

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 news reportage

報

Pronunciation: *bao* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *man* (Cantonese, 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: inform, report, newspaper, return

報 means report/return. 報導 (*bao dao* = report-guide) = reportage. TV anchormen 報告新聞 (*bao gao xin wen* = report-tell-news). Executives submit 報告 (*bao gao* = report-tell = reports). Applicants 報名 (*bao ming* = report-name = apply-to/enroll-on programs). Victims want 報復 (*bao fu* = return-recover = revenge).

報刊 (*bao kan* = report-publish) are newspapers/journals. 報社 (*bao she* = newspaper-society = newspaper/journal companies) publish 日報 (*ri bao* = day-report = dailies), 週報 (*zhou bao* = week-report = weeklies), 小報 (*xiao bao* = small-newspapers = tabloids). 報人 (*bao ren* = newspaper-man) sees 辦報 (*ban bao* = establish-operate-newspaper) as mission/career.

報喜不報憂 (*bao xi bu bao you* = report-happy/good-no-report-sad/bad) means selective reporting covering good news only.