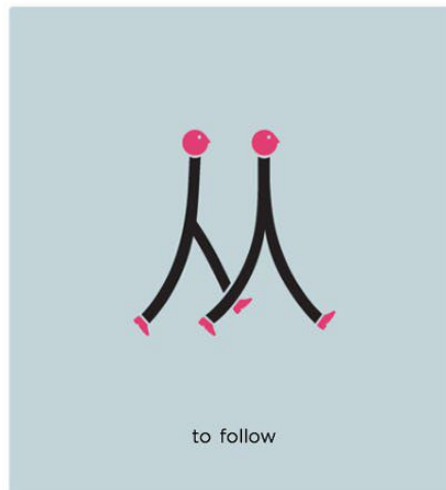
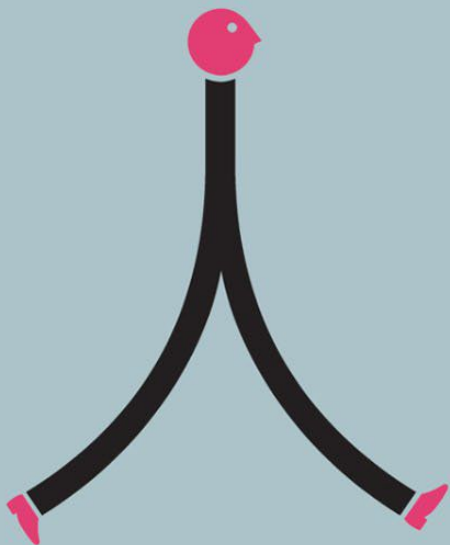


人 person (rén<sup>2</sup>)

Hello, people! Our first building block is 'person'. This building block traditionally depicted a human in profile. Today it looks like the profile of a man walking.

亻 person (rén<sup>2</sup>)

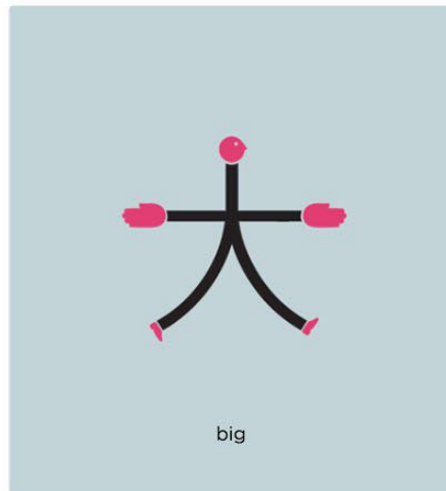
This character is the form of 'person' that is used as a component in certain compounds (see explanation on p. 12). It is known as 單人旁, which translates as 'single person side-radical'. See 'group' on p. 29 for an example of this character.



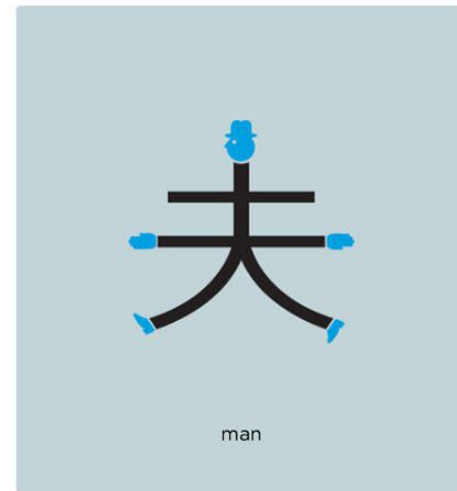
to follow



crowd



big



man

从 to follow (cóng<sup>2</sup>)

This character comprises two building blocks for 'person'. One man leads, the other follows close behind. This is the simplified form; the traditional form of this character is 從.

众 crowd (zhòng<sup>4</sup>)

'Two's company, three's a crowd.' Three building blocks for 'person' make a crowd. This is the simplified form; the traditional form of this character is 眾.

大 big (dà<sup>4</sup>)

This character depicts a man stretching his arms wide. Imagine that he is saying, 'It was this big.'

夫 man (fū<sup>1</sup>)

'Man' is the compound for 'big' with an extra line across the top of the character, like wide shoulders. This line represents the pins in a man's topknot hairstyle.

火 fire (huo<sup>3</sup>)

The building block for 'fire' represents a central flame with a smaller spark on either side. It reminds me of a campfire. I like to remember this character by thinking about a person waving their arms, saying, 'Help! I'm on fire!'

灬 fire (huo<sup>3</sup>)

This character is the form of 'fire' that is used as a component in certain compounds. When you see a compound with this character, it is normally related to fire or something hot. See 'lamb' on p. 41 for an example of this character.



burning hot



flames



group



to eat

炎 burning hot (yan<sup>2</sup>)

This compound comprises two 'fire' building blocks stacked on top of each other. They are burning twice as hot as before. This character also means 'inflammation'.

焱 flames (yan<sup>4</sup>)

The building block for 'fire' represents one flame. Multiply that by three and you have a roaring fire.

伙 group (huo<sup>3</sup>)

In ancient China, fires were used mainly for cooking and for warmth. When people gathered around the fire, they were considered to be part of the group.

啖 to eat (dan<sup>4</sup>)

This character is a combination of 'mouth' and 'fire'. It means 'to eat' or 'mouthful'. Chinese food, especially food from Sichuan Province, can be very spicy, like a fire in your mouth as you eat.