

# My first Chinese characters 汉字

Watch each character grow, trace the grey ones, then write your own in the tian grid 田字格 *tiánzìgé*.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## LEARNING GOAL

I can write six Chinese characters with the strokes in the right order.

## SUCCESS CRITERIA

- ☐ I can name the strokes 横 竖 撇 捺.
- ☐ I can write strokes in order, starting at the dot.
- ☐ I can fit a character neatly in a tian grid box.

MEET THE STROKES: START AT THE DOT, FOLLOW THE ARROW

→ 横 **héng**  
horizontal

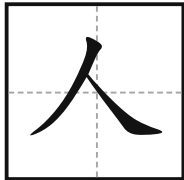
↓ 竖 **shù**  
vertical

↙ 撇 **piě**  
left-falling

↘ 捺 **nà**  
right-falling

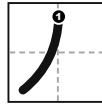
↘ 横折 **héng zhé**  
across, down

↘ 竖折 **shù zhé**  
down, across

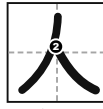


**rén**  
person

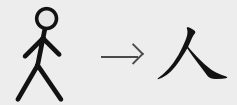
WATCH IT GROW: 2 STROKES



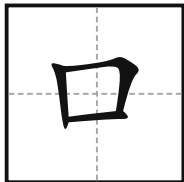
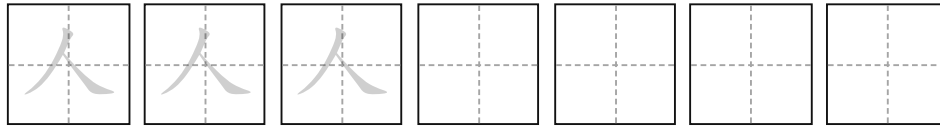
撇 **piě**



捺 **nà**

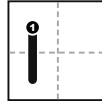


PICTURE TO CHARACTER

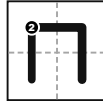


**kǒu**  
mouth

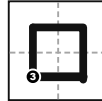
WATCH IT GROW: 3 STROKES



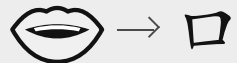
竖 **shù**



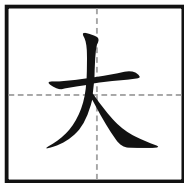
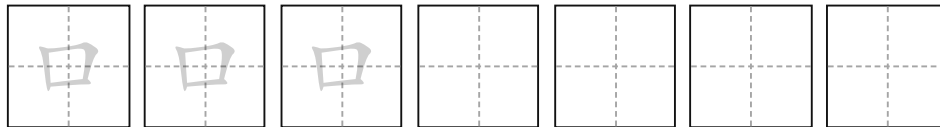
横折 **héng zhé**



横 **héng**

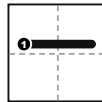


PICTURE TO CHARACTER

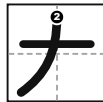


**dà**  
big

WATCH IT GROW: 3 STROKES



横 **héng**



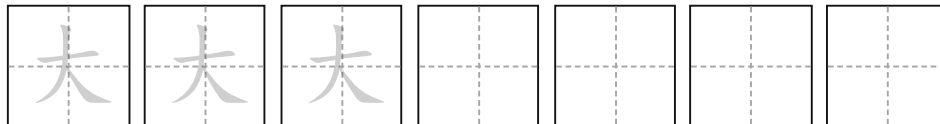
撇 **piě**



捺 **nà**



PICTURE TO CHARACTER

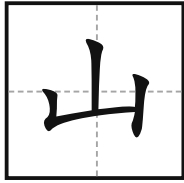


# Mountain, sun and tree

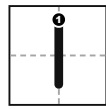
Say the pinyin out loud each time you write a character.



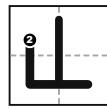
WATCH IT GROW: 3 STROKES



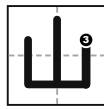
**shān**  
mountain



竖 shù



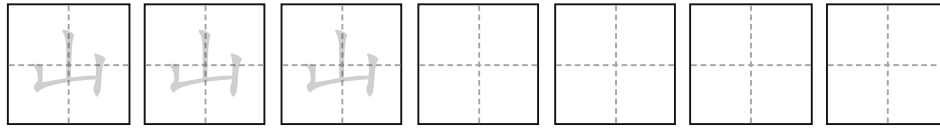
竖折 shù zhé



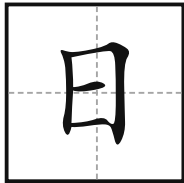
竖 shù



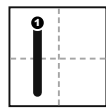
PICTURE TO CHARACTER



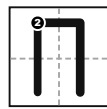
WATCH IT GROW: 4 STROKES



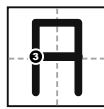
**rì**  
sun, day



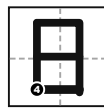
竖 shù



横折 héng zhé



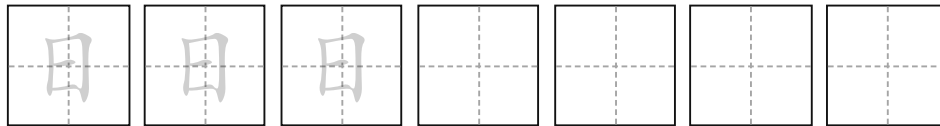
横 héng



横 héng



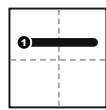
PICTURE TO CHARACTER



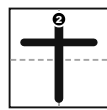
WATCH IT GROW: 4 STROKES



**mù**  
tree, wood



横 héng



竖 shù



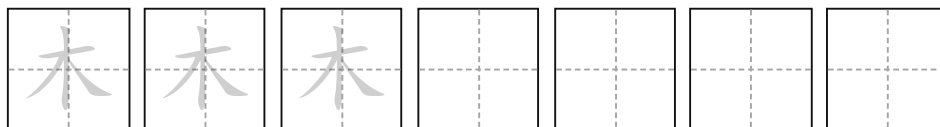
撇 piě



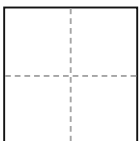
捺 nà



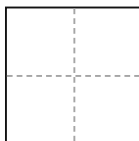
PICTURE TO CHARACTER



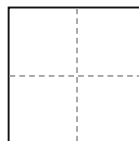
**? Write from memory** Cover the page. Read the pinyin, write the character.



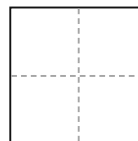
mù



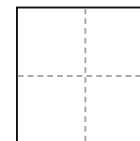
rén



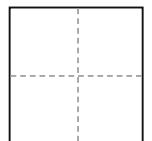
shān



dà



rì



kǒu

**! Stroke order rules you used today**

**Top before bottom**

日: the middle 横 comes before the bottom 横.

**Left before right**

口: the left 竖 comes before the 横折.

**横 before 竖**

木: across first, then down.

**撇 before 捺**

人: the left foot comes before the right foot.

**Middle first**

山: the tall middle peak comes before the two sides.

**Close the box last**

口 日: the bottom 横 shuts the door.

# Use your characters

Match, build words and check your own writing.



## 1 Match each character to its picture

6 marks

Join each character to the picture it grew from. Write its **pinyin with the tone mark** on the line.

山

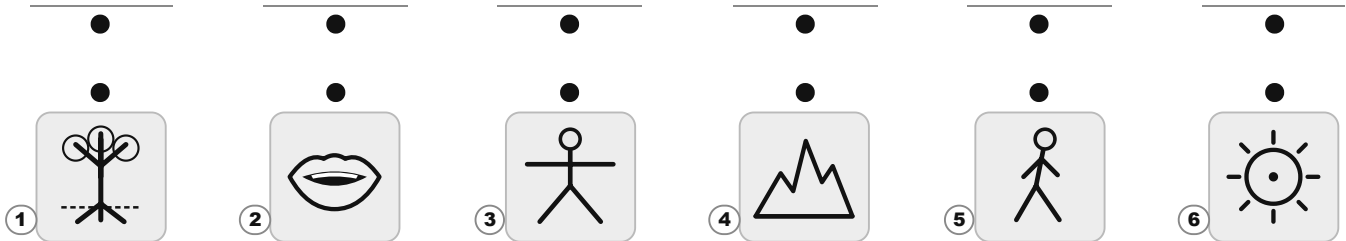
人

日

口

木

大



PINYIN BANK

shān

rén

mù

kǒu

rì

dà

## 2 Join two characters to make a word

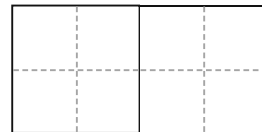
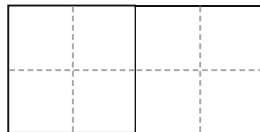
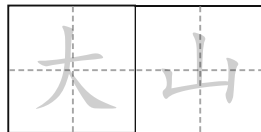
4 marks

Trace each word once, then write it twice. Keep both characters the **same size**.

大山

dà shān

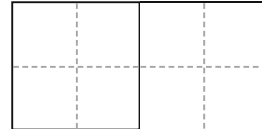
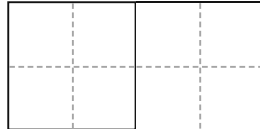
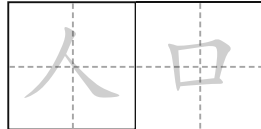
big mountain (big + mountain)



人口

rén kǒu

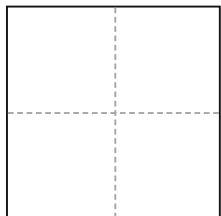
population (person + mouth)



Think about it: why might "person" + "mouth" mean **population**? Think of mouths to feed.

## 3 Check my writing

Write your best character, then tick.



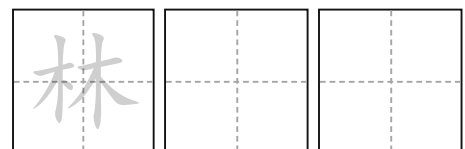
- ☐ It sits in the **centre**.
- ☐ It **fills the box** but not the edges.
- ☐ Strokes **in order**, from the dot.
- ☐ **Straight** strokes, sharp corners.

☐ Not yet ☐ Getting there ☒ Got it



GO FURTHER

One tree is 木 *mù*. Two trees side by side make 林 *lín*, woods. Write 林 below. Make each tree **thinner** so both fit in one box.



How many strokes does 林 have? \_\_\_\_\_



# Stroke names, answers and teaching tips

## The six strokes on this sheet

| STROKE | NAME     | HOW TO WRITE IT | USED IN |
|--------|----------|-----------------|---------|
| 横      | héng     | horizontal      | 大 木     |
| 竖      | shù      | vertical        | 山 木     |
| 撇      | piě      | left-falling    | 人 大     |
| 捺      | nà       | right-falling   | 人 木     |
| 横折     | héng zhé | across, down    | 口 日     |
| 竖折     | shù zhé  | down, across    | 山       |

## Stroke order at a glance

| CHARACTER     | STROKES | ORDER       |
|---------------|---------|-------------|
| 人 <i>rén</i>  | 2       | 撇, 捺        |
| 口 <i>kǒu</i>  | 3       | 竖, 横折, 横    |
| 大 <i>dà</i>   | 3       | 横, 撇, 捺     |
| 山 <i>shān</i> | 3       | 竖, 竖折, 竖    |
| 日 <i>rì</i>   | 4       | 竖, 横折, 横, 横 |
| 木 <i>mù</i>   | 4       | 横, 竖, 撇, 捺  |

## Answers

| Q          | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1          | 山 <i>shān</i> to picture 4; 人 <i>rén</i> to 5; 日 <i>rì</i> to 6; 口 <i>kǒu</i> to 2; 木 <i>mù</i> to 1; 大 <i>dà</i> to 3. One mark each for a correct match with correct pinyin and tone. |
| 2          | One mark per correctly ordered word written twice, both characters equal in size. Look for 人 written 撇 then 捺 and 口 closed last.                                                        |
| Go further | 林 <i>lín</i> has <b>8 strokes</b> . In the left 木 the last stroke shrinks to a short dot, so it does not crash into the right tree.                                                     |

### COMMON MISTAKES

- 口 **in one loop**. Pupils draw a circle or a single square. It is three strokes: left 竖, 横折, bottom 横. The corner of the 横折 should be sharp.
- Wrong order in 山**. Many start with the left side. The tall middle 竖 comes first, then the 竖折, then the right 竖.
- 日 **closed too early**. The bottom 横 is always last; the middle 横 goes in before the box is shut.
- 人 **and 大 crossing**. In 人 the 捺 starts part way down the 撇, not at the top.

### TEACHING TIPS

- Air-write each stroke with the class, saying its name aloud: "横 *héng*, across".
- Use the dashed cross: the vertical in 木 and 山 sits on the centre line.
- Show the picture first, then the character, so the meaning sticks.
- Watch pupils write 口 and 山 live: order and direction matter more than neatness at first.

### SUPPORT AND STRETCH

- Support:** trace with a finger first, then with a pencil; complete page 1 only.
- Stretch:** try 森 *sēn*, forest (three trees), and 从 *cóng*, follow (two people).

### TALK PARTNER QUESTION

大 is a person with arms stretched wide. Which picture would you draw for "small", and why?

### TONES TO LISTEN FOR

人 *rén* (2nd, rising), 口 *kǒu* (3rd, dipping), 大 *dà* (4th, falling), 山 *shān* (1st, high and level), 日 *rì* (4th), 木 *mù* (4th). Ask pupils to show the tone with a hand movement as they write.