











bǐ huà

笔画

Strokes

Usually a Chinese character is formed by radicals (parts), and radicals are formed by strokes. The most basic strokes are shown below:

Name (pinyin, character)	stroke	Translation of Chinese name	Additional description
<i>Diǎn</i> , 点		"Dot"	Tiny dash, speck
<i>Héng</i> , 横		"Horizontal"	Rightward stroke
<i>Shù</i> , 竖		"Vertical"	Downward stroke
<i>Tí</i> , 提		"Rise"	Flick up and rightwards
<i>Nà</i> , 捺		"Press down"	Falling rightwards (fattening at the bottom)
<i>Piě</i> , 撇		"Throw away"	Falling leftwards (with slight curve)

<i>Gōu</i> , 钩		"Hook"	Appended to other strokes, suddenly going down or going left only.
<i>Wān</i> , 弯		"Bend"	A tapering thinning curve, usually concave left (convex outward right).
<i>Xié</i> , 斜		"Slant"	Curved line, usually concave right (convex outward left).
<i>Zhé</i> , 折		"Break"	Indicates change in stroke direction, usually 90° turn, going down or going right only.

Now practice writing the strokes above. You may start learning characters for number 1-10 in the next section once you are familiar with them.