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 jurisdiction

辯 (radical 言 yan = words) = verbal debate/defense.
辯論 (bian lun = debate-discuss = debating) involves 正方 (zheng fang = correct/agree-side = proposition team) and 反方 (fan fang = oppose-side = opposition team).

訴訟 (su song = sue-legal-dispute = litigation) involves 控辯雙方 (kong bian shuang fang = sue-defend-pair/both-sides = plaintiff and defense). 辯方律師 (bian fang lu shi = defense-law/rules-master = defense lawyer) supply 證據 (zheng ju = prove-reference = evidence) and 證人 (zheng ren = evidence-person = witnesses), show off 辯才 (bian cai = debate-talent = debating skills/eloquence) to 辯駁 (bian bo = debate-counter = refute the opponent).

Philosophers use 辯證法 (bian zheng fa = debate-prove-method = dialectics) to arrive at conclusions.

by Diana Yue