

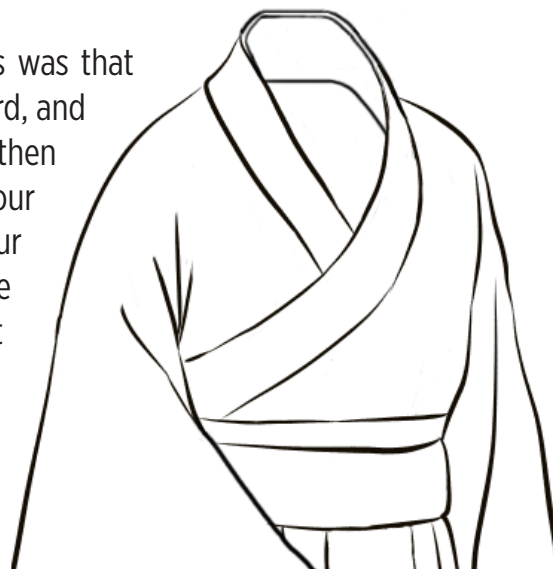
yī CLOTHES



**THE CHINESE CHARACTER 衣**, meaning clothes, comes from a simple drawing of a shirt. It looks like a collar over two sleeves.

In traditional Chinese clothing, the two sides of a shirt fold over each other in the front. First you take the right side and fold it to the left. Then you take the left side, and fold it over to the right. Then you tie it down on the right.

One reason for doing this was that if you have to carry a sword, and you are right-handed, then you carry your sword on your left hip. If you tied your shirt on the left, the same side as your sword, what might happen? When you pulled out your sword you might end up undressing yourself!



## SPEAK IT

Yī is easy to say. Just say the “ea” in “easy.”

Do you think you have heard yī before?  
Yī also means “one” in Chinese. So now you can count to one!  
One is also super easy to write. It’s just one line: 一

“easy” = 衣

## ANCIENT SAYING

There’s a Chinese saying for something that is just perfectly perfect.

“Heavenly clothes have no seams.”

天衣無縫

tiān yī wú fèng

That means the clothes in the heavens are so perfect, they don’t even have any seams!

Do you recognize the yī?



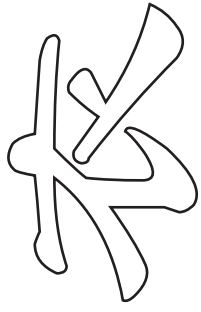
## SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

Some Chinese words look alike. Which one is 衣?

八	似
衣	衰

六	衣
良	衷

衰	农
以	哀



yī

CLOTHES



To write 衣, first write the collar, then the sleeves:




## PHRASE FINDER

Can you find the expression you just learned, in Chinese, then English?

“TIAN YI WU FENG”

E	Z	T	D
B	Y	I	R
W	U	A	P
F	E	N	G

“HEAVENLY CLOTHES HAVE NO SEAMS”

A	H	F	U	I	W	G	Z
H	E	E	N	K	H	N	O
B	A	O	Y	Y	A	S	V
T	V	V	M	W	I	E	J
X	E	S	E	P	C	A	E
B	N	R	Q	O	N	M	K
C	L	O	T	H	E	S	L
C	Y	D	V	W	Z	O	M

# 来自天上的衣服

## Heavenly Clothing

**M**ANY PARTS OF TRADITIONAL CHINESE CULTURE are said to have come from gods in the heavens.

Legend has it, a long, long time ago, different gods came down from heaven and walked on earth together with people. These different gods brought with them all kinds of beautiful things for people to enjoy here on earth.

For example, some gods taught people how to write Chinese characters, others brought music, others brought food, others taught people how to grow things, and so on.

And it is the same with ancient Chinese clothing, or **yī**. Some people saw how gods in the heavens dressed, and they thought it was so beautiful! So they decided to imitate the clothes worn in the heavens. It is just like if you see a movie and then you play dress up, pretending to be a princess, a king, a fairy, or a knight.

And those clothes that came from the heavens became the new style. And so it is said that traditional Chinese clothing, **衣**, came from the heavens.



# Design Your Own Clothing

