

# Common Chinese Surnames and Radicals

In Chinese, the surname comes before the given name. When you hear a Chinese name such as **Gāo Zhì'ān** 高志安, it is safe to assume that **Gāo** 高 is the surname and **Zhì'ān** 志安 is the given name. Most Chinese surnames have only one syllable, such as **Lǐ** 李, **Lín** 林, **Wáng** 王, **Zhāng** 张, and **Gāo** 高. Chinese given names may have one or two syllables, such as **Zhì'ān** 志安 in **Gāo Zhì'ān** 高志安 or **Yáng** 杨 in **Lǐ Yáng** 李洋. Below is a list of common Chinese family names:

## Main Chinese Surnames

Pinyin	Chinese	English
Chén	陈	Chen
Gāo	高	Gao
Guō	郭	Guo
Hé	何	He
Hú	胡	Hu
Huáng	黄	Huang
Liào	廖	Liao
Lǐ	李	Li
Lín	林	Lin
Liú	刘	Liu

Pinyin	Chinese	English
Mǎ	马	Ma
Sūn	孙	Sun
Wáng	王	Wang
Wú	吴	Wu
Xú	徐	Xu
Yáng	杨	Yang
Zhào	赵	Zhao
Zhāng	张	Zhang
Zhōu	周	Zhou
Zhū	朱	Zhu

## Main Chinese radicals

The majority of Chinese characters are **Xíngshēngzì** 形声字. A **Xíngshēngzì** is composed of one semantic component and one phonetic component. The semantic component, called **bùshǒu** 部首 (radical), refers to the meaning or category of the character while the phonetic component reveals what the character, may sound like. For instance, the **bùshǒu** for the character **fàn** 饭 is 饣, meaning “eating.” The right component 反 is pronounced as **fǎn**, which sounds close to the character **fàn**.

Below is a list of common Chinese radicals that you have learned in this book:

Radical	English Meaning	Sample Characters
亻	People	你、他、们、休
冫	Ice	冷、凉、次
讠	Speech	请、说、话、认、识、谢
土	Earth	块、城
口	Mouth	叫、吃、喝、
宀	Roof	客、字、室
艹	Grass	花、茶、节
彳	Step	很、行
氵	Water	漂、汉、酒
犴	Dog	猫、狗

Radical	English Meaning	Sample Characters
扌	Hand	打、找
女	Female	妈、姐、妹、始、姓、她
日	Sun	明、时、暖、昨
辶	Walk	边、过、运、道、远、近
忄	Heart	快、慢
心	Heart	您、怎
礻	Spirit	视、礼
钅	Gold	钱、错、银
衤	Clothes	裤、裙
足	Foot	跟、路