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 Victoria Harbour**

海港 (hai gang = sea-port) = seaport/harbour. Victoria Harbour is “維多利亞港” (wei duo li ya gang = Victoria-transliterated-harbour), shortened to “維港” (wei gang).

The Chinese name “香港” (Xiang Gang / Hong Kong = fragrant-harbour) is shortened to “港”: 港元 (gang yuan = Hongkong-dollar), 港商 (gang shang = Hongkong merchants), 港龍 (gang long = Hongkong-dragon = Dragonair).

港 = 港口 (gang kou = port/harbour-mouth) means port. 轉口港 (zhuan kou gang = transfer-mouth-port = entrepot), 貨櫃港 (huo gui gang = goods-cupboard-port = container port), 空港 (kong gang = air-port) all facilitate 物流服務業 (wu liu fu wu ye = things~flow~service~profession = logistics service profession).

**Pronunciation:**

港 (Putonghua, 3rd tone), 江 (Cantonese 2nd tone)

Basic meaning: port, harbour

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