**1.0** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

**四 弘 誓 願**

**眾 生 無 邊 誓 願 度**

**煩 惱 無 盡 誓 願 斷**

**法 門 無 量 誓 願 學**

**佛 道 無 上 誓 願 成**

**1.1**(Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

Practice these 20 characters:

**四, 囗, 儿, 弘, 弓, 厶, 折, 言, 扌, 手\*,**

**斤, 口, 原, 頁, 白, 小, 自, 八, 日, 目**

Learn to recognize the characters and know what they mean.

Learn to write the characters one stroke at a time.

Learn how the characters are interconnected by composition and decomposition.

**1.2** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

四 = 囗 + 儿

(sì/four = wéi/circle + ér/child)

One way to "build" a new character is to take one character and put it inside another:

田 = 囗 + 十

日 = 囗 + 一

囟 = 囗 + 乂 + 丿

**1.3** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

弘 = 弓 + 厶

(hóng/great = gōng/bow + sī/secret)

Another way to build characters is to place two characters side-by side:

法 = 氵 + 去

佛 = 亻 + 弗

但 = 亻 + 旦

**1.4** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

誓 = 折 + 言

(shì/vow = zhé/break + yán/words)

A third way to build characters is to place one character on top of another:

去 = 土 + 厶

空 = 穴 + 工

旦 = 日 + 一

**1.5** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

願 = 原 + 頁

(yuàn/desire = yuán/source + yè/page)

This is another example of a character composed of two components placed side by side.

**1.6** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

Recap:

**四 = 囗 + 儿**

**弘 = 弓 + 厶**

誓 **=** **折 + 言**

願 **= 原 + 頁**

So far that gives us 10 characters (in this lesson we'll skip **誓** & **願** for now).

**But wait, there's more .....**

**1.7** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

**Now we'll take decomposition a step further:**

四 = 囗 + 儿

弘 = 弓 + 厶

誓 = **折** + **言**

願 = 原 + 頁

**折** = 扌 + 斤 (zhé/break = shǒu/hand + jīn/axe)

扌 = "radical" of 手 (shǒu/hand)

**言** = 亠 + 二 + 口

yán/speech = tóu/lid + èr/two + kǒu/mouth

**1.8** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

四 = 囗 + 儿 (sì/four = wéi/circle + ér/child)

弘 = 弓 + 厶 (hóng/great = gōng/bow + sī/secret)

誓 = 折 + 言 (shì/vow = zhé/break + yán/words)

願 = 原 + 頁 (yuàn/desire = yuán/source + yè/page)

**原** = 厂 + 白 + 小

**(yuán/source = hǎn/cliff + bái/white + xiǎo/small)**

白 = 丿+ 日

**bái/white = piě/slash + rì/sun**

**頁** = 一 + 自 + 八

**yè/page = yī/one + zì/oneself + bā/eight**

自 = 丿 + 目

**zì/oneself = piě/slash + mù/eye**

**1.9** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

Notice that when characters are combined to make new characters, they get squished so that the new combination still fits into the space of a single character:

原 = 厂 + 白 + 小

(yuán/source = hǎn/cliff + bái/white + xiǎo/small)

Diagram, schematic

Description automatically generated

**1.10** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

**Now we have all 20 characters:**

**四, 囗,** **儿,** **弘, 弓, 厶, 折, 言,** **扌, 手\*,**

**斤, 口,** **原, 頁, 白, 小, 自,** **八, 日, 目**

**Diagram, schematic

Description automatically generated**

**NOTE: characters not included:**

**誓, 願, 亠, 二, 厂, 一 (These are marked with \* in the diagram above)**

**1.11** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

**Tricky characters:**

* **囗 and 口**
* **儿 and 八**
* **白, 自, 日, and 目**
* **Notice that the radical 扌is missing a stroke compared to 手.**

**1.12** (Four Great Vows, Lesson One)

**Where else might you see these characters?**

**HSK 1 & 2:**

**四,** **囗, 儿,** **弓, 厶, 讠(****言) , 扌, 手, 斤,** **口, 白, 小, 自, 八, 日, 目**

**(NOT in HSK 1 & 2: 弘, 折, 原, 頁)**

**Heart Sutra:**

**囗, 儿, 弓, 厶, 言, 扌, 手, 斤, 口, 頁, 白, 小, 自, 八, 日, 目**