



Undergraduate assignment feedback form
(to be completed by marker)

<i>Student Name: JINRONG ZHONG</i>	
<i>Module Code: SICH4008</i> <i>Module title: Graphical and Etymological Study of Sinograms</i>	<i>Student number: 2015604</i>
<i>For completion by marker:</i> <i>Comments:</i>	
<i>Marker's signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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The Explanation of Sinograms Examples Related to Jade

Module code : SICH4008

Module tutor : Dr Shushi Xu

Student name : Jinrong Zhong

Student ID number : 2015604

Date : 12 March 2025



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Yù 玉

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Héng 珩

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Líng 靈



Original meaning: Jade



Five kind of virtues of jade:

- 1 Jade has a gentle lustre, like the quality of humanity.
- 2 We could see the jade's grain from outside to inside, it's rightness.
- 3 Jade's sound is clear and melodious, it can be spread to far away, it's wisdom.
- 4 Jade would rather be broken than be bend, that's courage.
- 5 Jade has edge, it wouldn't harm others, just as a noble people.

——*Shuowen Jiezi*

《說文解字》：「石之美有五德：潤澤以溫，仁之方也；鰓理自外，可以知中，義之方也；其聲舒揚，專以遠聞，智之方也；不撓而折，勇之方也；銳廉而不忮，絜之方也。」¹

¹ Xu Shen 許慎, Duan Yucai 段玉裁, *Shuowen jiezi zhu* 說文解字注 (Taipei: Hongye wenhua, 1999), p.10

(Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications.)



Oracle bone inscription



Bronze inscription



The Warring States period (Jin 晉)



The Warring States period
(Chu 楚)



Shuowen Jiezi



Clerical script (Qin)



Clerical script (Western Han)



Clerical script (Eastern Han)

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² Xiao xuetang 小學堂, Yu 玉 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/>> [accessed 24 February 2025].

The Warring States period (Chu)

王

Clerical script (Qin)

王

Clerical script (Eastern Han)

王

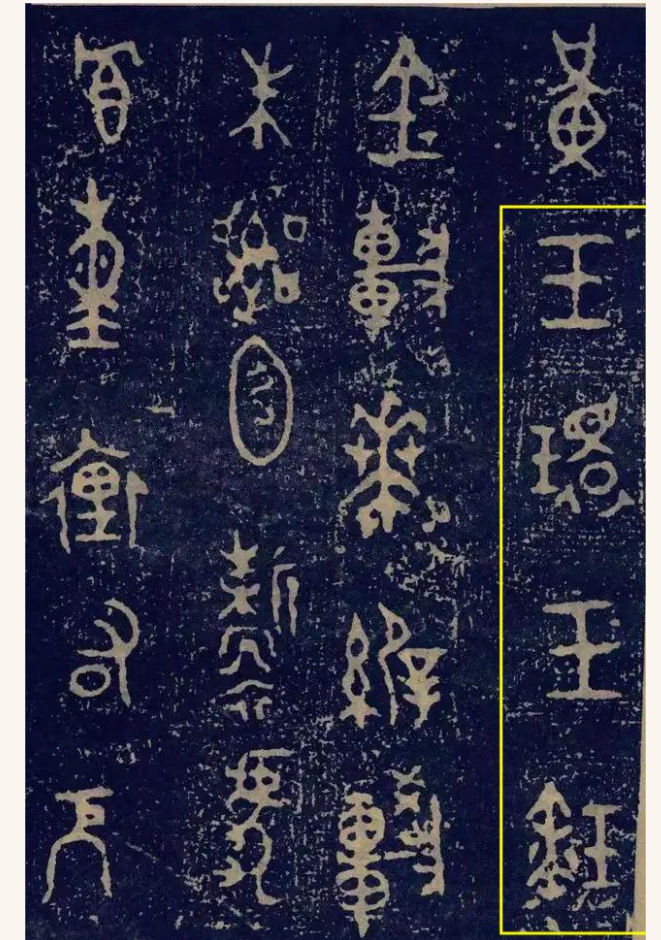
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³ Xiao xuetang 小學堂, Yu 玉 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/>> [accessed 24 February 2025].

Bronze inscription

Late Shang dynasty

王



王's graphic form include the 「丨」 gun, an upright line and three equilong transverse lines. The graphic form is similar to 王, it's the same as the small seal script.⁴

⁴ Hanyu duogongneng ziku 漢語多功能字庫, Yu 王
<<https://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/Lexis/lexi-mf/>>, [accessed 24 February 2025].
(Translation is my own, Generalisation of the original text, with modifications.)

- 1, lustrous stone 光澤的美石
- 2, the item made by jade. 玉製品
- 3, the sound of the jade flute 玉笛聲
- 4, to parable for a virtuous and noble person 比喻美德、賢才
- 5, the word used to show respect for others 敬辭
- 6, used for describe whiteness 潔白
- 7, cherish 珍愛 ⁷

⁷ Guyin xiaojing 古音小鏡，*Hanyu da cidian* 漢語大詞典，
<http://www.kaom.net/book_hanyudacidian.php>
[accessed 24 February 2025].

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Shuowen Jiezi



Clerical script (Western Jin dynasty)

珩 means the jade at the top of an ancient jade pendant, used to regulate human's behaviour.

—— *Shuowen jiezi*

《說文》：「珩，佩上玉也，所以節行止也。」

The 珩's graphic form include 玉 and 行, this combination is sysemantographic method.

——Duan Yucai



Oracle bone inscription



Clerical script (Eastern Han)

《說文解字注》：

「从玉行者，會意。所以節行止也者，謂珩所以節行止。故字从玉行，發明會意之悵也。」⁹

⁸ Xiao xuetang 小學堂, Heng 珩 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/>>[accessed 24 February 2025].

⁹ Xu Shen 許慎, Duan Yucai 段玉裁, *Shuowen jiezi zhu* 說文解字注 (Taipei: Hongye wenhua, 1999), p.13



1 The jade at the top of an ancient jade pendant 佩上的橫玉

2 The borrowed graph of 衡, it's ancient hairpin.

通「衡」。古代冠飾。即固定冠冕於發髻上的橫簪。¹⁰

¹⁰ Guyin xiaojing 古音小鏡, *Hanyu da cidian* 漢語大詞典, <http://www.kaom.net/book_hanyudacidian.php> [accessed 24 February 2025].
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Bronze inscription



Bronze inscription

*Shuowen Jiezi
alternate form*

Shuowe Jiezi alternate form



Clerical script (Western Han)



Clerical script (Eastern Han)

¹¹ Xiao xuetang 小學堂, Ling 靈 <<https://xiaoxue.iis.sinica.edu.tw/>>[accessed 25 February 2025].

靈is Shaman, they use jade to worship the gods.

——*Shuowen jiezi*

說文：「靈，巫也。以玉事神。」¹²

Original meaning:

Is the state of Chu (楚) people through dance to communicate with the gods.

楚人跳舞降神之巫

The 靈 means good fortune.

——*Guang Ya*

《廣雅·釋言》：「靈，福也。」

The extented meaing is good.

靈, means 善，

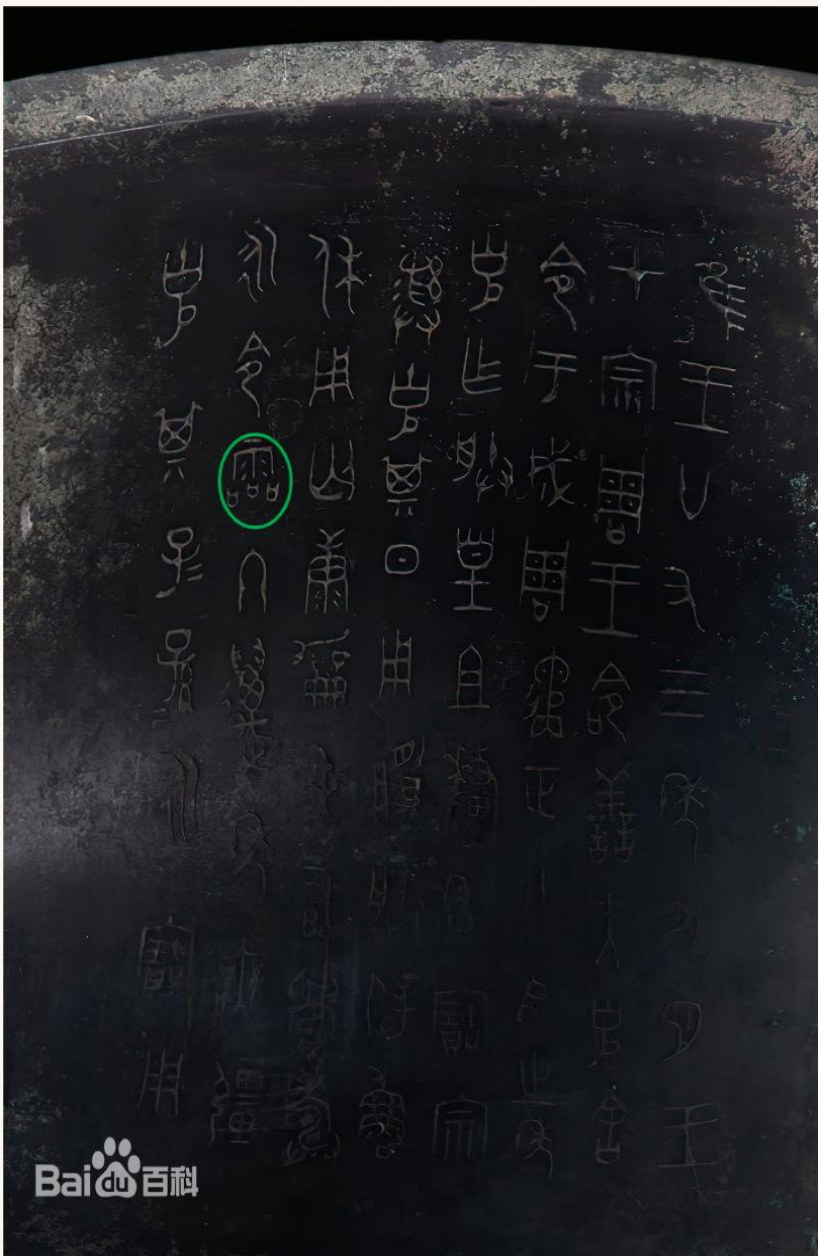
——*GuangYa*

《廣雅·釋詁一》：「靈，善也。」¹³

the extented meaings are intelligent and sensible.

¹² Xu Shen 許慎, Duan Yucai 段玉裁, *Shuowen jiezi zhu* 說文解字注 (Taibei: Hongye wenhua, 1999), p.19

¹³ Li Xueqin 李學勤, *Ziyuan* 字源 (Tianjin: Tianjin guji Press, 2013), p. 24



Líng 𣎵：

「𣎵」 it's 「令」.

——*Guang Ya*

《廣雅·釋言》：「𣎵，令也。」

The Late Western Zhou Bronze Tripod 小克鼎：

「永 令 (命) 𣎵 冬 (終)」，𣎵終 it's 令終，令終means good end，善終。¹⁴

¹⁴ Hanyu duogongneng ziku 漢語多功能字庫，Ling 𣎵
<<https://humanum.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/Lexis/lexi-mf/>>, [accessed 25 February 2025].

1 Shaman 巫

2 Gods and Goblins 神靈；鬼怪

3 Supernatural 神奇，靈異

4 Goodliness 善，美好

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5 Good fortune 福氣，福分

¹⁵ Guyin xiaojing 古音小鏡，*Hanyu da cidian* 漢語大詞典，<http://www.kaom.net/book_hanyudacidian.php> [accessed 24 February 2025].

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Thank you for listening

