

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 cartoons

趣

Pronunciation: *qu* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *chui* (Cantonese 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: interesting aspect, enjoyment, amusement, pleasure, fun

Someone/something with 趣 (= 趣味 *qu wei* = amusement~taste = interesting aspect) is described as 有趣 (you *qu* = has~interest = interesting), e.g. art/writings/hobbies/cartoons/conversations etc. 低級趣味 (*di ji qu wei* = low~class~amusement~taste) describes vulgar choice of dress/hangouts/manner of speech etc. 趣事 (*qu shi* = funny~event) means amusing/ funny incident.

濃厚興趣 (*nong hou xing qu* = rich~thick~elation~enjoyment) means deep interest. 樂趣 (*le qu* = joy~interest/fun) means pleasure. Shopping, wine-tasting and other small pleasures of life are 生活情趣 (*sheng huo qing qu* = life-live~feeling~enjoyment). Interesting ink-splashes in a Chinese water-and-ink painting show 墨趣 (*mo qu* = ink~pleasure).

自討沒趣 (*zi tao mei qu* = self~ask/beg~no~fun) describes someone who invited an insult (He asked for it!).