

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

鋒

Pronunciation: *feng* (Putonghua, 1st tone), *fung* (Cantonese 1st tone)
Basic meaning: blade, forward

鋒 (radical 金 *jin* = gold/metal) = blade of 刀 (*dao* = knife), 劍 (*jian* = sword). 前鋒 (*qian feng* = forward-blade) means forwards in soccer.

中鋒 (*zhong feng* = centre forwards), 翼鋒 (*yi feng* = wing-blade = wingers) 盤球 (*pan qiu* = swirl-ball = dribble), 傳球 (*chuan qiu* = pass-ball) past the opposite team's 中衛 (*zhong wei* = middle-defend = midfield defenders) and 後衛 (*hou wei* = back-defend = backfield defenders). They 射門 (*she men* = shoot-gate/goal) or use 頭槌 (*tou cui* = head-hammer = headers) to 入球 (*ru qiu* = enter-ball = score goal).

先鋒 (*xian feng* = early/ahead-blade) means herald/forerunner. 筆鋒尖銳 (*bi feng jian rui* = pen-blade-pointed-sharp) describes writers of piercing criticism.