

FUN_{with} Chinese Characters



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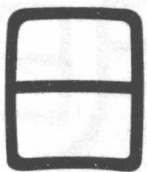
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【rì】



【sun】

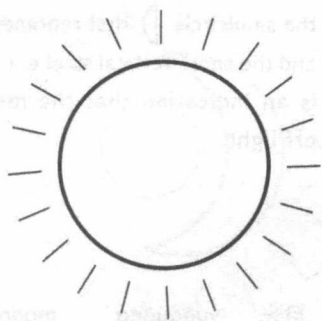
【yue】



【moon】



The initial character 日 resembles the sun's shape, and the horizontal stroke in the middle indicates that the sun is giving off light.



日历 rìlì calendar

日记 rìjì diary

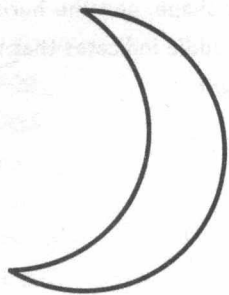
【yuè】

月

【moon】

𠄎 → 𠄎 → 月 → 月

The moon waxes and wanes, as does the character for moon. The initial 月 contains the semicircle 𠄎 that represents the moon, and the short vertical stroke 丨 in the middle is an indication that the moon is giving off light.



月光 yuèguāng moonlight
月亮 yuèliang moon

【míng】

明

【bright】

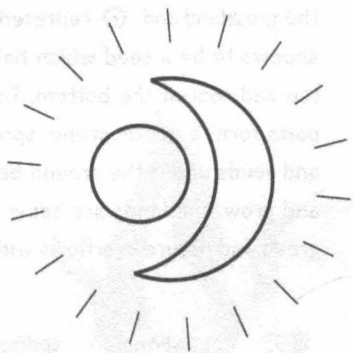
【chūn】

春

【spring】

☾ → ☽ → ☽☼ → 明

The original 明 character is composed of symbols that represent both the sun and the moon. The character suggests sunshine and moonlight have the power to illuminate.



明天	míngtiān	tomorrow
光明	guāngmíng	light

【chūn】

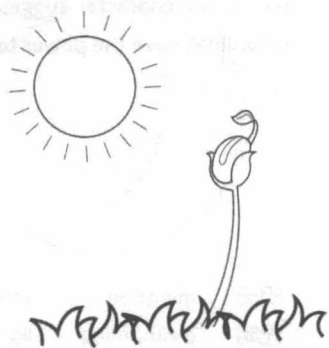
春

【spring】

𠄎 → 𠄎 → 𠄎 → 春

𠄎 in the original 春 character symbolizes the grassland and ☉ represents the sun. 𠄎 appears to be a seed which has a sprout on top and root at the bottom. Together these parts form a poetic scene: spring has come and seeds under the ground begin to sprout and grow, the lands are being covered with green and nature overflows with life.

春天	chūntiān	spring
春节	Chūnjié	Spring Festival



【huǒ】

火

【fire】

【guāng】

光

【light】

火 → 𤔁 → 𤔂 → 火

The original 火 character resembles the shape of a flame 𤔁 with three points. There are three points in the original character because the number three was often used in ancient China to express the meaning of "many".

火山 huǒshān volcano
火车 huǒchē train






【guāng】

光

【light】

光 → 光 → 光 → 光

The original 光 character  looks like a kneeling man  holding a torch . The structure of the original character simply illustrates that fire brings light.

月光
目光

yuèguāng
mùguāng

moonlight
sight, vision



【zāi】

灾






【disaster】

【mù】

木

【mù】

灾 → 灾 → 灾 → 灾

The original 灾 characters  ,  express the meaning of disaster with a burning house:  represents the beam,  resembles the roof, and  indicates the flame. Subsequently 灾 is also used to indicate flood, drought, and plague.

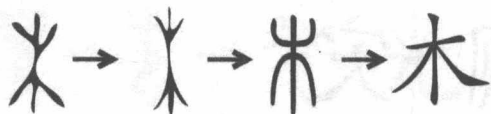


火灾 huǒzāi fire disaster
水灾 shuǐzāi flood

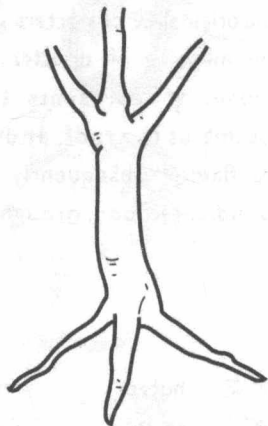
【mù】



【wood】



The original 木 character seems to be a tree trunk | which has branches Ψ at the top and roots at the bottom. The character contains the meaning of trees and timber.



木耳
木头

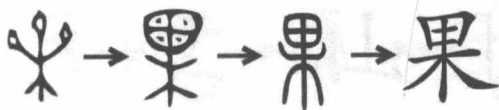
mù' ěr
mùtóu




wood ear
wood

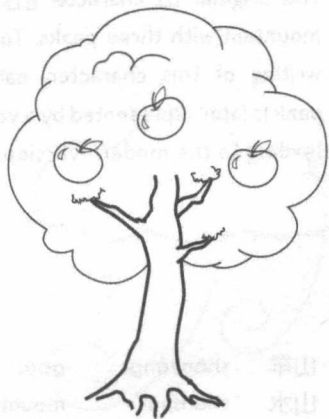
【guǒ】

果

【fruit】



The original 果 character  looks like a tree  with three fruits . So this character can easily be seen to mean fruits or gains.

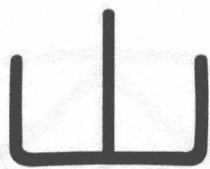


水果
果子

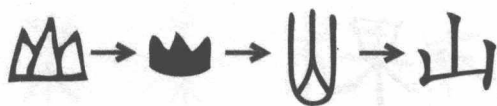
shuǐguǒ
guǒzi

fruit
fruit

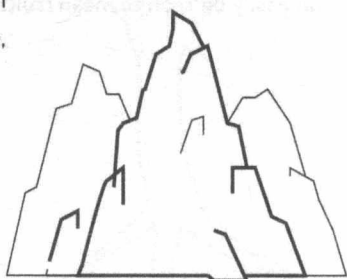
【shān】



【mountain】



The original 山 character 𠄎 resembles a mountain with three peaks. To simplify the writing of this character, each mountain peak is later represented by a vertical stroke, leading to the modern version, 山.



山羊 shānyáng

goat

山水 shānshuǐ

mountains and rivers

【yún】

云

【cloud】

【yǔ】

雨

【rain】

云 → 云 → 云 → 云

The original 云 character 云 contains a curling line 勹 under the sky symbol 二, suggesting that air is flowing through the sky.



云海 yúnhǎi
云朵 yúnduǒ

sea of clouds
flaky clouds

[yǔ]

雨

[rain]

雨 → 雨 → 雨 → 雨

The original 雨 character 雨 contains a horizontal line — that represents the sky with vertical dashes representing water 雨 underneath it; the character symbolizes that rain is falling from the sky.



雨水

yǔshuǐ

rainfall

雨衣

yǔyī

raincoat

【shuǐ】

水

【water】



【field】

灃 → 灃 → 灃 → 水

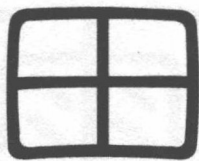
The original 水 character 灃 resembles a river \ throwing spray 灃 into the air.



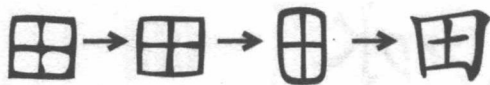
雨水 yǔshuǐ rainfall

水果 shuǐguǒ fruit

【tián】



【field】



田 has both a horizontal and a vertical stroke in a square □, thus forming four grids; the character symbolizes paths crisscrossing in a field.

田地

tiándì

farmland

心田

xīntián

heart

