

Character Builder 您好嗎？

The basic unit of the Chinese language is the *zi* (字), i.e. a Chinese word. Each *zi* has a written form (called a character, made up of strokes), a sound (made up of consonant and vowel) and a meaning (or multiple meanings). When we speak or write Chinese, we string *zi* together to form terms, phrases and sentences.

This week: Words about the beaches

裸

(radical 衤 = 衣 *yi* = clothes)
Pronunciation: *luo* (Putonghua, 3rd tone), *loh* (Cantonese, 2nd tone)
Basic meaning: naked, nude

裸 means naked: 裸露 (*luo lu* = naked-expose = bare-skinned), 裸體 (*luo ti* = naked-body = nude), 裸睡 (*luo shui* = naked-sleep = sleeping naked), 裸泳 (*luo yong* = naked-swim = swimming naked). 裸跑者 (*luo pao zhe* = nude-run-person) = nude runner.

Artists paint 裸體模特兒 (*luo nu mo te er* = naked-body-“model”-transliterated = nudes). Girls wearing 比基尼 (*bi ji ni* = “bikini”-transliterated) are more than 半裸 (*ban luo* = half-naked). 天體主義者 (*tian ti zhu yi zhe* = sky/nature~body~main-concept~person = nudism-followers = nudists) walk about 全裸 (*quan luo* = completely~naked).

When Hercules Poirot investigates murders/thefts, facts are 赤裸裸暴露 (*chi luo luo bao lu* = bare~naked~naked-expose~show = laid bare).

by Diana Yue