

Chinese Words  
with pictorial origins reveal  
Ancient Chinese knowledge  
of the Genesis Account and Beyond

中文象形文字  
顯示古代中國人  
認識創世紀與聖經的真理

Examples of how Chinese words evolve from its ancient pictorial forms

汉字演变图								
甲骨文	商周金文	石鼓文 小篆	隶书	楷书	行书	草书		
								
								
								
								
								

Above Chinese words in vertical order:

Fish, dragon, horse, tiger, elephant

Ancient Chinese symbols are pictorial representations of life

Can you make out the following words?

(extracted from <https://www.erlishi.com/wiki/JiaGuWen/>)

(Hint: each is a part of the sky)



(Hint: they are all animals)



(Hint: they are things we use)





# Oracle Bones

- also known as “Dragon Bones”
- typically, the shoulder blades of oxen or plastrons of turtles (*the flat, underside of the turtle's shell*)
- date back to the Chinese Shang Dynasty (*circa 1600-1406 BC*) and Zhou Dynasty (*circa 1046-226 BC*)
- believed to be associated with divination – “fortune telling”, hence, “oracle”
- ancient symbols were carved on these surfaces, which later evolved to become today’s written words





# Radical (Chinese characters)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*"Bushu" redirects here. For the former Japanese province, see [Musashi Province](#).*

A Chinese **radical** (Chinese: 部首; pinyin: *bùshǒu*; lit. 'section header') or **indexing component** is a graphical component of a [Chinese character](#) under which the character is traditionally listed in a Chinese dictionary. This component is often a [semantic indicator](#) similar to a [morpheme](#), though sometimes it may be a [phonetic component](#) or even an artificially extracted portion of the character. In some cases the original semantic or phonological connection has become obscure, owing to changes in character meaning or pronunciation over time.

The English term "radical" is based on an analogy between the structure of characters and [inflection](#) of words in European languages.<sup>[a]</sup> Radicals are also sometimes called "classifiers", but this name is more commonly applied to [grammatical classifiers](#) (measure words).<sup>[2]</sup>



In the [traditional Chinese character](#) 媽 *mā* <sup>𠂇</sup> "mother". The left part is the radical 女 *nǚ* "female". The character is the semantic component of a [phono-semantic](#) compound (形聲字), and the right part, 馬 *mǎ* "horse", is the phonetic component.



## Basic Common Chinese Radicals

Radicals (bù shǒu) are common "components" used in Chinese characters. Rather than remembering all the strokes of a Chinese character, it's sometimes easier to remember the radicals, which are frequently used as components in Chinese characters. As you study Chinese, you will notice a repeating pattern of radicals being used.

The following table lists some commonly used basic radicals (parantheses denotes traditional character used in Hong Kong and Taiwan):

	Radical	Meaning	Pīnyīn	Example
1	亻	person	rén	你 you (nǐ)
2	辶	road, walking	chì	街 street (jiē), 往 toward (wǎng)
3	氵	water	shuǐ	河 river (hé), 洗 wash (xǐ)
4	冫	ice	bīng	冰 ice (bīng), 冻 freeze (dòng)
5	火	fire / burning	huǒ	灯 lamp (dēng), 烧 burn (shāo)
6	灬	fire / fire from below	huǒ	蒸 steam (zhēng), 热 hot (rè)
7	日	day, sun, time	rì	时 time (shí), 晴 sunny (qíng)
27	疒	sickness	nè	病 disease (bìng), 痛 pain (tòng)
28	阝	terrain, hill, city, town	yì	部 department/section (bù), 都 both (dōu)
29	厂	factory, yard	hàn	厅 hall (tīng), 厂 factory (chǎng)
30	宀	wide, shelter	yǎn	店 shop (diàn), 府 mansion (fǔ)
31	心	heart	xīn	想 want (xiǎng), 忘 forget (wàng)

<p>示 to show</p>	<p>示 = ‘神’部首 to show = a ‘God’ radical, denoting words relating to God</p>	
<p>神 God</p>	<p>示 (to show / God radical) + 申 (to state / explain)</p> <p>The original form of ‘申’ is a picture of light flashing in all directions (申: 甲骨文像神秘的劈雳、朝 各个方向开裂的闪电。)</p> <p>汉字的来历和演变 (金文)</p>  	<p>John 1:1-5 (NKJV) In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and <u>the Word was God</u>... In Him was life, and the life was <u>the light of men</u>. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.</p> <p>【约翰 1:1-5】太初有道， 道与神同在，<u>道就是神</u>。这 道太初与神同在... 生命在他 里头，这生命就是<u>人的光</u>。 光照在黑暗里，黑暗却不接 受光。</p>



元  
beginning

元：首也。

The beginning = man standing up

元字的甲骨文最初是没有最上面那一横的，元的甲骨文看起来就像一个侧立起来的人，其中人头的部位比较突出，元的本义指的就是人头，元字上面那一横只是作为装饰用的，没有具体的实在意义，《尔雅》是我国第一部词典，在《尔雅·释诂下》中是这样解释元这个字的：

Genesis 2:7 (NKJV) And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

【创 2:7】耶和華神用地上的塵土造人，將生氣吹在他鼻孔里，他就成了有靈的活人，名叫亞當。

Caution:

完

complete, finish

二 + 儿 = 元

two person first

元 + 宀 = 完

first home complete

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1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 元  
商 商 商 西周 春秋 战国 《说文》小篆 汉 楷书

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甲 骨 文 研 究 网

福  
blessing

Note: there are more than 120 ancient forms of this word.

神 (God radical) +  
一 (one) +  
口 (mouth / man) +  
田 (field)

Another meaning:

祭祀時用的“酒坛”？  
(drink offering?)

福：  
(金文)



(甲骨文)



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Genesis 2:8 (NKJV) The LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there He put the man whom He had formed.

Alternate meaning: Genesis 35:14-15 (NKJV) So Jacob set up a pillar in the place where He talked with him, a pillar of stone; and he poured a drink offering on it, and he poured oil on it. And Jacob called the name of the place where God spoke with him, Bethel.

【創世紀 2:8】耶和華神在東方的伊甸立了一個園子，把所造的人安置在那裡。

【創世紀 35:14-15】雅各便在那里立了一根石柱，在柱子上奠酒，浇油。雅各就给那地方起名叫伯特利。



肉  
flesh

“肉”里有‘人’+‘人’  
= 2个人

“flesh” contains 2 ‘人’  
(persons), not one

(說文解字 篆體字)



(六書通 篆體字)



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Genesis 1:27 (NKJV) So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:23-24 (NKJV) And Adam said: "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man." Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

【創世紀 1:27】神就照着自己的形象造人，乃是照着他的形象，造男造女。

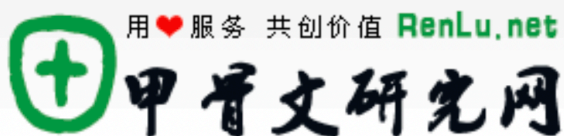
【創世紀 2:23-24】那人說：「這是我骨中的骨、肉中的肉！可以稱她為女人，因為她是從男人身上取出來的。」因此，人要離開父母，與妻子聯合，二人成為一體。



禁  
forbidden

木 木 (2 trees) +  
示 (to show)

(說文解字 篆體字)



Genesis 2:9b, 16-17 (NKJV) ...The tree of life was also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil... And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."

【創世紀 2:9b, 16-17】...園子當中又有生命樹和分別善惡的樹... 耶和華神吩咐他說:「園中各樣樹上的果子, 你可以隨意吃; 只是分別善惡樹上的果子, 你不可吃, 因為你吃的日子必定死。」

魔

demon,  
magic

魔鬼

Satan

广 (wide radical) +  
木 木 (2 trees) +  
鬼 (evil spirit)

Genesis 3:1 (NKJV) Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

【創世紀 3:1】 耶和華神所造的，唯有蛇比田野一切的活物更狡猾。蛇對女人說：“神豈是真說，不許你們吃園中所有樹上的果子嗎？”

婪  
greed

木 木 (2 trees) +  
女 (woman)

(說文解字 篆體字)



(甲骨文)



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Genesis 3:6 (NKJV) So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

【創世紀 3:6】於是女人見那棵樹的果子好做食物，也悅人的眼目，且是可喜愛的，能使人有智慧，就摘下果子來吃了



躲  
take  
cover

身 (body) +  
朵 (flower, on a tree)

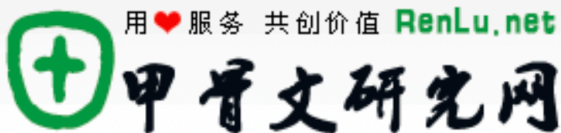


匿  
hide

人趴下，躲起來  
person prostrating  
behind barricade



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愧  
ashamed;  
guilty  
feeling

心 (heart radical) +  
鬼 (evil spirit)

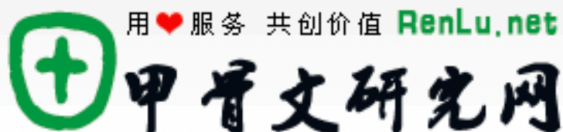
Genesis 3:8 (NKJV)  
And they heard the  
sound of the LORD  
God walking in the  
garden in the cool of  
the day, and Adam and  
his wife hid themselves  
from the presence of  
the LORD God among  
the trees of the garden.

【創世紀 3:8】天起了涼  
風，耶和華神在園中行  
走，那人和他妻子聽見  
神的聲音，就藏在園裡  
的樹木中，躲避耶和華  
神的面。

男  
man

田 (field) +  
力 (muscle strength – *does the original symbol look like a scythe?*)

( 甲骨文 )



荊  
thorn

草 (plant radical) +  
刑 (punishment)

(說文解字 篆體字)



(金文)



Genesis 3:17-19 (NKJV)  
Then to Adam He said,  
"Because you have heeded  
the voice of your wife, and  
have eaten from the tree of  
which I commanded you,  
saying, 'You shall not eat of  
it': "Cursed is the ground for  
your sake; in toil you shall  
eat of it all the days of your  
life. Both thorns and thistles  
it shall bring forth for you,

【創世紀 3:17-19】 又對亞當說：「你既聽從妻子的話，吃了我所吩咐你不可吃的那樹上的果子，地必為你的緣故受咒詛，你必終身勞苦，才能從地裡得吃的。地必給你長出荊棘和蒺藜來，你也要吃田間的菜蔬。你必汗流滿面才得糊口，直到你歸了土...

船  
ship

舟 (boat radical) +  
八 (eight) +  
口 (mouth, person)

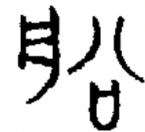
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(六書通 篆體字)



(金文)



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Genesis 6:10, 7:7 (NKJV)  
And Noah begot three  
sons: Shem, Ham, and  
Japheth... So Noah, with  
his sons, his wife, and his  
sons' wives, went into the  
ark because of the waters  
of the flood.

【創世紀 6:10, 7:7】挪亞生  
了三個兒子，就是閃、含、  
雅弗... 挪亞就同他的妻和兒  
子、兒婦，都進入方舟，躲  
避洪水。

主

lord,  
master

主 = 火

lord = fire



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Exodus 3:2a (NKJV) And the Angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire from the midst of a bush...

Deuteronomy 4:24 (NKJV) For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous God.

【出 3:2a】 耶和华的使者从荆棘里火焰中向摩西显现...

【申 4:24】 因为耶和华你的神乃是烈火，是忌邪的神。



# 上帝

God =  
King in  
the  
highest

*Ancient books circa 1000 B.C.*

《尚书·召诰》写道：“皇天上帝改厥元子兹大国殷之命。”

《尚书·尧典》：“肆类于上帝，禋于六宗，望于山川，遍于群神。”

《尚书·舜典》也说：“肆类于上帝，湮于六宗，望于山川，遍于群神。”

*Temple of Heaven  
built 1420-1530 A.D.*





*"Heavenly Sovereign ShangDi." Inscription in the Imperial Vault (Temple of Heaven), and in the Hall of Prayer for Good Harvests.*

Exodus 6:3 (NKJV) I appeared to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, as God Almighty [*Hebrew: EI Shaddai (上帝?)*], but by My name LORD (YHWH) I was not known to them.

2 Samuel 22:14 (NKJV) "The LORD thundered from heaven, and the Most High uttered His voice.

【出埃及记 6:3】我从前向亚伯拉罕、以撒、雅各显现为全能的神 [*原文是: EI Shaddai (上帝?)*], 至于我名耶和华, 他们未曾知道。

【撒母耳后 22:14】耶和华从天上打雷, 至高者发出声音。

<p>義 (义) righteous -ness</p>	<p>羊 (lamb) + 我 (me) = 羊覆蓋我 (Lamb covering me)</p> <p>(說文解字 篆體字)</p>  <p>(金文)</p>  <p>用♥服务 共创价值 RenLu.net 甲曾文研究网</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 1:30 (NKJV) But of Him you are in <u>Christ Jesus, who</u> <u>became for us</u> wisdom from God—and <u>righteousness</u> and sanctification and redemption.</p> <p>【林前 1:30】 但你們得在 基督耶穌裡，是本乎神，神 又使他成為我們的智慧、公 義、聖潔、救贖。</p>
<p>祐 heavenly protection / blessing</p>	<p>神 (God radical) + 右 (right)</p>	<p>Psalms 110:1 (NKJV) The LORD said to my Lord, "<u>Sit at My right hand</u>, till I make Your enemies Your footstool."</p> <p>【詩篇 110:1】 耶和華對我 主說：「你坐在我的右邊， 等我使你仇敵做你的腳凳。」</p>

祥

propitious,  
blessings,  
auspicious

神 (God radical) +  
羊 (lamb)

(說文解字 篆體字)

(六書通 篆體字)

(金文)



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Hebrews 2:17 (NKJV)  
Therefore, in all things He  
had to be made like His  
brethren, that He might be  
a merciful and faithful  
High Priest in things  
pertaining to God, to  
make propitiation for the  
sins of the people.

【希伯來書 2:17】 所以，  
他凡事該與他的弟兄相同，  
為要在神的事上成為慈悲忠  
信的大祭司，為百姓的罪獻  
上挽回祭。

詳

(详)

detailed,  
compre-  
hensive

言 (spoken word radical)

+

羊 (lamb)

甲骨文密码

Deuteronomy 10:12-13 (NKJV) "And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways and to love Him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments of the LORD and His statutes which I command you today for your good?"

善

good,  
kind,  
virtuous

羊 (lamb) +

言 (spoken word) +

言 (spoken word)

【申命记 10:12-13】“以色列啊，现在耶和华你神向你所要的是什么呢？只要你敬畏耶和华你的神，遵行他的道，爱他，尽心、尽性侍奉他，遵守他的诫命、律例，就是我今日所吩咐你的，为要叫你得福。”

(金文)



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樣  
(样)  
example

木 (tree radical) +  
羊 (lamb) +  
永 (everlasting, eternal)



(六書通 篆體字)



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Romans 8:29 (NKJV) For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

【羅馬書 8:29】因為他預先所知道的人，就預先定下效法他兒子的模樣，使他兒子在許多弟兄中做長子...