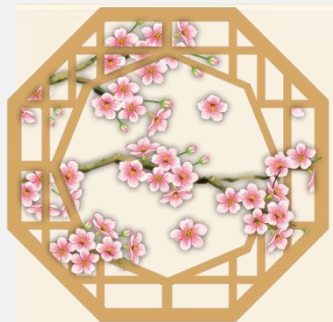




SIHE 4001

An Introduction to Chinese Philology I

Shushi Xu

Jan 2026





3.1 Characters Related to Mankind



3.12 Face





3.12 Face

mù 目
(eye)

xiàng 相 (appearance)

yǎn 眼 (eye)

xǐng 省 (inspect)



mùdì 目的 (purpose)

mùbiāo 目標 (goal)

mùqíán 目前 (current situation)

tímù 題目 (the title of an article)

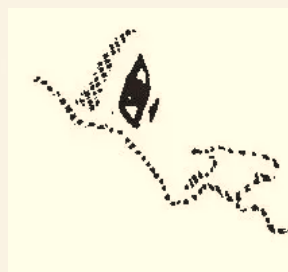
mùlù 目錄 (table of contents)

jìémù 節目 (program)

yǎn 眼 (eye)

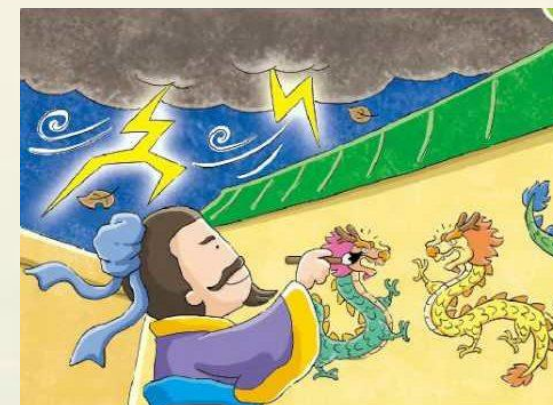
chén 臣

(official under a
feudal ruler, minister)



Venerable Master Lián Chí Let
the heart be the ruler, the eyes
be the ministers, and the ears be
the assistants.

The story of 'Painting the Eyes on
the Chinese Dragon'
(*huà lóng diǎnjīng* 畫龍點睛)





3.12 Face

jiàn 見
(to see)



xiàn 現

(to appear, manifest)

The Book of Changes: ‘Nine at the second line, the dragon **appears** in the field.’
(《易》：「九二，**見**龍在田」)

jiànjiě 見解 (opinion)
yuǎnjiàn 遠見 (foresight)
piānjiàn 偏見 (prejudice).

xiànchǎng 現場 (scene, site)
xiànzài 現在 (now)
xiàndài 現代 (modern times)





3.12 Face

m é 眉
(eyebrows)



m é 湄 : bank of waters

m é 楣 : lintel of a door



m i àn 面
(face)



biǎomiàn 表面 (surface)

zhèngmiàn 正面 (front), *dōngmiàn* 東面 (east side), *quánmiàn* 全面 (all aspects)

jìànmiàn 見面 (to meet), *mìànxiàng* 面向 (to face), *mìànduì* 面對 (to confront)





3.12 Face

shǒu 首
(head; first)



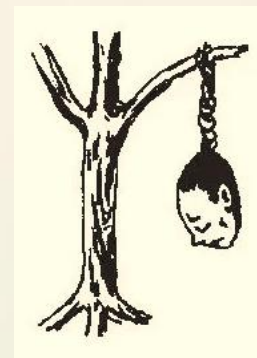
xiāo 𦣻
(an upside-down head)



shǒuyào 首要 (primary)
shǒuxiān 首先 (firstly)
shǒudū 首都 (capital)
shǒuxiàng 首相 (prime minister)



xì àn 縣 (*xuán* 懸)
(to hang, suspend)



The story of 'Hanging Hair on to the Beam'
 (*tóu xuán liáng* 頭懸梁)





3.12 Face

yè 頁
(page)



tóu 頭
(head)

[*sdou]



首[sou]; 頭[tou]

dǐng 頂 (apex), tóu 頭 (head)

xià 夏
(summer)



When we say ‘turn to page seven’ (第7頁), it can also be expressed as 第7面. The interchangeable use of 頁 (page) and *miàn* 面 (face) demonstrates their connection to the concepts of ‘face and head’.



3.12 Face

ěr 耳
(ear)



ni è 聒 (to whisper);
l íng 聆 (to listen respectfully)

wén 聞
(to hear, smell)



xīnwén 新聞 (news)
chuánwén 傳聞 (rumor)
qùwén 趣聞 (anecdote)
wénguòzéxǐ 聞過則喜 (rejoice upon hearing criticism)

chòu 臭
(to smell, bad odor)

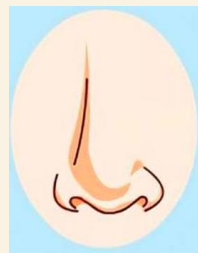




3.12 Face

zì 自

(nose; oneself)



自 is a loan character *jiǎjièzì* 假借字, referring to a character that shares the same sound and is used to represent an expression for which no specific character had yet been formulated.



bí 鼻
(nose)

Since 自 was adopted to represent oneself, the phonetic element *bí* 鼻 (to give) was added to denote 'nose'.



3.12 Face

kǒu 口
(mouth)



kěkǒu 可口 (delicious), *kǒuwèi* 口味 (taste, flavour)
kǒutóu 口頭 (oral, verbal), *kǒucái* 口才 (eloquence)

rénkǒu 人口 : population

ménkǒu 門口 (doorway), *gǎngkǒu* 港口 (harbour)
shāngkǒu 傷口 (wound), *quēkǒu* 缺口 (gap)



pǐn 品

(type, personality,
to judge)



pǐnzhǒng 品種 (breed, variety)

rén pǐn 人品 (moral qualities)

pǐnwèi 品味 (aesthetic preferences)



3.12 Face

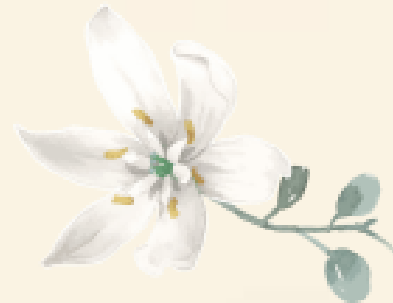
yuē 曰

(speech, to speak)



gān 甘

(sweet, tasty)





3.12 Face

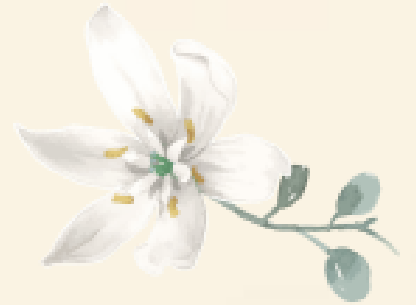
bǔ 卜

(the signs on the
oracle bones)



zhān 占

(to divine, estimate)



zhàn 占

(to own, occupy)





3.12 Face

du 兌 (the name of hexagram)
yu è 兌 (happy)

兌



shu 說 (to persuade)

shuō 說 (to speak)

yu è 悅 (happy)



Analects: 'Isn't it a **pleasure** to learn and practice from time to time?' (《論語》：「學而時習之，不亦**說**乎。」)



3.12 Face



xuān 喧
(clamour)



j 𠂔
(talkative)



xiāo 囂
(noisy, loud)



lǐ 𠂔, resembling the interlaced lattice of a window, symbolises clarity and brightness.

zhuó 𠂔, the original form of *zhuó* 綴 (to connect), symbolises connected patterns, signifying linking.

zhǎn 𠂔, a variant form of *zhǎn* 展 (to spread), means to carefully observe.

𠂔 means ‘voices of a crowd’, when pronounced as *jí*. In another sense, it is the ancient form of the character *lái* 雷 (thunder) and is pronounced as *lái*.



3.12 Face

shé 舌
(tongue)



shézhàn 舌戰: a heated debate
shéféng 舌鋒: a sharp tongue
s bùj shé 駟不及舌: a word once spoken cannot be taken back even by a team of four horses

yán 言
(speech, word)



A Dragon Spring sword on the tongue—kills without blood, once it's swung.(舌上有龍泉，殺人不見血)

Kind words bring warmth to winter, while harsh words make people chill even in summer.'
(良言一句三冬暖，惡語傷人六月寒。)





3.12 Face

yǔ 語

(to discuss, word)

言

五

wǔ 五

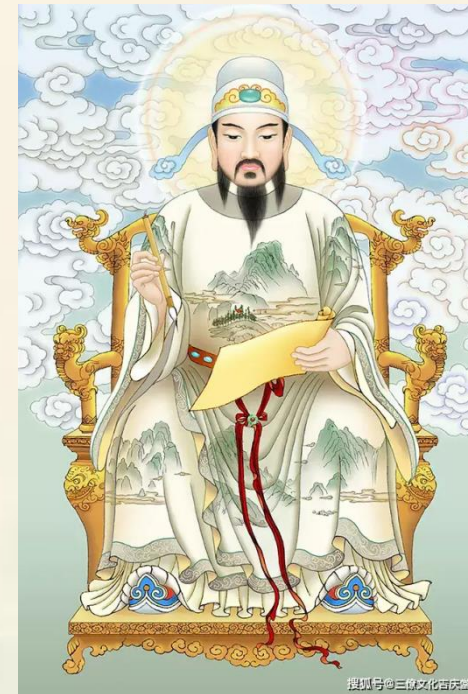
Shuowen: 言 refers to individual speech without prompt, while 語 denotes discussion or conversation between two individuals. (《說文》：「言，直言曰言，論難曰語。」)

yàn 唁: the act of offering condolences.

Analects: lúnyǔ 論語



Stories from the *Treatise on Response and Retribution*





3.12 Face



信 xìn
(trust, letter,
information)



The story of 'Zengzi Slaughters a Pig'
(zēngzǐ shāzhū 曾子殺豬)





3.12 Face

yīn 音

(sound, note)



Shuowen: 音 means ‘sound’. It originates from the heart-mind and is regulated by the mouth. Gōng, Shāng, Ju é Zhǐ, Yǔ is a five note scale in music; these are called *shēng* 聲. When played on musical instruments made from silk, bamboo, metal, stone, gourd, clay, leather, and wood, it is also called 音. 音 is composed of 言 with a stroke inside the component 口.

(《說文》：「音，聲也。生於心有節於外謂之音；宮商角徵羽，聲；絲竹金石匏土革木，音也。从言，含一。」)

bàojiāyīn 報佳音 (delivering good news)

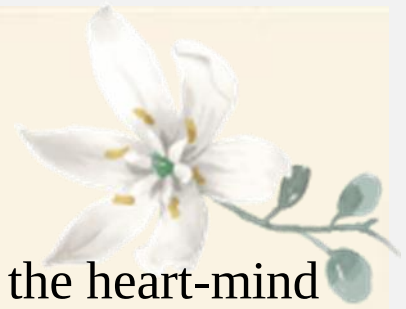
èshēngzhì 惡聲至 (bad or unpleasant sounds arise)

shēnglèi jùxī 聲淚俱下 (shedding tears while speaking)

shēngsè chǎngsuǒ 聲色場所 (red-light district, places of sensual entertainment)

xūzhāng shēngshì 虛張聲勢 (making a false show of strength)

shēngsī lǐ 聲嘶力竭 (shouting oneself hoarse)





3.12 Face

y ì 意

(thought, intention,
meaning)



y 憶: to remember, reflect upon, recall

y 噫: an expression of surprise or emotion

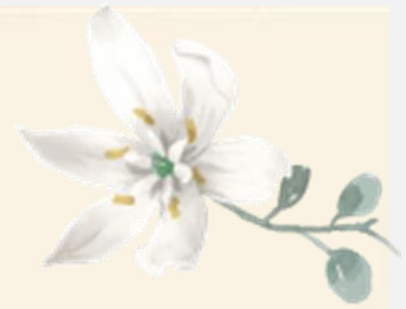
Zhuangzi: ‘**Alas**, they are indeed overstretching themselves! Their brazenness and impertinence have reached the extremes.’

(《莊子》：「**意 (噫)**，甚矣哉！其無愧而不知恥也。」)

Shuowen: By examining words with the heart, one can uncover the true intention behind them.

《說文》：「意，志也。从心察言而知意也。从心，从音。」

The Great Learning: ‘What is meant by “making the **thoughts** sincere” is the allowing no self-deception’ (《大學》：「所謂誠其**意**者，毋自欺也。」)





3.12 Face

y ÿ 意義 (meaning, significance)

意: personal will, subjective, flowing from the inner self outward (e.g., intentions or emotions).

義: societal norms, objective, flowing from external principles inward, as in words like zhèngyì 正義 (justice), dào yì 道義 (morality), ēnyì 恩義 (kindness, moral obligation).



The stories of 'the Power of Good and Malicious Wills' from *Liao Fan's Four Lessons* and the *Treatise on Response and Retribution*



zhāng 章

(composition, movement, chapter)



yīn 音 (sound)

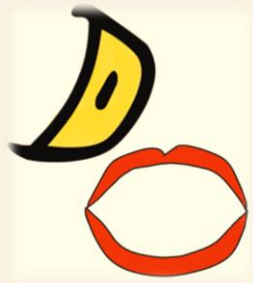
shí 十 (ten)



3.12 Face



m íng 名
(name)



m íngbùfùshí 名不副實: be unworthy of the name
míngshēng 名聲: fame, *m íngyù* 名譽: reputation,

mò míng qí miào 莫名其妙: unable to make head or tail of something

sānmíng xuéshēng 三名學生: three students.

Shuowen: 名 means 'to identify oneself'. It is composed of the components *kǒu* 口 and *xī* 夕. The component 夕 (evening) represents 'darkness' or 'obscurity'. In the darkness where people cannot see one another, they use their mouths to identify themselves by name.

(《說文》: 「名, 自命也。从口, 从夕。夕者, 冥也。冥不相見, 故以口自名。」)





3.12 Face



gǔ 古

(old, ancient)

gǔ 詁

(exegetics, explanation)

xùngǔxué 訓詁學: exegetics or the study of interpretation and explanation of ancient texts

Shuowen: 詁 means to explain ancient language and text using contemporary language. It is composed of 言 with 古 as the phonetic.

(《說文》: 「詁, 訓故言也。从言, 古聲。」)

Duan's annotation: 故言 means 'ancient language', the language passed down orally through ten generations. 訓 means 'to explain and teach'. 訓故言 therefore means 'to interpret ancient language in order to instruct people'.

(段注: 「故言者, 舊言也。十口所識前言也。訓者, 說教也。訓故言者, 說釋故言以教人, 是之謂詁。」)

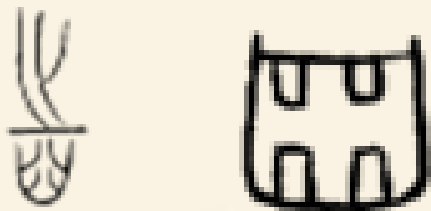




3.12 Face

chǐ 齒
(front teeth)

zhǐ 止:
phonetic
element



lín 齡 (age)



yá 牙
(molar teeth)



chúnwáng chǐhán 唇亡齒寒 : If the lips die, the teeth will be cold.

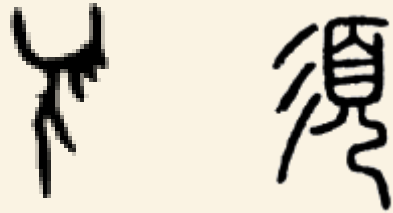
chúnychǐ xiāngyī 唇齒相依 : be closely related and mutually dependent like the lips and teeth.





3.12 Face

xū 須
(must)



Since 須 was used to denote ‘must, necessary’, while *xū* 鬚 with the component *biāo* 髟 (hair) added to preserve the meaning of ‘beard’.

In written language, 須 also means ‘to wait’. Later, 須 in this sense was written as *xū* 須.



ér 而
(whiskers; and, but also)



3.12 Face

xiū 修

(to cultivate, decorate)

Shān 彡 often carries the meaning of ornamentation as in *wén* 文 (literary or artistic talent), *zhāng* 彰 (clear, manifest), *cǎi* 彩 (colour), and *bīn* 彬 (cultivated, refined)

修

攸

yōu 攸

歐陽脩: courtesy name: 永叔 (chù叔)

xiū 脩

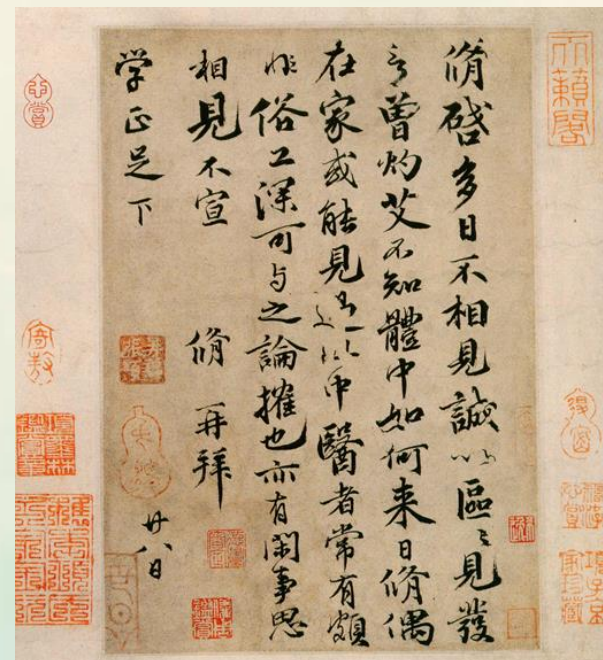
(dried meat)

shùxiū 束脩: a bundle of dried meat used as payment for teachers in ancient times

脩

肉

ròu 肉: meat





3.12 Face

xī 息

(to breathe, sigh, rest)



xī 媳 (daughter-in-law)

tíngxī 停息 (to cease), xiūxi 休息 (to rest)

xī 熄 (to extinguish a fire)



Moral Sayings: The Way of learning is to understand the meaning of the ancients' words and to verify their teachings through our body and mind. In this way, our reflection becomes meaningful.

(《道德說》：「為學之道，明於古人所言之義，而因以驗之身心，故思足貴也。」)

xù 囟

(the place where the skull bones meet)



sī 思

(to think, consider, ponder)



Shuowen: 思 is explained as 'to encompass'. It is comprised of 心 (heart-mind) with 囟 as the phonetic.

(《說文》：「思，容也。从心，囟聲。」)





Thanks for your kind attention!

