

# 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

諷

Pronunciation: *feng* (Putonghua, 4<sup>th</sup> tone), *fung* (Cantonese 3<sup>rd</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: satire, satirize

諷 = 譏諷 (*ji feng* = jeer~satirize) = 嘲諷 (*chao feng* = jeer~satirize) means making sarcastic/jeering remarks. 冷嘲熱諷 (*leng chao ri feng* = cold-jeer~hot~satirize) means cynical and heated sarcasms. 諷刺文學 (*feng ci wen xue* = satirize~prick~writings~study) = satirical literature.

幽默 (*you mo* = “humour” transliterated) is the essence of諷刺 (*feng ci* = satirize~prick = satire). People with 幽默感 (*you mo gan* = humour~feeling = sense of humour) love 諷刺漫畫 (*feng ci man hua* = satirical cartoons) which satirize various 諷刺對象 (*feng ci dui xiang* = satirize~prick~aim~image = objects of ridicule).

一針見血 (*yi zhen jian xue* = one~needle/prick~see~blood) describes a comment/cartoon that hits the nail on the head.

by Diana Yue