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 thunderstorms

雨天 (yu tian = rain-sky/day) means rainy day. 晴天 (qing tian = sunny-sky/day) means sunny day.

In 雨季 (yu ji = rain-season), when the sky 下大雨 (xia da yu = fall-big-rain = rains heavily), people wear 雨衣 (yu yi = rain-coats), 雨鞋 (yu xie = rain-shoes), take 雨傘 (yu shan = umbrellas). 雷雨 (lei yu = thunder-rain) = rain with thunders, 微雨 (wei yu = tiny-rain) = drizzle.


Pronunciation: yu (Putonghua, 3rd tone), yue (Cantonese 5th tone)
Basic meaning: rain

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