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 Buddhism

覺 (jue, 2nd tone) means sense/realize. However, 覺 (jiao, 4th tone) means slumber, as in 睡覺 (shui jiao = sleep-wake = sleep), 睡一覺 (shui yi jiao = sleep-a-sleep = sleep for some time).

視覺 (shi jue = sight-sense) = sense of sight, 聽覺 (ting jue) = hearing, 嗅覺 (chou jue) = smell, 味覺 (wei jue) = taste, 觸覺 (chu jue) = touch. 覺得 (jue de = sense-acquire) = 感覺 (gan jue = feel-sense) = feel.

Spiritually, 覺悟 (jue wu = sense-realize) = awakening/enlightenment. Repentence is 覺悟前非 (jue wu qian fei = sense-realize-previous-wongs). 悟道 (wu dao = understand-way) = attain enlightenment. 佛 (fo = Buddha) is called 覺者 (jue zhe), the Enlightened One.

Pronunciation: jue (Putonghua, 2nd tone), gok (Cantonese 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: sense, realization, enlightenment