Shodo Course Level Guide
Last updated August 28, 2025

The links below will take you to each level in order of increasing experience. Please reference the sample images provided in each level.
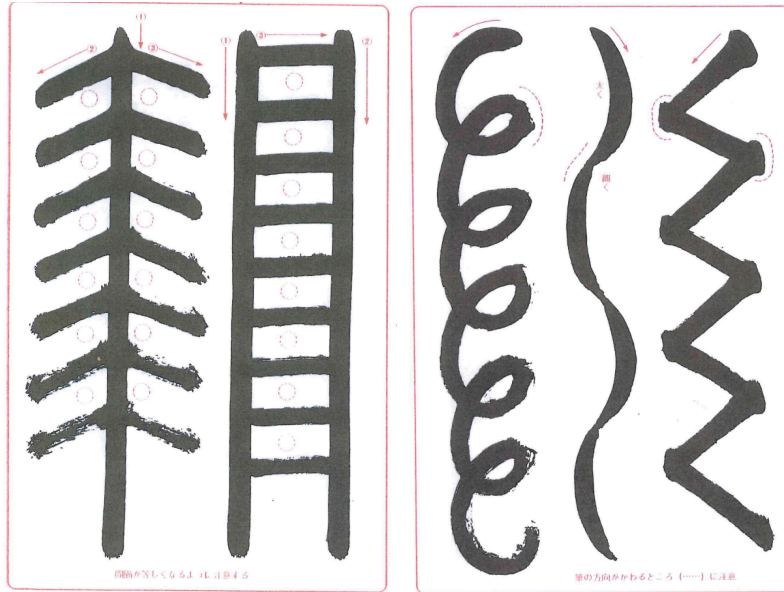
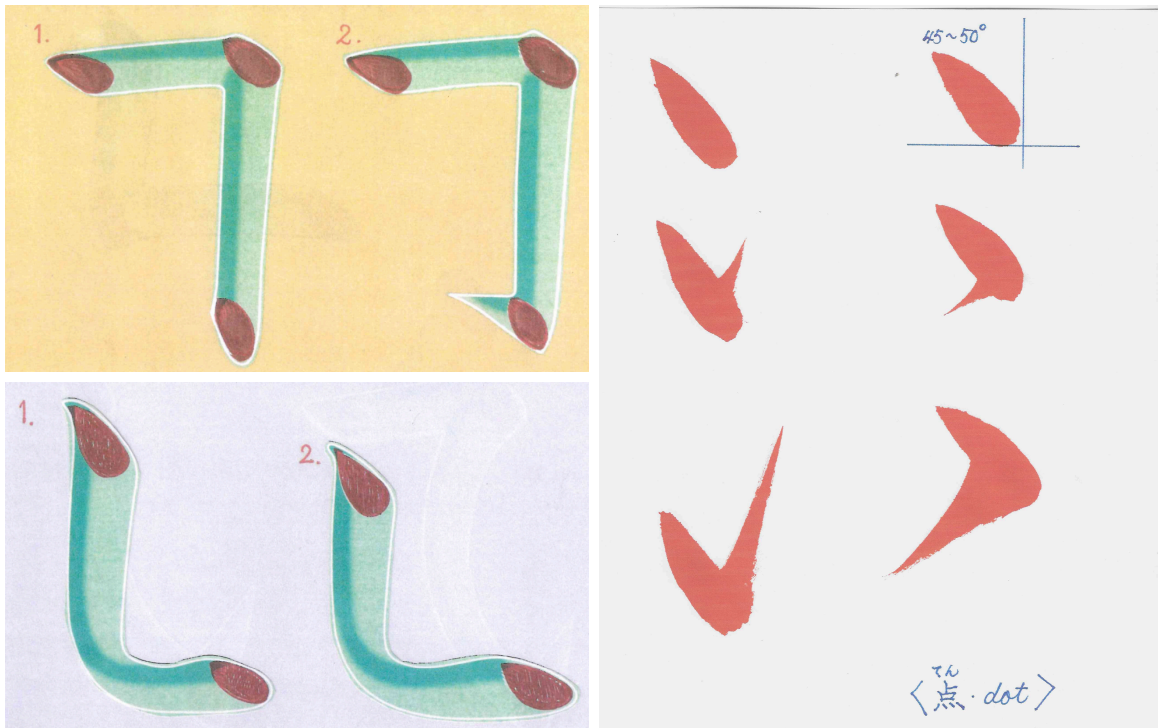| In-Person Courses	Online Courses	
Shodo for Beginners	**Shodo for Beginners**	More Beginner
Open Level	**Basic Kanji**	⇓
	Kanji	
	Kana	More Advanced

Shodo for Beginners

This course is appropriate for **complete beginners** of Japanese calligraphy, or those with **minimal experience.**

In this course, students will be introduced to and practice the brush strokes in the basic 楷書 (kaisho)/regular script, such as:

Brush Practice Examples

Basic Stroke Examples

Students will also practice these brush strokes by writing full characters, such as:

Kanji Characters Examples

三 字 字

術 術

curving up

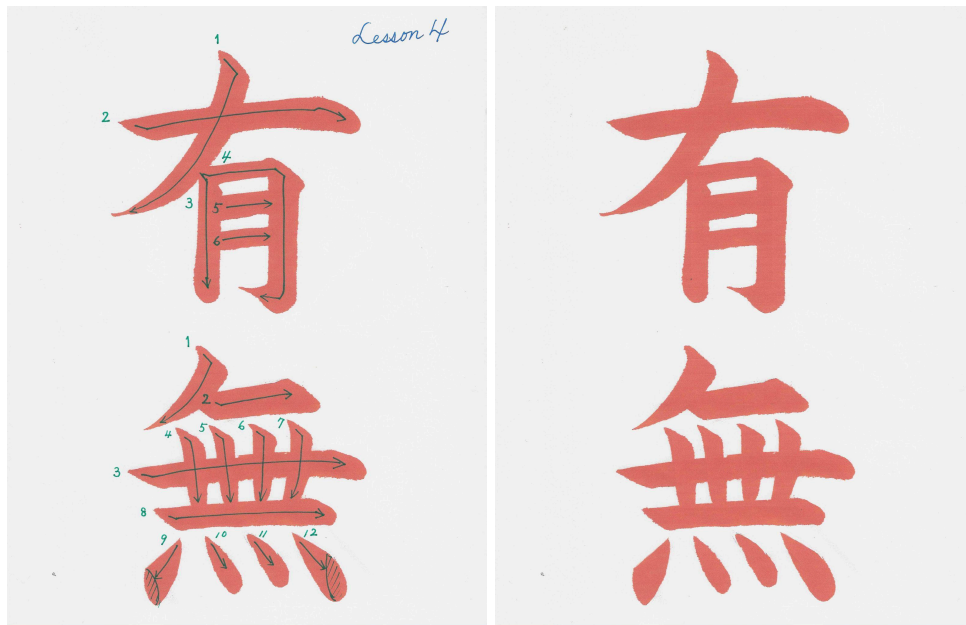*almost flat*

slightly curving down

Basic Kanji

Students will continue to practice brush strokes and more kanji characters in the 楷書

(kaisho)/regular script.

(Before taking this course, it is expected that students have experience with the strokes mentioned in the Beginner level (above), and have practiced some kanji characters in this script.)

楷書 (kaisho)

Kanji

Every week, two typefaces from 行書 (gyosho) / semi-cursive, 草書 (sosho) / cursive, and 隷書 (reisho) / clerical script are practiced in the class.

行書 (gyosho)
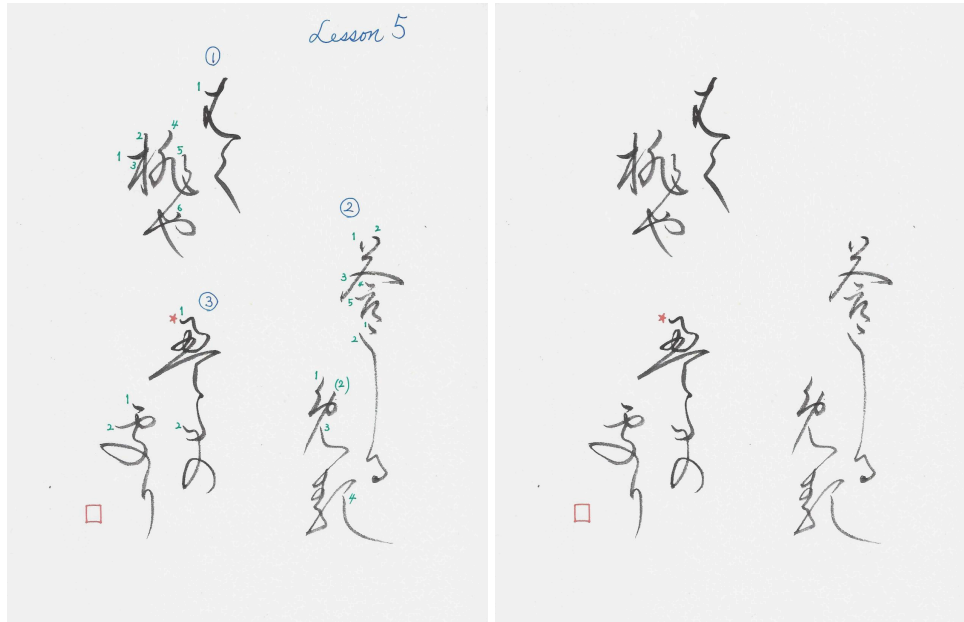

草書 (sosho)

隷書 (reisho)

Open Level

Students at any level from beginner (with some prior experience, such as the beginner course) to advanced are welcome to register. In this open level class, students who are still in the beginner range will continue to learn how to write kanji in the [楷書 (kaisho)/regular script](#), and more advanced students will have the opportunity to hone their skills of the [行書 (gyosho) / semi-cursive, 草書 (sosho) / cursive, and 隷書 (reisho) / clerical](#)scripts.

Kana

Students will write 俳句 (haiku) and 短歌 (tanka) using the Japanese syllabaries of hiragana, 万葉仮名 (man'yogana (classic hiragana)), and 草書 (sosho) /cursive script.

俳句 (haiku)

短歌 (tanka)