



JAPAN-AMERICA SOCIETY
OF WASHINGTON DC

Alprin Kanji Method: Introduction Seminar



Instructor: Mr. Scott Alprin

This lecture will be in English. Seating is limited.

Thursday, November 21, 2013

6:00 – 7:00 P.M.

Free for JASW member, \$15 for Non-JASW member

Japan-America Society of Washington DC
1819 L Street, NW, B2
Washington, DC 20036
www.jaswdc.org

In this Introduction Kanji Seminar, students will learn a fun, efficient and comprehensive method for understanding and remembering Kanji. Students will focus on the meaning of the kanji, not the pronunciation.

From beginners to high level Japanese students, and to those who teach them, the reading and writing of kanji characters present a daunting challenge. For the most part, adult kanji learners in the West are taught kanji in the same order that Japanese children learn them, under the “Frequency-Based Approach.” The kanji that are taught to first-graders have been selected by the Japanese Ministry of Education because they represent meanings that are understandable to young children. So, “子” (child) is one of the 80 kanji taught to first-graders, but “了” (complete) is not taught to students until they are in high school. For adults in the West, this is a lost opportunity.

Numerous authors and scholars have considered an alternative approach to teaching kanji to adults in the West, which we shall call the “Element-Based Approach.” Under this approach, the components of the kanji are identified, and treated as building blocks. The kanji “子” would never be taught before the kanji for “了”.

Scott Alprin, a trademark lawyer in DC by day, is a devoted kanji scholar. He has taught kanji classes at two area high schools, and lectured at two pedagogical conferences held at GWU and UMD. Mr. Alprin has developed a method for teaching kanji under the “Element-Based Approach,” inspired by the teachings of James W. Heisig, a kanji guru and professor of religion at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan.

The purpose of this “Introduction Seminar” is to allow the student to decide whether an “Element-Based Approach” is best for them. We will conduct a survey at the end of the Seminar, and the results will be used to determine whether we should offer a class to beginning or advanced students, or both. The class that evolves out of this Seminar for beginners (who know about 0 to 100 kanji at present) would aim to increase their “kanji number” to about 500. The class for advanced level students (who know between 500 and 850 kanji) would aim to increase their “kanji number” to 2,000, with the goal of learning to read a Japanese newspaper.

ALPRIN KANJI METHOD – THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2013

Name: _____ Organization: _____

Tel: _____ Email: _____

Additional Name(s): _____

Please fax registration to: (202) 833-2456, or register on-line at www.jaswdc.org.

If you have any questions, please call us at (202) 833-2210

Seating is limited.