

GATEWAY METHOD OF LANGUAGE LEARNING

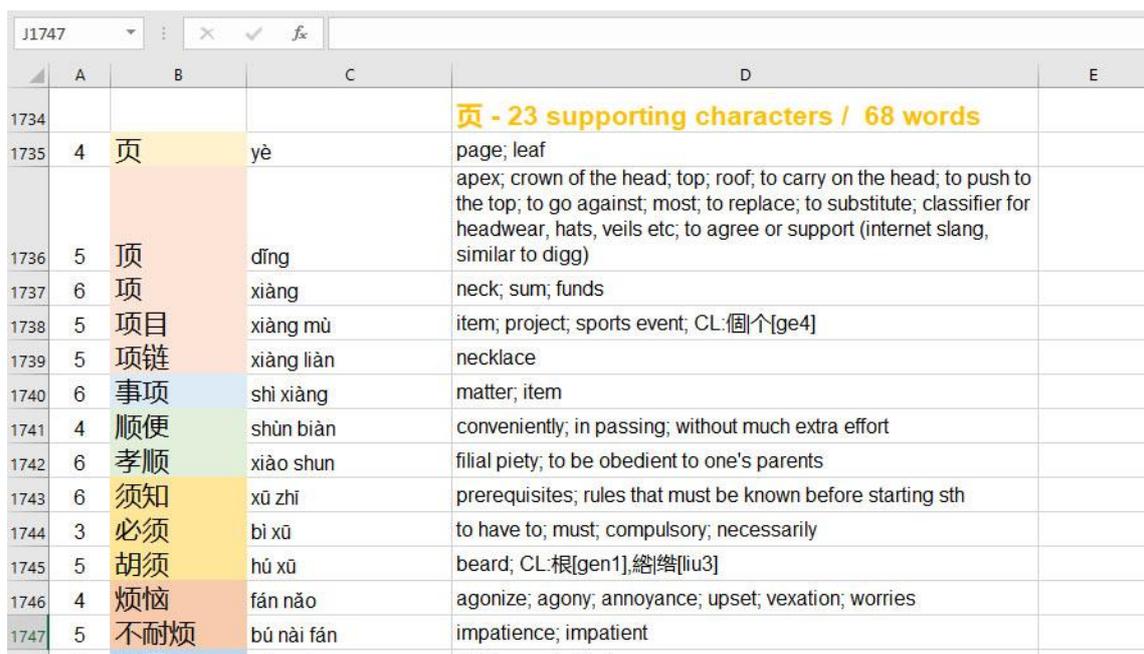
EXAMPLE OF MANDARIN

In the basic version, the Gateway method makes it possible to learn relatively quickly the 5,000 most common words included in the HSK (1-6) list (phonetics is to be mastered using Zamyatkin matrix method).

We use (a) a radical-organized list of all HSK words, and (b) mnemonic poems that use the meaning of these words.

(a) The words in the list are divided into four parts according to the radicals that correspond to one of their constituent characters, regardless of its position in the word. Up to 85% of the HSK (1-6) words can be attributed to one of as few as 42 radicals, which can be on the left, on the right, at the top or at the bottom of the character without any preference (some radicals have a certain location like “扌 on the left” or “冫 on the left”). Part 1 includes words representing the most frequent 5 radicals, part 2 - relatively frequent 10 radicals, part 3 - 27 not too rare radicals, and part 4 - rare radicals. However, in the list part 3 comes first, part 2 second, part 1 is in the third place and at the very end is part 4. Parts located above have priority over the subsequent ones. This means that, for example, if in a word (e.g., 排列) the first character represents a radical (“扌 on the left”) belonging to part 1, and the second one (“立”) to part 3, then this word is included in part 3, because it is located above.

Within each part the words are arranged according to those characters, which represent the corresponding radical. Such characters are considered as “supporting characters” regardless of their position in the word. Again, radical sections and supporting character sub-sections located above have a priority over the subsequent ones. Radical sections come in the order from less strokes to more strokes except for the 米 radical, which comes first. In the parts 2 and 1 there is no special sequence of radicals. In the part 4 first come groups of words with the same character in the first position, from bigger groups to ones with only two words. Sub-sections in the parts 1-3 are highlighted with different colors for convenience (fig. 1).



	A	B	C	D	E
1734				页 - 23 supporting characters / 68 words	
1735	4	页	yè	page; leaf	
1736	5	顶	dǐng	apex; crown of the head; top; roof; to carry on the head; to push to the top; to go against; most; to replace; to substitute; classifier for headwear, hats, veils etc; to agree or support (internet slang, similar to digg)	
1737	6	项	xiàng	neck; sum; funds	
1738	5	项目	xiàng mù	item; project; sports event; CL: 个[ge4]	
1739	5	项链	xiàng liàn	necklace	
1740	6	事项	shì xiàng	matter; item	
1741	4	顺便	shùn biàn	conveniently; in passing; without much extra effort	
1742	6	孝顺	xiào shun	filial piety; to be obedient to one's parents	
1743	6	须知	xū zhī	prerequisites; rules that must be known before starting sth	
1744	3	必须	bì xū	to have to; must; compulsory; necessarily	
1745	5	胡须	hú xū	beard; CL: 根[gen1], 络[luo3]	
1746	4	烦恼	fán nǎo	agonize; agony; annoyance; upset; vexation; worries	
1747	5	不耐烦	bú nài fán	impatience; impatient	

Fig. 1. Sample radical-arranged HSK wordlist clipping, part 3.

words can be learned directly in the HSK graded text materials by replacing them firstly with Russian (or English), as in the following sample.

小华是个温柔又很有爱心的姑娘。她很爱护小动物。每次路上碰到受伤的小鸟，她都会把它们带回家，细心照顾，等它们伤好了再放回自然。

[Chua, Edmund; Ran, Ranny. Graded Chinese Reader: HSK 5 (2500 Words Level): Chasing Dreams . Kindle Edition.]

The words from the parts 2 and 1 can be replaced with Russian as: 小华是个 ласковая 又很有爱心的 девушка。她很 заботится о 小动物。每次路上碰到 раненую 的小鸟，她都会 забирает 它们带回家，细心照顾，等它们 раны 好了再放回自然。