

Introduction to Chinese Radicals

Part 1: What are Radicals? Radicals are the building blocks of Chinese characters. They often give us clues about the meaning or category of a character. Today, we'll start with **5 important radicals**:

1. 氵 (water) → 河 (hé, river), 海 (hǎi, sea)
2. 亻 (person) → 他 (tā, he), 你 (nǐ, you)
3. 口 (mouth) → 吃 (chī, eat), 喝 (hē, drink)
4. 木 (wood/tree) → 林 (lín, forest), 校 (xiào, school)
5. 火 (fire) → 热 (rè, hot), 灯 (dēng, lamp)

Part 2: Find the Radical

Circle the radical in each character below:

1. 河 → Which radical is here? _____
2. 吃 → Which radical is here? _____
3. 校 → Which radical is here? _____
4. 他 → Which radical is here? _____
5. 热 → Which radical is here? _____

Part 3: Radical Scavenger Hunt

Look at the characters below. Write the radical and guess what the radical tells us about the character.

1. 海 (hǎi, sea) → Radical: _____ → What clue? _____
2. 喝 (hē, drink) → Radical: _____ → What clue? _____
3. 灯 (dēng, lamp) → Radical: _____ → What clue? _____

Part 5: Draw and Remember

Pick **two radicals** and draw a little doodle or symbol that helps you remember them. For example, 火 looks like fire sparks!

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