

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 banquets

慶

Pronunciation: *qing* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *hing* (Cantonese 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: rejoice, celebrate

慶 = feeling 慶幸 (*qing xing* = rejoice~fortune/fortunate) = feeling thankful about something (e.g. passing an exam, narrowly missing a plane crash).

慶, an action, = 慶祝 (*qing zhu* = rejoice~congratulate) = celebrate. Peasants 慶豐收 (*qing feng shou* = celebrate~abundant~gather = celebrate the harvest). Armies 慶捷 (*qing jie* = celebrate victory). 慶典 (*qing dian* = rejoice~ceremony) means celebration ceremony, e.g. 畢業慶典 (*bi ye qing dian* = end~studies~celebration~ceremony) = graduation ceremony. 普天同慶 (*pu tian tong qing* = all~heavens~together~rejoice) describes something universally celebrated, e.g. New Year's Day.

積善之家，必有餘慶 (*ji shan zhi jia, bi you yu qing* = accumulate~goodness~'s~family, definitely~has~extra~celebrations) means a philanthropic family will overflow with blessings.