

# 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 Middle East**



Pronunciation: *hui* (Putonghua, 2<sup>nd</sup> tone), *wooi* (Cantonese, 4<sup>th</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: Hui people, Islamic religion

回族 (*Hui zu* = Hui-ethnic-tribe) in China are 穆斯林 (*mu si lin* = “Muslims”-transliterated). 回教 (*Hui jiao* = Hui-people’s~religion) means 伊斯蘭 (*yi si lan* = “Islam”-transliterated).

Muslims worship 真主 (*zhen zhu* = True~God) 安拉 (*an la* = “Allah”-transliterated), 先知 (*xian zhi* = before~know = prophet) 穆罕默德 (*mu han mo de* = “Muhammed”-transliterated), study 古蘭經 (*gu lan jing* = “Qoran”-transliterated~scriptures), 祈禱 (*qi dao* = ask~pray = pray) in 清真寺 (*qing zhen si* = pure~true~monastery = mosques), 沐浴 (*mu yu* = wash~bath = perform ablution), observe 齋月 (*zhai yue* = fast~month = Ramadan).

朝聖 (*chao sheng* = travel-to-worship~holiness = pilgrimage) to 麥加 (*mai jia* = “Mecca”-transliterated) is every Muslim’s dream.

*by Diana Yue*