



Kanji Close-Up for Intermediate Lesson #6 - Welcome Home!

Kanji	Reading	Meaning	1st character	2nd character
雷 1	かみなり	Thunder	雷・Thunder	
稲妻 2	いな・づま	Lightning	稲・Rice paddy	妻・Wife, spouse
面接	めん・せつ	Interview	面・Face, surface	接・Connect, touch
土産	みやげ	Souvenir	土・Earth soil	産・Products, give birth
元氣	げん・ぎ	Energy, life spirit	元・Origin	気・Air, spirit, mind

1 雷 comes from the words 神 + 鳴る, meaning “God” + “make sound”. The original word for the “thunder phenomenon” was actually “なるかみ”, but we don’t see this word in use after around the 1400’s.

2 稲妻 comes from the words 稲 + 妻 meaning “rice paddy” + “spouse.” This word originates from *ina* an old word used by *tsuma* to call a spouse or lover. *Tsurubi* is an old word meaning intercourse. As 雷 is common around the time a rice paddy comes to vernalize the lightning is “directly” responsible for bearing the fruit of the harvest. (Yes, the lightning is “sleeping” with the rice paddy!)

○○○ Practice Sheet ○○○

雷	雷	雷	雷						土	土	土	土					
稲	稲	稲	稲						産	産	産	産					
妻	妻	妻	妻						元	元	元	元					
面	面	面	面						気	気	気	気					
接	接	接	接														