

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

追

Pronunciation: *zhui* (Putonghua, 1st tone), *juí* (Cantonese, 1st tone)
Basic meaning: follow, chase, pursue

追 = follow/pursue. Disciples 追隨 (*zhui sui* = follow~accompany/serve) Buddha/Christ. Lions 追逐 (*zhui zhu* = follow~chase) prey. Suitors 追求 (*zhui qiu* = pursue~beg = court) sweethearts. Creditors 追債 (*zhui zhai* = chase~debt = chase debtors for payment).

Idealists 追尋 (*zhui xun* = pursue~seek) dreams. Detectives 追蹤 (*zhui zong* = follow~track = trail) suspects. Sages advise “窮寇莫追” (*qiong kou mo zhui* = cornered-robbers~don't~chase), because they might fight back recklessly.

Sixteen-word motto containing the Chinese Red Army's guerrilla strategy: “敵進我退 *di jin wo tui* = enemy~advances,~we~retreat, 敵駐我擾 *di zhu wo rao* = enemy~stations,~we~harass, 敵疲我打 *di pi wo da* = enemy~tired,~we~attack, 敵退我追 *di tui wo zhui* = enemy~retreats,~we~chase”.

by Diana Yue