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 news reportage

## 報

Pronunciation: *bao* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *man* (Cantonese, 3rd tone)  
Basic meaning: inform, report, newspaper, return


報刊 (*bao kan* = report-publish) are newspapers/journals. 報社 (*bao she* = newspaper-society = newspaper/journal companies) publish 日報 (*ri bao* = day-report = dailies), 週報 (*zhou bao* = week-report = weeklies), 小報 (*xiao bao* = small-newspapers = tabloids). 報人 (*bao ren* = newspaper-man) sees 辦報 (*ban bao* = establish-operate-newspaper) as mission/career.

報喜不報憂 (*bao xi bu bao you* = report-happy/good-no-report-sad/bad) means selective reporting covering good news only.

*by Diana Yue*