

SAMURAI

COMBAT BASICS

A FOUNDATION COURSE FOR ALL STUDENTS OF NATORI-RYŪ

COMPILED BY ANTONY CUMMINS

VERSION 1.1

Samurai: Combat Basics is a program of 108 martial skills designed specifically to be used by students of Natori-Ryū. Natori-Ryū is a samurai school of military warfare which was renovated in the mid-17th century by Natori Sanjūrō Masazumi who is also known as Issui Sensei. In his manual Heika Jodan, Issui sensei states that a student of the samurai ways must have a full grasp of the martial arts and divides the required skills for samurai into 8 divisions known as Bugeisha no Shinajina no Koto (translated in Book of Samurai). This understanding of the martial arts was traditionally meant to be found in other schools, who were teaching next to Natori-Ryū in the domain of Wakayama (for a list of those schools click [here](#)). However, as these teachings have now been translated into English and Natori-Ryū students are spreading around the world, it has become impossible for many students to find the correct establishments that offer correct training. As a result, this list of 108 skills has been created by Antony Cummins to provide students with a guideline and foundation to help them focus their martial training and has been guided by the original 8 areas dictated by Issui Sensei.

The skills listed here have a basic explanation, their name in Japanese and the location they are found in traditional teachings. If they are common Japanese terms they have been marked as “general usage”, while only a very few have had terms created for them as the original terminology cannot be found or they are addition by the author.

For more information on Natori-Ryū and to join other students who are studying these ways join **Natori Ryu Hub** on Facebook or by clicking [here](#).

弓

Yumi

Archery

1. stringing the bow (*tsurukake* 弦掛 - general usage)
2. nocking the arrow (*yatsugae* 矢番え - general usage)
3. gripping the string (*torikake* 取懸け - general usage)
4. drawing the bow (*hikiwake* 引分け - general usage)
5. shooting an arrow (*gyōsha* 行射 - general usage)
6. allowing the bow to turn in the hand (*yugaeri* 弓返り - general usage)
7. shooting while kneeling (*zasha* 座射 - general usage)
8. walking and shooting (*busha* 歩射 - general usage)
9. shooting from a prone position (*fukusha* 伏射 - general usage)
10. unstringing the bow (*tsuruyasume* 弦休め - *Natori-Ryū*)

馬

Uma

Horsemanship

11. tacking the horse (*umashōzoku* 馬装束 - *Natori-Ryū*)
12. mounting the horse (*jōba* 乗馬 - general usage)
13. walking (*namiashi* 常足 - general usage)
14. trotting (*hayaashi* 速足 - general usage)
15. cantering (*kakeashi* 駈歩 - general usage)
16. galloping (*shūho* 襲歩 - general usage)
17. riding with sword in hand (*bajōuchimono* 馬上打物 - general usage)
18. riding with spear couched (*bajōyari* 馬上槍 - general usage)
19. shooting a bow from horseback (*kisha* 騎射 - general usage)
20. manoeuvring (*yūdō* 誘導 - general usage)
21. dismounting (*geba* 下馬 - general usage)
22. untacking the horse (*basō kaijo* 馬装解除 - general usage)

剣術

Kenjutsu

Swordsmanship

23. wearing two swords (*daishō wo sasu koto* 大小を差す事 - general usage)
24. tying the *sageo* cord in place (*sageo sabaki* 下緒捌き - general usage)
25. tying the *tasuki* sleeve hold (*tasuki gake* 襷掛 - general usage)
26. tucking up the *hakama* (*momodachi* 股立 - general usage)
27. drawing the sword (*battō* 抜刀 - general usage)

28. sheathing the sword (*nōtō* 納刀 - general usage)
29. holding the sword (*tachi no mochiyō no koto* 太刀の持やうの事 - *Gorin no sho*)
30. walking correctly (*hokō ashimoto* 歩行足下 - *Natori-Ryū*)
31. stepping together (*in-yō no ashi* 陰陽の足 - *Gorin no sho*)
32. the middle stance (*chūdan no kamae* 中段の構 - general usage)
33. distancing and timing (*kenmon* 間門 - *Shinjin-Ryū & Mubyōshi-Ryū*)
34. the three initiatives (*mittsu no sen to iu koto* 三ツの先と云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
35. keeping the arms in close (*shūkō no mi to iu koto* しょうこうの身と云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
36. cutting (*hito wo kiru tenoura no koto* 人ヲ切ル手之裏之事 - *Natori-Ryū*)
37. attacking the corners (*kado ni sawaru to iu koto* かどにさわると云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
38. cutting the wrist (*kotegiri* 籠手斬 - general usage)
39. wrist-cut defence (*tachi wo kawasus tesabaki no koto* 太刀を躲す手捌きの事 - created term)
40. thrusting at the face (*omote wo sasu to iu koto* おもてをさすと云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
41. thrusting at the heart (*kokoro wo sasu to iu koto* 心をさすと云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
42. parry 1: slap and bounce (*haru koto* ハる事 - *Gorin no sho*)
43. parry 2: receiving (*ukuru koto* うくる事 - *Gorin no sho*)
44. parry 3: strike through (*ataru koto* あたる事 - *Gorin no sho*)
45. parry 4: holding down the blade (*osayuru koto* おさゆる事 - *Gorin no sho*)
46. parry and reoste (*hariuke to iu koto* はりうけと云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
47. sticking to the body (*shikkō no mi to iu koto* しつかうの身と云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
48. strike and hold (*nebari wo kakuru to iu koto* ねばりをかくと云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
49. The flint spark strike (*sekka no atari to iu koto* 石火のあたりと云事 - *Gorin no sho*)
50. The double beat strike (*Futatsu no koshi no hyōshi no koto* 二のこし (腰) の拍子の事 - *Gorin no sho*)
51. quick draw and quick draw on the move (*iai* 居合 - general usage)
52. Understanding rhythm (*heihō no hyōshi no koto* 兵法の拍子の事 - *Gorin no sho*)

鎗術

Sōjutsu

Spearsmanship

53. stepping with a spear, sidestep and thrust (*ayumi ashi* 歩足 - *Hōzōin-Ryū*)
54. turning with the spear (*hōkō tenkan* 方向転換 - created term)
55. the middle stance (*chūdan no kamae* 中段の構 - general usage)
56. adjusting the length of the spear and stabbing (*kuritsuki* 繰り突き - general usage)
57. thrusts (*tsuki* 突 - general usage)
58. strike from above (*tataku koto* 叩く事 - general usage)
59. parry (*uke* 受 - general usage)
60. receive and circle (*karametoru koto* 絡め取る事 - general usage)

61. thrusting with the butt of the spear (*ishizuki no koto* 石突きの事 - general usage)
62. hooking the enemy (*kagiyari no koto* 鍵槍の事 - general usage)

軍術

Gunjutsu

The skills of war

The skills of *gunjutsu* are the core focus of Natori-Ryū and is the main area of study. These skills are recorded in the Book of Samurai series – click [here](#) to get book one.

柔取手

Yawara torite

Wrestling and grappling

63. the three parts of the walking gait (*unsoku sandan* 運足三段 - created term)
64. movement weak points (*jūgoya no metsuke no koto* 十五夜ノ目附ノ事 - *Mubyōshi-Ryū*)
65. closing in on the enemy (*hairu no jutsu* 入之術 - *Tanigawa ha*)
66. straight and side strikes (*atemi* 当身 - general usage)
67. Uppercut with the palm (*shotei uchi* 掌底打ち - general usage)
68. sword hand strike (*tegatana* 手刀 - general usage)
69. receiving (*uke* 受 - general usage)
70. basic grappling stance (*shizentai and jigotai* 自然体, 自護体 - general usage)
71. drawing the dagger (*tantō nuki* 短刀抜き - general usage)
72. three strikes in one place (*santō issho* 三當一所 – *Natori-Ryū*)
73. joint lock 1 (*ude garami* 腕搦み - general usage)
74. joint lock 2 (*ude garami* 腕搦み - general usage)
75. joint lock 3 (*gyaku ude garami* 逆腕搦み - general usage)
76. release from holds (*datsuryoku* 脱力 – general usage)
77. overhand wrist lock (*kote mawashi* 小手回 - general usage)
78. outward wrist lock (*kote gaeshi* 小手返 - general usage)
79. underhand wrist lock (*kote hineri* 小手捻り - general usage)
80. finger locks (*yubidori* 指捕り - general usage)
81. controlling the head (*kashira-osae* 頭抑え - constructed term)
82. basic throw 1 (*ōsoto gari* 大外刈 – general usage)
83. basic throw 2 (*harai goshi* 払腰 – general usage)
84. basic throw 3 (*ashi gake* 足掛 – general usage)
85. basic throw 4 (*kuchiki taoshi* 朽木倒 – general usage)
86. basic throw 5 (*tani otoshi* 谷落 – general usage)
87. getting out from below someone (*ebi* エビ – general usage)
88. getting up off the ground (*yoroi dachi* 鎧立ち - *Tanigawa Ha*)
89. laying on the enemy as a blanket (*omoi mōfu* 重い毛布 - *Tanigawa Ha*)

90. weak points (*kyūsho* 急所 - general usage)
91. truncheon strikes (*kasumi uchi* 霞打ち - *Mubyōshi-Ryū*)
92. shuriken: overhand throw (*choku-uchi* 正面打 – *Mukaku-Ryū*)
93. shuriken: double beat throw (*kogishin-uchi* 狐疑心打 – *Mukaku-Ryū*)

鉄炮

Teppō

Marksmanship

94. holding the weapon and stance (*kamae* 構え - general usage)
95. loading the weapon (*tamagome* 弾込め - general usage)
96. firing from a standing position (*tachi hanachi* 立放ち - general usage)
97. firing from a kneeling position (*hiza hanachi* 膝放ち - general usage)
98. firing from a prone position (*fuseuchi* 伏せ撃ち - general usage)
99. firing from a seated crossed legged position (*agurauchi* あぐら撃ち – general usage)
100. firing in sequence (*tatamiuchi* タタミ打 – *Natori-Ryū*)
101. adopting the “inward stance” (*fumimojiru koto* フミモデル事 - *Natori-Ryū*)

水練

Suiren

Aquatic training

102. rowing a boat (*fune wo kogu koto* 舟を漕ぐ事 - general usage)
103. breast stroke (*hiraoyogi* 平泳 - general usage)
104. sidestroke (*yoko oyogi* 横泳 - general usage)
105. swimming with a weapon (*suichū ungu* 水上運具 – constructed term)
106. treading water (*tachi oyogi* 立泳 – general usage)
107. shooting while treading water (*suichū happō* 水中発砲 - *Iwakura-Ryū*)
108. swimming in armour and equipment (*ka'chū-oyogi* 甲冑泳 – *Iwakura-Ryū*)