HSK 1 Characters - Analysis of the Origins

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Lesson 1 你好

你好 - nǐ hǎo - Hello

你 (nǐ - you):

原为"你"。从人(rén)，从尔。"尔"本为第二人称代词，后加"亻(rén)"旁专指对方。

Originally "你". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 尔 (which originally meant "you"). The radical was added to specialize the meaning.

好 (hǎo - good): 从女(nǚ)，从子(zǐ)。像一位母亲抱着孩子，表示美好、和谐。

Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 子(zǐ) (child). Depicts a mother with her child, representing goodness and harmony.

您 - nín - You (respectful)

您 (nín - you): 后起字。从你，从心(xīn)。表示"将你放在心上来尊敬"。

A relatively modern character. Composed of 你 (you) and 心(xīn) (heart), implying "holding you in heart" as a sign of respect.

你们 - nǐ men - You (plural)

你 (nǐ - you):

原为"你"。从人(rén)，从尔。"尔"本为第二人称代词，后加"亻(rén)"旁专指对方。

Originally "你". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 尔 (which originally meant "you"). The radical was added to specialize the meaning.

们 (men - plural marker):

原为"們"。从人(rén)，門(mén)声。本义为"辈"、"类"，后用作表示人称复数的词尾。

Originally "們". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 門(mén) (door, which provides pronunciation). It meant "category" and later became a plural suffix

for pronouns.

你好吗？- nǐ hǎo ma? - How are you?

你 (nǐ - you):

原为"你"。从人(rén)，从尔。"尔"本为第二人称代词，后加"亻(rén)"旁专指对方。

Originally "你". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 尔 (which originally meant "you"). The radical was added to specialize the meaning.

好 (hǎo - good): 从女(nǚ)，从子(zǐ)。像一位母亲抱着孩子，表示美好、和谐。

Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 子(zǐ) (child). Depicts a mother with her child, representing goodness and harmony.

吗 (ma - question particle):

繁体为"嗎"。从口(kǒu)，馬(mǎ)声。是近代才用作疑问语气词的形声字。

Traditional form is "嗎". Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 馬(mǎ) (horse, which provides pronunciation). It's a phonetic compound recently used as a question particle.

我很好。- wǒ hěn hǎo - I'm very good.

我 (wǒ - I/me): 甲骨文像一种有锯齿状刃的兵器。后假借为第一人称代词。

Oracle bone script resembles a weapon with a serrated blade. It was later borrowed for use as the first-person pronoun "I/me".

很 (hěn - very):

从彳(chì)（行走），艮(gèn)声。本义是"不听从"、"违逆"，后假借表示程度高。

Composed of 彳(chì) (step) and 艮(gèn) (to stare, provides sound). Its original meaning was "to disobey", later borrowed to mean "very".

好 (hǎo - good): 从女(nǚ)，从子(zǐ)。像一位母亲抱着孩子，表示美好、和谐。

Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 子(zǐ) (child). Depicts a mother with her child, representing goodness and harmony.

对不起 - duì bu qǐ - Sorry

对 (duì - facing/towards):

繁体为"對"。从羊(zhuó)（丛生草），从口(kǒu)，从寸(cùn)（手）。像手持物回应，表示应答、朝向。

Traditional form is "對". Shows a hand (寸) holding a tool over vegetation (羊) and a mouth (口), implying response and facing.

不 (bù - not): 像花萼的形状，是"萼"的本字。很早就被假借为否定副词。

Resembles the calyx of a flower, original form of "萼" (calyx). It was borrowed very early as a negative adverb.

起 (qǐ - rise): 从走(zǒu)，己(jǐ)声。本义是"由躺而坐或由坐而立"，即起身、发动。

Composed of 走(zǒu) (run/walk) and 己(jǐ) (self, provides sound). It means "to rise from sitting or lying" or "to start".

没关系 - méi guān xi - It's okay / No problem

没 (méi - not have):

从水(shuǐ)，从叟（手入水）。像手沉入水中，表示沉没、消失。

Composed of 水(shuǐ) (water) and 叟 (a hand sinking). Depicts a hand submerged in water, meaning "to sink" or "to disappear".

关 (guān - connection): 繁体为"關"。从門(mén)，𦥑声。像门内有门闩，表示闭合。

Traditional form is "關". Composed of 門(mén) (door/gate) and 𦥑 (provides sound). It depicts a bolt inside a gate, meaning "to close" or "shut".

系 (xì - relation): 像手持丝线（糸(mì)）将它们连接起来，表示联结、系统。

Depicts a hand holding threads (糸(mì)) to connect them, meaning "to connect" or "system".

Lesson 2 谢谢你

谢谢 - xiè xie - Thank you

谢 (xiè - thank): 从言(yán)，射(shè)声。本义是认错、道歉或辞去，引申为感谢。

Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 射(shè) (shoot, provides sound). Originally meant to apologize or decline, later extended to mean "to thank".

谢 (xiè - thank):（同上）

(Same as above)

不谢 - bù xiè - No need to thank

不 (bù - not): 像花萼的形状，是"萼"的本字。很早就被假借为否定副词。

Resembles the calyx of a flower, original form of "萼" (calyx). It was borrowed very early as a negative adverb.

谢 (xiè - thank): 从言(yán)，射(shè)声。本义是认错、道歉或辞去，引申为感谢。

Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 射(shè) (shoot, provides sound). Originally meant to apologize or decline, later extended to mean "to thank".

谢谢你！- xiè xie nǐ! - Thank you!

谢 (xiè - thank): 从言(yán)，射(shè)声。本义是认错、道歉或辞去，引申为感谢。

Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 射(shè) (shoot, provides sound). Originally meant to apologize or decline, later extended to mean "to thank".

谢 (xiè - thank):（同上）

(Same as above)

你 (nǐ - you):

原为"你"。从人(rén)，从尔。"尔"本为第二人称代词，后加"亻(rén)"旁专指对方。

Originally "你". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 尔 (which originally meant "you"). The radical was added to specialize the meaning.

不 - bù - No / Not

不 (bù - not): 像花萼的形状，是"萼"的本字。很早就被假借为否定副词。

Resembles the calyx of a flower, original form of "萼" (calyx). It was borrowed very early as a negative adverb.

不客气 - bù kè qi - You're welcome

不 (bù - not): 像花萼的形状，是"萼"的本字。很早就被假借为否定副词。

Resembles the calyx of a flower, original form of "萼" (calyx). It was borrowed very early as a negative adverb.

客 (kè - guest): 从宀(mián)（房屋），从各(gè)（到来）。表示外来的人，即宾客。

Composed of 宀(mián) (roof/house) and 各(gè) (to arrive). Refers to a person who arrives, meaning "guest".

气 (qì - air/manner):

像云气蒸腾上升的样子。本义是云气，泛指一切气体，引申为气象、态度。

Pictograph of rising steam or clouds. Originally meant "cloud vapor", extended to mean "air", "energy", or "manner".

再见 - zài jiàn - Goodbye

再 (zài - again):

从冓（构件），从冂。像鱼笼形的结构，假借表示"第二次"或"又一次"。

Its form resembles a fish trap structure. It was borrowed to mean "a second time" or "again".

见 (jiàn - see): 从目(mù)，从人(rén)（儿）。突出人的眼睛，表示"看见"。

Composed of 目(mù) (eye) and 人(rén) (person). It emphasizes the eye to mean "to see".

见 - jiàn - To see

见 (jiàn - see): 从目(mù)，从人(rén)（儿）。突出人的眼睛，表示"看见"。

Composed of 目(mù) (eye) and 人(rén) (person). It emphasizes the eye to mean "to see".

Lesson 3 你叫什么名字？

叫 - jiào - To call

叫 (jiào - to call): 从口(kǒu)，丩(jiū)声。"丩"像两绳纠缠，在此表音。表示呼喊。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 丩(jiū) (entangled threads, provides sound). It means to shout or call.

什么 - shén me - What

什 (shén - what):

从人(rén)，十(shí)声。本义是"以十为单位"，如"什伍"。后假借用于疑问。

Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 十(shí) (ten, which provides pronunciation). It meant "a unit of ten", later borrowed for "what".

么 (me - suffix): 繁体为"麼"。从麻(má)，幺(yāo)声。本义是"细丝"，后用作后缀。

Simplified from "麼". Composed of 麻(má) and 幺(yāo) (fine silk, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "fine silk", now used as a suffix or in questions.

名字 - míng zi - Name

名 (míng - name): 从口(kǒu)，从夕(xī)。夜晚看不清，用口自报名字，表示名称。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 夕(xī) (evening). To tell one's name in the dark, hence "name".

字 (zì - character/name):

从宀(mián)（房子），从子(zǐ)。本义是"生育"，引申为由"文"衍生出的文字，也指人的表字。

Composed of 宀(mián) (roof) and 子(zǐ) (child). Original meaning "to give birth", extended to mean "character" and also a courtesy name.

我 - wǒ - I, me

我 (wǒ - I/me): 甲骨文像一种有锯齿状刃的兵器。后假借为第一人称代词。

Oracle bone script resembles a weapon with a serrated blade. It was later borrowed for use as the first-person pronoun "I/me".

李月 - Lǐ Yuè - Li Yue (a personal name)

李 (Lǐ - plum/surname):

从木(mù)，子(zǐ)声。本义是李树或李子。也是一个常见的姓氏。

Composed of 木(mù) (tree) and 子(zǐ) (child, which provides pronunciation). It means plum tree or plum fruit. A common surname.

月 (yuè - moon): 像一轮缺月的形状。因月亮常呈弦月形，故以此与"日"区分。

Pictograph of a crescent moon. Differentiated from the sun (日) by its common non-full shape.

是 - shì - To be

是 (shì - to be): 从日(rì)，从正(zhèng)（脚朝向目标）。表示阳光直射、正确、肯定。

Composed of 日(rì) (sun) and 正(zhèng) (upright, going straight). Means "straight", "correct", then "to be".

老师 - lǎo shī - Teacher

老 (lǎo - old): 像一位长发、弯腰、扶杖的老人形象。

Depicts an old person with long hair, bent back, and using a cane.

师 (shī - teacher):

繁体为"師"。从帀（环绕），从垍（小土山）。本义是军队编制，引申为教导众人者。

Traditional form is "師". Originally meant an army division, extended to mean someone who instructs many (a teacher).

**吗 - ma - Question particle **

吗 (ma - question particle):

繁体为"嗎"。从口(kǒu)，馬(mǎ)声。是近代才用作疑问语气词的形声字。

Traditional form is "嗎". Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 馬(mǎ) (horse, which provides pronunciation). It's a phonetic compound recently used as a question particle.

学生 - xué sheng - Student

学 (xué - to learn):

繁体为"學"。像双手摆弄算筹（爻(yáo)）在屋（宀(mián)）下，表示学习。

Traditional form is "學". Shows two hands (臼) arranging counting rods (爻) under a roof (宀), meaning "to learn".

生 (shēng - life/student):

像草木从地面上生长出来。表示出生、生长、生命，引申为学生。

Pictograph of a plant sprouting from the ground. It means birth, growth, and life, extended to mean "student".

人 - rén - Person, people

人 (rén - person): 像侧面站立的人形。

Pictograph of a person standing in profile.

中国 - Zhōng guó - China

中 (zhōng - middle/center):

像一面旗帜，竖杆居中，表示中央、中间。旗杆上的飘带可表示风向。

Depicts a flagpole with a banner in the center, meaning "middle". The ribbons indicated wind direction.

国 (guó - country):

繁体为"國"。从口(wéi)（疆域），从或（"域"的本字，从戈(gē)守城）。表示用武力守卫的疆域。

Traditional form is "國". Composed of 口(wéi) (enclosure, territory) and 或 (originally "region", involving a spear 戈 guarding a city 口).

美国 - Měi guó - America

美 (měi - beautiful): 从羊(yáng)，从大(dà)。像人戴着羊头形的装饰，表示美丽、美好。

Composed of 羊(yáng) (sheep) and 大(dà) (big/person). Represents a person wearing a sheep's head as adornment, meaning beautiful.

国 (guó - country):（同上）

(Same as above)

Lesson 4 她是我的汉语老师

她 - tā - She

她 (tā - she):

现代汉字。从女(nǚ)，他(tā)声。为区分第三人称性别而新造，专指女性。

A modern character. Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 他(tā) (he, which provides pronunciation). Created to distinguish the third-person gender, specifically for females.

谁 - shéi - Who

谁 (shéi - who): 繁体为"誰"。从言(yán)，隹(zhuī)声。本义是"何人"，表示疑问。

Traditional form is "誰". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 隹(zhuī) (short-tailed bird, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "which person", indicating a question.

的 - de - Of (possessive particle)

的 (de - possessive particle):

本字为"旳"。从日(rì)，勺(sháo)声。本义是"明亮"、"鲜明"，后假借为结构助词。

Original form is "旳". Composed of 日(rì) (sun) and 勺(sháo) (spoon, which provides pronunciation). Meant "bright", "clear", later borrowed as a structural particle.

汉语 - Hàn yǔ - Chinese (language)

汉 (Hàn - Han Chinese):

繁体为"漢"。从水(shuǐ)，難(nán)省声。本义指汉水，后指汉朝、汉族。

Traditional form is "漢". Composed of 水(shuǐ) (water) and a simplified form of 難(nán) (which provides pronunciation). Originally referred to the Han River, later the Han Dynasty and Han ethnicity.

语 (yǔ - language): 繁体为"語"。从言(yán)，吾(wú)声。表示说话、谈论。

Traditional form is "語". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 吾(wú) (I, which provides pronunciation). It means to speak or discuss.

哪 - nǎ - Which

哪 (nǎ - which): 从口(kǒu)，那(nà)声。是后起的疑问代词，表示对地点或选择的疑问。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 那(nà) (that, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed interrogative pronoun indicating question about location or choice.

国 - guó - Country

国 (guó - country):

繁体为"國"。从口(wéi)（疆域），从或（"域"的本字，从戈(gē)守城）。表示用武力守卫的疆域。

Traditional form is "國". Composed of 口(wéi) (enclosure, territory) and 或 (originally "region", involving a spear 戈 guarding a city 口).

**呢 - ne - Question particle **

呢 (ne - question particle):

从口(kǒu)，尼(ní)声。本义指絮絮叨叨的说话声，后用作语气助词。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 尼(ní) (Buddhist nun, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant the sound of chattering, later used as a modal particle.

他 - tā - He

他 (tā - he): 从人(rén)，也(yě)声。本义是"别的"、"其他的"，后专指男性第三人

称。

Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 也(yě) (also, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "other", later specialized for the male third person.

同学 - tóng xué - Classmate

同 (tóng - same): 从冃（重复），从口(kǒu)。表示众口同声，相合、一起。

Composed of 冃 (repetition) and 口(kǒu) (mouth). Indicates speaking in unison, meaning "same" or "together".

学 (xué - to learn):

繁体为"學"。像双手摆弄算筹（爻(yáo)）在屋（宀(mián)）下，表示学习。

Traditional form is "學". Shows two hands (臼) arranging counting rods (爻) under a roof (宀), meaning "to learn".

朋友 - péng you - Friend

朋 (péng - friend):

早期字形像两串贝币并列。古代以五贝为一系，两系为一朋，引申为同伴。

Early form resembled two strings of cowrie currency side by side. It meant "companion".

友 (yǒu - friend):

从二又（两只右手），像两手相助，表示志同道合、互相帮助的人。

Composed of two 又 (right hands), depicting hands helping each other, meaning a like-minded and helpful person.

Lesson 5 她女儿今年二十岁

家 - jiā - Home/Family

家 (jiā - home/family):

从宀(mián)（房子），从豕(shǐ)（猪）。古代养猪是家庭财富和定居的标志，故房子里有猪即为"家"。

Composed of 宀(mián) (roof) and 豕(shǐ) (pig). Raising pigs was a sign of wealth and settlement in ancient times, so a house with a pig meant "home".

有 - yǒu - To have/There is

有 (yǒu - to have):

从月（肉），从又(yòu)（手）。像手持一块肉，表示"持有"、"拥有"。

Composed of 月 (meat) and 又(yòu) (hand). Depicts holding a piece of meat, meaning "to hold" or "to possess".

口 - kǒu - Mouth

口 (kǒu - mouth): 像人嘴的形状。表示嘴巴，引申为开口、出入口。

Pictograph of a human mouth. Means "mouth", extended to mean opening or entrance.

女儿 - nǚ ér - Daughter

女 (nǚ - woman):

像一位跪坐着手臂交叉在身前的人形。是"母"字省去两点，表示未婚女性。

Depicts a person kneeling with arms crossed. It is the character "母" (mother) without the two dots, indicating an unmarried woman.

儿 (ér - child):

繁体为"兒"。从儿（人），从臼（象囟门未合之形）。本义是小孩。

Traditional form is "兒". Composed of 儿 (person) and 臼 (resembling an unclosed fontanelle). Originally meant a small child.

几 - jǐ - How many/How much

几 (jǐ - how many):

繁体为"幾"。从幺(yāo)（小），从戍(shù)（守卫 ）。本义是"微小的迹象"，假借为疑问词。

Traditional form is "幾". Composed of 幺(yāo) (small) and 戍(shù) (guard, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "a slight sign", borrowed as an interrogative word.

岁 - suì - Year (of age)

岁 (suì - year of age):

繁体为"歲"。从步(bù)，从戌(xū)。本义指木星，古人以其行天一次纪年，故引申为年岁。

Traditional form is "歲". Composed of 步(bù) (step) and 戌(xū) (a weapon, which provides pronunciation). Originally referred to the planet Jupiter; the ancients used its orbit to mark years, hence it means "year (of age)".

今年 - jīn nián - This year

今 (jīn - now):

像铃铛的倒口形和舌形，是"吟"（含）的本字，假借表示"现在"。

Resembles an inverted bell mouth and clapper, original form of "吟" (to chant/to hold in mouth), borrowed to mean "now".

年 (nián - year):

从禾(hé)，从人(rén)。像人背着成熟的禾谷，表示收成。古代一年一熟，故以"年"纪岁。

Composed of 禾(hé) (grain) and 人(rén) (person). Depicts a person carrying ripe grain, meaning "harvest". As there was one harvest per year, it came to mean "year".

**了 - le - Particle indicating change **

了 (le - change of state particle):

像婴儿蜷缩手脚包裹在襁褓之形。本义是"了结"，虚化后作语气助词。

Depicts an infant with limbs curled up, swaddled in cloth. Original meaning was "to finish", later grammaticalized as a modal particle.

多 - duō - Many/Much

多 (duō - many/much): 从二"夕"（肉）。像两块肉叠放，表示数量大。

Composed of two 夕 (pieces of meat). Depicts two pieces of meat stacked, indicating a large quantity.

大 - dà - Big

大 (dà - big): 像一个人张开双臂站立，顶天立地的样子，表示"大"。

Pictograph of a person standing with arms and legs outstretched, representing something large or great.

Lesson 6 我会说汉语

会 - huì - Can/To know how to

会 (huì - can/to know how to):

繁体为"會"。从亼（集合），从曾(zēng)（增加）。本义是"聚合"，引申为"理解"、"懂得"、"能够"。

Traditional form is "會". Composed of 亼 (to gather) and 曾(zēng) (to increase, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to assemble", extended to mean "to understand", "to know", or "to be able to".

说 - shuō - To speak

说 (shuō - to speak): 繁体为"說"。从言(yán)，兑(duì)声。本义是解释、说明。

Traditional form is "說". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 兑(duì) (to exchange, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is to explain or illustrate.

妈妈 - mā ma - Mom/Mother

妈 (mā - mom): 从女(nǚ)，馬(mǎ)声。形声字，专指母亲。

Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 馬(mǎ) (horse, which provides pronunciation). A phonetic compound character specifically for "mother".

妈 (ma - mom):（同上）

(Same as above)

菜 - cài - Vegetable/Dish

菜 (cài - vegetable/dish):

从艸(cǎo)（草），采(cǎi)声。本义是蔬菜，引申指烹调好的菜肴。

Composed of 艹(cǎo) (grass/plant) and 采(cǎi) (to pick, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant vegetables, extended to mean cooked dishes.

很 - hěn - Very

很 (hěn - very):

从彳(chì)（行走），艮(gèn)声。本义是"不听从"、"违逆"，后假借表示程度高。

Composed of 彳(chì) (step) and 艮(gèn) (to stare, provides sound). Its original meaning was "to disobey", later borrowed to mean "very".

好吃 - hǎo chī - Delicious

好 (hǎo - good): 从女(nǚ)，从子(zǐ)。像一位母亲抱着孩子，表示美好、和谐。

Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 子(zǐ) (child). Depicts a mother with her child, representing goodness and harmony.

吃 (chī - to eat):

从口(kǒu)，乞(qǐ)声。本义是口吃、说话结巴，后假借为"喫"的简化字，表示进食。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 乞(qǐ) (to beg, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "to stammer", later borrowed as the simplified form of "喫" meaning "to eat".

做 - zuò - To do/To make

做 (zuò - to do/to make): 从人(rén)，从故(gù)。

"故"有"使为之"意，表示人从事某种行为。

Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 故(gù) (reason/incident, implying "to cause to happen"). It means a person engaging in an action.

写 - xiě - To write

写 (xiě - to write):

繁体为"寫"。从宀(mián)（房屋），舄(xì)声。本义是"置物"，即把东西移放到屋里，引申为描摹、书写。

Traditional form is "寫". Composed of 宀(mián) (roof) and 舄(xì) (a type of shoe, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to place things", i.e., to move things into a house, extended to mean to depict or write.

汉字 - Hàn zì - Chinese Character

汉 (Hàn - Han Chinese):

繁体为"漢"。从水(shuǐ)，難(nán)省声。本义指汉水，后指汉朝、汉族。

Traditional form is "漢". Composed of 氵(shuǐ) (water) and a simplified form of 難(nán) (which provides pronunciation). Originally referred to the Han River, later the Han Dynasty and Han ethnicity.

字 (zì - character):

从宀(mián)（房子），从子(zǐ)。本义是"生育"，引申为由"文"衍生出的合体字。

Composed of 宀(mián) (roof) and 子(zǐ) (child). Original meaning "to give birth", extended to mean Chinese character derived from simpler components.

字 - zì - Character/Word

字 (zì - character/word):（同上）

(Same as above)

怎么 - zěn me - How

怎 (zěn - how): 从心(xīn)，乍(zhà)声。后起的疑问代词，表示询问方式或原因。

Composed of 心(xīn) (heart) and 乍(zhà) (suddenly, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed interrogative pronoun asking about manner or reason.

么 (me - suffix): 繁体为"麼"。从麻(má)，幺(yāo)声。本义是"细丝"，后用作后缀。

Simplified from "麼". Composed of 麻(má) and 幺(yāo) (fine silk, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "fine silk", now used as a suffix or in questions.

读 - dú - To read

读 (dú - to read):

繁体为"讀"。从言(yán)，賣(mài)声。本义是"诵书"，即朗诵、阅读文章。

Traditional form is "讀". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 賣(mài) (to sell, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is to read aloud or to read.

Lesson 7 今天几号

请 - qǐng - Please

请 (qǐng - please):

繁体为"請"。从言(yán)，青(qīng)声。本义是"谒见"、"拜访"，引申为请求、敬辞。

Traditional form is "請". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 青(qīng) (blue/green, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to have an audience with", extended to mean "to request" or a polite term.

问 - wèn - To ask

问 (wèn - to ask): 繁体为"問"。从口(kǒu)，門(mén)声。在门内询问，表示发问。

Traditional form is "問". Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 門(mén) (door, which provides pronunciation). To ask at the door, indicating inquiry.

请问 - qǐng wèn - May I ask...

请 (qǐng - please):（同上）

(Same as above)

问 (wèn - to ask):（同上）

(Same as above)

今天 - jīn tiān - Today

今 (jīn - now):

像铃铛的倒口形和舌形，是"吟"（含）的本字，假借表示"现在"。

Resembles an inverted bell mouth and clapper, original form of "吟" (to chant/to hold in mouth), borrowed to mean "now".

天 (tiān - day/sky):

从一，从大(dà)。像人头顶上的空间，本义是"头顶"，引申为天空、上天、日子。

Composed of 一 (one) and 大(dà) (big/person). Represents the space above a person's head, original meaning was "top of the head", extended to mean sky, heaven, or day.

号 - hào - Number/Date

号 (hào - number/date):

繁体为"號"。从号，从虎(hǔ)。像老虎吼叫，本义是"呼喊"，引申为标志、编号。

Traditional form is "號". Composed of 号 (to cry) and 虎(hǔ) (tiger, which provides pronunciation). Depicts a tiger roaring, original meaning was "to shout", extended to mean mark or number.

月 - yuè - Month/Moon

月 (yuè - month/moon):

像一轮缺月的形状。因月亮常呈弦月形，故以此与"日"区分。

Pictograph of a crescent moon. Differentiated from the sun (日) by its common non-full shape.

星期 - xīng qī - Week

星 (xīng - star): 从晶(jīng)，生(shēng)声。"晶"像群星，本义是天空中发光的天体。

Composed of 晶(jīng) (sparkle/stars) and 生(shēng) (birth, which provides pronunciation). "晶" resembles a group of stars, its meaning is the luminous bodies in the sky.

期 (qī - period):

从月(yuè)，其(qí)声。本义是"会合"、"约定时间"，引申为固定的时段。

Composed of 月(yuè) (moon/month) and 其(qí) (a basket, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to meet", "to set a time", extended to mean a fixed period.

昨天 - zuó tiān - Yesterday

昨 (zuó - yesterday): 从日(rì)，乍(zhà)声。表示刚过去的一天。

Composed of 日(rì) (sun/day) and 乍(zhà) (suddenly, which provides pronunciation). Refers to the day that has just passed.

天 (tiān - day):（同上）

(Same as above)

明天 - míng tiān - Tomorrow

明 (míng - bright/tomorrow):

从月(yuè)，从囧（窗户 ）。月光透过窗户，表示明亮，引申为"次日"。

Composed of 月(yuè) (moon) and 囧 (window). Moonlight coming through a window means "bright", extended to mean "the next day".

天 (tiān - day):（同上）

(Same as above)

去 - qù - To go

去 (qù - to go):

从大(dà)（人），从凵（坑穴）。像人离开居住的穴居，表示离开。

Composed of 大(dà) (person) and 凵 (receptacle/hole). Depicts a person leaving a dwelling, meaning "to leave".

学校 - xué xiào - School

学 (xué - to learn):

繁体为"學"。像双手摆弄算筹（爻(yáo)）在屋（宀(mián)）下，表示学习。

Traditional form is "學". Shows two hands (臼) arranging counting rods (爻) under a roof (宀), meaning "to learn".

校 (xiào - school):

从木(mù)，交(jiāo)声。本义是"木囚"，即古代刑具，引申为校正、较量，后指教学场所。

Composed of 木(mù) (wood) and 交(jiāo) (to cross, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "wooden fetters", extended to mean "to check", "to compare", later referring to a place of teaching.

看 - kàn - To look/To read/To watch

看 (kàn - to look): 从手(shǒu)，从目(mù)。像手搭在眼睛上方遮光远望。

Composed of 手(shǒu) (hand) and 目(mù) (eye). Depicts a hand shading the eyes to look into the distance.

书 - shū - Book

书 (shū - book):

繁体为"書"。从聿(yù)（笔），从者(zhě)声。像手执笔书写，表示记录、书籍。

Traditional form is "書". Composed of 聿(yù) (writing brush) and 者(zhě) (which provides pronunciation). Depicts holding a brush to write, meaning "to record" or "book".

Lesson 8 我想喝茶

想 - xiǎng - To want/To think

想 (xiǎng - to want/to think):

从心(xīn)，相(xiāng)声。心思集中于某相，表示思索、怀念、欲望。

Composed of 心(xīn) (heart/mind) and 相(xiāng) (appearance, which provides pronunciation). The mind focused on an image, meaning to think, to miss, or to want.

喝 - hē - To drink

喝 (hē - to drink): 从口(kǒu)，曷(hé)声。本义是声音嘶哑，后假借为"欱"，表示吸饮。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 曷(hé) (how/why, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant hoarse voice, later borrowed for "欱" meaning to drink.

茶 - chá - Tea

茶 (chá - tea): 从艸(cǎo)（草），从余(yú)声。本指一种苦菜，后借指茶树及茶叶。

Composed of 艹(cǎo) (grass/plant) and 余(yú) (I/me, which provides pronunciation). Originally referred to a kind of bitter plant, later borrowed for the tea plant and tea leaves.

吃 - chī - To eat

吃 (chī - to eat):

从口(kǒu)，乞(qǐ)声。本义是口吃、说话结巴，后假借为"喫"的简化字，表示进食。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 乞(qǐ) (to beg, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "to stammer", later borrowed as the simplified form of "喫" meaning "to eat".

米饭 - mǐ fàn - (Cooked) Rice

米 (mǐ - rice): 像米粒琐碎纵横之形。本义是去皮后的谷物籽实。

Pictograph of scattered rice grains. It means the husked seeds of grain.

饭 (fàn - meal/cooked rice):

从食(shí)，反(fǎn)声。本义是"进食"，引申为煮熟的谷类食物，特指米饭。

Composed of 饣 (shí) (food/eat) and 反(fǎn) (reverse, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to eat", extended to mean cooked cereal food, especially rice.

下午 - xià wǔ - Afternoon

下 (xià - below/afternoon):

指事字。在一条线或参考物之下，表示位置在下，引申为时间（如下午）。

Ideographic character. Below a line or reference point, indicating a lower position, extended to mean time (e.g., afternoon).

午 (wǔ - noon): 像舂米的木杵形。假借为地支第七位，用以记时，指日中时分。

Resembles a wooden pestle for hulling rice. Borrowed as the 7th Earthly Branch, used to mark time, referring to noon.

商店 - shāng diàn - Shop/Store

商 (shāng - commerce):

从冏，章(zhāng)省声。本义是"估量"、"计算"，引申为做生意的人。

Composed of 冏 (bright window) and a simplified form of 章(zhāng) (which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to estimate", "to calculate", extended to mean merchant.

店 (diàn - shop):

从广(guǎng)（房屋），从占(zhàn)声。本义是"放置货物的栈房"，引申为商铺。

Composed of 广(guǎng) (building) and 占(zhàn) (to divine, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "warehouse for storing goods", extended to mean shop.

买 - mǎi - To buy

买 (mǎi - to buy):

繁体为"買"。从网(wǎng)，从貝(bèi)。像用网兜取贝币，表示以钱购物。

Traditional form is "買". Composed of 网(wǎng) (net) and 貝(bèi) (shell money). Depicts scooping up currency with a net, meaning to purchase with money.

**个 - gè - General measure word **

个 (gè - measure word):

繁体为"個"。从人(rén)，固(gù)声。本义是"竹一枝"，引申为通用的量词。

Traditional form is "個". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 固(gù) (solid, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "a bamboo stalk", extended to be a general measure word.

杯子 - bēi zi - Cup/Glass

杯 (bēi - cup): 从木(mù)，从不(bù)。本义是盛饮料的器皿，古时常以木制。

Composed of 木(mù) (wood) and 不(bù) (not, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant a vessel for holding drinks, often made of wood.

子 (zi - noun suffix):

像婴儿在襁褓中，有头、身、臂膀。本义是"婴儿"，引申为小的东西或名词后缀。

Pictograph of an infant in swaddling clothes, with head, body, and arms. Original meaning "infant", extended to mean small thing or noun suffix.

这 - zhè - This

这 (zhè - this):

繁体为"這"。从辵(chuò)（行走），言(yán)声。是后起的指示代词，表示此、这个。

Traditional form is "這". Composed of 辶(chuò) (walk) and 言(yán) (speech, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed demonstrative pronoun meaning "this".

多少 - duō shǎo - How much/How many

多 (duō - many): 从二"夕"（肉）。像两块肉叠放，表示数量大。

Composed of two 夕 (pieces of meat). Depicts two pieces of meat stacked, indicating a large quantity.

少 (shǎo - few): 从小(xiǎo)，丿(piě)声。像细小的沙粒，表示数量小。

Composed of 小(xiǎo) (small) and 丿(piě) (which provides pronunciation). Resembles tiny sand grains, indicating a small quantity.

钱 - qián - Money

钱 (qián - money):

繁体为"錢"。从金(jīn)，戔(jiān)声。本义是古代一种农具，形似铲，曾用作交易媒介，故引申为货币。

Traditional form is "錢". Composed of 钅(jīn) (metal) and 戔(jiān) (to cut, which provides pronunciation). Originally an ancient farm tool shaped like a spade, used as a medium of exchange, hence extended to mean currency.

块 - kuài - Piece/Unit of money (yuan)

块 (kuài - piece/unit of money):

繁体为"塊"。从土(tǔ)，鬼(guǐ)声。本义是"土块"，引申为块状物，后作货币单位"元"的口语词。

Traditional form is "塊". Composed of 土(tǔ) (earth) and 鬼(guǐ) (ghost, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning "lump of earth", extended to mean lump, later used colloquially for the monetary unit "yuan".

那 - nà - That

那 (nà - that): 从邑(yì)（阝，城市），冉(rǎn)声。本义是西夷国名，假借为远指代词。

Composed of 阝(yì) (city) and 冉(rǎn) (gradually, which provides pronunciation). Originally the name of a western tribe, borrowed as a distal demonstrative pronoun.

Lesson 9 你儿子在哪儿工作？

小 - xiǎo - Small

小 (xiǎo - small):

像细碎的沙粒微尘之形。与"大"相对，表示体积、规模不大。

Pictograph of tiny sand grains or dust. Opposite of "大" (big), it signifies small volume or scale.

猫 - māo - Cat

猫 (māo - cat): 从豸(zhì)（长脊兽），从苗(miáo)声。指能捕食田鼠、保护禾苗的动物。

Composed of 豸(zhì) (long-spined animal) and 苗(miáo) (seedling, which provides pronunciation). Refers to an animal that catches field mice, protecting the crops.

在 - zài - To be at/in/on

在 (zài - to be at/in/on):

从土(tǔ)，从才(cái)声。本义是"存在"、"生存"，引申表示处于某个地点。

Composed of 土(tǔ) (earth) and 才(cái) (talent, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning is "to exist", "to live", extended to mean being at a location.

那儿 - nàr - There

那 (nà - that): 从邑(yì)（阝，城市），冉(rǎn)声。本义是西夷国名，假借为远指代词。

Composed of 阝(yì) (city) and 冉(rǎn) (gradually, which provides pronunciation). Originally the name of a western tribe, borrowed as a distal demonstrative pronoun.

儿 (r - suffix for location):

繁体为"兒"。从儿（人），从臼（象囟门未合之形）。本义是小孩，在此作儿化音后缀表地点。

Traditional form is "兒". Composed of 儿 (person) and 臼 (resembling an unclosed fontanelle). Originally meant child, here used as an "erhua" suffix indicating location.

狗 - gǒu - Dog

狗 (gǒu - dog): 从犬(quǎn)，从句(jù)声。本义是大犬，后泛指犬类。

Composed of 犭(quǎn) (dog) and 句(jù) (sentence, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant a large dog, later generalized to mean all canines.

椅子 - yǐ zi - Chair

椅 (yǐ - chair):

从木(mù)，奇(qí)声。本义是树木名，即山桐子。因木质可制椅，故借用。

Composed of 木(mù) (wood) and 奇(qí) (strange, which provides pronunciation). Originally a tree name (Idesia polycarpa). As its wood was used to make chairs, the character was borrowed.

子 (zi - noun suffix):

像婴儿在襁褓中。本义是"婴儿"，引申为小的东西或名词后缀。

Pictograph of an infant in swaddling clothes. Original meaning "infant", extended to mean small thing or noun suffix.

下面 - xià miàn - Below/Under

下 (xià - below): 指事字。在一条线或参考物之下，表示位置在下。

Ideographic character. Below a line or reference point, indicating a lower position.

面 (miàn - face/surface):

像人脸的轮廓，中间有目(mù)（眼睛）。本义是"脸"，引申为表面、方面。

Pictograph of a human face outline with an eye (目) in the middle. Original meaning "face", extended to mean surface or aspect.

在 - zài - To be at/in/on

在 (zài - to be at/in/on):（同上）

(Same as above)

哪儿 - nǎr - Where

哪 (nǎ - where): 从口(kǒu)，那(nà)声。是后起的疑问代词，表示对地点的疑问。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 那(nà) (that, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed interrogative pronoun indicating question about location.

儿 (r - suffix for location):（同上）

(Same as above)

工作 - gōng zuò - Work/Job

工 (gōng - work):

像工匠用的矩尺形。本义是"工匠的曲尺"，引申为工作、工程。

Resembles a carpenter's square. Original meaning was "craftsman's square", extended to mean work or project.

作 (zuò - to do/work): 从人(rén)，从乍(zhà)。人突然起身，表示"兴起"、"从事"。

Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 乍(zhà) (suddenly). A person rising suddenly, meaning "to arise" or "to engage in".

儿子 - ér zi - Son

儿 (ér - son):

繁体为"兒"。从儿（人），从臼（象囟门未合之形）。本义是小孩。

Traditional form is "兒". Composed of 儿 (person) and 臼 (resembling an unclosed fontanelle). Originally meant a small child.

子 (zi - son): 像婴儿在襁褓中。本义是"婴儿"，引申为儿子。

Pictograph of an infant in swaddling clothes. Original meaning "infant", extended to mean son.

医院 - yī yuàn - Hospital

医 (yī - medicine):

繁体为"醫"。从酉(yǒu)（酒），从殹（治病时的叩击声）。表示用酒等药物治疗。

Traditional form is "醫". Composed of 酉(yǒu) (wine/alcohol) and 殹 (sound of tapping during treatment). Signifies treating illness with wine/therapy.

院 (yuàn - courtyard/institution):

从阜(fù)（阝，土山），从完(wán)声。本义是"有墙垣围绕的宫室"，引申指公共场所。

Composed of 阝(fù) (mound/hill) and 完(wán) (complete, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "walled palace", extended to mean public institutions.

医生 - yī shēng - Doctor

医 (yī - medicine):（同上）

(Same as above)

生 (shēng - doctor):

像草木从地面上生长出来。本义是"生长"，引申为"有学问的人"，特指医生。

Pictograph of a plant sprouting from the ground. Original meaning "to grow", extended to mean "learned person", specifically a doctor.

爸爸 - bà ba - Dad/Father

爸 (bà - dad): 从父(fù)，巴(bā)声。形声字，专指父亲。

Composed of 父(fù) (father) and 巴(bā) (to hope, which provides pronunciation). A phonetic compound character specifically for "father".

Lesson 10 我能坐这儿吗？

桌子 - zhuō zi - Table

桌 (zhuō - table): 从木(mù)，卓(zhuó)声。"卓"有"高"意，本指高的几案。

Composed of 木(mù) (wood) and 卓(zhuó) (tall/eminent, which provides pronunciation). "卓" implies height, originally referring to a tall stand or desk.

子 (zi - noun suffix):

像婴儿在襁褓中。本义是"婴儿"，引申为小的东西或名词后缀。

Pictograph of an infant in swaddling clothes. Original meaning "infant", extended to mean small thing or noun suffix.

上 - shàng - On/Above

上 (shàng - on/above): 指事字。在一条线或参考物之上，表示位置在高处。

Ideographic character. Above a line or reference point, indicating a higher position.

电脑 - diàn nǎo - Computer

电 (diàn - electricity):

繁体为"電"。从雨(yǔ)，从申(shēn)。本义是"闪电"，引申为电力。

Traditional form is "電". Composed of 雨(yǔ) (rain) and 申(shēn) (to extend). Original meaning "lightning", extended to mean electricity.

脑 (nǎo - brain): 繁体为"腦"。从月（肉），从𡿺（囟脑 ）声。本义是大脑。

Traditional form is "腦". Composed of 月 (flesh/body part) and 𡿺 (provides sound, related to the fontanelle). Original meaning is "brain".

和 - hé - And

和 (hé - and): 从口(kǒu)，禾(hé)声。本义是"相应"、"谐调"，引申为连带、并列。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 禾(hé) (grain, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to respond in harmony", extended to mean together with, and.

本 - běn - Book/Root

本 (běn - book/root):

指事字。在"木"(mù)（树）的下部加一点，指示树根所在，引申为基础、书本。

Ideographic character. A dot added at the bottom of "木"(mù) (tree) indicates the root, extended to mean foundation, origin, or book.

里 - lǐ - Inside

里 (lǐ - inside):

从田(tián)，从土(tǔ)。古时民居有田有土，本义是"居所"，引申为内部。

Composed of 田(tián) (field) and 土(tǔ) (earth). In ancient times, dwellings had fields and land, original meaning was "residence", extended to mean inside.

前面 - qián miàn - Front

前 (qián - front):

从止(zhǐ)（脚），从舟(zhōu)。像脚在船上，表示不行而进，引申为前方。

Composed of 止(zhǐ) (foot) and 舟(zhōu) (boat). Depicts feet on a boat, moving without walking, meaning "in front".

面 (miàn - face/surface): 像人脸的轮廓。本义是"脸"，引申为方向、方面。

Pictograph of a human face outline. Original meaning "face", extended to mean direction or aspect.

后面 - hòu miàn - Back/Rear

后 (hòu - back):

繁体为"後"。从彳(chì)（行），从幺(yāo)，从夂（慢行）。表示走在后面。

Traditional form is "後". Composed of 彳(chì) (step), 幺(yāo) (small), and 夂 (slow walk). Means walking behind someone.

面 (miàn - face/surface):（同上）

(Same as above)

王方 - Wáng Fāng - Wang Fang (a personal name)

王 (wáng - king/surname):

像斧钺之刃部向下形，象征王权。本义是君主，也是一个常见的姓氏。

Resembles an axe blade facing downward, symbolizing royal power. Means "king", also a common surname.

方 (fāng - square/surname):

像耒（一种农具）形，有柄有刃，用于垦荒。本义是"并行的两船"，引申为方向、方形，也是一个姓氏。

Resembles a lei (an ancient plow), with handle and blade for land reclamation. Originally meant "two boats parallel", extended to mean direction, square, also a surname.

谢朋 - Xiè Péng - Xie Peng (a personal name)

谢 (xiè - thank/surname):

从言(yán)，射(shè)声。本义是认错、道歉，引申为感谢，也是一个姓氏。

Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 射(shè) (shoot, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant to apologize, later extended to mean "to

thank", also a surname.

朋 (péng - friend):

早期字形像两串贝币并列。古代以五贝为一系，两系为一朋，引申为朋友、同伴。

Early form resembled two strings of cowrie currency side by side. It meant "companion" or "friend".

这儿 - zhèr - Here

这 (zhè - this):

繁体为"這"。从辵(chuò)（行走），言(yán)声。是后起的指示代词，表示此。

Traditional form is "這". Composed of 辶(chuò) (walk) and 言(yán) (speech, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed demonstrative pronoun meaning "this".

儿 (r - suffix for location):

繁体为"兒"。本义是小孩，在此作儿化音后缀表地点。

Traditional form is "兒". Originally meant child, here used as an "erhua" suffix indicating location.

没有 - méi yǒu - To not have

没 (méi - not have):

从水(shuǐ)，从叟（手入水）。像手沉入水中，表示沉没、消失。

Composed of 水(shuǐ) (water) and 叟 (a hand sinking). Depicts a hand submerged in water, meaning "to sink" or "to disappear".

有 (yǒu - to have):

从月（肉），从又(yòu)（手）。像手持一块肉，表示"持有"、"拥有"。

Composed of 月 (meat) and 又(yòu) (hand). Depicts holding a piece of meat, meaning "to hold" or "to possess".

能 - néng - Can/To be able to

能 (néng - can/able):

金文像一只熊的形态。本是"熊"的本字，假借表示"才能"、"能力"。

Bronze script resembles a bear. It was the original form of "熊" (bear), borrowed to mean "talent" or "ability".

坐 - zuò - To sit

坐 (zuò - to sit): 从二人，从土(tǔ)。像两个人相对坐在土台上，表示止息。

Composed of two 人 (person) and 土(tǔ) (earth). Depicts two people sitting opposite each other on a raised earth platform, meaning "to sit".

Lesson 11 现在在几点？

现在 - xiàn zài - Now

现 (xiàn - to appear): 从玉(yù)，从见(jiàn)。玉的光泽显现出来，表示"显露"。

Composed of 玉(yù) (jade) and 见(jiàn) (to see). The luster of jade being visible, meaning "to appear" or "to manifest".

在 (zài - to be at): 从土(tǔ)，从才(cái)声。本义是"存在"，引申表示当前的时间。

Composed of 土(tǔ) (earth) and 才(cái) (talent, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning is "to exist", extended to mean the current time.

点 - diǎn - O'clock/Dot

点 (diǎn - o'clock/dot):

繁体为"點"。从黑(hēi)，占(zhàn)声。本义是小黑斑，引申为钟点、少量。

Traditional form is "點". Composed of 黑(hēi) (black) and 占(zhàn) (to divine, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant a small black spot, extended to mean an hour or a little.

分 - fēn - Minute/To divide

分 (fēn - minute/to divide):

从八(bā)，从刀(dāo)。用刀将物分开，表示分割，引申为时间单位。

Composed of 八(bā) (to divide) and 刀(dāo) (knife). Using a knife to separate things, meaning "to divide", extended to a unit of time.

中午 - zhōng wǔ - Noon

中 (zhōng - middle): 像一面旗帜，竖杆居中，表示中央。

Depicts a flagpole with a banner in the center, meaning "middle".

午 (wǔ - noon): 像舂米的木杵形。假借为地支第七位，指日中时分。

Resembles a wooden pestle for hulling rice. Borrowed as the 7th Earthly Branch, referring to noon.

吃饭 - chī fàn - To eat a meal

吃 (chī - to eat):

从口(kǒu)，乞(qǐ)声。本义是口吃，后假借为"喫"的简化字，表示进食。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 乞(qǐ) (to beg, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "to stammer", later borrowed as the simplified form of "喫" meaning "to eat".

饭 (fàn - meal):

从食(shí)，反(fǎn)声。本义是"进食"，引申为煮熟的谷类食物，特指米饭。

Composed of 饣(shí) (food/eat) and 反(fǎn) (reverse, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to eat", extended to mean cooked cereal food, especially rice.

时候 - shí hou - Time

时 (shí - time):

繁体为"時"。从日(rì)，寺(sì)声。太阳运行的节奏，表示季节、时间。

Traditional form is "時". Composed of 日(rì) (sun) and 寺(sì) (temple, which provides pronunciation). The rhythm of the sun's movement, meaning season or time.

候 (hòu - to wait/time): 从人(rén)，侯(hóu)声。本义是"守望"、"等候"，引申为时节。

Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 侯(hóu) (marquis, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to keep watch" or "to wait", extended to mean a period of time.

回 - huí - To return

回 (huí - to return): 像水流回旋的形状。本义是"旋转"，引申为归还、回来。

Pictograph of swirling water. Original meaning was "to revolve", extended to mean to return or come back.

我们 - wǒ men - We

我 (wǒ - I/me): 甲骨文像一种有锯齿状刃的兵器。后假借为第一人称代词。

Oracle bone script resembles a weapon with a serrated blade. It was later borrowed for use as the first-person pronoun "I/me".

们 (men - plural marker):

原为"們"。从人(rén)，門(mén)声。本义为"辈"、"类"，后用作表示人称复数的词尾。

Originally "們". Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 門(mén) (door, which provides pronunciation). It meant "category" and later became a plural suffix for pronouns.

电影 - diàn yǐng - Movie

电 (diàn - electricity):

繁体为"電"。从雨(yǔ)，从申(shēn)。本义是"闪电"，引申为电力。

Traditional form is "電". Composed of 雨(yǔ) (rain) and 申(shēn) (to extend). Original meaning "lightning", extended to mean electricity.

影 (yǐng - shadow):

从彡(shān)（毛发画纹），从景(jǐng)（日光）。因光受阻而形成的阴暗形象。

Composed of 彡(shān) (hair/decoration) and 景(jǐng) (sunlight/scenery). The dark image formed when light is blocked.

住 - zhù - To live/To reside

住 (zhù - to live): 从人(rén)，从主(zhǔ)。人停留下来，表示"居留"、"停止"。

Composed of 亻(rén) (person) and 主(zhǔ) (master). A person staying put, meaning "to reside" or "to stop".

前 - qián - Before/Front

前 (qián - before/front):

从止(zhǐ)（脚），从舟(zhōu)。像脚在船上，表示不行而进，引申为前方。

Composed of 止(zhǐ) (foot) and 舟(zhōu) (boat). Depicts feet on a boat, moving without walking, meaning "in front".

北京 - Běi jīng - Beijing

北 (běi - north): 从二人相背。本义是"违背"，后假借表示方位"北方"。

Composed of two 人 (person) back-to-back. Original meaning was "to go against", later borrowed to mean the direction "north".

京 (jīng - capital):

像人工筑起的高丘形。本义是"人工筑起的高大土堆"，引申为国都。

Resembles a man-made high mound. Original meaning was "a large, man-made earth mound", extended to mean capital city.

Lesson 12 明天天气怎么样?

天气 - tiān qì - Weather

天 (tiān - sky/weather):

从一，从大(dà)。像人头顶上的空间，本义是"头顶"，引申为天空、天气。

Composed of 一 (one) and 大(dà) (big/person). Represents the space above a person's head, original meaning was "top of the head", extended to mean sky or weather.

气 (qì - air): 像云气蒸腾上升的样子。本义是云气，泛指一切气体。

Pictograph of rising steam or clouds. Originally meant "cloud vapor", now泛指 all gases.

怎么样 - zěn me yàng - How/How about

怎 (zěn - how): 从心(xīn)，乍(zhà)声。后起的疑问代词，表示询问方式或原因。

Composed of 心(xīn) (heart) and 乍(zhà) (suddenly, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed interrogative pronoun asking about manner or reason.

么 (me - suffix): 繁体为"麼"。从麻(má)，幺(yāo)声。本义是"细丝"，后用作后缀。

Simplified from "麼". Composed of 麻(má) and 幺(yāo) (fine silk, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "fine silk", now used as a suffix or in questions.

样 (yàng - manner/appearance):

繁体为"樣"。从木(mù)，羕(yàng)声。本义是"栎树的果实"，假借为"式样"。

Traditional form is "樣". Composed of 木(mù) (wood) and 羕(yàng) (long, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "acorn", borrowed to mean "manner" or "appearance".

太 - tài - Too/Very

太 (tài - too/very): 从"大"(dà)下加一点，表示比"大"更甚，意为"过于"、"极"。

The character "大"(dà) (big) with an added dot below, indicating something greater than "big", meaning "excessive" or "extreme".

热 - rè - Hot

热 (rè - hot): 繁体为"熱"。从火(huǒ)，埶(yì)声。本义是"温度高"。

Traditional form is "熱". Composed of 火(huǒ) (fire) and 埶(yì) (to plant, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is "high temperature".

冷 - lěng - Cold

冷 (lěng - cold): 从冫(bīng)（冰），从令(lìng)声。本义是"寒"、"凉"。

Composed of 冫(bīng) (ice) and 令(lìng) (command, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is "cold" or "chilly".

下雨 - xià yǔ - To rain

下 (xià - to fall):

指事字。在一条线或参考物之下，表示位置在下，引申为（雨、雪等）降落。

Ideographic character. Below a line or reference point, indicating a lower position, extended to mean (rain, snow, etc.) to fall.

雨 (yǔ - rain): 像天空降下水滴。本义是"从云层降下的水滴"。

Pictograph of water droplets falling from the sky. Its original meaning is "water droplets falling from clouds".

下 - xià - Down/Under

下 (xià - down/under):（同上）

(Same as above)

雨 - yǔ - Rain

雨 (yǔ - rain):（同上）

(Same as above)

小姐 - xiǎo jiě - Miss/Young lady

小 (xiǎo - small/young):

像细碎的沙粒微尘之形。表示体积、规模不大，引申为年轻。

Pictograph of tiny sand grains or dust. Signifies small volume or scale, extended to mean young.

姐 (jiě - older sister):

从女(nǚ)，从且(qiě)声。本义是"母亲"的别称，后指同父母中年纪比自己大的女子。

Composed of 女(nǚ) (woman) and 且(qiě) (moreover, which provides pronunciation). Originally a different term for "mother", later meant an elder sister.

来 - lái - To come

来 (lái - to come):

甲骨文像一株麦子形。本是"麥"的本字，假借表示"来去"的"来"。

Oracle bone script resembles a wheat plant. It was the original form of "麥" (wheat), borrowed to mean "to come".

身体 - shēn tǐ - Body

身 (shēn - body): 像人怀孕后腹部隆起之形。本义是"躯干"，引申为整个身体。

Depicts a person with a protruding abdomen, as when pregnant. Original meaning was "torso", extended to mean the whole body.

体 (tǐ - body): 繁体为"體"。从骨(gǔ)，豊(lǐ)声。本义是"身体的总称"。

Traditional form is "體". Composed of 骨(gǔ) (bone) and 豊(lǐ) (ceremonial vessel, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is "the general term for the body".

爱 - ài - To love

爱 (ài - to love):

繁体为"愛"。从夂（慢行），从忎（心）。表示行走中回头表达不舍之情，心中有恩惠。

Traditional form is "愛". Composed of 夂 (slow walk) and 忎 (heart). Depicts turning back while walking to show reluctance, meaning the heart has deep fondness.

些 - xiē - Some

些 (xiē - some): 从此(cǐ)，从二(èr)。"此"表示"这"，"二"表示复数，合指"这一类"、"一部分"。

Composed of 此(cǐ) (this) and 二(èr) (two). "此" means "this", "二" indicates plurality, together meaning "this kind" or "a part".

水果 - shuǐ guǒ - Fruit

水 (shuǐ - water): 像水流蜿蜒的形状。本义是水流。

Pictograph of flowing water. Its original meaning is "water".

果 (guǒ - fruit): 像树上结满果实的形状。本义是"树木所结的实"。

Pictograph of a tree laden with fruit. Its original meaning is "the seed-bearing object of a tree".

水 - shuǐ - Water

水 (shuǐ - water):（同上）

(Same as above)

Lesson 13 他在学做中国菜呢

喂 - wèi - Hello (on phone)

喂 (wèi - hello):

从口(kǒu)，从畏(wèi)声。本义是叹息声或招呼声，现多用作电话开场语。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 畏(wèi) (fear, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant a sigh or call, now mostly used as a telephone greeting.

也 - yě - Also

也 (yě - also):

古字形像蛇或一种匜器。很早就被假借为虚词，表示同样、并列。

Ancient form resembled a snake or a type of ritual water vessel. It was borrowed very early as a function word indicating similarity or addition.

学习 - xué xí - To study

学 (xué - to learn):

繁体为"學"。像双手摆弄算筹（爻(yáo)）在屋（宀(mián)）下，表示学习。

Traditional form is "學". Shows two hands (臼) arranging counting rods (爻) under a roof (宀), meaning "to learn".

习 (xí - to practice):

繁体为"習"。从羽(yǔ)，从白(bái)（白天）。像小鸟在日光下反复试飞，表示练习。

Traditional form is "習". Composed of 羽(yǔ) (feathers/wings) and 白(bái) (white/day). Depicts a young bird practicing flight repeatedly in daylight, meaning "to practice".

大卫 - Dà wèi - David (a personal name)

大 (dà - big): 像一个人张开双臂站立，顶天立地的样子，表示"大"。

Pictograph of a person standing with arms and legs outstretched, representing something large or great.

卫 (wèi - to guard):

繁体为"衛"。从行(xíng)，从韋(wéi)。像双脚环绕着某个区域巡逻，表示保卫。

Traditional form is "衛". Composed of 行(xíng) (to go) and 韋(wéi) (tanned leather, implies going around). Depicts feet patrolling around an area, meaning "to guard".

上午 - shàng wǔ - Morning

上 (shàng - morning):

指事字。在一条线或参考物之上，表示位置在高处，引申为时间（如上午）。

Ideographic character. Above a line or reference point, indicating a higher position, extended to mean time (e.g., morning).

午 (wǔ - noon):

像舂米的木杵形。假借为地支第七位，用以记时，指日中时分，也泛指上午。

Resembles a wooden pestle for hulling rice. Borrowed as the 7th Earthly Branch, used to mark time, referring to noon or morning.

睡觉 - shuì jiào - To sleep

睡 (shuì - to sleep): 从目(mù)，从垂(chuí)。眼皮垂下，表示"打瞌睡"、"入睡"。

Composed of 目(mù) (eye) and 垂(chuí) (to droop). Eyelids drooping, meaning "to doze off" or "to fall asleep".

觉 (jiào - sleep):

繁体为"覺"。从見(jiàn)，从學(xué)省声。本义是"醒悟"，引申为睡眠（读作jiào）。

Traditional form is "覺". Composed of 見(jiàn) (to see) and a simplified form of 學(xué) (which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to awaken", extended to mean sleep (pronounced jiào).

电视 - diàn shì - Television

电 (diàn - electricity):

繁体为"電"。从雨(yǔ)，从申(shēn)。本义是"闪电"，引申为电力。

Traditional form is "電". Composed of 雨(yǔ) (rain) and 申(shēn) (to extend). Original meaning "lightning", extended to mean electricity.

视 (shì - to look): 繁体为"視"。从見(jiàn)，从示(shì)（祭祀）。本义是"看"。

Traditional form is "視". Composed of 見(jiàn) (to see) and 示(shì) (to show/altar). Its original meaning is "to look".

喜欢 - xǐ huān - To like

喜 (xǐ - to like/happy):

从壴(zhù)（鼓），从口(kǒu)。闻鼓乐而开口笑，表示快乐、喜爱。

Composed of 壴(zhù) (drum stand) and 口(kǒu) (mouth). Smiling upon hearing drum music, meaning joy or to like.

欢 (huān - joy):

繁体为"歡"。从欠(qiàn)（张口），从雚(guàn)声。本义是"喜悦"、"高兴"。

Traditional form is "歡". Composed of 欠(qiàn) (yawn/lack) and 雚(guàn) (stork, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is "joy" or "delight".

给 - gěi - To give

给 (gěi - to give):

繁体为"給"。从糸(mì)（丝 ），从合(hé)声。本义是"丝织物充裕"，引申为供应、给

予。

Traditional form is "給". Composed of 糸(mì) (silk) and 合(hé) (to combine, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "ample silk fabric", extended to mean to supply or to give.

打电话 - dǎ diàn huà - To make a phone call

打 (dǎ - to hit/to call):

从手(shǒu)，从丁(dīng)声。本义是"击打"，引申出多种动作，如"打电话"。

Composed of 扌(shǒu) (hand) and 丁(dīng) (nail, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning "to hit", extended to various actions like "to call".

电 (diàn - electricity):（同上）

(Same as above)

话 (huà - speech): 繁体为"話"。从言(yán)，从舌(shé)。用舌头说话，表示言语。

Traditional form is "話". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 舌(shé) (tongue). Speaking with the tongue, meaning speech or words.

**吧 - ba - Suggestion particle **

吧 (ba - suggestion particle):

从口(kǒu)，从巴(bā)声。是后起的语气助词，表示建议、推测等。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 巴(bā) (to hope, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed modal particle indicating suggestion, speculation, etc.

Lesson 14 她买了不少衣服

东西 - dōng xi - Thing

东 (dōng - east): 繁体为"東"。从木(mù)，从日(rì)。像太阳升起在树木中，表示东方。

Traditional form is "東". Composed of 木(mù) (tree) and 日(rì) (sun). Depicts the sun rising through trees, meaning "east".

西 (xī - west): 像鸟巢形。太阳西下，鸟归巢栖息，故用以表示西方。

Resembles a bird's nest. As the sun sets in the west, birds return to their nests, hence it means "west".

一点儿 - yī diǎnr - A little bit

一 (yī - one): 指事字。最简单的基础数字，表示最小的整数。

Ideographic character. The simplest basic number, representing the smallest integer.

点 (diǎn - dot/a little):

繁体为"點"。从黑(hēi)，占(zhàn)声。本义是小黑斑，引申为少量。

Traditional form is "點". Composed of 黑(hēi) (black) and 占(zhàn) (to divine, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant a small black spot, extended to mean a little.

儿 (r - suffix): 繁体为"兒"。本义是小孩，在此作儿化音后缀。

Traditional form is "兒". Originally meant child, here used as an "erhua" suffix.

苹果 - píng guǒ - Apple

苹 (píng - apple): 从艸(cǎo)（草），从平(píng)声。指苹果这种植物。

Composed of 艹(cǎo) (grass/plant) and 平(píng) (flat, which provides pronunciation). Refers to the apple plant.

果 (guǒ - fruit): 像树上结满果实的形状。本义是"树木所结的实"。

Pictograph of a tree laden with fruit. Its original meaning is "the seed-bearing object of a tree".

看见 - kàn jiàn - To see

看 (kàn - to look): 从手(shǒu)，从目(mù)。像手搭在眼睛上方遮光远望。

Composed of 手(shǒu) (hand) and 目(mù) (eye). Depicts a hand shading the eyes to look into the distance.

见 (jiàn - to see): 从目(mù)，从人(rén)（儿）。突出人的眼睛，表示"看见"。

Composed of 目(mù) (eye) and 人(rén) (person). It emphasizes the eye to mean "to see".

先生 - xiān sheng - Mr. / Sir

先 (xiān - first):

从儿（人），从之(zhī)（前往）。人走在前面，表示"先后"的"先"。

Composed of 儿 (person) and 之(zhī) (to go). A person walking in front, meaning "first" in sequence.

生 (shēng - Mr./to be born):

像草木从地面上生长出来。表示出生、生命，引申为有学问的人（先生）。

Pictograph of a plant sprouting from the ground. It means birth and life, extended to mean a learned person (Mr.).

开 - kāi - To open/To drive

开 (kāi - to open):

繁体为"開"。从門(mén)，从𠫓（两手取栓）。表示双手移开门闩，开启门。

Traditional form is "開". Composed of 門(mén) (door) and 𠫓 (two hands removing a bolt). Depicts two hands removing a door bolt, meaning "to open".

车 - chē - Vehicle

车 (chē - vehicle): 繁体为"車"。像古代马车的俯视图，有轮、辕、箱。

Traditional form is "車". Pictograph of a bird's-eye view of an ancient chariot, with wheels, shafts, and carriage.

回来 - huí lái - To come back

回 (huí - to return): 像水流回旋的形状。本义是"旋转"，引申为归还、回来。

Pictograph of swirling water. Original meaning was "to revolve", extended to mean to return or come back.

来 (lái - to come):

甲骨文像一株麦子形。本是"麥"的本字，假借表示"来去"的"来"。

Oracle bone script resembles a wheat plant. It was the original form of "麥" (wheat), borrowed to mean "to come".

分钟 - fēn zhōng - Minute

分 (fēn - minute): 从八(bā)，从刀(dāo)。用刀将物分开，表示分割，引申为时间单位。

Composed of 八(bā) (to divide) and 刀(dāo) (knife). Using a knife to separate things, meaning "to divide", extended to a unit of time.

钟 (zhōng - clock):

繁体为"鐘"。从金(jīn)，从童(tóng)声。本义是古代一种金属打击乐器，引申为计

时器。

Traditional form is "鐘". Composed of 金(jīn) (metal) and 童(tóng) (child, which provides pronunciation). Originally an ancient metal percussion instrument, extended to mean a timekeeping device.

~后 - ~hòu - After ~

后 (hòu - after):

繁体为"後"。从彳(chì)（行），从幺(yāo)，从夂（慢行）。表示走在后面，引申为时间较晚。

Traditional form is "後". Composed of 彳(chì) (step), 幺(yāo) (small), and 夂 (slow walk). Means walking behind someone, extended to mean later in time.

张 - zhāng - Measure word /Sheet

张 (zhāng - measure word):

繁体为"張"。从弓(gōng)，从长(cháng)声。本义是"把弦安在弓上"，引申为张开，作量词用于可张开之物。

Traditional form is "張". Composed of 弓(gōng) (bow) and 長(cháng) (long, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to string a bow", extended to mean "to open", used as a measure word for openable objects.

衣服 - yī fu - Clothes

衣 (yī - clothing): 像一件古代上衣的形状，有领口和交叠的衣襟。

Pictograph of an ancient upper garment, with a collar and overlapping front panels.

服 (fú - clothes):

从舟(zhōu)，从又(yòu)（手）。像手推舟使之服从，本义是"顺从"，引申为穿戴、衣服。

Composed of 舟(zhōu) (boat) and 又(yòu) (hand). Depicts pushing a boat to

make it obey, original meaning was "to obey", extended to mean to wear or clothing.

漂亮 - piào liang - Beautiful

漂 (piào - float/beautiful):

从水(shuǐ)，从票(piào)声。本义是"浮"，引申为"好看"（主要用于"漂亮"一词）。

Composed of 氵(shuǐ) (water) and 票(piào) (ticket, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "to float", extended to mean "good-looking" (mainly in "漂亮").

亮 (liang - bright):

从儿（人），从高(gāo)省。人站在高处，表示"明亮"、"光亮"。

Composed of 儿 (person) and a simplified form of 高(gāo) (high). A person standing high up, meaning "bright" or "light".

少 - shǎo - Few/Little

少 (shǎo - few): 从小(xiǎo)，丿(piě)声。像细小的沙粒，表示数量小。

Composed of 小(xiǎo) (small) and 丿(piě) (which provides pronunciation). Resembles tiny sand grains, indicating a small quantity.

**啊 - a - Exclamation **

啊 (a - exclamation):

从口(kǒu)，从阿(ā)声。是后起的语气助词，表示感叹、疑问等强烈感情。

Composed of 口(kǒu) (mouth) and 阿(ā) (flatter, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed modal particle indicating exclamation, question, or other strong emotions.

不少 - bù shǎo - Not a few / Quite a lot

不 (bù - not): 像花萼的形状。很早就被假借为否定副词。

Resembles the calyx of a flower. It was borrowed very early as a negative adverb.

少 (shǎo - few):（同上）

(Same as above)

这些 - zhè xiē - These

这 (zhè - this): 繁体为"這"。从辵(chuò)（行走），言(yán)声。是后起的指示代词。

Traditional form is "這". Composed of 辶(chuò) (walk) and 言(yán) (speech, which provides pronunciation). A later-developed demonstrative pronoun.

些 (xiē - some): 从此(cǐ)，从二(èr)。"此"表示"这"，"二"表示复数，合指"这一类"。

Composed of 此(cǐ) (this) and 二(èr) (two). "此" means "this", "二" indicates plurality, together meaning "this kind".

都 - dōu - All

都 (dōu - all):

从邑(yì)（阝，城市），从者(zhě)声。本义是"有先君宗庙的大城市"，引申为"总括"。

Composed of 阝(yì) (city) and 者(zhě) (which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "a major city with ancestral temples", extended to mean "in all" or "entirely".

Lesson 15 我是坐飞机来的

认识 - rèn shi - To know / To recognize

认 (rèn - to recognize):

繁体为"認"。从言(yán)，从忍(rěn)声。用语言确认，表示识别、承认。

Traditional form is "認". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 忍(rěn) (endure, which provides pronunciation). To confirm with words, meaning to identify or acknowledge.

识 (shi - to know): 繁体为"識"。从言(yán)，从戠(zhí)声。本义是"知道"、"懂得"。

Traditional form is "識". Composed of 言(yán) (speech) and 戠(zhí) (to record, which provides pronunciation). Its original meaning is "to know" or "to understand".

年 - nián - Year

年 (nián - year):

从禾(hé)，从人(rén)。像人背着成熟的禾谷，表示收成。古代一年一熟，故以"年"纪岁。

Composed of 禾(hé) (grain) and 人(rén) (person). Depicts a person carrying ripe grain, meaning "harvest". As there was one harvest per year, it came to mean "year".

大学 - dà xué - University

大 (dà - big): 像一个人张开双臂站立，顶天立地的样子，表示"大"。

Pictograph of a person standing with arms and legs outstretched, representing something large or great.

学 (xué - to learn):

繁体为"學"。像双手摆弄算筹（爻(yáo)）在屋（宀(mián)）下，表示学习、学问。

Traditional form is "學". Shows two hands (臼) arranging counting rods (爻) under a roof (宀), meaning "to learn" or "knowledge".

饭店 - fàn diàn - Restaurant / Hotel

饭 (fàn - meal): 从食(shí)，反(fǎn)声。本义是"进食"，引申为煮熟的谷类食物。

Composed of 饣(shí) (food/eat) and 反(fǎn) (reverse, which provides pronunciation). Original meaning was "to eat", extended to mean cooked cereal food.

店 (diàn - shop):

从广(guǎng)（房屋），从占(zhàn)声。本义是"放置货物的栈房"，引申为商铺、旅馆。

Composed of 广(guǎng) (building) and 占(zhàn) (to divine, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "warehouse for storing goods", extended to mean shop or hotel.

出租车 - chū zū chē - Taxi

出 (chū - to go out):

从止(zhǐ)（脚），从凵（坑穴）。像脚离开穴居，表示"外出"。

Composed of 止(zhǐ) (foot) and 凵 (receptacle/hole). Depicts a foot leaving a cave dwelling, meaning "to go out".

租 (zū - to rent):

从禾(hé)，从且(qiě)声。本义是"田赋"，即政府征收的谷物税，引申为租用。

Composed of 禾(hé) (grain) and 且(qiě) (moreover, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "land tax" (paid in grain), extended to mean to rent.

车 (chē - vehicle): 繁体为"車"。像古代马车的俯视图。

Traditional form is "車". Pictograph of a bird's-eye view of an ancient chariot.

一起 - yì qǐ - Together

一 (yī - one): 指事字。最简单的基础数字，表示单一、整体。

Ideographic character. The simplest basic number, representing singularity or a whole.

起 (qǐ - to rise):

从走(zǒu)，己(jǐ)声。本义是"由躺而坐或由坐而立"，即起身，引申为"一同发生"。

Composed of 走(zǒu) (run/walk) and 己(jǐ) (self, provides sound). It means "to rise from sitting or lying", extended to mean "to occur together".

高兴 - gāo xìng - Happy

高 (gāo - high): 像一座高大的楼台建筑，有台基和尖顶。

Pictograph of a tall tower or building with a base and a peaked roof.

兴 (xìng - happy):

繁体为"興"。从舁（四手共举），从同(tóng)。像四手共同抬起一物，表示"兴起"、"喜悦"。

Traditional form is "興". Composed of 舁 (four hands lifting) and 同(tóng) (same). Depicts four hands lifting something together, meaning "to rise" or "joy".

听 - tīng - To listen / To hear

听 (tīng - to listen):

繁体为"聽"。从耳(ěr)，从悳（德），从壬（挺立）。本义是用耳朵感受声音。

Traditional form is "聽". Composed of 耳(ěr) (ear), 悳 (virtue), and 壬 (to stand tall). Its original meaning is to perceive sound with the ear.

飞机 - fēi jī - Airplane

飞 (fēi - to fly): 繁体为"飛"。像鸟儿展翅飞翔的形状。

Traditional form is "飛". Pictograph of a bird spreading its wings to fly.

机 (jī - machine):

繁体为"機"。从木(mù)，从幾(jǐ)声。本义是"弓弩上发射的机关"，引申为机器。

Traditional form is "機". Composed of 木(mù) (wood) and 幾(jǐ) (how many, which provides pronunciation). Originally meant "the trigger mechanism on a crossbow", extended to mean machine.

A Guide to Common Chinese Radicals

This guide summarizes the most essential radicals (the building blocks of Chinese characters) found in the HSK 1 vocabulary list. Understanding these will greatly help you decipher the meaning and remember the characters.

本指南总结了HSK 1词汇表中最核心的偏旁部首。理解这些部首将极大地帮助您解读汉字含义并记忆汉字。

1. 与人 / People Related

亻 (单人旁 dān rén páng)

来源/Origin: 来自"人"字。位于字左，与人相关。From "人"(person). On the left, relates to people.

例子/Examples: 你 (you), 们 ([plural]), 他 (he), 什 (what - phonetic loan)

儿 (儿字底 ér zì dǐ)

来源/Origin: 像孩童形。在字底，或作儿化音后缀。Resembles a child. At the bottom, or as "erhua" suffix.

例子/Examples: 儿 (son), 见 (see - emphasizes the eye of a person), 这儿 (here), 哪儿 (where)

大 (大字头 dà zì tóu)

来源/Origin: 像张开手臂的人形，表示"大"。A person with outstretched arms, means "big".

例子/Examples: 大 (big), 太 (too - "more than big"), 天 (sky/day - "one big expanse")

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2. 与身体 / Body Parts Related

口 (口字旁 kǒu zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像嘴形。与口、说、吃有关。Pictograph of a mouth. Relates to mouth, speaking, eating.

例子/Examples: 叫 (call), 吃 (eat), 喝 (drink), 吗/呢/喂/啊 (particles), 名 (name - "tell name in dark")

讠 (言字旁 yán zì páng)

来源/Origin: 简化自"言"。与说话、语言有关。Simplified from "言"(speech). Relates to speaking, language.

例子/Examples: 说 (speak), 话 (words), 谢 (thank), 请 (please), 问 (ask), 认 (recognize), 识 (know), 语 (language), 谁 (who)

目 (目字旁 mù zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像眼睛形。与"看"有关。Pictograph of an eye. Relates to seeing.

例子/Examples: 看 (look - "hand over eye"), 见 (see - "person's eye"), 睡 (sleep - "eye droop")

扌 (提手旁 tí shǒu páng)

来源/Origin: 简化自"手"。与手部动作有关。Simplified from "手"(hand). Relates to hand actions.

例子/Examples: 打 (hit/call), 抱 (hold - HSK 2)

又 (又字旁 yòu zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像右手形。常与手部动作有关。Pictograph of a right hand. Often relates to hand actions.

例子/Examples: 友 (friend - "two hands helping"), 对 (correct - "hand responding"), 有 (have - "hand holding meat")

心 (心字底 xīn zì dǐ)

来源/Origin: 像心脏形。作偏旁可变形为"忄"。与内心、情感、思想有关。Resembles a heart. Can change to "忄". Relates to heart, emotion, thought.

例子/Examples: 您 (you-respected - "you in heart"), 想 (think/want), 怎 (how), 爱 (love - trad. "愛" contains 心)

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3. 与自然 / Nature Related

日 (日字旁 rì zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像太阳形。与太阳、时间、光明有关。Pictograph of the sun. Relates to sun, time, brightness.

例子/Examples: 是 (to be - "sun straight: correct"), 时 (time), 明 (bright - "sun and moon"), 昨 (yesterday), 早 (early - HSK 2)

月 (月字旁 yuè zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像月亮形。与月亮、时间有关。注意 : 也常表示"肉"。Pictograph of the moon. Relates to moon, time. Note : Often means "flesh/meat".

例子/Examples: 月 (moon/month), 期 (period), 有 (have - "hand holding meat"), 脑 (brain - "flesh")

氵(三点水 sān diǎn shuǐ)

来源/Origin: 简化自"水"。与水或液体有关。Simplified from "水"(water). Relates to water or liquids.

例子/Examples: 汉 (Han Chinese), 没 (not have - "sink"), 漂 (float), 汽 (steam - in "气" weather)

火 (火字旁 huǒ zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像火焰形。作偏旁可变形为"灬"。与火、热有关。Pictograph of fire. Can change to "灬". Relates to fire, heat.

例子/Examples: 热 (hot - trad. "熱" has 火)

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4. 与动植物 / Animals & Plants Related

艹 (草字头 cǎo zì tóu)

来源/Origin: 像草形。与植物有关。Resembles grass. Relates to plants.

例子/Examples: 菜 (vegetable/dish), 茶 (tea), 苹 (apple), 药 (medicine - HSK 3)

木 (木字旁 mù zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像树木形。与树木、木材有关。Resembles a tree. Relates to trees, wood.

例子/Examples: 李 (plum/surname), 校 (school), 杯 (cup), 桌 (table), 机 (machine), 果 (fruit)

犭 (反犬旁 fǎn quǎn páng)

来源/Origin: 简化自"犬"。与动物，尤其是兽类有关。Simplified from "犬"(dog). Relates to animals, especially beasts.

例子/Examples: 猫 (cat), 狗 (dog), 猴 (monkey - HSK 4)

虫 (虫字旁 chóng zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像蛇或虫子形。与昆虫、爬虫有关。Resembles a snake or insect. Relates to insects, reptiles.

例子/Examples: 蚂 (ant - HSK 4), 蜂 (bee - HSK 5)

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5. 与物品、建筑 / Objects & Buildings Related

宀 (宝盖头 bǎo gài tóu)

来源/Origin: 像房屋形。与房屋、家宅有关。Resembles a roof/house. Relates to houses, dwellings.

例子/Examples: 家 (home/family), 字 (character - "child under roof: to breed"), 写 (write - orig. "move things under roof"), 客 (guest)

门 (门字框 mén zì kuàng)

来源/Origin: 像双扇门形。与门、出入口有关。Resembles a double-door. Relates to doors, gateways.

例子/Examples: 问 (ask - "mouth at door"), 关 (close - trad. "關": "bolt inside door"), 开 (open - trad. "開": "hands removing bolt"), 间 (room - HSK 3)

饣 (食字旁 shí zì páng)

来源/Origin: 简化自"食"。与食物、饮食有关。Simplified from "食"(food/eat). Relates to food, eating.

例子/Examples: 饭 (meal/rice), 饿 (hungry - HSK 3)

纟 (绞丝旁 jiǎo sī páng)

来源/Origin: 简化自"糸"(丝)。与丝绸、线、纺织有关。Simplified from "糸"(silk). Relates to silk, thread, textiles.

例子/Examples: 给 (give - trad. "給": "silk supply"), 红 (red - HSK 3)

钅 (金字旁 jīn zì páng)

来源/Origin: 简化自"金"。与金属、金钱有关。Simplified from "金"(metal). Relates to metals, money.

例子/Examples: 钱 (money), 钟 (clock - trad. "鐘"), 错 (wrong - HSK 4)

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6. 与动作、移动 / Actions & Movement Related

辶 (走之底 zǒu zhī dǐ)

来源/Origin: 简化自"辵"(忽走忽停)。与行走、移动、路程有关。Simplified from "辵"(walking). Relates to walking, movement, journey.

例子/Examples: 这 (this), 那 (that), 还 (still - HSK 2), 过 (pass - HSK 3)

彳 (双人旁 shuāng rén páng)

来源/Origin: "行"字的左半。与道路、行走有关。Left part of "行"(to go). Relates to roads, walking.

例子/Examples: 很 (very - orig. "to disobey"), 往 (towards - HSK 3), 得 (must - HSK 3)

走 (走字旁 zǒu zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像人奔跑形。本义"跑"，引申为行走。A person running. Original meaning "to run", extended to "to walk".

例子/Examples: 起 (rise/start), 超 (exceed - HSK 5)

寸 (寸字旁 cùn zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像手形。常与手部动作、法度有关。Pictograph of a hand. Often relates to hand actions, rules.

例子/Examples: 对 (correct - "hand responding"), 导 (guide - HSK 4)

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7. 其他重要部首 / Other Important Radicals

女 (女字旁 nǚ zì páng)

来源/Origin: 像跪坐的女子形。与女性有关。A kneeling person (female). Relates to females.

例子/Examples: 好 (good - "woman and child"), 她 (she), 妈 (mom), 姐 (older sister), 姓 (surname - HSK 3)

口 (国字框 guó zì kuàng)

来源/Origin: 像围起来的地域。与疆域、围挡有关。An enclosed area. Relates to territory, enclosure.

例子/Examples: 国 (country - "enclosed region guarded by spear"), 园 (garden - HSK 3)

禾 (禾木旁 hé mù páng)

来源/Origin: 像谷类植物。与谷物、庄稼有关。A grain plant. Relates to grains, crops.

例子/Examples: 和 (and - "mouth with grain: harmonious"), 种 (kind - HSK 3)

总结 Conclusion:

掌握这些部首是学习汉字的关键。看到一个生字时，先找它的部首，可以推断其意义范畴；再结合字的另一部分（常提示发音），就能更有效地学习和记忆。

Mastering these radicals is key to learning Chinese characters. When you see a new character, first identify its radical to infer its meaning category; then combine this with the other part of the character (which often hints at pronunciation) to learn and remember it more effectively.