

# Lesson1.2

## Basic differences between Chinese and English-1

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# Learning Activities

- 1) Review of Lesson 1.1, check homework, and complete Quiz 1.1
- 2) Pair work in brainstorming
- 3) Group work in exploring/ researching the differences between Chinese and English
- 4) Overview

# Review of Lesson 1.1

- ▶ Review of the contents covered in Lesson 1.1
- ▶ Check homework – Reading comprehension: *Aspects of the English Language*
- ▶ Complete Quiz 1.1

# Pair work: brainstorming

- ▶ According to your observation, what are the biggest differences between Chinese and English?

# Group work

- ▶ Please explore the differences between Chinese and English & report to the class

# Chinese vs English: Overview

- ▶ **Different language families:**
- ▶ **English:** Indo-European language family
- ▶ **Chinese:** Sino-Tibetan language family
  
- ▶ **Indo-European Language: Some Basic Features**
  - Two special characteristics indicate the Indo-Europeanness of a language: **structure and vocabulary**. As regards to structure, the Indo-European languages use forms which have been invented and described by the ancient Greeks as “Parts of Speech”.
  - Secondly, Indo-European languages have many identical **fundamental words** which form their common basis of vocabulary. For instance, most of the names of family relationships, domestic materials or familiar animals.
- ▶ <https://discover.hubpages.com/literature/Indo-European-Family-of-Languages-Features-and-Classifications>



# Chinese vs English: Overview

- ▶ **Different language families:**
- ▶ **English:** Indo-European language family
- ▶ **Chinese:** Sino-Tibetan language family
  
- ▶ **Sino-Tibetan Language: Some Basic Features**
  - The Sino-Tibetan languages have in common several features, which are exhibited to a greater or lesser extent in the individual tongues. For example, they show a tendency to be **monosyllabic** and isolating and to use **tones** or musical pitch.
  - In an isolating language the **words do not change their form** or show inflection. Because of the relative absence of inflection, **word order** is the key to expressing grammatical relationships.
  - <https://www.infoplease.com/encyclopedia/arts/language/linguistics/sinotibetan-languages/common-features>



# Chinese vs English: Overview

- ▶ **English:** Alphabets
- ▶ **Chinese:** Ideographic characters
- ▶ Because some Chinese characters derive from attempts to represent objects pictorially, they are sometimes called 'pictograms/ ideograms'. However, changes in the form of graphs brought about by processes of standardization and writing reform over the centuries have generally obscured any representational origins.





# Chinese vs English: Overview

- ▶ **Different nature of language:**
- ▶ **Chinese:** analytic language
- ▶ **English:** comprehensive language
  
- ▶ **Analytic language:** the relationship of words is expressed not by the form of word itself – but by **prepositions and word order** and so on.
- ▶ E.g. 我吃过饭了。
  
- ▶ **Comprehensive language:** the meaning of the language is expressed by the change of **the form of the word itself** such as case, number, tense and so on.
- ▶ E.g. I've had dinner.

# Chinese vs English: Overview

- ▶ More differences

# Homework

- ▶ Finish the translation exercise
- ▶ Prepare for Quiz 1.2 (6-8 questions)
  - Blank-filling / True or False / Multiple choice/ short-answer questions

# Find the Subjects & translate

- ▶ 1. 电视我喜欢看纪录片(documentaries), 电影我喜欢看故事片。
- ▶ 2. 下雨了, 刮风了。
- ▶ 3. 开汽车没方向盘(steering wheel)不行。
- ▶ 4. 这件事我现在脑子里一点印象都没有。
- ▶ 5. 考题, 李老师出的最好。