



Majutsu: Introduction to Kanji

Introduction to Kanji

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INTRODUCTION TO KANJI

The reference for this document is Kuji-Kiri and Majutsu: Sacred Art of the Oriental Mage by Maha Vajra. Before we charge the kanji, we need to empower the hands. For instructions on how to do this, please read this introduction. You can also see Maha's book pages 12-13.

In Majutsu, we use kanji like occult symbols. People don't need to read or speak Japanese to learn Majutsu. We never pretend to know Japanese. In Majutsu, we learn how to draw the kanji and how to empower symbols. The more we know about a symbol, the more our ego wants to learn and to participate when we empower kanji. Learning Kanji is not difficult when we think of each stroke or combination of strokes like the letters in our alphabet.

We want to share a lot of information about kanji in this document. Sections One and Two give important instructions about the drawing and charging of kanji. Just like there is an order to drawing the letters of the alphabet, there is an order to drawing kanji. To charge the kanji we meditate on each kanji included in this document.

Each letter of our alphabet conveys a different idea, and when used in combination with other letters creates a picture or conveys a concept. Sometimes a picture can convey a meaning without using words. Likewise, each stroke and combination of strokes in a kanji creates a picture or conveys a different idea. Each kanji becomes useful for different situations, such as enhancing energy or changing perception. We recommend charging the kanji of the Kuji-in and the kanji included in Maha Vajra's book, Kuji-Kiri and Majutsu: Sacred Art of the Oriental Mage prior to charging other kanji.

When we created these documents, we tried to find something interesting to say about each kanji to make memorization of the kanji easy. Perhaps you will find a different way to help you remember. We hope you have fun during this exercise. The more you learn how to generate a certain state of being, the more you develop power. Each kanji is a state of being to discover. The more you charge techniques and mantras, the more your power and virtue increases.

To learn more about kanji, see our document *Introduction to Kanji* which contains three sections. Section Three gives information about radicals and their groups, and lists the 214 radicals.

Have fun in your spirituality.

Mahajrya Buddhist Tradition

SECTION ONE

Rules for Drawing Kanji

The kanji are composed of a succession of lines, traditionally drawn with a paint brush. The order of these lines is very important in the drawing of the kanji which obeys many specific rules. Below are the main guidelines:

1 – THE SIMPLE LINE

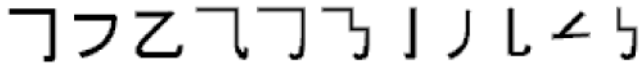
- The horizontal lines are drawn from left to right :



- The vertical lines are drawn from the top to bottom:

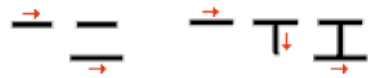


- The continuous lines can have various aspects :



2 – THE SEQUENCES

- A *kanji* is drawn from top to bottom :



- And from left to right:



- The middle line must be drawn before the lateral, or horizontal lines :



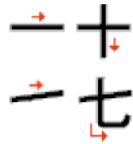
A square—notice that the square has only three lines.



Exceptions : In the first example below, the kanji for heart is abbreviated, and the two short lines are drawn before the longer middle line.

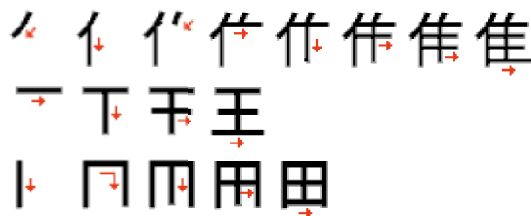


- When two lines cross each other, the horizontal line is drawn first:



Exceptions : Below are examples of the exception to the rule that the horizontal line be drawn before the vertical line.

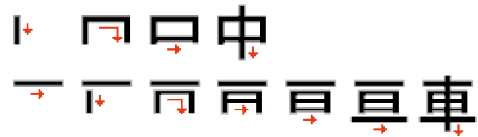
In some kanji, the horizontal or diagonal line is drawn before the vertical line.



- When different diagonal lines cross each other, the line that starts from the top right and ends at the bottom left is drawn first:

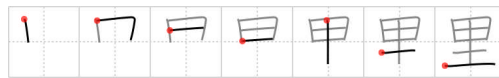


- The vertical splitting, or dividing line is drawn last :

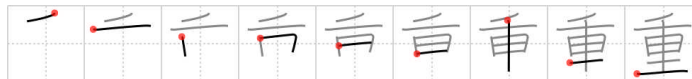


Exception: If the vertical splitting line does not extend from the top or from the bottom, it is drawn after the top and before the bottom. Draw the top of the kanji, draw the vertical line next, and last draw the bottom lines :

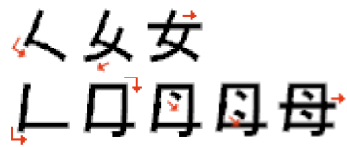
里



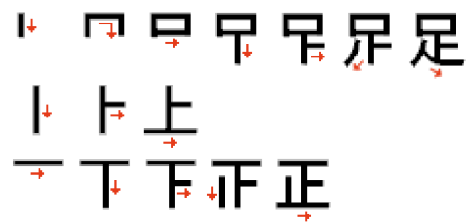
重



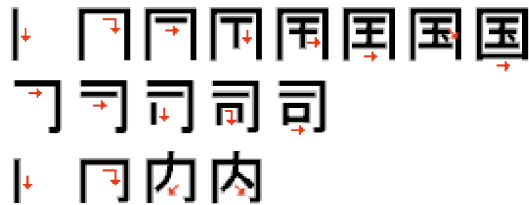
- The horizontal splitting, or dividing line is drawn last in these examples :



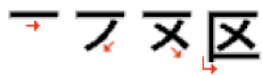
- Draw the vertical line first and then draw the horizontal line from left to right :



- The lines that include other elements of the *kanji* are drawn first. For example, draw the Outside of the box, and then draw the middle symbol; last, close the box with a bottom line:



Exception : The open box is the exception.



3 – UNUSUAL CASES : In these examples, the radical, or key is drawn last and to the left of the phonetic. Refer to the document, Introduction to Kanji, Section 3.

- **Key 162** 亠 (*shinnyoo*) and **Key 54** 冫 (*ennyoo*) are drawn last:



- In cases where the sequence uses short and diagonal lines, the short lines are drawn first, and they are drawn toward the longer lines, even though they go from bottom to top:




4 – EXAMPLE: a red dot shows where to begin a stroke.

TOH – TOu (Fight)

闘



Strokes: 18 

This kanji has two structures : **key or radical** 門 + **phonetic** 豆. This radical belongs to the group, *Kamae*, which encloses characters.

To learn more about the types of kanji, radicals and groups of radicals, see Section Three of this Introduction.

The following information about Empowering the Hands and Symbols was adapted from Maha Vajra's book, [Kuji-Kiri and Majutsu: Sacred Art of the Oriental Mage](#).

SECTION TWO

Empowering the Hands

Before we empower kanji, we empower the hands. Empower your right hand by making the sword mudra (holding ring and small finger with the thumb, extending the index and major). For 2 minutes, visualize your hand glowing with white light, condensing powerful energy with intensity while repeating the Japanese words: *Riyoku*, *Te*, *Se-i*, and visualizing the Kanji symbols in your hand.

Next, weave your right hand in front of you, drawing the kanji symbols of Power, Hand and Energy (provided below), and imagine that you are actually drawing these symbols into the matrix of the universe. Support the existence of these symbols in the spiritual plane in front of you when you draw them by visualizing that the symbols glow with light when you draw them one over the other. Do not draw the Kuji-Kiri grid yet. Simply draw these symbols in front of you. The next pages show you how to draw them.

Right before you are done drawing one symbol say the corresponding Japanese word aloud. Once the 3 symbols are drawn, stand still again with your right hand on your lap or in front of you, and focus again on the building up of energies in your hand. Do this 2 minute empowerment of focus and drawing for at least 3 repetitions, but you can do even more if you wish to enhance the empowerment. Repeat this empowerment everyday for 9 straight days. You may empower the left hand each day after you have empowered the right.

Learn the first symbol of Power, 力. Then, when you are ready, learn the symbol of Hand, 手. Last, learn the symbol of Energy, 精. This symbol of Energy represents the spirit force Energy, and not the physical strength type of energy; there is something “tangible” to the sense of this Energy symbol, but it remains spiritual Energy.

Power
Riyoku

Hand
Te

Spirit Energy
Se-i

力

手

精

Empower the Hands Kanji

Once your hand is empowered, you can empower other tools and symbols. A red dot shows where to begin the stroke.

The three kanji, Ryoko Te Se-i, are used to empower the hand and other tools.

Riyoku - Power



Strokes: 2

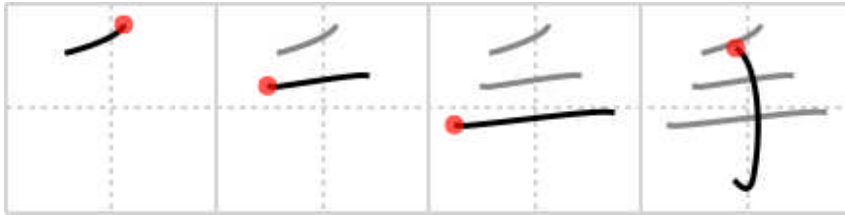
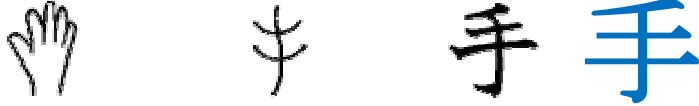
The pictograph above showing an arm with bulging biceps became simplified to pushing down, symbolizing strength, effort, force. Pictographs help us remember kanji and the concept behind the kanji.

When meditating on *Riyoku*, dwell on the power in the universe.

A mnemonic is a simple phrase used as an aid in remembering.

For this kanji, the mnemonic is: Hand pressing down with strength.

Hand - Te



Strokes: 5

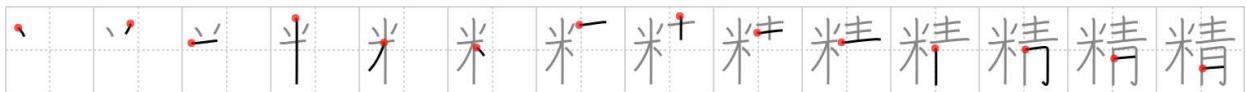
The pictograph above depicts a semi-stylized hand with five fingers (one bent), a palm, and wrist.

When meditating on *Te*, think of all that it means to manipulate things, objects and energies. Always try to grasp the higher meaning of a concept, and a wider range of application. In this case, a hand can be a physical hand, and the philosophical hand of destiny, or even the hand of the Buddha (or God), if you allow yourself to be of a spiritual nature.


Mnemonic: Hand with fingers spread.

Spirit Energy – Se-i

精 精 精 精



Strokes : 14

The first part of this symbol, 米, **koméhen**, means rice.  We see the radical on the left side of this kanji.

The second part, 青, **SEI**, means blue or green, and signifies the green of a plant reflected in the water of a well. This definition evokes images of vitality and energy, and connotations of fresh and pure. This leads by extension to refine, going into detail by removing the tiniest impurity. Spirit is an associated meaning with purity, leading by extension to vitality.

When meditating on *Se-i*, let your Higher Self reveal to you what it means while you contemplate the possibilities of the higher nature of the concept.

Mnemonic : Refined green rice fills one with spirit.

Empowering the Symbols

We empower one symbol at a time by doing the following empowerment meditation on each symbol for 3 days.

Step 1: To empower a symbol, use your empowered hand to draw it in front of you in white light. Meditate on the concept the symbol represents; for example : 力, *Riyoku*, power. Get into the feeling of the concept to the best of your ability, and not just the thought of it. Close your eyes, keeping this visualization in front of you. Project energy into the symbol, letting it become more and more powerful with glowing energy and light. The symbol should stand still in front of you for 10-15 seconds. Then, imagine that the symbol is getting closer to you, slowly, until it enters your *third eye* (forehead), and dissolves in your brain. Over a period of about 10-15 seconds, it dissolves into all your nervous system. Use the Japanese word as a mantra, slowly repeating it in your mind; for example, *Riyoku, Riyoku, Riyoku*.

Step 2: Draw the symbol a second time in front of you with white light. Let it stand still for 10-15 seconds. Then bring it slowly to your *solar plexus*. The symbol enters your solar plexus and fills your entire abdomen with its energy. Use the Japanese word again as a mantra; for example, *Riyoku*.

Step 3: Draw the symbol a third time in front of you with white light. Let it stand still for 10-15 seconds. Then, visualize the symbol getting bigger and bigger, expanding larger than your body. Next, bring it into your *whole body*. Fill your body with the energy of the symbol. Keep the Japanese word (like a mantra) in your mind; example, *Riyoku*.

Step 4: Meditate for at least 15 minutes on the energy and concept of the symbol. Immerse yourself in the feeling of this concept. You may look at the symbol as much as needed.

Practice empowering the first symbol, *Riyoku*, three days before proceeding to the second symbol, *Te*, and then the third symbol, *Se-i*.

SECTION THREE

Types of Kanji

Kanji are classified many different ways. They incorporate basic lines or strokes called characters. Simple characters are combined to form more complex characters which convey a different concept, meaning or sound. There are roughly four basic types of kanji.

1. Pictographs are a common form of kanji which convey a simple concept or meaning. These originated from pictures of objects or phenomena. An example of this is the kanji for fire, 火 . If you use your imagination, this kanji resembles a fire with radiating flames.
2. The sign or symbol uses lines or shapes to express a concept; for example, the kanji for line, | or box, □. Often characters are combined to express an idea or concept. For example, a vertical line drawn down the center of a box is used to indicate middle or center, 中.
3. Ideographic kanji combine pictorial or other lines and shapes to indicate a new idea. For example, tree, 木 , plus tree, 木 , are combined to indicate woods, 木木 . We see this idea demonstrated in the kanji for light or bright, 日月, which combines the kanji for sun, 日 , with the kanji for moon, 月 .
4. Phonetic-Ideographic kanji are combinations of two or more simple characters that have taken on a new meaning. About 90% of all kanji fall into this category. These characters are organized phonetically and by meaning. For example, these three kanji use the same character to indicate water, 氵 , an abbreviated form of the radical for water, 水 : Inlet, creek: 江; Ocean: 洋; River: 河.


The smallest elements of a character, strokes, are combined to form a radical. Radicals are the most basic and easiest part of kanji to identify. Traditional radicals usually indicate meaning rather than sound. When we study kanji, we observe the placement of the radical. Where the radical is placed within the kanji provides a clue to its origin, meaning or pronunciation.

Radicals

What Are Radicals? A radical (bushu) is a common sub-element found in different kanji characters. Every kanji has a radical or a radical can be a kanji. Radicals express the general nature of kanji characters. A radical is the part of the kanji character that gives a clue to its origin, group, meaning or pronunciation; thus, radicals are sometimes referred to as “keys”. Where the radical is placed in the kanji helps point out the meaning.

Many kanji dictionaries organize characters by their radicals. **Kangxi radicals** are a list of 214 of Chinese characters, used originally in the 1615 *Zihui* and adopted by the 1716 *Kangxi Dictionary*, in order of the number of strokes along with some examples of characters containing them. This list has become such a common standard that sometimes radicals are referred to by number alone. A reference to "radical 61", for example, without additional context, means 心, heart. A list of these radicals is included in Section Three of this document.

Radicals are roughly divided into seven groups (hen, tsukuri, kanmuri, ashi, tare, nyou, and kamae) by their positions. These are the seven representative categories of radicals according to their position within a kanji character:

hen  Radicals on the left side of the kanji, for example TAI (Physical) 体, emotion or feeling 情, and stair or storey of a building 階

[Ninben](#) (person)


亻 仕 代 休 伝 住 体 何

[Risshinben](#) (heart)

忄 快 怖 性 情


[Kozatohen](#) (when placed on the left of the radical means mound, dam)

阝 防 降 院 陸 陽 隊 階 際

tsukuri  Radicals on the right, for example RETSU (Split, line) 列


[Rittou](#) (sword)

司 刊 列 判 別 利 制 則 副

kanmuri  Radicals on the top, as in the kanji KU-U (Space) 空

[Ukanmuri](#) (crown)

宀 守 安 完 宙 定 宝 実 室

ashi  Radicals on the bottom, for example SHIYOU (Illuminate) 照


and GAN (gratitude) 感

[Rekka](#) (fire)

灬 点 烈 無 然 照 煮 熟 熱

[Kokoro](#) (heart)

心 思 急 息 悲 想 意 惡 感

tare  Radicals which wrap around the top of a character, for example KO

(storehouse) 庫

[Madare](#) (dotted cliff or slanting roof)

广 広 床 底 店 府 度 庫 庭

nyou



Radicals which wrap around the bottom of a character, as in the kanji of

KEN (health) 健

Ennyou (extend or long stride)

廴 延 廷 建

kamae



includes *five forms* of radicals which enclose the kanji, for example: KOU

(mouth) 口

Kunigamae (box or enclosure)

口 因 囗 困 用 囟 固 国 囿

Some books use another way to express the **kamae** (see below).



for example, TOH (fight) 鬪

Mongamae (gate)

門 閉 開 間



for example, 气 used in the kanji for energy, soul 氣



for example, going or journey 行 used in the kanji for art or resources 術



for example, box on the side enclosure



used in KU (sector)



Note that there are many differences in how scholars classify kanji. For documents in which we describe how to draw the kanji used in Maha Vajra's books, we used the reference, The Kodansha Kanji Learner's Dictionary, Editor in Chief Jack Halpern, Kodansha America, Inc., 1999. Halpern uses only four groups: left-right, up-down, enclosed, and solid. In general, the kanji classified as solid can stand alone. An example of this is the kanji for fire: 火.



Left-Right: clear space; conceptual space.



Up-Down: clear space; conceptual space; horizontal line; frame element.





Enclosure: includes kanji with wrap-around features.



Solid: top line; bottom line; through line; stand alone kanji.

Some examples of Radicals:

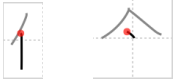
For several of the more common radicals, we indicated their position within a kanji character:

STROKE#	RADICAL	POSITION	MEANING
一画 One, plus brush-stroke; picture			
1	一		one, horizontal stroke
1	丨		vertical stroke, line
1	丶		dot
1	丿		diagonal sweeping stroke
1	乙 乚		the second
1	丨 亅		Vertical stroke with a hook, hook
二画 Two, plus brush-strokes; picture			
2	二		two
2	宀		lid, top
2	人		Person, human
2	亻		person

STROKE#	RADICAL	POSITION	MEANING
2	人		person
2	儿		human legs
2	入		to enter
2	八		eight
2	冂		to enclose
2	冃		cover, crown
2	冫		ice
2	几		table
2	凵		wind
2	凵		container, open box
2	刀		knife, sword
2	刂		knife, sword (abbreviated form)
2	力		power
2	勹		to wrap


Radicals can be written in various ways. For example, the **knife and sword** are together on this page.

The 214 Radicals

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
1	一			one	1
2	丨			line	1
3	丶			dot	1
4	丿	㇇ (fu2), ㇈ (yi2)		slash	1
5	乙	㇉ (yin3), ㇊		second	1
6	丨			hook	1
7	二			two	2
8	宀			lid	2
9	人			man	2
10	儿			legs	2
11	入			enter	2
12	八	㇋		eight	2
13	冂			down box	2

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
14	𠃉			over	2
15	冫			ice	2
16	几			table	2
17	凵			open box	2
18	刀	刂		knife	2
19	力			power	2
20	勹	勹		wrap	2
21	匕			spoon	2
22	匸			right open box	2
23	匚			hiding enclosure	2
24	十			ten	2
25	卜			mysticism	2
26	卩			seal	2

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
27	厂			cliff	2
28	厶			private	2
29	又			again	2
30	口			mouth	3
31	凵			enclosure	3
32	土			earth	3
33	士			scholar	3
34	夂			go	3
35	攴			go slowly	3
36	夕			evening	3
37	大			big	3
38	女			woman	3
39	子			child	3
40	宀			roof	3

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
41	寸			inch	3
42	小			small	3
43	尢	允		lame	3
44	尸			corpse	3
45	屮			sprout	3
46	山			mountain	3
47	川	巛, 巛 (gui4)		river	3
48	工	工		work	3
49	己			oneself	3
50	巾			turban	3
51	干			dry	3
52	彡			short thread	3
53	广			dotted cliff	3
54	彳			long stride	3

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
55	卅			two hands	3
56	弋			shoot	3
57	弓			bow	3
58	彡	彡		snout	3
59	彡			bristle	3
60	彳			step	3
61	心	忄		heart	4
62	戈			halberd	4
63	戶			door	4
64	手	扌		hand	4
65	支			branch	4
66	攴	攴		rap	4
67	文			script	4
68	斗			dipper	4

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
69	斤			axe	4
70	方			square	4
71	无			not	4
72	日			sun	4
73	曰			say	4
74	月			moon	4
75	木			tree	4
76	欠			lack	4
77	止			stop	4
78	歹			death	4
79	殳			weapon	4
80	毋			do not	4
81	比			compare	4
82	毛			fur	4


No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
83	氏			clan	4
84	气			steam	4
85	水	氵		water	4
86	火	灬		fire	4
87	爪	爪		claw	4
88	父			father	4
89	爻			double x	4
90	片			half tree trunk	4
91	片			slice	4
92	牙			fang	4
93	牛	牛		cow	4
94	犬	犴		dog	4
95	玄			profound	5

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
96	玉	王		jade	5
97	瓜			melon	5
98	瓦			tile	5
99	甘			sweet	5
100	生			life	5
101	用			use	5
102	田			field	5
103	疋			bolt of cloth	5
104	疒			sickness	5
105	𠂔			dotted tent	5
106	白			white	5
107	皮			skin	5
108	皿			dish	5

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
109	目			eye	5
110	矛			spear	5
111	矢			arrow	5
112	石			stone	5
113	示	礻		spirit	5
114	肉			track	5
115	禾			grain	5
116	穴			cave	5
117	立			stand	5
118	竹			bamboo	6
119	米			rice	6
120	糸		纟	silk	6
121	缶			jar	6

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
122	网	𦉳		net	6
123	羊			sheep	6
124	羽			feather	6
125	老			old	6
126	而			and	6
127	耒			plow	6
128	耳			ear	6
129	聿			brush	6
130	肉			meat	6
131	臣			minister	6
132	自			self	6
133	至			arrive	6
134	臼			mortar	6
135	舌			tongue	6

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
136	舛			oppose	6
137	舟			boat	6
138	艮			stopping	6
139	色			color	6
140	艸			grass	6
141	虍			tiger	6
142	虫			insect	6
143	血			blood	6
144	行			walk enclosure	6
145	衣	衤		clothes	6
146	西			west	6
147	見		见	see	7
148	角			horn	7

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
149	言		讠	speech	7
150	谷			valley	7
151	豆			bean	7
152	豕			pig	7
153	豸			badger	7
154	貝		贝	shell	7
155	赤			red	7
156	走			run	7
157	足			foot	7
158	身			body	7
159	車		车	cart	7
160	辛			bitter	7
161	辰			morning	7
162	辵	辵		walk	7

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
163	邑	阝 (right)		city	7
164	酉			wine	7
165	采			distinguish	7
166	里			village	7
167	金			gold	8
168	長		长	long	8
169	門		门	gate	8
170	阜	阝 (left)		mound	8
171	隶			slave	8
172	隹			short tailed bird	8
173	雨			rain	8
174	青			blue	8
175	非			wrong	8

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
176	面			face	9
177	革			leather	9
178	韋		韦	tanned leather	9
179	韭			leek	9
180	音			sound	9
181	頁		页	leaf	9
182	風		风	wind	9
183	飛		飞	fly	9
184	食		饣	eat	9
185	首			head	9
186	香			fragrant	9
187	馬		马	horse	10
188	骨			bone	10

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
189	高			tall	10
190	髟			hair	10
191	鬥			fight	10
192	鬯			sacrificial wine	10
193	鬲			cauldron	10
194	鬼			ghost	10
195	魚		鱼	fish	11
196	鳥		鸟	bird	11
197	鹵			salt	11
198	鹿			deer	11
199	麥		麦	wheat	11
200	麻			hemp	11
201	黃			yellow	12

No.	Radical	Variants	Simplified Radical	English Name	Number of Strokes
202	黍			millet	12
203	黑			black	12
204	黻			embroidery	12
205	黽		黽	frog	13
206	鼎			tripod	13
207	鼓			drum	13
208	鼠		鼠	rat	13
209	鼻			nose	14
210	齊		齐	even	14
211	齒		齿	tooth	15
212	龍		龙	dragon	16
213	龜		龟	turtle	16
214	龠			flute	17

For more information see Majutsu : Introduction to Kanji and

Kuji-Kiri and Majutsu, Sacred Art of the Oriental Mage,

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