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 myths and legends

Pronunciation: bai (Putonghua, 4\textsuperscript{th} tone), baai (Cantonese, 3\textsuperscript{rd} tone)
Basic meaning: worship

Religious followers 信教 (xin jiao = believe/faith-religion), 拜神 (bai shen = worship-gods/spirits).
Chinese people 敬拜 (jing bai = respect/adore-worship) Confucius, 禪佛 (li Fo = respect/rituals-Buddha = worship Buddha), 拜菩薩 (bai Pu Sa = worship-bodhisattvas).
Ancient Persians followed 拜火教 (bai huo jiao = worship-fire-religion = Zoroastrianism).
Muslims 跪拜 (gui bai = kneel-worship) in mosques, worship 安拉 (An La = Allah).
Catholics meditate the Passion of Christ by 拜苦路 (bai ku lu = worship-bitter/suffering-road = spiritual pilgrimage of the Stations of the Cross), 守禮拜 (shou li bai = keep-ritual-worship = attend church service).

by Diana Yue