

受

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受 (shòu) currently has the following grammatical points associated with it:

- Passive verbs with "shou" (B2)

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受 in Dictionaries

- MDBG (<http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php?page=worddict&wdrst=0&wdqb=受>)
- youdao (<http://dict.youdao.com/search?q=受&keyfrom=dict.in dex>)
- WordReference (<http://wordreference.com/zhen/受>)

受 in Sentences

- Jukuu (<http://www.jukuu.com/search.php?q=受>)
- Bing (<http://cn.bing.com/dict/search?q=受>)
- iCIBA (<http://dj.iciba.com/受>)

受 in Corpora

- Lancaster (<http://corpus.leeds.ac.uk/cgi-bin/cqp.pl?searchstring=受&corpuslist=L CMC&searchtype=con c&contextsize=60 c&sort1=word&sort2=right&terminate=1 00&listat=on&cleft=0&crigh t=1&cfilter=>)
- Leiden Weibo (http://wc.daanvanesch.nl/messages.php?word1=受&user_province=&user_city=&user_gender=)

Passive verbs with "shou"

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One can explain 受 (shòu) in two ways, the first of which is as a passive marker, converting the verb placed after it into the passive. Here it plays a role very similar to 被. As in the first example, something or someone can be placed between 受 and the verb, 受学生的欢迎.

Contents

- 1 受 as a passive marker
 - 1.1 Structure
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 - 2.1 Structure
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Level B2

Is similar to

- Bei sentence (B1)

Is used for Expressing passive voice, Describing actions

Keywords 受

受 as a passive marker

Structure

受 + ([someone/something]) + Verb

Examples

- 张老师的课很受学生的欢迎。
- 在今天的中国有钱人很受人尊重。
- 中国的政府很少受老百姓的批评。
- 受冷空气的影响，今天上海特别冷。

It must be noted that if 被 is explained as a passive marker, then in the above examples 欢迎, 尊重, 批评 and 尊重 must all be treated as verbs rather than nouns, despite many of them appearing immediately after 的.

An alternative way to explain 受, is as an active verb itself, meaning 'to obtain' or 'to receive' when dealing with positive aspects, or 'to suffer' when dealing with negative aspects. This explanation may be more accessible to native English speakers. However whichever grammatical explanation one uses, the meaning essentially remains the same e.g. the basic meaning of "In today's China rich people are respected by people" differs not from "In today's China rich people receive people's respect".

受 as a verb

Structure

受 + (到/过) + ([something/someone]) + Noun/Verb

Examples

- 张老师的课很受学生的欢迎。

- 在今天的中国有钱人很受人尊重。
- 中国的政府很少受老百姓的批评。
- 受冷空气的影响，今天上海特别冷。

It must be noted that on the occasions when 受 is followed immediately by 到 or 过, it is preferable to consider 受 as a verb.

See also

- Bei sentence

Sources and further reading

Books

- New Practical Chinese Reader 4 (新实用汉语课本4) (pp. 61-2) →buy (http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/7561913192/ref%3Das_ji_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=allset-20&linkCode=as2&camp=217145&creative=399369&creativeASIN=7561913192)
- 现代汉语八百词 (p.505) →buy (http://www.amazon.cn/mn/detailApp?_encoding=UTF8&tag=allset-23&linkCode=as2&asin=B001198GSW&camp=536&creative=3132&creativeASIN=B001198GSW)
- 卓越汉语 - 公司实战篇 (p. 35) →buy (http://www.amazon.cn/%E5%8D%93%E8%B6%8A%E6%B1%89%E8%AF%AD-%E5%85%AC%E5%8F%B8%E5%AE%9E%E6%88%98%E7%AF%87-%E8%83%A1%E7%81%B5%E5%9D%87/dp/B003QZWQ6M/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1347863170&sr=8-1)

Dictionaries

- 现代汉语词典 (第5版) (pp. 1259)

→buy (http://www.amazon.cn/%E7%8E%B0%E4%BB%A3%E6%B1%89%E8%AF%AD%E8%AF%8D%E5%85%B8/dp/B001B1RZCI/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1345693609&sr=8-1)

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Categories: B2 grammar points | Verbs

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壽

Definition from Wiktionary, the free dictionary

See also: 壽

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Translingual

Etymology

Ideogram (指事) – an old man kneeling and praying for long life.

A rather complex character; top cognate to 生, bottom 口 + 寸. Middle originally similar to older form of 舛, now simplified to 工.

simpl.	壽
trad.	壽

Han character

壽 (*radical* 33 士+11, 14 *strokes*, *cangjie input* 土弓一戈 (GNMI), *four-corner* 4064₁, *composition* 𠂇𠂇土㇇工一吋)

1. old age, long life
2. lifespan

Descendants

- 壽

References

- KangXi: page 244 (<http://www.kangxizidian.com/kangxi/0244.gif>), character 4
- Dai Kanwa Jiten: character 5672

- Dae Jaweon: page 484, character 10
 - Hanyu Da Zidian: volume 1, page 483, character 10
 - Unihan data for U+58FD (<http://www.unicode.org/cgi-bin/GetUnihanData.pl?codepoint=58FD>)
-

Cantonese

Hanzi

壽 (*simplified* 寿, *jyutping* sau6, *Yale* sau6)

Japanese

Kanji

壽

Readings

- **On:** ジュ (ju), ジュウ (jū), ス (su), シュウ (shū)
 - **Kun:** ことぶき (kotobuki), ひさしい (hisashii), ことほぐ (kotohogu)
-

Korean

Hanja

壽 (*hangeul* 수, *revised su*, *McCune-Reischauer su*, *Yale swu*)

Mandarin

Hanzi

壽 (*simplified* 寿, *pinyin* shòu (shou4), *Wade-Giles* shou⁴)

Compounds

- 壽司
-

Middle Chinese

Han character

壽 (zhìu, zhiǒu)

Vietnamese

Han character

壽 (thọ)

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Categories: [Han ideograms](#) | [Han characters](#) | [Japanese kanji](#) | [Korean hanja](#) | [Vietnamese Han tu](#)

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Shou (character)

Shòu (simplified Chinese: 寿; traditional Chinese: 壽; pinyin: *shòu*) is the Chinese word/character for "longevity".

Three of the most important goals in life in Chinese traditional thought are the propitious blessings of happiness (*fú* 福), professional success or prosperity (*lù* 禄), and longevity (*shòu* 寿). These are visually represented by the three "star gods" of the same names (*Fú, Lù, Shòu*), commonly depicted as three male figurines (each wearing a distinctive garment and holding an object that enables them to be differentiated), or the Chinese ideographs/characters themselves, or various homophones or objects with relevant attributes. *Shòu* is instantly recognizable. "He holds in his hand a large peach, and attached to his long staff are a gourd and a scroll. The stag and the bat both indicate *fu* happiness. The peach, gourd, and scroll and symbols of longevity." His most striking characteristic is, however, his large and high forehead, which earned him the title "Longevity Star Old-pate".

The Chinese character *shòu* (寿) is found on textiles, furniture, ceramics, jewelry and virtually every object conceivable, generally in its more attractive complex ideograph (壽) but also in its simplified (post-1950) form (寿). The ideograph may appear alone or be surrounded by flowers, bats, or other good luck symbols, but will always hold a central position.

Longevity is commonly recognized as one of the Five Blessings (*wǔfú* 五福 - longevity, wealth, health, love of virtue, a peaceful death) of Chinese belief that are often depicted in the homophonous rendition of five flying bats because the word for "bat" in Chinese (*fú* 蝠) sounds like the word for "good fortune" or "happiness" or in this case, "blessings".^[1] In this arrangement, the *shòu* ideograph sometimes takes the dominant central position, replacing the fifth bat.

Other symbols in Chinese iconography that represent longevity include pine trees, cranes, spotted deer, special collectors' stones (*shòushí* 寿石), peaches, and tortoises.^[2] These are often depicted in small groupings to emphasize the central, symbolic meaning of the picture (for example, cranes standing amongst pine trees).

Perhaps the most common Chinese auspicious saying concerning longevity is that found on scrolls in nearly every Chinese calligraphy shop in the world: *shòu shān fú hǎi* (寿山福海), which can be translated as "May your life be as steadfast as the mountains and your good fortune as limitless as the seas".



The character for longevity (*shòu* 寿) decorates the four corners of this modern Chinese carpet



Ceramic roof tiles in Yunnan



Flying red bats surround four *shòu* characters

References

- [1] Bartholomew, p. 24
[2] Duda, pp. 204-6

Further reading

- Chavannes, Edouard (1973). *The Five Happinesses: Symbolism in Chinese Popular Art*. transl. and illus. Elaine Spaulding Atwood. New York: Weatherhill.
- Li Zuding, ed. (1989). *Chinese Traditional Auspicious Patterns*. Shanghai Popular Science Press.
- Ridley, Michael (1977). *Style, Motif and Design in Chinese Art*. Dorset: Blandford Press.
- Welch, Patricia Bjaaland (2008). *Chinese Art: A Guide to Motifs and Visual Imagery*. Tuttle Publishing.



A peach and the character *shòu* both representing longevity

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Fu Lu Shou

Fu Lu Shou	
Chinese name	
Simplified Chinese	福禄寿
Traditional Chinese	福祿壽
Transcriptions	
Mandarin	
Hanyu Pinyin	Fú Lù Shòu
Min	
Hokkien POJ	Hok-lók-siū
Cantonese (Yue)	
Jyutping	Fuk1 Luk6 Sau6
Vietnamese name	
Vietnamese alphabet	Phúc Lộc Thọ

Fu Lu Shou (simplified Chinese: 福禄寿; traditional Chinese: 福祿壽; pinyin: *Fú Lù Shòu*) is the concept of **Good Fortune** (Fu), **Prosperity** (Lu), and **Longevity** (Shou). This Taoist concept is thought to date back to the Ming Dynasty,^[1] when the Fu Star, Lu Star and Shou Star were considered to be personified deities of these attributes respectively. The term is commonly used in Chinese culture to denote the three attributes of a good life. Statues of these three gods are found in nearly every Chinese home and many Chinese-owned shops on small altars with a glass of water, an orange or other auspicious offerings, especially during Chinese New Year. Traditionally, they are arranged right to left (so Fu is on the right of the viewer, Lu in the middle, and Shou on the far left).

The Three Stars



This shrine to a Master Yong in a Yangxin County village, Hubei features a tablet, high in the facade, of "三星在" ("the Three Stars are present"). The symbol at the top of the facade is a stylised derivation of the character *shou* (壽 or 寿), 'longevity'

Fu star

The **Fu star** (福) refers to the planet Jupiter. In traditional astrology, the planet Jupiter was believed to be auspicious. Alternatively, according to Taoist legend, the Fu Star is associated with Yang Cheng 阳城, a governor of Daozhou 道州. Yang Cheng risked his life by writing a memorial to the emperor to save the people from suffering. After his death, the people built a temple to commemorate him, and over time he came to be considered the personification of good fortune.

He is generally depicted in scholar's dress, holding a scroll, on which is sometimes written the character "Fu". He may also be seen holding a child, or surrounded by children.



Porcelain statue of Fu star

Lu star

The **Lu star** (禄) is ζ Ursa Majoris, or, in traditional Chinese astronomy, the sixth star in the Wenchang cluster, and like the Fu star came to be personified. The Lu star is believed to be Zhang Xian who lived during the Later Shu dynasty. The word *lu* specifically refers to the salary of a government official. As such, the Lu star is the star of prosperity, rank, and influence.

The Lu star was also worshipped separately from the other two as the deity dictating one's success in the Imperial Examinations, and therefore success in the imperial bureaucracy. The Lu star is usually depicted in the dress of a mandarin.



Porcelain statue of Lu star

Shou star

The **Shou star** (壽) is α Carinae (Canopus), the star of the South Pole in Chinese astronomy, and is believed to control the life spans of mortals. According to legend, he was carried in his mother's womb for ten years before being born, and was already an old man when delivered. He is recognized by his high, domed forehead and the peach which he carries as a symbol of immortality. The God of Longevity is usually shown smiling and friendly, and he may sometimes be carrying a gourd filled with Elixir of Life.



Porcelain statue of Shou star

Gallery



Porcelain statues of Fu Lu Shou



Metal statues of Fu Lu Shou

References

[1] 福祿壽星 (<http://www.gb.taoism.org.hk/taoist-immortal/pg3-6-2.htm>)

- Seow, Jeffrey: Fu Lu Shou: Gods of Blessings, Prosperity and Longevity, Singapore, 1999.

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