

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.

This week: Words about thunderstorms

張

Pronunciation: *zhang* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *jeung* (Cantonese 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: rise, swell, surge

漲 shares its radical 氵 (= 水 *shui* = water) with other “watery” verbs: 游 (*you* = swim), 流 (*liu* = flow), 湧 (*yong* = gush), 濺 (*qian* = splash), 浸 (*jin* = soak/baptize), 漫 (*man* = spread over), 淹 (*yan* = drown).

潮漲 (*chao zhang* = tide~rise) = high tide, 潮退 (*chao tui* = tide~retreat) = low tide. 水位高漲 (*shui wei gao zhang* = water~position~high~swell) = rising of water level. 物價高漲 (*wu jia gao zhang* = things~price~high~swell/surge) = soaring prices. 壓抑漲風 (*ya yi zhang feng* = press~suppress~rise~wind/trend) means suppressing the price rise.

水漲船高 (*shui zhang chuan gao* = water~swell~boat~high) means rise of A (e.g. labour costs) causes rise of B (e.g. building costs).

by Diana Yue