



八

bā

(eight)

八

“八”字笔划较少，以前用它表示把东西分为两份，所以有“分开”或“分别”的意思。后来“分开”这个意思被用作数字的“八”取代了，这个数字便一直沿用至今。“八”也可做部首，以“八”为部首的字多数包含“分开”的意思。

The character 八 seems very simple. Yet, it is a combined representation which shows one thing being divided or parted into two halves. So originally 八 meant “divide” or “part”. But later the meaning of “divide” was completely lost. 八 came to mean the number “eight”, which has nothing to do with the original meaning. 八 is also a radical. Most Chinese characters formed with 八 have something to do with the meaning of “divide”.

【部首】 Radical 八(eight)

【同部首字】 Characters under the radical

兵(soldier), 典(standard)

【词语】 Words and phrases

八成

bāchéng

eighty percent

八度

bā dù

octave

八方

bā fāng

the eight points of the compass; all directions

八卦

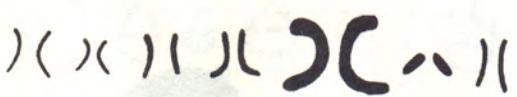
bāguà

the “Eight Diagrams” (eight combinations of three whole or broken lines formerly used in divination)

八仙

bāxiān

the “Eight Immortals”
(in the legend)



八月

bāyuè

August

八方呼应

bā fāng hū yìng

respond from all sides

八方支援

bā fāng zhī yuán

help from all quarters

八面玲珑

bā miàn líng lóng

manage to please everybody

八十岁学吹打

bā shí suì xué chuī dǎ

learn to pipe and drum at the age of eighty

i.e., never too old to learn

八仙过海，各显神通

bā xiān guò hǎi, gè xiǎn shén tōng

like the Eight Immortals crossing the sea, each one showing his or her special prowess

【例句】Example

我买了八本中文书。

wǒ mǎi le bā běn zhōng wén shū

I bought eight Chinese books.



白

bái

(white)

亼 白 白 白

在象形字里，(白)看上去有一个光环正围绕着一团熊熊烈火，给人光亮的感觉，后来它还带有“清澈”、“清晰”、“清楚”的意义。

The original meaning of 白 is brightness. In the oracle bones, it is a picture of a fire burning with a bright ring surrounding it. Later it evolved to mean “clarity” or “clearness”.

【部首】 Radical 白(white)

【同部首字】 Characters under the radical

皇(imperial), 的(a particle), 皎(clear and bright)

【词语】 Words and phrases

白菜	báicài	Chinese cabbage
白痴	báichī	idiocy
白饭	báifàn	plain cooked rice
白费	báifei	waste
白宫	báigōng	the White House
白色	báisè	white (colour)
白天	báitiān	daytime; day
白银	báiyín	silver