# Video worksheet – Radicals 101

Watch the video [The Building Blocks of Chinese Character (Radicals 101) (5:18)](https://youtu.be/F8PF7oyXwt0?t=21) and answer the following questions.

1. What are Chinese radicals? Write a short definition based on what you learned from the video.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. List 3 reasons why it is important to learn Chinese radicals.

|  |
| --- |
|  |
|  |
|  |

1. In your own words, explain how radicals can give you clues about a character’s meaning or pronunciation.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. In the table below, draw and label the 3 radicals that are discussed in the video. Include their English translation and a brief description of each one.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Radical | English translation | Brief description |
| ****Radical 1****: |  |  |
| ****Radical 2****:  |  |  |
| ****Radical 3****: |  |  |

1. From the video, what is the difference between a left-positioned radical and a top-positioned radical?

|  |
| --- |
|  |

1. True or false: All Chinese characters have a radical.

|  |
| --- |
|  |

## For the teacher – answers

1. What are Chinese radicals? Write a short definition based on what you learned from the video.

**Chinese radicals are basic components or building blocks of Chinese characters. Each radical has its own meaning and can give clues about a character’s meaning or pronunciation.**

1. List 3 reasons why it’s important to learn Chinese radicals.
2. **To better understand character meanings.**
3. **To help with memorisation.**
4. **To gain insights into the construction and grouping of characters.**
5. In your own words, explain how radicals can give you clues about a character’s meaning or pronunciation.

**Radicals can give clues about a character’s meaning or pronunciation. For example, the radical for ‘water’ is also found in characters that have to do with liquid or fluidity.**

1. In the table below, draw and label the 3 radicals that are discussed in the video. Include their English translation and a brief description of each one.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Radical | English translation | Brief description |
| ****Radical 1****: 氵 | **water** | **Found in characters related to water or liquid.** |
| ****Radical 2****: 火 | **fire** | **Found in characters that relate to fire (physically or emotionally). For example, explosion, annoyed.** |
| ****Radical 3****: 忄 | **heart** | **Found in characters related to emotions or state of mind.** |

1. From the video, what is the difference between a left-positioned radical and a top-positioned radical?

**Left-positioned radicals usually provide information about the character’s meaning, while top-positioned radicals might give clues about the character’s pronunciation.**

1. True or False: All Chinese characters have a radical.

**False. Not all Chinese characters have a radical. Some characters are themselves radicals.**

**© State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023**

The copyright material published in this resource is subject to the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth) and is owned by the NSW Department of Education or, where indicated, by a party other than the NSW Department of Education (third-party material).

Copyright material available in this resource and owned by the NSW Department of Education is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International (CC BY 4.0) license](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



This license allows you to share and adapt the material for any purpose, even commercially.

Attribution should be given to © State of New South Wales (Department of Education), 2023.

Material in this resource not available under a Creative Commons license:

* the NSW Department of Education logo, other logos and trademark-protected material
* material owned by a third party that has been reproduced with permission. You will need to obtain permission from the third party to reuse its material.

**Links to third-party material and websites**

Please note that the provided (reading/viewing material/list/links/texts) are a suggestion only and implies no endorsement, by the New South Wales Department of Education, of any author, publisher, or book title. School principals and teachers are best placed to assess the suitability of resources that would complement the curriculum and reflect the needs and interests of their students.

If you use the links provided in this document to access a third-party's website, you acknowledge that the terms of use, including licence terms set out on the third-party's website apply to the use which may be made of the materials on that third-party website or where permitted by the *Copyright Act 1968* (Cth). The department accepts no responsibility for content on third-party websites.