Pinyin Chart

Pinyin writes the sounds of Mandarin Chinese with the Latin alphabet: a syllable is an initial + a final + a tone

Initials consonants at the start of a syllable

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	l	g	k	h	j	q	x	zh	ch	sh	r	z	c	s	y	w

Finals the vowel part of a syllable

a	o	e	i	u	ü	ai	ei	ui	ao	ou	iu	ie	üe	er	an	en	in	un	ün	ang	eng	ing	ong

Whole syllables read as one unit, never split into initial + final

zhi	chi	shi	ri	zi	ci	si	yi	wu	yu	ye	yue	yuan	yin	yun	ying

Tones the same syllable with a different tone is a different word

mā	má	mǎ	mà	ma
妈	麻	马	骂	吗
mother	hemp	horse	to scold	question particle
1st tone	2nd tone	3rd tone	4th tone	neutral tone

First words two 3rd tones in a row: the first one is said as a 2nd tone, so nǐ hǎo sounds like ní hǎo

你好	谢谢	再见	中国
nǐ hǎo	xièxie	zàijiàn	Zhōngguó
hello	thank you	goodbye	China

Spelling rules

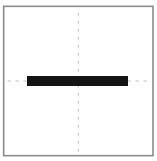
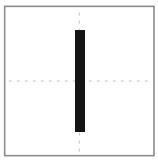
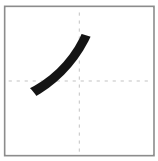
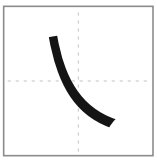
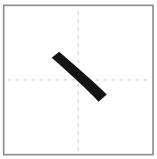
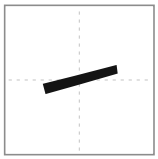
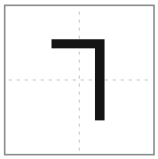
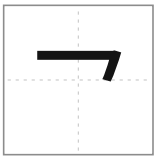
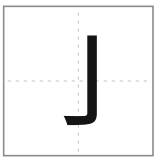
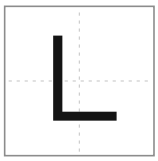
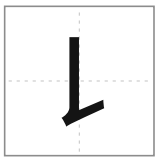
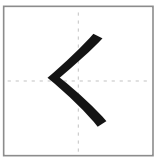
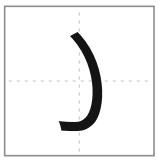
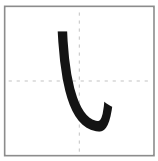
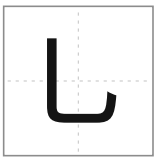
- The tone mark goes on a or e when the syllable has one (hǎo, xiě); in ou it goes on o (dōu).
- In iu and ui the mark goes on the second vowel (liù, guì). The neutral tone has no mark (ma).
- After j, q, x and y, ü is written u: ju, qu, xu, yu (the sound is still ü). After n and l keep ü: nǚ, lǜ.
- A syllable that starts with i, u or ü is written with y or w: i → yi, u → wu, ü → yu, ia → ya, ua → wa.

Prepared with the help of AI. Every character, stroke and pinyin reading was checked against Unicode and CLDR data.
Spotted a mistake? Write to contact@lsnotebooks.com

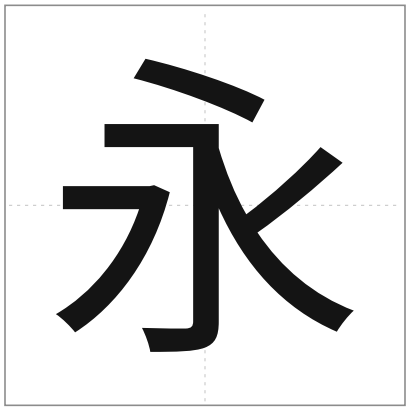
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Basic Strokes

Every Chinese character is built from a small set of strokes. Learn them first, then combine them into characters.

 横 héng horizontal	 竖 shù vertical	 撇 piě left-falling	 捺 nà right-falling
 点 diǎn dot	 提 tí rising	 横折 héngzhé horizontal-turn	 横钩 hénggōu horizontal-hook
 竖钩 shùgōu vertical-hook	 竖折 shùzhé vertical-turn	 竖提 shùtí vertical-rising	 横撇 héngpiě horizontal-left-falling
 撇点 piědiǎn left-falling-dot	 弯钩 wāngōu curved hook	 斜钩 xiégōu slanting hook	 竖弯钩 shùwāngōu vertical-curve-hook

One character, eight strokes



永 (yǒng, “forever”) is the classic first character in Chinese calligraphy.
It is traditionally used to practice the eight basic strokes:
dot, horizontal, vertical, hook, rising, two left-falling strokes and a right-falling stroke.

Stroke order rules that work for most characters:

- top before bottom, left before right
- horizontal before vertical (十), left-falling before right-falling (人)
- outside before inside, then close the frame (日)
- middle before the two sides (小)

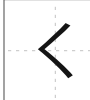
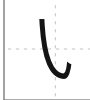
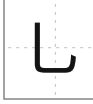
There are exceptions to these rules; check the stroke order of new characters in a dictionary.

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Chinese Practice

Name _____ Date _____

Basic strokes · trace the grey shapes, then write on your own

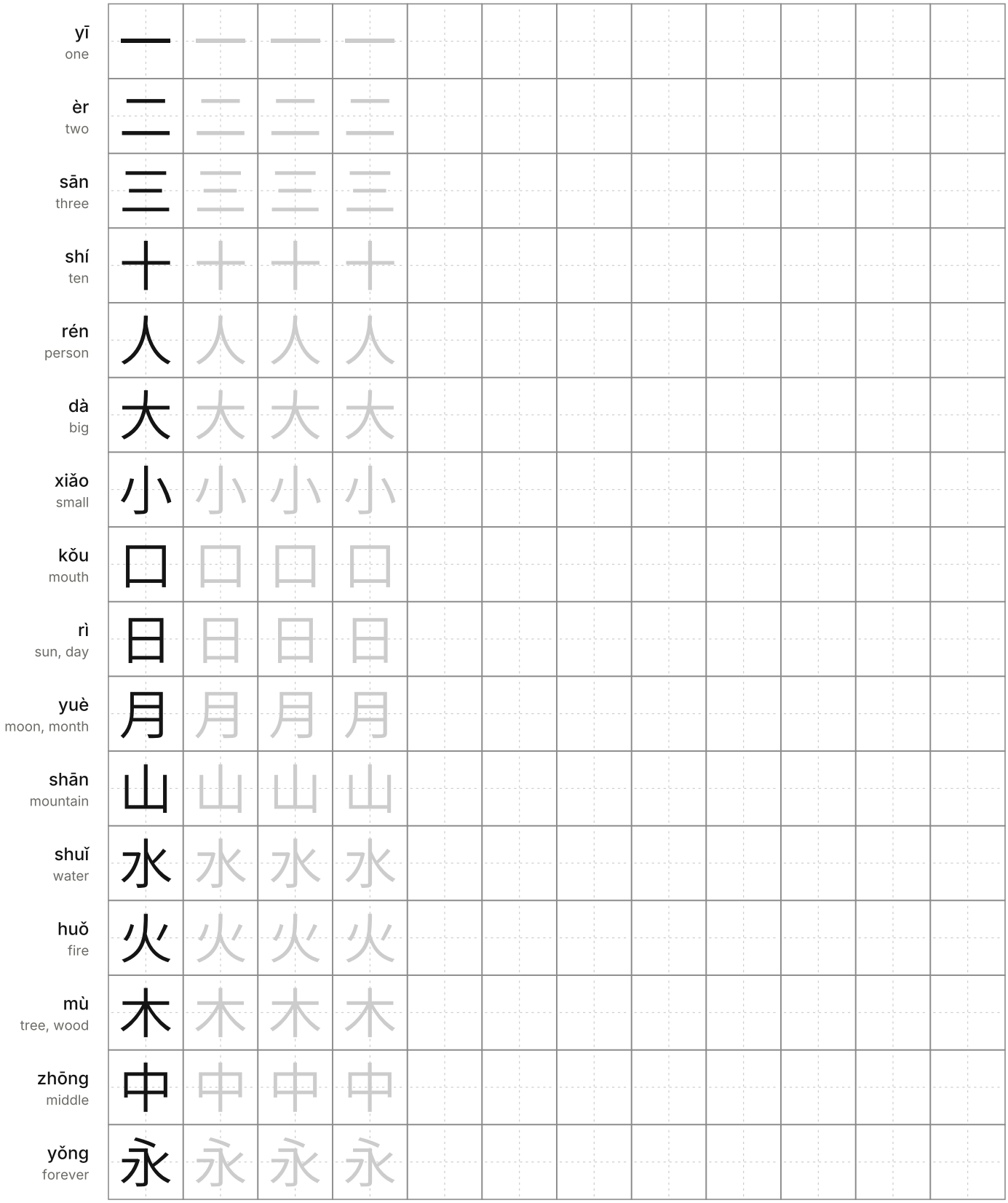
héng horizontal											
shù vertical											
piě left-falling											
nà right-falling											
diǎn dot											
tí rising											
héngzhé horizontal-turn											
hénggōu horizontal-hook											
shùgōu vertical-hook											
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wāngōu curved hook											
xiégōu slanting hook											
shùwāngōu vertical-curve-hook											

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Chinese Practice

Name _____ Date _____

First characters · trace the grey shapes, then write on your own



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Chinese Practice

Name _____ Date _____

Tian Zi Ge practice page · one character per square, centred on the dashed cross

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