

Kanji 1a

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## Write your name in Kanji

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Choosing an appropriate kanji version of my name proved to be quite a challenge at first, as several approaches—either phonetic or semantic—could be taken. In the end, I decided on writing my first name based on meaning. In Dutch, *Robin* has no direct meaning. It has some derivative etymology, but that is usually connected to the name *Robrecht/Robert* and as such, I don't really find it a fitting explanation for my own name. In English however, the name *Robin* can not only refer to a person, but also to a type of bird (see figure 1). Therefore, I chose to look up the Japanese translation for this bird's name, and use it as the Kanji version of my name. Multiple sources gave the following spelling for this word (although some literature wrote the name in katakana, as it custom for the names of animal species):



Figure 1: Japanese Robin

こま どり  
駒鳥<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The *dakuten* above the と doesn't appear to be displayed clearly, but it is present. This phenomenon is an artefact of the default font

This compound word consists of the following kanji:

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駒 *kun:* こま, *on:* ク

This kanji on itself refers to the meaning of pony, but in writing it's mostly used to refer to a piece in games like shogi or chess. While the character doesn't appear in many frequently used kanji compound words, the following are some examples of words in which it's used:

- あら こま 荒駒: *wild horse*
- す こま 捨て駒: *sacrificial piece (in a game like shogi or chess)*

The following is an example of the character being used in a sentence:

ぼく 僕は うへ ボードの こま 上の ひと 駒を まえ 一つ すす 前に進めた。<sup>2</sup>  
*I moved a chess piece on the board one forward.*

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鳥 *kun:* とり, *on:* チョウ

This character represents the meaning bird, or can in some contexts refer to chickens specifically. The character appears in several compound words which have to do with either birds or chickens. The following are examples of these compound words:

- とりにく 鳥肉: *chicken meat*
- とりかご 鳥籠: *birdcage*
- チヨウジュウ 鳥獣: *birds and wild animals*

The following is an example of the character being used in a sentence:

私のうちの近くの森に鳥獣がたくさんいます。  
*There is a lot of wildlife in the forest near my house.*

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駒鳥

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<sup>2</sup>Taken from tatoeba.org