

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 the crime

騙

Pronunciation: *pian* (Putonghua, 4th tone), *pin* (Cantonese, 3rd tone)
Basic meaning: fool, cheat, hoodwink, swindle, con

騙 = cheating. 騙子 (*pian zi* = swindle-person) = cheats/swindlers. Adjective 騙人 (*pian ren* = cheat/fool-person) means 說大話 (*shuo da hua* = say-big-words = telling lies = being dishonest).

Naïve people 被騙 (*bei pian* = passive-are- cheated), 騙去 (*pian qu* = cheat-gone = cheated of) savings/jewelry. Spies 騙過 (*pian guo* = cheat-pass = out-smart/out-trick) enemies to collect information.

千術 (*qian shu* = thousand-method) means confidence tricks. 老千 (*lao qian* = old-thousand = con-men) organize 騙局 (*pian ju* = swindle-set-up = fraud/hoax), 出千 (*chu qian* = out-thousand = use confidence tricks) to defraud people, 騙錢 (*pian qian* = cheat-money). 騙財騙色 (*pian cai pian se* = cheat-wealth-cheat-color) means playing Romeo and cheating women of their money.

by Diana Yue