

HÀN ZÌ SHŪ XIĚ  
汉字书写

*Writing Chinese Characters*

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## I . How to Write Characters Well?

If you want to write a character well, first, look carefully at the structure of the character and pay attention to each component's size and distance; second, only by proper strokes can you write a character well; third, pay attention to the strokes number, length, shape, direction and position, etc. in order to write every stroke properly. The horizontal stroke should be level and the vertical stroke upright; longer strokes should be written longer and shorter strokes should be shorter; the distance between strokes should be symmetrical; fourth, the size of each character should be the same regardless of simple characters or complicated ones.





## II. The Strokes

**Strokes are the smallest units of Chinese characters, and there are eight basic strokes**

(1) (Horizontal stroke) example characters:

一 (one)                  二 (two)

(2) (Vertical stroke) example characters:

干 (dry)                  十 (ten)

(3) (Left-falling stroke) example characters:

八 (eight)                人 (human)

(4) (Right-falling stroke) example characters:

天 (sky)                  大 (big)

(5) (Dot stroke) example characters:

小 (small)                主 (main)

(6) (Rising stroke) example characters:

习 (practice)            打 (beat)

(7) (Turning stroke) example characters:

已 (already)              弓 (bow)

(8) (Hook stroke) example characters:

于 (at; of; in)          水 (water)



**Table of the Names of the Strokes of Chinese Characters**

stroke	name	Example
一	héng 横 (Horizontal stroke)	二 王
丨	shù 竖 (Vertical stroke)	十 丰
丿	piě 撇 (Left-falling stroke)	人 少
㇇	píng piě 平撇 (Level left-falling stroke)	千 毛
丨	shù piě 竖撇 (Vertical left-falling stroke)	月 用
㇇	héng zhé piě 横折撇 (Horizontal and turned left-falling stroke)	水 夕
㇇	héng zhé zhé piě 横折折撇 (Horizontal and turned twice left-falling stroke)	建 及



㇀	piě zhé zhé piě 撇折折撇 (Left-fallen and turned twice left-falling stroke)	专 转
㇁	nà 捺 (Right-falling stroke)	八 大
㇂	píng nà 平捺 (Level right-falling stroke)	之 远
丶	diǎn 点 (Dot stroke)	汉 主
丶	zuǒ diǎn 左点 (Left dot stroke)	小 完
丶	cháng diǎn 长点 (Long dot stroke)	对 这
㇃	piě diǎn 撇点 (Left-falling dot stroke)	女 好
㇄	zhé (héng zhé) 折(横折) (Turning stroke)	口 且
㇅	shù zhé 竖折 (Vertical turning stroke)	区 山
㇆	piě zhé 撇折 (Vertical turning stroke)	红 台



㇀	shù wān 竖弯 (Vertical curving stroke)	四 西
㇁	héng zhé wān 横折弯 (Horizontal, turned curving stroke)	沿 没
㇂	tí 提 (Rising stroke)	冰 把
㇃	shù tí 竖提 (Vertical rising stroke)	饭 衣
㇄	héng zhé tí 横折提 (Horizontal, turned rising stroke)	说 话
㇅	gōu (shù gōu) 钩(竖钩) (Hook stroke)	寸 利
㇆	héng gōu 横钩 (Horizontal hook stroke)	买 军
㇇	wān gōu 弯钩 (Curved hook stroke)	家 狗



㇀	xié gōu 斜钩 (Oblique hook stroke)	代 成
㇁	wò gōu 卧钩 (Laid hook stroke)	心 想
㇂	héng zhé gōu (1) 横折钩(1) (Horizontal, turned hook stroke)	同 句
㇃	héng zhé gōu (2) 横折钩(2) (Horizontal, turned hook stroke)	也 地
㇄	héng zhé wān gōu (1) 横折弯钩(1) (Horizontal, turned, curved hook stroke)	屹 忆
㇅	héng zhé wān gōu (2) 横折弯钩(2) (Horizontal, turned, curved hook stroke)	几 九
㇆	héng zhé xié gōu 横折斜钩 (Horizontal, turned, oblique hook stroke)	风 气
㇇	héng zhé piě wān gōu 横折撇弯钩 (Horizontal, turned, left-fallen, curved hook stroke)	陪 队



<p>3</p>	<p>héng zhé zhé zhé gōu 横折折钩 (Horizontal, turned twice hook stroke)</p>	<p>扬 乃</p>
<p>し</p>	<p>shù wān gōu 竖弯钩 (Vertical and curved hook stroke)</p>	<p>礼 见</p>
<p>ㄣ</p>	<p>shù zhé zhé gōu 竖折折钩 (Vertical, turned twice hook stroke)</p>	<p>与 马</p>





### III. The Stroke Order

笔顺 is the order of strokes observed in calligraphy. The common rules are:

- (1) Write the horizontal stroke before the vertical one  
十 shí
- (2) Write the left-falling stroke before the right-falling one  
八 bā
- (3) Write the up side before the down side  
二 èr
- (4) Write the left side before the right side  
仁 rén
- (5) Write the outside before the inside  
用 yòng
- (6) Write the middle before the other two sides  
水 shuǐ
- (7) Write the inside before the sealing  
目 mù





## IV. Basic Structural Parts of Chinese Characters

Most of the Chinese characters consist of the basic structural parts. It's important to remember them when studying Chinese characters. The following is a table of the basic structural parts of them to help you study Chinese characters well.

name	shape	example
liǎng diǎn shuǐ 两点水	冫	冲
tū bǎo gài 秃宝盖	冫	冠
yán zì páng 言字旁	讠	计
chǎng zì páng 厂字旁	厂	厌
sān kuàngr 三框儿	匚	匹



lì dāo páng 立刀旁	刂	判
tóng zì kuàng 同字框	冂	同
bā zì tóu 八字头	八	公
bā zì dǐ 八字底	𠂆	六
yòu zì dǐ 又字底	又	支
shí zì tóu 十字头	十	克
jīn zì páng 斤字旁	斤	欣
cǎo zì tóu 草字头	艹	花
dà zì tóu 大字头	大	夸
dà zì dǐ 大字底	𡗗	类
xiǎo zì tóu 小字头	小	党
zhuǎ zì tóu 爪字头	𠂇	爱



xī zì tóu 西字头	西	栗
rén zì tóu 人字头	人	会
dān rén páng 单人旁	亻	位
bāo zì kuàng 包字框	勹	句
yòu zì tóu 又字头	又	圣
yòu zì páng 又字旁	又	对
shān zì tóu 山字头	山	岩
shān zì páng 山字旁	山	岷
shān zì dǐ 山字底	山	岔
shuāng rén páng 双人旁	彳	得
fǎn quǎn páng 反犬旁	犴	狐
shí zì páng 食字旁	饣	饭



chē zì páng 车字旁	车	辆
wǎ zì páng 瓦字旁	瓦	瓶
wǎ zì dǐ 瓦字底	瓦	瓮
zhǐ zì tóu 止字头	止	步
zhǐ zì páng 止字旁	止	此
kǒu zì páng 口字旁	口	呀
kǒu zì dǐ 口字底	口	吞
fāng kuàng er 方框儿	口	园
jīn zì páng 巾字旁	巾	帆
jīn zì dǐ 巾字底	巾	带
fǎn wén páng 反文旁	攴	败
yuè zì páng 月字旁	月	肝



sì zì tóu 四字头	四	羈
mǐn zì dǐ 皿字底	皿	孟
jīn zì páng 金字旁	钅	钅
hé mù páng 禾木旁	禾	和
bái zì tóu 白字头	白	皇
bái zì páng 白字旁	白	的
niǎo zì páng 鸟字旁	鸟	鸦
niǎo zì dǐ 鸟字底	鸟	鸳
yáng zì tóu 羊字头	羊	羔
zhǐ zì dǐ 止字底	止	歪
rì zì páng 日字旁	日	明
rì zì tóu 日字头	日	早