

**Phonetic Components in Simplify Characters**  
**Supplementary Material for Integrated Chinese Level I, Part I**  
**Prepared by Carolyn Kun-Shan Lee**

## I. Introduction

This supplementary material is mainly designed to enhance the students understanding about the importance of phonetic components in Chinese characters and can be used as a reference. By constantly noticing those characters in the textbook which are phonetic components themselves, the students will develop a sense of association when they see the same components appear with different radicals in various situations. Also, by seeing in the list new characters which share the same phonetic components and appear in later lessons, the students will pay more attention to those characters. A good portion of the characters still show a strong tie to the pronunciation with the phonetic elements themselves. By building up the knowledge of phonetic elements, the individual readers of Chinese will gradually develop a greater ability to guess the pronunciation of new characters. In turn, the learners will be able to decode the sound of unfamiliar words and then check the dictionary more effectively. In combination with the knowledge about ‘bushou’ (radicals) in Chinese, the phonetic components will help the students learn hundreds of other Chinese characters efficiently.

## II. Objectives:

1. Raise the learners awareness of the importance of the phonetic component in Chinese characters
2. Build up a learning strategy for reading and writing characters -- guessing the pronunciation of an unfamiliar word, making an association between the previously learned characters, which are the phonetic components, with an unfamiliar character, and looking up new words in the dictionary.
3. Hopefully it will help the First Year Chinese students see one of the linguistic features of characters so they won't be overwhelmed by the number of new characters they will have to learn.

## III. Background Information

More than 90% of modern day Chinese characters are comprised of phonetic compounds. Such characters are made up of a phonetic part indicating the sound of the character, and a part providing some information on the meaning of the character (these are called radicals or ‘bushou’). Therefore, it is essential for the students of Chinese language to learn about the most commonly used radicals (‘bushou’) as well as the phonetic elements which are characters themselves. The students should also be aware that some of the

characters, when combined with a semantic component ('bushou') in a character, change their pronunciation from the original phonetic elements.

Phonetic Components

Words that are introduced in the textbook

王 wang2: a surname (Lesson1.1)	往, 汪, 旺, 望, 枉, 望
生 sheng1: give birth to (1.1)	胜, 笙, 牲, 甥
名 ming2: name (1.2)	铭, 酪, 茗, 洺
中 zhong1: center (1.2)	钟 (Lesson 3.1), 种, 仲, 肿, 衷, 盅
青 qing1: green	请 (Lesson 1.1), 清 (Lesson 8.2) 情, 靛, 箒, 蜻 鲚, 晴
朋 peng2: friend (1.1)	棚, 棚棚, 鹏
马 ma3: horse	吗 (1.2), 妈 (2.1), 玛, 码, 骂, 蚂, 妈, 码
人 ren2: person (1.2)	认 (3.2)
那 na4: that (2.1)	哪 (5.1), 娜
子 zi3 : son (2.1)	字 (1.1), 仔, 孜, 籽
有 you3: have (2.1)	侑, 宥, 铀, 囿
长 zhang3: 1) elder 2) to grow	张 (2.1), 帐, 涨, 胀, 账
召 zhao1: convene	照 (2.1), 招, 昭, 诏, 沼
巴 ba1:stick to	爸 (2.1), 吧 (5.1), 把 (13.1), 邲, 疤, 芭, 粃, 笆, 靶, 钹
弟 di4: younger brother (2.1)	第 (7.1), 递, 娣 睇
哥 ge1:older brother (2.2)	歌 (4.1)
几 gi3: how many (2.2)	机 (11.1), 饥, 肌, 叽, 矶, 玦
星 xing1: star (3.1)	醒, 腥, 猩, 惺
喜 xi3: like(3.1)	嘻, 熹, 禧, 僖, 嬉
其 qi2: his (her, their, its)	期 (3.1), 琪, 棋, 旗, 祺, 淇, 欺, 骐, 麒, 萁, 麒, 麒
反 fan3: in reverse	饭 (3.1), 返, 畷
晚 wan3: evening; late	挽
羊 yang2: sheep	样 (3.1), 痒, 样洋, 漾佯, 恙, 氧, 样 蚌
太 tai4: extremely (3.1)	态, 钛, 汰, 肽
可 ke3: but (3.1)	柯, 珂, 苛, 痾 珂 轲, 蚵, 呵, 痾, 岢, 岢, 可, 岢, 可
门 men2: door	们 (3.1), 闷 (10.2), 焖, 扪, 钊
半 ban4: half (3.1)	拌, 伴, 绊, 伴, 鞞
求 qiu2: beg; request	球 (4.1), 裘述, 球 赅
昌 chang1: prosperous	唱 (4.1), 娼, 倡, 菖, 鲙, 猖

白 bai2: white (3.1)	百 (9.1), 佰, 柏, 伯; 伯 (bo), 柏, 泊, 箔, 舶, 铂, 鮑
同 tong2: same (3.1)	桐, 筒, 铜, 酮, 恫, 苘
候 hou4: to wait (4.1)	侯, 猴, 喉, 埃 猴, 篻
昨 zuo2: yesterday (4.1)	作 (5.1), 祚, 酢, 炸 笮, 阼, 炸, 炸
跳 tiao4: to jump (4.1)**	挑, 眺, 桃, 桃窈窕 ; 逃 (tao2), 桃; 姚(yao2), 铽, 桃
久 jiu3: a long time (4.2)	玖, 灸, 疚, 枢
错 cuo4: wrong (4.2)	措, 厝
相 xiang4: appearance	想 (4.2), 箱, 湘, 厢, 箱, 绶
意 yi4: meaning (4.2)	噫, 瘳, 臆, 镜
只 zhi3: only (4.2)	职, 织, 识 (zhi4, shi4), 帜, 枳
快 kuai4: fast; quickly(5.1)	块 (9.1), 筷子
来 lai2: to come (5.1)	莱, 涑, 睐, 徕, 镭, 棗, 徕, 崐
介 jie4: between (5.1)	阶, 芥, 疥, 蚶, 玠 价钱
召 zhao1: to convene	绍 (5.1), 韶, 苕, 邵, 劬, 照 (2.1)
下 xia4: below; under (5.1)	吓, 虾
票 piao4: ticket (11.1)	漂 (5.1), 瓢, 嫖, 嫖, 缥, 缥, 嫖, 剽, 缥, 嘌 骠
坐 zuo4: to sit (5.1)	座
工 gong1:craft (5.1)	功, 攻, 巩, 汞; 红 (hong), 虹, 茺
曷 he2: how; why; when	喝 (5.1), 褐, 鞞
啤 pi2: beer (5.1)	脾, 啤, 郫, 啤
非 fei1: wrong	啡 (5.1), 菲, 匪, 霏, 腓 绯, 扉, 斐, 匪, 俳 诽, 菲, 斐, 痲, 蜚 腰, 嶷
要 yao4: to want (5.1)	完 (12.1), 莞, 皖 烷, 腕
玩 wan2: to play (5.2)	馆(5.2), 管, 棺, 馆, 涓
官 guan1: official	财, 材
才 cai2: not until (5.2)	烩, 绘, 荟, 浍
会 hui4: to meet (6.1)	级 (6.1), 极 (12.1), 汲, 芟, 笈, 岌
及 ji2: reach; come up to	烤(12x), 铐, 铐, 拷, 铐, 拷
考 kao3: to give/take a test (6.1)	试 (6.1), 轼, 拭
式 shi4: type; style	控, 崆, 筐
空 kong1: free time(6.1)	放(12), 房(17), 芳, 防, 纺, 坊, 坊
方 fang1: square (6.1)	访, 防, 房, 舫, 肪, 枋, 昉, 访, 妨, 访, 访
办 (辦) ban4: to manage (6.1)	瓣
艮 gen3: blunt	跟(6.2), 根, 根, 苒
阿 a1 : a prefix for nickname	啊(6.2), 啊
旦 dan4: dawn	但(6.2), 担, 疸

知 zhi1: to know (6.2)

智, 蚘