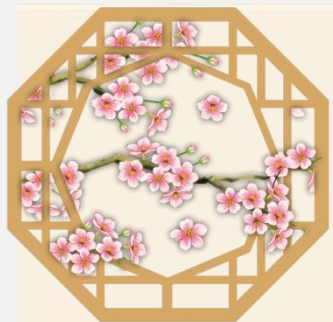




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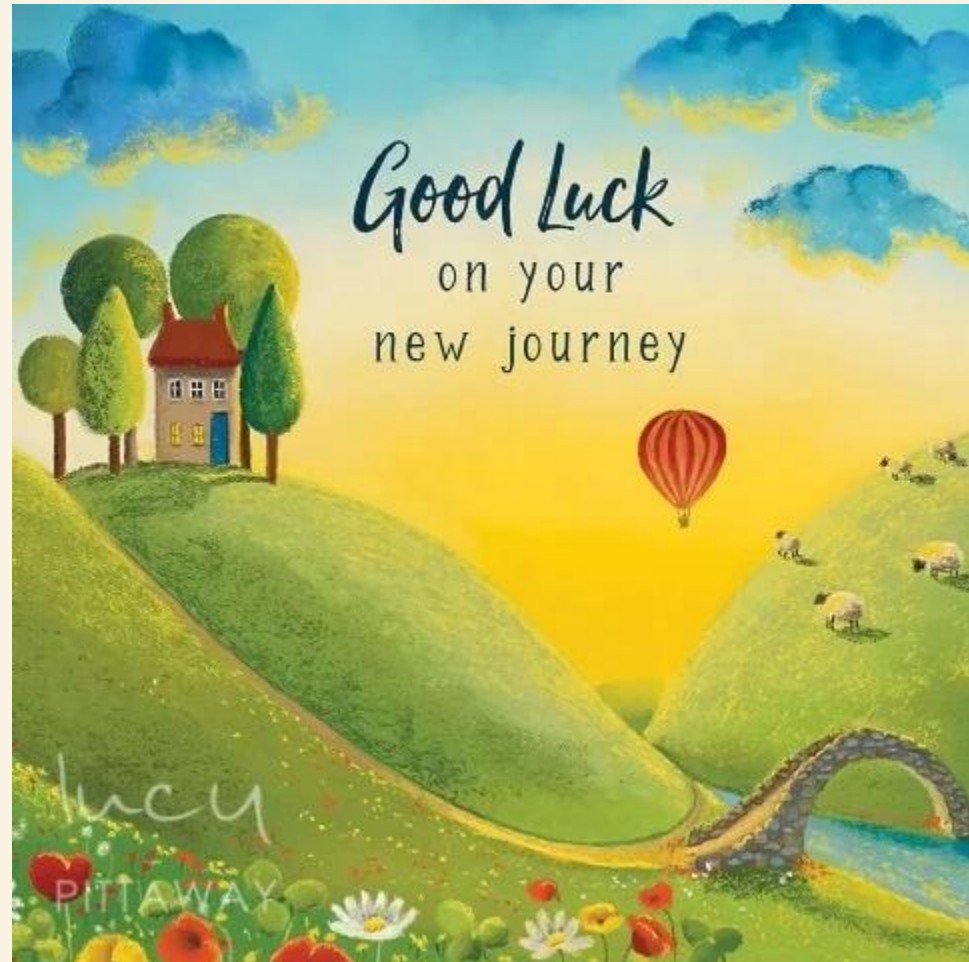
An Introduction to Chinese Philology II

Shushi Xu
Sep 2025





3.1 Characters Related to Mankind





3.1 Characters Related to Mankind

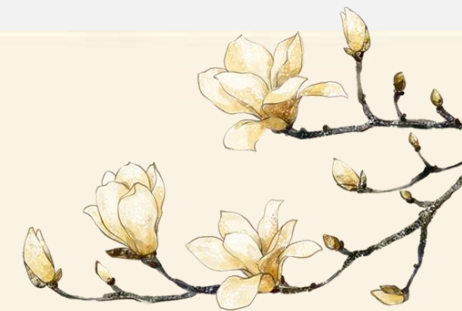


3.13 Hand



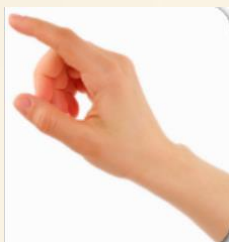


3.13 Hand



yòu 又

(right hand; again)



yòu 右

(right hand; to help)



yòu 佑

(to protect, bless)

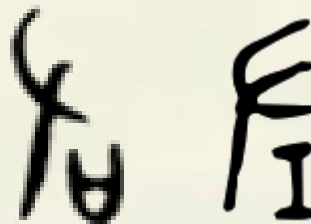
zuǒ 𠂇

(left hand)



zuǒ 左

(left hand; to assist)



zuǒ 佐

(to assist, subordinate)



3.13 Hand

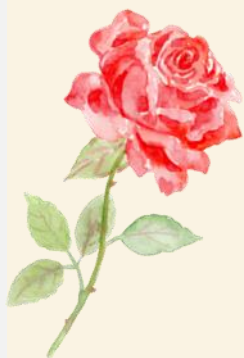
chǒu 丑

(clown, 2nd
terrestrial branch)



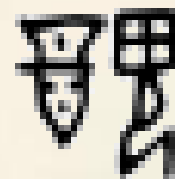
niǔ 纽

(to tie a knot)



chǒu 醜

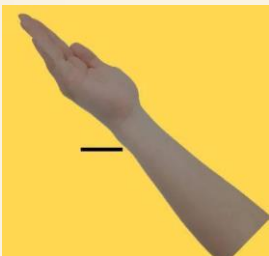
(ugly, disgraceful)





3.13 Hand

cùn 寸
(inch)



jiāng 將(guide)
s 詩 (government office)

duì 對

(to respond, correct)



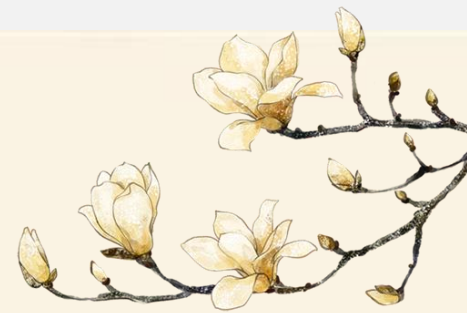
zhuó 掌 refers to thick grass, indicating many.

cùnbùbùlǐ 寸步不離: to follow somebody closely;

gāncháng cùnduàn 肝腸寸斷: the liver and intestines are breaking into pieces;

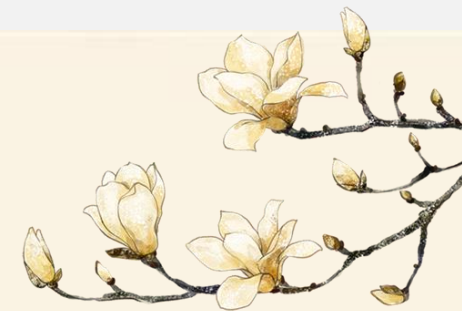
cùnkǒu 寸口: the part of the wrist where the pulse is felt and taken by doctors.

fēncùn 分寸: the sense of propriety.





3.13 Hand



j í 及

(to catch up to,
reach, and)



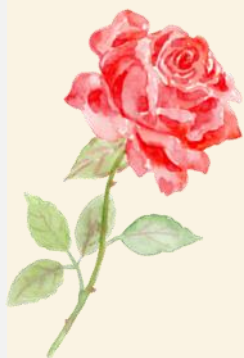
j í 及格 (to pass a test)
j í 及時 (in time)

y óu 尤

(mistake, to
blame)



y óu 尤其 (especially)

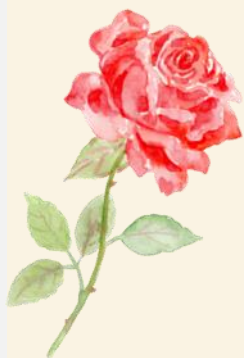




3.13 Hand



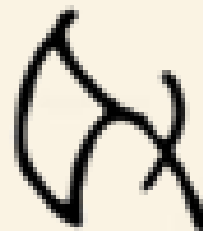
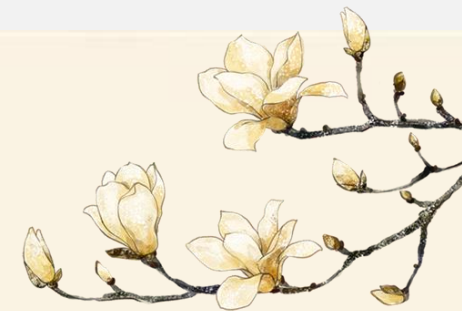
yǒu 友
(friend)



The two hands are working together in the same direction. Today, the word for ‘friend’ is conveyed by the compound word ‘*péngyǒu* 朋友’.



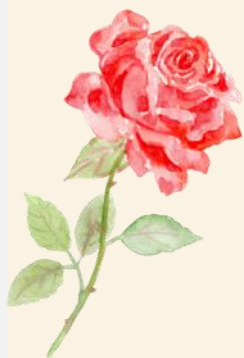
3.13 Hand



qǔ 取
(to grasp, take
hold of, obtain)



qǔ 娶
(to take a wife)





3.13 Hand

shǒu 手
(hand)



shuǐshǒu 水手 (sailor)
gēshǒu 歌手 (singer)
qiāngshǒu 槍手 (gunman)

yǎngāo shǒudī 眼高手低: someone with grand ideas but
lacking the skill to execute them

xīnhěn shǒulà 心狠手辣: a cruel and merciless person

qīnshǒu 親手 (personally)

zhùshǒu 助手 (assistant), *rénshǒu* 人手 (manpower)

shǒuzhàng 手杖 (walking stick), *shǒucè* 手冊 (handbook)

kàn 看

(to look, observe)



jiàn 見 : *jiàn* 見地 (insight)
yuǎnjiàn 遠見 (foresight).

kàndéjiàn 看得見 (look and see it;)

kànbújiàn 看不見 (look and cannot see it)

jué 覺 (awareness, enlightenment)



3.13 Hand

dǎ 打
(to hit,
strike, beat)



dǎzhēn 打針 (to get an injection)
dǎyú 打魚 (to go fishing)
dǎshuǐ 打水 (to fetch water)
dǎ di ànhuà 打電話 (to make a phone call)
dǎ cǎogǎo 打草稿 (to make a draft)
dǎ guānsi 打官司 (to go to court)
dǎ bǐfāng 打比方 (to give an analogy)
dǎzuò 打坐 (to sit in meditation)
dǎsuàn 打算 (to plan)
dǎliang 打量 (look sb. up and down).

zhuǎ 爪
(claw)



cǎi 采
(to pick up)



yìn 印
(seal)



yì 抑
(to repress)

jiǎoyìn 腳印 (footprint)

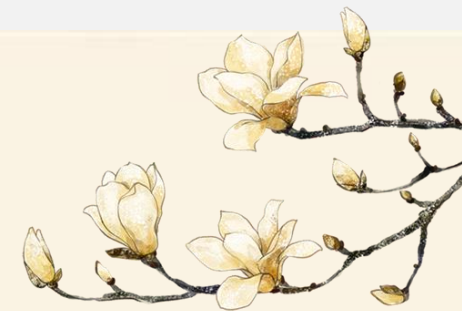
lào yìn 烙印 (branding)

yìnshuā 印刷 (printing)

xīnxīn xiāng yìn 心心相印 (hearts in sync)



3.13 Hand



x òng 幸

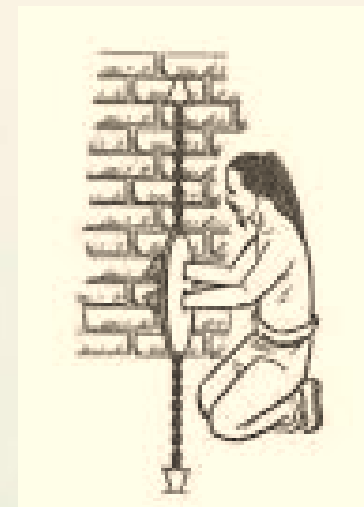
(lucky, fortune)

zh 執

(to hold, stick to)

n 逆 (to go against)

yāo 夭 (to die young)



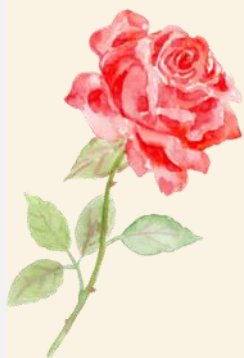
zhíbǐ 執筆 (holding a pen)

zhézhèng 執政 (governing), zhíjiào 執教 (teaching)

gùzh 個執 (stubborn)

zhímíbúwù 執迷不悟 (adhere stubbornly to errors),

zhézhù 執著 (to cling to things or people)





3.13 Hand



zhōu 舟
(boat)



On the Teacher: A teacher is one who **imparts** the Way, teaches knowledge, and resolves doubts.

(《師說》：「師者，所以傳道**受**業解惑也。」)



shòu 受
(to receive, accept)

jiàoshòu 教授 (professor)

chuánshòu 傳授 (to impart, to give)

jiēshòu 接受 (to receive, to accept)



shòu 授
(to give)



3.13 Hand



yuán 爰
(function word)

yuán 援
(to save and support)



The story of 'Kong Rong
Yielding the Larger Pears'
(kǒngróng rànglǐ 孔融讓梨)



3.13 Hand

yǔ 予
(to give)



huàn 幻
(illusion)



The Diamond Sutra: All conditioned phenomena are like a dream, an illusion, a bubble, or a shadow.

(《金剛經》：「一切有為法，如夢幻泡影。」)

The Perfect Enlightenment Sutra: ‘To recognise illusion is to be free from it; to be free from illusion is to awaken.’

(《圓覺經》：「知幻即離，離幻即覺。」)





3.13 Hand

fú 孚

(to capture)



tuǒ 妥

(safe, appropriate)



tuǒdàng 妥當 (proper)

tuǒshàn 妥善 (appropriate)

tuǒxié 妥協 (to compromise)





3.13 Hand

pū 支
(to tap)



gēng 更 𠂇 (to change, replace, continue)

gǎi 改 𠂇 (to change, alter, improve)

biàn 變 𠂇 (to change, transform, alter)



bèi 貝
(shell)





3.13 Hand

b ài 敗

(be defeated, to fail)



攴 : to grasp, pursue



Laozi: Those who overly accumulate wealth will surely suffer a serious loss.
(《老子》：「多藏必厚亡。」)

Laozi: The sage does not hoard. The more he gives to others, the more he has himself. The more he shares with others, the more he gains.

(《老子》：「聖人不積，既以為人已愈有，既以與人已愈多。」)



3.13 Hand



jì ào 教
(to instruct,
teach)

Shuowen: 教 means what is applied above is emulated below.
(《說文》：「教，上所施，下所效也。」)



gǎi 改
(to change,
correct)





3.13 Hand

Shuowen: 父 signifies a standard or rule, representing the family head who leads and instructs family members. It is derived from the image of a hand holding a stick, symbolising authority.

(《說文》：「父，矩也，家長率教者。从又舉杖。」)



zhī 支
(branch, twig)

fù 父
(father)

[ba]→[fu]

bà 爸 (dad)

diē 爹 (dad) [ta]

paramita:
波羅蜜多



sōu 餿 (spoiled, rotten)

sōu 洩 (urine)

shòu 瘦 (thin)

sōu 搜 (to hunt, search for)

sōu 搜 (to search, seek)



sǒu 叟
(old man, elder)





3.13 Hand



yǐn 尹
(to govern, administer,
magistrate)



jūn 君
(ruler, master)





3.13 Hand



lì 吏

(inferior official)



shǐ 史

(historian)



shì 事

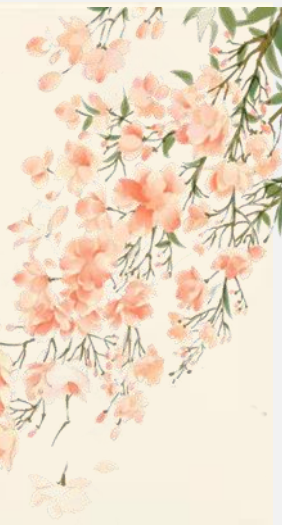
(affair)

guān 官

(official, officer)

dáguān gu rì én 達官貴人 (high-ranking officials and nobles) *gāoguān xiǎnguì* 高官顯貴 (prominent officials)

In ancient scripts, 吏, 史, 事 originally shared the same origin. Later, they diverged: 史 came to refer to those who recorded events, 吏 referred to those who managed affairs, and 事 referred to the tasks or duties.





3.13 Hand



yù 聿
(brush, pen)



bǐ 筆
(brush, pen)

wénbǐ 文筆 (writing skill and style)

bǐzhí 筆直 (straight)

The semantic classifier

𦰩 (bamboo) was added.





3.13 Hand



zhě 者:
phonetic component



shū 書
(to write; book)



huà 畫
(to draw, divide)

The story of 'Song Lian Borrowing Books'
(sònglián jièshū 宋濂借書)





3.13 Hand

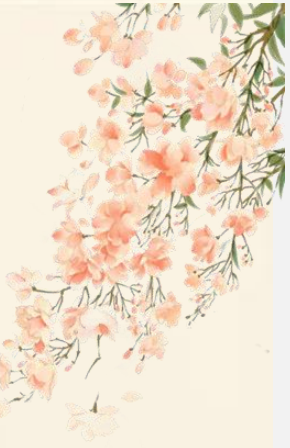
d ài 逮

(to catch, capture)



d ài 逮

(to catch, capture)



wúqióng wújìn 無窮無盡：

endless or boundless

jìnxīn jìn lì 盡心盡力：

to put in one's utmost effort

yīngyǒu jìnyǒu 應有盡有：

having everything one expects
to find

jìnshàn jìn měi 盡善盡美：

to be perfect or flawless



jìn 盡

(to deplete,
exhaust, empty)



shū 殳

(a kind of weapon)



3.13 Hand



q òng 磬
(stone chime)



shēng 聲
(sound)



⦿(ear) + 凵(mouth) + 磬(stone chime)

Synonymous words *xīn*馨 and *xiāng*香 both convey the idea of ‘fragrance’. The phonetic element *q òng*磬 of 馨 is the ancient script for 磬, representing a musical stone whose sound carries over a distance. It suggests that the distinction between 馨 and 香 lies in that 馨 denotes a fragrance that can be smelled from a distance.





3.13 Hand



gǒng 供
(to present with
both hands)



gòng 共
(together, share, to
offer respectfully)





3.13 Hand

chéngjiē 承接:

to receive and carry on

jì chéng 繼承: to inherit, carry on

fèng chéng 奉承: to fawn on



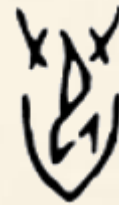
chéng 承

(to hold in the palm,
succeed)

hǎohuìtuō 好會托: good at lifting and favoring others

zhěng 拯

(to rescue)



chéng 丞

(to rescue, assist)

chéngxiàng 丞相 (Chancellor)





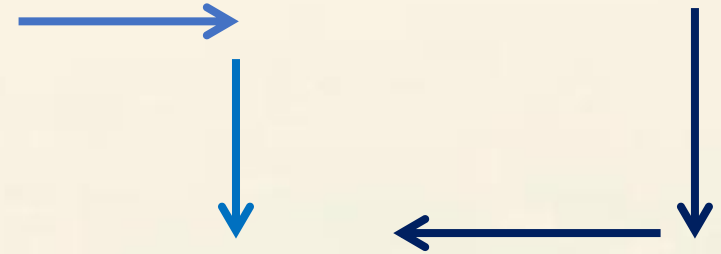
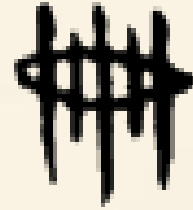
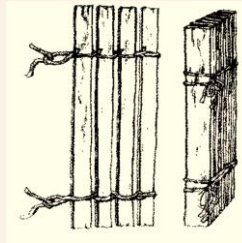
3.13 Hand

shāqīng 殺青 (killing the green):
the completion of a book or the
film was successfully shot

hànqīng 汗青 (sweating green):
books and historical records

cè 冊

(document, volume)



chān 刪
(cancel, delete)



diǎn 典
(classics,
documents)

diǎnfàn 典範 (model)

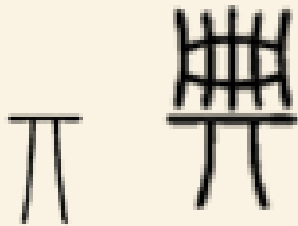
cídiǎn 詞典 (dictionary)

qìngdiǎn 慶典 (celebration)

diǎnlǐ 典禮 (ceremony)

diǎngù 典故 (literary quotation)

jī 丌
(base)





3.13 Hand



gē 戈
(dagger-axe)



A story from the *Treatise on
Response and Retribution*



jiè 戒
(to guard against,
warn, precept)



jièlǜ 戒律 (religious discipline)
jièzhǐ 戒指 (ring)
zuànjiè 鑽戒 (diamond ring)
jǐngjiè 警戒 (to stand guard, alert)
jièshèn 戒慎 (to be cautious)
quànjiè 勸戒 (to admonish)
jièjiǔ 戒酒 (to quit drinking)
jièyān 戒煙 (to quit smoking)





3.13 Hand



jīn 斤
(axe)

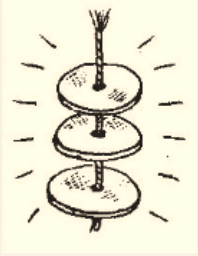


bīng 兵
(weapon,
soldier)





3.13 Hand



yù 玉
(jade)



nòng 弄

(to play around with)

nòngqín 弄琴 (to play the zither)

nòngquán 弄權 (to manipulate power)

wán nòng 玩弄 (to play with)



chén 辰



chén 晨
(morning)

zhòu 晝 (day), yè 夜 (night),
zhāo 朝 (morning), mù 暮 (dusk)





3.13 Hand



dǐng 鼎
(tripod caldron)



qì jù 器具 (appliance)

gōng jù 工具 (tool)

wán jù 玩具 (toy)

jù bèi 具備 (to possess)



jù 具
(appliance, tool; to
prepare, possess)





3.13 Hand

yǒu 酉

(wine vessel)



qiú 酋

(aged wine, chieftain)



qiúzhǎng 酋長 (chieftain)

Book of Han: Once Shuonan was completed, Han Fei was imprisoned.
(《說難》既酋，其身乃囚。)

zūn 尊

(to respect, venerate)

zūn 樽

(wine vessel)

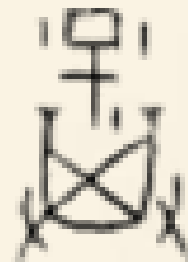




3.13 Hand



jī 箕
(winnowing basket)



qì 棄
(to abandon, discard)



The story of *hòujī* 后稷



3.13 Hand



pù 暴 (曝)
(to expose or dry in
the sun)



rì 日
(sun)

chū 出
(to go out)

gòng 𠂇
(to present both hands)

mǐ 米
(rice)



pùguāng 曝光 (to expose), *pùshài* 曝曬 (to dry in the sun)





3.13 Hand

cánbào 殘暴 (cruel, ferocious)

bàozào 暴躁 (irritable, short-tempered)

bàofēng 暴風 (storm)

bàoyǔ 暴雨 (rainstorm)



bào 暴
(suddenly, rapidly)



rì 日

(sun)



chū 出

(to go out)



gòng 𠂇

(to present both hands)



tāo 夨

(to advance quickly)





3.13 Hand



yǔ 輿

(carriage, sedan chair)



xīng 興

(to thrive; prosperous)

The Book of Changes: When two people work with one heart, their strength can cut through metal.
(《周易》「二人同心，其力斷金。」)





3.13 Hand



dòu 鬥
(to fight, contest)



jìng 競
(to contend)







3.1 Characters Related to Mankind



3.14 Foot



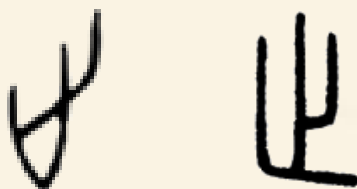


3.14 Foot

zhǐ 趾
(foot, toe)



zhǐ 止
(to stop, dwell)



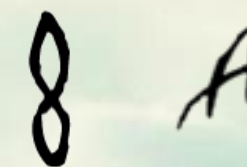
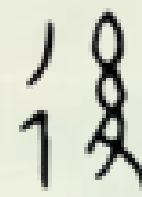
xiān 先

(former, advance, the deceased)



zǔxiān 祖先 (ancestor), *xiānzhé* 先哲 (sage),
xiānmín 先民 (ancients), *xiānfù* 先父 (one's late father),
xiānwáng 先王 (late kings)
先見之明 (prophetic vision, foresight)
先入為主 (first impressions is strongest)

hòu 後
(behind, after)



rope walking slowly





3.14 Foot

hòu 后

(to sovereign,
queen, empress)

后

sī 司

(official, to
take charge of)

司

sīlìng 司令 (commander),
sīyí 司儀 (master of ceremonies)
sījī 司機 (driver)



nì 逆

(to disobey, reverse)

逆

nì'ěr zhīyán 逆耳之言 (words that are hard to hear)
nìzǐ 逆子 (a rebellious child)
nìtiān 逆天 (going against the will of heaven)

pànn 叛逆 (rebellion),
nìdǎng 逆黨 (opposing party)
n ìn óu 逆謀 (conspiracy)





3.14 Foot



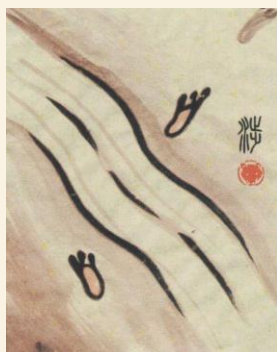
bù 步
(to walk, footstep)



shè 涉

(cross a river, experience)

The story of 'A pony Crosses the River'
(*xiǎomǎ guò hé* 小馬過河)





3.14 Foot

ji é 傑

(outstanding, remarkable)

𠂔

xi ài 夏 桀

ji é 傑

(outstanding, brutal)

háo ji é 豪傑 (a person of great talent or ability)

qǐ 企

(to stand on tiptoe)

𠂔



qǐ pàn 企盼 (to hope for)

qǐ qiú 企求 (to seek for)

qǐ tú 企圖 (to attempt, seek)

qǐ' é 企鵝 (penguin)

qǐ yè 企業 (enterprise)





3.14 Foot

qián 前 (前)
(to go forward, ahead)



cǐ 此
(here)



qiánmiàn 前面 (in front), *yǐqián* 以前 (in the past), *cóngqián* 从前 (once upon a time)
qiántú 前途 (future prospects), *qiánjǐng* 前景 (future outlook)





3.14 Foot

zhī 之

(to go to)



zhì 志

(will, determination,
aspiration)



zú 足

(leg, foot)



Having aspiration is like a tree having roots.
(人之有志，如樹之有根。)





3.14 Foot



zǒu 走
(to go on foot,
walk)

dǒu 陡 (precipitous)
fù 赴 (rapidly approaching)

zǒumǎ kàn huā 走馬看花: viewing
flowers while riding a **galloping** horse

pǎo 跑
(running)



páo 跑
(animals digging into the
ground with their feet)





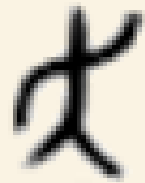
3.14 Foot



bēn 奔

(to run quickly)

yāo 夭



The three feet indicate that
the running speed is fast.





3.14 Foot

kǎn 𠂔

(pit, trap, misfortune)



xì àn 𠂔

(pit)



The story of ‘A Loss May Turn Out to be a Gain’
(*sàiwēng shīmǎ* 塞翁失馬)

How to view the gains and losses, blessings and misfortunes in life?





3.14 Foot



chū 出
(to go out)

gè 各
(each, every)

géló 絡
(to arrive)



Bronze Inscriptions: The king **arrived** at the great temple in Chengzhou
(𠄎簋：「王**各**於成周大廟。」)

The Book of Poetry: The **arrival** of a deity is mysterious and difficult to predict.
(《詩經》：「神之**格**思，不可度思。」)



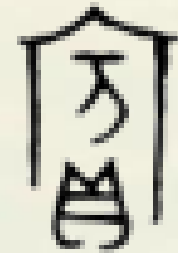
3.14 Foot



kè 客
(guest, customer)



bīn 賓
(guest, visitor)





3.14 Foot



zhēng 正 (征)
(to attack, go on a
journey)



Mozi: The world lost its righteousness and the feudal lords began to force to **fight** with each other another.
(《墨子》：「天下失義，諸侯力**正**。」)





3.14 Foot



zhèng 正
(correct, right)



The small seal script for 正 consists of the components ‘stop, dwell’ (止) and ‘one’ (一). It suggests that when our thoughts are focused on a single point or the present moment, this represents right mindfulness.

zhèngdào 正道 (the correct path, the right way)

zhèngquè 正確的 (correct)

zhèngzhōng 正中的 (centre)

chúnzhèng 純正的 (pure, authentic)

zhèngmiàn 正面的 (the front side)

zhèngmén 正門 (main entrance)

zhèngxiàng 正向的 (positive)

xiūzhèng 修正 (to revise)

zhènghǎo 正好 (just right)

zhèngzài 正在 (in the process of, be doing something)



3.14 Foot

xú 徐: to walk slowly

xún 循: to walk along the road

dài 待: to stand and wait

jìng 徑: road

jiē 街: street



chì 彳

(to amble, to step
with the right foot)

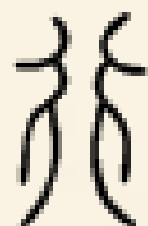
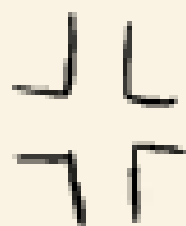


chù 亍

(to stop a little, to step
with the left foot)



chíchù 彳亍: to hesitate



háng 行 [*yɑŋ*]
(road, path)

xíng 行 [*ɕiŋ*]
(to walk, act)

yínháng 銀行: bank, *hángliè* 行列: row, rank, *hángyè* 行業: line of business, profession

wàiháng 外行: layman, *nèiháng* 内行: expert

xíngzǒu 行走: walking, *xíngdòng* 行動: to acting

pǐnxíng 品行: moral conduct, *déxíng* 德行: moral integrity.





3.14 Foot

yínháng 銀行
(bank)



hěnxíng 很行
(amazing, very capable)

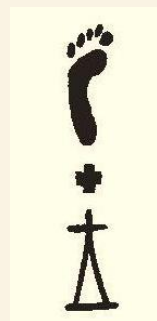




3.14 Foot

qiánwǎng 前往 (to go to, leave for)
xiàngwǎng 嚮往 (to yearn for)
jiāowǎng 交往 (to associate with)

wǎngshì 往事 (past events)
wǎngnián 往年 (previous years)



wǎng 往
(to go to)



yí 疑
(puzzled, to
hesitate, doubt)

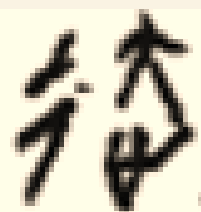




3.14 Foot

dá 達

(smooth, to achieve)



tōngdá 通達 (accessible)

dàodá 到達 (to reach)

dábiāo 達標 (to meet the standard)

biǎodá 表達 (to express)

chuándá 傳達 (to transmit a message)

xiǎndá 顯達 (prestigious)

hùdá 豁達 (open-minded)



qióng 窮

(end, limit, poverty)



qióngtú 窮途末路:

be driven into an impasse

rì mù qióng 日暮途窮:

the end of the road, be on its last legs



pín 貧

(poor, poverty)



fù 富

(rich, wealthy)





Thanks for your kind attention!

