

# 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 Easter



Pronunciation: *xue* (Putonghua, 2<sup>nd</sup> tone), *huet* (Cantonese, 3<sup>rd</sup> tone)  
Basic meaning: blood

血 = 血液 (*xue yi* = blood~liquid): 血管 (*xue guan* = blood~pipe = blood~vessels), 經血 (*jing xue* = menstrual~blood), 輸血 (*shu xue* = transfer/give~blood). Sunset clouds are 血紅 (*xue hong* = blood~red).

Murderers are 冷血 (*leng xue* = cold~blooded). Martyrs 灑熱血 (*sa re xue* = spill~hot~blood = sacrifice body/life). Sons are father's 血裔 (*xue yi* = blood~offspring). Hard-earned savings are 血汗錢 (*xue han qian* = blood~sweat~money). Artists spend 心血 (*xin xue* = heart's~blood = mental energy) to create artwork.

傷口 (*shang kou* = injury~mouth = wounds) cause 流血 (*liu xue* = flow~blood = bleeding/haemorrhage). 聖餐 (*sheng can* = holy~meal/supper = Holy Communion/Eucharist)'s wine symbolizes 基督的血 (*Ji Du de xue* = "Christo"-transliterated~'s~blood).

by Diana Yue