

- Being able to read Chinese character will make your learning more interesting and meaningful.
- Chinese characters transmit our thoughts and sometimes even cultural messages. For example, the Chinese character “明” is a combination of two characters “日” (sun) and “月” (moon) and it means “bright”. Each Chinese character has its own meaning and most of the nouns and verbs are combined with two Chinese characters which forms a profounder meaning. For example, when 地 (ground) and 图 (picture) these two words are combined together, it forms a new noun which means “map”. How about 地(ground) and 狱(jail) combine together? No, it does not mean underground jail; it means hell. Chinese culture has been influenced by Buddhism. According to Buddhism stories, there is a hell of 18 floors deep under the ground; people who committed crime will end up in the hell after death and suffer from different kinds of cruel penalties given by the judges in the hell; close to and even much severe than what the criminals suffer in jail on earth in ancient time. How about 龙 (dragon), 卷 (roll/whirl) and 风(wind) these three words combine together? Yes, it means tornado. You probably know dragon dance performed in Chinese new year. Dragon is actually an imaginative animal originated from Chinese myth. According to the Chinese myth, dragon is a very powerful creature. It flies, swirls across the sky and can control weather. That is how Chinese associates dragon and tornado!
- Due to the structure of Chinese language I mentioned above, it is not only more meaningful and interesting to learn Mandarin with the capacity of reading Chinese characters. You will actually find that being able to read Chinese character will help you to expand your vocabularies when you reach intermediate level.