

Sample Lessons

# Easy Chinese

Teach Yourself Chinese Step By Step

Mandarin

Level 1

易  
学  
中  
文

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# 第二课

Lesson 2

爸

口只

不人同

您是尖城

朋你没晶海

谁前十有炎候

生都昨九地森时

什说每来八天林次

那母儿亮今七门明共

年校书父妹很出六也小现

期过方这先姐回去五马大病

高星多文定太哥早了四牛下英

哪会个男吗的三外上教

么弟本晚它二中火谢

学美在她一心水久

国看们雨好土孕

友我家目木身

他妇田川语

夫女山言

子月和

日妈

见

# 明

#13

明

míng

bright; light; clear; next;  
obvious



明

What do the sun 日 and the moon 月 have in common? They both bring us *light*. When the sky is *clear*, you can *distinctly* see the sun *shining*; in the *bright* moonlight, you can *clearly* see the *brilliant* moon *shinning* in the sky until the *next day*.

Do you now understand why 日 and 月 were combined to form 明? If you do, you are *obviously* and *intelligent* person.

明

明明明明明明

明明明明明明

明明明明明明


## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

明日	míngri	tomorrow; the near future	明日
明月	míngyuè	bright moon	明月
明明	míngmíng	obviously; undoubtedly	明明

#### Cumulative total

Characters	Compound words	Sentences
13	31	0



林

#14

林

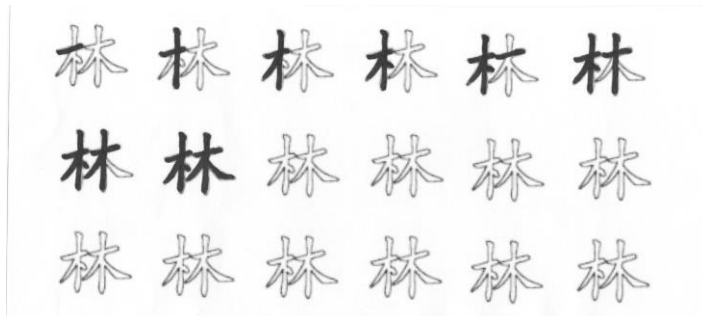
lín

forest; woods; grove; a surname



Two 木 (trees), standing side by side, form this character. By duplicating, the character implies that there are more than one thing. Thus, when we see many trees around, we call this a *grove*. If there are numerous trees, stretching for miles and miles, we call this a *forest*. When 林 is by itself, we usually think of it as a *grove*; when it is preceded by the character “森,” the combination clearly points a *forest*.

林



Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

A. Compound Words

林木	lín mù	woods; forest	林木
山林	shān ín	mountain and forest; wooded mountain	山林

Characters  
14

Compound words  
33

Sentences  
0



森

#15

森

sēn

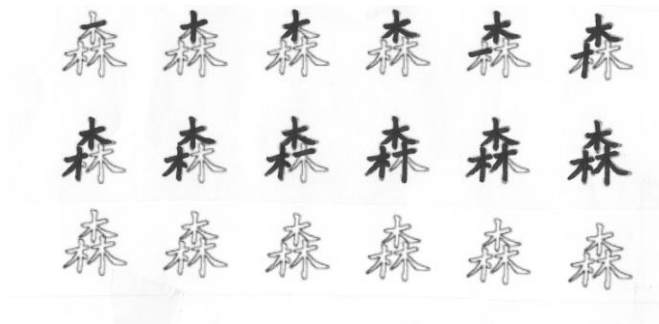
full of trees; luxuriant  
vegetation; dark



木  
林

The character “林” (grove) is formed with two “木” (trees) standing side by side. By placing another “木” on the top of “林,” we produce “森.” If two trees suggest a grove, then what do three trees symbolize? “森” suggests a place where is full of *luxuriant vegetation*. When “森” and “林” are combined to form a disyllabic or compound word 森林, they together mean *forest*.

森



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

森林

sēn lín

forest

森林

森森

sēn sēn

dense; thick

森森



Characters  
15

Compound words  
35

Sentences  
0

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炎

#16

炎

yán

very hot; scorching; burning



炎

This character is made of two “火” (fires). If fire produces heat, then two 火 will generate more heat. Thus, if you come near a *blaze*, or expose yourself to the *very hot* sun on a *scorching* day, you may experience a *burning* sensation.

炎



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

炎炎

yán yán

very, very hot; scorching 炎炎

Characters  
16

Compound words  
36

Sentences  
0

---

晶

#17

晶

jīng

brilliant; sparking; radiant



晶

This character was formed by adding two more suns (日) to the original character (日). The resultant character “晶” can be used whenever we want to emphasize the “*sparkling*” nature of an object. Can many objects be used “*brilliantly*” or “*crystal clear*” without the *radiant* light from the sun? This character is often repeated to form the reiterative word (晶晶) which also mean “*bright*” and “*brilliant.*”

晶



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

晶晶

jīngjīng

particularly bright and  
brilliant

晶晶

Characters  
17

Compound words  
37

Sentences  
0

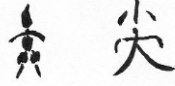
尖

#18

尖

jiān

point; tip; top; pointed; sharp



尖

尖 is made up of two independent characters: “小” (small) on the top and “大” (large) at the bottom. Something that has a small *tip* on one end and a relatively large handle on the other is a *sharp* and *pointed* object.”尖” is often used to describe a person who is the *best of its kind* and who asks *sharp* and *pointed* question.

Does the character itself look *sharp* too?

尖



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

山尖

shānjiān

mountain top

山尖

Characters  
18

Compound words  
38

Sentences  
0



#19



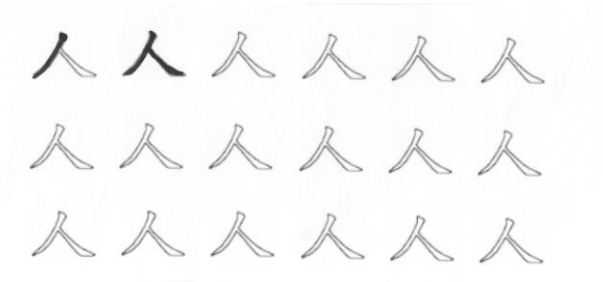
rén

a person; people



The profile of a *person's* body was depicted in these two early pictographic drawings. To maintain a proper posture, the hand was later transformed into a foot. Some ancient *people* even saw fit to omit the head of *human being* and keep his upper body to the minimum in their pictographic representation of *Homo sapiens*.

人



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

人人	rénrén	everybody; everyone	人人
土人	tǔrén	aborigines; natives	土人
木人	mùrén	dull person; wooden man	木人
大人	dàrén	adult; a salutation for one's parents, seniors, etc.	大人
小人	xiǎorén	mean person; little person	小人
山人	shānrén	Hermit; mountaineer	山人

Characters  
19

Compound words  
44

Sentences  
0



#20



kǒu

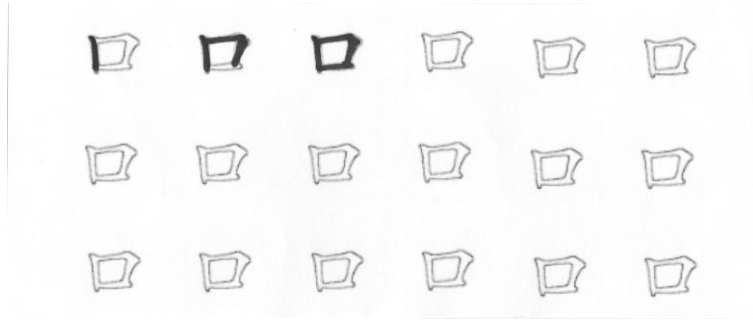
mouth; an opening



The pictographs show a *mouth* (口) with no teeth in it. “口” has also come to mean “*opening*” and “*crack*.” When we describe the number of people in the family, we also use “口” as the “*counting unit*.” The phrase “小两口” (little two mouths), however, is used to refer to a young married couple, usually by their parents or other older family members.



口



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

人口	rén kǒu	population	人口
山口	shān kǒu	mountain pass	山口
口水	kǒu shuǐ	saliva	口水

Characters  
20

Compound words  
47

Sentences  
0



# 子

#21

子

zi

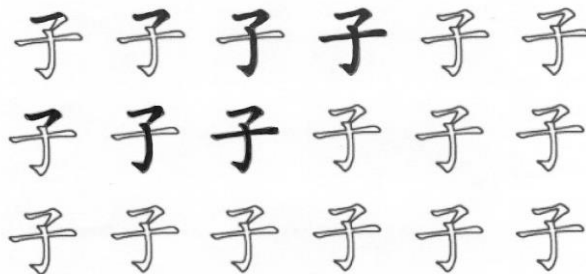
child; son; seed; a suffix



子

The young *child* has a proportionately large head and a small trunk as suggested in the two early pictographs. As the *child* grows older, the head has proportionately become smaller and the body longer. The smaller head shown in the later form is consistent with the basic principle of *child* development. Although all children are adorable, Chinese families traditionally tend to be biased toward the *son*. To many Chinese, the *son* and the *seed* are almost synonymous. It should come as no surprise that the character for both son and seed is 子.

子



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)


### A. Compound Words

口子	kǒu zi	opening; hole; seed; a suffix	口子
日子	rì zi	day; date; time; life	日子
月子	yuè zi	month of confinement after given a birth to a child	月子
小子	xiǎo zi	young fellow; one's children	小子
尖子	jiān zi	cream of the crop; very bright child	尖子

Characters  
21

Compound words  
52

Sentences  
0



# 女

#2

女

nǚ

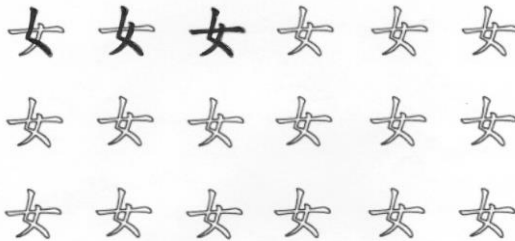
woman; female; daughter; girl



女

The pictograph shows a *woman* in a kneeling position, suggesting humbleness and dedicate health. The modern form shown above appropriately liberates the *female* from her old images by replacing the posture of kneeling with that of walking in big stride. Could it be that the individual who created the modern form was herself a *lady* or *daughter*, who believed that the old form was designed to pull all *girls* down?

女



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)


### A. Compound Words

女人	nǚ rén	woman; one's wife	女人
女子	nǚ zi	woman; girl; female	女子
子女	zi nǚ	son and daughter; children	子女
下女	xià nǚ	maid	下女
小女	xiǎo nǚ	my daughter (a self-depreciatory term)	小女

Characters  
22

Compound words  
57

Sentences  
0





#23

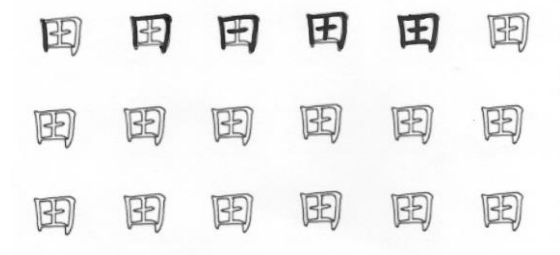


tián

field; farmland; a surname



The pictographs depict the cross-paths of a *rice field*. A *farmland* is usually subdivided into four equal plots to facilitate cultivation. The cross-paths can also be raised so that the farmers can walk on it to and from all four directions, including the neighboring *fields*.



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

水田

shuǐ tián

rice field; paddy field

水田

Characters  
23

Compound words  
58

Sentences  
0



**#24**

目

mù

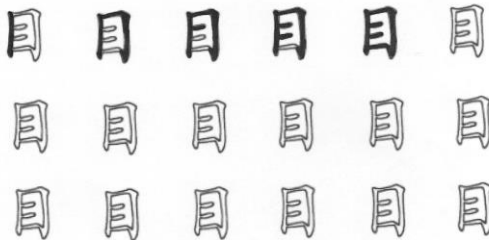
the eye; to look; to see



目 The pictographs show the developmental stages in the formation of the character “目.” The original pictograph had the eye pictured in its natural form. By rotating the eye to a vertical position, people are now faced *to see* and *look at* things in a different perspective.

Things are much easier *to see* and pleasantly *to look at* when they are grouped into different *categories* or listed in a *table of contents*.

目



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words



目下

mù xià

at present; right now

目下

Characters  
24

Compound words  
59

Sentences  
0

好

#25

好

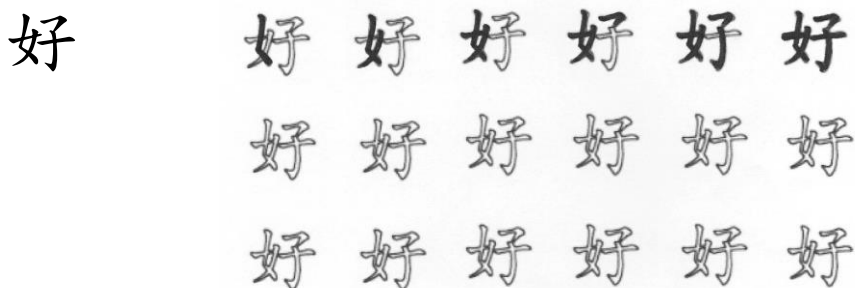
hǎo

good; fine; nice

好 好

**好** This character is made up of two existent characters: “女” (daughter) and “子” (son). In the mind of the ancient people (and many modern people too), it was good “好” to have both a son and a daughter. It was *nice* to have a boy, but it was even better to have both a boy and a girl. No wonder why many parents feel *wonderful* and consider it a double blessing when the mother gives birth to a twin-born son and daughter.

It is proper to point out that the world will no longer be a *fine* place to live if it is very seriously imbalanced in gender distribution. We all know that the human race cannot survive with either sex alone.



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

好人	hǎo rén	good person; healthy person	好人
好大	hǎo dà	how big; very big	好大
好日子	hǎo rì zi	good day; wedding day	好日子

好小子

hǎo xiǎo zi

good boy

好小子

Characters  
25

Compound words  
63

Sentences  
0

心

#26

心

xīn

heart; mind; feeling





The early pictographs show the shape of the *heart* (心). From the pictographs, can you tell whether the ancient Chinese had some basic knowledge about the anatomy of the *heart*? The ancient Chinese assumed the *heart* to be the organ that houses the *mind*. The *heart* was thought to be the *center* of all *mental* activities, including *feeling* and *intention*. Perhaps for this reason, the character “心” refers not only to the *heart*, but the *mind* as well.



## Linking Past Learning with New Information (溫故知新)

### A. Compound Words

心口	xīn kǒu	the pit of the stomach	心口
心目	xīn mù	mental view; frame of mind	心目
心田	xīn tián	heart; intention	心田
心上	xīn shàng	in one's heart; in one's mind	心上

人心	rén xīn	public feeling; human heart	人心
小心	xiǎo xīn	be careful; take care	小心
好心	hǎo xīn	good intention; good will	好心
心上人	xīn shàng rén	sweetheart	心上人
好心人	hǎo xīn rén	Kind-hearted person	好心人

Characters  
26

Compound words  
72

Sentences  
0



## Exercises Lesson 2

A. Identify the character that is related to each English concept.

1. people

(a) 明 (b) 人 (c) 口 (d) 木

2. grove

(a) 林 (b) 土 (c) 森 (d) 夫

3. heart

(a) 火 (b) 心 (c) 炎 (d) 二

4. eye

(a) 日 (b) 月 (c) 目 (d) 八

5. brilliant

(a) 品 (b) 六 (c) 出 (d) 晶

6. bright

(a) 朋 (b) 明 (c) 炎 (d) 四

7. field

(a) 口 (b) 由 (c) 田 (d) 用

8. good

(a) 相 (b) 她 (c) 他 (d) 好

9. son

(a) 字 (b) 子 (c) 入 (d) 才

10. girl

(a) 女 (b) 下 (c) 四 (d) 日

B. Identify the character that is associated with each pinyin transcription.

1. rén  
(a) 森 (b) 木 (c) 人 (d) 炎
2. tián  
(a) 火 (b) 田 (c) 林 (d) 山
3. xīn  
(a) 心 (b) 森 (c) 川 (d) 三
4. hǎo  
(a) 月 (b) 土 (c) 好 (d) 女
5. mù  
(a) 目 (b) 四 (c) 明 (d) 每
6. kǒu  
(a) 高 (b) 可 (c) 口 (d) 中

C. Identify the pinyin transcription that is associated with each character.

1. 炎  
(a) dà (b) mǎ (c) yán (d) mā
2. 森  
(a) yì (b) dù (c) tǔ (d) sēn
3. 明  
(a) sàn (b) míng (c) sān (d) shàn

4. 晶

(a) jīng      (b) tū      (c) tǔ      (d) mó

5. 尖

(a) xià      (b) xiá      (c) jiān      (d) dà

6. 子

(a) zǐ      (b) mǎ      (c) tǔ      (d) shān

D. Identify the compound word or phrase that is associated with each English word or phrase.

1. forest

(a) 林木      (b) 山林      (c) 森林      (d) 森森

2. tomorrow

(a) 目下      (b) 明日      (c) 明月      (d) 日日

3. bright and brilliant

(a) 炎日      (b) 明天      (c) 月明      (d) 晶晶

4. population

(a) 人字      (b) 人口      (c) 山人      (d) 人人

5. hermit, mountaineer

(a) 山林      (b) 山人      (c) 山上      (d) 才子

6. children

(a) 人字      (b) 人口      (c) 子女      (d) 人人



E. Identify the compound word or phrase that is associated with each pinyin transcription.

1. shuǐ tián (a) 天上 (b) 口水 (c) 人口 (d) 水田
2. mù xià (a) 目下 (b) 下雨 (c) 下人 (d) 月下
3. xiǎo xīn (a) 小可 (b) 小心 (c) 小小 (d) 好心
4. kǒu zi (a) 人口 (b) 口水 (c) 口子 (d) 尖子
5. kǒu shuǐ (a) 大水 (b) 口水 (c) 月子 (d) 大口
6. rén xīn (a) 人人 (b) 好心 (c) 人心 (d) 中心

F. Identify the character that is different in tone from the others.

1. (a) 水 (b) 火 (c) 好 (d) 目
2. (a) 下 (b) 上 (c) 心 (d) 日
3. (a) 山 (b) 森 (c) 炎 (d) 晶
4. (a) 目 (b) 月 (c) 大 (d) 林
5. (a) 土 (b) 女 (c) 子 (d) 人



# Answers

A.	B.	C.	D.	E.
1. b	1. c	1. c	1. c	1. d
2. a	2. b	2. d	2. b	2. a
3. b	3. a	3. b	3. d	3. b
4. c	4. c	4. a	4. b	4. c
5. d	5. a	5. c	5. b	5. b
6. b	6. c	6. a	6. c	6. c
7. c				
8. d				
9. b				
10. a				
F.				
1. d				
2. c				
3. d				
4. d				
5. d				

爸

口只

不人同

您是尖城

朋你没晶海

谁前十有炎候

生都昨九地森时

什说每来八天林次

那母儿亮今七门明共

年校书父妹很出六也小现

高期过方这先姐回去五马大病

星多文定太哥早了四牛下英

哪会个男吗的三外上教

么弟本晚它二中火谢

学美在她一心水久

国看们雨好土孕

友我家目本身

他妇田川语

夫女山言

子月和

日妈

见