The Radicals (Classifiers) of the Traditional Chinese Dictionary

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The Radicals (Classifiers) of the Traditional Chinese Dictionary

David Prager Branner

1 Introduction

1.1 Origin of name.

Radicals are a set of recognizable elements that appear in various Chinese characters. They are the organizing principle in traditional Chinese dictionaries. Only those elements used in organizing dictionaries are considered "radicals" — any other elements you may recognize reappearing in different characters are not considered radicals.

The Chinese name for radicals is *bùshǒu* 部首 "section heads", which is also translated as "classifiers" in English. "Classifier" is preferred by some people because it is more accurate. But the name "radical" has force of long use — early Western scholars mistakenly thought these semantic elements were the semantic "roots" (Latin *radices*) of the characters. In fact, these are not usually the oldest parts of the characters in which they appear, even though many of them are themselves very old characters.

1.2 System of arrangement

There is no particular logic to the sequence of radicals, other than that they are arranged by number of strokes, from one stroke up to seventeen. Nor is there any logic evident in the choice of which characters are radicals and which are not — in fact, there are a number of coexisting systems. The system most widely used in traditional books is that promulgated in the *Kāngxī Zìdiǎn* 康熙字典 of 1716 C. E., which has 214 radicals. That is the system taught here.

1.3 Basic principle of use

Every character has a certain number of strokes, and learning how to count them is one of the essential skills involved in mastering the traditional dictionary. Characters are listed under the appropriate radical, subgrouped by the number of strokes in addition to the radical.

There are other systems in use, most importantly that of the *Shuōwén Jiězì* 說文解字 attributed to Xǔ Shèn 許慎 (A.D.30-124), which has 540. Since at least the 6th century there have also been dictionaries that are list characters by sound — usually by the "rime" (Chinese *yùn* 韻, vowel plus ending) of the main reading of each character. Many modern Mainland dictionaries list characters by pronunciation (in simple alphabetic order), but they also usually contain radical indexes, although so far the Mainland does not appear to have promulgated a single consistent radical system to replace Kāngxī. However, there are many older dictionaries being reprinted, as well as modern Taiwan and Hong Kong dictionaries, for which the Kāngxī system is still quite useful. The Kāngxī system is not original to the *Kāngxī Zìdiǎn*, because it was based on the earlier *Zìhuù* (compiled by Méi Yīngzuò 梅廖祚 in Míng times).

If you see a character you need to look up, you first identify its radical and then find it the section of the dictionary corresponding to that radical. For instance, if you see the character diao 銚 you will easily recognize the $j\bar{\imath}n$ 金 "metal" radical on the left side, and so you will look under the $j\bar{\imath}n$ section of the dictionary. You will find diao 銚 among those characters having the $j\bar{\imath}n$ radical plus six additional strokes: 銀, 銘, 銖, etc. — and also characters such as 銎 and 銜, which contain the $j\bar{\imath}n$ radical though not at the left side.

1.4 Names of the radicals

Some radicals are real characters in their own right, others are for practical purposes no more than identifiable sub-elements of characters. But all have readings and all have meanings associated with them, although in some cases these are very obscure.

In Chinese, individual radicals are technically supposed to be called by name: \square is $ji\bar{o}ngb\hat{u}$ \square 部, \square is $k\check{a}nb\hat{u}$ \square 部, etc. In practice, however, although people may use these names in writing, in speech no one uses them or, for the most part, even knows how to pronounce them. But the most commonly used radicals have their own familiar names, which in traditional times varied somewhat from place to place. Even today, the names used in Northern and Southern China are rather different. In the list that follows, I have taken names somewhat indiscriminately from notes I have collected interviewing older Chinese people, and from two important small dictionaries.

The Chinese name for additional strokes is simply the measure word $hu\dot{a} \equiv -3$ additional strokes is $s\bar{a}nhu\dot{a} \equiv \pm$, etc. $Bi \equiv$ is also used for the same meaning.

1.5 Learning the radicals

Western scholars introduced the practice of numbering the Kāngxī-system radicals (all 214) of them. This seems to be a convenient way to learn them, though it has never caught on in East Asia. There are no fixed rules for learning these numbers, and the student is advised to search for convenient mnemonics for learning them. For instance, \pm 'life' is #100, and one can recall this by the poetic line $r\acute{e}nsh\~{e}ng$ $b\grave{u}m\~{a}n$ $b\~{a}i$ \pm 7 a person's life does not fill a hundred years'. Or, \pm 'father' is #88, and one can think of the Mandarin word for father, $b\grave{a}ba$, and its likeness to the name of the number eight, $b\~{a}$ /\tau. Indeed, the character \pm 8 might be thought of as the character \pm 9 written twice: $b\~{a}b\~{a}$. It is best for each person to find their own mnemonic tricks.

2 Lessons

Below are a few basic lessons in recognizing the most common radicals. A complete list of

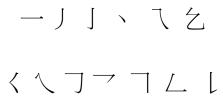
² Xiàndài Hànyǔ Cidiǎn 現代漢語辭典 (original editors-in-chief: Dīng Shēngshù 丁聲樹 and Lǐ Róng 李榮; Peking: Shāngwù Yìnshūguǎn 商務印書館, new edition 1996) and Cihuì 辭彙 (Editor-in-Chief: Luh Shycherng 陸師成; Taipei: Wénhuà Túshū Gōngsī 文化圖書公司, 1984)

the 214 is found on p. 10 below.

2.1 Stroke count

Learning the number of strokes in a character requires knowing how it is actually written, a subject I will not treat here. There are two important complications:

(a) A "pen-stroke" does not necessarily correspond to the number of apparent lines in a character. Some single pen-strokes will appear to consist of two lines at right angles to each other. For instance, the following are all examples of single pen-strokes:



In Chinese-speaking countries and communities you can buy little books that show the authoritative way to write each character, but — beware! — not all books agree on what the authoritative way really is.

(b) Sometimes the printed or handwritten form of a character appears to contain a different number of strokes than the "standard" form under which is is placed in the dictionary. An important example is $zh\check{e}$ 者, which appears as an element in several common characters, such as 都, 煮, etc. To all appearances, this is an 8-stroke character, yet the dictionaries treat it as having 9 strokes, because there is supposed to be a dot $\dot{}$ placed above the element ri \Box . So $zh\check{u}$ $\overset{*}{\pi}$ is typically classified under radical 86 plus 9 additional strokes, $d\bar{u} \sim d\bar{o}u$ 都 under radical 163 plus 9 additional strokes, etc.

2.2 Easy radicals

The easiest radicals to learn are those that look essentially the same within a character as they do when serving as independent characters, themselves. For instance, #30, $k\delta u \square$ "mouth", is recognizable as a small "box" in a character. The most obvious examples exhibit the box at the left side of the character.

吃味喉嚇嗔嘔咂

where it is called $k\check{o}uz\grave{i}p\acute{a}ng$ 口字旁, "side-part $k\check{o}u$ ". (This is a common formulation for the names of radicals found at the side, usually the left side, of a character — $y\acute{a}n$ 言 becomes $y\acute{a}nz\grave{i}p\acute{a}ng$ 言字旁; $r\grave{i}$ 日 becomes $r\grave{i}z\grave{i}p\acute{a}ng$, and so forth.) $K\check{o}u$ is also the classifier for a goodly

number of other characters containing a small box. Here is a selection, each of which has the radical number plus additional strokes listed above it:

台后呆員和叵司嗣

命史商哥唐咫咸

号 喪 嚴 單 哭 器 噩 品

Note that \exists is entered as 6 additional strokes. We might expect it to have 7 additional strokes — the 7 srokes of $k\check{e} \exists$ plus — plus C — but in practice the two independent C strokes are usually considered to merge into one.

Radical #30 is one of a number of very common radicals that should be learned first. Not only do they appear in a large number of common characters, but they are essentially unchanged whenever they appear. Below are several others. (Note that when an ordinary character appears as a radical on the left side, it is generally slanted somewhat.)

Number	name	examples	
#32	tŭ ±	坐執堯	坤塊壞
#38	nǚ女	妝威妻	妙始媒
#75	mù 木	東查栽	柿梢模
#115	hé 禾	秉秀秦穀稟	秋租種
#149	yán 言	閆譽	討說講
#159	<i>chē</i> (or <i>j</i>	ū) 車 軍輦	輔輪輛
#167	jīn 金	銜鑿	鉛錢銅

The eight classifiers listed so far should now be learned by number, before the reader proceeds.

Of course, you must be careful not to confuse #75 and #115. What other confusions are possible? Well, there is a character $shi \pm that$ looks a lot like #32 and is also used as a classifier (#33, which is easy to remember because it comes right after #32). It appears in only a very few common characters, for instance $r\acute{e}n \pm that$, $t\acute{e}$, and $t\acute{e}$, and $t\acute{e}$.

And there is a classifer #31 \square , which may be confused with #30. #31 is called wéi, although almost no one knows this name; it is better known as $sidaoku\bar{a}ng$ 四道匡, "frame formed by four roads". It is no longer in use as an independent character, but serves as the classifier for certain important graphs: si \square , hui \square , $y\bar{\imath}n$ \square , $gu\acute{o}$ \square , etc. It always appears as the outermost border of the graphs it classifies.

Another terminological matter is that when a classifer appears at the bottom of a character, rather than the top, it is not quite proper to call it "side-part". For instance, in the characters *mù* 墓, *jiān* 堅, and *mò* 墨, #32 is supposed to be called *tǔzìdǐ* 土字底 ("bottom-part *tǔ*") or *tǔzìjiǎo* 土字腳 ("foot-part *tǔ*"). Some people do, however, call it plain *tǔzìpáng* 土字旁. When a classifier appears at the top of a character, it is called *tóu* 頭 "the head": for instance, when #46, *shān* 山, appears at the top it is called *shānzìtóu* 山字頭.

2.3 Function of the radical within the character

What function does a "radical" serve within a character, other than to classify it in the dictionary? I said above that "radical" is a misnomer because these elements are not usually the "roots" of the characters, that is, not usually the oldest elements in the history of the characters' development. It does sometimes happen that the elements selected as classifiers have no historical structural significance at all, and were merely grasped as the most convenient handle on the character. But in the great majority of cases, the classifier can easily be identified as supplying a hint about the basic meaning of the character. Below are a few meanings associated with the classifiers listed so far:

Number	name	general meaning of characters under this classifier
#30	kŏu □	mouth, openings, things having to do with speech and oral processes, many modern colloquial words
#32	tŭ ±	things having to do with the soil or made of earth
#38	nǚ女	human females, female qualities, petty emotions in general ³ , characters special to the names of women
#75	mù 木	wood, trees, wooden things
#115	hé 禾	the rice plant, grain in general
#149	yán 言	speaking
#159	<i>chē</i> (or <i>j</i>	$i\bar{u}$) \equiv vehicles, parts of vehicles

Please reflect with understanding on the fact that the "woman" classifier is associated with "petty emotions in general". This fact surely reflects something of the society in which the Chinese writing system took its present form. I am aware of no organized effort to divest the modern written language of this graphic bias.

#167 jīn 金 metals, metal things

I will not list such meanings in detail below, because the reader should find it easy to identify them in the process of learning the various radicals, merely by reading the text of the dictionary.

In characters where the classifier carries semantic significance, the part of the whole graph that remains when the classifer is removed is traditionally called the *shēngpáng* 聲旁, "sound-bearing half" (also *shēngfú* 聲符), and indicated the sound of the graph in antiquity. At times, the relationship between a given character's *shēngpáng* and its modern pronunciation is absolutely evident. For example, the following 7 characters all contain the *shēngpáng* pronounced *dāng* 當 and all can be read *dāng*: 儅噹璫襠當鐺。 In other cases, the relationship is less than perfect; consider the place of the *shēngpáng* pronounced *gèn* 艮 in the characters *yín* 銀, *xiàn* 限, *hěn* 很, *jiān* 艱, and *kěn* 墾. The part of a character that represents meaning and generally serves as its classifer is technically known as the *xingpáng* 形旁 "form-bearing half". Upward of four-fifths of all Chinese characters can be analyzed into *xingpáng* plus *shēngpáng*; such characters are known as *xingshēngzì* 形聲字, "form-plus-sound characters" (also *xiéshēngzì* 諧聲字).

To understand the true original sound of the $sh\bar{e}ngp\acute{a}ng$, one needs to study historical phonology and the origins of the characters, which are elaborate and somewhat daunting fields of study. However, even if one knows only Mandarin, it is usually clear which element is which. That helps to answer another question that the reader may have been thinking: when a character contains two or more elements that are recognizable as classifiers, how does one know which is the correct classifier? The answer is that the classifier is almost always the element that is *not* the $sh\bar{e}ngp\acute{a}ng$. In the case of $h\acute{e}$ π , listed above as an example of radical #30, both π and π are known classifiers — which is the classifier in the present case? The answer is that since π is pronounced $h\acute{e}$, our best guess is that it is the $sh\bar{e}ngp\acute{a}ng$ and therefore $k\check{o}u$ π is the $x\acute{i}ngp\acute{a}ng$. Indeed, since the original meaning of π is "harmony", the $x\acute{i}ngp\acute{a}ng$ it would seem to have more to do with "speaking" than with "rice plants", reinforcing our hunch.

On the other hand, sometimes neither element is self-evidently *shēngpáng* or *xíngpáng*, as for instance $d\bar{a}i \not\equiv$, mentioned above. In these cases, we proceed by trial and error. We pick out what we think is the most commonly seen classifer in the character, or an element in a position that seems most appropriate to the classifier, and look under that place first in the dictionary.

Colloquially, any recognizable sub-part of a character is called a *piānpáng* 偏旁 "side part".

2.4 Second group of common classifiers

The following 10 classifiers are also very common, and their numbers should be memorized next.

Number	name	examples		
#46	shān ∐	島岡岳	峒嶼嶸	崇嵩崽
#72	rì 🗏	星晶暮	昧時暗	
#109	mù 🗏	真眥眠		
#119	mǐ 米	粒精糊		
#142	huǐ 虫	蚩蛇蜀		
#154	bèi 貝	貞財貴		
#181	yè 頁	頭類顰		
#187	mǎ 馬	馮駕騎		
#195	yú 魚	鯗鮮鯊		
#196	niǎo 鳥	鳳鴨鴛		

#119 must or course be distinguished from #75 \star . #154 and #181 must be distinguished from #109. And #72 must be distinguished from the rare classifer #73 $yu\bar{e} \boxminus$; #72 is taller than it is wide, #73 is wider than it is tall.

2.5 Third group: common classifiers that undergo deformation

The next group of 8 common classifiers are different from the 18 listed above in that they do not always appear in the same form. Their most common shapes as classifiers are different from their ordinary shapes as independent characters, and must be learned separately.

Number	name	shape	examples
#9	rén 人	人 1	來以今介令 件傳儒
#61	xīn 🖒	心 十 小	息急悶 性怪情 恭慕
#64	shǒu 手	手 扌	承拳拿 打抹摧
#85	shuǐ 水	水 氵	永求汆 沒法流

#86	huǒ 火	火 ///	炮煩煥 烈照熊
#120	mì 糸	糸糸	素紫累 約紅絕
#130	ròu 肉	肉 月	局背能 肥肺脫
#140	căo	艸 ++	almost never used as a classifier in this form 芝花莽芻 (!)

Each of the deformed varieties has one or more special names, which the reader may find in the table beginning on p. 10 below.

#130 should be distinguished from #74 $yu\grave{e}$ β "moon", which appears in relatively few characters, many of which have to do with time. #61 in its from Y should be distinguished from the uncommon classifier #42 $\sqrt{\ }$. #86 does not include the characters and classifiers $m\check{a}$ β (#187), $y\acute{u}$ β (#185), or $ni\check{a}o$ β (#196).

This list should be committed to memory, and drilled extensively.

2.6 Fourth group of common classifiers

The following 10 classifiers do not generally undergo deformation:

Number	name	shape	examples
#15	bīng ;		冰治凋
#19	lì力		功劣勝
#37	dà大		天太失
#40	mián 🗁		宜寄富
#53	yǎn 广		府康廓
#60	chì 彳		往後得
#104	chuáng 泞		疾病痛
#112	shí 石		砂砍砦
#169	mén 門		開間闥
#173	yǔ 雨	द्रार	需露霸

For their common names and forms easily confused, please see the complete list, below.

2.7 Fifth group of common classifiers

The following 12 classifiers also undergo deformation:

Number	name	shape	examples
#18	dāo 刀	刀 IJ	刃分初 副剋前
#66	pū 攴	支 攵	敘敲敺 放致教
#94	quǎn 犬	犬 犭	獻猷獎 狂狗狼
#96	yù 玉	玉王	王琴璧 玫現瑞
#113	shì示	示 礻	祭禁禦 社神祥
#118	zhú 竹	///-	笑笛筆
#145	yī衣	衣 衤 (divided)	表
#157	zú 足	足	蹇蹙躉 路跳蹄
#162	chuò 辵	<u> </u>	迎通道
#163	yì 邑	ß	郡郭鄉
#170	fù阜	ß	阿陰陽
#184	shí 食	食 食	養饗 饜 飯餘館

3 Complete list of classifiers

This completes the most common 50 radicals. They should be committed firmly to memory. Below is a list of all 214 radicals with examples, variants, and some common names.

In the material that follows, boldface entries are those that seem to me most commonly used. Examples of each classifier are listed at the right-hand edge of the page.

******* 1 stroke ********

1.	一 yī > yìhéng 一横	丁七不
2.	gǔn > yíshù 一豎	丫中串
3.	、 zhǔ > yìdiǎn ─點	丸丹主
4.	J piě > yìpiě ─ 撇	乃之乎
5.	Z yĭ	九乳亂
6.	」jué > yìgōu ─鉤	了予事
	******** 2 strokes *********	
7.	二 èr > liǎnghéng 兩橫	于云五
8.	一 tóu (distinguish #40 宀, 145 衣, 149 言)	
	> yìdiǎn yìhéng 一點一橫	京亨亮一
9 .	人 rén	來以
	(at the top) > rénzìtóu 人字頭	今介令
	亻rénzìpáng 人字旁, dānrénpáng 單人旁 (cf. # 60), dānlìrén	單立人
		件傳儒
10.	儿 rén (! not *ér, when used in traditional Chinese)	
	> yìpiě yìguǎi 一撇一拐	免兆克
11.	入 rù (distinguish #9 人, #12 八)	內兩
	(at the top) > rùzìtóu	全俞
12.	八 bā	六其具
	(at the top) > bāzìtóu	公兮兼
13.	门 jiōng > èrdàokuāng 二道匡, tóngzìkuāng 同字匡	再冒冓
14.	一 mì > guānzìtóu 冠字頭, tūbǎogài 禿寶蓋	冢冥冠
15 .	〉bīng > liǎngdiǎn 兩點, liǎngdiǎnshuǐ 兩點水	冰治凋
16.	几 jī	凡凱凳

17.	□ kǎn > xiōngzìdǐ 凶字底	凹出函
18 .	刀dāo	刃分初
	刂 dāozìpáng 刀字旁,lìdāo 立刀	副剋前
19 .	力lì	功劣勝
20.	勹 bāo > bāozìtóu 包字頭	勺勿匍
21.	└ bǐ (distinguish #81 比, 192 瀅)	化北匙
22.	□ fāng (= "square") > lìkuāng 立匡, sānkuānglán 三匡欄	匠匣匪
23.	□ xì > piānkuāng 偏匡	匹匿區
24.	+ shí	午半卑
25.	bŭ	佳卞卦
26.	卩 jié > jiǎodāo 腳刀, dāněrpáng 單耳旁	卻卿卵
	区 (also called jiǎodāo 腳刀)	危卮卷
27.	厂 hǎn (distinguish #53 广) > yànzìtóu 雁字頭, piānchǎng 偏廠	厚原厲
28.	ム sī > sānjiǎo 三角	厹去參
29.	又yòu	取反及
	************* 3 strokes **********	
30.		史叵命
	************ 3 strokes **********	
	**************************************	史叵命
30.	*************************************	史叵命 味喉嚇
30 .	*************************************	史叵命 味喉嚇 四回國
30 .	*************************************	史
30 .	*************************************	史 中 中 明 明 明 生 執 神 地
30 . 31. 32 .	*************************************	史 味 四 執 坤
30 . 31. 32 . 33.	*************************************	史味 四坐 墓 壬 墓 鬼 墨 壶
30. 31. 32. 33. 34.	*************************************	史味 四坐 墓 壬 一 墓 玉 金 縣 國 堯 塊 墨 壺 夆
30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35.	*************************************	史味四坐 墓田 复四蛛 國堯塊墨壺夆變
30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36.	*************************************	史味四坐 墓士 复外回喉回執坤堅壯 夏多

39.	子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁	孰孵學
40 .	宀 mián (distinguish #8 宀) > bǎogàitóu 寶蓋頭	宜寄富
41.	寸cùn	寺將壽
42.	/ xiǎo (distinguish #61 小)	少尖尚
43.	尤 wāng	尤就尷
44.	⊢ shī	尹尺居
45.	中 chè > piěshān 撇山	屯
46 .	∐ shān	島岡岳
	> shānzìpáng 山字旁	峒嶼嶸
	> shānzìtóu 山字頭	崇嵩崽
47.	《《 chuān > sānguǎi 三拐	川州巡
48.	⊥ gōng	左巨巫
49.	己jǐ	巴巴巽
50.	巾 jīn	市希師
	> jīnzìpáng 巾字旁	帖帳帷
51.	干 gān	平年幸
52.	幺 yāo > yòuzìpáng 幼字旁	幻幽幾
53 .	广 yǎn (distinguish #27 厂) > diǎnyàn 點雁, guǎngzipáng 廣字旁	府康廓
54.	廴 yǐn > zǒutíng 走廷	建廷延
55.		弄弇弊
56.	弋yì	式弒
57.	弓 gōng	弔弗弱
58.	<u>与</u> jì	彖彘彝
	크	
59.	乡 shān > sānpiě 三撇	彤形影
60 .	彳 chì > shuāngrénpáng 雙人旁, shuānglìrén 雙立人	
	(distinguish #144 行)	往後得
	******** 4 strokes ********	
61.	心 xīn > wòxīn 臥心	息急悶

	↑ shùxīnpáng 豎心旁, lìxīn 立心	性怪情
	小 (distinguish #42 小)	恭慕
62.	戈 gē	戎我戔
63.	戶hù	房扁所
64 .	手shǒu	承拳拿
	扌shǒuzìpáng 手字旁, tíshǒupáng 提手旁	打抹摧
65.	支 zhī	敧
66 .	支 pū	敘敲敺
	攵 (distinguish #34 攵, 35 攵)	放致教
67.	文wén	斌斐斒
68.	斗 dǒu	料斜斝
69.	斤jīn	斥斧斬
70.	方 fāng	於旁旗
71.	无 wú	无既无
72 .	∃ rì	星晶暮
	> rìzìpáng (distinguish #73 日)	昧時暗
73.	☐ yuē (distinguish #72 日)	曲更書
74.	月 yuè (distinguish #130 肉)	有朋朔
75 .	木 mù	東查栽
	> mùzìpáng 木字旁	柿梢模
76.	欠 qiàn	次欺歌
77.	<u>ı├</u> zhĭ	此步歸
78.	歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕)	死殆殘
79.	殳 shū	段殺毅
80.	∰ wú	母每毒
81.	比 bǐ (distinguish #21 上)	比毖毚
82.	毛 máo	豪毯氄
83.	氏 shì	民氐氓
84.	气 qì > qìzìtóu 氣字頭	氛氤氣
85 .	水 shuǐ	永求汆

	氵 sāndiǎnshuǐ 三點水	沒法流
86 .	火 huǒ > huǒzìpáng 火字旁	炮煩煥
	灬 sìdiǎn 四點, sìdiǎnshuǐ 四點水 (note that this radical does not re	present
	water, but fire! distinguish #187 馬, #195 魚, 196 鳥)	烈照熊
87.	爪 zhǎo	爬爰為
88.	父fù	爸爹爺
89.	∑ yáo	爻爽爾
90.	爿 bàn or qiáng (distinguish #91 片)	
	> fǎnpiàn 反片, jiāngzìpáng 將字旁	牀牁牆
91.	片 piàn (distinguish #90 爿)	版牌牘
92.	牙yá	牙牚
93.	牛 niú (distinguish 136 舛)	牟牢牽
	牛>niúzìpáng 牛字旁	牧物特
94 .	犬 quǎn	獻猷獎
	犭>quǎnzìpáng 犬字旁,fǎnquǎnpáng 反犬旁	狂狗狼
	******** 5 strokes *********	
95.	玄 xuán	玄率玈
96 .	玉 yù	王琴璧
	王 yùzìpáng 玉字旁,wángzìpáng 王字旁,cèyù 側玉	玫現瑞
97.	瓜 guā	瓞瓢瓣
98.	瓦wǎ	瓷瓶甌
99.	甘 gān	甘甚甜
100.	生 shēng	生產甥
101.	用 yòng	甩甫甬
102.	⊞ tián	由畝畫
103.	疋 pǐ or shū > pǐzìpáng 疋字旁	疏疑疐
104 .	疒 chuáng > bìngzìpáng 病字旁, bìngzìtóu 病字頭	疾病痛
105.	癶 bō > fāzìtóu 發字頭	癸登發
106.	⊟ bái	白皆皎

107.	皮pí	炮皺皽
108.	∭ mǐn, mǐng	益盜盡
109 .	∏ mù	真眥眠
110.	矛 máo	矛矜矞
111.	矢shǐ	矣知短
112 .	石 shí > shízìpáng 石字旁	砂砍砦
113.	示 shì	祭禁禦
	ネ shìzìpáng 示字旁 (distinguish #145 ネ)	社神祥
114.	内 róu > yǚzìdǐ 禹字底	禹禺禽
115.	禾 hé > hézìpáng 禾字旁	秋秉租
116.	穴 xuè > xuèzìtóu 穴字頭	空窗窺
117.	立 lì	竟端競
	******** 6 strokes *********	
118.	竹 zhú	
110.	** zhúzìtóu 竹字頭	笑笛筆
119.	米 mǐ > mǐzìpáng 米字旁	粒精糊
120 .	糸 mì	素紫累
	糸 mìzìpáng 糸字旁, juǎnsī 捲絲, jiǎosī 絞絲	
121.	" minipand 1/ 1)1, Jaansi 16 wh, Jiaosi w/w/	約紅絕
	告 fǒu	約 紅 器 罐
122.		-
	缶 fǒu	缸罌罐
	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng	紅罌罐 网罕罔
122.	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng ^四 fānggāng 方綱	紅罌罐 网罕罔 罩罪置
122.123.	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng 四 fānggāng 方綱 羊 yáng	紅罌罐 网罕罔 罩罪置 羌羞義
122.123.124.	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng 四 fānggāng 方綱 羊 yáng 羽 yǔ	紅罌罐 网罕罔 罩罪置 羌羞義 羿翁翅
122.123.124.125.	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng 四 fānggāng 方綱 羊 yáng 羽 yǔ 老 lǎo	紅罌罐 网罕置 光差鏡 羽 考書者
122.123.124.125.126.	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng 四 fānggāng 方綱 羊 yáng 羽 yǔ 老 lǎo 而 ér	紅罌罐 网军罪差 鸦考 要
122.123.124.125.126.127.	缶 fǒu 网 wǎng 四 fānggāng 方綱 羊 yáng 羽 yǔ 老 lǎo 而 ér 耒 lěi	紅 网 罩 羌 羿 考 耍 耕罐 罔 置 義 翅 者 耏 耘

	月 ròuzìpáng 肉字旁(distinguish #74 月)	肥肺脫
131.	臣 chén	臥臧臨
132.	É zì	臭臬臲
133.	至 zhì	致臺臻
134.	臼 jiù	臾舂與
135.	舌 shé	舍舒舔
136.	舛 chuǎn (distinguish #36 夕, 93 牛)	舛舜舞
137.	分 zhōu	航般船
138.	艮 gèn	艮良艱
139.	色 sè	色艴艷
140 .	艸 cǎo	
	^艹 cǎozìtóu 草字頭	芝花莽
141.	虍 hū > hǔzìtóu 虎字頭	虎處號
142.	虫 huǐ > chóngzìpáng 蟲字旁	蚩蛇蜀
143.	íii xuè	衁衄衊
144.	行 xíng (distinguish #60 彳)	衍街衢
145.	衣yī	表衾裁
	ネ yīzìpáng 衣字旁 (distinguish #113 ネ)	袖補襖
	divided form (distinguish #8 —)	袤裏裹
146.	™ yà	西要覆
	********** 7 strokes **********	
147.	見 jiàn	規覓覜
148.	角 jiǎo	觜解觳
149.	言 yán > yánzìpáng 言字旁 (distinguish #8 一)	討誾譽
150.	谷 gǔ	谷谿豁
151.	∃ dòu	岩豐豔
152.	豕 shǐ	豚象豫
153.	豸 zhì	豹豺貌
154 .	貝 bèi > bèizìpáng 貝字旁	貞財貴

	赤 chì 走 zǒu 足 zú 足 zúzìpáng 足字旁	赦赫緒 赴起越 蹇蹙躉 路跳蹄
158.	身 shēn	躬躺軀
159 .	車 jū > chēzìpáng 車字旁	軍輔輦
160.	辛 xīn	辜辟辯
161.	辰 chén	辱農辴
162 .	辵 chuò	
	辶 zǒuzhī 走之, biǎnzǒuzhī 扁走之	迎通道
163 .	邑 yì	
	阝ěrduopáng 耳朵旁, yòuěr 右耳, yòuěrduo 右耳朵	郡郭鄉
164.	酉 yǒu	酋配酒
165.	釆 biàn (note that this is slightly different from cǎi 采)	采釉釋
166.	里lǐ	重野量
	******* 8 strokes ********	
167 .	金 jīn > jīnzìpáng 金字旁	鉛銜鑿
168.	長 cháng	
	長	镺镻镼
169.	門 mén (distinguish #190 鬥) > ménzìkuāng 門字匡	開間闥
170 .	阜fù	
	『ěrduopáng 耳朵旁, zuŏěr 左耳, zuŏěrduo 左耳朵	阿陰陽
171.	隶 dài	隸
172.	隹 zhuī	雀雁離
173 .	雨 yǔ	
	零 yǔzìtóu 雨字頭	需露霸
174.	青qīng	靖靚靜
175.	非fēi	非靠靡

176.	面 miàn	面靦靨
177.	革 gé	鞋鞏鞭
178.	韋 wéi	韓韙韜
179.	韭jiǔ	韭韰韱
180.	音yīn	韶韻響
181 .	頁 yè > yèzìpáng 頁字旁	頭類顰
182.	風 fēng	颯颶飄
183.	飛 fēi	飛
184 .	食 shí	養饗饜
	食 shízìpáng 食字旁	飯餘館
185.	首 shǒu	首馗馘
186.	香 xiāng	馡馥馨
	********* 10 strokes *********	
187 .	馬 mǎ (distinguish #86 灬) > mǎzìpáng 馬字旁	馮駕騎
188.	骨 gǔ	骸髀體
189.	高 gāo	盲
190.	髟 biāo > fǎzìtóu 髮字頭	髮鬆鬢
191.	門 dòu (distinguish #169 門)	鬧鬨鬮
192.	營 chàng (distinguish #21 □)	鬯鬱
193.	鬲lì	鬲鬷鬻
194.	鬼 guǐ	魁魂魘
	******** 11 strokes *********	
195 .	魚 yú (distinguish #86 灬)	鯗鮮鯊
196 .	鳥 niǎo (distinguish #86 灬)	鳳鴨鴛
197.	鹵 lǔ	鹹鹺鹽
198.	鹿lù	麂麋麒
199.	麥 mài	麩麵麴
200.	麻 má	麼麾縻

		*****	12 strokes	*****	
201.	黃 huáng				黃鞋黌
202.	黍 shǔ				黎黏黐
203.	黑 hēi				默黛黨
204.	黹 zhǐ				黹黻黼
			10 1	ale	
		*****	13 strokes	*****	
205.	黽 mǐn				
206.	鼎 dǐng				
207.	鼓 gǔ				鼕鼖鼙
208.	鼠 shǔ				鼬鼯鼴
		*****	14 atualizad	*****	
200	白 1 /	als	14 strokes		自て自1-61.
209.	鼻 bí				鼾齁鼽
210.	齊 qí				旅旅旅
		*****	15 strokes	*****	
211.	齒 chǐ		10 strones		<u> </u>
	<u> </u>				떠는데다 전지
		******	16 strokes	*****	
212.	龍 lóng				
213.	龜 guī				龜
		*****	17 strokes	*****	
214.	龠 yuè				龠禾龠皆

4 Some hard-to-place characters

Once you have learned the system on your own, and want to try testing yourself with some really hard characters, you can try these. The answers are given in a footnote to the last item.

A. Hard radicals

毗 要 唐 能 條 斑 榦 夥 斡 纛 豈 墓 塵 箚 夙 幸 武 豫

and here are two more made up entirely of radicals:

静 務

B. Extremely hard radicals

 ⁴ 毗 #81. 要 #146. 唐 #30. 能 #130. 條 #75. 斑 #67. 榦 #75. 夥 #36. 斡 #68.纛 #120. 豈 #151. 墓 #32 (as if it were 塻). 塵 #32. 箚 #118 (!). 夙 #16. 幸 #51. 武 #77.

⁶ 甚#99. 嗇#32. 粵#119. 疆#102. 犮#94. 舝#136. 巨#48.

Secondary classifiers

The following list contains radicals (of the traditional *Kāngxī Dictionary* system) that are less common than the first group, but that are, themselves, relatively common words. There are 87 of them. You should learn their numbers, and also be sure that you know what they mean as ordinary words.

Be sure to pay attention to the notes on popular names (for instance *yìhéng* for —, etc.) and also make use of the examples, on the right-hand side of the page, of characters that fall under these radicals in the dictionary. These examples have been chosen to help you recognize the radicals as they actually occur.

	********* 1 stroke *********	
1.	一 yī > yìhéng 一横	丁七不
	******** 2 strokes *********	
7.	二 èr > liǎnghéng 兩橫	于云五
11.	入 rù (distinguish #9 人, #12 八)	內兩
	(at the top) > rùzìtóu	全俞
12.	人bā	六其具
	(at the top) > bāzìtóu	公兮兼
24.	+ shí	午半卑
29.	又yòu	取反及
	************* 3 strokes **********	
33.	\pm shì (distinguish #32 \pm)	壬壯壺
36.		<u> </u>
	夕 xì (PRC xī) (distinguish #78 夕, 136 舛)	外多夜
39.	夕 xì (PRC xī) (distinguish #78 歹, 136 舛) 子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁	外多夜 孰孵學
39.41.	子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁	孰孵學
41.	子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁 寸 cùn	孰孵學 寺將壽
41. 42.	子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁 寸 cùn 小 xiǎo (distinguish #61 Y)	孰孵學 寺將壽 少尖尚
41. 42. 44.	子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁 寸 cùn 小 xiǎo (distinguish #61 Y) 尸 shī	孰孵學 寺將壽 少尖尚 尹尺居
41. 42. 44. 48.	子 zǐ > zǐzìpáng 子字旁 寸 cùn 小 xiǎo (distinguish #61 Y) 尸 shī 工 gōng	孰孵學

51.	于 gān	平年幸
57.	弓 gōng	弔弗弱
	******** 4 strokes *********	
62.	戈 gē	戎我戔
63.	戶 hù	房扁所
67.	文wén	斌斐斒
68.	斗dǒu	料斜斝
69.	斤jīn	斥斧斬
70.	方 fāng	於旁旗
74.	月 yuè (distinguish #130 肉)	有朋朔
76.	欠qiàn	次欺歌
77.	止 zhǐ	此步歸
81.	比 bǐ (distinguish #21 上)	比毖毚
82.	毛 máo	豪毯氄
87.	爪 zhǎo	爬爰為
88.	父fù	爸爹爺
91.	片 piàn (distinguish #90 爿)	版牌牘
92.	牙yá	牙牚
93.	牛 niú (distinguish 136 舛)	牟牢牽
	牛 > niúzìpáng 牛字旁	牧物特
	******* 5 strokes *********	
95.	玄 xuán	玄率玈
97.	瓜 guā	瓞瓢瓣
98.	瓦wǎ	瓷瓶甌
99.	∰ gān	甘甚甜
100.	生 shēng	生產甥
101.	用 yòng	甩甫甬
102.	⊞ tián	由畝畫
106.	⊟ bái	白皆皎

107.	皮 pí	炮皺皽
110.	矛 máo	矛矜矞
117.	立 lì	竟端競
117.		70-1111/90
	******** 6 strokes *********	
123.	羊 yáng	羌羞義
124.	羽yǔ	羿翁翅
125.	老lǎo	考耆者
126.	而 ér	耍耐耏
128.	耳ěr	耶聖聞
132.	自zì	臭臬臲
133.	至 zhì	致臺臻
135.	舌 shé	舍舒舔
139.	色 sè	色艴艷
143.	íii xuè	衁衄衊
144.	行 xíng (distinguish #60 彳)	衍街衢
144.	行 xíng (distinguish #60 彳) ***********************************	衍街衢
144.147.		衍街衢 規覓覜
	************ 7 strokes **********	
147.	*************************************	規覓覜
147. 148.	*************************************	規覓覜 觜解觳
147. 148. 153.	*************************************	規
147. 148. 153. 156.	*************************************	規
147. 148. 153. 156. 164.	*************************************	規
147. 148. 153. 156. 164. 166.	*************************************	規
147. 148. 153. 156. 164. 166.	*************************************	規解 新 赴 茜 重 重
147. 148. 153. 156. 164. 166.	*************************************	規解新起配野野縣
147. 148. 153. 156. 164. 166.	#************************************	規解 豹赴酋重 跃雀
147. 148. 153. 156. 164. 166.	*************************************	規解新起配野野縣

		*****	9 strokes	*****	
176.	面 miàn				面靦靨
177.	革 gé				鞋鞏鞭
180.	普 yīn				韶韻響
182.	風 fēng				颯颶飄
183.	飛 fēi				飛
185.	首 shǒu				首馗馘
186.	香 xiāng				馡馥馨
		*****	10 1		
188.	厚 wǐ	****	10 strokes	******	骸髀體
189.	骨 gǔ 高 gāo				胶籽脰 高
194.	周 gao 鬼 guǐ				魁魂魘
174.	y gui				心心思
		******	11 strokes	*****	
198.	鹿 lù				麂麋麒
200.	麻 má				麼麾糜
		******	12 strokes	*****	
201.	黄 huáng		12 strokes		貴靯黌
203.	黑 hēi				默黛黨
207		*****	13 strokes	*****	+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + + +
205.	黽 mǐn				電電電電
207.	鼓 gǔ				鼕鼖鼙
208.	鼠 shǔ				鼬鼯鼴
		******	14 strokes	*****	
209.	鼻 bí				鼾齁鼽
210.	齊 qí				<u> </u>
		*****	15 atmalasa	*****	
211.	齒 chǐ	en e	15 shokes	*****	版7版1表3

********* 16 strokes *********

Minor classifiers

The following 79 radicals are judged very rare. You should know that they are classifiers, and you should know how many strokes they are and where, roughly, to find them in the dictionary. But if you are going to learn all of the radical numbers, they should have the lowest priority.

******* 1 stroke ********

2.	gǔn > yíshù 一豎	丫中串
3.	、 zhǔ > yìdiǎn 一點	丸丹主
4.	J piě > yìpiě ─ 撇	乃之乎
5.	Z yĭ	九乳亂
6.	」jué≥yìgōu ─鉤	了予事
	******* 2 strokes *********	
8.	∸ tóu (distinguish #40 ∸, 145 衣, 149 言)	
	> yìdiǎn yìhéng 一點一橫	京亨亮
10.	儿 rén (! not *ér, when used in traditional Chinese)	
	> yìpiě yìguǎi 一撇一拐	免兆克
13.	门 jiōng > èrdàokuāng 二道匡, tóngzìkuāng 同字匡	再冒冓
14.	一 mì > guānzìtóu 冠字頭, tūbǎogài 禿寶蓋	冢冥冠
16.	几 jī	凡凱凳
17.	□ kǎn > xiōngzìdǐ 凶字底	凹出函
20.	勹 bāo > bāozìtóu 包字頭	勺勿匍
21.	└ bǐ (distinguish #81 比, 192 鬯)	化北匙
22.	□ fāng (= "square") > lìkuāng 立匡, sānkuānglán 三匡欄	匠匣匪
23.	□ xì > piānkuāng 偏匡	匹匿區
25.	∖ bŭ	佳卞卦
26.	门 jié > jiǎodāo 腳刀, dāněrpáng 單耳旁	卻卿卵
	已 (also called jiǎodāo 腳刀)	危卮卷
27.	厂 hǎn (distinguish #53 广) > yànzìtóu 雁字頭, piānchǎng 偏廠	厚原厲
28.	ム sī > sānjiǎo 三角	厹去參

	********* 3 strokes *********	
31.	□ wéi > sìdàokuāng 四道匡, fāngkuāng 方匡	四回國
34.	久 zhǐ (distinguish #35 久, 66 攵)	夆
35.	久 suī (distinguish #34 久, 66 攵) > xiàzìdǐ 夏字底	复夏夔
43.	尤wāng	尤就尷
45.	屮 chè > piěshān 撇山	屯
47.	《《 chuān > sānguǎi 三拐	川州巡
52.	么 yāo > yòuzìpáng 幼字旁	幻幽幾
54.	廴 yǐn > zǒutíng 走廷	建廷延
55.	升 gǒng > dàèrshí 大二十	弄弇弊
56.	弋yì	式弒
58.	<u>与</u> jì	彖彘彝
	크	
59.	彡 shān > sānpiě 三撇	彤形影
	******** 4 strokes ********	
65.	支zhī	社
65. 71.		鼓 无既无
	支zhī	
71.	支 zhī 无 wú	无既无
71. 73.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日)	无既无 曲更書
71. 73. 78.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕)	无既无 曲更書 死殆殘
71. 73. 78. 79.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū	无既无 曲更書 死殆殘 段殺毅
71. 73. 78. 79.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū 毌 wú	无既无 曲更書 死殆殘 段殺毅 母每毒
71. 73. 78. 79. 80. 83.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū 毌 wú 氏 shì	无既无 曲更馨 段殺毅 母每毒 民氏
71. 73. 78. 79. 80. 83. 84.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū 毌 wú 氏 shì 气 qì > qìzìtóu 氣字頭	无既无 曲 死 段 段 母 民 気 氣 氣
71. 73. 78. 79. 80. 83. 84.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū 毌 wú 氏 shì 气 qì > qìzìtóu 氣字頭 爻 yáo	无既无 曲 死 段 段 母 民 気 氣 氣
71. 73. 78. 79. 80. 83. 84.	支 zhī 无 wú 曰 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 歹 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū 毌 wú 氏 shì 气 qì > qìzìtóu 氣字頭 爻 yáo 爿 bàn or qiáng (distinguish #91 片)	无 曲 死 段 母 民 氛 炎 母 民 氯 爾
71. 73. 78. 79. 80. 83. 84.	支 zhī 无 wú 日 yuē (distinguish #72 日) 罗 dǎi (distinguish #36 夕) 殳 shū 毌 wú 氏 shì 气 qì > qìzìtóu 氣字頭 爻 yáo 爿 bàn or qiáng (distinguish #91 片) > fǎnpiàn 反片, jiāngzìpáng 將字旁	无 曲 死 段 母 民 氛 炎 母 民 氯 爾

108.	∭ mĭn, mĭng	益盜盡	
111.	矢 shǐ	矣知短	
114.	内 róu > yǚzìdǐ 禹字底	禹禺禽	
116.	穴 xuè > xuèzìtóu 穴字頭	空窗窺	
101	**************************************	~ 구 티티 <u>~</u> 크는	
121.	缶 fǒu	缸罌罐	
122.	网 wǎng	网军罔	
	^四 fānggāng 方綱	罩罪置	
127.	耒 lěi	耕耗耘	
129.	聿 yù	肆肅肇	
131.	臣 chén	臥臧臨	
134.	台jiù	臾舂與	
136.	舛 chuǎn (distinguish #36 夕, 93 牛)	舛舜舞	
137.	舟 zhōu	航般船	
138.	艮 gèn	艮良艱	
141.	虍 hū > hǔzìtóu 虎字頭	虎處號	
146.	^{IIII} yà	西要覆	
********* 7 strokes *********			
150.	谷 gǔ	谷谿豁	
151.	豆 dòu	岩豐豔	
152.	泵 shǐ	版 聚 聚 聚	
155.	赤 chì	赦赫赭	
158.	身shēn	躬躺軀	
160.	辛xīn	辜辟辯	
161.	辰 chén	辱農辴	
165.	釆 biàn (note that this is slightly different from $c\check{a}i$ 采)	采釉釋	
171	********* 8 strokes ************************************	术	
171.	隶 dài	款	

	******* 9 strokes *********	
178.	韋 wéi	韓韙韜
179.	韭 jiǔ	韭韰韱
	******** 10 strokes ********	
190.	髟 biāo > fǎzìtóu 髮字頭	髮鬆鬢
191.	鬥 dòu (distinguish #169 門)	鬧鬨鬮
192.	營 chàng (distinguish #21 □)	營鬱
193.	鬲 lì	鬲鬷鬻
	******** 11 strokes ********	
197.	鹵 lǔ	鹹鹺鹽
199.	麥 mài	麩麵麴
	******** 12 strokes ********	
202.	黍 shǔ	黎黏黐
204.	黹 zhǐ	黹黻黼
	******** 13 strokes *********	
206.	鼎 dǐng	鼏鼐鼒
	******** 17 strokes *********	
214.	龠 yuè	扁 木侖皆