

How to study with the Kanji Learner’s Course

The Kanji Learner’s Course (KLC) series is a complete system for acquiring a native-like understanding of kanji meanings, a vast kanji-based vocabulary, and the capacity to read a diverse range of authentic Japanese texts. Follow the steps listed here to **learn kanji, vocabulary, and grammar in the most enjoyable and efficient way—through extensive reading of N+1 comprehensible input.**

This guide updates and unifies the instructions across all components of the KLC series, including the main KLC textbook (*The [Kodansha Kanji Learner’s Course](#) or “KKLC”*), the [KLC Graded Reading Sets](#) (GRS) ebook series, the [KLC Green Book](#) (writing practice workbook), and the [KLC Wall Chart](#). The instructions given below are grounded in academic research on language acquisition and literacy learning—research whose insights the KLC series was carefully designed to apply.

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Quick summary of KLC study process (TLDR)

- With the KLC method, you will learn kanji in the context of massive reading. Be prepared to spend at least half your time on reading exercises. **Set your goal as learning to read, not “finishing” the kanji.**
- Start your day’s routine by using the KKLC, the GRS, and the Green Book to **review recently learned material.**
- Then use the Green Book to **preview the day’s new kanji**, and note any that are similar. This will prepare you to focus on how their distinctions relate to their respective meanings.
- **Study a small number of new entries in the KKLC**, following the detailed instructions given in this post. The number should be small enough that you can keep pace with your practice work in the Green Book and GRS.
 - Read the annotation to **understand how the kanji’s form relates to its meaning(s).**
 - **Familiarize yourself with the kanji’s range of readings**, but—with limited exceptions—do not bother to memorize them.
 - Using your knowledge of the kanji you have studied so far, **actively puzzle out the reading and meaning of the example words** before looking at their glosses.
- **Use the Green Book to practice writing your newly learned kanji several times**, following the stroke order given in the KKLC. Save the last four squares for later practice.
- **Read the Graded Reading Sets for your newly learned kanji, aloud.**
 - Use Scrolling Mode to hide the phonetic and English glosses off the bottom of your tablet screen. **Actively puzzle out the pronunciation of each word, the meaning of each word, and the meaning of the overall item**, before consulting its glosses.
- **Replace massive SRS flash card study with massive GRS reading practice**
 - The GRS will allow you to internalize kanji and important kanji-based vocabulary with little need of flash cards.
 - Do not bother to make “sentence cards” out of GRS exercises, which fulfill the same purpose.

The rest of this document explains the recommended study process in detail.

Before you start

To understand how this course works, as well as the pedagogical approach behind it, it is important to read the **Introduction to the KKLC** *and* the **front matter of Volume 1 of the KLC Graded Reading Sets series**. Note that this post supersedes the instructions given on pages 24-25 of the KKLC, which were written before the other parts of the series came into existence.

Also cast an eye over the unit on “Basic Principles of Stroke Direction and Stroke Order” printed inside the KKLC’s front cover. This unit will help you master orthodox stroke order, a foundational skill necessary for counting strokes accurately and deciphering cursive. Consult this resource at the very beginning of your kanji study, and revisit it until you have mastered each of the basic principles.

Studying with the KKLC (the blue book) and the KLC Green Book

The course assumes that you will begin with the first entry and study the kanji in the assigned sequence. If you have studied kanji before, be sure to read through the mnemonic annotations from the beginning, in order to lay the groundwork for learning the challenging kanji introduced later on. The annotations assume knowledge of what has come before.

Previewing groups of kanji

The KLC sequence deliberately groups related kanji together, so that you can attach significance to their contrastive features as you learn them. This saves you from learning kanji in a way that fails once you encounter confusingly similar kanji at a more advanced stage of study. This problem of differentiating similar kanji plagues those who learn kanji in a less comprehensively planned sequence.

To best take advantage of this KLC feature, you should preview the group of kanji you are about to study before diving in to the individual entries. Don't bother to read their mnemonic annotations, but do look out for any similarities that you should be paying attention to as you learn. Note, for example, the similarities in the kanji shown in the top row of this page image from the [KLC Green Book](#):

0381	0382	0383	0384	0385	0386	0387	0388	0389	0390
寸	寺	時	持	特	待	得	侍	詩	即
寸	寺	時	持	特	待	得	侍	詩	即
寸	寺	時	持	特	待	得	侍	詩	即
寸	寺	時	持	特	待	得	侍	詩	即
0391	0392	0393	0394	0395	0396	0397	0398	0399	0400
節	筋	等	均	季	委	穴	空	友	有
節	筋	等	均	季	委	穴	空	友	有
節	筋	等	均	季	委	穴	空	友	有
節	筋	等	均	季	委	穴	空	友	有

As you can see, the Green Book is especially useful for such previewing, as it shows 20 kanji per page. The [KLC Wall Chart](#) can be used for the same purpose.

Studying individual kanji and their vocabulary

Each time you begin studying a new character, proceed as follows:

1. **Take a moment to study its form.** If you have not done so already, compare it with similar-looking kanji appearing on the same page or adjacent pages (before or after).
2. **Read the annotation.** Some annotations will instruct you to review an earlier entry that provides information that is in one way or another foundational to learning the present entry (this information will be found in the earlier entry's annotation section). Often only part of the earlier annotation will be relevant, but it will generally be clear which part. If you've forgotten the meaning of a component grapheme, look it up by stroke count in the Table of Grapheme Meanings, which will refer you to the entry where the grapheme was introduced.
3. After reading the annotation, look over the kanji again. Allow plenty of time for the images or ideas in the annotation to work their way into your memory. **Try to “see” the meaning of the kanji in some aspect of its appearance or its component parts.**
4. Study the kanji's meaning(s). If more than one meaning is given, consider how the different meanings may be interrelated. Trouble yourself only to **learn the capitalized mnemonic keyword(s)**, not the additional senses listed in lower case. Each keyword consolidates a variety of related senses into a concise conceptual unit, thus allowing you to avoid the confusion caused by books that introduce some kanji with a long list of meanings. The mnemonics are designed to suggest the ideas encapsulated in the capitalized keywords.
5. **Familiarize yourself with the kanji's range of readings** in preparation for guessing the readings of the sample vocabulary. In particular:
 - a) **Note any *kun-yomi* words** (spelled in hiragana).
 - b) **Note if the *on-yomi* (spelled in katakana) follows a regular pattern:** If kanji containing the same phonetic component appear in adjacent entries (as they often will), note whether the other kanji have similar or identical *on-yomi*. For example, the four kanji 低・抵・邸・底 are introduced consecutively and share the *on-yomi* テイ, based on their shared phonetic component 氏). Groups of this type will be noted in the annotations as well as in the appendix entitled “Regular On-Yomi Groups”. In this way the KKLC allows you to seamlessly absorb this important information as you make your way through the kanji.
 - c) Except for such regular *on-yomi* groups, **do not trouble yourself to memorize the readings of individual kanji.** Instead, memorize the readings of words. Note that by learning a kanji's *kun-yomi* words, you will memorize its *kun-yomi* (readings) automatically.
6. If any **cross-references to easily confused kanji** are provided at the end of the annotation (indicated by a pointing hand), note any similarities or differences with the kanji you are studying. Train your eye to recognize the distinctions, and practice

associating these with the respective meanings of each character, as suggested by the annotations. For example, 扶 LEND SUPPORT cross-references to easily confused 抹 WIPE. The distinction between the two is only that between 夫 (husband) and 末 (end), so you should associate husband in 扶 with LENDING SUPPORT and end in 抹 with WIPING AWAY.

7. Familiarize yourself with the **traditional or alternative form** of the kanji, if there is one.
8. In order fix the kanji's form in your memory, use the [KLC Green Book](#) or *genkôyôshi* (Japanese manuscript paper) to **practice writing it several times following the stroke order provided in the KKLC**. Do so even if you are not interested in learning how to write kanji, because mastering orthodox stroke order is important to be able to read cursive writing and count strokes accurately (useful for looking up the kanji in dictionaries).
 - To practice, start by tracing over the guide character in the Green Book. Maintain continuous contact with the paper throughout each stroke. Then write the character in the practice squares, **imitating the head character as closely as you can**. Both the guide characters and the practice squares are cross-hatched to help you achieve precise form. Note especially how component parts are modified in form or proportion in order to accommodate other parts.
 - As you write the character, **remind yourself of the mnemonic association** between the kanji's form and its meaning(s). Recite the meaning(s) aloud.
 - If the kanji contains a **grapheme you are writing for the first time**, practice writing it in the margin until you can reproduce it from memory.
 - If the KKLC entry shows a **traditional or alternative form** of the kanji, write this in a different color in a specified space in the Green Book that you reserve for this purpose (this space could be the last large square, or the top or bottom margin, adjacent to that kanji's column). When you come back to review the Green Book, this will reinforce the association in your mind between the variant and standard forms.
 - If the head character is itself a **non-standardized form** (this will be mentioned in the annotation), you should also practice writing it according to the standardized form shown in the variant field below the head character. For example, for 剥 0609, you should practice writing the standardized form 剥.
 - To help you master kanji composition, the Green Book deliberately **excludes stroke order**. When you need to check stroke order, just refer to the KKLC. This will not happen very often provided you follow the Course's sequence and practice writing each kanji as you go.
 - Extra tip from an experienced KLC user: **save the last four squares of each Green Book entry to fill in later as review**. This will make your first pass less tedious and give you a chance to use the Green Book for review.
9. **Take full advantage of the didactic vocabulary:**
 - a) Combining your knowledge of the kanji you have just learned with your knowledge of all those you learned before it, **actively puzzle out the reading**

and meaning of each didactic vocabulary word before looking at the answers.

For example, in the entry for 盲 (“BLIND”), you will encounter the word 文盲 (“WRITING-BLIND”). Based on your knowledge of these characters, ask yourself what is likely to be the reading and meaning of 文盲. You may be able to guess that it is read もんもう, and means “illiterate”. As with so many words in Japanese, neither the reading nor the meaning of 文盲 is reliably predictable from its constituent kanji—yet they are not entirely random.

The practice of actively puzzling them out will greatly accelerate your kanji learning and turn it into a kind of game. The benefits you will reap are well worth the few seconds this takes.

- b) I call the vocabulary “didactic” because I have chosen the words to illustrate the various ways in which the kanji you are studying—and ones you have studied before—are used to form meaningful expressions. Take advantage of each item to **reinforce and deepen your understanding of each kanji’s word-building functions.**
 - c) An important feature of this course is that the didactic vocabulary of kanji having more than one basic meaning is arranged in the order of those meanings, labeled with a superscript numeral for cross-referencing with the meanings. Take advantage of this feature to **reinforce your understanding of the separate meanings and grasp how each one is used.**
 - d) **If necessary, review other kanji appearing in the vocabulary** using the cross-reference numbers provided.
 - e) For sample words in which the kanji is followed by *okurigana* (a kana-based inflectional ending), **note which portion of the inflected word is written in *okurigana*.** For example, you should note in entry 008I that 「みずから」 is written 自ら, not 自から or 自ずから.
10. **Decide whether to head over to the Graded Reading Sets to read the set for this entry, or wait until you have finished several entries.** When I first wrote the GRS instructions I advised learners to read the GRS exercises for each KKLC entry before proceeding to the next one. While the teacher in me still sees this as the way to go, I must admit that it is more convenient to split the KKLC and GRS into separate time blocks, rather than having to switch back and forth.

In the absence of any reliable research supporting one method or the other, I **currently recommend splitting KKLC and GRS study into separate time blocks.** This is simply because they are different types of study that accommodate themselves to different portions of one’s daily routine. The KKLC (+Green Book) regimen described above requires sitting at a desk with various materials at one’s disposal. Conversely, GRS study requires only a tablet, and works well in those short segments of one’s day that would otherwise be spent unproductively.

I find that the GRS makes excellent bedtime reading, and not just because it cures insomnia. If I try to read something substantial at bedtime, I might last only a few pages before falling asleep, breaking the continuity of the story or analysis. A GRS book sedates me at least as quickly, but with no loss of continuity, since *it has none to*

begin with. And in the short while I remain conscious I may be able to finish the exercises for a few kanji.

II. **Use the Graded Reading Sets—not flash cards—to internalize vocabulary.**

Remembering 1-2 vocabulary words per kanji will allow you to ground your learning of the kanji's meaning(s) and reading(s) in concrete examples, rather than attempting to memorize the kanji as a free-floating entity, completely detached from the Japanese language. Mastering at least one such example (and thus one reading) will also permit you to produce the kanji by keyboard or voice input, so that you can learn more about it from the Internet or an electronic dictionary. For kanji with both *on-yomi* and *kun-yomi*, it is generally useful to memorize one example word for each.

The KKLC, published before the GRS came into existence, recommends using spaced-repetition flash cards to memorize 1-3 words per kanji, suggesting specific words to memorize by means of superscript circles to the left of their entries. On average, the book suggests about 1.5 such words per entry, suggesting a maximum of 3 when a kanji has several important meanings or readings.

With the publication of the GRS, you no longer have to worry about memorizing specific vocabulary words with flash cards. For you will almost inevitably master the more important vocabulary words in the natural course of reading and reviewing the GRS exercises.

Studying with the KLC Graded Reading Sets

[Continuing from the previous section] After every n kanji entries in the KKLC (where n is the number of kanji you are studying per day), read the graded reading sets for those entries:

1. Begin with the numbered heading for each new set, which will appear when you finish scrolling through the previous set. Take this opportunity to **test yourself on the meaning(s) of the kanji itself. Actively make the connection in your mind between form and meaning.** As always, focus on what distinguishes that kanji from similar ones, and how you can associate that feature with what the kanji means.
2. **Read each exercise aloud**, using Scrolling Mode (a.k.a. “Continuous Scrolling”) to hide the phonetic and English glosses off the bottom of your tablet screen. Reading aloud will complete the circle from brain, to tongue, to ears, and back to brain. **Actively puzzle out the pronunciation of each word, the meaning of each word, and the meaning of the phrase/sentence**, before consulting the glosses. As with the KKLC vocabulary, actively puzzling out the reading exercises will accelerate your learning and turn it into a kind of game. Remember, you only get one chance to figure out an item on your own — don't waste it!
3. If you can't figure out one or more words, or the meaning of the item as a whole:
 - Don't worry—just focus on puzzling out the parts you can. **Challenging items contribute more to your learning** than easy items do.
 - In general, I recommend not looking up words at this stage. Instead, first try to **make an educated guess**, then check your guess against the glosses.

4. Now check the phonetic gloss. **If you have read a word incorrectly, nip this in the bud by reading it aloud several times with correct pronunciation.** Corrective feedback is the MVP of your learning process.
 - The more words you master, the fewer you will need to check in the phonetic gloss. Just skip the words you know, and check the ones you're not sure about.
5. Now read the **English gloss (and grammar gloss, if any)**. If you did not understand the item correctly or completely, it can teach you something new.
6. Use your device's **built-in Japanese-English dictionary to look up any unfamiliar words** by tapping on them and navigating to the dictionary (if the dictionary does not appear, check your settings to make sure it is activated). **Take the time to read through any example sentences given.** These provide an outstanding learning opportunity, since you are already primed to learn the new word. These freebie example sentences will not only help you better understand how the word is used, but will also help you reinforce your grasp of the kanji it contains, and learn additional Japanese at the same time. Never miss a chance to learn something through example sentences with English translations!
 - In the early stages, the dictionary's example sentences will often present you with other words and structures you don't know. However, since they are only single sentences, and since they have English translations, you will stand a good chance of deciphering the Japanese. Even if you can only figure out part of it, you will learn something.
 - Do not concern yourself with memorizing what you look up (if a word is important, you will see it again soon enough). Instead, **focus on familiarizing yourself with the meaning and function of the target kanji within each exercise.**
7. As your reading improves, **transition into looking up the same unfamiliar words in your device's Japanese-Japanese dictionary**—*after* referring to the J-E dictionary. Reading the J-E entry first will to some extent turn the J-J entry into “comprehensible input”, and no opportunity for Japanese comprehensible input should be wasted. You will be surprised just how much of the J-J definitions you will begin to understand after spending some time with the GRS.
8. If you have forgotten any of the other kanji in the exercise, you can quickly find its KLC entry numbers using the cross-reference number file posted at keystojapanese.com/klc-grs-cross-refs.
9. Where a grammar gloss is new and unfamiliar, use the cross-reference to look it up in the [Dictionary of Japanese Grammar](#) series, [Genki](#), or [Tobira](#), or [Marx](#). When you do, **don't worry about memorizing grammar rules; instead, focus on making sense of the example sentences** (the [DJG](#) series is particularly rich in example sentences). Simply understanding the example sentences (with the help of the English translations) will allow you to absorb the grammar points unconsciously. Never miss a chance to read example sentences with English translations!

10. Now **re-read the item aloud several times**, until you can read it quickly with comprehension and correct pronunciation. Using the new insights you gain from the English gloss, do more active deciphering of how the item makes the sense that it does.
11. Now look away from the book, and **convey the information aloud to an imaginary listener** (using this method of turning actively comprehended input into **oral output practice** will markedly improve your speaking ability). If the item is too long to remember all at once, divide it into chunks.
12. When you can't figure out the Japanese text word-for-word (even after looking up the words), just **focus on understanding the gist of each item, and how the target kanji is used within it**.
13. **Keep in mind the complementary purposes of the short and long exercises**. Reading sets at all levels begin with short, simple exercises to allow you to practice the target kanji before tackling more complex structures. These short items (often just compound words or short phrases) give you intensive practice with the target kanji, before giving way to longer items, which give you more practice with sentence structure and review of kanji already studied.
14. To reinforce your learning, **re-read the exercises after fixed intervals** (see next section).

Building review into your study routine

In addition to learning new kanji as described above, you will need to review recently learned entries. Rather than see this as a tedious task or unwelcome detention, see it as an opportunity to get the full value out of the series. For one thing, **it is hard to overstate the importance of reinforcing what you have recently learned**. Moreover, reviewing the Graded Reading Sets is an excellent opportunity to engage in massive reading with comprehensible input. This **massive re-reading will benefit you in various ways beyond reviewing KLC kanji and vocabulary**—such as increasing your general reading speed (including of kana words), improving your ability to discern word division without spacing, helping you absorb grammar patterns through repeated exposure, and reinforcing your knowledge of words you looked up in the pop-up dictionary on your first pass. It will also give you the energizing gratification of successfully reading scores of sentences that you would have been unable to read just a short time ago. This positive reinforcement will enhance your enthusiasm for further study.

The following steps outline an effective study routine combining review of old material with the study of new material:

Option A: Review twice as you go along

Begin each day's study by reviewing the n entries starting $2n$ and $8n$ entries before your starting point for the day (where n is the number of kanji you study per day). For example, if you study five entries per day, then n equals 5, $2n$ equals 10, and $8n$ equals 40. So if today you will study entries 51-55, then you should start by reviewing entries 11-15 and 31-35.

1. **Green Book: Practice writing each kanji a couple of times, using spaces you left blank.** Try to remember the basic meaning(s) of each kanji, and to recall a vocab word or two. Look over related kanji on the same or adjacent pages to practice recognizing their meanings from their distinctive features.
2. **KKLC: Use a notched index card or bookmark to test yourself on the meanings of the kanji, and the meanings and readings of the vocabulary.**
 - You should expect to remember only 1-2 vocabulary words at this stage, because your real purpose for now is just to understand how the target kanji is used in building words. Nonetheless, you will likely remember the 1-2 words that appeared most frequently in the reading set, and sometimes more. For the words you do not remember, try to actively puzzle out the meanings and readings.
 - Don't test yourself on the readings of the kanji themselves, but do quickly review the readings, as well as the annotation.
3. **GRS: Re-read the sets for the kanji you are reviewing.** Try to read each exercise aloud with comprehension and correct pronunciation, without the glosses. Either use the ebook again, or use the [paperback version](#) (if available for that volume) to review offline without the distractions of a computer screen.

(To easily keep track of your multiple starting points for the next day, use bookmarks in the Green Book and KKLC, and electronic bookmarks in the GRS.)

Then study the day's new n entries using the KKLC, Green Book, and Graded Reading Sets, as described in the previous sections.

After following this pattern for a while, **decide whether to adjust the review intervals (2 and 8) and the number of kanji you are studying per day (n).**

Option B: Review once as you go, and once at the end of the series

Same as Option A, but eliminate the third pass (the “ $8n$ ” pass) from your daily routine. Instead, just re-read the entire GRS series at the end (with no third pass on either the KKLC or the Green Book). While this would be less ideal in terms of repetition intervals, it would simplify your study routine, and give the GRS material a chance to become fresh again.

Consider starting with Option A, then if you reach a point that the double GRS reviews become too long to fit into your routine, switching to Option B from that point forward.

How the GRS replaces flash cards

By using the KLC Graded Reading Sets, you will almost inevitably master most kanji and important vocabulary words in the natural course of reading and reviewing the exercises. For this reason, you can skip the task of massive SRS (Spaced Repetition System) flash card memorization for kanji and kanji-based vocabulary. Only consider making a flash card if you still can't remember a kanji or any of its vocabulary even after reading and reviewing a reading set. Such **targeted SRS** study will allow you to catch items that fall through the cracks, without having to make SRS your primary means of study.

When NOT to make any flash cards:

- Provided that after one review pass you can remember a kanji's general meaning and 1-2 of its vocabulary words, you should almost never bother to make a flash card for KLC material. This is because most of the important kanji and vocabulary will come up repeatedly later.
- Moreover, you should not make a kanji flash card just because you don't recall its capitalized keyword(s) exactly. As long as you remember its basic general meaning well enough to easily absorb new words containing that kanji, you should consider it learned.

When to POSSIBLY make flash cards:

- If after both reading and reviewing a reading set you still don't remember the kanji's meaning well enough to absorb new words containing it, then jot down the entry number for making a targeted SRS card for it.
- Also make a card for 1-2 of its vocabulary words, if you don't remember any of them (as long as you remember at least one word, then you have a way to "hang onto" the kanji and produce it via keyboard or voice input).
- Finally, if you keep getting confused between two kanji, consider making a differentiation card with both kanji on the front and their meanings on the back.

Do not bother to make "sentence cards" out of GRS exercises. For one thing, making and managing sentence cards from even a fraction of the 30,200+ GRS exercises would be a massive undertaking. Moreover, because Scrolling Mode allows you to hide the glosses, the GRS exercises *already serve the purpose of sentence cards*. The only difference is that you will study these "cards" in one continuous scroll, and will automatically "retire" them all after the third pass (to "retire" a flash card is to remove it from the deck so you won't see it again).

General tips

Learn to recognize kanji in the context of words

Unlike the rote study of individual kanji, the GRS will help you develop the skill of reading at the level of words. This skill is important for simplifying the task of recognizing kanji and distinguishing them from lookalikes. And for kanji that only appear in only a few words, this will save you the trouble of having to memorize the kanji individually.

For example, the kanji 苛 most often appears in conjugations of the verbs 苛める (いじめる • "bully") or 苛立つ (いらだつ • "become irritated"). In each of these words, the last character (る/つ) changes based on the conjugation, but the second character (め/立) remains constant. Hence 苛 will most often be followed by either め or 立, which will flag for you that you are reading 苛 of いじめる or いらだつ and not its lookalike 荷 of 荷物, 重荷, etc. In this way, learning to read at the level of words will greatly simplify the task of recognizing kanji.

"Immersion" in Japanese reading ≠ Avoiding English translations

While immersion in Japanese is of course paramount, **do not fall for the old orthodoxy that your first language (L1) must be excluded from this immersion**. After all, your L1 is what

puts the “comprehensible” in “comprehensible input”! Do not see bilingual resources like the GRS or your J-E dictionary as crutches to be cast aside at the earliest opportunity.

That said, you should always try to puzzle out the Japanese before checking the English. And after checking the English, don’t just say “Oh” and move on to next item. Instead, re-read the Japanese sentence and decipher why it makes the sense that it does.

For in-depth information on why it is misguided to pursue pure, Japanese-only immersion (without regular leveraging of your LI), I refer you to a book out of Germany entitled [The Bilingual Reform](#) (a good book to buy if you work in language instruction).

Gradually shift your study time toward review

The further you advance through the GRS, the longer the reading sets tend to be. This will slow down your progress as measured in raw kanji terms (assuming you choose to read all the exercises in each set).

This is as it should be. For the more kanji and vocabulary you learn, the more urgent it is to practice using them, and the less urgent it is to learn new ones. In this way the content of the GRS adapts automatically to your needs as a learner.

Remember, **your goal should not be to “finish” the kanji, but to attain genuine literacy.** This goal is much better served by applying kanji and vocabulary words right after you learn them—and regularly thereafter—than by trying to “finish” the kanji before you start using them. If you take the latter approach, you will ultimately find that you studied them wrong, because you never grasped the nature of the skill you were trying to develop. That skill is not “learning kanji”, but reading.

Because the reading sets get progressively longer, you will eventually need to decrease the number of kanji you study per day. For example, if you start by studying six per day in Volume 1, you might end up at three per day in Volume 9. The increasing length of the reading sets will of course be partly compensated by your gain in reading speed, and the fact that you will less frequently be confronted with new graphemes and grammar patterns.

Appendixes to consult periodically

Take full advantage of these KKLC modules as you proceed through the course:

1. **Table of Regular On-yomi Groups:** The *on* reading of roughly a quarter of the kanji in the KLC can be learned reliably by mastering a limited number of phonetic components. Take advantage of these low-hanging fruit by consulting this table from time to time as you proceed through the course. Groups are listed in the same order in which their phonetic components appear in the main entries.
2. **Understanding Kanji Compounds:** This module helps you become familiar with the underlying patterns that guide the formation of compound words from individual kanji. Since most kanji appear far more frequently in such compounds than independently, mastering compounds is essential to being able to actively use kanji. Take advantage of this resource by the time you reach entry #500.

Organizing your daily routine

You may find it helpful to allot different parts of your kanji study routine to different parts of your day. For example:

- **Consider saving less mentally taxing work for times of day when you're less alert or motivated.** The most mentally taxing work will be studying new material in the KKLC, and reading new exercises in the GRS. Less taxing work includes GRS review and Green Book writing practice.
- **GRS reading fits nicely in short segments,** a few minutes here, a few minutes there. It doesn't take much time to make meaningful progress, and the highly fragmented material suffers no loss of continuity when you have to stop. On the contrary, it could even be better to read the GRS in bits, hitting a target kanji in multiple waves rather than all at once.

What you do NOT need to do

Don't worry about any of the following tasks, because the KLC system makes them unnecessary:

- **Studying the meanings of kanji radicals before studying kanji:** The KKLC introduces all radicals (and other graphical elements) when you need them, and then gives you immediate practice with them, so you will absorb them seamlessly along your way.
- **Memorizing long lists of English equivalents for each kanji:** The KKLC uses concise capitalized keywords that accurately consolidate a variety of related senses into a core concept that is easy to remember.
- **Memorizing kanji readings one by one:** The KKLC will teach you the main *on-yomi* of approximately 600 kanji by carefully guiding you to recognize groups of kanji with the same phonetic component. The KKLC and GRS together will allow you to gradually absorb the proper way of reading a kanji according to the word it appears in.
- **Massively studying flash cards for kanji and vocabulary:** The GRS will allow you to internalize kanji and important kanji-based vocabulary with little need of flash cards.
- **Figuring out which kanji and vocabulary are most important to study:** Reading through the GRS will expose you more frequently to kanji and vocabulary that are more frequently used in authentic Japanese. Hence your study time on kanji and vocabulary will tend automatically to be allocated in proportion to their real-world importance.
- **Sentence mining:** With the GRS, you already have over 30,000 reading exercises with kanji-graded N+I comprehensible input, tailored to your precise kanji learning sequence.
- **Making sentence cards:** Because Scrolling Mode allows you to hide the glosses, the GRS exercises *already serve the purpose of sentence cards*. Reading through the GRS three times in Scrolling Mode, which I recommend, is essentially the same as studying these same items as sentence cards and then "retiring" them all after the third rep.

Sources

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