

心

xīn

heart · mind

A drawing of the organ itself. 《说文》 puts it plainly: the heart, seated at the middle of the body. To the people who made this character that was also where thinking happened — which is why 想, 念, 感, 忙 and 快 all still carry it.

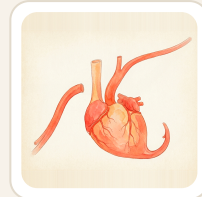


图 · the picture

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

必

bì

must, certainly

「心」身上斜插一撇 · one 撇 driven across the heart

小

xiǎo

small

「小」中间是竖钩, 站得直; 「心」中间是卧钩, 躺着一道弯 · 小 stands upright, 心 lies down

忄

shù xīn páng

heart, on the left

「心」站到左边写成竖心旁: 快、忙、怕 · beside a character, the heart stands up

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

开心

kāixīn

happy

小心

xiǎoxīn

careful

担心

dānxīn

to worry

当偏旁 · 它藏在这些字里 As a component

想

xiǎng

to think

感

gǎn

to feel

念

niàn

to miss, to think of

忙

máng

busy (↑)

快

kuài

fast, happy (↑)

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



4 strokes: the dot on the left, the lying hook, then the middle dot and the right one.

《说文解字》· 约公元100年

心: 「人心, 土藏, 在身之中。象形。」

The human heart, seated at the middle of the body. A picture of it.