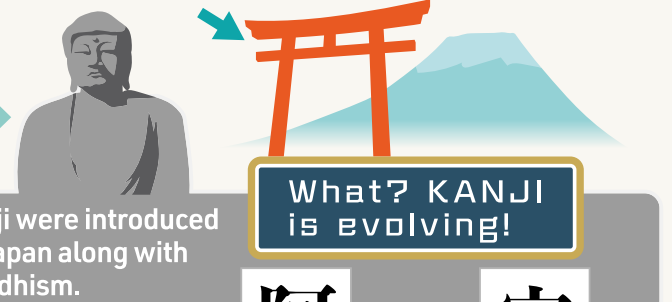


The Complexity of Kanji in Official Badge Art

Even for Japanese Fans, the Kanji used for character names in Official Badge Art can be quite difficult to understand. Curious why? Let me explain.

Kanji, derived from ancient Chinese pictographs, visually convey rich meaning in a single character.

BTW, if you pass through a Torii gate, it is not a Buddhist temple, but a Shinto shrine, an ancient Japanese belief.



Means the 'Name' by itself.

名

In the present day, Japanese kids learn these characters in elementary school during 9 years of compulsory education.

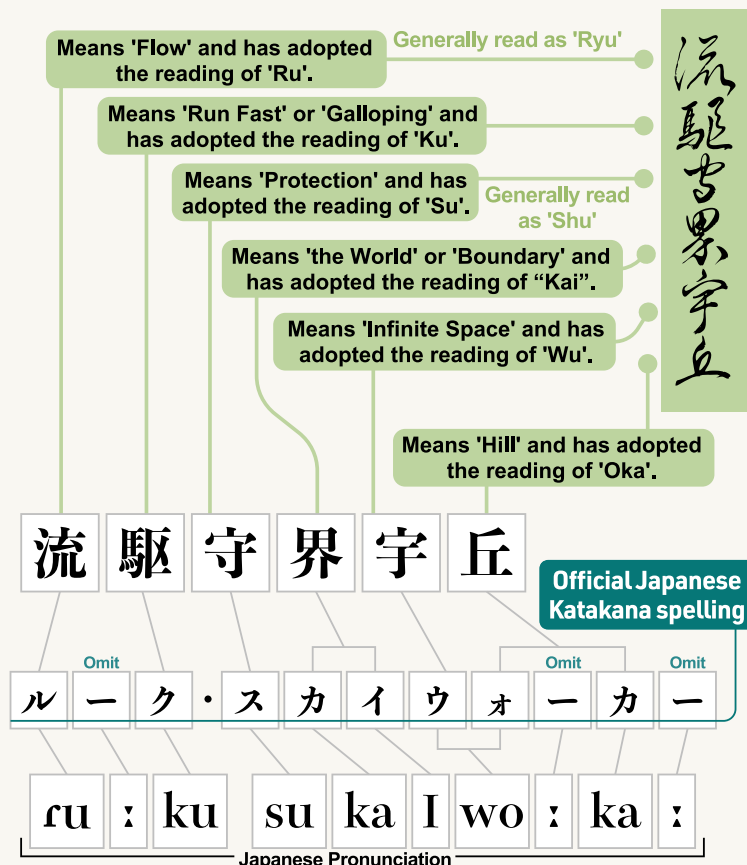
名 大 名 名
Mei Daimyō (Feudal Lord) Na
Meishō (Famous Commander) Namae (Name)

One Kanji has multiple readings.

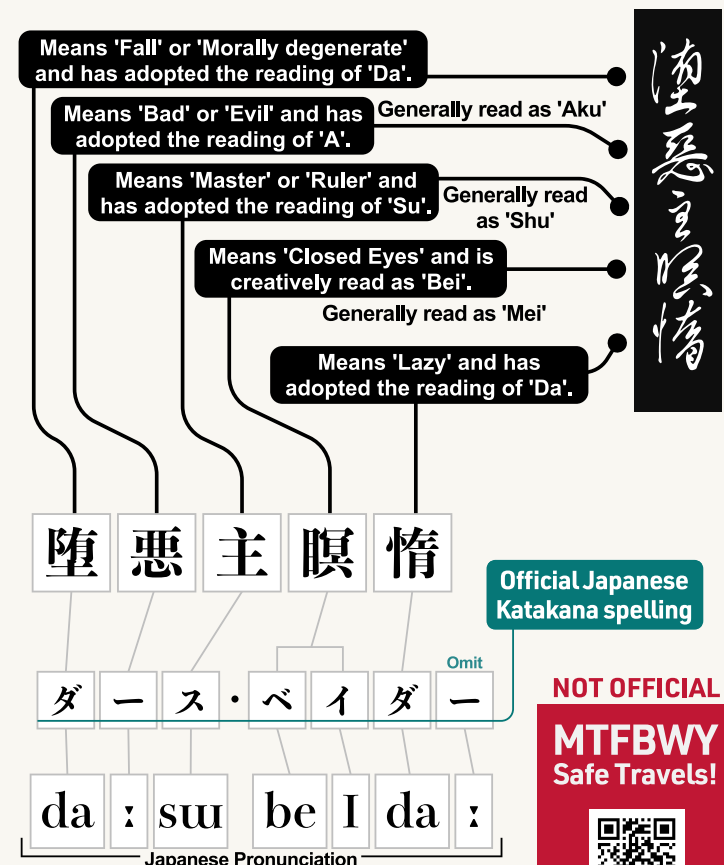
Hiragana Alphabets あ 46 Basic
Katakana Alphabets ア 46 Basic
Kanji 字 2130

Buddhist monks created Katakana for scriptures, while Hiragana was used for informal writing.

Loanwords and foreign personal names are generally written in Katakana. The Official Badge Art's Kanji representation assigns Kanji characters that are phonetically similar to the Katakana notation of the character and evoke related meanings.



Luke Skywalker

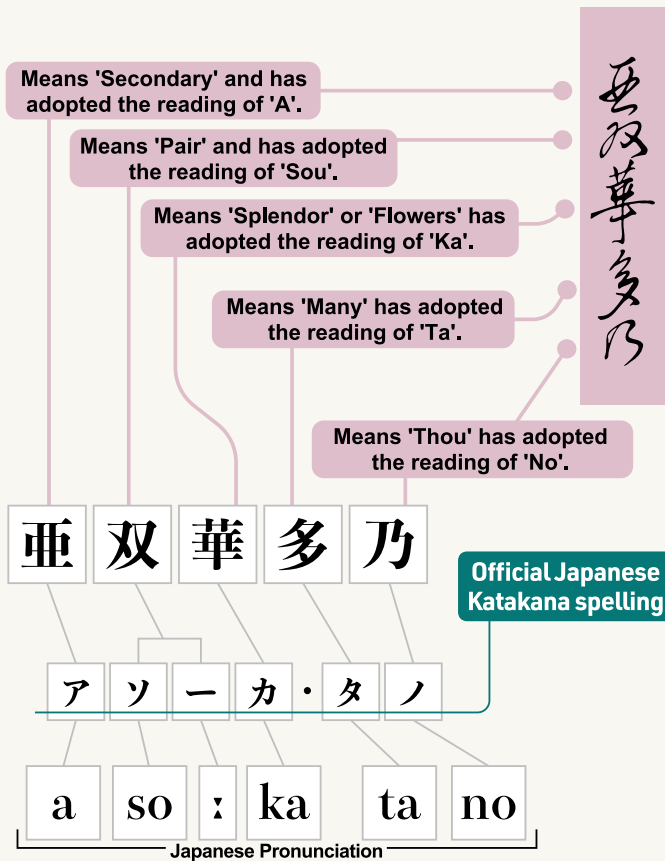


Darth Vader

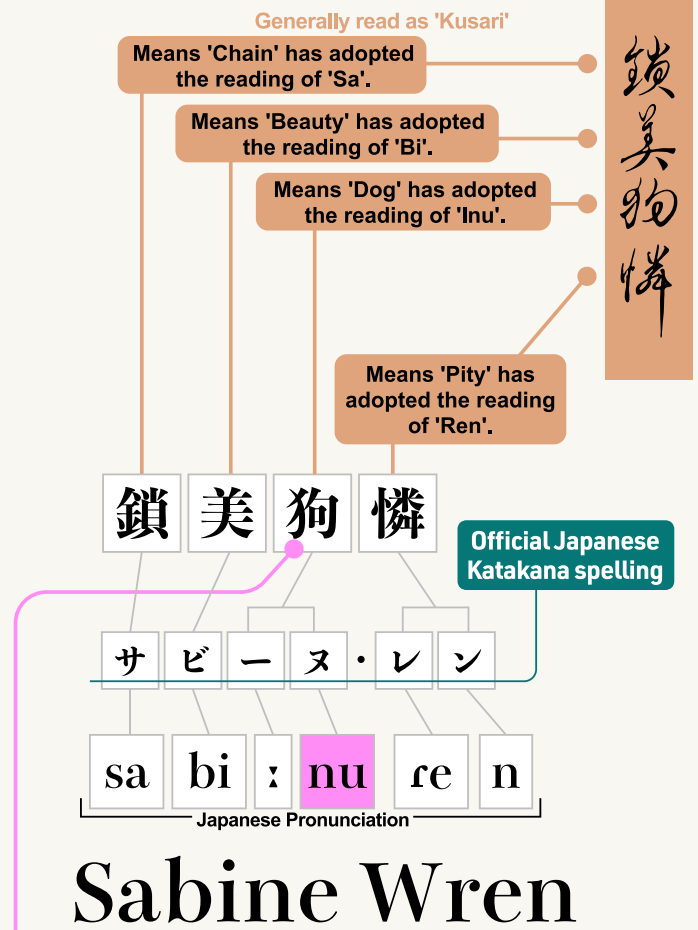
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MTFBWY
Safe Travels!



JUNJI OKUBO
aka IZMOJUKI

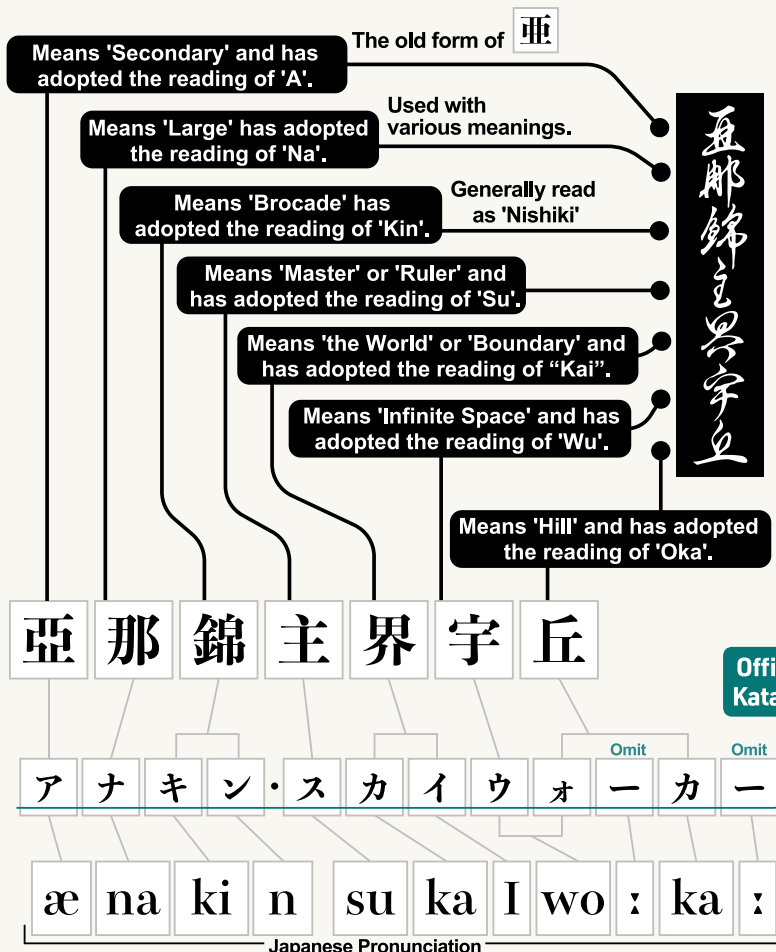


Ahsoka Tano

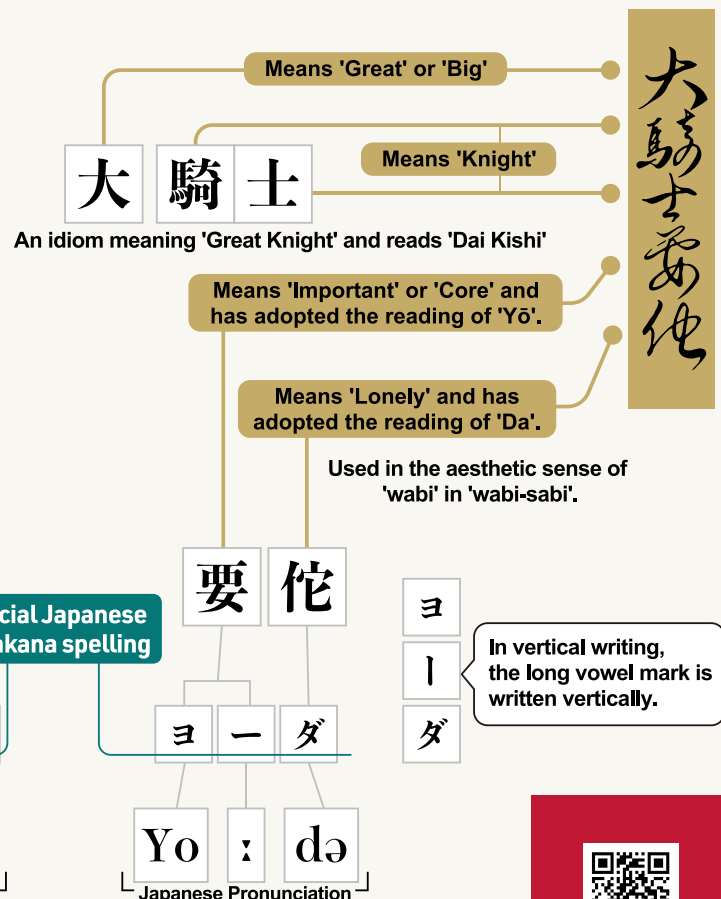


Sabine Wren

This character is often used in a derogatory way and is also a bit questionable as a Japanese as it is assigned to the wrong Japanese Official reading (Sabinu). Maybe Takumi was trying to create a medieval mood.



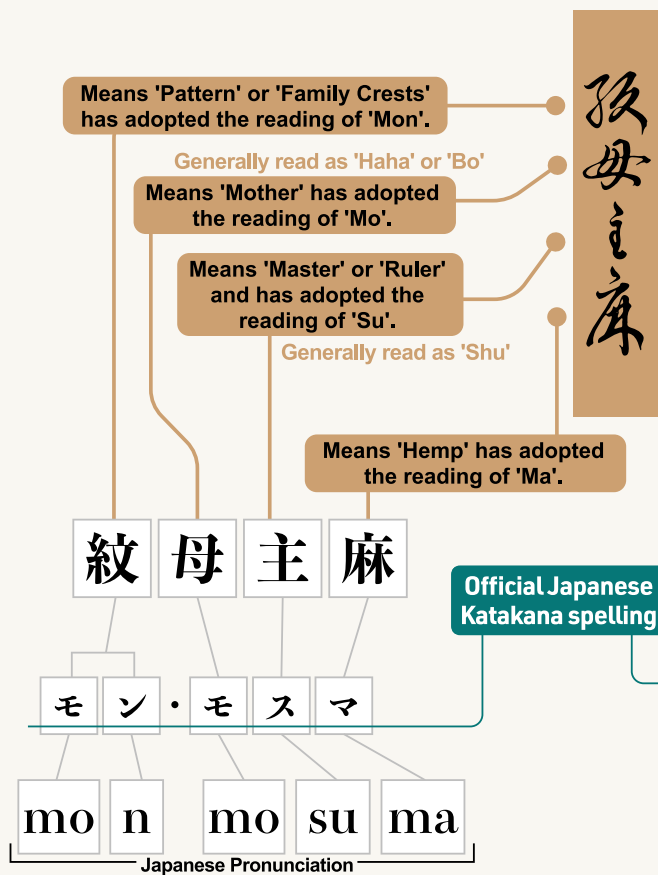
Anakin Skywalker



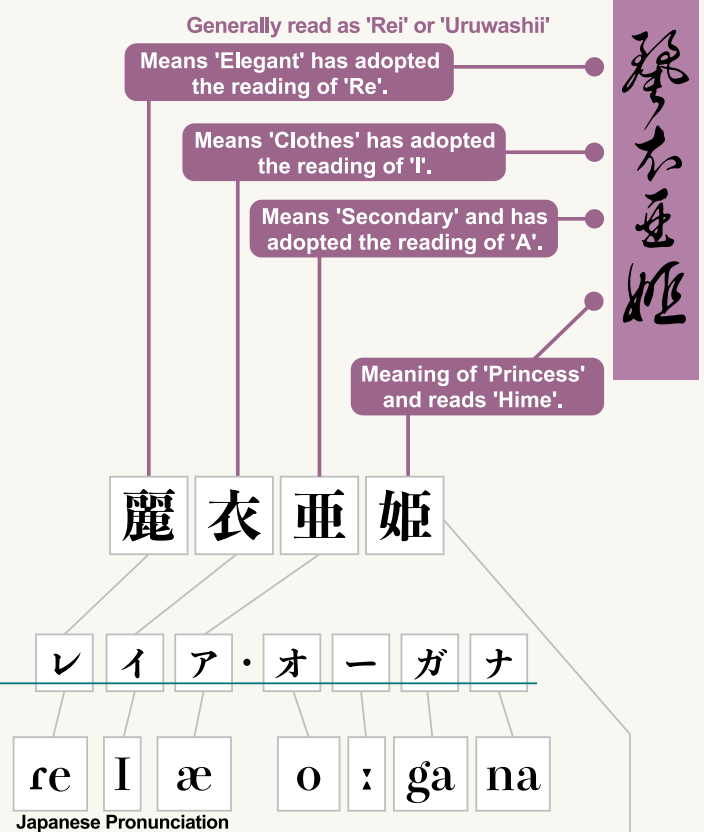
Yoda



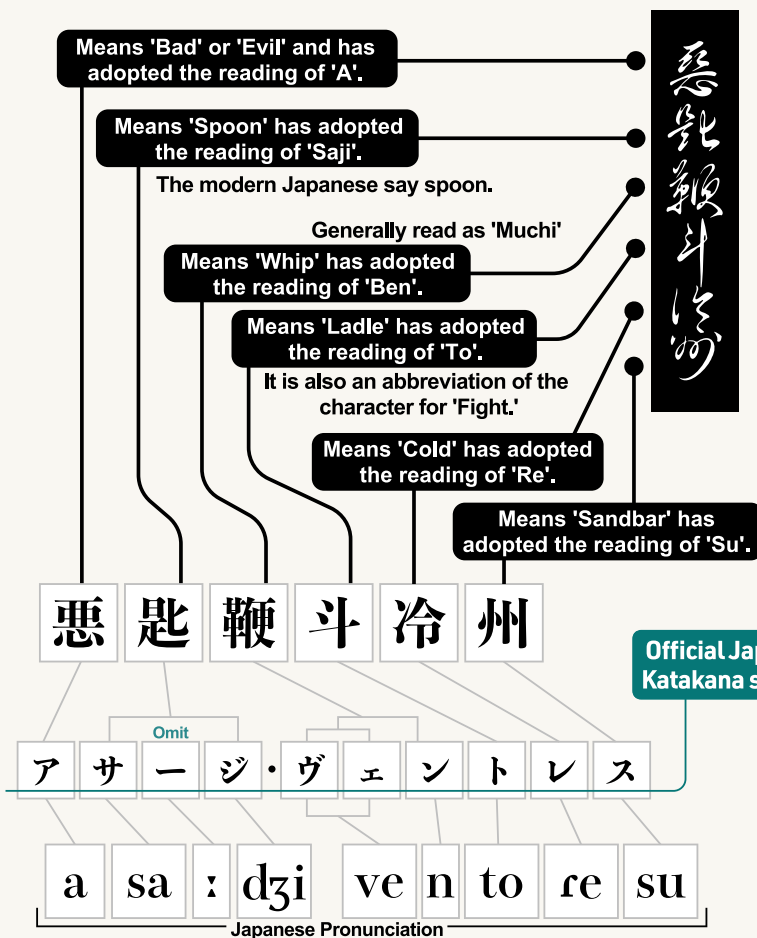
JUNJI OKUBO
aka IZMOJUKI



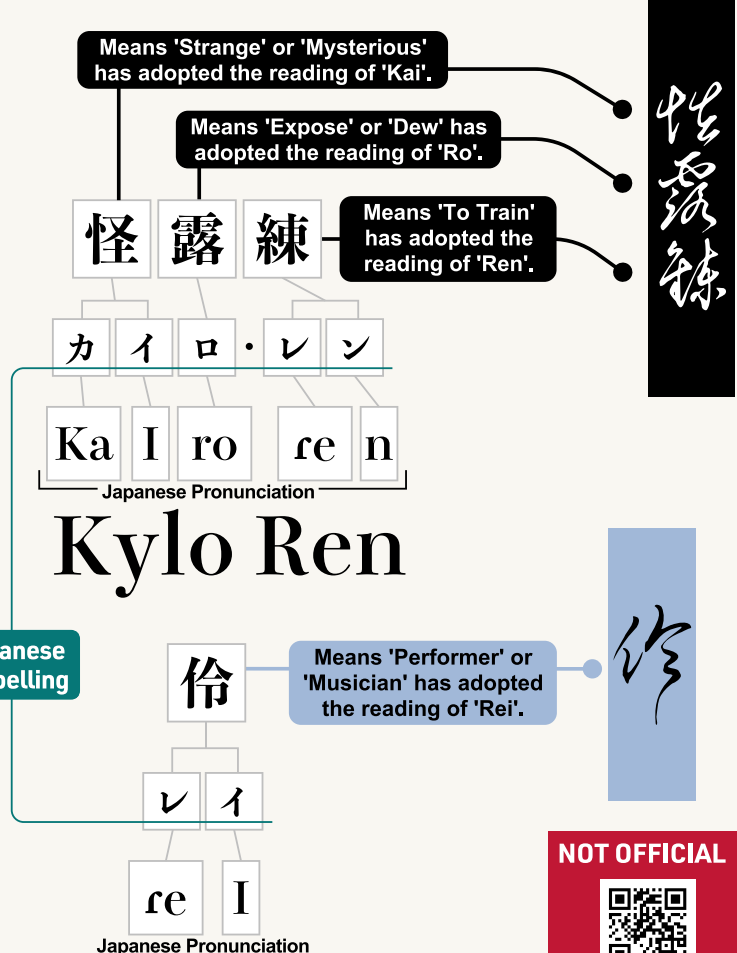
Mon Mothma



Princess Leia



Asajj Ventress

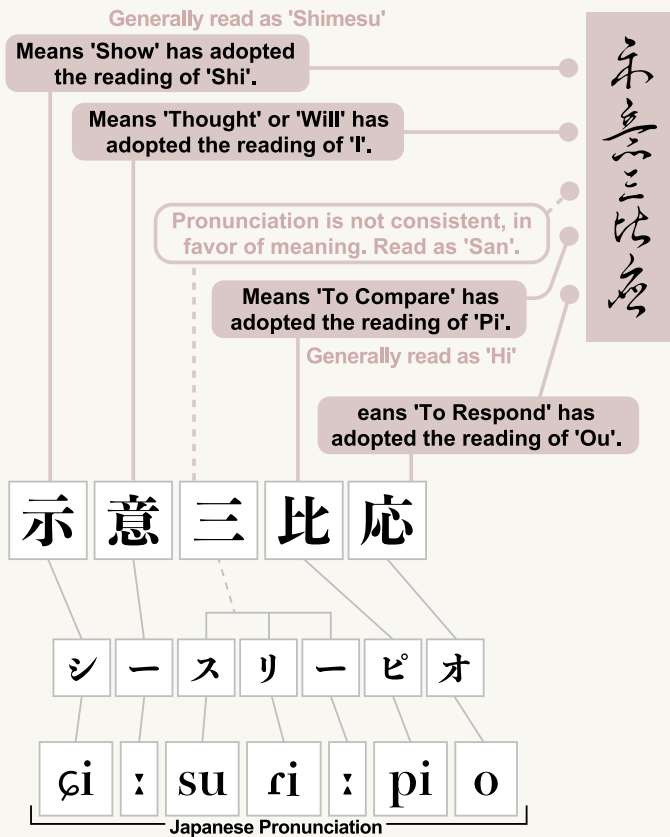


Rey

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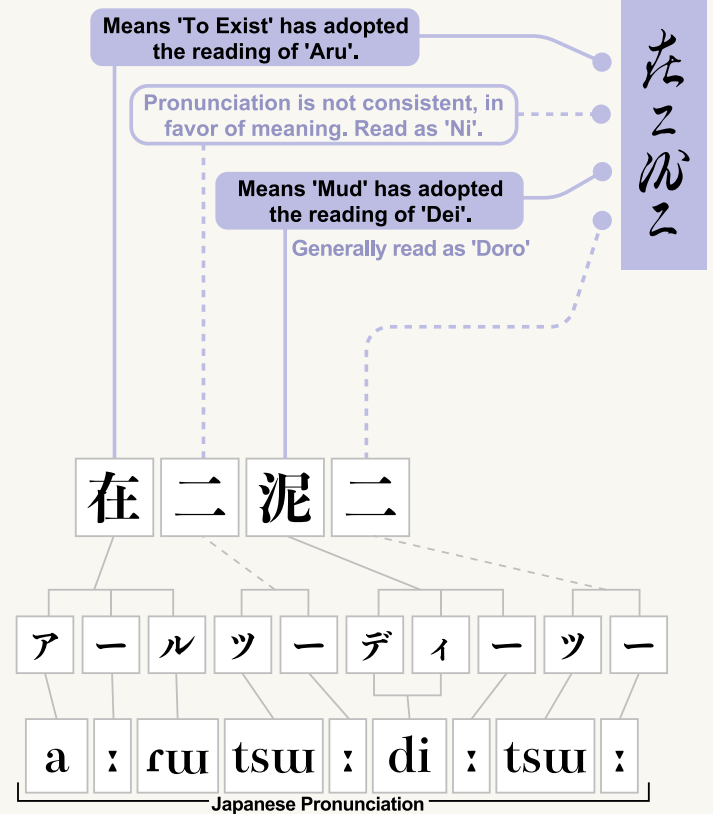


JUNJI OKUBO
aka IZMOJUKI



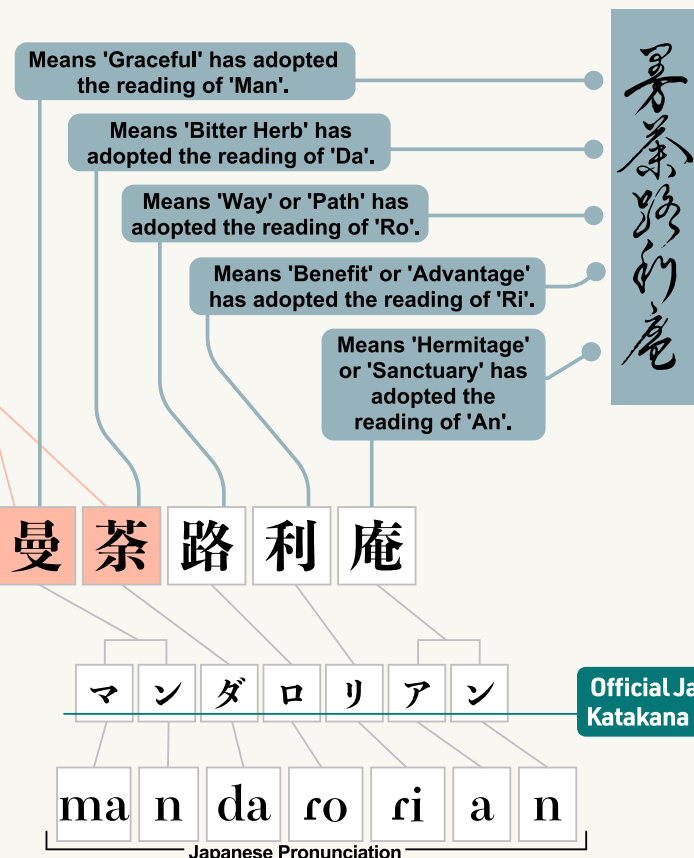
C-3PO

The droid's name is similarly written in Japan.

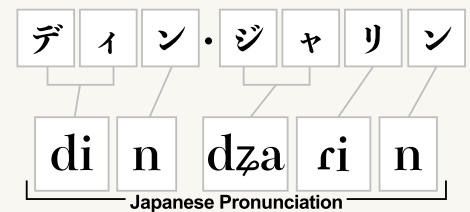


R2-D2

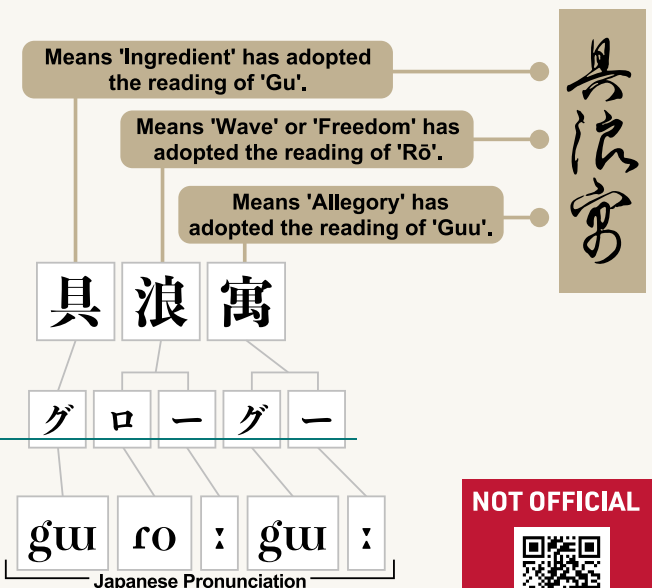
These two letters have common with the letters of the Buddhist Mandala. 曼 荼 羅



Mandalorian



Din Djarin



Grogu

NOT OFFICIAL



JUNJI OKUBO
aka IZMOJUKI

A prefix showing 'Familiarity' or 'Obedience' has adopted the reading of 'A'.

Means 'Beauty' has adopted the reading of 'Mi'.

Means 'Rudder' has adopted the reading of 'Da'.

Means 'Spreads' or 'Covers' has adopted the reading of 'Ra'.

An idiom meaning 'Queen' and reads 'Jo Ō'.

阿美陀羅女王

阿 美 陀 羅 女 王

Female King

Official Japanese Katakana spelling

パ ド メ ・ ア ミ ダ ラ

pa do me a mi da ra

Japanese Pronunciation

Queen Amidala

Generally read as 'Ka' or 'Hana'

Means 'Splendor' or 'Flowers' and is creatively read as 'Kya'.

Means 'Warrior' or 'Scholar' has adopted the reading of 'Shi'

Means 'Hermitage' or 'Sanctuary' has adopted the reading of 'An'.

Generally read as 'Yami'

Means 'Dark' has adopted the reading of 'An'.

Means 'Road' or 'Way' has adopted the reading of 'Dō'.

Generally read as 'Michi'

華士庵暗道

華 士 庵 暗 道

Official Japanese Katakana spelling

キ ャ シ ア ン ・ ア ン ド ー

kja ci a n a n do :

Japanese Pronunciation

Cassian Andor

Means 'Belt' has adopted the reading of 'Obi'.

Generally read as 'Ude'

Means 'Arm' or 'Skill' has adopted the reading of 'Wan'.

Means 'Divination Symbol' has adopted the reading of 'Ke'.

Means A classical particle meaning 'of' has adopted the reading of 'No'.

Means 'Fire' has adopted the reading of 'Bi'.

Generally read as 'Hi'

帯腕卦之火

帯 腕 卦 之 火

Official Japanese Katakana spelling

オ ビ = ワ ン ・ ケ ノ ー ビ

o bi wa n ke no : bi

Japanese Pronunciation

Obi-Wan Kenobi

Used in names/place names has adopted the reading of 'Na'.

奈 武 守

Means 'Martial Arts' has adopted the reading of 'Bu'.

ナ ブ ス

na bu su

Japanese Pronunciation

Nubs

Means 'Protection' and has adopted the reading of 'Su'.

奈武守

Means 'Fruit' has adopted the reading of 'Ka'.

果 威

Means 'Authority' or 'Vigorous' has adopted the reading of 'I'.

カ イ

ka I

Japanese Pronunciation

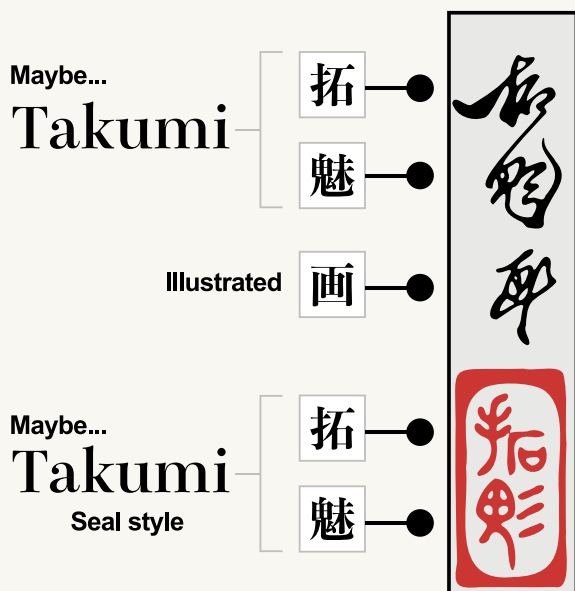
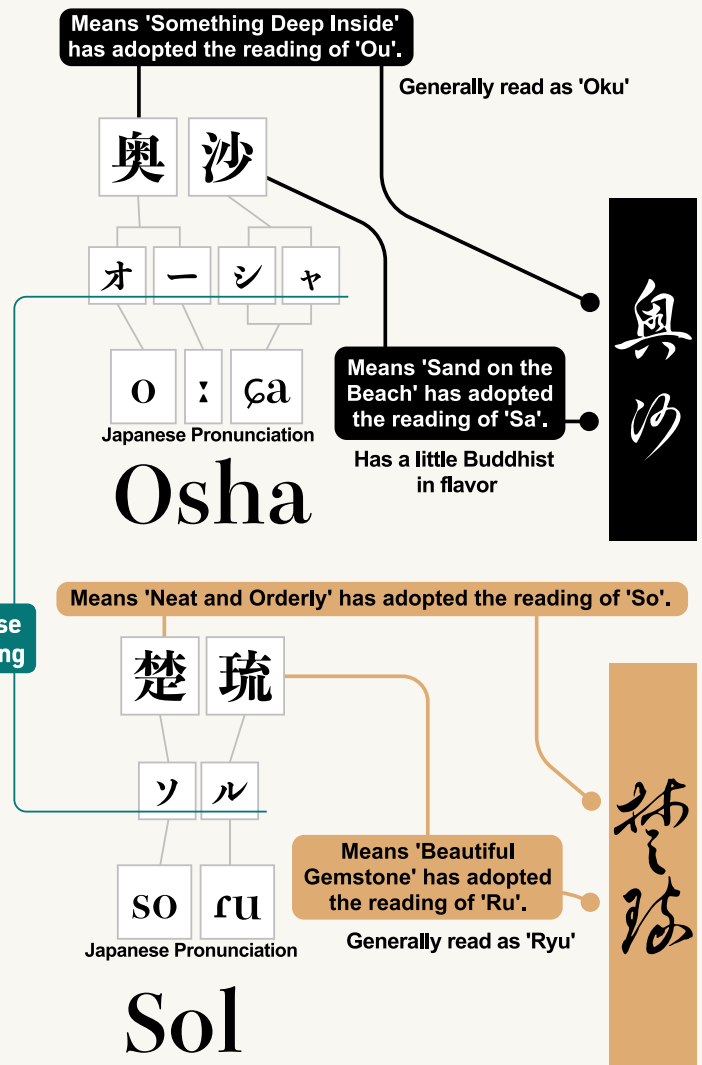
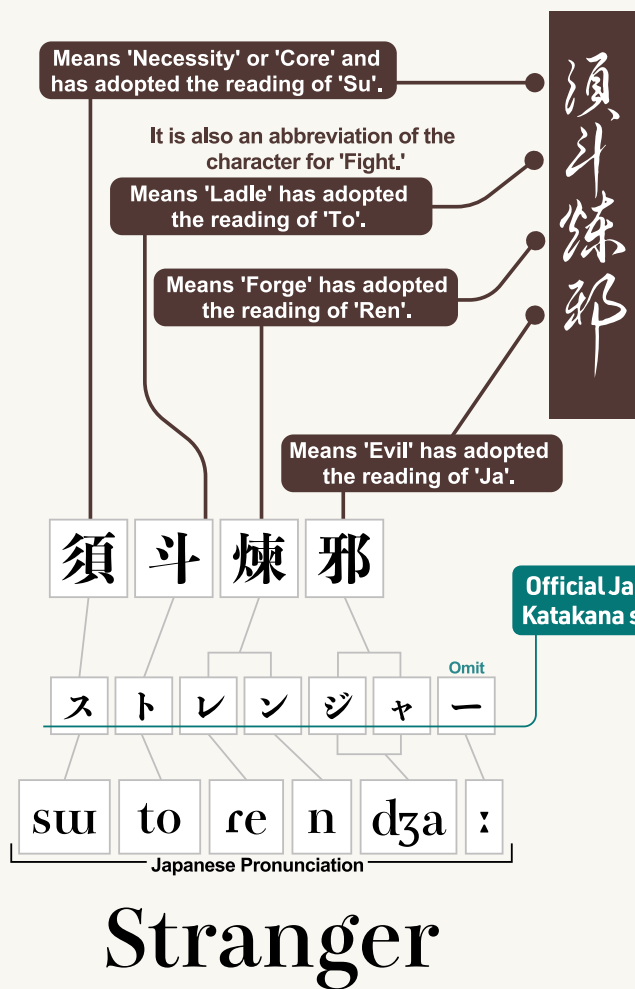
Kai

果威

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JUNJI OKUBO
aka IZMOJUKI



Flowers and trees depicted in Ukiyo-e are often imbued with meaning.

Plum perseverance, hope, learning → Ahsoka

Bamboo sincerity, flexibility and fortitude → Mandalorian & Grogu

Iris bravery, strength → Queen Amidala

Higanbana death, underworld, passion → Asajj Ventress

Kiku nobility, longevity → Mon Mothma

Peony luxury, wealth, feminine beauty → Rey & Kylo Ren, Leia

Maple longevity, elegance, autumn → Luke Skywalker

Susuki desolateness, changing seasons → Cassian Andor



JUNJI OKUBO
aka IZMOJUKI