TANGRAM is an ancient Chinese puzzle. Made up of seven pieces, the puzzle can be made into figures representing animals, people's activities and objects. The fewer the number of sides, the harder it is to arrange the final combination. Take the challenge now and see if you can assemble the following combination.

Readers can now play Tangram online at: http://tangram.hkheadline.com/eng/

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 elections

民 = 人民 (ren min = person-masses) = the people. 民間 (min jian = people-among) is how things are among the common people. 民歌 (min ge = people-song) means folksongs.

民族 (min zu = people-race = nationalism), 民權 (min quan = people-rights = civil rights), 民生 (min sheng = people’s livelihood) are collectively called 三民主意 (san min zhu yi = three-people-ism = Three People’s Principles). 民法典 (min fa dian = people-law-code) = civil code.

民意調查 (min yi diao cha = people-feeling-survey) means opinion polls. 民主 (min zhu = people-master = people have say) = democracy. The official organ of the PRC is 人民日報 (Ren min ri bao = people-day-newspaper = the People’s Daily).

Pronunciation: min (Putonghua, 2^{nd} tone), man (Cantonese 4^{th} tone)
Basic meaning: people

by Diana Yue