

1.11 SVs and associated function words

好 累 忙 冷 很

3+3

hǎo

be good

6+5

lèi

tired

3+3

máng

busy

2+5

lěng

cold

3+6

hěn

very

還 餓 熱 了 太

3+13

8+7

4+11

1+1

3+1

还 饿 热

3+4

hái

still

3+7

è

hungry

4+6

rè

hot

le

LE

tài

too; very
(grand)

Notes

a) SVs: 好 is composed of the female-radical, 女, and 子 zǐ ‘child’ (the latter without phonetic function); often explained as the paradigm of a ‘good relationship’. 累 shows 田 ‘field’ above and the radical derived from the graph used for ‘silk’ below: ‘a heavy and *tiring* burden for such as slender base’. 忙, with heart radical (a compressed and truncated version of 心) and 亡 wáng as a phonetic element, can be compared to 忘 wàng ‘forget’ with the same elements configured vertically. 饿/餓 is composed of the food radical and the element 我 wǒ, chosen for its sound value. 冷, has two strokes (diǎn and tiáo) on the left forming the so-called ‘ice radical’, found in a few graphs such as 冰 bīng ‘ice’. The right hand element of 冷 is 令 lìng, a ‘phonetic element’ also found in 零 líng ‘zero’. The four strokes at the base of 热/熱 rè are a form of the ‘fire-radical’ which, in its independent form, is written 火.

b) ADVs: The graph 很 hěn ‘very’ is composed of 彳 as radical and 艮 gèn as phonetic (cf. 恨 hèn, 狠 hěn, 跟 gēn). 太 tài ‘great’ is 大 dà ‘big’ with the extra dot. The graph 还/還 is also used for the word huán ‘to give back’, which is probably the meaning that inspired the traditional graph. The simplified version substitutes 不 not for its sound or meaning, but for its general shape which serves

to represent the complicated right-hand element. (Cf. 環/环 huán ‘a ring; surround’.)

c) 了 should be distinguished from 子 zǐ. In the traditional set, the radical assigned to 了 is the second stroke, the vertical hook; but in the simplified set, it is the first stroke, whose uncontrorted form is 乙, a radical also assigned to 也.

1.11.1 Covering the pinyin, check your pronunciation of the following phrases:

a) Jiǎntǐzì ‘simplified set’

三月	今天	也好	姓王	昨天	我们
sānyuè	jīntiān	yě hǎo	xìng Wáng	zuótiān	wǒmen
很累	不饿	不好	明天	还好	姓毛
hěn lèi	bú è	bù hǎo	míngtiān	hái hǎo	xìng Máo
你们	九月	二十日	姓林	明年	她们
nǐmen	jiǔyuè	èrshí rì	xìng Lín	míngnián	tāmen
你呢	他们	八月	很忙	不太累	冷吗
nǐ ne	tāmen	bāyuè	hěn máng	bú tài lèi	lěng ma
不冷	很热	九十	不饿了	好不好	冷了
bù lěng	hěn rè	jiǔshí	bú è le	hǎo bu hǎo	lěng le

b) Fántǐzì (including graphs that have only one form)

他們	很熱	不冷了	很餓	明年	我們
tāmen	hěn rè	bù lěng le	hěn è	míngnián	wǒmen
不熱了	餓不餓	姓周	你們	冷嗎	太好
bù rè le	è bu è	xìng Zhōu	nǐmen	lěng ma	tài hǎo

1.11.2 Reading

甲

- 1。 今天很忙也很累。
昨天还好，不太忙，也不太累。
- 2。 你们饿不饿？
我呢，我很饿。
- 3。 今天很热！
- 4。 今天冷了。
昨天不太冷，还好。
- 5。 我们很热。
Ng, 我们也很累。
- 6。 饿吗？
不累，还好。
不饿了。

乙

- 昨天呢？
- 不饿，还好！你呢？
- 昨天也很热！
- 昨天呢？
- 我也很热！很热也很累！
- 不太饿。我很累。你呢？
饿不饿？
我也不饿。

1.12 Action verbs and associated function words

吃 飯 已經 課 班

3+3

8+4

3+0

6+7

7+8

4+6

饭

经

课

chī
eat3+4
fàn
rice; food;
meals3+5
yǐjīng
already2+8
kè
class; lesson (a shift; class)

上 下 沒 / 没 有

1+2
shàng
on; upper;
go up

1+2
xià
under; lower;
go down

3+4
méi
[not]

1+5
yǒu
have

- a) 吃 is a compound of 口 kǒu ‘mouth’ and the element 乞, pronounced qǐ on its own. It suggests ‘mouth, teeth and tongue’. 饭/飯 is a compound of the food radical (whose independent form is 食) and phonetic 反 fǎn. Hint: ‘customer on the left with a cap on, with FOOD on the right behind a sneeze shield’. 课/課 contains the speech radical (言 in its independent form) and 果 guǒ (meaning ‘fruit’) as an imperfect phonetic element. Hint: ‘board on an easel in a *classroom*’.
- b) Contrast 己 yǐ with 己 jǐ, 巳 sì, and 乙 yǐ.
- c) The right hand side of the traditional graph, 經, is said to derive from the drawing of a loom used to represent the root meaning of jīng, ie ‘warp [of a loom]’. From the movements and result of weaving, the word derives meanings such as ‘pass through’ or ‘regulate’ as well as ‘classic texts’ [cf. English ‘text’ and ‘textile’]. The etymological meaning of the compound 已經 is harder to see, but probably derives from a notion of ‘completing the task’.
- d) 没 (whose traditional form, 沒, is only slightly different) has a version of the water radical on the left (three strokes in contrast to the two of 冷) and an element pronounce shū on the right (with 4 strokes). The graph is also used for the word mò ‘submerge’, which probably explains the presence of the water radical.

1.12.1 Phrases

a) Jiǎntǐzì ‘simplified set’

吃饭	吃了	还没	没有	你呢
chīfàn	chī le	hái méi	méiyǒu	nǐ ne
上课	已经	走了	下班	饭很好
shàngkè	yǐjīng	zǒu le	xiàbān	fàn hěn hǎo
没有了	上课	没课	明天	很累
méiyǒu le	shàngkè	méi kè	míngtiān	hěn lèi
上班	还没吃呢	已经吃了	走了没有	还没
shàngbān	hái méi chī ne	yǐjīng chī le	zǒu le méiyǒu	hái méi

b) Fántǐzì 'traditional set':

熱了	上課	還好	吃飯	已經走了
rè le	shàngkè	hái hǎo	chīfàn	yǐjīng zǒu le
明天沒課	不太餓	你們	不餓了	下課了
míngtiān méi kè	bú tài è	nǐmen	bú è le	xiàkè le

1.12.2 Reading

a) Jiǎntǐzì

- | 甲 | 乙 |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1. 吃了嗎?
還沒，我不餓。 | 吃了。你呢？ |
| 2. 吃了沒有？
沒有，我不餓。 | 還沒，你呢。
我也不餓，今天太熱了。 |
| 3. 你吃飯了嗎？
我已經吃了。 | 還沒。你呢？ |
| 4. 今天好不好？
吃飯了嗎？
我也已經吃了。 | 還好。
吃飯了。你呢？ |
| 5. 他們走了沒有？
<u>哦</u> ，上課了。 | 已經走了，上課了。 |
| 6. 他吃了沒有？
他不餓嗎？ | 沒有，太忙了。
不餓，還好。 |
| 7. 他們已經上課了嗎？
<u>哦</u> ，沒吃飯呢。 | 還沒，他們還沒有吃飯呢。
沒有。 |
| 8. 明天有沒有課？

二號呢？ | 沒有，明天十月一 <u>號</u> 。一號
沒課。
二號有，三號也有。 |

b) Fántǐzì

甲：我今天很累！	乙：吃飯了嗎？
還沒呢，太忙了。	餓嗎？
很餓。你呢？	我不餓，已經吃了。
李白呢，他已經上課了嗎？	他今天很忙，沒有上課。
你熱嗎？	熱！？我不熱，昨天很熱 今天好了。
昨天很熱，今天也很熱。	今天還好，不熱。

Exercise 5. Fill in the blanks:

1. 我___没吃饭呢，你呢？ / 我___经吃了。
2. 今天很好，不___也不冷。 / ___天也很好。
3. 昨天不___冷，还好。 / 昨天很好，可是今天热___。
4. 我姓林，她___姓林。 / 是吗？你们姓林？我也___林。
5. 我昨天很忙，今天也很___。 / 明天___？
6. 吃___了没有？ / 吃___。

Notes

可是 kěshì 'but'

是 shì 'be the case'

1.13 On the streets

This section appears regularly in the lessons to introduce you to words and phrases commonly seen on signs, notices, shop fronts and billboards across China (as well as in Chinese communities across the world). Though notes and annotations are still provided for them, the focus is on recognizing the combinations rather than writing them.

入口

rùkǒu
enter opening
entrance

出口

chūkǒu
exit opening
exit

雨水

yǔshuǐ
rainwater
[on manhole covers]

有限公司

yǒuxiàn gōngsī
have-limit company
CO.LTD.

銀行

銀行

yínháng
silver-shop
bank

Notes

- Left leaning 入 has, in earlier notes been contrasted with right leaning 人 rén, as well as with balanced 入 bā
- 限 and 銀/银 are part of a phonetic set based on 艮 that includes 很 hěn ‘very’
- 行 writes two (historically related) words: háng, with a number of meanings including ‘shop; firm’ and ‘row’; and xíng ‘to go; do; be okay’ (as in 還行).



Don't! [JKW 2002]