

## ■ 国名の漢字 Country names in kanji

You all know that the kanji for Japan is <sup>にほん</sup>日本, meaning 'source of the sun' because it was located to the east of <sup>ちゅうごく</sup>中国 (China, 'the country at the centre'), and the kanji 日 is often used to mean 'Japan' or 'Japanese' in compound words, eg. <sup>にちえいじてん</sup>日英辞典, Japanese-English dictionary. But other countries' names too, as well as being written in katakana, can be written in kanji. The name for Australia, for example, was originally written 濠太刺利, as a phonetic approximation ゴウタラリ, and was later abbreviated to <sup>ごうしゅう</sup>豪州. The Japanese-language newspaper in Australia is called <sup>にちごう</sup>「日豪プレス」. (The actual meaning of <sup>ごう</sup>豪 is 'splendid, formidable!'). In the case of other countries too, the kanji is usually used for its phonetic value.

Here are some examples:

- |      |   |                 |   |
|------|---|-----------------|---|
| フランス | ⇒ | <sup>ふつ</sup> 仏 | abbreviation of 仏蘭西                               |
| イギリス | ⇒ | <sup>えい</sup> 英 | abbreviation of 英国 (alternative name for England) |
| ロシア  | ⇒ | <sup>ろ</sup> 露  | abbreviation of 露西亜                               |
| ドイツ  | ⇒ | <sup>どく</sup> 独 | abbreviation of 独逸                                |
| インド  | ⇒ | <sup>いん</sup> 印 | abbreviation of 印度                                |
| アメリカ | ⇒ | <sup>べい</sup> 米 | abbreviation of 亜米利加                              |
| カナダ  | ⇒ | <sup>か</sup> 加  | abbreviation of 加奈陀                               |
| イタリア | ⇒ | <sup>い</sup> 伊  | abbreviation of 伊太利亜                              |

Fill in the boxes with the correct kanji for each country.

