

Characteristics of Chinese Characters 汉字的特点

- One character, one phonetic syllable
- One syllable, often many characters: Many homonyms
- Not all characters are in active use
- Not all characters are words
- The smallest units forming a character are strokes

The Number of Words and Characters at the Four Levels in the "General Outline" for Non-native Chinese Learners

	Level A	Level B	Level C	Level D	Total
Words	1,033	2,018	2,202	3,569	8,822
Characters	800	804	601	700	2,905

The Six Basic Strokes

	Stroke	Name in Chinese	Name in English
1	一	héng	the horizontal
2	丨	shù	the vertical
3	丿	piě	the left-falling curved
4	㇇	nà	the right-falling curved
5	丶	diǎn	the dot
6	㇀	tí	the rising