

## 第三課 Dì-sān kè

### Lesson 3

三人行，必有我師

Sān rén xíng, bì yǒu wǒ shī.

*Three people walk, must have my teacher.*

For every three people walking about, there is one who has things to teach me.

*Confucius, The Analects (Classical Chinese)*

### Review

#### 1. Fántìzì

- 馬： 你好，我是馬小東。
- 王： 哦，馬小東，我是王老師。
- 李： 王老師，您好，我是李明。
- 王： 李明，你好。
- 李： 還有他呢，他姓毛，叫毛明。
- 王： 毛明，你好。三個人了。你呢？
- 張： 我是張生明。
- 王： 張生明，你好。那好，歡迎你們來北京。
- 馬, 李...: 謝謝。
- 王： 你們很累吧。
- 馬, 李...: 不累，還好。
- 王： 餓嗎？吃飯了嗎？
- 馬, 李...: 不餓，在飛機上吃了。
- 王： 那，你們的行李呢？

馬, 李...: 在這兒, 一二三四五。都在這兒。

王: 那好, 我們走吧, 上車吧。

馬, 李...: 好, 好。

王: 今天有一點兒熱, 你們熱嗎?

馬, 李...: 不熱, 還好。

王: 行李, 雨傘, 書包呢?

馬, 李...: 都在這兒。

王: 好, 那我們走吧。

## 2. Radicals and phonetics

Try to recall characters from Units 1 and 2 that have the following character-istics:

1. Two containing the phonetic element 乍 (zhà):
2. Two containing the element 隹 (zhuī):
3. Two containing zǒuzhīpáng, the movement radical (whose independent form is 辵):
4. Three containing kǒuzipáng (口), the mouth radical:
5. Two containing mùzipáng (木), the tree radical:
6. One with zuǒ'ěrduō ('left ear') as radical, and one with yòu'ěrduō:
7. One with jiǎosīpáng ('twisted silk beside'), and two with silk on the bottom:
8. One with sāndiǎnshuǐ (the water radical) and one with the ice radical:

## 3. Add a character before or after (as indicated) to form a word:

- |   |         |   |         |
|---|---------|---|---------|
| 1 | 可 _____ | 5 | _____ 经 |
| 2 | 学 _____ | 6 | _____ 报 |
| 3 | 书 _____ | 7 | _____ 典 |
| 4 | 中 _____ | 8 | _____ 以 |

### 3.1 First set

名字	叫	地方	美	吧
3+3 3+3	3+2	3+3 4+0	3+5	3+4
míng zì	jiào	dì fāng	měi	ba
name-character name	be named; be called; call	place region	beautiful [USA]	BA <i>consensus</i>

國	英	過	氣	想	去	兩
3+8	4+5	3+9	4+6	4+9	2+3	2+6
国	英	过	气			两
3+5	3+5	3+3	4+0			1+6
guó	yīng	guò	qì	xiǎng	qù	liǎng
country	hero [England; UK]	pass ever	air; spirit	think; feel like	go	2 [+M]

#### Notes

- 名 contains the elements 夕 ‘evening’ (originally a drawing of the setting moon) and the ‘mouth radical’ (口); for mnemonic purposes, think ‘moon, low in the sky at evening, so you need to *call out your name* to identify yourself’.
- 字 zì ‘character’ contains 子 zǐ (‘child’) as phonetic; think ‘a pupil under a roof, studying characters’. (Míngzì means ‘the characters which form the name’.) Distinguish 字 from 子 zǐ and 了 le.
- 叫 mouth plus ‘four’, so: ‘*calling out* ‘4’ on the golf course’.
- 地 is a third character to show 也 as right-side element; cf. 她 and 他. 也 does not seem to play a phonetic role in any of them. 地 exhibits the combining form of 土 tǔ ‘earth’ in its common radical form, known as tǔzìpáng.
- 美 is a compound made up of 羊 ‘sheep; goat’ (with its stem truncated) and 大 ‘big’, and the usual ordering of its strokes (with 大 beneath truncated 羊) reflects that fact. 美 obeys the ‘rule of 5’ if the top two strokes are made to count as a horizontal.
- Like many of the other final particles (吗, 呢, 啊), 吧 is phonosemantic, with 巴 bā as phonetic, and 口 as radical.
- The inner part of 國, 或, is phonetic: huò. The simplified 国 (a Japanese innovation) has been formed with an entirely different inner constituent, 玉 yù (jade), which has neither a semantic nor a phonetic connection to the word guó.

h) 英 contains 央 yāng as phonetic; the radical (on top), cǎozitóu ‘grass character on top’), is a combining form of the graph 艸. 美 měi ‘beautiful’ and 英 yīng ‘hero’ are selected for the country names of Měiguó and Yīngguó both for sound and for meaning. Students have observed the similarity of 英 to the shape of Britain (cǎozitóu representing Scotland, etc.)

i) 過, with phonetic element shared by eg 鍋 guō (a word that comes into English through Cantonese as a ‘wok’, or ‘frying pan’), substitutes the non-phonetic (and semantically irrelevant but suitable simple) 寸 cùn ‘inch’ for the complicated 高.

j) 氣 has 气 as radical; also found with eg the gaseous elements, such as 氫 qīng ‘hydrogen’, 氦 nǎi ‘neon’ etc. The internal element in 氣 is 米 mǐ ‘(husked) rice’, so the compound graph suggests ‘steam rising from cooking rice’. The simplified form simply omits the internal element. Contrast 气, with two upper strokes, and 吃, with only one. (‘The other’s been eaten.’)

k) 想 contains the elements 相 as phonetic (seen also in 箱子 xiāngzi ‘trunk; box’) and 心 ‘heart’ as radical. 相, in turn, contains the basic components 木 ‘tree; wood’ and 目 ‘eye’, both pronounced mù. Think ‘sitting under a branch, eyeing the horizon, and *contemplating* the curvature of the earth’ – hence ‘think > feel like’.

l) 去 looks like a yacht ‘skimming across the water, *going* from island to island’.

m) 兩/两 derives from a drawing of a balance (or pair of scales). The innards of the fántǐzi and jiǎntǐzi differ; the first has 入, which is also assigned as radical, but the second has 人, which is not the assigned radical. (Instead, the first stroke of the simplified character – the horizontal – is the assigned radical.)

### Phrases

名字	叫什么	地方	美国	美国人	走吧
英国	很想去	两个	天气	去过	有名
好吧	没吃过	英国人	姓方的	看过	不对
哪国人	那个地方	中英字典	天气好了	英文	姓名

### Short descriptions

1. 小白，女的，名字叫美文，中国人，去过美国；没去过英国，不过很想去。
2. 老高，男的，名字叫英明，美国人，去过中国，中文很好。
3. 周老师，男的，名字叫以天，中国人，昨天很紧张，现在好了。

4. 李四方，男的，中国来的，以前是小学的老师，现在是大学的。
5. 姓陈的，名字叫现中，英国的中国人，英文中文都很好；去过美国，很想上美国的大学。
6. 美国的天气，现在有的地方冷，有的地方热；中国呢，一样，有的地方冷，有的地方热。英国呢？

### Exercise 1

Answer the questions given below, based on the information given in the chart:

第-	姓	名字	男/女	哪国人？	今天怎么样？	吃过饭了没有？
1	王	美月	女	中国人	很累	还没吃过饭呢
2	高	太白	男	中国人	很忙	已经吃过饭了
3	陈	贵儿	男	美国人	现在好了	还没吃过饭呢
4	周	班贵	女	美国人	很紧张	吃过了
5	张	林生	男	中国人	很饿	还没吃饭呢
6	毛	在中	女	英国人	不冷不热	吃过了
7	林	明月	女	美国人	还好，不累	吃了

### Questions

1. 姓高的名字叫什么？他是哪国人？他今天怎么样？他吃过饭了吗？
2. 第一个人姓什么，名字叫什么？是女的吗？是什么地方来的？她今天怎么样？她吃过饭了吗？
3. 陈贵儿是男的吧！是哪儿的人？他以前怎么样？现在呢？他吃过饭了没有？

4. 姓毛的名字叫什么？在中是不是他的名字？他是美国人吧。你去过那个地方吗？他今天怎么样？他很饿吧!?
5. 第七姓林，对吗？那，她的名字是什么？她是哪国人？她吃过饭了吗？她怎么样？
6. 那，第五也姓林吗？使女的吗？是不是美国人？他饿不饿？他吃过了吗？
7. 是不是有三个女的四个男的？有没有姓王的？有姓马的吗？

### 3.2 Set 2

北京南西安海

2+3, 1+4	2+6	2+7	6+0	3+3	3+7
běi	jīng	nán	xī	ān	hǎi
north	capital	south	west	peace	sea

外到近省川州

3+2	2+6	3+4	5+4	1+2	1+5
wài	dào	jìn	shěng	chuān	zhōu
outside	arrive; to	be close	province	(river)	admin. div'n

從離遠邊錯部

3+8	8+10	3+10	3+15	8+8	3+8
-----	------	------	------	-----	-----

从离远边错

2+2	2+8	3+4	3+2	5+8	2+8
cóng	lí	yuǎn	biān	cuò	bù
from	dist. from	be far	side	mistake; wrong	part

- a) 北 běi could be said to resemble ‘two people sitting back to back for warmth against the cold *north* wind’, hence ‘north’. 北 can be contrasted with 比 (bǐ) ‘compare; than’, as in 比较 bǐjiào, in which the two parts are in line (and therefore easier to *compare*).
- b) 京, meaning ‘capital’. Think: ‘the gateway to the *capital* with a slit window and buttresses’. Chinese cities are oriented towards the south; the emperor sat with his back to the north. 南 nán ‘south’, then, might be said to be a drawing of ‘an elaborate *southern* gate to a city, with observation tower, wide opening, and customs check beneath’.
- c) 西安, literally ‘western peace’. Contrast 西 and 四 (and later 酒 jiǔ ‘liquor’, whose right side has an extra stroke). 安 shows 女 under a roof, for some ‘an image of *peace*’.
- d) 海 consists of 氵 (the water radical) plus 每 měi ‘each; every’, originally probably phonetic, and now also found in eg 悔 huǐ. Shanghai does not mean on the sea (which would be 海上 hǎishàng) but ‘rising to the sea’.
- e) 外 composed of 夕 xī ‘evening’ (seen also in 名) and 卜. Think of ‘the wall of the house, with the moon setting *outside*’.
- f) The right-hand element of 到 dào ‘arrive; to’ is the ‘knife-radical’ (dāozipáng), a combining form of 刀 dāo ‘knife’ that appears in characters for words having to do with cutting, as well as sharply demarcated events, such as ‘arriving’.
- g) 省 contains 少 shǎo and 目 mù ‘eye’ as radical. 州 zhōu was originally a representation of islands or high ground in a river, but came to refer to towns or administrative centers that grew up in such places. So it is a common second element for cities, eg 廣州 Guǎngzhōu, 蘇州 Sūzhōu, 杭州 Hángzhōu, 徐州 Xúzhōu. It is also used to translate ‘state’ in US state names: 加州 Jiāzhōu ‘California’, 德州 Dézhōu ‘Texas’, 康州 Kàngzhōu ‘Connecticut’. The original graph has been differentiated into 州 and 洲 (also zhōu), with the latter used as the second element in the names of continents, eg: 亞洲 Yàzhōu ‘Asia’ and 歐洲 Ōuzhōu ‘Europe’. 川, without the ‘islands’, shows just the river, and is an old word for ‘streams’, now associated only with the province of 四川, named for the four rivers which flow south into the Yangtze River.
- h) 從’s core meaning of ‘follow; obey’ is suggested by the two 人 in the upper right – which also form the basis of the simplified character (从).
- i) 離 is a particularly complicated character (with a total of 18 strokes). The simplified form (离) drops the traditional radical (隹) and assigns the first two strokes (on the top) as radical. That element can be viewed as ‘a diagram of a route, with the first two strokes and x marking the starting point, the lower box and its contents, the destination, and a line connecting the two, indicating *distance*’.
- j) 邊 with the ‘movement radical’ and a complex of three components: 自, 穴 and 方; the simplified graph seems to be based on the last of those three.
- k) 錯 cuò consists of the metal (or ‘gold’) radical 金 (cf. 錢) and an element, 昔, pronounced xī on its own, but also found in 厝 cuò and 措 cuò, where its phonetic

value is clearer. 錯 has an ancient meaning of ‘grindstone’, which accounts for the metal radical and suggests an evolution from ‘burrs’ to ‘errors’.

l) 遠 has 袁 yuán (a surname) as phonetic; the simplified form substitutes a simpler phonetic 元 yuán (the unit of Chinese currency). 近 combines the same ‘movement’ radical with the phonetic element 斤 jīn ‘catty’ (see below).

*Phrases*

北京	南京	西安	上海	西北
外国	到明天	从昨天	很近	北边
四川	南方	四川省	广州	广东省
外国人	从什么地方	离这儿	不远	南部
不错	离北京	东北	东京	海边儿

*Exercise 1*

Answer the questions based on the information given in the chart:

第-	姓	哪国人	什么地方	那个地方的天气	去过的地方
第八	毛	中国人	北京	有一点冷	英国
第二	林	中国人	上海	还好，不冷不热	-----
第一	张	英国人	西北	不错	中国
第九	陈	美国人	南边	很热	英国
第三	白	美国人	东北	有一点冷	中国
第七	周	英国人	中部	很好，很热	美国
第九	马	中国人	西安	昨天冷，今天好	美国
第四	李	美国人	北边	不太好	中国
第五	王	中国人	南京	昨天冷，今天好	-----
第十	方	中国人	四川	有一点热	东京
第六	安	中国人	广州	很热	海外

## Questions

1. 第一个人姓什么？是哪国人？什么地方来的？那儿的天气怎么样？他去过英国吗？
2. 第二个人是谁？是什么地方来的？那儿的天气是不是很热？他去过外国吗？
3. 第三姓什么？他是哪儿的人？那个地方的天气好不好？他去过英国吗？
4. 第四是中国人吗？他是哪国人？那儿的天气怎么样？他去过中国吗？
5. 第五姓什么？他是什么地方人？那个地方的天气怎么样？他去过外国吗？
6. 第六是不是姓安的？姓安的是哪国人？那儿的天气有点儿热吧！姓安的去过外国吗？
7. 第七姓什么？他是什么地方来的？那儿的天气很热吗？他去过美国吗？
8. 第八姓毛吧!？是中国人吧!？什么地方呢？那儿的天气呢？他去过美国没有？
9. 第九姓什么？是什么地方人？那儿的天气怎么样？他去过英国吗？英国天气怎么样？
10. 第十姓方吗？他是中国什么地方来的？你去过那个地方吗？那个地方天气怎么样？

Set 1 in fantizi

美國	去過	美人	天氣	不想去
英國	什麼地方	天氣很熱	兩個人	叫什麼
吃過了	哪國人	天氣怎麼樣		起來了

3.3 Set 3

別 忘 非常 家 本

2+5	4+3	1+7	3+8	3+7	4+1
bié	wàng	fēi	cháng	jiā	běn
don't; other	forget	not	often	home; family	(root; stem)

說 得 電 話 碼 裏

7+7	3+8	8+5	7+6	5+10	6+7
-----	-----	-----	-----	------	-----

说 电 话 码 里

2+7		1+4	2+6	5+3	7+0
shuō	de; děi	diàn	huà	mǎ	lǐ
speak; talk	DE; must	electric	words; lg	(number)	inside; in

Notes

- 別 has the 'knife radical' on the right (cf. 到 dào 'arrive'). The core meaning is 'separate', with the knife suggesting a line of separation; hence 'other' and 'don't'.
- 忘 organizes the same components as 忙, ie the heart radical and the phonetic 亡 wáng, and arranges them vertically rather than horizontally. 'If 亡 on the right side of the graph is 'a container *busily* hoovering up things that need doing', then placed above the heart, and empty, it represents 'those things you *forgot* to do'.
- 非, an older negative; the graph may represent two sides in opposition. 常 contains the cloth radical 巾 (said to be a drawing of a kerchief and also found in

帽子 màozi ‘hat’) and the phonetic element 尚 shàng, seen in 裳 shāng, 廠 chǎng, 當 dāng.

d) 家 contains 豕 shǐ, an archaic word for ‘pig’ (derived from a drawing) placed beneath the ‘roof radical’.

e) 木, now ‘wood’ but originally ‘tree’; 本 marks the stem or trunk, hence the M-word for ‘books’ (一本書), and by extension, ‘root; origin’ (本來).

f) 說 is sometimes printed as 說, with the upper right-hand strokes written as 八. 說 shuō, the verb, obviously needs to be distinguished from 話 huà, the noun. The latter contains 舌 shé ‘tongue’ (protruding from the mouth 口), so ‘words; language’. In many cases, you can be guided by the order of the words, verb+noun: 說話. But note that the reverse order is also possible, eg: 中國話說得很好。

g) 得 pronounced dé is a verb meaning ‘obtain’; it also writes the untoned particle (+de) that connects verbs with a SV phrases; contrast with 的.

h) The form of the graph 裏 lǐ, with phonetic 里 lǐ inserted into the radical 衣 yī ‘clothing’ (cf. 褒 and 哀) recalls another sense of the word, ‘lining of clothes’, clearly related to the meaning ‘inside’. The graph is also written 裡, with the same components organized horizontally - the clothing radical on the left of the phonetic. The simplified graph isolates the phonetic element, with the result that the two words ‘inside’ and ‘mile’ get written with the same graph.



Kunming, key shop (电子配匙 diànzǐ pèi[yào]shì ‘elec. match-key’)

*Phrases*

别人	忘了	别忘了	非常	日本
家里	都忘了	别客气	说得很好	哪里
本来	以前	现在	二三得六	电话
号码	非常好	三本书	没有电话	我的家
别说了	马家	说得不好	不想去	不太有名

*Set 2 in fántizi*

上海	外國	海邊	四川	不遠	很近
北京	英國	四川省	南邊	離這兒	東北
不錯	還好	從昨天	到今天	北部	中部
從什麼地方		廣州	東北邊	離西安很近	

*Exercise 3*

王： 你的伞，别忘了。	李： 不是我的，我没有伞。
白： 我的手机呢？	周： 在我这儿。别忘了。
毛： 你家离这儿很远吗？	林： 不太远，两里。
张： 你中文说得很好。	高： 哪里，说得不好。
马： 你的电话号码呢？	方： 家里：5-6021; 手机：13501 102130
安： 你是中国人吧?!	林： 不是，我是日本人，日本东京人。

- 高：广州天气怎么样？      周：七月八月非常热，一月二月不错，不冷也不热。
- 张：你的书包，别忘了。      毛：不是我的，我的在家里。
- 李：这儿有没有电话？      王：这儿没有；学生中心有一个，你可以从这边去，不太远。
- 张：你的字典，别忘了。      马：哦，太好了，上课没有字典不行。

### Questions

1. 小李有没有伞？
2. 伞现在在哪里？
3. 小白的手机在哪儿？
4. 林家离这儿远不远？
5. 姓高的中文说得怎么样？
6. 姓方的有手机吗？号码呢？
7. 姓林的是中国人吗？东京在日本什么地方？
8. 广州天气怎么样？
9. 姓毛的，书包在哪里？
10. 学生中心离那儿远不远？
11. 学生中心有没有电话？
12. 上课，没有字典行吗？那，上班呢？

3.4 Set 4

喝 渴

3+9  
hē  
drink

3+9  
kě  
thirsty

多少

3+3  
duōshao  
many

3+1  
few

斤 百

4+0  
jīn  
a catty

5+1  
bǎi  
100

杯 酒

4+4  
bēi  
cup

3+7  
jiǔ  
liquor

再

1+5  
zài  
again

瓜

5+0  
guā  
gourd

幾 塊

3+9

3+10

錢

8+8

見

6+0

茶

4+6

几 块

2+0  
jǐ  
how many

3+4  
kuài  
piece; \$

钱

5+5  
qián  
money

见

4+0  
jiàn  
see; meet

茶

3+6  
chá  
tea

Notes

- a) 喝 hē and 渴 kě share the phonetic element 葛 gě. ‘Drink’ is suggested by 口 ‘mouth’, ‘thirst’ by 讠 ‘water’.
- b) 多少 is composed of the opposites ‘many’ and ‘few’; the former is made up of 夕 xī ‘evening’; the latter is based on 小 xiǎo ‘small’ (from which it needs to be distinguished). For 多, reduplication suggests *many*.
- c) 斤, was originally a drawing of an axe (now 斧 fǔ); early weights were apparently shaped like small axes, hence modern ‘catty’. For 百 ‘100’, cf. 白 ‘white; surname’.

- d) 杯 apparently composed of 木 and 不 (the latter possibly originally phonetic). ‘Cups are not made out of wood.’
- e) 酒 is composed of 氵 and 酉 yǒu (as phonetic). ‘Liquor in a bottle with a bung; the horizontal dash in the bottom is sediment.’
- f) 再 ‘again’: ‘a plunger for setting off explosives, blowing up bridges, which have to be built *again*’. Contrast 在 ‘at’. 見 ‘see’ is actually the same root as the 現 of 現在, the latter originally meaning ‘cause to be seen; be manifest’, hence ‘now’.
- g) 瓜, originally a drawing of a gourd on the vine (?), appears as radical in a few graphs for words associated with gourds (瓠).
- h) 幾: the radical is the top left cluster of three strokes. 幾 contains 戈 gē ‘spear’ on the right, also seen in 國. The simplified graph uses 几 jī ‘a stool; bench’, instead of the much more complicated 幾.
- g) 塊 composed of 土, the earth radical, with 鬼 guǐ as phonetic. 錢 is composed of 钅 ‘gold’, plus the element seen in characters such as 淺. The piled up ‘spears’ (gē) on the right can be regarded as ‘weapons guarding the *money*’.
- i) 茶, with the grass radical (on top) and a unique component on the bottom, which can be regarded as ‘a shed, where tea from bushes or trees (木) is drying’.

### Phrases

喝什么	很渴	多少	不多	喝酒
不太渴	一百	喝茶	喝 <u>咖啡</u>	一斤
多少钱	不少	不喝酒	两杯	杯子
西瓜	木瓜	三块钱	再见	南瓜
几块钱	三块钱	钱不多	明天见	几个老师
多不多	一块西瓜	一杯三毛	非常多	三百块
三百不多	西瓜好吃	一斤八毛	两百	中国白酒

Set 3 in fántǐzì

書包別忘了	非常熱	你的手機別忘了	非常累
電話號碼	說得不錯	筆還在家裏	日本
非常緊張	中國西南邊	東西在家裏	天氣不錯
兩個東西	車子非常貴	從昨天到明天	非常餓
已經吃飯了不過還是很餓		說外國話很難	
他有個日本人的名字		已經起來了，但是還沒吃飯	

Exercise 4

<u>东西</u>		<u>几块钱 / 多少钱</u>
西瓜	一个	四块二一斤
冬瓜	一块	三块五分钱一斤
南瓜	一个	四块八毛五一个
茶	一杯	五块四毛一杯
咖啡	一杯	一杯二十五块钱
白酒	一瓶 (píng)	一百十五块钱
汉(Hàn)英字典	一本	二十八块钱
英汉字典	一本	三十二块钱
杯子	一个	十八块
手机	一个	一百二十五块钱
伞	一把 (bǎ)	二十二块
笔	一只 (zhī)	两块五毛钱

中文报	一份 (fèn)	一块二
英文报	一份	六块八毛钱

### Questions

1. 西瓜好吃吗？多少钱一斤？那是不是有一点贵？
2. 英文，冬瓜怎么说？好吃吗？几块钱？一斤多不多？
3. 南瓜呢，美国南瓜很多，可是中国呢，中国也有南瓜吗？南瓜贵不贵？多少钱一个？你说一个南瓜有几斤？
4. 中国人喝茶，那美国人喝什么？你现在渴不渴？想喝一点什么？
5. 一杯茶几块钱？那，咖啡呢，一杯几块？咖啡更贵对吗？在美国咖啡也很贵吗？茶咖啡你都喝吗？
6. 美国一块钱是中国几块？你去过中国吗？
7. 你喝过中国白酒吗？好喝吗？白酒多少钱一瓶？
8. 美国人吃饭喝不喝酒？中国人呢？
9. 汉英字典多少钱？上课没有字典难不难？那，英汉字典呢？
10. 一杯茶几块？一个杯子几块？酒杯是不是更贵？茶杯呢？
11. 中国人说：“再见”，那美国人怎么说？
12. 中国人说：“你渴吗？想喝一点什么？”美国人怎么说？
13. 伞多少钱？那，伞在中国多少钱？
14. 看过今天的报了吗？在这儿，报多少钱？在中国呢？你看过什么中国报吗？

### 3.5 Creating new characters

Characters, you now know, represent words; and since words are constantly being added to spoken languages, there needs to be some way for new words to be represented in the writing system. In language, new words are typically formed from old by processes such as extension (as in English, when ‘shuttle’ is extended from ‘weaving tool’ to ‘reusable spacecraft’), compounding (‘spaceship’), coinage (‘blooper’), borrowing (‘sputnik’), or sound symbolism (‘screech; blip’). In alphabetic languages, these can easily be represented in writing. But in logographic scripts, the process is more contrived. In Chinese, where new characters are needed (to represent new words) they are almost always formed on phonosemantic principles: a graph chosen for its suitable sound is combined with a radical of appropriate meaning. We can illustrate from the graphic representation of two types of words: onomatopoeia (words inspired by sound) and terms for chemical elements in the periodic table.

#### 3.5.1 Representing sounds – onomatopoeia.

A good source for onomatopoeia is *manga* style comics. [Incidentally, the word *manga* is a Japanese rendition of the Chinese mànhuà ‘comic; cartoon (unrestrained-drawing)’.] The list below contains a selection of graphic representations with their pronunciation. They are taken from two comics published in Hong Kong in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Though the comics are written in Mandarin, the language – and particularly the onomatopoeic expressions – may have been influenced by Cantonese, so some Chinese speakers may find items on the list strange or non-standard. Northerners, for example, might be more used to the expression pāchā (啪嚓) for ‘splash’ (as well as ‘crash’) than pāle (拍嘞). But the point is that comics represent not only a genre in which the written language converges on the spoken, but one that is less subject to the usual prescriptions and constraints associated with writing and publication. Authors of comics (particularly in a place like Hong Kong in the late 90s) are free – or freer – to create their own words, and use the resources of the written language to represent them. The fact that many of the graphs used to represent sounds in these comics are not found in dictionaries (nor on character sets for word processors) shows how productive this process of character formation is.

As befits the genre of anime, onomatopoeia are usually drawn in highly stylized animated graphs whose very size and shape adds to the effect. In the examples below, the radical element is consistently the ‘mouth’ radical, 口, which has the effect of signaling that the graph represents a sound. (Boxes □ appear where a version of the character with 口 is unavailable in the standard character font. Speakers may differ in their readings of the graphs, particularly in the tonal element.)

<i>graph and pronunciation:</i>	<i>contains the phonetic element:</i>	<i>equivalent English noise, or event:</i>
拍 pā	拍 pāi	bang
拍嘞 pāle	拍, 勒 pāi, lè	exploding noise
嚓 cā	察 chá	screech
唧 jī	即 jī	spurt
澎 pēng	彭 péng	popping noise
叮 dīng	丁 dīng	light metallic noise; ping
噹 dāng	當 dāng	heavy metallic noise; bong
□ lóng	隆 lóng	reverberating noise; boing; boom
□ fú	伏 fú	swishing noise
□ shā	夏 xià	hissing or whizzing noise
□ kǎ	卡 kǎ	enormous crashing noise
波 bō	波 bō	heavy downpour hitting the ground

### 3.5.2 Atomic elements

Characters also have to be created for more formal genres of writing. The periodic table of elements, for example, contains names of elements long known to Chinese science, such as mercury, 汞 gǒng (工 gōng over 水 shuǐ ‘water’) and lead, 鉛 yán. But there are also many more recently discovered elements for which names have had to be provided. Regardless of their antiquity, both are formed on the traditional pattern of phonetic and radical. Below, the first set (all gasses) are formed with phonetic elements combined with the gas radical (气); the second set (all metals) are formed with the metal radical (金), and the third set (all stony or sandy elements) are formed with the stone radical (石).

	<i>graph</i>	<i>phonetic</i>	<i>radical</i>
Helium	氦 hài	亥 hài	气 gas
Neon	氖 nǎi	乃 nǎi	气 gas
Argon	氩 yà	亞 yà	气 gas
Thorium	鈷 tǔ	土 tǔ	金 metal
Palladium	鎳 pú	萁 pú	金 metal
Uranium	鈾 yóu	由 yóu	金 metal
Silicon	硅 guī	圭 guī	石 stone
Phosphorus	磷 lín	鄰 lín	石 stone
Sulphur	硫 liú	cf. 流 liú	石 stone

Notice that, unlike the graphs for onomatopoeia, those for the elements are formed with complete regularity so that a reader unfamiliar with the name of a particular element can read off the pronunciation in terms of a common word with which s/he is sure to be familiar. The phonosemantic principle of character construction not only reduces the number of graphic elements needed to write the language, but it also provides phonetic cues for rare words or words only encountered in written language.

Note that while the compound construction of characters may be useful for native speakers encountering highly specialized words in written texts, or for language learners trying to find useful connections between characters that will allow them to retain them, the way a character is, or has been, constructed is unlikely to bear directly on the process of reading. Regardless of how they came to have their current (or earlier) form, characters are processed as words or parts of words, and even if the eye occasionally comes to rest on a character and sees the aptness of its form, such actions are – with the possible exception of certain kinds of poetry – a lapse from reading rather than part of the process.

### 3.6 Miscellany

#### A. Set 4 in *fántǐzì*

喝酒	很渴	多少錢	一斤四塊
一百塊	南瓜很好吃	再見，明天見	白酒
幾塊錢	不多也不少	多少學生	茶杯
喝一點酒	去過酒吧嗎	喝太多不行	再說
酒杯	杯子裏有什麼	一杯兩塊五	幾個老師

B. Distinguish the following characters by citing words or phrases:

斤-今-近	在-再	美-没	钱-前
典-电-店	手-说	难-男	对-贵
不-还	我-饿	日-热	是-师
七-起	小-少	陈-车	伞-三
到-别	百-白	川-州	毛-笔
忙-忘	渴-可	一-以	本-杯

C. In the following compounds or phrases, provide the missing characters, which have similar or identical sounds:

- |            |        |            |         |
|------------|--------|------------|---------|
| 1. 车 __    | 名 __   | 9. 姓 __    | 一 __ 块钱 |
| 2. 一块 __   | 以 __   | 10. __ 哪儿? | __ 见!   |
| 3. __ 有    | __ 国   | 11. __ 以   | 很 __    |
| 4. __ 这儿不远 | 在家 __  | 12. __ 机   | __ 话    |
| 5. __ 经    | 可 __   | 13. 上 __   | 很 __    |
| 6. __ 女    | 不太 __  | 14. __ 个   | 还没 __ 来 |
| 7. 号 __    | 好 __ ? | 15. __ 儿?  | __ 儿!   |
| 8. 一 __ 儿  | __ 话号码 | 16. __ 张   | __ 天    |

*D. On the street #3*



Kunming: 药 yào 'medicine'

航空公司 hángkōng gōngsī 'airline company'

中国航空公司

中国东方航空公司

中国北方航空公司

中国南方航空公司

中国西北航空公司

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