

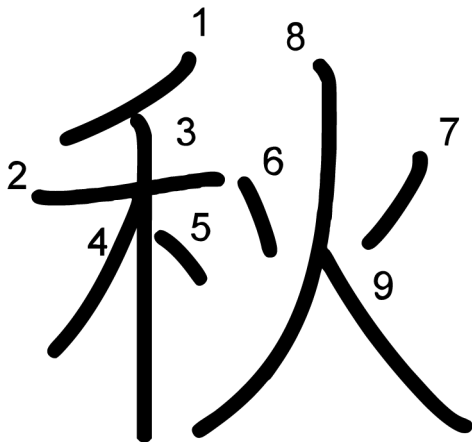


JAPAN INFORMATION
AND CULTURE CENTER
在米国日本大使館広報文化センター

TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI - AUTUMN

The kanji for autumn, 秋 *aki*, is a combination of the two characters for fire 火 and crops 禾. After the fall harvest in ancient times, the fields used to be burnt to kill locust eggs, in order to prevent them from eating the crops the following year. Although the kanji alone is usually read as “aki あき,” it can also be read as “shuu シュウ”. This is most easily noticeable in the words 初秋 (しゅしゅう *shoshuu*) and 晩秋 (ばんしゅう *banshuu*), which mean beginning and end of autumn respectively.



Meaning: Autumn

Kun'yomi: Aki あき *ah-kee*

On'yomi: Shuu シュウ *shoo*