



RADICAL CHART

# Mandarin Chinese

Radicals are components of Chinese characters that contribute semantic or phonetic content to the characters they appear in. Traditionally there are 214 characters that can be used as radicals, and by studying these characters and their radical forms (how they can appear when used in characters), students of Chinese are able to recognize parts of unfamiliar characters and use the meaning and sound clues from the radical to help learn new words. Radicals are also used to order characters in dictionaries, and each one has an official number listed in the Kangxi Dictionary.

Listed below are 40 of the most frequently-used radicals. Each one includes the standalone character, the form it takes as a radical (if different), and two examples that use the radical as a part of the character, along with the pīnyīn transcription and English meaning.

Kangxi Dictionary Radical Number	Character	Radical Form	Pīnyīn / English Translation	Example 1	Pīnyīn / English Translation	Example 2	Pīnyīn / English Translation
140	艸	艹	cǎo / grass	茶	chá / tea	英	yīng / hero / English
85	水	氵	shuǐ / water	汞	gǒng / mercury	洗	xǐ / to wash
75	木		mù / wood	李	lǐ / the surname Lee	杯	bēi / cup

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64	手	扌	shǒu / hand	拿	ná / to take	打	dǎ / to hit / to play
30	口		kǒu / mouth	可	kě / can / may	叫	jiào / to call
61	心	忄	xīn / heart	意	yì / meaning	快	kuài / to be quick
118	竹	𥵹	zhú / bamboo	篮	lán / basket	第	dì / prefix indicating ordinal number
149	言	讠	yán / speech	誉	yù / reputation	说	shuō / to speak
120	糸	纟	mì / fine silk	素	sù / plain / vegetarian	绿	lǜ / green
167	金	钅	jīn / gold	鉴	jiàn / in view of	铁	tiě / iron
9	人	亻	rén / person	今	jīn / today / now	你	nǐ / you
38	女		nǚ / woman	要	yào / to want	好	hǎo / good
86	火	灬	huǒ / fire	烧	shāo / to burn	热	rè / hot

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145	衣	衤	yī / clothing	袋	dài / bag	衫	shān / shirt
157	足	足	zú / foot	趸	dǔn / wholesale	跳	tiào / to jump
104		疒	bìng / ill	病	bìng / illness	疼	téng / hurt
96	玉	王	yù / jade	璧	bì / jade annulus	玩	wán / to play
72	日		rì / sun	早	zǎo / early	明	míng / bright / tomorrow
162	辵	辵	chuò / stride	过	guò / pass	还	hái / still / yet
196	鸟		niǎo / bird	鹭	lù / heron	鸡	jī / chicken
109	目		mù / eye	看	kàn / to look	睡	shuì / to sleep
46	山		shān / mountain	岳	yuè / mountain	屹	yì / high (for mountains)
32	土		tǔ / earth	在	zài / be at	城	chéng / city

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112	石		shí / stone	岩	yán / rock	砖	zhuān / brick
187	马		mǎ / horse	骂	mà / to scold	骑	qí / to ride
94	犬	犴	quǎn / dog	哭	kū / to cry	狗	gǒu / dog
115	禾		hé / grain	秀	xiù / elegant	租	zū / to rent
184	食	饣	shí / eat	餐	cān / meal	饭	fàn / meal / cooked rice
18	刀	刂	dāo / knife	分	fēn / minute (60 seconds) / part	到	dào / to arrive
156	走		zǒu / walk	起	qǐ / to get up / to start	趣	qù / to interest
154	贝		bèi / shell	贵	guì / expensive	财	cái / wealth
40		宀	mián / roof	家	jiā / home	室	shì / room
169	门		mén / gate	问	wèn / to ask	们	men / plural marker for pronouns

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113	示	礻	shì / show	票	piào / ticket	视	shì / vision
39	子		zǐ / child	字	zì / Chinese character	孩	hái / child
74	月		yuè / moon	期	qī / period	胖	pàng / fat
31		口	wéi / enclose	国	guó / country	回	huí / return
48	工		gōng / labor	左	zuǒ / left	功	gōng / result / achievement
19	力		lì / power	加	jiā / to add	助	zhù / to help
41	寸		cùn / inch	寺	sì / temple	对	duì / correct