

Re: Invention of the Alphabet

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2005-08/msg00113.html>

- *From:* Harlan Messinger <hmessinger.removethis@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sun, 31 Jul 2005 23:01:04 -0400
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Alan wrote:

"Peter T. Daniels" <grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message news:42ECD896.3371@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx:

Do you have any trouble reading Thai or Chinese? No word divisions in either script.

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Peter T. Daniels

grammatim@xxxxxxxx

Am I misunderstanding you? Thai "script" may very well have no word divisions, but how can you say the same for Chinese? Every word has its own character

That's a misconception. Many words in Chinese consist of multiple syllables/characters, such as Chong1guo2, the name for China, or ci2dian3, a word for "dictionary", or fu2wu4yuan2, a word meaning "waiter".

and all characters are distinct and stand independent of one another. Whether the Chinese text is written top-to-bottom, right-to-left, or left-to-right, even someone totally unfamiliar with Chinese would certainly be able to perceive the boundaries between the words.