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250 Essential Chinese Characters, Vol.1

By Philip Yungkin Lee, Revised by Darell Tibbles



Rutland, VT. (December 9, 2009). The Tuttle Publishing company has released an updated edition of its introductory guide to Chinese characters: 250 Essential Chinese Characters, Vol. 1. The first unit in a two-volume series that covers the 500 most important characters, the book was designed both for

classroom use and individual study.

A full page is dedicated to each character. Each character entry includes both Simplified, Traditional, and pinyin forms. Numerous vocabulary and sentence examples are given in Simplified characters, pinyin, and English. Also included are stroke count, stroke order, and helpful hints to remember when writing a character. For example, for the character wu (Ξ) , the student is coached to keep the three horizontal strokes equally spaced and to write the bottom stroke a little longer than the top and middle strokes.

In addition to these benefits, the new editions include many improvements, such as:

- 1. The selection of characters was modified to better prepare students for the Chinese AP exam.
- 2. New "lesson" groupings create a more structured learning environment.
- 3. Every lesson includes AP-exam style questions, and each group of five lessons is followed by AP-style re-