



How can breaking down a character in Chinese help me remember it?

What is the deal with Chinese writing? Chinese doesn't have an alphabet. It has thousands of individual characters that have to be learned. It sounds like an impossible task, but these characters aren't random and arbitrary. Most characters will have one part that has to do with their meaning (this is often referred to as a radical, but that's another article altogether), and one part that has to do with its pronunciation. As you study Chinese, you will find that a lot of these characters are made up of parts you've seen so the thousands of characters become more like remembering a few hundred of these parts. We've seen the character 吃 from the first lessons in Chinese 1101, the verb

Pretty cool, huh? Did you enjoy this article? Let us know! This article was assembled from a combination of the Chinese 1000 and 2000 level textbook, Integrated Chinese, as well as the Internet dictionaries [www.zdic.net](http://www.zdic.net) and [www.nciku.com](http://www.nciku.com).