



Primer for Selecting Dharma Names

San Francisco Zen Center
Soto Zen Buddhist Association
Soto Zen Education Center

Compiled by

Gengo Akiba
Shohaku Okumura
Kazuaki Tanahashi
Mel Weitsman
Michael Wenger

Cover art: "Hōmyō" (*Dharma Name*)
by Gengo Akiba
Cover design by Rosalie Curtis

©2001

San Francisco Zen Center
Soto Zen Buddhist Association

Contents

| | |
|---|----|
| How the <i>Primer for Selecting Dharma Names</i> came to be Michael Wenger | i |
| General information | 1 |
| 1. Definition | 1 |
| 2. Basic guidelines | 1 |
| 3. Cultural and gender considerations | 2 |
| 4. Spelling systems | 3 |
| 5. Pronunciation and English spelling | 4 |
| Reflections on dharma names Shohaku Okumura | 6 |
| English-Japanese glossary | 13 |
| Ancestors' names | 67 |
| Examples of names given in Japan | 69 |
| Examples of names given in the United States | 75 |
| Where to go for advice | 79 |
| Recommended readings | 80 |

How the *Primer for Selecting Dharma Names* came to be

A dharma name is used to identify oneself as a practitioner of Buddhism. It is given by a dharma teacher at ordination as a lay person or a priest to mark entry into the community of Buddhist practitioners. A dharma name or a pair of dharma names are used either in combination with or without a birth name. One may use the dharma name all the time or only inside the dharma community. It is used in accord with a combination of personal choice and the custom in one's dharma community.

Selecting dharma names is an important expression of dharma. It can be a complex and foreign process to non-Asian teachers. Thus there has been the need for a guide book that covers various aspects of the naming process.

The purpose of this primer is to provide Western Buddhist teachers with basic information and guidelines for giving lay and priest names, using materials from the Japanese Soto Zen tradition. The text may also be useful to naming in other groups derived from the East Asian Buddhist tradition. We use the Japanese way of pronouncing the ideographs, but these characters can also be read in Chinese, Korean, or Vietnamese ways.

The *Primer for Selecting Dharma Names* has come together through many influences. Most immediately it started in January 1998 with Kazuaki Tanahashi and Michael Wenger recognizing the need for a manual for Western and Eastern teachers to use in bestowing dharma

names to English speaking people. With the growing number of both Western givers of the precepts and receivers of the precepts the project was timely. An advisory board of Mel Weitsman, abbot of the Berkeley Zen Center and president of the Soto Zen Buddhist Association; Shohaku Okumura, director of the Soto Education Center; and Gengo Akiba, Kaikyo Sokan of the Sotoshu North America, was created and work on the manual began. In January of 1999 a seminar was organized on dharma names at the San Francisco Zen Center as a step in the book's development. The feedback from this seminar led to an improved draft.

By April of 2000 the advisory board felt ready to print the first edition of the manual to be released in 2001. The hope is that this will be a step forward in bridging the distinct cultures of the West and the East. Just as Buddhism was transported and translated from India to China and from China to Japan, the next few years will see a further transporting and translating of Buddhism to the West. This project is in service of that endeavor.

Michael Wenger

General information

1. Definition

The general terms for Buddhist names in Japan are: *hōmyō* (dharma name); *kaimyō* (precept name); and *seigō* (sacred name). These terms are used interchangeably.

Two ideographs make up a name. People are given one name and sometimes two names. When one name is given it is a *hōgō* (dharma name). When two names are given, the first is a *dōgō* (way name) and the second a *hōgō* (dharma name). The *dōgō* can be considered as a formal name and the *hōgō* an intimate, informal name. See Introduction as to their usage.

Traditionally a *hōgō* is given when a person receives the precepts and is ordained, and a *dōgō* is given when the teacher acknowledges that the person has matured in practice. Nowadays both names are often given when a person is ordained. Names and precepts can also be given to practitioners who die before being ordained.

2. Basic guidelines

The teacher chooses a name or a pair of names to reflect excellent qualities of the person, as well as expressing good wishes or a positive prediction for the person. A Buddhist name is a dharma gift from the teacher to the student, and is given at the ordination ceremony usually

without revealing it to the student in advance.

The name should have pleasing sounds and beneficial meanings. There are two types of ideographs: those which represent concrete objects (such as “moon,” “ocean,” “tree”—they are called *shinji* in Japanese) and those which represent abstract concepts (“blue,” “noble,” “great,” “compassion”— called *seiji*). It is preferable that the *dōgō* (way name) contains an ideograph from each type.

The relationship between the two ideographs of each name, both in sound and meaning, is important. When the *dōgō* is given along with *hōgō*, the relationship among the four ideographs is also important. Considerations should be given that the first and fourth, as well as the second and third ideographs, constitute suitable compounds.

3. Cultural and gender considerations

Each ideograph carries sound, usage, and semantic implications that are unique to the traditional Japanese or East Asian culture. A name that seems perfectly apt in English when translated may be offensive or inappropriate to East Asian cultural sensibilities. On the other hand, a name which is perfectly fine in Japanese may not work well in English. (For example “Broad Way” may not be a good English translation of a Japanese name, due to its association with “Broadway” in New York City.)

Names identical to those of outstanding ancestors should be avoided.

If you feel a need to consult with Japanese teachers on your questions about naming, refer to the section of this book “Where to go for advice.”

The editors of this primer believe that dharma qualities should be free of gender differences. Except for ideographs meaning specifically “female” or “male,” there should not be any restrictions according to gender. However, the general East Asian public may have strong gender associations to some characters, for example “jewel” and “flower” are for women, and “courage” and “high peak” for men. Some Japanese priests and lay people, as well as Westerners, may be alienated by “gender-free” names. Teachers and students should be aware of such cultural views.

4. Spelling systems

There are three versions of spelling ideographs:

1. The classical version, commonly used in East Asia until the 1940s. This is still used in Taiwan and Korea. In Japan it is used for scholarly works on historical materials. Most Japanese can read characters of this system.
2. The new Japanese version adopted by the Japanese government in 1946, with which Japanese people are most familiar. Some basic ideographs are same as in

the classical version, and many others are moderately simplified.

3. The new Chinese version, adopted by the government of the People's Republic of China in 1956. Some ideographs are same as the classical version, and many others are radically simplified.

In the "English-Japanese glossary" in our primer, characters in Versions One and Two are presented.

5. Pronunciation and English spelling

The ideographs of Chinese origin have been used by peoples who have different languages in East Asia. While the meanings of the ideographs are similar, their sounds are usually different. For example the ideograph for the "way" is pronounced "dao" in Chinese, "dō" or "michi" in Japanese, "to" in Korean, and "dào" in Vietnamese.

There are two ways of reading characters in Japan. One is the Sino-Japanese sound (called "*on*" in Japanese). And the other is the Japanese indigenous sound (called "*kun*"). For Buddhist names, Sino-Japanese sounds are used.

The English spelling of the Japanese sounds corresponds to its sounds. A vowel with a macron (horizontal line or upside-down "v" above the character) represents a long vowel.

The vowels are pronounced as follows:

| | |
|---|--------------|
| a | as in "sun" |
| e | as in "pen" |
| i | as in "eat" |
| o | as in "only" |
| u | as in "boot" |

Spelling and euphonic changes

1. When a character ends with the sound "n" and the following character in the same word starts with "b," "m," or "p," the "n" is replaced with "m." [Example: Bun + myō = Bummyō]
2. When a character ends with the sound "tsu," and the following character in the same word starts with the consonant "k," "s," or "t," the "tsu" is dropped and the consonant is doubled. [Example: Kitsu + tai = Kittai]
3. When a character ends with the sound "tsu," and the following character in the same word starts with "ch," "su" is dropped from the "tsu." [Example: Setsu + chō = Setchō]

Reflections on dharma names

We confirm our practice as Buddhists when we receive the precepts. At a precepts ceremony, the preceptor gives a Buddhist name to her/his students. Usually the teacher makes a suitable name for each person as a gift.

For example, my teacher Kōshō Uchiyama Roshi received priest ordination from Kōdō Sawaki Roshi. Sawaki Roshi's Buddhist name was Somon Kōdō (祖門興道; Somon means Ancestral Gate, Kōdō means Flourishing Way). Uchiyama Roshi's Buddhist name given by Sawaki Roshi was Dōyū Kōshō (道融興正; Dōyū means Penetrating Way, Kōshō means Flourishing Truth). Uchiyama Roshi received two Chinese characters from Sawaki Roshi's dharma name (道 and 興). This was an expression of Sawaki Roshi's wish for his newly ordained disciple to transmit his dharma. In their Buddhist names, the first and the last character correspond as Sodō (祖道, Ancestral Way) and Dōshō (道正, Truth of the Way).

The way my Buddhist name was made was a little unusual. My name written on my passport is Shōhaku Okumura. Shōhaku (正博) is my first name and Okumura (奥村) is my family name. In English, Shō (正) is translated as true, right or correct. Haku (博) is broad or wide, as in wide knowledge. My first name was not Shōhaku until I was ordained as a Buddhist monk/priest. My original name given by my parents was Masahiro (正博). The Chinese characters are the same as they are for Shōhaku (正博), but the pronunciation is different. In Japan we have two ways to pronounce Chinese characters. One is *on'yomi*, the other is *kun'yomi*. *On'yomi* is the original Chinese way of

pronouncing the characters although it has been Japanized through time and is much different from the modern Chinese pronunciation. *Kun'yomi* is the way the Japanese read the Chinese characters as Japanese words. Shōhaku is the *on'yomi* pronunciation and Masahiro is the *kun'yomi* pronunciation of the same two Chinese characters.

In Japan, when a person is ordained as a Buddhist monk/priest, the person's first name is changed from the name given by his/her parents to a Buddhist one. In this manual we call the second half of the four-character Buddhist name, 法名, which literally means dharma name, following the example of my name change from Masahiro to Shōhaku. To change a birth name to a Buddhist name, the person needs to go to court and then to the city or town office to legally register the change. The person gives up the name given to her/him by her/his parents and receives a new name from her/his teacher as a disciple of the Buddha, and the Buddhist name becomes the name we use legally (*homyō* or *honmyō*, 本名).

Masahiro died and Shōhaku was born at the ordination ceremony, and yet, my family and relatives still call me by my old name, Masahiro. That is why Baso (Mazu) said to his fellow monks, "Don't go back to your home town. Old women in the neighborhood will call you by your old name."

When I received priest ordination from Kōshō Uchiyama Roshi, he asked me what name I wanted. Uchiyama Roshi was a liberal person, as some teachers in Japan ask their students to choose their Buddhist names. Since I am by nature a lazy person, I did not want to go to the court and city offices to change my name. I thought if I

changed only the pronunciation of the same characters I already had, I could avoid that procedure. (In the name registration papers, we only write the Chinese characters without the pronunciation.) That was why I asked Uchiyama Roshi to use the same characters I had and just change the pronunciation. As it turned out, one of the characters in my original name 正, had also been included in many of my Dharma brother's names, because it was also in Uchiyama Roshi's name (興正, Kōshō). Therefore it seemed to be a very appropriate name for me as Uchiyama Roshi's disciple, and Uchiyama Roshi accepted it. This is the history of my first name.

I was given another name by my teacher which I have used only in my *kechimyaku* (lineage paper). That is Jiyū (慈融). So, my full Buddhist name on my *kechimyaku* is Jiyū Shōhaku (慈融正博). Uchiyama Roshi's full Buddhist name was Dōyū Kōshō (道融興正). As you can see, I received two characters from my teacher's name as Uchiyama Roshi did from Sawaki Roshi's Buddhist name. This name (the first two characters of a four-character name) is called *dōgō* (道号, *dō* is way). Later I will explain what *gō* is.

Why do we have two names? To answer this question, I need to explain the naming customs in China. In Chinese, *myō* (名) is the first name and *sei* (姓) is the family name. But many people also had more names. When a person became an adult, the person had another name called *azana* (字), equivalent to a nick name in English. When meeting with seniors or formally in society, they used the *myō* (名) name, and when they met with intimate friends or within family they used the *azana* (字).

The third kind of name is *gō* (号). This is like a pen

name for a writer, or a stage (screen) name for an actor or actress. According to the Chinese-English dictionary "*gō*" is the assumed name or alternative name, but it is difficult to translate into English. When Chinese people write poems or prose, they use *shigō* (詩号) or *bungō* (文号). In Japan, when people write haiku, they use *haigō* (俳号), or haiku names. Bashō and Buson were their *haigō* names. A tea master has a *chagō* (茶号), tea name. Buddhist names, *dōgō* (道号), are in this same category of names. For a Buddhist your *gō* (*dōgō*) is the first two characters in the name your teacher gives you at the precepts ceremony.

Other categories of naming in China were *imina* (諱) and *okurina* (諡). These referred to the names of the deceased. *Imina* (諱) was the person's name while alive. The Chinese-English dictionary says that 諱 (*hui*) is (1) to be avoided as taboo, (2) the name regarded as taboo, of a deceased emperor or head of a family. Chinese people avoided using a deceased person's name that had been used before death, but they used an *okurina*. *Okurina* (諡) was a posthumous name. To show respect, the deceased were never addressed by their personal name.

Another point we should remember is that when people called on senior or respected people, they avoided the use of the person's personal name (名). Instead, junior people addressed a respected senior person using the person's title, position, or the name of the place where the person lived. In Japan today, we are more often addressed with our family name, e.g., Okumura-san, or with the name of the position or the institution, or in the case of a priest with the temple name (Uchiyama Roshi was sometimes called Antaiji-san). Only one's intimates address a person

using the first name.

For example, the Sixth Ancestor (Huineng in Chinese, Enō in Japanese) is called Sōkei Enō (Caoxi Huineng, 曹溪慧能) or Daikan Enō (Dajian Huineng, 大鑑慧能). In this case, Sōkei was the name of the place Huineng lived and Daikan is the *okurina* (posthumous name) given by the Chinese Emperor. In the same way, Chinese Zen masters' names such as Seigen (Qingyuan), Nangaku (Nanyue), Yakusan (Yaoshan), Hyakujō (Baizhang), Ungan (Yunyan), Tōzan (Dongshan), Rinzai (Linji), Jōshū (Zhaozhou) were all the names of the places where those Zen masters lived. Zen students who respected these masters did not use their personal names (名), but rather the name of the person's location. Thus Chinese Zen masters had two names after they became teachers. When Zen became established, eminent masters respected by many people were given posthumous names by the Emperors. These masters had had only *hōmyō* as Buddhist names.

Later in the Song Dynasty, Zen masters began to use *gō* (号) as well. In the Sōtō lineage, Chōro Seiryō (Changlu Qingliao, 長廬清了) is also called Shinketsu Seiryō (Zhenxie Qingliao, 真歇清了). In this case, Chōro was the name of the temple where he lived and Shinketsu was his *gō* (号). One of his disciples was Tendō Sōkaku (Tiantong Zongjue) or Daikyū Sōkaku (Daxiu Zongjue). Tendō was the mountain name of the temple where he lived and Daikyū was his *gō*. Setchō Chikan's (Xuedou Zhijian's) *gō* was Sokuan (Zuan). In the case of Tendō Nyojō (Tiantong Rujing), it is said that he did not have a *gō* (he only had a two-character name) and was named after the mountain name of the temple where he was abbot.

A Zen temple usually has two names: one is the mountain name and the other is the temple name. For example Dōgen's temple was named Kichijō-zan Eihei-ji. Kichijō-zan is its mountain name and Eihei-ji is its temple name. This custom came about because many of the early Zen masters built their monasteries on mountains and the monasteries were called by the mountain name as well.

Dōgen Zenji did not have a *gō* name like his teacher. Therefore he is named after the temple where he lived: Eihei. Dōgen's dharma heir Koun Ejō and his disciple Tettsū Gikai didn't have *gō* names. It seems that in Japan, Sōtō Zen masters after Keizan's generation began to use *gō*.

So the *gō* name is used by Zen students to address their masters respectfully. Japanese Zen masters in the Tokugawa period (from the 17th to the 19th century) such as Gesshū Sōko, Manzan Dōhaku, Menzan Zuihō, and Tenkei Denson are often called Gesshū, Manzan, Menzan, and Tenkei. This is the way their students and later people addressed them with respect, thus avoiding the use of their personal names (名、諱).

We don't use those Zen masters' family names at all. We don't even know their family names unless we investigate their biographies. When they were ordained they gave up the names given by their parents as well as their family names. To become a Buddhist monk was truly to leave home and family (出家). They did not belong to their families after ordination. They became members of Buddha's family (仏家、仏氏).

In modern Japan, however, when students address masters respectfully, instead of using *gō*, they use their family names. For example, Kōdō Sawaki Roshi's full

dharma name was Somon Kōdō, but we call him Sawaki Roshi instead of Somon Roshi. Shunryū Suzuki Roshi's *gō* was Shōgaku, but we call him Suzuki Roshi instead of Shōgaku Roshi. So, the opportunity to use one's *gō* is more limited. As a custom in China and Japan and because of the original nature of the name, *gō* was not used by oneself, at least not until one became a teacher.

I have discussed only the dharma names for priests. As for the dharma names for lay people, it is common practice in Japan that, at the precepts ceremony (*jukai-e*, 授戒会) only *bōmyō* (法名, the second part of the four character name) is given. In Katagiri Roshi's lineage this is maintained. I also give only *bōmyō* to lay practitioners. In Suzuki Roshi's lineage, the four-character dharma name is given to both lay practitioners and priests. Probably this is because the difference between priests and lay practitioners was not and is still not clear. I am interested in whether this custom will be maintained.

In Japan, the custom regarding Buddhist names has been changing, so it is natural for it to change in this country, too. I have heard that a few Zen centers have started to use English dharma names. I think that is all right, but still many practitioners and teachers want to have dharma names in the Japanese style. And because there are principles to follow when combining Chinese characters, it is difficult for many American teachers to create dharma names. This is the reason this manual has been made. I hope it is helpful for the teachers who work on creating dharma names for their students. Gassho.

Shohaku Okumura

In the following list:

When an ideograph is spelled in two ways, the traditional spelling is presented first, followed by the modern Japanese simplified spelling.

Types of ideographs:

Shinji is an ideograph primarily representing a concrete object. *Seiji* is an ideograph primarily representing a verb, adjective, or abstract concept.

< > *Shinji*.

() Used either as *shinji* or *seiji*.

Others: *Seiji*.

| Meaning | Ideograph | Sound | Other meanings |
|----------------|-----------|---------|---|
| abide | 居 | kyo | be present, dwell, abode |
| abide | 住 | jū | live, dwell |
| ability | 才 | sai | |
| ability | 能 | nō | capacity, energy |
| ability | <腕> | wan | talent, arm |
| abode | 居 | kyo | be present, dwell, abide |
| absolute | 絶 | zetsu | go beyond, extremely |
| accept | 容 | yō | tolerate, contain |
| accept | 承 | shō | receive, agree, approve |
| accomplish | 遂 | tsui | |
| accomplish | 成 | sei, jō | become, succeed, manifest, accomplishment |
| accomplishment | 業 | gyō, gō | karma, action, deed |
| accomplishment | 成 | sei, jō | become, succeed, accomplish, manifest |
| accumulate | 積 | seki | |
| achieve | 達 | tatsu | penetrate, attain, |

| Meaning | Ideograph | Sound | Other meanings |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| achievement | 績 | seki | mastery |
| acquire | 得 | toku | |
| action | 業 | gyō, gō | karma, deed, accomplishment |
| action | 行 | gyō | practice, go, walk |
| action | 爲 為 | i | benefit, sake (for the sake of) |
| active | 活 | katsu | let live, lively |
| advance | 進 | shin | |
| advantage | 利 | ri | merit, benefit |
| advocate | 唱 | shō | sing, preach, speak |
| age | 歲 | sai | year |
| agree | 可 | ka | good, pass (verb), approve |
| agree | 肯 | kō | approve |
| agree | 承 | shō | receive, accept, approve |
| agree | 諾 | daku | consent, approve, yes |
| ahead | 先 | sen | before, first |
| air | (空) | kū | sky, emptiness, formlessness, empty |
| all | 皆 | kai | |
| all | 全 | zen | whole, entire |
| all | 總 総 | sō | total, entire, integrate |
| all | 萬 万 | man, ban | ten thousand, |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|---------|--|
| | | | myriad, numerous |
| all over | 遍 | hen | wide, universal |
| alone | 孤 | ko | solitary |
| alone | 獨 独 | doku | |
| altar | <壇> | dan | platform |
| always | 常 | jō | regular, permanent |
| ancestor | 宗 | sō, shū | school (sect), source |
| ancient | 古 | ko | authentic |
| ancient times | 往 | ō | go |
| answer | 應 応 | ō | respond, suit (verb) |
| apparent | 的 | teki | target, goal |
| appear | 現 | gen | reveal, rise, manifest, present moment, be present |
| appearance | 形 | kei | figure, shape |
| appearance | 相 | sō | phase, form |
| approve | 可 | ka | good, pass (verb), agree |
| approve | 肯 | kō | assent, consent, agree |
| approve | 贊 | san | agree |
| approve | 承 | shō | receive, accept, agree |
| approve | 諾 | daku | agree, consent, yes |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|--------------|--|
| approve | 認 | nin | recognize |
| area | 圈 | ken | circle, sphere |
| arm | <腕> | wan | talent, ability |
| aromatic | 芳 | hō | fragrant |
| arouse | 發 発 | hotsu, hatsu | sprout (verb), start |
| arrive at | 至 | shi | reach, ultimate, utmost, best |
| art | 藝 芸 | gei | skill |
| art (practical) | 術 | jutsu | technique |
| artisan | 匠 | shō | craft person |
| as it is | 是 | ze | correct, yes |
| as it is | 然 | nen, zen | yes |
| as it is | 即 | soku | no other than, immediate |
| ascend | 上 | jō | rise, up, supreme, high |
| ascend | 登 | tō | go up, climb |
| assemble | 集 | shū | collection |
| assembly | 會 会 | e | encounter, merge, understanding, ceremony |
| assent | 肯 | kō | approve, consent, agree |
| attain | 達 | tatsu | penetrate, achieve, mastery |
| auspicious | 吉 | kichi | lucky |
| auspicious | 祥 | shō | good fortune |
| auspicious omen | 瑞 | zui | |

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-------|-------------------------------------|
| authentic | 古 | ko | ancient, old |
| authentic | 正 | shō | right, correct (adjective), true |
| autumn | 秋 | shū | fall |
| awaken | 悟 | go | awakening, enlightenment |
| awaken | 度 | do | bring across, save |
| awakening | 悟 | go | enlightenment, awaken |
| awakening | 覺 覚 | kaku | enlightenment |
| awesome | 威 | i | majestic, solemn, dignified |
| azure | 蒼 | sō | dark blue, dark green |
| balanced | 平 | hei | peaceful, calm, even |
| ball | <球> | kyū | |
| bamboo | <竹> | chiku | |
| barrier | 關 関 | kan | gate |
| base | 基 | ki | foundation, basis |
| base | 本 | hon | basis, original, real, root |
| base | <臺> | dai | stand (noun) |
| basis | 基 | ki | base, foundation |
| basis | 礎 | so | foundation |
| basis | 底 | tei | bottom |
| basis | 本 | hon | original, base, real, root |
| be | 有 | u | existence |
| be present | 現 | gen | reveal, rise, |

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-----------|---|
| be present | 臨 | rin | immediate |
| beautiful | 佳 | ka | fine |
| beautiful | 斐 | hi | florid |
| beautiful | 美 | bi | |
| beautiful | 麗 | rei | graceful |
| beautiful | 瑤 | yō | exquisite |
| become | 成 | sei, jō | accomplish, succeed, manifest, accomplish- ment |
| bedrock | <盤> | ban | |
| before | 先 | sen | ahead, first |
| begin | 始 | shi | |
| begin | 初 | sho | first, beginning |
| begin | 創 | sō | initiate, original |
| begin | 肇 | chō | originate |
| beginning | 初 | sho | first, begin |
| bell | <鐘> | shō | (that tolls) |
| bell | <鈴> | rei | (that jingles or rings) |
| bend | 曲 | kyoku | melody |
| benefit | 益 | eki, yaku | |
| benefit | 利 | ri | advantage, merit |
| benefit | 爲 為 | i | sake (for the sake of), action |
| benevolent | 仁 | jin | compassion, love |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------|--|
| best | 至 | shi | reach, arrive at, utmost, ultimate |
| bewitch | 幻 | gen | phantasm, phantom |
| beyond | 無 | mu | nothingness |
| big | 太 | tai | great |
| big | 大 | dai | large, great |
| birth | 生 | shō | create, life |
| black | 玄 | gen | dark, profound, subtle |
| black | 黒 | koku | dark |
| blaze | (炎) | en | flame |
| bliss | 安 | an | peaceful, ease |
| bliss | 樂 樂 | raku | comfortable, enjoy, joy |
| blood | <血> | ketsu | |
| bloom | 咲 | shō | |
| blossom | (華) | ka | magnificent, flower |
| blow | 吹 | sui | |
| blue | 青 | sei | green |
| blue (dark) | 紺 | kon | |
| blue (deep) | 碧 | heki | |
| blue (indigo) | 藍 | ran | |
| blue (light) | 瑠 | ryū | lapis lazuli |
| boat | 舟 | shū | |
| body | 身 | shin | |
| body | <體> | tai | substance |
| bold | 敢 | kan | brave |
| bold | 剛 | gō | unrestrained |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|------|--------------------------------------|
| bold | 豪 | gō | unrestrained, brave, superior |
| book (standard) | <典> | ten | text, ceremony (formal) |
| border | (際) | sai | phase, verge |
| border | 邊 辺 | hen | neighborhood, boundary |
| bottom | (底) | tei | basis |
| boundary | (境) | kyō | objective, realm |
| boundary | 邊 辺 | hen | neighborhood, border |
| bow | 拝 | hai | venerate |
| bow | 禮 礼 | rei | |
| branch | <枝> | shi | |
| brave | 敢 | kan | bold |
| brave | 豪 | gō | unrestrained, bold, superior |
| brave | 壮 | sō | heroic, vital |
| brave | 勇 | yū | bravery, courageous |
| brave | 雄 | yū | male, heroic |
| bravery | 勇 | yū | brave, courageous |
| breath | <息> | soku | rest (verb) |
| breath | 氣 气 | ki | energy, spirit |
| breeze | <風> | fū | style, wind, manners, elegance |
| bridge | <橋> | kyō | |
| bright | 輝 | ki | splendid, shine |
| bright | 晃 | kō | dazzling |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----------|----------------------------------|
| bright | 昭 | shō | luminous |
| bright | 明 | myō, mei | luminous, clear |
| bring across | 度 | do | awaken, save |
| broad | 弘 | kō | |
| broad | 浩 | kō | vast, great |
| broad | 廣 広 | kō | expand, spread |
| broad | 寬 | kan | generous, generosity |
| bud | <芽> | ga | sprout |
| buddha | <佛> | butsu | |
| build | 建 | ken | |
| build | 設 | setsu | set up |
| building | <舍> | sha | dormitory |
| building (large) | 宇 | u | universe |
| building (tall) | <閣> | kaku | |
| calm | 穩 | on | gentle, peaceful, mild |
| calm | 康 | kō | peaceful |
| calm | 妥 | da | settle, peaceful |
| calm | 平 | hei | peaceful, balanced, even |
| capacity | <器> | ki | vessel, container, instrument |
| capacity | <機> | ki | function, person, mechanism |
| capacity | 能 | nō | ability, energy |
| careful | 慎 | shin | prudent |
| carry | 運 | un | |
| carry in hand | 携 | kei | |
| carry on shoulder | <荷> | ka | |
| carry out | 踐 | sen | implement, |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|------|---|
| | | | practice |
| carve | 刻 | koku | engrave |
| carve | <彫> | chō | sculpt |
| causation | 緣 | en | condition, cause, relationship, interconnec- tion |
| cause | 因 | in | |
| cause | 緣 | en | condition, causation, relationship, interconnec- tion |
| cause | 由 | yū | reason |
| cease | 止 | shi | stop, stillness |
| celebrate | 賀 | ga | congratulate |
| celebrate | 慶 | kei | felicitation, joyous |
| center | 央 | ō | |
| center | 中 | chū | middle, hit the mark |
| central | 樞 枢 | sū | pivot |
| ceremony | 會 会 | e | assembly, meet, merge, understanding, encounter |
| ceremony | 齋 齋 | sai | ritual |
| ceremony (formal) | (典) | ten | book (standard), text |
| certain | 確 | kaku | |
| certify | 證 証 | shō | witness, realize |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|-------|--------------------------------|
| chamber | 房 | bō | tuft |
| change | 更 | kō | renew, further |
| charity | 惠 | e | give, favor, wisdom |
| chaste | 貞 | tei | chastity |
| chastity | 操 | sō | |
| chastity | 貞 | tei | chaste |
| cherish | 含 | gan | include |
| cherry (blossom) | <櫻> | ō | |
| child | <童> | dō | childlike |
| childlike | <童> | dō | child |
| chivalrous | 義 | gi | loyal, faith, justice |
| chivalrous | 忠 | chū | loyal |
| choose | 選 | sen | chosen |
| choose | 擇 択 | taku | select |
| chosen | 選 | sen | choose |
| circle | <環> | kan | ring |
| circle | 圈 | ken | sphere, area |
| circle | <輪> | rin | wheel, ring |
| circle | 圓 円 | en | round, complete (adjective) |
| clan | 族 | zoku | family |
| clean | 潔 | ketsu | immaculate |
| clean | 粹 | sui | refined, essence |
| clean | 清 | sei | clear, pure |
| clean | 淨 淨 | jō | pure |
| clear | 彰 | shō | manifest, lucid |
| clear | 澄 | chō | evident, lucid, limpid |
| clear | 清 | sei | clean, pure |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|----------|--------------------------------------|
| clear | 透 | tō | transparent, penetrate |
| clear | 明 | myō, mei | luminous, bright |
| clear | 朗 | rō | fine (sky) |
| climb | 登 | tō | go up, ascend |
| climb up | 昇 | shō | |
| close (adjective) | 親 | shin | intimate, parent |
| close (adjective) | 密 | mitsu | intimate |
| close to | 臨 | rin | be present, immediate |
| cloud | <雲> | un | |
| cold | 冷 | ryō | cool |
| collaborate | 協 | kyō | harmony |
| collection | 集 | shū | assemble |
| color | 彩 | sai | coloring, hue |
| color | 色 | shiki | form |
| coloring | 彩 | sai | color, hue |
| combine | 結 | ketsu | tie, complete (verb), conclude |
| combine | 合 | gō | unity, merge |
| combine | 統 | tō | unite |
| come | 來 来 | rai | future |
| comfortable | 樂 樂 | raku | bliss, enjoy, joy |
| common | 普 | fu | general, universal |
| communicate | 通 | tsū | penetrate, go through |
| companion | <徒> | to | |
| compassion | 慈 | ji | love |
| compassion | 仁 | jin | love, benevolent |
| complete | 完 | kan | perfect, entire |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------|--|
| complete | 滿 | man | full, round |
| complete | 圓 円 | en | round, circle |
| complete (verb) | 結 | ketsu | combine, tie, conclude |
| complete (verb) | 徹 | tetsu | go through, penetrate |
| complete (verb) | 了 | ryō | understand, final |
| compromise | 讓 讓 | jō | respectful, generous |
| conceal | 隱 | in | hide |
| conceal | (藏) | zō | hide, treasury, store (verb) |
| concentration | 定 | jō | stable, samadhi |
| conception | 感 | kan | feel deeply, feel |
| conception | 想 | sō | thought |
| conclude | 結 | ketsu | combine, complete (verb), tie |
| condition | 緣 | en | causation, cause, relationship, interconnec- tion |
| congratulate | 賀 | ga | celebrate |
| conquer | 克 | koku | overcome |
| consent | 肯 | kō | approve, assent, agree |
| consent | 諾 | daku | agree, approve, yes |
| constant | 恒 | kō | stable |
| constitution | 憲 | ken | |
| contain | 容 | yō | tolerate, accept |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|----------|--------------------------------------|
| container | <器> | ki | capacity, vessel, instrument |
| cool | 冷 | ryō | cold |
| corner | 隅 | gū | nook |
| correct (adjective) | 是 | ze | as it is, yes |
| correct (adjective) | 正 | shō | right, authentic, true |
| correct (verb) | 匡 | kyō | rectify |
| country | <國> | koku | land |
| courageous | 勇 | yū | brave, bravery |
| country | 邦 | hō | state |
| court | <堂> | dō | hall |
| courteous | 寧 | nei | peaceful |
| craft person | 匠 | shō | artisan |
| crane | <鶴> | kaku | |
| create | 生 | shō | life, birth |
| cultivate | 修 | shu, shū | practice |
| cultivate | 鍛 | tan | tamper |
| cultivate | 養 | yō | foster, nourish |
| cultivate | 練 | ren | train (verb), tamper, practice |
| cultivate | 攝 授 | setsu | touch, guide |
| cure | 醫 医 | i | heal, medical |
| cure | 治 | ji | heal, govern, regulate |
| current (noun) | (流) | ryū | flow, stream |
| cut | 切 | setsu | intimate, urgent |
| dance | 踊 | yō | (energetically) |
| dance | 舞 | bu | (gracefully) |
| dark | 暗 | an | |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------|---------------------------------------|
| dark | 玄 | gen | black, profound, subtle |
| dark | 黒 | koku | black |
| dark | 幽 | yū | refined, subtle |
| dark blue | 蒼 | sō | azure, dark green |
| dark green | 蒼 | sō | dark blue, azure |
| day | (日) | jitsu | sun |
| day (first) | 旦 | tan | |
| dazzling | 晃 | kō | bright |
| deed | 業 | gyō, gō | karma, action, accomplish- ment |
| deep | 深 | shin | profound |
| deity | 神 | shin | mind, spirit |
| descendant | 裔 | ei | |
| destiny | 命 | mei | order (verb), life |
| determination | 魂 | kon | soul, spirit |
| devoted | 篤 | toku | |
| dewdrop | <露> | ro | reveal |
| dharma | 法 | hō | law |
| dignified | 威 | i | solemn, awesome |
| dignified | 莊 | sō | |
| diligent | 勤 | kin | work (verb) |
| direct (adjective) | 直 | jiki | immediate, straight |
| direction | 方 | hō | method |
| display | 展 | ten | open up, unfold |
| dissolve | 融 | yū | melt, fuse |
| distant | 遠 | on, en | far |
| distant | 悠 | yū | vast, relaxed |
| distant | 遙 | yō | far |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------|--|
| diverge | 岐 | gi | |
| divinity | 神 | shin | mind, spirit, god |
| dormitory | <舎> | sha | building |
| dragon | 辰 | shin | |
| dragon | <竜> | ryū | |
| dream | 夢 | mu | vision |
| drift | 漂 | hyō | float, wander |
| drum | <鼓> | ko | |
| dwell | 居 | kyo | be present, abide, abode |
| dwell | 住 | jū | live, abide |
| dye | 染 | sen | |
| earnest | 懇 | kon | polite, familiar |
| earth | 坤 | kon | |
| earth | <地> | chi | place |
| earth | <土> | do | land, ground |
| ease | 安 | an | bliss, peaceful |
| east | 東 | tō | |
| edge | 端 | tan | end, straightforward |
| effect | (果) | ka | fruit |
| effect | (實) | jitsu | real, substance, fruit, faithfulness |
| effort | 精 | sei | spirit, fine, meticulous, refined |
| effort | 勵 勵 | rei | endeavor |
| elated | 昂 | kō | high-spirited |
| elegance | <風> | fū | style, breeze, wind, manners |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|-------|---|
| elegant | 雅 | ga | |
| elegant | 淑 | shuku | graceful |
| element | 素 | so | plain (adjective), simple |
| elucidate | 辨 弁 | ben | explain, understand |
| embody | 具 | gu | possess, tool |
| embrace | 擁 | yō | hold |
| emptiness | 空 | kū | sky, air, formlessness |
| empty | 虚 | kyo | void, humble |
| empty | 空 | kū | sky, air, formlessness, empty, emptiness |
| empty | 白 | haku | white |
| encounter | 會 会 | e | assembly, meet, merge, understanding, ceremony |
| encourage | 獎 | shō | |
| end | 限 | gen | limit, restriction |
| end | 端 | tan | edge, straightforward |
| endeavor | 勉 | ben | |
| endeavor | 勵 励 | rei | effort |
| endurance | 堪 | kan | patience |
| endure | 耐 | tai | withstand |
| endure | 忍 | nin | patience |
| energy | 勢 | sei | momentum, force |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|-------|-----------------------------|
| energy | 能 | nō | ability, energy |
| energy | 氣 气 | ki | breath, spirit |
| enjoy | 樂 乐 | raku | comfortable, bliss, joy |
| enlightenment | 悟 | go | awakening, awaken |
| enlightenment | 覺 觉 | kaku | awakening |
| enormous | 巨 | kyo | great, huge |
| entire | 完 | kan | complete, perfect |
| entire | 全 | zen | all, whole |
| entire | 盡 尽 | jīn | finish, exhaust, total |
| entire | 總 总 | sō | all, total, integrate |
| entrust | 委 | i | |
| entrust | 嘱 嘱 | shoku | |
| equal | 均 | kin | level |
| equal | 等 | tō | |
| essence | 粹 | sui | refined, clean |
| essence | 精 | sei | spirit |
| essential | <髓> | zui | marrow |
| essential | 要 | yō | key, important, pivot |
| essential point | 綱 | kō | net |
| establish | 立 | ritsu | stand |
| eternal | 永 | ei | everlasting |
| ethics | 倫 | rin | relationship |
| even | 平 | hei | peaceful, balanced, calm |
| evening | 夕 | yū | |
| everlasting | 永 | ei | eternal |

| | | | |
|-------------|-----|-------|-------------------------------|
| evident | 澄 | chō | lucid, clear, limpid |
| exact | 眞 真 | shin | right, true, real, sincere |
| exalted | 揚 | yō | lift |
| example | 範 | han | model |
| excel | 越 | etsu | go beyond |
| excel | 勝 | shō | win, victory, excellent |
| excellent | 逸 | itsu | exceptional |
| excellent | 英 | ei | outstanding |
| excellent | 傑 | ketsu | outstanding |
| excellent | 秀 | shū | |
| excellent | 勝 | shō | win, excel, victory |
| excellent | 名 | mei | superb, famous |
| excellent | 優 | yū | graceful, gentle |
| exceptional | 逸 | itsu | excellent |
| exert | 努 | do | |
| exhaust | 盡 尽 | jin | entire, total, finish |
| exist | 在 | zai | existence |
| exist | 存 | son | existence, think |
| existence | 在 | zai | exist |
| existence | 存 | son | exist, think |
| existence | 有 | u | be |
| expand | 廣 広 | kō | broad, spread |
| explain | 說 | setsu | preach, speak |
| explain | 辦 弁 | ben | elucidate, understand |
| explain | 釋 釈 | shaku | interpret, |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Shakya(muni) |
| express | 揮 | ki | wield |
| express | 表 | hyō | outside |
| exquisite | 瑤 | yō | beautiful |
| extend | 延 | en | |
| extend | 伸 | shin | stretch |
| extremely | 甚 | jin | |
| extremely | 絕 | zetsu | absolute, go beyond |
| eye | <眼> | gen | |
| eye | <目> | moku | |
| fabric (fine) | 紗 | sha | |
| face | (面) | men | surface, plain |
| faith | 義 | gi | loyal, chivalrous, justice |
| faith | 信 | shin | fidelity, trust |
| faithfulness | 實 実 | jitsu | real, substance, effect, fruit |
| fall | 秋 | shū | autumn |
| familiar | 懇 | kon | polite, earnest |
| familiar | 睦 | boku | friendly |
| family | 族 | zoku | clan |
| famous | 名 | mei | superb, excellent |
| fan | <扇> | sen | |
| far | 遠 | on, en | distant |
| far | 遙 | yō | distant |
| farm (verb) | 耕 | kō | till (verb) |
| fast | 敏 | bin | swift, nimble |
| favor | 惠 | e | charity, give, wisdom |
| favorable | 好 | kō | good |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|------|---|
| favorable | 順 | jun | follow |
| feather | <羽> | u | |
| feel | 感 | kan | feel deeply, conception |
| feel deeply | 感 | kan | feel, conception |
| felicitation | 慶 | kei | celebrate, joyous |
| fidelity | 信 | shin | faith, trust |
| field | 原 | gen | origin, plain (noun) |
| field (rice) | <田> | den | |
| figure | 形 | kei | shape, appearance |
| figure | (象) | shō | form, symbol |
| filial piety | 孝 | kō | |
| fill | 充 | jū | |
| final | 了 | ryō | complete (verb), understand |
| fine | 佳 | ka | beautiful |
| fine | 精 | sei | spirit, effort, meticulous, refined |
| fine (sky) | 朗 | rō | clear |
| finger | <指> | shi | point to |
| finish | 盡 尽 | jīn | exhaust, entire, total |
| firm | 毅 | ki | resolute |
| firm | 剛 | gō | tough |
| first | 一 | ichi | one |
| first | 初 | sho | beginning, begin |
| first | 先 | sen | before, ahead |
| flame | <炎> | en | blaze |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|
| flavor | 趣 | shu | grace |
| flexible | 柔 | jū | soft, tender, kindly |
| float | 漂 | hyō | drift, wander |
| florid | 斐 | hi | beautiful |
| flourish | 盛 | sei | heap up |
| flourish | 繁 | han | thrive |
| flourish | 茂 | mo | grow thick |
| flow | (流) | ryū | stream, current (noun) |
| flower | <花> | ka | |
| flower | (華) | ka | magnificent, blossom |
| flute | 笛 | teki | |
| follow | 循 | jun | obey, observe, resolve |
| follow | 順 | jun | favorable |
| follow | 隨 | zui | |
| foolish | 愚 | gu | |
| force | 勢 | sei | energy, momentum |
| force | 力 | riki | power |
| forgiveness | 恕 | jo | forgiving |
| forgiving | 恕 | jo | forgiveness |
| foremost | 最 | sai | |
| forest | <林> | rin | monastery |
| forest (large) | <森> | shin | woods (thick) |
| form | (象) | shō | figure, symbol |
| form | 色 | shiki | color |
| form | 相 | sō | phase, appearance |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|---|
| formlessness | 空 | kū | sky, air, emptiness, empty |
| fortunate | 幸 | kō | happy |
| foster | 養 | yō | cultivate, nourish |
| foundation | 基 | ki | base, basis |
| foundation | 礎 | so | basis |
| fountain | 源 | gen | source |
| fountain | <泉> | sen | spring |
| fragrant | 芳 | hō | aromatic |
| framework | 格 | kaku | level, status |
| friend | 友 | yū | familiar |
| friendly | 睦 | boku | effect |
| fruit | (果) | ka | effect |
| fruit | (實) | jitsu | real, substance, effect, faithfulness |
| full | 滿 | man | complete, round |
| function | (機) | ki | capacity, person, mechanism |
| further | 更 | kō | change, renew |
| fuse | 融 | yū | melt, dissolve |
| future | 來 来 | rai | come |
| garden | <庭> | tei | |
| garden (gorgeous) | <苑> | en | |
| garden (large) | <園> | en | park |
| gate | <門> | mon | |
| gate | <關> | kan | barrier |
| gem | <珠> | ju | pearl |
| general | 普 | fu | common, universal |

| | | | |
|------------|-----|-------|-------------------------------|
| generate | 起 | ki | stand, raise, rise |
| generation | 世 | se | world |
| generation | 代 | dai | |
| generosity | 寬 | kan | broad, generous |
| generous | 讓 讓 | jō | compromise, respectful |
| generous | 寬 | kan | broad, generosity |
| gentle | 穩 | on | calm, peaceful, mild |
| gentle | 優 | yū | graceful, excellent |
| gift | 恩 | on | grace |
| give | 惠 | e | charity, favor, wisdom |
| give birth | 產 | san | produce |
| glory | 榮 榮 | ei | prosper |
| go | 往 | ō | ancient times |
| go | 行 | gyō | action, practice, walk |
| go beyond | 越 | etsu | excel |
| go beyond | 絕 | zetsu | absolute, extremely |
| go through | 通 | tsū | communicate, penetrate |
| go through | 徹 | tetsu | penetrate, complete (verb) |
| go up | 登 | tō | ascend, climb |
| goal | 的 | teki | target, apparent |
| god | 神 | shin | mind, divinity, spirit |
| gold | <金> | kin | metal |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|--------------------------------|
| good | 可 | ka | approve, pass (verb), agree |
| good | 好 | kō | favorable |
| good | 善 | zen | wholesome |
| good | 良 | ryō | |
| good fortune | 嘉 | ka | happy |
| good fortune | 祥 | shō | auspicious |
| govern | 治 | ji | cure, heal, regulate |
| grace | 恩 | on | gift |
| grace | 趣 | shu | flavor |
| graceful | 淑 | shuku | elegant |
| graceful | 優 | yū | excellent, gentle |
| graceful | 麗 | rei | beautiful |
| grand | 宏 | kō | great |
| great | 偉 | i | superior character |
| great | 巨 | kyo | huge, enormous |
| great | 宏 | kō | grand |
| great | 浩 | kō | broad, vast |
| great | 太 | tai | big |
| great | 大 | dai | large, big |
| great respect | 大 | yo | honor |
| green | 青 | sei | blue |
| ground | <土> | do | land, earth |
| grow thick | 茂 | mo | flourish |
| guide | 化 | ke | transform |
| guide | 攝 撰 | sestsu | touch, cultivate |
| hall | <堂> | dō | court |
| happy | 嘉 | ka | good fortune |
| happy | 幸 | kō | fortunate |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|------------------------------------|
| harmonious | 和 | wa | peaceful, peace |
| harmonize | 調 | chō | harmony |
| harmony | 協 | kyō | collaborate |
| harmony | 調 | chō | harmonize |
| haze | <霞> | ka | mist |
| heal | 治 | ji | cure, govern, regulate |
| heal | 醫 医 | i | cure, medical |
| heap up | 盛 | sei | flourish |
| hear | 聞 | mon | listen |
| heart | 心 | shin | mind |
| heaven | <天> | ten | |
| heavy | 重 | jū | pile up, weight |
| heir | 嗣 | shi | inherit |
| hermit | 仙 | sen | sorcerer |
| heroic | 壯 | sō | vital, brave |
| heroic | 雄 | yū | male, brave |
| hide | 隱 | in | conceal |
| hide | (藏) | zō | treasury, conceal, store (verb) |
| high | 高 | kō | |
| high | 上 | jō | rise, up, supreme, ascend |
| high-spirited | 昂 | kō | elated |
| hit the mark | 中 | chū | middle, center |
| hit the mark | 當 当 | tō | penetrate |
| hold | 擁 | yō | embrace |
| home | <家> | ka, ke | house |
| home town | <鄉> | kyō | native place |
| honor | <光> | kō | light |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------|----------------------------|
| honor | 譽 | yo | great respect |
| hope | 望 | bō | |
| house | <家> | ka, ke | home |
| hue | 彩 | sai | coloring, color |
| huge | 巨 | kyo | great, enormous |
| human | <人> | nin | person |
| humble | 虚 | kyo | empty, void |
| humble | 謙 | ken | modesty |
| humble | 拙 | setsu | unskilled |
| hundred | 百 | hyaku | |
| illuminate | 照 | shō | shine |
| image | <影> | ei | shadow |
| immaculate | 潔 | ketsu | clear |
| immediate | 即 | soku | no other than, as it is |
| immediate | 直 | jiki | direct, straight |
| immediate | 臨 | rin | be close to, be present |
| implement | 踐 | sen | carry out, practice |
| important | 要 | yō | key, essential, pivot |
| include | 含 | gan | cherish |
| inconceivable | 妙 | myō | wondrous, subtle |
| India | 印 | in | seal |
| inherit | 嗣 | shi | heir |
| initiate | 創 | sō | begin, original |
| ink | <墨> | boku | sumi ink |
| insight | 觀 觀 | kan | look, observe |
| instrument | <器> | ki | capacity, container, |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------|---|
| integrate | 總 総 | sō | vessel |
| intention | 意 | i | all, entire, total |
| interconnection | 緣 | en | meaning |
| | | | condition, cause, relationship, causation |
| interpret | 釋 釈 | shaku | Shakya(muni), explain |
| intimate | 親 | shin | close, parent |
| intimate | 切 | setsu | cut, urgent |
| intimate | 密 | mitsu | close (adjective) |
| intuition | 勘 | kan | perception |
| investigate | 究 | kyū | study thoroughly |
| invite | 迎 | gei | welcome |
| invite | 招 | shō | |
| iron | <鐵> | tetsu | |
| island | <島> | tō | |
| jade | <玉> | gyoku | |
| journey | 旅 | ryo | |
| joy | 樂 楽 | raku | comfortable, enjoy, bliss |
| joyful | 欣 | kin | |
| joyous | 慶 | kei | felicitation, celebrate |
| jump | 跳 | chō | leap |
| justice | 義 | gi | loyal, chivalrous, faith |
| karma | 業 | gō, gyō | action, deed, accomplish- ment |
| key | 要 | yō | essential, |

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--|---------------------------|
| | | | important, pivot |
| kindly | 柔 jū | | flexible, tender, soft |
| knead | 粘 nen | | persevere, take up |
| know | 知 chi | | knowledge, wisdom |
| knowledge | 知 chi | | know, wisdom |
| lake | <湖> ko | | |
| lamp | <燈> tō | | light |
| land | <國> koku | | country |
| land | <州> shū | | region, sandbar |
| land | <土> do | | earth, ground |
| land | <陸> riku | | |
| lapis lazuli | <璫> ryū | | light blue |
| large | 大 dai | | great, big |
| law | 法 hō | | dharma |
| leaf | <葉> yō | | petal |
| leap | 跳 chō | | jump |
| learn | 習 shū | | study |
| let go | 放 hō | | set free, release |
| let live | 活 katsu | | active, lively |
| letter | 文 bun, mon | | literature |
| level | 格 kaku | | status, framework |
| level | 均 kin | | equal |
| life | (生) shō | | create, birth |
| life | 命 mei | | order (verb), destiny |
| life span | 壽 寿 ju | | long life |

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------|--|-------------------------------|
| lift | 揚 yō | | exalted |
| light | (光) kō | | honor |
| light | <燈> tō | | lamp |
| lightening | <雷> rai | | thunder |
| limit | 限 gen | | end, restriction |
| limpid | 澄 chō | | evident, clear, lucid |
| listen | 聞 mon | | hear |
| literature | 文 bun, mon | | letter |
| live | 住 jū | | abide, dwell |
| lively | 活 katsu | | let live, active |
| lofty | 崇 sū | | worship, noble |
| long life | 壽 寿 ju | | life span |
| look | 觀 kan | | observe, insight |
| love | 慈 ji | | compassion |
| love | 情 jō | | mercy, sympathy |
| love | 仁 jin | | compassion, benevolent |
| loyal | 義 gi | | faith, chivalrous, justice |
| loyal | 忠 chū | | chivalrous, loyalty |
| loyalty | 忠 chū | | chivalrous, loyal |
| lucid | 彰 shō | | clear, manifest |
| lucid | 澄 chō | | evident, clear, limpid |
| lucky | 吉 kichi | | auspicious |
| luminous | 昭 shō | | bright |
| luminous | (明) myō, mei | | bright, clear |
| magnificent | (華) ka | | flower, blossom |
| maintain | 守 shu | | protect |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|---------|--|
| majestic | 威 | i | solemn, dignified, awesome |
| male | 雄 | yū | heroic, brave |
| manifest | 現 | gen | reveal, rise, appear, present moment, be present |
| manifest | 彰 | shō | clear, lucid |
| manifest | 成 | sei, jō | become, succeed, accomplish, accomplish- ment |
| manifest | 顯 | ken | reveal |
| manners | <風> | fū | style, breeze, wind, elegance |
| many | 參 參 | san | study, meet, three, practice |
| marrow | 髓 | zui | essential |
| marsh | (澤) | taku | |
| mastery | 達 | tatsu | penetrate, achieve, attain |
| mature | 熟 | juku | ripe |
| meaning | 意 | i | intention |
| mechanism | (機) | ki | capacity, person, function |
| medical | 醫 医 | i | cure, heal |
| meet | 會 会 | e | assembly, merge, encounter, understanding, ceremony |

| | | | |
|---------------------|-----|-------|---|
| meet | 參 参 | san | study, practice, three, many |
| melody | 曲 | kyoku | bend |
| melt | 融 | yū | fuse, dissolve |
| mercy | 情 | jō | love, sympathy |
| merge | 會 会 | e | assembly, meet, understanding, encounter, ceremony |
| merge | 合 | gō | combine, unity |
| merit | 功 | kō | result, virtue |
| merit | 利 | ri | advantage, benefit |
| meritorious | 勲 | kun | meritorious service |
| meritorious service | 勲 | kun | meritorious |
| metal | <金> | kin | gold |
| method | (道) | dō | way, truth, path |
| method | 方 | hō | direction |
| meticulous | 精 | sei | spirit, effort, fine, refined |
| middle | 中 | chū | hit the mark, center, middle |
| mild | 穩 | on | gentle, peaceful, calm |
| mind | 心 | shin | heart |
| mind | 神 | shin | spirit, divinity, god |
| mindfulness | 念 | nen | |
| mirror | 鑑 | kan | model |
| mirror | <鏡> | kyō | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|--------------|--------------------------------|
| mist | <霞> | ka | haze |
| model | 鑑 | kan | mirror |
| model | 範 | han | example |
| modesty | 謙 | ken | humble |
| moist | 潤 | jun | moisten |
| moisten | 潤 | jun | moist |
| momentum | 勢 | sei | energy, force |
| monastery | <林> | rin | forest |
| monk | <僧> | sō | sangha |
| month | <月> | getsu, gatsu | moon |
| monument | <碑> | hi | |
| moon | <月> | getsu, gatsu | month |
| moral integrity | <節> | setsu | |
| motion | 動 | dō | move (verb) |
| mountain | <山> | san, zan | |
| mountain (steep) | <嶽> | gaku | peak |
| move (verb) | 動 | dō | motion |
| myriad | 萬 万 | man, ban | all, ten thousand, numerous |
| native place | <郷> | kyō | home town |
| natural | 自 | ji | self |
| nature (person's) | 性 | shō | |
| neighborhood | 邊 辺 | hen | boundary, border |
| net | <綱> | kō | essential point |
| net | <網> | mō | web, network |
| network | (網) | mō | web, net |
| new | 新 | shin | |
| nimble | 敏 | bin | fast, swift |
| nirvana | 寂 | jaku | silent, serenity |
| no other than | 即 | soku | immediate, as it is |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------|--------------------------------|
| noble | 貴 | ki | respect, venerate, precious |
| noble | 崇 | sū | lofty, worship |
| nook | 隅 | gū | corner |
| north | 北 | hoku | |
| nothingness | 無 | mu | beyond |
| nourish | 養 | yō | cultivate, foster |
| numerous | 萬 万 | man, ban | all, myriad, ten thousand |
| oath | 誓 | sei | vow |
| obey | 循 | jun | follow, observe, resolve |
| objective | 境 | kyō | boundary, realm |
| observe | 循 | jun | follow, obey, resolve |
| observe | 觀 觀 | kan | look, insight |
| ocean | <海> | kai | sea |
| old | 古 | ko | ancient, authentic |
| one | 一 | ichi | first |
| one | 隻 | seki | |
| only | 唯 | yui | |
| open | 開 | kai | (verb, adjective) |
| open | 啓 | kei | unfold |
| open up | 展 | ten | unfold, display |
| orchid | <蘭> | ran | |
| order (noun) | 理 | ri | principle, truth, reason |
| order (verb) | 命 | mei | life, destiny |
| origin | 元 | gen | source |
| origin | 原 | gen | plain (noun), |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------|
| original | 創 | sō | field |
| original | 本 | hon | begin, initiate |
| | | | basis, base, real, |
| | | | root |
| originate | 肇 | chō | begin |
| outer limit | (涯) | gai | shore |
| outside | 表 | hyō | express |
| outstanding | 英 | ei | excellent |
| outstanding | 傑 | ketsu | excellent |
| outstanding | 卓 | taku | prominent |
| overcome | 克 | koku | conquer |
| pacify | 靖 | sei | |
| palace | <殿> | den | |
| palm | <掌> | shō | |
| parent | 親 | shin | close, intimate |
| park | <園> | en | garden (large) |
| pass (verb) | 可 | ka | good, approve, agree |
| passage (passing) | 經 經 | kyō | sutra |
| pasture | (牧) | boku | |
| path | (道) | dō | method, truth, way |
| patience | 堪 | kan | endurance |
| patience | 忍 | nin | endure |
| peace | 和 | wa | peaceful, harmonious |
| peaceful | 安 | an | bliss, ease |
| peaceful | 穩 | on | gentle, calm, mild |
| peaceful | 康 | kō | calm |
| peaceful | 妥 | da | settle, calm |

| | | | |
|------------|-----|---------|-------------------------------------|
| peaceful | 泰 | tai | tranquil |
| peaceful | 寧 | nei | courteous |
| peaceful | 平 | hei | calm, balanced, even |
| | | | harmonious, |
| peaceful | 和 | wa | peace |
| | | | quiet |
| peaceful | 靜 静 | sei, jō | |
| peach | <桃> | tō | |
| peak | 頂 | chō | top |
| peak | <峰> | hō | |
| peak | <嶽> | gaku | mountain (steep) |
| pearl | <珠> | ju | gem |
| penetrate | 達 | tatsu | attain, achieve, mastery |
| | | | communicate, go through |
| penetrate | 通 | tsū | go through, complete (verb) |
| | | | transparent, clear |
| penetrate | 透 | tō | hit the mark |
| penetrate | 當 当 | tō | surmise |
| perceive | 察 | satsu | intuition |
| perception | 勘 | kan | complete, entire |
| perfect | 完 | kan | always, regular |
| permanent | 常 | jō | knead, take up |
| persevere | 粘 | nen | capacity, function, mechanism |
| person | (機) | ki | |
| | | | human |
| person | <人> | nin | leaf |
| petal | <葉> | yō | phantom, |
| phantasm | 幻 | gen | |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-------|---------------------------------|
| phantom | 幻 | gen | bewitch phantasm, bewitch |
| phase | 際 | sai | verge, border |
| phase | 相 | sō | form, appearance |
| pick | 摘 | teki | reveal, point out, pluck |
| pile up | 重 | jū | heavy, weight |
| pipe | (管) | kan | wind instrument |
| pivot | 樞 枢 | sū | central |
| pivot | 要 | yō | key, important, essential |
| place | 位 | i | rank, position |
| place | <地> | chi | earth |
| plain | <面> | men | surface, face |
| plain (adjective) | 素 | so | element, simple |
| plain (noun) | 原 | gen | origin, field |
| plant (verb) | 植 | shoku | |
| platform | <壇> | dan | altar |
| pleasant | 快 | kai | recover |
| pluck | 摘 | teki | reveal, point out, pick |
| plum | <梅> | bai | |
| point out | 摘 | teki | reveal, pluck, pick |
| point to | <指> | shi | finger |
| polish | 琢 | taku | refine |
| polish | 磨 | ma | refine |
| polite | 懇 | kon | earnest, familiar |
| pond | <池> | chi | |
| position | 位 | i | place, rank |

| | | | |
|----------------|-----|----------|--|
| possess | (具) | gu | embody, tool |
| power | 力 | riki | force |
| practical art | 術 | jutsu | technique |
| practice | 行 | gyō | action, go, walk |
| practice | 修 | shu, shū | cultivate |
| practice | 踐 | sen | implement, carry out |
| practice | 練 | ren | cultivate, tamper, train (verb) |
| practice | 參 参 | san | study, meet, three, many |
| prajna | 慧 | e | wisdom |
| preach | 唱 | shō | sing, speak, advocate |
| preach | 說 | setsu | speak, explain |
| precious | 貴 | ki | respect, venerate, noble |
| present moment | 現 | gen | reveal, rise, manifest, appear, be present |
| present (be) | 居 | kyo | abode, abide, dwell |
| present (be) | 現 | gen | reveal, rise, manifest, present moment, appear |
| present (be) | 臨 | rin | be close to, immediate |
| primary | (幹) | kan | trunk |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|---------|--|
| principle | 理 | ri | order, truth, reason |
| produce | 産 | san | give birth |
| profound | 玄 | gen | dark, black, subtle |
| profound | 深 | shin | deep |
| prominent | 卓 | taku | outstanding |
| propel | 推 | sui | |
| propitious omen | 禎 | tei | |
| prosper | 榮 | ei | glory |
| protect | 守 | shu | maintain |
| prudent | 慎 | shin | careful |
| pure | 純 | jun | straightforward |
| pure | 清 | sei | clean, clear |
| pure | 淨 | jō | clean |
| pure-hearted | 淳 | jun | simple |
| purple | 紫 | shi | |
| quality | 質 | shitsu | simple |
| quiet | 靜 | sei, jō | peaceful |
| raise | 起 | ki | stand, rise, generate |
| raise | 興 | kō | rise |
| rank | 位 | i | place, position |
| reach | 至 | shi | ultimate, arrive at, utmost, best |
| real | 本 | hon | basis, base, original, root |
| real | (實) | jitsu | fruit, substance, effect, faithfulness |
| real | 眞 真 | shin | right, exact, true, |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|------|---|
| realize | 省 | shō | sincere reflect, simple, understand |
| realize | 證 証 | shō | witness, certify |
| realm | (界) | kai | world |
| realm | (境) | kyō | objective, boundary |
| reason | 由 | yū | cause |
| reason | 理 | ri | order, truth, principle |
| receive | 受 | ju | |
| receive | 承 | shō | accept, agree, approve |
| recognize | 認 | nin | approve |
| recollect | 憶 | oku | |
| recover | 快 | kai | pleasant |
| rectify | 匡 | kyō | correct (verb) |
| refine | 琢 | taku | polish |
| refine | 磨 | ma | polish |
| refined | 粹 | sui | essence, clean |
| refined | 精 | sei | spirit, effort, meticulous, fine |
| refined | 幽 | yū | dark, subtle |
| reflect | (省) | shō | realize, simple, understand |
| region | (州) | shū | land, sandbar |
| regular | 常 | jō | always, permanent |
| regulate | 治 | ji | cure, govern, heal |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|------|--|
| relationship | 緣 | en | condition, cause, causation, interconnec- tion |
| relationship | 倫 | rin | ethics |
| relaxed | 悠 | yū | vast, distant |
| release | 放 | hō | set free, let go |
| renew | 更 | kō | change, further |
| reputation | (聲) | shō | sound, voice |
| resolute | 毅 | ki | firm |
| resolve | 循 | jun | follow, observe, obey |
| respect | 貴 | ki | precious, venerate, noble |
| respectful | 謹 | kin | careful |
| respectful | 讓 讓 | jō | compromise, generous |
| respond | 應 応 | ō | answer, suit (verb) |
| rest (verb) | 休 | kyū | stop |
| rest (verb) | 息 | soku | breath |
| restriction | 限 | gen | end, limit |
| result | 功 | kō | merit, virtue |
| return | 歸 帰 | ki | take homage |
| reveal | 現 | gen | appear, rise, manifest, present moment, be present |
| reveal | 摘 | teki | pluck, point out, pick |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|------|--|
| reveal | 露 | ro | dewdrop |
| reveal | 顯 顕 | ken | manifest |
| right | 正 | shō | correct (adjective), authentic, true |
| right | 眞 真 | shin | true, exact, real, sincere |
| ring | <環> | kan | circle |
| ring | 輪 | rin | circle, wheel |
| ripe | 熟 | juku | mature |
| rise | 起 | ki | stand, raise, generate |
| rise | 興 | kō | raise |
| rise | 現 | gen | reveal, appear, manifest, present moment, be present |
| rise | 上 | jō | ascend, up, supreme, high |
| ritual | 齋 齋 | sai | ceremony |
| river | <川> | sen | |
| river (large) | <河> | ka | |
| rock | <石> | seki | stone |
| root | <根> | kon | |
| root | 本 | hon | basis, base, original, real |
| rough | 荒 | kō | wild |
| round | 滿 | man | complete, full |
| round | 圓 円 | en | circle, complete (adjective) |

| | | | |
|------------------|-----|---------|--------------------------|
| rule (noun) | 則 | soku | |
| sacred | 聖 | sei | sage |
| sagacious | 哲 | tetsu | wise |
| sage | 聖 | sei | sacred |
| sake of, for the | 爲 為 | i | benefit, action |
| salvation | 濟 濟 | sai | save |
| samadhi | 定 | jō | stable, concentration |
| sandbar | (州) | shū | region, land |
| sangha | (僧) | sō | monk |
| save | 度 | do | awaken, bring across |
| save | 濟 濟 | sai | salvation |
| school (sect) | 宗 | sō, shū | ancestor, source |
| sea | <海> | kai | ocean |
| seal | 印 | in | India |
| season | 時 | ji | time |
| seat | (座) | za | |
| secret | 秘 | hi | |
| seed | <種> | shu | |
| select | 擇 択 | taku | choose |
| self | 吾 | go | |
| self | 自 | ji | natural |
| serenity | 寂 | jaku | silent, nirvana |
| serve | 仕 | shi | |
| set free | 放 | hō | let go, release |
| set up | 設 | setsu | build |
| settle | 妥 | da | peaceful, calm |
| shadow | <影> | ei | image |
| Shakya(muni) | 釋 釈 | shaku | interpret, explain |
| shape | 形 | kei | figure, |

| | | | |
|-----------|-----|--------|---|
| | | | appearance |
| sharp | 銳 | ei | |
| shine | 輝 | ki | splendid, bright |
| shine | 照 | shō | illuminate |
| shore | (涯) | gai | outer limit |
| silent | 寂 | jaku | serenity, nirvana |
| simple | 質 | shitsu | quality |
| simple | 淳 | jun | pure-hearted |
| simple | 省 | shō | reflect, realize, understand |
| simple | 素 | so | plain (adjective), element |
| simple | 朴 | boku | unadorned |
| sincere | 誠 | sei | sincerity |
| sincere | 眞 真 | shin | right, exact, real, true |
| sincerity | 誠 | sei | sincere |
| sing | 唱 | shō | speak, preach, advocate |
| sit | (坐) | za | |
| skill | 技 | gi | technique |
| skill | 藝 芸 | gei | art |
| sky | 空 | kū | emptiness, air, formlessness, empty |
| soft | 柔 | jū | flexible, tender, kindly |
| solemn | 威 | i | majestic, awesome, dignified |
| solemn | 肅 | shuku | |

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----|---|--------------|---|
| solemn | 嚴 | 嚴 | gen | |
| solitary | 孤 | | ko | alone |
| song | 歌 | | ka | |
| sorcerer | 仙 | | sen | hermit |
| soul | 魂 | | kon | spirit, determination |
| sound | 聲 | 声 | shō | voice, reputation |
| source | 元 | | gen | origin |
| source | 源 | | gen | fountain |
| source | 宗 | | sō, shū | school, ancestor |
| south | 南 | | nan | |
| speak | 唱 | | shō | sing, preach, advocate |
| speak | 說 | | setsu | preach, explain |
| sphere | 圈 | | ken | circle, area |
| spirit | 魂 | | kon | soul, determination |
| spirit | 神 | | shin | mind, divinity, god |
| spirit | 精 | | sei | fine, effort, meticulous, refined |
| spirit | 氣 | 气 | ki | energy, breath |
| spirit | 靈 | 靈 | rei | spiritual |
| spiritual | 靈 | 靈 | rei | spirit |
| splendid | 輝 | | ki | bright, shine |
| spread | 廣 | 広 | kō | expand, broad |
| spring | <泉> | | sen | fountain |
| sprout | <芽> | | ga | bud |
| sprout (verb) | 發 | 発 | hotsu, hatsu | arouse, start |
| stable | 恒 | | kō | constant |

| | | | | |
|---------------------|-----|---|--------------|---------------------------------------|
| stable | 定 | | jō | samadhi, concentration |
| stand | 起 | | ki | rise, raise, generate |
| stand | 立 | | ritsu | establish |
| stand (noun) | <臺> | | dai | base |
| start | 發 | 発 | hotsu, hatsu | sprout (verb), arouse |
| state | 邦 | | hō | country |
| status | 格 | | kaku | level, framework |
| stillness | 止 | | shi | cease, stop |
| stomach | <腹> | | fuku | hara |
| stone | <石> | | seki | rock |
| stop | 休 | | kyū | rest (verb) |
| stop | 止 | | shi | cease, stillness |
| store (verb) | (藏) | | zō | hide, conceal, treasury |
| straight | 直 | | jiki | immediate, direct |
| straightforward | 純 | | jun | pure |
| straightforward | 端 | | tan | end, edge |
| stream | (流) | | ryū | flow, current |
| stretch | 伸 | | shin | extend |
| string (instrument) | <弦> | | gen | |
| study | 習 | | shū | learn |
| study | 參 | 参 | san | practice, meet, three, many |
| study | 學 | 学 | gaku | |
| study thoroughly | 究 | | kyū | investigate |
| style | (風) | | fū | wind, breeze, manners, elegance |

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----|---------|---|
| substance | (實) | jitsu | real, fruit, effect, faithfulness |
| substance | (體) | tai | body |
| subtle | 玄 | gen | dark, profound, black |
| subtle | 妙 | myō | inconceivable, wondrous |
| subtle | 幽 | yū | refined, dark |
| succeed | 成 | sei, jō | become, accomplish, manifest, become, accomplish- ment |
| suchness | 如 | nyo | thusness |
| suit (verb) | 應 応 | ō | answer, respond |
| sumi ink | 墨 | boku | ink |
| summon | 召 | shō | |
| sun | <日> | jitsu | day |
| superb | 名 | mei | excellent, famous |
| superior | 豪 | gō | unrestrained, brave, bold |
| superior character | 偉 | i | great |
| supreme | 上 | jō | rise, up, ascend, high |
| surface | <面> | men | face, plain (noun) |
| surmise | 察 | satsu | perceive |
| surpass | 超 | chō | |
| sutra | 經 経 | kyō | passage (passing) |
| swift | 敏 | bin | fast, nimble |
| sword | <劍> | ken | |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------|--|
| symbol | (象) | shō | figure, form |
| sympathy | 情 | jō | mercy, love |
| take homage | 歸 帰 | ki | return |
| take up | 粘 | nen | persevere, knead |
| talent | (腕) | wan | arm, ability |
| tamper | 鍛 | tan | cultivate |
| tamper | 練 | ren | cultivate, train (verb), practice |
| target | 的 | teki | goal, apparent |
| taste | 味 | mi | |
| technique | 技 | gi | skill |
| technique | 術 | jutsu | practical art |
| ten thousand | 萬 万 | man, ban | all, myriad, numerous |
| tender | 柔 | jū | flexible, soft, kindly |
| text | (典) | ten | book (standard), ceremony (formal) |
| thing | 事 | ji | |
| think | 存 | son | exist, existence |
| thought | 想 | sō | conception |
| thousand | 千 | sen | |
| three | 參 参 | san | study, meet, practice, many |
| thrive | 繁 | han | flourish |
| thunder | <雷> | rai | lightening |
| thusness | 如 | nyo | suchness |
| tie | 結 | ketsu | combine, complete (verb), |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|--------|---------------------|
| till (verb) | 耕 | kō | conclude |
| time | 時 | jī | farm (verb) |
| tolerate | 容 | yō | season |
| tool | 具 | gu | contain, accept |
| top | (頂) | chō | possess, embody |
| total | 盡 尽 | jīn | peak |
| | | | exhaust, entire, |
| | | | finish |
| total | 總 総 | sō | all, entire, |
| | | | integrate |
| touch | 攝 授 | sestsū | cultivate, guide |
| tough | 剛 | gō | firm |
| train (verb) | 練 | ren | cultivate, tamper, |
| | | | practice |
| tranquil | 泰 | tai | peaceful |
| transform | 化 | ke | guide |
| transparent | 透 | tō | penetrate, clear |
| treasure | <寶> | hō | |
| treasury | (藏) | zō | hide, conceal, |
| | | | store (verb) |
| tree | <木> | moku | wood |
| true | 正 | shō | right, correct |
| | | | (adjective), |
| | | | authentic |
| true | 眞 真 | shin | right, exact, real, |
| | | | sincere |
| trunk | <幹> | kan | primary |
| trust | 信 | shin | fidelity, faith |
| truth | (道) | dō | method, way, |
| | | | path |
| truth | 理 | ri | order, principle, |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|-------|--------------------|
| tuft | 房 | bō | reason |
| turn around | 回 | kai | chamber |
| ultimate | 至 | shi | reach, arrive at, |
| | | | utmost, best |
| unadorned | 朴 | boku | simple |
| understand | 省 | shō | reflect, simple, |
| | | | realize |
| understand | 了 | ryō | complete (verb), |
| | | | final |
| understand | 辦 弁 | ben | explain, elucidate |
| understanding | 會 会 | e | assembly, meet, |
| | | | merge, |
| | | | ceremony, |
| | | | encounter |
| unfold | 啓 | kei | open |
| unfold | 展 | ten | open up, display |
| unite | 統 | tō | combine |
| unity | 合 | gō | combine, merge |
| universal | 普 | fu | general, common |
| universal | 遍 | hen | all over, wide |
| universe | 宇 | u | building (large) |
| unrestrained | 剛 | gō | bold |
| unrestrained | 豪 | gō | bold, brave, |
| | | | superior |
| unskilled | 拙 | setsu | humble |
| up | 上 | jō | rise, ascend, |
| | | | supreme, high |
| urgent | 切 | setsu | cut, intimate |
| utmost | 至 | shi | reach, arrive at, |
| | | | ultimate, best |

| | | | |
|---------------|-----|------|---------------------------------------|
| valley | 潤 | kan | valley stream |
| valley stream | 潤 | kan | valley |
| vast | 浩 | kō | broad, great |
| vast | 悠 | yū | relaxed, distant |
| vehicle | 乘 乘 | jō | |
| venerate | 貴 | ki | respect, precious, noble |
| venerate | 拜 | hai | bow |
| verge | 際 | sai | phase, border |
| vessel | <器> | ki | capacity, container, instrument |
| victory | 勝 | shō | win, excel, excellent |
| virtue | 功 | kō | result, merit |
| virtue | 德 | toku | |
| vision | 夢 | mu | dream |
| vital | 壯 | sō | heroic, brave |
| vital point | 樞 枢 | sū | |
| voice | <聲> | shō | sound, reputation |
| void | 虚 | kyo | empty, humble |
| vow | 誓 | sei | oath |
| walk | 行 | gyō | action, go, practice |
| walk | 步 | ho | |
| wall | <壁> | heki | |
| wander | 漂 | hyō | float, drift |
| water | <水> | sui | |
| wave | <波> | ha | |
| way | <道> | dō | method, truth, |

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----|----------|--|
| web | <網> | mō | path |
| weight | 重 | jū | net, network |
| welcome | 迎 | gei | pile up, heavy |
| west | 西 | sei, sai | invite |
| wheel | <輪> | rin | circle, ring |
| white | 白 | haku | empty |
| whole | 全 | zen | all, entire |
| wholesome | 善 | zen | good |
| wide | 遍 | hen | all over, universal |
| wield | 揮 | ki | express |
| wild | 荒 | kō | rough |
| willow | <柳> | ryū | |
| win | 勝 | shō | victory, excel, excellent |
| wind | <風> | fū | style, breeze, manners, elegance |
| wind instrument | <管> | kan | pipe |
| winter | 冬 | tō | |
| wisdom | 惠 | e | charity, favor, give |
| wisdom | 慧 | e | prajna |
| wisdom | 知 | chi | know, knowledge |
| wise | 哲 | tetsu | sagacious |
| wisteria | <藤> | tō | |
| withstand | 耐 | tai | endure |
| witness (verb) | 證 証 | shō | realize, certify |
| wondrous | 妙 | myō | inconceivable, subtle |
| wood | <木> | moku | tree |

| | | | |
|--------------|-----|----------|----------------------------|
| wood (thick) | <森> | shin | forest (large) |
| work (verb) | 勤 | kin | diligent |
| world | 界 | kai | realm |
| world | 世 | se | generation |
| worship | 崇 | sū | lofty, noble |
| year | 歲 才 | sai | age |
| year | 年 | nen | |
| year | 齡 令 | rei | |
| yearn for | 慕 | bo | |
| yes | 是 | ze | as it is, correct |
| yes | 然 | nen, zen | as it is |
| yes | 諾 | daku | agree, approve, consent |
| Zen | 禪 禪 | zen | |
| zero | 零 | rei | |

Ancestors' Names (Soto Lineage)

| | | |
|------|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| 菩提達磨 | Bodai Daruma | Bodhidharma (transliteration) |
| 大祖慧可 | Taisō Eka | Great Ancestor Prajna Favorable |
| 鑑智僧燦 | Kanchi Sōsan | Mirror Wisdom Sangha Luminous |
| 大医道信 | Daii Dōshin | Great Physician Way Trust |
| 大満弘忍 | Daiman Kōnin | Great Fullness Broad Patience |
| 大鑑慧能 | Daikan Enō | Great Mirror Prajna Ability |
| 青原行思 | Seigen Gyōshi | Green Field Practice Thought |
| 石頭希遷 | Sekitō Kisen | Rock Head Rare Shift |
| 薬山惟儼 | Yakusan Igen | Medicine Mountain Thought Solemn |
| 雲巖曇晟 | Ungan Donjō | Cloud Crag Cloudy Brightness |
| 洞山良价 | Tōzan Ryōkai | Cave Mountain Good Assistance |
| 雲居道庸 | Ungo Dōyō | Cloud Abiding Way Ordinary |

| | | |
|------------------|------------------|---|
| 同安道丕 | Dōan Dōhi | Same Ease Way Enormous |
| 同安觀志 | Dōan Kanshi | Same Ease Observe Aspiration |
| 梁山緣觀 | Ryōzan Enkan | Beam Mountain Causation Observe |
| 大陽警玄 | Taiyō Kyōgen | Great Sun Caution Profound |
| 投子義青 | Tōsu Gisei | Throw Person Justice Green |
| 芙蓉道楷 | Fuyō Dōkai | Peony (compound) Way Formality |
| 丹霞子淳 | Tanka Shijun | Red Mist Person Pure-heart |
| 真歇清了 | Shinketsu Seiryō | True Rest Pure Complete |
| 天童宗 _玉 | Tendō Sōkaku | Heaven Child Source Gem |
| 雪竇智鑑 | Setchō Chikan | Snow Drain Wisdom Mirror |
| 天童如淨 | Tendō Nyōjō | Heaven Child Thusness Pure |
| 永平道元 | Eihei Dōgen | Eternal Peace Way Source |
| 孤雲懷奘 | Koun Ejō | Solitary Cloud Longing Greatness |
| 徹通義介 | Tettsū Gikai | Thorough Penetration Morality Assist |
| 瑩山紹瑾 | Keizan Jōkin | Lustrous Mountain Gather Brilliance |

Examples of names given in Japan

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 積善淨香 | Sekizen Jōkō | Accumulate Good Pure Fragrance |
| 祖田俊苗 | Soden Shummyō | Ancestor Field Excellent Seedling |
| 祖寅元澤 | Soen Gentaku | Ancestor Source Respect Abundance |
| 祥山慶道 | Shōzan Keidō | Auspicious Mountain Joyful Way |
| 覺應靈心 | Kakuō Reishin | Awakening Response Spirit Heart |
| 覺音禪悅 | Kakuon Zen'etsu | Awakening Sound Zen Joy |
| 竹印福庵 | Chikuin Fukuan | Bamboo Seal Happiness Hermitage |
| 竹道玄機 | Chikudō Genki | Bamboo Way Subtle Function |
| 青廣珪藥 | Seikō Keiyaku | Blue Broad Jewel Medicine |
| 青山白乘 | Seizan Hakujiō | Blue Mountain White Vehicle |
| 瑩紹南山 | Keijō Nanzan | Bright-gem Join South Mountain |
| 洪海道音 | Kōkai Dō'on | Broad Ocean Way Voice |

| | | |
|------|----------------|--|
| 佛眼興獎 | Butsugen Kōshō | Buddha Eye Raise Encouragement |
| 佛海道印 | Bukkai Dōin | Buddha Ocean Way Seal |
| 子覺道楷 | Shikaku Dōkai | Child Enlightenment Way Steps |
| 圓興臨沼 | Enkō Rinshō | Circle Raise Presence Lake |
| 清幹妙空 | Seikan Myōkū | Clear Trunk Wondrous Sky |
| 雲海大超 | Unkai Daichō | Cloud Ocean Great Beyond |
| 慈海妙音 | Jikai Myō'on | Compassion Ocean Subtle Voice |
| 連岱眞乘 | Rentai Shinjō | Continuous Peak True Vehicle |
| 龍心禪道 | Ryūshin Zendō | Dragon Heart Zen Way |
| 悟庵即中 | Goan Sokuchū | Enlightenment Hut Immediate Center |
| 英岫寬成 | Eichū Kanjō | Excellent Peak Broad Accomplishment |
| 秀德玄門 | Shūtoku Gemmon | Excellent Virtue Subtle Gate |
| 香雲正淳 | Kōun Shōjun | Fragrant Cloud Truth Pure- hearted |
| 機山禪雄 | Kizan Zen'yū | Function Mountain Zen Hero |
| 巨海悠道 | Kyokai Yūdō | Giant Ocean Gentle Way |

| | | |
|------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 大法照元 | Daihō Shōgen | Great Dharma Illuminate Source |
| 大安淨信 | Daian Jyōshin | Great Ease Pure Trust |
| 大洞光然 | Daitō Kōnen | Great Grotto Illumination Blaze |
| 大器祥寬 | Daiki Shōkan | Great Vessel Auspicious Broad |
| 大鑑智照 | Daikan Chishō | Great Mirror Wisdom Shine |
| 大寬弘元 | Taikan Kōgen | Great Relaxation Broad Source |
| 大應石心 | Daiō Sekishin | Great Response Stone Heart |
| 大道良觀 | Daidō Ryōkan | Great Way Good Insight |
| 洞水隨流 | Tōsui Zuiryū | Soto Water Follow Stream |
| 心光清圓 | Shinkō Seien | Heart Illumination Pure Circle |
| 天龍正淳 | Tenryū Shōjun | Heaven Dragon Correct Pure-heart |
| 光雲翻龍 | Kōun Hanryū | Illumination Cloud Flapping Dragon |
| 硯海萬濤 | Kenkai Bantō | Inkstone Ocean Myriad Billows |
| 玉潤廣心 | Gyokujun Kōshin | Jewel Benefit Broad Heart |
| 玉室惠明 | Gyokushitsu Emyō | Jewel Chamber Gift Clear |

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 玉芳道淳 | Gyokuhō Dōjun | Jewel Fragrance Way Pure- hearted |
| 玉山岫倫 | Gyokuzan Chūrin | Jewel Mountain Peak Ethics |
| 蓮窓淨薰 | Rensō Jyōkun | Lotus Window Pure Fragrance |
| 仁山道信 | Ninzan Dōshin | Love Mountain Way Trust |
| 藥聞同源 | Yakumon Dōgen | Medicine Listen Same Source |
| 朝庵徹元 | Chōan Tetsugen | Morning Hermitage Penetrate Source |
| 巢雲妙鶴 | Sōun Myōkaku | Nest Cloud Wondrous Crane |
| 一山大寧 | Issan Dainei | One Mountain Great Peace |
| 一溪覺音 | Ikkei Kakuon | One Valley Awakening Sound |
| 源真恕太 | Genshin Jotai | Origin Truth Forgiveness Greatness |
| 泰山玄道 | Taizan Gendō | Peaceful Mountain Subtle Way |
| 泰道明心 | Taidō Myōshin | Peaceful Way Clear Heart |
| 桃園淳芳 | Tōen Junhō | Peach Garden Pure-hearted Fragrance |

| | | |
|------|-----------------|--|
| 祥學古道 | Shōgaku Kodō | Auspicious Study Ancient Way |
| 守得明峰 | Shutoku Myōhō | Preserve Virtue Bright Peak |
| 紫月濟玄 | Shigetsu Saigen | Purple Moon Save Mysterious |
| 義鑑祖達 | Gikan Sotatsu | Righteous Mirror Ancestor Reach |
| 本覺永照 | Hongaku Eishō | Root Awakening Eternal Illumination |
| 聖潤祖溫 | Shōjun So'on | Sacred Benefit Ancestor Warmth |
| 見得自圓 | Kentoku Jien | See Attain Self Circle |
| 寂然自性 | Jyakunen Jishō | Serene As-it-is Self Nature |
| 濟獎素鑑 | Saishō Sokan | Settle Encouragement Element Mirror |
| 照應皎月 | Shō'ō Kōgetsu | Shine Response Glowing Moon |
| 照玄悠道 | Shōgen Yūdō | Shine Subtlety Gentle Way |
| 素學了湛 | Sogaku Ryōtan | Simple Study Complete Overflowing |
| 素道徹玄 | Sodō Tetsugen | Simple Way Penetrate Subtlety |
| 宗价雲居 | Sōkai Ungo | Source Great Cloud Abode |

| | | |
|------|------------------|---|
| 嵐翠靜湖 | Ransui Jōko | Storm Gem Quiet Lake |
| 昭順元耕 | Shōjun Genkō | Sunlight Follow Origin Plow |
| 千江妙月 | Senkō Myōgetsu | Thousand Rivers Wondrous Moon |
| 眞仲風穴 | Shinchū Fūketsu | Truth Relation Wind Grotto |
| 開禪琢道 | Kaizen Takudō | Unfold Zen Polish Way |
| 德室貞光 | Tokushitsu Teikō | Virtue Chamber Faithful Illumination |
| 誓海帆心 | Seikai Hanshin | Vow Ocean Sail Heart |
| 道雲青以 | Dōun Seii | Way Cloud Blue Use |
| 道心砥山 | Dōshin Teizan | Way Heart Polish Mountain |
| 道溫英耕 | Dō'on Eikō | Way Warmth Excellent Plowing |
| 妙鑑瑞祥 | Myōkan Zuishō | Wondrous Mirror Auspicious Detail |
| 禪林祖棟 | Zenrin Sotō | Zen Forest Ancestor Beam |
| 禪光妙瑞 | Zenkō Myōzui | Zen Illumination Wondrous Auspicious |
| 禪山悅道 | Zenzan Etsudō | Zen Mountain Joyful Way |
| 禪岩靈苗 | Zengan Reimyō | Zen Rock Spirit Sapling |

Examples of names given in the United States

| | | |
|------|----------------|--|
| 祥雲明全 | Shōun Myōzen | Auspicious Cloud Illumination Total |
| 祥龍默印 | Shōryū Mokuin | Auspicious Dragon Silent Seal |
| 應心大器 | ōshin Daiki | Broad Heart Great Vessel |
| 寬心全機 | Kanshin Zenki | Broad Heart Total Function |
| 廣川深門 | Kōsen Shimmom | Broad River Deep Gate |
| 圓月大恬 | Engetsu Daiten | Circle Moon Great Liveliness |
| 清林道溫 | Seirin Dō'on | Clear Forest Way Warmth |
| 雲門光仁 | Ummon Kōnin | Cloud Gate Illumination Love |
| 慈竜普願 | Jiryū Fugan | Compassion Dragon Universal Vow |
| 慈源宏心 | Jigen Kōshin | Compassion Source Broad Heart |
| 常步諦觀 | Jōho Taikan | Constant Walk Truth Insight |
| 法雲清道 | Hōun Seidō | Dharma Cloud Clear Way |
| 法眼眞友 | Hōgen Shin'yū | Dharma Eye Truth Companion |

| | | |
|------|----------------|---|
| 象穴臨照 | Zōketsu Rinshō | Elephant Grove Presence Illumination |
| 英心圓悟 | Eishin Engo | Excellent Heart Circle Enlightenment |
| 泉山禪道 | Senzan Zendō | Fountain Mountain Zen Way |
| 穩龍慧海 | Onryū Ekai | Gentle Dragon Wisdom Ocean |
| 大志弘圓 | Daishi Kōen | Great Inspiration Broad Circle |
| 大醫楚圓 | Daii Soen | Great Physician Outstanding Circle |
| 太源砥山 | Taigen Teizan | Great Source Sharpen Mountain |
| 大器宗心 | Daiki Sōshin | Great Vessel Essence Heart |
| 大願達道 | Daigan Tatsudō | Great Vow Reach Way |
| 大士了湛 | Daishi Ryōtan | Great Warrior Complete Filling |
| 天真全機 | Tenshin Zenki | Heaven Truth Entire Function |
| 光山佛心 | Kōzan Busshin | Illumination Mountain Buddha Heart |
| 光山大志 | Kōzan Daishi | Illumination Mountain |

| | | |
|------|------------------|------------------------------------|
| | | Great Aspiration |
| 光海大仁 | Kōkai Dainin | Illumination Ocean Great Love |
| 獅心大寧 | Shishin Dainei | Lion Heart Great Peace |
| 聞心梅山 | Monshin Baizan | Listen Heart Plum Mountain |
| 仰山順風 | Gyōzan Jumpū | Looking-up Mountain Follow Wind |
| 藥心清道 | Yakushin Seidō | Medicine Heart Clear Way |
| 藥峰慈心 | Yakuhō Jishin | Medicine Peak Compassion Heart |
| 月江正印 | Gekkō Shōin | Moon River Correct Seal |
| 新月光道 | Shingetsu Kōdō | New Moon Illuminate Way |
| 觀慧妙鳳 | Kanne Myōhō | Observe Wisdom Wondrous Phoenix |
| 海心兀山 | Kaishin Gotsuzan | Ocean Heart Steadfast Mountain |
| 泰道華峰 | Taidō Kahō | Peaceful Way Flower Peak |
| 徹眼富心 | Tetsugen Fushin | Penetrate Eye Rich Heart |
| 梅花佛心 | Baika Busshin | Plum Blossom Buddha Heart |
| 淨信法悅 | Jōshin Hōetsu | Pure Trust Dharma Joy |
| 赤雲好道 | Sekiun Kōdō | Red Cloud Good Way |

| | | |
|------|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 仲真梅山 | Chūshin Baizan | Relation Truth Plum Mountain |
| 赤心玄海 | Sekishin Genkai | Sincere Heart Profound Ocean |
| 赤心道一 | Sekishin Dōitsu | Sincere Heart Way One |
| 雪林放月 | Setsurin Hōgetsu | Snow Forest Letting-go Moon |
| 孤鶴登空 | Kokaku Tōkū | Solitary Crane Ascend Sky |
| 靈月价道 | Reigetsu Kaidō | Spirit Moon Assist Way |
| 靈山道光 | Ryōsen Dōkō | Spirit Mountain Way Illumination |
| 直道広恬 | Jikidō Kōten | Straight Way Broad Liveliness |
| 延沼靈源 | Enshō Reigen | Stretch Lake Spirit Source |
| 夏山澄露 | Kazan Chōro | Summer Mountain Clear Dew |
| 虎眼志觀 | Kogen Shikan | Tiger Eye Aspiration Insight |
| 寶鏡楚圓 | Hōkyō Soen | Treasure Mirror Outstanding Circle |
| 溪聲普願 | Keisei Fugan | Valley Sound Universal Vow |
| 道心徹元 | Dōshin Tetsugen | Way Heart Penetrate Source |
| 白牛全放 | Hakugyū Zenhō | White Ox Total Letting-go |
| 風流道心 | Fūryū Dōshin | Wind Flow Way Heart |

Where to go for advice

The staff of the Soto Zen Education Center has agreed to give advice to Soto Zen teachers on dharma names that are under consideration. Please use the following guidelines.

1. Send a few sets of names for each student to be ordained in the order of your preference.
2. Mention the gender of each student if you wish the gender element to be considered.
3. Give the ordination date allowing at least six weeks. This is necessary in order to return the advice in time for you to prepare for the ceremony.
4. Put "Dharma name advice request" on fax cover page or on mail envelope in order to facilitate response.

Address to:

Soto Zen Education Center
1691 Laguna Street
San Francisco, CA 94115 U.S.A.
Phone: 1 415 567 7686
Fax: 1 415 567 0200

Recommended readings

Choy, Rita Mei-Wah. *Read And Write Chinese: A Simplified Guide to The Chinese Characters*. San Francisco: China West Books, 1990.

Fazzioli, Edoardo. *Chinese Calligraphy: From Pictograph to Ideogram: The History of 214 essential Chinese / Japanese Characters*. New York, London, Paris:Abbeville Press, 1986.

Halpern, Jack, Editor in Chief. *NTC's New Japanese-English Character Dictionary*. Lincolnwood, IL: NTC Publishing Group, 1993.

Nelson, Andrew Nathaniel. *The Modern Reader's Japanese-English Character Dictionary*. Rutland, VT and Tokyo: Charles E. Tuttle Company, 1962.

Wang Hongyuan. *The Origins of Chinese Characters*. Beijing: Sinolingua, 1993.