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 Easter

血 = 血液 (xue yi = blood-liquid): 血管 (xue guan = blood-pipe = blood-vessels), 經血 (jing xue = menstrual-blood), 輸血 (shu xue = transfer/give-blood). Sunset clouds are 血紅 (xue hong = blood-red).

 Murderers are 冷血 (leng xue = cold-blooded). Martyrs 灑熱血 (sa re xue = spill-hot-blood = sacrifice body/life). Sons are father’s 血裔 (xue yi = blood-offspring). Hard-earned savings are 血汗錢 (xue han qian = blood-sweat-money). Artists spend心血 (xin xue = heart’s-blood = mental energy) to create artwork.

傷口 (shang kou = injury-mouth = wounds) cause 流血 (liu xue = flow-blood = bleeding/haemorrhage).

聖餐 (sheng can = holy-meal/supper = Holy Communion/Eucharist)'s wine symbolizes 基督的血 (Ji Du de xue = “Christo”-transliterated-’s-blood).

by Diana Yue