

The 100 radicals a Chinese dictionary files characters under, in stroke-count order — the order a dictionary uses. The smaller glyph beside a radical is the form it takes when squeezed inside a character. The 40 marked in red are the ones a beginner meets first.

- Print the first page at A3 for a wall, or at A4 to keep in a folder — the layout is sized to stay readable at either.
- Learn the marked ones first. They are the handful a beginner meets in their first weeks, and they change how every character after them looks.
- When you meet an unknown character, find its radical here before you look it up. Guessing the meaning from the radical and then checking is what makes the next one stick.

Built from the radicals hub at thepurelanguage.com/radicals, and updated when that page is.

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一 yī One; horizontal line	丨 gǔn Vertical line	丶 zhǔ Dot	乚 piě Left-falling slash	乙 yǐ Second; twist	乚 èr Two	亠 tóu Lid; top	人 rén Person
儿 ér Legs; son	入 rù Enter	八 bā Eight; divide	冂 jiōng Down box; borders	冃 mì Cover cloth	冫 bīng Ice (two-drop water)	几 jī Small table	刀 dāo Knife
力 lì Strength; power	勹 bāo Wrap	匕 bǐ Spoon; ladle	十 shí Ten	卜 bǔ Divination	冂 jié Seal (kneeling person)	厂 hǎn Cliff; shelter	厶 sī Private; cocoon
又 yòu Again; right hand	口 kǒu Mouth; opening	囗 wéi Enclosure	土 tǔ Earth; soil	士 shì Scholar; warrior	攴 zhǐ Go; follow	夕 xī Evening; dusk	大 dà Big; great
女 nǚ Woman; female	子 zǐ Child; son	宀 mián Roof (of a house)	寸 cùn Inch; a little	小 xiǎo Small; little	尢 wāng Lame; weak	尸 shī Corpse; body	山 shān Mountain; hill
川 chuān River; stream	工 gōng Work; labour	己 jǐ Self; oneself	巾 jīn Cloth; towel	干 gān Dry; shield	幺 yāo Tiny; short thread	广 guǎng Broad shelter; roof	彳 yǐn Long stride
卅 gǒng Two hands; clasp	弋 yì Shoot with a corded arrow	弓 gōng Bow (weapon)	彡 jì Pig's snout	彡 shān Bristle; hair; rays	彳 chì Step; walk (left half of 行)	辵 chuò Walk; movement (走之)	阝 yì City; town (right ear)
阝 fù Mound; hill (left ear)	犛 quǎn Dog; animal	犛 shí Eat; food	忄 xīn Heart (side form)	扌 shǒu Hand (side form)	氵 shuǐ Water (three drops)	艹 cǎo Grass; plant	攴 suī Go slowly; trail behind
纟 sī Silk; thread	讠 yán Speech; words	心 xīn Heart; mind	戈 gē Halberd; spear	户 hù Door; household	手 shǒu Hand	攴 pū Tap; rap; script (folded hand)	文 wén Script; writing; culture
斤 jīn Axe; a catty (weight)	方 fāng Square; direction	日 rì Sun; day	曰 yuē To say; speak	月 yuè Moon; also 肉 flesh	木 mù Tree; wood	欠 qiàn Yawn; owe; lack	止 zhǐ Stop; foot
歹 dǎi Death; bad	毛 máo Fur; hair; feather	气 qì Air; steam; breath	水 shuǐ Water	火 huǒ Fire	爪 zhǎo Claw; talon	父 fù Father	牛 niú Cow; ox
犬 quǎn Dog	王 wáng Jade; king	见 jiàn To see	贝 bèi Shell; money; wealth	车 chē Cart; vehicle	钅 jīn Metal; gold	田 tián Field; farmland	目 mù Eye
石 shí Stone; rock	示 shì Altar; spirit; ritual	禾 hé Grain; growing rice	竹 zhú Bamboo				

Reference table

The same radicals with characters that contain them. Every one of these has its own page on the site, with stroke order and more examples.

Radical	In a word	Strokes	Pinyin	Meaning	Characters that use it
一	—	1	yī	One; horizontal line	三上下不天且世丘
丨	—	1	gǔn	Vertical line	中内书旧甲由申史
丶	—	1	zhǔ	Dot	主丸义之为头半求
丿	—	1	piě	Left-falling slash	九千乏乐长生失乘
乙	乚	1	yǐ	Second; twist	也习乡书乱电飞气
二	—	2	èr	Two	五元云井亚些干于
亠	—	2	tóu	Lid; top	京高亮交六市夜亡
人	亻	2	rén	Person	你他们什住但位作
儿	—	2	ér	Legs; son	先元光兄充克兆免
入	—	2	rù	Enter	内全两
八	ㄨ ㄘ	2	bā	Eight; divide	分公只共兵典兴关
冂	—	2	jiōng	Down box; borders	同用内网再冒周肉
冃	—	2	mì	Cover cloth	写军冗冠冤
冫	—	2	bīng	Ice (two-drop water)	冷冻冰次准决况凉
几	—	2	jī	Small table	凡机风凤凳凯
刀	刂	2	dāo	Knife	别到刻剧割利刚剑
力	—	2	lì	Strength; power	加办功助努劳动男
勹	—	2	bāo	Wrap	包句匀勺够甸甸
匕	—	2	bǐ	Spoon; ladle	北化老死能旨此些
十	—	2	shí	Ten	华协南半博卖直真
卜	—	2	bǔ	Divination	占外卡处贞卦朴
卩	—	2	jié	Seal (kneeling person)	印却即节卷危卫
厂	—	2	hǎn	Cliff; shelter	厅历厕原厚厉压厨
厶	—	2	sī	Private; cocoon	去公台能参私允牟
又	—	2	yòu	Again; right hand	友双反发取受对难
口	—	3	kǒu	Mouth; opening	叫吃喝听问名和右
囗	—	3	wéi	Enclosure	国回因园图团围困
土	—	3	tǔ	Earth; soil	地场坐城块在墙堂
士	—	3	shì	Scholar; warrior	声壮壳喜志吉壶
夂	—	3	zhǐ	Go; follow	冬各条处务备夏
夕	—	3	xī	Evening; dusk	外多名夜梦够岁
大	—	3	dà	Big; great	天太夫奇失头夹奋
女	—	3	nǚ	Woman; female	好她妈姐妹要安始

The 100 Chinese Radicals Poster

Every common radical on one wall sheet, with its reading, meaning and combining form

Radical	In a word	Strokes	Pinyin	Meaning	Characters that use it
子	—	3	zǐ	Child; son	学孩字存季孙孤孔
宀	—	3	mián	Roof (of a house)	家安字它完客室害
寸	—	3	cùn	Inch; a little	对时封射寻寺导专
小	㇀	3	xiǎo	Small; little	少尖当尘尚党堂常
尢	允	3	wāng	Lame; weak	就尤尬尴
尸	—	3	shī	Corpse; body	屋层局居屏展尽尾
山	—	3	shān	Mountain; hill	岛岸岁峰崇岗屿密
川	巛	3	chuān	River; stream	州顺训巡
工	—	3	gōng	Work; labour	左式功巧差巨项
己	—	3	jǐ	Self; oneself	巷记纪改忌起导
巾	—	3	jīn	Cloth; towel	帮常带布市希师帽
干	—	3	gān	Dry; shield	平年幸刊竿肝
幺	—	3	yāo	Tiny; short thread	幼幻乡幽
广	—	3	guǎng	Broad shelter; roof	床店应度座庭康庄
廴	—	3	yǐn	Long stride	建延廷
扌	—	3	gǒng	Two hands; clasp	开弄弊异
弋	—	3	yì	Shoot with a corded arrow	式代贷武
弓	—	3	gōng	Bow (weapon)	张引强弹弱弟弯
彡	彡	3	jì	Pig's snout	录当归寻
彡	—	3	shān	Bristle; hair; rays	影形须彩彰
彳	—	3	chì	Step; walk (left half of 行)	很得往行街德律微
辶	辵	3	chuò	Walk; movement (走之)	这那进还过运送速
阝	邑	3	yì	City; town (right ear)	都邮部郊邻郑邢邵
阝	阜	3	fù	Mound; hill (left ear)	院除随阳阴陈阵防
犛	犬	3	quǎn	Dog; animal	猫狗猪独猜狼犯狂
饣	食	3	shí	Eat; food	饭饿馆饼饮饺馒饱
忄	心	3	xīn	Heart (side form)	情快忙慢怕懂惯性
扌	手	3	shǒu	Hand (side form)	打找报把接换拉推
氵	水	3	shuǐ	Water (three drops)	河海江湖汉没法活
艹	艸	3	cǎo	Grass; plant	花草茶菜药苦英节
攴	—	3	suī	Go slowly; trail behind	夏复
纟	糸	3	sī	Silk; thread	红级给纸经练线结
讠	言	3	yán	Speech; words	说话请谢语课词读
心	—	4	xīn	Heart; mind	想念感忘思意愿息
戈	—	4	gē	Halberd; spear	我成战或戏戴截

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Radical	In a word	Strokes	Pinyin	Meaning	Characters that use it
户	戶	4	hù	Door; household	房 所 扁 启 雇 肩
手	—	4	shǒu	Hand	拿 掌 拳 摩 擎
攴	攴	4	pū	Tap; rap; script (folded hand)	教 改 放 数 故 收 政 敌
文	—	4	wén	Script; writing; culture	斑 纹 刘 齐
斤	—	4	jīn	Axe; a catty (weight)	新 所 斯 断 质 斥 欣
方	—	4	fāng	Square; direction	旁 放 房 游 族 施 旅 访
日	—	4	rì	Sun; day	明 时 早 晚 昨 春 是 暗
曰	—	4	yuē	To say; speak	书 最 曲 更 冒
月	—	4	yuè	Moon; also 肉 flesh	有 朋 期 服 朝 望 脸 肚
木	—	4	mù	Tree; wood	林 森 树 椅 桌 校 本 条
欠	—	4	qiàn	Yawn; owe; lack	歌 次 欢 欧 款 歇
止	—	4	zhǐ	Stop; foot	正 步 此 些 歪 武 肯 齿
歹	—	4	dǎi	Death; bad	死 残 殊 殖 歼
毛	—	4	máo	Fur; hair; feather	毫 毯 毡
气	—	4	qì	Air; steam; breath	氧 氢 氛 氨 氯
水	—	4	shuǐ	Water	泉 永 泰 浆
火	灠	4	huǒ	Fire	烧 灯 热 点 烦 炒 煮 然
爪	𠂇	4	zhǎo	Claw; talon	爬 爱 受 采 爵 妥
父	—	4	fù	Father	爸 爷 爹 斧
牛	牛	4	niú	Cow; ox	物 特 牧 犁 牲 件
犬	—	4	quǎn	Dog	哭 状 猷 臭 默
王	玉	4	wáng	Jade; king	球 现 玩 理 班 环 珠 皇
见	見	4	jiàn	To see	观 现 规 觉 览
贝	貝	4	bèi	Shell; money; wealth	财 贵 贱 货 购 贸 赛 赢
车	車	4	chē	Cart; vehicle	轮 软 转 较 辆 输 轻 辈
钅	金	4	jīn	Metal; gold	银 钱 铁 错 锅 钟 针 镜
田	—	5	tián	Field; farmland	男 界 画 留 累 毕 番 思
目	—	5	mù	Eye	看 眼 睛 睡 着 相 直 省
石	—	5	shí	Stone; rock	码 硬 碗 研 破 确 砖 磁
示	礻	5	shì	Altar; spirit; ritual	神 社 票 祝 礼 视 福 祖
禾	—	5	hé	Grain; growing rice	秋 种 科 秒 香 利 和 积
竹	𥫵	6	zhú	Bamboo	笑 第 等 答 筷 简 算 笔