第三課  Di-sān kè
Lesson 3

三人行，必有我師焉。
Sān rén xíng, bì yǒu wǒ shī yān.
[Among] three people walking, surely exist my teacher among+them.
[Even] a party of three will surely include one from whom I can learn.

Confucius, The Analects (Classical Chinese)

3.0 Review

a) Fántǐzì

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。

b) 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 zōuzhīpáng, the movement radical (whose independent form is 步):
4. Three containing kǒuzīpáng (口), the mouth radical:
5. Two containing mùzīpáng (木), the tree radical:
6. One with zuǒ‘ěrduō (‘left ear’) as radical, and one with yòu‘ěrduō:
7. One with jiāosīpáng (‘twisted silk beside’), and two with silk on the bottom:
8. One with sǎndiānshuǐ (the water radical) and one with the ice radical:

c) Add a character before or after (as indicated) to form a word or phrase:

1 可 ___
2 学 ___
3 书 ___
4 中 ___
5 ___ 经
6 ___ 报
7 ___ 典
8 ___ 以
3.1 First set

名 字 叫 地 方 美 吧

名字 叫 地方 美 吧
3+3  3+3  3+2  3+3  4+0  3+5  3+4
míng zì  jiào      di fāng  měi  ba
name-character be named; place region beautiful BA

国 英 过 气 想 去 两

国 英 过 气 想 去 两
3+8  4+5  3+9  4+6  4+9  2+3  2+6
guó yīng  guò qì  xiǎng qù liǎng
country hero pass spirit think; go feel like

Notes
a) 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’.
b) 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.
c) 叫 mouth plus ‘4’, so: ‘calling out ‘4’ on the golf course’.
d) 地 is a third character to show 也 as right-side element; cf. 她 and 他. The presence of 也 in these characters seems to have resulted from orthographic confusion, and does not represent its use as a phonetic element. 地 exhibits the radical form of 土 tǔ ‘earth, called tǔzīpáng.
e) 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.
f) Like many of the other final particles (吗, 呢, 啊), 吧 is phonosemantic, with 巴 bā as phonetic, and 口 as radical.
g) The inner part of 国, or, 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 英 yang as phonetic; the radical is cǎozītóu ‘grass character on top’, a combining form of the graph 神. 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 (cǎozītóu representing Scotland, etc.)

i) 過, with phonetic element shared by eg 锅 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 氣 as radical; also found with eg the gaseous elements, such as 氫 qīng ‘hydrogen’, 氖 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 氣, 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, eying 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) 两/两 derives from a drawing of a balance (or pair of scales). The innards of the fántí and jiàntízi 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.

### 3.1.1 Phrases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>名字</th>
<th>叫什么</th>
<th>地方</th>
<th>美国</th>
<th>美国人</th>
<th>走吧</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>míngzi</td>
<td>jiào shénme</td>
<td>dìfang</td>
<td>Měiguó</td>
<td>Měiguó rén</td>
<td>zǒu ba</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>英国</th>
<th>很想去</th>
<th>两个</th>
<th>天气</th>
<th>去过</th>
<th>有名</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yīngguó</td>
<td>hěn xiǎng qù</td>
<td>liǎng ge</td>
<td>tiānqì</td>
<td>qùguó</td>
<td>yǒumíng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>好吧</th>
<th>没吃过</th>
<th>英国人</th>
<th>姓方的</th>
<th>看过</th>
<th>不对</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hǎo ba</td>
<td>méi chīguo</td>
<td>Yīngguó rén</td>
<td>xìng Fāng de</td>
<td>kánguo</td>
<td>bù duì</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>哪国人</th>
<th>那个地方</th>
<th>中英文典</th>
<th>天气好了</th>
<th>英文</th>
<th>姓名</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>nèiguó rén</td>
<td>nēi ge dìfang</td>
<td>Zhōng-Yīng zìdiǎn</td>
<td>tiānqì háo le</td>
<td>Yīngwén</td>
<td>xīnmíng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.1.2 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, according to the information given in the chart:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>第</th>
<th>姓</th>
<th>名字</th>
<th>男/女</th>
<th>哪国人？</th>
<th>今天怎么样？</th>
<th>吃过饭了没有？</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>王</td>
<td>美月</td>
<td>女</td>
<td>中国人</td>
<td>很累</td>
<td>还没吃过饭呢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>高</td>
<td>太白</td>
<td>男</td>
<td>中国人</td>
<td>很忙</td>
<td>已经吃过饭了</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>陈</td>
<td>贵儿</td>
<td>男</td>
<td>美国人</td>
<td>现在好了</td>
<td>还没吃过饭呢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>周</td>
<td>班贵</td>
<td>女</td>
<td>美国人</td>
<td>很紧张</td>
<td>吃过了</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>张</td>
<td>林生</td>
<td>男</td>
<td>中国人</td>
<td>很饿</td>
<td>还没吃饭呢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>毛</td>
<td>在中</td>
<td>女</td>
<td>英国人</td>
<td>不冷不热</td>
<td>吃过了</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>林</td>
<td>明月</td>
<td>女</td>
<td>美国人</td>
<td>还好，不累</td>
<td>吃了</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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. 第七个姓林，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，第五个也姓林吗？是女的吗？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？

“Sān rén chóng xíng, jiù gāi zhǎo ge difāng hē yì bēi...”

Cf. the citation from Confucius at the beginning of this lesson. [JKW 2005]
3.2 Second set

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

从 离 遠 边 錯 部

3+8 8+10 3+10 3+15 8+8 3+8
cóng lí yuǎn biān cuò bù
from dist. from be far side mistake; wrong part

Notes

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’ (刀 dāozìpáng), 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 valley, 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 Kāngzhōu ‘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 亚 zhōu ‘Asia’ and 欧洲 欧洲 ‘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) 遠 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 屋 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).
3.2.1 Phrases

北京  南京  西安  上海  西北
Běijīng  Nánjīng  Xī'ān  Shànghǎi  Xīběi

外国  到明天  从昨天  很近  北边
wàiguó  dào míngtiān  cóng zuótiān  hěn jìn  běi biān

四川  南方  四川省  广州  广东省
Sìchuān  nánfāng  Sìchuān shěng  Guǎngzhōu  Guǎngdōng shěng

外国人  从什么地方  离这儿  不远  南部
wàiguó rén  cóng shénme dìfang  lí zhèr  bù yuǎn  nán bù

不错  离北京  东北  东京  海边儿
bú cuò  lí Běijīng  dōngběi  Dōngjīng  hǎi biānér

Exercise 2
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. 第三个姓什么？他是哪儿的人？那个地方的天气好不好？他去过英国吗？

4. 第四个是中国人吗？他是哪国人？那儿的天气怎么样？他去过中国吗？

5. 第五个姓什么？他是什么地方人？那个地方的天气怎么样？他去过外国吗？

6. 第六个是不是姓安的？姓安的是哪过人？那儿的天气有点儿热吧！姓安的去过外国吗？

7. 第七个姓什么？他是什么地方来的？那儿的天气很热吗？他去过美国吗？

8. 第八个姓毛吧？是中国人吧？什么地方呢？那儿的天气呢？他去过美国没有？

9. 第九个姓什么？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. 第十个姓方吗？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？
3.2.2 Set 1 in fantizi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>美國</th>
<th>去過</th>
<th>美人</th>
<th>天氣</th>
<th>不想去</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Méiguó</td>
<td>qùguó</td>
<td>měirén</td>
<td>tiānqì</td>
<td>bù xiǎng qù</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>英國</th>
<th>什麼地方</th>
<th>天氣很熱</th>
<th>兩個人</th>
<th>叫什麼</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yíngguó</td>
<td>shénme difang</td>
<td>tiānqì hěn ré</td>
<td>liǎng ge rén</td>
<td>jiào shénme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>吃過了</th>
<th>哪國人</th>
<th>天氣怎麼樣</th>
<th>起來了</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>chīguó le</td>
<td>nèi guó rén</td>
<td>tiānqì zěmeyàng</td>
<td>qǐlái le</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.3 Third set

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>別忘非常家本</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2+5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bié</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>don’t; other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>說得電話碼裏</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7+7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shuō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>speak; talk</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Notes

a) 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’.

b) 忘 organizes the same components as 忙, ie the heart radical and the phonetic 亡 wáng, but 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’.
c) 非, an older negative; the graph may represent two sides in opposition. 常 contains the cloth radical 中 (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, 蘭 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 can also appear in certain syntactic constructions, eg: 中國話說得很好。
g) 得 pronounced dé, is a verb meaning ‘obtain’; untoned, it is the particle (+de) that connects verbs with a SV phrases; pronounced děi, it is a modal verb meaning ‘have to; must’.
h) The form of the graph 裏 lǐ, with phonetic 里 lǐ inserted into the radical 衣 yī ‘clothing’ (cf. 襄 and 哀), recalls another sense of the word, ‘lining of clothes’, that is clearly related to the meaning ‘inside’. The graph is also written 裏, 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, 裏 ‘inside’ and ‘mile’ get written with the same graph, 里.
3.3.1  Phrases

别人忘了 别忘了 非常 日本
biérén wàng le bié wàng le fēicháng Rìběn

家里都忘了 别客气 说得很好 哪里
jiā lǐ dōu wàng le bié kēqì shuō+de hěn hǎo nǎlǐ

本来 以前 现在 二三得六 电话
běnlái yǐqián xiánzái èr sān dé liù diànhuà

号码 非常好 三本书 没有电话 我的家
háomǎ fēicháng hǎo sān běn shū méiyīu diànhuà wǒ de jiā

别说了 马家 说得不好 不想去 不太有名
bié shuō le Mǎ jiā shuō+de bù hǎo bù xiǎng qù bù tài yōumíng

3.3.2  Set 2 in fǎntǐzhì

上海 外国 海边 四川 不远 很近
Shànghǎi wàiguó hǎi biān Sìchuān bù yuǎn hěn jìn

北京 英国 四川省 南边 隔这儿 东北
Běijīng Yīngguó Sìchuān shěng nán biān lì zhèr dōngběi

不错 还好 从昨天 到今天 北部 中部
bù cuò hái hǎo cóng zuótiān dào jiàntiān běi bù zhōng bù

从什么地方 品州 东北边 隔西安很近
cóng shénme difang Guǎngzhōu dōngběi biān lì Xī'ān hěn jìn
Exercise 3. Questions on the following pairs of comment and response:

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：你是不是中国人吧?! 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 Fourth set

喝 揭 多少 斤百
3+9 3+9 3+3 3+1 4+0 5+1
hē kè duōshao jīn bǎi
drink thirsty many a catty 100

杯 酒 再 瓜
4+4 3+7 1+5 5+0
bēi jiǔ zài guā
cup liquor again gourd

幾 塊 錢 見 茶
3+9 3+10 8+8 6+0 4+6
jǐ kuài qián jiàn chá
how many piece; $ money see; meet tea
Notes

a) 喝 hē and 渴 kè share the phonetic element 葛 gě. ‘Drink’ is suggested by 口 ‘mouth’, ‘thirst’ by 氵 ‘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’. 见 ‘see’ is actually the same root as the 现 of 现在, 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 gé ‘spear’ on the right, also seen in 部. The simplified graph uses 几 jī ‘a stool; bench’, instead of the much more complicated 幾.

i) 块 composed of 土, the earth radical, with 鬼 guǐ as phonetic. 钱 is composed of 钅 ‘gold’, plus the element seen in characters such as 深. The piled up ‘spears’ (gē) on the right can be regarded as ‘weapons guarding the money’.

j) 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’.

3.4.1 Phrases

喝什么  很渴  多少  不多  喝酒
hē shénme  hěn kě  duōshào  bù duō  hē jiǔ

不太渴  一百  喝茶  喝咖啡  一斤
bú tài kě  yībǎi  hē chá  hē kāfēi  yī jīn

多少钱  不少  不喝酒  两杯  杯子
duōshào qián  bú shǎo  bú hē jiǔ  liǎng bēi  bēizi

西瓜  木瓜  三块钱  再见  南瓜
xīguā  mùguā  sān kuài qián  zài jiàn  nánguā
几块钱  三块钱  钱不多  明天见  几个老师
jǐ kuài qián  sān kuài qián  qián bù duō  míngtiān jiàn  jī ge lǎoshī

多不多  一块西瓜  一杯三毛  非常多  三百块
duō bù duō  yī kuài xiāguā  yī bēi sān máo  fēicháng duō  sān bǎi kuài

三百不多  西瓜好吃  一斤八毛  两百  中国白酒
sān bǎi bù duō  xīguā hǎochī  yī jīn bā máo  liǎng bǎi  Zhōngguó bájiǔ

### 3.4.2 Set 3 in fántízi

書包別忘了  非常熱  你的手機別忘了  非常累
shūbāo bié wàng le  fēicháng rè  nǐ de shǒujī bié wàng le  fēicháng lèi

電話號碼  說得不錯  筆還在家裡  日本
diànhuà hàomǎ  shuō de bù cuò  bǐ hái zài jiā lǐ  Rìběn

非常緊張  中國西南邊  東西在家裡  天氣不錯
fēicháng jǐnzhāng  Zhōngguó xīnán biān  dōngxi zài jiā lǐ  tiānqì bú cuò

兩個東西  車子非常貴  從昨天到明天  非常餓
liǎng ge dōngxi  chezǐ fēicháng guì  cong zuótiān dào míngtiān  fēicháng è

已經吃飯了不過還是很餓  說外國話很難
yǐjīng chīfàn le bùguò hái shì hěn è  shuō wàiguó huà hěn nán

他有個日本人的名字  已經起來了，但是還沒吃飯
Tā yǒu ge Rìběn rén de míngzi.  Yǐjīng qǐlái le, dànshì hái méi chīfàn.
Exercise 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>东西</th>
<th>几块钱 / 多少钱</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>西瓜</td>
<td>四块二一斤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>冬瓜</td>
<td>三块五分钱一斤</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>南瓜</td>
<td>四块八毛五一个</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>茶</td>
<td>五块四毛一杯</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>咖啡</td>
<td>一杯二十五块钱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>白酒</td>
<td>一百十五块钱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>汉(Hán)英字典</td>
<td>二十八块钱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>英汉字典</td>
<td>三十二块钱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>杯子</td>
<td>十八块</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>手机</td>
<td>一百二十五块钱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>伞</td>
<td>二十二块</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>笔</td>
<td>两块五毛钱</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>中文报</td>
<td>一块二</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>英文报</td>
<td>六块八毛钱</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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？

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Barber at the Saturday market on the Dàlǐ to Lìjiāng road. [JKW 2005]
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 (‘shuttle’ extended from ‘part of a loom’ 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 comics published in Hong Kong in the late 20th 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 (啪嘞). 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 freer to create their own words and use the resources of the written language to represent them as they see fit. The fact that graphs used to represent sounds in these comics are not all found in dictionaries (nor in printing sets) shows how productive the process of forming phono-semantic characters 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. (In the list, boxes 口 appear where a version of the character with 口 is unavailable in the standard character set. Speakers may give different readings for the graphs, particularly their tones.)
graph and pronunciation: contains the phonetic element: equivalent English noise, or event:
啪 pā 拍 pāi bang
啪嘞 pāle 拍,勒 pā, lè exploding noise
嚓 cā 察 chá screech
噼 jī 即 jī spurt
嘭 pēng 彭 peng popping noise
叮 dīng 丁 dīng light metallic noise; ping
噔 dēng 常 dēng heavy metallic noise; bong
隆 lóng 隆 lóng reverberating noise; boing; boom
伏 fū 伏 fū swishing noise
夏 xià 夏 xià hissing or whizzing noise
卡 kǎ 卡 kǎ enormous crashing noise
啵 bō 波 bō rain drumming on 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 gǒng over 水 shuǐ ‘water’) and lead, 鉛 yán. But there are also many recently discovered elements for which names have had to be provided. These names are created on the traditional pattern of phonetic and radical. So, for example, the first set below (all gasses) are compound graphs consisting of an appropriate phonetic element 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).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>graph</th>
<th>phonetic</th>
<th>radical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Helium</td>
<td>氦 tài</td>
<td>气 qì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neon</td>
<td>氖 nài</td>
<td>气 qì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argon</td>
<td>氩 yǎ</td>
<td>气 qì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thorium</td>
<td>鈾 tǔ</td>
<td>金 jīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palladium</td>
<td>镀 pú</td>
<td>金 jīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uranium</td>
<td>镥 yóu</td>
<td>金 jīn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicon</td>
<td>硅 guī</td>
<td>石 shí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phosphorus</td>
<td>磷 lín</td>
<td>石 shí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sulphur</td>
<td>硫 líú</td>
<td>石 shí</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notice that, unlike the graphs for onomatopoeia which are often the result of informal coinage, making use of imperfect phonetic elements, the graphs for new atomic elements (like other technical additions to the language) are formal coinages that display complete regularity. 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. Regardless of whether it proceeds formally or informally, the phono-semantic principle of character construction reduces the complexity of the writing system by reducing the amount of information needed to read or write it.

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 form, characters are processed as words or parts of phrases, 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 reading certain kinds of poetry – a lapse from reading rather than part of the process.

3.6 Miscellany

3.6.1 Set 4 in fāntīzi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>喝酒</th>
<th>很渴</th>
<th>多少錢</th>
<th>一斤四塊</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hè jiǔ</td>
<td>hěn kě</td>
<td>duōshao qián</td>
<td>yī jīn sì kuài</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>一百塊</td>
<td>南瓜很好吃</td>
<td>再見，明天見</td>
<td>白酒</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yī bǎi kuài</td>
<td>nán guā hěn hǎo chī</td>
<td>zài jiàn, míng tiān jiàn</td>
<td>bái jiǔ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>幾塊錢</td>
<td>不多也不少</td>
<td>多少學生</td>
<td>茶杯</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jǐ kuài qián</td>
<td>bù duō yě bù shǎo</td>
<td>duō shào xué shēng</td>
<td>chá bēi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>喝一點酒</td>
<td>去過酒吧嗎</td>
<td>喝太多不行</td>
<td>再說</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hè yī diǎn jiǔ</td>
<td>quē guō jiǔ bā ma</td>
<td>hè tài duō bù xíng</td>
<td>zài shuō</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>酒杯</td>
<td>杯子裏有什麼</td>
<td>一杯兩塊五</td>
<td>幾個老師</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jiǔ bēi</td>
<td>bēi zi lǐ yǒu shén me</td>
<td>yī bēi liǎng kuài wǔ</td>
<td>jī ge lǎoshī</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.6.2 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 惜 - 可 一 - 以 本 - 杯

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

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

Intersection in Shànhǎi. [JKW 2005]

a) Roads (illustrated above)

南京西路  Nánjīng Xī Lù  昌化路  Chānghuà Lù
北京西路  Běijīng Xī Lù  常德路  Chángdé Lù

Notes

路  lù ‘road’, with 足 ‘foot’ as radical and 各 gè as an orphaned phonetic –
one whose original motivation has been obscured by language change.

街  jiē ‘street’, consisting of 行 ‘crossroads’ as radical and
圭 guī, another obscured phonetic.

b) Airlines

航空公司  hàngkōng gōngsī ‘airline company’

中国航空公司  中國東方航空公司
中国北方航空公司  中国南方航空公司
中国西北航空公司  中国東方航空公司
Resource: Learning Chinese: A Foundation Course in Mandarin
Dr. Julian K. Wheatley

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