

lǚ hòu
吕后

Empress Lü

PAGE 1

hàn cháo de dì yī gè huáng dì
汉朝的第一个皇帝
shì liú bāng
是刘邦

The first emperor of Han was Liu Bang.

PAGE 4

ér zi dāng le huáng dì kě shì
儿子当了皇帝可是
zhǐ yǒu shí liù suì
只有十六岁

His son became emperor, but was only sixteen.

PAGE 2

tā de huáng hòu xìng lǚ liǎng gè
他的皇后姓吕两个
rén yì qǐ dǎ guò tiān xià
人一起打过天下

His empress was surnamed Lü, and they had won the empire together.

PAGE 5

zhēn zhèng guǎn shì de shì lǚ hòu
真正管事的是吕后

The one who actually governed was Empress Lü.

PAGE 3

gōng yuán qián yī jiǔ wǔ nián liú
公元前一九五年刘
bāng sǐ le
邦死了

In 195 BCE, Liu Bang died.

PAGE 6

liú bāng huó zhe de shí hòu zuì
刘邦活着的时候最
xǐ huan yí wèi qī fū rén
喜欢一位戚夫人

While Liu Bang lived, his favourite had been a Lady Qi.

PAGE 7

nà wèi fū rén de ér zǐ chà
那位夫人的儿子差
yì diǎn dāng shàng tài zǐ
一点当上太子

That lady's son had come close to being
made crown prince.

PAGE 10

lǚ hòu hái ràng rén bǎ nà ge
吕后还让人把那个
hái zǐ dú sǐ le
孩子毒死了

Empress Lü also had the boy poisoned.

PAGE 8

liú bāng yì sǐ lǚ hòu jiù bǎ
刘邦一死吕后就把
tā guān le qǐ lái
她关了起来

The moment Liu Bang died, Empress Lü had
her shut away.

PAGE 11

tā de ér zǐ zhī dào yǐ hòu
她的儿子知道以后
bìng le hěn jiǔ
病了很久

When her own son learned of it, he was ill for
a long time.

PAGE 9

hòu lái fā shēng de shì shǐ shū
后来发生的事史书
xiě de hěn kě pà
写得很可怕

What happened next, the histories describe
as terrible.

PAGE 12

tā duì mǔ qīn shuō zhè bú shì
他对母亲说这不是
rén zuò de shì
人做的事

He told his mother: this is not a thing a
person does.

cóng nà yǐ hòu tā zài yě bù
从 那 以 后 他 再 也 不
guǎn guó jiā de shì
管 国 家 的 事

From then on he took no part in government.

tā bǎ lǚ jiā de rén fàng dào
她 把 吕 家 的 人 放 到
gè dì dāng wáng
各 地 当 王

She placed her own family as kings across
the empire.

èr shí sān suì nà nián tā jiù
二 十 三 岁 那 年 他 就
sǐ le
死 了

He died at twenty-three.

tā guǎn le shí wǔ nián shéi yě
她 管 了 十 五 年 谁 也
bù gǎn shuō huà
不 敢 说 话

She ruled fifteen years, and nobody dared
speak.

lǚ hòu yòu lì le liǎng gè xiǎo
吕 后 又 立 了 两 个 小
huáng dì dōu tīng tā de
皇 帝 都 听 她 的

Empress Lü set up two child emperors, and
both obeyed her.

kě shì tā yì sǐ lǚ jiā yí
可 是 她 一 死 吕 家 一
gè yě méi yǒu liú xià
个 也 没 有 留 下

But the moment she died, not one of the Lü
family was left.

吕后 · Writing Practice

Empress Lü

Name: _____

Date: _____

儿子

ér zi
son

儿	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

夫人

fū ren
lady

夫	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

第一

dì yī
first

第	一				
---	---	--	--	--	--

只有

zhǐ yǒu
only have ...

只	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

十六

shí liù
sixteen

十	六				
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Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

shào nián tiān zǐ

少年天子

The Boy Emperor

PAGE 1

gōng yuán qián yī sì yī nián yí
公元前一四一年一
gè shí liù suì de hái zǐ dāng
个十六岁的孩子当
le huáng dì
了皇帝

In 141 BCE a sixteen-year-old became
emperor.

PAGE 4

dòu tài hòu xǐ huān lǎo bàn fǎ
窦太后喜欢老办法
shuō cháo tíng bú yào duō guǎn shì
说朝廷不要多管事

She favoured the old ways: the court should
interfere little.

PAGE 2

nà jiù shì hòu lái de hàn wǔ
那就是后来的汉武帝
dì
帝

He would be known as Emperor Wu of Han.

PAGE 5

nián qīng de huáng dì xiǎng gǎi zhǎo
年轻的皇帝想改找
le hěnn duō dú shū rén
了很多读书人

The young emperor wanted change, and
gathered scholars.

PAGE 3

tā de zǔ mǔ dòu tài hòu hái
他的祖母窦太后还
huó zhe shuō huà bǐ tā guǎn yòng
活着说话比他管用

His grandmother, Dowager Dou, was alive,
and her word carried further.

PAGE 6

dì yī nián tā jiù xià le hěnn
第一年他就下了很
duō xīn mìng lìng
多新命令

In his first year he issued many new orders.

PAGE 7

dòu tài hòu yí jù huà nà xiē
 窦太后一句话那些
 rén quán bù bèi zhuā le
 人全部被抓了

One word from the Dowager, and all those
 men were arrested.

PAGE 10

tā děng le liù nián
 他等了六年

He waited six years.

PAGE 8

yǒu liǎng gè rén zài láo lǐ zì
 有两个人在牢里自
 jǐ sǐ le
 己死了

Two of them died by their own hand in
 prison.

PAGE 11

gōng yuán qián yī sān wǔ nián dòu
 公元前三五年窦
 tài hòu sǐ le
 太后死了

In 135 BCE the Dowager died.

PAGE 9

huáng dì shén me yě bù néng shuō
 皇帝什么也不能说
 zhǐ néng děng
 只能等

The emperor could say nothing. He could
 only wait.

PAGE 12

nà yì tiān yǐ hòu hàn wǔ dì
 那一天以后汉武帝
 cái zhēn zhèng dāng le huáng dì
 才真正当了皇帝

Only after that day was Emperor Wu really
 emperor.

PAGE 13

tā děng de nà liù nián yì tiān
他等的那六年一天
yě méi yǒu bái děng
也没有白等

Not one day of those six years was wasted.

PAGE 16

hòu lái tā dāng le wǔ shí sì
后来他当了五十四
nián huáng dì
年皇帝

He reigned for fifty-four years.

PAGE 14

tā zhī dào le shéi zhàn zài nǎ
他知道了谁站在哪
yì biān
一边

He had learned who stood on which side.

PAGE 17

hàn cháo zuì qiáng de shí hòu jiù
汉朝最强的时候就
shì tā zài wèi de shí hòu
是他在位的时候

The Han was at its strongest during his reign.

PAGE 15

tā yě zhī dào le jí shì zuì
他也知道了急是最
méi yǒu yòng de dōng xī
没有用的东西

And he had learned that haste is the most
useless thing there is.

PAGE 18

kě shì tā yě zuò le yí jiàn
可是他也做了一件
hòu huǐ yí bèi zi de shì
后悔一辈子的事情

But he also did one thing he regretted for the
rest of his life.

少年天子 · Writing Practice

The Boy Emperor

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
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太后

tài hòu
Empress Dowager

太	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

公元前

gōng yuán qián
BCE (before the Common ...)

公	元	前			
---	---	---	--	--	--

就是

jiù shì
exactly

就	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

后来

hòu lái
afterwards

后	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

知道了

zhī dào le
OK!

知	道	了			
---	---	---	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
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Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

cóng nú bì dào huáng hòu
从奴婢到皇后

From Servant to Empress

PAGE 1

hàn wǔ dì de dì èr gè huáng
汉 武 帝 的 第 二 个 皇

hòu běn lái shì yí gè gē nǚ
后 本 来 是 一 个 歌 女

Emperor Wu's second empress had been a singing girl.

PAGE 4

hòu lái tā bǎ tā dài huí le
后 来 他 把 她 带 回 了

gōng lǐ
宫 里

He took her back to the palace.

PAGE 2

tā xìng wèi jiào wèi zǐ fū zài
她 姓 卫 叫 卫 子 夫 在

píng yáng gōng zhǔ jiā zuò shì
平 阳 公 主 家 做 事

Her name was Wei Zifu, and she served in Princess Pingyang's household.

PAGE 5

wèi zǐ fū yǒu yí gè dì dì
卫 子 夫 有 一 个 弟 弟

jiào wèi qīng
叫 卫 青

Wei Zifu had a younger brother called Wei Qing.

PAGE 3

yǒu yí cì huáng dì dào gōng zhǔ
有 一 次 皇 帝 到 公 主

jiā tīng jiàn tā chàng gē
家 听 见 她 唱 歌

Once the emperor visited, and heard her sing.

PAGE 6

wèi qīng xiǎo shí hou shì nú pú
卫 青 小 时 候 是 奴 仆

hái gěi rén fàng guò yáng
还 给 人 放 过 羊

As a boy Wei Qing was a slave, and had herded sheep.

PAGE 7

jiě jie jìn gōng yǐ hòu wèi qīng
姐 姐 进 宫 以 后 卫 青
yě jìn le gōng
也 进 了 宫

After his sister entered the palace, so did he.

PAGE 10

nà shí hou běi biān de xiōng nú
那 时 候 北 边 的 匈 奴
nián nián lái qiǎng dōng xī
年 年 来 抢 东 西

In those years the Xiongnu raided from the north every year.

PAGE 8

yǒu rén xiǎng shā tā shì péng you
有 人 想 杀 他 是 朋 友
bàn yè bǎ tā jiù chū lái de
半 夜 把 他 救 出 来 的

Someone tried to kill him; friends broke him out at midnight.

PAGE 11

hàn cháo sòng le hěn duō nián de
汉 朝 送 了 很 多 年 的
qián hé rén hái shì dǎng bú zhù
钱 和 人 还 是 挡 不 住

Han had sent money and brides for decades, and still could not hold them.

PAGE 9

huáng dì zhī dào yǐ hòu bǎ tā
皇 帝 知 道 以 后 把 他
liú zài le shēn biān
留 在 了 身 边

When the emperor heard, he kept Wei Qing close.

PAGE 12

hàn wǔ dì jué dìng bú sòng le
汉 武 帝 决 定 不 送 了
gǎi chéng dǎ
改 成 打

Emperor Wu decided to stop sending, and to fight instead.

dì yī cì dài bīng de sì gè
第一次带兵的四
jiāng jūn lǐ zhǐ yǒu wèi qīng yíng
将军里只有卫青赢
le
了

Of the four generals sent out the first time,
only Wei Qing won.

yí gè fàng yáng de nú pú dāng
一个放羊的奴仆当
shàng le dà jiāng jūn
上了大将军

A shepherd slave became commander of the
armies.

cóng nà yǐ hòu wèi qīng yí cì
从那以后卫青一次
yí cì wǎng běi dǎ
一次往北打

After that he marched north again and again.

tā de wài sheng huò qù bìng shí
他的外甥霍去病十
qī suì jiù dài bīng le
七岁就带兵了

His nephew Huo Qubing led troops at
seventeen.

tā yí gòng dǎ le qī cì qī
他一共打了七次七
cì dōu yíng
次都赢

He fought seven campaigns and won all
seven.

nà jǐ nián shì hàn cháo zài běi
那几年是汉朝在北
biān zuì yǒu miàn zi de jǐ nián
边最有面子的几年

Those were the proudest years Han ever had
in the north.

从奴婢到皇后 · Writing Practice

From Servant to Empress

Name: _____

Date: _____

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
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公主

gōng zhǔ
princess

公	主				
---	---	--	--	--	--

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

奴仆

nú pú
servant

奴	仆				
---	---	--	--	--	--

北边

běi biān
north

北	边				
---	---	--	--	--	--

带兵

dài bīng
to lead troops

带	兵				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一次

yī cì
first

一	次				
---	---	--	--	--	--

几年

jǐ nián
a few years

几	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

wū gǔ zhī huò
巫蛊之祸

The Witchcraft Case

PAGE 1

hàn wǔ dì yuè lǎo yuè pà yǒu
汉武帝越老越怕有

rén hài tā
人害他

The older Emperor Wu grew, the more he
feared harm.

PAGE 4

gōng yuán qián jiǔ yī nián yǒu yí
公元前九一年有一

gè guān jiào jiāng chōng
个官叫江充

In 91 BCE there was an official called Jiang
Chong.

PAGE 2

nà shí hòu de rén xìn yí yàng
那时候的人信一样

dōng xī jiào wū gǔ
东西叫巫蛊

People then believed in something called
wugu.

PAGE 5

jiāng chōng gēn tài zǐ yǒu guò jié
江充跟太子有过节

zhī dào zì jǐ yǐ hòu huì wán
知道自己以后会完

Jiang Chong had quarrelled with the crown
prince, and knew his own future was short.

PAGE 3

yǒu rén shuō bǎ xiǎo mù rén mái
有人说把小木人埋

zài dì xià jiù néng hài rén
在地下就能害人

They said burying little wooden figures could
harm a person.

PAGE 6

yú shì tā duì huáng dì shuō gōng
于是他对皇帝说宫

lǐ yǒu wū gǔ
里有巫蛊

So he told the emperor there was wugu in
the palace.

PAGE 7

huáng dì ràng tā qù chá tā jiù
皇帝让他去查他就

yì jiān yì jiān wā guò qù
一间一间挖过去

The emperor sent him to investigate, and he
dug through room after room.

PAGE 10

tài zǐ xiǎng qù jiàn fù qīn kě
太子想去见父亲可

shì lù shàng yǒu rén dǎng zhe
是路上有人挡着

The prince tried to reach his father, but men
blocked the road.

PAGE 8

wā dào zuì hòu tā zài tài zǐ
挖到最后他在太子

gōng lǐ wā chū le mù rén
宫里挖出了木人

At the end he dug wooden figures out of the
crown prince's palace.

PAGE 11

tā zhǎo bú dào bié de bàn fǎ
他找不到别的办法

zhǐ hǎo qǐ bīng shā jiāng chōng
只好起兵杀江充

Finding no other way, he raised troops and
killed Jiang Chong.

PAGE 9

nà xiē mù rén dāng rán shì tā
那些木人当然是他

zì jǐ fàng jìn qù de
自己放进去的

He had of course put them there himself.

PAGE 12

huáng dì nà shí hòu zài chéng wài
皇帝那时候在城外

tīng dào de shì tài zǐ fǎn le
听到的是太子反了

The emperor was outside the city, and what
he heard was that his son had rebelled.

fù zǐ liǎng gè de bīng zài cháng
父子两个的兵在长
ān dǎ le wǔ tiān
安打了五天

Father and son fought in Chang'an for five days.

yì nián yǐ hòu huáng dì cái míng
一年以后皇帝才明
bai zì jǐ cuò le
白自己错了

A year later the emperor understood he had been wrong.

tài zǐ shū le táo chū chéng wài
太子输了逃出城外
zuì hòu zì jǐ sǐ le
最后自己死了

The prince lost, fled the city, and in the end took his own life.

tā zào le yí zuò tái jiào sī
他造了一座台叫思
zǐ tái
子台

He built a terrace and called it the Terrace of Longing for My Son.

huáng hòu wèi zǐ fū yě sǐ le
皇后卫子夫也死了

Empress Wei Zifu died as well.

yí gè dǎ yíng le xiōng nú de
一个打赢了匈奴的
huáng dì shū gěi le jǐ gè mù
皇帝输给了几个木
tou rén
头人

An emperor who had beaten the Xiongnu was defeated by a few wooden dolls.

巫蛊之祸 · Writing Practice

The Witchcraft Case

Name: _____

Date: _____

太子

tài zǐ
crown prince

太	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

有人

yǒu rén
someone

有	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那时候

nà shí hou
at that time

那	时	候			
---	---	---	--	--	--

巫蛊

wū gǔ
witchcraft

巫	蛊				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

最后

zuì hòu
final

最	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

èr shí qī tiān de huáng dì
二十七天的皇帝

The Emperor of Twenty-Seven Days

PAGE 1

hàn wǔ dì sǐ de shí hòu ér
汉武帝死的时候儿
zǐ zhǐ yǒu bā suì
子只有八岁

When Emperor Wu died, his son was eight.

PAGE 4

yǒu rén shuō tā èr shí nián shàng
有人说他二十年上
cháo zǒu de lù yí bù yě bú
朝走的路一步也不
chà
差

They said that in twenty years his steps to court never varied by one pace.

PAGE 2

tā bǎ guó jiā jiāo gěi le yí
他把国家交给了一
gè rén jiào huò guāng
个人叫霍光

He left the state to one man: Huo Guang.

PAGE 5

xiǎo huáng dì huó dào èr shí yī
小皇帝活到二十一
suì jiù sǐ le méi yǒu ér zǐ
岁就死了没有儿子

The young emperor died at twenty-one, leaving no son.

PAGE 3

huò guāng shì huò qù bìng de dì
霍光是霍去病的弟
dì zuò shì fēi cháng xiǎo xīn
弟做事非常小心

Huo Guang was Huo Qubing's brother, and extremely careful.

PAGE 6

huò guāng yào zài zhǎo yí gè rén
霍光要再找一个人
lái dāng huáng dì
来当皇帝

Huo Guang had to find someone else to be emperor.

PAGE 7

tā zhǎo le liú hè liú hè nà
他 找 了 刘 贺 刘 贺 那
nián shí bā suì
年 十 八 岁

He chose Liu He, who was eighteen.

PAGE 10

yǒu rén suàn guò tā èr shí qī
有 人 算 过 他 二 十 七
tiān zuò le yì qiān duō jiàn cuò
天 做 了 一 千 多 件 错
shì
事

Someone counted more than a thousand
wrongs in twenty-seven days.

PAGE 8

liú hè jìn le cháng ān kū le
刘 贺 进 了 长 安 哭 了
jǐ shēng jiù bù kū le
几 声 就 不 哭 了

Liu He entered Chang'an, wept a few times,
and stopped.

PAGE 11

huò guāng kàn le jǐ tiān jué dìng
霍 光 看 了 几 天 决 定
bǎ tā fèi diào
把 他 废 掉

Huo Guang watched for a few days and
decided to depose him.

PAGE 9

tā jìn gōng yǐ hòu tiān tiān wán
他 进 宫 以 后 天 天 玩
tiān tiān qǐng rén hē jiǔ
天 天 请 人 喝 酒

Once inside the palace he played every day
and drank every day.

PAGE 12

tā zhǎo dà chén men kāi huì dì
他 找 大 臣 们 开 会 第
yī jù huà jiù wèn gǎn bu gǎn
一 句 话 就 问 敢 不 敢

He called the ministers together and asked
first whether they dared.

yǒu yí gè rén bá chū jiàn shuō
有一个人拔出剑说
jīn tiān shéi bù tóng yì shéi jiù
今天谁不同意谁就
sǐ
死

One man drew his sword and said: whoever
disagrees today dies today.

liú hè dāng le èr shí qī tiān
刘贺当了二十七天
huáng dì jiù bèi sòng huí le jiā
皇帝就被送回了家

Liu He was emperor for twenty-seven days,
and was sent home.

tā men yì qǐ qù jiàn tài hòu
他们一起去见太后
shuō le liú hè zuò guò de shì
说了刘贺做过的事

Together they went to the Dowager and
recited what Liu He had done.

huò guāng yòu zhǎo le yí gè zài
霍光又找了一个在
mín jiān guò guò kǔ rì zi de
民间过过苦日子的
rén
人

Huo Guang then found a man who had lived
poor among ordinary people.

tài hòu tóng yì le
太后同意了

She agreed.

hòu lái de shí jǐ nián shì hàn
后来的十几年是汉
cháo zuì hǎo de nián yuè zhī yī
朝最好的年月之一

The years that followed were among the best
the Han ever had.

二十七天的皇帝 · Writing Practice

The Emperor of Twenty-Seven Days

Name: _____

Date: _____

二十

èr shí
twenty

二	十				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一个人

yī gè rén
by oneself (without ass...)

一	个	人			
---	---	---	--	--	--

儿子

ér zi
son

儿	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

有人

yǒu rén
someone

有	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

天天

tiān tiān
every day

天	天				
---	---	--	--	--	--

太后

tài hòu
Empress Dowager

太	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

wángmǎng

王莽

Wang Mang

PAGE 1

huò guāng sǐ le yǐ hòu hàn cháo
霍光死了以后汉朝

yòu guò le jǐ shí nián
又过了几十年

Decades passed after Huo Guang died.

PAGE 4

wáng jiā yǒu yí gè rén gēn bié
王家有一个人跟别

rén bù yí yàng jiào wáng mǎng
人不一样叫王莽

One of them was unlike the rest: Wang Mang.

PAGE 2

huáng dì yí gè bǐ yí gè nián
皇帝一个比一个年

qīng tài hòu yí gè bǐ yí gè
轻太后一个比一个

yǒu lì liàng
有力量

Each emperor was younger than the last, and
each dowager stronger.

PAGE 5

bié rén bǐ shéi de qián duō tā
别人比谁的钱多他

bǎ qián fēn gěi qióng rén
把钱分给穷人

Others compared fortunes; he gave his away
to the poor.

PAGE 3

tài hòu xìng wáng wáng jiā de rén
太后姓王王家人

yí gè yí gè dāng le dà guān
一个一个当了大官

The Dowager was surnamed Wang, and the
Wangs took office one by one.

PAGE 6

bié rén chuān hǎo yī fu tā chuān
别人穿好衣服他穿

jiù de
旧的

Others wore fine clothes; he wore old ones.

tā de ér zi shā le yí gè
他的儿子杀了一个
nú pú tā ràng ér zi zì jǐ
奴仆他让儿子自己
sǐ
死

His son killed a slave, and he made his son
take his own life.

gōng yuán bā nián zuì hòu yí gè
公元八年最后一个
xiǎo huáng dì hái hěn xiǎo
小皇帝还很小

In 8 CE the last child emperor was still very
small.

quán guó de rén dōu shuō zhè cái
全国的人都说这才
shì zhēn zhèng de hǎo rén
是真正的好人

The whole country said: here is a genuinely
good man.

dì èr nián wáng mǎng zì jǐ dāng
第二年王莽自己当
le huáng dì
了皇帝

The next year Wang Mang made himself
emperor.

yǒu sì shí bā wàn rén xiě xìn
有四十八万人写信
qǐng tā dāng gèng dà de guān
请他当更大的官

Four hundred and eighty thousand people
wrote asking that he be raised higher.

tā bǎ guó hào gǎi chéng xīn shuō
他把国号改成新说
yào xué zhōu cháo
要学周朝

He renamed the dynasty Xin, and said he
would copy Zhou.

tā bǎ tiān xià de dì zài fēn
他把天下的地再分
gěi bǎi xìng
给百姓

He redistributed the land of the empire to the people.

jiā shàng nà jǐ nián huáng hé fā
加上那几年黄河发
le dà shuǐ
了大水

On top of that, the Yellow River flooded in those years.

tā hái gǎi le qián gǎi le guān
他还改了钱改了官
míng gǎi le dì míng
名改了地名

He also changed the coinage, the titles, and the place names.

bǎi xìng huó bú xià qù jiù qǐ
百姓活不下去就起
lái fǎn tā
来反他

People could not live, and rose against him.

gǎi de tài duō tài kuài shéi yě
改得太太多太快谁也
gēn bú shàng
跟不上

He changed too much too fast, and nobody could keep up.

shí wǔ nián yǐ hòu xīn cháo jiù
十五年以后新朝就
wán le
完了

Fifteen years later the Xin was finished.

王莽 · Writing Practice

Wang Mang

Name: _____

Date: _____

别人

bié rén
other people

别	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

王家

wáng jiā
princely

王	家				
---	---	--	--	--	--

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

太后

tài hòu
Empress Dowager

太	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

分给

fēn gěi
to divide (and give to ...)

分	给				
---	---	--	--	--	--

儿子

ér zi
son

儿	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

liú xiù
刘秀

Liu Xiu

PAGE 1

fǎn wáng mǎng de rén lǐ miàn yǒu
反王莽的人里面有
yí gè xìng liú de nián qīng rén
一个姓刘的年轻人

Among those who rose against Wang Mang
was a young man surnamed Liu.

PAGE 4

yǒu rén wèn tā jiāng lái xiǎng zuò
有人问他将来想做
shén me
什么

Someone asked what he wanted from life.

PAGE 2

tā jiào liú xiù shì hàn cháo huáng
他叫刘秀是汉朝皇
dì hěn yuǎn de hòu rén
帝很远的后人

His name was Liu Xiu, a distant descendant
of the Han emperors.

PAGE 5

tā shuō le liǎng jù huà yí jù
他说了两句话一句
shì dāng dà guān
是当大官

He said two things. The first was to hold high
office.

PAGE 3

nà shí hou tā jiā yǐ jīng hěn
那时候他家已经很
qióng tā zì jǐ zài zhòng dì
穷他自己在种地

By then his family was poor, and he farmed
his own fields.

PAGE 6

lìng yí jù shì qǔ yīn lì huá
另一句是娶阴丽华

The second was to marry Yin Lihua.

yīn lì huá shì dāng dì zuì hǎo
阴丽华是当地最好
kàn de nǚ zǐ
看的女子

Yin Lihua was the most beautiful woman in
the district.

wáng mǎng de bīng yǒu sì shí duō
王莽的兵有四十多
wàn zhè biān zhǐ yǒu yí wàn duō
万这边只有一万多

Wang Mang had over four hundred thousand
men; the other side had barely ten thousand.

dà jiā tīng le dōu xiào jué de
大家听了都笑觉得
tā zài zuò mèng
他在做梦

Everyone laughed, and thought he was
dreaming.

liú xiù dài zhe shí jǐ gè rén
刘秀带着十几个人
chōng chū qù bān jiù bīng
冲出去搬救兵

Liu Xiu broke out with a dozen men to fetch
help.

gōng yuán èr sān nián kūn yáng dǎ
公元二三年昆阳打
le yí zhàng
了一仗

In 23 CE a battle was fought at Kunyang.

huí lái de shí hòu tā dài le
回来的时候他带了
jǐ qiān rén
几千人

He came back with a few thousand.

nà yí zhàng dǎ wán wáng mǎng de
那一仗打完王莽的
dà jūn sàn le
大军散了

After that battle Wang Mang's great army fell apart.

tā hòu lái zhēn de qǐ le yīn
他后来真的娶了阴
lì huá
丽华

He did in the end marry Yin Lihua.

liǎng nián yǐ hòu liú xiù dāng le
两年以后刘秀当了
huáng dì
皇帝

Two years later Liu Xiu became emperor.

tā shuō guò de liǎng jù huà dōu
他说过的两句话都
zuò dào le
做到了

Both things he had said, he did.

hàn cháo yòu huí lái le hòu miàn
汉朝又回来了后面
de rén jiào tā dōng hàn
的人叫它东汉

The Han returned, and later ages called it the Eastern Han.

kě shì tā méi yǒu xiǎng dào dōng
可是他没有想到东
hàn huì zěn me jié shù
汉会怎么结束

But he never imagined how the Eastern Han would end.

刘秀 · Writing Practice

Liu Xiu

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

两句

liǎng jù
a few words

两	句				
---	---	--	--	--	--

回来

huí lái
to return

回	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

里面

lǐ miàn
inside

里	面				
---	---	--	--	--	--

年轻人

nián qīng rén
young people

年	轻	人			
---	---	---	--	--	--

有人

yǒu rén
someone

有	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

将来

jiāng lái
in the future

将	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

什么

shén me
what?

什	么				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

wài qī hé huàn guān
外戚和宦官

Consorts and Eunuchs

PAGE 1

dōng hàn yǒu yí gè hěn qí guài
东 汉 有 一 个 很 奇 怪
de guī lǜ
的 规 律

The Eastern Han had a very strange pattern.

PAGE 4

huáng dì tài xiǎo jiù yóu mǔ qīn
皇 帝 太 小 就 由 母 亲
guǎn shì
管 事

When the emperor was too young, his
mother governed.

PAGE 2

huáng dì dà duō hěn xiǎo jiù dāng
皇 帝 大 多 很 小 就 当
le huáng dì
了 皇 帝

Most of its emperors took the throne as small
children.

PAGE 5

mǔ qīn bù dǒng cháo tíng jiù zhǎo
母 亲 不 懂 朝 廷 就 找
zì jǐ de fù qīn hé xiōng dì
自 己 的 父 亲 和 兄 弟

She did not know the court, so she turned to
her father and brothers.

PAGE 3

yǒu de liǎng suì yǒu de yì bǎi
有 的 两 岁 有 的 一 百
tiān
天

Some were two years old. One was a
hundred days.

PAGE 6

zhè xiē rén jiào wài qī hěn kuài
这 些 人 叫 外 戚 很 快
jiù ná dào le dà quán
就 拿 到 了 大 权

These men were the consort clan, and power
came to them quickly.

xiǎo huáng dì yì nián yì nián dà
小 皇 帝 一 年 一 年 大
le màn màn jiù bù fú qì
了 慢 慢 就 不 服 气

Year by year the boy grew, and slowly
stopped accepting it.

shā wán yǐ hòu huàn guān jiù yǒu
杀 完 以 后 宦 官 就 有
le dà quán
了 大 权

And then the eunuchs held the power.

kě shì tā shēn biān zhǐ yǒu huàn
可 是 他 身 边 只 有 宦
guān bié rén tā jiàn bú dào
官 别 人 他 见 不 到

But he had only eunuchs around him, and
could see nobody else.

rán hòu zhè ge huáng dì sǐ le
然 后 这 个 皇 帝 死 了
yòu lái yí gè xiǎo huáng dì
又 来 一 个 小 皇 帝

Then that emperor died, and another child
took the throne.

yú shì tā hé huàn guān yì qǐ
于 是 他 和 宦 官 一 起
bǎ wài qī shā le
把 外 戚 杀 了

So with the eunuchs he destroyed the
consort clan.

yòu shì mǔ qīn guǎn shì yòu shì
又 是 母 亲 管 事 又 是
wài qī shàng lái
外 戚 上 来

Again the mother governed, and again her
family rose.

zhè ge quān zi dōng hàn zhuàn le
这个圈子东汉转了
yì bǎi duō nián
一百多年

The Eastern Han turned in that circle for over
a century.

nà ge hái zǐ nà nián cái jiǔ
那个孩子那年才九
suì
岁

The boy was nine.

yǒu yí gè wài qī jiào liáng jì
有一个外戚叫梁冀
guǎn le èr shí nián
管了二十年

One consort-clan head, Liang Ji, ruled for
twenty years.

hòu lái liáng jì bèi huàn guān shā
后来梁冀被宦官杀
le jiā lǐ sǐ le jǐ shí gè
了家里死了几十个
rén
人

Later the eunuchs killed Liang Ji, and dozens
of his family with him.

tā bǎ yí gè bù tīng huà de
他把一个不听话的
xiǎo huáng dì dú sǐ le
小皇帝毒死了

He poisoned a child emperor who would not
obey.

měi yí cì huàn rén cháo tíng jiù
每一次换人朝廷就
ruò yì diǎn
弱一点

Each turn of the wheel left the court a little
weaker.

外戚和宦官 · Writing Practice

Consorts and Eunuchs

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

宦官

huàn guān
court eunuch

宦	官				
---	---	--	--	--	--

母亲

mǔ qīn
mother

母	亲				
---	---	--	--	--	--

小皇帝

xiǎo huáng dì
child emperor

小	皇	帝			
---	---	---	--	--	--

朝廷

cháo tíng
court

朝	廷				
---	---	--	--	--	--

有的

yǒu de
some (who are...)

有	的				
---	---	--	--	--	--

大权

dà quán
power

大	权				
---	---	--	--	--	--

这个

zhè ge
this

这	个				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

dǎng gù zhī huò

党锢之祸

The Proscription

PAGE 1

cháo tíng yuè lái yuè huài dú shū
朝廷越来越坏读书

rén kāi shǐ shuō huà
人开始说话

As the court grew worse, the scholars began
to speak.

PAGE 4

tā men shuō shéi shì hǎo guān shéi
他们说谁是好官谁

shì huài guān
是坏官

They said who was a good official and who
was not.

PAGE 2

tā men zài tài xué lǐ yì lùn
他们在太学里议论

cháo tíng de shì
朝廷的事

They debated affairs of state at the Imperial
Academy.

PAGE 5

bèi tā men shuō hǎo de rén quán
被他们说好的人全

guó dōu zhī dào
国都知道

A man they praised became known across
the empire.

PAGE 3

nà shí hòu tài xué lǐ yǒu sān
那时候太学里有三

wàn duō gè xué shēng
万多个学生

There were more than thirty thousand
students there.

PAGE 6

huàn guān hěn pà zhè xiē rén yīn
宦官很怕这些人因

wèi tā men bú pà sǐ
为他们不怕死

The eunuchs feared them, because they did
not fear death.

gōng yuán yī liù liù nián huàn guān
公元一六六年宦官
gào tā men jié dǎng
告他们结党

In 166 CE the eunuchs accused them of
forming a faction.

sān nián yǐ hòu huàn guān yòu lái
三年以后宦官又来
le yí cì
了一次

Three years later the eunuchs came again.

jié dǎng de yì sī shì jǐ gè
结党的意思是几个
rén yì qǐ fǎn duì huáng dì
人一起反对皇帝

Forming a faction meant standing together
against the emperor.

zhè yí cì zhuā de rén gèng duō
这一次抓的人更多
hěn duō rén sǐ zài láo lǐ
很多人死在牢里

This time they took more, and many died in
prison.

liǎng bǎi duō gè rén bèi zhuā guān
两百多个人被抓关
le hěn jiǔ
了很久

More than two hundred were arrested and
held a long time.

yǒu yí gè rén jiào fàn pāng guān
有一个人叫范滂官
fǔ lái zhuā tā de shí hòu tā
府来抓他的时候他
zì jǐ qù le
自己去了

One man, Fan Pang, walked to the officers
himself when they came.

tā mǔ qīn sòng tā tā guì xià
他 母 亲 送 他 他 跪 下
lái shuō duì bu qǐ
来 说 对 不 起

His mother saw him off, and he knelt and
said he was sorry.

cóng nà yǐ hòu èr shí nián méi
从 那 以 后 二 十 年 没
yǒu rén gǎn shuō cháo tíng de shì
有 人 敢 说 朝 廷 的 事

For twenty years after that, nobody dared
discuss the court.

mǔ qīn shuō nǐ néng gēn nà xiē
母 亲 说 你 能 跟 那 些
hǎo rén zài yì qǐ wǒ bù nán
好 人 在 一 起 我 不 难
guò
过

She said: you go to stand with good men,
and I am not sad.

gǎn shuō huà de rén dōu sǐ le
敢 说 话 的 人 都 死 了
shèng xià de dōu bù shuō le
剩 下 的 都 不 说 了

Those who dared were dead, and the rest
kept quiet.

nà yì nián fàn pāng sān shí sān
那 一 年 范 滂 三 十 三
suì
岁

Fan Pang was thirty-three.

yí gè guó jiā zuì wēi xiǎn de
一 个 国 家 最 危 险 的
shí hòu jiù shì méi yǒu rén shuō
时 候 就 是 没 有 人 说
huà
话

A country is most in danger when nobody
will speak.

党锢之祸 · Writing Practice

The Proscription

Name: _____

Date: _____

他们

tā men
they

他	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

朝廷

cháo tíng
court

朝	廷				
---	---	--	--	--	--

说话

shuō huà
to speak

说	话				
---	---	--	--	--	--

宦官

huàn guān
court eunuch

宦	官				
---	---	--	--	--	--

多个

duō ge
many

多	个				
---	---	--	--	--	--

结党

jié dǎng
to form a clique

结	党				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一次

yī cì
first

一	次				
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Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

shí cháng shì
十常侍

The Ten Attendants

PAGE 1

hàn líng dì de shí hòu gōng lǐ
汉 灵 帝 的 时 候 宫 里

yǒu shí jǐ gè dà huàn guān
有 十 几 个 大 宦 官

In Emperor Ling's reign there were a dozen
senior eunuchs.

PAGE 4

tā hái shuō zhào cháng shì shì wǒ
他 还 说 赵 常 侍 是 我

mǔ qīn
母 亲

And he said: Attendant Zhao is my mother.

PAGE 2

rén men jiào tā men shí cháng shì
人 们 叫 他 们 十 常 侍

People called them the Ten Attendants.

PAGE 5

yí gè huáng dì zhè yàng shuō cháo
一 个 皇 帝 这 样 说 朝

tíng jiù méi jiù le
廷 就 没 救 了

When an emperor says that, the court is past
saving.

PAGE 3

huáng dì duì bié rén shuō zhāng cháng
皇 帝 对 别 人 说 张 常

shì shì wǒ fù qīn
侍 是 我 父 亲

The emperor told people: Attendant Zhang is
my father.

PAGE 6

nà xiē rén mài guān shén me guān
那 些 人 卖 官 什 么 官

dōu yǒu jià qián
都 有 价 钱

Those men sold offices, and every office had
its price.

dà guān guì xiǎo guān pián yì jià
大 官 贵 小 官 便 宜 价

qián dōu xiě zhe
钱 都 写 着

High posts cost more, low posts less, and
the prices were posted.

táo zǒu de rén yuè lái yuè duō
逃 走 的 人 越 来 越 多

lù shàng dào chù shì rén
路 上 到 处 是 人

More and more ran, until the roads were full
of them.

shéi mǎi le guān shàng rèn yǐ hòu
谁 买 了 官 上 任 以 后

jiù yào shōu gèng duō de shuì
就 要 收 更 多 的 税

Whoever bought a post taxed harder once he
took it.

nà shí hòu yǒu yí gè rén jiào
那 时 候 有 一 个 人 叫

zhāng jué zài mín jiān gěi rén zhì
张 角 在 民 间 给 人 治

bìng
病

At that time a man called Zhang Jue was
healing people in the countryside.

bǎi xìng jiāo bù chū shuì jiù zhǐ
百 姓 交 不 出 税 就 只

néng táo zǒu
能 逃 走

People who could not pay had only one
choice: to run.

tā bú yào qián gēn zhe tā de
他 不 要 钱 跟 着 他 的

rén yuè lái yuè duō
人 越 来 越 多

He asked for no money, and more and more
followed him.

gōng yuán yī bā sì nián nà xiē
公元一八四年那些
rén tóu shàng bāo zhe huáng bù qǐ
人头上包着黄布起
lái le
来了

In 184 CE those people rose, with yellow
cloth around their heads.

kě shì wèi le dǎ huáng jīn gè
可是为了打黄巾各
dì dōu zhāo le zì jǐ de bīng
地都招了自己的兵

But to fight them, every region had raised its
own troops.

tā men hǎn de shì cāng tiān yǐ
他们喊的是苍天已
sǐ huáng tiān dāng lì
死黄天当立

What they shouted was: the blue sky is dead,
the yellow sky shall rise.

zhàng dǎ wán le nà xiē bīng méi
仗打完了那些兵没
yǒu huí jiā
有回家

The war ended, and those soldiers did not go
home.

hàn cháo pài bīng qù dǎ jǐ gè
汉朝派兵去打几个
yuè jiù bǎ tā men dǎ sàn le
月就把他们打散了

Han sent armies, and in months the rebels
were scattered.

hàn cháo hái zài kě shì tiān xià
汉朝还在可是天下
yǐ jīng bú shì hàn cháo de le
已经不是汉朝的了

The Han still stood, but the empire was no
longer its own.

十常侍 · Writing Practice

The Ten Attendants

Name: _____

Date: _____

他们

tā men
they

他	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那些

nà xiē
those

那	些				
---	---	--	--	--	--

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

价钱

jià qián
price

价	钱				
---	---	--	--	--	--

逃走

táo zǒu
to escape

逃	走				
---	---	--	--	--	--

越来越

yuè lái yuè
more and more

越	来	越			
---	---	---	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.