

CHARACTERS STROKE ORDER – JAPANESE & CHINESE RULES

Kanji Calligraphy Stroke Order Rules & Stroke Order Diagrams (SOD)

<http://www.iovo96.org/Rules.html>

Drawing Strokes: The three simple rules of drawing a stroke are:

HORIZONTAL strokes are written from LEFT to RIGHT and are

PARALLEL. 

VERTICAL strokes are written from TOP to BOTTOM. 

HOOK strokes run from TOP LEFT to BOTTOM LEFT or RIGHT.



The guidelines, as issued by the Japanese Ministry of Education in 1958, are summarized below. The rules are given in order of importance:

1. Drawing of characters generally proceeds from TOP to BOTTOM. 

2. Drawing of characters generally proceeds from LEFT to RIGHT. 

Additionally: 3. When strokes cross each other, HORIZONTAL strokes usually precede VERTICAL strokes. 

4. In some circumstances the VERTICAL stroke does precede the HORIZONTAL stroke. 

5. CENTER strokes are written first and then the LEFT and RIGHT strokes if the LEFT and RIGHT strokes do not exceed two strokes each. 

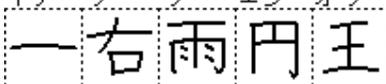
6. OUTSIDE frames first, but BOTTOM closure is last. 

7. VERTICAL strokes drawn through the CENTER are written last. 

8. RIGHT to LEFT DIAGONAL strokes precede LEFT to RIGHT. 

9. Strokes which cut THROUGH the middle of a Kanji are written LAST. 

And: Kanji should be of UNIFORM SIZE, as they are in this "Kanji Practice Paper" sample:

イチ ウ エン オウ


Chinese Hanzi Stroke Order

<http://zhongwen.com/shufa/index.html>

Two basic rules are followed:

1. Top before bottom



2. Left before right



These rules conflict whenever one stroke is to the bottom and left of another. Several additional rules resolve many of these conflicts.

3. Left vertical stroke (usually) before top horizontal stroke



4. Bottom horizontal stroke last



5. Center stroke before wings



6. Horizontal strokes before intersecting vertical strokes



7. Left-falling strokes before right-falling strokes



A final rule can contradict the others:

8. Minor strokes (often) last



Component Order

Most Chinese characters are combinations of simpler, component characters. Usually the two parts are written at top and bottom



or left and right



so that the main two stroke order rules readily apply.

Occasionally these rules also conflict with respect to components. When one component is at the bottom-left, and the other at the top-right, the top-right component is sometimes written first.



When there are several components, top components are written first.



These rules usually imply each component is written in its entirety before another component is written. Exceptions may arise when one component divides another,



encompasses another,



or the individual components are no longer discernible in modern writing.