

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

審

Pronunciation: *shen* (Putonghua, 3rd tone), *sam* (Cantonese, 2nd tone)
Basic meaning: examine, scrutinize, judge, adjudicate

審 = scrutinize/check/judge: 審計 (*shen ji* = check~calculate = audit), 審稿 (*shen gao* = check~review~manuscripts = edit), 審美眼光 (*shen mei yan guang* = examine/judge~beauty~eye~light = aesthetic sense).

審訊 (*shen xun* = trial~ask/hearing) = judicial trial. When a case 開審 (*kai shen* = open/begin~trial), prosecutors/judges 審問 (*shen wen* = trial~ask = question/interrogate) plaintiffs, defendants and witnesses. 陪審團 (*pei shen tuan* = accompany~trial~team = jury) gives verdict at 終審庭 (*zhong shen ting* = final~trial~court = court of final appeal).

Criminals, POWs 受審 (*shou shen* = receive~trial = are tried), receive 審判 (*shen pan* = trial~decision/judgment = judgment). Christians fear 最後的審判 (*zui hou de shen pan* = ultimate~last~'s~trial~judgment = the Last Judgment).

by Diana Yue