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吉  
财  
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和  
爱  
德  
喜  
禄

汉 **CHINESE** 字  
**CHARACTERS**



**LEARN & REMEMBER**  
**2,178 CHARACTERS**  
**AND THEIR MEANINGS**

**ALAN HOENIG, PH.D.**

*An EZChinese™ Guide!*

# Chinese Characters

Learn & Remember 2,178  
Characters and Their Meanings

*How to Retain the Meanings for More Than  
2000 of the Most Common Characters  
in Mandarin Chinese*

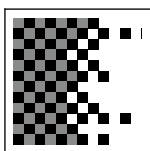
Alan Hoenig, Ph.D.

*Use an Innovative Memory Method  
To Put 'Ease' Into 'Chinese'!*

SIMPLIFIED CHARACTER EDITION

**EZChinese.com**

PO BOX 2346, HUNTINGTON, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK 11743



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**About the cover.** Cover design by Jim Hannan. Cover photo shows the panda couple Mei Xiang (female, left) and Tian Tian (male, right) and appears courtesy of Ann Batdorf/Smithsonian's National Zoo.

The red Chinese characters are symbols of good luck and fortune. Reading down, here are their meanings and official pinyin phonetic transliteration: beautiful (měi), longevity (shòu), lucky (jí), wealth (cái), good fortune (fú), harmonious (hé), love (ài), virtue (dé), happiness (xǐ), and emolument (lù). The character on the spine is hóng (large, vast), the author's Chinese surname.

The interior body types are drawn from the family of Linux Libertine fonts, designed by Philipp H. Poll. The typesetting was done by means of the Xe<sub>La</sub>TeX program of Jonathan Kew, itself an extension of Donald Knuth's T<sub>E</sub>X typesetting program.

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631-866-6146

www.EZChineseey.com

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*Dedicated to the memory of*

**BLOSSOM HOENIG**

**1924-2005**

*loving mother, iconoclast, woman of valor*

人去留影



# Preface

Chinese characters have been in use for thousands of years, and despite arguments that have probably raged for about the same amount of time, the Chinese people have never bothered to reform these characters in any meaningful way. Oh, sure, in the mid-50s, the People's Republic *did* revamp a couple of thousand of them, thereby providing us with the so-called simplified character set (the subject of this volume), but you *could* argue that this step only made the situation—at least for us poor foreign students—ever more burdensome. For now, it has become necessary to learn not one system, but both systems (traditional and simplified) in order to cope with mainland and overseas documents, as well as with the oceans of legacy documents that remain—older material printed before simplification.

Nevertheless, the very fact that these characters have persevered for such a long time must mean something. It means that in some allegorical and mystical sense they “want” to be learned, and indeed in my strictly empirical and anecdotal research, I've not run into a person brought up in China who complained about all the work it took to learn them. That's cold comfort for us non-native speakers, and the purpose of this book is to advance a method which makes this daunting task much less so for us. Please see the 'Read Me First!' introduction for a fuller, far more expansive discussion of this innovative method.

I will conclude this section with a plethora of acknowledgments. First off, I must point out that many of my ideas in this presentation drew upon the earlier work of James W. Heisig and Michael Rowley dealing with Japanese kanji.

My old college chum Chris Rider possesses critical acuity that I swear is second to none. She graciously proofread the entire text, not only keeping silly errors to a minimum, but also ensuring that my little stories stay on point, remain consistent, and maintain their pedagogical integrity—a far more demanding endeavor. I am grateful beyond words.

Matters artistic were the province of Jim Hannan, who performed yeoman service in the design of the cover. If you don't agree, you can blame me, for I'm the one who transformed it (as best I could) to electronic media.

Thanks to Web-meister (and Meistersinger) Mitch Clarvit for his expertise in setting up [www.EZChinesey.com](http://www.EZChinesey.com). His bemused patience in the face of my fearsome naivety had to be seen to be believed.

## CHINESE CHARACTERS: REMEMBER 2178 CHARACTER MEANINGS

I fear that errors remain in this book, despite the scrupulous care I took (or attempted to take). Most of them are mine and mine alone, but not all. I relied heavily on a small handful of remarkable reference works, but they did not always agree, and not knowing whom to follow in those instances may have led me down the wrong path. The three books in this personal canon are the “Oxford Concise English-Chinese Chinese-English Dictionary” (I used the second edition); Rick Harbaugh’s “Chinese Characters: A Genealogy and Dictionary” (1998, published by Zhongwen.com; mine is the fourteenth printing); and the “Chinese-English Comprehensive Dictionary,” edited by John DeFrancis (2003, University of Hawai‘i Press). These books, especially the last two, should be at hand to every serious student.

Speaking of errors, I hope that I can rely on you, gentle reader, to assist me in ruthlessly rooting them out. If you find any mistakes, or if you have suggestions for improving the stories in any panels, or any suggestions for improvement whatsoever, and if you include permission for me to use this material in any and all subsequent editions and printings, then I will cheerfully list the name of the first person who finds an error, and the names of all readers whose suggestions are incorporated into the volume. Many thanks in advance.

Without my kids Hannah and Sam, this book would have been written in half the time! Thanks, kids. Hey, Max, thank you, too. My wife, Jozefa, has been, as she has so frequently in the past, my bulwark against stupor, discouragement, crankiness, and lassitude, the four horsemen of the authorial apocalypse. More positively, she has supported and encouraged this venture with good cheer, great advice, and unstinting love.

I deeply regret my mother not living to see this volume in print. The example of her endlessly inventive creativity, nurturing care, and maternal love was a remarkable role model for myself and my siblings and, indeed, for anyone who knew her. I therefore dedicate this book to her. This one’s for you, Ma.

—Alan Hoenig  
Huntington, Long Island, New York  
2008 August 8, 8:08AM

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# Read Me First!

...Or in other words, should I buy this book?

## **EZChinesey™: the method.**

Begin by staring at some Chinese text. No matter how intense your concentration, it's simply not possible to extract any meaning from the characters. After a while, though, you may become sensitive to differences in appearance. For example—and this is key—some characters have a simpler structure than others. Compare, for example, a pair (of admitted extremes) such as 一 and 猿.

Okay, so any one character may be more complex than any other. What's the point?

Here's how we can turn this observation to our advantage: Let's decide to arrange the characters of interest—the 2000 most common—in order of their complexity. That is, we'll arrange this list in order from simple to somewhat less simple, to more complex, to downright frightening.

So how does this help? With luck, the simplest character is so simple you can learn it instantly. Move forward to the next character in the list. If our luck continues to hold, we should be able remember this next character by means of some simple story or memory aid which relates the first character—which we learned easily—to the change we need to get to the second, current character we are focusing on.

Now keep on doing this. That is, we try to express every character as some combination of a previous simpler character plus some small change, a change so small that it's easy to remember the current character as well. By great good fortune, this method works splendidly! (See the technical notes at the end of this introduction for additional details.) Actually, though, we have to be a little more forgiving than this statement implies. We may need to look at more than one of the previous characters, and from time to time we need to introduce into our master list some components which comprise various arrangements of strokes that aren't themselves independent Chinese characters.

**EZChinese™ at work: an example.**

Now let's see how this helps us learn the meanings of the eight simplest characters. The three simplest are 一, 二, and 三, which mean 'one', 'two', 'three' respectively, and you'll agree that it's easy to learn them just as they are. It won't always be *quite* this easy, for there aren't any additional legal characters you can build up solely from horizontal strokes.

To move forward, we'll need to introduce a component that provides flexibility in constructing new characters. Here's one that looks like an upright stick: ' | '. Sturdy sticks are useful as primitive but effective tools, and as scepter-like symbols of authority that identify kings, politicians, and other self-important riffraff. This staff combines with bars to form new characters, and we can keep track of them by creating simple stories which combine the meanings of each component and embedded character. We show no mercy in the creation of these stories—outrageous puns, incredible settings, and striking images—in short, anything that makes it easy to remember them—are grist for our mill.

Let's keep going to show this method in action.

The next character on our list is 十, Chinese for 'ten' and constructed from the single bar meaning 'one' and this new 'stick' component. It's easy to remember this meaning, for the crossed strokes look like the 't' which begins the word 'ten'.

Now, what might you make of this character: 士, which features 'ten' on top of 'one'? Someone smart enough to count backwards from *ten* to *one* would have regarded themselves as a **scholar**, and that's one meaning for this character.

The *stick* can combine with 二, 'two', in several ways. First, imagine trying to force the stick between the two bars to keep them far apart, like this: 工. You can do it, but it takes **work**, which is one meaning for this character.

In 土, 'stick' pierces 'two'. Perhaps the stick is a hoe, and the bars represent the top and bottom of the layer the hoe passes through. Layer of what? Why, layers of earth, of course—and this character often means **earth** or **soil**.

Sometimes, perhaps in time of drought, the earth is so soft and powdery, that the hoe slips all the way through the earth until only its top is at the surface, like this: 干. This happens when the soil is thirsty and **dry**, and that's what this character often means.

**Reviewing our work.**

Okay, now don't look back. Here are the eight characters we just discussed.

一 二 三 十 士 工 土 干

Can you remember their meanings? I bet you did better than you expected.

**EZChinese™: results.**



In this way, we build up the meanings for the two thousand most frequent characters. With knowledge of these meanings, you will recognize—on average—97% of all the characters in any piece of modern Chinese writing. Not bad. (In other volumes of this series, we'll consider more characters and methods for learning how to read and pronounce characters.)

You may still have many questions, but let's pause for an important message. We need to emphasize what **EZChinese™** is *not*. It is *not* a calligraphy manual. *Nor* is it an historical survey of the development of character forms from ancient times until now. These and related topics are certainly important and interesting, but you'll need to go elsewhere to learn more. Moreover, some scholars may find that the mnemonic scenarios I use fly in the face of scholarly study—well, too bad! My goal here is a simple one, and that is to present a simple method for *remembering* Chinese characters, period.

**One character, one panel.**



Pause now to flip through this book to see how it's organized. You'll see a bunch of numbered panels, each of which contains information about a single character or component. Each panel deliberately displays the character or component in two font styles, so you get practice learning to recognize the character. Out in the margin, you also get the pinyin pronunciation for it.

A visual graphic lets you know what components or previous characters we use to construct *this character*. Attached to the several little squares in this display are the names of these components and panel numbers in which *they* are defined, so you can easily flip back if you need to refresh your memory. Moreover, the squares are filled in interesting ways which suggest what portion of the character is occupied by which component. For example, this display

 man r 953     inch 210

tells you that, roughly speaking, the left half of the character contains the component named 'man r', presented first in §953, and the character 'inch' from §210 appears on the right. ('§' is the 'panel' symbol; '§§' means 'panels'.) Chinese scribes build up one character that means 'to pay' (see §971) from these components.

The components for ‘eagle’ (§1006) provide another illustration, and

 wild goose 1005 (altered)  bird 885

shows how the allocation of space can be a bit more complex. Sometimes, components find themselves altered a bit, and the accompanying label makes that clear.

(Rarely, characters contain miscellaneous strokes that are hard to identify with any other components, and never again appear in any other character. You’ll see a descriptive label to help you make sense of its shape, but there won’t be any panel reference number to go along with it.)

### The narrative scenario.

But the heart and soul of each panel is the central narrative which provides a scenario for learning and remembering its meaning. You can see how some words in this little story merit special typographic treatment. Words that use type that appears *like this* refer to the components—that is, the building blocks—of the current character. Words looking **like this** refer to the meaning of the character. In this way, you can look at the narrative and see how the *parts* contribute to the **whole**. You may have noticed that we have already used these conventions above.

Sometimes, a story line begins with the abbreviation ‘BF’ which stands for ‘bound form’. This means that the character never stands by itself, but with at least one other character that precedes or follows it. Essentially, a bound form character is only part of a Chinese word.

A little extra information appears just for fun. You learn how many pen strokes it takes to draw the character, and the frequency ranking of the character. The particle 的, pronounced ‘de’, has a frequency ranking of one; it’s the most common character in written Chinese.

Of course, components also get their own panels. The abbreviation ‘cmp’ lets you know this is a component panel, and some other typographic conventions differ slightly. Components do not have pronunciations, but do have names. Sometimes components and characters coincide. For a variety of reasons, it seems a good idea to present the item twice—once as a component, and a second time, immediately thereafter, as a character.

There’s one more convention that proves useful from time to time. An asterisk \* that follows a definition flags another character with the un-asterisked definition which has appeared previously with a different character. For example, in addition to 哥, ‘elder brother’, this volume presents characters 兄 and 昆, ‘elder brother\*’ and ‘elder brother\*\*’.

Now you’re good to go. If you’d like, you’re can skip the remainder of this introduction, and start the first unit.

We've prepared some on-line resources to assist you. For example, at our Web-site, [WWW.EZChineseey.COM](http://WWW.EZChineseey.COM), you'll find:

- downloadable flash cards,
- review material for each unit,
- graded reading practice, and
- much more—all free.

Further discussion of this material appears on our Web site and in this volume's Appendix. The remainder of this introduction contains more about **EZChineseey™**.

### Exactly what does it mean to 'learn' a character?

This question has two answers, and both miss the mark by a bit. Should we concentrate learning the character's *pronunciation*, or should its *meaning* be our focus?

I rejected the 'pronunciation' alternative for several reasons. First off, a significant minority of characters has several different pronunciations, depending on context and meaning. More important, though, is the fact that, in general, Chinese pronunciation is so different from English so as to render any memory schemes seriously deficient, for how can an *English* mnemonic refer to a pronunciation with no English counterpart?

We are led to the second candidate—*meaning*. That is, we tie our memory scheme to the meaning of each character. But even here there are difficulties. Most of the time, there is not one single meaning for each character. Other times, the character stands not for a 'word' in our usual sense, but for a portion of word. Sometimes, too, the character represents a special Chinese grammatical construct, for which no English equivalent occurs.

Even so, this seems to me the best method to choose. It was my intention at all times to choose the most prominent meaning for each character, although sometimes that's a matter more of personal preference than actual Chinese usage. I found it a particular challenge to provide a correspondence between untranslatable 'words'—particles and the like—and some reasonable English pseudo-equivalent.

Of course, how *do* you learn the pronunciation of each character? Other titles in the '**EZChineseey™**' series address this important issue, but for the time being, refer to the pinyin pronunciation in the right margin.



### Advantages and disadvantages of **EZChinese**<sup>TM</sup>.

One finding of this book is that it is possible to deconstruct virtually every character in terms of one hundred or so components. That's certainly a lot more than the 26 letters of the English alphabet, but it's vastly less than the figure of 'thousands' that unthinking instructors use to frighten would-be students of Chinese.

Nevertheless, there *is* one striking disadvantage to this method. The order in which we learn characters the **EZChinese**<sup>TM</sup> way matches that of no known Chinese language curriculum. How could it? Language courses go from common vocabulary to challenging words (more or less). This book presents words from the *visually* simple to the *visually* complex, and the two orderings will hardly ever line up. Although it may be difficult to use this material in a traditional classroom setting, the author hopes that the ease and rapidity with which novice learners can commit meanings to memory will mitigate this problem.

### Who decides what the 2000-most common characters are?

The earliest survey I know of Chinese character frequencies was made in 1928. According to it, 2000 distinct characters account for 96.5% of the text selections in this study, which comprises over 900,000 characters. Most recently, in an analysis of over 87 million characters of non-technical material, Jun Da basically reproduced this result—2000 characters account for 96.5% of the text. [Please refer to *Proceedings of the Fourth International Conference on New Technologies in Teaching and Learning Chinese* (edited by Pu Zhang *et al.*), pp. 501-11, 2004. (Beijing: Tsinghua University Press) for further details.] Moreover, there were only 8,435 distinct characters in this large sample—a far cry from the “tens of thousands” that the uninformed claim need be learned. This scholar has made his list of character frequencies available for downloading (from [lingua.mtsu.edu/chinese-computing](http://lingua.mtsu.edu/chinese-computing)), and it is the first 2000 of these characters with which we concern ourselves in these pages. I am grateful to this researcher for allowing me to use his results.

### Components versus characters.

I've spoken above of “characters” and “components,” but I'd like to spend a few minutes clarifying the distinction between them. Basically, if a glyph can stand by itself in a Chinese document, and be recognized as having its own pronunciation, then it's a *character*. Otherwise, it's a *component*, a building block for other independent characters.

You may already know about *radicals*, which are special types of components used by scribes to categorize all Chinese characters. Many radicals (but not all!) show up in this book as components. Radicals often appear independently as characters. For example, a common radical is 冫 (it means

“**mouth**”), which is a character in its own right, but appears as a radical in words like 叶, 古, 右, and many, many others.

Sometimes, when a component in the **EZChinese**<sup>TM</sup> method coincides in form with one of the more-or-less two hundred recognized radicals, we identify it as such with the suffix ‘r’. So while ‘**man**’ is 人, the man radical ‘*man r*’ looks like 亻, and frequently makes an appearance in this volume as a component.

‘Words’ themselves sometimes play the role of components: 古 ‘**ancient**’ is part of 估; 末 ‘**end, tip**’ appears in 抹 and 沫; and there are numerous other instances.

Although our purpose is to present narratives for the two thousand most common characters, it was sometimes necessary to relax this restriction. It often happens that a well-defined portion of a common character contains a sub-unit which is itself an independent character, but a rare one. For example, the Chinese use 隹 to mean a generic form of **short-tailed bird**. However, while this character is only the 5837th most common character in use, it itself appears often in other, far more frequent characters; 堆 (meaning ‘**heap up**’, rank 1370), 推 (‘**push**’, 505), 准 (‘**criterion**’, 379), 惟 (‘**-ism**’, 1856), 集 (‘**gather**’, 406), 焦 (‘**burnt**’, 1554), and 瞧 (‘**look at**’, 1551) barely scratch the surface. I deemed it closer to the *spirit* of this work to include ‘隹’ among the list of characters for this book. After all, even though it is rare, it still occurs from time to time, it can’t hurt to know it, and it helps learn many of its offspring. That’s why all told, this book includes narratives for 2178 characters and another hundred or so components (2280 in all).

### What’s the best way use this book?

Using our method to learn characters is a skill, and skill sets improve and strengthen the more you use them. You may find the ideas of learning character meanings daunting at first—that’s why the first few units are much shorter than most of the units in this volume.

You should strive to do some of this work each day. Of course, if you stick to the book while doing this, it’s easy to wonder—are you really learning the meaning for each character (and vice versa), or are you learning to regurgitate this material in the order it appears? For that reason, I *strongly* recommend the use of flash cards (which can be shuffled) and other memory aids. Our Web site—forgive us for bragging one more time—contains several kinds of practice material, including flashcards, end of unit review material, and graded reading practice. Fuller discussion appears on-line and in the book’s Appendix.

I myself seem to have gravitated to a two-ply system, and I have become addicted to using flashcards for review. It’s ‘two-ply’ for while I am reviewing or learning the words in some current unit, I also review the material in a previous unit. I review a units-worth of entries in two ways. From the

## CHINESE CHARACTERS: REMEMBER 2178 CHARACTER MEANINGS

definition (that is, I cover the left-hand, ‘character’ side of the cards), I try to recreate its form in my mind (actually, I tend to ‘draw’ it on the palm of one hand with the index finger of the other). Then, (after shuffling the pack of cards) while looking at the characters (this time covering the right side), I identify its definition. And I try to do this three times a day for each of the two units I am learning and reviewing.

### **In conclusion. . .**


Learning Chinese is rewarding and challenging, but the problem of grappling with Chinese characters threatens the success of the whole endeavor. With this book, you will learn a method that takes the sweat out of learning them, a method that, well, puts the ‘ease’ into ‘Chinese’.



### **Abbreviations Used**



BF	bound form
CMP	component
LIT	literary
M	measure word
r	radical
SB	somebody
STH	something
V	variant




# Unit 1



## New Beginnings

1  **bar**  
CMP What else could this be?

2  **one**  **bar 1** yī  
Chinese tally marks are evidently horizontal rather than vertical. One such *bar* stands for **one**. [1 STROKES RANK 2]

3  **two**  **one (times 2) 2** èr  
*One* tally twice stands for **two**. Notice that the upper bar is shorter than the bottom one.  
Sometimes this character, especially at a character's bottom, represents two horizontals. [2 STROKES RANK 157]

4  **three**  **one 2**  **two 3** sān  
**Three** bars generate the number **three**. Since the middle stroke is the shortest, it is natural (and important!) to interpret this symbol as *one* plus *two*. [3 STROKES RANK 125]

5   **scepter**  
CMP This is a simple vertical stroke, and it's helpful to assign to such primitive forms a similar shape, such as a **scepter**, which is what we'll do here. The presence of a **scepter** often conveys impressions of authority and leadership, used as this object often is by rulers and leaders.

The **scepter** is a tool conferring authority, and we might sometimes regard it as a symbol of such. But sometimes, too, we'll just regard it as a stick-like tool.

6 十 十 ten  one 2  scepter 5 shí

- 1 The character 十 looks like the letter ‘t’ which stands for ‘**ten**’.
- 2 The upright *stick* in this character resembles a European ‘one’. The horizontal bar of the Chinese ‘one’ closely mimics the horizontal hand motion people use to show there’s nothing left. A ‘one’ and the ‘zero’ of ‘nothing left’ and you’ve got **1 0**, a perfect **ten**.

When used as a component, this character will sometimes take on the meaning of ‘a good several’.

[2 STROKES RANK 112]

7 工 工 labor, work  two 3  scepter 5 gōng

The components of 工 are 二 and 丨. Normally, though, the horizontal strokes of *two* are close together. If we pry these strokes apart, and keep them propped open with our *scepter*, we have done some useful **work**.

[3 STROKES RANK 118]

8 士 士 scholar  ten 6  one 2 shì

- 1 A **scholar** is someone so smart they can count backwards from *ten* to *one*.
- 2 A **scholar** combines many positive attributes—as many as *ten*—within *one* individual.

[3 STROKES RANK 372]

9 土 土 earth, soil  two 3  scepter 5 tǔ

Our scepter has uses other than conveying authority. Now let’s use it in farming. Imagine the **earth**, and that the 二 component shows *two* layers of the ground in a sideways, cut-away view. The upper stroke shows the surface, and the lower, represents the level to which we dig the hoe. Times are so tough that even the king needs to participate—even he must use his *scepter* for hoeing, and that’s what we see here. The scepter pierces the surface of the **soil** for some small distance...

[3 STROKES RANK 515]




10 干 干 dry  two 3  scepter 5 gān


...but if the soil is exceptionally **dry**, as during a drought or in the desert, the *stick* might well plunge through the *two* layers to its very tip, as we see here.





[3 STROKES RANK 353]


## Unit 2



# Onion-Like Layers

- 11 王 王 king  one 2  two 3  scepter 5 wáng
- Because the middle horizontal *scepter* is shorter than the other *two*, we can group the horizontals as ‘*one*’ followed by ‘*two*’. This character’s components are therefore ‘*one*’-‘*two*’-‘*lead*’; a **king** is chosen by a nation as some *one to* (sounds like ‘*two*’-get it?) *lead*. A *scepter* is a symbol of authority, and therefore of *leadership*. [4 STROKES RANK 299]

- 12 丰 丰 plentiful  king 11 (altered) fēng
- BF** In times of abundance, or **plentiful** economics, a *king*’s authority grows and expands. In this character, his scepter overflows the bounds of the horizontal components to emphasize this abundance. [4 STROKES RANK 1189]

- 13 非 非 not  three 4  scepter 5  scepter 5  three 4 fēi
- The left and right halves of 非 consist of a pair of *three-toothed* combs which are mirror images of each other. Each comb looks alike but they are nevertheless **not** equal. [8 STROKES RANK 283]

- 14 圭 圭 jade tablet  earth, soil (times 2) 9 guī
- A **jade tablet** was a symbol of great authority in ancient societies and possessed very great value. How do you safeguard such an item? Here’s one way—create several piles of *earth* and secrete it in one of them, but only you (the tribal leader) know which one. [6 STROKES RANK 3537]

- 15 且 且 moreover  bar (times 4) 1  scepter (times 2) 5 qiě
- Do you like this small system of shelves? With it, you can stack **more** stuff over each other. [5 STROKES RANK 296]

- 16 直 直 straight, vertical  ten 6  moreover 15 (altered) zhí

If we pile *ten* bookshelves from the definition of ‘*moreover*’ on top of each other, they need to be as **straight** and **vertical** as possible so they don’t topple over. *Moreover*, we need to add an extra horizontal ‘shelf’ to each bookcase for additional strength and support. (As if to tempt fate, the vertical shaft of 十 lists a bit to starboard in this character—look closely!) [8 STROKES RANK 255]




False identity alert: At first blush, it seems that 且 ‘*moreover*’ acts as a component in 直 ‘*straight, vertical*’. But look very closely—the stovepipe hats have different numbers of bars: 且 versus 直.

- 17 臣 臣 subject of a ruler  king 11 (altered)  scepter 5 chén

What do **subjects** do to acknowledge their servile status to the *king*? They kneel. Here’s a view from the top of one such servant. His back is to the left (next to the *king’s scepter*), and the servant’s head is between his kneeling legs. The two short verticals represent his knees, which are all you can see of his legs. [6 STROKES RANK 1138]

- 18 巨 巨 huge  subject of a ruler 17  vertical struts jù

(In the schematic, **gray** indicates removal or subtraction or minor alteration of some elements.) If you’ve ever gone off a diet, you know the ‘overshoot’ effect at first hand. Not only do you regain—instantly—all your lost weight, but you overshoot the mark and now weigh more than you did originally. In the same way, when we erase the *vertical ‘knee’ marks* (of §17) to show that the *subject* is standing up, in some magical way, he overshoots his original height to become **huge**. [4 STROKES RANK 913]

- 19 五 五 five  labor, work 7  one 2  unexpected stroke wǔ

Here’s the profile of a royal throne, and we see the supports for the **five** major limbs of the queen—supports for the head, two arms, and two feet.

[4 STROKES RANK 279]

20 互 互 mutual

■ five 19 (altered)

hù


Look carefully to see the stylized arm reaching down to grab a second arm reaching up to grab it. Imagine they are giving each other **mutual** assistance.


[4 STROKES RANK 819]





## Unit 3

# Curiouser and Curiouser

21 山 山 mountain  three 4 (altered)  one 2 shān  
*Three peaks form one mountain.* [3 STROKES RANK 259]

22 出 出 exit  mountain (times 2) 21 chū  
Although this character looks like it has some connection to 山, it's better to focus on the five vertical strokes, which have the appearance of bony fingers. In fact, when you stare at it, 出 resembles a hand, highly contorted perhaps, like that of the wicked queen in the guise of the hag who beckoned Snow White out of the dwarfs' cottage, persuading her to **exit** from the safety of the room and so to her fate. [5 STROKES RANK 28]

23 击 击 strike  earth, soil 9  mountain 21 jī  
**BF** *Earth* from a *mountain* is a landslide—it **strikes** with great force. [5 STROKES RANK 395]

24 丿 丿 hooked stick  
**CMP** The long vertical 'scepter' stroke of the preceding panels sometimes appears with a hook. In this context, the vertical can refer to something hook-like, but sometimes the hook acts as an 'abbreviation' sign. That is, the hooked vertical will remind you of a more elaborate shape.


25 丁 丁 fourth  one 2  hooked stick 24 dīng

(The definition here refers to ‘fourth in a series of items or fourth in a list’.) This shape reminds me of the special *hook*-like keys you use to open *one* can of sardines. With the layers of cramped fish finally exposed, they are free to go **forth** (sounds like *fourth*) for your gustatory delight.

We will sometimes use this shape to refer to a platform or table, because that’s what it looks like. [2 STROKES RANK 1168]

26 于 于 in; at; to  two 3  hooked stick 24 yú

Prepositions are the worst part of learning foreign languages—they never translate cleanly, which is why we must append three meanings to 于. How do you even visualize prepositional relationships? Here’s our *hook*—we’ve already compared two horizontals to the surface of dry earth (see §10), but the *hook* helps lock the stick **in** place or **at** our location. Furthermore, the ‘two’ strokes which indicate the earth sound like **to**. [3 STROKES RANK 40]

27 手 手 hand  three 4  hooked stick 24 shǒu

The *hooked stick* is shorthand for an entire arm; the hook is the elbow, but only the forearm is explicitly drawn. The *three* horizontal strokes are the stylized fingers of the **hand**, so stylized that no one cares that we show six fingers! [4 STROKES RANK 143]

28 拜 拜 do obeisance, salute  hand 27 (altered)  king 11 (altered) bài

Is this character evidence for subtle subversion on the part of ancient scribes? Observe a slightly disfigured left *hand* performing a **salute** to a trumped-up *king*—too many chevrons and a scepter threatening to drop out of the frame. [9 STROKES RANK 1218]

29 扌 扌 hand r

**CMP** When the character 手 appears as a component in another character, it takes this somewhat abbreviated and distorted form—now there are only four fingers! (Or perhaps there are five—the four ends of the more-or-less horizontal strokes, and the upper protruding end of the central hook.)

30 挂 挂 hang

hand 14 jade tablet 14

guà

If you take your *hand* and *hang* the *jade tablet* which symbolizes our leadership and power, then everyone can inspect it and render proper respect to you.

[9 STROKES RANK 1232]





Sometimes, when we use a character as a component, it suffers mild distortion. For example,











土	becomes	土
王	becomes	王
丁	becomes	丁
























Sometimes, though, the distortion is more severe. We will draw your attention to instances of these disfigurements by including the word 'altered' in the label that identifies the component.

## Unit 4

### Action and Inaction











- 31 拒 拒 resist or repel  hand r 29  huge 18 jù  
BF The giant's *hand* is *huge*. With it, it's easy for him to **resist** and **repel** his enemies. [7 STROKES RANK 1331]
- 32 排 排 put in order  hand r 29  not 13 pái  
The straight lines of '*not*' suggest the ordered arrangement of soldiers who are drilling. Here's a young boy using his *hand* to **put** his toy soldiers **in order**. And in fact another meaning for 'pái' is '**platoon**'. [11 STROKES RANK 682]
- 33 打 打 hit  hand r 29  fourth 25 dǎ  
The *hand* (on the left) is clutching the '*fourth*' component on the right, which we earlier compared to a metal key, as if it were a pair of brass knuckles. We are getting ready to **hit** someone with a vengeance. What's the point of fighting if you're not going to win? [5 STROKES RANK 223]
- 34 𠂇 𠂇 boar's head  
CMP The design emphasizes the stiff bristles that cover a **boar's head**.
- 35 扫 扫 sweep  hand r 29  boar's head 34 sǎo  
Officially, the right component represents a *boar's head*, but we'll interpret it as the bottom of a broom, which is what it looks like! After all, we have to put these stiff bristles to good use. We see a *hand* holding a broom getting ready to **sweep**. [6 STROKES RANK 1435]













- 36 彗 彗 broom  plentiful (times 2) 12  boar's head 34 huì  
I'm a champion sweeper, and I wear out **brooms plenty** fast. The bristles come from a *boar's head*, and I use an *abundance* of them. [11 STROKES RANK 3591]
- 37 丑 丑 hideous  boar's head 34 (altered)  scepter 5 chǒu  
The underlying 'boar's head' is a variant of the form shown above in §34. Wild, feral boars are far more **hideous** and frightening than their domestic cousins. This character shows one so ancient and mighty that a giant fang extends upward from his horizontal jaw to the top of his *head*. The fangs are weapons and, like a *scepter*, a symbol of his authority within the pack. [4 STROKES RANK 1901]
- 38 扭 扭 twist, wrench  hand r 29  hideous 37 niǚ  
**Twisting** and especially **wrenching** are ugly motions, often accompanied by ugly emotion. It's not surprising that a *hand* accompanied by *ugliness* has this meaning. [7 STROKES RANK 1805]
- 39 聿 聿 pen, writing instrument  boar's head 34  scepter 5  two 3 yù  
BF There are a total of five horizontal strokes in this rare character, representing five fingers holding the vertical **pen**. The first and third fingers are linked, to emphasize that the first three fingers of a hand are the strongest and most dexterous. [6 STROKES RANK 3526]
- 40 口 口 enclosure  
CMP Normally, only 口 contains additional elements inside it; 凵 never does.
- 41 口 口 mouth  enclosure 40 kǒu  
Almost everyone already knows this is a stylized representation of an actual **mouth**. It's square rather than round because the calligraphy brush made circular curves difficult to execute, but it represents a small *enclosure*. It's often useful to imagine that 凵 represents a speaking person, or sometimes just a person. It's only possible to reliably distinguish 口 from 凵 when they're next to each other. [3 STROKES RANK 212]

- 42  **return**  enclosure 40  mouth 41 huí  
Here, a lonely man imprisoned in an *enclosure* uses his *mouth* to signal his distress, his desire to **return** home to friends and family.  
[6 STROKES RANK 172]
- 43  **bamboo pitch pipes**  mouth 41  mouth 41 lǚ  
**BF** Bamboo pitch pipes are flute-like things we blow into to get a pure musical tone. Here are two of the holes—mini-*mouths*, so to speak.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1716]
- 44  **product**  mouth 41  mouth 41  mouth 41 pǐn  
Here is a stylized crowd of merchants, represented by their *mouths*. They are busy hawking the **products** they have for sale. [9 STROKES RANK 308]
- 45  **middle**  enclosure 40  scepter 5 zhōng  
An *enclosure*—a small pen—pierced by a *scepter* through the **middle** nicely illustrates this concept. [4 STROKES RANK 14]
- 46  **strung together**  mouth 41  mouth 41  scepter 5 chuàn  
Here's a grisly tale—natives from a cannibal isle take their shrunken heads, symbolized by a pair of *mouths*, and use a small pole or *scepter*, to **string** them **together**. [7 STROKES RANK 1832]
- 47  **express**  mouth 41  ten 6 shēn  
**BF** A skilled orator can **express** herself on any subject—figuratively speaking, *ten* words emerge effortlessly from her *mouth*. [5 STROKES RANK 1110]
- 48  **let sb do sth**  mouth 41  ten 6 yóu  
You can think of the '田' part as the portcullis on a medieval castle. Someone has just raised the central vertical to **let** you walk through. [5 STROKES RANK 136]













## Unit 5

# Moving and Standing Still



- 49 抽 抽 take out  hand r 29  let sb do sth 48 chōu  
The vertical on the right looks for all the world like a thorn embedded in a *hand* or a paw. The fingers of the ‘*hand*’ on the left are about to **take out** this offending object by clamping on it. [8 STROKES RANK 1178]
- 50 甲 甲 first in a series  mouth 41  ten 6 jiǎ  
A protest rally is getting under way. You are at the head of the line holding a sign which looks just like this character. You hold it by its long handle, so people can read it. It lets them know to stand behind you. You are **first in the series** of *ten* marchers, all of whom are loud*mouths*. [5 STROKES RANK 1106]
- 51 古 古 ancient  ten 6  mouth 41 gǔ  
This character shows *ten mouths*. Mouths next to each other in time (rather than space) can represent generations. Thus, something like ten generations ago is **ancient**. [5 STROKES RANK 509]
- 52 叶 叶 leaf  mouth 41  ten 6 yè  
If you rotate 古 (§51) by ninety degrees, you get this character, 叶 ‘leaf’. The rotation means ten mouths in space, not time, *ten* people (‘*mouths*’) clamoring for food. Fortunately, there’s enough—to the host’s **relief** (sound like leaf!). [5 STROKES RANK 920]
- 53 固 固 solid  enclosure 40  ancient 51 gù  
*Ancient* ruins, surrounded or protected by an *enclosure* must be pretty **solid** to have lasted this long. [8 STROKES RANK 893]

- 54 咕 咕 cluck  mouth 41  ancient 51 gū  
For some *ancient* people, the sounds from their *mouths* often resemble muttering or the **clucks** of chickens. [8 STROKES RANK 2418]
- 55 吐 吐 spit  mouth 41  earth, soil 9 tǔ  
From your *mouth* to the *earth*—that pretty much sums up the act of **spitting**. [6 STROKES RANK 1653]
- 56 吉 吉 lucky  scholar 8  mouth 41 jí  
**BF** The words from a *scholar's mouth* are considered **lucky**. I assume this is a scholar's definition of luck! [6 STROKES RANK 856]
- 57 田 田 field  enclosure 40  ten 6 tián  
Officially, this pictograph represents a **field** with irrigation ditches. In keeping with our methods, it's better to think of a cultivated **field** as an *enclosure* containing any number of crops, perhaps *ten* or so. [5 STROKES RANK 778]
- 58 呈 呈 appear  mouth 41  king 11 chéng  
In ancient societies, *kings* were often isolated from their subjects. Their **appearance** for ceremonial or ritual purposes would have been a key event in ancient life, so it makes sense to use this event to stand for the verb **appear**. The *mouth* represents the physical features of the *king*. [7 STROKES RANK 1563]
- 59 扣 扣 to button  hand r 29  mouth 41 kòu  
Here, you use your *hand* to **button** the button, which looks like nothing so much as a doll's *mouth*. [6 STROKES RANK 1625]



- 60 可 可 can; may  fourth 25  mouth 41 kě  
Children's tales often involve an important character who succeeds in a task only after several trials. A big, bad wolf, for example, may need several attempts to huff and puff to blow a house down. Here, only after the expulsion of a mighty breath from its *mouth* on the *fourth* attempt **can** the wolf succeed in his demolition work.  
可 often appears as part of another character. Then, it will often receive the interpretation of 'ability', the noun referred to by *can* and *may*.  
[5 STROKES RANK 30]
- 61 呵 呵 breathe out  mouth 41  can; may 60 hē  
Breathing out is one of a *mouth's* special *abilities*. [8 STROKES RANK 1861]
- 62 哥 哥 elder brother  can; may 60 (altered)  can; may 60 gē  
1 **BF** If you have an **elder brother**, you know it's not an easy life, especially when you're young. Lots of fights break out, so you really need physical a *double dose* of *ability* to survive.  
2 **Elder brothers** are frustrating creatures. Since they're older than you, they have so many more *abilities*. [10 STROKES RANK 804]
- 63 日 日 day, sun  enclosure 40  one 2 rì  
**BF** A stylized pictograph of the **sun**. A **day** *encloses one* major time period.  
[4 STROKES RANK 101]
- 64 曰 曰 speak  mouth 41  one 2 yuē  
1 *One mouth* is used for **speaking**.  
2 The horizontal line represents the expulsion of breath when **speaking**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 1656]
- 65 旦 旦 dawn  day, sun 63  one 2 dàn  
How can you help but see the *sun* rising above the horizon *line* at **dawn**?  
[5 STROKES RANK 1300]

66 坦 坦 flat

 earth, soil 9
  dawn 65

tǎn


BF No matter what the terrain, the *earth* at *dawn* appears **flat**.

[8 STROKES RANK 1017]

# Unit 6

## Up and Down

- 67 担 担 undertake  hand r 29  dawn 65 dān  
Undertaking the tasks of daily life begins early. At *dawn*, people begin using their *hands* to perform their various chores. [8 STROKES RANK 720]
- 68 旧 旧 old; bygone  scepter 5  day, sun 63 jiù  
An aged leader, with her *scepter* as symbol of authority, has seen many *days* and reflects on past, *bygone* times. [5 STROKES RANK 915]
- 69 昌 昌 flourishing  speak 64  speak 64 chāng  
BF Merchants *flourish* when they *speak* a lot. Their sales pitches nail their deals. [8 STROKES RANK 1606]
- 70 早 早 morning  day, sun 63  ten 6 zǎo  
1 The *sun* is jauntily perched on a *ten*—it's 10:00, a frabjous time to finally begin the **morning**.  
2 The horizontal line of the 'ten' component represents ground level. The vertical stroke is a flower stalk, on top of which sits a *sun*-flower bud. In the **morning**, the bud opens and prepares to follow the sun. [6 STROKES RANK 462]
- 71 里 里 inside  field 57  earth, soil 9 lǐ  
Inside a *field's soil* are the roots of a goodly number of crops. [7 STROKES RANK 50]

72 埋 埋 bury  earth, soil 9  inside 71 mái

When are you part of the *earth's insides*? When they come to **bury** you!

[10 STROKES RANK 1640]

73 理 理 rational  king 11  inside 71 lǐ

How does a king get to be in charge, at least in theory? The *king's insides* supposedly endow him with superior logic and **rationality**, so much so that he deserves our fealty.

[11 STROKES RANK 89]

74 哩 哩 enumeration  mouth 41  inside 71 lǐ

I've chosen a slightly non-standard use for this glyph. The enumeration I refer to has to do with listing items:

Yīngwén lǐ, Déwén lǐ, Fàwén lǐ, tā dōu huì shuō.  
*He can speak English, German, and French.*




When speaking, you **enumerate** items by speaking each item (with your *mouth*, naturally) as it bubbles up from within (*inside*) you.

[10 STROKES RANK 1949]

75 唱 唱 sing  mouth 41  flourishing 69 chàng

It's possible to think of song as enhanced speaking, that is, the expressive powers of the **singing mouth** have *flourished* beyond normal.

[11 STROKES RANK 1252]

76 晶 晶 crystal  day, sun 63  day, sun 63  day, sun 63 jīng

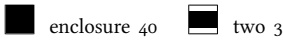


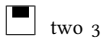








**BF** The light on the facets of a **crystal**, so bright and brilliant, looks just like several *suns*.

[12 STROKES RANK 1725]

77 量 量 measure  dawn 65  inside 71 liáng

At the break of *dawn*, visibility improves *inside* your room, making it easy to **measure** things by natural light.

[12 STROKES RANK 241]

- 78 目 目 eye  enclosure 40  two 3 mù  
 BF The *two enclosures* in the upper half of your head are your **eyes**. Also, you can imagine yourself taking an open **eye**, turning it on its end, and simplifying all curves to horizontal and vertical segments, to get 目.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 239]
- 79 冒 冒 brave  helmet  two 3  eye 78 mào  
 It's easy for a soldier to be **brave** when he is *helmeted* in such a way to protect his *two eyes*. (We have no component called 'helmet', but to me, this seems an obvious piece of imagery.)  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1222]
- 80 盯 盯 stare  eye 78  fourth 25 dīng  
 A **stare** is a fixed gaze, in which *one* person *hooks* you with his *eye*. (Here, we are decomposing the 丁 component of §25 into its components.)  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1906]
- 81 吾 吾 me  five 19  mouth 41 wú  
 I don't know about you, but my head, with its *five* '*mouths*' or orifices (two ears, two nostrils, mouth) is the essence of **me**, the center of consciousness.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1649]
- 82 耳 耳 ear  eye 78 (altered) ěr  
 Ears and eyes are the main sensory receptors of a person. The **ear** is shown here as a slightly deformed *eye*. The horizontal extensions emphasize the additional external structures that surround our **ears**. The lower vertical stroke on the right is the earlobe of the right **ear**.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 887]
- 83 而 而 express add'l but contrasting info  one 2  eye 78 (altered) ér  
 Think of this diagram as a sketch whereby the little '*dab*' connects two contrasting forms, the smooth *horizontal* surface on the top, and the rough, beard-like form below it. Consequently, we'll use this character to express **contrast**.  
 Also, an *eye*, subject to rotation and gross alteration, surveys the *horizon*. All kinds of stuff are visible, similar and **contrasting**.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 36]

84 面 面 face, aspect



express add'l but contrasting info 83



a few alterations



miàn



**BF** Regard this character as a triptych of mirrors, perhaps on a lady's dressing table. The topmost stroke is a light bar connected to the top of the mirrors. The lady of the house **faces** the mirrors and can inspect any of three **aspects** of her reflection.



[9 STROKES RANK 74]



## Unit 7

### From Side to Side

- 85 雨 雨 rain  express add'l but contrasting info 83 (altered)  drops of rain yǔ
- 1 What a *contrast* with yesterday! It was bright sun yesterday—today it's pouring **rain**!
  - 2 Look at the driving **rain** outside the dual windows. (It's a double window, with a long decorative sill on top.) [8 STROKES RANK 928]

- 86 雷 雷 thunder  rain 85  field 57 léi
- It's not enough to have *rain* to water the crops in the *fields*. The rainfall must be intense, otherwise you tease the crops but don't let them grow. Typically, intense *rainstorms*, sufficiently intense to nourish the *fields*, are accompanied by **thunder**, so this character is fitting for this natural noise.
- [13 STROKES RANK 686]

- 87 雪 雪 snow  rain 85  boar's head 34 xuě
- 1 Here's precipitation lying in white layers on the ground. Can't be *rain*, so it must be **snow**.
  - 2 Here's *precipitation* that needs sweeping away with my *boar's head* broom. It's **snow**! [11 STROKES RANK 1003]

- 88 需 需 needs, requirements  rain 85  express add'l but contrasting info 83 xū
- BF** *Rain* often marks a *contrast* with previous conditions. Moreover, once it starts raining, you will **need** other stuff—hats, umbrellas, boots, raincoat—to stay comfortable, so this is a good way to indicate **needs** and **requirements**.
- [14 STROKES RANK 408]

89 瑞 瑞 auspicious  
 ☐ king 11 ☐ mountain 21 ☐ express add'l but contrasting info 83 ruì

**BF** The right pair of components combines soaring *mountains* seemingly connected to a *contrasting* image, roots firmly anchored underground. The Chinese people must have felt that the ideal *king* combines lofty ideals—*mountains*—with down-to-earth practicality, symbolized by the roots. A *king* thus endowed would surely have an **auspicious** reign.

[13 STROKES RANK 1332]

90 喘 喘 gasp for breath  
 ☐ mouth 41 ☐ mountain 21 ☐ express add'l but contrasting info 83 chuǎn

**BF** Consider a *mountain* and its *contrast*, the valley down below, and suppose you run like the wind from the *mountain* down to the other. Through your *mouth*, you'll be **gasp**ing for breath.

Could the gasping be due to asthma? **Asthma** is another meaning for this character.

[12 STROKES RANK 1977]

91 押 押 mortgage, pawn, give as security  
 ☐ hand r 29 ☐ first in a series 50 yā

Before I get a bank loan, I *hand* over the item that's *first* in my affections, as a guarantee they get their money back. This is the essence of **pledging** collateral or **mortgaging** your house.

[8 STROKES RANK 1775]

92 𠂇 𠂇 speak up!



**CMP** Here's someone cupping their ear with their left hand to better hear what someone is saying.

93 叫 叫 to be called  
 ☐ mouth 41 ☐ speak up! 92 jiào

It looks like someone is standing attentively, cupping their ear with their left hand to *better hear* what the *mouth* is saying. The person with the *mouth* (on the left) is **calling something** to the hearing-challenged friend.

[5 STROKES RANK 387]





94   grass r

CMP



- 1 Short **grass** plants emerge vertically from the horizontal ground.
- 2 Here, in the United States, where these words are being written, we think of **grass** as a charming, but bland, garden ornament. In fact, the many species of grasses throughout the world belie this blandness. Many are highly colored and highly ornamental. Some, like some majestic forms of bamboo, are breathtaking. Consequently, it sometimes behooves us to interpret this component as a form of decoration, particularly outdoor decoration.
- 3 Remind yourself of the hand component of §29. That character looks like our bit of **grass**, but arranged vertically instead of horizontally. Sometimes it's useful to refer to this image as another hand.

95 草 草 grass  grass r 94  morning 70 cǎo

- 1 The small 'grass' component on top of this character is the actual **grass**. To get the whole character, think of your gardener arriving to cut the *grass* in the *morning*.
- 2 **Grass** is even *grassier* in the *morning*. Glowing in the morning light, freshened by its breakfast of dew, a perfect lawn seems even more perfect at this hour. [9 STROKES RANK 789]



96 苦 苦 bitter  grass r 94  ancient 51 kǔ

It's famine time. **Bitter** experience soon teaches you that *grass* which is *ancient* tastes the most **bitter**. [8 STROKES RANK 634]

97 苗 苗 seedling  grass r 94  field 57 miáo

The product of **seedlings** sprouting in the fenced-in *field* is a whole bunch of *grasses*. Later on, we transplant the mature plants. [8 STROKES RANK 1920]



## 98 描 描 to trace

 hand r 29
  seedling 97

miáo

- 1 The 'grass' component on the right top of 描 looks sorta kinda like the left-hand 'hand' component rotated by ninety degrees and distorted somewhat. 'Hand' becomes 'grass'—a poor job of **tracing** the original. The 'field' component is your grade for this assignment—only 'ten' marks (out of one hundred) circled by a mouth-like enclosure.
- 2 Sometimes, when plants sprout, we use our *hand* to manipulate the *seedlings* and their fine, hairlike leaves. Think of plucking these tiny *seedlings*, turning them upside down, and holding them to **trace** a picture—a type of primitive Chinese calligraphy. [11 STROKES RANK 1246]

## 99 菲 菲 luxuriant

 grass r 94
  not 13

fēi

**BF** We've previously (§13) identified the components as *combs* in the hair of a royal princess. She further affixes a costly gold hair clip at the top of her head. The clip, with its clasp mechanism, looks like a tuft of golden *grass* in her hair. How **luxurious!** [11 STROKES RANK 1418]

## 100 廿 廿 horned animal




**CMP** Every so often, we'll come upon a component that appears in a handful or so of characters. We'll call this one a **horned animal**, something like a cow or ox. The verticals represent the horns and the sides of the head. A horizontal stroke shows the top of the head. Sometimes, as we see here, the component includes a short stroke connecting the bottom of the verticals—the base of the head.

## 101 革 革 animal hide

 horned animal 100
  mouth 41
  ten 6

gé

- 1 When you skin a *horned animal* to get its **hide**, there are lots of cutouts in the leather representing places where the poor **animal** used to have four hooves, two eyes, one nose, one actual mouth, and two ears. These openings are like *mouths* in the **hide**, and there are *ten* of them.
- 2 We're looking down at the tanned **hide** of some unfortunate **animal** (sheep, antelope, etc.). That's the head of the *horned animal* at the top, followed by the *mouth* component, which here suggests the animal's body, and finally the strokes of the *ten* which sketch the spine, tail, and limbs. [9 STROKES RANK 521]



102 鞋 鞋 shoe  animal hide 101  earth, soil 9  earth, soil 9 xié



To create **shoes**, the cobbler uses *leather* in which you can comfortably put both feet on the *ground*, which is why the ‘*soil*’ component occurs twice.




[15 STROKES RANK 1638]




# Unit 8



## Getting Stroked

103 甘 甘 sweet  horned animal 100  one 2 gān  
BF Animals respond voraciously to intense flavors that are **sweet**. Here our favorite *horned animal* enjoys sucking on *one* peppermint stick.  
[5 STROKES RANK 1408]

104 曲 曲 bend  mouth 41  horned animal 100 qū  
Some *horned animal* with a huge open *mouth*, perhaps something like a horned hippopotamus, is ready to chomp on your umbrella. For sure, the animal will **bend** it.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1066]


105 曹 曹 plaintiff and defendant  one 2  bend 104  speak 64 cáo  
In a courtroom setting, *one* of either the **plaintiff or defendant** is *bent* when they *speak*.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1570]

106 世 世 generation  ten 6  horned animal 100  one 2 shì  
BF Certain animals don't live as long as people. Metaphorically speaking, it takes *ten* or so *animal* lifespans to equal *one* human **generation**.  
[5 STROKES RANK 181]

107   net r  
CMP This radical corresponds to the full character 网, wǎng, 'net', often used today for 'Internet'. Interpret this glyph as a snapshot of a small portion of a **net**, focusing on three adjacent gaps in its fabric and the strands framing them.

108 罪 罪 crime, guilt  net r 107  not 13 zùi

Becoming enmeshed in **crime** and covered in **guilt** is a lot like becoming entangled in a *net* that is *not* arranged properly—you're all *knotted up* ('knot' sounds like 'not', get it?). [13 STROKES RANK 718]

109 置 置 to place, put  net r 107  straight, vertical 16 zhì




- 1 Pictographically, here is a *net* emptying its load (of fish?) which cascades down a chute into the tall, *vertical* storage container. The result—we've **placed** the stuff where it belongs.
- 2 At the end of the day, we take our *net*, carefully clean it, and then *straighten it up* and perhaps hang it *vertically* on the wall. We've **put** it where it belongs, ready for tomorrow's use. [13 STROKES RANK 677]

110 皿 皿 vessel, dish  net r 107  one 2 mǐn  
BF




- 1 You can think of this drawing as *one net* stretched to become tense and rigid, attached to a lower boundary. In this tense mode, the strands of the net are like wires, keeping the contents from slipping out. Thus, it becomes like a **vessel** or **dish**.
- 2 Imagine the profile of a fancy bowl. The scribes have sketched here its footing and the lines of texture on the walls of the bowl. [5 STROKES RANK 3763]

111 冂 冂 place of refuge




**CMP** This land form, like an arm which encircles and protects a loved one, provides a place for people with like interests, skills, or characteristics to congregate safely, or a place where people can come together for mutual assistance and help—a **place of refuge**.

112 司 司 company  place of refuge 111  one 2  mouth 41 sī

**BF** A **company** is a *place of refuge*—so to speak—for people who have come together to work for a common goal—that of the company. And so, metaphorically, they speak with *one mouth*. [5 STROKES RANK 278]

113 卫 卫 guard, protect  place of refuge 111  scepter 5  one 2 wèi  
BF

- 1 At the *place of refuge* for the clans, the leader wields his *scepter* of authority to **guard** and **protect** his people from the danger just over the *horizon*.
- 2 This character clearly shows the profile of a fist ready to challenge and defend, to **guard** and **protect**. [3 STROKES RANK 669]

114 节 节 festival  grass r 94  guard, protect 113  one 2 jié

BF The earliest **festivals** were times of celebration following the successful safekeeping and *guarding* of a tribe following attack—enemies over the horizon are a distant bad memory! (The grayed horizon tells you that this component should be removed from consideration.) Fronds of decorative *grass* were hung everywhere to serve as convenient and cheap decorations.

[5 STROKES RANK 514]

115 韦 韦 leather  plentiful 12  place of refuge 111 wéi

BF Note how the horizontal part of ‘*place of refuge*’ coincides with the bottom horizontal of ‘*plentiful*’.

Look at the spot we’ve scouted out. *Plentiful* resources and well-fortified to make a *refuge*. It’ll make a good place to **hide** from our enemies, and ‘**hide**’ is a synonym of ‘**leather**’!

[4 STROKES RANK 1667]

116 围 围 surround, enclose  enclosure 40  leather 115 wéi



We *hide* (a synonym for *leather*, remember!) in an *enclosure* for protection against our enemies who **surround** us.

[7 STROKES RANK 576]

117 韩 韩 South Korea  ten 6  morning 70  leather 115 hán

Those businessmen from **South Korea** are too canny for me! We’ve had meetings for the last *ten mornings*, and we still have yet to come to terms about exclusive importing of their *leather* chopsticks! (See those upper two horizontal strokes that are part of the ‘*leather*’ component? It’s a set of those chopsticks!)

[12 STROKES RANK 1221]

118 斤 斤 catty  place of refuge 111 (altered)  fourth 25 (altered) jīn

Although a full-blown character in its own right, this structure is also a very common component of other characters. Incidentally, **catty** is a noun, a Chinese unit of weight. It's about one-half a kilogram, so therefore about 1.1 pounds.

By itself, this structure looks like the left half of a table. To see this, imagine butting its right edge alongside its mirror image. The table is covered by a table cloth, too. The half we see here stands upright, but it's very unstable. If you **pound** on it too hard, down it goes.

When this character itself serves as component, we may assign it the meaning of 'unstable' or 'unbalanced'. Other times, we interpret it in a 'pound' or weight-related sense. [4 STROKES RANK 1866]

119 听 听 hear, listen  mouth 41  catty 118 tīng




That guy is talking really crazy. Are we in any danger? Whenever someone *mouths* off in an *unbalanced* manner, I **listen** very carefully to see if emergency measures are called for. [7 STROKES RANK 285]

120 折 折 broken (stick, rope)  hand r 29  catty 118 shé

Could this be the source of the *broken table* of §118? Some *unbalanced* person's *hand* has **broken** it. [7 STROKES RANK 1131]

121 哲 哲 wise, sagacious  broken (stick, rope) 120  mouth 41 zhé

BF On those long winter nights, tribal elders recounted ancient historical epics. From the elder's *mouth* proceeds a tale of things *broken* during the course of great adventures. The conclusion to the tale contains **wise** and **sagacious** lessons to be learned from the story. [10 STROKES RANK 1117]

122 岳 岳 high mountain peak  catty 118  one 2  mountain 21 yuè

BF If *mountains* truly had *one*, definable, sharp **peak**, then something placed on a *platform* on top of this hypothetical peak would be *unbalanced*.

In other words, you'll be *unbalanced* at *one high mountain's peak*.




[8 STROKES RANK 1844]



- 123 羽 羽 feather, wing  
 [ ] place of refuge 111 [ ] two 3 (altered) [ ] place of refuge 111 [ ] two 3 (altered) yǔ  
 BF The ancient scribes sketched the *two wings* of a bird with economical strokes. The wings themselves can enfold you to provide *places of refuge*. The inner 'two's (somewhat misaligned) suggest how the **feathers** themselves become distorted by the air flow during flight. [6 STROKES RANK 1865]
- 124 丘 丘 mound, little hill [ ] catty 118 [ ] one 2 qiū  
 BF The vagrant is a little *unbalanced*. He looks towards the distant *horizon*, and thinks he sees a **little hill** because it's so far away. [5 STROKES RANK 1929]
- 125 习 习 practice, study [ ] feather, wing 123 [ ] feather, wing 123 xí  
 BF *Half a feather, half of a wing* suggests that we have to **practice** more in order to fully earn our *wings*! [3 STROKES RANK 676]
- 126 弱 弱 weak, feeble, inferior [ ] feather, wing 123 (altered) ruò  
 The *wings* and *feathers* of a young fledgling look quite different from those of its parents. The chick is **weak** and **feeble**. [10 STROKES RANK 1038]
- 127 阌 阌 borders [ ] scepter 5 [ ] place of refuge 111  
 CMP The **borders** of a country mark a region in which a well-defined governmental *authority* provides *refuge* and safety to its citizens.
- 128 再 再 again [ ] king 11 [ ] borders 127 zài  
 The *king* and his court have an uncontrollable urge, an itch, to extend their reach beyond their *borders*, and to do so **again** and **again**. (The interweaving of the two components is subtle and fascinating.) [6 STROKES RANK 242]







## Unit 9




# Wordplay and Word Play



- 129 同 同 same, similar  borders 127  one 2  mouth 41 tóng  
BF People living within the **same** set of *borders* speak the **same** language—that is, they speak as if with *one mouth* (metaphorically). [6 STROKES RANK 69]

- 130 巾 巾 towel  borders 127  scepter 5 jīn  
1 BF Picture our *scepter* in use as a drying rod; some one's smelly old **towel** is hanging limply on it to dry out—that's what the *borders* represent.  
2 See how the neighboring king (symbolized here by his royal *scepter*) invades our *borders*. Could it be time for us to throw in the **towel**?  
By extension, since a towel is a cloth with a special purpose, we will feel free to interpret this character as a towel or other special purpose piece of fabric when it appears as a component. [3 STROKES RANK 2281]




- 131 吊 吊 hang, suspend  mouth 41  towel 130 diào  
1 What *special cloth hangs* below a man's *mouth*? A necktie.  
2 A freshly-**hung** person must look like this, suspended from the noose, body **hanging** limply down below the head. [6 STROKES RANK 2050]



- 132 帽 帽 hat  towel 130  brave 79 mào  
Some men need fancy clothes to bolster their self-esteem. In this case, the *special cloth* that makes them *brave* is a **hat**. (It's a helmet-like structure, protecting our two eyes.) [12 STROKES RANK 1750]

- 133 帚 帚 broom\*  boar's head 34  borders 127 (altered)  towel 130 zhǒu
- BF** The *boar's head* bristles on the **broom** have been wrapped with *towels* and other cloths to sweep or mop some large area within the *borders* of four walls. [8 STROKES RANK 3630]

- 134 册 册 book, booklet  borders (times 2) 127  one 2 cè
- BF** Hold an old **book** upright and look down on the top edge. The book is a collection of folded sheets, sewn together. This character is a schematic of that structure. Here are two of these gatherings, sewn together to form *one booklet*. [5 STROKES RANK 1525]

- 135 凵 凵 mineshaft
- CMP** If the component in §111 is a place of safety, this component is its opposite, a place of danger! Think of it perhaps as a **mineshaft**. You fall right down the shaft of this tunnel. When you regain consciousness, you can walk horizontally, at least for a short bit.

- 136 𩺰 𩺰 tadpole  mouth 41  mineshaft 135  day, sun 63 mǐn
- BF** Here's a scribe's-eye view of a **tadpole**. A giant *mouth*-head is attached to a wiggling, wriggling *shaft*-shaped body. A round, *sun*-shaped stomach provides nourishment until the cute little creature achieves a measure of self-sufficiency. [8 STROKES RANK 5223]

- 137 七 七 seven  mineshaft 135  one 2 qī
- Go ahead—turn this character over so it's upside-down. You'll see a Roman 'seven', crossed in the European fashion. [2 STROKES RANK 530]

138 电 电 electricity  day, sun 63  mineshaft 135 diàn

Look closely at this portion of an **electric** grid. The current enters or exits via the *mineshaft*-shaped wire, and disperses through the other wires in a regular pattern that looks like the *sun*.

For readers with some background in physics, a moving current gives rise to an **electromagnetic** field, nicely symbolized by the ‘*sun*’ component. The *sun* itself has a massive **electromagnetic** field associated with it.

[5 STROKES RANK 230]

139 扎 扎 pierce, prick  hand r 29  mineshaft 135 zhā

The *hand* grabs the *wire* (the shape of a *mineshaft* suggests a segment of a live wire) in a careless manner. The sharp end **pierces** his *hand* and it bleeds a bit.

[4 STROKES RANK 1411]

140 也 也 also\*, too\*  mineshaft 135  scepter 5  place of refuge 111 (altered) yě

The central *scepter* represents the court of a powerful king. His court can be a *place of refuge* but **also** a *mineshaft* of danger, depending on how well you play politics.

When present as a component, 也 combines contrasts together.

[3 STROKES RANK 31]

141 地 地 earth, ground  earth, soil 9  also\*, too\* 140 dì














This is a more descriptive character for ‘**earth**’ than we saw ‘way back in §9. In addition to suggesting the *soil* itself, we are reminded that our planet is both dangerous—watch out for *mineshfts!*—but *also* secure, a place of refuge. It is arid, but *also* fertile, high and *also* low, dry and wet, and so on and so on.










[6 STROKES RANK 21]

142 匕 匕 ancient ladle  seven 137 (altered) bǐ

**Ancient ladles** and spoons were more substantial than their modern-day descendants. That’s because their ways of making them were imprecise. As a result, you could serve *seven* guests with a single gargantuan scoop. Remember that the bottom curve represents the part that holds the soup.

[2 STROKES RANK 3252]

- 143 旨 旨 intention, meaning  ancient ladle 142  day, sun 63 zhǐ  
 BF Here's how the ancients signalled their **intentions** and **meanings** during their meetings. The polished bottoms of *ladles* focused the rays of the *sun* on each item on a poster during a presentation. [6 STROKES RANK 1685]
- 144 指 指 finger  hand r 29  intention, meaning 143 zhǐ  
 BF I use the **fingers** of my *hand* to point and so make my *intentions* and *meanings* clear. [9 STROKES RANK 261]
- 145 北 北 north  ancient ladle 142 (altered)  ancient ladle 142 běi  
 Although we see *two ladles*, the left being a mirror image of the right, the long parts of each are actually levees on a river channeling water from the **north**, the top part of the picture, and letting the water flow down to the lands of the south. The short horizontal strokes are supports keeping the levees from toppling. [5 STROKES RANK 315]
- 146 比 比 compared with  ancient ladle 142 (altered)  ancient ladle 142 bǐ  
 Here are *two ancient ladles*. **Compared with** the first, the second is more elegant. [4 STROKES RANK 199]
- 147 批 批 annotate  hand r 29  compared with 146 pī  
**Annotations** by *hand* allow authors (and future scholars) to *compare* their revisions *with* the original versions. [7 STROKES RANK 569]
- 148 毕 毕 finish, conclude  compared with 146  ten 6 bì  
 BF **Finishing** a task, *compared with* doing only *ten* percent of it, is better. [6 STROKES RANK 1093]
- 149 昆 昆 elder brother\*\*  day, sun 63  compared with 146 kūn  
 BF This guy is an **elder brother** because, he saw the *sun* first, at least *compared with* his younger brothers. [8 STROKES RANK 1759]

- 150 屯 屯 stockpile, store up  electricity 138 (altered) tún  
*Electricity* flows when a **stockpile** of electrons—the particles that give a charge to the current—is drawn to a region with an electron deficit.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 2864]
- 151 吨 吨 ton  mouth 41  stockpile, store up 150 dūn  
 There are several pretentious idiots in my class. Here's how to identify them: they open their *mouths*, and the worthless trivia they've *stockpiled* over the years comes pouring out—a **ton** of it.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1700]
- 152 匚 匚 basket, box  one 2  mineshaft 135  
 CMP There are two ways to enclose a mineshaft. One way is to put a *lid* on it, as we do here, to **box** it in completely. Another way...
- 153 匪 匪 bandit  basket, box 152  not 13 fěi  
 BF Gangs of **bandits** posed a real problem in many pre-modern societies. *Boxes* of valuables were *not* safe.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 2201]
- 154 匠 匠 craftsman  basket, box 152  catty 118 jiàng  
 BF Give a true **craftsman** raw materials as funky and clunky as an old *box* and *an unbalanced table*, and soon you get a creative work of art.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 2110]

# Unit 10

## In Nature's Realm



- 155 凵 凵 receptacle ■ mineshaft 135 □ one 2  
 CMP We can stop off the *one* horizontal leg of the *mineshaft*, damming it up with a vertical fence to form some kind of **receptacle**.



- 156 画 画 draw □ one 2 ■ field 57 ■ receptacle 155 huà  
 What better symbolizes a landscape that you're busy **drawing** than a *field*. Discerning critics have always said your paintings are larger than life, and look how the drawing explodes out of the frame formed by 'one' plus 'receptacle'. Another tour de force! [8 STROKES RANK 883]



- 157 卩 卩 single ear  
 CMP The ear sticks out a bit from the side of the head, so try not to laugh.




- 158 印 印 seal, stamp ■ boar's head 34 (altered) □ single ear 157 yìn  
 The point of a **stamp** or **seal** is to make a mark that's uniquely yours. Stick some *one's ear* at the *back of a boar's head* (that's how it has been altered) and use the *single ear* as a handle. Now, simply ink the head and press it to paper for a unique and memorable mark. [5 STROKES RANK 640]



- 159 丽 丽 beautiful, elegant □ one 2 ■ single ear (times 2 and altered) 157 lì  
 BF Here are two shell-like *ears* each with *one* earring to make up a *single* pair. The jewelry is exquisite and oh-so **elegant**. [7 STROKES RANK 834]



- 160 印 印 head held high  basket, box 152  single ear 157  
 CMP The *box* and the *single ear* resemble a prominent pair of ears plainly visible as their owner **holds his head high**.

- 161 昂 昂 hold your head high  day, sun 63  head held high 160 áng  
 When you **hold your head high**, you get as close as you can to the *sun*.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1952]

- 162 抑 抑 restrain, restrict  hand r 29  head held high 160 yì  
 BF Could the *hand* in his face, forcing him to *hold his head high*, suggest some one's trying to bully him? It sure looks like it—his movements are being **restricted**.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1748]

- 163 畱 畱 size range  one 2  enclosure 40  field 57  
 CMP Let's read this component top down—*one*, *enclosure*, and *field*. The objects become increasingly two-dimensional and more structured. We imagine this juxtaposition to represent a **range of sizes**, from small to large (or the other way around).

- 164 幅 幅 width of cloth  towel 130  size range 163 fú  
 This word represents the extent of sheet-like items, cloth, pictures, photos, and so on.  
 The *towel* part reminds us that we're talking about things like **cloth**, with area but little depth. How much of the thing? Well, the possibilities are many—any of a whole *size range*. If the length stays the same, we get this range by varying the **width**.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1444]

- 165 事 事 matter, affair  size range 163 (altered)  scepter 5 shì  
 Human **affairs** come in all *sizes and shapes*. In order to make sense of them, people try to group them together, as if to skewer them with a sharp *stick*. But these **matters** are notoriously prickly, and the 'size range' component has been altered to emphasize the presence of sharp, prickly points.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 58]

## 166 刂 刂 knife r

**CMP** Normally, Chinese readers associate this shape with the compressed form of the character ‘刀’, dāo, ‘knife’. In my mind, this component shows the blade represented by the straight stroke in the Swiss-army-knife holder, the outer hooked vertical. Almost always, you’ll see this component on the right edge of a character.

You use a **knife** to perform a job, so sometimes this component represents **completion of a task**, work activity, or something similar.

167 刊 刊 publish  dry 10  knife r 166 kǎn

**BF** Here at the Surreal Publishing Company, the *dry* books we **publish** all have pages made from *dry* sheets cut by extremely sharp *knives*.

[5 STROKES RANK 1241]

168 副 副 vice-  size range 163  knife r 166 fù


**Vice-president**, **vice-chairman**, and so on sound impressive, but often these job titles serve as screens to get people to perform a *range* of *activities*, often with only a dull *knife* as a tool.

[11 STROKES RANK 764]

## 169 丶 丶 dab

**CMP** ... this little dab of ink that appears all the time, often on or near the top of characters (for example, 主). Sometimes, it takes an elongated form, as on the top stroke of 丢 or 睡. Look closely, for it’s barely distinguishable from a true horizontal.

As a component, it’s useful to let it mean ‘**a drop of something**’ or ‘**a little bit**’ of some larger quantity.















170 卜 卜 foretell  scepter 5  dab 169 bǔ



1 The act of accurate **foretelling**, of prediction, is an act of high magic; what we see here is a magic wand, a *scepter* endowed with a *dab* of extraordinary power.

2 Historically, this glyph refers to the cracks in a tortoise shell by which the ancient priests **foretold** the future.

[2 STROKES RANK 1979]



- 171 扑 扑 dedicate oneself  hand r 29  foretell 170 pū  
 1 With *wand* in *hand*, you're ready to **dedicate yourself** to good works.  
 2 **Dedication** to a cause requires a tremendous amount of self-discipline, so much so that when you use your *hand* in this activity, you need some sorcery from a *magic wand* to keep you on task. [5 STROKES RANK 1509]
- 172 占 占 practice divination  foretell 170  mouth 41 zhān  
**BF** When you **practice divination**, you rely on two main tools—your magic wand, with which you *foretell* the future, and your *mouth*, with which you woo credulous followers. [5 STROKES RANK 737]
- 173 卓 卓 stand firm  foretell 170  morning 70 zhuó  
 Sometimes, a *magic wand* in the *morning* is the only thing that gets me up and out of bed, perky enough to **stand firm** at that time of day. [8 STROKES RANK 1942]
- 174 罩 罩 bamboo fish trap  net r 107  stand firm 173 zhào  
 Rope *nets* are notoriously floppy things, but if we make it out of bamboo, the strands of the net *stand firm*, so the resulting **bamboo fish trap** is very effective. [13 STROKES RANK 1978]
- 175 上 上 on  foretell 170  one 2 shàng  
 We use the *magic wand* on *one* single surface to mark the most interesting side, which in this case is the side **on** top. [3 STROKES RANK 16]
- 176 下 下 under  one 2  foretell 170 xià  
 We use the *magic wand* under *one* single surface to mark the side of interest—in this case, the **under** side. [3 STROKES RANK 42]
- 177 斥 斥 scold, reprimand  catty 118  dab 169 chì  
**BF** You try to reduce the *instability* of this table (see §118) by adding a *dab* of something, but no use—down it goes. The boss **scolds** you, yet again. [5 STROKES RANK 1857]

178 卧 卧 lie down, crouch (animals)  subject of a ruler 17  foretell 170 wò

Animals are good at hiding. They **crouch down** out of sight as the loyal *subjects* of the king hunt fresh meat for the royal supper. The hunters have been *foretold* where to locate and subdue the well-concealed animals.

[8 STROKES RANK 1944]

179 卡 卡 card  on 175  under 176 kǎ

The silvery, stiff stuff of a credit **card** with its strange imprints and designs *on* top and *underneath* is a universal part of modern life. [5 STROKES RANK 717]











180 吓 吓 frighten  mouth 41  under 176 xià




Imagine a face with the *mouth* located *under* the chin. How **frightening!**




[6 STROKES RANK 1466]



# Unit 11

## More and More




- 181 止 止 stop!  on 175  scepter 5 zhǐ  
Imagine that we are ice-skating *on* top of some surface. We use the *scepter*, anchored as it is in the skating rink, to **stop** ourselves. [4 STROKES RANK 596]
- 182 扯 扯 pull  hand r 29  stop! 181 chě  
I use my *hand* when I'm in a *stopped* position to **pull** myself back into motion. [7 STROKES RANK 2084]
- 183 正 正 correct  stop! 181  one 2 zhèng  
An example of **correct** behavior is *stopping* right at the *line*. [5 STROKES RANK 129]
- 184 是 是 is  day, sun 63  correct 183 (altered) shì  
When the *sun* is shining, all **is** *right* with the world. This is the essence of **being**. [9 STROKES RANK 3]
- 185 掉 掉 to drop, fall  hand r 29  stand firm 173 diào  
I use my *hand* to make the doodad you see on the right *stand firm*—I try to balance it on its end. But things don't balance well on a pointy bottom. It **falls** down immediately. [11 STROKES RANK 849]



- 186 牛 牛 ox  scepter 5  two 3  dab 169 niú
- 1 This pictograph is a stylized **ox** or **cow**. The central spine is just that, the *two* horizontals are the legs, and the little *dab* of ink shows the left horn of the animal.
- 2 **Ox** or cow meat can provide some *royal* eating; that's what the scepter means. We get at least *two* good steaks from the animal, and the *drop* of blood still visible is to some people's taste. [4 STROKES RANK 1018]












- 187 制 制 make, manufacture  ox 186  towel 130  knife r 166 zhì
- Here are the kinds of things you need to **manufacture** things in a pre-modern society. The *cow* or *ox* provides power. The *cloth* polishes and cleans the finished product, and the *knife* symbolizes the instruments you need for fine detailing. [8 STROKES RANK 163]














- 188 午 午 noonish  dry 10  dab 169 wǔ
- BF** (午 can refer to 'noon', but also to the period between around 11AM and 1PM—'noonish'.)
- I start to get a *little bit dry* at **around noon**—it's been a long time since my breakfast coffee. [4 STROKES RANK 1004]











The two characters, 牛 and 午 in §§186 and 188, are confusing to beginners! How can you tell them apart? They are the same except that 'cow' has a central protuberance; could it be the second horn of the animal? 'Noonish' is flat up top, so people can lie comfortably on it for their afternoon siesta.

- 189 告 告 tell  earth, soil 9  dab 169  mouth 41 gào
- BF** It's a windy day outside. As you **tell** a buddy some crucial news, the wind blows a *little bit of earth* into your *mouth*. [7 STROKES RANK 310]

- 190 靠 靠 depend upon  tell 189  not 13 kào
- If I **depend upon** you to take the garbage out, then I do *not* have to *tell* you twice. [15 STROKES RANK 808]

- 191 生 生 give birth to  three 4  scepter 5  dab 169 shēng  
**Giving birth** creates a family of *three* out of what had been two. The newborn little guy is the guy on top. We know he or she is little, because the little *dab* tells us so. The *scepter* acts as a fastener to bind and bond the new family together. [5 STROKES RANK 34]
- 192 年 年 year  give birth to 191 (altered)  an unexpected stroke nián  
 Here's 生, 'to give birth'. It's been altered—subtly—so the central stroke points down instead of up. As the **years** pass, we journey away from *birth* and towards death. The *unexpected little stroke* of ink suggests that the years themselves are full of unexpected strokes of luck. [6 STROKES RANK 45]
- 193 星 星 star  give birth to 191  day, sun 63 xīng  
 An ancient legend says that sparks given off by the *sun* serve as the seminal material by which it *gave birth* to **stars**. [9 STROKES RANK 537]
- 194 牲 牲 domestic animal  ox 186  give birth to 191 shēng  
**BF** What's one surprising difference between **domesticated animals** and their wild counterparts? It's easy to get animals like *oxen and cows* to *give birth* in captivity, but not so for their wild cousins. [9 STROKES RANK 1582]
- 195 竹 竹 bamboo  dab (times 2) 169  fourth (times 2) 25 zhú  
**BF** Young **bamboo** shoots are among the fastest growing plants on the planet, sometimes growing an inch or two per hour! Bamboo grows so fast that the ancient Chinese artists could not paint them convincingly in the square grid that calligraphic custom demands. So they split a young plant in two, and we see here two sections of the seedling plant next to each other, with one *dab*-like leaf at the top of each section. [6 STROKES RANK 1588]

- 196 门 门 door  scepter 5  dab 169  place of refuge 111 mén
- 1 Doors lead to safety and comfort, to cozy houses where everything ‘will be all right’. Anyone, be she among the high (symbolized by her *scepter*) or low (a mere *dab* of a person) can enter through here to a *place of refuge*.
- 2 The dab of ink up top at the left is the hinge around which the door—the right-angle stroke on the right—swings.
- When used as a component, 门 can symbolize a ‘place of gathering’ in addition to ‘gate’. People often do mill around entrances and exits.
- [3 STROKES RANK 185]
- 197 问 问 ask  door 196  mouth 41 wèn
- People gather at special places to exchange information and gossip. A person at one such *place of gathering* opens their *mouth* to **ask** a question.
- [6 STROKES RANK 137]
- 198 间 间 room  door 196  day, sun 63 jiān
- BF** Here’s how to get into your **room**: retreat from the *sun*, go through the *door*, and you’re in! Or, from within your **room**, you can look through the *door* and see the *sun* outside.
- [7 STROKES RANK 135]
- 199 闰 闰 intercalary month  door 196  king 11 rùn
- BF** In ancient China, the *king* did in fact sit at the *gate* during the **intercalary months** that were added to the lunar calendar.
- [7 STROKES RANK 4183]
- 200 闻 闻 hear, smell  door 196  ear 82 wén
- At the *doorway*, with your *ear* properly placed, you can both **hear and smell** anything going on inside.
- [9 STROKES RANK 825]
- 201 白 白 white  dab 169  day, sun 63 bái
- How poetic to think of the color **white** as a *little bit of sun*!
- [5 STROKES RANK 286]

- 202 自 自 self  dab 169  eye 78 zì  
The *eye* is the gateway for all visual information into our brain. A *small portion* of this material influences our behavior, and becomes part of our core self. [6 STROKES RANK 43]
- 203 百 百 hundred  one 2  white 201 bǎi  
We've been trying to sell our old house for months. Finally, we figured out if we applied *one* coat of *whitewash*, the place would look a **hundred** percent better. [6 STROKES RANK 407]
- 204 拍 拍 clap  hand r 29  white 201 pāi  
Go ahead—clap your *hands* especially hard. Your palms will briefly turn *white* as the force of the clap pushes the blood out of your tissues. [8 STROKES RANK 1167]
- 205 帕 帕 handkerchief  towel 130  white 201 pà  
**BF** A *special cloth* which is *white*!?! How much clearer can these components be! This is a **handkerchief**. [8 STROKES RANK 1519]
- 206 帛 帛 silk  white 201  towel 130 bó  
The symbolism of *white cloth* is clear—such fancy duds could only be **silk**. [8 STROKES RANK 3682]

Both characters 帕 and 帛 (§§205 and 206) use the same components but place them differently. Keep them straight in our mind by remembering that silk is famous for the elegance of the way it handles—it drapes beautifully. In 帛, the white substance seems to hang on a central pole, which will emphasize this elegance.

# Unit 12

## Coming to Terms

207 皇 皇 emperor  white 201  king 11 huáng

BF 'White' often suggests purity and sometimes superiority. The Chinese portray an **emperor** as a *white king*, a king-among-kings.

[9 STROKES RANK 759]

208 咱 咱 you and me  mouth 41  self 202 zán

BF (This is the 'inclusive we'—that is, it includes the speaker.) The two components here suggest the presence of at least two people. The *mouth* refers to someone else, and the *self* component is the speaker. Altogether, this is **we**, as long as the speaker is included.

[9 STROKES RANK 1265]

209 血 皿 blood  dab 169  vessel, dish 110 xiě

**Blood** was always a by-product of the animal sacrifices of ancient societies. Gathered in *vessels* for easy disposal, the only clue to their contents was the rich, dark *drops* at the rim of the container.

[6 STROKES RANK 658]














210 寸 寸 inch  hand 27 (altered)  dab 169 cùn














(A 'Chinese inch' is one-third of a decimeter, approximately 1.3 American inches.) Hand? Where do you see a *hand*, or anything remotely like the image in §27? Some artistic license is in order. The fact that the 'hook' of §24 extends above the horizontal 'one' indicates that some other strokes are missing, namely the top two horizontals. The little *dab* of ink marks a special point on the wrist—the point where you can feel your pulse, about an **inch** below the heel of the hand.




We will sometimes use this component for 'little' or 'small'.



[3 STROKES RANK 1904]





- 211 时 时 time  day, sun 63  inch 210 shí  
As the *sun* journeys from sunrise to sunset, what is the appropriate dimension that's equivalent to linear *inches*? The answer is **time**. [7 STROKES RANK 25]
- 212 封 封 m for correspondence  earth, soil 9  earth, soil 9  inch 210 fēng  
A **letter** is something *small* traveling from one part of the *earth* to another part of the *earth*. [9 STROKES RANK 871]
- 213 寺 寺 Buddhist temple  earth, soil 9  inch 210 sì  
BF In the very old days, **Buddhist temples** were not much grander than any other house. Here's one, made of *earth*, and only a *small bit* taller than anything else and with only a *small* sign out front to identify it. [6 STROKES RANK 1892]
- 214 持 持 grasp, hold  hand r 29  Buddhist temple 213 chí  
The insurgents are almost upon you! The huge *Buddhist temple* ahead of you is a literal life-saver, as everybody recognizes it as a place of refuge. When you get there, you are so exhausted, you need your *hand* to be able to **grasp** the walls of the structure for support. [9 STROKES RANK 357]
- 215 特 特 special, unusual  ox 186  Buddhist temple 213 tè  
BF Buddhists don't eat meat. The circumstances are **special** indeed when you find *cow* meat in a *Buddhist temple*. [10 STROKES RANK 173]
- 216 耐 耐 bear, endure  express add'l but contrasting info 83  inch 210 nài  
The 'dab' in the '*inch*' component marks the sensitive spot near the wrist where you can feel your pulse. The bristles from the '*contrasting*' component on the left lightly brush across this spot. It's hard to **bear** this ticklish sensation. [9 STROKES RANK 1409]



- 217 寻 寻 search, seek  boar's head 34  inch 210 xún  
With a specialty whisk broom in hand, all of whose bristles come from a boar's head and are one inch long, you search high and low for your missing wallet. [6 STROKES RANK 962]
- 218 斗 斗 cup-shaped  dab 169  dab 169  ten 6 dǒu  
What do you use a cup-shaped object for? Why, to hold coffee, of course! Here you see two knuckles of somebody's hand on the rim of the cup, right by the handle. [4 STROKES RANK 580]
- 219 抖 抖 tremble  hand r 29  cup-shaped 218 dǒu  
Wow, that cup from §218 is way too heavy for me. My hand, from the effort of holding the cup, gets weak and starts trembling. [7 STROKES RANK 1757]
- 220 主 主 master  dab 169  king 11 zhǔ  
BF Just as the master of the country is the king, so too the master of a house is a little bit of a king. [5 STROKES RANK 87]
- 221 玉 玉 jade  king 11  dab 169 yù  
Some essence of the king resides in his valuable possessions, make them even more valuable than if you or I owned them. Of special significance is jade, so permeated with royal essence, that owning a piece of it is like owning a bit of the king. [5 STROKES RANK 1001]
- 222 国 国 country  enclosure 40  jade 221 guó  
Here, jade symbolically represents all the king's possessions—the entire country. 国 represents an enclosure containing everything belonging to the king, that is, the country. [8 STROKES RANK 20]



- 223 书 书 book  place of refuge (times 2) 111  dab 169  scepter 5 shū
- There are few experiences like losing yourself in the depths of a really good book. A book is the ultimate *place of refuge*, perhaps why this component appears twice. Moreover, **books** extend their grace to all and sundry, from those with riches and wealth and material trappings (the ‘*scepter*’) to those with *virtually nothing* to their names. [4 STROKES RANK 282]









- 224 千 干 thousand  dab 169  ten 6 qiān
- Sometimes we will s-t-r-e-t-c-h our little “dab” of ink:  
Think of the ‘*dab*’ as a snapshot of a clothes line from which are hanging many freshly-washed items of clothes, each worth an average of *ten* dollars. There’s lots of clean clothes hanging, perhaps as many as one hundred, so the whole wash is worth one **thousand** dollars in all. [3 STROKES RANK 599]

Reader alert: in certain font styles, this character 千 bears a striking resemblance to 干 ‘dry’ (§10). Learn to pay attention to see whether the top stroke is truly horizontal or a near-horizontal smear.

- 225 舌 舌 tongue  thousand 224  mouth 41 shé
- BF A human mouth is relatively small, yet capable of great expressive power. Any one of *thousands* of different sentiments come out of your *mouth* by virtue of your **tongue**’s versatility. [6 STROKES RANK 1958]










- 226 括 括 draw together  hand r 29  tongue 225 kuò
- The definition refers to the *drawing together* or *contracting* together of things like muscles. The muscles in your *hand* and in your *tongue* are examples of body parts that **contract** quickly under sharp pain. [9 STROKES RANK 850]

- 227 甜 甜 sweetness  tongue 225  sweet 103 tián
- We already considered ‘sweet’ in §103, although that character 甘 was a bound form. This is a more ‘intense’ sensation, because it can stand by itself. Anyway, we can imagine a *tongue* licking something *sweet and pleasant* because of its **sweetness**. [11 STROKES RANK 2020]

- 228 重 重 heavy  thousand 224  inside 71 zhòng  
After Thanksgiving dinner, with what feels like *one thousand* pounds of food *inside* me, I can hardly budge from the table—I feel so **heavy**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 140]
- 229 董 董 director  grass r 94  heavy 228 dòng  
**BF** Nowadays, **trustees, members of Boards of Directors**, and other **bigwigs** wear clothes suitable of their high station in life. In ancient days, they advertised their status by wearing *grassy* laurels on their heads and dragging around a *heavy*, overweight body.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1629]
- 230 币 币 money, currency  dab 169  towel 130 bì  
**BF** A little *bit* of *towel*, perhaps a small strip, was a forerunner to what would become **currency**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 1188]
- 231 毛 毛 hair  mineshaft 135  dab 169  two 3 máo  
That's not a *mineshaft* pictured here, but rather the chin of a teenage boy on the verge of shaving. Already he can see a *dab*-like whisk of a whisker surmounting *two* genuine **hairs**. He can't wait to start shaving!  
[4 STROKES RANK 623]
- 232 乱 乱 in disorder  tongue 225  mineshaft 135 luàn  
Go ahead, wrap your *tongue* around a live *wire*. You'll find your thoughts and sensations temporarily jumbled up and in great **disorder**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 765]

## Unit 13

### Practice Makes Perfect

- 233 此 此 this  stop! 181  ancient ladle 142 cǐ  
This must *stop!* Stop banging the *spoon* on the sidewalk—I can't take the noise. [6 STROKES RANK 116]
- 234 些 些 some  this 233  two 3 xiē  
When I apply the specifier '*this*' to a *couple* of things, why now I have **some** stuff. [8 STROKES RANK 86]
- 235 皆 皆 each and every  compared with 146  white 201 jiē  
Scientists tell us that *white* light contains light rays of all other colors. In that respect, some quality that appears in **each and every** item can be *compared with* the color *white*. [9 STROKES RANK 1419]
- 236 托 托 hold in the palm  hand r 29  ancient ladle 142 (altered)  dab 169 tuō  
If you cup your *hand* to imitate a *ladle*, you'll be able to **hold liquid in your palm**, too—at least for some *small* amount of time. [6 STROKES RANK 799]

237 监 监 inspect, supervise  
 ☐ lie down, crouch (animals) 178 (altered)    ☐ blood 209 (altered)    jiān

BF The scribes have taken lots of liberties with the components of this character. The ‘crouch’ bit (𠂔, §178) has suffered the most. The kneeling subject part on its left has been reduced to two parallel verticals, and the stem of the magic wand leans to the right. The drop of blood that identifies ‘blood’ has moved from the left to the right side of the vessel (皿, §209).

Here’s a *crouching* courtier, bent over a bowl of *blood*, **inspecting** it to see that it is ritually okay. [10 STROKES RANK 838]

238 提 提 carry, take, lift      ☐ hand r 29    ☐ is 184    tí

Carrying is the use of your *hands* to change the location of something that *is* in some initial location. [12 STROKES RANK 196]

239 临 临 face, overlook  
 ☐ lie down, crouch (animals) 178 (altered)    ☐ product 44 (altered)    lín

BF The boss in the warehouse was **overlooking** everything. My girlfriend and I, who were behaving like animals just a minute ago, were behind a pile of his *products*, *crouched down* and quiet. [9 STROKES RANK 839]

240 蓝 蓝 blue      ☐ grass r 94    ☐ inspect, supervise 237    lán













I’m very sad and **blue**. The best job I could get is one *inspecting* the height of Kentucky *bluegrass*. [13 STROKES RANK 1190]















241 卸 卸 unload, take sth off  
 ☐ noonish 188    ☐ stop! 181    ☐ single ear 157    xiè

What made me take this summer job as airport baggage handler! We all look forward to the *noon* break so we can **unload** the bags for a bit. We all keep a *single ear* cocked for the whistle announcing the time to *stop* work. [9 STROKES RANK 2479]







242 址 址 foundation, site      ☐ earth, soil 9    ☐ stop! 181    zhǐ

BF The purpose of a building’s **foundation** is to *stop* it from sliding or moving to the *earth*. [7 STROKES RANK 1848]

- 243 𦰩 𦰪 bamboo r  bamboo 195 (altered)  
 CMP Take a knife and slice off the bottom stems of these bamboo segments. This radical treatment gives rise to the **bamboo radical** that often appears in Chinese characters.
- 244 等 等 wait  bamboo r 243  Buddhist temple 213 děng  
 I am not a particularly religious person. I can imagine myself attending a service in a *Buddhist temple* out of curiosity, but then I'd stare at the *bamboo* walls, **waiting** with impatience for the service to end.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 158]
- 245 简 简 simple, simplified  bamboo r 243  room 198 jiǎn  
 BF The elegant **simplicity** of the *room* is stunning. Everything is made from *bamboo*.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 716]
- 246 笔 笔 pen  bamboo r 243  hair 231 bǐ  
 Ancient **pens** were made from *bamboo*, which provided the part to hold, and *hair*, which served as nib.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 956]
- 247 宀 宀 roof  roof  
 CMP This stylized **roof**, with the little dab up top for the pitch line, tops traditional Chinese houses.
- 248 定 定 decide\*  roof 247  correct 183 (altered) dìng  
 Because the *roof* was not installed *correctly*, we have leaks whenever it rains. We've **decided** to bite the bullet and rip off the old one, and do it all over again.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 77]
- 249 它 它 it  roof 247  ancient ladle 142 tā  
 It takes hard work to make a home function. Here is a *roof* covering all the internal tasks that must be done—the *ladle*, prominent in the preparation of food, symbolizes all of them. Remember these internal tasks by their acronym, **it**.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 107]











- 250 害 害 harm, injure  roof 247  plentiful 12  mouth 41 hài  
The worst **harm** people do to each other is via gossip—*too much talk* under the supposed protection of someone's *roof*. [10 STROKES RANK 579]
- 251 富 富 rich, wealthy  roof 247  size range 163 fù  
Rich people own much more than they need. It's common to find similar items, but in a *range of sizes*, under their *roof*. [12 STROKES RANK 733]
- 252 审 审 examine, go over  roof 247  express 47 shěn  
When I study for a test, I need to **go over** all the material out loud. I feel comfortable under my own *roof*, where I can *express myself* out loud with no one giving me funny looks. [8 STROKES RANK 746]
- 253 宣 宣 declare, proclaim  roof 247  two 3 (altered)  speak 64 (altered) xuān  
BF The 'roof' is really a decorated handle, attached to the upper of *two* horizontal rods. The rods serve to anchor a scroll, which *speaks* the words of the emperor's **proclamation**. [9 STROKES RANK 770]
- 254 守 守 guard, defend  roof 247  inch 210 shǒu  
The leprechauns live in tiny houses—there are their *roofs*, only one *inch* off the ground. They use their magical powers to **guard** and **defend** us. [6 STROKES RANK 796]
- 255 宝 宝 treasure, precious jewel  roof 247  jade 221 bǎo  
People hide their **treasures** under their own *roof*. Scribes use the symbol for 'jade' to represent these valuables.  
Or else, this character shows a *house* made of *jade*. What a **precious treasure**! [8 STROKES RANK 811]




























- 256 宫 宫 palace  roof 247  bamboo pitch pipes 43 gōng  
**BF** The blocks of the *pitch pipes* also suggest rooms, many rooms. What kind of structure consists of a *roof* surmounting many rooms? Why, a royal **palace**, of course. [9 STROKES RANK 982]
- 257 宁 宁 rather, would rather  roof 247  fourth 25 nìng  
**BF** Help! The *roof* is collapsing for the *fourth* time. I **would rather** that this didn't happen. Next time, I'm making the roof supports out of **wood** (sounds like 'would'). [5 STROKES RANK 1019]
- 258 街 街 street  rather, would rather 257 (altered)  jade tablet 14 jiē  
 Compared to crude earthen paths, paved **streets** must have seemed like roads paved with *jade tablets*. Of course, everyone *would rather* travel on these! [12 STROKES RANK 1101]



## Unit 14



# Hit the Ground Running



- 259 宇 宇 building, house  roof 247  in; at; to 26 yǔ  
BF Here's a *roof* spreading over a place that you go *to*, that you stay *at*, and you're never happier than when *in*. It's your ancestral **house**.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1156]
- 260 宜 宜 proper, suitable  roof 247  moreover 15 yí  
BF It's **proper** and **suitable** to be *home* in our cozy den, with *bookcases* lining the wall.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1290]
- 261 宙 宙 all time, past, present, and future  roof 247  let sb do sth 48 zhòu  
BF A man's *home* is his castle—he *can do* whatever he wants in it, for **all time**.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1421]
- 262 割 割 cut apart, sever  harm, injure 250  knife r 166 gē  
The bad guys in a movie might use their *knife* to *harm* the hero. They try to **sever** or **cut** some major blood vessel, but (Hollywood being Hollywood) invariably fail.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1665]
- 263 牢 牢 pen, prison  roof 247  ox 186 láo  
A **pen** is a place which provides a figurative *roof* over the heads of *farm animals*.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1696]


- 264 宅 宅 residence, house  roof 247  hair 231 (altered) zhái  
 BF It looks like I lost some of my *hair*—because I’ve been living under the same *roof* for so long. That’s the comfort of a true **residence**.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 1858]
- 265 冂 冂 safe house, security  
 CMP This is really just a Chinese roof (§247) modified to emphasize how the roof of a house encloses and protects its inhabitants. Therefore, rather than think of it as a ‘modified roof’, it seems better to imagine it as a symbol of the **security** that such a roof implies.
- 266 向 向 to face  safe house, security 265  mouth 41 xiàng  
 It’s been a hard journey, and now you’re almost home. With joy in your heart, you **face** your home, the source of greatest *security*. The ‘*mouth*’ symbolizes ‘you’ enveloped by the protective home.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 146]
- 267 响 响 make a sound  mouth 41  to face 266 xiǎng  
 One way to **make a sound** that’s easily heard is to use your *mouth* while *facing* the direction you’re talking.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 503]
- 268 宀 宀 cover  
 CMP The image and the title say it all.
- 269 亡 亡 perish  cover 268  min shaft 135 wáng  
 BF Here’s a scene right out of *Indiana Jones*. The villain takes off the horizontal *cover*. After knocking you unconscious, he throws you down the *min shaft*, covers it, and leaves you to **perish**.  
 [3 STROKES RANK 957]
- 270 言 言 speech  cover 268  two 3  mouth 41 yán  
 BF **Speech** is *two mouths* gossiping. The *cover* is there to (try to) keep a lid on this chatter, to make sure harmful rumors don’t spread.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 355]





- 271 誓 誓 vow, pledge  broken (stick, rope) 120  speech 270 shì  
**BF** *Speech* acts metaphorically to hold up and support a statement that could be *broken*. The support ensures that it will not be broken, that the statement is a proper **vow** or **oath**. [14 STROKES RANK 2095]
- 272 詈 詈 scold, curse  net r 107  speech 270 lì  
**BF** During the angry *speech*, your mother-in-law shows a lot of teeth—that's what the '*net*' suggests. She is really  **cursing**  you out! [12 STROKES RANK 4626]
- 273 市 市 market  cover 268  towel 130 shì  
**BF** Ancient **marketplaces** generated lots of filth, dust, and soot! Surrounding householders would have had to *cover* their white linen and *towels* to protect them from this dirt. [5 STROKES RANK 254]
- 274 闹 闹 make a noise  door 196  market 273 nào  
 You live right on the main square of the town. Today is market day. There's lots of **noise**, because the *market* is going on right outside your *door*. [8 STROKES RANK 1336]
- 275 高 高 high  cover 268  mouth 41  borders 127  mouth 41 gāo  
 The essence of **high**-ness is a tower. Here, the '*mouths*' represent building blocks, bricks or stones or whatever, which are piled higher and higher. The '*borders*' here are supports on the lower portion of the tower, to help buttress the bricks from the instability of supporting lots of stuff on top. The *cover* at the top, like a finial, provides a decorative flourish. [10 STROKES RANK 134]
- 276 搞 搞 do, work, manage, etc  hand r 29  high 275 gǎo  
 Here's someone **doing work** by using their *hands* to pile things up *high*. [13 STROKES RANK 1146]





- 277 芒 芒 spike, sharp point  grass r 94  perish 269 máng  
 BF Don't be fooled—bamboo and other tough *grasses* make potent weapons. Unwary travelers have *perished* in traps where lengths of these *grasses* are used as **sharp spikes**. [6 STROKES RANK 2251]

- 278 罚 罚 punish, penalize  scold, curse 272 (altered)  knife r 166 fá  
 In the altered form of 'scold, curse', the 'speech' part has been simplified to a common form we'll encounter later.  
 Amid all the *cursing* and screaming, if someone pulls out a *knife*, you're really in for a severe **punishment**. [9 STROKES RANK 1215]




- 279 鬲 鬲 cauldron for meat or cereal  high 275 (altered)  metal stand lì  
 This **cauldron** (often found in archaeological sites) is sufficiently *tall* and well-balanced on its *stand* that the ancients could easily have stuffed large slabs of meat in there for stewing. [10 STROKES RANK 6856]

- 280 冫 冫 smooth cover  CMP It's smooth because there's no little handle on top; compare with the 'regular' cover in §268.

- 281 亭 亭 pavilion, kiosk  cover 268  mouth 41  smooth cover 280  fourth 25 tíng  
 We've seen in §275 how useful it can be to use our components as architectural building blocks. A **pavilion** is a decorated, ornate building used for some special purpose. The bottom components of 高 have been replaced by some fancier counterparts. That's how we construct a **pavilion**. [9 STROKES RANK 2002]

282 营 营 battalion  grass r 94  smooth cover 280  mouth 41  mouth 41 yíng

A multitude of *mouths*—here there's only two, because that's all there's room for—symbolizes lots of men, the men of a **battalion**. We know this is a battalion because battalions need food—symbolized by vegetable *grass*—and shelter (*cover*). [11 STROKES RANK 536]

283 带 带 bring, band, belt  towel 130 (altered)  smooth cover 280  towel 130 dài

1 (BAND, BELT) The *towel* component—really, fancy cloth—appears twice, once (on top) with extra decoration. Together, they form an ancient ensemble, **belted** in the middle.

2 (BRING) Use the **belt** as a leash to **bring** somebody along with you. [9 STROKES RANK 342]

284 垂 垂 spider web

**CMP** Sometimes opposite concepts are helpful in remembering the meaning of a character. Here, mentally strip away the top 'dab' stroke and the bottom 'one' stroke. We're left with an intriguing grid of horizontals and verticals, three of each. It's easy to interpret as a *bit* of a stylized **spider web**. This portion is mounted on a *horizontal base*, so it looks like our web is pretty close to the ground.


## Unit 15

# There's Always a Tomorrow

285 垂 垂 droop  spider web 284 chuí

A freshly-woven *spider web* is a marvel of intricacy and tight, tense strands. Oops, a bug or twig or some other little something has blundered into the *web*. The spider may prepare to feast, but the struggling bug or some windblown chaff destroys the tension of the web, causing all strands to **droop**.

A word on the structure of the web. Both horizontals and verticals consist of strokes in the pattern short-long-short, but the horizontals are a bit longer than the verticals. Calligraphic strokes are like people—they spread out a bit more when lying down! [8 STROKES RANK 1592]

286 睡 睡 sleep  eye 78  droop 285 shuì













When you lie down, and your *eyes* begin to *droop*, then **sleep** can't be far behind. [13 STROKES RANK 964]

287 儿 儿 walking man

















**CMP** Imagine an amateur photographer, a very clumsy amateur photographer, trying to take a candid shot of a walking man. Good shot—too bad it's off-center. All we got were the legs, and that's what we see here.













288 儿 儿 son  walking man 287 ér







Here are the *legs of a man*, but the rest of him is missing—there's no head or other limbs! It's an undeveloped man—a **son**. [2 STROKES RANK 192]

- 289 四 四 four  enclosure 40  walking man 287 sì  
The restless prisoner wants to get out of his cell. With no respite, this *walking man* circuits his *enclosure* looking for a way out of the **four** walls. [5 STROKES RANK 226]
- 290 匹 匹 be a match for  basket, box 152  walking man 287 pǐ  
Fights on television are staged from start to finish. To build up tension and excitement, they will bring on a challenger in a *box*, open one side, and focus on the ‘champion’ from the *legs* up. They claim that this guy will **be a match** for anyone. [4 STROKES RANK 1908]
- 291 西 西 west  one 2  four 289 (altered) xī  
The restless prisoner has earned some free time outside his cell, so part of him is outside. The clumsy photographer from §287 did a little better this time—he captured our guy from the waist down, but still wandering around the small courtyard bordered by *four* mighty walls. The *horizontal line* is his belt. His recess ends at sunset, when the sun sets in the **west**. [6 STROKES RANK 167]
- 292 牺 牺 sacrificial animal  ox 186  west 291 xī  
BF An *ox* facing the setting sun in the *west* makes a picture perfect **sacrificial animal**. [10 STROKES RANK 1814]
- 293 元 元 dollar  two 3  walking man 287 yuán  
(This character also refers to the unit of currency in the People’s Republic of China.) *Two* guys aimlessly *walking around* discussing various get-rich schemes to increase their stock of **dollars**. [4 STROKES RANK 370]
- 294 园 园 garden  enclosure 40  dollar 293 yuán  
BF **Gardens** and parks demand huge amounts of labor to keep them looking neat and attractive to tourists. Vast infusions of *dollars* are necessary keep the park lands inside the *boundaries* looking tip-top. [7 STROKES RANK 988]




- 295 玩 玩 have fun, amuse oneself  king 11  dollar 293 wán  
(This is a famously tough verb to translate into English!) Anyway, with some money in your pocket, you're all set to have a *royal good time*.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1072]
- 296 完 完 finish, complete  roof 247  dollar 293 wán  
The *roof* on top of a *dollar* is the Chinese way of reminding shoppers that when they've *capped* their *spending*, they're **finished**. It's time to call it a day.  
[7 STROKES RANK 301]
- 297 冠 冠 hat, cap  smooth cover 280  dollar 293 (altered)  inch 210 guān  
**BF** See how the slightly distorted '*dollar*' scoops up the '*inch*'? That refers to the *little* decorative ribbon that you forgot to buy originally for this cute little sailor **hat**. Now your head *cover* is complete. [9 STROKES RANK 1713]
- 298 兄 兄 elder brother\*  mouth 41  walking man 287 xiōng  
**BF** This character shows a *walking man* whose *mouth* does all the talking. Younger siblings think about their **elder brothers** in this way! (The very different character of §62 also means 'elder brother'.) [5 STROKES RANK 1089]
- 299 克 克 subdue  ancient 51  walking man 287 kè  
**BF**  
1 It's easy to **subdue** an *ancient walker*.  ten 6  elder brother\* 298  
2 Here's another way to parse the components. The bottom portion consists of an *elder brother* with a *ten*-shaped spike atop his head. When *ten brothers* get together, they can **subdue** anyone. [7 STROKES RANK 262]
- 300 先 先 first  dab 169  earth, soil 9  walking man 287 xiān  
Because he was **first** in line, a *little bit* of muddy *dirt* splashed onto his pants during the *walk*. [6 STROKES RANK 188]



- 301 见 见 see  borders 127  walking man 287 jiàn  
Here's a *guy walking around* who has, for some reason, placed a paper bag over his head. You can see its *borders*. As a result, he can't see.  
Alternatively, the *borders* represent the shape of his head, so as he *walks around*, he can see where he's going. [4 STROKES RANK 153]
- 302 现 现 now  king 11  see 301 xiàn  
BF The *king* is the *king*, and he can look at whatever he wants, and he wants to see the thing right **now!** [8 STROKES RANK 70]
- 303 酉 酉 new wine  west 291  one 2 yǒu  
By itself, this low-frequency character refers to the late afternoon (specifically, the time between 5PM and 7PM). As a component, it occurs often, where it means 'alcohol'. To people from other parts of the world, what's the *one* thing that seems to mean so much to *Western party-goers*? **Alcohol!**  
[7 STROKES RANK 3839]
- 304 醒 醒 wake up  new wine 303  star 193 xǐng  
The parts of this character refer to things that vanish, at least temporarily. When the influence of *alcohol* disappears, and the sun chases the *stars* away, then it's time to **wake up!** [16 STROKES RANK 1075]
- 305 酷 酷 cruel, 'cool'  new wine 303  tell 189 kù  
BF Under the influence of *alcohol*, a person is apt to *tell* things to a friend that he wouldn't dream of mentioning while sober. How **cruel** these revelations can be. In vino veritas...  
The Chinese have adopted the English word 'cool', meaning great, nifty, way to go!, and use this character and pronunciation for it.  
[14 STROKES RANK 1867]
- 306 览 览 look at, display  inspect, supervise 237 (altered)  see 301 lǎn  
BF When the museum painting is properly **displayed**, it makes it easy to see what you are *inspecting*. [9 STROKES RANK 1886]


- 307 苋 苋 amaranth  grass r 94  see 301 xiàn  
**BF** Amaranth is an ancient grain recently rediscovered. Its seeds, when roasted, pop like popcorn. The ancient Chinese treated it as a leafy *vegetable* which they used to stir fry. They thought it was good for one's *vision*.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 4820]
- 308 宽 宽 wide, broad, lenient  roof 247  amaranth 307 kuān  
*Amaranth* kernels are tiny but extremely numerous. (And they are very nutritious. This combination of nutrition plus bounty is what makes this grain so appealing to food scientists.) Anyway, imagine someone making a carpet from the seeds of a single *amaranth* plant. They are so plentiful that the house, and its *roof*, would have to be both **wide and broad** to encompass it.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1155]
- 309 宪 宪 law, statute, constitution  roof 247  first 300 xiàn  
**BF** The experience of the United States is salutary in the following respect: a **constitution** is the first responsibility of a country's founders. If done properly, it is as a *roof*, protecting and nurturing the infant nation.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1484]
- 310 人 人 standing man  
**CMP** The pictograph shows a highly stylized drawing of a standing man. Used as a freestanding character, it's very common, but it also makes frequent appearance as a component.


## Unit 16



# A Fighting Chance




311 人 人 man  standing man 310 rén  
Sometimes our **man** maintains its shape (for example in the simplified form of the measure word 个; see below), but most of the time 人 gets squished, like this: 亻, as we'll see. [2 STROKES RANK 7]



312 个 个 non-specific measure word  man 311  scepter 5 gè  
1 How can we remember that this is the non-specific Chinese measure word, used whenever a noun does not call for a special measure word? We see a *man* distinguished by his *scepter*. Thus, this pictograph identifies a very particular **specimen** of humanity, and by extension to any definite person, and thence to any noun requiring a measure word.  
2 A *man* with a *scepter*—someone 'way up there—strolls around the marketplace, taking advantage of his position to sample all kinds of stuff. There's no pattern behind all this sampling, so we use this **non-specific measure word**. [3 STROKES RANK 12]

313 从 从 from  man (times 2) 311 cóng  
Here's two pictures of the same man. The hindmost component in the rear left shows the same man's original position, while front picture shows him in his present location. The rear picture shows where he came **from**.  
We sometimes use 从 for the concept of '**source**', since this character shows the progress made by somebody traveling from this source to his present position. [4 STROKES RANK 98]

314 众 众 multitude  man (times 3) 311 zhòng  
BF The components say it all—you see here a **multitude** of *men*. [6 STROKES RANK 510]

- 315 丛 丛 cluster  from 313  one 2 cóng  
 BF A **cluster** is a group of *people* or other things bound together by *one* common characteristic. [5 STROKES RANK 1678]



- 316 两 两 both, two  one 2  borders 127  man (times 2) 311 liǎng  
 Within the *borders* of the local community, **two men** are helping to carry *one* long thing, a pole or plank or whatever. [7 STROKES RANK 133]



- 317 肉 肉 meat  borders 127  man (times 2) 311 ròu  
 This is a pictograph of a carcass cut open. Except for calligraphic flourishes intended to make it visually well-formed, scribes are careful to make this glyph bilaterally symmetric—that is, the right and left halves are the same, like in real life.



Perhaps the *borders* represent the borders—skin and hide—of the animal, and the *group of men* will be feasting on the innards, the *meat*.














肉 gets frequent use as a component in other graphs, but it often takes on an altered appearance in that role, namely ‘月’. Unfortunately, another common glyph—meaning ‘moon’ or ‘month’—looks exactly the same! Oh, well... When ‘meat’ takes on its ‘月’ guise, it often means ‘body part’.













[6 STROKES RANK 1009]

- 318 内 内 inside\*  meat 317  man 311 (altered) nèi  
 In ‘*meat*’, we dug within a carcass to get at the substance. In this character, the surface decoration is less, so we aren’t digging quite to the same depth—just enough to get **inside** the body. [4 STROKES RANK 175]

- 319 耸 耸 to tower  man (times 2) 311  ear 82 sǒng  
 BF This pair of thugs **towers** over their intended victim. How can we tell? This poor guy’s *ear* comes up only to the feet of the villainous *duo*. [10 STROKES RANK 2163]

- 320 巫 巫 wizard  labor, work 7  man (times 2) 311 wū  
 BF Wizardry, when done skillfully, appears to be the *work* of *several men*. [7 STROKES RANK 2189]

- 321 坐 坐 sit  earth, soil 9  man (times 2) 311 zuò  
Two men sit back to back on a bench, backs up against the central backrest. Because they are drawn so small, we know the *two men* are **sitting** close to the *ground*. [7 STROKES RANK 611]
- 322 闪 闪 lightning  door 196  man 311 shǎn  
BF “It was a dark and stormy night.” Suddenly, a flash of **lightning** reveals a crouching *man* framed by the open *door*. Friend or foe? [5 STROKES RANK 1113]
- 323 以 以 use, take  mineshaft 135 (altered)  dab 169  man 311 yǐ  
Look at this environmentally-ignorant prat! We see *him* getting ready to throw a *bit* of garbage down the *mine*. He needs to **use** a garbage pail instead. [4 STROKES RANK 23]
- 324 齿 齿 tooth  stop! 181  receptacle 155  man 311 chǐ  
BF A pictographic interpretation is best for this character, which shows a molar **tooth** on the upper jaw. The top part represents the **tooth’s** root, which *stops* the tooth from being pulled out of your mouth when you chew. The bottom ‘*receptacle*’ component is the tooth itself. While the tooth’s surface may be smooth, it is not flat. This tooth has some valleys in its exterior, and they have a shape like the character for ‘*man*’. [8 STROKES RANK 1773]
- 325 合 合 join; combine  man 311  one 2  mouth 41 hé  
1 The ‘joining’ and ‘combining’ here refer to the pooling of efforts of a group of like-minded people, say. Recall, too, that nouns in Chinese can be either singular or plural. In this instance, it’s helpful to regard the ‘man’ component as being plural—*many men* with only *one mouth*—a poetic description of worker solidarity, a **joining together**, if ever there was one.  
2 The former narrative notwithstanding, this glyph looks just like a cozy little house—we see the roof, eaves, and body of the house from the side—that a weekend group of handymen built by **combining** their skills and efforts. [6 STROKES RANK 171]

- 326 全 全 entire  man 311  king 11 quán  
According to the most enlightened theories of monarchy, it is the *ruler* who serves the **entire** *citizenry*, and not vice versa. Writing ‘king’ underneath ‘man’ helps underscore this relationship. [6 STROKES RANK 124]
- 327 企 企 on tiptoe  man 311  stop! 181 qǐ  
**BF** Picture a fat *man*, a really fat *man* (that’s why the man’s legs are so far apart) trying to walk **on tipty-toes**. This is a somewhat precarious stance for this *man*, so he quickly comes to a complete *stop* to try to regain his balance. [6 STROKES RANK 450]
- 328 舍 舍 give up  man 311  tongue 225 shě  
This verb ‘to give up’ is the same sense as ‘abandon’. The most effective way for *someone* to **abandon** a claim to something is not by physical action, but by verbal means—swearing an oath in court, for example, or some other method which uses the *the tongue*. [8 STROKES RANK 1344]
- 329 啥 啥 what? (dialect)  mouth 41  give up 328 shá  
Here we *abandon* proper grammar in favor of a dialectical utterance from our *mouth*. People may have trouble understanding this non-standard speech. **What** did you say? [11 STROKES RANK 2082]
- 330 大 大 big  man 311  one 2 dà  
A standing *man* with outstretched arms, stretched to form a long *horizontal*, emphasizes the concept of **big**. [3 STROKES RANK 17]
- 331 太 太 too (much)  big 330  dab 169 tài  
The ‘*dab*’ draws attention to the *bigness* of something, thereby making it a marker of **excess**. [4 STROKES RANK 240]

332 犬 犬 dog  big 330  dab 169 quǎn

Look head-on into the face of your favorite **dog**. Here are the whiskers above the animal's dewlaps. One eye winks at you—what a joke life is!

[4 STROKES RANK 2649]

333 天 天 heaven  one 2  big 330 tiān


Heaven is *one* expanse above the great, *big* world.

[4 STROKES RANK 78]

334 矢 矢 arrow  dab 169  heaven 333 shǐ

**BF** Perhaps to early scribes who observed skilled archers letting fly their arrows, the arrow paths seemed so ethereal that this symbolism—which equated *heavenly dabs* with **arrows**—might have seemed fitting. We'll use either of those interpretations—'arrow' or 'slice of heaven'—depending on context.

[5 STROKES RANK 2811]

335 医 医 medical  basket, box 152  arrow 334 yī  
**BF**

- 1 In the throes of serious illness, the doctor who restores health via the application of **medicine** must often seem like a magician pulling a *bit of heaven* out of his little black *bag*.
- 2 **Medical** paraphernalia are metaphorically like *arrows* to the essence of a disease, to kill it dead, to the benefit of the patient.

[7 STROKES RANK 482]

336 吴 吴 Kingdom of Wu  mouth 41  heaven 333 wú

The ancient Kingdom of Wu lasted for about 60 years, starting in the year 222AD. At that time, there were two other competing kingdoms. Wu's territory was in the south of what has become modern China.









Chinese historians regard the ability to rule as a divine gift, a mandate from heaven. Here, the central *mouth* plays the role of a heavenly marker, showing that *heaven's* mandate lies to the south—the location of **Wu**.



[7 STROKES RANK 1135]







## Unit 17




### Notions and Trifles



- 337 夫 夫 man (spiffy)  big 330  one 2 fū  
BF A *big* man (that is, an adult) with *one* horizontal hairpin in his hair symbolizes an adult **man**, at least in the ancient China in which men wore hairpins! We'll call him 'spiffy' since the presence of this hairpin suggests dressing up. [4 STROKES RANK 377]
- 338 规 规 rules and regulations  man (spiffy) 337  see 301 guī  
BF *Men* see harmony when their world is governed by **rules and regulations**. [8 STROKES RANK 321]
- 339 头 头 head  dab (times 2) 169  big 330 tóu  
To remember this character, imagine rotating this drawing by 45 degrees or so to the right (in a clockwise direction). Look closely at the large crossed strokes. Don't they look like the four paws of a *big* forest creature? The small stroke at the lower right is the creature's tail, and the two remaining *dabs* become the eyes. This part of the animal, the **head**, is the most prominent part of this suggestive sketch. [5 STROKES RANK 147]
- 340 买 买 buy  one 2 (altered)  head 339 mǎi  
Some items for no good reason grab hold of you and won't let you go until you **buy** them—think designer sneakers, pet rocks, certain dolls, and so on. In this character, the horizontal '*one*' stroke has been altered to look like a hook. It signifies how *one* certain item hooks your imagination, the center of which is your *head*, and hangs on tight until you **buy** it. [6 STROKES RANK 758]



- 341 卖 卖 sell  ten 6  buy 340 mài  
 “Buy low, sell high”—everyone knows this cliché. In this character, one ‘sell’ equals *ten buy*’s, so a ‘buy’ is much lower than a ‘sell’.  
 Also, due to the stuff on top of ‘sell’ 卖, it seems higher than ‘buy’ 买.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 974]











- 342 实 实 solid, substantial  roof 247  head 339 shí  
 BF The *roof* over this man’s *head* makes him feel that his station in life is solid and substantial.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 100]














- 343 奇 奇 odd  big 330  can; may 60 jī  
 BF  
 1 How **odd**! How **strange**! Some *big* man is teetering across the high-wire that forms the top of the ‘可’ component. Why is he doing this? Because he *can*!  
 2 Let’s face it—most people are pretty mediocre. Someone with a *outsized ability* and real talent sticks out like a sore thumb, a real **oddy**.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 563]

- 344 牵 牵 lead along by holding sth  big 330  smooth cover 280  ox 186 qiān  
 With the *big cover* over the animal—it’s probably a saddle—the *ox* can **be lead by** anybody.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1679]

- 345 因 因 because  enclosure 40  big 330 yīn  
 Because of his *big mouth*, everyone hears his side first in any fight.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 96]

- 346 咽 咽 throat  mouth 41  because 345 yān  
 BF Because of having a *mouth*, animals need **throats** to get the food to the stomach.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 2031]

- 347 替 替 for, on behalf of  man (spiffy) (times 2) 337  speak 64 tì  
Here are *two guys*, best friends for a long time. The guy on the left is making a *speech on behalf of* his pal on the right. [12 STROKES RANK 1079]
- 348 扶 扶 use a hand to support  hand r 29  man (spiffy) 337 fú  
This tall *man* has had a rough night of it (too much drinking, is it?)—he can hardly remain upright. A kind passerby uses his *hand to support* him. [7 STROKES RANK 1612]
- 349 莫 莫 do not, not  grass r 94  day, sun 63  big 330 mò  
*Big, tall grasses* can obscure the *sun*. **Do not** let this happen, or the rest of the garden plants will suffer. [10 STROKES RANK 955]
- 350 摸 摸 touch, grope  hand r 29  do not, not 349 mō  
**Groping** is gross. It's putting your *hand* where it's *not* supposed to be. [13 STROKES RANK 1367]
- 351 哭 哭 weep  mouth (times 2) 41  dog 332 kū  
1 The components of this character form the features of a face assailed by grief and **weeping**. The two “*mouths*” form eyes, from which a tear is falling.  
2 *Two mouths* signify the presence of much emotion, and nearby a *dog* is howling with grief. In a human, this manifests itself as **weeping**. [10 STROKES RANK 1210]
- 352 器 器 vessel  weep 351  mouth (times 2) 41 qì  
**BF** The *four mouths* symbolize the noise that these many *mouths* can make! In Chinese households of two thousand years ago, only valuable and well-used cooking **vessels** can create a similar clatter. [16 STROKES RANK 441]

- 353 央 央 entreat  man 311  one 2  towel 130 (altered) yāng  
 BF The ‘towel’ here is more of a ceremonial garment, perhaps a robe of office, draped around the shoulders of some official *man*, arms stretched wide, as he **entreats** his audience for donations. [5 STROKES RANK 800]
- 354 英 英 hero  grass r 94  entreat 353 yīng  
 BF Here’s a similar figure to §353, except now there’s no *entreaty* going on. Instead, this man wears a ceremonial crown, made of *grass* or other decorative plant, to show the special status of this person (as was the custom in ancient Greece). Our guy is a **hero!** [8 STROKES RANK 371]
- 355 映 映 reflect, shine  day, sun 63  entreat 353 yìng  
 The televangelist is *entreating* his followers to be generous with their donations. The television studios are hot-lights as bright as the *sun* shine on him. During close-ups, you can clearly see drops of sweat in their **reflection**. [9 STROKES RANK 1316]
- 356 弋 弋 arrow type  big 330 (altered)  dab 169 yì  
 BF The **arrow** hit the *big* warrior in the left leg. He’s just about to topple over. A *bit* of blood is flying away in the upper right of the picture.  
 Also: picture the **arrow** on its downward path. The arrow head points down to the right, and the aerodynamic feathered fins appear at the top. [3 STROKES RANK 4265]
- 357 式 式 model, standard  labor, work 7  arrow type 356 shì  
 BF The boy is busy carving a **model** ship. It looks like hard *work* since he’s using a sharp *arrow* as the carving tool. [6 STROKES RANK 303]
- 358 武 武 martial, military  correct 183 (altered)  arrow type 356 wǔ  
 BF **Military** prowess and skill is all about discipline and knowledge of *correct* procedures, as well as practice with weapons, such as our fierce *arrow*. [8 STROKES RANK 501]

359 戈 戈 halberd  arrow type 356  handle gē

A **halberd** is a medieval combined spear and battle-ax. It's easy to imagine the diagonal as the main handle leading to the spear blade. The cross-strokes are the ax blades, and don't forget the drop of blood splashing in the air!

On the other hand, it may have suggested the kind of *arrow* we met in §356 to which a *handle* has been added. From *arrow* to **dagger** in one easy step! [4 STROKES RANK 1695]

360 找 找 seek  hand r 29  halberd 359 zhǎo

Imagine **seeking** a lost treasure, something everybody wants. Use your *hand* to tightly hold your *sword*, which you need to repel the competition.

[7 STROKES RANK 466]

361 我 我 I  hand r 29 (altered)  halberd 359 wǒ

I confidently hold my *sword* in my *hand* to symbolize the end of my training, and the introduction into the world of the new **me**. [7 STROKES RANK 9]





362 哦 哦 chant softly  mouth 41  I 361 é



I **chant softly** through my *mouth* so only I can hear *me*.



[10 STROKES RANK 1913]



## Unit 18



### A Mighty Fortress...

- 363 或 或 or  dawn 65 (altered)  halberd 359 huò  
This character presents a dilemma common to ancient tribes. Should a person celebrate the *dawn* by remaining home, in the comfort of their loved ones, or should they go out and fight with their *sword*? [8 STROKES RANK 160]
- 364 域 域 region, area  earth, soil 9  or 363 yù  
BF For my retirement, I have bought some *land* near the coast in the state of Oregon, whose official abbreviation is *Or*. That's a great **area** of the world. [11 STROKES RANK 847]
- 365 划 划 paddle, row  halberd 359  knife r 166 huá  
To **row** well you've got to attack the water with a *halberd*-shaped oar like a soldier goes after the enemy with a *knife*. Also, the strokes of '*knife*' remind us of the banks of the river. [6 STROKES RANK 522]
- 366 战 战 war  practice divination 172  halberd 359 zhàn  
BF No matter how prepared you are, **war** is as chancy as *divination* regardless of the state of your *swords*. [9 STROKES RANK 145]
- 367 戍 戍 archaic lance  scepter 5 (altered)  halberd 359 wù  
Affixing a *halberd* to a *long stick* makes a great **lance**, a powerful and vicious weapon.  
In contemporary use, this represents the Fifth of the Ten Heavenly Stems. [5 STROKES RANK 3689]



368 成 成 become, turn into  archaic lance 367  fourth 25 (altered) chéng  
Remember that the ‘fourth’ component resembles a hook. With this villainous hook and my lance I can become ruler of my village. [6 STROKES RANK 59]



369 城 城 wall, city wall  earth, soil 9  become, turn into 368 chéng  
The ancients were able take heaps of earth and turn them into cities and towns by surrounding them with walls. [9 STROKES RANK 413]



370 盛 盛 to fill, ladle  become, turn into 368  vessel, dish 110 chéng  
When you ladle some delicious and steaming chicken from the main soup tureen, this divine liquid turns into a nourishing meal. [11 STROKES RANK 1142]

371 咸 咸 salty  archaic lance 367  eye 78 (altered) xián  
The young lance corporal was careless today. While playing with the archaic lance, he carelessly pricked his eye. The blood tastes salty.  
Most likely, the ‘eye’ part is altered just to make it fit easier into the available space next to the ‘scepter’ component. It also alludes to the eye’s altered appearance as a result of its wound. [9 STROKES RANK 2525]



No one would blame you if the three characters 咸 ‘salty’, 成 ‘become, turn into’ (§368), and 或 ‘or’ (§363) melded in your mind into one, confusing mess. (They certainly did for the current author!) ‘Or’ is such a short word so that its superstructure doesn’t require the curvy left vertical the others do. The hook attached to this vertical in ‘become’ emphasizes its danger—if we get too close to it, we become mincemeat. Remember, the part that looks almost like an upside-down ‘dawn’ (旦) in ‘salty’ is an altered eye, which is what happens when you poke yourself with an archaic lance.

372 喊 喊 cry out  mouth 41  salty 371 hǎn  
That scoundrel threw a handful of salt into my mouth. What nerve! Salt is acceptable in moderation, but so much of it makes me cry out in pain, surprise, and disgust. [12 STROKES RANK 1183]



- 373 戈 戈 tiny, fragmentary  archaic lance 367 (altered)  archaic lance 367 (altered) jiān  
**BF** Two *archaic lances*, in the hands of superior soldiers, demolish each other in fairly short order. They reduce each other to piles of **fragments**.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 6653]



- 374 尧 尧 legendary emperor  tiny, fragmentary 373 (altered)  dollar 293 (altered) yáo  
 This **legendary emperor** took the many *fragmentary monetary* systems in very ancient China which he altered and created one unified system of *currency*.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 3264]

The ancient scribes, so I infer, were struck by the great beauty of trees. Tree components are among the most common in Chinese characters.



- 375 木 木 tree  big 330  scepter 5 mù  
 The Chinese have taken some artistic license with this glyph. The great roots at the bottom are juxtaposed to several branches at the top. There's nary a leaf or intervening segment of trunk in sight.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 694]



- 376 林 林 forest  tree (times 2) 375 lín  
**BF** Several *trees* form a **forest**.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 364]



- 377 森 森 full of trees  tree 375  forest 376 sēn  
 What with yet another *tree* added to the *forest*, we are simply **full of trees**.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1029]



- 378 本 本 root or stem of plant  tree 375  one 2 běn  
 The 'one' acts as a marker to mark the **root which develops into the trunk** of the *tree*.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 92]





379 朱 朱 vermilion  tree 375  knife and mark zhū  
 BF Some vandal uses a *knife to scratch a small mark* on the mighty *tree*. Sap oozes out. It's a pretty **vermilion** color. [6 STROKES RANK 1120]


380 珠 珠 pearl  king 11  vermilion 379 zhū  
 BF The *king* was precious in traditional Chinese society, and *vermilion* was a precious color in Chinese art. Fine **pearls** are precious stones which pulsate with life like a living being. If we place the living *king* next to *vermilion*, we get (or so it seemed to ancient scribes) a pair of components for '**pearl**'. [10 STROKES RANK 1286]

381 未 未 have not yet  tree 375  one 2 wèi  
 The forest elf **has not yet** climbed to the top of the *tree*. That tentative little marker in the form of '*one*' shows exactly where he stopped. [5 STROKES RANK 385]

382 味 味 taste, flavor  mouth 41  have not yet 381 wèi  
 As food critic for a major metropolitan newspaper, it behooves you to do your job properly. Before deciding on the **taste** of the exciting new restaurant entrée, you need to carefully place a morsel in your *mouth*. You *have not yet* swallowed because you need to chew thoroughly to make sure all the component **flavors** are properly combined. [8 STROKES RANK 844]

383 末 末 end, tip  tree 375 (altered)  one 2 mò  
 The *one* extra cross-stroke is wider than its mate to emphasize that the upper part of the *tree*—the upper **end**, the **tip**—is the focus of the design. [5 STROKES RANK 1164]











A few comments are in order regarding the characters 未 (§381) and 末 (§383). How *do* we tell them apart? They are almost identical, differing only in the relative lengths of the two horizontal strokes. The top of 未 looks like the character 土, 'earth' (§9); the tree is still in the soil—it *has not yet* been chopped down. The top of 末, on the other hand looks like 士, 'scholar' (§8). Naturally enough, the ancient scribes would have regarded scholarship as the '*tip*', the *ne plus ultra*, of human achievement.















- 384 抹 抹 put on, apply, smear  hand r 29  end, tip 383 mǒ  
You use the *tip* of your *hand* to **apply** make-up to your face.  
[8 STROKES RANK 2087]
- 385 杜 杜 prevent  tree 375  earth, soil 9 dù  
**BF** *Trees* in the *earth* are useful natural barricades, **preventatives** for enemy attacks.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1277]
- 386 柜 柜 cupboard  tree 375  huge 18 guì  
**BF** A **cupboard** is a *huge* piece of furniture made from a *tree*.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1994]
- 387 桂 桂 cinnamon  tree 375  earth, soil 9  earth, soil 9 guì  
**BF** **Cinnamon** is a spice derived from a small evergreen *tree*. The two '*earth*' components together resemble an evergreen in profile, and also reminds us that a small tree keeps close to the earth.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1930]
- 388 果 果 fruit  field 57  tree 375 guǒ  
**BF** The *field*-like shape grafted to the head of the *tree* isn't really a field, but is a ripe piece of **fruit** with odd stripes on its skin. It's a big piece of fruit, and so we need the strong root system of the tree to supply enough nutriment for its proper growth.  
[8 STROKES RANK 165]















## Unit 19

### Movers and Shakers

- 389 棵 棵 m for trees, cabbages, etc  tree 375  fruit 388 kē  
A *tree* brought forth the *fruit* that we so enjoy. The harvest was so bountiful, that it was hard to **count** it. It helps to remember that fresh cabbage is also sweet! [12 STROKES RANK 2108]
- 390 查 查 check, investigate  tree 375  dawn 65 chá  
There was a terrible racket out back last night! We have to wait for light of *dawn* to go out by the *tree* to **investigate** the cause. [9 STROKES RANK 459]
- 391 相 相 appearance  tree 375  eye 78 xiàng  
BF You check the **appearance** of this picturesque *tree* by *eye*. [9 STROKES RANK 152]
- 392 植 植 plant, grow  tree 375  straight, vertical 16 zhí  
Look at all these *trees*—they're all so *straight and vertical*. Trees never look like that in nature. Clearly, they have been **planted** by some farmer. [12 STROKES RANK 1124]
- 393 呆 呆 foolish, stupid  mouth 41  tree 375 dāi  
The *mouth* on top of a *tree* looks like a child's puppet—head, arms, leg, and a vertical handle to hold—a Chinese bobble-head! Puppets are so endearing because of their **stupid** and **foolish** appearance. [7 STROKES RANK 1338]

- 394 束 束 bundle, bunch  tree 375 (altered)  mouth 41 shù  
Suppose our *tree* is an evergreen *tree* or something similar. It's time to cut it down and sell it as a Christmas or holiday tree. The strokes of the 'mouth' suggest twine with which we tie it up to make a more convenient **bundle** of branches. [7 STROKES RANK 998]
- 395 困 困 hard pressed  enclosure 40  tree 375 kùn  
BF The old farmer has an *enclosure* around his entire farm. As you see, there is only one *tree* there, so he and his family are **hard pressed** to survive, let alone make a living. [7 STROKES RANK 868]
- 396 操 操 drill, exercise  hand r 29  product 44  tree 375 cāo  
The *hand* represents the staff sergeant leading the **drill**. Frequently, groups of soldiers practice in formation, shown here by the ordered *group of mouths*, and this is done outdoors, perhaps near a *tree*. [16 STROKES RANK 1173]
- 397 某 某 certain, some  sweet 103  tree 375 mǒu  
Most *trees* are bitter—sap, leaves, fruit, and so on. But the **certain trees** that have benefited mankind the most are those producing *sweet*, nutritious fruit. [9 STROKES RANK 517]
- 398 刺 刺 thorn, splinter  bundle, bunch 394 (altered)  knife r 166 cì  
The *bundle* of trees has burst open. Some joker has cut the cords with his *knife*. The branches are sharp and wicked-looking. Watch out for the **splinters!** [8 STROKES RANK 1058]
- 399 析 析 analyze  tree 375  catty 118 xī  
BF Any *wooden* furniture which is *unbalanced* is apt to crash to the ground, smashing itself into smithereens. With the little pieces all around, woodsmen can **analyze** the bits and see what went wrong. [8 STROKES RANK 1073]

- 400 闲 闲 idle  door 196  tree 375 xián  
I'm dying to go to work today, but the *tree* blocks my exit through the *door*. I'm forced to stay home today and sit *idle* in front of the TV all day! When my wife got back, I was so entranced by the TV, my wife thought I *was* a *tree*.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1529]
- 401 柏 柏 cypress  tree 375  white 201 bǎi  
In Greek mythology, the *cypress* tree was associated with Hades, the god of the underworld. A *tree* striving toward the *white* light of the real world is a good emblem for this tree.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1596]
- 402 荣 荣 honorable  grass r 94  smooth cover 280  tree 375 róng  
BF The components suggest a *tree covered* in *grass* or other decorative vegetation, ornamentation appropriate in *honor* of someone. [9 STROKES RANK 993]
- 403 柱 柱 pillar, column  tree 375  master 220 zhù  
Only the straightest, tallest, firmest of *trees* are chosen for their architectural suitability. What you might call *master trees* are appropriate for use in the construction of *pillars and columns*.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1691]
- 404 模 模 model, imitation  tree 375  do not, not 349 mó  
BF When guys make wooden *models* of ships or airplanes, they *do not* use the whole *tree*.  
[14 STROKES RANK 689]
- 405 术 术 art, skill  tree 375  dab 169 shù  
BF It takes *artistry* to attack a big *tree*, carve away all the surplus wood (so to speak), and just leave a *small amount* of material in the shape of a beautiful statue, a stunning work of art.  
[5 STROKES RANK 328]
- 406 桌 桌 table  stand firm 173 (altered)  tree 375 zhuō  
BF If my *table*, made from a *tree*, doesn't *stand firm* it's useless.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1193]

- 407 村 村 hamlet  tree 375  inch 210 cūn  
A hamlet stands in relation to a city as does an *inch*-long twig to a *tree*.  
[7 STROKES RANK 712]
- 408 椅 椅 chair  tree 375  odd 343 yǐ  
BF The *tree* must think it *odd* that its wood is used to make a **chair**, an artifact for supporting a type of animal (human) in a posture that is neither lying nor standing.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1663]
- 409 禾 禾 rice or grain  dab 169  tree 375 hé  
BF The *dab* at the top of the *tree* emphasizes the tiny scale of a plant. It's **grain**.  
[5 STROKES RANK 3587]
- 410 和 和 and  rice or grain 409  mouth 41 hé  
Harmony at the end of the day—*rice and* my *mouth* acting in unison to fill and to still my rumbling stomach. Heaven!  
[8 STROKES RANK 19]
- 411 香 香 fragrant  rice or grain 409  day, sun 63 xiāng  
Under the influence of the strong morning *sun*, the fresh-picked *rice* has an unmistakable **fragrance**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 776]
- 412 稿 稿 cereal grain stalk  rice or grain 409  high 275 gǎo  
BF Nature uses a **stalk of grain** to safeguard the *grain* for us, to keep it *high* off the ground, safe from predators and dirt.  
[15 STROKES RANK 1587]
- 413 科 科 branch of study  rice or grain 409  cup-shaped 218 kē  
BF *Rice grains* in a *cup* form interesting patterns, so interesting they form a separate **branch of study**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 277]

414 租 租 rent

 rice or grain 409
  moreover 15



zū



In long-gone days, the **rent** was paid in the form of agricultural produce. Here we see the actual **rent** payments symbolized by a portion of *grain*, and if we interpret ‘*moreover*’ as a system of *shelves*, then we see *rice or grain* received as **rent** being stored in an appropriate bin, as a simple form of bookkeeping.



[10 STROKES RANK 1397]



# Unit 20




## Looking Good

415 种 种 m for kinds  rice or grain 409  middle 45 zhǒng  
In a funny way, here is a picture of what happens when you try to feed a young, picky child. You've got some cereal *grain* for her. In the *middle* of eating it, she realizes it's the wrong **type**, so she shuts her mouth tight. Tough luck, mom! [9 STROKES RANK 57]



416 程 程 rule, order  rice or grain 409  appear 58 chéng  
BF Piles of *grain*, which *appear* all the same, have a hypnotic effect. These piles nicely convey a sense of **rule** and of **order**. [12 STROKES RANK 314]



417 利 利 advantage, benefit  rice or grain 409  knife r 166 lì  
It's to the farmer's **benefit** to use a *knife* or other sharp tool at the time of the *rice* harvest. [7 STROKES RANK 155]



418 莉 莉 jasmine  grass r 94  advantage, benefit 417 lì  
BF The **jasmine** is a flower—a type of *vegetation*—with many associated *benefits*. It is, for example, the main ingredient in certain kinds of teas. [10 STROKES RANK 1878]



419 足 足 foot  mouth 41  man 311  foretell 170 zú  
This profile of someone's foot shows toes pointing toward the right. The 'mouth'-like portion at the top represents the cuff of a pant leg. The 'man'-like part at the bottom is actually the lower part of the foot, the left stroke representing the ankle. The part that looks like a 'magic wand' is part of the tongue and shoelaces of the shoe. [7 STROKES RANK 527]







420 捉 捉 to catch, capture  hand r 29  foot 419 zhuō  
Quick, there goes that cute little rabbit! To **catch** or **capture** him, you need both your *hands* and *feet*. [10 STROKES RANK 1822]



421 走 走 to walk  foot 419 (altered)  earth, soil 9 zǒu  
Pounding the pavement is what **walking's** all about—you use your *feet* to cover lots of *ground*. [7 STROKES RANK 207]



422 赶 赶 rush  to walk 421  dry 10 gǎn  
The neurotic fellow out for a *walk* has a bad feeling. It's *dry* now, but rain clouds are darkening the sky. Best to **rush** home. [10 STROKES RANK 908]



423 赴 赴 go to, attend  to walk 421  foretell 170 fù  
Ever been to a company dinner or other shindig? Dreadful affairs. Indifferent food, boring speakers, everyone trying to suck up to the boss. To muster up the will power to **attend**, you need a push from your *magic wand* as you *walk* there. [9 STROKES RANK 1843]



424 楚 楚 clear  forest 376  foot 419 (altered) chǔ  
**BF** I walk through the *forest* by *foot* to the famous hidden lake. The water is so **clear** it's fascinating to see the reflection of the tree in the surface (**clearly** visible at the top of the character). From a certain angle—and this is what makes the lake so famous—it's not possible to distinguish between reality and reflection. [13 STROKES RANK 859]



425 夺 夺 seize  big 330  inch 210 duó  
It's not easy to **seize** something small. If we take something as small as an *inch*, for example, and make it *bigger*, then we can **seize** it with ease.  
Alternatively, imagine a *big* man using his legs as pincers to **seize** and take hold of *inch*-long sticks between his thighs. [6 STROKES RANK 1199]



426 奋 奋 act vigorously  big 330  field 57 fèn  
 BF You really need to exert yourself, to **act vigorously** if you want to cultivate a *big field* properly. [8 STROKES RANK 1268]















427 失 失 lose  dab 169  man (spiffy) 337 shī  
 When you **lose** a game, you feel (at least temporarily) that you are just a *little bit* of the *person* you were before. [5 STROKES RANK 375]



428 知 知 know  arrow 334  mouth 41 zhī  
**Knowledge** is power. Metaphorically speaking, expressing something you **know** is like letting fly an *arrow* from your *mouth*. [8 STROKES RANK 123]



429 智 智 wit  know 428  day, sun 63 zhì  
 BF When your friends and family feel that your expressions of *knowledge* sparkle like the *sun*, then you know you have been granted by the gods the gift of **wit**. [12 STROKES RANK 885]



430 贝 贝 cowrie  borders 127  man 311 bèi  
 BF The **cowrie**, a type of shell, served as an early form of money. This character often appears as a component, and when it does, we'll frequently ascribe a money-related meaning to it, such as 'valuable' or 'wealth'.  
 1 Here's a *man* overflowing the *borders* of his estate. This suggests a superfluity of possessions, an indicator of **wealth**.  
 2 Mollusks are the animals who manufacture **shells** and leave them behind for enjoyment (ours) after death (theirs). One well-known mollusk is the snail, but they all have a common structure—a fleshy foot protruding from its enclosing shell, and this glyph displays a representation of this structure. [4 STROKES RANK 1133]

431 则 则 standard, norm  cowrie 430  knife r 166 zé  
 BF Government muckety-mucks use a knife, symbolically, to create standards. For example, you can imagine the *knife* cutting a large amount of *money* into **standardized** subunits, much the way our Federal mint divides dollars into quarters, dimes, and nickels. [6 STROKES RANK 284]

- 432 贴 贴 **paste, stick to**  cowrie 430  practice divination 172 tiē  
As a result of scrunching my *valuable cowrie shell* so it would fit here on the left, it developed a couple of cracks. I'm a good repairer, so people think I *practiced magic* when they see the shell after it's been fixed—it looks as good as new! But really, I just **pasted** some special strips over the cracks.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1454]
- 433 赅 赅 **hasten**  ten 6  grass r 94  cowrie 430 bēn  
**BF** Here's a person topped by an elaborate *shell-shaped* headdress made out of *grass* put under *tension* to give it form. (Wordplay alert!) She dare not **hasten**, or the whole thing will collapse around her. [9 STROKES RANK 4733]
- 434 喷 喷 **spurt, spout, gush**  mouth 41  hasten 433 pēn  
**BF** A small boy's *mouth* has to *move fast* to capture the **gushing** water from the fountain. The '*hasten*' component helpfully looks like the spout of an ornate fountain. [12 STROKES RANK 1729]
- 435 赞 赞 **support, assist**  first (times 2) 300  cowrie 430 zàn  
**BF** I made it a point to get to your presentation *first*. I was so early that this character is shown twice, to emphasize that I was able to help you set up on the platform, which looks like a giant *cowrie shell*. This is how I **support and assist** you. [16 STROKES RANK 1179]
- 436 质 质 **quality**  catty 118 (altered)  cowrie 430 zhì  
The collector of *shells* assesses their **quality** by seeing how *unbalanced* they are. [8 STROKES RANK 404]
- 437 贵 贵 **expensive**  middle 45  one 2  cowrie 430 guì  
Imagine wearing a nice, **expensive** hat or headdress, which this character looks like. In detail, in the *middle* is *one* enormous *shell*—how chic!  
[9 STROKES RANK 873]







- 438 贯 贯 link up  cowrie 430  field 57 (altered) guàn
- BF** Hah—you just think it's a *field* over a shell! Actually, the top component is the top view of another *cowrie*. The extra-long horizontal line shows a string passing through this shell; it **links up** with the second shell whose profile we see on the bottom. [8 STROKES RANK 1478]

- 439 责 责 responsibility  master 220 (altered)  cowrie 430 zé
- BF** What happens when someone entrusts a *master* (of a house, firm, organization, whatever) with some money or other *valuable thing*? The master now incurs some **responsibility**, whether just to care for the valuable object or to do something with it. [8 STROKES RANK 535]

- 440 员 员 employee  cowrie 430  mouth 41 yuán
- BF** Look at this character as a picture. Here's a broad-shouldered guy who developed those shoulder muscles in the warehouse as an **employee**. [7 STROKES RANK 200]

## Unit 21

# A Time to Sow, a Time to Reap

- 441 贾 贾 merchant  cowrie 430  west 291 (altered) gǔ  
This employee has a little extra decoration on his head, a *Western*-styled hat that makes him stand out. Who merits such special treatment? Why, it's the CEO of the firm, the head **merchant**. [10 STROKES RANK 2051]
- 442 损 损 decrease, lose  hand r 29  employee 440 sǔn  
**BF** The major source of **decrease** in a merchant's inventory is the petty pilfering by *employees*. Whenever nobody's looking, they use their *hands* to help themselves to whatever they see. [10 STROKES RANK 911]
- 443 圆 圆 round  enclosure 40  employee 440 yuán  
Everything in this character which looks square is really **round**! The *employee's* head is not square—it's **round**. His shoulders are not square and broad, they're **round** and stooped in dejection from the constant same-old, same-old of his job. And he's trapped in the *enclosure* of his job, which is also **round**, to symbolize that he's always running around in circles. [10 STROKES RANK 1145]

444 页 页 page, leaf  one 2  dab 169  cowrie 430 yè

1 Stand back and look at this character as if it were a sketch. The lower portion shows a lectern, attached to which (by a short chain) is an open book, comprised of many **pages**.

 one 2  dab 169  borders 127  man 311

2 The **pages** of *one* book and its stories are like the *borders* of *one* country crammed with many *people*, so many that they are only separated from each other by a *small bit* of space.

3 The above diagrams notwithstanding, this character must have looked to ancient scribes like a stick figure of a **man**. The simplified head is connected by a short neck to broad shoulders themselves connected to arms held down at the side. A trim waist and two legs in motion rounds off this sketch. Sometimes, therefore, it pays to interpret this component, which appears in many other characters, as being a sketch of a *man*. The abbreviated head invites us to complete it with an additional component and so enhance and alter the meaning. [6 STROKES RANK 1128]

445 项 项 nape of neck  labor, work 7  page, leaf 444 xiàng

BF It's hard *work* doing things on the back of your head, like trimming your ponytail. Therefore, the symbol for 'productive *labor*' perched jauntily at the back of this person's neck provides a perfect visual metaphor.

[9 STROKES RANK 571]
















446 顶 顶 carry on your head  fourth 25  page, leaf 444 dǐng















BF The '丁' part of this character (on the left) looks like a level surface, at the same level as the top of the head of the guy on the right. This level surface is a help to **carry things on the head**. [8 STROKES RANK 1000]

447 顽 顽 stupid, stubborn  dollar 293  page, leaf 444 wán
















BF Only a **stupid** person would pay a *dollar* for one *leaf* of a tree.

[10 STROKES RANK 2024]

- 448 顫 顫 quiver, tremble  cover 268  return 42  dawn 65  page, leaf 444 chàn
- Dawn.* Our playboy *man* is just *returning* home after a comprehensive night on the town and too much drinking. He would love to *cover* himself from the sharp night chill and from the effects of drinking—he's **trembling** violently. [19 STROKES RANK 1900]
- 449 顆 顆 m for small, roundish things  fruit 388  page, leaf 444 kē
- Pieces of *fruit* are apt to be **small** and **roundish**, and so are *leaves* of trees (most of the time). The juxtaposition is therefore appropriate as a **measure word for beads, grains, and so on.** [14 STROKES RANK 1448]
- 450 卒 卒 foot soldier  cover 268  from 313  ten 6 zú
- Here's a young **foot soldier** all dressed in military uniform—*cover* (that is, hat or helmet), protective goggles—and look, you can see me reflected in each of the lenses, shiny belt, and pants with the knife edge crease, making me look look like a 'ten'. [8 STROKES RANK 2584]
- 451 醉 醉 drunk  new wine 303  foot soldier 450 zuì
- Mix large amounts of *alcohol* together with one *foot soldier* and what's the result—public **drunkenness.** [15 STROKES RANK 1783]
- 452 吞 吞 swallow, gulp down  heaven 333 (altered)  mouth 41 tūn
- He was very thirsty when he took that huge **swallow.** He opened his *mouth* so wide, I thought he would swallow *heaven* itself. [7 STROKES RANK 1797]
- 453 幕 幕 stage curtain  do not, not 349  towel 130 mù
- A **stage curtain** is a vast expanse of *cloth*, the purpose of which is to make sure your *do not* see the stage as the stagehands prepare for the next act. [13 STROKES RANK 1315]



- 454 墓 墓 tomb  do not, not 349  earth, soil 9 mù  
A **tomb**—once you pass through the *earth* into it, you *do not* return.  
[13 STROKES RANK 1816]
- 455 奄 奄 castrate, spay  big 330  electricity 138 yǎn  
Well. When you apply *electricity* to the tender regions between this *big* man's legs, you **castrate** and cauterize this poor fellow in one fell swoop.  
[8 STROKES RANK 3462]
- 456 掩 掩 cover, hide  hand r 29  castrate, spay 455 yǎn  
The poor guy we met in §455 uses his *hand* over the *castrated* region to **cover** himself and **hide** his embarrassment.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1514]
- 457 仑 仑 order, coherence  man 311  ancient ladle 142 lún  
**BF** Young men are notorious for their crudeness and rowdiness. Don't even ask what they're doing with that soup *ladle*! But with maturity, these *men* find these tendencies transformed to ones of **order** and **coherence**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 2139]
- 458 顷 顷 in an instant  ancient ladle 142 (altered)  page, leaf 444 qǐng  
For some reason, you use a *spoon* to get rid of the yellow *leaves* on your lawn. But the wind catches them, and **in an instant** they're somewhere back on the ground.  
[8 STROKES RANK 2724]
- 459 柴 柴 firewood  this 233  tree 375 chái  
*This tree* has been chopped down to a small size, perfect for **firewood** this winter. The vertical strokes in '*this*' look like tongues of flame.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1981]
- 460 棍 棍 rod, stick  tree 375  elder brother\*\* 149 gùn  
Using a piece of a *tree*, I tried carving a statue of my *elder brother*. His face is a tough one to imitate—the carving looked like a dull **stick** despite my best efforts—or maybe that's what I really think of him!  
[12 STROKES RANK 2255]









- 461 胃 胃 stomach  field 57  meat 317 (altered) wèi  
The **stomach** is a type of *meat* which, like a farmer's *field*, contains nutritious stuff. [9 STROKES RANK 1957]
- 462 刍 刍 hay for fodder  man 311 (altered)  boar's head 34 (altered) chù  
BF *Man* subdues the *wild boar* by providing **hay**. [5 STROKES RANK 4465]
- 463 争 争 struggle  man 311 (altered)  boar's head 34 (altered)  scepter 5 zhēng  
The **struggle** is between the *man* with a *stick* and a *wild boar*. It's not looking good for the man. [6 STROKES RANK 344]
- 464 睁 睁 open (eyes)  eye 78  struggle 463 zhēng  
I hate the *struggle* every Monday morning between me and my *eyes*. My brain says 'open up!', while my heart and soul reply, 'stay shut'. [11 STROKES RANK 1963]
- 465 欠 欠 owe, lack  man 311 (altered)  man 311 qiàn  
These two *men* are connected by a business relationship. The shorter fellow (on top) **owes** money to the other. While he **owes** this money, he **lacks** stature, at least temporarily. [4 STROKES RANK 1948]
- 466 翰 翰 writing brush  ten 6  morning 70  man 311  feather, wing 123 hàn  
BF Practicing Chinese calligraphy with a proper **writing brush** is demanding. The best time is *ten* in the *morning*. A *man* begins by picking up the **brush**, whose hairs are as fine as *feathers*. [16 STROKES RANK 1881]



## Unit 22



### A Time to Sew, a Time to Rip



467 挣 挣 struggle, strive  hand r 29  struggle 463 zhèng  
You *struggle* using your *hands* as you *strive* through life.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1875]

















468 换 换 exchange, trade  hand r 29  man 311 (altered)  entreat 353 huàn  
The essence of **trade** is doing and talking, symbolized by a *hand* and a *man* who *entreats* you to buy.  
[10 STROKES RANK 824]

469 唤 唤 call, call out to  mouth 41  man 311 (altered)  entreat 353 huàn  
Why bother to **call out** to someone? You use your *mouth* to make the call when you want to *entreat* a *man* to do something with you or for you.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1835]













470 兼 兼 double, twice  rice or grain (times 2) 409  boar's head 34 jiān  
**BF** Imagine using the *head of a huge, angry boar* to keep *two sheaves of grain*.  
A **double** harvest?  
[10 STROKES RANK 1515]

471 题 题 topic, subject, title  is 184  page, leaf 444 tí  
The **topic** of an article is what *is* on the *page*.  
[15 STROKES RANK 218]

472 万 万 ten thousand  one 2  man 311 (altered) wàn  
*One good man* is better than **ten thousand** of his middle-of-the-road colleagues.  
[3 STROKES RANK 322]

- 473 笑 笑 laugh, smile  bamboo r 243  heaven 333 xiào  
The parts of *bamboo* look like eyes crinkled in laughter. The gods love laughter the best, and so **laughter** reaches *heaven* quicker than any prayer.  
[10 STROKES RANK 346]
- 474 丙 丙 third in series  one 2  inside\* 318 bǐng  
The downward ‘*borders*’ component looks like a downward-pointing ‘C’, the **third** grade from the highest in school. This is the grade that *one* guy received after doing no work whatsoever.  
[5 STROKES RANK 2645]
- 475 越 越 exceed  to walk 421  archaic lance 367 (altered) yuè  
**BF** An ancient bully, *walking about* with an *archaic lance* could take what he wanted from the cowering peasants and so **exceed** his current wealth.  
[12 STROKES RANK 440]
- 476 兔 兔 rabbit  man 311 (altered)  mouth 41 (altered)  walking man 287  dab 169 tù  
A pictograph of a cute **rabbit**: the altered ‘*man*’ component looks like two ever-so-cute ears atop a *mouth*-like head. All this surmounts powerful *legs* for quick hopping away from danger. Oh, and don’t forget the cute *dab*-like tail.  
[8 STROKES RANK 2364]
- 477 兔 兔 dismiss, fire, exempt  rabbit 476  dab 169 miǎn  
We **fired** the *rabbit*. I know that because the rabbit’s *tail* has vanished.  
[7 STROKES RANK 755]
- 478 挽 挽 draw, pull  hand r 29  dismiss, fire, exempt 477 wǎn  
The rotten employee refused to leave the office even after being *fired*. I used my *hand* to forcibly **pull** him out and send him on his way.  
[10 STROKES RANK 2222]
- 479 晚 晚 evening  day, sun 63  dismiss, fire, exempt 477 wǎn  
**BF** When you *dismiss* the *sun*, you get **evening**.  
[11 STROKES RANK 641]

- 480 策 策 policy, plan, scheme  
 竹 bamboo r 243 束 bundle, bunch 394 (altered) cè  
 BF The **plan** for the government was written on a *bundle of bamboo scrolls*.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 714]
- 481 负 负 bear, carry on shoulders  
 人 man 311 (altered) 贝 cowrie 430 fù  
 This *man* is working for *money* for he is now old enough to **bear** responsibility for his own welfare.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 691]
- 482 入 入 enter, receive, take in  
 人 man 311 (altered) rù  
 BF Although this looks like a *man* with a jaunty something or other on his head, think instead of a fledgling plant, whose roots force themselves down to **enter** the earth.  
 [2 STROKES RANK 210]
- 483 背 背 bear, shoulder  
 北 north 145 肉 meat 317 (altered) bēi  
 The '*meat*' represents a living body, **shouldering** an evenly divided load on its *north* end.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 787]
- 484 顿 顿 m for meals  
 厶 stockpile, store up 150 页 page, leaf 444 dùn  
 I've always been a healthy eater. Many *people stockpile* a great deal for **meals**.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 794]
- 485 鱼 鱼 fish  
 人 man 311 (altered) 田 field 57 一 one 2 yú  
 1 Behold *one fish*, leaping out of the water and plunging back in. Up top, the forked tail, looking like a funny sort of *man*, flashes in the sunlight. The striped body, resembling the character for '*field*', is already re-entering the surface of the water.  
 2 The American Indians who practiced agriculture increased crop fertility by planting *one fish* with each seed. Here's a *man*, the farmer, in his *field*, inserting the poor **fish** below the surface of the soil.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 852]

- 486 鲁 鲁 stupid, dull, vulgar  fish 485  day, sun 63 lǚ  
 BF Fish swimming in the sea are marvels of grace and elegance. Remove them from their natural environment, and in the light of *day*, they look **dull** and **stupid**. [12 STROKES RANK 898]
- 487 宋 宋 Song dynasty  roof 247  tree 375 sòng  
 This character, built up from an architectural component (*roof*) and material (*tree*) reminds us that the development of architecture and structural engineering was among the most important achievements of the **Song dynasty**. [7 STROKES RANK 990]
- 488 骨 骨 bone  boxy things  meat 317 (altered) gǔ  
 BF Those *boxy*, **bony** things atop a person's body represent the skeleton attached to the *meat*. [9 STROKES RANK 1036]
- 489 歌 歌 song  elder brother 62  owe, lack 465 gē  
 “There once was a fine *elder brother*  
 Who borrowed money from another.  
 The guy soon wanted it back  
 But bro' said, “Money I *lack*  
 But I know I can cadge from my mother.”  
 How's that for an impromptu **song**?” [14 STROKES RANK 1040]
- 490 晓 晓 dawn, daybreak  day, sun 63  legendary emperor 374 xiǎo  
 BF According to the story, this *legendary emperor* will rise with the *sun* to save his homeland, and so will appear at **dawn**. [10 STROKES RANK 1357]
- 491 赖 赖 rely, depend on  bundle, bunch 394  bear, carry on shoulders 481 lài  
 I'm too old to do this job any longer. I **rely** on my son to *carry* the heavy *bundles* on his shoulders. [13 STROKES RANK 1365]

492 吹 吹 blow, puff

口 mouth 41 欠 owe, lack 465



chūī



If I **blow** too hard into a bagpipe (or other wind instrument), I will collapse. After such an effort, I surely *lack* the stamina to continue. Breath passes through the *mouth*.



[7 STROKES RANK 1390]




## Unit 23



### Cleaning the Sewers

493 丧 丧 mourning  weep 351 (altered)  perish 269 (altered) sāng  
BF Mourning is the *weeping* for one who has *perished*.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1404]

494 箱 箱 box, trunk, chest  bamboo r 243  appearance 391 xiāng  
BF The chest was cunningly designed to have the *appearance* of *bamboo*.  
[15 STROKES RANK 1453]
















495 趋 趋 hasten, hurry  to walk 421  hay for fodder 462 qū  
BF The oxen *walk* home towards their *fodder* until they get a whiff of this delicious substance. Then, it's all I can do not to be dragged off my feet as they *hasten* to stuff themselves.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1486]

496 拖 拖 pull, drag, haul  hand r 29  man 311 (altered)  also\*, too\* 140 tuō  
This *man* uses *two* (sounds like 'too') *hands* to *pull* the rickshaw.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1492]

497 欣 欣 happy  catty 118  owe, lack 465 xīn  
BF My girl friend agreed to marry me. I'm giddy with *happiness*—and the giddiness *unbalances* me, as if I'm *lacking* self-control.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1523]

- 498 拟 拟 plan, intend  
 手 29 矿 135 (altered) 人 311 nǐ  
 The evil **plan** was to lure your girlfriend's new *boyfriend* to the edge of the *mineshaft*, and give a swift shove with your *hand*. How's that for melodrama?  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1541]
- 499 贡 贡 tribute, gifts  
 工 7 牛 430 gòng  
 BF Part of the *money* we all receive as wages from our *work* gets exacted from us as tax, a **tribute** to the various governments under which we serve.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1548]
- 500 寄 寄 send, mail, consign  
 宀 247 单 343 jì  
 First-class stamps—what you use to **send** letters to a friend's *house*—often cost an *odd* number of cents.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1611]
- 501 耗 耗 consume, cost, dawdle  
 木 375 二 3 (altered) 发 231 hào  
 The *two* pieces of antique *wood* were tied together with phony blond *hair*. This bundle of wood **cost** me a bundle, too.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1730]
- 502 菌 菌 mushroom  
 艹 94 厩 40 米 409 jùn  
 BF Inside the experimental *enclosure*, we sprinkle raw *grain* amongst the *grass*, just to see what happens. But they don't sprout—it's so moist that giant **mushrooms** grow instead.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1733]
- 503 赋 赋 endow, bestow  
 牛 430 武 358 fù  
 The rebel *army* confiscates *money* for their warlords, and this is the source of their monetary **endowments**.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1747]
- 504 秩 秩 order\*, sequence\*  
 米 409 隹 427 zhì  
 BF The artist's latest masterpiece consists of an **orderly sequence** of *grains* glued to a mirror. The patterns are quite intricate; you could stare at them and *lose* yourself in the work.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1749]



- 505 捷 捷 victorious  hand r 29  to walk 421  boar's head 34 jié  
 BF The **victorious** army *marches* in triumph, holding in their *hands* the heads of their enemies as if they were *boar's heads*. [11 STROKES RANK 1789]
- 506 盐 盐 salt  earth, soil 9  man 311 (altered)  vessel, dish 110 yán  
 Workers of the world are the **salt** of the *earth*. I store some of that **salt** in a small *dish*, and set it on the table to season my meals. [10 STROKES RANK 1885]
- 507 柯 柯 ax handle  tree 375  can; may 60 kē  
 BF The *wooden* part of the ax is the **ax handle**. With a long, inflexible handle, I *can* do much more work than my neighbor. [9 STROKES RANK 1903]
- 508 棉 棉 cotton  tree 375  silk 206 mián  
 A certain *tree* (well, alright, it's a plant) provides *silk*-like fiber good for clothes. We call this **cotton**. [12 STROKES RANK 1967]
- 509 合 合 cozy house  man 311  one 2  mouth 41 hā  
 CMP We've already seen this component as a character in §325, but it's convenient, to treat it as a special component.
- 510 哈 哈 **aha!**  mouth 41  cozy house 509 hā  
 1 Here someone is sliding down the roof of our *cozy house*. How satisfying! You can hear this little imp saying 'aha', a sound of satisfaction. Out of this imp's *mouth* comes 'aha', a sound.  
 2 Imagine coming home after a stressful day at work to your nice, *cozy house*. How satisfying—an involuntary 'aha' escapes your *mouth*. [9 STROKES RANK 713]

511 拾 拾 pick up  hand r 29  cozy house 509 shí

(The definition refers to the act of picking something up from the ground.) After building this *cozy house*, it's necessary to use your *hands* to **pick up** all the building debris from the ground.

Also, it requires *manual* labor to keep the house tidy, inside and out, so it remains *cozy*. You always have **pick up** after kids, spouses, in-laws, guests, dogs, and so on. [9 STROKES RANK 1961]

512 答 答 answer  bamboo r 243  cozy house 509 dá

Imagine joining the *bamboo* canes together to use as a primitive telephone system. From the inner sanctum of your *cozy house*, you could frame queries and receive **answers**. [12 STROKES RANK 559]

513 搭 搭 build  hand r 29  answer 512 (altered) dā

- 1 The *hand* plucks the *answer* from the oracle, which encourages the **building** of a new temple.
- 2 In conjunction with a *hand*, the bit of grass above the cozy house is really another hand, as suggested in §29, but rotated by ninety degrees. A pair of hands working on the house are clearly engaged in **building**.

[12 STROKES RANK 1842]

514 塔 塔 pagoda  earth, soil 9  answer 512 (altered) tǎ







- 1 They've built the **pagoda** on a particularly fine lot of *earth*, which makes it a literal *answer* to our prayers.
- 2 It makes sense to consider the *answer* component to be a *decorated house*—the bit of grass on top provides the ornamental effect. In the *ground* of a building lot, we add some ornate decoration that looks made from grass or other vegetation to what started as an ordinary cozy house, and end up with a **pagoda**.

[12 STROKES RANK 1030]

515 拿 拿 take  cozy house 509  hand 27 ná



Here's a *hand* extending towards a *cozy house*—someone looking for a “hand out” is ready to **take** whatever they can from wherever they can.




[10 STROKES RANK 645]


- 516 盒 盒 small box  cozy house 509  vessel, dish 110 hé  
 BF A **small box** is a *vessel* that would be useful for storage in our *cozy house*. [11 STROKES RANK 2067]
- 517 命 命 life, fate  cozy house 509 (altered)  single ear 157 mìng  
 Here's one lucky guy. His **fate** has given him a loving family and this great *cozy house* to live in. But he knows this could all turn on a dime, so he cocks his *ear* to the wind (metaphorically speaking) to be on the lookout for anything that could trouble his fortune. [8 STROKES RANK 258]
- 518 夬 夬 surprised man  man (spiffy) 337  unexpected mark  
 CMP That little vertical tweak is an *unexpected mark*—something the *man* had no idea was awaiting him. We'll use this component for a **surprised man**.



## Unit 24

# Bits and Bytes

519 块 块 lump  earth, soil 9  surprised man 518 kuài  
While taking a walk on some unexplored *soil*, a *surprised man* trips over an unexpected clod of dirt, a **lump** of soil. [7 STROKES RANK 793]

520 缶 缶 dry mountainous bits  dab 169  dry 10  mountain 21  
CMP The bits and pieces of this component say it all.



521 缶 缶 archaeological vessel  dry mountainous bits 520 fǒu  
The clay found on tops of *dry mountains* was used in ancient times to create today's **archaeological vessels**. [6 STROKES RANK 5328]

522 缺 缺 be short of, lack  dry mountainous bits 520  surprised man 518 quē  
Because of the *dry mountainous bits* to which the prisoners (a bunch of *men surprised* at this harsh sentence) have been exiled, there's a serious **shortage** of food. Everyone is slowly starving. [10 STROKES RANK 875]

523 氵 氵 water r  
CMP Drop a stone into a pool. The splashes feel good on a hot summer day. Here's three of those drops.



- 524 江 江 river, Yangtze  water r 523  labor, work 7 jiāng  
A good **river** system helps a culture do *work*—transport goods, maintain communications, move people, and so on. It's no wonder that *water* plus *labor* comprised a **river** for the ancient scribes. (Nowadays, you're apt to see 'Yangtze' spelled according to pinyin rules as 'Yangzi'.)  
[6 STROKES RANK 577]
- 525 汗 汗 sweat  water r 523  dry 10 hàn  
Sweat is *water* on our skin that, as it *dries*, keeps you cool.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1490]
- 526 汪 汪 bow-wow  water r 523  king 11 wāng  
In my view, large, thoroughbred dogs—Newfoundlands, St. Bernards, mastiffs, and so on—are the *kings* of domesticated animals. But these big guys are messy and slobbery. You get *drops of liquid* all over you when these *kings* bark.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1876]
- 527 油 油 oil  water r 523  let sb do sth 48 yóu  
Fine **oil**, close to the consistency of *water*, *allows* you to do things (cook, keep machinery from seizing up, quiet noisy hinges, and so on) you couldn't do without this bit of grease.  
[8 STROKES RANK 948]
- 528 洁 洁 clean  water r 523  lucky 56 jié  
**BF** Believe it or not, *water* has feelings about what it's being used for. It doesn't care to water plants or to flush toilets, but it feels *lucky* if people use it for **cleaning**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1531]
- 529 河 河 river\*  water r 523  can; may 60 hé  
One characteristic of **ivers**: the flowing *water can* enable civilization (see §524).  
[8 STROKES RANK 574]
- 530 泪 泪 tears  water r 523  eye 78 lèi  
**BF** Tears are *water* that flows from the *eyes*.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1271]

- 531 泄 泄 discharge gas or liquid  water r 523  generation 106 xiè  
It looks like *water* flows through this complex mechanism on the right, one of our *generation's* most impressive inventions. Even so, it's so complicated that the **fluid** will **leak out** for sure. [8 STROKES RANK 2010]
- 532 汇 汇 gather together  water r 523  basket, box 152 huì  
There are some small chips of wood in the bottom of the basket, so small they fit between the basket reeds and are hard to gather. All I need do is pour *water* in the *basket*. The water floats the chips to the surface, where they clump together for easy **gathering**. [5 STROKES RANK 1187]
- 533 洞 洞 hole, cavity  water r 523  same, similar 129 dòng  
*Water*, drop by drop, works the *same* way on any stone surface. Eventually, it can wear a **hole** right through it. [9 STROKES RANK 1015]
- 534 活 活 to live, alive  water r 523  tongue 225 huó  
An ancient commentary on the nature of **life**? All you need is *water* to keep you going and a *tongue* to keep you talking! [9 STROKES RANK 219]
- 535 阔 阔 wide, broad, vast  door 196  to live, alive 534 kuò  
**BF** A young person, fresh out of college, is about to go out on her own. She looks out the *door* of her parents' house, where *life* beckons to her, a **wide** and **broad** canvas ready for her mark. [12 STROKES RANK 1675]
- 536 温 温 lukewarm, to warm up  water r 523  day, sun 63  vessel, dish 110 wēn  
Cold *water* in a *dish*. The summer *sun* shines on it all day. By evening, the water has **warmed up**. [12 STROKES RANK 867]

537 浩 浩 vast, grand  water r 523  tell 189 hào



BF The right, ‘*tell*’ component looks for all the world like a single-masted sailboat. How can you *tell* if the body of *water* your sailing on is **vast** enough for this vessel? If the sailboat doesn’t sink, you’re fine.

[10 STROKES RANK 1864]

538 茫 茫 vast, without borders  water r 523  spike, sharp point 277 (altered) máng



BF The ocean is **vast** and **borderless**. The shipwrecked sailor, floating hopelessly on the featureless *waters*, feels an ever present thirst pierce him like a *sharp spike*.

[9 STROKES RANK 1951]

539 注 注 pour  water r 523  master 220 zhù




BF An empty cup requires you focus attention on it—its color, shape, workmanship, and so on. As soon as you **pour** anything into it, that focus shifts to the liquid inside. This liquid—*water*, tea, whatever—now dominates and becomes *master* of this situation.

[8 STROKES RANK 492]

540 洗 洗 wash, bathe  water r 523  first 300 xǐ

Washing up and **bathing** are some things you do *first* when you get up. Of course, you use *water* in this process.



[9 STROKES RANK 1247]



541 满 满 full, complete  water r 523  grass r 94  both, two 316 mǎn



I have *two* flowerpots outside. If I *water* them, flowers and *grasses* will **fill** them.

[Another meaning is ‘Manchu’. The 满族—Mǎnzú—were a non-ethnic Chinese people that ruled China from the seventeenth century to the beginning of the twentieth. One class of officials in their empire were the 满大人—mǎndàrén—which came into English as ‘*mandarin*’ and lent its name in English for the modern standard Chinese language.]

[13 STROKES RANK 436]

- 542 潜 潜 hide  water r 523  for, on behalf of 347 qián  
 BF Allan Quartermain (or is it James Bond?) submerges himself beneath *four-and-one-half* (sounds like *for, on behalf of*) feet of murky river *water*. This will effectively **hide** him from Dr. No, or Goldfinger, or whoever is the villain du jour. [15 STROKES RANK 1112]






- 543 漠 漠 desert  water r 523  do not, not 349 mò  
 BF A **desert** is a place where *water* is *not*. [13 STROKES RANK 1777]













- 544 润 润 moist, soft  water r 523  intercalary month 199 rùn  
 The ancients believed that the extra months added to the lunar calendar—the so-called *intercalary months*—to keep the length of the year more-or-less constant were particularly auspicious. For farmers, this meant a promise of additional *water* to keep their crops **moist** and healthy.  
 These are “**soft**” months—months that aren’t always present. [10 STROKES RANK 1369]



# Unit 25




## Clean Living

- 545 水 水 water  water r 523 (altered) shuǐ  
The graceful lines of 水 suggest the coming together of streams of **water**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 202]
- 546 益 益 benefit, advantage  water 545 (altered)  vessel, dish 110 yì  
BF Look at the *water* component—it appears sideways! But wait, maybe the *vessel* is sideways and the water is shown normal. Or maybe you, the reader, are sideways! This multiple point of view is **beneficial** in life, as it helps us keep an open mind.  
[10 STROKES RANK 649]
- 547 浅 浅 shallow, superficial  water r 523  tiny, fragmentary 373 qiǎn  
*Water* in *tiny* amounts is the very definition of ‘**shallow**’.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1721]
- 548 湘 湘 Hunan province (abbrev)  water r 523  appearance 391 xiāng  
The food in **Hunan province** is well-known for its spiciness. The tears running down your face after one of their authentic meals gives you a *watery appearance*.  
[12 STROKES RANK 2245]
- 549 录 录 record, write down  boar's head 34 (altered)  water 545 (altered) lù  
BF The ancients wasted nothing! Taking a *boar's head* and steeping it in *water* for several weeks, they created an ink that didn't fade. Moreover, they could easily remove bristles from the skin, and use these ‘pens’ to **record** tribal history.  
[8 STROKES RANK 919]

- 550 测 测 to survey, measure  water r 523  standard, norm 431 cè  
One performs a **survey** to establish a *standard*. The most ancient surveys and measurements were of *water* levels (think of the ancient records of the Nile and its flooding), which explains the connection with *water*.  
[9 STROKES RANK 861]
- 551 酒 酒 wine, liquor  water r 523  new wine 303 jiǔ  
After awhile, *new wine* absorbs humidity from the air, becoming more *watery* in the process—but it's still **wine**!  
[10 STROKES RANK 797]
- 552 池 池 pool, pond  water r 523  also\*, too\* 140 chí  
**BF** What kind of body of *water* supports this odd contraption with the curved bottom, tall mast, and other stuff on a deck? The '*also*' component helps us visualize a small boat on a **pond**.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1709]
- 553 混 混 confuse, mix up  water r 523  elder brother\*\* 149 hùn  
Look—someone has thrown all the *brothers* into the *water*. Which one is the *eldest*? With all of them thrashing around, hair plastered down on their heads, it's too **confusing** to tell.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1137]
- 554 隶 隶 belong to  boar's head 34 (altered)  water 545 (altered) lì  
**BF** The *boar* is very **attached to** his face, but (being only a boar) he can only see it by glimpsing his *altered* reflection in the *water*. [8 STROKES RANK 1801]
- 555 泉 泉 spring, fountain  white 201  water 545 quán  
**BF** A metaphorical image of a pristine mountain **spring** would be that of *white water*.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1641]

556 津 津 ferry crossing  water r 523  pen, writing instrument 39 jīn

People put **ferry crossings** where the river is narrowest. Here's one crossing so convenient that it takes only a giant *pen* floating on the calm *waters* to **ferry** people across. Of course, pens are messy, but better 'ink' than 'sink'.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1353]

557 求 求 request, entreat  water 545 (altered)  dab 169  one 2 qiú

Something, some *little thing*, is floating on the surface of the *water*. It's my hat! It keeps drifting farther and farther away. Although it's only *one* inanimate object, I can't help **entreating** it to come back to me.

[7 STROKES RANK 312]

558 球 球 ball, sphere  king 11  request, entreat 557 qiú

The entire **globe** is ruled by the great *king* (or so he thinks). That means that any *request* he makes instantly gets carried out. He's having a **ball!**

[11 STROKES RANK 628]

559 范 范 pattern, model, example  grass r 94  water r 523  single ear 157 (altered) fàn

**BF** The most famous *one-eared* painter of all time is Vincent van Gogh, who sliced one off in a fit of pique. And yet, even today, his techniques continue to inspire; he is a powerful role **model**. His colored areas, in which bits of colored *grass* swirl in *water* backgrounds, radiate bursts of energy.

[8 STROKES RANK 705]

560 永 永 forever, always  water 545 (altered)  dab 169 yǒng

















The marooned desert traveler could live **forever**, if only he had a *bit* of *water*.

[5 STROKES RANK 842]

561 渔 渔 fisherman  water r 523  fish 485 yú



A **fisherman** is a person who removes *fish* from the *water*.

[11 STROKES RANK 1770]

- 562 污 污 dirty, filthy, foul  water r 523  hand 27 (altered) wū  
 BF Use *water* to wash your *hand* of **dirt**. Your *hand* is covered in so much **filth** that its shape is distorted. [6 STROKES RANK 1405]
- 563 黎 黎 black, dark  advantage, benefit 417  enter, receive, take in 482  water 545 lí  
 BF Is there an *advantage* to storing things that have *been placed in* buckets of *water*? Probably not—the *water* provides a natural habitat for slime, crud, and other unmentionables, so the result is a **black and dark** mess. [15 STROKES RANK 1476]
- 564 滑 滑 slippery, smooth, cunning  water r 523  bone 488 huá  
 The *bone* is very rough. If we dip it in *water*, it feels much **smoother**, at least until the *water* dries. [12 STROKES RANK 1480]
- 565 沓 沓 numerous, repeated  water 545  speak 64 tà  
 BF The **repeated** gurgling sound in swift streams is like the *speech* of *water*. [8 STROKES RANK 3806]
- 566 沃 沃 fertile, rich  water r 523  dab 169  big 330 wò  
 BF Crops that are *little* grow *big* with the addition of *water* which enhances the natural **fertility** of the soil. [7 STROKES RANK 1808]
- 567 溃 溃 burst, break through  water r 523  expensive 437 kuì  
 BF The raging *water* attacked the *expensive* seawall with gusto, finally **break-through** with no care for the money involved. [12 STROKES RANK 1916]
- 568 剥 剥 to peel, shell, skin  record, write down 549  knife r 166 bāo  
 In medieval times, parchment was too valuable to discard after use. Instead, scribes would **peel** away with a *knife* what had been *written down* to create new writing space. [10 STROKES RANK 1959]

569 礻 礻 ice r

**CMP** Drop a stone onto a block of ice. Not much happens, but if it's a heavy rock, some chips of ice may fly away. Here you see two.











570 冲 冲 pour boiling water on  ice r 569  middle 45












chōng
















You can see foggy clouds of vapor above blocks of ice and steamy clouds near boiling water, which (perhaps) explains the connection between 'ice' and 'boiling water'. Were you to **pour a stream of boiling water** it would pass through the *middle* of a block of *ice*. [6 STROKES RANK 702]

## Unit 26













### Fame and Fortune

- 571 决 决 **decide**  ice r 569  surprised man 518 jué  
The *man* was *surprised* by the amount of winter *ice* in New York City. This is not for him—he has **decided** to move to a warmer climate, and he'll be on the next plane to California. [6 STROKES RANK 273]
- 572 况 况 **situation**  ice r 569  elder brother\* 298 kuàng  
**BF** We have a **situation** here. A piece of *ice* cut my *elder brother* in the head—you can see the two streams of blood running down his head. [7 STROKES RANK 419]
- 573 减 减 **lower, reduce**  ice r 569  salty 371 jiǎn  
If you add *salt* to *ice*, you **reduce** the slipperiness of the mixture (at least you do after the ice melts). [11 STROKES RANK 857]
- 574 次 次 **time, occurrence**  ice r 569  owe, lack 465 cì  
I don't know about you, but on the *ice* I definitely *lack* stature. I fall several **times** while struggling to return to the safety and stability of solid ground. [6 STROKES RANK 183]
- 575 茨 茨 **thatch**  grass r 94  time, occurrence 574 cí  
**BF** Any time a mouse falls from the ceiling and lands in the soup, it's *time* to replace the *grass* and straw in a **thatched** roof. [9 STROKES RANK 1936]

- 576 资 资 money, expenses  time, occurrence 574  cowrie 430 zī  
BF Each *time* we get some *money*, we use it to pay off **expenses**.  
[10 STROKES RANK 257]
- 577 冰 冰 ice  ice r 569  water 545 bīng  
Well, what is there to say—when you add *ice* to *water* you get **ice**.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1070]
- 578 净 净 clean, net (price)  ice r 569  struggle 463 jìng  
BF It's hard to keep **clean** in the winter. The water turns to *ice*, and the bitter cold makes simple washing a constant *struggle*.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1377]
- 579 盗 盗 steal, rob  time, occurrence 574  vessel, dish 110 dào  
BF Each *time* I take a cookie from the cookie *jar*, I feel like I'm **robbing** my siblings.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1619]
- 580 女 女 standing woman  
CMP To me, this character signifies the nurturing that **women** seem best at. Arms outstretched in a protective manner, full-figured body, this is the essence of womanhood.
- 581 女 女 woman  standing woman 580 nǚ  
[3 STROKES RANK 224]
- 582 娃 娃 baby  woman 581  jade tablet 14 wá  
BF The *woman's* new *jade brooch* is the most beautiful, most expensive gift she's ever received. She can't keep her hands off it, and treats it like her **baby**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1833]

- 583 奸 奸 evil, treacherous  woman 581  dry 10 jiān  
The **evil** scientist sent a heat ray to *dry* out the *woman's* cosmetics and ointments. How **treacherous!** [6 STROKES RANK 1992]
- 584 妇 妇 woman\*  woman 581  boar's head 34 fù  
BF In those ancient, benighted times, the prototypical *woman's* task was that of sweeping the floor with *boar's head* bristles. Under this (outmoded) logic, this was a perfect symbol for **woman**. [6 STROKES RANK 932]
- 585 如 如 be like  woman 581  enclosure 40 rú  
A *woman* is **like** an *enclosure* in that she is the repository of so many sterling characteristics. [6 STROKES RANK 67]
- 586 姑 姑 paternal aunt  woman 581  ancient 51 gū  
BF That *ancient woman* is my dad's sister, my **paternal aunt**. [8 STROKES RANK 994]
- 587 姓 姓 family name  woman 581  give birth to 191 xìng  
As soon as a *woman* gives birth to her child, it receives the **family name**. [8 STROKES RANK 1149]
- 588 妖 妖 goblin, demon  woman 581  dab 169  big 330 yāo  
BF (Note well: the right component is *not* 'heaven' from §333. The top horizontal is a 'dab', not a bar.) Look at that supernatural *woman!* She has the power to make herself very *small* or super *large*. She must be a **demon!** [7 STROKES RANK 1869]
- 589 姐 姐 older sister  woman 581  moreover 15 jiě  
Here, the '*moreover*' component looks like a high stool, perfect for the *woman* who's our **elder sister** who supervises when Ma's not home. [8 STROKES RANK 830]



- 590 要 要 want, wish, request  west 291 (altered)  woman 581 yào  
 ‘West’ (where the sun sets) is a symbol of evening. Then, the working day is over, and this *woman* enjoys a quiet evening catering to her own **wishes**.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 26]
- 591 耍 耍 play (a role, tricks)  express add'l but contrasting info 83  woman 581 shuǎ  
 The ancients considered the upper component to resemble a beard. A beard on a *woman*—talk about *contrasting information!* Obviously, she’s **playing a role**.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 2260]
- 592 妹 妹 younger sister  woman 581  have not yet 381 mèi  
 BF We often picture a **younger sister** as a person who *has not yet* grown up to be a *woman*.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1185]
- 593 委 委 listless, dejected  rice or grain 409  woman 581 wěi  
 BF The load of *grain* on this poor *woman*’s back is more than she can bear. No wonder she appears **listless and dejected**.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 457]
- 594 矮 矮 short of stature  arrow 334  listless, dejected 593 ǎi  
 William Tell shot an *arrow* at the apple on his son’s head, a duty imposed on him by the evil governor, and a task which made Tell very nervous and *dejected*. As every schoolboy knows, the child lived, partly because his **short stature** made the shot easier for his dad.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 2027]
- 595 她 她 she  woman 581  also\*, too\* 140 tā  
 Human beings are human precisely because each one of us stores all our different traits in a single body, a single container, as it were. In this case we concentrate on one *woman*. **She** can be clever but *also* dumb, considerate but *also* selfish, outgoing but *also* shy, and so on and so on. [6 STROKES RANK 91]

596 母 母 mother



woman 581 (altered)



two breasts

mǔ














BF A sketch of a *woman* which emphasizes her *two breasts* draws attention to her **motherly** qualities.



[5 STROKES RANK 565]

## Unit 27



### Saving Face

- 597 舟 舟 boat, ship  dab 169  mother 596 (altered) zhōu
- 1 The two dabs represent passengers crammed into this dugout, both manning the horizontal oar between them. In the interests of calligraphy, but not of seamanship, the south end seems to be left open to the elements!
- 2 *Mothers* protect you from the evils of the world when you are *little*; *boats* protect you from the bruises and mishaps of the river.
- [6 STROKES RANK 2224]
- 598 姿 姿 looks, appearance  time, occurrence 574  woman 581 zī
- BF Each *time* a *woman* makes an **appearance**, she impresses the world with her grace, poise, bearing, and beauty.
- [9 STROKES RANK 1899]
- 599 姆 姆 mother, nursemaid  woman 581  mother 596 mǔ
- BF A *woman* acting like a *mother* is a **nursemaid**.
- [8 STROKES RANK 1061]
- 600 每 每 every  man 311 (altered)  mother 596 měi
- A *man* and his *mother* can do any and **everything**, at least according to the mother.
- [7 STROKES RANK 359]
- 601 海 海 sea  water r 523  every 600 hǎi
- Every* kind of *water*, from every part of the globe, empties into the **sea**.
- [10 STROKES RANK 189]



- 602 梅 梅 plum flower or tree  tree 375  every 600 méi  
The **plum** tree is a favorite one among the Chinese. It is thought that this *tree* encompasses within it *every* kind of arboreal virtue. [11 STROKES RANK 1159]
- 603 嫌 嫌 dislike, mind  woman 581  double, twice 470 xián  
If *two* people in a room **dislike** each other, the best way to calm things down is to send in a *woman* as mediator. [13 STROKES RANK 1826]
- 604 安 安 rest content  roof 247  woman 581 ān  
The essence of **resting content** is a house (whose *roof* is all we can see here) in which the *woman* of the house maintains order and calmness. [6 STROKES RANK 232]
- 605 案 案 record, file, law case  rest content 604  tree 375 àn  
**BF** I *rest content* on the top of the tallest *tree* around, quietly **recording** the day's events in my diary. Meanwhile, some of my ex-students are **filing** down the base of the tree. Sooner or later I'm in for a nasty fall! [10 STROKES RANK 518]
- 606 按 按 press, push down, according to  hand r 29  rest content 604 àn  
It's a family gathering, and things are a little excited around now. **In accordance** with his standing as head of family, he uses his *hand* to make sure we all *rest content*. [9 STROKES RANK 573]
- 607 威 威 power, might  archaic lance 367  one 2  woman 581 wēi  
**BF** Think of a legendary Amazon warrior as an example of a **powerful** and **mighty** person. *One woman* equipped with a powerful *archaic lance* is a force to reckon with. [9 STROKES RANK 622]

- 608 舰 舰 warship, naval vessel  boat, ship 597  see 301 jiàn  
Warships are always big and imposing. The idea is to scare your opponents when they see this scary *boat*. Maybe they can avoid battle altogether.



[10 STROKES RANK 851]

- 609 毒 毒 poison  plentiful 12 (altered)  mother 596 dú  
Ever hear of toxic *mother* syndrome? *Too much* of a *mother's* attentions can **poison** her child's existence.

[9 STROKES RANK 947]



- 610 盘 盘 dish, current market price  boat, ship 597  vessel, dish 110 pán  
How do we get the picky child to eat? He is transfixed by the toy *boat* sailing in the *vessel* of cereal, and he eats! From now on, that's how I'll always envision a **dish**.

[11 STROKES RANK 1049]

- 611 媒 媒 matchmaker, go-between  woman 581  certain, some 397 méi  
**BF** The **matchmaker** traditionally matches a young *woman* with a very special *certain* someone.

[12 STROKES RANK 1506]



- 612 帚 帚 broom-like thing  
**CMP** We've seen broom-like things before (such as §§34 and 35), but this specially has a vertical handle to make the sweeping as ergonomic and easy as possible.

- 613 妻 妻 wife  broom-like thing 612  woman 581 qī  
**BF** This character reflects the traditional view of a **wife** as a *woman* pushing a *broom*. With time, these traditional views will wither.

[8 STROKES RANK 1076]

- 614 凄 凄 chilly, sad [ ] ice r 569 [ ] wife 613 qī  
 BF Nothing is **chillier** (or **sadder**) than a sour marriage, the *wife* gone *icy* to her husband, and vice versa. [10 STROKES RANK 2352]
- 615 讠 讠 speech r
- CMP This component refers to §270. As a radical in another character, it appears in this form.
- 616 计 计 compute, calculate [ ] speech r 615 [ ] ten 6 jì  
 The act of *speaking* numbers to *ten* is a primitive form of **calculation**. [4 STROKES RANK 251]
- 617 订 订 draw up, agree on [ ] speech r 615 [ ] fourth 25 dìng  
 The purpose of making a *speech* about issues that are put forth (sounds like *fourth*, get it?) on the table is to come to some sort of **agreement**. The form of ‘*fourth*’ reminds me of a table-like platform. [4 STROKES RANK 1176]
- 618 语 语 language [ ] speech r 615 [ ] me 81 yǔ  
 BF My *speech* is in my own native **language**. [9 STROKES RANK 493]
- 619 词 词 word, term [ ] speech r 615 [ ] company 112 cí  
 A *company speech* often uses special **words** and **terms** that only other insiders understand. [7 STROKES RANK 959]
- 620 让 让 allow [ ] speech r 615 [ ] on 175 ràng  
 If you **allow** someone to do something, it’s because they made a convincing *speech* to you, and now the activity is *on!* [5 STROKES RANK 339]
- 621 诉 诉 tell, relate [ ] speech r 615 [ ] scold, reprimand 177 sù  
 BF When we start **telling** stuff to our families, it often degenerates into a *speech of reprimand*. [7 STROKES RANK 595]

622 证 证 evidence, proof

 speech r 615
  correct 183

zhèng

BF In those far-off days before forensic science and *CSI*, courtroom **evidence** often took the form of a *speech* by a reputed citizen giving their version of what was *correct*.













[7 STROKES RANK 373]



## Unit 28

### Dogs and Cats



- 623 许 许 allow, permit  speech r 615  noonish 188 xǔ  
Authorities only **allow** political wannabees to stand up and make *speeches* at *noontime*. [6 STROKES RANK 263]
- 624 讨 讨 discuss, study  speech r 615  inch 210 tǎo  
The ‘*inch*’ component derives from a truncated hand. Take note of your next animated **discussion**. I think you’ll find that your *speech* is accompanied by lively *hand* motions as well. [5 STROKES RANK 833]
- 625 诗 诗 poem, poetry  speech r 615  Buddhist temple 213 shī  
Think of *Buddhist temples* as places so special that ordinary *speech* is simply inadequate. Devotees express themselves using inspired **poetry** instead. [8 STROKES RANK 906]
- 626 话 话 dialect, vernacular  speech r 615  tongue 225 huà  
The kind of *speech* that I really wrap my *tongue* around is my local **dialect**. [8 STROKES RANK 170]
- 627 认 认 recognize, know  speech r 615  man 311 rèn  
You **recognize** a *man* by his *speech*. [4 STROKES RANK 213]







- 628 误 误 miss (due to delay)  speech r 615  Kingdom of Wu 336 wù  
We were all enthralled by his *speech*, which seemed to proceed directly from his mouth and fly directly to heaven. 'Kingdom of Wu' itself uses *mouth* and *heaven* (§§41 and 333). Alas, we were so engrossed we **missed** the last bus home! [9 STROKES RANK 854]
- 629 试 试 test, try  speech r 615  model, standard 357 shì  
He's **trying** like crazy to learn Mandarin Chinese, but every time he puts into *speech* the language *models* and pattern he's practiced, his Chinese friends break into hysterical laughter! [8 STROKES RANK 643]
- 630 诚 诚 honest, sincere  speech r 615  become, turn into 368 chéng  
BF We all enjoy listening to people who are **honest** and **sincere** make *speeches*. Just by listening, we *become* uplifted. [8 STROKES RANK 1154]
- 631 谓 谓 say, be called  speech r 615  stomach 461 wèi  
BF Perhaps those ancient scribes did have senses of humor. If so, we can imagine that the *speech*-like rumblings of a full *stomach* simulated **talking** and **calling**. [11 STROKES RANK 945]
- 632 论 论 discuss, talk  speech r 615  order, coherence 457 lùn  
People will lose patience with you and won't **talk** to you unless your *speech* possesses *coherence*. [6 STROKES RANK 205]
- 633 读 读 read aloud, attend school  speech r 615  sell 341 dú  
I'm a salesman. The quality of my *speech* is important, for the money I make from *selling* my product is for **going to college**. [10 STROKES RANK 752]
- 634 谋 谋 work for, seek  speech r 615  certain, some 397 móu  
Some politicians, such as President Bill Clinton, instinctively know how to best **work for** their goals. Without conscious thought, the *speech* they use is *certain* to convince their antagonists. [11 STROKES RANK 989]



635 课 课 subject, course, class  speech r 615  fruit 388 kè  
*Speeches* directed at students produce *fruitful* results—this is an optimist's definition of a **course or class**. A more cynical observer regards it as a place where the stench of the lectures of hidebound professors land on student desks like masses of rotten *fruit*. What's your opinion? [10 STROKES RANK 1208]













636 勺 勺 wrap  
 CMP  
 1 See how the latch at the upper left of the radical has come undone? Place your stuff inside the strap and fix the latch—it's a **wrap!**  
 2 A person is bending over something, getting it ready for transport by **wrapping** it up.


637 匀 匀 evenly divided  wrap 636  two 3 (altered) yún  
 BF A bundle, all *wrapped* up, is **evenly divided** into *two* parts.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 2692]

638 均 均 equal, even  earth, soil 9  evenly divided 637 jūn  
 BF If you place seed in the *soil* in *evenly divided* groups, then the crop grows to the same **equal** height, more or less.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 903]

639 句 句 sentence  wrap 636  mouth 41 jù  
 BF Your *mouth* produces words; by extension, one mouth represents a sequence of words. If you can *wrap* them up in grammatical and syntactical wrapping paper, you have a **sentence**.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 707]

640 旬 旬 period of 10 days, years  wrap 636  day, sun 63 xún  
 BF 'Sun' is a metaphor for a period of time, often a day. One such period of time gets *wrapped up* in one character. The period in question can refer either to ten days or ten years.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 2332]


- 641 询 询 inquire  speech r 615  period of 10 days, years 640 xún  
**BF** Listen to that pompous old fool **inquire** about the weather! He can't even do so clearly and directly. Rather, he views it a chance to make an annoying *speech*, so boring that it seems to last *ten days*! [8 STROKES RANK 1617]
- 642 勺 勺 spoon  wrap 636  dab 169 shaó  
**BF** The '*wrapper*' is really a distorted **spoon**. The latch of the wrapper is really an abbreviated handle, and the bowl-part has been emphasized in order to emphasize the spoon's contents—only a *drop* of Grandma's chicken soup is left. [3 STROKES RANK 3275]
- 643 的 的 of  white 201  spoon 642 de  
 'Of' appears in quotes, because this is a grossly simplified summary of the role that 的 plays in Chinese grammar. Perhaps the easiest way to remember this character is to squint somewhat at the components, and so observe that they form a stylized spelling of **de** using English letters. Anyway, this glyph occurs so often—no character is more frequent—you'll soon learn it regardless. [8 STROKES RANK 1]
- 644 丐 丐 beg  under 176  wrap 636 gài  
 Those who **beg** are sometimes quite successful at their trade. You might never know it—after all, they keep their gains securely *under wraps*, under their tattered clothes. [4 STROKES RANK 2606]
- 645 与 与 give\*\*  spoon 642 (altered)  one 2 yǔ  
 Use *one spoon* to **give** a child their medicine. [3 STROKES RANK 108]
- 646 写 写 write  smooth cover 280  give\*\* 645 xiě  
 It's pouring rain. I **write** you a tender note, and as I *give* it to you, I *cover* it to protect it from the downpour. [5 STROKES RANK 448]

647 曷 曷 how, why, when  speech 270  beg 644 (altered) hé

The *speech* of *beggars* can be wildly inventive, depending on the nature and credulity of their 'client'. Questions involving **how, why, and when** naturally flow out of their mouths.

We'll use this component to represent a multitude of causes or sources.











[9 STROKES RANK 5256]











648 揭 揭 tear off, take off  hand r 29  how, why, when 647 jiē





The '*how, why, when*' component looks like an ornate bottle, and the 'sun' at the top is a cork stuffed in to keep the many ingredients from evaporating. But someone's *hand* is at this cork, ready to **tear it off**. [12 STROKES RANK 1666]













## Unit 29

### Doing Something About the Weather

- 649 喝 喝 to drink  mouth 41  how, why, when 647 hē  
I need a **drink**. I love to pour the liquid through my *mouth*, and I don't care *how, why, or when* I get it. [12 STROKES RANK 983]
- 650 葛 葛 kudzu vine  grass r 94  how, why, when 647 gé  
**Kudzu** is the vine that devoured the American South. A voracious *grass*-like plant that grows like lightning, so quickly you can't even begin to figure out *how, why, or when* it managed to devour your entire garden. [12 STROKES RANK 1919]
- 651 渴 渴 thirsty  water r 523  how, why, when 647 kě  
All that ice cold *water*, splishing and splashing *all over the place* drives me mad with **thirst**. [12 STROKES RANK 1972]
- 652 歇 歇 have a rest  how, why, when 647  owe, lack 465 xiē  
*How* am I ever going to pay all my bills? *When* will I have enough money? I *owe* so much! I need to **take a rest** before getting back to my accounts. [13 STROKES RANK 1828]
- 653 苟 苟 thoughtless, careless  grass r 94  sentence 639 gǒu  
**BF** After they mockingly flung *grass* clippings at me, the *sentences* that escaped from my mouth made me blush later on. How **thoughtless** to let myself get carried away! [8 STROKES RANK 2886]

- 654 夕 夕 romantic evening  
 CMP Salute the appearance of the crescent moon with the advent of a **romantic evening**.
- 655 夕 夕 evening, dusk  romantic evening 654 (altered) xī  
 [3 STROKES RANK 2003]
- 656 多 多 many, much  evening, dusk (times 2) 655 duō  
 This character is especially useful. It suggests **many** as in the phrase ‘**many** moons’, ‘**many** nights’. But it also suggests the passage of time, **much** time, *evening* upon *evening*. [6 STROKES RANK 61]
- 657 歹 歹 evil, vicious  one 2  evening, dusk 655 dǎi  
 BF What does *one* need the cover of *dusk* for? Can’t be good—must be something **evil** and **vicious**. [4 STROKES RANK 2905]
- 658 殖 殖 propagate  evil, vicious 657  straight, vertical 16 zhí  
 BF Winter is a necessary *evil*, killing plants but sparing their seeds. The seeds drop to the ground, and next spring sprout *straight* and tall, thereby **propagating** the species. [12 STROKES RANK 1438]
- 659 列 列 arrange, line up  evil, vicious 657  knife r 166 liè  
 The *evil* mugger used his *knife* to force the group of rock stars to **line up** for easy pickings. [6 STROKES RANK 500]
- 660 歼 歼 annihilate  evil, vicious 657  thousand 224 jiān  
 BF If you magnify *evil* thoughts by a *thousand*, you have the power to **annihilate** your enemies. [7 STROKES RANK 1815]











- 661 名 名 personal name  evening, dusk 655  mouth 41 míng  
 BF In the *evening*, it's hard to see who's there. You use your *mouth* to identify yourself, which is the purpose of a **personal name**. [6 STROKES RANK 203]
- 662 岁 岁 years old  mountain 21  evening, dusk 655 suì  
 BF A young, strong person is mighty as a *mountain*. Gradually, they wind down until, in the *evening* of their life they are a shadow of their former selves. How do we measure this unfortunate transformation? Using their **years of age**. [6 STROKES RANK 772]
- 663 罗 罗 catch birds with a net  net r 107  evening, dusk 655 luó  
 BF What's the best way to **catch birds**? It's hard no matter how, but you increase the odds by using a *net* and waiting till *evening* when they rest, so they can't see you. [8 STROKES RANK 392]
- 664 外 外 outside, external  evening, dusk 655  foretell 170 wài  
 BF The day is pretty much done by *evening* time. To learn what's **outside** this time frame, we need a magic wand to *foretell* the future (or, we could just wait till tomorrow!). [5 STROKES RANK 131]
- 665 够 够 be enough  sentence 639  many, much 656 gòu  
 Many *sentences* are **enough** to get any point across. [11 STROKES RANK 538]
- 666 残 残 incomplete, deficient  evil, vicious 657  tiny, fragmentary 373 cán  
 BF When great *evil* is *fragmented* by the forces of good, the villain's plans become **deficient**. [9 STROKES RANK 1150]
- 667 死 死 die, pass away  evil, vicious 657 (altered)  ancient ladle 142 sǐ  
 A great *evil* has befallen our leader, who has fallen down. That's him, upside-down, looking like a bent *spoon*. As a result, he **died**. [6 STROKES RANK 317]












- 668 梦 梦 dream  forest 376  evening, dusk 655 (altered) mèng  
Wandering in the *forest* at *evening* is scary. Things that look normal at noon take on an odd aspect when the light disappears. It's a nightmare **dreamscape**. [11 STROKES RANK 865]
- 669 移 移 change, alter  rice or grain 409  many, much 656 yí  
The great thing about *rice* and other *grains* is that there are *many* ways to **change** or **alter** them into good stuff to eat—flour, bread, cake, wraps, and so on. [11 STROKES RANK 880]
- 670 殊 殊 different, special  evil, vicious 657  vermilion 379 shū  
BF The serial killer was nasty. His *evil* acts were always as *vermilion* bloody as possible, so everyone would know how **different** and **special** he was. [10 STROKES RANK 1191]
- 671 厂 厂 cliff r  
CMP The cutaway section of a **cliff** looks just like this.
- 672 厂 厂 factory  cliff r 671 chǎng  
Imagine working in a nineteenth century **factory**—long hours, demeaning work, and negligible pay. Desperate workers climbed to the roof, and flung themselves off this man-made *cliff*. [2 STROKES RANK 963]
- 673 厅 厅 public rooms, hall  cliff r 671  fourth 25 tīng  
BF Here's a recurring dream sequence. I envision a high *cliff* into which are carved many rooms. Each room I enter is bigger and more magnificent than the one before it. Finally, the *fourth* one I enter is a vast **reception hall**, similar in size to the Rotunda in the U.S. Capitol building. [4 STROKES RANK 1217]
- 674 压 压 press down  cliff r 671  earth, soil 9  dab 169 yā  
Down from the top of the *cliff* comes a huge load of *earth* landing with a thud on the *little* guy who happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. The fallen earth **presses down down** on him, forever. [6 STROKES RANK 756]



## Unit 30




# One Door Closes, Another Opens

- 675 戾 戾 loathe, detest  cliff r 671  dog 332 yàn  
BF Towards the end of his life, the rich old man grew to **detest** the entire world. He shuttered himself in a fortress-like mansion atop a *cliff*, and vicious *dogs* guarded the premises. [6 STROKES RANK 1633]
- 676 原 原 original, unprocessed  cliff r 671  spring, fountain 555 (altered) yuán  
BF Another image: an untouched mountain *spring*, gracefully jetting off some *cliff*, powerfully suggests something primeval, untouched, and **original** to nature. [10 STROKES RANK 193]
- 677 源 源 source of river, fountainhead  water r 523  original, unprocessed 676 yuán  
BF The **source of a river** is the part of the *waters* that is *original*. [13 STROKES RANK 670]
- 678 厉 厉 harsh, severe, serious  cliff r 671  ten thousand 472 lì  
BF As an example to the troops, the deserter was given a **harsh** and **severe** punishment. From the height of the *cliff*, in plain view of all other troops, he was given *ten thousand* lashes. [5 STROKES RANK 1339]
- 679 𡵓 𡵓 high cliff  mountain 21  cliff r 671  
CMP The *mountain* on top of the *cliff* emphasizes that it is a **high cliff**. This component is actually an extremely rare character, pronounced ‘nàn’.

- 680 岸 岸 shore, coast  high cliff 679  dry 10 àn  
*High cliffs* occur most often at the **shore**. The *dry part* next to the water is the **shore**. [8 STROKES RANK 971]
- 681 广 广 shelter r  cliff r 671  dab 169  
 CMP *Cliffs* are so large and threatening. Here's a *little one*—quite cozy, really. Hollow out a little cave and crawl right in for instant **shelter**.
- 682 扩 扩 enlarge  hand r 29  shelter r 681 kuò  
 BF Why would you have a worker's *hands* toiling on our *house*? Most likely, it's to **enlarge** it. [6 STROKES RANK 1051]
- 683 庙 庙 temple  shelter r 681  let sb do sth 48 miào  
 A **temple** provides a special kind of *shelter*. Even though there are strict codes of conduct, being there is such an uplifting and enlightening experience, that it feels like *you can do whatever you want*. [8 STROKES RANK 1889]
- 684 店 店 shop  shelter r 681  practice divination 172 diàn  
 Originally, a **shop** was a special *shelter* for shamans and such to *practice divination*. Bit by bit, the fortuneteller or proprietor would supplement their income by furnishing tangible items people needed, until finally this purpose overshadowed the original one. [8 STROKES RANK 1041]
- 685 庆 庆 celebrate  shelter r 681  big 330 qìng  
 BF Why this sudden need for a *big house*? We need the space for a lot of people. Everyone's coming to **celebrate**!  
 The sole difference between 厌 'loathe' (§675) and this character 庆 'celebrate' is the placement of the little 'dab' dot. In 'celebrate', the dot is nearer heaven, because celebration is a heavenly thing to do. [6 STROKES RANK 1269]


- 686 广 广 extensive  shelter r 681 guǎng  
The good thing about proper *shelter* is that it makes you feel protected against the elements. The mangiest, crumbiest cave feels like like an **extensive** castle to a person in need. [3 STROKES RANK 468]
- 687 庄 庄 village  extensive 686  earth, soil 9 zhuāng  
BF It's not the houses that make a **village** a **village**, but how close to or spread out from each other they are. When houses are spread out *extensively* over the *earth*, we say we have a **village**. [6 STROKES RANK 1024]
- 688 座 座 seat  extensive 686  sit 321 zuò  
An *extensive* bunch of people *sitting* in the same place—well, that must be a **seat**. [10 STROKES RANK 812]
- 689 庚 庚 age  extensive 686  big 330  man (spiffy) 337 gēng  
Under the '*extensive*' part, '*big*' and '*man*' are superimposed. A small vertical stroke ties them together.  
The *man* has finally reached sufficient *maturity* (= '*big*' in Chinese) to go forth and perform *extensive* achievements. This is a fine symbol for one's chronological **age**. [8 STROKES RANK 3072]
- 690 唐 唐 Tang dynasty  age 689 (altered)  mouth 41 (altered) táng  
The great **Tang** **dynasty** was a high point of Chinese civilization. The hallmark of this great *age* was the *verbal* arts, particularly poetry. [10 STROKES RANK 973]
- 691 廉 廉 honest and upright  shelter r 681  double, twice 470 lián  
BF This contractor is one of the most **honest** workmen I've ever met. The *house* he built for us is super-strong because he *doubly* reinforced all the supports. [13 STROKES RANK 1818]

- 692 康 康 healthy, peaceful, abundant  
 ☐ Tang dynasty 690 (altered) ☐ water 545 kāng  
 BF Under the enlightened rule of the *Tang dynasty*, throughout the land and even across the *water*, there was **abundant peace and health**.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 900]
- 693 床 床 bed  
 ☐ shelter r 681 ☐ tree 375 chuáng  
 People lay the mattress of their **bed** on a *wooden* frame inside their *shelter*.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1068]
- 694 麻 麻 hemp, pocked, pitted  
 ☐ shelter r 681 ☐ forest 376 má  
 In a drying *shed* we dry raw fibers, a *forest* of them. The end product is flax and **hemp** we can spin into clothes.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1108]
- 695 摩 摩 rub  
 ☐ hemp, pocked, pitted 694 (altered) ☐ hand 27 mó  
 BF Put that *hempen* glove on your *hand* and please **rub** my back! How soothing—and it scratches my back nicely, too.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 1162]
- 696 嘛 嘛 particle of persuasion  
 ☐ mouth 41 ☐ hemp, pocked, pitted 694 ma  
 As is often true, '*mouth*' indicates a particle. The shy teen with the *pocked skin* problem needs more than a **particle of persuasion** to come along to the party.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 1628]
- 697 疒 疒 sick  
 ☐ expelled matter ☐ shelter r 681  
 CMP A **sick** person resting *at home* is in extremis, coughing, sneezing, *vomiting*, and what not.

698 癌 癌 cancer  sick 697  product 44  mountain 21 ái

The beloved mother has become *sick*. The *three mouths* symbolize how closely her family huddles together for support. But they have a *mountain* of trouble to contend with, and are going to need a *mountain* of medical *products* before they're through, for the news is not good—it's **cancer**.

[17 STROKES RANK 1799]

699 症 症 disease  sick 697  correct 183 zhèng

**BF** Someone gets *sick*. With the *correct* diagnosis, we can identify the **disease** and prescribe proper treatment.

[10 STROKES RANK 1258]











700 疾 疾 disease\*  sick 697  arrow 334 jí

**BF** Perhaps for the ancient scribes, **disease** seemed to them to be like a dart or *arrow* which appeared from nowhere to strike you *sick* when you least expected it.

[10 STROKES RANK 1273]


## Unit 31

### Four Legs Good, Two Legs Better

- 701 病 病 disease, fall sick  sick 697  third in series 474 bìng  
This is the *third* time this man has gotten *sick* in two weeks. Some chronic **disease** has gotten hold of him. [10 STROKES RANK 427]
- 702 尸 尸 dead body  enclosure 40 (altered)  
**CMP** The *enclosure*-like bit at the top is the **body**, lying cold and **dead** on the bed. How can you tell it's dead? See the hand hanging down, extended at an unnatural angle.
- 703 尸 尸 corpse  dead body 702 (altered) shī  
[3 STROKES RANK 1517]
- 704 尺 尺 ruler  corpse 703  measurement chǐ  
A popular notion in the old days—perhaps even now—is that a natural harmony exists between the dimensions of a human body. Here, we see a *measurement* made on a cooperative *corpse* in an effort to perform an analysis with a giant measuring device, a **ruler**. [4 STROKES RANK 1474]
- 705 局 局 bureau, office  ruler 704 (altered)  mouth 41 jú  
A government **office** is a place where far too many *rules* issue from the *mouths* of bureaucrats. [7 STROKES RANK 483]
- 706 届 届 a year's graduates  corpse 703  let sb do sth 48 jiè  
At university, I worked so hard I thought I would become a *corpse*. Finally, *they let me graduate*. [8 STROKES RANK 1522]

707 居 居 reside  corpse 703  ancient 51 jū

The *ancient corpse* commands the respect of even the Communist officials, who will let it **reside** in its grave even though the prime location is needed for a party big-shot. [8 STROKES RANK 678]

708 据 据 occupy, seize  hand r 29  reside 707 jù




**BF** The *hand* represents the enemy occupier, come to your *residence* to **seize** the premises for themselves. [11 STROKES RANK 313]

709 剧 剧 play, drama  reside 707  knife r 166 jù

The set resembles the interior of a charming nineteenth century *residence*. A hooded figure silently enters from stage right, a wicked *knife* gleaming in the footlights. The **drama** begins, and the audience will be on the edge of their seats throughout! [10 STROKES RANK 909]

710 屈 屈 bend\*  corpse 703  exit 22 qū

The *corpse* is being carried through the narrow *exit* to the hearse. (See how scrunched up the ‘*exit*’ appears in this character.) The person in life was quite fat, so it can’t fit through the exit without **bending**. [8 STROKES RANK 1684]


711 刷 刷 brush, scrub  corpse 703  towel 130  knife r 166 shuā

*Corpse* cleaning is a delicate art. The most important tools are *towels*, to **scrub** the corpse, and a *knife* to scrape off evidence of violence.














[8 STROKES RANK 1824]

712 卢 卢 gourd  foretell 170  corpse 703 lú

**BF** With their eccentric, colorful, and entrancing appearance, **gourds** must have suggested themselves as aids to religious ceremonies. When dried and preserved, they represent the *corpses* of vegetables and can be used to *foretell* the future. [5 STROKES RANK 1711]











- 713 尿 尿 urine  corpse 703  water 545 suǐ  
With respect to medical matters, **urine** is a crucial bodily *fluid*. So much so, that if not eliminated pronto, the patient becomes a *corpse* in short order.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1877]
- 714 民 民 people, masses  ruler 704  one 2 mín  
BF The **masses** usually find themselves serving *one ruler*.  
[5 STROKES RANK 113]
- 715 眠 眠 sleep, dormancy  eye 78  people, masses 714 mián  
BF The *eyes* of the *people* never **sleep**!  
[10 STROKES RANK 1986]
- 716 尾 尾 tail  corpse 703  hair 231 wěi  
The roadkill was the *corpse* of a fine raccoon. The body was left intact, but the wheels somehow stripped off all the fur, leaving *hair* only on its tail.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1282]
- 717 尼 尼 nun  corpse 703  ancient ladle 142 ní  
BF Imagine that in ancient times, **nuns** prepared the *dead* for burial. Using *spoon*-like tools, they made the *corpses* appear as lifelike as possible as a service to the bereaved.  
[5 STROKES RANK 654]
- 718 呢 呢 particle with many uses  mouth 41  nun 717 ne  
*Nuns* take vows of poverty, so the only thing they can own is a small and very special **particle with many uses**, sort of a multi-purpose tool. The ‘*mouth*’ reminds us that particles originally served a purely verbal function.  
[8 STROKES RANK 383]
- 719 尽 尽 utmost, to the greatest extent  ruler 704  two 3 jǐn  
The *two* marks beyond the end of the *ruler* emphasize our interest in things located at the **greatest extent**.  
[6 STROKES RANK 488]

















- 720 泥 泥 mud, clay  water r 523  nun 717 ní  
Because it was black, you couldn't tell the *nun's* habit was plastered with dirt.  
When she fell in the *water*, it formed a **muddy paste**. [8 STROKES RANK 1499]
- 721 尸 尸 corpse with mark  corpse 703  unexpected mark  
**CMP** *Corpses* aren't always Hollywood clean and pretty. This one has an *unexpected mark*.
- 722 声 声 sound, voice  scholar 8  corpse with mark 721 shēng  
Imagine a crazed *scholar* jumping down on a *corpse*, leaving a *mark*, and forcing a bizarre **sound** to issue forth from the *corpse's* mouth.  
[7 STROKES RANK 195]
- 723 眉 眉 eyebrow  corpse with mark 721  eye 78 méi  
**BF** This *corpse* has been *marked* above the *eye*, to mark the location of the **eyebrow**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1460]
- 724 户 户 door of house  corpse 703  dab 169  
**CMP** This component displays the left pane of a swinging **door**. The *bit* at the top is the bolt in the hinge.
- 725 户 户 door\*  door of house 724 hù  
Perhaps in some surreal Luis Buñuel-ian drama, someone uses a rigid *corpse*, fastened on the floor and at the top, as the left-hand panel of a swinging **door**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 801]
- 726 护 护 protect  hand r 29  door\* 725 hù  
**BF** The *door* **protects** the family against the thumping and knocking from the *hand* of the crazed burglar.  
[7 STROKES RANK 529]

## Unit 32

# Let Your Fingers Do the Walking

- 727 启 启 open up  door\* 725  mouth 41 qǐ  
BF Doors and mouths have one thing in common—they both **open up**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1320]
- 728 扇 扇 fan, leaf  door\* 725  feather, wing 123 shàn  
BF It's hot in China! As you enter through the *door*, the *feathers* of an old-fashioned hand-held *fan* provide some cooling relief.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1993]
- 729 扁 扁 flat, crushed  door of house 724  book, booklet 134 biǎn  
The stupid contractor did such a poor job that one of the *doors* fell down on an old and valuable *book*, and **crushed** it to death!  
[9 STROKES RANK 1737]
- 730 篇 篇 piece of writing  bamboo r 243  flat, crushed 729 piān  
Although 'raw' *bamboo* appears naturally as rod-like giant stems, modern technology knows how to work it into *flat* forms, suitable for making floors and **writing surfaces**.  
[15 STROKES RANK 1008]
- 731 户 户 door (alternate form)  corpse 703  one 2  
CMP This alternate form displays the left panel of a swinging door. The *one* line at the top reminds us that a swinging **door** occupies many positions.

- 732 后 后 behind  door (alternate form) 731 (altered)  mouth 41 hòu  
 BF Here the *mouth* represents a guy on audition in Hollywood. Oops—he didn't get the part. Don't let the *door* bang you on the **behind** on your way out. [6 STROKES RANK 48]
- 734 盾 盾 shield  door (alternate form) 731 (altered)  self 202 dùn  
 A *door* painted with picture of the king *himself* makes a good **shield**. [9 STROKES RANK 1395]
- 734 所 所 place  door (alternate form) 731  catty 118 suǒ  
 His **place** is a real *catastrophe*. Worst is the *door*, furiously *unbalanced* and liable to bang you on the head at any minute. [8 STROKES RANK 54]
- 735 阝 阝 hills  
 CMP When you see this on the *left* of a character (as in 阡 and 阡 and many more), it represents a range of **small hills**. To see the hills, just imagine rotating this radical to the left (clockwise) to see the soft pair of hills.
- 736 阳 阳 sun  hills 735  day, sun 63 yáng  
 BF The **sun** peeks over the *hills* at break of *day*. [6 STROKES RANK 650]
- 737 队 队 team  hills 735  man 311 duì  
 The **team** is lined up for inspection. Oops, I forgot my glasses, so when I look at the *men* on the team, their features are indistinct, and their heads look like a row of *hills*. [4 STROKES RANK 268]
- 738 阻 阻 hinder, block  hills 735  moreover 15 zǔ  
 BF Back in §15, we likened 且 to a sturdy pair of *bookshelves*. Imagine these shelves magnified to a large scale, and arranged in a long row. These shelves, together with the dense *hills* will surely **block** the invaders from entering our town! [7 STROKES RANK 1175]

739 阿 阿 particle before names  hills 735  can; may 60 ā

Chinese speakers use this particle to indicate familiarity (阿宝, 'A Bao') or to indicate some kind of relationship, often familial (阿大 'ā dà', the eldest; 阿哥 'ā gē' elder brother).


When I return home after a trip, the sight of the distant *hills* near my home *can* fill me with a welcome sense of **familiarity**. [7 STROKES RANK 471]

740 啊 啊 phrase suffix  mouth 41  particle before names 739 a

Chinese scribes often use the *mouth* radical to draw interjections and particles, perhaps to suggest an exhalation of breath on an occasion that's slightly out of the ordinary. 啊 has many alternate pronunciations. All of them, including the main one treated here, refer to interjections. [10 STROKES RANK 753]

741 陆 陆 land, continent  hills 735  earth, soil 9  mountain 21 lù



BF How might we characterize a **continent**? By the presence of *hills*, *mountains*, and *land*. [7 STROKES RANK 675]

742 院 院 courtyard  hills 735  finish, complete 296 yuàn

BF From the comfort and beauty of my Chinese **courtyard**, I sit contemplating the scenic *hills*, visible in the distance, until the period of meditation is *completed*. [9 STROKES RANK 338]

743 陶 陶 pottery  hills 735  wrap 636  archaeological vessel 521 táo

BF Out in the *hills* beyond town, the archaeologists dug deeply to find some old *wrapped pots* which appear to be some of the most ancient example of **pottery** known. [10 STROKES RANK 1601]

744 隔 隔 separate, impede  hills 735  cauldron for meat or cereal 279 gé

The *hill* tribesman threatened to **impede** our progress by tossing us into their huge *stew pots*. We ran for our lives! [12 STROKES RANK 1319]

745 阝 阝 town

**CMP** When the component that's identical to 'hills' of §735 appears on the *right* of a character, as in 邦 and 那 and many others, it represents the skyline of a **town**.

How to distinguish this component from §735? Imagine 'reading' a character from left to right, from distant to near to you, as if the glyph represented a land- or townscape. The hills are in the distance, while the **town** is right up close.

746 邦 邦 nation state  plentiful 12 (altered)  town 745 bāng


**BF** Prosperous **nations** are formed from confederations of *towns* whose thriving economies—their goods are *plentiful*—bids fair for the future.

[6 STROKES RANK 1363]

747 帮 帮 to help  nation state 746  towel 130 bāng


You'll never believe how I lost track of time right before my dinner party the other day! The doorbell rang as I was getting out of the shower, wrapped in nothing but a *towel*. What a *state* I was in. Boy, did I need **help** that night!

[9 STROKES RANK 769]

748 邮 邮 to post, mail  let sb do sth 48  town 745 yóu

The central **post** office is in mid-*town*. I'll stop in quickly to buy some stamps (which look like the left component), which will *allow me* to send out some important mail.

[7 STROKES RANK 1652]

749 耶 耶 interrogatory particle  ear 82  town 745 yē

Things in the *town* are so noisy, I did not *hear* your question. **What did you say?**

[8 STROKES RANK 1174]

750 厶 厶 private

**CMP** This gentle profile shows someone's big, fat nose! Don't stick your nose in my business—it's **private**!

We'll frequently use this component to represent a **snobbish person** or **busybody**, or sometimes just a **nose**.

751 云 云 cloud

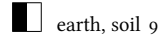
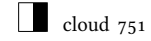
 two 3  private 750

yún

Here are *two* snobs, each trying to outdo the other in keeping their *nose* in the **clouds**.

[4 STROKES RANK 692]

752 坛 坛 altar

 earth, soil 9  cloud 751



tán



Here's how **altars** are supposed to work: You pile raw animal parts on the *earth*, get them burning vigorously, and the denser the resulting *clouds* of smoke, the more appreciative will be the deity.




[7 STROKES RANK 1806]

## Unit 33



### Here and There



753 会 会 meet, assemble  man 311  cloud 751 huì  
In my experience, **meetings** are huge wastes of time. *Clouds* of *people* mill about, accomplishing nothing! Most of their talk takes the form of *clouds* of obfuscation. [6 STROKES RANK 29]



754 去 去 go  earth, soil 9  private 750 qù  
One good example of “**going**” is death—departure from this earth. For then you will end up in a *private* place within the *earth*. [5 STROKES RANK 64]



755 至 至 to, until  one 2  private 750  earth, soil 9 zhì  
Someone’s *nose* on the *ground*—nothing further happens **until** this guy picks himself up and brushes himself off. [6 STROKES RANK 267]



Beginners could be forgiven for confusing the characters 去 (§754) and 至 (§755). Both combine the ‘private’ and ‘earth’ components, but in different orders. Both are so common that you can’t help but get them right, at least in the long run. But what of the short run? As a memory aid, focus on the bottom. For 至, soil is something we till—sounds like ‘until’. For 去, remember that ‘private’ looks like someone’s nose, and keep in mind the stupid rhyme ‘the nose goes’.



756 到 到 arrive  to, until 755  knife r 166 dào  
I need to **arrive** at the office for a crucial job interview, and I’m really nervous. *Until* I get there, my emotions are on a *knife* edge. [8 STROKES RANK 22]



- 757 室 室 room\*  roof 247  to, until 755 shì  
 BF I'm not really home, safe in my **room**, *until* I am under my own **roof**.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 708]



- 758 罢 罢 stop, cease  net r 107  go 754 bà  
 The *net* that these practical jokers threw over my head as I was *going* to class, made me **stop** dead in my tracks.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1305]

- 759 摆 摆 place, put, arrange  hand r 29  stop, cease 758 bǎi  
 You use your *hand* to shove around all the jigsaw puzzle pieces, but you *stop* when they're all **arranged** nicely.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1158]















- 760 却 却 now (storytelling)  go 754  single ear 157 què  
 Actually, this is one of those small words that often occurs with other small words to connote some adverbial meaning.  
 Now that the story has begun, I'm all *ears* as the events *go* on to their thrilling conclusion.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 287]















- 761 丢 丢 lose, misplace  dab 169  go 754 diū  
 We **lose** stuff when *little bits* of pieces somehow *go* astray.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 1639]



- 762 法 法 method  water r 523  go 754 fǎ  
 BF A great advance in the history of mankind is the development of **methods** of using *water*. Using water to *go* places, such as over water wheels, was a landmark in technology.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 65]

- 763 予 予 give\*  private 750 (altered)  fourth 25 yǔ  
 BF The bottom '*fourth*' component resembles a clenched fist which has rammed into some guy's *nose* with such force that the scribes write it upside-down. The attacker **gave** his victim some serious health concerns.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 925]










- 764 野 野 open country  inside 71  give\* 763 yě  
 BF When I'm out in **open country**, I have to go back *inside* right away. All that wildlife *gives* me hay fever! [11 STROKES RANK 845]
- 765 舒 舒 relax  give up 328  give\* 763 shū  
 BF As a student of Eastern meditation, I know I achieve **relaxation** if I *give up* worldly cares and *give* in to the harmony of the universe. [12 STROKES RANK 1459]
- 766 县 县 county  moreover 15  private 750 xiàn  
 Think of a **county** as a government entity which stores its own records, *privately*, in long series of 'moreover'-like bookshelves. [7 STROKES RANK 877]
- 767 台 台 platform, stage  private 750  mouth 41 tái  
 Why, look at the speaker there on the **platform**. He's positioned so that you really can only see his *nose* and *mouth*. [5 STROKES RANK 388]
- 768 抬 抬 raise, lift  hand r 29  platform, stage 767 tái  
 I **lift** the luggage onto the train *platform* with my *hands*. [8 STROKES RANK 1386]
- 769 治 治 manage, administer  water r 523  platform, stage 767 zhì  
 BF Think back to the many student demonstrations in the late '60s-early '70s. The authorities often **managed** to control them by standing on a raised *platform* and shooting streams of *water* at the students from hoses. [8 STROKES RANK 274]
- 770 胎 胎 fetus, baby  meat 317 (altered)  platform, stage 767 tāi  
 The leftmost component often receives the interpretation of '*meat*'. Nine o'clock, Monday morning, and a sad case to present to these med students. This *flesh* on the teaching *stage* was someone's **baby** a short time ago. [9 STROKES RANK 1984]















- 771 允 允 permit, allow  private 750  walking man 287 yǔn  
**BF** You will have to **allow** me my own interpretation of this character: I see a *nose* with the characteristic fold of the upper lip underneath it which reminds us, in the talkativeness of this person which leads to excessive motion of the upper lip, as a *walking man*. [4 STROKES RANK 1443]
- 772 充 充 fill, full  cover 268  permit, allow 771 chōng  
**BF** If we *cover* the huge pile of *permit* applications, we realize that there are far too many to **fill**. [6 STROKES RANK 690]
- 773 勾 勾 cross out  wrap 636  private 750 gōu  
 Somebody *wrapped* that snob's *nose*. It looks likes he's been **rubbed out**. [4 STROKES RANK 2034]
- 774 沟 沟 trench, groove  water r 523  cross out 773 gōu  
 Imagine some catastrophic flooding somewhere. In an effort to cancel or *cross out* these *waters*, the authorities have dug a series of **trenches**. [7 STROKES RANK 1610]
- 775 么 么 youngest  private 750 (altered)  private 750 yāo  
**BF** Two aunties stick their pointy *noses* in close to see the adorable new baby—the **youngest** addition to the family! [3 STROKES RANK 4505]
- 776 玄 玄 incredible  cover 268  youngest 775 xuán  
**BF** The family across the street behaves like they're in a Victorian melodrama. Something is **incredibly** wrong with their *youngest*, so they try to *cover up* his existence. [5 STROKES RANK 1717]
- 777 畜 畜 livestock  incredible 776  field 57 chù  
**BF** The farmer's *field* is an *incredible* mess—filthy, smelly, and ugly. But that's what you get when you keep your **livestock** there. [10 STROKES RANK 2030]











778 蓄 蓄 store, save up  grass r 94  livestock 777 xù  
 BF Winter is coming. If I don't **store** hay and *grass* now, the *livestock* will starve to death during those cold months. [13 STROKES RANK 1985]



## Unit 34

### Animate and Inanimate




- 779 兹 兹 now, at present  incredible (times 2) 776 zī  
BF There's no time like the **present**—or, to put it another way, nothing is as *incredible* as **now**. [9 STROKES RANK 1781]
- 780 滋 滋 sprout, spurt  water r 523  now, at present 779 zī  
The three dots of the *water* component plus the two dots of the *double 'incredible'* suggest—at least visually—that there's lots of water around. At home, that might mean that water is **spurting** from a burst pipe, and it's happening *now!* In the fields, the abundant water helps ensure that the crops will **sprout**. [12 STROKES RANK 1931]
- 781 瓜 瓜 melon  cliff r 671  private 750  curvey stripe guā  
The juicy **melons** we buy in the summer have skins marked with *curvy stripes* and odd designs suggesting *noses*, *mountains*, and *cliffs*. These patterns suggests the random pattern of the striping. [5 STROKES RANK 1827]
- 782 始 始 begin, start  woman 581  platform, stage 767 shǐ  
BF This famous *female* chef is getting ready for a demonstration of her art. It takes forever to get her equipment up on the *stage*, so that—*finally*—she can **begin**. [8 STROKES RANK 381]
- 783 屋 屋 house, room  corpse 703  to, until 755 wū  
BF The kindly old man died unexpectedly in his **room**. The landlord let the *corpse* lie there *until* the funeral even though he was anxious to re-rent it. [9 STROKES RANK 863]

- 784 握 握 hold, grasp, shake hands  hand r 29  house, room 783 wò  
So shaken was I by his death that I had to use my *hand* to **hold** onto the walls of the *room* to keep from falling down. [12 STROKES RANK 1032]
- 785 承 承 bear, hold, undertake  water 545 (altered)  hand 27 (altered)  private 750 (altered) chéng  
BF I **undertake** a private commission for the government. The valuable shipments must be *privately* transported by *hand*. The easiest way to accomplish this is via river, canal, or other body of *water*. [8 STROKES RANK 639]
- 786 预 预 in advance  give\* 763  page, leaf 444 yù  
BF If you *give* a little something to the *page*, you can get into the reception in **advance** of everyone else. What a coup! [10 STROKES RANK 647]
- 787 层 层 layer, story, floor  corpse 703  cloud 751 céng  
The elevator in my building is out of order! By the time I walked up to my apartment on the top **story**, I felt like a *corpse*, even though my head was in the *clouds* that I could easily see from my windows. [7 STROKES RANK 699]
- 788 构 构 construct, form  tree 375  cross out 773 gòu  
BF For the neighborhood church, we were able to **construct** a *cross out* of *wood* (ouch!). [8 STROKES RANK 511]
- 789 序 序 order, sequence  shelter r 681  give\* 763 xù  
BF The homeless people all line up at the *shelter*. We will *give* them food in the **order** in which they came. [7 STROKES RANK 836]
- 790 私 私 selfish, personal, private  rice or grain 409  private 750 sī  
BF What! The Communist leaders are keeping all the *grain* harvest for their personal and *private* use. How unjust—and how **selfish**! [7 STROKES RANK 1023]



- 791 购 购 buy, purchase  cowrie 430  cross out 773 gòu  
I have my shopping list in one hand, and my *money* in the other. Each time I **buy** something on the list, I *cross out* the item. [8 STROKES RANK 1078]
- 792 矣 矣 marks completed action  private 750  arrow 334 yǐ  
This character represents a Chinese particle, dating from classical times, which marks the completion of an action. Grammatically, it functions similar to modern 了, 'le'.  
Imagine the '*private*' component as a concrete barrier, against which the flying *arrow* collides and stops. Its **action is completed**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 2069]
- 793 埃 埃 dirt, dust  earth, soil 9  marks completed action 792 āi  
BF At life's end, the *completion of my activity on this earth*, my body turns into **dust**. [10 STROKES RANK 1121]
- 794 幻 幻 fantasy  youngest 775  place of refuge 111 huàn  
BF My *youngest* child was always prone to odd, **fantastic/** dreams. He always woke up screaming, and needed his mother's *comforting arms* to soothe him back to sleep. [4 STROKES RANK 1417]
- 795 幽 幽 remote, secluded  mountain 21  youngest (times 2) 775 yōu  
BF The two '*youngest*' components look like a brush disguising the *mountain* pass and keeping everything **remote** and **secluded**. [9 STROKES RANK 1636]
- 796 ㊦ ㊦ fire r  
CMP These are several of the little blue **flames** on a gas burner.  
Fire uses up resources and things—by burning them to a crisp—so we will sometimes use this meaning.

797 点 点 dot  practice divination 172  fire r 796 diǎn  
The fortune teller failed to *foretell* the *fire* that would break out during the night, and the family's vast possessions were reduced to **dots**.




[9 STROKES RANK 128]

798 然 然 correct, so  meat 317 (altered)  dog 332  fire r 796 rán  
**BF** Some ancient scribe must have been a gourmand with peculiar tastes. His favorite dish, *meat of dog*, must be roasted on a *fire* for it to be **correctly** done.



[12 STROKES RANK 55]

799 烈 烈 strong, intense  arrange, line up 659  fire r 796 liè  
**BF** To start a *fire* in the fireplace or barbecue, carefully *arrange* the charcoal bricks. The better you do this, the more **intense** will be the fire!





[10 STROKES RANK 802]

800 庶 庶 numerous  shelter r 681  horned animal 100  fire r 796 shù  
**BF** Picture a brutal blizzard night, out west in cattle country. These *cows* are normally ornery, but on such a vicious evening, they're happy to take advantage of the *shelter* the barn provides. They warm themselves by a large *fire*. You know the weather's bad because these cold cattle are so **numerous**.




[11 STROKES RANK 3016]



801 席 席 mat  numerous 800 (altered)  towel 130 xí  
**BF** A *mat* is a *cloth* on the ground where *numerous* people gather to sit and relax.

[10 STROKES RANK 894]

802 燕 燕 swallow bird  
 horned animal 100  north 145 (altered)  mouth 41  fire r 796 yàn

**BF** Here's a parent **swallow** returning to feed her fledglings. Look, there they are, the four hungry dots each with a *burning* appetite. That's not an *animal* up top, but rather their distinctive tail. Compared with other birds, their wings appear short and stubby, but the bird's natural habitat is way up *north*, so it's no wonder its wings resemble the '*north*' component. We use an open *mouth* to represent the bird's compact body. [16 STROKES RANK 1705]



803 黑 黑 black  staring through window  earth, soil 9  fire r 796 hēi  
 The war is over. *Staring through the window* at the devastation is wrenching. *Fire* has ripped into the *earth*, and **blackened** it. [12 STROKES RANK 519]

804 默 默 silent, keep silent  black 803  dog 332 mò  
**BF** The *black dog* was **silent** all night long, proving that the burglar must have been a member of the household, known to the dog. [16 STROKES RANK 1031]





# Unit 35

## Stop and Go

805 墨 墨 ink, ink stick  black 803  earth, soil 9 mò  
Scribes use a *black, earth*-like substance to make **ink**.


[15 STROKES RANK 1493]

806 杰 杰 outstanding person, hero  tree 375  fire r 796 jié  
**BF** A *tree* surviving a raging *conflagration*? It must be truly outstanding, and, by analogy, refers to a **outstanding person**.


[8 STROKES RANK 1129]

807 纟 纟 silk r  
**CMP** Somehow, these are **silk** threads twisted together.













Chinese weavers are skilled artisans, and sometimes we wish to emphasize the structure of their work. We would then use a complicated form of this radical, 糸.















808 乡 乡 township  silk r 807 (altered) xiāng  
A certain level of industrialization is necessary to transform the raw *silk* cocoons into the kind of thread that can be woven into clothes. The alteration in the *silk* radical symbolizes the alteration that applies to the cocoon. Typically, you need to be in a **town** to find artisans with the proper skills to do this.








[3 STROKES RANK 922]







809 丝 丝 silk\*  silk r (times 2) 807 sī  
See how the two *silk* threads are joined at the bottom strokes to yield superior strength to the resulting **silk** fabric.

[5 STROKES RANK 1026]

- 810 红 红 red  silk r 807  labor, work 7 hóng  
The Chinese people love a certain bright orangey **red** color. If a *silk* garment is to be properly seductive, to do its *work*, it must be that color.  
[6 STROKES RANK 502]
- 811 纽 纽 button  silk r 807  hideous 37 niǚ  
BF In the very old days, a piece of poorly-woven *silk*—silk that was too *hideous* for any other use—was pressed and knotted together to make a **button**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1767]
- 812 组 组 section, group  silk r 807  moreover 15 zǔ  
The spoiled rich kids fling their *silk* shirts on the *bookcase*. *Moreover*, they let the maid pick up this **group** of shirts and bring it to the laundry.  
[8 STROKES RANK 358]
- 813 结 结 tie, knit, knot, weave  silk r 807  lucky 56 jié  
High-quality Chinese gift stores display and sell some of the most intriguing and entrancing decorative **knots** I have ever seen. Made of *silk*, they symbolize good *luck*.  
[9 STROKES RANK 236]
- 814 细 细 thin, slender  silk r 807  field 57 xì  
Think here of the newly sprouted wheat in a farmer's *field*. At first, these shoots resemble *silk* threads, they are so **fine** and **slender**.  
[8 STROKES RANK 597]
- 815 纠 纠 correct, rectify  silk r 807  speak up! 92 jiū  
BF Fancy officials, all dressed up in their *silk* gowns, can intimidate ordinary citizens. One honest soul has discovered an error in the proclamation, and *speaks up* in an effort to **rectify** the situation.  
[5 STROKES RANK 1723]













- 816 绳 绳 rope  silk r 807  tadpole 136 shéng  
*Silk* threads by themselves are pretty weak. But make a paste of *tadpole* bodies, smear it on the silk, and—presto—you have a strong **rope**.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1983]
- 817 纵 纵 vertical  silk r 807  from 313 zòng  
 BF You test the quality of *silk* thread by holding it taut so it extends *from* top to bottom—vertically.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1236]
- 818 纳 纳 accept, receive  silk r 807  inside\* 318 nà  
 BF In the ancient world, odd pieces of *silk* served as receipts for important items. That is, the writing *inside* the scrap of *silk* showed that the owner had **received** the item in question in good condition. [7 STROKES RANK 684]
- 819 给 给 give  silk r 807  cozy house 509 gěi  
 The sight of my freshly pressed *silken* dressing gown waiting for me in my *cozy house* always **gives** me a tiny frisson of pleasure no matter how often this happens. [9 STROKES RANK 180]
- 820 约 约 ask, invite  silk r 807  spoon 642 yuē  
 Your host is wearing his best *silk* suit, and uses a *spoon* as a symbolic ‘welcome’ to his home. How could you ask for a better **invitation** than this? [6 STROKES RANK 424]
- 821 药 药 medicine  grass r 94  ask, invite 820 yào  
 Especially in olden times, **medicine** was created out of *grasses* and other herbal components. These potions were *invitations* to get better.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 662]
- 822 绕 绕 wind, coil  silk r 807  legendary emperor 374 rào  
 News flash: they’ve just discovered the mummified body of the *legendary emperor* Yao. It was preserved by means of masses of *silk* thread, which were **coiled** around the royal corpse. [9 STROKES RANK 1485]












- 823 绘 绘 draw, paint  silk r 807  meet, assemble 753 huì  
**BF** There's a bunch of strange guys who *meet* to practice strange artistic techniques. They use *silk* threads to **paint** pictures, which have a strangely rich appearance. [9 STROKES RANK 1809]
- 824 统 统 gather, unite  silk r 807  fill, full 772 tǒng  
**BF** The embroidery project is going to take all of my attention. All the *silk* threads completely *fill* my hand as I **gather** them together to begin the project. [9 STROKES RANK 264]
- 825 绿 绿 green  silk r 807  record, write down 549 lǜ  
The ministers *recorded* the proclamation in gold letters on *silk* brocade. Alas, the gold was false, and the characters soon turned **green**. [11 STROKES RANK 1088]
- 826 经 经 warp (fabric)  silk r 807  man 311 (altered)  labor, work 7 jīng  
The **warp** are those threads in the making of cloth that form parallel tracks in the cloth. Perpendicular to them run threads going over and under them to create the fabric.  
Thus, the **warp** of the *silk* cloth provides channels up and down around which an active *man* (see the cartoonish horizontal stroke on his head which indicates action or movement) scurries doing all kinds of *work*. [8 STROKES RANK 62]
- 827 纯 纯 pure, unmixed  silk r 807  electricity 138 (altered) chún  
*Silk* can conduct *electricity* (believe it or not) as long as the wire is **pure** silk. [7 STROKES RANK 1125]













- 828 素 素 plain, simple, quiet  plentiful 12 (altered)  silk r 807 sù  
**BF** There's something ironic in a character meaning 'plain' being so visually complex! But perhaps that's the point...  
*Lots of* elegant dresses use *silk* in an understated way (and 'silk' is indeed on the underside of the character) to create **plain** but elegant clothes.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 661]
- 829 系 系 academic department  dab 169  silk r 807 xì  
 Life in **academic college departments** is funny. The politics is convoluted and brutal, a *bit* like complex *silken* embroidery but of far less value.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 216]
- 830 线 线 thread, string, wire  silk r 807  tiny, fragmentary 373 xiàn  
 When you take *silk* and shred it into *fragmentary* bits, you get silk **thread**.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 430]

## Unit 36



# A Picture is Worth One Thousand Words




- 831 续 续 continue, extend, replenish  silk r 807  sell 341 (altered) xù
- The *silkworms* in the *cellar* (sounds like 'seller') are thriving. They multiply and **replenish** themselves, escape from their tanks, and crawl up the walls and into our bedrooms. It's awful! [11 STROKES RANK 552]
- 832 率 率 rate, proportion  cover 268  silk r 807  strings  scepter 5 lù
- Pay attention to the piece of *silk* at the center of this glyph. It's surrounded by all kinds of marks representing frayed threads. The *silk* hasn't been hemmed, and gradually, at a slow **rate**, the threads unravel. [11 STROKES RANK 625]
- 833 索 索 search, demand, exact  market 273 (altered)  silk r 807 suǒ
- BF** I **search** the entire *market* for the best *silk*, comparing quality and price, so I can **exact** the best deals. [10 STROKES RANK 805]
- 834 编 编 weave, plait  silk r 807  flat, crushed 729 biān
- The best way to deal with a bunch of *silk* threads is to **weave** them into a *flat* piece of fabric. [12 STROKES RANK 858]
- 835 紫 紫 purple  this 233  silk r 807 zǐ
- In the old days, it was tough to impart a rich **purple** color to cloth. *This* color was special, and used only for special garments, such as those made from *silk*. [12 STROKES RANK 1646]

- 836 累 累 pile up, accumulate  field 57  silk r 807 lěi  
 BF Use threads of *silk* to tie together the products of our *fields* as they **accumulate** in a good year. [11 STROKES RANK 1323]
- 837 绩 绩 merit, accomplishment  silk r 807  responsibility 439 jì  
 BF The student **merits** the *silk* robes of an accomplished scholar by virtue of her *responsibility* and diligence. [11 STROKES RANK 1547]
- 838 裌 裌 clothing r  
 CMP A favorite gown has been hung in the closet (waiting its turn for the next regal occasion), and it's a little crushed as a result, as you can see.
- 839 衣 衣 clothing  clothing r 838 (altered) yī  
 BF Imagine a favorite **gown** hung on a hanger, just after it's come back from the cleaners. The lines suggest the lines of this fine garment. Look sharp to see the stylish collar (the dab shows the position of the head) surmount the flowing sleeves and the drape of the body of the gown. [6 STROKES RANK 725]
- 840 袖 袖 sleeve  clothing r 838  let sb do sth 48 xiù  
 BF Imagine that *clothes* originally took the form of table cloth-like garments draped over a person's head. It was hard to maneuver in them until some fashion genius created **sleeves** which *allowed people to do whatever they wanted*. [10 STROKES RANK 1686]
- 841 表 表 external, surface  hair 231 (altered)  clothing 839 (altered) biǎo  
 BF When *hair* appears on an article of *clothing* (say a fur coat), it appears on the **external surface**. [8 STROKES RANK 177]
- 842 展 展 expand, develop  corpse 703  clothing 839 (altered) zhǎn  
 An ugly traffic accident. We **spread** some *clothes* over the *corpse* out of respect for both the victim and the other people at the accident site. [10 STROKES RANK 275]


- 843 农 农 agriculture  clothing 839 (altered) nóng  
 BF Scholars speculate that **agriculture** was the first accomplishment of civilization. By altering the fruits and vegetables that early farmers cultivated, it became possible to create warm and durable *clothing*. [6 STROKES RANK 465]
- 844 浓 浓 dense, thick  water r 523  agriculture 843 nóng  
 That's how you get fields **dense** with crops—practice *agriculture* and use plenty of *water*. [9 STROKES RANK 1585]
- 845 补 补 mend, patch  clothing r 838  foretell 170 bǔ  
 I'm a guy, and so don't have a clue how to **patch clothes**. As far as I'm concerned, somebody takes a *magic wand* and waves it over the tear to make it go away. [7 STROKES RANK 944]
- 846 裁 裁 cut, cut cloth  earth, soil 9  clothing 839  halberd 359 cái  
 There's no time to waste, so I use my *halberd* to make *clothes*, and I throw the scraps on the *ground*. That's how real men **cut cloth!** [12 STROKES RANK 1203]
- 847 裂 裂 split, divide up  arrange, line up 659  clothing 839 liè  
 The volunteers have *lined up* the used *clothing* in neat piles, and are ready to **divide it up** among the worthy poor. [12 STROKES RANK 1317]
- 848 衰 衰 decline, wane, feeble  clothing 839 (altered)  day, sun 63 (altered) shuāi  
 BF Look how gaudy this guy's *clothes* are—so much so that the *sun* seems to shine out of it. As men's clothes get more outrageous, so does civilization **decline**. [10 STROKES RANK 1702]






- 849 哀 哀 sorrow, lament  clothing 839 (altered)  mouth 41 ǎi  
 BF At times of mourning or other great **sorrow**, you wear special types of *clothing* and, with your *mouth*, you **lament**. [9 STROKES RANK 1751]



- 850 袁 袁 Yuan Shikai  earth, soil 9  mouth 41  clothing 839 (altered) yuán  
 Yuan Shikai (袁世凱), first President of the Republic of China (1912-15), declared himself Emperor in 1916. The normal glyph for ‘imperial robes’ 袞 shows traditional intricacy, especially on the top. Lines are clean and spare in the twentieth century, as you see here. Think of **Yun Shikai**’s imperial aspirations, the cleaner lines of the *robes* being *grounded* in edicts issuing from his *mouth* to justify the renewal of royalty. [10 STROKES RANK 1755]



- 851 己 己 self\* r  
 CMP BF This character looks like a backwards ‘s’, which stands for ‘self’.  
 Also: like life itself, the line segments of 己 constantly change direction.  
 A life history of oneself in miniature. [3 STROKES RANK 162]

- 852 己 己 self\*  self\* r 851 jǐ  
 BF [3 STROKES RANK 162]

- 853 己 己 already  self\* 852 (altered) yǐ  
 BF Compared to the previous panel, we see here that the topmost of the open spaces are about to close up. The course of life has **already** been charted.  
 [3 STROKES RANK 117]










- 854 岂 岂 how could it be?  mountain 21  self\* 852 qǐ  
 He has a *mountain* of troubles weighing him down. His whole *self* is enmeshed in these difficulties. **How can it be** that he will ever get out of this mess? [6 STROKES RANK 1726]




855 记 记 remember  speech r 615  self\* 852 jì  
*Speaking to oneself* over and over helps to **remember** stuff—shopping lists, speeches, material for tests, and so on. [5 STROKES RANK 306]

856 纪 纪 historical record  silk r 807  self\* 852 jì  
**BF** On a piece of *silk* brocade, an artisan has woven an intricate pattern signifying the **historical records** of many people—many *selves* and their historical accomplishments. [6 STROKES RANK 584]

## Unit 37



### Time Waits for No Man

- 857 包 包 wrap, envelope  wrap 636  self\* 852 (altered) bāo  
Wrapping yourself tightly in a warm winter cloak, say, emphasizes the concepts of wrapping and enveloping. [5 STROKES RANK 454]
- 858 泡 泡 blister, bubble  water r 523  wrap, envelope 857 pào  
A blister is a bit of water wrapped up in your skin. [8 STROKES RANK 2000]
- 859 弓 弓 bow (weapon)  self\* 852 (altered) gōng  
Many weapons of war, especially in ancient times, required teamwork to use—think of cannon, catapults, and so on. One weapon that could be worked by a soldier himself was the bow. [3 STROKES RANK 2229]
- 860 起 起 rise  to walk 421  self\* 852 qǐ  
Imagine taking a walk on a steamy summer day after a drenching rain. The ‘self’ component looks like a wisp of vapor, a cloud of steam rising from the pavement from the heat of the day. [10 STROKES RANK 75]
- 861 配 配 join together  new wine 303  self\* 852 pèi  
“Now we join together this couple in the bonds of holy matrimony.” In celebration, let’s raise the glass of wine to toast the happy couple, who are now committed to treating the other as they would themselves. [10 STROKES RANK 738]

862 危 危 danger, imperil  cliff r 671  man 311 (altered)  self\* 852 (altered) wēi




BF A deranged *man* near the edge of a *cliff* **imperils** himself.

[6 STROKES RANK 826]



863 脆 脆 fragile, brittle  boat, ship 597 (altered)  danger, imperil 862 cuì

Because it is **fragile** and **brittle**, the *boat endangers* all our lives.



[10 STROKES RANK 1976]

864 宛 宛 bent  roof 247  evening, dusk 655  self\* 852 (altered) wǎn



BF *Evening*, at *home*. The person *himself* is in bed, in a slumped and relaxed position while sleeping. That's why the body is **bent**. [8 STROKES RANK 2528]

865 仓 仓 barn, storehouse  man 311  self\* 852 (altered) cāng

BF That's not a *man*—it's the broad roof of a **barn** to **store** food and stuff for *yourself* and your family. [4 STROKES RANK 1882]

866 苍 苍 dark green  grass r 94  barn, storehouse 865 cāng

BF This character takes its meaning from the color of the wilted *grass* in a well-stocked *barn* that peaks out of the windows. From a distance, it appears **dark green**. [7 STROKES RANK 1728]

867 舱 舱 shipboard cabin or hold  boat, ship 597  barn, storehouse 865 cāng












BF The part of a *boat* dedicated to *storing* stuff is the **cabin**.



[10 STROKES RANK 1846]

868 抢 抢 pillage, loot  hand r 29  barn, storehouse 865 qiǎng

After the riot, the *barn* doors gaped open. The mob could not contain itself. The villagers used their *hands* to **pillage** and **loot** whatever they could.

[7 STROKES RANK 1412]

- 869 创 创 initiate, inaugurate  barn, storehouse 865  knife r 166 chuàng  
To celebrate the **inauguration** of the new *barn*, the town mayor has been invited to step forward and cut the ribbon with a *knife*.  
[6 STROKES RANK 635]
- 870 枪 枪 rifle, gun  tree 375  barn, storehouse 865 qiāng  
A long *barn* makes a perfect **rifle** range. Stand at one end with your **rifle** and shoot at the *tree* at the other end.  
[8 STROKES RANK 874]
- 871 导 导 guide, lead  already 853 (altered)  inch 210 dǎo  
**BF** A road only an *inch* wide is *already* in place. It will be an effective conduit or **guide** because generations of hobbits have maintained it properly.  
[6 STROKES RANK 343]
- 872 引 引 lead, guide  bow (weapon) 859  scepter 5 yǐn  
The king with his royal *scepter* together with his chief *bowman* **lead** the people to victory.  
[4 STROKES RANK 479]
- 873 厄 厄 trapped in difficult situation  cliff r 671  self\* 852 (altered) è  
Here *I* am, near the edge of a high *cliff*, **trapped** as a maniac tries to push me off.  
[4 STROKES RANK 2407]
- 874 顾 顾 attend to, look after  trapped in difficult situation 873  page, leaf 444 gù  
I was *trapped in a difficult situation* but I tripped over the *pages* of an open book, regained my balance, and was able to **attend to** the situation and fix it.  
[10 STROKES RANK 815]
- 875 袍 袍 robe, gown  clothing r 838  wrap, envelope 857 páo  
**BF** A **robe** is an article of *clothing* that *wraps* you from head to toe.  
[10 STROKES RANK 2324]



- 876 抱 抱 hold or carry in arms  hand r 29  wrap, envelope 857 bào  
When you **hold** or hug that special someone, you *enfold* them with your *hands*. [8 STROKES RANK 1122]



- 877 马 马 horse r  
CMP This is such a lovely character, especially in its traditional form



馬

which clearly shows the head, mane, back, legs, and tail tucked back underneath the body.

- 878 𠂇 𠂇 horse  horse r 877 mǎ  
[3 STROKES RANK 276]

- 879 玛 玛 agate  king 11  horse 878 mǎ  
[7 STROKES RANK 1248]  
BF Agates are gemstones characterized by a flowing, banded appearance. The bands can be splendid looking, almost *kingly* in some specimens. In others, the flowing shapes of the bands reminded the scribes (perhaps) of the flowing images of the mane of a *horse* in full gallop.

- 880 骂 骂 curse, abuse  mouth (times 2) 41  horse 878 mà  
[9 STROKES RANK 1449]  
Watch two merchants. All you can see of them here are their two *mouths* as they review the detail of a recent sale of a *horse*. The left guy purchased a *horse*, but the right one delivered a mule. Listen as they **curse** and **abuse** each other.

- 881 吗 吗 yes or no?  mouth 41  horse 878 ma  
[6 STROKES RANK 453]  
Getting your kids to answer questions with a simple ‘**yes**’ or ‘**no**’ is thankless. I scream from my *mouth* until I’m *hoarse* (sounds like ‘*horse*’).

882 驻 驻 halt, stay

𠂇 horse 878 𠂇 master 220









zhù

You know when someone's *mastered* the art of riding a *horse* when they're able to command it to **halt**, and it obeys.














[8 STROKES RANK 1288]












## Unit 38



# Prophet and Profit

- 883 骑 骑 ride or sit astride  horse 878  odd 343 qí  
Sitting astride a horse is an odd way to pass the time. After a while, it strains your muscles. [11 STROKES RANK 1398]
- 884 冯 冯 ford a stream  ice r 569  horse 878 píng  
BF Winter. The river is frozen solid, but we must cross it. General Washington needs to receive our message to plan the campaign. Using my trusty horse to carry me, we break through the ice, ford the stream, and deliver the crucial message. [5 STROKES RANK 1719]
- 885 鸟 鸟 bird  horse 878 (altered) niǎo  
Here's another beautiful character, which, to a beginner's eyes, superficially resembles 'horse' (§878). In the traditional form, you can make out the components of a peacock-like fowl
- 鳥
- which shows the fancy feathered head, the claws below, and the long tail feathers. [5 STROKES RANK 1263]
- 886 乌 乌 crow  bird 885 (altered) wū  
BF We see a crow as an eyeless bird. The absence of eyes emphasizes the jet-black-ness of the creature, no contrast anywhere. [4 STROKES RANK 1244]
- 887 鸣 鸣 bird or animal cry  mouth 41  bird 885 míng  
A bird call is produced through the mouths of birds. [8 STROKES RANK 1680]



- 888 岛 岛 island  bird 885 (altered)  mountain 21 dào  
The typical **island** at the time when people first designed these characters was formed by an undersea *mountain* sticking up and inhabited by nothing but *birds*.  
[7 STROKES RANK 798]
- 889 鸿 鸿 wild swan  river, Yangtze 524  bird 885 hóng  
BF One of the grandest of *river birds* is the **wild swan**.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1924]
- 890 虫 虫 insect  mouth 41  scepter 5  worm chóng  
The central apparatus of this component shows a *scepter*-like pin through a *mouth*-shaped cork, a tool often employed by naturalists to skewer their *worm*-like specimens. The hapless **insect** finds himself pinned to the board.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1287]
- 891 虽 虽 although, even though  mouth 41  insect 890 suī  
**Even though** I only opened my *mouth* to speak, and that only a little, somehow an *insect* flew in.  
[9 STROKES RANK 504]
- 892 强 强 strong, powerful  bow (weapon) 859  although, even though 891 qiáng  
*Although* the chieftain carried the huge *bow* into the peace talks, we knew he didn't need it. As it was, he was **stronger** than any other man there.  
[12 STROKES RANK 292]
- 893 妈 妈 mom  woman 581  horse 878 mā  
A true **mother** is a *woman* who would protect her child against herds of stampeding *horses*.  
[6 STROKES RANK 750]

- 894 骗 骗 deceive, swindle  horse 878  flat, crushed 729 piàn  
The city slicker bought the *horse* without examining it close up. It turned out to be an inflatable doll, looking good from a great distance. But in a few hours, and from close up, when all the air leaked out, the so-called animal was *flat*. The city slicker had been **swindled**. [12 STROKES RANK 1503]
- 895 融 融 melt, thaw  cauldron for meat or cereal 279  insect 890 róng  
The freezing soldiers stuffed ice into the *cauldron* for **melting** to get some drinking water. They found the water loaded with *insects* they couldn't see when the ice was still frozen. [16 STROKES RANK 1225]
- 896 蛋 蛋 egg  foot 419 (altered)  insect 890 dàn  
Birds aren't the only creatures who lay **eggs**. While on safari a few years back, some nasty *insect* used my *foot* as a nesting territory, and presented me with a wicked parasitic disease. [11 STROKES RANK 1387]
- 897 蛇 蛇 snake, serpent  insect 890  it 249 shé  
To many people, a **snake** is the essence of creepy-crawliness. For many people, *it* engenders primeval disgust as do many *insects*. [11 STROKES RANK 1689]
- 898 犾 犾 dog r  
CMP This component pictures the family **dog** curled up in front of the fireplace, and viewed from above. The main curve represents Fido's body in repose, his tail tucked up against him. The front pair of legs is attached to his ears, and the stroke representing his hind legs completes the sketch.
- 899 狱 狱 prison, jail  dog r 898  speech r 615  dog 332 yù  
BF Here's man, someone capable of *speech*, surrounded by two *dogs*, both big and fierce. In the old days, this was what served as a **prison**. [9 STROKES RANK 1597]

- 900 独 独 alone, only  dog r 898  insect 890 dú  
The pathetic-looking homeless person smells like a *dog* and is covered with *insects*. Phew! No wonder he or she is all **alone**. [9 STROKES RANK 627]
- 901 犯 犯 violate, offend, commit crime  dog r 898  single ear 157 (altered) fàn  
That *dog* ripped my *ear* off! I am **violated** and **offended**. [5 STROKES RANK 767]
- 902 狂 狂 mad, crazy, conceited  dog r 898  king 11 kuáng  
*Dogs* can be **mad**. People who are **mad** often think they are the *king*. That's what *dog*, *king*, and **madness** have in common. [7 STROKES RANK 1147]
- 903 狗 狗 dog\*  dog r 898  sentence 639 gǒu  
A **dog** is one of the few animals that is *dog-gone* smart enough to learn the meanings of simple *sentences*. [8 STROKES RANK 1281]
- 904 貌 貌 appearance, aspect  dog r 898 (altered)  white 201  elder brother\* 298 mào  
BF The component on the left—a *dog* gone wild—is by itself a very rare character denoting 'wild beast' (or sometimes 'legless worm!'). Since it's so rare, we'll just remember it as a dog with an emphasis on the teeth. Anyway, my *older brother* turned *white* as a sheet in its presence—his **appearance** changed dramatically. [14 STROKES RANK 1595]
- 905 猫 猫 cat  dog r 898  seedling 97 māo  
Believe it or not, the Chinese view the **cat** as a *dog*-like animal. In former days, the **cat** was not housebound, but wandered freely throughout the *seeded* fields, looking for mice, moles, and other farm pests. [11 STROKES RANK 1673]

The heart is apparently an especially important organ to the Chinese. It occurs as a component in not one but two forms.

## 906 心 心 heart (fat)

**CMP** This is the first of those two forms, and occurs when this component appears on the bottom of characters. As in Western prose and poetry, we'll often equate the **heart** with an emotion or emotional event.

## 907 心 心 heart

The central curve suggests the actual **heart**, surrounded by three gouts of blood.



heart (fat) 906 (altered)

xīn

[4 STROKES RANK 90]

## 908 志 志 aspiration

Scholarly accomplishments were punishingly difficult to achieve in ancient China, so much so that it becomes easy to interpret *scholarly emotion* as **aspiration**.



scholar 8













heart (fat) 906















zhì













[7 STROKES RANK 542]















## Unit 39

### Less is More

- 909 悲 悲 sad, sorrow  not 13  heart (fat) 906 bēi  
Sadness and sorrow are prime examples of *negative emotions*.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1166]
- 910 忠 忠 loyal  middle 45  heart (fat) 906 zhōng  
BF Central to all the *emotions* is loyalty.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1322]
- 911 闷 闷 stuffy, muggy  door 196  heart 907 mēn  
A giant *heart* threatens to fill up the *doorway*. It keeps growing and expanding! Any more of this, and you'll be smothered in the room. As it expands, the moist tissue gives off lots of water vapor, so everything feels **stuffy** as well.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1830]
- 912 息 息 breath, news  self 202  heart (fat) 906 xī  
BF In ancient times, one's **breath** was the exhaust (so to speak) of *one's own heart-felt emotion*.  
[10 STROKES RANK 428]
- 913 媳 媳 daughter-in-law  woman 581  breath, news 912 xí  
BF Family relations are emotion-laden connections. A *female relation* that causes the *breath* of a senior family member to increase in intensity might well be a **daughter-in-law**.  
[13 STROKES RANK 2393]

- 914 忘 忘 forget  perish 269  heart (fat) 906 wàng  
**Forgetting** is metaphorically akin to the *perishing* of *emotion*. The ‘perish’ bit looks like a heavy anvil, hammering down on the heart to shrink it.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1056]
- 915 忞 忞 attitude  too (much) 331  heart (fat) 906 tài  
**BF** That guy’s got a real **attitude**. It’s as if there’s *too much emotion* leaking out of his *heart*.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 528]
- 916 恩 恩 kindness, favor  because 345  heart (fat) 906 ēn  
*Because* the gods in heaven have *hearts*, they will grant us blessings and favors.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 888]
- 917 嗯 嗯 how come? why?  mouth 41  kindness, favor 916 ěng  
 Our *mouth* expresses **wonderment** about the sudden unexpected *kindness* and *favor* that fell our way.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 2042]
- 918 患 患 trouble, disaster  strung together 46  heart (fat) 906 huàn  
**BF** When several *emotions* are *strung together*, this may be a sign of **trouble**. How so? **Disaster** brings with it a plethora of emotions. It may help to view the ‘*strung together*’ component as a couple of weights attached to a sharp spear. An enemy is attacking your *heart*, and only **trouble** or **disaster** will follow.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1249]
- 919 思 思 think, consider  field 57  heart (fat) 906 sī  
**BF** An alien *field*, which has somehow come to life, pounds on my *heart* repeatedly to try to kill me. I have to **think** real hard if I want to save myself.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 298]
- 920 忌 忌 envy, be jealous  self\* 852  heart (fat) 906 jì  
**BF** A *heart* concerned only with the *self* easily **envies** others, since there is no room for generosity of feeling.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1922]

- 921 慧 慧 intelligence, wisdom  broom 36  heart (fat) 906 huì  
 BF It takes a good deal of **intelligence** to create a *broom* using an animal *heart*.  
 The ‘*broom*’ component itself looks like some kind of Rube Goldberg device that only someone possessed of extraordinary **wisdom** and **intelligence** could create. [15 STROKES RANK 1505]
- 922 惑 惑 confuse  or 363  heart (fat) 906 huò  
 BF For me, choosing the perfect wife is so *emotional*—I don’t know if I should choose my childhood sweetheart *or* the girl I met in graduate school. I’m so **confused**! [12 STROKES RANK 1600]
- 923 想 想 think, believe  appearance 391  heart (fat) 906 xiǎng  
 It’s amazing how often Chinese embed charming metaphors into their characters. For example, here we see the (metaphorical) *appearance* of a *heart* as a **thought** or **belief**. [13 STROKES RANK 99]
- 924 悬 悬 suspend, hang  county 766  heart (fat) 906 xuán  
 The *county* bigwig has his private clothes rack in his office. He is so forthright and outgoing it’s as if he **hangs** his *heart* there each day. [11 STROKES RANK 1879]
- 925 感 感 feel, sense  salty 371  heart (fat) 906 gǎn  
 Pouring *salt* on a wound is a famous way of increasing **feeling**, albeit in a negative sense. Here, the open wound is on some one’s *heart*. [13 STROKES RANK 243]
- 926 愿 愿 sincere, honest  original, unprocessed 676  heart (fat) 906 yuàn  
 BF What *emotion* do you feel when you visit a *pristine* mountain spring? Whatever it is, it’s sure to be **honest** and **sincere**. [14 STROKES RANK 598]



- 927 慈 慈 **compassionate, kind**  now, at present 779  heart (fat) 906 cí  
 BF Major religions teach that at *any moment*, one's goal should be to be full of an *emotion* which is **compassionate, kind, and loving**.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1487]
- 928 惠 惠 **kind, benevolent, gentle**  insect 890  two 3  heart (fat) 906 huì  
 BF I saved *two insects* from the fly swatter. What *emotion* is that? Great **benevolence**.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1524]
- 929 怨 怨 **blame, reproach, reprove**  evening, dusk 655  self\* r 851 (altered)  heart (fat) 906 yuàn  
 Lying in bed at *night* is the worst—you're prey to all sorts of thoughts and *emotions* in which you **blame yourself** for everything wrong in your life.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1637]
- 930 忄 忄 **heart (skinny)**  
 CMP This is the second of the 'heart' components, which scribes use whenever a 'heart' component appears on the left. Imagine the bottom curve of §906 stretched taut and combining with one of the drops of blood. The remaining two drops suggest the bloody nature of this organ.
- 931 悟 悟 **realize**  heart (skinny) 930  me 81 wù  
 It took me a long time to **realize** that the *heart* inside *me* is the source of the real me.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1668]
- 932 怔 怔 **panic-stricken**  heart (skinny) 930  correct 183 zhēng  
 BF After a **panic attack**, the *heart* has to *correct* its rhythms.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 2191]
- 933 性 性 **nature, character**  heart (skinny) 930  give birth to 191 xìng  
 The *heart gives birth to* the true **nature and character** of someone.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 122]





934 怕 怕 to fear, be afraid  heart (skinny) 930  white 201 pà  
 My wife awoke last night from a terrible nightmare, all **in fear**. It's a dreadful *emotion*—her face was *white*. [8 STROKES RANK 631]



## Unit 40



### Curves and Straightaways












- 935 忙 忙 busy  heart (skinny) 930  perish 269 máng  
When you're truly **busy** your *heart* is working so furiously it's in danger of *perishing*. [6 STROKES RANK 827]



It's easy to confuse this character 忙 with 忘 (§914) since both combine 亡 (§269) with one or the other forms of 'heart'. But the 'f' in 'forget' is like the 'f' in 'fat'—'forget' uses the 'fat' heart. Coldy efficient executives, 'busy' all the time, are in real danger of crowding emotion out of their lives completely. In 忙, the skinny 'heart' at the left will soon be pushed off the page to perish (or so it appears).



- 936 快 快 fast  heart (skinny) 930  surprised man 518 kuài  
A badly *surprised man* finds his *heart* beating wildly—very **fast**. It takes a couple of minutes for him to regain control. [7 STROKES RANK 366]

- 937 懂 懂 understand, know  heart (skinny) 930  director 229 dǒng  
You fully **understand** the issue when your *heart* is able to *direct* your behavior. [15 STROKES RANK 1211]




- 938 恰 恰 exactly, properly  heart (skinny) 930  cozy house 509 qià  
It's been a rough day at the office. At night, returning to my *cozy house*, my *heart* beats calmly at the welcome sight of an environment which is **exactly** what my soul needs. [9 STROKES RANK 1308]



- 939 愤 愤 anger  heart (skinny) 930  hasten 438 fèn  
**BF** Anger is often the result of *emotion* that develops with too much *haste*. If we force ourselves to stay calm in a stressful situation, we can more easily control angry feelings. [12 STROKES RANK 1508]
- 940 惯 惯 accustomed, used to  heart (skinny) 930  link up 438 guàn  
 Becoming **accustomed** to something is the process of regarding something as usual and ordinary which at first would have been unusual and special. Imagine *linking* your *heart* to this new something to reign in your emotion and so become **accustomed** to it. [11 STROKES RANK 1226]
- 941 悔 悔 regret, repent  heart (skinny) 930  every 600 huǐ  
**BF** Shoulda, woulda, coulda. **Regret** is an *emotion* that *everybody* feels. [10 STROKES RANK 1853]
- 942 恒 恒 permanent  heart (skinny) 930  speak 64  one (times 2) 2 héng  
**BF** That *speech* of love was so sincere that it carved not one but *two marks* on my *heart*. You weren't toying with my emotions—our love is a **permanent** state. [9 STROKES RANK 1764]
- 943 爿 爿 chopped wood  tree 375 (altered)  
**CMP** In keeping with its meaning of **chopped wood**, it's helpful to regard this component as the elaborated left half of 木 'tree' (§375).
- 944 臧 臧 lucky, good  chopped wood 943  archaic lance 367  subject of a ruler 17 zāng  
**BF** The battle rages to the right and left! The loyal *subject* finds himself in the midst of the melee. Suddenly, a huge *lance* plunges towards his neck, to be stopped at the last instant by a *piece of wood* that happened to get in the way. What **luck**—he lives to tell the story. [14 STROKES RANK 4304]



- 945 藏 藏 hide, conceal  grass r 94  lucky, good 944 cáng  
 BF The *lucky* guy found a pile of gold coins someone lost. He used a pile of *grass* to **hide** his treasure. [17 STROKES RANK 907]



- 946 足 足 foot r  mouth 41  stop! 181  
 CMP This is a distorted version of ‘foot’ (§419), which Chinese scribes use whenever ‘foot’ appears as a left ingredient for characters like 𧾷, 趾, and plenty more.



There are some folks about whom it is said they are so dumb that they cannot walk and talk at the same time. Here’s one of them. Since they’re using their *mouth*, they come to a complete *stop*. They are now standing still on their *feet*.












- 947 跃 跃 leap, jump  foot r 946  dab 169  big 330 yuè  
 BF Whenever you **jump**, you use your *feet* to leave the ground for a *small bit* of time. You try to **jump** as *high* as you can. [11 STROKES RANK 1516]

- 948 距 距 be apart or away from  foot r 946  huge 18 jù  
 With one step of his *foot*, our *huge* man from §18 quickly **moves away from** the jeering crowds. [11 STROKES RANK 1202]

- 949 跌 跌 fall, tumble  foot r 946  lose 427 diē  
 While using your *feet* to walk, run, or dance, if you *lose* your balance, you can take a nasty **tumble**. [12 STROKES RANK 1590]

- 950 跑 跑 run  foot r 946  wrap, envelope 857 pǎo  
 I have a lot of chores to do, and very little time. I use my *feet* to **wrap** them up by **running** from one place to the next. [12 STROKES RANK 864]

- 951 践 践 trample, tread upon  foot r 946  tiny, fragmentary 373 jiàn  
 BF The neighbor’s teenagers **trampled** all over my garden with their huge, Doc Martens-shod *feet*, destroying the *tiny* sprouts. [12 STROKES RANK 1578]

- 952 踏 踏 step on, tread, stamp  foot r 946  numerous, repeated 565 tà  
What does a *foot* do *repeatedly*? It **steps** and **stamps**, that's what.  
[15 STROKES RANK 1753]
- 953 亻 亻 man r  
CMP Here's the squished form of 人 (§311). In this form, it fits into the character square while leaving room for other stuff.
- 954 仁 仁 benevolence  man r 953  two 3 rén  
One of the most ideal feelings between *two men* is **benevolence**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 1360]
- 955 什 什 what  man r 953  ten 6 shén  
We've found it's a good idea to visualize abstract words like 'what' by means of well-known concrete phrases that use these words. 'What the hell!?'—we'll use this as our tag phrase for 什. For me, 'hell' is spending eternity with the *ten men* closest to me in life, and that's how we'll remember this character.  
[4 STROKES RANK 156]
- 956 任 任 assume a post  man r 953  scholar 8  dab 169 rèn  
The right component of 任 is not the 'king' of §11! Look closely—the middle horizontal is longer than its upstairs and downstairs neighbors.  
Here in the West, academic appointments work differently from 'regular' jobs. As he **assumes a new post**, the administration views this *man* as a *little bit* of a genuine *scholar*. He will receive re-appointments (and ultimately tenure) if he displays scholarly growth.  
[6 STROKES RANK 186]
- 957 佳 佳 fine, beautiful  man r 953  jade tablet 14 jiā  
We see a *person* contemplating a *jade tablet* because it's so **fine** and **beautiful**.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1583]

958 估 估 estimate  man r 953  ancient 51 gū

- 1 One of *man's ancient* skills is learning to **estimate** the value of goods.
- 2 One of your favorite summer jobs in college was the year you worked in the pawnshop downtown. You had to learn to accurately **estimate** or **appraise** every *old* and worthless thing brought in by any *man*.

[7 STROKES RANK 1326]

959 仲 仲 2nd in seniority  man r 953  middle 45 zhòng

I get the sense that this character originated at a time when small groups typically consisted of three things. The **second man** in a group of siblings, say, was apt to be the *middle* in age.

[6 STROKES RANK 1706]

960 伸 伸 stretch, extend  man r 953  express 47 shēn














Here's a *man* who's so sure of himself he's not afraid to *express* his opinion in any social setting, and thereby **extend** himself.

[7 STROKES RANK 1161]

# Unit 41















## Mighty Fine

- 961 伍 伍 5-man squad  man r 953  five 19 wǔ  
The components perfectly describe this meaning. The squad in question was part of the ancient armies of China. [6 STROKES RANK 1472]
- 962 何 何 denotes interrogation  man r 953  can; may 60 hé  
*Men* are the ones with all the *ability*—at least that was the received wisdom for centuries. Now modern science has turned that statement on its head. In the same way, when you turn a statement on its head, you get a **question**. [7 STROKES RANK 229]
- 963 侍 侍 serve, wait upon  man r 953  Buddhist temple 213 shì  
**BF** *Men* who work in religious *Buddhist temples* do so to **serve** God. [8 STROKES RANK 1871]
- 964 荷 荷 carry a burden  grass r 94  denotes interrogation 962 hè  
**BF** Here comes someone **carrying** a strange **burden** on their back. *What* is it? *Where* are they going? *Why* are they even bothering with it? It's a load of *grass* or hay. [10 STROKES RANK 1427]
- 965 但 但 but  man r 953  dawn 65 dàn  
You've heard the expression "down but not out." Well, here we have a *man* still lingering over his morning washing up and breakfast when he should be on his way to work—it's *dawn*, **but** he's not out! [7 STROKES RANK 95]

- 966 佰 佰 hundred (fraudproof)  man r 953  hundred 203 bǎi  
Gather *one hundred men*, and group them together. They will check each other and ensure each stays honest. The ‘**fraudproof**’ part relates to the maintaining of honesty among a group of merchants. [8 STROKES RANK 5437]
- 967 宿 宿 stay overnight  roof 247  hundred (fraudproof) 966 sù  
BF I can sleep anywhere. Just put a *roof* over my head, and I cheerfully get *one hundred* winks. I’m always calm in these situations; you might call me *fraughtproof* (sounds like ‘*fraudproof*’). I prefer to **stay overnight** so as to better enjoy the company of others. [11 STROKES RANK 1752]
- 968 缩 缩 contract, shrink  silk r 807  stay overnight 967 suō  
I let my *silk* underwear *stay overnight* in the washtub. Is anyone surprised that the garments **shrunk**? Now they’re too tight to be comfortable! [14 STROKES RANK 1304]
- 969 仙 仙 immortal  man r 953  mountain 21 xiān  
BF One feature of any landscape seems eternal and **immortal**—*mountains*. By comparing a *man* to a *mountain*, the anonymous Chinese artist illustrates **immortality**. [5 STROKES RANK 1255]
- 970 伯 伯 father’s elder brother  man r 953  white 201 bó  
BF Older brothers can be vicious to their siblings. One *man* so tormented his younger brother that the brother turned *white* with fear every time the boy saw his older brother. The boy, now a father himself, never forgot those feelings. [7 STROKES RANK 821]
- 971 付 付 pay  man r 953  hand 27 (altered)  inch 210 fù  
 dab 169  
This character shows a *hand* (a variant of §27) handing over *a little something* to he *man* on the left. That’s what it means to **pay** something to someone. [5 STROKES RANK 820]



- 972 咐 咐 to instruct, exhort  mouth 41  pay 971 fù  
 BF I *pay* a tutor to **instruct** me. The ‘*mouth*’ part shows him delivering his lecture as loudly as possible. I *pay through* the nose, and must *pay attention* as well. [8 STROKES RANK 2093]
- 973 府 府 mansion  shelter r 681  pay 971 fù  
 BF To buy a **mansion**, you have to *pay* and *pay* for this luxurious type of *shelter*. [8 STROKES RANK 417]
- 974 附 附 add, attach  hills 735  pay 971 fù  
 We are so **attached** to the picturesque *hills* outside town that we are glad to *pay* extra taxes and fees to keep them pristine and beautiful for us and future generations. [7 STROKES RANK 923]
- 975 促 促 to urge  man r 953  foot 419 cù  
 When *men* get **urges** to go to specific places, they use their *feet* to get them there. Of course, nowadays, we use cars, trains, and planes to scratch those itchy **urges**, but this was not so in the days of the scribes. [9 STROKES RANK 1102]
- 976 仆 仆 fall forward  man r 953  foretell 170 pū  
 BF The clumsy magician has a tendency to **fall forward** especially after drinking too much, but here’s magic to the rescue! He uses his powers to *foretell* the situation and right himself. [4 STROKES RANK 1812]
- 977 件 件 m for items, things, etc  man r 953  ox 186 jiàn  
 Nowadays, groups of items might well include things like ‘luggage’ or ‘designer shirts’. But in ancient times, things were of more immediate use, things like ‘cuts of meat’. Here, in fact, some *man* is about to divide up a freshly-slaughtered *ox* preparatory to counting out the **pieces** for distribution. [6 STROKES RANK 250]











- 978 们 们 plural marker  man r 953  door 196 men  
*People* naturally gather around gates and *doorways* in hopes of picking up bits of news or handouts of food, to buy and sell stuff, and so on, so this is a good way to show **the idea of many things**. [5 STROKES RANK 13]
- 979 信 信 letter  man r 953  speech 270 xìn  
 Today there are a million ways to communicate with someone not directly in front of you. Not so in the olden days. Then, a **letter** was the main way of capturing a *person's speech* in a permanent way. [9 STROKES RANK 176]
- 980 住 住 to live  man r 953  master 220 zhù  
 Where is *man* the *master* of his domain? Why, where he **lives**, of course! [7 STROKES RANK 309]
- 981 伟 伟 great, imposing  man r 953  leather 115 wěi  
**BF** A *man* appropriately decked out in *leather* garments and shoes appears very **imposing**. [6 STROKES RANK 1107]
- 982 俩 俩 two (colloquial)  man r 953  both, two 316 liǎ  
 This means almost the same thing as **both** or *two*, but it tends to be spoken whenever there are *two people* involved. [9 STROKES RANK 1574]
- 983 代 代 take the place of  man r 953  arrow type 356 dài  
 I've been waiting for hours on line, and then this *man* comes up to me holding a sharp *arrow* in a very threatening manner. Sure enough, he wants **to take my place** in line. [5 STROKES RANK 174]
- 984 伐 伐 cut down  man r 953  halberd 359 fá  
 In times of peace, *men* use their *swords* to **cut down** trees and crops. [6 STROKES RANK 1810]

985 俄 俄 Russian [ ] man r 953 [ ] I 361 é  
 Russian *men* are very *egotistical*. [9 STROKES RANK 975]

986 休 休 to rest [ ] man r 953 [ ] tree 375 xiū  
 BF A *person* leans against a *tree* to get a bit of **rest**. [6 STROKES RANK 1082]

## Unit 42

### Sooner or Later

- 987 保 保 protect, defend  man r 953  foolish, stupid 393 bǎo  
BF A *man* might try to use a *foolish* puppet to deceive the enemy into thinking that there are more men than there are. That's a well-known ploy to **defend** a settlement. [9 STROKES RANK 266]
- 988 堡 堡 fortress  protect, defend 987  earth, soil 9 bǎo  
BF In olden days, **fortresses** were lines of *protection* and *defense* constructed from giant walls of *earth*. [12 STROKES RANK 1521]
- 989 体 体 body\*  man r 953  root or stem of plant 378 tǐ  
BF The **body** is the *root* of a *man* or *woman*'s physical essence. [7 STROKES RANK 149]
- 990 例 例 example, instance  man r 953  arrange, line up 659 lì  
Why is this *man* so busy *lining things up*? They are jelly beans from a new bag of candy, and they show off all the **examples** of colors and flavors of the jelly beans. [8 STROKES RANK 547]
- 991 倒 倒 topple, fall over  man r 953  arrive 756 dǎo  
It's midnight, and I watch this tableau from the safety of my bedroom window. An odd, caped *man* has chased some other *man* down the street in a threatening manner. Indeed, as this *man* *arrived* at the safety of his house, he **fell over** from an excess of anxiety. (At this, the caped *man* ran away.) [10 STROKES RANK 608]

992 隹 隹 short-tailed bird  man r 953  master 220 zhuī

This pictograph is both a component and a very low frequency independent character. **Short-tailed birds** include pigeons, crows, and the like.

It's easy to confuse the right part with 主, 'master' (§220). But note carefully: 'master' has only three horizontals, while 'bird' has four! **Birds** fly over *masters*, so they deserve a 'higher' rank, and the additional chevron emphasizes this. [8 STROKES RANK 5837]

993 堆 堆 to heap up  earth, soil 9  short-tailed bird 992 duī

*Birds* rarely perch on the *ground*. The only way this could happen is if the *soil* was **heaped up** to fool the bird into thinking of it as a perch.

[11 STROKES RANK 1370]

994 推 推 push  hand r 29  short-tailed bird 992 tuī

Geese are becoming a positive nuisance in many parts of the United States, and courageous people in public parks often use their *hands* on these *short-tailed birds* in order to **push** their way through a flock.


[11 STROKES RANK 505]

995 唯 唯 only, alone  mouth 41  short-tailed bird 992 wéi

Many years ago, in London's Hyde Park I was fascinated to watch patient men who had, after a fashion, trained the wild pigeons there. Standing stock still, and teaching the *short-tailed birds* to use their hand as a perch, these avian trainers got one *bird* at a time—one bird **alone**—to peck seeds from the lips of their *mouths*. [11 STROKES RANK 1094]













996 崔 崔 lofty  mountain 21  short-tailed bird 992 cuī



BF When the *short-tailed bird* flies to the top of the *mountain*, it takes a **lofty** flight path. [11 STROKES RANK 2552]




997 催 催 to urge\*  man r 953  lofty 996 cuī



We **urge** *lofty* behavior upon our *friend* before things get too out of hand.



[13 STROKES RANK 2064]



- 998 霍 霍 suddenly, quickly  rain 85  short-tailed bird 992 huò  
**Suddenly**—with no warning—the flock of *short-tailed birds* flying overhead *showers* you with their filthy droppings. [16 STROKES RANK 1442]
- 999 准 准 standard, criterion  ice r 569  short-tailed bird 992 zhǔn  
**BF** *Birds* worthy enough of being kept on *ice* conform to a certain **standard**. [10 STROKES RANK 379]
- 1000 惟 惟 way of thought, -ism  heart (skinny) 930  short-tailed bird 992 wéi  
This guy is a real *bird-brain*. He's so enthusiastic about *bird-watching* and all things pertaining to *birds* (especially those with *short tails*), that his entire **way of thinking** is organized into bits of *emotion* which flutter around inside him like *birds*. [11 STROKES RANK 1856]
- 1001 焦 焦 burnt, scorched  short-tailed bird 992  fire r 796 jiāo  
**BF** The best example of something being **burnt** or **scorched**—in a good sense—is the notion of a large and *short-tailed bird* being slow roasted over a *fire* for dinner. [12 STROKES RANK 1554]
- 1002 瞧 瞧 look at  eye 78  burnt, scorched 1001 qiáo  
When you *scorch* or *burn* something, you darken its color. This rich dark color reminds me of your beautiful, smoking hot *eyes* whenever I **look at** them. [17 STROKES RANK 1551]
- 1003 集 集 gather, collect  short-tailed bird 992  tree 375 jí  
**BF** A flock of *short-tailed birds* sits on a *tree*. If we could sneak up on them without alerting them, we could **gather** them by the dozens! [12 STROKES RANK 406]

1004 雇 雇 employ  door of house 724  short-tailed bird 992 gù  
Jobs can seem constricting and confining, just like solitary confinement in prison. Others regard themselves in their **employment** as caged *short-tailed birds* with the only way out firmly blocked by the *door*.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1817]

1005 雁 雁 wild goose  high cliff 679  man r 953  short-tailed bird 992 yàn  
How do birds fly in China? Not in a v-formation, for they don't have this letter! In China, they say that migrating birds fly in a 人-shape (§311). The Chinese therefore see **wild geese** as a flock of *short-tailed birds* launching themselves in 人-formation from a higher *cliff*.  
[12 STROKES RANK 2553]

1006 鹰 鹰 eagle  wild goose 1005 (altered)  bird 885 yīng  
Scribes emphasize the nobility and grandeur of the **eagle** by illustrating the *bird-ness* of the *wild goose*.  
[18 STROKES RANK 1927]

1007 伏 伏 bend over  man r 953  dog 332 fú  
The only way the *man* can pet the cute *doggie* is if he **bends over** to do it.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1389]

1008 停 停 stop, pause  man r 953  pagoda 514 tíng  
1 When the *man*, a typical tourist, first encountered the beautiful *pagoda*, its beauty and grace forced him to **stop** in his tracks.  
2 Here's a *man* in such a religious trance that he bumps his nose on the *pagoda* that he was coming to pray in. That forced him to **stop!**  
[11 STROKES RANK 693]

1009 仰 仰 look up  man r 953  head held high 160 yǎng  
A *man* who is *holding his head high* is **looking up**. [6 STROKES RANK 1368]

1010 值 值 to be worth  man r 953  straight, vertical 16 zhí




Here's a silly image. If you want to buy a person, you go to a *person* store, where all the available people are hung neatly on the walls, all *straight* and *vertical*. Trying to make a selection? Check the labels next to each piece of merchandise—it tells you exactly how much each **is worth!**

[10 STROKES RANK 600]

1011 侧 侧 inclined to  man r 953  standard, norm 431 cè

People who do *normal* stuff all the time are **inclined** to keep on doing it.

[8 STROKES RANK 1220]

1012 侦 侦 to spy  man r 953  foretell 170  cowrie 430 zhēn









**BF** How do you **spy** on someone? The *man* here can *foretell* the person's actions with a device made from a *cowrie shell*.

[8 STROKES RANK 1479]






























## Unit 43








# Silence is Golden

- 1013 侯 侯 archery target  man r 953  cover 268 (altered)  arrow 334 hóu  
BF A *man* shooting an *arrow* into the air. A *covering*—perhaps a roof or a tree, but most likely the **archery target**—stops it. The change on the top of ‘*cover*’ makes the dab look like a handle, so it’s easy to move the **target**.  
More commonly, this character refers to a **marquis**, a Chinese nobleman. Perhaps only noblemen with the leisure their class afforded them were able to practice archery. [9 STROKES RANK 1756]
- 1014 候 候 time, season  archery target 1013  path hòu  
BF “**Time** flies like an arrow.” Well, here’s that arrow’s *path*, unfortunately very short, cut short by the *archery target*, perhaps a metaphor for death itself. [10 STROKES RANK 341]
- 1015 他 他 he  man r 953  also\*, too\* 140 tā  
Human beings are human precisely because we each one of us store all our different traits in a single body. In this case we concentrate on one *man*. **He** can be clever but *also* dumb, considerate but *also* selfish, outgoing but *also* shy, and so on and so on. [5 STROKES RANK 10]
- 1016 化 化 change, transform  man r 953  ancient ladle 142 huà  
The one constant thing in a person’s life is **change**. Hooking a symbol like ‘*ancient ladle*’ to a *man* emphasizes the **changes** and **transformations** that are ever present. [4 STROKES RANK 178]

- 1017 花花 blossom, flower  grass r 94  change, transform 1016 huā  
The most amazing *transformation* in the plant kingdom, in my opinion, is to observe how a *green plant changes* as it develops a beautiful, fragrant blossom. [7 STROKES RANK 410]
- 1018 华华 glory, splendor  change, transform 1016  ten 6 huá  
Note that the ‘*ten*’ is slightly altered—the cross-stroke is much nearer the top of the vertical than is usual, as if to resemble a stage for all to see the *transformation* to take place. What merits such display? Something *glorious* will ensue, and everyone deserves to see it. [6 STROKES RANK 412]
- 1019 货货 goods  change, transform 1016  cowrie 430 huò  
This character encompasses half of a freshman economics course. *Wealth* supports the *transformation* of resources into **goods** and commodities that you can sell to create even more *wealth!* [8 STROKES RANK 818]
- 1020 伦伦 human relationship  man r 953  order, coherence 457 lún  
BF In a healthy **human relationship**, one *person* brings *order* to the life of the beloved, and vice versa. [6 STROKES RANK 970]
- 1021 倾倾 incline, lean  man r 953  in an instant 458 qīng  
Here’s a *man* just walking along, minding his own business. Suddenly, he trips over a ladle hidden by leaves (see §458) and *in an instant* he finds himself **leaning** forward at a dangerous angle. Will he fall or regain his balance? [10 STROKES RANK 1260]
- 1022 侵侵 invade  man r 953  broom\* 133 (altered) qīn  
BF The ‘towel’ component in §133 has been altered to look like the character 又 ‘hand’, quite different from the ‘hand’ 手 of §27. (We’ll discuss this second ‘hand’ many units ahead, but in the meantime think of a hand in the form of a closed fist.) Perhaps the fist emphasizes the aggressive action of the *man*, who is preparing to **invade** the domain of a *broom* handler. Apparently, sweeping is a very territorial occupation. Who knew? [9 STROKES RANK 1086]

- 1023 依 依 count on, depend on  man r 953  clothing 839 yī  
BF The *man* over there was so nicely dressed in smart *clothing* that we instinctively knew we could **count on** him for assistance. [8 STROKES RANK 568]
- 1024 似 似 seem, appear  man r 953  use, take 323 sì  
BF During Mardi Gras, *men* use unusual costumes to **appear** to be something they are not. [6 STROKES RANK 431]
- 1025 谁 谁 who  speech r 615  short-tailed bird 992 shuí  
An owl is a *bird* with a very *short tail* whose cry sounds like *speech*. The owl calls out “Hoo, hoo—**who, who.**” [10 STROKES RANK 648]
- 1026 维 维 fiber, hold together  silk r 807  short-tailed bird 992 wéi  
BF I’ve trained my little *short-tailed bird* to fly back and forth carrying light-weight *silk* threads each time. Gradually we build up the strength of the composite **fiber** until such time as we can pull the two sides and **hold them together** with this length of **fiber**. [11 STROKES RANK 520]
- 1027 偏 偏 inclined to one side  man r 953  flat, crushed 729 piān  
The safe fell out the window, and a *man* was *crushed* to death. Now he is **inclined to one side**—in fact, his head points backwards. [11 STROKES RANK 1204]
- 1028 售 售 sell\*  short-tailed bird 992  mouth 41 shòu  
BF The market is falling! The price of chicken is plummeting, as you see here—that’s why the *short-tailed bird’s mouth* is on the bottom. If we don’t **sell** now, for whatever we can get, we’ll lose everything! [11 STROKES RANK 1114]
- 1029 符 符 tally, symbol, sign  bamboo r 243  pay 971 fú  
In ancient China, absent computers, shopkeepers **tallied** purchases via **marks** on small slices of *bamboo* so customers (and clerks) knew how much to *pay*. [11 STROKES RANK 1205]

- 1030 债 债 debt  man r 953  responsibility 439 zhài  
Paying off **debt** is a *man's* primary *responsibility*. [10 STROKES RANK 1223]
- 1031 袋 袋 pouch, bag, pocket  take the place of 983  clothing 839 dài  
Pockets help *take the place of* bulky *clothing*. [11 STROKES RANK 1310]
- 1032 贷 贷 loan, borrow  take the place of 983  cowrie 430 dài  
A **loan** *takes the place of* your own *money*. [9 STROKES RANK 1605]
- 1033 腐 腐 rotten, putrid, stale  mansion 973 (altered)  meat 317 fǔ  
BF One of the workmen left a *ham* sandwich in one of the rooms of the *mansion* they worked in. They only realized it, days afterwards, when the stench of **rotting** *meat* filled the house. [14 STROKES RANK 1576]
- 1034 彳 彳 left step  dab 169  man r 953  
CMP Let's interpret this radical as a '*little man*', the metaphor being applied to the left side of the person. For most people, this is the weaker, and smaller, side.  
Imagine a person in front of you facing left. Although the heel of the foot is missing, this component clearly shows the **left foot**. The dab suggests the presence of the right foot, just visible next to it.  
Since the ancients associated the left with weakness, this component also has the meaning 'walk slowly'.
- 1035 行 行 firm, business  left step 1034  one 2  fourth 25 háng  
Stare for a bit at the right hand '*one fourth*' assembly. See how it is a mirror image—sorta kinda—of '*left step*'? Starting a **business** is a complicated procedure. Prudent entrepreneurs proceed carefully, *step by step*. Finally, when everything comes together, as the steps do here, are they ready to commence operations. [6 STROKES RANK 53]










- 1036 得 得 verbal particle  left step 1034  dawn 65  inch 210 de  
 As a grammatical particle, we Chinese speakers use this word to show how some action is carried out.  
 The ‘*left step*’ conveys the idea of action. We (figuratively) need to wait for *dawn* until there’s enough light to show us the the result of the action. Then, with the proper lighting, we can measure to the *inch* the nature of change to the verb. [11 STROKES RANK 39]
- 1037 征 征 go on a journey  left step 1034  correct 183 zhēng  
**BF** Setting off on a journey, particularly in the pre-automobile era of human history, involved literally taking *steps* toward your goal following the *correct* path. [8 STROKES RANK 739]
- 1038 懲 懲 punish, discipline  go on a journey 1037  heart (fat) 906 chéng  
**BF** Proper discipline is a *journey* filled with *emotion*. You keep your children (for example) on the proper path. [12 STROKES RANK 1821]

## Unit 44













### A Slice of Life















- 1039 德 德 Germany  
left step 1034 ten 6 net r 107 one 2 heart (fat) 906 dé
- BF This character puts me in mind of the **German** military getups common in nineteenth century operetta. Soldiers *goosestepping to the left*, capped by ornate helmets with tall ‘*ten*’-shaped (that is, cross-shaped) ornaments, while a *netful* of fabric weighted down by medals festoons their *single heart*.  
[15 STROKES RANK 256]
- 1040 律 律 law, rule  
left step 1034 pen, writing instrument 39 lǜ
- BF Imagine that the ‘*left step*’ is a symbol of regulation, in that all citizens march to the same step. **Laws**, written and recorded with *pens*, help **rule** society.  
[9 STROKES RANK 526]
- 1041 往 往 in the direction of, toward  
left step 1034 king 11 (altered) wǎng
- When you *march* as confidently as a *king* **in the direction** of your destination, you’ll get there sooner rather than later.  
[8 STROKES RANK 369]
- 1042 待 待 stay  
left step 1034 Buddhist temple 213 dāi
- We have earlier imagined a *Buddhist temple* as a place to enter and seek refuge. In this character, this process is made more explicit. A petitioner *steps* forward into the *temple*, preparing to **stay** for some time.  
[9 STROKES RANK 673]

- 1043 徒 徒 disciple, pupil, follower  left step 1034  to walk 421 tú  
**BF** In antiquity, ‘left’ is associated with clumsiness, shadiness, ineptitude, and other sinister attributes. So the *left steps* of a young person associated with the confident skillful *walking* of a Master is a way to refer to a **disciple** or **pupil** who still has a lot to learn from their teacher. [10 STROKES RANK 1060]
- 1044 径 径 path, track  left step 1034  man 311 (altered)  labor, work 7 jìng  
**BF** *Men* taking their *steps* in the same place every day to do the same *work*; that’s how *paths* get worn in the forest. [8 STROKES RANK 1307]
- 1045 御 御 control, manage  left step 1034  unload, take sth off 241 yù  
**BF** Effective bosses **manage** their work *step* by *step*, and make sure to *offload* each task properly. [12 STROKES RANK 1381]
- 1046 循 循 follow, abide by  left step 1034  shield 733 xún  
**BF** I am happy to **follow** Hercules into battle. He’s got the *shield*, and he bears the brunt of the fighting, while I *step* behind him in the relative calm there. [12 STROKES RANK 1744]
- 1047 丷 丷 eight (v)  
**CMP** The ‘v’ stands for *variant*.  
 When used as a component, the next character 亻 comes out as 丷. It’s as if the praying hands of the next panel relax immediately after the photo is snapped. In this relaxed pose, the finger tips point downward, as we see in this variant form.

- 1048 八 八 eight  eight (v) 1047 (altered) bā  
 Hands in prayer exert a strong pull for artists and photographers. Imagine here that some aspiring photographer attempts to capture hands in prayer from the side. Unfortunately, his own hands slip, and he only captures the upper portion of the pose. What we see are **eight** fingers in profile. Chinese scribes often associate 'eight' with the concept of 'abundance', and on occasion, we will too.  
 The number eight has a special significance for Chinese people. In the Cantonese language, the pronunciation of 八 makes it sound like a word meaning 'rich' or 'abundant', so 'eight' too becomes lucky. This happy connotation has since spread to Mandarin-speaking regions as well.  
 [2 STROKES RANK 451]
- 1049 兑 兑 exchange, convert  eight (v) 1047  elder brother\* 298 duì  
 When a lot of elder brothers—representing the best of several clans—gets together, you can bet there will be plenty of words **exchanged** between them.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 2424]
- 1050 悦 悦 pleased  heart (skinny) 930  exchange, convert 1049 yuè  
 BF Normally, people are dull and placid, but if we *convert* to something positive, then we will be **pleased**, a positive *emotion*. [10 STROKES RANK 1995]
- 1051 阅 阅 read, review  door 196  exchange, convert 1049 yuè  
 BF When the discussion group meets to **review** a book, it always leads to a noisy *exchange* of views. The *doorway* reminds us that we observe a view through it.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1489]
- 1052 说 说 speak, talk  speech r 615  exchange, convert 1049 shuō  
 If you don't mind a slightly highfalutin' image, the **speaking** you do with someone else involves *exchanging speech* between you. [9 STROKES RANK 24]

















- 1053 总 总 always, anyway  eight (v) 1047  mouth 41  heart (fat) 906 zǒng
- Every language has little words that appear all the time in speech in many contexts. They've all got many different meanings—like English 'just' or 'anyway'—that sharpen the speaker's expressions in any of several ways. 总 plays such a role in Chinese. An *abundance* of *verbal* aspects makes the speaker's *emotion* clear to his listener. [9 STROKES RANK 228]
- 1054 聪 聪 intelligent  ear 82  always, anyway 1053 cōng
- BF You've got to be **intelligent** to use your *ear* to identify the proper context and meaning of 'anyway'. [15 STROKES RANK 1669]
- 1055 具 具 tool, utensil  eye 78 (altered)  eight 1048 jù
- BF I (sounds like 'eye') become *abundantly* productive with the proper **tool**. [8 STROKES RANK 391]
- 1056 惧 惧 to fear, dread  heart (skinny) 930  tool, utensil 1055 jù
- BF The evil overseer walks around with a heavy *tool* in his hand, threatening the slaves for the slightest infraction. It led to an *emotional* climate of **fear** and **dread**. [11 STROKES RANK 1616]
- 1057 俱 俱 entirely  man r 953  tool, utensil 1055 jù
- Wasn't it Archimedes who said "Give me a lever and I will move the world" (or something like that)? Here's a *man* with a *tool*, and as a result he's **entirely** on his own. [10 STROKES RANK 1909]
- 1058 真 真 real  ten 6  tool, utensil 1055 zhēn
- With only one or two *tools* at hand, my weekend projects come out looking amateurish and crummy. But with *ten tools* at my disposal, the results look **real**. [10 STROKES RANK 204]




- 1059 慎 慎 cautious, careful  to fear, dread 1056 (altered)  ten 6 shèn  
 BF When you've been *frightened* by the same thing *ten* times in a row, you learn a degree of **caution**. [13 STROKES RANK 1765]
- 1060 谷 谷 cereal, grain  eight 1048  man 311  mouth 41 gǔ  
 BF Look closely at the grim face of a murderer—squinty eyes; large, ugly nose; and a huge, unsightly mouth. He shovels food into that *mouth* at the breakfast table as if this is his last meal. A **cereal** killer for sure. (Outrageous wordplay alert!) [7 STROKES RANK 1095]
- 1061 俗 俗 vulgar  man r 953  cereal, grain 1060 sù  
 BF The *man* with the 'cereal' face looks **vulgar**. [9 STROKES RANK 1354]
- 1062 六 六 six  dab 169  one 2  eight 1048 liù  
 Something flat, like the horizontal stroke for 'one' suggests something level, perhaps an even number. The *eight* on the bottom suggests an even number having some relation to *eight*. Finally, the *dab* on top suggests an even number which is slightly smaller than eight, a number like **six**. [4 STROKES RANK 478]
- 1063 小 小 small  eight 1048  hooked stick 24 xiǎo  
 The '*eight*' stands for the abundance, the fortune that I earned by my own efforts. Here comes someone with a *stick-like* weapon to try to take a part of it from me in outright robbery. What started as abundance ends up as something **small**. [3 STROKES RANK 83]
- 1064 示 示 show, indicate  two 3  small 1063 shì  
 BF Young mothers can be awful. Here's one with *two little* ones that she's forever **showing** off. [5 STROKES RANK 425]



## Unit 45



# Looking Good



- 1065 际 际 border, boundary  hills 735  show, indicate 1064 jì  
BF The distant *hills show* the country's **borders**. [7 STROKES RANK 423]
- 1066 标 标 to mark, label  tree 375  show, indicate 1064 biāo  
In those ancient days before felt-tip markers and embedded microchips, we would have **marked** our stuff using *wooden sticks to show* what belongs to us. [9 STROKES RANK 473]
- 1067 禁 禁 prohibit  forest 376  show, indicate 1064 jìn  
Despoilers of the environment, beware! As you gaze over the fence, the *forest shows* you its plentiful resources, but you are **prohibited** from touching them. [13 STROKES RANK 986]
- 1068 票 票 ticket  west 291 (altered)  show, indicate 1064 piào  
You need a **ticket** to see a *show* in London's *West End* (equivalent to the Broadway theater district in New York City). [11 STROKES RANK 910]
- 1069 漂 漂 drift, float  water r 523  ticket 1068 piāo  
The path of true love is rarely straight. On the way to a concert, the couple in front bursts into a loud argument. No concerts today! In the *water*, there are their *tickets*, **floating** forlornly in the current. [14 STROKES RANK 1568]
- 1070 尖 尖 point, tip  small 1063 (altered)  big 330 jiān  
The **point** or **tip** is where something *little* becomes *bigger and bigger* as you move away from it. (Think of a mountain top.) [6 STROKES RANK 1321]



- 1071 尘 尘 dust, dirt  small 1063 (altered)  earth, soil 9 chén  
 BF Dust and dirt form when nature pulverizes *earth* to form *small* particles.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 1718]
















- 1072 你 你 you  man r 953  man 311 (altered)  small 1063 nǐ  
 Ready for a lesson in visual perspective? Suppose I am speaking to you—that's me, the *man* there on the left. **You** appear to be a *smaller person* because you are standing farther away.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 32]















- 1073 余 余 surplus, remainder  man 311  show, indicate 1064 (altered) yú  
 When *men* get interested in *showing off* their possessions, we know they have a **surplus** at their command—they no longer are worried about sheer survival. To emphasize this, ancient scribes stuck a surplus stroke in the 'show' component.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 729]

- 1074 斜 斜 oblique, slanting  surplus, remainder 1073  cup-shaped 218 xié  
 I hold my *cup-shaped* cup and tea spills out. At first, I thought there was a *too much* in the cup, but it was me being clumsy—I was holding the cup so it **slanted**.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1786]

- 1075 涂 涂 smear, apply  water r 523  surplus, remainder 1073 tú  
 At a restaurant, for example, waiters are always pouring *water* into glasses. There's always *extra* water, and by the end of the meal, it's **smear**ed and spread over the entire table.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1735]

- 1076 茶 茶 tea  grass r 94  surplus, remainder 1073 (altered) chá  
 The top horizontal of the 'surplus' component is missing—so we can regard this component as representing something that is not *extra* but is essential. Perhaps the ancients regarded **tea** as a type of *grass*, so this character represents an essential herb, exactly how tea fanatics regard this brew to this day.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1272]

- 1077 京 京 capital city  cover 268  mouth 41  small 1063 jīng  
 BF Picture yourself as a country cousin in the **capital** for the first time. You *cover* your *mouth* in astonishment. All the monumental buildings, statues, well-dressed strollers, and so on make you feel so *small*.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 566]
- 1078 凉 凉 cool  ice r 569  capital city 1077 liáng  
 Ever been to *capital city* in mid-winter? It's perceptibly warmer than the surrounding countryside. When it's *icy* in the 'burbs, it's merely **cool** in the *capital*.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1581]
- 1079 惊 惊 startle, to alarm  heart (skinny) 930  capital city 1077 jīng  
 The country cousin in his country's *capital* is very ill at ease. His *emotions* are getting a fierce workout, as a succession of unexpected sights continually startles him.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 659]
- 1080 添 添 increase  water r 523  heaven 333  small 1063 (altered)  dab 169 tiān  
 It looked like a *little something* fell from *heaven*, but it was a coconut from the tall palm tree by the pool. The little boy *watered* it faithfully, and it sprouted and **increased** in height rapidly.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1859]
- 1081 雀 雀 sparrow  small 1063  short-tailed bird 992 què  
 BF A **sparrow** is a good example of a *small* but annoying *short-tailed bird*.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 2331]
- 1082 截 截 cut off, sever  sparrow 1081 (altered)  halberd 359 jié  
 Prepare for a bloody story: The delinquent took the *sparrow* and his *sword* and **cut off** its head. That's why the '*sparrow*' component is altered.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 1552]

- 1083 景 景 view, scene  day, sun 63  capital city 1077 jǐng  
 BF By *light of day*, nothing surpasses the spectacle and the **view** of any major or *capital city*. [12 STROKES RANK 814]
- 1084 琼 琼 fine jade  king 11  capital city 1077 qióng  
 BF We've established, back in §221, a connection between jade and the monarchy. The *capital* is the best part of the *king's* domain, so no wonder this character refers to **fine jade**. [12 STROKES RANK 2205]
- 1085 掠 掠 plunder  hand r 29  capital city 1077 luè  
 BF The government officials who infest a country's *capital* always seem to have their *hands* out for fees, bribes, or worse. It's legal **plunder**! [11 STROKES RANK 1868]
- 1086 只 只 only  mouth 41  eight (v) 1047 zhǐ  
 Imagine something in *abundance* (perhaps a plate piled high with rice) being funneled into someone's *mouth*. But a person can **only** eat so much.  
 As a result of this interpretation, we'll sometimes fix the meaning of 'restricted amount' when 只 appears as a component. [5 STROKES RANK 97]
- 1087 积 积 amass, accumulate  rice or grain 409  only 1086 jī  
 Picture a small pile of *grain*. The pile contains a fixed and *restricted amount*. However, if we acquire lots and lots of piles, we will have **amassed** valuable property. [10 STROKES RANK 728]
- 1088 职 职 duty, job  ear 82  only 1086 zhí  
 BF A guy with big jug *ears* has a strange **job**—he *only* has to scoop up leaves with them. [11 STROKES RANK 616]
- 1089 识 识 know, recognize  speech r 615  only 1086 shí  
 How can you **recognize** a friend, even in the dark? *Only* when they *speak* is this task possible. [7 STROKES RANK 340]

1090 织 织 weave











◼ silk r 807 ◼ only 1086

zhī



At the time scribes were standardizing the form of Chinese characters, **weaving** was still so new as to be that era's "hi tech"-nology. As such, its early use was restricted *only* to the use of *silk* thread. [8 STROKES RANK 578]



## Unit 46



### Twenty-four/Seven




- 1091 公 公 public affairs  eight 1048  private 750 gōng  
BF *Eight private* things all at once—it's not possible to keep them all *private*.  
Before you know it, everything's **public**. [4 STROKES RANK 115]
- 1092 讼 讼 litigation  speech 615  public affairs 1091 sòng  
BF Even in ancient times, when personal *speech* was used in the context of  
*public affairs* it was subject to **litigation**. [6 STROKES RANK 1862]
- 1093 其 其 his, her, its, theirs  eye 78 (altered)  eight 1048 qí  
You know how your eyes get big when you look with envy at someone else's  
jewelry, fancy car, or trophy spouse? Someone's *eyes* are growing round  
and large—the eyes are overflowing their usual borders—at the sight of *the*  
*abundance* that belongs to their best friend. If you are truly so envious  
of **their** material achievement, then how strong a friendship can it really  
be? [8 STROKES RANK 85]
- 1094 甚 甚 very, extremely  his, her, its, theirs 1093  mineshaft 135 shèn  
Noble families accumulated a lot of junk over the generations, junk which  
they nevertheless tried to hide when the revolution came. They tried storing  
*their* stuff down an old, abandoned *mineshaft*, but there was an **extreme**  
quantity of stuff, **too** much to fit. [9 STROKES RANK 626]
- 1095 堪 堪 can, may  earth, soil 9  very, extremely 1094 kān  
The *earth* is *very* helpful to us as we try to make a living in this cold world.  
By virtue of its fertile bounty, we **can** survive. [12 STROKES RANK 1811]






1096 斯 斯 refined  his, her, its, theirs 1093  catty 118 sī  
 BF There's something about *their* stuff that's *unbalanced*. Hardly genteel, hardly refined. [12 STROKES RANK 168]

1097 基 基 base, foundation  his, her, its, theirs 1093 (altered)  earth, soil 9 jī  
 1 BF In ancient, barbarous cities, people used the *property* of those conquered in war as *soil* to serve as the **foundations** of *their* own buildings.  
 2 This character shows an Eiffel Tower-like structure, whose **base** rests on the *earth*. [11 STROKES RANK 280]

1098 穴 穴 cave, den, hole  roof 247  eight 1048 xué  
 The topmost *roof* emphasizes the sheltering quality of a **cave**, but it's useful to interpret the strokes of the 'eight' in a visual manner—sloping walls which limit the space and suggest a claustrophobic interior. [5 STROKES RANK 1940]



1099 探 探 look for, explore  hand r 29  cave, den, hole 1098 (altered)  tree 375 tàn  
 Picture the *hand* holding a lantern up, so as to see better. We proceed from the depths of *caves* to the tops of *trees* as we **look for** our elusive goal. But we do the *caves* first; that's why 'caves' appears on top of 'tree'. [11 STROKES RANK 917]



Sometimes the topmost dab is left off when 穴 appears as a component, either for reasons of space or because it's not necessary to emphasize the middle of the roof. Compare §§1098 and 1099.

1100 深 深 deep  water r 523  cave, den, hole 1098 (altered)  tree 375 shēn  
 Imagine a body of *water* so **deep** that it encompasses the depths of *caves* to the highest *tree*. Watch out—you could drown in such **deep water**. [11 STROKES RANK 401]

- 1101 火 火 fire  man 311  eight (v) 1047 huǒ  
It's impossible not to be struck by the elemental reaction of a *man* to a roaring fire. He stands in surprise, arms raised in awe. [4 STROKES RANK 433]
- 1102 炎 炎 scorching hot  fire (times 2) 1101 yán  
BF Two *fires* yield **scorching hot** conditions. [8 STROKES RANK 1324]
- 1103 淡 淡 bland, weak  water r 523  scorching hot 1102 dàn  
Go ahead, pour *water* onto that *scorching hot* pan. After the steam clears, the degree of heat will be much **weaker** than it was.  
Also, the average of cool *water* with something *scorching hot* is a much more **bland** condition. [11 STROKES RANK 1293]
- 1104 灭 灭 extinguish  one 2  fire 1101 miè  
If you put *one* lid on a *fire*, it's **extinguished**. [5 STROKES RANK 953]
- 1105 灵 灵 clever, sharp  boar's head 34  fire 1101 líng  
A scene from your worst nightmare—in front of you, an enraged wild *boar* is charging you. But behind you rages an out-of-control forest *fire*. What to do? You'll need every dose of **cleverness** and **sharpness** to get out of this one. [7 STROKES RANK 734]
- 1106 伙 伙 partner, mate  man r 953  fire 1101 huǒ  
BF No matter how well-matched you are with your **partner** or **mate**, there will be *fery* fights between you and that *person*. [6 STROKES RANK 1047]
- 1107 灯 灯 lamp, light  fire 1101  fourth 25 dēng  
You put—carefully and safely—a bit of *fire* on top a high *platform*, and you get a **lamp**. [6 STROKES RANK 1115]












- 1108 烟 烟 smoke  fire 1101  because 345 yān  
Because of fires, there's always smoke! [10 STROKES RANK 967]
- 1109 烦 烦 vexed, annoyed  fire 1101  page, leaf 444 fán  
BF Most people regard vexatious feelings as being fire-like. [10 STROKES RANK 1253]
- 1110 秋 秋 autumn  rice or grain 409  fire 1101 qiū  
BF Autumn is a fun time now that the harvest work is complete. Of course, we harvest the grain, but there's time for gathering 'round the fire for singing and snuggling. [9 STROKES RANK 1151]
- 1111 愁 愁 worry about  autumn 1110  heart (fat) 906 chóu  
As a child, my emotion in autumn, at the start of the new school year, was worry about the new term. [13 STROKES RANK 2113]
- 1112 炉 炉 stove  fire 1101  door of house 724 lú  
BF The fire on the other side of the door, safely imprisoned inside the stove, provides toasty warmth on a bitter winter day. [8 STROKES RANK 1980]
- 1113 关 关 shut, close  eight (v) 1047  heaven 333 guān  
Dealing with the public in a busy store is no picnic. By the time the day ends, you've had it. Once you lock up and close the store, it feels a lot like heaven. [6 STROKES RANK 127]
- 1114 联 联 allied (forces), joint (effort)  ear 82  shut, close 1113 lián  
BF Nobody's perfect. But when you ally yourself with someone, you shut your ears to their negative aspects. [12 STROKES RANK 356]



1115 郑 郑 serious, earnest  shut, close 1113  town 745 zhèng  
 BF New Year's Eve. They *closed* the whole *town* for some **serious** partying.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1132]

1116 光 光 light, ray  fire 1101 (altered)  walking man 287 guāng  
 1 Unless a *fire* is out of control, it stays put. But this character shows an aspect of *fire* which *travels*. The part of fire which travels wherever it can are the **rays of light** it emits.  
 2 Another way to think of this character: The horizontal line represents the horizon of the sea, which partly cuts off the setting or rising sun. The curved lines on the bottom show the reflection of the sun's **rays** in the water, and we can think of the strokes above the horizon as **rays** emanating from the sun itself. [6 STROKES RANK 290]



# Unit 47



## Keeping Up



- 1117 业 业 trade, industry  a machine  eight (v) 1047 yè  
BF The assembly of horizontal and vertical struts represents some factory *machine*, the tools of some **industry**. You can think of the pair of dabs as a wish for *abundance*, or as sparks thrown off by the manufacturing process.  
[5 STROKES RANK 130]
- 1118 恋 恋 feel attached to  dab 169  trade, industry 1117 (altered)  heart (fat) 906 liàn  
BF The scribes are using the component for ‘*trade*’ upside-down, and the opposite of ‘business’ is ‘pleasure’. A *dab* of glue attaches this pleasure to the *heart*, symbolizing a **feeling of attachment**.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1464]
- 1119 亚 亚 inferior  trade, industry 1117  one 2 yà  
A country relying on only *one industry* will have an **inferior** economy.  
[6 STROKES RANK 420]
- 1120 恶 恶 evil  inferior 1119  heart (fat) 906 è  
Evil is an *inferior* kind of *emotion*.  
[10 STROKES RANK 792]
- 1121 显 显 appear, be obvious  day, sun 63  trade, industry 1117 xiǎn  
Most technological advances work by taking an existing technique and expanding upon it. Every so often, though, someone creates something truly innovative. It’s as if someone shines a bright light, bright as the *sun*, on an existing *industry* to discover something which, in hindsight, **appears obvious**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 469]




- 1122 湿 湿 wet, damp  water r 523  appear, be obvious 1121 shī  
When a silk dress gets **wet**, the location of the *water* spot is *obvious*.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1743]



It's easy to forget whether the 日 component goes above or below in §§1121 and 1122. With 显, the 'sun' goes up top, as befits a guiding light or lamp. In 晋, on the other hand, it's better to think about how the '日' contains within it the outline of the doorway through which we pass, and so belongs on the bottom.












- 1123 晋 晋 enter, advance  inferior 1119  day, sun 63 jìn  
When you **enter** a building, you block the *sun* and become *inferior* to it.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1645]



- 1124 普 普 general, universal  eight (v) 1047  enter, advance 1123 pǔ  
**BF** If something—a custom, expression, fad, and so on—*advances* into the front ranks of culture to the point where it can be found *abundantly*, then it is **general** or **universal**.  
[12 STROKES RANK 630]




- 1125 严 严 strict  inferior 1119  cliff r 671 yán  
The mountain-climbing instructor is so **strict** that she'll only allow us to attempt climbing *inferior cliffs*. Hiss, boo!  
[7 STROKES RANK 545]



- 1126 盖 盖 cover\*  eight (v) 1047  king 11  vessel, dish 110 gài  
The silversmith created a **cover** for the costly *vessel* that featured *several kings* cavorting in strange costumes.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1052]



- 1127 米 米 rice  tree 375  eight (v) 1047 mǐ  
The presence of *eight* different strokes in all different directions is supposed to suggest **rice** grains scattered all over the floor.  
[6 STROKES RANK 575]



- 1128 来 来 come  rice 1127  one 2 lái  
When the unexpected guest **comes**, you need to prepare *one* additional portion of *rice* for the meal. [7 STROKES RANK 15]
- 1129 粗 粗 coarse  rice 1127  moreover 15 cū  
The shelves of '*moreover*' provide a place to sort grains of *rice*. But rice grains are small, and this method only works for very **coarse** grains. [11 STROKES RANK 1414]
- It's easy to mistake 粗 'coarse' with 租 'rent' (§414), especially since the left components of both refer to rice or grain. But 禾 typically refers to crops, portions of which can be remitted as rent. The character 米, on the other hand, usually refers to prepared food, which can definitely be described as coarse, and is not suitable for rent.
- 1130 莱 莱 fallow fields  grass r 94  come 1128 lái  
**BF** Consider a **fallow field**. In the fallow state, it brings no food or wealth to the family, so they can't wait for crops—even *grass*—to *come* to this field. [10 STROKES RANK 1196]
- 1131 糟 糟 spoiled  rice 1127  plaintiff and defendant 105 zāo  
Someone stole my *rice*, and by the time I got to court, after all the sparring between *plaintiff and defendant*, it was too late. The *rice* had **spoiled**. [17 STROKES RANK 1918]
- 1132 断 断 break, snap, cut  mineshaft 135 (altered)  rice 1127  catty 118 duàn  
As the vehicle approached the mine, something **snapped**. As a result, a whole load of *rice* fell off the *unbalanced* car and down the *mineshaft*. [11 STROKES RANK 434]
- 1133 料 料 stuff  rice 1127  cup-shaped 218 liào  
**BF** A prime example of **stuff** is a *cup of rice*. [10 STROKES RANK 557]

- 1134 类 类 kind, type, class  rice 1127  dog 332 lèi  
 (Note the dog's eye merges with the lower right grain of rice.) Here are two prototypical **types** of organisms in the vegetable and animal kingdoms—*rice* and blind *dogs* (that's why there are no eyes!). [9 STROKES RANK 311]

- 1135 奥 奥 profound, abstruse  safe house, security 265  rice 1127  big 330 ào  
 ㊦ Here's a remote part of your *safe house*. A *big* pile of *rice* lies undetected because it's so dark and obscure. In this way, the Chinese symbolize something **abstruse** and **profound**. [12 STROKES RANK 972]

- 1136 噢 噢 oh! (surprised understanding)  mouth 41  profound, abstruse 1135 ō  
 The cry of **surprised understanding** involuntarily proceeds from your *mouth*. You finally understand the *abstruse* point that the professor was trying to explain. [8 STROKES RANK 2347]

- 1137 娄 娄 trouble, blunder  rice 1127  woman 581 lóu  
 ㊦ In the deeply misogynistic society of ancient China, it was surely a male scribe who designed a character in which **trouble** was not only ascribed to *women*, but compared in number to grains of *rice*. [9 STROKES RANK 4052]

- 1138 楼 楼 multi-story building  tree 375  trouble, blunder 1137 lóu  
 In **buildings with more than one story**, it's easy for a young suitor to climb a *tree* to get into *trouble*. There's a great risk of discovery! [13 STROKES RANK 876]




1139 尚 尚 still, yet  eight (v) 1047  to face 266 shàng

The word ‘still’ can divide time into two periods: When he fired the gun, it was **still** raining. Here, the firing of the gun marks a boundary in time, up to which it was raining. Afterwards, well, we don’t yet know.

The ‘*eight*’ represents abundance, and the vertical stroke divides it in two. Time up to a point is known—it is the future that’s unknown and scary. The open end of the ‘*facing*’ component seems to point away from what’s known. Thus, in this metaphorical and slightly convoluted manner, we see that this character represents ‘still’. (Perhaps it’s better to just memorize it!)

When we encounter this character as a component, we’ll ascribe one of several meanings to it. We might interpret it as a ‘dividing point’ or a ‘sharp boundary’. Sometimes, the ‘borders’ subcomponent (see §127) will often imply that one part of our interpretation contains the other part.

[8 STROKES RANK 878]

1140 堂 堂 room for a special purpose  still, yet 1139  earth, soil 9 táng


**BF** Here’s a *division* between the general outdoors—the *earth*—and the indoors (everything which isn’t outdoors). A **room has a special purpose**—to shelter us from the elements.

[11 STROKES RANK 980]

1141 掌 掌 palm of the hand  still, yet 1139  hand 27 zhǎng

**BF** The **palm of the hand** is the part that actually holds things. This character represents a *boundary* of the *hand* between the fingers, which can hold things but will easily drop them, and the **palm**, which holds things well but can’t grab.

[12 STROKES RANK 890]

1142 常 常 often  still, yet 1139  towel 130 cháng
















**BF** Despite the visual decomposition, this looks to me like a hanging man (see §131) on a makeshift gallows. I’ve **often** thought that that this is a ghastly fate to be avoided at all costs!













[11 STROKES RANK 187]



## Unit 48



### Not So Fast!



- 1143 党 党 political party  still, yet 1139  son 288 dǎng  
A group of men (all of whom are somebody's *sons*) gather together in opposition to those whose opinions are *various and different*. Thus is born a **political party**. [10 STROKES RANK 411]
- 1144 赏 赏 admire  still, yet 1139  cowrie 430 shǎng  
**BF** *Shells* have the *potential* of becoming beautiful jewelry, engendering **admiring** glances from all. [12 STROKES RANK 1450]
- 1145 倘 倘 if, in case  man r 953  still, yet 1139 tǎng  
The *man* on the left is short-hand for all things human—affairs, events, possessions, and so on. The '*still, yet*' component implies division. For human affairs, the division is between true and false or between happened and not (yet) happened—in other words, the same relation as determined by **if** or **in case** of. [10 STROKES RANK 2118]
- 1146 幸 幸 luck, good fortune  earth, soil 9  eight (v) 1047  dry 10 xìng  
**BF** This is an easy character to remember if you imagine it originated in a wet and marshy part of China. A person with *land* which is both *abundant* and *dry* is blessed with **good fortune**. [8 STROKES RANK 902]
- 1147 羊 羊 sheep  eight (v) 1047  three 4  scepter 5 yáng  
I don't care what the diagram shows—here's the skin of a fat, plump **sheep**. From top down, we see the two ears, the face, the four legs, and the tail. [6 STROKES RANK 1337]




- 1148 美 美 beautiful  sheep 1147 (altered)  big 330 měi  
For a farmer, there's no sight more **beautiful** than a *big, plump sheep*. (Here, the sheep's tail has been docked.) [9 STROKES RANK 151]
- 1149 善 善 good, kind  sheep 1147 (altered)  speech 270 shàn  
*Sheep* are well-known as gentle animals, and a person whose *speech* is like a *sheep* is sure to be **good and kind**. [12 STROKES RANK 749]
- 1150 洋 洋 vast  water r 523  sheep 1147 yáng  
BF Think of a sponge in the shape of a *sheep*. You place it in *water*, it soaks up liquid, and the *sheep* grows till it becomes **vast** in size. [9 STROKES RANK 803]
- 1151 样 样 appearance\*  tree 375  sheep 1147 yàng  
BF In agrarian settings, what counted most towards a landowner's peace of mind was the proper **appearance** of wealth—agriculture, symbolized by a *tree*; and livestock, represented by a *sheep*. [10 STROKES RANK 88]
- 1152 详 详 detailed  speech r 615  sheep 1147 xiáng  
BF Imagine that a *sheep* gets to make a *speech* for a change. Sheep, being sheep, would copy each other's speech slavishly, down to the last **detail**! [8 STROKES RANK 1439]
- 1153 拳 拳 fist  eight (v) 1047  man (spiffy) 337  hand 27 quán  
This sketch shows part of a *hand* knocking down some other *man*, shaking loose a *couple of drops* of blood or sweat in the process. Only the **fist** is capable of this power. [10 STROKES RANK 1784]
- 1154 兰 兰 orchid  eight (v) 1047  three 4 lán  
The **orchid** is a flower with an *abundance* of positive attributes, which is why it's such a special flower. Fragrance, brilliant color, and long-lastingness are its *three* most important qualities. [5 STROKES RANK 642]



- 1155 拦 拦 to bar or block  hand r 29  orchid 1154 lán  
We see someone's *hand*, intent on cutting off and stealing a rare *orchid* specimen. At the last moment, its beauty captivates him, and **bars** him from this destructive deed. [8 STROKES RANK 1996]
- 1156 烂 烂 rot, fester  fire 1101  orchid 1154 làn  
Why would anyone want to cook an *orchid*? Nevertheless, you can imagine that applying *heat* to an *orchid* or other fine flower accelerates the processes of decay and **rot**. [9 STROKES RANK 1754]
- 1157 金 金 gold  entire 326  eight (v) 1047 jīn  
**BF** In time of war, you want to transform all your wealth to a form which makes it easy to move. That's difficult—you've been very successful and you own a lot. The solution that worked centuries ago and which works now is to convert your *entire* fortune, all your *abundance*, into **gold**. [8 STROKES RANK 260]
- 1158 乎 乎 huh?  eight (v) 1047  in; at; to 26 hū  
*乎* is an interrogatory particle, capable of expressing interrogation, surprise, surmise, or admiration. The character 于, an old friend from §26, has an *abundance* of *prepositional meanings*, so it's reasonable to combine these two characters to form this particle. Which meaning do you want?? [5 STROKES RANK 458]
- 1159 呼 呼 exhale  mouth 41  huh? 1158 hū  
Expressions of *surprise* or *surmise* are often accompanied by puffs of air as we **exhale** from our *mouth*. [8 STROKES RANK 843]
- 1160 平 平 flat, level, even  eight (v) 1047  dry 10 píng  
When there is *a lot* of *dry*, arid land, the wind and weather can blow away all the high points, and fill in all the low points, so that the landscape turns into something **flat, level**, and perfectly **even**. [5 STROKES RANK 215]




1161 苹 苹 apple  grass r 94  flat, level, even 1160 píng  
**BF** Legend has it that William Tell shot an **apple** off his son's head with an arrow. Good thing the boy's head was sufficiently *flat* and *level* to keep the apple from rolling off into the *grass* before his dad could shoot it!  
 [8 STROKES RANK 2478]




1162 评 评 comment, criticize  speech r 615  flat, level, even 1160 píng  
**BF** It's amazing that people who deliver the most devastating **criticism** often deliver the *speech* with their verdict in a very *flat* affect.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 809]





1163 萍 萍 duckweed  water r 523  apple 1161 (altered) píng  
**BF** Although the components are subtly altered in comparison with the previous panel, nevertheless they somehow suggest an *apple* that grows in the *water*. In this case, the surprising item is **duckweed**, which primarily provides nutrition for ducks, but can also be gathered and eaten by people, like an *apple*.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 2478]

1164 半 半 half, semi  eight (v) 1047  two 3  scepter 5 bàn  
 Here is *two* of something, cut in **half** by a *scepter* or other mighty stick. The force of the blow is so severe that *many* chips fly in the air.  
 It's easy to confuse the two characters 平 (§1160) and this character 半. The top vertical of 平 is **flat**, like its definition. The flying chips at the top of 半 represent a fraction of the original object; '**half**' is also a fraction.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 513]

1165 伴 伴 companion, partner  man r 953  half, semi 1164 bàn  
 A *person* is only *half* a soul without their life **partner** by their side.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1298]














1166 单 单 single, sole  eight (v) 1047  first in a series 50  one 2 dān  
**BF** The '*first*' and '*one*' emphasize the singularity of a certain someone. The *abundance* is his **alone**—he doesn't have to share.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 389]















- 1167 首 首 head, leader  eight (v) 1047  one 2  self 202 shǒu
- BF There's *a lot of* something on the flat top surface of *one's self*. It must be hair. What else appears of the tops of heads? In these ancient times, when Chinese characters were becoming developed, imagine that only **leaders** and **heads** of state had the privilege of wearing and displaying long, flowing locks. [9 STROKES RANK 481]

- 1168 豆 豆 bean  one 2  mouth 41  eight (v) 1047  one 2 dòu
- This slightly surreal depiction shows a bowl of steaming **beans**. The bottom horizontal is the table top, and the dabs of the 'eight' both suggest the profile of the bowl and the *abundance* within. With accurate perspective, the *mouth* of the bowl should really be elliptical. The smaller horizontal that tops the character suggests the high level of beans within the bowl, or perhaps rising steam. [7 STROKES RANK 1793]















## Unit 49

















### Hills and Dales









- 1169 喜 喜 like, happy  ten 6  bean 1168  mouth 41 xǐ  
BF Some people just can't get enough *beans*. For those unusual few, they **like** nothing more than to shovel *ten* bowls of *beans* into their *mouths*.  
[12 STROKES RANK 668]
- 1170 嘻 嘻 giggle  mouth 41  like, happy 1169 xī  
When you are *happy*, the sound from your *mouth* might well be a contented giggle.  
[15 STROKES RANK 2432]
- 1171 短 短 short, brief  arrow 334  bean 1168 duǎn  
An *arrow* made out of *beans* isn't very good (it's not worth beans!). If you can shoot it at all, it will only go a **short** distance.  
[12 STROKES RANK 889]
- 1172 曾 曾 once, formerly  eight (v) 1047  twin windows  eight (v) 1047  day, sun 63 céng  
To me, the *twin dabs* at the top look like a pair of eyes, whose reflections appear in *twin windows*. It's miserable outside—the eyes also resemble drops of rain on the glass—and the poor child imprisoned inside imagines a vision of the *sun* that **formerly** shone all the time.  
[12 STROKES RANK 463]
- 1173 增 增 increase, add  earth, soil 9  once, formerly 1172 zēng  
Nowadays, nobody's making land. By and large, what you see is what there is. But in *former* days, eons ago, this wasn't true. Due to violent geological processes, the *earth* was **increasing**.  
[15 STROKES RANK 446]

- 1174 僧 僧 monk  man r 953  once, formerly 1172 sēng  
 BF Many religions postulate multiple lifetimes of a soul. This character suggests that a *former* existence of a *man* was as a **monk**.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 2013]
- 1175 兽 兽 wild beast  eight (v) 1047  field 57  one 2  mouth 41 shòu  
 BF There's a herd, a veritable *abundance*, of these frightening **wild beasts** in the *field*. *One* of them notices me, and immediately threatens me with its open *mouth*.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1602]
- 1176 墙 墙 wall  earth, soil 9  earth, soil 9  eight (v) 1047  return 42 qiáng  
 BF In ancient days, **walls** were built out of heaped *earth*. What were they protecting? Perhaps the *abundant* harvest from the *earth*, or the men of the tribe, *returning* from raiding forays of their own. [14 STROKES RANK 1212]
- 1177 夹 夹 place in between  man (spiffy) 337  eight (v) 1047 jiā  
 This character illustrates itself in two ways: (1) 夫 is between the two dabs of 'eight (v)', and (2) these dabs are **between** the two horizontals of 夫. Metaphorically, *people* are the source of *abundance*, and *abundance* is the source of *people*.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 1758]
- 1178 侠 侠 heroic  man r 953  place in between 1177 xiá  
 BF So many *people* have gathered to celebrate some *man's* **heroic** achievements that Times Square is packed beyond belief. Everyone is *placed in between* everyone else.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1216]



- 1179 立 立 erect, stand  cover 268  eight (v) 1047  one 2 lì
- 1 A *man* (altered from the usual; here constructed from ‘*cover*’ and ‘*eight (v)*’) is **standing** on *one* horizontal surface.
- 2 This character reminds me of the house of cards that I struggled to **erect** on rainy weekends of my childhood. 立 shows a view from the side of just a portion of this house! The *cover* controls the *abundance* of cards on the *horizontal surface* and keeps them **standing up**.  
[5 STROKES RANK 197]
- 1180 拉 拉 pull, draw, tug  hand r 29  erect, stand 1179 lā
- What does the *hand* near the puppet have to do to keep it *standing*? It **tugs** and **pulls** at it.  
[8 STROKES RANK 324]
- 1181 啦 啦 indication of excitement, doubt  mouth 41  pull, draw, tug 1180 là
- Expressions of **excitement and doubt** are indications of increased emotional *tension*. The ‘*mouth*’ indicates the **expressive** nature of this character, since the mouth is the ordinary vehicle for expression.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1194]
- 1182 部 部 part, section  erect, stand 1179  mouth 41  town 745 bù
- It’s easy to recognize the tourist **section** of *town*. Past generations have *erected* many impressive monuments in the various city squares, each of which looks like a big *mouth*.  
[10 STROKES RANK 84]
- 1183 位 位 m for persons (polite)  man r 953  erect, stand 1179 wèi
- Formal occasions generally demand that *people* do more *standing* than at a casual occasion, where people are slouching and chatting. So ‘*people stand*’ represents this **formal counting word**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 182]
- 1184 妾 妾 I (woman’s form)  erect, stand 1179  woman 581 qiè
- Roll call. All you *women*, when you hear your name, *stand up*, and shout out, “Here I am!”  
[7 STROKES RANK 3242]

- 1185 接 接 come close to  hand r 29  I (woman's form) 1184 jiē  
 “Come close to *me*, so *I* can hold your *hand*,” said my 97-year-old grand-  
 mother. [11 STROKES RANK 247]
- 1186 童 童 child  erect, stand 1179  inside 71 tóng  
 BF The only kind of person who can *stand up inside* a small closet or other  
 confined space are **children**. [12 STROKES RANK 1229]
- 1187 撞 撞 run into, collide  hand r 29  child 1186 zhuàng  
 Imagine *children* running around in a frenzy, and definitely not looking where  
 they're going. An adult uses her *hand* as a human ‘bumper’ to avoid **collision**.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 1540]
- 1188 商 商 trade, business  erect, stand 1179  borders 127  eight 1048  mouth 41 shāng  
 BF Here, the *border* symbolizes your house, and the ‘*eight mouths*’ inside  
 are your big family, always hungry. If you are *upright* in your **business**  
 dealings, you will prosper and your family will eat. Notice how, in the  
 interests of efficiency, the bottom stroke of ‘erect, stand’ coincides with the  
 top of ‘borders’. [11 STROKES RANK 402]
- 1189 音 音 sound  cover 268  eight (v) 1047  one 2  speak 64 yīn  
 BF This character represents the operation of a microphone, shown standing  
 on end. At the bottom, you see where the **sound** enters the mechanism,  
 as someone *speaks*. The microphone's guts amplifies this sound as it passes  
 through a special *horizontal* membrane, making it appear more *abundant*, so  
 everyone can hear, as it passes outward through the *cover*.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 540]
- 1190 暗 暗 dark, dim  day, sun 63  sound 1189 àn  
 Here you see ‘*sound*’ crowding out the *sun*. This is what happens when it gets  
**dark**—the realm of sight diminishes in importance, while listening achieves  
 prominence. [13 STROKES RANK 829]

- 1191 意 意 idea, meaning  sound 1189  heart (fat) 906 yì  
 BF This character expresses a metaphorical meaning for **idea** or **meaning** as the ‘*sound*’ of an *emotion*. [13 STROKES RANK 104]
- 1192 竞 竞 compete, contend  erect, stand 1179  elder brother\* 298 jìng  
 BF Among families, sibling rivalry—especially among boys—is a major source of intense energy. If the *elder brother stands firm*, he usually wins the **competition**. [10 STROKES RANK 1100]
- 1193 竟 竟 in the end  sound 1189  walking man 287 jìng  
 Think of a nineteenth-century platoon of soldiers. To the stirring *sound* of bagpipes, these *walking men* march to battle. **In the end**, this tactic is successful, and the soldiers win. [11 STROKES RANK 706]
- 1194 境 境 boundary  earth, soil 9  in the end 1193 jìng  
 BF No matter how extensive are your territories and *land*, if you keep on traveling, *in the end* you will reach its **boundary**. [14 STROKES RANK 582]

# Unit 50

## Clever Ducks

1195 培 培 bank up with earth  
☐ earth, soil 9 ☐ erect, stand 1179 ☐ mouth 41 péi

Banking involves taking *earth*, and making it *stand up* in heaps. Why? To increase fertility, and so to put more food in your *mouth*.

[11 STROKES RANK 1152]

1196 端 端 end, extremity  
☐ erect, stand 1179 ☐ mountain 21 ☐ express add'l but contrasting info 83 duān

**BF** Refer back to §89. A giant *stands erect*, and we see examples of his **extremities**. His head is level with the tops of *mountains*, while his weight forces his feet underground, where a few of his *toes* are wedged below the surface of the soil.

[14 STROKES RANK 916]

1197 倍 倍 -fold  
☐ man r 953 ☐ erect, stand 1179 ☐ mouth 41 bèi



A *man* who is scrunched down so you can only see his *mouth* but who then takes the trouble to *stand up*, multiplies his apparent height several-fold.



[10 STROKES RANK 1392]



1198 章 章 chapter, section  
☐ sound 1189 ☐ ten 6 zhāng



**BF** The *sound* here is music. Western musical compositions often occur in many parts; '*ten*' is a stand-in for 'many'. The parts of a musical composition could be the verses, movements, variations, and so on that form the **sections** of the composition.



[11 STROKES RANK 539]



1199 站 站 stop, station  erect, stand 1179  practice divination 172 zhàn  
 Regardless of the visual decomposition, this character looks to me like someone has stuck a marker (that's the vertical portion on the right) into a bucket (that's the mouth on the lower right) of cement which has been allowed to harden. Nothing will budge it. Where it *stands erect*, that's the landmark for other vehicles to **stop**. [10 STROKES RANK 544]

1200 辛 辛 hardworking  erect, stand 1179  ten 6 xīn  
 BF A worker *standing up* for *ten* hours or more is genuinely **hardworking**. [7 STROKES RANK 1463]














1201 辞 辞 diction  tongue 225  hardworking 1200 cí  
 While learning Chinese, your *tongue works hard* to get the **diction** right. [13 STROKES RANK 1469]















1202 亲 亲 relatives  erect, stand 1179  show, indicate 1064 (altered) qīn  
 BF Pardon a play on words, but **relatives** are often people whom you can't *stand*! Here, the 'stand' part and the 'show' part share the central horizontal bar; you often *share* stuff with relatives. Also, we often *reveal* personal details with relatives that we wouldn't dream of telling anyone else. The 'show' part is altered slightly, in that the central hook extends all the way up to this central stroke. Sometimes, because they're **relatives**, they give you a little extra, a little more than you deserve. [9 STROKES RANK 362]

1203 新 新 new  relatives 1202  catty 118 xīn  
 The acquisition of **new relatives**—by marriage, say—often leads to a sense of *unbalance* as pecking orders need to be re-affirmed and re-fought. [13 STROKES RANK 161]

1204 帝 帝 emperor\*  erect, stand 1179 (altered)  towel 130 dì  
 BF In the presence of the **emperor**, one must *stand especially straight* and put on special decorative *cloths*. We stand on a special platform, and that's why the platform of the 'stand' component is slightly fancier than normal. [9 STROKES RANK 612]

- 1205 竭 竭 make the utmost effort  
 𠂇 erect, stand 1179 𠂇 how, why, when 647 jié  
 BF The team is depending upon you **to make the utmost effort!** You *stand up* and approach the starting line. Your senses reel. The pressure mounts, as the crowd's shouts seem to come from *all over the place*. [14 STROKES RANK 1987]
- 1206 啻 啻 not only  
 𠂇 emperor\* 1204 𠂇 mouth 41 chì  
 BF The *emperor* is making a long-awaited and highly infrequent appearance before the people. Is he man or god? He makes his appearance, and it's clear he's all-too-human. **Not only** is his body like those of other men, but there's something wrong with his *mouth*—it hangs lower in his face than normal. [12 STROKES RANK 4249]
- 1207 滴 滴 drip  
 𠂇 water r 523 𠂇 not only 1206 (altered) dī  
*Not only* is the *water* radical part of this glyph, but the character also makes reference to the three **drops**. The 'towel' part is extended, in case we need a towel to wipe up the watery mess. Moreover, the extra horizontal bar inside the towel makes us think that the towel is "ancient" (§51). I guess we're using an old towel for clean up. [14 STROKES RANK 1896]
- 1208 蒂 蒂 base of fruit  
 𠂇 grass r 94 𠂇 emperor\* 1204 dì  
 BF We have to rely, yet again, on metaphor and analogy. In the same way that the **base of a fruit** is the part on which it rests or is supported, so too is the *emperor* the person on whom the empire is supported and reliant. The bit of *grass* up top reminds us that fruit is part of the vegetable kingdom, and the analogy extends to a member of this kingdom (fruit). [12 STROKES RANK 1429]
- 1209 南 南 south  
 𠂇 ten 6 𠂇 borders 127 𠂇 eight (v) 1047 𠂇 dry 10 nán  
 States or countries are regions delimited by *borders*. This character makes reference to *ten* of these states, with special attention to the ones with *abundant dryness*. For an empire like China, which is in the Northern Hemisphere, the *abundantly* hot states are the ones in the **south**. [9 STROKES RANK 307]



- 1210 喃 喃 mumbling  mouth 41  south 1209 nán  
 BF Northern people are full of their own special prejudices, often regarding people from southern tropical regions as doing things slowly, perhaps in response to the killing heat they live with. Language is the worst. The *mouth* sounds of these *southerners* seem like **mumbling** to intolerant Northern ears. [12 STROKES RANK 2233]
- 1211 献 献 offer, donate  south 1209  dog 332 xiàn  
 In America, it's hot down *south*. So *south* plus *dog* equals 'hot dog'. I'm famous for my hot dogs. Next time we have a barbecue, come on over—I'd like to **offer** you one. [13 STROKES RANK 1192]
- 1212 兴 兴 prosper  six 1062  eight (v) 1047 xīng  
 You **prosper** when things flourish and grow, most often in the context of business. Here's an example—*six* things become *eight*. [6 STROKES RANK 531]
- 1213 举 举 to lift  prosper 1212 (altered)  dry 10 (altered) jǔ  
 The altered 'dry' component suggests land that was formerly *dry* but now isn't. The farmer's fortunes are therefore about to *prosper*. This should **lift** his spirits. [9 STROKES RANK 586]
- 1214 尊 尊 honor, venerate  eight (v) 1047  new wine 303  inch 210 zūn  
 A lot of *wine*—poured into tiny, *inch*-high cups—is a symbol of the **honor** and **respect** due to our great master upon his retirement. *Gānbēi!* [12 STROKES RANK 1134]
- 1215 奈 奈 how can one help?  big 330 (altered)  show, indicate 1064 nài  
 BF The altered 'big' partially obscures a background sketch of someone in clear distress, for we see the wrinkled brow and the tears coursing down each side of her nose. The person in front is clearly sympathetic. He stands there, legs spread out, arms outstretched toward the grief stricken woman, and begs to be of service. **How can he help?** [8 STROKES RANK 1624]




- 1216 慕 慕 admire\*  
 grass r 94  day, sun 63  big 330 (altered)  small 1063 (altered) mù
- Here's a person I can really **admire**. Why? Well, he's a prosperous farmer, plenty of *grass*, and a permanently *sunny* disposition. Furthermore, he's *big*-hearted and generous—to an exaggerated extent—to those who have *much less* than he. [14 STROKES RANK 1990]
- 1217 窝 窝 nest, lair  cave, den, hole 1098  mouth 41  inside\* 318 wō
- What's a **nest** anyway but a *cave or lair inside* of which gape the many open *mouths* of the fledgelings. [12 STROKES RANK 1962]
- 1218 薛 薛 marsh grass  grass r 94  to heap up 993 (altered)  hardworking 1200 xuē
- BF** Work in the swamps is sweaty and tough. Harvesting the **marsh grass** demands *hard work* to *heap up* the cut *grass* for gathering. Notice how severely 堆 'heap up' has been altered so as to fit inside the character comfortably. [16 STROKES RANK 1953]
- 1219 空 空 empty  cave, den, hole 1098  labor, work 7 kōng
- A good example of **empty** is a *cavernous* factory room, **empty** of ongoing *work*. [8 STROKES RANK 272]
- 1220 腔 腔 body cavity  meat 317 (altered)  empty 1219 qiāng
- The part of a *body* that is *empty* is a—**body cavity**. [12 STROKES RANK 1914]







## Unit 51

# Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral

1221 产 产 give birth to\*  erect, stand 1179 (altered)  cliff 1 671 chǎn  
Midwives and mothers compare the trauma of **giving birth** to another awful situation, that of someone *standing* on a *clifftop* preparing to throw themselves off. [6 STROKES RANK 159]



1222 辨 辨 distinguish between  hardworking 1200 (altered)  divider  hardworking 1200 biàn  
Police lineup. Two *hardworking*-looking guys are separated by a curved *divider* (see the little doorknob on its left?) on one side. Can you **distinguish** between the innocent bystander and the perpetrator? [16 STROKES RANK 1910]



1223 胖 胖 fat, stout, plump  meat 317 (altered)  half, semi 1164 pàng  
The person who regularly eats a portion of *meat* followed by *half* of another is bound to get **fat**. [9 STROKES RANK 1893]


1224 鉴 鉴 reflect, mirror  inspect, supervise 237 (altered)  gold 1157 jiàn  
Note that in the '*inspect*' portion on top, the bloody vessel has been abbreviated to a single bloody dot.  
If we *inspect* a sheet of *gold*, our image will **reflect** off its surface. [13 STROKES RANK 1655]




- 1225 款 款 clause in document  
 [scholar 8] [show, indicate 1064] [owe, lack 465] kuǎn  
 In China, we use *scholars* to help draw up contracts. With their special knowledge of grammar, they *show* what the other party *owes* us in each of the **contract clauses**. [12 STROKES RANK 807]
- 1226 耀 耀 bright, dazzling  
 [light, ray 1116] [feather, wing 123] [short-tailed bird 992] yào  
 BF The *shine* from the *feathers* of a beautiful *bird* can be **bright** and **dazzling**. [20 STROKES RANK 1804]
- 1227 尔 尔 you, thou  
 [man 311 (altered)] [small 1063] ěr  
 Suppose I am speaking to you. **You** appear to be a *smaller man* because **you** are standing away from me. [5 STROKES RANK 220]
- 1228 算 算 calculate, compute  
 [bamboo 243] [tool, utensil 1055 (altered)] suàn  
*Bamboo* is so soft it isn't useful for many *tools*. But you can make beads from it to create an abacus for **calculating** prices and so on. [14 STROKES RANK 403]
- 1229 容 容 allow, tolerate  
 [roof 247] [cereal, grain 1060] róng  
 The hippy parents (relics of the 1960s) were very **tolerant**. Under their *roof*, their kids were so messy that *grain* started growing in the filth! [10 STROKES RANK 442]
- 1230 裕 裕 abundant  
 [clothing 838] [cereal, grain 1060] yù  
 BF The wedding was so lavish, they threw *rice* like it was water. I kept finding *grains* in my *clothes* for months, that's how **abundant** everything was. [12 STROKES RANK 2023]



- 1231 肖 肖 like, similar to  small 1063 (altered)  meat 317 (altered) xiào  
 BF The ‘*meat*’ here refers to an animal or person, and we are supposed to marvel at how a *small animal*—the young of the species—is **similar to** its parents. [7 STROKES RANK 2019]
- 1232 削 削 pare, peel with knife  like, similar to 1231  knife r 166 xiāo  
 With a deftly wielded *knife*, you make a piece of shapeless wood *look like* something else by means of skillful **peeling away** of the wood. [9 STROKES RANK 1794]
- 1233 消 消 disappear, vanish  water r 523  like, similar to 1231 xiāo  
*Water* is *like* a magic potion (sometimes). Used properly, it can make stains **vanish!** [10 STROKES RANK 439]
- 1234 悄 悄 quiet, silent  heart (skinny) 930  like, similar to 1231 qiǎo  
 BF Quietness is a lot *like* a subdued *emotion*. [10 STROKES RANK 1434]
- 1235 稍 稍 slightly, somewhat  rice or grain 409  like, similar to 1231 shāo  
 All *grains* look *similar* to one another because the *grains* of each species are somewhat alike. [12 STROKES RANK 1373]
- 1236 除 除 remove, do away with  hills 735  surplus, remainder 1073 chú  
 During boom times, there’s plenty of *surplus*, so much so that we have to **remove** it to the uninhabited parts of the *hills* so it’s not in the way. [9 STROKES RANK 464]
- 1237 谈 谈 talk, chat  speech r 615  scorching hot 1102 tán  
 What do we **chat** about when we **chat**? We don’t waste time *talking* about anything but the *hottest* of topics. [10 STROKES RANK 474]



1238 称 称 call to, name  rice or grain 409  you, thou 1227 chēng  
I called out to *you*, but *you* didn't hear, so I threw some *rice* your way to get your attention (as if at a wedding). [10 STROKES RANK 449]




1239 突 突 dash forward  cave, den, hole 1098  dog 332 tū  
BF The thieves tried to sneak up on the banker's house. They failed to take the *dog* into account. Out from his *den*, he dashed forward to grab the lead robber by the seat of his pants. [9 STROKES RANK 484]

1240 乐 乐 glad to, enjoy  show, indicate 1064 (altered) lè  
When people enjoy life, they can't help *showing* this emotion on their faces, and, indeed, in every action. On the left, the extra curvy stroke connecting the horizontals represents a crinkle line around the eyes that you see around genuinely happy people. [5 STROKES RANK 619]



1241 继 继 continue, succeed, follow  silk r 807  mineshaft 135  rice 1127 jì  
BF The construction material was a strange mixture of *silk* and *rice*. Don't laugh—up to now, the repair of the *mineshaft* had gone fitfully forward, but now with this new stuff, we can continue and finish it in no time. [10 STROKES RANK 655]

1242 弹 弹 flick, pluck, play instrument  bow (weapon) 859  single, sole 1166 tán  
I know the left part is a *weapon*, but its bends are suggestive of two fingertips reaching over to a *single* guitar string to pluck it. [11 STROKES RANK 632]



1243 您 您 you (formal)  you 1072  heart (fat) 906 nín  
In formal situations, my greeting to you is one of respectful emotion. [11 STROKES RANK 726]

1244 寅 寅 3-5am  roof 247  man 311 (altered)  crossed hands yín

Strictly speaking, proceeding from the top down, you write this character using the following sequence of components: *roof* (§247), *one* (§2), *let somebody do something* (§48), and *eight* (§1048). It's hard to create one narrative using all these, so it's better to hark back to the historical development of this character, which depicts a reclining *man* under the *roof* of his house. We know he's reclining because his *hands* are *crossed* on his chest. This especially restful period of slumber most often occurs very early in the morning, between 3-5am. [11 STROKES RANK 3422]

1245 演 演 perform, play, act  water r 523  3-5am 1244 yǎn










The rain *water* that leaked on my head *very early this morning*, waking me out the best sleep I've had in a long time, caused me to jump out of bed and dance around in surprise and shock. Early morning dog walkers peering through my windows thought I was rehearsing for a **play**. [14 STROKES RANK 715]
















1246 税 税 tax, duty  rice or grain 409  exchange, convert 1049 shuì










The government forces you to deal with the devil. You give them a portion of your earnings—a **tax**—which would have been in the form of *rice or grain* way back when, and, *in exchange*, the government provides you with services. [12 STROKES RANK 781]

## Unit 52

# A Veritable United Nations



- 1247 宗 宗 clan, sect, faction  roof 247  show, indicate 1064 zōng  
BF People of like mind or tradition—those belonging to the same **clan** or **faction**—often *show* their common bond by hanging out together in the same place, under the same *roof*. [8 STROKES RANK 727]
- 1248 综 综 summing up, aggregate  silk r 807  clan, sect, faction 1247 zōng  
BF I use strong *silk* rope to tie up all the *sect* members, forming one giant **aggregate** which the police can easily **round up**. [11 STROKES RANK 1425]
- 1249 踪 踪 footprint, trace, tracks  foot r 946  clan, sect, faction 1247 zōng  
BF Marching on *foot* along with the rest of your *clan* leaves plenty of **foot-prints**. [15 STROKES RANK 1532]
- 1250 控 控 accuse, charge  hand r 29  empty 1219 kòng  
BF You were supposed to keep track of my money. But now your *hand* is *empty*. I **accuse** you of stealing it! [11 STROKES RANK 780]
- 1251 登 登 scale, climb  stop! 181 (altered)  bean 1168 dēng  
I had to *stop* and catch my breath when I got to the huge hill of *beans*. It was my task to **climb** this monster. [12 STROKES RANK 817]



- 1252 松 松 pine tree  tree 375  public affairs 1091 sōng  
People engaged in *public affairs* are supposed to be upright like a **pine tree**, so a good symbol for the **pine** is a juxtaposition of ‘*tree*’ with ‘*public affairs*’.  
[8 STROKES RANK 895]
- 1253 炮 炮 cannon, firecracker  fire 1101  wrap, envelope 857 pào  
The aftermath of *firing* a **cannon** is the noise and smoke which *envelopes* you.  
[9 STROKES RANK 914]
- 1254 脱 脱 shed, take off  meat 317 (altered)  exchange, convert 1049 tuō  
Here’s my recipe for **shedding** weight. Simply eat more *meat* and protein, and *exchange* the fat for muscle!  
[11 STROKES RANK 943]
- 1255 鲜 鲜 fresh, new  fish 485  sheep 1147 xiān  
Don’t eat either the *fish* or the *mutton* unless they’re very **fresh**.  
[14 STROKES RANK 958]
- 1256 辟 辟 law  dead body 702  mouth 41  hardworking 1200 pì  
Surely I’ve been *working too hard*. The *dead body* against the wall has just opened its *mouth* and started talking to me. This is against all natural **law**!  
[13 STROKES RANK 2140]
- 1257 壁 壁 wall, cliff, rampart  law 1256  earth, soil 9 bì  
BF The *earth* upholds the city, symbolized by its *laws*. What *earth* formation does that? A high **cliff**.  
[16 STROKES RANK 1380]
- 1258 填 填 fill in, stuff  earth, soil 9  real 1058 tián  
That teddy bear isn’t *real*. He might look it, because they use space-age *sand* to **stuff** him.  
[13 STROKES RANK 1970]

- 1259 欲 欲 wish, desire, want  cereal, grain 1060  owe, lack 465 yù  
 BF Breakfast time, and the **desire** for a bowl of nourishing *cereal* becomes strong. Oops, we're *fresh out* of cereal. It's going to be a long day...  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1045]
- 1260 萨 萨 Buddha, kind-hearted person  grass r 94  hills 735  give birth to\* 1221 sà  
 BF The *hills* and the *grass* and all the other qualities of Mother Nature contribute to the *birth* of major religious figures like the **Buddha**.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1046]
- 1261 烧 烧 burn, cook, run a fever  fire 1101  legendary emperor 374 shāo  
 When a *legendary emperor* died, the courtiers used a huge pyre of *fire* to **burn** the body. Otherwise, the king's dreadful disease would spread throughout the court and the country.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1201]
- 1262 障 障 obstruct, hinder  hills 735  chapter, section 1198 zhàng  
 BF The invaders will have a tough time capturing us. Nature has divided the *hills* into *sections* which **obstruct** and **hinder** the enemy's progress.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1237]
- 1263 徐 徐 slowly, gently  left step 1034  surplus, remainder 1073 xú  
 I am *walking* to market to sell the *surplus* we grew on our farm this year. It's a heavy load, and forces me to walk **slowly**. [10 STROKES RANK 1313]
- 1264 尝 尝 taste, experience, ever  still, yet 1139 (altered)  cloud 751 cháng  
 The 'still, yet' part indicates a transition. In this case, from good times to not-so-good times—hence, the *cloud*. What a life-altering **experience** these adverse situations can be!  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1621]







- 1265 偿 偿    compensate, repay     man r 953     taste, experience, ever 1264    cháng  
 BF The piper must always be paid. This *man*'s unfortunate *experience* requires some sort of **compensation**.    [11 STROKES RANK 1329]
- 1266 灾 灾    disaster, calamity     roof 247     fire 1101    zāi  
 BF The *roof* is on *fire*! Help us put it out, and avoid a **disaster**!    [7 STROKES RANK 1349]
- 1267 辩 辩    argue, dispute, debate     hardworking (times 2) 1200     speech r 615    biàn  
 Two of my *best workers* are really getting into it, and *words* are flying about. I hope the **argument** doesn't get out of hand.    [16 STROKES RANK 1355]
- 1268 崇 崇    respect, adulate     mountain 21     clan, sect, faction 1247    chóng  
 Here, '*mountain*' is a stand-in for the direction in which our thoughts move, and when the whole *clan* tends towards these lofty feelings, it indicates **respect** and **adulation**.    [11 STROKES RANK 1482]
- 1269 煤 煤    coal     fire 1101     certain, some 397    méi  
 In the old days, we needed a *certain* something to keep the winter *fires* well stoked. That something was **coal**. (Nowadays, it's money!)    [13 STROKES RANK 1740]
- 1270 袞 袞    imperial robes     cover 268     public affairs 1091     clothing 839 (altered)    gǔn  
 BF Official events for those in *public affairs* require special *clothing* and a very fancy head *cover*. These conditions define the **imperial robes** of old.    [10 STROKES RANK 4843]















- 1271 滚 滚 roll, turn, scam!  water r 523  imperial robes 1270 gǔn
- At the height of the religious ceremony, the emperor tripped and **rolled** down the ornate steps by the altar. His *imperial robes* had soaked up sacrificial blood, and the gory *liquid* flew off in drops during this ghastly journey.
- [13 STROKES RANK 1542]

- 1272 燃 燃 burn, ignite  fire 1101  correct, so 798 rán
- When we use *fire* in the *correct* manner, it becomes a useful resource by which we **ignite** stoves and furnaces. Otherwise, it rages out of control, becoming harmful rather than helpful.
- [16 STROKES RANK 1553]

## Unit 53

### Looking on the Bright Side

- 1273 澳 澳 bay, cove  water 1 523  profound, abstruse 1135 ào  
BF An *abstruse* point is apt to be deep; a **bay** is a deep body of *water*.  
[15 STROKES RANK 1627]
- 1274 尉 尉 military official  corpse 703  show, indicate 1064  inch 210 wèi  
BF The **military official** remembered this grisly scene, repeated all too often during the great rebellion: gunfire *showing* a *corpse*, *inch*-long knife wounds piercing the body.  
[11 STROKES RANK 2126]
- 1275 慰 慰 console, comfort  military official 1274  heart (fat) 906 wèi  
BF After witnessing the awfulness of war first hand, the *military official's* next job was to show *compassion* and attempt to **console** the grieving widows and orphans.  
[15 STROKES RANK 1632]
- 1276 陪 陪 accompany  hills 735  erect, stand 1179  mouth 41 péi  
The *hill* people are notoriously shy. When they come to town, they *stand* together and keep their *mouths* shut. They always **accompany** one another.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1664]
- 1277 赔 赔 compensate, pay for  cowrie 430  erect, stand 1179  mouth 41 péi  
When you damage your neighbor's lawnmower, you *stand up* like a man, open your *mouth*, and give the guy *money* to **compensate** him for the damage.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1734]

- 1278 誉 誉 reputation, fame  prosper 1212  speech 270 yù  
BF Prosperity and proper speech augment a person's reputation.  
[13 STROKES RANK 1676]
- 1279 欺 欺 deceive, cheat  his, her, its, theirs 1093  owe, lack 465 qī  
BF I made *them* believe that they *owed* me money, but it was a fraud—I cheated them.  
[12 STROKES RANK 1699]
- 1280 粒 粒 grain, granule, pellet  rice 1127  erect, stand 1179 lì  
BF Someone threw *rice* on the floor where I was *standing* in my bare feet. I could feel each and every *grain*—oh, the pain!  
[11 STROKES RANK 1714]
- 1281 峡 峡 gorge, canyon  mountain 21  place in between 1177 xiá  
BF To early explorers, gorges and canyons were picturesque valleys nestled between mountains.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1727]
- 1282 粹 粹 pure\*, unmixed\*  rice 1127  foot soldier 450 cuì  
BF The prince (disguised as a *soldier*) went to the wedding. The guests threw filthy *rice* at him, but it all rolled off, because he was so *pure*.  
[14 STROKES RANK 1736]
- 1283 糖 糖 sugar, sweets, carbs  rice 1127  Tang dynasty 690 táng  
In the collective Chinese memory, nothing was *sweeter* than life during the *Tang dynasty*. Chinese *candy* tends to be in separate pieces, sprinkled with *rice flour* to keep it from sticking together.  
[16 STROKES RANK 1746]
- 1284 弥 弥 full, overflowing  bow (weapon) 859  you, thou 1227 mí  
When you hold your giant *bow* and stand in the doorway, you fill it to overflowing.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1785]

## 1285 彡 彡 feathers

**CMP** You can imagine these **feathers** in a wing, upswept to catch the wind. **Feathers** have other uses—dusting, writing, drawing—and can be suggestive of other growths on living creatures, such as hair and bristles, and maybe fingernails and shells.

1286 珍 珍 precious thing  king 11  man 311  feathers 1285 zhēn

**BF** In this and other characters, ‘*man*’ straddles ‘*feathers*’, perhaps to suggest to readers the concept of “human feathers.” Of course, people don’t grow feathers, so this must be a poetic expression of decorative things that grow from someone’s body. In all likelihood, this represents a head of hair, but not just anybody’s hair—rather, an impressive, Beethovenian or Einsteinian mop.


This character paints a picture of luxuriant hair on the head of a *king*. This was a **precious thing** to the citizens in those days.

[9 STROKES RANK 1314]

1287 须 须 beard, must  feathers 1285  page, leaf 444 xū

What are those wispy, whiskery, *feathery* things adjacent to a *man’s face*? Why, his **beard**, of course!

[9 STROKES RANK 444]

1288 趁 趁 take advantage of  to walk 421  man 311  feathers 1285 chèn














Here’s a *man* (the king, perhaps, from §1286) *walking around* and in danger of tripping over his long, *luxuriant hair*. The Royal Tonsorial Parlor is part of his stroll—he’d better **take advantage** of this opportunity to get a haircut.




[12 STROKES RANK 2109]



1289 穆 穆 respectful, dignified  rice or grain 409  silk 206 (altered)  feathers 1285 mù



**BF** Here’s our special suit for this **respectful and dignified** occasion. Of course we use *silk*, tastefully accoutered with some *feathers* for decoration. Since the harvest is the source of our prosperity, we cram our pockets full of *grain* to throw in a celebratory manner at the end of the ceremony.



[16 STROKES RANK 1683]

- 1290 影 影 shadow, reflection  view, scene 1083  feathers 1285 yǐng  
 BF We're shooting a movie. There's a typical urban *view*, and notice how high the sun is in the sky—the *feathery shadows* are clearly visible.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 390]
- 1291 彭 彭 surname of Peng  ten 6  bean 1168  feathers 1285 péng  
 This character simply represents a **particular family name**, and has no other meaning so far as I can tell. How can we fix it in our minds forever?  
*Beans* are notorious for the gassiness they induce; the *feathery* vapor trails on the right suggest the gas tracks from *ten* bowls of *beans*. The cook's plea: "Please eat our northern Garbanzos," and those initials spell 'peng'. The rising second tone suggests the buoyant properties of gas.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1501]
- 1292 参 参 take part in, participate  private 750  big 330 (altered)  feathers 1285 cān  
 BF They'll only let me **take part in** the gang if I show true dedication. I need to wear something that's *private* and very meaningful to me, like the *big* bunch of pink *feathers* I dance around in when nobody's watching.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 507]
- 1293 诊 诊 diagnose  speech r 615  man 311  feathers 1285 zhěn  
 BF My ideal doctor is a *man* whose hands on my body are like *feathers*. He *speaks* his **diagnosis** calmly and in measured tones, no matter how serious.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1401]
- 1294 惨 惨 miserable, wretched  heart (skinny) 930  take part in, participate 1292 cǎn  
 It's *emotional* to *take part in* so many office parties. It makes me **miserable**—celebrating other people's promotions, but never my own.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1530]

1295 彦 彦 accomplished, talented  cliff 671  erect, stand 1179  feathers 1285 yàn  
**BF** His talents make him *stand out* from the crowd, figuratively as if he were *standing* atop a *cliff*, the *feathers* indicative of the elegance of his **accomplishments**. [9 STROKES RANK 2559]



1296 颜 颜 color  accomplished, talented 1295  page, leaf 444 yán  
**BF** Upon receiving compliments on his *talents*, his *face* flushed deeply with embarrassment, turning (it seemed) every **color** of the rainbow. [15 STROKES RANK 1545]

1297 牝 牝 contented cows  horned animal 100  one 2  
**CMP** Imagine a long line of **contented cows** all resting their heads on the rail of their pens. Here's a snapshot of this bucolic scene—there's only room to show *one* of these *horned animals*.















1298 昔 昔 former times, past  contented cows 1297  day, sun 63 xī  
**BF** An aging bull ruminates on his **past** life. All *day* long, it was his sole job to ensure that the *cows stayed contented*. [8 STROKES RANK 2388]













## Unit 54




# Tomorrow is Another Day

- 1299 措 措 arrange  hand r 29  former times, past 1298 cuò  
BF Things that have been neatly **arranged** *some time ago* somehow always get messed up, seemingly by themselves. We need to use our *hands* carefully to set them back in order. [11 STROKES RANK 1148]
- 1300 借 借 borrow or lend  man r 953  former times, past 1298 jiè  
The *man loaned* me money some time *past* when I was in real need of it. Now he needs my repayment as someone else needs to **borrow** it. [10 STROKES RANK 984]
- 1301 惜 惜 cherish, value highly  heart (skinny) 930  former times, past 1298 xī  
BF People **cherish** things and other people who have been with them a long time. In this way, an *emotion* tied to something well-known from *former times* arises. [11 STROKES RANK 1512]
- 1302 共 共 together  contented cows 1297  eight 1048 gòng  
There's an *abundance* of *cows contentedly* resting in their barn. Domestic animals somehow learn to act **together**. [6 STROKES RANK 330]
- 1303 供 供 supply, feed  man r 953  together 1302 gōng  
For effective deployment of a large group of *men* acting *together* (think of an army), you need to **supply** and **feed** these hungry guys. Remember, an army travels on its stomach! [8 STROKES RANK 550]






- 1304 洪 洪 vast, grand (water)  water r 523  together 1302 hóng  
**BF** When several great rivers or other flowing bodies of *water* come *together*, the result is a *vast*, flood-like expanse. [9 STROKES RANK 1350]
- 1305 黄 黄 yellow  contented cows 1297  field 57 (altered)  eight 1048 huáng  
 It's harvest time, and the farmer reviews his status. The *cows are contented*, the *fields* have produced an *abundance*, and all is right with the world. While green is the prominent color in the spring and summer, now is the time when *yellows* and browns hold sway. [11 STROKES RANK 561]
- 1306 横 横 horizontal stroke  tree 375  yellow 1305 héng  
 A newly-cut *tree* looks *yellow* if the woodsman **cuts it horizontally** so you can see the bright inner material. [15 STROKES RANK 1330]
- 1307 谨 谨 careful, cautious  speech r 615  animal hide 101  earth, soil 9 jǐn  
 Chinese people behaved **carefully** and **cautiously** during the Cultural Revolution. The result of one wrong or misunderstood *speech*, and they would have to *hide* (different word, but the same sound as in 'animal hide') in the *earth* to escape the fury of the Red Guards! [13 STROKES RANK 1917]
- 1308 典 典 canon, dictionary  together 1302  borders 127 diǎn  
**BF** Masses of words bound *together* within the 'borders' of a single book constitute a **dictionary**. [8 STROKES RANK 1044]
- 1309 恭 恭 respectful  together 1302 (altered)  small 1063 (altered) gōng  
**BF** Here are several scholars *together* for the first time. Despite their eminence, they show as much **respect** to the *least* of them (who's very funny-looking) as to the mightiest. [10 STROKES RANK 1742]

- 1310 巷 巷 lane, alley  together 1302  single ear 157 xiàng  
**BF** This old-fashioned alley is so narrow that we can't pass through it *together*. If we do, there's only room for a *single ear*—the other gets scraped off on the walls of the buildings. [9 STROKES RANK 2399]
- 1311 港 港 harbor, port  water r 523  lane, alley 1310 gǎng  
**BF** A harbor is the *water* equivalent of a *lane*, for it leads vessels to the city in an orderly manner. [12 STROKES RANK 927]
- 1312 暴 暴 sudden and violent, savage  day, sun 63  together 1302  water 545 bào  
 “Nature red in tooth and claw...” quoth the poet. So it is appropriate for aspects of nature—*sun* and *water*—act *together* to illustrate the **sudden violence** of which nature is capable. [15 STROKES RANK 1028]
- 1313 爆 爆 explode, burst, quick-fry  fire 1101  sudden and violent, savage 1312 bào  
*Fire* and *sudden violence*—the very definition of an **explosion**. [19 STROKES RANK 1243]
- 1314 赛 赛 compete, game, competition  roof 247  together 1302 (altered)  cowrie 430 Sài  
**Competitions** like the Olympic **Games** are meant to transcend political differences. All teams gather *together* under one *roof* to **compete**. The fact that ‘*together*’ is altered reminds us that the contestants who participate might not normally be found *together* in the same room! The nature of the **game** is such that while the prize for winning might be money, it just as well might be something symbolic, like a *seashell*. [14 STROKES RANK 1064]

1315 塞 塞 fill, stuff in  roof 247  together 1302 (altered)  earth, soil 9 sāi





Let's work *together* to throw *soil* into this large abandoned *house*. Thereby, we *fill* the house up so it can serve as a barricade to the enemy.

[13 STROKES RANK 1080]

1316 寒 寒 cold, glacial  roof 247  together 1302 (altered)  ice r 569 (altered) hán




BF It's *so cold* outside, that even as we huddle *together* under the *roof*, *ice* coatings have formed all around us.

[12 STROKES RANK 1297]

1317 戴 戴 wear, put on (clothes)  halberd 359 (altered)  ten 6  field 57  together 1302 dài



This character forms a schematic for what the well-dressed soldier would have *worn* in ancient, scribal times. The left shows us the clothing part of the costume—tall helmet at the top resembles 'ten', and the tight tunic and smart trousers reminded someone of 'field' and 'together'. An out-sized *sword* on the right completes the sketch.

[17 STROKES RANK 1228]

1318 翼 翼 wing, flank  feather, wing 123  field 57  together 1302 yì












BF All of a sudden, *feathers* started raining down on the big corn*field* across the street. The *feathers* are huge and stay *together* in a big pile. They must come from the *wing* of a huge bird!

[17 STROKES RANK 1294]

1319 腊 腊 sausage  meat 317 (altered)  former times, past 1298 là












BF Remember the boar we butchered *some time ago*? We took the *meat* and made delicious *sausages* from it.













[12 STROKES RANK 1497]











- 1320 籍 籍 books, works  
 end, tip 383  former times, past 1298  bamboo r 243 jí
- BF Ever see pictures of ‘books’ from *ancient* China? They were made of *bamboo* strips cut from the *tips* of the plant, and sewn together.  
 [20 STROKES RANK 1579]
- 1321 猎 猎 hunt, chase  dog r 898  former times, past 1298 liè
- BF In *times past*, there was great reliance on *dogs* to help conclude a successful hunt.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1687]
- 1322 采 采 distinguish, differentiate  dab 169  rice 1127
- CMP Despite the visual decomposition you see here, the origin of this character is as a claw mark. In former times, it was important—crucial!—to be able to **differentiate** between the various animals of the forest on the basis of traces they left behind. In this case, the strokes going every which way must have suggested the stylized print of a claw.
- 1323 番 番 kind  distinguish, differentiate 1322  field 57 fān
- Fields* contain many kinds of crops, each needing *different* care. As a result, it’s important to *distinguish* between the **kinds** of crops in the various *fields*.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1452]
- 1324 播 播 sow, broadcast  hand r 29  kind 1323 bō
- I use my *hand* to throw the different *kinds* of seed into a field, which is exactly what **sowing** is.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 1275]













## Unit 55

### Power of Suggestion



- 1325 悉 悉 know, learn  distinguish, differentiate 1322  heart (fat) 906 xī  
BF The most basic type of **learning** involves *distinguishing* between different emotions—know thyself! [11 STROKES RANK 1428]
- 1326 翻 翻 turn over, cross over  distinguish, differentiate 1322  field 57  feather, wing 123 fān  
After all these years as a farmer, I still can't *differentiate* between a well-plowed *field* and a marsh land covered with *feathery* grass. As a result, it's hard for me **cross over** to the other side. [18 STROKES RANK 1027]
- 1327 钅 钅 gold r  
CMP This is just a squished-up form of 'gold' (§1157).
- 1328 锦 锦 brocade  gold r 1327  silk 206 jǐn  
BF **Brocade** is a luxurious fabric made of *silk* shot with *gold* or other shiny metallic thread. [13 STROKES RANK 1947]
- 1329 锐 锐 sharp, acute  gold r 1327  exchange, convert 1049 ruì  
BF The **sharp** businessperson is the one who can profitably *convert* his goods into *gold*. [12 STROKES RANK 1851]
- 1330 销 销 melt metal  gold r 1327  like, similar to 1231 xiāo  
If you put all different pieces of *gold* into the kiln, they all become *similar* shapeless lumps after the **metal melts**. [12 STROKES RANK 904]



- 1331 钱 钱 money, coins  gold r 1327  tiny, fragmentary 373 qián  
*Gold* becomes convenient when you chop it up into many *tiny* but standardized units. These bits, like **coins**, become useful as **money**.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 603]
- 1332 错 错 bad, wrong, mistaken  gold r 1327  former times, past 1298 cuò  
 In *former times* this country's money was made out of *precious metal*, but now our coinage is debased and **bad**.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 638]
- 1333 铁 铁 iron  gold r 1327  lose 427 tiě  
 The *gold* bars somehow became spoiled, as if they were living things. Gradually, they *lost* their color—and their value. Now, they're just **iron** ingots.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 779]
- 1334 钟 钟 bell, clock, time  gold r 1327  middle 45 zhōng  
 The *metal* item that was of central importance in ancient China was the **bell**, located in the *middle* of the town square. It marked **time**, tolled for important events, and represented authority and prosperity. [9 STROKES RANK 905]
- 1335 镇 镇 trading center, garrison post  gold r 1327  real 1058 zhèn  
 That **trading post** is so tiny it looks fake, but don't be fooled—it's *real!* The soldiers take their job of guarding the *gold* very seriously.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 1002]
- 1336 针 针 needle, pin, injection  gold r 1327  ten 6 zhēn  
 The '*gold*' here really stands for any fine metal, and the '*ten*' refers—more or less—to its shape. Also, in the old days, you needed one *gold* coin to buy *ten* needles—that's how costly they were to manufacture.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1116]



- 1337 镜 镜 mirror  gold r 1327  in the end 1193 jìng  
 BF The myth of the pot of *gold* at *the end of* the rainbow endures as a **mirror** of a universal desire for easy money. [16 STROKES RANK 1251]
- 1338 钻 钻 drill, bore  gold r 1327  practice divination 172 zūān  
 Prospecting—**drilling** for *gold*—is a little like *practicing divination*. You hope for the best, but you never know what you'll find. [10 STROKES RANK 1724]
- 1339 铜 铜 copper  gold r 1327  same, similar 129 tóng  
 Many metals—especially when newly minted and untouched by tarnish—are so bright and shiny as to appear *similar* to *gold*. **Copper** is prominent among this group. [11 STROKES RANK 1772]
- 1340 尗 尗 small (v)    
 CMP  
 1 In the same way that 'eight' and other components have two variants, so too does 'small' (§1063).  
 2 However, here's another interpretation that's also useful. The two ticks on the end signify abundance, and the vertical in the middle splits or divides this abundance. Sometimes we can interpret this component as meaning 'potential', a potential for abundance. At other times, this represents the destruction or diminution of something plentiful.
- 1341 当 当 work as, become  small (v) 1340  boar's head 34 dāng  
 You use this verb in the sense of becoming as in 'I want to **become** (to **work as**) an astronaut'. This character shows a seed just sprouting out of the layered ground, another way to interpret the *boar's head*. Tentatively, it spreads out a few *small* leaves, to mark the transition as it **becomes** a plant from a seed. The tiny leaves symbolize the **potential** abilities of the young plant. [6 STROKES RANK 71]

- 1342 挡 挡 ward off, block  hand r 29  work as, become 1341 dǎng  
A *hand* approaches our sprouting seed. Some vicious child likes uprooting these seedlings for the fun of it! He will **block** its *becoming* a real plant, and so destroy its potential. [9 STROKES RANK 1933]
- 1343 锁 锁 lock up, lock  gold r 1327  small (v) 1340  cowrie 430 suǒ  
The sound of engaging a **lock** is similar to that of a bunch of *small shells* jingling together. Of course, the **lock** itself is made of *metal*. [12 STROKES RANK 1558]
- 1344 档 档 files, archives  tree 375  work as, become 1341 dàng  
BF I feel like I have *become a tree*, because I pile up **files** all day long, creating stacks of paper which become as hard and unyielding as the *trees* they once were. [10 STROKES RANK 1787]
- 1345 𠄎 𠄎 hands raised high  
CMP We only see three upraised arms, but the topmost curve, almost horizontal, suggests the presence of hands, and many more arms, in the background.
- 1346 摇 摇 shake, wave  hand r 29  hands raised high 1345  dry mountainous bits 520 yáo  
Here are a group of heroes stranded on a *desert-dry mountain*. Everybody **waves** all their *hands* (all of which are *raised high*) vigorously in the attention to attract attention. [13 STROKES RANK 940]
- 1347 妥 妥 appropriate, proper  hands raised high 1345  woman 581 tuǒ  
The cowering *woman* in front is comforted by the *raised hands* of her loved ones that all is secure and **proper**. [7 STROKES RANK 1840]













1348 采 采 pick, gather  hands raised high 1345  tree 375 cǎi  
 The best fruit sits high on the *tree*. *Hold your hands high* in order to **pick** those succulent plums. [8 STROKES RANK 585]



1349 菜 菜 dish, course, veggies  grass r 94  pick, gather 1348 cài  
*Vegetables* are personally *gathered* by great chefs for their mouthwatering dishes. [11 STROKES RANK 1266]



1350 彩 彩 colorful  pick, gather 1348  feathers 1285 cǎi  
**BF** The main reason to *gather feathers* is because they are so bright and **colorful**. [11 STROKES RANK 1177]

## Unit 56



# A Bird in the Hand



- 1351 𡗗 𡗗 together, unanimous  cozy house 509 (altered)  hands raised high 1345 qiān  
BF The crucial meeting takes place in this *cozy house*. They vote on the motion. Everybody *raises their hands*. The motion carries—it's **unanimous**!  
Although a low frequency character in its standalone incarnation, it appears as a component in other characters. [7 STROKES RANK 5613]
- 1352 險 險 dangerous  hills 735  together, unanimous 1351 xiǎn  
We formed a search party so we would go all *together* to the *hills*. It's too **dangerous** to go by yourself. [9 STROKES RANK 672]
- 1353 应 应 ought  extensive 686  hands raised high 1345 (altered) yīng  
The members *raise their hands* to affirm an *extensive* list of motions, a list of all the things we **ought** to do. [7 STROKES RANK 144]
- 1354 劍 劍 sword, saber  together, unanimous 1351  knife r 166 jiàn  
A **saber** is a kind of *knife*. What kind? Well, when the intellectuals in the party *raise their hands* to vote on something, the warlord makes one mighty swing of his **saber** and chops off all their hands! [9 STROKES RANK 869]
- 1355 检 检 check, examine  tree 375  together, unanimous 1351 jiǎn  
Infestations of *trees* by insects are increasingly common. If you group the *trees together*, then they are much easier to **examine**. [11 STROKES RANK 731]



- 1356 验 验 examine, check  horse 878  together, unanimous 1351 yàn  
 In the old days, the days of the Wild American West, buying a *horse* was a serious craft. Until you build up skill, you need to get all your friends *together* to help you **examine** the the *horse* you're thinking of buying.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 534]













- 1357 签 签 sign one's name  bamboo r 243  together, unanimous 1351 qiān  
 In ancient times, people only **signed their name** at special occasions. Most often, it signaled *unanimous agreement*. Pens for signing were made out of *bamboo*.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1254]













- 1358 夫 夫 mighty tree  
 CMP You know this is a **mighty tree**, a conifer, because of the Christmas-tree profile and the three levels of branches, each loaded with pine needles.

- 1359 春 春 spring (season)  mighty tree 1358  day, sun 63 chūn  
 BF Imagine this Kodak moment. The *mighty tree* dominates the foreground, showing off its new foliage. They are lit up by the rays of the *sun*, which is still low in the sky to indicate the moderate weather of **spring**.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 921]

- 1360 奏 奏 memorialize the emperor  mighty tree 1358  heaven 333 zòu  
 It's from the ramparts of the extraordinary **monument to the emperor** (think: pyramids, Sphinx) that we see the *mighty tree* as symbol of homage to the son of *heaven*.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1543]

- 1361 秦 秦 Qin (dynasty)  mighty tree 1358  rice or grain 409 qín  
 It is thought that the **Qin** dynasty gave its name to the word 'China'.  
 The **Qin** first brought modernity to Chinese civilization—more than two millennia ago. A centralized government made possible a countrywide program of public works, symbolized by this *mighty tree*, and helped guarantee supplies of food and *grain* to all citizens throughout the country.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1394]

- 1362 奏 奏 assemble  ice r 569  memorialize the emperor 1360 còu  
Everyone had to **assemble**, even on this *icy* day, to *memorialize the emperor*.  
[11 STROKES RANK 2193]
- 1363 奉 奉 give, present  mighty tree 1358  ceremonial sword fèng  
The solemnity and majesty of the moment are emphasized by holding the ceremony outside, beneath our *mighty tree*. The king **presents** the *ceremonial sword* to the patriot.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1382]
- 1364 寿 寿 longevity  mighty tree 1358 (altered)  inch 210 shòu  
The *mighty tree* is in danger of toppling over—lightning has destroyed the right support system of its great trunk. Wise forest rangers merely need to insert a one *inch* slab of wood to preserve the supports, and to safeguard the **longevity** of the tree.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1615]
- 1365 卷 卷 egg roll, roll up  spring (season) 1359 (altered)  single ear 157 (altered) juǎn  
It's messy as we make the year's first batch of **egg rolls**; the dabs up on top emphasize this mess. The kitchen is still dark—it's only very early *spring*—so the 'sun' between the curved supports is gone. We roll the wrapper in the shape of the spiral folds of a person's *ear*.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1016]
- 1366 圈 圈 pen, sty  enclosure 40  egg roll, roll up 1365 juàn  
The pigs are in their **pen**, quietly waiting for dinner. Tonight it's their favorite—slightly stale *egg rolls*—that get tossed into the *enclosure*.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1366]
- 1367 泰 泰 peace, quiet  mighty tree 1358  water 545 tài  
**BF** What could be more **peaceful** than a **quiet** spot in the country, the sound of wind whistling through *mighty trees* while *water* gurgles and splashes in a nearby brook.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1318]

- 1368 筹 筹 tally, counter  bamboo 243  longevity 1364 chóu  
*Bamboo* plant have such *longevity* that you can use them as **tallies** of the passage of historical events (new governments, the occurrence of eclipses and earthquakes, and so on). [13 STROKES RANK 1677]
- 1369 ㄅ ㄅ time's arrow  
**CMP** This right-pointing arrow is a bit stylized, because the upper part of the arrow point is only sketched in.
- 1370 今 今 today, current  man 311  time's arrow 1369 jīn  
The flow of time is often likened to the flight of *time's arrow*, flying from the left (the past) to the right (the future). Here, the legs of a *man* attempt to pinion time's flight right now, **today**. [4 STROKES RANK 336]
- 1371 贪 贪 corrupt, venal  today, current 1370  cowrie 430 tān  
The only way the government worker gets the *wealth* that he craves *today* is if he is thoroughly **corrupt**. [8 STROKES RANK 1874]
- 1372 念 念 read aloud  today, current 1370  heart (fat) 906 niàn  
When a skilled reader **reads aloud**, she conveys her *current emotion*. [8 STROKES RANK 477]
- 1373 令 令 season  today, current 1370  dab 169 lìng  
**BF** A *little bit* of *today*—that is, today, plus the few weeks before and after—comprise a **season**. [5 STROKES RANK 378]
- 1374 玲 玲 exquisitely made  king 11  season 1373 líng  
**BF** The **exquisitely made** jewelry in view on noble ears, fingers, and limbs announces the beginning of the social *season*—when the *king* and other royals begin the round of fancy balls and such. [9 STROKES RANK 1855]

1375 零 零 zero

 rain 85  season 1373

líng

During the *rainy season*, there's absolutely **nothing** to do, except wait for better weather.

[13 STROKES RANK 1342]

1376 齡 齡 age, years

 tooth 324  season 1373











líng

**BF** Imagine we're in the middle of *tooth season*, the time when teeth fall out of our mouths like rain from the heavens. This is a problem for older people (at least it used to be, in times of poor public health) after the passage of many years.



[13 STROKES RANK 1510]



## Unit 57



### Whatever You Say

- 1377 领 领 neck  season 1373  page, leaf 444 lǐng  
BF The **neck** is a *seasonal* body part *on top of a person*. That is, sometimes you see it (warmer weather), and sometimes you don't (cooler times).  
[11 STROKES RANK 329]
- 1378 冷 冷 cold  ice r 569  season 1373 lěng  
When it's the 'ice' season, it's sure to be bitter **cold**. [7 STROKES RANK 700]
- 1379 怜 怜 sympathy, pity  heart (skinny) 930  season 1373 lián  
BF *Heart season* is the time of year when you display **sympathy** and **pity** for your fellow man. Hopefully, this 'heart season' runs all year long.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1599]
- 1380 吟 吟 chant, recite  mouth 41  today, current 1370 yín  
*Today's sounds* always sound fresh and new. In a few years, they are as outdated as religious **chanting**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 2015]
- 1381 含 含 keep in the mouth  today, current 1370  mouth 41 hán  
You **keep in your mouth** what's *currently* in your *mouth*.  
[7 STROKES RANK 937]

It's easy to confuse 吟 and 含 (§§1380 and 1381). But 吟 'chant, recite' refers to actual production of sound, and the sound travels further with the mouth part 口 on the side. With the mouth aimed down, as in 含, no one would hear anything.


- 1382 琴 琴 zither-like instrument  king (times 2) 11  today, current 1370 qín
- Zithers are folk-instruments with many rows of strings and frets, which the *two kings* resemble. Think of the bottom component as a pick (like a guitar pick) to pluck the strings to make music. [12 STROKES RANK 1701]



- 1383 铃 铃 bell  gold r 1327  season 1373 líng
- Bells constructed out of *fine metal* are *seasonal* items that hang outside to make beautiful music when soft breezes blow. [10 STROKES RANK 1969]

- 1384 邻 邻 neighbor, neighborhood, neighboring  season 1373  town 745 lín
- BF In ancient times, rich folk wandered from country to *town*, and back, depending on the *season*. In *season*, you could depend on having a **neighbor** in *town*, otherwise the city house was a lonely place indeed. [7 STROKES RANK 1659]



Small, diagonal strokes are common.




- 1385 石 石 stone r
- CMP The level surface with the sloping downward edge represents the profile of a **stone** cliff.



- 1386 石 石 stone, rock  stone r 1385 shí
- BF The things at the bottoms of cliffs tend to be monstrous **stones** and boulders. The ‘mouth’ component is a big *rock*, not a mouth. [5 STROKES RANK 414]





- 1387 碧 碧 green jade  emperor 207 (altered)  stone, rock 1386 bì
- BF We saw in §207 that we could think of an *emperor* as a ‘white king’, with these elements stacked vertically. Here, to accommodate a crowded character square, these components are juxtaposed to each other horizontally.
- What kind of *stone* would appeal to the *emperor*? Why, **green jade**, of course—China’s royal gem. [14 STROKES RANK 2165]







1388 岩 岩 cliff, crag  mountain 21  stone, rock 1386 yán  
**BF** The salient quality of a **cliff** is the abrupt and sudden contrast between the high ground on one side of the cliff and the low ground on the other. This character emphasizes the contrast in terrain—the high *mountain* on top next to the big *rock* resting on the ground below. [8 STROKES RANK 1423]



1389 碰 碰 touch, bump  stone, rock 1386  enter, advance 1123 (altered)  eight (v) 1047 pèng  
 The ‘*enter*’ component on the right is missing the ‘*sun*’ that belongs at the bottom. The *stone* rolled into the cave, and destroyed the *sunlamp* when it **bumped** into it! The ‘*abundant*’ dabs up top represent pieces of debris flying all over the place. [13 STROKES RANK 1371]



1390 碎 碎 broken  stone, rock 1386  foot soldier 450 suì  
 The force of the bomb blast dropped a *stone* on the *soldier*. Only his helmet was **broken**. [13 STROKES RANK 1420]



1391 碍 碍 hinder, obstruct  stone, rock 1386  day, sun 63  one 2  inch 210 ài  
 We’re trapped in the mine! Peering up, we can only see *one inch* of the *sun* over the horizon. By its light, we see the huge *stone* that **hinders** our escape. [13 STROKES RANK 1437]

1392 矿 矿 ore  stone, rock 1386  extensive 686 kuàng  
*Extensive* supplies of an important kind of mineral or *stone* is what **ore** is. [8 STROKES RANK 1385]

1393 碗 碗 bowl  stone, rock 1386  bent 864 wǎn  
 Waterproof things were few and far between in ancient times. That’s why a peculiar *bend* in a small *rock* would have been so valuable—it would have served as a leak proof **bowl**. [13 STROKES RANK 1939]


- 1394 础 础 base\*, foundation\*  stone r 1385  exit 22 chǔ  
 BF The component that means ‘exit’ has a structural appearance—it looks like it could hold stuff. Perhaps it does, and it holds large amounts of *stone*, which act as a strong and solid **base** or **foundation** to this building.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1014]




- 1395 磨 磨 polish, wear down, pester  hemp, pocked, pitted 694 (altered)  stone, rock 1386 mó  
 Go ahead, wrap some *linen* cloth around a hefty *stone*. You’ll find it makes a great **polishing** tool. With patience, it **wears down** the roughest blemish. It reminds me of the way my kids **pester** when they want something—they simply **wear me down**.  
 [16 STROKES RANK 1537]



- 1396 码 码 number  stone, rock 1386  horse 878 mǎ  
*Stones* got lodged in the *horse’s* hoof. We **counted** every step back to town.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1345]



- 1397 磁 磁 porcelain  stone, rock 1386  now, at present 779 cí  
 BF *At present*, no one eats out of hollowed *stones*. Everything is now **porcelain** or china!  
 [14 STROKES RANK 1771]

- 1398 了 了 le r  
 CMP 了 is the supreme example of an important Chinese word which defies easy translation. By great good fortune, it’s so common that you’ll soon learn how to recognize and draw it.

- 1399 了 了 le  le r 1398 le  
 One of the important uses of this common word is to signal a sudden ‘change of state’ (refer to your favorite textbook for a more leisurely and meaningful discussion), suggested by the twists and turns of this squiggly character. We’ll use it to signify a sudden, significant change.  
 [2 STROKES RANK 5]



1400 亨 亨 smooth  cover 268  mouth 41  le 1399 hēng  
 A roof (*cover*) over your head, food to keep your *mouth* happy, and *changes* for the better mean life is finally becoming **smooth** for you.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 2146]

1401 哼 哼 hum, croon  mouth 41  smooth 1400 hēng  
 The sound from your *mouth* when things are going *smoothly* is apt to be a **humming** or **crooning**.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1966]



1402 子 子 son, child  le 1399  one 2 zǐ  
 BF There is no *change* in life so sudden as the birth of *one child*.  
 [3 STROKES RANK 37]



## Unit 58



### Big Doings

1403 享 享 enjoy  smooth 1400  one 2 xiǎng  
When *one* thing after another goes *smoothly*, then I sit back and **enjoy** life.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1227]

Here again is the case of two characters, those in §§1400 and 1403, that can be confused. Both ‘smooth’ and ‘enjoyable’ are adjectives that apply to life, but ‘enjoyable’ conveys a little bit *more* than just ‘smooth’. The character 享 ‘enjoy’ contains *one* more stroke than 亨 ‘smooth’.

1404 仔 仔 animal young  man r 953  son, child 1402 zǐ  
BF A *man* takes his *son* to the zoo, where their favorite exhibits feature the **animal young**.  
[5 STROKES RANK 1572]

1405 好 好 good, OK  woman 581  son, child 1402 hǎo  
No scene better suggests a sense of **goodness** than a *woman* together with her *child*.  
[6 STROKES RANK 82]




1406 李 李 plum  tree 375  son, child 1402 lǐ  
BF The ancient Chinese considered **plums** to be the most important of fruits. As a result, the *offspring* of orchard *trees* were often **plums**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 472]

1407 季 季 season\*  rice or grain 409  son, child 1402 jì

**BF** At the start of one **season**, the *grain*, which is the *offspring* of last year's crop, is still unripe. But by **season's** end, it has ripened and matured.




[8 STROKES RANK 1279]

These two glyphs—季 'plum' and 季, §§1406 and 1407—have meanings that can get jumbled. The little 'dab' atop 季 suggests immaturity, and you need an entire season for the crop to fully ripen.

1408 俘 俘 capture, take prisoner  man r 953  hands raised high 1345  son, child 1402 fú

**BF** Young soldiers—so young they seem like *children*—have *raised their hands* in surrender to the *man* who has **captured** them.

[9 STROKES RANK 2057]

1409 浮 浮 float  water r 523  hands raised high 1345  son, child 1402 fú



The small *child* has fallen into the *water*. General panic! All the other swimmers gather round, *hands held high*, to keep him out of harm's way. But not to worry—children naturally **float** in water.

[10 STROKES RANK 1462]

1410 孙 孙 grandson  son, child 1402  small 1063 sūn

**BF** A **grandson** is like a *son*, but the filial relationship has been diluted—made *small*—by the intervening generation.

[6 STROKES RANK 995]

1411 孟 孟 eldest among brothers  son, child 1402  vessel, dish 110 mèng

**BF** Which *child* sits at the head of the table by the *dishes* of food? The **eldest among them**, by virtue of his status and superior strength and growth.

[8 STROKES RANK 1575]














1412 孔 孔 hole, aperture  son, child 1402  mineshaft 135 kǒng










Holes in the ground that mark old *mineshafts* are quite dangerous, especially for puppies and *children*.

This character also stands for **Confucius**.

[4 STROKES RANK 1289]

- 1413 孤 孤 solitary, isolated  son, child 1402  melon 781 gū  
 BF The *boy* is gorging himself on a *melon*, and he is making such a sloppy pig of himself that no one sits near him. He has become **solitary** and **isolated**.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1334]
- 1414 郭 郭 outer city wall  high 275 (altered)  son, child 1402  town 745 guō  
 BF The *town* protects its *children* and other vulnerable people by means of something *high*—the massive **outer city wall**.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1813]
- 1415 字 字 character, word  roof 247  son, child 1402 zì  
 You want a **character**—I'll give you a **character**. It's my *son*. At age forty-two, he still lives under my *roof*! (And when is he going to get married?)  
 [6 STROKES RANK 393]
- 1416 疑 疑 doubt, suspect  ancient ladle 142  arrow 334  son, child 1402 (altered)  stop! 181 (altered) yí  
 BF Using a *ladle* as an *arrow*, his *son* seriously expects that he will be able to *stop* danger. I **suspect** he's a little bit nuts.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 698]
- 1417 疗 疗 cure, treat illness  sick 697  le 1399 liáo  
 BF One of the functions of the 'le' character is to signal a change of state. Thus, if someone starts out *sick*, and then there is a *change in the state* of their health, they must be **cured**!  
 [7 STROKES RANK 949]
- 1418 猛 猛 fierce, valiant  dog r 898  eldest among brothers 1411 měng  
 In a litter of puppies, the *eldest* among these *dogs* has been observed to secure his position by **fierce** behavior towards his siblings.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1157]



- 1419 厚 厚 thick, deep, profound  
 cliff r 671  day, sun 63  son, child 1402 hòu  
 The college freshman stands on top of the *cliff*, pondering how different words like ‘*son*’ and ‘*sun*’ sound alike yet have different meanings. How **profound**, or so he thinks. [9 STROKES RANK 1235]
- 1420 凝 凝 congeal, curdle  ice r 569  doubt, suspect 1416 níng  
 Early on, I began to *doubt* you still loved me. When you poured *ice* cubes down my back at the party, my suspicions **congealed** into knowledge. [16 STROKES RANK 1631]
- 1421 丿 丿 action path  
 CMP The presence of this element suggests a **path** along which something important happened. Sometimes, it suggests just the **action** itself.
- 1422 么 么 huh? what?  action path 1421  private 750 me  
 BF A fly or worm or something is tracing an *action path* along my neighbor’s *nose*. **What** the heck is it? [3 STROKES RANK 63]
- 1423 长 长 long, length  one 2  scepter 5 (altered)  action path 1421  action path 1421 (altered) cháng  
 The *scepter* is the back wall of a room, and the *horizontal* represents a **long** mirror bisecting it. A ray of light from the mirror travels to the upper right. The lower half of this vision is a mirror image of the upper half. It’s well known that a mirror in a room increases the apparent **length** of the room. [4 STROKES RANK 109]
- 1424 勿 勿 do not  action path (times 3) 1421  place of refuge 111 wù  
 There’s a lot of *activity* going on, and it is all **not permitted**. Everything is restricted to the *place of refuge* in order to circumscribe the activity. [4 STROKES RANK 2563]



- 1425 豕 豕 pig, boar  one 2  do not 1424 (altered)  gaping jaws shǐ  
 BF The **boar** is *one* animal you *do not* want to take for granted. They have foul tempers, they can be vicious, and their temperament can turn on a dime. Those *gaping jaws* help emphasize this warning! [7 STROKES RANK 4953]
- 1426 家 家 home  roof 247  pig, boar 1425 jiā  
 Most of the people who live in my **home** under my *roof* are such *pigs*!  
 [10 STROKES RANK 56]
- 1427 易 易 easy  day, sun 63  do not 1424 yì  
 BF My *son* (sounds like ‘*sun*’) *does not* do anything all day long! Life is **easy** for him. [8 STROKES RANK 461]
- 1428 物 物 thing, matter  ox 186  do not 1424 wù  
 BF Imagine an immigrant speaking, someone whose English is not quite up to snuff. “**Nothing**’s the **matter**—*do not ox* me again!” Many foreigners pronounce ‘ask’ like ‘*ox*’. [8 STROKES RANK 142]







## Unit 59













### Not So Fast!















1429 东 东 east  show, indicate 1064 (altered)  action path 1421 dōng  
As the sun ascends in the **east**, its rays *indicate* the *action path* that it traces in the sky. [5 STROKES RANK 194]



1430 车 车 car  east 1429 (altered)  ten 6 chē  
In the old days, how would you have gotten from California to New York? You climb in your **car**, and head *east*. In *ten* days, more or less, you'll be bucking crowds in Times Square.  
Also: 车 shows the outline of the front of your new, fire-engine red Lexus, seen from above. The car's hood is on the left. The horizontals represent the wheels on the right and left. The front right door is open, and if you look inside, you'll see the front row of bucket seats (that's the vertical line) neatly bisected in two. [4 STROKES RANK 361]



1431 军 军 military  smooth cover 280  car 1430 jūn  
**BF** Put a strong, weapons-resistant *cover* on a *car*, and you've converted it to **military** use. [6 STROKES RANK 102]



1432 辉 辉 brightness, splendor  light, ray 1116  military 1431 huī  
**BF** In the old days, before 'imperialism' became a dirty word, one presumed that the metaphorical *light* from *military* exploits brought **brightness** and **splendor** to the reigning monarch. [12 STROKES RANK 1623]



- 1433 浑 浑 muddy  water r 523  military 1431 hún  
*Military* vehicles are big and heavy. After a rainstorm, this heaviness churns up a lot of earth, which mixes with rain *water* to create dismal, **muddy** conditions. [9 STROKES RANK 1991]
- 1434 挥 挥 brandish  hand r 29  military 1431 huī  
 It's the heat of battle. With your *hand*, you seize a *military* flag, **brandish** it in the face of the enemy, and lead your troops to victory. [9 STROKES RANK 742]
- 1435 辈 辈 lifetime  not 13  car 1430 bèi  
 BF I remember those horrible years BDL—before driving license. *Not* having a *car* at my disposal made every day seem a **lifetime!** [12 STROKES RANK 1477]
- 1436 辆 辆 m for vehicles  car 1430  both, two 316 liàng  
 That squished *car* on the left is so small it only fits *two* people. It must be a sports car, a classic Corvette—the standard by which all such cars are **measured**. [11 STROKES RANK 1375]
- 1437 斩 斩 behead  car 1430  catty 118 zhǎn  
 Talk about gruesome! One the *car's* wheels came off during highway driving. The car became *unbalanced*, and in a freak accident, the driver was **beheaded**. [8 STROKES RANK 2463]
- 1438 渐 渐 gradually  water r 523  behead 1437 jiàn  
 The rat's body lay in the *water* with only the head exposed. Due to the action of bacteria in the water, the flesh was rapidly decomposing. **Gradually**, these natural causes resulted in the separation of the head from the body—a sort of natural *beheading*. [11 STROKES RANK 870]



- 1439 暂 暂 temporarily  behead 1437  day, sun 63 zàn  
Our ancient forebears always created gods to represent natural phenomena. In those times, if ‘day’ was thought of as a handsome god, then night would have seemed like a *beheading* of this god. Fortunately, this was only **temporary**—*day* always returned the next morning. [12 STROKES RANK 1325]
- 1440 辑 辑 compile, edit  car 1430  mouth 41  ear 82 jí  
BF The author travels in his *car* all over, conducting interviews to get material for his next blockbuster. For the sake of efficiency, he works on his material while driving, talking to himself (that’s why the *mouth* is so close to the *ear*) to **edit** and **compile** this material while on the road. [13 STROKES RANK 1362]
- 1441 轻 轻 light, agile  car 1430  man 311 (altered)  labor, work 7 qīng  
The small horizontal tick on top of ‘*man*’ is an example of comic-book art—it represents swiftness and speed. Some *man* in his *car* is able to finish his *work* with seeming **agility** because the work was so **light**. [9 STROKES RANK 460]
- 1442 必 必 must  heart 907  action path 1421 bì  
A *heart’s action* is something that **must** happen—otherwise you die. [5 STROKES RANK 248]
- 1443 秘 秘 secret  rice or grain 409  must 1442 mì  
BF Something that *must* be done is a requirement. The government requisitions large amounts of *grain*, but keeps the amount **secret**, so the enemy won’t know the scale of preparation. [10 STROKES RANK 896]
- 1444 瑟 瑟 rustling sound  king (times 2) 11  must 1442 sè  
It’s a solemn moment as a *pair of kings* from neighboring states gather to sign a treaty. It *must* be signed! No one dares make noise to interrupt the proceedings—only the **rustling sounds** of the rulers’ robes can be heard. [13 STROKES RANK 1694]




1445 乍 乍 suddenly  action path 1421  a ladder 1445 zhà  
 Here's a brief example of an unexpected and **sudden** change of motion. Here you are, climbing a *ladder* when you **suddenly** slip and fall down. The *action path* shows the trajectory of your descent. [5 STROKES RANK 2914]









1446 作 作 to do, make  man r 953  suddenly 1445 zuò  
 A *man* climbing up and down a *ladder* is bringing supplies up to the roof **to do** repairs. [7 STROKES RANK 49]

1447 昨 昨 yesterday  day, sun 63  suddenly 1445 zúo  
**BF** You're having such a good time with old college friends you haven't seen in twenty years that you hardly notice the passage of time. The *sun* has long since gone down, and this great day is *suddenly* just another **yesterday**. [9 STROKES RANK 1475]

1448 炸 炸 explode, burst  fire 1101  suddenly 1445 zhà  
 What is especially dangerous when you are playing with *fire*? Something can *suddenly* happen, like an **explosion** that you never expect. [9 STROKES RANK 976]

1449 怎 怎 how, why  suddenly 1445  heart (fat) 906 zěn  
**BF** The '*suddenly*' part looks like a *ladder*. Imagine a perky *heart* attempting to fix the roof. Suddenly, the *ladder* breaks and falls on the *heart*, quashing it flat. The broken ladder looks like a 'Y' (sounds like **why**). [9 STROKES RANK 382]

1450 弟 弟 younger brother  sheep 1147  bow (weapon) 859  action path 1421 dì  
**BF** In ancient hunter societies, **younger brothers** had to prove themselves by accomplishing a successful *action*, such as using their *bow* to capture someone else's *sheep*. [7 STROKES RANK 816]

- 1451 第 第 ordinal prefix  bamboo r 243  younger brother 1450 (altered) dì
- In hierarchical societies, it's important to list *younger brothers* in **order**. In those days, people died often and unexpectedly, so an orderly bequeathing of family assets was crucial. If you've ever stared at a length of *bamboo* for any amount of time, you'll appreciate the connection. These stalks are divided quite clearly into **orderly** and regular sections. [11 STROKES RANK 114]
- 1452 不 不 no!  under 176  action path 1421 bù
- Here's one way to make sure an *action* will **not** go to completion—make sure it stays *underground*, or otherwise *under* the radar.
- It also looks like an upside-down wineglass, complete with upside-down stirrer. This is definitely **not** the way to get drunk! [4 STROKES RANK 4]
- 1453 杯 杯 cup  tree 375  no! 1452 bēi
- BF The crafts person has used *wood* to create this upside-down **cup**. **Cups** made from *wood* should *not* be made this way! [8 STROKES RANK 1396]
- 1454 坏 坏 spoiled, bad  earth, soil 9  no! 1452 huài
- In ancient days, people thought that vapors emanating from the *earth* had a **bad** and harmful effect, rendering everything that was too close to the soil *not* good. [7 STROKES RANK 832]


## Unit 60

# Slow Down and Smell the Flowers

1455 环 环 encircle  king 11  no! 1452 huán

The *king* takes his cup, which we *know* (sounds like ‘no’) got overturned on the table, and supports it by **encircling** it with his hands.

It’s easy to mistake the two characters in §§1454, 1455 for each other—坏 versus 环. If you’ve ever bought food and stored it for later use, you know that you have to keep it off the ground, for ground contact promotes spoilage. In olden times, the circle was considered to be the most perfect of geometric forms, so much so that it sometimes received holy or royal status, so it’s easy therefore to associate ‘king’ with ‘encircling’. [8 STROKES RANK 681]

1456 否 否 negate  no! 1452  mouth 41 fǒu


When you use your *mouth* to say *no*, you are **negating** an opinion.

[7 STROKES RANK 620]

1457 怀 怀 state of mind  heart (skinny) 930  no! 1452 huái





‘Heart’ is a visual synonym for ‘emotion’, and here it’s next to an *overturned cup*. The cup restrains *emotion* and sets the stage for a sober **state of mind**.

[7 STROKES RANK 762]

1458 在 在 located at  one 2  scepter 5  earth, soil 9  action path 1421 zài

The ‘one’ and ‘scepter’ mark out a **location** in the *earth* which you get to by following the *path of action*. [6 STROKES RANK 6]

1459 存 存 store, preserve




 one 2  scepter 5  son, child 1402  action path 1421

cún

Observe the *action path* of a car, starting from a fixed structure and terminated by *one scepter*-like obstacle, resulting in the death of the young driver. The three strokes seem to cradle and **preserve** the image of the *child*, much as the bereaved parents will **store** the precious memories of their *son*.

[6 STROKES RANK 384]



1460 者 者 -er

 earth, soil 9  day, sun 63  action path 1421

zhě

(This cryptic definition refers to certain verbs which comes directly in front of it. ‘-er’ is the same thing as ‘one who...’.) You need to apply *action* to bring something from under the *earth*—a metaphor for unformed and chaotic—to the light of *day*—a metaphor for a fully finished activity. This is the job of **someone who performs an activity**, a perform-er. [8 STROKES RANK 103]



1461 都 都 all

 -er 1460  town 745

dōu

All kinds of people *able to do all* kinds of things can always be found in large towns and cities. [10 STROKES RANK 68]



1462 著 著 write, compose

 grass r 94  -er 1460

zhù

Paper was one of the great discoveries of ancient China, developed long before its production began in the West. Made from *grass* and other vegetable matter, the components in 著 refer to an *active process* which uses this vegetable matter invention, namely **writing** on paper. [11 STROKES RANK 777]



1463 署 署 government office

 net r 107  -er 1460

shǔ




Despite his most conscientious efforts, the civil servant in his **government office** finds all his *actions* trap him in an entangling *net* of bureaucratic red tape. [13 STROKES RANK 1379]




1464 赌 赌 bet, gamble



 cowrie 430  -er 1460



dǔ

Some scribe once thought that *wealth* fosters one major *activity*—**gambling**. Is this evidence of ancient Chinese cynicism? [12 STROKES RANK 2037]



- 1465 孝 孝 filial  earth, soil 9  action path 1421  son, child 1402 xiào  
**BF Filial** responsibility is the duty of a *child* who helps ensure that order and security is transformed out of *earthly* chaos by means of uplifting *actions*.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 2116]



- 1466 看 看 look at, see  three 4  eye 78  action path 1421 kàn  
 My *eyes* are very sensitive to sunlight. In this character, a hand shades my *eyes* so I'll better be able to **see** into the distance (stage right). The additional horizontals represent my hair flapping in the breeze, and the curve shows the *action path* of my arm.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 76]



- 1467 才 才 indicates sth just happened  hand 27 (altered)  action path 1421 cái  
 Top of the ninth, tie score—a fly ball is headed out of the park; we see the *path it takes*. It looks like another win for the Yankees. But wait—**something surprising just happened!** The rookie outfielder sticks his *hand* up, catches the fly, and the batter is out! It's anybody's ballgame as we head into overtime. Notice that the scribes use an abbreviated form of '*hand*', appropriate perhaps when we abbreviate the *action path* of the baseball.  
 Sometimes, the vividness of this character will suggest a person engaged in dancing, jumping, or some other active performance.  
 [3 STROKES RANK 235]



- 1468 团 团 round, circular  enclosure 40  indicates sth just happened 1467 tuán  
 Remember, the surrounding *enclosure* is really **round**—it just looks square because writing brushes don't do well with actual **circles!** To me, the 'action path' (§1421) of the 才 part makes this component so vivid that I see an active man inside the *enclosure* grappling with its **round** shape, maybe trying roll it down the street, like a young child in a tire.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 405]







1469 闭 闭 shut\*, close\*  door 196  indicates sth just happened 1467 bì  
 Ow—the *door just shut* on my toe! That’s me in the middle, dancing in pain.  
 Keep the distinction between the two lookalikes 冂 and this one, 闭.  
 The first means circle, which the outer enclosure clearly suggests. The ‘*door*’  
 component occurring in this character is an old friend by now.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 1267]













1470 财 财 wealth, riches  cowrie 430  indicates sth just happened 1467 cài  
**BF** The heavy *shell just* fell on my head! I was in the hospital for weeks. The  
 successful lawsuit made me **rich**.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 680]

1471 材 材 timber  tree 375  indicates sth just happened 1467 cái  
**BF** One minute, it’s a noble, living *tree*. The next minute, it fell and *just*  
 missed this guy who is dancing in fright. In the blink of an eye, a majestic  
*tree* has become just another piece of **timber**.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 952]

1472 牙 牙 tooth\*  indicates sth just happened 1467 (altered)  one 2 yá  
 The ‘action path’ (§1421) shows here the inner surface of *one* sharp canine  
**tooth** pointing up; the hooked vertical forms the outer surface of the tooth,  
 and the hook is the root of the tooth anchored in the animal’s jaw (not drawn).  
 The point of the **tooth** has *just* penetrated the juicy slab of meat, the layer  
 drawn at the top.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 997]




1473 呀 呀 ah!, oh!  mouth 41  tooth\* 1472 yā  
 That’s your flesh that the canine *tooth* is embedded in. Out of your *mouth*  
 comes expletives like **oh** and **ah**, among others less printable.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 929]

1474 雅 雅 elegant  tooth\* 1472  short-tailed bird 992 yǎ  
 Imagine strutting your stuff with an **elegant** necklace made from the *teeth* of  
*birds*.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1139]




- 1475 少 少 few, little  small 1063  action path 1421 shǎo  
The character 小 (§1063) refers to relative size, whereas this current character 少 refers to relative numbers of things. It's easy to keep straight—we use tools to perform an *activity*, and tools are counted rather than measured.  
[4 STROKES RANK 233]
- 1476 吵 吵 quarrel, make noise  mouth 41  few, little 1475 chǎo  
We **quarrel** using our *mouth*, and if we're any good at it, we end up with *few* close friends.  
[7 STROKES RANK 2040]
- 1477 妙 妙 wonderful  woman 581  few, little 1475 miào  
In contrast to ancient thinking, *women* have *few* natural disadvantages. This makes them **wonderful**!  
[7 STROKES RANK 1250]
- 1478 省 省 economize, be frugal  few, little 1475  eye 78 shěng  
Spending only a *few* dollars is to **be frugal**. Turn **economize** into a verb by adding a couple of *eyes*, sounds like '-ize', a verb suffix, and we've got it!  
[9 STROKES RANK 666]
- 1479 沙 沙 sand  water r 523  few, little 1475 shā  
Look in the *water*. See those *little*, granular particles? That's **sand**.  
[7 STROKES RANK 848]
- 1480 莎 莎 katydid  grass r 94  sand 1479 shā  
**BF** People who study insects consider **katydid**s another name for “long-horned grasshopper,” and the *grass* radical up top looks a little horn-like. Common species in North America are quite small, almost like grains of living *sand* in a sea of *grass*.  
[10 STROKES RANK 2125]

# Unit 61

## Buy Now, Pay Later



1481 乒 乒 ping-pong  catty 118  one 2  action path 1421 pīng

One ping-pong table is *unbalanced* because its right pair of legs have been weakened. The table crashes to earth—on the right side—with a loud ping! (You can remember that this 乒 has the sound ‘ping’ because both ‘ping’ and ‘right’ contain an ‘i’.) [6 STROKES RANK 3447]



1482 乓 乓 ping-pong\*  catty 118  one 2  action path 1421 (altered) pāng

One ping-pong table is *unbalanced* because its left pair of legs have been weakened. The table crashes to earth with a loud pang!




If you put these two characters together in the correct way (butting them together), the supporting ‘*action path*’ strokes form a stable support. Do it in the wrong order and the support is plainly unstable. [6 STROKES RANK 3502]




1483 兵 兵 soldier  ping-pong 1481  ping-pong\* 1482 bīng



Ever watch Chinese champions play *ping-pong*? They play with an unrivaled intensity. The two players approach each match as if they were soldiers on a critical campaign. [7 STROKES RANK 398]




1484 久 久 long time  action path 1421  man 311 (altered) jiǔ



This man is *active*. But because the extra little stroke gets in his *path*, it takes him a long time to get to his destination. [3 STROKES RANK 637]



- 1485 片 片 slice, flake  
 action path 1421  weight atop slices  place of refuge 111 (altered) piàn
- This character shows a Renaissance courtier in profile. Ramrod posture, one leg slightly behind him, while the other is bent at the knee. He holds a tray of **flaky** pastries, with a *weight on top* of the **slices** to keep them all from sliding off as he offers them to the visiting princess. [4 STROKES RANK 455]













- 1486 卑 卑 low, inferior  white 201  action path 1421  ten 6 bēi
- BF** A brief *action* sequence: you're using a *white*-tipped hammer to pound a spike (in the shape of the Chinese numeral *ten*) till it's **low** in the ground. [8 STROKES RANK 2059]




- 1487 牌 牌 plate, tablet  slice, flake 1485  low, inferior 1486 pái
- BF** A *slice* of metal placed close to the surface would look *low* if the surface were horizontal. It is a **tablet** inscribed with important information. [12 STROKES RANK 1261]



- 1488 将 将 handle a matter  slice, flake 1485 (altered)  evening, dusk 655  inch 210 jiāng
- My spouse has never figured out how to barbecue meat, and it always comes out almost like charcoal! I **handle the matter** tactfully by *slicing* the meat, which is dark as *night*, into small, *inch*-like pieces which I force myself to swallow. [9 STROKES RANK 132]




- 1489 刀 刀 knife  place of refuge 111  action path 1421 dāo
- The *place of refuge* is disturbed by the *action* of the intruder. The brave hero used his **knife** to save us all.
- This component expands the slim **knife** of §166, but it's still the same **knife**. [2 STROKES RANK 1067]



- 1490 分 分 divide, separate  eight 1048  knife 1489 fēn
- The '*eight*' at the top used to be a whole man (§311) until someone sliced him open with a *knife*. Now he's **divided** it into **separate** pieces. [4 STROKES RANK 79]




- 1491 方 方 square, direction  cover 268  action path 1421  place of refuge 111 fāng
- 1 This stylized plow emphasizes the importance of this tool to the ancient economy. The furrows precisely change **direction** and the resulting pattern of a **square** field impressed ancient scribes.
- 2 See how the *action* extends at the end and over the *place of refuge*? The *cover* provides a restraint to make sure that the **direction** of our motion stays within a particular **square**. [4 STROKES RANK 60]
- 1492 力 力 strength  knife 1489 (altered) lì
- The handle of the *knife* has been altered to emphasize the **strength** you need to force the blade deep into the bowels of... Well, you fill in the rest.
- Take care not confuse this character with 刀 in §1489. [2 STROKES RANK 106]
- 1493 为 为 do, accomplish  strength 1492  cut marks wéi
- With the *strength* of his arms, the thug had made the *cutting marks* with his knife, and realized that he had **accomplished** the killing deed. [4 STROKES RANK 18]
- 1494 动 动 move  cloud 751  strength 1492 dòng
- The essence of **movement**, particularly in the Chinese systems of exercise, is to appear light as a *cloud* yet perform with controlled *strength*. [6 STROKES RANK 73]
- 1495 川 川 river  action path 1421  scepter (times 2) 5 chuān
- BF** The flowing water runs between the two banks of the river. Here, the left bank has a curved path not present on the right. [3 STROKES RANK 1109]
- 1496 顺 顺 in the direction of  river 1495  page, leaf 444 shùn
- Envision a *river* full of *leaves*. All the leaves flow **in the direction of** the current—a dramatic sight. [9 STROKES RANK 938]



- 1497 荒 荒 desolate  grass r 94  perish 269  river 1495 (altered) huāng  
 Read the components from the bottom up: The action of the flooded *river* causes the our house to *perish*. There's slimy *grass* and gook all over. The **desolation** is total. [9 STROKES RANK 1328]




- 1498 慌 慌 panic, nervous  heart (skinny) 930  desolate 1497 huāng  
 My *heart* palpitates madly in the presence of great *desolation*. I have become **nervous** to the point of **panic**, for what will become of us? [12 STROKES RANK 1650]




- 1499 州 州 state, province  river 1495  eight 1048  dab 169 zhōu  
 We'll use the '*river*' as a metaphor for natural resources. This character shows an area so large that parts possess *abundant* resources, while other parts possess *very little*. A region so vast forms a separate **state**. [6 STROKES RANK 721]


- 1500 洲 洲 continent  water r 523  state, province 1499 zhōu  
*Water* surrounds a group of *states*—this defines a **continent**. [9 STROKES RANK 701]




- 1501 步 步 step  stop! 181  few, little 1475 (altered)  action path 1421 bù  
 A **step** starts with a *stop* (so to speak), followed by a *small* amount of *action* on your part. [7 STROKES RANK 349]

- 1502 涉 涉 wade, ford  water r 523  step 1501 shè  
 BF The verb '**wade**' refers to *steps* you take in the *water*. [10 STROKES RANK 1239]

- 1503 亦 亦 also, too  cover 268  small 1063 (altered)  action path 1421 yì
- 1 A *little* kid is running down the *path* after the big kids, arms swinging from his sides. “Hey, wait for me! I want to come, **too!**”
  - 2 As kids, some of us loved collecting lightning bugs and trapping them live in a *covered* but *small* bottle. A few of them could co-exist peacefully, but if there were **too** many, some of them made a bee-line to the *cover* as an *action* to escape. The ‘**too**’ we highlight in this narrative is, to be sure, the wrong meaning, but it is the right word. [6 STROKES RANK 886]












- 1504 赤 赤 red, be flushed  earth, soil 9  small 1063 (altered)  action path 1421 chì
- This is silly, but here I am dressed up in a bizarre party costume, and this is my hat. A pile of *earth* from which a bunch of roots dangle rests on the hat brim. No wonder my face is all **flushed** in embarrassment! [7 STROKES RANK 1660]

- 1505 赫 赫 awe-inspiring  red, be flushed (times 2) 1504 hè
- Two people with the same party hat at the same party? **Awesome**, dude. [14 STROKES RANK 1346]



- 1506 老 老 old  earth, soil 9  action path 1421  hair 231 (altered) lǎo
- On our life *path* back into the grave’s *earth*, one prominent change is in our *hair*, which whitens as we get **old**. [6 STROKES RANK 179]

## Unit 62



### In the Blink of an Eye

- 1507 轮 轮 wheel, wheel-like  car 1430  order, coherence 457 lún  
BF It's the **wheels** that bring *order* to a *car*. [8 STROKES RANK 1096]
- 1508 匆 匆 hasty  spoon 642  action path (times 2) 1421 cōng  
BF I've got to take this *spoonful* of medicine. I move too **hastily** and the medicine streams off the spoon's edge, in two *action paths*.  
It's very tempting to see this character as 匆 'do not' (§1424) with some sort of dab-like stroke. If this composition is more to your liking, then fine.  
[5 STROKES RANK 1622]
- 1509 俞 俞 consent  join; combine 325  boat, ship 597 (altered)  river 1495 (altered) yú  
BF Well, I *combined* the materials to construct a small *boat* to travel the *river*. It wasn't the best ever built, but my Master **consented** to give me credit for it. [9 STROKES RANK 3251]
- 1510 愉 愉 happy, joyful  heart (skinny) 930  consent 1509 yú  
BF I am **happy** over my Master's *consent* and the accompanying *emotions* of joyfulness. [12 STROKES RANK 1982]
- 1511 吻 吻 kiss  mouth 41  do not 1424 wěn  
A **kiss** is often an unwanted overture. In such cases, *do not* bring your lips near your beloved's *mouth*. [7 STROKES RANK 1973]



1512 扮 扮 dress up as, disguise as  hand r 29  divide, separate 1490 bàn



The best **disguises** are those created out of everyday materials. In preparation, we watch a *hand separate* articles of clothing in preparation for the ultimate outfit. [7 STROKES RANK 1974]

1513 乃 乃 so, therefore  action path 1421  bow (weapon) 859 (altered) nǎi



Words like ‘so’ and ‘therefore’ refer to results. If I use my *bow* to take *action*, results will follow.

When it appears as a component, we may let it represent ‘results’.



[2 STROKES RANK 1165]

1514 隽 隽 handsome, talented  short-tailed bird 992  so, therefore 1513 juàn




**BF** I need to impress this really **handsome** guy I am dating, *so therefore* I bought him a pet *bird*. [10 STROKES RANK 4236]

1515 携 携 carry, take along  hand r 29  handsome, talented 1514 (altered) xié













I **take along** by *hand* the *handsome* little boy. Too bad his behavior doesn’t match his appearance. [13 STROKES RANK 1964]















1516 套 套 sheath, cover  big 330  long, length 1423 (altered) tàò



**BF** As my grandmother used to say, every pot has a **cover**. That is, the **cover** matches the container exactly in terms of *size* and *length*, among other attributes. The alterations to the ‘*long, length*’ component look very similar to the traditional form. [10 STROKES RANK 1091]



1517 象 象 elephant  man r 953 (altered)  eye 78 (altered)  pig, boar 1425 xiàng

What an animal! Vaguely *pig*-like in form, with huge *eyes* at a funny angle that fix you with almost human expressiveness, and so big that a *man* can ride on top—now that’s an **elephant**. [11 STROKES RANK 300]

- 1518 豫 豫 pleased, content  give\* 763  elephant 1517 yù  
 BF That's me—the guy on the back of the *elephant*, and the *elephant* is *giving* me the ride of my life. I am **pleased** and **content** at the novelty of it all.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 1956]
- 1519 像 像 resemble  man r 953  elephant 1517 xiàng  
 Some readers may be old enough to remember *elephant* jokes. Why does a *man resemble* an *elephant*? They both walk on two legs—except for the *elephant*. (This would have gotten big belly laughs in 1963.)  
 [13 STROKES RANK 294]
- 1520 旁 旁 side  erect, stand 1179 (altered)  square, direction 1491 páng  
 BF To my eyes, the 'square' on the bottom looks like a football lineman plowing into an opponent *standing* firm against him. Something's got to give, though, and one of them will get shunted to the **side**.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 981]
- 1521 膀 膀 upper arm, shoulder  meat 317 (altered)  side 1520 bǎng  
 BF In a human, the *side* of the *carcass* comprises the **upper arm** or **shoulder**.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 1941]
- 1522 卯 卯 early morning  head held high 160  action path 1421 mǎo  
 (This is the fourth of the so-called Earthly Branches, and refers to the time period 5-7AM.)  
 At this time of the day, **so early in the morning**, it's only the pillow that *holds my head high*, and it's a struggle to perform any meaningful *action*.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 3926]
- 1523 留 留 retain, stay  early morning 1522 (altered)  field 57 liú  
 To **retain** ownership of your *fields*, you have to start work every day very *early in the morning*.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 554]

- 1524 溜 溜 slide, glide, sneak off  water r 523  retain, stay 1523 liū  
No crops grow in the winter. Starting in January, I allow my fields to *retain* water which soon freezes so friends can *skate* and *glide* across the surface.  
[13 STROKES RANK 1923]
- 1525 贸 贸 commerce, trade  early morning 1522 (altered)  cowrie 430 mào  
BF “The *early* bird catches the worm.” Trade with *money* starts *very early* in the day.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1092]
- 1526 肠 肠 intestines  meat 317 (altered)  easy 1427 (altered) cháng  
During dissections in biology lab, all the organs looked the same to me, except for the *intestines*. They were by far the *easiest* part of the *body* to identify, by virtue of their ropiness.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1921]
- 1527 汤 汤 soup  water r 523  easy 1427 (altered) tāng  
Soup is *easy* to make. Hot *water* is the main ingredient, and then add whatever else is at hand.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1618]
- 1528 扬 扬 raise, wave  hand r 29  easy 1427 (altered) yáng  
BF Waving is an *easy* activity for a *hand*. That’s why it’s one of the first things babies do.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1084]
- 1529 杨 杨 poplar  tree 375  easy 1427 (altered) yáng  
BF **Poplars** are particularly *easy trees* to cultivate and grow. Because it’s *easy* to grow and looks so good in the garden, the **poplar** has become quite **popular**!  
[7 STROKES RANK 1062]
- 1530 扔 扔 throw, toss  hand r 29  so, therefore 1513 rēng  
One of the easiest ways to get *results* is to use your *hand* to **throw** something at your professor!  
[5 STROKES RANK 1905]
















1531 库 库 warehouse, storehouse  shelter r 681  car 1430 kù  
 Nowadays, **warehouse** stores are so vast and cavernous that employees use special *cars* to drive around the expansive *structure*. [7 STROKES RANK 1097]














1532 加 加 add, increase  strength 1492  mouth 41 jiā  
 Ever been to a kid's birthday party? The *stronger voices* are, they more they **add** to the festivity of the occasion. [5 STROKES RANK 166]

## Unit 63

# One World, One Dream



- 1533 劣 劣 inferior, low quality  few, little 1475  strength 1492 liè  
A product possessing *few strengths* is certainly of **low quality**.  
[6 STROKES RANK 1902]
- 1534 芬 芬 sweet smell, fragrance  grass r 94  divide, separate 1490 fēn  
**BF** Why do freshly-mowed lawns smell so **fragrant**? It has to do with the action of the lawnmower blades, which thresh and *separate* the stalks of *grass* and so release one of the great smells of summer. [7 STROKES RANK 1890]
- 1535 纷 纷 numerous, confused  silk r 807  divide, separate 1490 fēn  
**BF** I forgot to hem the *silk* handkerchief I was making as a gift. When my rotten little brother came along and cut it with a scissors, it *separated* into its **numerous** component threads. [7 STROKES RANK 1181]
- 1536 妨 妨 hinder, impede  woman 581  square, direction 1491 fáng  
**BF** The beggar *women* constantly surround rich gentlemen on their *way* home and **hinder** their progress. [7 STROKES RANK 1873]
- 1537 架 架 put up, prop up  add, increase 1532  tree 375 (altered) jià  
If you make a contraption by *adding* pieces of *wood* together, you'll be able to **prop up** something heavy. [9 STROKES RANK 846]

- 1538 嘉 嘉 excellent, praise  ten 6  bean 1168  add, increase 1532 jiā  
**BF** In ancient schools, beans were a reward for good work. The more beans you got, the better your grade. If the teacher *added ten beans* to your grade, you knew your performance was truly **excellent**. [14 STROKES RANK 1845]
- 1539 宾 宾 guest, visitor  roof 247  soldier 1483 bīn  
**BF** In the old days, the most notorious of **guests** were *soldiers* which the government forced you to shelter under your *roof*. [10 STROKES RANK 1534]
- 1540 劫 劫 rob, plunder  go 754  strength 1492 jié  
**BF** When soldiers *go out* of their camps intending to use their *strength*, it can only be for one purpose—to **rob** and **plunder**. [7 STROKES RANK 1825]
- 1541 驾 驾 harness, draw a cart  add, increase 1532  horse 878 jià  
All you have to do is *add* some special equipment to the *horse*, like a **harness**, and you can use the animal to **draw a cart**. [8 STROKES RANK 1567]
- 1542 贺 贺 congratulate  add, increase 1532  cowrie 430 hè  
**BF** When are **congratulations** called for? From a Chinese point of view, sudden *increase* in *wealth* is one such occasion. [9 STROKES RANK 1690]
- 1543 张 张 stretch, expand  bow (weapon) 859  long, length 1423 zhāng  
**BF** How does a *bow* manage to change its *length*? It **stretches** and **expands** under the care of a skillful archer. [7 STROKES RANK 318]
- 1544 涨 涨 rise (water, prices)  water 523  stretch, expand 1543 zhǎng  
Figuratively, the *waters* of the river ‘*expand*’ when the water level **rises**. [10 STROKES RANK 1803]

- 1545 契 契 contract, legal agreement  plentiful 12  knife 1489  big 330 qì  
 BF A **contract** in our modern world is a document stipulating conditions for the *mutual benefit* of the two sides to an agreement. What form would **contracts** have taken in pre-literate societies? Perhaps a *knife* would mark the conditions on some permanent surface, and people would agree to make this the permanent record for important (*'big'*) **legal agreements**.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1819]
- 1546 场 场 gathering place, field  earth, soil 9  easy 1427 (altered) chǎng  
 It's *easy* to set up open-air fairs and markets on wide-open expanses of *earth*. Such **fields** became **gathering places** which gave rise to markets.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 249]
- 1547 另 另 other, another  mouth 41  strength 1492 lìng  
 Poor people often curse the existence of destitute relatives. “**Another mouth** to feed! I'll need all my *strength* to earn more money.” [5 STROKES RANK 489]
- 1548 别 别 do not, must not  other, another 1547  knife r 166 bié  
 There are two kitchen *knives* on the counter. One is dull, the *other* is deadly sharp. Whatever you do, **do not** play around with the sharp one.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 222]
- 1549 切 切 cut, slice  seven 137  knife 1489 qiē  
 That expensive set of *seven knives* makes precision **slicing** and **cutting** a breeze.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 337]
- 1550 办 办 do, manage, set up  strength 1492  eight 1048 bàn  
 The *'eight'* that should have been at the top represents something that's indivisible, and the task at hand is to split it in two. With the application of great *strength*, we can **do** this.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 367]

- 1551 功 功 merit, achievement  labor, work 7  strength 1492 gōng  
By virtue of my *hard work* and my *strength* of will, I received the highest award for **meritorious achievement**. [5 STROKES RANK 452]
- 1552 召 召 call, convene  knife 1489  mouth 41 zhào  
Every family is different in their own way. A had a friend once whose mother tapped a *knife* against the teeth in her *mouth* when she wanted to **call** the whole family together. [5 STROKES RANK 1214]
- 1553 招 招 beckon, enlist  hand r 29  call, convene 1552 zhāo  
Figuratively speaking, the recruiter waves his *hand* towards you to **enlist** you to join the *call* to serve your country. [8 STROKES RANK 941]
- 1554 昭 昭 clear, obvious  day, sun 63  call, convene 1552 zhāo  
BF They *convened* the meeting early in the *day*, because in the bright light it would be **clear** who the troublemakers were. [9 STROKES RANK 2190]
- 1555 照 照 shine, illuminate  clear, obvious 1554  fire r 796 zhào  
The *fire* reflected in the *obviously* valuable antiques in the room **shone** fiercely and emphasized the richness of the furnishings. [13 STROKES RANK 443]
- 1556 绍 绍 connect, introduce  silk r 807  call, convene 1552 shào  
BF *Silk* threads are like cords **connecting** the parties who have been *called* together for a group wedding in some exotic religious cult. Think of it, until now these potential mates have never even been **introduced**. [8 STROKES RANK 1234]
- 1557 超 超 overtake, surpass, super-  to walk 421  call, convene 1552 chāo  
BF Yeesh—I just found out about the **super**-important meeting that's been *called*. I have to *walk* fast so I can **overtake** everyone else and get the seat closest to my boss. [12 STROKES RANK 754]





















1558 陈 陈 put on display  hills 735  east 1429 chén















BF The sun rises in the *east*, vividly lighting up the special landscaping on the *hills* that we've **put on display**. [7 STROKES RANK 525]
















## Unit 64

# Life is Like a Dream

- 1559 历 历 experience  cliff r 671  strength 1492 lì  
BF The terrorists almost succeeded in throwing me off the *cliff*. I held on by my fingertips, and used all my *strength* to pull myself up to safety. What an *experience*!  
[4 STROKES RANK 480]
- 1560 房 房 house  door of house 724  square, direction 1491 fáng  
BF I went into my **house** through the front *door* to see a giant *square* box aligned in the *direction* pointing to the moon.  
[8 STROKES RANK 512]
- 1561 防 防 guard, defend against  hills 735  square, direction 1491 fáng  
BF Giant *square hills* are the best **defense** **against** hordes of marauding enemies. Because of their *squareness*, there are no gaps when lined up next to each other.  
[6 STROKES RANK 548]
- 1562 密 密 thick, dense, intimate  roof 247  must 1442  mountain 21 mì  
The forest cover on the *mountainside* is so lush that it forms a *roof*-like cover overhead and makes it well-nigh impassable. We *must* persevere through the **dense** and **thick** vegetation, for we need to reach the command camp by nightfall.  
[11 STROKES RANK 591]
- 1563 苏 苏 revive, Suzhou  grass r 94  do, manage, set up 1550 sū  
BF The old fool *managed* to run into a lamp post and knock himself out cold. A wandering healer threw some aromatic *grass* over him and managed to **revive** him.  
[7 STROKES RANK 590]

- 1564 助 助 help, assist, aid  moreover 15  strength 1492 zhù  
You can **help** yourself to whatever you want—even if it's not yours—as long as you have *more (over) strength* than anyone else. [7 STROKES RANK 607]
- 1565 男 男 male  field 57  strength 1492 nán  
BF Only **men** have the *strength* to plow a *field*. [7 STROKES RANK 602]
- 1566 仍 仍 still, yet, again and again  man r 953  so, therefore 1513 réng  
At first, the task looks impossible. But a *man* tries it **again and again**, and *therefore* he achieves the proper *result*. [4 STROKES RANK 601]
- 1567 勉 勉 strive to, do with effort  dismiss, fire, exempt 477  strength 1492 miǎn  
BF The new hire exerted great *strength* to counter the allegations which led to his *dismissal*. He did **strive** to retain his position. [9 STROKES RANK 2078]
- 1568 伤 伤 injure, wound  man r 953  man 311 (altered)  strength 1492 shāng  
*Two men* doing something that involves great *strength*. It must be a fight, and one *man* is trying his best to **injure** the other *man*. [6 STROKES RANK 660]
- 1569 初 初 at first  clothing r 838  knife 1489 chū  
BF At **first** you need to use your *knife* to cut the cloth and make *clothing*. [7 STROKES RANK 667]
- 1570 劳 劳 toil  grass r 94  cover 268  strength 1492 láo  
BF One needs great *strength* to haul dried *grass* into the hut and to create a thatched *roof*. All in all, too much **toil** is required. [7 STROKES RANK 679]

- 1571 协 协 harmonize, cooperate, assist  ten 6  do, manage, set up 1550 xié  
 BF Only with **cooperation** and inter-personal **harmony** can *ten* people *manage* to finish the job. [6 STROKES RANK 735]
- 1572 胁 胁 coerce, force  meat 317 (altered)  do, manage, set up 1550 xié  
 BF I use a rotting, stinking piece of *meat* as a club by which I *manage* to get my way, as I **force** you to do what I want you to do. [8 STROKES RANK 1494]
- 1573 阵 阵 battle array  hills 735  car 1430 zhèn  
 The insurgents have been training for months! Down from the *hills* roll their *chariots*, all in perfect **battle array**. [6 STROKES RANK 788]
- 1574 邪 邪 evil, odd  tooth\* 1472  town 745 xié  
 BF From afar, *towns*, with their jagged profiles, can look like a mouth full of rotten *teeth*, and are frequent metaphors for **evil** and depravity. [6 STROKES RANK 1539]
- 1575 穿 穿 penetrate, pierce  cave, den, hole 1098  tooth\* 1472 chuān  
 The *cavity* in my *tooth* was hurting me. The dentist said it was so big, it threatened to **pierce** the *tooth*, and then where would I be? [9 STROKES RANK 785]
- 1576 份 份 share, portion  man r 953  divide, separate 1490 fèn  
 Let's take that *man's* money. We can *divide* it into equal amounts, so we each get a **share**. Let's do it fast, before the cops get here! [6 STROKES RANK 784]
- 1577 弯 弯 bent, curved, crooked  also, too 1503  bow (weapon) 859 wān  
 Imagine *two* (sounds like 'too') *bows* lying in a heap. What a tangled mess of **bent** wood! [9 STROKES RANK 1662]

- 1578 湾 湾 gulf, bay  water r 523  bent, curved, crooked 1577 wān  
BF A sharply *bent* section of coast enclosing a body of *water* defines a **bay**.  
[12 STROKES RANK 855]
- 1579 忽 忽 suddenly\*  do not 1424  heart (fat) 906 hū  
BF *Don't* scare me like that. My *heart* is beating wildly. It's your **sudden**  
(and unwanted!) kiss that did it to me. [8 STROKES RANK 912]
- 1580 输 输 transport, convey  car 1430  consent 1509 shū  
BF My parents *consented* for me to use the *car* to **transport** all my friends to  
the dance. [13 STROKES RANK 939]
- 1581 勒 勒 bridle, rein in  animal hide 101  strength 1492 lè  
BF Trying to **rein in** my horse, I used too much *strength*—in fact, I killed him!  
Now he's just glue and *hide*. [11 STROKES RANK 966]
- 1582 载 载 write down, year  earth, soil 9  car 1430  halberd 359 zǎi  
Did you see that!? That crazy guy attacked the new *car* with a big *sword*,  
which was so sharp that the front end fell to the *ground*—and it was this  
*year's* model, too. Then the attacker got back into his vehicle and drove off,  
but not before I **wrote down** his plate number. [10 STROKES RANK 977]
- 1583 练 练 practice, train, drill  silk r 807  east 1429 (altered) liàn  
I **practice** my Chinese martial arts every morning. Wearing *silk* pajamas, I  
face *east* for this daily regimen. [8 STROKES RANK 1005]
- 1584 炼 炼 smelt, refine  fire 1101  east 1429 (altered) liàn  
The blowing wind forces the *fire* to travel *east*. What a disaster! The *fire* is so  
hot it **smelts** the metal in all the houses it destroys. [9 STROKES RANK 1763]

## Unit 65

### Stopping and Starting

- 1585 诸 诸 all, various  speech r 615  -er 1460 zhū  
The big thing about *speech* is that you can *use it* to express **all** kinds of meanings. [10 STROKES RANK 1021]
- 1586 猪 猪 hog, pig  dog r 898  -er 1460 zhū  
Believe it or not, a **pig** shares many positive *abilities* with a *dog*. It's loyal, smart, trainable, long-lived—and you can eat it, too. [11 STROKES RANK 1762]
- 1587 绪 绪 matter's beginning  silk r 807  -er 1460 xù  
**BF** Imagine that the **beginning of important matters** was commemorated by a small but precious token, such as a piece of worked *silk*. Such a gift was entrusted only to a person *capable of carrying out the duty*. [11 STROKES RANK 1413]
- 1588 训 训 lecture, train, teach  speech r 615  river 1495 xùn  
A qualified **lecturer** or **teacher** is one whose *speech* flows like a *river*. [5 STROKES RANK 1022]
- 1589 访 访 visit, call on, seek  speech r 615  square, direction 1491 fǎng  
**BF** I need to **visit** my cousin. I *speak* to the old gent in the *square* to see if I'm on the right track. [6 STROKES RANK 1037]

1590 蒙 蒙 cheat, hoodwink  
 𠃉 grass r 94 𠃉 smooth cover 280 (altered) 豕 pig, boar 1425 (altered) mēng

Feral *pigs* are smart and strong. We have to **hoodwink** them to catch them. Here's one that's already been trapped. It's in a deep pit, topped by a *reinforced cover*. A layer of *grass* fooled the animal into walking over it. [13 STROKES RANK 1039]

1591 鬼 鬼 ghost, spirit  
 白 white 201 𠃉 action path 1421 𠃉 mineshaft 135 𠃉 private 750 guǐ

In European traditions, a **ghost** is this big *white* thing, with long smokey limbs capable of all kinds of *action*. Generally, you only “see” them when it's as dark as possible, like the darkness of a *mineshaft*. Of course, the most horrifying **ghosts** of all are one's *private* ghosts. [9 STROKES RANK 1042]

1592 软 软 soft, pliant  
 车 car 1430 欠 owe, lack 465 ruǎn

Softness and **pliability** had better be qualities that *cars lack!* [8 STROKES RANK 1043]

1593 秀 秀 to flower, put forth ears of grain  
 米 rice or grain 409 𠃉 so, therefore 1513 xiù













BF Springtime: time to plant the *grain*. Autumn: the **result** is **ears of grain**, ripe for harvesting. [7 STROKES RANK 1136]

1594 诱 诱 guide, lead, induce  
 言 speech r 615 秀 to flower, put forth ears of grain 1593 yòu













BF *Speaking* with *flowery* phrases **induces** the electorate to vote you into office. [9 STROKES RANK 1707]

1595 魔 魔 devil, evil spirit, monster  
 巾 hem, pocked, pitted 694 (altered) 鬼 ghost, spirit 1591 mó

BF The *ghost* wore a *linen* cape to frighten people. Why does it have to be linen? It's so hard to clean and iron! I'll have to work double-hard to keep it fresh and pressed. This *ghost* is truly an **evil spirit**. [20 STROKES RANK 1180]

- 1596 刃 刃 blade edge  knife 1489  mark rèn  
 BF The *mark* on the *knife* emphasizes its “business end”—the **blade edge**.  
 [3 STROKES RANK 2700]
- 1597 忍 忍 bear, endure, forbear  blade edge 1596  heart (fat) 906 rěn  
 That noisy couple down the hall is in a dreadful, toxic relationship. She loves her man dearly, but he never spends his nights with her. It’s like a *knife* in her *heart* that she must **endure!**  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1127]
- 1598 梁 梁 bridge, roof beam  water r 523  blade edge 1596 (altered)  tree 375 liáng  
 BF The way to cross *water* (in ancient times) was to use a knife’s *blade edge* or other such tool to work a *tree* into the architectural elements out of which they could build a **bridge**.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1416]
- 1599 蒋 蒋 surname; Chiang Kai-Shek  grass r 94  handle a matter 1488 jiǎng  
 Chiang Kai-Shek (Cantonese pronunciation) was the head of the Republic of China from 1928 through 1975. His name in Mandarin is Jiǎng Jièshí, which accounts for the relatively high frequency of this word. 蒋 appears not to have any other meaning.  
 Chiang Kai-Shek achieved prominence by virtue of his leadership and capability in *handling matters*. The *grass* laurels he wears on top demonstrate the honor accorded him by the Chinese people. [12 STROKES RANK 1172]
- 1600 彻 彻 thorough, penetrating  left step 1034  ancient ladle 142  knife 1489 chè  
 BF To get the maximum **penetrating** power of floor stain you need to *stomp* on it, mash it with a *spoon*, and cut it with a *knife*. [7 STROKES RANK 1240]

















- 1601 仿 仿 imitate, copy, resemble  man r 953  square, direction 1491 fǎng  
This character seems to show a *man* trying to **imitate** a dancer. Outstretched arms, bent legs, but something is not quite right. He looks like he's collapsing on the ground—not the proper *direction* at all. [6 STROKES RANK 1259]
- 1602 象 象 determine, make a judgment  mutual 20 (altered)  pig, boar 1425 tuàn  
**BF** Watch out for *pigs*! A *mutual* friend got in one's way at dinner time, and suffered severe lacerations and other alterations. He **determined** then and there—never trust a *pig* on its way to the dinner bowl. [9 STROKES RANK 6434]
- 1603 缘 缘 reason\*, cause\*  silk r 807  determine, make a judgment 1602 yuán  
**BF** The **reason** that judges wear *silk robes* is this: it's more impressive when they *render judgment*. [12 STROKES RANK 1274]
- 1604 奶 奶 breast\*, milk\*  woman 581  so, therefore 1513 (altered) nǎi  
In olden times, it must have seemed that the inevitable *result* of a *mature woman* was childbirth and **breastfeeding**. [5 STROKES RANK 1278]
- 1605 偷 偷 steal, pilfer  man r 953  consent 1509 tōu  
A *man* who takes things without the owner's *consent* is guilty of **stealing**. [11 STROKES RANK 1284]
- 1606 愈 愈 the more—the more  consent 1509  heart (fat) 906 yù  
The **more** I *consent* to go out with her, **the more** I feel a growing *emotional* attachment. Where will it end? [13 STROKES RANK 1301]

- 1607 穷 穷 impoverished, exhausted  
 ㄩ cave, den, hole 1098 ㄩ strength 1492 qióng  
 The hike was so **exhausting** we used our last reserves of *strength* to crawl into the *cave*. [7 STROKES RANK 1343]
- 1608 魂 魂 soul, spirit, mood ㄩ cloud 751 ㄩ ghost, spirit 1591 hún  
 Chinese *ghosts* are more solid than ours. A particularly “*cloudy*” ghost serves as a **spirit** or **soul**. [13 STROKES RANK 1348]
- 1609 劲 劲 vigor, energy ㄩ man 311 (altered) ㄩ labor, work 7 ㄩ strength 1492 jìn  
 The *man* does his *work* using great *strength*, showing great **vigor** and **energy**. [7 STROKES RANK 1358]
- 1610 贫 贫 poor ㄩ divide, separate 1490 ㄩ cowrie 430 pín  
**BF** When *money* is *divided* among many people, nobody gets enough, and nobody is happy. Everybody stays **poor**. [8 STROKES RANK 1359]




# Unit 66

## Big Doings

- 1611 荡 荡 swing, shake, wash away  grass 1 94  soup 1527 dàng  
By error, they put locoweed in the soup. Anybody who ate it began to shake for a short bit. [9 STROKES RANK 1424]
- 1612 矛 矛 lance, pike, spear  give\* 763  action path 1421 máo  
Our umpteenth-great-grandfather was off on a hunt. “Give it to ’em good! We need plenty of action to bring home the bacon. May your spear fly true!” [5 STROKES RANK 1441]
- 1613 柔 柔 soft, supple, gentle  lance, pike, spear 1612  tree 375 róu  
BF The woodsman uses his spear to pound the hardwood tree to make it soft enough to work with. [9 STROKES RANK 1573]
- 1614 励 励 encourage, exhort  harsh, severe, serious 678  strength 1492 lì  
BF “Everyone thinks the clods on the other team are harsh and severe. But you guys can do it. Combine your strength and you’ll win.” With these shouts of encouragement, we know we can win! [7 STROKES RANK 1468]
- 1615 券 券 ticket, certificate  eight (v) 1047  man (spiffy) 337  knife 1489 quàn  
The rock concert is all sold out. Some thug has approached a man with tickets; watch the drops of sweat fly off his face. The mugger uses a knife to rob the man of his tickets. [8 STROKES RANK 1481]

- 1616 粉 粉 powder  rice 1127  divide, separate 1490 fěn  
Start with *rice*, and now keep *dividing* it into ever smaller particles. Soon enough, you'll end up with a handful of **powder**, suitable for makeup or cooking. [10 STROKES RANK 1498]
- 1617 豪 豪 super-talented person  high 275 (altered)  pig, boar 1425 háo  
BF A *pig* as part of a character for a talented fellow? Well, in Chinese tradition, *pigs* and *boars* are fat, prosperous, and happy. A person with *high* levels of *pigness* is apt therefore to have **superior talents**. After all, they named a Chinese year after the *pig*! [14 STROKES RANK 1513]
- 1618 储 储 store up, save  man r 953  speech r 615  -er 1460 chǔ  
BF A *person* who **saves up** their lifetime experiences doesn't hesitate to draw upon them to make a point. Such a *person* makes a fine *speak-er*. [12 STROKES RANK 1526]
- 1619 勃 勃 flourishing, thriving  ancient 51 (altered)  son, child 1402  strength 1492 bó  
BF If the family environment is *strong*, *children* get a chance to grow *old* in **thriving** health. [9 STROKES RANK 1533]
- 1620 频 频 frequently, repeatedly  step 1501  page, leaf 444 pín  
Walking around—taking *step* after *step*—and reading, where you keep turning *page* after *page*, are examples of **repetitious** activities. [13 STROKES RANK 1535]
- 1621 伪 伪 false, fake, bogus  man r 953  do, accomplish 1493 wěi  
BF When *men* claim they've *done* something, but they haven't, those claims are **bogus**! The dotted diagonal line that's part of '*do, accomplish*' emphasizes the unreality, the **falseness** of the deed. [6 STROKES RANK 1556]



- 1622 勤 勤 diligent, hardworking  
 ☐ hide 542 ☐ earth, soil 9 ☐ strength 1492 qín  
 It takes **diligence** and *strength* to lay the raw *hide* on the *earth* and work it until it's fully cured, flexible, and usable. [13 STROKES RANK 1565]
- 1623 幼 幼 young  
 ☐ youngest 775 ☐ strength 1492 yòu  
 BF As **young** creatures grow in skills, they continually test their *strength*, and that of their parents. [5 STROKES RANK 1577]
- 1624 芳 芳 fragrant, virtuous (name)  
 ☐ grass r 94 ☐ square, direction 1491 fāng  
 BF The *right kind* of *grasses* are those with **fragrant** flowers. [7 STROKES RANK 1586]
- 1625 帐 帐 curtain, canopy  
 ☐ towel 130 ☐ long, length 1423 zhàng  
 BF You form a **curtain** from a *long* piece of *towel*. [7 STROKES RANK 1603]
- 1626 辖 辖 have jurisdiction over  
 ☐ car 1430 ☐ harm, injure 250 xiá  
 BF That *car* ran into you and *injured* you. You can't do anything yourself—the courts **have jurisdiction over** the matter. [14 STROKES RANK 1643]
- 1627 魏 魏 Wei dynasty  
 ☐ listless, dejected 593 ☐ ghost, spirit 1591 wèi  
 Perhaps the **Wei** emperors chose this graph—composed of two *dejected* images—to show that they could rise above such matters. [17 STROKES RANK 1648]
- 1628 梯 梯 ladder  
 ☐ tree 375 ☐ younger brother 1450 tī  
 BF **Ladders** are made from *trees*, and the sinuous nature of the '*younger brother*' part suggests its rungs. [11 STROKES RANK 1672]



1629 抛 抛 toss, fling, abandon  hand r 29  man 311 (altered)  strength 1492 pāo  
 The *hand* and coiled right arm of a *man* used great *strength* to **fling** the grenade as far away as possible. [7 STROKES RANK 1692]



1630 身 身 human body  
 CMP Make way for the very pregnant lady as she travels to the left across the page. She's facing a heavy wind. It is her profile which suggests 'human body'.

We see her in mid-stride. The vertical hooked stroke is the leg supporting the her weight. The curved stroke to its left shows the other leg in readiness to step forward. One arm is stretched in front to help with balance, while the fingers of her other hand are splayed across her stomach in a protective gesture. Remember, there's a strong wind blowing, and a bit of cloth—a protective kerchief?—blows up obscuring her face and head.

1631 身 身 body  human body 1630 shēn  
 BF [7 STROKES RANK 164]

1632 躺 躺 lie down  body 1631  still, yet 1139 tǎng  
 A tired worker takes her *body* and **lies down** on the company cot. We are looking at it head on from ground level. The square head is covered by the blanket. Her two feet stick out from the other end, and the vertical stick in the middle represents her hands lying together. [15 STROKES RANK 1608]

1633 射 射 to shoot  body 1631  inch 210 shè  
 Her *body* **shot** one-*inch* daggers with such a force they stopped the attackers in their tracks. [10 STROKES RANK 703]

1634 谢 谢 thank  speech r 615  to shoot 1633 xiè  
 Some people have a macabre sense of amusement. Here's a guy who *requested* the chance to be present at an execution, death by *firing* squad. Afterwards, he **thanked** his hosts profusely. [12 STROKES RANK 897]

1635 扌 扌 moving hand

CMP You see here a greatly altered hand (§27). The use of the action path (§1421) for the arm suggests motion.

1636 左 左 left

扌 moving hand 1635 工 labor, work 7












zuǒ

You might think you see a *hand moving* in *productive labor*, but the hand dominates the labor in relative size to emphasize that there's more movement than there is work—a typical inefficiency when most people use their **left** hand to try and do something.

















[5 STROKES RANK 782]













## Unit 67

### Masculine and Feminine



- 1637 佐 佐 assist  man r 953  left 1636 zuǒ  
BF *Left-handed* people are so clumsy that they need a *man* to **assist** them when they try to do meaningful work. (The current author is a lefty.)  
[7 STROKES RANK 2081]
- 1638 右 右 right (-hand)  moving hand 1635  mouth 41 yòu  
BF The **right hand** is so important because it's the *moving hand* we eat with—the hand we use to shove food into our *mouths*. [5 STROKES RANK 783]
- 1639 若 若 seem, like, if  grass r 94  right (-hand) 1638 ruò  
Using a thread made from *grass*, you use your dexterous *right hand* to repair the **seams** (sounds like *seems!*) of your clothes. [8 STROKES RANK 651]
- 1640 惹 惹 to provoke, exasperate  grass r 94  right (-hand) 1638  heart (fat) 906 rě  
Mowing the *grass* with the *right hand* only is one of those silly yet *emotional* things that teens do to **provoke** their parents. [12 STROKES RANK 2272]
- 1641 布 布 cloth  moving hand 1635  towel 130 bù  
Imagine a *moving hand* actively working with a *towel*. The implication is we're treating the *towel* as raw material, and working it into finished **cloth** for sale or use. [5 STROKES RANK 380]



- 1642 无 无 un-, -less  moving hand 1635  one 2  mineshaft 135 wú  
I *move* my *hand*, and nastily grab the *one* thing that means the most to my beloved. Unfeelingly, I heartlessly throw it down the *mineshaft* **without** a backward glance. [4 STROKES RANK 105]
- 1643 抚 抚 comfort, console  hand r 29  un-, -less 1642 fǔ  
The touch of a human *hand* **consoles** a mourner by helping him feel *less* pain. [7 STROKES RANK 1720]
- 1644 尤 尤 blame, fault  moving hand 1635  dab 169  mineshaft 135 yóu  
**BF** It's dark and gloomy, so I can't see all the details, but somebody's *moving hand* carries a *small something* to the edge of the *mineshaft*, and drops it down. It's surely the smoking gun evidence that would solve the brutal crime. If I could see the person, I would know who's to **blame**. [4 STROKES RANK 1099]
- 1645 扰 扰 disturb, bother  hand r 29  blame, fault 1644 rǎo  
In the middle of my first decent sleep in over 36 hours, you tripped, and landed with your *hand* right in my face. It's your *fault* I woke up, and I'll never forgive you for **disturbing** me. [7 STROKES RANK 1483]
- 1646 忧 忧 worry, anxiety  heart (skinny) 930  blame, fault 1644 yōu  
**BF** *Emotions* caused by *blame* are **worry** and **anxiety**. [7 STROKES RANK 1461]
- 1647 优 优 excellent, superior  man r 953  blame, fault 1644 yōu  
**BF** This *man* I know always manages *not* to be overcome by feelings of *guilt*. What an **excellent** way to be! [6 STROKES RANK 774]
- 1648 就 就 then  capital city 1077  blame, fault 1644 jiù  
(This is an extremely common word with an abundance of meanings, of which 'then' is among the most common.) If a particularly dreadful crime is your *fault*, **then** you may suffer *capital* punishment! [12 STROKES RANK 27]

- 1649 龙 龙 dragon  blame, fault 1644  action path 1421 lóng  
 Look at this character as a pictograph. You see a man with an injured right leg; the *action path* is some massive bandage or cast. The patient or prisoner is trying to walk, but it's such an effort that a drop of sweat flies in the air. And he's not really walking, either—he's just **draggin'** (sounds like **dragon!**) himself along. [5 STROKES RANK 696]
- 1650 庞 庞 very large  shelter r 681  dragon 1649 páng  
**BF** Look how the *dragon* sticks out from its *shelter* because it's so **very large!** [8 STROKES RANK 1849]
- 1651 沈 沈 to sink  water r 523  moving hand 1635 (altered)  mineshaft 135 chén  
 Someone has flooded the *mineshaft* with *water*. You're struggling to hold yourself up—those are your fingers at the ends of the *moving hand*, trying to grab onto the edge of the mine—but it's a losing battle. You're slowly **sinking**. [7 STROKES RANK 1681]
- 1652 灰 灰 gray, ash  moving hand 1635  fire 1101 huī  
 If you use your *hand* to put out the *fire*, it will get covered with **gray ash**. [6 STROKES RANK 1311]
- 1653 恢 恢 extensive, vast  heart (skinny) 930  gray, ash 1652 huī  
**BF** A giant *heart* is somehow being stretched vertically. The taller it gets, the more its color turns from healthy pinkish red to *ashen gray*. At the end of this procedure, the heart has become **extensive** and **vast**. [9 STROKES RANK 1364]
- 1654 宏 宏 great, grand  roof 247  moving hand 1635  private 750 hóng  
**BF** In the *privacy* of my **grand** and palatial home, under my own *roof*, I can *move my hand* as much as I want with no fear of breaking things (as sometimes happened in the past!). [7 STROKES RANK 1798]



- 1655 雄 雄 male, mighty  
 𠂇 moving hand 1635 𠂇 private 750 𠂇 short-tailed bird 992 xióng  
 BF You can tell the **mighty** army is made up solely of **men**. They're all *moving their hands* in silly salutes, even the *privates*, and their fancy uniforms invites comparison with fancy *short-tailed birds*. [12 STROKES RANK 1054]
- 1656 犹 犹 just as, just like 𠂇 dog r 898 𠂇 dog 332 (altered) yóu  
 We'll use this term to mean **similarity** or **the same as**.  
 If you look at wildly distinct breeds of *dogs* (Irish wolfhounds and Boston terriers), it's hard to believe they belong to the **same** species.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1230]
- 1657 获 获 capture, catch 𠂇 grass r 94 𠂇 just as, just like 1656 (altered) huò  
 BF I use *two dogs* to **capture** prey in the *grassy* fields and meadows.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 688]
- 1658 诺 诺 to promise 𠂇 speech r 615 𠂇 seem, like, if 1639 nuò  
 BF His love *speech seemed like* eternal **promises** of undying love, but he was as deceitful as all the others. She felt her life was ruined.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 969]
- 1659 袭 袭 raid, make a surprise attack 𠂇 dragon 1649 𠂇 clothing 839 xí  
 BF Who would suspect a herd of *dragons* wearing tutus, Speedo swim trunks, and other outrageous *clothing* would be preparing a **surprise attack** on the settlers?  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1213]
- 1660 怖 怖 fear, be afraid 𠂇 heart (skinny) 930 𠂇 cloth 1641 bù  
 BF When you are in the grip of extreme **fear**, it feels like someone has wrapped your *heart* in a *cloth* strip which they are pulling tight.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1776]



1661 笼 笼 cage, coop, basket  bamboo r 243  dragon 1649 lóng  
**BF** How do you build a cage for a dragon? Very carefully. It turns out bamboo is the best, for it flexes without breaking. [11 STROKES RANK 1928]



1662 羊 羊 running sheep  
**CMP** Take the sheep (§1147) and replace its backbone by the action path (§1421) to suggest a moving or running sheep.



## Unit 68




### Widdershins

1663 差 差 lack, short of  running sheep 1662  labor, work 7 chà  
Here's a pesky *running sheep* that has destroyed our *work*, a shelter for those inclement days herding sheep. The work has to be redone; we **lack** completion. [9 STROKES RANK 732]



1664 羞 羞 shame, embarrass  running sheep 1662  hideous 37 xiū  
We find ourselves in the middle of a fairy tale. The beautiful princess has been enchanted so as to appear *hideous* to one and all. To protect against the **shame** and **embarrassment** she feels when the handsome prince enters, she hides behind one of the *running sheep* in the king's herds. [10 STROKES RANK 2048]



1665 着 着 indicates continuing progress  running sheep 1662  eye 78 zhè  
Little *sheep never keep still*. The shepherd uses his *eye* to keep track of their **continuing progress**. [11 STROKES RANK 41]



1666 判 判 judge, decide  running sheep 1662 (altered)  knife r 166 (altered) pàn  
The trial is winding up. The jury sees all the evidence—a *mutilated sheep corpse* (two legs missing) and a bloody *knife*, and now it's up to them to **decide** the verdict. [7 STROKES RANK 719]

1667 升 升 action scaffolding  one 2  action path 1421  scepter 5



**CMP** The curved stroke represents a path on which something travels up. When it gets to the top, it rests on the horizontal stroke of the simple scaffolding structure which supports it.



1668 升 升 raise, hoist  dab 169  action scaffolding 1667 shēng  
The *bit* at the top of the *scaffolding* represents something that moved up, so it's being **hoisted up**. [4 STROKES RANK 837]



1669 弄 弄 make, do, manage  king 11  action scaffolding 1667 nòng  
The *king* on the *scaffolding* oversees his subjects, and **manages** their lives. [7 STROKES RANK 1053]



1670 卉 卉 kinds of grasses  ten 6  action scaffolding 1667 huì  
**BF** How do we fasten together the struts that make up the *scaffolding*? From a short distance, this glyph looks like a sheaf of tall, uncut **grass of many varieties**, waving in the breeze. And that's what we'll use, several varieties—metaphorically, *ten*—as cords to bind the rods together. [5 STROKES RANK 3341]



1671 奔 奔 head for  big 330  kinds of grasses 1670 bēn  
That pile of *grass clippings* on my neighbor's lawn is so **big** that all the circus elephants are **heading for** it. [8 STROKES RANK 1285]














- 1672 井 井 well  1667  2 jǐng
- 1 The *single* bar near the top of the *scaffolding* represents *one* aqueduct for water pumped from a nearby **well**.
  - 2 The horizontals and (near) verticals represent the division of land into neighboring fields. The only reason they can flourish despite their proximity to each other is the central **well**, which provides plenty of water for every *one* of the farmers.
  - 3 The criss-cross pattern of lines represents a protective grid across the top of the **well**. You can drop your bucket down to get water, but kids and other large things can't fall through. [4 STROKES RANK 1431]

- 1673 开 开 operate  1667  2 kāi
- There's *one* person on top of the *scaffolding*, and it's she who gets to **operate** all the machinery. [4 STROKES RANK 94]



- 1674 刑 刑 punishment, sentence  1673  166 xíng
- BF** The prisoner has received the most severe **punishment** and **sentencing** possible—decapitation, and we are a little too late to witness the grisly act. On the left is the headless body, and we see the shoulders and arms, and the two legs; one is dangling out to the left in a final gallows twitch. The huge *knife* which can so easily lop off a human head is also present. [6 STROKES RANK 1087]

- 1675 型 型 mold, model, pattern  1674  9 xíng
- BF** Each society sets up a **pattern** of proper behavior for its citizens. Violate this code? Following *punishment*, you'll rest in the *earth*, either permanently (capital offense) or not (early prisons were dug into the *earth*). [9 STROKES RANK 556]

- 1676 研 研 to grind  1386  1673 yán
- Oops—the giant *rock* slipped off the *scaffolding*, and **ground** the unlucky pedestrian to a bloody pulp. (You can see the 'mouth' on the bottom, as someone screams briefly in agony.) [9 STROKES RANK 447]



- 1677 并 并 an intensifier  eight (v) 1047  operate 1673 bīng  
 (An *intensifier* is a word like *really* or *truly*. In modern Mandarin, 并 may only be used in front of a negative: This book is *really* uninteresting.)  
*Operating* a machine is an example of an activity, and affixing a sign of ‘abundance’ to it **intensifies** this sense of activity. Activity is work, and no one likes work, so in this way, 并 acquires a negative association.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 141]
- 1678 拼 拼 spell  hand r 29  an intensifier 1677 pīn  
 In the United States, we have spelling bees, while in China, where ‘**spelling**’ refers to the proper composition of a character, appreciation of **spelling** goes *hand in hand* with appreciation of fine calligraphy. In either case, **spelling** evokes *intense* feelings.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1820]
- 1679 屏 屏 hold one’s breath  corpse 703  an intensifier 1677 bǐng  
**BF** The unburied *corpse* has begun to smell, and its stench is *intensely* bad. Mourners have to **hold their breath** or else they’ll pass out.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1891]
- 1680 耕 耕 plow, till  tree 375  two 3 (altered)  well 1672 gēng  
 In ancient times, they made **plows** out of *two trees*, one for the handle and one for the ‘blade’. The lengths of the strokes in ‘*two*’ are altered to emphasize that the handle was longer than the part that digs into the soil. The four strokes of the ‘*well*’ map out the pattern of furrows in the soil. [10 STROKES RANK 1850]
- 1681 形 形 form, shape  operate 1673  feathers 1285 xíng  
**BF** Eeks—a serious accident at the farm. The old man was *operating* the tractor, and ran someone over! It’s pretty bad—we can see the *feathery* tracks on the ground where the body was dragged, but the actual **shape** of the body is still hidden under the machine itself. [7 STROKES RANK 269]
- 1682 讲 讲 talk, speak, speaking of  speech r 615  well 1672 jiǎng  
 The genie’s *speech* rose mysteriously from the *well* and asked us to **speak** our wishes to him more clearly. [6 STROKES RANK 555]



1683 异 异 different, strange, unusual  self\* 852 (altered)  action scaffolding 1667 yì





**BF** Our manager, fat and bald, is quite a character. Here he is, the great man himself, climbing up the *scaffolding* to hang a 'Happy New Year' sign in Chinese. Everyone thought it was **strange** and **unusual**.

[6 STROKES RANK 709]

1684 舛 舛 error, incongruous  evening, dusk 655  action scaffolding 1667 (altered) chuǎn



**BF** Working at *evening* time under improper conditions (such as poor lighting) leads to outrageous **errors**. Just look at what a poor job they made of the *scaffolding*!

[6 STROKES RANK 4694]

1685 舞 舞 dance  man 311 (altered)  ten (times 4) 6  bar 1  error, incongruous 1684 wǔ



*Forty* people, mostly *men*, on the **dance floor**, all newbies. It's bound to lead to *errors* and *incongruities*—just look at the tall woman dancing with the male midget, and listen to the cries from people whose toes have been stepped on!

[14 STROKES RANK 1144]

1686 戒 戒 guard against, warn  halberd 359  action scaffolding 1667 jiè

**BF** The *scaffolding* serves as a perfect setting to stand, *sword* poised, to **guard against** evildoers trying to kidnap the princess.

[7 STROKES RANK 1566]

1687 械 械 machinery, mechanical  tree 375  guard against, warn 1686 xiè

**BF** In order to make the *tree* suitable to *guard us against danger*, we need to work it with some **machinery**.



[11 STROKES RANK 1657]



1688 丿 丿 steadfast soul



**CMP** A person engaged in many activities nevertheless always returns to a fixed point, symbolized by a scepter, to do their duty.

## Unit 69




### Arms Akimbo




1689 归 归 go back, return  steadfast soul 1688  boar's head 34 guī  
The new servant appears completely reliable. This *steadfast soul* has to sweep up every morning using the special *boar bristle* broom, and so always **returns** in time to do this every morning. [5 STROKES RANK 933]



1690 帅 帅 handsome  steadfast soul 1688  towel 130 shuài  
This guy, known as a *steadfast soul* somehow decided to appear dressed only in a *towel* 'round his middle. How sexy and **handsome** he looks! [5 STROKES RANK 1888]



1691 师 师 teacher, master  steadfast soul 1688  money, currency 230 shī  
**BF** A **teacher** must set an example of *steadfastness* and that's what they pay him for. See the *money* he gets?  
The little 'dab' on top of 'towel' also makes me think 'teacher'. The dab is a small piece of chalk for the blackboard, and the towel serves as blackboard eraser. [6 STROKES RANK 333]

The characters 帅 'handsome' and 师 'teacher' (§§1690, 1691) differ by a single, small stroke. Teachers can, I suppose, be handsome, but they carry around that little piece of chalk all the time.



1692 班 班 team, class  king 11  steadfast soul 1688 (altered)  king 11 bān  
The two grids on either side represent organized groups of people, perhaps sitting in rows as in a **team** or **class**. They are all *steadfast people* acting together, the kind you can rely on, and the best kind to have on a **team** or in a **class**. [10 STROKES RANK 884]



1693 卯 卯 listening ear  
 basket, box 152  action path 1421  single ear 157  
**CMP** Symbolically, we see sound traveling via the *action path* into the sound box, where it's amplified magically so the *ear* can **listen** to it.












1694 聊 聊 to chat  ear 82  listening ear 1693 liáo  
 What activity do *ears* play a large part in? When your best friend gets ready to share some juicy gossip during a **chat**, that's when you're *all ears*!  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1932]















1695 柳 柳 willow  tree 375  listening ear 1693 liǔ  
**BF** The famous **willow trees** of China participate in an impressive event. During storms, the wind through the branches produces a clearly audible rustling to the *listening ear*.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1557]



1696 月 月 dancing girl  
**CMP** As in other components focusing on moving people, we just see the young woman's legs, at the moment she's in a graceful pirouette.



1697 介 介 introduce  man 311  dancing girl 1696 jiè  
**BF** We are present at the **introduction** of a *man* to his future bride, a graceful young woman. The *man* just stands there, too nervous to budge, while the *girl* is so poised she has no trouble displaying her skill at *dancing*.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 831]



1698 价 价 price  man r 953  introduce 1697 jià  
 We saw in §1697 that the moment two young people meet serves to explain the character 介 'introduce'. But in those long-ago days, this *introduction* would not have taken place without the intervention of a professional matchmaker. There *he* is on the left, come to collect the **price** for his services.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 409]



- 1699 界 界 boundary, scope  field 57  introduce 1697 jiè  
**BF** Buying a new property, a new *field*, requires *getting to know* all about it—its peculiarities, its pretty spots, stony areas, and so on. Then you will know the full **scope** and extent of this new acquisition. [9 STROKES RANK 288]
- 1700 乔 乔 tall  heaven 333  dancing girl 1696 qiáo  
**BF** The *dancing girl* gets closer to *heaven* because she's so **tall**. Of course, this is an exaggeration, which is why we use a slightly exaggerated form of 夭, 'heaven'.  
 To me, this graph looks like a tall fashion model dressed in a fall jacket standing in a typical fashion pose. [6 STROKES RANK 1488]
- 1701 娇 娇 fragile, frail  woman 581  tall 1700 jiāo  
 The odd-looking *woman* is not only very *tall*, but has an emaciated, anorexic-looking body. She looks so **fragile** she might just shatter. [9 STROKES RANK 2158]
- 1702 桥 桥 bridge  tree 375  tall 1700 qiáo  
*Tall trees* made primordial engineers devise ways to build **bridges**. They used them as natural supports over which they could loop strong vines or they chopped the trees down and lay them over narrow valleys. [10 STROKES RANK 1292]
- 1703 养 养 support, provide for  eight (v) 1047  mighty tree 1358  dancing girl 1696 yǎng  
 With the *abundance* of *mighty trees* on his property, the farmer has enough extra money to devote to his *dancing girlfriend* and to **support** her in the style in which she'd like to become accustomed. [9 STROKES RANK 760]




- 1704 鼻 鼻 nose  self 202  field 57  one 2  dancing girl 1696 bí
- BF** The top component alerts us to the depiction of a person's *self*, but it's easy to interpret everything else pictographically. The middle '*field*' is this person's snub **nose**, bordered below by a thin mustache. Underneath is either the fold of skin directly below all our **noses**, or (if you prefer) two lines of exhaled breath. [14 STROKES RANK 1335]
- 1705 毫 毫 long, fine hair  tall 1700 (altered)  hair 231 háo
- A *tall* strand of *hair* is a metaphor for one that is **long** and **fine**. [11 STROKES RANK 879]
- 1706 弗 弗 not (literary)  bow (weapon) 859  dancing girl 1696 fú
- The *dancing girl* played with the *bow*. What a mistake—in short order, she had tangled everything into a big **knot** (sounds like '**not**'). [5 STROKES RANK 1257]
- 1707 佛 佛 Buddha  man r 953  not (literary) 1706 fó
- Who is *not* a *man*? The great **Buddha**, who is like a god. [7 STROKES RANK 771]
- 1708 费 费 cost, spend, expend  not (literary) 1706  cowrie 430 fèi
- Spent too much money? Result: *not* any *money* left in your wallet. [9 STROKES RANK 486]
- 1709 阶 阶 stairs, rank or step  hills 735  introduce 1697 jiē
- BF** *He'll* (sounds like '*hill*') *introduce* me to the boss, so I can ride in the executive elevator, and don't have to take the **stairs** to my office all the time. [6 STROKES RANK 745]

- 1710 尹 尹 pinned bug  action path 1421  boar's head 34 (altered)  
 CMP The upper trident savagely, even brutally, (think of the teeth of a *wild boar*) **pins** the flying insect (that's whose *action path* we see) to the wall. It is a metaphor for being trapped—in a job, existence, or other situation.  
 From a different angle, it looks like something flew into a secure cage. You can only check in—you can't check out!

- 1711 伊 伊 he, she  man 1953  pinned bug 1710 yī  
 A person may feel *trapped* forever in their **gender role**.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 761]



- 1712 君 君 monarch, lord  pinned bug 1710  mouth 41 jūn  
 It's hard to believe, but interviews with **monarchs** reveal that they regard themselves as being imprisoned in their jobs, forced to serve as figureheads for the duration of their reigns. Does that not make them the metaphorical equal of a *talking head pinned to a board*?  
 [7 STROKES RANK 985]



- 1713 群 群 herd, crowd, flock  monarch, lord 1712  sheep 1147 qún  
*Sheep* are metaphors for creatures that blindly follow their *leader*, whatever he does. These concepts together illustrate a **herd** or **flock**.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 570]



- 1714 肃 肃 respectful, solemn  dancing girl 1696  eight 1048  pinned bug 1710 (altered) sù  
 BF Watch the finale of a Broadway extravaganza (at least part of it). See *how many dancing showgirls!* Courtesy of their stylized choreography, their performance onstage makes them resemble gaudy *butterflies pinned to a board*. Nevertheless, their choreography is so well-done, that you cannot help sitting in **respectful** attention.  
 The path of the pinned bug has been straightened out so it fits inside the character square.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1518]



## Unit 70


# The Thing Speaks for Itself

1715 唳 唳 to whistle  mouth 41  respectful, solemn 1714 xiào  
Finally, you catch your breath from the beauty of this presentation (§1714). You use your *mouth* to make a *respectful* sound of appreciation—you **whistle!**  
[11 STROKES RANK 2301]



1716 萧 萧 desolate, bleak  grass r 94  respectful, solemn 1714 xiāo  
**BF** Ever see a truly well-tended lawn? Each blade of *grass* seems to stand *respectfully* at attention. Impressive, but in the end, you notice there's no sign of homeyness—no games, no chairs to sit in, no nothin'. How **desolate**, how **bleak**.  
[11 STROKES RANK 1898]




1717 冂 冂 safe place  action path 1421  place of refuge 111  
**CMP** This character combines an *active path* (§1421) with the *place of refuge* (§111). It's very similar to 'borders' (§127), but Chinese scribes seem to make a point of emphasizing the dynamic left side in some characters and leaving it straight in others.  
This component often suggests a **safe place**, environment, or period in which to work.



1718 丹 丹 red, cinnabar  safe place 1717  cover 268 dān  
Cover the heavy jar which is the only *safe place* to store the lab's supply of *mercury*, whose ore (by the way) is **cinnabar**.  
[4 STROKES RANK 1280]




- 1719 月 月 moon, month  safe place 1717  two 3 (altered) yuè  
 Nighttime. Observe the reflection of the full **moon** in a lake, with the left and right boundaries displaying the edges of its silver path. The lake's surface isn't completely still, and the two horizontals represent a few small wavelets.  
 This glyph often represents an altered form of 'meat' (normally 肉), and commonly will represent a body part in this variation. [4 STROKES RANK 169]
- 1720 肩 肩 shoulder  door of house 724  moon, month 1719 jiān  
 Your **shoulder** is the *part of the body* most suitable for bursting through doors. [8 STROKES RANK 1415]
- 1721 脏 脏 filthy  moon, month 1719  village 687 zāng  
 By light of the *moon*, the *village* takes a bath to rid itself of the **filth** tourists bring in. What a sight—all the quaint old buildings daintily stepping into the river and washing all over! [10 STROKES RANK 1634]
- 1722 青 青 nature's color, unripe  plentiful 12 (altered)  moon, month 1719 qīng  
**Nature's colors** are the ones that predominate in natural growth—blue and green. It was thought that harsh sun was inimical to such growth, but *plentiful moonlight* was responsible for lush harvests. Interestingly, the Chinese associate 'green' with 'unripe', as do we English speakers. [8 STROKES RANK 497]
- 1723 情 情 sentiment, sensibility  heart (skinny) 930  nature's color, unripe 1722 qíng  
**Sentiment** is an *emotion* often associated with *nature* and her *colors*. [11 STROKES RANK 120]
- 1724 明 明 bright, clear  day, sun 63  moon, month 1719 míng  
**BF** Having the *sun* and *moon* act together is a charming metaphor for **brightness**. [8 STROKES RANK 121]







1725 有 有 have  moving hand 1635  moon, month 1719 yǒu  
 The *moon*, in an inferior position because it is in the background, shines over the earth's bounty. You *move your hand* over it all to indicate that you **have** it all—it's all yours. [6 STROKES RANK 8]

1726 前 前 before, in front of  stop! 181 (altered)  moon, month 1719  knife r 166 qián  
 As a child, I once tried following a rainbow to find the legendary pot of gold. It was a clear night, so I followed the radiance of the *moon*, lighting a clear path whose edges were *knife-edge* sharp. Eventually, I had to *stop* when the walls of the town were **in front of** me, keeping me inside and the gold outside. [9 STROKES RANK 93]

1727 那 那 which? what? how?  moon, month 1719 (altered)  town 745 nǎ  
 What an odd dream! It was nighttime, and the *moon* raced through the streets of the *town* on little lunar feet, which was why the stripes lag behind its enclosing part. **How** is this possible? **What** is going on? [6 STROKES RANK 38]



1728 周 周 week  safe place 1717  earth, soil 9  mouth 41 zhōu  
 In ancient days, people sweated the *earth* to survive, either through farming or by hunting. In those days, recreation involved using your *mouth*—talking, singing, joking, screaming, and so on. The **week** is an *environment* during which people carried out these two types of actions. [8 STROKES RANK 490]

1729 雕 雕 carve, engrave  week 1728  short-tailed bird 992 diāo  
 The eagle, a famous *short-tailed bird*, is attacking the sheep! But it's so *weak* (sounds like 'week') that it can't tear the sheep to pieces, but can only **carve** some bloody gashes in the sheep's body. [16 STROKES RANK 1829]

1730 用 用 to use  safe place 1717  middle 45 (altered) yòng




Within a *safe place*, everyone has chores to keep the enclosure safe and strong. Of *central* importance are tools whose **use** lightens everyone's work. '*Middle*' is slightly abbreviated, as a reminder that tools alter the material they work on.

[5 STROKES RANK 51]

1731 拥 拥 to embrace, hold  hand r 29  to use 1730 yōng



I'm no Casanova, but even I know that *hands* have a central *use* in a passionate **embrace**.

[8 STROKES RANK 1059]

1732 甫 甫 just now, only  to use 1730 (altered)  one 2  dab 169 fǔ



The people have been striving for months to set up a new monument, a symbol of their victorious struggle against oppression. They've **just now** finished! The tall central rod is held up by several *useful* tools. A *single* crosspiece shelters all citizens, and a *dab* of cloth flutters defiantly as it catches the breeze.

When this character appears as a component in other characters, we may attach to it the meaning of '**monument**' or '**statue**'. [7 STROKES RANK 2152]

1733 捕 捕 catch, seize  hand r 29  just now, only 1732 bǔ



I **caught** the murderer *just now* using only my *hands*, and we strung him up on the new *monument* as a warning. Watch his *hands* flutter in the breeze.

[10 STROKES RANK 1312]

1734 浦 浦 water's edge  water r 523  just now, only 1732 pǔ















**BF** The *water* in the huge tsunami pounded the new war *memorial* causing it to topple. It was so heavy that all the land around it started sinking, and now it's at the **water's edge**.

[10 STROKES RANK 2161]

1735 蒲 蒲 cattail  grass r 94  water's edge 1734 pú

The fuzzy **cattail** is a beloved and decorative *grass* you can find at the *water's edge*.

[13 STROKES RANK 2344]

- 1736 博 博 win, gain  ten 6  just now, only 1732  inch 210 bó  
 BF In a horse race, the *inch* by which the winner *just now* nosed out the second-place horse leads to an incredible and unexpected **win**; that's what the 'ten' means. [12 STROKES RANK 965]
- 1737 傅 傅 teacher, instructor  man r 953  just now, only 1732  inch 210 fù  
 BF That *man* is a terrific **teacher**! He *just now* taught me what an *inch* is. [12 STROKES RANK 1887]
- 1738 溥 溥 broad, extensive  water r 523  just now, only 1732  inch 210 pǔ  
 BF The *water* in the pool near the *memorial* is a popular gathering place, and is full of the *inch*-long bits of stale bread that kids throw in for the ducks. The bread floats, and instantly spreads over a **broad** and **extensive** area. [STROKES RANK 3882]
- 1739 薄 薄 thin, flimsy  grass r 94  broad, extensive 1738 báo  
 Our cheapskate neighbor planted a small amount of *grass* seed over a very *broad* area—a stupid way to save money. The lawn grew in **thin** and sparse and cheapened the entire neighborhood. [16 STROKES RANK 1433]
- 1740 能 能 can, able  private 750  moon, month 1719  compared with 146 (altered) néng  
 We see *privacy* piled upon a *month* juxtaposed with an upended *comparison*. How does that suggest 'can'? Better to interpret this character as a suggestive picture. 'Month' itself looks like a **can**, and a thirsty teenager's *nose* appears above it as she is about to take a swig. The *ladle*-like shapes on the right (§142) show her shiny curls falling forward in delicate ringlets. [10 STROKES RANK 35]

## Unit 71

### Curiouser and Curiouser, Too

1741 朋 朋 friend  meat 317 (altered)  meat 317 (altered) péng

**BF** Yes, each of these components does look like ‘month’, but the scribes also associated this shape with ‘*meat*’. Here, imagine *two meaty* creatures—people or dogs or whatever—strolling along companionably, because they’re **friends**.

[8 STROKES RANK 882]

1742 鹏 鹏 roc  friend 1741  bird 885 péng

Despite the ferocity of this large fabulous *bird*, sailors considered the **roc** to be a *friendly bird*. How so? If they do manage to subdue it, they can feast off its flesh for a long, long time.

[13 STROKES RANK 1926]

1743 郁 郁 lush  have 1725  town 745 yù

**BF** You *have towns* only in locations which are sufficiently **lush** to support their growth.

[8 STROKES RANK 1915]

1744 霸 霸 overlord  rain 85  animal hide 101  moon, month 1719 bà














It’s no fun being a peasant in ancient China! Each town is under the iron thumb of their **overlord**, compelled to offer *monthly* tribute. Tonight it’s *raining* barrels, but we still have to deliver our quota of *leather hides* to the castle.

[21 STROKES RANK 1838]

1745 甬 甬 corridor, path  private 750  to use 1730 yǒng

**BF** The **corridors** leading to the interior of the house are for *private use* only!

[7 STROKES RANK 4038]

- 1746 痛 痛 painful  sick 697  corridor, path 1745 tòng  
Comparing the interior of a house to the body, the patient's *sickness* was spreading throughout the *corridors*. This was very **painful** to the patient.  
[12 STROKES RANK 730]
- 1747 涌 涌 gush, well up  water r 523  corridor, path 1745 yǒng  
The terrorists have blown up the dam! *Water* is flowing through the innermost *corridors* of all the houses, **gushing up** everywhere. [10 STROKES RANK 1642]
- 1748 勇 勇 brave, valiant  corridor, path 1745  strength 1492 yǒng  
**BF** The soldiers charging down the dark, gloomy *corridor* were quite *strong*, but even so it was such a scary place that we knew they were also quite **brave**. [9 STROKES RANK 1206]
- 1749 角 角 horn, corner, angle  knife 1489 (altered)  to use 1730 jiǎo  
Craftsmen *use a knife* to carve various objects out of animal bones and **horns**. [7 STROKES RANK 736]
- 1750 解 解 untie, undo, take off  horn, corner, angle 1749  knife 1489  ox 186 jiě  
The not-too-bright farmer is doing something with the *ox*. It looks like he's got the *knife* on the animal's *horn*, and is trying to **take it off**. The *ox* looks ready to kill him, and can you blame it? [13 STROKES RANK 201]
- 1751 期 期 period of time  his, her, its, theirs 1093  moon, month 1719 qī  
**BF** All the family, the distant cousins and recluses got together for a fabulous vacation. Now *their time* together is over, as the *moon* comes forward to cover them. [12 STROKES RANK 253]

- 1752 望 望 observe, gaze into distance  
 ☐ perish 269 ☐ moon, month 1719 ☐ king 11 wàng  
 Perhaps this character refers to an old but persistent myth. If you **gaze** at the *king* by the light of the *moon*, you will surely *perish*. [11 STROKES RANK 326]
- 1753 清 清 clear, clear up  
 ☐ water r 523 ☐ nature's color, unripe 1722 qīng  
 The effect of *natural colors* in the *waters* of a pristine tropical lagoon is one of perfect clarity. [11 STROKES RANK 335]
- 1754 确 确 true, authentic  
 ☐ stone, rock 1386 ☐ horn, corner, angle 1749 què  
 BF The carved image of the *horn* on the *stone* seal **authenticates** the oath. [12 STROKES RANK 331]
- 1755 睛 睛 eyeball  
 ☐ eye 78 ☐ nature's color, unripe 1722 jīng  
 BF Nowadays, people wear ornate glasses and contact lenses to camouflage and disguise the *eyes* that nature originally gave us. Look for an *eye* that's a *natural color* to see a genuine **eyeball**. [13 STROKES RANK 934]
- 1756 请 请 ask, invite, polite request  
 ☐ speech r 615 ☐ nature's color, unripe 1722 qǐng  
 Somebody *speaks* most *naturally* when they're making a **request**. [10 STROKES RANK 421]
- 1757 猜 猜 guess  
 ☐ dog r 898 ☐ nature's color, unripe 1722 cāi  
 Those *natural colored dogs* that run in packs—it's hard to **guess** their breed. [11 STROKES RANK 1598]
- 1758 精 精 perfect, excellent  
 ☐ rice 1127 ☐ nature's color, unripe 1722 jīng  
 Nowadays, people think that *natural-colored* brown *rice* is the **perfect** way to consume rice, as opposed to the white, refined variety. [14 STROKES RANK 435]

- 1759 调 调 tune, air ☐ speech r 615    ☑ week 1728 diào  
 He whistled the same **tune** all *week* long to keep from going crazy at the job. He didn't care for the other guys on his shift, so he rarely *spoke* to them. [10 STROKES RANK 400]
- 1760 静 静 still, quiet, calm ☑ nature's color, unripe 1722    ☑ struggle 463 jìng  
 When *nature* overcomes the *struggling* of its inhabitants, then **calm** and **still** conditions prevail, even if all too temporarily. [14 STROKES RANK 722]
- 1761 朝 朝 dynasty ☐ ten 6    ☑ morning 70    ☑ moon, month 1719 cháo  
**BF** Chinese scholars often associate **dynastic** reigns with heavenly phenomena. Here, they compare the period of a **dynasty** with the pearly light you see *early in the day (10 o'clock)* with a more extended period of time, written as 'month'. [12 STROKES RANK 593]
- 1762 潮 潮 trendy, chic ☑ water r 523    ☑ dynasty 1761 cháo  
**BF** **Trendiness** is an elusive quality. It personifies what's *current* (hence, the 'water' component) in the world of high fashion and also what is supposed to be superior, symbolized by the 'dynasty' component. [15 STROKES RANK 1302]
- 1763 脸 脸 face, countenance ☑ moon, month 1719    ☑ together, unanimous 1351 liǎn  
 A beautiful June night. Under the light of the full *moon*, the crowd looks up *together* to see the fireworks, which illuminate their collective **faces**. [11 STROKES RANK 615]
- 1764 哪 哪 which?\* what?\* how?\* ☑ mouth 41    ☑ which? what? how? 1727 nǎ  
 The 'mouth' emphasizes the vocal aspect to '**which, what, and how**'. [9 STROKES RANK 652]

1765 胜 胜 win victory, succeed, excel

☐ moon, month 1719 ☐ give birth to 191

shèng

By the light of the full *moon*, the ancient princess *gave birth to* a mighty prince, who **won** great **victories** for the Chinese people. [9 STROKES RANK 743]

1766 脚 脚 foot, leg, base

☐ moon, month 1719 ☐ now (storytelling) 760











jiǎo















By the light of the *moon*, his *tale* sounded completely true, but thinking on it overnight, I realized he didn't have a **leg** to stand on. [11 STROKES RANK 790]




























## Unit 72



# August Moon



- 1767 胡 胡 beard, mustache  ancient 51  moon, month 1719 hú  
BF I look so *ancient* when the light of the *moon* isn't good enough to shave off my **beard** and **mustache**. [9 STROKES RANK 806]
- 1768 湖 湖 lake  water r 523  beard, mustache 1767 hú  
By light of the full moon, the reflection of the surrounding mountains on the *water* in the **lake** looked like a huge *beard*. [12 STROKES RANK 918]
- 1769 糊 糊 paste, plaster  rice 1127  beard, mustache 1767 hú  
The shaggy workman was so busy **plastering** the new family room, he didn't notice how the bits of splattered plaster looked like *rice* sprinkled in his *beard*. [15 STROKES RANK 1393]
- 1770 肯 肯 be willing or ready to  stop! 181  meat 317 (altered) kěn  
The screaming lady was really angry at me. I yelled at her to *stop* pounding me with the huge slab of *meat*, but she wasn't **willing to** agree until I promised to paint her house, pick up her groceries, fix the toilet, and marry her daughter. [8 STROKES RANK 860]
- 1771 胞 胞 womb, sibling  meat 317 (altered)  wrap, envelope 857 bāo  
BF The *part of the body* that *enfolds* and protects you during fetal development is the **womb**. [9 STROKES RANK 1341]



- 1772 阴 阴 feminine principle in nature  hills 735  moon, month 1719 yīn  
The light of the *moon* shining gently on the rounded *hills* in the distance reminds any viewer of a woman's breasts, putting them in mind of the **feminine side of nature**. [6 STROKES RANK 987]
- 1773 臂 臂 arm, upper arm  law 1256  moon, month 1719 bì  
BF The crescent *moon* is shaped like the upraised **arm** of a policeman getting ready to seize the crook and uphold the *law*. [17 STROKES RANK 1688]
- 1774 嘴 嘴 mouth, snout, bill  mouth 41  this 233  horn, corner, angle 1749 zuǐ  
How does this character differ in meaning from '*mouth*' (§41)? Well, *this* kind of '**mouth**' has more structure—it includes the *bony* and *angular* structures that belong to it. [16 STROKES RANK 1010]
- 1775 盟 盟 alliance, pact, league  bright, clear 1724  blood 209 (altered) méng  
BF Opposing parties get together and use *blood* to *clarify* under *bright light* of day their relationships with each other. Thus is born an **alliance** between neighboring countries. [13 STROKES RANK 1163]
- 1776 触 触 touch, contact, strike  horn, corner, angle 1749  insect 890 chù  
The angry hive of *bees* chased me into a *corner*. I was deeply fearful of **contact** with them, as I am very allergic to their stings. [13 STROKES RANK 1207]
- 1777 衡 衡 weigh, measure  firm, business 1035  horn, corner, angle 1749 (altered)  big 330 héng  
BF The two halves of '*firm, business*' are mirror images, more or less, of each other. They show equal weighing pans balanced at the ends of a *big* piece of *horn*. Scales used by *businesses* to **weigh** their goods look like this. [16 STROKES RANK 1340]

- 1778 胆 胆 bravery, audacity  moon, month 1719  dawn 65 dǎn  
Prince Charming demonstrates his **bravery** yet again. He'll be in the Enchanted Forest from late night until *dawn*, his only companion the light of the full *moon*. [9 STROKES RANK 1352]
- 1779 腰 腰 waist  meat 317 (altered)  west 291 (altered)  woman 581 yāo  
Western standards for *feminine* beauty focus on a few *body parts*, including a slender **waist**. [13 STROKES RANK 1458]
- 1780 箭 箭 arrow\*  bamboo r 243  before, in front of 1726 jiàn  
In the hands of a master archer, the *bamboo arrows* swiftly fly *in front of* the advancing army. [15 STROKES RANK 1496]
- 1781 娜 娜 lithe, graceful  woman 581  which? what? how? 1727 nuó  
BF This *particular woman* is distinguished by her **graceful** athletic abilities. [9 STROKES RANK 1584]
- 1782 脉 脉 arteries and veins  meat 317 (altered)  forever, always 560 mài  
The right part looks like 'water' (§545), but altered a bit. After all, the **arteries and veins** are the *parts of the body* which channel the main fluid of the body, blood. [9 STROKES RANK 1594]
- 1783 铺 铺 spread, extend  gold r 1327  just now, only 1732 pū  
The *monument* (§1732) is hard to see. They *just* covered it in *gold leaf*, and that **extends** the area of visibility many times over. [12 STROKES RANK 1613]

- 1784 朕 朕 royal 'we'  moon, month 1719  shut, close 1113 zhèn  
Heavenly bodies such as the *moon* form part a pronoun involving the Emperor. The 'close' part refers to the exclusivity of the Emperor; normally, access to his person was *closed* to the common citizen. The left 'moon' looks like an *eye*, and so this graph represents I when used by the Emperor, the **royal** 'we'.  
[10 STROKES RANK 3054]
- 1785 騰 騰 gallop, prance  royal 'we' 1784 (altered)  horse 878 téng  
**BF** You're a *horse* honored to be able to carry the *royal* 'we'. Would you do anything but **prance** and **gallop** in the expected manner?  
[13 STROKES RANK 1635]
- 1786 熊 熊 bear (animal)  can, able 1740  fire r 796 xióng  
Ever throw a *can* into a *bonfire*? Nothing happens for a few minutes, and then there's a sudden explosion as the inside pressure of the boiled stuff overcomes the strength of the *can*. **Bears** are like that. They look so big and cute, but internal passions seethe, and suddenly you've got a vicious, man-eating monster on your hands.  
[14 STROKES RANK 1741]
- 1787 肝 肝 liver  meat 317 (altered)  dry 10 gān  
The **liver** is the *body part* that drunks need to keep 'dry' if they don't want to succumb to cirrhosis.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1760]
- 1788 肤 肤 skin  meat 317 (altered)  man (spiffy) 337 fū  
**BF** The *body part* the handsome *man* likes best is his **skin**.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1790]
- 1789 肿 肿 to swell  moon, month 1719  middle 45 zhǒng  
In the *middle* of the *month*, when the *moon* aligns with the earth in a certain way, extra high tides make the seas **swell** up.  
[8 STROKES RANK 1792]

1790 肚 肚 belly\*, abdomen\*  meat 317 (altered)  earth, soil 9 dù  
 BF That fat man's belly is the *part of the body* closest to the *earth*.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1800]



1791 膜 膜 membrane, film, thin coating  meat 317 (altered)  do not, not 349 mó  
 BF A **membrane** is the *body part* that covers choice cuts of *meat* (steaks, chops) when an animal is freshly butchered. *Do not* eat this!  
 [14 STROKES RANK 1945]



1792 晴 晴 clear, fine (of weather)  day, sun 63  nature's color, unripe 1722 qíng  
 By light of *day*, the *green* forest looks especially **fine**.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1968]



## Unit 73















# Righteous Anger



1793 义 义 **harmonious crossing**  
CMP There's something especially peaceful and graceful about this arrangement when these curves are well drawn.

1794 义 义 **justice, righteousness**  harmonious crossing 1793  dab 169 yì  
BF In three well-placed strokes, you see someone rejoicing—hands raised in thanksgiving to heaven—as **justice** triumphs over corruption and intolerance.  
[3 STROKES RANK 208]













1795 仪 仪 **rites**  man r 953  justice, righteousness 1794 yí  
BF There is an ancient trend among *men* and women: after achieving a *just* victory, they display the urge to commemorate this occasion with special religious **rites**.  
[5 STROKES RANK 1283]







1796 又 又 **hand, also**  one 2  harmonious crossing 1793 yòu  
This pictograph of a right **hand** (see the thumb and index finger pinch together on the left?) represents the **hand** which, for most people, is the most, uh, dexterous. The symbol for *harmony*, which resembles *one* closed fist, reinforces the concept of dexterity.  
What's the connection with **also**? Your right hand is so accomplished that you can easily perform a sequence of actions with barely a break in between. Not only can you do *one* thing, but **also** the second, and **also** the third, and so on.  
[2 STROKES RANK 126]

- 1797 对 对 correct, right  hand, also 1796  inch 210 duì  
The *hand* we see belongs to a skilled draftsman, measuring each wall opening and fixture on the blueprint to the last fraction of an *inch*. If he does his job job **correctly** the house will stand forever. [5 STROKES RANK 33]
- 1798 友 友 friend, associate  moving hand 1635  hand, also 1796 yǒu  
**BF** *Hands*, one supporting the other, is a charming visualization of the nature of friendship. [4 STROKES RANK 594]
- 1799 发 发 send out, deliver  friend, associate 1798  eight 1048 fā  
You need to **deliver** your message to the world. *Eight friends* volunteer to be your emissaries. [5 STROKES RANK 47]
- 1800 取 取 take, get, obtain  ear 82  hand, also 1796 qǔ  
I **take** your *ear* with my *hand* and pull hard to **get** you to do what I want. [8 STROKES RANK 323]
- 1801 最 最 most, -est  day, sun 63  take, get, obtain 1800 zuì  
You're a greedy son of a gun. You always want the **most** of anything. Whenever the *sun* shines, you seem to feel that anything there is yours for the *taking*. [12 STROKES RANK 139]
- 1802 娶 娶 take a wife  take, get, obtain 1800  woman 581 qǔ  
In the very unlamented old days, a man **takes a wife** by, uh, *taking* a *woman*. [11 STROKES RANK 2494]
- 1803 议 议 confer, discuss  speech r 615  justice, righteousness 1794 yì  
How do you determine a *just* system of government? Many *speeches* on the subject of *justice* contribute to **conferences** and **discussions** on that subject. [5 STROKES RANK 368]

- 1804 文 文 language, culture  justice, righteousness 1794 (altered)  one 2 wén  
 BF One system of *justice* prevails over a society united by *one language* and *culture*. [4 STROKES RANK 148]
- 1805 刘 刘 kill, massacre  language, culture 1804  knife r 166 liú  
 Using a *knife* or other serious weapon on many members of a *culture* sounds like a genocidal *massacre* to me. [6 STROKES RANK 751]
- 1806 齐 齐 to make even  language, culture 1804  dancing girl 1696 qí  
 Let's watch the *dancing girl* for a bit. Hands *crossed in front* of her, the horizontal stroke represents her shoulders, which must be *kept even* as she dances. [6 STROKES RANK 1063]
- 1807 挤 挤 crowd, jostle  hand r 29  to make even 1806 jǐ  
 A malicious *hand* approaches the poor waiter carrying the tray of snacks *on an even keel* so they don't fall. Why does he *jostle* the waiter so? [9 STROKES RANK 1661]
- 1808 济 济 cross a river  water r 523  to make even 1806 jì  
 BF Imagine having to carry stuff on your head and shoulders carefully to get it *across the river* safe, sound, and dry. In the *water*, the main thing is to *keep* everything *even*, so nothing falls. [9 STROKES RANK 360]
- 1809 纹 纹 vein, grain  silk r 807  language, culture 1804 wén  
 Two of the great hallmarks of civilization are clothes and *language*. The *silken* embroidery threads which decorate fine clothing and the patterns of written *language* suggest the patterns formed by *veins* of minerals in stone or the swirls in wood *grain*. [7 STROKES RANK 1768]


























- 1810 艮 艮 tough, hard to chew  eye 78 (altered)  harmonious crossing 1793 (altered) gěn  
You've just bitten something that's *very hard to chew*. It's so **tough** that you scrunch up your *eye* with the effort of biting down (explaining the altered 'eye'). There's no *harmony* here, which further explains the chopped up *harmonious crossing*. [6 STROKES RANK 4564]
- 1811 很 很 very  left step 1034  tough, hard to chew 1810 hěn  
That guy over there is the one they make jokes about—it's **very hard** for him to *chew gum* and *walk* at the same time! [9 STROKES RANK 138]
- 1812 父 父 father  eight 1048  harmonious crossing 1793 fù  
In theory, when a **father** does his job properly, the family experiences an *abundance* of *harmony*. But all too often, children and spouses ignore or flout his sage advice, resulting in plenty of tears for the besieged **father**. Here the dual dabs of 'eight' resemble the tears of bitterness that **fathers** can experience bringing their children to adulthood. [4 STROKES RANK 589]
- 1813 爷 爷 grandpa  father 1812  guard, protect 113 (altered) yé  
**BF** A **grandfather** is like a *father* with additional emphasis on *protection*. If you compare this 'protection' with §113, you'll notice that it's missing its base. **Grandfathers** have to *protect* and defend more than one household, and they have no single home base. [6 STROKES RANK 1007]
- 1814 交 交 meet, intersect  six 1062  harmonious crossing 1793 jiāo  
A **meeting place** is where *roads cross*. Let's meet for drinks after work, at *six*. [6 STROKES RANK 320]
- 1815 咬 咬 bite, nip  mouth 41  meet, intersect 1814 yǎo  
When the horizontal parts of your *mouth intersect* with something in between, that's a **bite**. [9 STROKES RANK 1658]

- 1816 较 较 **comparatively**  car 1430  meet, intersect 1814 **jiào**  
 Classic *cars* and their owners gather at *meets* to rate each other **comparatively**. [10 STROKES RANK 491]
- 1817 校 校 **school**  tree 375  meet, intersect 1814 **xiào**  
**BF** **Schools** must have been one of the most important structures in the ancient Chinese world. In those days, a large interior space was created by leaning tall *trees* together across each side of the schoolhouse. These trees *intersected* and supported each other. [10 STROKES RANK 633]
- 1818 艾 艾 **to end, stop**  grass r 94  harmonious crossing 1793 **ài**  
 You can **stop** the flow of water, *harmoniously* gurgling through the *crossed* pipes, by damming the drain with a wad of *grass*. [5 STROKES RANK 1291]

## Unit 74

### Quaint Histories

- 1819 哎 哎 hey!  mouth 41  to end, stop 1818 ǎi  
Hey, look at that guy! By plugging his lips into the hole in the dike, he used his *mouth* to *stop* the leak. [8 STROKES RANK 2294]
- 1820 杀 杀 kill  harmonious crossing 1793  few, little 1475  one 2 shā  
To me, this character represents a view of *one* dead person's face, the face of someone who's been **killed**. The *harmonious cross* represents the closed eyes of the victim, the hooked vertical is the nose, and the other dabs look like creases in his face. [6 STROKES RANK 587]
- 1821 刹 刹 to brake a car  kill 1820  knife r 166 shā  
Metaphorically speaking, *killing* the motion of a **car** is the application of the *knife* edges of the **brake** mechanism. [8 STROKES RANK 2249]
- 1822 赵 赵 kingdom of Zhao  to walk 421  harmonious crossing 1793 zhào  
The ancient **kingdom of Zhao** was one of the so-called Warring States that flourished 2200 years ago. As a result of its military prowess, it was possible for people *to walk* around in *harmony* with no fear of personal danger. [9 STROKES RANK 1169]
- 1823 希 希 hope  harmonious crossing 1793  moving hand 1635  towel 130 xī  
*Moving hands harmoniously crossed* in supplication, covered by a special, embroidered *towel*—thus begins the ceremony of **hope**. [7 STROKES RANK 508]

- 1824 稀 稀 sparse  rice or grain 409  hope 1823 xī  
Too much *hope* at the conclusion of the *grain* harvest means the harvest was too **sparse** for everyone's well-being. [12 STROKES RANK 1788]
- 1825 冈 冈 mountain ridge  borders 127  harmonious crossing 1793 gāng  
BF We're looking down at a topographical map. Within the *borders* of the region are *crossed* strokes representing the spines of intersecting **mountain ridges**. [4 STROKES RANK 2047]
- 1826 刚 刚 hard, firm, strong  mountain ridge 1825  knife r 166 gāng  
The minerals and the topsoil of the *mountain ridge* are so **firm** and **hard** that we need a *knife* of some sort to dig through it. [6 STROKES RANK 621]
- 1827 纲 纲 guiding principle  silk r 807  mountain ridge 1825 gāng  
**Guiding principles** were so important in traditional Chinese culture, that here we see two visual references to it. First of all is the *silken* thread which guides us and pulls us in the proper direction. Next are the *mountain ridges* which serve as paths for our intrepid traveler. One false step, and it's curtains! [7 STROKES RANK 1934]
- 1828 网 网 net  borders 127  harmonious crossing (times 2) 1793 wǎng  
BF Within *borders* there are plenty of *crisscrossing* strands. That's the design of an old-fashioned fishing **net**.  
It's possible to confuse the meanings of 冈 'mountain ridge' and 网 'net'. Even though the ridge is bigger, the net is a more complicated structure, and that's why 网 is visually more complex than 冈. [6 STROKES RANK 605]
- 1829 区 区 administrative division  basket, box 152  harmonious crossing 1793 qū  
BF The purpose of dividing a large country like China into a variety of **administrative districts** is to establish and maintain *harmony* within the *box*-like borders of the region. [4 STROKES RANK 265]

1830 驱 驱 drive (carriage, horse) qū  
☐ horse 878 ☐ administrative division 1829  
**BF** To get to the *division* headquarters, I must **drive** my *horse*.  
[7 STROKES RANK 1511]















1831 凶 凶 fiendish, ferocious xiōng  
■ receptacle 155 ☐ harmonious crossing 1793  
 Like Pandora's box, this *receptacle* is open to the sky, and we see the how all the buoyant forces of *harmony* seems to be rising and escaping. What's left? In the absence of harmony, **fiendishness** and **ferocity** thrive.  
[4 STROKES RANK 1378]










Here are three characters whose meanings may blend together in a student's mind. How can we distinguish between 冈, 区, and 凶 ('mountain ridge', 'administrative division', and 'fiendish')? All three contain a cross within an open square.

The open part of the square suggests a means of escape for the character meaning. Mountain ridges are so heavy, they fall out the bottom. Ferocity is a boiling hot emotion, and the steam rises out the top. To flee a fiendish administrator, you flee to another district, alongside the old one.

1832 恼 恼 get mad nǎo  
☐ heart (skinny) 930 ☐ cover 268 ■ fiendish, ferocious 1831  
 Sometimes things don't go your way. Here's one poor soul, whose *heart* is swollen in agitation. He's trying to keep a *cover* on the feelings of *ferocity* that threaten to overcome him. In short, he's **getting mad**.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1704]












1833 丈 丈 male elder relative zhàng  
☐ ten 6 (altered) ■ harmonious crossing 1793 (altered)  
**BF** 'Ten' is an allusion to a high number or quantity. Here, it is a polite way to refer significant age. So, a *harmony* plus *ten* suggests the respect due to an **older male relative**.  
[3 STROKES RANK 1242]

- 1834 仗 仗 battle  man r 953  male elder relative 1833 zhàng  
 BF You see *two men*, but that's all that would fit in the character. They symbolize a larger group of men that stand together, egging each other on, anticipating victory, as they prepare for **battle**. [5 STROKES RANK 1712]
- 1835 史 史 history  harmonious crossing 1793 (altered)  middle 45 (altered) shǐ  
 BF The *Middle Kingdom* (China) brought and maintained *harmony* in the Far East. That's the region's **history** in a nutshell. [5 STROKES RANK 456]
- 1836 吏 吏 minor official  history 1835  one 2 lì  
 BF **Minor officials** are the ones adding to the *historical* record, using their pens (which look like 'ones') to write stuff for future historians. [6 STROKES RANK 2311]
- 1837 使 使 have sb do sth  man r 953  minor official 1836 shǐ  
*Minor officials* are minor because almost any other *person* can come in to their office and **have them do something for them**. [8 STROKES RANK 119]
- 1838 更 更 even more  history 1835  two 3 gèng  
*History* has *twice* as many surprises as I expected. It's **even more** interesting than I thought! [7 STROKES RANK 221]
- 1839 便 便 cheap  man r 953  even more 1838 pián  
 BF If stuff is **cheap**, then a *man* can buy *even more* of it! [9 STROKES RANK 271]
- 1840 硬 硬 hard, stiff  stone, rock 1386  even more 1838 yìng  
 Consider a medium-sized *rock*. It's hard to imagine anything *even more stiff* or **hard**, but if you could, this character would describe it. [12 STROKES RANK 1170]















- 1841 鞭 鞭 a whip  animal hide 101  cheap 1839 biān  
A whip only uses a thin strip of *animal hide*, so it's *cheap*.  
[18 STROKES RANK 2250]
- 1842 皮 皮 leather, skin  cliff r 671  scepter 5  hand, also 1796 pí  
Here's how to prepare the hide of an animal as **leather**. Carefully hang it over a *cliff* and use one *hand* to anchor it. Beat it with a *big stick* in your other *hand* to make it soft and supple.  
[5 STROKES RANK 741]
- 1843 皱 皱 wrinkle  hay for fodder 462  leather, skin 1842 zhòu  
The older you get, the more **wrinkles** you display, and the more you are apt to attempt crackpot diets. My 'favorite' is the *hay* diet for smoother *skin*.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1954]
- 1844 被 被 quilt, passive marker  clothing r 838  leather, skin 1842 bèi  
BF You use bits of old *clothing* and scraps of *leather* to create a **quilt**.  
This character is most commonly encountered with the passive meaning 'by' (as in, the dog was bitten *by* the boy).  
[10 STROKES RANK 154]















## Unit 75











# Dance of Death




- 1845 贤 贤    worthy, virtuous     subject of a ruler 17 (altered)     hand, also 1796     cowrie 430    xián
- BF Only the truly **worthy subjects of the king** could *handle* the king's money. ('Subject' 臣 is greatly altered so it will fit into the small space allotted to it.) [8 STROKES RANK 1943]
- 1846 痕 痕    mark, trace     sick 697     tough, hard to chew 1810    hén
- BF Recently, I was dreadfully *sick* and in the hospital. I recuperated—I guess—but the hospital food didn't help. It was *tough* and *hard to chew*. I still bear the **marks** of my illness. [11 STROKES RANK 1938]
- 1847 函 函    case, casket     le 1399     fiendish, ferocious 1831 (altered)    hán
- BF The *ferocious* bandit and his gang terrified the locals for decades. What a *change*, now that he's in his **casket** and planted safely in the ground. [8 STROKES RANK 1950]
- 1848 爵 爵    nobility     hands raised high 1345     net r 107     tough, hard to chew 1810 (altered)     inch 210    jué
- BF These banquets of **nobility** are no fun. The meat is *tough* and they measure their weak wine by the *inch*. *Hands* are constantly *raised high* in toast to the king, but the protocol is so fixed that guests feel like they are trapped in *nets*. [17 STROKES RANK 1925]



- 1849 辰 辰 time, day, occasion  cliff r 671  tough, hard to chew 1810 (altered) chén  
An old-time procedure to improve the taste of food was to take *tough* meat and toss it over a *cliff* to tenderize it. It was always a memorable **occasion** when the tribal elders decided to employ this method. [7 STROKES RANK 2317]
- 1850 晨 晨 morning, daybreak  day, sun 63  time, day, occasion 1849 chén  
BF The *time of day* when you can see the *sun* peaking over the horizon marks the onset of **daybreak**. [11 STROKES RANK 1388]
- 1851 辱 辱 disgrace, insult  time, day, occasion 1849  inch 210 rǔ  
BF In ancient China, you could measure prestige by the amount of seating room allotted to you at special *occasions*. A minister given only an *inch* could mark this as a special sign of **insult** and **disgrace**, and he knew for sure his days in power were numbered. [10 STROKES RANK 1907]
- 1852 唇 唇 lip  time, day, occasion 1849 (altered)  mouth 41 chún  
BF Her **lips** were trembling on that special *occasion* when I proposed marriage. Her *mouth* opened in surprised pleasure—or was it amused contempt? (It was hard to tell!). [10 STROKES RANK 1880]
- 1853 坚 坚 hard, solid  subject of a ruler 17 (altered)  hand, also 1796  earth, soil 9 jiān  
BF Bowing down, the loyal *subject* supports himself with his *hands* on the *earth* knowing that the surface will be **hard** and **solid**. [7 STROKES RANK 748]
- 1854 紧 紧 tight, taut  subject of a ruler 17 (altered)  hand, also 1796  silk 206 (altered) jǐn  
The *king's* loyal *subject* is helping out today in the *silk* factories. Using his *hands*, he's helping spin the *silk* thread by holding the strands **taut** and **tight**. [10 STROKES RANK 560]



- 1855 及 及 and, in, on  man 311  hand, also 1796  extra stuff jí  
The ‘*extra stuff*’ in the character is like a link binding a *hand* to *someone* else, combining two *people*, that is, one *person and* another. We use this component to represent multiple positions. [3 STROKES RANK 198]
- 1856 度 度 degree, other small unit  shelter r 681  horned animal 100  hand, also 1796 dù  
The new *bull* needs some serious taming before we can bring him inside the *shelter*. By *degrees*, under my *hand*, he starts behaving like a member of the family! [9 STROKES RANK 184]
- 1857 渡 渡 cross water, ferry across  water r 523  degree, other small unit 1856 dù  
The river—creek, actually—is pretty narrow. I could **cross it** by swimming if the *water* wasn’t so cold (not many *degrees*). [12 STROKES RANK 1406]
- 1858 拨 拨 poke, stir, turn  hand r 29  send out, deliver 1799 bō  
Actions like **stirring, poking, turning**, and so forth are *hand* motions that have been *sent out* for a purpose. [8 STROKES RANK 1807]
- 1859 吸 吸 absorb, suck up  mouth 41  and, in, on 1855 xī  
To use your *mouth* to **suck up** the coffee that spilled, you’ll need to place your lips in *many different positions*. [6 STROKES RANK 924]
- 1860 级 级 level, rank, grade  silk r 807  and, in, on 1855 jí  
Customers demand quality when they buy *silk*—after all, they’re paying a lot of money for it. Early on, it became important to sort *silks* by means of a standard **grading** system. Merchants show off the sorted *silks* in *many different places* in the store so they don’t get mixed up. [6 STROKES RANK 415]

- 1861 极 极 extremely, extremity  tree 375  and, in, on 1855 jí  
 BF That tall *tree* is perfect for the municipal Christmas *tree*—it's **extremely** tall. We intensify its festive nature by placing ornaments *in many different positions*. [7 STROKES RANK 363]
- 1862 报 报 newspaper  hand r 29  single ear 157  hand, also 1796 bào  
 Disregard the meaning of the 'single ear'. What you see are *two hands* doing their best to support the unruly sheets of paper that comprise a full-sized **newspaper**. See how the paper towers above the *hands* and threatens to fall over the right *hand*. [7 STROKES RANK 234]
- 1863 反 反 oppose, anti-  cliff r 671  hand, also 1796 fǎn  
 Your punishment for **opposing** the rebel army: you hang over the *cliff* by your *hands* until you either fall or manage to pull yourself up. [4 STROKES RANK 237]
- 1864 版 版 edition, newspaper page  slice, flake 1485  oppose, anti- 1863 bǎn  
 Stories on a **newspaper page** provide *slices* of life in *opposition* to our own. But since bad news sells better than good news, most stories emphasize tragedy and stories of *opposition*. [8 STROKES RANK 810]
- 1865 变 变 transform, change into  trade, industry 1117 (altered)  hand, also 1796 biàn  
 The *hand* of a strong executive or CEO can totally **transform** an *industry*. The *industry* here has been turned upside-down. [8 STROKES RANK 225]

1866 受 受 receive  
 hands raised high 1345  smooth cover 280  hand, also 1796 shòu




The bottom-most *hand* belongs to the university president bestowing diplomas on graduation day. The body of students with *hands raised high* can't wait to **receive** their diplomas, each in a protective *smooth cover*.

[8 STROKES RANK 238]

1867 授 授 instruct, teach  hand r 29  receive 1866 shòu



**BF** Effective **teachers** use *hand* motions and gestures to ensure the students *receive* their **instruction**.

[11 STROKES RANK 968]

1868 服 服 clothes, garment  moon, month 1719  single ear 157  hand, also 1796 fú



Think of a macabre Halloween costume as the **garment** we see here. The Demon Barber has slabs of *meat* and body parts like *ears* and *hands* dangling from his torso.

[8 STROKES RANK 365]

1869 权 权 right, power, authority  tree 375  hand, also 1796 quán

I know this *tree* is on your land, but I can approach it and put my *hand* on it because I have special **authority**.

[6 STROKES RANK 297]









1870 难 难 difficult, hard  hand, also 1796  short-tailed bird 992 nán




Ever try to use your *hand* to catch a *bird*? Don't bother—it's very **hard** to do.




[10 STROKES RANK 295]


## Unit 76




# Sharper than a Serpent's Tooth



- 1871 眼 眼 eye, aperture  eye 78  tough, hard to chew 1810 yǎn  
When we get a cinder in our **eye**, it's pretty painful, but think how things are for giants. Instead of cinders, they get *eye-shaped* almonds, *tough* as nails, that float on their **eyeballs**, making life temporarily unbearable for them. [11 STROKES RANK 281]
- 1872 即 即 approach, be near  tough, hard to chew 1810 (altered)  single ear 157 jí  
I was tired of the *tough, hard to chew* food that my evil stepmother kept feeding me. One day, I **approached** her as I could and spit a mouthful at her. I hit her in the *ear*. I thought she would kill me. [7 STROKES RANK 293]
- 1873 良 良 good, fine  dab 169  tough, hard to chew 1810 liáng  
**BF** Imagine you're a prisoner in some third-world dictatorship. Everything they feed you is *tough* and *hard to chew*. But on the ruler's birthday, the meat is a *little bit* better quality. By comparison with the normal fare, how **fine** it seems! [7 STROKES RANK 835]
- 1874 郎 郎 young man  good, fine 1873 (altered)  town 745 láng  
Bustling *towns* and big cities attract **young men** because they are *fine* places to live with lots to do and many other young people to meet. [8 STROKES RANK 1457]



- 1875 狼 狼 wolf  dog r 898  good, fine 1873 láng  
*Dogs and wolves are clearly close relatives. Somehow, although wild dogs always seem somewhat mangy, wolves always seem to retain their natural grace, majesty, and fineness.* [10 STROKES RANK 1708]
- 1876 限 限 set a limit, restrict  hills 735  tough, hard to chew 1810 xiàn  
 Well-trained soldiers can do anything, but there are **restrictions**. For example, the rocky *hills* limit the distance they can march, and the *toughness* of their rations limits their energy and stamina. [8 STROKES RANK 613]
- 1877 狠 狠 ruthless, relentless  dog r 898  tough, hard to chew 1810 hěn  
 I've never seen a *dog* too full to go after food. No matter how *tough* the piece of meat might be, the *dog* is **relentless**, and never lets go. [9 STROKES RANK 1654]
- 1878 恨 恨 hate  heart (skinny) 930  tough, hard to chew 1810 hèn  
*Hatred* is a *tough* and all-consuming *emotion*. [9 STROKES RANK 1295]
- 1879 根 根 plant roots  tree 375  tough, hard to chew 1810 gēn  
 No part of an ornamental tree makes good eating, but in times of famine you do the best you can. Moreover, no part of a *tree* is chewable, but the **plant roots** of the *tree* are *tough*, but chewable. [10 STROKES RANK 352]
- 1880 跟 跟 with, follow  foot r 946  tough, hard to chew 1810 gēn  
 Somehow the soldier got a *tough* nut in his boot, lodged against a sensitive part of his **foot**, but the pace of marching is too swift for him to stop and remove it. The painful nut travels **with** him for the duration of the maneuvers. [13 STROKES RANK 541]
- 1881 银 银 silver  gold r 1327  tough, hard to chew 1810 yín  
*Gold* has the reputation for being a soft, malleable metal. If you want a *tougher* precious metal, you'll need to invest in **silver**. [11 STROKES RANK 757]



- 1882 既 既 already, then  
 tough, hard to chew 1810 (altered)  un-, -less 1642 (altered) jì  
*Un-less* I get help soon, that *tough* piece of food I recklessly ate has **already** made me deathly ill. [9 STROKES RANK 724]
- 1883 观 观 look at, watch, observe  hand, also 1796  see 301 guān  
**BF** If you hold that exquisitely carved statuette in your *hand*, you can *also see* it close up, and better **observe** all its superior qualities. [6 STROKES RANK 334]
- 1884 支 支 prop up, support  ten 6  hand, also 1796 zhī  
 Someone's *hand* is balancing the *ten-pound* weight, trying to **support** it. [4 STROKES RANK 437]
- 1885 技 技 skill, ability  hand r 29  prop up, support 1884 jì  
**BF** The juggler uses his *hand* to *support* several balls in the air at once. What **skill!** [7 STROKES RANK 422]
- 1886 枝 枝 branch of tree  tree 375  prop up, support 1884 zhī  
*Trees support* their **branches**. [8 STROKES RANK 1491]
- 1887 鼓 鼓 drum, rouse  ten 6  bean 1168  prop up, support 1884 gǔ  
 I just managed to *prop up ten beans* on the window sill. Suddenly, a mighty clap of sound rent the air, scattering the beans to kingdom come. Someone had just beat their **drum** as loud as they could. [13 STROKES RANK 1123]
- 1888 仅 仅 barely, merely  man r 953  hand, also 1796 jǐn  
 Think back to ancient days. Without the use of machines, relying only on the power provided by *hands* and feet, *men* and women could **barely** survive. [4 STROKES RANK 494]



1889 双 双 pair, both, dual  hand, also (times 2) 1796 shuāng  
To do most things well, use **both** hands. [4 STROKES RANK 581]



1890 祭 祭 offer sacrifice  meat 317 (altered)  hand, also 1796 (altered)  show, indicate 1064 jì  
Priests **offer sacrifice** to their gods in a ritualized ceremony. They place a slab of *meat* on the altar using their *hands*, hoping that patterns in the burns will *show* them hidden knowledge. [11 STROKES RANK 1782]

1891 察 察 inspect, scrutinize  roof 247  offer sacrifice 1890 chá  
BF Better bring the *sacrificial offering* in from the sun, under the *roof* of the temple so the priest can carefully **scrutinize** it away from prying eyes. [14 STROKES RANK 564]

1892 擦 擦 rub, scrape  hand r 29  inspect, scrutinize 1891 cā  
The priest uses his *hand* on the burnt offering to *scrutinize* it and **scrape** or **rub** away some of the soot to see what messages have been sent to him from heaven. [17 STROKES RANK 1761]

1893 坡 坡 slope, plain  earth, soil 9  leather, skin 1842 pō  
The *ground* is covered by a large sheet of *leather*. Because of natural imperfections in the *leather* and in the *soil*, it's not exactly straight and level—it's **sloped**. [8 STROKES RANK 1550]

1894 玻 玻 glass  king 11  leather, skin 1842 bō  
BF In olden days, windows and containers of the peasantry were made of *animal skins*. Finally, they invented **glass**, quite expensively at first, which performed the same services for the *king*. [9 STROKES RANK 1769]

1895 波 波 wave, ripple of water  water r 523  leather, skin 1842 bō  
BF They wash the old *leather* cape by beating it in the *water*. They beat it with such energy as to create huge **waves** and **ripples**. [8 STROKES RANK 664]



1896 婆婆 old woman, matron, mother-in-law



wave, ripple of water 1895



woman 581



pó



**BF** Who's the *woman* so good at *making waves* in my house? Why, it's my **mother-in-law**, who else!?



[11 STROKES RANK 1347]



## Unit 77

# Categorical Imperatives















1897 疲 疲 tired, weary  sick 697  leather, skin 1842 pí  
BF The old doctor has had it with patients! He is so **weary** of treating *sick* and *leathery* people who never stop complaining and are slow to pay their bills. [10 STROKES RANK 1778]




1898 彼 彼 other party, that, those  left step 1034  leather, skin 1842 bǐ  
I hate dancing at parties. My *left foot* somehow always lands on the *leather* shoe of my partner's foot. After awhile, no **other party** will dance with me. As a result, I need to leave and find some **other party** to have fun at. [8 STROKES RANK 1256]

1899 颇 颇 slanting, tilting  leather, skin 1842  page, leaf 444 pō  
BF Look at the old boxer. The *back of his head* is tough and *leathery*, so stiff that he can't raise his head fully. The back of his neck is always **slanting**. [11 STROKES RANK 1560]

1900 破 破 broken, damaged  stone, rock 1386  leather, skin 1842 pò  
The giant alligator swallowed a giant *stone* at some point. When trappers caught him, killed him, and skinned him, the dried *skin* could no longer support the *rock*, which burst through and **damaged** the *skin*. [10 STROKES RANK 604]

- 1901 夜 夜 night, evening  
 ☐ cover 268    ☐ man r 953    ☐ evening 479    ☐ harmonious crossing 1793    yè  
 What can a *man* do under *cover* of *night*? *Harmonious*, peaceful things actually, *nighttime* and sleepy time things. [8 STROKES RANK 665]
- 1902 脑 脑 brain  
 ☐ meat 317 (altered)    ☐ cover 268    ☐ fiendish, ferocious 1831    nǎo  
 The **brain** is the *body part* where, according to shrinks everywhere, lie everybody's most *fiendish* and *ferocious* thoughts. We learn to *cover* all this ugliness or else no one could ever live with anyone else. [10 STROKES RANK 646]
- 1903 假 假 fake, phony, false  
 ☐ man r 953    ☐ two 3    ☐ leather, skin 1842 (altered)    jiǎ  
 A *man* wearing a *second skin* is a powerful metaphor for **falsehood**. [11 STROKES RANK 636]
- 1904 急 急 impatient, anxious  
 ☐ and, in, on 1855 (altered)    ☐ heart (fat) 906    jí  
**BF** *Too much stuff going on* engenders *emotions* in sensitive people, typically those of **impatience** and **anxiety**. [9 STROKES RANK 657]
- 1905 食 食 eat\*  
 ☐ man 311    ☐ good, fine 1873    shí  
 Putting something *good* and *fine* within a *person* is the same as giving them something to **eat**. [9 STROKES RANK 671]
- 1906 汉 汉 ethnic Chinese  
 ☐ water r 523    ☐ hand, also 1796    hàn  
**BF** Historians are now confident that extensive systems of *water* connections and *manual* dexterity are key to the development of any civilization, especially the **ethnic Chinese**. [5 STROKES RANK 711]
- 1907 树 树 tree\*  
 ☐ tree 375    ☐ correct, right 1797    shù  
 It's *correct* to think of a *tree* as a **tree**. [9 STROKES RANK 697]

- 1908 欢 欢 happy, pleased  hand, also 1796  owe, lack 465 huān  
 BF I use my *hand* to finally pay off the loan I *owe*. I don't know who's **happier**—me, for getting the monkey off my back, or my pal, who gets his money back. [6 STROKES RANK 685]
- 1909 怪 怪 surprising, strange  heart (skinny) 930  hand, also 1796  earth, soil 9 guài  
*Hearts* and *hands* are raining down on the *earth*. Whoa, how **strange**! [8 STROKES RANK 775]
- 1910 概 概 approximate, general  tree 375  already, then 1882 gài  
 BF The *tree* *already* fell on the forest ranger when I got there. I was **approx-**  
**imately** two minutes too late! [13 STROKES RANK 791]
- 1911 释 释 set free, explain  distinguish, differentiate 1322  hand, also 1796  earth, soil 9 (altered) shì  
 BF The police have rounded up a crowd of troublemakers. Who of them should we **set free**? We *distinguish* the innocent from the guilty in an odd way, which seems to work somehow. The ones with their *hands* on the *earth* are so bewildered that they must be innocent. [12 STROKES RANK 813]
- 1912 曼 曼 handsome, graceful  brave 79 (altered)  hand, also 1796 màn  
 BF The *brave* soldier, demonstrating perfect fighting skills with his *hands*, impressed us as being very **handsome** and **graceful**. [11 STROKES RANK 1224]
- 1913 漫 漫 brim over, overflow  water r 523  handsome, graceful 1912 màn  
 He *gracefully* lowered his hand into the tub of *water*, but no matter how *graceful*, it still made the tub **overflow**. [14 STROKES RANK 1455]

- 1914 慢慢 slow  heart (skinny) 930  handsome, graceful 1912 màn  
*Handsome* men usually made her *heart* beat fast, but this guy was so rude, selfish, and ignorant, that he actually made her *heart* **slow** down.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 822]
- 1915 欧 欧 Europe  administrative division 1829  owe, lack 465 ōu  
*Europe*, a bunch of *administrative divisions* formerly called countries, *lack* so many skills and resources that each can't make it on its own.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 823]
- 1916 娘娘 mum, mother  woman 581  good, fine 1873 niáng  
 My **mother** was the *best woman* that ever lived. [10 STROKES RANK 881]
- 1917 板 板 board, plank  tree 375  oppose, anti- 1863 bǎn  
 You cut **planks** from a *tree*. You use the *planks* of a political platform to *oppose* the money-grubbing incumbent. [8 STROKES RANK 930]
- 1918 叔叔 uncle  on 175  small 1063  hand, also 1796 shū  
 When I was *small*, I used to climb *on* top of my **uncle**. What fun—and he *also* enjoyed it. [8 STROKES RANK 1422]
- 1919 督 督 supervise  uncle 1918  eye 78 dū  
**BF** My *uncle* entered the family business many years ago, and did well despite family ties. He stood eagle-eyed in the factory, **supervising** all aspects of the operation. [13 STROKES RANK 946]
- 1920 择 择 choose\*, select\*  hand r 29  hand, also 1796  earth, soil 9 (altered) zé  
**BF** All kinds of good stuff gets scattered on the *soil*. **Selectively**, I use *both hands* to pick up the best garbage from the *earth*. [8 STROKES RANK 961]

1921 译 译 translate, interpret ☐ speech r 615 ☐ hand, also 1796 ☐ earth, soil 9 (altered) yì

I opened my mouth to  *speak*, and the hostile strangers used their  *hands* to throw  *soil* at me. You don't need an **interpreter** to figure their intentions.

[7 STROKES RANK 1198]











1922 泽 泽 marsh ☐ water r 523 ☐ hand, also 1796 ☐ earth, soil 9 (altered) zé













**BF** This godforsaken **marsh** is a slimy mixture of  *water* and  *soil*. It's not made for humans—my limbs are not very  *handy*.

[8 STROKES RANK 951]




## Unit 78



# Shadowy Realms



- 1923 圣 圣 sage, saint  hand, also 1796  earth, soil 9 shèng  
BF The **sage** man, *arms* crossed in front, rises above the *earth* towards heaven, as reward for his **saintliness**. [5 STROKES RANK 960]
- 1924 戏 戏 drama, play, show  hand, also 1796  halberd 359 xì  
The renegade samurai warrior is stealing the **show**. That's because he's the one with the *sword* in his *hand*, and no one wants to make him angry. [6 STROKES RANK 1033]
- 1925 隐 隐 conceal, hide, latent  hills 735  impatient, anxious 1904 yǐn  
BF Blackbeard the Pirate is *anxious* to get back to the *hills*, for that's where his buried treasure lies **hidden**. [11 STROKES RANK 1034]
- 1926 稳 稳 settled, steady, stable  rice or grain 409  impatient, anxious 1904 wěn  
Careful—the cup of *rice* is filled to the top. If you are *anxious* or *impatient* while carrying, you won't hold it **steady**, and the *rice* will get all over the floor. [14 STROKES RANK 1055]
- 1927 趣 趣 interesting, to interest  to walk 421  take, get, obtain 1800 qù  
BF That new item in the store window **interests** me quite a lot. I'll do whatever *walking* I have to do to *get* it. [15 STROKES RANK 1065]



- 1928 奴 奴 slave, enslave  woman 581  hand, also 1796 nú  
 BF Men put their *hands* onto *women* to make them **slaves** in traditional and ancient societies. [5 STROKES RANK 1402]
- 1929 努 努 exert, strive  slave, enslave 1928  strength 1492 nǚ  
 BF Masters exhorted their *slaves* to use their utmost *strength*—to **exert** themselves. [7 STROKES RANK 1081]
- 1930 震 震 shake, quake  rain 85  time, day, occasion 1849 zhèn  
 It's a memorable *occasion* whenever the *rain* pours down in sheets. Even though it's only *rain*, the earth seems to **shake** from the torrential onslaught. [15 STROKES RANK 1104]
- 1931 振 振 rouse, shake, vibrate  hand r 29  time, day, occasion 1849 zhèn  
 Normally, I was never allowed to disturb my father during his naps. But on this *occasion*, when my mother fell down drunk in front of the neighbors, I used my *hand* to **rouse** him from his sleep. [10 STROKES RANK 1140]
- 1932 缓 缓 unhurried, delay, postpone  silk r 807  receive 1866 (altered)  moving hand 1635 huǎn  
 With my fancy *silk* duds on, I *receive* every one's honor and praise. Through it all, my *hand* moves slowly and **unhurriedly**, as befits someone as elegant as I. [12 STROKES RANK 1111]
- 1933 援 援 help, aid, assist  hand r 29  receive 1866 (altered)  moving hand 1635 yuán  
 BF *Two hands* working together, so the poor victim will *receive* the best possible **aid** and **assistance**. [12 STROKES RANK 1197]







1934 暖 暖 warm, genial  
 day, sun 63  receive 1866 (altered)  moving hand 1635 nuǎn  
 As I *wave my hand* in the air, it *receives* the beneficial rays of the *sun*. It feels so **warm** and pleasant. [13 STROKES RANK 1745]

1935 怒 怒 become angry, indignant  
 slave, enslave 1928  heart (fat) 906 nù  
 The *slave* is **indignant** at having to live as a *slave*. [9 STROKES RANK 1143]

1936 浪 浪 wave, breaker  
 water r 523  good, fine 1873 làng  
 Nothing is *finer* than the raw energy of *watery breakers* pounding the beach. The structure of **waves** is impossibly complex, in line with the way this character is drawn. [10 STROKES RANK 1186]



1937 轰 轰 bang, boom  
 car 1430  hand, also (times 2) 1796 hōng  
 The backfire of a *car*. *Two hands* clapping. That's the kind of **booming** or **banging** this character represents. [8 STROKES RANK 1264]

1938 朗 朗 clear\*, bright\*  
 good, fine 1873  moon, month 1719 (altered) lǎng  
 BF A *perfect moon* makes the evening **clear** and **bright** as day. [10 STROKES RANK 1276]

1939 叹 叹 sigh, exclaim  
 mouth 41  hand, also 1796 tàn  
 BF I rest my chin—along with my *mouth*—on my *hand* and breathe a great **sigh** of grief. [5 STROKES RANK 1299]












1940 粮 粮 grain, food, provisions  
 rice 1127  good, fine 1873 liáng  
*Rice* makes mighty *fine* provisions. [13 STROKES RANK 1303]


- 1941 聚 聚 assemble, gather, get together  
 取 take, get, obtain 1800 水 water 545 (altered) jù  
 We're all **getting together** on that pretty island in the bay. The friendly boatman *takes* everybody across the *water* to get there.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 1306]
- 1942 叙 叙 talk, chat, narrate  
 余 surplus, remainder 1073 手 hand, also 1796 xù  
 Now that work is finished, and we have *surplus* time on our *hands*, we can relax, **chat** a bit, and bring ourselves up to date. [9 STROKES RANK 1607]
- 1943 泛 泛 float, suffused with, non-specific  
 水 water r 523 疲 tired, weary 1897 fàn  
 BF I exercise in the *water* every day, but today I am just so *tired* that I'll just **float** calmly along instead. [7 STROKES RANK 1327]
- 1944 胸 胸 chest, bosom, thorax  
 肉 meat 317 (altered) 包 wrap 636 凶 fiendish, ferocious 1831 xiōng  
 Imagine *wrapping* all your *fiendish* inclinations in a piece of *meat*. Put it away in a **chest** and forget about it. [10 STROKES RANK 1356]
- 1945 废 废 useless, superfluous  
 舍 shelter r 681 送 send out, deliver 1799 fèi  
 BF Siege of Leningrad, winter 1943. We had to *send him out* of the *shelter*. He was **superfluous**, not pulling his own weight, threatening death to the rest of us. [8 STROKES RANK 1376]
- 1946 鸡 鸡 chicken  
 手 hand, also 1796 鸟 bird 885 jī  
**Chicken** is a *hand-raised bird*. [7 STROKES RANK 1391]
- 1947 聂 聂 whisper  
 耳 ear 82 手 hand, also (times 2) 1796 niè  
 I cup my *hands* to my *ears* to better hear what he said—for some reason, he insisted on **whispering**. [10 STROKES RANK 2797]













1948 摄 摄 absorb, assimilate  hand r 29  whisper 1947 shè  
 BF If I *whisper* instead of yelling, the student is more apt to **absorb** what I'm saying. But a whack with my *hand* is the best way of all to keep their attention. [13 STROKES RANK 1403]

## Unit 79

### Two Up, Three Down

- 1949 液 液 liquid, fluid  water r 523  night, evening 1901 yè  
BF Somehow, during the *night*, *watery liquid*—dew—appears on plants, flowers, and grass. [11 STROKES RANK 1451]
- 1950 餐 餐 eat, meal  eat\* 1905  evil, vicious 657 (altered)  hand, also 1796 cān  
BF *Evil things* and wild beasts are subdued by the *hands* of hunters to provide meals for city folk. [16 STROKES RANK 1465]
- 1951 拔 拔 uproot, pull out  hand r 29  send out, deliver 1799 bá  
There's a *hand* on the left and *also a hand* (see §1796) on the right. They're both tugging on the *tree- or plant-like thing* between them, trying to **uproot** it. [8 STROKES RANK 1502]
- 1952 驶 驶 sail, (vehicle) moves quickly  horse 878  history 1835 shǐ  
Look at that *horse go!* Wow, it **moves so fast**, it's *history!* [8 STROKES RANK 1520]
- 1953 桑 桑 mulberry tree  hand, also (times 3) 1796  tree 375 sāng  
BF The **mulberry** is a messy *tree*. It's prolific with its berries, many of which drop off and need picking up before they stain walkways. Many *hands* are needed for the harvesting and cleaning. [10 STROKES RANK 1528]

- 1954 剂 剂 dose (medical)  to make even 1806  knife r 166 jì  
**BF** Time to take your **pills**. Unfortunately, each **pill** contains several **doses**. Use a sharp *knife* to carefully cut each **pill** into pieces, and be extra careful to make each piece *even*, or else the **dosage** will vary unacceptably.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1546]
- 1955 劝 劝 exhort, urge, persuade  hand, also 1796  strength 1492 quàn  
 Urgent *hand* movements, coupled with great *strength* of character, endeavor to **persuade** you to buy the new product.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 1562]
- 1956 钢 钢 steel  gold r 1327  mountain ridge 1825 gāng  
 The early view of **steel** was as a *precious metal* discovered mysteriously near the *ridges of mountains*.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1609]
- 1957 岗 岗 mound  mountain 21  mountain ridge 1825 gǎng  
 The squished ‘*mountain*’ on top together with ‘*ridge*’ emphasizes the **mound-**ness of the resulting character.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1795]
- 1958 邓 邓 surname of Deng Xiaoping  hand, also 1796  town 745 dòng  
**Deng Xiaoping** is a famous 20-century Chinese leader, through whose influence and abilities *town* economies thrived. The entire country became more active in economic activities, which is what ‘*hand*’ symbolizes.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 1614]
- 1959 艰 艰 difficult, arduous  hand, also 1796  tough, hard to chew 1810 jiān  
**BF** Something *tough* for your *hands* is an **arduous** task.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1647]

- 1960 寂 寂 lonely, quiet  roof 247  uncle 1918 jì  
 BF My **lonely uncle** spent his entire life under a single *roof*, never ever moving to a new house. Something about him was not quite right...  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1739]
- 1961 叛 叛 betray, rebel, revolt  running sheep 1662 (altered)  oppose, anti- 1863 pàn  
 BF The slaughterers have a trained *running sheep* to cause the herd to march quietly to slaughter. I *oppose* such tactics, which use a sheep to **betray** her comrades.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1779]
- 1962 夂 夂 step forward  action path 1421  hand, also 1796  
 CMP A young man walks steadily and with purpose. As he takes each **step forward**, his *hands* swing back and forth. The arc of the swing is the *action path*.  
 Sometimes, this component appears in a slightly altered form: 攴.
- 1963 傻 傻 muddleheaded  man r 953  elder brother\* 298  fiendish, ferocious 1831  step forward 1962 shǎ  
 A **muddleheaded man** just stands there while his *fiendish older brother steps* towards him with a knife (see that little ‘dab’ at the top?). Here’s a dysfunctional family at work...  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1989]
- 1964 陵 陵 mausoleum, mound  hills 735  earth, soil 9  eight 1048  step forward 1962 líng  
 BF An *abundant* pile of *earth* is a poetic description of a **mound**. Located in the scenic *hills* outside of town, we *step forward* there solemnly to pay our respects to the leaders of the country.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1965]

1965 俊 俊 handsome\*  
 man r 953  permit, allow 771  step forward 1962 jùn

The **handsome** young *man* gets ready to *step forward* along the boulevard. His full length portrait appears on the left of this character. The right zooms on his noble, Grecian nose, and the stylish mustache below. Here, of course, we make a visual correspondence between his nose and mustache and ‘*permit, allow*’. (Refer again to §771 for the connection between ‘*permit*’ and ‘*nose*’).  
 [9 STROKES RANK 1847]

1966 蜂 蜂 bee, wasp  insect 890  step forward 1962  plentiful 12 fēng

**Bees** and **wasps** are known for their swarming behavior, in which a *plentiful* supply of the *insects* act together as they *move forward*.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1912]

1967 锋 锋 sword's cutting edge  
 gold r 1327  step forward 1962  plentiful 12 fēng

**BF** With a **sword's cutting edge** made of *precious metal*, the samurai *steps forward* and skewers *three* of the attackers with a single thrust (‘*plentiful*’ is equivalent to three at one blow).  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1671]

1968 复 复 turn around, repeat  
 size range 163 (altered)  step forward 1962 fù

**BF** After you *step forward* through a *series of different* dance steps, you **repeat** everything all over again until the music stops.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 426]

1969 腹 腹 belly, abdomen  
 meat 317 (altered)  turn around, repeat 1968 fù



**BF** In cows and other ruminants, the **stomach** is the *part of the body* where grass is digested *over and over again*.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1589]



- 1970 覆 覆 overturn, cover  
 ☐ west 291 (altered)    ☐ left step 1034    ☐ turn around, repeat 1968    fù  
 The sun was about to set in the *west*, so it was almost dark. I took a *step to the left*, for some reason *turned around*, and so managed to **overturn** some jars of new wine which were fermenting.    [18 STROKES RANK 1823]
- 1971 履 履 shoe\*  
 ☐ corpse 703    ☐ left step 1034    ☐ turn around, repeat 1968    lǚ  
 ☐ Until the day we become a *corpse*, we are condemned to walk forever, taking *step* after *step, repeatedly*, in one pair of **shoes** or another.    [15 STROKES RANK 1802]
- 1972 处 处 get along with sb    ☐ step forward 1962    ☐ foretell 170    chǔ  
 There's one reason why this guy always seems to *move forward* in life. It's as if he can *foretell* personalities which enable him to **get along with everybody**.    [5 STROKES RANK 206]
- 1973 冬 冬 winter    ☐ step forward 1962    ☐ two 3 (altered)    dōng  
 Here's a person *moving forward*, but at *twice* their normal speed. Why? It's **winter**, and they want to keep warm.    [5 STROKES RANK 1384]
- 1974 图 图 picture, chart, map    ☐ enclosure 40    ☐ winter 1973    tú  
*Winter* time, and the ground is frozen and covered with a permanent layer of snow. We can use this surface to scratch out **pictures** and **maps**. It's probably best to imagine that the *enclosing square* is really a *picture frame*.    [8 STROKES RANK 476]









# Unit 80



## Step by Step

1975 疼 疼 it hurts!  sick 697  winter 1973 téng  
 Whatever it is that makes you *sick*, *winter* makes it worse. Oh, how it hurts!  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1710]

1976 终 终 end, finish  silk r 807  winter 1973 zhōng  
 The weavers spin the *silk* thread during *wintertime*. They **finish** this task in time for the start of spring.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 558]

1977 窗 窗 window  cave, den, hole 1098  dab 169  enclosure 40  step forward 1962 chuāng  
 There's a *hole* in the room's wall. It's *little*. It forms a rectangular *enclosure*, and through it you can see *people walking*. It's a **window**!  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1074]

1978 夏 夏 summer  page, leaf 444 (altered)  step forward 1962 xià  
**BF** Every thing slows down in the **summer**. Even the hot breezes blowing the *leaves forward*, do it slowly. The abbreviated form of '*leaf*' accentuates this slowness.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1126]

1979 麦 麦 wheat  plentiful 12 (altered)  step forward 1962 mài  
 The scholar sees **wheat** as one of the primary reasons that civilization makes progress (isn't that what '*stepping forward*' is all about?), especially when this resource is *plentiful*. But a more casual interpretation hinges on **wheat**'s use to make flour, and hence bread. The top of this character shows layers of bread, skewered with a cocktail toothpick, and resting on an artsy cocktail table.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1171]

1980 酸 酸 sour, tart  
 [new wine 303] [permit, allow 771] [step forward 1962] suān  
 I *allowed* myself to sample some of that *new wine* I bought, but it was awful!  
 It made my stomach rumble and feel like it was taking several *steps forward*.  
 Worst of all, it tasted very **sour**. [14 STROKES RANK 1456]

1981 峰 峰 peak, summit  
 [mountain 21] [step forward 1962] [plentiful 12] fēng  
 When you've *stepped forward* as *many times* as you could while climbing the  
*mountain*, you find you can't go up anymore. You've reached the **peak**.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 1473]



1982 凌 凌 thick ice  
 [ice r 569] [earth, soil 9] [walking man 287] [step forward 1962] líng  
 The **ice** is so **thick** that a *man walks* on the *ice* as confidently as if he were  
*stepping forward* on real *soil*. [10 STROKES RANK 1731]

1983 支 支 tap, rap  
 CMP Look carefully—there's the hammer coming down to **tap, tap, tap** on the  
 small table.



1984 敲 敲 to strike, beat  
 [high 275] [tap, rap 1983] qiāo  
 This how you **knock** on a door—select a *high* spot, and then *tap* until someone  
 opens up. [14 STROKES RANK 1732]

1985 叟 叟 old gentleman  
 [tap, rap 1983 (altered)] [speak 64 (altered)] sǒu  
 BF This sketch of a man emphasizes the boniness typical of an **old gentleman**.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 3804]

1986 搜 搜 search, collect  
 [hand r 29] [old gentleman 1985] sōu  
 The *old gentlemen* uses his *hand* to **search** for things since his eyesight has  
 pretty much gone now. [12 STROKES RANK 1564]



1987 瘦 瘦 thin, lean  sick 697  old gentleman 1985 shòu  
The *old gentlemen* became *ill* from working too hard. We could all tell, because he steadily lost weight to become **thin** and **lean**.

[14 STROKES RANK 1841]



1988 艘 艘 m for ships and vessels  boat, ship 597 (altered)  old gentleman 1985 sōu  
The *old gentleman* on the *boat* is a scary sight. He **counts** his steps on the **boat** since his vision has become so poor.

[15 STROKES RANK 1470]



1989 攴 攴 wallop  
CMP Most of the time, the ‘tap’ component of §1983 appears in a simpler form like this, where you see the head of the hammer protruding below as part of the strike. This component confers an interpretation of action, or attack, or strike.

1990 攻 攻 to assault, attack  labor, work 7  wallop 1989 gōng  
An **attack** is a *wallop* of such intensity that it involves *work* on the part of the invader.

[7 STROKES RANK 588]

1991 玫 玫 rose  king 11  wallop 1989 méi  
BF How childish—the *king* is *walloping* his courtiers with a bunch of blood-red, long stem **roses**. It seems silly, but those thorns do hurt.

[8 STROKES RANK 2303]

1992 政 政 government, political  correct 183  wallop 1989 zhèng  
BF **Government** regulations can come down hard. **Government** ideas of *correct* behavior often *wallop* the heads and wallets of its citizens.

[9 STROKES RANK 150]

- 1993 故 故 reason, cause  ancient 51  wallop 1989 gù  
 BF Oops—is it my fault that my hammer caught the *ancient*, irreplaceable, and priceless vase with a mighty *wallop*? I guess that’s the **reason** I’ve never been invited back. [9 STROKES RANK 572]
- 1994 做 做 do, make  man r 953  reason, cause 1993 zuò  
 Men with a passionate *cause* find inspiration to **make** great efforts to achieve their goals. [11 STROKES RANK 246]
- 1995 敌 敌 enemy, foe  tongue 225  wallop 1989 dí  
 BF Irresponsible rumor-mongering with your *tongue* packs as mighty a *wallop* as any weapon. It’s easy for gossips and slanderers to make **enemies**. [10 STROKES RANK 523]
- 1996 牧 牧 herd  ox 186  wallop 1989 mù  
 BF Normally, *oxen* are placid and content. But crowded conditions in a **herd** can cause *oxen* to *wallop* and even gore each other. [8 STROKES RANK 1580]
- 1997 收 收 receive, accept  speak up! 92  wallop 1989 shōu  
 The homeowner is hard of hearing. “*Speak up!*” he yells to the mailman furiously *walloping* the door so the deaf guy can **accept** the package. [6 STROKES RANK 351]
- 1998 败 败 lose, be defeated  cowrie 430  wallop 1989 bài  
 Who would think! With *shells* as weapons, the enemy *pounded* our troops mercilessly, and we **were defeated**. [8 STROKES RANK 862]
- 1999 敢 敢 to dare  unexpected stroke  ear 82  wallop 1989 gǎn  
 To listen with your *ear* to the call of an *unexpected challenge*, to *strike* while the iron is hot—such behavior is to accept a **dare**. [11 STROKES RANK 795]

2000 效 效 imitate

𠂇 meet, intersect 1814 𠂇 wallop 1989

xiào

BF The beginning Chinese student tried on the right to **imitate** the form on the left. His intentions and goals failed to *intersect*, and he got a *wallop* on his ear as punishment.





[10 STROKES RANK 551]

# Unit 81

## Poise

2001 教 教 teach  filial 1465  wallop 1989 jiāo

In the old days, teachers were brutal. Students sat in the classroom out of a sense of *filial* duty, even though the **teacher** did nothing but *wallop* them for any and no reason. That was old-fashioned **teaching**. [11 STROKES RANK 191]

2002 敦 敦 sincere  cover 268  mouth 41  son, child 1402  wallop 1989 dūn

**Sincere** feelings are those free from pretense or deceit. Perhaps the ancient scribes associated these feelings with *children* who simply *uncover* their *mou*ths and say what they think. Sincere comments are so unusual in polite society that they *hit* the listener with great force. [12 STROKES RANK 1722]















2003 攸 攸 distant, far  man r 953  unexpected vertical  wallop 1989 yōu















An ancient Chinese game of golf (or the equivalent). One *player* gives his golf ball, here shown in the form of a *small vertical stroke*, a mighty *wallop*. How **far** it travels! [7 STROKES RANK 3416]

2004 敕 敕 imperial edict  bundle, bunch 394  wallop 1989 chì

**BF** For many people, even the best laws are *wallops* against individual liberty. In this viewpoint, an **imperial edict** is a *bunch* of liberty-constraining *blows*. . .







[11 STROKES RANK 3435]

- 2005 整 整 neat, tidy  imperial edict 2004  correct 183 zhěng  
 BF ... But if you follow those *imperial edicts* to the letter, and if you follow them *correctly*, then your life proceeds in a **neat** and **tidy** manner.  
 [16 STROKES RANK 416]
- 2006 数 数 number, figure  trouble, blunder 1137  wallop 1989 shù  
 To overcome your *troubles*, imagine *walloping* them hard, so hard they shatter into a huge **number** of harmless fragments.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 231]
- 2007 放 放 put, place  square, direction 1491  wallop 1989 fàng  
 Think of a board game like shuffleboard. When you *wallop* the puck, it travels in a certain *direction*. With a little luck and a modicum of skill, you **place** it in the proper *square*.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 291]
- 2008 敖 敖 ramble  exit 22 (altered)  put, place 2007 áo  
 BF On a nice spring morning, I prepare for a nice **rambling** walk by *exiting* my house without any thoughts of where I'm going to *put* my feet.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 3573]
- 2009 傲 傲 proud, haughty  man r 953  ramble 2008 ào  
 No one tells this **haughty man** what to do! For example, when he takes a walk, he *rambles* wherever he wants.  
 [12 STROKES RANK 1960]
- 2010 枚 枚 m for coins, small objects  tree 375  wallop 1989 méi  
 As you *wallop* the *tree* hard, lots of **small objects** (acorns?) tumble down.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1884]
- 2011 敏 敏 sharp, keen  every 600  wallop 1989 mǐn  
 BF **Keeness** of mind is like **sharpness** in a blade. You maintain and enhance the **sharpness** with *every blow* of the smith's hammer.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1436]

- 2012 繁 繁 complicated  sharp, keen 2011  silk r 807 (altered) fán  
 BF High quality embroidery earns its reputation on the basis of the stitches of the **complicated** pattern it shows. These patterns remain *sharp* and the fabric must be *silk*. [17 STROKES RANK 1296]
- 2013 激 激 surge, dash  water r 523  white 201  put, place 2007 (altered) jī  
 The mighty waves of *water surging* against the rocky coast of Maine personify nature's power. *White* with foam, they pound the same *place* over and over. [16 STROKES RANK 710]
- 2014 缴 缴 pay, hand over  silk r 807  white 201  put, place 2007 (altered) jiǎo  
 Squares of *white silk*, so we may imagine, served as currency in the very old days, because they were valuable items and yet convenient to carry. We *place* one of these cloths on the counter in order to *pay* for something. [16 STROKES RANK 1834]
- 2015 各 各 each, every  wallop 1989 (altered)  mouth 41 gè  
 The bully *walloped* that guy in the head so hard that **each** and **every** tooth in his *mouth* rattled. [6 STROKES RANK 209]
- 2016 客 客 visitor, guest  roof 247  each, every 2015 kè  
*Each* and *every* person who stays under our *roof* as a **guest** merits the full range of our hospitality. [9 STROKES RANK 583]
- 2017 洛 洛 a certain river  water r 523  each, every 2015 luò  
 BF *Each* and *every* drop of *water* that nature recycles finds itself in a **certain** river at some point. [9 STROKES RANK 978]







- 2018 落落 fall, drop behind  grass r 94  a certain river 2017 luò  
The villagers regularly dump their *grass* clippings in the nearby *river* after they mow their lawns. The swiftness of the current grabs hold and whisks it out of sight, **leaving** the villagers **behind**. [12 STROKES RANK 496]
- 2019 络络 enmesh, wind  silk r 807  each, every 2015 luò  
We're touring the *silk* factory. Be careful! For all their thinness and fineness, *each* and *every* *silk* thread can **enmesh** you in a trap from which you can't escape without damaging hundreds of dollars of merchandise. [9 STROKES RANK 1118]
- 2020 格格 lattice, grid  tree 375  each, every 2015 gé  
In a **lattice**, *each* and *every* component square is identical to every other, and they are all made of *wood*. [10 STROKES RANK 325]
- 2021 路路 road, path, way  foot r 946  each, every 2015 lù  
To get somewhere, you put *each* and *every* *footstep* on the right **path**. [13 STROKES RANK 305]
- 2022 条条 strip, sth long and narrow  wallop 1989 (altered)  tree 375 (altered) tiáo  
**BF** Go ahead—really *wallop* that *tree*! Lots of branches—**long and narrow** pieces of the *tree*—will fall all around you. [7 STROKES RANK 214]
- 2023 务务 affair, business matter  wallop 1989 (altered)  strength 1492 wù  
**BF** It's trite—but true, nevertheless—to compare **business matters** with athletic competitions. To succeed, you need to *wallop* your competitors with great *strength*. [5 STROKES RANK 245]

- 2024 额 额 forehead  each, every 2015  page, leaf 444 é  
Walking home, the cold autumn wind tirelessly hammered me down. It felt like *each* and *every* blown *leaf* battered my **forehead**.  
[15 STROKES RANK 936]
- 2025 雾 雾 fog, mist  rain 85  affair, business matter 2023 wù  
A real hot *business deal* is in the works—so hot that when it *rains*, it sizzles. The steaming vapor forms clouds of **fog** and **mist**. [13 STROKES RANK 1670]
- 2026 救 救 rescue, save, salvage  request, entreat 557  wallop 1989 jiù  
We've captured one of the terrorists from the group who kidnapped my wife. We desperately want to **rescue** her, but the terrorist has resisted our *entreaties*. We're going to apply a few *wallops* to him to see if it will loosen his tongue.  
[11 STROKES RANK 872]



## Unit 82



### Prickly Personifications



- 2027 备 备 prepare, get ready  wallop 1989  field 57 bèi  
Everyone loves the spring, except perhaps the farmer. Farmers work furiously to **prepare** their *fields* for planting. Weeding, hoeing, aerating the soil, and so on are necessary steps which do great violence to the soil, symbolically a ‘walloping’ to the *field*. [8 STROKES RANK 397]
- 2028 改 改 transform, change  self\* 852  wallop 1989 gǎi  
You can always tell a professional boxer. Over the years, he *himself* will have received so many *wallops* that his appearance will be greatly **changed**. [7 STROKES RANK 350]
- 2029 致 致 send, deliver  to, until 755  wallop 1989 zhì  
I *wallop* that stubborn little donkey *until* he’s ready to obey me, and then I **send** it with an important message to **deliver**. [10 STROKES RANK 524]
- 2030 微 微 micro, tiny, minute  left step 1034  mountain 21  dollar 293  wallop 1989 wēi  
BF The American *dollar* just isn’t what it used to be. Foreign economies are *walloping* it. Moreover, the American economy is *left stepping* into a *mountain* of debt. Result—the purchasing power of the *dollar* is a **tiny** fraction of what it used to be. [13 STROKES RANK 653]




2031 攸 攸 thus, that which  man 311  scepter 5  wallop 1989 yōu  
 BF Phrases like ‘thus’ or ‘that which’ often introduce factors that **cause results to happen**.



The *man* takes a *stick* and *wallops* a few heads to make sure these people **do what he wants**. [7 STROKES RANK 3416]












2032 修 修 embellish, decorate  thus, that which 2031 (altered)  feathers 1285 xiū  
 The colorful *feathers* on the club I used to *get my own way* serve as useful **decoration**, for they hide my aggressive nature. [9 STROKES RANK 740]














2033 敬 敬 respect, offer politely  thoughtless, careless 653  wallop 1989 jìng  
 He felt great shame at the way he *thoughtlessly walloped* his teacher in the face, even though it was an accident. Thereafter, he never failed to **respect** this great master to try compensate for this *careless* insult. [12 STROKES RANK 1209]











2034 警 警 warn, alert  respect, offer politely 2033  speech 270 jǐng  
 BF The thug *spoke politely* to the shopkeeper, but no one was fooled. It was really a **warning**. Pay up, or the store gets torched. [19 STROKES RANK 687]

2035 降 降 surrender, capitulate  hills 735  wallop 1989 (altered)  fort xiáng  
 We swarmed down from the *hills*, giving their *forts* a real *walloping*. They had no choice but to **surrender**. [8 STROKES RANK 744]

2036 隆 隆 prosperous, booming  surrender, capitulate 2035 (altered)  give birth to 191 lóng  
 BF After the Japanese *surrender* in 1945, the United States embarked on a program to cause the *rebirth* of the Japanese economy. This successful program led to wildly **prosperous** times for this country. [11 STROKES RANK 1400]












- 2037 略 略 summary, outline  field 57  each, every 2015 (altered) lüè  
**BF** Here's a **summary**, a **brief outline** of the farmer's business strategy. See that *field*? Well, he aims to plant as much as he can in that one and in *each* and *every* other one he owns. [11 STROKES RANK 704]
- 2038 露 露 dew  rain 85  road, path, way 2021 lù  
**BF** Was it *raining* overnight? The *road* is moist. But no—it's just a heavy dew. [21 STROKES RANK 841]
- 2039 散 散 break up, distribute  contented cows 1297  wallop 1989  meat 317 (altered) sàn  
The *contented cow* is not going to be contented for much longer. With a mighty *wallop* from a cleaver, the slaughterer will soon be able to take various cuts of *meat* and **distribute** them to customers near and far. [12 STROKES RANK 866]
- 2040 撒 撒 scatter, sprinkle  hand r 29  break up, distribute 2039 sǎ  
You've *broken up* the stale bread you brought with you to the park, and you use your *hand* to **scatter** it to the ducks who wait impatiently for this tasty snack. [15 STROKES RANK 1445]
- 2041 阁 阁 pavilion, chamber  door 196  each, every 2015 gé  
**BF** *Each* and *every door* to the emperor's palace deliberately looked the same as *every* other one. Thieves and saboteurs would have a more difficult time determining the whereabouts of the emperor's private **chambers**. [9 STROKES RANK 1682]
- 2042 乙 乙 whole arm  
**CMP** The curve on the right strongly resembles an **entire arm**, the 'corner' of the curve representing the elbow. (In fact, this character did stand for 'elbow' in former times.) The horizontal top shows a bit of shoulder, to emphasize the bodily resemblance.

- 2043 飞 飞 to fly  whole arm 2042  wings fēi  
 飞 shows an early attempt at **flying**. Some enterprising inventor attached wings to his *arms*, and flapped away! [3 STROKES RANK 347]
- 2044 艺 艺 skill, art  grass r 94  whole arm 2042 yì  
 BF An intricately woven tapestry of strands of *grass*, draped over some one's *whole arm*, shows off their great **skill**. [4 STROKES RANK 786]
- 2045 忆 忆 recall, remember  heart (skinny) 930  whole arm 2042 yì  
 BF Here's a display of cooperation between the *emotional* side of a person and their physical side, represented by their *whole arm*. **Remembering** shows this cooperation. [4 STROKES RANK 1333]
- 2046 九 九 nine  action path 1421  whole arm 2042 jiǔ  
 How many common body parts comprise the mechanism of the *whole arm*? Let's see, there's the shoulder, the upper arm, the forearm, wrist, palm, and five fingers. That's ten. But the *action path* through the shoulder is like the 'forbid' symbol—it crosses out the shoulder. As a result, this is a schematic of **nine** parts of the arm system. [2 STROKES RANK 445]
- 2047 瓦 瓦 tile  one 2  ancient ladle 142 (altered)  whole arm 2042 wǎ  
 An eccentric mason places a **tile** in the ceiling. Holding it in place with his *whole arm*, he forces grout between adjacent tiles with an odd-looking *spoon*. [4 STROKES RANK 1195]
- 2048 仇 仇 hatred  man r 953  nine 2046 chóu  
 The *man* on the right is using all *nine* parts of his arm to pound and beat the *man* on the left. Great **hatred** accounts for this aggression. [4 STROKES RANK 1536]


















- 2049 杂 杂 mixed, composite  nine 2046  one 2  small 1063 zá  
A complicated recipe calls for *nine* ingredients, each of which appears in a *small* amount. They come together to make *one* dish. This delicious dish is an inspired **mixture**. [6 STROKES RANK 853]
- 2050 执 执 grasp  hand r 29  nine 2046  thing zhí  
Here's a *hand* holding *nine things* tightly. It's **grasping** these *things*. [6 STROKES RANK 763]
- 2051 几 几 several, how many?  action path 1421  whole arm 2042 jǐ  
**BF** Lunch is over—time to get back to work. This big bruiser is ready to carry **several** heavy machine components at a time, cradled in his massive *arms*. That's *action* on the factory floor. [2 STROKES RANK 211]
- 2052 机 机 machine  tree 375  several, how many? 2051 jī  
**BF** Wood from *trees* was an early—the earliest?—high-tech building material. *How many machines* and other tools could we construct from this material? The answer is limited only by your imagination. [6 STROKES RANK 111]

## Unit 83

# A Musical Comedy Administration

- 2053 𦏧 𦏧 ancient bamboo spear  several, how many? 2051  hand, also 1796 shū  
BF Tools extend the capability of a naked and unarmed mortal. An **ancient bamboo spear** must have seemed the epitome of technological wonder, extending the power of one skilled warrior to be like that of *several hands* acting all at once. [4 STROKES RANK 6005]
- 2054 没 没 have not  water r 523  ancient bamboo spear 2053 méi  
Water on a wooden *spear* **has no** benefit. It dulls its edge and warps the fibers. What we thought was smooth wood is **not—it has** a knot! [7 STROKES RANK 72]
- 2055 染 染 to dye  water r 523  nine 2046  tree 375 rǎn  
In old times, **dying and dye craft** was a secret art. Figuratively speaking, *nine* chemicals derived from *trees* and plants were poured into *water* to create the finished dye. [9 STROKES RANK 1141]
- 2056 凡 凡 commonplace  several, how many? 2051  dab 169 fán  
BF A working definition of ‘**commonplace**’ might focus on the middle ground between extremes, extremes like ‘*several*’ and very ‘*few*’. [3 STROKES RANK 1013]
- 2057 讯 讯 message, dispatch  speech r 615  commonplace 2056 xùn  
BF They hid the importance of the military **dispatch** from the enemy by using only *commonplace speech* in the text. [5 STROKES RANK 1238]



- 2058 壳 壳 shell, housing, case  
 scholar 8  smooth cover 280  several, how many? 2051 ké  
 The *scholar* needs some special *coverings* for a new piece of lab equipment. *How many?* With this new tool, she can make the **hosings** herself for any of her future research needs. [7 STROKES RANK 1937]
- 2059 毅 毅 perseverance  
 erect, stand 1179  pig, boar 1425  ancient bamboo spear 2053 yì  
 BF A young man *stands erect* for hours practicing the art of *ancient bamboo spearing*. He **perseveres** until such time as he can bring down a *boar* for the tribe. [15 STROKES RANK 1946]
- 2060 肌 肌 flesh, muscle  meat 317 (altered)  several, how many? 2051 jī  
 BF **Muscle** is the kind of *meaty tissue* that enables us to perform the *several* physical tasks we do each day. [6 STROKES RANK 1935]
- 2061 虎 虎 tiger  
 action path 1421  on 175  ancient ladle 142  several, how many? 2051 hǔ  
 The **tiger** was special to the ancients. Capable of limitless *action*, it always leapt *onto* its prey. Magically, it replenished its *several* powers nightly using a special enchanted *ladle*. [8 STROKES RANK 1083]
- 2062 虑 虑 anxiety  tiger 2061 (altered)  heart (fat) 906 lǜ  
 BF In the presence of a charging *tiger* our *heart* will be beating wildly. In the brief time you have left, you will be subject to severe **anxiety**. [10 STROKES RANK 901]
- 2063 挖 挖 dig, excavate  hand r 29  cave, den, hole 1098  whole arm 2042 wā  
 Here you are, master archaeologist, on the verge of making the discovery of the century. You are so excited you use not only your *hand* in the *cave* but your *whole arm* to do the **excavation**. [9 STROKES RANK 1860]












2064 乳 乳 breast, milk  
 ☐ hands raised high 1345 ☐ son, child 1402 ☐ whole arm 2042 (altered) rǔ  
 BF Here's the charming scene: a young mother nestles her infant *son* inside her *whole arm* which is *raised high* as she prepares to let him nurse at her **breast**.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1831]











2065 赢 赢 gain, win yíng  
 ☐ perish 269 ☐ meat 317 (altered) ☐ employee 440 ☐ several, how many? 2051 (altered)  
 Here's a kooky contest for some reality television show. Start with a pile of *meat* on the stage, and *several employees*, whose mouths have been *altered* with piercings, try to eat more than their opponents. They *perish* if they don't **win**.  
 [17 STROKES RANK 1836]

2066 气 气 air, spirit, vital energy qì  
 ☐ man 311 (altered) ☐ one 2 ☐ whole arm 2042  
 (This character is famously difficult to translate into English!)  
 1 Originally, this character was drawn to mimic the curling boundaries of heavenly clouds.  
 2 The *man*, altered by the accident, lies like a corpse on the pavement. Suddenly, he moved *one* of his *whole arms* to show that **spirit** and **vital energy** remained in his body.  
 [4 STROKES RANK 217]

2067 汽 汽 steam, vapor qì  
 ☐ water r 523 ☐ air, spirit, vital energy 2066  
 BF Vapor is precisely that kind of '*air*' originating from heated *water*.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1200]

2068 设 设 set up, found, establish shè  
 ☐ speech r 615 ☐ ancient bamboo spear 2053  
 The warrior with the gift of *speech* and with the talents and abilities to use *ancient bamboo spears* was able to **establish** and **found** many cities and colonies.  
 [6 STROKES RANK 302]

- 2069 风 风 wind  commonplace 2056 (altered)  harmonious crossing 1793 fēng  
For sailors and mariners, nothing is better than a *commonplace* **wind** which blows the ship quickly from port to port in a *harmonious crossing*.  
[4 STROKES RANK 348]
- 2070 疯 疯 mad, insane  sick 697  wind 2069 fēng  
A person in the grip of **insanity** is a frightening sight. While *sick*, they appear to be buffeted backwards and forwards by the *winds* of their inner demons.  
[9 STROKES RANK 1549]
- 2071 究 究 study carefully, look into  cave, den, hole 1098  nine 2046 jiū  
**BF** The entrance to the *cave*, actually an abandoned gold mine, looked spooky and dangerous. I forced myself to go in about *nine* feet to **look into** it.  
[7 STROKES RANK 429]
- 2072 凤 凤 phoenix  wind 2069 (altered) fèng  
In mythology, the **phoenix** bird soared like the *wind*, so it makes sense to alter the ‘*wind*’ glyph to represent it. The ‘harmonious crossing’ innards become the ‘*hand, also*’ component, which provides a horizontal perch for it when it needs a rest.  
[4 STROKES RANK 1504]
- 2073 势 势 power, force, influence  grasp 2050  strength 1492 shì  
**BF** Mao Zedong showed great *strength* in *grasping* the reins of power, and as a result his **power** during his lifetime and **influence** after his death were and remain noteworthy.  
[8 STROKES RANK 506]
- 2074 投 投 throw, fling  hand r 29  ancient bamboo spear 2053 tóu  
I use my *hand* to take my *ancient bamboo spear* and **fling** at my super-annoying, 97-year-old mother-in-law. (Don’t worry—she grabs it and **throws** it right back!)  
[7 STROKES RANK 516]

- 2075 段 段 section, part  ear 82 (altered)  ancient bamboo spear 2053 (altered) duàn  
 What a fight! The guy with the *ancient bamboo spear* has ripped away a **part** of the other guy's *ear*! [9 STROKES RANK 567]
- 2076 热 热 hot, fervent  grasp 2050  fire r 796 rè  
 The baby *grasped* the spoon that had been lying in the *fire*. She'll never do that again—it's **hot**. [10 STROKES RANK 606]
- 2077 沿 沿 alongside, edge, border  water r 523  several, how many? 2051  mouth 41 yán  
 Those *several* marking stones each of which looks like a big open *mouth* marks the **edge** of the *water*. [8 STROKES RANK 1182]
- 2078 铅 铅 lead (metal)  gold r 1327  several, how many? 2051  mouth 41 qiān  
**Lead** is known as a *metal* with a low melting point. That's why you get those *several mouth*-shaped lumps when you dropped the **lead** solder on the hot stove. [10 STROKES RANK 2641]

## Unit 84

### Foolish Consistencies

2079 船 船 ship, vessel  
[ ] boat, ship 597 [ ] several, how many? 2051 [ ] mouth 41 chuan  
A large *boat*, one large enough to hold *several mouths*, is called a **ship**.  
[11 STROKES RANK 614]















2080 般 般 sort, kind [ ] boat, ship 597 [ ] ancient bamboo spear 2053 ban  
When somebody thinks of Chinese *boats* they are usually thinking of the ones made with spars and masts that look like *ancient bamboo spears* lashed together. These are the **sort** called *Chinese junks*.  
[10 STROKES RANK 629]

2081 搬 搬 take away, remove, move (house) [ ] hand r 29 [ ] sort, kind 2080 ban  
That *sort* of thing just won't do. We use our *hands* to **remove** and get rid of it.  
[13 STROKES RANK 1766]

2082 股 股 thigh [ ] meat 317 (altered) [ ] ancient bamboo spear 2053 gu  
BF One *meaty* body part that is as long as an *ancient bamboo spear* is the **thigh**.  
[8 STROKES RANK 644]







2083 冗 冗 superfluous, redundant [ ] smooth cover 280 [ ] walking man 287 (altered) rong  
BF That *man* should be helping the other workers, but he's *walking* around under the shade of the *roof*. If he doesn't watch out, they'll make him **redundant!**  
[4 STROKES RANK 3642]

- 2084 沉 沉 submerge, lower  water r 523  superfluous, redundant 2083 chén  
When organized crime makes you *redundant*, they throw your body in the *water* where it **submerges** to become shark food. [7 STROKES RANK 747]
- 2085 亢 亢 overbearing, haughty  cover 268  several, how many? 2051 kàng  
**BF** The emphasis is on a long neck, surmounted by a flat chin and snooty nose—the essence of **being overbearing**. [4 STROKES RANK 3268]
- 2086 抗 抗 resist, fight, defy  hand r 29  overbearing, haughty 2085 kàng  
**BF** That guy is so *overbearing* as to be obnoxious. Several people are ready to use their *hands* to **fight** him. [7 STROKES RANK 766]
- 2087 航 航 ship, craft  boat, ship 597  overbearing, haughty 2085 háng  
**BF** The kind of ‘*ship*’ we have in mind is the kind that flies through the air, or a major sea vessel. Compared to ordinary *boats*, these **ships** seem *overbearing* and *haughty*. [10 STROKES RANK 773]
- 2088 亮 亮 light, bright  tall 1700 (altered)  several, how many? 2051 liàng  
It’s so dark by the evening campfire. *Several tall* campers take the hint, and shine flashlights all around, to make the occasion **bright** and **light**. [9 STROKES RANK 840]
- 2089 巩 巩 secure, solid  labor, work 7  commonplace 2056 gǒng  
**BF** It’s hard *work* building a road. First, you gather together all kinds of *commonplace* rocks and stones and lay them on the roadbed. This will create a **secure** foundation. [6 STROKES RANK 2384]

- 2090 恐 恐 afraid, be frightened  
 secure, solid 2089  heart (fat) 906 (altered) kǒng  
 During the earthquake, some masonry fell from the building which had formerly seemed so *secure*. Was anyplace safe? My *heart* beat wildly, and I became very **frightened**. [10 STROKES RANK 891]
- 2091 筑 筑 build, construct  
 bamboo r 243  secure, solid 2089 zhù  
 In olden times, you would **build** a house by taking *bamboo* stems and anchoring and attaching them in a particularly *secure* and *solid* manner. [12 STROKES RANK 1130]
- 2092 殿 殿 hall, palace, temple  
 dead body 702  together 1302  ancient bamboo spear 2053 diàn  
 Only the king knows where the *dead bodies* are buried. The rebels who were *spared* to death are buried *together* deep in the bowels of the **palace**. [13 STROKES RANK 1555]
- 2093 孰 孰 who? what? which? (lit)  
 enjoy 1403  nine 2046  things shú  
 The *nine* of us in our large family *enjoy* different *things*. It's hard keeping straight **which** of us enjoys **what**. [11 STROKES RANK 3568]
- 2094 孰 孰 ripe, cooked, familiar  
 who? what? which? (lit) 2093  fire r 796 shú  
*Who* gets to sit in front of the *fire*? Family and friends—anyone who is **familiar**, that's **who**. [15 STROKES RANK 1035]
- 2095 亿 亿 hundred million  
 man r 953  whole arm 2042 yì  
 The lenses in a pair of glasses are like a pair of zeroes. Since there are eight zeroes in the number 'hundred million' (100,000,000), we would need four pair of glasses to represent this vast number. It's not easy to carry more than one pair in each hand, so one *man* will have to borrow his best friend's *whole arm* to carry all of them! [3 STROKES RANK 1057]

- 2096 虚 虚 empty, unoccupied  
 tiger 2061 (altered) trade, industry 1117 xū  
 Somehow a *tiger* escaped from the zoo and ran into the *trade* office building. Needless to say, those offices quickly became **unoccupied**.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1071]
- 2097 役 役 military service, labor  
 left step 1034 ancient bamboo spear 2053 yì  
 BF Soldiers *march* (suggested by the 'left step') with their *ancient bamboo spears*. This was the heart of **required military service**.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 1245]
- 2098 凭 凭 lean on, rely on  
 assume a post 956 several, how many? 2051 píng  
 You *assume* a new *post* with *many* responsibilities. Why? Management knows they can **rely on** you.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1410]
- 2099 凯 凯 triumphant, victorious  
 how could it be? 854 several, how many? 2051 kǎi  
 BF The small-town team beat all odds and emerged **victorious**. *How could it be* that these *several* hicks and amateurs defeated our well-trained players?  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1447]
- 2100 佩 佩 to girdle  
 man r 953 commonplace 2056 towel 130 pèi  
 It's *commonplace* to see *men* wearing *towels* around their waists. They are called belts or **girdles**. The two outer curves of 'commonplace' remind us of legs narrowing to the waist, where belts and **girdles** are normally worn.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1507]
- 2101 飘 飘 blow, drift about  
 ticket 1068 wind 2069 piāo  
 When the *wind* rises, used, ripped *tickets* and other light-weight fragments **drift about** in the air.  
 [15 STROKES RANK 1527]







- 2102 朵 朵 m for flowers  several, how many? 2051  tree 375 duǒ  
 There are no components for flowers; ‘tree’ is the closest. So, if you need to know *how many flowers* are in a bouquet, put these components together. [6 STROKES RANK 1571]
- 2103 躲 躲 hide, dodge, avoid  body 1631  m for flowers 2102 duǒ  
 Look at all these *flowers—so many I can’t even count them*. It’s easy to place my *body* behind them to try to **hide** from the hotel manager. [13 STROKES RANK 1644]
- 2104 瓶 瓶 bottle, vase, pitcher  an intensifier 1677  tile 2047 píng  
**BF** Imagine cementing a couple of *tiles* together in a waterproof way to act as a **vase**. That’s a pretty *intense* use of the *tiles*. [10 STROKES RANK 1703]

## Unit 85

### Silhouettes and Shadows



- 2105 疫 疫 epidemic, plague  sick 697  ancient bamboo spear 2053 yì  
BF Epidemics are *sicknesses* that move rapidly through a town as if the *sickness* traveled on swift but *ancient bamboo spears*. [9 STROKES RANK 1791]
- 2106 氧 氧 oxygen  air, spirit, vital energy 2066  sheep 1147 yǎng  
Be careful when you buy *woolen* carpet. Burn a bit in the presence of **oxygen**. If it's real *wool*, the '*vital spirit*' of *sheep* it gives off will stink. Otherwise, if the fiber is synthetic, you've been cheated. [10 STROKES RANK 1863]
- 2107 乙 乙 second in a series  whole arm 2042 (altered) yǐ  
Upside-down, this graph shows the number **two**! [1 STROKES RANK 1872]
- 2108 轨 轨 course, path  car 1430  nine 2046 guǐ  
BF What are *nine cars* doing, being driven together? It must be a race, and their **path** defines the race **course**. [6 STROKES RANK 1883]
- 2109 乞 乞 beg\*  man 311 (altered)  whole arm 2042 (altered) qǐ  
This *man's whole arm* is overdeveloped. This comes from years of **begging**. [3 STROKES RANK 2429]
- 2110 吃 吃 eat  mouth 41  chopsticks  whole arm 2042 chī  
Someone's *whole arm* is using *chopsticks* to shovel food into their *mouths* as fast as they can. This is how they **eat**. [6 STROKES RANK 475]

2111 乾 乾 male principle, heaven  
 ten 6  morning 70  man 311 (altered)  whole arm 2042 qián



**BF** Every *morning*, for the last *ten* days in a row, *the man* has gotten up early to work out, and look how big his *whole arm* is compared with the rest of him! This is the **male principle** in action. [11 STROKES RANK 1999]

2112 𠄎 𠄎 great idea!




**CMP** You can always tell when characters in an animated cartoon have a brilliant idea, because a simulated light bulb flashes, showing rays emanating from the top of their head. The short strokes on top are the light rays, and the smooth cover is the top of a cartoon skull.

2113 学 学 study  great idea! 2112  son, child 1402 xué


The *child's* head is a like an open tap. *Great ideas* flow from him non-stop. That's the fruit of hard **study**. [8 STROKES RANK 66]

2114 觉 觉 think  great idea! 2112  see 301 jué

















The result of hard **thinking** is a *great idea*, so we can *see* our way to a clear solution. [9 STROKES RANK 327]
















2115 晃 晃 to dazzle  day, sun 63  great idea! 2112 (altered)  son 288 huǎng

*Great idea*—'sun' and 'son' sound the same but have different meanings! What a **dazzling** observation! [10 STROKES RANK 1796]

2116 兆 兆 omen  north 145 (altered) zhào






**BF** It's possible to decompose this character in terms of curves and dabs, but it's probably simpler to remember that this pictograph represents an unfortunate turtle whose shell has been borrowed, then baked. I interpret the upright curves as representing the pattern on the shell, and the oblique strokes are the cracks induced by the heat of baking. Ancient Chinese priests used these shells as **omens** to read the future. [6 STROKES RANK 2246]

- 2117 挑 挑 select, pick  hand r 29  omen 2116 tiāo  
On the basis of the *omens*, I reach out with my *hand* and **pick** the lottery ticket that will bring me untold riches for sure! [9 STROKES RANK 1309]
- 2118 跳 跳 jump  foot r 946  omen 2116 tiào  
The evil child **jumps** on the turtle with his *feet*, smashing the *shell* to bits and pieces and smithereens. [13 STROKES RANK 999]
- 2119 乘 乘 multiply  rice or grain 409 (altered)  omen 2116 (altered) chéng  
When the harvest is good, the size of the crop is a **multiple** of last year's—a good *omen*. Note that 'omen' has been altered until it looks like 'north' (§145). [10 STROKES RANK 1231]
- 2120 剩 剩 remain, be left over  multiply 2119  knife r 166 shèng  
When stuff *multiplies*, we sometimes get more than we need. Use a *knife* to cut off this surplus, and here's the bit that's **left over**. [12 STROKES RANK 1446]
- 2121 爱 爱 love  dab 169  great idea! 2112  friend, associate 1798 ài  
After years of enjoying each other's company, a *little* acquaintanceship blossomed into a truly *great idea*. My *friend* and I realized we were deeply in **love**. [10 STROKES RANK 394]
- 2122 桃 桃 peach  tree 375  omen 2116 táo  
Besides being used for eating, **peaches**—or more properly, their *tree*-like pits—played a role in ancient religion. Priests read the wrinkles on the pits as *omens*. [10 STROKES RANK 1839]
- 2123 走 走 move forward  dab 169  whole arm 2042 (altered)  dab 169  
**CMP** It's difficult to **walk forward** without moving your *arms*. The two dabs here suggest this movement in the style of comic book-art.














- 2124 这 这 this, these  move forward 2123  language, culture 1804 zhè  
‘This’ is used for a specific thing you have in mind. In your speech you *move forward* to this object, an important *cultural* artifact. [7 STROKES RANK 11]
- 2125 过 过 cross, go over  move forward 2123  inch 210 guò  
Crossing a street or *going over* a bridge is *moving forward* by a *fixed amount*. [6 STROKES RANK 46]
- 2126 道 道 direction, way  move forward 2123  head, leader 1167 dào  
If you *move forward* by following the proven *leader*, you’ll surely be following the right way. [12 STROKES RANK 52]
- 2127 还 还 still or yet  move forward 2123  no! 1452 hái  
You try to *move forward*, but the powers that be do *not* allow it. Therefore, you *have yet* to reach your goal. [7 STROKES RANK 80]
- 2128 进 进 enter  move forward 2123  well 1672 jìn  
The enemy *moves forward* into the cave, but we’ve laid a trap! We’ve covered the *well* with a grid of sticks, which they don’t notice. As they *move forward* in the gloom, we rejoice as they tumble down, screaming for mercy. [7 STROKES RANK 81]
- 2129 逆 逆 go against, disobey  move forward 2123  running sheep 1662 (altered)  receptacle 155 nì  
The shepherd *moves forward* to catch the *running sheep* who escaped from the *pen*. The sheep is guilty of **disobeying** orders! [9 STROKES RANK 1975]
- 2130 迅 迅 rapid  move forward 2123  commonplace 2056 (altered) xùn  
BF Ambitious young people try their best to **rapidly** *move forward* away from their *commonplace* past, toward their bold and exciting future. [6 STROKES RANK 1090]

## Unit 86













# The Wretched of the Earth



- 2131 途 途 road, journey  move forward 2123  surplus, remainder 1073 tú  
BF Roads and trade routes came to be established as merchants *moved forward* along the same paths to sell their *surpluses* for other products.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1085]
- 2132 逢 逢 each time  move forward 2123  step forward 1962  plentiful 12 féng  
Imagine a list of things *moving forward* into the future. As you *step forward*, you have have *plenty of resources* **each time** you deal with item.  
[10 STROKES RANK 2181]
- 2133 缝 缝 sew, stitch  silk r 807  each time 2132 féng  
Expert seamstresses and seamsters gain their reputations because *each time* they make a **stitch** in the *silk* clothes it's identical to every other.  
[13 STROKES RANK 1852]
- 2134 连 连 join, link  move forward 2123  car 1430 lián  
The circus has come to town! We stayed up late to watch the procession of *cars*, each *moving forward* in sync with every other car, as if they were all **linked** together.  
[7 STROKES RANK 399]
- 2135 莲 莲 water lily  grass r 94  join, link 2134 lián  
Those beautiful **water lilies** that grace a pond are not, as they appear, bunches of distinct plants. Rather, these *grasses* are all *linked* one to the other.  
[10 STROKES RANK 1837]



- 2136 邀 邀 invite, request  
 ☐ move forward 2123 ☐ white 201 ☐ put, place 2007 (altered) yāo  
 It's the first time I've been **invited** over to meet my girlfriend's parents. For the occasion, I *put* on a *white* shirt, and I'm confidently *moving forward* towards her house. [16 STROKES RANK 1854]
- 2137 通 通 lead to, go to ☐ move forward 2123 ☐ corridor, path 1745 tōng  
 Where do the *corridors* lead to? If you don't *move forward*, you'll never find out. [10 STROKES RANK 190]
- 2138 返 返 return to ☐ move forward 2123 ☐ oppose, anti- 1863 fǎn  
 After the *opposition* was quashed, the soldiers can *move forward* and **return** home. [7 STROKES RANK 1430]
- 2139 达 达 attain, reach ☐ move forward 2123 ☐ big 330 dá  
 It's your *big* day. Years of nose to the grindstone and slow but steady *movement forward* through the company are finally paying off. Today you **attain** your goal—vice-president in charge of advertising! [6 STROKES RANK 289]
- 2140 退 退 retreat, retire ☐ move forward 2123 ☐ tough, hard to chew 1810 tuì  
 The wacky soldiers found it *hard* to *chew* and *move forward* at the same time, so they had to **retreat**. [9 STROKES RANK 723]
- 2141 腿 腿 leg ☐ moon, month 1719 ☐ retreat, retire 2140 tuǐ  
 The army *retreated* by light of full *moon*. So as to remain quiet and not alert the enemy, they used their **legs** exclusively, forgoing the convenience of noisy cars or horses. [13 STROKES RANK 1351]
- 2142 运 运 move, transport ☐ move forward 2123 ☐ cloud 751 yùn  
 I hate **moving**! **Transporting** stuff is so tiring and makes it seem far. A better attitude is to turn off your mind, and *move forward* in the direction of the distant *clouds* until it all gets done. [7 STROKES RANK 345]

- 2143 边 边 side, margin, edge  move forward 2123  strength 1492 biān  
Stranded in the desert, we have no choice but to *move forward*. Using the last reserves of our *strength*, we hope to get to the **edge** of the sands before we give out. [5 STROKES RANK 316]
- 2144 近 近 near, close to  move forward 2123  catty 118 jìn  
The rare Chinese table (Tang dynasty) is in danger of toppling and collapsing because it is *unbalanced*. We can *move forward* quickly enough to catch it because we happen to be **close to** it. [7 STROKES RANK 374]
- 2145 造 造 build, fabricate  move forward 2123  tell 189 zào  
The clever inventor is so persuasive when he *tells* his backers what his plans are that he is able to *move forward* in the **fabrication** of his next invention. [10 STROKES RANK 354]
- 2146 远 远 far, distant  move forward 2123  dollar 293 yuǎn  
The more **distant** are the places that you want to *move forward to* via train, the more *money* the ticket costs. [7 STROKES RANK 386]
- 2147 选 选 choose, select  move forward 2123  first 300 xuǎn  
As he *moves forward* in life, he always seems to do better than anyone else, seems always to be *first*. He claims it's because he always **chooses** the best alternatives. [9 STROKES RANK 499]
- 2148 随 随 follow, comply with, as soon as  hills 735  move forward 2123  have 1725 suí  
The *hills* have come alive, as in some 50's sci-fi flick. They are *moving forward* toward the town, to take over the people's *possessions*. They are **complying with** the orders of the largest mountains (their chiefs), who have also come to life. [11 STROKES RANK 498]



- 2149 速 速 fast, speed  move forward 2123  bundle, bunch 394 sù  
 BF As I *moved forward*, the *bundle* of reeds started to come apart. I've got to move **fast** if I want to get to the table before the reeds are all over the place. [10 STROKES RANK 617]
- 2150 适 适 appropriate, suitable  move forward 2123  tongue 225 shì  
 BF Imagine Hansel and Gretel in the gingerbread house, but this time they're blindfolded with their hands tied behind them. They *move forward* carefully, using their *tongues* to make sure their route is still **suitable**. [9 STROKES RANK 663]
- 2151 述 述 state, narrate, relate  move forward 2123  art, skill 405 shù  
 BF The *art* of **narrating** a story is just that—an *art*. Your narrative has to be interesting, but keep the action *moving forward*, or else you lose your audience. [8 STROKES RANK 674]
- 2152 送 送 give a present  move forward 2123  shut, close 1113 sòng  
 Oh, no! I forgot to **get** an anniversary **present** for my wife. As I *moved towards* the store, it *shut* its doors at closing time. What will I do now? [9 STROKES RANK 656]
- 2153 遍 遍 all over, everywhere  move forward 2123  flat, crushed 729 biàn  
 BF A giant, purple people-eater from outer space is chasing me. I'm **everywhere**, constantly *moving forward* so it doesn't catch me and *crush* me *flat*. [12 STROKES RANK 1012]
- 2154 遗 遗 lose, leave behind  move forward 2123  expensive 437 yí  
 BF The train ticket was too *expensive* for me. The rest of the class got on the train which *moved forward* and **left me behind**. [12 STROKES RANK 892]













- 2155 逐 逐 pursue, chase  move forward 2123  pig, boar 1425 zhú  
 A little known fact: there are hundreds of thousands of feral *boars and pigs* running wild in this country, mostly down south. They make fine eating, but *moving forward* to **chase** and **pursue** them takes some skill.  
 [10 STROKES RANK 954]

- 2156 迫 迫 compel, force, coerce  move forward 2123  white 201 pò  
 BF I was *moving forward* in my car, when there suddenly must have been an accident, a serious one. For I woke up surrounded by people dressed in *white* **forcing** me to stay in bed, eat certain foods at certain times, and so on.  
 [8 STROKES RANK 1006]

## Unit 87

# Autumnal Thoughts

- 2157 逃 逃 escape, flee  move forward 2123  omen 2116 táo  
BF It's time to leave home, and so **escape** the constraints of youth. It's a time of *moving forward* under the sure knowledge that the *omens* all predict good things for you. [9 STROKES RANK 996]
- 2158 避 避 avoid, evade  move forward 2123  law 1256 bì  
I *move forward* always under the protection of the *law*. That way, I never feel worried, anxious, or that I have to **avoid** and **evade** bill collectors, landlords, and police officers. [16 STROKES RANK 991]
- 2159 遭 遭 encounter, by chance  move forward 2123  plaintiff and defendant 105 zāo  
Both the *plaintiff and defendant* met each other **by chance** at the local supermarket. In this social setting, they resolved their differences, and so could *move forward* with their lives. [14 STROKES RANK 1048]
- 2160 迎 迎 to welcome  move forward 2123  head held high 160 yíng  
BF Our friends *move forward* to us. We haven't seen them since college! We *hold our heads high* as we prepare to **welcome** them. [7 STROKES RANK 1069]
- 2161 透 透 penetrate, seep through  move forward 2123  to flower, put forth ears of grain 1593 tòu  
We can *move forward* after an exceptional *harvest*. The reason was the new irrigation method we used, which allowed the water **seep through** to the plants effectively and efficiently. [10 STROKES RANK 1077]

- 2162 迹 迹 mark, trace, remains  move forward 2123  also, too 1503 jì  
 BF Several things happen when you *move forward* on a trip. First, you get closer to your goal. But you *also* leave **traces** of yourself—footprints, tire tracks, credit card receipts, and so on—behind. [9 STROKES RANK 1098]
- 2163 迷 迷 confused, be fascinated by  move forward 2123  rice 1127 mí  
 You're supposed to *move forward*, but the handful of *rice* you see scattered about in all directions summarizes your state of mind. You don't know which way to turn; you're all **confused**. [9 STROKES RANK 1153]
- 2164 违 违 disobey, violate  move forward 2123  leather 115 wéi  
 BF I told my teen-age daughter she could not *go out* Saturday night. I threatened her with my *leather* belt if she **disobeyed** me. [7 STROKES RANK 1184]
- 2165 迟 迟 late, tardy  move forward 2123  ruler 704 chí  
 I broke my walking stick, so I *went* to my friends' using a *ruler* instead. It was too short, I walked slower than normal, and I got there very **late**. [7 STROKES RANK 1374]
- 2166 迪 迪 enlighten, guide  move forward 2123  let sb do sth 48 dí  
 BF I will let my students *move forward* and *do what they want*, but only up to a point. They are under my **guidance**. [8 STROKES RANK 1440]
- 2167 递 递 hand over, transmit  move forward 2123  younger brother 1450 dì  
 Since the estate was **handed over** to the oldest son, *younger brothers* had to learn to *move forward* with their lives and not depend on family money. [10 STROKES RANK 1538]

- 2168 巡 巡 patrol, make the rounds  
 巡 move forward 2123 巡 river 1495 (altered) xún  
 BF Olden times, and **patrolling** the city's perimeter involved *moving along* the nearby *river*. [6 STROKES RANK 1544]
- 2169 逼 逼 force, press on towards  
 逼 move forward 2123 逼 size range 163 bī  
 Consider the explorers we all learned about in school. As they *moved forward* on their journey, they encountered *ranges* of all kinds—in climates, peoples, languages, food, and creature comforts. Still, they **pressed on towards** their goal. [12 STROKES RANK 1559]
- 2170 逻 逻 patrol  
 逻 move forward 2123 逻 catch birds with a net 663 luó  
 BF The '*birds*' you catch while *moving forward* on **patrol** are a lot like the winged creatures in the air, just a bigger and more dangerous. [11 STROKES RANK 1591]
- 2171 遵 遵 abide by, obey  
 遵 move forward 2123 遵 honor, venerate 1214 zūn  
 BF You **abide by** your professor's rules when you *move forward* with *honor*. [15 STROKES RANK 1593]
- 2172 迁 迁 move\*  
 迁 move forward 2123 迁 thousand 224 qiān  
 Moving house is *moving forward* a *large distance* from the old place. [6 STROKES RANK 1630]
- 2173 逊 逊 modest, inferior  
 逊 move forward 2123 逊 grandson 1410 xùn  
 BF My *grandson moves forward* with such confidence, that we all shrink back with a sense of **inferiority**. [9 STROKES RANK 1697]
- 2174 迈 迈 step, stride  
 迈 move forward 2123 迈 ten thousand 472 mài  
 BF "A journey of *ten thousand forward movements* starts with a single **step**." [6 STROKES RANK 1698]

- 2175 遥 遥 distant, far, remote yáo
- move forward 2123 
  hands raised high 1345 
  dry mountainous bits 520
- BF The passengers from the downed jet are stranded on the *dry mountain top*, frantically *waving their hands* in the air. We're *moving forward* to rescue them, but they are **far** away; see how small their hands appear.
- [13 STROKES RANK 1715]



- 2176 爻 爻 move on
- CMP Don't confuse this component with the component 彳 'move forward'! Here, the sinuous top-to-bottom curve suggests a relaxed person out for a stroll, and he's about to take a giant step, which is that curve extending towards the right. He's worn out his welcome with this bunch of relatives, and he's about to **move on**.



- 2177 延 延 prolong, postpone yán
- move on 2176 
  action path 1421 
  stop! 181
- BF While someone is trying to *move on*, someone else is trying to *stop* him. Lot of attempted *action* here! That could easily **postpone** his departure and **prolong** his stay.
- [6 STROKES RANK 1103]



- 2178 诞 诞 birth, birthday dàn
- speech r 615 
  prolong, postpone 2177
- BF I hate celebrating someone's **birthday**. Because of all the boring *speeches*, I have to *postpone* my midday nap.
- [8 STROKES RANK 1997]

- 2179 之 之 relationship marker zhī
- move forward 2123 (altered)
- This character participates in several constructs which show a relationship between the things surrounding it. It's a type of grammatical marker. Readers of a certain age will agree that the central swash-like form closely resembles the **mark** of Zorro! The little *dab* on top reminds us that this is a small, particle-like word.

Also: note how the character looks like a subtly distorted version of the 'move forward' radical (§2123). Good **relationships** in life make it easy for us to *move forward* from one achievement to the next. [3 STROKES RANK 44]












2180 建 建 establish, set up  move on 2176  pen, writing instrument 39 jiàn  
 A hallmark of civilization: with the stroke of a *pen*, you can *move on* to **establish** new things—companies, cities, treaties, and so on.  
[8 STROKES RANK 244]

2181 健 健 healthy, strong  man r 953  establish, set up 2180 jiàn  
 𠄎 A *man* (any person, actually) who lives in a secure and well-*set-up* house helps insure his continued **health** and **strength**. [10 STROKES RANK 979]

2182 键 键 key (lock, computer)  gold r 1327  establish, set up 2180 jiàn  
 You get to the *gold* that's in the banking *establishment* by using a **key** to open the door. [13 STROKES RANK 1471]















## Unit 88











### Pacific Overtures



- 2183 廷 廷 imperial court  move on 2176  dab 169  earth, soil 9 tíng  
BF A person *moves on* to the *infinitesimal* piece of *earth* where he must stand to address the emperor in his **court**. [6 STROKES RANK 1626]
- 2184 庭 庭 hall, front courtyard  shelter r 681  imperial court 2183 tíng  
BF You can only take *shelter* at the *imperial court* in the **front courtyard**. [9 STROKES RANK 931]
- 2185 蜓 蜓 dragonfly  insect 890  imperial court 2183 tíng  
BF The only *insect* good enough for the *imperial court* is the graceful, beautiful, eye catching **dragonfly**. [12 STROKES RANK 4083]
- 2186 挺 挺 straighten up (physically)  hand r 29  imperial court 2183 tíng  
No time for slouching today! We're visiting the *imperial court*. Use your *hand* to **straighten yourself up**. [9 STROKES RANK 1467]
- 2187 艇 艇 small boat  boat, ship 597  imperial court 2183 tǐng  
BF Only **small boats** are allowed at the *imperial court*, *boats* which are smaller than those of the emperor. [12 STROKES RANK 1372]



- 2188 乏 乏 tired\*, weary\*  
 action path 1421 (altered)  relationship marker 2179 fá  
 This character *connects* me with a seriously stunted *action path*. I guess I don't feel like much action today. I am just too **tired**. [4 STROKES RANK 1399]
- 2189 巴 巴 dancing snake  
**CMP** This component displays a hooded cobra **snake** doing its **dance**. Rising up on its tail, marked hood fully extended, it exerts a hypnotic effect on its viewers.
- 2190 巴 巴 cling to, be near  dancing snake 2189 bā  
 It's impossible to take your eyes away from the *dancing snake*, especially if you **are near** it. Audience eyes **cling** to its movements as if there were a physical connection between it and them. [4 STROKES RANK 546]
- 2191 把 把 hold or grasp  hand r 29  dancing snake 2189 bǎ  
 It looks like the *dancing snake* is going to attack. As a gesture of defense, you use your *hand* to **grasp** the snake securely, before any harm is done. [7 STROKES RANK 110]
- 2192 色 色 color, look  man 311 (altered)  dancing snake 2189 sè  
 The *tourist* was hypnotized by the fakir and his *dancing snake*. It wasn't so much the dancing as it was the brilliant **colors** and patterns on the skin of the tropical reptile, so different from anything back home. [6 STROKES RANK 304]
- 2193 绝 绝 cut off, sever, unique  silk r 807  color, look 2192 (altered) jué  
**BF** Somehow, during the manufacturing process, the *silk's color* changed abruptly from brilliant red to muddy green. Immediately, we **cut off** power to the machines. [9 STROKES RANK 562]



- 2194 吧 吧 let's do this (particle)  mouth 41  dancing snake 2189 ba  
 Don't just stand there—move! That's what emerges from my *mouth* when I want you to move sharply away from the *dancing snake* I just saw under your chair. It's impolite in Chinese just to make a command; we use 吧 to soften it. [7 STROKES RANK 470]
- 2195 爸 爸 dad  father 1812  cling to, be near 2190 bà  
 When the child is still young enough to climb over her *father* and *cling* to him, then the *father* is still more of a *dad* than a *father*. [8 STROKES RANK 1050]
- 2196 肥 肥 fat, fertile, rich  meat 317 (altered)  dancing snake 2189 féi  
 The *dancing snake* used to be fat, but all that dancing made his *body* thin. [8 STROKES RANK 1620]
- 2197 个 个 eat r  man r 953 (altered)  scepter 5 (altered)  
 CMP Our Chinese scribes are emphasizing the 'eat till you drop' aspect of **eating**, the kind of eating you see at festivals, receptions, and all-you-can-eat buffets. The *scepter* acts like a piston or press, forcing ever more food into the *guest's* mouth.
- 2198 饱 饱 full, satiated  eat r 2197  wrap, envelope 857 bǎo  
 I don't *wrap* up my *eating* sessions until I am totally **full**. [8 STROKES RANK 1998]
- 2199 饲 饲 feed (animals)  eat r 2197  company 112 sì  
 BF Following the long-standing *company* policy of keeping key employees content, they give us humongous amounts of food at lunch. We *eat* so much, that outside observers compare us to **animal feeding frenzies**. [8 STROKES RANK 1971]
- 2200 饿 饿 hungry  eat r 2197  I 361 è  
 I *eat* when I'm **hungry**—how about you? [10 STROKES RANK 1911]

- 2201 饭 饭 cooked rice  eat r 2197  oppose, anti- 1863 fàn  
 Teenagers are *rebels* you're stuck with. For instance, they cram nothing but junk food into themselves, and don't *eat* the nutritious **rice cooked** for them. [7 STROKES RANK 935]
- 2202 饮 饮 swallow liquid or insults  eat r 2197  owe, lack 465 yǐn  
**Insults** are all about emphasizing the miserable stuff you *eat* as well as the qualities you *lack*. [7 STROKES RANK 1569]
- 2203 饰 饰 decoration, ornament  eat r 2197  market 273 (altered) shì  
**BF** In olden times, when did people dress up and **decorate** themselves? To go to the *market*, originally a place where people gathered to buy and sell things to *eat*. [8 STROKES RANK 1604]
- 2204 爪 爪 clawed foot  
**CMP** If you've ever owned a cat, this sketch of a cat with extended **claws** about to pounce on a tender knee or bared midriff will ring true.
- 2205 爪 爪 claw  clawed foot 2204 zhuǎ  
 [4 STROKES RANK 2363]
- 2206 畏 畏 fear  field 57  claw 2205 (altered) wèi  
**BF** Fear of the unknown is particularly terrifying. Imagine a farmer out in his *field*, and there in front of his panic-stricken eyes are the giant *claw*-marks of an animal he's never seen before. [9 STROKES RANK 2039]
- 2207 喂 喂 feed  mouth 41  fear 2206 wèi  
 If you **feed** that wild animal, go ahead. Just toss the raw steak into its *mouth*, and you won't need to *fear* it. [12 STROKES RANK 1988]

2208 抓 抓 grab, seize, arrest  hand r 29  claw 2205 zhuā  
 You **grab** the crook by **seizing** him with your *hand*, like a *claw*.  
 [7 STROKES RANK 992]

## Unit 89




### Urban Trendsetters

2209 爬 爬 crawl, creep, scramble  claw 2205  cling to, be near 2190 pá




Animals who have evolved to **crawl** generally have *claws* that make it easy to *cling* to a surface. [8 STROKES RANK 1426]

2210 内 内 animal track

**CMF** Learn to recognize the stylized pattern of some **animal's** paw print as it leaves a **track**. This component, also a radical, appears here drawn with four strokes; there is also a 5-stroke variant which appears at the bottoms of characters like 偶 and 遇 among others.


2211 愚 愚 stupid, foolish  field 57  animal track 2210  heart (fat) 906 yú



**BF** Apparently some coyote was so **stupid** as to trap himself inside one of the farmer's *fields*. Although the farmer can't see it, the *animal* left plenty of *tracks*. Trapped animals are always dangerous, so the farmer's *heart* is beating in anxiety. [13 STROKES RANK 1895]



2212 偶 偶 by chance  man r 953  field 57  animal track 2210 ǒu




People and animals generally avoid each other. But sometimes, **by chance**, their *tracks* cross. This *farmer* encountered some wildlife in one of his *fields*. [11 STROKES RANK 1361]


- 2213 离 离 leave, depart  
 cover 268  fiendish, ferocious 1831  animal track 2210 lí  
 The *animal tracks* in the forest led us to the *ferocious* aardvark. We were able to get in a *covered* box which we then threw in the river. A job well done, we felt free to **leave** and go home for dinner. [10 STROKES RANK 418]
- 2214 璃 璃 glazed tile  
 jade 221  leave, depart 2213 lí  
 BF Because of the economic downturn, the *jade* business has fallen to nothing. As the taste for *jade left* the buying public, they turned to decorative **glazed tile** as a cheaper alternative. [14 STROKES RANK 1894]
- 2215 遇 遇 meet, encounter  
 move forward 2123  field 57  animal track 2210 yù  
 BF *Moving toward* his home, the farmer followed some *animal tracks* in his *fields* which led to an unexpected **meeting** with the coyote preying on his flocks. [12 STROKES RANK 899]
- 2216 属 属 category  
 corpse 703  various animal parts shǔ  
 Picture a naturalist trying to **categorize** a new specimen. She's got the *body*, and various other body parts, including some *little bits* (§169), the *mouth* (§41), and *various other parts* (§2210). [12 STROKES RANK 610]
- 2217 宀 宀 child r  
 CMP The strokes of this component are stylized, but it's easy to imagine this form as 子 'son' drawn upside-down. To the original scribes, this represented the head-first position of birth, so this form represents a **child**.
- 2218 育 育 rear, raise, educate  
 child r 2217  meat 317 (altered) yù  
 BF If you feed a *child meat*, you nourish and **raise** her properly. [8 STROKES RANK 609]



- 2219 流 流 flow, drift  water r 523  child r 2217  river 1495 liú  
Like Moses in the bulrushes, picture a small *child* in a basket surrounded by flowing *river water*. Of course, the baby's basket is going to go with the **flow** as well. [10 STROKES RANK 396]
- 2220 疏 疏 sparse, scattered  foot r 946 (altered)  child r 2217  river 1495 shū  
**BF** As the *baby* in the basket was flowing in the *river*, I used my *foot* to try and stop it. But see the sharp point at the top of the altered '*foot*' component? I was wearing pointy shoes that day, and the point struck the basket and destroyed it. The strands became **scattered** all over the place. Don't even ask what happened to the baby! [12 STROKES RANK 1897]
- 2221 亥 亥 near midnight  child r 2217  man 311 hài  
*Children* are something, especially when they're little. **Near midnight**, a *parent* must check on them. [6 STROKES RANK 3179]
- 2222 刻 刻 engrave, carve  near midnight 2221  knife r 166 kè  
A nighttime serial killer is terrorizing the city. **Near midnight**, this depraved person uses a *knife* to **carve** a mysterious message on the skin of his victims. [8 STROKES RANK 618]
- 2223 该 该 ought to, should  speech r 615  near midnight 2221 gāi  
It's **near midnight!** Who's *speaking* outside? They **ought to** be asleep! [8 STROKES RANK 319]
- 2224 核 核 nut, kernel, fruit pit  tree 375  near midnight 2221 hé  
**BF** The crispest **nuts** come from the top of the *tree*. If I use a clock dial to represent the location on the *tree*, the prime harvest area is the part of the tree '*nearest midnight*'. [10 STROKES RANK 828]



2225 孩 孩 child\*  child 1186  near midnight 2221 hái  
 BF The *small boy* gets restive *near midnight*. But that's life when you bring up a **child**. [9 STROKES RANK 533]

2226 弃 弃 discard, abandon, give up  child r 2217  action scaffolding 1667 qì  
 BF Oh, no! The drug-addled mother on top of the *scaffolding* is about to toss her *child* off if she doesn't get drug money. How could anyone **abandon** their children in such a depraved way? [7 STROKES RANK 1105]

2227 撤 撤 remove, take away, withdraw  hand r 29  rear, raise, educate 2218  wallop 1989 chè  
 The ancient Confucian system of *education*: plenty of *corporal punishment*. Such a system guaranteed the **removal** of any love of learning. [15 STROKES RANK 1270]

2228 示 示 show r  show, indicate 1064 (altered)  
 CMP Look closely to see how the strokes of §1064, 示, have been scrunched and slightly deformed to fit in half a character.




2229 祖 祖 ancestor  show r 2228  moreover 15 zǔ  
 BF The Duke of Bla-Bla's **ancestral** records will *show* you all you want to know about his family. They (the records, not the **ancestors**) are stored in that *bookshelf* over there. [9 STROKES RANK 1025]

2230 礼 礼 ceremony, rite  show r 2228  mineshaft 135 lǐ  
 BF In ancient times, recruits to an army were ceremonially led to the edge of a deep *mineshaft* where they **ritually** threw their civilian clothes away to *show* their allegiance to king and country! This was a **ceremony**, a rite of passage, to mark the transformation from civilian to soldier. [5 STROKES RANK 926]



2231 福 福 good fortune  show r 2228  size range 163 fú

**Good fortune** means a large, happy family, all in good health. You can easily tell such a family—clean clothes in a *range of* sizes often hang outside to dry to *show* their good fortune. [13 STROKES RANK 683]




2232 祝 祝 express good wishes  show r 2228  mouth 41  walking man 287 zhù

In this instance, we interpret the ‘*show*’ component as flowing lines of words issuing from a *man’s mouth* as he *walks* to and fro, carried away by the emotion of the occasion. These **express good wishes** for the coming holiday!

[9 STROKES RANK 1651]

2233 祥 祥 propitious  show r 2228  sheep 1147 xiáng

**BF** The high priest *shows* the fine *sheep* to the congregation. It is a **propitious** offering to the gods. [10 STROKES RANK 1674]

2234 祸 祸 misfortune, disaster  show r 2228  mouth 41  inside\* 318 huò

The tall stranger looks just like a regular guy. But as you get to know him, he (symbolized by the *mouth*) *shows* you his *inner*, darker self, which has been plagued by **misfortune**. [11 STROKES RANK 1870]

## Unit 90

### Dastardly Effects

- 2235 神 神 god, divinity  show r 2228  express 47 shén  
Gods are created by mankind as a way to *show* how the world works and *express* eternal truths. [9 STROKES RANK 227]
- 2236 社 社 society, group  show r 2228  earth, soil 9 shè  
In a mature **society** of people, things are so congested in the towns that the *earth* barely *shows* between all the buildings and structures. [7 STROKES RANK 270]
- 2237 视 视 regard, look at  show r 2228  see 301 shì  
**BF** You **look at** or *see* something that someone *shows* you. [8 STROKES RANK 438]
- 2238 𠂔 𠂔 stair steps  
**CMP** This component displays two **stair steps** with a hand rail on the left. Grand staircases have many more steps than this, but this is all we can fit in.
- 2239 官 官 government official  roof 247  stair steps 2238 guān  
Watch this foolish and self-important **government official** as he swaggers down the grand *staircase* of the government *building* to his puny cubicle in the umpteenth sub-basement. [8 STROKES RANK 432]

2240 管 管 run, manage, have charge of  
 竹 bamboo r 243 官 government official 2239 guǎn  
 BF The *government official in charge* of the *bamboo* grove is doing a lousy job. Look how the plants tower above the building, like giant weeds.  
 [14 STROKES RANK 252]














2241 追 追 chase, pursue  
 追 move forward 2123 追 stair steps 2238 追 dab 169 zhuī  
 The toughest part of the **chase** scenes in the latest action flick are the tireless *moves up and down small flights of stairs*.  
 [9 STROKES RANK 768]















2242 馆 馆 guest accommodation  
 馆 eat r 2197 馆 government official 2239 guǎn  
 BF The most obnoxious types of guests used to be freeloading *government officials*. They forced citizens to provide them with **guest accommodations**, and they *ate* food greedily, because they weren't paying.  
 [11 STROKES RANK 1011]

2243 遣 遣 send, dispatch  
 遣 move forward 2123 遣 middle 45 遣 one 2 遣 stair steps 2238 qiǎn  
 BF Get out of my way! I *move forward* up the *stair steps* of the *central* post office to **send** *one* letter before it closes.  
 [13 STROKES RANK 1780]

2244 巧 巧 breath against mirror  
 CMP Observe how the horizontal mirror stops and disturbs the smooth flow of the line of breath.

2245 巧 巧 clever, ingenious  
 巧 labor, work 7 巧 breath against mirror 2244 qiǎo  
 He gets so involved in his own **ingenuity** that he forgets how tired he gets. He *works* so hard, you can see is *breath fogging the mirror*.  
 [5 STROKES RANK 1219]

- 2246 号 号 number in a series  mouth 41  breath against mirror 2244 hào  
The car accident was **one of a number** for the young driver. We hold the mirror up to his *mouth* without seeing any *breath* at all.  
[5 STROKES RANK 487]
- 2247 专 专 concentrated, focused  breath against mirror 2244 (altered)  one 2  dab 169 zhuān  
He pursed his lips so they made a *small* area while *breathing* so his *breath* would be **concentrated** into a *small* area on the mirror.  
[4 STROKES RANK 485]
- 2248 传 传 pass on, impart  man r 953  concentrated, focused 2247 chuán  
During his life, the *man* was so *focused* on the traditions of his craft, that he made sure to **impart** them to his children and disciples.  
[6 STROKES RANK 332]
- 2249 转 转 turn, shift, change  car 1430  concentrated, focused 2247 zhuǎn  
One good way to *concentrate* the motion of a *car* is to make a sharp **turn**.  
[8 STROKES RANK 376]
- 2250 考 考 give or take a test  old 1506 (altered)  breath against mirror 2244 kǎo  
Omigod! The *old* guy sitting on the chair just slumped to the floor unconscious. Is he dead? We'll **give** him the *breath-against-a-mirror test* to see.  
[6 STROKES RANK 495]
- 2251 亏 亏 loss, unfair treatment  one 2  breath against mirror 2244 kuī  
I **lost** everything in a business gone bad. The only thing left to me was *one* mirror. I practiced *breathing against it* to keep reminding myself I wasn't yet dead.  
[3 STROKES RANK 1738]

- 2252 夸 夸 boast, exaggerate  
 big 330  one 2  breath against mirror 2244 kuā  
 A **boast** is like *one big breath*. [6 STROKES RANK 1955]
- 2253 跨 跨 step, stride, straddle  foot r 946  boast, exaggerate 2252 kuà  
 With an *exaggerated* movement of your *foot*, you **step** over and **straddle** the fallen enemy combatant and capture him. [13 STROKES RANK 1774]
- 2254 斗 斗 plank  
 CMP this is the left half of a *tree* (§375). You make **planks** from pieces of *trees*.
- 2255 壮 壮 strong, robust  plank 2254  scholar 8 zhuàng  
 Use a *plank* to attack a puny *scholar* (and so force him to exercise) to make him **robust and strong**. [6 STROKES RANK 1432]
- 2256 装 装 adorn, dress up  strong, robust 2255  clothing 839 zhuāng  
 You could tell the injured man was getting better and more *robust*—he was taking more interest in his *clothing* and even **dressing up**. [12 STROKES RANK 467]
- 2257 状 状 form, shape, state of things  plank 2254  dog 332 zhuàng  
 BF An amazing *dog*—he stays sober no matter how much liquor his owner gives him. He still walks straight along a *plank*, and his **state** is perfect. [7 STROKES RANK 624]
- 2258 奖 奖 award, prize, reward  plank 2254  evening, dusk 655  big 330 jiǎng  
 Our club gives a Golden *Plank Award* to the member who builds the *biggest* project out of *planks* in the *evening*, using no artificial light. [9 STROKES RANK 1233]

2259 氏 氏 plant root ball

**CMP** The horizontals suggest the top layer of fertile soil. Through it, several roots snake down, seeking moisture and nutrition.

2260 氏 氏 surname



■ plant root ball 2259



shì



The *roots of a plant* are like the **family ancestors** that define a family. The *plant root ball* bears the **surname** of its predecessors. [4 STROKES RANK 1500]



# Unit 91



## Finale Ultimo













2261 昏 昏 dusk  plant root ball 2259  day, sun 63 hūn  
BF The stray roots of a mysterious, giant *plant root ball* grow over the face of the *sun*, reducing its light. It looks like **dusk**. [8 STROKES RANK 1561]

2262 婚 婚 wed, marry  woman 581  dusk 2261 hūn  
BF This man feels bound by China's family traditions, and is not happy. The arranged **marriage** with his parents' choice of a *woman* means he will never see his true love again. The world darkens—to him all is perpetual *dusk*. [11 STROKES RANK 942]




2263 氏 氏 basic, thoroughgoing  plant root ball 2259  dab 169 dǐ  
BF *Plants root balls* are vigorous. You can cut away a huge amount of the root system, for example, and as long as you leave the *small* nucleus you have the **basic** material from which the plant can flourish. [5 STROKES RANK 4355]



2264 抵 抵 support, sustain  hand r 29  basic, thoroughgoing 2263 dǐ  
The giant, but *basic* tree stump looks like it could fall over at any time. The *little* stone underneath helps balance it, but it still threatens passersby. I guess I'll have to stand here and use my *hand* to **support** it. [8 STROKES RANK 1119]

2265 底 底 bottom, base  shelter r 681  basic, thoroughgoing 2263 dǐ  
Here the *basic* part of a *shelter* is the **base** of the roof. [8 STROKES RANK 543]

- 2266 低 低 let droop, hang down  man r 953  basic, thoroughgoing 2263 dī  
The *basic* price for the new car was so great that the *man hung his head* in despair. [7 STROKES RANK 592]
- 2267 纸 纸 paper  silk r 807  plant root ball 2259 zhǐ  
Here's some weird **paper**. The pulp is made from *plant root balls*, and *silk threads* line the edge. The overall effect is one of luxurious craftsmanship. [7 STROKES RANK 1020]
- 2268 犂 犂 banner, follow me!  square, direction 1491  man 311 (altered)  
CMP *Men* follow each other in the same *direction* under the influence of a *charismatic leader* (“**follow me!**”) or under the representation of such leadership—a **banner**.
- 2269 族 族 clan, race, tribe, group  banner, follow me! 2268  arrow 334 zú  
The dark side of **tribal** membership: under the misguided direction of the wrong kind of *leader*, people use their *arrows* against other groups. [11 STROKES RANK 549]
- 2270 旋 旋 revolve, circle, spin  banner, follow me! 2268  foot 419 (altered) xuán  
BF The world **revolves** about the great leader. I will *follow* on *foot* wherever he flies his *banner*. [11 STROKES RANK 1383]
- 2271 旗 旗 banner, flag, emblem  banner, follow me! 2268  his, her, its, theirs 1093 qí  
BF *It's* (sounds like ‘*its*’) time! The campaign to regain the mother land has begun. *Follow* the **banner** on the road to glory. [14 STROKES RANK 1407]







2272 游 游 swim, float  
 water r 523  banner, follow me! 2268  son, child 1402 yóu  
**BF** Hey, you in the *water!* *Follow me* to help save the dolphin *children* which are in danger of becoming stranded in the shallows. Don't try to walk through the water, it takes too long. You'll have to **swim**. [12 STROKES RANK 695]




2273 施 施 execute, carry out  
 banner, follow me! 2268  also\*, too\* 140 shī  
**BF** I need help. *Follow me*, and you *too* can share in the glory as we assist in the **execution** of our leader's master plan. [9 STROKES RANK 553]

2274 旅 旅 trip, travel  banner, follow me! 2268  clothing 839 (altered) lǚ  
**BF** We'll have a grand time on our **trip!** *Follow me!*—but don't forget to pack your *clothing*. [10 STROKES RANK 950]




2275 臼 臼 mortar and pestle  
**CMF** This drawing is strictly suggestive. We'll also associate this component with a dangerous hole or cavity.

2276 臼 臼 mortar  mortar and pestle 2275 jiù  
**BF** It looks like the *pestle* will crush you to bits in the jaw-like grip of the **mortar**. [6 STROKES RANK 4066]




2277 陷 陷 fall into, get bogged down  
 hills 735  man 311 (altered)  mortar 2276 xiàn  
The *man* comes down from the *hills*, **falls into** a weird *hole*. It has branches and rocks which impede his escape—he's **bogged down** and must wait for help. [10 STROKES RANK 1262]

2278 毀 毀 destroy, ruin  mortar 2276  labor, work 7  ancient bamboo spear 2053 huǐ

The conquerors, well-equipped with their *ancient bamboo spears*, have laid waste to our lands. Bombs have created *ragged holes* in our fields, and all public *works* have been razed to the ground. The **ruin** and **destruction** is complete. [13 STROKES RANK 1160]

2279 插 插 insert, stick in  hand r 29  dry 10  mortar 2276 chā

The powder has to be completely *dry* before you **insert** it by *hand* in the *mortar* for further grinding. Otherwise, you get this dreadful, muddy gunk. [12 STROKES RANK 1495]

2280 鼠 鼠 mouse, rat  mortar 2276  toothy jaws  long tail shǔ

**BF** Here's a cute (?) little animal with *toothy jaws* and a *long tail*, but so small it could fit into the opening of a *mortar*. It's a **mouse!** [13 STROKES RANK 1693]

# Appendix

## On-line Resources

On-line resources come in two flavors: (1) review and reinforcement; and (2) everything else. You can find all these at our Website

[www.EZChinesey.com](http://www.EZChinesey.com)

all (unless otherwise noted) freely available. This appendix describes the material that has been prepared at the time this book was completed. But we're always adding fresh material, so check back often to see what's new!

All these files use the so-called PDF format, and you may download, preview, and print these files using any program (such as Adobe Acrobat™, and there are many others for all computer platforms) that can handle this type of file.

### Review and reinforcement

'Review files' include flash cards, end-of-unit review lists, and graded reading practice. Each comes with its personal collection of pros and cons.

### Flashcards

No serious study of Chinese characters is complete without some kind of flashcard system.

There is a large file at the EZChinesey Website called *easyflash.pdf* you can use to print flashcards. The cards are printed according to the units in this book, so there's usually a few blank cards at the end of each unit. Let's first discuss the mundane physical details of flash card production, which turn out to be not so mundane at all.

First off, *our* flash cards break with tradition in size. Ours are relatively small—the size of business cards. Decks of these small cards are easy to carry, convenient for purse or shirt pocket, and a snap to shuffle. To print them, you'll need to load your printer with 'card stock' paper in the color of your choice (ordinary paper doesn't really have sufficient heft).

The cards themselves are printed with lines at all four edges. To print the cards, make sure you **only print** the odd-numbered pages in the file!! (For the teacher's pets among you, you *can* print the cards in two passes. On the first pass, choose 'odd numbered pages only' to print the tops. Take these sheets turn them over and/or rotate them by one hundred-eighty degrees,

and print the even numbered pages to get the backs. Experiment with a few pages until you get it right. The backs of these cards contain character and pronunciation information.) The primary cards show the character, its definition, its pronunciation, panel number and page, rank, and unit number.

That's the easy part. Now, how do you separate the cards? To be sure, if you load your printer with micro-perforated computer business card stock, each of our cards will be nicely centered on one of these cards. But there are problems. These forms often don't take well to printing (especially in two passes); they often come apart at the seams. Moreover, they are punishingly expensive. If you use top-of-the-line card stock, you'll be spending in excess of \$220 just for these cards! Some large stationery companies provide their own brand cards, such as Quill Office Products at [www.quill.com](http://www.quill.com) (item 7-20393Q), but these don't fold cleanly, and leave all your cards with fuzzy edges. Moreover, they aren't all exactly uniform in size. But the cost for this book's-worth of cards is less than \$50, a much thriftier alternative.

But whether regular stock or computer forms, you are still faced with the problem of 'bursting' all those cards. With micro-perforated cards, sit yourself down in front of the television, lose yourself in your favorite action flick, and start folding and tearing.

In case you've opted for solid card stock, what are your options? Office paper cutters are fine but time consuming. Scissors will surely raise blisters on your hands before you're through, and the finished cards will look distressingly ragged regardless of the care you take. My solution has been to use a little-known office appliance specifically designed for the cutting of business cards. This gadget, costing less than \$100, cleanly cuts a single sheet into ten cards in two passes, and it's fun to use. Maybe you'll find, as I have, that blank business cards are perfect for making notes to yourself, so the utility of this gadget persists long after you've become a Chinese character expert. Visit us at [www.EZChinese.com](http://www.EZChinese.com) to order one.

You'll also find a separate file from which you can print 'dividers' for the finished cards. In addition to divider-sized cards labeled 'Unit 1' through 'Unit 91' there are also dividers with the alphabet, and a page of blank tabs. These last are in case you become so enamored of these cards that you adapt existing information systems to them.

But even after your cards are cut and collated, how do you manage the piles and piles of cards that this process inevitably generates? Surprisingly, there don't appear to be *any* commercial products for business cards which are comparable to index card boxes. By chance, I determined that boxes containing Pennsylvania Dutch sourdough pretzels (in the snack section of your local supermarket, in the pretzel section) will serve admirably, but watch out—these pretzels are quietly addictive! Once you've finished a box, cut off the bottom (or side) to use for your card trays. In my area, metropolitan New

York City, no brand is any more useful than any other (but I do have my taste favorites).

In summary: flashcards have several advantages. They are traditional, convenient, and comfortable—there’s nothing like massaging a pack of flash cards. On the other hand, they require labor to prepare them, and some care to store them properly.

### **End of unit reviews**

Review material for the end of each unit is an attempt to provide a convenient review technique without the drawbacks of flash cards (cutting problems, storage concerns). This material appears in the file GBSureview.pdf.

Originally, this kind of material consisted of three lists—a list of pinyin (from which you could quiz yourself on characters and meanings), characters (to review pronunciation and meaning), and definitions (characters and pronunciation). This material was in columns, and you can imagine running up and down each column, reading sometimes from left to right, or from right to left for the sake of variety. However, no matter how you staggered these patterns, you couldn’t be sure that you were memorizing the order in which this material was listed rather than the actual content.

For this reason, for each unit, this tripartite grouping is now presented in each of several “shuffles.” So, for example, the columns displaying the actual characters are presented once in the order of the text, and thereafter in three random shuffles. The format remains the same, but the re-shuffling provides variety and spice. You can practice this material up and down, left to right, and vice versa on a total of four layouts (the original plus three shuffles), lessening the chance that you are inadvertently memorizing the order rather than the content.

Moreover, it’s easy to print this material, for it’s formatted for letter-size output. While these sheets may not be as convenient as flashcards, you can easily trash and re-print them as necessary.

### **Graded practice**

‘Graded practice’ refers to material that you can practice reading or translating, meticulously arranged in such a way that each of its entries uses *only* material that has been presented previously.

There are several Chinese-English dictionary files whose compilers have graciously made them available. The grand-daddy of them all is the CEDICT project started by Paul Denisowski in 1997 which aimed to provide a complete downloadable Chinese-to-English dictionary, accompanied by pronunciation in pinyin. It has recently returned to life under the name CC-CEDICT, and is currently available from

[www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=cedict](http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=cedict).

Please observe the conditions of its license, which more or less allows you to use this data for both non-commercial and commercial purposes provided that you: mention where you got the data from (attribution) and that in case you improve or add to the data you will share these changes under the same license (share alike). At this time (summer, 2009), there are more than 84,000 entries in this dictionary.

Anyway, since dictionary files are text files, it has proved possible to re-order their entries in such a way that entries depend only on words and syllables that came before. The resulting files have been formatted and typeset, and are quite lengthy (over 500 pages as of summer, 2008). As the compilers of the parent dictionary files augment their files, we will update these practice reading files. The reading practice file originating from the CEDICT project is `ezreaderup.pdf`.

### **Other Material**

Other on-line references are less compelling. They consist mainly of helpful indices to the book, some useful study aids, and a dictionary look-up shortcut; you should feel free to consult them as time and your needs permit.

## Indices of Components and Definitions

Greetings—we hope you’ve journeyed with us to the end! If you got here by dint of hard work, you will have learned a total of 2280 characters and components, which is how many panels there are in this volume. Of this number, 2178 are independent, legal characters, while 102 are components, with which independent characters are constructed.

These indices present the components and definitions found in this volume, separately, in alphabetical order.

The component index lists all components in alphabetical order. Each index entry contains the panel number, the component, its name, and its page. A total of 102 distinct components appear in this book.

The definition index immediately follows. Character information is alphabetized by the brief definitions that is part of the title line of the panel. Leading asterisks are ignored in the alphabetization process. (Remember, a leading asterisk indicates a grammatical function rather than a definition. A trailing asterisk indicates a meaning that has previously appeared with a different character.) We ignore any leading ‘to’, ‘the’, or other short word that is part of the definition. (For example, ‘bat’ would be ambiguous—is this a noun or a verb?—but ‘to bat’ helps resolve this ambiguity.) Because these leading ‘to’s are also ignored during alphabetization, ‘to bat’ would appear towards the beginning of the b’s, and *not* under ‘to bat’.

In addition to the definition, each entry contains the corresponding character, pinyin, panel number, and the page number in italics.

## Component Index

- §1421 丿 action path (284)  
 §1667 卅 action scaffolding (331)  
 §2210 阝 animal track (434)  
 §243 𦵏 bamboo r (60)  
 §2268 𦵏 banner, follow me! (445)  
   §1 一 bar (9)  
   §152 匚 basket, box (42)  
   §34 卣 boar's head (17)  
   §127 冂 borders (37)  
 §2244 丂 breath against mirror (440)  
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 §2217 𦵏 child r (435)  
   §943 𦵏 chopped wood (192)  
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   §671 厶 cliff r (141)  
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 §1345 𦵏 hands raised high (269)  
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   §160 印 head held high (44)  
   §906 心 heart (fat) (185)  
   §930 卩 heart (skinny) (189)  
   §679 厶 high cliff (142)  
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   §953 亻 man r (194)  
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   §135 厶 mineshaft (39)  
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 §2123 彳 move forward (417)  
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   §107 罟 net r (33)  
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   §111 𠂇 place of refuge (34)  
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   §750 厶 private (154)  
   §155 匚 receptacle (43)  
   §654 夕 romantic evening (139)  
   §247 宀 roof (60)  
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   §851 己 self\* r (174)  
   §681 广 shelter r (143)  
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   §807 纟 silk r (166)  
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   §745 冂 town (154)  
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## Definition Index

- abide by, obey 遵 zūn §2171 (426)  
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 arrange, line up 列 liè §659 (139)  
 arrive 到 dào §756 (156)  
 arrow type 弋 yì §356 (81)  
 arrow 矢 shǐ §334 (77)  
 arrow\* 箭 jiàn §1780 (352)  
 art, skill 术 shù §405 (90)  
 arteries and veins 脉 mài §1782 (352)  
 ask 问 wèn §197 (51)  
 ask, invite 约 yuē §820 (168)  
 ask, invite, polite request 请 qǐng §1756 (347)  
 aspiration 志 zhì §908 (185)  
 to assault, attack 攻 gōng §1990 (392)  
 assemble 凑 còu §1362 (273)  
 assemble, gather, get together 聚 jù §1941 (383)  
 assist 佐 zuǒ §1637 (325)  
 assume a post 任 rèn §956 (194)  
 at first 初 chū §1569 (312)  
 attain, reach 达 dá §2139 (420)  
 attend to, look after 顾 gù §874 (178)  
 attitude 态 tài §915 (187)  
 auspicious 瑞 ruì §89 (29)  
 autumn 秋 qiū §1110 (224)  
 avoid, evade 避 bì §2158 (424)  
 award, prize, reward 奖 jiǎng §2258 (442)  
 awe-inspiring 赫 hè §1505 (300)  
 ax handle 柯 kē §507 (110)  
 baby 娃 wá §582 (124)  
 bad, wrong, mistaken 错 cuò §1332 (267)  
 ball, sphere 球 qiú §558 (120)  
 bamboo fish trap 罩 zhào §174 (46)  
 bamboo pitch pipes 吕 lǚ §43 (19)  
 bamboo 竹 zhú §195 (50)

- bandit 匪 fěi §153 (42)  
 bang, boom 轰 hōng §1937 (382)  
 bank up with earth 培 péi §1195 (241)  
 banner, flag, emblem 旗 qí §2271 (445)  
 to bar or block 拦 lán §1155 (233)  
 barely, merely 仅 jǐn §1888 (372)  
 barn, storehouse 仓 cāng §865 (177)  
 base of fruit 蒂 dì §1208 (243)  
 base, foundation 基 jī §1097 (222)  
 base\*, foundation\* 础 chǔ §1394 (279)  
 basic, thoroughgoing 氏 dì §2263 (444)  
 battalion 营 yíng §282 (67)  
 battle array 阵 zhèn §1573 (313)  
 battle 仗 zhàng §1834 (363)  
 bay, cove 澳 ào §1273 (256)  
 be a match for 匹 pǐ §290 (69)  
 be apart or away from 距 jù §948 (193)  
 to be called 叫 jiào §93 (29)  
 be enough 够 gòu §665 (140)  
 be like 如 rú §585 (125)  
 be short of, lack 缺 quē §522 (113)  
 be willing or ready to 肯 kěn §1770 (350)  
 to be worth 值 zhí §1010 (205)  
 bean 豆 dòu §1168 (235)  
 bear (animal) 熊 xióng §1786 (353)  
 bear, carry on shoulders 负 fù §481 (105)  
 bear, endure 耐 nài §216 (54)  
 bear, endure, forbear 忍 rěn §1597 (317)  
 bear, hold, undertake 承 chéng §785 (162)  
 bear, shoulder 背 bèi §483 (105)  
 beard, must 须 xū §1287 (258)  
 beard, mustache 胡 hú §1767 (350)  
 beautiful 美 měi §1148 (232)  
 beautiful, elegant 丽 lì §159 (43)  
 because 因 yīn §345 (79)  
 beckon, enlist 招 zhāo §1553 (309)  
 become angry, indignant 怒 nù §1935 (382)  
 become, turn into 成 chéng §368 (84)  
 bed 床 chuáng §693 (145)  
 bee, wasp 蜂 fēng §1966 (388)  
 before, in front of 前 qián §1726 (342)  
 beg 丐 gài §644 (136)  
 beg\* 乞 qǐ §2109 (415)  
 begin, start 始 shǐ §782 (161)  
 behead 斩 zhǎn §1437 (287)  
 behind 后 hòu §732 (152)  
 bell 铃 líng §1383 (277)  
 bell, clock, time 钟 zhōng §1334 (267)  
 belly, abdomen 腹 fù §1969 (388)  
 belly\*, abdomen\* 肚 dù §1790 (354)  
 belong to 隶 lì §554 (119)  
 bend over 伏 fú §1007 (204)  
 bend 曲 qū §104 (33)  
 bend\* 屈 qū §710 (148)  
 benefit, advantage 益 yì §546 (118)  
 benevolence 仁 rén §954 (194)  
 bent 宛 wǎn §864 (177)  
 bent, curved, crooked 弯 wān §1577 (313)  
 bet, gamble 赌 dǔ §1464 (292)  
 betray, rebel, revolt 叛 pàn §1961 (387)  
 big 大 dà §330 (76)  
 bird or animal cry 鸣 míng §887 (181)  
 bird 鸟 niǎo §885 (181)  
 birth, birthday 诞 dàn §2178 (427)  
 bite, nip 咬 yǎo §1815 (358)  
 bitter 苦 kǔ §96 (30)  
 black 黑 hēi §803 (165)  
 black, dark 黎 lí §563 (121)  
 blade edge 刃 rèn §1596 (317)  
 blame, fault 尤 yóu §1644 (326)  
 blame, reproach, reprove 怨 yuàn §929 (189)  
 bland, weak 淡 dàn §1103 (223)  
 blister, bubble 泡 pào §858 (176)  
 blood 血 xiě §209 (53)  
 blossom, flower 花 huā §1017 (207)  
 blow, drift about 飘 piāo §2101 (413)  
 blow, puff 吹 chuī §492 (107)  
 blue 蓝 lán §240 (59)  
 board, plank 板 bǎn §1917 (378)  
 boast, exaggerate 夸 kuā §2252 (442)  
 boat, ship 舟 zhōu §597 (128)  
 body cavity 腔 qiāng §1220 (245)  
 body 身 shēn §1631 (323)  
 body\* 体 tǐ §989 (201)  
 bone 骨 gǔ §488 (106)  
 book 书 shū §223 (56)  
 book, booklet 册 cè §134 (39)  
 books, works 籍 jí §1320 (265)  
 border, boundary 际 jì §1065 (216)  
 borrow or lend 借 jiè §1300 (261)  
 both, two 两 liǎng §316 (74)  
 bottle, vase, pitcher 瓶 píng §2104 (414)  
 bottom, base 底 dǐ §2265 (444)  
 boundary 境 jìng §1194 (240)  
 boundary, scope 界 jiè §1699 (337)  
 bow (weapon) 弓 gōng §859 (176)  
 bow-wow 汪 wāng §526 (114)  
 bowl 碗 wǎn §1393 (278)  
 box, trunk, chest 箱 xiāng §494 (108)  
 brain 脑 nǎo §1902 (376)  
 to brake a car 刹 shā §1821 (360)  
 branch of study 科 kē §413 (91)  
 branch of tree 枝 zhī §1886 (372)  
 brandish 挥 huī §1434 (287)  
 brave 冒 mào §79 (26)  
 brave, valiant 勇 yǒng §1748 (346)  
 bravery, audacity 胆 dàn §1778 (352)  
 break up, distribute 散 sàn §2039 (402)  
 break, snap, cut 断 duàn §1132 (228)  
 breast, milk 乳 rǔ §2064 (407)  
 breast\*, milk\* 奶 nǎi §1604 (318)  
 breath, news 息 xī §912 (186)  
 breathe out 呵 hē §61 (22)  
 bridge 桥 qiáo §1702 (337)  
 bridge, roof beam 梁 liáng §1598 (317)  
 bridle, rein in 勒 lè §1581 (314)  
 bright, clear 明 míng §1724 (341)  
 bright, dazzling 耀 yào §1226 (247)  
 brightness, splendor 辉 huī §1432 (286)  
 brim over, overflow 漫 màn §1913 (377)  
 bring, band, belt 带 dài §283 (67)  
 broad, extensive 溥 pǔ §1738 (344)  
 brocade 锦 jǐn §1328 (266)  
 broken (stick, rope) 折 shé §120 (36)  
 broken 碎 suì §1390 (278)  
 broken, damaged 破 pò §1900 (375)  
 broom 帚 zhǒu §136 (18)  
 broom\* 帚 zhǒu §133 (39)  
 brush, scrub 刷 shuā §711 (148)  
 Buddha 佛 fó §1707 (338)

Buddha, kind-hearted person 萨 sà §1260 (253)

Buddhist temple 寺 sì §213 (54)

build 搭 dā §513 (111)

build, construct 筑 zhù §2091 (412)

build, fabricate 造 zào §2145 (421)

building, house 宇 yǔ §259 (63)

bundle, bunch 束 shù §394 (89)

bureau, office 局 jú §705 (147)

burn, cook, run a fever 烧 shāo §1261 (253)

burn, ignite 燃 rán §1272 (255)

burnt, scorched 焦 jiāo §1001 (203)

burst, break through 溃 kuì §567 (121)

bury 埋 mái §72 (25)

busy 忙 máng §935 (191)

but 但 dàn §965 (196)

button 纽 niǔ §811 (167)

to button 扣 kòu §59 (21)

buy 买 mǎi §340 (78)

buy, purchase 购 gòu §791 (163)

by chance 偶 ǒu §2212 (434)

cage, coop, basket 笼 lóng §1661 (329)

calculate, compute 算 suàn §1228 (247)

call to, name 称 chēng §1238 (249)

call, call out to 唤 huàn §469 (103)

call, convene 召 zhào §1552 (309)

can, able 能 néng §1740 (344)

can, may 堪 kān §1095 (221)

can; may 可 kě §60 (22)

cancer 癌 ái §698 (146)

cannon, firecracker 炮 pào §1253 (252)

canon, dictionary 典 diǎn §1308 (262)

capital city 京 jīng §1077 (218)

capture, catch 获 huò §1657 (328)

capture, take prisoner 俘 fú §1408 (282)

car 车 chē §1430 (286)

card 卡 kǎ §179 (47)

careful, cautious 谨 jǐn §1307 (262)

carry a burden 荷 hè §964 (196)

carry on your head 顶 dǐng §446 (99)

carry, take along 携 xié §1515 (302)

carry, take, lift 提 tí §238 (59)

carve, engrave 雕 diāo §1729 (342)

case, casket 函 hán §1847 (365)

castrate, spay 阉 yān §455 (101)

cat 猫 māo §905 (184)

catch birds with a net 罗 luó §663 (140)

to catch, capture 捉 zhuō §420 (94)

catch, seize 捕 bǔ §1733 (343)

category 属 shǔ §2216 (435)

cattail 蒲 pú §1735 (343)

catty 斤 jīn §118 (36)

cauldron for meat or cereal 鬲 lì §279 (66)

cautious, careful 慎 shèn §1059 (215)

cave, den, hole 穴 xué §1098 (222)

celebrate 庆 qìng §685 (143)

cereal grain stalk 稿 gǎo §412 (91)

cereal, grain 谷 gǔ §1060 (215)

ceremony, rite 礼 lǐ §2230 (437)

a certain river 洛 luò §2017 (397)

certain, may 某 mǒu §397 (89)

chair 椅 yǐ §408 (91)

change, alter 移 yí §669 (141)

change, transform 化 huà §1016 (206)

chant softly 哦 é §362 (82)

chant, recite 吟 yín §1380 (276)

chapter, section 章 zhāng §1198 (241)

character, word 字 zì §1415 (283)

chase, pursue 追 zhuī §2241 (440)

to chat 聊 liáo §1694 (336)

cheap 便 pián §1839 (363)

cheat, hoodwink 蒙 měng §1590 (316)

check, examine 检 jiǎn §1355 (271)

check, investigate 查 chá §390 (88)

cherish, value highly 惜 xī §1301 (261)

chest, bosom, thorax 胸 xiōng §1944 (383)

chicken 鸡 jī §1946 (383)

child 童 tóng §1186 (239)

child\* 孩 hái §2225 (437)

chilly, sad 凄 qī §614 (131)

choose, select 选 xuǎn §2147 (421)

choose\*, select\* 择 zé §1920 (378)

cinnamon 桂 guì §387 (87)

clan, race, tribe, group 族 zú §2269 (445)

clan, sect, faction 宗 zōng §1247 (251)

clap 拍 pāi §204 (52)

clause in document 款 kuǎn §1225 (247)

claw 爪 zhuǎ §2205 (432)

clean 洁 jié §528 (114)

clean, net (price) 净 jìng §578 (124)

clear 楚 chǔ §424 (94)

clear\*, bright\* 朗 lǎng §1938 (382)

clear, clear up 清 qīng §1753 (347)

clear, fine (of weather) 晴 qíng §1792 (354)

clear, obvious 昭 zhāo §1554 (309)

clever, ingenious 巧 qiǎo §2245 (440)

clever, sharp 灵 líng §1105 (223)

cliff, crag 岩 yán §1388 (278)

cling to, be near 巴 bā §2190 (430)

cloth 布 bù §1641 (325)

clothes, garment 服 fú §1868 (369)

clothing 衣 yī §839 (172)

cloud 云 yún §751 (155)

cluck 咕 gū §54 (21)

cluster 丛 cóng §315 (74)

coal 煤 méi §1269 (254)

coarse 粗 cū §1129 (228)

coerce, force 胁 xié §1572 (313)

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cold, glacial 寒 hán §1316 (264)

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comment, criticize 评 ping §1162 (234)

commerce, trade 贸 mào §1525 (304)

commonplace 凡 fán §2056 (405)

companion, partner 伴 bàn §1165 (234)

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comparatively 较 jiào §1816 (359)

compared with 比 bǐ §146 (41)

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compel, force, coerce 迫 pò §2156 (423)

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compensate, repay 偿 cháng §1265 (254)

compete, contend 竞 jìng §1192 (240)

compete, game, competition 赛 sài §1314 (263)

compile, edit 辑 jí §1440 (288)

complicated 繁 fán §2012 (397)  
 compute, calculate 计 jì §616 (131)  
 conceal, hide, latent 隐 yǐn §1925 (380)  
 concentrated, focused 专 zhuān §2247 (441)  
 confer, discuss 议 yì §1803 (356)  
 confuse 惑 huò §922 (188)  
 confuse, mix up 混 hùn §553 (119)  
 confused, be fascinated by 迷 mí §2163 (425)  
 congeal, curdle 凝 níng §1420 (284)  
 congratulate 贺 hè §1542 (307)  
 connect, introduce 绍 shào §1556 (309)  
 consent 俞 yú §1509 (301)  
 console, comfort 慰 wèi §1275 (256)  
 construct, form 构 gòu §788 (162)  
 consume, cost, dawdle 耗 hào §501 (109)  
 continent 洲 zhōu §1500 (299)  
 continue, extend, replenish 续 xù §831 (171)  
 continue, succeed, follow 继 jì §1241 (249)  
 contract, legal agreement 契 qì §1545 (308)  
 contract, shrink 缩 suō §968 (197)  
 control, manage 御 yù §1045 (212)  
 cooked rice 饭 fàn §2201 (432)  
 cool 凉 liáng §1078 (218)  
 copper 铜 tóng §1339 (268)  
 corpse 尸 shī §703 (147)  
 correct 正 zhèng §183 (48)  
 correct, rectify 纠 jiū §815 (167)  
 correct, right 对 duì §1797 (356)  
 correct, so 然 rán §798 (164)  
 corridor, path 甬 yǒng §1745 (345)  
 corrupt, venal 贪 tān §1371 (274)  
 cost, spend, expend 费 fèi §1708 (338)  
 cotton 棉 mián §508 (110)  
 count on, depend on 依 yī §1023 (208)  
 country 国 guó §222 (55)  
 county 县 xiàn §766 (158)  
 course, path 轨 guǐ §2108 (415)  
 courtyard 院 yuàn §742 (153)  
 cover\* 盖 gài §1126 (227)  
 cover, hide 掩 yǎn §456 (101)  
 cowrie 贝 bèi §430 (95)  
 craftsman 匠 jiàng §154 (42)  
 crawl, creep, scramble 爬 pá §2209 (434)  
 crime, guilt 罪 zuì §108 (34)  
 cross a river 济 jì §1808 (357)  
 cross out 勾 gōu §773 (159)  
 cross water, ferry across 渡 dù §1857 (367)  
 cross, go over 过 guò §2125 (418)  
 crow 乌 wū §886 (181)  
 crowd, jostle 挤 jǐ §1807 (357)  
 cruel, 'cool' 酷 kù §305 (71)  
 cry out 喊 hǎn §372 (84)  
 crystal 晶 jīng §76 (25)  
 cup 杯 bēi §1453 (290)  
 cup-shaped 斗 dòu §218 (55)  
 cupboard 柜 guì §386 (87)  
 cure, treat illness 疗 liáo §1417 (283)  
 curse, abuse 骂 mà §880 (179)  
 curtain, canopy 帐 zhàng §1625 (322)  
 cut apart, sever 割 gē §262 (63)  
 cut down 伐 fá §984 (199)  
 cut off, sever 截 jié §1082 (218)  
 cut off, sever, unique 绝 jué §2193 (430)  
 cut, cut cloth 裁 cài §846 (173)  
 cut, slice 切 qiē §1549 (308)

cypress 柏 bài §401 (90)  
 dad 爸 bà §2195 (431)  
 dance 舞 wǔ §1685 (334)  
 danger, imperil 危 wēi §862 (177)  
 dangerous 险 xiǎn §1352 (271)  
 to dare 敢 gǎn §1999 (393)  
 dark green 苍 cāng §866 (177)  
 dark, dim 暗 àn §1190 (239)  
 dash forward 突 tū §1239 (249)  
 daughter-in-law 媳 xī §913 (186)  
 dawn 旦 dàn §65 (22)  
 dawn, daybreak 晓 xiǎo §490 (106)  
 day, sun 日 rì §63 (22)  
 to dazzle 晃 huǎng §2115 (416)  
 debt 债 zhài §1030 (209)  
 deceive, cheat 欺 qī §1279 (257)  
 deceive, swindle 骗 piàn §894 (183)  
 decide 决 jué §571 (123)  
 decide\* 定 ding §248 (60)  
 declare, proclaim 宣 xuān §253 (61)  
 decline, wane, feeble 衰 shuāi §848 (173)  
 decoration, ornament 饰 shì §2203 (432)  
 decrease, lose 损 sǔn §442 (98)  
 dedicate oneself 扑 pū §171 (46)  
 deep 深 shēn §1100 (222)  
 degree, other small unit 度 dù §1856 (367)  
 denotes interrogation 何 hé §962 (196)  
 dense, thick 浓 nóng §844 (173)  
 depend upon 靠 kào §190 (49)  
 desert 漠 mò §543 (117)  
 desolate 荒 huāng §1497 (299)  
 desolate, bleak 萧 xiāo §1716 (340)  
 destroy, ruin 毁 huǐ §2278 (447)  
 detailed 详 xiáng §1152 (232)  
 determine, make a judgment 参 tuàn §1602 (318)  
 devil, evil spirit, monster 魔 mó §1595 (316)  
 dew 露 lù §2038 (402)  
 diagnose 诊 zhěn §1293 (259)  
 dialect, vernacular 话 huà §626 (133)  
 diction 辞 cí §1201 (242)  
 die, pass away 死 sǐ §667 (140)  
 different, special 殊 shū §670 (141)  
 different, strange, unusual 异 yì §1683 (334)  
 difficult, arduous 艰 jiān §1959 (386)  
 difficult, hard 难 nán §1870 (369)  
 dig, excavate 挖 wā §2063 (406)  
 diligent, hardworking 勤 qín §1622 (322)  
 direction, way 道 dào §2126 (418)  
 director 董 dòng §229 (57)  
 dirt, dust 埃 āi §793 (163)  
 dirty, filthy, foul 污 wū §562 (121)  
 disappear, vanish 消 xiāo §1233 (248)  
 disaster, calamity 灾 zāi §1266 (254)  
 discard, abandon, give up 弃 qì §2226 (437)  
 discharge gas or liquid 泄 xiè §531 (115)  
 disciple, pupil, follower 徒 tú §1043 (212)  
 discuss, study 讨 tǎo §624 (133)  
 discuss, talk 论 lùn §632 (134)  
 disease 症 zhèng §699 (146)  
 disease\* 疾 jí §700 (146)  
 disease, fall sick 病 bìng §701 (147)  
 disgrace, insult 辱 rǔ §1851 (366)  
 dish, course, veggies 菜 cài §1349 (270)  
 dish, current market price 盘 pán §610 (130)

- dislike, mind 嫌 xián §603 (129)  
 dismiss, fire, exempt 免 miǎn §477 (104)  
 disobey, violate 违 wéi §2164 (425)  
 distant, far 攸 yōu §2003 (395)  
 distant, far, remote 遥 yáo §2175 (427)  
 distinguish between 辨 biàn §1222 (246)  
 disturb, bother 扰 rǎo §1645 (326)  
 divide, separate 分 fēn §1490 (297)  
 do not 勿 wù §1424 (284)  
 do not, must not 别 bié §1548 (308)  
 do not, not 莫 mò §349 (80)  
 do obeisance, salute 拜 bài §28 (15)  
 do, accomplish 为 wéi §1493 (298)  
 do, make 做 zuò §1994 (393)  
 to do, make 作 zuò §1446 (289)  
 do, manage, set up 办 bàn §1550 (308)  
 do, work, manage, etc 搞 gǎo §276 (65)  
 dog 犬 quǎn §332 (77)  
 dog\* 狗 gǒu §903 (184)  
 dollar 元 yuán §293 (59)  
 domestic animal 牲 shēng §194 (50)  
 door 门 mén §196 (51)  
 door\* 户 hù §725 (150)  
 dose (medical) 剂 jì §1954 (386)  
 dot 点 diǎn §797 (164)  
 double, twice 兼 jiān §470 (103)  
 doubt, suspect 疑 yí §1416 (283)  
 dragon 龙 lóng §1649 (327)  
 dragonfly 蜓 tíng §2185 (429)  
 drama, play, show 戏 xì §1924 (380)  
 draw together 括 kuò §226 (56)  
 draw up, agree on 订 dìng §617 (131)  
 draw 画 huà §156 (43)  
 draw, paint 绘 huì §823 (169)  
 draw, pull 挽 wǎn §478 (104)  
 dream 梦 mèng §668 (141)  
 dress up as, disguise as 扮 bàn §1512 (302)  
 drift, float 漂 piāo §1069 (216)  
 drill, bore 钻 zuān §1338 (268)  
 drill, exercise 操 cāo §396 (89)  
 to drink 喝 hē §649 (138)  
 drip 滴 dī §1207 (243)  
 drive (carriage, horse) 驱 qū §1830 (362)  
 droop 垂 chuí §285 (68)  
 to drop, fall 掉 diào §185 (48)  
 drum, rouse 鼓 gǔ §1887 (372)  
 drunk 醉 zuì §451 (100)  
 dry 干 gān §10 (10)  
 duckweed 萍 píng §1163 (234)  
 dusk 昏 hūn §2261 (444)  
 dust, dirt 尘 chén §1071 (217)  
 duty, job 职 zhí §1088 (219)  
 to dye 染 rǎn §2055 (405)  
 dynasty 朝 cháo §1761 (348)  
 each and every 皆 jiē §235 (58)  
 each time 逢 féng §2132 (419)  
 each, every 各 gè §2015 (397)  
 eagle 鹰 yīng §1006 (204)  
 ear 耳 ěr §82 (26)  
 early morning 卯 mǎo §1522 (303)  
 earth, ground 地 dì §141 (40)  
 earth, soil 土 tǔ §9 (10)  
 east 东 dōng §1429 (286)  
 easy 易 yì §1427 (285)  
 eat 吃 chī §2110 (415)  
 eat\* 食 shí §1905 (376)  
 eat, meal 餐 cān §1950 (385)  
 economize, be frugal 省 shěng §1478 (295)  
 edition, newspaper page 版 bǎn §1864 (368)  
 egg roll, roll up 卷 juǎn §1365 (273)  
 egg 蛋 dàn §896 (183)  
 eight 八 bā §1048 (213)  
 elder brother 哥 gē §62 (22)  
 elder brother\* 兄 xiōng §298 (70)  
 elder brother\*\* 昆 kūn §149 (41)  
 eldest among brothers 孟 mèng §1411 (282)  
 electricity 电 diàn §138 (40)  
 elegant 雅 yǎ §1474 (294)  
 elephant 象 xiàng §1517 (302)  
 embellish, decorate 修 xiū §2032 (401)  
 to embrace, hold 拥 yōng §1731 (343)  
 emperor 皇 huáng §207 (53)  
 emperor\* 帝 dì §1204 (242)  
 employ 雇 gù §1004 (204)  
 employee 员 yuán §440 (97)  
 empty 空 kōng §1219 (245)  
 empty, unoccupied 虚 xū §2096 (413)  
 encircle 环 huán §1455 (291)  
 encounter, by chance 遭 zāo §2159 (424)  
 encourage, exhort 励 lì §1614 (320)  
 end, extremity 端 duān §1196 (241)  
 end, finish 终 zhōng §1976 (390)  
 to end, stop 艾 ài §1818 (359)  
 end, tip 末 mò §383 (86)  
 endow, bestow 赋 fù §503 (109)  
 enemy, foe 敌 dí §1995 (393)  
 engrave, carve 刻 kè §2222 (436)  
 enjoy 享 xiǎng §1403 (281)  
 enlarge 扩 kuò §682 (143)  
 enlighten, guide 迪 dì §2166 (425)  
 enmesh, wind 络 luò §2019 (398)  
 enter 进 jìn §2128 (418)  
 enter, advance 晋 jìn §1123 (227)  
 enter, receive, take in 入 rù §482 (105)  
 entire 全 quán §326 (76)  
 entirely 俱 jù §1057 (214)  
 entreat 央 yāng §353 (81)  
 enumeration 哩 lǐ §74 (25)  
 envy, be jealous 忌 jì §920 (187)  
 epidemic, plague 疫 yì §2105 (415)  
 equal, even 均 jūn §638 (135)  
 -er 者 zhě §1460 (292)  
 erect, stand 立 lì §1179 (238)  
 error, incongruous 舛 chuǎn §1684 (334)  
 escape, flee 逃 táo §2157 (424)  
 establish, set up 建 jiàn §2180 (428)  
 estimate 估 gū §958 (195)  
 ethnic Chinese 汉 hàn §1906 (376)  
 Europe 欧 ōu §1915 (378)  
 even more 更 gèng §1838 (363)  
 evening 晚 wǎn §479 (104)  
 evening, dusk 夕 xī §655 (139)  
 evenly divided 匀 yún §637 (135)  
 every 每 měi §600 (128)  
 evidence, proof 证 zhèng §622 (132)  
 evil 恶 è §1120 (226)  
 evil, odd 邪 xié §1574 (313)  
 evil, treacherous 奸 jiān §583 (125)  
 evil, vicious 歹 dǎi §657 (139)  
 exactly, properly 恰 qià §938 (191)  
 examine, check 验 yàn §1356 (272)  
 examine, go over 审 shěn §252 (61)

example, instance 例 lì §990 (201)  
 exceed 越 yuè §475 (104)  
 excellent, praise 嘉 jiā §1538 (307)  
 excellent, superior 优 yōu §1647 (326)  
 exchange, convert 兑 duì §1049 (213)  
 exchange, trade 换 huàn §468 (103)  
 execute, carry out 施 shī §2273 (446)  
 exert, strive 努 nǔ §1929 (381)  
 exhale 呼 hū §1159 (233)  
 exhort, urge, persuade 劝 quàn §1955 (386)  
 exit 出 chū §22 (14)  
 expand, develop 展 zhǎn §842 (172)  
 expensive 贵 guì §437 (96)  
 experience 历 lì §1559 (311)  
 explode, burst 炸 zhà §1448 (289)  
 explode, burst, quick-fry 爆 bào §1313 (263)  
 express add'l but contrasting info 而 ér §83 (26)  
 express good wishes 祝 zhù §2232 (438)  
 express 申 shēn §47 (19)  
 exquisitely made 玲 líng §1374 (274)  
 extensive 广 guǎng §686 (144)  
 extensive, vast 恢 huī §1653 (327)  
 external, surface 表 biǎo §841 (172)  
 extinguish 灭 miè §1104 (223)  
 extremely, extremity 极 jí §1861 (368)  
 eye 目 mù §78 (26)  
 eye, aperture 眼 yǎn §1871 (370)  
 eyeball 睛 jīng §1755 (347)  
 eyebrow 眉 méi §723 (150)  
 to face 向 xiàng §266 (64)  
 face, aspect 面 miàn §84 (27)  
 face, countenance 脸 liǎn §1763 (348)  
 face, overlook 临 lín §239 (59)  
 factory 厂 chǎng §672 (141)  
 fake, phony, false 假 jiǎ §1903 (376)  
 fall forward 仆 pū §976 (198)  
 fall into, get bogged down 陷 xiàn §2277 (446)  
 fall, drop behind 落 luò §2018 (398)  
 fall, tumble 跌 diē §949 (193)  
 fallow fields 菜 láo §1130 (228)  
 false, fake, bogus 伪 wěi §1621 (321)  
 family name 姓 xìng §587 (125)  
 fan, leaf 扇 shàn §728 (151)  
 fantasy 幻 huàn §794 (163)  
 far, distant 远 yuǎn §2146 (421)  
 fast 快 kuài §936 (191)  
 fast, speed 速 sù §2149 (422)  
 fat, fertile, rich 肥 féi §2196 (431)  
 fat, stout, plump 胖 pàng §1223 (246)  
 father 父 fù §1812 (358)  
 father's elder brother 伯 bó §970 (197)  
 fear 畏 wèi §2206 (432)  
 fear, be afraid 怖 bù §1660 (328)  
 to fear, be afraid 怕 pà §934 (190)  
 to fear, dread 惧 jù §1056 (214)  
 feather, wing 羽 yǔ §123 (37)  
 feed (animals) 饲 sì §2199 (431)  
 feed 喂 wèi §2207 (432)  
 feel attached to 恋 liàn §1118 (226)  
 feel, sense 感 gǎn §925 (188)  
 feminine principle in nature 阴 yīn §1772 (351)  
 ferry crossing 津 jīn §556 (120)  
 fertile, rich 沃 wò §566 (121)

festival 节 jié §114 (35)  
 fetus, baby 胎 tāi §770 (158)  
 few, little 少 shǎo §1475 (295)  
 fiber, hold together 维 wéi §1026 (208)  
 field 田 tián §57 (21)  
 fiendish, ferocious 凶 xiōng §1831 (362)  
 fierce, valiant 猛 měng §1418 (283)  
 files, archives 档 dàng §1344 (269)  
 filial 孝 xiào §1465 (293)  
 fill in, stuff 填 tián §1258 (252)  
 fill, full 充 chōng §772 (159)  
 to fill, ladle 盛 chéng §370 (84)  
 fill, stuff in 塞 sāi §1315 (264)  
 filthy 脏 zāng §1721 (341)  
 fine jade 琼 qióng §1084 (219)  
 fine, beautiful 佳 jiā §957 (194)  
 finger 指 zhǐ §144 (41)  
 finish, complete 完 wán §296 (70)  
 finish, conclude 毕 bì §148 (41)  
 fire 火 huǒ §1101 (223)  
 firewood 柴 chái §459 (101)  
 firm, business 行 háng §1035 (209)  
 first in a series 甲 jiǎ §50 (20)  
 first 先 xiān §300 (70)  
 fish 鱼 yú §485 (105)  
 fisherman 渔 yú §561 (120)  
 fist 拳 quán §1153 (232)  
 five 五 wǔ §19 (12)  
 5-man squad 伍 wǔ §961 (196)  
 flat 坦 tǎn §66 (23)  
 flat, crushed 扁 biǎn §729 (151)  
 flat, level, even 平 píng §1160 (233)  
 flesh, muscle 肌 jī §2060 (406)  
 flick, pluck, play instrument 弹 tán §1242 (249)  
 float 浮 fú §1409 (282)  
 float, suffused with, non-specific 泛 fàn §1943 (383)  
 flourishing 昌 chāng §69 (24)  
 flourishing, thriving 勃 bó §1619 (321)  
 flow, drift 流 liú §2219 (436)  
 to flower, put forth ears of grain 秀 xiù §1593 (316)  
 to fly 飞 fēi §2043 (403)  
 fog, mist 雾 wù §2025 (399)  
 -fold 倍 bèi §1197 (241)  
 follow, abide by 循 xún §1046 (212)  
 follow, comply with, as soon as 随 suí §2148 (421)  
 foolish, stupid 呆 dāi §393 (88)  
 foot soldier 卒 zú §450 (100)  
 foot 足 zú §419 (93)  
 foot, leg, base 脚 jiǎo §1766 (349)  
 footprint, trace, tracks 踪 zōng §1249 (251)  
 for, on behalf of 替 tì §347 (80)  
 force, press on towards 逼 bī §2169 (426)  
 ford a stream 冯 píng §884 (181)  
 forehead 额 é §2024 (399)  
 forest 林 lín §376 (85)  
 foretell 卜 bù §170 (45)  
 forever, always 永 yǒng §560 (120)  
 forget 忘 wàng §914 (187)  
 form, shape 形 xíng §1681 (333)  
 form, shape, state of things 状 zhuàng §2257 (442)  
 former times, past 昔 xī §1298 (260)

- fortress 堡 bǎo §988 (201)  
 foundation, site 址 zhǐ §242 (59)  
 four 四 sì §289 (69)  
 fourth 丁 dīng §25 (15)  
 fragile, brittle 脆 cuì §863 (177)  
 fragile, frail 娇 jiāo §1701 (337)  
 fragrant 香 xiāng §411 (91)  
 fragrant, virtuous (name) 芳 fāng §1624 (322)  
 frequently, repeatedly 频 pín §1620 (321)  
 fresh, new 鲜 xiān §1255 (252)  
 friend 朋 péng §1741 (345)  
 friend, associate 友 yǒu §1798 (356)  
 frighten 吓 xià §180 (47)  
 from 从 cóng §313 (73)  
 fruit 果 guǒ §388 (87)  
 full of trees 森 sēn §377 (85)  
 full, complete 满 mǎn §541 (116)  
 full, overflowing 弥 mí §1284 (257)  
 full, satiated 饱 bǎo §2198 (431)  
 gain, win 赢 yíng §2065 (407)  
 gallop, prance 腾 téng §1785 (353)  
 garden 园 yuán §294 (69)  
 gasp for breath 喘 chuǎn §90 (29)  
 gather together 汇 huì §532 (115)  
 gather, collect 集 jí §1003 (203)  
 gather, unite 统 tǒng §824 (169)  
 gathering place, field 场 chǎng §1546 (308)  
 general, universal 普 pǔ §1124 (227)  
 generation 世 shì §106 (33)  
 Germany 德 dé §1039 (211)  
 get along with sb 处 chù §1972 (389)  
 get mad 恼 nǎo §1832 (362)  
 ghost, spirit 鬼 guǐ §1591 (316)  
 giggle 嘻 xī §1170 (236)  
 to girdle 佩 pèi §2100 (413)  
 give a present 送 sòng §2152 (422)  
 give birth to 生 shēng §191 (50)  
 give birth to\* 产 chǎn §1221 (246)  
 give or take a test 考 kǎo §2250 (441)  
 give up 舍 shě §328 (76)  
 give 给 gěi §819 (168)  
 give\* 予 yǔ §763 (157)  
 give\*\* 与 yǔ §645 (136)  
 give, present 奉 fèng §1363 (273)  
 glad to, enjoy 乐 lè §1240 (249)  
 glass 玻 bō §1894 (373)  
 glazed tile 璃 lí §2214 (435)  
 glory, splendor 华 huá §1018 (207)  
 go against, disobey 逆 nì §2129 (418)  
 go back, return 归 guī §1689 (335)  
 go on a journey 征 zhēng §1037 (210)  
 go to, attend 赴 fù §423 (94)  
 go 去 qù §754 (156)  
 goblin, demon 妖 yāo §588 (125)  
 god, divinity 神 shén §2235 (439)  
 gold 金 jīn §1157 (233)  
 good fortune 福 fú §2231 (438)  
 good, fine 良 liáng §1873 (370)  
 good, kind 善 shàn §1149 (232)  
 good, OK 好 hào §1405 (281)  
 goods 货 huò §1019 (207)  
 gorge, canyon 峡 xiá §1281 (257)  
 gourd 芦 lú §712 (148)  
 government office 署 shǔ §1463 (292)  
 government official 官 guān §2239 (439)  
 government, political 政 zhèng §1992 (392)  
 grab, seize, arrest 抓 zhuā §2208 (433)  
 gradually 渐 jiàn §1438 (287)  
 grain, food, provisions 粮 liáng §1940 (382)  
 grain, granule, pellet 粒 lì §1280 (257)  
 grandpa 爷 yé §1813 (358)  
 grandson 孙 sūn §1410 (282)  
 grasp 执 zhí §2050 (404)  
 grasp, hold 持 chí §214 (54)  
 grass 草 cǎo §95 (30)  
 gray, ash 灰 huī §1652 (327)  
 great, grand 宏 hóng §1654 (327)  
 great, imposing 伟 wěi §981 (199)  
 green jade 碧 bì §1387 (277)  
 green 绿 lǜ §825 (169)  
 to grind 研 yán §1676 (332)  
 guard against, warn 戒 jiè §1686 (334)  
 guard, defend against 防 fáng §1561 (311)  
 guard, defend 守 shǒu §254 (61)  
 guard, protect 卫 wèi §113 (35)  
 guess 猜 cāi §1757 (347)  
 guest accommodation 馆 guǎn §2242 (440)  
 guest, visitor 宾 bīn §1539 (307)  
 guide, lead 导 dǎo §871 (178)  
 guide, lead, induce 诱 yòu §1594 (316)  
 guiding principle 纲 gāng §1827 (361)  
 gulf, bay 湾 wān §1578 (314)  
 gush, well up 涌 yǒng §1747 (346)  
 hair 毛 máo §231 (57)  
 halberd 戈 gē §359 (82)  
 half, semi 半 bàn §1164 (234)  
 hall, front courtyard 庭 tíng §2184 (429)  
 hall, palace, temple 殿 diàn §2092 (412)  
 halt, stay 驻 zhù §882 (180)  
 hamlet 村 cūn §407 (91)  
 hand over, transmit 递 dì §2167 (425)  
 hand 手 shǒu §27 (15)  
 hand, also 又 yòu §1796 (355)  
 handkerchief 帕 pà §205 (52)  
 handle a matter 将 jiāng §1488 (297)  
 handsome 帅 shuài §1690 (335)  
 handsome\* 俊 jùn §1965 (388)  
 handsome, graceful 曼 màn §1912 (377)  
 handsome, talented 隽 juàn §1514 (302)  
 hang 挂 guà §30 (16)  
 hang, suspend 吊 diào §131 (38)  
 happy 欣 xīn §497 (108)  
 happy, joyful 愉 yú §1510 (301)  
 happy, pleased 欢 huān §1908 (377)  
 harbor, port 港 gǎng §1311 (263)  
 hard pressed 困 kùn §395 (89)  
 hard, firm, strong 刚 gāng §1826 (361)  
 hard, solid 坚 jiān §1853 (366)  
 hard, stiff 硬 yìng §1840 (363)  
 hardworking 辛 xīn §1200 (242)  
 harm, injure 害 hài §250 (61)  
 harmonize, cooperate, assist 协 xié §1571 (313)  
 harness, draw a cart 驾 jià §1541 (307)  
 harsh, severe, serious 厉 lì §678 (142)  
 hasten 贲 bēn §433 (96)  
 hasten, hurry 趋 qū §495 (108)  
 hasty 匆 cōng §1508 (301)  
 hat 帽 mào §132 (38)  
 hat, cap 冠 guān §297 (70)  
 hate 恨 hèn §1878 (371)

hatred 仇 chóu §2048 (403)  
 have a rest 歇 xiē §652 (138)  
 have fun, amuse oneself 玩 wán §295 (70)  
 have jurisdiction over 辖 xiá §1626 (322)  
 have not yet 未 wèi §381 (86)  
 have not 没 méi §2054 (405)  
 have sb do sth 使 shǐ §1837 (363)  
 have 有 yǒu §1725 (342)  
 hay for fodder 刍 chú §462 (102)  
 he 他 tā §1015 (206)  
 he, she 伊 yī §1711 (339)  
 head for 奔 bēn §1671 (331)  
 head 头 tóu §339 (78)  
 head, leader 首 shǒu §1167 (235)  
 healthy, peaceful, abundant 康 kāng §692 (145)  
 healthy, strong 健 jiàn §2181 (428)  
 to heap up 堆 duī §993 (202)  
 hear, listen 听 tīng §119 (36)  
 hear, smell 闻 wén §200 (51)  
 heart 心 xīn §907 (185)  
 heaven 天 tiān §333 (77)  
 heavy 重 zhòng §228 (57)  
 to help 帮 bāng §747 (154)  
 help, aid, assist 援 yuán §1933 (381)  
 help, assist, aid 助 zhù §1564 (312)  
 hemp, pocked, pitted 麻 má §694 (145)  
 herd 牧 mù §1996 (393)  
 herd, crowd, flock 群 qún §1713 (339)  
 hero 英 yīng §354 (81)  
 heroic 侠 xiá §1178 (237)  
 hey! 哎 āi §1819 (360)  
 hide 潜 qián §542 (117)  
 hide, conceal 藏 cáng §945 (193)  
 hide, dodge, avoid 躲 duǒ §2103 (414)  
 hideous 丑 chǒu §37 (18)  
 high mountain peak 岳 yuè §122 (36)  
 high 高 gāo §275 (65)  
 hinder, block 阻 zǔ §738 (152)  
 hinder, impede 妨 fāng §1536 (306)  
 hinder, obstruct 碍 ài §1391 (278)  
 his, her, its, theirs 其 qí §1093 (221)  
 historical record 纪 jì §856 (175)  
 history 史 shǐ §1835 (363)  
 hit 打 dǎ §33 (17)  
 hog, pig 猪 zhū §1586 (315)  
 hold in the palm 托 tuō §236 (58)  
 hold one's breath 屏 bǐng §1679 (333)  
 hold or carry in arms 抱 bào §876 (179)  
 hold or grasp 把 bǎ §2191 (430)  
 hold your head high 昂 áng §161 (44)  
 hold, grasp, shake hands 握 wò §784 (162)  
 hole, aperture 孔 kǒng §1412 (282)  
 hole, cavity 洞 dòng §533 (115)  
 home 家 jiā §1426 (285)  
 honest and upright 廉 lián §691 (144)  
 honest, sincere 诚 chéng §630 (134)  
 honor, venerate 尊 zūn §1214 (244)  
 honorable 荣 róng §402 (90)  
 hope 希 xī §1823 (360)  
 horizontal stroke 横 héng §1306 (262)  
 horn, corner, angle 角 jiǎo §1749 (346)  
 horse 马 mǎ §878 (179)  
 hot, fervent 热 rè §2076 (409)  
 house 房 fáng §1560 (311)

house, room 屋 wū §783 (161)  
 how can one help? 奈 nài §1215 (244)  
 how come? why? 怎 zěn §917 (187)  
 how could it be? 岂 qǐ §854 (174)  
 how, why 怎 zěn §1449 (289)  
 how, why, when 焉 yān §647 (137)  
 huge 巨 jù §18 (12)  
 huh? what? 么 me §1422 (284)  
 huh? 乎 hū §1158 (233)  
 hum, croon 哼 hēng §1401 (280)  
 human relationship 伦 lún §1020 (207)  
 Hunan province (abbrev) 湘 xiāng §548 (118)  
 hundred (fraudproof) 佰 bǎi §966 (197)  
 hundred million 亿 yì §2095 (412)  
 hundred 百 bǎi §203 (52)  
 hungry 饿 è §2200 (431)  
 hunt, chase 猎 liè §1321 (265)  
 I (woman's form) 妾 qiè §1184 (238)  
 I 我 wǒ §361 (82)  
 ice 冰 bīng §577 (124)  
 idea, meaning 意 yì §1191 (240)  
 idle 闲 xián §400 (90)  
 if, in case 倘 tǎng §1145 (231)  
 imitate 效 xiào §2000 (394)  
 imitate, copy, resemble 仿 fǎng §1601 (318)  
 immortal 仙 xiān §969 (197)  
 impatient, anxious 急 jí §1904 (376)  
 imperial court 廷 tíng §2183 (429)  
 imperial edict 敕 chì §2004 (395)  
 imperial robes 袞 gūn §254 (254)  
 impoverished, exhausted 穷 qióng §1607 (319)  
 in advance 预 yù §786 (162)  
 in an instant 顷 qǐng §458 (101)  
 in disorder 乱 luàn §232 (57)  
 in the direction of 顺 shùn §1496 (298)  
 in the direction of, toward 往 wǎng §1041 (211)  
 in the end 竟 jìng §1193 (240)  
 in; at; to 于 yú §26 (15)  
 inch 寸 cùn §210 (53)  
 incline, lean 倾 qīng §1021 (207)  
 inclined to one side 偏 piān §1027 (208)  
 inclined to 侧 cè §1011 (205)  
 incomplete, deficient 残 cán §666 (140)  
 increase 添 tiān §1080 (218)  
 increase, add 增 zēng §1173 (236)  
 incredible 玄 xuán §776 (159)  
 indicates continuing progress 着 zhe §1665 (330)  
 indicates sth just happened 才 cái §1467 (293)  
 indication of excitement, doubt 啦 la §1181 (238)  
 inferior 亚 yà §1119 (226)  
 inferior, low quality 劣 liè §1533 (306)  
 initiate, inaugurate 创 chuàng §869 (178)  
 injure, wound 伤 shāng §1568 (312)  
 ink, ink stick 墨 mò §805 (166)  
 inquire 询 xún §641 (136)  
 insect 虫 chóng §890 (182)  
 insert, stick in 插 chā §2279 (447)  
 inside 里 lǐ §71 (24)  
 inside\* 内 nèi §318 (74)  
 inspect, scrutinize 察 chá §1891 (373)  
 inspect, supervise 监 jiān §237 (59)  
 to instruct, exhort 咐 fù §972 (198)  
 instruct, teach 授 shòu §1867 (369)



- intelligence, wisdom 慧 huì §921 (188)  
 intelligent 聪 cōng §1054 (214)  
 an intensifier 并 bīng §1677 (333)  
 intention, meaning 旨 zhǐ §143 (41)  
 intercalary month 闰 rùn §199 (51)  
 interesting, to interest 趣 qù §1927 (380)  
 interrogatory particle 耶 yē §749 (154)  
 intestines 肠 cháng §1526 (304)  
 introduce 介 jiè §1697 (336)  
 invade 侵 qīn §1022 (207)  
 invite, request 邀 yāo §2136 (420)  
 iron 铁 tiě §1333 (267)  
 is 是 shì §184 (48)  
 island 岛 dǎo §888 (182)  
 it hurts! 疼 téng §1975 (390)  
 it 它 tā §249 (60)  
 jade tablet 圭 guī §14 (11)  
 jade 玉 yù §221 (55)  
 jasmine 茉莉 lì §418 (93)  
 join together 配 pèi §861 (176)  
 join, link 连 lián §2134 (419)  
 join; combine 合 hé §325 (75)  
 judge, decide 判 pàn §1666 (330)  
 jump 跳 tiào §2118 (417)  
 just as, just like 犹 yóu §1656 (328)  
 just now, only 甫 fǔ §1732 (343)  
 justice, righteousness 义 yì §1794 (355)  
 katydid 莎 shā §1480 (295)  
 keep in the mouth 含 hán §1381 (276)  
 key (lock, computer) 键 jiàn §2182 (428)  
 kill 杀 shā §1820 (360)  
 kill, massacre 刘 liú §1805 (357)  
 kind 番 fān §1323 (265)  
 kind, benevolent, gentle 惠 huì §928 (189)  
 kind, type, class 类 lèi §1134 (229)  
 kindness, favor 恩 ēn §916 (187)  
 kinds of grasses 卉 huì §1670 (331)  
 king 王 wáng §11 (11)  
 Kingdom of Wu 吴 wú §336 (77)  
 kingdom of Zhao 赵 zhào §1822 (360)  
 kiss 吻 wěn §1511 (301)  
 knife 刀 dāo §1489 (297)  
 know 知 zhī §428 (95)  
 know, learn 悉 xī §1325 (266)  
 know, recognize 识 shí §1089 (219)  
 kudzu vine 葛 gé §650 (138)  
 labor, work 工 gōng §7 (10)  
 lack, short of 差 chà §1663 (330)  
 ladder 梯 tī §1628 (322)  
 lake 湖 hú §1768 (350)  
 lamp, light 灯 dēng §1107 (223)  
 lance, pike, spear 矛 máo §1612 (320)  
 land, continent 陆 lù §741 (153)  
 lane, alley 巷 xiàng §1310 (263)  
 language 语 yǔ §618 (131)  
 language, culture 文 wén §1804 (357)  
 late, tardy 迟 chí §2165 (425)  
 lattice, grid 格 gé §2020 (398)  
 laugh, smile 笑 xiào §473 (104)  
 law 辟 pì §1256 (252)  
 law, rule 律 lǜ §1040 (211)  
 law, statute, constitution 宪 xiàn §309 (72)  
 layer, story, floor 层 céng §787 (162)  
 le 了 le §1399 (279)  
 lead (metal) 铅 qiān §2078 (409)  
 lead along by holding sth 牵 qiān §344 (79)  
 lead to, go to 通 tōng §2137 (420)  
 lead, guide 引 yǐn §872 (178)  
 leaf 叶 yè §52 (20)  
 lean on, rely on 凭 píng §2098 (413)  
 leap, jump 跃 yuè §947 (193)  
 leather 韦 wéi §115 (35)  
 leather, skin 皮 pí §1842 (364)  
 leave, depart 离 lí §2213 (435)  
 lecture, train, teach 训 xùn §1588 (315)  
 left 左 zuǒ §1636 (324)  
 leg 腿 tuǐ §2141 (420)  
 legendary emperor 尧 yáo §374 (85)  
 let droop, hang down 低 dī §2266 (445)  
 let sb do sth 由 yóu §48 (19)  
 let's do this (particle) 吧 ba §2194 (431)  
 letter 信 xìn §979 (199)  
 level, rank, grade 级 jí §1860 (367)  
 lie down 躺 tāng §1632 (323)  
 lie down, crouch (animals) 卧 wò §178 (47)  
 life, fate 命 mìng §517 (112)  
 lifetime 辈 bèi §1435 (287)  
 to lift 举 jǔ §1213 (244)  
 light, agile 轻 qīng §1441 (288)  
 light, bright 亮 liàng §2088 (411)  
 light, ray 光 guāng §1116 (225)  
 lightning 闪 shǎn §322 (75)  
 like, happy 喜 xǐ §1169 (236)  
 like, similar to 肖 xiào §1231 (248)  
 link up 贯 guàn §438 (97)  
 lip 唇 chún §1852 (366)  
 liquid, fluid 液 yè §1949 (385)  
 listless, dejected 委 wěi §593 (126)  
 lithe, graceful 娜 nuó §1781 (352)  
 litigation 讼 sòng §1092 (221)  
 to live 住 zhù §980 (199)  
 to live, alive 活 huó §534 (115)  
 liver 肝 gān §1787 (353)  
 livestock 畜 chù §777 (159)  
 loan, borrow 贷 dài §1032 (209)  
 loathe, detest 厌 yàn §675 (142)  
 located at 在 zài §1458 (291)  
 lock up, lock 锁 suǒ §1343 (269)  
 lofty 崔 cuī §996 (202)  
 lonely, quiet 寂 jì §1960 (387)  
 long time 久 jiǔ §1484 (296)  
 long, fine hair 毫 háo §1705 (338)  
 long, length 长 cháng §1423 (284)  
 longevity 寿 shòu §1364 (273)  
 look at 瞧 qiào §1002 (203)  
 look at, display 览 lǎn §306 (71)  
 look at, see 看 kàn §1466 (293)  
 look at, watch, observe 观 guān §1883 (372)  
 look for, explore 探 tàn §1099 (222)  
 look up 仰 yǎng §1009 (204)  
 looks, appearance 姿 zī §598 (128)  
 lose 失 shī §427 (95)  
 lose, be defeated 败 bài §1998 (393)  
 lose, leave behind 遗 yí §2154 (422)  
 lose, misplace 丢 diū §761 (157)  
 loss, unfair treatment 亏 kuī §2251 (441)  
 love 爱 ài §2121 (417)  
 low, inferior 卑 bēi §1486 (297)  
 lower, reduce 减 jiǎn §573 (123)  
 loyal 忠 zhōng §910 (186)  
 luck, good fortune 幸 xìng §1146 (231)

- lucky 吉 jí §56 (21)  
 lucky, good 藏 zāng §944 (192)  
 lukewarm, to warm up 温 wēn §536 (115)  
 lump 块 kuài §519 (113)  
 lush 都 yù §1743 (345)  
 luxuriant 菲 fēi §99 (31)  
 m for coins, small objects 枚 méi §2010 (396)  
 m for correspondence 封 fēng §212 (54)  
 m for flowers 朵 duǒ §2102 (414)  
 m for items, things, etc 件 jiàn §977 (198)  
 m for kinds 种 zhǒng §415 (93)  
 m for meals 顿 dùn §484 (105)  
 m for persons (polite) 位 wèi §1183 (238)  
 m for ships and vessels 艘 sōu §1988 (392)  
 m for small, roundish things 颗 kē §449 (100)  
 m for trees, cabbages, etc 棵 kē §389 (88)  
 m for vehicles 辆 liàng §1436 (287)  
 machine 机 jī §2052 (404)  
 machinery, mechanical 械 xiè §1687 (334)  
 mad, crazy, conceited 狂 kuáng §902 (184)  
 mad, insane 疯 fēng §2070 (408)  
 make a noise 闹 nào §274 (65)  
 make a sound 响 xiǎng §267 (64)  
 to make even 齐 qí §1806 (357)  
 make the utmost effort 竭 jié §1205 (243)  
 make, do, manage 弄 nòng §1669 (331)  
 make, manufacture 制 zhì §187 (49)  
 male elder relative 丈 zhàng §1833 (362)  
 male principle, heaven 乾 qián §2111 (416)  
 male 男 nán §1565 (312)  
 male, mighty 雄 xióng §1655 (328)  
 man (spiffy) 夫 fū §337 (78)  
 man 人 rén §311 (73)  
 manage, administer 治 zhì §769 (158)  
 mansion 府 fǔ §973 (198)  
 many, much 多 duō §656 (139)  
 to mark, label 标 biāo §1066 (216)  
 mark, trace 痕 hén §1846 (365)  
 mark, trace, remains 迹 jì §2162 (425)  
 market 市 shì §273 (65)  
 marks completed action 矣 yǐ §792 (163)  
 marsh grass 薛 xuē §1218 (245)  
 marsh 泽 zé §1922 (379)  
 martial, military 武 wǔ §358 (81)  
 master 主 zhǔ §220 (55)  
 mat 席 xí §801 (164)  
 matchmaker, go-between 媒 méi §611 (130)  
 matter's beginning 绪 xù §1587 (315)  
 matter, affair 事 shì §165 (44)  
 mausoleum, mound 陵 líng §1964 (387)  
 me 吾 wú §81 (26)  
 measure 量 liáng §77 (25)  
 meat 肉 ròu §317 (74)  
 medical 医 yī §335 (77)  
 medicine 药 yào §821 (168)  
 meet, assemble 会 huì §753 (156)  
 meet, encounter 遇 yù §2215 (435)  
 meet, intersect 交 jiāo §1814 (358)  
 melon 瓜 guā §781 (161)  
 melt metal 销 xiāo §1330 (266)  
 melt, thaw 融 róng §895 (183)  
 membrane, film, thin coating 膜 mó §1791 (354)  
 memorialize the emperor 奏 zòu §1360 (272)  
 mend, patch 补 bǔ §845 (173)  
 merchant 贾 gǔ §441 (98)  
 merit, accomplishment 绩 jì §837 (172)  
 merit, achievement 功 gōng §1551 (309)  
 message, dispatch 讯 xùn §2057 (405)  
 method 法 fǎ §762 (157)  
 micro, tiny, minute 微 wēi §2030 (400)  
 middle 中 zhōng §45 (19)  
 military official 尉 wèi §1274 (256)  
 military service, labor 役 yì §2097 (413)  
 military 军 jūn §1431 (286)  
 minor official 吏 lì §1836 (363)  
 mirror 镜 jìng §1337 (268)  
 miserable, wretched 惨 cǎn §1294 (259)  
 misfortune, disaster 祸 huò §2234 (438)  
 miss (due to delay) 误 wù §628 (134)  
 mixed, composite 杂 zá §2049 (404)  
 model, imitation 模 mó §404 (90)  
 model, standard 式 shì §357 (81)  
 modest, inferior 逊 xùn §2173 (426)  
 moist, soft 润 rùn §544 (117)  
 mold, model, pattern 型 xíng §1675 (332)  
 mom 妈 mā §893 (182)  
 monarch, lord 君 jūn §1712 (339)  
 money, coins 钱 qián §1331 (267)  
 money, currency 币 bì §230 (57)  
 money, expenses 资 zī §576 (124)  
 monk 僧 sēng §1174 (237)  
 moon, month 月 yuè §1719 (341)  
 the more—the more 愈 yù §1606 (318)  
 moreover 且 qiě §15 (11)  
 morning 早 zǎo §70 (24)  
 morning, daybreak 晨 chén §1850 (366)  
 mortar 臼 jiù §2276 (446)  
 mortgage, pawn, give as security 押 yā §91 (29)  
 most, -est 最 zuì §1801 (356)  
 mother 母 mǔ §596 (127)  
 mother, nursemaid 姆 mǔ §599 (128)  
 mound 岗 gǎng §1957 (386)  
 mound, little hill 丘 qiū §124 (37)  
 mountain ridge 冈 gāng §1825 (361)  
 mountain 山 shān §21 (14)  
 mourning 丧 sāng §493 (108)  
 mouse, rat 鼠 shǔ §2280 (447)  
 mouth 口 kǒu §41 (18)  
 mouth, snout, bill 嘴 zuǐ §1774 (351)  
 move 动 dòng §1494 (298)  
 move\* 迁 qiān §2172 (426)  
 move, transport 运 yùn §2142 (420)  
 mud, clay 泥 ní §720 (150)  
 muddleheaded 傻 shǎ §1963 (387)  
 muddy 浑 hún §1433 (287)  
 mulberry tree 桑 sāng §1953 (385)  
 multi-story building 楼 lóu §1138 (229)  
 multiply 乘 chéng §2119 (417)  
 multitude 众 zhòng §314 (73)  
 mum, mother 娘 niáng §1916 (378)  
 mumbling 喃 nán §1210 (244)  
 mushroom 菌 jūn §502 (109)  
 must 必 bì §1442 (288)  
 mutual 互 hù §20 (13)  
 nape of neck 项 xiàng §445 (99)  
 nation state 邦 bāng §746 (154)  
 nature's color, unripe 青 qīng §1722 (341)  
 nature, character 性 xìng §933 (189)  
 near midnight 亥 hài §2221 (436)

near, close to 近 jìn §2144 (421)  
 neat, tidy 整 zhěng §2005 (396)  
 neck 领 líng §1377 (276)  
 needle, pin, injection 针 zhēn §1336 (267)  
 needs, requirements 需 xū §88 (28)  
 negate 否 fǒu §1456 (291)  
 neighbor, neighborhood, neighboring 邻 lín §1384 (277)  
 nest, lair 窝 wō §1217 (245)  
 net 网 wǎng §1828 (361)  
 new wine 酉 yǒu §303 (71)  
 new 新 xīn §1203 (242)  
 newspaper 报 bào §1862 (368)  
 night, evening 夜 yè §1901 (376)  
 nine 九 jiǔ §2046 (403)  
 no! 不 bù §1452 (290)  
 nobility 爵 jué §1848 (365)  
 non-specific measure word 个 gè §312 (73)  
 noonish 午 wǔ §188 (49)  
 north 北 běi §145 (41)  
 nose 鼻 bí §1704 (338)  
 not (literary) 弗 fú §1706 (338)  
 not only 岂 qǐ §1206 (243)  
 not 非 fēi §13 (11)  
 now (storytelling) 却 què §760 (157)  
 now 现 xiàn §302 (71)  
 now, at present 兹 zī §779 (161)  
 number in a series 号 hào §2246 (441)  
 number 码 mǎ §1396 (279)  
 number, figure 数 shù §2006 (396)  
 numerous 庶 shù §800 (164)  
 numerous, confused 纷 fēn §1535 (306)  
 numerous, repeated 沓 tà §565 (121)  
 nun 尼 ní §717 (149)  
 nut, kernel, fruit pit 核 hé §2224 (436)  
 oblique, slanting 斜 xié §1074 (217)  
 observe, gaze into distance 望 wàng §1752 (347)  
 obstruct, hinder 障 zhàng §1262 (253)  
 occupy, seize 据 jù §708 (148)  
 odd 奇 qí §343 (79)  
 of 的 de §643 (136)  
 offer sacrifice 祭 jì §1890 (373)  
 offer, donate 献 xiàn §1211 (244)  
 often 常 cháng §1142 (230)  
 oh! (surprised understanding) 噢 ō §1136 (229)  
 oil 油 yóu §527 (114)  
 old gentleman 叟 sǒu §1985 (391)  
 old woman, matron, mother-in-law 婆 pó §1896 (374)  
 old 老 lǎo §1506 (300)  
 old; bygone 旧 jiù §68 (24)  
 older sister 姐 jiě §589 (125)  
 omen 兆 zhào §2116 (416)  
 on tiptoe 企 qǐ §327 (76)  
 on 上 shàng §175 (46)  
 once, formerly 曾 céng §1172 (236)  
 one 一 yī §2 (9)  
 only 只 zhǐ §1086 (219)  
 only, alone 唯 wéi §995 (202)  
 open (eyes) 睁 zhēng §464 (102)  
 open country 野 yě §764 (158)  
 open up 启 qǐ §727 (151)  
 operate 开 kāi §1673 (332)  
 oppose, anti- 反 fǎn §1863 (368)

or 或 huò §363 (83)  
 orchid 兰 lán §1154 (232)  
 order, coherence 仑 lún §457 (101)  
 order, sequence 序 xù §789 (162)  
 order\*, sequence\* 秩 zhì §504 (109)  
 ordinal prefix 第 dì §1451 (290)  
 ore 矿 kuàng §1392 (278)  
 original, unprocessed 原 yuán §676 (142)  
 other party, that, those 彼 bǐ §1898 (375)  
 other, another 另 líng §1547 (308)  
 ought to, should 该 gāi §2223 (436)  
 ought 应 yīng §1353 (271)  
 outer city wall 郭 guō §1414 (283)  
 outside, external 外 wài §664 (140)  
 outstanding person, hero 杰 jié §806 (166)  
 overbearing, haughty 亢 kàng §2085 (411)  
 overlord 霸 bà §1744 (345)  
 overtake, surpass, super- 超 chāo §1557 (309)  
 overturn, cover 覆 fù §1970 (389)  
 owe, lack 欠 qiàn §465 (102)  
 ox 牛 niú §186 (49)  
 oxygen 氧 yǎng §2106 (415)  
 paddle, row 划 huá §365 (83)  
 page, leaf 页 yè §444 (99)  
 pagoda 塔 tà §514 (111)  
 painful 痛 tòng §1746 (346)  
 pair, both, dual 双 shuāng §1889 (373)  
 palace 宫 gōng §256 (62)  
 palm of the hand 掌 zhǎng §1141 (230)  
 panic, nervous 慌 huāng §1498 (299)  
 panic-stricken 怔 zhēng §932 (189)  
 paper 纸 zhǐ §2267 (445)  
 pare, peel with knife 削 xiāo §1232 (248)  
 part, section 部 bù §1182 (238)  
 particle before names 阿 ā §739 (153)  
 particle of persuasion 嘛 ma §696 (145)  
 particle with many uses 呢 ne §718 (149)  
 partner, mate 伙 huǒ §1106 (223)  
 pass on, impart 传 chuán §2248 (441)  
 paste, plaster 糊 hú §1769 (350)  
 paste, stick to 贴 tiē §432 (96)  
 paternal aunt 姑 gū §586 (125)  
 path, track 径 jìng §1044 (212)  
 patrol 逻 luò §2170 (426)  
 patrol, make the rounds 巡 xún §2168 (426)  
 pattern, model, example 范 fàn §559 (120)  
 pavilion, chamber 阁 gé §2041 (402)  
 pavilion, kiosk 亭 tíng §281 (66)  
 pay 付 fù §971 (197)  
 pay, hand over 缴 jiǎo §2014 (397)  
 peace, quiet 泰 tài §1367 (273)  
 peach 桃 táo §2122 (417)  
 peak, summit 峰 fēng §1981 (391)  
 pearl 珠 zhū §380 (86)  
 to peel, shell, skin 剥 bāo §568 (121)  
 pen 笔 bǐ §246 (60)  
 pen, prison 牢 láo §263 (63)  
 pen, sty 圈 juàn §1366 (273)  
 pen, writing instrument 聿 yù §39 (18)  
 penetrate, pierce 穿 chuān §1575 (313)  
 penetrate, seep through 透 tòu §2161 (424)  
 people, masses 民 mín §714 (149)  
 perfect, excellent 精 jīng §1758 (347)  
 perform, play, act 演 yǎn §1245 (250)  
 period of 10 days, years 旬 xún §640 (135)

- period of time 期 qī §1751 (346)  
 perish 亡 wáng §269 (64)  
 permanent 恒 héng §942 (192)  
 permit, allow 允 yùn §771 (159)  
 perseverance 毅 yì §2059 (406)  
 personal name 名 míng §661 (140)  
 phoenix 凤 fèng §2072 (408)  
 phrase suffix 啊 a §740 (153)  
 pick up 拾 shí §511 (111)  
 pick, gather 采 cǎi §1348 (270)  
 picture, chart, map 图 tú §1974 (389)  
 piece of writing 篇 piān §730 (151)  
 pierce, prick 扎 zhā §139 (40)  
 pig, boar 豕 shǐ §1425 (285)  
 pile up, accumulate 累 lěi §836 (172)  
 pillage, loot 抢 qiǎng §868 (177)  
 pillar, column 柱 zhù §403 (90)  
 pine tree 松 sōng §1252 (252)  
 ping-pong 乒 pīng §1481 (296)  
 ping-pong\* 兵 pāng §1482 (296)  
 place in between 夹 jiā §1177 (237)  
 place 所 suǒ §734 (152)  
 to place, put 置 zhì §109 (34)  
 place, put, arrange 摆 bǎi §759 (157)  
 plain, simple, quiet 素 sù §828 (170)  
 plaintiff and defendant 曹 cāo §105 (33)  
 plan, intend 拟 nǐ §498 (109)  
 plant roots 根 gēn §1879 (371)  
 plant, grow 植 zhí §392 (88)  
 plate, tablet 牌 pái §1487 (297)  
 platform, stage 台 tái §767 (158)  
 play (a role, tricks) 耍 shuǎ §591 (126)  
 play, drama 剧 jù §709 (148)  
 pleased 悦 yuè §1050 (213)  
 pleased, content 豫 yù §1518 (303)  
 plentiful 丰 fēng §12 (11)  
 plow, till 耕 gēng §1680 (333)  
 plum flower or tree 梅 méi §602 (129)  
 plum 李 lǐ §1406 (281)  
 plunder 掠 lüè §1085 (219)  
 plural marker 们 men §978 (199)  
 poem, poetry 诗 shī §625 (133)  
 point, tip 尖 jiān §1070 (216)  
 poison 毒 dú §609 (130)  
 poke, stir, turn 拨 bō §1858 (367)  
 policy, plan, scheme 策 cè §480 (105)  
 polish, wear down, pester 磨 mó §1395 (279)  
 political party 党 dǎng §1143 (231)  
 pool, pond 池 chí §552 (119)  
 poor 贫 pín §1610 (319)  
 poplar 杨 yáng §1529 (304)  
 porcelain 磁 cí §1397 (279)  
 to post, mail 邮 yóu §748 (154)  
 pottery 陶 táo §743 (153)  
 pouch, bag, pocket 袋 dài §1031 (209)  
 pour boiling water on 冲 chōng §570 (122)  
 pour 注 zhù §539 (116)  
 powder 粉 fěn §1616 (321)  
 power, force, influence 势 shì §2073 (408)  
 power, might 威 wēi §607 (129)  
 practice divination 占 zhān §172 (46)  
 practice, study 习 xí §125 (37)  
 practice, train, drill 练 liàn §1583 (314)  
 precious thing 珍 zhēn §1286 (258)  
 prepare, get ready 备 bèi §2027 (400)  
 press down 压 yā §674 (141)  
 press, push down, according to 按 àn §606 (129)  
 prevent 杜 dù §385 (87)  
 price 价 jià §1698 (336)  
 prison, jail 狱 yù §899 (183)  
 product 品 pǐn §44 (19)  
 profound, abstruse 奥 ào §1135 (229)  
 prohibit 禁 jìn §1067 (216)  
 prolong, postpone 延 yán §2177 (427)  
 to promise 诺 nuò §1658 (328)  
 product 品 pǐn §44 (19)  
 prop up, support 支 zhī §1884 (372)  
 propagate 殖 zhí §658 (139)  
 proper, suitable 宜 yí §260 (63)  
 propitious 祥 xiáng §2233 (438)  
 prosper 兴 xīng §1212 (244)  
 prosperous, booming 隆 lóng §2036 (401)  
 protect 护 hù §726 (150)  
 protect, defend 保 bǎo §987 (201)  
 proud, haughty 傲 ào §2009 (396)  
 to provoke, exasperate 惹 rě §1640 (325)  
 public affairs 公 gōng §1091 (221)  
 public rooms, hall 厅 tīng §673 (141)  
 publish 刊 kān §167 (45)  
 pull 扯 chě §182 (48)  
 pull, drag, haul 拖 tuō §496 (108)  
 pull, draw, tug 拉 lā §1180 (238)  
 punish, discipline 惩 chéng §1038 (210)  
 punish, penalize 罚 fà §278 (66)  
 punishment, sentence 刑 xíng §1674 (332)  
 pure, unmixed 纯 chún §827 (169)  
 pure\*, unmixed\* 粹 cuì §1282 (257)  
 purple 紫 zǐ §835 (171)  
 pursue, chase 逐 zhú §2155 (423)  
 push 推 tuī §994 (202)  
 put in order 排 pái §32 (17)  
 put on display 陈 chén §1558 (310)  
 put on, apply, smear 抹 mǒ §384 (87)  
 put up, prop up 架 jià §1537 (306)  
 put, place 放 fàng §2007 (396)  
 Qin (dynasty) 秦 qín §1361 (272)  
 quality 质 zhì §436 (96)  
 quarrel, make noise 吵 chǎo §1476 (295)  
 quiet, silent 悄 qiǎo §1234 (248)  
 quilt, passive marker 被 bèi §1844 (364)  
 quiver, tremble 颤 chàn §448 (100)  
 rabbit 兔 tù §476 (104)  
 raid, make a surprise attack 袭 xí §1659 (328)  
 rain 雨 yǔ §85 (28)  
 raise, hoist 升 shēng §1668 (331)  
 raise, lift 抬 tái §768 (158)  
 raise, wave 扬 yáng §1528 (304)  
 ramble 教 áo §2008 (396)  
 rapid 迅 xùn §2130 (418)  
 rate, proportion 率 lǜ §832 (171)  
 rather, would rather 宁 nìng §257 (62)  
 rational 理 lǐ §73 (25)  
 read aloud 念 niàn §1372 (274)  
 read aloud, attend school 读 dú §633 (134)  
 read, review 阅 yuè §1051 (213)  
 real 真 zhēn §1058 (214)  
 realize 悟 wù §931 (189)  
 rear, raise, educate 育 yù §2218 (435)  
 reason, cause 故 gù §1993 (393)  
 reason\*, cause\* 缘 yuán §1603 (318)

recall, remember 忆 yì §2045 (403)  
 receive 受 shòu §1866 (369)  
 receive, accept 收 shōu §1997 (393)  
 recognize, know 认 rèn §627 (133)  
 record, file, law case 案 àn §605 (129)  
 record, write down 录 lù §549 (118)  
 red 红 hóng §810 (167)  
 red, be flushed 赤 chì §1504 (300)  
 red, cinnabar 丹 dān §1718 (340)  
 refined 斯 sī §1096 (222)  
 reflect, mirror 鉴 jiàn §1224 (246)  
 reflect, shine 映 yǐng §355 (81)  
 regard, look at 视 shì §2237 (439)  
 region, area 域 yù §364 (83)  
 regret, repent 悔 huǐ §941 (192)  
 relationship marker 之 zhī §2179 (427)  
 relatives 亲 qīn §1202 (242)  
 relax 舒 shū §765 (158)  
 rely, depend on 赖 lài §491 (106)  
 remain, be left over 剩 shèng §2120 (417)  
 remember 记 jì §855 (175)  
 remote, secluded 幽 yōu §795 (163)  
 remove, do away with 除 chú §1236 (248)  
 remove, take away, withdraw 撤 chè §2227 (437)  
 rent 租 zū §414 (92)  
 reputation, fame 誉 yù §1278 (257)  
 request, entreat 求 qiú §557 (120)  
 rescue, save, salvage 救 jiù §2026 (399)  
 resemble 像 xiàng §1519 (303)  
 reside 居 jū §707 (148)  
 residence, house 宅 zhái §264 (64)  
 resist or repel 拒 jù §31 (17)  
 resist, fight, defy 抗 kàng §2086 (411)  
 respect, adulate 崇 chóng §1268 (254)  
 respect, offer politely 敬 jìng §2033 (401)  
 respectful 恭 gōng §1309 (262)  
 respectful, dignified 穆 mù §1289 (258)  
 respectful, solemn 肃 sù §1714 (339)  
 responsibility 责 zé §439 (97)  
 rest content 安 ān §604 (129)  
 to rest 休 xiū §986 (200)  
 restrain, restrict 抑 yì §162 (44)  
 retain, stay 留 liú §1523 (303)  
 retreat, retire 退 tuì §2140 (420)  
 return to 返 fǎn §2138 (420)  
 return 回 huí §42 (19)  
 revive, Suzhou 苏 sū §1563 (311)  
 revolve, circle, spin 旋 xuán §2270 (445)  
 rice or grain 禾 hé §409 (91)  
 rice 米 mǐ §1127 (227)  
 rich, wealthy 富 fù §251 (61)  
 ride or sit astride 骑 qí §883 (181)  
 rifle, gun 枪 qiāng §870 (178)  
 rifle (-hand) 右 yòu §1638 (325)  
 right, power, authority 权 quán §1869 (369)  
 ripe, cooked, familiar 熟 shú §2094 (412)  
 rise (water, prices) 涨 zhǎng §1544 (307)  
 rise 起 qǐ §860 (176)  
 rites 仪 yí §1795 (355)  
 river 川 chuān §1495 (298)  
 river\* 河 hé §529 (114)  
 river, Yangtze 江 jiāng §524 (114)  
 road, journey 途 tú §2131 (419)  
 road, path, way 路 lù §2021 (398)

rob, plunder 劫 jié §1540 (307)  
 robe, gown 袍 páo §875 (178)  
 roc 鹏 péng §1742 (345)  
 rod, stick 棍 gùn §460 (101)  
 roll, turn, scam! 滚 gǔn §1271 (255)  
 room for a special purpose 堂 táng §1140 (230)  
 room 间 jiān §198 (51)  
 room\* 室 shì §757 (157)  
 root or stem of plant 本 běn §378 (85)  
 rope 绳 shéng §816 (168)  
 rose 玫 měi §1991 (392)  
 rot, fester 烂 làn §1156 (233)  
 rotten, putrid, stale 腐 fǔ §1033 (209)  
 round 圆 yuán §443 (98)  
 round, circular 圆 tuán §1468 (293)  
 rouse, shake, vibrate 振 zhèn §1931 (381)  
 royal 'we' 朕 zhèn §1784 (353)  
 rub 摩 mó §695 (145)  
 rub, scrape 擦 cā §1892 (373)  
 rule, order 程 chéng §416 (93)  
 ruler 尺 chǐ §704 (147)  
 rules and regulations 规 guī §338 (78)  
 run into, collide 撞 zhuàng §1187 (239)  
 run 跑 pǎo §950 (193)  
 run, manage, have charge of 管 guǎn §2240 (440)  
 rush 赶 gǎn §422 (94)  
 Russian 俄 é §985 (200)  
 rustling sound 瑟 sè §1444 (288)  
 ruthless, relentless 狠 hěn §1877 (371)  
 sacrificial animal 牺 xī §292 (69)  
 sad, sorrow 悲 bēi §909 (186)  
 sage, saint 圣 shèng §1923 (380)  
 sail, (vehicle) moves quickly 驶 shǐ §1952 (385)  
 salt 盐 yán §506 (110)  
 salty 咸 xián §371 (84)  
 same, similar 同 tóng §129 (38)  
 sand 沙 shā §1479 (295)  
 sausage 腊 là §1319 (264)  
 say, be called 谓 wèi §631 (134)  
 scale, climb 登 dēng §1251 (251)  
 scatter, sprinkle 撒 sā §2040 (402)  
 scholar 士 shì §8 (10)  
 school 校 xiào §1817 (359)  
 scold, curse 骂 mǎ §272 (65)  
 scold, reprimand 斥 chì §177 (46)  
 scorching hot 炎 yán §1102 (223)  
 sea 海 hái §601 (128)  
 seal, stamp 印 yìn §158 (43)  
 search, collect 搜 sōu §1986 (391)  
 search, demand, exact 索 suǒ §833 (171)  
 search, seek 寻 xún §217 (55)  
 season 令 líng §1373 (274)  
 season\* 季 jì §1407 (282)  
 seat 座 zuò §688 (144)  
 second in a series 乙 yǐ §2107 (415)  
 2nd in seniority 仲 zhòng §959 (195)  
 secret 秘 mì §1443 (288)  
 section, group 组 zǔ §812 (167)  
 section, part 段 duàn §2075 (409)  
 secure, solid 巩 gǒng §2089 (411)  
 see 见 jiàn §301 (71)  
 seedling 苗 miáo §97 (30)  
 seek 找 zhǎo §360 (82)

- seem, appear 似 sì §1024 (208)  
 seem, like, if 若 ruò §1639 (325)  
 seize 夺 duó §425 (94)  
 select, pick 挑 tiāo §2117 (417)  
 self 自 zì §202 (52)  
 self\* 己 jǐ §852 (174)  
 selfish, personal, private 私 sī §790 (162)  
 sell 卖 mài §341 (79)  
 sell\* 售 shòu §1028 (208)  
 send out, deliver 发 fā §1799 (356)  
 send, deliver 致 zhì §2029 (400)  
 send, dispatch 遣 qiǎn §2243 (440)  
 send, mail, consign 寄 jì §500 (109)  
 sentence 句 jù §639 (135)  
 sentiment, sensibility 情 qíng §1723 (341)  
 separate, impede 隔 gé §744 (153)  
 serious, earnest 郑 zhèng §1115 (225)  
 serve, wait upon 侍 shì §963 (196)  
 set a limit, restrict 限 xiàn §1876 (371)  
 set free, explain 释 shì §1911 (377)  
 set up, found, establish 设 shè §2068 (407)  
 settled, steady, stable 稳 wěn §1926 (380)  
 seven 七 qī §137 (39)  
 several, how many? 几 jǐ §2051 (404)  
 sew, stitch 缝 féng §2133 (419)  
 shadow, reflection 影 yǐng §1290 (259)  
 shake, quake 震 zhèn §1930 (381)  
 shake, wave 摇 yáo §1346 (269)  
 shallow, superficial 浅 qiǎn §547 (118)  
 shame, embarrass 羞 xiū §1664 (330)  
 share, portion 份 fèn §1576 (313)  
 sharp, acute 锐 ruì §1329 (266)  
 sharp, keen 敏 mǐn §2011 (396)  
 she 她 tā §595 (126)  
 sheath, cover 套 tàò §1516 (302)  
 shed, take off 脱 tuō §1254 (252)  
 sheep 羊 yáng §1147 (231)  
 shell, housing, case 壳 ké §2058 (406)  
 shield 盾 dùn §733 (152)  
 shine, illuminate 照 zhào §1555 (309)  
 ship, craft 航 háng §2087 (411)  
 ship, vessel 船 chuán §2079 (410)  
 shipboard cabin or hold 舱 cāng §867 (177)  
 shoe 鞋 xié §102 (32)  
 shoe\* 履 lǚ §1971 (389)  
 to shoot 射 shè §1633 (323)  
 shop 店 diàn §684 (143)  
 shore, coast 岸 àn §680 (143)  
 short of stature 矮 ǎi §594 (126)  
 short, brief 短 duǎn §1171 (236)  
 short-tailed bird 雀 què §992 (202)  
 shoulder 肩 jiān §1720 (341)  
 show, indicate 示 shì §1064 (215)  
 shut, close 关 guān §1113 (224)  
 shut\*, close\* 闭 bì §1469 (294)  
 side 旁 páng §1520 (303)  
 side, margin, edge 边 biān §2143 (421)  
 sigh, exclaim 叹 tàn §1939 (382)  
 sign one's name 签 qiān §1357 (272)  
 silent, keep silent 默 mò §804 (165)  
 silk 帛 bó §206 (52)  
 silk\* 丝 sī §809 (166)  
 silver 银 yín §1881 (371)  
 simple, simplified 简 jiǎn §245 (60)  
 sincere 敦 dūn §2002 (395)  
 sincere, honest 愿 yuàn §926 (188)  
 sing 唱 chàng §75 (25)  
 single, sole 单 dān §1166 (234)  
 to sink 沈 chén §1651 (327)  
 sit 坐 zuò §321 (75)  
 situation 况 kuàng §572 (123)  
 six 六 liù §1062 (215)  
 skill, ability 技 jì §1885 (372)  
 skill, art 艺 yì §2044 (403)  
 skin 肤 fū §1788 (353)  
 slanting, tilting 颠 diān §1899 (375)  
 slave, enslave 奴 nú §1928 (381)  
 sleep 睡 shuì §286 (68)  
 sleep, dormancy 眠 mián §715 (149)  
 sleeve 袖 xiù §840 (172)  
 slice, flake 片 piàn §1485 (297)  
 slide, glide, sneak off 溜 liū §1524 (304)  
 slightly, somewhat 稍 shāo §1235 (248)  
 slippery, smooth, cunning 滑 huá §564 (121)  
 slope, plain 坡 pō §1893 (373)  
 slow 慢 màn §1914 (378)  
 slowly, gently 徐 xú §1263 (253)  
 small boat 艇 tǐng §2187 (429)  
 small box 盒 hé §516 (112)  
 small 小 xiǎo §1063 (215)  
 smear, apply 涂 tú §1075 (217)  
 smelt, refine 炼 liàn §1584 (314)  
 smoke 烟 yān §1108 (224)  
 smooth 亨 hēng §1400 (280)  
 snake, serpent 蛇 shé §897 (183)  
 snow 雪 xuě §87 (28)  
 so, therefore 乃 nǎi §1513 (302)  
 society, group 社 shè §2236 (439)  
 soft, pliant 软 ruǎn §1592 (316)  
 soft, supple, gentle 柔 róu §1613 (320)  
 soldier 兵 bīng §1483 (296)  
 solid 固 gù §53 (20)  
 solid, substantial 实 shí §342 (79)  
 solitary, isolated 孤 gū §1413 (283)  
 some 些 xiē §234 (58)  
 son 儿 ér §288 (68)  
 son, child 子 zǐ §1402 (280)  
 Song dynasty 宋 sòng §487 (106)  
 song 歌 gē §489 (106)  
 sorrow, lament 哀 āi §849 (174)  
 sort, kind 般 bān §2080 (410)  
 soul, spirit, mood 魂 hún §1608 (319)  
 sound 音 yīn §1189 (239)  
 sound, voice 声 shēng §722 (150)  
 soup 汤 tāng §1527 (304)  
 sour, tart 酸 suān §1980 (391)  
 source of river, fountainhead 源 yuán §677 (142)  
 South Korea 韩 hán §117 (35)  
 south 南 nán §1209 (243)  
 sow, broadcast 播 bō §1324 (265)  
 sparrow 雀 què §1081 (218)  
 sparse 稀 xī §1824 (361)  
 sparse, scattered 疏 shū §2220 (436)  
 speak 曰 yuē §64 (22)  
 speak, talk 说 shuō §1052 (213)  
 special, unusual 特 tè §215 (54)  
 speech 言 yán §270 (64)  
 spell 拼 pīn §1678 (333)  
 spike, sharp point 芒 máng §277 (66)  
 spit 吐 tǔ §55 (21)  
 split, divide up 裂 liè §847 (173)

spoiled 糟 zāo §1131 (228)  
 spoiled, bad 坏 huài §1454 (290)  
 spoon 勺 shāo §642 (136)  
 spread, extend 铺 pū §1783 (352)  
 spring (season) 春 chūn §1359 (272)  
 spring, fountain 泉 quán §555 (119)  
 sprout, spurt 滋 zī §780 (161)  
 spurt, spout, gush 喷 pēn §434 (96)  
 to spy 侦 zhēn §1012 (205)  
 square, direction 方 fāng §1491 (298)  
 stage curtain 幕 mù §453 (100)  
 stairs, rank or step 阶 jiē §1709 (338)  
 stand firm 卓 zhuó §173 (46)  
 standard, criterion 准 zhǔn §999 (203)  
 standard, norm 则 zé §431 (95)  
 star 星 xīng §193 (50)  
 stare 盯 dīng §80 (26)  
 startle, to alarm 惊 jīng §1079 (218)  
 state of mind 怀 huái §1457 (291)  
 state, narrate, relate 述 shù §2151 (422)  
 state, province 州 zhōu §1499 (299)  
 stay overnight 宿 sù §967 (197)  
 stay 待 dài §1042 (211)  
 steal, pilfer 偷 tōu §1605 (318)  
 steal, rob 盗 dào §579 (124)  
 steam, vapor 汽 qì §2067 (407)  
 steel 钢 gāng §1956 (386)  
 step on, tread, stamp 踏 tà §952 (194)  
 step 步 bù §1501 (299)  
 step, stride 迈 mài §2174 (426)  
 step, stride, straddle 跨 kuà §2253 (442)  
 still or yet 还 hái §2127 (418)  
 still, quiet, calm 静 jìng §1760 (348)  
 still, yet 尚 shàng §1139 (230)  
 still, yet, again and again 仍 réng §1566 (312)  
 stockpile, store up 屯 tún §150 (42)  
 stomach 胃 wèi §461 (102)  
 stone, rock 石 shí §1386 (277)  
 stop! 止 zhǐ §181 (48)  
 stop, cease 罢 bà §758 (157)  
 stop, pause 停 tíng §1008 (204)  
 stop, station 站 zhàn §1199 (242)  
 store up, save 储 chǔ §1618 (321)  
 store, preserve 存 cún §1459 (292)  
 store, save up 蓄 xù §778 (160)  
 stove 炉 lú §1112 (224)  
 straight, vertical 直 zhí §16 (12)  
 straighten up (physically) 挺 tǐng §2186 (429)  
 street 街 jiē §258 (62)  
 strength 力 lì §1492 (298)  
 stretch, expand 张 zhāng §1543 (307)  
 stretch, extend 伸 shēn §960 (195)  
 strict 严 yán §1125 (227)  
 strike 击 jī §23 (14)  
 to strike, beat 敲 qiāo §1984 (391)  
 strip, sth long and narrow 条 tiáo §2022 (398)  
 strive to, do with effort 勉 miǎn §1567 (312)  
 strong, intense 烈 liè §799 (164)  
 strong, powerful 强 qiáng §892 (182)  
 strong, robust 壮 zhuàng §2255 (442)  
 struggle 争 zhēng §463 (102)  
 struggle, strive 挣 zhèng §467 (103)  
 strung together 串 chuàn §46 (19)  
 study carefully, look into 究 jiū §2071 (408)  
 study 学 xué §2113 (416)

stuff 料 liào §1133 (228)  
 stuffy, muggy 闷 mèn §911 (186)  
 stupid, dull, vulgar 鲁 lǔ §486 (106)  
 stupid, foolish 愚 yú §2211 (434)  
 stupid, stubborn 顽 wán §447 (99)  
 subdue 克 kè §299 (70)  
 subject of a ruler 臣 chén §17 (12)  
 subject, course, class 课 kè §635 (135)  
 submerge, lower 沉 chén §2084 (411)  
 sudden and violent, savage 暴 bào §1312 (263)  
 suddenly 乍 zhà §1445 (289)  
 suddenly\* 忽 hū §1579 (314)  
 suddenly, quickly 霍 huò §998 (203)  
 sugar, sweets, carbs 糖 táng §1283 (257)  
 summary, outline 略 lüè §2037 (402)  
 summer 夏 xià §1978 (390)  
 summing up, aggregate 综 zōng §1248 (251)  
 sun 阳 yáng §736 (152)  
 super-talented person 豪 háo §1617 (321)  
 superfluous, redundant 冗 rǒng §2083 (410)  
 supervise 督 dū §1919 (378)  
 supply, feed 供 gōng §1303 (261)  
 support, assist 赞 zàn §435 (96)  
 support, provide for 养 yǎng §1703 (337)  
 support, sustain 抵 dǐ §2264 (444)  
 surge, dash 激 jī §2013 (397)  
 surname of Deng Xiaoping 邓 dèng §1958 (386)  
 surname of Peng 彭 péng §1291 (259)  
 surname 氏 shì §2260 (443)  
 surname; Chiang Kai-Shek 蒋 jiǎng §1599 (317)  
 surplus, remainder 余 yú §1073 (217)  
 surprising, strange 怪 guài §1909 (377)  
 surrender, capitulate 降 xiáng §2035 (401)  
 surround, enclose 围 wéi §116 (35)  
 to survey, measure 测 cè §550 (119)  
 suspend, hang 悬 xuán §924 (188)  
 swallow bird 燕 yàn §802 (165)  
 swallow liquid or insults 饮 yǐn §2202 (432)  
 swallow, gulp down 吞 tūn §452 (100)  
 sweat 汗 hàn §525 (114)  
 sweep 扫 sǎo §35 (17)  
 sweet smell, fragrance 芬 fēn §1534 (306)  
 sweet 甘 gān §103 (33)  
 sweetness 甜 tián §227 (56)  
 to swell 肿 zhǒng §1789 (353)  
 swim, float 游 yóu §2272 (446)  
 swing, shake, wash away 荡 dàng §1611 (320)  
 sword's cutting edge 锋 fēng §1967 (388)  
 sword, saber 剑 jiàn §1354 (271)  
 sympathy, pity 怜 lián §1379 (276)  
 table 桌 zhuō §406 (90)  
 tadpole 屯 mín §136 (39)  
 tail 尾 wěi §716 (149)  
 take a wife 娶 qǔ §1802 (356)  
 take advantage of 趁 chèn §1288 (258)  
 take away, remove, move (house) 搬 bān §2081 (410)  
 take out 抽 chōu §49 (20)  
 take part in, participate 参 cān §1292 (259)  
 take the place of 代 dài §983 (199)  
 take 拿 ná §515 (111)  
 take, get, obtain 取 qǔ §1800 (356)

talk, chat 谈 tán §1237 (248)  
 talk, chat, narrate 叙 xù §1942 (383)  
 talk, speak, speaking of 讲 jiǎng §1682 (333)  
 tall 乔 qiáo §1700 (337)  
 tally, counter 筹 chóu §1368 (274)  
 tally, symbol, sign 符 fú §1029 (208)  
 Tang dynasty 唐 táng §690 (144)  
 taste, experience, ever 尝 cháng §1264 (253)  
 taste, flavor 味 wèi §382 (86)  
 tax, duty 税 shuì §1246 (250)  
 tea 茶 chá §1076 (217)  
 teach 教 jiào §2001 (395)  
 teacher, instructor 傅 fù §1737 (344)  
 teacher, master 师 shī §1691 (335)  
 team 队 duì §737 (152)  
 team, class 班 bān §1692 (335)  
 tear off, take off 揭 jiē §648 (137)  
 tears 泪 lèi §530 (114)  
 tell 告 gào §189 (49)  
 tell, relate 诉 sù §621 (131)  
 temple 庙 miào §683 (143)  
 temporarily 暂 zàn §1439 (288)  
 ten thousand 万 wàn §472 (103)  
 ten 十 shí §6 (10)  
 test, try 试 shì §629 (134)  
 thank 谢 xiè §1634 (323)  
 thatch 茨 cí §575 (123)  
 then 就 jiù §1648 (326)  
 thick ice 凌 líng §1982 (391)  
 thick, deep, profound 厚 hòu §1419 (284)  
 thick, dense, intimate 密 mì §1562 (311)  
 thigh 股 gǔ §2082 (410)  
 thin, flimsy 薄 báo §1739 (344)  
 thin, lean 瘦 shòu §1987 (392)  
 thin, slender 细 xì §814 (167)  
 thing, matter 物 wù §1428 (285)  
 think 觉 jué §2114 (416)  
 think, believe 想 xiǎng §923 (188)  
 think, consider 思 sī §919 (187)  
 third in series 丙 bǐng §474 (104)  
 thirsty 渴 kè §651 (138)  
 this 此 cǐ §233 (58)  
 this, these 这 zhè §2124 (418)  
 thorn, splinter 刺 cì §398 (89)  
 thorough, penetrating 彻 chè §1600 (317)  
 thoughtless, careless 苟 gǒu §653 (138)  
 thousand 千 qiān §224 (56)  
 thread, string, wire 线 xiàn §830 (170)  
 three 三 sān §4 (9)  
 3-5am 寅 yīn §1244 (250)  
 throat 咽 yān §346 (79)  
 throw, fling 投 tóu §2074 (408)  
 throw, toss 扔 rēng §1530 (304)  
 thunder 雷 léi §86 (28)  
 thus, that which 攸 yōu §2031 (401)  
 ticket 票 piào §1068 (216)  
 ticket, certificate 券 quān §1615 (320)  
 tie, knit, knot, weave 结 jié §813 (167)  
 tiger 虎 hǔ §2061 (406)  
 tight, taut 紧 jǐn §1854 (366)  
 tile 瓦 wǎ §2047 (403)  
 timber 材 cái §1471 (294)  
 time 时 shí §211 (54)  
 time, day, occasion 辰 chén §1849 (366)  
 time, occurrence 次 cì §574 (123)  
 time, season 候 hòu §1014 (206)

tiny, fragmentary 爻 jiān §373 (85)  
 tired, weary 疲 pí §1897 (375)  
 tired\*, weary\* 乏 fá §2188 (430)  
 to, until 至 zhì §755 (156)  
 today, current 今 jīn §1370 (274)  
 together 共 gòng §1302 (261)  
 together, unanimous 全 qián §1351 (271)  
 toil 劳 láo §1570 (312)  
 tomb 墓 mù §454 (101)  
 ton 吨 dùn §151 (42)  
 tongue 舌 shé §225 (56)  
 too (much) 太 tài §331 (76)  
 tool, utensil 具 jù §1055 (214)  
 tooth 齿 chǐ §324 (75)  
 tooth\* 牙 yá §1472 (294)  
 topic, subject, title 题 tí §471 (103)  
 topple, fall over 倒 dǎo §991 (201)  
 toss, fling, abandon 抛 pāo §1629 (323)  
 touch, bump 碰 pèng §1389 (278)  
 touch, contact, strike 触 chù §1776 (351)  
 touch, grope 摸 mō §350 (80)  
 tough, hard to chew 艮 gèn §1810 (358)  
 towel 巾 jīn §130 (38)  
 to tower 耸 sǒng §319 (74)  
 township 乡 xiāng §808 (166)  
 to trace 描 miáo §98 (31)  
 trade, business 商 shāng §1188 (239)  
 trade, industry 业 yè §1117 (226)  
 trading center, garrison post 镇 zhèn §1335 (267)  
 trample, tread upon 践 jiàn §951 (193)  
 transform, change into 变 biàn §1865 (368)  
 transform, change 改 gǎi §2028 (400)  
 translate, interpret 译 yì §1921 (379)  
 transport, convey 输 shū §1580 (314)  
 trapped in difficult situation 厄 è §873 (178)  
 treasure, precious jewel 宝 bǎo §255 (61)  
 tree 木 mù §375 (85)  
 tree\* 树 shù §1907 (376)  
 tremble 抖 dǒu §219 (55)  
 trench, groove 沟 gōu §774 (159)  
 trendy, chic 潮 cháo §1762 (348)  
 tribute, gifts 贡 gòng §499 (109)  
 trip, travel 旅 lǚ §2274 (446)  
 triumphant, victorious 凯 kǎi §2099 (413)  
 trouble, blunder 娄 lóu §1137 (229)  
 trouble, disaster 患 huàn §918 (187)  
 true, authentic 确 què §1754 (347)  
 tune, air 调 diào §1759 (348)  
 turn around, repeat 复 fù §1968 (388)  
 turn over, cross over 翻 fān §1326 (266)  
 turn, shift, change 转 zhuǎn §2249 (441)  
 twist, wrench 扭 niǔ §38 (18)  
 two (colloquial) 俩 liǎ §982 (199)  
 two 二 èr §3 (9)  
 un-, -less 无 wú §1642 (326)  
 uncle 叔 shū §1918 (378)  
 under 下 xià §176 (46)  
 understand, know 懂 dòng §937 (191)  
 undertake 担 dān §67 (24)  
 unhurried, delay, postpone 缓 huǎn §1932 (381)  
 unload, take sth off 卸 xiè §241 (59)  
 untie, undo, take off 解 jiè §1750 (346)  
 upper arm, shoulder 膀 bǎng §1521 (303)  
 uproot, pull out 拔 bá §1951 (385)



- to urge 促 cù §975 (198)  
 to urge\* 催 cuī §997 (202)  
 urine 尿 suī §713 (149)  
 use a hand to support 扶 fú §348 (80)  
 to use 用 yòng §1730 (343)  
 use, take 以 yǐ §323 (75)  
 useless, superfluous 废 fèi §1945 (383)  
 utmost, to the greatest extent 尽 jìn §719 (149)  
 vast 洋 yáng §1150 (232)  
 vast, grand (water) 洪 hōng §1304 (262)  
 vast, grand 浩 hào §537 (116)  
 vast, without borders 茫 máng §538 (116)  
 vein, grain 纹 wén §1809 (357)  
 verbal particle 得 de §1036 (210)  
 vermilion 朱 zhū §379 (86)  
 vertical 纵 zòng §817 (168)  
 very large 庞 páng §1650 (327)  
 very 很 hěn §1811 (358)  
 very, extremely 甚 shèn §1094 (221)  
 vessel 器 qì §352 (80)  
 vessel, dish 皿 mǐn §110 (34)  
 vexed, annoyed 烦 fán §1109 (224)  
 vice- 副 fù §168 (45)  
 victorious 捷 jié §505 (110)  
 view, scene 景 jǐng §1083 (219)  
 vigor, energy 劲 jìn §1609 (319)  
 village 庄 zhuāng §687 (144)  
 violate, offend, commit crime 犯 fàn §901 (184)  
 visit, call on, seek 访 fǎng §1589 (315)  
 visitor, guest 客 kè §2016 (397)  
 vow, pledge 誓 shì §271 (65)  
 vulgar 俗 sú §1061 (215)  
 wade, ford 涉 shè §1502 (299)  
 waist 腰 yāo §1779 (352)  
 wait 等 dèng §244 (60)  
 wake up 醒 xǐng §304 (71)  
 to walk 走 zǒu §421 (94)  
 wall 墙 qiáng §1176 (237)  
 wall, city wall 城 chéng §369 (84)  
 wall, cliff, rampart 壁 bì §1257 (252)  
 want, wish, request 要 yào §590 (126)  
 war 战 zhàn §366 (83)  
 ward off, block 挡 dǎng §1342 (269)  
 warehouse, storehouse 库 kù §1531 (305)  
 warm, genial 暖 nuǎn §1934 (382)  
 warn, alert 警 jǐng §2034 (401)  
 warp (fabric) 经 jīng §826 (169)  
 warship, naval vessel 舰 jiàn §608 (130)  
 wash, bathe 洗 xǐ §540 (116)  
 water lily 莲 lián §2135 (419)  
 water 水 shuǐ §545 (118)  
 water's edge 浦 pǔ §1734 (343)  
 wave, breaker 浪 làng §1936 (382)  
 wave, ripple of water 波 bō §1895 (373)  
 way of thought, -ism 惟 wéi §1000 (203)  
 weak, feeble, inferior 弱 ruò §126 (37)  
 wealth, riches 财 cái §1470 (294)  
 wear, put on (clothes) 戴 dài §1317 (264)  
 weave 织 zhī §1090 (220)  
 weave, plait 编 biān §834 (171)  
 wed, marry 婚 hūn §2262 (444)  
 week 周 zhōu §1728 (342)  
 weep 哭 kū §351 (80)  
 Wei dynasty 魏 wèi §1627 (322)  
 weigh, measure 衡 héng §1777 (351)  
 to welcome 迎 yíng §2160 (424)  
 well 井 jǐng §1672 (332)  
 west 西 xī §291 (69)  
 wet, damp 湿 shī §1122 (227)  
 what 什 shén §955 (194)  
 what? (dialect) 啥 sha §329 (76)  
 wheat 麦 mài §1979 (390)  
 wheel, wheel-like 轮 lún §1507 (301)  
 which? what? how? 那 nà §1727 (342)  
 which?\* what?\* how?\* 哪 nǎ §1764 (348)  
 a whip 鞭 biān §1841 (364)  
 whisper 聂 niè §1947 (383)  
 to whistle 啸 xiào §1715 (340)  
 white 白 bái §201 (51)  
 who 谁 shuí §1025 (208)  
 who? what? which? (lit) 孰 shú §2093 (412)  
 wide, broad, lenient 宽 kuān §308 (72)  
 wide, broad, vast 阔 kuò §535 (115)  
 width of cloth 幅 fú §164 (44)  
 wife 妻 qī §613 (130)  
 wild beast 兽 shòu §1175 (237)  
 wild goose 雁 yàn §1005 (204)  
 wild swan 鸿 hóng §889 (182)  
 willow 柳 liǔ §1695 (336)  
 win victory, succeed, excel 胜 shèng §1765 (349)  
 win, gain 博 bó §1736 (344)  
 wind 风 fēng §2069 (408)  
 wind, coil 绕 rào §822 (168)  
 window 窗 chuāng §1977 (390)  
 wine, liquor 酒 jiǔ §551 (119)  
 wing, flank 翼 yì §1318 (264)  
 winter 冬 dōng §1973 (389)  
 wise, sagacious 哲 zhé §121 (36)  
 wish, desire, want 欲 yù §1259 (253)  
 wit 智 zhì §429 (95)  
 with, follow 跟 gēn §1880 (371)  
 wizard 巫 wū §320 (74)  
 wolf 狼 láng §1875 (371)  
 woman 女 nǚ §581 (124)  
 woman\* 妇 fù §584 (125)  
 womb, sibling 胞 bāo §1771 (350)  
 wonderful 妙 miào §1477 (295)  
 word, term 词 cí §619 (131)  
 work as, become 当 dāng §1341 (268)  
 work for, seek 谋 móu §634 (134)  
 worry about 愁 chóu §1111 (224)  
 worry, anxiety 忧 yōu §1646 (326)  
 worthy, virtuous 贤 xián §1845 (365)  
 wrap, envelope 包 bāo §857 (176)  
 wrinkle 皱 zhòu §1843 (364)  
 write down, year 载 zài §1582 (314)  
 write 写 xiě §646 (136)  
 write, compose 著 zhù §1462 (292)  
 writing brush 翰 hàn §466 (102)  
 year 年 nián §192 (50)  
 a year's graduates 届 jiè §706 (147)  
 years old 岁 suì §662 (140)  
 yellow 黄 huáng §1305 (262)  
 yes or no? 吗 ma §881 (179)  
 yesterday 昨 zúo §1447 (289)  
 you (formal) 您 nín §1243 (249)  
 you and me 咱 zán §208 (53)  
 you 你 nǐ §1072 (217)  
 you, thou 尔 ěr §1227 (247)

**zither-like instrument**

young man 郎 láng §1874 (370)  
young 幼 yòu §1623 (322)  
younger brother 弟 dì §1450 (289)  
younger sister 妹 mèi §592 (126)

**DEFINITION INDEX**

youngest 幺 yāo §775 (159)  
Yuan Shikai 袁 yuán §850 (174)  
zero 零 líng §1375 (275)  
zither-like instrument 琴 qín §1382 (277)

**younger sister**

## Pin Yin Index

Here are all characters listed according to their pīnyīn pronunciation. The parenthesized number following the pīnyīn is the number of homonyms listed; we omit this information if there are no homonyms. Characters with the same pronunciation are arranged by frequency order. The numbers refer, though, to the panel in which they appear in this work, and its page number (in italics).

Let's summarize some interesting information. First, let's agree that a "pronunciation" refers to a single pīnyīn transcription, so that (for example) 'bā', 'bǎ', and 'ba' are three pronunciations. For any valid pronunciations, there will be one or more characters with that pronunciation.

In this index, there are 939 different pronunciations.

There are 426 pronunciations which map to 1 character.

There are 224 pronunciations which map to 2 characters.

There are 128 pronunciations which map to 3 characters.

There are 67 pronunciations which map to 4 characters.

There are 39 pronunciations which map to 5 characters.

There are 18 pronunciations which map to 6 characters.

There are 12 pronunciations which map to 7 characters.

There are 8 pronunciations which map to 8 characters.

There are 5 pronunciations which map to 9 characters.

There are 3 pronunciations which map to 10 characters.

There are 2 pronunciations which map to 11 characters.

There is 1 pronunciation which maps to 12 characters.

There are 3 pronunciations which map to 14 characters.

There is 1 pronunciation which maps to 16 characters.

There are 2 pronunciations which map to 17 characters.

The biggest winners in this syllable-to-character lottery are the syllables 'shì' and 'yì' which each map to 17 distinct characters. The syllable 'jì' maps to 16 characters, while 'fù', 'lì', and 'yù' each map to fourteen. 'Xì' maps to twelve, and 'jiàn' and 'wèi' map to eleven characters apiece. Finally, we'll mention that 'jǐ', 'jiān', and 'jù' each map to ten characters.

a	啊 §740	phrase suffix (153)	艾 §1818	to end, stop (359)
ā	阿 §739	particle before names (153)	碍 §1391	hinder, obstruct (278)
āi (3)	埃 §793	dirt, dust (163)	安 §604	rest content (129)
	哀 §849	sorrow, lament (174)	案 §605	record, file, law case (129)
	哎 §1819	hey! (360)	按 §606	press, push down, according to (129)
ái	癌 §698	cancer (146)	暗 §1190	dark, dim (239)
ǎi	矮 §594	short of stature (126)	岸 §680	shore, coast (143)
ài (3)	爱 §2121	love (417)		

- áng** 昂 §161 hold your head high (44)  
**áo** 敖 §2008 ramble (396)  
**ào** (3) 奥 §1135 profound, abstruse (229)  
 澳 §1273 bay, cove (256)  
 傲 §2009 proud, haughty (396)  
**ba** 吧 §2194 let's do this (particle) (431)  
**bā** (2) 八 §1048 eight (213)  
 巴 §2190 cling to, be near (430)  
**bá** 拔 §1951 uproot, pull out (385)  
**bǎ** 把 §2191 hold or grasp (430)  
**bà** (3) 爸 §2195 dad (431)  
 罢 §758 stop, cease (157)  
 霸 §1744 overlord (345)  
**bái** 白 §201 white (51)  
**bǎi** (4) 百 §203 hundred (52)  
 摆 §759 place, put, arrange (157)  
 柏 §401 cypress (90)  
 佰 §966 hundred (fraudproof) (197)  
**bài** (2) 败 §1998 lose, be defeated (393)  
 拜 §28 do obeisance, salute (15)  
**bān** (3) 般 §2080 sort, kind (410)  
 班 §1692 team, class (335)  
 搬 §2081 take away, remove, move (house) (410)  
**bǎn** (2) 版 §1864 edition, newspaper page (368)  
 板 §1917 board, plank (378)  
**bàn** (4) 办 §1550 do, manage, set up (308)  
 半 §1164 half, semi (234)  
 伴 §1165 companion, partner (234)  
 扮 §1512 dress up as, disguise as (302)  
**bāng** (2) 帮 §747 to help (154)  
 邦 §746 nation state (154)  
**bǎng** 膀 §1521 upper arm, shoulder (303)  
**bāo** (3) 包 §857 wrap, envelope (176)  
 胞 §1771 womb, sibling (350)  
 剥 §568 to peel, shell, skin (121)  
**báo** 薄 §1739 thin, flimsy (344)  
**bǎo** (4) 保 §987 protect, defend (201)  
 宝 §255 treasure, precious jewel (61)  
 堡 §988 fortress (201)  
 饱 §2198 full, satiated (431)  
**bào** (4) 报 §1862 newspaper (368)  
 暴 §1312 sudden and violent, savage (263)  
 抱 §876 hold or carry in arms (179)  
 爆 §1313 explode, burst, quick-fry (263)  
**bēi** (4) 背 §483 bear, shoulder (105)  
 悲 §909 sad, sorrow (186)  
 杯 §1453 cup (290)  
 卑 §1486 low, inferior (297)  
**běi** 北 §145 north (41)  
**bèi** (5) 被 §1844 quilt, passive marker (364)  
 备 §2027 prepare, get ready (400)  
 贝 §430 cowrie (95)  
 倍 §1197 -fold (241)  
 辈 §1435 lifetime (287)  
**bēn** (2) 奔 §1671 head for (331)  
 贲 §433 hasten (96)  
**běn** 本 §378 root or stem of plant (85)  
**bī** 逼 §2169 force, press on towards (426)
- bí** 鼻 §1704 nose (338)  
**bǐ** (4) 比 §146 compared with (41)  
 笔 §246 pen (60)  
 彼 §1898 other party, that, those (375)  
 匕 §142 ancient ladle (40)  
**bì** (8) 必 §1442 must (288)  
 避 §2158 avoid, evade (424)  
 毕 §148 finish, conclude (41)  
 币 §230 money, currency (57)  
 闭 §1469 shut\*, close\* (294)  
 壁 §1257 wall, cliff, rampart (252)  
 臂 §1773 arm, upper arm (351)  
 碧 §1387 green jade (277)  
**biān** (3) 边 §2143 side, margin, edge (421)  
 编 §834 weave, plait (171)  
 鞭 §1841 a whip (364)  
**biǎn** 扁 §729 flat, crushed (151)  
**biàn** (4) 变 §1865 transform, change into (368)  
 遍 §2153 all over, everywhere (422)  
 辩 §1267 argue, dispute, debate (254)  
 辨 §1222 distinguish between (246)  
**biāo** 标 §1066 to mark, label (216)  
**biào** 表 §841 external, surface (172)  
**bié** 别 §1548 do not, must not (308)  
**bīn** 宾 §1539 guest, visitor (307)  
**bīng** (2) 兵 §1483 soldier (296)  
 冰 §577 ice (124)  
**bǐng** (2) 屏 §1679 hold one's breath (333)  
 丙 §474 third in series (104)  
**bìng** (2) 并 §1677 an intensifier (333)  
 病 §701 disease, fall sick (147)  
**bō** (4) 波 §1895 wave, ripple of water (373)  
 播 §1324 sow, broadcast (265)  
 玻 §1894 glass (373)  
 拨 §1858 poke, stir, turn (367)  
**bó** (4) 伯 §970 father's elder brother (197)  
 博 §1736 win, gain (344)  
 勃 §1619 flourishing, thriving (321)  
 帛 §206 silk (52)  
**bǔ** (3) 补 §845 mend, patch (173)  
 捕 §1733 catch, seize (343)  
 卜 §170 foretell (45)  
**bù** (5) 不 §1452 no! (290)  
 部 §1182 part, section (238)  
 步 §1501 step (299)  
 布 §1641 cloth (325)  
 怖 §1660 fear, be afraid (328)  
 擦 §1892 rub, scrape (373)  
**cā** 猜 §1757 guess (347)  
**cāi** (3) 才 §1467 indicates sth just happened (293)  
 材 §1471 timber (294)  
 裁 §846 cut, cut cloth (173)  
**cǎi** (2) 采 §1348 pick, gather (270)  
 彩 §1350 colorful (270)  
**cài** (2) 财 §1470 wealth, riches (294)  
 菜 §1349 dish, course, veggies (270)  
**cān** (2) 参 §1292 take part in, participate (259)  
 餐 §1950 eat, meal (385)  
**cán** 残 §666 incomplete, deficient (140)

- cǎn** 惨 §1294 miserable, wretched (259)  
**cāng** (3) 苍 §866 dark green (177)  
 舱 §867 shipboard cabin or hold (177)  
 仓 §865 barn, storehouse (177)  
**cáng** 藏 §945 hide, conceal (193)  
**cāo** 操 §396 drill, exercise (89)  
**cáo** 曹 §105 plaintiff and defendant (33)  
**cǎo** 草 §95 grass (30)  
**cè** (4) 策 §480 policy, plan, scheme (105)  
 测 §550 to survey, measure (119)  
 侧 §1011 inclined to (205)  
 册 §134 book, booklet (39)  
**céng** (2) 曾 §1172 once, formerly (236)  
 层 §787 layer, story, floor (162)  
**chā** 插 §2279 insert, stick in (447)  
**chá** (3) 查 §390 check, investigate (88)  
 察 §1891 inspect, scrutinize (373)  
 茶 §1076 tea (217)  
 差 §1663 lack, short of (330)  
**chái** 柴 §459 firewood (101)  
**chǎn** 产 §1221 give birth to\* (246)  
**chàn** 颤 §448 quiver, tremble (100)  
**chāng** 昌 §69 flourishing (24)  
**cháng** (5) 长 §1423 long, length (284)  
 常 §1142 often (230)  
 偿 §1265 compensate, repay (254)  
 尝 §1264 taste, experience, ever (253)  
 肠 §1526 intestines (304)  
**chǎng** (2) 场 §1546 gathering place, field (308)  
 厂 §672 factory (141)  
**chàng** 唱 §75 sing (25)  
**chāo** 超 §1557 overtake, surpass, super- (309)  
**cháo** (2) 朝 §1761 dynasty (348)  
 潮 §1762 trendy, chic (348)  
**chǎo** 吵 §1476 quarrel, make noise (295)  
**chē** 车 §1430 car (286)  
**chē** 扯 §182 pull (48)  
**chè** (2) 彻 §1600 thorough, penetrating (317)  
 撤 §2227 remove, take away, withdraw (437)  
**chén** (7) 陈 §1558 put on display (310)  
 沉 §2084 submerge, lower (411)  
 臣 §17 subject of a ruler (12)  
 晨 §1850 morning, daybreak (366)  
 沈 §1651 to sink (327)  
 尘 §1071 dust, dirt (217)  
 辰 §1849 time, day, occasion (366)  
**chèn** 趁 §1288 take advantage of (258)  
**chēng** 称 §1238 call to, name (249)  
**chéng** (9) 成 §368 become, turn into (84)  
 程 §416 rule, order (93)  
 城 §369 wall, city wall (84)  
 承 §785 bear, hold, undertake (162)  
 盛 §370 to fill, ladle (84)  
 诚 §630 honest, sincere (134)  
 乘 §2119 multiply (417)  
 呈 §58 appear (21)  
 惩 §1038 punish, discipline (210)  
**chī** 吃 §2110 eat (415)  
**chí** (3) 持 §214 grasp, hold (54)
- 迟 §2165 late, tardy (425)  
 池 §552 pool, pond (119)  
 尺 §704 ruler (147)  
 齿 §324 tooth (75)  
**chǐ** (2) 赤 §1504 red, be flushed (300)  
 斥 §177 scold, reprimand (46)  
 敕 §2004 imperial edict (395)  
 啻 §1206 not only (243)  
**chōng** (2) 充 §772 fill, full (159)  
 冲 §570 pour boiling water on (122)  
**chóng** (2) 虫 §890 insect (182)  
 崇 §1268 respect, adulate (254)  
**chōu** 抽 §49 take out (20)  
**chóu** (3) 仇 §2048 hatred (403)  
 筹 §1368 tally, counter (274)  
 愁 §1111 worry about (224)  
**chǒu** 丑 §37 hideous (18)  
**chū** (2) 出 §22 exit (14)  
 初 §1569 at first (312)  
**chú** (2) 除 §1236 remove, do away with (248)  
 刍 §462 hay for fodder (102)  
**chǔ** (4) 处 §1972 get along with sb (389)  
 楚 §424 clear (94)  
 础 §1394 base\*, foundation\* (279)  
 储 §1618 store up, save (321)  
**chù** (2) 触 §1776 touch, contact, strike (351)  
 畜 §777 livestock (159)  
**chuān** (2) 穿 §1575 penetrate, pierce (313)  
 川 §1495 river (298)  
**chuán** (2) 传 §2248 pass on, impart (441)  
 船 §2079 ship, vessel (410)  
**chuǎn** (2) 喘 §90 gasp for breath (29)  
 舛 §1684 error, incongruous (334)  
 串 §46 strung together (19)  
**chuān** 窗 §1977 window (390)  
**chuāng** 床 §693 bed (145)  
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 甲 §50 first in a series (20)  
**jià** (3) 价 §1698 price (336)  
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**jiān** (10) 间 §198 room (51)  
 坚 §1853 hard, solid (366)  
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 艰 §1959 difficult, arduous (386)  
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 奸 §583 evil, treacherous (125)  
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- jiǎn** (3) 简 §245 simple, simplified (60)  
 检 §1355 check, examine (271)  
**jiàn** (11) 减 §573 lower, reduce (123)  
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 件 §977 m for items, things, etc (198)  
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**jiāng** (2) 将 §1488 handle a matter (297)  
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**jiǎng** (3) 讲 §1682 talk, speak, speaking of (333)  
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**jiē** (5) 接 §1185 come close to (239)  
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 皆 §235 each and every (58)  
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**jié** (8) 结 §813 tie, knit, knot, weave (167)  
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**jiè** (5) 界 §1699 boundary, scope (337)  
 介 §1697 introduce (336)  
 借 §1300 borrow or lend (261)  
 届 §706 a year's graduates (147)  
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**jīn** (5) 尽 §719 utmost, to the greatest extent (149)  
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- lǔ 鲁 §486 stupid, dull, vulgar (106)
- lù (4) 路 §2021 road, path, way (398)  
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- màn (3) 慢 §1914 slow (378)  
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- māo 猫 §905 cat (184)
- máo (2) 毛 §231 hair (57)  
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- mǎo 卯 §1522 early morning (303)
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- měi (2) 美 §1148 beautiful (232)  
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- méng 盟 §1775 alliance, pact, league (351)
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- miàn 面 §84 face, aspect (27)
- miáo (2) 描 §98 to trace (31)  
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- mǐn** (3) 敏 §2011 sharp, keen (396)  
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- míng** (3) 明 §1724 bright, clear (341)  
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- mìng** 命 §517 life, fate (112)
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- móu** 谋 §634 work for, seek (134)
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- nà** 纳 §818 accept, receive (168)
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- nài** (2) 耐 §216 bear, endure (54)  
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- nán** (4) 难 §1870 difficult, hard (369)  
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- nào** 闹 §274 make a noise (65)
- ne** 呢 §718 particle with many uses (149)
- nèi** 内 §318 inside\* (74)
- néng** 能 §1740 can, able (344)
- ng** 呢 §917 how come? why? (187)
- ní** (2) 尼 §717 nun (149)  
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- nǐ** (2) 你 §1072 you (217)  
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- nì** 逆 §2129 go against, disobey (418)
- nián** 年 §192 year (50)
- niàn** 念 §1372 read aloud (274)
- niáng** 娘 §1916 mum, mother (378)
- niào** 鸟 §885 bird (181)
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- nín** 您 §1243 you (formal) (249)
- níng** 凝 §1420 congeal, curdle (284)
- nìng** 宁 §257 rather, would rather (62)
- niú** 牛 §186 ox (49)
- niǔ** (2) 纽 §811 button (167)  
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- nòng** 弄 §1669 make, do, manage (331)
- nú** 奴 §1928 slave, enslave (381)
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- nù** 怒 §1935 become angry, indignant (382)
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- nuó** 娜 §1781 lithe, graceful (352)
- nuò** 诺 §1658 to promise (328)
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- ōu** 欧 §1915 Europe (378)
- ǒu** 偶 §2212 by chance (434)
- pá** 爬 §2209 crawl, creep, scramble (434)
- pà** (2) 怕 §934 to fear, be afraid (190)  
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- pāi** 拍 §204 clap (52)
- pái** (2) 排 §32 put in order (17)  
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- pán** 盘 §610 dish, current market price (130)
- pàn** (2) 判 §1666 judge, decide (330)  
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- pāng** 乓 §1482 ping-pong\* (296)
- páng** (2) 旁 §1520 side (303)  
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- pàng** 胖 §1223 fat, stout, plump (246)
- pāo** 抛 §1629 toss, fling, abandon (323)
- páo** 袍 §875 robe, gown (178)
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- pào** (2) 炮 §1253 cannon, firecracker (252)  
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- pèi** (2) 配 §861 join together (176)  
 佩 §2100 to girdle (413)
- pēn** 喷 §434 spurt, spout, gush (96)
- péng** (3) 朋 §1741 friend (345)  
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- pèng** 碰 §1389 touch, bump (278)
- pī** 批 §147 annotate (41)
- pí** (2) 皮 §1842 leather, skin (364)  
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- pǐ** 匹 §290 be a match for (69)
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- piān** (2) 篇 §730 piece of writing (151)  
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- pián** 便 §1839 cheap (363)
- piàn** (2) 片 §1485 slice, flake (297)  
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- piāo** (2) 飘 §2101 blow, drift about (413)  
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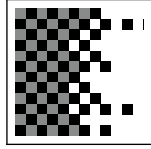
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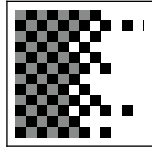
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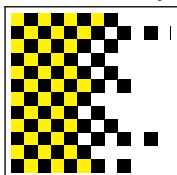
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