



Preface

The Chinese characters, as an ideographic writing system, are different from other writing systems in the world. To the CFL(Chinese as a foreign language) learners, Chinese characters are admittedly hard to tackle, with all the varied meanings under one entry and the recurrence of polyphones, not to say the confusing words in similar forms. To facilitate the beginners to master Chinese characters and to help them make progress in the basic skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking, we have compiled *1000 Frequently Used Chinese Characters*, as an aid for those in need.

This book, particularly intended for the CFL learners, aims to help the learners fully master the 1000 basic Chinese characters. These words have a high frequency of use in China. According to the researches made by many a scholar, a good command of these characters would help the learners clear up the obstacles in daily reading and comprehension. These 1000 characters are the most popularly used ones in Chinese daily life, as suggested in *The Syllabus for Graded Chinese Characters* and *The List of the Frequency of Use of Chinese Characters*. They are compiled based on a list of books of reference, including *The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary*, *A Dictionary of Chinese Usage: 8000 Words* and *New Chinese Words Dictionary*.

This book covers a wide range of knowledge on the 1000 Chinese characters concerning their pronunciations, example words and sentences, strokes, stroke orders, structures, as well as their original complicated forms and their forms in ancient writing systems. It should be noted that a

A Guide to the Book

1 General Layout of the Entries

1.1 There are 1000 Chinese characters altogether, including the most basic and popular ones. Each character is listed as one entry.

1.2 Characters with the same form but varied pronunciations and meanings are taken as separate entries, for instance, “着” zháo, “着” zhe, and “着” zhuó. However, those with the same form and same meaning but varied pronunciations are listed as one entry, for example, “这” zhè, which is also pronounced as zhèi.

1.3 The entries are sequenced alphabetically based on the phonetic letters of the characters. The homophones are listed according to their stroke numbers, meaning the characters with fewer strokes precede those with more. For the homophones with equal number of strokes, they are arranged based on the starting stroke in the order of the horizontal stroke (一), the vertical stroke (丨), the left-falling stroke (丿), the dot stroke (丶), and the hook stroke (㇇).

1.4 Generally, the neutral tone character comes after the tone character in the same form, for example, the character “呵” ā follows “呵” à.

2 Forms and Structures

2.1 The prevailing forms of the characters are presented in the book. The original complicated form of a character is given in the bracket if there is one. All the original complicated forms of the Chinese characters are based on *The Contemporary Chinese Dictionary (Original Complicated Form Edition)* published by the Commercial Press (H.K.) Ltd. in January 2009. When a complicated character in the bracket has only one of the

音序检字表

Phonetic Index of the Entries

The number on the right of each character indicates the page number in this book.

A

ā	阿	1
à	啊	1
a	啊	1
ǎi	矮	2
ài	爱	2
ān	安	3

B

bā	八	4
bā	巴	4
bā	吧	4
bǎ	把	4
bà	爸	5
ba	吧	5
bái	白	5
bǎi	百	6
bài	败	6
bān	班	7
bǎn	板	7
bàn	办	7
bàn	半	8
bāng	帮	8
bāo	包	9

báo	薄	9
bǎo	饱	10
bǎo	宝	10
bǎo	保	10
bào	报	11
bào	抱	11
bēi	杯	12
bēi	背	12
běi	北	12
bèi	备	12
bèi	背	13
bèi	被	13
běn	本	14
bí	鼻	15
bǐ	比	15
bǐ	笔	16
bì	币	16
bì	必	17
bì	毕	17
biān	边	17
biàn	变	18
biàn	便	19
biàn	遍	19
bian	边	20
biǎo	表	20

bié	别	21
bīng	冰	22
bǐng	饼	22
bìng	病	22
bù	不	23
bù	布	24
bù	步	24
bù	部	25

C

cā	擦	26
cái	才	26
cài	菜	27
cān	参	28
cān	餐	28
cǎo	草	29
cè	册	29
céng	层	29
chā	差	30
chá	茶	30
chá	查	30
chá	察	31
chà	差	31
chāi	差	32
chǎn	产	32

cháng	长	33
cháng	尝	33
cháng	常	34
chǎng	厂	34
chǎng	场	35
chàng	唱	35
chāo	抄	36
chāo	超	36
cháo	朝	37
chǎo	吵	37
chē	车	38
chén	晨	38
chēng	称	38
chéng	成	39
chéng	城	39
chéng	乘	40
chī	吃	40
chí	迟	41
chí	持	41
chì	翅	42
chóng	重	42
chōu	抽	42
chòu	臭	43
chū	出	44
chū	初	44

ā

阿₇ 阿 阿 阿 阿 阿 阿

阿

- pref. used before a name or a kinship term

阿

ā lóng

阿龙

A Long

ā yí

阿姨

aunt

à

啊₁₀ 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊

啊

- interj. used to express surprise or admiration

啊

à tiān qíng le

啊,天晴了!

Ah, it has cleared up!

Also see a on page 1.

a

啊₁₀ 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊 啊

啊

- part. used at the end of the sentence to express admiration, doubt, or exhortation

啊

duō hǎo de tiān qì a

多好的天气啊!

What a fine day!

tā hái méi lái a

他还没来啊?

Hasn't he come yet?

kuài zǒu a

快走啊!

Hurry up! Go!

- part. used after things enumerated

wén jù diàn li yǒu zhǐ a bǐ a běn zi a dōng xi hěn duō

文具店里有纸啊、笔啊、本子啊,东西很多。

There are many things at the stationer's, like paper, pens and notebooks.

