

**CHINESE
BASIC COURSE**

**DICTIONARY EXERCISES
For Simplified Characters**

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**DEFENSE LANGUAGE INSTITUTE
FOREIGN LANGUAGE CENTER**

部首检字

Radical Index

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DICTIONARY EXERCISES

Introduction

1. How is a Chinese character found in a dictionary?

Chinese characters are usually arranged in the dictionary by their radicals. They are further grouped according to the number of strokes they have, excluding the radical.

Therefore, in order to look up a character in the dictionary, the first step is to consider whether the character is a radical itself. In some cases it is. For instance: 人, 刀, 力, 口, 土, 女, 山, 巾, 弓. If the character is not a radical itself, then break it into two parts. Very often the character can be broken up vertically with one part on the right and another on the left. Either part may be the radical. Or the division may be horizontal, one-half being above and the other beneath. Or one-half may partially or entirely enclose the other part. If neither of the two parts is a radical, one of them may again be divided and a subdivision may turn out to be the radical. Finally, there are a handful of frequently used characters that do not seem to belong to any radical; they are placed in the 余类 'Remainder Category' at the very end of the radical list.

The radical will tell us approximately where the character is in the dictionary. Next, we must count the number of strokes, leaving out the radical. It is this number which will enable us to locate the character exactly.

2. What is a radical?

A radical is a common component of a group of characters, often bearing the sense shared by the characters. The majority of Chinese characters belong to the category of Phonetic Compounds, each of which has a distinct phonetic part in addition to the radical. Speaking very generally, for there are many exceptions, the radical gives a clue to the meaning of a character and the phonetic a clue to its sound.

In the 新华字典, the standard dictionary for simplified characters, there are 189 radicals derived from the original 214 radicals in the *Kangxi Dictionary* (see page v). However, among the popular Chinese-English dictionaries, no standard list of radicals has been adopted. The number of radicals varies from 174 for *A Concise Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1982 to 227 including a "Remainder Category" for *The Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1979. *The Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*,

1980, which is an adaptation of the latter, lists 226 radicals as shown in the Radical Index on page iv, omitting one very rarely used radical. The present exercises are based on *The Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, which is readily available to our students.

3. How to use this book

Sixty of the most common radicals are introduced in the first ten exercises. A great majority of Chinese characters are formed with these sixty radicals. Therefore, it is worthwhile for the student to remember them as to their names, meanings, their different forms, and a few examples. Additional exercises are provided for the rest of the radicals. Note that some of the newly added radicals have no standard names, nor distinct meanings.

There are altogether 18 one-hour exercises. For those students who cannot finish the lookup within the given time, they should complete the exercise after class as part of their homework.

Exercise 1: 60 Common Radicals - "Man" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
人 (入)	2	rén	Man	人 今
亻	2	dānlirénr	Man	你
力	2	lì	Power	力 动 加 努
口	3	kǒu	Mouth	口 吃 可
女	3	nǚ	Woman	女 好 妹
尸	3	shī	Corpse	尸 屋
心	4	xīn	Heart	心 念
忄	3	shùxīnr	Heart (standing)	快 忙

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
仁			从		
怀			姿		
如			史		
呀			势		
劲			吻		
局			忽		
懊			合		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
惯			吹		
奴			勉		
命			尾		
另			哲		
恐			像		
劝			盒		
妙			办		

Exercise 2: 60 Common Radicals - "Man" Group (continued)

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
手	4	shǒu	Hand	手拿
扌	3	tíshǒu	Hand	打
疒	5	bīngzītóu	Sickness	病
目	5	mù	Eye	目睡
四	5	mù	Eye	罗
耳	6	ěr	Ear	耳聪
月	4	ròuyuè	Flesh	胖
足 趾	7	zú	Foot	足跑跟

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
找			疾		
瘦			脂		
胡			跳		
眠			取		
胃			疫		
耶			摘		
趾			罚		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
播			痛		
提			肚		
督			署		
肝			疗		
聘			踢		
眼			眉		
踏			攀		

Exercise 3: 60 Common Radicals - "Animal" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
牛 (牛)	4	niú	Ox	牛 牲 物
犾	4	quǎnyóu	Dog	狗
虫	6	chóng	Insect	虫 蚊 蜜 蚀
马	3	mǎ	Horse	马 骑 驾
鱼	8	yú	Fish	鱼 鲜 鲁
鸟	5	niǎo	Bird	鸟 鸭 鹰

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
骆			骂		
鳞			猎		
虾			犁		
特			蛾		
鲸			牧		
蟹			鲤		
猛			犯		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
验			蜈		
蚣			骗		
驰			狐		
狠			鲍		
狮			蜂		
牺			牲		

Exercise 4: 60 Common Radicals - "Action" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
彳	3	shuānglǐrénr	Left Step	很 德
攴	4	fǎnwénr	Tap	收 改
欠	4	qiàn	Owe	欠 欢
示	5	shì	Indicate	示 票
礻	5	shìbǔr	Indicate	社
辶	3	zǒuzhīr	Run and Stop	近 远
饣	3	shí	Eat	饭 饼

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
往			故		
边			祝		
饿			待		
神			款		
政			歌		
返			行		
蚀			律		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
逐			佛		
遮			禁		
礼			连		
教			欧		
祭			饮		
欺			徐		

Exercise 5: 60 Common Radicals - "Nature" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
土 (土)	3	tǔ	Soil	地 志 墅
山	3	shān	Mountain	山 岩 崎 岛
日	4	rì	Sun	日 明 春 早
木	4	mù	Wood	木 枝 李 桑
氵	3	sāndiǎnrshuǐ	Water	河 没
水	4	shuǐ	Water	水 浆
火	4	huǒ	Fire	火 烧 炙
灬	4	sidiǎnrhuǒ	Fire	照 热

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
坑			岷		
峨			江		
暇			焚		
煮			杏		
松			森		
林			崇		
旧			昆		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
柏			易		
祥			熟		
声			流		
旦			屿		
适			馆		
堵			烹		
鲜			鹄		

Exercise 6: 60 Common Radicals - "Nature" Group (cont'd)

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
玉	4	xiéyù	Jade	玩珠
田	5	tián	Field	田略男
石	5	shí	Stone	石碗
禾	5	hémùpáng	Grain	禾和秀
竹 (竹)	6	zhúzitóu	Bamboo	竹笑笨
纟	3	jiǎosī	Silk	丝绸

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
纸			秒		
砚			簿		
畏			珊		
础			季		
乘			箔		
织			组		
留			黎		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
硬			珍		
箭			驴		
蝗			纵		
碑			筒		
余			勉		
肋			移		
玉			尘		

Exercise 7: 60 Common Radicals - "Nature" Group (cont'd)

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
艹	3	cǎozitóur	Grass	花草
酉	7	yǒu	Wine	西酒酱
金	8	jīn	Gold	金
钅	4	jīn	Gold; metal	铜针
阝	2	zuǒ'ěrdāor	Mound	阿院
雨	8	yǔzitóur	Rain	雨雪

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
蓝			醋		
雾			铁		
陪			鉴		
锡			配		
霜			藻		
药			铝		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
醒			零		
阵			铅		
落			薄		
著			签		
稿			限		
雹			汉		
村			镇		

Exercise 8: 60 Common Radicals - "Home" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
刀	2	dāo	Knife	刀切
刂	2	lìdāo	Knife	到别
子	3	zǐ	Son	子孩学
宀	3	bǎogàir	Roof	安家
巾	3	jīn	Napkin	巾帽布
广	3	piǎnshàng	Shelter; roof	广床
皿	5	mǐndūnr	Dish	皿盆
衣	6	yī	Clothing	衣
衤	5	yībǔr	Clothing	衫被
门	3	mén	Door	门闭

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
阔			衬		
窗			实		
盘			帛		
孔			分		
剥			削		
裳			座		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
阅			店		
刺			剪		
袋			裤		
府			底		
孕			宜		
孙			界		
果			治		

Exercise 9: 60 Common Radicals - "Miscellaneous" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
又	2	yòu	Again	又 叉 友
口	3	sìdàokuàng	Enclosure	四 国
大	3	dà	large	大 太 奇
弓	3	gōng	Bow	弓 张 弱
戈	4	gē	Spear	戈 我 戒
穴	5	xuèzītóu	Cave	穴 空

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
戴			园		
反			奖		
戟			窗		
受			引		
穷			圆		
圣			或		
划			究		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
强			困		
叔			夫		
窘			弯		
戎			及		
队			钥		
醉			瑞		
灾			畜		

Exercise 10: 60 Common Radicals - "Miscellaneous" Group (cont'd)

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
言	7	yán	Word	言 警
讠	2	yán	Word	说 话
贝	4	bèi	Shell	贝 贵
车	4	chē	Vehicle	车 轮 军
阝	2	yòu'ěrdǎo	Village	那 部 都
页	6	yè	Page	页 顶

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
讲			顾		
邦			诊		
誓			辑		
辈			郊		
顿			邮		
读			题		
轰			责		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
顺			则		
谓			轿		
郭			城		
阳			郡		
财			颇		
袍			福		
刮			贪		

Exercise 11: Radicals - "Basic Stroke" Group

Radical	Stroke	Name	English	Examples
丶	1	yīdiǎnr	point	永
一	1	yīhéng	one	一 丁
丨	1	yīshùr	down stroke	书
丿	1	yīpièr	left stroke	乃
㇇	1	zhé	bent	了
㇇	1	zhé	bent	刁
乙 (㇇ ㇇)	1	yī	Second	乙 九 飞

1. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
平			丰		
司			为		
久			之		
必			万		
更			长		
半			么		
买			乌		

2. From your dictionary, find the pinyin and meaning for the following characters:

	Pinyin	Meaning		Pinyin	Meaning
粤			也		
与			州		
川			丰		
师			丐		
习			面		
围			茶		
道			乐		

Exercise 12 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with two strokes in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
希				勿			
存				单			
贞				印			
占				勾			
义				军			
北				压			
卿				予			
廷				台			
凶				卦			
句				兆			
乞				甬			
罕				农			
先				延			
县				矣			
承				卡			
冻				谜			
防				原			

Exercise 13 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with three strokes in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
壮				弊			
无				外			
丸				导			
幻				影			
出				尤			
冬				亡			
开				忌			
将				度			
够				幼			
彭				条			
盲				尘			
各				肖			
项				艺			
宇				宙			
状				通			
德				备			
省				结			

Exercise 14 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with four strokes in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
斗				文			
廿				共			
牙				否			
瓦				瓶			
刘				忠			
见				斜			
表				考			
老				雅			
规				觉			
尺				尽			
风				颶			
氏				段			
毀				毕			
父				爷			
气				氧			
歹				列			
止				正			

Exercise 15 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with five strokes in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
产				去			
却				劳			
龙				聋			
业				矢			
短				蛋			
楚				皮			
蒙				登			
凳				白			
皂				皇			
党				掌			
常				矮			
瓜				甘			
某				奉			
春				端			
戊				戍			
玉				秦			
禁				丢			

Exercise 16 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with six strokes in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
羊				羔			
而				耍			
虎				缸			
舟				船			
羽				臣			
卧				亚			
至				光			
耕				耐			
虚				到			
严				变			
辉				齐			
恋				券			
自				翼			
缺				虞			
舌				息			
敌				血			
米				哉			

Exercise 17 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with seven strokes or more in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
辣				辰			
唇				谷			
欲				身			
射				角			
采				里			
辩				翠			
束				豆			
躬				麦			
碗				悉			
解				野			
番				赖			
整				豹			
骨				非			
鬼				餐			
食				高			
鞠				是			
匙				音			

Exercise 18 Find the radical, pinyin and meaning for the following characters under radicals with seven strokes or more in the *Sino Chinese-English Dictionary*, 1980 or its equivalent:

	Radical	Pinyin	Meaning		Radical	Pinyin	Meaning
青				香			
齿				麻			
黑				鹿			
鼻				鼓			
鼠				章			
靴				悲			
举				静			
鼯				鞋			
躺				墨			
竟				巴			
靠				叛			
凸				凹			
磨				敲			
集				雄			
鞭				东			
民				乡			
魏				麟			

