

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 horticulture



Pronunciation: *yuan* (Putonghua, 2nd tone), *yuen* (Cantonese 4th tone)
Basic meaning: garden, park, plantation

園, with radical 囗 (*kou* = mouth), means a fenced-off planted area. 花園 (*hua yuan*) = flower garden; 菜園 (*cai yuan*) = vegetable garden; 果園 (*guo yuan* = fruit-garden) = orchard. 茶園 (*cha yuan*) = tea plantation, 橡膠園 (*xiang jiao yuan*) = rubber plantation.

園丁 (*yuan ding* = garden-man) = gardener. 園藝 (*yuan yi* = garden-art) = horticulture. 公園 (*gong yuan*) = public garden/park. 動物園 (*dong wu yuan* = moving-things-garden = animal-garden) = zoo.

伊甸園 (*yi dian yuan* = the Garden of Eden) is a 樂園 (*le yuan* = happy-garden = a place free of troubles). 水上樂園 (*shui shang le yuan* = water-on-happy-garden) is an entertainment park — Water World.

by Diana Yue