

# 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 music**

樂

Pronunciation: *yue* (Putonghua, 4<sup>th</sup> tone), *ngok* (Cantonese 6<sup>th</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: music

In ancient China, 禮 (*li* = rites) and 樂 (*yue* = music) were part of a 君子 (*jun zi* = honorable~man = gentleman)'s education.

Later, 器樂 (*qi yue* = instrumental music), 舞樂 (*wu yue* = dance music) and 戲曲 (*xi qu* = drama~songs = opera) all became 藝術 (*yi shu* = art~method = art).

Today 西樂 (*xi yue* = western music) is big business, whether 古典 (*gu dian* = ancient~classics = classical) or 流行 (*liu xing* = flow~current = pop). 樂迷 (*yue mi* = music~infatuated = music fans) love 交響樂 (*jiao xiang yue* = cross~echo~music = symphonies), 爵士樂 (*jue shi yue* = "jazz" transliterated), 樂與怒 (*luo yu nu* = bliss~and~anger = "rock'n'oll" transliterated).

by Diana Yue