

木

mù

tree · wood

A tree, drawn and then straightened. Once you see the branches, trunk and roots in it, you never unsee them.

别弄混 · 差在哪儿 Look-alikes, and what tells them apart

本

běn
root · origin

「木」下面加一短横 —— 指的是树根 · a short line at the foot points at the root

末

mò
tip · the end

上面那一横最长 —— 指的是树梢 · the long line on top points at the treetop

禾

hé
grain, standing crop

「木」头上多一撇 —— 低下头的谷穗 · one extra 撇 on top: the drooping ear of grain

字的演变 How it changed

甲骨文

Oracle · Shang

金文

Bronze · Zhou

小篆

Seal · Shuowen

楷书

Modern

用它组词 Words it builds

木头

mùtóu
wood, timber

树木

shùmù
trees

林

lín
two 木 = a wood

森

sēn
three 木 = a forest

木星

Mùxīng
Jupiter (wood star)

笔顺 · 一 笔 一 笔 写 Stroke order — add one stroke per square

1 一

2 十

3 才

4 木

木

木

4 strokes: 一 | 丿 ㇏ — the horizontal, the upright, then the left leg and the right.

《说文解字》· 约公元100年

木:「冒也。冒地而生。東方之行。从中,下象其根。」

To push through: it breaks up through the earth and grows. The element of the East — a sprout above, its roots drawn below.