Etymological Dictionary of Han/Chinese Characters

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Supplement One: Mandarin (Standard Chinese) Redaction

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Preface Glyph Interpretations and Character Meanings

The contents are a redaction of the Etymological Dictionary of Han/Chinese Characters. The entries explain the connections between glyph and original meanings in Old Chinese and account for the present-day meanings of the characters in Mandarin (Standard Chinese). Sections I-IV of the introductory material below are reproduced from the Etymological Dictionary of Han/Chinese Characters in slightly edited form.

I The Types of Han/Chinese Characters

The traditional 六書 classification system identifies four types of characters. (Two other categories concern usage rather than composition.) The four types are:

Pictographs (象形字)

Ideographs (指事字)

Semantic compounds (會意字)

Phonetic compounds (形聲字)

However, the corpus of characters is more accurately reflected by the following classification scheme.

1) Single-element characters

2) Dual-element characters

3) Irregular characters

Single-element characters are nearly all depictions of objects. A handful (ex: 上 下 帝) are depictions of abstract concepts. Approximately 5% of the EDHCC corpus consists of the single-element type.

Dual-element characters are comprised of a phonosemantic element and a semantic element (for shorthand, the phonosemantic and the semantic). Both elements bear on the character's meaning, with the phonosemantic also suggesting the character's pronunciation. For EDHCC classification purposes, this category also includes characters that appear to be irregular but which analysis reveals originated as regular dual-element characters (see the example of 設 below). Regular dual-element characters, in combination with irregular characters that originated as such, account for approximately 94% of the EDHCC corpus.

Truly irregular characters have multiple elements and do not follow the normative phonosemantic + semantic pattern of dual-element characters. Fewer than 1% of the EDHCC corpus consists of this type.

Section Notes

・Any given element may function as a phonosemantic or a semantic. There are over one hundred characters in common use in which 土 is the semantic, but in characters such as 里 塞 吐 社 and 肚, 土 is the phonosemantic.

・The (truly) irregular characters appear to have been devised as substitutes for regular dual-element characters, in the manner that 体 (7 strokes) came to replace 體 (23 strokes). The upside of character substitution is that the amount of labor required to express a term in writing is reduced. The drawback is that the pronunciations of substitute characters are anomalous. For example, the Old Chinese pronunciation of 位 is unlike 立, that of 休 is unlike 木, and neither is like 亻/人.

Aside from the formation pattern 亻/人 + (Element 2), substitute characters were also created by doubling (棗 弱 竝 兟 戔 芻 多 𢀖), tripling (畾 磊 惢 品 晶 劦) or even quadrupling (靐 器) elements. In most cases it is not possible to identify the characters that were replaced, but 淼, which triples 水 to create a variant form of 渺, is suggestive of one of the processes at work.

The limited number of irregular characters in the corpus is likely the result of cost/benefit analysis. Although the pronunciations of 400-500 single-element characters can be memorized in a matter of months, when thousands of compound characters with anomalous pronunciations are added to the mix, the memorization period cannot help but extend into years. Another consideration is the profound correlation between sounds and meanings in Old Chinese; the ancient literati were no doubt wary of changes weakening the correlation between the two. Ultimately, given a choice of conveying terms with fewer strokes, or of retaining the intuitiveness of the pronunciations of the thousands of dual-element characters, the ancient Han chose the latter, though a small percentage of irregular characters remained in the corpus.

For Further Reading

・The article "The Phantom Category of Chinese Characters" details the various processes according to which the dual-element characters that acquired graphic irregularities came into existence.

・For the correlation between sounds and meanings in Old Chinese, see the articles "Kanji Etymology and the ABC Etymological Dictionary of Old Chinese" and "Iconicity of Chinese Characters."

II Abbreviated Forms

It is common for abbreviated forms to appear in dual-element characters. Sometimes the abbreviation is evident even in the modern versions of the characters, as when the lower four strokes of 鳥 disappear in 梟 島 and 裊 or the bottom portion of 高 drops in 亭 臺 and 豪. This phenomenon may also be discerned with 金 in 釜, 在 in 存, 頁 in 戛, 弟 in 第, 壹 in 壺, 監 in 臨 and so on.

In some cases the abbreviation is only revealed by inspecting historical forms of the characters, which indicate the presence of 侖 in 典, 鼎 in 貞, 丞 in 承, 史 in 唐 , 艸 in 生, and both 昜 and 曰 in 昌, among other examples.

The most frequent use of abbreviated forms is illustrated by the characters 桴 艀 and 蜉. All three are written with the element 孚, which in derivative characters typically lends the influence "envelop/enclose," as in 俘 浮 莩 郛 殍 and 孵. In 桴 艀 and 蜉, however, the 孚 element lends the influence "float," which is via 浮. In other words, with respect to 桴 艀 and 蜉, 孚 functions as an abbreviated form of 浮.

Many other examples of this type of abbreviation may be offered. Here are a dozen:

Character	Apparent Element	Actual Element Abbreviated
襤	監	濫
賚	來	勑
箠	垂	捶
癜	殿	澱
裋	豆	豎
垤	至	室
顫	亶	邅
忒	弋	代
芷	止	沚
虘	且	狙
魦	少	沙

A handful of independent characters were devised as abbreviated forms of entire characters, three examples being 痒 (originating in 癢), 隻 (originating in 雙), and 飧 (originating in 餐).

III Borrowed meanings (Sound loans)

Many characters have acquired meanings they did not originally bear, hence the designation "borrowed meanings" (假借). As suggested by the alternate designation "sound loans," the practice was for the term conveyed by the character acquiring the borrowed meaning to be a homonym of the term conveyed by the character from which the meaning was borrowed.

The most common type of borrowing involves characters sharing an identical element. The four-stroke character 屯 originally indicated a swelling bud, but came to bear the meanings "camp" or "barracks," borrowed from the thirteen-stroke 頓. Likewise, permitting 御 to convey the meaning "defend" (borrowed from 禦) reduces the stroke count by five.

Note that although this type of borrowing most often resulted in characters conveying meanings belonging to characters written with a greater number of strokes, the reverse is sometimes the case. Compare 騙 vis-à-vis 諞 and 羞 vis-à-vis 忸.

Borrowing was also encouraged by cultural advances. The need for written expressions of abstractions such as the cardinal points and the four seasons arose long after the invention of the earliest set of characters. Given a choice of creating new characters or adapting existing ones to the purpose, the Han chose the latter method (originally, 北 南 東 and 西 had nothing to do with directions, nor 春 夏 秋 and 冬 with the seasons).

IV Factors Complicating Interpretations of Han/Chinese Characters

Seldom can meanings of a dual-element character be readily intuited from its constituent elements. As we have seen, two complicating factors are the use of abbreviated forms and the accretion of borrowed meanings. Abbreviated forms misdirect our search for conceptual relations, while borrowed meanings make nonsense of the semantic chain linking a term's original sense and its acquired meaning(s).

A third complicating factor is that the conceptual or semantic influence exerted by a given phonosemantic is not necessarily the same in all its derivative characters. Here are some examples of how this tendency manifests itself.

Character/Original Sense	Influence One	Influence Two
古 expectorate old, dried out (= hard) food	old 估 姑 詁	hard; dried out 苦 固 枯
干 thick bar pressed against a combatant	thick bar 肝 軒 杆	press against 刊 汗 旱
義 use a bladed weapon in a ceremonial sacrifice	blade-like 嶬 礒 蟻	ceremony 儀 檥 議
果 round fruit	round 彙 踝 裹	fruit 菓 祼 夥
申 bolt of lightning stretching from sky to earth	bolt of lightning 坤 神 電	stretch 伸 抻 紳

Some phonosemantics exert several distinct influences in derivative characters.

Character/Original Sense	Influence One	Influence Two	Influence Three

氐 press the low point or foundation of an object	press 抵 牴 觝	low 坻 彽 祗	foundation 底 柢 砥
壽 aged person following a long, curved ridge	ridge 壔 疇	long and curved 幬 濤 鑄	long span 儔 禱 躊
單 simple weapon used with a fanning motion	simple → single 禪/禅 襌 觶	weapon 彈/弹 戰/戦 樿	fanning motion 憚 蟬 驒
襄 insert seized goods in soft/supple sacks	insert 曩 鑲	supple/soft 壤/壤 孃/嬢 穰	seize; sack 攘 囊

A fourth complicating factor is of course changes in the forms of the characters. For example, it makes no sense to interpret 設 as 言 words + 殳 action indicator, as the 言 element was originally a chisel and 殳 originally a hand + a bar. 設 is an example of a character that appears to be irregular but originated as a regular dual-element character.

A fifth and numerically minor complication is presented by characters with primary or secondary meanings that derive from reinterpretation. For example, 櫓 originally indicated a scull, or an oar, in the sense of a wooden object drawn up out of the water and moved from one side to the other to propel a vessel. However, 櫓 later acquired the additional meanings "watchtower" and "turret," a result of reinterpreting the "drawn upward" aspect of the character as indicating a high wooden construction. Another example of reinterpretation involves 菹, which combines 苴 (plant matter) and 氵/水 water, originally indicating vegetation at water's edge. Later, 氵/水 was understood as brine in which vegetation is pickled, and thus the additional meaning "pickled vegetables." Other reinterpreted characters include 爬 擘 膀 坏 輊 舳 艫 and 甬.

V Ancient and Modern Pronunciations

The charts below contain the modern and reconstructed Old Chinese pronunciations of productive characters. The selection has been chosen at random.

In its broadest definition, Old Chinese indicates the Han language as used for anywhere between 1000 and 1500 years with a starting point pegged at roughly 3200 years ago. (Fundamental terms such as those conveyed by single-element characters are almost certainly still older.)

The Old Chinese pronunciations reconstructed by scholars treat sounds of a much more restricted time frame, beginning about 3000 years ago and ending several centuries later. The following sample terms use those of, in alphabetical order, 1) William Baxter and Laurent Sagart, 2) Axel Schuessler, 3) Sergei Starostin and 4) 郑张尚芳 (Zhengzhang Shangfang). Each set has achieved academic recognition, but few characters are reconstructed identically by all four sources.

	力 lì	兩 liǎng	無 wú	米 mǐ	目 mù	木 mù
B/S	*k.rək	*p.raŋʔ	*ma,*mo	*(C.)mˢ[e]jʔ	*C.m(r)[u]k	*C.mˢok
Sch	*ljək	*ljaŋ	*mju	*miei	*mjuk	*muk
St	*rək	*rhaŋʔ	*ma	*mhījʔ	*muk	*mhōk
Zh	/*rɯg/	/*raŋʔ/,	/*ma/	/*mi:ʔ/	/*mug/	/*mo:g/

		/*raŋs/				

	女 nǚ	日 rì	入 rù	畢 bì	必 bì	自 zì
B/S	*nraʔ	*C.nik	*n[u]p	*pi[t]	*pi[t]	*s.[b]i[t]-s
Sch	*ṇjwo	*ńźjet	*ńźjəp	*pjiet	*pjiet	*dzi
St	*nraʔ	*nit	*nəp *nāp *nūps	*pit	*pit	*ʒ_ijs (~ʒ́_-,-ts)
Zh	/*nas/	/*njig/	/*njub/	/*pid/	/*plig/	/*ɦljids/

	井 jǐng	千 qiān	寸 cùn	予 yǔ	石 shí	易 yì
B/S	*C.tseŋʔ	*s.n̥ˤi[ŋ]	/*[tsʰ]ˤu[n]-s	*laʔ	*dAk	*lek-s, *lek
Sch	*tsjäŋ	*tsʰien	*tsʰuən	*jiwo	*źjäk	*jie
St	*ceŋʔ (~ć-)	*chīn	*chūns	*laʔ	*diak	*leks *lek
Zh	/*skeŋʔ/	/*sn̥ʰi:n/	/*sʰu:ns/	/*laʔ/	/*djag/	/*le:gs/, /*leg/

	王 wáng; wàng	民 mín	長 zhǎng; cháng	中 zhōng; zhòng	炎 yán	兼 jiān
B/S	*ɢʷaŋ	*mi[ŋ]	*Cə-[N]-traŋ; *traŋʔ	*truŋ	*[ɢ]ʷ(r)am	*[k]ˤem
Sch	*jwaŋ	*mjien	*ḍjaŋ	*ʈjuŋ	*jäm	*kiem
St	*whaŋ	*min	*draŋ	*truŋ	*wam	*kēm(s)
Zh	/*ɢʷaŋ/	/*min/	/*daŋ/	/*tuŋ/	/*ɦlam/	/*ke:m/, /*ke:ms/

	林 lín	心 xīn	夾 jiā	立 lì	十 shí	多 duō
B/S	*[r]əm	*səm	*kˤ<r>ep	*k.rəp	*t.[g]əp	*[t.l]ˤaj
Sch	*ljəm	*sjəm	*kăp	*ljəp	*źjəp	*tâ
St	*rəm *srəm	*səm	*krēp	*rəp	*g_ip	*tāj
Zh	/*g·rɯm/	/*slɯm/	/*kre:b/	/*rɯb/	/*ɡjub/	/*ʔl'a:l/

	皮 pí	差 chā; chà	妻 qī	不 bù	攸 yōu	口 kǒu
B/S	*m-[p](r)aj	*tsʰraj; *[tsʰ]raj	*[tsʰ]ˤəj	*pə	*liw	*kʰˤ(r)oʔ
Sch	*bje	*tʂʰai; *tʂʰăi	*tʂʰiei	*pjəu	*jiəu	*kʰəu
St	*bhaj	*chrāj	*chāj	*pə, *pəʔ	*l_u (~-iw)	*khōʔ

Zh	/*bral/	/*sʰra:ls/, /*sʰre:l/	/*sʰi:ls/	/*pɯ/, /*pɯʔ/, /*pɯˈ/	/*lɯw/	/*kʰo:ʔ/

	婁 lóu	取 qǔ	雨 yǔ	羽 yǔ	卵 luǎn	甫 fǔ
B/S	*[r]o	*tsʰˤoʔ, *tsʰoʔ, *[ts]ʰoʔ-s	*C.ɢʷ(r)aʔ	*[ɢ]ʷ(r)aʔ	*k.rˤorʔ (dialect: *-r > *-j); *k.rˤorʔ	*p(r)aʔ, *praʔ
Sch	*ləu	*tsʰju	*ju	*ju	*luân	*pju
St	*r_oʔ	*ćhoʔ	*whaʔ	*w_(r)aʔ	*rhō-nʔ	*paʔ
Zh	/*ɡ·ro:/, /*ɡ·ro/	/*sʰlo:ʔ/, /*sʰloʔ/	/*ɢʷaʔ/	/*ɢʷaʔ/, /*ɢʷas/	/*ɡ·ro:lʔ/, /*ɡ·ro:nʔ/	/*paʔ/

As we see, the modern pronunciations of the characters do not often resemble the Old Chinese pronunciations. This is primarily on account of shifting or dropping of the initial and final consonants in Old Chinese.

Shift in initial consonant: 千 取 兼 夾 妻

Dropped initial consonant: 予 易 王 炎 攸 雨 羽 無

Shift in final consonant: 林 心
Dropped final consonant: All excluding terms ending in -n or -ng (= ŋ)

Section Note

・Compared with the modern pronunciations in Chinese, the conservative (or fossilized) Sino-Japanese pronunciations generally preserve the Old Chinese consonants:

Retention of initial consonant: 千 SEN 取 SHU 兼 KEN 夾 KYŌ 妻 SAI

Retention of final consonant (with accreted vowel): 力 RYOKU 目 MOKU 木 MOKU; BOKU 日 NICHI; JITSU 畢 HITSU 必 HITSU 石 SEKI 易 EKI

Sources for Old Chinese reconstructions

Axel Schuessler, ABC Etymological Dictionary of Old Chinese, University of Hawai'i Press, 2007

Baxter/Sagart: Baxter-Sagart Old Chinese reconstruction, version 1.1 (20 September 2014) http://ocbaxtersagart.lsait.lsa.umich.edu/BaxterSagartOCbyGSR2014-09-20.pdf

Starostin: Tower of Babel Sino-Tibetan database http://starling.rinet.ru/

郑张尚芳: (As presented at) https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/

Data for online sources retrieved 3-5 September 2016

VI Ancient and Modern Meanings

As noted above, terms conveyed by many of the single-element characters may be regarded as dating from earlier than 3200 years ago. How much earlier we have no way of knowing.

With relatively few exceptions, the single-element characters remaining in the modern corpus continue to convey the same meanings they have held for thousands of years.

In contrast, many of the dual-element characters have undergone notable semantic changes. The most notable type of change, of course, involves the acquisition of borrowed meanings, as described above in Section III.

A tendency less dramatic but equally demanding of attention involves nuances important in Old Chinese terms being often flattened out into broader applications in the modern language. Two examples will illustrate the point.

鞋

圭 cone-shaped

革 leather

shoe(s); footwear

cone-shaped, pointy footwear

湖

胡 rough, covering substance

氵/水 water

lake

silted lake; compare 沽. Now a lake in the general sense of the word.

In Old Chinese, 鞋 indicated footwear of a specific shape, while 湖 indicated a lake with a particular quality. In the modern language, these limited senses have vanished, with the two characters now referring to footwear and lakes in general.

VII Data Fields and Contents of the Entries

The entries are highly streamlined, the data fields consisting of

Line 1	Character
Line 2	Phonosemantic element
Line 3	Semantic element
Line 4	Present-day meanings
Line 5	Original meaning of term in Old Chinese/Explanation

The order of the first 25% of the entries follows that of the lineage charts presented in Supplement Two of the EDHCC. Productive characters come first, and are followed by their derivatives. The bulk of the non-charted entries follow the same presentation pattern. Toward the end of the document come characters that are non-productive, or only minimally so, with the final entries consisting of characters bearing terms originating in onomatopoeia/mimesis or in non-Han languages.

The entries for single-element characters skip lines 2 and 3, which are inapplicable to these characters.

Compound characters of irregular formation have no phonosemantic element, and may also lack a semantic one.

For characters in which the combination of elements clearly points to the OC meanings, and when those meanings are retained in the modern language, line 5 is skipped. Example:

晴

青 clean/pure

日 sun/day

clear day/weather

When the conceptual or semantic link between elements and OC meaning(s) is not intuitive, explanations are appended. Two examples:

補

甫 spread

衤/衣 clothing

mend; make up for; compensate (for)

spread a piece of material over a rip/hole to supplement and mend a garment

碧

珀 whitish yellow jewel

石 stone

jasper; blue; green

yellow or brown variety of jasper. "Blue" and "green" are extended meanings, yellow jasper being likened to yellow sapphire and the latter then associated with blue sapphire, leading on to green.

Section Notes

・In Section VI, the entries for 鞋 and 湖 were introduced as examples where the modern meanings have lost specific nuances borne by the Old Chinese terms attached to the characters. The description of 湖 states, "Now a lake in the general sense of the word." In contrast, the description for 鞋 does not state "Now footwear in the general sense of the word." The reason for the disparity in treatment is that inserting "Now (xxx) in the general sense of the word" in every one of the hundreds of entries in which the wording is applicable would make the text redundant and tiresome to read. Instead, an occasional reminder in the entries for characters in common usage has been deemed sufficient. Readers in doubt as to the scope of a term in the modern language may confirm their understanding by consulting one of the many readily available online references sources.

•Entries corresponding to charts sometimes contain additional examples not presented on the charts.

• Meanings that owe to sound loans/borrowing are noted in red. When there is a likely source for the borrowing, it is denoted by ←. Example:

業

thicket (← 丵)

depiction of a rough slave/servant spreading his arms in falling prostrate

When the source of the borrowing is uncertain, the meanings are simply noted in red. Example:

雖

隹 exert downward pressure

obsolete element = 虫 insect/creature + a (large) head

even if; although; this

lizard of a squashed appearance

This entry should be taken to mean that in Old Chinese the term conveyed by 雖 indicated a lizard of a squashed appearance, but that subsequently the character was chosen to convey a homonymic term with completely different meanings. (It is also possible for a single character to acquire borrowed meanings from more than a single source.) Some characters bear both original meanings and borrowed ones. Two examples:

竄

abbreviated form of 穿 pierce a hole

鼠 rat/mouse

flee; run off/away; expel; banish; rewrite; revise; edit

rat/mouse piercing a hole and fleeing

銷

肖 resemble in miniature

金 metal

melt; wear down/out; cancel; sell

melt a lump of metal

• In some cases we do not have enough information to determine with confidence whether acquired meanings greatly dissimilar to the original sense of a term owe to borrowing, to extensions of the original sense, or to reinterpretation of the constituent elements.

As noted in the preceding section, the entries are highly streamlined. This is because all the information a student of the Han/Chinese characters requires is accessible online and at no charge at Wiktionary, with the notable exception of glyph interpretation/etymology. There is no point in stuffing the present document with reproductions of the relevant ancient forms, pronunciation charts for Old and Middle Chinese, cross-referencing of variant forms and derivative characters etc. when this information (and still more) is already freely available.

Returning to the notable exception, the etymological data in Wiktionary's Han/Chinese character entries is remarkably poor in both quality and quantity. The information on offer also tends to differ from entry to entry. A few random examples (retrieved 18.9.2016):

・The contents of the field for 口 entitled "Etymology" are five ancient forms of the character accompanied by the statement "Pictogram (象形) – resembles an open mouth."

・竹 is formatted the same as 口, but here the field is named "Glyph origin."

・非 has a "Glyph origin" field with one historical example and a separate "Etymology"field containing the statement, "非 (OC *pɯj) is the fusion of the negation particle 不 (OC *pɯ, *pɯʔ, *pɯ', “not”) and the copula 惟 (OC *ɢʷi, “to be”), attested in oracle bone inscriptions."

・川 contains neither an etymology field nor a glyph origin field.

川 notwithstanding, most single-element characters have satisfactory information about ancient forms and explanations of origin. As we have seen, however, single-element characters account for only about 5% of the 6,000 or so characters in most common use. Regrettably, as a resource for explanations of why dual-element characters mean what they do, Wiktionary is seriously deficient.

The deficiency is clearly apparent when we examine Wiktionary's entries for a sample of the productive characters in the charts in Section V and their derivatives. Four examples should suffice.

✓ = presence of explanation correlating a character's form to its meaning(s)
× = absence of explanation correlating a character's form to its meaning(s)

夾	狹	頰	俠	峽	挾	浹	莢	陜	筴	鋏
✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

兼	嗛	嫌	廉	慊	簾	謙	賺
✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×

中	仲	忡	沖	忠	盅	衷
✓	✓	×	×	×	×	×

易	賜	剔	惕	裼	蜴	錫
×	✓*	×	×	×	×	×

Note: None of the explanations are cited to their source

*賜 reads, "Phono-semantic compound (形聲, OC *sle:gs): semantic 貝 (“shell, money”) + phonetic 易 (OC *le:gs, *leg)." This does not explain why 賜 bears the meanings "bestow; grant; give; deign to."

In summary, the vast majority of Wiktionary's entries devoted to Han/Chinese characters contain no explanation of why the characters bear the meanings attached to them.

Here is where the information provided in this document comes into play. The interpretive material and lineage charts in the two supplements to EDHCC provide the student of Chinese the remaining tools required to build and consolidate his or her knowledge of the Han/Chinese characters, tools unavailable at Wiktionary or anywhere else.

IX Disclaimer

All characters display correctly in the software used to create the dictionary. The author regrets but assumes no responsibility for character corruption stemming from conversion to PDF or other formats. The image below presents a list of elements/characters liable to become corrupt in conversion of format. The characters to the right of the arrow indicate the entries in which the problematic elements/characters appear.

莫→莫 艱 勤 漢 艱 難 僅 菫 槿 瑾 謹 饉 歎 嘆
盈→盈 媼 慍 溫 氳 熅 瘟 褞 縕 轀 醞 韞
癸→癸 塋 榮 熒 瑩 縈 螢 營 鶯 勞
賣→賣 瀆 櫝 牘 竇 續 讀 贖
戈→戈 哉 栽 裁 載 截 鐵
尖→尖 卷 券 拳 眷 豢
與→與 譽 學 覺
云→育 充 充 棄
齒→齒 惱 腦 瑙
匠→匠 姬 頤 配
林→麻 痲 散
悳→悳 德 聽
艮→赧 服 報
辰→辰 派 脈
自→追 歸
殷→廏
鋈→劉

The Etymological Interpretations

丨
depiction of a line, originally curved, that penetrates from top to bottom. 丨 is effectively obsolete.

串
丨 penetrate from top to bottom
remnant element = pair of circular objects
skewer; string together; conspire
pierce round objects, which adhere closely in being strung together

患
串 pierce
心 heart/emotions
suffer; be troubled; worry
suffering likened to a heart that is figuratively pierced

夬
separate
variant form of 尹 harmonious circle indicating "scoop out a hole." "Separate" is in the sense of separating contents in scooping a portion.

快
夬 scoop out
忄/心 heart/emotions
pleasant; gratifying
heart with all the unpleasantness scooped out of it

抉
夬 scoop out
扌/手 hand/action indicator
gouge (out); pick (out)
scoop/gouge/hollow out, with 扌/手 appended for emphasis or clarity

決
夬 scoop out
氵/水 water
decide; determine; settle
scoop out earth in breaching a dam. Present-day meanings liken cutting through to a decision to cutting an opening, an image found in other characters such as 判, 斷, 裁 and 折.

玦
夬 scoop out
王/玉 jewel
semi-circular jewel
jewel in the shape of a reverse C, for attaching to a waistband

袂
夬 scoop out
衤/衣 clothing
sleeve
sleeve likened to an opening scooped into clothing

缺
夬 scoop out
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
lack(ing)
hole scooped into earthenware to create a container

觖
夬 scoop out
角 horn
damaged horn; dissatisfied
"damaged horn" in the sense of one chipped/nicked, creating a hole. "Dissatisfied" is in the sense of a damaged, unsatisfactory condition.

鴃
夬 scoop out

鳥 bird
shrike
shrike possessing a scoop-shaped bill

訣
夬 separate
言 words
part (v.); take leave of; bid farewell; secret (method)
words offered at a parting

引
丨 penetrate from top to bottom
弓 bow
draw (out); pull;stretch; attract
draw/pull back on a bowstring. "Attract" in the sense of drawing attention.

矧
引 draw/pull
矢 arrow
much/still more
hand drawing back an arrow. "Much/still more" is in the sense of ever-increasing tension.

蚓
引 draw/pull
虫 insect/creature
earthworm
insect that pulls/draws itself along. "Earthworm" is more often conveyed by the compound 蚯蚓.

靷
引 draw/pull
革 leather
leather cord(s)
leather cords by which a draft animal pulls a vehicle

尹
丨 penetrate from top to bottom
又 hand/action indicator
oversee; govern; overseer
ruler who brings heaven (top) and earth (bottom) into harmony

匀
尹 harmonious circle
二 align
uniform; equal; even; (place in) balance
objects arranged in a neat circle

均
匀 uniform
土 earth
even; equal
level earth to uniform height

鈞
匀 uniform
金 metal
unit of weight
piece(s) of metal of uniform weight

筠
均 even/equal
竹 bamboo
bamboo skin; bamboo
smooth, even-surfaced skin of bamboo

伊
尹 ruler who brings heaven and earth into harmony
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
he; she; it; this; that

bring into harmony

旬
abbreviated form of 勻 arrange in a circle
日 sun/day
cycle of ten days

恂
旬 cycle/circle
忄/心 heart/emotions
attentive; sincere; careful
cycle/circle regarded in terms of a perfect circle, extending to the notion of perfect attentiveness, sincerity etc.

洵
旬 cycle/circle
氵/水 water
truly
whirlpool. For "truly," compare 恂.

徇
旬 cycle/circle
彳 movement
spread all over; follow
go about (in a wide circle)

殉
旬 cycle/circle
歹 severed bone/death
lay down one's life; die for a cause
subordinates who have followed their lord into death, buried in a circle around him

眴
旬 cycle/circle
目 eye

be dazzled
take a quick glance all about

筍
旬 cycle/circle
竹 bamboo
bamboo shoot
circular clump of bamboo shoots; compare 菎

絢
旬 cycle/circle
糸 thread
figured/variegated (pattern); adorn
circular, woven pattern

詢
旬 cycle/circle
言 words
inquire; consult
make rounds in inquiring/consulting

昆
abbreviated form of 旬 cycle/circle
比 line up
descendant(s); elder brother
a figurative or literal circle (of people). "Elder brother" is an associated meaning.

混
昆 circular group
氵/水 water
mix; blend; mingle
assemble and mix in a round container a variety of soluble objects

菎
昆 circular group

艹 grass/plant
jade (← 琨); **bamboo**
variety of herb or aromatic grass that grows in clumps; compare 筍

棍
昆 circular group
木 tree/wood
club; cudgel; (walking) stick
clubs wielded by a gang of ruffians

焜
昆 circular group
火 fire
shine
shining circle of fire

琨
昆 circular group
王/玉 jewel
beautiful jewel; jade
circular cluster of beautiful jewels

餛
昆 circular group
食 food/eating
balls of steamed grain
balls of a particular type of food

鯤
昆 circular group
魚 fish
fish eggs; legendary fish of giant proportions
round fish eggs, or a group of fry

君

尹 ruler who brings heaven and earth into harmony
口 mouth
ruler; lord
ruler whose commands create a harmonious group. The meaning "you" originally was with respect to social superiors.

郡
君 group
邑/阝 village/settlement
division of an administrative unit; district; county
administrative group

焄
君 group
灬/火 fire
rising flames/fumes; aroma
aroma given off by smoke rising from sacrificial animals arranged for burning in a circle

窘
君 group
穴 hole
be in trouble; be at a loss
group of people falling into a hole

裙
君 group
衤/衣 clothing
skirt
skirt with a harmonious arrangement of layers, pleats, decorations etc.

群
君 group
羊 sheep
flock; swarm; group; crowd

flock of sheep

孰
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
transformed element = connect objects
who; which; in any case
build an enclosing wall connecting the opposite ends of an enclosure. The element appearing as 享 (which is not the independent character 享) originally combined an abbreviated form of 群 (swarm) along with a depiction of a wall, the combination of elements suggesting "swarm within an enclosure." The element resembling 丸 is an abbreviated form of 巩, an obsolete character suggesting the connection of objects.

塾
孰 enclosure
土 earth
private school; village school
school operating in an enclosed earthen structure

熟
孰 enclosure
灬/火 fire
mature; ripen
stir meat and other ingredients in a cooking vessel, cooking them well

淳
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
氵/水 water
sincere; pure; simple
swarming waters. "Sincere" is in the sense of emotional depth; compare 惇. "Pure" is via the image of pure, swarming waters. "Simple" is by extension from pure, in the sense of unmixed (compare 醇).

焞
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
火 fire

boil
boil a swarm of objects in a pot over a fire

諄
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
言 words
patience; courtesy
swarm of words offered patiently in instructing

醇
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
酉 alcohol container
rich alcohol/wine; pure; unmixed
alcohol swarming with fermenting agents. "Pure" is in the sense of unadulterated alcohol. Unmixed is by extension from pure; compare 淳.

鶉
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
鳥 bird
quail
swarm of quails within an enclosure

惇
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
忄/心 heart/emotions
considerate; sincere
inclusive emotions swarming over the breast

敦
transformed element = swarm within an enclosure
攵 action indicator
industrious; kindly
swarm of people at work within an enclosure

憝

敦 swarm
心 heart/emotions
hate
heart swarming with hatred; compare 譈

暾
敦 swarm
日 sun/day
sunrise
sunlight swarming over the earth with the rising of the sun

燉
敦 swarm
火 fire
boil; stew
pieces of food swarming a pot in being boiled

譈
敦 swarm
言 words
hate
swarming words of hatred; compare 憝

鐓
敦 swarm
金 metal
ferrule
object clamped over a swarm of tiny/thin objects

儿
person; human figure
variant form of 人

見
儿 person

目 eye
see; appear; viewpoint
sight fixed on an object

睍
見 fix sight on
目 eye
goggle eyes; stare (in fear)
目 appended for emphasis/clarification

看
abbreviated form of 見 fix sight on
手 hand
see; watch; observe; look after
hand affixed above the eye to shade it and improve focus. Alternately, if 扌/手 is interpreted in its usual sense of hand/action indicator, its function may simply be for emphasis/clarification.

莧
見 fix sight on
艹 grass/plant
amaranth
species of amaranthus with bright yellow flowers (that capture one's attention) and edible leaves

梘
見 fix upon
木 tree/wood
(wooden) plug; coffin cover; conduit (← 筧)

煩
transformed element (originally 見 fix upon)
火 fire
trouble; worry; vexation
figurative fire fixed on the head

硯
見 fix upon
石 stone
inkstone
inkstone to which ink is affixed

筧
見 fix upon
竹 bamboo
water pipe; conduit
bamboo/wooden water pipe affixed in place

蜆
見 fix upon
虫 insect/creature
(particular variety of) **fresh-water clam**
creature firmly affixed to its shell

現
見 appear
王/玉 jewel
appear; emerge; actual; real; existing; current; the present
gem appearing from the earth in being excavated. "Actual," "real" and "existing" are associated meanings in the sense of something that emerges being possessed of actuality. "Current" and "the present" are extended meanings in the sense of being in existence and therefore current/present.

臣
subject; official; vassal; minister; statesman
variant form of 見 (person whose sight is fixed on an object he is being shown), the person here being understood as a subject

宦
臣 subject; retainer

宀 roof/building
government official; officialdom
palace servant

𠕋
臣 subject; retainer
remnant element = 口 mouth quadrupled (→ plural mouths)
noisy conversation; noisy; foolish
noisy conversation among persons of low rank

臤
臣 fix upon
又 hand/action indicator
control
control by causing to adhere

腎
臤 adhere
月/肉 flesh
testes; kidney(s)
testes adhering to the scrotum

緊
臤 adhere
糸 thread
tight; tense; hard
tightly adhering threads

賢
臤 adhere
貝 commodities
estimable; intelligent
tightly packed collection of valuable goods. "Estimable" is by association with "valuable." "Intelligent" is an extended sense (valued → estimable → intelligence to evaluate properly).

堅
臤 adhere
土 earth
hard; firm; resolute
tightly adhering, hard earth

慳
堅 adhere
忄/心 heart/emotions
stingy; miserly
emotional adherence to possessions

鰹
堅 adhere
魚 fish
skipjack; bonito
fish with tightly adhering (= tightly compacted) meat

先
儿 person
之 forward motion
(in) advance; prior; former; first
advance in small increments, the feet in close adherence. "Prior," "former" and "first" are figurative associated meanings.

洗
先 small increments
氵/水 water
wash; rinse
wash in small increments

銑
abbreviated form of 洗 wash
金 metal

pig iron; mill
wash away fragments in refining metal. "Mill" is an associated meaning.

筅
先 small increments
竹 bamboo
bamboo brush/whisk
implement used to whip contents in small increments

詵
先 small increments
言 words
numerous; inquire
numerous people forming a noisy, advancing crowd; compare 駪

跣
先 small increments
足 leg/foot
barefooted
bare-footed people advancing in small increments

駪
先 small increments
馬 horse
numerous
numerous advancing horses; compare 詵

先
先 advance in small increments
先 (repeated for emphasis)
advance

贊
先 small increments
貝 commodities

support; praise
collect/accumulate presents from supporters in small increments. "Praise" is a type of verbal support, but here may be a borrowing via 讚.

攢
贊 accumulate in small increments
扌/手 hand/action indicator
collect
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

鄼
贊 accumulate in small increments
邑/阝 village/settlement
collect
village/settlement formed by the gradual accumulation of dwellings

瓚
贊 accumulate in small increments
王/玉 jewel
goblet; libation cup
drinking implement decorated with an accumulation of small gems

纘
贊 accumulate in small increments
糸 thread
succeed to; inherit
succeed to a gradually accumulated estate, the transferal process likened to a thread linking generations

鑽
贊 accumulate in small increments
金 metal
drill; bore; make a deep/profound study of
drill/bore, with shavings accumulating in small increments. "Make a deep/profound study of" is a figurative associated meaning.

讚
贊 praise
言 words
praise
言 appended for emphasis/clarification of the "praise" sense of 贊, or 言 appended to 贊 in its sense "accumulate" to suggest accumulated words (of praise)

二
two
two parallel lines. In derivative characters, 二 exerts the conceptual influence "align."

貳
originally 二 two aligned objects
弋 stake
two
originally 弍: two stakes aligned side by side. As with 壹, 参/參, and 拾, this character is used as a substitute for the usual number (in this case, 二) in documents as a precaution against forgery. Confusingly, 弍 later came to be written 弐.

樲
貳 aligned
木 tree/wood
jujube (tree)
aligned thorns of a thorned jujube (tree); compare 茨 and 棗

膩
貳 aligned
月/肉 flesh
viscous grease/fat; fatty; unctuous; smooth; dirty
aligned slabs of viscous grease/fat. "Unctuous," "smooth" and "dirty" are via association with the properties of grease/fat.

次
transformed element (originally 二 align)

欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
next (in order/sequence); second(ary); vice-; sub-; hypo-
bend/kneel in aligning small objects. Present-day meanings are via association with and extension from "align."

茨
次 align
艹 grass/plant
caltrop
spiky projections aligned on the stalk of a plant; compare 槧 and 束. For "caltrop," compare 薺.

炊
abbreviated form of 次 align
火 fire
burn; boil; cook
align pieces of wood for a fire

瓷
次 align
瓦 tile/earthenware
(high-quality) chinaware
enamel aligned on the surface of earthenware; compare 磁

粢
abbreviated form of 瓷 chinaware
米 rice
unpolished grain; millet
unpolished grain placed in chinaware and offered in sacrifice. "Millet" is an associated meaning.

資
次 align
貝 commodities
resources/capital; grounds; basis; one's nature; financial assistance

have one's assets in proper alignment

餈
次 align
食 food/eating
rice cakes
aligned rice cakes

咨
次 align
口 mouth
make inquiry; consult; discuss
figuratively align the merits of two or more viewpoints in inquiring

諮
咨 inquire
言 words
inquire; consult; confer
言 appended for emphasis/clarification

姿
次 align
女 woman
appearance; figure; form; shape; bearing; carriage
woman preoccupied with aligning/arranging her wardrobe

恣
abbreviated form of 姿 preoccupied
心 heart/emotions
self-preoccupation; lacking restraint; selfish; arbitrary
心 appended for emphasis/clarification

沙
variant form of 次 align
氵/水 water

sand; gravel; granulated; sort; select
sift sand in aligning and sorting out desired objects. For the correlation between sifting and sorting, compare 筛 篩 and 汰.

娑
沙 sand (→ fine objects)
女 woman
dancing
the fine motions of a dancing woman; compare 倢 and 婕. 娑婆 = dancing

莎
沙 sand
艹 grass/plant
(variety of) sedge
plant that grows in poor/sandy soil

砂
abbreviated form of 沙 sand
石 stone
sand; gravel; coarse object
石 appended for emphasis/clarification

鯊
沙 sand
魚 fish
shark
creature that inhabits the sands of shallow waters; compare 鮈

鮈
abbreviated form of 沙 sand
魚 fish
shark
creatures such as sharks, rays and skates that inhabit sandy waters; compare 鯊

紗

abbreviated form of 沙 select
糸 thread
silk fabric; gauze; yarn
select, high-quality silk fabric

辛
bitter; spicy; pungent; tough/hard; hardship; painful; laborious; eighth in a series; eighth calendar sign
depiction of a needle or a sharp knife/cutting tool, one adhering to or in close proximity to the object it is about to cut. The other present-day meanings are via figurative association with "sharp."

莘
辛 bitter
艹 grass/plant
long (and thin); numerous
plant with a sharp flavor (often specified as wild ginger). "Long (and thin)" and "numerous" are associated meanings based on characteristics of the plant indicated, such as long racemes and numerous plant hairs on the stem or elsewhere.

新
remnant element indicating "close proximity"
斤 ax
new
new is an extended meaning, via the image of a freshly hewn tree/wood

薪
新 firewood
艹 grass/plant
firewood; fuel; salary
"fuel" is an associated meaning, with "salary" by figurative extension in the sense of being fuel for existence. 薪 was devised to replace 新 after 新 acquired the meaning "new."

親
remnant element indicating "close proximity"
見 see/watch
parent; relatives; intimate
parent/relative in close proximity, observing others sharply

襯
親 intimate
衤/衣 clothing
underwear; inner garments; lining
intimate garments

梓
辛 needle/cutting tool
木 tree/wood
catalpa; printing block
type of tree cut for woodworking. "Printing block" is an associated meaning.

宰
辛 needle/cutting tool
宀 roof/building
oversee; manage; control
oversee food preparations, including slaughtering

滓
宰 cut
氵/水 water
dregs; sediment; scum
cut the flow of water in damming a stream (compare 才), creating sediment

妾
abbreviated form of 辛 needle/cutting tool
女 woman
concubine
female slave (tattooed with a needle) employed as a concubine

唼
妾 close proximity
口 mouth
sip; slurp; gobble down
food/drink in the mouth being slurped or gobbled down

接
妾 close proximity
扌/手 hand/action indicator
contact; connect; join
various manifestations of touching in close proximity

椄
妾 close proximity
木 tree/wood
graft (v.)
shoot of one plant grafted onto the stock of another plant

霎
妾 close proximity
雨 rain/natural phenomena
drizzle; passing shower; short while
natural phenomenon that is close but passing/fleeting

言
辛 needle/cutting tool
口 mouth
speak; speech; say; talk
speak sharply/distinctly, the tongue likened to a needle in the mouth

信
言 speak
亻/人 person
trust; belief

person speaking sincerely/truthfully

唁
言 speak
口 mouth
condole
utter words of condolence

這
言 speak
辵 movement
this; crawl
meet then speak

計
言 speak
十 gather
plot; plan; calculate; count
speak in plotting

音
言 words
transformed element = blocking of speech
sound; noise; tone
indistinct utterance contained in (not emanating as speech from) the mouth

暗
音 indistinct
日 sun/day
dark; dim; obscure
scant and therefore indistinct light

闇
音 indistinct
門 gate

dark; clandestine; hidden
scant light penetrating a gate

黯
音 indistinct
黑 black
(pitch) black; dark; gloomy
dark and indistinct

喑
音 indistinct sound
口 mouth
sob; mute (← 瘖**)**
indistinct sound issuing from the mouth

瘖
音 indistinct sound
疒 illness
mute
illness rendering one unable to produce distinct words

諳
音 indistinct sound
言 words
memorize; learn by heart; be versed in
murmur in memorizing

意
音 contained
心 heart/emotions
thought; idea; intention; signification
keep contained in the heart

億
意 contained in the heart

亻/人 person
one hundred million
originally the same meaning as 意 (contained in the heart). Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from 意 (although in 億 too the original sense eventually changed).

憶
意 contained in the heart
忄/心 heart/emotions
remember; recollect
remember/recall various thoughts contained in the heart

薏
意 contained in the heart
艹 grass/plant
(plant containing numerous tiny seeds)
薏苡 = Job's tears/tear grass

檍
意 contained in the heart
木 tree/wood
ilex (holly)
flowering plant in which small birds take refuge

臆
意 contained in the heart
月/肉 flesh
breast; heart; thought
physical seat of the heart, regarded as the source of thought

竟
音 contained
儿 person
come to an end; go so far/all the way

person whose movement is contained on reaching a border

境
竟 border
土 earth
border; boundary; circumstances
circumstances in the sense of a situation in which one is fixed, as a border is fixed

鏡
竟 border
金 metal
lens; mirror
metal bordering a lens/mirror

䜌
言 distinct
絲 thread(s)
make tangled threads distinct by stretching and untangling them. 䜌 is effectively obsolete.

孿
䜌 tangled
子 child
twins
twins entangled in the womb

變
䜌 tangled
攵 strike
change; transformation; disturbance
strike in an attempt to untangle a volatile situation, that leads to change

蠻
䜌 tangled
虫 insect/creature

barbarous; rough
tangled and barbarous, likened to a swarm of tiny insects

欒
䜌 tangled
木 tree/wood
wooden portion of a cornice helping support the weight of a roof
particular tree (sometimes specified as a chinaberry aka bead tree, sometimes as *Koelreuteria paniculata*) bearing a profusion of blossoms in clusters or panicles

孌
䜌 stretch
女 woman
bewitching; beautiful
bewitching stretching movements of a female

巒
䜌 stretch
山 mountain
mountain range
stretch of mountain peaks

彎
䜌 stretch
弓 bow
bend; curve
stretched, curved bow

戀
䜌 stretch
心 heart/emotions
long for; be anxious for; love
attempt to untangle confused feelings (of longing, anxiety, or love) by figuratively stretching them straight; compare 攣

攣
䜌 stretch
手 hand/action indicator
tangled; twisted; crooked
stretch tangled/twisted objects in attempting to straighten them

臠
䜌 stretch
目 eye
observe carefully; see
figuratively stretch the eyes

鑾
䜌 stretch
金 metal
bell(s) attached to an emperor's carriage; emperor's carriage; emperor
metallic bells stretched over an imperial vehicle. "Emperor" is an associated meaning.

臠
abbreviated form of 巒 mountain range
月/肉 flesh
slice of meat
heaping mound of sliced meat

灣
彎 bend/curve
氵/水 water
bay; gulf
curving body of water. 湾 is a variant, abbreviated form of 彎.

燮
variant form of 䜌 tangled, 糸 elements replaced by 火 (→ tangled situation involving fire)
又 hand/action indicator

harmonize
temper a fire. For the idea of harmonious adjustment/arrangement, compare 輯.

爿
sleeping pallet; bed
depiction of a long and slender, wooden sleeping pallet

牀
爿 long sleeping pallet
木 tree/wood
bed; bench; couch
木 appended for emphasis/clarification; compare 床

床
variant form of 爿 long, wooden sleeping pallet
木 tree/wood
bed; couch
bed; compare 牀

狀
爿 long and slender
犬 dog/beast
form; appearance; condition; situation
long, slender dog/beast

壯
爿 long and slender
士 male
strength; robustness; manhood
tall and neat male. Present-day meanings are via association.

奘
壯 tall and neat
大 great
great; large; stout

great/stout figure

裝
壯 tall and neat
衣 clothing
adornment; dress; clothing; play a role; pretend
sartorial neatness. "Play a role" and "pretend" are extended meanings, in the sense of adorning oneself to play a role and pretend to be someone else.

妝
abbreviated form of 裝 sartorial neatness
女 woman
dress/adorn oneself; (wear) make-up
woman dressing/adorning herself

莊
壯 tall and neat
艹 grass/plant
manor; hamlet; storage barn; store
tall plant

粧
庄 variant form of 莊 = storehouse
米 rice
adorn (oneself); make up
storehouse containing rice

戕
爿 long and slender
戈 spear/halberd
kill; wound; maim
long, slender weapon such as a pole or spear used to injure or kill

臧
戕 long and slender

臣 retainer
good; right
tall retainer. Present-day meanings are via association with qualities of a skilled retainer/servant.

藏
臧 tall
艹 grass/plant
storehouse; put in/away; hide; possess
tall piles of crops in a storehouse. "Possess" is in the sense of having ownership of the contents of a storehouse that have been put away/hidden.

臟
藏 pile
月/肉 flesh
organ
the body's vital organs, conceived of as being piled one atop the other

贓
abbreviated form of 藏 pile
貝 commodities
stolen goods; bribery
a pile of stolen goods. "Bribery" is via the idea of offering commodities/money to steal possession.

將
爿 long and slender
remnant element = 肉 flesh + 寸 hand/action indicator
lead; command; carry out
lead/command in the sense of pointing/leading the way by extending a long, slender finger or a long, thin object

蔣
將 long and slender
艹 grass/plant

water oat; wild rice
long and slender reed

漿
將 long and slender
水 water
(thick) liquid substance; broth; starch
liquid poured in a long, slender trail; compare 醬

醬
將 long and slender
酉 alcohol container
(thick) paste; jam
fermented, viscous liquid that forms a long, slender trail when poured; compare 漿.
醬油 = soy sauce

獎
將 prod forward
大 stand outstretched
encourage; promote; reward; award
extend the arms in prodding others forward

才
ability; talent; capable/talented person; just now; just; only; merely
depiction of rocks piled to cut off/dam a river; compare 滓

豺
才 cut off
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
(dog/wolf-like) wild animal; greedy; avaricious
dog or wolf-like wild animal that rips prey apart in eating

鼐
才 cut off
鼎 tripod kettle

tripod kettle
a small tripod kettle with a tapered mouth, one that reduces/cuts the flow of liquid contents

材
才 cut off
木 tree/wood
wood; (raw) material; ability
cut off a resource in felling a tree. "Ability" is in the sense of material of an individual's nature.

財
abbreviated form of 材 (raw) material
貝 commodities
property; wealth
resources of value

□□
才 cut off
戈 spear/halberd
cut; sever

哉
□□cut; sever
口 mouth
exclamatory particle
cut off the end of a sentence

栽
□□cut; sever
木 tree/wood
cultivation; planting
trim a tree in cultivating it

裁

□□cut; sever
衣 clothing
cut cloth; decrease; decide; judge
cut cloth in making clothes. "Decide/judge" is in the sense of cutting through to a decision, an analogy also found in the characters 決, 判, 折, and 斷.

載
□□cut; sever
車 vehicle
load; place atop; print
load cut wood and place atop a vehicle. "Print" is in the sense of characters loaded/conveyed on a writing medium.

截
□□cut; sever
隹 short, squat bird
cut off; sever; stop; obstruct
cut off a piece of poultry

畱
transformed element = cut off
田 field
calamity (← 菑); **evil**
cut weeds in a field and pile them, preparing for plowing. "Evil" is via extension from the borrowed meaning "calamity." The top element of 畱 originally had a horizontal line drawn through it (visible in the derivative character 淄). This was a combination of 才 (cut off) + a horizontal line for emphasis/clarification.

輜
畱 pile
車 vehicle
(covered/supply) wagon
wagon piled high with supplies

錙

畐 pile
金 metal
ancient unit of weight
pieces of metal, piled upon a scale

菑
畐 cut weeds in a field
艹 grass/plant
wasteland; disaster; calamity
field barren of both weeds and crops. 菑 was devised to replace 畐 after 畐 came to refer to "evil."

畀
obsolete element = prepare a field for plowing
夂 drag
plow
create piles of soil in dragging a plow. The obsolete element is an abbreviated form of 畐 cut weeds in a field + 儿 person.

稷
畀 pile
禾 grain/rice
millet; grain deity
piles of grain, specifically millet. For "grain deity," note 禝, a variant form of 稷 in which 礻/示 altar/the supernatural replaces 禾.

謖
畀 pile
言 words
rise; arise
pile/stack of written works. "Rise/arise" is by association with a pile.

淄
畐 cut
氵/水 water

black; dye black
cut pieces of fabric and dye them (black)

緇
abbreviated form of 淄 black
糸 thread
black silk; black vestments; black
silk/fabric dyed black

鰤
abbreviated form of 淄 black
魚 fish
striped (black) mullet
black/dark fish

災
transformed element (originally 才 pile)
火 fire
disaster; misfortune
conflagration that reduces buildings to piles of ashes

在
variant form of 才 cut off
土 earth
be; be located; be in
pile earth to cut off the flow of a river. Present-day meanings are via extension, in the sense of being fixed firmly in one place; compare the derivative character 存 as well as 居 and 有.

存
abbreviated form of 在 exist
子 child
exist; keep settled; settle
existence represented by children/descendants. "Keep settled" (in place) is in the sense of "maintain existence."

拵
存 settle in place
扌/手 hand/action indicator
set; place; make; manufacture; craftsmanship
set/place objects in making/crafting something

洊
存 settle in place
氵/水 water
lapping water; flowing water; occur repeatedly/frequently
water lapping over the same spot. "Flowing water" is an associated meaning, with "occur repeatedly/frequently" by extension.

荐
存 settle in place
艹 grass/plant
mat; piled mats; repeatedly
pile vegetation in a single spot to create a mat. "Piled mats" is by association, with "repeat(edly)" by extension, in the sense of piling on.

栫
存 settle in place
木 tree/wood
(rough-woven) fence/enclosure
wooden fish trap or weir set in place

生
abbreviated form of 艸 grass/plant
土 earth
birth; life; grow; raw
生 has many other associated and extended meanings, here omitted

姓
生 birth; life

女 woman
family name; surname
blood relations at birth, connected with the certitude pertaining to an infant's maternal lineage

性
生 birth; life
忄/心 heart/emotions
character; nature; sex; gender
one's inborn nature

牲
生 birth; life
牛 cow
sacrificial animal; sacrifice
sacrificial cow offered for the renewal of life

甥
生 birth; life
男 man/male
sister's child; nephew
male child born to a sister

甦
生 birth; life
更 change
be resuscitated; be revived; be reborn
change of life

鼪
生 birth; life
鼠 rat/mouse
weasel
creature with comparatively large litters

産
生 birth; life
abbreviated form of 彦 handsome/well-formed
produce; production; childbirth
well-formed offspring/product

薩
obsolete element (original signification obscure)
艹 grass/plant
xxx
the obsolete element combines 産 (life-sustaining) + 阜 piled earth. The meaning of this character is obscure. In 薩 the addition of 艹 originally indicated a species of mugwort; compare 薛. However, 薩 came to be used for transliteration purposes, for example 菩薩 = bodhisattva (roughly, one who helps sentient beings attain Buddhahood).

笙
生 fresh
竹 bamboo
flute; reed instrument
bamboo instrument producing a fresh sound

旌
生 fresh
㫃 pennant/banner
pennant; make clear/evident
pennant composed of a string of vivid (= freshly colored) feathers. Make clear/evident is an associated meaning.

星
生 fresh
日 sun/day
fresh, bright, invigorating starlight
fresh, bright, invigorating starlight. The 日 element was originally 晶.

腥
星 invigorating
月/肉 flesh
smell of raw meat; rank odor; fishy
the pungent, invigorating smell of raw meat

猩
星 bright
犭/犬 dog/beast
imaginary animal with a bald, shiny pate and human-like face
the term may originally have indicated a particular species of orangutan

醒
星 invigorating
酉 alcohol
wake up; sober up; open one's eyes; see clearly
invigorating tonic that allows one to wake/sober up

惺
abbreviated form of 醒 wake up
忄/心 heart/emotions
become enlightened; wise
awaken to reality; compare 聪

青
生 fresh grass shoots
丼 pure well water
green; blue; black; youth
green grass that is fresh, clean and pure. Black is an extended meaning from blue, in the sense of bluish-black.

倩
青/靑 clean/pure
亻/人 person
son-in-law

male of fine character

圊
青/靑 clean/pure
囗 circular enclosure
latrine
the association of cleanliness/purity with a latrine is of course a euphemistic one

清
青 clean/pure
氵/水 water
pure; clear; clean
clean/pure water

晴
青 clean/pure
日 sun/day
clear day/weather

睛
青/靑 clean/pure
目 eye
pupil; eyeball
the original reference was to the (limpid) pupil of the eye

精
青 clean/pure
米 rice
essence; spirit; semen
extract the essence of rice in polishing it. "Spirit" and "semen" are associated meanings.

蜻
青/靑 clean/pure
虫 insect/creature

xxx
蜻蛚 = cricket (insect that produces a clean, strong calling sound); 蜻蛉 = dragonfly (with clear/transparent wings)

靚
青/靑 clean/pure
見 fix sight on
adorn (oneself); apply makeup; beautiful
adorn oneself to appear beautiful (equated with cleanliness or purity)

錆
青/靑 clean/pure
金 metal
mineral color
clean(-colored) ore

靜
靑/青 clean/pure
爭 struggle
quiet; still; calm; peaceful
calm a struggle

瀞
靜 calm/peaceful
氵/水 water
pool (in a river); pure; clean
a calm pool in a river. Pure and clean are by association with still, limpid water.

淨/浄
abbreviated form of 靜 calm/peaceful
氵/水 water
pure; purify
calm, pure waters

靖

abbreviated form of 靜 calm/peaceful
立 stand
tranquil; at ease; peaceful
stand still/at ease

情
青 clean/pure
忄/心 heart/emotions
emotion; compassion; sympathy; pity
pure emotion in the sense of true feelings expressing a situation exactly as it is

請
abbreviated form of 情 pity
言 words
request; ask; undertake
request pity/charity

省
variant form of 生 slender grass shoots
目 eye
inspect minutely; inquire; reduce; economize
narrow the eyes in observing

相
abbreviated form of 省 observe
木 tree/wood
mutual; together; watch; assist; shape; appearance; minister
eyes focused on an object, establishing a mutual relation between observer and observed. "Minister" is by extension from assist (one who assists a ruler).

廂
相 mutual
广 building
(room in a) wing; side room
rooms in a wing, aligned with those opposite

湘
相 mutual
氵/水 water
Hunan Province
name of a river (in present-day Hunan Province). Legend had it that the river was protected by a pair of goddesses.

想
相 mutual
心 heart/emotions
thought; idea
thoughts one harbors with respect to an object

箱
相 mutual
竹 bamboo
box; container; chest
bamboo baskets hung from both sides of a vehicle

緗
相 mutual
糸 thread
light yellow
light yellow cloth used to produce copies of manuscripts (mutual documents)

霜
相 mutual
雨 rain/natural phenomena
frost; frosting
pillars of frost, facing each other

孀
霜 facing pillars
女 woman

widow
widow figuratively likened to one in a pair of pillars left standing

猜
青 bluish-black
犭/犬 dog/beast
suspect; guess; conjecture
darkly colored dog, faintly visible. Present-day meanings are by association with vagueness.

鯖
青 bluish-black
魚 fish
mackerel
variety of mackerel the back of which is bluish-black

菁
青 blue/green
艹 grass/plant
turnip; flower of a variety of leek; flowery
turnip (with deep green leaves) and other specific applications of blue/green + grass/plant

矢
arrow; dart; vow; swear
depiction of a long, straight arrow

雉
矢 long and straight
隹 short, squat bird
pheasant
bird raising its long, straight tail feathers

薙
雉 rising/tall object

艹 grass/plant
shave; cut down; weed (v.)
the present-day meanings appear to owe to an obsolete variant form of the character substituting 弟 for the 矢 portion of 雉, with the 弟 element here functioning as an abbreviated form of 剃 "shave."

族
矢 arrow
abbreviated form of 旅 pennant/banner
clan; tribe; family; group
arrows piled beneath the fluttering pennant of a clan or tribe

蔟
族 pile of arrows
艹 grass/plant
gather; collect; frame for silkworms to spin cocoons
gather then pile luxuriant vegetation in the manner of arrows piled beneath a pennant. "Frame for silkworms to spin cocoons" is via the image of a gathering of many silkworms.

簇
族 pile of arrows
竹 bamboo
swarm; collect
pile of bamboo arrowheads; compare 鏃

鏃
族 pile of arrows
金 metal
arrowhead
pile of metal arrowheads; compare 簇

知
矢 arrow
口 mouth

know; be aware; understand
knowledge allowing one to speak to the essence of a matter with the directness of an arrow in flight

智
知 direct
日 sun/day (replacement element)
wisdom; knowledge; intellect
The 日 element originally combined 曰 say/speech indicator and an abbreviated form of 吁 (exclamation), suggesting "speak with wisdom, and directly to the point."

蜘
知 direct
虫 insect/creature
spider
swift creature that moves in straight lines

踟
知 direct
足 leg/foot
hesitant; undecided
make halting progress on account of walking in place (the legs trampling the same spot directly below)

至
矢 arrow
transformed element = a target
arrive; extend to; extremity
arrow arriving at a target, its stopping point

咥
至 stopping point
口 mouth
bite; chew; have in one's mouth; laugh
food stopped in the mouth (and being bitten/chewed)

姪
至 stopping point
女 woman
niece
niece regarded as the stopping point of direct blood relations

室
至 stopping point
宀 roof/building
room; chamber; house; family; clan
room/chamber representing a stopping point (i.e. leading on to no other rooms) in a house. "Family" and "clan" are by association with "house."

桎
至 stopping point
木 tree/wood
fetters; shackles
fetters/shackles that cause one to cease movement

耋
至 stopping point
老 aged person
elderly person
elderly person understood as one not far from death. For the idea of death as the stopping point of life, compare 銍 and 鵄.

蛭
至 stopping point
虫 insect/creature
leech
leech, engorged on blood, that stops feeding

輊
至 stopping point

車 vehicle
low front end of a vehicle
drop the rear end of a cart to the ground after stopping at one's destination

銍
至 stopping point
金 metal
sickle; scythe
sickle/scythe that ends a plant's life. For the idea of death as the stopping point of life, compare 耋 and 鵄.

鵄
至 stopping point
鳥 bird
kite
kite (the predatory bird) grabbing and soon putting an end to the life of its prey. For the idea of death as the stopping point of life, compare 耋 and 銍.

絰
至 stopping point
糸 thread
hempen rope
fine hempen rope used in mourning

臸
至 arrow
至 arrow
arrows
doubling to indicate plurality

垤
abbreviated form of 室 chamber
土 earth
anthill; mound
(chambered) anthill

致
至 arrive
夂 action indicator
cause; bring about; send; convey; deliver; present (v.); dedicate oneself to
cause to arrive, actually or figuratively (= occur). "Dedicate oneself to" is a figurative extended meaning in the sense of causing to occur through dedicated effort. 夂 was originally 夂 leg/foot pointed downward, here acting as an action indicator.

緻
fine; delicate
variant form of 經 fine hempen rope, replacing 至 with 致

窒
至 stopping point
穴 hole
block; obstruct; stop up
stopping point in a cavern, where further progress is impossible. 窒素 = nitrogen

膣
窒 stopping point
月/肉 flesh
vagina
reach the upper stopping point of a vagina in copulation

疾
abbreviated form of 至 stopping point
疒 illness
illness; swiftness; hatred (← 嫉)
illness hastening death

嫉
疾 illness
女 woman
jealousy; envy; hatred

unhealthy mental states regarded as characteristic of women; compare 妬

臺
至 arrow
abbreviated form of 高 tall/high
platform; tower; lookout; pedestal
raise a tall platform from which to shoot arrows

擡
臺 rise high
扌/手 hand/action indicator
raise; lift; carry (high)
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

薹
臺 rise high
艹 grass/plant
(tall, flower[ing]) stalk
some reference sources associate the character with a variety of sedge

止
stop
depiction of a leg/foot come to a stop, making the body stand straight upright

企
止 stand straight
variant form of 人 person
plan; plot; scheme; attempt
stand on tiptoes, alert to carry out a plan, plot or scheme

址
止 stand straight
土 earth
ruins; site; location
tall ruins of an earthen structure; compare 阯

沚
止 stand straight
氵/水 water
sandbanks; sandbar; islet
straight line of sandbanks/sandbars

阯
止 stand straight
阜/阝 piled earth
foundation; site
site remains, representing the foundation of a structure; compare 址

祉
止 stand straight
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
blessings; good fortune; happiness
tall altar. Present-day meanings are via association.

趾
止 stand straight
足 leg/foot
footprint; tracks; foot; toe
line of footprints. "Foot" is an associated meaning, with "toe" by extension.

齒
止 stand straight
remnant element = front teeth
teeth; tooth; line up; age
straight line of teeth. "Age" is via association with the process accompanying disappearance of teeth; compare 齡.

武
止 stand straight
abbreviated form of 戈 spear/halberd

martial; military; warlike; ferocious
armed warrior(s) attending on a superior

赋
武 military
貝 commodities
(military) levy; tax(ation); troops; endow; bestow; payment; tribute; ode/poem
levy imposed to endow troops with supplies. "Ode/poem" is an extended meaning in the sense of a poem offered in tribute.

芷
abbreviated form of 沚 sandbanks/sandbar
艹 grass/plant
angelica
plant that flourishes around sandbanks in wetlands

市
transformed element (originally 止 stand straight)
transformed element (originally 平 spread level/flat)
market; buying/selling; city
straight line of stalls/shops comprising a market. "City" is an associated meaning in the sense of a place where many gather. There is no etymological connection with 姊 肺 or 柿.

是
止 straight
transformed element = spoon/ladle
correct; just; right; to be
a straight spoon/ladle. The first three meanings are abstract applications of straightness/uprightness.

堤
是 straight
土 earth
embankment; dike; levee

straight, earthen embankment

寔
是 straight
宀 roof/building
truly; honestly
straight pillars supporting a roof. Present-day meanings are in the sense of logical/ethical rectitude.

提
是 straight
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold; carry; hang (from)
hold straight out/down

禔
是 straight
示 altar/the supernatural
good fortune
good fortune bestowed by the heavens upon one whose behavior is straight/correct

緹
是 straight
糸 thread
red
long strips of fabric woven into a soldier's protective vest. "(Orange/)red" is via the typical color of the garment.

醍
是 straight
酉 alcohol container (→ fermentation)
clarified butter
straight/direct by-product of milk

鞮
是 straight
革 leather
leather footwear
product crafted from a long, flat strip of leather

題
是 straight
頁 head
subject; title; topic; theme
forehead that thrusts straight out. Present-day meanings liken subjects that present themselves to a forehead that protrudes.

匙
是 spoon
匕 double-pronged eating implement
spoon
匙 was devised to replace 是 after 是 acquired its extended meanings

正
止 straight
remnant element = a straight line
correct; right; straight; proper; punctual
straight line. Present-day meanings are abstract applications of the idea of straightness/uprightness.

征
正 straight
彳 movement
invade; subjugate
march in straight formation on a military invasion

政
正 straight
攵 action indicator

government; rule
figuratively straighten in governing

症
正 straight
疒 illness
illness
a symptom as a direct (= straight) indicator of an illness

証
正 straight
言 words
testify; give proof/evidence
straighten someone out in admonishing. Present-day meanings are influenced by 證.

整
正 straight
敕 straighten
put in order; arrange; regulate; prepare
straighten by tying firmly

定
variant form of 正 straight
宀 roof/building
fix (in place); settle; determine
stand straight upright (fixed in place) in a building

掟
定 fix (straight) in place
扌/手 hand/action indicator
fix; settle; regulation
fix/settle (a matter)

碇

定 fix (straight) in place
石 stone
anchor
(stone) anchor that fixes a boat in place

綻
定 fix (straight) in place
糸 thread
unravel; come apart at the seams; ripped (seams)
mend an unraveling garment by fixing loose fabric in place

錠
定 fix (straight) in place
金 metal
ingot; (medicinal) tablet
metal spindle fixed in place. "(Medicinal) tablet" is via shape association.

寺
止 stand straight
寸 hand/action indicator
(archaic) government office; temple
stand straight by in attending on a superior, then carry out orders. "Government office" is in the sense of a place where official functions are carried out. "Temple" is via the name (鴻臚寺) of an ancient reception building for priestly visitors from outside of China.

峙
寺 stand straight
山 mountain
tower; soar
stand erect and tower over

特
寺 stand straight
牛 cow

special; excellent; outstanding
particularly tall bull, surpassing others. For a tall cow, compare 犒.

畤
寺 stand straight
田 field
worship site
worship site standing in a field

痔
寺 stand straight
疒 illness
piles; hemorrhoids
affliction forcing one to stand

等
寺 stand straight
竹 bamboo
equal; equivalent; grade; rank; et cetera
bamboo stalks/pieces of equal height, arranged vertically. "Et cetera" is via the idea of listing equivalent/similar items.

侍
寺 stand straight by
亻/人 person
servant; retainer
servant/retainer standing straight by, waiting to carry out orders

恃
寺 stand straight by
忄/心 heart/emotions
rely/depend on
assume an attitude of inaction, relying/depending on others to take the lead

持

寺 stand straight by
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold; support; last (v.)
hold an object upright. "Last" is in the sense of holding/supporting on a continual basis.

待
寺 stand straight by
彳 movement
wait; await; entertain
stand by to carry out orders. "Entertain" is an associated meaning, in the sense of waiting upon in entertaining.

時
寺 stand straight by
日 sun/day
time; hour; season
straightforward procession of the sun through the sky; compare 昔 and 昨

塒
時 time; season
土 earth
coop; roost
earthen coop/roost from which roosters crow to signal the beginning of a day

蒔
時 time; season
艹 grass/plant
plant; transplant
planting/transplanting as one seasonal indicator of time; compare the conjunction of time with harvesting in 季, 歳 and 年

詩
寺 stand straight by
言 words

poem; poetry
standing recitation of poetry

步
止 straight
transformed element = leg/foot
walk; step
stand straight by in attending upon a superior, then walk off (to carry out orders)

陟
步 walk
阜/阝 piled earth
climb; ascend
climb/ascend a hill

捗
abbreviated form of 陟 climb
扌/手 hand/action indicator
make progress
make progress in climbing/ascending

涉
abbreviated form of 陟 climb
氵/水 water
cross over; ford; be involved with/in
cross (over) water or ford a mountain river in climbing. "Be involved with/in" is an abstract application, in the sense of being concerned with affairs on both sides of a river.

騭
陟 climb
馬 horse
stallion; rise; raise
climb a stallion to ride it. "Rise" and "raise" are associated meanings.

頻
步 walk
頁 people
occur repeatedly
people marching in close formation, with no interval between them. "Occur repeatedly" is in the sense of various persons marching over a given spot.

嚬
頻 no interval
口 mouth
frown; scowl
lips tightly pursed into a frown; compare 顰

瀕
頻 no interval
氵/水 water
approach; draw near; be on the verge (of)
approach a body of water to the point there is no interval between land and water

蘋
頻 no interval
艹 grass/plant
floating weed; duckweed
floating weed or semi-aquatic fern, resting directly on the surface of water

顰
頻 no interval
卑 low
knitted brows; frown; scowl
knitted brows, the ends bordering the top of the nose (nearly) fusing; compare 嚬

尸
body; corpse; preside
depiction of a long body/corpse. "Preside" is an extended meaning in the sense of presiding over a burial. In compound characters 尸 most often functions as a shape

indicator, principally to suggest buttocks (compare 居 尻 屈 屁 etc.).

屎
尸 buttocks
米 rice (→ food)
feces; excrement
waste matter of food processed by the body, issued from between the buttocks

鳲
尸 buttocks
鳥 bird
turtledove
bird with a prominent rump. 鳲鳩 = Eurasian Cuckoo

屍
尸 corpse
死 death
corpse; carcass
死 appended for emphasis/clarification

犀
尸 body
transformed element (originally 辛 needle/cutting tool)
rhinoceros; sharp
slow, lumbering, horned animal. Originally, a dual-horned species of rhinoceros. "Sharp" is an associated meaning via sharp horn.

墀
犀 slow
土 earth
slope; steps; courtyard
slope/steps of a courtyard (causing progress to slow)

遲
犀 slow

辵 movement
slow; late; delay; lag
slow movement

穉
犀 slow
禾 grain/rice
young; infant
late-developing grain. "Young" (child) and "infant" are associated meanings in the sense of slow-developing creatures.

尾
尸 buttocks
毛 hair
tail; tail end
long, wavy hair of an animal's tail

梶
尾 tail
木 tree/wood
oar; shaft
oar used at the tail end of a vessel

隶
transformed element (originally 尾 tail)
transformed element (originally 又 hand/action indicator)
subservient; be attached/belong to (← 隷)
seize an animal by the tail. Distinguish this character from the identical-appearing lower element of 康.

肆
transformed element (originally 隶 seize)
abbreviated form of 長 long
line up horizontally; shop/store; extend in length; do as one pleases; four
align objects that have been seized/obtained. In the present form, 隶 is replaced by

聿.

逮
隶 seize
辵 movement
chase; capture; reach
chase and seize/capture. "Reach" is an associated meaning.

靆
逮 chase
辵 movement
thick, rolling clouds
clouds metaphorically chasing other clouds in dark skies

展
尸 buttocks
remnant element = weigh down
spread/stretch (open); open up/out; unfold; prolong; expand; show
place the buttocks atop an object, causing it to spread in being flattened; compare 尉. "Show" is an associated meaning in the sense of showing/displaying an object (such as a scroll) that has been opened out. The remnant element originally combined an abbreviated form of 衣 clothing and four objects in the shape of the character 工, suggesting a pile of objects weighing another object down.

碾
展 flatten
石 stone
roller; grind; mill; millstone; mortar; crush
flatten with a stone roller in grinding

輾
展 flatten
車 vehicle
roll (over); turn
wheels of a vehicle rolling over and flattening an object

躔
transformed element (originally 展 flatten)
足 leg/foot
follow; rut
follow the path of another person, trampling vegetation underfoot. "Rut" is an associated meaning. 展 came to be written 廛.

殿
variant form of 展 place the buttocks on an object
殳 action indicator
palace; hall
殳 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Palace" and "hall" are associated meanings in the sense "sit on a throne."

臀
殿 buttocks
月/肉 flesh
buttocks; rear/tail end; bottom
臀 was devised to replace 殿 after 殿 acquired its extended meanings

澱
殿 settle
氵/水 water
sediment; dregs
sediment settled at the bottom of a stagnant pool of water; compare 淀

癜
abbreviated form of 澱 sediment
疒 illness
skin disease; erythema
skin condition characterized by discoloration

豆
food stand; bean; pea; pulse

depiction of a bean-shaped food stand. "Bean," "pea" and "pulse" are via shape resemblance in shape.

荳
豆 bean
艹 grass/plant
bean; pea; pulse
艹 grass/plant appended for emphasis/clarification

痘
豆 bean
疒 illness
smallpox
disease that causes bean-shaped pustules to rise on the skin

頭
豆 bean
頁 head
head; hair (on the head); top; leader; leading; beginning; counter for livestock
bean-shaped head

短
豆 stand (n.)
矢 arrow
short; brief; deficient
short, cylindrical stand for (long) arrows

豎
豆 stand (n.)
臤 adhere
vertical; upright; child (slave/servant)
a vertical/upright stand adhering to a floor. 竪 is a variant form of 豎.

逗
abbreviated form of 豎 stand (n.)

辵 movement
stay; remain; stop; pause; brief pause (in reading); tease; stir up; rouse
shuffle in place; compare 躕

裋
abbreviated form of 豎 child slave/servant
衤/衣 clothing
outfit worn by a servant
garments worn by a servant, particularly, a child

壴
豆 a stand
remnant element = a drum
drum
round drum with decorations on the top, set upon 豆 food stand (here simply a stand)

鼓
壴 drum set on a stand
transformed element (originally 攴 hand holding a stick)
drum; strike/beat a drum
hand holding a stick (in striking/beating a drum). In contemporary orthography, 攴 is replaced with 支 (originally, a hand holding a bamboo branch).

瞽
鼓 drum
目 eye
(blind) musician; blind person; illiterate; stupid
in ancient China, blind persons were commonly employed as court musicians. "Illiterate" and "stupid" are by figurative association with blindness.

彭
壴 drum set on a stand
彡 pattern
beat; swell (← 膨)

beat a drum in a rhythmic pattern; compare 鼓

澎
彭 rhythmic pattern
氵/水 water
(the sound of) surging/rushing water
(the sound of) swelling waters

膨
abbreviated form of 彭 surge/swell
月/肉 flesh
swell; bulge; bloat; fill
swelling/bulging flesh

尌
壴 drum set on a stand
寸 hand/action indicator
stand (an object) up
set/stand a drum in place

廚
尌 set/stand in place
广 building
closet (for foodstuffs); kitchen
storage closet for foodstuffs. Note a variant form 厨.

樹
尌 set/stand in place
木 tree/wood
set up; tree; plant (v.)
stand up a sapling in planting it

躕
variant form of 尌 set/stand in place
足 leg/foot

dawdle; hesitate
for "dawdle," compare 逗 as well as 夋 and 夌. "Hesitate" is an associated meaning.

付
abbreviated form of 尌 set/stand in place
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
hand over; give; pay; entrust to
set/stand in place or spread over by attaching. "Hand over," "give" and "pay" are associated meanings in the sense of placing two things in contact, as when in attaching, with "entrust to" being a figurative application of the same idea.

坿
付 set in place
土 earth
xxx
坿 is sometimes treated as a variant form of 附 while in other cases is assigned the meaning "mound," where the idea is that of earth set firmly in place

拊
付 set in place (→ attach)
扌/手 hand/action indicator
slap; handle of a container
attach the palm of one's hand to a person's cheek in slapping it

苻
付 set in place (→ attach)
艹 grass/plant
(type of) plant
vine that attaches itself to trees, other vegetation etc.

附
付 set in place
阜/阝 piled earth
attach/append; add; be proximate; rely on
compacted earth set firmly in place, a concrete sense that eventually dropped. 附

came to convey the "attach" nuance that weakened in 付.

柎
付 set in place (→ attach)
木 tree/wood
raft; calyx
"raft" is in the sense of a vessel constructed by setting lumber in place. "Calyx" is in the sense of the part of a flowering plant to which sepals are attached.

祔
付 set in place
示 altar/the supernatural
worship one's ancestors; entomb (together)
ritual ancestor worship involving figurines representing the ancestral spirits. "Entomb (together)" is an associated meaning in the sense of placing figurines and other artifacts in graves and tombs along with the body of the deceased.

符
付 set in place
竹 bamboo
tally; sign/symbol; talisman; identification tag; correspond/coincide
bamboo tablet/tally split in two to make a pledge, the pieces of which when, set in place, fit together exactly

跗
付 set in place
足 leg/foot
instep
bone regarded as setting the foot in its proper place

駙
付 set in place
馬 horse
reserve horse; prince consort
reserve horse placed alongside a vehicle. "Prince consort" is a figurative associated

meaning.

鮒
付 set in place
魚 fish
(type of) carp
carp attached to a fishing line as bait

府
付 set in place
广 building
storehouse; government repository/office; government; administrative division; mansion
storehouse with goods placed throughout

俯
府 set in place
亻/人 person
look/face down; bend down; stoop
assume a servile posture

腑
府 set in place
月/肉 flesh
internal organs; intestines; entrails
internal organs set in their positions throughout the body

腐
府 storehouse
肉 flesh
spoil; rot; decompose; decay; go bad; corrode; corrupt
stored meat that has spoiled

又
again; moreover; in addition; also

depiction of a person's right arm contracted in surrounding or protecting an object resting on the shoulders

尤
又 right hand/arm
remnant element suggesting "bent"
criticize; discontent
skin eruption, later coming to indicate a wounded, contracted hand. "Criticize" and "discontent" are via figurative association in the sense of being critical of things perceived as bent/warped.

有
又 right hand/arm
月/肉 flesh
have; exist
an object in a fixed point of space extended to the notion of "having presence/existence"

殳
又 right hand/arm
transformed element = a tool/weapon
weapon; (action indicator)
in compound characters, 殳 can indicate "throw" or function simply as an action indicator

右
又 right hand/arm
口 an object
right
via the idea of the right hand/arm being the one predominantly used in protecting

灰
transformed element (originally 又 hand/action indicator)
火 fire
ash; dust; gray; lime; dejected; disappointed

remove cinders by hand; compare 煤

盔
灰 ash
皿 dish/plate/bowl
pot; bowl; helmet
pot for carrying away ashes. "Helmet" is via shape association.

友
variant form of 又 right hand/arm
又 right hand/arm
friend; companion; friendly
work together. "Friend" and "companion" are associated meanings, with "friendly" by extension.

疣
尤 skin eruption
疒 illness
wart
疒 appended for emphasis/clarification

就
尤 contracted right hand/arm
京 metropolis
come/go to; follow; take up; accommodate oneself to
all meanings via extension from the idea "follow an invitation/command to come to a major settlement," the contracted hand suggesting beckoning

蹴
就 contract
足 leg/foot
kick; trample; tread
contract the leg muscles in kicking/trampling

鷲

就 contract
鳥 bird
vulture; eagle
predatory bird contracting its talons around its prey

侑
有 extend
亻/人 person
extend help; urge (s.o.) to eat
urge (s.o.) to eat via the idea "assist by feeding"

囿
有 extend
囗 circular enclosure
game preserve; park; constrained
constrained is a figurative application of enclosure

宥
有 extend
宀 roof/building
tolerate; forgive
extend hospitality by offering a person shelter. The extension of hospitality is likened to providing figurative coverage for someone's needs/weaknesses.

郁
有 extend
邑/阝 village/settlement
elegant; beautiful
figurative associations with qualities of an extensive, prosperous settlement

賄
有 extend
貝 commodities
bribe; bribery
extend a bribe

鮪
有 extend
魚 fish
tuna
a large (= extensive), meaty fish. The fish originally intended by 鮪 is however uncertain.

投
殳 throw
扌/手 hand/action indicator
throw; toss; cast; fling
扌/手 hand/action indicator used to emphasize the original sense of 殳

股
殳 throw
月/肉 flesh
thigh
throw one leg over an object (such as in straddling it)

羖
殳 throw
羊 sheep
black ram/ewe
one ram flinging itself against another in butting horns

骰
殳 throw
骨 bone
dice
fling a die or dice made of bone

佑
右 protect
亻/人 person

protect; help
here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from 右

祐
右 protect
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
divine protection
protection/help extended by the gods

取
又 right hand/arm
耳 ear
take; grasp; receive; seize
the original idea was to take hold of an enemy's severed head by one ear

娶
取 take hold of
女 woman
take as a wife/bride; marry
take hold of a woman in marrying her

掫
取 take hold of
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; be on night watch
扌/手 hand/action indicator appended for emphasis/clarification. "Be on night watch" is via the idea of grasping/grabbing offenders.

陬
取 take hold of
阜/阝 piled earth
corner of a hill
here, 阜 piled earth is used in the sense of 邑 village/settlement (also abbreviated as 阝 in compound characters), originally suggesting a narrow corner of a settlement

that has taken hold on a hillside

聚
取 take hold of
variant form of 從 move/be in formation
collect; congregate; assemble
take hold of/collect an assemblage of people

驟
聚 assemblage
馬 horse
gallop; fast; sudden; frequent/often
galloping assemblage of horses. "Frequent/often" is an associated meaning in the sense of quick repetition of an act, in this case galloping.

諏
取 take hold of
言 words
consult
take hold of (= take into consideration) the opinions of many

趣
取 take hold of
走 run
hasten; interest
move hurriedly toward something that has taken hold of one's interests

叢
取 take hold of
丵 thick clump of tall grass
thicket; cluster; crowd (v.)
take hold of and gather bushes/shrubs

鯫
取 take hold of

魚 fish
small fish
(general term for) small fish (caught by hand)

最
取 take hold of
冃 cover
extreme; most
grasp a container's cover and take a pinch of its precious contents. "Extreme" is in the sense of an extremely small amount taken; "most" is by association with extreme.

嚶
最 take a pinch
口 mouth
eat with the fingers; devour
take into the mouth a small amount of food. Devour is via the image of eating a succession of small portions.

撮
最 take a pinch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
(take) a pinch; grasp
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

蕞
最 take a pinch
艹 grass/plant
(take) a pinch; tiny
take a pinch of plant matter

支
又 action indicator
remnant element = a branch
branch; support; hold (in check)

branch-like, Y-shaped object used as a support; hold (in check) is via the idea of a forked stick that keeps an enemy at bay

岐
支 branch
山 mountain
branch off; diverge
mountain path that branches

庋
支 branch
广 building
cupboard; put away; store (v.)
shelves branched about a pantry

芰
支 branch
艹 grass/plant
water caltrop
a plant the fruit of which has well-defined lines

枝
支 branch
木 tree/wood
branch; limb
枝 was devised to replace 支 after 支 came to refer to "branch" in primarily abstract senses

肢
支 branch
月/肉 flesh
limbs; arms and legs
the limbs, likened to branches

翅

abbreviated form of 肢 limb
羽 feather/wing
wing(s); fin
"fin" is an associated meaning

跂
支 branch
足 leg/foot
have one or more extra toes; wish for something remote

伎
支 skillfully manipulate
亻/人 person
skill; talent
here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from 支

妓
支 skillfully manipulate
女 woman
prostitute
female entertainer, one skilled in singing, dancing and the musical arts. "Prostitute" is an associated meaning; compare 娼.

忮
支 skillfully manipulate
忄/心 heart/emotions
aggression
a type of manipulative behavior

技
支 skillfully manipulate
扌/手 hand/action indicator
skill; accomplishment
扌/手 hand/action indicator appended to emphasize the original sense of 支

豉
支 skillfully manipulate
豆 bean
(salted) fermented beans
mash beans and create a fermented paste

馭
abbreviated form of 支 skillfully manipulate
馬 horse
control
tame/handle a horse. "Control" is an associated meaning; compare 御.

可
remnant element = bent hook
口 mouth
be possible; approve
bend/cup a hand about the mouth to amplify the voice in shouting/singing. "Possible" is in the sense of "make possible to be heard at a distance." "Approve" is in the extended sense of approving what has been made possible.

苛
可 shout; sing
艹 grass/plant
harsh; caustic
plant that irritates the throat as does shouting

哥
可 shout; sing
repetition of 可 for emphasis/clarification
elder brother
sing. The ancient pronunciation of the character matched a babyspeak appellation for older brother.

歌

哥 sing
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
sing; song; chant; poem
歌 was devised to express the original meaning of 哥 after 哥 was borrowed to convey "elder brother"

訶
可 shout; sing
言 words
scold
shout in scolding

河
可 bend
氵/水 water
river
long river with multiple bends

阿
可 bend
阜/阝 piled earth
winding heights; fawn over; flatter
high place with multiple bends. "Fawn over" and "flatter" are either by extension (twist the truth in order to gain favor) or are borrowings.

柯
可 bend
木 tree/wood
ax handle; stem; stalk
L-shaped ax handle. Stem and stalk are via shape association.

珂
可 bend
王/玉 jewel
white agate

jewel cut into a bent shape

笴
可 bend
竹 bamboo
arrow shaft
bamboo bent to form an arrow shaft; compare 簳

舸
可 bend
舟 boat
large boat; barge
vessel with a sharply angled prow

軻
可 bend
車 vehicle
set a vehicle's axle in place; creaking vehicle
use an angled implement to set a vehicle's axle in place with a tremendous creaking noise

婀
阿 bend
女 woman
sinuous; graceful; beautiful
sinuous/graceful woman who bends her body alluringly

痾
阿 bend
疒 illness
chronic illness
disease/illness that causes the body to bend

何
transformed element = bend

亻/人 person
what; how; where; why
depiction of a person bearing on the shoulder a load hung from a long pole, but later transformed into 可 + 亻/人

荷
何 bear a load
艹 grass/plant
lotus; bear a load; load; burden; undertake (← 何)
"lotus" is in the sense of a plant borne on water; compare 茄

奇
可 bend
大 stand outstretched
strange; wondrous
person bending/leaning in an unusual/strange position (specifically, on account of being lame; compare 踦)

倚
奇 lean
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
lean on (a person); rest against; rely/depend on
literal and figurative applications of the idea of leaning upon a person

剞
奇 lean
刀/刂 sword/knife
carving/engraving knife
tool held at an angle when carving; compare 錡

埼
奇 lean
土 earth
headland; cape; promontory
headland that leans/edges downwards or into something; compare 崎 and 碕

寄
奇 lean
宀 roof/building
depend on; entrust; send
lean on or draw near/toward a building. "Depend on" is in the sense of depending on someone for lodging. "Entrust" is in the sense of being entrusted with the care of others. "Send" is in the extended sense of having objects sent to a dependent person.

崎
奇 lean
山 mountain
mountainous headland
compare 埼 and 碕

掎
奇 lean
扌/手 hand/action indicator
drag
drag one leg, causing one to lean and/or be off-balance

椅
奇 lean
木 tree/wood
chair
wooden furnishing upon which one leans. "Chair" is by association.

欹
奇 lean
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
strain to hear
lean toward someone in order to hear better

畸

奇 lean
田 field
irregularly proportioned field; misshapen; remainder; odd (sum/number)
irregularly-shaped portion of land that leans/juts out from a field

碕
奇 lean
石 stone
headland; cape; promontory
(rocky) landmass projecting from a mountain into lowlands, or from a cliff into a body of water; compare 崎 and 埼

綺
奇 lean
糸 thread
figured cloth; beautiful
here the "lean" aspect of 奇 is understood as "irregular in shape" (compare 畸) and thus unusual, leading to the meaning of figured cloth of an unusual, beautiful pattern

踦
奇 lean
足 leg/foot
lame leg; shin
leg that splays out at an angle

錡
奇 lean
金 metal
chisel; saw
hold a chisel or saw at an angle in cutting or shaving; compare 剞

騎
奇 lean
馬 horse

sit astride
rider leaning on a horse in sitting astride it

齮
奇 lean
齒 teeth
bite; chew
lean forward and bite into food

琦
奇 unusual
王/玉 jewel
unusual jewel; admirable/valuable jewel

加
add; append; increase
variant form of 可 (bend/cup a hand about the mouth to amplify the voice in shouting). "Add," "append" and "increase" are associated meanings in the sense of adding a hand atop the mouth to increase the volume of one's voice.

茄
加 place atop
艹 grass/plant
eggplant
lotus stem, atop of which rests a multi-layered flower. For "lotus," compare 荷.

迦
加 place atop
辵 movement
(used in transliterations of Sanskrit/Buddhist terms)
move to meet, adding to a group

架
加 place atop
木 tree/wood

framework; put on; build
wooden framework atop which something is constructed

珈
加 place atop
王/玉 jewel
jeweled hair ornament (for woman)
ornament placed atop the head/hair. 珈琲 = coffee

痂
加 place atop
疒 illness
scab
scab that forms atop a wound

笳
加 place atop
竹 bamboo
reed flute
reed flute created by overlapping layers of material

賀
加 place atop
貝 commodities
congratulations
congratulatory presents piled high

跏
加 place atop
足 leg/foot
sit cross-legged
sit cross-legged, the feet placed atop the thighs

嘉
加 place atop

壴 round drum set on a stand
good; auspicious; praise
feast accompanied by music; compare 喜. "Good" and "auspicious" are associated meanings, with "praise" by extension.

駕
加 place atop
馬 horse
harness; drive; pilot; ride
harness placed atop a horse prior to riding it

枷
加 place atop
木 tree/wood
cangue
cangue= wooden restraining device placed atop the shoulders and encasing the head

口
mouth; hole; aperture; hole; opening; entrance; counter for mouthfuls
depiction of a rounded cavity, and in particular the human mouth

叩
口 mouth
卩 kneeling figure
prostrate; beat; strike
kowtow in making a request. "Beat" and "strike" are via the idea of beating a person into a prostrate position. Note that the English term "kowtow" is via the compound 叩頭.

扣
abbreviated form of 叩 prostrate
扌/手 hand/action indicator
beat; strike; knock; rap; tap; detain; arrest; confiscate; discount; button; clasp; hook; buckle; fasten(er)

beat into a prostrate position. "Detain" and "arrest" are associated meanings in the sense of beating in detaining/arresting, with "confiscate" by extension from detain. "Discount" is a figurative associated meaning (beat down the price). "Button," "clasp," "hook," "buckle" and "fasten(er)" are via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of this character (as hand + a button or other fastener).

釦
abbreviated form of 扣 button
金 metal
button
(metallic) button

杏
口 mouth
木 tree/wood
apricot; almond
apricot in the sense of a tree fruit savored in the mouth

嚙
口 mouth
齒 teeth
bite; chew; gnaw
teeth crossing inside the mouth in biting/chewing

司
口 hole
variant form of 人 person
administer
peer through a narrow hole in overseeing or administrating

伺
司 peer through a hole
亻/人 person
look in (on s.o.); wait upon (a person of high rank); watch; spy upon
Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative

character conveying meanings that dropped from 司 when 司 came to indicate "administer." Compare 覗.

笥
司 peer through a hole
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) box; wicker basket; container (for cooked rice)
bamboo box with small holes allowing a view of the contents

覗
司 peer through a hole
見 see/watch
peek; peep
like 伺, 覗 is a replacement character for 司, devised after 司 came to convey the meaning "administer"

祠
司 administer
示 altar/the supernatural
(small, ancestral) shrine; worship; offer prayers
altar of an ancestral temple at which rites are administered

嗣
司 administer
obsolete element = written oath designating an heir
succeed to; inherit; heir; continue
heir who succeeds to and administers an estate

詞
司 administer
言 words
words; phrase; expression; part of speech
words spoken in administrating

飼

司 administer
食 food/eating
raise/rear (animals)
administer (= distribute) feed in raising animals

辭
transformed element (originally 司 administer not 辛)
remnant element = untangle
word; leave; quit
administer by unraveling a complex case and passing judgment. "Leave" is via dismissal/disposition of a case, with "quit" by association with "leave."

吳
口 hole
remnant element = head leaning forward
(name applied to certain ancient states)
mouths figuratively intersecting in rowdy conversation. The pronunciation of the character simulates the sound of animated conversation, or quarreling.

莫
吳 intersect
艹 grass/plant
(species of grass resembling mugwort)
raw material used for weaving (compare 莫蓙 rush mat)

蜈
吳 intersect
虫 insect/creature
centipede
insect with a multitude of legs that cross in propulsion. Most often, "centipede" is conveyed by the compound 蜈蚣.

娛
吳 rowdy
女 woman

pleasure; enjoyment
enjoy a woman in rowdy circumstances

虞
吳 rowdy
虍 tiger
give careful thought to; be anxious about; apprehension; concern
tigers locked in combat; compare 麌

誤
吳 rowdy
言 words
mistake; err; harm
quarrel involving a mistake

麌
吳 rowdy
鹿 deer
stag; hart
deer locked in combat; compare the original sense of 虞

谷
口 hole
obsolete element = split an opening
valley; ravine; canyon
circular cavity in the earth from which water spouts

俗
谷 cavity
亻/人 person
customary; common; coarse; vulgar
person who figuratively falls into a hole (imagery also found in 禍, 陷, and 凶), becoming accustomed to worldly, vulgar ways

浴

谷 cavity
氵/水 water
bathing; immersion
submerge oneself in a water-filled cavity

欲
谷 cavity
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
desire; greed
empty space in the heart/belly that one craves to fill

慾
欲 desire; greed
心 heart/emotions
desire; greed; lust; passion
心 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Lust" and "passion" are associated meanings.

裕
谷 cavity
衤/衣 clothing
abundant; surplus; ample
loose-fitting garments with ample space between fabric and skin

容
谷 cavity
宀 roof/building
contain; contents; accept; appearance
empty building into which voluminous goods are placed. "Accept" is in the sense of "take in," while "appearance" is via the shape of objects in a container.

溶
容 contain voluminous objects
氵/水 water
dissolve; melt

dissolve/melt voluminous objects in liquid

蓉
容 contain voluminous objects
艹 grass/plant
(fruit/flower containing numerous seeds)
芙蓉 = lotus plant

鎔
容 contain voluminous objects
金 metal
melt; smelt; fuse; mold
melt metal and pour into a mold. For another character meaning both "melt" and "smelt," compare 冶.

峪
谷 valley
山 mountain
valley; ravine
山 appended for emphasis/clarification

郤
谷 valley
邑/阝 village/settlement
depression; (in Chinese medicine) space between bone and muscle
a valley settlement

合
口 cavity
abbreviated form of 今 contain
fit; join; put together; meet; correspond to
press/fit together a lid on a container, containing objects inside

哈
合 press/fit together

口 mouth
(sound of laughter)
press the lips together in sucking in air

姶
合 press/fit together
女 woman
beautiful
woman fitted with heavy clothes; compare 袷

峇
合 press/fit together
山 mountain
cave
vertical mountain cave (with a cover fitted over the entrance)

弇
合 press/fit together
廾 pair of hands
cover
press the hands together to cover an object

恰
合 press/fit together
忄/心 heart/emotions
precisely; properly
fit one's heart

拾
合 press/fit together
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick up; gather; select; collect
pick up/gather scattered pieces and select that those fit together

洽

合 press/fit together
氵/水 water
concordance
large volume of water covering an extensive area. "Concordance" is in the extended sense of "make uniform."

盒
合 press/fit together
皿 dish/plate/bowl
(small) box/case
lidded utensil

祫
合 press/fit together
示 altar/the supernatural
commemorate ancestors jointly
festival in which ancestors both proximate and distant in the bloodline are jointly commemorated

袷
合 press/fit together
衤/衣 clothing
(heavy,) lined garment
lining precisely fitted to the fabric

給
合 press/fit together
糸 thread
provide; supply; do (for the benefit of s.o.)
fit together pieces of fabric in creating provisions/a supply

翕
合 press/fit together
羽 feather/wing
put together; gather

retracted wings, pressed tightly in covering a bird's body

蛤
合 press/fit together
虫 insect/creature
clam; frog
creature encased in a tightly sealed shell

閤
合 press/fit together
門 gate
(small,) side door/gate
door/gate fitted into the side of a larger gate

龕
合 press/fit together
龍 dragon
chamber/shrine
chamber/shrine carved into a cliff or stupa and containing a Buddhist image or treasures. Here, as in 龍, 龍 represents a treasured object.

揜
弇 cover
扌/手 hand/action indicator
cover
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

噏
翕 press
口 mouth
compress; inhale; absorb
compress the lips in sucking in breath; compare 吸, 哈 and 歙. "Inhale" is an associated meaning, with "absorb" by extension.

荅

合 press/fit together
艹 grass/plant
red beans; adzuki beans
beans pressed tightly between the sides of a shell/pod

剳
荅 press/fit together
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
pin down/together; records
use a sharp-edged instrument to pin down/together official records or other objects; compare 箚

塔
荅 press/fit together
土 earth
stupa; tower
stupa built with one layer pressed upon another

搭
荅 press/fit together
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pile together; join (together); ride
press tightly together in raising/being raised upon or into something. "Ride" is in the sense of riders squeezed together on top of an animal, or passengers packed into a vehicle.

鞳
荅 press/fit together
革 leather
(drum comprised of multiple skins)
鞳鞳 = the sound produced by a beaten drum

答
合 press/fit together
竹 bamboo

answer; reply
fit/fasten a cover upon a bamboo vessel. "Answer" is in the sense of an answer corresponding to a question in the manner of a lid corresponding to a container.

箚
答 fit/fasten a cover upon
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
pin down/in place; fasten; (official) document
pin a document down/in place by means of a bladed implement; compare 劄

甘
remnant element = line suggesting (sweet/rich) food
口 mouth
sweet; lenient; accepting
(sweet/rich) food contained and thus concealed within the mouth. The meaning "sweet" is in both actual and figurative senses.

柑
甘 sweet
木 tree/wood
tangerine; (mandarin) orange; citrus
tree bearing sweet fruit

甜
甘 sweet
舌 tongue
sweet; sweetness
sweet food on the tongue

恬
abbreviated form of 甜 sweet
忄/心 heart/emotions
calm; composure; tranquility
figuratively sweet state of being

香
transformed element originally = 甘 sweet
transformed element originally = 黍 millet
fragrance; scent; incense; perfume; savory (smell)
sweet fragrance/scent of boiled millet wafting through the air. In the present form, 甘 has been altered to 日 and 黍 reduced to 禾.

坩
甘 contain
土 earth
earthen pot; earthenware
earthen pot in which to contain things

拑
甘 contain
扌/手 hand/action indicator
contain; restrain; clamp; repress speech
for "clamp," compare 鉗. "Repress speech" is a figurative application of containment or restraint.

疳
甘 contain
疒 illness
gastroenteric disorder afflicting children; childhood illness(es)
disorder (afflicting children) the origin of which is contained deep within the body

紺
甘 contain
糸 thread
dark blue
fabric contained in (dark blue) dye

蚶
甘 contain
虫 insect/creature

ark shell
ark shell/ark clam contained firmly within its protective covering

酣
甘 contain
酉 alcohol
intoxicated; be at the height of; be in full swing
be filled with alcohol. "Be at the height of/in full swing" is by association with a riotous drinking party.

鉗
甘 contain
金 metal
pincers; pliers; restrain oneself; shut one's mouth
contain an object in a metal frame. For "pincers" and "pliers," compare 箝.

欽
abbreviated form of 鉗 restrain oneself
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
respect; revere; admire
restrain oneself and bow in the presence of someone or something inspiring respect/reverence

嶔
欽 revere
山 mountain
steep and high mountain; lofty
steep and high mountain that inspires reverence

廞
欽 restrain
广 building
prepare equipment for battle
within an enclosed structure, ready the equipment required by a deterring military force

箝
拑 clamp
竹 bamboo
pincers; pliers; tongs; tweezers
bamboo object facilitating clamping; compare 鉗

嵌
obsolete element = cavity
山 mountain
inlay; fit into; embed
gorge/depression. The obsolete element combines 甘 (contain) + 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure, suggesting "contain food in the cavity of the mouth."

甚
甘 contain (sweet/rich) food within the mouth
匹 side by side
intensity; great degree; extreme
consume extreme amounts of (sweet/rich) food

勘
甚 extreme
力 power/energy
consider thoroughly; perception; intuition
penetrate deeply in considering/investigating

堪
甚 extreme
土 earth
endure; bear; (with)stand; fitting
endure extreme pressure exerted by an earthen construction

揕
甚 extreme
扌/手 hand/action indicator

strike; thrust; stab
extreme use of the hands

湛
甚 extreme
氵/水 water
deep; clear; fill
extremely deep and clear water

戡
甚 extreme
戈 spear/halberd
kill
cut deeply and kill

斟
甚 extreme
斗 ladle
ladle (v.); pour; gauge; estimate
ladle/pour liquid into a deep container; compare 湛. "Gauge" and "estimate" are in the extended sense of gauging how much a container can hold.

椹
甚 extreme
木 tree/wood
slab; stand (n.); chopping board; fruit of the mulberry tree
wooden slab, stand or chopping board on which objects are vigorously chopped/pounded; compare 碪

尠
甚 extreme
少 small/slight
a little; a few; extremely little/few
extreme degree of slightness/paucity

碪
甚 extreme
石 stone
slab; anvil
stone slab on which clothes are cleaned by being pounded hard with a mallet; compare 椹

糂
甚 extreme
米 rice
rice porridge; boiled food into which rice (powder) is mixed
rice porridge filled to the point of overflowing with meat and vegetables

諶
甚 extreme
言 words
sincerity; truth
words spoken in full depth

黮
甚 extreme
黑 black
deep black; dark
deep black, an extreme color

敢
甘 contain
transformed element = two hands + a slash mark
daring; brave
dare to remove covered or contained objects of great value

噉
敢 covered
口 mouth
eat; bite; chew

food contained in the mouth in biting/chewing

憨
敢 covered
心 heart/emotions
foolish
keep one's knowledge/intentions covered, causing one to appear foolish

瞰
敢 covered
目 eye
spy; look; watch (from above)
observe clandestinely, from a high spot

氐
氐 dig
remnant element = a line
foundation; (name of an ancient tribe)
dig to/press the low point or foundation of an object

厎
氐 press
厂 shape indicator → whetstone
whetstone
press on a whetstone

抵
氐 press
扌/手 hand/action indicator
press; touch; resist
"resist" is an associated meaning in the sense of pressing back in resistance

牴
氐 press
牛 cow

butt (v.); touch; contact
cows/bulls butting horns. Compare 羝 and 觝.

胝
氐 press
月/肉 flesh
blister; callus; chap
skin ailments caused by an object pressing on the skin

羝
氐 press
羊 sheep
ram (n.)
rams butting horns. Compare 牴 and 觝.

詆
氐 press
言 words
vilify; reproach
press a verbal attack

觝
氐 press
角 horn
butt (v.); touch; contact
animals butting horns. Compare 牴 and 羝.

低
氐 low
亻/人 person
low; lower
person hanging the head low. For the idea of bending/hanging low, compare 彽.

坻
氐 low

土 earth
sandbar; islet
protrusions from the bottom of a watercourse

彽
氐 low
彳 movement
bend/hang low
motion in a lower direction; 彽徊 = to wander

祗
氐 low
示 altar/the supernatural
respectful; ceremonious
reverence for a tutelary, subterranean god

骶
氐 low
骨 bone
coccyx
bone located at the base of the spinal column

鵙
氐 low
鳥 bird
kite (the bird)
bird swooping low in grabbing prey

底
氐 foundation
广 building
bottom
foundation of a building

邸

氐 foundation
邑/阝 village/settlement
residence
the residence of an official or important figure, likened to the foundation of a community

柢
氐 foundation
木 tree/wood
root; foundation; basis
roots as the foundation of a tree

砥
氐 foundation
石 stone
whetstone
foundation upon which a bladed implement is sharpened

今
now; at present; current
depiction of one object contained and concealed within another. It is likely the concealing object was originally a mouth; compare 含 and 吟, as well as 甘 and 音.

含
今 contain
口 mouth
contain/hold in the mouth; contain; include
含 and 吟 represent an example of a pair of characters devised from the same elements but expressing different meanings; for another example, see 忙 and 忘

琴
今 contain
玨 = shape indicator
guqin; zither; koto
玨 is a shape indicator suggesting the outline of a particular musical instrument. In

combination with 今 it originally indicated a musical instrument in which the sound is enclosed within a sealed base.

衿
今 contain
衤/衣 clothing
collar; lapel
overlapping and thus containing part of a garment. Note how the same combination of elements is employed to create different meanings in 衾.

矜
今 contain
矛 pike/halberd
sympathize; be proud of; pity
halberd handle in which the weapon is contained

貪
今 contain
貝 commodities
greedy; covetous
greedily keep commodities contained

黔
今 contain
黑 black
black; grow dark
be contained in darkness

吟
今 contain
口 mouth
groan; moan; hum; sing; recite; poem
indistinct sound contained within the mouth; compare 音. "Sing" is an associated meaning, with "recite" and "poem" by extension. 吟 and 含 represent an example of a pair of characters devised from the same elements but expressing different

meanings; for another example, see 忙 and 忘.

荅
含 contain
艹 grass/plant
the full stem and spears of a rice plant about to blossom; bud
for the idea of an object just about to make its appearance, compare 晗. Compare also 稔 (grain contained in a husk).

晗
含 contain
日 sun/day
pre-dawn
the sun, as yet contained in darkness but about to make its appearance. For the idea of an object just about to make its appearance, compare 荅.

頷
含 contain in the mouth
頁 head
chin; nod
jaw (which closes to contain food in the oral cavity). "Chin" is an associated meaning, as is "nod" (the head), via the image of the up and down movement made by the jaw in chewing.

衾
今 contain
衣 clothing
bedding; quilt
bedding/bedclothes in which to contain the body. Note how the same combination of elements is employed to create different meanings in 衿.

金
今 contain
remnant element = 土 earth + random marks
gold; metal; money

gold contained here and there within the earth

崟
金 contain
山 mountain
steep, rugged mountain
rugged mountain containing protruding boulders

淦
金 metal
氵/水 water
scale; bilge water
"scale" = a mineral deposit covering and obscuring the original surface of an object

銜
金 metal
行 straight and crossing
(horse's) bit; place/hold in the mouth
metallic, T-shaped bit contained in a horse's mouth when the horse bites down upon it

錦
金 gold
帛 cloth/silk
brocade; embroidered; fine clothing
silk into which gold is woven

念
今 contain
心 heart/emotions
thought; idea remembrance; study
thought/idea contained deep within the heart

唸
念 contain

口 mouth
chant; recite
indistinct sound contained within the mouth (the same as 吟, which also has the meaning "recite"). For "chant," compare 歌.

捻
念 contain
扌/手 hand/action indicator
twist; nip; twirl
twist an object contained between fingers. "Twirl" is an associated meaning in the sense of twirling with the fingers.

稔
念 contain
禾 grain/rice
ripe grain; ripen; harvest
ripening of grain contained in a husk

酓
今 contain
酉 alcohol container
bitter
bitterness of fermented liquor contained in a jug

飲
transformed element (originally 酓 contain alcohol)
欠 (create a) cavity
drink; swallow
pour (a drink/medicinal liquor) into the mouth. Eventually, 酓 was replaced by 食 food/eating.

盦
酓 contain alcohol
皿 dish/plate/bowl
lidded vessel; lid

lidded vessel in which alcohol is contained

㑹
今 contain
云 rising vapors
clouded over; dark; gloomy
be clouded over and gloomy (= contained in darkness)

陰
㑹 clouded over
阜/阝 piled earth
clouded over; dark; obscure; negative
cloud-shadowed side of a hill

廕
陰 shadow
广 building
shade; protect; cover
covering structure that provides both shade and protection

蔭
陰 shadow
艹 grass/plant
shade; protect
shade cast by vegetation

禽
今 contain
remnant element = net with a handle
capture; bird
capture birds and contain them in a net. "Bird" originally specified a captured/captive bird, but the meaning is now generic.

擒
禽 capture

扌/手 hand/action indicator
capture; seize
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

檎
禽 capture
木 tree/wood
(fruit)
harvest tree fruit with a net. 林檎 = apple

丰
abundant/luxuriant vegetation
depiction of fruit-bearing, cone-shaped ears of grain

邦
丰 cone-shaped ears of grain
transformed element (originally 田 field)
country; nation; state
abundant grain in a field. Later, 邑 village/settlement replaced 田 and 丰 came to be associated with "cone-shaped" rather than "grain." This combination of elements indicated a platform built upon a cone-shaped mound of earth that proclaims (to the gods) the ownership of a particular area of land; compare 封. Present-day meanings are by association.

蚌
丰 cone-shaped
虫 insect/creature
bivalve; clam; oyster; mussel
cone-shaped bivalve

奉
remnant element = 丰 abundant grain + 廾 pair of hands
originally 手 hand/action indicator
offer (tribute); present/receive (respectfully); respect; revere; serve
spread/extend the arms in presenting an offering

俸
奉 spread/extend in presenting/receiving
亻/人 person
salary; wages
receive a salary extended to one. In 俸, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying a nuance ("receive") that largely disappeared from 奉.

捧
奉 spread/extend
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold up with both hands; offer; flatter
hold an object in both hands and extend it in a ritual offering. "Flatter" is a figurative associated meaning.

棒
奉 spread/extend
木 tree/wood
club/stick/pole; strike (with a club/stick/pole); strong; excellent
extend a club/stick/pole straight out

夆
丰 cone-shaped
夂 leg/foot pointed downward
resist
two individuals moving toward a meeting at the cone-shaped peak of a hill/mountain. (For "meet," compare 逢; for "peak," compare 峰.) "Resist" is via reinterpreting 夆 to suggest "walk through (resisting) vegetation."

峰
夆 cone-shaped
山 mountain
peak; summit; hump of a camel
mountain the sides of which meet at the top in a cone shape. "Hump of a camel" is

via shape association.

烽
夆 cone-shaped
火 fire
signal fire
signal fire, originally one emanating from a cone-shaped tower

蜂
夆 cone-shaped
虫 insect/creature
bee; hornet; wasp
bee, a creature that lives communally in cone-shaped beehives

鋒
夆 cone-shaped
金 metal
(sharp) point of a spear; (sharp) tip; vanguard
sharp, cone-shaped point of a spear. "Vanguard" is a figurative associated meaning.

逢
夆 meet
辵 movement
meet
辵 appended for emphasis/clarification. The nuance is "meet by chance." For a chance encounter, compare 邂 覯 and 訝.

蓬
逢 meet
艹 grass/plant
mugwort
plant with triangular-shaped ears or spikes that meet at the top. For "mugwort," compare 艾 蒿 and 薛.

篷

逢 meet
竹 bamboo
awning; small boat
weave rushes, causing the material to meet; compare 縫. (Rush-woven) "awning" for vehicles or boats is an associated meaning, with "small boat" by extension.

縫
逢 meet
糸 thread
sew; slit; crack; fissure
sew, causing the raw material to meet; compare 篷. "Slit," "crack" and "fissure" are associated meanings in the sense of sewing to close an aperture.

豐
obsolete element = abundant grain
豆 food stand
abundance; rich
abundant grain piled high in a cone shape on a food stand. "Rich" is an associated meaning. The obsolete element is 丰 (doubled) + 山 mountain, suggesting abundant grain piled high in a cone shape on a food stand.

艷
豐 abundance
色 color/appearance
colorful; glossy; luster; sexy; seductive
abundant/rich color. "Sexy" and "seductive" are figurative, associated meanings.

豔
豐 abundance
盍 (press down and) cover
xxx
used as a variant form of 艷 (originally, abundant/rich color)

灩
豔 abundance

氵/水 water
overflowing water; flowing/moving water
(over-)abundance of water; compare 溢

方
side; direction; aspect; place; area; method; square; rectangle; upright; counter for square objects; person; party involved; only; just
depiction of rafts/boats moored side by side. "Aspect," "place," "area" and "method" are via association with direction. "Square" and "rectangle" are via association with the image of spreading in equal amounts. "Upright" is by extension from "square/rectangle" in the sense of an upright object of those shapes, with "counter for square objects" also via "square/rectangle." "Person" and "party involved" are via extension from "direction" in the sense of a person over there, in that direction.

仿
方 spread
亻/人 person
imitate
person producing imitations and causing them to spread in distributing them

坊
方 spread
土 earth
city sector; lane
earth spread to create an embankment. Present-day meanings by association.

妨
方 spread
女 woman
hinder
spread the arms to hinder access to a woman

彷
方 spread

彳 movement
irresolute
spread about in wandering, an unsettled condition. Irresolution is likened to an unsettled state of mind; compare 徬.

芳
方 spread
艹 grass/plant
fragrant
spreading fragrance of plants

防
方 spread
阜/阝 piled earth
protect; defend; prevent
earth spread and piled to create a protective or defensive embankment

房
方 spread
戶 door
house; room
the rooms of a spreading (= expansive) house

放
方 spread
攵 strike
release; let go
strike an object, causing pieces to be released and spread/scatter

昉
方 spread
日 sun
dawn
sunlight spreading at dawn

肪
方 spread spread
月/肉 flesh
fat (n.)
spreading, protruding fat

紡
方 spread
糸 thread
spin
spread threads in spinning

舫
方 rafts/boats moored side by side
舟 boat
boats moored to each other; boat
舫 was devised to replace 方 after 方 acquired its numerous associated and extended meanings

訪
方 spread
言 words
inquire; visit
spread out in visiting to make inquiries

髣
方 spread
髟 hair
similar to; seemingly
long hair spreading similarly to each side of the head

旁
方 spread
remnant element = two horizontal lines + 八 split right and left
side; beside; one side; nearby; element positioned on the right side of a

Han/Chinese character
(spread to) both sides of the body

傍
旁 side
亻/人 person
side; beside
both sides of a person

徬
旁 side
彳 movement
irresolute
be flanked by retainers in a wandering procession. Irresolution is likened to a wandering, unsettled state of mind; compare 彷.

搒
旁 side
扌/手 hand
row
pole a boat, switching back and forth between each side. "Pole" leads to both "oar" and "row"; compare 榜.

滂
旁 side
氵/水 water
torrent; rushing water
water flowing in torrents around both sides of an object

蒡
旁 side
艹 grass/plant
(edible plant, identity uncertain)
牛蒡 = burdock

榜
旁 side
木 tree/wood
row; oar; rod
placard/nameplate with writing on both sides; compare 牓. For present-day meanings, compare 搒.

牓
旁 side
片 thin and flat piece
row; oar; rod
tablet serving as a public notice, inscribed on both sides. Now however effectively a variant form of 榜.

膀
旁 side
月/肉 flesh
upper arm
originally indicated the shoulder blades (one on each side of the body)

磅
旁 side
石 stone
scale
stone used to balance a scale, placing both sides in equilibrium

謗
旁 side
言 words
slander; defame
figuratively criticize a person from both sides (= all angles)

放
方 spread
攵 strike

release; let go; let out; (set) free; liberate; put/place
strike an object, causing pieces to be released and spread/scatter in all directions. "Put" and "place" are associated meanings in the sense of putting/placing here and there.

倣
放 scatter
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
imitate; follow
imitate or follow others in scattering

敖
放 scatter
transformed element (originally 出 proceed)
ramble; play around
spread/roam without restraint

傲
敖 spread/roam without restraint
亻/人 person
proud; arrogant
pride of one able to act unfettered

遨
敖 spread/roam without restraint
辶 movement
enjoy oneself at will
unfettered rambling/traveling

謷
敖 spread/roam without restraint
言 words
noisy
rambling, slanderous discourse

鶩
敖 spread/roam without restraint
馬 horse
wild horse; fast horse
unrestrained horse

鼇
敖 spread/roam without restraint
黽 frog/amphibious creature
sea turtle
(legendary) huge sea turtle that roams far and wide

熬
敖 spread/roam without restraint
灬/火 fire
boil; cook; simmer; decoct; endure
blazing fire. "Endure" is a figurative associated meaning, in the sense of withstanding an ordeal as scathing as a fire.

聱
敖 spread/roam without restraint
耳 ear
difficult to make out; overly complicated; tortuous style
unfocused speech, hard for the listener to comprehend

鼉
abbreviated form of 鼇 sea turtle
旦 long and flat
(sea) turtle
turtle with a shell whose rounded carapace (top portion) rises over the flat plastron (lower portion)

白
white; clear; bright; pure; plain; blank; empty; in vain; gratuitous; gratis; free of charge; for nothing; state; explain; spoken lines (in Chinese opera)

depiction of an acorn, a large number of which would be scattered over the ground. "White" is by association with the color of acorn meat. Other present-day meanings are via association or figurative extension.

帛
白 white
巾 cloth
white cloth; silk; silk goods
white silk cloth

怕
白 white
忄/心 heart/emotions
be afraid; worry; be apprehensive
go pale with fear

狛
白 white
犭/犬 dog/beast
wolf-like beast; (pair of whitish, stone) guardian lion-dogs
whitish, wolf-like beast

柏
白 white
木 tree/wood
cedar; oak
tree with whitish leaves, or which are coated with a white, waxy substance

珀
白 white
玉 jewel
(whitish yellow jewel)
琥珀 = amber

碧

珀 whitish yellow jewel
石 stone
jasper; blue; green
yellow or brown variety of jasper. "Blue" and "green" are extended meanings, yellow jasper being likened to yellow sapphire and the latter then associated with blue sapphire, leading on to green.

袙
白 white
衤/衣 clothing
warrior's headband
particular type of white accessory

帕
abbreviated form of 袙 (warrior's) headband
巾 cloth
kerchief; veil turban; wrap; bind

粕
白 white
米 rice
lees; dregs; scum
whitish lees, a by-product of rice alcohol

魄
白 white
鬼 ghost; demon
spirit; soul
whitish, ghostly spirit

緜
帛 white cloth
系 connection
cotton
connected fibers of cotton in a piece of cloth

綿
cotton
variant form of 緜, substituting 糸 for 系 and transposing the elements

棉
abbreviated form of 綿 cotton
木 tree/wood
cotton
cotton (plant)

皀
白 scatter
匕 double-pronged eating implement
grain
匕 here suggests a pitchfork-like implement. The original idea was to scatter grain for animal feed.

泊
白 scatter
氵/水 water
be anchored; stay
tethered rafts/boats scattered over the surface of water

箔
泊 spread over
竹 bamboo
gilt; gilding; bamboo screen; frame for cultivating silkworms
thin layer of gilt spread over bamboo. For "bamboo screen," compare 薄.

拍
白 scatter
扌/手 hand/action indicator
clap; beat time
cause the hands to join then scatter in clapping

迫
白 scatter
辵 movement
pressure
apply pressure in approaching enemies, causing them to scatter

舶
白 scatter
舟 boat
boat
boats scattered over the surface of a body of water

廄
□□feed animals
广 building
barn; stable
barn/stable in which farm animals are sheltered and fed. □□which adds 殳 action indicator, was devised to replace 皀 after 皀 came to indicate grain.

敫
放 scatter
白 white
white spray that scatters when waves pound rocks. 敫 is effectively obsolete.

徼
敫 collide and scatter
彳 movement
go about; patrol
intercept/confront and scatter enemies

激
敫 collide and scatter
氵/水 water
arouse; incite; be turbulent

氵/水 appended to emphasize/clarify the original sense of waves colliding with rocks, scattering white spray

邀
敫 collide and scatter
辵 movement
confront; intercept; meet
collide with and scatter enemies

檄
敫 collide and scatter
木 tree/wood
manifesto
a call to scatter an enemy, inscribed on wood

皦
敫 white spray that scatters when waves pound rocks
白 white
bright white; bright; brilliant
白 appended for emphasis/clarification

竅
敫 collide and scatter
穴 hole
hole; cavern; aperture
hole/cavern created by water colliding with earth/rock

繳
敫 collide and scatter
糸 thread
hand in; hand over
arrow attached to a cord, one fired at a flock of birds that scatters when one is hit. "Hand in/over" is via the idea of taking prey in hand.

皋

high riverbank
variant form of 敫 (white spray that scatters when waves pound rocks), specifying a high riverbank. 皋 also takes the form 臯 (see 翱).

睾
marsh; testicle(s) (← 橐 protective sack)
variant form of 皋. "Marsh" is via association with "riverbank."

翱
臯 high
羽 feather/wing
fly high; soar
wings rising high

包
envelop; wrap; bundle; wrapper; contain; container; package
depiction of a placenta/womb that envelops a fetus

庖
包 envelop
广 building
kitchen
place located deep within a building compound

抱
包 envelop
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold; carry (in the arms); embrace
envelop in the hands/arms

泡
包 envelop
氵/水 water
bubble; foam; froth
pocket of air enveloped by water

苞
包 envelop
艹 grass/plant
variety of miscanthus
husk used as wrapping material

枹
包 envelop
木 tree/wood
Quercus serrata; stick (n.) (← 桴)
Quercus serrata is a type of beech; the connection with "envelop" in this context is unclear.

炮
包 envelop
火 fire
roast; roast whole; cook over a low flame; refine/prepare medicinal herbs; cannon
(wrap in leaves/oil paper etc. and) roast; compare 炰. "Cannon" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of a projectile wrapped in a barrel and fired off (compare also 砲).

炰
包 envelop
火 fire
roast; broil; bake
(wrap and) roast/broil/bake; compare 炮

胞
包 envelop
月/肉 flesh
placenta
devised to recreate the original signification of 包

疱
包 envelop
疒 illness
(water) blister; pimple
ailment in which a protrusion is enveloped by skin; compare 皰

皰
包 envelop
皮 skin/hide
(water) blister; pimple
ailment in which a protrusion is enveloped by skin; compare 疱

砲
包 envelop
石 stone
cannon; gun
stone enveloped in a catapult launcher

袍
包 envelop
衤/衣 clothing
robe; gown; coat
padded/lined garment that envelops the body

跑
包 envelop
足 leg/foot
paw the ground; run; flee
paw/hoof etc. of a beast enveloped by dirt in scratching at the earth. "Run" and "flee" are associated meanings, in the sense of dirt kicked up by a fleeing animal.

鉋
包 envelop
金 metal
(carpenter's) plane

tool that envelopes portions of lumber in planing

雹
包 envelop
雨 rain/natural phenomena
hail
water enveloped by ice

鞄
包 envelop
革 leather
leather bag; briefcase
leather bag in which objects are wrapped

飽
包 envelop
食 food/eating
satiated (with food); satisfied
plenteous food enveloped in the stomach

髱
包 envelop
髟 hair
coiled bun/knot of hair

鮑
包 envelop
魚 fish
abalone
sea creature enveloped in a shell

麭
包 envelop
麥 barley/grain
ball of (sticky) rice; pastry; cake

匊
abbreviated form of 包 envelop
米 rice
handful; take in both hands
wrap the hands about a handful of rice

掬
匊 wrap about
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold/scoop with both hands
hold firmly, wrapped in both hands

菊
匊 wrap about
艹 grass/plant
chrysanthemum
flower of a wrap-about appearance

鞠
匊 wrap about
革 leather
(leather) ball; quiz/grill
tightly wrapped leather ball. "Quiz/grill" (in investigating) is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of tightening the pressure on a suspect; compare 絞 and 訊.

鞫
abbreviated form of 鞠 quiz/grill in investigating
言 words
grill a suspect/criminal; investigate; interrogate
言 appended for emphasis/clarification

麴
匊 wrap about
麥 barley/grain

yeast
ball of grain or malted rice with other ingredients wrapped inside

匋
abbreviated form of 包 envelop
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
pottery; ceramics
knead clay in a vessel in creating pottery, ceramics or porcelain

掏
匋 knead
扌/手 hand/action indicator
scoop (out); take/pull (out)
knead then take/scoop (out)

淘
匋 knead
氵/水 water
wash (out); clean (out); cleanse
wash (impurities out/away) with a kneading motion; compare 綯

陶
匋 knead clay in a vessel in creating pottery
阜/阝 piled earth
pottery; ceramics
阜/阝 appended for emphasis/clarification

綯
匋 knead
糸 thread
twine; twist; rope
twine rope (with a movement of the hands resembling kneading; compare 淘)

八
eight

depiction of curved lines bending away from each other, suggesting the idea of splitting away to right and left

穴
八 split right and left
宀 roof/building
cave; cavity; den; hole
remove dirt in digging a hole for a cave dwelling

半
八 split right and left
牛 cow
half; part(ly)
split a cow in butchering it, the separate parts remaining in close proximity

兌
八 split right and left
兄 (kneeling figure)
exchange
strip away a captive's clothes and exchange them for prisoner's garb

弗
八 split right and left
remnant element = hanging vine or beanstalk
negation
"negation" is via the imagery of using the hands to sweep away/dismiss; compare 拂

尚
八 split right and left
巾 cloth
split cloth
split, tattered cloth

分

八 split right and left
刀 sword/knife
divide; separate; portion; distinguish; minute (n.)
split/divide an object into separate portions

突
穴 hole
犬 dog/beast
protrude; thrust; break out/through
hole from which a dog/beast suddenly springs

穿
穴 hole
牙 fangs/mesh
pierce; penetrate; bore through
using fangs, pierce holes

竄
abbreviated form of 穿 pierce a hole
鼠 rat/mouse
flee; run off/away; expel; banish; rewrite; revise; edit
rat/mouse piercing a hole and fleeing

窠
穴 hole
巢 nest
nest; hole; den
nest made in a deep hole/cavity

竊
穴 hole
obsolete element = take rice
steal
insect that darts into a hole and consumes rice stealthily. "Steal" is an associated meaning. The obsolete element originally combined 米 rice and a variant form of 廾

pair of hands.

伴
半 split
亻/人 person
accomplice; companion
person who, with an accomplice/companion, splits off from a group

判
半 split
刀/刂 sword/knife
judge
judgment likened to a decisive cutting in two; compare 决 斷 裁 and 折

泮
半 split
氷 ice
melt
ice that splits in melting; compare 泮

拌
半 split
扌/手 hand/action indicator
mix
split ingredients into smaller pieces and mix in a pot

泮
半 split
氵/水 water
melt
water produced by splitting/melting ice; compare 泮. 泮宮 = an ancient type of school

叛
半 split

反 bend back
revolt; rebel
split in rebellion

胖
半 split
月/肉 flesh
corpulent
sliced meat from a sacrificial offering

畔
半 split
田 field
edge; side
edge of a path splitting fields

袢
半 split
衤/衣 clothing
robe; underwear
garment that splits (= divides) one's skin from one's clothes

絆
半 split
糸 thread
shackle; hinder (movement)
split the limbs away from each other and shackle/bind

悦
兌 strip away
忄/心 heart/emotions
pleasure; joy
strip away unpleasant feelings

脱

兌 strip away
月/肉 flesh
strip off/away; escape
strip away meat from bone

税
兌 strip away
禾 grain/rice
tax; tithe; duty
strip away part of a harvest as a tax/tithe

説
兌 strip away
言 words
state an opinion; persuade; theory
strip away doubts in stating one's opinion or theory

鋭
兌 strip away
金 metal
sharp; acute; zealous
strip away flesh with a sharp weapon

閲
兌 strip away
門 gate
inspection; review
at an inspection gate, investigate and strip away/out suspicious persons

梲
兌 strip away
木 tree/wood
pillar for the ridge of a roof; club
piece of wood stripped away for use as a short support pillar for the ridge of a roof. "Club" is via association with "piece of wood."

蛻
兌 strip away
虫 insect
molt; slough
stripping away of a body part or covering

佛
弗 split
亻/人 person
Buddha; Buddhist
person who splits away and disappears. 佛 was used to transliterate the Sanskrit "buddha."

怫
弗 split
忄/心 heart/emotions
anxiety; rage
heart split on account of anxiety. "Rage" is another manifestation of an unbalanced heart.

艴
abbreviated form of 怫 rage
色 color/appearance
face that goes flush with anger
raging countenance

拂
弗 split
扌/手 hand/action indicator
sweep/brush away; refuse (v.)
split/sweep away to both sides; compare 非

沸
弗 split

氵/水 water
boil
splitting away of bubbles on the surface of boiling water

彿
弗 split
彳 movement (→ action indicator)
similar; like
split into like or similar groups

狒
弗 split
犭/犬 dog/beast
hamadryad baboon
animal with brilliant symmetrical coloration on both sides of its muzzle

紼
弗 split
糸 thread
thick rope used to lead oxen; rope used to pull a hearse
one of multiple ropes splitting away from a central point

費
弗 split
貝 commodities
expenditure; spend; squander
split (= distribute) commodities

髴
弗 split
髟 hair
unkempt hair
disheveled hair that splits away

敝

㡀 split
攵 strike
be in tatters/dilapidated; exhausted
strike and split

幣
敝 split
巾 cloth
currency
cloth split in half and (in ancient times) used as currency

弊
敝 split
廾 pair of hands (→ action indicator)
detriment; disadvantage
split an object in half, devaluing it

蔽
敝 split
艹 grass/plant
cover; conceal; shield
split vegetation in which prey is covered/concealed/shielded (in order to reveal it)

瞥
敝 split
目 eye
cast a sideways glance (at)
quick splitting of vision

斃
敝 split
死 die/death
kill; die
split an enemy apart

鼈
敝 split
黽 frog/amphibious creature
soft-shelled turtle
creature that is easily split

班
transformed element (originally 八 split right and left)
玨 (玉 jewel in abbreviated form, and doubled)
group/team; squadron; class; grade; rank; (job) shift
split a round gem in two. "Group/team" and "squadron" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of a large group of people split into smaller units, which however remain coordinated. "Class," "grade," "rank" and "(job) shift" are by extension from "group."

斑
abbreviated form of 班 split into a group
文 pattern
spotted; dappled; speckled; mottled
various patterns forming a group; compare 駮 and 駁

四
八 split right and left
口 mouth
four; fourth; four times
splitting off/dispersal of breath through the nostrils to right and left; compare 自. 四 replaced an ancient character written with four horizontal lines and meaning "four."

駟
四 four
馬 horse
(team of) four horses

駛
gallop; run fast; drive at high speed; pilot; sail; fast

variant form of 駟 team of four horses, suggesting an official (史) riding a galloping horse

孛
transformed element (originally 八 split right and left)
remnant element = young living things
spring up
the remnant element combines 屮 grass shoot and 子 child/offspring, suggesting young living things bursting upward and outward, leading to the meaning "spring up"; compare 撥. 孛星 = a comet

勃
孛 spring up
力 power/energy
sudden
sudden action in the form of springing up or bursting forth

渤
勃 spring up
氵/水 water
swell
tumultuous swell of water; compare 浡

悖
孛 spring up
忄/心 heart/emotions
be contrary/contradictory
spring up in opposition (emotionally)

浡
孛 spring up
氵/水 water
bursting forth of water; burst forth; arise; be vigorous
compare 渤

肺
transformed element = split right and left
月/肉 flesh
lung
internal organ found on both sides of the chest. The transformed element, which in contemporary fonts can be identical in form with 市, combines 八 split right and left + a bud, indicating buds split right and left.

沛
transformed element = split right and left
氵/水 water
abundant; copious; sudden
abundant water splitting off right and left. "Sudden" is an associated meaning in the sense of a sudden rush of abundant water. The transformed element, which in contemporary fonts can be identical in form with 市, combines 八 split right and left + a bud, indicating buds split right and left.

霈
沛 abundant water
雨 rain/natural phenomena
torrential rain
abundant water pouring from the sky

旆
transformed element = split right and left
从 pennant/banner
flag; banner
split, swallow-tailed flag/banner; compare 旐. The transformed element, which in contemporary fonts can be identical in form with 市, combines 八 split right and left + a bud, indicating buds split right and left.

坌
分 split
土 earth
dust; gather

dust splitting away from earth. "Gather" is via the image of separate particles gathered in a cloud of dust.

扮
分 split
扌/手 hand/action indicator
disguise; dress up (as)
create a split between one's habitual and temporary identities

芬
分 split
艹 grass/plant
fragrant; perfume
split fragrant vegetation, releasing its perfume

忿
分 split
心 heart/emotions
anger
anger conceived of as a split between one's habitual and temporary mental states

枌
分 split
木 tree/wood
shingle(s)
split lumber. Originally, however, the term may have referred to a tree the seeds of which scatter widely.

盼
分 split
目 eye
expectant (look); hope (for)
vision (actually/figuratively) split off to the distance

紛

分 split
糸 thread
confused; disorderly
confused jumble of threads that have been split

棼
分 split
林 forest (→ timber)
roof beams; disorder
roof beams dividing a roof into sections

盆
分 portion
皿 dish/plate/bowl
basin; bowl
apportion food in a wide-mouthed basin/bowl

粉
分 portion
米 rice
flour; powder; white
tiny portions of rice crushed into flour or powder. "White" is by color association.

貧
分 portion
貝 commodities
poverty; destitution
apportion one's possessions to the point of poverty/destitution

雰
分 portion
雨 rain/natural phenomena
mist; fog
dense mist/fog, understood as tiny portions of precipitation

氛
abbreviated form of 雰 mist/fog
气 rising vapors (→ air/atmosphere)
air; atmosphere
mist/fog as one manifestation of air/atmosphere

頒
分 portion
頁 people
promulgate; distribute; divide
apportion (goods/information) to a crowd

甫
great; suffix for male names; just; barely
depiction of a seedling curving upward in spreading from a field or seedbed.
"Great" is via association with "spread."

匍
甫 spread
勹 wrap
crawl
lie on one's stomach (as though wrapping the earth with one's belly)

哺
甫 spread
口 mouth
feed (v.); take/hold in the mouth
mouth of an infant spread over a breast in suckling

圃
甫 spread
囗 circular enclosure
garden
enclosed garden/fields spread through with plants and/or trees

捕
甫 spread
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; catch; seize; arrest
spread the hands/arms and grasp an object

浦
甫 spread
氵/水 water
shore; riverbank
spreading waterside

蒲
浦 spreading waterside
艹 grass/plant
cattail; bulrush
plants growing at waterside

逋
甫 spread
辶 movement
evade capture; abscond
spread out to avoid captors

晡
甫 spread
日 sun/day
late afternoon
late afternoon sunlight spreading over the earth

脯
甫 spread
月/肉 flesh
dried meat; preserved fruit
expansive lump of dried meat

酺
甫 spread
酉 alcohol container
drinking party/feast; drink heavily
food and drink spread for a feast (originally, one imperially sanctioned)

痛
甫 spread
疒 illness
illness
illness spreading over the body

盩
甫 spread
皿 dish/plate/bowl
boiled grain (used in ceremonial offerings)
boiled grain spread through a container

簠
盩 container
竹 bamboo
bamboo container for ceremonial offerings of grain
particularly, one for official offerings

補
甫 spread
衤/衣 clothing
mend; make up for; compensate (for)
spread a piece of material over a rip/hole to supplement and mend a garment. 裨 is a variant form of 補.

輔
甫 spread
車 vehicle

splint (supporting the platform of a wagon); support
curved splint spread over and supporting the platform of a wagon

舖
甫 spread
variant form of 金 metal
shop; store
goods spread flat for display/sale in a simple structure

餔
甫 spread
食 food/eating
eat; late afternoon/evening meal
eat a spread of food

鬴
甫 spread
鬲 tripod cooking vessel
large cooking pot
expansive type of cooking vessel

黼
甫 spread
黹 needlework/embroidery
embroidery; embroidered ceremonial robe
embroidery with an ax-patterned, black and white motif spread over it

甹
甫 spread
方 spread
spread
spread at length over a flat surface

敷
甹 spread

攵 action indicator
spread/lay out over a surface
spread/lay at length over a flat surface

尃
甫 spread
寸 hand/action indicator
announce; proclaim
spread in announcing/proclaiming

傅
尃 spread
亻/人 person
tutor
large group attending on/accompanying an important person. "Tutor" is an associated meaning in the sense of attending on a person to instruct him/her.

博
尃 spread
十 gather
broad; expansive; extensive; gamble
collection of numerous objects, spread over a surface. "Gamble" is via the image of betting on objects that have been spread out.

搏
尃 spread
扌/手 hand/action indicator
strike; grasp; seize
spread the hand in slapping/striking, or spread the hand over an object in taking possession of it

榑
尃 spread
木 tree/wood
unprocessed log/lumber

unprocessed log/lumber spread over a flat surface for cutting

膊
尃 spread
月/肉 flesh
(upper) arm; shoulder
the (upper) arm as part of the body that spreads in various directions; compare 肱. "Shoulder" is via association with the upper arm.

縛
尃 spread
糸 thread
bind; tie; restrain
spread an object and bind it with thread/rope

賻
尃 spread
貝 commodities
mourning gifts
a spread of commodities for a particular purpose

溥
尃 spread
氵/水 water
spread wide; widespread; pervasive
spreading liquid

簿
溥 spread
竹 bamboo
account book; register
strips of bamboo spread in record-keeping

薄
溥 spread

艹 grass/plant
thin; light; weak
vegetation spread thin in shallow waters

礴
薄 spread thin
石 stone
extend; cover (in filling)
stone(s) extending over the ground in covering

小
small; little; a little bit; infant
depiction of small and curled, whittled shavings. "Infant" is a figurative associated meaning.

肖
小 small
月/肉 flesh
resemble
small offspring that resemble the parents in miniature

俏
肖 resemble in miniature
亻/人 person
resemble
resemble someone

削
肖 resemble in miniature
刀/刂 sword/knife
shave; scrape; plane; pare; peel
process resulting in the creation of small likenesses of the original object

宵
肖 resemble in miniature

宀 roof/building
early evening; night; dark
rays of sunlight that stream indoors at dusk, growing ever finer

峭
肖 resemble in miniature
山 mountain
steep; rugged; rough
portion (resembling the entirety) of a high and steep mountain

悄
肖 resemble in miniature
忄/心 heart/emotions
quiet; silent; sad; depressed
shriveled emotions, in the form of sadness or depression

消
肖 resemble in miniature
氵/水 water
extinguish; disappear; die (off/out)
extinguish a burning object with water, leaving the original object in reduced form

逍
肖 resemble in miniature
辶 movement
stroll; ramble; saunter; wander
take small steps in strolling

梢
肖 resemble in miniature
木 tree/wood
treetop; tip (of a branch)
treetop resembling the entirety of a tree

硝

肖 resemble in miniature
石 stone
saltpeter; tan leather
finely ground mineral

稍
肖 resemble in miniature
禾 grain/rice
slight; a little bit; gradually
small ears of crops resembling the entirety of the plant

筲
肖 resemble in miniature
竹 bamboo
basket/container
small basket/container of woven bamboo containing boiled rice

綃
肖 resemble in miniature
糸 thread
raw silk (fabric)
portion of raw silk fabric resembling the entirety

蛸
肖 resemble in miniature
虫 insect/creature
octopus
tiny insects (specifically, spiders) emerging from eggs. "Octopus" is an associated meaning in the sense of a spider-like sea creature; compare 鮹.

誚
肖 resemble in miniature
言 words
criticize; blame; ridicule
words serving to reduce someone's stature

銷
肖 resemble in miniature
金 metal
melt; wear down/out; cancel; sell
melt a lump of metal

鞘
肖 resemble in miniature
革 leather
sheath; scabbard
small strip of leather

鮹
肖 as an abbreviated form of 蛸 (octopus)
魚 fish
octopus
魚 appended for emphasis/clarification

捎
肖 resemble in miniature
扌/手 hand/action indicator
select; bring/take (along)
select/snatch a portion of an object (according to which the smaller piece resembles the larger one). "Bring/take" (along) is an associated meaning, originally in the sense of bringing/taking along a portion of a larger object.

赤
小 small/slender
remnant element = pendent, twisted bean vine
slender, hanging vine. 赤 is effectively obsolete.

叔
赤 slender and pendent
又 hand/action indicator

uncle (particularly, a younger brother of one's father)
pick beans from a slender, hanging vine. The connection with a younger family member is via the image of younger siblings on a figurative family vine; compare 弟 younger brother.

俶
叔 slender and pendent
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
begin
arrange by hanging. "Begin" is in the associated sense of the first step in arranging.

寂
叔 slender and pendent
宀 roof/building
desolate; still; deserted; lonely
desolate building, where silence hangs in the air

淑
叔 slender and pendent
氵/水 water
pure; good; graceful
gentle cascade, likened to water hanging from a cliff. "Pure" and "good" are via association with pure water. "Graceful" is via extension from pure/good.

椒
叔 slender and pendent
木 tree/wood
pepper
species of Zanthoxylum, the berries of which hang on panicles. These berries are used in making Sichuan pepper.

督
叔 slender and pendent
目 eye
supervise; command

watch over, the eyes figuratively hanging overhead

蹴
叔 slender and pendent
足 leg/foot
take short steps; level
crippled leg (hanging from the torso), forcing one to take short steps

菽
叔 bean vine
艹 grass/plant
beans; peas
(generic term for) beans and peas. 艹 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

戚
赤 slender and pendent
戈 battle-ax
battle-ax; (familial) relative; grieve; sad
battle-ax with a slender, elliptical haft

槭
戚 slender
木 tree/wood
maple
slender variety of maple

蹙
戚 slender
足 leg/foot
urgent; knit the brows; scowl
slender, taut leg muscles. "Urgent" is an association meaning, in the sense of a taut or wrought condition/situation.

戌
abbreviated form of 戚 battle-ax

transformed element (originally 人 person)
defend; guard; garrison
"garrison" is an associated meaning. In the present form, 人 is replaced by a diagonal mark.

少
小 small shavings
丿 split
few; little; lack
small/slight, curled shavings split from a piece of wood. Present-day meanings are via the idea of slightness in volume or number.

妙
少 small/slight
女 woman
mystery; odd
woman of mysteriously slight build

抄
少 small/slight
扌/手 hand/action indicator
extract; excerpt, copy; seize
create shavings or other small portions of a large object. Present-day meanings are via figurative association.

杪
少 small/slight
木 tree/wood
treetop; tip of a branch/twig
small/slight portion of a tree

炒
少 small/slight
火 fire
fry; saute, roast; broil

fry (s)lightly

秒
少 small/slight
禾 grain/rice
second (the unit of time); unit of an angle
small tip of grain. "Second" is in the sense of a small unit of time. "Unit of an angle" is a figurative associated meaning.

鈔
少 small/slight
金 money
paper money; bank notes
slight/thin pieces of paper money

眇
少 small/slight
目 eye
squint; be blind in one eye
have/make one eye smaller than the other, obscuring sight

渺
眇 obscure
氵/水 water
dim; boundless
obscure edges of a wide expanse of water

緲
眇 obscure
糸 thread
faint; indistinct
obscure threads

骨
remnant element = joint of a bone

月/肉 flesh
bone; skeleton; framework
bone circulating in its joint. "Skeleton" and "framework" are associated meanings.

搰
骨 circulate
扌/手 hand/action indicator
dig; disturb
dig a round hole. "Disturb" is in the sense of altering conditions by digging a hole.

滑
骨 circulate
氵/水 water
slip; slide; glide
in all likelihood 水 was originally 氷 ice, with the term signifying "glide/skate in a circle"

猾
骨 circulate
犭/犬 dog/beast
sly; cunning
pack animals that hunt slyly/cunningly by tightening a circle about their prey

榾
骨 circulate
木 tree/wood
piece/chip of wood
spiral-shaped piece/chip of wood

咼
variant form of 冎, itself an abbreviated form of 骨 bone circulating in its cavity. 咼 is effectively obsolete. In derivative characters, 咼 suggests a round(ed) cavity.

堝
咼 round(ed) cavity

土 earth
crucible; melting pot
rounded earthenware vessel used to process metal

渦
咼 round(ed) cavity
氵/水 water
whirlpool; eddy
water swirling in a cavity; compare 洄

過
咼 round(ed) cavity
辶 movement
passage; passing time; go past; cross; exceed
passage through a cavity

禍
咼 round(ed) cavity
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
misfortune; catastrophe
have the misfortune to fall into a hole (imagery found also in 俗 and 凶)

窩
咼 round(ed) cavity
穴 hole
cave; lair; den; nest
穴 appended for emphasis/clarification

蝸
咼 round(ed) cavity
虫 insect/creature
snail
creature contained in a rounded shell

鍋

咼 round(ed) cavity
金 metal
pot; pan
rounded, deep cooking utensil

另
abbreviated form of 冎 (joint of a bone)
刀 sword/knife
sever/separate a limb from its joint. 另 is effectively obsolete.

拐
另 sever/separate
扌/手 hand/action indicator
kidnap; deceive
扌/手 was appended to reinforce the idea of physical separation. The character eventually acquired the specific sense of separating a person from his/her kin in kidnapping. "Deceive" is by association, in the sense of using deception in kidnapping.

枴
另 sever/separate
木 tree/wood
walking stick; cane
sever a branch from a tree and use as a walking stick

回
rotate; revolve; circle/circulate; turn/go around; return; (counter for) number of times; go back; reply; answer; (literary) chapter
variant form of an abbreviated form of 骨 bone circulating in its cavity. All meanings are via association with the idea of circulating.

廻
回 rotation
廴 extension
revolve; return; curve

rotate/revolve at length; return in the sense of rotating back to one's starting point. Effectively a variant form of 迴.

洄
回 rotation
氵/水 water
eddy; whirlpool; move upstream/against the current
water circulating in an eddy or whirlpool; compare 渦

徊
回 rotation
彳 movement
walk about; wander; go to and fro
walk/wander in circles

迴
回 rotation
辶 movement
revolve; return; curve
rotate/revolve at length; return in the sense of rotating back to one's starting point

蛔
回 rotation
虫 insect/creature
roundworm; intestinal worms
wriggling worm

亘
transformed element (originally 回 rotation)
二 align
cross over from one point to another; range; extend over
circle about a neatly demarcated parcel of land

垣
亘 circle about

土 earth
wall; fence
earthen wall that circles about an enclosure

晅
亘 circle about
日 sun/day
light (of the sun); bright; dry in the sun
circle of objects being dried in bright sunlight; compare 烜

桓
亘 circle about
木 tree/wood
marking post; pillar
encircling wooden posts

烜
亘 circle about
火 fire
light (of the sun); bright; dry in the sun
circle of objects being dried in bright sunlight; compare 晅

宣
亘 circle about
宀 roof/building
proclaim; declare
circle about a structure in making a proclamation

愃
宣 circle about
忄/心 heart/emotions
magnanimity; well-being
warm generosity that encompasses others; compare 暄

萱

宣 circle about
艹 grass/plant
daylily
a clumpy herbaceous perennial

暄
宣 circle about
日 sun/day
warm; genial
sunlight warming a circle of objects. For "genial," compare 愃.

宣
亘 circle about
宀 roof/building
proclaim; declare
circle about a structure in making a proclamation

喧
宣 proclaim
口 mouth
clamorous; boisterous; noisy
it is possible that here 宣 is intended to function mimetically, conveying the sound of clamor

諠
宣 proclaim
言 words
clamorous; boisterous; noisy
言 appended for emphasis/clarification

兄
transformed element = large head
儿 person
elder brother
person praying with arms extended

呪
兄 extend in prayer
口 mouth
incantation; curse; spell; to damn
pray for someone's misfortune

祝
兄 extend in prayer
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
offer a prayer; congratulate; celebrate; commemorate
offer a prayer at an altar

柷
abbreviated form of 祝 celebrate; commemorate
木 tree/wood
(ancient wooden percussion) instrument
wooden percussion instrument played on celebratory/commemorative occasions

況
兄 extend
氵/水 water
situation; condition
extensive body of water

光
abbreviated form of 兄 (extend the arms)
火 fire
light; shine; ray; beam; flash; glimmer; glitter; glare; sparkle
extend the arms in holding up a torch

恍
光 light extending from a torch
忄/心 heart/emotions
absent-minded; dim; hazy

conditions likened to being dazzled by light

晃
光 light extending from a torch
日 sun/day
bright; shining
bright sunlight extending over the land

洸
光 extend
氵/水 water
wide; sparkle
wide stretch of water

胱
光 extend
月/肉 flesh
bladder
expanding internal organ

絖
光 extend
糸 thread
silk floss
long strands of floss

觥
光 extend
角 horn
goblet; wine vessel
wide drinking implement made of rhino horn

黄
abbreviated form of 光 (light extending from a torch)
remnant element = arrow

yellow
yellow flames of a flaming arrow extending through the air in flight

潢
黃 extend
氵/水 water
(large) body of water; pond
wide expanse of water

橫
黃 extend
木 tree/wood
horizontal; across; width; breadth
bars extending at length

璜
黃 extend
王/玉 jewel
(disk-shaped) jeweled ornament
light reflected from a jewel and extending a great distance (a meaning retained in the compound 璜璜)

簧
黃 extend
竹 bamboo
reed
long reed of a bamboo flute

黌
黃 extend
obsolete element = obtain knowledge
school (building)
large school (building)

廣

黄 extend
广 building
broad; wide; extensive; vast
long building that extends far over its locale

壙
廣 extend
土 earth
open wilderness; pit; grave; tomb
extensive stretch of earth

擴
廣 extend
扌/手 hand/action indicator
extend; enlarge
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

曠
廣 extend
日 sun/day
spacious; emptiness
extensive sunlight

纊
廣 extend
糸 thread
silk floss; fine silk
long strands of fine silk

鑛
廣 extend
金 metal
ore; mineral; mine
metallic elements found extensively through the earth

獷
abbreviated form of 壙 open wilderness
犭/犬 dog/beast
uncivilized; coarse
wild, undomesticated dog

丬
depiction of twisted threads. 丬 is effectively obsolete.

收
丬 twisted threads
攵 action indicator
gather; collect; put in/away
twist loose threads together in collecting them; compare 終

糾
丬 twisted threads
糸 thread
entwine; examine
entwine thread then examine it

赳
丬 twisted threads
走 run
strong; brave; gallant
twisted sinews of strong legs, strained in running. "Brave" and "gallant" are via the associated sense of a strong, valiant warrior.

虯
丬 twist
虫 insect/creature (here in its original sense "snake")
(young) serpentine beast
coiled creature; compare 蛟

交

cross; intersect; exchange; mix
depiction of legs that are twisted or crossed

佼
交 twist/cross
亻/人 person
handsome; beautiful
person of an attractive, supple figure (one that twists easily). Compare 姣.

効
交 twist/cross
力 power/energy
effective
crossing of energy back and forth in effective cooperation. Compare 效.

咬
交 twist/cross
口 mouth
bite; chew; gnaw
teeth crossing back and forth in biting/chewing/gnawing. Compare 齩.

姣
交 twist/cross
女 woman
beautiful
woman standing with a twisting, alluring posture. Compare 佼.

狡
交 twist/cross
犭/犬 dog/beast
cunning; crafty; sly; deceitful
cunning/crafty animal able to twist and make its escape

郊
交 twist/cross

邑/阝 village/settlement
suburb
residential area sited close to a town, allowing for easy crossing back and forth in commuting

效
交 twist/cross
攵 action indicator
take after; effective (← 効)
cross two objects in comparing them

校
交 twist/cross
木 tree/wood
school
wooden cross fetters or shackles. "School" is from the idea of a place where an exchange of teaching and learning (by comparison) is performed (the notion at work in 學 as well).

絞
交 twist/cross
糸 thread
twist; wring; entangle; squeeze
twist fabric and pull tight

蛟
交 twist/cross
虫 insect/creature (here in its original sense "snake")
dragon
(one type of) dragon, a sinuous snake-like creature

較
交 twist/cross
車 vehicle
compare

crossing bars in the passenger compartment of ancient vehicles, which passengers grasped to maintain their balance; compare 梧

餃
交 twist/cross
食 food/eating
stuffed dumplings
dumplings created by twisting dough back upon itself

駮
交 twist/cross
馬 horse
dappled/spotted horse; legendary creature similar to a horse; argue
horse crisscrossed with spots; compare 駁

鮫
交 twist/cross
魚 fish
shark
sea creature with jagged teeth that mesh when the jaw is closed

齩
交 twist/cross
齒 teeth
bite; chew; gnaw
teeth crossing back and forth in biting/chewing/gnawing. Compare 咬.

恔
abbreviated form of 姣 (woman standing in an alluring posture)
忄/心 heart/emotions
agreeable sensation; cheerful
agreeable sensation produced by an attractive woman

傚
效 take after

亻/人 person
imitate; emulate
take after someone

爻
solid and broken lines used in divination
depiction of curving, crossing lines that were divined to obtain knowledge of the future

駮
爻 cross/mix
馬 horse
spotted; dappled; mix; argue
horse with a mixed pattern; compare 駮. "Argue" is a figurative extended meaning in the sense of getting mixed up in a dispute.

肴
爻 cross/mix
月/肉 flesh
(cooked/prepared) meat
meat crossing over or mixed upon a grill

淆
肴 cross; mix
氵/水 water
turbid; mixed; disorderly
mix in liquid, creating turbidity; compare 攪

殽
肴 cross; mix
殳 action indicator
cross/mix up
the act of crossing/mixing

敎

obsolete element = 爻 obtain knowledge + 攴/攵 action indicator
子 child
teach; tell/show (how to do); doctrine; religion
instructor stimulating pupils to obtain knowledge; compare 學

□□
爻 obtain knowledge
obsolete element = activity inside a building
covered place of instruction where people are stimulated to obtain knowledge. □is effectively obsolete. The obsolete element combines a pair of hands and 冖 a cover (here indicating a covered building).

嚳
□□obtain knowledge
告 inform
inform; (name of a legendary emperor)
inform, enabling knowledge to be obtained

學
□□obtain knowledge
子 child
school; study; learn
place where an instructor stimulates pupils to acquire knowledge

斅
學 obtain knowledge
攴 action indicator
teach; instruct
cause to study and obtain knowledge

覺
□□obtain knowledge
見 see/watch
realize; become aware; awaken
be stimulated to obtain knowledge, and realize its acquisition

攪
覺 be stimulated
扌/手 hand/action indicator
turbid; mixing; disturbance; confusion
stimulate by mixing, creating turbidity/confusion; compare 淆

柬
abbreviated form of 炎 consuming blaze
remnant element = a sack (compare 東)
choose; select; letter; invitation
choose between separated objects

楝
柬 separate
木 tree/wood
Melia azedarach
a tree the seeds and root bark of which were separated out and used medicinally

煉
柬 separate
火 fire
refine; smelt; knead into shape
refine (metal), separating out impure elements; compare 鍊

練
柬 separate
糸 thread
train; knead; polish; discipline
separate silk threads, then process them into a finished product

諫
柬 separate
言 words
correct a mistake; admonish; remonstrate

verbally separate the true from the false

鍊
柬 separate
金 metal
refine; smelt; temper; forge; train
refine metal, separating out impure elements; compare 煉

揀
柬 choose; select
扌/手 hand/action indicator
choose; select
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

闌
柬 separate
門 gate
railing; screen; block; in the thick of; be advanced/well along
pieces of wood linked to create a fence, partition or railing that separates/blocks off visitors from a gate. "In the thick of" is in the sense of a gate within a partitioning element, while "be advanced/well along" is by further extension. For railing and partition, compare 欄.

瀾
闌 link
氵/水 water
ripples; high waves
linked ripples, or crests of high waves

蘭
闌 link
艹 grass/plant
orchid
orchid with a linked series of vertical or horizontal shoots

欄
闌 link
木 tree/wood
railing; pen; fence; column (of text)
pieces of wood linked to form a railing, pen or partition. 欄 was devised to replace 闌 after 闌 acquired secondary meanings.

襴
闌 link
衤/衣 clothing
one-piece garment; gown
pieces of cloth linked to form a one-piece garment/gown

韉
闌 link
革 leather
case for a bow and arrows
originally 闌 + 革, indicating two or more pieces of leather joined to create a case for a bow and arrows. The present form replaces 闌 with 蘭.

藺
obsolete element = linked in formation
艹 grass/plant
rush
type of vegetation linked in being woven into mats. The obsolete element combines an abbreviated form of 闌 link with 隹 short, squat bird, indicating birds linked in formation atop a gate.

躪
obsolete element = linked in formation
足 leg/foot
trample; oppress
trample an object into (a string of) small pieces. "Oppress" is via figurative association. The obsolete element combines an abbreviated form of 闌 link with 隹 short, squat bird, indicating birds linked in formation atop a gate.

爛
闌 link
火 fire
cook and soften well; mushy; spoil(ed); rot(ten); messy; bad
bright chain of flames (compare the Old Chinese cognate 粦 and its replacement character 燐), later reinterpreted as boiling/cooking over a fire very well or excessively, leading to the idea of spoilage

爛
boil
variant form of 爛 boil

攔
闌 block
扌/手 hand/action indicator
block; obstruct
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

熏
柬 place over a fire
火 fire
smoke (n. and v.); darken
smoke rising from an object being burned

壎
熏 smoke
土 earth
ancient wind instrument
ancient wind instrument resembling an ocarina, and made of fired earth. The connection with smoke lies in the dark color resulting from firing.

燻
熏 smoke
火 fire

smoke; smolder; fumigation; oxidation
essentially the same as 熏, with 火 appended for emphasis/clarification

曛
熏 smoke
日 sun/day
twilight; dusk
time of day when the sky turns hazy as smoke

纁
熏 smoke
糸 thread
red
fabric dyed a dark/smoky shade of red

薰
熏 smoke
艹 grass/plant
smoke; scent; fragrance; perfume; aromatic; smolder
smoke carrying the scent of fragrant vegetation

勳
abbreviated form of 薰 fragrance
力 power/energy
merit
the (figuratively) fragrant result of effort

醺
abbreviated form of 薰 fragrance
酉 alcohol
intoxicated
effect of imbibing fragrant alcohol

陳
abbreviated form of an element doubling 柬 sack

阜/阝 piled earth
state; explain; old
line up sacks/sandbags in tight rows. "State" and "explain" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of lining up words in the manner of sacks/sandbags. "Old" is an extended meaning in the sense of lining up objects and leaving them behind to rot. The present form replaces the doubled 柬 element with 東 (another character originally indicating a sack), while 阜 piled earth is a substitute for 攴 action indicator.

陣
abbreviated form of 陳 align in tight rows
車 vehicle
alignment of munitions/troops; (military) position; camp
line up military vehicles in tight rows

連
abbreviated form of 陣 be in tight rows
辶 movement
be/put in a row; link; be involved
rows of military vehicles on the move

嗹
連 be in a row
口 mouth
ramble on; chatter; voluble
rambling words, one following right after another

漣
連 be in a row
氵/水 water
ripples; tears
rows of ripples. "Tears" is an associated meaning.

蓮
連 be in a row

艹 grass/plant
water lily; lotus
water lily/lotus plants lined in rows across the surface of water

縺
連 be in a row
糸 thread
entangled threads; entanglement; complications; trouble
rows of entangled threads

鏈
連 be in a row
金 metal
chain; cable
chain/cable with rows of links

輦
abbreviated form of 連 be in a row
obsolete element = stand in alignment
palanquin; handcart; transport by carriage
palanquin borne by two rows of multiple attendants. "Handcart" is an associated meaning. For the obsolete element, compare 替.

禾
grain; rice
depiction of a round head of millet hanging low on its stalk

委
禾 hang low
女 woman
entrust; leave behind; cast aside
tired (and/or stooped) woman, her posture likened to low-hanging grain. "Entrust" and "leave behind" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of allowing matters to hang (for others to resolve).

倭
委 hang low
亻/人 person
dwarf
short person/dwarf (viewed as hanging low; compare 矮). Historically, 倭 was employed with reference to Yamato (ancient Japan), the inhabitants of which were likened to dwarfs. For another character with the element 委 that functioned as a pejorative name for countries and their residents, compare 魏.

萎
委 hang low
艹 grass/plant
droop; wither; weaken; decline
drooping/withering plant

逶
委 hang low
辶 movement
winding; curving; twisting
winding/curving/twisting motion of a pendent object

痿
委 hang low
疒 illness
atrophy; weakening
illness causing one to hang low; compare 萎

矮
委 hang low
矢 = abbreviated form of 短 short
low; short
hang low

綏
委 hang low

糸 thread
crown/hat strings
pendent strings tied about the jaw

餧
委 hang low
食 food/eating
feed
animals feeding on low-hanging vegetation

魏
委 hang low
鬼 ghost; demon
lofty; tower over
a name for a particular country in ancient China, regarded as populated by short and unsightly inhabitants. The meanings "lofty" and "tower over" are by association not with the populace but rather with a geologic (mountainous) feature of the land in question. For another character with the element 委 that functioned as a pejorative name for countries and their residents, compare 倭.

巍
魏 lofty; tower over
山 mountain
high; towering; lofty
high/towering mountain or mountain range. 巍 was devised to replace 魏.

季
禾 grain/rice
子 offspring
season; three-month cycle
seasonal activity whereby grains are planted, cultivated and harvested, with the earth left fallow in winter. Other characters connected with the idea of conceptual cycles include 期 and 週.

悸

季 regular cycle
忄/心 heart/emotions
throb; palpitate; fear
throb/palpitate in the sense of regular pulsation cycles. "Fear" is by association with throbbing/palpitating.

科
禾 grain/rice
斗 ladle
examine; rank; course; section; department
determine the quality/grade of crops in weighing them

麋
禾 round
鹿 (long and winding herd of) deer
(hornless) deer; band together
species of hornless deer (flocking in a circular group)

龢
禾 round
龠 flute
harmony; calm; peace
rounded (= harmonious) sound produced by a flute

和
abbreviated form of 龢 harmony
口 mouth
harmony; calm; peace; sum; with
harmony/calm/peace (produced by words/song). "Sum" is an extended meaning in the sense of harmony likened to completeness/totality.

利
abbreviated form of 季 season
刀/刂 sword/knife
sharp; effective; advantageous; beneficial

sharp-edged plow. Meanings other than "sharp" are by association with reaping.

犁
利 plow
牛 cow
plow
cattle-drawn plow; variant form 犂

黎
abbreviated form of 犂 plow
abbreviated form of 黍 millet
dark; black
plow dark soil over millet seeds

邃
黎 plow
辵 movement
walk slowly
walk slowly in plowing

黧
黎 dark
黑 black
dark; black
dark/black, particularly with a hint of yellow. 黑 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

俐
利 sharp
亻/人 person
sharp; clever
sharp/clever person; compare 悧

悧
利 sharp

忄/心 heart/emotions
sharp; clever
excel at making sharp distinctions; compare 俐

莉
利 sharp
艹 grass/plant
(jasmine)
plant with a sharp flavor when processed. "Jasmine" is normally conveyed by the compound 茉莉花. For sharp-flavored, compare 梨.

梨
利 sharp
木 tree/wood
pear
tree that produces sharp-flavored fruit. For sharp-flavored, compare 莉.

痢
利 sharp
疒 illness
dysentery; diarrhea
sharp abdominal pain and diarrhea accompanying dysentery

蜊
利 sharp
虫 insect/creature
clam; bivalve
bivalve with sharp edges or protrusions on its shell

剌
slash; be in opposition; contradict; perverse
variant form of 利 sharp, indicating the idea of slashing with a sharp weapon. "Contradict" and "perverse" are associated meanings via "be in opposition."

辣

abbreviated form of 刺 sharp
辛 needle/cutting tool
severe; violent; hot; spicy; bitter; pungent
severe pain caused by a sharp weapon. "Violent" (activity/pain) is an associated meaning. The remaining meanings are by extension, via the notion of sharp taste.

賴
abbreviated form of 刺 sharp
transformed element = 貝 commodities + 人 person
depend/rely on
person who suffers a sharp reduction in circumstances, and pleads for material relief

嬾
賴 sharp reduction
女 woman
languid; lazy; listless
condition of a woman with sharply reduced energy; compare 懶

懶
賴 sharp reduction
忄/心 heart/emotions
languid; lazy; listless
sharp reduction in energy; compare 嬾

瀨
賴 sharp reduction
氵/水 water
swift current; rapids; shallows
swift current accompanying a sharp reduction in the size of a river, stream or other conduit

癩
賴 sharp reduction
疒 illness

leprosy/Hansen's disease; scabies
medical condition that roughens the skin and reduces sensation in the extremities of the limbs. "Scabies" is by association with roughening of the skin.

籟
賴 sharp reduction
竹 bamboo
flute
bamboo sharply reduced in size in being carved into a pipe/flute. However, 籟 is more commonly used to convey particular sounds/noises.

獺
abbreviated form of 瀨 shallows
犭/犬 dog/beast
otter
animal that inhabits shallows

耳
ear; ear-like object; handle
depiction of a supple ear clinging to the side of the head. "Handle," an ear-like object in shape, is an associated meaning.

珥
耳 ear
王/玉 jewel
jeweled ear ornament
jewel fitted for the ear

茸
耳 supple
艹 grass/plant
(soft), luxuriant vegetation; soft; fluffy
soft, luxuriant vegetation

恥

耳 supple
心 heart/emotions
shame; ashamed; shy; disgrace(d)
manifestations of a soft/weak/timid heart

餌
耳 supple
食 food/eating
dumpling; bait; lure
soft dumpling. "Bait" and "lure" are associated meanings via the use of soft food as bait or lures.

聶
obsolete element = 耳 doubled
耳 ear
whisper
ears figuratively pressed together in listening to a whispered voice (or, actually pressed to the lips of the whisperer)

懾
聶 press together
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; be frightened
fear pressing on the breast

攝
聶 press together
扌/手 hand/action indicator
take; absorb; take/shoot a photograph; act (in place of someone**)**
take a number of objects and press them together; compare 搭. "Absorb" is an associated meaning via the sense "take in," with "take/shoot a photograph" by extension from "take."

躡
聶 press together

足 leg/foot
step/tread on; pursue; track; follow
press objects with the feet. "Pursue," "track" and "follow" are associated meanings in the sense of figuratively or actually pressing the feet into the tracks left by the prey one is pursuing.

鑷
聶 press together
金 metal
tweezers; pincers; pluck hair
implement worked by pressing together two slender pieces of metal

顳
聶 press together
頁 head
temple; temporal bones
the temple, between the aligned pair of which the skull is pressed; compare 顳

囁
聶 whisper
口 mouth
move the lips in simulating speech; falter; hesitate
(figuratively or actually) press one's mouth to someone's ear in whispering. "Falter" and "hesitate" are by association in the sense of speaking hesitantly.

聂
whisper; blame; slander
abbreviated form of 囁 (whisper). "Blame" and "slander" are associated meanings.

揖
聂 press
扌/手 hand/action indicator
greet/salute (by pressing the hands together); defer/yield to
hands pressed together at the breast in making a greeting. "Defer/yield to" is an associated meaning in the sense of assuming a deferential posture.

葺
畀 press
艹 grass/plant
thatch (v.); repair; cover
thatch a roof with grasses, reeds etc. by pressing them together; compare 蒹

楫
畀 press
木 tree/wood
oar; paddle
set of oars/paddles (pressed in the hands when rowing)

緝
畀 press
糸 thread
spin thread; hemstitch
press in stitching or spinning thread

輯
畀 press
車 vehicle
gather; collect; compile; edit
press gathered/collected objects into a transport vehicle. "Edit" is by figurative association in the sense of compiling literary material.

戢
畀 press
戈 spear/halberd
collect; put/store away; cease
collect and put/store away weapons. "Cease" is an associated meaning in the sense of finishing the process of putting/storing away

蕺
戢 collect

艹 grass/plant
Houttuynia cordata
foul-smelling plant of the family Saururaceae, which grows in clumps

反
remnant element = thin sheet of wood
又 hand/action indicator
bend/turn back; return; reverse; contrary; oppose; anti-; rebel
curve a thin piece of wood back upon itself

版
反 thin sheet
片 long piece of wood split down the middle
(printing) block/plate; register; edition
piece of curved wood spread flat

板
反 thin sheet
木 tree/wood
board; plank
wooden sheet/board

販
反 thin sheet
貝 commodities
deal/trade in; buy and sell
items for sale displayed on a board

鈑
反 thin sheet
金 metal
metal plate; sheet metal
thin, metallic sheet

鮁

反 thin sheet
魚 fish
flatfish (such as sole/flounder)
compare 鰈 and 鮃

坂
反 bend back
土 earth
slope; hill(side); hillside farmland
series of slopes; compare 阪

阪
反 bend back
阜/阝 piled earth
slope; hill(side); hillside farmland
series of slopes; compare 坂

飯
反 bend back
食 food/eating
(cooked) rice; food; meal; feed (a person)
fold cooked rice back upon itself with a spatula

返
反 return
辵 movement
return; turn over; reverse
return to one's point of origin

扁
反 thin sheet of wood
冊 bamboo slats
flat tablet; flat
thin, flat nameplate or tablet

偏
扁 spread, but remain in contact
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
lean; incline; be contrary
cause an object to lean/incline against another object

惼
扁 spread, but remain in contact
忄/心 heart/emotions
narrow-minded
idea that spreads through the heart/mind but remains within

徧
扁 spread, but remain in contact
彳 movement
widespread; everywhere
effectively a variant form of 遍

遍
扁 spread, but remain in contact
辶 movement
widespread; everywhere
journey far, but remain in contact

褊
扁 spread, but remain in contact
衤/衣 clothing
narrow
tight-fitting (undersized and therefore narrow) garment

篇
扁 spread, but remain in contact
竹 bamboo
book; chapter; section; article; counter for poems or articles
bound set of inscribed, bamboo strips

編
扁 spread, but remain in contact
糸 thread
weave; knit; compile; edit
weave a binding so that records spread but remain connected

翩
扁 spread, but remain in contact
羽 feather/wing
fly (v.); fly fast
wings unfolded in flight; compare 蝙

蝙
扁 spread, but remain in contact
虫 insect/creature
bat
creature that unfolds its forelimbs like wings and takes flight; compare 翩

諞
扁 spread, but remain in contact
言 words
glibness; bragging
stretch the truth without breaking it

蹁
扁 spread, but remain in contact
足 leg/foot
stumble; limp
feet dragging on the ground

騙
扁 spread, but remain in contact
馬 horse
swing a leg over a horse in mounting it; deceive (← 諞)

扇
abbreviated form of 扁 spread, but remain in contact
羽 feather/wing
fan; door panel/leaf
folding fan, the slats of which spread but remain in contact when the fan is in use. "Door panel/leaf" is via shape association.

煽
扇 fan
火 fire
fan into flames; incite; provoke; agitate
fan the flames of a fire

侖
abbreviated form of 扁 thin, flat signboard
remnant element indicating "fit, join or put together"
arrange
neat, logical assemblage of bound records

倫
侖 neat assemblage/alignment
亻/人 person
(normal/proper) human relations; principle(s)
people in orderly arrangement

淪
侖 neat assemblage/alignment
氵/水 water
sink (into ruin)
neat ripples above a sinking object

綸
侖 neat assemblage/alignment
糸 thread

silk thread; string/cord; fishing line
neatly wound threads

論
侖 neat assemblage/alignment
言 words
debate; discussion; (logical) argument
orderly debate, discussion etc.

輪
侖 neat assemblage/alignment
車 vehicle
wheel; circle; revolution
neatly ordered spokes of a wheel

全
abbreviated form of 侖 neat assemblage/alignment
王 ruler
full; all; entire
ruler who arranges everything fully/perfectly

荃
全 fully
艹 grass/plant
aromatic plant
plant with a rich (= full) fragrance

栓
全 fully
木 tree/wood
plug; stopper
cylindrical wooden nail/wedge serving to fully stop an object up

牷
全 fully

牛 cow
cow with a hide of a single color
cow fully of one color

痊
全 fully
疒 illness
healing of/recovery from an illness
full recovery

筌
全 fully
竹 bamboo
fish trap
(bamboo) fish trap filled with the fish caught in it

詮
全 fully
言 words
explain; discuss; evaluate
explain/discuss fully

銓
全 fully
金 metal
weigh; measure; estimate
fill a scale in measuring/weighing

典
abbreviated form of 龠 neat, logical assemblage of bound records
丌 stand/table
canon; statute; code; tome
heavy assemblage of records on a stand/table

淟

典 weigh upon heavily
氵/水 water
turbid
stagnant, turbid water

腆
典 weigh upon heavily
月/肉 flesh
abundant
abundant flesh/meat

奠
abbreviated form of 典 a stand/table
酉 alcohol container
set/fix/lay in place; settle; offering of libations (to the deceased); offering; pay respects
extend an alcohol container and set it down on a stand. "Pay respects" is an associated meaning.

鄭
奠 extend downward
邑/阝 village/settlement
formal; courteous (← 奠)
name of a settlement extending down slopes (also the name of an ancient province in present-day Henan)

擲
鄭 extend downward
扌/手 hand/action indicator
throw/cast down; fling; toss
throw an object straight down

躑
鄭 extend downward
足 leg/foot

remain still; hesitate; waver
squat. "Remain still" is an associated meaning, with "hesitate" and "waver" via figurative extension.

爪
claw; nail(s); talon
depiction of fingers curled about an object such as fruit in picking, plucking or pinching it. Present-day meanings are via association.

孚
爪 pick/pluck
子 child
brood over eggs; confidence; trust
scoop up and envelop a child in protection; compare 保. "Brood over eggs" is an associated meaning. "Confidence" and "trust" are figurative extended meanings.

乳
孚 envelop/enclose
(shape indicator suggesting a breast)
breast; milk
(mother's) milk enclosed in a breast

俘
孚 envelop/enclose
亻/人 person
captive
envelop/surround people in taking them captive

浮
孚 envelop/enclose
氵/水 water
float; superficial; transient
floating body largely enveloped by water. "Superficial" and "transient" are figurative associated meanings.

艀
abbreviated form of 浮 float
舟 boat
lighter; barge
particular type of floating vessel

蜉
abbreviated form of 浮 float
虫 insect
(floating insect/creature)
蜉蝣 = mayfly; 蚍蜉 = large variety of ant

莩
孚 envelop/enclose
艹 grass/plant
membrane of a reed (or a cylinder)
plant membrane enveloped within the stalk

郛
孚 envelop/enclose
邑/阝 village/settlement
enclosure; suburbs
enclosure about a city/castle, or suburbs lying outside such an enclosed city

殍
孚 envelop/enclose
歹 severed bone/death
starve (to death)
corpse of a starved person wrapped or encased in a coffin for burial

孵
孚 envelop/enclose
卵 egg
incubate; hatch; breed
envelop an egg in incubating it

蚤
variant form of 爪 pick/pluck
虫 insect/creature
flea
pick/scratch at fleas

慅
蚤 scratch
忄/心 heart/emotions
agitated
figurative scratching of the heart

搔
蚤 scratch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
scratch
扌/手 appended to emphasize the scratching aspect of 蚤

騷
蚤 scratch
馬 horse
agitation; disturbance
horse scratching at the ground in irritation

采
variant form of 爪 (pick/pluck)
木 tree/wood (→ fruit-bearing tree)
gather; select; coloration; appearance
pick/pluck colorful fruit

採
采 pluck
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick; pluck

扌/手 appended to emphasize the pick/pluck aspect of 采

菜
采 pluck
艹 grass/plant
greens; vegetables
艹 appended to emphasize the vegetation aspect of 采

彩
采 coloration
彡 pattern
color; decoration; appearance
colors and patterns

綵
采 coloration
糸 thread
colorful; twilled-silk fabric
colorful/multi-colored silk

抓
爪 pluck
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick; grab; scratch
扌/手 appended to emphasize the pick aspect of 爪

笊
爪 pluck
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) ladle
ladle for plucking objects from a container

舀
爪 pick/pluck
臼 mortar

dip; ladle (v.)
dip a ladle into a mortar to pluck out selected objects

滔
舀 dip
氵/水 water
overflow
dip into liquid, causing an overflow

蹈
舀 dip
足 leg/foot
stamp (v.); tread
stamp the feet, resembling a dipping action

韜
舀 dip
韋 leather
scabbard
thrust a sword, bow or other weapon into a (leather) sheath/scabbard, a motion resembling a dipping action

稻
舀 ladle
禾 grain/rice
rice; paddy
rice plant likened in shape to a ladle. "Paddy" is an associated meaning.

慆
abbreviated form of 滔 overflow
忄/心 heart/emotions
pleasure; self-indulgent
heart overflowing with pleasure. "Self-indulgent" is an associated meaning in the sense of pleasure taken too far; compare 慡.

裒
abbreviated form of 舀 pluck out selected objects
衣 clothing
collect; gather
collect/gather selected garments. The specific reference to garments has dropped.

爭
爪 hand/claw
abbreviated form of 奪 snatch
a handful; a pinch
pick/pluck then enclose an object in the fingertips or hand

埒
爭 enclose
土 earth
enclosure; embankment; dike
earthen enclosure or embankment

捋
爭 snatch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pluck; pick; rub; scrape (smooth)
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Rub" and "scrape" (smooth) are associated meanings.

庶
remnant element = head of an animal burning over a fire
广 building
many; various; multitude
indoor fire burning a pile of many and various kinds of objects, including animal parts

摭
庶 pile
扌/手 hand/action indicator

pick up; gather
pick up/gather various objects and pile them

蔗
庶 pile
艹 grass/plant
sugar cane
pile of harvested sugar cane

遮
庶 pile
辶 movement
object; block; cut off; interrupt
pile objects in screening/cutting off

蹠
庶 pile
足 leg/foot
tread; trample; sole (of the foot)
footprints figuratively piled atop each other in treading/trampling the same spot. "Sole (of the foot)" is by association, in the sense of the body part used in treading/trampling; compare 踖.

度
abbreviated form of 庶 pile
又 hand/action indicator
degree; extent; limit; measure; system; manner; estimate; consider (carefully); (number of) times
pile objects in small increments in measuring carefully

渡
度 pile in increments
氵/水 water
ferry (v.); cross (a river); hand over
ferry piles of objects across a river in increments

鍍
度 pile in increments
金 metal
gild; plate; coat (v.)
piled layers of gild etc.

席
abbreviated form of 庶 pile
巾 cloth
feast; mat; seat
pile seating mats on the ground/floor for a feast

蓆
席 mat
艹 grass/plant
(straw) mat; matting
艹 appended for emphasis/clarification

倉
abbreviated form of 食 food/eating
囗 circular enclosure
storehouse
make tall piles of freshly harvested grain/crops in a storehouse

創
倉 pile
刀/刂 sword/knife
start upon; create
start on woodworking, creating a pile of shavings. For the connection between cutting and commencement, compare 初. For a pile of shavings, compare 乍 and 厝.

愴
倉 pile
忄/心 heart/emotions

sorrowful; sad
heart piled/filled with sorrow

搶
倉 pile
扌/手 hand/action indicator
plunder
pile plundered goods

蒼
倉 pile
艹 grass/plant
green; blue; ashen/pale
the green color of piled, freshly cut grass. "Ashen/pale" is via the color of stored, faded grass.

滄
abbreviated form of 蒼 green/blue
氵/水 water
blue; (dark) green; cold
pure (blue) water; compare 清 and 淨. "Cold" is an associated meaning in the sense of pure, cold water.

槍
倉 pile
木 tree/wood
spear; javelin; lance
wooden weapon with multiple (= a pile of) heads; compare 稍. Compare also 鎗.

瘡
倉 pile
疒 illness
swelling; tumor; boil; scab
swelling etc. piled on the skin; compare 疽

蹌
倉 pile
足 leg/foot
walk/move (rapidly); stagger
walk/move (rapidly), piling up the number of steps taken

鎗
倉 pile
金 metal
spear; javelin; lance; rifle; gun
metallic weapon with multiple (= a pile of) heads; compare 羫. Compare also 槍. "Rifle" and "gun" are of course historically recent, associated meanings.

傖
倉 storehouse
亻/人 person
rural dweller; rustic; vulgar; base; low
servant assigned to a (rural) storehouse

艙
倉 storehouse
舟 boat
hold (n.)
hold of a ship

且
furthermore; besides; also
pile created by the accumulation of small/slender objects. Present-day meanings are by figurative association.

助
且 pile
力 power/energy
help; assistance
supplementary power that assists in piling

筯
助 supplementary power
竹 bamboo
chopsticks
bamboo tongs or chopsticks, implements supplementing the fingers in eating or taking portions of food; compare 箸

耡
助 supplementary power
耒 plow
plow; hoe
implements that supplement human power; compare 鋤

鋤
助 supplementary power
金 metal
plow; hoe
implements that supplement human power; compare 耡

咀
且 pile
口 mouth
chew; crunch
figurative pile created by repeated motion in the same spots in mastication; compare 齰

姐
且 pile
女 woman
elder/eldest sister
female figuratively atop the sororal pile; compare 狙

岨
且 pile

山 mountain
rocky mountain
mountain strewn with piles of rocks; compare 砠

徂
且 pile
彳 movement
go; proceed toward; die (← 殂)
pile one step upon another

沮
且 pile
氵/水 water
impede; disturb
impediment that creates a buildup of water

狙
且 pile
犭/犬 dog/beast
ape; stalk; spy (upon); (take) aim at
creature figuratively atop the simian pile; compare 姐. The other meanings are via association with an ape of predatory habits; compare 玃.

虘
abbreviated form of 狙 take aim
虍 tiger
take aim
tiger sizing up/taking aim at its prey

覷
虘 take aim
見 see/watch
observe; spy on; be on the watch for
見 appended for emphasis/clarification

苴
且 pile
艹 grass/plant
hemp
layers of plant matter/hemp forming the insole of footwear

菹
苴 plant matter
氵/水 water
vegetation at water's edge; pickled vegetables
"pickled vegetables" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character; compare 漬

阻
且 pile
阜/阝 piled earth
block; obstruct; prevent
obstacle made of piled earth and rocks

查
且 pile
木 tree/wood
obstructive wooden fence; investigate
pile lumber in creating an obstructive wooden fence

渣
查 pile
氵/水 water
dregs; lees
pile of dregs/lees at the bottom of a container; compare 滓 and 糟. Depending on the font, the right-hand element may appear as 木 atop 旦.

楂
查 pile lumber
木 tree/wood

fell; hew; raft
fell trees and hew the lumber for creating rafts

俎
且 pile
remnant element = piled objects
stand (n.); cutting board; chopping block
a stand piled high with offerings. "Cutting board" and "chopping block" are via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character.

祖
且 pile
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
ancestor; grandfather; founder
figurative pile of ancestors, associated with rituals held at an altar

疽
且 pile
疒 illness
swelling; boil; carbuncle
pile formed atop the skin; compare 瘡

砠
且 pile
石 stone
rocky mountain
mountain strewn with piles of rocks; compare 岨

租
且 pile
禾 grain/rice
levy; tithe; rent; lease
levy/tithe, originally paid with (piles of) harvested crops. "Rent" and "lease" are associated meanings.

罝
且 pile
罒 net
net (for catching rabbits)
net for catching rabbits, in which the captive animals would be piled

粗
且 pile
米 rice
coarse; rough
pile/heap of coarse/unpalatable rice

組
且 pile
糸 thread
put together; assemble; cooperate; set; group of people
threads piled in braiding

蛆
且 pile
虫 insect/creature
maggot(s)
insect normally found piled together in large numbers

詛
且 pile
言 words
swear; curse
figurative pile of words, particularly with respect to swearing an oath or vow

鉏
且 pile
金 metal
plow; hoe; eradicate
metallic implement that creates piles of earth in plowing/hoeing; compare 耤.

"Eradicate" is an associated meaning, in the sense "uproot in plowing/hoeing."

齟
且 pile
齒 teeth
irregular teeth; discrepancy; discord
irregularly aligned (= overlapping) teeth. "Discrepancy" and "discord" are figurative associated meanings.

殂
且 pile
歹 severed bone/death
die
pile of severed bones, or of corpses

乍
sudden; at first
depiction of a sharp, ax-like implement chopping wood and creating piles of thin shavings with swift motions. For a pile of shavings, compare 創 and 厝. For the connection between cutting and commencement, compare 初.

作
乍 create a pile
亻/人 person
work; make; craft; do
work, originally by making a pile in chopping/cutting. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

筰
作 make/craft
竹 bamboo
bamboo rope; cable
craft a rope from bamboo strips

怍
乍 create a pile
忄/心 heart/emotions
be ashamed
cumulative, negative emotions, in the form of shame

迮
乍 create a pile
辶 movement
press upon; urgency
pile rising ever higher. "Urgency" is a figurative associated meaning.

阼
乍 create a pile
阜/阝 piled earth
steps; staircase
earthen steps/staircase (particularly, one set to the east side of a structure for non-public use, and by extension to the imperial throne)

昨
乍 create a pile
日 sun/day
the past; day/year before
figurative pile of days; compare 昔 and 時

炸
乍 create a pile
火 fire
deep fry; explode
deep fry numerous ingredients. "Explode" is an associated meaning, via the crackle of hot oil used in deep frying.

胙
乍 create a pile
月/肉 flesh

meat (offered in sacrifice); happiness; blessings
offering of piled meat. For "happiness" and "blessings," compare 祚.

祚
乍 create a pile
示 altar/the supernatural
happiness; blessings; imperial status/the throne
happiness/blessings likened to a pile of presents rendered by the throne (and sanctioned by the heavens). For "happiness" and "blessings," compare 胙.

詐
乍 create a pile
言 words
lie; deceive
pile up lies

酢
乍 create a pile
酉 alcohol
vinegar
foodstuffs piled in vinegar for preservation; compare 漬

鮓
乍 create a pile
魚 fish
salted/preserved fish
pile of salted/preserved fish

者
person
brushwood/firewood piled on a stove. The present form of 者 and certain derivatives eliminate a diagonal stroke above 日.

堵
者 pile

土 earth
wall; prevent; stop; stop up
piled earth forming a wall

奢
者 pile
大 great
luxury; extravagance
great pile/collection of objects

屠
者 pile
尸 body
butcher; slaughter; slay
piles of meat created by butchering/slaughtering animals

渚
者 pile
氵/水 water
strand; islet; bank; beach
waves/ripples figuratively piling atop each other in lapping at a shore

猪
者 pile
犭/犬 dog/beast
boar; pig
wild boar/pig with voluminous piles of fat. 猪 may be regarded as a reduced-stroke variant form of 豬, written with 豕 pig/boar.

著
者 pile
艹 grass/plant
literary work/effort; write; contact; adhere; marked; touch; wear; ignite; cause/force to do
here, 艹 grass/plant suggests writing material such as bamboo strips. The original

image was that of a compilation (figurative pile) of writings on vegetation-based media.

都
者 pile
邑/阝 village/settlement
metropolis; capital; all; entirely
metropolis/capital on a hill (= pile of earth). "All" and "entirely" are extended meanings, the missing link in the semantic chain being "very many" (in the sense of a place with many residents).

楮
者 pile
木 tree/wood
paper mulberry; paper
paper mulberry (tree that supplies piles of writing paper)

瘏
者 pile
疒 illness
illness
illness accompanied by swelling or boils (piles on the skin; compare 疸 and 瘡)

睹
者 pile
目 eye
look carefully/closely; observe
look carefully/closely at a pile of objects

署
者 pile
罒 net
(governmental/public) office; workplace
pile of public offices in a large building, likened to a net

褚
者 pile
衤/衣 clothing
pad a garment with cotton; cotton-stuffed garment; bag
pile of cotton. "Bag" is in the sense of an object in which to stuff clothes.

箸
者 pile
竹 bamboo
chopsticks
use bamboo chopsticks to remove portions from a pile of food; compare 筯

緒
者 pile
糸 thread
thread; beginning; end; clue
threads piled on a spool. "Beginning" and "end" are via the tip of spooled thread, while "clue" is a figurative meaning (lead back to the beginning).

諸
者 pile
言 words
many; various
compilation (figurative pile) of many/various words

賭
者 pile
貝 commodities
bet; wager; gamble
actual or figurative pile of goods being bet/wagered

闍
者 pile
門 gate
watchtower

watchtower piled atop a castle gate. 闍 is also used in transliterations of Sanskrit terms such as 阿闍梨耶 acariya "teacher."

偖
者 pile of brushwood/firewood
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
split; rip (open); open
split firewood, creating a pile. "Rip" is an associated meaning, with "open" by extension in the sense of splitting/ripping open.

暑
者 pile of brushwood/firewood
日 sun/day
hot; heat; summery; summer
日 appended for emphasis/clarification. Like 煮, 暑 was devised to replace 者 after 者 acquired its borrowed meaning.

煮
者 pile of brushwood/firewood
火 fire
cook; boil
火 appended for emphasis/clarification. Like 暑, 煮 was devised to replace 者 after 者 acquired its borrowed meaning.

赭
者 pile of brushwood/firewood
赤 red
red; ocher; hematite (iron ore)
red color given off by burning firewood. "Hematite" is an associated meaning.

着
originally the same character as 著 (q.v.)

躇
著 compilation

足 leg/foot
hesitate
footsteps figuratively piled in treading the same spot in hesitation

瀦
豬 fat wild boar (→ voluminous)
氵/水 water
pool; pond
voluminous buildup of water. Note a variant form, 瀦, which replaces the 豕 element with 犭/犬.

曙
署 cover like a net
日 sun/day
early morning sunlight; dawn; daybreak
early-morning sunlight covering the earth like a net. "Dawn" and "daybreak" are associated meanings.

儲
諸 compilation
亻/人 person
store (v.); save; (have/keep in) reserve; heir
"heir" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying the sense of "compilation" that dropped from 諸.

薯
諸 compilation
艹 grass/plant
potato; yam; tuber
crop growing in abundance. 薯 is a variant form, replacing 諸 with 署.

書
originally 者 pile
abbreviated form of 聿 implement for carving/drawing characters

book; document; letter; calligraphy; style of writing Han/Chinese characters
pile of documents comprising a written work

晝
abbreviated form of 書 written work
remnant element = sunshine demarcated from darkness
daytime; afternoon
the remnant element was originally 日 sun/day surrounded by straight lines on all four sides

畫
abbreviated form of 晝 demarcate in writing
聿 implement for carving/drawing characters
demarcate; draw; paint; drawing; picture; painting; plan
demarcate/mark off in writing. "Draw" and "paint" are associated meanings, with "drawing," "picture" and "painting" by extension. "Plan" is via the sense "draw up a plan."

劃
晝 demarcate/mark off
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
demarcate; mark off; divide
demarcate/mark off with a bladed implement. "Divide" is an associated meaning.

肅
abbreviated form of 晝 demarcate in writing
abbreviated form of 淵 concentration
quiet; solemn; reverent
quiet atmosphere promoting concentration such as that required for the act of writing. "Solemn" and "reverent" are associated meanings.

嘯
肅 concentrate
口 mouth
howl; roar

concentrated noise produced by the mouth

簫
肅 concentrate
竹 bamboo
bamboo flute
collection (= concentration) of bamboo tubes forming a musical instrument

繡
肅 concentrate
糸 thread
embroidery; embroider
intricately concentrated pattern on fabric

蕭
肅 concentrate
艹 grass/plant
artemisia
medicinal concentrate that cleanses the bodily system. Artemisia leaves supply a concentrate taken internally to combat fever, and are also made into moxa for external application (moxabustion). For "artemisia," compare 蒿.

瀟
蕭 cleanse
氵/水 water
deep and clear waters; sound of high winds and beating rain
deep and clear, cleansing flow of water

昔
remnant element = one object layered on another
日 sun/day
antiquity; the previous (day/night etc.)
passage of days/time, likened to a figurative piling up; compare 昨 and 時

借

昔 pile
亻/人 person
lend; rent; borrow; take the opportunity to
person with piles of goods. "Borrow" is via reinterpretation of the character as meaning "borrow from someone possessing a pile of goods."

厝
昔 pile
厂 shape indicator
place atop; whetstone; temporary placement of a coffin (prior to burial)
pile of shavings created in engraving; compare 乍 and 創. "Temporary placement of a coffin" is an associated meaning.

仄
abbreviated form of 厝 engrave
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
incline toward; lean; oblique; narrow; uneasy
angle a knife in engraving

昃
仄 incline toward
日 sun/day
the sun in the late afternoon sky; setting sun; incline; decline
sun inclining toward the western horizon

惜
昔 pile
忄/心 heart/emotions
regret; lament; begrudge
particular negative feelings piled in the heart

措
昔 pile
扌/手 hand/action indicator
place (in order); dispose of; deal with; arrange

create a pile. Present-day meanings are figurative applications (place in order by piling etc.).

籍
措 pile
竹 bamboo
fishing spear; fish with a spear
bamboo fishing spear piled with multiple heads; compare 矠

斮
昔 pile
斤 ax
cut; cut off
cut (off) into pieces, forming a pile

腊
昔 pile
月/肉 flesh
dried meat; year-end sacrificial rites; final lunar month of the year
piles of dried/preserved meat at year-end sacrificial rites

矠
昔 pile
矛 pike/halberd
spear; fishing spear
spear with multiple (= a pile of) heads; compare 籍

耤
昔 pile
耒 plow
plow
create piles of earth in plowing; compare 鉏

藉
耤 pile

艹 grass/plant
mat; lean/rely on; make excuses; pretext
pile mats of woven grass; compare 簀. "Lean/rely on" is a figurative associated meaning.

籍
耤 pile
竹 bamboo
register; document; book; write down
pile inscribed bamboo tablets for preservation

蹍
昔 pile
足 leg/foot
tread; trample
footprints figuratively piled atop each other in treading/trampling the same spot; compare 蹠

醋
昔 pile
酉 alcohol container
vinegar; jealousy
foodstuffs piled for preservation in vinegar; compare 酢. "Jealousy" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of a sour emotion.

錯
昔 pile
金 metal
mix; intertwine; disorder; mistake
pile up layers of gold/silver in inlaying. "Disorder" and "mistake" are associated meanings, in the sense of irregular layering.

齰
昔 pile
齒 teeth

bite; chew
figurative pile created by repeated motion in the same spots in mastication; compare 咀

責
束 stab
貝 commodities
censure; reproach; responsibility; duty (← 債)
the torment of debts piled one atop another

勣
責 pile
力 power/energy
meritorious deed; achievements
figurative pile of deeds/achievements. For the conceptual link between achievements and a pile, compare 績.

幘
責 pile
巾 cloth
turban
cloth piled upon the head

漬
責 pile
氵/水 water
soak; dye; stain
soak a pile of objects (e.g., vegetables in brine, clothes in dye etc.). "Stain" is an associated meaning.

磧
責 pile
石 stone
rocky banks/shoreline; sandy plain
piled rocks at water's edge. "Sandy plain" is an associated meaning in the sense of a

rocky/sandy expanse with little or no vegetation.

積
責 pile
禾 grain/rice
pile/heap up; accumulate; amass; store
pile crops

簀
責 pile
竹 bamboo
mat
layered bamboo mat; compare 藉

績
責 pile
糸 thread
spin; achievement
spin or intertwine piled threads. "Achievement" is equated with the results of spinning. For the conceptual link between achievements and a pile, compare 勣.

蹟
責 pile
足 leg/foot
footprints; vestige; trace one's steps
tread upon footprints in following one who has gone ahead, creating a figurative pile. "Trace one's steps" is an associated meaning. For "footprints," compare 蹤 迹 跡 and 踪.

債
責 debts
亻/人 person
debt
here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one

嘖
責 torment
口 mouth
argue; interjection (of admiration)
torment orally. "Interjection" is an associated meaning.

尚
向 be compressed in rising
八 split right and left
esteem; value; respect
figurative applications of the concept "rise" in the sense of "look up to"

堂
尚 rise/raise
土 earth
capacious building; meeting place
tall earthen platform; compare 商

瞠
堂 stretch
目 eye
stare (at something far off)
figuratively stretch the eyes to gaze/stare

鏜
堂 stretch
金 metal
noise of drums (← 鞺)
long, metallic implement used in boring

鞺
堂 stretch
革 leather
noise of drums

hide stretched over a large drum. The noise produced by drums is an associated meaning.

敞
尚 rise/raise
攵 action indicator
wide open; spacious
raise high and wide

廠
敞 high and wide
广 building
workshop; factory
spacious workshop

氅
敞 high and wide
毛 hair/fur
coat (n.)
fur attached to a pennant/banner raised high

常
尚 rise/raise
巾 cloth
ordinary; common; normal
raise a long skirt

裳
abbreviated form of 常 long skirt
衣 clothing (for emphasis/clarification)
skirt; clothes; (lower) garment

掌
尚 rise/raise
手 hand

palm; deal with
raise objects in the palm of the hand. "Deal with" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of taking in hand.

棠
尚 rise/raise
木 tree/wood
(variety of) apple or pear tree
tree found at high elevations

嘗
尚 rise/raise
旨 tasty
taste; try; experience
raise delicious food to the mouth and lick to taste/try

掌
尚 rise/raise
牙 fangs/mesh
prop; support post
pieces of meshed wood that rise to meet and support a ceiling

撐
掌 prop; support
扌/手 hand/action indicator
prop; support; pole/punt (a vessel); brace; maintain; fill to the point of bursting
cause to prop/support

黨
尚 rise/raise
黑 black (dark)
clique; faction; party
clandestinely raise supporters

讜

黨 raise supporters
言 words
speak out; (straightforward) advice
speak to a crowd

向
remnant element = (ventilation) hole
宀 roof/building
(turn/face) toward; direction; inclination/trend; always; until now
smoke being compressed through a ventilation hole and escaping to the outside of a structure. "Always" and "until now" are via figurative extension from "inclination/trend."

晌
向 ventilation hole
日 sun/day
midday; noon; time; moment
aperture permitting the entrance of bright sunlight. "Midday" and "noon" are via association with bright sunlight. "Time" and "moment" are by figurative association, in the sense of time marked by the passage of the sun through the sky.

明
transformed element (originally 向 ventilation hole)
月 moon
bright; open; light; clear; daybreak; evident; understand; next/following (day/month/year); Ming Dynasty
bright moonlight being compressed through an open window, and manifesting the hidden. Remaining meanings are via association with or extension from the idea of the light of dawn, signaling the end of one day and the start of the next.

萌
明 manifest the hidden
艹 grass/plant
bud; sprout; beginning
bud/sprout manifested in breaking through the surface of the earth. "Beginning" is

an associated meanings. Note a variant form styled 萌.

盟
明 manifest the hidden
皿 dish/plate/bowl
vow; oath; alliance
drink blood from a bowl in making a vow/oath, causing the gods to manifest themselves. "Alliance" is an associated meaning in the sense of allied forces keeping the vow they have made.

名
abbreviated form of 明 manifest the hidden
口 mouth
name; repute; fame
state one's name upon being challenged (by a guard), revealing oneself. "Repute" and "fame" are figurative associated meanings.

茗
名 reveal oneself
艹 grass/plant
tea (bud/leaves); tea plant
late-picked tea buds/leaves that reveal themselves after the original buds/leaves have been picked. "Tea plant" is an associated meaning; compare 荼/茶.

酩
名 reveal oneself
酉 alcohol container
drunk
reveal oneself in a drunken state

銘
名 reveal oneself
金 metal
engrave; inscribe; inscription
engrave an inscription in a metallic vessel, revealing the names of the artist or the

person commissioning the work, the reasons for commemoration etc.

命
abbreviated form of 名 reveal oneself
令 receive a long sequence of commands
command; order; calling; mission; fate; life; name (v.)
receive a revelatory command/order from an unseen god. "Fate" and "life" are associated meanings in the sense of a command/order determining one's fate, while "name" (v.) is via association with the idea of naming in ordering/appointing.

鳴
abbreviated form of 名 reveal oneself
鳥 bird
cry; sound; sound/ring out; resound; make sounds/noise
bird that, by its cries, reveals itself

當
尚 disperse
田 field
fitting; proper; mortgage; pledge
disburse (= disperse) an amount of money fitting the value of a field

擋
當 fit together
扌/手 hand/action indicator
obstruct; hinder
hold to/against in obstructing someone's progress

璫
當 fit together
王/玉 jewel
ornament; earring
jeweled ornament suspended from a crown, and covering the ear

礑

當 fit together
石 stone
base; bottom
foundation (stone)/cornerstone upon which construction materials are fitted

螳
當 fit together
虫 insect/creature
(insects locked in battle)
螳螂 (variant form of 蜋) = a mantis

鐺
當 fit together
金 metal
frying pan; (lidded cooking) pot
metallic vessel with parts that fit together

倘
尚 disperse
亻/人 person
if; supposing
person disappearing from sight

徜
尚 disperse
彳 movement
walk back and forth
wander

賞
尚 disperse
貝 commodities
bestow; reward
disburse (= disperse) a reward

償
賞 bestow; reward
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
compensate; indemnify; make restitution/reparations; fulfill (a wish)
bestow compensation

直
obsolete element = straight line + a dot representing a pupil
目 eye
direct; straight; vertical; be erect; be continuous; straightforward; frank
eye looking straight ahead. Present-day meanings are via figurative association.

埴
直 straight
土 earth
clay; soil with high content of clay
a substance in which objects can be made to stand straight

植
直 straight
木 tree/wood
set upright; plant
set saplings/trees straight upright

稙
直 straight
禾 rice/crops
early-ripening variety of rice
variety of vegetation that rises straight

矗
直 straight
直 doubled (for emphasis)
towering; luxuriant
tall/luxuriant vegetation

殖
abbreviated form of 植 plant (v.)
transformed element (original signification uncertain)
grow; breed; reproduce; propagate; increase; prosper
the disappeared element came to be written 歹

値
直 correct
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
value; price
evaluate an object at its correct value

置
直 correct
罒 net
place; set; put
place/set/put nets in correct position and leave as is

□□
abbreviated, variant form of 直 correct
心 heart/emotions
one's true nature

德
abbreviated, variant form of □□orrect
彳 movement/action indicator
virtue; morals
act in accordance with one's true nature

聽
abbreviated, variant form of □□(one's true nature)
obsolete element = pay heed to what is straight/true
hear; listen; ask
the obsolete element combines 耳 ear with the right-hand element of 廷 (extend

straight)

廳
聽 hear/listen
广 building
government office/department; hall
official building in which appeals are heard

睪
abbreviated form of 直 look directly at
幸 (handcuffed prisoners)
inspect; spy (v.)
align prisoners in inspecting and picking them out

懌
睪 align
忄/心 heart/emotions
rejoice
be relaxed/at ease (i.e., have one's heart in proper alignment)

澤
睪 align
氵/水 water
swamp; marsh; pool
alignment of water and grassland in a shallow body of water

釋
睪 align
釆 scatter
release; explain; solve
take/break apart an object, scattering then aligning the pieces

繹
睪 align
糸 thread

draw/pull out; continue
draw out thread and align it for weaving on a loom. "Continue" is an associated meaning in the sense of continuous time required to unreel thread completely.

譯
睪 align
言 words
translation; meaning; sense; reason; circumstances
align words in translating/interpreting them. "Sense" and "reason" are associated meanings, with "circumstances" by extension.

鐸
睪 align
金 metal
(ancient type of) bell
align a striker with a bell in ringing the latter

驛
睪 align
馬 horse
posting station; stage; relay
align a series of horses

擇
睪 pick out
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick out; select; choose
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

執
abbreviated form of 睪 align
丮 kneeling figure with arms extended
seize; grasp; take; do; execute/carry out; handle; treat
extend the arms to bind a captive

摯
執 seize
手 hand/action indicator
sincere; attentiveness; gift; present
手 appended for emphasis/clarification of the original sense of 執 (seize)

贄
執 seize
貝 commodities
offering (to superiors)
seize an offering made by a subordinate

鷙
執 seize
鳥 bird
bird of prey
bird seizing prey. Some reference sources identify 鷙 specifically as a "hawk."

縶
執 bind a captive
糸 thread (→ rope)
bind; tie up
bind/tie up (a captive). 糸 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

蟄
執 captive
虫 insect/creature
hibernation (of insects)
hibernation of insects (temporarily captive in the earth)

朕
remnant element = stretch about
舟 boat/rounded object
(in royal/imperial use) I/we
hands stretched about a rounded object to raise it high. "I/we" is via figurative

association, in the sense of elevating oneself in speaking.

勝
朕 rise
力 power/energy
superiority; success; victory
rise above in superiority

媵
朕 rise
女 woman
female who accompanies a bride to the bride's new home; female servant; see off
women accompanying a bride (who is raised high and carried in a palanquin or similar conveyance)

滕
朕 rise
variant form of 水 water
rising water; overflow
water rising to the point of overflowing

縢
朕 rise
糸 thread
bind; sheave; cord; rope
bind sheaves and stand them upright

謄
朕 rise
言 words
copy; trace; transcribe
words that actually or figuratively rise in being traced or transcribed

騰

朕 rise
馬 horse
gallop; soar; prance; rise
horse leaping in the air

藤
滕 rise
艹 grass/plant
climbing vine/creeper; wisteria; rattan
compare 籐, which is effectively a variant form of 藤

籐
滕 rise
竹 bamboo
climbing vine/creeper; rattan
籐 is effectively a variant form of 藤, without however bearing the meaning "wisteria"

登
obsolete element = rise/ascend
豆 food stand
rise; ascend; climb; climb aboard; ride
ascent, likened to the raising of a food stand. The obsolete element originally combined 廾 pair of hands with 癶 spread feet.

嶝
登 rise
山 mountain
path leading up a mountain; slope
rising mountain path

澄
登 rise
氵/水 water
make/become clear; clean; purify

the clear part of a liquid substance that rises to the top

橙
登 rise
木 tree/wood
(bitter) orange; (the color) orange
stool or stepladder upon which one rises

燈
登 rise
火 fire
(lamp/lantern) light
light raised high, such as a torch

磴
登 rise
石 stone
stone steps/staircase
particularly, stones rising in being aligned on a cliff or ledge

證
登 rise
言 words
testify; evidence; proof
(make a) report to a superior

鐙
登 rise
金 metal
food stand; lamp; stirrup
tall metallic object

唐
transformed element (originally 史 raise a tube)
口 mouth

Tang (China); China
actually or figuratively raise the mouth in boasting, or in exaggerating

塘
唐 rise
土 earth
dike; embankment; pond
raised earth, in the form of a dike or embankment. "Pond" (compare 蕩) is by association with an earthen water tank.

搪
唐 rise
扌/手 hand/action indicator
block; block up; ward off
raise the hand/an object to block or ward off

糖
唐 rise
米 rice (here suggesting sugar cane, a plant similar in shape to a rice stalk)
sugar; sweets
boil sugar cane, causing steam to rise

螗
唐 rise
虫 insect/creature
(variety of) cicada
insect whose collective cries rise clamorously in the air

昜
remnant element = rise straight
日 sun/day
rise; open (out); expand
sun rising high. The remnant element resembles a T-shape. The present form adds 彡 pattern to emphasize the sun's bright rays.

場
易 rise
土 earth
(open) space; public square/plaza; place; location; scene; session
public space on high, open ground

惕
易 rise
忄/心 heart/emotions
self-indulgent; profligate
unrestrained attitude, likened to a type of soaring emotion

揚
易 rise
扌/手 hand/action indicator
raise; scatter; fry
raise fried food out of oil, scattering drops of oil

湯
易 rise
氵/水 water
hot water; (hot) soup
vapor rising from boiling water

陽
易 rise
阜/阝 piled earth
sun; sunny place; light; bright; positive
high, sun-drenched hill

暘
易 rise
日 sun/day
(bright) rising sun; sunlight
bright sun rising in the morning sky

腸
易 rise
月/肉 flesh
intestines; emotion(s)
gas rising in the intestines

楊
易 rise
木 tree/wood
poplar; willow
a variety of tree the flexible branches of which rise when caught in gusts; compare 杞 and 柳

煬
易 rise
火 fire
roast; melt
effects of heat accompanied by rising flames

暢
易 rise
申 stretch
stretch; proceed smoothly; free and easy
stretch high/long

瘍
易 rise
疒 illness
sore; ulcer; boil; carbuncle
sore etc. rising on the skin

颺
易 rise
風 wind

rise/fly/soar high
object that rises in the wind

蕩
湯 vapor rising from boiling water
艹 grass/plant
pond; pool; waver; shake; dissipation; licentiousness; wash/sweep away (← 盪/蘯)
pond vegetation wavering like vapors. "Shake" is via extension from "waver." "Dissipation" and "licentiousness" are figurative associated meanings, wavering likened to irresolute/loose behavior. For "pond," compare 塘.

燙
湯 vapor rising from boiling water
火 fire
scald; heat up; iron (v.)
boiling water that scalds

盪
湯 vapor rising from boiling water
皿 dish/plate/bowl
toss/swing about (← extended sense "shake" in 蕩)
wash/sweep away with boiling water in a container

傷
obsolete element = raise the hand and strike
亻/人 person
injure; injury; wound; damage; harm
the obsolete element combines 昜 rise + a variant form of 人 person, suggesting "raise the hand and strike someone." The addition of 亻/人 in 傷 was for emphasis/clarification.

殤
obsolete element = raise the hand and strike
歹 severed bone/death

die (young/in war); national mourning
strike dead. "National mourning" is an associated meaning. The obsolete element combines 昜 rise + a variant form of 人 person, suggesting "raise the hand and strike someone."

觴
obsolete element = raise the hand
角 horn
goblet; wine vessel; cup
raise a goblet etc. made of horn in proposing a toast. The obsolete element combines 昜 rise + a variant form of 人 person, suggesting "raise the hand and strike someone," but the sense of striking has dropped in 觴.

章
transformed element = a mark/tattoo
transformed element (originally 辛 needle/cutting tool)
sentence; chapter; (musical) movement; counter (for sentences, poems, regulations etc.)
mark/tattoo a slave using a sharp instrument. Present-day meanings are by association with and extension from "mark rising from the skin."

嶂
章 rise
山 mountain
mountain peaks
soaring mountain peaks (acting as a barrier; compare 障)

障
章 rise
阜/阝 piled earth
obstruct; hinder; obstacle
tall earthen wall

樟
章 rise

木 tree/wood
camphor laurel
variety of tall tree

璋
章 rise
王/玉 jewel
jeweled implement
implement held high on ceremonial occasions

瘴
章 rise
疒 illness
noxious/pestilential vapors
rising noxious/pestilential vapors

麞
章 rise
鹿 deer
deer
tall deer

彰
章 mark/tattoo
彡 pattern
clear; manifest; conspicuous; obvious
clear/manifest pattern (originally, of a mark or tattoo)

商
transformed element (originally 章 rise)
remnant element = tall platform (compare 堂)
trade; commerce; business; merchant; businessperson; trader; dealer; consult; quotient
tall platform, rising particularly high. Present-day meanings are via association with a people of China's high plateaus noted for their mercantile skills, who referred to

themselves as 商 (also applied to the Shang Dynasty).

夭
young; fresh-looking; tender; die young/prematurely (← 殇)
depiction of the slender, limber figure of a running youth

妖
夭 slender and limber
女 woman
alluring; bewitching; weird; calamity (← 殇)
slender woman twisting her body alluringly

沃
夭 slender and limber
氵/水 water
irrigate; pour; fertile
pour a slender stream of water in irrigating, creating limber vegetation

芙
夭 slender and limber
艹 grass/plant
slender, limber plant

咲
variant form of 芙 slender and limber plant
口 mouth
smile; laugh
slender opening of the mouth in smiling/laughing

笑
夭 slender and limber
竹 bamboo
smile; laugh (← 咲)
slender, flexible bamboo

殀
夭 slender and limber
歹 severed bone/death
die young/prematurely; kill (someone in his youth)
die when one is still slender/limber = young

祆
abbreviated form of 殀 die prematurely
示 altar/the supernatural
calamity; disaster
calamity/disaster such as dying prematurely

高
tall; high; above average; loud
depiction of one of a pair of tall, curving gate towers. "Above average" is by figurative association, while "loud" is by association in the sense of a high-pitched sound.

嵩
高 high/tall
山 mountain
towering; volume; bulk
high peaks

蒿
高 high/tall
艹 grass/plant
general term for tall plants
can specifically indicate artemisia (compare 蕭) or mugwort (compare 蓬 艾 and 薛)

敲
高 high/tall
攴 action indicator
strike; beat; pound
raise the arm high then strike down upon an object

熇
高 high/tall
火 fire
dry
high flames over which things dry or food bakes

犒
高 high/tall
牛 cow
offer thanks; reward
kill and serve up a tall cow (to victorious soldiers). For a tall cow, compare 特.

皜
高 high/tall
白 white
pure white
bleached highlands; compare 塙

稿
高 high/tall
禾 grain/rice
draft; manuscript
tall stalks of millet used as thatch or fuel. The idea of "raw material" led to the idea of a "raw version of a written work," thus the present-day meanings. 稾, which repositions the 禾 element, is a variant form of 稿.

篙
高 high/tall
竹 bamboo
long bamboo pole
specifically, such a pole used for propelling small rivercraft

鎬
高 high/tall

金 metal
raised ridges of the edge of a sword
the original reference was likely a metallic implement or weapon raised high

豪
abbreviated form of 高 tall/high
豕 pig/boar
grand; magnificent; heroic
porcupine, a small animal likened to a pig that, when threatened, arches its back and makes its protective needles stand on end. Present-day meanings are via figurative association with the idea of standing tall.

壕
豪 stretch at length
土 earth
moat; trench
moat/trench stretching about an edifice; compare 濠

濠
豪 stretch at length
氵/水 water
moat; trench
moat stretching about an edifice; compare 壕

毫
abbreviated form of 豪 stretch at length
毛 (fine strands of) hair
fine hair; writing brush; minute amount
fine hair stretched for use in a writing brush. "Minute amount" is via association with "fine."

槁
abbreviated form of 皜 pure white
木 tree/wood
withered tree; withered; rotten

white, withered tree

縞
abbreviated form of 皜 pure white
糸 thread
white silk fabric

膏
abbreviated form of 皜 pure white
月/肉 flesh
fat; grease; ointment; paste
white fat

藁
稾 stalk of millet
艹 grass/plant
straw; wither; dead/withered tree (← 槁)
艹 appended for emphasis/clarification

塙
abbreviated form of 皜 bleached highlands
土 earth
truly
whitish, hard earth

厚
transformed element (originally 高 high/tall written upside down)
厂 cliff/shape indicator
thick; heavy; substantial; generous; kind; cordial
tall cliff composed of thick, heavy rocks. "Generous," "kind" and "cordial" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of laying on kindness thickly. For the upside down 高 element, compare 覃.

喬
夭 slender and limber

高 high/tall
tall; lofty
tall, limber youth

僑
喬 tall and limber
亻/人 person
sojourner; traveler; person living outside his/her own country
a person (strong/healthy and) limber enough to go off and live independently

嬌
喬 tall and limber
女 woman
coquetry; seductiveness; delicacy
a (tall) woman twisting her body alluringly

嶠
喬 tall and limber
山 mountain
high mountain
high mountain with a curved peak

撟
喬 tall and limber
扌/手 hand/action indicator
roll up; raise
(roll up and then) raise a supple object

蕎
喬 tall and limber
艹 grass/plant
(supple and mildly toxic perennial used as a medicinal plant)
蕎麥 or 蕎麦 = buckwheat

橋

喬 tall and limber
木 tree/wood
bridge
arching bridge

矯
喬 tall and limber
矢 arrow
bend; straighten; correct
bend a tall bow in firing off an arrow

趫
喬 tall and limber
走 run
agile; nimble
leap/bound with great agility

蹻
喬 tall and limber
足 leg/foot
stand tiptoe
arch the feet

轎
喬 tall and limber
車 vehicle
palanquin or sedan-chair
conveyance carried high on the shoulders of attendants

驕
喬 tall and limber
馬 horse
pride; arrogance
pride or arrogance likened to a horse prancing, head raised high

屩
喬 tall and limber
abbreviated form of 履 wear shoes
sandals
straw or hemp woven into flexible, arched sandals; compare 蹻 and 屨

囗
(circular) enclosure
although 囗 is now written as a square, the original shape was circular, and the concept "circular" plays an important role in derivative characters. Distinguish from the character 口 mouth.

困
囗 circular enclosure
木 tree/wood
distress; difficulty; trouble
bale of wood tightly encircled in being bound by a cord. Present-day meanings are via figurative association in the sense of being in a bind.

梱
木 tree/wood
bale; package
梱 was devised to replace 困 after 困 acquired its figurative meanings

捆
困 bind
扌/手 hand/action indicator
bind; tie/truss up; bundle
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

囷
囗 circular enclosure
禾 grain/rice
granary
bundled grain

菌
囷 round
艹 grass/plant
fungus; germ
round growth that appears on vegetation

稛
囷 round
禾 grain/rice
bundle; bind
稛 was devised to create a replacement character for 囷 after 囷 came to be used to indicate a granary

箘
囷 round
竹 bamboo
(tubular) **bamboo** (shoots)

員
囗 circular enclosure
transformed element = tripod kettle
member; person
present-day meanings are extended, the associative process running: Round object → counter for round objects → number → number of members/people.

圓
員 round
囗 circular enclosure
round; circular

損
員 round
扌/手 hand/action indicator
damage; harm; decrease

make a round hole in damaging an object

隕
員 round
阜/阝 piled earth
fall; roll
round lump of earth that falls/rolls; 隕石 = meteor

殞
員 round
歹 severed bone/death
die
fall down/into a round hole (and die)

韻
員 round
音 sound
rhyme; meter; tone
rounded/harmonized sound

或
囗 circular enclosure
戈 spear/halberd
possibly; a certain ...; or
defend enclosed land/an enclosure

域
或 enclosure
土 earth
enclosure; area
土 appended to reinforce the physical nature of an enclosure

彧
或 enclosure
彡 pattern

beautiful; luxuriant
beautiful pattern within the enclosure of an object

惑
或 enclosure
心 heart/emotions
perplexity
confusion produced by feelings of being circumscribed

閾
或 enclosure
門 gate
threshold
gate as the threshold of an enclosure

馘
或 enclosure (→ enclose in grasping)
首 neck/head
sever the left ear; enumerate the dead
grasp (compare 攫 and 摑) an enemy's head and sever the left ear; compare 聯

國
或 enclosure
囗 circular enclosure
country; land; state
enclosed area of land

摑
國 enclosure
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; slap
grasp/enclose an object in the hand

幗
國 enclosure

巾 cloth
woman's hood or other form of head covering
head enclosed by cloth/fabric

膕
國 enclosure
月/ 肉 flesh
hollow/back of the knee; knee pit
hollow in which the knee is enclosed

袁
囗 circular enclosure
衣 clothing
robe
robe wrapped about/enclosing the body

園
袁 enclose/wrap about
囗 circular enclosure
garden
enclosure in which plants are grown

遠
袁 enclose/wrap about
辵 movement
far; distant; remote
move far off within enclosed territory

轅
袁 enclose/wrap about
車 vehicle
vehicle shafts
shafts connected by a crossbar, about which the reins attached to a draft animal were wrapped to enable pulling; compare 輈 軒 軏 and 軺

睘
袁 wrap about/enclose
目 eye
all-encompassing observation; compare 觀. 睘 is effectively obsolete.

圜
睘 circular
囗 circular enclosure
circulate; go about/around
go about an enclosure

寰
睘 circular
宀 roof/building
the world; extensive domain
enclosed parcel of land within an extensive domain

獧
睘 circular
犭/犬 dog/beast
irritable; impetuous
chained/penned dog running about in circles

還
睘 circular
辶 movement
circulate; return

環
睘 circular
玉 jewel
ring; loop; hoop
jewel of circular shape; compare 鐶

轘

睘 circular
車 vehicle
rip apart between vehicles (in execution)
curved poles connecting a vehicle to the draft animal pulling it, and creating a circle

鐶
睘 circular
金 metal
ring
metallic ring; compare 環

闤
睘 circular
門 gate
wall around a town/market area
circular wall with a gate

鬟
睘 circular
髟 hair
coiled knot of hair

懁
睘 circular
忄/心 heart/emotions
restless; anxious
swirling emotions

擐
睘 circular
扌/手 hand/action indicator
thrust/pass through; penetrate
thrust the arms through an object (a garment, armor etc.) then wrap it about oneself. For the idea of penetrating, compare 貫.

韋
囗 circular enclosure
remnant element = pair of crossing feet
(soft, tanned) leather
go around an enclosure in patrolling it

偉
韋 go around
亻/人 person
big; great
layers of fat encircling a person of conspicuous girth

圍
韋 go around
囗 circular enclosure
encircle; surround
surrounding/encircling enclosure

幃
韋 go around
巾 cloth
curtain; tent
curtain that surrounds, as opposed to one that hangs in front of something. 帷 is a variant form of 幃 which also conveys the meaning "screen" (n.).

葦
韋 go around
艹 grass/plant
reed
plant that spreads in a circular manner about the main root

違
韋 go around
辶 movement
differ; go against; violate

two patrols crossing while circling in opposite directions

煒
韋 go around
火 fire
bright; brilliant
circular halo

褘
韋 go around
衤/衣 clothing
ceremonial gown of a queen

緯
韋 go around
糸 thread
woof/weft (thread); latitude
the thread that circles about the warp thread. "Latitude" is of course a figurative meaning.

諱
韋 go around
言 words
taboo (words)
circumlocution on account of being loath to say

闈
韋 go around
門 gate
gate; (gate leading to the) living quarters (of imperial females)
quarters reached by following a circuitous route after passing a gate

韙
韋 go around
是 straight

right; correct; proper
go around doing things (= behaving) in the right manner

出
屮 grass shoot
土 earth
protrude; emerge; appear
grass/bud/sprout protruding from the ground

咄
出 protrude
口 mouth
scold; cry (of rage/anger)
tongue actually or figuratively protruding from the mouth in scolding

拙
出 protrude
扌/手 hand/action indicator
inexpert; clumsy
arrange objects inexpertly, with some of them protruding

茁
出 protrude
艹 grass/plant
bud (v.); sprout (v.)
devised as a replacement character for 出 after 出 acquired its associated and extended meanings

朏
出 protrude
月 moon
crescent moon
the visible part of the moon protruding from its shaded portion

祟

出 protrude
示 altar/the supernatural
evil spirit; evil
emergence/appearance of evil spirits

絀
出 protrude
糸 thread
sew; stitch
sew/stitch a protruding piece of fabric level with the rest of the material

黜
出 protrude
黑 black
dismiss; expel; demote
dismiss an ambitious (= protruding) subordinate

屈
出 protrude
尸 buttocks
bend
bend over, causing the buttocks to protrude

倔
屈 bend
亻/人 person
strong-willed; tough
bend a person to one's will

位
throne; seat; rank; post; place; position; location
variant form of 倔 (bend a person to one's will), with specific reference to the crown/throne bending others to its will in maintaining place/rank

莅

位 the crown/throne
艹 grass/plant
arrival; appearance; presence; assume (a post)
crown or throne consisting (fully, or in part) of woven vegetation. "Arrival," "appearance" and "presence" are associated meanings (with respect to an emperor), with "assume (a post)" an extended meaning.

涖
abbreviated form of 莅 presence
氵/水 water
be present and observe
stand (= be present) at water's edge

崛
屈 bend
山 mountain
high, rocky mountain
mountain with caverns which one enters by bending; compare 窟

堀
屈 bend
土 earth
hole; ditch
bend to dig a hole

掘
屈 bend
扌/手 hand/action indicator
dig
bend to dig a hole

窟
屈 bend
穴 hole
cave; cavern

bend to enter a cave; compare 崛

詘
abbreviated form of 屈 bend
言 words
stutter; stammer; bend; yield
stutter/stammer, the sound likened to bent words; compare 吃 and 訥

刷
variant form of 屈 bend
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
scrub; scrape clean
bend in scraping

尉
transformed element (originally 屈 bend over)
寸 hand/action indicator
(military) officer
brand a bending figure with an iron to mark or to punish. (Military) "officer" is an extended meaning, in the sense of one who suppresses rebels.

蔚
尉 bending figure
艹 grass/plant
dense/luxuriant vegetation; dense; ornamental
dense, bending vegetation. "Ornamental" is an associated meaning via luxuriant.

慰
尉 be branded
心 heart/emotions
comfort; console
comfort/console a person who has been branded (= a person who is suffering). For the idea of comforting a suffering person, compare 恤.

熨

尉 iron
火 fire
iron; smooth out
火 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Smooth out" is via the idea of ironing out wrinkles.

祭
刷 scrape away impurities
示 altar/the supernatural
offer sacrifice; offer prayer; worship
purify unclean meat by scraping away impurities and making an offering of it

蔡
祭 scrape
艹 grass/plant
short weeds; large turtle/tortoise used in divination
scrape off the tops of vegetation

際
祭 scrape
阜/阝 piled earth
border; edge
scrape earth in creating a structure. "Border" and "edge" are via the idea of a point of contact for the lines of a wall or other construction.

鰶
祭 scrape
魚 fish
gizzard shad
fish perceived to be scraping at sand with its mouth

屑
variant form of the top element of 祭 (scrape)
尸 shape indicator
scraps; fragments; junk; trifling

"trifling" is a figurative associated meaning

察
祭 scrape
宀 roof/building
inspect; observe
scrape/rub a building spotless, eliminating all dirt. The present-day meanings are via the idea of inspecting/observing that which has been cleaned or purified.

擦
察 rub spotless
扌/手 hand/action indicator
rub; wipe
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

門
gate; door; gateway; opening; family; school of thought; sect; category; class; method; valve; switch; counter for artillery pieces
depiction of a curving, double-doored gate, the doors adhering tightly in concealing what lies behind it. Meanings other than the first three are via association and figurative extension.

閃
門 gate
人 person
flash; spark; dodge
person making a sudden entry then disappearing behind a gate; compare 闖

闖
門 gate
馬 horse
sudden entry; rush; intrusion
horse making a sudden entry then disappearing behind a gate; compare 閃

間

門 gate
日 sun
gap; space; between; among; interval; a room
bright light splitting and illuminating the gap between the two sides of a gate. 間 and 閒 convey the same meanings.

閒
門 gate
月 moon
gap; space; between; among; interval; a room
bright light splitting and illuminating the gap between the two sides of a gate. 間 and 閒 convey the same meanings.

澗
間 gap
氵/水 water
valley river
river running through a gap in mountains

簡
間 gap
竹 bamboo
letter; brief; omit; simple
collection of bamboo slats with gaps between them. "Letter" is via the image of texts written on bamboo slats. "Omit" is an extension from "gap," while "simple" is via the idea "simplify by omitting."

癇
閒 gap
疒 illness
spasms; convulsions; fit
medical conditions that occur at intervals (= gaps)

瞷
閒 gap

目 eye
peep; spy on
gaze through a gap in a wall

繝
閒 gap
糸 thread
embroidered pattern
interweave over a gap in fabric

閑
門 gate
木 tree/wood
bolt; leisure
wooden bolt placed across the door of a gate, confining the persons, animals or objects contained within

嫺
閑 leisure
女 woman
be accomplished; elegant; refined
accomplishments/elegance/refinement association with the leisured class

問
門 concealed
口 mouth
ask; inquire
demand (guarded) information

捫
門 concealed
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grope; feel; lay hands on
grope for a concealed object

悶
門 concealed
心 heart/emotions
anguish; agony; melancholy
gloomy, depressed feelings concealed in the heart

聞
門 concealed
耳 ear
hear; news; reputation
demand to hear concealed information

閏
門 concealed
王 ruler
intercalation
ruler remaining concealed within the gates of a palace. It was the custom of ancient rulers to confine themselves during intercalary periods (i.e., periods when the number of days exceeded those provided for in the official calendar).

潤
閏 concealed
氵/水 water
ooze; moisten; lubricate; enrich
liquid, concealed in the earth, that slowly oozes out

丁
cube of meat/vegetable; fourth (in a series); fourth calendar sign
depiction of the head of a nail, one struck so as to be driven straight into an object, suggesting "raise a hammer and strike straight down on a nail." A later form depicts a nail at a right angle to a surface. "Cube of meat/vegetable" is via shape association.

打
丁 strike a nail

扌/手 hand/action indicator
hit; strike

釘
丁 strike a nail
金 metal
nail; spike
a metallic nail/spike

汀
丁 straight
氵/水 water
sandbanks; shoal
straight sandbanks or shore(line)/waterside

灯
丁 straight
火 fire
light; lamp
light raised high, such as a torch

町
丁 straight
田 field
path between fields; sector
straight paths running between fields

疔
丁 straight
疒 illness
boil; carbuncle
boil or carbuncle rising straight on the skin

訂
丁 straight

言 words
correct (v.); agree
verbally straighten out/correct errors or come to a straight agreement

酊
丁 straight
酉 alcohol
intoxicated
straight (= undiluted), potent liquor

頂
丁 straight
頁 head
top of the head; top; apex
place straight atop the head

飣
丁 straight
食 food/eating
(offering consisting of a) pile of food
tall pile of dried fruit or other food

亭
丁 straight
abbreviated form of 高 tall/high
pavilion; watchtower; be erect
object that stands straight and tall

停
亭 stand straight
亻/人 person
stop; stay
person standing straight, having come to a stop

渟

亭 stand straight
氵/水 water
stagnant (water)
standing/stagnant water

成
丁 straight
obsolete element = a pounding tool
make; finish; succeed
pound nails (straight) into an object in making then completing it

城
成 make
土 earth
city walls; city; town
make/construct earthen walls of a town/city

盛
成 make
皿 dish/plate/bowl
flourish
make a heaping dish of food, which suggests prosperity and success

晟
成 straight
日 sun
shining; brilliance (of the sun)
direct sunlight

筴
成 straight
竹 bamboo
reed (of a loom)
straight, bamboo reed (of a loom)

誠
成 straight
言 words
sincerity; honesty; integrity
words straight from the heart

用
use; employ; utility (for); have a need; expenses; eat; drink
depiction of a stick being used to run through a rectangular board, piercing a hole.
"Have a need" is an associated meaning in the sense of a task requiring doing.
"Expenses" is a figurative extended meaning.

甬
用 run through
variant form of 人 person (→ human agency)
narrow path/road (walled on both sides)
the present-day meaning is via reinterpretation (a path/road allowing people to run through)

俑
甬 run through
亻/人 person
human effigy (buried with the deceased)
effigy intended to assist the deceased in running/passing through to the world of the dead

涌
甬 run through
氵/水 water
gush forth/out; spring up (naturally)
gushing water running through a hole and up to the surface of the earth

通
甬 run through
辶 movement

go through; communicate
also, other associated and extended meanings based on the idea "run/pass through"

桶
甬 run through
木 tree/wood
tub; (wooden) bucket
(wooden) object receiving water running through a pipe or tube

痛
甬 run through
疒 illness
pain; ache
pain running all through the body

筩
甬 run through
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) tube
tube through which a fishing line would be run

蛹
甬 run through
虫 insect/creature
pupa; chrysalis
pupa that emerges by splitting (= running through) the pupal case

誦
甬 run through
言 words
recite
run through a text in reciting or chanting

踊

甬 run through
足 leg/foot
leap; jump/spring up
stamp the ground (energetically, as though to run through it) then leap or jump/spring up

勇
abbreviated form of 甬 run through
力 power/energy
spirited; lively; brave; courageous
stamp the ground energetically, as though to run through it. Present-day meanings are via association.

湧
勇 run through
氵/水 water
gush forth/out; spring up
water that runs through an aperture in gushing from the earth; compare 涌

庸
用 use
abbreviated form of 庚 firm stem
use (v.); employ; ordinary; common; mediocre
use a stem or similar ordinary tool in performing routine work (such as constructing an earthen wall; compare 墉). "Common" is by association with "ordinary," with "mediocre" by extension.

傭
庸 work
亻/人 person
hire; employ; servant; hired/domestic laborer
hire/employ a worker

墉
庸 work

土 earth
wall
work in making an earthen wall

慵
庸 work
忄/心 heart/emotions
lethargic; indolent; lazy
feel lethargic following work. "Indolent" and "lazy" are associated meanings.

同
variant form of 用 run through
口 = a hole
same; equal
the present-day meanings are likely via the image of a board with a stick run through it to the point that the length of the stick on each side of the board is equal/the same

侗
同 run through
亻/人 person
ignorant
person with a figurative hole in the head through which knowledge runs without taking hold

恫
同 run through
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; distress; threaten
fearful or distressing emotions running through the body. "Threaten" is an associated meaning in the sense of causing fear/distress.

洞
同 run through
氵/水 water

cave; hole; penetrate
cave through which water runs/penetrates

桐
同 run through
木 tree/wood
paulownia
the original sense was likely that of a wooden conduit. For "conduit," compare 筒.

胴
同 run through
月/肉 flesh
trunk; torso; large intestine
trunk/torso running through the body between head and legs. "Large intestine" is an associated meaning in the sense of an organ through which liquids and solids run.

筒
同 run through
竹 bamboo
tube; pipe; cylinder
tube/pipe etc. through which liquids or solids run

銅
同 run through
金 metal
copper; bronze
copper as a metal easily run through in drilling

東
east; host; landlord
depiction of a sack bound on two ends, with a stick run through it. "East" is either via borrowing or an extended application of the concept "run through" (rays of the rising sun figuratively piercing the earth, with "east" being via association with the direction of the rising sun.) "Host" and "landlord" are figurative extended meanings

via use as a locational indicator.

凍
東 run through
冫/氷 ice
frozen (over); freeze; chill
ice running through a given spot

棟
東 run through
木 tree/wood
ridgepole; building
ridgepole or ridge beam running from one end of a building's roof to the other

重
東 run through
remnant element = person standing on the ground
heavy; weighty; place weight on/attach importance to; value; serious; pile up; repeat; do repeatedly; layer(s); again
the weight of a person thrusting down heavily on the earth, as though to run through it. "Again" is an extended meaning via "repeat".

動
重 run through
力 power/energy
move; alter; touch
strenuous work/movement involving the running through of objects

董
重 run through
艹 grass/plant
supervise; direct
the original meaning, concerned with vegetation, is now obscure

腫

重 run through
月/肉 flesh
swell; swelling
swellings running all through the body

種
重 run through
禾 grain/rice
seed; species; type; sort
run seeds/saplings through soil in planting. Other meanings are via the idea of a seed as the type of the plant it will become.

衝
重 run through
行 straight, crossing roads
main road; collision
main road running through a settlement. "Collision" is an associated meaning in the sense of objects colliding in the act of running through; compare 撞.

踵
重 run through
足 leg/foot
heel; follow
heel exerting heavy pressure on the ground, as though to run through it. "Follow" is an associated meaning in the sense of being at someone's heels.

鍾
重 run through
金 metal
(metal) cup/container
metal bell, struck with a motion as though to run through it. The present-day meaning is via shape association.

慟
動 run through

忄/心 heart/emotions
grief
grieve as though one is being run through

量
transformed element (originally 重 weight)
obsolete element = grain
measure; weigh; quantity; amount; capacity; estimate; consider
measure grain in weighing it. It is possible that the phonosemantic element is the obsolete grain element; compare 良 and 秝.

糧
量 measure grain
米 rice
grain; food; provisions; agricultural tax
measured grain/rice. The agricultural tax was originally paid in grain.

童
obsolete element = weight thrusting heavily down upon the earth
obsolete element = needle blinding an eye
child
run through a slave-child's eye with a needle; compare 民, 敃 and 僕. 童貞 = virgin. The obsolete element acting as the phonosemantic is 東 (run through) + 土 earth. The obsolete element acting as the semantic is 辛 needle + 目 eye.

幢
童 run through
巾 cloth
flag; military banner; counter for buildings
banner run through by a flagpole. "Counter for buildings" (originally, ones adorned with flags) is an associated meaning.

憧
童 run through
忄/心 heart/emotions

yearn; unsettled
be figuratively run through with yearning. Unsettled is via association (an unsettled yearning).

撞
童 run through
扌/手 hand/action indicator
collide; knock against
strike/collide as though to run through an object; compare 艟 and 衝

橦
童 run through
木 tree/wood
(wooden) pole; thrust
pole used in thrusting attacks

瞳
童 run through
目 eye
(ocular) pupil
devised to convey the original, lost sense of 童 (pupil run through in being blinded), but now a pupil in general

穜
童 run through
禾 grain/rice
plant (grain seed); late-ripening grain
thrust grain seed into the earth

艟
童 run through
舟 boat
(ancient) warship
fighting vessel used to ram enemy boats. For ramming/colliding, compare 撞.

鐘
童 run through
金 metal
bell; clock
metal object struck with a motion as though to run through it. "Clock" is an associated meaning in the sense of an object with bells sounding the hours.

僮
童 child (servant)
亻/人 person
child; servant (boy)
亻/人 appended for emphasis/clarification

屯
remnant element = horizontal line
屮 grass shoot
station an army; camp (← 頓); **village; stockpile**
bud swelling above the surface of the earth. "Village" and "stockpile" are via association with the borrowed meanings. For the remnant horizontal line functioning as the phonosemantic element in a compound character, compare 門 旦 天 and 本.

沌
屯 swollen
氵/水 water
turbid; chaotic
swollen/turbid waters

肫
屯 swollen
月/肉 flesh
gizzard
swollen flesh, but later applied to the (dried) gizzard of a bird

純

屯 swollen
糸 thread
pure; unmixed
tassel of swollen appearance, attached to the edge of an embroidered cloth. "Pure" and "unmixed" are via association with the single hue of such a tassel.

鈍
屯 swollen
金 metal
dull; blunt
metal with dull edges that swell outwards, as opposed to being neatly sharpened

頓
屯 swollen
頁 head (here = group of people)
stop; pause; kowtow/bow deeply
camp swelling with soldiers. "Stop" and "pause" are associated meanings in the sense of stopping to set up camp.

飩
屯 swollen
食 food/eating
dumpling
a type of food swollen by the ingredients with which it is filled

春
屯 swelling bud
remnant element = originally 日 + 艸
spring; youth; sexual desire
spring, the season when buds and other vegetation swell in the sunlight that returns after winter. "Youth" and "sexual desire" are associated meanings.

惷
春 spring
心 heart/emotions

stupid
foolish impulses of young people (those in the springtime of their lives)

蠢
春 spring
虫 insect/creature (doubled)
squirming/wriggling insects; wriggle; foolish (← 惷)
newly born life forms likened to the fresh growth of vegetation in spring

鰆
春 spring
魚 fish
Spanish mackerel
variety of fish caught in great numbers in the spring

土
earth; soil; clay; local; indigenous; rustic; unsophisticated
depiction of a pile of earth. "Local" and "indigenous" are extended meanings, with "rustic" and "unsophisticated" via figurative extension.

社
土 pile of earth
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
group; organization; society
crowd thronging an (earthen) altar

徒
土 pile of earth
辵 movement (with elements repositioned)
follower; disciple
walk barefoot over uneven ground. "Follower" is an associated meaning in the sense of a follower/soldier etc. going on foot/barefoot. "Disciple" is by extension from "follower."

跿

abbreviated form of 徒 walk barefoot
足 leg/foot
(walk) barefoot
足 appended for emphasis/clarification

塞
土 pile of earth
remnant element = pile construction elements in raising a shelter
plug; stop up; fill
plug/fill holes in raising an earthen fortress/fort

寨
abbreviated form of 塞 fortress/fort
木 tree/wood
fort; stronghold; stockade
木 appended for emphasis/clarification

賽
abbreviated form of 塞 fill
貝 commodities
compete; surpass
compete to fill a container with offerings. "Surpass" is an associated meaning.

吐
土 pile
口 mouth
spew; vomit; spit; utter
pile of vomited objects. "Spit" is an associated meaning, with "utter" by figurative association.

杜
土 pile
木 tree/wood
(variety of) pear; obstruct; stop; prevent
pile of tree fruit

肚
土 pile
月/肉 flesh
belly; intestines
(full) belly, piled with food. (Animal) "intestines" is an associated meaning.

里
土 pile of earth
田 field
village; neighborhood; unit of length
long strip of piled earth/land, with alternating cultivated and non-cultivated sectors. "Unit of length" is an associated meaning (distance between villages).

俚
里 village
亻/人 person
rural; countrified; rustic; vulgar
rural inhabitant

悝
里 long strip
忄/心 heart/emotions
anxiety
long-lasting anxiety

哩
里 long strip
口 mouth
mile (← 浬)
bring a long utterance to an end. 哩 originated as an emphatic auxiliary, bringing a sentence to an end.

浬
里 long strip

氵/水 water
nautical mile
meaning is influenced both by the "long strip" and "unit of length" senses of 里. For "mile," compare 哩.

理
里 long strip
王/玉 jewel
logic; reason; principle
veins or streaks in a piece of jade. The present-day meanings liken these veins to lines/threads of a reasoning process.

裏
里 long strip
衣 clothing
lining; interior
strips of fabric used as lining/backing material for garments

鯉
里 long strip
魚 fish
carp
carp patterned with long strips/stripes

埋
里 long strip
土 earth
bury; cover; secrete
long furrows in which seeds are buried

貍
abbreviated form of 埋 bury
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
fox-like animal
animal that shelters in burrows or dens

霾
貍 shelter
雨 rain/natural phenomena
dust storm; haze; mist
dust storm necessitating the taking of shelter

釐
里 long strip
obsolete character = split
manage; control; ancient unit of weight; small amount
plow long, neat furrows. "Manage" and "control" are by association (manage/control the growth of crops). "Small amount" is by extension from the borrowed meaning "ancient unit of weight."

厘
small amount; 1/100; 1/1000th of a tael
abbreviated form of 釐, the source of the meaning "small amount"

嫠
abbreviated form of 釐 plow long, neat furrows
女 woman
widow
woman whose husband has been buried like seeds in a furrow

犛
abbreviated form of 釐 plow long, neat furrows
牛 cow
yak; black ox
ox used in plowing

氂
abbreviated form of 犛 yak
毛 hair
tail of a yak; tail; yak; hair

tail of a yak, one attached to a pennant/banner; compare 旄 and 氂

余
土 pile of earth
八 split right and left
surplus; remainder
stretch the arms to both sides to disperse surplus earth in smoothing/leveling a pile

徐
余 stretch
彳 movement
slow; gradual
lazy, stretching motion

途
余 stretch
辶 movement
road; way
long road (= one that stretches far)

敍
余 stretch
攴 action indicator
describe; narrate
stretch objects sequentially, in a line. "Describe" and "narrate" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of recounting sequentially. 敘, which replaces 攴 with 又 (also an action indicator), is a variant form.

斜
余 stretch
斗 ladle
incline; slant
stretch a ladle at a slant to pour out its contents

餘

余 stretch
食 food/eating
surplus; remainder
surplus food stretched over a table

荼
余 (stretch)
艹 grass/plant
(Sonchus oleraceus); thistle; cruel
edible plant with a bitter taste, sometimes identified as Sonchus oleraceus. The function of 余 here is uncertain but may be connected to "stretch in relaxation" (compare 舍/舍), in the sense of a plant used to produce a relaxing drink. "Thistle" is an associated meaning, with "cruel" by figurative extension from thistle. 荼 appears in transliterations of Sanskrit terms such as jhpeta (cremation: 荼毘) and mandala (曼荼羅). For "tea plant," compare 茗.

茶
tea; tea plant
variant form of 荼 plant with a bitter taste

舍
abbreviated form of 余 stretch
囗 circular enclosure (→ a particular spot)
dwelling; residence
enclosed place for stretching in relaxation

捨
舍 stretch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
abandon; relinquish; give up; give alms
stretch the arm in tossing an object away

塗
余 stretch
obsolete element = 氵/水 water + 土 earth

smear; daub; apply/spread (something moist); mud; paint; blot out
stretch in spreading coats of mud over a wall

除
余 disperse surplus earth
阜/阝 piled earth
remove; exclude; except
disperse surplus earth. "Remove" is an associated meaning, with "exclude" and "except" by extension. 除 was devised to replace 余 after 余 came to convey the meaning "surplus" rather than the idea of dispersal.

篘
除 level off
(bamboo) mat/matting
竹 bamboo
bamboo mats/matting that level off an uneven seating surface

只
abbreviated form of 余 disperse
口 mouth
only; just; but; simply
disperse breath from the mouth in speech

咫
只 dispersal
尺 measure
unit of length
(Zhou Dynasty) unit of length. The function of 只 here is uncertain. As the unit of length was based on the width of human toes (one endpoint of the body), "dispersal" may be connected with "endpoint" as it is in 軹.

枳
只 dispersal
木 tree/wood
trifoliate orange tree

the function of 只 here is uncertain. "Dispersal" may be connected with properties of the tree or with the medicinal effects of the fruit.

軹
只 dispersal
車 vehicle
endpoint of an axle
point of a vehicle dispersed the greatest distance

圭
jade tablet
depiction of clay/earth piled high in a neat cone shape. An ancient custom was to declare sovereignty over a particular territory by hanging a proclamation over such a pile. "Jade tablet" (with a square base, and pointed at top) is an extended meaning from this custom and also a result of shape association.

佳
圭 neat
亻/人 person
beautiful; fine; good
person of neat, attractive appearance

厓
圭 neat
厂 cliff
cliff; bank/shore
neatly carved cliff

娃
圭 neat
女 woman
beautiful woman; beautiful
woman of neat, attractive appearance

畦

圭 neat
田 field
parcel of land
neat ridge that partitions fields

罣
圭 neat
罒 net
be caught (in/on); ruled line(s)
neatly netted prey. 罫 is a variant form of 罣, with 卦 replacing 圭. The meaning "ruled line(s)" was influenced by the reticulated pattern of a net.

絓
圭 neat
糸 thread
(coarse, silk) thread
neat pile of thread

街
圭 neat
行 straight/crossing roads
street; town
neat roads/grid of a town

跬
圭 neat
足 leg/foot
short step (the length of a single stride); small amount
stride neatly

鮭
圭 neat
魚 fish
salmon
fish of a neat, attractive appearance

啀
variant form of 圭 neat
口 mouth
bare fangs
dogs baring their neatly sharpened fangs at each other. For the idea of dogs tangling in a fight, compare 狄.

涯
variant form of 圭 neat
氵/水 water
water's edge; bank; shore; land's end; limit
neatly carved cliff overlooking water

睚
variant form of 圭 neat
目 eye
corner of the eye; stare
neatly shaped eye. "Stare" is an associated meaning. For "corner of the eye," compare and contrast 眥, where the shape is irregular.

卦
圭 jade object
卜 divination
divination
jade object used in divination

封
圭 cone-shaped
寸 (abbreviated form of 付 set in place)
bestow; grant; confer; fief; seal
conical jade object symbolizing a lord's sovereignty over a territory (later, symbolizing authority granted to a vassal, hence the meanings bestow, grant, confer).

帮
封 conical object
巾 cloth
assist; help
long cords of (white) cloth supporting the side of conical sandals. "Assist" and "help" are via association with "support."

葑
封 conical object
艹 grass/plant
turnip
cone-shaped vegetable

奎
圭 cone-shaped
大 stand outstretched
crotch; (particular star)
crotch shaped liked the base of a cone. The (sub-constellation of the) star in question (believed to preside over literary activities, and belonging to a group of sixteen stars in Andromeda) is likened in shape to a human crotch.

洼
圭 cone-shaped
氵/水 water
hollow; swamp; depression
water collecting in a cone-shaped hollow

恚
圭 cone-shaped
心 heart/emotions
anger; rage
emotional state that is figuratively pointy rather than round/harmonious

桂
圭 cone-shaped

木 tree/wood
laurel; aromatic tree
general term for various species of trees that grow or are cultivated in the shape of a cone

珪
圭 cone-shaped jade tablet
王/玉 jewel
(jade) tablet/scepter

袿
圭 cone-shaped
衤/衣 clothing
ceremonial gown
cone-shaped garment worn by women. 褂, with 卦 replacing 圭, is a variant form.

閨
圭 cone-shaped
門 gate
entrance; door; (woman's) bedchamber
small, cone-shaped entrance/door. "Bedchamber" is an associated meaning in the sense of a room behind such an opening.

鞋
圭 cone-shaped
革 leather
shoe(s); footwear
cone-shaped, pointy footwear

崖
variant form of 圭 cone-shaped
山 mountain
cliff; precipice
cone-shaped cliff

窪
洼 water collecting in a cone-shaped hollow
穴 hole
hollow (n.); depression; low place
穴 appended for emphasis/clarification

挂
圭 cone-shaped
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hang/be hung from a high place
create a cone-shaped object. "Hang/be hung from a high place" is an associated meaning in the sense of suspending something from the top of a tall, cone-shaped object.

掛
hang; suspend
variant form of 挂

比
compare; ratio; rate; than
depiction of two persons, one immediately behind the other, suggesting "line up people." "Compare" is in the sense of comparing two objects by lining them up. "Ratio" and "rate" are figurative extended meanings. "Than" is a figurative extended meaning (term used in making comparisons). For the idea of lining up people, see also 竝.

妣
比 line up
女 woman
one's deceased mother
one's deceased mother forming a pair with one's deceased father

庇
比 line up
广 building

cover; protect; conceal
eaves lining a roof

枇
比 line up
木 tree/wood
loquat
clustered fruit of a loquat. "Loquat" however is more often conveyed by the compound 枇杷.

毘
比 line up
transformed element = fontanels
(ad)join; connect; navel
fusing of fontanels in an infant's skull. "Navel" is an associated meaning in the sense of being the one-time connecting point between mother and infant. For fontanels, compare 兒 鬼 思 and 顋.

秕
比 line up
禾 grain/rice
devoid of grain; bad
husks neatly aligned but devoid from the outset of grain. 秕 and 粃 are effectively variant characters conveying the same term.

粃
比 line up
米 rice
devoid of grain; bad
husks neatly aligned but devoid from the outset of grain. 秕 and 粃 are effectively variant characters conveying the same term.

紕
比 line up
糸 thread

braid (v.); frill; confusion; mistake

蚍
比 line up
虫 insect/creature
multi-segmented insect
蚍蜉 = a large variety of ant

屁
比 line up
尸 buttocks
buttocks; fart
fart issuing from between the aligned buttocks. The term may be onomatopoeic in origin.

批
比 compare
扌/手 hand/action indicator
criticize; comment; critique
criticize/comment on by comparing

毕
比 line up
土 earth
match; equal
neatly aligned earthen steps

陛
毕 aligned steps
阜/阝 piled earth
steps; imperial
steps (of an imperial throne). 陛 was devised to replace 毕 after 毕 acquired its associated meanings.

篦

variant form of 毘 connect
竹 bamboo
fine-toothed comb; comb (v.)
bamboo comb (with fine teeth connected to the shaft). Note a variant form, 篦.

貔
variant form of 毘 connect
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
fierce beast trained for use in battle
beast (most likely a leopard/panther) trained to leap on enemies; compare 貅.

砒
比 (function unclear)
石 stone
original signification obscure. 砒素 = arsenic

妃
spouse; princess; queen; empress; imperial concubine
variant form of 妣 spouses in alignment

配
abbreviated form of 妃 spouse
酉 alcohol container (→ feast)
join in marriage; align; pair; match; combine; mix; blend; equal (v.); deserve
wedding at which two persons are joined/aligned in marriage, becoming spouses

圮
abbreviated form of 配 align
土 earth
destroy; ruin
pile of earth collapsing in alignment to both sides; compare 崩, 壞 and 隨

肥
transformed element (originally an abbreviated form of 配 align)
月/肉 flesh

fat; corpulent; fertile; fertilize; fertilizer; manure; loose-fitting
aligned layers of fat. "Loose(-fitting)" is via association with the image of clothes worn by an obese person.

尼
abbreviated form of 比 line up people
尸 body
nun
尼 was used to transliterate the Sanskrit bhiksuni (nun: 比丘尼). It is unclear whether 尼 was devised to convey a particular meaning before being used in transliteration, or was created just for that purpose.

怩
尼 close contact
忄/心 heart/emotions
timid; bashful; shame
timidity/bashfulness/shame caused by overly close contact

泥
尼 close contact
氵/水 water
mud; clay; clingy
close contact of earth and water, producing mud

昵
尼 close contact
日 sun/day
intimacy; approach
sunlight contacting (objects on) the earth

死
abbreviated form of 比 line up (people)
歹 severed bone/death
death; die; extreme
line of corpses, such as those buried with deceased persons of high rank

葬
死 death
remnant element = grass atop and below
bury
bury a corpse by piling earth atop it

此
abbreviated form of 比 line up
止 leg/foot
this/these; (in) this way
legs/feet lined up irregularly

些
此 line up irregularly
二 align
a bit; a little; few
align objects irregularly, leaving a bit of space between them

柴
此 line up irregularly
木 tree/wood
brushwood; firewood; emaciated
irregularly shaped pieces of brushwood or firewood. "Emaciated" is an associated meaning, an emaciated body being likened to brushwood/firewood.

眥
此 line up irregularly
目 eye
corner of the eye(s)
irregularly shaped corner of the eye(s). Compare and contrast 睚, where the shape is neat.

砦
此 line up irregularly

石 stone
fort; stronghold; stockade
rough structure constructed of irregular stones

觜
此 line up irregularly
角 horn
beak; bill
irregularly shaped beak/bill. More commonly, this meaning is conveyed by 嘴, which appends 口 mouth for emphasis/clarification.

嘴
觜 beak/bill
口 mouth
beak; bill; snout; thin protrusion (such as a nozzle/spout)
口 appended for emphasis/clarification

雌
此 line up irregularly
隹 short, squat bird
female
feathers irregularly spread over the rear end of a female bird

髭
此 line up irregularly
髟 hair
mustache; beard
irregularly groomed mustache/beard

鯊
此 line up irregularly
魚 fish
cutlassfish
a fish with irregularly sized ridges

疵
此 irregular
疒 illness
flaw; defect
irregularly shaped bruise on the skin

紫
此 irregular
糸 thread
purple; violet
fabric dyed an irregular color (a mix of red and blue)

訾
此 irregular
言 words
criticize; speak ill of
criticize someone's irregularities

貲
此 irregular
貝 commodities
pay a fine; treasure; property
pay a fine for irregularities. "Treasure" and "property" are associated meanings in the sense of resources from which a fine is paid.

監
obsolete element = dish/plate/bowl + water
臥 lie face down
keep watch over; observe; jail; prison
lie face down and observe the reflection of one's face in water contained in a bowl/container. "Jail" or "prison" are associated meanings.

檻
監 keep watch over
木 tree/wood

cage; pen; handrail; railing
wooden enclosure to contain and keep watch over prisoners or animals

艦
監 keep watch over
舟 boat
warship
boat equipped with an observation post

臨
abbreviated form of 監 keep watch over
品 assorted goods
observe/survey from a high vantage point; face (v.); descend; approach; arrive; be just on the point of
keep watch over assorted people/objects; compare 督

覽
abbreviated form of 監 keep watch over
見 see/watch
look out over; survey; see; read
keep watch over objects from a high vantage point. "Read" is an extended meaning via "see."

攬
覽 survey
扌/手 hand/action indicator
take hold of; grasp; monopolize
take hold of things under surveillance

纜
abbreviated form of 攬 take hold of
糸 thread
mooring rope; hawser
handle a mooring rope/hawser

濫
監 bowl/container
氵/水 water
overflow; inundate; excess
water overflowing a bowl/container

藍
監 bowl/container
艹 grass/plant
indigo (plant/color)
dye extracted from plant matter then allowed to run into a bowl or container

籃
監 bowl/container
竹 bamboo
basket
basket originally made of bamboo

襤
abbreviated form of 濫 disorder
衤/衣 clothing
ragged; tattered; rags
ragged/tattered, disorderly clothing

鹽
監 container
鹵 salt/alkali
salt
container of salt

覃
abbreviated form of 鹽 container of salt
西 nest-like object
extensive; deep and wide
deep container capable of holding an extensive amount of contents

潭
覃 extensive
氵/水 water
water-filled abyss; deep pool; deep
extensive, deep cavity filled with water

蕈
覃 extensive
艹 grass/plant
mushroom
mushroom with an extensive cap

譚
覃 extensive
言 words
talk
talk extensively

鱣
覃 extensive
魚 fish
ray; skate
wide creature that dwells in deep waters

簟
variant form of 覃 extensive
竹 bamboo
bamboo/reed mat
large bamboo/reed mat that covers and conceals a floor; compare 苫. Distinguish 簟 from 簞.

鐔
variant form of 覃 extensive
金 metal

dagger
deep sword guard

兆
omen; sign; symptom; portend; indication; trillion
depiction of animal bones and tortoise shells baked in divination rites, showing the curving cracks/splits that were scrutinized in fortunetelling

佻
兆 split
亻/人 person
frivolous
frivolous in the sense of being hesitant (= split) with regard to choices

咷
兆 split
口 mouth
cry; howl; wail
ear-splitting cry

挑
兆 split
扌/手 hand/action indicator
challenge; provoke; arouse
split (an object/a group) apart

洮
兆 split
氵/水 water
cleanse
water splitting off from the object it is cleansing. 洮水 = one tributary of the Yellow River

逃
兆 split

辵 movement
flee; escape; run away
split away in fleeing/making one's escape

桃
兆 split
木 tree/wood
peach
type of fruit the pit/stone of which is given to splitting

晁
兆 split
日 sun/day
dawn; early morning
the sun splitting away from the horizon at dawn

眺
兆 split
目 eye
stare/gaze (into the distance)
split a field of vision in staring/gazing over a vista

姚
abbreviated form of 桃 peach
女 woman
handsome; elegant
woman likened in elegance/beauty to that of peach blossoms

祧
兆 split
示 altar/the supernatural
building for worshiping ancestors
structure set apart from a mausoleum

窕

兆 split
穴 hole
profound; secluded; slender; graceful; elegant
follow a winding cavern (= split in the earth) to its depths

誂
兆 split
言 words
provoke; tempt
words that provoke a split (between friends/allies etc.)

跳
兆 split
足 leg/foot
leap; jump; spring up
split away from the ground in leaping

銚
兆 split
金 metal
plow; weeding tool
implement with split prongs

頫
兆 split
頁 head
lower the eyes; hang the head
break off eye contact

旐
兆 split
㫃 pennant/banner
banner
split, swallow-tailed pennant/banner; compare 旆

鼖
兆 split
鼓 drum
(small) drum attached to a handle
drum with a cord and ball splitting off from the drum on both sides. Swinging the drum left or right caused the ball to curve in an arc and strike the drum, producing sound.

舟
boat; ship
depiction of a curved boat

受
舟 large, curved object
remnant element = 爪 claw/hand plus 又 hand/action indicator
receive; accept; sustain (damage)
sustain damage in the sense of being on the receiving end of a damaging act

授
受 receive/accept
扌/手 hand/action indicator
confer; give; grant; endow; instruct
cause someone to receive

綬
受 receive/accept
糸 thread
cordon; ribbon
object received as a reward

輈
舟 (curved) boat (→ shape indicator suggesting a large, curved object)
車 vehicle
shaft(s) of a vehicle
curved shafts protruding from a vehicle, to which beasts of burden were linked;

compare 轅 軒 軏 and 軺

俞
舟 boat
obsolete element = cover plus shavings
remove
remove/scoop out wood from a log to create a dugout canoe

偷
俞 remove
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
steal
remove and steal; compare 媮

喻
俞 remove
口 mouth
analogy; metaphor; provide an example
remove doubts via analogy etc.

媮
俞 remove
女 woman
steal; enjoy; beautiful
woman removing an object; compare 偷

揄
俞 remove
扌/手 hand/action indicator
draw out; extract; tease
raise or pull up and draw out/extract

渝
俞 remove
氵/水 water

change; be transformed
change the liquid contents of a container

逾
俞 remove
辵 movement
exceed; even more; further
pass/cross over (removing oneself to a different location); effectively the same as 踰

愈
俞 remove
心 heart/emotions
recover (from an illness); heal
remove an (emotional) illness

榆
俞 remove
木 tree/wood
elm
variety of tree providing lumber for scooping into a dugout canoe

瑜
俞 remove
王/玉 jewel
high-grade jewel; beautiful
jewel with all flaws removed/excised

窬
俞 remove
穴 hole
bore a hole; small door
small door standing beside a large gate

蝓
俞 remove

虫 insect/creature
slug
snail with its shell "removed"

覦
俞 remove
見 see/watch/look
wish for; covet
look for a prized object that has been taken away/removed

諭
俞 remove
言 words
admonish; warn; caution
admonish a person to "remove"/eliminate mistakes

踰
俞 remove
足 leg/foot
exceed; even more; further
pass/cross over (removing oneself to a different location); effectively the same as 逾

輸
俞 remove
車 vehicle
send; transport
take up goods from one place and send/transport (i.e., remove) them elsewhere

鍮
俞 remove
金 metal
brass
refined copper from which impurities are removed. "Brass" is most often expressed in the form of the compound 眞鍮.

愉
俞 remove
忄/心 heart/emotions
pleasure; happiness
remove unpleasant feelings from the heart

癒
愈 heal
疒 illness
healing; cure
疒 appended for emphasis/clarification

翟
鳥 bird in the form 隹
羽 feather/wing
(long-tailed) pheasant
the long, feathered tail of a pheasant rising high in the air

擢
翟 rise high
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pull up/out; select
pull objects up/out in raising them high, then select from among them

濯
翟 rise high
氵/水 water
wash
pluck an object from the water in which it has been placed for washing, and raise it high to dry

戳
翟 rise high
戈 spear/halberd
stab; thrust; poke; stamp; seal

raise a bladed weapon and stab, thrust or poke

曜
翟 rise high
日 sun/day
day of the week
brilliant light radiating from the rising sun; compare 燿 and 耀

櫂
翟 rise high
木 tree/wood
oar; paddle; row (a boat)
raise an oar in paddling/rowing

燿
翟 rise high
火 fire
brilliant
brilliant light radiating from a high place; compare 耀

耀
翟 rise high
光 (radiant light)
brilliant
brilliant light radiating from a high place; compare 燿

糶
翟 rise high
obsolete element = 米 rice + 出 go out
sell rice/grain
raise rice/grain to inspect it, then sell it off

糴
翟 rise high
obsolete element = 米 rice + 入 enter

buy rice/grain
raise rice/grain to inspect it, then purchase it

躍
翟 rise high
足 leg/foot
leap; jump
raise the legs in leaping/jumping high into the air

焦
鳥 bird in the form 隹
灬/火 fire
scorch; singe; char; fretfulness
bird scorched over a fire, shrinking in the process. "Fretfulness" is a figurative meaning.

蕉
焦 scorch
艹 grass/plant
(vegetation of a dark hue)
vegetation of a dark hue, as if scorched. 芭蕉 = banana/plantain plant

樵
焦 scorch
木 tree/wood
firewood; cut wood for a fire; woodcutter
originally with specific reference to scorched firewood

燋
焦 scorch
火 fire
scorch; burn
燋 was devised to replace 焦 after 焦 acquired abstract meanings in addition to its concrete ones

噍
焦 shrink
口 mouth
chew
chew food, reducing it to edible proportions

憔
焦 shrink
忄/心 heart/emotions
haggard; emaciated
emotional state causing one to grow thin/haggard; compare 顦

礁
焦 shrink
石 stone
reef; shoal (rocks)
partially submerged rocks that shrink from view at high tide

顦
焦 shrink
頁 head
haggard; emaciated
an emaciated visage; compare 憔

旦
remnant element = a line representing the horizon
日 sun/day
dawn; sunrise; daybreak; morning; female role (in Chinese opera)
the sun rising upon the long, flat line of the horizon. For the remnant horizontal line functioning as the phonosemantic element in a compound character, compare 屯 閂 天 and 本.

但
旦 long and flat
亻/人 person (→ human agency)

but; however; provided that; just
make something long and flat

坦
旦 long and flat
土 earth
flat; level; smooth; peaceful
long and flat stretch of earth

怛
旦 long and flat
忄/心 heart/emotions
nervous; worried; alarmed
emotions figuratively flattened by nervousness, worry or alarm

担
旦 long and flat
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shoulder a load; load; bear; undertake (← 擔)
knock/beat down with a long and flat implement

胆
旦 long and flat
月/肉 flesh
gallbladder; courage; pluck; nerve (← 膽)
long, flat piece of hardened fat/grease

疸
旦 long and flat
疒 illness
jaundice
a medical condition according to which the person afflicted produces feces that is long and flat at the edges

袒

旦 long and flat
衤/衣 clothing
bare a shoulder; bare; strip
flat appearance of a bared shoulder

亶
旦 long and flat
obsolete element = a granary
true; truly; sincere
the long and flat foundation of a storehouse

壇
亶 long and flat
土 earth
altar; platform; dais
long and flat, earthen altar

擅
亶 long and flat
扌/手 hand/action indicator
monopolize; act arbitrarily
flatten. Present-day meanings are figurative, in the sense of flattening the will/interests of other persons in monopolizing or acting arbitrarily.

邅
亶 long and flat
辶 movement
come to a halt
stumble and stretch flat on the ground

檀
亶 long and flat
木 tree/wood
sandalwood
flat piece of fragrant wood (shaved for incense)

氈
亶 long and flat
毛 hair
woolen mat; felt; rug/carpet
long, flat piece of fabric

膻
亶 long and flat
月/肉 flesh
center of the chest; strip (off clothes) (← 襢)
(in Chinese medicine) the flat center of the chest between the breasts

襢
亶 long and flat
衤/衣 clothing
strip
strip to one's undergarments, flattening one's appearance

羶
亶 long and flat
羊 sheep
rank/foul smelling (particularly, mutton/meat)
long, flat piece of rank-smelling mutton/meat

鱣
亶 long and flat
魚 fish
sturgeon
fish with a flattened rostrum (snout)

鸇
亶 long and flat
鳥 bird
bird of prey

bird of prey with a flattened beak. Some reference sources identify 鷦 specifically as a "sparrow hawk."

顫
abbreviated form of 亶 stumble (→ faltering movement)
頁 head
tremble; shake; shiver; vibrate
faltering motion represented by nodding of the head

要
transformed element = pair of hands plus backbone
女 woman
main point; vital; demand; require
the waist likened to the pivot point (= main point; vital point) of the body. "Demand" and "require" are in the sense of attempting to procure that which is vital to one.

腰
要 waist/hips
月/肉 flesh
waist/hips
腰 was devised to replace 要 after 要 lost its association with the waist/hips

票
abbreviated form of 要 compress
transformed element (originally 火 fire)
slip; ballot; vote
tiny pieces of paper or wood used as tickets or for balloting. 火 was eventually replaced by 示 altar/the supernatural.

僄
票 light
亻/人 person
light; airy
a light/airy person; compare 慓

剽
票 light
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
snatch; steal
lightly/deftly strip away with a bladed instrument

嫖
票 light
女 woman
promiscuity; visit a house of prostitution
light, promiscuous woman

慓
票 light
忄/心 heart/emotions
light; airy
(emotionally) light or airy; compare 僄

瓢
票 light
瓜 melon/gourd
ladle
dried gourd made into a lightweight ladle

縹
票 light
糸 thread
light blue
silk or fabric of a particular light hue

飄
票 light
風 wind
float; flutter

whirlwind strong enough to cause even heavy objects to float lightly

麃
abbreviated form of 票 rise
鹿 deer
deer; till; weed (v.)
bounding (= rising) deer. The abbreviated form of 票 is written with 灬/火 not 示. For the idea of a leaping animal, compare 豹.

鑣
麃 bounding/rising
金 metal
horse's bit
horse's bit attached to reins, which when pulled back on raise the horse's head; compare 轡.

摽
票 rise
扌/手 hand/action indicator
strike; cut/mow down
raise the hand then strike or cut/mow down

漂
票 rise
氵/水 water
float; drift; bleach
object that rises to the surface of a body of water and floats

標
票 rise
木 tree/wood
sign; mark
raised wooden sign

熛

票 rise
火 fire
blaze
fine/light particles rising from an object compressed by flames. 熛 was devised to replace 票 following 票's transformation of meanings.

瘭
票 rise
疒 illness
pus; boil; carbuncle; inflammation of a finger/toe
growths that rise from the skin

鏢
票 rise
金 metal
pointed weapon (used in throwing attacks)

驃
票 rise
馬 horse
spotted horse (that is predominantly white)
spots rising from an otherwise uniform background color

鰾
票 rise
魚 fish
fish bladder
organ allowing a fish to rise

弋
catch; shoot (a bow)
depiction of a Y-shaped stake rising from the ground in acting as a marker. "Catch" is an associated meaning in the sense of a stake-like hunting implement with which prey is caught. "Shoot" (a bow) is via shape association.

杙
弋 stake
木 tree/wood
stake; tethering post
杙 was devised to emphasize/clarify the physical object represented by 弋

代
弋 stake
亻/人 person
alternate; substitute (for); take the place (of); replace; exchange; generation
present-day meanings are by association with rotation. "Generation" is an extended meaning, via the sense of one generation replacing the one that preceded it.

袋
代 alternate
衣 clothing
bag; pouch; sack
cloth container in which objects are inserted and removed in alternation

貸
代 alternate
貝 commodities
lend; loan; rent (to)
alternate ownership in lending/loaning

黛
代 alternate
黒 black
blackened eyebrows
an alternate color to a person's non-black eyebrows

岱
代 alternate
山 mountain
Daishan (Mt. Tai)

岱山, a mountain in Shandong Province. It was the custom, when one emperor replaced his predecessor, for the new ruler to visit the mountain and pay respects.

忒
abbreviated form of 代 alternate
心 heart/emotions
changeable; mistaken
alternating (= fickle) emotions. "Mistaken" is an associated meaning (change on account of having been mistaken).

戠
弋 stake/marker
transformed element (originally 辛 needle/cutting tool)
gather
use a sharp implement to notch a stake, creating a marker. 戠 replaces 辛 with 音 sound, suggesting "mark/pay attention to a sound."

幟
戠 marker
巾 cloth
flag; streamer; sign
flag serving as a marker or sign

熾
戠 marker
火 fire
burn; blaze; intense; fierce
signal fire marking a position

織
戠 marker
糸 thread
weave; knit
weave/knit a banner that serves as a marker

職
戠 marker
耳 ear
employment; duties; assignment
hear/take note of and mark down (as part of one's job)

識
戠 marker
言 words
knowledge; discrimination; write down; record
obtain knowledge by marking someone's words

式
弋 stake (= tool or weapon)
工 work/make
ceremony; form; type
use a straight, stake-like object in performing a ceremony

拭
式 straight
扌/手 hand/action indicator
wipe
wipe with a straight motion

軾
式 straight
車 vehicle
bar at the front of a vehicle or conveyance
straight, horizontal bar

弑
式 ceremony
abbreviated form of 殺 kill
kill a superior; kill a parent
ceremoniously execute

試
式 ceremony
言 words
attempt; trial; experiment; test
make a formal attempt

大
big; large; great; major; adult; father
depiction of a person standing greatly outstretched (reducing the distance between oneself and others)

杕
大 great
木 tree/wood
large tree
particularly, a large tree standing alone

奪
大 stand outstretched
obsolete element = take a bird in hand
snatch; seize; take by force; deprive; rob
snatch/seize a bird from someone's possession. The obsolete element is 隹 short, squat bird + 寸 hand/action indicator.

泰
大 great
remnant element = 水 water plus 廾 pair of hands (→ action indicator)
great; peaceful; calm
great outpouring of liquid. "Peaceful" and "calm" are effects produced by the sound of pouring water.

筮
disappeared element = outpouring of water
obsolete element = 竹 bamboo + 巫 sorcery

divining rod; divination; divine by means of a stalk/stem
bamboo divining rod used to locate water. The character was originally written with 廾 at the bottom, here an abbreviated form of an element adding water that indicated an outpouring of liquid; compare 泰. For "divine by means of a stalk/stem," compare 蓍.

太
extremely; too; great(est); high(est); very
variant form of 大 great

汰
太 great
氵/水 water
sift; sort; select
wash in a great amount of water and shift/sort then select according to quality

馱
太 great
馬 horse
carry on the back
a great load packed on a horse's back. A variant form of 馱 is 馱, with 大 replacing 太.

赤
大 great
火 fire
red
great, roaring fire. "Red" is via the reddish color of flames.

炙
abbreviated form of 赤 great fire
月/肉 flesh
roast; broil; grill
roast/broil/grill meat over a fire

赫
赤 great fire
赤 (repeat element, in acquired sense of "red")
flaming red; brilliant
the ancient pronunciation of 赫 is onomatopoeic, simulating a threatening roar. "Threaten" is now conveyed by the derivative character 嚇, which adds 口 mouth.

赦
赤 great
攵 action indicator
forgive
display great magnanimity

達
remnant element originally 大 + 羊 = great flock of sheep
辶 movement
arrive; attain; reach
smooth procession of a great flock of sheep toward its destination

撻
達 proceed smoothly
扌/手 hand/action indicator
whip; flog
whip sheep in urging them forward

闥
達 proceed smoothly
門 gate
gate/door (of an inner room)
object allowing one to proceed

夷
大 (large person)
人 person
barbarian; subjugate

tribe in east China the stature of which was smaller than that of the Han, the latter actually and figuratively looking downward upon the former. Other pejorative names for countries and their residents that involve shortness include 魏 and 倭.

姨
夷 downward
女 woman
mother's/wife's sister; younger sister of one's wife; aunt; concubine
the common denominator in the meanings is the idea of a female social inferior (from the perspective of a male in close relation)

洟
夷 downward
氵/水 water
nasal mucus
nasal mucus running down the nostrils

荑
夷 downward
艹 grass/plant
Echinochloa crus-galli (a type of wild grass)
bud/sprout produced by a short plant

痍
夷 downward
疒 illness
wound
wound caused by a downward slash

冒/冒
目 eye
冃 covered parallel lines
risk; brave; dare
depiction of a long blindfold wrapped around the head, covering the eyes. Present-day meanings represent a positive take on the image of making a blind attack.

勖
冒 wrap about
力 power/energy
work hard/diligently
work hard/diligently in wrapping something

賵
冒 wrap about
貝 commodities
present (sent on the occasion of a death)
money/goods wrapped and presented on the occasion of a death

媢
冒 wrap about the head
女 woman
envy; jealousy
figuratively blind envy/jealousy attributed to a woman (or women in general)

帽
冒 wrap about the head
巾 cloth
cap; hat; headgear
wrap-about headgear

冑
transformed element (originally 冃 cover)
variant form of 甲 armor/helmet
helmet
armor, including a helmet, running from the head to the waist. Eventually, under the influence of 胄, the top element morphed into 由.

兜
abbreviated form of 冑 (armor, including a helmet)
儿 person

helmet; headgear; hood/head cover; wrap; bag; carry (something wrapped/contained); pocket; circulate; go about; solicit
a helmeted figure. "Wrap" is via association with an object that wraps about the head, with "bag," "carry (something wrapped/contained)" and "pocket" by further extension. "Go about" and "circulate" are also via extension from "wrap," while "solicit" is by still further extension (go about in soliciting).

皃
transformed element (originally 冒 cover the eyes)
儿 person
appearance; countenance; external aspects
the appearance of a dimly observed human figure. However, 冒 came to written as 白 white (→ pale) and 皃 itself was subsumed in the character 貌.

貌
皃 obscure figure
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
appearance; countenance; external aspects
the obscure figure of an animal

藐
貌 obscure
艹 grass/plant
tiny and dimly visible; disdain; make light of
plant life that stretches off into obscurity. "Disdain" and "make light of" are in the extended sense of barely meriting recognition; compare 邈.

邈
貌 obscure
辵 movement
distant; be contemptuous of
move far to an obscure, distant point. "Be contemptuous of" is in the extended figurative sense of being regard as having barely visible merit; compare 藐.

曼

冒 long cloth wrapping
又 hand/action indicator
long; extended; vast
wrap an object with a long strip of cloth, covering it. In the present form of 曼, the 目 (eye) element is turned sideways; distinguish from 罒 (net).

墁
曼 cover; be covered
土 earth
plaster
plaster a long earthen wall

嫚
曼 cover; be covered
女 woman
scorn; look down on; despise
figuratively cover a woman with scorn

慢
曼 cover; be covered
忄/心 heart/emotions
sloth; sluggishness
heart figuratively covered by dullness

漫
曼 cover; be covered
氵/水 water
wide-ranging; free; aimless
unrestrained water covering a vast area

謾
曼 cover; be covered
言 words
deceive; look down on (← 嫚)
deceive in the sense of hoodwink

饅
曼 cover; be covered
食 food/eating
steamed bun/bread
steamed bun/bread with fillings (of meat/vegetables etc.) covered by dough

幔
曼 long and winding object that covers/is covered
巾 cloth
curtain
drop curtain

蔓
曼 long and winding object that covers/is covered
艹 grass/plant
vine; tendril
covering vine or tendril

縵
曼 long and winding object that covers/is covered
糸 thread
(plain/unpatterned) silk
silk used in fabric for a dropcloth; compare 幔

鏝
曼 long and winding object that covers/is covered
金 metal
trowel
metallic implement that covers a surface in plastering

鬘
曼 long and winding object that covers/is covered
髟 hair
garland; hair accessory; luxuriant/beautiful hair

long and winding garland/hair accessory covering the hair. "Luxuriant/beautiful hair" is an associated meaning.

鰻
曼 long and winding object that covers/is covered
魚 fish
eel
eel covered by the walls of the cavity it inhabits

工
work; construct; worker; laborer; skill; trade; profession; craft
depiction of a long hollow tube used as a tool both to pierce and to connect. "Work" and "construct" are associated meanings, in the sense of working/constructing using connecting pipes or tubes. The remaining meanings are via extension.

扛
工 connecting pipe/tube
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold aloft; carry (on the shoulders)
run a pole through an object, raise then carry it on the shoulders

江
工 connecting pipe/tube
氵/水 water
inlet; river
inlet/river connecting to a settlement. Compare and contrast 汞, which is composed of the same elements.

攻
工 connecting pipe/tube
攵 strike
attack; assault; assail
attack/assault with a pipe

杠
工 connecting pipe/tube
木 tree/wood
rod; pole; flagpole
tree/plank connecting opposite banks of a river; compare 矼

汞
工 connecting pipe/tube
水 water
mercury
mercury contained in a tube, and used medicinally in ancient China. Compare and contrast 江, which is composed of the same elements.

肛
工 connecting pipe/tube
月/肉 flesh
anus
lower end of the digestive tract

矼
工 connecting pipe/tube
石 stone
stepping stones; stone bridge
stepping stones connecting opposite banks of a river; compare 杠

缸
工 connecting pipe/tube
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
(earthenware) jug/cistern
large, tube-shaped jug/cistern

虹
工 connecting pipe/tube
虫 (in original sense of snake)
rainbow

here, 虫 snake suggests a dragon. In ancient China, a rainbow was regarded as one type of dragon.

豇
工 connecting pipe/tube
豆 bean
black-eyed pea; cowpea
pod to which peas are connected

貢
工 connecting pipe/tube
貝 commodities
tribute; gifts
goods/tribute offered in connecting differing strata of society

項
工 connecting pipe/tube
頁 head
nape of the neck; back of the neck; clause; item
nape/back of the neck (which connects head and trunk). "Clause" and "item" are via figurative association (connecting points).

訌
abbreviated form of 攻 attack
言 words
confusion; strife
verbal attack causing confusion/strife

槓
貢 connect
木 tree/wood
lever; (carrying) pole; bar; sharpen
piece of wood that connects. "(Carrying) pole" and "bar" are associated meanings. For "lever," compare 梃.

鴻
江 inlet/river
鳥 bird
large waterfowl; vast
large waterfowl inhabiting an inlet/river. "Vast" is an associated meaning, via the great wingspan of a large waterfowl.

紅
abbreviated form of 汞 mercury
糸 thread
(deep) red; crimson; revolutionary; popular
fabric/textiles dyed a deep red; compare 絳. "Revolutionary" is by figurative association (symbolic use of the color red), with "popular" by extension.

功
工 work
力 power/energy
achievement; merit; fruits; good deed
accomplish a job/piece of work

巫
工 connecting pipe/tube
从 people in close formation
sorcerer; shaman; sibyl
circle of people connecting this world and the other world by calling up a procession of spirits

覡
巫 sorcery
見 see/watch
male diviner/medium; wizard
見 appended for emphasis/clarification

誣
巫 sorcery

言 words
slander; defamation; false accusation
words, likened in trickery to sorcery, that distort reality

巩
工 connecting pipe/tube
remnant element = kneel and extend the arms
secure; fasten
extend the arms in connecting two objects and securing/fastening them

恐
巩 pierce a hole
心 heart/emotions
fear; dread; concern
empty/uneasy feeling in one's heart, as though a hole has been pierced in it

蛩
巩 pierce a hole
虫 insect/creature
cricket; grasshopper
insect that produces a hollow exoskeleton after moulting

跫
巩 pierce a hole
足 leg/foot
sound of footsteps
footsteps that create depressions in the ground. Later, the term came to be used with specific reference to the sound of footsteps.

鞏
巩 fasten
革 leather
secure; fasten; bind; tight; strong
fasten objects tightly using a piece of leather

空
工 connecting pipe/tube
穴 hole
empty; hollow; void; space; sky
empty space inside a connecting pipe/tube

倥
空 emptiness
亻/人 person
ignorant; foolish; pressing/urgent
empty-headed person. "Pressing/urgent" is in the sense of urgency causing one's mind to go blank.

控
空 emptiness
扌/手 hand/action indicator
empty (v.); control; accuse
the action of creating space. "Control" is in the sense of dictating events.

腔
空 emptiness
月/肉 flesh
body cavity; chest cavity
empty portions of a body

鞚
空 connecting pipe (→ connect)
革 leather
reins; bridle
leather appurtenances connecting horse and rider

鵼
空 sky
鳥 bird
(imaginary bird)

an imaginary bird, of attributes obscure

广
abbreviated form of 廣 building. In compound characters such as 庫 廨 廈 庋 庵 and 廏, 广 indicates a building.

匕
spoon; ladle; dirk; dagger
depiction of a spoon-like eating implement with double, aligned prongs. "Dirk" and "dagger" are via shape association. (Depending on font type, leftward protrusion of the horizontal stroke may be present or absent.)

牝
匕 double-pronged and aligned
牛 cow
female; valley; gorge
the genitals of a cow (dual ovarian-tubed organ of a double-pronged appearance). "Valley" and "gorge" are via association with the aperture of female genitals.

旨
匕 double-pronged eating implement
甘 sweet food contained in the mouth
purpose; purport; aim
ladle out sweet/rich food and convey it to the mouth

指
旨 ladle
扌/手 hand/action indicator
point to/at; indicate; finger
point to/indicate something with a long, thin object such as a ladle or a finger

脂
旨 sweet/rich food
月/肉 flesh
fat; grease; resin

rich fat/grease

詣
旨 sweet/rich
言 words
reach; attain
reach/attain one's objective via sweet/rich (= flattering) words

耆
旨 tasty
abbreviated form of 老 aged
aged
the delicious taste of cured/preserved food. 耆 can refer specifically to a man aged sixty (or seventy) years old.

嗜
耆 preserved food
口 mouth
fond of; have a weakness/preference for
fondness or a weakness/preference for certain preserved food or other delicious products

蓍
耆 preserved food
艹 grass/plant
(particular variety of) bean plant
a bean plant the stalk of which was preserved for use in divination

鰭
耆 preserved food
魚 fish
fin
fin as one type of preserved delicacy

稽

variant form of 耆 preserved food
禾 grain/rice
inspect; examine; investigate; delay
inspect preserved crops

寅
obsolete element = straighten an arrow
宀 roof/building
tiger (as third sign of the Chinese zodiac); 3 A.M. to 5 A.M.
straighten/stretch and stand to one's full height, inside a building

演
寅 straighten/stretch
氵/水 water
perform; practice; develop; (theatrical) play
stretch fluidly

己
oneself; sixth in a series; sixth calendar sign
depiction of threads stretched/raised between two sticks

屺
己 arise
山 mountain
(barren) mountain
(barren) mountain that rises gradually

忌
己 arise
心 heart/emotions
fear; hatred; shun
arousal of fear or hatred. "Shun" is in the sense of shunning that which one fears/hates.

杞

己 arise
木 tree/wood
willow
tree with flexible branches that both bend and rise in a breeze; compare 楊 and 柳

改
己 arise
攵 strike
reform; amend; renew; correct; change
strike to arouse/raise, inaugurating a reform or amendment

紀
己 arise
糸 thread
history; narrative (record); chronicle (← 記)
raise threads

記
己 arise
言 words
notation; record; mark; marker
words that rise from a writing medium

起
己 arise
走 run
arise; generate; start; originate; cause
arise and cause to occur

亥
boar (as the twelfth sign of the Chinese zodiac); 9 P.M. to 11 P.M.
pig/boar stretched taut for slaughter on a frame; compare 殛

刻
亥 stretched taut

刀/ 刂 sword/knife
cut; chop; carve; engrave; notch
cut/chop at a taut object

劾
亥 stretched taut
力 power/energy
charge; impeach; (criminal) investigation
stretch a slack object, making it taut. "Investigation" is in the sense of tightening a loose collection of facts and bring to a conclusion.

垓
亥 stretched taut
土 earth
border (of a remote area)
remote area conceived of as the figurative end of a stretch of earth

孩
亥 stretched taut
子 child
baby; child
baby suckling at a taut, milk-filled breast

核
亥 stretched taut
木 tree/wood
(hard) seed; core; kernel; nucleus
taut/hard seed or kernel (belonging to fruit or nuts grown on trees)

該
亥 stretched taut
言 words
should; ought; the said thing/individual
words of warning that cause the hearer to go taut

駭
亥 stretched taut
馬 horse
startle; surprise; astonish
horse gone tense in fright or surprise; compare 驚

骸
亥 stretched taut
骨 bone
bone(s); body; skeleton; corpse
taut, skeletonized body

痎
abbreviated form of 骸 bones/skeleton
疒 illness
malaria
body rendered bony/skeletal by malaria; compare 瘧

亞
subordinate; sub-; Asia
foundation subordinate to and pressured by the structure that fills it. "Asia" is via the phonetic construction 亞細亞.

啞
亞 downward pressure
口 mouth
mute; dumb
figurative/literal blockage of the throat impeding speech

堊
亞 downward pressure
土 earth
clay; plaster; coat (v.)
mud/soft earth pressed down on construction materials in plastering

惡
亞 downward pressure
心 heart/emotions
evil; wicked; bad; hatred; wrong
hatred/resentment induced by being pressured

椏
亞 downward pressure
木 tree/wood
crotch (of a tree); forking branch
heavy branches exerting downward pressure on the crotch of a tree

壺
亞 downward pressure
abbreviated form of 壹 (jar crammed full)
inner garden of a palace
narrow-mouthed, wide-bodied pot/container, filled with heavy contents

錏
亞 downward pressure
金 metal
armor neckplates
steel armor weighing on the body

鐛
惡 be pressured (→ be pressed)
金 metal
soft metal
soft metal, pressed into a particular shape

於
remnant element = parallel lines
㫃 pennant/banner
on; at; in; (grammatical interjection)
flagstaffs of military standards thrust into and filling gaps in parallel objects

淤
於 fill gaps
氵/水 water
silt/clog up; be clogged; sludge
silt filling gaps in the course along which it runs

瘀
於 fill gaps
疒 illness
hematoma; extravasated blood
localized swelling filled with extravasated blood

閼
於 fill gaps
門 gate
shut off; obstruct
open space between the doors of a gate that gets filled when the gate is shut

爰
(remnant element)
(remnant element)
lead to; thus
twist an object about a stick. "Lead to" is in the sense "twist and come to an end." "Thus" is connected to the result of the completion of action. Originally, a horizontal line plus an element combining 爪 claw/hand with yet another element (object + 又 hand/action indicator).

媛
爰 twist about
女 woman
beautiful (woman)
twisting, alluring figure of a beautiful woman

援

爰 twist about
扌/手 hand/action indicator
assist; help
assist/help the creation of a tool or the completion of a task by twisting an object

瑗
爰 twist about
王/玉 jewel
jewel; (jeweled/jade) ring
large, flat jewel, circular in shape and with a hollowed-out middle through which string would be run; compare 鍰

緩
爰 twist about
糸 thread
loose; slack; relax(ed); slow
twist knotted threads in loosening them

諼
爰 twist about
言 words
deceive; forget
twist words in deceiving. "Forget" is in the sense of being deceived by one's memory.

鍰
爰 twist about
金 metal
(ancient) coin; (ancient) measure of weight
metal/coins with a round hole through which string would be run; compare 瑗

猿
transformed element (originally 爰 twist about)
犭/犬 dog/beast
ape

twisting figure of an ape. In 猿, 爰 is replaced by 袁.

宛
remnant element = two bending figures
transformed element (now 宀)
bend; wind (v.); as if
two figures bending beneath a cover, rounding their bodies in the process

婉
宛 bend
女 woman
graceful; congenial; beautiful
the graceful figure of a bending (= supple) woman. For the pairing of "supple" and "beauty," compare 鵷.

惋
宛 bend
忄/心 heart/emotions
regret
heart figuratively bent with regret

捥
宛 bend
扌/手 hand
bend the wrist

菀
宛 bend
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant vegetation; luxuriant
luxuriant vegetation drooping with its own weight

琬
宛 bend
王/玉 jewel

scepter
curved (jade) scepter

腕
宛 bend
月/肉 flesh
wrist; arm
flexible wrist. "Arm" is by association.

蜿
宛 bend
虫 insect/creature
creep; crawl
insect/creature that undulates in propelling itself forward; compare 蜷

踠
宛 bend
足 leg/foot
bend; stoop; contort
bend/stoop, using of course the legs/feet

鵷
宛 bend
鳥 bird
(mythological) bird
supple bird of delicate beauty. For the pairing of "supple" and "beauty," compare 婉.

苑
abbreviated form of 宛 bend
艹 grass/plant
pasture; park; garden
winding enclosure for flowers, trees or animals

怨
abbreviated form of 宛 bend

心 heart/emotions
enmity; hatred; grudge
bent, warped emotions; compare 慍

鴛
abbreviated form of 宛 bend
鳥 bird
male mandarin duck
in contrast to the female of the species, 鴦, the male mandarin duck has feathers on the flank that bend/curl up

冤
be framed/falsely accused; injustice; grievance; wrong (n.)
variant form of 宛. The substitution of 兔 (variant form of 兎 rabbit) for the two bending figures in 宛 suggests a rabbit crouching under the cover in which it is trapped.

埦
宛 circular
土 earth
bowl
(earthenware) bowl; compare 椀, 碗 and 鋺

椀
宛 circular
木 tree/wood
bowl; cup
(wooden) bowl/cup; compare 埦, 碗 and 鋺

碗
宛 circular
石 stone (→ stoneware)
bowl
(stoneware) bowl; compare 埦, 椀 and 鋺

豌
宛 circular
豆 bean
peas
round peas (in a flexible pod)

鋺
宛 circular
金 metal
bowl
(metal) bowl; compare 埦, 椀 and 碗

軍
transformed element = wrap
車 vehicle
army; soldier; battle
circular military encampment formed by chariots; compare 營

揮
軍 circularity
扌/手 hand
command; wield; brandish
rotate one's hands

渾
軍 circularity
氵/水 water
turbid; mix; as a whole
mix liquid with a circular motion, causing it to become turbid. "As a whole" is in the sense of mixing thoroughly.

葷
軍 circularity
艹 grass/plant
pungent vegetable; pungent meat/dish

variety of pungent vegetable that grows in clumps

運
軍 circularity
辵 movement
transport; carry; convey; fate
move about in a circle. "Fate" is via the idea of the circulation of good and evil in the course of one's life.

暈
軍 circularity
日 sun/day
halo; corona; dizzy; confused
halo/corona encircling the sun; compare 輝. "Dizzy" is via the effect of staring at a corona, with "confused" by association with "dizzy."

琿
軍 circularity
王/玉 jewel
gem
beautiful, round gem

皸
軍 circularity
皮 skin/hide
chaps; rough/cracked skin
round chaps on the skin

褌
軍 circularity
衤/衣 clothing
(old-fashioned) pants; loincloth
clothing wrapped about the waist (and/or leg)

翬

軍 circularity
羽 feather/wing
pheasant; fly (v.)
pheasant tracing a circular pattern in flight

輝
軍 circularity
光 light extending from a torch
brilliant; radiant; sparkling
brilliant halo; compare 暈

諢
軍 circularity
言 words
joke; jest
joke/jest by circumlocution

暉
軍 circularity
日 sun/day
sunshine; shine; light; bright; radiant
brilliant solar halo; compare 輝 and 暈

雚
obsolete element = 口 doubled + 隹 bird
艹 grass/plant
stork
flock of birds above a marsh, in circular uniformity

勸
雚 circular uniformity
力 power/energy
recommend; suggest; advise
offer a uniform recommendation/suggestion etc.

懽
雚 circular uniformity
忄/心 heart/emotions
joyous
rejoice, a number of voices crying out in unison; compare 歡 and 讙

灌
雚 circular uniformity
氵/水 water
pour; irrigate; flow into
pour liquid, causing it to circulate

權
雚 circular uniformity
木 tree/wood
power; right; authority
circular pieces of wood counterbalancing each other. "Power" is in the sense of counterbalancing the power of another; "right" and "authority" are by association with "power."

歡
雚 circular uniformity
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
joyous; pleasure
group of like individuals enjoying eating and/or conversing; compare 懽 and 讙

罐
雚 circular uniformity
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
vessel; can; pot; jar; boiler
wide-mouthed, bulging earthenware jug/vase

觀
雚 circular uniformity
見 see/watch

view; look; see; appearance
observe a panoramic view

讙
雚 circular uniformity
言 words
noisy; rejoice
noisy crowd. For "rejoice," compare 懽 and 歡.

鑵
雚 circular uniformity
金 metal
tubular container

顴
雚 circular uniformity
頁 head
the cheekbone(s)
circular uniformity of particular places on the head

驩
雚 circular uniformity
馬 horse
rejoice
neighing herd of horses. "Rejoice" is in the sense of a clamorous, happy noise; compare 懽 and 讙.

匄
remnant element = cut off someone's progress
人 person
entreat; beg; beggar; give
person using his hands to restrain someone, cutting off the latter's progress. Present-day meanings are via the idea of cutting off someone's progress in order to entreat/beg, with "give" being in the sense of giving to one who begs. Note a variant form, 丐.

曷
勾 cut off
曰 say/speech indicator
who; what; when; why; how
cut off someone's speech

愒
曷 cut off
忄/心 heart/emotions
stop; rest
have one's source of vitality cut off and stop to rest; compare 歇

揭
曷 cut off
扌/手 hand/action indicator
put up; hoist; raise
cut off access/passage by erecting a barrier

渴
曷 cut off
氵/水 water
parched; thirsty
parched/thirsty on account of a supply of water being cut off

葛
曷 cut off
艹 grass/plant
vine; creeper; kudzu
type of vegetation that grows despite being cut off from soil

遏
曷 cut off
辶 movement
stop; suppress; restrain

cut off movement

暍
曷 cut off
日 sun/day
sunstroke
have one's vitality or consciousness cut by overexposure to the sun

歇
曷 cut off
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
stop; rest; be exhausted
have one's breath cut off on account of fatigue; compare 竭 and 蝎

碣
曷 cut off
石 stone
stone; rocky mountain; stone monument; stone tablet
stone (or rocky mountain) of surpassing height that inhibits passage

竭
曷 cut off
立 stand
exhaust; end
stand exhausted, one's breath cut off; compare 歇 and 蝎

褐
曷 cut off
衤/衣 clothing
coarse cloth; brown; dark (blue/gray/other) color
coarse, dark cloth cut to make clothing

羯
曷 cut off
羊 sheep

castrated ram
cut off a ram's testes

蝎
曷 cut off
虫 insect/creature
scorpion
have one's breath cut off (compare 歇 and 竭), an effect of being stung by a scorpion

謁
曷 cut off
言 words
visit; (archaic) hold an audience
cut off/delimit the participants in an audience with a person of high rank

鞨
曷 cut off
革 leather
footwear; (name of a tribe)
cut pieces of dried leather to make footwear

餲
曷 cut off
食 food/eating
spoiled; moldy; putrid
cut off a portion of food that has spoiled

鶡
曷 cut off
鳥 bird
pheasant (-like bird)
pheasant (-like bird) the tail feathers of which were cut off and used to decorate warriors' headgear

藹
謁 cut off
艹 grass/plant
lush; full; exuberant; affable
cut lush vegetation. "Exuberant" is a figurative associated meaning, with "affable" via figurative extension.

靄
謁 cut off
雨 rain/natural phenomena
haze; mist; fog; calm; peaceful
cloudy sky or haze, cutting off vision; compare 曖 and 靉. "Calm" and "peaceful" are figurative associated meanings.

楬
曷 cut off
木 tree/wood
signpost; noticeboard; tablet
wood cut into a signpost, noticeboard or tablet

蠍
歇 cut off
虫 insect/creature
scorpion
have one's breath cut off (compare 歇 and 竭), an effect of being stung by a scorpion. For scorpion, also compare 蝎.

薛
obsolete element = 屮 grass shoot + collection of tall objects
辛 needle/cutting implement
(particular variety of grass)
compressed bundles of cut grass/vegetation

薛
abbreviated form of 薛 cut grass/vegetation

艹 grass/plant
marsh grass
slice through bundles of vegetation, in this case marsh grass

孽
辥 cut grass/vegetation
子 child/offspring
child born to a concubine; misfortune
second growth vegetation. "Misfortune" is in the sense of the misfortune to be born to a concubine.

櫱
辥 cut grass/vegetation
木 tree/wood
offshoot; stump
offshoot growing from the stump of a cut tree

乂
cut grass; mow; manage; control; govern
depiction of vegetation cut in swaths. For the connection between cutting and control, compare 轄.

刈
乂 vegetation cut in swaths
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
cut/reap; trim; prune
cut/reap with a sickle or other bladed implement

艾
乂 vegetation cut in swaths
艹 grass/plant
(cut) mugwort; moxa
"moxa" is an associated meaning

殺

乂 vegetation cut in swaths
transformed element = millet + 殳 action indicator
scrape; shave; erase; kill
harvest ears of millet and scrape them for their seeds. "Kill" is via the conceptual progression from "harvest" to "action that cuts off life."

刹
(Buddhist) temple/monastery/shrine/abbey
variant form of 殺 used primarily for transliterations of Buddhist terminology, such as 刹那 (Sanskrit: ksana), an instant

丰
depiction of a piece of wood or bone that has been cut through and thus separated from the remainder. 丰 is effectively obsolete.

掣
obsolete element (丰 cut + 刀 sword/knife) = cut and separate
手 hand/action indicator
pull/lead someone by hand; carry by hand
separate by pulling/leading a person away

齧
obsolete element (丰 cut + 刀 sword/knife) = cut and separate
齒 teeth
bite; gnaw; erode
separate portions of food by biting/gnawing

契
obsolete element (丰 cut + 刀 sword/knife) = cut and separate
大 great
pledge; vow; promise
great pledge/vow created by cutting/carving/engraving

絜
obsolete element (丰 cut + 刀 sword/knife) = cut and separate

糸 thread
measure; assess; ascertain
separate a (cord/rope) marking line into sections

喫
契 separate
口 mouth
eat; drink; smoke; take into the mouth
cut through and separate meat and other pieces of food by biting them into pieces

楔
契 separate
木 tree/wood
wedge; support
piece of wood separated for use as a wedge

禊
契 separate
示 altar/the supernatural
purify oneself; purification ceremony
become pure in separating/cutting oneself off from things unclean

潔
絜 separate
氵/水 water
pure; righteous
cleansing torrent of water that separates out impurities

害
丰 cut through and separate
口 mouth
harm; damage
harm or damage caused by something cut/bitten through and thus separated. The 宀 element in the present form is an accretion unrelated to the character's meaning.

割
害 cut
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
cut; divide; separate
sharp implement used in cutting/separating

瞎
害 cut
目 eye
one-eyed; blind (in one eye)
have one's vision partially cut

豁
害 cut
谷 cavity
open (up)
cut in opening up/scooping out a cavity

轄
害 cut
車 vehicle
linchpin; control; supervision
linchpin (compare 輗 軏 and 羣) cutting rotation of a wheel, enabling control of the vehicle's speed. For the connection between cutting and control, compare 乂.

憲
remnant element = 害 separate + 目 eye
心 heart/emotions
law; statute; constitution
"law" conceived of as the (full/partial) cutting off of one's desires. For the notion of creating the rule of law by restricting desires, compare 律, 埒, 法 and 笵.

埶
丮 kneeling figure with arms extended
obsolete element = stretch to trim/cut

plant (v.); skill; art; accomplishment (← 蓺)
kneel with arms extended to trim/cut in cultivating plants. In 埶 as in 執, 丮 came to be written as the etymologically unrelated 丸.

勢
埶 cut
力 power/energy
force; power; energy; conditions
cut (something long/tall) energetically

熱
埶 cut
灬/火 fire
heat; hot; zeal
burn off extraneous objects

褻
埶 cut
衣 clothing
be familiar; treat with disrespect; dirty
cut cloth for use as underwear. "Be familiar" is a figurative, associated meaning in the sense of being on as close terms with something/someone as with one's own underwear. "Treat with disrespect" is by extension from familiarity (treat with undue familiarity), while "dirty" is also by extension in the sense of soiled underwear.

蓺
埶 cut in cultivating
艹 grass/plant
cultivate plants; skill; art; accomplishment
蓺 was devised to replace 埶 after 埶 came to refer to planting rather than cultivation. "Skill," "art" and "accomplishment" are by association with cultivation.

藝
蓺 cultivate plants
云 (rise)

cultivate plants; skill; art; accomplishment
cultivate/raise plants. 藝 was devised to emphasize the "cultivate" meaning originally borne but largely lost by 埶, but 藝 as well came to convey primarily the meanings "skill," "art" and "accomplishment." 芸 is an abbreviated form of 藝.

吉
good luck; favorable
depiction of a (filled) container. Present-day meanings are by association with abundance (abundant contents).

佶
吉 reduce/eliminate space
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
tightly fitted; tightly packed
person reducing space in fitting/packing tightly

劼
吉 reduce/eliminate space
力 power/energy
firm; careful; discreet
firmly and carefully fill or compact an object; compare 拮. "Discreet" is by association with "careful."

拮
吉 reduce/eliminate space
扌/手 hand/action indicator
work hard; compete
work hard/compete in a task involving the reduction or elimination of space; compare 劼

桔
吉 reduce/eliminate space
木 tree/wood
well bucket
(wooden) well bucket, filled with water when drawn up

結
吉 reduce/eliminate space
糸 thread
bind; tie; join; make/conclude (a contract, treaty etc.)
use thread or a cord to bind/tie and thus compact an object

詰
吉 reduce/eliminate space
言 words
question closely; interrogate; pack; jam; fill/stop up
question closely, leaving no room for evasion. "Pack," "jam" and "fill/stop up" are figurative, associated meanings.

頡
吉 reduce/eliminate space
頁 head (→ group of people)
take wing; fly up; snatch; rob
tight and large gathering of people. "Take wing" and "fly up" shift the focus to a gathering/flock of birds. "Snatch" and "rob" are extended meanings, in the sense of gathering up and taking wing/fleeing.

髻
吉 reduce/eliminate space
髟 hair
topknot
hair tightly rolled into a bun or topknot

黠
吉 favorable
黑 black/dark
cunning; shrewd; crafty; artful
cunning that produce results favorable to oneself. For another example where 黑 is used in a figurative and pejorative sense, compare 黨.

壹
吉 (filled container)
壺 lidded pot
one
full pot/jar. The meaning "one" is via association with unity of contents.

噎
壹 (pot/jar crammed) full
口 mouth
choke
choke on a mouthful of food

曀
壹 crammed full
日 sun/day
cloudy; dark dim; obscure
cloud-filled sky

懿
壹 (pot/jar crammed) full
transformed element (originally 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure)
virtuous; splendid deed
欠 was employed to suggest "partake of the fine contents of a full container." 欠 morphed into 次 and 心 heart/emotions was appended, causing the transformed element to appear as the etymologically unrelated 恣. Present-day meanings are via association with "full and fine."

殪
abbreviated form of 懿 splendid deed
歹 severed bone/death
kill; exterminate; die
splendid deed resulting in the death of an enemy, or many enemies. "Die" is an associated meaning.

饐

壹 (pot/jar crammed) full
食 food/eating
spoil; go bad; turn sour
jar of food that has spoiled

介
obsolete element indicating two sides
variant form of 人 person
intervene; mediate; lie/be between; shellfish
person intervening to reduce/eliminate distance between separate parties

芥
介 reduce
艹 grass/plant
mustard
plant with the medicinal property of reducing swelling

疥
介 reduce
疒 illness
scabies
illness that causes scratching, by which the top layer of skin is reduced

界
介 reduce
田 field
boundary; border; world/circle
boundaries reducing a large field into smaller sections

堺
界 boundary/border
土 earth
boundary
土 appended for emphasis/clarification

會
variant form of 介 reduce
曾 pile
meet; assemble; group; union
mass gathering that reduces/eliminates space

噲
會 reduce/eliminate space
口 mouth
swallow; gulp down; eat; throat
swallow/gulp down (a lump of) food, reducing space in the throat

獪
會 reduce/eliminate space
犭/犬 dog/beast
sly; cunning
pack animals that cleverly hem in prey

薈
會 reduce/eliminate space
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant vegetation; abundant
luxuriant vegetation, with little space between plants

檜
會 reduce/eliminate space
木 tree/wood
Chinese juniper; (variety of) cypress; Japanese cypress
the tight spiral shape of the cone of a Chinese juniper

膾
會 reduce/eliminate space
月/肉 flesh
(thinly sliced/fine pieces of) meat; fish
thin slices of raw meat/fish covering a platter

繪
會 reduce/eliminate space
糸 thread
picture; paint
threads filling a frame in creating a work of decoration

气
steam
depiction of steam/vapors rising to fill a room or container; compare 云 and 乙

汽
气 rising steam
氵/水 water
steam
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification

氣
气 rising vapors
米 rice
breath; spirit; vitality
vapors rising from steaming rice

愾
氣 rising vapors
忄/心 heart/emotions
anger
anger rising in the heart

餼
氣 rising vapors
食 food/eating
cooked grain; sacrifice; sacrificial animal; gift
steam rising from (an offering of) cooked grain. "Sacrifice" is via the image of steam rising from a sacrificed animal. "Gift" is via association with offering.

乙
second in a series; second calendar sign
vapors rising and hitting a blocking element such as a ceiling, or the top of a container; compare 气 and 云. 乚 and 乞 are variant forms.

扎
乚 rise and hit a blocking element
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pull; prick; stab
pull up (and through). "Prick" and "stab" are associated meanings.

札
乚 rise and hit a blocking element
木 tree/wood
tag; wooden slat (for record-keeping); letter; paper currency
small wooden/bamboo slat pinned or nailed into a blocking element

紮
札 pin/nail in place
糸 thread
fasten; bind; tie (up)
fasten in place by binding/tying with thread or rope

軋
乚 rise and hit a blocking element
車 vehicle
crush; grate; grind
run over and crush an object, reducing it in size

仡
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
亻/人 person
brave
person who overcomes obstacles. "Brave" is one quality associated with such a

person.

吃
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
口 mouth
stammer; eat
breath temporarily and figuratively blocked. "Eat" is in the sense of stuffing one's mouth.

屹
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
山 mountain
steep, towering mountain; stand erect/tall
steep, towering mountain rising to the clouds

迄
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
辵 movement
reach; extend to; until
reach/extend to a point where further elevation or progress is blocked

矻
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
石 stone
work hard
lift stones in erecting an obstacle

紇
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
糸 thread
frayed thread; inferior raw silk
frayed thread of inferior raw silk, that rises from the remainder of the fabric

訖
乞 rise and hit a blocking element

言 words
come/bring to an end; stop
bring a conversation to an end

齕
乞 rise and hit a blocking element
齒 teeth
bite; nibble; chew
the lower teeth rising to bite/nibble a wad of food

堊
dam a stream; restrain (← 闉)
depiction of a potter's wheel to which clay adheres in the pottery-making process

湮
堊 adhere
氵/水 water
sink; bury; cover (up)
sink and adhere to the bottom of a body of water

煙
堊 adhere
火 fire
smoke; soot; fumes
smoke that adheres to walls and ceilings

禋
abbreviated form of 煙 smoke
示 altar/the supernatural
sacrifice; offer/make a sacrifice
smoke accompanying a sacrifice

甄
堊 adhere
瓦 tile

distinguish between; discern
ceramics/porcelain, in the sense of earthenware to which glaze adheres

闡
⿱亞土 adhere
門 gate
gate; close off
gate adhering to the outer of two curved walls enclosing a fortress

因
transformed element = bedding
大 outstretched person
depend; cause; be based on
bedding upon which a person lies/adheres (that is, over which the person is superimposed). Present-day meanings are figurative applications of the original sense.

咽
因 superimposed
口 mouth
swallow; throat; choke
food superimposed over the pharynx in swallowing

姻
因 superimposed
女 woman
marriage
superimposition of one family upon another in marriage. Originally and still sometimes with the specific sense "marriage to a woman."

茵
因 superimposed
艹 grass/plant
cushion; mattress
products originally made of layers of plant matter

恩
因 superimposed
心 heart/emotions
gratitude; favor
feelings of gratitude that superimpose themselves on the heart and adhere

氤
因 superimposed
气 rising vapors (→ air/atmosphere)
heavy fog/mist
layers of fog/mist

裀
因 superimposed
衤/衣 clothing
undergarment; coverlet
an undergarment superimposed upon (= covering) the chest and trunk (but not the limbs). "Coverlet" is in the sense of sheets/blankets that cover a sleeping mat; compare 絪.

絪
因 superimposed
糸 thread
coverlet
coverlet superimposed upon (= covering) a sleeping mat; compare 裀

艮
abbreviated form of 見 see/watch
匕 double-pronged eating implement
northeast
blade adhering to the eye of a slave who is blinded in having it gouged out

垠
艮 adhere

土 earth
boundary; limit; riverbank; shore
geologic boundary, originally in the sense of an edge of a plain adhering to the foothills where mountains begin. "Riverbank" and "shore" are in the sense of a border of land and water. For border/boundary, compare 限.

恨
艮 adhere
忄/心 heart/emotions
resentfulness; hold a grudge; blame; hate
negative feelings adhering to the heart

狠
艮 adhere
犭/犬 dog/beast
fierce; vicious
sounds produced by dogs (adhering in) fighting/biting each other

很
艮 adhere
彳 movement
quite
adhere to one's position obstinately. "Quite" is an extended meaning.

限
艮 adhere
阜/阝 piled earth
border; limit; restrict
earth adhering in a pile in functioning as a barrier. For "border," compare 垠.

根
艮 adhere
木 tree/wood
root; base; origin
root of a tree adhering to the earth

痕
艮 adhere
疒 illness
scar; mark; trace
scar adhering to the skin

眼
艮 adhere
目 eye
eye; sight
eye fixed upon an object

跟
艮 adhere
足 leg/foot
heel; follow; accompany
heel (body part that adheres to the ground). "Follow" and "accompany" are associated meanings in the sense of following on someone's heels.

銀
艮 adhere
金 metal
silver; currency
silver polish adhering to metal. "Currency" is an associated meaning (silver used as currency).

艱
艮 adhere
□□stretch over a fire
distress; difficult; hard
suffering/hardships consequent to adhering directly to a fire

齦
艮 adhere

齒 teeth
gums
the gums, to which the teeth adhere

貋
艮 adhere
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
gnaw
teeth of a sharp-toothed beast adhering to an object or to the piece of food being gnawed

墾
貋 adhere
土 earth
cultivation; reclamation (of land)
agricultural tool adhering to the soil in cultivation

懇
貋 adhere
心 heart/emotions
sincerity; earnestness; cordiality
positive expressions of adhering/lasting feelings

斤
ax; unit of weight
depiction of the blade of an ax adhering to and cutting an object. "Unit of weight" derives from the use of axes as counterweights.

釿
斤 ax
金 metal
hatchet
a type of (metallic) hatchet

斷

斤 ax
obsolete element = sever threads
sever; cut/break (off); act/do (resolutely); decide
sever a curving, pendent object

兵
transformed element (originally 斤 ax)
transformed element (originally 廾 pair of hands)
soldier(s); army; arms; weapons
spread the hands over the long handle of an ax-like weapon; compare the original sense of 父

圻
斤 adhere
土 earth
border; region near the capital
a geologic boundary

芹
斤 adhere
艹 grass/plant
celery
plant growing in close proximity to bogs, marshes and other bodies of water

近
斤 adhere
辶 movement
near; close; intimate
draw near/close

炘
斤 adhere
火 fire
hot; brilliant
adhere to a fire

祈
斤 adhere
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
pray; implore; wish; hope
figuratively adhere to the gods in imploring them to grant one's wishes

旂
斤 adhere
从 pennant/banner
flag
lord's pennant/banner with bells adhering to the flagpole

靳
斤 adhere
革 leather
leather strap
leather strap adhering to a horse, one stretching from breast to saddle, or binding the midsection

齗
斤 adhere
齒 teeth
gums
the gums, in which the teeth adhere

云
mumble; say
depiction of vapors (compare 气 and 乙) rising from a heat source and adhering to walls or the ceiling. Present-day meanings are figurative applications, in the sense of vaporous/ambiguous utterances.

紜
云 adhere
糸 thread

disorder; confusion
adhering/tangled threads

耘
云 adhere
耒 plow
weed (v.)
plow adhering to soil

魂
云 adhering vapors
鬼 ghost; demon
soul; spirit
vaporous object of indeterminate form

雲
云 adhering vapors
雨 rain/natural phenomena
cloud
vapor-filled, steam-like object

曇
雲 cloud
日 sun/day
cloud over; fog up; dim; gloom
the sun obscured by dense cloud cover

壜
曇 dense
土 earth
earthen jar; bottle
"Bottle" is an associated meaning. Note a variant form 罈, which replaces 土 with 缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase.

酉

bird (as the tenth sign of the Chinese zodiac); west; 5 P.M. to 7 P.M.
depiction of a long-necked container for alcohol

酎
酉 alcohol
寸 hand/action indicator
strong liquor
blend strong liquor

酒
酉 alcohol
氵/水 water
alcohol; liquor
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification

酥
酉 alcohol
禾 grain/rice
boiled/pasteurized milk; cream; butter; flaky; crunchy; limp; soft
dairy products created via fermentation, which is likened to the fermentation process of alcohol. "Flaky," "crunchy," "limp" and "soft" are via association with the properties of various dairy products.

醜
酉 alcohol
鬼 ghost; demon
ugly; unsightly; shameful
become demon-like on account of excessive consumption of alcohol

酋
酉 alcohol container
八 split right and left
tribal leader
alcohol container with vapors rising and splitting away

楢
酋 rise; be elongated
木 tree/wood
oak
specifically, a tall variety of oak

輶
酋 rise; be elongated
車 vehicle
light/slender (horse-drawn) vehicle; light/lightweight
lightweight, elongated vehicle

鰌
酋 rise; be elongated
魚 fish
loach
species of long and slender aquatic creature such as an eel

猶
酋 rise/elongated
辵 movement
prolong; alike; still/yet
animal arching its back in fear/aggression. "Prolong" is by association, elongation in size being applied to elongation in time. "Alike" and "still/yet" may be regarded as either extended or borrowed meanings.

蕕
猶 tall
艹 grass/plant
Caryopteris divaricata
tall, flowering plant

由
cause; origin; reason; follow from; significance; purport
depiction of a long-necked alcohol container from the mouth of which liquid

contents pass/run through, being poured in a slender arc. Present-day meanings are via association with the image "pour from," as liquid contents are poured out in being transferred from their original container.

宙
由 pass/run through
宀 roof/building
the heavens; space
the heavens, likened to an arch passing through the sky

岫
由 pass/run through
山 mountain
(mountain) cave/cavern; peak
cave/cavern running through a mountain. "Peak" is via association or borrowing.

抽
由 pass/run through
扌/手 hand/action indicator
draw/pull out; extract
extract an object by pulling it out

油
由 pass/run through
氵/水 water
oil; fat; grease; paint
oil running through the mouth of its container in being poured

迪
由 pass/run through
辶 movement
(actual or figurative) path/road; lead/guide; way/teaching
path/road running from one point to another

柚

由 pass/run through
木 tree/wood
pomelo
fruit juice run through a filtering device

胄
由 pass/run through
月/肉 flesh
descendant; lineage; helmet (← 冑)
physical manifestation of heritage running through generations

袖
由 pass/run through
衤/衣 clothing
sleeve; insert in one's sleeve
sleeve understood as the part of a garment through which the arms run

笛
由 pass/run through
竹 bamboo
flute; pipe; whistle
cylindrical instruments through which sound passes

紬
由 pass/run through
糸 thread
silk; pongee
material of clothing through which the limbs are passed; compare 袖

舳
由 pass/run through
舟 boat
bow/prow; stern
bow/prow that projects narrowly from the hull of a boat. "Stern" is via reinterpretation, understanding the projection to be from the rear rather than the

front of the vessel.

軸
由 pass/run through
車 vehicle
axle; shaft; axis; scroll
axle/shaft running the width of a vehicle. "Scroll" is via similarity of shape.

釉
由 pass/run through
采 scatter
glaze; luster
glaze scattered/spread over the surface of ceramics

鼬
由 pass/run through
鼠 rat/mouse
weasel
creature that scampers through tight places

褎
由 pass/run through
裒 collect/gather
sleeves; flowing robes
run the arm through sleeves (compare 袖) that gather about the arm. 褎, which replaces 由 with 禾, is a variant form of 褒.

卣
wine container; jug
depiction of a long-necked container

逌
卣 long
辵 movement
relaxed; happy

figuratively long path leading to happiness/contentment

隹
bird
depiction of a squat bird exerting downward pressure

准
隹 exert downward pressure
冫/氷 ice
accept; allow; be alike
sheet of ice flattening the surface below. Present-day meanings are via extension: flatten → level off → accepted standard.

唯
隹 exert downward pressure
口 mouth
only; solitary; yes
single out a subordinate, verbally

堆
隹 exert downward pressure
土 earth
pile up; heap
tall, heavy pile of earth

惟
隹 exert downward pressure
忄/心 heart/emotions
ponder; think deeply; only (← 唯)
force someone to ponder/think deeply

推
隹 exert downward pressure
扌/手 hand/action indicator
push

push/press down on at length

椎
隹 exert downward pressure
木 tree/wood
mallet; hammer; strike; vertebra; pasania; chinquapin (varieties of oak)
strike down with a wooden mallet

睢
隹 exert downward pressure
目 eye
gaze up at; gaze; stare; glare
bowing/prostrate subordinate gazing up at a superior; compare 瞻

碓
隹 exert downward pressure
石 stone
pestle; mortar
(foot-driven) pestle exerting downward pressure on a mortar

雖
隹 exert downward pressure
obsolete element = 虫 insect/creature + a (large) head
even if; although; this
lizard of a squashed appearance

誰
隹 exert downward pressure
言 words
who; whose; anyone; someone
demand to know someone's identity

錐
隹 exert downward pressure
金 metal

awl; gimlet; drill; auger
tool exerting downward pressure (in drilling holes)

魋
隹 exert downward pressure
鬼 large, lumpy being
bear
squat, heavy animal

維
隹 exert downward pressure
糸 thread
tie up; rope; maintain; support
fix a net in place by tying it down with ropes. "Maintain" and "support" are associated meanings.

羅
維 net
罒 net
net; gauze
large net. "Gauze" is an associated meaning.

蘿
羅 net
艹 grass/plant
vine; creeper
plant that creates a net-like cover

邏
羅 net
辵 movement
patrol; go about
go about on patrol, forming a net

鑼

羅 net
金 metal
gong
gong with a reticulated pattern

罾
abbreviated form of 羅 net
言 words
verbal abuse; revile; curse; scold
heap verbal abuse upon someone, an action likened to covering with a net; compare 罵

罹
abbreviated form of 羅 net
忄/心 heart/emotions
distress; suffer from; meet with (a disaster)
suffer misfortune, likened to being caught in an emotional net

崔
隹 exert downward pressure
山 mountain
high; towering
high/towering cliff or precipice at which one squats for safety

催
崔 squat
亻/人 person
urge; prompt (v.)
squat with the urge to defecate. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

摧
崔 squat
扌/手 hand/action indicator

crush; destroy; smash; break
crush etc. in making squat

隼
abbreviated form of 崔 squat at a cliff
十 gather
(peregrine) falcon
swift (peregrine) falcons squatting at a cliff

準
隼 short, squat bird (→ weigh heavily)
氵/水 water
level; standard (n.); rule; accurate semi-; quasi-; certainly; about to become; would be
heavy buildup of water; compare 淵. "Level" is an associated meaning in the sense of a level surface of a heavy buildup of water. "Standard" is by extension from "level." "Semi-" and "quasi-" are figurative associated meanings (standard that is unofficially accurate).

雋
person of excellent proportions; excellent; outstanding
variant form of 隼 sleek, suggesting something well-proportioned

儁
雋 well-proportioned
亻/人 person
conspicuous/outstanding person; handsome; outstanding; excellent
handsome (and talented/outstanding) person

鐫
雋 well-proportioned
金 metal
chisel (n. and v.); drill (n. and v.); bore (v.)
chisel metal into a well-proportioned work

進
abbreviated form of 隼 (swift bird)
辵 movement
advance; promote; enter
birds advancing in swift flight and tight formation; compare 迅

暹
進 advance
日 sun/day
advance; rising sun; proceed
advance/procession of the rising sun

離
隹 short, squat bird
离 odd beast
separation; part (from); come apart; release
bird and beast tangling then separating after a protracted fight

籬
離 tangle; adhere
竹 bamboo
rough-woven fence
tangled, rough-woven fence (originally, one made of bamboo strips)

漓
abbreviated form of 離 tangle; adhere
氵/水 water
drip; sink/seep into
liquid that drips/sinks into and adheres to an object

黐
abbreviated form of 離 tangle; adhere
黍 millet
birdlime; sticky
birdlime (glue for catching birds) made of sticky millet

射
transformed element = arrow affixed to bowstring
寸 hand/action indicator
shoot; fire; let fly; launch
shoot off an arrow. In the modern form of the character, the bow and arrow elements have fused into 身.

榭
射 shoot off an arrow
木 tree/wood
lookout platform; pavilion
wooden-roofed lookout platform (from which arrows were fired)

謝
射 shoot off an arrow
言 words
apologize; thank (profusely)
profuse words, likened to a volley of arrows

麝
射 shoot off an arrow
鹿 deer
musk deer
take aim at a musk deer

易
remnant element = lizard
彡 pattern
easy; change; exchange; divination
lizard stretched flat on the ground in sunning itself. "Easy" is an extended meaning in the sense of "be at ease/peace." "Divination" is by extension from the borrowed meaning "exchange," in the sense of "change continuously."

剔

易 stretch flat
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
cut; scrape; scoop/gouge out
cut/scrape in flattening an object

惕
易 stretch flat
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; dread; anxiety
figuratively flattened emotions, in the form of fear, dread or anxiety

裼
易 stretch flat
衤/衣 clothing
bare one's shoulders; diapers
bare one's upper body, revealing its flatness

賜
易 stretch flat
貝 commodities
bestow; grant; give; deign to
bestow goods on a subordinate lying prone in obeisance

錫
易 stretch flat
金 metal
tin; give; bestow (← 賜)
tin as a metal easily stretched/pounded flat

蜴
易 lizard
虫 insect/creature
lizard
蜴 was devised to express the original sense of 易 after 易 underwent its transformation of meanings

予
beforehand; give; I; me
depiction of a weaving shuttle that stretches threads straight out. "Beforehand" is an extended meaning, the analogy being to the result when one ring of a shuttle moves forward to a new spot, so that the former position becomes one previously occupied. (From the perspective of the former spot, the new one appears to be in advance).

伢
予 stretch
亻/人 person
handsome
a servant standing erect. "Handsome" is an extended meaning, an attractive posture leading to the idea of an attractive figure. Compare 妤.

妤
予 stretch
女 woman
beautiful; fair
female servant standing erect. "Beautiful" and "fair" are extended meanings, an attractive posture leading to the idea of an attractive figure. Compare 伢.

序
予 stretch
广 building
order; sequence; describe; preface
rooms stretching in a line within a building. "Describe" is in the sense "describe in sequence," with "preface" by extension from "describe."

抒
予 stretch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
relieve; express (← 序)
the act of stretching something. "Relieve" is an associated meaning in the sense of

stretching to obtain relief.

芧
予 stretch
艹 grass/plant
oak; acorn
tall variety of Cyperus. "Acorn" is by association with the borrowed meaning "oak."

杼
予 (weaving shuttle)
木 tree/wood
shuttle; oak
(wooden) shuttle. 杼 was devised to replace 予 after 予 acquired its extended meanings.

野
予 stretch
里 long strip of land
field; plain; rustic; feral
long stretch of fields

舒
予 stretch
舍 stretch
stretch (wide/extensively); be relaxed/at ease
two elements involving stretching, emphasizing the idea of stretching at length

預
予 stretch
頁 head (→ people)
(keep/prepare) in advance
long line of reserve troops, or other personnel

豫
予 stretch

象 elephant
relaxed; comfortable
space sufficient for even a large animal to stretch and relax

墅
野 field/plain
土 earth
villa
earthen shed or rest house in a field or on a plain. "Villa" is an associated meaning.

它
other
depiction of a long snake, suggesting the idea "stretch; be elongated." "Snake" is now conveyed by the replacement character 蛇, which adds 虫 insect/creature.

拖
它 stretch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
drag; pull; tow
stretch in dragging, pulling or towing an object

沱
它 stretch
氵/水 water
(branch of a) river; flow; flow of tears
long flow (of a river, stream or other waterway). Compare and contrast 池.

陀
它 stretch
阜/阝 piled earth
long/steep bank or slope
compare 阤. 陀 appears in transliterations of Sanskrit terms such as buddha (佛陀) and Amitabhah (阿弥陀).

柁

它 stretch
木 tree/wood
long tie beam

舵
它 stretch
舟 boat
rudder; helm
long rudder. "Helm" is with reference to a boat's steering mechanism in general.

詑
它 stretch
言 words
cheat; deceive
stretch, exaggerate or distort words for deceptive purposes

跎
它 stretch
足 leg/foot
stumble
body that lurches forward in stumbling

鉈
它 stretch
金 metal
hatchet; thallium
long metallic weapon

駝
它 stretch
馬 horse
camel
"horse-like" animal with an elongated neck; compare 鴕. "Camel" is normally expressed, however, by the compound 駱駝. Compare again 鴕, as well as the compound 駝鳥, both of which refer to an ostrich.

鴕
它 stretch
鳥 bird
ostrich
bird with an elongated neck; compare 駝. Note that the scientific name for ostrich (Struthio camelus) translates literally as "camel sparrow."

也
other; also; too; particle (of affirmation)
variant form of 它 (long snake) and in derivative characters therefore suggesting the concept "stretch"

地
也 stretch
土 earth
land; earth; territory; field; base
a particular stretch of land/earth

弛
也 stretch
弓 bow
unstring a bow; loosen; slack(en); relax
loosen/unstring a bow

池
也 stretch
氵/水 water
pond
池 is a variant form of 沱 (long flow of water), combining 也 (stretch) and 水 water. The term came to signify a narrow stretch of water, then eventually pond.

阤
也 stretch
阜/阝 piled earth

hillside
long/steep bank or slope; compare 陀

施
也 stretch
从 pennant/banner
bestow; grant; provide; carry out
streamer pushed forward by a breeze. Present-day meanings are figurative applications of the image "push forward."

髱
也 stretch
髟 hair
hairpiece; wig
hairpiece stretched over the scalp

馳
也 stretch
馬 horse
run; gallop; drive forward (briskly)
horse running at blurring speed; compare 闖

迤
abbreviated form of 施 push forward
辵 movement
winding (← 也)
progress by pushing forward

椸
施 push forward
木 tree/wood
rack; clothes horse
extendable wooden rack

絁

abbreviated form of 施 push forward
糸 thread
roughly spun silk thread
push threads forward in spinning/weaving

佗
它 other
亻/人 person
another; other; he; carry on the back; load
another person

他
another; other; he; she
variant form of 佗

異
transformed element = human head
廾 pair of hands
different; unusual
pair of hands raised straight above to the sides of a person's head (in affixing a crown). Present-day meanings are by extension, in the sense of a person different from all others, and thus unusual.

戴
異 raise
abbreviated form of 載 place atop
be crowned; wear; be revered/respected
have a crown placed upon one's head

翼
異 raise
羽 feather/wing
wing
pair of wings, raised high

翊
abbreviated form of 翼 wings raised high
立 stand
assist; respect
birds in flight, with wings standing high. 立 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

昱
abbreviated form of 翊 rise
日 sun/day
bright light; sunlight; dazzling
bright light given off by the rising sun

煜
昱 bright light
火 fire
blaze; bright; brilliant
bright, brilliant blaze

翌
daybreak; dawn; the next/following (day); tomorrow
variant form of 昱 bright sunlight at daybreak or dawn. The "next/following (day)" and "tomorrow" are associated meanings. The adoption of 羽 here was likely influenced by the "wings standing high" (= rise) aspect of 翊.

冀
異 different
北 north
hope; wish for
a region in northern China (now identified with Hebei Province) famed for a special breed of horse, 騏, which featured a distinctive (= different) square pattern on the hide, blue-black in color

驥
冀 special breed of horse

馬 horse
thoroughbred horse; talent(ed person)
"talent(ed person)" is an associated meaning. 驥 was devised to replace 冀 after 冀 lost its connection with horses.

舁
abbreviated form of 異 raise
臼 mortar-shaped object
raise; lift; bear on the shoulders
bear an object on the shoulders

以
use; with; by; from
depiction of a fetus hanging heavily in the womb; compare 巳

似
以 fetus
亻/人 person
resemble; imitate; counterfeit
a fetus, resembling its parents. "Counterfeit" is by extension from "imitate."

姒
以 fetus
女 woman
wife of one's older brother
pregnant woman; compare 始. The present-day meaning is likely influenced by 姊.

苡
以 fetus
艹 grass/plant
medicinal plant believed efficacious with respect to pregnancy. 薏苡 = Job's tears/tear grass; 芣苡 = plantain (compare 芭蕉)

石
rock; stone; unit of volume

depiction of a rock or stone beneath a cliff, suggesting a substantial pile of rocks/stones

宕
石 stone
宀 roof/building
cave; selfish; willful
cave used as a stone quarry

拓
石 stone
扌/手 hand/action indicator
clear/open up (land etc.)
clear/open up land by removing stones

斫
石 stone
斤 ax
chop/hack off
chop/hack off with a stone ax

跖
石 stone
足 leg/foot
sole (of the foot)
the rock-like sole of a person accustomed to going barefoot

磔
石 stone
桀 raise high
tear apart; dismember
raise a criminal high and tear him apart with sharpened stones

柘
石 substantial

木 tree/wood
wild mulberry; thorny tree; sugarcane
tree bearing a substantial amount of fruit. "Thorny tree" (with a substantial number of thorns) is an associated meaning.

碩
石 substantial
頁 head
large; great; eminent
large head. "Eminent" is an associated meaning.

鼫
石 substantial
鼠 rat/mouse
(large) squirrel
large variety of squirrel, or a marmot

宁
store (v.); stand tall/still
depiction of a tall pile of goods in a storehouse

佇
宁 stand tall/still
亻/人 person
stand still; wait
servant standing still in attending/waiting upon a superior; compare 竚

苧
宁 stand tall/still
艹 grass/plant
white ramie (Chinese silk plant); hemp; hemp thread
a plant the fiber of which was spun on a rack. 苧 originally emphasized the plant rather than the fiber, and 紵 the reverse, but the distinction was eventually largely lost.

竚
宁 stand tall/still
立 stand
stand still; wait
person standing still in attending/waiting upon a superior; compare 佇

紵
宁 stand tall/still
糸 thread
white ramie (Chinese silk plant); hemp; hemp thread
a plant the fiber of which was spun on a rack. 紵 originally emphasized the fiber rather than the plant, and 苧 the reverse, but the distinction was eventually largely lost.

羜
宁 stand tall/still
羊 sheep
lamb
in particular, a lamb kept immobile for fattening

彳
(movement)
The left-hand element of 行 go. 彳 is not used independently.

役
彳 movement
殳 action indicator
post; service; labor
(move to) take up the latest in a series of posts

疫
abbreviated form of 役 series
疒 illness
epidemic; pestilence; plague
illness that strikes serially

辵
彳 movement
止 leg/foot
movement
leg in motion. In compound characters, 辵 nearly invariably appears in the form 辶.

徙
辵 movement (with the elements repositioned)
止 leg/foot → action indicator
relocate; move; change abode/residence; migrate; shift
move to a different location

屣
徙 relocate
尸 shape indicator (→ shod foot/leg)
footwear
footwear that one drags across the floor or ground, as opposed to lifting with the foot with each step taken; compare 躧

筛
徙 relocate
竹 bamboo
sieve; sift; strain
relocate water by means of a (bamboo) sieve; compare 篩

逐
辵 movement
豕 pig/boar
chase; pursue; drive off; expel; one by one; one after another
chase down a wild pig/boar one careful step at a time, finally tightening a circle about it; compare 狩 and 獸. "One by one" and "one after another" are associated meanings in the sense of one step at a time.

巳

snake (as the sixth sign of the Chinese zodiac); 9 A.M. to 11 A.M.
depiction of a fetus hanging heavily in the womb; compare 以

汜
巳 descendant
氵/水 water
distributary
figurative descendant of a main waterway

祀
巳 descendant
示 altar/the supernatural
worship; enshrine; festival
worship of ancestors, carried out by descendants

圮
巳 hang heavily
土 earth
bridge
earthen bridge that hangs heavily

帝
emperor
a single-element character depicting objects straightened into a unity, suggesting a supreme god unifying heaven and earth. Compare 君 and 王. Later, the term was applied to an emperor, whose functions and powers extend in like manner over the earth.

楴
帝 unify
木 tree/wood
ornamental hairpin; comb
ornamental hairpin that unites many strands of hair. "Comb" is an associated meaning.

締
帝 unify
糸 thread
bind; tie; tighten shut; control strictly
bind objects with thread

諦
帝 unify
言 words
inquire; examine; resign oneself to
inquire preliminary to making a unifying decision

蹄
帝 unify
足 leg/foot
hoof
the single-unit capsule of a horse's hoof; compare 蹄

禘
帝 emperor
示 altar/the supernatural
sacrifice; festival
ritual/sacrifice pertaining to the emperor. "Festival" is an associated meaning.

啻
帝 unify
口 mouth
only; merely
adverb inflecting the tone of voice to suggest "only" in the sense of "united; no other." 商 is a variant form of 啻.

嫡
商 unify
女 woman
(legitimate) heir; (legitimate) child

one's (legal) wife, part of the spousal unit; compare 妻

摘
商 unify
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick; pluck; nip; gather
create a single unit in plucking by bringing the fingertips together

滴
商 unify
氵/水 water
drip; drop
liquid dripping from a containing unit

適
商 unify
辶 movement
appropriate; suitable; fit neatly; match
form a single unit appropriate to circumstances

敵
商 unify
攵 action indicator
enemy; rival; resist
unite to resist a powerful enemy/rival

謫
商 unify
言 words
punish; demote
concentrate a verbal attack to punish (a crime)

蹢
商 unify
足 leg/foot

hoof; take a few steps then stop; loiter
hoof as the single unit of a horse's "foot"; compare 蹄. "Take a few steps then stop" is an associated meaning, in the sense of clearly demarcated units of movement, while "loiter" is by extension.

鏑
商 unify
金 metal
arrowhead
arrowhead attached to the arrow's shaft

擿
適 suitable
扌/手 hand/action indicator
select; discard; expose; reveal
select suitable items and discard the rest. "Expose" and "reveal" are associated meanings (expose/reveal in discarding).

厷
又 hand
remnant element = bending line (→ elbow)
(primarily used as shorthand for either 宏 or 肱)
extend the arm toward an object

宏
厷 extend
宀 roof/building
wide; grand
extensive parameters of a building

肱
厷 extend (the arm)
月/肉 flesh
upper arm
(upper) arm in the sense of a body part that extends; compare 膊

紘
厷 extend
糸 thread
rope; cord; broad; stretch
extend/stretch a rope

雄
厷 extend
隹 short, squat bird
male; manly; strong
male bird extending its wings to display authority

閎
厷 extend
門 gate
gate; barrier; wide; vast
wide gate that extends far in opening and closing. "Barrier" and "vast" are associated meanings.

浤
宏 wide
氵/水 water
wide expanse of water; (the sound produced by) surging water
compare 汪 洄 and 潢

王
ruler; king
depiction of a ruler whose dominion extends from earth to heaven, bringing them into harmony; compare 君 and 帝

汪
王 extend
氵/水 water
widespread water; great volume; expansive

extensive spread/volume of water

狂
王 extend
犭/犬 dog/beast
wild; mad; manic; crazy
dog that runs wild and extensively

往
transformed element (originally 王 extend)
originally, a leg in motion + 彳 movement
go; gone; past
make an extensive journey. There is no etymological connection between the right-hand element of 往 and the independent character 主.

旺
王 extend
日 sun/day
flourishing; prosperous
extensive sunlight, eventually leading to the idea of extensive prosperity

枉
王 extend
木 tree/wood
bend; twist; distort; in vain
strong wind extending tree branches and forcing them to bend

尪
王 extend
允 a variant form of 尢 lame
lame; weak
lame person whose legs extend at odd angles

逛
狂 run wild

辵 movement
roam; ramble; wander
compare 徨

誑
狂 run wild
言 words
deceive; swindle
wild, deceptive words

徵
王 ruler
abbreviated form of 徽 insignia
summon; sign; symbol; symptom; phenomenon; recruit
ruler who summons a subject for the purpose of conferring an honor. "Sign," "symbol" and "symptom" are associated meanings via the insignia attached to an honor. "Phenomenon" is via extension from "sign" while "recruit" is via extension from "summon."

懲
徵 summon
心 heart/emotions
reprimand; chastise; punish
summon a subject for reprimand/chastisement

匡
王 extend
匚 enclosure/frame
reform; correct
extend within/over a container or framing object. Present-day meanings are extended senses of the idea of spreading and conforming to the contours of a containing/framing object.

恇
匡 extend within a framing object

忄/心 heart/emotions
fear
fear extending throughout the heart; compare 惶

框
匡 extend within a framing object
木 tree/wood
door frame; frame; threshold
wooden frame (of a door)

眶
匡 extend within a framing object
目 eye
eye socket
eye extending over its socket

筐
匡 extend within a framing object
竹 bamboo
bamboo basket
objects extending within a bamboo basket

皇
王 extend
abbreviated form of 自 original; originate
emperor; imperial
originator of a ruling dynasty, one that extends from earth to heaven

偟
皇 extend
亻/人 person
wander; leisure
person who roams extensively; compare 徨

惶

皇 extend
忄/心 heart/emotions
anxious; fear
fraught, extended emotions, in the form of anxiety or fear; compare 恇

徨
皇 extend
彳 movement
wander; irresolute
wander extensively; compare 偟. "Irresolute" is a figurative associated meaning, originally in the sense of wandering without purpose; compare 徘.

遑
皇 extend
辵 movement
(be at) leisure
be at great leisure to wander extensively

隍
皇 extend
阜/阝 piled earth
dry moat
(extensive) dry moat

煌
皇 extend
火 fire
bright; luminous
extensive fire/flames

篁
皇 extend
竹 bamboo
bamboo grove; bamboo
extensive bamboo grove

蝗
皇 extend
虫 insect/creature
locust
variety of locust, swarms of which extend over a wide area

鍠
皇 extend
金 metal
ceremonial weapon
extensive ceremonial weapon resembling a broad ax. "The sound of bells and drums" appertains to the compound 鍠鍠.

鰉
皇 extend
魚 fish
sturgeon
one variety of large fish

凰
皇 ruler
abbreviated form of 風 wind (→ force blowing far and wide)
(female) phoenix
mythical (female) bird regarded as the ruler of the avian world; compare 鳳

亐
breathing; sighing; (obstruction of breathing)
depiction of an object that extends before bending

巧
亐 extend then bend
工 work
skill; ingenuity
a piece of work characterized by (skillfully produced) curved lines

朽
亏 extend then bend
木 tree/wood
(bend with) rot; decay
tree bending with rot/decay; compare 枵

攷
亏 extend then bend
攵 action indicator
investigate; examine; consider
wind and twist to the furthest reaches. Present-day meanings are abstract applications (pursue thoroughly).

考
variant form of 亏 extend then bend
abbreviated form of 老 aged
investigate; examine; consider (← 攷)
elderly person with a bent back

拷
考 bend
扌/手 hand/action indicator
torture; strike
torture by bending/twisting body parts

栲
考 bend
木 tree/wood
sumac/lacquer (tree)
tree with a bending/twisting element

号
remnant element = object that extends before bending
口 mouth

call (out); name; number; enumerate
cry or calling noise produced by bending/twisting the throat

枵
号 bend
木 tree/wood
hollow (stump of a tree); empty
tree bending with rot/decay; compare 朽

鴞
号 bend
鳥 bird
owl
bird of a hunched appearance

饕
號 roaring tiger
食 food/eating
eat/consume ravenously; gluttonous; greedy
eat/consume ravenously, like a hungry tiger; compare 叨

廷
remnant element = extension
variant form of 干 advance through luxuriant vegetation
garden; (palatial/imperial/law) court; office
garden with luxuriant, extensive vegetation

庭
廷 extend; court
广 building
garden; law court; office
广 appended to emphasize/clarify the meanings of 廷

挺
廷 extend

扌/手 hand/action indicator
straighten; straight; stick out; surpass; counter (for firearms)
cause an object to extend straight

梃
廷 extend
木 tree/wood
club; lever

艇
廷 extend
舟 boat
small boat
long, narrow vessel (such as a dugout canoe)

蜓
廷 extend
虫 insect/creature
(long insect/creature)
蜻蜓 = dragonfly; 蝘蜓 = gecko

霆
廷 extend
雨 rain/natural phenomena
(bolt of) lightning; (clap of) thunder
a long bolt of lightning or clap of thunder

頲
廷 extend
頁 head
straight
elongated head

呈
abbreviated form of 廷 extend

口 mouth
present; offer; submit
extend an offer (likened to offering/submitting something by extending it toward the recipient)

逞
呈 extend
辵 movement
show off; carry out (an undertaking)
show off one's prowess in carrying out an extensive undertaking

程
呈 extend
禾 grain/rice
agenda; journey
extensive ears of grain

聖
呈 extend
耳 ear
virtuous; holy
figuratively extend the hear in listening attentively, a virtuous act

酲
呈 extend
酉 alcohol
sick from drinking; hangover
extend beyond one's drinking capacity

裎
呈 extend
衤/衣 clothing
undress; reveal one's body; nude
extend and undo the waistband of an ancient type of garment

延
remnant element = extension
remnant element = advance through luxuriant vegetation
extend; spread prolong; postpone
extend in advancing

埏
延 extend
土 earth
boundary; land's end; knead and soften earth
extensive boundary. "Knead and soften earth" is via reinterpretation of the character's constituent elements.

涎
延 extend
氵/水 water
saliva; slobber
(extensive trail of) saliva

莚
延 extend
艹 grass/plant
straw/bamboo mat
extend vegetation in weaving mats

筵
延 extend
竹 bamboo
bamboo(-woven) mat; straw mat; seat
weave using extensive strips of bamboo

蜒
延 extend
虫 insect/creature
(creature the movements of which are) serpentine; wind along in a serpentine

fashion
creature extending its body

誕
延 extend
言 words
boast; birth
extend the truth in boasting

廴
(extension)
abbreviated form of 延 extend. For practical purposes, appears only in the compound character 廻.

建
abbreviated form of 廷 extend
聿 upright object
erect; build; establish
extend vertically in making erect

健
建 erect
亻/人 person
health; vigor
healthy person, standing fully erect

腱
建 erect
月/肉 flesh
tendon
tendon, body part that allows muscles to extend and/or raise bones

犍
abbreviated form of 腱 tendon
牛 cow

castrated bull; castration
cut tendons in castrating bulls

鍵
建 erect
金 metal
(device/piano) key
raise a metal latch/bolt

鞬
建 erect
革 leather
quiver
leather quiver placed upright on a horse

九
nine
depiction of a hand bumping up against something then bending or curving

仇
九 bump up against and bend/curve
亻/人 person
enemy; adversary; hatred
enemy with whom one comes to grips in battle. "Hatred" is an associated meaning.

尻
九 bump up against and bend/curve
尸 body/buttocks
buttocks; coccyx; bottom; rear
the buttocks, which curve upon coming into contact with other objects

汎
九 bump up against and bend/curve
氵/水 water
spring

spring near the base of a cliff, with the discharged water curving away after hitting the cliff

旭
九 bump up against and bend/curve
日 sun/day
rising sun
the rising sun figuratively hitting the eastern horizon and curving upward

究
九 bump up against and bend/curve
穴 hole
investigate
fumble about in the far reaches of a hole in seeking something

軌
九 bump up against and bend/curve
車 vehicle
rut
marks left in the earth by a vehicle's rotating wheels

馗
九 bump up against and bend/curve
首 neck/head
cheekbone; (intersecting) road
arched bone that bumps up against the eye socket

鳩
九 bump up against and bend/curve
鳥 bird
pigeon; gather
a plump bird. "Gather" is an associated meaning, in the sense of a large flock of pigeons. It is also possible to regard 九 as having a mimetic function, that of suggesting cooing.

鼽
九 bump up against and bend/curve
鼻 nose
nasal obstruction; nasal congestion
secretions or object bumping up against the nasal passages

擤
abbreviated form of 鼽 nasal obstruction
扌/手 hand/action indicator
blow the nose
particularly, use the hands/fingers to blow the nose

尿
abbreviated form of 尻 buttocks
氵/水 water
urine; urinate
urine issuing from between the buttocks; compare 溲

求
seek; search for; request
depiction of a pelt wrapped about the body; compare 皮 and 表. Present-day meanings are by association, in the sense of attempting to draw a desired object tightly into one's possession.

逑
求 wrap
辶 movement
gather; assemble
(figuratively/actually) wrap about oneself in gathering

救
求 wrap
攵 action indicator
rescue; save; help
wrap the arms about a person in effecting a rescue

毬
求 wrap
毛 hair
ball; ball-shaped/round object
ball or ball-shaped/round object made of wrapped hair/fur

球
求 wrap
王/玉 jewel
round jewel; spherical object; ball
pearl wrapped in an oyster shell

裘
求 wrap
衣 clothing
fur (garment)
fur (garment) wrapped about the body. 裘 was devised to replaced 求 after 求 acquired its figurative meanings.

俅
求 request
亻/人 person
reverential
person assuming a reverential attitude in supplication. "Ornamental cap" is a meaning generally offered in Chinese-English dictionaries, but this is drawn from a particular expression including 俅. The character itself has nothing to do with a cap.

賕
求 request
貝 commodities
bribe
compare 賄

告

口 mouth
牛 cow
tell; inform; announce
cow bending its neck in lowing. Present-day meanings are figurative associations, in the sense of communicating in "speech."

浩
告 bend
氵/水 water
great; abundant; vast; wide; expansive
great/abundant amount of water that causes trees and vegetation to bend

造
告 bend
辶 movement
build; make
build/make by bending objects

慥
造 build/make
忄/心 heart/emotions
sincere
the original signification is unclear, but likely had something to do with anxiety, grief or another state involving shriveled emotions; compare the Old Chinese cognates 愀 慅 憔 悄 懆 and 愁.

梏
告 bend
木 tree/wood
manacles
wooden implement bent/fitted over the wrists

皓
告 bend
白 white

bright; white
a variant form of 晧: 告 (bend) + 日 sun/day, indicating bright sunshine that causes plants to bend/wilt; compare 浩. Later, "bright" gave rise to the meaning "white" (bright white), leading to the creation of 皓, in which 日 is replaced by 白 white.

窖
告 bend
穴 hole
cavern; cellar
cavern/cellar with a low ceiling, forcing one to bend

誥
告 bend
言 words
give notice/instructions to; admonish; imperial decree/proclamation
give notice/instructions to a subordinate, figuratively bending the latter to one's will

酷
告 bend
酉 alcohol
severe; intense; cruel
strong alcohol that induces stomach pains, causing one to bend over

靠
告 bend
非 spread in alignment to right and left
lean on; depend on
lean on, causing someone/something to bend

鵠
告 bend
鳥 bird
swan; target
bird with a long neck, necessitating bending in order to swallow. "Target" (originally, a white target) is by association with the whiteness of a swan.

冓
secluded room/sector (especially, of a palace)
depiction of an arching, symmetrical construction; compare 搆

媾
冓 symmetry
女 woman
marry; (sexual) intimacy
pair a man and woman

搆
冓 symmetry (symmetrical construction)
扌/手 hand/action indicator
assemble; pull/put together; drag; reach; create an intricate situation
assemble a construction (the original sense of 冓)

溝
冓 symmetry
氵/水 water
ditch; gutter; sewer
symmetrical constructions that conduct water

遘
冓 symmetry
辵 movement
meet (by chance)
meet by approaching from opposite directions. For a chance encounter, compare 遇 as well as 逢 邂 覯 and 訝.

構
冓 symmetry
木 tree/wood
build; fabricate; structure; preparation
assemble wood in fabricating a structure the front and back of which are

symmetrical

籌
冓 symmetry
竹 bamboo
bamboo frame; bamboo basket
symmetrical bamboo object

覯
冓 symmetry
見 see/watch
meet (by chance)
meet someone unexpectedly, forming a pair. For a chance encounter, compare 遘 as well as 遇 逢 邂 and 訝.

講
冓 symmetry
言 words
speak; talk; lecture
two parties (the speaking and listening sides) taking part in a lecture

購
冓 symmetry
貝 commodities
purchase; buy
transact business so that both parties are in perfect agreement

再
abbreviated form of 冓 symmetrical construction; symmetry
remnant element = additional line
(once) again; twice
the line at the top indicates "another of the same"

冉
abbreviated form of 再 symmetry

爪 pick/pluck
balance
pick up/raise an object in weighing it on a balance

稱
再 raise
禾 grain/rice
weigh; fit; be balanced/suited to; accord with; name
raise crops in order to weigh them

堯
remnant element = tall, arching pile of goods
亻/人 person
high
person carrying a tall, arching pile of goods

僥
堯 arch/rise high
亻/人 person
good fortune
(figuratively/actually) stand on tiptoe in expectation and have one's expectations met

嘵
堯 arch/rise high
口 mouth
shout; scream; fear
high-pitched sound. "Fear" is an associated meaning.

墝
堯 arch/rise high
土 earth
(stony) land unsuitable for agriculture
arching stretch of land overrun with stones; compare 磽

嬈
堯 arch/rise high
女 woman
graceful
lithesome woman, one tall and supple

嶢
堯 arch/rise high
山 mountain
towering (mountain/other object)
tall, arching mountain

撓
堯 arch/rise high
扌/手 hand/action indicator
bend; disarrange; disturb
bend a tall object (into a particular form). For disturb, compare 鐃.

澆
堯 arch/rise high
氵/水 water
sprinkle; pour
sprinkle/pour water (from high above, in an arc; compare the original sense of 攸)

蕘
堯 arch/rise high
艹 grass/plant
fuel; firewood
arching bundle of vegetation used as fuel. "Firewood" is by association.

遶
堯 arch/rise high
辶 movement
coil/twine about; circulate; surround
coil/twine about a tall object; compare 繞

曉
堯 arch/rise high
日 sun/day
dawn; daybreak; enlighten; give to understand
sun rising over the horizon, which in turn lightens the sky

橈
堯 arch/rise high
木 tree/wood
bent/twisted piece of wood; oar; paddle
tall, bent/twisted piece of wood. "Oar" and "paddle" are via reinterpretation of the character as a piece of wood raised high.

燒
堯 arch/rise high
火 fire
burn; roast; bake; heat (up)
leaping, curling flames

磽
堯 arch/rise high
石 stone
barren, rocky soil
barren, rocky soil on an arching stretch of high ground; compare 墝

繞
堯 arch/rise high
糸 thread
coil/twine about; circulate; surround
wind threads loosely around a tall object; compare 遶

翹
堯 arch/rise high
羽 feather/wing

raised tail feathers; raise high; outstanding
raised tail feathers of a pheasant

鐃
堯 arch/rise high
金 metal
gong; cymbals; disturb
annoying reverberations of an instrument arching into the sky. For "disturb," compare 撓.

饒
堯 arch/rise high
食 food/eating
abundant; plentiful
tall, irregular pile of food

驍
堯 arch/rise high
馬 horse
(tall), excellent horse; strong and valiant
tall, excellent horse (of an arching posture)

蟯
abbreviated form of 遶 coil/twine about
虫 insect/creature
intestinal worm(s)
compare 蛔

于
here; from; (interrogative particle); go; exclamation of lament
depiction of an object that stretches before bending into a U-shape

圩
于 U-shaped
土 earth

dike; embankment
particular type of U-shaped earthen construction

宇
于 U-shaped
宀 roof/building
eaves; house/structure; the heavens/universe
large, curving roof/eaves

汚
于 U-shaped
氵/水 water
dirty; filthy; impure
(dirty,) U-shaped puddle; compare 洿

芋
于 U-shaped
艹 grass/plant
taro; potato
U-shaped tuber

迂
于 U-shaped
辶 movement
roundabout; circuitous
take a U-shaped detour

杅
于 U-shaped
木 tree/wood
tub; bowl/drinking vessel
curved tub or round bowl/drinking vessel

盱
于 U-shaped

目 eye
watch/observe carefully; be anxious about
widen (= make round) the eyes

盂
于 U-shaped
皿 dish/plate/bowl
basin; bowl
curved eating/drinking vessel

竽
于 U-shaped
竹 bamboo
ancient musical instrument
instrument constructed of curved pieces of bamboo arranged in a U-shape

紆
于 U-shaped
糸 thread
wind; bend
thread wound about an object

訏
于 U-shaped
言 words
exaggerate; boast
stretch the truth

雩
于 U-shaped
雨 rain/natural phenomena
rain ceremony
prayers raised to the heavens to induce rain in return

虧

于 U-shaped
variant form of 雇 birdcage (→ frame)
loss; decrease; deficit
the U-shaped, bright portion of the waning moon

杇
variant form of 于 U-shaped
木 tree/wood
trowel; plaster
wooden, U-shaped trowel used in plastering

圬
abbreviated form of 杇 trowel
土 earth
plaster; trowel
plaster mud with a trowel

華
于 U-shaped
remnant element = pendent plant
gorgeous; flowery; brilliant; China
beautiful/gorgeous flower, the center of which sinks in a U-shape. "Brilliant" is an associated meaning, in the sense either of brilliant coloring or of brilliant beauty. "China" is a figurative, extended meaning, the country likened to a beautiful flower. The remnant element originally combined 垂 hang (doubled) and 艸 grass/plant.

曄
華 brilliant
日 sun/day
shiny; thriving
shine brilliantly. "Thriving" is a figurative, associated meaning.

樺
華 gorgeous; brilliant
木 tree/wood

birch
tree with gorgeous branches and foliage

燁
華 brilliant
火 fire
brilliant flames; brilliant; splendid
brilliant flames of a fire

驊
華 gorgeous; brilliant
馬 horse
spectacular/splendid horse
gorgeous and/or figuratively brilliant horse

禺
monkey
depiction of a monkey with both a curved back and a curved tail

寓
禺 curve
宀 roof/building
stay/use temporarily; reside
curved, hut-like temporary abode

嵎
禺 curve
山 mountain
mountain recess
curved mountain recess

遇
禺 curve
辵 movement
meet

two persons who meet at a bend in a road; compare 遘 and 覯

偶
abbreviated form of 遇 form a pair
亻/人 person
image; idol; companion; by accident; chance
object similar in appearance to a human, the two of which then form a pair. "By accident" and "chance" are extended meanings, in the sense of a chance resemblance.

耦
abbreviated form of 遇 form a pair
耒 plow
plow side by side; pair; team of two; companion
plow side by side, aligned as a pair

藕
耦 align
艹 grass/plant
lotus root; lotus rhizomes
plant with aligned cavities in its rhizomes

隅
禺 curve
阜/阝 piled earth
nook; corner
curved nook in a hill

愚
禺 curve
心 heart/emotions
hardheaded; stupid; foolish
warped (= curved) mind

區

transformed element = curved line
transformed element = three enclosures
division; sector; district; region; area
originally, a depiction of a line that curves/bends in penetrating three enclosures, dividing a narrow section into smaller parts

傴
區 curve/bend
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
bend down/over; stoop
bend down/over, curving the back; compare 嫗

嘔
區 curve/bend
口 mouth
vomit
bend and vomit. Compare the original sense of 歐.

嫗
區 curve/bend
女 woman
elderly woman
stooped, elderly woman; compare 傴

嶇
區 curve/bend
山 mountain
steep; rugged
winding mountain path

摳
區 curve/bend
扌/手 hand/action indicator
raise; search for
bend the fingers and lift an object. "Search for" is in the sense of thrusting one's

fingers into a deep recess and bending them in looking for something; compare 探.

漚
區 curve/bend
氵/水 water
soak; foam; froth
soak objects in a curved container. "Foam" and "froth" are associated meanings, being by-products of lengthy soaking.

樞
區 curve/bend
木 tree/wood
pivot; (door) hinge
cylindrical pivot (bending in) penetrating the shaft of a door. "Hinge" is an associated meaning.

歐
區 curve/bend
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
vomit
bend and vomit; compare 嘔

毆
區 curve/bend
殳 action indicator
beat; hit; strike
beat a person into a bending position

甌
區 curve/bend
瓦 tile/earthenware
pot; jug; container
small, curved pot/jug/container made of earthenware

謳

區 curve/bend
言 words
sing
bend the waist in singing

軀
區 curve/bend
身 body
body
curved/bent body

驅
區 curve/bend
馬 horse
gallop; drive/spur/urge on; impel
horse lowering its back in galloping

貙
abbreviated form of 毆 strike
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
tiger/tiger-like beast
beast trained for use in battle; compare 貅 and 貔

玄
dark; obscure; mysterious
depiction of slender threads twisted together and thus linked. "Dark" is in the sense of being so slender as to be barely perceptible, a situation likened to darkness.

弦
玄 link
弓 bow
bowstrings; (musical instrument) strings
bowstrings linking the two ends of a bow

泫

玄 link
氵/水 water
tears; dew; cry
trail created by successive drops of liquid winding down a surface. "Cry" is by association with tears.

炫
玄 link
火 fire
brilliant; dazzling; show off
series of brilliant/dazzling flames. "Show off" is in the sense of presenting oneself as brilliant.

痃
玄 link
疒 illness
cramps
linked series of spasms

絃
玄 link
糸 thread
(musical instrument) strings
compare 弦

舷
玄 link
舟 boat
gunwale; saxboard; side of a ship/airplane
the top edge of the two sides of a boat, linking the bow to the stern

鉉
玄 link
金 metal
stand/holder (for a tripod vessel)

stand/holder linked to a tripod vessel

牽
玄 link
obsolete element = 牛 cow + 冖 cover → bar used to hold down the horns of cattle
drag; draw (along); lead
drag/draw/lead a cow with a rope

輦
abbreviated form of 牽 (drag/draw)
韋 go around
linchpin
linchpin dragging on a wheel and hindering rotation; compare 轄 輗 and 軏

桀
variant form of 輦 linchpin dragging on a wheel
木 tree/wood
roost (n.)
pin a victim to a raised, wooden construction. "Roost" is an associated meaning, being a different type of wooden construction raised high off the ground.

傑
桀 raise/rise high
亻/人 person
hero; excel; be outstanding
person whose talents raise him/her above others

咥
玄 obscure
口 mouth
murmur; mutter
obscure (= barely audible) sound produced by the mouth

眩
玄 obscure

目 eye
dizzy; dazzling; confused
dizziness as a condition in which vision is obscured. "Dazzling" is an associated meaning, with "confused" by extension.

㠯
depiction of objects that have been accumulated and wrapped. 㠯 is effectively obsolete.

官
㠯 wrap about
宀 roof/building
government; official; human organ
people wrapped about/enclosed in an (official) building government. "Human organ" is an associated meaning, in the sense of an object controlling a variety of functions as does an official.

菅
官 wrap about/enclose
艹 grass/plant
sedge
particular type of vegetation woven into a raincoat wrapped about the body

逭
官 wrap about/enclose
辶 movement
evade; avoid; flee
wrap/enclose oneself in a protective environment, evading danger

棺
官 wrap about/enclose
木 tree/wood
coffin
wooden coffin in which a corpse is enclosed

管
官 wrap about/enclose
竹 bamboo
pipe; tube; flute; control
bamboo tube used as a pipe or flute. "Control" is via the acquired, associated meaning of the independent character 官, here possibly with respect to the control exercised in playing a wind instrument.

綰
官 wrap about/enclose
糸 thread
loop (v.); bend into a hoop; tie; string together
wrap about with threads

琯
官 wrap about/enclose
玉 jewel
wind instrument
tubular (= wrap-about shape) wind instrument made of jade; compare 管

館
官 official building
食 food/eating
embassy; consulate; official residence; (archaic) school(house); place where cultural activities are held; building; shop; inn/hotel; guesthouse
official building for taking meals

肙
transformed element = round figure
月/肉 flesh
small insect; round shape
reel/unwind the thread from the cocoon of a silkworm

娟
肙 reel/unwind

女 woman
beautiful; graceful
undulating, curvaceous female figure

悁
肙 reel/unwind
忄/心 heart/emotions
irritable
unwound emotions

捐
肙 reel/unwind
扌/手 hand/action indicator
remove; throw away; renounce; contribute
remove silk threads from a silkworm cocoon by reeling/unwinding it. "Renounce" is by extension from "throw away." "Contribute" is in the sense of renouncing in favor of someone, thereby effectively contributing.

涓
肙 reel/unwind
氵/水 water
trickle of water; brook; choose
winding trickle of water

睊
肙 reel/unwind
目 eye
look; see; look askance at
observe a scene that unwinds (= unfolds) before one's eyes

絹
肙 reel/unwind
糸 thread
silk
reel/unwind silk threads. 絹 was devised to convey the original sense of 肙 after 肙

acquired its associated meanings.

罶
絹 silk
罒 net
bird net; bind
net used for catching birds or trapping animals. "Bind" is an associated meaning in the sense of tying up captured game.

狷
abbreviated form of 悁 irritable
犭/犬 dog/beast
hasty; impetuous
irritable dog/beast

□□
remnant element = palm of an open hand (symbolizing a handprint as a guarantee)
廾 pair of hands (suggesting the parties involved in a transaction)
wooden slat on which handprints were made as a guarantee. As proof of a transaction, this slat was cut in two, each piece wrapped/rolled up with an encircling cord, and one piece given to each of the two parties involved (a meaning preserved in 券). □is effectively obsolete.

卷
□wrap/roll up
remnant element = bending figure
curl; roll (up); scroll; volume (of a set of books)
volume (of a set of books) is an extended sense via scrolls

倦
卷 curl
亻/人 person
fatigue; languor
assume a curled position in fatigue; compare 惓

圈
卷 curl
囗 circular enclosure
pen; circle (n./v.); orbit; sphere (of influence)
pen or cage that curls about captive animals

惓
卷 curl
忄/心 heart/emotions
be physically/emotionally fatigued; careful; sincere; earnest
figuratively assume a curled position in fatigue; compare 倦

捲
卷 curl
扌/手 hand/action indicator
curl; roll (up)

棬
卷 curl
木 tree/wood
vessel; container; bowl
vessel/container created from (strips of) curled wood

綣
卷 curl
糸 thread
be bound/wrapped in
be wrapped in/enveloped by threads or fabric. Now, "be bound/wrapped in" with primarily figurative applications.

蜷
卷 curl
虫 insect/creature
curl up; undulate
type of insect that undulates in propelling itself forward; compare 蜿

蹏
卷 curl
足 leg/foot
curl up; curled
assume a curled posture

鬈
卷 curl
髟 hair
curled hair; curl; beautiful
beautiful by extension from attractive, curled hair

券
□wrapped slat(s) = proof of a transaction
刀 sword/knife
ticket; certificate; draft; bond
cut slats into two (then give one of the halves to each of the two parties in a transaction)

拳
□wrap/roll up
手 hand
fist; boxing
hand balled into a fist. "Boxing" is an associated meaning.

眷
□wrap/roll up
目 eye
look back; take an interest in; take care of
take a panoramic/wraparound view of one's surroundings; compare 観. "Take an interest in" and "take care of" are associated meanings in the sense of keeping a watchful eye on someone/something.

豢

□wrap/roll up
豕 pig/boar
domestic animals; raise; feed; entrap
pigs or other domestic animals contained in a circular pen; compare 圂

□□
remnant element = curved lid
transformed element = container
feed a prisoner
curved lid fitting its container in holding in the contents. "Feed a prisoner" comes from reinterpreting □as 囚 prisoner + 皿 dish/plate/bowl.

媼
□hold in/down
女 woman
elderly woman
woman of low rank (= of a class that is suppressed/held down)

愠
□hold in/down
忄/心 heart/emotions
angry; indignant
anger held in the heart

溫
□hold in/down
氵/水 water
warm; lukewarm
hold in moisture and keep an object warm

氳
□hold in/down
气 rising vapors (→ air/atmosphere)
unity; harmony
unity of and harmony between heaven and earth

熅
□hold in/down
火 fire
sultry; iron/smooth out
charcoal briquette or similar object placed within ash then covered, acting as a heating element. "Iron/smooth out" is in the sense of covering a heated element before pressing it to a surface for smoothing.

瘟
□hold in/down
疒 illness
contagious disease; epidemic
contagious disease/epidemic characterized by fever (= heat held down in the body)

褞
□hold in/down
衤/衣 clothing
robe
padded robe that holds in heat

縕
□hold in/down
糸 thread
(tangled) hemp; tangled; confusion
tangled hemp or raveled silk used to bind/hold down an object

轀
□hold in/down
車 vehicle
hearse
hearse in which a corpse is held/contained

醞
□hold in/down (original sense: lid held down on a container)

酉 alcohol
ferment; brew
ferment alcohol held in a lidded barrel

韞
□⿸hold in/down
韋 leather
wrap; conceal
items concealed by being held down/wrapped in leather

薀
溫 hold in and keep warm
艹 grass/plant
mare's tail (an aquatic plant)
tangled pile of hay (for retaining heat; compare 蘊)

蘊
縕 tangled hemp
艹 grass/plant
store (up); collect; gather; profundity
tangled pile of harvested vegetation; compare 薀. "Profundity" is a figurative associated meaning.

歹
variant form of 冎 bone
remnant element = a line indicating severance
(severed) bone; death; bad; wicked
bad and wicked are associated meanings (wicked deed associated with severance of bones)

列
歹 severed bone
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
arrange; line up; row
sever bones and arrange them in a row

例
列 row
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
example; usual; (the one[s]) in question; compare
line up objects of the same kind; present-day meanings are by association and extension

冽
列 painful stimulus
冫/氷 ice
stinging cold
raw/stinging cold; compare 凓

洌
列 painful stimulus
氵/水 water
clear; pure
(painfully cold), clear/pure water

茢
列 row
艹 grass/plant
rushes
row of rushes

烈
列 row
火/灬 fire
intensity; violence; bravery
rows of intense flames. "Bravery" is an associated meaning.

裂
列 sever
衣 clothing

rip; tear; split; rend; break apart
cut/rip material

别
另 here a variant form of 歹 severed bone
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
separate; other; divide; distinguish; different; part/leave; do not
separate flesh from bone by cutting

捌
别 separate; divide
扌/手 hand/action indicator
divide; split; eight

罰
variant form of 别 separate flesh from bone in punishment by cutting
罒 net
punishment; penalty
punishment, originally in a form specifically involving separation by severing of body parts and/or imprisonment

戉
battle-ax; halberd
variant form of 戈 spear/halberd, suggesting the idea of cutting down an enemy with a weapon such as a battle-ax

鉞
戉 battle-ax
金 metal
battle-ax
metallic battle-ax

伐
variant form of 戉 cut down
亻/人 person (→ human agency)

cut down; defeat; boast
cut down an enemy. "Boast" is an associated meaning, in the sense of boasting of exploits.

筏
戉 cut down
竹 bamboo
raft
cut down bamboo and fashion it into a raft

閥
戉 cut down
門 gate
clan; (powerful) faction; clique
restrict (= cut down on) entry to a gated structure

折
transformed element = tree cut in two (originally not 扌 hand)
斤 ax
break; snap; bend; turn
chop/cut lumber

哲
折 cut
口 mouth
wisdom
wise/cutting words

逝
折 cut
辵 movement
take one's leave; pass away; die
take one's leave in a cutting/decisive manner

晢

折 cut
日 sun/day
bright; clear
cuttingly bright, clear light

誓
折 cut
言 words
swear; pledge; vow; oath
words of a cutting/decisive nature

必
remnant element = split object
弋 stake (or obsolete element of similar signification)
sure; certain; by all means
split an object with a stake-like tool

泌
必 split
氵/水 water
flow; secretion
liquid that splits in flowing in separate streams

苾
必 split
艹 grass/plant
fragrance; aroma; fragrant
fragrance/aroma splitting away in being released by a plant

飶
必 here an abbreviated form of 苾 aroma
食 food/eating
aroma (of food)

祕

必 split
示 altar/the supernatural
mysterious; secret
mysterious/secret ritual involving actual/figurative and permanent splitting

秘
必 split
禾 grain/rice
mysterious; secret
mysterious/secret ritual involving actual/figurative and permanent splitting. 秘 is a variant form of 祕.

閟
必 split
門 gate
shut; end; keep hidden
split piece(s) of lumber barring a gate

宓
abbreviated form of 閟 shut tight
宀 roof/building
silence; quiet; hidden; secret
silence/quiet pervading a tightly shut building. "Hidden" and "secret" are associated meanings.

密
宓 shut tight
山 mountain
dense; thick; hidden; secret; close; intimate; confidential
mountain with dense vegetation, and tightly shut off from human access. "Close," "intimate" and "confidential" are figurative associated meanings.

蜜
宓 shut tight
虫 insect/creature

honey; nectar; sweet
sealed honeycomb containing honey. "Nectar" and "sweet" are associated meanings.

閉
shut; block up; stop up; obstruct; close; conclude
variant form of 閟 shut. "Conclude" is a figurative associated meaning.

犮
丿 split
犬 dog/beast
leap; open up/out
dog splitting away from the earth in leaping

拔
犮 split away
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pluck/pull out; pick out; select; surpass
split an object in plucking/pulling it upward

茇
犮 split away
艹 grass/plant
split grass off to both sides; grass root(s)
split grass or vegetation off to both sides

祓
犮 split away
示 altar/the supernatural
exorcise; purify
exorcise evil spirits, causing them to split away

紱
犮 split away
糸 thread

ornamented cord; ribbon
braided, ornamented cord hanging separate from one's clothing (to identify one's rank)

跋
犮 split away
足 leg/foot
tread
leg splitting away from the earth in climbing. "Tread" is an associated meaning.

髮
犮 split away
髟 hair
hair; hairstyle
split one's hair to both sides in parting it

韍
犮 split away
韋 leather
leather kneepad
leather kneepad separate (= split away) from one's outfit; compare 韠

魃
犮 split away
鬼 ghost; demon
(demon of) drought
demon of drought, the idea being that of water kept separate from the earth

黻
犮 split away
黹 needlework/embroidery
embroidery; embroidered ceremonial robe
embroidery with a pattern in which the design elements were back-to-back

畢

end; finish; complete
depiction of a net spread over prey attempting to split away in escape. Present-day meanings are by association with the end of a chase.

華
畢 split away
艹 grass/plant
wicker fence
split vegetation and create wicker; compare 篳

篳
畢 split away
竹 bamboo
wicker
split bamboo and create wicker; compare 華

蹕
畢 split away
足 leg/foot (→ action indicator)
clear the way for an imperial (or noble) procession
clear the way (= split a path)

韠
畢 split away
韋 leather
kneepad
(leather) kneepad split/separate from one's outfit; compare 韍

癶
split; spread
depiction of human feet split to right and left

發
obsolete character = split away
弓 bow

release; issue; send; start
arrow splitting away from a bow in being launched. The obsolete character combines 癶 split away in being released + 殳 action indicator.

廢
發 split away in being released
广 building
abandon; abolish; terminate; die out
building materials released as a structure splits apart; present-day meanings are by association

癈
abbreviated form of 廢 die out
疒 illness
(used as a variant form of 廢: abandon; abolish; terminate; die out)
illness leading to death

撥
發 split away in being released
扌/手 hand/action indicator
push/set aside; release; allocate; plectrum
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification of the act of pushing/setting aside

潑
發 split away in being released
氵/水 water
sprinkle; splash; pour
release water in sprinkling/pouring etc.

醱
發 split away in being released
酉 alcohol
fermentation; brewing
release alcohol for a second fermentation or brewing

貝
shellfish; (sea) shell; currency
depiction of a bivalve, one split open to reveal its contents. "Currency" is via the use of shells as such in ancient China. In compound characters, 貝 most often indicates "commodities," things purchased via currency.

貴
貝 commodities
remnant element = hands compressing a bundle
valuable; precious; respect; honor
compress valuable goods in a bundle

憒
貴 compress
忄/心 heart/emotions
confused
heart in a reduced state, associated with confusion

潰
貴 compress
氵/水 water
collapse; rout/be routed; crush
structure compressed in collapsing due to overflowing water

簣
貴 compress
竹 bamboo
bamboo basket
round, bamboo basket for carrying compacted soil

繢
貴 compress
糸 thread
draw; sketch
colorful threads compressed in a piece of embroidery

聵
貴 compress
耳 ear
deaf
deafness in the sense of aural capacity compressed/reduced to nothing

遺
貴 valuable goods
辵 movement
bequeath; leave behind; lose; lost item(s); omit
movement of valuable goods in being bequeathed. "Lose," "lost item(s)" and "omit" are extended meanings in the sense of things figuratively or actually left behind.

饋
貴 valuable goods
食 food/eating
send a present; food/meal
send a present (originally, of food; later, with more general applications).
"Food/meal" is an associated meaning.

匱
貴 valuable goods
匚 enclosure
lacking; empty; (empty) container
empty a container of its valuables

櫃
匱 (empty) container
木 tree/wood
cabinet; chest; wardrobe; cupboard
wooden container

贄
貝 commodities

敖 ramble; play around
superfluous; redundant; unnecessary
possess commodities sufficient for rambling or playing around. "Superfluous," "redundant" and "unnecessary" are associated meanings.

負
貝 commodities
remnant element = crouching figure
carry; bear; burden; load; be burdened/shouldered with; turn one's back on; be defeated; (mathematics) negative
stoop to carry goods on one's back. "Be defeated" and "negative" are extended meanings via "turn one's back on."

敗
貝 split open
攵 strike
defeat/be defeated; lose; fail; wither; decay; damage; spoil
break objects (such as shells) in two. "Wither," "decay," "damage" and "spoil" are figurative associated meanings.

朮
remnant element = (pass through) a sieve
remnant element = millet
millet; (particular type of) herb
millet plant stripped of its grain right and left in passing through a sieve

怵
朮 pass through
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; apprehension
wave of fear/apprehension passing through the heart

述
朮 pass through
辶 movement

explain; state; express; mention
explain/state etc. in a straightforward manner

術
朮 pass through
行 straight, crossing roads
path; rule; art; method
path through which one passes. "Rule," "art" and "method" are figurative paths.

秫
朮 foxtail millet
禾 grain/rice
glutinous millet
禾 appended for emphasis/clarification

率
remnant element = slender thread plus protruding objects
十 gather
proportion; ratio; command; lead
curved threads brought into alignment, creating a compact unit. "Proportion" and "ratio" are via association with an orderly unit. "Command" and "lead" are via the idea of tightening into an orderly unit.

摔
率 compact
扌/手 hand/action indicator
throw/fling (downward); fall; trip; break
compact an object by throwing it (or letting it fall) to the ground; compare and contrast 捽. "Trip" is via association with "fall," with "break" by extension (fall/trip and break).

卒
abbreviated form of 率 compact into an orderly unit
衣 clothing
(common) soldier; servant; finally; die

uniform worn by (common) soldiers

崒
卒 compact
山 mountain
peak; high
mountain peak towering over a collection of lesser peaks

悴
卒 compact
忄/心 heart/emotions
emaciation
physical and emotional paucity; compare 瘁 and 顇

捽
卒 compact
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; clutch; pull up
grasp/clutch, compacting an object

淬
卒 compact
氵/水 water
temper; anneal; soak
temper molten metal (compare 焠) and fashion it into a sword by plunging the metal into water

猝
卒 compact
犭/犬 dog/beast
sudden; abrupt
sudden attack made by wild animals closing in on prey

萃
卒 compact

艹 grass/plant
collect; gather; assemble
orderly collection of compact/slender grasses or plants

焠
卒 compact
火 fire
temper; anneal
temper/anneal pieces of metal in a fire, creating a single unit; compare 淬

瘁
卒 compact
疒 illness
grow thin/lean (on account of illness); be worn out
emaciating illness; compare 悴 and 顇

睟
卒 compact
目 eye
clear-eyed
focus the eyes on a single object, compacting one's vision

碎
卒 compact
石 stone
break (down); crush; pulverize; smash
break down/crush/pulverize stones

粹
卒 compact
米 rice
pure; refined; elegant; style
compact rice in polishing/refining it

翠

卒 compact
羽 feather/wing
(female) kingfisher; green
compact bird of green color

誶
卒 compact
言 words
interrogate; berate; attack
interrogate or berate with crushing pressure

醉
卒 compact
酉 alcohol
drunk; intoxicated; become sick
break down (become figuratively compacted) in drunkenness

顇
卒 compact
頁 head
haggard
drawn visage; compare 悴 and 瘁

叕
connect
depiction of pieces of material that are connected and thereby reduced in size

啜
叕 connect
口 mouth
slurp; sip; sob
slurp/sip continuously. "Sob" is via similarity of sound.

惙
叕 connect

忄/心 heart/emotions
anxious; worried
be distressed over one thing after another

掇
叕 connect
扌/手 hand/action indicator
gather; pick up
gather/pick up objects and connect them

畷
叕 connect
田 field
ridge path
connecting ridge path

綴
叕 connect
糸 thread
stitch; patch; link; bind; compose; write; spell
connect/link multiple objects with thread. "Compose," "write" and "spell" are via the idea of connecting/linking words.

輟
叕 connect
車 vehicle
stop; halt
stop/halt the march of military vehicles and connect them in a circle to form an encampment; compare 軍

醊
叕 connect
酉 alcohol
pour alcohol
pour alcohol in a long stream

鍛
叚 connect
金 metal
armor neckplates
armor neckplates connected and wrapped about the neck

蔑
remnant element = obscured vision
亻/人 person
scorn; disdain; contempt
inability to see likened to refusal to recognize. The remnant element combined 戊 (cover) and an eye afflicted with inward-growing eyelashes (trichiases).

衊
蔑 obscure
血 blood
smear/defile (with blood); put to shame
smear in blood and thus obscure from sight

襪
蔑 obscure
衤/衣 clothing
socks
socks, obscure on account of being hidden in shoes; compare 韈

韈
蔑 obscure
革 leather
leather undergarment; socks (← 襪)
leather undergarment obscure on account of being hidden by clothes

夢
abbreviated form of 蔑 obscured vision
夕 evening

dark; dream
darkness where vision is impaired. "Dream" is in the sense of an obscure state of being.

儚
夢 obscure
亻/人 person
evanescent, fleeting; ephemeral; empty; vain
here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one

懞
夢 obscure
忄/心 heart/emotions
absentminded; vacant; be at a loss
obscure emotional states

甍
abbreviated form of 夢 obscure
瓦 tile/earthenware
rafters; roofing tile; tiled roof
rafters obscured in supporting roofing tiles

薨
abbreviated form of 夢 obscure
死 death
die; pass away
obscure/invisible state; compare 亡

瞢
abbreviated form of 蔑 obscured vision
目 eye
cloudy vision; dim-sighted
目 appended for emphasis/clarification

勿
negation; prohibition
depiction of pieces of cloth dimly visible in the liquid in which they are being soaked. "Negation" is an associated meaning (likened to dimness), with "prohibition" by extension from negation.

刎
勿 obscure
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
die by the sword; die (by having one's jugular cut); behead
various ways of becoming obscure in death

吻
勿 obscure
口 mouth
lips; kiss
lips that obscure the inside of the mouth. "Kiss" is an associated meaning.

忽
勿 obscure
心 heart/emotions
neglect; disregard; suddenly
obscure consciousness. "Suddenly" is connected with obscurity of consciousness in the sense of something happening before one is cognizant of the fact.

惚
忽 absent-minded
忄/心 heart/emotions
absent-minded; vague; be/become enraptured
惚 was devised to convey the sense of "absent-minded" after 忽 underwent its transformation of meanings.

物
勿 obscure
牛 cow

thing(s); object
obscure (= unremarkable) cow. "Thing(s)" and "object" are associated meanings, in the sense of things/objects of unremarkable characteristics.

笏
勿 obscure
竹 bamboo
tablet
tablet obscure on account of its thinness

未
not yet; not be; sheep (as the eighth sign of the Chinese zodiac); 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.
depiction of a tree with a diminutive, minutely visible branch obscured on top. "Not yet" is an associated meaning in the sense of being not yet fully visible.

味
未 minute
口 mouth
taste; flavor; zest
minutely scrutinize the taste/flavor of food

妹
未 minute
女 woman
younger sister
female family member who is comparatively smaller

昧
未 obscure
日 sun/day
dark; ignorant
things obscure in poor sunlight

寐

未 obscure
obsolete element = 宀 roof/building + 爿 sleeping pallet
sleep
one type of obscure state of consciousness

昧
未 obscure
目 eye
dark; obscure; blind
obscure and barely/not at all visible

魅
未 obscure
鬼 large, lumpy being
enchantment; fascination; charm
be enchanted by an obscure entity

末
treetop; small; trifling; end; youngest child
depiction of a tree with a diminutive, minutely visible branch obscured on top (variant form of 未). "End" and "youngest child" are by association with the extremity of a tree.

抹
末 minute
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grind; rub; wipe; erase
grind an object to the point that it becomes minute

沫
末 minute
氵/水 water
foam; froth; suds
minute foam, froth or suds

茉
末 minute
艹 grass/plant
(jasmine)
plant with numerous, minute flowers. "Jasmine" is formally expressed by the compound 茉莉花.

秣
末 minute
禾 grain/rice
feed/fodder
minute pieces of feed/fodder

韎
末 minute
韋 leather
red
small piece of tanned leather dyed red with dye from the madder plant

失
remnant element = downward slanting line
手 hand/action indicator
slip; lose; miss (an opportunity); mistake
cause a person to slip/lose his footing (by means of beating/flogging etc.; compare 跌)

帙
失 slip
巾 cloth
book cover; book
cloth book cover slipped over a book; compare 袟

袟
失 slip
衤/衣 clothing

book cover
cloth book cover slipped over a book; compare 帙

跌
失 slip
足 leg/foot
lose one's footing; stumble; fall
slip and lose one's footing; compare 躓. 跌 was devised to replace 失 after 失 came to indicate "slip" and "lose" in broader senses.

佚
失 lose
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
lose; hide; disappear; relaxed
cause to lose sight of. "Relaxed" is by extension from "disappear," in the sense of acting as though customary inhibitions have disappeared.

泆
失 lose
氵/水 water
overflow; dissipated; licentious
container that loses its liquid contents. "Dissipated" and "licentious" are by figurative association with the idea of overflowing.

迭
失 lose
辵 movement
alternation; rotation
rotate in a new item to alternate for a lost one

秩
abbreviated form of 迭 rotation
禾 grain/rice
order; decade; salary
rotate crops. "Decade" is by figurative association with rotation.

軼
失 lose
車 vehicle
surpass; disappear
rushing vehicle that is quickly lost to sight

嵒
cliff; crag; rock
depiction of large rocks embedded in and protruding from a mountain cliff

癌
嵒 large, embedded rocks
疒 illness
cancer
rock-like, cancerous tumor

嚴
敢 covered
abbreviated and variant form of 嵒 cliff
severe; strict; stern; rigorous
rugged geologic feature such as a cliff covering the side of a hill/mountain. Present-day meanings are via association with "rugged."

巖
嚴 rugged (side of a) mountain
山 mountain
cliff; crag; rock; cave
rugged/rocky cliff. 巖 is a variant form. 巖 was devised to replace 嚴 after 嚴 acquired its associated meanings.

儼
嚴 rugged
亻/人 person
solemn; majestic

figuratively rugged individual

岩
cliff; crag; rock
reduced variant form of 嵒 or 巖. 山 stands in for either the lower portion of 嵒 or the 山 at the top of 巖 (both: cliff; crag; rock), and 石 stone is appended for clarification.

咸
甘 contain
戈 spear/halberd
all (together)
armed soldiers shutting off/containing territory

減
咸 shut
氵/水 water
reduce; decrease; diminish
(partially) shut off the flow of water

感
咸 shut
心 heart/emotions
emotion; feeling
emotion/feeling that shuts off sensation (= moves/affects one to the point of muteness or immobility)

箴
咸 shut
竹 bamboo
needle; admonition; warning
bamboo needle used to shut off open wounds; compare 鍼. "Admonition" and "warning" are associated meanings, in the sense of words that penetrate like a needle to someone's heart.

緘
咸 shut
糸 thread
shut; seal; close
shut and seal with thread

鍼
咸 shut
金 metal
needle; inject; prick; acupuncture
metal needle used to shut off open wounds; compare 箴

鹹
咸 shut
鹵 salt/alkali
salty; briny
salt contained in a shut mouth; compare 鹽

憾
感 shut off sensation
忄/心 heart/emotions
regret; dissatisfaction
heart figuratively shut off/down by regret

撼
感 shut off sensation
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shake; jolt; move
shake a person/creature insensate

轗
感 shut off sensation
車 vehicle
fail (to reach a goal); fall short
vehicle shut off/down (by falling into a hole)

緘
seam
variant form of 緘 shut and seal with thread, replacing 咸 with 或. "Seam" is an associated meaning in the sense of a seal that binds material shut.

鱵
箴 needle
魚 fish
halfbeak
Hemirhamphus sajori, a fish with a needle-like protrusion from the mouth

針
needle; pin; stitch; hand (of a clock); acupuncture
variant form of 鍼

炎
flame
abbreviated form of 焱, 火 fire (tripled), suggesting a consuming blaze that encompasses objects in flames

剡
炎 consume
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
sharpen; sharp; sharp-pointed; shave
temper a blade

啖
炎 consume
口 mouth
eat; bite; chew; entice (with food)
eat ravenously; compare 餤

淡
炎 consume

氵/水 water
slight; faint; light; pale; watered down; diluted
toss water on a consuming blaze, extinguishing it

毯
炎 consume
毛 hair
rug; carpet; blanket
wool rug/carpet (that consumes/fully covers the surface of a floor). "Blanket" is an associated meaning.

琰
炎 consume
王/玉 jewel
brilliant/glittering gem(s); gem; jewel
gems/jewels of blazing brilliance

餤
炎 consume
食 food/eating
eat; proceed; entice; recommend
eat ravenously; compare 啖. "Proceed" is in the associated sense of proceed through a meal. "Entice" is also by association (entice with food; again compare 啖), while "recommend" is by extension from entice.

疢
abbreviated form of 炎 consuming blaze
疒 illness
pain (in the muscles/limbs)
feverish symptoms

痰
疢 fever
火 fire
phlegm; spittle; mucus

phlegm (which in ancient China was associated with heat)

兼
remnant element = two ears of grain
remnant element = a hand
combine; unite; serve/perform concurrently; simultaneous
storehouse encompassing grain that has been gathered then stored/put away

嗛
兼 gather then put/store away
口 mouth
(mouth/cheek) pouch; hold; contain
mouth/cheek pouch (of a monkey or squirrel)

嫌
兼 gather then put/store away → keep concealed
女 woman
disagreeable; hate; dislike; resent
woman kept concealed. Present-day meanings are by association in the sense of a disagreeable situation.

廉
兼 gather then put/store away
广 building
honest; pure; cheap/inexpensive
gather a series of objects and store them away indoors

慊
兼 gather then put/store away
忄/心 heart/emotions
dissatisfied; unsatisfactory; satisfied; satisfactory
be discontent with the quantity and/or quality of that which one has stored away or, on the contrary, be content with the situation

兼

兼 gather then put/store away
艹 grass/plant
reed
plant gathered then set aside for use in thatching

簾
兼 gather then put/store away
竹 bamboo
blind; screen; rattan blind
bamboo or rattan blind/screen rolled up then stored away

謙
兼 gather then put/store away → keep concealed
言 words
modesty; humility
conceal how one actually evaluates one's own abilities

賺
兼 gather then put/store away
貝 commodities
make/earn money; swindle
make money (by straightforward or deceptive means) then store it away

鎌
兼 gather then put/store away
金 metal
sickle; scythe
implement stored away after gathering the harvest

林
forest; woods
depiction of trees growing alongside each other and encompassing villages, sacred ground and other spaces

婪

林 encompass
女 woman
covetous; ravenous
be encompassed with craving for a woman

惏
林 encompass
忄/心 heart/emotions
(insatiable) greed; cold-hearted
heart encompassed with insatiable greed. "Cold-hearted" is by extension from greed, in the sense of being greedy and indifferent to others.

淋
林 forest
氵/水 water
drip; soak; filter; strain; desolate; lonely; gonorrhea (← 痲)
rain dripping in a forest; compare 漓. "Desolate" and "lonely" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of a desolate feeling created by the sound of dripping water.

楙
林 encompass
爻 crossed objects
pen; fence; enclosure
twist vegetation in creating an encompassing pen, fence or enclosure

樊
楙 pen; fence; enclosure
大 great
pen; fence; enclosure; (bird)cage
large and rough-woven pen/fence

攀
樊 fence
扌/手 hand/action indicator

climb; clamber up; hang on to; implicate/involve
climb/clamber up a fence. "Implicate/involve" is a figurative associated meaning via "hang on to."

礬
樊 rough-hewn
石 stone
(sulfur crystal of irregular shape)
明礬 = alum

琳
林 encompass
王/玉 jewel
jewel; tinkling of a string of jewels
jeweled necklace strung about and encompassing the neck

酬
林 encompass
酉 alcohol
bleach
object soaked/encompassed in alcohol. "Bleach" is an associated meaning, in the sense "bleach by soaking."

霖
林 forest
雨 rain/natural phenomena
long spell of rain
long spell of rain in a forest

焚
林 forest
火 fire
burn
forest fire

壬
ninth in a series; ninth calendar sign
depiction of a spool encompassed by soft, thick threads

任
壬 encompass
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
responsibility; duty; undertake; entrust; endure
encompass/bear responsibility. "Entrust" is an associated meaning (entrust responsibility) as is "endure" (via "duty").

妊
壬 encompass
女 woman
conception; pregnancy
woman encompassing a fetus

衽
壬 encompass
衤/衣 clothing
hidden lapel; lapel; collar
encompassing portion of a garment

紝
壬 spool of thread
糸 thread
weave; lay warp threads for weaving
spool of thread inserted in the shuttle of a loom. 紝 was devised to replace 壬.

飪
壬 encompass
食 food/eating
boiled/cooked food; boil/cook (for a long time, or until ready)
filling encompassed by a lump of boiled food

荏
任 encompass
艹 grass/plant
beans; soft; weak; perilla
beans encompassed in a pod. "Soft" is an associated meaning via a soft(ened) pod, with "weak" by extension from "soft."

恁
任 encompass
心 heart/emotions
this; this kind of; thus
encompass in the heart in considering; compare 念

賃
任 encompass responsibility
貝 commodities
employ; hire; rent (to/from); hired person
goods/money paid to someone employed, who bears responsibility. "Rent" (to/from) is an associated meaning.

心
heart; mind; core; emotion; feelings
depiction of a slender object encompassed in the heart of another object

沁
心 heart of an object
氵/水 water
penetrate; seep/soak into
liquid that penetrates or seeps/soaks into the heart of an object

芯
心 heart of an object
艹 grass/plant
pith; center
pith (center) of a soft rush plant

悉
心 heart of an object
釆 scattered seeds (→ small bits → details)
know; all; altogether; completely; entirely
know something completely (figuratively, to its deepest heart)

奚
abbreviated form of the right-hand element of 繼 (link)
大 stand outstretched
servant; what; why; how
row of aligned slaves; compare 虜 and 婁

徯
奚 aligned
彳 movement
path; lane; wait expectantly
aligned paths/lanes; compare 蹊

溪
奚 aligned
氵/水 water
valley; stream
stream/river aligned to the contours of a valley; compare 谿

谿
奚 aligned
谷 valley
valley; river
valley stream/river aligned to the contours of its valley; compare 溪

蹊
奚 aligned
足 leg/foot
path; lane

aligned (foot)paths/lanes; compare 徯

雞
奚 aligned
隹 short, squat bird
chicken; hen; rooster; fowl
domesticated birds in alignment; compare 鷄

鷄
奚 aligned
鳥 bird
chicken; hen; rooster; fowl
domesticated birds in alignment. 鷄 is a variant form of 雞.

鼷
奚 aligned
鼠 rat/mouse
mouse
profusion of mice in alignment

系
connect; link; lineage; relation; system; tie/bind
variant form of 奚. Present-day meanings are via association with the original sense of 奚 (row of aligned slaves).

係
系 connection
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
connect; link; lineage; relation

我
self; I/me/my
variant form of 戈 spear/halberd indicating a weapon/knife with a serrated blade

俄

我 bladed weapon
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
sudden; soon
person striking suddenly with a bladed weapon or implement

娥
我 blade-like
女 woman
beautiful visage; beautiful; good
a woman's beautifully chiseled features

峨
我 blade-like
山 mountain
high mountain; lofty
high mountain with blade-like crags

莪
我 blade-like
艹 grass/plant
mugwort
variety of mugwort with serrated leaves

蛾
我 blade-like
虫 insect/creature
moth
blade-thin creature

餓
我 blade-like
食 food/eating
hunger; starvation
lean, blade-like appearance of a starving person; compare 飢

豈
covet (← 覬); **how**
depiction of a stand bearing a pile of food in neat alignment

凱
豈 pile of food (on a stand)
几 desk/table
(shouts/songs of) triumph
food piled for a feast. 凱 was devised to express the original sense of 豈 after 豈 underwent its transformation of meanings, but itself acquired other meanings.

剴
豈 pile
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
sharpen; apply to; carefulness
create a pile of shavings in carefully sharpening a blade

塏
豈 pile
土 earth
highland
highland, particularly in the sense of a dry place; compare 皜

愷
豈 pile of food (on a stand)
忄/心 heart/emotions
enjoy oneself; joyful; contentment
enjoy a feast; compare 凱

磑
豈 pile
石 stone
mortar; grind; pile high
pile grain in grinding in a mill or mortar

覬
豈 pile of food (on a stand)
見 fix sight on
covet
covet food

鎧
豈 pile
金 metal
armor
armor consisting of piled layers of metal

皚
abbreviated form of 塏 highland
白 white
(pure/bleached) white
the bleached, white landscape of dry highlands; compare 皜

多
much; many
depiction of much meat aligned in a tall, neat pile

侈
多 much/many
亻/人 person
extravagant; luxury
person of many possessions, to the point of extravagance; compare 奢

奢
多 much/many
大 great
extravagance
many possessions, to the point of extravagance; compare 侈

移

多 much/many
禾 grain/rice
move; transfer; change
move/transfer (many) grain plants. "Change" is in the sense of "change positions."

黟
多 much/many
黑 black
black; ebony
highly lustrous black color

宜
transformed element (originally 多 piled meat)
宀 roof/building
good; right; proper
tall, neat pile of meat in a room. Present-day meanings are via association with "neat."

誼
宜 good/proper
言 words
good; proper; suitable; friendship
good/proper, suitable words. "Friendship" is an associated meaning.

恢
transformed element (originally, an abbreviated form of 宜 pile)
灰 ash
great; vast; recover; restore
great pile of ash. "Vast" is an associated meaning. The present form substitutes 忄/心 heart/emotions for the abbreviated form of 宜.

詼
abbreviated form of 恢 vast
言 words
tease; jest; ridicule; humorous

(vastly) exaggerated words

隋
remnant element = originally 左 (aligned at an angle) doubled
阜/阝 piled earth
Sui Dynasty
pile of earth collapsing in alignment on two sides

墮
隋 collapsing pile
土 earth
fall; drop
土 appended for emphasis/clarification

隨
隋 collapsing pile
辶 movement
follow
follow like a trail of falling dirt in a collapsing earthen wall

橢
隋 collapsing pile
木 tree/wood
elliptical; oval
warped, elliptical wooden frame

惰
abbreviated form of 隋 collapsing pile
忄/心 heart/emotions
lazy
laziness likened to partial emotional collapse

髓
abbreviated form of 隨 follow
骨 bone

marrow; essence; pith; point of a matter
marrow, an element that follows the contours of bones. "Essence" is an associated meaning (essential element), with "pith" and "point of a matter" by extension.

垂
remnant element = hang
土 earth
hang; suspend
marker hung in alignment with a pile of earth, the two functioning as a boundary marker. The remnant element was a pendent ear of grain, suggesting "pendent."

唾
垂 hang
口 mouth
drool; spittle; saliva; spit
trail of drool/spittle hanging from the lower lip

埀
垂 boundary marker
土 earth
pile of earth
pile of earth serving as a boundary marker; compare 陲

捶
垂 hang
扌/手 hand/action indicator
strike; beat; whip
strike/beat with a whip (that hangs after striking)

郵
垂 boundary marker
邑/阝 village/settlement
mail
distant, frontier settlement. "Mail" is an extended meaning, in the sense of distant relay points for postal service.

陲
垂 boundary marker
阜/阝 piled earth
boundary; frontier
compare 埀

睡
垂 hang
目 eye
sleep
eyelids hung in sleep

錘
垂 hang
金 metal
weight; hammer
metal object set to hang, or used to strike down upon another object

箠
abbreviated form of 捶 whip
竹 bamboo
horse whip; whip; whip/flog
bamboo horse whip; compare 笞 and 策

朶
earlobe (← the 乃 element); **flower** (← pendent object)
variant form of 垂 hang

妥
appropriate; settled; made ready; satisfactory
variant form of 垂 hang, originally with the specific nuance "hang in the appropriate way/place." For another variant form of 垂 composed of etymologically unrelated elements, compare 朶.

綏
妥 hang
糸 thread
rope; strap; harness; pacify; appease
pendent rope/strap enabling passengers to climb into a vehicle. "Pacify" and "appease" are figurative extended meanings.

餒
妥 hang
食 food/eating
be hungry; starve
wilted foodstuffs. "Be hungry" and "starve" are associated meanings in the sense "lack edible food."

化
transformed element = person of transformed appearance
亻/人 person
transformation; change; assume a disguise; deceive
person who has undergone a transformation in posture or appearance

囮
化 deceive
囗 circular enclosure
decoy; lure
caged decoy

花
化 transformation
艹 grass/plant
flower; blossom
part of a plant that undergoes a slow transformation

訛
化 deceive
言 words

verbal deception

貨
化 transformation
貝 commodities
commodities; money; goods
money transformed into goods and vice-versa

頃
abbreviated form# of 化 transformation
頁 head
incline; lean; (for a) moment/short time; just now; lately/recently
incline one's head, transforming one's posture. "(For a) moment/short time" is an associated meaning in the sense of inclining the head briefly, with "just now" and "lately/recently" by extension (a short time ago).

傾
頃 incline one's head
亻/人 person
incline; lean; bend; overturn/upset; collapse; pour out
here, 亻/人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

穎
頃 incline
禾 grain/rice
head/ear(s) of grain; (grain) tassel; husk; (sharp) tip/point; outstanding; clever
sharp ears/spikes of a grain plant, inclining on account of their weight. "Clever" is a figurative associated meaning, likened to intellectual sharpness.

皮
remnant element = drooping pelt (with head still attached)
又 hand/action indicator
skin; hide; leather; (tree) bark; rind
spread open (open up) a pelt, then align it over one's body; compare 求 and 表

坡
皮 align
土 earth
hillside; slope; embankment
aligned hillsides, slopes or embankments; compare 陂

彼
皮 align
彳 movement
(over) there; that; that person
figuratively align others at a distance from oneself

披
皮 open up
扌/手 hand/action indicator
open up; drape over the shoulders
open up a pelt in aligning it over one's body

波
皮 align
氵/水 water
wave
waves breaking in alignment

婆
波 breaking waves
女 woman
elderly woman
elderly woman, likened to a wave that has already crested and broken

碆
arrowhead
variant form of 破 break then align pieces of stone, suggesting such a piece of stone used as an arrowhead

陂
皮 align
阜/阝 piled earth
slope; embankment; levee; reservoir

疲
皮 align
疒 illness
fatigue; get tired
align the legs and bend over on account of fatigue; compare 留

破
皮 align
石 stone
break; tear; rip; destroy
break then align pieces of stone

被
皮 align
衤/衣 clothing
bedding; quilt; cover; (passive auxiliary verb)
align clothing (or bedclothes/bedding) over the body; compare the original sense of 皮. "Passive auxiliary verb" is via extension from "cover," in the sense of being figuratively covered in being acted upon.

詖
皮 align
言 words
biased
argue by aligning inaccurate words

鞁
皮 align
革 leather

equestrian harness; reins
leather equestrian harness with aligned reins

頗
皮 align
頁 head
lean; bias; to a great degree
align one's head with one shoulder

跛
abbreviated form of 頗 lean
足 leg/foot
lameness
leg/foot that splays off at an angle

簸
皮 align
箕 winnow
winnow; fan (v.)
align grain for sifting in a winnow

非
not; non-; in-; un-
depiction of curved wings that spread in alignment to right and left. Present-day meanings are via the idea of brushing off a request in objecting/refusing; compare 拂.

俳
非 spread in alignment to right and left
亻/人 person
actor; performer
two persons performing, one on the right and the other on the left

匪
非 spread in alignment to right and left

匚 enclosure
bandit; evildoer; not
basket with lids/doors that open in alignment to both sides

榧
匪 basket
木 tree/wood
torreya
yew-family tree, used to make baskets

篚
匪 basket
竹 bamboo
bamboo basket
bamboo basket with a lid opening to both sides. 篚 was devised to replace 匪 after 匪 underwent its transformation of meanings.

徘
非 spread in alignment to right and left
彳 movement
wander; irresolute
wander off/about. For "irresolute," compare 徨.

悱
非 spread in alignment to right and left
忄/心 heart/emotions
irritation
heart that loses its harmony by being divided. "Irritation" is particularly with specific reference to inability to speak/express oneself. Compare and contrast 悲.

排
非 spread in alignment to right and left
扌/手 hand/action indicator
line up; arrange; row; rank; line; reject; exclude; eject
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification of the notion "spread in alignment to

right and left." "Reject," "exclude" and "eject" are associated meanings, in the sense of pushing off to both sides in rejection.

菲
非 spread in alignment to right and left
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant vegetation; economize
reddish turnip-like vegetable with roots spreading from right to left. "Economize" is an extended meaning, in the sense of making do with poor stuff such as turnip-like vegetables.

悲
非 spread in alignment to right and left
心 heart/emotions
sadness; lament; grieve
heart split by sadness; compare and contrast 悱

扉
非 spread in alignment to right and left
戸 door
door (panel)
doors swinging open in alignment

斐
非 spread in alignment to right and left
文 fine pattern
elegant; beautiful
elegant, symmetrical pattern

棐
非 spread in alignment to right and left
木 tree/wood
tool; assist; torreya (yew-family tree) (← 榧)
wooden tool placed on both sides of a bow to straighten it. "Assist" is an associated meaning, in the sense of assisting in straightening/correcting.

琲
非 spread in alignment to right and left
王/玉 jewel
string of pierced pearls/precious stones
珈琲 = coffee

腓
非 spread in alignment to right and left
月/肉 flesh
calf (of the leg)
the calf, composed of a pair of muscles

蜚
非 spread in alignment to right and left
虫 insect/creature
cockroach
(flying) cockroach with wings spread

誹
非 spread in alignment to right and left
言 words
slander; censure; disparage
use divisive words

輩
非 spread in alignment to right and left
車 vehicle
group of (associated) people; generation; lifetime; class
vehicles lined up on right and left. "Group of (associated) people" is by figurative association, in the sense of a line of similar individuals. "Generation," "lifetime" and "class" are figurative associated meanings via "groups of people."

霏
非 spread in alignment to right and left

雨 rain/natural phenomena
(driving) rain/snow
natural elements spreading in alignment to right and left

騑
非 spread in alignment to right and left
馬 horse
the two horses on the outside of a team
normally as the compound 騑馬. The two horses on the inside are 服馬.

鯡
非 spread in alignment to right and left
魚 fish
herring; fish eggs
herring, the abundant roe of which spills to right and left when the fish is split open

緋
abbreviated form of 菲 reddish
糸 thread
scarlet; purple
fabric dyed scarlet. "Purple" is an associated meaning (another deep color).

翡
abbreviated form of 緋 vivid color
羽 feather/wing
kingfisher; emerald
(male) common Indian kingfisher, a bird with vividly colored feathers. "Emerald" is an associated meaning, being one of the common colors of kingfishers.

西
west
depiction of a nest (compare 栖) in which chicks are neatly aligned. "West" is either a borrowed or an extended meaning; in the latter case the idea might be that of the reddish sun aligned with the horizon at sunset.

洒
西 align
氵/水 water
sprinkle; pour
water pouring in aligned trickles

晒
西 align
日 sun/day
dry in the sun; expose
objects aligned and exposed to dry in the sun

栖
西 nest
木 tree/wood
nest; roost; perch
nest in a tree. 栖 was devised to replace 西 after 西 acquired the meaning "west."

茜
西 reddish color of the setting sun
艹 grass/plant
madder
madder plant, the roots of which produce red dye; compare 蒐

厶
possession; oneself
depiction of a plow with neatly aligned prongs

私
厶 possession
禾 grain/rice
self; private; secret
divide harvested crops and take possession of one's own share

台

厶 plow
囗 circular enclosure
platform; pedestal (← 臺); **counter for machines/cars**
exert heavy downward pressure in plowing furrows into an enclosed field

冶
台 heavy downward pressure
氵/氷 ice
melt; smelt; knead into shape
heavy, melting block of ice. "Smelting" is via association with melting. For another character meaning both "melt" and "smelt," compare 鎔. "Knead into shape" is possibly via 飴.

始
台 heavy downward pressure
女 woman
begin; start
fetus hanging heavily in the womb. Present-day meanings are by association, with pregnancy regarded as the origin of life.

怡
台 heavy downward pressure
忄/心 heart/emotions
rejoice
profound pressure reconceived of as profound joy

治
台 heavy downward pressure
氵/水 water
control; calm/settle down; govern
work to control the heavy pressure exerted by a powerful river

苔
台 heavy downward pressure
艹 grass/plant

moss; lichen
pressure exerted by heavy rocks carpeted with moss or lichen

迨
台 heavy downward pressure
辵 movement (→ action indicator)
seize; until; while
seize a person by the shoulders, exerting downward pressure in the process

怠
台 heavy downward pressure
心 heart/emotions
lazy; idle; negligent; inattentive
respond to pressure by becoming lazy/idle etc.

殆
台 heavy downward pressure
歹 severed bone/death
endangered; almost
be in danger of being crushed. "Almost" is an extended meaning, "be in danger of" understood as a "high degree of likelihood."

胎
台 heavy downward pressure
月/肉 flesh
fetus; embryo; womb
fetus hanging heavily in the womb

笞
台 heavy downward pressure
竹 bamboo
rod; whip
(bamboo) rod or whip, brought down with great force; compare 箠 and 策

紿

台 heavy downward pressure
糸 thread
weakened, loose threads; deceive; cheat (← 詒)
fabric weakened by stretching or other pressure

詒
台 heavy downward pressure
言 words
bequeath; present (← 貽)
pressure and deceive with words

貽
台 heavy downward pressure
貝 commodities
bequeath; give; present
bestow a heavy pile of assets

跆
台 heavy downward pressure
足 leg/foot
trample
heavy downward pressure exerted by the legs/feet

颱
台 heavy downward pressure
風 wind
typhoon
strong wind (not necessarily identical with the modern meteorologic definition of "typhoon")

飴
台 heavy downward pressure
食 food/eating
candy; sweets
knead foodstuffs in making sweets

駘
台 heavy downward pressure
馬 horse
tired
horse slowed by a heavy load

鮐
台 heavy downward pressure
魚 fish
blowfish
fish with powerful teeth used to crush crustaceans or mollusks

左
remnant element = a hand
工 work
left
the left hand, aligned at an angle with the right hand in assisting a task

佐
左 assist
亻/人 person
assist; second (v.)
assist. "Second" (v.) is via association with "assist." Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

差
左 aligned at an angle
remnant element = rice plant
difference; discrepancy
rice plants in irregular alignment

嵯
差 irregular

山 mountain
rugged; craggy; steep mountain
craggy, irregularly shaped mountain

搓
差 irregular
扌/手 hand/action indicator
roll/rub between the hands
roll/rub an object in smoothing out irregularities

槎
差 irregular
木 tree/wood
raft; cut at an angle; hew
raft created of pieces of irregularly cut lumber

瑳
差 irregular
王/玉 jewel
polish; lustrous
polish a jewel to remove irregularities and render it lustrous; compare 磋

磋
差 irregular
石 stone
polish
polish a precious stone to remove irregularities; compare 瑳

縒
差 irregular
糸 thread
twist
twisted threads of irregular length

蹉

差 irregular
足 leg/foot
stumble; mistake; failure
stumble over irregular ground

瘥
差 difference
疒 illness
illness
specifically, an illness the symptoms of which take a (slight) turn for the better

叉
abbreviated form of 爪 pick/pluck
remnant element = an object
fork; prong; sandwich between
stab at an object with a forked implement to catch or sandwich it

扠
叉 stab
扌/手 hand/action indicator
stab; fork
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

杈
叉 forked
木 tree/wood
fork of a tree; pitchfork; Y-shaped tool/weapon
fork of a tree. Other meanings are by association.

釵
叉 forked
金 metal
hairpin
forked, metallic hairpin

鞍
叉 forked
革 leather
quiver (n.)
leather saddle or quiver that forks in being placed over a horse's back

妻
remnant element = woman wearing a comb-like hairpin with aligned teeth
又 hand/action indicator
wife
person figuratively aligned with her spouse. For the idea of a spousal unit, compare 嫡 and 儷.

凄
cold; dismal; fierce; terrible
variant form of 淒, with 冫/氷 replacing 氵/水

淒
妻 aligned
氵/水 water
cold; dismal; fierce; terrible
aligned torrents/cascades of chilly water

萋
妻 aligned
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant vegetation
luxuriant vegetation of the same height

棲
妻 aligned
木 tree/wood
roost; dwelling; dwell; live (v.)
birds aligned in roosting in a tree; compare 栖

弟
remnant element = cord/vine wrapped about a stake
remnant element = slanting line
younger brother; a junior; disciple
cord or vine aligned with a stake, with the attached crops aligned by size. Present-day meanings are by figurative association in the sense of an occupant of a lower vertical stage in a hierarchy; compare 娣.

剃
弟 vertical alignment
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
shave
shave (up and down)

娣
弟 vertical alignment
女 woman
younger sister; wife of a younger brother
female occupying a lower stage in a hierarchy. Historically applied to younger wives and younger concubines as well.

悌
弟 vertical alignment
忄/心 heart/emotions
defer to/serve one's elders; harmonious fraternal relations
deference shown to elders by those younger

涕
弟 vertical alignment
氵/水 water
tears; nasal mucus
trail of tears and/or nasal mucus

梯
弟 vertical alignment

木 tree/wood
ladder; steps
wooden ladder or steps, permitting one to ascend and descend

睇
弟 vertical alignment
目 eye
look down (at/upon); lower the eyes; steal a glance at
"steal a glance at" is an associated meaning

稊
弟 vertical alignment
禾 grain/rice
Echinochloa crus-galli
a type of wild grass, the spikelets of which hang low

綈
弟 vertical alignment
糸 thread
heavy, low-grade silk
fabric on the bottom stage of the quality scale

鵜
弟 vertical alignment
鳥 bird
pelican
bird that dives for prey

癸
10th calendar sign
depiction of an implement with multiple aligned handles, manipulated by being rotated

揆
癸 rotate

扌/手 hand/action indicator
measure; estimate
rotate a measuring implement. "Estimate" is an associated meaning, in the sense of estimating a measurement.

葵
癸 rotate
艹 grass/plant
sunflower
plant that rotates to face the sun

睽
癸 rotate
目 eye
avert the eyes; separate; stare
rotate the eyes away from a person or object

闋
癸 rotate
門 gate
shut; end
shut a gate by rotating an implement designed for that purpose

夾
obsolete element = two persons
大 person standing outstretched
insert; sandwich (between); wedge
one individual pressed between two others

俠
夾 pressed between
亻/人 person
chivalry; knight-errantry
person of rank, sandwiched by bodyguards

峡
夾 pressed between
山 mountain
ravine; gorge
ravine/gorge pressed between cliffs; compare 陜

挾
夾 pressed between
扌/手 hand/action indicator
clasp under one arm; insert; interpose
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

浹
夾 pressed between
氵/水 water
saturate; drench
liquid pressing fully against the inner sides of a container

狹
夾 pressed between
犭/犬 dog/beast
narrow; narrow-minded
be pressed on by wild animals, and left with narrow margin for escape

莢
夾 pressed between
艹 grass/plant
pod
shell/pod that sandwiches the bean contained inside

陜
夾 pressed between
阜/阝 piled earth
mountain pass; narrow gorge; narrow
compare 峡

筴
夾 pressed between
竹 bamboo
bean plant; divination
variety of bean plant the stalks of which were used in divination

鋏
夾 pressed between
金 metal
pincers; tongs; scissors
metallic implements between which objects are pressed

頰
夾 pressed between
頁 head
cheek(s)
the jaw, conceived of as the part of the head that enables food and other objects to be pressed between the upper and lower rows of teeth. "Cheek(s)" is via a different perspective on sandwiching with regard to the head (i.e., cheeks between which food in the mouth is pressed).

匳
夾 pressed between
匚 enclosure
box; chest; case
contents tightly pressed into a container; compare 匣

愜
匳 contents tightly pressed into a container
忄/心 heart/emotions
satisfied; comfortable
heart filled with contentment/satisfaction

箧

匘 contents tightly pressed into a container
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) box/chest/case
(rectangular, bamboo) box, chest or case; compare 匣

及
remnant element = hand reaching toward someone
person
reach; extend; and
reach/extend and press a hand on the back of a fleeing person. "And" is a figurative application of extension.

吸
及 press on
口 mouth
suck (in); breathe; inhale; absorb
press the lips together in sucking in air

岌
及 press on
山 mountain
high and steep mountain; perilous
(perilously) high and steep mountain, one with large boulders pressing against each other

扱
及 press on
扌/手 hand/action indicator
collect; take in hand; handle (v.)
exert pressure in taking objects in hand

汲
及 press on
氵/水 water
draw water; scoop (up/out); ladle (v.)

draw water by lowering a bucket to the point that it presses down beyond the surface of well water

笈
及 press on
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) container
(bamboo) container for clothes, books and other objects, carried on the back

級
及 press on
糸 thread
rank; class; grade; level
pieces of fabric of various quality, pressing on each other in being inspected

急
variant form of 及 press on
心 heart/emotions
pressing (matter); urgent; rush; hurry
feelings of being pressed upon

鬣
mane; bristles (← 鬣)
depiction of a pheasant with bound wings, captured by being pressured from all sides in hunting

獵
鬣 (capture and) bind
犭/犬 dog/beast
hunting
犭/犬 appended to shift the original focus on hunting fowl to hunting in general

臘
鬣 (capture and) bind
月/肉 flesh

year-end rite; end of the year; 12th lunar month
year-end rite involving sacrifices of captive, bound animals

蠟
鬣 (capture and) bind
虫 insect/creature
beeswax; wax
bees bound/held captive in an apiary. 蠟燭 = candle

躐
鬣 bind
足 leg/foot
step across; cross over; exceed
bind the legs with protective material in crossing a river or other obstacle

鬣
鬣 bind
髟 hair
mane; hair; bristles
neatly bound/braided mane

立
stand; arise; raise; establish; erect
depiction of a standing figure exerting pressure on the ground. Meanings other than "stand" are figurative applications.

拉
立 exert continuous downward pressure
扌/手 hand/action indicator
drag; pull; draw
drag/pull/draw a heavy object along the ground

泣
立 exert continuous downward pressure
氵/水 water

cry; sob; weep
trail of tears pressing on the cheeks

苙
立 exert continuous downward pressure
艹 grass/plant
pen (for pigs or other animals); Angelica dahurica
pen erected from heavy, woven plant matter. "Angelica dahurica" (a herb that stands as high as three meters) is the result of reinterpreting 苙 as 艸 + 立 stand (tall).

笠
立 exert continuous downward pressure
竹 bamboo
bamboo hat
bamboo hat weighing heavily on the head

粒
立 exert continuous downward pressure
米 rice
grain; drop(let)
full, ripe ears of rice hanging heavily on the plant. "Drop(let)" is via shape association with pieces of grain.

戾
transformed element (originally 立 exert continuous downward pressure)
犬 dog/beast
go against; violate; perverse
fend off repeated, frenetic attacks from a dog or beast. "Go against" is an associated meaning, with "violate" and "perverse" by extension.

唳
戾 frenetic activity
口 mouth
cry of a bird (crane/goose)

(frenetic) bird cry

捩
戾 frenetic activity
扌/手 hand/action indicator
twist; turn forcefully; wrench; screw; tear
frenetic twisting motion

淚
戾 frenetic activity
氵/水 water
tears
frenetic emotion causing tears

棙
戾 frenetic activity
木 tree/wood
plectrum
wooden plectrum drawn frenetically over the strings of a musical instrument

十
ten
depiction of the idea of pressing into a single unit in gathering. "Ten" is an associated meaning in the sense of being a key unit in counting.

什
十 ten
亻/人 person
unit/group of ten; ten; a number of objects
unit/group of ten soldiers or other persons

廿
十 ten
十 ten
twenty

卅
十 ten
廿 twenty
thirty
originally styled as 十 ten along with 廿 twenty, thus "thirty."

丈
十 ten
又 hand (→ measurement)
measurement; height; stature; length
measurement of ten hand lengths

叶
十 gather
口 mouth
harmonize; harmonious
voices gathered in harmonious supplication

汁
十 gather
氵/水 water
juice; soup; gravy
liquid gathered at the bottom of a container/bowl

仗
丈 a stick
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
wield; battle; weapon(ry); lean/rely/depend on
wield a stick in battle. "Lean/rely/depend on" are associated meanings, via the image of a stick that offers support in standing or walking.

杖
丈 a stick
木 tree/wood

(walking) stick; cane; staff; rod; wand; beat; flog; cane
木 appended for emphasis/clarification

枼
leaf; flat object
depiction of three leaves growing from the top of a tree, suggesting slight objects (thin, flat leaves) piled on each other

喋
枼 thin/flat/slight
口 mouth
chatter; babble; talk
chatter of slight substance; compare 諜

惵
枼 thin/flat/slight
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear
thin/fragile heart

揲
枼 thin/flat/slight
扌/手 hand/action indicator
fold (cloth); measure; count/sort divining sticks
fold a thin object such as a piece of cloth. "Measure" is an associated meaning, in the sense of measuring length in folding cloth neatly.

葉
枼 thin/flat/slight
艹 grass/plant
leaf; thin object; era; age
"era" and "age" are extended meanings, fallen leaves piled upon each other being likened to the piling up of generations; compare 祖 and 昔

煠

𦍒 thin/flat/slight
火 fire
fry; cook; boil; scald
fry thin pieces of meat or vegetables

牒
𦍒 thin/flat/slight
片 long piece of wood split down the middle
papers; (official) documents; dispatch (n.)
thin wooden slats containing records

蝶
𦍒 thin/flat/slight
虫 insect/creature
butterfly
thin-winged creature

諜
𦍒 thin/flat/slight
言 words
spying
chatter of slight substance; compare 喋. "Spying" is in the sense of chatting a person up to gain information.

鰈
𦍒 thin/flat/slight
魚 fish
flatfish; sole; flounder
compare 鮄 and 鮃

世
a generation; a life(span/time); era; an age; the world
abbreviated form of 𦍒 slight objects piled on each other, suggesting successive generations figuratively piled one atop the other

泄
世 successive
氵/水 water
leak; flow; disperse; reveal
successive flow on account of leakage. "Reveal" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of being revealed on account of leakage. 洩 is a variant form.

枻
世 successive
木 tree/wood
oar; tool for straightening bows
oar rotated in successive movements

紲
世 successive
糸 thread
tether; bind; tie
a tether, by which a succession of animals/slaves/criminals etc. follow in line. 絏 and 紲 are variant forms.

貰
世 successive
貝 commodities
borrow; loan; rent
take possession of an object, with payment to follow

渫
leak; dredge
variant form of 泄 leak; flow. "Dredge" is in the sense of creating a successive flow in dredging/cleaning out. For "dredge," compare 浚.

沓
pile; stack
variant form of 杳 pile

踏
沓 pile
足 leg/foot
stamp; tread; step/stand on; make an on-site inspection/survey
footsteps piled upon each other. "Make an on-site inspection/survey" is via association with "stand on."

鞜
沓 pile
革 leather
leather shoes
shoes with layers of leather

亢
transformed element = elongated neck
transformed element (originally 大 stand outstretched)
raise; high; proud; arrogant
raise one's head, stretching the throat

伉
亢 stretch
亻/人 person
stand (tall); pair (on equal terms)
stand upright (in courageous opposition etc.)

坑
亢 stretch
土 earth
hole; pit; shaft
hole/shaft stretching deep into the earth; compare 阬

抗
亢 stretch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
resist; oppose; rival; compete

stretch the arms straight out in resistance or opposition

沆
亢 stretch
氵/水 water
long stretch (or tall jet/spray) of water; flow
long stretch of water

阬
亢 stretch
阜/阝 piled earth
hole; pit; shaft
hole/shaft stretching deep into the earth; compare 坑

杭
亢 stretch
木 tree/wood
wooden stake; proceed (over water)
wooden stake stretching straight upward

炕
亢 stretch
火 fire
dry by fire; bake
stretch objects over a fire for drying

航
亢 stretch
舟 ship
sail; navigate; vessel
boats sailing in grand alignment

吭
亢 throat
口 mouth

throat; windpipe
吭 was devised to replace 亢 after 亢 acquired its extended meanings

頏
亢 stretch
頁 head
alight (from directly above); (human) throat (← 吭)
bird alighting (from directly overhead)

行
go; movement; procession; road; line/row; conduct; do; perform
depiction of straight and crossing roads extending into the distance. Present-day meanings are by association with and extension from movement (along a road).

衍
行 straight and crossing
氵/水 water
overflow; spill (over); spread; thrive; grow thick
water crossing over/transgressing the banks of a straight waterway and spreading over surrounding land

荇
行 straight and crossing
艹 grass/plant
Nymphoides peltata (aka yellow floating heart)
water plant the stalk and flower of which cross at the waterline

桁
行 straight and crossing
木 tree/wood
beam; girder
straight and crossing beams/girders

珩
行 straight and crossing

王/玉 jewel
jewel
horizontally aligned jewel at the top of a vertical string of jewels hung from the waist

絎
行 straight and crossing
糸 thread
straight edge (of the hem of a garment etc.); sew

衡
行 straight and crossing
obsolete element = 大 stand outstretched + abbreviated form of 角 horn
scale; measure; weigh
straight, crossing bars used to hold down the horns of cattle. Present-day meanings are via association with bars used in making measurements.

蘅
衡 bars
艹 grass/plant
(long, straight plant)
杜蘅 = Pollia japonica

鴇
行 straight and crossing
鳥 bird
plover
bird that lines up in great numbers at the shoreline, and over whom the tide crosses

愆
衍 overflow
心 heart/emotions
error; mistake; fault; offense; transgression
error/mistake committed due to overflowing emotion

凶
remnant element = person/object
凵 hole
terrible; bad; disaster
large, round cavity into which a person/object falls; compare 禍, 陷, and 俗

匈
凶 hole/cavity
勹 shape indicator = the chest
chest; breast; thorax
the expansive cavity of the breast; compare 胸

恟
匈 (wide) cavity
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; nervousness
emotion with an emptying/debilitating effect

洶
匈 (wide) cavity
氵/水 water
surge/become turbulent
water surging through a cavity

胸
匈 (wide) cavity of the breast
月/肉 flesh
chest; breast; thorax
月/肉 appended for emphasis/clarification

酗
凶 terrible
酉 alcohol container
act wildly (under the influence of alcohol)
terrible behavior caused by the consumption of alcohol

廾
pair of hands; hold up/out; offer; present
depiction of a pair of hands holding an object up/out in raising it high in offering

共
廾 pair of hands
remnant element = an object
together; with; share
object appended to clarify the original sense of 廾 (offer; serve), though 共 eventually acquired meanings associated with joint effort (hands working together)

供
共 act jointly in making an offering
亻/人 person
offer; serve; supply
here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from 共

哄
共 act jointly
口 mouth
resound; reverberate; coax; deceive
the roar of a crowd raising/carrying a voluminous object

拱
共 act jointly
扌/手 hand/action indicator
fold the arms/cross the hands on the chest

洪
共 act jointly
氵/水 water
flood; great; big
great confluence of waters resulting in a flood

巷
共 act jointly
remnant element = variant form of 邑 village/settlement
street; alley; lane; quarter
interact in a densely populated sector

恭
共 act jointly in making an offering
心 heart/emotions
deferential; reverential; respectful
ceremonious emotions experienced when offering an object to one's superior; compare 龔

栱
共 act jointly
木 tree/wood
pillar; post; stake
joint pillars/posts

蚣
共 act jointly
虫 insect/creature
grasshopper; cricket
insect the limbs of which act in unison

龔
共 act jointly in making an offering
龍 dragon (→ rare and precious object)
give; present; reverential
give someone a valuable object. "Reverential" is an associated meaning in the sense of presenting reverentially; for this meaning compare 恭. For the use of 龍 to indicate a valuable object, compare 寵 and 龕,.

弄

廾 pair of hands
王/玉 jewel
play/fiddle with; handle; do; sport/toy with; alley
hands curved about a jewel in handling/toying with it; compare 玩

丞
廾 pair of hands
remnant element = 山 mountain + a squatting figure
help; assist; adjutant
help raise a person (compare 乘 and 登) out of danger etc.

承
丞 raise/rise
手 hand/action indicator
receive; succeed (to a post/rank)
receive/succeed (= be raised) to a high(er) post/rank etc.

拯
丞 raise in helping
扌/手 hand/action indicator
raise; help; aid; save
help raise a person out of danger. 拯 was devised to emphasize/clarify the original sense of 丞 after 承 (composed of the same elements: 丞 + 手) came to be understood as raising a person to a post/rank rather than lifting him to safety.

烝
丞 raise/rise
灬/火 fire
rise; steam; many; numerous
wisps of steam rising without limit

蒸
烝 rise
艹 grass/plant
steam; evaporation

steam rising from (cooked) vegetables

具
abbreviated form of 共 act jointly
abbreviated form of 鼎 tripod kettle/cauldron
equip; equipment; implement; utensil; tool; ability
act together to equip a vessel for offering. "Ability" is an extended meaning, in the sense of having the means/ability to equip.

俱
具 act together
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
all; entirely
act all together. 俱 is a variant form.

港
巷 densely populated
氵/水 water
port; harbor
port settlement

冂
remnant element = a fence
remnant element = a marker
border; distant/remote (place)
marker hung on a fence in a distant location

冋
冂 marker hung on a fence
remnant element = place indicator
border; distant/remote (place)
remnant element appended for emphasis/clarification

坰
冋 distant

土 earth
remote lands; environs; wilderness
土 appended for further emphasis/clarification of original sense of 冂/冋

洞
冋 distant
氵/水 water
distant; expanse of water reaching far and wide
compare 汪 潢 and 浤

迥
冋 distant
辶 movement
far in the distance; distant; widely separated
move to a distant point

扃
冋 border
戶 door
bolt/bar (for locking a door)
door serving as a border between a residence and the outside world

炯
冋 distant
火 fire
bright; clear
bright fire clearly visible even at a distance

駉
冋 distant
馬 horse
strapping horse
(term applied to horses native to distant locales)

絅

abbreviated form of 炯 clear
糸 thread
unlined garment
clear (= transparent), unlined garment; compare 褧

奧
transformed element (originally 共 act jointly)
remnant element = fine objects scattered in a structure
deep; obscure; mysterious; recesses
people searching for a small object in the deep, winding recesses of a structure

墺
奧 deep
土 earth
land
deeply recessed area of land; compare 隩

懊
奧 deep
忄/心 heart/emotions
deep anxiety
deep emotion, in the form of anxiety

澳
奧 deep
氵/水 water
inlet; bend in a river; deep water

隩
奧 deep
阜/阝 piled earth
recess; inlet
deeply recessed area of land (compare 墺), particularly with respect to an inlet (compare 澳)

燠
奧 deep
火 fire
warm
heat lingering deep in embers or hot coals

襖
奧 deep
衤/衣 clothing
outer garments
lined/padded garments that encase the body deeply

久
remnant element = aged person with a curved back
remnant element = line indicating a stick functioning as a cane
long time/duration
longevity of an aged person; compare 壽

匊
久 long and curved
匚 enclosure/frame
coffin
corpse in a coffin, the body curled rather than laid straight out

灸
久 long and curved
火 fire
moxibustion
moxa formed into a long and curved stick for use in moxibustion

玖
abbreviated form of 灸 moxibustion
王/玉 jewel
beautiful black gem; black jade; nine
beautiful jewel the color of charred moxa

疚
久 long and curved
疒 illness
chronic illness; guilt; remorse
lengthy/chronic illness, one causing the body to curve/hunch. "Guilt" and "remorse" are in the sense of a protracted mental affliction.

羑
久 long and curved
羊 sheep
lead; direct (v.)
lead/direct sheep along a winding path; compare 迪 and 逌

角
horn; corner; edge; angle
depiction of a hard, curved horn

埆
角 hard, curved object
土 earth
barren, rocky earth
barren earth covered with rocks that protrude like horns; compare 确

斛
角 hard, curved object
斗 ladle
(ancient) unit of (dry) measurement
unit of measurement equaling ten 斗 and determined by the contents of a hard, curved object

桷
角 hard, curved object
木 tree/wood
rafter(s); variety of apple tree

curved rafter(s) protruding like horns

确
角 hard, curved object
石 stone
certain; true
barren, rocky earth; compare 埆

解
角 hard, curved object
obsolete element = 刀 sword/knife + 牛 cow
remove; dismember; release; loosen; solve; explain
remove cattle horns in butchering. Other meanings are via association and extension.

廨
解 protective element
广 building
government office
protected, government office; compare 衙

懈
解 remove a protective element
忄/心 heart/emotions
relaxed; lazy; negligent
strip away tense/guarded emotions. "Negligent" is an associated meaning.

邂
解 remove a protective element
辶 movement (→ action indicator)
chance/unexpected encounter
remove a barrier/partition and make an unexpected find. For a chance encounter, compare 遇 逢 覯 and 訝.

檞

解 protective element
木 tree/wood
(variety of) pine
pine resin (a protective coating)

蟹
解 protective element
虫 insect/creature
crab
creature with a protective shell; compare 蝦. 蠏 is a variant form that repositions the 虫 element.

螯
crab claw; pincers; nippers
in derivative characters 敖 lends the conceptual influence "spread/roam without restraint," an image inapplicable to the limited mobility of a crab claw. Therefore, 螯 may be considered as having been devised as a variant form of 蟹, though it came to emphasize the crab's claw.

槲
斛 rectangular wooden box
木 tree/wood
(variety of) oak
variety of oak from which boxes were crafted

寮
depiction of a bonfire with a ring of flames, forming a circular continuum. 寮 is effectively obsolete.

僚
寮 circular continuum
亻/人 person
colleague; fellow; official
(figurative) circle of individuals belonging to a particular group

寮
尞 circular continuum
宀 roof/building
hut; shack; circular structure/group of buildings

潦
尞 circular continuum
氵/水 water
puddle; prolonged rain
puddle, a result of prolonged rain

獠
尞 ring of flames
犭/犬 dog/beast
hunt at night
hunt at night with torches, closing a circle around prey; compare 獪 and 猾

遼
尞 circular continuum
辶 movement
distant
move to a distant point along a circular course

暸
尞 circular continuum
日 sun/day
clear
clear/bright arch of sky

燎
尞 ring of flames
火 fire
bonfire; burn
火 appended for emphasis/clarification

療
寮 circular continuum
疒 illness
treatment; healing
continuous treatment of an illness. "Healing" is by association.

瞭
寮 circular continuum
目 eye
clear-sighted; clarity; observe from a high place
create a full circle in surveying what is about one. "Clarity" and "observe from a high place" are associated meanings in the sense of having a full view.

嘹
abbreviated form of 瞭 clarity
口 mouth
clarity or resonance of voice
(indirect reference to) clarity or resonance of voice; compare 嘹

繚
寮 circular continuum
糸 thread
twist about; circulate
raise threads and twist them about an object in wrapping it

鐐
寮 circular continuum
金 metal
iron fetters

卯
disappeared element = bend
remnant element = door/window
rabbit (fourth sign of the Chinese zodiac); 5-7 A.M.
door or window the protective bar of which has been bent

昴
卯 bend
日 sun/day
the Pleiades
a hook-shaped constellation

柳
卯 bend
木 tree/wood
willow
willow branches bending in a strong breeze; compare 楊 and 杞

聊
卯 bend
耳 ear
slightly; somewhat; a little
figuratively bend/incline the ear in listening. Present-day meanings are by extension, in the sense of being able to hear only slightly.

貿
卯 bend
貝 commodities
trade; business
bend someone to one's demands in trading. 貿 employs the same variant form of 卯 as in 留.

留
卯 bend
田 field
stop; stay; settle; hold down; detain; fix in place
field laborer coming to a stop in stooping with exhaustion; compare 勞. 留 employs the same variant form of 卯 as in 貿.

溜

留 round
氵/水 water
slip; slide; escape quietly
liquid that collects to form a round, slippery puddle; compare 潦. "Escape quietly" is an extended meaning in the sense of slipping away stealthily.

榴
留 round
木 tree/wood
pomegranate
roundish pomegranate fruit

瘤
留 round
疒 illness
swelling; tumor
roundish swelling/tumor

霤
留 round
雨 rain/natural phenomena
raindrops; dripping water
dripping (rain)water that collects

餾
留 round
食 food/eating
steam (v.); re-steam; reheat; distill
round lumps of steamed rice. "Distill" is via association with "steam."

弱
弓 bow(s)
obsolete element = 彡 pattern (doubled)
weak; feeble; inferior
supple, decorated (or ornamental) bows. "Weak" and "feeble" are via association

with supple, with "inferior" by extension from "weak."

嫋
弱 supple
女 woman
limber; delicate; lithe; graceful
supple/limber woman

搦
弱 supple
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; take in hand; seize
grasp/take in hand a supple object

溺
弱 supple
氵/水 water
be immersed in; drown
immerse in liquid, making an object supple

蒻
弱 supple
艹 grass/plant
cattail; (cattail) mat
supple rush

暴
remnant element = spread an animal hide
日 sun/day
expose; reveal; violent; rough; sudden(ly)
spread an animal hide and expose it on the ground for drying in the sun. "Violent," "rough" and "sudden(ly)" are either via association (in the sense of stripping a hide) or are borrowings.

瀑

暴 expose
氵/水 water
(sudden) downpour; waterfall
sudden downpour that exposes objects. "Waterfall" is an associated meaning.

曝
暴 expose
日 sun/day
expose (in the sun)
expose objects in the sun to dry. 曝 was devised to replace 暴 after 暴 came to be most often associated with the meanings "violent" and "rough."

爆
暴 expose
火 fire
explosion; bomb
explosion that exposes objects

不
not; un-
depiction of a bulging, swollen bud. For the borrowed present-day meanings; compare 拂 and 非.

丕
不 bulge
horizontal line (no semantic significance)
great; large
associated meanings deriving from "bulge." 丕 was devised to recreate the original sense of 不 after 不 acquired its borrowed meanings, the horizontal line functioning simply to create a separate character.

坏
不 bulge
土 earth
hill; bowl/earthenware

bulging earth, later reinterpreted as bulging earthenware

抔
不 bulge
扌/手 hand/action indicator
scoop/take/hold up
scoop up a bulging portion

芣
不 bulge
艹 grass/plant
swollen bud
芣苡 = plantain (compare 芭蕉). 芣 was devised to replace 不 after 不 acquired its borrowed meanings.

杯
不 bulge
木 tree/wood
cup; goblet; (wine)glass; trophy
bulging wooden bowl (for soup/drinks). "Trophy" is an associated meaning, in the sense of a valuable goblet etc. given as a prize.

胚
不 bulge
月/肉 flesh
be pregnant; embryo
fetus creating a bulge

盃
不 bulge
皿 dish/plate/bowl
cup; glass
bulging utensil. 盃 is effectively a variant form of 杯.

否

不 refusal; negation
口 mouth
refusal/negation/denial; no; bad
oral refusal/negation/denial. In derivative characters such as 痞 and 豁, the 否 element conveys the concept "bulge," a persisting influence of the 不 element in 否.

痞
否 spread/bulge
疒 illness
abdominal lump; spleen infection
painful spreading or bulge within the body

豁
否 spread/bulge
喜 a feast
mound; lump; large/great
large/bulging spread of food; compare 餔

曹
remnant element = array of similar, ordinary objects
口 mouth
group; official (n.); officer; comrade; generation; department; office
array/group of ordinary (= low-ranking) officials meeting and conversing. The remnant element is a depiction of two slender, oblong sacks; compare 東.

漕
曹 array
氵/水 water
ship cargo; row; canal
ship an array of goods by water. "Canal" is an associated meaning.

遭
曹 array
辵 movement
meet; encounter; subject/be subjected to

set off and meet a variety of people. "Subject/be subjected to" is via figurative association.

槽
曹 array
木 tree/wood
vat; tub; trough
small wooden container that holds a medley of animal feed

糟
曹 array
米 rice
dregs; sediment; scum; pickled
rough lees produced in making rice wine

艚
曹 array
舟 boat
(small) boat
fleet of (small) boats

丑
cow (as the second sign of the Chinese zodiac); 1 A.M. to 3 A.M; clown; comedian
depiction of a small, curved boat

忸
丑 curve/bend
忄/心 heart/emotions
shame; ashamed
figuratively bend in shame

扭
丑 curve/bend
扌/手 hand/action indicator

twist (the hand in seizing); pull/draw tight
curve/bend the hand

狃
丑 curve/bend
犭/犬 dog/beast
become familiar/accustomed to; become proficient at; master
dog curling up about its master. "Become familiar" is an associated meaning.

紐
丑 curve/bend
糸 thread
(knotted) string/cord; tie; knob (of a seal); button (← 鈕)
curved and knotted string/cord

衄
丑 curve/bend
血 blood
nosebleed; be defeated
bend in allowing blood from a nosebleed to drain. "Be defeated" is an associated meaning, in the sense of being actually or figuratively bloodied in defeat.

鈕
丑 curve/bend
金 metal
knob; button; handle (n.)
curved pieces of metal

攸
remnant element = water streaming in an arc
remnant element = bathing person
far; distant
water being poured from on high (compare 澆) in a slender arc over a bather's back. "Far" and "distant" are via association with high.

修
攸 slender and curved
彡 pattern
arrange; embellish; decorate; practice; cultivate; master
arrange in a slender, curving pattern

倏
攸 slender and curved
犬 dog/beast
sudden; abrupt; quick
sudden/abrupt twisting movement of an animal

條
攸 slender and curved
木 tree/wood
branch; line; strip; clause; counter for long/thin objects; reason; logic
"clause" (line of text) and "reason/logic" (line of reasoning) are figurative extended meanings

脩
攸 slender and curved
月/肉 flesh
dried meat
slender, curved strips of dried meat

篠
條 slender and curved
竹 bamboo
small/slender variety of bamboo; dwarf bamboo

絛
攸 slender and curved
糸 thread
(silk) braid/cord
silk threads twisted into a slender braid/cord

翛
攸 slender and curved
羽 feather/wing
rapid flight; rapidness
slender, curved trail described by a flock of birds flying in an arc

鯈
攸 slender and curved
魚 fish
(fish belonging to the carp family)
a slender, curved fish

蓧
條 slender and curved
艹 grass/plant
bamboo basket; rake
slender plant or seedling

滫
攸 water being poured from on high in a slender arc over a bather's back
氵/水 water(for emphasis/clarification)
cleanse; wash; rinse; sweep (clean)
滫 was devised to replace 攸 following the latter's transformation of meanings. 滌 is a variant form that replaces 攸 with 條.

悠
攸 distant
心 heart/emotions
distant; remote; far; long; prolonged; pensive; leisure(ly)
emotional distance

周
remnant element = field of grain
囗 circular enclosure

circulate; circumference; surroundings; complete; all over
enclosure encircling a field of grain. "Complete" and "all over" are associated meanings.

彫
周 circulate
彡 pattern
carve; sculpt; chisel; inscribe; engrave
patterns/decorations carved into and running all about a round utensil

週
周 circulate
辶 movement
circulate; week
circulate, completing one cycle; compare 期 and 季

裯
周 circulate
衤/衣 clothing
nightwear
billowing nightwear wrapped about the body. For "wrapped about the body," compare 綢.

綢
周 circulate
糸 thread
fine silk; be dressed/clothed in
fabric/fine silk wrapped about the body; compare 裯

調
周 circulate
言 words
inquire; inspect; investigate; transfer; move; tune; tone; melody
circulate/go about in examining/inspecting. "Tune," "tone" and "melody" are via reinterpretation of the notion of circulating words.

雕
abbreviated form of 彫 carved pattern
隹 short, squat bird
engrave; carve; bird of prey (eagle/hawk etc.); exhaust
bird pattern carved into a utensil

彪
abbreviated form of 彫 carved pattern
虎 tiger
tiger-stripe pattern; tiger (cub); tiger-like

凋
周 grain plants
冫/氷 ice
droop; wither; fade
icy conditions causing (grain) plants to droop, wither and die

惆
abbreviated form of 凋 droop
忄/心 heart/emotions
disappointed; dejected
drooping emotions

稠
周 grain plants
禾 grain/rice
grow thick; great quantity; density
thick growth or great quantity of grain plants

鯛
abbreviated form of 稠 great quantity
魚 fish
sea bream
fish caught in great quantities

囚
abbreviated form of 周 enclosure
人 person
prisoner; confine
prisoner confined in an enclosure

泅
囚 enclose
氵/水 water
swim; float
body enclosed/surrounded by water in swimming/floating

刀
sword; blade
depiction of a sword with a curved blade. As an element in compound characters, 刀 more often refers to a knife or cutting implement than to a sword. In the derivative characters 釗 and 魛, 刀 indicates a sword or cutting implement; in the derivative characters 召 叨 忉 and 到 the operative concept is "curve."

召
刀 curve
口 mouth
summon
curve the arm and beckon, supplementing oral summoning

怊
召 curve
忄/心 heart/emotions
sadness; sorrow
curved = warped emotions; compare 忉 and 怨

招
召 summon
扌/手 hand/action indicator

beckon; summon; recruit; invite; bring about
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

沼
召 curve
氵/水 water
swamp; marsh; pool/pond
body of water with a curving shore

迢
召 curve
辶 movement
distant
long-stretching arc

昭
召 curve
日 sun/day
bright; shining; luminous
shining arc of light

炤
召 curve
火 fire
shine; light up; brightness
bright arc of firelight; compare 昭

紹
召 curve
糸 thread
join; continue; introduce
join threads in a continuous semi-circle. "Introduce" is an associated meaning, in the sense of joining individuals by introducing them. "Succeed" is by extension, in the sense "succeed in linking/accomplishing something."

詔
召 summon
言 words
imperial edict
summons issued to admonish; compare 勅

軺
召 curve
車 vehicle
small, open-air vehicle
vehicle with curved shafts; compare 軺 轅 軒 and 軏

超
召 curve
走 run
exceed; surpass; go beyond; cross/go over; super-; ultra-; distant
describe an arc in leaping obstacles

髫
召 curve
髟 hair
(long, curling) hairstyle
long, curling hairstyle worn by children

鞀
召 curve
革 leather
(drum)
musical instrument with a small, drum-like attachment at the end of a handle. When swung, a ball at the end of a cord curves in an arc and strikes the leather skin of the "drum," producing sound.

齠
召 curve
齒 teeth

(child of) the age at which adult teeth come in
semi-circle of teeth

叨
刀 curve
口 mouth
talkative; argumentative; be blessed/favored with
curl the lower lip. "Talkative" and "argumentative" are figurative associated meanings.

忉
刀 curve
heart/emotions
anxiety; distress; grief
warped emotions; compare the aspect of warped emotions in 怊

釗
刀 sword
金 metal
sword
金 appended for emphasis/clarification

魛
刀 sword/cutting implement
魚 fish
(knife-like fish assigned to the genus of anchovies)

照
昭 brightness
火 fire (for emphasis/clarification)
shine; illuminate; reflect; take a photograph; compare
"compare" is an associated meaning in the sense of making inquiry by shining a light on separate objects and comparing them

韶

abbreviated form of 昭 brightness
音 sound
beautiful; (ancient type of music said to have been created by a legendary emperor, 舜)
bright, clear notes of music, regarded as beautiful sound

劭
abbreviated form of 超 exceed
力 power/energy
encourage; excel; excellent
encourage someone to exceed current standards or limits

到
刀 curve
至 arrive
arrive; reach (a destination); go (to); until (a certain time)
arrive via a route that traces an arc. "Until" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of arrival by (→ until) a certain time.

倒
到 trace an arc
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
fall; topple; collapse; overthrow/defeat; put/lay down; contrary (to expectations); actually/in fact
cause to fall, topple or collapse. "Contrary (to expectations)" is an associated meaning, with "actually/in fact" by extension in the sense of being true despite expectations to the contrary.

勺
transformed element = spoon/ladle
mark indicating contents
spoon; ladle
slightly curved spoon or ladle along with a stroke representing the contents of a container rising and becoming evident

妁
勺 rise and become evident
女 woman
matchmaker; go-between
female who enables the official recognition of a couple. It is likely that the original connection with "rise and become evident" involved the offering of gifts in premarital rituals. For "matchmaker," compare 媒.

芍
勺 rise and become evident
艹 grass/plant
(conspicuous flower)
芍藥 = peony, a flower conspicuous both for its large size and strong fragrance

杓
勺 ladle
木 tree/wood
ladle; handle (n.)
(wooden) ladle. "Handle" is an associated meaning. 木 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

灼
勺 rise and become evident
火 fire
bright; burn; cauterize; clear

的
勺 rise and become evident
白 white (→ color that stands out)
target; mark; objective; obvious; -like; (possessive particle)
conspicuous target

礿
勺 rise and become evident
示 altar/the supernatural

imperial ritual (held in spring)
ritual involving the raising/invocation of all gods and ancestors in the heavens

約
勺 rise and become evident
糸 thread
tie; promise; pact; treaty; summary; approximately
tie a knot in a cord as a sign of a pledge. "Summary" is an extended meaning, in the sense of reducing in compacting; compare 要. "Approximately" is by further extension from "summary."

豹
勺 rise and become evident
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
leopard; panther
leopard/panther leaping in attack

酌
勺 ladle
酉 alcohol
pour out/serve (alcohol); drink (alcohol); take into consideration
ladle alcohol in serving it. "Take into consideration" is an associated meaning, originally in the sense of displaying consideration as when pouring a guest a drink.

釣
勺 rise and become evident
金 metal
fishing; catch; entice
metal hook used to raise fish from water. "Entice" is a figurative associated meaning.

葯
約 tie a knot in a cord
艹 grass/plant
orris root

a knotty rhizome, especially that of the iris, from which orris root is derived

蜀
remnant element = curvy insect
虫 insect/creature
(name of an ancient state)
curvy insect (such as a silkworm or hairy caterpillar) adhering to a leaf. The original signification of the character has dropped.

濁
蜀 adhere
氵/水 water
become muddy/cloudy/turbid; murky; unclear; fuzzy; impure
mud, in which objects adhere

獨
蜀 adhere
犭/犬 dog/beast
(a)lone; solitary
adhere to one spot (compare 主 and 豆) in the manner of a lone watchdog

燭
蜀 adhere
火 fire
light; candle
light from a wick adhering to a candle

觸
蜀 adhere
角 horn (→ insect feelers)
touch; feel; strike
feelers of an insect adhering to the surface of the object they touch

躅
蜀 adhere

足 leg/foot
walk carefully; stop and stand rigid; hesitate
walk back and forth carefully, then stop and stand rigid. "Hesitate" is a figurative associated meaning.

屬
蜀 adhere
variant form of 尾 tail
be attached to; belong to; genus
adhere/be attached in copulation. "Genus" is an associated, figurative meaning, in the sense of being attached to a group.

囑
屬 adhere
口 mouth
request; instruct (orally); entrust to
lips adhering to someone's ear in whispering a request or giving instructions. "Entrust to" is an associated meaning.

矚
屬 adhere
目 eye
watch carefully
watch carefully, the eyes figuratively adhering to the object being watched

髑
蜀 adhere
骨 bone
skull
skull that adheres to the top of the spine

央
remnant element = bar-like object
大 stand outstretched
center; middle; finish; plead

person standing outstretched, a pole with heavy objects at both ends extending beyond the shoulders. The image suggests pressure exerted on the center of the body.

怏
央 stretch
忄/心 heart/emotions
dissatisfaction
emotional stretching/torture; compare 殃

泱
央 stretch
氵/水 water
swell up; billow; agitated
expansive stretch of agitated water

英
央 stretch
艹 grass/plant
brilliance; superiority
gorgeous plant, stretching at length. "Brilliance" and "superiority"are associated meanings in the sense of stretching beyond (= surpassing) others.

映
央 stretch
日 sun/day
shine; reflect; project (v.)
sun stretching/shining over a wide area

殃
央 stretch
歹 severed bone/death
calamity; misfortune
have one's limbs stretched in torture

盎
央 stretch
皿 dish/plate/bowl
pot; abundant; overflow
small-mouthed, wide-bellied pot of abundant capacity. "Overflow" is an associated meaning.

秧
央 stretch
禾 grain/rice
(rice) seedling
(rice) seedling stretching energetically skyward

鞅
央 stretch
革 leather
leather strap; be pressured
leather strap stretching from a horse's breast to its saddle, or binding its midsection; compare 韁

鴦
央 stretch
鳥 bird
female mandarin duck
bird with a stripe on both sides of the head stretching from the eyes to the back of the head. For the male mandarin duck, see 鴛.

瑛
英 brilliance
王/玉 jewel
lustrous; sparkling jewel(ry); transparent jewel; crystal; quartz
brilliant jewel

霙
英 brilliance

雨 rain/natural phenomena
sleet
blinding sleet, likened to blinding brilliance

巠
remnant element = extend between two points
巛 river
(underground) watercourse
river/watercourse extending between two distant points. The remnant element is a horizontal line at top and 工 at bottom (originally 土 earth).

勁
巠 extensive
力 power/energy
strength; strong; tough
extensive, long-lasting strength

徑
巠 extensive
彳 movement
path; diameter; direct
proceed along an extensive path. 逕, which substitutes 辵 movement for 彳 movement, is effectively a variant form of 徑.

莖
巠 extensive
艹 grass/plant
stalk; stem
long stalk/stem

陘
巠 extensive
阜/阝 piled earth
gorge; mountain pass
long gorge/mountain pass

脛
巠 extensive
月/肉 flesh
shin; (lower) leg
portion of the leg extending from knee to ankle

痙
巠 extensive
疒 illness
twitch; spasm; cramp; convulsive fit
extensive (long-lasting) twitching or spasms

經
巠 extensive
糸 thread
warp threads; longitude; pass through; pass/elapse; sutra; reason; manage; undergo; experience
long warp threads passed through a loom. "Sutra," "reason" and "manage" are from the idea of the thread of a discourse, while "undergo" and "experience" are via "pass through."

輕
巠 extensive
車 vehicle
light; lessen/lighten; make light of
long, lightweight vehicle

頸
巠 extensive
頁 head
neck; throat; head
(long) neck extending between the head and torso

剄

abbreviated form of 頸 throat
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
slit a throat
cut someone's (or one's own) throat

畺
remnant element = partitioning lines
obsolete element = 田 field (doubled)
border; boundary
tightly demarcated fields about which border markers stretch

僵
畺 tight; taut
亻/人 person
stiffening of a human body
compare 殭

彊
畺 tight; taut
弓 bow
strong; strengthen
strong, tautly stretched bow

薑
畺 tightly demarcated
艹 grass/plant
ginger
plant with clearly demarcated rhizomes

橿
畺 tightly demarcated
木 tree/wood
oak
variety of oak the bark of which is clearly demarcated

殭
畺 tight; taut
歹 severed bone/death
die and go stiff; rigor mortis
compare 僵

韁
畺 tight; taut
革 leather
reins; bridle
leather drawn tautly against a horse or other draft animal; compare 鞅

卿
即 be positioned on opposite sides of a table
remnant element = person
noble; lord; minister; head of a government agency
two figures positioned on opposite sides of a table. 卿 was originally used with exclusive reference to elder members of families who were permitted to eat in front of an altar. However, over time it came to designate the rank of an aristocrat.

鄉
abbreviated form of a variant form of 卿 be positioned opposite
邑/阝 village/settlement
village; countryside; rural
villages or settlements that face/are opposed at a distance

曏
variant form of 卿 be positioned at opposite sides
日 sun/day
direction; turn/face toward; formerly; (once/just) before; period of time
one day figuratively facing another day through intervening time

嚮
variant form of 卿 be positioned at opposite sides
向 advance upon

guide; direct; tend/be inclined toward; head off/out

蠁
variant form of 卿 be positioned at opposite sides
虫 insect/creature
pupa; chrysalis; larvae
pupa, chrysalis or larvae faced over space and time by the adult insect after it emerges

響
variant form of 卿 be positioned at opposite sides
音 sound
sound; resonance; reverberation; echo
transmission of sound through space from point of origin to point of reception

饗
variant form of 卿 be positioned at opposite sides of a table
食 food/eating
host (a banquet); banquet; entertain
饗 was devised to replace 卿 after 卿 acquired its extended meanings

賏
abbreviated form of 賡 continue without interruption
貝 shell
string of shells/pearls

嬰
賏 shell necklace
女 woman
extend about; baby; infant
shell necklace extending about a woman's neck

櫻
嬰 extend about
木 tree/wood

cherry tree/blossoms; red; pink
flowering blossoms extending about a tree

瓔
嬰 necklace
王/玉 jewel
necklace
瓔 was devised to replace 嬰 after 嬰 acquired its associated and borrowed meanings

瘿
嬰 extend about
疒 illness
swelling
a swelling, originally one extending about the neck

纓
嬰 extend about
糸 thread
crown strings; string/tassel; decoration
crown strings running down each side of the head, and tied beneath the jaw

罌
abbreviated form of 嬰 extend about
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
pot; jar
container with a small mouth, long neck, and bulge in the middle

敬
transformed element = go stiff (with fear)
攵 action indicator
be stiff/formal/ceremonious; respect
compare 改 and 僵. The transformed element is 人 person plus an element combining horns and a mouth, indicating a person who cries out and goes stiff with fear upon being charged by a ram. (Note that the left-hand element of 敬 is

etymologically distinct from the independent character 苟.)

儆
敬 stiff; upright
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
admonish; warn
cause someone to go stiff/upright in admonishing or warning; compare 警

擎
敬 stiff; upright
手 hand/action indicator
raise high (with both hands)
raise an object high and upright with both hands

檠
敬 stiff; upright
木 tree/wood
tool (for straightening a bow)
tool/frame for straightening a bow by pulling tightly on both ends

警
敬 stiff; upright
言 words
warn; regulate; alarm
cause others to go stiff/upright by admonishing or warning them; compare 儆

驚
敬 stiff; upright
馬 horse
surprise; astonishment; fright; shock; wonder; marvel
startled horse that stiffens in attention; compare 駭

丙
third in a series; third calendar sign
depiction of the legs of a table along with human legs spread from right to left

更
丙 spread
攴 action indicator
replace; change; (still) more; further(more)
stretch a rope. "Replace" and "change" likely owe to the identification of 更 with a well rope (the meaning of the derivative character 綆) and thus the drawing of fresh well water to replace that which has been used, or dried up.

梗
更 stretch
木 tree/wood
branch; stem; stalk
long branch or piece of wood

硬
更 stretch
石 stone
hard; stiff; stern; obstinate
line of stones stretching between two points

粳
更 stretch
米 rice
(non-glutinous) rice
taut, non-glutinous rice

綆
更 rope
糸 thread
well rope
糸 appended for emphasis/clarification of the original sense of 更. For rope, compare the cognate Old Chinese terms attached to 綱 and 緪.

骾

更 stretch
骨 bone
unyielding
long bone stuck in the throat that cannot easily be dislodged

柄
丙 spread
木 tree/wood
handle; shaft; control; authority
spreading (= long) wooden handle. "Shaft" is an associated meaning.

炳
丙 spread
火 fire
bright; luminous
firelight spreading in all directions

病
丙 spread
疒 illness
illness; disease; fall ill; be ill; fault; flaw
spreading illness/disease. "Fault" and "flaw" are figurative associated meanings.

良
remnant element = stream
remnant element = grain/kernel
good
grain/kernel being washed in the flow of a pure stream. "Good" is via association with "pure."

浪
良 flowing stream
氵/水 water
wave
wave likened to a stream of water flowing atop an even layer of water

狼
良 flowing stream
犭/犬 dog/beast
wolf
animal belonging to a large pack the hunting activities of which are likened to a flowing stream

莨
良 flowing stream
艹 grass/plant
(variety of) swampland plant
swampland plant with long, flowing roots

郎
良 flowing stream
邑/阝 village/settlement
man
village/settlement adjacent to a pure, flowing stream. "Man" is via extension from "pure," in the sense of a "clean/pure young man"; compare 娘.

廊
郎 flow
广 building
hallway; corridor; gallery; veranda; porch
flowing (= extensive) passageway of a building

朗
良 flowing stream
月 moon
bright; clear
stream of moonlight

琅
良 pure

王/玉 jewel
(white) stone resembling jade
pure (whitish) jewel. A variant form, 瑯, replaces 良 with 郎. 琺瑯 = enamel

稂
良 flowing stream
禾 grain/rice
weed; wild grass
type of weed or wild grass, originally referring to water plants with long, flowing roots; compare 莨

閬
良 flowing stream
門 gate
tall, broad gate; broad; dry moat; empty
tall, broad gate adjacent to a moat

娘
良 pure
女 woman
girl; (young) woman; wife; mother
pure (young) female; compare 郎 as well as 孃

令
abbreviated form of 今 contain in the mouth
卩 kneeling figure
command; order; rule; leader
kneeling figure listening carefully to a long sequence of commands issuing from the mouth of a ruler

伶
令 long sequence
亻/人 person
clever; actor
lengthy and clever performance given by a musician and/or actor

冷
令 long sequence
冫/氷 ice
cold; chilly; cool
long stretch of ice

囹
令 long sequence
囗 circular enclosure
jail; prison
enclosure with latticed windows; compare 圄

怜
令 long sequence
忄/心 heart/emotions
pity; sympathy
heart long-suffering on account of pity/sympathy

泠
令 long sequence
氵/水 water
cool; clean
flow of cool, clean water; compare 涼

苓
令 long sequence
艹 grass/plant
fungus; mushroom; licorice
a type of fungus, original identity obscure

玲
令 long sequence
王/玉 jewel
tinkling (of jewels)

prolonged tinkling of a string of jewels; compare 琳 and 瓏

瓴
令 long sequence
瓦 tile/earthenware
(concave) tile
series of concave tiles placed in sequence to channel water

羚
令 long sequence
羊 sheep
antelope
creature with a pair of beautiful, elongated horns; compare 麗

聆
令 listen carefully
耳 ear
listen carefully; hear; wise
listen carefully. 聆 was devised to replace 令 after 令 came to refer to orders themselves rather than their reception.

舲
令 long sequence
舟 boat
(small, windowed) boat
boat with a series of windows

蛉
令 long sequence
虫 insect/creature
(insect with clearly demarcated segments)
蜻蛉 = dragonfly

鈴
令 long sequence

金 metal
bell
bell that gives off a long sequence of peals

零
令 long sequence
雨 rain/natural phenomena
drops of water; tiny; little; zero
prolonged rain/drizzle. For "drops of water," compare 露 落 and 靈. "Zero" is an extended meaning, via "tiny."

澪
零 prolonged rain/drizzle
氵/水 water
water route; channel
prolonged stretch of water

領
令 long sequence
頁 head
neck; rule; domain
string of heads severed at the neck (compare 県 and 梟) and displayed to demonstrate rule

嶺
領 string of objects
山 mountain
mountain range; peak
string of peaks in a mountain range

齢
令 long sequence
歯 teeth (→ minor meaning "age")
age
lengthy process according to which teeth wear down and/or are lost

僉
abbreviated form of 今 contain
从 people in close formation
everyone; all
assemble people and contain them in close formation. Present-day meanings are via association, in the sense of unanimous attendance.

儉
僉 assemble
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
thrifty; economical; frugal
be thrifty/economical in assembling (= collecting) goods

劍
僉 assemble
刀/刂 sword/knife
sword
assemblage of blades in a double-bladed sword

匳
僉 assemble
匚 enclosure
box; cosmetics/toiletries box
box containing an assemblage of items

嶮
僉 assemble
山 mountain
high and steep; rugged
high and steep, rugged characteristics of an assemblage of mountain peaks

憸
僉 assemble
忄/心 heart/emotions

crafty; flatter
crafty assemblage of words designed to captivate someone's heart

撿
僉 assemble
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick up (and arrange); gather; inspect
assemble and arrange objects. "Inspect" is an associated meaning, in the sense of inspecting what has been arranged; compare 檢 and 驗.

蘞
僉 assemble
艹 grass/plant
(wild) vine; thorny
assemblage of thorns on a vine

險
僉 assemble
阜/阝 piled earth
narrow pass; strategic point; rugged; dangerous; obstruction
assemblage/convergence of cliff walls in a narrow mountain pass

斂
僉 assemble
攵 action indicator
collect; gather; hold back; restrain; control (oneself)
攵 appended for emphasis/clarification; compare 撿

檢
僉 assemble
木 tree/wood
check; inspect; investigate
sort through/check an assemblage of wooden tablets

殮

僉 assemble
歹 severed bone/death
(prepare a corpse and) place in a coffin
assemble the possessions and body of the deceased and place them together in a coffin

臉
僉 assemble
月/肉 flesh
area between the eyes and cheekbones; face
assemble shredded meat on a platter

瞼
僉 assemble
目 eye
eyelid
eyelid that assembles over (= covers) the eyeball

簽
僉 assemble
竹 bamboo
bamboo basket; sign; signature
assemble inscribed slats and place them in a bamboo basket. "Sign" and "signature" are extended meanings via the idea of an inscribed slat.

驗
僉 assemble
馬 horse
examine; test; effect
assemble horses for inspection. "Effect" is an associated meaning, in the sense of the effect of an examination.

鹼
僉 assemble
鹵 salt/alkali

salt; alkaline; alkali
assemble salt on the ground for drying

瀲
斂 collect; gather
氵/水 water
brimming water; rippling waves
collection of water

龍
dragon
depiction of a coiled serpent, later interpreted as a dragon

嚨
龍 winding
口 mouth
throat
bent (as opposed to straight) throat

壟
龍 winding
土 earth
ridge; mound; hill; grave
winding ridge between fields. For "mound" and "hill," compare 隴. "Grave" is by association with a burial mound.

攏
龍 winding
扌/手 hand/action indicator
bring together; collect; possess
wrap the arms around a variety of objects

瀧
龍 winding
氵/水 water

waterfall; rapids; (torrential) rain
winding watercourse

蘢
龍 winding
艹 grass/plant
tall grass; smartweed
tall, winding grass

隴
龍 winding
阜/阝 piled earth
hill; mound
winding hill or mound; compare 壟

朧
龍 winding
月 moon
hazy/dimly visible moon
the (faintly visible) moon (compare 霸) winding through the sky

櫳
龍 winding
木 tree/wood
cage; pen
circular wooden cage; compare 籠

瓏
龍 winding
王/玉 jewel
clean/clear tinkling sound made by a long chain of jewels; jewel cut into the form of a dragon
for the first meaning, compare 玲 and 琳. The second meaning is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character.

礱
龍 winding
石 stone
mortar; grind; mill
grind grain in a mortar with a winding motion

籠
龍 winding
竹 bamboo
basket; cage; contain
basket woven of curved bamboo strips. For cage, compare 槅.

聾
龍 winding
耳 ear
deafness; deaf person
elongated, deformed ear

寵
龍 dragon
宀 roof/building
favor; love; cherish; concubine
lavish attention on a confined dragon. Here, as in 龕, 龍 represents a treasured possession. "Concubine" is an associated meaning in the sense of a favored person kept confined.

龐
龍 dragon
广 building
enormous; voluminous; numerous and disorderly assemblage
huge dragon filling a structure. For the idea of a dragon in a building, compare 寵.

亡
remnant element = obscure
person

perish; fall; die; dead; flee
depiction of a person obscured by a line or object, suggesting the idea of being partially obscured and dimly visible, or being fully obscured and non-existent. 无 is a variant form of 亡.

妄
亡 obscure
女 woman
lack foundation; incoherent; false
be thoroughly captivated by a woman for obscure reasons; compare 魅

污
亡 obscure
氵/水 water
inundation
vast spread of water, extending into obscurity

忙
亡 obscure
忄/心 heart/emotions
busy; pressed; hurried
obscure state of mind, on account of busyness or being pressed/hurried. 忙 and 忘 are an example of a pair of characters devised from the same elements but expressing different meanings; for another example, see 含 and 吟.

芒
亡 obscure
艹 grass/plant
beard/awn; Miscanthus sinensis
beard/awn, the (obscure), sharp tip of a plant. "Miscanthus sinensis" is an associated meaning.

忘
亡 obscure
心 heart/emotions

forget; overlook; leave behind
obscure state of mind, in the form of forgetfulness or overlooking something. 忘 and 忙 are an example of a pair of characters devised from the same elements but expressing different meanings; for another example, see 含 and 吟.

肓
亡 obscure
月/肉 flesh
inaccessible region of the body (between the heart and the diaphragm)
obscure, inaccessible region of the body

罔
亡 obscure
remnant element = objects (obscured) in a net
net; cover; obscure (v.); deceive; non-existence
objects obscured in a net

惘
罔 obscure
忄/心 heart/emotions
lose heart; dejected
lose sight of one's aim/desire

網
罔 net
糸 thread
net; web; network
糸 appended for emphasis/clarification

魍
罔 obscure
鬼 large, lumpy being
monster
monster that is but dimly visible. 魑魅魍魉 is a general term for evil spirits resident in forests, mountains and rivers.

盲
亡 obscure
目 eye
blind
obscure vision

氓
亡 obscure
民 people
people; subjects
obscure (= marginalized) people

虻
亡 obscure
虫 insect/creature
botfly; horsefly; gadfly
insect the larvae of which pupate in their hosts, and are thus obscure

铓
芒 sharp tip of a plant
金 metal
sword point; tip of a bladed weapon
sharp metallic tip

喪
transformed element (originally 亡 dead)
transformed element (originally 哭 cry/wail)
mourn(ing); funeral; death; lose
prolonged lamentation for the deceased

民
people; nation
depiction of an eye blinded in being pierced by a needle. "People" is an associated meaning in the sense of subservient masses who go blindly about their lives, with

"nation" by extension.

昏
民 blind
日 sun/day
darkness; evening; sunset; nightfall; blind(ness)
dark night/darkness in which nothing can be seen. 昏 has been replaced in standard usage by 昏, which substitutes the etymologically unrelated 氏 for 民.

敃
民 blind
攵 action indicator
remove by force; forceful; robust
blind a slave, removing his or her eyeballs. "Robust" is an extended meaning via "forceful."

珉
民 blind
王/玉 jewel
stone/jewel (of a blinding/dazzling hue)
often, with particular reference to a red hue

眠
民 blind
目 eye
sleep; sleepy
eyes blind in sleep

罠
民 blind
罒 net
snare; trap
snare/trap to which prey is blind

婚

昏 darkness
女 woman
wedding ceremony; wed; marriage
wedding ceremony held in the darkness of night

惛
昏 darkness
忄/心 heart/emotions
confusion; dull-minded; stupid
heart shrouded in darkness, in the form of confusion or dull-mindedness; compare 悗

閽
昏 darkness
門 gate
gatekeeper; gate; servant
gatekeeper (on night duty)

緡
昏 darkness
糸 thread
fishing line; string run through holed coins
line that disappears into the depths. "String run through holed coins" is an associated meaning.

泯
abbreviated form of 敃 remove by force
氵/水 water
die out; perish
remove by washing away

愍
敃 remove
心 heart/emotions
sympathize; pity

remove someone's anxieties; compare 閔 and 憫. "Pity" is an associated meaning.

冢
abbreviated form of 冖 cover
豕 pig/boar
cover
thrust a cover on a downed pig/boar (compare 冢), concealing it

蒙
冢 cover/conceal
艹 grass/plant
cover; ignorance; stupidity; suffer; be subject to
covering vegetation. "Ignorance" and "stupidity"are extended meanings, dim intelligence being likened to dim perception on account of covering vegetation.

濛
蒙 cover/conceal
氵/水 water
drizzle; misty rain; dim; vague
concealing drizzle/misty rain; compare 溟

曚
蒙 cover/conceal
日 sun/day
predawn darkness
the world concealed in darkness prior to daybreak

朦
蒙 cover/conceal
月 moon
dimly visible moon; dim; hazy; obscure
dimly visible moon, hidden by cloud cover

矇
蒙 cover/conceal

目 eye
blind; blind person; ignorant
blind and covered in ignorance

饛
蒙 cover/conceal
食 food/eating
cover with food
serving dish covered with a heap of food

并
align; combine; put together; in addition; also
variant form of 竝 line up; arrange. "In addition" and "also" are figurative, associated meanings.

併
并 align
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
unite; join; combine
align to unite/join/combine

屏
并 align
尸 shape indicator (screening object)
screen; shield; fence
align screening objects

迸
并 align
辵 movement
split; split open; scatter; spurt/gush out; flee
split an object, causing pieces to align. "Flee" is an extended meaning.

瓶
并 align

瓦 tile/earthenware
pot; bottle; glossy container
align earthenware on the ground (to dry)

絣
并 align
糸 thread
sew
align tacking/basting stitches in sewing

餅
并 align
食 food/eating
(glutinous) rice cake; pastry; cookie
align food, in particular rice cakes. 餅 is the older style of this character.

朋
friend; companion
depiction of a long string of shells threaded together and spread in alignment. Present-day meanings are by figurative association (long string of friends/companions).

堋
朋 spread in alignment
土 earth
cover with earth; bury
(object created of) earth that is spread in alignment

崩
朋 spread in alignment
山 mountain
collapse; crumble; fall apart; break; destruction; demolition
dirt spreading in alignment as a hill/mound collapses

繃

崩 spread in alignment
糸 thread
wind tightly about; wrap; strap; bind
threads wound tightly about an object; compare 縛

弸
朋 spread in alignment
弓 bow
tautly stretched bow; become/make full
bowstring aligned with its bow in being drawn back completely. "Become/make full" is an associated meaning via "fully stretched."

棚
朋 spread in alignment
木 tree/wood
shed; shack; rack; shelf; trellis
boards spread in alignment to create a structure or household object

硼
朋 spread in alignment
石 stone
(boron)
alignment of stones/ore. "Boron" derives from the compound 硼素.

平
level; flat; calm; peaceful
depiction of a water weed spread flat upon the surface of water. "Calm" and "peaceful" are via association with "level."

坪
平 spread level/flat
土 earth
level ground

苹

平 floating water weed
艹 grass/plant
floating weed; duckweed
苹 was devised to replace 平 after 平 acquired its associated and extended meanings.

萍
苹 floating weed
氵/水 water
floating weed; duckweed
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification; compare 蘋

秤
平 spread level/flat
禾 grain/rice
scale; balance; steelyard; measure; weigh
spread crops flat/level in weighing them

評
平 spread level/flat
言 words
commentary; criticism; evaluation
leveling words

鮃
平 spread level/flat
魚 fish
flatfish; flounder
compare 鮄 and 鰈

曾
remnant element = rising wisps of steam
remnant element = cooking pot with a steaming basket atop
once; before; at one time; formerly
present-day meanings are via figurative association with piled layers of wisps of

steam

增
曾 pile
土 earth
pile up; add (to); increase; gain; multiply
pile earth

層
曾 pile
尸 shape indicator (upper part of a building, roof or drop curtain/banner)
layer; pile up; stratum; counter (for stories of buildings)
house with multiple layers of roofing

憎
曾 pile
忄/心 heart/emotions
hate; detest; loathe; jealous
emotions that pile upon each other, in the form of hatred, detestation etc.

橧
曾 pile
木 tree/wood
(primitive) dwelling
wood piled to create a platform serving as a primitive dwelling

甑
曾 steaming pot
瓦 tile/earthenware
rice steaming pot
earthenware rice steaming pot. 甑 was devised to replace 曾 after 曾 acquired its extended, figurative meanings.

矰
曾 pile

矢 arrow
arrow
arrow piled with arrowheads (compare 矰 and 矰) and used for downing birds

繒
曾 pile
糸 thread
silk
a pile of woven fabrics

贈
曾 pile
貝 commodities
give; present; bestow
a pile of gifts/offerings

長
remnant element = long, flowing hair
person
long; height; growth; leader; elder
elderly person with long, flowing hair

帳
長 long
巾 cloth
screen; curtain; canopy
long cloth

張
長 long
弓 bow
stretch; spread; affix; tension
stretch a bowstring

悵

長 long
忄/心 heart/emotions
lament; sadness; disappointment
long-lasting feelings of sadness/lamentation

脹
長 long
月/肉 flesh
swelling; swell; expand
swollen/bloated flesh

棖
長 long
木 tree/wood
doorjamb; doorpost; prop (n.)
long, wooden doorjamb/doorpost

韔
長 long
韋 leather
sack; case
long leather sack/case in which to carry a bow

漲
張 stretch
氵/水 water
swell; overflow; rise (in prices)
stretch of river that rises/swells. "Overflow" is an associated meaning; compare 滕. "Rise (in prices)" is a figurative associated meaning.

套
abbreviated form of 長 long
大 great
cover; wrap; encase; case; wrapper; envelope; sheath; trap/snare (n).; model (after)

long and large, covering object. "Model (after)" is a figurative extended meaning in the sense of a wrapping taking the shape of the object wrapped.

髟
abbreviated form of 長 long
彡 pattern (→ hair)
(long) hair

中
remnant element = flagpole
remnant element = banners
center; middle; inside; throughout; hit the mark
banners centered on the flagpole run through them

仲
中 center/middle
亻/人 person
intermediary; go-between; personal relations; second brother
person acting as an intermediary. "Second brother" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of this character.

冲
中 center/middle
冫/氷 ice
infuse
(the crashing sound of) a block of ice being split down the middle. "Infuse" is by association with the pouring of hot water over an object, this being one method for splitting a block of ice. It is also possible to regard 冲 as a variant form of 沖 (infuse).

忡
中 center/middle
忄/心 heart/emotions
anxiety; distress
deep anxiety or distress felt in the middle of one's heart. Contrast the meanings conveyed by the same set of elements in 忠.

沖
中 center/middle
氵/水 water
infuse; pour; rinse; flush; wash away; (with respect to liquid) dash against
extract flavor from tea by infusing in hot water

忠
中 center/middle
心 heart/emotions
loyalty; dedication; faithfulness
centered feelings. Contrast the meanings conveyed by the same set of elements in 忡.

盅
中 center/middle
皿 dish/plate/bowl
small cup (without a handle)
small utensil cupped in the center of one's palm

衷
中 center/middle
衣 clothing
inside; inner feelings
wrap inside one's clothing. For the association between clothes and feelings, compare the 褱 element in 懷.

其
that; his; her; its; theirs
depiction of a square or rectangular winnow. A later form appends 几 desk/table.

斯
其 winnow
斤 ax
this; such; namely

split apart a winnow

箕
其 winnow
竹 bamboo
winnow; winnow basket; winnowing fan/fork
箕 was devised to replace 其 after 其 lost its connection with "winnow."

基
其 square/rectangular
土 earth
foundation; basis; origin
square, earthen foundation

期
其 square/rectangular
月 moon
cycle; period
lunar cycle conceived of as proceeding around a square/rectangular backdrop; compare 稘 as well as 季 and 週

棋
其 square/rectangular
木 tree/wood
(the game of) go; shogi
rectangular, wooden playing board

欺
其 square/rectangular
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
deceive; trick; cheat
(square-)masked figure; compare 夏. Present-day meanings are via association with a masked, deceptive appearance.

琪

其 square/rectangular
王/玉 jewel
jewel; jade
beautiful, rectangular jewel

碁
其 square/rectangular
石 stone
(the game of) go
game in which stone pieces are used on a rectangular board/table

稘
其 square/rectangular
禾 grain/rice
one cycle; a full month; a full year
one full agricultural cycle; compare 期 as well as 季 and 週

綦
其 square/rectangular
糸 thread
dark gray
rectangular piece of fabric. "Dark gray" is via association with the particular hue of such a fabric.

旗
其 square/rectangular
从 pennant/banner
flag; pennant; banner
rectangular flag/pennant/banner

騏
其 square/rectangular
馬 horse
horse with blue-black skin; blue-black; fast horse
horse with blue-black skin of an angular pattern. For "fast horse," compare 冀.

麒
其 square/rectangular
鹿 deer
(fabulous creature)
a fabulous creature said to make perfect right angles in turning. The creature is supposed to have the trunk of a deer, the tail of a cow and the hooves and mane of a horse, and to emit a multicolored glow. 麒麟 refers to the male and female of the beast, with 麒 normally understood to represent the former and 麟 the latter. 麒麟 also applies to the giraffe, an animal which may have been the model for the imaginary beast.

廝
斯 split
广 building
servant
servant, originally one assigned menial chores such as splitting wood in a shed

撕
斯 split
扌/手 hand/action indicator
rip; tear; break
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

澌
斯 split
氵/水 water
drain dry; run out
water splitting its container and draining out until it runs out

古
口 mouth
remnant element = old, hard and dried out food
old; dried out; hard
expectorate old, dried out, hard food from the mouth

固
古 hard; dried out
囗 circular enclosure
hard; harden; stiff; stiffen; solidify; solid; tighten; tight
harden about an object

岵
古 hard; dried out
山 mountain
hill
hill/mountain covered with hard rocks

苦
古 hard; dried out
艹 grass/plant
bitter; pain; suffering; hardship
bitter plant that makes the mouth go dry

故
古 hard; dried out
攵 action indicator
old; die; reason; cause; circumstances
harden into fixed reality. "Reality," "cause" and "circumstances" are associated meanings in the sense of "by reason of past circumstances."

枯
古 hard; dried out
木 tree/wood
dried out; wither; die
dried out tree/wood

胡
古 hard; dried out
月/肉 flesh

barbarian; of foreign origin
rough, dry beard covering the jowls. "Barbarian" is via bearded foreigners, while "of foreign origin" is by extension from barbarian(s).

罟
古 hard; dried out
罒 net
net
hard, dried out net

蛄
古 hard; dried out
虫 insect/creature
(hard-shelled insect)
螻蛄 = a mole cricket

辜
古 hard; dried out
辛 cutting tool (→ punish)
crime
severe (= hard) punishment for a crime

鈷
古 hard; dried out
金 metal
cobalt
hard piece of cast metal

估
古 old
亻/人 person
merchant; sell; price; evaluate
vendor of old goods

姑

古 old
女 woman
mother-in-law (mother of one's husband); aunt (sister of one's father); for the time being
aged woman

沽
古 old
氵/水 water
buy; sell (← 估)
drought-prone body of water; compare 湖

祜
古 old (→ ancestors)
示 altar/the supernatural
prosperity; happiness
prosperity and happiness bestowed by the heavens (accruing from proper veneration of ancestors)

詁
古 old
言 words
old language/term; meaning of an old term; interpret an old term/text
(interpretation/exegesis of) old terms or language

個
固 hardened/hard object
亻/人 person
individual; separate; piece; item; (general purpose) counter
objects and people distinguished one by one; compare 箇 and also 各

涸
固 hardened/hard object
冫/氷 ice
dried up; dry; exhausted (← 涸)

freeze

涸
固 hardened/hard object
氵/水 water
dried up; dry; exhausted
water that has evaporated, leaving an object dried up and hardened. "Exhausted" is an associated meaning.

痼
固 hardened/hard object
疒 illness
chronic illness
chronic illness, one causing the body to harden

箇
固 hardened/hard object
竹 bamboo
individual; separate; piece; item; (general purpose) counter; this; that
hard pieces of bamboo. "Counter" is an associated meaning in the sense of bamboo pieces used as counters; compare 個. "This" and "that" are extended meanings (count this piece, count that piece).

个
counter
the left-hand portion of the character 竹 bamboo, serving as an abbreviated form of 箇

錮
固 hardened/hard object
金 metal
fill with molten metal; confine
fill the cracks/grooves of a mold with molten metal, which hardens to create a unified object. "Confine" is an associated meaning.

楛
苦 bitter
木 tree/wood
coarse-barked tree; coarse; thorned plant
coarse-barked tree, painful to the touch

酤
abbreviated form of 苦 bitter
酉 alcohol container
vending of alcohol (← 估)
bitter liquor

鹽
古 hard; dried out
abbreviated form of 鹽 salt
land/waters from which salt is extracted; (covered) pot
originally, rock salt

怙
古 old
忄/心 heart/emotions
rely; depend; father
something old on which one can rely/depend. "Father" is an associated meaning in the sense of an old, reliable person.

居
古 hard
尸 buttocks
stay; live; be present; exist
seat oneself on a hard surface, the buttocks framed by the seating surface. For "exist," compare 有 在 and 存.

倨
居 settle/set in place
亻/人 person

arrogant
person literally or figuratively settled in place and possessed of an arrogant attitude; compare 踞

据
居 settle/set in place
扌/手 hand/action indicator
set; place; settle (upon/down to)
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

裾
居 settle/set in place
衤/衣 clothing
hem; cuff; garment
end point of a garment where the fabric gathers/settles

踞
居 settle/set in place
足 leg/foot
crouch; squat
legs settled squarely in place in crouching/squatting

鋸
居 settle/set in place
金 metal
saw
the set teeth of a saw

胡
古 hard; dried out
月/肉 flesh
barbarian; of foreign origin; reckless; outrageous; foolish
rough, dry beard covering the jowls. "Barbarian" is in the sense of a bearded foreigner, with "of foreign origin" by association. "Reckless," "outrageous" and "foolish" are associated meanings in the sense of undesirable qualities attributed to

foreigners.

湖
胡 rough, covering substance
氵/水 water
lake
silted lake; compare 沽. Now a lake in the general sense of the word.

瑚
胡 rough, covering substance
王/玉 jewel
food stand
jewel-encrusted, ritual food stand. 珊瑚 = coral

糊
胡 rough, covering substance
米 rice
paste; paste on; starch
rice paste used as a rough, covering substance

蝴
胡 rough, covering substance
虫 insect
(insect/creature with a rough covering substance)
蝴蝶 (or 胡蝶) = butterfly

醐
胡 rough, covering substance
酉 alcohol container (→ fermentation)
(pure) cream; butter cream
dairy product with a rough, covering substance

餬
胡 rough, covering substance
食 food/eating

(rice) porridge; make a (poor) living; subsist
"subsist" is an associated meaning in the sense of subsisting on poor-quality food

葫
胡 rough, covering substance
艹 grass/plant
gourd; calabash
type of vegetation with a rough surface

各
remnant element = an object
transformed element = leg
each; every; various
strike a hard object and come to a stop. Present-day meanings are via association in the sense of striking one hard object after another.

恪
各 hard
忄/心 heart/emotions
respect; reverence
unwavering (= hard/firm) respect

挌
各 hard
扌/手 hand/action indicator
(fist)fight; strike
hard punch

烙
各 hard
火 fire
burn; brand; bake
harden by burning

詻

各 hard
言 words
harsh; quarrel; dispute
harsh words

貉
各 hard
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
badger; raccoon dog
slow-moving animal with a ferocious (= hard) bite. The variant form 狢 replaces 豸 with 犬 dog/beast.

酪
各 hard
酉 alcohol
whey; cream; cheese
cream that hardens into cheese or whey

骼
各 hard
骨 bone
bone(s); skeleton
dried, hard bone(s)

咎
各 come to a stop
人 person
mistake; fault; blame; reproach
stop a person who is in the process of making a mistake

客
各 come to a stop
宀 roof/building
guest; customer; traveler
stop to rest in a covered structure

格
各 come to a stop
木 tree/wood
standard; rank; frame-shaped; (grammatical) case
wooden stick used to stop the doors of a gate; compare 閣. Present-day meanings are via association with a stick used as a standard of length.

閣
各 come to a stop
門 gate
tower; pavilion; palace; (political) cabinet
stakes or stones used to stop the doors of a gate; compare 格

雒
各 come to a stop
隹 short, squat bird
horned owl; black horse with a white mane
horned owl (compare 舊), a bird that remains perfectly still before pouncing. "Black horse with a white mane" may be regarded as either a borrowed meaning (compare and contrast 駱) or an associated one in the sense of a horse patterned like a particular horned owl.

洛
各 come to a stop
氵/水 water
xxx
tributary that connects with a river and comes to a stop. 洛水 is the name of a tributary of the Yellow River.

落
洛 connect
艹 grass/plant
fall; drop; decline; fall behind; lack/be missing
chain of dewdrops falling from a plant. 落 has numerous extended meanings, here

omitted.

露
dew; open; exposed
variant form of 落 dew. "Open" and "exposed" are associated meanings, in the sense of seeing through a transparent object.

略
abbreviated form of 洛 connect
田 field
manage; abbreviate; consider; outline; tactics; plunder
paths connecting fields. "Manage" and "abbreviate" are associated meanings in the sense of making shortcuts. "Consider," "outline" and "tactics" are extended meanings (tactically effective shortcuts).

絡
abbreviated form of 洛 connect
糸 thread
net; web; enmesh; wrap about; connect; entangle
connecting threads/ropes of a net

賂
abbreviated form of 洛 connect
貝 commodities
gift; bribe
connections obtained through gifting/bribery

輅
abbreviated form of 洛 connect
車 vehicle
palanquin; large vehicle/carriage
palanquin carried by attendants in stages

駱
abbreviated form of 洛 connect

馬 horse
white horse
stage horse, in particular, a white horse with a long, braided black mane. 駱駝 = camel

路
abbreviated form of 洛 connect
足 leg/foot
road; way; journey
connecting footpath. "Journey" is an associated meaning.

蕗
路 connect
艹 grass/plant
butterbur
plant with rhizomes, forming a connecting pattern. The plant originally indicated is now obscure.

鷺
路 connect
鳥 bird
heron; egret
bird that flies with neck retracted (= connected to the body)

額
客 guest/customer
頁 head (→ group of people)
notice board; tablet; plaque; specified/fixed amount; number; forehead
notice board to attract guests/customers. "Amount" is an associated meaning in the sense of a fee displayed on a notice board. The borrowed meaning "forehead" is via a character combining 頁 and 各 rather than 客.

胳
各 each
月/肉 flesh

armpit(s)
each side of the body. "Armpit(s)" is by association; compare 脇 and 亦.

胠
armpit(s)
variant form of 胳

暑
咎 cause to stop
日 sun/day
sundial; shadow; shade
sunbeams stopped by a sundial, which casts a shadow

干
thick bar; shield; thrust; defense; dry (← 旱); **draw/drain off**
depiction of a forked stick or thick bar functioning as a shield and employed by being thrust or pressed against a combatant in defense

杆
干 thick bar; shield
木 tree/wood
rod; pole; shield
wooden rod/pole/shield

玕
干 thick bar
王/玉 jewel
accessory; inferior jewel
stick-shaped accessory attached to clothing

肝
干 thick bar
月/肉 flesh
liver
bar-shaped, vital organ

罕
干 thick bar
variant form of 网 net
long-handled bird-catching net; rare
compare 禽

竿
干 thick bar
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) pole

軒
干 thick bar
車 vehicle
cart; carriage; rise high; pavilion
long, upward-curving shafts attached to a cart; compare 輈 轅 軏 and 軺

骭
干 thick bar
骨 bone
shin; shinbone
bone resembling a thick bar

刊
干 press against
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
shave; engrave; publish; publication
press with a bladed implement in shaving or engraving

奸
干 press against
女 woman
evil/wicked deed; villainy
have (illicit) contact with a woman; compare 姦

扞
干 press against in defense
扌/手 hand/action indicator
use a shield in protection; fight/ward off; resist; restrain
various manifestations of pressing against

汗
干 press against
氵/水 water
sweat
sweat pressing against the skin

旱
干 press against
日 sun/day
dry up; drought
sunlight pressing on and drying up the land. Contrast the distinct meanings conveyed by the same combination of elements in 旰.

悍
旱 dry up (→ be/become rough)
忄/心 heart/emotions
fierce; rough; brutish; violent; intrepid; courageous
roughness or ferocity. "Intrepid" and "courageous" are associated meanings.

駻
abbreviated form of 悍 fierce
馬 horse
untamed/unbroken horse; rage; run wild

稈
旱 dry up
禾 grain/rice
stalk (of a grain plant); straw

dried up stalk of a grain plant. "Straw" is an associated meaning.

旰
干 press against
日 sun/day
sunset; dusk
setting sun pressing against the western horizon; compare 晏. Also, contrast the distinct meanings conveyed by the same combination of elements in 旱.

厈
干 press against
厂 cliff
shore
shore/coast adhering to a cliff

岸
厈 adhere
山 mountain
bank; shore; coast
high/steep ground functioning as a bank/shore/coast

开
干 thick bar
干 thick bar
flat; level; even (adj.); raise with both hands
pieces of wood ground down into alignment

栞
开 aligned pieces of wood
木 tree/wood
publish; publication (← 刊)
栞 was devised to replace 开 after 开 lost its connection with "pieces of wood"

研
variant form of 开 align

石 stone
grind; sharpen; hone; investigate; study (← 揅)
grind a stone

揅
研 grind; sharpen
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grind; sharpen; study; research
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Study" and "research" are figurative associated meanings.

開
variant form of 开 align
門 gate
open; begin
open wide the tall doors of a gate, to an equal degree

義
我 bladed weapon
羊 sheep
honor; justice; righteousness; meaning
use a bladed weapon to sacrifice a sheep in a ceremony. Present-day meanings are via association with the significance and conduct of a ceremony.

儀
義 ceremony
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
ceremony; rules; rites
conduct a ceremony. 亻/人 was appended to create a distinct character after 義 lost its connection with "ceremony."

犧
variant form of 義 ceremony
牛 cow
sacrifice

sacrifice a cow

犧
義 ceremony
木 tree/wood
equip; prepare to launch
ceremony performed in equipping a (wooden) boat; compare 艤

艤
義 ceremony
舟 boat
equip; prepare to launch
ceremony performed in equipping a boat. 艤 is effectively a variant form of 犧.

議
義 ceremony
言 words
deliberation; debate; dispute
ceremonious deliberation

嶬
義 blade-like
山 mountain
steep mountain
steep mountain with serrated ridges; compare 峨

曦
義 blade-like
日 sun/day
sparkling sunlight; the sun
blade-like rays of the (early morning) sun

礒
義 blade-like
石 stone

sharp-edged rock; (rocky) shoreline
differing manifestations of blade-like stones

蟻
義 blade-like
虫 insect/creature
ant
creature with a bite that cuts like a blade

幾
variant form of 我 bladed weapon
obsolete character = 幺 slender thread (doubled)
minute; slight; almost equal; almost; (a) few; some; how much; which
slice threads repeatedly, causing them to become minute and almost equal in size

機
幾 minute
木 tree/wood
device; machine; opportunity
wooden device in which cogs and other moving parts come into minute contact. "Opportunity" is an extended meaning in the sense of the interplay of circumstances that create a new opportunity.

璣
幾 minute
王/玉 jewel
pearl that is not completely round
jewel with a minute imperfection

磯
幾 minute
石 stone
rocks pounded by water; breakwater; hit; (rocky) shore/beach
water pounding rocks into minute pieces

畿
abbreviated form of 幾 minute
田 field
territory near the capital; capital
small plot of land. In the meaning "territory near the capital," there is no residual connection with smallness.

蟣
幾 minute
虫 insect/creature
xxx
蟣蝨 = louse (or louse eggs)

譏
幾 minute
言 words
criticize; disparage; ridicule; inspect
criticize/disparage minutely. "Inspect" is an associated meaning.

饑
幾 minute
食 food/eating
shortage of food; poor harvest; be starved; hunger
minute quantity of food

禨
abbreviated form of 機 opportunity
示 altar/the supernatural
omen; pray for good fortune

夸
于 U-shaped
大 stand outstretched
extravagant; boast (← 誇)
stride/stretch over an object, the crotch forming a U-shape. "Extravagant" is by

association with an exaggerated motion.

姱
夸 U-shaped crotch
女 woman
beautiful
the U-shaped crotch of a woman; compare 胯. "Beautiful" is an associated meaning.

胯
夸 U-shaped crotch
月/肉 flesh
crotch; groin
compare 姱

袴
夸 U-shaped crotch
衤/衣 clothing
trousers; pants
garment covering the crotch

跨
夸 U-shaped crotch
足 leg/foot
straddle; stride over; span
straddle or stride over an object, the crotch forming a U-shape. 跨 was devised to replace 夸 after 夸 lost its connection with "straddle."

刳
夸 U-shaped
刀/刂 sword/knife
scoop out; gouge; bore; hollow out; excavate
scoop out in a U-shape

洿
夸 U-shaped

氵/水 water
stagnant water; impure; dirty
U-shaped pool of stagnant water; compare 污

瓠
夸 U-shaped
瓜 melon
gourd; (gourd-shaped) pot
U-shaped gourd; compare 匏

誇
夸 U-shaped
言 words
exaggerate; boast; be proud of
bend the truth

果
fruit; result
depiction of round fruit hanging from a long branch. "Result" is via figurative association, in the sense of the fruit of effort.

彙
果 round
彑 variant form of 彐 head of an animal
hedgehog/porcupine; gather; assemble
hedgehog/porcupine in the sense of an animal that curls into a ball for protection. "Gather" and "assemble" are associated meanings via the great number and similarity of porcupine needles.

蜾
果 round
虫 insect/creature
(round insect)
蜾蠃 = a variety of wasp

裹
果 round
衣 clothing
wrap; bind; (wrapped/bound) package/parcel
wrap in cloth/clothing

踝
果 round
足 leg/foot
anklebone; ankle
the round anklebone

菓
果 fruit
艹 grass/plant
fruit; berries; nuts
菓 was devised to replace 果 when 果 came to refer primarily to results and related abstract meanings

祼
果 fruit
示 altar/the supernatural
ceremonial invocation of the gods
nectar libation offered in a ceremonial invocation of the gods

裸
果 fruit
衤/衣 clothing
bare; naked; nude; open
a woman's bare, rounded breasts, likened to fruit. 倮, replacing 衤/衣 with 亻/人 person, is a variant form.

夥
果 fruit
多 much/many

large number/quantity; companion; partner
a large number/quantity of fruit

課
果 fruit (→ figurative fruit = results)
言 words
lesson; course; subject
investigate in order to obtain results

顆
果 fruit
頁 head
clod; small round object; counter for small round objects
fruit-shaped (or head-shaped) object; compare 塊 and 圣

某
木 tree/wood
甘 sweet food contained in the mouth
a certain; some
plum, in the sense of a dark fruit that grows in abundance, and is consumed by being savored in the mouth; compare 梅

煤
某 dark
火 fire
coal; soot
dark by-products of fire

謀
某 dark
言 words
conspire; plot; intrigue
(figuratively dark) conspiracy; compare 謨

媒

某 abundance
女 woman
intermediary; matchmaker
woman who acts as an intermediary between a man and a woman, the goal being to ensure the birth of abundant children. For "matchmaker," compare 妁.

禖
某 abundance
示 altar/the supernatural
ritual/prayers for the conception of a child
in particular, for the birth of a male child/heir. The term is connected with the beneficial effect of plums (the original sense of 某) for pregnant women; compare 梅.

卑
remnant element = handle of an implement
variant form of 左 (left hand)
low; lowly; base; vulgar; abase; humble
implement used to flatten or lower a surface, such as a spatula or a trowel. Present-day meanings are via association (or figurative association) with "flatten/lower."

埤
卑 spread low
土 earth
low wall; increase (← 裨)
low earthen wall/parapet; compare 陴

萆
卑 spread low
艹 grass/plant
straw raincoat; (variety of) perennial plant
straw raincoat that spread/hangs low over the body; compare 蓑

陴
卑 spread low

阜/阝 piled earth
parapet
low wall/parapet set atop a castle wall; compare 埤

牌
卑 spread low
片 thin and flat piece of wood
signboard; tablet; (playing) cards
low-lying signboard

脾
卑 spread low
月/肉 flesh
spleen
internal organ associated with the flat/low earth

碑
卑 spread low
石 stone
monument; memorial stone; tombstone/gravestone
low-lying stone (marker)

俾
卑 low
亻/人 person
cause (v.); so that/in order that; stare (← 睥)
lowly servant; compare 婢. "Cause" and "so that/in order that" are via figurative extension, in the sense of a servant bending in acquiescence, then following orders.

婢
卑 low
女 woman
female servant
(lowly) female servant; compare the original sense of 俾

痺
卑 low
疒 illness
numbness; paralysis
disease that stunts growth. However, 痺 became confused with 痹, which is as per 畀 (pass an object from hand to hand until it reaches the ultimate recipient → stretch) plus 疒 illness, suggesting numbness that stretches over the body. "Paralysis" is by association.

睥
卑 low
目 eye
glare; stare; look askance
glare down upon

稗
卑 low
禾 grain/rice
barnyard grass; small
a barnyard grass, shorter than rice plants and with smaller grains

鞞
卑 low
革 leather
sheath; scabbard; drum (carried on horseback) (← 鼙)
leather sheath/scabbard worn low

髀
卑 low
骨 bone
femur; thigh; buttocks
major bone in the lower part of the body

鵯
卑 low

鳥 bird
(variety of) bulbul
bird that creates its nests in bushes or the lower portions of tree

鼙
卑 low
鼓 drum
drum
drum hanging low from the horse on which it is carried

罷
transformed element (originally 卑 flatten/lower)
罒 net
leave (off); stop; end
spread/lower a net over prey, ending a hunt. In the present form, 卑 is replaced by 能 (bear).

擺
罷 spread over
扌/手 hand/action indicator
arrange; display/exhibit; put/place; swing/sway; pendulum
various manifestations of causing to spread over. "Pendulum" is via association with "swing/sway."

喿
obsolete element = 口 mouth (tripled)
木 tree/wood
chirping; clamor
chicks chirping in a nest in a tree (compare 巢 and 集), an activity taking place above

噪
喿 noisy chirping
口 mouth
noisy; (noisy) chirping

口 appended for emphasis/clarification

譟
喿 noisy chirping
言 words
noisy; clamorous; make a din
言 appended for emphasis/clarification

懆
喿 activity taking place above
忄/心 heart/emotions
anxiety; uneasiness
apprehension weighing on the heart

操
喿 activity taking place above
扌/手 hand/action indicator
manipulate; operate; manage; chastity; fidelity
manipulate or operate from above. "Chastity" and "fidelity" are figurative, extended meanings in the sense of manners enabling the smooth manipulation of human relations.

澡
喿 activity taking place above
氵/水 water
bathe; wash
float above, on the surface of water

藻
澡 float
艹 grass/plant
aquatic plant; algae
floating aquatic plant

燥

臮 activity taking place above
火 fire
dry; dry up; parched
rising heat, that causes objects to dry or dry up; compare 焦

繰
臮 activity taking place above
糸 thread
reel (silk/thread)
scratch the surface of a cocoon and reel in raw thread

躁
臮 activity taking place above
足 leg/foot
irritability; anxiety; noisy
leg scratching irritably at the ground below; compare 騷

昌
abbreviated form of 昜 bright
曰 say/speech indicator
clear; bright; prosperous
chant/recite in a bright/clear voice. "Prosperous" is an extended meaning, in the sense of bright conditions.

倡
昌 chant; recite
亻/人 person
leader; lead; guide; introduce
musician or actor entertaining by reciting or singing; compare 娼

唱
昌 chant; recite
口 mouth
chant; recite; sing
唱 was devised to replace 昌 after 昌 came to refer to brightness.

娼
昌 chant; recite
女 woman
prostitute
woman entertaining by singing; compare 倡. "Prostitute" is an associated meaning; compare 妓.

菖
昌 bright
艹 grass/plant
iris
type of flower with bright petals

閶
昌 bright
門 gate
palace gate; (Buddhist) gate to the heavens
brightly colored gate

朱
remnant element = horizontal line suggesting a stump
木 tree/wood
red; vermilion
(color of a) freshly cut stump

侏
朱 stump
亻/人 person
short person; dwarf
person of stumpy stature

殊
朱 stump
歹 severed bone/death

special; characteristic
sever limbs, leaving only stumpy remains. Present-day meanings are by association with the notion of a special type of punishment.

株
朱 stump
木 tree/wood
stump; trunk
株 was devised to replace 朱 after 朱 acquired its extended meanings

珠
朱 stump
王/玉 jewel
pearl
stump-like jewel produced by a mollusk

姝
朱 red/vermilion
女 woman
beautiful woman
ostentatious color likened to beautiful skin color

硃
朱 red/vermilion
石 stone
red; vermilion; compound of mercury and sulfur
"compound of mercury and sulfur" (used in pigments) is an associated meaning

蛛
朱
虫 insect
spider
the conceptual influence lent here by 朱 is uncertain

誅

朱 stump
transformed element = bladed instrument (now styled 言)
punish; put to death; kill
punish by chopping off limbs, leaving only stumpy remains; compare the original sense of 殊. "Put to death" and "kill" are associated meanings. The bladed instrument element came to be replaced by 言; compare the evolution of the 言 element in 設.

殼
remnant element = suspended piece of slate
hand holding a stick (now written 殳)
beat
beat a piece of slate and produce sound that carries over a great distance

磬
殼 percussion instrument
石 stone
percussion instrument
lapidary percussion instrument

罄
殼 percussion instrument
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
empty; run out of
empty container which when struck produces the same hollow sound as the 殼 percussion instrument

聲
殼 carry over a distance
耳 ear
sound; voice; tone; rumor; reputation
(musical) sound that carries over a distance and enters the ear

聲
殼 carry over a distance

言 words
cough; clear the throat
resonant noises emanating from the throat

馨
殼 carry over a distance
香 fragrance
fragrant
fragrance carrying over a distance

申
extend; state; say; monkey (as the ninth sign of the Chinese zodiac); 3 P.M. to 5 P.M.
depiction of a bolt of lightning stretching from sky to earth

坤
申 bolt of lightning
土 earth
earth; divination sign
marker (likened to a bolt of lightning) thrust into the earth as a divination sign

神
申 bolt of lightning
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
mysterious power; God; god; mind; supreme
supernatural force associated with lightning/thunder

電
申 bolt of lightning
雨 rain/natural phenomena
lightning; electricity
bolt of lightning. Like 伸, 電 was devised to replace 申 after 申 underwent its transformation of meanings.

曳

申 stretch
丿 split
pull; drag; tow
stretch an object in splitting it away from others by means of pulling, dragging or towing

伸
申 stretch
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
stretch; extend; lengthen
like 電, 伸 was devised to replace 申 after 申 underwent its transformation of meanings

呻
申 stretch
口 mouth
groan; moan
prolonged groan/moan

抻
申 stretch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
stretch; enlarge
(pull and) stretch

紳
申 stretch
糸 thread
gentleman
band stretched about the waist, that holds the body erect. "Gentleman" is an associated meaning, in the sense of a person of upright stature.

拽
曳 drag
扌/手 hand/action indicator

drag; pull; throw; fling
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

山
mountain; mound; heap
depiction of a dense object, a mountain with sharp ridges in close proximity

辿
山 mountain
辶 movement
follow; pursue; trace
follow a mountain path

訕
山 mountain
言 words
abuse; slander; mock
heap a figurative mountain of verbal abuse on someone

汕
山 dense/lumpy objects
氵/水 water
basketful of caught, swimming fish
group of caught fish, swimming in a basket

疝
山 dense/lumpy objects
疒 illness
illness; hernia
illness causing the rupture of the skin in the form of lumps/protrusions. "Hernia" is via association with "rupture."

舢
山 dense/lumpy objects
舟 boat

sampan
sampan loaded with a pile of goods

母
mother; (elderly females among one's relatives)
depiction of a woman with emphasis on the nipples

姆
母 mother
女 woman
wet nurse; nanny; governess
woman who takes the place of a mother; compare 姥

拇
母 mother
扌/手 hand (→ finger)
thumb; big toe
digits likened to a mother, the remaining fingers/toes likened to children

每
母 succession of offspring
屮 grass shoot
every; always
give rise to continuously, like a succession of offspring

苺
母 succession of offspring
艹 grass/plant
berries; strawberry
voluminous type of fruit

毒
variant form of 母 succession of offspring
生 fresh, slender grass shoots
poison; damage

stir boiled herbs in a cooking vessel for use as an aphrodisiac

纛
毒 stir
縣 hang suspended
flag; pennant; banner
flag/pennant/banner tied to a flagpole at both ends, and which rotates around the pole in the breeze (rotation likened to a repeated stirring motion). Compare 斿 and 旋.

秀
乃 soft and clingy
禾 grain/rice
surpass; excel; superior; prominent
clinging ears of grain curving upward and surpassing shorter ears

莠
秀 slender object curving upward
艹 grass/plant
weed; (thing that is) superficially good but in actuality bad
the second meaning is via association with a useless weed that resembles a grain crop

綉
秀 slender object curving upward
糸 thread
embroidered object; embroidery
slender, curving pattern on embroidery

銹
秀 slender object curving upward
金 metal
rust; tarnish
slender, curving vein of rust/tarnish on a piece of metal

透
秀 surpass
辵 movement
penetrate; pass through; create a gap/space; transparent
penetrate/pass through in surpassing. "Transparent" is an extended meaning, in the sense of being able to look through a gap.

誘
秀 surpass
言 words
persuade; induce; entice
persuade someone by surpassing his power of resistance

貞
abbreviated form of 鼎 tripod kettle/cauldron
卜 divination
rectitude; righteous; chastity
inspect smoke rising from an upright vessel to divine the future. "Rectitude" is by association with "upright." "Righteous" and "chastity" are by extension from "rectitude."

偵
貞 inspect
亻/人 person
investigate
here 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one

逵
貞 inspect
辵 movement (→ action indicator)
search for

幀
貞 upright

巾 cloth
scroll; picture; cloth spread straight
(red) cloth hung upright

楨
貞 upright
木 tree/wood
support posts; Ligustrum japonicum
tall wooden support posts; compare 掌. "Ligustrum japonicum" (a tall shrub) is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character.

禎
貞 upright
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
happiness; correct; auspicious
happiness bestowed on those whose behavior is upright/correct. "Auspicious" is an associated meaning.

赬
abbreviated form of 幀 (red) cloth
赤 red
(deep) red
red cloth. 赤 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

猒
obsolete element = 月/肉 flesh + 犬 dog/beast
口 mouth
be satiated
the disagreeable sensation of rich/fatty meat pressing upon the intestines

厭
猒 be satiated
厂 shape indicator (function uncertain)
be satiated; be/become sick of; loathe
"be/become sick of" is by association with satiety, while "loathe" is an extended

meaning in the sense of hating that which one is sick of

壓
厭 press upon
土 earth
press; pressure
pressure exerted on the earth by a heavy object

靨
厭 press upon
甲 armor/helmet
shell; operculum
protective armor that presses upon the body of the creature occupying it. "Operculum" (a term used in botany and zoology indicating a lid/cover) is an associated meaning.

靨
厭 press upon
面 face
dimple(s)
for another character involving pressure on the face/skin, compare and contrast 黶

魘
厭 press upon
鬼 ghost; demon
nightmare
be pressed upon by a fearsome spirit

黶
厭 press upon
黑 black
mole; skin blemish; facial mole
dark object pressing upon/covering the skin. For another character involving pressure on the face/skin, compare and contrast 靨.

慼
厭 be satiated
心 heart/emotions
be satiated; be content
心 heart/emotions appended to emphasize emotional satiety

饜
厭 be satiated
食 food/eating
eat one's fill; be satiated
食 appended to emphasize satiety on account of food intake

前
remnant element = forward progress in small increments
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
forward progress; before; in front
cut/shear in small increments. For forward progress in small increments, compare 先 and 踐. "Before" and "in front" are associated meanings in the sense "immediately behind/in front of one." The remnant element is an abbreviated form of 船 boat plus 止 (leg/foot), suggesting the progression of boats or of people on foot.

剪
前 cut/shear in small increments
刀 sword/knife
shears; scissors; cut; shear; clip; trim
剪, like 揃, was devised to replace 前 after 前 underwent its transformation of meanings.

揃
前 cut/shear in small increments
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shear; arrange
shear, then arrange objects neatly, in close adherence. 揃, like 剪, was devised to replace 前 after 前 underwent its transformation of meanings.

箭
前 cut/shear in small increments
竹 bamboo
arrow
fashion a (bamboo) arrow

湔
前 small increments
氵/水 water
wash; cleanse; purify
wash carefully, a little at a time; compare 洗

煎
前 small increments
灬/火 fire
roast; parch; fry; boil (down); decoct
roast, parch or fry food a little at a time

翦
前 cut/shear in small increments
羽 feather/wing
clip; shave; trim; shears; scissors
shears used to cut closely in clipping wings

尊
寸 settle
酋 alcohol container
alcohol cask; respect; value; precious; noble
set in place a valuable alcohol cask

樽
尊 cask
木 tree/wood
cask; barrel; keg; wooden container
木 appended for emphasis/clarification

鱒
尊 cask
魚 fish
(variety of cyprinid, in the carp family)
fish preserved in a cask/barrel

撙
尊 settle
扌/手 hand/action indicator
exercise restraint; abide (by)
settle a matter; compare 遵

遵
尊 settle
辶 movement
follow; comply with; obey
settle a matter; compare 撙

蹲
尊 settle
足 leg/foot
squat; crouch
settle into a squat/crouch; compare 踆

毛
hair; fur; feather; wool
depiction of strands of fine, curly hair covering the surface of the skin

耄
毛 (fine strands of) hair
老 aged person
old person; grow senile
the remaining strands of an elderly person's hair

髦
毛 (fine strands of) hair
髟 hair
bangs; long hair (of a young child); long mane

旄
毛 hair/fur
从 pennant/banner
pennant/banner with a long-haired yak tail attached; yak tail; yak; old (← 耄)

麾
abbreviated form of 旄 pennant/banner (with a long-haired yak tail attached)
麻 linen
(signal) flag; (military) banner; signal; direct; lead; beckon
"signal," "direct," "lead" and "beckon" are associated meanings, via the idea of battle signals

表
毛 hair/fur
衣 clothing
surface; face; chart; express; expression; outside; appearance; show
spread a fur or an animal skin over one's body; compare 求 and 皮

俵
表 spread
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
distribute; divide
spread/distribute the contents of a sack

裱
表 spread
衤/衣 clothing
mount (a cloth hanging)
spread/mount (a cloth hanging)

耗
毛 fine objects
(originally, 禾 grain/rice)
decrease; decline; wear down
fine particles of grain. 禾 was later replaced by 耒 plow.

眊
毛 fine objects
目 eye
dim-sighted; eye lacking sparkle
object too fine to be seen clearly; compare 瞀

般
transformed element = rounded tray (originally not 舟 boat)
殳 action indicator
manner; kind; (in) general; all
carry/transport a tray on which objects are spread out. Present-day meanings are via extension, in the sense of the spreading of various/general objects from a starting point.

搬
般 carry/transport
扌/手 hand/action indicator
carry; transport; move
搬 was devised to replace 般 after 般 lost its connection with "carry/transport"

槃
般 tray
木 tree/wood
tray; bowl; tub
wooden tray etc.

盤
般 tray
皿 dish/plate/bowl

tray; basin; (game)board
皿 appended to emphasize/clarify the "tray" sense of 般

瘢
般 spread out
疒 illness
scar
scar that spreads over the skin

磐
般 spread out
石 stone
boulder; rock; crag; firm
broad (= spreading) boulder/rock

鞶
般 spread out
革 leather
broad leather belt/waistband

舌
remnant element = slender chisel
口 mouth
tongue; speaking
slender, chisel-like tongue enclosed in the mouth, which facilitates speaking

刮
舌 chisel-like implement in motion
刀/刂 sword/knife
scrape; shave; tear off
scrape at with a bladed implement; compare 歳

活
舌 chisel-like implement in motion
氵/水 water

activity; live; life
break a container with a chisel-like implement, creating an active flow of the liquid contents

适
舌 chisel-like implement in motion
辵 movement
fast; quick
active (not sluggish) movement. For active, compare 活.

栝
舌 chisel-like implement in motion
木 tree/wood
wood frame; (measuring implement)
chisel out a constrictive wood frame, then place it about a bending tree or other curved object in order to straighten it

筈
舌 chisel-like implement in motion
竹 bamboo
notch of an arrow; notch on a bow
notch an arrow with a chisel-like implement

括
舌 enclose
扌/手 hand/action indicator
enclose; fasten; include
enclose by fastening, thereby including objects within

話
舌 speaking
言 words
speak; converse; tell; story
speak harmoniously; compare 和

憩
舌 speaking
息 breath
rest; relaxation
take a breather from speech

闊
活 pour out
門 gate
broad; wide; distant
gate with ample space, allowing people and objects to pour out

單
simple; single; individual; only
depiction of a simple, flat hunting weapon, made of rattan, used to beat birds out of the sky with a fanning motion. Meanings other than "simple" are via association and extension.

彈
單 (rattan) weapon
弓 bow
projectile; bullet; shell; cannonball; rebound; bounce; bound; spring (up)
projectile sent flying by a weapon

戰
單 (rattan) weapon
戈 spear/halberd
fight; battle; war
use various weapons to beat enemies into submission or to death

檀
單 (rattan) weapon
木 tree/wood
boxwood
a tree the flat, thin leaves of which resemble the rattan weapon represented by 單

簞
單 (rattan) weapon
竹 bamboo
bamboo basket (for cooked rice); bamboo-woven container
rattan/bamboo basket

嘽
單 fanning motion
口 mouth
gasp; pant
rapid inhaling and exhaling, likened to a fanning motion

嬋
單 fanning motion
女 woman
delicate beauty; graceful
the sinewy motion of a female

憚
單 fanning motion
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; dread; shrink from; refrain from
palpitation of the heart likened to a fanning motion

殫
單 fanning motion
歹 severed bone/death
beat; fell (an enemy); be completely used up/exhausted; all; entirely
beat to death by means involving a fanning motion. "Be completely used up/exhausted" is an associated meaning in the sense of annihilating an enemy army; compare 殄. "All" and "entire(ly)" are extended meanings via "completely."

癉
單 fanning motion

疒 illness
wasted by illness; devitalized
the unsteady steps of one wasted by illness, resembling the manner of the fanning motion of a flat rattan weapon; compare 騨

蟬
單 fanning motion
虫 insect/creature
cicada
fanning/beating motion of cicada wings

闡
單 fanning motion
門 gate
open; clarify; explicate
fanning motion involved in flinging open the doors of a gate. "Clarify" and "explicate" are via association with"open," in the sense of opening and making evident.

驒
單 fanning motion
馬 horse
dappled (gray or brown) horse
weakened horse whose unsteady steps are likened to a fanning motion; compare 癉. The specific reference to a dappled horse is on account of such horses being regarded as unworthy of domestication, and in consequence being left to make do with whatever nourishment they could find in the wild.

鱓
單 fanning motion
魚 fish
(variety of) eel
fish that swims with a fanning motion

鼉

abbreviated form of 單 fanning motion
黽 frog/amphibious creature
(variety of) crocodile
large, amphibious reptile, its movements likened to a fanning motion

禪
單 single
示 altar/the supernatural
Zen (Buddhism)
meditation resulting in metaphysical unity. "Zen (Buddhism)" is via a transliteration of the Sanskrit dhyana (meditation).

禪
單 single
衤/衣 clothing
unlined garment
single-layered garment

觶
單 single
角 horn
goblet
goblet carved from a single horn

嚴
abbreviated form of 單 (weapon)
囗 circular enclosure
use weapons to surround and drive a beast/wild animal into a snare or enclosure; compare 狩 and 逐. 嚴 is effectively obsolete.

獸
嚴 drive a beast into a snare/enclosure
犬 dog/beast (for emphasis/clarification)
beast; wild animal; brute

猷
plan; scheme; measure; way
variant form of 獸 drive a beast/wild animal into a snare or enclosure, suggesting the idea of considering how to drive prey into a trap

壽
abbreviated form of 老 aged person
remnant element = long, curved ridges about a paddy/field
longevity; long span; congratulations
"longevity" and "long span" are via association with the length of an aged person's lifespan (compare 久). "Congratulations" is an extended meaning, in the sense of a celebration of long life.

壔
壽 ridge
土 earth
ridge; embankment; mound
as with 疇, 壔 was devised to replace 壽 after 壽 came to indicate "longevity"

疇
壽 ridge
田 field
ridge; farmland; same type/kind; category
"same type/kind" is an associated meaning via continuous farmland. "Category" is by extension, in the sense of a group of the same kind of people/objects. As with 壔, 疇 was devised to replace 壽 after 壽 came to indicate "longevity."

幬
壽 long and curved
巾 cloth
drop curtain; canopy; cover
long drop curtain/canopy

濤
壽 long and curved

氵/水 water
swell; (high) wave
large, swelling waves

檮
壽 long and curved
木 tree/wood
block of wood; blockhead
long and curving piece of wood. "Blockhead" is a figurative, associated meaning.

籌
壽 long and curved
竹 bamboo
tally; token; calculate; plan
long pieces of bamboo used in counting/measuring

鑄
壽 long and curved
金 metal
cast; mint; coin
pour molten lead into a long and curved die or cast in smelting

儔
壽 long span
亻/人 person
companion
companion of long duration

擣
壽 long span
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pound; beat; attack
pound/beat at length. "Attack" is an associated meaning.

禱

壽 long span
示 altar/the supernatural
entreaty; prayer; pray
prolonged entreaty/prayer

躊
壽 long span
足 leg/foot
hesitate
pace back and forth at length. "Hesitate" is an associated meaning, in the sense of pacing back and forth in hesitancy.

盧
虍 tiger (→ tiger-stripe pattern)
remnant element = container + 皿 dish/plate/bowl
hut; cottage (← 廬)
cooking pot with a tiger-stripe pattern, half-sunken into the earth

爐
盧 cooking pot
火 fire
cooking stove; furnace; hearth; sunken fireplace

臚
盧 shape indicator
月/肉 flesh
(distended) belly; align; transmit

驢
盧 shape indicator
馬 horse
donkey; ass
creatures of a shape likened to a cooking pot; compare 鱸

鱸

盧 shape indicator
魚 fish
sea bass
creature of a shape likened to a cooking pot; compare 驢

壚
盧 sunken
土 earth
black clod of dirt; shop
clod of dirt partially sunken in the earth

廬
盧 sunken
广 building
hut; cottage
structure partially sunk into the earth

蘆
盧 sunken
艹 grass/plant
reed; rush
reed sunken into a marsh

櫨
盧 sunken
木 tree/wood
supporting block; (column) capital; sumac; Japanese wax tree
piece of wood that sinks into a pillar under the weight of the roof the wood supports

艫
盧 sunken
舟 boat
stern; bow; prow
the stern of a boat, that sinks below the waterline. "Bow" and "prow" are via a

reinterpretation of the character, understanding the section in question to be at the front rather than the rear of the vessel; compare 舳.

轤
盧 sunken
車 vehicle
pulley
device with ropes that sink into crevices; compare 轆

顱
盧 sunken
頁 head
(fore)head; skull
(sunken) head or skull

慮
abbreviated form of 盧 sunken
心 heart/emotions
consider; ponder; be concerned about
be sunk in finely detailed thoughts; compare 思

虛
abbreviated form of 盧 sunken
variant form of 丘 geologic basin
hollow; empty; false; untrue
basin notably sunken in the middle (e.g., for the foundation of a building; compare 亞)

墟
虛 sunken
土 earth
ruins; wasteland
ruins that have sunk into the earth

虜

abbreviated form of 盧 sunken
男 man
captive; prisoner
line of emaciated captives/prisoners; compare 奚 and 婁

濾
慮 fineness
氵/水 water
filter; strain (out)
filter/strain (out) fine particles; compare 漉

鑢
慮 fineness
金 metal
file; rasp
(metallic) file/rasp creating fine particles

鑪
abbreviated form of 爐 furnace; hearth
金 metal
furnace; hearth; fireplace; stove
(metallic) hearth, fireplace or furnace. "Stove" is an associated meaning.

彔
remnant element = pared/stripped pieces
remnant element = bamboo
carve (wood)
though the character originally concerned bamboo, it came to be used primarily with respect to wood

綠
彔 pare/strip bamboo
糸 thread
green
threads dyed the vivid color of bamboo freshly stripped of its bark

剥
彔 pare/strip
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
pare; strip (off); peel; shell (v.)
剥 was devised to replace 彔 after 彔 came to be associated specifically with carving

錄
彔 pare/strip
金 metal
inscribe; record; copy
pare away the outer layer of bronzeware in making inscriptions

碌
彔 scatter right and left
石 stone
rough; rocky
the sound of stones tumbling over each other as they scatter

禄
彔 scatter right and left
示 altar/the supernatural
blessings; happiness; prosperity
blessings scattered on humans by the gods

淥
abbreviated form of 綠 pure
氵/水 water
pure water; filter; strain
"filter" and "strain" (in purifying water) are associated meanings

菉
abbreviated form of 綠 green
艹 grass/plant
green bamboo; Miscanthus tinctorius

particular types of green plants

醁
abbreviated form of 綠 green
酉 alcohol container
green-colored liquor
particular type of green-colored alcohol

籙
錄 records
竹 bamboo
records/prophecies inscribed on bamboo tablets and other media; records; books

襄
remnant element = a number of mixed items
衣 clothing (→ supple/soft cloth sack)
cooperate; work; assist; raise
cooperate in inserting seized goods in soft sacks

攘
襄 seize
扌/手 hand/action indicator
seize; reject; repel
扌/手 appended to emphasize/clarify the "seize" aspect of 襄

囊
襄 sack
remnant element = a sack
sack; bag; pouch
囊 was devised to replace 襄 after 襄 lost its connection with "sack"

壤
襄 supple/soft
土 earth

earth; soil
softened earth

孃
襄 supple/soft
女 woman
young lady; mother
compare 娘

穰
襄 supple/soft
禾 grain/rice
stalks of millet/grain; abundant
pliant, stripped stalks of millet

讓
襄 supple/soft
言 words
allow; concede; yield
take a pliant attitude in accepting a demand/request

釀
襄 supple/soft
酉 alcohol
brew; ferment; give rise to; lead to
soften ingredients in brewing an alcoholic beverage. "Give rise to" and "lead to" are associated meanings.

饟
襄 supple/soft
食 food/eating
cooked rice transported to field laborers; soldier's salary
cooked rice placed in a sack/container and transported to field laborers; compare 饁

曩
襄 insert
日 sun/day
long ago; ancient(ly)
days inserted between the present and a specific time in the past

鑲
襄 insert
金 metal
insert; inlay; fill; ridge
insert softened metal into a mold, or pour into crevices

禳
abbreviated form of 攘 repel
示 altar/the supernatural
exorcise; sacrifice
repel unclean spirits

驤
襄 raise
馬 horse
horse galloping with head raised; raise; hold high
it is possible that 襄 here functions as an abbreviated form of 釀 (give rise to).

兒
transformed element = fontanels (originally not 臼)
儿 person
infant; (very young) child; son
the transformed element was a depiction of fine bones in the fontanels (open spaces over which the skull bones eventually fuse), which are framed by an infant's skull. For fontanels, compare 毘 鬼 思 and 顖.

倪
兒 infant(ile)
亻/人 person

(sidelong) glance; stare (← 睨)
(feeble) infant

猊
兒 infant(ile) → small in comparison
犭/犬 dog/beast
lion; (mythical beast)
small variety of lion. In Buddhism the character signifies a seat of a buddha, and by extension that of a high priest.

睨
兒 infant(ile)
目 eye
stare; glance; look askance
squint/stare like an infant

蜺
兒 infant(ile) → small in comparison
虫 insect/creature
cicada; rainbow (← 霓)
small variety of cicada

輗
兒 infant(ile) → small in comparison
車 vehicle
linchpin; (clamp of a) crossbar
for "linchpin" compare 轄 軏 and 羣

霓
兒 infant(ile)
雨 rain/natural phenomena
rainbow
rainbow, associated with a goddess regarded as having created mankind. For "rainbow," compare 虹.

鬩
兒 infant(ile)
鬥 battle
fight; quarrel
fight/quarrel like small children

鯢
兒 infant(ile) → small in comparison
魚 fish
female whale; salamander
female whale, smaller than the male. 鯢 is used in distinction to 鯨, a male whale. (Large variety of) "salamander" is an associated meaning in the sense "comparatively whale-like proportions."

麑
兒 infant(ile)
鹿 deer
fawn; young deer

益
remnant element = 水 (water) turned sideways
皿 dish/plate/bowl
advantage; benefit; profit
liquid filling the framing element (the container) that holds it. "Advantageous" and "benefit" are via association with "full," in the sense "possess full resources." "Profit" is by extension (employ one's advantages to gaining profit). 益 is a variant form of 益.

嗌
益 fill/full
口 mouth
throat; choke
fill/stick in the throat, causing choking

搤

益 fill/full
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grip; tighten
grip an object tightly, filling the hand

溢
益 fill/full
氵/水 water
brim; overflow; spill; inundate
fill to the point of overflowing

隘
益 fill/full
阜/阝 piled earth
narrow
narrow mountain pass, nearly filled by the cliffs on both sides

縊
益 fill/full
糸 thread
hang; strangle
head filling a noose in hanging/strangulation

謚
益 fill/full
言 words
posthumous name
posthumous name, one conferred while the exploits of the deceased are recited in full; compare 誄. 諡, which replaces the element at top right with 兮, is another form of this character.

鎰
益 fill/full
金 gold
(ancient) measure of weight

fill a scale in measuring gold

鷁
益 fill/full
鳥 bird
green heron
replica of a green heron (or of a legendary bird) placed on the prow of a ship as a talisman to guard against a ship being filled with water in a storm

蠲
益 fill/full
蜀 adhere
centipede; clear; pure
centipedes swarming (= fully covering) vegetation

安
宀 roof/building
女 woman
be at ease; be at peace; safe
woman framed within a building, resting/at ease indoors

按
安 rest in/on
扌/手 hand/action indicator
rest a hand upon; press down upon with the hand(s); check; examine; investigate
"check," "examine" and "investigate" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of pressing an object in various spots in examining it

晏
安 rest in/on
日 sun/day
late; quiet
setting of the sun (rest/settle on the horizon). "Late (in the day)" is an associated meaning, with "quiet" (that accompanies the end of the day) by extension.

案
安 rest in/on
木 tree/wood
consider; plan (← 按); **law/legal case; record**
rest the elbows on a wooden desk or table. "Law/legal case" and "record" are by association with the borrowed meanings "consider" and "plan."

鞍
安 rest in/on
革 leather
saddle
saddle upon which the rider's buttocks rest

頞
安 rest in/on
頁 head
bridge of the nose
object that adheres to the front of the head as the ears adhere to the sides; compare 耳

鵪
安 rest in/on
鳥 bird
quail
bird at rest, and adhering closely to the vegetation that conceals and protects it

宴
abbreviated form of 晏 settle
宀 roof/building
feast; banquet
settle in/down to an indoors feast or banquet

匽
abbreviated form of 晏 settle

匸 contain/conceal
hide; secrete; bend
set an object in place, hiding it away

偃
匽 set in place
亻/人 person
lay (the body) down/low; stop

堰
匽 set in place
土 earth
dam; embankment; weir
pack earth and set in place to create a dam. "Weir" (fish trap set in place) is an associated meaning.

蝘
匽 hide
虫 insect/creature
cicada
creature that remains hidden in the earth for years before emerging. However, the compound 蝘蜓 refers to a gecko.

鰋
匽 hide
魚 fish
catfish
fish hidden in muddy, stagnant water

鼴
匽 hide
鼠 rat/mouse
mole
creature hidden in the earth

叚
二 align
remnant element = overlay
conceal; false
frame a body by overlaying it with a garment, thereby concealing it. "False" is an associated meaning, in the sense "conceal reality/the truth." The remnant element originally combined a hanging cloth/pelt + an action indicator.

假
叚 false
亻/人 person
false; deceptive; artificial; fake; temporary; provisional; lend/borrow
Here, 亻/人 has no semantic function, having been appended to 叚 to create a derivative character emphasizing the "false" rather than the "conceal" aspect of the original sense of 叚 (overlay the body with a garment). "Temporary" and "provisional" are associated meanings (garment worn temporarily/provisionally). "Lend/borrow" is by extension from temporary (temporary loan as opposed to a permanent gift/grant).

葭
叚 overlay
艹 grass/plant
reed; reed pipe/flute
reeds overlaying the surface of a pond

遐
叚 overlay
辶 movement
be separated by a great distance; far
set people/things at a progressively greater distance from each other

暇
叚 overlay
日 sun/day
leisure (time)

figurative overlaying of days/time, creating a surplus

瑕
叚 overlay
王/玉 jewel
flaw; blemish; defect; mistake; fault
flaw/blemish overlaying the surface of a jewel

嘏
叚 overlay
abbreviated form of 祜 prosperity; happiness
prosperity; happiness; great/large
figurative, overlapping layers of prosperity/felicity

蝦
叚 overlay
虫 insect/creature
shrimp; prawn; lobster
creature with a layered shell; compare 鰕

豭
叚 overlay
豕 pig/boar
boar; male pig; male
tusked boar, with the tusks overlaying the mouth

鍜
叚 overlay
金 metal
armor neckplates
layered, armor neckplates; compare 鋌

霞
叚 overlay
雨 rain/natural phenomena

reddish clouds; haze; dim; blurred
reddish clouds/haze overlaying the sky

鰕
叚 overlay
魚 fish
shrimp; prawn
aquatic creature with a layered shell; compare 蝦

瞿
obsolete element = make a circular sweep with the eyes
隹 short, squat bird
look about; alarmed
bird looking nervously about; compare 雇 and 鶪

矍
瞿 bird looking nervously about
又 hand
look about in fright, alarm or surprise
bird enclosed in the hands, and looking nervously about. 蒦 is a variant form of 矍.

戄
矍 enclose in the hands
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; be in awe
fear experienced by captive game

攫
矍 enclose in the hands
扌/手 hand/action indicator
seize; grasp; snatch away; carry off
seize/grasp in the hands

濩
蒦 variant form of 矍 enclose in the hands

氵/水 water
trickle; cascade; drip; boil
release a trickle of liquid from cupped hands. "Boil" (in cooking) is an associated meaning in the sense of adding a trickle of liquid ingredients and boiling them.

獲
蒦 variant form of 矍 enclose in the hands
犭/犬 dog/beast
catch; obtain; gain
enclose caught prey (in the hands). Compare and contrast 玃.

玃
矍 enclose in the hands
犭/犬 dog/beast
ape
large, predatory ape; compare 狙

穫
蒦 variant form of 矍 enclose in the hands
禾 grain/rice
harvest
enclose grain in the hands in harvesting

護
蒦 variant form of 矍 enclose in the hands
言 words
defend; protect
figuratively enclose someone in verbal protection

躩
矍 enclose in the hands
足 leg/foot
quick steps; short steps
quick steps such as taken in one's hand by a captive bird in attempting to escape

鑊
隻 variant form of 矍 enclose a bird in the hands
金 metal
pot; cauldron
pot large enough to boil fowl or animals whole. Compare and contrast 钁.

钁
矍 enclose in the hands
金 metal
hoe
large hoe with a curved blade, about which one cups the hands. Compare and contrast 鑊.

癯
瞿 look nervously about
疒 illness
emaciated; worn out
effect of nervous exhaustion

衢
瞿 look about
行 straight, crossing roads
crossroads; intersection; highway; thoroughfare
vista offered by a highland crossroads

懼
瞿 look nervously about
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; dread; awe; apprehensiveness
nervous emotion in the forms of fear, dread etc.

□□
obsolete element = 火 fire (doubled)
冖 cover (here suggesting a fire ring)
brilliant

campfire curving about a fire ring. "Brilliant" is via association with the brilliance of flames.

塋
□□curve about
土 earth
cemetery; grave
parcel of encircled land

榮
□□curve about
木 tree/wood
blossom; thrive; flourish; prosper; glory
blossoming flowers that curve about a tree

熒
□□curve about
火 fire
lamplight; light; bright; dazzling; be led astray
bright halo given off by lamplight. "Be led astray" is an associated meaning via "dazzling," in the sense of being dazzled and thereby confused.

瑩
□□curve about
玉 jewel
halo; luster of a jewel; clarity
halo given off by jewels

縈
□□curve about
糸 thread
wind about; surround; entwine
thread that encircles/winds about

螢

□□curve about
虫 insect/creature
glow-worm; firefly
insect that produces a ring of light

營
□□curve about
abbreviated form of 官 wrapped about/enclosed
camp; barracks; conduct (business); perform
circular military encampment; compare 軍. "Conduct" (business) and "perform" are associated meanings via the idea of setting up camp.

鶯
□□curve about
鳥 bird
bush warbler; oriole
bird with a neck-band

嶸
榮 curve about
山 mountain
high mountains; lofty; towering
curving range of high mountains

蠑
榮 curve about
虫 insect/creature
(roundish/oblong creature)
蠑螺 = turban shell; 蠑螈 = newt

勞
□□curve
力 power/energy
labor; work hard; hard work
bend/stoop in labor and/or fatigue; compare 留

撈
勞 stoop
扌/手 hand/action indicator
dredge; drag; fish up
stoop in dredging, or in dragging a seine

癆
勞 stoop
疒 illness
(stoop with exhaustion)
癆痎 = tuberculosis

粦
transformed element (originally 炎 flame)
舛 crossing legs
phosphorous
ignis fatuus (will-o'-the-wisp), where flames figuratively adhere to each other in creating a chain. In derivative characters, 粦 exerts the influence "repeated series," a figurative type of chain.

嶙
粦 repeated series
山 mountain
mountain range
(precipitous) mountain range

憐
粦 repeated series
忄/心 heart/emotions
sympathy; pity
waves of sympathy

遴
粦 repeated series

辵 movement (→ action indicator)
align; select
align a number of objects. "Select" is an associated meaning in the sense of selecting from among aligned items; compare 柬.

鄰
粦 repeated series
邑/阝 village/settlement
neighboring; next to; adjoining
lines of dwellings standing in close proximity

燐
粦 ignis fatuus
火 fire
ignis fatuus; will-o'-the-wisp; phosphorous
火 appended for emphasis/clarification. For "phosphorous," compare 磷.

璘
粦 repeated series
王/玉 jewel
luster
repeated pattern on a jewel. "Luster" is an associated meaning.

磷
粦 repeated series
石 stone
flaked rock; phosphorous; luster (← 璘)
for "phosphorous," compare 燐

轔
粦 repeated series
車 vehicle
squeaking sound; rumbling
repeated squeaking sound produced by the wheels of a vehicle; compare 轃. It is likely, however, that the original sense concerned a series of vehicles rather than the

sound produced.

鱗
粦 repeated series
魚 fish
scales; scaly
repeated pattern of (fish) scales

麟
粦 repeated series
鹿 deer
(fabulous creature)
a fabulous creature said to make perfect right angles in turning. The creature is supposed to have the trunk of a deer, the tail of a cow and the hooves and mane of a horse, and to emit a multicolored glow. 麒麟 refers to the male and female of the beast, with 麒 normally understood to represent the former and 麟 the latter. 麒麟 also applies to the giraffe, an animal which may have been the model for the imaginary beast.

賓
remnant element = throng of pigs inside a pigpen
貝 commodities
(honored) visitor; guest
throng of gift-bearing guests, in close contact. The remnant element was originally 宀 roof/building + 豕 pig/boar.

嬪
賓 contact
女 woman
(imperial) concubine; court lady; wife
female in close/intimate contact with a male

擯
賓 contact
扌/手 hand/action indicator

expel; push out/away; reject
lay hands on someone and expel him

濱
賓 contact
氵/水 water
shore; beach
shore/beach where land and water contact

獱
賓 contact
犭/犬 dog/beast
(animal that adheres close to water while on land)
獱獺 = variety of otter

臏
賓 contact
月/肉 flesh
kneecap
kneecap in contact with the knee. Effectively a variant form of 髕.

殯
賓 contact
歹 severed bone/death
corpse laid to rest in a coffin prior to burial; lie in state
"lie in state" is an associated meaning

矉
賓 contact
目 eye
frown; scowl
frown or scowl, creating wrinkles on the brow in close contact; compare 嚬 and 顰

繽
賓 contact

糸 thread
dense; abundant; disorderly
densely packed, disorderly alignment of threads

鬢
賓 contact
髟 hair
side locks; sideburns
hair close to the temples

髕
賓 contact
骨 bone
kneecap
kneecap in contact with the knee; compare 膑

番
obsolete element (now written 釆 scattered seeds)
transformed element = basket (originally not 田)
number; order; keep watch; foreign; barbarian
reach into a basket and scoop up seeds to spread/sow them. "Number" and "order" are associated meanings in the sense of counting the number of times the hand is inserted into a basket. The borrowed meanings "foreign" and "barbarian" derive from the use of 番 in names assigned to certain non-Han groups. Note that 釆 replaces an obsolete character that likewise indicated seeds or grain.

墦
番 spread
土 earth
grave; tomb
spreading earthen burial mound

審
番 spread
宀 roof/building

investigate; judge
spread out in searching a building for something concealed

幡
番 spread
巾 cloth
pennant; streamer; flag; flutter
pennant/streamer etc. spreading in the breeze; compare 旛

播
番 spread/sow seeds
扌/手 hand/action indicator
sow; spread; scatter
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

潘
番 spread
氵/水 water
water in which rice has been washed; whirlpool
grain spread throughout water in which it is washed. "Whirlpool" is an associated meaning via the image of swirling water.

蕃
番 spread
艹 grass/plant
grow thick; thrive; foreign; barbarian (← 番)
grass/plants spread thickly over a field

膰
番 spread
月/肉 flesh
ritual offering of cooked meat
a spread of meat

燔

番 spread
火 fire
burn; roast; bake
burn over a vast area

皤
番 spread
白 white
white
white/gray hair spreading over the head of an elderly person

繙
番 spread
糸 thread
read; translate
unroll a bound scroll to read it. For "translate," compare 翻.

翻
番 spread
羽 feather/wing
flutter; fly; flip (through); rummage/browse through; flip/turn over; translate; decode; change; cross (over)
birds spreading and flapping their wings in preparation to take flight. "Flip" is via association with "flap." "Translate" and "decode" are extended meanings via "flip through" (a written work), with "change" and "cross (over)" by further extension in the sense of changing/crossing from one thing (a language, a place) to another.

蟠
番 spread
虫 (→ original signification = snake)
coil; curl up/around

旛
番 spread
㫃 pennant/banner

pennant; streamer; flag
pennant/streamer etc. spreading in the breeze; compare 幡

蹯
番 spread
足 leg/foot
paw; paw meat
spread paw

鷭
番 spread
鳥 bird
moorhen; water hen
bird that spreads in great numbers over paddies and shallow ponds/lakes

畚
straw basket
variant form of 番 (basket used in sowing)

糞
variant form of 番 basket used in sowing
共 act jointly
feces; filth
group spreading manure contained in a basket

藩
潘 spread
艹 grass/plant
fence; hedge; barrier; boundary; border/frontier
rough-woven fence created by spreading branches; compare 笆

戔
slight
variant form of the element minus 韭 visible in 鐵 = fine/slight tip of a long, slender weapon

剗
戔 fine/slight
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
trim; pare; spade; remove; abolish
trim/pare finely

淺
戔 fine/slight
氵/水 water
shallow; slight; little; few; light/pale
place where water runs thin; compare 津. "Light (color)" is via the transparency of still, shallow waters, with "pale" by extension from "light."

棧
戔 fine/slight
木 tree/wood
storehouse; pen; stable; inn; tavern
(object made of) fine pieces of wood. "Inn" and "tavern" are associated meanings.

殘
戔 fine/slight
歹 severed bone/death
remain; leave behind; be left over; cut into; cruel
cut/strip flesh from bones, leaving only a slight remainder

盞
戔 fine/slight
皿 dish/plate/bowl
(small) cup
small cup (for drinking alcohol) that holds only a slight volume of liquid

箋
戔 fine/slight
竹 bamboo

paper; stationery; letter; composition
fine, inscribed pieces of bamboo

綫
戔 fine/slight
糸 thread
thread; line; clue; lead
fine thread. "Line," "clue" and "lead" are via 線, a variant form with the same core meaning as 綫 but with the associated nuance of "slender line."

賤
戔 fine/slight
貝 commodities
cheap; inexpensive; shabby; inferior; contemptible; poverty
low-grade commodities of slight worth. "Contemptible" is an associated meaning, with "poverty" by extension in the sense of substandard or contemptible living conditions.

濺
賤 slight amount
氵/水 water
sprinkle; splash; spray
sprinkle/splash on or spray a slight amount of water

踐
戔 fine/slight
足 leg/foot
step/tread on; put into practice; perform
take fine steps; compare 前. "Put into practice" and "perform" are associated meanings in the sense of trampling an object for a specific purpose.

錢
戔 fine/slight
金 metal
coin(age); money; change; unit of money

small/fine pieces of metal

夋
允 running (human) figure
夂 leg/foot pointed downward
dawdle
stop running and stand erect (the soles of the feet thereby adhering to the ground). For "dawdle," compare 躕 and 夌.

俊
夋 stand erect
亻/人 person
quality; genius; excellence; handsome
person of superior posture. "Handsome" is an associated meaning.

峻
夋 stand erect
山 mountain
steep, high mountain; severe
"severe" is an associated meaning, in the sense of severe conditions pertaining to steep mountain heights

悛
夋 stand erect
忄/心 heart/emotions
repent
stand erect in a formal display of repentance

浚
夋 stand erect
氵/水 water
dredge; clean out; drag
dredge to restart the flow of standing/stagnant water; compare 渫

狻

夋 stand erect
犭/犬 dog/beast
(mythical beast of obscure attributes)
狻猊 = lion

逡
夋 stand erect
辵 movement
draw/step back; retreat
draw/step back in increments, maintaining an erect posture

梭
夋 stand erect
木 tree/wood
shuttle; go back and forth
erect shuttle of a loom. "Go back and forth" is via association with the movements of a shuttle.

畯
夋 stand erect
田 field
agricultural administrator
administrator who stands erect in overseeing, in contrast to farm workers who bend in labor; compare 留 and 勞

竣
夋 stand erect
立 stand
complete; terminate
complete a task in causing something to stand erect

踆
夋 stand erect
足 leg/foot
stand with the feet together; squat

"squat" in the sense of lowering the body but keeping the back erect/straight

酸
夋 stand erect
酉 alcohol
sour; spoil(ed); acid; severe
sour alcohol that, when imbibed, causes the body to stiffen (= become erect) in revulsion

駿
夋 stand erect
馬 horse
fine, well-proportioned horse; swift; excellent
(erect, and) fine, well-proportioned horse

允
consent; permit; sincere; proper
depiction of a human figure running in chasing or being chased; compare 夭

叀
spindle; hang
depiction of a round/rotating object

專
叀 round/rotating object
寸 hand/action indicator
exclusive; dedicated; monopolize
handle a round, rotating object. "Exclusive" and "dedicated" are associated meanings in the sense of handling a single object, with "monopolize" by extension.

傳
專 round and/or rotating object
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
transmit; convey; tell; pass along; hand down; spread; tradition; legend
transmit/convey in the manner of an object rolling from place to place

剸
專 round and/or rotating object
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
cut; slash
cut or slash a round/lumpy object from top to bottom

塼
專 round and/or rotating object
土 earth
tile; brick
round (earthen) tile; compare 甎 and 磚

團
專 round and/or rotating object
囗 circular enclosure
group; round; mass; lump; sphere
group completely surrounded by a round enclosure. "Mass," "lump" and "sphere" are associated meanings.

摶
專 round and/or rotating object
扌/手 hand/action indicator
roll into a ball shape; roll in the hand(s); collect

蓴
專 round and/or rotating object
艹 grass/plant
(variety of edible) water plant
water plant with oval-shaped leaves

甎
專 round and/or rotating object
瓦 tile/earthenware
tile; brick

round (earthen) tile; compare 塼 and 磚

磚
專 round and/or rotating object
石 stone
stone; brick; tile (← 塼 or 甎)
round(ed) stone

轉
專 round and/or rotating object
車 vehicle
revolve; turn; transfer; convey; move; shift; change (direction)
rotating/revolving wheels of a vehicle

巴
spread open; cling/stick to; close to; long/hope for (earnestly)
depiction of a person spread flat on the ground. "Cling/stick to" and "close to" are associated meanings.

把
巴 spread
扌/手 hand/action indicator
take; grasp; hold; contain; handle (n.)
spread the hands and take/grasp a handle or other object

芭
巴 spread
艹 grass/plant
(plant with large, spreading leaves)
芭蕉 = Musa basjoo (banana/plantain)

杷
巴 spread
木 tree/wood
handle (← 把)

tree spread through with voluminous fruit. 枇杷 = loquat

爬
巴 spread
爪 claw/hand
crawl; creep; climb; scratch
crawl over a surface. "Scratch" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of this character (spread the claws/nails in scratching).

疤
巴 spread
疒 illness
scar; birthmark
scar spread over the skin. "Birthmark" is an associated meaning.

皤
巴 spread
白 white
spread
the derivative character 葩 indicates "spreading/blossoming (corolla of) flowers," so it is possible this was the original signification of 皤

葩
皤 spread
艹 grass/plant
flower; petal; flowery
spreading/blossoming (corolla of) flowers

笆
巴 spread
竹 bamboo
bamboo; bamboo fence
(spreading,) thorny bamboo, particularly in the form of a fence; compare 藩

耙

巴 spread
耒 plow
harrow; rake
harrow drawn by a draft animal, that spreads over a field. "Rake" is an associated meaning.

靶
巴 spread
革 leather
target; bridle
leather spread for use in the form of a target or a bridle

色
巴 spread
remnant element = human figure
sex; sexuality; appearance; looks; (facial) expression; color
two persons copulating. "Appearance," "looks" and "expression" are associated meanings in the sense of motive factors stimulating the sex drive. "Color" is an extended meaning from "appearance" (via complexion).

辟
obsolete element = 尸 body + 口 circular enclosure
辛 needle/cutting tool
punish; law; rule (over); ruler/lord; avoid; open (up)
punish criminals by severing body parts then spreading them about an enclosure. The idea of a legally sanctioned penalty led to the associated meaning "law," with "rule (over)" and "ruler/lord" by extension. The idea of severing body parts in punishment is a common theme among the Han/Chinese characters: Compare 刑 顯 馘 県 領 聯 罰 斬 取 and 殊 among others.

僻
辟 punish
亻/人 person
remote; rural; inaccessible; secluded; out of the ordinary; biased
remote place for punishing criminals. For the borrowed meaning "biased," compare

癖. Here, 亻/人 has no semantic function, serving simply to create a separate character conveying meanings that dropped from 辟.

劈
辟 spread (severed body parts)
刀 sword/knife
cleave; slash open/apart; split; chop; rip; break
刀 appended to emphasize the cutting/splitting aspect of the spreading of severed body parts in 辟

壁
辟 spread
土 earth
wall
spreading, earthen wall

擗
辟 spread
扌/手 hand/action indicator
split; rend; beat the breast
originally a variant form of 擘 (tear/rip an object apart/open, spreading its contents). "Beat the breast" is an associated meaning via the image of rending one's garments.

澼
辟 spread
氵/水 water
bleach; clean
spread in (liquid) bleach

薜
辟 spread
艹 grass/plant
vine; creeper; (a particular) medicinal plant
spreading vine/creeper

避
辟 spread
辵 movement
evade; avoid; avert; shun; remain aloof; shirk
spread in evasive movement

擘
辟 spread
手 hand/action indicator
rip/tear open; break; thumb
tear/rip an an object open/apart, spreading its contents. "Thumb" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character as "the digit of the hand spread away from the other digits."

檗
辟 spread
木 tree/wood
Amur cork tree
variety of tree with expansive branches

臂
辟 spread
月/肉 flesh
arm
the spreading flesh of the arm

璧
辟 spread
玉 jewel
disk-shaped precious stone
expansive, disk-shaped precious stone, particularly one with a hole in the middle

甓
辟 spread

瓦 tile/earthenware
(glazed) tile; brick
tiles spread over a roof/floor

癖
辟 spread
疒 illness
peculiarity; tendency; (bad) habit; curl/kink (in the hair)
bodily swelling, regarded as a peculiarity. Other meanings are via association.

襞
辟 spread
衣 clothing
pleats; crease; folds
spreading pleats

譬
辟 spread
言 words
example; illustration
figurative spread of words in offering an example, or in illustrating (a point)

躄
辟 spread
足 leg/foot
shuffle (along); lame; crippled
spread one's weakened legs for balance in order to shuffle along

闢
辟 spread
門 gate
open (up/out)
spread open a gate

霹

辟 spread
雨 rain/natural phenomena
(clap/peal of) thunder
thunder spreading over the sky

音
spit
originally a variant form of 否 (spread word of refusal). (Spread) spittle is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character.

倍
音 spread
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
double; more and more; increase; times
break an object in two, causing the pieces to spread. "Times" is an associated meaning via doubling (twice, three times etc.).

剖
音 spread
刀/刂 sword/knife
split (in two); divide
object that spreads in being split/divided in two

培
音 spread
土 earth
cultivate; raise; grow
spread earth over the roots of a plant in cultivation

掊
音 spread
扌/手 hand/action indicator
beat
beat an object, causing it to split and the contents to spread; compare 擘

菩
音 spread
艹 grass/plant
(plant with a widely spreading fragrance)
compare 芳 and 苾. 菩 eventually came to be used for transliterations of Sanskrit-language Buddhist terms such as 菩薩 for bodhisattva (roughly, one who helps sentient beings attain Buddhahood).

部
音 spread
邑/阝 village/settlement
part; section; group; counter (for books/papers); "radical"/classifier (for a Han/Chinese character)
spread over part of a settlement. All other meanings are via association with a "part."

蔀
部 spread
艹 grass/plant
screen; shade
spreading screen/shade; compare 箔

陪
音 spread
阜/阝 piled earth
accompany; attend (upon); serve; deputy; vice-; sub-
spread earth over the roots of a plant in cultivation. 陪 originally conveyed the same meanings as 培 (cultivate; raise; grow).

焙
音 spread
火 fire
roast; dry/warm over a fire; bake; broil; grill
spread meat to roast over a fire

瓿
音 spread
瓦 tile/earthenware
pot; jar; vase
small earthenware vessel with a bulging middle

賠
音 spread
貝 commodities
compensation; indemnity
spread money or payment in kind to provide full compensation for the original value of a (lost/destroyed) object. For the correlation of the concept "spread" with the meaning "compensate," compare 補.

踣
音 spread
足 leg/foot
fall prone
fall prone, the body spread on the ground

鳦
greedy; cunning; crafty
depiction of one rabbit piled atop and concealing another rabbit in copulation. "Greedy" is an associated meaning, greed likened to greedy sexual desire. "Cunning" and "crafty" are extended meanings in the sense of using cunning in satisfying one's desires.

饞
鳦 greedy; cunning
食 food/eating
gluttony; greed
gluttony in the sense of greediness for food

儳
鳦 pile

亻/人 person (→ human agency)
be mixed/disorderly; stupid
create an uneven pile. "Stupid" is in the sense of stupidity in creating an uneven pile.

巉
㐭 pile
山 mountain
steep; rugged
steep and rugged mountain with ridges of uneven height

攙
㐭 pile
扌/手 hand/action indicator
support; assist
support/assist someone's arm by placing a hand under it

纔
㐭 pile
糸 thread
a little; just now; at last
thread/fabric protruding from a pile just a little. "Just now" and "at last" are associated meanings, in the senses of just now or finally protruding.

鑱
㐭 pile
金 metal
spade; chisel
implement that creates a pile

秋
transformed element (originally 束 bundle)
禾 grain/rice
autumn; fall
bundle harvested crops. "Autumn" is by association with the season in which crops

are harvested and bundled. In the present form, 火 represents an abbreviated form of a variant style of the character which was 禾 + an element combining 火 fire plus 龜 turtle. Here, the idea was to dry and shrink the size of harvested crops, as turtle meat is dried over a fire; compare 焦.

啾
秋 shrunken
口 mouth
whimper; cry (softly); chirp
shrunken voice

愀
秋 shrunken
忄/心 heart/emotions
anxiety; change of countenance
feelings of a shrunken heart. Compare and contrast 愁, which repositions the 心 element.

湫
秋 shrunken
氵/水 water
puddle; small pond
shrunken body of water

萩
秋 autumn
艹 grass/plant
Chinese mugwort; bush clover
shrub plant that flowers in or close to autumn

愁
秋 shrunken
心 heart/emotions
anxiety
feelings of a shrunken heart. Compare 愀, which repositions the 心 element.

楸
秋 shrunken
木 tree/wood
Catalpa ovata; Mallotus japonicus
tree characterized by slender branches

甃
秋 shrunken
瓦 tile/earthenware
(brick) wall of a well
object that prevents well water from evaporating (= shrinking)

鍬
秋 shrunken
金 metal
hoe
short-handled hoe, one forcing the user into a bent over/shrunken posture; compare 留 畯 and 勞

鞦
秋 shrunken
革 leather
leather strap
shrunken piece of leather wound about the tail of a draft animal

鰍
秋 shrunken
魚 fish
loach
dried, shrunken loach

婁
母 (producer of a succession of individuals)
remnant element = 中 center/middle and 女 woman

tie; drag; connect
continuum of stooped female slaves tied to a central restraint and dragged along. Present-day meanings are via the idea of tying/dragging humans or beasts of burden.

僂
婁 stoop
亻/人 person
stoop; bend; hunchback
person who is stooped/hunched over

塿
婁 continuum
土 earth
anthill; small/low mound
anthill built by a continuous procession of ants

屢
婁 continuum
尸 body (→ person)
often; frequently
appearance of one person after another

摟
婁 drag slaves
扌/手 hand/action indicator
drag; pull; embrace
drag/pull a person along. "Hug" and "embrace" are associated meanings in the sense of pulling a person toward oneself and hugging/embracing.

數
婁 continuum
攵 action indicator
enumerate; count; number
enumerate people or a continuum of objects

藪
數 continuum of objects
艹 grass/plant
swamp; marsh; thicket; grove
thick vegetation

籔
數 continuum of objects
竹 bamboo
bamboo basket
bamboo basket for containing a large assemblage of rice/food or other objects

樓
婁 continuum
木 tree/wood
building of multiple stories; tower; lookout
wooden structure of multiple stories

瘻
婁 continuum
疒 illness
fistula; ulceration
fistula (an abnormal passage functioning as a continuum between two body parts). "Ulceration" is an associated meaning.

窶
婁 continuum
穴 hole
poor; shabby; wretched
be permanently confined in a narrow hole (or cave-like dwelling). "Poor," "shabby" and "wretched" are associated meanings in the sense of dreadful conditions.

簍
婁 continuum

竹 bamboo
bamboo basket
continuum of bamboo strips woven into a basket; compare 屨

褸
婁 continuum
衤/衣 clothing
rags; (be in) tatters
rags stitched together into a single garment; compare 襴

縷
婁 continuum
糸 thread
thread; detailed; precise
pieces of thread wound about a reel

螻
婁 continuum
虫 insect/creature
(many-jointed insect)
螻蛄 = mole cricket

屨
婁 continuum
abbreviated form of 履 wear shoes
sandals
continuum of straw/hemp strips woven into sandals; compare 簍

鏤
婁 continuum
金 metal
carve; inlay; stud (v.)
metalwork with a repeated pattern carved into it

髏

婁 continuum
骨 bone
skull; skeleton
skull, composed of a continuum of bone. "Skeleton" is an associated meaning.

莫
remnant element = four sprouting plants
日 sun/day
late; end; not be; must be
the setting sun, as seen from ground level, concealed by vegetation

募
莫 concealed
力 power/energy
appeal (for/to); invite; recruit; levy; raise (money)
strive to obtain something concealed, or not at hand

墓
莫 concealed
土 earth
grave; tomb
grave/tomb where the deceased are concealed

幕
莫 concealed
巾 cloth
curtain; screen; tent; act (of a play)
concealing curtain/screen/tent. "Act" (of a play) is an associated meaning (curtain marking the start/end of one act).

寞
莫 concealed
宀 roof/building
quiet; lonely
quiet, concealed dwelling

摸
莫 concealed
扌/手 hand/action indicator
stroke; caress; search for
run the hand gently over a dimly visible object gently to determine its nature; compare 撫 and 捫

漠
莫 concealed
氵/水 water
desert; vast; unconcerned; indifferent
desert, where water sources are concealed

貘
莫 concealed
犭/犬 dog/beast
tapir
(dimly visible and) imaginary beast believed to eat copper, iron and nightmares. Also written 貊, with 犭/犬 replaced by 豸 animal that ambles along the ground.

慕
莫 concealed
心 heart/emotions
yearning; admiration; adoration
yearn for something concealed, or not at hand

暮
莫 concealed
日 sun/day
sunset; nightfall; late; end
concealment of the sun at sunset. 暮 was devised to replace 莫 after 莫 lost its connection with nightfall.

模

莫 concealed
木 tree/wood
mold; model; shape; copy; imitation
wooden mold concealed by clay covering it

膜
莫 concealed
月/肉 flesh
membrane
fleshy element that conceals

蟆
莫 concealed
虫 insect/creature
toad
well-camouflaged variety of toad. 蟆 is also written 蟆.

謨
莫 concealed
言 words
plan; plot; scheme; deliberate (v.)
plan/plot/scheme (in secret; compare 謀)

鏌
莫 concealed
金 metal
sword
sword concealed in its sheath

驀
莫 concealed
馬 horse
dash; sudden; abrupt; mount/ride a horse
dashing horse with sight-concealing blinders covering its eyes

冪
幕 curtain
冖 cover
cover (n.); covering cloth; exponent

莽
luxuriant growth; impertinent
variant form of 莫 concealing vegetation, 日 replaced by 犬 dog/beast to suggest growth luxuriant enough to conceal a beast

漭
莽 concealed
氵/水 water
water spreading endlessly; vast; expansive
inundation (compare 汒 and 滿) concealing all that lies beneath. "Vast" and "expansive" are associated meanings in the sense of a vast/expansive stretch of water.

蟒
莽 concealed
虫 insect/creature
large snake
large snake such as a boa constrictor or python concealed in thick vegetation

需
而 soft and droopy
雨 rain/natural phenomena
demand; require
be drenched and become soft and droopy

儒
需 soft
亻/人 person
Confucian scholar; Confucian(ism); culture(d)
person of soft/gentle demeanor, extending to a man of culture then on to a

Confucian scholar

孺
需 soft
女 woman
mistress; concubine; weak
soft/supple woman

孺
需 soft
子 child
unweaned child; child

懦
需 soft
忄/心 heart/emotions
weak-minded; timid; cowardly

濡
需 soft
氵/水 water
moisten; soak; immerse; be/get wet; be/get damp
soften in liquid. 濡 was devised to replace 需 after 需 acquired its borrowed meanings.

臑
需 soft
月/肉 flesh
soft meat; (the fleshy) upper arm

襦
需 soft
衤/衣 clothing
fine silk cloth; short coat/jacket
soft fabric of a garment; compare 繻 and 褥

糯
需 soft
米 rice
glutinous rice
softened, glutinous rice

繻
需 soft
糸 thread
fine silk cloth
soft, fine silk cloth; compare 襦 and 褥

蠕
需 soft
虫 insect/creature
worm; squirm; crawl; move
soft, moist wriggling worm

輭
需 soft
車 vehicle
hearse
hearse with soft decorations hung from the vehicle. Also written 輀, with 而 in place of 需.

顬
需 soft
頁 head
the temple
the temple, the soft portion of the head; compare 顳

畐
full; filled; container
depiction of an alcohol container with a bulging middle and of abundant capacity.

偪
畐 abundance
亻/人 person
approach; press upon; pursue; compel
large number of fighters drawing near to surround an enemy. 偪 and 逼 are effectively variant forms of each other. Compare also 匐.

副
畐 abundance
刀/刂 sword/knife
halve; assist; supplement; secondary; assistant; vice-
cut/divide abundant contents into half. "Assist" is an associated meaning in the sense "assist by cutting/dividing." Other meanings are via extension from "assist."

匐
畐 abundance
勹 wrap
crawl; fall prostrate
large number of fighters crawling stealthily to surround an enemy; compare 偪 and 逼.

蔔
匐 crawl
艹 grass/plant
(large variety of) radish
plant with roots that crawl over the earth. 蔔 and 菔 are effectively variant forms conveying the same term.

富
畐 abundance
宀 roof/building
abundant; wealthy; become wealthy
building stocked with abundant possessions

幅
畐 abundance
巾 cloth
breadth; width; cloth; fabric; (counter for scrolls/pictures)
piece of cloth/fabric of abundant breadth/width

逼
畐 abundance
辵 movement
approach; press upon; pursue; compel
large number of fighters drawing near to surround an enemy. 偪 and 逼 are effectively variant forms of each other. Compare also 匐.

福
畐 abundance
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
blessings; (good) fortune; wealth
abundant blessings (from the gods/heaven)

蝠
畐 abundance
虫 insect/creature
bat
colony of bats

輻
畐 abundance
車 vehicle
spoke
abundant/numerous spokes radiating from a hub

复
abbreviated form of 畐 alcohol container
夂 leg/foot pointed downward (→ action indicator)
double back; return; go back

send back/return something received (in kind)

愎
复 double back
忄/心 heart/emotions
defiance; stubborn; perverse; not conform with/to
figurative doubling back in attitude

復
复 double back
彳 movement
return; repeat; once more; report
return by doubling back along the same course. "Report" is an associated meaning in the sense of repeating that which has happened by reporting it.

覆
復 double back
覀 cover; return (← 復); reply
capsize; turn over; overturn; turn back; overthrow; overrule; disprove; cover; spread over
boat that is blown back in a breeze and overturns, becoming covered in water. "Reply" is by extension from "return."

腹
复 double back
月/肉 flesh
stomach; abdomen; belly
stomach of an obese person (i.e. with an extra layer of fat doubled atop the abdominal muscles)

複
复 double back
衤/衣 clothing
double-layered article of clothing; (article of) clothing; overlap; double; multiply; plural

"double" is by association with "overlap," while "multiply" and "plural" are by extension from "double"

蝮
复 double back
虫 (→ original signification = snake)
venomous snake
species of viper or other venomous snake, in the sense of a creature that coils back on itself

馥
复 double back
香 scent/fragrance
fragrance; fragrant
fragrance that drifts off and then is blown back in a breeze

鰒
复 double back
魚 fish
abalone
sea creature the shell of which has spirals that double back upon themselves

齊
arrange; equal; uniform; level; all (together)
depiction of three slender, diamond-shaped objects arranged/aligned neatly

儕
齊 align
亻/人 person
companion; company
companion with whom one is actually or figuratively aligned

劑
齊 align
刀/刂 sword/knife

(dose of) medicine; drug
align cut pieces of bark and plant roots for medicinal use

擠
齊 align
扌/手 hand/action indicator
push; press; squeeze; crowd (in); push aside/away
align tightly by pushing, pressing or squeezing together

濟
齊 align
氵/水 water
ferry across; cross (a river); relieve; aid
goods in alignment on opposite sides of a river

薺
齊 align
艹 grass/plant
shepherd's purse (Capsella bursa-pastoris); caltrop (Tribulus terrestis)
plant with neatly aligned rows of flowers. For the borrowed meaning "caltrop," compare 菱 and 芰.

隮
齊 align
阜/阝 piled earth
rise high; rainbow (← 霽); **come down**
neatly aligned, tall pile of earth

臍
齊 align
月/肉 flesh
navel
the navel, neatly aligned in the middle of the body

齋

齊 align
示 altar/the supernatural
purification; room (for abstinence, training or study)
align body and spirit through fasting and other purification methods

齎
齊 align
貝 commodities
offer; give; bring
gifts/offerings presented with both hands neatly aligned

躋
齊 align
足 leg/foot
ascend; rise/climb (high)
ascend by carefully aligning one's steps

霽
齊 uniform
雨 rain/natural phenomenon
clear up
sky made uniform by the end of rain/snowfall

雽
abbreviated form of 霽 clear(ing) sky
下 down
raindrops; drop (n.); dripping; trickle
scattered raindrops falling from a clear(ing) sky

虀
simplified form of 齊 align
obsolete element = 韭 leek + 艸 grass/plant
dressed vegetables; pickled vegetables; salt; spice
neatly chopped and dressed vegetables. "Salt" and "spice" are associated meanings in the sense of being seasonings. Note the variant forms 齏 and 齏.

詹
remnant element = shoulder a burden
言 words
(annoying) verbosity; harp on
the remnant element was a crouching person, with crouching later likened to a position assumed in shouldering a burden. The addition of 言 suggests "bear/endure the burden of someone's annoyingly verbose speech."

儋
詹 bear a burden
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
bear; shoulder (a load); burden
bear a burden; compare 擔

憺
詹 bear a burden
忄/心 heart/emotions
calm; peace
bear anxiety and maintain a calm/peaceful front

擔
詹 bear a burden
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shoulder a load; load; bear; undertake
compare 儋

檐
詹 bear a burden
木 tree/wood
eaves; brim; rim; bear/carry (on the shoulders) (← 詹)
a roof bearing/encompassing eaves; compare 簷

膽
詹 bear a burden

月/肉 flesh
gallbladder; bladder/tube; courage; pluck; nerve
gallstones burdening a gallbladder. "Courage," "pluck" and "nerve" are via association with the idea of courage welling up from within.

瞻
詹 bear a burden
目 eye
gaze; look
(from the perspective of one stooping under the weight of a burden) gaze/look upward at someone; compare 瞎

襜
詹 bear a burden
衤/衣 clothing
lap robe; pendent, concealing garment/cloth
heavy garment burdening the wearer

簷
詹 bear a burden
竹 bamboo
eaves; brim
roof bearing the weight of eaves; compare 軒 and 檐

譫
詹 chatter
言 words
chatter; nonsense
言 appended for emphasis/clarification

贍
詹 bear a burden
貝 commodities
assist; add to; sufficient; plenteous
provide material support/assistance for someone, bearing his burden

澹
abbreviated form of 憺 calm
氵/水 water
calm; tranquil; placid
calm, tranquil waters

占
abbreviated form of 貞 divination
口 circular enclosure
divination; fortunetelling; fix upon; select; occupy (a site); hold/command (a share)
use divination/fortunetelling to pick out, fix upon or select a site. "Occupy" is an associated meaning in the sense of occupying a site that has been chosen. "Hold/command" (a share) is via extension from occupy, in the sense "be in possession."

佔
占 fixed in place
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
occupy
particularly, occupy by force

呫
占 fixed in place
口 mouth
lick; speak indistinctly
lick food fixed upon the tongue

坫
占 fixed in place
土 earth
stand (n.)
earthen/earthenware stand on which to place goblets after drinking

帖
占 fixed in place
巾 cloth
a rubbing; engrave; notice; invitation card; document; paper; bill
image transferred to and fixed on cloth as a rubbing

店
占 fixed in place
广 building
store; shop; inn
trade conducted in a fixed place, as opposed to itinerant peddling

怗
占 fixed in place
忄/心 heart/emotions
peaceful; submissive
fixed emotions in the form of tranquility. "Submissive" is an associated meaning in the sense of following with a tranquil heart.

拈
占 fixed in place
扌/手 hand/action indicator
pick up; grasp; draw lots
pick up/grasp (with the fingertips), fixing an object in place. For "draw lots," compare the original sense of 占.

沾
占 fixed in place
氵/水 water
soak; moisten; touch; be imbued; benefit
fix objects in a tub and soak them. "Touch" and "be imbued" are associated meanings, with "benefit" by extension from the latter.

苫
占 fixed in place

艹 grass/plant
(rush/straw) mat
(rush/straw) mat fixed upon a floor as a covering

㡯
占 fixed in place
戶 door
bolt; bar; latch
bolt/bar/latch fixed in place to lock a door

玷
占 fixed in place
王/玉 jewel
flaw in a jewel; (human) flaw
permanent blemish

砧
占 fixed in place
石 stone
stone (used as an anvil); anvil
stone used as an anvil, or on which cloth is fixed to be beaten with a mallet

站
占 fixed in place
立 stand
stand (n.); station
stand (rigid)

笘
占 fixed in place
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) whip
(bamboo) whip fixed upon the flesh of one being punished

粘

占 fixed in place
米 rice
glutinous; stick/adhere to
sticky, glutinous rice. In connection with 黍 and the meaning "glutinous," note a variant form 黏.

貼
占 fixed in place
貝 commodities
subsidize; allowance; stick; paste (← 粘); keep close to; fit (tightly); attached to
commodities that secure/fix a loan in place. "Subsidize" and "allowance" are associated meanings.

覘
占 fixed in place
見 fix sight on
peep; peek at; spy on; watch
fix a (surreptitious) look on someone/something; compare 眈

颱
占 fixed in place
風 wind
sway (in a breeze)
object fixed in place but which sways in a breeze

點
占 fixed in place
黑 black
dot; point; spot; drop (n.); speck; light (v.); ignite
black dots/marks fixed in place on a map

鮎
abbreviated form of 粘 sticky
魚 fish
type of catfish

fish with sticky flesh

霑
沾 soak; moisten
雨 rain/natural phenomenon
soak; moisten
soak/moisten (in rainwater; compare 霪)

卓
早 rising of the sun
variant form of 人 person
excel; superior
person who rises above others

倬
卓 rise above
亻/人 person
outstanding; conspicuous; distinct
person of surpassing/outstanding qualities, who rises above others. "Conspicuous" and "distinct" are associated meanings.

婥
卓 rise above
女 woman
beautiful; delicate
woman of surpassing (delicate) beauty

悼
卓 rise above
忄/心 heart/emotions
grieve; lament; mourn
feelings of grief/lamentation that rise above (= overcome) the heart

掉
卓 rise above

扌/手 hand/action indicator
shake; swing; drop
lift an object high, shake/swing it then cause/allow it to drop

淖
卓 rise above
氵/水 water
mud; mire
mud/mire that rises above the objects it contains or covers

逴
卓 rise above
辶 movement
great distance
move upward a great distance; compare 踔

棹
卓 rise above
木 tree/wood
boating pole; oar; (bamboo/wooden) pole/rod; table; desk
object raised repeatedly from the water in propelling a boat; compare 櫂

罩
卓 rise above
罒 net
basket (for catching fish); wrap; cover
fish-catching basket (pulled high out of the water)

綽
卓 rise above
糸 thread
spacious; ample; (have) margin/leeway
raise thread high in weaving

踔

卓 rise above
足 leg/foot
surpass; exceed; excel
leap high, surpassing others; compare 逴 as well as 躍

䍃
肉 flesh
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
vessel
wavering motion of hands kneading meat in a vessel

徭
䍃 waver
彳 movement
conscript/compulsory labor
wavering line formed by conscripted laborers at work

搖
䍃 waver
扌/手 hand/action indicator
waver; tremble; shake; swing; sway

遙
䍃 waver
辶 movement
distant; far away; remote
wander at length. Also styled 遥.

瑤
䍃 waver
王/玉 jewel
beautiful jewel; beautiful
shimmering/wavering light reflected by a beautiful jewel. Also styled 瑶.

謠

䍃 waver
言 words
folk/popular song; rumor
sing in a wavering/quavering voice

䌛
䍃 waver
系 connection
relation; causality; reason
wavering connection

颻
䍃 waver
風 wind
waver in the wind; float in the air

鷂
䍃 waver
鳥 bird
sparrow hawk
the darting flight pattern of a sparrow hawk

主
丶 lamplight
remnant element = massive lamp stand
master; owner; host; Lord; god; main; principal
lamp stand giving off light. Present-day meanings are via figurative association, with immobile people (of main/primary importance) being likened to a massive, stationary object.

住
主 stationary
亻/人 person
dwell; reside; inhabit; live; stop
person remaining stationary

拄
主 stationary
扌/手 hand/action indicator
(set in place a) prop/support
set in place a prop or support that keeps another object stationary

注
主 stationary
氵/水 water
pour into; flow into; concentrate on
pour liquid into a tubular container, where it becomes and remains stationary

柱
主 stationary
木 tree/wood
pillar; post; support (n.)
cylindrical pillar, a stationary object

炷
主 lamplight
火 fire
lamp wick; light/burn; stick of incense
light source of a lamp

註
主 stationary
言 words
write down; annotate; comment; interpret
write down/annotate, fixing words in place; compare 著 and 書

駐
主 stationary
馬 horse
stop; rest; be stationed; stay

tether a horse, causing it to become and remain stationary

麈
主 master
鹿 deer
leader of a herd; (large species of) deer

黈
主 stationary
黃 yellow
yellow ornament; yellow
circular yellow ornament suspended from a crown, remaining stationary at and covering the side of the head

翏
remnant element = hair fully layered over a person's head
羽 curved wings, raised high
soar; sound of the wind
wings fully separated from a bird's body in flight

僇
翏 separate from a main unit
亻/人 person
kill; humiliate
execute a person, separating him from the group to which he belongs; compare 戮. "Humiliate" is an associated meaning (form of punishment that dishonors).

勠
翏 separate from a main unit
力 power/energy
combine/unite forces
combine/unite forces that had been separate

寥
翏 separate from a main unit

宀 roof/building
empty; vacant; deserted; lonely
empty building, one separated from a main structure

摎
翏 separate from a main unit
扌/手 hand/action indicator
tighten; strangle; make inquiry
tighten objects that had been separate into a single unit; compare 勠 and 繆. "Strangle" is an associated meaning (tighten the hands/a noose about the neck of a person being killed).

蓼
翏 separate from a main unit
艹 grass/plant
smartweed
species of smartweed the leaves of which are spaced at great intervals; compare 蘢

戮
翏 separate from a main unit
戈 spear/halberd
kill
execute a person, separating him from the group to which he belongs; compare 僇

樛
翏 separate from a main unit
木 tree/wood
bending/drooping branch
branch separating from others in bending/drooping; compare 朽

璆
翏 separate from a main unit
王/玉 jewel
jewel
jewel fitted separately in an ancient percussion instrument

膠
翏 separate from a main unit
月/肉 flesh
sticky substance; stick to; glue
sticky substance produced by separating the non-edible portions of a bird from the edible ones and boiling the non-edible portions down

瘳
翏 separate from a main unit
疒 illness
heal; treat an illness
heal by separating an illness from the body

繆
翏 separate from a main unit
糸 thread
wind around; bind
wind rope/cord around objects that had been separate in binding into a single unit; compare 勠 and 摎

謬
翏 separate from a main unit
言 words
deception; err
deceptive words, separate from the truth

醪
翏 separate from a main unit
酉 alcohol
liquor with dregs
liquor with dregs at the bottom resting separate from the alcohol

鏐
翏 separate from a main unit

金 metal/gold
gold
(pure) gold produced by separating it from ore in the refining process

牙
fang; tusk; tooth; teeth; ivory
depiction of fangs or tusks that frame the bottom teeth in meshing with or crossing over them

冴
牙 mesh/cross
冫/氷 ice
cold; freezing
biting cold

芽
牙 mesh/cross
艹 grass/plant
bud; sprout; shoot

迓
牙 mesh/cross
辶 movement
go to meet; meet (in hosting a guest)
paths that cross in meeting

邪
牙 mesh/cross
邑/阝 village/settlement
evil; wrong; illness
crossroads settlement. Present-day meanings are via superstitious association of crossroads with misfortune.

訝
牙 mesh/cross

言 words
surprise
words exchanged in crossing paths. "Surprise" is in the sense of expressing surprise at meeting someone in a chance encounter. For a chance encounter, compare 逢 邂 覯 and 遇.

谺
牙 mesh/cross
谷 valley
gorge
crossing point of two or more gorges

耶
abbreviated form of 邪 crossroads settlement
耳 ear
(grammatical) interrogative
cross-question (crossroads taken in a figurative sense). 耶 is also used for transliterations.

揶
transformed element (originally 邪 evil)
扌/手 hand/action indicator
tease; make fun of; play tricks
meddle (= cause a bad influence). 揶 is more common in use than the original character, 揶.

椰
variant form of 邪 crossroads settlement
木 tree/wood
(coconut) palm
tree often found in arid crossroads settlements

几
table; desk
depiction of a tall desk/table. In derivative characters, 几 may lend the conceptual

influence "tall and lean."

机
几 desk/table
木 tree/wood
desk
木 appended for emphasis/clarification

肌
几 tall and lean
月/肉 flesh
skin; muscle; tissue
skin of a lean/starving person; compare 飢

處
几 desk/table
夂 leg/foot pointed downward
stop (n.); place; location; point in time
stop and rest on/against a desk, chair etc. 虍 tiger was appended to clarify the pronunciation.

飢
几 tall and lean
食 food/eating
hunger; starve
long, lean appearance of one suffering from a lack of food; compare 餓

戸
door; household; counter for houses
drawn from the left half of 門 gate, representing a door framed by its door frame. "Household" is an associated meaning.

所
戸 door
斤 ax

place; location; that; which
use a bladed implement to shave wood into (the shape of) a door. If the door was intended to suggest a particular place, the meanings "place" and "location" would be via association rather than borrowing.

扈
戶 door
邑 (original sense: kneel and spread arms in obeisance)
retinue; insolent
retinue of prostrate subjects attending by a door

雇
戶 door
隹 short, squat bird
employ; hire
caged bird. Present-day meanings liken workers to caged birds.

顧
雇 caged bird
頁 head
look back; consider/reflect on; concern oneself with; pay attention to; attend to
caged bird looking about nervously; compare 瞿

矣
remnant element = target
矢 arrow
(grammatical) particle
arrow hitting a squarish, lumpy target and coming to a stop. "Particle" indicating the completion of an action is a figurative, associated meaning.

俟
矣 come to a stop
亻/人 person
stop; wait
stop and wait for someone; compare 竢

唉
矣 come to a stop
口 mouth
utterance (of lamentation/pain); alas
strangled sound that stops in the throat without being properly voiced; compare 誒

埃
矣 come to a stop
土 earth
dust; dirt
dust/dirt settled over stationary objects

挨
矣 come to a stop
扌/手 hand/action indicator
in order/sequence; proximate; delay; endure; suffer
cause to come to a stop in order/sequence. "Proximate" is an associated meaning in the sense "stop in proximity," while "delay" is via association with causing to stop. "Endure" and "suffer" are extended meanings (endure a delay).

竢
矣 come to a stop
立 stand
wait; await
stop and wait; compare 俟

誒
矣 come to a stop
言 words
sigh
strangled sound that stops in the throat without being properly voiced; compare 唉

騃
矣 come to a stop

馬 horse
stupid; foolish
horse that stops and refuses to budge. Present-day meanings are via the idea of being willfully stubborn.

疑
矣 come to a stop
obsolete element of obscure signification
question; suspicion; doubt
"question" may be regarded as originating in the idea of "stop and interrogate a person," leading to the associated meanings "suspicion" and "doubt"

凝
疑 come to a stop
冫/氷 ice
freeze; congeal; rigid; concentrate
flowing water coming to a stop in hardening into ice

礙
疑 come to a stop
石 stone
obstacle; hindrance
obstructive boulder that stops progress. 碍 is a variant form of 礙.

癡
疑 come to a stop
疒 illness
foolish
(medical) condition in which the thinking process is paralyzed, a condition likened to stupidity

擬
疑 come to a stop
扌/手 hand/action indicator
plan; intend; draft (a plan)

bring to a stop

儗
imitate; draw an analogy
variant form of 擬 imitate, replacing 扌/手 with 亻/人 person (→ human agency)

侯
abbreviated form of 矦 lumpy target
亻/人 person
lord; marquis
marksman hitting a target with an arrow. Present-day meanings are via extension (meritorious soldiers leading to the idea of persons of rank at court).

候
侯 lumpy object
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
condition; season; climate; weather; wait; inquire (after/about)
inspect a lumpy or otherwise conspicuous object. "Condition," "season," "climate" and "weather" are via association in the sense of inspecting indicators of climate/weather.

喉
侯 lumpy object
口 mouth
throat; gullet
lump of food in the throat

堠
侯 lumpy object
土 earth
raised earth; earthen structure

猴
侯 lumpy object
犭/犬 dog/beast

ape; monkey
lump-shaped ape/monkey

餱
侯 lumpy object
食 food/eating
dried cooked rice
dried cooked rice carried as a provision (compare 饟, 糒, 糗 and 餉) or kept on hand in event of disaster

屋
variant form of 侯 lumpy object
尸 shape indicator = cover
roof; house; shelter
lumpy covering object, such as a roof

偓
屋 cover
亻/人 person
fretful; fidget; fuss
person fretful at being covered/detained indoors; compare 齷

幄
屋 cover
巾 cloth
curtain; tent
heavy, covering curtain/tent

握
屋 cover
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; grip; seize; hold; handle
grasp/grip an object, covering it in the hand

渥

屋 cover
氵/水 water
well-moistened; enrich; great; dye
be covered with water. "Great" is an associated meaning in the sense of covering deeply, while "dye" is by association with "well-moistened."

齷
屋 cover
齒 teeth
narrow; small; small-minded; unclean
grate the teeth in fretfulness, the upper teeth directly covering the lower. Present-day meanings are via the compound 齷齪.

魚
fish
depiction of the skeleton of a fish, conceived in terms of the framing element of a creature

漁
魚 fish
氵/水 water
fish (v.); pursue; seize
pull fish from water. "Pursue" and "seize" are via association with the pursuit and capture of fish.

穌
魚 fish
禾 grain/rice
rise anew; revive/be revived
life forms that continually rise anew (no matter how many fish are caught or crops harvested, more appear in the next fishing/harvest season). "Revive/be revived" is an associated meaning influenced by the cognate 甦.

蘇
穌 rise anew

grass/plant
perilla; rise anew; revive/be revived (← 穌)
variety of annual herb

魯
魚 fish (→ dull life forms)
transformed element (originally 曰 say/speech indicator)
stupid; foolish; absurd
repeated puckering of the mouth of a fish. Present-day meanings are likened to empty utterances.

櫓
魯 long and drawn out
木 tree/wood
scull; oar; watchtower; turret
scull (single oar of a boat, drawn up out of the water and moved from one side to the other to propel the vessel); compare 艪. "Watchtower" and "turret" are via reinterpretation of the character as a high (= vertically long) wooden construction.

艪
魯 long and drawn out
舟 boat
scull; oar
艪 is effectively a variant form of 櫓

車
vehicle; automobile
depiction of the frame of an ancient vehicle

庫
車 vehicle
广 building
storehouse; warehouse
storehouse for covering vehicles

硨
車 (wheel-shaped object)
石 stone (→ rock-like object)
giant clam
here 車 conveys its minor sense of a wheel-shaped object

褲
庫 cover
衤/衣 clothing
pants; trousers; underwear
clothing covering the U-shaped crotch

襾
cover
depiction of a square or rectangular container with a framing cover placed atop it

賈
襾 covered container
貝 commodities
buy; trade; merchant
commodities in a covered container

價
賈 buy; trade
亻/人 person
price; value
merchant evaluating (= setting a price/value on) commodities

午
11 A.M. to 1 P.M.; noon; horse (as the seventh sign of the Chinese zodiac); south
depiction of a square-headed mallet. Two or more of these would be used when pounding grain, with each person wielding the mallet yielding to the other in alternation.

忤
午 yield
忄/心 heart/emotions
be contrary/opposed to; go against
resist by shrinking inward or back

迕
午 pound
辶 movement
be jumbled; be contrary/opposed to; go against (← 忤)
pound and jumble a melange of grain

杵
午 mallet
木 tree/wood
mallet; pestle
杵 was devised to replace 午 after 午 acquired its borrowed meanings

許
午 yield
言 words
allow; accept; acknowledge; admit; promise
the present-day meanings are various manifestations of yielding words

滸
許 be accepting
氵/水 water
riverbank; shore
riverbank/shore that absorbs the pounding of water

龠
冊 bamboo slats
remnant element = multiple holes
flute
originally, the remnant element was 口 mouth/hole doubled (not tripled as at

present), which in combination with 冊 indicated a bamboo flute with multiple holes, covered by the fingers in being played. The element atop the tripled 口 in the modern form is an etymologically unrelated accretion.

籥
龠 bamboo flute
竹 bamboo
(short) flute; key (to a lock) (← 鑰)
竹 appended for emphasis/clarification

瀹
龠 oblong object
氵/水 water
soak; boil; cleanse
oblong object used in soaking/boiling. "Cleanse" is an associated meaning.

鑰
龠 oblong object
金 metal
lock; key
(key of a) lock equipped with a cylinder

屰
reverse
大 written upside down, thus "reverse." The specific sense is that of reversing course and returning to a starting point.

逆
屰 reverse
辵 movement
reverse; go against; opposite; defy
辵 appended for emphasis/clarification

朔
屰 reverse

月 moon
(astronomical) conjunction; first day of the lunar month
moon reversing its course in completing its cycle

塑
朔 conjunction of beginning and end points
土 earth
clay figure; model
clay that returns to clay when a figure/model is destroyed

溯
朔 conjunction of beginning and end points
氵/水 water
go upstream; go against the current; retrace the past; trace a source
go upstream/against the current and return to one's starting point. Effectively a variant form of 遡.

遡
朔 conjunction of beginning and end points
辶 movement
go upstream; go against the current; retrace the past; trace a source
go upstream/against the current and return to one's starting point; compare 溯

愬
朔 conjunction of beginning and end points
心 heart/emotions
complain; accuse; sue
measures taken to restore original conditions

槊
朔 conjunction of beginning and end points
木 tree/wood
long-handled lance

咢

variant form of 屰 reverse
obsolete element = 口 mouth (doubled)
drumming; surprise (← 愕)
voices or drumbeats figuratively crossing back and forth

愕
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
忄/心 heart/emotions
surprise; astonishment
feeling of surprise/astonishment when events develop contrary to expectations

萼
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
艹 grass/plant
stem and calyx
plant elements that cross

諤
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
言 words
speak openly/frankly/bluntly
frank exchange of words

鍔
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
金 metal
blade edge
faces of a blade crossing/meeting at an edge

顎
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
頁 head
jaw
jaw enabling the crossing back and forth of the upper and lower teeth in chewing; compare 鰐

鰐
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
魚 fish (→ aquatic creature)
alligator; crocodile
creatures with jagged teeth that cross back and forth in chewing; compare 顎. 鰐鮫 indicates a shark; compare 鮫, where the idea is also that of a shark's crossing teeth.

鶚
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
鳥 bird
osprey
raptor that crosses the tips of its talons in squeezing fish

齶
咢 cross (over, or back and forth)
歯 teeth
palate
upper teeth crossing over the lower in biting/chewing; compare 顎

去
transformed element (originally 屰 reverse)
lost element (originally 凵 circular enclosure)
withdraw; leave; go; remove; get rid of; last (year etc.); past; play a part/role
reverse course and withdraw from a particular place

却
去 withdraw
卩 kneeling figure
withdraw; retreat; decline; contrary
withdraw in a kneeling position

劫
去 withdraw
力 power/energy

coerce; take by force; plunder; disaster
coerce others into withdrawing. The remaining present-day meanings are via association. The compound 劫波 is a transliteration of Sanskrit kalpa (long period of time).

怯
去 withdraw
忄/心 heart/emotions
shrink from; be fearful; cowardice
shrink from in fear

祛
去 withdraw
示 altar/the supernatural
exorcise; expel; purify
cause unwelcome spirits to withdraw

袪
去 withdraw (→ pull/turn back)
衤/衣 clothing
cuff; sleeve
part of a garment turned back on itself

脚
却 withdraw
月/肉 flesh
leg; foot; base (of an object)
body part allowing one to withdraw. "Base" (of an object) is by association with "foot."

厄
abbreviated form of 却 withdraw in a kneeling position
厂 cliff
be at a loss; distress
withdraw in a kneeling position from a cliff. "Be at a loss/in distress" is by

association.

危
厄 withdraw in a kneeling position from a cliff
remnant element = crouching figure
danger; critical; precarious; fear; high
kneel in a dangerous, slightly off-balanced position at a cliff. "High" is by association with cliff.

倫
危 off-balanced
亻/人 person
depend upon; support
one person in a balanced position supporting someone in an unbalanced position. In 倫, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying a nuance ("off-balanced") that dropped from 危.

詭
危 off-balanced
言 words
deceit; fraud; slyness
use deceit to put someone off balance

阨
厄 be at a loss; withdraw in a kneeling position from a cliff
阜 piled earth
distress; defile (n.)
"distress" is via the "be at a loss" sense of 厄. "Defile" is via the "cliff" aspect of 厄.

跪
危 kneel
足 leg/foot
kneel
足 appended for emphasis/clarification

與
remnant element = interlocked/meshed object
remnant element = two pairs of hands
work jointly; participate; give; grant
hands framing an object in raising it in unison

嶼
與 raise in unison
山 mountain
island; islet
mountain-like protrusion rising from a body of water

舉
與 raise in unison
手 hand/action indicator
raise; act; nominate; recommend
手 hand/action indicator appended for emphasis/clarification. "Nominate" and "recommend" are in the sense of figuratively raising a person in candidacy.

興
abbreviated form of 與 raise in unison
同 same
raise; rise; promote; prosper
同 is to emphasize the joint nature of an undertaking

譽
與 raise in unison
言 words
praise; honor; fame; renown; reputation
raise words of praise in unison

輿
abbreviated form of 與 raise in unison
車 vehicle
palanquin; shoulder (v.); many; all

many people uniting to shoulder a palanquin

欅
舉 raise
木 tree/wood
zelkova
tree with rising (not perpendicular or falling) branches

巨
large; huge; tremendous (size/quantity etc.)
depiction of a large/great framing square (carpenter's tool), with arms at distant ends

拒
巨 distant
扌/手 hand/action indicator
defend; ward off; refuse; deny
keep someone at a distance in defending oneself

距
巨 distant
足 leg/foot
spur; distance
spur that keeps the digits of a fighting cock separated/at a distance from each other

矩
巨 large/great framing tool
矢 arrow (→ ancient measuring implement)
carpenter's square; standard (n.); regulation; rule; pattern
矢/measuring implement appended for emphasis/clarification. "Standard," "regulation," "rule" and "pattern" are associated meanings. Compare also 榘 as described in 渠. For the use of 矢 to indicate a measuring implement, compare the original left-hand element of 規.

渠
abbreviated form of 榘 carpenter's square
氵/水 water
ditch; channel; canal; big; great (← 巨)
ditch/channel/canal shaped like a carpenter's square. 榘 is effectively a variant form of 矩 (carpenter's square), adding 木 tree/wood for emphasis/clarification.

炬
巨 large/great
火 fire
torch
large torch

五
remnant element = crossing lines
remnant element = parallel lines
five
"five" may be regarded as a borrowed meaning, or as originating in the idea that, when counting to ten on one hand, a person first counts to five, then crosses back the other way to reach ten

吾
五 cross
口 mouth
I; my; our; one's own; oneself
crossing of words in conversation

圄
吾 crossing
囗 circular enclosure
prison; imprison
prison as a place representing the crossing point between liberty and captivity. For "prison," compare 圉.

悟

吾 crossing
忄/心 heart/emotions
understanding; enlightenment; comprehension; perception; realization
crossing point between ignorance and understanding; compare 晤

晤
吾 crossing
日 sun/day (→ bright)
enlightenment; meet
crossing point between darkness (= ignorance) and brightness (= enlightenment); compare 悟

梧
吾 crossing
木 tree/wood
Chinese parasol tree
crossing wooden bars used as a prop; compare 較

牾
吾 crossing
牛 cow
go against; be contrary/opposed to; gore
cattle crossing horns in butting heads; compare 麌

寤
吾 crossing
abbreviated form of 寢 sleep
awaken
crossing point between states of consciousness

衙
吾 crossing
行 straight, crossing roads
government office
crossing point where residents and officials meet; compare 廨

語
吾 crossing
言 words
language; speech; words; expression; saying
the crossing of words in conversation. 語 was devised to replace 吾 after 吾 acquired its borrowed meanings.

鼯
吾 crossing
鼠 rat/mouse
flying squirrel
flying squirrel that creates an X-shaped crossing pattern when in flight

齬
吾 crossing
齒 teeth
uneven/irregular teeth; cross; conflict
irregular tooth that crosses in front or behind another tooth. "Conflict" is a figurative associated meaning via "cross."

伍
五 five
亻/人 person
five persons; group/squad; five
group/squad/company composed of five people

家
variant form of 亥 pig/boar
宀 roof/building
home; household; family; school of thought; specialist
pigs/boars confined in a hut or shed and awaiting slaughter, the hut/shed later equated with a domicile

嫁

家 household
女 woman
marry (off a daughter); shift blame
woman sent to another family. "Shift blame" is a figurative associated meaning (foisting off blame likened to foisting off a daughter).

稼
家 hut/shed
禾 grain/rice
crops; plant crops
harvested crops in a storehouse

互
mutual
depiction of two notched sticks that fit together in crossing. "Mutual" is an associated meaning.

冱
互 fit together
冫/氷 ice
freeze
fuse in freezing

沍
互 fit together
氵/水 water
freeze (← 冱)
close off a sluice; compare 閘

医
remnant element = quiver or similar container
矢 arrow
doctor; cure; heal (← 醫)
arrows stretching from beyond a quiver or other container/holder for arrows

殹
医 arrows in a container/holder
殳 action indicator
echo
echoing sound produced by objects such as arrows striking each other in a container

翳
殹 contain; cover
羽 feather/wing
fan; shade; cover; conceal
fan large enough to cover the body when waved by an attendant

醫
殹 contain; cover
酉 alcohol container
doctor; cure; heal
medicical brew in a container

亟
remnant element = person stretched to full height
remnant element (originally two lines)
urgent; sudden
person, stretched to full height, standing between two lines; compare 王. Later was appended an element combining 口 mouth and 攴 action indicator, suggesting "speak and act with the body in a state of tension from head to toe." "Tension" then gave rise to the meanings "urgent" and "sudden."

極
亟 stretch to full height/length
木 tree/wood
extreme; (positive/negative) pole; end; exhaust
wooden pillar stretching between ceiling and floor. "Exhaust" is an associated meaning in the sense of exhausting/reaching the end of one's resources.

殛
亟 stretch to full height/length
歹 severed bone/death
kill; execute
stretch a victim for slaughter; compare 亥

鬲
(tripod) cooking vessel; cauldron
depiction of a cooking vessel or cauldron partitioned by a square board. Grain would be placed in the upper section and water in the lower one; the grain was steamed when the vessel was heated over fire.

隔
鬲 partition
阜/阝 piled earth
barrier; partition; interpose; separate
earthen barrier/partition

膈
鬲 partition
月/肉 flesh
diaphragm
diaphragm partitioning the abdomen and chest

畺
obsolete element = three horizontal lines
obsolete element = 田 field (doubled)
border; boundary
tightly demarcated fields, about which border markers stretch

僵
畺 tight; taut
亻/人 person
die and go stiff; rigor mortis
see also 殭

彊
畺 tight; taut
弓 bow
unyielding; stubborn
strong, tautly stretched bow. "Stubborn" is a figurative, associated meaning.

薑
畺 tight; taut
艹 grass/plant
ginger
plant with tightly demarcated rhizomes

橿
畺 tight; taut
木 tree/wood
oak
variety of oak the bark of which is tightly demarcated

殭
畺 tight; taut
歹 severed bone/death
die and go stiff; rigor mortis
殭 is effectively a variant form of 僵

韁
畺 tight; taut
革 leather
reins; bridle
leather drawn tautly against a horse (or other draft animal)

強
abbreviated form of 彊 (strong and tautly stretched)
remnant element = hard-shelled beetle
strong; force/compel; strive

strength and associated manifestations

疆
彊 strong
土 earth
border; boundary; frontier
fortified, earthen border/boundary

襁
強 strong
衤/衣 clothing
cord/cloth for carrying an infant on one's back; swaddling clothes
cloth tied tightly (= strongly) about part of the body or about an infant carried on one's back.

京
metropolis; capital
depiction of one of a pair of expansive structures on high ground. Present-day meanings are via association, in the sense of a large settlement in sunny/bright heights safe from dangers such as floods or surprise attacks. "High hill" remains a minor, archaic meaning.

鯨
京 expansive
魚 fish
whale
expansive sea creature

黥
京 expansive
黑 black
tattoo (a criminal); tattoo
expansive dark tattoo on a criminal's face

景

京 expansive
日 sun/day
scenery; view; bright; circumstances
expansive view obtainable on a bright, clear day

憬
景 expansive
忄/心 heart/emotions
awaken
expansive emotions

影
景 expansive
彡 pattern
image; shadow; reflection; trace
various manifestations of expansive patterns

顥
景 expansive
頁 head
whitish brightness
expansive, shiny pate

灝
顥 expansive
氵/水 water
vast expanse; wide
vast expanse of water; compare 浩

涼
京 heights
氵/水 water
cool; cold; discouraged
cool or cold, clean water flowing continuously on high ground

掠
abbreviated form of 涼 flow
扌/手 hand/action indicator
graze (against); brush by/past/over; snatch; steal; plunder
various manifestations of fluid motion

椋
abbreviated form of 涼 flow
木 tree/wood
(tree with a figurative flow of flowers)
the original reference may have been to Ehretia ovalifolia

諒
abbreviated form of 涼 flow
言 words
forgive; understand; infer; conjecture
flow of (clear) words

亮
abbreviated form of 諒 clear (words)
儿 person
clear; bright; brilliant; radiant; reveal; show
"bright," "brilliant," "radiant," "reveal" and "show" are all the result of reinterpreting the top element as an abbreviated form of 高 (high → bright, high place; compare 皜). Here, 儿 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character.

喨
亮 clear
口 mouth
(clear/yelling/resounding) voice; clear
clear voice; compare 嘹

勍
abbreviated form of 鯨 whale (→ powerful creature)

力 power/energy
powerful; strong
力 appended for emphasis/clarification

岡
网 net
山 mountain
hill; knoll
hill or knoll associated with the production of and/or trapping by use of nets. In derivative characters, the semantic influence is "hard rope/cable" rather than "net."

剛
岡 hard rope/cable
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
strong; hard
cutting implement able to slice through a strong or hard object such as rope or cable

綱
岡 hard rope/cable
糸 thread
head rope; (heavy) rope; cable; main point(s); principle; (taxonomic) class
糸 thread appended for emphasis/clarification. "Main point(s)," "principle" and (taxonomic) "class" are figurative associated meanings.

鋼
岡 hard rope/cable
金 metal
steel
metal bar/rod

开
open; initiate; begin (← 開)
depiction of handcuffs framing a prisoner's wrists

形
开 frame
彡 pattern
form; shape; appearance; contours; style
(frame-like and other, various) shapes and patterns

耕
variant form of 开 frame
耒 plow
till; cultivate
till or cultivate with a frame-shaped plow

刑
开 frame
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
punishment; penalty
punish by confining, severing body parts, or by other means

型
刑 frame
土 earth
mold; model; type; pattern; style; law; statute
clay framed in the mold shaping it. "Law" and "statute" are via figurative association in the sense of rules concerning model behavior.

荆
刑 punishment
艹 grass/plant
thorn; brambles; whip; cane
thorn plant from which a whip used in punishment is fashioned

鉶
刑 punishment
金 metal
(sacrificial) cauldron; lidded, tripod vessel (used in sacrifices)

punishment involving a metallic cauldron/vessel

奄
variant form of 申 stretch
大 stand outstretched
cover; conceal; surround; protect
stretch to cover (and conceal/protect) an object

俺
奄 cover/conceal
亻/人 person
I; me
cover/conceal oneself

庵
奄 cover/conceal
广 building
hut; cottage; hermitage; (Buddhist) monastery/nunnery
small dwelling covered with a thatched roof

掩
奄 cover/conceal
扌/手 hand/action indicator
cover; conceal
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

淹
奄 cover/conceal
氵/水 water
cover with water/liquid; soak; steep
cover with water

菴
奄 cover/conceal
艹 grass/plant

thatched structure; hermitage; (Buddhist) monastery
菴 is effectively a variant form of 庵

罨
奄 cover/conceal
罒 net
cover; catch
cover fish in catching with a net

閹
奄 cover/conceal
門 gate (→ palace gates)
castrate (n./v.)
castrated palace servant ministering to females who are secluded within a palace

黯
奄 cover/conceal
黑 black
black; dark
covered and therefore black/dark

臽
variant form of 函 place inside
variant form of 亻/人 person
hole; cavity; pit
person contained/concealed within a hole/cavity/pit

啗
臽 contain in a cavity
口 mouth
eat; entice
eat (ravenously). "Entice" (originally, entice someone to eat) is an associated meaning.

陷

臽 contain in a cavity
阜/阝 piled earth
sink; be/get stuck; (en)trap; fall (to the enemy); pitfall; capture; defect
earthen object that collapses and sinks into a cavity

欿
臽 contain in a cavity
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
be discontent/dissatisfied
crave to fill a physical or emotional cavity

焰
臽 contain in a cavity
火 fire
flame
flame of a pit fire

諂
臽 contain in a cavity
言 words
flatter; cajole
flatter a person so as to catch him in a pitfall

閻
臽 contain in a cavity
門 gate
(village) gate
village gate, with posts dropped in holes

餡
臽 contain in a cavity
食 food/eating
filling (of a bun)

欠

yawn; lack; miss/be missing; deficient
depiction of a bent, open-mouthed figure (with food contained in the mouth). "Yawn" is via association with the open-mouthed nature of the original character. The remaining meanings are via association with "cavity," in the sense of a hole in an object.

坎
欠 (create a) cavity
土 earth
hole; depression; pit; fall into trouble
"fall into trouble" is a figurative associated meaning

款
欠 (create a) cavity
variant form of 柰 = carve characters into wood
clause; contract; funds
carve characters into a block by scooping out wood (creating cavities). "Clause" and "contract" are extended meanings (manifestation of writing created by engraved characters).

禁
林 forest
示 altar/the supernatural
prohibit; forbid
sanctified ground contained within a forest, access to which is prohibited

噤
禁 contain
口 mouth
shut one's mouth; be unable to speak; shut; close
mumbled voice/sound contained in the mouth

襟
禁 contain
衤/衣 clothing

collar; lapel; cherish/harbor in one's bosom
outer layer of clothing containing one beneath it. "Cherish/harbor in one's bosom" is via figurative association.

□□
remnant element = stretched hide of an animal tied to a frame
transformed element (originally 火 fire)
stretch an object for drying over a fire. According to this process the object shrinks, leaving a minute remainder. □is effectively obsolete.

勤
□stretch over a fire
力 power/energy
diligent; industrious; employment
labor likened in intensity to that involved in stretching an object over a fire

漢
□stretch over a fire
氵/水 water
China; Chinese; man
great, stretching river. Later, applied to the Milky Way (constellation likened to a great, flowing river). "China" comes from a broad application of 漢's use in the name of the Hanshui River (漢水) in Hubei Province. "Man" is an extended meaning, the chain of logic running: General term for China → General populace → Ordinary male.

艱
□stretch over a fire
艮 adhere
distress; trouble; difficult(y); hard
suffering/hardships consequent to adhering directly to a fire; compare 難

難
□stretch over a fire
隹 short, squat bird

difficult; disaster; misfortune; difficult(y)
bird stretched over a fire in being grilled. Present-day meanings are via figurative association.

儺
難 stretch over a fire
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
fire ceremony to drive out evil spirits; exorcise
conduct a fire ceremony to drive out evil spirits

攤
難 stretch over
扌/手 hand/action indicator
stretch/spread out; lay out; open; vendor's stand
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Open" is an associated meaning (spread out/open). "Vendor's stand" is an associated meaning in the sense of an object on which goods are spread out in display.

灘
難 stretch over
氵/水 water
shoal; sandbar; bank
thin slice of land stretching over water

然
thus; so; as it is; in this manner; correct; but
effectively a variant form of 難 (grill over a fire), with the distinction that in 難 it is 隹 a bird being grilled while in 然 it is 犬 a dog/beast. The associated meaning "burn" has all but entirely disappeared.

燃
然 burn
火 fire
burn; light; ignite
火 appended for emphasis/clarification. 燃 was devised to replace 然 after 然

acquired its borrowed meanings.

懃
勤 diligent
心 heart/emotions
solicitous; courteous; polite
be diligent in attending to someone's needs; compare 慇

僅
□minute
亻/人 person
barely; merely; only; solely; few; little
here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

堇
□minute
艹 grass/plant
violet
minute/small flowering plant

槿
□minute
木 tree/wood
Hibiscus syriacus
a plant the flowers of which have little or no detectible scent. Compare 舜.

瑾
□minute
王/玉 jewel
(brilliant) jewel
a jewel reduced in size but rendered beautiful by cutting and polishing

謹
□minute

言 words
consideration; caution; restraint; humility
pay minute attention to one's words

覲
abbreviated form of 謹 humility
見 see/watch
audience (with an emperor/head of state)
compare 謁

饉
□□minute
食 food/eating
paucity of food; crop failure; famine; starvation
minute quantity of food

寒
remnant element = raise (in layers)
冫/氷 ice
cold
structure offering protection from the cold. The remnant element originally combined piled bricks/stones and 廾 pair of hands.

搴
remnant element = raise (in layers)
手 hand/action indicator
raise; pull up/out; seize; extract
手 appended for emphasis/clarification

褰
remnant element = raise (in layers)
衣 clothing
raise (a garment)
raise a garment covering the lower half of the body

蹇
remnant element = raise (in layers)
足 leg/foot
lameness; misfortune; suffering
lameness forcing one to raise one's leg in slow, layered motions

謇
abbreviated form of 蹇 lame
言 words
stutter; speak frankly/correctly
speech impediment

騫
abbreviated form of 蹇 lame
馬 horse
lacking; defective; raise; hold high; fly; soar
lame horse

悬
obsolete element = use one hand on top and the other on the bottom to cover and conceal a 工-shaped object
心 heart/emotions
cautious
secrets concealed firmly in the heart

隱
悬 conceal
阜/阝 piled earth
hide; conceal
earthen wall behind which objects are concealed

癮
隱 conceal
疒 illness
craving; (bad) habit; addiction

concealed illness in the form of a craving, (bad) habit or addiction

穩
悬 conceal
禾 grain/rice
stable; secure; steady
conceal and reserve a supply of harvested crops

巾
cloth; cloth wrapped about the head; towel; kerchief
depiction of a piece of cloth draped about/over an object, with the two ends of the cloth in neat alignment

繭
巾 cloth
obsolete element = 糸 thread + 虫 insect
cocoon; callus
silkworm cocoon from which silk is produced; compare 絹

希
巾 cloth
remnant element = two sets of intersecting lines
rare; desire; hope
"rare" is in the sense of rare, high-quality cloth. "Desire" and "hope" are associated meanings in the sense of desiring/hoping to obtain something rare.

晞
希 rare, fine cloth
日 sun/day
dry out; dawn
dry out a cloth by exposure to the sun. "Dawn" is an associated meaning via the image of contact with the sun.

睎
希 rare, fine cloth (→ rare)

目 eye
gaze; yearn for
gaze at/yearn for a rare object; compare 望

稀
希 rare, fine cloth (→ rare)
禾 grain/rice
rare; scarce; thin; slight
rare/scarce crops (= poor harvest; compare 饉 and 饑). "Thin" and "slight" are via association in the sense of slight quantity.

絺
希 rare, fine cloth
糸 thread
fine cloth/linen
絺 was devised to replace 希 after 希 lost its connection with cloth

乾
obsolete element = rise high and adhere
乙 rise
dry; clean; exhausted; adoptive; in vain
the sun likened to a flag that rises high in and adheres to the sky. "Dry" is an associated meaning in the sense of air/water that rises due to heat. "Clean" is via extension from "clear sky." "Exhausted" is via extension from "dry" in the sense "dry to the point of being dried up/out." The obsolete element combines 日 sun/day and a pennant/banner.

幹
abbreviated form of 乾 rise high
干 thick bar
trunk; main part; vitality; work; do
high-rising tree with a thick trunk. "Main part" and "vitality" are associated meanings. "Work" and "do" are via extension from "vitality."

斡

abbreviated form of 乾 rise high
斗 ladle
circulate; revolve
the Big Dipper, high in the sky, and circulating about Polaris

翰
abbreviated form of 乾 rise high
羽 feather/wing
writing brush; writing; letter
(long, hard) feather raised in being used as a writing implement

瀚
翰 raise (→ rise)
氵/水 water
vast
rising water covering a vast expanse

韓
abbreviated form of 幹 rise high
韋 go around
fence; (name of a country in ancient China); Korea
fence that rises high in surrounding and blocking off a well

簳
幹 trunk
竹 bamboo
trunk of a bamboo tree; shaft of an arrow
"shaft of an arrow" is an associated meaning in the sense of a trunk-like object made of bamboo; compare 笴

澣
幹 rise high
氵/水 water
wash
overflow of water that disperses random objects; compare 渙. "Wash" is an

associated meaning.

戟
abbreviated form of 幹 trunk
戈 spear/halberd
spear; halberd
trunk-like weapon

戒
abbreviated form of 戟 halberd
廾 pair of hands
admonish; warn; abstain
admonish or prohibit by the threat of force. "Abstain" is an associated meaning in the sense of admonishing oneself.

械
戒 admonish
木 tree/wood
weapon(s); implement(s); shackles; device; machine
wooden contrivances used in admonition/punishment. "Device" and "machine" are via association with implements.

誡
戒 admonish
言 words
admonish; warn; commandment
verbal admonition/warning

彥
(uncertain)
(uncertain)
handsome; accomplished; elegant
the Old Chinese pronunciation suggests the original sense was that of a rugged, well-formed face (compare the derivative 顏) adhering to the head in the manner that 厂 a cliff adheres to the side of a mountain. "Accomplished" and "elegant" are

qualities associated with a handsome male.

傸
彥 handsome/well-formed
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
counterfeit; fake
create well-formed (but counterfeit) goods; compare 贋

喭
彥 handsome/well-formed
口 mouth
condolence
utter well-formed words of condolence; compare 唁

諺
彥 handsome/well-formed
言 words
maxim; proverb
well-formed words

顏
彥 handsome/well-formed
頁 head
countenance; face; appearance; color
顏 was devised to replace 彥 after 彥 acquired its figurative, associated meanings. "Color" is an associated meaning in the sense of a person's complexion.

甲
armor; helmet; shell; husk; first in a series; first calendar sign
originally, a single-element character suggesting "press down on objects in containing them." The character was later transformed into a depiction of a hard, seed-bearing husk.

匣
甲 press down on

匚 enclosure
box
(lidded) box

呷
甲 press down on
口 mouth
gulp/suck (down); quaff; swallow; drink

岬
甲 press down on
山 mountain
cape; promontory; headland
mountain gorge pressed down on by cliffs on both sides; compare 峽. Present-day meanings are via the image of land jutting into the sea and pressed upon by water on both sides.

押
甲 press down on
扌/手 hand/action indicator
press/push; hold down; mortgage; pledge; pawn; detain; guard; escort
"mortgage," "pledge" and "pawn" are extended meanings, in the sense of pressing a stamp down on legal papers. "Detain," "guard" and "escort" are via extension from "hold down." 押 was devised to replace 甲 after 甲 came to bear its present-day meanings.

狎
甲 press down on
犭/犬 dog/beast
be on intimate terms with; be overly familiar with
discipline an animal to tame it

柙
甲 press down on
木 tree/wood

(animal) cage/pen
(lidded) animal cage

胛
甲 press down on
月/肉 flesh
shoulder (blade)
shoulder blade pressing down on the scapular muscles

閘
甲 press down on
門 gate
sluice; floodgate; opening and closing of a gate; brake; switch
plate of a sluice or floodgate pressing down in closure. "Brake" and "switch" are associated meanings.

劦
exertion; cooperation
likely devised as a replacement character for one that has disappeared. 劦 suggests the combined, harmonious power of many persons, pressing on a central point from two or more sides.

協
劦 pressure from two sides
十 gather
unite; cooperate
the united energies of many

脅
劦 pressure from two sides
月/肉 flesh
flank; both sides of the torso; threaten
the two sides of the body, under pressure. "Threaten" is an associated meaning, in the sense of being threatened by attackers at both sides; compare 狭.

脇
劦 pressure from two sides
月/肉 flesh
flank; both sides of the torso; armpits; ribs; side
effectively a variant form of 脅 with the 肉 flesh element repositioned

䚟
劦 pressure from two sides
思 fine
harmonious; peaceful
a fine and harmonious meeting of the minds; compare 洽

盍
transformed element = hold down (originally not 去)
皿 dish/plate/bowl
meet; why (not); what
press a cover down on a container. "Meet" is an associated meaning in the sense of the meeting of a cover and a container. The transformed element was originally an inverted character suggesting "hold down."

嗑
盍 (press down and) cover
口 mouth
crack (seeds) between the teeth
press the teeth down on seeds or other food in biting/cracking. The compound 嗑嗑 however refers to the act of speaking.

溘
盍 (press down and) cover
氵/水 water
sudden; abrupt
sudden/abrupt cessation, in the manner of suddenly slamming a lid on a water container, cutting off the flow of liquid

蓋

盍 (press down and) cover
艹 grass/plant
cover; lid; conceal
roof thatched/covered with grass

磕
盍 (press down and) cover
石 stone
press; knock (against a hard object)
forcefully press a stone/earthenware cover into place

醯
盍 (press down and) cover
酉 alcohol container
vinegar
substance produced in a covered container via alcoholic fermentation. In the present form, the 去 portion of the 盍 element is replaced by 亢.

闔
盍 (press down and) cover
門 gate
close; leaf of a door; door; contain in entirety; all
close (the leaf of) a door (downward); compare 閘

饁
盍 (press down and) cover
食 food/eating
cooked meal placed in a container and transported to field laborers
food in a covered container

旡
engorgement; choke
depiction of a person with an engorged belly. "Choke" is in the sense of choke while gorging oneself.

既
无 gorge
remnant element = heaping plate of food
already
become engorged on a heaping plate of food. Already is an extended meaning, in the sense of having already reached a limit.

慨
既 engorgement
忄/心 heart/emotions
lament; regret; deplore
heart engorged with sadness

溉
既 engorgement
氵/水 water
irrigate; pour
engorge with water in irrigating

概
既 engorgement
木 tree/wood
in general; approximately
wooden implement used to level off an engorged surface such as a heaping pile of grain or fresh plaster on a wall. Present-day meanings are figurative applications of the concept of leveling off.

暨
abbreviated form of 概 level off
旦 the sun on the horizon
reach; extend to; attain; and; as well as
the sun setting and leveling off on the western horizon. "Reach," "extend to" and "attain" are associated meanings, with "and" and "as well as" by extension in the sense of extending to another topic; compare 及.

愛
variant form of 既 (engorgement)
心 heart/emotions
love; affection
be emotionally hindered, in the sense of feeling overladen/dragged down

曖
愛 hinder
日 sun/day
dim; obscure
sunlight hindered by clouds; compare 靉

瞹
愛 hinder
目 eye
obscure; unclear; hide/hidden
hindered vision

靉
愛 hinder
雲 cloud
cloudy sky; motionless clouds; dark; obscure
cloudy sky, hindering the penetration of sunlight; compare 曖. 靉靆 = heavy clouds (and mist)

慶
abbreviated form of 愛 dragged down
abbreviated form of 鹿 deer
celebrate; congratulations
celebrate the dragging down/capture of a deer. "Congratulations" is an associated meaning.

鬼
abbreviated form of 旡 engorgement
remnant element = fontanels (skull with openings at top)

ghost; spirit; devil; demon; ogre; sinister; fiendish
mysterious, large and lumpy being. For fontanels, compare 毘 兒 思 and 顋.

傀
鬼 large and round/lumpy being
亻/人 person
large; gigantic; puppet
large dummy resembling a human

畏
abbreviated form of 鬼 large and round/lumpy being
remnant element = a club
fear; apprehension; dread; awe; reverence
fearsome, lumpy being that clubs its prey

塊
鬼 large and round/lumpy
土 earth
lump; clod; cluster; group
large, round lump/clod of earth; compare 圣 as well as 顆

嵬
鬼 large and round/lumpy
山 mountain
high, rocky mountain; rugged mountain
high, rocky mountain with protruding, rounded boulders; compare 崛

愧
鬼 large and round/lumpy
忄/心 heart/emotions
shame; ashamed
misshapen emotions

隗
鬼 large and round/lumpy

阜/阝 piled earth
high; steep; lofty
high, lumpy hill/mountain

魁
鬼 large and round/lumpy
斗 ladle
leader; founder; outstanding; conspicuous; take the lead
large ladle. Present-day meanings are either borrowed or via extension from "large."

槐
鬼 large and round/lumpy
木 tree/wood
Chinese scholar tree; Japanese pagoda tree
tree of a rounded shape, with pea-like clusters of flowers

瑰
鬼 large and round/lumpy
王/玉 jewel
extraordinary; conspicuous
extraordinary jewel of a round/lumpy shape

餽
鬼 large and round/lumpy
食 food/eating
offering of food; (festival for) paying respects to the deceased; gift
offering of lumpy food

皆
比 line up
transformed character (original signification uncertain)
all; everyone; everything; entirely
the original sense was probably "line up many people/objects." It is also possible that the transformed element, not 比, was the phonosemantic in the original

character.

偕
皆 line up
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
act in concert; (all) together
people figuratively/actually lining up in acting in concert

揩
皆 line up
扌/手 hand/action indicator
rub/wipe clean
align people or objects

階
皆 line up
阜/阝 piled earth
step; stair; rank; class
aligned (earthen) steps/stairs

楷
皆 line up
木 tree/wood
model; standard; model/standard (Chinese) script
lacquer tree, with aligned (pinnately compound) leaves. "Model" and "standard" are associated meanings in the sense of orderly alignment.

稭
皆 line up
禾 grain/rice
stalk(s)
aligned stalks of de-husked grain plants

諧
皆 line up

言 words
harmonize; smooth over/out
harmonious alignment of words

一
one
depiction of the idea of unity, or fullness. For the equation of unity with the meaning "one," compare 壹

血
一 fullness
皿 dish/plate/bowl
blood
deep bowl filled with sacrificial blood

曰
一 fullness
口 mouth
say; speech indicator
mouth figuratively filled with words

恤
血 be filled
忄/心 heart/emotions
commiserate; show consideration of/pity for; provide material relief
heart filled with commiseration

卹
abbreviated form of 恤 commiserate
卩 kneeling figure (→ posture of an afflicted person)
commiserate; comfort; pity; sympathize
commiserate/comfort someone

洫
血 be filled

氵/水 water
ditch
irrigation ditch filled with water

幺
slender, curved thread; small; young; childish/childlike; one
one-half of a depiction of slender, curved threads (幺 side by side); compare 絲. The origin of the meaning "one" is unclear, but perhaps related to "one-half."

幽
obsolete element = slight, obscure objects
山 mountain
far removed from human habitation; unknown; deep; dark; profound; faint; afterlife
obscure, remote mountain

坳
variant form of obsolete element = slight, obscure objects
土 earth
hollow; concavity
deep, obscuring hollow/concavity in the ground

窈
variant form of obsolete element = slight, obscure objects
穴 hole
quiet; secluded; refined
obscure recesses. "Refined" is an associated meaning in the sense of quiet elegance.

黝
variant form of obsolete element = slight, obscure objects
黑 black
black; dark; obscure; dim; black-blue
be obscure/dimly visible of account of blackness or darkness

幼
幺 slender, curved thread
力 power/energy
infant; young
young person of slender/slight power

拗
幼 slight power
扌/手 hand/action indicator
twist; distorted; warped; break; sulky; obstinate
apply slight pressure in twisting an object. "Sulky" and "obstinate" are figurative associated meanings (warped, perverse attitude).

後
abbreviated form of 幼 slight power
obsolete element = 夂 dragging leg/foot and 彳 movement
rear; behind; back; later; after(wards)
drag along on account of having slight power. "Rear," "behind" and "back" express the position occupied by a person lagging behind, while "later" and "after(wards)" are by figurative association.

憂
abbreviated form of 後 drag along
obsolete element = abbreviated form of 頁 head + 心 heart/emotions
sad; pensive; grieved; anxious; concerned
pensive, dragging state of mind, causing deliberate movement; compare 愛

優
憂 deliberate movement
亻/人 person
graceful; gentle; excellent; superior
move gracefully, with great deliberation. Here, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying a nuance that dropped from the original one.

耰
憂 deliberate movement
耒 plow
(plow/rake-like) agricultural implement
using an agricultural implement, rake earth over planted seeds with a deliberate motion

畜
abbreviated form of 幼 young
田 (shape indicator = partitioned pens)
livestock; domestic(ated) animals
young livestock contained in partitioned pens

蓄
畜 contained
艹 grass/plant
store (up); save; grow/wear (a beard/mustache)
preserved plants/vegetables contained in being stored for winter provisions. "Grow/wear" (a beard/mustache) is in the associated sense of an additional provision for winter.

虐
obsolete element = 虍 tiger + 人 person
variant form of 爪 pick/pluck
brutality; oppression; persecution
person attacked/grabbed by a tiger. Present-day meanings are via association with "be attacked."

瘧
虐 be attacked
疒 illness
malaria; intermittent fever
be attacked by a particular illness

謔

虐 be attacked
言 words
jeer; mock; jest; joke
verbal attack

豦
虍 tiger
豕 pig/boar
wild boar; fight
boar with the fierceness of a tiger

劇
豦 fierce
transformed element (originally 力 power/energy)
fierce; acute; severe; drama; (theatrical) play
力 power/energy appended for emphasis/clarification, although it was eventually replace by 刀/ 刂 sword/knife

據
豦 fierce
扌/手 hand/action indicator
occupy; seize; base; basis; point of origin; depend
fierce martial activity resulting in occupation of an enemy position. "Depend" is an extended meaning from "basis."

遽
豦 fierce
辵 movement
sudden(ly); fear
sudden, fierce activity

醵
豦 fierce
酉 alcohol container
contribute (to a feast, drinking party etc.)

rowdy drinking party. Later, the nuance shifted to that of collecting food, drink or money in the interest of holding a feast.

蘧
遽 fierce activity
艹 grass/plant
Dianthus superbus (aka fringed pink)
plant traditionally used as a contraceptive to counteract frenzied sexual activity

籧
遽 fierce activity
竹 bamboo
xxx
roughly weave with strips of bamboo. 籧篨 = bamboo matting

雈
隹 short, squat bird
冖 cover that obscures
(rise) high
bird obscured by a covering/overhanging object. It is likely that here 隹 is an abbreviated form of an obsolete character.

榷
雈 obscure/obscuring frame
木 tree/wood
footbridge; exact a toll/levy; monopoly
log bridge, the bottom of the logs obscured in the water. "Exact a toll/levy" is an associated meaning in the sense of charging for permission to cross a bridge, with "monopoly" by extension (possess exclusive control).

確
雈 obscure/obscuring frame
石 stone
verify; ascertain; certain; positive; reliable; sound (of mind/health)
obscuring stone wall

鶴
雚 obscure/obscuring frame
鳥 bird
crane
bird whose platform nests are obscured in shallow waters

句
transformed element = a frame
transformed element = bending lines
phrase; verse; line; clause; sentence
present-day meanings are all by figurative association with demarcation

局
transformed element = a frame
transformed element = bending lines
office; bureau; department; situation
originally the same character as 句. "Office," "bureau" and "department" are by association with demarcation. "Situation" is an extended meaning in the sense of circumstances dealt with by a specific office, bureau etc.

佝
句 bend
亻/人 person
stooped person
compare 姁 and 痀

劬
句 bend
力 power/energy
bend down/over; work; become fatigued
bend down/over (curving the back) in laboring; compare 傴

姁
句 bend

女 woman
old (and stooped) woman; chatty; cheerful
compare 佝 and 痀. "Chatty" and "cheerful" are figurative associated meanings (qualities attributed to old women).

拘
句 bend
扌/手 hand/action indicator
confine; detain; capture
confine a prisoner in a bending posture

狗
句 bend
犭/犬 dog/beast
dog
bending figure of a puppy on unsteady legs; compare 駒

苟
句 bend
艹 grass/plant
temporarily; for the time being; in the event that; if; careless
bend grass to temporarily demarcate a small unit of land. Distinguish 苟 from the identical-appearing element in 敬.

昫
句 bend
日 sun/day
warm
warm sunlight causing plants to wilt

枸
句 bend
木 tree/wood
(bent/bending tree)
枸椰 = tree resembling a willow; 枸櫞 = lemon tree (Citrus limon); 枸杞 = Lycium

chinense (known in English variously as Chinese desert thorn, Chinese teaplant or [Chinese] wolfberry).

耇
句 bend
abbreviated form of 老 aged person
(wrinkled) face of an elderly person
aged person with a bent back; compare 佝 姁 and 痀. The present-day meaning is by association with a particular feature of such an individual.

痀
句 bend
疒 illness
(illness resulting in) curvature of the spine; hunchback
compare 佝 and 姁

笱
句 bend
竹 bamboo
fish trap
bamboo bent to create a fish trap/weir

鉤
句 bend
金 metal
hook; barb
bent, metallic hook/barb

駒
句 bend
馬 horse
colt; sun
bending figure of a foal on unsteady legs; compare 狗

跼

局 bend
足 leg/foot
bend down/over; stoop; crouch
compare 劬 and 傴

勾
strike/cross out; mark; join; connect; hook
variant form of 句. "Strike/cross out," "mark," "join" and "connect" are via the "demarcation" sense of 句.

煦
昫 warm
灬/火 fire
warm (and cozy)
灬/火 appended for emphasis/clarification

后
empress; queen
originally, 司 (peer through a narrow hole) written inversely, indicating someone kept out of sight (specifically, a female member of the imperial family, whose quarters were secreted deep within a palace). "Empress" and "queen" are associated meanings in the sense of female members of the royal/imperial family, whose quarters were secreted deep within a palace; compare 宮.

垢
后 keep out of sight
土 earth
dirt; filth; disgrace
obscuring dirt or filth. "Disgrace" is a figurative associated meaning.

姤
后 keep out of sight
女 woman
copulate
woman kept out of sight (= mistress, concubine etc.). "Copulate" is an extended

meaning.

逅
后 keep out of sight
辵 movement
meet (unexpectedly)
meet a person normally kept from one's sight. For a chance encounter, compare 遇.

詬
abbreviated form of 垢 filth
言 words
abuse; curse; (put to) shame; revile
speak with filthy/abusive words

狀
犬 dog/beast
犬 dog/beast
pair of dogs tangling in a fight. 狀 is effectively obsolete.

哭
abbreviated form of 狀 pair of dogs
口 mouth (doubled)
wail; cry; weep
pair of howling dogs

獄
狀 pair of dogs tangling in a fight
言 words
trial; suit; sue; prison
be entangled in a harsh dispute; compare 訟. "Prison" is an associated meaning.

嶽
獄 harsh
山 mountain
(high) mountain; peak

rugged, rocky mountain

猋
狄 pair of dogs
犬 dog
whirlwind; storm
circling pack of dogs. "Whirlwind" and "storm" are via the compound 猋風, which in turn generated the single character 飆.

飆
猋 circle about
風 wind
whirlwind; storm
an amalgamation of the two characters in the compound 猋風

臭
abbreviated form of 狄 pair of dogs
自 nose
smell; reek; stench
dogs sniffing each other

嗅
臭 smell
口 mouth (→ action indicator with reference to the face)
smell (v.); sniff
嗅 was devised after 臭 came to be used as a noun

糗
臭 smell
米 rice
parched or toasted rice; dried cooked rice
the smell given off by parched or toasted rice. (Lump of) "dried cooked rice" (carried as an army provision; compare 糒, 餱, 饟 and 餉) is an associated meaning.

伏

abbreviated form of 犬 pair of dogs
亻/人 person
lie low/prostrate; (lie) hidden/in ambush; yield/submit/obey
pair of dogs lying curled at their master's feet. Present-day meanings are all by association.

袱
伏 curl about
衤/衣 clothing
wrapping cloth; bundle wrapped in cloth
two manifestations of the constituent elements of this character

舂
remnant element = 廾 pair of hands + 午 pound
臼 mortar
pound
pound food in a mortar. Distinguish 舂 from 春.

惷
舂 pound
心 heart/emotions
dull; foolish
be rendered insensible by pounding

椿
舂 pound
木 tree/wood
stake; affair; matter
pound a wooden stake in the ground

秦
abbreviated form of 舂 pound
禾 grain/rice
Qin Dynasty
pound grain into fine pieces

蓁
秦 make fine
艹 grass/plant
thicket; luxuriant vegetation
fine/dense thicket; compare 榛

榛
秦 make fine
木 tree/wood
hazel; thicket
"hazel" is in the sense of a tree that supplies plentiful nuts for pounding/processing into fine meal. "Thicket" is an associated meaning (thicket of hazel trees).

臻
秦 make fine
至 proceed; arrive
reach; arrive; utmost
proceed with fine steps, then reach/arrive at one's destination; compare 贊.
"Utmost" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of reaching a far-off destination.

壳
depiction of a hard, curved seashell. 壳 is effectively obsolete.

殼
壳 shell
殳 action indicator
shell; husk; casing
pound on hard shells

彀
abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk
弓 bow
fully; sufficient

draw a bowstring back against the hard frame of the bow. "Fully" is an associated meaning in the sense "draw back fully," with "sufficient" by extension from "fully."

慤
abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk
心 heart/emotions
sincere; earnest
figurative applications of the idea of hard, tightly united bonds

穀
abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk
禾 grain/rice
grain; cereal
禾 appended for emphasis/clarification of the husk of a grain plant

縠
abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk
糸 thread
crepe
silk fabric with a crinkled rather than a smooth surface

觳
abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk
角 horn
goblet; measure of volume
goblet made of horn; compare 觥. "Measure of volume" is an associated meaning, the amount corresponding to that contained in the goblet.

轂
abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk (→ casing)
車 vehicle
(wheel) hub
casing in which a vehicle's axle is attached to the wheel(s)

鷇

abbreviated form of 殼 hard husk
鳥 bird
chick; fledglings
shell from which a chick hatches. "Fledglings" is an associated meaning.

公
transformed element (originally 口 mouth/hole → space)
八 split right and left
open; public; fair; official; governmental
open space in which (divided groups of) people gather

松
公 open
木 tree/wood
pine (tree)
species of tree with "open" fronds

崧
松 open
山 mountain
high mountain; lofty
high mountain range with wide open spaces between its peaks

鬆
松 open
髟 hair
loose; lax; loosen
open spaces between sparse patches of disheveled hair

瓮
公 open
瓦 tile/earthenware
jug; cistern
large, wide-mouthed jug/cistern

翁
公 open
羽 feather/wing
old man; elder (n.)
open spaces between the feathers of an aged bird. Present-day meanings are via association with "aged."

訟
公 open/public
言 words
accuse; sue; litigate
public disputation; compare 獄

頌
公 public
頁 head (→ group of people)
recite; acclaim; praise
declaim to a public crowd

蚣
公 = abbreviated form of 翁 old man/elder
虫 insect/creature
(old insect)
蜈蚣 = centipede

滃
翁 open spaces
氵/水 water
swell; disperse
water swelling then spilling over to open spaces in dispersing

蓊
翁 open spaces
艹 grass/plant
thick/luxuriant vegetation

thick/luxuriant vegetation spreading over open spaces

袞
transformed element (originally 公 public)
衣 clothing
clothing worn by an emperor on ceremonial occasions
(wrap-around) garment worn in public

滾
袞 wrap around
氵/水 water
boil; rotate
bubbles of roiling water rotating (figuratively wrapping around each other) in a pot

夅
descend
depiction of legs bending as they descend a hill

降
夅 point downward/descend
阜/阝 piled earth
descend; fall; lower; defeat (v.)
阜/阝 appended for emphasis/clarification

絳
夅 point downward/descend
糸 thread
deep red; crimson
lower fabric into dye. For the idea of dyeing fabric/textiles deep red or crimson, compare 紅.

隆
abbreviated form of 降 descend
生 life
rise; prosperity; superiority

vital force winding upward in spite of downward resistance

癃
隆 wind upward
疒 illness
fatigue; infirmity; retention of urine
tumor rising on the surface of the skin; compare 瘤. "Infirmity," "fatigue" and "retention of urine" are associated meanings (symptoms of a tumor-accompanied disease).

窿
隆 wind upward
穴 hole
hole; cavity
ventilation hole in a ceiling allowing the release of rising smoke; compare 向

郭
享 (circular) enclosure
邑/阝 village/settlement
outer city wall; enclosure
enclosure about a village/settlement. The phonetic evidence suggests that the 享 element in 郭 has replaced a graphically similar element indicating a circular enclosure; compare 或.

廓
郭 enclosure
广 building
broad; open; empty
expansive (enclosed) building

槨
郭 enclosure
木 tree/wood
outer container enclosing a coffin
one type of wooden enclosure. 椁 is a variant, abbreviated form of 槨.

鞹
郭 enclosure
革 leather
leather; skin
element that encloses a body or wrapped object

瓜
melon; gourd
depiction of a solitary object pendent on a vine

孤
瓜 solitary
子 child
solitary; (a)lone; orphan
"orphan" is an associated meaning

狐
瓜 solitary
犭/犬 dog/beast
fox
species that, atypically for Canidae, goes about in small family units rather than in packs

觚
瓜 melon-shaped
角 horn
goblet; inscribed wooden placard
melon-shaped goblet made of horn. "Inscribed wooden placard" (particularly, one on which rules are written) is either an associated meaning (via inscribed goblet) or a borrowing.

弧
瓜 pendent
弓 bow

(wooden) bow; arc
pendent bow

菰
弧 pendent
艹 grass/plant
wild rice; mushroom
pendent, flowering heads of "wild rice" hanging above the waterline. "Mushroom" is an associated meaning in the sense of a plant with a pendent cap.

永
long period of time; everlasting; forever
depiction of flowing water splitting into numerous distributaries that stretch far into the distance. Present-day meanings are via figurative association with the idea of stretching far.

泳
永 stretch far
氵/水 water
swim
swim a long distance

昶
永 stretch far
日 sun/day
long day
long-lasting day

詠
永 stretch far
言 words
chant; recite; sing
chant/recite a poem by prolonging one's voice. "Sing" is an associated meaning. 咏, replacing 言 with 口 mouth, is effectively a variant form of 詠.

弓
bow; bend; arch
depiction of a bowstring stretching between the two ends of its flexible, curved bow

弘
弓 bow
厶 shape indicator
wide; big; widen; broaden; spread
widen a bow by drawing back on its bowstring; compare 宏

穹
弓 bow
穴 hole
sky; the wide heavens; arch; tent; arch-shaped object
stretch over empty space like a bow

躬
弓 bow
身 body
bend the body; bend; person(ally); (by) oneself
bend the body in a position resembling a curved bow

窮
躬 bend
穴 hole
(be at/come to an) extreme; exhaust; thorough(ly); impoverished
bend in negotiating a tunnel. "(Be at/come to an) extreme" is an associated meaning in the sense of reaching the end of a tunnel. "Exhaust" is by extension in the sense of coming to an extreme in using up resources, with "thorough(ly)" and "impoverished" by further extension from "exhaust" (exhaust one's resources).

泓
弘 wide
氵/水 water

wide, deep body of (clear) water
compare 洞 潢 浤 and 汪

邕
巛 a variant form of 川 river
邑 village/settlement
village; settlement
moat (compare 隍) encircling a settlement

雝
邕 moated village
隹 short, squat bird
marsh; moat
birds contained in a marsh adjacent to a moated village

雍
block off/up; harmonious
abbreviated, variant form of 雝 (contain) that acquired distinct meanings. "Block off/up" is one form of containment.

廱
雝 contain
广 building
enclosed/contained structure; harmonious
structure/domicile enclosed or contained by a wall, moat etc.

癰
雝 contain
疒 illness
carbuncle; boil
carbuncle/boil containing pus

壅
雍 variant form of 雝 contain
土 earth

obstruct; block in/off; stop up
earthen walls that wrap about and confine

擁
雍 variant form of 雝 contain
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold; embrace; wrap about; protect; support
contain a bird, whether in a cage or by wrapping the hands around it

甕
雍 variant form of 雝 contain
瓦 tile/earthenware
jug; cistern
a particular kind of container

饔
雍 variant form of 雝 contain
食 food/eating
(prepared) food in a container; cooked/boiled food

元
兀 (round) head
remnant element = a horizontal line
head; origin; cause; raw material; capital; prime element; unit of currency
head as source and beginning; compare 頭

刓
元 round
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
shave; trim; pare
shave/trim/pare into a round(ed) shape

芫
元 round
艹 grass/plant

poisonous plant
variety of poisonous plant with round, purple flowers

玩
元 round
王/玉 jewel
toy/play with; enjoy; trifle with; make sport of
toy/play with a round gem; compare 弄

翫
元 round
習 learn by repetition
enjoy; take pleasure in
pleasure obtained in smoothing out the rough edges of an action by repeated practice

黿
元 round
黽 frog/amphibious creature
(large, roundish) turtle
the turtle is sometimes associated specifically with soft-shelled turtles, sea turtles or snapping turtles

兀
一 fullness
儿 person
thrust high/tall; cut off the feet
raise a prisoner's/captive's head fully (to shave it in punishment). "Thrust high/tall" is an associated meaning. "Cut off the feet" (in punishment) is an extended meaning related to the idea of punishment; compare 刖.

杌
兀 shave a person's head
木 tree/wood
stool

stump remaining after a tree has been cut. "Stool" is via shape association.

髡
兀 shave a person's head
髟 hair
shave the head; shave a head in punishment
髟 was appended to replace 兀 after 兀 lost its connection with shaving of the head

虺
兀 raise; rise
虫 (→ original signification = snake)
venomous snake
venomous snake rising to strike

軏
兀 raise; rise
車 vehicle
upward curving shafts (of a vehicle's crossbar)
compare 輈 轅 軒 and 軺

冠
元 rounded/oval head
obsolete element = 冖 cover + 寸 hand/action indicator
crown; cap; headgear
object placed on and adhering to the head

頑
元 rounded/oval head
頁 head
stubborn; obstinate
"stubborn" and "obstinate" are figurative meanings based on the image of a circular discussion going round and round in a person's head; compare 願. 頑 was devised to convey the original sense of 元, but it too acquired extended meanings.

完

元 round
宀 roof/building
complete; fulfill; end
be surrounded completely

浣
完 surround completely
氵/水 water
wash; rinse; clean
wash/clean by immersing in water

莞
完 surround completely
艹 grass/plant
variety of reed; smiling (manner)
plant that spreads in a circular manner about the main root (compare 葦) used in making (tatami) mats

院
完 surround completely
阜/阝 piled earth
courtyard; building; institution
surrounding earthen wall

寇
完 surround completely
攴 strike/hit
bandits; thieves; enemies; invade
bandits/thieves surrounding their objects of attack

睆
完 surround completely
目 eye
protruding eyeball; bright
eyeball surrounded by its socket

筦
完 surround completely
竹 bamboo
flute; rounded key; be in charge
hands surrounding a bamboo pipe or flute. "Rounded key" is via shape association. "Be in charge" appears to be connected with the use of a flute; compare 管.

鯇
完 surround completely
魚 fish
(variety of) carp
fish surrounded by aquatic vegetation

奐
remnant element = woman with spread thighs
廾 pair of hands
brilliant (← 煥)**; numerous**
draw a fetus out of/away from the womb

換
奐 draw out of/away from
扌/手 hand/action indicator
change; replace; exchange; substitute
change one object for another after drawing the old one out of its position

渙
奐 draw out of/away from
氵/水 water
disperse; dissipate; scatter
great flow of water drawing away from a melting icepack

煥
奐 draw out of/away from
火 fire

bright; brilliant; shining
bright/brilliant flame(s) drawn away from a fire's fuel source

免
abbreviated form of 奐 draw a fetus out of/away from the womb
儿 person (→ human agency)
escape/be rescued from; avoid; evade; elude; exempt
assist the escape of a fetus from its mother by drawing it out of/away from the birth canal. "Exempt" is an associated meaning in the sense of escaping from an obligation.

娩
免 give birth
女 woman
give birth; agreeable; complaisant
女 appended for emphasis/clarification. 娩 was devised to express the original sense of 免 after 免 underwent its transformation of meanings.

俛
免 draw out of/away from
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
strive; exhort; hang the head; look down
effectively a variant form of 勉 (make great efforts)

勉
免 draw out of/away from
力 power/energy
make great efforts; exhort; encourage
make great efforts in drawing out of or away from

挽
免 draw out of/away from
扌/手 hand/action indicator
draw (out/away); pull (back); roll up

浼
免 draw out of/away from
氵/水 water
dirty; contaminated; entreat; request
runoff of dirty/impure liquid matter. "Entreat/request" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of sullying oneself in begging for a favor.

晚
免 draw out of/away from
日 sun/day
night; evening; late
the drawing away of the sun from the sky in sunset

悗
abbreviated form of 晚 night
忄/心 heart/emotions
be at a loss; be in a daze
heart shrouded in darkness, in the form of being at a loss or in a daze; compare 惛

輓
免 draw out of/away from
車 vehicle
draw; pull; mourn
draw/pull a vehicle (originally, out of ruts, or a ditch; now in the sense of "draw along"). "Mourn" is an extended meaning in the sense "draw/pull a funeral vehicle."

川
river; flow
depiction of a curving river boring its way through the earth in linking distant points. 巛 is a variant form.

巡
川/巛 river
辵 movement
circulate/go about (in making rounds, patrolling etc.)

move in the manner of a river that swirls about sandbanks; compare 州

順
川 river
頁 head (→ group of people)
follow; sequence; order; obey; submit
people following a winding course traced by a river; compare 馴 and 沿. "Obey" and "submit" are via figurative association with "follow."

馴
川 river
馬 horse
tame (v.); train (v.); obedient; docile
horse following a winding course traced by a river; compare 順 and 沿

畎
transformed element (originally 巛 river)
田 field
watercourse running between fields
巛 was replaced by 犬; the two were phonetically close in Old Chinese

訓
川 bore through
言 words
teach; (a) teaching; interpret; admonish
words that allow one to bore through a difficult problem

釧
川 bore through
金 metal
ornament; bracelet
metallic ornament created by running a cord through holes bored in jewels; compare 貫

宄

transformed element (originally 川 river)
transformed element (originally 牛 cow)
move on
drive cattle across a river, their bodies sinking in being largely submerged

忱
冗 sink
忄/心 heart/emotions
sincerity; truth
something figuratively sunk/lodged deep in the heart

沈
冗 sink
氵/水 water
sink; immerse; submerge; go down; set; be mired in
a sinking person/object

枕
冗 sink
木 tree/wood
pillow; headrest
wooden object onto which the head sinks

眈
冗 sink
目 eye
fasten one's eyes on; stare; glare
figuratively allow the eyes to sink into an object

耽
冗 sink
耳 ear
indulgence; be absorbed in
drooping ears. "Indulgence" is a figurative associated meaning via droopiness. "Be absorbed in" is by extension from indulgence.

酖
冗 sink
酉 alcohol container
addicted (to alcohol); poisoned wine; poison (← 鴆)
sink into an alcohol-induced stupor

黕
冗 sink
黑 black
stain; black
black/dark stain sunk deep into an object

鴆
abbreviated form of 酖 sink into a stupor
鳥 bird
(fabulous) bird
(fabulous) bird that feeds on poisonous snakes. It was believed that boiling down the bird's feathers and mixing with alcohol created a stupefactive or lethal potion.

褱
remnant element = trail of round tears falling from an eye
衣 clothing
carry in the bosom
trail of tears that fall and are absorbed in one's garments

壞
褱 fall and be absorbed
土 earth
collapse; destruction; pull/tear down; breakage; damage; injury
collapsing pile of earth absorbed by the ground; compare 崩, 隨 and 圮

懷
褱 fall and be absorbed
忄/心 heart/emotions

harbor (v.); breast; bosom; heart (figurative sense)
warm feelings harbored in the heart/breast; compare 惠

惠
benefaction; benefit; blessing; favor; bestow
variant form of 褱, the "fall and be absorbed" sense expressed in terms of benefaction from above, whether actually (rain for crops) or figuratively (a blessing)

蕙
惠 benefaction
艹 grass/plant
fragrant plant/herb; fragrant orchid
plant/herb providing the benefaction of a fragrant aroma

穗
惠 benefaction
禾 grain/rice
ear/head of grain; tassel
heavy ears/heads of grain, a benefaction of the heavens. "Tassel" is via shape association.

蟪
惠 benefaction
虫 insect/creature
cicada
insect that aerates soil, prunes trees and provides food for certain animals, all of which benefit the environment

爲
象 as a replacement for an obsolete character
爫/爪 hand/claw
do; make; arrange; act/serve as; become; change into; on behalf of; because of
brandish a curved stick in training animals, transforming their behavior. "Do" is an associated meaning in the sense of using the hands and accomplishing an objective, with "make" and "arrange" by extension from "do." "Become" and

"change into" (compare 化) are also by association."On behalf of" and "because of" are extensions in the sense "do/perform for someone's benefit." The phonetic evidence suggests that 象 here is a replacement for an obsolete character indicating an animal other than an elephant.

撝
爲 brandish
扌/手 hand/action indicator
brandish; humble
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification. For "brandish," compare 揮.

僞
爲 transform
亻/人 person
deceit; sham; bogus; fabrication; lie
transform one's persona (deceitfully)

戉
battle-ax; halberd
depiction of a battle-ax with a rounded handle. The shape of the weapon also permitted it to scoop objects up/out.

歲
戉 scoop out
variant form of 步 walk
harvest; year; age
walk about a field, harvesting rice by scooping it from the ears of the plant with a sickle-like implement. "Year" and "age" are via association with the harvest that comes at the end of a long agricultural cycle; compare 年.

穢
歲 harvest
禾 grain/rice
dirty; filthy; obscene
disorderly post-harvest leavings

濊
abbreviated form of 穢 dirty
氵/水 water
vast; expansive; dirty; filthy
destructive overflow of water, leaving dirt/filth in its wake. For the idea of a destructive overflow of water, compare 潰.

越
歳 walk
走 run
exceed; surpass; go over/beyond; cross (over)
exceed/surpass the speed of another person. "Cross" (over) is via extension from surpass.

樾
越 go over/beyond
木 tree/wood
shade (of trees)
shade provided by overhanging trees

矞
variant form of 戉 scoop out
冏 bright
bore (v.); bright
use an instrument to scoop out or bore a circular hole, allowing bright light to penetrate

潏
矞 circular
氵/水 water
water gushing from a round spring
compare 泉

遹

矞 circular
辵 movement
follow; avoid
follow a circular course. "Avoid" is an associated meaning in the sense of following others in making an escape (compare 遁, where the idea is that of following a sheltering object in fleeing/escaping).

橘
矞 circular
木 tree/wood
(variety of) citrus fruit
tree bearing round citrus fruit

裔
abbreviated form of 矞 circular
衣 clothing
hem; border; descendants; posterity
the rounded hem or train of a garment. "Border" is via association with the end of a garment. "Descendants" and "posterity" are figurative, extended meanings (i.e., follow in the train of ancestors).

譎
矞 circular
言 words
deceive; mislead; cunning; crafty; conceal (one's intentions)
use circular speech to deceive, mislead, or conceal one's intentions

鷸
abbreviated form of 遹 avoid
鳥 bird
snipe; kingfisher
snipe, a particularly elusive bird. "Kingfisher" is an associated meaning, being another type of migratory waterfowl.

育

□□fetus passing through the birth canal
月/肉 flesh
give birth; breed; raise; foster; educate
月/肉 appended to emphasize/clarify giving birth. □□was originally 子 child written upside down.

撤
obsolete element = 育 + 攵 pass through
扌/手 hand/action indicator
remove; withdraw
remove obstacles, allowing easy passage

徹
obsolete element = 育 + 攵 pass through
彳 movement
go/slip through; penetrate; pierce
彳 appended for emphasis/clarification of the act of passage

轍
obsolete element = 育 + 攵 pass through
車 vehicle
(wheel) ruts/track
rut/tracks that remain after a vehicle has passed

充
□□fetus passing through the birth canal
川 river (→ flowing water)
the flow of amniotic fluid accompanying a fetus passing through the birth canal. 充 is effectively obsolete.

流
充 flow
氵/水 water
flow; wash off/away; style; school (of thought/art); grade/class
the addition of 水 water is to expand the scope of the term to that of a heavy flow

of water. "Style" and "school" (of thought/art etc.) are associated meanings via the imagery of the flow of the times, with "grade/class" by extension in the sense of the degree to which something is stylish/fashionable.

琉
充 flow
王/玉 jewel
(glossy/sparkling) jewel
jewel with a slippery surface over which the fingers flow. The compound 琉璃 is an abbreviation of 吠吠瑠璃, a transliteration of the Sanskrit vaidurya (lapis lazuli).

硫
充 flow
石 stone
sulfur
mineral composed of the discharge of volcanic flow

旒
充 flow
从 pennant/banner
streamer; crown ornament
streamer flowing in a breeze. "Crown ornament" (one that hangs from both front and back) is via shape association.

充
□ fetus passing through the birth canal
儿 person (for emphasis/clarification)
fill; full; fulfill; allocate
fetus filling the birth canal. "Allocate" is an associated meaning in the sense of fulfilling a need. 儿 was appended for emphasis/clarification of the physical sense of a fetus filling the birth canal.

統
充 fill/full
糸 thread

unite; unify; totally; control; rule over
unification likened to a full collection of threads. "Control" and "rule over" are in the associated sense of unifying totally.

銃
充 fill/full
金 metal
gun
ancient weapon enabling metal filling a chamber to be fired

六
six
depiction of a tall mound that curves in stretching at length

圭
六 mound that stretches at length
六 mound that stretches at length
heap of earth
long stretch of land

逵
圭 stretch
辵 movement
crossroads; thoroughfare
(major) crossroads that stretch away at length

陸
圭 stretch
阜/阝 piled earth
land; continent
land winding far, wide and high

夌
abbreviated form of 圭 stretch
夂 leg/foot pointed downward

dawdle
stretch the legs in relaxation. "Dawdle" (compare 躕 and 夌) is an associated meaning.

凌
夌 stretch
冫/氷 ice
thick ice; rise (high); traverse; surpass; insult
thick wall of ice stretching skywards

崚
夌 stretch
山 mountain
towering mountain; tower
towering mountain with long ridges

菱
夌 stretch
艹 grass/plant
water caltrop
water caltrop (the fruit of which has long, well-defined lines). Water caltrop also goes by the name of water chestnut, but it is the corms of a different plant, Eleocharis dulcis, that feature in Chinese cuisine.

陵
夌 stretch
阜/阝 piled earth
mound; (imperial) tomb/mausoleum
long stretch of earth

棱
夌 stretch
木 tree/wood
squared-off lumber; sharp edge (of a piece of wood/lumber); angle
long piece of wood/lumber. "Angle" is an associated meaning.

綾
夌 stretch
糸 thread
patterned cloth; twill
cloth patterned with long lines

輘
夌 stretch
車 vehicle
(wheel) ruts; squeaking/crunching sound
wheel ruts stretched along the ground. "Squeaking/crunching sound" (such as produced by the wheels creating such ruts) is via association.

睦
坴 stretch
目 eye
cordial; friendly
large and cordial gathering, the participants stretched in relaxation as they eye each other in a friendly atmosphere

□□
abbreviated form of 睦 large gathering
貝 commodities
pass along commodities in a large (commercial) gathering. □□ is effectively obsolete.

瀆
□□ pass along
氵/水 water
ditch; defilement
ditch through which drainage or sewage passes; compare 樋. "Defilement" is an associated meaning in the sense of filthy water passing through such a ditch.

櫝

□□pass along
木 tree/wood
container; box; cabinet; coffin
container with drawers passing along rails

牘
□□pass along
片 long piece of wood split down the middle
inscribed tablet; writings; letter
written instruments for passing along knowledge. For the transmission of knowledge, compare 讀.

竇
□□pass along
穴 hole
hole; burrow; aperture
hole/burrow/aperture allowing passage

續
□□pass along
糸 thread
continue; occur in succession; sequel
goods passed along like linked threads

讀
□□pass along
言 words
reading; read; study
knowledge transmitted via a communal reading. For the transmission of knowledge, compare 牘.

贖
□□pass along commodities
貝 commodities
pay for; redemption; expiation; atonement

貝 appended for emphasis/clarification

麗
鹿 deer
remnant element = antlers
beautiful; lovely
pair of neatly aligned antlers; compare 羚. "Beautiful" and "lovely" are via association with "neat."

儷
麗 neatly aligned
亻/人 person
(married) couple; companion(s)
alignment of persons. For the alignment of spouses, compare 妻 and 嫡.

纚
麗 neatly aligned
糸 thread
kerchief
kerchief used to align the hair on both sides of the head when wearing a crown

躧
麗 neatly aligned
足 leg/foot
sandal
footwear aligned with the feet in being slipped over the toes (not covering the foot entirely)

釃
麗 neatly aligned
酉 alcohol container
strain (v.); pour (alcohol)
neatly aligned trickles of alcohol trailing from a strainer; compare 滰

驪

麗 neatly aligned
馬 horse
pair of horses; black (and/or lustrous) horse
pair of horses neatly aligned for drawing a carriage. "Black (and/or lustrous) horse" is an associated meaning, via the type of horse used for drawing such a carriage.

灑
abbreviated form of 驪 neatly aligned
氵/水 water
pour; sprinkle; spray; spill; wash
neatly aligned trickles of water running off from objects being washed; compare 洒 and 釃

邐
abbreviated form of 驪 neatly aligned
辶 movement
winding
wind in alignment

曬
abbreviated form of 驪 neatly aligned
日 sun/day
expose to/dry in the sun
align objects neatly and expose to the sun (for drying); compare 晒

鸝
abbreviated form of 驪 neatly aligned
鳥 bird
(birds flying in alignment)
黃鸝 = Chinese oriole

呂
spine; backbone
depiction of a spine/backbone. 律呂 = pitch pipe

侶
呂 align in a row
亻/人 person
companion; associate(d) with
companions, people in figurative alignment

梠
呂 align in a row
木 tree/wood
timber aligned in support of rafters at the eaves; eaves

絽
呂 align in a row
糸 thread
silk gauze
fabric with a striped pattern

閭
呂 align in a row
門 gate
village gate; village; settlement
village gate opening onto rows of residences. In historical usage, sometimes specifying a village/settlement consisting of twenty-five families.

厤
秝 sheaves of grain
厂 cliff/shape indicator (→ a roof)
count neat lines of sheaves in a storehouse. 秝 is 禾 grain/rice doubled, indicating sheaves of grain. 厤 is effectively obsolete.

曆
厤 neat lines
日 sun/day
calendar; era; age; period
neat lineup or arrangement of days that enables easy counting

歷
厤 neat lines
止 leg/foot
passage; continuation; experience; one's career
walk with a neat gait. Present-day meanings are via figurative association with "progress" (progress through life).

瀝
歷 neat lines
氵/水 water
trickle; drip; drop (n.)
trickle of liquid

櫪
歷 neat lines
木 tree/wood
stable; (variety of) oak
stable/manger constructed of neatly aligned pieces of wood

轢
歷 neat lines
車 vehicle
gravel road; crunching sound
neat gravel road laid out for vehicular traffic. "Crunching sound" produced by wheels of a vehicle in rolling over gravel is an associated meaning.

靂
歷 neat lines
雨 rain/natural phenomena
(clap of) thunder
neat string of thunderbolts

力
power; energy; strength; skill; ability; labor; make efforts

depiction of the rippling muscles of a powerful arm

仂
力 ripples
亻/人 person
(numerical) remainder; surplus
supernumerary, likened to ripples of a main force

朸
力 ripples
木 tree/wood
grain (of wood)
ripple pattern in wood/a tree

肋
力 ripples
月/肉 flesh
rib(s)
rippling muscles of the ribs

勒
力 ripples
革 leather
restrain; suppress; control; regulate
the rippling straps of an (equestrian) halter

鹵
saline earth; (naturally occurring) salt; alkali
depiction of salt-studded earth

滷
鹵 salt/alkali
氵/水 water
brine; foods soaked in brine; sauce; broth

萬
ten thousand; innumerable
depiction of a scorpion. 卍 (Sanskrit svastika) came to be used in place of 萬.

邁
萬 pass vigorously over
辵 movement
pass by; pass out of sight; exceed
vigorously pass a bladed implement over a whetstone

厲
abbreviated form of 邁 pass over vigorously
厂 shape indicator, here = a whetstone
whetstone; rough; sharp; severe
rough-surfaced whetstone used for vigorous sharpening/polishing

勵
厲 vigorous exertion
力 power/energy
urge on; exertion; encourage
urge others to exert themselves

劣
abbreviated form of 勵 exert
少 small/slight
weak; inferior
make but a slight/weak exertion

礪
厲 whetstone
石 stone
whetstone; sharpen; grind; polish
石 appended for emphasis/clarification. 礪 was devised to replace 厲.

癘

厲 rough
疒 illness
sore (n.); contagious disease
condition that roughens the skin; compare 癩

糲
厲 rough
米 rice
coarse (unpolished/incompletely polished) rice; brown rice; rough
type of rice with a rough outer surface

蠣
厲 rough
虫 insect/creature
oyster
rough-shelled oyster

畾
divided fields
variant form of an obsolete character that appended another 夕 element at the bottom left of 多 (tall, neat pile of meat) and thus indicated a pile. "Divided fields" is via reinterpretation.

儡
畾 pile
亻/人 person
puppet; dummy; sick; injured
pile objects into a lumpy human shape; compare 傀

壘
畾 pile
土 earth
rampart; (baseball) base
earth piled into a long/tall and winding rampart

藟
畾 pile
艹 grass/plant
vine; creeper
vines/creepers piled upon themselves; compare 蓮

礌
畾 pile
石 stone
pile of stones; roll
pile of stones tumbling to the ground in sequence; compare 磊

疊
畾 pile
宜 piled meat
pile; fold; fold up; repeat; duplicate
pile/fold an object to a number of layers

雷
transformed element (originally 畾 pile)
雨 rain/natural phenomena
thunder; (explosive) mine
successive (= figuratively piled) claps of thunder. (Explosive) "mine" is an associated meaning.

擂
雷 thunder
扌/手 hand/action indicator
beat; strike; rub; grind
beat/strike loudly, like claps of thunder. "Rub" and "grind" are associated meanings.

罍
abbreviated form of 雷 thunder
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
large liquor jar

large liquor jar, originally one decorated with a thundercloud motif

累
transformed element (originally 畾 pile)
糸 thread
accumulate; continuous; repeated; involve; implicate; tired
tall spiral of threads

縲
累 winding/spiral
糸 thread
tie; bind
string/cord spiraled about an object in binding. 縲絏 = a long rope for binding criminals

騾
abbreviated form of 縲 bind
馬 horse
mule
bind a load on the back of a pack animal

螺
累 winding/spiral
虫 insect/creature
spiral shell; conch (shell); spiral
creature with a shell of spiral shape

蕾
variant form of 累 winding/spiral
艹 grass/plant
bud
spiral petals of a bud

老
old; elderly

depiction of an aged person with a bent back

姥
老 aged person
女 woman
old woman; maternal grandmother
aged/old woman. "Maternal grandmother" is an associated meaning.

孝
abbreviated form of 老 aged person
子 child
filial piety; obedience
child(ren) attending to an aged person

酵
孝 attend to someone/something that is aging
酉 alcohol container
ferment; yeast; leaven
the aging/fermentation process

劉
□□(execute victims whose heads hang/are bowed)
刀/刂 sword/knife
kill
use a bladed implement to execute victims whose heads hang/are bowed. □□ combines 金 metal + a variant form of 卯 (bend). The original signification of this character is obscure, but likely similar to that of the Old Chinese cognate 戮 (kill).

瀏
劉 hang
氵/水 water
pure; clear; flow
pure/clear dewdrops hanging on then dripping from a plant; compare 落

兩

both; two; form a pair; some; unit of weight
depiction of a measuring device with long arms aligned on both sides

倆
兩 (aligned) pair
亻/人 person
pair; couple (of people); two; skill; ability
the minor meanings "skill" and "ability" are via the compound term 技倆

裲
兩 (aligned) pair
衤/衣 clothing
waistcoat; sleeveless vest
waistcoat or sleeveless vest paired with the garment worn underneath

輛
兩 (aligned) pair
車 vehicle
vehicle; counter for vehicles
two-wheeled vehicle. The number of wheels on the vehicle is no longer limited to two.

魍
兩 (aligned) pair
鬼 large, lumpy being
monster
monster that moves on a pair of legs, like a human. 魑魅魍魎 is a general term for evil spirits resident in forests, mountains and rivers.

鹿
deer
depiction of a deer, an animal that forms a long, winding herd

漉
鹿 long and winding

氵/水 water
filter; strain
long trail of dripping liquid; compare 濾

麓
鹿 long and winding
林 forest
foot of a mountain; foothill
long and winding (forested) foot of a mountain/foothill

轆
鹿 long and winding
車 vehicle
pulley; roller; windlass
long, winding pulley; compare 轤

霝
remnant element = linked beads of water
雨 rain/natural phenomena
raindrops; drops
linked beads of (rain)drops

櫺
霝 linked
木 tree/wood
latticework; lattice window
linked pattern on wood

靈
霝 linked
巫 sorcery
spirit; soul; the supernatural
a medium invoking a procession of spirits

矛

pike; halberd; lance; arms
depiction of a pike or halberd; compare 戊

茅
矛 pike/halberd (→ shape indicator)
艹 grass/plant
miscanthus; rushes; grass
pike-shaped miscanthus; compare 萱. "Rushes" and "grass" are associated meanings. 茆 is effectively a variant form of 茅.

楙
矛 pike/halberd (→ shape indicator)
林 forest
luxuriant growth of trees

敄
矛 pike/halberd
攵 strike
exertion
great exertion in battle

瞀
敄 exertion
目 eye
dim; dim-sighted
strain the eyes, attempting to see an object clearly; compare 眊

蝥
敄 exertion
虫 insect/creature
cutworm; blister beetle
grain-eating insect that devours plants

鍪
敄 exertion

金 metal
iron pot/pan
helmet (accoutrement used in battle, a time of great exertion). "Iron pot/pan" is via similarity of shape.

鶩
敄 exertion
馬 horse
gallop; rush about
galloping horse, particularly one galloping randomly or in a circle

鶩
敄 exertion
鳥 bird
duck
bird regarded as needing to exert itself greatly to fly

務
敄 exertion
力 power/energy (for emphasis/clarification)
work/be engaged in; attend to/carry out (one's duties); a matter; should; must
various manifestations of exertion. "Should" and "must" are figurative extended meanings in the sense of duties that should/must be carried out.

霧
務 exertion
雨 rain/natural phenomena
(fine) spray; fog; mist
vigorous, fine spray from a geyser

柔
矛 pike/halberd
木 tree/wood
soft; pliant
soft/pliant wood made into curved weapon handles

揉
柔 soft
扌/手 hand/action indicator
rub; knead; crumple; be confused/disordered
soften by rubbing/kneading. "Be confused/disordered" is an extended meaning via "crumple."

猱
柔 soft
犭/犬 dog/beast
monkey
soft-haired monkey

糅
柔 soft
米 rice
mix; blend
soft dish consisting of rice mixed/blended with other grains

蹂
柔 soft
足 leg/foot
trample; tread; step on
trample (clay, foodstuffs etc.) in order to soften

輮
柔 soft
車 vehicle
trample; outer rim of a wheel
soften earth by trampling it with the outer rims of wheels

鞣
柔 soft
革 leather

tan; tanned leather
soften a hide/leather in tanning it

戎
transformed element (originally, 矛 pike/halberd)
transformed element (originally, 甲 armor/helmet)
weapon; armaments; armed; battle; war; barbarian
seize (soft luxury) goods by use of arms. Present-day meanings are via association.

絨
戎 seize goods
糸 thread
fuzzy, woolen fabric
prized fuzzy, woolen fabric

賊
variant form of 戎 seize goods
貝 commodities
plunder; bandit; thief
seize goods. 貝 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

得
导 seize
彳 movement/action indicator
acquire; obtain; get; gain; suitable; finished
导 originally combined a variant form of 戎 seize + 寸 hand/action indicator

麻
transformed element (originally □□hemp)
广 building
hemp; flax; linen; rough; coarse; pocked; pitted; numb; tingle (← 痲)
rub and scrape hemp indoors. "Rough" and "coarse" are via association with properties of hemp, with "pocked" and "pitted" by extension from "rough." □□ depicts two stalks of hemp, the fiber of which is concealed within the plant.

痲
□□hemp
疒 illness
numbness; paralysis
medical condition characterized by numbness, likened to the stupefactive properties of hemp. 痲疹 indicates "measles," with "pockmarked" by association.

麼
麻 rub and scrape
幺 slender thread
fine; dim; slight; (interrogative particle)
rub/scrape fine

摩
麻 rub and scrape
手 hand/action indicator
rub; scrape; stroke; polish
手 appended for emphasis/clarification

磨
麻 rub and scrape
石 stone
scrape; brush; polish; wear down
stone used in rubbing, brushing or scraping. "Wear down" is an associated meaning.

糜
麻 rub and scrape
米 rice
rice porridge; mash; crush; crumble
gruel consisting of fine pieces of rice. "Mash," "crush" and "crumble" are associated meanings (grind grain in making porridge).

縻
麻 rub and scrape

糸 thread
halter; rope; tie up
shredded fibers twisted into a halter for cattle

靡
麻 rub and scrape
非 spread in alignment to right and left
divide; disperse; scatter; wasteful; extravagant; not/negation (← 非)
scatter objects to right and left in the process of rubbing/scraping. "Wasteful" is via figurative association with "scatter," with "extravagant" by extension from "wasteful."

魔
麻 rub and scrape
鬼 ghost; demon
demon; evil
demon that figuratively rubs a person's senses into numbness; compare 痲. There is a strong likelihood that 魔 was devised to transliterate the first syllable of the Sanskrit Mara, referring to one of the gods in the Indian pantheon.

無
remnant element = dancing figure with concealed arms
灬/火 fire
not; none; un-; lack
person or object concealed by dense smoke. Present-day meanings are via association with the idea of concealment involving a lack of presence or existence.

舞
無 perform a dance
舛 crossing legs
dance; flit; glide; brandish
figure performing a dance of entreaty before the gods

儛
舞 dance

亻/人 person
dance
亻/人 appended for emphasis/clarification

嘸
無 concealed
口 mouth
negation; be confounded
conceal one's thoughts by remaining silent

嫵
無 concealed
女 woman
charm; enchant; lovely
the alluring, concealed figure of a woman; compare 妄

廡
無 concealed
广 building
(concealed) hallway/passageway; luxuriant (vegetation) (← 蕪)
concealed hallway/passageway within a building or compound

憮
無 concealed
忄/心 heart/emotions
disappointment
concealed feelings of disappointment

撫
無 concealed
扌/手 hand/action indicator
stroke; caress; pat; smooth down; comfort; console; calm (v.)
run the hand gently over a concealed object to determine its nature; compare 摸

蕪

無 concealed
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant vegetation; weeds
luxuriant/overgrown vegetation that covers/conceals

膴
無 concealed
月/肉 flesh
dried meat
thin strips of dried meat that are easily concealed when carried as a provision

冥
obsolete element = entry of sunlight
冖 cover
darkness; the depths; the other world; stupidity
cover blocking the entry of sunlight, resulting in darkness. Other meanings are via association and figurative extension. The obsolete element combines 日 sun/day and 六 (though originally 入 enter).

幎
冥 darkness
巾 cloth
covering; cloth covering
covering placed over the face of a corpse

溟
冥 darkness
氵/水 water
dark, drizzly skies; fine rain; sea
compare 暝 and 濛. "Sea" is an associated meaning via the idea of dark waters; compare 海.

暝
冥 darkness
日 sun/day

dark
dark skies; compare 溟

瞑
冥 darkness
目 eye
close one's eyes; darkness
close one's eyes and be plunged into darkness

螟
冥 darkness
虫 insect/creature
rice stem borer; (agricultural) pest
tiny insect, one hard to discern

每
母 succession of offspring
transformed element (originally 屮 grass shoot)
each; every
succession of grass shoots appearing out of the darkness of the earth. "Each" and "every" are via association with succession.

侮
每 dark
亻/人 person
insult; ridicule; disgrace; be contemptuous of; scorn; despise; make light of
darken someone's reputation

悔
每 dark
忄/心 heart/emotions
regret; repent; display remorse
dark emotion in the form of regret

海

每 dark
氵/水 water
sea; ocean; dense assemblage of objects
dark sea/ocean. "Dense assemblage of objects" is via association with the plenteous contents of a sea.

晦
每 dark
日 sun/day
dark; moonless night; obscure; invisible; unlucky
dark, moonless night (which falls on the last day of a lunar month). "Unlucky" is via association with how such nights were regarded.

梅
每 dark
木 tree/wood
plum
tree with abundant, dark fruit

誨
每 dark
言 words
instruct
instruct, eliminating the darkness of ignorance

敏
每 succession
攵 action indicator
alert; agile; quick
work briskly, producing a figurative succession of achievements; compare 勉 and 僶

繁
敏 succession
糸 thread
proliferate; plenitude; busy/bustling; many times

succession/profusion of decorative tufts of threads

芻
obsolete element = compress cut grass
obsolete element = compress cut grass
cut (grass); mow; fodder; hay
compress cut grass into bundles. The obsolete element is 勹 (encompass/envelop) + 屮 grass shoot.

騶
芻 cut grass/fodder
馬 horse
stable hand; ostler; servant
cut grass used as fodder/hay for horses. "Stable hand," "ostler" (person responsible for feeding horses their fodder/hay) and "servant" are associated meanings.

皺
芻 compress
皮 skin/hide
wrinkle; crease
wrinkle likened to compressed skin. "Crease" is an associated meaning.

趨
芻 compress
走 run
run; hasten (toward); head for
compress time and space in running. For the connection between compression/compaction and running, compare 速.

雛
芻 compress
隹 short, squat bird
chick; infant
bird of compressed size. "Infant" is an associated meaning

艸
grass; plant
abbreviated form of 芻, indicating grasses and plants in general. In contemporary orthography, 艸 nearly always appears in the reduced three-stroke form 艹 or a four-stroke form in which the horizontal line is split in the middle.

蒐
艸/艹 grass/plant
鬼 large and lumpy
madder; collect; gather; search for; hunt
madder, a plant the flower petals of which collect in thickly bunched racemes; compare 茜. "Search for" and "hunt" are associated meanings, searching for/hunting being likened to the act of collecting nuts, berries etc. Compare 畋 for this sense of hunting.

苗
艸/艹 grass/plant
田 field
sprouts; seedlings; shoot (n.); young plant; family; blood relations
sprouts/seedlings (obscured) in a field. "Family" and "blood relations" are associated meanings.

描
苗 obscure
扌/手 hand/action indicator
trace; sketch; draw; depict; paint; describe
trace/sketch/draw a rough (= an obscure) outline of a scene

錨
苗 obscure
金 metal
anchor
anchor obscured in the water; compare 碇

茲

艸/艹 grass/plant
obsolete element = slender thread (doubled)
this; here; now; year
the luxuriant growth of slender vegetation

滋
茲 luxuriant growth
氵/水 water
grow; thrive; increase; spurt
luxuriant growth of water plants

磁
茲 luxuriant growth
石 stone (→ mineral)
magnetic; magnetism; porcelain
minerals rushing toward each other in a magnetic field. "Porcelain" is an associated meaning, via the use of such minerals in ceramic glaze; compare 瓷.

鎡
茲 luxuriant growth
金 metal
hoe; plow
metallic implement for promoting the growth of crops; compare 鉏 and 耤

孳
茲 luxuriant growth
子 child
bear (large numbers of) children; luxuriant; increase
bear (large numbers of) children

慈
abbreviated form of 孳 bear children
心 heart/emotions
loving; kind; benevolent; compassionate; tender; merciful
parental love/affection for growing children

田
field; farmland
depiction of level, cultivated land divided into neat, contiguous sections

佃
田 field
亻/人 person
(tenant) farmer/farming
(tenant) farmer who works fields

男
田 field
力 power/energy
man; male
strong, limber man working a field

甸
田 field
勹 wrap
land about the capital; outskirts; suburbs; cultivated land; crops
land about the imperial capital and under direct rule of the emperor

沺
田 field
氵/水 water
flooding; turbulent (waters)
flooding of a field; compare 衍

畋
田 field
攵 action indicator
cultivate; hunt; hunting
cultivate a field. "Hunt/hunting"is via association, in the sense of an alternate method of obtaining food; compare 蒐.

鈿
田 (→ shape indicator)
金 metal
ornamental hairpin; ornament
gold filigree in a 田 shape

廛
obsolete element = long strip of land
广 building
marketplace; shop(s)
long strip of buildings/shop(s) in close proximity. The obsolete element is composed of 田 field and 圭 stretch.

纏
廛 long strip of objects in close proximity
糸 thread
wrap/wind about; wear; tie/bind
long strip of fabric/clothing wrapped about the body. "Tie/bind" is an associated meaning in the sense of tying/binding in wrapping.

塵
dust; dirt
variant and reinterpreted form of 廛, suggesting dust/dirt kicked up by an advancing herd of deer. 塵 and 廛 have in common the idea of a long string of objects in close proximity.

薦
substitution for 塵 advancing herd of deer
艹 grass/plant
urge; recommend
herd of deer grazing as it advances. Later, applied to the idea of advancing to present an offering. "Urge" and "recommend" are by association in the sense of urging someone to advance.

卩
kneeling figure/person
depiction of a kneeling figure

即
卩 kneeling figure
remnant element = table piled high with food
immediate; accession/assumption (of office); namely
kneeling figure immediately beside (or, depending on vantage point, opposite) a table. "Accession/assumption" (of office) is an associated meaning in the sense of being drawn into immediate proximity.

蝍
卽 = variant form of 即 immediately beside
虫 insect/creature
(insect with multiple pairs of aligned legs)
蝍蛆 = centipede

鯽
卽 = variant form of 即 immediately beside
魚 fish
(variety of) carp
variety of carp whose habitat is shallow waters (beside land's edge)

節
即 immediately beside
竹 bamboo
knot; node; joint; segment/section; frugality; holiday
knots of a bamboo tree in proximate alignment. "Frugality" is an extended, figurative meaning (join segments in economizing). "Holiday" too is an extended meaning, connected with the segmenting of a calendar year into small portions.

癤
variant form of 節 knots
疒 illness

pimple; boil (n.)
knotty objects on the skin

櫛
節 be in proximate alignment
木 tree/wood
comb; weed out
comb with evenly spaced teeth; compare 梳. "Weed out" is a figurative associated meaning.

辰
remnant element = hoe
person (→ human agency)
dragon (as the fifth sign of the Chinese zodiac); early morning (7 A.M. to 9 A.M.)
twitch a hoe in turning soil. For "dragon," compare the mythical creature sense of 蜃, and for "early morning" compare 晨. The remnant element was a hoe consisting of a handle attached to a bivalve's shell.

蜃
辰 bivalve
虫 insect/creature
bivalve; clam; mythical aquatic creature

唇
辰 twitch
口 mouth
lips
twitching lips

娠
辰 twitch
女 woman
pregnancy
twitching of a fetus

宸
辰 twitch
宀 roof/building
imperial palace
building causing those entering to twitch/tremble with awe or dread

晨
辰 twitch
日 sun/day
dawn; early morning
dawn or early morning, when plant and animal life are twitching with vitality

震
辰 twitch
雨 rain/natural phenomena
shake; quake; tremble; thunder; jolt/tremor; excite(d); shock(ed)
thunder(ous vibrations) in the natural world

振
辰 twitch
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shake; swing; flap (wings); rouse/spur (into taking action)
cause to twitch. 扌/手 was appended for emphasis/clarification. 振 has many associated and extended meanings; these are omitted here.

賑
abbreviated form of 振 invigorate
貝 commodities
prosperous; flourish; aid/relieve (those in distress)
material assistance enabling someone to flourish/prosper

農
辰 turn soil
林 forest

farming; agriculture
burn brush and turn soil, exposing soft, sticky earth

儂
農 soft and sticky
亻/人 person
(personal pronoun)
two people figuratively stuck together in a lasting, intimate relation; compare 人 仁 and 儞

濃
農 soft and sticky
氵/水 water
thick; dense; strong; dark (color)
properties associated with sticky liquid

膿
農 soft and sticky
月/肉 flesh
pus
sticky pus oozing from sores

穠
農 soft and sticky
禾 grain/rice
(luxuriant/dense) vegetation
sticky, luxuriant vegetation

醲
農 soft and sticky
酉 alcohol container
thick, sticky alcohol; rich (taste)
"rich taste" is an associated meaning

辱

transformed element (originally a variant form of 農 soft)
transformed element (originally 心 heart/emotions)
humiliate; insult; shame; disgrace
soften/weaken someone's emotional state

溽
辱 soft(en)
氵/水 water
humid; damp; muggy
softening moisture

蓐
辱 soft(en)
艹 grass/plant
mat; bedding
mat/bedding made of soft vegetation

褥
辱 soft(en)
衤/衣 clothing
mat; bedding; cushion
soft cloth(ing); compare 襦. For the present-day meanings, compare 蓐.

縟
辱 soft(en)
糸 thread
intricate; decorative; complicated; involved
soft fabric with an intricate/decorative pattern

耨
辱 soft(en)
耒 plow
hoe; cultivate; weed (v.)
use a hoe to soften earth in cultivating

則
abbreviated form of 鼎 tripod kettle/cauldron
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
rule; regulation; standard; norm
knife beside a cooking vessel. Present-day meanings are figurative, extended ones, in the sense of being being beside/in line with something, leading to the notion of abiding by.

側
則 beside
亻/人 person
side; lean; incline; move (toward)
in 側, 人 has no semantic function, being used simply to create a derivative character conveying a nuance ("side") that dropped from 則, along with associated senses.

廁
則 beside
广 building
toilet; mingle
toilet beside a residence. "Mingle" is an associated meaning, in the sense of a toilet used in common.

惻
則 beside
忄/心 heart/emotions
have keen sympathy for
figuratively stand beside someone

測
則 beside
氵/水 water
measure; estimate; survey; predict
place oneself beside a body of water to measure its depth

眞
abbreviated form of 鼎 tripod kettle/cauldron
匕 double-pronged eating implement
real; actual; genuine; truth; essence
fill a vessel by ladling things into it. Present-day meanings are by figurative association, in the sense of being fully real.

塡
眞 fullness
土 earth
fill (in/up); go/fit into; cram
fill a hole with earth. Note a variant form, 填.

寘
眞 fullness
宀 roof/building
put/set (in place, or aside)
(store)house filled with possessions

愼
眞 fullness
忄/心 heart/emotions
caution; discretion; prudence; care
full attentiveness/care

瑱
眞 fullness
王/玉 jewel
jeweled earring
jeweled earring that fills the hole of a pierced ear

瞋
眞 fullness
目 eye
glare at; be angry

fully concentrate on the object of one's vision

鎮
眞 fullness
金 metal
press/hold/weigh down; suppress; garrison; guard; quell; appease; soothe; cool; chill
heavy metal weight, fully able to hold/weigh down objects

鬒
眞 fullness
髟 hair
black hair
full head of (glossy) black hair

顚
眞 fullness
頁 head
top (of the head); peak; tip; topple/fall; jolt
head held fully upright, emphasizing the top (of the head). "Topple" and "fall" are associated meanings in the sense "topple on account of being top-heavy." Note a variant form, 顛.

巔
顚 top
山 mountain
peak; summit
top of a mountain

槙
abbreviated form of 顚 top(-heavy)
木 tree/wood
fallen tree; tree tip
present-day meanings are via the "topple" and "tip" senses of 顚. Note a variant form, 槙.

癲
顛 top(-heavy)
疒 illness
insanity; madness
topple/fall down in convulsions. Present-day meanings are via association.

臿
remnant element = slender chisel
臼 mortar
separate grain from husk; pound in a mortar
slender, chisel-like stick pressed/inserted into a mortar in separating grain from husk

插
臿 insert
扌/手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification)
insert; interpose; plant (a cutting); take part
"take part" is a figurative associated meaning

鍤
臿 stick-like implement
金 metal
shovel; spade
compare 銛

銛
variant form of 臿 stick-like implement
金 metal
harpoon; spear; hoe; plow; sharp
compare 鍤

市
circulate
之 forward motion written in reverse, suggesting feet pressing on the ground in

stamping or in marching back and forth. Compare 踏. "Circulate" is an associated meaning in the sense of returning to one's starting point.

師
帀 march
abbreviated form of 追 pursue an enemy army
army; (army) division; troops; teacher; master; specialist; model
lead (marching) soldiers. For "teacher" and "master," compare 帥. "Specialist" and "model" are via extension from "teacher/master."

帥
(general/supreme) commander; general; marshal; command; lead; dashing; handsome
variant form of 師 lead soldiers. "Dashing" is a figurative associated meaning, with "handsome" by association with "dashing."

篩
師 lead
竹 bamboo
filter; sifter; sieve; sift; strain; screen
lead/conduct water via a (bamboo) filter/sifter; compare 篩 and 沙

豳
豕 swarm
山 mountain
(Zhou Dynasty kingdom)
a mountainous region swarming with boars/wild pigs. 豕 is an abbreviated form of the top element of 賓 (pigs spread tightly throughout a pigpen) + 豕 pig/boar, indicating a swarm/throng of pigs.

燹
豕 swarm
火 fire
wildfire
fire set to flush out boars/wild pigs

佩
obsolete element = cloth worn about the waist as a belt or accessory
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
wear; pendant; (belt) ornament (← 珮); **respect**
put on/wear a cloth, particularly about the waist as a belt or accessory. The obsolete element is 巾 cloth + an abbreviated form of 風 (flutter), suggesting a fluttering cloth.

珮
obsolete element = cloth worn about the waist as a belt or accessory
王/玉 jewel
jewel/jeweled ornament
jewel/jeweled ornament attached to a cloth or belt worn about the waist. The obsolete element is 巾 cloth + an abbreviated form of 風 (flutter), suggesting a fluttering cloth.

鼻
obsolete element = separate holes in close proximity
自 nose
the (apertures of a) nose. 鼻 is effectively obsolete.

邊
鼻 nose (forming a border between the two sides of a face)
辶 movement
border; boundary; vicinity; end; side; edge; margin
move to a border/boundary

品
article; product; commodity; goods; grade; rank; appraise
square-shaped object (tripled). The original notion was likely that of high-quality goods spread throughout a protective container; compare 舖 and 販. "Rank" and "appraise" are via extension from "grade."

片

thin and flat piece; splinter; fragment
reverse image of 爿 long, wooden sleeping pallet, suggesting wood split down the middle

匹
remnant element = vertical lines
transformed element (originally 厂 shape indicator → hanging piece of cloth)
bolt of cloth; one (of a pair); counter (for horses etc.)
two pieces of cloth set out to dry and hanging side by side

勹
wrap
abbreviated form of 包 envelop, with wrapping being one manifestation of enveloping

寶
(unclear)
(unclear)
treasure; precious; jewel
written with a combination of many different elements before 寶 was settled upon as the standard form. The phonetic similarity to 富 suggests that the original idea was that of a building stocked with abundant possessions.

抛
obsolete element = contract the hand about an object then hurl it
扌/手 hand/action indicator (for emphasis/clarification)
throw; hurl; cast; cast aside; discard; abandon
"discard" and "abandon" are associated meanings. The obsolete element combines a variant form of 尤 (contracted hand) + 力 power/energy, indicating "contract the hand about an object preliminary to hurling it."

史
remnant element = tube for containing slats
又 hand/action indicator
chronicle; annals; history

official raising a slender tube containing bamboo slats inscribed with records. "Chronicle," "annals" and "history" are associated meanings (contents of the matters recorded). Originally, the same character as 事, but 史 and 事 came to bear divergent meanings (compare the same process in 句 and 局).

事
remnant element = tube for containing slats
又 hand/action indicator
matter; affair; thing; job; work; serve; attend to
official raising a slender tube containing bamboo slats inscribed with records. "Matter," "affair" and "thing" are associated meanings in the sense of matters recorded. The remaining meanings are also by association, in the sense of carrying out official duties. Originally, the same character as 史, but 事 and 史 came to bear divergent meanings (compare the same process in 句 and 局).

爽
remnant element = marks on both sides of the chest
大 stand outstretched
clear; refreshing; pleasurable
clear the heart and body of impurities. "Refreshing" (compare 清 and 淨) and "pleasurable" are associated meanings.

三
three
three slender lines = three. In Chinese, "three" often suggests a group, or many; compare this sense in the cognate terms 參 and 森.

森
林 forest
木 tree/wood
dense growth; forest; woods; dark; gloomy
dense growth of slender trees encompassing a settlement, sacred place etc. "Dark" and "gloomy" are associated meanings.

羞

transformed element (originally 又 hand/action indicator)
羊 sheep
shame; ashamed (← 忸) **shy; bashful; disgrace**
offer fine food. "Shy," "bashful" and "disgrace" are by association with the borrowed meanings.

鑿
obsolete element = chisel (v.)
金 metal
bore; chisel; pierce; actual; authentic
bore with a metal chisel. The obsolete element combines 1) 殳 action indicator + 2) a chisel in 臼 a mortar.

宋
abbreviated form of 宗 mausoleum
木 tree/wood
Song Dynasty
wooden structure dedicated to ancestors

閂
horizontal line suggesting a bar
門 gate
bolt; bar; latch
cylindrical bolt/bar of a gate fitted into its slot. For the remnant horizontal line functioning as the phonosemantic element in a compound character, compare 屯 旦 天 and 本.

拶
obsolete element = cut off the flow of blood
扌/手 hand/action indicator
press; squeeze
press/squeeze a body part, cutting off the flow of blood. The obsolete element is as per the top element of 甾 (cut off) + a variant form of 歹 severed bone/death, suggesting "cut off the flow of blood."

初
刀 cutting implement, but pronunciation influenced by 裁 cut cloth
衤/衣 clothing
(at) first; (in the) beginning; initial; junior
begin making a garment by cutting cloth. For the connection between cutting and commencement, compare 創 and 乍.

澀
澀 be stopped
氵/水 water
proceed haltingly; lack smoothness; uneven; astringent; harsh; rough; difficult to understand
liquid that does not flow, but seeps; compare 漸. "Astringent," "harsh" and "rough" are associated meanings (tongue rendered numb by astringent juices). "Difficult to understand" is a figurative associated meaning. 歪 is a variant form of 澀, and 澁 a variant form of 澀.

疋
leg; counter (for animals; for bolts of cloth) (← 匹)
足 leg/foot written in reverse, suggesting a pair of legs pointing in opposite directions

胥
疋 point in opposite directions
月/肉 flesh
assist; mutual; (all) together; low-ranking official
group dismembering/separating a carcass; compare 解. Present-day meanings are by association.

婿
胥 separate
女 woman
son-in-law; bridegroom; husband
male separated from his family in marrying into another

滑
胥 separate
氵/水 water
strain (alcohol); filtered alcohol; abundant; bright
strain alcohol, filtering out the lees/dregs; compare 醲. "Abundant" is an associated meaning.

糈
胥 separate
米 rice
(white) rice for an offering; food; provisions; pay
separate germ and bran in preparing white rice for an offering. "Pay" is an associated meaning (payment in the form of rations).

楚
疋 point in opposite directions
林 luxuriant growth
pain; suffering; clear
plant/shrub with numerous thorns pointing in opposite directions (a thorn plant; compare 束)

礎
楚 opposite
石 stone
cornerstone; plinth; foundation
stones set in opposition as the foundation of a building

卸
abbreviated form of 楚 whip
卩 kneeling figure
unload; lay down; remove; get rid of; retire/resign
whip a kneeling person, then dismiss him. The abbreviated form of 楚 includes a variant form of 疋.

御

卸 whip
彳 movement
drive (a chariot); manage; control
whip a horse in driving a chariot. "Manage" and "control" are associated meanings.

禦
卸 whip
示 altar/the supernatural
defend/guard against; resist
festival/ceremony held to drive off evil

疎
□□point in opposite directions
束 bundle
distant; neglect
pair of piled objects, set at a distance from each other. "Neglect" is a figurative, associated meaning in the sense of keeping at a distance.

疏
□□opposite directions
流 flow
pass through; channel; dredge (← 疎)
pass through in flowing between opposite points

蔬
疏 pass through
艹 grass/plant
xxx
plant with loosely bunched shoots, allowing the passage of air and water. 蔬菜 = vegetables or greens in general

梳
abbreviated form of 疏 pass through
木 tree/wood
comb

comb passed through the hair; compare 櫛

保
transformed element (originally a child)
亻/人 person
protect; preserve; ensure; maintain; retain; keep
child protected by being wrapped/covered in a cloth (compare the replacement character 褓) and carried on another person's back

堡
保 cover
土 earth
fort; fortress; stronghold; village
fort/fortress covering a large swath of earth. "Village" is an associated meaning.

葆
保 cover
艹 grass/plant
dense foliage; conceal
dense growth of vegetation. "Conceal" is an associated meaning.

褓
保 cover
衤/衣 clothing
cloth for carrying a baby on one's back; swaddling clothes
褓 was devised to replace 保 after 保 acquired its associated meanings. Compare and contrast 褒.

褒
保 cover
衣 clothing
large/loose-fitting robe; large; praise; commend; reward
large/loose-fitting robe or other clothes that cover the body. Compare and contrast 褓.

呆
dull(-minded); stupid; stay
abbreviated form of 保 protect a child. "Dull(-minded)" and "stupid" are associated meanings, connected to the non-comprehending expression of an infant.

子
child; son; boy; person; seed; rat (as the first sign of the Chinese zodiac); 11 P.M. to 1 A.M.; north
depiction of a small child. Conceptually, a child was understood as one of a figurative pile of offspring.

仔
子 child/offspring
亻/人 person
offspring; small; detail; young animal
人 appended for emphasis/clarification

好
子 child/offspring
女 woman
like; love; desirable; favorable; fondness; pleasing; fine; taste; choice; preference
woman clasping a child. Present-day meanings are by association and extension.

李
子 child/offspring
木 tree
plum (tree/fruit)
a fruit that grows on a tree in great volume; compare 梅

孜
子 child/offspring
攵 action indicator
diligent; industrious
be diligent in attending to a child

字
子 child/offspring
宀 roof/building
raise (offspring); character; letter; word
place in which to raise and increase the number of children. "Character" and "letter" are figurative, associated meanings in the sense of making characters or forming words by combining different elements/letters.

牸
字 produce numerous offspring
牛 cow
female cow; female animal; female
female cow as a producer of numerous offspring

丫
forked branch; forked/bifurcated object
depiction of a forked branch; compare 支

凹
concave; indented; hollowed out
depiction of a concave object sunken in the middle due to pressure from above

業
work; act; skill; occupation; karma
depiction of a stand with notched wooden supports on both ends. Heavy bells and/or drums were suspended from a wooden bar that was placed atop of (and connected) a pair of such stands (compare 對), exerting pressure upon the notches. "Work" and "act" are associated meanings in the sense of creating notches, with "skill" and "occupation" by extension. "Karma" is in the sense of the results of actions taken.

彐
snout
depiction of the head of an animal, usually taken to refer to a pig or boar, with

particular reference to a snout. 彑 is a variant form, as is one in which the middle horizontal line of 彐 is extended to the right of the vertical stroke.

孑
depiction of a child (compare 子) with its right arm cut off (compare 了). 孑 is effectively obsolete.

韭
leek; scallion
depiction of a leek, the top of which bends back toward the ground

壺
vase; pot; jug; jar
depiction of a lidded vase/pot

尢
bend; lame; weak
depiction of bent (human) legs

丱
children's hairstyle (with two tufts or braids)
depiction of two boards pierced by an elliptical connecting rod; compare 串 and 穿. Later, 丱 came to refer to a hairstyle of children in which two tufts or braids were run through and held in place by a hairpin.

瓦
tile; roof tile; unglazed earthenware; pottery; gram
depiction of two overlapping tiles, forming a round shape

孑
depiction of a child (compare 子) with its left arm cut off (compare 子). 孑 is effectively obsolete.

兕
single-horned beast (rhinoceros)

depiction of a single-horned beast, identified by some sources as a rhinoceros and sometimes specifically as a female of the species

尺

measure; measurement

depiction of a person measuring the length of an object by extending the hand

孕

pregnancy

depiction of a pregnant woman, her belly protruding; compare 巳

黹

needlework; embroidery

depiction of an embroidered pattern on a long piece of cloth

弔

suspend; hang; mourn; condolence

depiction of a suspended vine; compare 叔. 吊 is a variant form of 弔.

手

hand; a means; skill/technique; skilled hand/person

depiction of a hand showing the five fingers in a curved, gripping position. In compound characters, 手 nearly always functions as an action indicator, and most often in the form 扌.

水

water; liquid; river

depiction of a long, winding flow of water. In compound characters, 水 nearly always functions as an action indicator, and most often in the form 氵.

凸

protrude; convex

depiction of an object with a protrusion rising from its center; compare 出 and 突

了

completion; comprehend
depiction of a long object such as a thread rolled back upon itself. "Completion" is an associated meaning in the sense of "complete rolling up a lengthy object." "Comprehend" is via extension from completion (complete understanding).

卵
egg; ovum; spawn
the seal inscription forms resemble a pair of testicles. However, Han/Chinese characters such as 卵 with Old Chinese pronunciations beginning with L- have to do with a continuum, and nothing about a pair of testicles suggests a continuum. Further, although 卵 can indicate "spawn," it does not as we might expect bear the meaning testicles. Therefore, it is likely that 卵 originally indicated a swarm of eggs such as fish roe.

火
fire; fiery; anger
depiction of a fire that consumes objects in flames. "Anger" is a figurative associated meaning.

禸
trample
depiction of an animal, seen from the rear. The fact that 禸 bears the meaning "trample" suggests the original notion was that of a beast softening earth in trampling it. Compare the Old Chinese homonym 蹂 (also, "trample").

飛
fly (high); speedy
depiction of the curved wings of a bird spread right and left in flight; compare 非

傘
umbrella; parasol
depiction of a slender umbrella with adhering raindrops

夂
proceed slowly

depiction of a dragging leg/foot, suggesting slow progress. 夂 and 夊 are separate characters.

革
leather; tauten; reform
depiction of a tautly stretched animal hide, one being made into leather. "Tauten" is an associated meaning, with "reform" by extension in the sense of renewing an object by stretching it tautly.

霸
obsolete element = 革 + 月
transformed element (originally 雨 rain/natural phenomena)
domination; dominion
霸 is 雨 rain/natural phenomena + an element combining 革 (stretch tautly) and 月 moon → strain (figuratively "stretch") the eyes to observe the whitish moon spreading over the daytime sky.

壩
霸 spread
土 earth
embankment; dam
spreading embankment; compare 坊 and 防. "Dam" is an associated meaning.

欛
霸 spread
木 tree/wood
handle (n.)
wooden handle spread over a blade; compare 柄

丮
catch
depiction of a kneeling figure with arms extended. "Catch" is an associated meaning.

夙

transformed element (originally 丮 kneeling figure with arms extended)
transformed element (originally 月 moon)
early (morning); long ago
predawn labor. "Early" (morning) is by association. "Long ago" is an extended meaning in the sense of early point in time.

邑
variant form of 丮 kneeling figure with arms extended
囗 circular enclosure
village; settlement; town; city; area
subjects pressed into an enclosed space

悒
邑 press
忄/心 heart/emotions
depressed; heavyhearted; anxious
negative emotions pressing on the heart

挹
邑 press
扌/手 hand/action indicator
press one's hands to one's chest; scoop; dip; ladle/pour out

浥
邑 press
氵/水 water
moist; damp
press liquid out of an object, leaving it moist/damp

裛
邑 press
衣 clothing
clothe oneself; wrap and bind; cover a book; damp
press clothing over oneself

幸
good fortune; happiness
depiction of handcuffs for confining the movement of prisoners. "Good fortune" and "happiness" are extended meanings in the sense of having the good fortune to escape one's handcuffs.

倖
幸 good fortune
亻/人 person
(Imperial) visit; trusted; intimate
imperial visitation, with the nuance of having the good fortune to be visited by the emperor in person. "Trusted" and "intimate" are associated meanings in the sense of being on terms trusted or intimate enough to cause to visit.

圉
幸 confine
囗 circular enclosure
corral; (horse) stable; frontier
place of confinement. "Frontier" is an associated meaning via the location of corrals and stables.

庚
firm; seventh in a series; seventh calendar sign
depiction of a firm husk

賡
庚 firm
貝 commodities
continue (uninterrupted)
firm, uninterrupted supply/chain of commodities

康
庚 firm husk
remnant element (originally, four marks suggesting scattered rice)
healthy; sound

the firm, taut husk of a grain plant. "Healthy" and "sound" (adj.) are associated meanings in the sense of being firm and taut.

慷
康 firm and taut
忄/心 heart/emotions
ardent; generous
taut emotions

糠
康 firm husk
米 rice
rice chaff; rice bran
by-product of husked rice

凵
container
depiction of a container in which something is encompassed or concealed

函
凵 container
remnant element = arrow
box; place inside; correspondence
place arrows inside a box/case. "Correspondence" is an associated meaning.

涵
函 place inside
氵/水 water
soak; immerse/be immersed; contain; culvert
place objects in water to soak

厂
cliff
depiction of a cliff. 厂 also functions as a shape indicator; compare 厎 and 厥.

厂
厂 cliff
remnant element = crouching person
person crouching atop a cliff. 厂 is effectively obsolete.

屵
厂 cliff
山 mountain
cliff
a mountain cliff/crag

炭
屵 mountain cliff/crag
火 fire
coal; charcoal; carbon
fuel source dug from outcroppings

燕
swallow (n.); relaxation; enjoyment
depiction of a swallow. For the borrowed meanings "relaxation" and "enjoyment," compare 讌.

焉
how; why; where; then
variant form of 燕 (swallow)

嫣
焉 swallow
女 woman
beautiful woman; charming; captivating
charming, beautiful woman, likened to a swallow

嚥
燕 swallow
口 mouth

swallow; gulp
swallow/gulp in the manner of the (avian) swallow, a voracious consumer of insects; compare 咽

讌
abbreviated form of 嚥 swallow (v.)
言 words
banquet; drinking party; relax
drink and converse at a banquet or drinking party; compare 宴

臙
燕 swallow
月/肉 flesh
rouge
the lustrous color of a swallow's feathers

匚
contain; conceal
depiction of a long container. 匚 and 匚 are separate characters.

衣
clothing; garment; dress; cover; coating
depiction of a garment billowing over the body. In compound characters, 衣 often appears in the form 衤.

依
衣 billowing garment
person (→ human agency)
conceal oneself; lean against; depend on; request
conceal oneself in/behind someone's billowing garment. Other meanings are via association and figurative extension.

臼
mortar; mortar-shaped object; bone socket
depiction of a rounded mortar. In derivative characters such as 舊 and 舅, 臼 lends

the conceptual influence "stooped," the habitual posture used in working a mortar/pestle set in ancient times.

舊
臼 stooped
雚 horned owl
old; former
owl (bird of a stooped appearance; compare 雒). "Old" is via "bent with rot" (compare the Old Chinese homonym expressed by 朽), with "former" by association with "old."

舅
臼 stooped
男 man
brother(s) of one's mother; father of one's husband
stooped (= older/elderly) human male; compare 久

龜
tortoise; turtle
depiction of a tortoise or turtle with a curved shell

鬮
龜 turtle (with a curved, protective shell)
鬥 battle
draw lots; lottery
battle between armored warriors in curved, protective armor, suggesting "fight and take possession of." "Draw lots" and "lottery" are figurative, associated meanings.

曲
bend; curved; twisted; crooked; distorted; melody; tune; song
depiction of a curved ruler or measuring implement. "Melody," "tune" and "song" are figurative, associated meanings in the sense of a melody that alternates high and low notes.

髷

曲 curved
髟 hair
topknot
hair twirled into a knot atop one's head

丘
hill; mound; empty; elder
depiction of of the rounded cavity of a geologic basin, one surrounded by hills

邱
丘 hill
邑/阝 village/settlement
hill; mound
settlement on a hill/mound

禹
depiction of a winding, serpentine creature. 禹 is effectively obsolete. Distinguish 禹 and 兎 (rabbit).

偶
禹 wind/bend
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
stoop; crouch
person bending/hunched over; compare 踽

踽
禹 wind/bend
足 leg/foot
hunch over; bend down; walk by oneself
compare 偶

齲
禹 winding creature
齒 teeth
decayed tooth; cavity

dental decay, attributed to a worm-like creature

貫
pierce; penetrate; go through; string of coins
depiction of two rounded seashells, pierced in being strung together. For "string of coins," note the connection between shells and currency in ancient China. The present form combines 貝 shell/commodities + 毌, a depiction of a cowrie shell (distinguish from 毋).

慣
貫 penetrate; go through
忄/心 heart/emotions
accustomed (to); used to; custom(ary); habit(ual); spoil a child
condition created by going through an action/activity to the point of thorough penetration. "Spoil a child" is a figurative associated meaning.

県
depiction of an upside-down, severed head, which it was a custom to suspend in midair from a high place (to serve as a warning to potential criminals). 県 is effectively obsolete in Chinese, though not in Japanese.

縣
県 be suspended
系 connection
county
be connected in hanging suspended. "County" is in the figurative, associated sense of a political unit suspended between the central and local governments.

懸
縣 hang suspended
心 heart/emotions
hang (suspended); unsettled; unsupported; be distant/apart
emotional state likened to hanging suspended

鯀

abbreviated form of 縣 hang suspended while being connected
魚 fish
(legendary fish of giant proportions)
connected mass of fish eggs. Compare 鯤 both for this sense and for the "legendary fish of giant proportions" meaning. Also, the name of the father of the Shang Dynasty emperor Yu.

戈
halberd; spear; lance
depiction of a long halberd with a curved handle and sharp blade

威
variant form of 戈 halberd
女 woman
authority; power; dignity; majesty; awe
exercise authority over a woman. "Dignity," "majesty" and "awe" are by figurative association with authority/power.

蕨
威 majesty
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant
ripe, luxuriant vegetation

月
moon; month
depiction of a crescent moon, observed as a scooped-out portion of the full moon. "Month" is an associated meaning (lunar calendar).

刖
月 scoop out/away
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
amputation of feet/legs in punishment
scoop away (= cut off) feet in the punishment of amputation; compare 兀

外
variant form of 月 (crescent) moon
卜 divination
out(side); external; foreign; other; besides; in addition (to); relatives of female family members
cast horoscopes on the basis of the invisible outside portion of the moon; compare 朏. "Relatives of female family members" is via figurative association with "external; other."

栗
chestnut tree; chestnut(s)
depiction of a chestnut tree with rows of chestnuts, the prickly burrs of which create a stinging pain when touched

凓
栗 sting
冫/氷 ice
stinging cold; shiver
shiver with the stinging cold; compare 冽 (and for "shiver," compare 慄)

慄
栗 sting
忄/心 heart/emotions
shiver; shudder; tremble; fear
shiver, shudder or tremble on account of fear, likened to a stinging emotion

篥
栗 sting
竹 bamboo
xxx
bamboo instrument that stings the lips in being played; compare 喇. 篳篥 = an oboe-like instrument

耒
plow (n.); handle (of a plow)

depiction of a tri-pronged plow, an implement used to create long, rounded furrows

誄
耒 plow used to create furrows
言 words
written eulogy; eulogize
written eulogy of the deceased, likened to words that create the long line of a person's life; compare 謚

皿
dish; plate; bowl
depiction of a large dish, plate or bowl covered by a lid that conceals the food beneath it

盈
皿 dish/plate/bowl
variant form of 乃 soft and clingy
fill; be/become full; satisfy; surplus
fill a dish with (soft) food

楹
盈 full
木 tree/wood
pillar; column; counter (for houses)
(thick) pillar/column

孟
皿 dish/plate/bowl
子 child
beginning; first month; first (of a series); eldest sibling; great/big
child energetically throwing off a cover (whether actual or figurative) and making a beginning. "Eldest sibling" is an associated meaning in the sense of energetic growth, with "great/big" by extension from "eldest/largest sibling."

猛
孟 energetic → frenetic
犭/犬 dog/beast
fierce; strong; fly into a rage
frenetic activity of a dog/beast; compare 狂 and 戾

网
net; network
depiction of a net in which fish or other objects sought are obscured; compare 罔. When used as an element in a compound character, 网 most often takes the form 罒.

買
网/罒 net
貝 commodities
buy; purchase
seek to profit by buying (and then selling)

賣
買 seek to profit
transformed element (originally 出 proceed)
sell; betray; go all out; show off
go out to seek profits by selling. "Betray" is a figurative associated meaning (sell someone), with "go all out" and "show off" via figurative extension.

覿
賣 sell
見 see/watch
see; meet (face to face); (have/grant an) interview
sellers and buyers who see each other/meet in transacting business

黽
frog; toad
depiction of a frog, a creature often directly concealed by the water or vegetation to which it closely adheres. As an element in compound characters, 黽 also refers to

other kinds of amphibious creatures, especially turtles.

僶
黽 adhere closely
亻/人 person
work hard
person hewing to his work; compare 勉 and 敏

米
rice; crop grain; meter (the unit of measurement)
depiction of fruits of grain (rice), concealed in husks/hulls

迷
米 concealed
辶 movement
go astray; be lost; be perplexed/at a loss; doubt; illusion; delusion; tempt; captivate
stray off course on account of obscure visibility. Other meanings are by figurative association.

謎
迷 be lost
言 words
riddle; puzzle; enigma
be lost/confounded by a riddle or puzzle

麋
米 concealed
鹿 deer
(large species of) deer
large, elusive member of the family Cervidae

戊
battle-ax; fifth in a series; fifth calendar sign
depiction of a battle-ax with a curved handle in which the base of the blade is

covered and concealed; compare 矛

茂
戊 cover
艹 grass/plant
thick growth; thrive
thick vegetation covering a wide area

目
eye; item; point; list; classification; viewpoint/opinion; ordinal ending
depiction of an eye, originally one covered by a curving eyelid directly above it. Other meanings are via association and extension.

窅
目 eye
穴 hole
eyes sunk deep in a person's eye sockets; deep
compare 眶

木
tree; wood
depiction of a large tree, the curving branches of which cover the ground beneath

束
木 tree/wood
remnant element = cord for bundling
bundle; bind; restrict; refrain; counter (for bundled objects)
compact firewood by wrapping a cord around it

悚
束 compact
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; dread
shrink in fear or dread; compare 竦 and 耸

速
束 compact
辵 movement
fast; quick; speedy; prompt; immediately; speed
time compacted/compressed in rushing about; compare 走 and 怱. For the connection between compaction/compression and running, also compare 趨.

欶
束 compact
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
suck; inhale
suck in the cheeks in inhaling. The character may be regarded either as mimetic, simulating the sound of sucking in the breath, or as conveying the concept "compact" via the image of lips compressed in sucking.

漱
欶 suck
氵/水 water
rinse; wash; gargle
rinse one's mouth by sucking in water

竦
束 compact
立 stand
revere; be in awe of; respect
shrink in reverence/awe

餗
束 compact
食 food/eating
compacted food/cooked rice
compacted food piled high in a cooking vessel

沐
木 tree/wood

氵/水 water
wash; bathe
cover oneself with water in bathing

枚
木 tree/wood
攵 stick held in the hand
(tree) trunk; stalk (of a shrub); counter
thin wooden stick held in the hand. "Counter" is an associated meaning via the idea of pointing with a stick in counting.

文
writing; literature; language; culture
depiction of a fine, detailed pattern covering the surface of curved earthenware. "Writing" and "literature" are associated meaning, writing being likened to a detailed pattern. "Language" and "culture" are extended meanings.

吝
文 fine, detailed pattern
口 mouth
stingy; miserly; grudging; sparing of
finely woven excuses (for being stingy/miserly)

悋
吝 stingy
忄/心 heart/emotions
stingy
忄/心 appended for emphasis/clarification

旻
文 fine, detailed pattern
日 sun/day
sky; autumn sky; the heavens
patterned cloud formation in the autumn sky

紋
文 fine, detailed pattern
糸 thread
pattern; line(s); streak mark; stripe; (facial) wrinkles
hem stitch. Compare and contrast the meanings of 紊, composed with the same elements.

紊
文 fine, detailed pattern
糸 thread
confused; disorderly; tangled
confused/disorderly pattern on a piece of fabric

虔
文 fine, detailed pattern
虍 tiger
respect; (act with) reverence
(striped) tiger. "Respect" and (act with) "reverence" are associated meanings in the sense of a dangerous creature eliciting reverence.

斌
文 literature
武 martial
harmony between appearance and content; beautiful; refined
harmonious combination of literary and martial talents; compare 彬

贇
斌 harmony between appearance and content
貝 commodities
beautiful; pleasing
harmonious/beautiful proportions (of an object)

閔
文 fine, detailed pattern
門 (conceal behind a) gate

mourn; sympathize; pity
use fine, delicate words in sympathizing with one (concealed) at home in mourning; compare 憫 and 愍

憫
閔 mourn
忄/心 heart/emotions
mourn; sympathize; pity
忄/心 appended for emphasis/clarification

眉
eyebrow; eyebrow-shaped object (especially, the upper margin of a book page)
depiction of a long, curved eyebrow covering an eye

媚
眉 long, curved eyebrow
女 woman
flirt; seductive; flatter; beautiful
woman arching an eyebrow seductively

湄
眉 long, curved eyebrow
氵/水 water
shore; water's edge; bank
long, curved shore

楣
眉 long, curved eyebrow
木 tree/wood
crossbeam
crossbeam curving over/under a gate in the shape of an eyebrow

女
woman; female; daughter
depiction of a supple woman

奴
女 woman
又 hand/action indicator
(female) servant/slave
female servant/slave engaged in strenuous activity

努
奴 strenuous activity
力 power/energy
strive; exert oneself
力 appended for emphasis/clarification

怒
奴 strenuous activity
心 heart/emotions
anger
strenuous emotion, in the form of anger

弩
奴 strenuous activity
弓 bow
crossbow
particularly powerful type of bow

駑
奴 strenuous activity
馬 horse
(tired/old) horse; slow horse; dull; weak; dull-witted
"dull" and "weak" are associated meanings, with "dull-witted" by extension

孥
奴 female servant
子 child
(one's own) child

child of a (or, one's own) concubine

如
女 supple
口 mouth
equal; as if; how/what (to do)
take a supple (= pliant) attitude toward someone's suggestion

茹
如 supple
艹 grass/plant
(entangled/firmly attached) roots of a plant; foul smell; endure; eat
plant matter softened by boiling or other means. "Foul smell" is an extended meaning in the sense of the smell produced by the roots when boiled. "Endure" (put up with a foul smell) and "eat" (partake of the prepared roots) are by further extension.

恕
如 supple
心 heart/emotions
forgive; excuse (v.); tolerate
supple/pliant attitude of tolerance or forgiveness

絮
如 supple
糸 thread
threads of silk or cotton; cotton; pad with cotton; padding; long-winded
supple threads of silk or cotton. "Padding" is in both actual and figurative senses, with "long-winded" by extension in the sense of padded speech.

汝
女 supple
氵/水 water
you; thou
softly/gently curving watercourse (originally, the name of a river)

粉
女 supple
米 rice
rice cake
soft rice cake. 粔籹 = a confection made of toasted then sweetened rice

而
then; you; and (yet); as well as; moreover; but
depiction of a soft and droopy beard; compare 冉

耎
而 soft and droopy
大 stand outstretched
soft; weak
soft and droopy, human figure

軟
transformed element (originally 耎 soft)
車 vehicle
soft
large, wheeled plow used to turn up soft soil (lying beneath the hard upper layer). For the idea of softness vis–à–vis the turning of soil, compare 農. "Soft" is an associated meaning. 軟 replaces 耎 with 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure.

暖
transformed element (originally a variant form of 耎 soft)
日 sun/day
warm; warm up
two once-separate characters combine 耎 (soft) + 火 fire or 日 sun/day, respectively. The idea in both cases is to warm up and soften (by fire or by sunlight). The present form combines 日 with 爰. 煖 is a variant form of 暖.

嫩
variant form of 耎 soft

女 woman
tender; delicate; young
敕 as described in 勅 is used here in place of 耎 soft, the combination of 耎 and 女 indicating a young and soft/supple woman. Compare 嬬.

耐
而 soft and droopy
寸 hand/action indicator
endure; bear; persist; withstand; be fitting
soften an object, improving its durability

鮞
而 soft and droopy
魚 fish
roe; fish eggs
soft roe/fish eggs

乃
be; then; thus/therefore; you; after all; namely; of
depiction of either a supple ear clinging to the side of the head (compare 耳) or a fetus clinging in the womb (compare 身)

仍
乃 soft and clingy
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
yet; still
cause to "cling/stick to," with "yet" and "still" in the associated sense of "yet/still attached."

扔
乃 soft and clingy
扌/手 hand/action indicator
throw; throw away; discard
toss an object softly

鼐
乃 soft and clingy
鼎 tripod kettle/cauldron
large vessel (for burning incense)
clingy incense rising from a large vessel

若
suppose; if; as if; like/similar
depiction of a supple young women combing her hair

匿
若 supple
匚 contain/conceal
hide; conceal
supple mulberry leaves hidden in a container

暱
匿 objects in a container
日 sun/day
intimacy
sunlight contacting objects (in a container) set out for drying; compare 昵.
"Intimacy" is an associated meaning in the sense of being in close contact.

慝
匿 hide/conceal
心 heart/emotions
hidden evil; evil deed committed in secret; evil; bad
hide/conceal an evil deed

惹
若 supple
心 heart/emotions
incite; provoke; bring about
provocation strong enough to overcome a supple (= accepting) state of mind

諾
若 supple
言 words
consent; assent; pledge; promise
supple words of consent; compare 讓

冉
tender; weak; advance slowly; edge of a tortoise-shell
depiction of a soft, droopy beard (compare 而), a supple object. "Tender" and "weak" are by association with softness. "Advance (slowly)" is also via association, in this case with the slow, steady growth of a beard. 冉 is a variant form of 冉. Distinguish from 再.

苒
冉 supple
艹 grass/plant
lush; luxuriant; flourish
(supple and) lush/luxuriant plant life

那
variant form of 冉, in turn a variant form of 冉 supple
transformed element (original element of obscure signification)
how; which; what; that
the identity of this original form and the original meaning of the character are now obscure, although the meaning was likely to have been connected with the concept "supple" as this concept is active in derivative characters such as 娜, 挪 and 椰. 那 is used in transliterations of terms such as 刹那 (Sanskrit: ksana), an instant.

娜
那 supple
女 woman
graceful; elegant; tender
supple, graceful woman

挪

那 supple
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shift (to one side)
rub to make supple. "Shift" (to one side) is an associated meaning in the sense of shifting part of an object (such as fabric) to one side in rubbing another portion of it.

梛
那 supple
木 tree/wood
(tree with long, supple branches)
枸梛 = a tree resembling a willow

聃
冉 variant form of 冉 supple
耳 ear
earlobe
supple earlobe. 耴 is a variant form of 聃.

輒
耴 earlobe → object pressed to each side of an object
車 vehicle
then; always
pieces of wood attached to both sides of the compartment of an ancient vehicle

髯
冉 supple
髟 hair
beard; whiskers
soft beard/whiskers

人
person; human (being)
depiction of a standing person reaching toward someone, suggesting people in mutable interaction; compare 仁 儞 and 儂. In compound characters, 人 nearly

always appears on the left in the form 亻. In many compound characters (價 儗 仰 儆 偃 儀 etc.), 人 suggests human agency, but there are others in which 人 has no semantic function at all. In these cases (伎 優 供 佑 傾 佹 etc.), 人 is used simply to create a derivative character conveying meanings that dropped from the original one.

仁
人 people in mutable interaction
二 two
humanity; benevolence; virtue
two individuals in mutable interaction; compare 儞 and 儂. Present-day meanings are via figurative association.

件
亻/人 person
牛 cow
item; case; matter; counter for cases/matters
person sorting the meat and bones of a dismembered cow carcass; compare 解 and 胥. Present-day meanings are by figurative association with the idea of sorting through one by one.

疒
人 person
transformed element (originally 片 long, wooden sleeping pallet)
illness
ill person on a sickbed

爾
that; so; you; just; near; like
depiction of a large seal (for pressing images that adhere in soft clay or, later, on documents). In simplified forms of compound characters, 爾 sometimes appears in the reduced form 尔; see the note in the entry for 儞.

儞
爾 adhere

亻/人 person
you
person with close and ongoing relations with oneself; compare 人 仁 and 儂. The reduced form 你 is far more common in present-day usage.

彌
爾 adhere
弓 bow
fill; full; completely; more
bowstring adhering to and filling the nock of an arrow

瀰
彌 fill
氵/水 water
overflow; spread at length
fill to the point of overflowing

邇
爾 adhere
辶 movement
near; proximate; recent(ly)
draw near. "Recent(ly)" is a figurative associated meaning (near in time).

璽
爾 seal
玉 jewel
seal (of an emperor/ruler)
璽 was devised to replace 爾 after 爾 acquired its borrowed meanings

禰
爾 adhere
示 altar/the supernatural
memorial tablet dedicated to one's father; one's deceased father
memorial tablet dedicated to one's father, and adhering to an altar

日
sun; day
depiction of the sun. "Day" is an associated meaning, the appearance of the sun ushering in a new day. As with 熱, the heat of the sun was understood in terms of softening objects and/or reducing them in size.

袒
日 sunlight that softens
衤/衣 clothing
undergarment
soft undergarment, particularly one for females

能
power; ability; skill; able
depiction of a bear, a supple and powerful creature. "Ability," "skill" and "able" are associated meanings in the sense of the power/ability to accomplish something.

態
能 bear
心 heart/emotions
attitude; state; condition; situation; circumstances; comportment
bear-like attribute(s). Present-day meanings are by figurative association.

熊
能 bear
灬/火 fire
bear
an ancient belief associated bears with the spirit of fire

羆
熊 bear
罒 net
brown bear
brown bear caught by having a long net spread over it; compare 畢. The pronunciation of the character has been influenced by 罷 (lower a net over prey).

須
must; have to; necessity; wait; moment
depiction of an old man with a long, soft beard. The present form is 彡 pattern (here suggesting beard whiskers) + 頁 head.

鬚
須 long, soft beard
髟 hair
beard; whiskers; feelers
鬚 was devised to express the original sense of 須 after 須 acquired its borrowed meanings

刃
remnant element = flexible blade
刀 sword/knife
blade; edge
blade and/or knife edge

牣
刃 (cut with a) blade
牛 cow
fill; be full
fill a vessel with the blood of a sacrificed cow; compare 血

訒
刃 (cut with a) blade
言 words
slow of speech; hesitant/reluctant to speak
cut the free flow of speech

軔
刃 (cut with a) blade
車 vehicle
block; wheel-lock

cut the free movement of a vehicle by blocking the wheels

忍
刃 flexible
心 heart/emotions
bear; endure; restrain (oneself)
heart that flexibly bears/endures burdens

認
忍 endure
言 words
acknowledge; recognize; understand; know; admit; accept; agree
acknowledge that something endures examination

韌
abbreviated form of 忍 endure
革 leather
pliable and resilient; soft but strong; tenacious
pliable leather, able to endure great tension

入
enter; join; conform; agree; accept
depiction of a soft, yielding sack into which goods are placed; compare 襄

内
入 place inside
remnant element = a roof
inside; inner; interior; internal
place objects inside/within a storehouse

衲
内 place inside
衤/衣 clothing
patch; mend; line (v.)
patch/mend vestments by inserting needle and thread through the holes. 衲 was

devised to convey the original sense of 納 after 納 acquired different meanings via reinterpretation.

納
内 place inside
糸 thread
receive; accept; take; admit; enjoy; pay (as tax/tribute)
patch/mend vestments by inserting needle and thread through the holes; compare the replacement character 衲. Present-day meanings are via reinterpretation of the character as fabric paid as tribute or a tax, and which is stored away.

南
remnant element = place inside
屮 grass shoot
south
sprouts placed in a southward-facing hothouse for cultivation. However, the earliest form of the character was a depiction of a hut or small storehouse. The remnant element combines 冂 boundary/enclosure and an inverted 入 pierced by two horizontal lines.

楠
南 south
木 tree/wood
Machilus
tree (of the Lauraceae family) native to warm (= southerly) climates

吶
stammer; stutter (← 訥); **shout** (← 咄)
内 replaces 出 to indicate a shift in the initial consonant from T- to N-.

汭
bend in a river; confluence
variant form of 沚. 沚 is 出 protrude + 氵/水 water, indicating the meanings noted. 内 replaces 出 to indicate a shift in the initial consonant from T- to N-.

芮

water's edge; tiny

variant form of 茁 flourishing vegetation, emphasizing vegetation flourishing at water's edge. 内 replaces 出 to indicate a shift in the initial consonant from S- to N-.

枘

tenon; wood scraps; tool handle

variant form of 枻, which is 出 protrude + 木 tree/wood, indicating a tenon (a projection on the end of a piece of wood, inserted into a mortise). 内 replaces 出 to indicate a shift in the initial consonant from T- to N-.

蚋

gnat; mosquito

variant form of an obsolete character combining 虫 and 出 (insect/creature with a protrusion employed in biting/stinging/eating). 内 replaces 出 to indicate a shift in the initial consonant from T- to N-.

訥

stammer; slow (of speech); inarticulate; bend over; yield

variant form of 詘 stammer. 内 replaces 出 to indicate a shift in the initial consonant from K- to N-.

寍

obsolete element = settle into a relaxed position

宀 roof/building

(term of comparison)

settle into a relaxed position while partaking of food indoors. For the borrowed meaning "term of comparison," compare the borrowed meaning "rather" in 寧. The obsolete element combines 心 heart/emotions and 皿 dish/plate/bowl.

寧

variant form of 寍 settle into a relaxed posture

丐 extend then bend

quiet; peaceful; serene; rather

settle oneself in a relaxed posture, with a plate of food alongside. 甯 is a variant

form of 寧.

儜
寧 settle
亻/人 person
weak; troubled
person settled/immobile on account of being too weak to act

嚀
寧 settle
口 mouth
enjoin; instruct
speak words that settle a matter

濘
寧 settle
氵/水 water
mud; muddy; mire
mud in which objects settle; compare 泥 涅 and 淖

獰
寧 settle
犭/犬 dog/beast
ferocious; terrifying
tenacious, unyielding beast

聹
寧 settle
耳 ear
earwax
earwax (that settles in the ear)

□□
depiction of a cranium with three bending lines suggesting wrinkles in the soft brains. □is effectively obsolete.

惱
□ brain(s)
忄/心 heart/emotions
anger; distress; trouble
persistent thoughts (compare 願 and 慮) of a disturbing nature running about the brain

腦
□ brain(s)
月/肉 flesh
brain; head; main
月/肉 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Head" and "main" are associated meanings.

瑙
□ brain(s)
王/玉 jewel
agate
jewel the color of a (horse's) brain. Note a variant form, 碯, which appears in the compound 碼碯 (agate).

柰
木 tree/wood
示 altar/the supernatural
press a knife to carve characters into offerings made of soft wood from a Chinese apple tree. 柰 is effectively obsolete.

隸
柰 carve characters
隶 seize
slave; servant; subordinate; subservient; attached/belong to
seize captives and tattoo them. For the connection between tattoos and slaves, compare 妾.

奈

how; what; bear; endure

variant form of 柰 carve characters, the pronunciation with initial N- suggesting that the production of the characters here involves not carving but rather pressing an implement downward into soft clay; compare the derivative character 捺. 奈 is also used in transliterations, such as 奈落 (Sanskrit or Pali: naraka), referring to hell/purgatory or the underworld in general.

捺

奈 press downward

扌/手 hand/action indicator

press (down firmly)

扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

捏

obsolete element = soft(ened) earth

扌/手 hand/action indicator

knead; fabricate; pinch; squeeze/pick (with the fingers); mold (v.)

knead clay into an object. The obsolete element is 土 earth + 日 (sunlight that softens objects it strikes), indicating hard earth softening in the sun.

涅

obsolete element = soft(ened) earth

氵/水 water

blacken; dye black

mud; compare 濘 泥 and 淖. "Blacken" and "dye black" are associated meanings. The obsolete element is 土 earth + 日 (sunlight that softens objects it strikes), indicating hard earth softening in the sun.

桑

叒 tree with supple leaves

木 tree/wood

mulberry

tree with supple leaves on which silkworms feed. 叒 is a depiction of a three-branched tree covered with large, supple leaves.

染
remnant element = thread + box for holding dye
氵/水 water
dye (v.); pollute; contaminate; contagious; infectious
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification. For "dye," compare 涅. "Pollute," "contaminate," "contagious" and "infectious" are by figurative association with "dye."

赧
transformed element (originally 面 face)
赤 red
blush; redden
赧 replaces 面 with □spread over. For □see 報 and 服.

冗
transformed element = movement through open space
冖 cover
superfluous; extraneous
move through the open area of a covered space. "Superfluous" and "extraneous" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of space other than that necessary in which to move. The relevant ancient form of the transformed element shows two curving lines depicting the idea of movement through open space. There is no etymological connection with 几.

禿
abbreviated form of 冗 open space
禾 (round) grain/rice
be/grow bald
open space on the forehead (as a result of hair loss)

頹
禿 bald head
頁 head
decline; decay; sink; collapse

頁 appended for emphasis/clarification of the idea of hair loss. Present-day meanings are by figurative association with the decline in powers often attending loss of hair.

蕊
㥯 deep heart/core
艹 grass/plant
bud; pistil; stamen
core of an unopened bud, where pistil and stamen adhere. "Pistil" and "stamen" are distinguished by prefixing 雌 for the former and 雄 for the latter. 㥯 is 心 heart (tripled) and, like certain other characters composed of triple elements such as 轟 and 淼, may be supposed to have replaced an obsolete one devised according to the standard formation principle for compound characters (one phonosemantic element and one semantic element).

蕤
豵 drooping life forms
艹 grass/plant
drooping/overflowing flowers (or leaves); fringe
"fringe" is via shape association. 豵 is pig/boar (an animal with a drooping belly) + 生 birth; life. The combination of elements apparently was intended to suggest drooping life forms, but this is not certain.

尨
彡 here an abbreviated form of 須 long, soft beard
犬 dog/beast
shaggy dog; large
(large) shaggy dog

厖
尨 large
厂 shape indicator
large; thick; be in a jumble
large and thick, concealing object

拏
奴 strenuous activity
手 hand/action indicator
grab; grasp; catch; take; seize; capture; apprehend; arrest; hold (in hand)
strenuous activity involving catching, grasping, seizing etc. 拿 is a variant form that replaces 奴 with 合 (press/fit together).

挐
grab; drag
effectively a variant form of 拏 grab. "Drag" is an associated meaning.

肉
meat; flesh
depiction of a slab of soft animal meat with the veins exposed. 宍 is a variant form.

佞
仁 interact
女 woman
flatter(y)
flatter a woman to make her interests coincide with one's own

匚
enclosure
depiction of a large enclosure. Conceptually, the character suggests the idea of spreading within a large enclosure. Distinguish 匚 from 匸.

匠
匚 enclosure
斤 ax
craftsman; workman; master
create a finely crafted enclosure

凡
ordinary; common; general
depiction of a large piece of cloth such as a full-spread sail that encompasses the

wind. Present-day meanings are via figurative association with the idea of wide-spreading coverage.

帆
凡 a sail
巾 cloth
sail (n.); (sail)boat
帆 was devised to replace 凡 after 凡 acquired its associated meanings

汎
凡 spread and encompass
氵/水 water
float; wide; universal
objects encompassed by the water in which they float. "Wide" is an associated meaning in the sense of a wide expanse of water. "Universal" is by extension from "wide" (and compare the "common" and "general" meanings of 凡).

采
scatter; separate; divide
depiction of scattered seeds adhering to soil in a field.

朿
stab; thorn
depiction of a twig with sharp, projecting points piled on the surface (that stab); compare 楚

刺
朿 stab
刀/刂 sword/knife
stab; stick; pierce; prick; sting; irritate; assassinate
"assassinate" is a figurative associated meaning

棘
朿 thorn
朿 thorn

thorns; brambles
compare 棗

棗
朿 thorn
朿 thorn
jujube; Chinese date (tree)
thorned jujube (or Chinese date) tree; compare 棫. Also compare 棘.

策
朿 thorn
竹 bamboo
whip; (bamboo writing) slat; record; document; scheme; policy; strategy
sharp-pronged whip/stick for taming a horse; compare 箠 and 笞. For bamboo writing slats, compare 冊.

士
man; honorable/learned man; specialist; (archaic) scholar
depiction of an erect object formed by small composite materials; compare 且. "Man" is an associated meaning in the sense of a person standing erect. "Honorable/learned man" and "specialist" are extended meanings.

仕
士 erect
亻/人 person
official; serve; work
servant standing erect in waiting upon a person of high rank; compare 寺 and 侍

糸
thread; fine silk
originally 絲, a depiction of piled threads

素
糸 thread
abbreviated form of 垂 hang

(white/raw) silk; white; element; plain; simple; vegetarian food/diet; habitual; usual
pendent (white/raw) silk. "Element," "plain" and "simple" are associated meanings in the sense of raw silk forming the basis of fabric and clothing woven from it. "Vegetarian food/diet" is via further extension from "plain," as are "habitual" and "usual" (plain clothes/food etc. for daily use).

索
糸 thread
remnant element = separated fibers
thick rope; cord; search; inquire; ask; demand; make exactions; rules; solitary; isolated
the separate fibers of a rope or cord. "Search (for)" is an associated meaning in the sense of separating in searching. The remaining meanings are by association and extension from "separate in searching."

冊
book; counter (for books/magazines)
depiction of a profusion of slender, inscribed bamboo slats of irregular length, bound with a cord. "Book" is an associated meaning, with "counter" (for books/magazines) by extension. Note a variant form 册.

刪
冊 inscribed bamboo slats
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
delete; cut (away/down/out)
delete portions of records written on bamboo slats by cutting them away

柵
冊 bamboo slats
木 tree/wood
fence; palisade; weir
enclosing fence made of wooden/bamboo slats

珊

冊 bamboo slats
王/玉 jewel
coral
(slat-like) coral

笰
冊 bamboo slats
竹 bamboo
weir
bamboo weir (a contraption of bamboo slats); compare 柵

井
well (n.)
depiction of a deep, slender well. 丼 is a variant form of 井 well, the mark in the middle indicating water and thus the "sound" made by an object striking the (water at the) bottom of a well.

刱
井 deep
刅 double-edged sword
wound (by cutting); commence; begin
cut deeply in wounding. "Commence" and "begin" are associated meanings in the sense of commencing an operation by cutting.

穽
井 well
穴 hole
pit; trap
pit in which to trap animals

彡
hair; pattern
depiction of fine strands of hair, deeply rooted in the scalp they cover. "Pattern" is an associated meaning in the sense of the pattern of hair on a scalp.

杉
彡 (hair-like) pattern
木 tree/wood
cryptomeria; Japanese cedar
species of trees with needle-like leaves

衫
彡 (hair-like) pattern
衤/衣 clothing
thin garment; sleeveless garment
thin/sleeveless garment, originally with a pattern resembling strands of hair

參
彡 hair fully layered over the head
remnant element = three hairpins thrust into and commingling with hair
take part in; visit; join; meet; mix; attend; participate; three; lack uniformity
"three" is via the three hairpins. The remaining meanings are via association with and extension from the idea of commingling. "Lack uniformity" is an extended meaning via "mix"; also compare 嵾.

尖
abbreviated form of 參 slender hairpins
小 small
sharp; pointed; acute
slender object with a sharp point

篸
參 slender hairpins
竹 bamboo
(bamboo) hairpin
compare 簪

驂
參 three
馬 horse

the outer two horses in a (four-horse) team
vehicle drawn by three horses

嵾
參 commingle
山 mountain
lack uniformity
intricate conjunction of mountain peaks. "Lack uniformity" is a figurative associated meaning, via the image of peaks of differing heights.

慘
參 commingle
忄/心 heart/emotions
sad; miserable; cruel; gloomy
mixed, painful emotions

滲
參 commingle
氵/水 water
seep; soak; permeate; infiltrate
liquid that seeps in or soaks through; compare 漸, 浸 and 潛

蔘
參 commingle
艹 grass/plant
(plant with labyrinthine roots)
人蔘 = carrot; 朝鮮人蔘 = ginseng

槮
參 commingle
木 tree/wood
thicket; bundled lumber used as a fishing implement
"bundled lumber used as a fishing implement" is via reinterpretation

毿

參 commingle
毛 hair/fur
long strands of hair; scraggly; long fur/feathers
thickly intertwined, long strands of hair, fur or feathers

糝
參 commingle
米 rice
porridge; mix(ed)
porridge of rice mixed with meat and vegetables; compare 糂

先
hairpin
depiction of a slender hairpin, one thrust deep into the hair; compare 妻 and 參. Distinguish 先 from 无 and 旡.

𣪍
先 hairpin penetrating the hair
先 hairpin penetrating the hair
deep penetration of a tight space by a sharp and slender object. 𣪍 is effectively obsolete.

曶
𣪍 deep penetration
曰 say/speech indicator
utterance that penetrates deeply. 曶 is effectively obsolete.

潛
曶 deep penetration
氵/水 water
dive; submerge; lurk; hide; conceal; secret; latent
penetrate deep into water in diving/submerging

𪓐
曶 deep penetration

虫 insect (doubled)
silkworm
silkworm deeply ensconced in a cocoon. See 蚕.

簪
朁 deep penetration
竹 bamboo
(ornamental) hairpin; wear/insert (a hairpin)
bamboo hairpin that penetrates deep into the hair; compare 篸

譖
朁 deep penetration
言 words
slander
deeply penetrating slander

鬻
兊 deep penetration
鬲 tripod cooking vessel
cooking vessel
cooking vessel the smaller lower portion of which penetrates the larger upper portion

自
self; personal(ly); from; originally; natural(ly)
depiction of a nose. Conceptually, the character suggests slender streams of breath passing through the nostrils (compare 四) of a stumpy nose. "Self" is an associated meaning in the sense of pointing toward one's nose to indicate self. Other meanings are via extension from the idea of originating in one's self.

罪
transformed element (originally 自 stumpy nose)
transformed element (originally 辛 needle/cutting tool)
evil; crime; fault; sin; guilt; hardship
criminal marked for life by having his nose cut off; compare 劓. As the 自 atop 辛

form was uncomfortably similar to the character 皇 (emperor), it was eventually transformed into 罒 atop 非.

臬
自 (stumpy) nose
木 tree/wood
landmark; guidepost; rule; law; gatepost (← 闌)
(tree) stump or a stumpy piece of wood (= a stake) serving as a landmark. "Rule" and "law" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of guideposts of behavior.

闌
臬 stump
門 gate
gatepost

息
自 (stumpy) nose
心 heart/emotions
breath; be alive; stop; rest; give birth; son; news/word of; interest (on funds)
breathe through the nostrils in rhythm with the beating of the heart. "Stop" and "rest" are associated meanings via the stops and starts involved in breathing. "Give birth" is an extended meaning via the idea of renewed activity following a pause, with "interest" (on funds) by further extension from "give birth," as is "son." "News/word of" is via figurative extension from "be alive," while "interest" is via figurative extension from "give birth."

熄
息 breathe
火 fire
extinguish; perish; cease
breathe/blow upon a fire to extinguish it

爵
bronze container; peerage; court ranking

depiction of a small "bronze container" in the shape of a sparrow, presented as a reward for services rendered to the state, and used for warming alcohol. "Peerage" and "court ranking" are associated meanings, via the social strata of the recipients.

嚼
爵 small
口 mouth
chew; prattle
chew food into small pieces; compare 齪. "Prattle" is a figurative associated meaning.

爝
爵 small
火 fire
torch
small torch

泉
spring; fountain; (archaic) coin
depiction of a thin stream of water spouting from a round spring

原
abbreviated form of 泉 spring
厂 cliff
source; origin; field; plain
round spring the source of which lies at the base of a cliff

源
原 origin
氵/水 water
origin; source; fountain
origin of a source of water

螈
原 round

虫 insect
(rounded/oblong silkworm)
蠑螈 = newt

願
原 round
頁 head
wish; desire; hope; ambition
round head. Eventually, 願 came to be associated with the idea of a notion that circulates persistently in the brain (compare 惱 and 慮), leading to the present-day extended meanings.

愿
abbreviated form of 願 notion that circulates persistently in the brain
心 heart/emotions
honest; sincere
(overly) serious

僭
朁 deep penetration
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
usurp; presumption
exceed one's jurisdiction in penetrating the territory of others

鼠
rat; mouse
depiction of a rat/mouse with a long, straight tail. In compound characters such as 鼩 鼬 鼫 鼴 and 鼯, 鼠 suggests a small creature rather than a rat/mouse itself.

癙
鼠 rat/mouse
疒 illness
phobia; morbid fear
rat-inspired dread

黍
(glutinous) millet
depiction of a tall, glutinous millet plant

粟
variant form of 黍 millet
西 nest-like object
foxtail millet; unhusked millet; grain; goose bumps
foxtail millet, unhusked millet or other type of grain in a basket/colander. "Goose bumps" is an associated meaning via similarity in shape.

已
stop; quit; just; already; to a great degree
depiction of a forked stick used as a plow. Distinguish 已 from 己 and 巳.

异
已 forked stick used as a plow
廾 pair of hands
different; unusual
raise a plow and leave off work. For the borrowed meanings "different" and "unusual," compare 異.

耜
variant form of 已 forked stick used as a plow
耒 plow
plow (n.)
耒 appended for emphasis/clarification

兎
rabbit; hare
depiction of a rabbit/hare, a fast animal. 兔 is the older form of this character.

菟
兔/兎 fast-moving
艹 grass/plant

dodder
rapidly growing vine. "Dodder" is also expressed by the compound 菟糸. Note a variant form 莵.

逸
兔/兎 fast-moving
辵 movement
flee; escape; stray; deviate; superior
be fast and elusive. "Superior" is an associated meaning in the sense of being fast/elusive enough to escape.

豸
animal; legless insects
depiction of an animal that ambles along the ground

狄
variant form of 豸 animal that ambles along the ground
火 fire
barbarian (from the north)
disperse beasts with fire. "Barbarian" (from the north) is a pejorative, associated meaning, indicating a group of people known for using fire for this purpose.

荻
狄 disperse
艹 grass/plant
reed; rush
reeds/rushes dispersed over marshland

逖
狄 disperse
辵 movement
(keep at a) distance; distant; far
disperse and keep at a distance

之

go; (possessive particle); this; that; him/her/it/them
depiction of a foot/leg in forward motion

芝
之 forward motion
艹 grass/plant
mushroom; sesame
(a particular variety of fast-growing) mushroom. "Sesame" is possibly a borrowing, possibly an associated meaning via a characteristic the sesame plant was perceived as sharing with the mushroom in question.

志
variant form of 之 forward motion
心 heart/emotions
resolve; will; aspiration; intention; record; annals; memo (← 誌)
move ahead with resolution

誌
志 resolve
言 words
record; write down; journal
words used in recording one's resolution

痣
abbreviated form of 誌 permanent record
疒 illness
birthmark; mole; spot
birthmark, likened to a permanent record on the skin

蚩
variant form of 之 forward motion
虫 insect/creature
worm; ignorant; sneer at; ridicule
a long, straight insect, traditionally understood as a worm

夕
evening; night; sunset; twilight
depiction of a crescent moon, conceptualized as tracing a line through the evening sky; compare 夜

汐
夕 evening
氵/水 water
evening tide; tide
evening tide. Compare 渚 (waves lapping at the shore).

鼎
tripod kettle; cauldron
depiction of a tall tripod kettle or cauldron with two hoop-like (or ear-shaped) handles; compare 鬲.

身
pregnant; fetus; trunk; body; core/center; content of an object
depiction of a pregnant woman, the fetus adhering within her womb

殷
身 pregnant (→ fecund) in reverse form
殳 action indicator
abundant; prosperous; flourishing; courteous; hospitable (← 慇); **Yin/Shang Dynasty**
make abundant; prosperous or flourishing

慇
殷 abundant
心 heart/emotions
courtesy; attentiveness
demonstrate abundant concern/regard for others; compare 懃

夂
leg; foot; go/walk slowly

depiction of a long leg pointed downward. 夂 and 夊 are separate characters.

履
transformed element (originally 夊 leg/foot pointed downward)
transformed element = make plodding progress, by various means
shoes; footwear; wear shoes; wear; put on; tread
shoes worn in plodding along. The present form is 尸 body + 復 (double back), with 復 emphasizing the meaning "tread repeatedly upon."

豕
pig
depiction of a pig or boar with a long snout

冢
lower element = 豕 pig/boar + a line drawn through it
冖 cover
mound; hillock; burial mound; grand; great
the lower element suggests "run a spear through a downed boar." "Mound" and "hillock" are via shape association with the massive form of a downed pig/boar that is covered. "Burial mound" is via extension. "Grand" and "great" are associated meanings (social rank of one laid to rest in a burial mound).

塚
冢 mound; hillock; burial mound
土 earth
mound; hillock; burial mound
土 appended for emphasis/clarification

遂
obsolete element = 豕 pig/boar + 八 split right and left
辵 movement
proceed; reach/arrive (at); carry out; attain; achieve; succeed; satisfy; then; thereupon
the obsolete element indicates a pig/boar being butchered. The addition of 辵 movement suggests "drag a heavy object such as a pig/boar along a winding

course all the way to its destination." "Then" and "thereupon" are figurative associated meanings.

隊
abbreviated form of 遂 heavy object
阜/阝 piled earth
unit; corps; squadron
heavy pile of earth that collapses to the ground; compare 隋. Present-day meanings are either via association and extension (e.g. a collapsed earthen structure viewed as the ruins of a single unit, with "unit" leading to "corps" and "squadron" in the sense of a unit of soldiers) or via borrowing.

墜
隊 collapse
土 earth
collapse; fall; sink (into ruin)
collapsing earth. Devised to replace 隊 after 隊 underwent its transformation of meanings.

隧
遂 drag (a heavy object) along a winding course
阜/阝 piled earth
underground passage; tunnel
a winding underground passage or tunnel, leading to the bottom of a burial mound (compare 冢/塚) or of a signal tower (compare 燧)

邃
abbreviated form of 隧 underground passage
穴 hole
deep; profound
follow a hole or underground passage to its depths; compare 窕. "Profound" is a figurative, associated meaning.

燧
abbreviated form of 邃 deep underground passage

火 fire
signal fire; beacon; create fire with flint; flint
signal fire sent from or observed by a tower reached via an underground passage; compare 隧. "Create fire with flint" is an associated meaning, with "flint" by extension.

豕
豕 pig/boar
立 stand
boar raising its bristly mane in response to a threat. 豕 is effectively obsolete.

毅
豕 respond to a threat
殳 action indicator (for emphasis/clarification)
resolute; firm; staunch; strong

首
head; top; first; leader; counter (for poems/songs)
depiction of a neck that runs through head and trunk. "Top" is an associated meaning, as are (in a figurative sense) "first" and "leader." "Counter for poems/songs" is an extended meaning via "top," in the sense of the location on a document where poems/songs are numbered.

道
首 run through
辵 movement
path; road; street; way; highway; doctrine; method
path, road or street running through a settlement. "Doctrine" and "method" are figurative paths.

導
道 street/way
寸 hand/action indicator
lead; conduct; guide; teach
lead/conduct someone along a (figurative) path

鳥
bird
depiction of a bird with a long, curved and rising tail

島
abbreviated form of 鳥 rise (with element of curvature)
山 mountain
island
mountain-like projection rising from the sea

蔦
鳥 rise (with element of curvature)
艹 grass/plant
ivy
long, vertical tendrils of ivy

梟
abbreviated form of 鳥 bird
木 tree/wood
owl; expose (a criminal's severed head); (executed criminal's) exposed head; ferocious; brave
owl, the corpses of which were in ancient China hung on trees to keep sparrows and other birds away. Other meanings are via association and extension. For the idea of (exposing) a severed head, compare 県 and 領.

裊
abbreviated form of 鳥 rise (with element of curvature)
衣 clothing
curl/waver upwards; graceful
clothing fluttering gracefully upwards

州
sandbar; sandbank; administrative unit; province; state
depiction of a flowing river that surrounds sandbars. "Administrative unit" is a

figurative associated meaning, sandbanks in a river being conceived of as like objects in a greater entity.

洲
州 sandbar/sandbank
氵/水 water
sandbar; sandbank; island; continent
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Continent" is an associated meaning in the sense of a body of land surrounded by water.

酬
州 flow
酉 alcohol container
reward; remuneration; toast
alcohol flowing freely in reward. "Toast" is an associated meaning.

竹
bamboo
depiction of a pair of rigid, tubular bamboo stalks rising from the earth

竺
竹 (rigid) bamboo
二 two
bamboo; (reference to ancient India)
bamboo approximately twice as thick as ordinary bamboo

筑
竹 (rigid) bamboo
巩 connect objects
(ancient, stringed) musical instrument
ancient, stringed musical instrument played by being struck forcefully with a bamboo stick

築
筑 strike forcefully

木 tree/wood
strike; hit; build; construct
forcefully strike pieces of wood in constructing

篤
竹 (rigid) bamboo
馬 horse
sincere; real; actual; profound; deep; serious (illness)
startled horse standing rigid in attention; compare 驚. Attentiveness takes expression in the meaning "sincere," with "real/actual" and "profound/deep" by association with sincerity. "Serious (illness)" is an extended meaning in the sense of a condition requiring great attentiveness.

虫
insect; bug; worm; creature
虫 is a depiction of a snake, specifically a pit viper rising to strike. 蟲 is a separate character that originally indicated a swarm of maggots, leading to "insect/bug/worm," meanings now conveyed by 虫. 虫 has a much broader sense than the English "insect," and can refer to a wide spectrum of life forms.

融
abbreviated form of 蟲 swarm
鬲 tripod cooking vessel/cauldron
melt; dissolve; merge; blend; harmonious
stir a swarm of objects in a cooking vessel; compare 毒 and 熟. "Harmonious" is a figurative associated meaning.

鬥
fight; battle; contend
depiction of two persons in combat

鬧
鬥 battle
市 market
noisy; clamorous; lively

marketplace likened to a noisy battlefield

丶
lamplight
depiction of undulating lamplight. 丶 is also used as a shape indicator.

斗
ladle; dipper; measuring cup; unit of measure
depiction of a curved ladle or dipper

抖
斗 ladle
扌/手 hand/action indicator
shake off; out; shake; tremble; make one's way in the world
shake off/out excess food or liquid in ladling. "Make one's way in the world" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of shaking off obstacles and setbacks.

枓
斗 ladle
木 tree/wood
wooden bracket
wooden "ladle" or other object likened to a ladle. "Wooden bracket" is via shape similarity.

料
斗 ladle
米 rice
measure; material; conjecture; consider
measure out rice by ladling it. "Material" is an associated meaning in the sense of rice/grain serving as the basis for a meal. "Conjecture" and "consider" are via association with the thought process involved in determining how much rice/grain to ladle out initially.

搗
島 project

扌/手 hand/action indicator
pound; hull; husk; thresh; attack
pound projecting/protruding objects (such as hulls). "Attack" is a figurative associated meaning.

樂
music; enjoyment
depiction of an oak tree with acorns (ground into powder via a lengthy grinding process). "Music" and "enjoyment" are onomatopoeic, borrowed meanings, the sound of the character simulating the din of a crowd.

擽
樂 grind/continue at length
扌/手 hand/action indicator
beat; pound; whip; tickle
beat, pound or whip continuously. "Tickle" is an associated meaning, being another form of unrelenting torment.

爍
樂 grind/continue at length
火 fire
shine; sparkle; melt (← 鑠)
shine/sparkle continuously

礫
樂 grind/continue at length
石 stone
small stone; pebble; gravel
long process of erosion involving stones

轢
樂 grind/continue at length
車 vehicle
run over
vehicle that runs repeatedly over an object, reducing it to fine pieces

鑠
樂 grind/continue at length
金 metal
smelt; melt (metal); glare; shine (← 爍)
process metal by smelting it

藥
樂 acorns
艹 grass/plant
medicine; drug
grind acorns (seeds, roots etc.) into a paste-like consistency for medicinal purposes

櫟
樂 oak tree
木 tree/wood
(variety of) oak
櫟 was devised to replace 樂 after 樂 acquired its borrowed meanings

來
come; since; until now; future; next/the coming (week etc.)
depiction of a barley plant, with 夂 leg/foot pointed downward appended to create 麥 ("come"), in the sense of a plant come from Central Asia. However, the meanings of 麥 and 來 were eventually inverted, so that 麥 now means barley and 來 "come" (+ associated meanings).

勑
來 fruit of grain
力 power/energy
reward
reward likened to the fruit of effort. For the idea of fruit in a figurative sense, compare 果.

賚
abbreviated form of 勑 reward

貝 commodities
reward; give; bestow
confer a reward

莱
來 barley plant
艹 grass/plant
weed; goosefoot; pigweed; (fallow) field overgrown with weeds
weed resembling a barley plant. 莱 is alternately written 莱.

卜
divination; fortune-telling
depiction of cracks spreading over shells/bones burnt in a divination rite

攵
卜 crack
又 hand/action indicator
xxx
strike with a stick, causing to crack. In compound characters, 攵 suggests either striking (敗 敵 勅 改 攻 務 etc.) or action in a general sense (政 收 故 救 效 敷 etc.). 攴 is a variant form of 攵.

牧
攵 strike
牛 cow
raise livestock; shepherd (v.); pasture
strike cattle (one aspect of raising livestock)

玫
攵 strike
王/玉 jewel
xxx
strike a gem in processing it. 玫瑰 refers to either a red gem or a red-flowered sweetbrier (Rosa rubiginosa).

畝
remnant element = 攵 strike + (uncertain)
田 field
ridge; furrow; unit of measurement
strike (with a hoe or plow) in creating ridges or furrows. 畝 replaces 攵 with 久.

勅
variant form of 攵 strike
abbreviated form of 諫 admonish
imperial edict (← 敕)
admonish by striking. 敕, the source of the borrowed meaning "imperial edict," is 束 bundle + 攵 action indicator. 敕 originally indicated "pull tightly on a bundle in straightening it." "Imperial decree" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of an order issued to keep retainers/subjects in line; compare 詔.

馬
horse
depiction of a horse. The ancient pronunciation is likely a transliteration from a non-Han language.

瑪
馬 horse
王/玉 jewel
xxx
precious stone the color of a horse's brain. 瑪瑙 = agate; compare 碼.

碼
馬 horse
石 stone
numbers; numerals; yard (unit of measurement)
precious stone the color of a horse's brain. 碼瑙 = agate; compare 瑪.

罵
馬 horse
罒 net

insult; abuse; curse
angry noises produced by a netted horse

麃
abbreviated form of 馬 horse
abbreviated form of 鹿 deer
imaginary beast with a single horn
odd, imaginary beast with a single horn (not necessarily the unicorn of Western legend). 离 (rare beast; strange) is a variant form of 麃.

螭
离 variant form of 麃 odd, horned beast
虫 (→ original signification = snake)
dragon-like creature
legendary, dragon-like creature

魑
离 variant form of 麃 odd, horned beast
鬼 large, lumpy being
monster; demon
monster/demon associated with mountains. 魑魅魍魉 is a general term for evil spirits resident in forests, mountains and rivers.

麥
remnant element = barley plant
夂 leg/foot pointed downward
barley; wheat; oats
see 來 for an explanation of the presence of 夂 in 麥

百
白 large number of acorns
一 (→ a number)
one hundred; numerous; many/all kinds of
a large number

佰
百 one hundred
亻/人 person
one hundred
leader of a hundred-man group; compare 仟

陌
百 spread
阜/阝 piled earth
footpath; road; street
spreading footpath (compare/contrast 阡), originally a raised path running through a rice field

皕
百 one hundred
百 one hundred
two hundred; many; great (number/amount of)

奭
皕 great (amount of)
大 great
red (← 赤); **anger**
great amount. "Anger" is via figurative extension from "red."

服
□spread a hand over someone's back
月/肉 flesh
clothes; garments; dress; wear; submit; obey; accede; agree; take (medicine)
clothes that spread over/cling to the body. "Submit," "obey," "accede" and "agree" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of being closely attached. "Take (medicine)" is via extension (obey a doctor's prescription).

報
□spread over
幸 handcuffs

retribution; retaliation; recompense; remunerate; reward; report; announce; newspaper
spread a restraining device over part of a criminal's body in retribution for a crime. "Recompense," "remunerate" and "reward" are associated meanings, with "report" and "announce" by extension (report/announce punitive measures taken). "Newspaper" is via further extension.

蔔
服 spread over
艹 grass/plant
turnip; radish
vegetable with roots that spread/crawl over the earth. 蔔 and 蔔 are effectively variant forms conveying the same term.

箙
服 spread over
竹 bamboo
quiver (n.)
quiver spread over a person's back; compare 備

丿
devised from the diagonal stroke of 必 split. In 少 制 曳 and 犮, 丿 indicates "split."

制
remnant element = split off part of a branch
刀/刂 sword/knife
control; system; regulate
cut to control the growth of a tree. "System" and "regulate" are associated meanings. The remnant element is a variant form of 木 tree/wood + 丿 split, suggesting "split off part of a branch."

掣
制 control
手 hand/action indicator hand (for emphasis/clarification)
pull; drag; draw (back on); restrain; hinder

control, particularly by pulling back on. "Restrain" and "hinder" are associated meanings.

製
制 cut
衣 clothing
make; manufacture; cut (in making clothes)
cut fabric in making clothes

奔
remnant element of unclear provenance
transformed element (originally 夭 running figure)
run; rush about; flee
as 奔 conveys the concept "spread" in derivative characters such as 賁 and 蘁, the remnant element may be posited to have influenced this character in the sense of legs spread in running. 犇 is a variant form.

賁
abbreviated form of 奔 spread
貝 bivalve shell
forge ahead; energetic; bright
beautiful pattern spread over a shell

僨
賁 run
亻/人 person
fall; collapse; overturn; ruin
lose one's balance while running; compare 返. "Ruin" is a figurative associated meaning.

噴
賁 swell
口 mouth
spew; spurt; spout spray; puff (out)
outpouring of objects spewing from the mouth

墳
賁 swell
土 earth
(burial) mound; tumulus; grave; bulging
swelling/bulging earth of a burial mound or tumulus; compare 墦

憤
賁 swell
忄/心 heart/emotions
wrath; anger; rage; indignation; resentment
various manifestations of figuratively swelling emotion

濆
賁 swell
氵/水 water
spout; gush; shoreline
spouting/gushing water. "Shoreline" is an associated meaning (waves crashing on a shoreline).

蕡
賁 swell
艹 grass/plant
hemp seeds; profuse; luxuriant
swollen fruit/bud. "Profuse" and "luxuriant" are via association with a profusion of fruit/berries on a plant.

鼖
abbreviated form of 奔 spread
鼓 drum
(large) drum
large (spreading) drum; compare 彭

父
father

hand spread over the handle of an ax; compare 兵

布
transformed element (originally 父 spread)
巾 cloth
cloth; textiles; spread; disseminate; announce; proclaim; declare
cloth spread over an object. "Disseminate," "announce," "proclaim" and "declare" are via association with "spread."

佈
布 spread
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
spread; announce; publicize
亻/人 appended for emphasis/clarification

怖
布 spread
忄/心 heart/emotions
frightened; afraid; terror
fear spreading over the heart; compare 恐

斧
父 hand spread over an ax handle
斤 ax
ax; hatchet; chop
斧 was devised to replace 父 after 父 came to mean "father"

釜
父 spread
abbreviated form of 金 metal
iron pot; kettle; cauldron
cooking implements made of spread metal

氷
ice

depiction of cracks spreading over the ice of a river frozen in winter. In compound characters such as 凍 冶 冷 凅 冴 凝 and 凋, 氷 appears in the form 冫.

馮
氷 spread over water
馬 horse
gallop; by means of
horse galloping through shallow waters

憑
馮 by means of
几 desk/table
lean on; depend on; rely on; evidence; proof
stand with the assistance/by means of a piece of furniture. "Lean on" is an associated meaning, with "depend on" and "rely on" by figurative association. Also by figurative association are the meanings "evidence" and "proof," in the sense of evidence/proof on which one can rely. 凭 is a variant form of 憑.

憑
abbreviated form of 憑 lean on
心 heart/emotions
lean on; depend on; rely on; evidence; proof
心 appended to emphasize reliance in the emotional rather than the physical sense. "Evidence" and "proof" are meanings carried over from 憑.

氾
remnant element = spread although encompassed by a framing object
氵/水 water
overflow; flood; spread (extensively/widely)
compare 汎. The remnant element is a frame within which objects spread but are encompassed; compare 凡 and 犯.

笵
氾 overflow
竹 bamboo

bamboo frame
bamboo frame designed to contain liquid and prevent it from overflowing

範
abbreviated form of 笵 bamboo frame
車 vehicle
model; exemplar; pattern; (observation of) rules
frame/mold for creating vehicle parts. "Model," "exemplar" and "pattern" are associated meanings via the image of a mold. "(Observation of) rules" is an extended meaning in the sense of conforming to model behavior.

犯
remnant element = spread within a framing object
犭/犬 dog/beast
violate; assault; commit a crime/offense; crime; criminal; recurrence of
dog breaking out of its enclosure and running off. The remnant element is a frame within which objects spread but are encompassed; compare 凡 and 氾.

范
氾 overflow
艹 grass/plant
bee; rule; regulation
luxuriant growth of thick grass. "Bee" may owe to a symbiotic relation between a particular variety of grass and bees.

弁
remnant element = headgear
廾 pair of hands
conical hat
cap or crown spread over the head

拚
弁 spread
扌/手 hand/action indicator
xxx

spread (the hands/wings). 拚命 = go all out, heedless of risk

辩
辛 needle/cutting tool
辛 needle/cutting tool
mutual accusation; recrimination (← 辯)
the Old Chinese pronunciation suggests the original idea was "split, the divided objects spreading but remaining in close proximity"

辨
辩 split
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
distinguish; discern; discriminate (among/between); recognize
split an object cleanly in two, the spread pieces remaining proximate. Present-day meanings are all by figurative association.

辦
辩 split
力 power/energy
perform; manage; handle; deal with
split/partition a work force into units and perform a task

瓣
辩 split
瓜 pendent, oval-shaped melon/gourd
petal; valve; section; segment; piece; fragment; counter for pieces
petal resembling a melon/gourd split into symmetrical halves. "Valve" is via shape resemblance. "Section," "segment," "piece" and "fragment" are associated meanings, with "counter for pieces" by extension.

辮
辩 split
糸 thread
braid; plait; pigtail
braid (split) threads

辯
辛 split
言 words
debate; argue; dispute; discuss
fluent, divisive speech

卞
restless; impatient; impetuous
variant form of 弁. For the present-day meanings, compare the phonetically close 翻 (flutter) and 奮 (bird flapping its wings → vigorous exertion).

抃
卞 restless/unsettled
扌/手 hand/action indicator
clap; applaud
clapping as one form of restless motion

忭
卞 restless/unsettled
忄/心 heart/emotions
delighted
heart restless with excitement

備
obsolete element = arrows spread through a quiver
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
equip; (get/make) ready; prepare; provide; complete; perfect
equip/ready a soldier. "Complete" and "perfect" are extended meanings in the sense of completely/perfectly ready.

糒
abbreviated form of 備 equip
米 rice
rice/food carried by soldiers or travelers

equip soldiers with rice

鞴
obsolete element = arrows spread through a quiver
革 leather
saddle
leather quiver; compare 箙. "Saddle" is an associated meaning in the sense of being a different kind of leather product spread over a back (in this case, that of a horse).

甹
obsolete element, now 由
丐 extend then bend
make one's feelings known; chivalrous knight
here, 由 replaces an obsolete element of uncertain signification, leaving the original sense of 甹 unclear. However, the Old Chinese pronunciation suggests that 甹 was connected with the broad concept "spread extensively" (compare 方 丙 平 etc.) and more specifically with the idea of visiting or calling upon someone; compare 訪.

娉
甹 pay a visit
女 woman
graceful; charming; beautiful
pay a visit to obtain and bring home a bride

聘
甹 pay a visit
耳 ear
employ; take a bride (← 娉)
pay a visit to learn of someone's intentions. "Employ" is by extension, in the sense "invite to take up a post."

騁
甹 pay a visit
馬 horse
(cause a horse to) gallop; hasten; give/have free rein

cause a horse to gallop (in paying a visit)

竝
立 standing figure
立 standing figure
line up; arrange; be in a row; rank with; likewise; and also; equal; ordinary; average; medium
all meanings are by association with or extension from the idea of standing in a line

普
並 variant form of 竝 long lines
日 sun/day
wide; general; universal; pervasive
long rays of sunlight spreading widely

譜
普 long lines
言 words
register; record; list; table; notation; (musical) score; compose (music); set to music
long lines of words or notations spreading over the surface on which they are recorded

畀
transformed element = object bound by a cord
variant form of 廾 pair of hands
give; bestow
pass an object from hand to hand, to the end of the line

鼻
畀 endpoint
自 nose
nose
tip of the nose

劓
鼻 nose
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
slice off a person's nose
one form of punishment in ancient China; compare 罪

阜
obsolete element = bulging earth
十 gather
mound; hill; piled earth; abundant; numerous
bulging mound/hill. "Abundant" is via association with "pile," with "numerous" by extension from "abundant."

埠
阜 bulging mound
土 earth
pier; wharf; port; port city
round hillock, particularly one used as a pier or wharf

北
remnant element = human figure
transformed element = human figure
north; flee; defeat
two figures, one with his back turned, suggesting the idea of turning one's back to the enemy and fleeing. "North" is an associated meaning in the sense of fleeing northward, while "defeat" is by association with (causing to) flee.

背
北 back (n.)
月/ 肉 flesh
back (of a person/object); behind/reverse; carry on the back/shoulder; (shoulder a) burden; turn one's back on/rebel
月/肉 appended for emphasis/clarification (a physical back), but most of the present-day meanings are by figurative association and extension.

本
remnant element = horizontal line
木 tree/wood
root; stem; origin; original(ly); source; basis; foundation; capital; book; copy/version; counter (for cylindrical objects); (at) present
base/root of a tree trunk. Most of the present-day meanings are by figurative association. "Book" and "copy/version" are extended meanings via "counter" (for cylindrical objects), the objects in this case having originally been scrolls. For the remnant horizontal line functioning as the phonosemantic element in a compound character, compare 屯 閂 旦 and 天.

笨
本 base
竹 bamboo
stupid; foolish
rough/coarse base of a bamboo tree. "Stupid" and "foolish" are via figurative association with "rough/coarse."

奄
大 stand outstretched (→ outstretched)
隹 short, squat bird
bird spreading and flapping its wings. 奄 is effectively obsolete.

奮
奄 bird flapping its wings
田 field
vigorous exertion; spirited effort
bird in a field flapping its wings in preparing to take flight; compare 翻.

法
transformed element = 去 withdraw + 廌 imaginary beast with a single horn
氵/水 water
law; fixed way of doing; rule; Buddhist truth; follow; model
cause a creature to withdraw to an island. "Law" is a figurative extended meaning in the sense of enjoying freedom of action within the framework of the law, this

framework being likened to the confines of an island. The 廌 portion of the transformed element eventually dropped. For the notion of creating the rule of law by restricting desires, compare 律, 埒, 憲 and 笵.

琺
法 cover
王/玉 jewel
enamel; cloisonne
cover/coat a precious object with enamel

拜
remnant element = offerings
手 hand/action indicator
bow (deeply); respect; worship; pray to; receive/confer (an official post)
bow deeply in making an offering, then split away (= make one's departure)

湃
拜 split away/apart
氵/水 water
sound of crashing waves
(the sound of) waves that crash on rocks and split apart

嗇
obsolete element = granary
abbreviated form of 麥 barley/grain
stingy; sparing; parsimonious; grudging
piles of barley/grain in a granary. Present-day meanings are via figurative association in the sense of being reluctant to part with stored goods; compare 貪.

穡
嗇 grain piled in a granary
禾 grain/rice
harvest (grain)

圖

variant form of 嗇 granary
囗 circular enclosure
diagram; plan; picture; chart; map; scheme; pursue; seek
enclosed granary. "Diagram" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of enclosing within the boundaries of a writing medium; compare 畫 and 畫. "Plan" is via extension from "diagram." "Scheme," "pursue" and "seek" are via figurative association with "plan."

牆
嗇 granary
爿 long, wooden sleeping pallet (→ long, wooden object)
fence; wall; hedge
long wooden fence, originally one extending around a granary

薔
abbreviated form of 牆 extend
艹 grass/plant
(long-stemmed plant)
薔薇 = rose

檣
abbreviated form of 牆 extend
木 tree/wood
mast; yardarm; boom (n.)
(wooden) mast. The connection with boats is more evident in the variant form 艢, which substitutes 舟 boat for 木.

嬙
abbreviated form of 牆 fence/wall
女 woman
female retainer/servant
enclosure for females of the court

啬
variant form of 嗇 granary

remnant element (a square suggesting a particular place)
(tall) granary in a specific place. 畐 is effectively obsolete.

鄙
畐 granary
邑/阝 village/settlement
rural district; the country; countrified; rustic; remote; base; mean; scorn; despise
rural district in which granaries are sited. "Base" and "mean" are associated meanings, with"scorn" and "despise" by extension.

舄
(double-soled) shoe; sole
variant form of 鵲 (magpie), which combines 鳥 bird + 昔 for the sound alone to simulate cawing; compare 雅 and 烏. 舄 is a variant form of 鵲 meaning (wide-mouthed and) "double-soled shoe." (It is possible that here 昔 [pile] lends an atavistic influence, in the sense of one sole piled atop another.)

潟
variant form of 舄 double/pile up
氵/水 water
tidelands; tidal flats
place where water laps upon itself

寫
variant form of 舄 double/pile up
宀 roof/building
draw; write
pile goods indoors. "Draw" and "write" are extended meanings, the missing link in the semantic chain being "copy in transcribing" (a figurative application of piling atop).

瀉
寫 pile
氵/水 water

flood (v.); flow; drain; have diarrhea
an overflow of water. "Have diarrhea" is an associated meaning in the sense of a flow of liquified offal.

斿
abbreviated form of obsolete element = 子 + 氵/水
㫃 pennant/banner
roam; ramble; scalloped border of a flag
the obsolete 子 child + 氵/水 water character indicated a child or small object floating on water. The addition of 㫃 pennant/banner suggested a small flag/banner fluttering in a breeze; compare 纛. "Scalloped border of a flag" is an associated meaning.

游
斿 float
氵/水 water
float; drift; swim; roam; wander (← 遊)
游 was devised to replace 斿 after 斿 acquired its borrowed meanings

遊
斿 float
辵 movement
roam; wander; move freely; walk; travel; tour; play
roam/wander as if floating about

蝣
斿 float
虫 insect
(insect that floats in the air)
蜉蝣 = mayfly

脊
remnant element = jagged backbone
月/肉 flesh
backbone; spine; back; ridge

塉
脊 jagged
土 earth
barren soil
rocky (= jagged), barren soil

瘠
脊 jagged backbone
疒 illness
emaciated; (grow) thin; slender; barren soil (← 塉)
emaciated to the point that one's backbone shows

蹐
脊 jagged
足 leg/foot
walk stealthily/carefully
take short, irregular steps

思
transformed element = fine bones in fontanels
心 heart/emotions
think; consider; believe; be sunk in thought
finely detailed thoughts; compare 慮. For fontanels, compare 鬼 毘 兒 and 顖.

偲
思 fine
亻/人 person
talented; urgent
person possessed of fine wisdom/talent

緦
思 fine
糸 thread
fine cloth/linen

fine-meshed, coarse hemp cloth

細
fine; slight; thin; slender; tiny; delicate; trifling; quiet
variant form of 緦 fine cloth. "Delicate" and "trifling" are associated meanings, with "quiet" via figurative extension.

顋
思 fine
頁 head
jaw; lower jaw; gills (← 鰓)
finely chisled, lower part of the face

鰓
思 fine
魚 fish
gill slits; gills
fine gill slits

亦
remnant element = the two sides of the body
大 stand outstretched
also; again
slender line of people standing outstretched. "Also" and "again" are figurative, associated meanings in the sense of one person after another.

奕
亦 slender line
大 stand outstretched
stretch on; sequential; abundant
slender line of people that stretches on. "Abundant" is an associated meaning in the sense of a quantity that stretches on. 奕 was devised to replace 亦.

弈
亦 slender line

廾 pair of hands
Chinese chess
manipulate objects in a slender line. "Chinese chess" is via the idea of manipulating pieces.

迹
亦 slender line
辵 movement
footprint; traces; tracks; mark; sign; vestiges; site
trail of footprints; compare 跡. Meanings aside from "footprint" are via association. For "footprints," also compare 蹟, 踪 and 蹤.

跡
亦 slender line
足 leg/foot
footprint; traces; tracks; mark; sign; vestiges; site
trail of footprints; compare 迹. Meanings aside from "footprint" are via association. For "footprints," also compare 蹟, 踪 and 蹤.

夜
abbreviated form of 亦 slender line
月 moon
evening; night
slender line traced by the moon in the evening sky; compare 夕

鵺
夜 evening
鳥 bird
xxx
nocturnal bird, species uncertain

液
夜 slender line
氵/水 water
fluid; liquid

trail of fluid/liquid; compare 滴

掖
夜 here a variant form of 亦 the armpits
扌/手 hand/action indicator
support (by/with the arms); sides of the body; (at/by the) side; conceal (by inserting)
support by placing one's hands under someone's armpits; compare 扶. "Conceal (by inserting)" is an associated meaning.

腋
夜 here a variant form of 亦 the armpits
月/肉 flesh
armpits; the sides of the body
月/肉 appended for emphasis/clarification

析
transformed element = cut/chop
木 tree/wood
split; break (apart); divide; separate; analyze
split/divide wood by chopping it. "Analyze" is a figurative, associated meaning in the sense of dividing elements in analyzing.

淅
析 divide
氵/水 water
wash rice; washed rice
wash rice to divide grain from extraneous matter

晰
析 divide
日 sun/day
clear; obvious
possibly devised as a variant form of 皙 (white), with clarity likened to bright sunlight

皙
析 divide
白 white
white
hue against which colors are distinctly divided

蜥
析 divide
虫 insect/creature
lizard
neatly segmented lizard

斬
abbreviated form of 析 divide
車 vehicle
chop; sever; kill (by beheading)
employ (the weight, the wheels etc. of) a vehicle to divide/cut

塹
斬 cut
土 earth
trench; ditch; moat
cut a trench, ditch or moat into the earth

嶄
斬 cut
山 mountain
steep; high
steep (peak cut into a) mountain; compare 巉

漸
斬 cut
氵/水 water
gradual(ly)

partially cut the flow of water (compare 澀/渋 and 減) penetrating a crevice; compare 浸

慙
斬 cut
心 heart/emotions
feel ashamed; shame
feel as though one's heart has been cut. For other types of emotional pain among cognate terms in Old Chinese, compare 慘 and 懺.

暫
斬 cut
日 sun/day
temporary; provisional
a figurative cut in days/time

槧
斬 cut
木 tree/wood
tablet; edition
wood cut into a tablet. "Edition" is an associated meaning, a tablet being connected with publishing.

鏨
斬 cut
金 metal
engraving tool; chisel; engrave
metallic object for cutting/engraving

斥
abbreviated form of 析 split with an ax
remnant element = mark suggesting severance
reproach; reject; expel; exclude; blame; reconnoiter
strike and split/sever with an ax

坼
斥 split
土 earth
split; crack; rip/tear open
opening of a fissure in the ground

拆
斥 split
扌/手 hand/action indicator
split; tear (apart/down); break; destroy; rip (open); open (v.)
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

泝
斥 split
氵/水 water
go upstream; trace a source
split away and go upstream; compare 溯

柝
斥 split
木 tree/wood
wooden clappers
split wood, here indicating a pair of wooden clappers beaten by those on nightwatch

訴
斥 split
言 words
sue; charge; complain; petition; appeal; resort to
contentious split resulting in complaints/appeals. "Resort to" is an associated meaning in the sense of challenging the legal/judicial course of events.

跅
斥 split
足 leg/foot

lax; dissolute
stand carelessly, with the legs split apart

爭
remnant element = horizontal line symbolizing an object + 又 hand/action indicator
爪 claw/hand
compete; contend; dispute; argue; fight
two parties tugging on a long, thin object, a type of struggle

諍
爭 struggle
言 words
quarrel; argue; remonstrate; dispute
言 appended for emphasis/clarification

崢
爭 long and thin
山 mountain
steep; high; lofty; outstanding; perilous
the long, thin ridge of a steep and rugged mountain

睜
爭 long and thin
目 eye
observe; watch; open the eyes
narrow the eyes in observing; compare 省

秉
abbreviated form of 爭 tug on a long, thin object
禾 grain/rice
take/hold firmly in the hand; unit of volume; authority
take crops firmly in hand in tugging on them to harvest. "Unit of volume" (weight of harvested crops) and "authority" (take power in hand) are associated meanings.

散

remnant element = scatter flesh
□⿰hemp
scatter; disperse; remove; powdered medicine
shred and scatter vegetable matter or flesh. "Powdered medicine" is via association with shredded vegetable matter or flesh. For the idea of shredding or stripping away, and for the graphical evolution of 散 as well, compare the remnant element above 食 in 餐.

撒
散 scatter
扌/手 hand/action indicator
scatter; release; disperse; sprinkle; let go
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

潸
abbreviated form of a variant form of 散 scatter
氵/水 water
flowing tears; weep
liquid scattering from the eyes in the form of flowing tears

繖
散 scatter
糸 thread
umbrella
umbrella (consisting of fabric that scatters raindrops); compare 傘

霰
散 scatter
雨 rain/natural phenomena
hail; sleet; small cubes
sleet or hail that scatters through the sky; compare 雹

盡
remnant element = liquid dripping from a brush
皿 dish/plate/bowl

exhaust; deplete; use up; complete; completely/entirely
present-day meanings are by association with the image of using up the last of one's ink

儘
盡 use up; exhaust
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
utmost; (to an) extreme
use up everything/all

燼
盡 use up; exhaust
火 fire
embers; cinders; ashes
remnants of an exhausted fire

贐
盡 use up; exhaust
貝 commodities
farewell gift; parting gift
exhaust one's resources in presenting a farewell gift to someone departing on a journey; compare 餞

津
abbreviated form of 盡 use up; exhaust
transformed element (originally 彡 pattern)
ford; ferry; sweat; saliva
pattern created by water and land where the water is low; compare 淺

卂
fly rapidly
depiction of slender birds flying in tight formation

汛
卂 tight formation

氵/水 water
overflow; high waters; pour
tight concentration of liquid, that overflows

迅
卂 tight formation
辶 movement
swift; sudden
swift/sudden movement of birds or other living things in tight formation

訊
卂 tight formation
言 words
question; ask; inquire; quiz; grill; investigate
tight (= insistent) questioning

蝨
卂 tight formation
虫 insect (doubled → many insects)
lice; vermin
tight swarm of lice/vermin. Note a variant form, 虱.

千
remnant element = a line
亻/人 person
one thousand
person with a line drawn at the shin to indicate a person progressing in small increments through luxuriant vegetation. "One thousand" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of a number reached by counting on and on; compare 万. It is possible that 人 here is the phonosemantic element.

年
transformed element (originally 千 advance through luxuriant vegetation)
transformed element (originally 禾 grain/rice)
year; (person's) age

advance through crops in harvesting. "Year" and "age" are associated meanings, a harvest being regarded as the end of a long agricultural cycle; compare 歲.

仟
千 one thousand
亻/人 person
leader of a thousand-man group; one thousand
compare 佰

芊
千 advance through luxuriant vegetation
艹 grass/plant
luxuriant (fresh) vegetation
extensive/luxuriant (fresh) vegetation

阡
千 advance through luxuriant vegetation
阜/阝 piled earth
footpath running (north and south) between fields
footpath allowing progress; compare/contrast 陌

晉
transformed element = two arrows
transformed element = target
proceed; advance; increase; flourish
fire and thereby insert slender arrows into a target. "Proceed" and "advance" are associated meanings in the sense of forward motion.

搢
晉 insert
扌/手 hand/action indicator
insert; strike; shake
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

戩

晉 insert
戈 spear/halberd
cut; destroy; (cause to) disappear
insert a bladed weapon into an enemy

孱
孬 many small (and weak) children
尸 body
small (of body); weak; frail; weaken
here 孬 functions as a variant form of 孫 (small child)

潺
孱 weak
氵/水 water
sound of flowing water
barely audible murmuring sound of flowing water

粲
obsolete element = strip flesh from bones
米 rice
polished rice; bright (← 燦)
strip husks and polish rice

燦
粲 bright
火 fire
bright; brilliant; vivid
bright/brilliant fire

餐
obsolete element = strip flesh from bones
食 food/eating
eat; eating and drinking; feast; meal
strip meat from bones at a meal. 餐 is a variant form of 餐. Compare also 飧.

飧
evening meal
variant form of 餐, specifying supper/an evening meal

僊
obsolete element = soul departing from the body
亻/人 person
wizard; hermit; immortal (n.)
wizard or hermit attaining transformation via separation of soul and body. In contemporary Chinese orthography, 僊 is written 仙.

遷
obsolete element = soul departing from the body
辶 movement
transfer; shift; move; change
depart and transfer/shift one's location

叟
remnant element = torch illuminating a narrow aperture
又 hand/action indicator
old man; elder (n.)
search a narrow aperture, using a torch/lamp

嫂
叟 elder
女 woman
one's elder brother's wife
one type of older woman in a family

廋
叟 search
广 building
search; conceal(ed); hide; hidden
search for something concealed within a narrow space

搜
叟 search
扌/手 hand/action indicator
search; seek; investigate
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

溲
叟 narrow aperture
氵/水 water
urine; urinate
urine passing through the narrow ureter; compare 尿

瞍
叟 narrow/thin
目 eye
blind
eye socket with only a thin scar, no eyeball

瘦
叟 narrow/thin
疒 illness
emaciated; (grow) thin; scrawny; sterile/barren (land)
grow emaciated on account of illness

艘
叟 narrow/thin
舟 boat
boat; counter for boats
long, thin boat

巢
nest
depiction of chicks in a nest high in a tree; compare 桑

剿

巢 nest
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
destroy
destructive actions of a nest of cut-throat outlaws. 剿 and 勦 are effectively variant forms; compare the replacement of 刀 by 力 in 劇.

勦
巢 nest
力 power/energy
destroy
destructive actions of a nest of cut-throat outlaws. 勦 and 剿 are effectively variant forms; compare the replacement of 刀 by 力 in 劇.

樔
巢 nest (→ shape indicator)
木 tree/wood
scoop fish with a net; net for scooping fish
scoop fish with a nest-shaped wooden implement

繅
巢 nest
糸 thread
reel thread/silk
create a nest-like shape in reeling thread onto a spool; compare 繰

宿
obsolete element (now 百) = shrink in a curling position
remnant element = person in lodgings
lodging; shelter; stay overnight; constellation; old; former
(place to) curl up and sleep. There is no etymological connection with 百.

縮
宿 shrink
糸 thread
shrink; contract; reduce; shorten; draw (in/back)

shrunken fabric. For the connection between threads and compression/compaction, compare 總.

蹜
宿 shrink
足 leg/foot
take short steps; walk carefully
take short steps (compare 蹴) in walking carefully

僦
就 appoint
人 person (→ human agency)
hire; rent
hire is via association with "appoint" (to a position) with "rent" by extension

雀
小 small
隹 short, squat bird
small bird; sparrow; freckle
"freckle" is via figurative association

宗
示 altar/the supernatural
宀 roof/building
ancestor; clan; sect; religion; branch; school (of thought)
mausoleum with an altar, where the deified souls of ancestors are linked with their descendants. Other present-day meanings are by association.

崇
宗 link
山 mountain
lofty; noble; respect; revere; worship
towering range of mountains. Meanings other than "lofty" are by association.

淙

宗 link
氵/水 water
flowing water; the sound of flowing water
flowing water (and the sound it produces)

琮
宗 link
王/玉 jewel
jeweled implement
linked, jeweled implement used on ritual or ceremonial occasions

粽
宗 link
米 rice
dumpling
grains of glutinous rice tightly packed/linked in a dumpling; compare 糉

綜
宗 link
糸 thread
arrange; synthesize; unite; control
link and thereby arrange numerous threads

踪
宗 link
足 leg/foot
footprints; traces; tracks
link formed by a trail of footprints/tracks

足
leg; foot; sufficient; ample
depiction of a leg/foot. Conceptually, the Old Chinese term attached to 足 would have involved compression or compaction (compare the cognate 束), for instance, in compacting an object by stamping or trampling it. "Sufficient" and "ample" are associated meanings in the sense of compacting sufficiently/amply for the purpose.

促
足 compress
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
press; urge; close; intimate; urgent; hurry/hurried; promote
various abstract manifestations of exerting pressure

捉
足 compress
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grasp; grab; catch; seize; capture
compress the hand about an object

齪
足 compress
齒 teeth
xxx
compress the teeth in chewing rapidly. 齷齪 = "narrow," "narrow-minded," "small" or "(small and) dirty"

走
abbreviated form of 足 leg/foot
夭 slender, limber figure of a running youth
run; walk; go; go on foot; visit; leave; let/leak out; from; through; (of a machine) move/run/work

陡
走 run
阜/阝 piled earth
abrupt; steep; sudden
abruptly rising hill, the earth figuratively running up

從
transformed element (originally 走 run)
transformed element (originally 比 line up)

accompany; follow; obey; comply; abide by; from; by; via; through; follower; attendant; accessory; auxiliary; undertake
run with others in a line. 从 and 汇 are variant forms of 從.

慫
從 follow
心 heart/emotions
incite; instigate
compliant state of mind. "Incite" and "instigate" are associated meanings, in the sense of inciting compliance.

蹤
從 follow
足 leg/foot
footprints; traces; tracks
footprints following one after the other; compare 迹, 跡, 蹟 and 踪

眾
variant form of 汇 run together
罒 net
crowd; multitude; populace
people running together, the formation likened to a net (compare the similar function of 罒 in 署)

潀
衆 run together
氵/水 water
confluence; the sound of converging flows of water
"the sound of converging flows of water" is an associated meaning

旅
从 run with others in a line
㫃 pennant/banner
journey; trip; travel; brigade; traveler
run/march in formation, accompanied by a military standard

膂
旅 run in a line
月/肉 flesh
spine; backbone
bones running in a line; compare 呂

坐
从 people in close formation
土 earth
sit; seat; ride
people seated in a circle on the ground. "Ride" is an associated meaning in the sense of being seated in a conveyance. The ancient pronunciation of the character suggests that the ground intended by 土 was specifically a hill or pile of earth; compare 垂 堆 墜 and 墮.

座
坐 sit
广 building
seat; sit; stand (n.)
a place indoors where people sit

剉
坐 circular
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
chop; file (v.)
chop finely and arrange the pieces in a circle

挫
坐 circular
扌/手 hand/action indicator
crush; break (down); chop down; oppress; dampen (spirits)
crush or break in flattening objects into a circular shape; compare 摧

痤

坐 circular
疒 illness
lump; boil; pimple; carbuncle; acne
circular swelling on the skin

巽
variant form of 从 follow
廾 pair of hands
subservient; obey; southeast
arrange people so that they follow in close, circular formation; compare 遵

撰
巽 arrange in formation
扌/手 hand/action indicator
compile; write; compose
collect and arrange (writings)

選
巽 arrange in formation
辶 movement (→ action indicator)
select; choose; elect
arrange prior to making a selection. 辶 was appended for emphasis/clarification.

饌
巽 arrange in formation
食 food/eating
food; delicacies; feed (v.)
arrange food in making an offering

縱
從 follow
糸 thread
vertical; longitudinal; indulgence; give free rein; even if
one warp thread following another in vertical linkage

樅
abbreviated form of 縱 vertical
木 tree/wood
fir
tree species that can reach over 70-80 meters in height

聳
abbreviated form of 縱 vertical
耳 ear
raise/rise; tower (over); urge; stir up; excite
prick up one's ears. "Raise/rise" and "tower" (over) are associated meanings.

鏦
abbreviated form of 縱 vertical
金 metal
spear
metal spear (carried vertically)

奏
remnant element = skinned, sacrificial animal the limbs of which are gathered together
廾 pair of hands
offer; present; report; play an instrument
offer a sacrificial animal. "Report" and "play an instrument" are associated meanings in the sense of offering a report/recital.

湊
奏 gather
氵/水 water
assemble; move near/close to
ships in a port or harbor, gathered/assembled in a tight group

腠
奏 skinned
月/肉 flesh

skin
the hypodermis (skin layer between the epidermis and bone/muscle)

輳
奏 gather
車 vehicle
gather; collect; converge
spokes of a wheel that gather/collect/converge at the hub

送
variant form of 奏 offer
辶 movement
send; offer; send/see off; give; transport
send offerings

糬
obsolete element = stuck/rooted in place
米 rice
rice dumpling
sticky rice dumpling; compare 粽. The obsolete element combines 兇 terrible and 夂 leg/foot pointed downward, suggesting "stand rooted in place in fear."

騣
obsolete element = stuck/rooted in place
馬 horse
mane
thick, firmly rooted hair of a horse's mane. The obsolete element combines 兇 terrible and 夂 leg/foot pointed downward, suggesting "stand rooted in place in fear."

鬷
obsolete element = stuck/rooted in place
鬲 tripod cooking vessel
cooking pot; kettle
heavy cooking pot/kettle, rooted in place. The obsolete element combines 兇

terrible and 夂 leg/foot pointed downward, suggesting "stand rooted in place in fear."

匆
匆 compression
心 heart/emotions
rushed/hurried; (do in) haste; agitated
compress time in rushing about; compare 速 and 趣. 匆 and 囱 are variant forms of a character indicating a compressed stream of smoke escaping a ventilation hole; compare 向.

偬
匆 rushed/hurried
亻/人 person
rushed; hurried
here, 亻/人 has no semantic function, being used simply to reinforce meanings that weakened in the original one

葱
匆 compression
艹 grass/plant
green onion; scallion
plant with leaves compressed within a cylinder; compare 鍬

惣
匆 compression
transformed element (originally 手 hand/action indicator)
all; overall
compress in unifying. The present form, replacing 手 with 牛, was no doubt created under the influence of the unrelated character 物. For the meanings "all" and "overall," compare 總/総.

悤
囱 compression
心 heart/emotions

agitation
heart that is figuratively compressed. 囱 and 匆 are variant forms of a character indicating a compressed stream of smoke escaping a ventilation hole; compare 向.

窻
悤 compression
穴 hole
window
originally 窗: 囱 (compressed stream of smoke escaping a ventilation hole) + 穴 hole. 窻 replaces 囱 with 悤.

總
悤 compression
糸 thread
assemble; gather; overall; general; total
compress/tighten threads into a unified tassel. For the image of compression/compaction vis–à–vis threads, compare 縮.

聰
悤 compression
耳 ear
keen hearing; be quick at hearing/comprehending; sharp-witted; wise
keen hearing in the figurative sense of compressed concentration

顋
variant form of 悤 compression
頁 head
fontanel; skull
fontanel (= open spaces in an infant's skull, eventually covered when bone is compressed/fuses over them). For fontanels, compare 鬼 毘 兒 and 思.

驄
悤 agitation
馬 horse
horse the coat of which is partially white and partially bluish-black

agitated/energetic horse. The present-day meaning is via association with a particular type of energetic horse.

衰
remnant element = straw raincoat
衣 clothing
weaken; decline; mourning garments
straw raincoat wrapped about the shoulders. "Weaken" and "decline" are figurative associated meanings via the image of straw that becomes sodden and shrinks. "Mourning garments" too is by association, the garments originally having been made of hemp.

蓑
衰 straw raincoat
艹 grass/plant
straw raincoat
蓑 was devised to replace 衰 after 衰 came to indicate "weaken" or "decline"

榱
衰 wrap about
木 tree/wood
rafter
rafter upon which a roof is wrapped

寸
remnant element = a line
又 hand
unit of measurement; small; inch
hand or (thin) finger settled upon another object (for example, on a person's vein in taking the latter's pulse, as in 忖). "Unit of measurement" (approximately that of a finger) is an associated meaning. In characters such as 耐 將 寺 尋 and 導, 寸 functions as an action indicator.

忖
寸 settle

忄/心 heart/emotions
infer; suppose; conjecture; guess
settle a finger on a person's vein in taking the latter's pulse. Present-day meanings are by extension, in the sense of measuring and drawing a conclusion.

村
寸 settle
木 tree/wood
village; rustic; boorish
settlement bordering or within woods. "Boorish" is a figurative associated meaning (condescending attitude toward villages and their inhabitants).

毳
(fine) hair/fur
毛 hair (tripled), likely a variant form of an obsolete character with the meanings "hair/fur." The pronunciation of 毳 was affected by a character adding 穴 at top.

橇
毳 dense growth
木 tree/wood
sleigh; sled
wooden transport vehicle used in thick marshland

瑣
obsolete element = small shells, pierced and strung together
王/玉 jewel
small; fragments; trifling; troublesome
small fragments (of jewels, linked in a chain). "Troublesome" is in the sense of trifling to the point of annoyance. The obsolete element is 小 small + 貝 bivalve shell.

鎖
obsolete element = (小 small + 貝 bivalve shell) = small shells, pierced and strung together
金 metal

chain; shackles; fetters; lock; shut; close (v.)
small loops of metal linked in a chain. "Lock," "shut" and "close" are associated meanings in the sense of closing links in creating a chain.

示
calculate
depiction of calculating sticks used by being placed in close, circular formation

蒜
示 close, circular formation
艹 grass/plant
garlic
garlic, the heads of which are arranged in close, circular formation

筭
abbreviated form of 示
obsolete element = 竹 bamboo + 廾 pair of hands
calculate; count; enumerate; estimate; figure; number
arrange bamboo calculating sticks (compare 事) in making calculations

篡
variant form of 筭 arrange neatly
厶 possession
take possession of by force; seize; usurp; rob
arrange objects one has taken into possession

纂
variant form of 筭 arrange neatly
糸 thread
compile; collect; bun (of hair); topknot
arrange threads into a neat braid

集
remnant element = 隹 short, squat bird (originally tripled)
木 tree/wood

assemble; gather; collect; (literary) collection
birds assembled in a tree, pressed tightly together; compare 集. The present form uses a single 隹.

雜
variant form of 集 assemble
transformed element (originally 衣 clothing)
miscellaneous; mix(ture)
assemble various rags into garments

囃
雜 miscellaneous
口 mouth
jeer; banter; accompany; musical accompaniment
miscellaneous voices. "Musical accompaniment" is an associated meaning via accompanying voices.

七
seven
vertical line cut by a horizontal one, suggesting slender objects produced by cutting

切
七 cut
刀 sword/knife
cut; chop; slice
cut neatly into small pieces

砌
切 cut
石 stone
steps; pile (up); stone paving; lay stones
stones cut into regular shapes and used as steps or building materials

脆

remnant element = cut people who have submitted into pieces
月/肉 flesh
the 刀 atop 巴 element is an abbreviated form of 切 cut + 巴 (person spread flat on the ground), suggesting "cut people who have submitted into pieces." 胞 is sometimes listed as a variant form of 脆 (with the meanings borne by 脆) and sometimes as an independent character with the meaning "gland."

脆
remnant element = cut people who have submitted into pieces
月/肉 flesh
fragile; brittle; crisp
severed body parts. 危 here is a variant form of the remnant element noted, which is an abbreviated form of 切 cut + 巴 (person spread flat on the ground), suggesting "cut people who have submitted into pieces." Present-day meanings are via the notion of things easily broken.

絶
色 = variant form of an obsolete element meaning "cut people who have submitted into pieces"
糸 thread
sever; die out; reject; stop; entirely; absolutely
cut animate and inanimate things into pieces. For the obsolete element replaced by 色, compare the right-hand element of 胞.

桼
remnant element = slender trickle of sap
木 tree/wood
varnish
cuts in a tree made at intervals, producing a slender trickle of sap

漆
桼 cut at intervals
氵/水 water (→ liquid)
lacquer; lacquer tree; paint
lacquer (tree). "Paint" is an associated meaning, likened to the application of

lacquer.

膝
⿱泰 cut at intervals
月/肉 flesh
knee
the knee, a joint that cuts the leg into two sections; compare 節

⿱韭戈
obsolete element = long, slender weapon
韭 leek
leek; wild scallion
tall and slender/fine leek or wild scallion; compare 葱. The original signification of the obsolete element, which combines 从 (variant form of 從 people in close formation) + 戈 spear/halberd, was "use the tip of a long, slender weapon in prodding a line of captives to keep moving."

孅
⿱韭戈 slender/fine
女 woman
slender; delicate; fine
"delicate" and "fine" are associated meanings, being perceived attributes of a slender woman

懺
⿱韭戈 slender/fine
忄/心 heart/emotions
remorse; repentance
fine sensibility, in the form of remorse/repentance

殲
⿱韭戈 slender/fine
歹 severed bone/death
massacre; annihilate
cut enemies into fine pieces

籤
戩 slender/fine
竹 bamboo
marker; lot; lottery
slender pieces of bamboo used as markers or lots in divination

纖
戩 slender/fine
糸 thread
slender; fine
slender, fine thread

讖
abbreviated form of 籤 divination markers/lots
言 words
omen; prophecy
words accompanying divination

聿
remnant element = 叉 stab at + 足 compress
屮 grass shoot
nimble; swift
nimbly pluck grass shoots by compressing the fingertips

倢
聿 nimble
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
nimble; quick
nimbly pluck grass shoots

婕
聿 nimble
女 woman
attractive

the attractive motions of a nimble woman

捷
疌 nimble
扌/手 hand/action indicator
nimble; quick; triumph; win
perform nimbly, and triumph/win

睫
疌 nimble
目 eye
eyelashes
nimble winking/blinking of the eyelashes; compare 眨

姊
transformed element = irregular alignment
女 woman
elder sister
eldest among female siblings of various heights. The transformed element (originally, ears of a plant in irregular alignment) is etymologically unrelated to the independent character 市.

柿
transformed element = irregular alignment
木 tree/wood
persimmon
tree with notably irregular branches. The transformed element (originally, ears of a plant in irregular alignment) is etymologically unrelated to the independent character 市.

戌
dog (as the eleventh sign of the Chinese zodiac); 7-9 P.M.
depiction of a slender-handled ancient weapon (compare 戊 and the phonetically similar 戉, both indicating battle axes) used to exterminate enemies

威
戌 exterminate
火 fire
exterminate; extinguish
exterminate by use of fire. "Extinguish" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of the character.

滅
威 exterminate
氵/水 water
destroy; annihilate; ruin; collapse; perish; die out
exterminate/destroy by water

稟
obsolete element = a granary
禾 grain/rice
conferral; grant; receive a request for (and offer one's opinion)
granary in which rows of harvested crops are stored; compare 廩. "Receive a request for" is an associated meaning in the sense of having a request conferred on one by one's superior, considered an honor. A variant form, 禀, replaces 禾 with 示 altar/the supernatural. For "granary," compare also 亶.

凛
稟 rows
冫/氷 ice
shiver; tremble; freezing; severe; awe-inspiring; majestic
row of icicles formed in freezing weather, causing shivering/trembling; compare 凜. "Severe" is an associated meaning in the sense of severe weather conditions. "Awe-inspiring" and "majestic" are extended meanings in the sense of shivering/trembling at an awe-inspiring or majestic sight. A variant form, 凛, replaces 禾 with 示 altar/the supernatural.

懍
abbreviated form of 凛 shiver/tremble
忄/心 heart/emotions

fear; awe
shiver/tremble in fear or awe

廩
稟 granary
广 building
granary
廩 was devised to replace 稟 after 稟 acquired extended meanings

禮
transformed element = well-ordered
示 altar/the supernatural
rite; ceremony; propriety; manners; etiquette; gift
well-ordered, lengthy ritual. "Gift" is an associated meaning, originally in the sense of an offering. Distinguish the transformed element in this character from the independent character 豊. The relevant ancient form of the transformed element is 豆 food stand + grain piled atop in an orderly arrangement.

醴
transformed element = ritual
酉 alcohol container
sweet wine
sweet wine, offered ritually. Distinguish the transformed element in this character from the independent character 豊. The relevant ancient form of the transformed element is 豆 food stand + grain piled atop in an orderly arrangement.

體
transformed element = well-ordered
骨 bone
body; unit/entity; form; system; style; substance; essence
the orderly arranged bones of the body. Other meanings are via association. Distinguish the transformed element in this character from the independent character 豊. The relevant ancient form of the transformed element is 豆 food stand + grain piled atop in an orderly arrangement. Also, note the variant forms 躰 and 軆 along with the replacement form 体.

鱧
transformed element = well-ordered
魚 fish
snakehead
the precise connection with "well-ordered" is now obscure. Distinguish the transformed element in this character from the independent character 豊. The relevant ancient form of the transformed element is 豆 food stand + grain piled atop in an orderly arrangement.

吏
remnant element = flag stuck into a frame
又 hand/action indicator
official (n.)
official planting flags/markers at fixed intervals; compare 史 and 使

使
吏 official (n.)
亻/人 person
messenger; envoy; diplomat; send (on a mission); order; instruct cause; make/force to do; use
messenger/envoy dispatched on an errand or mission

梁
obsolete element = run parallel
木 tree/wood
bridge; beam; girder; rafter
planks set side by side, functioning as a bridge. The obsolete element combines a double-edged sword with 氵/水 water, indicating planks set side by side over water as a bridge. 梁 adds 木 for emphasis/clarification.

粱
abbreviated form of 梁 run side by side
米 rice
millet; sorghum

a variety of grain the heads of which are strung in long rows

蠡
(unclear)
obsolete element = many insects
wood-boring insect; wood-borer; calabash; split gourd used as a container
(destruction of a tree by a) swarm of insects. "Calabash" is an associated meaning via use of the vine's fruit/gourd as a container after its contents have been bored out. Neither 彖 nor the doubled 虫 element bear upon the Old Chinese pronunciation of this character, suggesting that the phonosemantic element was originally something else.

陋
obsolete element = low, narrow space
阜/阝 piled earth
narrow; low; mean; crude; vulgar; ugly; humble
low, narrow space between (earthen) walls. "Ugly" is via figurative association with "crude."

亂
remnant element = (attempt to unravel) tangled threads
乚 (variant form of 乙 rise and hit a block)
disorder; disturbance; chaos; confusion; unrest; upheaval; rebellion; riot; insurrection; indiscriminate; haphazard; arbitrary; random
ball of tangled threads. Present-day meanings are all by figurative association with "tangled." For the remnant element, compare 辭 as well as 䜌.

類
obsolete element = plants/people in general
犬 dog/beast (→ animals in general)
kind; variety; class; category; resemble/be similar
sort a variety of things according to type, creating smaller piles. The obsolete element combines 米 rice (→ plants in general) and 頁 (people).

面

remnant element = adhere
transformed element (originally 首 neck/head)
face; surface; side; direction; plane; aspect/dimension; counter (for flat objects)
mask adhering closely to and partially obscuring the face. The remnant element is a line adhering to and nearly surrounding the neck/head.

偭
面 face; look away
亻/人 person
face (v.); look away; go against; transgress
亻/人 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Go against" and "transgress" are in the sense of facing someone in an adversarial manner.

湎
面 adhere
氵/水 water
be immersed in; drunk
adhere to/be immersed in liquid. "Drunk" is a figurative associated meaning.

緬
面 adhere
糸 thread
far; distant; think of
clingy threads

靦
面 adhere
見 fix sight on
ashamed; shy; bashful
be self-conscious about being stared at

麵
面 adhere
麥 barley/grain
dough; noodle; flour

sticky dough, or sticky noodles adhering to each other

□□
(riparian) branch; rivulets
depiction of branching rivulets

派
□□rivulets
氵/水 water
(riparian) branch; (dis)tributary; school (of thought/a discipline); faction; group; dispatch; appoint
氵/水 water appended for emphasis/clarification. "School," "faction" and "group" are figurative associated meanings.

脈
□□rivulets
月/肉 flesh
vein; artery; blood vessel
rivulets concealed in the body

眽
abbreviated form of 脈 concealed
目 eye
gaze
the eyes (all but) concealed in squinting/gazing

覓
transformed element (originally an abbreviated form of 眽 gaze)
見 fix sight on
seek
gaze in seeking

微
remnant element = barely/slightly visible
彳 movement

slight; fine; minute; diminutive; abstruse; trivial
slight/minute movement of barely visible objects. "Abstruse" and "trivial" are figurative associated meanings. The remnant element originally combined a depiction of thread stretching above and hanging below a line + 攴/攵 action indicator, suggesting "manipulate slight threads."

薇
微 slight/fine
艹 grass/plant
fern
(a particular variety of) slender/delicate fern

徽
abbreviated form of 微 slight/fine
糸 thread
badge; insignia; emblem; good (and beautiful)
mark, insignia or emblem woven from fine thread. "Good (and beautiful)" is an associated meaning.

黴
abbreviated form of 微 slight/fine
黑 black
mold; mildew; fungi; bacteria; moldy; musty
fine, black mold/mildew

荒
obsolete element = 亡 obscure + 川 river
艹 grass/plant
wasteland; wild; go to ruin; uncultivated; devastate; violence
(grassy) wasteland. "Devastated" is an associated meaning in the sense of resembling a wasteland. "Violence" is an extended meaning. The obsolete element indicated a watery waste(land), in the sense of an obscure part of a river.

慌
荒 wild

忄/心 heart/emotions
be confused/flustered; be agitated; panic
wild state of mind

謊
荒 wild
言 words
lie

黑
remnant element = chimney + soot
火 fire
black; dark; shady; clandestine; sinister; evil
black/dark (soot). "Shady," "clandestine," "sinister" and "evil" are figurative associated meanings.

墨
黑 black (soot)
土 earth
ink block; ink stick; China ink; India ink; tattoo the forehead (ancient form of punishment)
clods of soot; compare 煤

默
黑 dark
犬 dog/beast
silence
silent dog, silence being the aural/oral counterpart of darkness

丐
hidden from view; parapet (for deflecting arrows)
variant form of 正 straight, the curving line suggesting the idea of obscurity in the sense of a curved object that eludes direct observation, thus the notions bend and oblique.

眄
丐 oblique
目 eye
look sidelong at; look askance
view obliquely

萬
cover completely
depiction of the head of an animal and its pelt, used in covering the body. For the idea of covering the body completely with an animal skin that has its head still attached, compare 美.

滿
萬 cover completely
氵/水 water
full; filled; fully; completely; entirely; satisfy; satisfied; fulfill; reach a limit; expire
inundate, covering completely with water; compare 漫 and 滿

懣
滿 cover
心 heart/emotions
sorrowful; melancholy; sick at heart
heart figuratively covered with unpleasantness

瞞
萬 cover completely
目 eye
deceive (by concealing/lying); hide the truth; keep someone in the dark
figuratively cover someone's eyes; compare 謾

蹣
萬 cover completely
足 leg/foot
jump over; limp

cover an object in passing over it

没
transformed element = submerged body
氵/水 water
inundate; sink; drown; die; dead; end
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification. "End" is via association with "die." The transformed element was originally swirling water + a hand, indicating a body dimly visible in the water in which it is submerged; compare 沈. Distinguish this element from 殳, which has come to replace it in 没.

歿
abbreviated form of 没 die
歹 severed bone/death
die; come to an end
歹 appended for emphasis/clarification

美
(original element uncertain)
羊 sheep/goat
beautiful; good; self-satisfied
the phonetically close 鬲 indicates "cover the body completely with an animal skin that has its head still attached," and this may also be the original sense of 美, the skin in question being that of a sheep or goat. The exact provenance of the meanings "beautiful" and "good" is uncertain, as is the identity of the element replaced by 大 (which cannot supply the Old Chinese pronunciation of 美). "Self-satisfied" is a figurative associated meaning.

醢
obsolete element = preserved food
酉 alcohol
pickled meat; salted meat; minced meat
meat or other food preserved by means of alcohol. The obsolete element combines 右 (protect) + 皿 dish/plate/bowl, indicating food preserved in a food container.

毋
remnant element = long vertical line
女 woman
non-existence; do not; no; prohibition
woman (partially) concealed; compare 亡. "Prohibition" is in the sense of prohibiting observation of or contact with a female.

穆
obsolete element = faint pattern
禾 grain/rice
serene; calm; solemn; reverent; majestic
serenity of a grain field with crops planted at regular intervals. The obsolete element combines 彡 pattern + an abbreviated form of the right-hand element of 隙 (faint light spreading through small fissures), indicating a faint pattern.

探
remnant element = deep
扌/手 hand/action indicator
grope (for/about); fumble/feel (about for); search; look for; probe; explore
search for an object by penetrating a deep recess and groping/fumbling for it; compare 摳. The remnant element originally combined 又 hand/action indicator with an abbreviated form of 炎 (consuming blaze), suggesting "poke at a fire in penetrating the deep recesses of the hole where it burns."

深
remnant element = deep
氵/水 water
deep; profound; intense
deep waters. "Profound" is a figurative, associated meaning, with "intense" by extension. The original reference may have been to a pool/lake located deep within the earth. The remnant element originally combined 又 hand/action indicator with an abbreviated form of 炎 (consuming blaze), suggesting "poke at a fire in penetrating the deep recesses of the hole where it burns."

琛

remnant element = deep
王/玉 jewel
rare jewel; treasure
precious gem excavated from deep in the earth. The remnant element originally combined 又 hand/action indicator with an abbreviated form of 炎 (consuming blaze), suggesting "poke at a fire in penetrating the deep recesses of the hole where it burns."

侵
remnant element = penetrate
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
invade; violate; infringe (on)
penetrate enemy territory in invading. The remnant element is a variant form of one that originally combined 又 hand/action indicator with an abbreviated form of 炎 (consuming blaze), suggesting "poke at a fire in penetrating the deep recesses of the hole where it burns."

浸
remnant element = penetrate
氵/水 water
immersion; soak; steep (v.); moisten; wet
water that penetrates thoroughly. The remnant element is a variant form of one that originally combined 又 hand/action indicator with an abbreviated form of 炎 (consuming blaze), suggesting "poke at a fire in penetrating the deep recesses of the hole where it burns."

鋟
remnant element = penetrate
金 metal
carve
knife tip that penetrates metal in carving. The remnant element is a variant form of one that originally combined 又 hand/action indicator with an abbreviated form of 炎 (consuming blaze), suggesting "poke at a fire in penetrating the deep recesses of the hole where it burns."

駸
abbreviated form of 侵 invade
馬 horse
galloping/fleet horse(s)
galloping horses carrying an invading cavalry

寢
remnant element = room crammed deep into the corner of a house
爿 long, wooden sleeping pallet
lie down; sleep; go to bed; bedroom; back/inner room
lie down/sleep in a back/inner room. The remnant element, which combines 侵 deep and 宀 roof/building, appears in 寢 in abbreviated form.

習
transformed element (originally 旦 long and flat)
羽 feather/wing
flap the wings; learn; study; take lessons; custom; habit
bird exerting pressure in flapping its long, flat wings. "Learn" is an extended meaning, learning by repetition being likened to repeated action in flapping the wings, with "custom" and "habit" also originating in this idea. 旦 was later replaced by 白.

慴
習 press (flat)
忄/心 heart/emotions
fear; terror
breast figuratively pressed upon with fear; compare 懾

摺
習 press (flat)
扌/手 hand/action indicator
fold; folded document/publication
press flat in folding. "Folded document/publication" is an associated meaning.

褶

習 press (flat)
衤/衣 clothing
pleat; crease; (ancient type of) lined garment
pleat/creases pressed upon each other

塌
variant form of 習 press (flat)
土 earth
collapse; cave in; sink; droop; fall into ruin
collapsed/flattened pile of earth

搨
variant form of 習 press (flat)
扌/手 hand/action indicator
rub; rubbing; copy
press in rubbing a copy of an inscription; compare 摺

榻
variant form of 習 press (flat)
木 tree/wood
lounge; couch; bed
press the body flat on a sleeping pallet

蹋
variant form of 習 press (flat)
足 leg/foot
step; tread
step/tread, the sole pressed flat against the ground; compare 踏

闒
variant form of 習 press (flat)
門 gate
door (particularly, one in an upper story of a building)
door pressed flat against its frame

鰨
variant form of 習 press (flat)
魚 fish
sole
sole (pressed flat against the seabed); compare 鰈

諳
quarrel; debate
likely devised as a replacement character for an obsolete one indicating verbal disputation. Compare the doubling of 女 in 妓 (also meaning "quarrel").

競
諳 verbal disputation
从 people in close formation
compete
verbal competition

善
transformed element (originally 諳 disputation)
羊 abundant
good; kind; benevolent
abundant words; compare 詳

繕
善 good
糸 thread
mend; patch; repair; rewrite; transcribe
mend/patch to restore a garment's quality (= make it good). "Rewrite" and "transcribe" are figurative associated meanings.

膳
善 good
月/肉 flesh
meals; provisions
good, high-quality meat

羨
abbreviated form of 膳 meals; provisions
top element of 盗 (drool with desire)
covet; envy
(figuratively/actually) drool with desire for food; compare 涎

鮮
abbreviated form of 善 good
魚 fish
fresh; delicious; new; rare; few
good, fresh fish, of vivid color. "Rare" and "few" are associated meanings in the sense of rare delicacies.

蘚
鮮 vivid
艹 grass/plant
moss; lichen
moss or lichen of vivid color

癬
鮮 vivid
疒 illness
ringworm
ringworm of vivid color

天
remnant element = line representing the horizon
大 person standing outstretched
the sky/heavens; the natural world; weather; day; the supreme god
top of the head (of a person standing outstretched and uniting heaven and earth). For the remnant horizontal line functioning as the phonosemantic element in a compound character, compare 屯 閂 旦 and 本.

祆

天 the heavens
示 altar/the supernatural
xxx
祆教 = Zoroastrianism; 火祆 = Ahura Mazda (God)

吞
天 (top of) the head
口 mouth
swallow; gulp; drink; engulf
raise a container of liquid above the head and pour the contents into the mouth. "Engulf" is an associated meaning. 吞 is a variant form of 吞, replacing 天 with 夭.

忝
天 (top of) the head
心 heart/emotions
(put to) shame; disgrace(d); ashamedly
shame/disgrace figuratively attached to a person's head

添
忝 attach
氵/水 water
append; add; replenish
use a sticky fluid to attach one object to another

蚕
abbreviated form of 忝 attach
虫 insect/creature
silkworm(s)
earthworm(s), attached to the ground by setae (bristles). However, 蚕 has been used as an abbreviated form of 蠶 (silkworm) since the Tang Dynasty.

胤
remnant element = posterity
儿 person
posterity; lineage; descendant; inherit

儿 appended for emphasis/clarification. The remnant element combines 幺 slender thread + 月/肉 flesh, suggesting posterity (in the sense of physical and figurative threads of lineage).

孫
abbreviated form of a remnant element = posterity
子 child
descendant; grandchild
descendants manifesting a family's lineage; compare 存. "Grandchild" is an associated meaning. 孫 replaces the remnant element with 系 connection, emphasizing familial continuity. The remnant element is that described in 胤, combining 幺 slender thread + 月/肉 flesh and suggesting posterity (in the sense of physical and figurative threads of lineage).

遜
孫 descendant; grandchild
辶 movement/action indicator
humble; modest; yielding; concede
behavior considered proper for young people with respect to their elders

朝
obsolete element = plants
obsolete element = sun and water
morning; imperial court; dynasty; facing
rising sun as seen between plants. "Morning" is an associated meaning. "Imperial court" is by extension via an ancient practice of issuing imperial commands at the beginning of the day. "Dynasty" is by further association with "imperial court." The present form combines an abbreviated form of 乾 (the sun rising high in the sky) + an abbreviated form of 朕 (rise).

廟
朝 imperial court
广 building
imperial court; (ancestral) shrine; temple
"(ancestral) shrine" and "temple" are associated meanings, a place for paying

respects to the emperor developing into the idea of a place for venerating ancestors

潮
朝 morning
氵/水 water
(morning) tide; (tidal) current; moist; damp; in vogue
"moist" and "damp" are associated meanings, with "in vogue" by figurative association in sense of being current.

早
early; morning; early morning; good morning; in advance; long ago
abbreviated form of 朝. "In advance" and "long ago" are by association with "early."

草
早 rising sun
艹 grass/plant
grass; straw; rough; draft; (particular, cursive style of calligraphy)
the rising sun as seen through plant life (the original sense of 朝, on which 早 was based). "Rough" is via association with the coarse nature of plant matter. "Draft" is via the use of plant matter as a writing medium; compare 稿.

夏
summer; great
depiction of a dancer whose face is covered by a large, square mask; compare 欺. "Summer" is an extended meaning (dance performed in celebration of summer). "Great" is via association with large.

廈
夏 summer
广 building
mansion; tall structure
summer residence

榎

夏 summer
木 tree/wood
evergreen shrub
tree resistant to the heat of summer

□□
jaw; chin
depiction of a square jaw, taken broadly as a body part enabling the mouth to close upon and contain food and thus associated with confinement

姬
transformed element (originally □□confine)
女 woman
concubine; beauty (n.)
woman confined within a palace (compare 寵), originally with reference to a female palace slave

頤
□□jaw
頁 head
chin; jaw; nourish; raise/rear; cheek(s)
頁 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Nourish" is an extended meaning in the sense of closing a child's jaws around food, with "raise/rear" by further extension.

臣
□□confine
巳 fetus
chin (← □/頤)
fetus confined in a womb

熙
臣 confine
灬/火 fire
bright; splendid; prosperous
brilliant fire, confined to a particular place. "Splendid" is an associated meaning,

with "prosperous" by figurative extension. 熙 is a variant form of 熙.

克
remnant element = helmeted head
儿 person
overcome; subdue; conquer; be able to; gram
helmeted warrior stretched to full height; compare 亟

剋
克 overcome
刀/ 刂 sword/knife
cut down; overcome; subdue
overcome/vanquish enemies by cutting them down

兢
克 stretch
克 stretch
cautious; wary; apprehensive; fearful
stretch to one's full height in watchfulness; compare 企

雋
obsolete element = nest built in a high place
隹 short, squat bird
sparrow
the obsolete element is 山 mountain + an abbreviated form of 商 (tall platform), which in combination with 隹 suggests a bird carrying twigs or other materials in its mouth in order to build a nest in a high place

攜
雋 carry
扌/手 hand/action indicator
carry; bring/take along; lead by the hand
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

觿

𠦪 carry
角 horn
bodkin
bodkin of horn or ivory, carried on one's person

規
transformed element = compass-like implement
見 fix sight on
compass; plan (v.); rule(s); regulation(s); law(s); custom(s); reprimand
observe in taking measurements with a compass-like implement; compare 視. "Rule(s)," "regulation(s)," "law(s)" and "custom(s)" are figurative associated meanings.

槻
規 compass-like implement
木 tree/wood
zelkova
variety of zelkova tree. One important application of this wood in ancient China was for making precisely measured bows. That said, the original reason for adding 木 tree/wood and creating 槻 may have been to replace 規 and indicate the implement in question.

窺
規 observe
穴 hole
peep; spy on; watch for; pry (into)
observe through a hole

闚
規 observe
門 gate
observe; steal a glance
observe through a gate; compare 盱

彗

又 hand
remnant element = broom handle
broom; (comet)
hand wrapped around the handle of a broom; compare 帚. "Comet" is via assigning 彗 the signification of the compound 彗星.

慧
彗 (comet)
心 heart/emotions
bright; intelligent; wise
intelligence likened to a bright comet within the mind

槥
彗 wrap around
木 tree/wood
coffin
corpse wrapped in a coffin

雪
transformed element (originally 彗 sweep)
雨 rain/natural phenomena
wipe clean/away; clean (v.); snow
natural element regarded as sweeping the earth clean

珍
obsolete element = fullness
王/玉 jewel
rare; unusual; precious; valuable; treasure (n.)
fully perfect (= flawless) jewel, a rare/unusual item. The obsolete element is 彡 pattern + a variant form of 人 person. The combination of elements originally indicated hair fully layered over a person's head.

畛
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)
田 field

path running between fields; border; boundary
path running between fields, fully connecting all of them

疹
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)
疒 illness
rash
illness causing a rash that fully covers the body. The compound 麻疹 indicates measles.

袗
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)
衤/衣 clothing
unlined garment
thin, unlined garment that covers the entire body

診
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)
言 words
examine; diagnose
examine/diagnose via a full set of questions

趁
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)
走 run
pursue; take advantage of (an opportunity); avail oneself of; while
pursue and take full advantage of an opportunity

軫
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)
車 vehicle
board stretched fully across the back of a vehicle/carriage; strong emotion

殄
obsolete element = fullness (see 珍 for description)

歹 severed bone/death
exterminate
destroy fully in exterminating; compare 殫

餮
殄 fully
食 food/eating
eat ravenously
eat fully/ravenously

耑
remnant element = cylindrical bar
巾 cloth
limit; end
cloth hanging in neat alignment over both edges of a bar. "Limit" and "end" are associated meanings in the sense of the ends of a piece of cloth.

揣
耑 neatly aligned
扌/手 hand/action indicator
measure; weigh; surmise; conjecture; estimate; assess; put into/carry in a garment; try
align neatly. "Measure" and "weigh" are associated meanings (align in measuring/weighing), with "surmise," "conjecture" "estimate" and "assess" figurative extended meanings.

湍
耑 neatly aligned
氵/水 water
rapids; rapid currents
rapids cascading down a neatly descending watercourse

瑞
耑 neatly aligned
王/玉 jewel

auspicious; propitious; lucky; felicitous omen
neatly aligned gems bestowed on an auspicious occasion

端
耑 neatly aligned
立 stand
end (n.) (← 耑); **extremity; extreme; beginning; carry**
stand in neat alignment. This meaning dropped, with 端 acquiring the borrowed meaning "end" via the original sense of 耑 (cloth hanging in neat alignment → the ends of a piece of cloth). "Extremity," "extreme" and "beginning" are via association with "end" in the sense of beginning from an endpoint.

顓
耑 neatly aligned
頁 head
respectful; simple; good
well-proportioned head/face. "Respectful" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of a head/face meriting respect. "Simple" and "good" are by extension.

遄
耑 neatly aligned
辵 movement
go/hurry back and forth; quick; quickly
quick back and forth movements (of equal distance)

喘
abbreviated form of 遄 quick
口 mouth
gasp; pant; breathe hard
quick intakes of breath

段
abbreviated form of 耑 neatly aligned
殳 action indicator
stage; demarcation; section; period; part; piece

descend a (neatly aligned) staircase. "Stage" (of a process), "demarcation," "section," "period" (of time), "part" and "piece" are associated meanings.

緞
段 neatly aligned
糸 thread
satin; damask
silk cloth with a neat pattern

鍛
段 neatly aligned
金 metal
temper; forge; smelt; discipline
pound metal with rhythmic, downward blows in tempering/forging. "Discipline" is a figurative associated meaning (administer disciplinary beatings).

乇
rely on
depiction of a hand raising an object in the palm straight up, separating the object from others. "Rely on" is a figurative associated meaning via the notion of the object supported by the hand that is raising it. Note that the original sense (hold/raise in the palm) is retained in the derivative character 托.

托
乇 hold/raise in the palm; rely on
扌/手 hand/action indicator
hold/raise in the palm; support; rely on
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification

託
abbreviated form of 托 rely on
言 words
entrust (to); rely on
place reliance on someone verbally

宅
乇 separate
宀 roof/building
be/stay home; residence
be separated from others in being confined to a residence

侘
宅 be separated
亻/人 person
lonely; forlorn
person separated from others

詫
宅 be separated
言 words
exaggerate; boast; be surprised; wonder at
tall tales, separated from reality

尋
remnant element = settle one's hands right and left
寸 hand/action indicator
seek; search for
assume a position of obeisance when visiting a superior to make a request. "Seek" is an associated meaning, with "search for" by association. The remnant element originally combined a hand with abbreviated forms of 左 left and 右 right, indicating "settle one's hands right and left." The original sense appears to have been that of a position of obeisance taken when visiting a superior in order to make a request. Further, the phonetic evidence suggests the hands would have been concealed in assuming this position.

潯
尋 settled
氵/水 water
(steep) bank
deep, settled water of a pool by a bank

蕁
尋 settled
艹 grass/plant
nettle
stinging nettle, the hairs of which settle in the skin in stinging

燖
尋 settled
火 fire
reheat
food settled over flames for reheating

彖
pig; hog; divination
depiction of a beast with a drooping belly

掾
彖 drooping/pendent
扌/手 hand/action indicator
official (n.)
hang heavily from an edge. "Official" (n.) is an extended meaning in the sense of a person who assists/supports from the flanks. For the idea of "support," compare 椽.

椽
彖 drooping/pendent
木 tree/wood
rafter; beam
(pendent) rafter supporting a roof. "Beam" is an associated meaning.

篆
彖 drooping/pendent
竹 bamboo (writing brush → writing)
seal; seal script (drooping style)
drooping script style for writing Han/Chinese characters

蝝
彖 drooping/pendent
虫 insect/creature
larva (of locust)
pendent (locust) larva

緣
彖 drooping/pendent
糸 thread
edge; hem; fringe (n.); border; margin (predestined) relation/connection; cause; reason; fate; karma
pendent edge of fabric. "Hem," "fringe," "border" and "margin" are associated meanings. "Relation/connection," "cause," "reason," "fate" and "karma" are figurative associated meanings (edge of one object contacting that of another).

橼
緣 pendent/drooping
木 tree/wood
xxx
tree producing fruit in large quantities, the weight of which causes its branches to droop. 枸橼 = lemon tree (Citrus limon)

豚
abbreviated form of 彖 pig
月/肉 flesh
pig; hog
devised to replace 彖 after 彖 acquired the borrowed meaning "divination"

追
□ tall pile of (heavy) objects exerting downward pressure
辵 movement
pursue; chase; follow; seek; expel; drive off/out
pressure an enemy army by pursuing it

搥
追 exert downward pressure
扌/手 hand/action indicator
beat; strike
beat/strike (with the fist, a mallet etc.); compare 捶

槌
追 exert downward pressure
木 tree/wood
mallet; hammer
pound an object with a (wooden) mallet or hammer; compare 鎚 and 椎

縋
追 exert downward pressure
糸 thread
lower oneself or a person/object by rope
person or object exerting pressure on a rope in clinging to it

鎚
追 exert downward pressure
金 metal
mallet; hammer
pound an object with a (metal) mallet or hammer; compare 槌 and 錘

歸
□ tall pile of (heavy) objects
帚 hand holding a broom
return; come back; give back; belong; place oneself under the control of
sweep in circular fashion, gathering a pile. "Return" and "come back" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of sweeping in a circle, returning to one's starting point; compare 回. "Give back," "belong" and "place oneself under the control of" are extended meanings. 止 stop was later appended to suggest completion of action.

臾

remnant element = bulging object
remnant element = pair of hands
xxx
bulging object held in a pair of hands. 須臾 = a brief moment, or a short while

庾
臾 bulging
广 building
granary; storehouse
granary/storehouse bulging with grain or crops

腴
臾 bulging
月/肉 flesh
bulging stomach; fat; rich soil; fertile
bulging stomach. "Rich soil" and "fertile" are associated meanings.

諛
臾 bulging
言 words
flattery
exaggerated (= figuratively bulging) words

舛
opposed/contrary; disobey; deviate; mixed up; mistaken
crossing legs. Present-day meanings are via figurative applications of the idea of crossing (against).

舜
舛 crossing legs
remnant element = flames in a hearth
(name of a legendary ruler in ancient China)
move lightly and nimbly around flames enclosed in a hearth, in the manner of a dancing flame

蕣
舜 flame-like
艹 grass/plant
Hibiscus syriacus
flower with a flame-like pattern on its flowers

瞬
舜 flame-like
目 eye
wink; blink; twinkle; (in a) flash
flame-like, rapid movement of the eyes in winking/blinking

沿
氵/水 long, winding flow of water
remnant element = ravine
go/follow (along); follow (a custom/tradition/set of rules etc.)
water splitting into branches as it follows/runs along a winding, prescribed course in a ravine. Depending on font, the upper two strokes of the remnant element may appear separated (as in 丿八) or attached (as in 几).

船
abbreviated form of 沿 follow/run along a prescribed course
舟 boat
boat; ship; vessel
boat progressing along a prescribed course

鉛
abbreviated form of 沿 follow/run along a prescribed course
金 metal
lead (n.)
molten lead running along a prescribed course in being refined; compare 鑄

示
manifest; show; indicate; display; reveal; express
depiction of a frame-shaped altar, where the gods manifest their will. In compound

characters, 示 nearly always functions as a reference to supernatural forces in general, and most often in the form 礻.

祇
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
氏 family/clan
earth god; solely; only; peace
altar for worshiping a tutelary earth god. Distinguish 祇 from 祇.

抑
remnant element = press down
扌/手 hand/action indicator
press/hold/keep down; suppress; repress; restrain; or
push/press down upon someone in forcing him to kneel. The present form uses 卬, whereas the remnant element was 印 (press down upon a person in forcing him/her to kneel) written in reverse.

扼
grip; grasp; choke; hold control over; yoke (← 軛)
variant form of 抑, replacing 卬 with 厄. For "choke," compare 嗌.

軛
abbreviated form of 扼 grip tightly
車 vehicle
yoke; restrain
yoke gripping the throat of a draft animal

下
under; down; below/lower; put/bring/go down; subordinate; inferior
depiction of one line drawn below another, suggesting the idea "under" (contrast 上)

隙
remnant element = fissure
阜/阝 piled earth

fissure; crack; crevice; discord; spare/leisure time
fissure/crack/crevice in a mound or wall. "Discord" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of a fissure between individuals. "Spare/leisure time" is also a figurative associated meaning, in this case in the sense of open space in one's schedule. The remnant element originally combined 小 small (doubled) + 白 white (→ light), suggesting faint light emanating from small fissures.

卬
transformed element (original meaning = kneel)
transformed element (originally 亻/人 person)
high
kneeling person looking up at a standing one. The transformed element was an abbreviated form of 却 (withdraw in a kneeling position).

仰
卬 look up at
亻/人 person
(raise the head and) look up; respect; admire; depend/rely on
亻/人 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Respect" and "admire" are figurative associated meanings, as is "depend/rely on."

迎
卬 look up at
辶 movement
greet; welcome; receive; meet
assume a kneeling position in order to greet a respected visitor

昂
卬 look up at
日 sun/day
raise the head; raise; rise; high; proud/haughty; expensive
raise one's head to observe the sun. "Expensive" is a figurative associated meaning.

亘
cross over; extend/go/run all the way across/through

depiction of the moon crossing the evening sky from end to end

恒
亘 moon crossing the evening sky (→ fixed phenomenon)
忄/心 heart/emotions
fixed; constant; permanent; habitual
constancy likened to that of the moon crossing the sky every evening

緪
恒 fixed
糸 thread
(large) rope
object fixed in place by stretching a rope taut. For "rope," compare 綱 and 綆.

享
enjoy; enjoy/have the benefit of using; receive (entertainment/a privilege etc.)
depiction of one of a pair of gates positioned at opposite ends of an enclosure. Present-day meanings are via association with entertainment taking place in such a structure.

亨
smooth passage
depiction of the same object as 享 (one of a pair of gates positioned at opposite ends of an enclosure). "Smooth passage" is an associated meaning in the sense of unhindered passage between gates.

烹
亨 smooth passage → smooth
火 fire
boil; cook; stew; (stir) fry; decoct
food made smooth by cooking over a fire

肯
consent; agreement; permission
variant form of 肎 (冖 cover + 月/肉 flesh) = arm hanging from a shoulder and

covering the side of the body. In Old Chinese, neither 冖 nor 肉 conveys the pronunciation of this character, suggesting that 1) one (or both) of the original components differed or 2) one functioned as an abbreviated form of a now-obsolete character.

肩
shoulder; shoulder/bear (responsibility)
variant form of 肯 arm hanging from a shoulder. "Shoulder/bear" (responsibility) is by figurative association.

雁
wild goose
variant form of a remnant character, suggesting a bird targeted as prey by hunting hawks. See 鷹 for description.

贋
雁 wild goose
貝 commodities
imitation; counterfeit; sham; fake
goods made to resemble geese, used as decoys

應
remnant element = trained bird of prey
心 heart/emotions
accede; agree (to do); accept; respond/reply; handle/deal/cope with; react; comply; be fitting/suited; should; need; must
accede (as a trained bird accedes to commands). "Should," "need" and "must" are extended meanings.

鷹
remnant element = bird of prey
鳥 bird
hawk; (eagle); (falcon)
the remnant element is 广 building + an obsolete character of uncertain signification that combines 人 person + 隹 short, squat bird. It seems likely that the

人 + 隹 character indicated a bird trainer/handler, and that 广 was appended as a shape indicator to suggest a birdhouse.

遣
remnant element = pass/send
辵 movement
send; dispatch; dispel; release; banish
辵 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Dispel," "release" and "banish" are associated meanings. The remnant element is 㠯 wrapped objects + a pair of hands, suggesting "pass/send someone a wrapped object."

譴
遣 send; dispatch
言 words
reprimand; censure; reproach; scold
reprimand delivered by an envoy

繾
遣 wrapped
糸 thread
attached; inseparable
wrap with thread to attach

鬳
虍 tiger
鬲 tripod cooking vessel/cauldron
tripod cooking vessel with tiger and other decorations. 鬳 is effectively obsolete.

甗
鬳 cooking vessel
瓦 tile/earthenware
earthenware vessel
earthenware vessel (for steaming grain)

獻

鬲 cauldron/cooking vessel
犬 dog/beast
offer; present; dedicate; display; show; donate
offer a sacrificial vessel filled high with meat of a dog/wild beast

巘
獻 be filled high
山 mountain
mountain; peak
high mountain. "Peak" is an associated meaning.

顯
㬎 expose
頁 head
expose; (make) manifest; visible; conspicuous; remarkable; prominent; clear
expose and make manifest a severed head. 㬎 is an abbreviated form of 旱 dry up + 絲 thread(s), indicating silk threads exposed for drying in the sun. For the idea of a severed head exposed prominently, compare 縣. Despite appearances, 㬎 has no etymological connection with 濕 or 隰.

筋
remnant element = joints
竹 bamboo
muscle; tendon(s); sinews
the hard portion of bamboo between the joints, used in bow-making. The remnant element is now written with the etymologically unrelated 肋.

印
remnant element = bend/kneel
爪 claw/hand
seal; stamp; mark; print
press down on a person in forcing him/her to kneel. Present-day meanings are by association in the sense of pressing down in making a mark, imprinting a seal etc. The remnant element is a variant form of the abbreviated form of 宛 (bending figures) seen in 怨 and 苑.

侃
remnant element = variant form of 信 speak sincerely/truthfully
川 (powerful, flowing) river
strong and possessed of integrity/righteousness; upright; straightforward; confident; amiable
powerful sincerity. Present-day meanings are via association.

奻
quarrel
probably devised as a replacement character for one meaning "quarrel," emphasizing quarreling women. Compare the doubling of 言 in (also meaning "quarrel").

姦
奻 quarrel
女 woman
wicked; immoral; adultery; debauch(ery)
quarreling women. "Wicked" and "immoral" are associated meanings in the sense of inappropriate behavior. For the borrowed meanings "adultery" and "debauch(ery)," compare 奸.

戲
obsolete element = bladed weapon
abbreviated form of 虛 (sunken)
play; toy/sport with; tease; make fun of; have fun; drama; show (n.)
sink a spear in a hole in the ground as a trap for game. Present-day meanings are by figurative association with and extension from "(hunting for) sport." The obsolete element combines 豆 (here a shape indicator) and 戈 spear/halberd, indicating a particular type of bladed weapon.

巇
戲 hole in the ground
山 mountain
crack; gap; hazardous

ravine/gorge (in a mountainous area). "Hazardous" is an associated meaning in the sense of a dangerous geologic feature.

繼
obsolete element = sever threads, then link their tips
糸 thread (for emphasis/clarification)
continue; carry on; follow; succeed to; inherit; then; afterward
sever, then link the tips of threads extending beyond a framing object. Present-day meanings are via figurative association. "Then" and "afterward" are figurative associated meanings. The obsolete element combines 幺 slender thread (quadrupled) + bisecting lines to indicate "sever threads, then link their tips."

启
戸 door
口 mouth
open; commence
slow, careful deliberations (compare 議 and 計) resulting in the opening of a (figurative) door to understanding

啓
启 open; commence
攵 action indicator
explain; enlighten; inform; instruct; open; commence (← 启)
explanation opening someone's mind to enlightenment

棄
remnant element = pair of hands + disposal bin/basket
□ fetus passing through the birth canal
abandon; discard; reject
abandon a newborn in a basket

器
remnant element = a variety of containers
犬 dog/beast
container; receptacle; vessel; utensil; implement; tool; capacity; talent; ability

vessels filled with hunted game, or meat; compare 獻. "Utensil," "implement" and "tool" are associated meanings as is "capacity," with "talent" and "ability" figurative extensions via "capacity." For the idea of reducing the empty space in a container/receptacle by filling it, compare 吉.

頁
page; leaf; sheet
depiction of a human with a prominent head. In compound characters such as 頡 頌 順 and 頓, 頁 indicates a unified group of people (the idea is that of one head representing many; compare 員).

戛
abbreviated form of 頁 head
戈 spear/halberd
lance; strike; tap
strike an opponent's head with a bladed weapon. "Tap" is an associated meaning in the sense of striking lightly.

休
(uncertain)
亻/人 person
rest; cease; stop; quit; do not
person resting in the shade of 1) a tree with curved branches or 2) that of a curved, wooden construction. One possibility is that 木 is a remnant of an obsolete phonetic element that, as with other terms in Old Chinese cognate with 休, involved curvature with respect to an actual or figurative frame. Another possibility is that 休 was, like 位, devised to substitute for a character that had been created according to the normal formative principles of dual-element characters.

貅
休 curl up/around
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
fierce beast; courageous (soldier)
fierce beast, one trained for attack in battle, that curls around its victim; compare 貔. "Courageous soldier" is an associated meaning.

宮
remnant element, originally two squares indicating particular places within a building
宀 roof/building
palace; (punishment by) castration
winding building with many rooms. "(Punishment by) castration" is a figurative extended meaning, eunuchs having been a common presence in ancient Chinese palaces.

莒
abbreviated form of 宮 winding
艹 grass/plant
taro; potato
plant with winding roots; compare 芋

筥
abbreviated form of 宮 winding
竹 bamboo
round (bamboo) basket
round basket made of bamboo or other material that has been wound about

玉
precious stone; jewel; gem; jade
depiction of a circular, jeweled object. In compound characters, 玉 nearly always appears in the form 王, with which there is no etymological connection.

孔
remnant element = mark suggesting an umbilical cord
子 child
hole; aperture
mother and newborn (just passed through the vagina in being born), connected by the curving and now stretched umbilical cord

羽

wing; feather; plumage
depiction of curved wings, raised high. "Feather" and "plumage" are associated meanings.

翊
羽 raise/rise high
言 words
boast; popular
boastful words, likened to high-flying speech; compare 夸, 訏 and 誇. "Popular" is a figurative associated meaning, popularity being linked to flying high.

雨
rain
depiction of rain falling from the vaulted heavens. In compound characters 雨 also refers more generally to natural phenomena.

屙
雨 rain/natural phenomena
尸 shape indicator = roof
leak; drip
raindrops leaking through a roof

漏
屙 leak
氵/水 water
leak; water clock; hourglass; divulge; omit (unintentionally)
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Water clock" is via association with "leak," with "hourglass" by extension from "water clock."

寡
remnant element = child with a large head
宀 roof/building
solitary; alone; widowed; few; minimal
a solitary child (compare 孤) indoors. Meanings other than "solitary" are by association.

冏
remnant element = ventilation hole
八 split right and left
bright; clear
bright light streaming through a pair of ventilation holes made on opposite sides of a roof. For the remnant ventilation hole element, compare 向.

圂
囗 circular enclosure
豕 pig/boar
sty; latrine
round sty (pigpen). The meaning "latrine" is connected with the practice of positioning outhouses so that human feces drops into a sty.

溷
圂 sty
氵/水 water
muddy; dirty; disordered; latrine (← 圂)
muddy sty. "Dirty" and "disordered" are via association with "muddy."

慁
abbreviated form of 溷 muddy
心 heart/emotions
dishonor; throw/be thrown into confusion (← 溷)
have one's honor muddied/defiled

旜
pennant; flag; banner
depiction of a pennant, flag or banner attached to a flagpole, the latter of which now appears as 人. In compound characters the 人-like element is written in variant form.

旋
旜 pennant/flag/banner

疋 point in different directions
rotate; revolve; orbit; whirl; circle (back); return
flag rotating/revolving about a pole; compare 纛 and 斿

璇
旋 rotate
王/玉 jewel
(beautiful) jewel
rotate a (beautiful) jewel

淀
transformed element (originally a variant form of 旋 rotate)
氵/水 water
shallow water
collected water that circulates with no replenishment; compare 淮. 淀 replaces the abbreviated 旋 element with 定 (fix in place).

丸
remnant element = a curved line suggesting a cliff
人 person
ball; pellet; pill
person bending beneath a cliff; compare 宛. Present-day meanings are via shape association.

紈
丸 round
糸 thread
fine silk; white silk; gauze
rolled silk

關
obsolete element = connect
門 gate
shut; turn off; close; connect; barrier; (frontier) checkpoint; be involved/concerned

shut a gate by connecting its two doors with a bolt or bar. The obsolete element is 丱 (two boards pierced by a connecting rod) + 幺 slender thread (doubled) → connect two objects by piercing each and inserting thread or cord through holes in them; compare 串 and 穿.

聯
abbreviated form of 關 connect
耳 ear
connect; join; align; ally
chain of linked ears, severed from the heads of enemy warriors; compare 馘. "Ally" is a figurative associated meaning via "align."

幻
illusion; specter; phantom; fantasy; unreal
reverse image of 予 stretch, suggesting a faintly visible tip of a thread stretching/protruding beyond a surface

缶
earthen jar/crock
depiction of a bulging earthenware jug or vase

寬
remnant element = mountain goat with widely spaced horns
宀 roof/building
spacious; broad; magnanimous; generous; lenient
spacious building in which one can relax. "Magnanimous," "generous" and "lenient" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of broad-minded.

淵
obsolete element = round, water-filled basin
氵/水 water
deep pool; deep waters; abyss; deep; profound
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification

胃

transformed element = grain contained in the stomach
肉 flesh
stomach; gizzard
(round) stomach containing meat/food. "Gizzard" is an associated meaning. The transformed element was originally 米 rice within 囗 circular enclosure.

蝟
胃 round
虫 insect/creature
hedgehog
creature that rolls itself into a ball in self-defense; compare 彙

謂
胃 round
言 words
say; speak; tell; call; name; sense; meaning
speak in a circumlocutory manner

毀
remnant element = grind in a mortar
obsolete element = knead clay
destroy; ruin; damage; defame; slander; libel
destroy by causing to collapse; compare 壞. "Defame," "slander" and "libel" are figurative associated meanings. The 臼 element is an abbreviated form of a character adding 米 rice, indicating the grinding of rice in a mortar. The obsolete element is 土 earth + 殳 action indicator, indicating "knead earth/clay"; compare 圣.

燬
毀 destroy
火 fire
destroy by fire; burn; blaze
destructive fire

圣
又 hand/action indicator

土 earth
knead a lump of earth/clay; compare 塊 and the obsolete element in 毀. 圣 is effectively obsolete.

怪
圣 lump of earth/clay
忄/心 heart/emotions
odd; peculiar; wonder (at); strange; monster; blame; quite/rather
odd feelings aroused by the figure of a lumpy, mysterious object; compare 鬼

淮
隹 exert downward pressure
氵/水 water
(name of a river)
heavy buildup of water

匯
淮 heavy buildup of water
匚 contain
confluence; remit (funds)
converging waters that collect in a containing basin

厥
transformed element = person vomiting (originally not 屮 + 欠)
厂 shape indicator (→ stiff body)
lose consciousness; he/she; his/her
seizure accompanied by vomiting. "Lose consciousness" is an associated meaning in the sense of a seizure accompanied by loss of consciousness. The transformed element, which originally indicated ingested food reversing itself up the digestive tract, acquired the meaning "hiccup."

獗
厥 seizure
犭/犬 dog/beast
unruly; storm about; rage; violent; lawless

unruly beast. "Lawless" is a figurative associated meaning.

蕨
厥 seizure
艹 grass/plant
bracken
plant that induces convulsions when its toxic portions are eaten

蹶
厥 seizure
足 leg/foot
stumble; fall down; trip; trample; kicking (of a horse)
stumble/fall to the ground in suffering a seizure

衛
韋 go around
行 go
protect; defend
depiction of four feet circulating about a particular spot

凷
abbreviated form of 圭 pile of clay/earth
凵 hole
lump/clod of earth
lump of earth that fills a hole

屆
凷 lump of earth
尸 body
arrive; period (of time); expiration (of a term); become due
person arriving at the top of a hill. "Period (of time)," "expiration (of a term)" and "become due" are via figurative association with arrival.

鬱
remnant element = plant matter in a jug/vase

remnant element = aromatic herbs in a covered container
dense/luxuriant growth; dense; luxuriant; gloom; melancholy
given the meanings conveyed by 鬱 and those of cognate terms, it may be supposed that the original idea was to create a rich brew by grinding aromatic herbs and, after mixing with alcohol, sealing the brew in a container. 欝 is a variant form.

氏
clan; family name; Mr.
depiction of a flat digging implement

紙
氏 flat
糸 thread
paper
combed fibers pulled together and flattened into paper

舐
氏 flat
舌 tongue
lick
flatten the tongue on a piece of food in licking it

食
remnant element = heaped grain
remnant element = a cover
eat; feed; drink; consume; make a living; eclipse (← 蝕)
grain in a covered pile in a storehouse

飾
obsolete element = feed
巾 cloth (→ cloth ornament)
decorate; ornament; adorn; display; play a role; deceive; cover up; conceal
ornament a room for a feast. "Play a role" is a figurative associated meaning, with "deceive," "cover up" and "conceal" by extension. The obsolete element is

composed of 食 food/eating + 人 person.

蝕
食 food/eating
虫 insect/creature
nibble; eat into; erode; encroach; eclipse
insect/creature nibbling food or (other) flesh

巵
goblet; (measuring) cup
depiction of a (measuring) cup or goblet. 巵 is a variant form that appears in the derivative character 梔.

梔
巵 cup/goblet
木 tree/wood
gardenia
a variety of gardenia with flowers resembling in shape a cup/goblet

橐
abbreviated form of an obsolete element = goods contained in an enclosure
束 bundle
sack/bag (open at both ends)
contents of a sack, open at both ends, placed horizontally in a wooden frame. The obsolete element combined 石 (substantial) + 囗 circular enclosure, indicating substantial goods contained in an enclosure.

蠹
abbreviated form of 橐 sack open on both ends
虫 insect (doubled)
moth; moth-eaten; damaged (by insects)
insect that eats an opening into cloth/clothing etc.; compare 蝕

貯
remnant element = square frame (now written 宁)

貝 commodities
storage; lay in stock; save (up); hoard
fill a container/storehouse with goods

妬
(original element uncertain)
女 woman
envy; jealousy
the variant form 妒 predates 妬. The presence of 疾 (illness) in 嫉 (also meaning "envy" and "jealousy") suggests that in 妬 too envy/jealousy may have been equated with illness, and specifically with being figuratively swollen; compare 瘏 痔 and 痣, terms cognate with 妒 in Old Chinese that involve swelling.

視
transformed element = compass-like implement
礻/示 altar/the supernatural
sight; vision; inspect
compass-like implement used in divination rites; compare 規. "Sight," "vision" and "inspect" are associated meanings in the sense of envisioning the future.

升
remnant element = measuring scoop
remnant element = hand
raise; rise; hoist; ascend; advance; promote; unit of measurement
raise a measuring implement. "Advance" is via association with "rise," with "promote" by extension from "advance."

昇
升 raise/rise
日 sun/day
rise/ascend (in rank)
rising sun

陞
variant form of 昇 rise

阜/阝 piled earth
ascend; rise; promote
ascend a hill. "Promote" is a figurative associated meaning.

乘
mount; ride; multiply; avail oneself of; take advantage of
depiction of a person atop a tree. "Mount" and "ride" are associated meanings in the sense of clambering atop. "Multiply" is via figurative association in the sense of placing atop. "Avail oneself of" and "take advantage of" are via figurative extension with the idea of clambering atop.

剩
乘 multiply
刀/刂 sword/knife
surplus; remainder; residue; be left (over)
cut off a surplus, multiplying the number of pieces and leaving a remainder

上
above; (on) top; up; upper; rise; go up; ascend; climb/get (onto); previous; preceding
depiction of one line drawn above another, suggesting "above"; contrast 下

鬯
obsolete element = offering container filled with aromatic herbs
匕 serving implement
(sacrificial) aromatic liquor
offer aromatic herbs. "(Sacrificial) aromatic liquor" is an associated meaning.

淫
obsolete element = have (immoral) intercourse with a pregnant woman
氵/水 water (→ sexual fluids)
licentious; lewd; obscene; depraved
indulge heavily in immoral sex; compare 甚 and 耽. The obsolete element is 爪 claw/hand + an abbreviated form of 妊 pregnancy, indicating "have (immoral) intercourse with a pregnant woman." Note a variant form 婬, which replaces 水 with

女 woman.

霪
淫 heavy indulgence (→ heavy)
雨 rain/natural phenomenon
protracted, heavy rain
compare 霑

丹
cinnabar; red; pill; tablet; powder
depiction of a frame (compare 井) set into the earth, from which a reddish compound of mercury and sulfur bubbles up. "Pill," "tablet" and "powder" are via color association.

栯
variant form of 丹 red/cinnabar
木 tree/wood
(tree with reddish bark)
栯檀 = sandalwood

旃
variant form of 丹 red/cinnabar
从 pennant/banner
(red) banner; woolen cloth
the woolen cloth is no longer restricted to the color red

彤
丹 red; cinnabar
彡 pattern
red; cinnabar
red/cinnabar-colored pattern

襲
abbreviated form of 龖 double/pile up
衣 clothing

overlap; inherit; succeed to; attack; raid; sweep over
wear layers of clothing (= double/pile up garments). 龖 doubles 龍 dragon for the idea of dragons pressed closely together in flight. "Inherit" and "succeed to" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of adding goods, offices etc. to those already in one's possession."Attack," "raid" and "sweep over" too are associated meanings, in this case likened to dragons in flight.

讋
abbreviated form of 龖 double/pile up
言 words
loquacity; fear
(loquacious) words; compare 喋 and 諜. See 襲 for a description of 龖.

濕
obsolete element = bundles of thread pressed together
氵/水 water
wet; moist(en); damp
soften bundles of thread by submerging them in water. There is no etymological connection with the 㬎 element described in 顯.

隰
abbreviated form of 濕 wet; damp
阜/阝 piled earth
swampland
(low) swampland

帶
remnant element = object run through with string or cord
巾 cloth
belt; band; girdle; wear; bear/carry; take/bring; lead; zone
tie a belt/band/girdle about the waist, constricting it. "Bear/carry" and "take/bring" are associated meanings in the sense of bearing something on one's person in the manner of wearing clothes.

滯

帶 tie
氵/水 water
stagnant; sluggish; obstructed
tie/bind, constricting the flow of liquid

實
remnant element = 貝 commodities + 周 an enclosure
宀 roof/building
fruit; seed; real; actual; true; honest; solid
house full of treasures. "Fruit" and "seed" are in the sense of "be filled with." "Actual," "true" and "honest" are figurative associated meanings (fully true content; compare 眞).

質
abbreviated form of 實 house full of treasures
斤 ax (doubled)
pawn; pledge; hostage; nature; character; qualities; quality; substance; matter; content (← 實) **simple; plain; question; ask**
split one's belongings. "Pawn" and "pledge" are associated meanings,with "hostage" by figurative extension.

躓
質 split
足 leg/foot
stumble
legs that split, causing one to stumble; compare 跌

設
transformed element (originally a bar)
transformed element (originally a hand + a chisel)
set up; establish/found; arrange; display; plan; (what) if; in the event that
chisel an object into shape. "Plan" is an associated meaning in the sense of planning how to form into shape.

帚

remnant element = a broom
又 hand/action indicator
broom; broomstick
(hand wielding a) broom/broomstick

婦
帚 sweep
女 woman
woman; wife
woman sweeping/doing housework; compare 妻

掃
帚 sweep
扌/手 hand/action indicator
sweep; sweep clean; clear away; exterminate
扌/手 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Exterminate" is a figurative associated meaning.

箒
帚 sweep with a broom
竹 bamboo
broom; broomstick
(bamboo) broom

守
transformed element (originally 又 hand/action indicator)
remnant element = cover
defend; protect; guard; watch; stick to; observe (rules/traditions etc.); abide by
enclose/surround to defend or protect

狩
守 enclose/surround
犭/犬 dog/beast
hunt; hunt in winter; imperial tour
hunt by surrounding animals or by driving them into an enclosure and surrounding

to prevent their escape. "Imperial tour" (involving hunting) is an associated meaning.

肘
abbreviated form of 守 defend
月/肉 flesh
elbow; take/guide someone by the elbow; help
defend oneself using a particular body part, the elbow. "Take/guide someone by the elbow" is an associated meaning, with "help" by extension.

討
transformed element = bladed instrument (now styled 言)
寸 hand/action indicator
attack; quell; suppress; subjugate; demand; request; beg; denounce; marry (a woman); discuss; study
carry out an armed attack. For the transformation of a bladed weapon into 言 in another character phonetically close in Old Chinese, compare 誅 (punish).

雙
obsolete element = one bird facing another
又 hand/action indicator
pair; two; even (not odd); counter for pairs of objects
pair of birds taken in hand. The original form of the doubled 隹 element showed one bird facing another.

讎
obsolete element = one bird facing another (→ confront)
言 words
rival; enemy; opponent
verbal confrontation between rivals/enemies. A variant form 讐 repositions the 言 element.

售
sell
abbreviated form of 讎/讐 rival, suggesting a rival in selling

盗
obsolete element = drool with desire for tasty food
皿 dish/plate/bowl
steal; rob; robber; thief
desire (and take). 皿 was appended for emphasis/clarification. The obsolete element is 欠 bent, open-mouthed figure + 水 water, suggesting "drool with desire for tasty food."

隻
one of a pair; sole; only; counter for ships
abbreviated form of 雙 pair of birds, removing one of the birds. "Sole" and "only" are associated meanings. The borrowed meaning "counter for ships" likely owes to the connection between these vessels and sea birds.

冬
winter
depiction of food tied to a cord that winds about a peg. Later 冫/氷 ice was appended to emphasize/clarify the meaning "winter," the season when preserved/stored food is consumed; compare 蓄.

終
冬 wind about
糸 thread
finish; end; the close; termination; conclusion; finally/in the end; die; death
wind a ball of thread; compare 收. Present-day meanings are by association, in the sense "finish winding." "Die" and "death" are figurative associated meanings.

柊
冬 winter
木 tree/wood
holly
tree the berries of which remain even after the onset of winter; compare 檍

疼

冬 winter
疒 illness
pain; sting; smart (v.); ache; twinge; love dearly
stinging pain experienced in the cold of winter. "Love dearly" is a figurative associated meaning in the sense of loving so much it hurts.

螽
冬 winter
虫 insect/creature doubled
grasshopper
insect the pods of which pass the winter underground

斲
obsolete element = a stand
斤 ax
chisel; cut; chop
chisel a wooden stand. The obsolete element is a depiction of a stand similar to 豆.

鬬
斲 cut
鬥 fight/battle
fight; battle; contend
slash in battle

鬪
fight; battle; contend
variant form of 鬬. 鬪 replaces the 斲 element in 鬬 with a variant form of 尌 (set/stand in place).

盾
remnant element = curved visor
目 eye
shield
curved shield (for the eyes/body) behind which one immediately follows

循
盾 follow
彳 movement/action indicator
follow; comply with; obey
彳 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Comply (with)" and "obey" are figurative associated meanings.

遁
盾 follow behind a shield
辵 movement
flee; escape; evade; avoid; hide
follow a sheltering object in fleeing/escaping

楯
盾 follow behind a shield
木 tree/wood
shield; bar; railing
wooden shield. 木 was appended to emphasize the object rather than the action involved in 盾. "Bar" and "railing" are via shape association.

替
obsolete element = stand in circular alignment
transformed element (originally 曰 say/speech indicator)
substitute/stand in (for); take the place of; exchange; replace; on behalf of; for
aligned group of people speaking in turn. For the obsolete element, compare 輩.

退
transformed element = drop
transformed element (originally 日 sun/day)
retreat; withdraw; move/shrink back; recede; decline; refuse; retire; return (a purchase)
sun dropping to the western horizon. "Retire" is via association with "withdraw." "Return (a purchase)" is via association with "refuse." The transformed element was originally 辵 movement + 夂 leg/foot pointing downward, indicating "drop."

腿
退 drop
月/肉 flesh
leg; thigh(s)
drop into a squat (compare 蹲 and 崔), the body supported by the thighs

褪
退 drop
衤/衣 clothing
strip off clothes; fade; discolor
strip off clothes; cause clothes to drop in undressing. "Fade" and "discolor" are figurative associated meanings, in the sense of color that "drops" from fabric.

羊
depiction of a thick clump of grass. 羊 is effectively obsolete.

對
variant form of 羊 thick clump of grass
寸 hand/action indicator
pair; couple; be in opposition; contrasting; facing; confront; versus; regarding; correct; right
lay clumps of grass out to dry, facing each other. "Regarding" is a figurative, extended meaning.

懟
對 be in opposition
心 heart/emotions
hate; abhor
confrontational emotions

鐵
transformed element (originally 戠 cut an extensive portion)
金 metal
iron; weapon; arms; strong; hard; firm; ruthless
metal used to cut (large portions of) other objects. "Weapon" and "arms" are

associated meanings, with "strong," "hard," "firm" and "ruthless" by figurative extension. 戢 combines 呈 (extend) + a variant form of 伐 (cut down), suggesting the idea of cutting an extensive portion. In place of 戢, the transformed element of 鐵 substitutes □□ut; sever.

聿
(hand holding a) writing brush; pen; pencil; then; thereupon
an implement used to carve characters into wood, bamboo and so on. The character was later reinterpreted as indicating a hand holding a writing brush. "Pen" and "pencil" are associated meanings (other types of writing implements).

筆
聿 implement used to carve/draw characters
竹 bamboo
writing brush; writing implements; write; compose; stroke(s) of a character; (unit of amount for sums of money or numbers of deals)
bamboo carved into a writing brush. "Stroke(s) (of a character)" and "unit of amount for sums of money or a number of deals" are via association with writing.

律
聿 implement held upright to carve/draw characters
彳 movement (→ action indicator)
law; rule; regulate
create written standards for regulating human conduct; compare 埒 法 范 and 憲

葎
律 regulate
艹 grass/plant
vines; creepers; trailing plants
a plant the regulation of which requires constant attention; compare 藟

業
thicket (← 𦍒)
depiction of a rough slave/servant spreading his arms in falling prostrate

僕
業 prostrate slave/servant
亻/人 person
servant; slave
亻/人 appended for emphasis/clarification

幞
業 rough
巾 cloth
turban; wrapping cloth
rough cloth of a turban. "Wrapping cloth" is an associated meaning; compare 袱.

撲
業 rough
扌/手 hand/action indicator
strike; pound; beat; throw oneself upon/into; spring at/pounce on; flap; flutter
strike roughly. "Throw oneself upon/into" and "spring at/pounce on" are figurative associated meanings.

樸
業 rough
木 tree/wood
rough; simple; plain; honest
rough, unprocessed lumber. "Honest" is a figurative associated meaning.

璞
業 rough
王/玉 jewel
gem
a rough (= uncut or unpolished) gem; compare 玫

蹼
業 rough
足 leg/foot
web

rough web/webbing (of waterfowl)

扑
strike; pound; beat; throw oneself upon/into; spring at/pounce on; flap; flutter
variant form of 撲

朴
rough; simple; plain; honest
variant form of 樸

仆
卜 replacing 業 servant falling prostrate
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
fall; lie prostrate
devised to convey the original sense of 業

訃
卜 replacing 業 servant falling prostrate
言 words
deliver/report word of a death; obituary
fall prostrate to deliver word of a death. "Obituary" is an associated meaning.

赴
卜 replacing 業 servant falling prostrate
走 run
attend (to); go/proceed to; rush up toward; approach
servant rushing to attend to his master

喜
壴 (possibly with mimetic function)
口 mouth
joy; joyous; enjoy; like; be fond of; happy; delightful
joyful voices at a feast with musical accompaniment

僖

喜 joy
亻/人 person
joy; gladness; happiness; merry
person filled with joy etc.

嘻
喜 emit a joyful voice
口 mouth
laugh; interjection (of surprise/grief)
emit a joyful voice. 嘻 was devised to replace 喜 after 喜 came to refer to joy and pleasure in general as opposed to joyful voices.

嬉
喜 joy
女 woman
enjoy (oneself); play; sport; frolic amuse
woman enjoying herself or amusing others

憙
喜 joy
心 heart/emotions
joy; joyous; enjoy; like; be fond of; happy; delightful
心 appended for emphasis/clarification

禧
喜 joy
示 altar/the supernatural
good fortune; blessings; auspicious augur; congratulations
good fortune/blessings of supernatural origin

饎
喜 a feast
食 food/eating
food; food accompanying wine at a feast
feast on delicious food (and drink)

鳳
(male) phoenix
depiction of a large bird flapping its wings, with the term possibly having mimetic function. (Male) "phoenix" is a signification attached to the character later in history. The female phoenix is 凰.

風
wind; atmosphere; custom; style; manner; rumor; news
variant form of 鳳 large bird flapping its wings, later conceived of as the source of wind causing various life forms and other objects to flutter. "Style," "manner," "rumor" and "news" are figurative associated meanings, likened to things brought in then carried off by the wind.

嵐
風 flutter
山 mountain
mist; haze
mist/haze fluttering about a mountain

楓
風 flutter
木 tree/wood
maple
a tree the samara (fruit) of which flutters in the breeze

瘋
風 flutter
疒 illness
insanity; madness
insanity, likened to mental fluttering

諷
風 flutter
言 words

recite
recite in a fluttering/trembling voice. The compound 諷刺 indicates satire, sarcasm or mockery.

欣
斤 simulating a joyous sound
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
happy; pleased
raise a joyful sound; compare 喜

忻
abbreviated form of 欣 happy; pleased
忄/心 heart/emotions
joy; gladness; happiness
忄/心 appended for emphasis/clarification

掀
欣 raise
扌/手 hand/action indicator
raise high; raise vigorously
compare 搴

訢
abbreviated form of 欣 happy; pleased
言 words
be happy/pleased
speak happily, or, laugh

乎
in; at; from; than; (interrogative/exclamatory) particle
breath running up through the lungs and producing an exclamation as it leaves the mouth

兮
(exclamatory, euphonic or emphatic particle)

effectively a variant form of 乎

呼
乎 exclamation
口 mouth (for emphasis/clarification)
call; call out; shout; breathe; exhale (← 乎)

毄
車 vehicle
remnant element = 殳 action indicator + device connected to a wheel
hit
force a vehicle to a halt, one object hitting against the wheel(s). The sound of the character simulates the noise made by two hard objects in colliding.

擊
variant form of 毄 hit
手 hand/action indicator
hit; strike; beat; attack

繫
variant form of 毄 link
糸 thread
connect; join; tie/fasten (an object to); hang
link/connect with thread

霍
quick(ly); sudden(ly)
abbreviated form of 靃, which is 雨 rain/natural phenomena + an element (隹 short, squat bird doubled) suggesting (the sound of) birds hurriedly taking flight in a sudden rainstorm. 霍 eliminates one of the 隹 elements.

癯
霍 suddenly
疒 illness
illness

illness that strikes suddenly

媽
馬 simulating the nursery term "ma(ma)"
女 woman
mother; older female household member/servant

爸
巴 simulating a term of address directed toward a father
父 father
father
"father" in the casual sense "Pa," "Dad" etc.

伯
白 simulating a term of address
亻/人 person
oldest(/older) brother of one's father; uncle; older/senior male; count; earl
monosyllabic term of address directed by children to a male of the approximate age of one's father

鵬
朋 simulating the Middle Chinese pronunciation of 鳳
鳥 bird
(fabulous large bird)
compare the original sense of 鳳

象
elephant; tusk; ivory; shape; image; appearance; liken; resemble; imitate
depiction of an elephant, an animal characterized by its tusks. "Shape," "image" and "appearance" are associated meanings in the sense of an animal of a conspicuous or remarkable shape, image etc. "Liken" and "resemble" are extended meanings via "image," in the sense of an image resembling the original object. "Imitate" is by further association from "resemble." The sound of the character simulates the trumpeting of an elephant.

像
象 image
亻/人 person
image; statue; picture; figure; resemble
image of a person. "Resemble" is an associated meaning in the sense of a reproduction resembling the original.

橡
象 elephant (→ large object)
木 tree/wood
oak; horse chestnut; acorn
a large tree, the nuts and bark of which were a staple food and dyeing product, respectively, in certain parts of China.

犬
dog
depiction of a dog. The sound of the character simulates barking. In compound characters, 犬 frequently indicates non-canine beasts, and often appears on the left side in the form 犭.

吠
犬 dog/beast
口 mouth
bark (v.); howl; roar
(the sound of) barking

烏
crow; black
depiction of a crow. "Black" is an associated meaning. The sound simulates cawing.

歍
烏 cawing
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
sob
(bend and) sob in a voice that resembles the sound of cawing

夫
mature male; husband
depiction of an outstretched male (compare 大 stand outstretched) with a topknot. Some compound terms with 夫 (農夫 漁夫 etc.) indicate laborers.

扶
夫 stretch out/over
扌/手 hand/action indicator
support; help
stretch/hold out the arms to support oneself or another person

芙
夫 stretch out/over
艹 grass/plant
water lily; lotus; hibiscus
plant stretching over the surface of a pond; compare 蓮

趺
夫 stretch out/over
足 leg/foot
sit cross-legged; top of the foot
stretch the feet upon the thighs in sitting cross-legged; compare 跏. "Top of the foot" is an associated meaning.

麩
夫 stretch out/over
麥 barley/grain
bran
bran spread flat upon a surface. A variant form, 麸, substitutes 麦 for 麥.

牛
cow; ox; bull
depiction of a cow. The sound of the character simulates lowing.

牢
牛 cow
宀 roof/building
stable (n.); jail; prison; secure; hard; tight; sacrifice
barn/stable for cattle. "Jail" and "prison" are by figurative association. "Hard" and "tight" are by extension from "secure" in the sense of hard/tight security. "Sacrifice" is by further extension, in the sense of sacrificing an animal that has been confined.

牡
牛 cow
士 erect; male
male
(erect) bull, the signification later extended to include male creatures of various kinds

牟
牛 cow
厶 plow
moo; low (v.); seek
sounds produced by a cow dragging a plow. "Seek" is a figurative, associated meaning in the sense of "call out for something."

鴾
牟 lowing cow (→ lowing sound)
鳥 bird
(bird with a song/cry resembling the lowing of a cow)
鴾母 = quail; compare 鶉

眸
牟 cow
目 eye
(pupil of the) eye
pupil of a cow's eye

虎

tiger
depiction of a tiger. The sound simulates a tiger's fierce roar. The classifier/reduced form 虍 simplifies 虎 by eliminating the legs at the bottom.

琥
虎 tiger (→ pattern resembling tiger stripes and coloration)
王/玉 jewel
amber; jewel/utensil in the shape of a tiger
amber the pattern of which is likened to that of a tiger. "Jewel/utensil in the shape of a tiger" is via reinterpretation of the constituent elements of this character.

虒
variant form of 虎 tiger
厂 cliff/shape indicator
tiger-like creature possessing a horn
mythical animal conceived of as crawling on its belly, in sequential motion, one leg at a time

遞
虒 sequential
辵 movement
relay; pass along; hand over; progression; stage
move sequentially, in relay or stages

褫
虒 sequential
衤/衣 clothing
strip/tear off; denude
strip/tear off garments in sequence

篪
虒 sequential
竹 bamboo
bamboo flute
bamboo flute played by moving the fingers sequentially over the holes

虖
虍/虎 tiger
乎 exclamation
roar/scream of a tiger; cry out; exhale
roar/scream of a tiger

嘑
虖 roar
口 mouth
roar; cry out
口 appended for emphasis/clarification. Compare 呼.

罅
虖 roar
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
crack; fissure
crack in earthenware through which air or steam whistles in passing

羊
sheep; goat
depiction of a goat, a supplier of abundant meat. Later understood to refer to sheep, a supplier of abundant meat and wool. The sound of the character simulates bleating.

洋
羊 abundant
氵/水 water
ocean; Western; foreign
abundant water of an ocean. "Western" and "foreign" are associated meanings in the sense of things from beyond an ocean.

祥
羊 abundant
礻/示 altar/the supernatural

omen; happiness; propitious
propitious omen of abundance to come

詳
羊 abundant
言 words
detailed; familiarity
abundant words. "Familiarity" is an associated meaning in the sense of having detailed knowledge of something.

漾
obsolete element = waterway delivering abundant supplies
氵/水 water
flow; ripple; swirl; overflow
氵/水 appended for emphasis/clarification. "Overflow" is an associated meaning. The obsolete element combines 永 (water stretching far into the distance) and 羊 (abundant).

樣
obsolete element = waterway delivering abundant supplies
木 tree/wood
appearance; shape; pattern; condition; manner; kind/type
tree (a horse-chestnut or oak) that supplies abundant nuts. For the borrowed, present-day meanings, compare the 象 element of 橡, the latter of which indicated the same tree. The obsolete element combines 永 (water stretching far into the distance) and 羊 (abundant).

翔
abbreviated form of 洋 ocean
羽 feather/wing
soar; glide; fly
soar/glide/fly over ocean waters

羔
羊 sheep

灬/火 fire
lamb
lamb that fits into a round cooking pot for boiling whole

糕
羔 fit into a pot
米 (glutinous) rice
sweets
glutinous sweets stirred in a pot

窯
羔 fit into a pot
穴 hole
kiln; oven; coal pit
kiln into which kneaded clay is inserted. "Coal pit" is via shape association.

竈
abbreviated form of 窯 oven
黽 shape indicator
hearth/furnace; cooking stove
here, 黽 (frog/amphibious creature) functions as a shape indicator

養
羊 abundant
食 food/eating
nourishment; nurture; support; bring up
provide abundant nourishment

瀁
養 abundant
氵/水 water
overflowing water; ripples
(over-)abundant, overflowing water

庠

abbreviated form of 養 nurture/nourishment
广 building
school
ancient school, where children were nurtured

癢
養 abundant
疒 illness
itchy; tickle
itchy skin condition caused by an overly rich diet. "Tickle" is an associated meaning.

痒
itchy; tickle
abbreviated, variant form of 癢

恙
abbreviated form of 痒 itchy
心 heart/emotions
illness
worry, a form of emotional itchiness. "Illness" (particularly, one characterized by itchiness) is an associated meaning.

徉
abbreviated form of 痒 itchy
彳 movement
wander; roam; stray
figurative itch to be in motion/wander

佯
abbreviated form of 徉 stray
亻/人 person (→ human agency)
deceive; feign; false
cause to stray

虓

九 simulating roaring
虎 tiger
roar (of a tiger)
compare 虣

鴨
甲 simulating quacking
鳥 bird
duck
quacking of a (wild) duck

鵝
我 simulating honking
鳥 bird
goose
honking of a (domesticated) goose; compare 雁

鷗
區 simulating the calling of a seagull
鳥 bird
gull
calling of a (sea)gull

鸚
嬰 simulating squawking
鳥 bird
parrot
squawking of a parrot

鴿
合 simulating cooing
鳥 bird
dove; pigeon
cooing of a dove/pigeon

鸛
雚 simulating the cry of a crane
鳥 bird
crane; stork
cry of a crane. "Stork" is an associated meaning.

雊
句 simulating the crowing of a pheasant
隹 short, squat bird
pheasant
crowing of a (male) pheasant

鵬
服 simulating hooting
鳥 bird
(owl)
hooting of an owl, or of a bird similar to an owl

蚊
文 simulating buzzing
虫 insect/creature
mosquito
buzzing of a mosquito

蛙
圭 simulating croaking
虫 insect/creature
frog
croaking of a frog

蜩
周 simulating chirping
虫 insect/creature
cicada
chirping of a cicada

貓
苗 simulating mewing
豸 animal that ambles along the ground
cat
mewing of a cat

琵
比 simulating one sound produced by an ancient, lute-like instrument
abbreviated form of 琴 stringed instrument
xxx
琵琶 = an ancient, lute-like instrument

琶
巴 simulating one sound produced by an ancient, lute-like instrument
abbreviated form of 琴 stringed instrument
xxx
琵琶 = an ancient, lute-like instrument

瑟
必 simulating a sound produced by a large stringed instrument
abbreviated form of 琴 stringed instrument
(large) stringed instrument; stately
"stately" is a figurative associated meaning

琢
豕 simulating the sound of a jewel being struck
王/玉 jewel
cut/polish (gems)
the sound of a jewel being struck repeatedly by a tool in being cut/polished

琤
爭 simulating the sound produced by tinkling jewels
王/玉 jewel
sound produced by tinkling jewels

compare 瑲

瑲
倉 simulating the sound produced by tinkling jewels
王/玉 jewel
sound produced by tinkling jewels
compare 琤

鬨
共 simulating uproarious noise
鬥 fight/battle
clamor; commotion; uproar; boisterous

鼾
干 simulating snoring
鼻 nose
snore
compare 齁

譁
華 simulating clamor
言 words
noise; clamor
compare 嘩

屐
支 simulating clacking
abbreviated form of 履 wear shoes
clogs; wooden shoes
clacking footwear

轟
roar; rumble; blast; reverberation
likely devised as a replacement character for one that disappeared, and suggesting the roar/rumble of multiple vehicles on the move

鏘
將 simulating tinkling
金 metal
tinkling
tinkling sound such as of metal, jewels, bells etc.

鼕
冬 simulating drumbeats
鼓 drum
sound/rattle of drums
beating/rattling of drums

鏗
堅 simulating clinking/clanking
金 metal
clinking/clanking sound; strike (a bell)
clinking/clanking sound produced by hard objects striking each other

聒
abbreviated form of 活 simulating clamor
耳 ear
clamor; noisy
compare 嘩 and 譁

訇
abbreviated form of 句 simulating a loud noise
言 words
loud noise; crashing noise
for another character using 句 and indicating a loud sound, compare 齁

齁
句 simulating snoring
鼻 nose
snore

compare 鼾

硜
巠 simulating clacking
石 stone
clacking
clacking noise produced when stones are struck together

砰
平 simulating a crashing noise
石 stone
crashing noise
crashing noise, originally one produced by colliding stones

颯
abbreviated form of 竦 simulating the sound of rushing wind
風 wind
sound of the wind; bleak; melancholy
the sound of the wind. "Bleak" and "melancholy" are figurative associated meanings in the sense of being wind-blasted.

雅
牙 simulating cawing
隹 short, squat bird
elegance; grace; refinement
a crow; compare 烏 鴉 and 鳥

鴉
牙 simulating cawing
鳥 bird
crow
compare 烏 雅 and 鳥

歎
□[s]mulating a sigh (of lament, admiration etc.)

欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
sigh/cry (of lament or admiration)
compare 嘆

欬
亥 simulating coughing
欠 bent, open-mouthed figure
cough
compare 嗽

憊
備 simulating panting or labored breathing
心 heart/emotions
fatigue; exhaustion
fatigue accompanying labored breathing

嘆
□□mulating a sigh
口 mouth
sigh; exclaim; lament; admire
"admire" is an associated meaning in the sense of sighing in admiration

呀
牙 simulating a cry of lament
口 mouth
creaking sound; particle (expressing surprise/doubt)

嚇
赫 simulating a threatening roar
口 mouth
threaten; intimidate; scare

吽
牛 simulating the sound made by a lowing cow
口 mouth

lowing; growl
lowing cow. "Growl" is an associated, or possibly borrowed meaning. Later, 吽 was borrowed for a transliteration of the Sanskrit aum.

呱
瓜 simulating a baby's cry
口 mouth
crying/wailing (of an infant/child)

叫
丩 simulating a cry or calling noise
口 mouth
yell; cry (out); shout; scream; call; name; be called/known as; ask; order; by
"name" is via association with "call," with "be called/known as" by extension

呵
可 simulating a loud exhalation
口 mouth
exhale; blow upon; laugh; scold
"laugh" and "scold" in a particularly loud voice

嘩
華 simulating noise/clamor
口 mouth
noise; clamor
compare 譁

嘲
朝 simulating a sneering noise
口 mouth
sneer; ridicule; mock
compare 嗤

囀
轉 simulating the chirping, twittering or warbling of a bird

口 mouth
chirping; twittering; warbling
compare 哢, 啅 and 嚶

咋
乍 simulating sounds made in biting/gnawing
口 mouth
bite; gnaw; loud; sudden
noise produced in biting/eating. "Loud" is an associated meaning.

哀
衣 simulating a sobbing noise
口 mouth
grief; sorrow; lament; mourn; commiserate; pity
sob in grief/sorrow

喝
曷 simulating a shouting noise
口 mouth
shout; drink
"drink" is an extended meaning in the sense of shouting/calling out for others to drink

喚
奐 simulating a yell
口 mouth
call (out); summon

唆
夋 simulating a whisper
口 mouth
incite; instigate
incite/instigate, originally in a whispered voice

吹

abbreviated form of 次 simulating the sound of blowing
口 mouth
blow; puff; brag; boast
"brag" and "boast" are figurative associated meanings

吮
允 simulating the sound of sucking
口 mouth
suck; lick
"lick" is an associated meaning

咤
宅 simulating shouting
口 mouth
shout
叱咤 = scold; reprove

咳
亥 simulating the sound of a cough
口 mouth
cough

噓
虚 simulating the sound of a sigh/deep exhalation
口 mouth
exhale (slowly); sigh (deeply); hiss; praise

噬
筮 simulating the sound of snapping
口 mouth
snap at; bite; devour
snap at food

噂
尊 simulating conversational hubbub

口 mouth
converse (noisily); noise

吼
孔 simulating roaring/bellowing
口 mouth
roar; bellow; shout; howl

嚆
蒿 simulating a particular noise
口 mouth
make noise
the noise in question may have been that made by a whistling arrow; compare 嘵.

靴
化 transliterating a word used by a northern Chinese tribe for leather riding boots
革 leather
boot(s)

僧
曾 transliterating the initial syllable in the term 僧伽
亻/人 person
(Buddhist) priest/monk
僧伽 is a transliteration of the Sanskrit sangha (community of disciples)

伽
加 transliterating a sound such as the initial one in 伽藍
亻/人 person
xxx
伽藍 = temple/monastery

袈
加 transliterating the first syllable of Sanskrit kasaya
衣 clothing
xxx

Sanskrit kasaya (袈裟) = clerical robe

裟
沙 transliterating the second syllable of Sanskrit kasaya
衣 clothing
xxx
Sanskrit kasaya (袈裟) = clerical robe

玻
皮 transliterating the first syllable of Pali phatika
王/玉 jewel
glass
Pali phatika (玻璃) = crystal. "Glass" is an associated meaning.

唄
貝 transliterating the Sanskrit sound bha
口 mouth
particle (indicating lack of enthusiasm)

菠
波 transliterating the first syllable of the Northern Indian term palak
艹 grass/plant
xxx
Northern Indian palak (菠稜) = spinach

稜
稜 transliterating the second syllable of the Northern Indian term palak
艹 grass/plant
xxx
Northern Indian palak (菠稜) = spinach

葡
匍 transliterating the first syllable of a particular term
艹 grass/plant
xxx

term thought to have originated in Persia and meaning grape (vine), transliterated as 葡萄

萄
匋 transliterating the second syllable of a particular term
艹 grass/plant
xxx
term thought to have originated in Persia and meaning grape (vine), transliterated as 葡萄

梵
凡 transliterating Sanskrit Brahman
林 forest (→ sacred precincts)
Brahman; Sanskrit; Buddhism; the highest Buddhist principle
"Buddhism" and "the highest Buddhist principle" are associated meanings

獅
師 transliterating the first syllable of the Sanskrit simha
犭/犬 dog/beast
lion
Sanskrit simha = lion

爺
transformed element (originally, 多 transliterating an Altaic language term meaning "father")
父 father
father; grandfather; old man
"grandfather" is an associated meaning, with "old man" by extension. 多 was replaced by 耶.

嘛
麻 transliterating the second syllable of the Tibetan (b)lama
口 mouth
(exclamatory) particle
Tibetan (b)lama (喇嘛) = (Buddhist) teacher

瑠
留 transliterating the middle syllable of Sanskrit vaidurya
王/玉 jewel
xxx
Sanskrit vaidurya (吠瑠璃) = lapis lazuli; compare 琉

璃
离 transliterating the final syllable of Sanskrit vaidurya
王/玉 jewel
xxx
Sanskrit vaidurya (吠瑠璃) = lapis lazuli. 玻璃 = crystal and/or glass.

鉢
transformed element (originally, an obsolete element transliterating the first syllable of Sanskrit patra)
缶 bulging earthenware jug/vase
earthenware bowl; alms bowl
Sanskrit patra (bowl: 鉢多羅), one traditionally transmitted from a Buddhist priest or monk to his successor

颶
具 transliterating a dialectical term indicating a typhoon
風 wind
typhoon; hurricane; cyclone
typhoon (originating in the South China Sea)

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