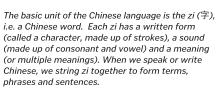
Character Builder 🥸





In Putonghua (the spoken form of Modern Standard Chinese) each zi is pronounced in one of four tones:

1st tone: 1 = diacritical mark — pitch: 5 to 5, highest prolonged

 2^{nd} tone: 2 = diacritical mark / pitch: 3 to 5, middle to high

3rd tone: 3 = diacritical mark U pitch: 2 to 1 to 4, low to lowest to high

4th tone: 4 = diacritical mark \ pitch: 5 to 1, highest to lowest)

To pronounce each zi below, follow its pinyin and the given tone number. Light-sound words, which have no definite pitch, carry no diacritical mark and are marked by 0.

This week: Words about kitchens



Putonghua pronunciation: *lu2*Cantonese pronunciation: *lo4*Meanings: stove, furnace, fireplace, hearth, oven

爐 (radical 火 huo3, fire) covers kitchen's 火爐 (huo3 lu2 = fire~stove), factory's 鍋爐 (guo1 lu2 = pot~oven = boiler), temple's 香爐 (xiang1 lu2 = incense~burner). Rubbish is burned in 焚化爐 (fen2 hua4 lu2 = burn~transform~oven = incinerators).

爐灶 (*lu2 zao4* = stove-fire-hole = kitchen range/counter) uses 燃料 (*ran2 liao4* = burning-material = fuel): 柴 (*chai2*, firewood), 電 (*dian4*, electricity), 瓦斯 (*wa3 si1* = "gas"-transliterated = 煤 氣 *mei2 qi4* = coal-gas). 灶君 (*zao4 jun1* = kitchen-counterking) = Kitchen God in Chinese mythology.

In Hongkong, 吃火鍋 (*chi1 huo3 guo1* = eat-hot-pot) is called 打邊爐 (*da3 bian1 lu2* = hit-side-stove). 新鮮出爐 (*xin1 xian1 chu1 lu2* = new-fresh-exit-oven) describes freshly-baked buns or latest news.

by Diana Yue