

## Chinese Character 福 *fú* (happiness)

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The Chinese character 福 (pronounced *fú*) means happiness, blessing, and good fortune. People across China have the tradition to put this character on their doors or windows during the Spring Festival to greet the Chinese Lunar New Year. It is believed that this will bring good fortune. For the Chinese New Year decoration, it is usually written on diagonal square

red paper. Below is the stroke by stroke order how you write this character:



Traditionally it is put upside-down (see right) for the following

reason: the word for ‘upside-down’ sounds exactly the same as the verb for ‘arrive, has arrived’ in Mandarin Chinese. When your guests come to visit you during the Chinese New Year period, upon seeing the *fú* character it prompts them to say ‘Your happiness and good fortune is upside-down’ whilst it is interpreted as ‘Your happiness and good fortune has arrived’ 😊.



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