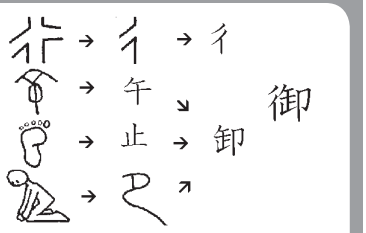
305

御

[honorific prefix]

ON-KUN READINGS: ゴ・ギョ・おん

HEADER: 彳



ORIGIN: The left side 彳 signified "to go" or "to act," and 卩 depicted a kneeling. The middle gave the sound. The kanji 御 indicated "an act of humbling oneself" and was used as an honorific prefix for a noun. Generally it is read as /go-/ for an on-reading word, and /o-/ or /on-/ for a kun-reading word.

御礼 (おれい) token of gratitude
御主人 (ごしゅじん) master, (someone's) husband
御中 (おんちゅう) messrs.
制御する (せいぎょ) to control
御所 (ごしょ) palace
防御 (ぼうぎょ) defense

12

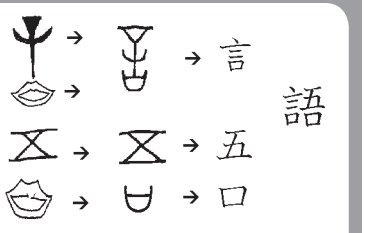
306

語

word; to talk

ON-KUN READINGS: ゴ・かた(る)

HEADER: 言



ORIGIN: The left side 言 signified "words." In 吾, 五 signified "mixing" because two lines crossed and 口 "mouth" indicated "to speak." Together they indicated "to speak in response," then came to mean simply "to talk." The kanji 語 means "word" or "to talk."

日本語 (にほんご) the Japanese language
外国語 (がいこくご) foreign language
単語 (たんご) word
語学 (ごがく) language study
語句 (ごく) word and phrase
語る (かた) to talk

14

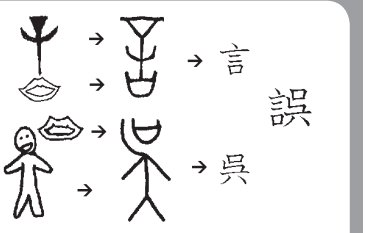
307

誤

to err; mistake

ON-KUN READINGS: ゴ・あやま(る)

HEADER: 言



ORIGIN: The left side 言 was a combination of a sharp needle and a mouth 口, signifying "to speak clearly and sharply." The right side 吳 had a mouth next to a person, indicating what was said was not the person's true thought or meaning. The kanji 誤 means "mistake" or "to err."

誤まった (あや) mistaken
誤解 (ごかい) misunderstanding
誤字 (ごじ) wrong letter or kanji
誤訳 (ごやく) mistranslation
誤報 (ごほう) erroneous report
時代錯誤 (じだいさくご) anachronism

14

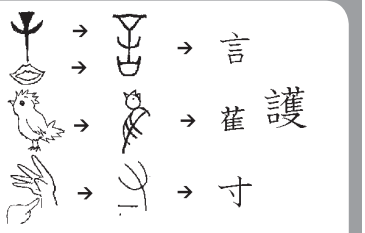
308

護

to protect

ON-KUN READINGS: ゴ

HEADER: 言



ORIGIN: The left side 言 consisted of a sharp tattooing needle 辛 and a mouth 口, signifying "to speak clearly." The right side was a crested bird with a hand, signifying "to catch in hand." Together they indicated to speak sharply to protect something. The kanji 護 means "to protect."

保護 (ほご) protection
護る (まも) to protect
護憲 (ごけん) safeguarding of the Constitution
護送 (ごそう) escort
護身術 (ごしんじゅつ) art of self-defense
警護 (けいご) guard

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