

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.

In Putonghua (the spoken form of Modern Standard Chinese) each *zi* is pronounced in one of four tones:

1st tone: 1 = diacritical mark — pitch: 5 to 5, highest prolonged

2nd tone: 2 = diacritical mark / pitch: 3 to 5, middle to high

3rd tone: 3 = diacritical mark U pitch: 2 to 1 to 4, low to lowest to high

4th tone: 4 = diacritical mark \ pitch: 5 to 1, highest to lowest)

To pronounce each *zi* below, follow its pinyin and the given tone number. Light-sound words, which have no definite pitch, carry no diacritical mark and are marked by 0.

This week: Words about moving



Putonghua pronunciation: *yi2*

Cantonese pronunciation: *yi4*

Meanings: move, change position

移 = move/shift. Waves 移動 (*yi2 dong4* = shift~move = drift). Poet laments 物換星移 (*wu4 huan4 xing1 yi2* = things~change~stars~shift = change of nature/things and season). VIP's bodyguard shouts: “移開!” (*yi2 kai1* = “Move off!”) Eye surgeon performs 角膜移植 (*jiao3 mo4 yi2 zhi2* = corner~membrane~move~plant = cornea transplant).

After Hong Kong's 主權移交 (*zhu3 quan2 yi2 jiao1* = master~right~move~deliver = sovereignty handover), some people 移民 (*yi2 min2* = move~people = emigrate/immigrate/leave), 轉移 (*zhuan3 yi2* = turn~move = relocate) assets.

Pastor 堅定不移 (*jian1 ding4 bu4 yi2* = hard~steady~no~shift = remains dedicated and firm), strengthens parishioners' faith through 潛移默化 (*qian2 yi2 mo4 hua4* = dive~move~silent~transform = subtle and steady influence).