

The 100 Most Common Chinese Radicals 部首

SC	TC	Variant	Meaning	Pinyin	Examples	Comments	Colloquial
人	人	亻	human, person, people	ren2	今仁休位他	Note similarity to 八, which means eight.	单人旁 (亻), 人字头 (人)
口	口		mouth, opening	kou3	古可名告吃	Note similarity to 凵, which always encloses characters, and means enclosure.	口字旁
土	土		earth	tu3	在地型城地	Note similarity to 士, which has a longer upper stroke and shorter bottom one, and means scholar.	提土旁
女	女		woman, female	nv3	好妾始姓她		女子旁
心	心	忄, 小	heart	xin1	必忙忘性想		竖心旁 (忄), 心字底 (心), 竖心底 (小)
手	手	扌, 𠂇	hand	shou3	持掌打抱押		提手旁 (扌), 看字头 (𠂇), 手字旁 (手)
日	日		sun, day	ri4	早是明时晚	Note similarity to 旦, which is broader and lower, and means to say. Also note 白 which means white.	日字旁
月	月		moon, month	yue4	有服青朝能	This radical is actually two: moon 月 and meat 肉, but in modern Chinese, they look the same in most cases.	月字旁
木	木		tree	mu4	板根本林来	Note similarity to 禾, which means grain.	木字旁

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氵	氵	水, 氷	water	shui3	永泳海洋沙	Note similarity to 冫, which means ice.	水字旁 (水), 三点水 (氵), 泰字底水 (氷)
火	火	灬	fire	huo3	灯炎点燃炸		火字旁 (火), 四点底 (灬)
纟	糸	糸	silk	(mi4)	纪纸累细绩		绞丝旁 (纟), 独立绞丝 (糸)
艹	艹	艸	grass	cao3	花英苦草茶	Note that when the radical is on top, the traditional variant has four strokes.	草字头 (艹)
讠	言	言	speech	yan2	说讲识评试		言字旁 (讠)
辶	辵	辵	walk	(chuo4)	迎通道这近		走之旁 (辶)
钅	金	金	gold, metal	jin1	银针钱铁钟		金字旁 (钅)
刂	刂	刀	knife, sword	dao1	分切别利刻	Note similarity to 力, which means force.	立刀旁 (刂), 刀字旁 (刀)
宀	宀		roof	(mian2)	守家室字宅	Note similarity to 冖, which means cover, and to 冪, which means lid.	宝盖头
贝	貝		shell	bei4	财贪货贸负	Note similarity to 见, which means to see.	贝字旁
一	一		one	yi1	三上下不两		横
力	力		power, force	li4	力加助勉动	Note similarity to 刀, which means knife.	力字旁
又	又		right hand	you4	反取受友发		又字旁
犴	犴	犬	dog	(quan3)	犯狂狗猷猪	Note similarity to 大, which means big.	反犬旁 (犴), 犬字旁 (犬)

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禾	禾		grain	(he2)	私科秒秀秘	Note similarity to 木, which means tree.	禾木旁
𦵿	𦵿	竹	bamboo	zhu2	笑第筒筷算		竹子头 (竹字头)
虫	虫		insect	chong2	強独蛇蛋蚊	Even though this radical means insect, it's used for many organisms which aren't insects according to our taxonomy.	虫字旁
阝	阝	阜	mound, dam	(fu4)	防阻陆院陈	Note that there are two radicals which look like this. On the left, it means mound, dam, and on the right, it means city.	双耳刀 (左耳刀)
大	大		big, very	da4	天尖因奇美		大字旁 (头)
广	广		house on cliff	guang3	店府度座庭	Note similarity to 厂, which means cliff (i.e. without the house).	广字旁
田	田		field	tian2	思留略番累		田字旁
目	目	𠂇	eye	mu4	眼睛看相省	Note that the horizontal version can also mean net.	目字旁 (目), 四字头 (𠂇)
石	石		stone	shi2	砂破碑矿码		石字旁
衤	衤	衣	clothes	yi1	初被裁裤袜	Note similarity to 示, which means sign, show or spirit.	衣字旁 (衤)
足	足	足	foot	zu2	跑跨跟路距		足字旁
马	馬		horse	ma3	码驾骂驻妈		马字旁
页	頁		leaf	ye4	顺须领预顶		页字旁
巾	巾		turban, scarf	(jin1)	市布帝帐帽		巾字旁

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米	米	支	rice	mi3	类粉迷粗糖	Note similarity to 人, which means human, person.	米字旁
车	車		cart, vehicle	che1	轮软军较输		车字旁
八	八		eight	ba1	公分趴兵共		八字旁 (头)
尸	尸		corpse	shi1	尺局尾居展	Note similarity to 户, which means door, family.	尸字头
寸	寸		thumb, inch	cun4	寺尊对射付	Note similarity to 攴, which means to walk (slowly).	寸字旁
山	山		mountain	shan1	岩岛岁岗岔		山字旁 (头)
攴	攴		knock, tap	(pu1)	收改攻做政		反文旁 (攴), 旧反文旁 (攴)
彳	彳		(small) step	(chi2)	彼很律微德	Note similarity to 亻, which means human, person.	双人旁
十	十		ten	shi2	什计古叶早	Note similarity to 万, which means ten thousand.	十字旁 (头)
工	工		work	gong1	左江红巧功		工字旁
方	方		square, raft	fang1	放旅族仿房		方字旁
门	門	食	gate	men2	间闲问闭闻	Note similarity to 人, which means human, person, and to 八 which means eight.	门字框
饣	食		eat, food	shi2	饭饿饮馆饱		食字旁
欠	欠		lack, yawn	qian4	欢欧欲次歌		欠字旁
儿	儿		human, legs	er2	元四光兄充		儿座底
冫	冫		ice	bing1	冬冷冻况净		两点水

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子	子		child, seed	zi3	字学存孩季		子字旁
疒	疒		sickness	(ne4)	病痛疗疯瘦		病字旁
隹	隹		(short-tailed) bird	(zhui1)	雀集难雅谁		隹字旁
斤	斤		axe, pound	(jin1)	所新听近析		斤字旁
亠	亠		lid	(tou2)	亡交京产亮	Note similarity to 冖, which means roof, and 冂 which means cover.	点横头
王	王	玉	jade, king	yu4, wang2	主弄皇理现	This radical is 玉, but when in composition, it looks like 王, king, and is probably more easily remembered like that.	王字旁
白	白		white	bai2	的皆皇怕迫	Note similarity to 日, which means sun.	白字旁
立	立	𦍋, 𦍋	stand, erect	li4	音意端亲位		立字旁
羊	羊		sheep	yang2	着样洋美鲜		羊字旁
艮	艮		stopping	(gen4)	很恨恳根眼		艮字旁
冂	冂		cover	(mi4)	写军农深荣		秃宝盖
厂	厂		cliff	(han4)	厚原厉厅厕	Note similarity to 广, which has a house on top (the dot).	厂字旁
皿	皿		dish	(min3)	盆监盟盛盖		皿字底
衤	衤	示	sign, show	shi4	社神视祝祥	Note similarity to 礻, which means clothes.	示字旁
穴	穴		cave	xue4	空突穷究窗		穴宝盖
走	走		run, walk	zou3	起超越赶徒		走字旁

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雨 口	雨 口		rain enclosure	yu3 (wei2)	雷雪霜霏露 回国因图团	Note similarity to 口, which does not enclose other components and means mouth.	雨字头 国字框
小 戈	小 戈	丷	small halberd, spear	xiao3 (ge1)	少肖尚尖尘 成式战感我	Note similarity to 弋, which means catch, arrest.	小字旁 (头) 戈字旁
几 舌 干 殳 夕	几 舌 干 殳 夕		table tongue dry weapon evening, sun-set	ji1 she2 gan1 (shu1) xi1	朵机风凡凤 乱适话舍活 平刊汗旱赶 段没投般设 外多夜名岁	Note similarity to 歹, which means bad, vicious.	几字旁 舌字旁 干字旁 殳字旁 夕字旁
止 牛 皮 耳 辛 :β	止 牛 皮 耳 辛 :β	牛, 𠂇	stop cow skin ear bitter city	zhi3 niu2 pi2 er3 xin1 (yi4)	正此步歪址 告物解特件 披彼波破疲 取闻职聪联 辜辟辣辨辩 那邦部都邮	Note that there are two radicals which look like this. On the left, it means mound, dam, and on the right, it means city.	止字旁 牛字旁 (头) 皮字旁 耳字旁 辛字旁 双耳刀 (右耳刀)
酉	酉	邑	wine	(you3)	醉酒醒酸尊		酉字旁

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青 鸟	青 鳥		green/blue bird	qing1 niao3	请清情晴猜 鸦鸣鸭岛鸡	Note similarity to 乌, which means crow, black.	青字旁 鸟字旁
弓 厶 户	弓 厶 戶	戶	bow private door, house	gong1 si1 hu4	引张弱第强 公勾去私云 所房炉护启	Note similarity to 尸, which means corpse.	弓字旁 私字旁 户字旁
羽 舟 里 匕 攴	羽 舟 里 匕 攴		feather boat village, mile spoon go (slowly)	yu3 chuan2 li3 (bi3) (sui1)	习翻翅塌扇 般船航盘艇 野重量理埋 匙比北呢旨 各條复备夏	Note similarity to 女, which means to knock, to rap.	羽字旁 舟字旁 里字旁 匕字旁 折文旁
见	見		see	jian4	观规视现觉	Note similarity to 贝, which means shell.	见字旁
冂 罒	冂 罒	网	seal net	(jie2) wang3	卷印却即危 罗罚罢罪罩	Note that the horizontal version can also mean net.	单耳刀 四字头 (罒)
士	士		scholar	shi4	吉壶志声壮	Note similarity to 土, which means earth.	士字旁
勹	勹		embrace, wrap	(bao1)	包勿勾勺勺		包字头

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