

## Instruction on writing two Chinese characters using brush and calligraphy ink: 福 and 马/馬

Chinese calligraphy (书法 *shū fǎ*) is the writing of Chinese characters using ink and brushes as an art form, combining purely visual art and interpretation of the literary meaning. This has been generally held in high esteem across East Asia. Watch this YouTube on [the basics of calligraphy writing](#). Below you will find out the correct stroke order for writing 福 (*fú*), meaning happiness, blessing, and good fortune; and 马/馬 (*mǎ*) 'horse' (as the coming Chinese New Year is the year of the horse).

### (1) 福 (*fú*)



Below is the stroke-by-stroke order how you write this character (13 strokes):

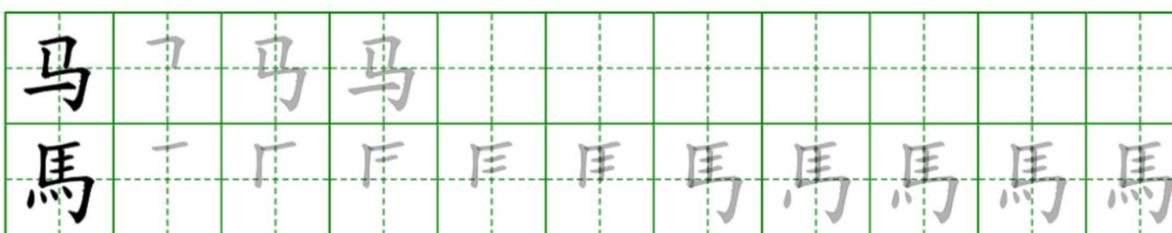


Traditionally it is put upside-down (see below right) on the door to welcome the CNY. It is because when people see it upside down, they are likely to say 'your *fu* is upside down'. In Chinese, the word for 'upside down' has the same pronunciation as 'to arrive' so the sentence can also mean 'your happiness/good fortune has arrived' (你的福到/倒了! *nǐ de fú dào le*). This year, it falls on 17<sup>th</sup> February.



### (2) 马/馬 (*mǎ*)

Below is the stroke order of the character for 'horse' in both simplified and traditional forms (3 and 10 strokes respectively):



## Competition: Upload a photo of your Chinese character: 福 or 馬

This competition is only for Open University staff and students. To enter the competition, take a photo of the character 福 or 馬 (the traditional form) you have written, scan the QR code on the left, and upload your work to the Padlet site.

Remember to leave your name in the Comment box underneath your entry. **Winners will be announced on the Padlet the following week and will receive a prize!** Email [online-ci@open.ac.uk](mailto:online-ci@open.ac.uk) from your Open University email to claim your prize.

