

149. 灵 (靈) *líng*, Spirit, Magic

Equivalents

spirit, magic

Significs and Stroke Counts

simplified 𠃉 3 + 4; complex 雨 8 + 16

Character Composition

Associative compound. The character comprises 雨 *yǔ*, “rain,” three 口 *kǒu*, “mouths,” and 巫 *wū*, a “sorceress.” The three mouths are in effect raindrops, and the sorceress is performing a ritual that causes rain.

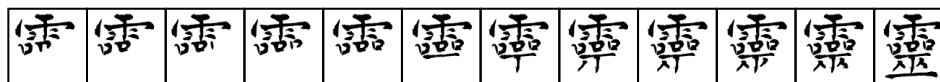
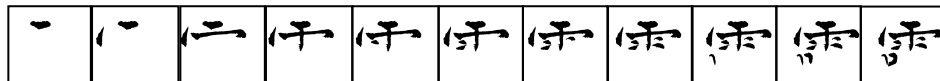
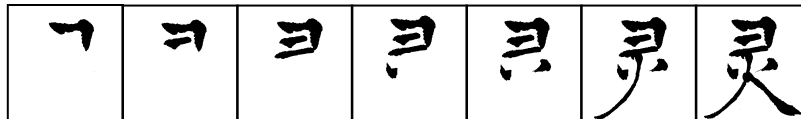
Explanation

The character originally depicted a sorceress performing a ritual to cause rain. The extended meanings that this character has taken on include “spirit,” “mysterious,” “divine,” and “intelligence.”

Combinations

承灵	(承靈)	<i>chéng líng</i> , Spirit Support (GB-18)
灵道	(靈道)	<i>líng dào</i> , Spirit Pathway (HT-4)
灵墟	(靈墟)	<i>líng xū</i> , Spirit Ruins (KI-24)
青灵	(青靈)	<i>qīng líng</i> , Green-Blue Spirit (HT-2)
清灵	(清靈)	<i>qīng líng</i> , Clear Spirit (TB-11)
青灵泉	(青靈泉)	<i>qīng líng quán</i> (alt.), Green-Blue Spirit Spring (HT-2)
天灵	(天靈)	<i>tiān líng</i> , Celestial Spirit (NCP)
听灵	(聽靈)	<i>tīng líng</i> , Hearing Spirit (NCP)
五灵	(五靈)	<i>wǔ líng</i> , Five Spirits (NCP)
灵枢	(靈樞)	<i>líng shū</i> , Magic Pivot (book title)
灵枢经	(靈樞經)	<i>líng shū jīng</i> , The Magic Pivot (book title)

Stroke Sequence



㇀	㇁	㇂	㇃	㇄	㇅	灵	灵	灵
㇀	㇁	㇂	㇃	㇄	㇅	灵	灵	灵
㇀	㇁	㇂	㇃	㇄	㇅	灵	灵	灵

150. 溜 (溜) *liū*, Flow

Equivalents

flow

Significs and Stroke Counts

simplified 彳 3 + 10; complex 彳 (水) 3 (4) + 10



Character Composition

Signific-phonetic compound. On the left is the signific 彳 (水) *shuǐ*, which means “water.” On the right is the phonetic 留 *liú*.

Explanation

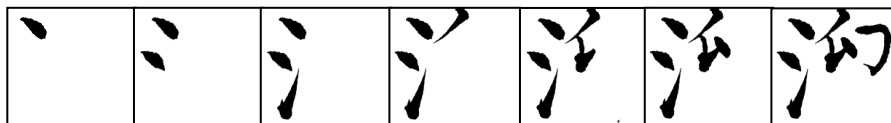
The *Shuō Wén* suggests that 溜 *liū* originally meant “rain water from the roof.” Metonymically, it refers to the “roof gutter.” It came into use for “streams of downward running water or liquid” in various forms. From the idea of “swift current,” the meaning expanded to include “smooth” or “sliding.”

Note that in the point name 温溜 *wēn liù*, Warm Dwelling (LI-7), in the list below, the tone is changed in the pronunciation, and the character has the meaning of 留 (i.e., to stay). In ancient times, there was a great degree of interchangeability among characters.

Combinations

复溜	(復溜)	<i>fù liū</i> , Recover Flow (KI-7)
温溜	(溫溜)	<i>wēn liù</i> , Warm Dwelling (LI-7)
下温溜	(下溫溜)	<i>xià wēn liū</i> , Lower Warm Flow (NCP)

Stroke Sequence



丶	丿	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇
丶	丿	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇
丶	丿	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇	㇇