Learning Chinese Characters (汉字) through Applied Pattern Recognition

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TIP SAP Research SE&T

Non-Objectives

- Scientific Talk
- Relevancy & Completeness of Content
- Writing & Speaking

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Objectives

- ✓ Activating your Intrinsic “Research Gene“
  - ✓ Raising your Curiosity
  - ✓ Boost your Creativity, Motivation, & Happiness
- ✓ Gain a Basic Understanding of Written Chinese
- ✓ Develop a Profound Appreciation for the Different

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Agenda (政纲)

1 **Facts (事实)**

2 History (历史)

3 Examples (实例)

4 Outlook (图景)

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Facts (事实): Some Metrics

100,000+
characters

2000
simplified characters

3000
99% of characters used in newspapers

4000
you may consider yourself educated

6000
to read literature or Classical Chinese

1,300,000+
speakers

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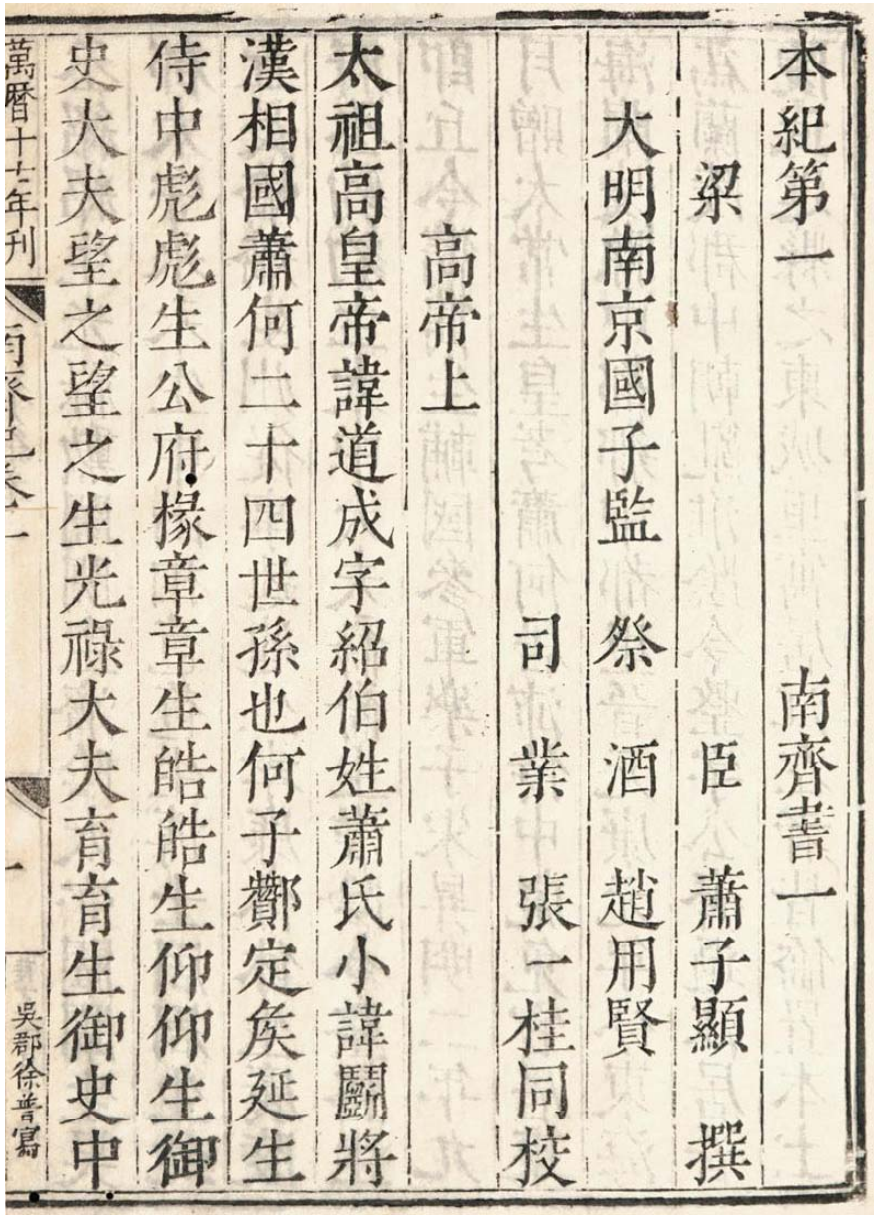
Total Number of Chinese Characters (汉字)

Year	Name of dictionary	Number of characters
100	Shuowen Jiezi	9,353
543?	Yupian	12,158
601	Qieyun	16,917
997	Longkan Shoujian	26,430
1011	Guangyun	26,194
1039	Jiyun	53,525
1615	Zihui	33,179
1675	Zhengzitong	33,440
1716	Kangxi Zidian	47,035
1916	Zhonghua Da Zidian	48,000
1989	Hanyu Da Zidian	54,678
1994	Zhonghua Zihai	85,568
2004	Yitizi Zidian	106,230


本紀第一　南齊書一
梁　臣　蕭子顯　撰
大明南京國子監　祭　酒　趙用賢
司　業　張一桂同校
高帝上
太祖高皇帝諱道成字紹伯姓蕭氏小諱鬬將
漢相國蕭何二十四世孫也何子酇定侯延生
侍中彪彪生公府掾章章生皓皓生仰仰生御
史大夫望之望之生光祿大夫育育生御史中
萬曆十七年刊
吳郡徐普寫

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1 Facts (事实)

2 **History** (历史)

3 Examples (实例)

4 Outlook (图景)

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History (历史)

Jiǎhú (賈湖) symbols: 6600-6200 BC

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Shang Dynasty (商朝): 1600-1046 BC

Oracle bone script (甲骨文)

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Zhōu Dynasty (周朝): 1046–256 BC

Bronze Inscriptions
Seal Script

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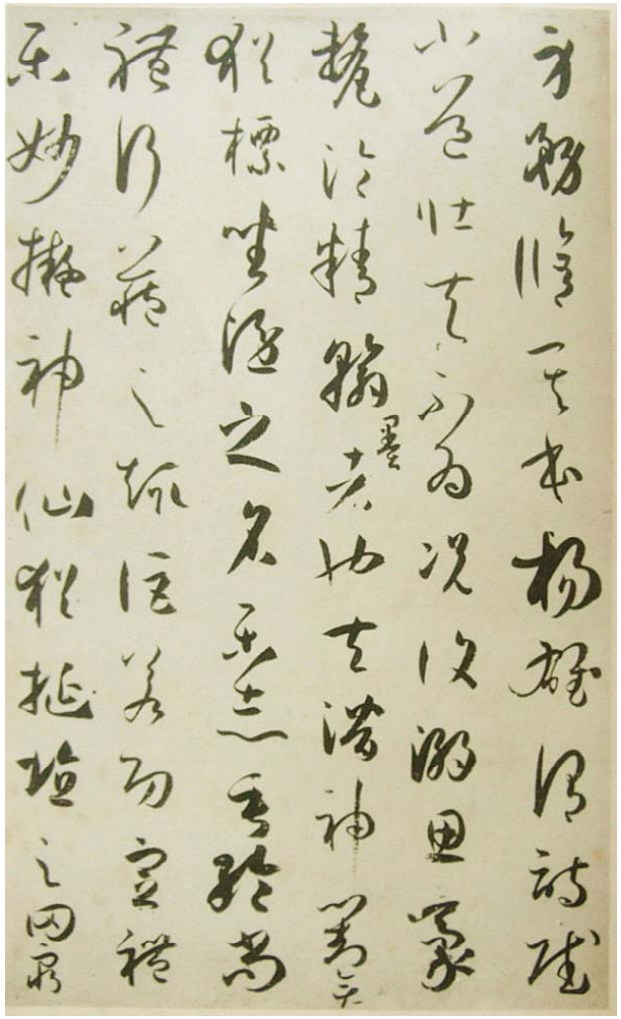
Tang Dynasty (唐朝): 618–907 AD

Cursive Calligraphy by Sun Guoting (孙过庭)

~ 650 AD



Emperor Taizong (唐太宗)
* 599 AD – † 649 AD

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Evolution of Characters

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1 Facts (事实)

2 History (历史)

3 **Examples (实例)**

4 Outlook (图景)

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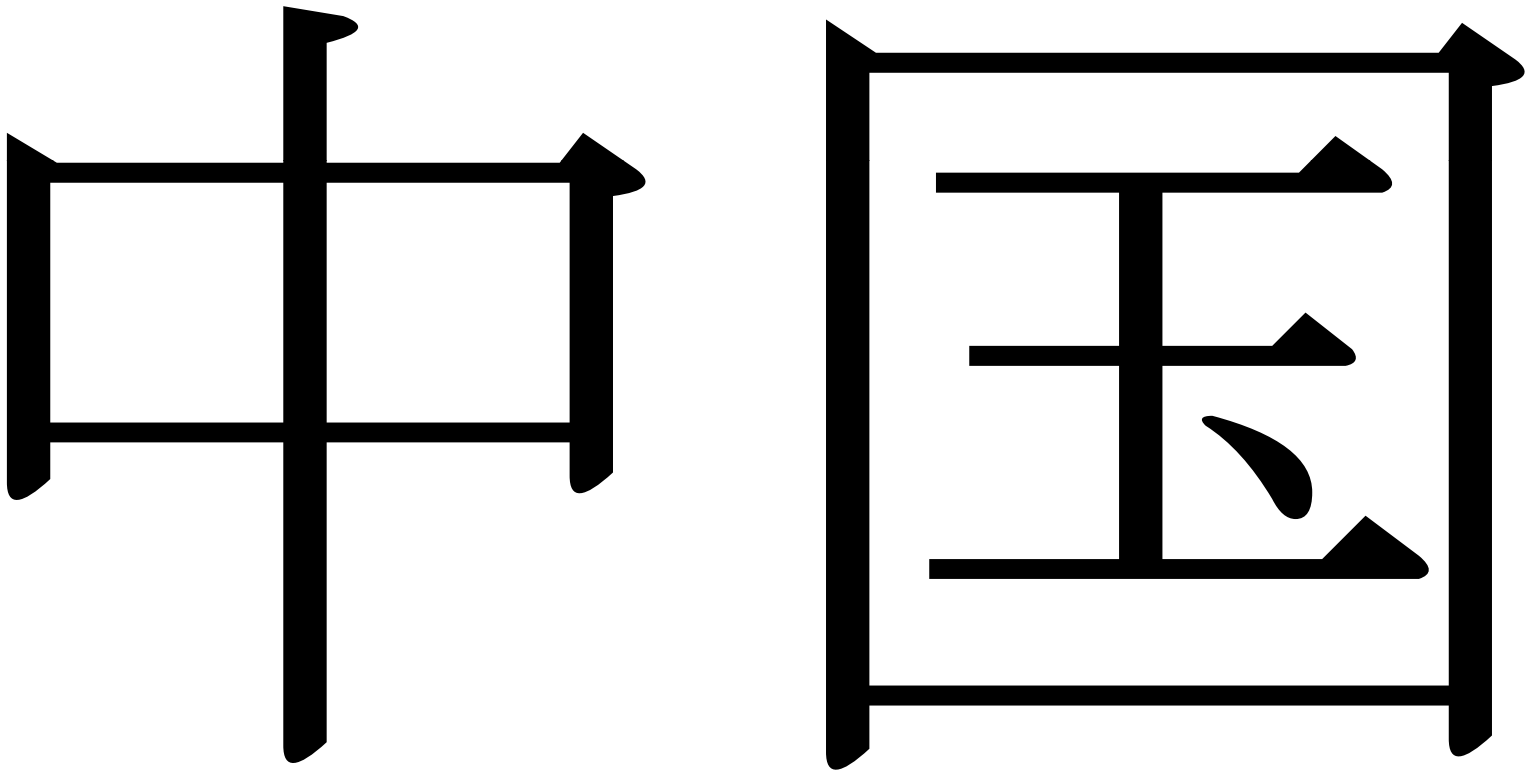
Getting Started



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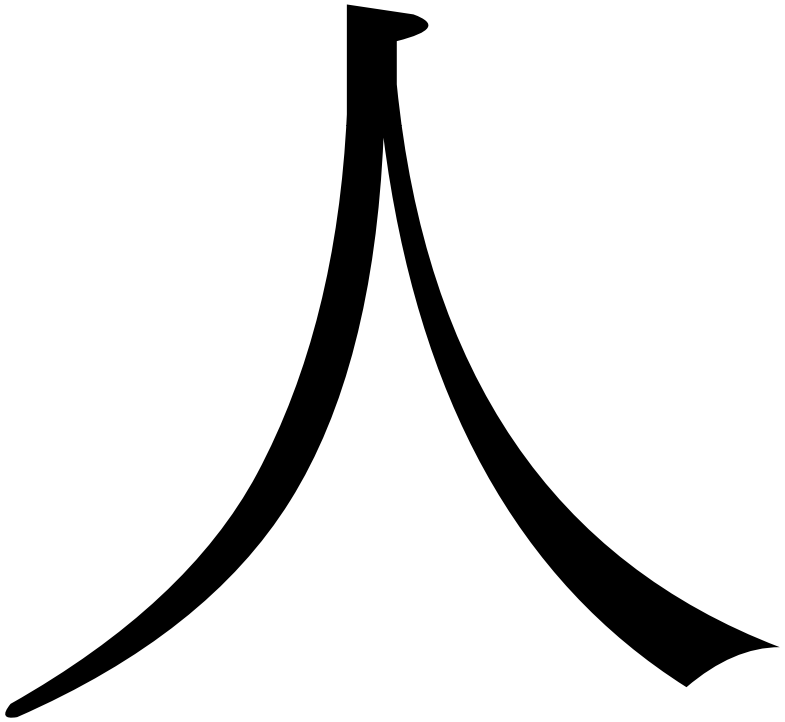
人



Man

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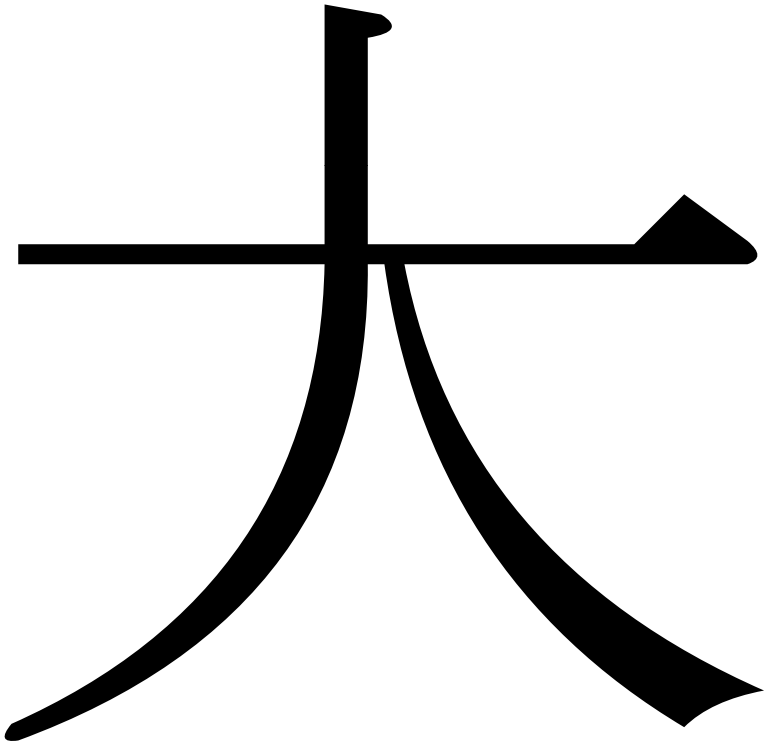
大



Big

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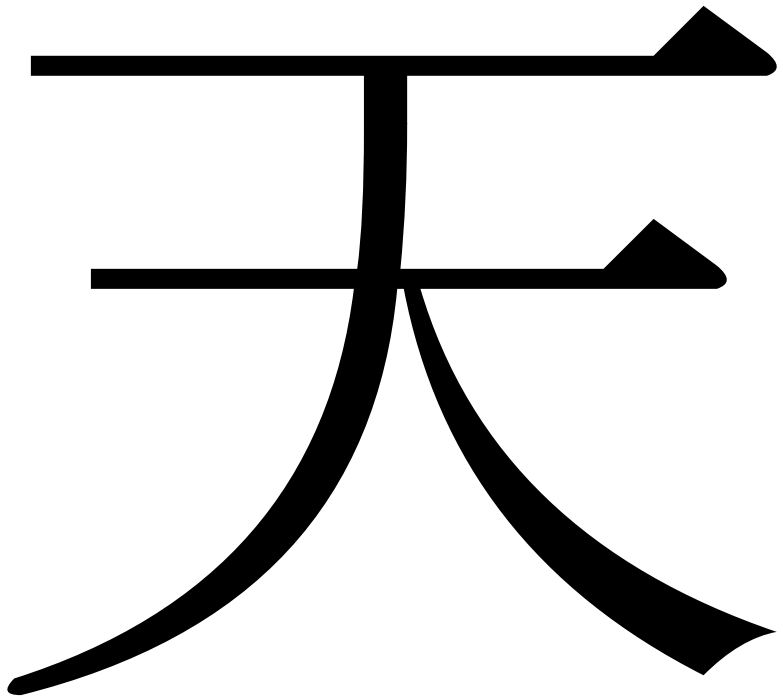
天



Sky

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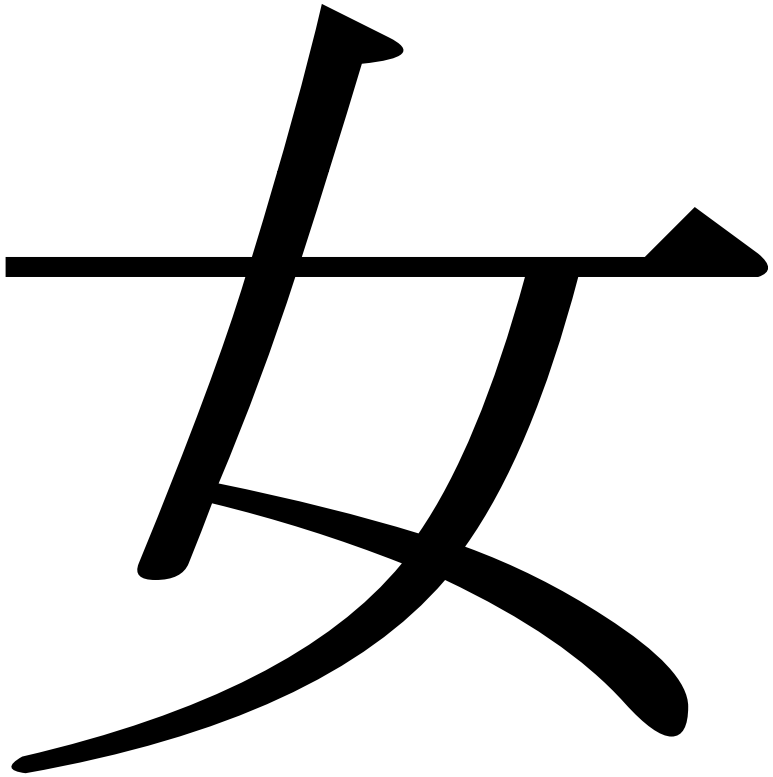
女



Woman

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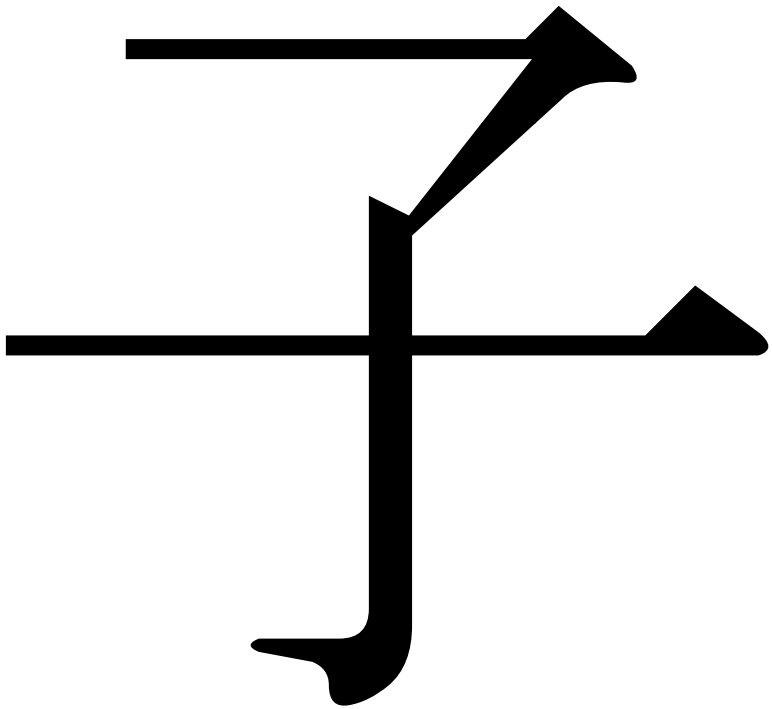
子



Child

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好

Good (= Woman with Child)

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安

Peaceful (= Woman under a Roof)

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Public

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公安

Police (= Public + Peace)

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家

Family (= Pig under a Roof)

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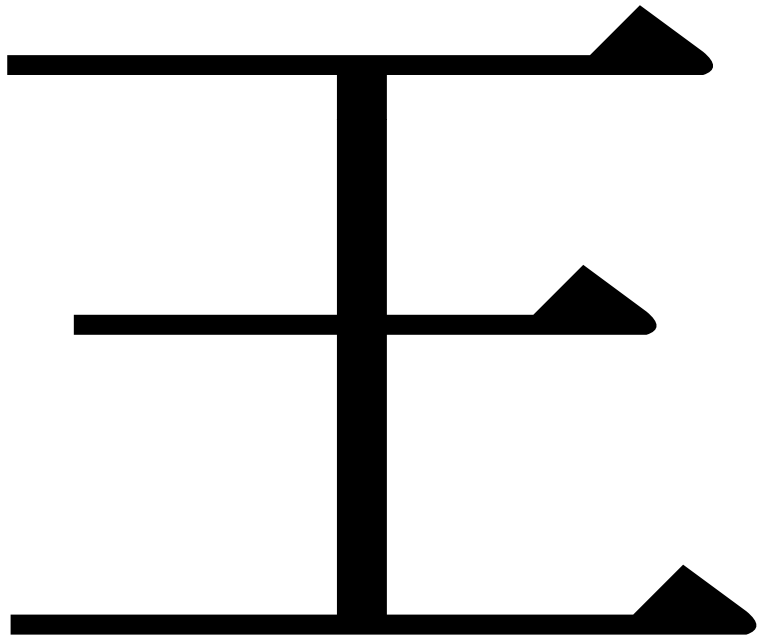
王



King

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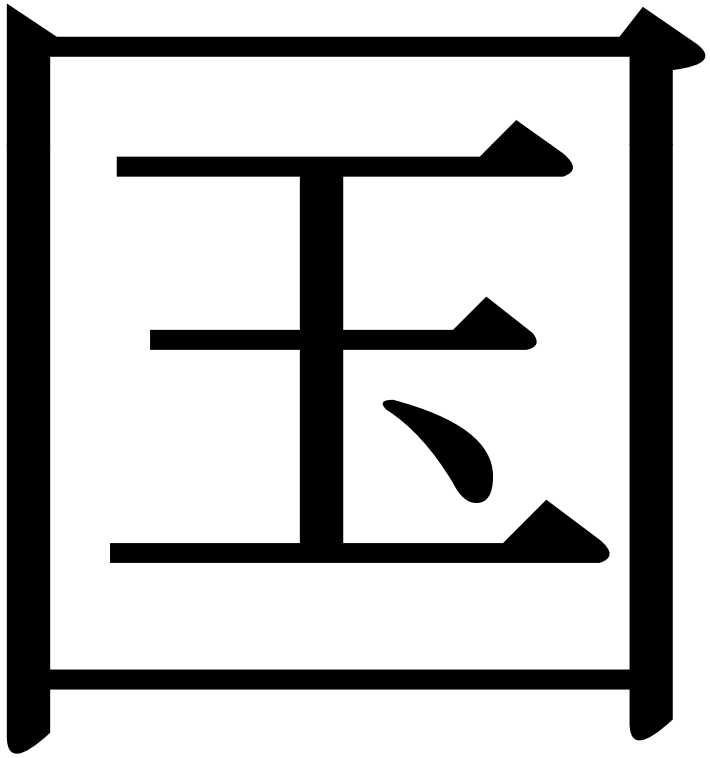
国



Nation (= King within Borders)

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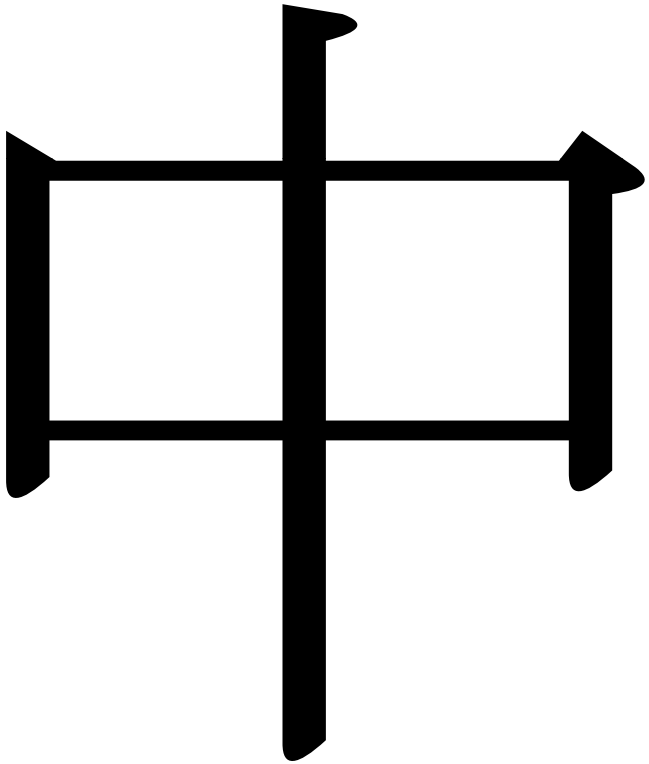
中



Center

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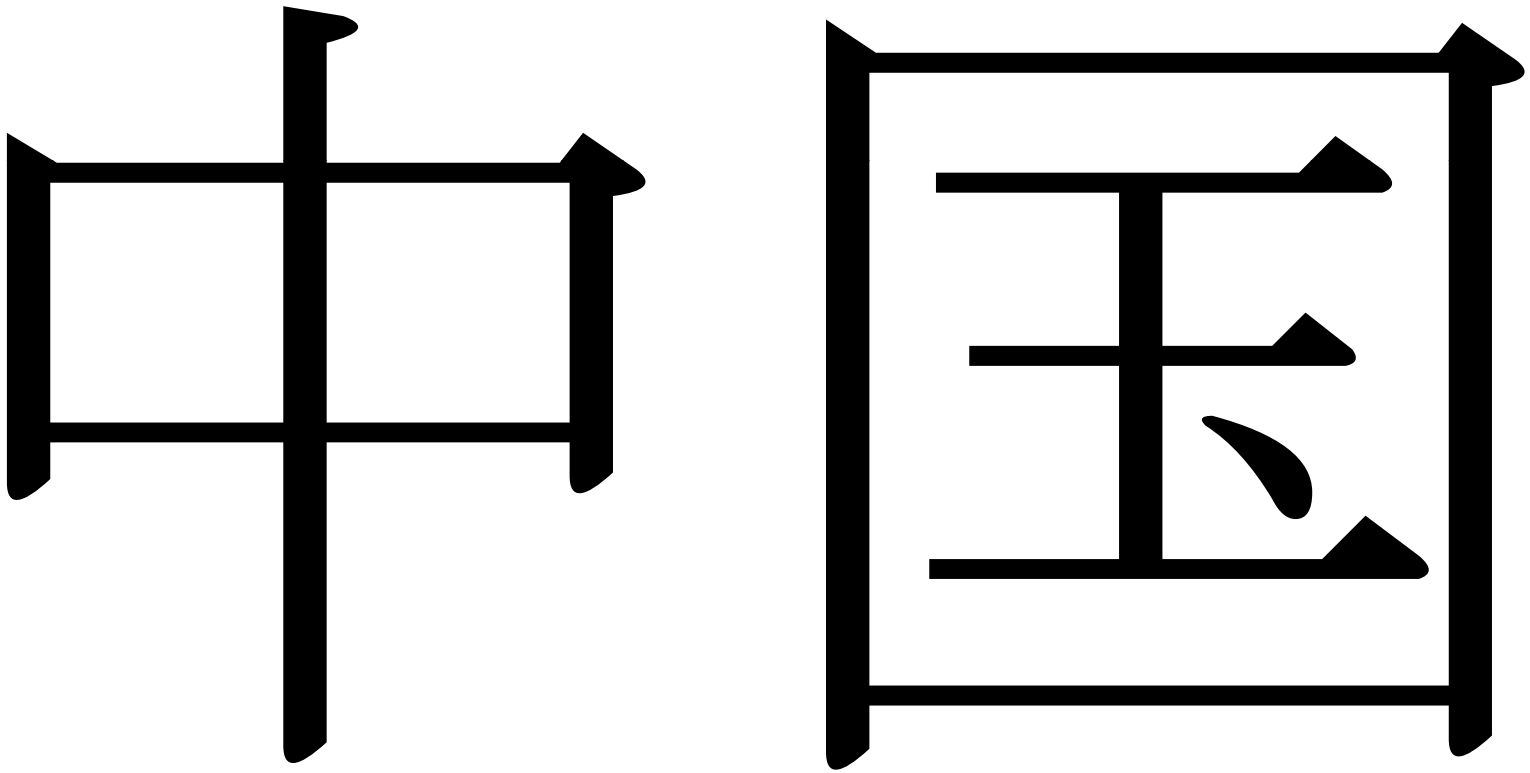
China (中国)



Middle Kingdom

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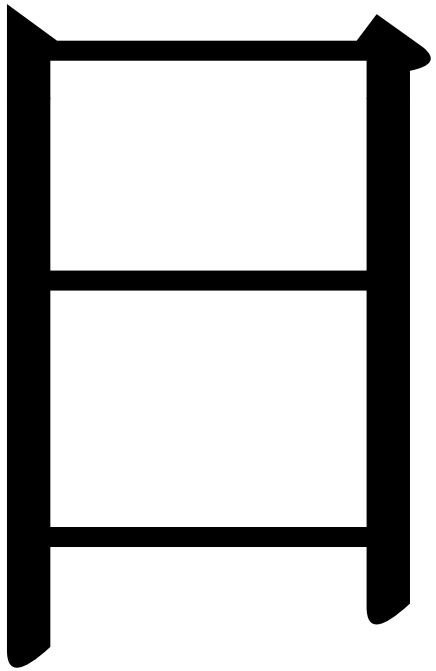
日



Sun

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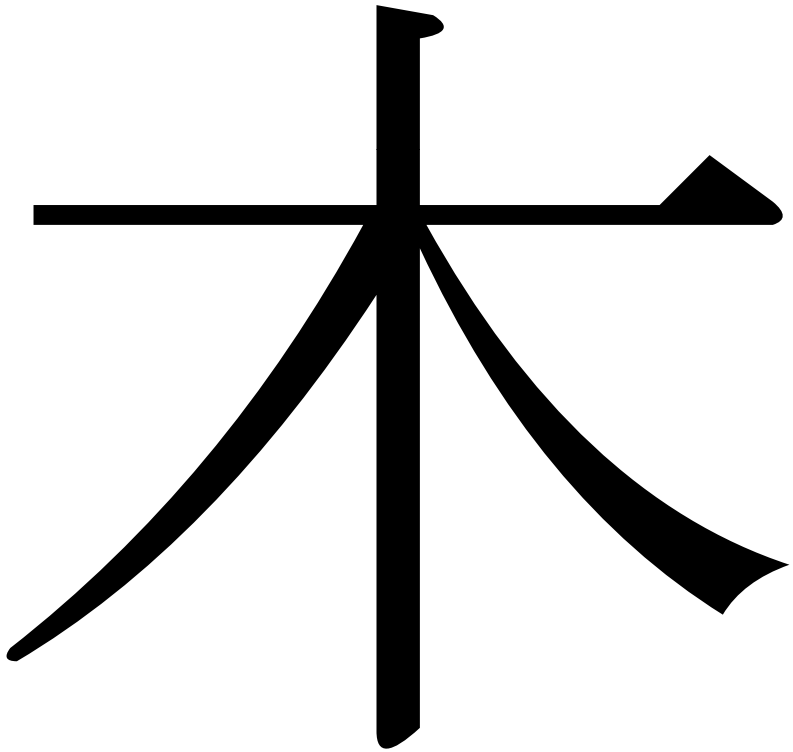
木



Tree

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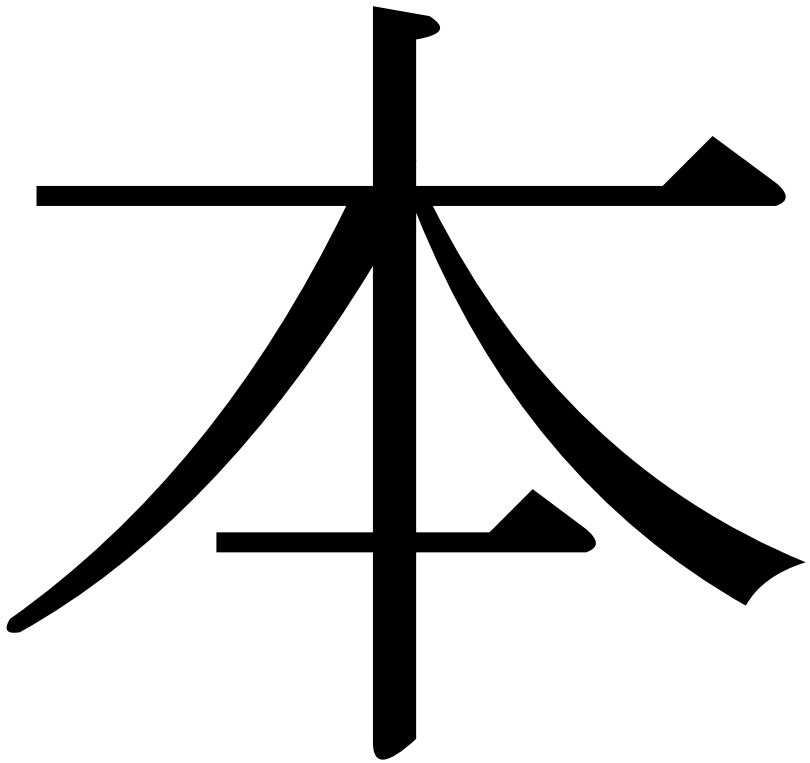
本



Root

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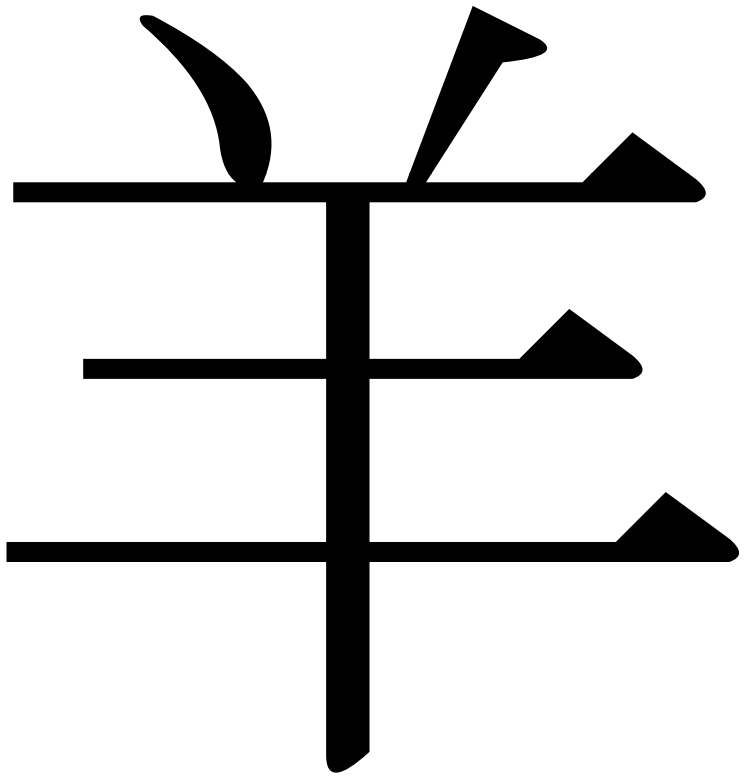
羊



Sheep

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美

Beautiful (≈ Big Sheep)

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德

Virtue

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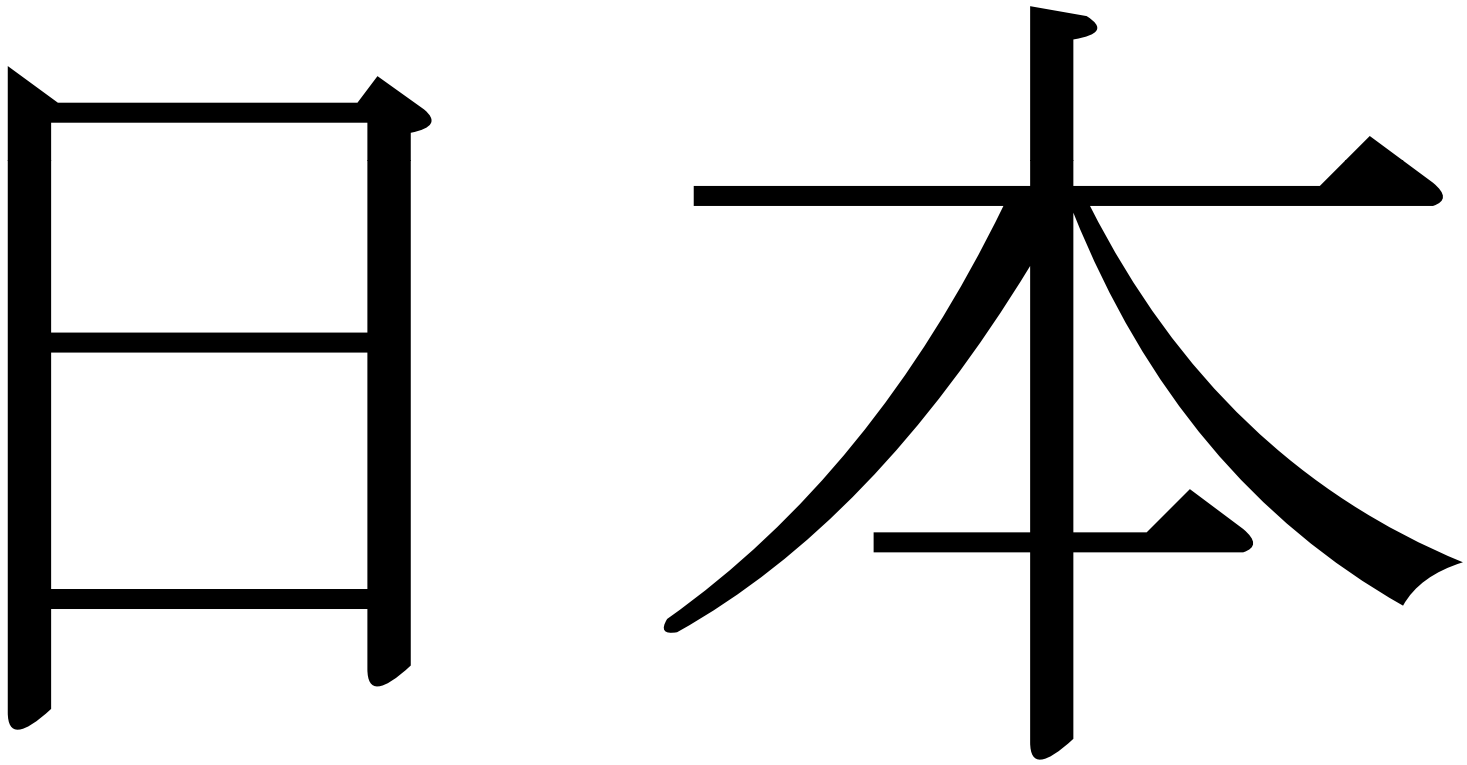
Japan (日本)



Origin of the Sun

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東

East

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东

traditional

simplified

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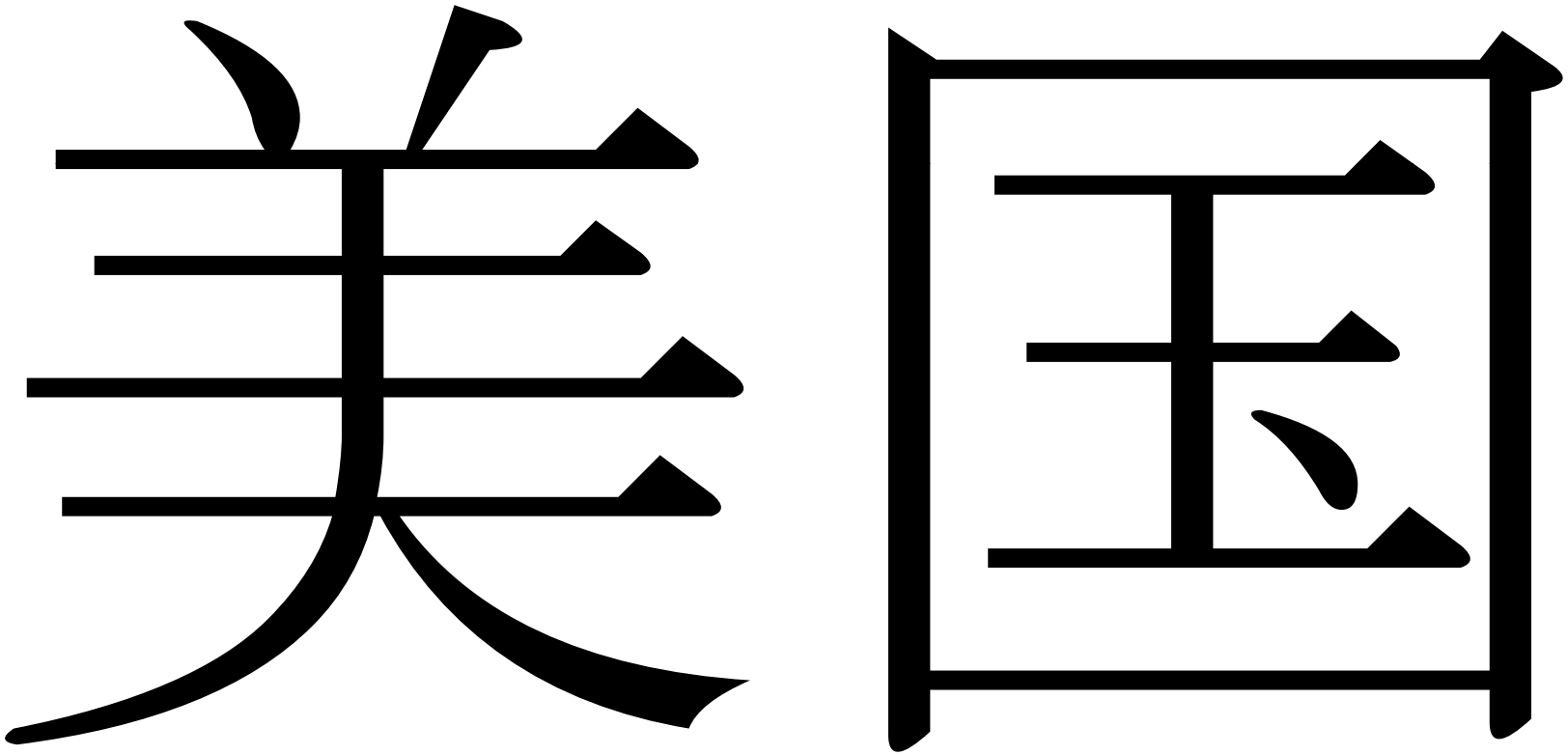
United States (美国)



Beautiful Nation

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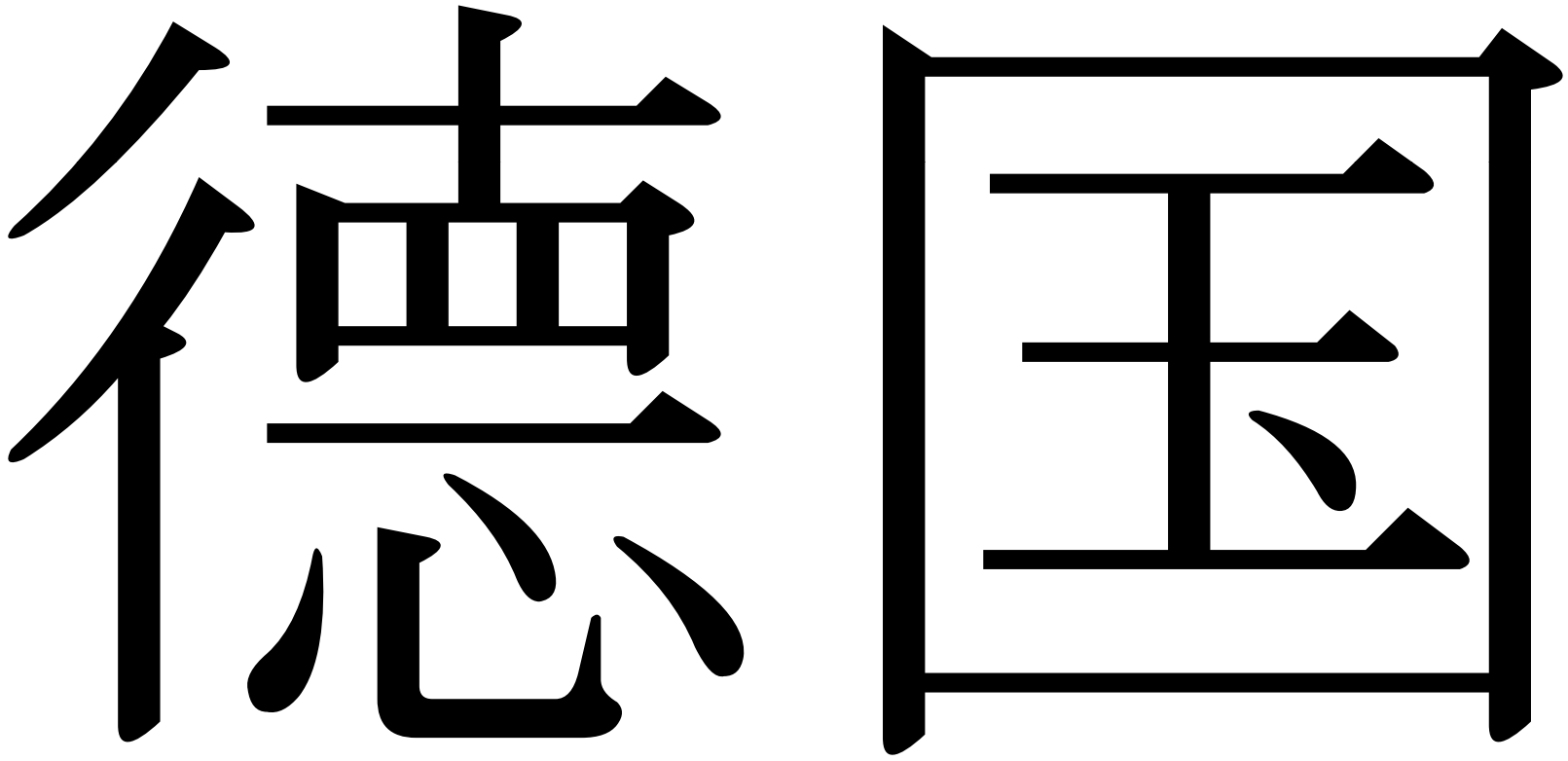
Germany (德国)



Land of Virtue

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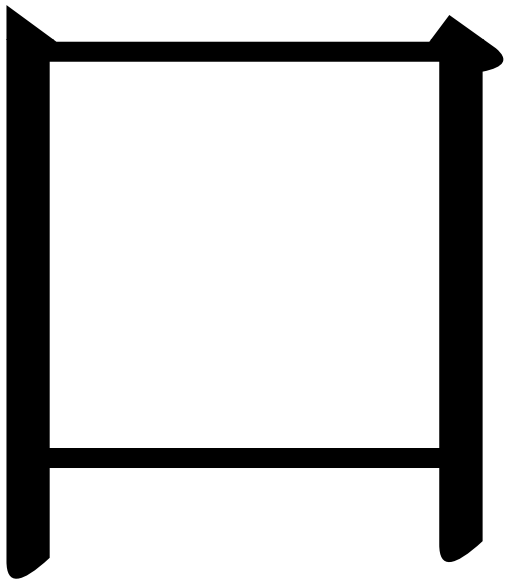
口



Mouth

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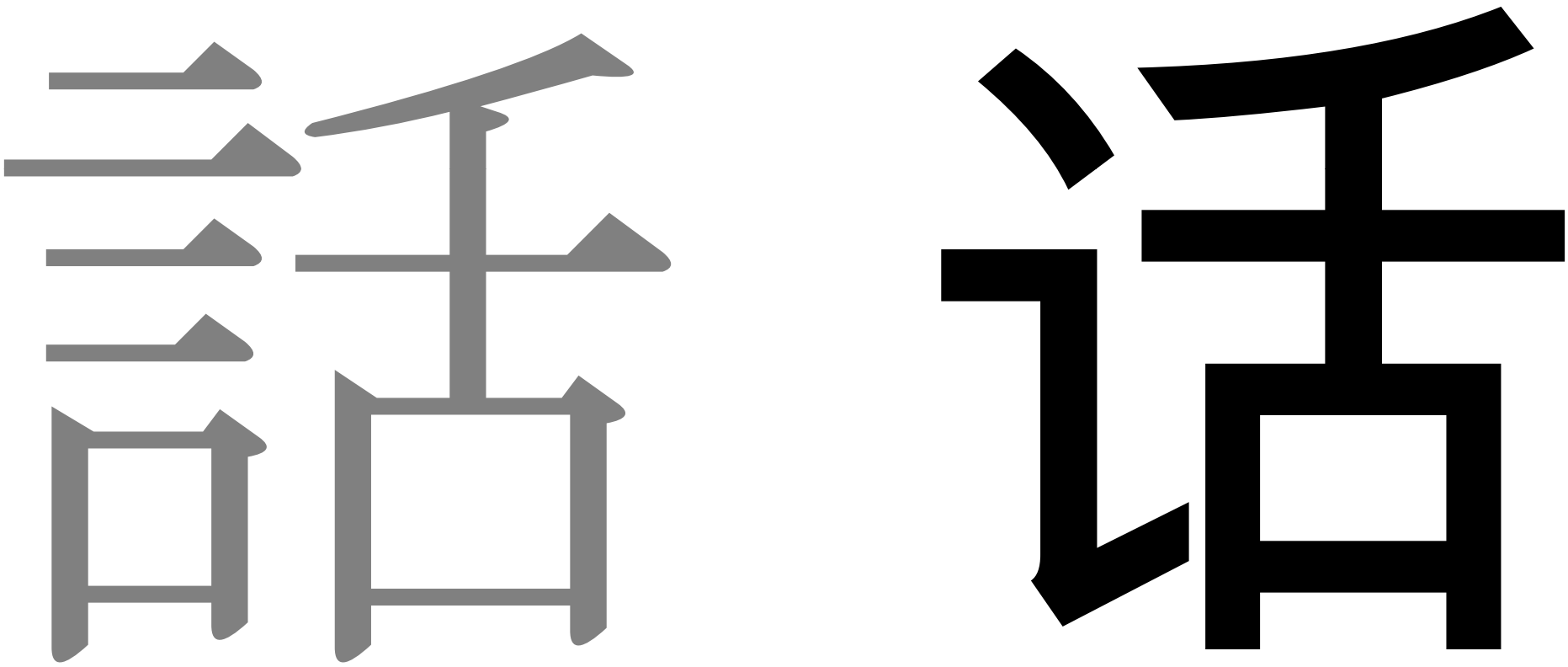
话



Talk

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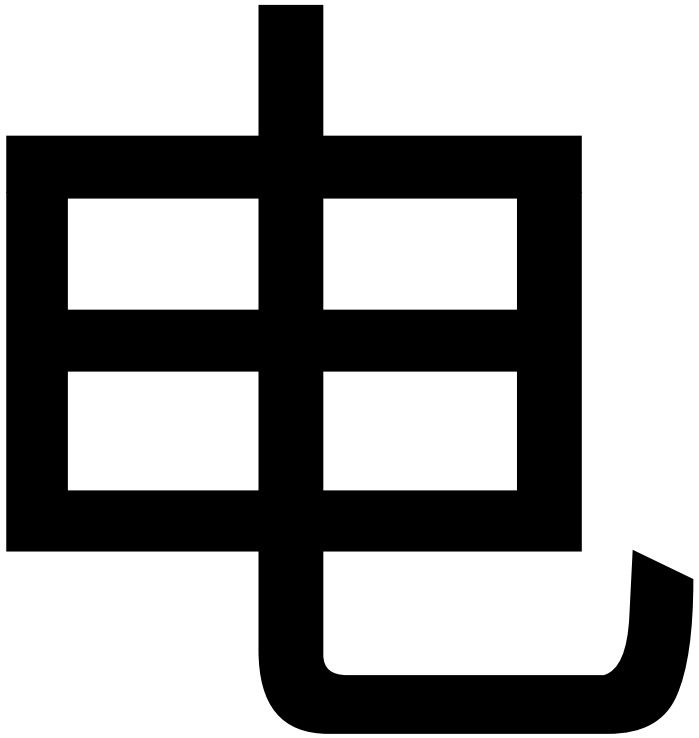
电



Electricity

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电话

Telephone Call (= Electric Talk)

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池

Lake

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电池

Battery (= Electric Lake)

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电池

Computer

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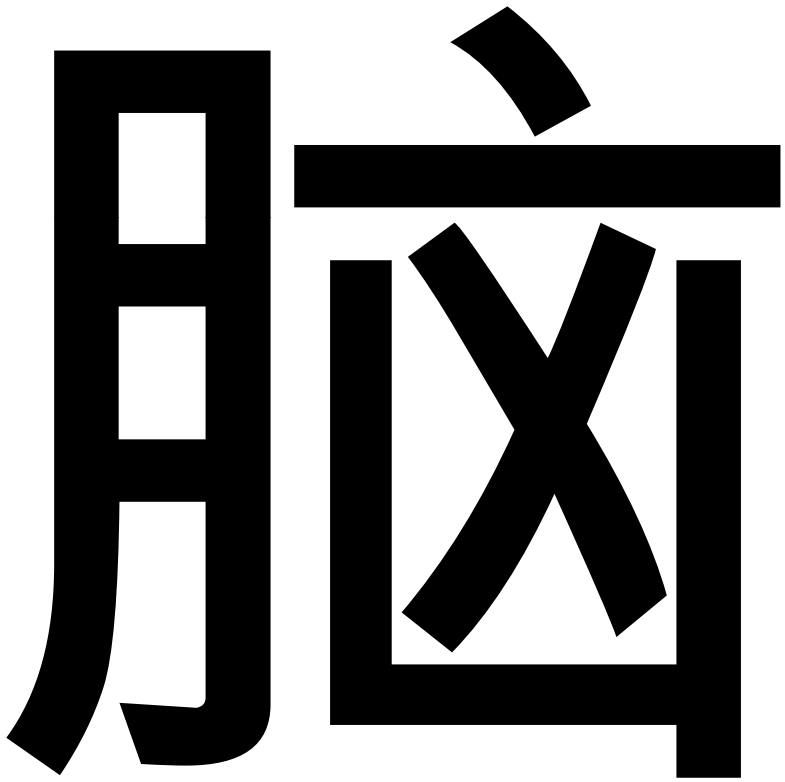
脑



Brain

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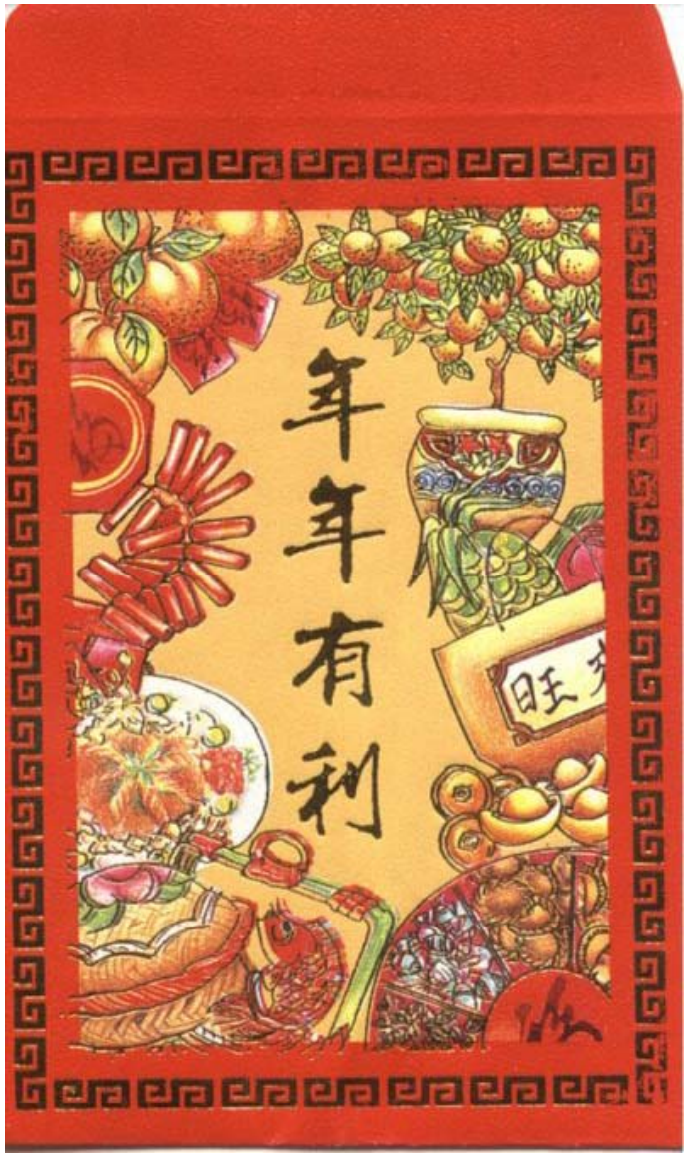
4 **Outlook (图景)**



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Outlook

Learning-Resources

Translators:

- Dictionaries (Online, Apps)
- Tool-Tip (Browser-Plugin)

Memorize

- Flashcards (Online, Apps)

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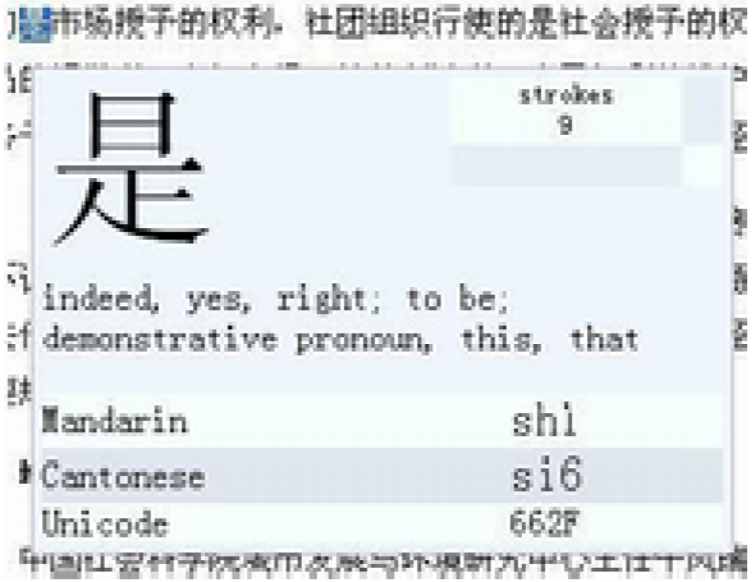
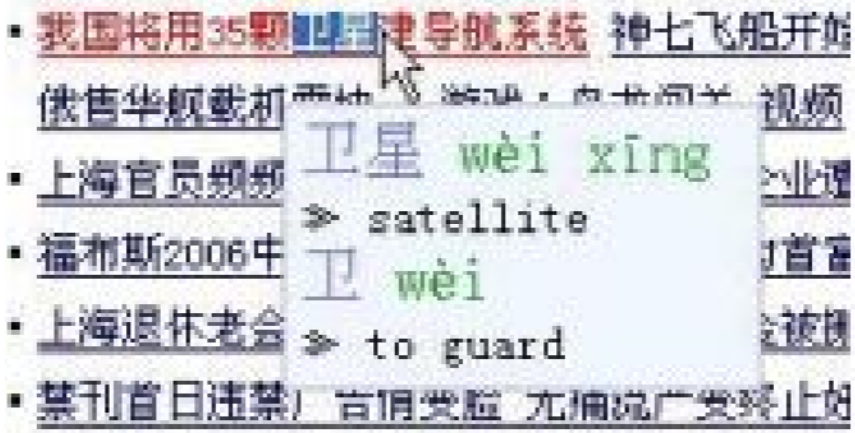
Perapera-kun: Chinese Popup Translator





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Xiaoma Hanzi Chinese Character

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Chinese Character Trainer

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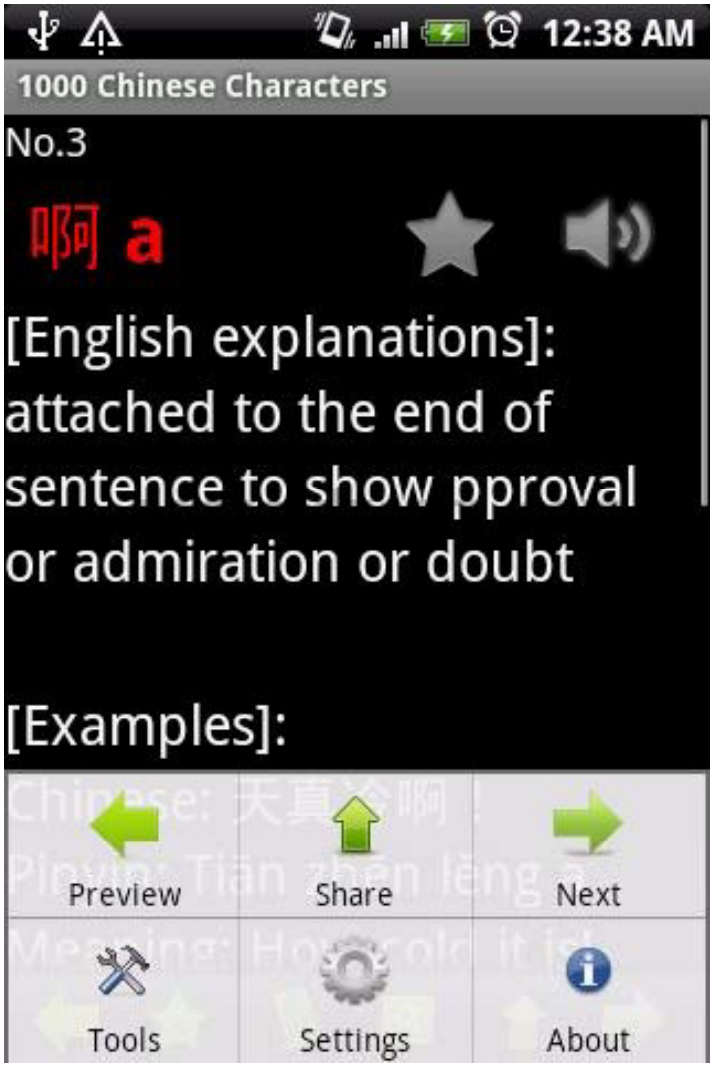
1000 Chinese Characters



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Thank You!
谢谢!

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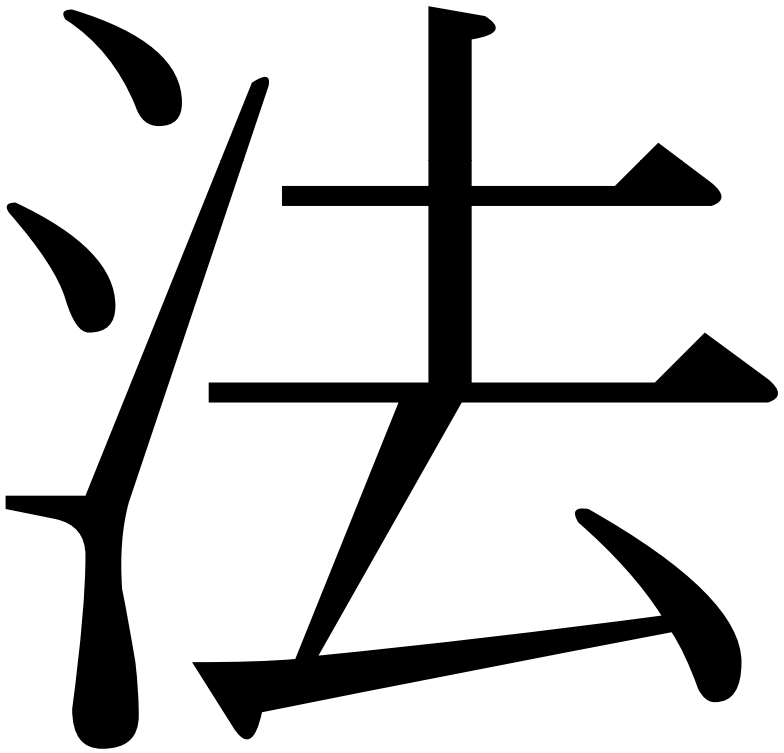
法



Justice

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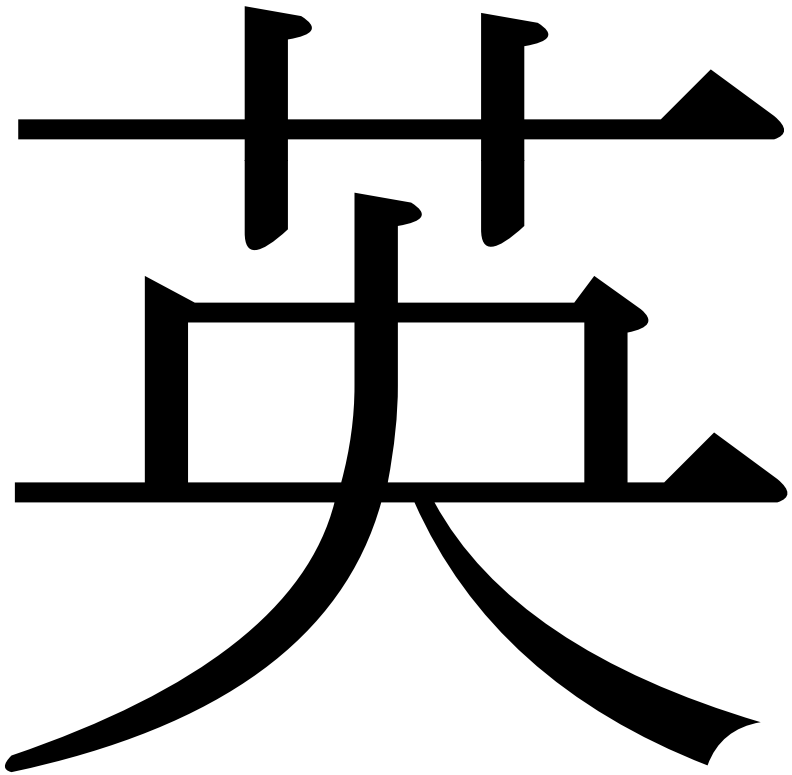
英



Hero

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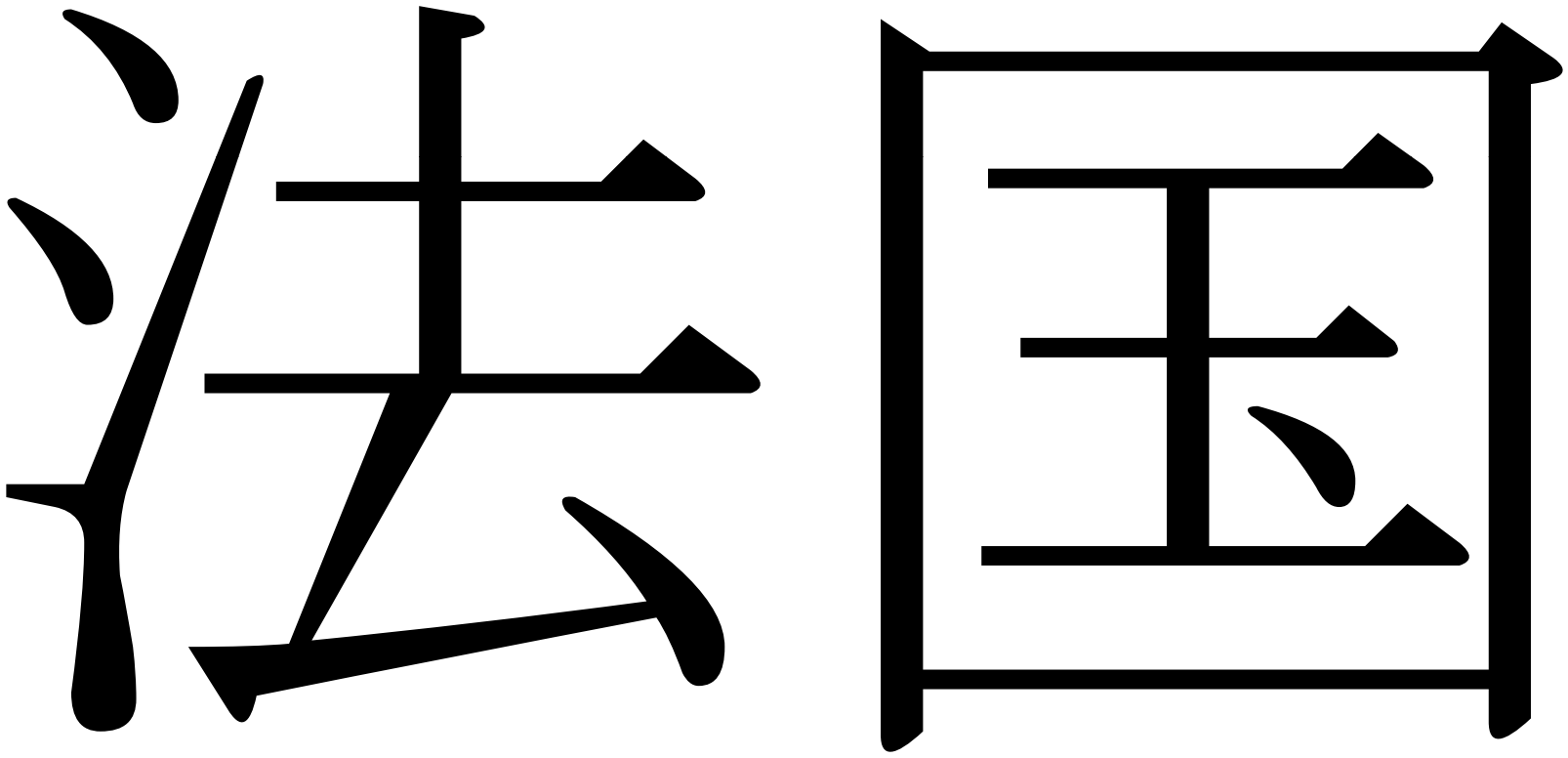
France (法国)



Land of Justice

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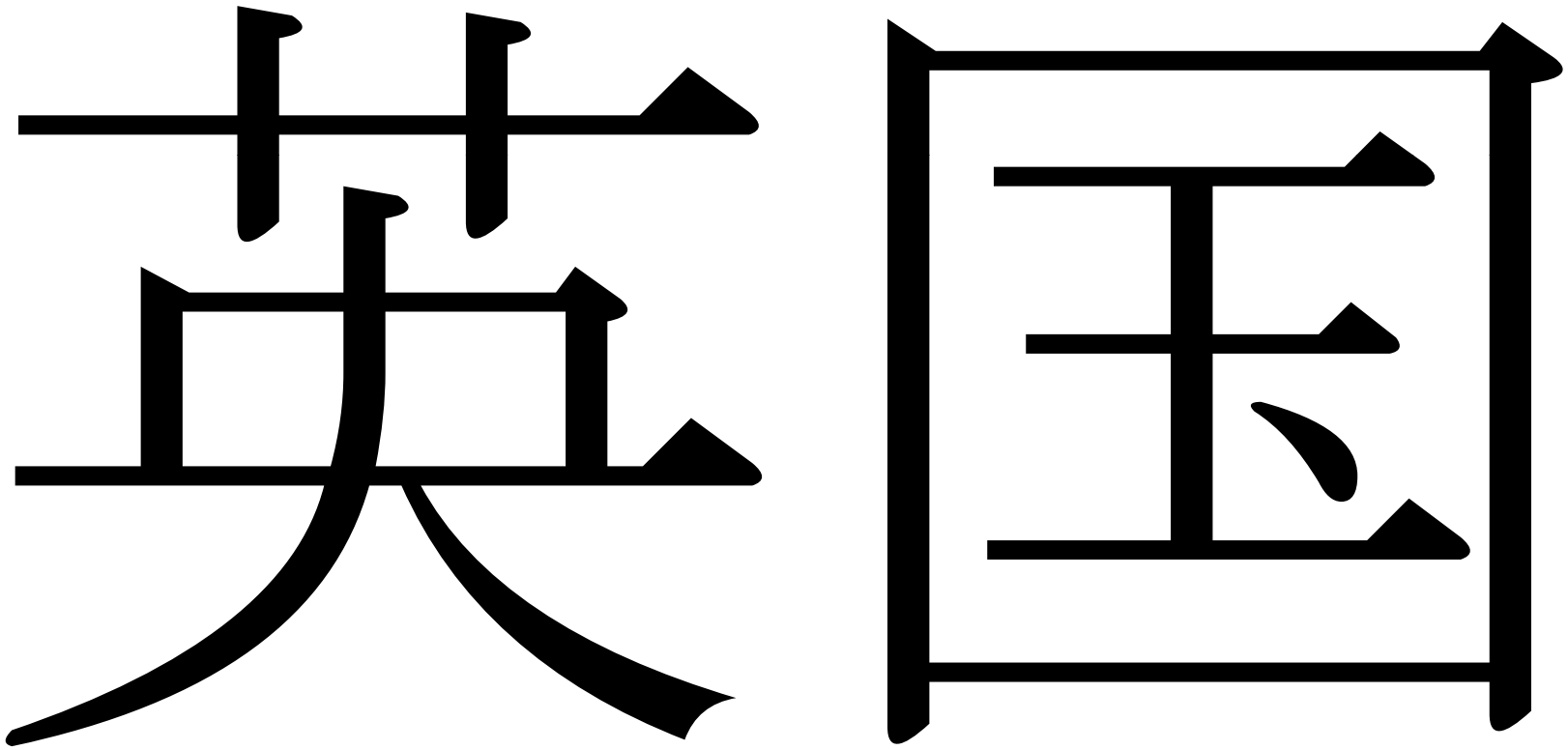
United Kingdom (英国)



Land of Heroes

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