Basic strokes in Chinese

We write Chinese with some basic strokes, six of which are shown below:

Basic stroke	Chinese name	English meaning	Examples
•	diǎn 点	dot	小六
—	héng 横	horizontal	一 三
1	shù 以之	vertical	十中
J	piě 抽枚	downward left	人大
	nà 捺	downward right	人人
	tí 提	upward	人打江

Stroke order in Chinese

We always write character strokes in the same order, following seven basic rules and some supplementary rules for stroke order in Chinese:

	Basic rules of stroke order	Examples
1	Horizontal before vertical 先横后竖	十: 一十 丰: 一= 三丰
2	Downward left before downward right 先撇后捺	人:
3	From left to right 先左后右	川: ノ川川 明: ノ川月月月
4	From top to bottom 先上后下	三: -= 三 丁: 一丁
5	From outside to inside 先外后内	月:
6	From outside to inside, then closing 先外后里再封口	回: 1 门门回回回国: 1 门门同用国国国
7	Middle before two sides 先中间后两边	小:

	Supplementary rules of stroke order	Examples
8	Top dots, top-left dots precede all others 正上、左上点,先写	六: ` 一 テ 六头: ` * 一 チ 头
9	For top-right dots and inside dots, enclosing strokes precede enclosed strokes 右上、里边点,后写	龙:一广九龙龙 瓦:一厂瓦瓦
10	For top-right, top-left, or left-top-right structures, enclosing strokes precede enclosed strokes 左、右上包围,先外后里	压: 一厂厂厂厂压压 句: / 勺勺勺句
11	For bottom-left structures, enclosed strokes precede enclosing strokes 左下包围,先里后外	进: 一二
12	For left-bottom-right structures, enclosed strokes precede enclosing strokes 缺口朝上,先里后外	击: 一二十击击 山: 1山山
13	For left-top-right structures, enclosing strokes precede enclosed strokes 缺口朝下,先外后里	冈: 门门冈同同同
14	For left-bottom-right structures, enclosed strokes precede enclosing strokes 缺口朝右,先上后里	区: 一フヌ区 匹: 一 ア