

Character Builder 您好嗎? 呀

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

網

Pronunciation: *wang* (Putonghua, 3rd tone), *mong* (Cantonese 5th tone)
Basic meaning: net, web

網 (radical = 絲 *si* = silk/fabric) means net/web. The Internet is 互聯網 (*hu lian wang* = mutual-link~net). WorldWideWeb (www) is 萬維網 (*wan wei wang* = ten-thousand~dimension~web).

Netizens (網民 *wang min* = Net~people/population) go on-line (上網 *shang wang* = go-up~Net), surf (衝浪 *chong lang* = crash~waves), browse (瀏覽 *liu lan* = wander~look), roam (漫遊 *man you* = freely~tour). 伺服器 (*si fu qi* = wait~serve~machines = servers) retrieve 網頁 (*wang ye* = web~pages), 網站 (*wang zhan* = web~stands/stops = websites), 資訊 (*zi xun* = materials~messages = information).

網吧 (*wang ba* = Net~bar) = Internet cafes. 網上遊戲 (*wang shang you qi* = Net~on~move~play) = on-line games.