

СОСТАВНЫЕ ЧАСТИ КИТАЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА. КИТАЙСКИЕ ИЕРОГЛИФЫ И СЛОВА В ДВУХ СЛОВАХ

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Изучение китайской письменности требует освоения базовых иероглифов, их сочетаний и значений. Для успешного обучения важно применять стратегии запоминания и развивать навыки на нескольких уровнях.

Ключевые слова: *китайский язык; иероглифы; обучение чтению; письменность; комбинации символов; базовые иероглифы; двухсимвольные слова.*

THE COMPONENT PARTS OF THE CHINESE LANGUAGE. CHINESE CHARACTERS AND WORDS IN A NUTSHELL

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Studying Chinese writing requires mastering basic hieroglyphs, their combinations and meanings. For successful learning, it is important to apply memorization strategies and develop skills at several levels.

Key words: *Chinese language; hieroglyphs; learning to read; basic hieroglyphs; two-character words.*

Learning to read and write in Chinese is a unique challenge. To read plain text in Chinese, you need to know about 3,500 characters, although the exact number depends on what exactly you are reading. Reading is more than just knowing symbols. It should be clear to everyone that this is not an alphabet, and that Chinese characters do not represent sounds the way our letters do.

This does not mean that Chinese characters are pictures, although it is true that many basic characters were originally like that. It's easy to imagine that 木 (mù) shows a tree, and 人 (rén) is a side view of a person.

The letters in our alphabet have a similar origin, but these days we only use them to represent sounds. On the contrary, there is nothing in 木 or 人 that hints at their pronunciation. You just have to know this, just as you know that the number 6 reads like "six" and \$ reads like "dollar". You can't find out how to read a Chinese character just by looking at how it is written.

However, most of the symbols are not simple pictures. They are combinations of other characters, which means that the vast majority of those 3,500 characters are not actually unique characters that need to be remembered, but rather combinations of a smaller set of components.

Continuing our example earlier, the hieroglyph for "rest", 休 (xiū), shows a version of 人 (rén) a man next to 木 (mù) a tree, suggesting the idea of resting in the shade of a tree. Another example is the combination of two bright objects, namely 日 (rì) the sun and 月 (yuè) the moon, next to each other, forming the hieroglyph 明 (míng) "bright". There are also other types of connections that we will look at later.

However, to learn how to read or write, you need to go beyond individual characters, since most words in modern Chinese consist of two characters that are not

combined into another character, like 休 (xiū), but simply written next to each other. For example, the word 中国 (zhōngguó) "China" consists of two hieroglyphs: 中 (zhōng) "the middle" and 国 (guó) "country; kingdom".

Other cases are less obvious, for example, 明 (míngnián) "next year", consisting of 明 (míng) "bright" and 年 (nián) "year". Please note that in Chinese there is an almost perfect correspondence between hieroglyphs and syllables, so a two-syllable word will be written in two hieroglyphs.

Thus, learning to read and write Chinese characters takes place on several levels. These are not separate steps, but parallel processes that all students work with all the time while learning Chinese.

To learn how to read and write, you need to:

1. Study basic symbols such as 木 (mù) "tree", 人 (rén) "man", 日 (rì) "sun" and 月 (yuè) "moon", which can sometimes be used on their own, and sometimes function as components in composite symbols;

2. Learn how to combine the main components into composite hieroglyphs, for example, combining 木 and 人 into 休 (xiū) "rest" or combining 日 and 月 into 明 (míng) "bright";

3. Learn how to combine individual characters into words, for example,

中国 (zhōngguó) "China" or 明年 (míngnián) "next year". Such words are often simpler than complex hieroglyphs, but they are not always as simple as the word China.;

4. Memorize thousands of hieroglyphs, words, which provides long-term memorization and strategies to avoid confusion with hieroglyphs, which become more difficult the more you study.

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