

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	be named;	place region	beautiful	BA
name	be called; call		[USA]	consensus

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	xiǎng	qù	1+6
guó	yīng	guò	qì	think;	go	liǎng
country	hero	pass	air; spirit	feel like		2 [+M]
	[England; UK]	ever				

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 tǔzìpáng’.
- 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 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 is 艹 cǎozìtóu ‘grass character on top’, 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 (cǎozìtóu 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 𠂔.

j) 氣 has 气 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 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, 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) 兩/两 derives from a drawing of a balance (or pair of scales). The innards of the fántǐzì and jiǎntǐzì 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

名字	叫什么	地方	美国	美国人	走吧
míngzi	jiào shénme	dìfang	Měiguó	Měiguó rén	zǒu ba
英国	很想去	两个	天气	去过	有名
Yīngguó	hěn xiǎng qù	liǎng ge	tiānqì	qùguo	yǒumíng
好吧	没吃过	英国人	姓方的	看过	不对
hǎo ba	méi chīguo	Yīngguó rén	xìng Fāng de	kànguo	bú duì
哪国人	那个地方	中英字典	天气好了	英文	姓名
nǎiguó rén	nèi ge dìfang	Zhōng-Yīng zìdiǎn	tiānqì hǎo le	Yīngwén	xìngmíng

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:

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 tóng xíng, jiù gāi zhǎo ge dìfāng hē yì bēi...”
(“Three people walk together, then should find a place to have a glass...”)

3.2 Set 2

北 京 南 西 安 海

2+3, 1+4

běi

north

2+6

jīng

capital

2+7

nán

south

6+0

xī

west

3+3

ān

peace

3+7

hǎi

sea

外 到 近 省 川 州

3+2

wài

outside

2+6

dào

arrive; to

3+4

jìn

be close

5+4

shěng

province

1+2

chuān

(river)

1+5

zhōu

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

cóng

from

2+8

lí

dist. from

3+4

yuǎn

be far

3+2

biān

side

5+8

cuò

mistake; wrong

2+8

bù

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 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 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 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).

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	Guǎngzhōu 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 biānr

Exercise 2

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

<u>第-</u>	<u>姓</u>	<u>哪国人</u>	<u>什么地方</u>	<u>那个地方的天气</u>	<u>去过的地方</u>
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？姓安的是哪国人？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

美國

Měiguó

去過

qùguo

美人

měirén

天氣

tiānqì

不想去

bù xiǎng qù

英國

Yīngguó

什麼地方

shénme dìfang

天氣很熱

tiānqì hěn rè

兩個人

liǎng ge rén

叫什麼

jiào shénme

吃過了

chīguo le

哪國人

nǎi guó rén

天氣怎麼樣

tiānqì zěnmeyàng

起來了

qǐlái le

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21G.101 / 21G.151 Chinese I (Regular)
Spring 2006

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