

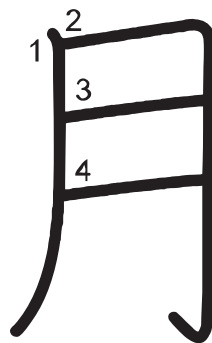
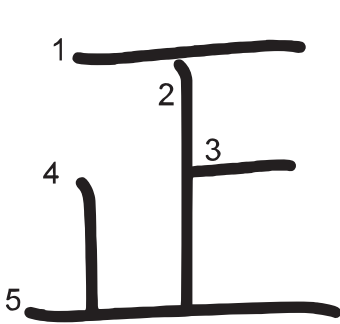


TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: NEW YEAR

DECEMBER 26, 2017

The New Year, or Shogatsu 正月 in Japanese, is the biggest holiday of the Japanese calendar year. The kanji for Shogatsu means not only New Year, but was also the old kanji for January, and could mean “principle” or “first” month. 正 is an old pictograph, with the symbol for foot 止 with a line through it, meaning complete. 月 was derived from a depiction of the moon, and is also used to show months. So Shogatsu 正月 is both the first month, as well as the completion of a previous cycle.



Reading: しょうがつ
shoh-oo-gah-tsoo

Meaning: New Year;
January