

闪 Shǎn

Dictionary Usage

Using the dictionary is not difficult, but it can be a cumbersome task. Characters are made up out of radicals, and can therefore be looked up by radical.

Sometimes it is not easy though to find out which radical is the main radical, and which is there for classification or pronunciation. It can also occur that a character is a radical by itself. Some characters, like 我 can be found with several radicals (see 4 and 85).

Looking up a word, in the dictionary we use, the Oxford University dictionary, is not difficult if you know the pinyin pronunciation. Once you know that, you can lookup the character alphabetically. The radical index can be used to find the proper character, which then shows you to its pinyin pronunciation.