

Rules and Tips for Classical Japanese

- or -

How not to go fucking nuts trying to decipher an archaic form of an already-obtuse language designed for obfuscation and insularity

Some reminders and suggestions

- by -

P. Tuttle Starr, Scholar, Translator, Feminist, Luminary, Literary Badass,
and Bungomeister *ne plus ultra*

1. What does the text say? Getting a literal translation is 90% of the task. What does the grammar say? What do the words mean?
2. What is the subject? Establishing the subject and various antecedents will make things clearer.
3. Try working backwards from the verb.
4. Don't ignore what you don't understand. Look up, integrate literally.
5. If it doesn't make sense, it's probably wrong. What works in the context? Who is speaking? Occam's razor applies.