₋₅ 文 ₂₋₂ 亭 ₂₋₇ 忘 ₂₋₅ 学 ₅₋₃ 索 ₄₋₆ 義 ₃₋₁₀
		frame element	古 ₂₋₃ 点 ₂₋₇ 免 ₂₋₆ 早 ₄₋₂ 堯 ₂₋₆ 当 ₃₋₃ 南 ₂₋₇ 支 ₂₋₂
3	 ENCLOSURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	進 ₃₋₈ 辻 ₄₋₂ 起 ₇₋₃ 延 ₃₋₅ 魅 ₈₋₇ 直 ₁₋₇ 匕 ₁₋₁ 止 ₂₋₂
		<input type="checkbox"/>	旬 ₂₋₄ 載 ₆₋₇ 刀 ₁₋₁ 司 ₁₋₄ 可 ₂₋₃ 戒 ₄₋₃ 鳥 ₇₋₄ 馬 ₆₋₄
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	麻 ₃₋₈ 庄 ₂₋₃ 尾 ₃₋₄ 病 ₅₋₅ 石 ₂₋₃ 考 ₄₋₂ 着 ₇₋₅ 斗 ₂₋₂
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	間 ₈₋₄ 岡 ₂₋₆ 風 ₂₋₇ 向 ₃₋₃ 肉 ₄₋₂ 凶 ₂₋₂ 山 ₂₋₁ 画 ₂₋₆
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	医 ₂₋₅ 臣 ₃₋₄ 瞿 ₂₋₉ 丑 ₂₋₂
		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	回 ₃₋₃ 国 ₃₋₅ 田 ₃₋₂ 日 ₃₋₁ 目 ₃₋₂ 四 ₃₋₂ 𠂇 ₃₋₂
4	 SOLID	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 top line	下 ₃₋₁ 耳 ₆₋₁ 雨 ₈₋₁ 子 ₃₋₁ 凸 ₅₋₁ 口 ₃₋₁ 亜 ₇₋₁ 爾 ₁₄₋₁
		<input type="checkbox"/> 2 bottom line	上 ₃₋₂ 七 ₂₋₂ 亡 ₃₋₂ 丘 ₅₋₂ 由 ₅₋₂ 自 ₆₋₂ 坐 ₇₋₂ 重 ₉₋₂
		<input type="checkbox"/> 3 through line	中 ₄₋₃ 十 ₂₋₃ 手 ₄₋₃ 本 ₅₋₃ 求 ₇₋₃ 乘 ₉₋₃ 毛 ₄₋₃ 肅 ₁₁₋₃
		<input type="checkbox"/> 4 others	人 ₂₋₄ 九 ₂₋₄ 女 ₃₋₄ 火 ₄₋₄ 犬 ₄₋₄ 成 ₆₋₄ 寿 ₇₋₄ 為 ₉₋₄

* The examples shown in the above table apply to Japanese kanji only

7. How SKIP works

Each character is classified under one of four easy-to-identify patterns. Within each group the characters are further subdivided into smaller subgroups. For example, 汉 is classified under pattern 1, left-right. 汉 has three strokes in the shaded part and two strokes in the blank part, and thus appears under pattern 1, subsection 3-2.



8. Introducing Jack Halpern

President & CEO, The CJK Dictionary Institute
Editor-in-Chief, Kanji Dictionary Publishing Society
Research Fellow, Showa Women's University

[Jack Halpern](#) is the CEO of the [CJK Dictionary Institute](#) (CJKI) in Japan. The institute, which is one of world's prime sources for CJK (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) dictionaries, specializes in the compilation of comprehensive CJK and Arabic lexical databases for the NLP industry. A lexicographer by profession, for sixteen years he engaged in the compilation of the [New Japanese-English Character Dictionary](#), and as a research fellow at Showa Women's University (Tokyo) was editor-in-chief of several [kanji dictionaries for learners](#), which have become standard reference works.

Jack Halpern, who has lived in Japan over 35 years, was born in Germany and lived in six countries including France, Brazil and the United States. An avid polyglot who specializes in Japanese and Chinese lexicography, he has studied 14 languages, ten of which he speaks mostly fluently, and has devoted several decades to the study of languages and lexicography. **Winner of first prize in the International Speech Contest in Japanese, Jack Halpern is the founder and director of the [Japan Yiddish Club](#)**, he has taught his native Yiddish to Japanese students. His favorite language is Brazilian Portuguese, which he speaks fluently and considers "God's mother tongue."

Jack Halpern published over [twenty books](#) and dozens of articles and [academic papers](#), mostly on the Japanese writing system and CJK information processing, has given over 600 public lectures on Japanese language and culture, and presented several dozen papers at international conferences.

On a lighter note, Jack Halpern loves the sport of [unicycling](#). Founder and long-time president of the [International Unicycling Federation](#), he has promoted the sport worldwide for some 30 years, has started the unicycling in Japan, and is a director of the [Japan Unicycling Association](#). Currently, his passion is playing the [quena](#) and improving his Chinese, Esperanto and Arabic.

9. Principal Publications

- Halpern, Jack** (1982): “Linguistic Analysis of the Function of Kanji in Modern Japanese,” 27th International Conference of Orientalists in Tokyo.
- Halpern, Jack** (1985): “Function of Kanji in Modern Japanese,” *Transactions of the International Conference of Orientalists in Japan*. The Tōhō Gakkai (The Institute of Eastern Culture). 27th International Conference of Orientalists in Japan in Tokyo.
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- Halpern, Jack** (1993): *NTC’s New Japanese-English Character Dictionary*. Chicago: National Textbook Company.
- Halpern Jack, Nomura Masaaki, and Fukada Atsushi** (1994): “Building a Comprehensive Chinese Character Database,” *Euralex '94 Proceedings*. International Congress on Lexicography in Amsterdam.
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- Halpern, Jack** (1998): “Building A Comprehensive Database for the Compilation of Integrated Kanji Dictionaries and Tools,” 43rd International Conference of Orientalists in Tokyo.
- Halpern, Jack** (1999): *The Kodansha Kanji Learner’s Dictionary* (Third Printing). Tokyo: Kodansha International.
- Halpern, Jack and Kerman, Jouni** (1999): “The Pitfalls and Complexities of Chinese to Chinese Conversion,” Fourteenth International Unicode Conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- Halpern, Jack** (2000): “The Challenges of Intelligent Japanese Searching,” Tokyo.

10. Sample for 和

和

▶AND ▶SUM
▶HARMONIOUS ▶JOIN
▶PEACE
▶MIX

0769

一 1-5-3

禾	HSK-1	S8-5-3	GB2645
115	A0147	N1130	U548C

一 二 千 禾 禾 和 和 和

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

hé hè hú huó huò

hé

▶AND ▶HARMONIOUS ▶PEACE ▶SUM

①① AND CJ ▲

② with, together with PR ▲

a 西方和□ 方 xīfāng hé dōngfāng NE the Occident and the Orient

b 和我没有□ 系 hé wǒ méiyǒu guānxi VP have nothing to do with me

和衣而睡 hé yī ér shuì EA sleep in one's daytime clothes

和□ 托出 hé pán tuō chū EI emerge in its totality; disclose the whole secret

② HARMONIOUS ; on good terms; on peaceful terms ▲

心平气和 xīn píng qì hé EI be in a calm mood

不和 bùhé AJ-s be on bad terms

□ 和 tiáohé AJ-s harmonious; VB mediate; reconcile; compromise

和美 héměi AJ-s harmonious; gentle and graceful

和睦 hé mù AJ-s harmonious

和□ hé xié AJ-s harmonious; concordant

和衷共□ hé zhōng gòng jì EI work together with one heart

③① kind; gentle ▲

② mild, pleasant ▲

a 和□ hé'āi AJ-s kindly; affable; amiable

和气 hé qì AJ-s kind; polite; amiable; NC harmony; friendship

和善 hé shàn AJ-s kind and gentle; genial

和□ hé huān AJ-s gentle; mild; VB ease up; relax

和□ hé shùn AJ-s amiable; soothing

和□ 悦色 hé yán yuè sè EI amiable manner; pleasant countenance

- b 和□ héchàng **AJ-S** mild
 和□ héfēng **NC** [□] soft breeze, gentle breeze; moderate breeze
 和□ □ 雨 hé fēng xi yǔ **EI** in gentle and mild way; gentle, relaxed manner

④① **make P CE ; reconcile a dispute ▲**

② **PEACE ▲**

- a 和解⁴ héjiě **VB** become reconciled; **NC** accommodation
 □ 和 jiǎnghé **VO** make peace; settle a dispute
 媾和 gòuhé **VR** make peace
 和好 héhǎo **VB** become reconciled; **AJ-S** friendly
 和事佬 héshìlǎo **NC** [个,名,位] peacemaker; mediator
- b 和平² héping **NC** peace; **AJ-S** mild; peaceful
 和平共□⁴ héping gòngchǔ **NC** peaceful coexistence
 和□⁴ héyuē **NC** [□,条] peace treaty
 和□ hétán **NA** [次] peace talks; peace negotiations; **VB** negotiate for peace
 和□ héyi **NC** [□] peace negotiation; peace accord, peace agreement
 □ 和 wéihé **VO** maintain peace
 不□ 不和 bù zhàn bù hé **EA** neither war nor peace; no war, no peace

⑤ **draw; tie VB ▲**

- 和局 héjú **NC** drawn game
 那□ 棋和了 nà pán qí hé le **VP** The game ended in a draw.
 和棋 héqí **NC** [□] a draw in chess etc.

⑥① **Japan, Japanese ▲**

② **Japanese (language) ▲**

- a 和服 héfú **NC** [件,身,套] kimono; Japanese traditional clothes
 大和精神 Dàhé jīngshén **NC** the Japanese spirit
- b 和文 héwén **NC** Japanese paragraph; Japanese sentence

⑦ **SUM ; total NC ▲**

- 十二加六的和 shíèr jiā liù de hé **NE** the sum of 12 and 6
 和数 héshù **NC** sum; total
 □ 和⁴ zǒnghé **NC** sum; total

⑧ **used in the transliteration of foreign words ▲**

- 和尚⁴ hóngshàng **NC** [个,位] Buddhist monk

⑨ **He NS ▲**

hè ▶ JOIN

① JOIN in singing; chant ▲

唱和 chànghè **VB** chant

□ 和 yīnghè **VB** agree; have correlation

附和⁴ fùhè **VB** echo; follow; chim in with

② compose a poem in reply **VB** ▲

和□ hèshī **VO** compose a poem in reply; **NC** the poem sent in reply, using the same rhyme sequence

和韵 hèyùn **VP** compose a poem in reply; write a poem in reply

huó ▶ MIX

● MIX (powder) with water etc. **VB** ▲

和面 huómian **VO** knead noodle

和泥 huóní **VO** pug plaster

huò ▶ MIX

① MIX ; blend **VB** ▲

和稀泥 huòxīní **EA** do something perfunctorily; muddle through one's work

和□ huòyào **VO** mix medicinal herbs

拌和 bànhuò **VB** mix up

② number of times used for rinse; changes of water **VM** ▲

她把衣服洗了三和了 tā bǎ yīfu xǐle sān huò le **VP** She rinsed the clothes three times.

③ number of decoction of medicinal herbs **NM** ▲

二和□ èrhuòyào **NE** second decoction

hú

● win and complete a set in mahjong **VB** ▲

我和了 wǒ hú le **VP** I have completed a set.

Format Notes

- The superscript numbers to the right of the compound words indicate the HSK level
- Compound words appearing in HSK are printed in bright blue
- ▲ used only as word element (bound form)
- △ used independently (free form)
- ▲ used independently or as word element (free or bound)

11. Sample for 想

想

► **THINK**

1810

%2-9-4

心	HSK-1	S13-4-9	GB4775
61	A0434	N2828	U60F3

一 十 才 木 禾 禾 禾 禾 禾

相 想 想 想 想

xiǎng ► **THINK**

① **THINK**, ponder **VB**▲

想法₂ xiǎngfǎ **VO** think of a way; do what one can; try

想法₂ xiǎngfǎ **NC** idea; opinion; thinking; notion

思想₁ sīxiǎng **NC** thought; thinking; idea

② **suppose, consider, presume, reckon** **VB**▲

想不到 xiǎngbudào **VR** unexpected

想象(=想像)₂ xiǎngxiàng **VB** imagine; conceive of; dream; **NC** imagination

假想₁ jiǎxiǎng **NE** imaginary enemy; hypothetical enemy

幻想₃ huànxǐǎng **NC** illusion; fancy; fantasy

想必 xiǎngbì **AD** presumably; most probably; must be

③ **plan, prepare to, hope, wish, want to, would like to** **VA**▲

想喝茶 xiǎng hē chá **VP** want to drink tea

④ **miss, remember with longing** **VB**▲

想念₂ xiǎngniàn **VB** miss; remember with longing

想家 xiǎngjiā **VO** be homesick

⑤ **recollect, recall, remember** **VB**▲

想不起来 xiǎngbuqǐlái **VR** unable to call to mind

想着 xiǎngzhe **VB** think carefully; don't forget to

⑥ **Xiang** **NS**▲