TO FLY
fēi

Fēi is easy to say. It’s just like saying “say” or “pay” but with an F. It’s also just like the name Fey. “Fey” = 飛

MANY CHINESE CHARACTERS ARE PICTOGRAPHIC.
This means that they are written to look like something. The word for flying (飛) used to be written more like this:

It starts looking like a bird, right? In the beginning, it was written to look like a crane.

SPEAK IT

WORD MATCH

Here are some words that have 飛 in them. Draw lines to match them with their image.

KEY

飛鏢
fēibiao
飛蛾
fēi'e
飛盤
fēipan
飛機
fēijì
飛天
Fēitiān

飛盤
fēipán
飛機
fēijī
飛蛾
fēi'é
飛船
fēichuán
飛天
Fēitiān
Writing  飞 is complicated, but also fun. Just take it one step at a time:

TO FLY

WORD SEARCH

Can you find all 9 words? Circle as many as you can.

Answers: dart, frisbee, airplane, moth, spaceship, feitian, fairy, Dunhuang, caves.
DEEP IN WESTERN CHINA, along the Silk Road, are the famous caves of Dunhuang. The caves are filled with beautiful paintings and statues. There are Buddhas, goddesses, and flying fairies.

In Chinese, these fairies are called fēi tiān（飛天）, which means “flying heaven.” But who painted all these fairies in the caves?

Well, many years ago, a Buddhist monk was walking in the desert. He was very tired, and when he got to Dunhuang, he decided to stop and rest.

Soon dusk began to fall. As the sun came down and the sky changed colors, the monk had a magical vision. He saw a giant, glowing Buddha and heavenly fairies flying in the sky. He also heard beautiful music, even though there was no one else around. The monk was very inspired.

Nearby, he found a cave. The monk went into the cave and started filling it with art. He created statues and paintings of what he saw in his vision.

Today, if you visit these caves, you can see many painted murals of fairies, or fēi tiān, flying through the sky. Some have long silk ribbons. Others have musical instruments.

It is believed that these fēi tiān fairies are a sign of good luck. They appear only to those who have a pure heart.

They also dance very beautifully, which is why they are often part of Shen Yun shows.