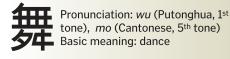


The basic unit of the Chinese language is the zi (字), i.e. a Chinese word. Each zi has a written form (called a character, made up of strokes), a sound (made up of consonant and vowel) and a meaning (or multiple meanings). When we speak or write Chinese, we string zi together to form terms, phrases and sentences.

This week: Words about dancing



舞 = 舞蹈 (wu dao = hands-wave-feet-swing) = 跳舞 (tiao wu = jump/leap-dance): 芭蕾 (ba lei = "ballet"-transliterated), 歌舞劇 (ge wu ju = song-dance-drama = musicals). 跳秧歌 (tiao yang ge = jump-padi-shoots-song = padi-planting dance), 孔雀舞 (kong que wu = peacock dance) are Chinese 民族舞 (min zu wu = people-race-dance = ethnic dances). 舞龍 (wu long = dance-dragon = dragon-dance), 舞獅 wu shi = dance-lion = lion-dance) require kung-fu skills.

華爾滋 (hua er zi = "waltz"-transliterated), 探戈 (tan ge = "tango"-transliterated) are ballroom dances. Night-clubs have 脱衣舞 (tuo yi wu = take-off-clothes-dance = striptease) shows.

化妝舞會 (hua zhuang wu hui = transformbecome-makeup-dance-gathering = masquerade balls) are fun events.