

艸 cǎo grass	水 shuǐ water	木 mù tree	手 shǒu hand	口 kǒu mouth	心 xīn heart	虫 huǐ insect	竹 zhú bamboo	言 yán speech	糸 mì silk	金 jīn gold	人 rén man
鸟 niǎo bird	女 nǚ woman	肉 ròu meat	目 mù eye	火 huǒ fire	山 shān mountain	衣 yī clothes	土 tǔ earth	足 zú foot	鱼 yú fish	疒 nè sickness	石 shí stone
玉 yù jade	马 mǎ horse	日 rì sun	犬 quǎn dog	禾 hé grain	食 shí eat	走 chù walk	刀 dāo knife	页 yè leaf	车 chē cart	邑 yì city	阜 fù mound
米 mǐ rice	革 gé leather	穴 xué cave	雨 yǔ rain	支 pī rap	巾 jīn turban	酉 yǒu wine	走 zǒu run	贝 bèi shell	宀 mián roof	门 mén gate	髟 biāo hair
欠 qiàn lack	牛 niú cow	隹 zhuī short-tailed bird	歹 dǎi death	羽 yǔ feather	彳 chì step	示 shì spirit	毛 máo fur	舟 zhōu boat	田 tián field	骨 gǔ bone	风 fēng wind
瓦 wǎ tile	耳 ěr ear	黑 hēi black	弓 gōng bow	力 lì power	网 wǎng net	齿 chǐ tooth	见 jiàn see	角 jiǎo horn	羊 yáng sheep	尸 shī corpse	豕 shǐ pig
鬼 guǐ ghost	豸 zhì badger	大 dà big	麦 mài wheat	厂 hàn cliff	皿 mǐn dish	口 wéi enclosure	戈 gē halberd	冫 bīng ice	虎 hǔ tiger	白 bái white	鹿 lù deer
立 lì stand	韦 wéi tanned leather	止 zhǐ stop	身 shēn body	皮 pí skin	殳 shū weapon	方 fāng square	飞 fēi fly	鼠 shǔ rat	又 yòu again	耒 lěi plow	子 zǐ child
片 piàn slice	缶 fǒu jar	鬲 lì cauldron	臼 jiù mortar	月 yuè moon	豆 dòu bean	尢 wāng lame	面 miàn face	矛 máo spear	勹 bāo wrap	匚 fāng right open box	矢 shǐ arrow
彡 shān bristle	血 xuè blood	十 shí ten	斤 jīn axe	瓜 guā melon	长 cháng long	谷 gǔ valley	行 xíng walk enclosure	儿 ér son, legs	幺 yāo short thread	卅 gǒng two hands	鼻 bí nose
冫 qiáng half tree trunk	黍 shǔ millet	鼓 gǔ drum	卜 bǔ divination	八 bā eight	户 hù door	鹵 lǔ salt	音 yīn sound	一 yī one	乙 yǐ second	黄 huáng yellow	小 xiǎo small
卩 jié seal	厶 sī private	寸 cùn inch	龟 guī frog	亠 tóu lid	几 jǐ table	屮 chè sprout	曰 yuē say	香 xiāng fragrant	爪 zhǎo claw	辛 xīn bitter	夕 xī evening
自 zì self	高 gāo tall	麻 má hemp	丿 piě slash	斗 dǒu dipper	舌 shé tongue	赤 chì red	冫 mì cover	二 èr two	西 xī west	入 rù enter	川 chuān river
支 zhī branch	文 wén script	彡 jì snout	非 fēi wrong	士 shì scholar	至 zhì arrive	龟 guī turtle	凵 qū open box	夕 sù go slowly	鬥 dòu fight	甘 gān sweet	生 shēng life
老 lǎo old	而 ér and	丨 gǔn line	比 bǐ compare	色 sè color	己 jǐ oneself	韭 jiǔ leek	首 shǒu head	丿 jué hook	匕 bǐ spoon	聿 yù brush	龠 yuè flute
齐 qí even	匚 xǐ/xì hiding enclosure	工 gōng work	气 qì steam	青 qīng blue	毋 wú do not	爻 yáo double x	臣 chén minister	广 guǎng wide	弋 yì shoot	疋 pǐ bolt of cloth	夂 bō dotted tent
辰 chén morning	采 cǎi distinguish	里 lǐ village	鼎 dǐng tripod	龙 lóng dragon	无 wú not	肉 ròu track	隶 lì slave	夕 zhǐ go	丶 zhǔ dot	氏 shì clan	父 fù father
用 yòng use	舛 chuǎn oppose	干 gān dry	彳 yǐn long stride	牙 yá fang	鬯 chàng sacrificial wine	黹 zhǐ embroidery	玄 xuán profound	艮 gēn stopping			

Hanzi WallChart Most Frequent Radicals

Readme

What are Chinese radicals and why should I care?

Chinese radicals are the basic building blocks of the written Chinese language.

Chinese words are made up of Chinese characters; Chinese characters are made up of components. These components are made of radicals and other strokes. Knowing the radicals allows for a more rapid acquisition of the Chinese written language.

For example the word 我的 (“my”) is composed of the characters 我 and 的 (“I” and the possessive particle 的).

The character 的 has two components, 白 and 勺 (“white” and “spoon”). The component 勺. The component 勺 is made up of the radicals 勹 (“wrap”) and 丶 (“dot”).

By knowing the radicals it is possible to decompose Chinese words, characters and components into radicals. Radicals are therefore the basic units of written Chinese, much like the letters of the alphabet are the basic unit of English words.

Knowing these radicals can also be used in creating mnemonics, which are vitally important to memorizing Chinese words.

In this case the component 勺 can be remembered as a “dot” of soup “wrap-ed” by the groove of a “spoon”.

When the component 勺 is remembered it can be added to the component 白 (made of the radicals 日 and 丶 and with the meaning “white”) to make “white spoon.”

White spoon would be used in a mnemonic to remember the idea of *possession* – for instance thinking about a pauper whose only possession is a brilliant white spoon that he treasures more than anything.

Your particular mnemonics will be based on what works for you. In general striking graphical images are easier to remember, as are mnemonics based on people or places you know yourself.

Knowing the radicals though allow you to build up these stories in a consistent way because you will know the basic elements that make up all Chinese characters.

How the Chart works:

The radical chart contains the Kangxi radicals, ordered by usage frequency. The most frequently used begin in the top left of the chart and proceed to the right before moving to the next row. The top left is therefore the most frequently used and the bottom right the least frequently used.

Each radical is accompanied by its pinyin pronunciation and English translation. Many of the radicals are *also* characters, often but not always with the same meaning and pronunciation.

To the left of some of the radicals are the radical *variants*. Depending on the placement of the radical within a character its form sometimes changes. For instance 水 (“water”) is written 氵 when at the left of a character. 火 is written 灬 when at the bottom of a character.

Having the Most Frequent Radicals WallChart on your wall gives you a quick reference to check for radicals whilst learning Chinese characters. When you are learning a new character try to break it down into its components and radicals.

As you spend more and more time decomposing characters into radicals it will become second nature. The Most Frequent Radicals WallChart will help you get going with this progress and even later in your character education you can still use the wallchart to check on the rarer radicals.

The Most Frequent Radical WallChart looks best when printed onto A3 paper but still works on A4.