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 horticulture

樹 (shu) = tree, shrub

Pronunciation: shu (Putonghua, 4th tone), sue (Cantonese 6th tone)

Basic meaning: tree, shrub

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