

Character Builder 您好嗎? 呀

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 crime

姦

Pronunciation: *jian* (Putonghua, 1st tone), *gaan* (Cantonese, 1st tone)
Basic meaning: rape, adultery

Pictogram 姦 shows three 女 (*nu* = woman)! 女性 (*nu xing* = woman~sex = women) are victims of 強姦 (*qiang jian* = forced~rape), 迷姦 (*mi jian* = dope/drug~rape), 輪姦 (*lun jian* = wheel/take-turns~rape = raped consecutively by different men).

姦污 (*jian wu* = rape~dirty) means rape (and smear/ruin victim's purity/reputation). Bandits 姦淫擄掠 (*jian yin lu lue* = adultery~lust~kidnap~loot = rape, loot). Men with 戀童癖 (*lian tong pi* = love~child~obsession = pederasty) commit 雞姦 (*ji jian* = chicken~rape = sodomy) on boys.

通姦 (*tong jian* = link~adultery) = commit adultery. 捉姦在床 (*zhuo jian zai chuang* = catch~adultery~in~bed) describes 姦夫淫婦 (*jian fu yin fu* = adulterous~man~lustful~woman = adulterous couple) caught doing it in bed.