

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 soccer

Pronunciation: *juk* (Putonghua, 2nd tone), *juk* (Cantonese 1st tone)
Basic meaning: foot

足 is radical in 踢 (*ti* = kick), 踏 (*ta* = stamp), 跑 (*pao* = run), 跳 (*tiao* = jump).

足球 (*zu qiu* = foot~ball) is 體育運動 (*ti yu yun dong* = body-education~circulate~move = physical sport). Soccer (English football) is 英式足球 (*ying shi zu qiu* = “Eng”-transliterated~style~foot~ball). American football is 美式足球 (*mei shi zu qiu* = “Mer”-transliterated~style~foot~ball).

足球員 (*zu qiu yuan* = foot~ball~members = soccer players) use their 足 (= 腳 *jiao* = foot), 腿 (*tui* = leg) to 控球 (*kong qiu* = control~ball), 盤球 (*pan qiu* = swirl~ball = dribble), 傳球 (*chuan qiu* = pass~ball), 射球 (*she qui* = shoot~ball), hoping to 入球 (*ru qiu* = enter~ball = score goal).

by Diana Yue