

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 museums

展

Pronunciation: *zhan* (Putonghua, 2nd tone), *jin* (Cantonese 2nd tone)
Basic meaning: unfurl, show, exhibit

展 = 展覽 (*zhan lan* = unfurl/show~look = exhibitions) are held in 展覽廳 (*zhan lan ting* = exhibition~room/hall = showrooms). 展品 (*zhan pin* = show~objects = exhibits) are explained in 說明書 (*shuo ming shu* = say~clear~books = show guides).

博物館 (*bo wu guan* = broad-objects~house) means museums. 畫廊 (*hua lang* = paintings~corridors) means art galleries. Solo exhibitions are 個展 (*ge zhan* = one~show), group exhibitions are 聯展 (*lian zhan* = unite~show). 環球展出 (*huan qiu zhan chu* = circle~ball/globe~exhibit-out) means exhibition going on world tour.

珠寶展覽 (*zhu bao zhan lan* = pearl~treasure~exhibition) = jewelry show. 威尼斯雙年展 (*wei ni si shuang nian zhan* = Venice-transliterated-pair/two-year~exhibition) is the Venice Biennale.

by Diana Yue