

# 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.

In Putonghua (the spoken form of Modern Standard Chinese) each *zi* is pronounced in one of four tones:

1<sup>st</sup> tone: 1 = diacritical mark — pitch: 5 to 5, highest prolonged

2<sup>nd</sup> tone: 2 = diacritical mark / pitch: 3 to 5, middle to high

3<sup>rd</sup> tone: 3 = diacritical mark U pitch: 2 to 1 to 4, low to lowest to high

4<sup>th</sup> tone: 4 = diacritical mark \ pitch: 5 to 1, highest to lowest)

To pronounce each *zi* below, follow its pinyin and the given tone number. Light-sound words, which have no definite pitch, carry no diacritical mark and are marked by 0.

## This week: Words about hunting

誘

Putonghua pronunciation: *you4*

Cantonese pronunciation: *yau5*

Meanings: lead, guide, attract, tempt, lure, entice, seduce

誘 (radical 言 *yan2*, words) means lead/lure. Mentor 誘導 (*you4 dao3* = guide-lead = advises/guides) student. Teenagers need 諄諄善誘 (*zhun1 zhun1 shan4 you4* = patient~patient~good~guide = patient well-intentioned guidance). Inspiration 誘發 (*you4 fa3* = lure~develop = stimulates) creativity.

誘人 (*you4 ren2* = lure~people) means attractive. Grifters plant 餌 (*er3* = bait), 引誘 (*yin3 you4* = lead~lure = lures) target. 色誘 (*se1 you4* = color/beauty~lure) = seduction by women/boys. Footballer accepts club's 利誘 (*li4 you4* = gain~lure = big money offer). Jesus rejected the Devil's 誘惑 (*you4 huo4* = lure~delusion = temptation).

Guerrillas 誘敵深入 (*you4 di2 shen1 ru4* = lure~enemies~to-deeply~penetrate their territory/trap). Hunter 誘捕 (*you4 bu3* = lure~catch/arrest = uses bait to lure and catch) prey.

by Diana Yue