

Chinese Character E-book

Translation Services

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Section

1

Introduction

The following provides an outline of the information contained in this document:

1. Section 2 discusses the meaning(s) behind your Chinese character(s) and provides you with approximately 1" square (25mm) and 1 ½" square (38mm) images of your character(s) in 15 different writing styles
2. Appendix A goes over the Romanization of your character(s) for Mandarin pronunciation
3. Appendix B contains Mandarin pronunciation guidelines
4. Appendix C discusses the pronunciation tones associated with your character(s)
5. Appendix D explains the difference between traditional and simplified writing

We appreciate your business and thank you for your order. We hope you enjoy your product(s), help spread the word, and come back again soon.

- The team at Building Characters and Yaung LLC

Section

2

Don't Dream It, Be It

Meanings

The character(s) (實踐勝於空想) for “**don't dream it, be it**” (figurative translation – “action beats dreaming”) are pronounced (shi2) (jian4) (sheng4) (yu2) (kong1) (xiang3) in Mandarin Chinese.

We are often asked “What do my individual characters mean?” With multiple character translations, the individual character meanings may or may not make the best sense by themselves without context, however they are provided here for your information:

shi2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. real; true 2. practically 3. honest; faithful 4. concrete; substantial 5. fact; reality 6. fruit; seed 7. shi2 jian4 – to practice (a principle); to put in practice
jian4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to tread upon; to trample 2. to fulfill; to carry out; to perform 3. to ascend; to occupy
sheng4	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to win; to excel; to triumph; to surpass; to get the better of 2. victory; success 3. (sports) a win 4. a scenic view; a place of natural beauty 5. excellent; distinctive; wonderful 6. (also sheng1) to be competent enough (for a task)
yu2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. in; on; at; by; from 2. than; then; to; with reference to 3. compared with 4. a chinese family name
kong1	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. empty; hollow; void 2. to empty; to exhaust; to reduce to extremity 3. fictitious; unreal; impractical 4. vain and useless (efforts, etc.); ineffective; fruitless 5. high and vast 6. the sky; space

xiang3

7. (buddhism) sunyata; empty; void; vacant; nonexistent
8. merely; only
9. kong1 xiang3 –
 - a. an impractical thought or idea; a daydream
 - b. to daydream
1. to think; to consider; to suppose
2. to hope; to expect
3. to plan
4. to remember with longing; to miss
5. to want; would like to

NOTE: For multi-word translations, the translation provided is given in the context of the phrase you requested, and any sample sentence / specific instructions you provided. Should you decide to break up the translation into individual pieces or modify in any way, you do so at your own risk. We cannot guarantee the meaning will remain the same.

1 Inch (25mm) Characters – Horizontal Layout

實踐勝於空想

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Section

3

Appendix A: Romanization

There is no true alphabet in written Chinese; instead a system of characters is used, with each character representing a different word or syllable.

However, Chinese can be written using English letters (called Romanization – conversion to a Roman alphabet). The most widely accepted system today is Hanyu Pinyin, used by mainland China.

While Pinyin is the most accurate system and is helpful, keep in mind that no system is perfect, and it is only a system used for learning to pronounce Chinese using English letters.

Section

4

Appendix B: Mandarin Pronunciation

Most letters are pronounced as you would expect, however there are occasions where this is not the case. For example, the common Chinese last name “Yang” is not pronounced “a” as in “bang,” rather more like “a” as in “father.” See below for more exceptions.

Consonants	Pronunciation
c	Like “ts” in “sits”
ch	Like “ch” in “church” with tongue curled back
h	Guttural, like “h” in Scottish “loch”
q	Like “ch” in “cheese”
r	Like “r” in “pleasure”
sh	Like “she” with tongue curled back
x	Like “sh” in “ship”
z	Like “ds” in “buds”
zh	Like “j” in “judge” with tongue curled back
Vowels	Pronunciation
a	Like “a” in “father”
ai	Like “eye”
ao	Like “ow” in “how”
e	Like “e” in “her”
ei	Like “ei” in “sleigh”
i	Like “ee” in “meet” or “oo” in “cook” *
ian	Like “yen”
ie	Like in “yeah”
o	Like “o” in “or”
ou	Like “oa” in “coat”
u	Like “u” in “chute”
ui	Like “ay” in “say”
uo	Like “w” sound followed by “o” in “or”
yu	Like German “ü,” round your lips, try to say “ee”

* “oo” only when it occurs after “c,” “ch,” “r,” “s,” “sh,” “z,” or “zh”

Section

5

Appendix C: Tones

There are five tones in Mandarin Chinese, as indicated by the number after each Pinyin word. When learning to speak Chinese, tones are considered by many as one of the most challenging aspects. Each word must be spoken at the right pitch or the meaning is changed, and probably will be misunderstood.

Tones	Symbol	Description
1	—	High level
2	/	Rising
3	√	Falling, then rising
4	\	Falling
5		Neutral (short)

Section

6

Appendix D: Traditional vs. Simplified

See below for example of difference between simplified versus traditional Chinese characters, respectively.

广

廣

Simplified characters were created by the Chinese government (mainland) in an attempt to promote literacy. Traditional characters are still used for important ceremonies, for cultural purposes (such as calligraphy), etc.

To us, simplified Chinese characters just seem empty, missing something, lacking uh character (sorry!) or soul. While likely great for literacy, not necessarily so great from an artistic perspective. With less strokes, there are less opportunities to showcase the elegant nuances of individual strokes.

Since our products are made with the intent to highlight the beauty of Chinese characters, we have purposely chosen to use traditional characters on all our items. Besides, traditional writing is still widespread internationally, from Hong Kong, to Macau, to Taiwan, to most overseas Chinese communities.

We've seen plenty of simplified Chinese character shirts, tattoos, etc. At the end of the day, we believe you will appreciate and enjoy your traditional Chinese character products much more! (If not, please let us know, we are open to your input.)

Section

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