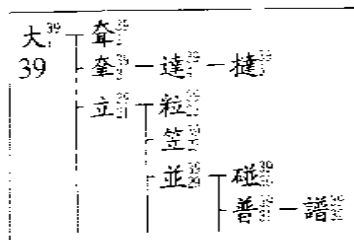


Dictionary usage — example for the character 譜



The dictionary is structured around a series of charts or trees showing how each character is derived from simpler forms according to the classic dictionary 說文解字. For instance, 譜 can be traced back to 普, to 並, to 立, and finally to the pictograph 大 which forms the 39th tree. 譜 is the 32nd character in this tree.

Character entry for 譜 is adjacent to 39th tree

譜 39 pǔ
 32 [譜] Words 言 言 containing all 普 普 (phonetic).
 圖 manual 圖 char., table
 圖 compose 圖 idea, plan ⇔
 臉譜 12, 食譜 14, 樂譜 15, 離
 譜 17, 族譜 18, 家譜 155
 譜曲 pǔqǔ 圖 compose, set to
 music

Traditional character etymologies explain each character's composition. Here, 言 and 普 together suggest the meaning while 普 indicates the pronunciation.

Markers such as 圖 for "noun" and 圖 for "verb" denote parts of speech and usage restrictions.

All words including the character are referenced, e.g. 家譜 (family tree) is found in the 155th tree under the entry for 家

Six different indexes locate 譜 as 32nd character in 39th tree

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文 又
 不 普
 鋪 普
 普 普
 譜 普
 溥 普

Strokes

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Word pronunciation

pǔqǔ 譜曲 126
 pǔrén 僕人 126
 púsà 菩薩 126
 púsù 樸素 126

Bopomofo