YiInsight I Ching Beginner Workbook

Sample Chapter - Primary and Relating Figures

This sample chapter is an educational study unit built on fictional inputs. Complete every exercise by hand with a pen or pencil. You need no coins, website, or account.

Coin Totals and Line Rules

In this workbook convention, heads equal 3 and tails equal 2. Add the assigned values of the three coin faces to get a total of 6, 7, 8, or 9. Record six throws from bottom to top, placing throw 1 on Line 1 at the bottom and throw 6 on Line 6 at the top. Solid represents yang, and Broken represents yin.

Total	Primary	Change Rule	Relating
6	Broken	Changes to Solid	Solid
7	Solid	Unchanged	Solid
8	Broken	Unchanged	Broken
9	Solid	Changes to Broken	Broken

Totals of 6 and 9 mark changing lines. Draw or change the line shape at 6s and 9s while keeping the original totals recorded beside the grid. When at least one line changes, the adjusted shapes form the relating figure. When every total is 7 or 8, every line stays unchanged and this workbook records no separate relating figure.

Worked Example

Start with the fictional bottom-to-top sequence [7, 8, 6, 7, 8, 9]. Place Line 6 at the visual top and Line 1 at the bottom.

Line	Total	Before (Primary)	Moves?	After (Relating)
6 Top	9	Solid	Yes	Broken
5	8	Broken	No	Broken
4	7	Solid	No	Solid
3	6	Broken	Yes	Solid
2	8	Broken	No	Broken
1 Bottom	7	Solid	No	Solid

Reading the Before column gives primary hexagram #21 Biting Through. Lines 3 and 6 hold totals of 6 and 9, so their line shapes change in the After column. Reading the After column gives relating hexagram #55 Abundance.

Practice Drills

Complete all three drills by hand using the lookup legend below.

Pattern (Line 1 to Line 6)	Hexagram Number
All six lines Solid	#1
Lines 1 through 5 Solid, Line 6 Broken	#43

Drill 1 - Changing Line

Use the fictional bottom-to-top input [7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 9]. Write Solid or Broken in each blank cell, note which line moves, and record the hexagram numbers below.

Line	Total	Before (Primary)	After (Relating)
6 Top	9	_____	_____
5	7	_____	_____
4	7	_____	_____
3	7	_____	_____
2	7	_____	_____
1 Bottom	7	_____	_____

- Primary hexagram number _____
- Changing line _____
- Relating hexagram number _____

Drill 2 - Stable Figure

Use the fictional bottom-to-top input [7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 7]. Write the six line shapes in order on the blank line, then fill in the answers below. Leave the relating figure absent if no line changes.

Primary figure (bottom to top) _____

- Primary hexagram number _____
- Changing lines _____
- Relating hexagram number _____

Drill 3 - Orientation Check

A student copies bottom-to-top input [7, 7, 7, 7, 7, 9] by placing throw 1 on Line 6 at the top and throw 6 (9) on Line 1 at the bottom. Name the orientation error and state which line number should hold the 9.

Answer

Answer Key and References

Drill 1 Answer

Primary hexagram #1 changes at Line 6 to relating hexagram #43. Totals of 7 on Lines 1 through 5 produce five unchanged Solid lines. The 9 on Line 6 begins as Solid, making all six lines Solid for primary hexagram #1. Because 9 changes shape from Solid to Broken, Line 6 becomes Broken in the relating figure, matching hexagram #43 in the legend.

Drill 2 Answer

Primary hexagram is #1, and zero lines change. All six totals are 7, so every line stays Solid from Line 1 through Line 6. Leave the relating figure absent because no separate relating figure applies when all lines are stable.

Drill 3 Answer

The student reversed the vertical order by stacking throws from top to bottom. Throw 1 belongs on Line 1 at the bottom, and the 9 from throw 6 belongs on Line 6 at the top. Reversing the stack places the changing line at the bottom and produces the wrong hexagram.

YiInsight References

These public YiInsight guides cover the core method and editorial standards behind this chapter.

- How to Consult the I Ching
- Primary and Relating Hexagrams
- Sources and Editorial Method