

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 jurisdiction

辯

Pronunciation: *bian* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *bin* (Cantonese, 6th tone)
Basic meaning: debate, defend with words

辯 (radical 言 *yan* = words) = verbal debate/defense. 辯論 (*bian lun* = debate~discuss = debating) involves 正方 (*zheng fang* = correct/agree~side = proposition team) and 反方 (*fan fang* = oppose~side = opposition team).

訴訟 (*su song* = sue~legal-dispute = litigation) involves 控辯雙方 (*kong bian shuang fang* = sue~defend~pair/both~sides = plaintiff and defense). 辯方律師 (*bian fang lu shi* = defense~law/rules~master = defense lawyer) supply 證據 (*zheng ju* = prove~reference = evidence) and 證人 (*zheng ren* = evidence~person = witnesses), show off 辯才 (*bian cai* = debate~talent = debating skills/eloquence) to 辯駁 (*bian bo* = debate~counter = refute the opponent).

Philosophers use 辯證法 (*bian zheng fa* = debate~prove~method = dialectics) to arrive at conclusions.

by Diana Yue