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 the Cold War

**Pronunciation:** *su* (Putonghua, 3rd tone), *so* (Cantonese, 1st tone)

Basic meaning: revive, transliteration of “so” in “soviet”


*by Diana Yue*