

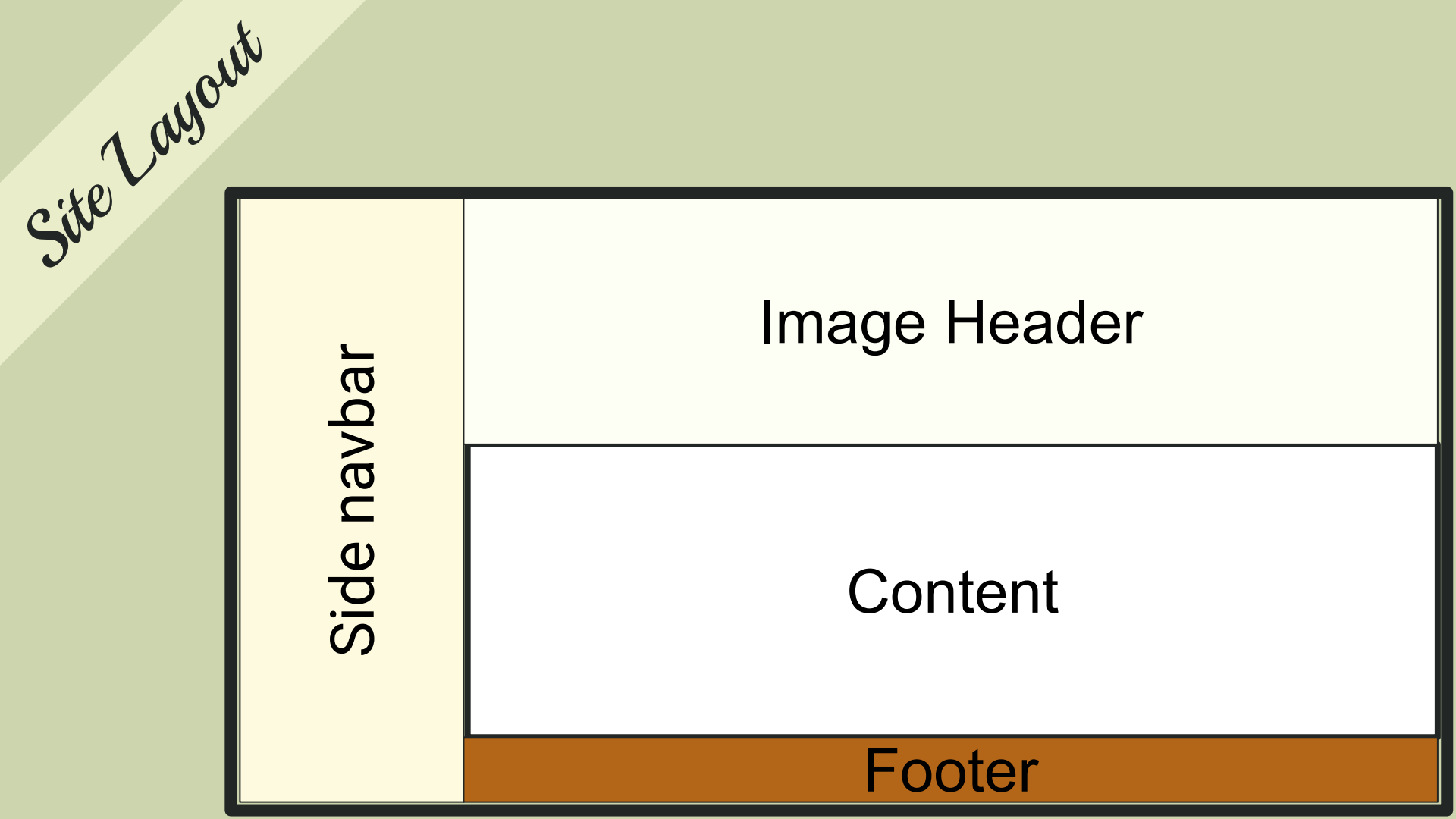


Calligraphy Simplified !

By: Amanda Lin and Jue Gong

Purpose

- ❖ Introduce the Chinese language and Chinese writing system to people who may be interested in learning Chinese
- ❖ Demonstrate various uses of Chinese characters, including in historical texts and modern-day slang
- ❖ Give tools for better remembering and understanding Chinese characters
- ❖ Improve ability to write Chinese characters properly and neatly
- ❖ Enable Chinese language learners to practice their writing skills by tracing Chinese characters





Site Features

Collapsible Side Navbar

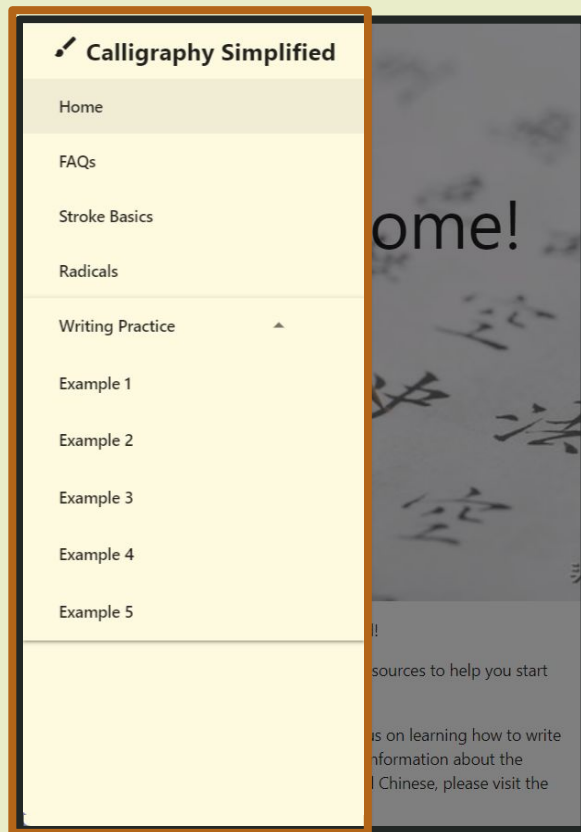


- ❖ Side navbar located on the left side of the screen
- ❖ Website name and links to pages
- ❖ Writing Practice dropdown menu

On Desktop

Collapsible Side Navbar cont.

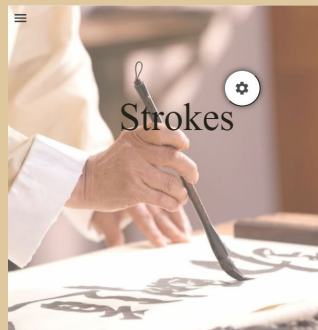
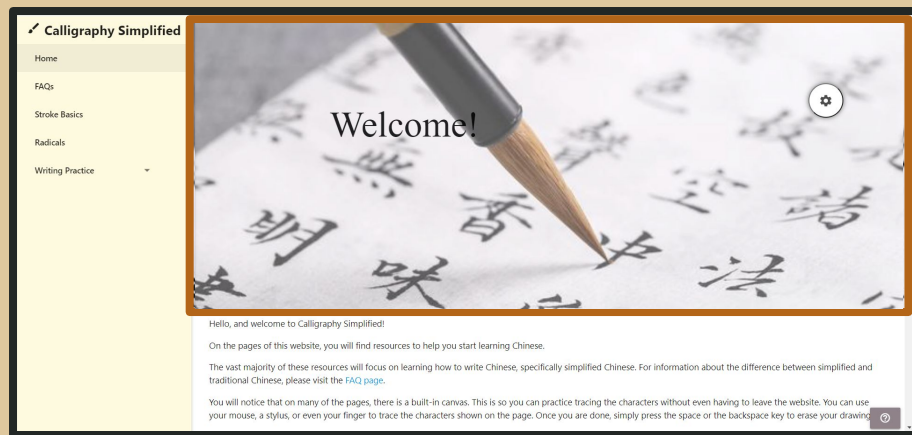
- ❖ Side navbar collapses on smaller screen sizes (width < 992px)
- ❖ Click on menu button in upper left corner to view navbar
- ❖ Same content as on desktop
- ❖ Click outside the navbar to close



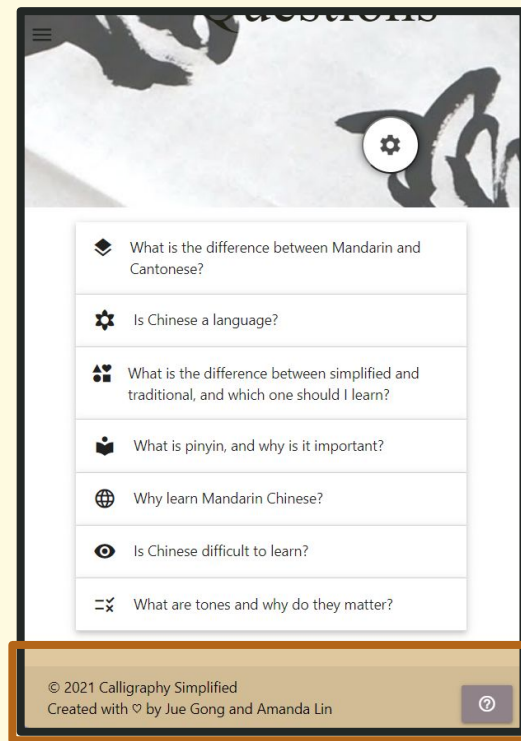
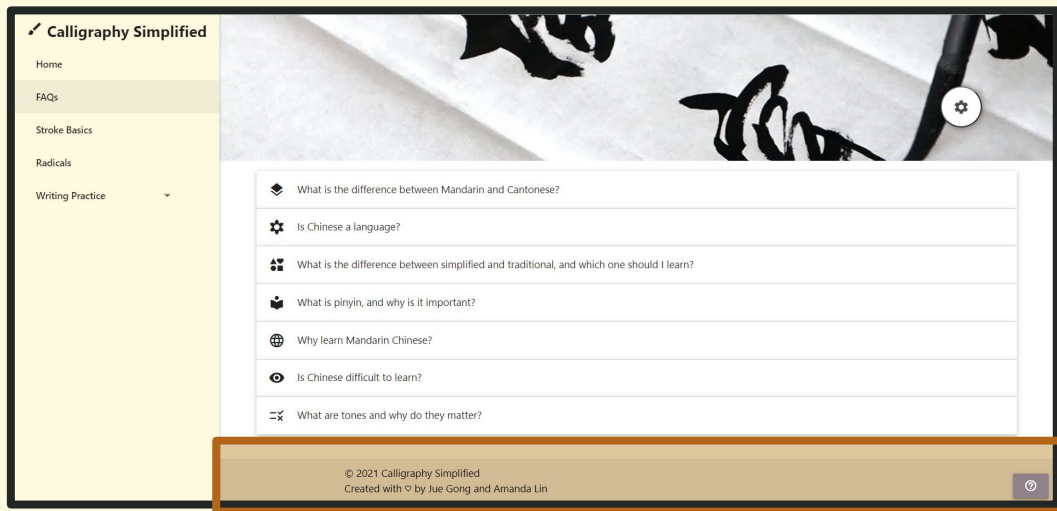
On Mobile

Header & Hover Effect

- Each header has a background image
- When hovering over the header, the page title appears
- For smaller devices that don't allow hovering (eg phones and tablets), the page title is always present



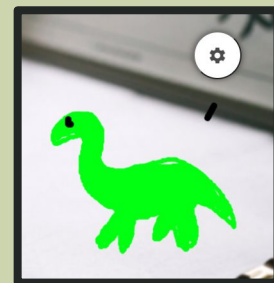
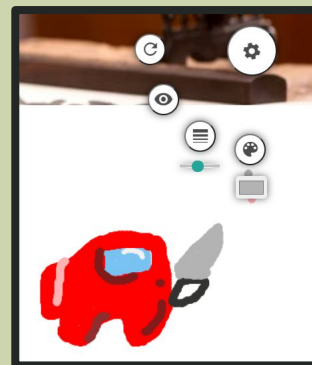
Footer



- Located at the bottom of every page
- Copyright information

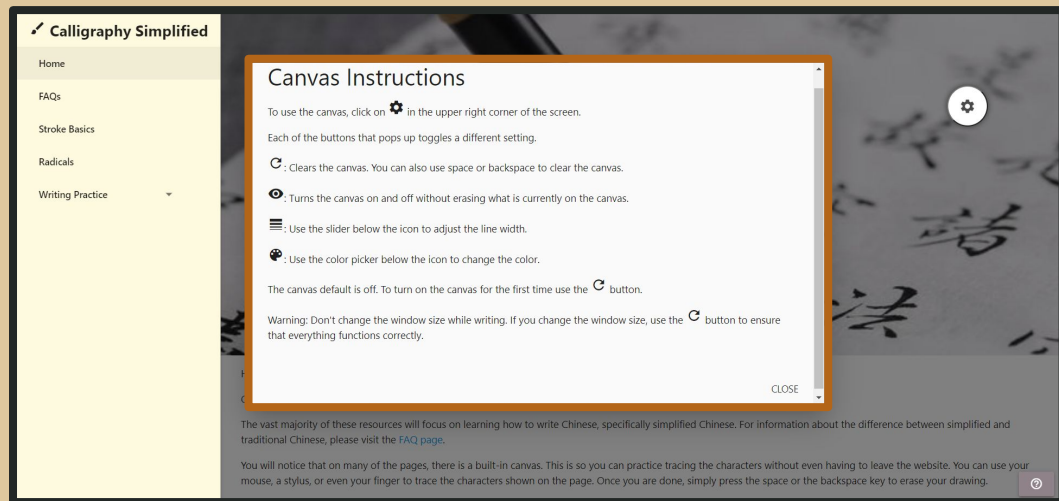
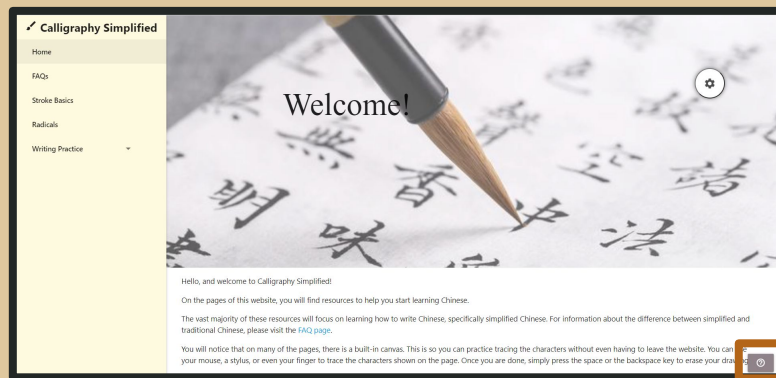
Canvas

- Use the mouse to draw by clicking and dragging
- Intended to be used to trace Chinese characters
- Can also be used to draw other things



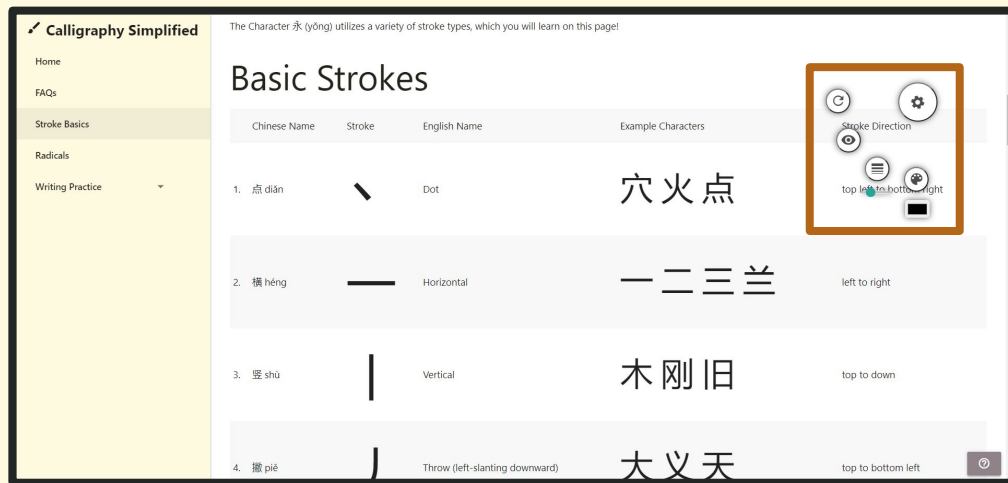
Modal Instruction Box

- Click on the grey help button in the bottom right corner of the screen
- Modal pops up with instructions for the canvas buttons
- Close the modal window by pressing the “close” button or clicking outside it

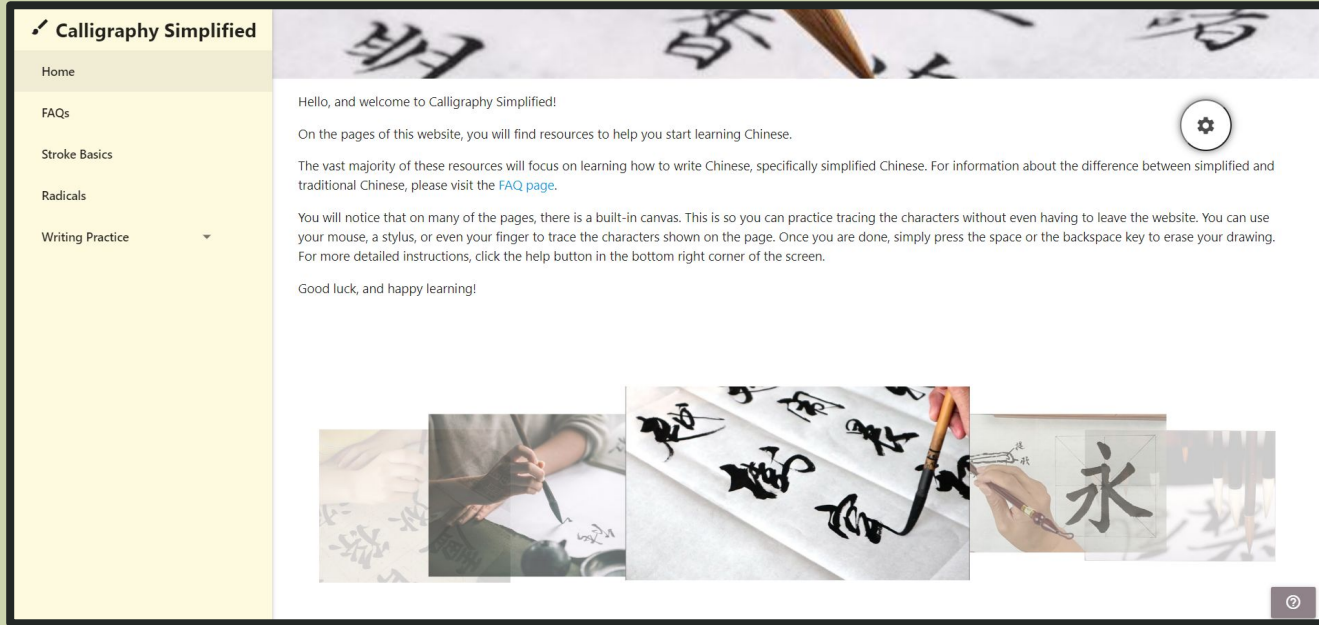


Canvas Button Toggles

- ❖ Pops out when the settings button is pressed
- ❖ Reset button to initially turn on canvas or clear canvas completely
- ❖ Visibility button turns the canvas on and off, but preserves drawings
- ❖ Line thickness slider adjusts line thickness
- ❖ Color picker adjusts colors

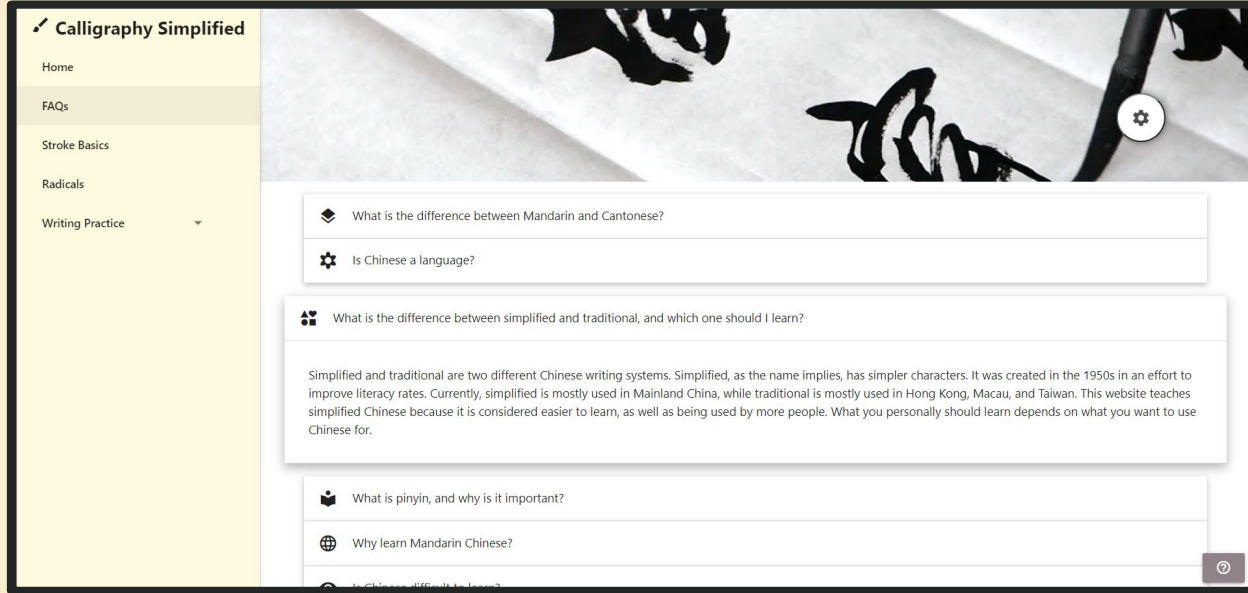


Home Page



- Welcome message and general instructions
- Image carousel containing calligraphy images

FAQ Page



- Accordion collapsible
- Answers to commonly asked questions about Chinese

Strokes Page





- ❖ Information on Chinese strokes
- ❖ Basic and combined strokes
- ❖ Examples for practice

Calligraphy Simplified

Home
FAQs
Stroke Basics
Radicals
Writing Practice

The Character 永 (yǒng) utilizes a variety of stroke types, which you will learn on this page!

Basic Strokes

Chinese Name	Stroke	English Name	Example Characters	Stroke Direction
1. 点 diǎn		Dot	穴 火 点	top left to bottom right
2. 横 héng		Horizontal	一 二 三 兰	left to right
3. 竖 shù		Vertical	木 刚 旧	top to down
4. 撇 piě		Throw (left-slanting downward)	大 义 天	top to bottom left




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Combined Strokes

Many other strokes most of them are combinations or variations of the basic strokes! Here are some commonly used combination strokes in regular Chinese print kai font:


Combination Strokes: Horizontal

Chinese Name	Stroke	English Name	Example Characters	Stroke Direction
1. 横折 héng zhé		Horizontal Fold/Break	书 口 五	up to down or left to right
2. 横钩 héng gōu		Horizontal Hook	穴 茅 买	across and hook
3. 横撇 héng piě		Horizontal Throw	邓 又 叉	across to left bottom

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Combination Strokes: Vertical

Chinese Name	Stroke	English Name	Example Characters	Stroke Direction
11. 横折折撇 héng zhé zhé piě		Horizontal Fold x2 Throw	陈 邮 部	across, fold, fold, throw
12. 横折折钩 héng zhé zhé gōu		Horizontal Fold x3 hook	乃 奶 仍	across, down, right, down, hook
13. 横折折撇 héng zhé zhé piě		Horizontal Fold x3	凸	across, down, right, down

Combination Strokes: Vertical

Chinese Name	Stroke	English Name	Example Characters	Stroke Direction
1. 竖折 shù zhé		Vertical Fold/Break	亡 山 互	down to right

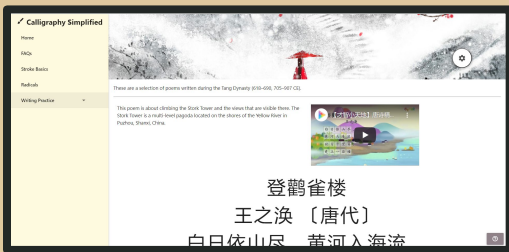
Radicals Page

- ❖ Cards with 12 of the most commonly used radicals
- ❖ Gives meanings and examples



Writing Example Pages

- ❖ Pages with Chinese characters and texts to practice writing Chinese using the canvas
- ❖ Variety of different topics and categories
 - Three Character Classic
 - Tang Dynasty Poems
 - Stroke & Radicals
 - Food!
 - For Fun: Other Scripts
- ❖ Pictures, videos, and other media





Conclusion

Challenges Faced

- Canvas
 - was going to have many canvas boxes but didn't work, so changed plan to covering entire page
 - there was also no need to code individual cards for each character, which was also part of the original plan
 - took a while to set up
 - brushes turned into dots when the mouse moves too fast
 - offset problems caused by scrolling and position settings
- Buttons - Lots of bugs!
 - Indecisive about feature layout and interactive options
 - The color and thickness inputs wouldn't fit, so there was separate code for those
 - Styling would disappear or random new button appears out of nowhere

Challenges Faced cont.

- Fonts
 - The Chinese fonts downloaded from a Chinese fonts site didn't work
 - Used STKaiti (华文楷体) font - CSS Chinese font libraries
- Side navbar
 - Dropdown conflict with top navbar
 - Failed to fix, so top navbar removed and replaced with side
 - Menu button for smaller screen sizes
- Live server behavior does not correspond to actual website
 - Links to other pages, css, js
 - Fonts

Collaboration

A fresh pair of eyes when one person is stuck!

- Overall
 - Amanda - set up, content, structure/aesthetics
 - Jue - responsive features, and some content
- Buttons
 - Coded by Jue (sampled from Mr. Hanas' code) & icons set up by Amanda
- Canvas
 - Issues in small screen sizes - Jue didn't take into consideration
 - Fixed by Amanda - in charge of aesthetics/css
- Side navbar, headers, footers and modal
 - Coded by Amanda using Materialize

Collaboration cont.

- Aesthetics
 - In deciding: button icons, colors, header locations, footer messages, etc.
 - After Jue finished the buttons, Amanda proposed including a modal for canvas instructions
- Chinese Content
 - Jue helped with the research of content involving Chinese
 - Amanda helped with descriptions & introductions of content
 - Asked each other for help when stuck
- Jue ran into some canvas issues at the end, so Amanda did most of the slideshow

Future Improvements

- Add touch screen compatibility for canvas
 - a. Make the canvas sensitive to pressure changes
- Modify writing example pages to be more compatible with devices of smaller screen widths
- Add writing practice by HSK levels functionality
- Add a feature to download user drawings
- Add an eraser feature and an undo/redo button to the canvas
- More script options & instructions on how to write each
- Fix fancy Chinese fonts

Thank you!



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