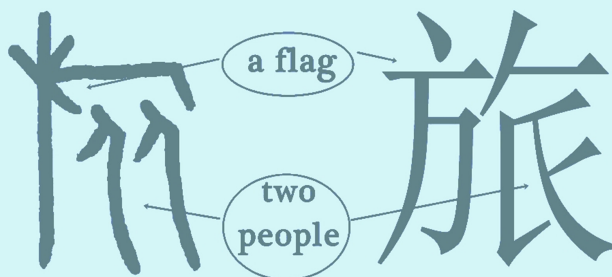


BASIC CHINESE CHARACTERS

(HSK 1-3)



Two people 从 (modified) travelling under a flag 旗.

Pedro Ceinos-Arcones

BASIC
CHINESE
CHARACTERS
(HSK 1-3)

PEDRO CEINOS ARCONES

Illustrations: Wei Hua

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WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHINESE CHARACTERS.

Chinese characters are the oldest system of writing currently in use, as it has been continuously used, with its evolutions, from 1200 BCE to the present day. Chinese writing is based on a system of pictograms and ideograms created 3,200 years ago that evolved in shape and function throughout the centuries to fulfill the cultural requirements of the Chinese people. Basically one pictogram, and later a character, corresponds with a syllable and with a definite meaning. Characters are therefore both phonetic and semantic units. Some pictograms are even today easy to recognize, as:

man	人	sun	日	moon	月	mouth	口
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More complex characters would be easy to recognize also if one knows the elements of which they are composed, the primitive meanings of these elements and the basic rules which are followed to combine them. So we have:

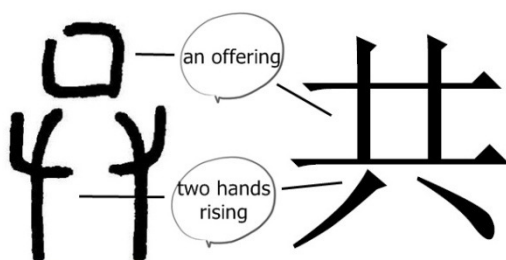
明	míng	bright	= sun	日	+	moon	月	.
看	kàn	see	= hand	手	+	eye	目	.
男	nán	man	= strength	力	+	field	田	.

This book proposes a new approach to the study of Chinese Characters based in the analysis of the phonetic groups to which the characters belong; as a line of common meaning permeates all the characters belonging to the same phonetic group. The book is based on the etymology of Chinese characters but is not an etymology, as its principal aim is not to decipher the origin and evolution of

Chinese characters but to introduce them to the reader, making easy for him to know and remember them. That means that to provide an easy learning of the Chinese Characters sometimes we left aside the main etymological currents.

The importance of Chinese characters lies not only in its old history and in the fact that they have been the tool through which one of the greatest human civilizations has developed. Chinese characters are the vehicle for the expression of Chinese people, whose language, with more than 1,3 billions speakers, is the most widely used in our planet.

The first systematic use of Chinese characters occurred in the second part of the Shang Dynasty, between the 14th and 12th centuries BCE. They are pictograms based on the shape of objects of nature. They are known as Jiaguwen (甲骨文) or Oracle Bone Characters. This is important for the student because some characters have preserved almost the same shape that they had in those times, and others, though evolved through the centuries, are still easily recognized. As gòng – **common, together**. A pictogram of two hands rising offerings.










After the Shang Dynasty characters were used inscribed in bronze vessels used to make offerings to ancestors and other deities. Though the shape is basically the same, there are variations due to the different writing tools and surfaces. These characters are known as the Bronze Writing (金文). Many of them also reached our time almost unchanged.










With the unification of China in the 3rd century BCE, a radical reform of the characters was carried out. New characters are known as Small Seal Characters; they are a new script destined to be used by the bureaucrats in the different levels of administration. The officials however simplified the characters creating the *lishu* or Official Script; and later the *kaishu* or Regular Script. The final change took shape in the 20th century after the foundation of the Peoples' Republic of China, giving shape to the modern characters, which are better adapted to the universal literacy of present times.

Writing the Chinese characters

Nowadays Chinese characters are not anymore these “drawings” that a superficial examination could lead to think. Each character is composed of a definite number of basic strokes that are written following an established order. To write Chinese characters one must know these basic strokes as well as the order in which they must be combined. In this way something apparently complex is broken down in a limited number of simple units.

Here these basic strokes are shown and the order in which they are written.

	horizontal stroke (written from left to right)
	vertical stroke (written from top to bottom)
	down stroke to the left (written from top right to bottom left)
	down stroke to the right (written from top left to bottom right)
	dot (written from top to bottom right or left)
	upward stroke (written from bottom left to top right)
	horizontal stroke with a hook

	vertical stroke with a hook
	bending stroke with a hook
	slant stroke with a hook
	level bending stroke with a hook
	vertical stroke with a horizontal turn to the right
	horizontal stroke with a vertical turn
	vertical stroke combined with a level bending stroke with a hook
	down stroke to the left combined with a dot
	vertical stroke with a double turn and a hook

Order of writing (strokes order)

1. A horizontal stroke precedes a vertical stroke or a downward stroke either to the left or to the right.
2. A downward stroke to the left precedes one to the right.
3. The strokes are usually written from the top down.
4. The strokes are usually written from left to right.
5. When strokes are enclosed by another stroke on the sides, the enclosing strokes usually precede the enclosed strokes.
6. When strokes are enclosed by another stroke or strokes on the bottom-left, the enclosed strokes usually precede the enclosing strokes.

7. When strokes are enclosed by other strokes on all four sides, the strokes on the left, top and right sides are written first, then the enclosed strokes, and finally the stroke at the bottom.

8. A vertical stroke in the middle usually precedes strokes on either side.

9. If a vertical stroke in the middle crosses other strokes, it is usually written last.

Abbreviations used in this book.

Ab. Abbreviated from.

Less. Lesson.

Orig. Originally.

S. Simplified from.

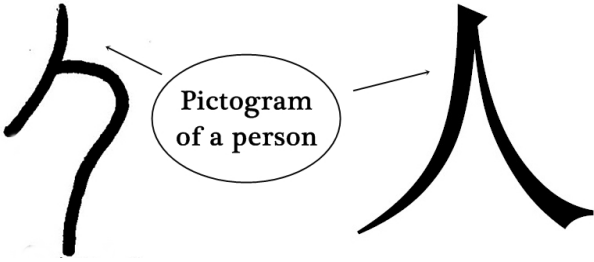
> it points that a meaning evolved into other meaning.

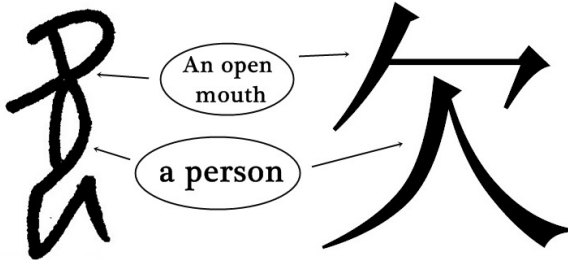
⌈K1⌋, ⌈K2⌋, ⌈K3⌋, etc refer to the levels of the Chinese official examination HSK.

CHART OF THE MOST COMMON RADICALS


亻 = 人 person	刂 = 刀 knife	厂 cliff	八 separate	勹 bend	冫 = 冰 Ice
鱼 fish	凵 mouth	辵 walk	扌 = 手 hand	土 earth	艹 = 草 plant
山 mountain	巾 cloth	彳 = 行 walk	犴 = 犬 dog	夊 foot	饣 = 食 food
礻 = 示 altar	日 sun	囗 surround	讠 = 言 word	广 house	纟 silk
氵 = 水 water	忄 = 心 heart	宀 house	辵 = 走 walk	雨 rain	女 woman
王 = 玉 jade	木 tree	殳 death	车 carriage	鬼 spirit	曰 tell
牛 cow	足 foot	爪 = 爪 hand	月 = 肉 body	火 fire	竹 bamboo
目 eye	疒 sick	罟 = 网 net	钅 = 金 metal	禾 rice ear	鸟 bird
衤 = 衣 clothes	页 head	虫 worm	灬 = 火 Fire	舟 boat	米 rice
骨 bone	口 mouth	门 door	马 horse	贝 money	石 stone
穴 cave	革 leather	尸 lower part of the body	攴 = 攴 hand with a stick	冫 = 阜 in the left mound	阝 = 邑 in the right city

LESSON 1. ON PEOPLE

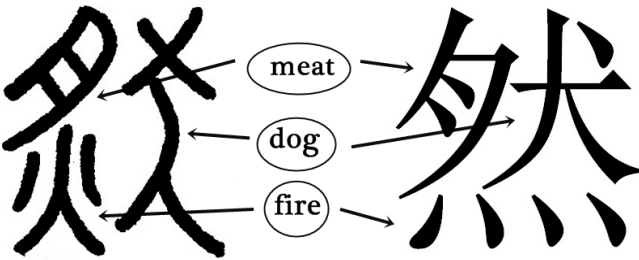
<p>人</p>	<p>rén – person, human being. This is a pictogram of a person standing, with legs separated. It is one of the more frequently used characters. When it forms part of other characters it is simplified as 亻. [K1]</p>  <p>人民 rénmin – the people (person + people) 人民币 rénmínbì – PRC currency (people + money)</p>
<p>认</p>	<p>rèn – know, recognize; accept. Words 讠 of a person 人 recognizing one's fault, and accepting punishment. Recognize > know. [K1]</p> <p>认为 rènwéi – think, consider (know + because)</p>
<p>肉</p>	<p>ròu – flesh, meat. This is the pictogram of a chunk of meat with its veins and nerves. When it forms parts of other characters it is simplified as 月: A body with its ribs outlined. [K2]</p> <p>牛肉 niúròu – beef (ox + meat) 猪肉 zhūròu – pork (pig + meat)</p>
<p>两</p>	<p>liǎng – two; unit of weight. It seems the pictogram of the harnesses of a chariot drawn by two horses. Now, two people 人 inside a roofed 一 chariot. [K2]</p>

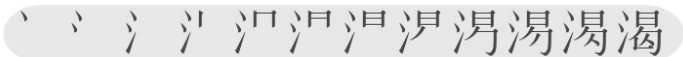
	两个人 liǎnggèrén two people .
辆	liàng – measure word for vehicles; car . Two 两 chariots 车. To start to count chariots. K3 三辆车 sānliàng chē three cars .
满	mǎn – full; satisfied; very . The right part comes from an archaic pictogram of two 两 vessels 鬲 firmly tied up. Water 氵 flowing from two 两 vessels 鬲 connected, to mean full. K3 满意 mǎnyì – satisfied (satisfied + wish)
欠	qiàn – yawn; owe; lack . Pictogram . The upper part is an open mouth. A person 人 with an open mouth is yawning, or trying to avoid the lack of air. K6 
饮	yǐn – drink; keep in the heart . An open mouth 欠 drinking from a vessel 食 = 饣. K3 饮料 yǐnliào – beverage (drink + material)
次	cì – second; times, stand . This is two 二 breaths (or two sneezes) with an open mouth 欠, emphasizing the second one, giving the idea of something not so good: order and categories. K2 其次 qícì – next; second (this + second)

个	<p>gè – measure word for people. Here we see that the number of people 人 is fixed with a vertical line that represents their bodies. [K1]</p> <p>个子 gèzi – height; stature.</p>
介	<p>jiè – be situated between; interpose. It evolved from the pictogram of a man protected by an armor made of leather pieces, which interposes between him and his enemies' weapons. Now, what separates 八 the people 人. [K2]</p> <div data-bbox="385 480 949 740" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>介绍 jièshào – present, introduce (interpose + connect)</p>
界	<p>jiè – boundary; extent. It marks the separation 介 between the fields 田. [K3]</p> <p>世界 shìjiè – world (world + limit)</p>
伞	<p>sǎn – umbrella. A pictogram of an umbrella. [K3]</p> <p>雨伞 yǔsǎn – umbrella (rain + umbrella)</p>
八	<p>bā – eight; separate. An old pictogram showing two lines separated; was later used for the number eight, maybe because it is easily divisible. Now it is a person 人 divided in half 八. [K1]</p>
六	<p>liù – six. It was the pictogram of a hut, later used to represent six. Perhaps for the six lines used to draw a simple hut. [K1]</p>

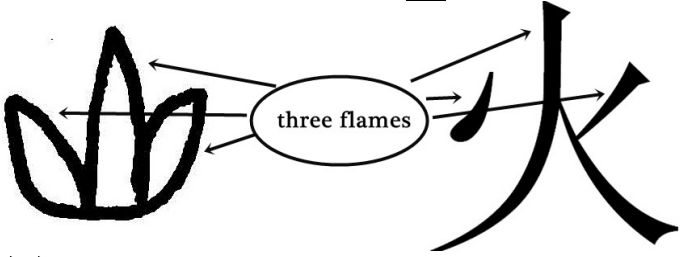
	星期六 xīngqīliù – Saturday (week + six)
以	yǐ – use; by; according to . It is a person 人 using a tool , which resembles an old hook 厶. [K2] 可以 kěyǐ – can; may; not bad (can + as well as)
大	dà – big, great, main; adult . A person 人 with the arms extended 一, a common gesture to express “big”. When it forms a part of others characters, it means “person”. [K1] 大家 dàjiā – all of us; everyone (big + family)
因	yīn – cause, reason; because . To meet a person 大 lying in bed 口 at daytime makes think that there is a reason. [K2] 因而 yīn'ér – consequently (because + and yet) 
太	tài – great, greatest; very . Originally the same as big 大, now the big person is above a piece of wood or a stone, to point out that he is even bigger. [K1]
夫	fū – man; husband; laborer . An adult man 大 with a pin 一 in his hair. In old China when men reached 20 years old they grew ponytails. [K2] 大夫 dàifu – doctor (great + man)
久	jiǔ – for a long time; long . Pictogram of a person 人 with something in his leg, possibly a rope that forced him to walk slowly. Walk slowly > for a long time > long. [K3]
头	tóu – head; chief; lead; first . Head is a person 大 with two 二 hairs floating on the air. Head > chief > to lead. [K3] 头发 tóufa – hair (head + hair)

买	mǎi – buy, purchase, get. A cap covering the head 头, as worn by people when going to the market. [K1]
卖	mài – sell. To buy 买 many (ten 十) things suggests buying to resell. [K1] 一 十 书 书 书 卖 卖 卖
读	dú – read; read aloud. The words 读 written by the seller 卖 about his goods: a list of shop items, a catalogue. [K1] 读书 dúshū – study (read + books)
实	shí – real; true; solid; fact. In real, everyday life, most of the time the head 头 is at home 家. [K3] 实际 shíjì – reality; real; actual (real + inside) 实在 shízài – indeed, really (real + be in)
犬	quǎn – dog. A pictogram of a dog tremendously changed. Now remembered as a person 大 holding a dog's leash in his hand. It is a radical used (ab. as 犳, the outline of a dog turned 90 degrees) to name many mammals and fiery or savage conditions. [K6]
突	tū – dash forward; suddenly. A dog 犬 going out of a cave 穴. [K3] 突然 tūrán – suddenly (suddenly + right)
哭	kū – cry, weep. Wailing in a funeral. Two mouths 口 (of people crying) and a dog 犬. In China, straw and porcelain dogs were used during funerals. [K3] 哭泣 kūqì – cry, weep (cry + cry)

<p>然</p>	<p>rán – correct, right; so. To roast 炙 dog 犬 meat 月 in order to make a sacrifice is to act correctly. [K3]</p>  <p>自然 zìrán – nature, natural (one self + so)</p>
<p>从</p>	<p>cóng – follow; obey; from. One person 人 follows the other 人. To follow > to obey > from (the starting point). [K2]</p> <p>从来 cónglái – never (from + come)</p> <p>服从 fúcóng – obey; submit (oneself) to (submit + obey)</p>
<p>天</p>	<p>tiān – heaven; day; season. A person 大 with the head emphasized (now a line 一) referred to Heaven, the anthropomorphic god of the Zhou dynasty. [K1]</p> <p>天气 tiānqì – weather (heaven + air)</p>
<p>送</p>	<p>sòng – see somebody off; give. A man 大 walks 辵 with a torch to see somebody off. Sometimes farewell gifts were given. [K2]</p>
<p>笑</p>	<p>xiào – laugh; smile; ridicule. A man bent 夭 laughing, making the same movement that bamboo 竹 does when it is bent by the wind. 夭 yāo is a man with his head bent forward. [K2]</p> <p>笑话 xiàohua – joke, jest (laugh + words)</p> <p>开玩笑 kāi wánxiào – joke; make fun of (start + play +</p>

	laugh)
喝	<p>hē – drink/ hè – shout. Action of the mouth 口 when one is in need 曷. 曷 hé is a beggar, a person in need: A person 人 bent 勺 asking 曰 for alms. K1</p> <p>喝水 hēshuǐ – drink water (drink + water)</p>
渴	<p>kě – thirsty. To ask 曷 for water 氵. K3</p> <p>  </p>

LESSON 2. ON FIRE

火	<p>huǒ – fire; anger. A pictogram of the flames of a fire. One important radical which abbreviated as 灬 or placed in the left side forms a part of around 400 characters, giving the meaning of fire, heat, cooking, etc. [K1]</p>  <p>火车 huǒchē – train (fire + car)</p>
秋	<p>qiū – autumn; harvest time. The season when the grain 禾 is ripened thanks to the sun's heat 火. Autumn is the time of harvest. [K3]</p> <p>秋天 qiūtiān – autumn (autumn + season)</p>
病	<p>bìng – illness, sickness; fall ill. In the bed ill with fever (fire 丙). 丙 bǐng, the 3rd of the 10 Heavenly Stems, is interpreted as a fire extending above the roof, symbolizes fire. [K2]</p> <p>生病 shēngbìng – fall ill (get + sickness)</p>
兆	<p>zhào – foretell, divine; omen. This is the pictogram of the cracks that appear in a turtle shell after it has been heated for divinatory purposes. [K6]</p>
跳	<p>tiào – jump, leap; beat. The feet 足 taking part in the ritual dances of divination 兆 sessions. [K2]</p>

跳舞 tiàowǔ – **dance** (leap + dance)

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LESSON 3. ON THE UNIVERSE

一	<p>yī – one; same; single, alone. An horizontal line to represent “1”. This is the unity of the universe. Placed in the upper part of a character it means heaven, or roof. Placed in the lower part it is a base or foundation. [K1]</p> <p>一共 yīgòng – total (one + altogether)</p>
二	<p>èr – two; different. Two horizontal lines. The duality of heaven 一 and earth 一. [K2]</p> <p>二月 èryuè – February (two + month). Names of the months are composed with a number referring to its order followed by the character for month 月.</p>
三	<p>sān – three; several, many. Three horizontal lines. The three components of the world: heaven 一, earth 一, and mankind 一. [K1]</p>
王	<p>wáng – king; chief; great. It was the pictogram of an ax, which was used to kill or punish; it became a symbol of strength and power. Remembered as the person who connects heaven, earth and mankind 三. [K5]</p>
班	<p>bān – class, team; shift, duty. A knife 刀 divides a piece of jade 王 in two parts. To cut, separate, divide in clases, teams or shifts > the work that makes each of them. [K2]</p> <p>上班 shàngbān – go to work (go to + duty) 加班 jiābān – work overtime (add + duty)</p>

望	<p>wàng – gaze into the distance; hope. A king 王 hidden 亡 in the darkness of the night (moon 月) gazes into the distance. [K3]</p> <p>希望 xīwàng – hope (hope + hope)</p>
主	<p>zhǔ – lord, master; view; main. A pictogram of a lamp, its original meaning, now 炷. From lamp, main, prince, that gives light and is seen by the subjects, lord > master > owner. [K3]</p> <div data-bbox="361 488 964 732" data-label="Image"> </div> <p>主要 zhǔyào – main (main + will) 主动 zhǔdòng – initiative (main + movement) 主意 zhǔyi – idea; plan (view + idea)</p>
住	<p>zhù – live, reside; stop. A person 亻 at home, where his hearth (fire 主) is. [K1]</p>
注	<p>zhù – pour; concentrate; record. To pour is to serve water 氵 for the lord 主. To pour is to concentrate in a place > pay attention (concentrate the mind) > record. [K3]</p> <p>注意 zhùyì – pay attention (concentrate on + idea)</p>
丰	<p>fēng – plentiful, abundant; big. Pictogram of an exuberant branch. [K4]</p> <p>丰富 fēngfù – rich, abundant (abundant + rich)</p>

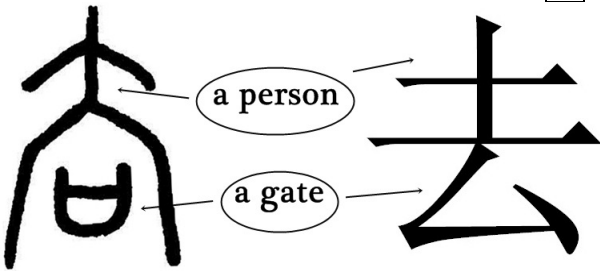
国


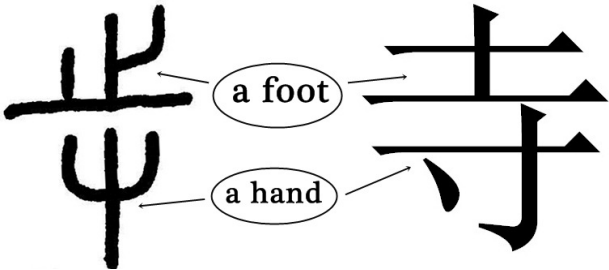
guó – **nation, country, state**. The **territory** 土 of the **king** 王 (symbolized as his jade 玉 seal). **K1**

中国 zhōngguó – **China** (center + country)

国家 guójiā – **country; nation** (country + home)

LESSON 4. ON THE EARTH

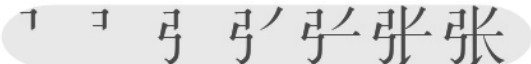
<p>土</p>	<p>tǔ – soil, earth; land, ground. Pictogram of a heap of earth. Later the two levels, ground 一 and underground 冫, from which the plants grow; a radical that forms part of characters related to the earth, soil, land and earth constructions. K5</p> <p>土地 tǔdì – land, soil (earth + soil)</p>
<p>在</p>	<p>zài – stay, remain; exist, be at. The earth 土 where plants grow 才 (cái phonetic, modified) is a good place to stay. K1</p> <p>正在 zhèngzài – be in the process of (just now + be at)</p>
<p>去</p>	<p>qù – go; leave; remove; past. It is a person (大 changed to 土), who leaves through a gate (口 changed to 厶). K1</p>  <p>去年 qùnián – last year (last + year)</p>
<p>法</p>	<p>fǎ – law; way, method. It can remove 去 unfairness and level (as water 氵) the society. K3</p> <p>法律 fǎlǜ – law (law + law)</p>
<p>却</p>	<p>què – reject; retreat; however. Order to leave 去 to a kneeling person 卩. K4</p>

	退却 tuìquè – retreat (retreat + retreat)
脚	jiǎo – foot; leg; base . The part of the body 月 that allows for retreat 却. K3 脚步 jiǎobù – step, pace (foot + step)
坐	zuò – sit down, take a seat . Two people 人 sitting on the earth 土. K3 请坐 qǐngzuò – please have a seat (please + seat) 
圣	shèng – sage, saint; holy, sacred . A person who blesses the land 土 with his hand 又. K6 圣人 shèngrén – saint (saint + person)
怪	guài – strange; monster, blame . A sage is a strange, uncommon person. The strange thoughts 𠂇 of a sage 圣. K3 奇怪 qíguài – strange (strange + strange)
寺	sì – palace; temple . The place where the people walk 止 carrying tributes in their hands 寸. Later temple, which is the place where the hand 寸 carries offerings from the earth 土. K5  寺庙 sìmiào – temple (temple + temple)

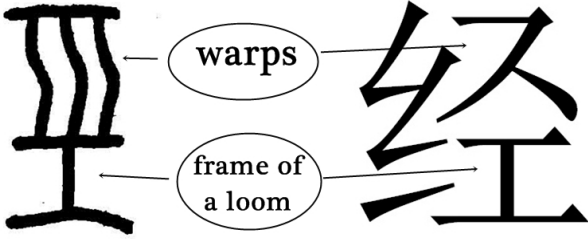
等	<p>děng – rank; equal to; wait for. The order in which bamboo 竹 tablets (to write) are stored in the palace 寺 or temple. [K2]</p> <p>等候 děnghòu – wait, await (wait + wait)</p>
特	<p>tè – special; particular. The bull 牛 selected to be sacrificed in the temple 寺 must be an exceptional one. [K3]</p> <p>特别 tèbié – particular, special (special + differentiate) 特点 tèdiǎn – characteristic; peculiarity (special + point)</p>
声	<p>shēng – voice; tone; sound. It is a part of the pictogram of a musical instrument 聲 (a hand with a stick 爻 beats a stone in a frame 声 and an ear 耳 listens). Now only a musical stone in a frame 声. [K3]</p> <p>声音 shēngyīn – sound (sound + sound)</p>
圭	<p>guī – jade tablet symbol of power. A symbol of power that the emperor gave to the new fiefs, which included a vast amount of land (土 twice).</p>
街	<p>jiē – street; market, fair. A place of the earth 土 where the people walk 行. [K3]</p> <p>街道 jiēdào – street (street + way)</p>
鞋	<p>xié – shoes. Leather 革 objects used to walk on the earth 土. [K3]</p> <p>鞋子 xiézi – shoes.</p>
士	<p>shì – scholar; person; soldier. It was a phallic symbol, regarding adult men, later male servants, soldiers, officials, scholars, etc. Remembered as one 一 among ten 十. A scholar is somebody who is chosen among many. The upper</p>

	horizontal stroke is longer than the lower. K4 女士 nǚshì – lady (woman + person)
吉	jí – lucky; propitious . A phallic symbol 士 on the platform 口 where it is worshiped. Remembered as the mouth of the scholar, which speaks propitious words. K6 吉祥 jíxiáng – lucky, auspicious (propitious + auspicious)
结	jié – settle; conclude; tie, knot . Silk 纟 ties up offerings in auspicious 吉 ceremonies. K3 结果 jiéguǒ – result (settle + fruit) 结实 jiēshi – strong, solid (tie + real)
周	zhōu – complete; circumference . It was a pictogram of a field full of plants, or perhaps of a piece of jade full of dots. It means dense, complete, all around. Remembered as an auspicious 吉 surrounding 几, a complete place. K3 周围 zhōuwéi – all around (complete + around) 周到 zhōudao – attentive; thorough (complete + arrive)
调	diào – tune// tiáo – regulate . Perfect words 讠 in harmony with the people around 周. K3 调查 diàochá – investigate (regulate + investigate) ‘ i i 讠讠讠讠讠讠讠讠讠讠

LESSON 5. UP AND DOWN

上	shàng – upper; previous; go up. A vertical line to point out to all that is above the ground line 一. K1
让	ràng – let, allow; offer; give way. Words 让 allowing to go up 上. K2 让步 ràngbù – yield, compromise (offer + step)
下	xià – under, below; next; downward. The opposite of 上. Everything that is under the ground line 一. K1 地下 dìxià – ground (soil + under) 下次 xiàcì – next time (next + time)
卜	bǔ – foretell, predict. Pictogram of a crack in a turtle shell, which heated on the fire was used to divine. 占卜 zhānbǔ – divine, foretell (divine + predict)
长	cháng – long// zhǎng – grow up; head. S. 長: It evolved from the pictogram of the long hair of an old man. Hair 毛 that reaches clothes 衣. K2 长城 Chángchéng – Great Wall (long + wall)
张	zhāng – open, spread; expand. To make grow 长 the opening of the bow 弓. K2 

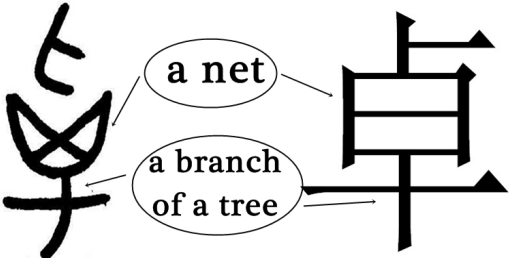
十	<p>shí – ten; complete. Originally it was a vertical line . Now it is one 一 ten 十 = 十. It means perfection, a complete matter. [K1]</p> <p>十分 shífēn – very, extremely (ten + points)</p>
什	<p>shén – what?; assorted, ten. Ten 十 people 人 constitute an assorted sample. [K1]</p> <p>什么 shénme – what? (what + what)</p>
汁	<p>zhī – juice. The liquid 液 extracted from some (ten 十) fruits. [K3]</p> <p>果汁 guǒzhī – fruit juice (fruit + juice)</p>
七	<p>qī – seven. It evolved from a sign to represent this number, similar to 十. It showed a cut, written 切 qiē when 七 was used to seven. [K1]</p> <p>第七 dìqī – the seventh (ordinal + seven)</p>
料	<p>liào – material, grain; stuff. The quantity 斗 (dòu, the pictogram of a big ladle is a measure of capacity equivalent to 10 liters) of grain used. [K3]</p>
丈	<p>zhàng – unit of length (3,3 m); husband. Pictogram of a hand 又 with a stick 十: the patriarchal power. Unit of length is ten 十 hands 又. [K2]</p> <p>丈夫 zhàngfū – husband (husband + husband)</p>
千	<p>qiān – thousand. It was ten 十 people 人, that is, many. From many, it extended to mean thousand. [K2]</p> <p>千万 qiānwàn – absolutely (thousand + ten thousand)</p>

	旅行 lǚxíng – travel; journey (travel + go)
工	gōng – work, labor; industry . A pictogram of a tool used by carpenters and builders. K1 工人 gōngrén – worker (work + person)
红	hóng – red; popular, happy . The color of the silk 纟 work 工 for a Chinese bride. K2 红色 hóngsè – red color (red + color)
左	zuǒ – left . It is the hand that grabs the tool 工 . K2 左边 zuǒbian – left side (left + side)
空	kōng – empty, void; sky . A cave 穴 made working with tools 工 . K3 空调 kōngtiáo – air conditioned (void + adjust) 空气 kōngqì – air; atmosphere (sky + air)
经	jīng – warp; manage; undergo . S. 經. The work 工 of silk 纟 in the loom 织 . The silk passes through the loom in longitudinal direction. K2 <div style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;">  </div> 经过 jīngguò – pass; go through (undergo + pass) 经理 jīnglǐ – manager; director (manage + manage)

<p>轻</p>	<p>qīng – light; soft; gentle; young. A chariot 车 in the correct direction 经 goes lightly, in the incorrect one it will need to cross the land furrows and its movement will be difficult. [K3]</p> <p>轻松 qīngsōng – light, soft (light + relaxed) 年轻 niánqīng – young (years + young)</p>
<p>亚</p>	<p>yà – inferior, second; Asia. The plan of a building with the hearth in the center, the point of a secondary worship (after that of the ancestors). Asia for the sound “yà”. [K4]</p> <p>亚洲 Yàzhōu – Asia (Asia + continent)</p>
<p>业</p>	<p>yè – employ, job; trade; industry. Employed in the work of making a building 亚, not yet finished, without roof 一 yet. Job > trade > industry. [K3]</p> <p>专业 zhuānyè – specialty (special + employment) 业务 yèwù – business, professional work (employ + service) 业余 yèyú – spare time; after-hours (work + spare)</p>

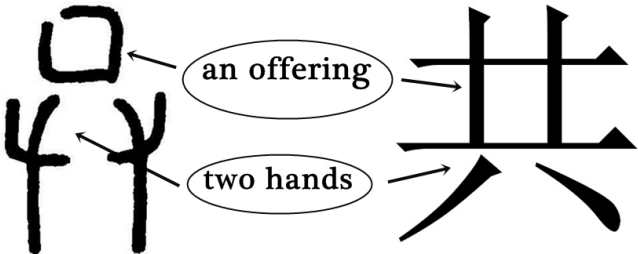
LESSON 6. ON THE SUN

<div data-bbox="194 296 258 379" data-label="Text"> <p>日</p> </div>	<p>rì – sun; day. A pictogram of the sun, with one of its rays in the center. It is a radical that forms a part of characters related to the sun, time, and sun qualities, for example light and brightness. [K1]</p> <p>生日 shēngrì – birthday (birth + day) 日记 rìjì – diary; journal (day + notes)</p>
<div data-bbox="185 566 264 651" data-label="Text"> <p>阳</p> </div>	<p>yáng – sunny; masculine; yang. The sun 日 shines on a mound 阝. [K3]</p> <p>太阳 tàiyáng – sun (great + yang)</p> <div data-bbox="423 715 874 778" data-label="Text"> <p>3 阝 阳 阳 阳 阳 阳</p> </div>
<div data-bbox="183 802 266 885" data-label="Text"> <p>旦</p> </div>	<p>dàn – dawn; morning. The sun 日 rising above the horizon line 一, as seen at dawn. [K5]</p>
<div data-bbox="180 922 269 1007" data-label="Text"> <p>但</p> </div>	<p>dàn – but; yet; only, merely. A person 亻 at dawn 旦 implies that he changes from sleeping mode to action mode, suitable for “but”. [K2]</p> <p>但是 dànshì – but; yet (but + is)</p>
<div data-bbox="180 1118 269 1203" data-label="Text"> <p>担</p> </div>	<p>dān – carry on a pole; undertake. To carry working tools on the hand 扌 at dawn 旦 > to undertake a task. [K3]</p> <p>担心 dānxīn – worry; feel anxious (undertake + heart)</p>
<div data-bbox="180 1278 269 1362" data-label="Text"> <p>得</p> </div>	<p>dé – get; obtain; result. To walk 彳 at dawn 旦 to grab (hand 寸) shells. [K2]</p>

	<p>得到 dédào – obtain; gain (obtain + arrive)</p> <p>得意 déyì – be complacent (get + wish)</p>
唱	<p>chàng – sing. The flourishing 昌 activity of the mouth 口. 昌 chāng prosperous, is a mouth 口 that praises the sun 日. K2</p> <p>唱歌 chànggē – sing (sing + song)</p>
时	<p>shí – period, season; hour. A hand 寸 measures the movements of the sun 日. K1</p> <p>时间 shíjiān – time (time + interval)</p>
旧	<p>jiù – past, former; old, used. The line connecting with past days 日. K3</p> <p>旧居 jiùjū – former residence (past + house)</p>
早	<p>zǎo – morning; early; in advance. When the sun 日 rises above the branches of a tree 十. K2</p> <p>早上 zǎoshàng – morning (morning + on)</p>
草	<p>cǎo – herbs; grass, straw. Plants 艹 that grow early 早. It is a radical, ab. as 艹, that forms part of characters related to plants. K3</p>
卓	<p>zhuó – outstanding; tall. It was a net (now 罒) to catch birds, usually placed high in the braches of the trees 十; therefore high, elevated. K6</p> 

<p>桌</p>	<p>zhuō – table, desk. An elevated 卓 piece of wood 木. As for the Chinese people that before the Song dynasty used to sit kneeling on the floor, a table was an elevated piece of furniture. [K1]</p> <p>桌子 zhuōzi – table.</p>
<p>查</p>	<p>chá – examine; investigate. S. 查: To examine the wooden 木 altars 且. Now one 一 investigates something dark 沓 (the sun 日 below a tree 木). [K3]</p> <p>调查 diàochá – investigate (regulate + investigate)</p>
<p>婚</p>	<p>hūn – wed, marry; marriage. The ceremony of a woman 女 at dusk 昏 (the sun 日 down 氏). In ancient China marriages were usually celebrated at evening. [K3]</p> <p>结婚 jiéhūn – wed, marry (join + marry)</p>
<p>昔</p>	<p>xī – past, former times. Originally referred to the days 日 of the flood. The upper part was a pictogram of waves, as 川 turned 90°. [K6]</p> <div data-bbox="370 879 930 1123"> </div> <p>古昔 gǔxī – in old times (old + past)</p>
<p>错</p>	<p>cuò – error; mistake; wrong. To use old 昔 metal 钁 tools. A mistake. [K2]</p> <p>错误 cuòwù – error, mistake (error + error)</p>

借	jiè – borrow, lend. A person 人 that helped in former times 昔. [K3]
春	chūn – spring; life, vitality. The season when the sun 日 makes the plants (two 艸 melted) grow. [K3] 春天 chūntiān – spring (spring + season)
白	bái – white; clear; pure. Some scholars think it is a grain of rice, others see the first ray of the sun 日 which brings light to the world. [K2] 白色 báisè – white color (white + color)
怕	pà – be afraid, fear. Feeling (heart 心) that makes the face turn white 白. [K3] 害怕 hàipà – be afraid (harm + be afraid)
的	de – particle/ di – objective. The clear 白 target to which one moves the spoon 勺, suggests possession as each one moves the spoon towards his own food. [K1] 你的 nǐde – your (you + possessive)
百	bǎi – hundred; numerous. One 一 bag of grain (white 白) with about one hundred grains. [K2] 百万 bǎiwàn – a million (hundred + ten thousand) 百姓 bǎixìng – common people (hundred + families)
瘦	shòu – thin, emaciated; lean. The sick body of an old man 叟, (a man with a stick in his hand 又 cheking the contents of a mortar 臼). [K3] 广广疒疒疒疒疒疒疒疒疒瘦瘦

<div>曰</div>	<p>yuē – say; speak; call. A little wider than the character for sun 日, it shows a mouth 凵 with the tongue 一 inside, as it moves in the process of talking.</p>
<div>甜</div>	<p>tián – sweet; agreeable. The tongue 舌 tastes something sweet 甘. 甘 gān sweet, is something 一 kept inside the mouth 凵. Sweet food is usually kept in the mouth to be savoured. [K3]</p> <p>甘甜 gāntián – sweet (sweet + sweet)</p>
<div>廿</div>	<p>niàn – twenty. Studied here for its similarity with 甘. It is ten 十 and ten 十 (merged).</p>
<div>共</div>	<p>gòng – common; together. Pictogram of two hands rising offerings. To offer, put in common, share. Now twenty 廿 (two ten 十 merged) pairs of hands 升 meaning to work together. [K2]</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>共同 gòngtóng – common; mutual (common + together)</p>