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 cartoons

諷 = 諷諷 (ji feng = jeer-satirize) = 嘲諷 (chao feng = jeer-satirize) means making sarcastic/jeering remarks. 冷嘲熱諷 (leng chao ri feng = cold-jeer-hot-satirize) means cynical and heated sarcasms. 諷刺文學 (feng ci wen xue = satirize-prick-writings-study) = satirical literature.

幽默 (you mo = “humour” transliterated) is the essence of諷刺 (feng ci = satirize-prick = satire). People with 幽默感 (you mo gan = humour-feeling = sense of humour) love 諷刺漫畫 (feng ci man hua = satirical cartoons) which satirize various 諷刺對象 (feng ci dui xiang = satirize-prick-aim-image = objects of ridicule).

一針見血 (yi zhen jian xue = one-needle/prick-see-blood) describes a comment/cartoon that hits the nail on the head.

by Diana Yue