

NEW PATH GETTING OVER CHINESE GRAMMAR

汉语语法新通路

Revised Version
修订版

周晓更 著
Zhou Xiaogeng

 华语教学出版社
SINOLINGUA

NEW PATH GETTING OVER CHINESE GRAMMAR

汉语语法新通路

Revised Version
修订版

周晓更 著
Zhou Xiaogeng

责任编辑: 郭 辉
封面设计: 王 薇
印刷监制: 佟汉东

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

汉语语法新通路 / 周晓更编著. —修订本. —北京: 华语教学出版社, 2009
ISBN 978-7-80200-613-3

I. 汉… II. 周… III. 汉语—语法—对外汉语教学—教
学参考资料 IV. H195.4

中国版本图书馆CIP数据核字(2009)第107492号

汉语语法新通路 修订版

周晓更 编著

*

©华语教学出版社

华语教学出版社出版

(中国北京百万庄大街24号 邮政编码 100037)

电话: (86)10-68320585

传真: (86)10-68326333

网址: www.sinolingua.com.cn

电子信箱: hyjx@sinolingua.com.cn

北京外文印刷厂印刷

中国国际图书贸易总公司海外发行

(中国北京车公庄西路35号)

北京邮政信箱第399号 邮政编码 100044

新华书店国内发行

2009年(大16开)第一版

(汉英)

ISBN 978-7-80200-613-3

定价: 29.00元

First Edition 2009

ISBN 978-7-80200-613-3

Copyright 2009 by Sinolingua

Published by Sinolingua

24 Baiwanzhuang Road, Beijing 100037, China

Tel: (86)10-68320585

Fax: (86)10-68326333

<http://www.sinolingua.com.cn>

E-mail: hyjx@sinolingua.com.cn

Printed by Beijing Foreign Languages Printing House

Distributed by China International Book Trading Corporation

35 Chegongzhuang Xilu, P.O. Box 399

Beijing 100044, China

Printed in the People's Republic of China

Contents

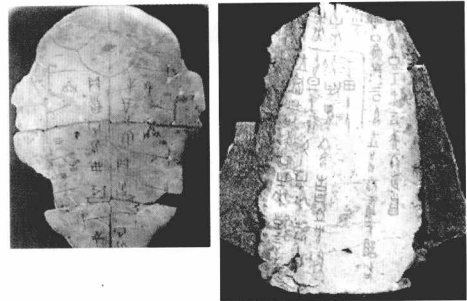
Chapter 1	About the Chinese Characters	1
Chapter 2	Creating New Words	9
Chapter 3	Basic Rules for Combining Words	21
	Section 1: Where Both Words Refer to Objects	22
	Section 2: Where Words Refer to Objects and States	28
	Section 3: Where Both Words Refer to States	32
	Section 4: Where Both Words Refer to Actions	36
	Section 5: Where Words Refer to Objects and Actions	41
	Section 6: Where Words Refer to States and Actions	50
	Section 7: Summary	54
Chapter 4	Advanced Skills in Application	63
	Section 1: The Construction of Complex Words	63
	Section 2: Principles and Practical Skills	71
Chapter 5	Sentence Construction	82
	Section 1: Typical structure: Orders and Suggestions	84
	Section 2: Typical Structure: Describing the Actions	92
	Section 3: Typical Structure: Describing the Subject	99
	Section 4: Typical Structure: Describing Existence	106
	Section 5: Special Structures	114
Chapter 6	Specifying Tenses	127
Chapter 7	Raising a Question	140
	Section 1: Questions Requiring Confirmation	142
	Section 2: Questioning Specific Components	148
Chapter 8	Constructing Complex Sentences	156
Chapter 9	Advanced Skills in Making Sentences	169

Chapter 1

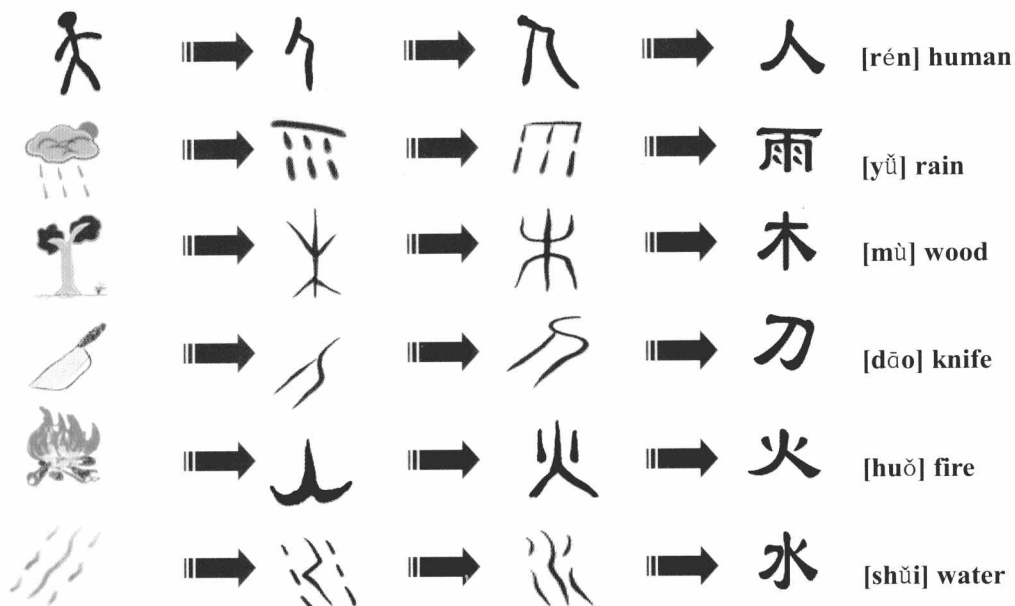
About the Chinese Characters

As one of the most ancient of languages, the Chinese language remains vigorous; it is spoken by the largest population in the world and attracts increasing attention from people outside the mysterious Eastern land of its origin. Let us begin by looking into the Chinese characters, the visual messengers of this ancient language.

About 5,000 years ago, the earliest Chinese characters appeared as simple strokes carved on animal bones. These carvings are the original forms of the modern characters in use today. The ancient Chinese authors of these extraordinary characters also created the highly practical and flexible grammar system. Chinese philosophy and aesthetics have contributed to a vast, unique and marvelous culture and the ancient characters are symbols of that wisdom.

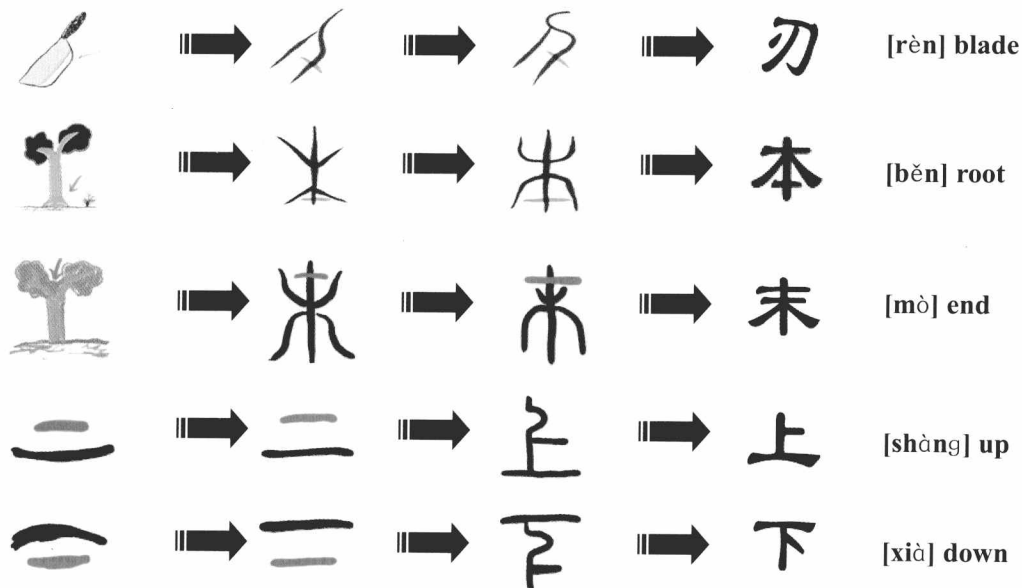


One important method in creating new characters is to imitate objects with simple strokes, like making naturalistic drawings. These original pictographic characters underwent a long evolution that led to their eventual simplification into the modern characters we see today. The following examples show how this happened.

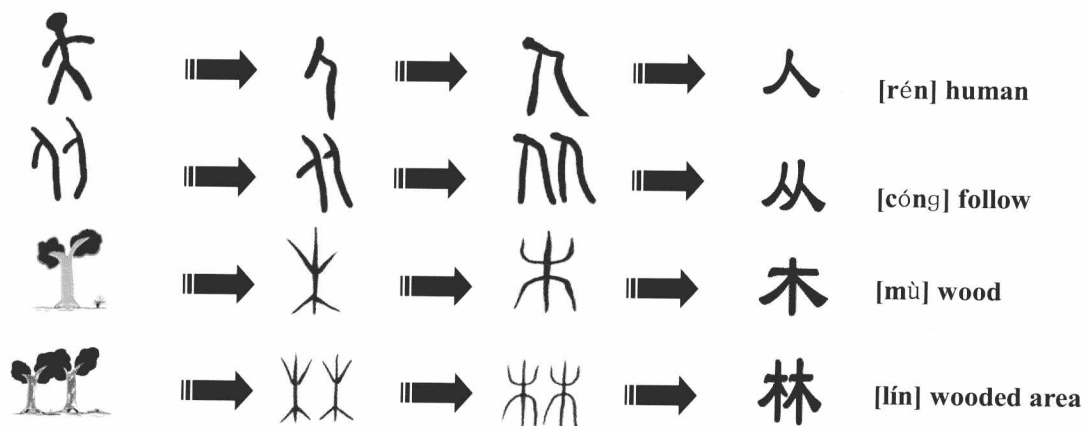


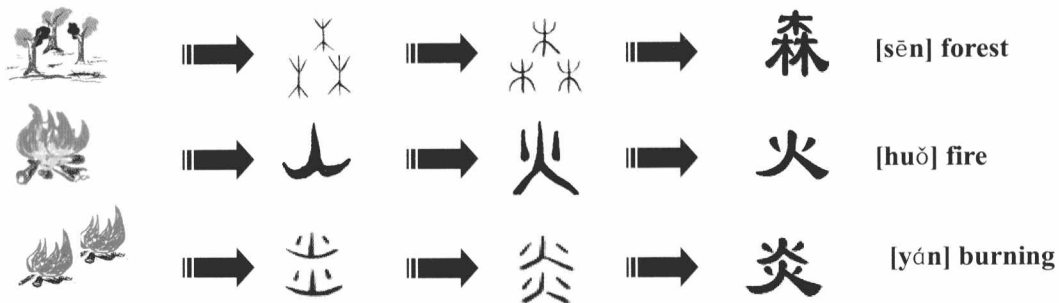
Note: there are only a few original characters left today, and one can scarcely find any trace of the original pictographs in their present appearance.

Based on the above pictographic characters, people developed a method of creating new characters. By adding more strokes to an existing character, people created a new character referring to the specific part of a subject. In most cases, the new character has a different pronunciation from the original one. The following examples show the basic mechanism:



Another method of creating a new character for a new subject or concept is to integrate two or more existing characters. As every original character in the newly created character retain their own meaning, the meaning of the new character usually comes from a natural deduction of the combined original meanings. That is to say, in most cases, we can deduce the meaning of these kinds of “created” characters from their internal structures. The following examples show this mechanism:



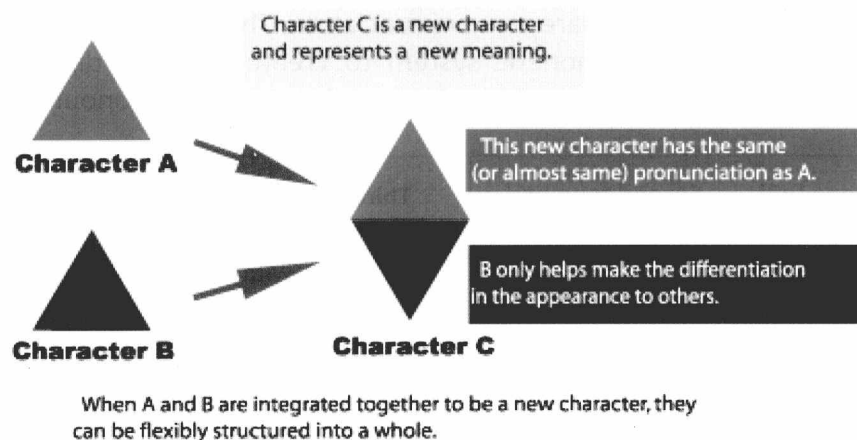


With the expansion of civilization, people had to cope with rapidly expanding social lives that required a larger number of characters for the objects and ideas that continually emerged. The above three methods of creating new characters based on the pictographic characters however, are not capable of such dynamism. Many objects (both physical objects as well as abstract concepts) are too complex for pictographs. Thus, a more complicated method of creating characters developed, one that progressed through two steps.

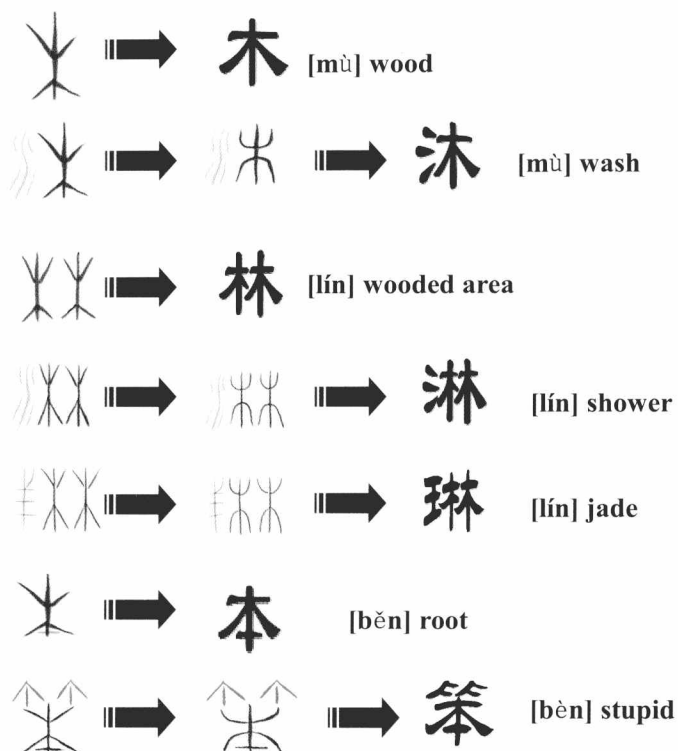
Step 1: Select one existing character to indicate the pronunciation, and then integrate it with another existing character (or two, or even more) to create a new character.

Step 2: Stipulate the meaning of the newly made character.

The following chart shows the basic mechanism involved.



Examples:



The advantage of this method is that people can integrate existing characters to create new characters, which provides extensive possibilities for creating new descriptions and meanings. What's more, the characters integrated into the new characters usually offer strong clues to their pronunciation. The disadvantage is that many characters frequently share one pronunciation. Therefore, the Chinese language adopted four tones in its phonetic system to create a subtle differentiation. For example, below is a list of some commonly used characters, all pronounced as [yü]:

First tone [yū]		Second tone [yú]		Third tone [yǔ]		Fourth tone [yù]	
迂	winding	与	with, to	与	against, with	与	to participate
迂	tortuous	鱼	fish	屿	island	玉	jade
淤	silt	于	at, to, on	予	to give, to grant	驭	to ride, to lead
瘀	stasis	盂	jar, pot	伛	hunchback	芋	taro
於	a surname	予	me	宇	eaves, space	吁	to appeal

		余	spare, surplus	羽	feather	峪	valley, ravine
		臾	moment	雨	rain	浴	bath; to bathe
		腴	plump	俣	big, large	欲	desire, need
		渔	fishery	语	language, words	裕	abundant
		隅	corner, nook	圉	horse stable	郁	lush, gloomy
		愚	stupid			育	to raise
		俞	a surname			狱	jail, prison
		掄	to draw			域	scope, boundary
		逾	to exceed			预	in advance
		渝	to alter			谕	to instruct
		愉	pleased			喻	metaphor
		瑜	jade			愈	more; to heal
		榆	elm			遇	to meet
		娱	to amuse			寓	to reside;
		虞	to predict			御	to ride, to control
		舆	carriage			誉	reputation, fame

This has proved to be the easiest and most efficient method of creating characters in history. More than 90% of Chinese characters currently in use were created in this fashion.

In the evolution of the language, the Chinese ancestors seemed to be very diligent in creating new characters, so diligent in fact, that at one time there were more than 40,000 characters. This proved problematic for the practical use of the language because most people could hardly recognize the vast number of characters involved.

People love simple and easy things, and this preference inevitably led to simplifying the entire language system. During the past 5,000 years, people have been developing this ancient language into a powerful and efficient tool. Along the way, many outmoded characters vanished while many new characters evolved, and people became more proficient in the language. There have been several significant breakthroughs in the past 100 years. Obvious improvements include:

1. The colloquial language system dominated the daily language.
2. Some Western manners of writing and reading were popularly adopted.
3. Many traditional characters were restructured and simplified with fewer strokes.

Mandarin has now become the standard language of the Chinese nation, reduced in size to the roughly 2,600 characters most commonly used in people's daily language. A key factor that makes it possible to reduce the amount of characters used daily to a reasonable level lies in the construction of the vocabulary system. As we will discuss in the next chapter, the Chinese adopted a unique approach for that, along with more effective and efficient methods.



Extra Knowledge: Origins of Chinese Characters

Most ancient Chinese characters changed tremendously in both appearance and pronunciation during their evolution. Today, it is very hard to find the traces of their original appearance. In the course of creating new characters, some characters or strokes are found frequently integrated with others, and they are regarded as the earliest traceable form, or etyma, from which new words are derived. These etyma usually provide strong hints to the meanings of the characters. For example, when a character contains 目 in its structure, it usually refers to something related to eyes.

眼 eye	盯 to gaze	瞪 to glare	看 to look	眉 eyebrow
----------	--------------	---------------	--------------	--------------

Another example: characters with 口 usually refer to something related with the mouth.

吃 to eat	喝 to drink	叫 to shout	咬 to bite	吐 to spit
-------------	---------------	---------------	--------------	--------------

Below is a list of the most popularly used etyma that provide strong hints to meanings. (There are, of course, many exceptions and this is only a general view.)

Etyma	Related meaning	Examples
刂	to cut, to divide	割 to cut 刮 to scratch 刻 to carve
人亻	people, human	仙 fairy 体 body 你 you
冫	cold, ice	冷 cold 凉 cool 冻 frost
口	mouth	叼 to hold in mouth 叹 to sigh
土	land, earth, soil	地 land 坛 altar 坝 dam
女	female, feminine	妻 wife 妇 married woman 她 she
宀	house, shelter	家 home 宅 house 室 room
山	mountain, land, soil	岸 shore 岩 rock 崖 cliff
巾	clothing, dress	帽 cap, hat 布 cloth 帐 curtain

彳	to walk, to move, to labor	行 to walk 征 to levy 徙 to migrate
忄	feeling, emotion; to think	记 to memorize 忆 to remember
扌	act, behavior, movement	打 to hit, to beat 拉 to pull 推 to push
日	sun, light, time, season	春 spring 旺 prosperous 映 to reflect
木	wood; wooden	桌 table 椅 chair 板 board
氵	water, river	海 sea 江 river 溪 brook
火	fire	烟 smoke 烤 to bake 炉 oven
灬	fire; to cook	煮 to boil 烹 to cook 煎 to fry
犛	animal, beast	猎 to hunt 狗 dog 猫 cat
疒	sick, disease	病 sick 疾 disease 疗 to cure, to treat
目	eye, view, sight	眼 eye 盲 blind 看 to watch
石	stone	矿 mineral resource 砂 sand 硬 hard
米	food, cereal	粮 cereal 籽 seed 粥 congee
纟	silk, cloth; to weave	丝 silk 织 to weave 纺 to weave
舟	boat, vessel	船 boat 舰 vessel 艇 boat
艹	plant, wood	草 grass 芽 bud 花 flower
虫	reptile, insect	蛇 snake 虾 shrimp 蛙 frog
讠	words, language	说 to say 谈 to talk 论 to comment
辶	to walk, to move; journey	巡 to patrol 远 far 追 to chase
酉	wine, alcohol	酒 wine 醉 drunk 酿 to brew
钅	metal	钉 nail 铁 iron 铜 cooper
雨	rain, water, weather	雷 thunder 雾 fog 霜 frost
饣	food, meal	饭 meal, food 饿 hungry 饮 to drink
鸟	birds	鸡 cock, hen 鹅 goose 鹦鹉 parrot
竹	bamboo, plant	笛 flute 竿 pole 筛 sieve
足	foot; to walk	跳 to jump 蹦 to leap 跃 to spring

Chapter 2

Creating New Words

The essential goal in creating new characters is to create symbols for the subjects (a physical item, an abstract concept, etc.). The correspondence between a symbol (character) and the subject can be defined as the “meaning” of the symbol. Almost every character has its own meaning and can be defined as a “word”. The independent characters build up the basic vocabulary of the Chinese language.

It also frequently happens that one character has more than two or more meanings. Sometimes these meanings relate to each other, at other times they have nothing in common. This phenomenon is the result of the continuing evolution of the Chinese language. Thus, in most cases, a character should be regarded as a random collection of the meanings, whether they are related to each other or not. The following examples show the diversity of meanings of Chinese characters.

发(fā):

1. to send out; to issue, to deliver, to distribute. Examples: 发射, 发送
2. to utter, to express. Examples: 发言, 发音
3. to discharge, to shoot, to emit. Examples: 发光, 发热
4. to develop, to expand. Examples: 发展, 发扬
5. (of foodstuffs) to ferment. Examples: 发酵, 发霉
6. to generate; to bring into existence. Examples: 发电, 发病
7. to open up; to discover, to explore. Examples: 发现, 揭发
8. to get into a certain state; to become. Examples: 发痒, 发苦
9. to show one's feeling. Examples: 发怒, 发笑
10. to start; to set out. Examples: 发车, 发船
11. as a quantifier. Examples: 一发子弹, 一发炮弹

Sometimes, a character has various pronunciations with various meanings. For example:

和 (hé):

1. gentle, mild, kind. Examples: 温和, 缓和
2. harmonious. Examples: 和睦, 和谐
3. peace. Examples: 和平, 媾和
4. (sports) to draw, to tie. Examples: 和棋, 和局
5. together with
6. and
7. sum. Example: 总和
8. a surname

和 (hè)

1. to join in (singing). Example: 附和
2. to compose a poem in reply. Examples: 和词, 和曲

和 (huó)

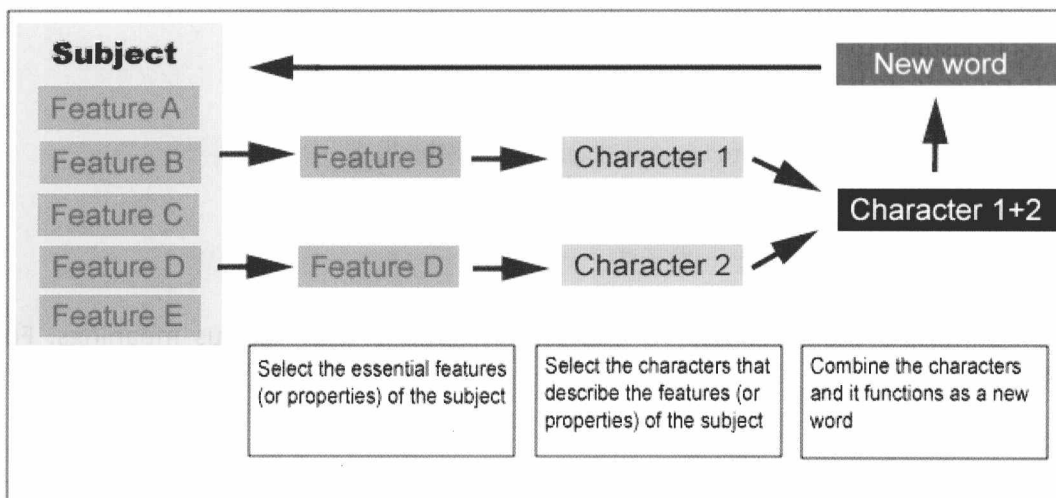
1. to mix (powder) with water. Examples: 和面, 和泥

和 (hú)

1. to win (especially in the Chinese game of mah-jongg)

Theoretically speaking, we can create new characters for any subject that might emerge, but that is not necessarily feasible because it would produce too many characters. Therefore, we face a dilemma: on the one hand, we need to keep the number of characters at a reasonable level; on the other hand, there must be some way to create “names” for the items and concepts constantly emerging from our fast-paced civilization. The Chinese language adopts a unique approach in resolving this problem.

Every subject has its features or properties, and it is possible to differentiate each subject by its most essential features and properties. Therefore, the existing characters that best capture the features and properties of the new subject can be used to describe a subject. The exterior appearance of the new character comes from two (or more) characters that are combined and integrated, functioning as a new word for that subject. The following chart shows the mechanism involved:



The following two examples on words for horses show how this process works.

The description of a horse can include two categories, one is “mare”, and the other is “stone horse”. Two characters were created for the two categories:



mare



stone horse

These two categories can be regarded as subjects with different features. For the mare, these essential features include:

1. It belongs to the horse species.
2. Its gender is female.

For the “stone-horse”, these essential features include:

1. It belongs to the horse species.
2. Its gender is male.

At the same time, there are characters specifically created for these features:



horse

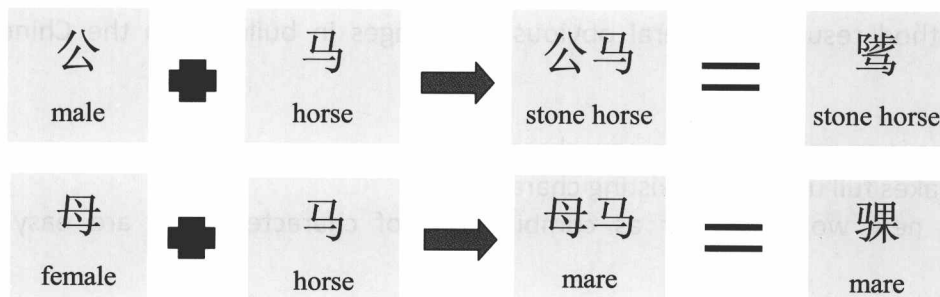


male



female

As shown below, the above characters can be combined to make new words for these subjects.



The following characters were created for horses of various colors.



red horse



yellow horse



cyan horse



black horse

The following characters are for the colors:

红	黄	青	黑
red	yellow	cyan	black

We can combine the four different subjects in the following way:

红 red	+	马 horse	→	红马 red horse	=	骠 red horse
黄 yellow	+	马 horse	→	黄马 yellow horse	=	驃 yellow horse
青 cyan	+	马 horse	→	青马 cyan horse	=	骐 cyan horse
黑 black	+	马 horse	→	黑马 black horse	=	骊 black horse

This method results in several obvious advantages in building up the Chinese vocabulary:

1. There is no need to create new characters.
2. It makes full use of the existing characters.
3. The new words appear as combinations of characters that are easy to understand.

The above examples only show the essence of the mechanism used to create new words by the interaction of meanings. The following examples show the effectiveness and efficiency of this method in creating new words.