

Writing Chinese with 148 not complicated characters

下 Booklet 3

三个大人入山



太大人工土木

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Niels Mejlhede Jensen, Denmark
田 Tián (English: Qian Tian), Nanjing

Final 50 Chinese Characters 汉字

Chinese with 148 characters.

The booklet no 1 (上), "Writing Chinese with 50 easy characters" shows on 24 pages 50 of the easy Chinese characters with a form of "memorizing hint". Further there are included 35 other a little more complicated characters for writing a few important elementary sentences, see the summary on the back of the booklet, page 24 in booklet no 1 (上 shàng), which we here refer to as: p 1-24.

In booklet no 2 (中 zhōng) "Writing Chinese with 99 simple characters" we expand to 50 more a little less easy characters to write more short sentences and write more words from China's rich geography and we expand the numeral system. Again we show 50 + 35 characters with the intension of learning to use 99 simple characters, and by this we can write several short introductory sentences, like greeting people.

Here in the final booklet no 3 (下 xià) we will again show 50 + 35 characters.

The selection of the characters is done somehow according to the following criterions:

1. the character is reasonable simple (or not so complicated)
2. the possible plausible "memorizing hint" (now often including using previous characters)
3. the importance of the character in writing the wanted elementary sentences is emphasized here

So we continue our study to recognize a few more characters:

认识汉字 rènshi Hànzì = recognize Chinese characters (汉字 Hànzì p 2-2)

认

rèn

recognize

the pronunciation of the word resembles 人 rén = person (p 1-2); here with an *i* for informing of 人

识

shí

know

a big mouth 口 kǒu (p 1-7) on 2 legs with an *i* informs us

认识 rènshi = recognize, meet

认识你很好 rènshi nǐ hěn hǎo = pleased to meet you (p 1-20, 1-19)

The word 很 hěn = very is usually included in a positive sentence without being translated:

很

hěn

very

person symbol 亻 with a cap is pushing a person with a square head and square hat walking to the right (p 1-13)

An important greeting is:

再见 zài jiàn = good-bye (“see you again”)

再

zài

again, once more

it looks like a valve on a big pipe where you can turn the handle again and again and once more

见

jiàn

see, meet

the little man with a hood on his head stands and stamps his foot to be seen and meet someone

明天见 míngtiān jiàn = see you tomorrow (p 1-7)

见识 jiànshi = knowledge, experience (p 2)

我很好. 你呢? wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne? = I am fine. And how are you?

我忙 wǒ máng = I am busy (p 1-20)

呢

ne

a particle for questioning

a big asking mouth is just behind the character 它 tā = it (p 1-20) which here has exchanged the wide top tassel hat with a cylinder hat with a long neck train

忙

máng

busy

a thin person stands by a tall counter and is busy serving goods

大忙人 dà máng rén = busy person (p 1-4, 1-2)

贵

guì

expensive, honoured, noble

a person 人 rén stands in a stiff square coat with a big wide hat, on the top of form as 中 zhōng (p 1-10)

太贵了 tài guì le = it is too expensive (p 1-4, 1-17)

您贵姓? nín guì xìng? = what is your name? (a polite way to ask for your family name)

(p 1-20, 2-11) (您 nín is the formal word for you when addressing one person (like Vous in French))

You may say:

请问, 您贵姓? qǐngwèn, nín guì xìng? = excuse me, what is your name?

(请 qǐng, see the next page:)

请问,你叫什么名字? qǐngwèn, nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? = excuse me, what is your name?
or: may I ask, what is your name? (p 1-20, 1-2)

请

qǐng

request, invite, ask, please

to the left we see the speaking information symbol, at the bottom we have the enlightening moon character 月 yuè (p 1-6), and on top a symbol stands like the character for giving birth 生 shēng (p 2-11) but without the left leaf (just a vertical line with 3 cross lines)

请问 qǐngwèn = excuse me, may I ask (p 1-7)

请进 qǐngjìn = please come in (进: see the next page)

名

míng

name

a number 7 with a cross line is leaning to a box

名字 míngzi = name (given name or full name) (p 1-16)

姓名 xìngmíng = name (full name) (p 2-11)

有名 yǒumíng = famous, well-known (p 1-15)

名人 míngrén = famous person (p 1-2)

名片 míngpiàn = name card, business card

片

piàn

tablet, pill, a flat thin piece

an h is walking with a flat tray with a glass of tablets

片子 piànzi = slice, business card (p 1-16)

什么

shénme

what

a person 亻 stands by a cross and sees what? that half of the roof of the 公 gong writer is missing?
(p 1-13, 2-4)

为什么 wèishénme = why

为

wéi

do, act

the h like 力 lì = strength (p 1-14) is ready to act with his arms pointing up and down

为

wèi

for

为人 wéirén = conduct, personality (p 1-2)

你为谁工作 nǐ wèi shéi gōngzuò = you work for whom? (谁 and 作 see next page:)

因为 yīnwèi = because

因

yīn

cause, because

a frame with the picture of a big person (大 dà, 人 rén p 1-4, 1-2)

因果 yīnguǒ = cause and effect (p 2-9)

谁

shéi, shuí

who, anyone

the character is in 3 parts: information *i* first, then the person symbol 亻 and a ladder of one post with 4 steps, so the person in the middle informs who should climb the ladder

她是谁? tā shì shéi? = who is she? (1-20, 1-19)

作

zuò

do, make

a man 亻 stands with his simple garden tool during work: a handle with 3 prongs and a hoe

工作 gōngzuò = work, job (p 1-9)

作用 zuòyòng = usage, function (p 2-6)

作家 zuòjiā = author (家: see p 12)

做

zuò

do, make, act

work for men and women: a small person stands on a box in the middle and works, with a man 亻 to the left of him and to the right a symbol that looks similar to woman 女 nǚ (p 1-13, 1-14)

做饭 zuòfàn = cook (饭: see p 18)

Notice the difference between 作 zuò and 做 zuò:

你做什么工作 nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò = you work with what type of job, what is your job?

进

jìn

enter, advance

we see a gate with 2 vertical and 2 horizontal bars which the *i*-person enters with a long sliding foot

进来 jìnlái = enter (to you) (p 2-8)

进去 jìnqù = enter (from you) (p 2-8)

进口 jìnkǒu = import, entrance (p 1-7)

进出 jìrchū = enter and leave (p 1-6)

上进 shàngjìn = advance, make progress (p 1-11)

先进 xiānjìn = advanced (p 2-11)

我很高兴 wǒ hěn gāoxìng = I am pleased

高

gāo

tall, high

a tall character: a box is placed in a house and to reach high another box is placed on the roof with a plate with a handle on top

高兴 gāoxìng = happy, glad

高贵 gāoguì = noble, lofty (p 3)

高大 gāodà = tall and husky (p 1-4)

高中 gāozhōng = high school (p 1-10)

兴

xīng

become popular

a small person runs with his arms in the air and is in happy mood

兴

xìng

mood

时兴 shíxīng = fashionable (p 2-7)

By this we can expand our previous greeting (p 2) to:

认识您我很高兴 rènshi nín wǒ hěn gāoxìng = I am pleased to meet you (= “meeting you I am in a very high mood”)

日 rì = sun / day is a furniture 2 drawers tall (p 1-6)

目 mù = eye is a furniture 3 drawers tall:

目

mù

eye

if we turn it so the furniture lies down then the character looks somehow like the cat eye pupil

目的 mùdì = objective, 的 de = particle from p 1-17

节目 jiémù = program (of activity) (p 7)

眼

yǎn

eye

another word for eye, with the character 目 mù = eye + a symbol included in 很 hěn = very (there are also other words and characters for eye)

眼花 yǎnhuā = have blurred vision (p 2-9)

眼看 yǎnkàn = see with your own eyes, witness, right away (p 8)

眼儿 yǎnr = small hole (p 1-17)

现

xiàn

appear

the character has 王 wáng = king (p 1-9) and 见 jiàn = see, meet (e.g. 再见 zài jiàn = good-bye); the king appears by the little man who with a hood on his head stands there and stamps his foot

现在 xiànzài = now (p 1-15)

节

jié

festival

a T decorated for festival with a down stroke to the right and 2 outstanding curls in the hair on top

春节 Chūn Jié = Spring Festival, Chinese New Year (p 15)

由

yóu

reason, depends on, decided by, is up to

a box with a cross inside that penetrates the top, “ what is inside is up to you”

油

yóu

oil, paint, greasy, smooth, cunning

here the box 由 has got the water splash-symbol on the left side and is thereby painted

又

yòu

again. also, besides

a very simple drawing of a man with a flat cap walking to the left

又...又... yòu... yòu... = both ... and ...

山太好了, 又大又美 shān tài hǎo le, yòu dà yòu měi = the mountain is great, it is both big and beautiful (美 měi p 18)

By using the internet (<http://www.chinese-tools.com/tools/ime.html>) it is seen that there are more than 50 words that are pronounced you, with the different tones (so there are about enough for a complete booklet).

We have seen: 右 yòu (p 1-15), 有 yǒu (p 1-15), 由 yóu, 油 yóu, 又 yòu

信

xìn

letter, believe

a person 亻 (p 1-13) stands and presses 3 letters down into a box, if anybody believes that

信不信由你 xìn bu xìn yóu nǐ = believe it or not, it is up to you

(from the front of the book Chinese Express - Talk Chinese 2006 by Moon Tan & Haitong Wang)

写

xiě

write

the character resembles 马 mǎ = horse with the rider lying below a roof cover

写字 xiězì = write characters and words (p 1-16)

书写 shū xiě = write (see below)

小写 xiǎoxiě = lower-case letters (p 1-8)

大写 dàxiě = capital letters (p 1-4)

听写 tīngxiě = dictate, dictation (p 2-4)

写生 xiěshēng = draw, paint living objects (2-11)

看

kàn

see, look at, read

a slanted cross with 2 upper cross bars leans against the character 目 mù = eye (p 6)

看

kān

guard

看见 kànjiàn = see

看来 kànlái = it looks as if, it seems

好看 hǎokàn = pretty, good-looking

看门 kānmén = guard the entrance

书

shū

book, write

a vertical post with 2 book shelves that are open to the left side and closed to the right, with a book about falling from the top shelf

We learn to read and write by a teacher: 老师 lǎoshī = teacher:

老

lǎo

old

the very old at the end lies in the cemetery below a cross

老王 Lǎo Wáng = Old Wáng, i.e. respected Wáng with wisdom and experience;

the older people in the family or the company are often addressed with the name 老 lǎo, an honour.

So some time in life 王明 Wáng Míng (p 1-9, 1-7) (first family name 王 then given name 明)

changes from being called: 王先生 Wáng Xiānsheng = Mr Wáng (p 2-11) (first 王 then 先生)

to 老王 Lǎo Wáng. Only the family and the very closest call him by his given name 明 Míng.

If 王明 is a teacher he will be called: 王老师 Wáng Lǎoshī = teacher Wáng:

师

shī

teacher, master

the character for market and city 市 shì we know (from p 2-16); this is here squeezed by a teacher in a long coat pictured as 2 vertical lines

干杯 gānbēi = drink a toast, cheers "dry glass, empty glass" (干 gān = dry p 1-9)

杯

bēi

cup, a cup of (measure word)

the character consists of 木 mù = tree + 不 bù = not, so: not wood but glass and china-cup

杯子 bēizi = cup, glass (子 zǐ = child p 1-16)

茶杯 chábēi = tea cup

茶

chá

tea

in a small tea house with big roof ridge turrets a tea drinker sits by a table with slanting legs

茶水 chá shuǐ = tea (水 shuǐ = water, p 2-15)

花茶 huāchá = jasmine tea (花 huā = flower, p 2-9)

茶点 chádiǎn = tea and refreshment (点 diǎn = drop, a little (p 2-7))

茶会 cháhui = tea party (p 11)

茶几 cháji = tea table (几 jǐ = table; but with pronunciation: 几 jǐ = how many, several (p 2-13))

祝

zhù

wish (wish you)

a person pictured as a big open mouth 口 kǒu on 2 legs stands by a numeral 7 with cross line and cap placed on the top of a stick, he stands and yells his wishes

祝你好运 zhù nǐ hǎoyùn = I wish you good luck (p 2-15)

祝你生日好 zhù nǐ shēngrì hǎo = I wish you a happy birthday (good birthday) (p 2-11, 1-6)

要

yào

want to, demand, important, worthy of attention

a box with the Greek letter π pī stands on top of the female character 女 nǚ (p 1-14)

要是 yàoshì = if (p 1-19)

要不 yàobù = if not (p 1-19)

要不是 yàobùshì = if it were not

要点 yàodiǎn = key point (p 2-7)

要好 yàohǎo = be on good terms, be close friends (p 1-19)

主要 zhǔyào = mostly, mainly (p 2-6)

机要 jīyào = confidential (p 2-8)

我要买茶 wǒ yào mǎi chá = I would like to buy tea (I want to, I have the intension to buy tea) (p 1-5)

Some characters in this booklet no 3 (下) for basic sentences are not fast to write, e.g. thank you:

谢谢
xièxiè
thank you

谢 xiè = thanks, and this word is then doubled to “soften” it, like for so many other words.

The character is composed of 3 parts:

the first element in the word is our *information i*, known from booklet 2 p 2: 语 yǔ = language and from 说 shuō = speak, and from 课 kè = lesson (p 2-2,3,18);

the last element in 谢 we recognize in the character 时 shí = time / hour (p 2-7);

the middle element in 谢 is:

身
shēn
body

we see a person walking to the left carrying 3 big boxes where a bit of the lid is open on the top box

身子 shēnzi = body, health, pregnancy (p 1-16)

身手 shēnshǒu = skill (手 = hand, p 1-13)

出身 chūshēn = one's background (p 1-6)

身高 shēngāo = height; (高 see p 6)

So 谢 xiè = thanks we see as a person who walks to the left and informs us of his thankfulness.

多谢 duōxiè = thanks a lot; (多 see p 16)

As an answer to 谢谢 xièxiè = thank you one can answer:

不谢 bú xiè = you are welcome (p 1-19)

朋
péng
friend

2 moons 月 yuè are friends (p 1-6)

友
yǒu
friend

the character resembles 有 yǒu = has: a cross is leaning against a symbol that looks like an x with a cap on (p 1-15)

朋友 péngyou = friend

女朋友 nǚpéngyou = girl friend (p 1-14)

男朋友 nánpéngyou = boy friend (1-14)

会

huì

can, be able to, meet

a person leaning forward, with a very wide flat hat, sits below a house roof and with a big feather pen writes about a meeting

会话 huìhuà = conversation (p 2-3) 会见 huìjiàn = meeting, interview (p 3)

开会 kāihuì = hold a meeting (p 2-9) 工会 gōnghuì = labour union (p 1-9)

机会 jīhuì = opportunity (p 2-8) 一会儿 yíhuìr = moment (just a moment) (p 1-3,17)

从

cóng

follow / from

a person 人 rén follows another person (p 1-2)

从来 cónglái = always, ever (p 2-8)

从不 cóngbù = never (p 1-19)

从头 cóngtóu = right from the beginning (p 1-5)

她从南京来 tā cóng Nánjīng lái = she comes from Nánjīng (p 1-20, 2-17, 2-8)

走

zǒu

walk

the character resembles 是 shì = is (p 1-19) but 日 rì = sun (p 1-6) above the line is now a +

行走 xíngzǒu = walk (p 2-8)

出走 chūzǒu = run away (from home) (p 1-6)

走运 zǒuyùn = be lucky (p 2-15)

这

zhè, zhèi

this

the i-symbol has like the 文 -symbol on a sledge (p 1-13)

那

nà, nài

that, then, in that case

a symbol like the moon character 月 yuè + the Greek letter beta (p 1-6)

那么 nàme = in that case, then (么 me: see p 4: 什么 shénme) 那个 nà, nàige = that (p 1-3)

哪

nǎ, něi

which

with the asking mouth 口 kǒu (p 1-7) in front 那 nà = that is changed to 哪 nǎ = which, notice the difference in pronunciation

哪儿 nǎr = where 那儿 nàr = there 这儿 zhèr = here 哪里 nǎli = where (p 1-17, 2-4)

FAMILY

家

jiā

family, home

dad and mum stand back to back in their home below the roof (with a bird on), dad to the left and mum to the right, dad with a long erect nose and a flat cap stretches out his arms for their children; 3 lines point to the left + 1 to the right + 1 cross line below the roof.

It is not a more simple character (but important).

我家在南京 wǒ jiā zài Nánjīng = I live in Nánjīng, my home, family, and address is in Nánjīng.

国家 guójiā = country, nation (p 1-9)

人家 rénjiā = family, household (p 1-2)

大家 dàjiā = everybody, all (p 1-4)

老家 lǎojiā = hometown (p 8)

家书 jiāshū = letter from home, from the family (p 8)

和

hé

and

the character consists of 2 parts; a tree 木 mù with cap on and a square mouth 口 kǒu (p 1-8, 1-7)

共和国 gònghéguó = republic (p 2-5, 1-9)

我家有三口人 wǒ jiā yǒu sān kǒu rén = my family has 3 members, 3 numbers of persons:

妈妈和哥哥和我 māma hé gēge hé wǒ = mum and big brother and me;

口 kǒu = number is used as measure word instead of 个 gè = piece (口 = mouth p 1-7; 个 p 1-3).

妈妈 māma = mum (p 2-10)

哥哥 gēge = big brother (p 2-18)

父

fù

father

looks like 2 crossing hammers, showing that father is strong

爸爸

bàba

dad

dad works by his tool table with 2 drawers in and the 2 crossing hammers above;

爸 bà = dad is then doubled to: 爸爸 bàba (to “soften and sweeten” the word)

弟弟

dìdi

little brother

we see a small person run to the left: 2 bristle hair on a rectangular head, a rectangular stomach pointing forward and the big buttocks pointing backward;

弟 dì = little brother is then doubled to: 弟弟 dìdi

姐姐

jiějie

elder sister

the female character 女 nǚ stands by a symbol that looks like 目 mù = eye though here with a wide base; 姐 jiě = elder sister which is then doubled to: 姐姐 jiějie (big sister keeps an eye on us)

妹妹

mèimei

little sister

the female character 女 nǚ stands by a symbol that looks like a little girl in a dress who stands with outstretched arms and a cross like face (or the symbol is like a tree 木 mù with an extra upper branch); 妹 mèi = little sister which is then doubled to: 妹妹 mèimei

姐妹 jiěmèi = sisters

姐弟 jiědì = sibling (brother and sister)

大姐 dàjiě = eldest sister (p 1-4)

姐夫 jiěfū = elder sister's husband (brother in law) (p 1-4)

小姐 xiǎojiě = Miss (see p 1-8: 小 xiǎo = little)

你妹妹几岁? nǐ mèimei jǐ suì? = how many years is your little sister, how old is she? (p 2-13)

岁

suì

year

a squeezed numeral 7 carries an emperor crown

孩子

háizi

child, children

the character 子 zǐ = son, child (p 1-16) is included first and last, and besides we have a tilted numeral 4 with a wide hat with top tassel which severely squeezes a 人

In booklet 2 (p 2-16): 海 hǎi = sea: a ship with 4 roof covered containers with water splash symbol. If we remove the water splash we get:

每

měi

each

每天

měitiān

every day

每人

měirén

everybody

每个人

měigerén

If we also remove the roof covering we get:

母

mǔ

mother

父母

fùmǔ

parents

母语

mǔyǔ

mother tongue

(天 tiān = sky/day p 1-4; 人 rén = person p 1-2; 个 gè = number of p 1-3; 语 yǔ = language p 2-2)

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Booklet 1 p 6 shows the names of the months: 一月 yīyuè = January, 十二月 shíèr yuè = December.

So the months are just numbered 1 - 12.

Weekdays Monday to Saturday are also just numbered 1 - 6.

In booklet 2 p 13 we looked at year and date: 一九四八年 yī jiǔ sì bā nián = (year) 1948,

十月 shí yuè = October, 一号 yī hào = 01 date, i.e.: 1948.10.01

星

xīng

star

the sun 日 rì is like a star at the top of a Christmas tree put on top of: 生 shēng = birth (p 1-6, 2-11)

星星 xīngxīng = star

期

qī

time period

a small rack with 4 cross bars + the moon 月 yuè shows the time period (p 1-6)

星期 xīngqī = week

今天星期几? jīntiān xīngqījǐ? = what day of the week is it today? (p 2-13, 2-13)

Weekdays Monday to Saturday are called number 1 - 6: 星期 1 xīngqī 1 - 星期 6 xīngqī 6:

星期 一	星期 二	星期 三	星期 四	星期 五	星期 六	星期 天
xīngqīyī	xīngqīèr	xīngqīsān	xīngqīsì	xīngqīwǔ	xīngqīliù	xīngqītiān
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday

星期日 xīngqīrì = Sunday, an alternative name for Sunday.

(天 tiān = sky, day p 1-4; 日 rì = sun p 1-6)

上星期 shàng xīngqī = last week (p 1-11)

这星期 zhè xīngqī = this week (p 11)

下星期 xià xīngqī = next week (p 1-11)

昨天 zuótiān = yesterday (see next page)

今天 jīntiān = today (p 2-13)

明天 míngtiān = tomorrow (p 1-7)

后天 hòutiān = the day after tomorrow (p 16)

去年 qùnián = last year (p 2-8, 2-13)

今年 jīnnián = this year (p 2-13)

明年 míngnián = next year (p 1-7)

后年 hòunián = in 2 years (p 16)

昨

zuó

yesterday

pronunciation resembles 作 zuò = do, make (p 5); the person symbol 亻 changes to 日 rì = sun, day

昨天 zuótiān = yesterday (p 1-4)

昨儿 zuór = yesterday (p 1-17)

昨晚 zuówǎn = last night:

晚

wǎn

evening, night, late

the sun 日 rì (p 1-6) is setting, so the walking 7-numeral is creeping into a small box

晚上 wǎnshàng = evening, night (p 1-11)

晚安 wǎn'ān = good night (p 1-18)

晚上好 wǎnshang hǎo = good evening (p 1-19)

今晚 jīnwǎn = tonight (p 2-13)

晚会 wǎnhuì = party, evening gathering (p 11)

早晚 zǎowǎn = morning and evening, sooner or later (p 2-6)

晚年 wǎnnián = old age, one's later years (p 2-13)

来晚 lái wǎn = be late (p 2-8)

晚点 wǎndiǎn = behind schedule, night snack (p 2-7)

SEASONS OF THE YEAR

冬天 dōngtiān = winter (p 1-11, 1-4)

春天 chūntiān = spring

夏天 xiàtiān = summer

秋天 qiūtiān = autumn

春

chūn

spring

日 rì = the sun (p 1-6) is seen below and through a tree with 2x3 big horizontal branches

夏

xià

summer

for 7 months of summer we have a squeezed 7-numeral with 2 legs, carrying a 3 story summer house, which for the burning summer sun has a wide elevated shade roof to air out the heat

秋

qiū

autumn, fall

林 lín = the forest (p 1-8) is changed for the autumn: an empty bird nest on the top of the first tree and branches have fallen from the second tree so it looks like the letter k

天气 tiānqì = weather 天 tiān = sky, day (p 1-4)

气

qì

air, gas, make angry

a cloud of 3 horizontal lines pushed high into the air

生气 shēngqì = get angry, vitality (p 2-11)

气话 qìhuà = angry words (p 2-3)

风

fēng

wind, mood, habit, style

an x-formed net is drying in the wind on a drying rack that has like an outside foot to the right

风车 fēngchē = windmill (p 1-11)

风行 fēngxíng = be modern (p 2-8)

网

wǎng

net, internet

here a net of double x is placed on a rack with the right foot turned inwards

多

duō

many, much, more

there are many: both 7 at the bottom and 7 at the top and much more

多少 duōshǎo = how much, how many (when the answer probably will be more than 10)

几 jǐ = how much, how many (when the answer probably will be less than 10) (p 2-13)

好多 hǎoduō = a good deal (p 1-19)

少

shǎo

few, little

少

shào

young

there are only a few here so we see a disappointed face with hanging eyes and a skewed mouth

少年 shàonián = juvenile, early youth (10-16 years) (p 2-13)

少女 shàonǚ = young girl, maiden (p 1-14)

后

hòu

behind, back

厂 chǎng = factory building (p 1-10) here has double roof and a box is placed inside

后来 hòulái = afterward (p 2-8)

后头 hòutou = behind (p 1-5)

后果 hòuguǒ = result, consequence (p 2-9)

王后 wánghòu = queen (p 1-9)

对

duì

right, correct

the character consists of 2 parts: to the left a numeral 7 with slanted cross line; to the right a big cross with a foot and a hanging dian (drop) the symbol we know from 时 shí = time / hour (p 2-7)

For a short translation of the words yes and no we can say:

对 duì = yes (it is correct)

不对 bú duì = no (it is not correct) (p 1-19)

But normally we give a different answer:

你是老师吗? nǐ shì lǎoshī ma? = are you a teacher?

不是 bú shì = no

不 bù = not (p 1-19), but can occasionally be:

没

méi

not (not have)

The character is in 3 parts: at the bottom there is like an x with a flat lid; on which a u-rack with feet stands; to the left we see the water splash symbol we know from e.g. 江 jiāng = river (p 1-18).

没 méi = not is sometimes used like we know 不 bù = not: e.g. for the verb 有 yǒu = have we can only use 没 méi: 没有 méiyǒu = have not / there is not (p 1-19, 1-15).

没 méi = not can also be used further:

我没看完书 wǒ méi kàn wán shū = I have not finished reading the book (p 1-20, p 8)

完

wán

finish, end

the stamping Greek number pi π here finishes by taking on a wide double cap

(完 wán: also see p 19)

卖完 mài wán = sold out (p 1-5)

完美 wánměi = perfect (p 18)

商 店

shāngdiàn

shop

in the character 商 shāng there is shown the shop back premises with a box with 2 items on the top and in the loft there are placed also 2 items below the flat roof with a bird on;

in the character 店 diàn we see the known factory building 厂 chǎng (p 1-10) here with a bird on the roof, and inside there is a shop counter with a stand on

书店 shūdiàn = bookstore

厂商 chǎngshāng = factory owner, firm

商人 shāngrén = merchant, businessman

英语 Yīngyǔ = English language, 语 yǔ = language (p 2-2)

英

Yīng

England, Britain, flower, hero

a person with outstretched arms and a square head with a wide hat with 2 feathers on
Yīng sounds like the first part of the word *English*

英国 Yīngguó = England (国 guó = country p 1-9)

英国人 Yīngguó rén = Englishman (人 p 1-2)

美

měi

beautiful

a person 人 rén with outstretched arms (大 dà = big) stands below a beautiful 3 story high hat
měi sounds like the 2' syllable in the word *America* pronounced the American way:

美国 Měiguó = America

她是美国人 tā shì Měiguó rén = she is American (p 1-20)

美元 měiyuán = American dollar (p 2-5)

美好 měihǎo = good, fine (p 1-19)

反

fǎn

inverse, on the contrary

below the open shed roof a person is turning around with crossed legs

反对 fǎnduì = oppose, be against (p 17)

If we turn outside 反 fǎn and add spice sticks we get:

饭

fàn

meal

早饭 zǎofàn = breakfast (p 2-6)

午饭 wǔfàn = lunch (p 2-6)

晚饭 wǎnfàn = dinner (p 15)

吃

chī

eat

we have a mouth 口 kǒu (p 1-7) eating from a saucepan with the lid tilted open

吃饭 chīfàn = eat rice, eat

好吃 hǎochī = delicious, tasty (p 1-19)

还
hái
still, also, as well
information *i* with a sledge still dragging a no 不 bù (p 1-19)

还
huán
return

还是 háishi = or, still (p 1-19)
还好 háihǎo = OK, not bad (p 1-19)

还有 háiyǒu = besides, moreover (p 1-15)
还手 huánshǒu = strike back (p 1-13)

常
cháng
often
a broad man with a very wide hat with 3 feathers stands there often with hanging arms

常常 chángcháng = often

书法
shūfǎ
calligraphy, writing Chinese characters
书 shū = book (p 8); 法 fǎ: water splash on a writer that sits below a plate and a cross

法国 Fǎguó = France (p 1-9)

法语 Fǎyǔ = French language (p 2-2)

完 wán = finish, end

End of the 50 + 35 characters

APPENDIX BEYOND NUMBER:

Besides writing Chinese characters, calligraphy, China is famous and known all over the world for its 6000 km long Great Wall, the defence wall in the north build through several 100 years, still named to be the biggest building construction in the world. So even though the character is somehow complicated we show it here in this appendix:

长 城
Chángchéng = The Great Wall

长 cháng = long (p 1-18) we know from e.g. Yangtze River 长江 Chángjiāng;
城 chéng: 3 parts: a cross stands firmly in the ground 土 tǔ = earth (p 1-8);
an h as in 力 lì = strength (p 1-14);
a man with a big sword hanging by his hip stands with outstretched arms and blocks the entrance

城市 chéngshì = city (p 2-16)

长城

Short reading exercises for 148 Chinese characters

(you may also see the reading exercises in booklet 2 p 19-23)

晚上好	wǎnshang hǎo	Good evening
你好吗？	nǐ hǎo ma?	How are you?
我很好. 你呢？	wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?	I am fine. And how are you?
我也很好	wǒ yě hěn hǎo	I am also fine
祝你生日好	zhù nǐ shēngri hǎo	I wish you a good birthday
晚安	wǎn'ān	Good night
请问, 您贵姓？	qǐngwèn, nín guìxìng?	Excuse me, what is your name?
我姓林	wǒ xìng Lín	My name is Lín
林先生, 您好！	Lín xiānsheng, nín hǎo!	Hello Mr Lín!
认识您很高兴	rènshi nín hěn gāoxìng	Pleased to meet you
祝大家春节好	zhù dàjiā Chūn Jié hǎo	Happy Chinese New Year, everyone; Happy Spring Festival
干杯	gānbēi	Cheers
再见	zàijiàn	Good bye
她是谁？	tā shì shéi?	Who is she?
她是李小姐	tā shì Lǐ xiǎojiě	This is Ms. Lǐ (Ms. plum)
她是我女朋友	tā shì wǒ nǚpéngyou	She is my girlfriend
她是中国人	tā shì Zhōngguó rén	She is Chinese
她从南京来	tā cóng Nánjīng lái	She is from Nánjīng
她是老师	tā shì lǎoshī	She is a teacher
她会讲英语	tā huì shuō Yīngyǔ	She can speak English
太好了,	tài hǎo le,	That is great,
她是好看	tā shì hǎokàn	she is pretty, she is good-looking
你是哪国人？	nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?	What country do you come from?
我是美国人	wǒ shì Měiguó rén	I am American
你做什么工作？	nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò?	What type of job do you have?
我是作家	wǒ shì zuòjiā	I am an author, a writer
你汉语说很好	nǐ Hànyǔ shuō hěn hǎo	You speak excellent Chinese
哪里哪里	nǎli nǎli	Not really
我不会看汉字,	wǒ bú huì kàn Hànzì,	I cannot read Chinese
不会写汉字	bú huì xiě Hànzì	and not write Chinese
请你说汉语	qǐng nǐ shuō Hànyǔ	Please speak Chinese
行不行？	xíng bu xíng?	Is this OK? All right?
行	xíng	Yes
请用汉语说	qǐng yòng Hànyǔ shuō	Please say it in Chinese
好不好？	hǎo bu hǎo?	Is this OK? All right?

你家有几口人?	nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?	How many are there in your family?
我家有五口人	wǒ jiā yǒu wǔ kǒu rén	There are 5 members in my family
他们是谁?	tāmen shì shéi?	Who are they?
我爸爸,妈妈,姐姐, 妹妹和我	wǒ bàba, māma, jiějie, mèimei hé wǒ	They are: my dad, my mum, my big sister, my little sister, and myself
你有哥哥吗?	nǐ yǒu gēge ma?	Don't you have a big brother?
没有	méi yǒu	No
你有没有弟弟?	nǐ yǒu méi yǒu didi?	Don't you have a little brother?
没有	méi yǒu	No
你妹妹几岁?	nǐ mèimei jǐ suì?	How old is your sister?
七岁	qī suì.	7 years
今年我爸爸四十九岁, 他是厂长	jīnián wǒ bàba sishíjiǔ suì, tā shì chǎngzhǎng	My father will be 49 this year, he is a factory director
你父母是日本人吗?	nǐ fùmǔ shì Riběnrén ma?	Are your parents Japanese?
是	shì	Yes
你们有孩子吗?	nǐmen yǒu hái zi ma?	Do you have any children?
有	yǒu	Yes
我们女儿是小学老师, 我们儿子是中学生	wǒmen nǚ'er shì xiǎoxué lǎoshī, wǒmen érzi shì zhōngxuéshēng	Our daughter is a school teacher and our son is a high school student
你在哪儿工作?	nǐ zài nǎr gōngzuò?	Where do you work?
我在英国工作	wǒ zài Yīngguó gōngzuò	I work in England
你做什么?	nǐ zuò shénme?	What are you doing?
我是商人	wǒ shì shāngrén	I am a businessman
白春在家吗?	Bái Chūn zài jiā ma?	Is Bái Chūn at home? (Chun Bai)
在,请进,请坐	zài, qǐng jìn, qǐng zuò	Yes she is. Please come in and sit down
她在干什么?	tā zài gàn shénme?	What is she doing?
她在上网	tā zài shàngwǎng	She is surfing the internet
为什么?	wèishénme?	Why?
因为现在她学法语	yīnwèi xiànzài tā xué Fǎyǔ	Because she is studying French now
白春,你有时间吗?	Bái Chūn, nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma?	Bái Chūn, are you free? (Chun Bai)
没有,我忙	méi yǒu, wǒ máng	No, I am busy
你忙什么呢?	nǐ máng shénme ne?	What are you busy with?
我在看书,日语书(日本)	wǒ zài kàn shū, Rìyǔ shū (Riběn)	I am reading a book, a Japanese book
我上星期看完了	wǒ shàng xīngqī kàn wán le	I finished reading it last week
王也没看完书	Wáng yě méi kàn wán shū	Neither Wáng has finished reading the book
他在做什么?	tā zài zuò shénme?	What is he doing?
他在写汉语课本	tā zài xiě Hànyǔ kè běn	He is writing a Chinese textbook
行;床上有毛巾	xíng; chuáng shàng yǒu máojīn	OK; there is a towel on your bed
谢谢妈妈	xièxie māma	Thanks mum

我请你去中国	wǒ qǐng nǐ qù Zhōngguó	I invite you to China
谢谢	xièxie	Thank you
你不用谢	nǐ bù yòng xiè	You are welcome
听说林海要去中国了	tīngshuō Lín Hǎi yào qù Zhōngguó le	I have heard that Lín Hǎi (= forrest sea) (Hai Lin) is going to travel to China
是吗?星期几去?	shì ma? xīngqījǐ qù?	Really? What day of the week?
下星期六	xià xīngqīliù	Next Saturday
他去做什么?	tā qù zuò shénme?	What is he going to do there?
他去学汉语	tā qù xué Hànyǔ	He is going to study Chinese
在哪儿?	zài nǎr?	Where?
在北京大学(北大)	zài Běijīng Daxué (Běi Dà)	At Běijīng University
他住多少月?	tā zhù duōshǎo yuè?	How many months?
两年	liǎng nián	2 years
你去哪儿?	nǐ qù nǎr?	Where are you going?
我去商店	wǒ qù shāngdiàn	To the shop
什么商店?	shénme shāngdiàn?	Which shop?
我去书店	wǒ qù shūdiàn	The bookstore
我要买好汉语小说	wǒ yào mǎi hǎo Hànyǔ xiǎoshuō	I want to buy a good Chinese novel
我的天!	wǒ de tiān!	Oh heavens!
今天你做什么了?	jīntiān nǐ zuò shénme le?	What did you do today?
我去天安门了	wǒ qù Tiān'ānmén le	I went to Tiān'ānmén Square
您买什么?	nín mǎi shénme?	What would you like to buy?
请问,有好汉语课本?	qǐng wèn, yǒu hǎo Hànyǔ kèběn?	Excuse me, do you have a good Chinese textbook?
有	yǒu	Yes
我看看吗?	wǒ kànkàn ma?	Can I have a look, please?
多少元?	duōshǎo yuán?	How many yuán is this?
商店几点开门?	shāngdiàn jǐ diǎn kāimén?	What time does the shop open?
早上八点	zǎoshang bā diǎn	8 o'clock in the morning
几点关门?	jǐ diǎn guānmén?	What time does it close?
晚上六点	wǎnshang liù diǎn	6 o'clock in the evening
你的黄毛巾是好看,	nǐ de huáng máojīn shì hǎokàn,	Your yellow towels look pretty,
你是在哪儿买的?	nǐ shì zài nǎr mǎi de?	where did you buy them?
在北京	zài Běijīng	In Běijīng
你常去中国吗?	nǐ cháng qù Zhōngguó ma?	Do you often go to China?
常去	cháng qù	Yes
那么,你是不是常常坐飞机?	nàme, nǐ shì bú shì chángcháng zuò fēijī?	So then you often travel by plane?
是	shì	Yes

The final 50 not complicated Chinese characters

85 characters are presented here. The reader then can select 50 to understand and learn:

Booklet 3 (下)

page 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 认识很再见呢忙贵请名片什么为因谁作做进高兴目眼现节由油又信写
 (8) 9 10 11 12 13 14
 看书老师杯茶祝要谢身朋友会从走这那哪家和父爸弟姐妹岁孩每母星
 15 16 17 18 19
 期昨晚春夏秋气风网多少后对没完商店英美反饭吃还常法 (完)

We here repeat the characters from booklet 2 and booklet 1:

Booklet 2 (中)

page 2 3 4 5 6 7
 汉语五唱说话电脑听斤公里米共园元分民币平早午主住床用点时间火
 8 9 10 11 12
 飞机行来去无开关雨伞果李花马妈吗羊农历生姓先牛六七八九万亿零
 13 14 15 16 18
 两号年几今北南川重庆水黄河运湖杭海京市可丁哥只才课

Booklet 1 (上)

page 2 3 4 5 6 7 8
 人叫白一二三四十百千个大太太夫头买卖哭笑山出日月明口回问门小
 (8) 9 10 11 12 13 14
 木林本土田国玉王工干厂广西中冬东车上下坐入文手毛巾休男力女士
 15 16 17 18 19 20 21
 右左在有子字学了的儿长江州安是不也好我你您他她它们

By this we have $3 \times (50 + 35) = 255$ characters chosen among the less complicated characters, with the aim of learning 148 characters and then being able to write and read a number of short useful Chinese sentences for an introductory communication.

The Chinese language uses several 1000 characters.

For the general daily life with e.g. newspaper reading it is said necessary to know 2222 characters:

2000 characters for common everyday expressions

200 characters concerning your profession and job and interests

20 characters concerning your family and the region where you live and come from

2 characters for your name in Chinese

In our very simple basic communication here we aim at avoiding words with the many characters we do not know, but try to form small sentences with the 148 characters we have learned.

We have not learned e.g. the word when (when are we seeing each other?), so we may say:

下星期见吗? xià xīngqī jiàn ma? = do we see each other next week?

Until then (from p 3):

再见 zài jiàn

Chinese: the final 50 characters
+ 35 other important characters 下 Booklet 3

Niels Mejlhede Jensen, (www.mejlhede.dk)
田 Tián (English: Qian Tian), 2013

认	识	很	再	见	呢	忙	贵	请	名
rèn p2	shí	hěn	zài 3	jiàn	ne	máng	guì	qǐng 4	míng
片	什	么	为	因	谁	作	做	进	高
piàn	shén	me	wéi / wèi	yīn 5	shéi	zuò	zuò	jìn	gāo 6
兴	目	眼	现	节	由	油	又	信	写
xīng/xìng	mù	yǎn	xiàn 7	jié	yóu	yóu	yòu	xìn	xiě 8
看	书	老	师	杯	茶	祝	要	谢	身
kàn / kān	shū	lǎo	shī	bēi 9	chá	zhù	yào	xiè 10	shēn
朋	友	会	从	走	这	那	哪	家	和
péng	yǒu	huì 11	cóng	zǒu	zhè	nà	nǎ	jiā 12	hé
父	爸	弟	姐	妹	岁	孩	每	母	星
fù	bà	dì	jiě 13	mèi	sui	hái	měi	mǔ	xīng 14
期	昨	晚	春	夏	秋	气	风	网	多
qī	zuó 15	wǎn	chūn	xià	qiū	qì 16	fēng	wǎng	duō
少	后	对	没	商	店	英	美	反	饭
shǎo/shào	hòu	duì 17	méi	shāng	diàn	Yīng 18	měi	fǎn	fàn
吃	还	常	法	完					
chī	hái / huán 19	cháng	fǎ	wán (17)					