

Calligraphy Lesson Plan (Teacher's Version) | Level: P1–P3

Unit 2: The Pace of Calligraphy (Basic Strokes and the Eight Principles of “Yong”)

Topic: Understanding Basic Strokes and the Eight Principles of “Yong”

Level: P1–P3

Duration: 30–45 minutes

Learning Objectives:

1. Review basic strokes such as dot, horizontal, vertical, left-falling and right-falling.
2. Understand the relationship between brushstrokes and images from nature through the “Map of Strokes Disposition”.
3. Learn the basic concept of the Eight Principles of “Yong” and practise writing 「永」 in a Nine Palaces Grid.

Key Learning Points:

- The shapes and strength of basic strokes.
- The eight brush movements in the Eight Principles of “Yong”.



Learning Challenges:

- Helping students understand the relationship between natural imagery and the movement of the brush.
- Paying attention to the beginning, movement and finish of each stroke during practice.

Teaching Materials:

- A simplified version or excerpts from the “Map of Strokes Disposition”.
- Nine Palaces Grid practice paper.
- A model of the character 「永」 and diagrams of basic strokes.

Lesson Flow:

1. Introduction (about 5–10 minutes)

Teacher Activities:

- Ask: Which basic strokes have you learned? Invite students to name strokes such as dot, horizontal, vertical, left-falling and right-falling.
- Introduce Wei Shuo (Lady Wei), a calligrapher of the Eastern Jin dynasty, and her “Map of Strokes Disposition”. Explain how ancient calligraphers used images from nature to describe brushstrokes.

Reference Video: [Dr Chui Pui-chee Introduces the “Map of Strokes Disposition”](#)

Student Activities:

- Answer the question and share the stroke they know best.
- Listen to the background of the “Map of Strokes Disposition”.

2. Development Activities (about 20–25 minutes)

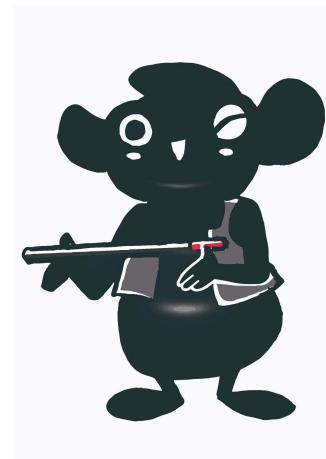
(1) Brushstrokes and Images From Nature

Teacher Activities:

- Choose several descriptions from the “Map of Strokes Disposition”, such as a horizontal stroke like clouds stretching across a thousand miles, a dot like a stone falling from a high peak, and a left-falling stroke like a severed rhinoceros tusk.
- Explain what each metaphor means and how it reflects the strength and direction of the stroke.
- Ask students in groups to draw natural scenes corresponding to one or two strokes.

Student Activities:

- Discuss in groups the relationship between brushstrokes and natural imagery.
- Draw their own imagined “brushstroke landscape” on paper.



(2) Introducing the Eight Principles of “Yong”

Teacher Activities:

- Explain that the character 「永」 contains eight fundamental brush techniques: 側 (cè), 勒 (lè), 弩 (nǚ), 趯 (tì), 策 (cè), 掠 (lüè), 啄 (zhuó) and 磔 (zhé).
- Explain each one simply: for example, 側 is like a bird turning in flight, 勒 like reining in a horse, 弩 like drawing a bow, and 趯 like kicking a leg.

Reference Video: [Dr Chui Pui-chee Introduces the Eight Principles of “Yong”](#)

Student Activities:

- Make brief notes on the handout during the explanation.
- Use body movements to imitate different brush movements.

(3) Copying Practice

Teacher Activities:

- Distribute Nine Palaces Grid practice paper and demonstrate how to write 「永」 in the grid, showing where the eight techniques appear.
- Remind students to pay attention to the beginning, movement, and finish of each stroke.

Student Activities:

- Practise writing 「永」 in the Nine Palaces Grid.
- Look at classmates' work and identify which stroke appears strongest or most beautiful.

3. Consolidation and Summary (about 5–10 minutes)

Teacher Activities:

- Invite several students to show their 「永」 characters.
- Ask: Which brush technique do you like best, and why?

Student Activities:

- Share how they felt while practising 「永」.





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4. Classroom Assessment and Extension (about 5–10 minutes)

- Assess whether students can name several basic strokes and at least two of the Eight Principles of “Yong”.
- Extension: Encourage students to practise other characters in a nine-square grid at home and observe the movement and structure of the strokes.



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Worksheet (1)

Unit 2: Brushstrokes and Nature | Level: P1-P3

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1. Fill in the Blanks

1. Horizontal: like _____.

2. Dot: like _____.

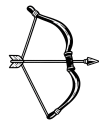
3. Left-falling: like _____.

4. Right-falling: like _____.

2. Match the Pictures

Match each stroke with the correct picture:

Horizontal · ·



Dot · ·



Vertical · ·



Hook · ·





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Worksheet (2)

Unit 2: My Notes on the Eight Principles of “Yong” | Level: P1–P3

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1. Simple Explanations

Write down three of the Eight Principles of “Yong” that you remember. For example:

1. _____: like _____.

2. _____: like _____.

3. _____: like _____.



2. Self-Assessment

Tick the boxes:

☐ When writing 「永」, I paid attention to the beginning, movement, and finish of each stroke.

☐ I can name at least three of the Eight Principles of “Yong”.