

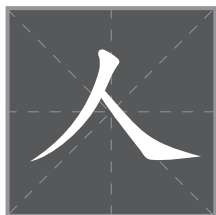
人體類

Human Body





rén



古人關於人體形象的字造了很多，有正面站立的（大），有側面站立的（人），有躺着的（尸），有跪着的（卩），有女人形（女），有老人形（長），有小孩形（兒）等。古文字的人字，是一個側面而立的人形，它的本義即指人類，是所有人類的總稱。而凡以“人”字所組成的字，大都與人類及其行為狀態有關，如從、眾、伐、休、伏、保、介等。



甲骨文



金文



小篆



There are many characters based on the shape of a human body, e.g. 大 representing the frontal view of a man on his feet, 人 the side view of a man on his feet, 尸 a man lying down, 卩 a man on his knees, 女 a woman, 長 an old man, and 兒 a child. The character 人 in ancient writing systems presents the side view of a man on his feet. It is a general term, referring to all mankind. Characters with 人 as a component are all related to the human race and their behaviour, e.g. 從 (to follow), 眾 (many), 伐 (to attack), 休 (to rest), 伏 (to lie prostrate), 保 (to protect), and 介 (to interpose).

yuán



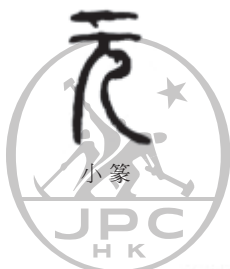
元字的本義就是人頭。早期金文中的元字，像一個側面而立的人形，而特別突出了人的頭部。這個頭部的形狀在甲骨文和後來的金文中簡化成一橫，而在橫上又另加一點，以指示頭在人體中的位置。元字由人的頭部之義又可引申為指事情的開頭，有開始、第一的意思，所以從前帝王改換年號的第一年就叫做元年，一年中的第一個月叫元月，一年的第一天叫元旦。把事情的開端叫做“元始”，所以元字又有本來、原先之義。



甲骨文



金文



小篆

The original meaning of 元 was “the head of a man”. In the early Bronze Inscriptions, 元 looks like the side view of a man on his feet, with the head especially prominent. In the Oracle-Bone Inscriptions and late Bronze Inscriptions, the part signalling the head is simply a horizontal stroke, on top of which a dot is added to indicate the position of the head in a human body. From “the head of a man” have derived its extended meanings of “the beginning” and “the first”. That is why when an emperor changes his reign title, the first year is called 元年. And the first month in a year is 元月, the first day is 元旦. The beginning of an event is 元始. In addition, 元 could mean “original”, though the more usual character for it now is 原.



bǐ



古文字的比字，像一前一後緊靠在一起的兩個人形。它的本義為並列、靠近、緊挨；引申指比較、較量；又指勾結，用作貶義，如“朋比為奸”（互相勾結幹壞事）。



甲骨文



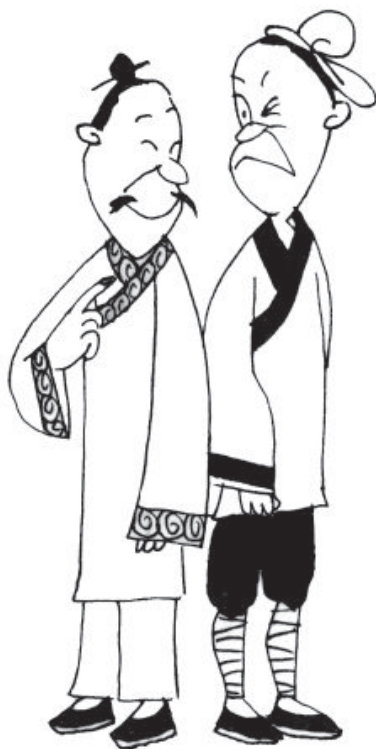
金文



小篆



In ancient writing systems, the character 比 looks like two men standing together, one in front of the other. Its primary meaning, therefore, is “to stand side by side”, “to get close to”, from which have derived its extended meanings “to compare” and “to compete”. And it can also mean “to gang up with”, e.g. 朋比為奸 (to associate with for nicked purposes).



cóng



古文字的從字，是一前一後兩個人形，像一個人在前面走，另一個人隨後跟從的樣子，其本義為跟隨、隨從。從字由跟從之義，引申為指聽從、歸順之義，又有參與其事的意思，如從軍、從政、從事等。



甲骨文



金文



小篆



In ancient writing systems, the character 從 looks like two men walking together, one in front of the other. Its primary meaning is “to follow”, from which have derived the meanings “to heed” and “to obey”. It can also mean “to be engaged in”, e.g. 從軍 (to join the army), 從政 (to go into politics) and 從事 (to go in for).



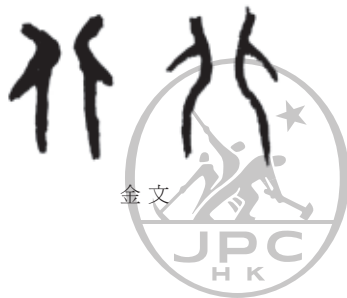
běi



古文字的北字，像兩個人相背而立的樣子，其本義為相背、違背。軍隊打了敗仗，士兵相背四散而逃，所以北字又有敗、敗逃之義。此外，北又多借用為方位名詞，指北方，與南方相對。



甲骨文



金文



小篆

In ancient writing systems, the character 北 looks like two men standing back to back, hence its original meaning is “to be contrary to”. When an army suffered a defeat, the soldiers all ran for their lives with their backs toward each other, so the character 北 has come to mean “to be defeated” as well. In addition, 北 is also used as a locative, meaning “the north”, opposite to 南 (the south).



bìng



【併，並】

甲骨文、金文的并字，像兩人被連在一起的形狀。它的本義為合併，即聯合在一起的意思。并【並】字還可用作副詞，相當於“皆”、“都”的意思，又指一起、一齊。



甲骨文



金文



In the Oracle-Bone Inscriptions and Bronze Inscriptions, the character 并 looks like two men linked together. Its primary meaning is “to combine”. But it may also be used as an adverb, meaning “all”, “altogether” or “simultaneously”.



zhòng



甲骨文眾字，像烈日當空，很多人彎腰在地上勞動的樣子，真有點“鋤禾日當午”的味道。金文和小篆的眾字，上面的日變成了目，似乎像奴隸主的一雙牛似的大眼在監視一群奴隸勞動。因此，眾的本義當指成群的奴隸，引申為指眾人、大家、許多人，同時又泛指人或事物之多。



甲骨文



金文



小篆



In the Oracle-Bone Inscriptions, the character 眾 looks like a picture in which many people are tilling the soil in the scorching sun. In the Bronze Inscriptions and Later Seal Character, the sun part on top changes into an eye part, as if the labourers were slaves working under the close surveillance of a slave owner. So the original meaning of 眾 was “masses of slaves”, but it has evolved to mean a crowd of people, or simply, a large number (of people or of things).



chǐ



尺是一種長度單位名稱。十寸為一尺，十尺為一丈。在古代，各種長度單位多以人體的部位為準則，如寸、尺、咫等。金文的尺字，是在一個人形的小腿部位加一個指示符號以表示一尺的高度所在。小篆尺字的結構方法相同，只是形體稍有變化罷了。尺的本義是指一種長度單位，引申為指一種量長度或畫線用的器具——尺子。



金文



小篆



尺 is a measure of length, equal to ten 寸 or one tenth of 丈 in the Chinese System, and one third of a metre in the Metric System. In ancient times, these measures of length were based on the length of parts of a human body. In the Bronze Inscriptions, the character 尺 looks like a man with a sign on the shank, marking the length of 尺. In the Later Seal Character, the character has the same structure except some minor change in the shape. From its primary meaning has also derived the use of 尺 to refer to an instrument for measuring length—尺子 (ruler).

