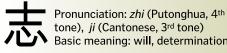
Character Builder **您**

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 hiking



tone), ji (Cantonese, 3rd tone) Basic meaning: will, determination 意志 (vi zhi = idea~determination) = will. 志向 (zhi xiang = will-direction) = aim. Athletes need 意志力 (yi zhi li = idea~determination~power = will-power).

Aspiring youths 立志 (*li zhi* = erect/estabs**l**ish~aim = decide/vow) to fulfill 志願 (zhi yuan = aim~wish = resolution) of becoming soldier/athlete/artist etc.. believe 有志者事竟成 (you zhi zhe shi jing cheng = has~will~person~acts~eventually~succeed = when there's a will there's a way). 少年得志 (shao nian de zhi = young~years~obtain~aim) describes young people already enjoying fame/success.

Converts 決志 (jue zhi = determine~aim = confirm faith). Martyrs 以死明志 (yi si ming zhi = by~dying~ clearly-show~resolution). China sent 志願軍 (zhi yuan jun = aim~willing~army = volunteer army) to the Korean War.