

## The Famous KaiShu Calligraphers:

1. Yu Shi Nan (虞世南)
2. Chu Shui Liang (褚遂良)
3. Yan Zhen Qing (顏真卿)
4. Liu Gong Quan (柳公權)

## VI. How to Hold the Brush

The best way to hold the brush is when your tip of the brush contacts the paper evenly. If the tip is pushed to one side, your lines will be uneven and the illusion of your lines will be flat and dead. No life. To avoid this flat illusion, you have to make your tip of the brush always on the middle of the line. This is called “Zhong Fung”. The way to hold your brush will make a lot of difference on this.

First hold the brush's handle with the thumb, index finger and middle finger.

If you hold it this way, you definitely can do your brush writing; however, you will feel you have a little control problem with the vertical strokes.

You will find that you can control the vertical strokes better by using the nail portion of your ring finger to press against the brush handle and with the help of your little finger to support your ring finger by pushing against your lower part of your ring finger.

You should also let the knuckle of your thumb protrude out.

This way you can distribute your strength on the brush through your five fingers more evenly.

Otherwise, your lines will be uneven. Of course it takes a lot of practices.

## VII. How to Practice Chinese Brush Writing

There are several ways to practice Chinese brush writing. First is to select the style of Tiep, famous calligrapher's writing copy that you like. After finding the right Tiep for you, you can use either Lin or Mo method.

### A. Mo (摹) – means tracing.

1. The easiest way is to buy a Red Copy Book that has all Chinese Characters with lines already traced for you. You just fill in the empty space with your brush.
2. You can also do it yourself by putting a transparent paper on top of the Tiep (帖) and use pencil to trace over it. After you have traced it then use your brush to fill in the empty space. This way will give you a better understanding of the structure of the Chinese character and how the strokes are started and ended.

### B. Lin (臨) – means to copy each character of your Tiep with your brush, stroke by stroke onto the nine squares writing book (九宮格).