

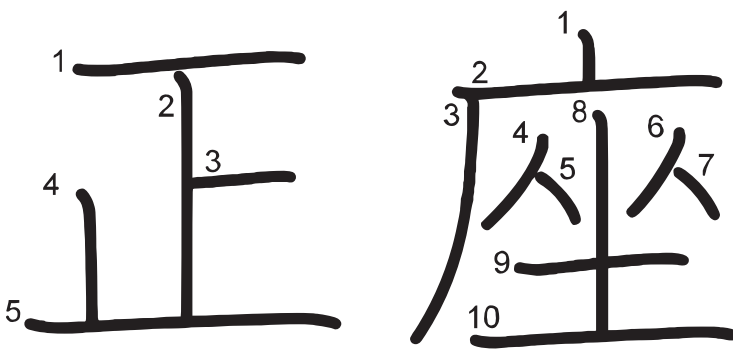


TEACHING TUESDAY

KANJI: SEIZA

JANUARY 23, 2018

Japanese are famous for sitting seiza, 正座, with their legs tucked underneath them and the tops of their feet flat on the floor. The kanji for seiza reflects its development under the strict formalities of the ruling warrior class as a respectful way to sit. As covered before, 正 is an old pictograph, with the symbol for foot 止 with a line through it. Meanwhile, 座 depicts people 人人 seated on floor 土 in a room 广, and originally meant servants' quarters. Put together, the kanji reflects the seated arrangement of seiza, as well as the respectful nature of the position.



Reading: せいざ say-ee-zah

Meaning: seiza; kneeling with the tops of the feet flat on the floor, and sitting on the soles