

# 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 policemen

控

(radical 扌 = 手 *shou* = hand/arm)  
Pronunciation: *kong* (Putonghua, 4<sup>th</sup> tone), *hung* (Cantonese, 3<sup>rd</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: control, accuse, allege, protest, prosecute, sue

控 means control: 失控 (*shi kong* = lose~control), 遙控器 (*yao kong qi* = far-control-instrument = remote controller).

控 also means 控訴 (*kong su* = allege~protest): Zola's *J'accuse*. When someone 報警 (*bao jing* = report-to-police = reports an offence to the police), 警方 (*jing fang* = police~side = the police = PRC 公安 *gong an* = public~security authorities) 查案 (*cha an* = investigate~case), 拘捕 (*ju bu* = take~arrest), 控告 (*kong gao* = accuse~sue = prosecute) suspects.

控方 (*kong fang* = accuse~side = the prosecution) and 辯方 (*bian fang* = debate/defend~side = the defence) present 證據 (*zheng ju* = proof-reference = evidence), 證人 (*zheng ren* = proof~person = witnesses) concerning defendants' 控罪 (*kong zui* = alleged~offences/crimes).

by Diana Yue