

Title: Proposal for new provisional Unihan database property: **kJapanese**

Author: Ken Lunde

Date: 2022-08-23

The existing provisional [kJapaneseKun](#) and [kJapaneseOn](#) properties provide 11,296 and 13,177 Japanese readings, respectively, which together cover 13,395 unique CJK Unified Ideographs. These readings are expressed using uppercase Latin characters based on a modified Hepburn transliteration system.

The proposed provisional Unihan database property, **kJapanese**, provides one or more Japanese readings that are expressed in hiragana or katakana, and covers 51,582 unique CJK Unified Ideographs. The proposed property data is entirely based on [Version 006.01](#) of the [Moji Jōhō Kiban database](#) (文字情報基盤データベース), which the Unicode Consortium licensed from [CITPC](#) (*Character Information Technology Promotion Council* 文字情報技術促進協議会), the organization that currently owns the database.

The following table provides the fields for this property as reflected in UAX #38:

Field	Text
Property	kJapanese
Status	Provisional
Category	Readings
Introduced	TBD
Delimiter	space
Syntax	<code>[\x{3041}-\x{3096}\x{3099}\x{309A}\x{30A1}-\x{30FA}\x{30FC}]+</code>
Description	<p>The Japanese readings(s) for this character expressed in Kana. Readings expressed in Hiragana are generally considered Kun-yomi (訓読み), and readings expressed in Katakana are generally considered On-yomi (音読み).</p> <p>The Moji Jōhō Kiban database and its Japanese readings are owned by CITPC (Character Information Technology Promotion Council 文字情報技術促進協議会), and are used under license.</p>

Coverage

A total of 51,582 CJK Unified Ideographs are assigned this proposed property. The following table indicates—on a per-block basis—the number of CJK Unified Ideographs that are assigned this proposed property, along with the percentage that this number represents within each block as of Unicode Version 15.0:

	URO	Compatibility	Extension A	Extension B	Extension C	Extension D	Extension E	Extension F
Characters	18,178	12	5,773	25,392	368	116	478	1,265
Percent	87%	3%	88%	59%	9%	52%	8%	17%

I propose that at first we include only readings that are provided in the Moji Jōhō Kiban database, which will serve as a very stable baseline for future property changes and additions.

Data file

The *kJapanese-data.txt* data file, which is a PDF attachment, provides everything that is necessary for adding this property to the Unihan Database, and for adding a full description of the property to [UAX #38](#), *Unicode Han Database (Unihan)*.

Future plans for the **kJapaneseKun** and **kJapaneseOn** properties

The current idea is to eventually remove the provisional *kJapaneseKun* and *kJapaneseOn* properties from the Unihan database. By keeping those properties for now, Japanese readings enthusiasts will therefore be able to compare the readings between those properties and the *kJapanese* property where they overlap, to include the handling of 141 CJK Unified Ideographs that have *kJapaneseKun* or *kJapaneseOn* property values, but lack a *kJapanese* one.

That is all.