





Teacher's Notes

This activity has been created to encourage fun memorisation and recall of key radicals, linking the character to its pinyin and its original animal meaning.

Clearly this activity procedure could be be adapted and used for any vocabulary set- either by topic (animals/ colours/ sports etc) or for any part of speech (verbs, time phrases, chengyu, adjectives) with a little imagination. I would suggest both giving each student a copy of the sheet to have in their books, and perhaps one on the wall in the classroom. (to make it multi-purpose, why not laminate it, and then use blu tac to stick in whichever set of radicals/ vocabulary you want to work with- this could change every couple of weeks).

Also, students can play as an individual activity, in pairs, in small groups, teams or as the whole class. It's a perfect activity to fill 10 minutes at the end of the lesson, or as a warmer for a revision lesson. With all the suggested procedures below, the teacher (or students) can decide how the class is divided.

Procedure:

Version A

Use the wheel with the animal images on (first wheel). Students take turns to spin the wheel-whichever animal it lands on, they have to identify the character and/ or pinyin to match, and give correct pronunciation.

Version B

Use the wheel with the characters on. This time students have to match animal images/ pinyin to the characters.

Version C

As the class develops vocabulary, they might have to spin the character radical wheel, then write a character that has that radical in it. So, for example, if they land on 9 they could write 90, or if they land on 90 they could write 90.

Version D

If you are using the wheel to revise lexical groups (e.g. school subjects) you could extend the activity to ask students to give you a sentence (spoken or written).