

Tips for Beginners in Traditional Kung Fu

Starting your journey in **Traditional Kung Fu** (傳統功夫) is like stepping onto a path that has been walked for generations. It is not a race. It is not about collecting techniques. It is about **learning to move, to feel, to understand**. Many people begin with enthusiasm, but few truly absorb the depth of what they are learning. If you are serious about training, these are the **essential lessons every beginner must understand**.

"拳打千遍身法自現" – Practice a technique a thousand times, and the body will understand it on its own.

1. Slow Down. Stop Chasing Techniques.

Every beginner wants to **learn more techniques**, but Kung Fu is not about memorizing moves—it is about **understanding movement**. If you rush through forms and drills without absorbing the principles behind them, you are building a house with no foundation. **Quality over quantity**. Slow it down, refine each motion, and let skill develop naturally.

2. Stances Are Everything. Train Them Daily.

Your stance is your root. Without a **strong stance, your strikes are weak, your balance is unstable, and your movement is disconnected**.

- **Horse stance (馬步)** builds endurance and lower body power.
- **Bow stance (弓步)** teaches how to generate force.
- **Cat stance (虛步)** refines mobility and weight shifting.

You can tell a serious practitioner from a casual one by their stance. Train your stance daily. **No exceptions.**

3. Power Comes From Relaxation

Strength in Kung Fu is not about tension—it is about **efficiency**. A beginner often tries to force movements, but real power comes from a **relaxed, connected body**. **Fajin (發勁), explosive force, is generated by alignment, not brute strength**. If you are too tense, you are fighting yourself. Learn to relax and let the power flow.

4. Hands Follow the Body, Not the Other Way Around

Kung Fu is not **arms flailing in the air**—it is rooted in the body. Every strike, block, or parry should come from **your center, not just your arms**. The **Dantian (丹田)** leads the movement, the waist turns, the body moves, and only then do the hands complete the action. If you are just throwing your arms around, you are doing it wrong.

5. Footwork Determines Everything

A fighter with good hands and bad footwork is not a fighter. Movement is survival. In Kung Fu, footwork is what keeps you safe, puts you in position, and generates power. **Train stepping drills. Train balance. Train evasive movement.** Your ability to control the fight starts with controlling where and how you move.

6. Internal Training Is Not Optional

Kung Fu is not just about external movement—it is a **balance of internal and external training**. If you only practice punches and kicks without working on **breath control (Qigong, 氣功)**, **tendon strength (Yijinjing, 易筋經)**, and **structure**, you will hit a ceiling in your training. Internal power is real, and if you ignore it, you are only getting half of the art.

7. Train As If Someone Is Trying to Hit You

Forms are not dances. Every motion has meaning. If you train lazily, you will fight lazily. Move with intent. Imagine an opponent in front of you. Every strike, step, or block should be trained **as if it matters—because it does**.

8. Pain Is a Teacher, Not an Enemy

Kung Fu training is hard. Your legs will burn from stances. Your arms will ache from drills. You will be sore, tired, and frustrated. Good. That means you are training correctly. **Discomfort is temporary. Skill is permanent.** Learn to push through, and you will be stronger for it.

"吃得苦中苦，方為人上人" – One who endures the hardest hardships will become the strongest person.

9. Find a Teacher, Not Just Videos

Online resources are valuable, but Kung Fu is best learned under guidance. A real teacher will see things you cannot, correct details you miss, and push you beyond what you think you can do. If you have the opportunity, **train with a teacher who understands the depth of the art**.

10. Enjoy the Process, But Never Settle

Kung Fu is a lifetime journey. There is always something deeper to refine, another layer to understand. Train seriously, but enjoy the process. **Fall in love with the training itself, and you will never stop improving.**

Start Your Kung Fu Journey

If you are ready to train in **authentic Traditional Kung Fu**, whether online or in person, explore the training at **Red Jade Martial Arts**. Learn the **principles, movement, and power** that define true martial skill. **Begin your training today!**