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

深 Pronunciation: shen (Putonghua, 1st tone), sam (Cantonese 1st tone)
Basic meaning: deep, depth

Chinese national principles are “深挖洞，广积粮，不称霸” (shen wa dong, guang ji liang, bu cheng ba), i.e. deeply-dig-holes (defense), widely-accumulate-grain (economy), no-claim/become-hegemony (foreign policy).