

Character Builder 您好學? 呀

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.

In Putonghua (the spoken form of Modern Standard Chinese) each *zi* is pronounced in one of four tones:

1st tone: 1 = diacritical mark — pitch: 5 to 5, highest prolonged

2nd tone: 2 = diacritical mark / pitch: 3 to 5, middle to high

3rd tone: 3 = diacritical mark U pitch: 2 to 1 to 4, low to lowest to high

4th tone: 4 = diacritical mark \ pitch: 5 to 1, highest to lowest)

To pronounce each *zi* below, follow its pinyin and the given tone number. Light-sound words, which have no definite pitch, carry no diacritical mark and are marked by 0.

This week: Words about fever

Putonghua pronunciation: *fa1*

Cantonese pronunciation: *fat1*

Meaning: occur, grow, open up, develop, issue, dispatch, emit, shoot, send, flourish

發 (radical 犮 *bo1*, legs going left-right) means occur/develop. Youngster 發育 (*fa1 yu4* = develop-breed = grows), 發奮 (*fa1 fen4* = develop-lift/assert = makes efforts, works hard), Enterprise 發展 (*fa1 zhan3* = flourish-spread = develops), investors 發財 (*fa1 cai2* = develop-wealth = get rich).

Scientist's 發現 (*fa1 xian4* = open-up-appear = discovery) 啟發 (*qi3 fa1* = open-develop = inspires) researchers. New technology's 發明 (*fa1 ming2* = open-light-up = invention) enables rocket's 發射 (*fa1 she4* = issue-shoot = launching).

Shootings 發生 (*fa1 sheng1* = occur-born = occur), victims 發抖 (*fa1 dou3* = develop-shake = shake/tremble), 發燒 (*fa1 shao1* = develop-heat/fever). Police 發布 (*fa1 bu4* = issues-announces) suspect's identify, 發出 (*fa1 chu1* = occur-out = issues) arrest order.

by Diana Yue