

Developing Teaching Materials  
for  
Intermediate Level Kanji Teaching:  
How to teach using "Intermediate Kanji Book"

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In recent Japanese language teaching, teaching and learning has been expanded from structural to topic and/or functional syllabus. In Kanji teaching, however, teachers still remain the stage of presenting almost no syllabus but only a list of Kanji or Kanji vocabulary to learn. Such ways of Kanji teaching without system caused much confusion among learners from non-Kanji cultures.

In order to teach Kanji efficiently, more systematic explanation on the structural elements of Kanji from the beginning is necessary. The "Basic Kanji Book" was developed for beginners on the assumption that arrangement by grouping of Kanji according to situations of use, shape, meaning, readings and usages of Kanji are helpful for learning.

In the present paper, the author examines appropriate items for intermediate level Kanji teaching and reviews the "Intermediate Kanji Book", which was developed to support self-regulated learning for learners from non-Kanji cultures as well as from Kanji-using countries.

The author believes that the objective of intermediate level Kanji teaching is not to give instructions on the Kanji themselves any more, but rather to promote efficient ways of vocabulary-building using Kanji. Ways of teaching intermediate level learners are proposed by introducing study items of the "IKB" and its design.