

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

Unit 3: The Body of Characters (Structure and Structural Grids)

Topic: Understanding Chinese Character Structure and Structural Grids

Level: P1–P3

Duration: 30–45 minutes

Learning Objectives:

1. Recognise single-form and compound structures in Chinese characters.
2. Understand common structures such as left-and-right, top-and-bottom, three-part, inside-and-outside and complex structures through examples.
3. Understand how structural grids such as the Nine Palaces Grid, Grid of the Rice Character, Grid of the Return Character and Grid of the Togetherness Character are used.

Key Learning Points:

- Classification of character structures and their centre of balance.
- How structural grids help students understand proportion and space.

Learning Challenge:

- Applying structural grids to adjust character forms while writing.

Teaching Materials:

- Character cards showing different structures, such as 「林」, 「雷」, 「意」, 「晶」, 「回」, 「同」, 「邀」 and 「慶」.
- Practice sheets with different structural grids: Nine Palaces Grid, Grid of the Rice Character, Grid of the Return Character, and Grid of the Togetherness Character.



Lesson Flow:

1. Introduction (about 5–10 minutes)

Teacher Activities:

- Ask: What shape do you think Chinese characters are? (Square and balanced.)
- Explain: Every character can “live” inside a square. A character can have a single-form structure or a compound structure.

Student Activities:

- Answer the question and share a favourite character.

2. Development Activities (about 20–25 minutes)

(1) Classifying Character Structures

Teacher Activities:

- Show examples: left-and-right structure (林), top-and-bottom structure (雷), three-part structure (意, 晶), inside-and-outside structure (回, 同), and complex structure (邀, 慶).
- Draw a simple classification chart on the board and ask students to place each character in the correct category.

Reference Webpage: [The Body of Characters - Chinese Character Structure](#)

Student Activities:

- Discuss the structure of the characters in groups.
- Place the character cards under the categories “left-and-right”, “top-and-bottom”, “three-part”, “inside-and-outside” and “complex”.

(2) Character Shape and Centre of Balance

Teacher Activities:

- Introduce the ideas of an off-centre balance, square form, wide form and tall form.
- Show examples: off-centre balance (傳, 數), square form (國, 圖), wide form (方, 世), and tall form (月, 中). Ask students to observe the shapes.

Reference Webpage: [The Body of Characters - Character Features](#)

Student Activities:

- Copy several of the characters on practice paper and try to make them look more balanced.

(3) Introducing Structural Grids

Teacher Activities:

- Introduce the structure and suitable uses of the Nine Palaces Grid, Grid of the Rice Character, Grid of the Return Character, and Grid of the Togetherness Character.
- Demonstrate writing characters in different grids, such as 「人」 in a Grid of the Rice Character, 「回」 in a Grid of the Return Character and 「國」 in a Nine Palaces Grid.

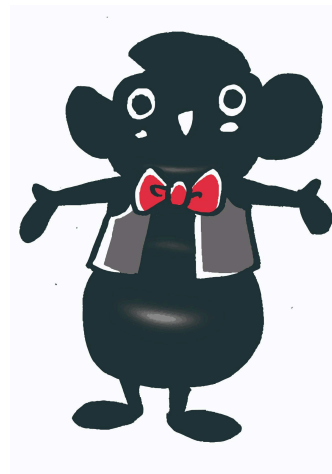
Reference Webpage: [The Body of Characters - Basic Structural Grids for Chinese Characters](#)

Grid Examples: Practice Sheets (A4 printing is recommended. Place xuan paper or maobian paper over the sheet for writing practice.)

Student Activities:

- Practise writing one or two characters in the assigned grids and observe how the main form, extensions and empty space are arranged.

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





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Teacher Activities:

- Ask students to choose one practice character and explain its structural category and choice of grid.

Student Activities:

- Share which type of grid they find most helpful for writing.

4. Classroom Assessment and Extension

- Assess whether students can distinguish at least three types of character structure.
- Extension: Encourage students to pay attention to a character's “centre of balance” and “empty space” in everyday writing.

Worksheet (1)

Unit 3: Classifying Character Structures | Level: P1-P3

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1. Classification

Place the following characters in the correct structural category: 林, 雷, 意, 晶, 回, 同, 邀, 慶.

Left-and-right: _____

Top-and-bottom: _____

Three-part: _____

Inside-and-outside: _____

Complex: _____



Worksheet (2)

Unit 3: Choosing a Structural Grid | Level: P1–P3

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

1. Choose a Grid

Choose a suitable structural grid for each character (Nine Palaces Grid / Grid of the Rice Character / Grid of the Return Character / Grid of the Togetherness Character), then write the character once beside it:

人: _____

中: _____

國: _____

回: _____

合: _____

