

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 supermarkets

貨

Pronunciation: *huo* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *foh* (Cantonese, 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: goods

貨 = 貨物 (*huo wu* = goods~things = goods). 買手 (*mai shou* = buy~hand = purchasers) 入貨 (*ri huo* = enter/buy~goods). 貨車 (*huo che* = goods~vehicle = trucks/vans) 送貨 (*song huo* = deliver~goods). Logistics is 貨運 (*huo yun* = goods~transport) = 物流 (*wu liu* = things~flow).

超級市場 (*chao ji shi chang* = super~class~market~square = supermarkets) is 零售業 (*ling shou ye* = separate~sell~profession = retail business). 貨色 (*huo se* = goods~color) means quality/variety of goods. Goods' quick turnover is 貨如輪轉 (*huo ru lun zhuan* = goods~resemble~wheel~turn).

If sold 假貨 (*jia huo* = fake~goods) or 貨不對辦 (*huo bu dui ban* = goods~not~match~sample = defected/substandard), buyers 退貨 (*tui huo* = return~goods/items).

by Diana Yue