

水

shuǐ

water

One current down the middle, spray thrown out either side — that is the whole character. Squeeze it thin against the left of another character and it becomes 氵, which is how you spot a word about water before you know the word.



图 · the picture

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

永

yǒng
forever

看上去就像「水」头上多一点 —— 写「永」等于把八种笔画写了一遍 · it looks like 水 with a dot on top; writing it rehearses eight kinds of stroke

冰

bīng
ice

两点水加「水」 —— 那两点是冻住的水 · two frozen drops beside the water

氵

sān diǎn shuǐ
water, on the left

「水」站到左边写成三点:河、海、洗、酒 · on the left-hand side, 水 becomes three drops

字的演变 How it changed

甲骨文
Oracle · Shang

→

金文
Bronze · Zhou

→

小篆
Seal · Qin

→

楷书
Regular

用它组词 Words it builds

喝水

hē shuǐ
drink water

水果

shuǐguǒ
fruit

开水

kāishuǐ
boiled water

当偏旁 · 它藏在这些字里 As a component

河

hé
river

海

hǎi
sea

洗

xǐ
to wash

酒

jiǔ
wine

汤

tāng
soup

笔顺 · 一笔一笔写 Stroke order — add one stroke per square

1

2

3

4

4 strokes: the hooked upright down the middle first, then the left side, then the right.

《说文解字》· 约公元100年

水:「準也。象眾水並流,中有微陽之氣也。」

A picture of many streams flowing together, with the faint breath of yang down the middle.