






Chinese Character Structure

The character structure information is very useful for Chinese language learners to recognize the character composition. The following table lists the common character structures of modern Chinese characters. It is based on the 12 Ideographic Description Characters (IDCs) introduced in ISO 10646 and the version 3.0 of the Unicode standard, They describe the ideographic character composition at the abstract level.

From: http://www.archchinese.com/arch_character_structure.html

Ideographic Description Character	Description	Description in Chinese	Example Characters
1 𠃉	Left to Right	左右结构	<u>好</u> , <u>你</u> , <u>吗</u> , <u>他</u>
2 𠃊	Above to Below	上下结构	<u>主</u> , <u>全</u> , <u>分</u> , <u>乔</u>
3 𠃋	Left to Middle and Right	左中右结构	<u>辩</u> , <u>班</u> , <u>辙</u> , <u>弼</u>
4 𠃌	Above to Middle and Below	上中下结构	<u>复</u> , <u>享</u> , <u>兽</u> , <u>养</u>
5 𠃍	Full Surround	全包围结构	<u>囚</u> , <u>回</u> , <u>因</u> , <u>叉</u>
6 𠃎	Surround from Above	上包围结构	<u>冈</u> , <u>闭</u> , <u>咸</u> , <u>凤</u>

Note: Example 1: You will write from left side of character 好 first then write right after. Please try to recite these 12 principal of Chinese character structure. When you recite these characters, you can write each one character down in your paper and recite only one character in your mind for example in the beginning level.

Ideographic Description Character	Description	Description in Chinese	Example Characters
7 	Surround from Below	下包围结构	<u>凶</u> , <u>鬲</u> , <u>鼎</u> , <u>囟</u>
8 	Surround from Left	左包围结构	<u>匠</u> , <u>区</u> , <u>医</u> , <u>匪</u> ,
9 	Surround from Upper Left	左上包围结构	<u>厘</u> , <u>危</u> , <u>友</u> , <u>发</u>
10 	Surround from Upper Right	右上包围结构	<u>乌</u> , <u>可</u> , <u>包</u> , <u>乃</u>
11 	Surround from Lower Left	左下包围结构	<u>勉</u> , <u>处</u> , <u>起</u> , <u>建</u> ,
12 	Overlaid	交叉结构	<u>坐</u> , <u>农</u> , <u>幽</u> , <u>舆</u>