

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 Buddhism

Pronunciation: *jue* (Putonghua, 2nd tone), *gok* (Cantonese 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: sense, realization, enlightenment

覺 (*jue*, 2nd tone) means sense/realize. However, 覺 (*jiao*, 4th tone) means slumber, as in 睡覺 (*shui jiao* = sleep~wake = sleep), 睡一覺 (*shui yi jiao* = sleep~a~sleep = sleep for some time).

視覺 (*shi jue* = sight~sense) = sense of sight, 聽覺 (*ting jue*) = hearing, 嗅覺 (*chou jue*) = smell, 味覺 (*wei jue*) = taste, 觸覺 (*chu jue*) = touch. 覺得 (*jue de* = sense~acquire) = 感覺 (*gan jue* = feel~sense) = feel.

Spiritually, 覺悟 (*jue wu* = sense~realize) = awakening/enlightenment. Repentance is 覺悟前非 (*jue wu qian fei* = sense~realize~previous~wrongs). 悟道 (*wu dao* = understand~way) = attain enlightenment. 佛 (*fo* = Buddha) is called 覺者 (*jue zhe*), the Enlightened One.

by Diana Yue