

Names of Common Radicals

"Pangs" (radicals that occur on the side = pang)

<i>dānrénpáng</i> single person	亻 = 人
<i>shuāngrénpáng</i> double person	彳
<i>shízìpáng</i> food	饣 = 食
<i>jīnzìpáng</i> metal	钅 = 金
<i>jiǎosìpáng</i> silk	纟 = 糸
<i>yánzìpáng</i> speech	讠 = 言
<i>shùxīnpáng</i> vertical heart	忄 = 心
<i>tǐshǒupáng</i> hand	扌 = 手
<i>ěr páng</i> ear	阝 = 耳
<i>dānǚrpáng</i> single loop ear	卩
<i>fānquǎnpáng</i> animal	豸

<i>zú zì páng</i> foot	足 = 足
<i>huǒ zì páng</i> fire	火
<i>jiànzhīpáng</i> in "health"	廴
<i>zǒuzhīpáng</i> in "walking"	辶
<i>fǎnwénpáng</i> language (twisted)	攴
<i>shì zì páng</i> display	示 = 示
<i>yī zì páng</i> clothes	衣

Tous (radicals that occur on the top = tou).

<i>cǎozìtóu</i> grass	艹
<i>zhúzìtóu</i> bamboo	竹 = 竹
<i>wénzìtóu</i> language	讠
<i>bǎogài</i> top of the character bao	宀
<i>bìngzìtóu</i> sick	疒
<i>bāzìtóu</i> eight written on the top	八
<i>rénzìtóu</i> = person written on top	人

Di's (radicals that occur on the bottom).

<i>xīnzìdǐ</i> heart	小 = 心
<i>sìdiǎnhuǒ</i> four dots fire	灬 = 火
<i>bāzìdǐ</i> eight on the bottom	八

Names of Common Radicals

Radicals with self-describing names.

<i>liǎngdiǎnshuǐ</i> two dots water	冫
<i>sāndiǎnshuǐ</i> three dots water	氵 = 水
<i>lìdāo</i> vertical knife	刂 = 刀

Some common radicals that are characters

- 1 大、小、老、门、音
- 2 日、月、山、水、木、风、雨
- 3 金、火、贝、石、田、气
- 4 马、犬、牛、龙、鸟、虫、
- 5 羊、鱼、豸、毛、豕
- 6 白、青、黑、又、此、自
- 7 口、目、耳、舌、
- 8 身、手、心、皮、足
- 9 子、女、王、父、母
- 10 禾、竹、米、豆
- 11 巾、衣、车、舟
- 12 见、欠、用、立、走

- 1 [dà] big, [xiǎo], small, [lǎo] old, [mén] door, [yīn] sound
- 2 [rì] sun, [yuè] moon, [shān] mountain, [shuǐ] water, [mù] tree/wood, [fēng] wind, [yǔ] rain
- 3 [jīn] gold/metal, [huǒ], fire, [bèi] shell, [shí] stone/rock, [tián] field, [qì] vapor
- 4 [mǎ] horse, [quǎn] canine, [niú] cow, [lóng] dragon, [niǎo] bird, [chóng] insect
- 5 [yáng] sheep, [yú] fish, [quǎnpáng] animal radical, [máo] hair/fur, pig (archaic)
- 6 [bái] white, [qīng] green/blue, [hēi] black [yòu] again, [cǐ] this, [zì] from
- 7 [kǒu] mouth, [mù] eye, [ěr] ear, [shé] tongue
- 8 [shēn] body, [shǒu] hand, [xīn] heart, [pí] skin, [zú] foot

Names of Common Radicals

- 9 [zi] son, [nǚ] female, [Wáng] king, [mǔ] mother, [fù] father
10 [hé] grain, [zhú] bamboo, [mǐ] uncooked rice, [dòu] bean
11 [jīn] cloth/napkin, [yī] clothes, [chē] car/vehicle, [zhōu] boat
12 [jiàn] see, [qiàn] owe, [yòng] use, [lì] stand, [zǒu] walk/go

• *To see a fuller description of radicals, see the section on radicals later in the book.*

Names of some basic strokes

丶 一 | 丿 ㇇

[diǎn] dot, [héng] horizontal, [shù] vertical, [piě] left falling, [nà] right falling

Knowing the names of strokes can help you to remember simple sequences. For example the characters 十 and 八 can be described as:

十 *yi heng yi shu - a horizontal then a vertical*
八 *yi pie yi na - a left falling then a right falling*

The last description even has an idiom:

“Wo de bazi hai meiyou yi pie:” 我的八字还没有一丿

Which means "I have not done squat." (my character eight is not even started).

Note 丿 and ㇇ are only strokes and not characters. The actual characters for these two strokes are:

丿 = 瞥 pīe

and

㇇ = 捺 nà

Names of Common Radicals

Beyond the basic strokes above, one can get carried away with stroke names, as there are quite a few more. The remaining stroke names are all variations of the above, adding prefixes such as "hook, curve, etc." Here are four useful stroke names:

[hénggōu] horizontal with hook as in 子

[shùgōu] vertical with hook as in 小

[tí] left rising as in 扌

[wāngōu] as in 攵