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 jurisdiction

控 = 控制 (kong zhi = steer-handle) = control. 控股公司 (kong gu gong si = control-stocks-public-bureau) = holdings company. Big capital 操控股市 (cao kong gu shi = manipulate-control-stock-market).

Hongkong’s jurisdiction functions on 香港法例 (Xiang Gang Fa Li = Honkong-ordinances = the Laws of Hong Kong). Police 控告 (kong gao = allege-tell = sue) law-offenders, calls 控方證人 (kong fang zheng ren = sued-side-evidence-person = prosecution’s witness). In civil cases, 原告 (yuan gao = original-sue = plaintiff) 指控 (zhi kong = point-accuse/allege) and sue 被告 (bei gao = is-sued = defendant). 律師 (lu shi = law/rules-masters = lawyers) advise clients.

Righteous people 控訴 (kong su = sue-tell = protest) against social injustice.

Pronunciation: kong (Putonghua, 4th tone), hung (Cantonese, 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: control, protest, prosecute, sue

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