

Making Words

Directions: Unscramble the strip of letters at the bottom of the page. Try to move the letters around to make 3-letter words. How many words can you make? Write them in the box. Can you make any four-letter words? Five-letter words? Can you make any other words? Can you guess the SECRET WORD all these letters make?

Three-letter Words: 	Four-Letter Words:
Five-letter Words: 	Other words:

Students: total up how many words you have... you must have at least 35 words!

Total words

Do you know the secret words?

Unscramble these letters:

A	A	E	C	D	H	M	M	N	R	S	S
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Clue: This should appeal to all you college boosters & basketball fans...

Weekend

Due: A-3/20 B-3/21

READ THE PASSAGE Read slowly and think about the main idea of each section.

Ancient and Modern Chinese Characters

In the Beginning

When people write in English, they use letters of the alphabet. People who write in Chinese, however, use characters that stand for words or ideas. Historians believe Chinese writing began as early as 1500 BC. The earliest forms were called “oracle bones.” These were animal bones marked with pictures and symbols. In addition to writing on bones, the Chinese also made marks on turtle shells. By 1400 BC, the Chinese writing system had become more complex. It had more than 2,500 characters. Around 200 BC, Chinese characters became standardized. This means that everyone used the same characters.

Then and Now

Many modern Chinese characters are similar to those from 2,000 years ago. For example, the character that means *man* in the Lishu system from 200 BC is similar to the character that means *man* from the Jiantizi, or modern simplified system, of the twentieth century.

A Simpler System

People have made efforts to change Chinese characters over the centuries. The most important changes happened in the twentieth century. The Chinese government simplified many characters so that more people could learn to read. This simpler system is used in mainland China and Singapore. Traditional characters are used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau. Even with these changes, Chinese writing from 2,200 years ago is still understood today.

STRATEGY PRACTICE Did you understand the main points the writer makes? Why or why not?

SKILL PRACTICE Read each question. Fill in the bubble next to the correct answer.

- What do the headings tell?
 - the topic of each section
 - a list of important Chinese characters
 - important events in the development of the Chinese language
 - how Chinese characters changed
- Which detail supports the idea that ancient and modern Chinese characters are related?
 - Animal bones were used for writing.
 - There were once more than 2,500 characters.
 - The ancient Chinese wrote symbols and characters on bones and turtle shells.
 - Most of the characters from 2,200 years ago can still be read today.
- What is the main idea of the passage?
 - Modern Chinese characters are nothing like those used in ancient China.
 - Modern Chinese characters were developed from symbols used in ancient China.
 - Chinese writing uses an alphabet.
 - Few people in ancient China could write.
- Which of these would be another good heading for the third paragraph?
 - “Provinces in China”
 - “The Language of Singapore”
 - “Twentieth-century Changes”
 - “A Language for Everyone”