### Pinyin pronunciation tables

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>baw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>paw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>maw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>faw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>duh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>tuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>nuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>luh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>guh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>kuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>huh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>gee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>q</td>
<td>chee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>dzuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>tsuh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>suh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zh</td>
<td>jir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>chir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sh</td>
<td>shir</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>rj</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>ooh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>ee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### You can listen to the sounds on tracks 1 and 2 of the CD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>ah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>i</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao</td>
<td>ow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an</td>
<td>ahn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ang</td>
<td>ahng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>aw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>oong</td>
<td>oong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou</td>
<td>oh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>uh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>ay</td>
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<tr>
<td>en</td>
<td>un</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eng</td>
<td>ung</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>er</td>
<td>ar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>ee / uh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ia</td>
<td>ya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iao</td>
<td>yaow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ian</td>
<td>yan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iang</td>
<td>yahng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ie</td>
<td>yeh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>een</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ing</td>
<td>eeng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iong</td>
<td>yoong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iu</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>oo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ua</td>
<td>wa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uo</td>
<td>waw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui</td>
<td>way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uai</td>
<td>why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uan</td>
<td>won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un</td>
<td>un</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uang</td>
<td>wahng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ü</td>
<td>yoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ue</td>
<td>oo-weh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>üan</td>
<td>ywan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ün</td>
<td>yewn</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Foreword

Five good reasons to learn Chinese:

1. China has the biggest population in the world—1.3 billion people
2. If you speak English and Mandarin you can communicate with over half the world’s population
3. China is becoming an economic superpower
4. The Chinese language is fascinating
5. You get much more out of a visit to China if you can speak some Chinese

There are three major languages spoken in China. These are Mandarin, Shanghaiese, and Cantonese. Mandarin has more native speakers than any other language in the world.
Chinese people learn Mandarin too

At the fall of the Qing Dynasty in 1911, the incoming Nationalist government decided that Mandarin should become the standard language of China, replacing the many languages and dialects that made communication between people difficult.

It was originally thought that Mandarin would be spoken by everyone by 2030. However, because of the size of China and the number of languages spoken, teachers in many schools still give classes in the local language. Mandarin is studied like a foreign language class, to use for speaking with non-locals.

Using this book

You can take what you like from this book—an overview of the culture, with some insight into the language on the way, or use it as a study guide to become a competent beginner. Whatever your approach, this book is a good place to start.

The secret to learning Chinese is:

慢慢来！Màn màn lái! Take it easy!
Pinyin

Pinyin is the name of the system we use to spell out the sounds of Chinese words in Roman letters. It is a written aid to pronunciation.

No alphabet

Chinese writing doesn’t use an alphabet. Instead, it is made up of a series of characters, each of which are made up of mini pictures. We need help to know how to pronounce them, and that’s where pinyin comes in.

For example, how do you say this character?

猫

Using pinyin, you pronounce it “māo” (and it means “cat”).

Without knowing pinyin, it is very difficult for people to learn Chinese as a foreign language.

It is important to remember that pinyin is only a guide. The best way to learn the sounds of any language is to copy what you hear.
So put on the CD!
In this book, when you see this symbol, you can hear what is on the page by listening to the accompanying CD.

About pinyin
Pinyin was adopted by mainland China in 1958 and is the Romanization system used there today, and in this book. Other systems, such as “Wade Giles,” do exist, although they are used less and less.

How to use it
Chinese words are made up of one-syllable sounds, such as “ma.”

- These sounds all start with an “initial.”
  In the word “ma,” the initial is the “m” sound.

- And they all end with a vowel sound called a “final.”
  In the word “ma,” the final is the “a” sound.

On the next few pages there are tables, first for the initials, then the finals. It is really worth going through each sound with the accompanying CD.
**Table 1: Initials**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Initial</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Rough English sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>baw</td>
<td>bore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>paw</td>
<td>pore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>maw</td>
<td>more</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>faw</td>
<td>fall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>duh</td>
<td>done</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>t</td>
<td>tuh</td>
<td>tore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>nuh</td>
<td>nail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>luh</td>
<td>late</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>guh</td>
<td>guard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>kuh</td>
<td>come</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>huh</td>
<td>loch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>gee</td>
<td>jeep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>q</td>
<td>chee</td>
<td>cheese</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>x</td>
<td>she</td>
<td>ship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>z</td>
<td>dzuh</td>
<td>“ds” in suds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>tsuh</td>
<td>“ts” in cats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>s</td>
<td>suh</td>
<td>see</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zh</td>
<td>jir</td>
<td>germ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ch</td>
<td>chir</td>
<td>chin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sh</td>
<td>shir</td>
<td>shirt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>r</td>
<td>rj</td>
<td>rank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>w</td>
<td>ooh</td>
<td>swoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>y</td>
<td>ee</td>
<td>ye</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This sound is between “ship” and “sip.”

Spread your lips in a smile and curl your tongue up so the tip touches the roof of your mouth.
### Table 2: Finals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Rough English sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>ah</td>
<td>are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ai</td>
<td>i</td>
<td>eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ao</td>
<td>ow</td>
<td>owl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>an</td>
<td>ahn</td>
<td>ant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ang</td>
<td>ahng</td>
<td>bang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>aw</td>
<td>straw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ong</td>
<td>oong</td>
<td>too + ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ou</td>
<td>oh</td>
<td>go</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>uh</td>
<td>duh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ei</td>
<td>ay</td>
<td>say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>en</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eng</td>
<td>ung</td>
<td>lung</td>
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<tr>
<td>er</td>
<td>ar</td>
<td>are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>ee / uh</td>
<td>tea / huh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ia</td>
<td>ya</td>
<td>yak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iao</td>
<td>yaow</td>
<td>meow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ian</td>
<td>yan</td>
<td>yen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iang</td>
<td>yahng</td>
<td>y + angst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ie</td>
<td>yeh</td>
<td>yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>in</td>
<td>een</td>
<td>din</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ing</td>
<td>eeng</td>
<td>mowing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iong</td>
<td>yoong</td>
<td>you + ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iu</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>Cleo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“i” is generally pronounced “ee” except after these initials: c, ch, r, s, sh, z, zh, when it is “uh.”
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Final</th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Rough English sound</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>u</td>
<td>oo</td>
<td>moo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ua</td>
<td>wa</td>
<td>suave</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uo</td>
<td>waw</td>
<td>war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ui</td>
<td>way</td>
<td>way</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uai</td>
<td>why</td>
<td>why</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uan</td>
<td>won</td>
<td>oo-won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>un</td>
<td>un</td>
<td>won</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>uang</td>
<td>wahng</td>
<td>wan + ng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ü</td>
<td>yoo</td>
<td>you</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ue</td>
<td>oo-weh</td>
<td>you + eh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>üan</td>
<td>ywan</td>
<td>you + wan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ün</td>
<td>yewn</td>
<td>you + n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Using the tables**

When you see a word in pinyin:

1. Look up the first letter or two letters, which are usually consonants, on the **Initials table**.
2. Then look up the last letter or letters, which begin with a vowel, on the **Finals table**.
3. Put the two sounds together, and **hey presto**!
Practice time

Listen to the pronunciation of these words on the CD, then copy what you hear.

1. yi  6. qing  11. quan
2. zhong  7. xi  12. cong
3. cui  8. cai  13. zai
4. qiu  9. re  14. duo
5. yue  10. shi  15. nü

Pinyin pointers

• You need to look at each word carefully—they can look similar, but have very different meanings.

• Many words in Chinese are made up of more than one sound. You tell where each sound ends and each new sound begins by using the initials as markers.

• Pinyin also includes “tone marks.” Turn the page to find out what these are for...
Tone deaf?
The tones may seem complicated, but you will soon get the hang of them. Consider these facts:

- There are more tonal languages in the world than nontonal.
- Cantonese has at least eight tones. Imagine that!
China has over 80 dialects, and for many Chinese people, Mandarin is not their first language—Chinese people can make mistakes with their tones, too.

People who can’t sing a note (or are “tone deaf”) may feel they can’t learn Chinese, but this is not the case. It makes no difference, since tonal languages are relatively pitched, not absolutely pitched.
Learning the tones

If you don’t learn the tones, quite simply, people will find it hard to understand what you say. Practice your tones by saying these words and listening to them on the CD.

1. māo cat
2. yuè moon
3. gǒu dog
4. rén person
5. shǒu hand
6. shù tree
7. chē car
8. yáng sheep
9. shū book
10. máo feather
Saying tones in a row

Once you have grasped saying single-sound words with tones, try to put a few together, since you will need to do so when speaking Chinese.

1. sháozí (spoon)
2. dìtú (map)
3. xióngmāo (panda)
4. gōnggòngqìchē (bus)
5. xīnnián kuài lè! (happy new year!)

This syllable is the neutral tone.

Don’t worry about making funny faces while you try to get the tones right.

BANG!
Characters

The Chinese writing system is one of the most beautiful and ancient writing systems in the world. Before you start trying to get your head around it, it’s worth taking a few minutes to find out a bit about it.

Two styles

There are two forms of writing in existence today. The “traditional” characters are still used in most Chinese-speaking countries outside mainland China. Mainland China predominantly uses “simplified” characters, and the simplified characters will be used in this book.

How many characters are there?

Altogether? More than 40,000—although many are very rare. 2,000 characters are needed for basic literacy (or to read a Chinese newspaper).

A well-educated person in China would know 4,000–5,000.
Top to bottom...

... right to left. Traditionally, Chinese characters have been laid out in the opposite way from English (although most modern publications follow the Western way).
Four types

There are four different types of Chinese characters that you will learn to write. These intermingle with each other in any block of Chinese text.

**Pictographs**
The character is a picture of something. For example, the character for “tree” looks like a tree.

![Tree character](image)

**Ideographs**
The character is a picture of an idea. For example, the character for “one” is just one line.

![One character](image)
Putting them together
The Chinese expanded their written language by putting pictographs or ideographs together to make new characters.

This is a pictograph for “woman.”

This is a pictograph for “child.”

Ancient Chinese people thought “woman” and “child” together was “good.”

Phonographs
To expand the language further, the meaning of one character was combined with the sound of another to make phonographs. For example, the characters for “far” and “garden” share the same part that gives them their pronunciation: 元 (yuán). Their meanings are given by the other parts of the characters.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>sound</th>
<th>meaning</th>
<th>a new character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>元</td>
<td>to walk quickly</td>
<td>far</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yuán</td>
<td>元</td>
<td>yuán</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yuán</td>
<td>enclosure</td>
<td>yuán</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: the sounds of the characters are almost the same—but they have different tones.
The writing of Chinese characters follows strict rules. The first thing to understand is that characters are made up of set strokes. These strokes are always written in the same way. Here are some basic strokes you need to write beautiful characters.

Follow the arrows that show the direction of the strokes, and practice copying them.
These are what brush strokes look like. Yours will probably look thinner.

Trace this table to practice.
Stroke order

The order in which you write the strokes is also important. For one thing, getting the stroke order right makes the characters easier to learn. The two general rules to follow are:

1. Write top to bottom
2. Write left to right

Practice writing this character:

Start with the part of the character that is on the top left.
These rules are not fail-safe, however, since some characters are written with differing stroke orders.

It all depended on what looked best or which order minimized clumping when scholars were using brushes and ink to write.
How characters are made

zhōng
中 means “middle”

guó
国 means “kingdom”

The Middle Kingdom is what we now call China
**Be square**
When you write each character, imagine you are writing it inside a square. You can buy or make squared paper for this purpose. Your characters will look more beautiful if they are evenly spaced, fit into equal-sized squares, and look symmetrical.

![Character Diagrams]

Introduction 25
Memory tips

There is no really easy way to learn characters. Each one has to be memorized. However, here are some pointers to help you.

• If you try to imagine a character as a picture, or if you know the origins of a character (see opposite for some examples), it makes it easier to remember.

• It is best to learn characters gradually, and to keep testing yourself and revising.

• There are about 200 small components of characters, called “radicals.” Each character includes a radical. The radical can give a clue to meaning. For example, 鸟 niǎo, meaning “bird,” is a radical and any character that contains 鸟 has something to do with birds (e.g., 鸡 jī means “chicken”).
Picture it!
Characters that are pictographs often look like the original pictures that were drawn centuries ago.

rì  sun

yuè  moon

shān  mountain

shuǐ  water

niǎo  bird

mǎ  horse
It’s radical

Practice writing these characters. They are useful ones to know, since they can also be found in other characters as “radicals.”

- 人 (rén) - person
- 土 (tǔ) - earth
- 田 (tián) - field
- 力 (lì) - strength
Put the characters together...  
... to make new characters. Notice how the meanings of the new characters are directly related to the meanings of the original characters. It made sense in Ancient China.

坐 zuò  
to sit

人 + 人 + 土 = 坐  
Literally: people [on top of] earth

男 nán  
man

田 + 力 = 男  
Literally: strength [in a] field
“Easy” and “grammar” don’t usually go together, but here’s an area of Chinese where there is less to learn. Hooray!

**The verb doesn’t change**
There is no need to learn different grammatical forms of verbs (like in many European languages).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>我是 wǒ shì</td>
<td>I am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你是 nǐ shì</td>
<td>you are</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>他是 tā shì</td>
<td>he is</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is no change to the Chinese verb... but the English changes three times.

**No past, no future**
In Chinese, there are no verb tenses. Here are two ways to change the tense:

1. Add context to a sentence with time words, for example, “next year,” “yesterday,” or “tomorrow.”

2. You can show an action has been completed by adding the little word “le” after the verb or at the end of the sentence.

昨天 昨天
zuótiān

明天 明天
míngtiān

了 le
我昨天去了。Wǒ zuótiān qù le. I went yesterday.
我明天去。Wǒ míngtiān qù. I am going tomorrow.
我去了。Wǒ qù le. I went.

马喜欢吃苹果。Mǎ xǐhuan chī píngguǒ. Horses like eating apples.

The Chinese for this sentence literally means “horse like eat apple.” Since there is no particular horse being referred to, this is translated as a general statement. CONTEXT is important in Chinese.

**Singular and plural nouns**

There is no difference between singular and plural nouns. In other words, there is no equivalent to the English ‘-s’ or “-es” added to nouns.

Note: the time comes BEFORE the verb in Chinese.

In general

Chinese often uses fewer words and seems simpler. In fact, some of the expressions used in English that have come directly from Chinese highlight the simple grammar constructions:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>long time no see</td>
<td>hǎo jiǔ bù jiàn</td>
<td>好久不见</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>look-see</td>
<td>kàn kan</td>
<td>看看</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no can do</td>
<td>bù néng zuò</td>
<td>不能做</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>no-go</td>
<td>bù qù</td>
<td>不去</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
First words

What are the first words to learn in any language? These ones of course!

你好 nǐ hǎo
再见 zàijiàn
谢谢 xièxiè
对不起 duìbùqǐ
hello
goodbye
thank you
excuse me
And this phrase may be useful too!

Where’s the bathroom?

Where is...? zài nǎr?
Simply add “zài nǎr?” AFTER any noun to ask where something is:
“Fàndiàn” means restaurant.
“Fàndiàn zài nǎr?” means “Where’s the restaurant?”

New words

你好 nǐ hǎo hello
再见 zài jiàn goodbye
谢谢 xièxiè thank you
对不起 duì bu qǐ excuse me
厕所 cè suǒ bathroom
在哪儿 ... zài nǎr? where is...?
Chinese people are very hospitable. When you visit, they will welcome you and offer you a drink. The drink of choice is often tea.

请进！
Qǐng jìn!
Please come in.

请坐！
Qǐng zuò!
Please sit down.

请喝茶！
Qǐng hē chá!
Please have a cup of tea.
In China, tea is the national drink. There are many different types with two popular varieties being black tea and green tea. Chinese people don’t add milk to their tea.

**New words**

| 请  | qǐng  | please |
| 进  | jìn   | to enter |
| 坐  | zuò   | to sit |
| 喝  | hē    | to drink |
| 茶  | chá   | tea |
How do you do?

When you meet Chinese people, greet them and introduce yourself in Chinese to set a good impression.

How are you?

你好吗?

Nǐ hǎo ma?

我很好。

Wǒ hěn hǎo.

I’m very well.

两张第三声连在一起很难说，这种情况下，第一个三声说成第二个声调。

Nǐ hǎo changes to Ní hǎo

Wǒ hěn hǎo changes to Wó hěn hǎo

New words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>我</th>
<th>wǒ</th>
<th>我</th>
<th>I</th>
<th>叫</th>
<th>jiào</th>
<th>to be called</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>你</td>
<td>nǐ</td>
<td>你</td>
<td>you</td>
<td>什么</td>
<td>shénme</td>
<td>what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>很</td>
<td>hěn</td>
<td>很</td>
<td>very</td>
<td>吗</td>
<td>ma</td>
<td>[question particle]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>好</td>
<td>hǎo</td>
<td>好</td>
<td>good</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>see page 80</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A Chinese name for you

Not all English names can be easily pronounced in China, so it is a good idea for you to have a Chinese name. Generally a Chinese teacher or Chinese friend can help you choose one, and this is the best way to get one. There are also websites that can give you a name. This is a good one:

http://www.mandarintools.com/chinesename.html
Chinese names all have a meaning. They start with the family name, then the given names follow. Chinese people either have one or two given names.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last name</th>
<th>Given name(s)</th>
<th>Meaning of given name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yao</td>
<td>Ming</td>
<td>Bright</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gong</td>
<td>Li</td>
<td>Clever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackie</td>
<td>Chéng Lóng</td>
<td>Successful Dragon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Addressing Chinese people

Adults should always be addressed by their full name (last name, first name), or with a title, which comes AFTER the last name, for example:

**先生** (xiānshēng)  **Mr.**

e.g. **Wáng xiānshēng**

**老师** (lǎoshī)  **teacher**

e.g. **Liú lǎoshī**

Children or friends can be addressed by their first names, or if the person is a very good friend or family, by their nickname. Chinese people often have a nickname.

Jackie Chan’s mother called him “Pao Pao,” meaning “cannonball,” when he was a baby.
The family name

The majority of the population of China has one of just 20 last names. Here’s a list of the top five.

1. Lǐ
2. Wáng
3. Zhāng
4. Liú
5. Chén

Given names

As for first names, parents can choose from thousands of characters. Here are some popular girls’ and boys’ names:

Girls
1. Yīng (talented, wise)
2. Xiù (elegant, beautiful)
3. Yù (jade)
4. Huá (brilliant)
5. Zhēn (precious)

Boys
1. Wén (culture, writing)
2. Míng (bright)
3. Guó (nation)
4. Huá (brilliant)
5. Dé (virtue)

Taboo!
Chinese people never name their children after anyone else.
Conversation practice 1

Test yourself on what you have learned in this section.

Q. Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

1. Hello.
2. Hello.
3. How are you?
4. I’m very well.
5. Goodbye.

A. Here it is in Chinese.

1. 你好!  Nǐ hǎo!
2. 你好!  Nǐ hǎo!
3. 你好吗?  Nǐ hǎo ma?
4. 我很好!  Wǒ hěn hǎo!
5. 再见!  Zàijiàn!
6. 再见!  Zàijiàn!
Can you translate these phrases into Chinese?

1. Where’s the bathroom?
2. Sit down, please.
3. Please, come in.
4. What’s your name?
5. My name is...

Here are the correct translations.

1. 厕所在哪儿?
   Cèsuǒ zài nǎr?

2. 请坐!
   Qǐng zuò!

3. 请进!
   Qǐng jìn!

4. 你叫什么?
   Nǐ jiào shénme?

5. 我叫……
   Wǒ jiào...
Where are you from?

Find out how to say where you come from. This is one of the first questions you are asked in China.

你是哪国人？
Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?
Which country are you from?

我是美国人。
Wǒ shì Měiguórén.
I’m American.

哪 nǎ  which
Here is the “question word” 哪. “Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?” literally means “You are which country person?”

人 rén  person
By adding “rén” to any of the country’s names, you are saying “people or person [of the country].”
Countries

The characters for the country names are a mixture of how the word sounds (phonetic) and meaning.

美国  Měiguó  US (beautiful country)
泰国  Tàiguó  Thailand (tranquil country)
英国  Yīngguó  Britain (brave country)
法国  Fǎguó  France (legal country)
德国  Déguó  Germany (virtuous country)
中国  Zhōngguó  China (middle country)
日本  Rìběn  Japan (rising Sun)
加拿大  Jiānádà  Canada (phonetic)
澳大利亚  Àodàliyà  Australia (phonetic)
荷兰  Hélán  The Netherlands (phonetic—Holland)

A Canadian

Jiānádàrén

A Canadian
### My body

**Head, shoulders, knees, and toes...**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ěrduo</td>
<td>ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>yǎnjing</td>
<td>eye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>zuǐba</td>
<td>mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bízi</td>
<td>nose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tóu</td>
<td>head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tóufa</td>
<td>hair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>shǒu</td>
<td>hand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jiǎo</td>
<td>foot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dùzi</td>
<td>stomach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tuǐ</td>
<td>leg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gēbo</td>
<td>arm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*All About Me*
... knees and toes...
Face facts

This head shows how you can play with characters to help you to remember them. (The parts of the characters used to make the features on this face are pictographs.)

You can make up your own pictures, rhymes, and reasons for why characters look like they do without knowing all the pictographs. Just use your imagination...
Use the words for “big” and “small” to describe your facial features.

我的耳朵大。Wǒ de ěrduo dà.  My ears are big.

我的鼻子小。Wǒ de bízi xiǎo.  My nose is small.

的“de” is a new word—see page 49 for what it is.
In Chinese, there are words to describe what position you are in the family. For example, “younger sister” is “mèimei.”
Making introductions
Use these words to make introductions.

**New words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>这是</td>
<td>zhè shì</td>
<td>This is...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>老师</td>
<td>lǎoshī</td>
<td>teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>朋友</td>
<td>péngyou</td>
<td>friend</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>的</td>
<td>de</td>
<td>[possessive particle]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**My, your, his, her**

的 (de) is the most common character in Chinese. Here it is used to make “I” into “my.” And so on...

我的 | wǒ de | my |
你的 | nǐ de | your |
他的 | tā de | his |
她的 | tā de | her

“His” and “her” sound the same but have different characters.
Respect!

Confucianism is the name of the philosophy that has shaped Chinese culture since around 300 BCE. And when it comes to families, Confucianism is all about respect.

"Filial piety" is considered one of the greatest virtues of Confucianism. It means, in general terms, love and respect for parents and ancestors.

Family lore

Confucius says...

Here are some of Confucius’s rules for filial piety:

1. Take care of your parents
2. Don’t be rebellious
3. Show love, respect, and support
4. Display courtesy
5. Uphold fraternity among brothers
6. Wisely advise your parents
7. Carry out sacrifices after their death

Confucius was born in c. 551 BCE and was a social philosopher whose teachings have influenced East Asian life for 2,000 years.
Hierarchy
The Confucian hierarchy within families means that family members lower down in the hierarchy show filial piety to those above them. Grandad is top dog, and littlest sister is on the bottom rung.

In the same way that children call their parents “Mom” and “Dad,” in China this extends to the whole family. If you are “little sister,” that is what your family often calls you.

Ancestor worship
Although these rules were set more than 2,000 years ago, Confucian beliefs are ingrained into Chinese culture and affect family relationships to the present day. One of the most noticeable aspects is ancestor worship.

Ancestor worship includes burning incense and making offerings to the deceased of food and other things, even a toothbrush and slippers, to use in the afterlife.
Conversation practice 2

Test yourself on what you have learned in this section.

Q. Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

1. Where do you come from?
2. I’m British.
3. This is my teacher.
4. She is Chinese.

A. Here it is in Chinese.

1. 你是哪国人?
   Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?
2. 我是英国人。
   Wǒ shì Yīngguórén.
3. 这是我的老师。
   Zhè shì wǒ de lǎoshī.
4. 她是中国人。
   Tā shì Zhōngguórén.
Q. Can you translate these phrases into Chinese?

1. I am American.
2. She is Canadian.
3. This is my friend.
4. This is her younger sister.
5. This is his older brother.

A. Here are the correct translations.

1. 我是美国人。
   Wǒ shì Měiguórén.
2. 她是加拿大人。
   Tā shì Jiānádàrén.
3. 这是我朋友。
   Zhè shì wǒ péngyou.
4. 这是她的妹妹。
   Zhè shì tā de mèimei.
5. 这是他的哥哥。
   Zhè shì tā de gēge.
Learning numbers 1–10 is one of the most useful and simple lessons of Chinese. Once you know them, you will be able to:

- count higher
- say the date
- learn the vocabulary for the months of the year...
- ... and the days of the week
- tell the time
- find out the cost of things
Writing numbers

When you write numbers, imagine you are writing on a grid of equal-sized squares. Remember to write strokes from top to bottom, and left to right.

1 一 1 yi  one
2 二 2 er  two
3 三 3 san  three
4 四 4 si  four
5 五 5 wu  five
6 六 6 liu  six
7 七 7 qi  seven
8 八 8 ba  eight
9 九 9 jiu  nine
10 十 10 shi  ten
It’s simple math

To count from 10–99, you build on the numbers 1–10. There are two simple rules to follow:

- If a number comes after 10 (十), you add it to 10.
- If a number comes before 10 (十), you times it by 10.

How it works...

十二 shíèr 12 2 (二字) after 10 (十), so that means 10 + 2
二十 èrshí 20 2 (二字) before 10 (十), so that means 2 × 10
二十二 èrshíèr 22 2 (二字) after and before 10 (十), so that means (2 × 10) + 2

Q. What are these numbers?

1 三十 3 四十五
2 十六 4 七十八

30, 2 16, 3 45, 4 78
100 plus
The same rule applies when you go over 100. But, before you can do that, you need to know these words.

New words

<p>| | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>百</td>
<td>bǎi</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>千</td>
<td>qiān</td>
<td>1,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>万</td>
<td>wàn</td>
<td>10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>百万</td>
<td>bǎiwàn</td>
<td>1,000,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How it works
The larger numbers string together in much the same way, with the above words for 10, 100, 1,000, etc. acting as “stops.”

三百五十 sānbǎiwǔshí
(3×100) + (5×10) = 350

五千四百 wǔqiānsìbǎi
(5×1,000) + (4×100) = 5,400

六万 liùwàn
6 × 10,000 = 60,000

七百万 qībǎiwàn
7 × 1,000,000 = 7,000,000
There are a couple of things about numbers it is worth pointing out now.

**Measure words**

In Chinese, you need a measure word between a number and a noun. You can’t just say “one person,” you have to say “one something of person.” Most Chinese measure words have no direct translation into English, although the concept is similar to “two plots of land,” “two pinches of salt,” “four head of cattle.”

The toneless “ge” is by far the most common measure word. You can use this for most things. If in doubt, use “ge.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Measure</th>
<th>Noun</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>五 wǔ</td>
<td>个 ge</td>
<td>人 rén</td>
<td>five people</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>三 sān</td>
<td>个 ge</td>
<td>光盘 guāngpán</td>
<td>three CDs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“Běn” is the measure word used for books. Try to remember this one too.

| 五 wǔ  | 本 běn | 书 shū | five books   |
Tricky number two

The number two is, err, “èr”—we know that. However, if we are saying “two of something,” we say “liǎng” instead of “èr.”

两个 纪念品
liǎng ge jìniànpǐn
Two souvenirs

两个 自行车
liǎng ge zìxíngchē
Two bicycles

Q. Say how many there are of each thing

Use a measure word and “liǎng” where necessary.

1 书 books
2 朋友 friends
What’s the date?

In Chinese, you use numbers to say the days of the week and months of the year.

### Days of the week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>星期一  xīngqīyī</td>
<td>Monday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>星期二  xīngqīèr</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>星期三  xīngqīsān</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>星期四  xīngqīsì</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>星期五  xīngqīwǔ</td>
<td>Friday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>星期六  xīngqīliù</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>星期天  xīngqītiān</td>
<td>Sunday</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### New words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>年</td>
<td>nián</td>
<td>year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>月</td>
<td>yuè</td>
<td>month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>号</td>
<td>hào</td>
<td>date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>零</td>
<td>líng</td>
<td>zero</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To make a year date, you simply put the number of the year before “nián,” e.g., 2007 is 2007 “nián.”

To make a day date, you put the number of the day before “hào,” e.g., the 25th is 25 “hào.”

Only Sunday is different. A day off from numbers!
### Months of the year

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>一月</th>
<th>二月</th>
<th>三月</th>
<th>四月</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>yīyuè</td>
<td>èryuè</td>
<td>sānyuè</td>
<td>sìyuè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>February</td>
<td>March</td>
<td>April</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>五月</th>
<th>六月</th>
<th>七月</th>
<th>八月</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>wǔyuè</td>
<td>liùyuè</td>
<td>qīyuè</td>
<td>bāyuè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>June</td>
<td>July</td>
<td>August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>九月</th>
<th>十月</th>
<th>十一月</th>
<th>十二月</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>jiǔyuè</td>
<td>shíyuè</td>
<td>shíyīyuè</td>
<td>shìèryuè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>October</td>
<td>November</td>
<td>December</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Now make a date**

In Chinese, the year goes first, then the month, then the day. This follows a general grammatical rule of Chinese: “least specific, to most specific.”

**Wednesday, October 3, 2007**

二零零七年，十月，三号，星期三  
èrlínglíngqī nián,  
shíyuè,  
sānhào,  
xīngqīsān

2007  
October  
3rd  
Wednesday
Traditionally, Chinese people have not made a big deal about birthdays. Today, however, especially in the cities, they celebrate them with a cake and a party.

生日快乐!
Shēngri kuàilè!
Happy birthday!

Two ages
Chinese people may have two ages—one from the traditional age system and one from the Western age system.

The traditional way of counting a person’s age is that newborns start at one year old, and one year is added at each Chinese new year (which follows the lunar calendar). This explains why Chinese babies can be said to be “two years old” when they are still tiny.
How old are you?

There are two ways of asking this question in Chinese:

1 你几岁了？
   Nǐ jǐ suì le?
   How old are you?
   Use this when you are addressing a child under 10.

2 你多大了？
   Nǐ duō dà le?
   How old are you?
   Use this for adults and children.

To answer the question, you say:

我xx岁。 Wǒ xx suì.   I’m xx years old.

Birthday food

Many people like to eat “longevity noodles,” symbols of long life inspired by the noodle’s shape. Many people choose to eat Western-style birthday cakes too.
Are you a **rat**, a **pig**, or a **dragon**?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RAT</th>
<th>OX</th>
<th>TIGER</th>
<th>RABBIT</th>
<th>DRAGON</th>
<th>SNAKE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1912</td>
<td>1913</td>
<td>1914</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>1916</td>
<td>1917</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>1925</td>
<td>1926</td>
<td>1927</td>
<td>1928</td>
<td>1929</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1937</td>
<td>1938</td>
<td>1939</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1948</td>
<td>1949</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2013</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The year you were born determines your sign of the zodiac in Chinese astrology. Look up your sign and then find out what you’re like on the next page...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HORSE</th>
<th>SHEEP</th>
<th>MONKEY</th>
<th>ROOSTER</th>
<th>DOG</th>
<th>PIG</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>1919</td>
<td>1920</td>
<td>1921</td>
<td>1922</td>
<td>1923</td>
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<td>1930</td>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1932</td>
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<td>1947</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2007</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Each year starts in late January/February, depending on the Moon’s cycle. If you are born in January, you may fall into the previous year.
Rats are charming, quick-witted, and make loyal friends—once you let people get to know you. You are organized and honest, and you prefer to live by your own rules.

You are a born leader and inspire confidence in all who know you. Being conservative and methodical, you find it hard to let your hair down, but you are good at most things you turn your hand to.

Tigers are born leaders. You are often respected for your courage and you are good at standing up for what you believe in. However, you need to be careful not to be too bossy!

You are a warm, cozy type of person, affectionate and obliging. However, you get too sentimental and can seem superficial. Being cautious and conservative, you make a good negotiator and you are the first to sort out arguments.

You are full of life—enthusiastic and popular. You are intelligent, gifted, and a perfectionist, but these qualities can make you intolerant of others. Watch out for being too harsh with people.

Wise, charming, and romantic, you are a deep thinker and full of intuition. Try not to be stingy with money, and always strive to keep your sense of humor about life.
The rooster is hard-working, shrewd, and good at making decisions. You speak your mind. You like looking good, and can be extravagant sometimes. Watch out for seeming boastful.

You are always good company, an intellectual with a strong sense of purpose. You are sincere and honest, but because you expect the same from others, you can be naive.

Dogs make very loyal, faithful, and honest friends—a dog will never let you down. You are a worrier though, and overcritical, but your bark is worse than your bite.

Except for having a knack for putting your foot in your mouth, the sheep is excellent company. You are elegant and artistic, but can be viewed as a bit of a whiner, so try not to complain too much!

Witty and intelligent, you have a magnetic personality and are always well-liked. The monkey, however, must guard against being an opportunist and finds it hard to trust other people.
Conversation practice 3

Test yourself on what you have learned in this section.

Q. Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

1. Happy birthday!
2. Thank you!
3. How old are you?
4. I am 14.

A. Here it is in Chinese.

1. 生日快乐！
   Shēngri kuàilè!
2. 谢谢！
   Xièxie!
3. 你多大了?
   Nǐ duō dà le?
4. 我十四岁。
   Wǒ shíṣì suì.
Can you translate these numbers and phrases into Chinese?

1. 54
2. 2,500
3. May 29, 1971
4. 7 people
5. 2 books

Here are the correct translations.

1. 五十四
   wǔshísì
2. 二千五百
   èrqìānwǔbǎi
3. 一九七一年，五月
   yījiǔqīyī nián, wǔyuè
   èrshíjiǔ hào.
4. 七个人
   qī ge rén
5. 两本书
   liǎng běn shū
China is the fourth biggest country in the world, only slightly smaller than the US; the climate in the south and north differs hugely.

The climate
In the south, it is subtropical and the land is fertile and green. In the northern winter, the temperature rarely rises above freezing, and basketball courts are turned into ice-skating rinks. Between the various extremes, the weather is continental and shows marked seasonal differences.
The four seasons
Nature puts on some dazzling seasonal displays in China, especially where the seasons are more extreme.
Talking about the weather is an international ice-breaker.

**Wow! It’s hot!**
There is a simple way to exclaim about extreme weather conditions:

- **Tai rè le!** It’s boiling!
- **Tai lěng le!** It’s freezing!

**Using tài … le**
By using these two little words around a variety of adjectives you can exclaim about things.

- **Tai dà le!** It’s huge!
- **Tai hǎo le!** That’s great!
Describing the weather
Here are the words for different types of weather.

- Windy: gūa fēng
- Rainy: xià yǔ
- Hot: rè
- Cold: lěng
- Snowy: xià xuě
From crowded Beijing buses to express trains that zoom across China’s vast countryside, every mode of transportation is available in China.

To learn the words for different vehicles, first you need to know this general word:

**车**

**chē**

**vehicle**

### Breakdown

The table below shows how the meanings of the characters for vehicles break down. Try and guess the meanings of the words in the final column. Answers on the opposite page.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>New word</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>车</td>
<td>chē</td>
<td>vehicle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Add “chē”**

| 自行 | zìxíng | by oneself  | 自行车 |
| 火 | huǒ | fire | 火车 |
| 汽 | qì | vapor | 汽车 |

**Add “qìchē”**

| 公共 | gōnggōng | public | 公共汽车 |
| 出租 | chūzū | for rent | 出租汽车 |

**Put these together:**

| 飞 | fēi | fly | 飞机 |
| jī | machine | |
自行车
bicycle

火车
train

汽车
car

公共汽车
bus

出租汽车
taxi

飞机
airplane
Buying a ticket

You need to buy a ticket, the ticket seller doesn’t speak English, and there is a line of people behind you. Don’t panic!

New words

想 xiǎng to want 票 piào ticket
买 mǎi to buy 去 qù to go

Station clock

Learn to say what time you need your ticket for.

Add diǎn to a number to say “o’clock” and “diǎn bàn” to say “half past.”

三点 sān diǎn 3 o’clock
三点半 sān diǎn bàn 3:30

New words

几点 jǐ diǎn what time? 分 fēn minute
点 diǎn o’clock 半 bàn half
我想买票。去北京。
wǒ xiǎng mǎi piào. Qù Běijīng.

我想买票。去北京。
wǒ xiǎng mǎi piào. Qù Běijīng.

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?

几点了?
jǐ diǎn le?
Asking the way

Even if you’re in China with a tour group, you’ll want to venture out on your own. Here’s how to ask the way.

**New words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>请问</td>
<td>qǐng wèn</td>
<td>excuse me</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>...在哪儿？</td>
<td>...zài nǎr?</td>
<td>where is...?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>左边</td>
<td>zuǒbiān</td>
<td>left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>右边</td>
<td>yòubiān</td>
<td>right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>一直走</td>
<td>yīzhí zǒu</td>
<td>straight ahead</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>然后</td>
<td>ránhòu</td>
<td>then, afterward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>茶馆</td>
<td>cháguǎn</td>
<td>teahouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>饭店</td>
<td>fàndiàn</td>
<td>restaurant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Practice time
Find the teahouse by following the instructions for the red trail.

Q. Give directions...
Now give directions yourself, for the man to follow the blue trail to the restaurant.

A. 右边。然后一直走，然后左转。饭店在左边。

Yòubian. Ránhòu yīzhí zǒu, ránhòu zuǒ zhuǎn. Fàndiàn zài zuǒbian.

请问，茶馆在哪儿?
Qǐng wèn, cháguǎn zài nǎr?

转
to turn
Here are two ways to ask a question in Chinese.

1. "ma"

The little word "ma" 吗 is all you need to make questions. Simply add it to a statement, and it makes the statement into a question.

他去北京。 Tā qù Běijīng. He is going to Beijing.

他去北京吗? Tā qù Běijīng ma? Is he going to Beijing?

汽车站在左边。 Qìchēzhàn zài zuǒbian. The bus stop is on the left.

汽车站在左边吗? Qìchēzhàn zài zuǒbian ma? Is the bus stop on the left?

Q. Turn this statement into a question.

公共汽车去北京。 Gōnggōngqìchē qù Běijīng. The bus is going to Beijing.

A. 吗 Gōnggōngqìchē qù Běijīng ma? Is the bus going to Beijing?
2. Boo!

You go?  Nǐ qù bù qù?  Are you going?

And you answer the question by repeating the verb.

去。  Qù.  I’m going. /Yes.

不去。  Bù qù.  I’m not going. /No.

Q. Answer this question (using “mǎi” 买 meaning “to buy”).

你买不买?  Nǐ mǎi bù mǎi?  Are you going to buy it?

The exception

You don’t use “bù” between the verb for “to have,” which is “yǒu” (pronounced “yōu”). Instead you use “méi” 没 to make the negative.

有没有?  Yǒu méi yǒu?  Have you got one?

有。  Yǒu.  I have one. /Yes

没有。  Méi yǒu.  I haven’t got one. /No

Chinese doesn’t have words for “yes” and “no.” This is a way of saying “yes” or “no” too.
Getting around

China has the third largest rail network in the world, the most bicyclists, more airplanes taking off by the day, and a fast evolving network of roads.

Bicycles

There are 300 million bicycles being ridden around in China—33 bikes to every one car. Bike sales are decreasing, however, as more and more people can afford cars.

The pedicab

The famous rickshaw has been phased out in China and replaced by the pedicab.

Traffic

The traffic in Beijing and many other Chinese cities is congested and slow-moving. Trucks, buses, cars, taxis, bicycles, pedicabs, and minibuses clog the roads.

堵车 dūchē traffic jam
**Hard seat**—the seats are upholstered but they are cramped and uncomfortable. This is the cheapest option.

**Soft seat**—these comfortable seats have lots of legroom and are ideal for relatively short trips.

**Hard-sleeper**—these cars are made up of doorless compartments. Each one contains six beds in three tiers. Hard sleeper tickets are the first to sell out for long trips.

**Soft-sleeper**—this is the most luxurious option. The beds are comfortable, with four per compartment. It is also the most expensive choice.

**By train**

For visitors, train travel provides a great opportunity to meet Chinese people as well as take in the beautiful scenery. There are four different levels of seating in Chinese trains.
Conversation practice 4

Test yourself on what you have learned in this section.

Q. Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

A. Here it is in Chinese.

1. I would like to buy a ticket to Beijing.
   我想买票去北京。
   Wǒ xiǎng mǎi piào qù Běijīng.

2. What time are you going?
   你几点去?
   Nǐ jǐ diǎn qù?

3. Four o’clock.
   四点。
   Sì diǎn.

4. That’s fine.
   好了。
   Hǎo le.
Q. Can you translate these into Chinese?

1. Excuse me.
2. Go straight ahead.
3. Are you going?
4. What time is it?
5. 6:45.

A. Here are the correct translations.

1. 请问。 Qǐng wèn.
2. 一直走。 Yīzhí zǒu.
3. 你去不去? / 你去吗? Nǐ qù bù qù? / Nǐ qù ma?
4. 几点了? Jǐ diǎn le?
5. 六点四十五分。 Liù diǎn sìshíwǔ fēn.
Chinese place settings can confuse a foreigner, and the other way around. So here's a rough guide.

Chinese place settings can confuse a foreigner, and the other way around. So here’s a rough guide.

Yòng kuàizi hěn nán.

Using chopsticks is hard.
**Chinese style**

You use chopsticks to take bite-size morsels of food from a selection of different dishes. The bowl often holds plain rice, which you also eat with chopsticks. You use the spoon to eat soup.

**碗**
wǎn  
bowl

**筷子**
kuàizi  
chopsticks

**勺子**
sháozì  
spoon

用筷子很容易。  
Yòng kuàizi hěn róngyì.  
Using chopsticks is easy.
Don’t flip the fish!

Chinese people are masters at making you feel welcome. And a meal is a favorite way to show hospitality. Follow this guide to etiquette so you know the do’s and don’ts of a meal in China.

**Etiquette**

Never start before your host says so. And don’t be surprised if your host continuously urges you to try each dish—he is making sure you are taken care of, not pressuring you.

Compliment the host on how good the food is. Just like at home, this will please your host. Also, be bold and say with conviction “I am happy to make good friends” or “I feel very welcome.”

Don’t flip over a fish to eat the meat on the other side. This is because Chinese people believe turning a fish resembles a boat capsizing.

Avoid stuffing yourself then suddenly stopping. It’s best to stop eating gradually. Leave a little food and drink—this means that you are satisfied and that the host has provided ample food.

Do pour drinks for people sitting next to you.

Ignore slurps, burps, and other mealtime noises—these are considered sounds of appreciation.
Table plan
Tables are often round. The seating is arranged in order of status. The host sits facing the door, with guest 1 on his right, and guest 2 on his left. The co-host usually sits nearest to the door, with guests 3 and 4 around him or her. Status is often decided by age.

Chopstick no-nos
- Don’t dig into the food on a plate; just pick up the piece that you want.
- Don’t let your chopsticks be covered with food juice or residue.
- Don’t spear things with your chopsticks.
- Don’t put chopsticks vertically in rice in a bowl, since it resembles the incense sticks for the dead.

How to hold chopsticks

Useful phrases
...to try out at your next Chinese meal.
我自己来 wǒ zìjǐ lái I’ll help myself
我吃饱了 wǒ chī bǎo le I’m full
很好吃 hěn hǎo chī It’s delicious!
This is a popular saying in southern China—and Chinese food is succulent and incredibly varied. Here are some food words, just for starters.

- 米饭 (mǐfàn) rice
- 面条 (miàntiáo) noodles
- 肉 (ròu) meat
- 鸡 (jī) chicken
- 鱼 (yú) fish
- (烤)鸭 (kǎo) yā (roast) duck
我吃素
Wǒ chī sù.
I’m vegetarian.

And some drinks.
Next time you’re in a Chinese restaurant, try impressing everyone by ordering the food in Chinese.

New words

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>想</td>
<td>xiǎng</td>
<td>to want</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>服务员</td>
<td>fúwùyuán</td>
<td>waiter/waitress</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>买单</td>
<td>mǎidān</td>
<td>the bill</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>吃</td>
<td>chī</td>
<td>to eat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>什么</td>
<td>shénme</td>
<td>what</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>菜单</td>
<td>cài dān</td>
<td>menu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>给</td>
<td>gěi</td>
<td>to give</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>饭店</td>
<td>fàndiàn</td>
<td>restaurant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Many Beijing restaurants are pretty sophisticated. All over China, though, you can find noisy and informal restaurants that are great places to get a bite to eat.
服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

这是菜单。
Zhè shì cài dān.

你想吃什么？
Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme？

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.

服务员。请给我菜单。
Fúwùyuán. Qǐng gěi wǒ cài dān.
Conversation practice 5

Test yourself on what you have learned in this section.

Q. Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

1. Waiter!
2. Hello. What would you like to eat?
3. I’d like some noodles.
4. OK.
5. Thank you. These are delicious!

A. Here it is in Chinese.

1. 服务员！Fúwùyuán!
2. 你好。你想吃什么？Nǐ hǎo. Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?
3. 我想要面条。Wǒ xiǎngyào miàntiáo.
4. 好。Hǎo.
5. 谢谢。很好吃。Xièxiè. Hěn hǎo chī.
Q. Can you translate these into Chinese?

1. I’m vegetarian.
2. I’ll help myself.
3. I’m full.
4. Using chopsticks is hard.
5. Using chopsticks is easy.

A. Here are the correct translations.

1. 我吃素。
   Wǒ chī sù.
2. 我自己来。
   Wǒ zìjǐ lái.
3. 我吃饱了。
   Wǒ chī bǎo le.
4. 用筷子很难。
   Yòng kuàizi hěn nán.
5. 用筷子很容易。
   Yòng kuàizi hěn róngyì.
Aside from learning Chinese, you may have other hobbies. Look down this list of popular pastimes and choose some you enjoy.

### Hobbies

- 网球 (wǎngqiú) - tennis
- 足球 (zúqiú) - soccer
- 乒乓球 (pīngpāngqiú) - table tennis (ping pong)
- 滑板 (huábǎn) - skate boarding
Learning Chinese is really difficult, right?

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中 zhōng
向 xiàng
文 wén
走向中文
走 zǒu

画画 huàhuà
绘画 painting

游泳 yóuyǒng
swimming

很好玩儿!
hěn hǎo wánr!
lots of fun!

听音乐 tīng yīnyuè
listening to music

看书 kàn shū
reading

学习中文 xuéxí Zhōngwén
learning Chinese

滑雪 huáxuě
skiing

滑冰 huábīng
ice-skating

Hobbies 97
Find a Chinese-speaking friend if you can and practice chatting about things you like, love, and don’t like.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>New words</th>
<th>生词</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>喜欢</td>
<td>xǐhuan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>爱</td>
<td>ài</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>打</td>
<td>dǎ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>也</td>
<td>yě</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>你呢?</td>
<td>nǐ ne?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

我 喜欢 打 网 球。

Wǒ xǐhuan dǎ wǎngqíu.

I like tennis.

You add “bù” 不 before the verb to make a sentence negative.

我不 喜欢 打 网 球。

Wǒ bù xǐhuan dǎ wǎngqíu.

I don’t like tennis.
I also like...  

To say that you “also” like something else, you slip “yě” 也 in before the verb.

我也喜欢滑板。  
Wǒ yě xǐhuan huábǎn.  
I like skateboarding too.

我也喜欢听音乐。  
Wǒ yě xǐhuan tīng yīnyuè.  
I like listening to music too.

How about you?  

If you want to ask someone else if they like something, you simply say “nǐ ne?” 你呢?

我喜欢打网球。你呢?  
Wǒ xǐhuan dǎ wǎngqíu. Nǐ ne?  
I like tennis. How about you?

我爱你  
Wǒ ài nǐ.  

If you like another person exclusively, here’s how to say “I love you” in Chinese.
Table tennis and Mahjong

Traditional pastimes are alive and kicking all over China.

Martial arts

Many different forms of martial art have developed over the past 2,000 years and the styles are quite distinctive. Each style offers self-defense, improved health, and self-cultivation.

Tai chi

At 6 a.m. in Shanghai many people start the day with tai chi.

Table tennis

Table tennis is one of the biggest sports in China today, played by an estimated 200 million players. The table tennis tables in village squares are a popular place to hang out and practice, and maybe dream of one day becoming an Olympic star...

A general term for Chinese martial arts:

武术 wūshù

太极拳 tàijíquán

Tai chi

乒乓球 pīngpāngqiú

100 Hobbies
Mahjong

Mahjong is as popular as ever in China. The game has complex rules and can turn into marathon sessions! It is always accompanied by a loud “click-clacking” noise as the tiles knock against each other.

Chinese chess

Xiàngqí (Chinese chess) is one of the most popular board games in China. This highly strategic game was played as early as the 4th century BCE and is similar to chess played in the West; a real mental battle.

Chinese Opera

Chinese Opera is more than a thousand years old. Instruments accompany the acting, which is based on gestures and footwork to express actions such as riding a horse or opening a door. The actors’ elaborate makeup defines their roles.

Beijing Opera
(one of many different forms)
What’s hot in China today? Kids are doing the same thing from Times Square to Tiananmen Square.

Shanghai
Shanghai is China’s city of dreams. Full of new ideas and cutting-edge culture, it is the fastest growing city in the world. A 24-hour city, Shanghai is wide awake at every hour. It seethes with energy and noise.

Olympics
The 2008 Olympics to be held in Beijing will bring Chinese national pride to fever pitch. It is set to start at 8 o’clock, on August 8, 2008—8 is a lucky number in China.
The internet

The internet is hot! Blogs, podcasts, text messaging, music downloads... 100 million people are net users, but there are relatively few home computers. People meet up with friends at their local internet cafe.

Tourism

Chinese people are traveling in ever-increasing numbers around their own country and abroad.

Chinese idol

As in the West, Chinese kids love pop music. “Cantopop” is the name of a popular genre. They also listen to rap, heavy metal, and punk music. A Chinese version of “American Idol” (called “Supergirl Contest”) has been a recent huge hit—with 400 million viewers.

Li Yuchun (center) was the 21-year-old winner of the “Supergirl Contest” in 2006.
Mandarin, like any language, is evolving. New slang is invented all the time, and words enter the language as foreign influence broadens. Here are some commonly used “new” words.

Lots of these words have been adopted since 1978 following the government’s “open door policy.” There has been a period of reform in China since then, as China opened up to Japan and the West.

Exclamations!

酷 kù! cool!
拜拜 bài bài! Bye!
嗨 hài hi/hey!
OK OK OK!
## Pastimes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>蹦迪</td>
<td>bèngdí</td>
<td>dance party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>上网聊天</td>
<td>shàngwǎng liáotiān</td>
<td>online chatting</td>
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<td>卡拉OK</td>
<td>kǎlāOK</td>
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<td>瑜伽</td>
<td>yújiā</td>
<td>yoga</td>
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<tr>
<td>高尔夫球</td>
<td>gāo’ěrfūqiú</td>
<td>golf</td>
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## Food

<table>
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<td>coffee</td>
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<td>咖喱</td>
<td>gālí</td>
<td>curry</td>
</tr>
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<td>派</td>
<td>pài</td>
<td>pie</td>
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<td>比萨</td>
<td>bǐsà</td>
<td>pizza</td>
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<tr>
<td>汉堡</td>
<td>hànbiǎo</td>
<td>hamburger</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Conversation practice 6

Test yourself on what you have learned in this section.

Q. Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

1. I like swimming. How about you?
2. I don’t like swimming.
   I like soccer.
3. I also like tennis.
4. Tennis is fun.

A. Here it is in Chinese.

1. 我喜欢游泳。你呢？
   Wǒ xǐhuan yóu yǒng. Nǐ ne?
2. 我不喜欢游泳。
   Wǒ bù xǐhuan yóuyǒng.
   我喜欢足球。
   Wǒ xǐhuan zúqíú.
3. 我也喜欢网球。
   Wǒ yě xǐhuan wǎngqiú.
4. 网球很好玩儿。
   Wǎngqiú hěn hǎo wánr.
Q. Can you translate these phrases into Chinese?

1. To learn Chinese
2. Have a good trip!
3. I love you.
4. The Olympics
5. Surfing the net

A. Here are the correct translations.

1. 学习中文
   xuéxí Zhōngwén
2. 一路平安!
   yī lù píng’ān!
3. 我爱你!
   Wǒ ài nǐ!
4. 奥运会
   Æoyùnhuì
5. 上网
   shàng wǎng
There are many magnificent monuments to see in China’s cities, especially in the capital city, Beijing.

**New words**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Pinyin</th>
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<tr>
<td>看</td>
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<td>to see</td>
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<tr>
<td>做</td>
<td>zuò</td>
<td>to do</td>
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<tr>
<td>长城</td>
<td>Chángchéng</td>
<td>the Great Wall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>故宫</td>
<td>Gùgōng</td>
<td>the Forbidden City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>天安门广场</td>
<td>Tiān’ānmén</td>
<td>Tiananmen Square</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Guǎngchǎng</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What do you want to do in Beijing?

在北京你想做什么?

Zài Běijīng nǐ xiǎng zuò shénme?
我想看......
Wǒ xiǎng kàn...
I want to see...

长城
Chángchéng
the Great wall

故宫
Gùgōng
the Forbidden City

天安门广场
Tiān’ānmén Guǎngchǎng
Tiananmen Square

Some useful phrases
请你再说。
Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.
Please can you say it again.

我听不懂。
Wǒ tīng bù dǒng.
I don’t understand.

你说英文吗？
Nǐ shuō yīngwén ma?
Do you speak English?
Whether you enjoy climbing mountains, hanging out at the beach, or cruising down a river, there is lots to see and do in China’s countryside.

New words

我们 wǒmen we
上午 shàngwǔ morning
下午 xiàwǔ afternoon
爬 pá to climb
山 shān mountain
海边 hǎibiān beach
坐船 zuò chuán take a boat
骑马 qí mǎ ride a horse

This might help you remember the characters for “morning” and “afternoon.”

上 shàng + 下 xià = 上午 wǔ = morning
午 + 无 noon = afternoon
上午我们爬山。
Shàngwǔ wǒmen pá shān.
This morning we are climbing a mountain.

上午我们骑马。
Shàngwǔ wǒmen qí mǎ.
This morning we are going horse riding.

下午我们去海边。
Xiàwǔ wǒmen qù hǎibiān.
This afternoon we are going to the beach.

下午我们坐船。
Xiàwǔ wǒmen zuò chuán.
This afternoon we are taking a boat.
At the market

Here are some of the things you can find in China’s colorful and varied markets.

Make a sentence
Finish the sentence by choosing something to buy.

我去市场买......
Wǒ qù shìchǎng mǎi...

I’m going to the market to buy...

丝织品
sīzhīpǐn
silk

纪念品
jìniàn pǐn
souvenirs

玉
yù
jade

工艺品
gōngyì pǐn
crafts
If you put the words for “to buy” and “to sell” next to each other, you get the word for “business.”

买 mǎi to buy 买 mài to sell = 买卖 mǎimài business

陶瓷艺术 táocí yishù ceramics

书 shū books
At a Chinese market you are expected to bargain. It is part of buying something.

**Two phrases**

These two phrases are all you need for successful bargaining.

"多少钱?" (duōshǎo qián?) means "How much is it?"

"太贵了!" (tài guì le!) means "It’s too expensive!"

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**Chinese money**

One unit of Chinese currency is a “yuán.” People often say “kuài” as well as “yuán,” which means the same thing.
Bargaining tips

Bargaining is an art, and if you are good at it you can get good deals. It requires play-acting on both sides.

1. Look around the market and choose what you want to buy.

2. Ask the price. 多少钱？

3. If you think it is cheap, don’t show it. Pretend you are surprised by how expensive it is. The initial price offered by the seller is usually AT LEAST 40% over the general price.

4. Throw out a low price, 1/5th of the one given by the seller. Have a big smile on your face when you say it. (Smiling always helps when bargaining.)

5. The seller may pretend to be annoyed and pretend not to want to sell it. If this happens, walk away, you will usually be called back.

6. From then on, only lift your price by 5% at a time. You should be able to buy at half the price of the first price given.

Sellers often have a large calculator that you can pass between you with your bids.

太贵了!

斤斤计较

to bargain over every ounce
The oldest and most important festival in China is the Spring Festival, more commonly known in the West as Lunar New Year or Chinese New Year.

When is Chinese New Year?
Like other Chinese festivals, the new year is determined by the lunar calendar so the date of the holiday varies from late January to mid February.

It is on the day of the second new Moon after the winter solstice.

Timetable of events
A few days before: Houses are thoroughly cleaned (to sweep away bad luck), debts repaid, hair cut, and new clothes bought. Chinese people believe the new year must start cleanly, or it may continue in the way it begins...

Doors are decorated with vertical scrolls of characters on red paper (like the ones on this page). Red is a lucky color.

Congratulations and be prosperous

Peace and safety wherever you are
On New Year’s Eve a reunion dinner is held where members of the family, near and far, get together to celebrate. The dinner is a sumptuous meal and dumplings (thought to resemble gold nuggets) are eaten. Most people stay up until midnight, when firecrackers and fireworks are lit, to scare away evil spirits.

New Year’s Day is spent visiting neighbors, family, and friends. Red packages containing “lucky money” are given by married relatives to unmarried junior members of the household. A dragon or lion dance troupe may perform to drive out bad spirits.

The 15th Day is a public holiday. The New Year’s holiday lasts seven days in Mainland China, but the festival traditionally lasts till the 15th day of the lunar month and ends with the “Lantern Festival.” Here, houses are decorated with colorful lanterns and people eat special food.
Festival!

There are other major festivals in China.

Qing Ming

This is a day that Chinese people spend remembering and honoring their ancestors, and is sometimes called Tomb-Sweeping Day.

Paper gifts are burned as offerings for the departed.

Mid-Fall Festival

This festival happens during the full Moon closest to the fall equinox. At this time the Moon is at its fullest and brightest—the best time to celebrate the abundance of the summer’s harvest. Everyone eats mooncakes and family and friends get together to admire the harvest Moon, lighting up the barbecue. Children often carry around brightly colored lanterns.

Mooncakes are often eaten in small slices with a cup of tea.
The standard crew has 10 pairs of rowers, one drummer, and one steerer.
**Q.** Can you translate this conversation into Chinese?

1. **What are you doing today?**
   1. 今天你想做什么？
      Jīntiān nǐ xiǎng zuò shénme?

2. **This morning I am going to Tiananmen Square.**
   2. 上午我去天安门
      Shàngwǔ wǒ qù Tiān’ānmén
      广场。
      Guǎngchǎng.

3. **This afternoon, I am going to the market to buy some souvenirs.**
   3. 下午我去市场
      Xiàwǔ wǒ qù shìchǎng
      买纪念品。
      jìniànpǐn.

**A.** Here it is in Chinese.

1. 今天你想做什么？
   Jīntiān nǐ xiǎng zuò shénme?

2. 上午我去天安门
   Shàngwǔ wǒ qù Tiān’ānmén
   广场。
   Guǎngchǎng.

3. 下午我去市场买
   Xiàwǔ wǒ qù shìchǎng mǎi
   纪念品。
   jìniànpǐn.
Q. Can you translate these into Chinese?

1. How much is it?
2. It’s too expensive!
3. Please say it again.
4. I don’t understand.
5. Happy New Year!

A. Here are the correct translations.

1. 多少钱？
   Duōshǎo qián?

2. 太贵了！
   Tàiguì le!

3. 请你再说。
   Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.

4. 我听不懂。
   Wǒ tīng bù dǒng.

5. 新年快乐！
   Xīnnián kuài lè!
Useful words

Use this list of words as quick reference and to improve your Chinese vocabulary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>afternoon</td>
<td>xiàwǔ</td>
<td>下午</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airplane</td>
<td>fēijī</td>
<td>飞机</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>also</td>
<td>yě</td>
<td>也</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apple</td>
<td>píngguǒ</td>
<td>苹果</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>arm</td>
<td>gēbo</td>
<td>胳膊</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at</td>
<td>zài</td>
<td>在</td>
</tr>
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<td>backyard</td>
<td>huāyuán</td>
<td>花园</td>
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<td>bathroom</td>
<td>cèsuǒ</td>
<td>厕所</td>
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<td>to be</td>
<td>shì</td>
<td>是</td>
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<tr>
<td>below</td>
<td>xià</td>
<td>下</td>
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<td>bicycle</td>
<td>zìxíngchē</td>
<td>自行车</td>
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<td>brother—younger</td>
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<td>弟弟</td>
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<td><strong>English</strong></td>
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<td>mǎi</td>
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Acknowledgments

Dorling Kindersley would like to thank: Caroline Bingham, Iris Chan, Caroline Purslow, Suzanne Thompson, and Fleur Star for editorial support; Claire Bowers, Rose Horridge, and Rob Nunn for picture research. Calvin Quek and Xiao Yao in Beijing for editorial assistance. A special thanks to Jeremy and Annabel Greenwood, Christeen Duffy, and Graeme, Charlie, and Max Duffy.
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