

Hànyīn

(HÀNYĪN)

汉 音

英语-汉音/拼音词典

English-Chinese Dictionary

English-Hanyin/Pinyin Dictionary

汉英词典

第一部完全按照字母次序编排汉英词典

Chinese-English Dictionary

The first and only truly alphabetically arranged
Chinese-English dictionary

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自序

語言與語文能激起人類的天性，惹起情緒，改變情操，煽動憤怒。它們能引起國際戰爭，也能導致和平協議。它們能闡明人的道德方針，宣揚他的職業和宗教信仰。語言和語文也確立人的身份，指示他的行為和塑造他的人生觀。人與人之間有本能用口頭傳達意思，也有本能將他們的生活經驗以文字記載，一代薪傳一代，使後世的人獲得及時的指引與警戒。它們使人從一個使用粗石頭銅器的原始人轉變成為今日難以置信的多才人。人本著他隨時可以傳達意思的本能，繼續以所精通的高科技能發射人造衛星，進入太空探險與旅遊，遣送太空人登上月球。再本著這技能，人類創下醫學上的突破，征服時疫，消除天花，提供人工移植，遺傳巧合，最後還將進入長生不老的境界。

人類能擁用語言及語文的天賦技能，確實奇妙。最奇妙的是每一個成人的頭腦裡可容納五萬多字彙，使他能將這些豐富的字彙，按照其方言複雜的條規，串成有系統有意義的詞語。他可編造適當的話語用在適當的場合裏，令他與美人嬉戲，商議軍事戰術，與人開玩笑，完成一宗生意，也能分析物理上的分裂與混合狀態及相對論，最終還能分析出宇宙生命的意義。

人類在世間短暫的歷史中所成就的實在太多了。這些成就有許多可以歸功於他們能善用語言和語文的技能。因他們的成就，人類手中也掌握著足以毀滅全人類的可怕能力。因此人人均應繼續發展促進彼此之間的瞭解，以建立一個更美好更安全的大同世界。

Preface

Language incites people to love and be loved, stirs anger and modifies mood. It incites nations to war and negotiates treaties of peace. Defines his moral precepts, proclaiming his profession and confirms his religion. Language gives man his identity, directs the way he acts and shapes his view of the world. Man's ability to communicate with one another through verbal and written language and his ability to communicate from generation to generations through writing, passing on his torch of experience to the following generations, providing timely guidance and warnings of his follies, has transformed man from being a creature hacking out a precarious living with crude stone tools into the incredible polymath of today. Armed with instant communication capabilities, man continues his march on mastering science and technology. Launched satellites, initiated interplanetary exploration and put astronauts on the moon. Created modern medicine, conquered plague, eradicated small pox, providing organ transplantations, toyed with genetic manipulations and finally knocking at the door of the fountain of youth.

It is truly astounding that humans possess the power and gift of language. All the more incredible considering that an average adult has in his vocabulary a store of approximately 50,000 words, can make varied sounds to articulate them all and string these wealth of expressions into meaningful sequences according to the complex rules of one's native tongue. He can come up with words and phrases that are appropriate for the occasion, enabling him to flirt with beauty, discuss military tactics, crack jokes, close a business deal, analyze fission and fusion physics, the Theory of Relativity and ultimately the meaning of the universe.

Man has achieved so much in the relatively short period of his geophysical existence. Undoubtedly most of these achievements were made possible by his high intelligence and efficient use of language. Man has attained so much that he already hold in his hands the frightening capability to destroy the whole of mankind itself. It is therefore incumbent upon all of us to continue to strive, develop and promote better understandings to make our world a better and safer place.

INTRODUCTION

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LANGUAGE

How and when language began will probably remain a mystery. Many theories have been expounded but to date are unproven and most likely will remain unprovable.

The oldest language that are available for studies are those of the Summerians, a language spoken in the Mesopotamia valley between 4000 B. C. to about 300 B. C. when it became extinct. Almost contemporaneous with the Akkadian are written records of China and Egypt which date as far back as 3000 B. C to 2000 B. C. After this period, language records came in more abundantly.

The oldest language of Indo-European family in which English belongs are those of Sanskrit of about 2000 B. C. . Greek of about 1400 B. C. and Latin of about 500 B. C. . The oldest Sanskrit records are religious poems of the Vedic hymns. The classical Greek Iliad and Odyssey were about 500 B. C. . Greek and Latin Roman languages provide the most complete unbroken history. Latin records extend from about 500 B. C. to the end of the Roman Empire and further merging with French about 842 A. D. , with Spanish about 950 A. D. and with Italian about 960 A. D. . Greek language extends from 1400 B. C. with the linear B of Minoan inscriptions through Homeric poems around 800 B. C. and Classical Byzantine Greek to the present day modern Greek. Modern English and German started about the same time around 1400 A. D.

Language is an expression of human activity, it represents human thoughts transformed into sounds, it is dynamic and as human activity changes so do language. Sedentary tranquil and agricultural societies tend to have more stable languages while nomadic and war-like societies tend to be more active and comes along with more fre-

quent changes in their languages. Nonetheless, language change, more often than not, are imperceptible and occur over generations.

WRITING

Spoken language is a sound representation of human thoughts, writing in turn is a manifest symbol of the spoken language. Despite the millions of years of human existence, we can barely scratch back a scanty 4000 to 5000 years of recorded history. It is obvious therefore that systematic writing is a fairly recent event of the human history.

Broadly speaking, writing can be subdivided into two main categories, viz., picture/logographic writing and phonetic writing.

Picture/logographic writing are derived originally from primitive drawings or its representations. It is best visualized as composed of two very closely entwined subsystem namely pictograms and logograms.

Pictogram or picture writing, as the name implies is more or less a simplified drawing of an object which can be so represented. This is exemplified by the Chinese word 人, pronounced as rûn' meaning "man", was derived originally from the drawing of a man—"𠤎".

A logogram, on the other hand, may either be a pictorial symbol substituted for something which can not be easily represented by a drawing or it may be a symbol adopted to represent an attribute of a group such as "red" or direction of action such as "to go slow". This is typified by the Chinese word 紅 read as "hong", a symbol adopted to represent "red". 慢 read as "man", a symbol adopted to represent "slow". Furthermore, logographic writing utilizes symbols of picturable objects, general characteristics or direction for action and have lost most of their explicit pictorial meaning. Logograms are associated with definite set of keys indicating therefore that not all

logograms start off by being pictures of definite objects. If it becomes impossible to represent elements of speech by simple symbols, it may be possible to suggest them by the picture of an object with which we associate with. For example, "not" in Chinese is a line drawn over the top of a plant 不. This is associated with some kind of an obstruction to the growth of a plant, like no growth progress or not getting any taller.

The other form of writing is phonetic writing which is based on sounds rather than on the picture of an object. This can be further generally subdivided into syllable writing and alphabet writing. The Japanese has two syllabaries, the Katakana and Hiragana. Of all the alphabet writing systems in existence, the Roman in which the American/English belongs is the most widely used as well as the one providing the greatest flexibility.

Chinese Language and Writing

The Far East is a vast linguistic world in its own rights, with tongues and writing forms as colorful and varied as are their speakers. Outstanding among these languages and writing forms are the Chinese and Japanese. The Chinese group is used by more than one billion people, roughly a fifth of the world's population. By far the Chinese language is the earliest and greatest among these languages dating as far back as more than 3000-2000B. C., making it coeval with Akkadian and ancient Egyptian. The great Chinese literary works of the so-called classics often attributed to Confucius dates back to 600 B. C., Lao Tze, the founder of Taoism is said to have written decades earlier while Menciu's about a century later. This period places the Chinese literature and philosophy at approximately the same period as that of the Greek, giving the East and West an equal share in the founding of the great modern civilization of today.

- ㄉ = pronounced as lû of lûrk
 ㄍ = pronounced as kû (unstressed k)
 ㄎ = pronounced as kkû (stressed k)
 ㄏ = pronounced as hû of hûrl
 ㄏ = pronounced as ji of jim
 ㄏ = pronounced as chi of chin
 ㄏ = pronounced as xi of exit
 ㄏ = pronounced as j-j-j of j-j-j-ar = jar
 ㄏ = pronounced as ch of church
 ㄏ = pronounced as sz, cross between s & z
 ㄏ = pronounced as r-r-r in soa-r-r-r.
 ㄏ = pronounced as a cross between j & z
 ㄏ = pronounced as cz of czar
 ㄏ = pronounced as s-s-s of s-s-s-ale = sale
 一 = pronounced as i of tin
 ㄏ = pronounced as u of queen
 ㄏ = pronounced as yee
 ㄏ = pronounced as ah, the a of alpha
 ㄏ = pronounced as the o of oh
 ㄏ = pronounced as û, the û of ûrge
 ㄏ = pronounced as yea
 ㄏ = pronounced as ai of aisle, rhymes with i of idea
 ㄏ = pronounced as ei of lei
 ㄏ = pronounced as ao to rhyme with ow of cow
 ㄏ = pronounced as ou of dough
 ㄏ = pronounced as an of anatomy
 ㄏ = pronounced as ûn (ûrn less r = ûn)
 ㄏ = pronounced as ang, to rhyme with ung of lung
 ㄏ = pronounced as ûng, the û of ûrge plus nnngggg
 = ûng
 ㄏ = pronounced as er of nerd

The first twenty one (21) characters are called the initials while

the last sixteen (16) characters are called the finals. Each Jùyin° (zhùyīn) character is assigned a specific phonetic sound. Singly or in combinations, used in much the same manner as the American/English spellings, they are used to define the pronunciation of a specific Chinese logographic character. However, in the regular course of Chinese writing, these “Jùyin° phonetic characters” are not illustrated. When expressed they are written to the right of each individual logographic character and generally arranged from top to bottom. For example 告《幺;告 is the regular logographic character meaning to report or to inform while 《幺` is the “jùyin°” (zhùyīn) phonetic spelling denoting the pronunciation as “kao”. The marker · which appears farther to the right of the “jùyin° phonetic character” is the diacritical tone mark. In this particular instance, it is the fourth(4th) tone mark indicating the intonation of the word as an abrupt drop from high to low pitch as “kao!”

To ascertain the exact pronunciation of a character one may look up the logographic character in a traditional Chinese dictionary to find its phonetic constitution. To find a logographic character in a traditional Chinese dictionary is an adventure by itself. Firstly, traditional Chinese dictionaries are not arranged in alphabetical order as in Webster’s dictionary. They are arranged according to word groupings. Therefore, to begin, one must know precisely how a specific logographic character is written. Secondly, one must be able to fully ascertain as to which grouping that specific character belongs since the characters are grouped according to the determinant subgroup of a particular character. Finally, after getting into the chapter of a dictionary containing a character’s grouping, one must look for the particular character based on the precise net number of strokes. The net number of strokes being the difference between the total number of strokes of a specific logographic character less the number of strokes of the determinant subgroup. Alternatively, if one knows the exact pronunciation of a word and wants to know its meaning,

one may proceed through the Ju'yin°(zhùyīn) directory to locate the word's whereabouts in the dictionary. Present day Mainland Chinese dictionaries have altogether dropped the Ju'yin°(zhùyīn) system and in its stead replaced by a Cyrillic-based Romanized format of the "Pinyin" system. To find a Mainland Chinese simplified logographic character, one may directly go through the Pinyin alphabetical order or alternatively one may go through the directory for grouping of logographic characters based on the determinant subgroup and the net number of strokes within that subgroup.

One main characteristic of Chinese language/writing is monosyllabism. Each single character represents one syllable which may or may not constitute a complete word and this in turn serves as the building block of Chinese words and phrases. How is it then possible for the Chinese to come up with thousands upon thousands of variations to meet the multiplicity of concepts and ideas?

First: There is a long list of Chinese words that are homonymous, sounding exactly alike but written differently and connoting different meanings.

Ex: 兵 ping°(bīng) = ㇇一 ㇇ = soldier

冰 ping°(bīng) = ㇇一 ㇇ = ice

Second: There are many Chinese logographic characters that are written exactly alike but when used in a different setting connotes different meaning and carries with it a different pronunciation.

Ex: 没 mei'(méi) = 冫 ㇇ = none

没 mo'(mò) = 冫 ㇇ = immersed or sank

Third: Two or more logographic characters may be combined to denote a unit meaning. When used together, the new multi-character word carries special meanings not necessarily contained in the original mono-character words.

Ex: 小 xiao'(xiǎo) = ㇇一 ㇇ = small

心 xin°(xīn) = ㇇一 ㇇ = heart

When combined to become "xiao'xin°(xiǎoxīn)" "小心" the mean-

ing changes from its literal meaning of “small heart” to that of “careful”.

Fourth: There is at disposal by the Chinese speakers the modality of tone. A word or character may be written exactly alike but when pronounced in a different tone can mean a different meaning. This fourth component has no exact English counterpart. While the English has the component of accent for stressing pronunciations, The Chinese has qualifying tones.

Ex: 中 Jong^o(zhōng) = ㄓㄨㄥ - (pronounced with a flat tone) = means middle

中 Jong^o(zhòng) = ㄓㄨㄥˋ (pronounced with an exclamation, abrupt drop tone) = means sustained.

Chinese grammar is distinguished by its simplicity of morphology. It has no inflectional endings and relies almost entirely on syntax for its meaning. The majority of Chinese words can not be categorically classified as nouns, verbs, adjectives or adverbs. Generally they are roots and can be made to serve any functions when there's a call. Chinese words used as verbs has none of the conjugation distinctions appearing in English such as he writes, I wrote, you will write, they have written. Instead in Chinese one gets: “he now write”, “I yesterday write”, “you tomorrow write” and “they already write”.

China had been a sequestered country for most of its history. In its own setting, China's language and writing had been traditionally more than adequate to meet its needs. As a matter of fact, it has developed into such sophistication that it would pose an enormous challenge for anyone to fathom so many of its classic writings. But time has changed, the world has changed, international contact is not only inevitable but interdependence is the order of the day. Science and technology are relentlessly producing new inventions and products everyday. New names and terminologies are created in ever increasing number and coming from all over the world and from a kaleidoscope of languages. Inevitably language has to change to adopt to the new

settings. Somewhere, somehow to meet these new changes, the Chinese language turned to its existing characters and appropriated the phonetics of the characters to create new words, many times totally shedding their logographic meanings. This is particularly pervasive in the case of transliterating foreign words into the Chinese vocabulary. Unfortunately, the records of accuracy of transliterating foreign words into the Chinese language leaves much to be desired. This practice of "Chinizing" foreign words into Chinese words, has unequivocally stymied many Chinese from mastering the phonetics of foreign languages.

Present day Chinese writing is mainly logographic in form. Many attempts have been made to modify, simplify or to provide phonetic substitute to its format. As early as about 300-400 yrs earlier towards the end of the Ming Dynasty, Western missionaries coming into China tried to introduce Romanization of the Chinese writing. Circa 1888, the British ambassador to China put forward the Wade-Giles Spelling System. Around 1927 The Chinese Ministry of Education officially adopted the English ABC alphabet system as part of Chinese literature. In 1943 G. A. Kennedy in order to provide crash program on Chinese language for American servicemen helping out in the China war theater introduced the Yale Chinese Spelling system. Towards the latter half of 1950's the Chinese in mainland China established the Cyrillic-based Pinyin system and aggressively pushed for simplification of most of the original Chinese logographic characters by reducing their number of strokes. About 1984, the Chinese in Taiwan adopted the Type II Romanized Chinese phonetic writing system but maintained a more conservative stance at preservation of most of the traditional logographic characters. In 1996, Dionisio L. Ang, M.D., an American-Chinese physician, condensed his lifetime of research into the present work of the American/English based combined Chinese-American/English Han'yin^o phonetic writing system.

The various systems of Romanized Chinese writing are hereunder presented in table form for easier comparison.

注音符號 第一式	注音符號 第二式	國語 羅馬字	漢語 拼音字母	威妥瑪式	耶魯式	中-美式 漢音字目
alphabet type I	alphabet type II	guóyǔ Luómǎzì	Hànyǔ Pinyin	Wade Giles system	Yale system	Hanyin' system
ㄅ	b	b	b	p	b	p
ㄆ	p	p	p	p'	p	pp
ㄇ	m	m	m	m	m	m
ㄈ	f	f	f	f	f	f
ㄉ	d	d	d	t	d	t
ㄊ	t	t	t	t'	t	tt
ㄋ	n	n	n	n	n	n
ㄌ	l	l	l	l	l	l
ㄍ	g	g	g	k	g	k
ㄎ	k	k	k	k'	k	kk
ㄏ	h	h	h	h	h	h
ㄐ	j(i)	j(i)	j	ch'(i)	j(i)	ji
ㄑ	ch(i)	ch(i)	q	ch'(i)	ch(i)	chi
ㄒ	sh(i)	sh(i)	x	hs	s(i)	xi
ㄐ	j	j	zh	ch	j	j
ㄑ	ch	ch	ch	ch	ch	ch
ㄒ	sh	sh	sh	sh	sh	sz
ㄓ	r	r	r	r	r	r
ㄐ	tz	tz	z	ts, tz	dz	jz
ㄑ	ts	ts	c	ts, yz	ts	cz
ㄒ	s	s	s	s	s	s
ㄨ	i	i	-i, yi	-i, yi	-i, yi	-i, yi
ㄨ	u	u	-u, wu	-u, wu	-u, wu	-u, wu

續表

注音符號 第一式	注音符號 第二式	國語 羅馬字	漢語 拼音字母	威妥瑪式	耶魯式	中-美式 漢音字目
alphabet type I	alphabet type II	guóyǔ Luómǎzì	Hànyǔ Pinyin	Wade Giles system	Yale system	Han'yin' system
ㄩ	iu	iu	-u, yu	-u, wu	-u, wu	-ee, yee
ㄚ	a	a	a	a	a	a
ㄛ	o	o	o	o	o	o
ㄜ	e	e	o, -e	e	e	û
ㄝ	e	e			e	-iea, yea
ㄞ	ai	ai	ai	ai	ai	ai
ㄟ	ei	ei	ei	ei	ei	ei
ㄠ	au	au	ao	ao	au	ao
ㄡ	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou
ㄢ	an	an	an	an	an	an
ㄣ	en	en	en	en	en	ûn
ㄤ	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang
ㄥ	eng	eng	eng	eng	eng	ûng
ㄦ	er	el	er	erh	er	er
		-y	-i	-ü, ih	-r, -z	

As can be seen there are several Romanized Chinese phonetic writing systems. Each of this can provide interesting and wide ranging capabilities. But because Chinese phonetics are too complex, to date, no phonetic writing system has been adequate enough to replace the logographic writing. From historical and practical standpoints, the Chinese logographic writing system has stood the test of time and usefulness. It is tenacious, tough, complicated but it sure does work!