

# 环球汉语

## 汉语和中国文化

# Encounters

### Chinese Language and Culture

汉字练习本  
Character Writing  
Workbook  
2

(美) 孟德儒 (John S. Montanaro) | 编著  
(美) 李荣珍 (Rongzhen Li)

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编著

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## 环球汉语 汉字练习本 2

孟德儒 李荣珍 编著

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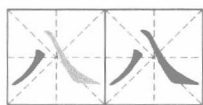
## Introduction

Welcome to writing practice. This book is a companion to *Encounters Student Book 2*, and it will help you learn the Chinese characters required for writing. Note that many other characters are presented in the Reading sections of *Encounters*, but these are not practiced here. We practice here only those required for writing recall. Keep in mind that writing and reading go hand in hand, so practice in one leads to increased proficiency in the other. What's more, writing is just plain fun. So give some time to developing a decent handwriting. You'll be proud of yourself and of your Chinese.

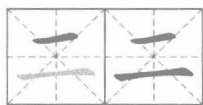
### *Stroke Order: Basic Guidelines*

There is usually a conventional sequence in which the strokes of Chinese characters are written, although there does exist some variation among Chinese writers. Diligent practice will soon fix the major principles in your mind. Here are some basic guidelines.

1. Left before right, as in 八 (bā, 'eight').



2. Top to bottom, as in 二 (èr, 'two').



3. Horizontal line before vertical one, as in 十 (shí, 'ten').



4. Left-slanting line before an intersecting right-slanting line, as in 义 (yì, 'significance').



5. Central part before symmetrical sides, as in 小 (xiǎo, 'small').



6. Outside before inside, as in 月 (yuè, 'moon').



7. If the 'enclosure' is complete on all four sides, the last stroke is the bottom one, as in 四 (sì, 'four').



8. If the character is framed from above, the frame is written first, as in 同 (tóng, 'same').



9. If the character is framed from the bottom, the frame is written last, as in 凶 (xiōng, 'ferocious').



These rules will not cover every situation, but they apply to the overwhelming majority of cases. Refer to them often and practice them frequently. Most or all of them will become automatic as you learn to write more and more characters.

### *A Guide to the Information on Each Character*

- Boxes: Pronunciation of the character in pinyin, meaning of the character in English, common word or phrase using the character, ancient and later forms of the character, modern traditional form, and simplified form (if any).

xué	Ancient Form	Later Form	Modern Traditional Form	Modern Simplified Form
study; learn; imitate				
xuéxiào			學校	学校

- Information about the character, including radical, phonetic, memory aid, etc.  
The ancient and later forms of 学/學 both have two hands with sticks used for learning counting, and a house. The later form has a 子 ('child') added at the bottom since children spend a lot of time learning.
- Usage of the character in words, phrases, and sentences.  
学/學 often appears in compound words relating to 'study,' 'school,' or 'academics.'  
For example:

学问/學問 study + ask = 'knowledge'	学年/學年 study + year = 'school year'
学期/學期 study + term = 'semester'	大学/大學 big + study = 'university'

这只鸟会学人说话。 这个学期你要学什么课？ 我想学打毛线。 去年我学了三个星期的中文。	這隻鳥會學人說話。 這個學期你要學什麼課？ 我想學打毛線。 去年我學了三個星期的中文。
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- Stroke-by-stroke guide to writing the character; squares for you to practice writing the character.



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## Unit 11

The sentences below are inspired by the contents of Unit 11 and contain all the new characters required for writing as well as others. Read and reread until fluent, covering the English as you read. Then look at the English and try to reproduce the Chinese equivalents orally. Do this exercise before beginning to practice writing.

我不知道怎么回答这个问题。 我不知道怎麼回答這個問題。	I don't know how to answer this question.
认识新朋友很有意思。 認識新朋友很有意思。	It's interesting to get to know new friends.
中国人新年见面会说“恭喜发财”。 中國人新年見面會說“恭喜發財”。	Chinese people say 'May you be happy and prosperous' when they meet each other on New Year.
他和我是好朋友，我们很谈得来。 他和我是好朋友，我們很談得來。	He and I are good friends; we get along very well.
她很客气地说：“对不起，让你们久等了。” 她很客氣地說：“對不起，讓你們久等了。”	She said politely, 'I'm sorry to have kept you waiting for so long.'
老师把问题写在黑板上让学生来回答。 老師把問題寫在黑板上讓學生來回答。	The teacher wrote the questions on the blackboard and had students answer them.
我不爱待在家里，我喜欢找朋友一起出去玩儿。 我不愛待在家裡，我喜歡找朋友一起出去玩兒。	I don't like to stay home; I like to go out with friends.
我问了很多问题，我的新朋友很客气地一个一个地回答了。 我問了很多問題，我的新朋友很客氣地一個一個地回答了。	I asked lots of questions, and my new friend answered each one of them politely.

## Just How Were Chinese Characters ‘Simplified’?

Well, first of all, let’s remind ourselves that ‘simplified’ simply means that there are fewer strokes required for writing certain characters. ‘Simplified’ does not mean ‘easier to learn.’ In fact, in the view of some learners of Chinese, the simplified variety is harder to learn than the traditional\* forms, because the simplified forms appear to have reduced the ‘picture’ quality of Chinese characters.

That aside for the moment, we think a better understanding of the strategies employed by the reformers of the traditional script can be of benefit to the learning process. If you have already used *Encounters Book 1*, you have had the option of choosing which script, simplified or traditional, to learn to write. You may also have elected the option to practice reading both scripts. If you intend to go further in your study of Chinese, you will likely need to be functional in both scripts. Whichever strategy you choose, we think a clearer understanding of how one got to be the other will help. Here are a few guidelines to the process of simplification.

1. Hundreds of characters were simplified by simplifying the radical, thereby reducing stroke count. Examples:

見	turned into	见
魚	turned into	鱼
門	turned into	门
貝	turned into	贝
金	turned into	钅

2. Hundreds more traditional characters were simplified by changing the phonetic component, so,

歷 (lì, ‘history’)	became	历 (actually providing an easier phonetic mnemonic [力 lì])
遠 (yuǎn, ‘far’)	became	远 (again providing a better phonetic)
國 (guó, ‘country’)	became	国 (altering the phonetic 或 huò to 玉 yù, but thereby providing less phonetic help. Huò could, with some imagination lead us to guó. Where does yù take us?)

\*Traditional Chinese characters are used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, and many overseas Chinese communities, whereas simplified Chinese characters are used in the Chinese mainland and Singapore. In all of these locations, however, both forms of characters often appear in particular contexts: in Taiwan on publications intended to ease travel for mainland visitors, and in the Chinese mainland as part of ornamental or decorative writing, or for educational purpose.

3. Others were simplified by retaining only part of the traditional character, so,

電 (diàn, 'electricity')	became	电 (but in the process we lost the top component, the character 雨 [yǔ, 'rain'], so vital in the production of 'electricity'!)
開 (kāi, 'open')	became	开 (but again in the simplified form, we lost 門 [mén, 'door'], so important in any 'opening'.)

4. Some characters adopted 'simplified' forms already common in Chinese handwriting, so,

車 (chē, 'vehicle')	became	车
門 (mén, 'door')	became	门

5. Finally, some characters became entirely new characters, so,

幾 (jǐ, 'how many')	became	几
--------------------	--------	---

And so on, and so on, until about one-third of the entire inventory of Chinese characters handed down through the centuries were altered. But keep in mind that the overwhelming majority of Chinese characters have *not* been changed. Most still have only one form; many have two forms, but both forms are easily distinguished and relate clearly to each other; few have been radically changed, and these are easily learned.

Our advice? As far as writing and reading are concerned, 写简读繁/寫簡讀繁 xiě jiǎn dú fán ('Write simplified and read traditional.') Learning both forms at the same time is not equivalent to learning two entirely different scripts: It is learning slightly different forms of the same script, because there is far more convergence than divergence between the two. Moreover, learning to *read* both forms at the same time allows recognition of one form to reinforce recognition of the other. Serious students of Chinese cannot expect *never* to have to read either simplified or traditional characters; there will come a time in their careers when they wish they could read the 'other' format. And, when that time comes, it should not come as a shock; it should not come with a feeling that 'Oh no, I have to start all over again!' The transition should come smoothly and comfortably; students should be prepared for it and not surprised by it.

Our approach in *Encounters* reflects the reality of the Chinese reading world. Throughout the *Encounters* materials, we regard preparing students for the language reality they will face as our foremost guiding principle.

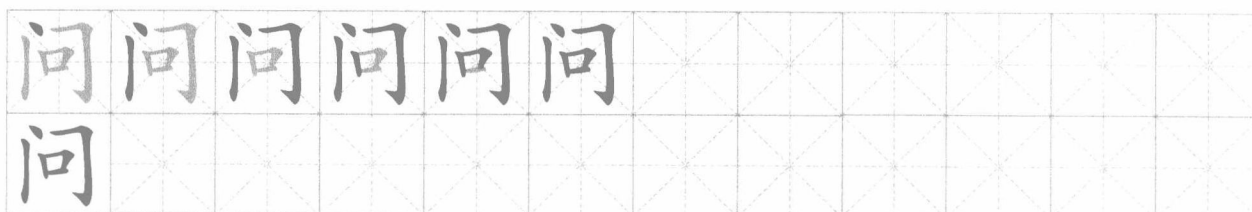
## 问/問(wèn)

wèn	Ancient Form	Later Form	Modern Traditional Form	Modern Simplified Form
ask; inquire	問	問	問	问
wènǎo			問好	问好

问/問 is a picto-phonetic character. 门/門 (mén, 'door' [a pictographic character]) is the phonetic component although it sounds quite different from wèn. 口 is the radical meaning 'mouth,' indicating that the meaning of the whole character 问/問 is related to 'mouth.' To help you remember, you can associate 门/門 and 口 with the meaning of 问/問 as 'knocking on one's door to inquire.' Distinguish: 同, 问/問, 用, 月, 周, 网. 问/問 appears in compound words relating to 'ask,' 'inquire,' or 'interrogate.' For example:

问题/問題 ask + subject = 'question'	问好/問好 ask + good/well = 'say hello to'
学问/學問 study + ask = 'knowledge'	请问/請問 please + ask = 'Excuse me; May I ask...?'

请问，我能问你一个问题吗？ 你的问题问得很好。 请问，你叫什么名字？ 请问，这个字是什么意思？	請問，我能問你一個問題嗎？ 你的問題問得很好。 請問，你叫什麼名字？ 請問，這個字是什麼意思？
--	--



## 题/題 (tí)

tí	Later Form	Modern Traditional Form	Modern Simplified Form
subject; title of a composition or speech; inscription			
wèntí		問題	问题

页/頁, the right part of 题/題, is the radical. In the later form of 题/題, this radical looks like a person with a big head. In modern forms, this part is written as 页/頁. (页/頁 by itself means 'page,' a measure word for paper.) When it is a component of other characters, it usually indicates that the whole character is related to 'head.' For example:

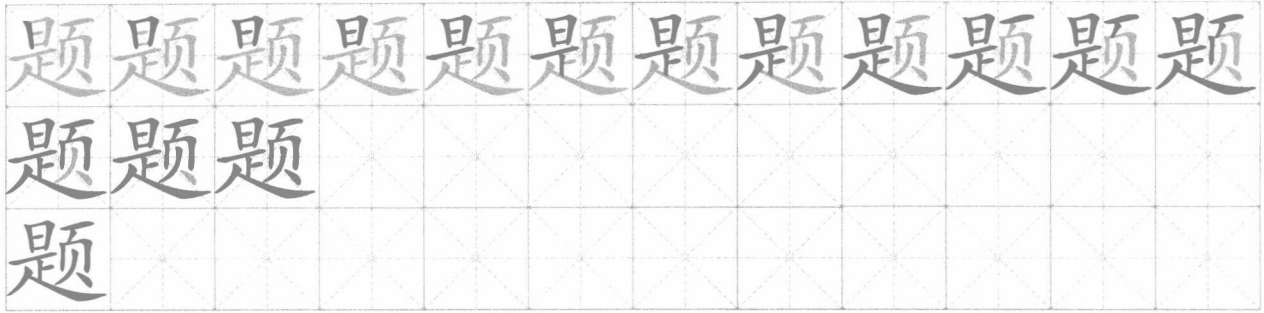
火 ('fire') + 页/頁 ('head') = 烦/煩 ('upset, troubled')	丁 (dīng, 'up' [also a phonetic component here]) + 页/頁 ('head') = 顶/頂 ('top, summit')
---	--

是, the left part of 题/題, is the phonetic component. When 是 stands alone, it is pronounced shì, meaning 'be.' However, when 是 appears in other characters as a phonetic component, the characters are usually pronounced tí. For example: 题/題, 提, 缙/緝, 醞, 鯤/鯨. Look up these characters in a dictionary to find out their meanings.

题/題 originally meant 'forehead.' Later it was extended to mean 'front.' Since a title of a composition or speech is always mentioned up front, the modern meaning of 题/題 is 'title of a composition or speech; subject.' Refer to the following compound words:

问题/問題 ask + subject = 'question'	题目/題目 subject + eye/item = 'exam item'
考题/考題 test + subject = 'exam question'	话题/話題 talk + subject = 'topic'

请问, 我能问你一个问题吗? 这个话题很有意思。 这些考题太难了。 你们有什么问题, 都可以问我。	請問, 我能問你一個問題嗎? 這個話題很有意思。 這些考題太難了。 你們有什麼問題, 都可以問我。
--	--



谈/談(tán)

tán	Later Form	Modern Traditional Form	Modern Simplified Form
talk; chat	談	談	谈
tántiān		談天	谈天





谈/談 is a picto-phonetic character. The left part, 讠/言 (a mouth at the bottom and some horizontal lines indicating sound waves in its modern traditional form), is the radical indicating 谈/談 is related to 'speech.' The right part, 炎 (yán), is the phonetic component. Since 炎 is made up of two 'fire' characters, think of 谈/談 as 'talking up a hot conversation.' 谈/談 appears in compound words relating to 'talk' and 'chat.' For example:

谈天/談天 talk + sky/weather = 'casual chat'	谈心/談心 talk + heart = 'heart-to-heart talk'
面谈/面談 face + talk = 'interview; speak to somebody face to face'	会谈/會談 meet + talk = 'talks; conversation; negotiation'

<p>你和谁谈得来? 和谁谈不来?</p> <p>你和新认识的朋友都谈了些什么?</p> <p>最近我女朋友和我有一些问题, 我想找个时间和她好好谈谈。</p> <p>他总是爱谈他的宠物。</p>	<p>你和誰談得來? 和誰談不來?</p> <p>你和新認識的朋友都談了什麼?</p> <p>最近我女朋友和我有一些問題, 我想找個時間和她好好談談。</p> <p>他總是愛談他的寵物。</p>
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谈谈谈谈谈谈谈谈谈谈  
谈

气/氣(qì)

qì	Ancient Form	Later Form	Modern Traditional Form	Modern Simplified Form
air; breath; airs; manner				
tiānqì			天氣	天气

气/氣 means 'air.' The ancient form is three lines, representing airflow. In the later form, the three lines are curved to be differentiated from the character 三 ('three'). The ancient Chinese associated breath with air. But to have breath, one has to be fed with rice. So a new character 氣 was created, with the phonetic and radical component 气 at the top and another radical, 米 ('rice'), at the bottom. The modern traditional form 氣 retains the radical 米, but the simplified form 气 reverts back to its ancient form.

In ancient Chinese philosophy, 'air' was an essential element of the earth, and it was also essential for one's spirit. Therefore, 气/氣 often appears in compound words relating to 'air,' 'manner,' or 'spirit.' For example:

客气/客氣 guest + manner = 'polite'	灵气/靈氣 clever + spirit = 'sharp and perceptive'
小气/小氣 small/little + manner = 'petty; stingy'	天气/天氣 sky + air = 'weather'

他太小气了，我和他常常谈不来。 我们已经是一家人了，以后不要那么客气了。	他太小氣了，我和他常常談不來。 我們已經是一家人了，以後不要那麼客氣了。
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你那么有灵气，学什么乐器都能学会。

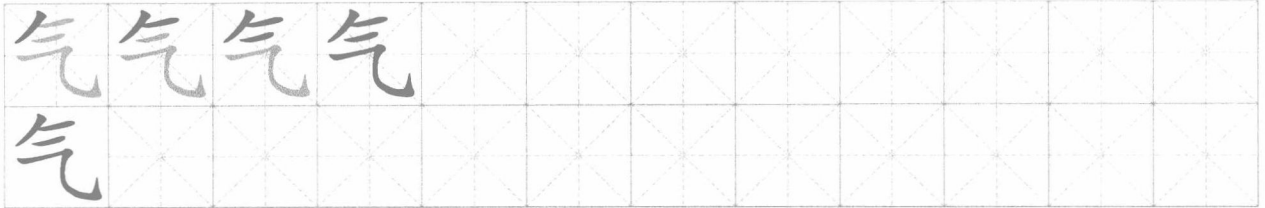
——你过奖了。

不管天气好不好，我都要出去遛狗。

你那麼有靈氣，學什麼樂器都能學會。

——你過獎了。

不管天氣好不好，我都要出去遛狗。



### 客(kè)

kè	Ancient Form	Later Form	Modern Form
guest			
kèrén			客人

客 is a picto-phonetic character meaning 'live away from home; be a guest.' In its ancient form, the top part is like a house. The modern form uses 宀 to mean 'house' or 'building.' It is the radical, indicating that 客 is related to 'house.' The bottom part, 各 (gè), is the phonetic component. Remember that someone under your roof is your guest. 客 often appears in compound words relating to 'guest,' 'passenger,' or 'customer.' For example:

客气/客氣 guest + manner = 'polite'	做客 be/do + guest = 'be a guest'
请客/請客 please/invite + guest = 'treat; entertain a guest'	游客/遊客 travel + guest = 'tourist'

我新认识的那位艺术家，又英俊又客气。

你发大财了，什么时候请客？

今天我家里要请客，客人很多，都是我父母的朋友。

我的宠物狗对熟悉的人很友好，对不熟悉的人就很不客气。

我新認識的那位藝術家，又英俊又客氣。

你發大財了，什麼時候請客？

今天我家裡要請客，客人很多，都是我父母的朋友。

我的寵物狗對熟悉的人很友好，對不熟悉的人就很不客氣。