

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

隊

Pronunciation: *dui* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *dui* (Cantonese 6th tone)
Basic meaning: team

隊 = team. 軍隊 (*jun dui* = army~team) = armed forces. 足球隊 (*zu qiu dui* = soccer~team) = 足球會 (*zu qiu hui* = foot~ball~society = soccer club), e.g. 曼聯 (*man lian* = “Man”-transliterated-union = Manchester United).

Each team consists of 隊長 (*dui zhang* = team~leader = captain), 前鋒 (*qian feng* = front~sharp~head = forwards), 中衛 (*zhong wei* = middle~defend = midfielders), 後衛 (*hou wei* = back~defend = fullbacks), 龍門 (*long men* = dragon~door/gate = goalkeeper/goalie). 強隊 (*qiang dui* = strong~teams) easily defeat 弱隊 (*ruo dui* = weak~teams).

校隊 (*xiao dui*) = school/college team. 國家隊 (*guo jia dui* = state/country~team) = national team. 啦啦隊 (*la la dui* = “la-la”~team) = cheerleading team.

by Diana Yue