

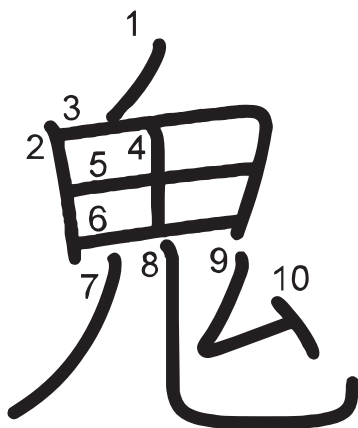


# TEACHING TUESDAY

## KANJI: ONI

OCTOBER 24, 2017

Oni 鬼 occasionally has some overlapping translations with youkai, but the kanji is a bit unusual. The actual kanji of oni 鬼 is a Chinese pictogram, showing a man or figure with an ugly face and tail, and is typically used to mean “ghost”. The word, oni, however, derives from a different Japanese word, on 隠, meaning “to hide” or “hidden from sight”. Oni were originally invisible sprits who would cause disaster, which lead to this name. Oni could also shapeshift, which is why the Chinese kanji for “ghost” came to be used for these formless creatures.



**Reading:** おに; oh-nee

**Meaning:** demon; devil; ogre