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 museums

Pronunciation: yi (Putonghua, 4th tone), ngai (Cantonese 6th tone)
Basic meaning: art, skill

by Diana Yue