Character Builder 您好嗎？

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.

In Putonghua (the spoken form of Modern Standard Chinese) each zi is pronounced in one of four tones:

1st tone: 1 = diacritical mark — pitch: 5 to 5, highest prolonged
2nd tone: 2 = diacritical mark / pitch: 3 to 5, middle to high
3rd tone: 3 = diacritical mark U pitch: 2 to 1 to 4, low to lowest to high
4th tone: 4 = diacritical mark \ pitch: 5 to 1, highest to lowest

To pronounce each zi below, follow its pinyin and the given tone number. Light-sound words, which have no definite pitch, carry no diacritical mark and are marked by 0.

This week: Words about wound treatment

傷
Putonghua pronunciation: shang1
Cantonese pronunciation: seung1
Meanings: injure, wound, harm, lament

Active verb 傷 = 傷害 (shang1 hai4 = injure-harm). Passive verb 傷 = 受傷 (shou4 shang1 = receive-injury = wounded/injured).
傷口 (shang1 kou3 = wound-mouth) = open wound. 傷痕 (shang1 hen2 = wound-mark) = scar. 內傷 (nei4 shang1 = internal-wound) = injury in bones/organs.
救傷車 (jiu4 shang1 che1 = save-wounded-car = ambulance) rushes 傷者 (shang1 zhe3 = wounded-person) to hospital.
Doctor examines 傷勢 (shang1 shi4 = wounded-condition): 輕傷 (qing1 shang1 = slightly-wounded)? 重傷 (zhong4 shang1 = heavily-wounded)? Earthquakes cause 傷亡 (shang1 wang2 = injuries-deaths).

Excessive sex/drinking 傷身 (shang1 shen1 = harm-body = undermines health). Deceased's family 傷心 (shang1 xin1 = wound-heart = are sad/heartbroken), 傷逝 (shang1 shi4 = sad/lament-pass-away = lament passing of deceased/things/ years).

by Diana Yue