

## Japanese Expressions of Humiliation

Midori Suzuki, Tokyo, July 2004

From <http://www.kanjisite.com/>

Written Japanese uses three separate alphabets (four if we also count "romaji," the standard 26-letter English alphabet). Two of the three are syllabic. They are called hiragana and katakana, and consist of fairly simple characters used to represent syllables. Hiragana and katakana are known collectively as "kana". Kanji, however, are more complicated / difficult / beautiful / fascinating. Kanji was imported over the centuries from China. The pictograms are typically (much) more complex than kana ("kana" refers collectively to hiragana and katakana) and, furthermore, have different readings and meanings depending on how they are combined with other kanji. They represent ideas or words rather than syllables, although of course hiragana or katakana could be used to spell out the pronunciation.

侮辱 Bu joku: humiliation (the act of humiliation)

屈辱 Kutu joku: humiliation (feeling of humiliation)

耻辱 Chi joku: shame

国辱 Koku joku: national humiliation

It is koku joku! They humiliated a nation!

辱 the higher part of this kanji pictogram represents: tremble  
lower part: measure, inch

Henshall, Kenneth G. (1988). *A Guide to Remembering Japanese Characters*. Charles E. Tuttle

From <http://www.ideogear.com/kanji/8fb1>



**embarrass / humiliate / [shame](#)**

Popularity: fairly rare (57.1%)

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## Combination words

These are combination words, in which this kanji is combined with another to create a unique meaning. They can give you a better idea of what this kanji means.

国 <sub>ig</sub>	+	辱 <sub>ig</sub>	=	national disgrace
屈 <sub>ig</sub>	+	辱 <sub>ig</sub>	=	<a href="#">disgrace</a> , <a href="#">humiliation</a>
耻 <sub>ig</sub>	+	辱 <sub>ig</sub>	=	<a href="#">disgrace</a> , <a href="#">insult</a> , <a href="#">shame</a>
荣 <sub>ig</sub>	+	辱 <sub>ig</sub>	=	honor and or or shame
污 <sub>ig</sub>	+	辱 <sub>ig</sub>	=	<a href="#">disgrace</a> , <a href="#">humiliation</a> , <a href="#">insult</a>
辱 <sub>ig</sub>	+	知 <sub>ig</sub>	=	<a href="#">acquaintance</a>
雪 <sub>ig</sub>	+	辱 <sub>ig</sub>	=	making up for loss, <a href="#">revenge</a> , vindication of honour

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The following matches were found for the concept *shame*:

- 5 [kanji matches](#)



**shame**

|||||  
rare (27.2%)



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忸

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**shame**

|||||  
very rare (18.2%)



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### Kanji combinations that mean *shame*

These are combination matches, in which two kanji are combined to create one meaning, for the concept **shame**. They can give you a better idea of what each kanji means.

恐  
縮

shame  
sorry to trouble  
very kind of you

恥  
辱

disgrace  
insult  
shame

赤  
恥

shame

### Other words that resemble *shame*

These are related matches, which resemble the concept ***shame***.

- [feel ashamed](#)
- [honor and or or shame](#)
- [shameful](#)
- [shameful behavior](#)
- [shameful occupation](#)
- [shameful sight](#)
- [shameless](#)
- [shamelessness](#)
- [unashamed](#)
- [ashamed](#)



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<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/cgi-bin/cgiwrap/jwb/wwwjdic?1E>

曝し者; 晒し者 【さらしもの】 (n) pilloried criminal exposed to public view; public scorn or humiliation

屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; (P)

汚辱 【おじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; insult

屈辱的 【くつじょくてき】 (adj-na) humiliating

凹ます 【へこます】 (v5s) to dent; to indent; to depress; to humiliate

凹ませる 【へこませる】 (v1) to dent; to indent; to depress; to humiliate

屈服さす put down

沈黙さす silence

Usage examples for 屈辱.

太郎は屈辱を忍んで謝罪し辞職した。 □ [T]

Taro had to eat dirt and resigned.

- 太郎 【たろう】 Tarou (p,m) 【こうたろう】 【しょうたろう】 【えいたろう】 【けいたろう】 【ゆうたろう】 【たろお】 Taroo (u) NA
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (te-form)  
忍ぶ 【しのぶ】 (v5b) (1) to conceal oneself; to hide; (2) to endure; EP
  - 謝罪 【しゃざい】 (n) apology; EP
  - 辞職 【じしょく】 (n) resignation; EP
- 

彼は、私達が彼を屈辱したかのような振る舞いをした。 □ [T]

He acted as though we had insulted him.

- 彼 【かれ】 (n) (1) he; (2) boyfriend; SP
  - 私達 【わたくしたち】 (n) we; us; ED
  - 彼 【かれ】 (n) (1) he; (2) boyfriend; SP
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - 振る舞い 【ふるまい】 (n) behavior; conduct; EP
- 

彼はプライドが高かったので、その屈辱を無視する気にはなれなかった。

□ [T]

Such was his pride that he could not bring himself to ignore the insult.

- 彼 【かれ】 (n) (1) he; (2) boyfriend; SP
- プライド (n) pride; EP

- Possible inflected verb or adjective: (adj., past)  
高い 【たかい】 (adj) (1) high; tall; (2) expensive; EP
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - 無視 【むし】 (n,vs) disregard; ignore; EP
  - 気 【き;げ】 (き) (n) spirit; mood; (げ) (suf) (uk) seeming; giving the appearance of; giving one the feeling of; SP
- 

彼は甘んじて屈辱に耐えた。  [T]  
He suffered an insult.

- 彼 【かれ】 (n) (1) he; (2) boyfriend; SP
  - 甘んじる 【あまんじる】 (v1) to content oneself with; to be resigned to (one's fate); to be contented (satisfied) with (one's lot); ED
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain, past)  
耐える 【たえる】 (v1) (1) to bear; to stand; to endure; to put up with; (2) to support; to withstand; to resist; to brave; (3) to be fit for; to be equal to; ED
- 

彼女は彼の率直な言葉に屈辱をおぼえた。  [T]  
She was mortified by his frank remark.

- 彼女 【かのじょ】 (n) (1) she; (2) girl friend; sweetheart; EP
  - 彼の 【かれの;あの】 (adj-pn) (1) (かれの) his; (2) (uk) (あの) that over there; SP
  - 率直 【そつちよく】 (adj-na,n) frankness; candour; openheartedness; EP
  - 言葉 【ことば】 (n) word(s); language; speech; EP
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
- 

それは彼女に対する屈辱だ。  [T]  
It is an insult to her.

- 彼女 【かのじょ】 (n) (1) she; (2) girl friend; sweetheart; EP
  - 対する 【たいする】 (vs-s) to face; to confront; to oppose; EP
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
- 

どうしてそんな屈辱が、我慢ができるのですか。  [T]  
How can you bear such a humiliation.

- どうして (adv,int) why?; for what reason; how; in what way; for what purpose; what for; KD

- 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - 我慢 【がまん】 (n,vs) patience; endurance; perseverance; tolerance; self-control; self-denial; EP
- 

屈辱を受けていきるくらいなら死んだ方がました。  [T]

I would rather die than live in dishonor.

- 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (te-form)  
受ける 【うける】 (v1) to undertake; to accept; to take (lesson, test, damage); to undergo; to experience; to catch (e.g. a ball); to become popular; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain, past)  
死ぬ 【しぬ】 (v5n) to die; EP
  - 方がました 【ほうがました】 (exp) I would rather; I would as lief do; ED
- 

屈辱を受けて生きるくらいなら死んだ方がました。  [T]

I would rather die than live in dishonor.

- 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (te-form)  
受ける 【うける】 (v1) to undertake; to accept; to take (lesson, test, damage); to undergo; to experience; to catch (e.g. a ball); to become popular; EP
  - 生きる 【いきる】 (v1) to live; to exist; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain, past)  
死ぬ 【しぬ】 (v5n) to die; EP
  - 方がました 【ほうがました】 (exp) I would rather; I would as lief do; ED
- 

屈辱感。  [T]

A sense of humiliation.

- 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - 感 【かん】 (suff) feeling; sense; SP
- 

君の言葉はほとんど屈辱に等しい。  [T]

Your remark amounts almost to insult.

- 君 【きみ; くん】 (きみ) (n) (fam) you (masc. term for female); (くん) (n,suf) Mr (junior); master; boy; SP
  - 言葉 【ことば】 (n) word(s); language; speech; EP
  - ほとんど (n-adv,n-t) mostly; almost; KD
  - 屈辱 【くつじょく】 (n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - 等しい 【ひとしい】 (adj) equal; similar; like; equivalent; EP
-



死ぬほうが屈辱を受けるよりでした。  [T]

Death is preferable to dishonor.

- 死ぬ【しぬ】(v5n) to die; EP
  - 屈辱【くつじょく】(n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain verb)  
受ける【うける】(v1) to undertake; to accept; to take (lesson, test, damage); to undergo; to experience; to catch (e.g. a ball); to become popular; EP
- 

死ぬほうが屈辱を受けるよりもでした。  [T]

Death is preferable to dishonor.

- 死ぬ【しぬ】(v5n) to die; EP
  - 屈辱【くつじょく】(n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain verb)  
受ける【うける】(v1) to undertake; to accept; to take (lesson, test, damage); to undergo; to experience; to catch (e.g. a ball); to become popular; EP
- 

死ぬ方が屈辱を受けるよりでした。  [T]

Death is preferable to dishonor.

- 死ぬ【しぬ】(v5n) to die; EP
  - 方【かた; ほう】(かた)(n,suf) (1) person; (2) way of doing; (ほう)(n-adv,n) side; direction; way; SP
  - 屈辱【くつじょく】(n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain verb)  
受ける【うける】(v1) to undertake; to accept; to take (lesson, test, damage); to undergo; to experience; to catch (e.g. a ball); to become popular; EP
- 

死ぬ方が屈辱を受けるよりもでした。  [T]

Death is preferable to dishonor.

- 死ぬ【しぬ】(v5n) to die; EP
  - 方【かた; ほう】(かた)(n,suf) (1) person; (2) way of doing; (ほう)(n-adv,n) side; direction; way; SP
  - 屈辱【くつじょく】(n) disgrace; humiliation; EP
  - Possible inflected verb or adjective: (plain verb)  
受ける【うける】(v1) to undertake; to accept; to take (lesson, test, damage); to undergo; to experience; to catch (e.g. a ball); to become popular; EP
-

<http://www.freedict.com/oldict/oldict.php>

kutsujoku, ojoku: humiliation