

## Typographical explanation

### Phonetic Elements List

Please see below for a sample entry from the Phonetic Elements List with annotations explaining the typography.

	1	2i	2ii	2iii				4				
4.	韋				韋	偉	違	緯				
	イ				イ	イ	イ	イ				
	N 6601				N 6601	N 285	N 6099	N 4566				
	M 7080											
	S 764 – Wei – A thong											
	R 178											
	[PE [•]]											
					葦							
					イ							
					N 5160							
	3		2iv		4							
		2v										

1. Each phonetic element is placed before a bar and is assigned a number.
2. Below each phonetic element the following information is given:

- i. If the phonetic element is a Japanese character, the Chinese (*on*) reading(s)<sup>1</sup> in *katakana*;<sup>2</sup>
  - ii. if the phonetic element is listed in the Nelson Dictionary as a Japanese character, the number assigned to it in the Nelson Dictionary preceded by an N;
  - iii. if the phonetic element is listed in the Mathews Dictionary as a Chinese character, the number assigned to it in the Mathews Dictionary preceded by an M;
  - iv. if the phonetic element is listed in the Soothill Phonetic List, the number assigned to it in the Soothill Phonetic List (including the Chinese reading and English translation<sup>3</sup> mentioned in the Soothill Phonetic List)<sup>4</sup>; and
  - v. if the relevant phonetic element is one of the 214 radicals, the number of the relevant radical preceded by an R.
3. The phonetic elements are placed in *katakana* (*a-i-u-e-o*) order<sup>5</sup> by reference to the pronunciation derived from the relevant phonetic element. If two different pronunciations are derived from the same

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<sup>1</sup> Please note that a phonetic element may have more than one Chinese (*on*) reading. If a phonetic element does not have a Chinese (*on*) reading, the annotation is N.A. (= Not Applicable). The Chinese (*on*) readings mentioned are based on the (*on*) readings mentioned in the Nelson Dictionary, *Japanese Word for Windows*, Kanji & Kana and Do Thong Minh, *Table of Daily Used Chinese Characters*, Tokyo, 1993.

<sup>2</sup> Please see the Nelson Dictionary, page 1250.

<sup>3</sup> Please make sure to always look up the meaning of a Japanese phonetic element / character in a Japanese-English (character) dictionary and please do not rely on the English translation of the Chinese phonetic mentioned in the Soothill Phonetic List.

<sup>4</sup> Only some phonetics in the Soothill Phonetic List are assigned a number (a 'numbered phonetic') whereas the other phonetics are only indirectly numbered, i.e. by reference to the first preceding numbered phonetic. Also, please note that the numbering is not always sequential (e.g. there is no phonetic with number 7). In order to avoid any confusion, both the Chinese pronunciation and English translation as mentioned in the Soothill Phonetic List in respect of the relevant phonetic is referred to. Any other information mentioned in relation to the phonetics in the Soothill Phonetic List has not been added.

<sup>5</sup> Please see Kanji & Kana, page 23.

phonetic element, the phonetic element appears twice in the Phonetic Elements List. A cross-reference to that effect is mentioned below the relevant phonetic element.

4. After each phonetic element two or more Japanese characters are mentioned which contain the relevant phonetic element and which have the same (or nearly the same) Chinese (*on*) reading (the “**Example Characters**”).<sup>6</sup> If listed in the Nelson Dictionary, the number of the relevant Example Character in the Nelson Dictionary preceded by an N is mentioned. Please note that some Japanese characters have more than one Chinese (*on*) reading. In this study only the reading linked to the relevant phonetic element is mentioned. In addition, an Example Character may appear more than once in the Phonetic Elements List, if it was unclear which part of the Example Character is the sound-indicating part.

### *Appendix*

An appendix with the Chinese phonetics from the Soothill Phonetic List mentioned in this study in the order of the Soothill Phonetic List, with the numbers assigned to the corresponding Japanese phonetic elements in the Phonetic Elements List is attached.

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<sup>6</sup> It would fall outside the scope of this study to mention all Japanese characters which pronunciation may be derived from any one of the phonetic elements listed in the Phonetic Elements List. Please see the ON-kun indexes in the standard Japanese character dictionaries (e.g. the Nelson Dictionary) if you wish to further verify which Japanese characters contain the relevant phonetic element and have the same Chinese (*on*) reading. The Example Characters merely serve to illustrate the phonetic element mentioned and its position.

### *How to use*

This study is meant as a supportive tool, i.e. it is intended to be used in combination with other Japanese language (study) material. Please see below for a few suggestions on how to use this tool:

- On the first reading, mark the Example Characters you already know and familiarize yourself with the phonetic element in these Example Characters. You can do this by checking the phonetic element in the Nelson Dictionary and the Mathews Dictionary (if listed therein) and to learn the pronunciation and meaning.
- Each time you learn a new Japanese character, check whether this character is mentioned as a phonetic element or an Example Character in the Phonetic Elements List and memorize the relevant phonetic element.
- Test yourself on the phonetic elements you have learned by covering up the Chinese (*on*) readings in the Phonetic Elements List.
- For those who wish to study both Chinese and Japanese phonetics, please make use of the references to the Soothill Phonetic List and the Appendix.