

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 dancing

舞

Pronunciation: *wu* (Putonghua, 1st tone), *mo* (Cantonese, 5th tone)
Basic meaning: dance

舞 = 舞蹈 (*wu dao* = hands-wave~feet-swing) = 跳舞 (*tiao wu* = jump/leap~dance): 芭蕾舞 (*ba lei* = “ballet”-transliterated), 歌舞劇 (*ge wu ju* = song~dance~drama = musicals). 跳秧歌 (*tiao yang ge* = jump~ padi-shoots~song = padi-planting dance), 孔雀舞 (*kong que wu* = peacock dance) are Chinese 民族舞 (*min zu wu* = people~race~dance = ethnic dances). 舞龍 (*wu long* = dance~dragon = dragon-dance), 舞獅 (*wu shi* = dance-lion = lion-dance) require kung-fu skills.

華爾滋 (*hua er zi* = “waltz”-transliterated), 探戈 (*tan ge* = “tango”-transliterated) are ballroom dances. Night-clubs have 脫衣舞 (*tuo yi wu* = take-off~clothes~dance = striptease) shows.

化妝舞會 (*hua zhuang wu hui* = transform~become~makeup~dance~gathering = masquerade balls) are fun events.

by Diana Yue