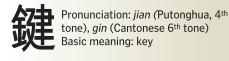
Character Builder 您好參? 终

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 computers



鍵 (radical 金 *jin* = gold/metal) = manipulating key/device: 鋼琴鍵 (*gang qin jian* = steel~musical-instrument~keys = piano keys). 關鍵 (*guan jian* = pass/lock~key) describes crucial moments/factors.

電腦鍵盤 (dian nao jian pan = electric~brain~key~board = computer keyboards) have 字鍵 (zi jian = word~keys), 數字鍵 (shu zi jian = number~word~keys = number keys), 功能鍵 (gong neng jian = achieve~ability~keys = function keys). 鍵擊 (jian ji = key~hit) means keystrokes (cf. brushstrokes in writing).

In文字處理 (wen zi chu li = language-word-handle-organize = word processing) we 鍵入 (jian ru = key-in) words/numbers, format 文件 (wen jian = language-piece = documents), 貯存檔案 (shu quan dang an = keep-preserve-cabinet-record = save files).