

中国的文字

Chinese writing





- **一. 汉字的特点**



The feature of Chinese Character

- **二. 汉字的构造方式**



The construction of Characters

- **三. 汉字的发展演变**

The development of Characters

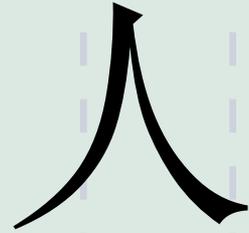
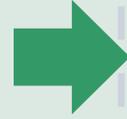
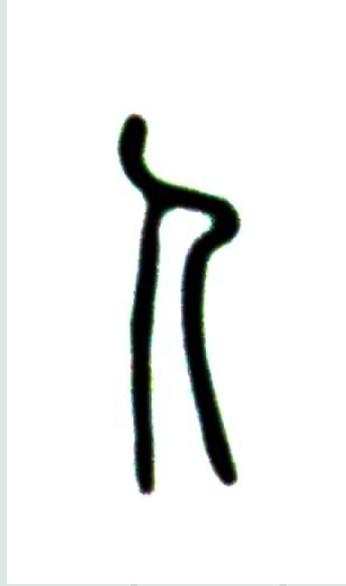


Pictogram / Hieroglyphs

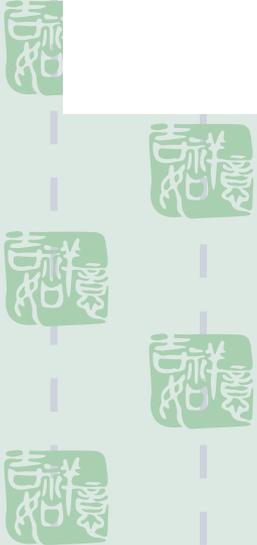


fish

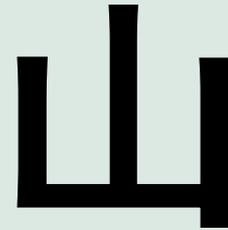
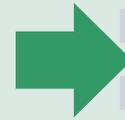
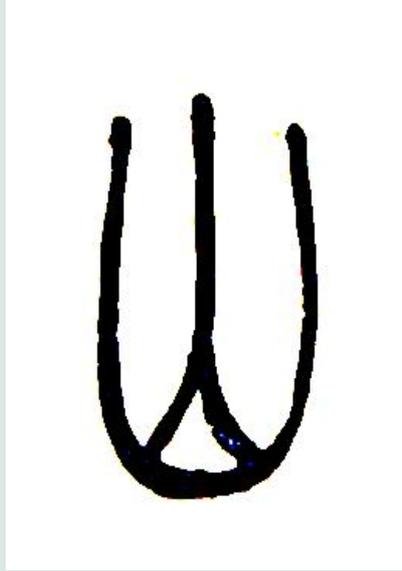
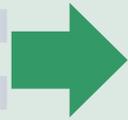
人



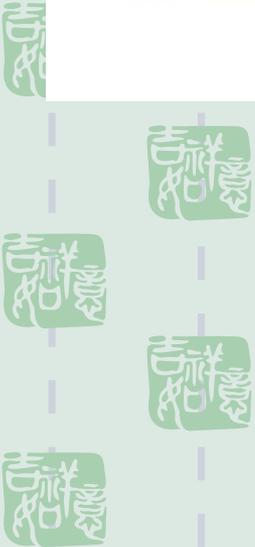
man

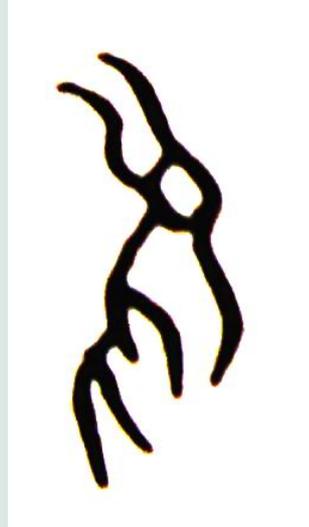


山



mountain





鳥



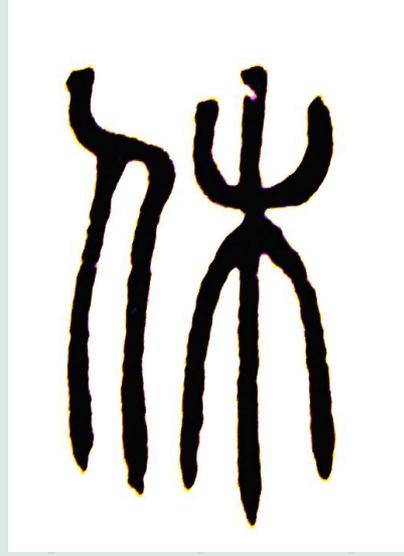
鳥



鸟

bird

習字



→ 休 rest

In Egyptian hieroglyphics, the determinative is a glyph that carries no phonetic value but instead is added at the end of a word to clarify the meaning of the word. This is due to the fact that the writing system does not record vowels, and therefore different words with the same set of consonants (but different vowels) can be written by the same sequence of glyphs. Therefore the determinative became necessary to disambiguate the meaning of a sequence of glyphs



man



house, building



book, writing,
abstract



woman



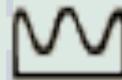
town, village



small, bad, weak



god, king



desert, foreign
country



wood, tree



force, effort



sun, light, time



logogram indicator



eat, drink, speak



walk, run



plural indicator



- Pictograph and ideograph
- hieroglyphs。

▪ The basic unit of Chinese is **strokes**, 如: 丿 + 丨 = 丨 ; 一 + 丨

丨 + 丨 = 丨 ; 丿 + 丨 = 木 ; 丨 + 木 = 休



Formation of words



- “六书” the six categories of characters: 象形、指事、会意、形声、转注、假借. But there are only four ways to form a word, the other two ways are simply how to use words;

▶ 象形 pictogram



▶ 指事 indicative



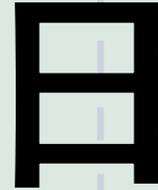
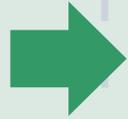
▶ 会意 combined ideogram



▶ 形声 pictophonetic



■ “象形” pictograph

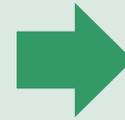
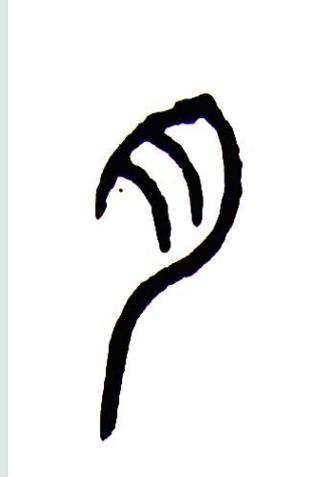
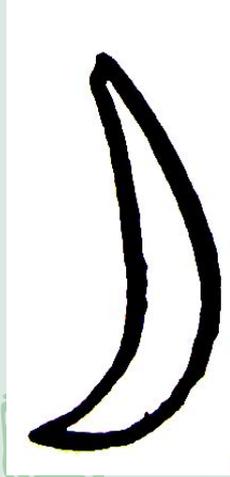


sun

日



月

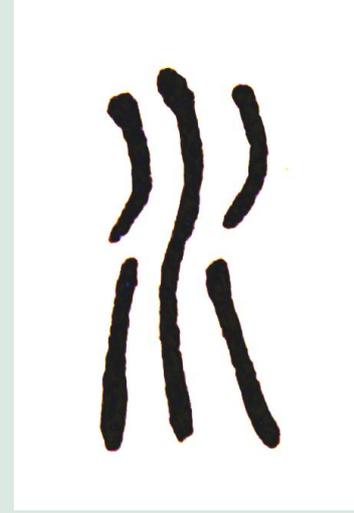


月

moon



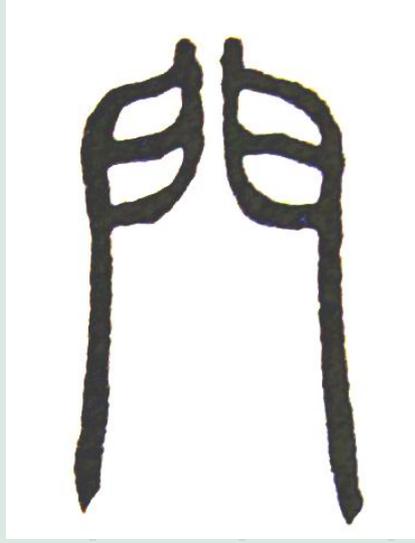
習字



→ 水 water



門



門



门

door





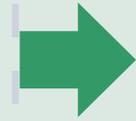
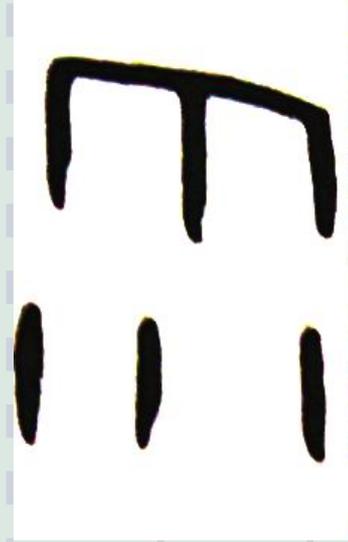
鹿

鹿

deer



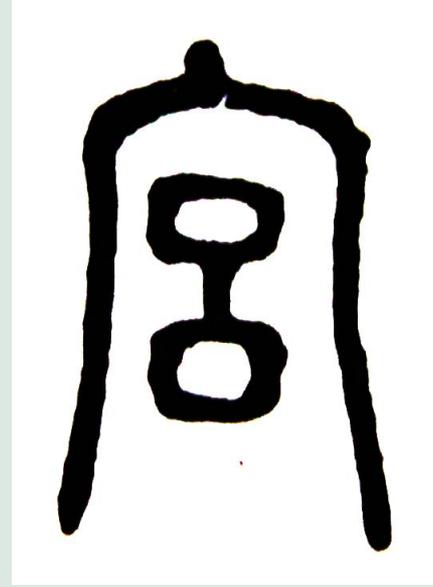
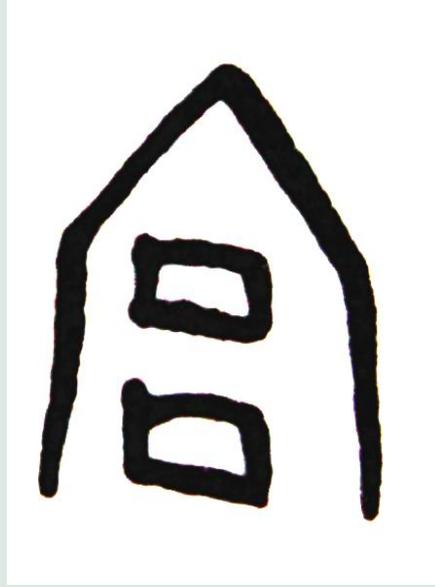
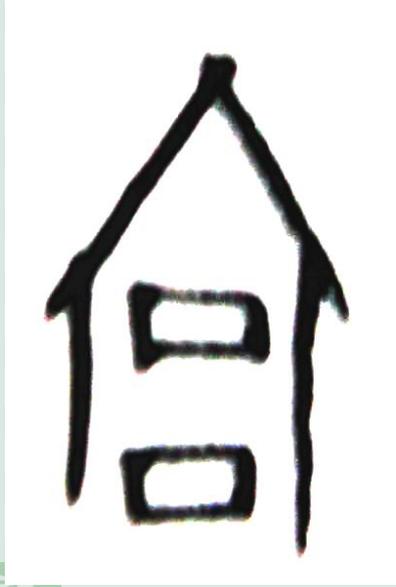
雨



雨

rain

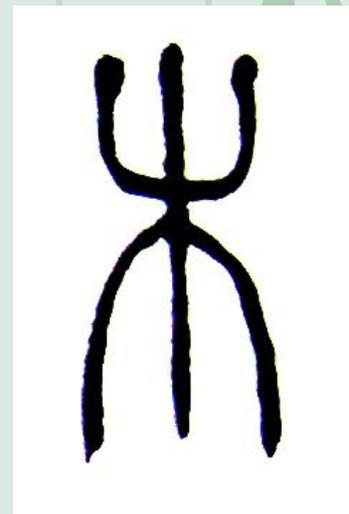




宮

palace

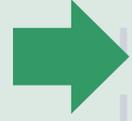
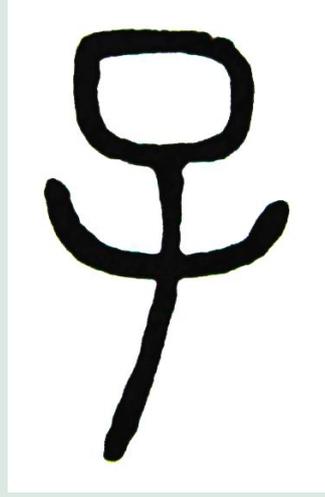
吉祥



木

tree

習字



子

child



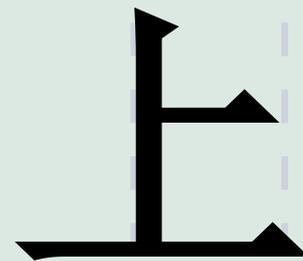
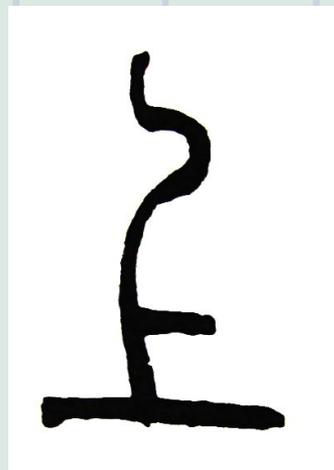
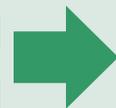
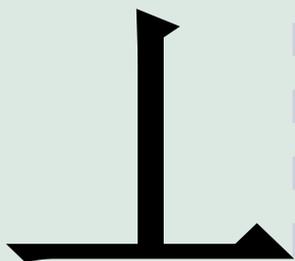
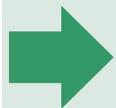


→ 身

body

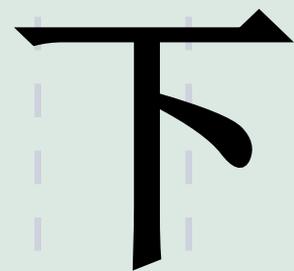
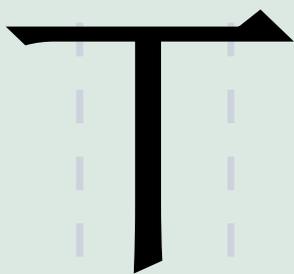


■ “指事” indicatives or ideogram



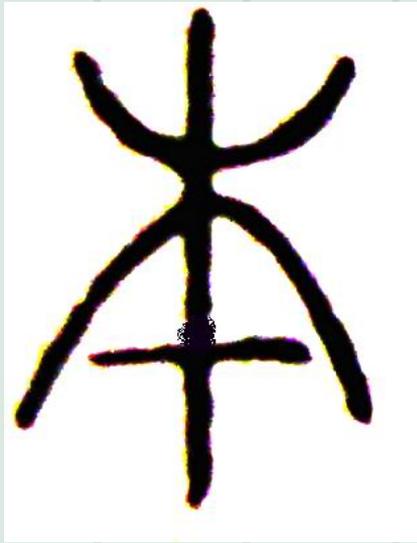
指事如象





下





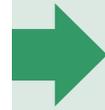
本

本

Original meaning: root

**Extended meaning: basic;
fundamental; original**

吉祥



刃

Meaning: the edge of a knife,
sword, etc



“会意” Combined ideogram: putting together several pictographs to construct an abstract idea;

森: Chinese often use “three” to indicate “many”. So three “木” means there are a lot of trees. The woods, in Chinese, we call it “森林”

众: three “people” 人 means crowd or mob

明: Using the sun and the moon, to indicate bright or brilliant.

明亮、光明



寇: “宀” signifies a house, “元” is a person, “攴” means stick in somebody’s hands. So from this character we know that someone breaks into one’s house and robs. The meaning of “寇” is **robber**.



吉祥



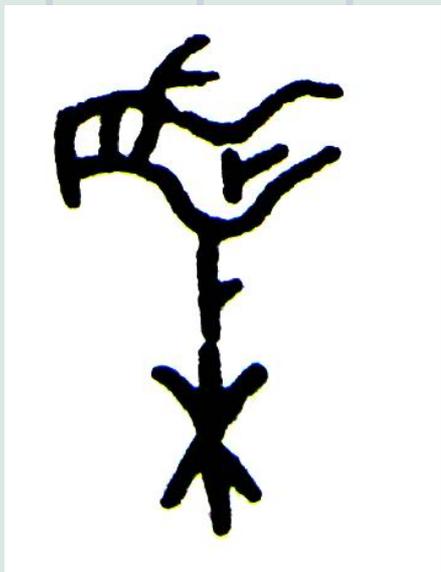
寒: hán, the two dots at the bottom represent ice, indicating it's cold inside the house, and straws used to keep people warm. Together the word **寒冷** means **cold**





家: jiā, in an agricultural society, it was important to have domesticated pigs; they were a status symbol. Therefore, the Chinese word for family consists of a roof on top and a pig at bottom.





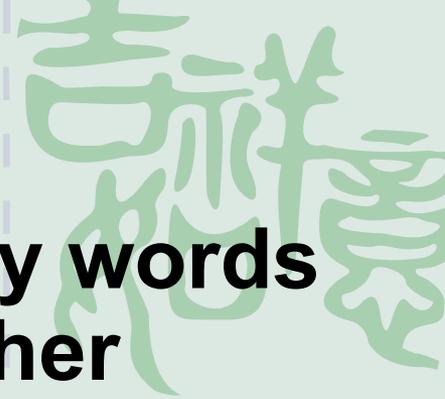
吉祥

集: jí, birds perch on a tree denote the idea of **gathering; collecting, and by extension:**

集市: jí shì: **country fair**

集团: jí tuán: **group**

诗集: shī jí: **a collection of poems**



■ In modern Chinese, there are many words coined or formed by putting together ideographs; for example:

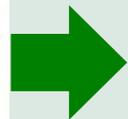
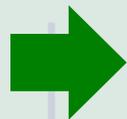
- 歪: wāi, (not upright) inclined
- 泪: lèi, (water in the eyes) tears
- 众: zhòng, (many people) crowd, mob
- 尖: jiān, (small over big) tip
- 灭: miè, (dirt over fire) extinguish
- 尘: chén, (small dirt) dust



- **形声**: picto-phonetic formation combines the pictographic symbol with the phonetic one to signify both the meaning and pronunciation of a word.
- For example, “山旁必言山，水旁必言水” the mountain radical connotes relations to mountains while the water radical water. e.g:

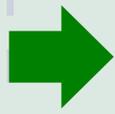
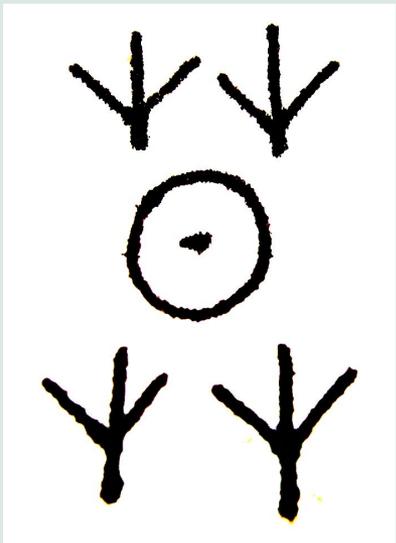


吉祥



它 = 蛇





莫



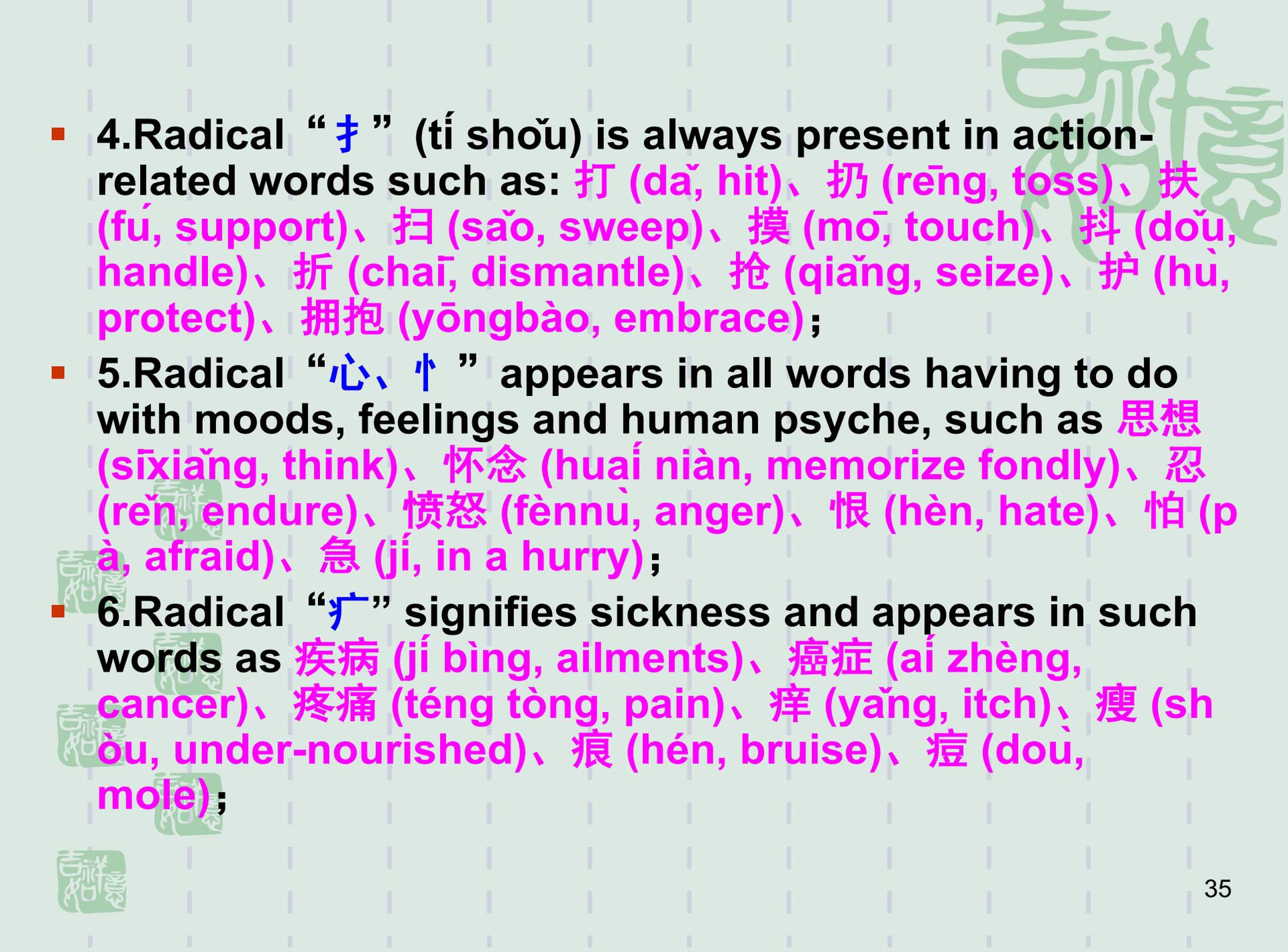
暮



莫 (mò): It's original meaning is dusk. Since its pronunciation is similar to “nobody”, and it's too hard to make a character for “nobody”. So we use “莫” to indicate “nobody”, and make an other character “暮” (mù) for dusk.



- 1. Radical “犴” stems from (犬, quǎn) meaning dog, and appears in such animal related words as: 狗 (gǒu, dog)、猫 (māo, cat)、狼 (láng, wolf)、狐狸 (hú li, fox)、猪 (zhū, pig)、狮 (shī, lion)、狡猾 (jiǎo huá, conniving)、狠 (hěn, cruel);
- 2. Radical “饣” originates from the word 食 (shí, eat) and appears in such food related words as 饭 (fàn, food)、饿 (è hungry)、饱 (bǎo, full)、饼 (bǐng, pancake)、饲 (sì, feed)、饺 (jiǎo, dumpling)、馒 (mán, steamed buns)、餐馆 (cān guǎn, restaurant);
- 3. Radical “宀” (bǎo gài) appears in such words related to houses and dwelling spaces as: 家 (jiā, family)、宅 (zhái, house)、安 (ān, peace)、客 (kè, guest)、室 (shì, room)、宾 (bīn, guest)、宫 (gōng, palace)、宿 (sù, dorm)、富 (fù, prosper)、公寓 (gōng yù, hotel/apartment)、宽 (kuān, wide);

- 
- 4.Radical “扌” (tí shǒu) is always present in action-related words such as: 打 (dǎ, hit)、扔 (rēng, toss)、扶 (fú, support)、扫 (sǎo, sweep)、摸 (mō, touch)、抖 (dǒu, handle)、折 (chāi, dismantle)、抢 (qiǎng, seize)、护 (hù, protect)、拥抱 (yōngbào, embrace);
 - 5.Radical “心、忄” appears in all words having to do with moods, feelings and human psyche, such as 思想 (sīxiǎng, think)、怀念 (huáiniàn, memorize fondly)、忍 (rěnn, endure)、愤怒 (fènnù, anger)、恨 (hèn, hate)、怕 (pà, afraid)、急 (jí, in a hurry);
 - 6.Radical “疒” signifies sickness and appears in such words as 疾病 (jíbìng, ailments)、癌症 (áizhèng, cancer)、疼痛 (téngtòng, pain)、痒 (yǎng, itch)、瘦 (shòu, under-nourished)、痕 (hén, bruise)、痘 (dòu, mole);

- 7. Radical “月” signifies flesh and appears in such words related to physical parts of the human body as: 胳膊 (gē bo, arms)、腿 (tuǐ, leg)、脚 (jiǎo, foot)、肌肉 (jī ròu, muscle)、肚 (dù, stomach)、肠 (cháng, intestines)、肤 (fū, skin)、脸 (liǎn, face)、肩膀 (jiānbǎng, shoulders)、肥 (féi, fat)、肺 (fèi, lungs)、背 (bèi, back)、胖 (pàng, obese)、胸 (xiōng, chest);
- 8. Radicals “讠” (言字旁) and “口” signify speech and mouth, often appear in such words as 说 (shuō, speak)、话 (huà, language)、读 (dú, read)、记 (jì, record)、讨论 (tǎolùn, discuss)、议 (yì, talk)、讲 (jiǎng, conversation)、许 (xǔ, permit)、谜语 (míyǔ, riddle)、吹 (chuī, blow)、吵 (chǎo, quarrow)、喊 (hǎ, yell)、叫 (jiào, shout)、吓 (xià, threaten)、吸 (xī, inhale)、吞 (tūn, swallow)、听 (tīng, listen)、吻 (wěn, kiss);

- 9. Radicals “钅” and “金” indicate metals and appear to such words as 针 (zhēn, needle)、钉 (dīng, nail)、钩 (gōu, hook)、钢 (gāng, steel)、铁 (tiě, iron)、钱 (qián, money);
- 10. Radical “衤、衣” is clothe radical and often present in such related words as: 衬衣 (chèn yī, under harments)、裤 (kù, pants)、袋 (dài, pockets)、袖 (xiù, sleeves)、被 (bei, blankets)、裙 (qún, skirt);
- 11. “氵” is a water radical and appears in such water-related words as 河 (hé, river)、流 (liú, flow)、江 (jiāng, river)、湖 (hú, lake)、海 (hǎi, ocean)、汽 (qì, steam)、泪 (lèi, tears)、沉 (chén, sink)、游泳 (yóu yǒng, swim)、汤 (tāng, soup);
- 12. “贝” is seashell, which was often used in ancient times as currency, and present in such words as: 贵 (guì, expensive)、赔 (pei, compensate)、费 (fèi, fees)、财 (cái, wealth)、贡 (gòng, tribute)、赏 (shǎng, gifts/awards)、赌 (dǔ, gamble)、购 (gòu, purchase)、债 (zhài, debt)、货 (huò, goods)、贼 (zéi, thief)、赚 (zhuàn, profit)、

三. Three periods of Development



- 1. Seal Script (篆体 zhuàn)

 - Greater and lesser seal

- 2. Official or clerkly script (隶体 lì)

- 3. Regular Script (楷体 kāi)

- 4. Running Script (行书 xíng)

- 5. Cursive or grass script (草书 cǎo)



篆体 zhuàn style

- The period lasted about 1200 years, from 1400 B. C. to 206 B. C. when Qin Dynasty came to an end;
- The period included the Yin dynasty, Zhou dynasty and Warring States in which writing appeared on turtle bones (for oracle divination) and bronze vessels (for records and rituals or affairs of the State).

吉祥

甲骨文



吉祥

吉祥

吉祥

吉祥

吉祥

吉祥

禮記

小篆

皇帝立國維初杜書無世稱工許休
 評威動四極去義直方扶臣奉詔經時
 不之滅火暴強廿年火冬上黨高蒲黃
 諸纘即既獻於成之降車專廟軌護方
 豈于繹山羣臣訓者咸思修氣追命
 世外土畫拜白屏等理珍鞅曰化流
 於野自齋古始也燕象鬱既乃五帝
 象禁也箇个皇帝壹家不下舜不復
 燭周滅餘黔首肅回和澤氣之羣臣
 時形卹樂戶之曾經結皇帝曰金戶
 盡如皇帝序為女之今襲號而金戶
 不稱煌皇帝其天之護也如後嗣
 者不稱族珍其德也相臣斯臣亦扶
 專亦臣殘味所南臣請昇形詔書金戶
 亦四國曰帝臣味所請形曰可



- **小篆**: small seal was the official script after the unification of China (B.C. 221); prior to that, there had been various writing styles, systems of measurement and standards of currency. To better rule the country, the emperor decided to “书同文、车同轨、统一度量衡” (“write the same language, standardize vehicle axles, and make uniform benchmarks of measurement). Small or lesser seal script became the standard.
- **隶体/隶书**: official script originated in the warring states period prior to the unification and was a popular writing style until the period of the Three Kingdoms, lasting about 500 years (200 B.C. ~ 300 A.D.)

吉祥

隶书

君諱全字景完
敦煌效穀人也
其先蓋周之胄

吉祥

吉祥

吉祥

- **隶书**: At the time of unification, there were strict laws and criminal codes. Massive paper work was generated for prison wardens and scribes. To speed up the process, people had to develop the small seal script into what was later to be recognized as “official script”. This was nothing less than a revolution in the history of Chinese writing, referred to as the “reform of li script” (隶, slaves).
- 秦始皇统一时期，国家的法律非常严格，许多人被关到了监狱里，狱吏每天要处理大量的案件。为了能节省时间，更快速地记录下每个案件的审理过程，狱吏们慢慢开始使用一套不同于小篆的写法。这种写法简单方便，对小篆做了很大程度的改变，这就是隶书。隶书在汉字的发展史上有着非常重要的作用，是汉字的一次革命。从小篆变为隶书，俗称“隶变”。隶变使汉字进一步脱离了图画的性质，变为了纯符号的文字。



楷体

吉祥

- Regular script, known as “kai” style, began in Eastern Han (200 A. D.) and became widely adopted during the Sui, Tang and Song dynasties. Even today, over 1600 years later, people still use the script when they write formally.

■ 楷书起于东汉末，通行于隋唐，经过宋元一直到今天，已经有1600年以上的历史了。

吉祥慶

行書

Running script

第一急就奇叙文家柔雅而
諸物名姓字分別部居不雜
房用日約勉力務
廁用日約

吉

吉

吉

吉祥

草书

Cursive
or grass
script

