

Japanese Braille



Braille is a tactile writing system, based on a series of raised dots, that is widely used by the blind. It was invented in 1821 by Louis Braille to write French, but has since been adapted to many other languages. English, which uses the Roman alphabet just as French does, required very little adaptation, but languages that do not use the Roman alphabet, such as Japanese, Korean, or Chinese, are often organized in a very different manner!

To the right is a Japanese word written in the *tenji* ("dot characters") writing system. The large dots represent the raised bumps; the tiny dots represent empty positions.

karaoke

ka ra o ke

1. The following *tenji* words represent *atari*, *haiku*, *katana*, *kimono*, *koi*, and *sake*. Which is which? You don't need to know either Japanese or Braille to figure it out; you'll find that the system is highly logical.

a. ha iku

三

b. sake

1

c. Katana

10

d. *Wimona*

40

e. *Wol*

1

F. atari

10

2. What are the following words?

g. karate

100

h. anime

10

3. Write the following words in *tenji* characters:

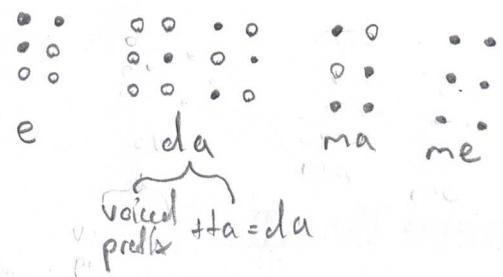
i. samurai

~~90 min i~~

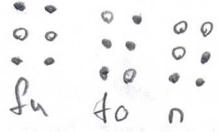
i. miso

50

Edamame



Futon



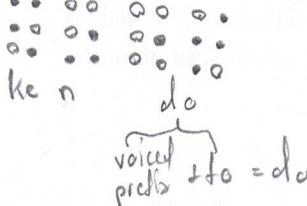
Kamikaze



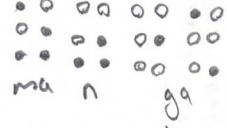
Karate



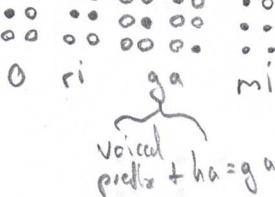
Kendo



Manga



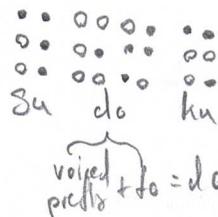
Origami



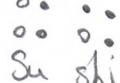
Otaku



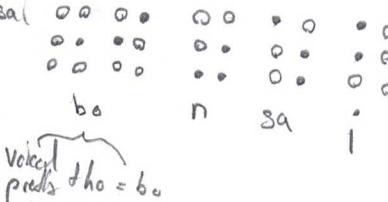
Sudoku



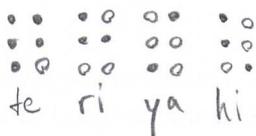
Sushi



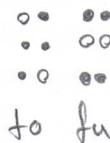
Bonsai



Teriyaki



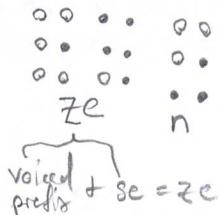
Tofu



Tsunami



Zen



Yukata

