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 borrowing

借 = borrow: 借用 (jie yong = borrow-use), 借助 (jie zhu = borrow/solicit-help).


by Diana Yue