

汉字 Hanzi



汉字的意义 Definition of Hanzi

- What is **hanzi** in Chinese?
- **Chinese characters**, also known as Hanzi (漢字) / (汉字) are one of the earliest forms of written language in the world, dating back approximately five thousand years. Nearly one-fourth of the world's population still use Chinese characters today. As an art form, Chinese calligraphy remains an integral aspect of Chinese culture.

<https://www.google.com/search?q=What+is+hanzi+in+Chinese%3F&oq=What+is+hanzi+in+Chinese%3F&aqs=chrome..69i57j0i22i30l2.528j0j15&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

汉字的作用 The function of Hanzi

The importance of cultural context

- Languages don't exist in a vacuum. Understanding the culture from which languages emerged is essentially for gaining fluency. Not only that, exploring the culture of the language you are learning is what makes studying languages so much fun!
- Students who decide to only learn [pinyin](#) are not only setting themselves up for a great deal of confusion with regards to the meaning of identical-sounding words. They are also depriving themselves of an understanding of Chinese culture that only learning characters can provide.
- Learning Chinese characters (Hanzi) helps put the language in context by revealing connections between different words and concepts. It also gives students a window into the historical evolution of the Chinese language. For all these reasons, **learning Chinese Hanzi is a must.**

<https://studycli.org/chinese-characters/are-hanzi-important/>

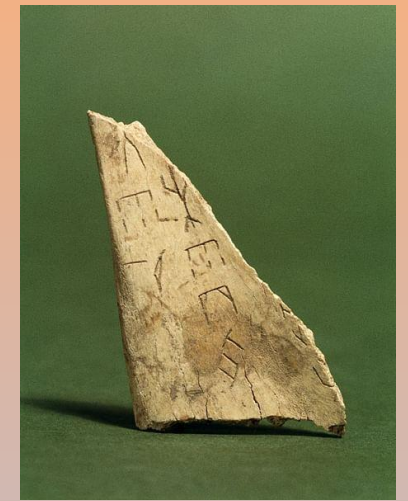
汉字的历史 History of Hanzi

- Chinese characters are among the oldest characters in the world. According to legend, Chinese characters were invented by Cangjie around 5000 years ago. He was a bureaucrat under the legendary Yellow Emperor. Legend says that Cangjie had four eyes. He observed the footprints of birds and animals and was inspired to create words. It is said that when he created words, grain fell from the sky and the gods cried at night. This is called the Gǔyǔ (谷雨 Gǔyǔ literally means 'grain rain'). The gods worried that after people learned to write, they would go into business and give up farming, causing famine.
- Chinese characters are definitely not by one person in one hand and the power, it is a result of the development of long-term accumulation of ancestors. Modern archaeology discoveries inscriptions on bones or tortoise shells of the Shang Dynasty in 3,600 years ago, pottery characters about 4,000 years ago to 7,000 years ago, and turtle bone text about 7,000 years ago to 10,000 years ago. Legends handed down explained Cangjie should be a particularly significant contribution to the development of the characters in Chinese characters. He might be a master of Chinese characters.
- <https://goeastmandarin.com/all-about-chinese-characters/>
- <https://www.nspirement.com/2018/02/08/cangjie-and-the-invention-of-chinese-characters.html>
- <https://www.tour-beijing.com/china-travel-guide/xian-culture/xian-folk-literature/cangjie-makes-the-character/#.Yz-Eh3ZBzIU>



汉字的历史 History of Hanzi

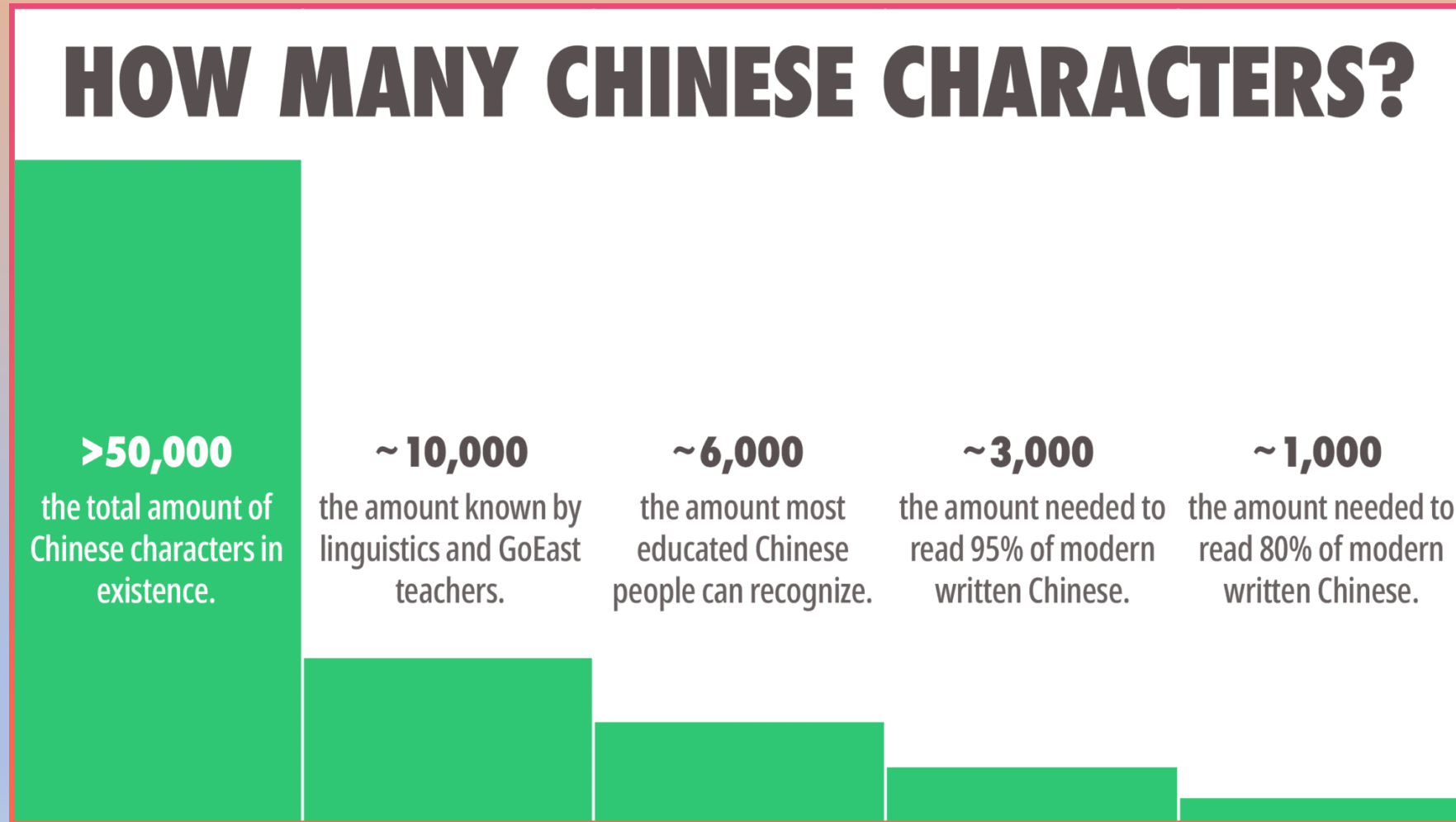
- **Various current Chinese characters have been traced back to the late Shang Dynasty about 1200–1050 BC**, but the process of creating characters is thought to have begun some centuries earlier. After a period of variation and evolution, Chinese characters were standardized under the Qin Dynasty (221–206 BC).
- **Oracle Bones** (also known as Dragon's Bones) were the shoulder blades of oxen or plastrons of turtles (the flat, underside of the turtle's shell) which were used in the **Shang Dynasty** of **China** (c. 1600-1046 BCE) for divination. The symbols carved on the bones eventually became words and a recognizable Chinese **script** developed from this practice.



https://www.worldhistory.org/Oracle_Bones/

<https://goeastmandarin.com/all-about-chinese-characters/>

How many Hanzi ?



[All about Chinese Hanzi characters - GoEast Mandarin](#)

Simplified vs. Traditional Chinese—What's the Difference?

简体字 【jiǎntǐ zì】 = Simplified Chinese character, [List](#)
繁体字 【fántǐ zì】 = Traditional Chinese character

- With 1.3 billion native speakers, Chinese holds the title of the world's most widely spoken language. One quarter of the global population speaks some form of Chinese, and this includes 800 million active internet users—making the language hugely relevant to any organization that communicates globally.
- Key differences between Simplified and Traditional at **character structure**

Simplified Chinese characters have fewer strokes than their traditional counterparts, and therefore have simpler, less ornate structures.

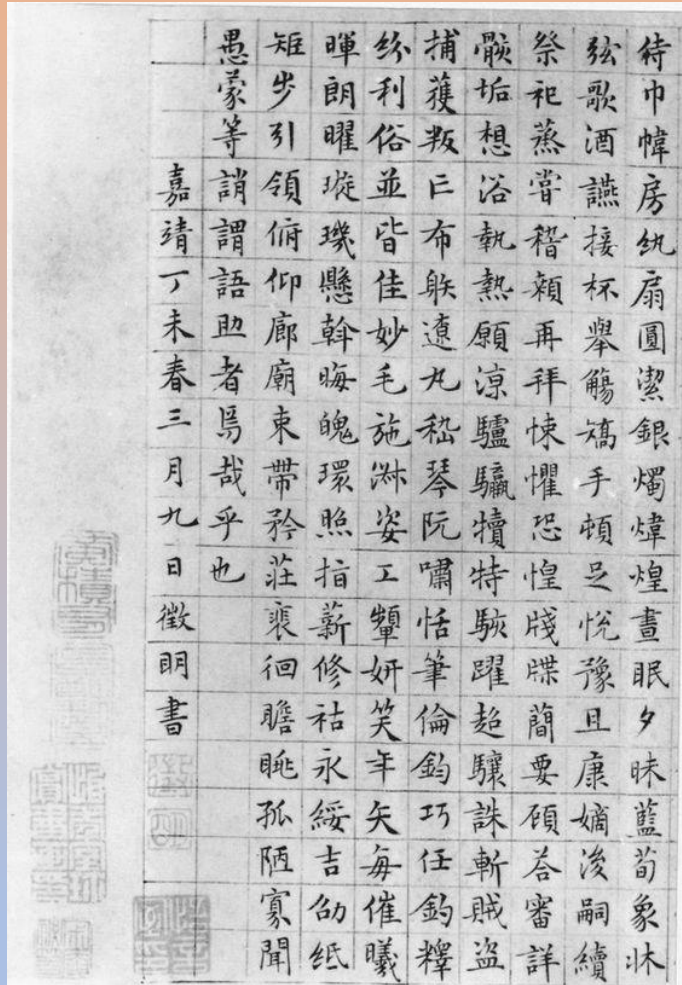
Simplified Chinese is typically used when translating for mainland China, Singapore, Malaysia, and international organizations such as the United Nations and the World Bank. However, when translating for audiences in Hong Kong, Taiwan, Macau and international immigrant communities, Traditional Chinese is the norm.

- <https://eriksen.com/language/simplified-vs-traditional-chinese/>

English	Traditional	Simplified
old	舊	旧
depressed	憂鬱	忧郁
dragon	龍	龙
leaf	葉	叶
orchid	蘭	兰
head	頭	头
cluster	叢	丛
listen	聽	听

History of Simplified Chinese Character : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters

Examples of Hanzi



<https://id.pinterest.com/pin/344666177735916706/>

Using calligraphy brush to write the Traditional Chinese character, writing from up to down then, column left to right

Note: Primary students use pencil to write Hanzi



<https://id.pinterest.com/pin/408912841144568094/>

Using pen, writing the Simplified Chinese character from left to right.

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Category 5
Name of Character Type	Pictographs 象形字	Indicative Characters 指示字	Logical Compound Characters 会意字	Semantic-Phonetic Compound Characters 形声字	Loan Characters 假借字	Transfer Characters 转注字
Example Character	日, 月, 木	本, 刃	林, 明	清, 晴	—	—

Table 1: *Liu Shu* (the Six Forming Chinese Character Categories) and examples


Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

- From a study of Chinese history, we know that six patterns, or styles, form the basis of all characters. One authority, cited in *Shuowen* (说文/說文/shuō wén), a *Han* Dynasty dictionary (206 BC-220 AD) mentions the following:

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

Primary Patterns

1. Pictograph (象形字/xiàng xíng zì): a character with a semantic element that the ancient Chinese created by “symbolizing” real objects such as animals, plants, and planets. For examples:

 for the modern character 日 (sun)



 for the modern character 月 (moon)



 for the modern character 木 (tree)

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

Primary Patterns

2. Indicative Character (指事字/zhǐ shì zì): a character created by adding a stroke (an indicator) – to a pictogram to indicate a logical, or abstract, term related to the pictogram's meaning. For example:




Indicative stroke added to the lower part of  (木, tree) for the modern character  (本, root)




Indicative stroke added to  (刀, knife) for the modern character  (刃, blade)

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

Compound Patterns

3. Logical Compound Character (会意字/會意字/huì yì zì): a character intended to symbolize logical, or abstract, terms with two pictograms that are combined. For example:

 (Regular writing: 林) is combined with two trees ( + ) to mean “forest.”

 (Regular writing: 明) is combined with the sun () and the moon () to mean “bright.”

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

Compound Patterns

4. Semantic-Phonetic Compound Character (形声字/形聲字/xíng shēng zì)

Semantic-Phonetic Compound Character is a character that combines a semantic element, known as a radical, with a phonetic element that indicates proper pronunciation.

形声 (xíngshēng) literally means to “form sound.” Over 80% of all Chinese characters are said to fall into the 形声 (xíngshēng) category.

Notice how the phonetic compound influences their pronunciation while their semantic radicals provide clues to their actual meaning:

- 蹬 (dēng; to step on) = 足 (zú; foot) + 登 (dēng)
- 瞪 (dèng; to stare) = 目 (mù; eye) + 登 (dēng)
- 僮 (dòng; Deng ethnic minority of Tibet) = 亻 (rén; radical for person) + 登 (dēng)
- 澄 (dèng; to settle, to become clear) = 氵 (shuǐ; radical for water) + 登 (dēng)
- 噤 (dēng; thump *onomatopoeia) = 口 (kǒu; mouth) + 登 (dēng)
- 嶝 (dèng; mountain path) = 山 (shān; mountain) + 登 (dēng)

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

Transfer Patterns

5. Loan characters 假借字 (jiǎ jiè zì)

假借字 (jiǎjièzì) are 'borrowed' or 'loan' characters. This term refers to a set of characters that were used to create other characters that sound the same or similar. In linguistics, these are referred to as homophonous or near-homophonous morphemes.

Although these phonetic borrowings created new characters, sometimes the original character's meaning was completely discarded and a new character was created to convey its meaning.

For example, the character 乎 (hū) originally meant "to call out" but it was also used as a grammatical particle in classical Chinese to express a question. Eventually, a new character 呼 (hū) was created to write the verb "to call out" by "borrowing" the sound of 乎 and adding a mouth radical.

Another example of characters of this type is 必 (bì; must), which originally meant "weapon handle." Since the pronunciation of 必 was similar to the word "must," the character 必 began to be used to represent the word "must." To help differentiate the two, a new character 秘 (bì) was eventually created to convey the meaning of a "weapon handle."

The common character 来 (lái) has a similar history. Originally, 来 meant "wheat," but this meaning was gradually replaced and 来 began to be used as a verb meaning "to arrive." As a result, a new character, 麦 (mài), was assigned to represent "wheat." Notice the change in the initial sound, which went from "l" in 来 (lái) to "m" in 麦 (mài).

Formation of Chinese Characters: *Liu Shu* (六书/六書/liù shū) – the Six Methods of Forming Chinese Characters

Transfer Patterns

6. Transfer characters 转注字 (zhuǎn zhù zì)

转注字 (zhuǎnzhùzì) are characters with meanings influenced by other words. They are sometimes referred to as “mutually explanatory” characters.

In Chinese linguistics, transfer characters appear in three different styles: transference of character form (形转; xíngzhuǎn), transference of character meaning (义转; yìzhuǎn), and transference of sound (音转; yīnzhuǎn).

The characters 考 (kǎo; to test) and 老 (lǎo; old) are considered 转注 (zhuǎnzhù) characters because they were previously interchangeable, but over time they started to represent different things and their meanings drifted apart.

窍 (qiào; hole) and 空 (kōng; emptiness) represent another example of a pair of characters that historically were semantically interchangeable, but now hold different meanings.

Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

1. Oracle Bone Script (甲骨文, “turtle shell and ox bone script”)

- As mentioned, rudimentary script discovered on animal bones or turtle shells, known as oracle bone script (甲骨文/jiǎ gǔ wén), is the earliest known form of Chinese writing. It is these inscriptions that were recorded during the last nine kings of the *Shang* Dynasty (商/shāng).
- Surprisingly, these later *Shang* oracle-bone writings also reflect a few contemporary characters in a different style cast in bronze. As early examples of Chinese writing, they relate to modern Chinese script.



<http://m.downyi.com/downinfo/279874.html>

Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

2. Seal Script (篆书/篆書, “seal script”)

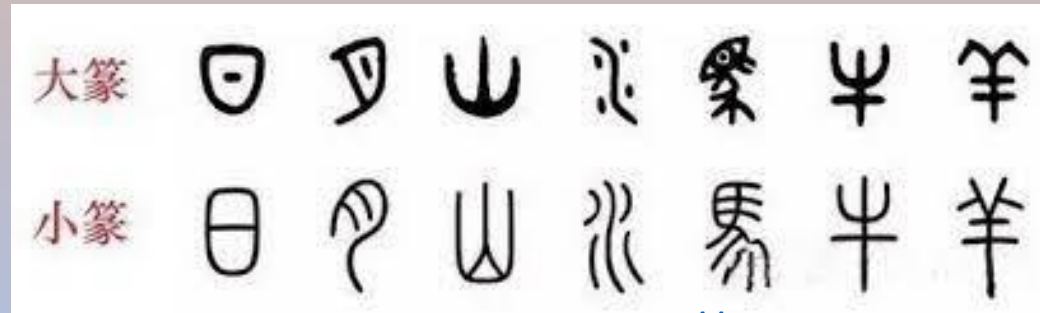
- This seal script (篆书/篆書/zhuàn shū) dates to the latter half of the 1st millennium BC. Having evolved from a *Zhou* Dynasty (周 zhōu) variant, it became the standard formal of writing during the *Qin* Dynasty (秦 qín). In the subsequent *Han* Dynasty (汉/漢 hàn), it was widely used for engravings and seals, also known as “chops.”

Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

2. Seal Script (篆书/篆書, “seal script”)

➤ Types of Seal Scripts

- In general a seal script can refer to the following: large, or great, seal script (大篆 dà zhuàn) and the lesser, or small, seal script (小篆/xiǎo zhuàn). When referring to a seal script nowadays it's understood to mean the small version.



<http://www.86698355.com/5340.html>

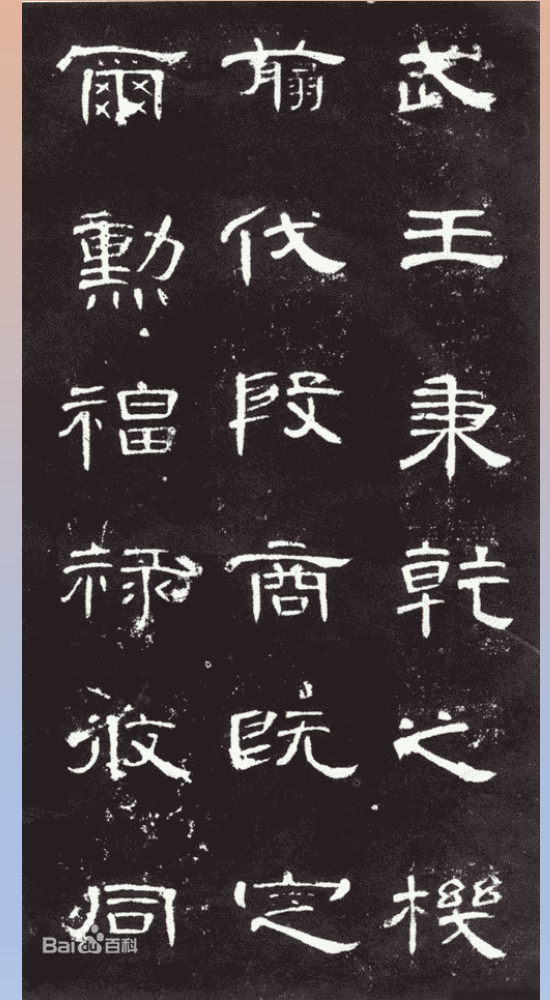
➤ Unified Small Seal Script

- *Qin* system scripts, found on bronze inscriptions dating to roughly 770 to 250 BC, begin to have a consistent, vertically elongated shape. Scholars believe that during this period script-writing became the national standard. It's a finding the discovery of a wordbook with some 3,300 Chinese characters affirms. Also, this **small script** is considered the basis for what is known as clerical script.

Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

3. Clerical Script (隶书/隸書, “clerical script”)

- Even now there is a debate when clerical script, commonly known as “official,” “draft,” or “scribal” script, 隶书/隸書/li shū, came into being. Some believe that it developed during the *Han*. But others, based on recent archaeological discoveries, contend that it was in use well before then.
- Clerical script characters appear “flat” in shape in contrast to seal and modern standard script. This latter form tends to be taller. Especially noticeable is the flair writers used in horizontal or downward-diagonal strokes, a distinctive pattern of writing that scholars call “silkworm head and wild goose tail” (蚕头雁尾/蠶頭雁尾/cán tóu yàn wěi).
- What’s interesting is that even though some early clerical script is difficult to decipher, some later versions can be mastered. And then there are modernized versions: These examples have late *Han* character traces and are used for dramatic stylistic impact.



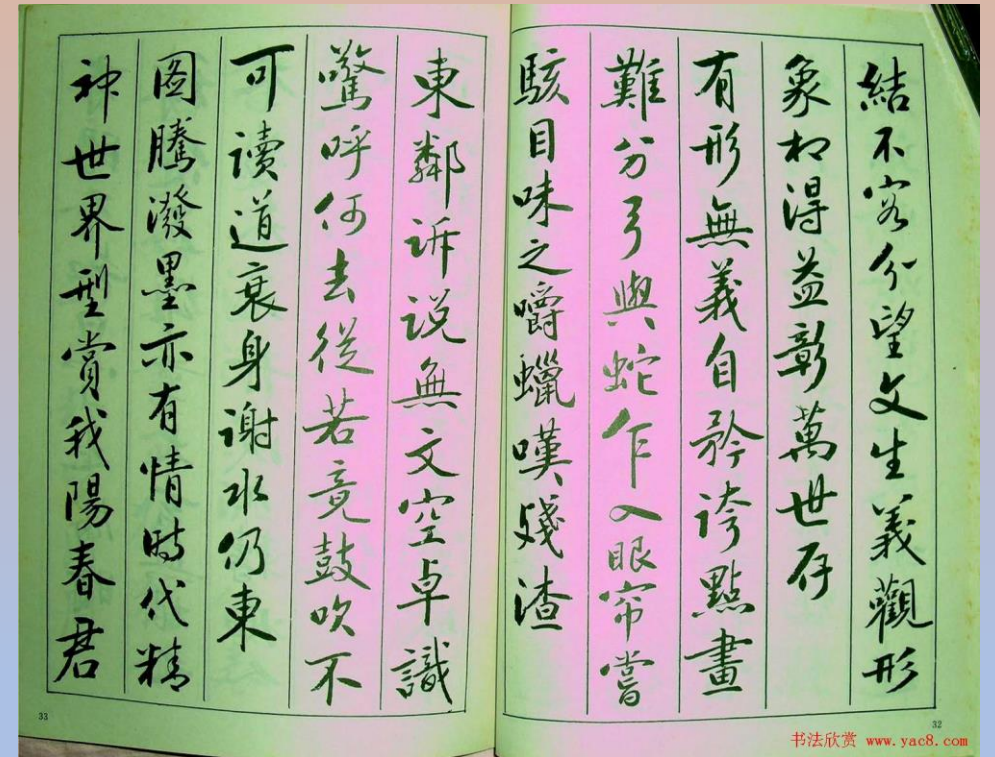
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Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

4. Running Script (行书/行書, “running script”)

Modern handwriting reflects semi-cursive, or “running” script, 行书/行書 /xíngshū, in that strokes and, in rare instances, characters “run into” each other.

- <https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/intro-to-chinese-calligraphy/chapter/introduction-to-scripts-skills/>



书法欣赏

字帖《青少年行书范本·论书绝句百首》-第7页_行书字帖_书法欣赏

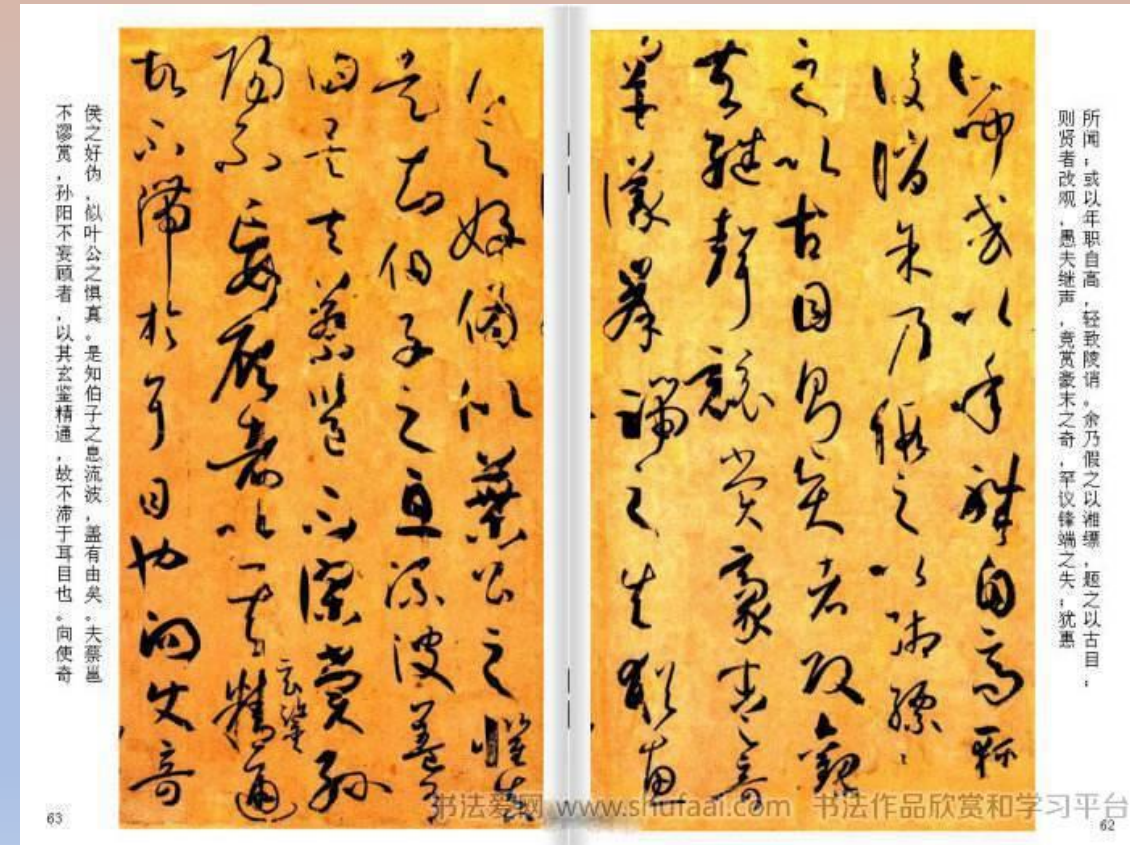
http://www.yac8.com/news/8606_7.html

Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

5. Cursive Script (草书/草書, “cursive script”)

Cursive, or “sloppy script”, 草书/草書/cǎoshū, is a fully or mostly cursive script. To write in this style, a calligrapher does not often lift the brush from a writing surface and, to enhance appearance, modifies and eliminates strokes.

- <https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/intro-to-chinese-calligraphy/chapter/introduction-to-scripts-skills/>



http://www.shufaai.com/a/201512/36124_16.html

Major Styles of Chinese Calligraphy Writing

6. Regular Script (楷书/楷書, “regular script”)

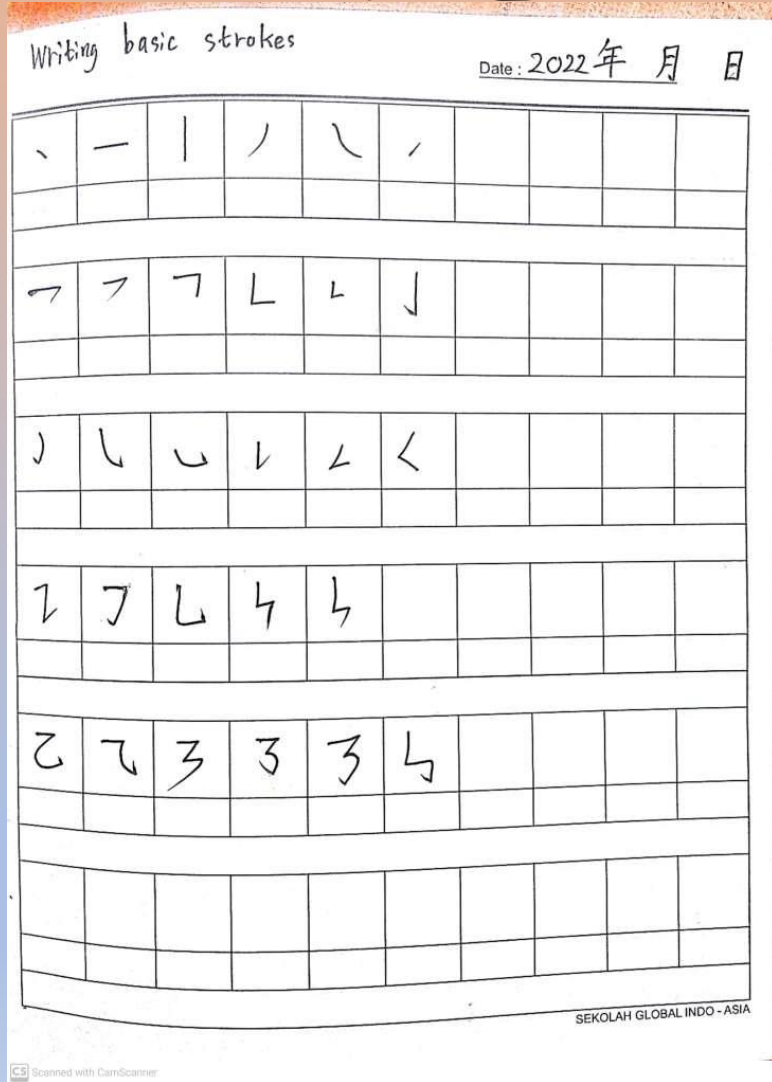
Regular, or “standard,” script “kǎishū” 楷书/楷書/kǎishū, came into use toward the end of the *Han* and the maturing of the *Tang* Dynasty. It got its name because each stroke is distinctive. Because of its easy-to-recognize characteristics, beginners study regular script first.



- <https://pressbooks.ulib.csuohio.edu/intro-to-chinese-calligraphy/chapter/introduction-to-scripts-skills/>

http://www.yac8.com/news/11226_11.html

Strokes / 笔画 bihua



What is stroke / strokes ?

Bǐhuà / strokes are the classified set of line patterns that may be arranged and combined to form Chinese characters (Hanzi)

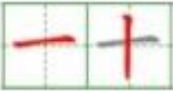
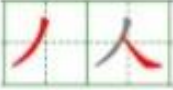






What does "stroke" mean in writing? The strokes of a pen or brush are **the movements or marks that you make with it when you are writing or painting.**

常用汉字笔画名称表

笔画	名称	例字	笔画	名称	例字
丶	点	广	→	横钩	写
一	横	王	丿	横折钩	月
丨	竖	巾	乙	横折弯钩	九
ノ	撇	白	㇇	横撇弯钩	那
㇏	捺	八	㇇	横折折折钩	奶
㇀	提	打	㇇	竖折折钩	与
㇏	撇点	巡	㇏	竖弯	四
㇏	竖提	农	乙	横折弯	沿
㇇	横折提	论	㇇	横折	口
㇇	弯钩	承	㇏	竖折	山
㇇	竖钩	小	㇏	撇折	云
㇏	竖弯钩	屯	㇇	横撇	水
㇏	斜钩	浅	㇇	横折折撇	建
㇇	卧钩	心	㇏	竖折撇	专

Rules of Writing Hanzi

BASIC RULES OF WRITING HANZI / CHINESE CHARACTER

Basic rule of writing	Example of hanzi	Stroke order / Bishun	Pinyin	English meaning
1 Horizontal (横 Héng) precedes vertical (竖 Shù)	十		Shí	ten
2 Left falling stroke (撇 Piě) precedes right falling stroke (捺 nà)	人		rén	Person, human
3 First top, then bottom	三		sān	Three
4 First left, then right	他		tā	He, him
5 First outside then inside	月		yuè	Moon, month
6 First complete the inside of the box, then seal the box	日		rì	Date, day, (sun in ancient times)
7 First center, then sides	小		xiǎo	Small
8 First horizontal, then left falling stroke, then right falling.	大		dà	big

Other
source:

Chinese Characters
101 (Part 2): The 12
Stroke Order Rules

<https://www.mandarinblueprint.com/blog/chinese-character-stroke-order-rules/>

Stroke orders / 笔顺 bishun

Stroke order / bishun is the order in which the strokes of each written Chinese character.

Why should students learn the Bishun? Because the learners will be easy to read and memorize how to write Hanzi (Chinese characters) accordingly.

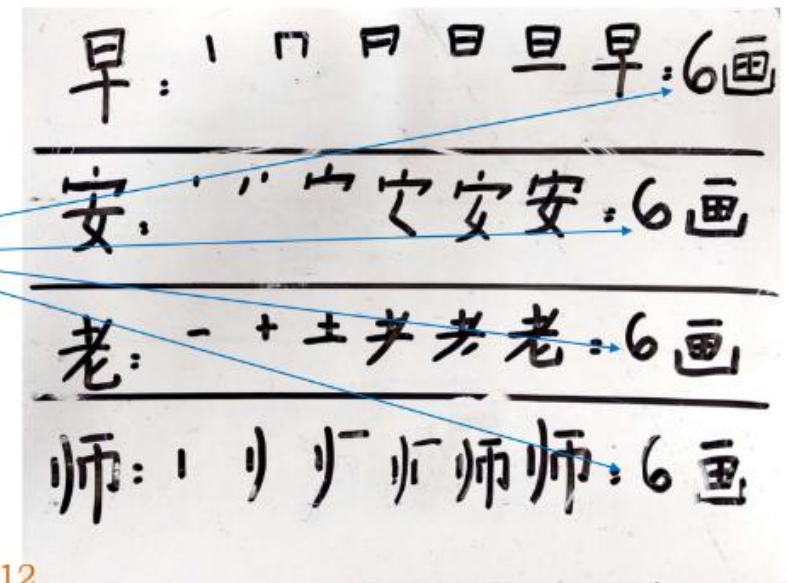


Number of strokes 笔画数 【 Bǐhuà shù 】

- Count the strokes / 数笔画 【shǔ bǐ huà】
- We can use this website to search how many strokes of the Hanzi (Chinese characters)
- Bishun with stroke names: <https://bihua.bmcx.com/>
- Bishun with red colour: <https://zi.ixfc.net/zi/t/2>

To Count the strokes
= 数笔画 [shǔ bǐ huà]

Strokes count
/ 笔画数
[bǐ huà shù]



汉字结构 Structure of Hanzi

- 汉字的8种间架结构区分方法及例字
- 汉字的形体结构可以分为汉字、部件、笔画、笔形四个层次。汉字是最高层次，部件是中间层次，笔画是次低层次，笔形是最低层次。
- **1.由两个或两个以上部件构成的字，叫合体字。**部件如同机器上的零件，可以拆装配，每个部件都有其独立性，一个部件中不允许包含两个两笔以上的独立部件。如“做”是由亻、古、攴三个部件构成的，是左中右结构。由此看来，由三个部件左中右横向排列的字，就是左中右结构。

汉字结构 Structure of Hanzi

- **2. 一个部件被另一个部件两面或三面包围的字，属于半包围结构。**如：庆、病、旬、匡、闻、函。
“皮”是独体结构，其中的“又”是部件，但剩下的部分不是部件（不好称说或变通称说，也不能另外构字）。其他如“发”“斤”“氏”等也都不是半包围结构，而是独体结构。

汉字结构 Structure of Hanzi

汉字间架结构表

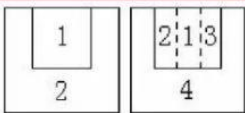
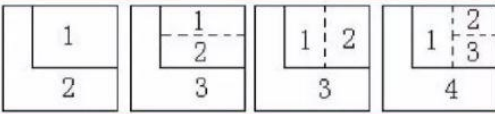
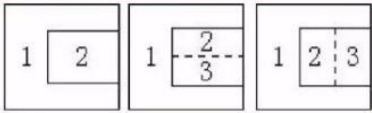
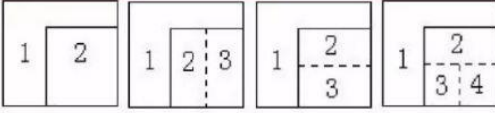
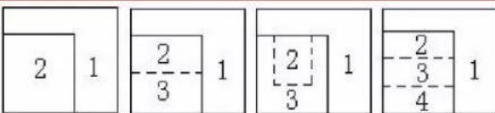

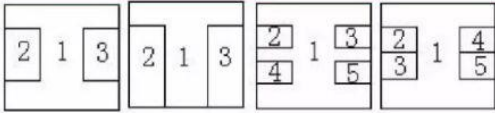
结构方式	间架比例	例字
独体结构	方方正正	米、日
品字形结构	各部分相等	品、森、炎、磊
上下结构	上下相等	思、华
	上小下大	霜、花
	上大下小	基、想
上中下结构	上中下相等	意、篝
	上中下不等	褒、裹
左右结构	左右相等	村、联
	左窄右宽	伟、搞
	左宽右窄	刚、郭
左中右结构	左中右相等	街、坳
	左中右不等	滩、傲
全包围结构	全包围	圆、国
半包围结构	左包右	医、巨、区
	左上包右下	庆、尾、房
	右上包左下	句、匀、勺
	左下包右上	遍、这、建
	上包下	问、同、网、周
	下包上	函、凶

<https://new.qq.com/omn/20200506/20200506A0FUG00.html>

汉字形体结构类型表

结构方式	字型	例字
独体字		乙、人
上下结构		忠、想、霜、聚
		蕊、蟹、崗、岗
		翼、器、萼、彙
左右结构		村、锄、楼、剥
		撵、撬、埂、剃
		缀、搬、掰
左上右包围结构		风、周、网、闰









汉字结构 Structure of Hanzi

左下右包围 结构		凶、函
左下包围 结构		廷、迢、迦、避
结构方式	字 型	例 字
上左下包围 结构		区、匿、匪
上左包围 结构		庆、屁、屙、屙
上右包围 结构		句、虱、甸、
全包围 结构		国、圆
对称结构 或框架结构		巫、乖、璽、爽

<https://new.qq.com/omn/20200506/20200506A0FUFUG00.html>

汉字结构 Structure of Hanzi

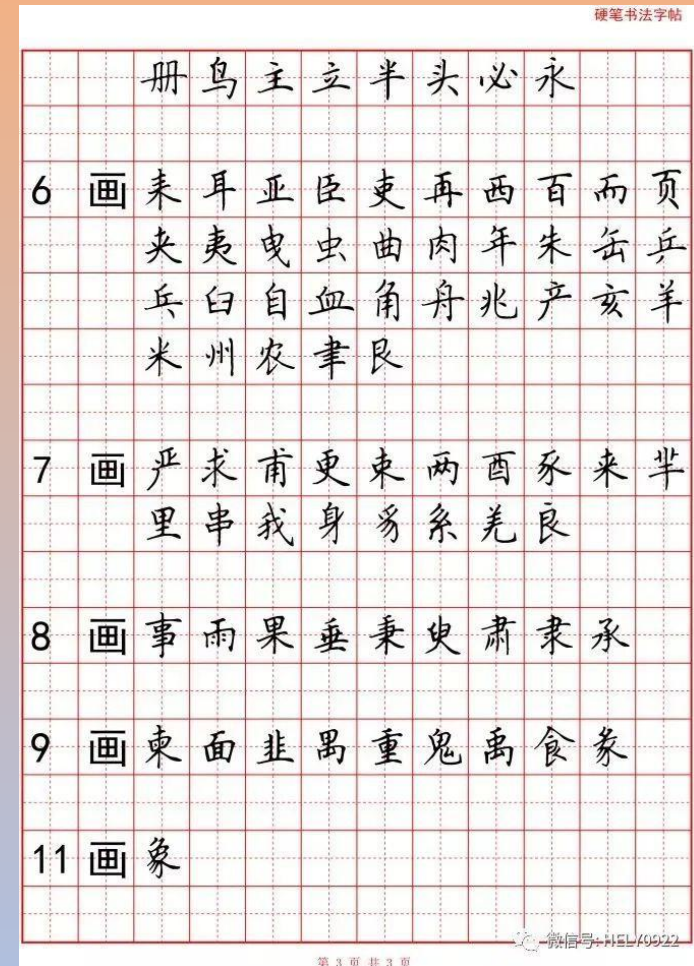
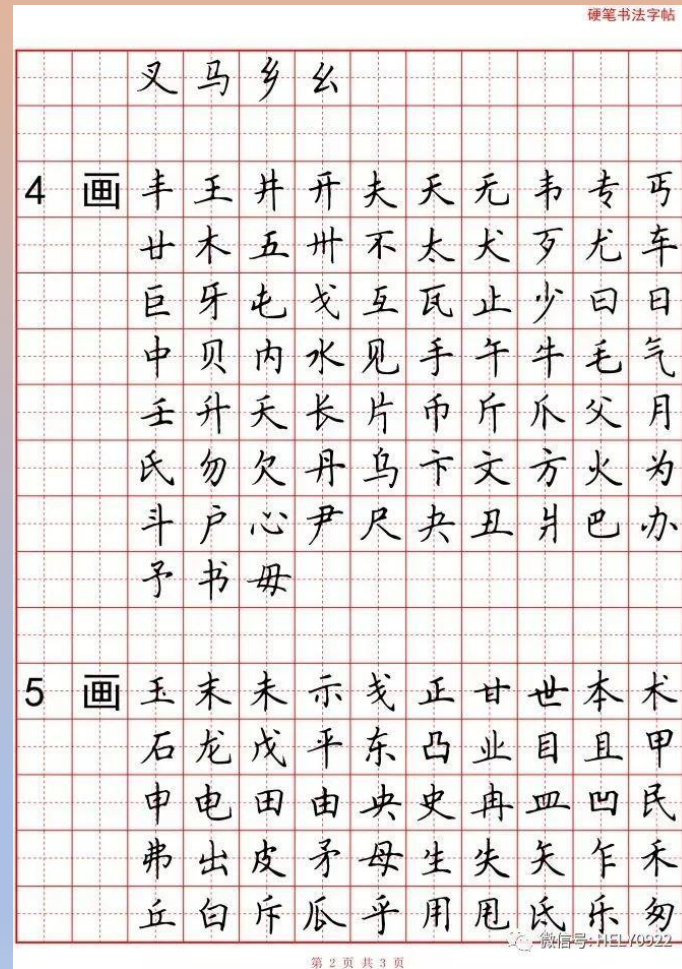
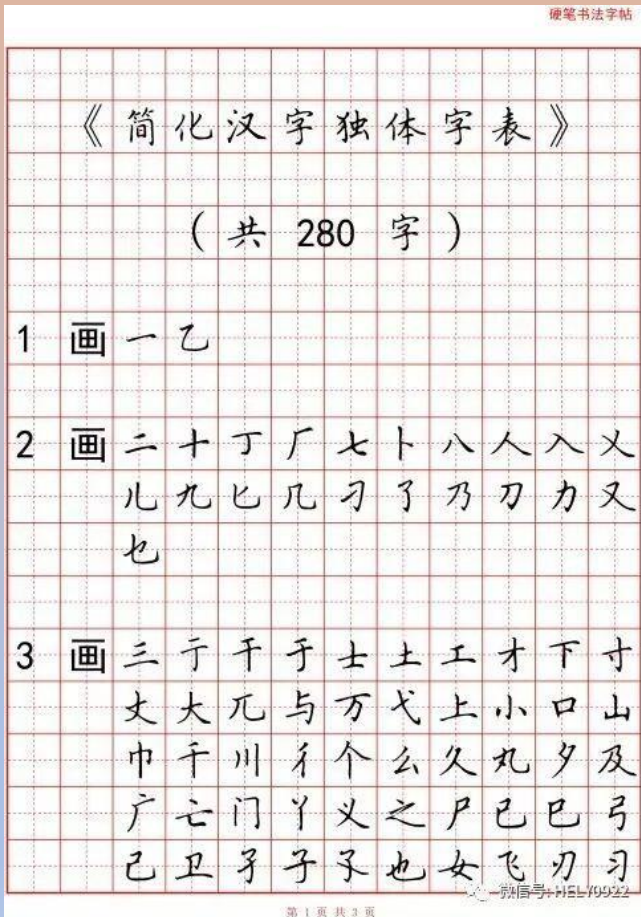
五笔字型结构示意图：

字型结构	示意图	字例
左右		他 湖
		侣 封
上下		吕 菜
		品 咒
杂合		凹 回
		巡 司
		厅 冈
		巨 函

<http://yywzw.com/n3515c168.aspx>

独体字表

Monogram Hanzi List



备注:

- 1.其中"隶"和"承"字也被看做是框架结构字。
- 2.“角”是象形字,过去一直视为独体字。现在,教材出现了“丿”字头,这个偏旁名称后,“角”应归入合体字。

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<https://new.qq.com/omn/20200506/0200506A0FUF00.html>

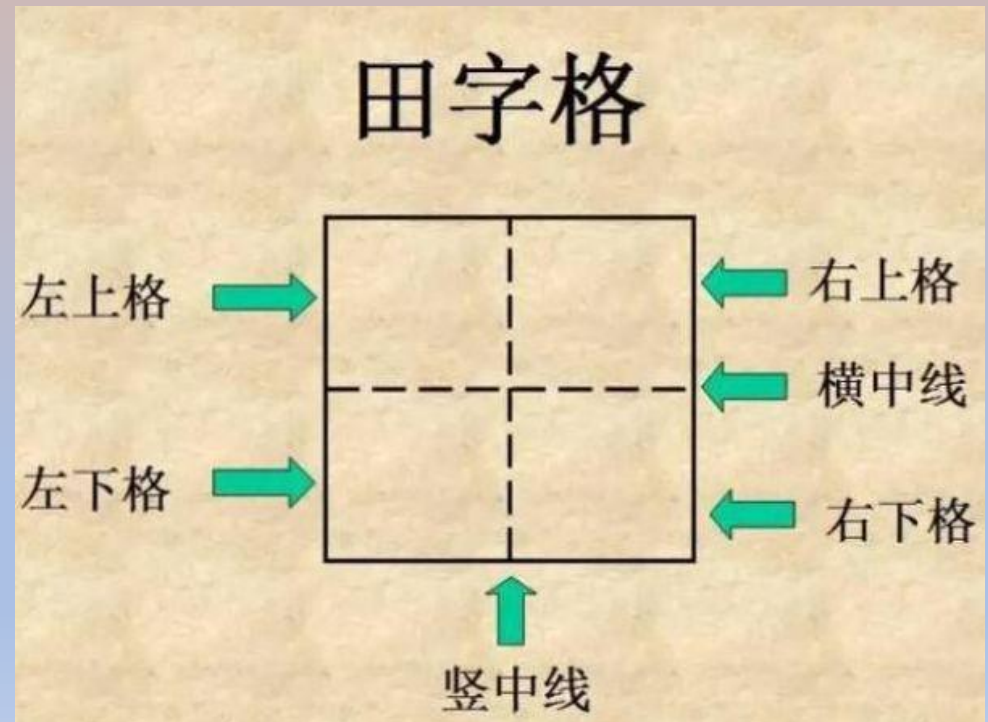
汉子格 Hanzi Grid

- 硬笔书法练字用到的练字格分为多种，方格、田字格，米字格，井字格，回宫格、九宫格等。采用练字格练字主要是帮助书法爱好者掌握字的结构，使字写出来更有美感。

汉子格 Hanzi Grid

1. 田字格

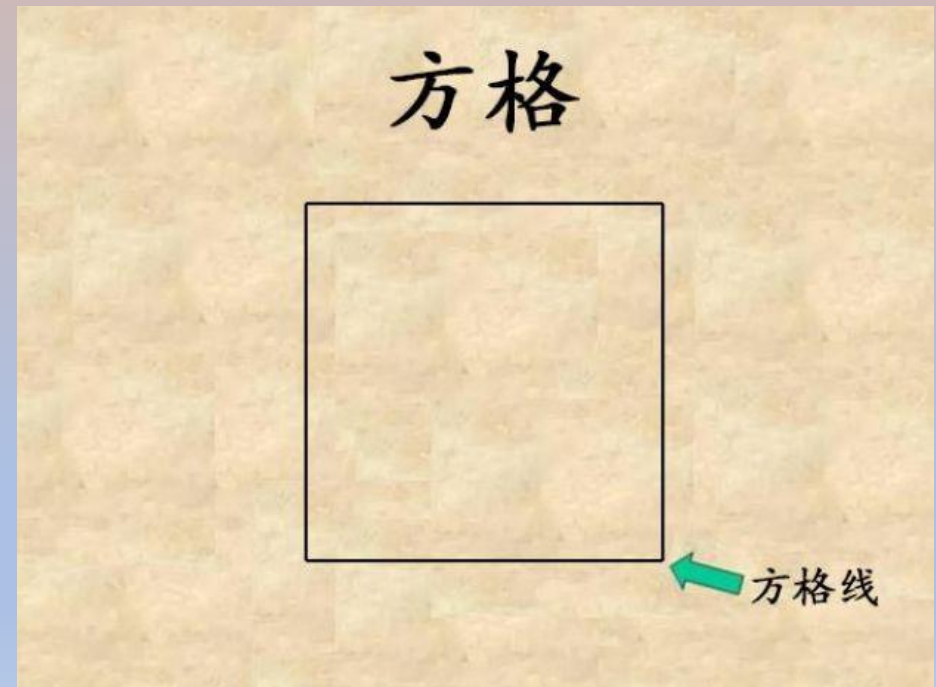
- 田字格是一种用于规范汉字书写格式的模板，包括四边框和横中线、竖中线。使小学初学写字规范。
- 田字格各个位置的名称见图：



汉子格 Hanzi Grid

2. 方格

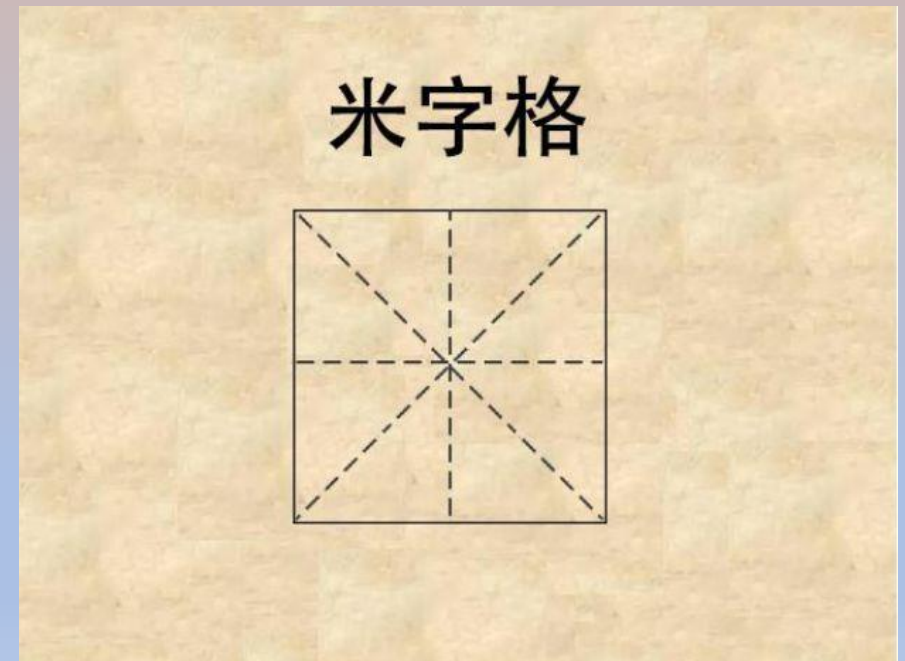
- 方格由方框形组成。通过它可以将所有汉字结构都分成两个块面来理解、组合，由此，可以一目了然，快速提高学习者的学习进程。
- 方格各个位置的名称见下图：



汉子格 Hanzi Grid

3. 米字格

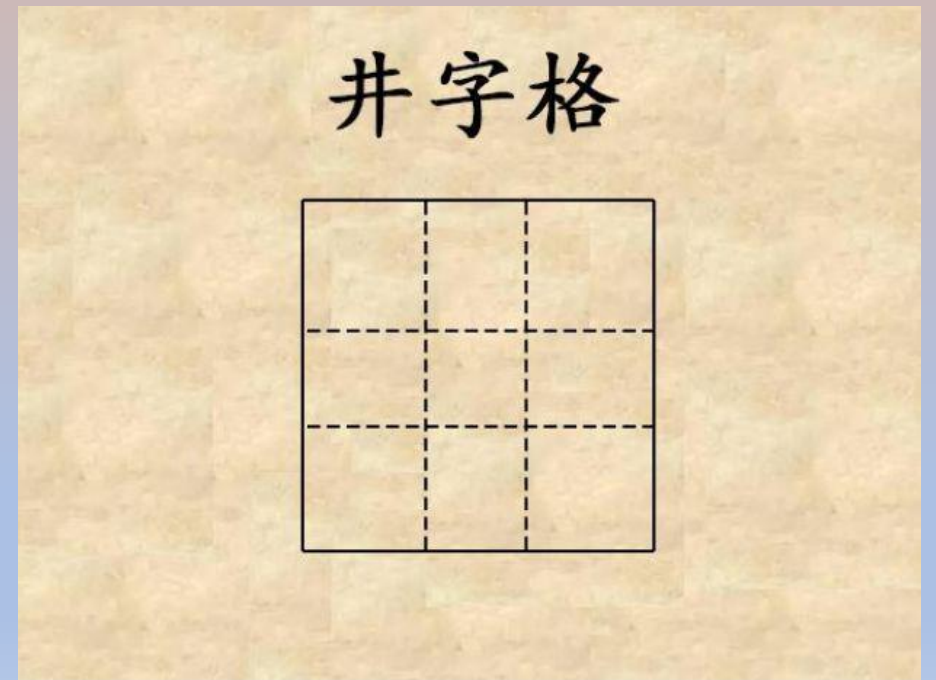
- 米字格即在方格内印有米字形虚线的格，由横虚线、竖虚线和两条对角的虚线组成。米字格多用于临摹，有助于安排间架及笔画的位置。
- 米字格各个位置的名称见下图：



汉子格 Hanzi Grid

4. 井字格

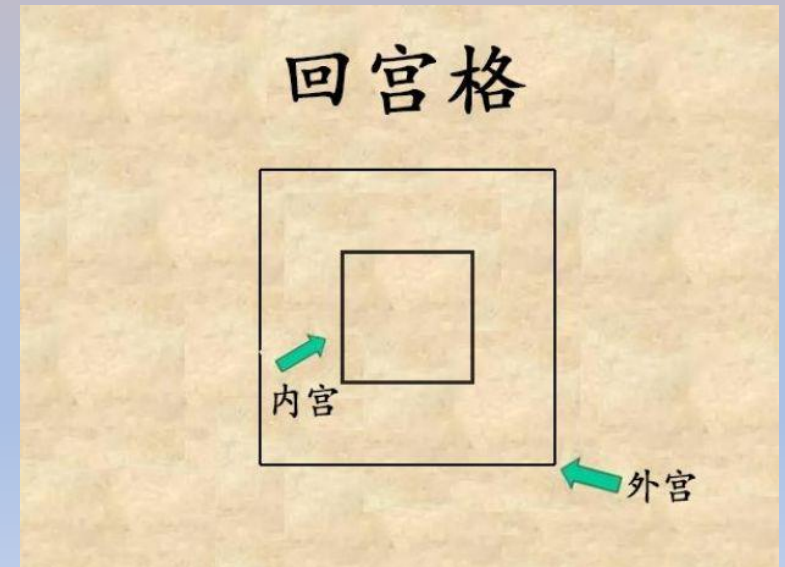
- 井字格书写可使汉字内涵丰富、结构严谨、主体明确、四翼伸展、条块结合、纵横交错等特点。
- 井字格各个位置的名称见下图：



汉子格 Hanzi Grid

5. 回宫格

- 因为它像“回”，所以我们叫它回宫格。里面的长方形格子叫做“内宫”，外面的正方形格子叫做“外宫”。一个字放在内宫的部分叫做“主体”，放在外宫的部分叫“外延”。用好回宫格，就能在最短的时间学会字的结构，解决字过紧或者过于松散的问题。
- 回宫格各个位置的名称见下图：



汉子格 Hanzi Grid

6. 九宫格

九宫格是汉字书法练习时的辅助道具之一，九宫格的格线通常以红色线画出，这是为了与习字的墨色区别，但不限于红色，也有其他色彩。习字时借由九宫格的辅助，习字者可以更加掌握文字的大小、结构、笔划的相关位置。各种制图用纸上格线也是相似的功能。

九宫格各个位置的名称见下图：

