

# 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 jurisdiction

控

Pronunciation: *kong* (Putonghua, 4<sup>th</sup> tone), *hung* (Cantonese, 3<sup>rd</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: control, protest, prosecute, sue

控 = 控制 (*kong zhi* = steer-handle) = control. 控股公司 (*kong gu gong si* = control-stocks-public-bureau) = holdings company. Big capital 操控股市 (*cao kong gu shi* = manipulate-control-stock-market).

Hongkong's jurisdiction functions on 香港法例 (*Xiang Gang Fa Li* = Honkong-ordinances = the Laws of Hong Kong). Police 控告 (*kong gao* = allege-tell = sue) law-offenders, calls 控方證人 (*kong fang zheng ren* = sued-side-evidence-person = prosecution's witness). In civil cases, 原告 (*yuan gao* = original-sue = plaintiff) 指控 (*zhi kong* = point-accuse/allege) and sue 被告 (*bei gao* = is-sued = defendant). 律師 (*lu shi* = law/rules-masters = lawyers) advise clients.

Righteous people 控訴 (*kong su* = sue-tell = protest) against social injustice.

by Diana Yue