

Part 3

如何阅读《易经》？

阅读《易经》前，我们需要知道“卦”是如何形成的，古人怎样用《易经》来解释自然，社会和人的变化现象。首先我们来了解《易经》使用的各种符号和术语的含义。

阴，阳：

《易经》由“—”（阴）代表地，母亲，阴柔顺从，厚德载物等等和“—”（阳）代表天，父亲，强健有力，自强不息等等。由阴阳组合来解释宇宙万物的出生，成长，和结束的变化过程。

八卦：

《易经》由阴“—”和“—”阳组成八个基本卦：乾（☰）、坤（☷）、震（☳）、艮（☶）、离（☲）、坎（☵）、兑（☱）、巽（☴）。这些基本卦代表自然现象。比如，乾代表天、坤代表地、震代表雷，艮代表山，离代表火、坎代表水、兑代表泽，巽代表风。

六十四卦

《易经》将两个基本八卦重复，组成了六十四个卦。例如：泰卦  由一个坤（☷）和一个乾（☰）组成。山火卦  由一个艮（☶）和一个离（☲）组成。《易经》用这六十四个卦来解释整个自然，社会和个人在每个阶段的变化。

九和六

《易经》用九代读“阳爻”，六代读“阴爻”。譬如，第一条线是阳（—），就叫初九；第一条线是阴（- -），就叫初六。第二条线是阳（—），就叫九二；第二条线是阴（- -），就叫六二。第三条线是阳（—），就叫九三；第三条线是阴（- -），就叫六三。由此类推（请看右面的图）。



泰卦



否卦

希望你能从以上介绍的术语获得有关《易经》的基本知识，这些术语将会帮助你进入《易经》——博大精深的中国智慧之门。

How to read I-Ching?

To read the book of I Ching requires us to know how the hexagrams are formed and interpreted. But before we can start that journey, it is useful to know and understand the meanings of the various symbols and the terms used when reading the I Ching. I will introduce several terms over time when I discuss how to read the hexagrams, but it is important that you know the following basic terms:

Yin and Yang

Many people in the west have heard of “Yin and Yang” and have seen it represented in symbol form

A diagram of the Taijitu (Yin-Yang symbol), consisting of two interlocking circles, one white and one black, with a small circle of the opposite color at the center.



The I Ching represents yin and yang through two types of lines. Yin uses a broken line “- -” represent Earth, mother, soft..., and yang uses a solid line “—” represent heaven, father, strong.... Use yin and yang to express the changing process of the universe and human birth, growth and end.

Ba Gua (Eight trigram)

I Ching uses “- -” and “—” to form eight basic trigrams call “Ba Gua”. They are Qian (☰), Kun (☷), Zhen (☳), Gen (☶), Li (☲), Kan (☵), Dui (☱), and Xun (☴). These basic trigrams represent heavenly and natural phenomena. Qian represents heaven, Kun represents land, Zhen represents thunder, Gen represents mountains, Li represents fire, Kan represents water, Dui represents lakes, and Xun represents wind.

Sixty-four hexagrams

I Ching uses two base trigrams to form sixty-four hexagrams to express the changes of all aspects of nature,

human societies and individuals. For example, the Tai hexagram ☰ is composed of a Kun (☷) and a Qian (☰). The Mountain-Fire hexagram ☷ consists of a Gen (☶) and a Li (☲).

JIU & LIU (nine and six)

I-Ching use Nine to read “Yang yao” and six to read “Yin Yao”. For example, if the first line is yang (—), read *Shang jiu* (begin with nine); the first line is yin (- -), read *Shang liu* (yin in first line). Second One line is yang (—), read *Jiu Er* (Yang in second line); the second line is yin (- -), read *Liu Er*. The third line is yang (—), read *Jiu San* (nine-three); the third line is yin (- -), it is called Six-three. And so on (see the picture on the right). When you read I Ching, you need to read from bottom to top.



I hope you can gain the basic knowledge of I Ching from the terms introduced above. These terms will help you to enter the door of "I Ching"-the broad and profound of Chinese intelligence.