



## Kanji Close-Up for Beginner Lesson #43 - Speciality!

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	1st character	2nd character	3rd character	4th character
明日 1, 2	あした, あす	Tomorrow	明・Morning, bright	日・Day, sun		
明後日 1, 3	あさって	The day after tomorrow	明・Morning, bright	後・After	日・Day, sun	
明々後日 1, 3	しあさって	2 days after tomorrow	明・Morning, bright	々・Rep. character	後・After	日・Day, sun
得意	とく・い	Specialty	得・Advantage	意・Meaning		
苦手	にが・て	Bad at	苦・Bitter	手・Hand		

漢

字

1 These characters are 「当て字・ateji」, so the characters are chosen based on meaning, and not reading. Therefore 1 character doesn't represent any one reading in this case.

2 「明日」 is read as both 「あした」 and 「あす」. Both are acceptable to use in any situation, but 「あす」 has a more formal ring to it. 「あす」 is also sometimes used meaning “tomorrow” in a futuristic sense. E.g. “Tomorrows technology, today!”. From 「暮らしのことば 語源辞典」 (Kodansha): The original meaning of this word is 「あさ」, “morning”. If someone said 「明日(あした)行きます」 (Here 明日 meaning “morning”), the next morning is implied. From there, the meaning of 「明日」 has evolved into today's meaning, meaning “tomorrow”.

3 The exact origins of 「明後日」 and 「明々後日」 are unknown, but if we think of 「明」 as meaning “Tomorrow”, an easy way to remember these words are, reading the words from the right to the left, “Day after tomorrow” and “Day after tomorrow's tomorrow”.

Note: The repetition character 々 carries the meaning of the character in front of it.



Practice Sheet

明	明	明	明						意	意	意	意				
日	日	日	日						苦	苦	苦	苦				
夕	夕	夕	夕						手	手	手	手				
後	後	後	後													
得	得	得	得													

漢

字