

# 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 guerrilla warfare

擊

Pronunciation: *ji* (Putonghua, 1<sup>st</sup> tone), *gik* (Cantonese, 1<sup>st</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: beat, hit, strike, attack

擊 = beat/strike. Drummers 擊鼓 (*ji gu* = beat~drum). Marksmen 擊中 (*ji zhong* = hit~on~mark) bull's eye. Winners 擊敗 (*ji bai* = fight~defeat) opponents. Attacked, we 還擊 (*huan ji* = return~blow = fight back), 迎擊 (*ying ji* = welcome/face~attack = take on approaching enemy), 擊退 (*ji tui* = fight~retreat = fight/beat and drive away) attackers. Rockets 擊毀 (*ji hui* = hit~destroy) enemy tanks/planes, 擊斃 (*ji bi* = hit~dead = kill) enemy soldiers/civilians.

Financial crises 衝擊 (*chong ji* = rush~attack = challenge/shake/attack) the stock market, 打擊 (*da ji* = hit~beat = shakes up/weakens) consumers' confidence

游擊隊 (*you ji dui* = move~attack~team) = guerrilla army/squad. 游擊戰術 (*you ji zhan shu* = guerrilla-war~method) = guerrilla strategies.

by Diana Yue