

# Character Builder

# 您好嗎？政

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 elections

# 政

Pronunciation: *zheng* (Putonghua, 4<sup>th</sup> tone), *jing* (Cantonese 3<sup>rd</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: rule, politics

政 = 政治 (*zheng zhi* = rule~control) = politics. 政權 (*zheng quan* = rule~authority) = regime. 政府 (*zheng fu* = rule~house) = government. 政策 (*zheng ce* = rule~strategy) = policy. 財政 (*cai zheng* = money~control) means finance. 德政 (*de zheng* = virtue~rule) means an appreciated administrative measure, e.g. a tax-cut.

從政 (*cong zheng* = follow~politics) means enter politics. 政壇 (*zheng tan* = politics~altar) = the political arena. 政黨 (*zheng dang*) = political party. Politicians are 政客 (*zheng ke* = politics~figures). 政治手腕 (*zheng zhi shou wan* = politics~hand~wrist) means a politician's manipulative skills. 政治化 (*zheng zhi hua* = politics~transform) means become politicized.

政變 (*zheng bian* = rule~change) means a coup d'état.

by Diana Yue