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 computers

網 (radical = 絲 si = silk/fabric) means net/web. The Internet is 互聯網 (hu lian wang = mutual-link-net). WorldWideWeb (www) is 萬維網 (wan wei wang = ten-thousand-dimension-web).

Netizens (網民 wang min = Net-people/population) go on-line (上網 shang wang = go-up-Net), surf (衝浪 chong lang = crash-waves), browse (瀏覽 liu lan = wander-look), roam (漫遊 man you = freely-tour). 伺服器 (si fu qi = wait-serve-machines = servers) retrieve 網頁 (wang ye = web-pages), 網站 (wang zhan = web-stands/stops = websites), 資訊 (zi xun = materials-messages = information).

網吧 (wang ba = Net-bar) = Internet cafes. 網上遊戲 (wang shang you qi = Net-on-move-play) = on-line games.

by Diana Yue