

3Ze-ce

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Zé consists of bèi 'shell' and an abbreviated form of do 'knife'. It originally meant 'carve with a knife' but now has meanings such as 'rule'.

The three other characters are all pronounced cè:

1. Adding three drops of water at the side produces cè 'measure'.
2. Rén 'man' + rule = 'side': cè
3. Putting a roof on produces cè 'toilet', although it is not very clear how this relates to the other three from a meaning point of view!

Common words including these characters:

yuánzé 'principle'
cicè 'to conjecture'
cèmiàn 'side'
cèsu 'toilet'

