

online dictionary aimed at Chinese language learners.

There are two main functions in this website: a word dictionary and a character dictionary. The word dictionary allows you to search Chinese compounds by pinyin, Chinese characters or English definition words. There's a simple yet powerful Google like search syntax with wild card support that also lets you combine different search criteria to narrow down searches. For example: *果 matches all Chinese compounds ending with the 果 character, *green cha* will match Chinese compounds with *green* in the English definition and *cha* as a part of the pinyin pronunciation, thus returning 绿茶 *lǜ chá green tea*.

From the Chinese compounds in the word dictionary, a student can follow a link to the character dictionary to see detailed information about the individual characters. It is however also possible to get a word decomposition revealing all smaller words of which a large compound consists, for 汉语水平考试 it reveals the sub words 汉语, 水平 and 考试 with their individual definitions.

The character dictionary allows students to learn more about individual characters such as the radical / stroke count, Mandarin and Cantonese pronunciation. Handwriting instructions are available for many characters as well. It's even possible to get additional information such as the Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese pronunciation and on the page number or index where this character is described in various famous books (such as the 漢語大字典). If a student doesn't know both the pronunciation and definition of a character, there's the possibility of handwriting the character or to use a radical / strokes lookup.

Students often have whole sentences or large pieces of text to look up. Perhaps they received an email from a Chinese penpal or a text from their teacher. *Show entries for all Chinese words in a sentence* in the advanced word dictionary will automatically segment a text into separate words and show the results for each individual word. It can either be formatted to follow the sentence flow of the original text or as a vocabulary list containing all unique words in a text. There's also an annotation tool, which basically does the same thing but shows the details of compounds inline with the original text or in a small popup while hovering over the com-

pounds.

There are also many other handy tools available, such as an online Chinese typing tool allowing you to type Chinese on PCs which do not have a Chinese input method installed. There's even a Chinese input method which shows the English definitions of compounds as you type, ideal for learners who feel unsure about which characters to choose.

Useful for both teachers and students is the *Type Pinyin* tool, which allows you to type those pinyin tone marks easily, the tone marks are placed as you type (i.e. *Bei3jing1* turns into *Běijīng*).

There are also flashcards and a quiz, to learn new characters and practice what you've already learned.

For those who want to lookup Chinese words on-the-go, there's a mobile version of the dictionary. It can be used on Internet enabled mobile phones and PDAs.

Penpower Chinese Expert

www.penpowerinc.com

Penpower Technology Ltd., the leading software company in Chinese TTS, optical character recognition, handwriting recognition and speech recognition since 1991, just released "Penpower Chinese Expert", a free-text learning software for students to master the Chinese language. It's a perfect tool for students of all ages to complement classroom or online learning.

Penpower Chinese Expert (PCE) provides a comprehensive Chinese learning environment by immersing you in a Mandarin listening and speaking environment. **PCE** lets you learn Mandarin from any source such as Chinese web sites, books, newspapers or magazines, in either simplified or traditional Chinese. Unlike other Chinese learning CDs or DVDs which you will probably throw away after a few months, **PCE** uses revolutionary intelligent software built with Penpower's latest award-winning technologies in *phrase segmentation, speech recognition, text to speech, optical character recognition, handwriting* and even *machine translation*. It will be software that you will keep for years to come.

There is no limit to how much you can learn when using this Penpower Chinese Expert, it trains:

(0) sentence segmentation, phrase generation, or manually create phrases