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 hiking

力 (li qì = strength-air/energy) = physical strength. 大力士 (da li shì = big-strength-men, e.g. Samson) lift weights. Tennis-players train 體力 (ti lì = body-strength), 腕力 (wan lì = wrist-strength), jump/hit with 力度 (li dù = strength-degree = force).

水力 (shuǐ lì = water-power), 風力 (fēng lì = wind-power) generate 電力 (diàn lì = electric-power). 人力資源 (rén lì zīyuán = man-power-capital-source) = manpower resources.


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