

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 management

Pronunciation: *guan* (Putonghua, 3rd tone), *goon* (Cantonese, 2nd tone)
Basic meaning: control, manage, regulate

Parents 管教 (*guan jiao* = control~teach = discipline~educate) children. Governments exercise 管治 (*guan zhi* = control~rule = administration). Confucianism preaches 齊家治國 (*qi jia zhi guo* = regulate~family~rule~state = setting house/family and then country in order).

Enterprises hire 企業管理碩士 (*qi ye guan li shuo shi* = enterprise~management~big~scholar) = Master of Business Administration = MBAs). Dictators order 軍管 (*jun guan* = military~control) to stop riots.

After WWII the Chinese Nationalist Government, the British Government and the Hong Kong Government all abandoned jurisdiction of 九龍城寨 (*Jiu Long Cheng Zhai* = the Kowloon Walled City), leaving it a 三不管地帶 (*san bu guan di dai* = three~no~control~land~strip = no man's land = lawless area) until 1994.