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 supermarkets


超級市場 (chao ji shi chang = super-class-market-square = supermarkets) is 零售業 (ling shou ye = separate-sell-profession = retail business). 貨色 (huo se = goods-color) means quality/variety of goods. Goods’ quick turnover is 貨如輪轉 (huo ru lun zhuan = goods-resemble-wheel-turn).

If sold 假貨 (jia huo = fake-goods) or 貨不對辦 (huo bu dui ban = goods-not-match-sample = defected/substandard), buyers 退貨 (tui huo = return-goods/items).

by Diana Yue