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 swindlers


Schemers 利用 (li yong = advantage-use = use/manipulate) others. Traitors 見利忘義 (jian li wang yi = see-gain-forget-righteousness/principles).

Pronunciation: li (Putonghua, 4th tone), lei (Cantonese, 6th tone)  
Basic meaning: benefit, advantage, gain, interest, profit