

Written Chinese

Resources for Beginners



Contents

- [The Definitive Guide to Pinyin & Chinese Pronunciation](#)
- [Pinyin Chart](#)
- [What's the Best Way to Learn Chinese? Some Do's & Don'ts from a Student of Mandarin](#)
- [The Chinese Bigram: Why Learning Chinese Characters is Easier in Twos](#)
- [The Radical Truth: The Importance of Learning Radicals](#)
- [Weighing Up Measure Words](#)
- [Chinese Character Stroke Rules \(And How To Break Them!\)](#)
- [10 Essential Chinese Sentence Patterns Every Beginner Should Know](#)
- [20 Practical Chinese Verbs You Need to Learn](#)
- [You & Me. This & That: Pronouns in Chinese](#)
- [Resource Page](#)

The Definitive Guide to Pinyin & Chinese Pronunciation

Pinyin: An Introduction

Pinyin **拼音** (pīn yīn), is the romanized translation of Chinese characters. **Pinyin was introduced after a language reform during the 1950s**, instigated by Zhou Enlai **周恩来** (zhōu ēn lái). He believed that a phonetic system was necessary in order for people to learn how to pronounce Chinese characters. Zhou Enlai worked alongside linguist, Zhou Youguang **周有光** (zhōu yǒu guāng) to create Hanyu Pinyin **汉语拼音** (hàn yǔ pīn yīn). Hanyu (another way to say ‘Chinese language’) Pinyin used the Latin alphabet, which Zhou Youguang believed would help connect China to the western world.

Zhou Youguang is known as the ‘Father of Pinyin’ and recently celebrated his 110th birthday!

Although Pinyin is based on the Latin alphabet, the sounds that are created when letters make a word, do not sound the same as English.

For example, based on our understanding that in English, the letter ‘z’ makes a sound found in ‘zebra’, ‘zoo’ and ‘buzz’, and is made with the tongue at the front of the mouth. If we look at the romanization of the Chinese city, Shenzhen **深圳** (shēn zhèn), we would assume that the second word ‘zhèn’, would be spoken with the same ‘z’ sound. However, in Pinyin, when the letters ‘z’ and ‘h’ are found together, they make a sound more similar to ‘j’, as in ‘jog’ or ‘jump’.

You’ve probably already noticed that Pinyin often has a mark above a vowel, and this indicates which tone to use. A tone is a sound, that as in music is determined by pitch and strength. It can also indicate emotions. We’ll get to the tone markers shortly, but first let’s focus on how to pronounce Pinyin.

Why Pinyin is Important

Even though Pinyin is 'based' on the Latin alphabet, it still needs to be learned. Many people want to skip Pinyin and go straight to Chinese characters, but there are several reasons why learning Pinyin is essential to learning Chinese properly.

- The pronunciation of some Pinyin is not the same as the pronunciation of the Latin letter.
- There are sounds that do not exist in the English language.
- Pinyin also shows the tone of a Chinese character.
- Pinyin acts as a base for learning Chinese characters. Once you've learned Pinyin, you can get going with characters!

You can read more about some [Pros and Cons about learning Pinyin](#) here.

How to Pronounce Pinyin

As I mentioned in the introduction, even though pinyin uses the Latin alphabet, the pronunciation is not the same as its romanized counterpart, and it is IMPOSSIBLE to learn Chinese without listening to it and speaking it. You can take a look at the Pinyin chart below and see all the different sounds in the Chinese language.

Once you've learned these sounds, you're well on the way to mastering Chinese!

To learn how to read and speak Pinyin using the chart, you can do the following:

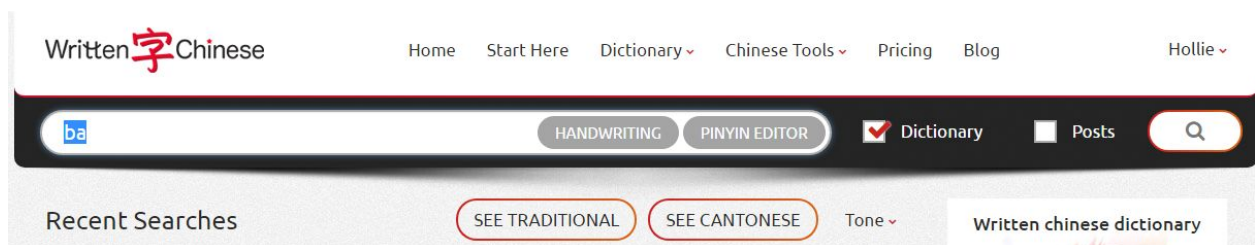
1. Copy the Pinyin you want to learn

	a	ai	ao	an
	a	ai	ao	an
b	ba	bai	bao	ban
p	pa	pai	pao	pan
m	ma	mai	mao	man
f	fa			fan
d	da	dai	dao	dan

2. Open a new browser tab, and open <https://dictionary.writtenchinese.com>




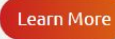













3. Paste the Pinyin into the search bar, and hit 'ENTER' on your keyboard, or tap the 'magnifying glass' search icon.

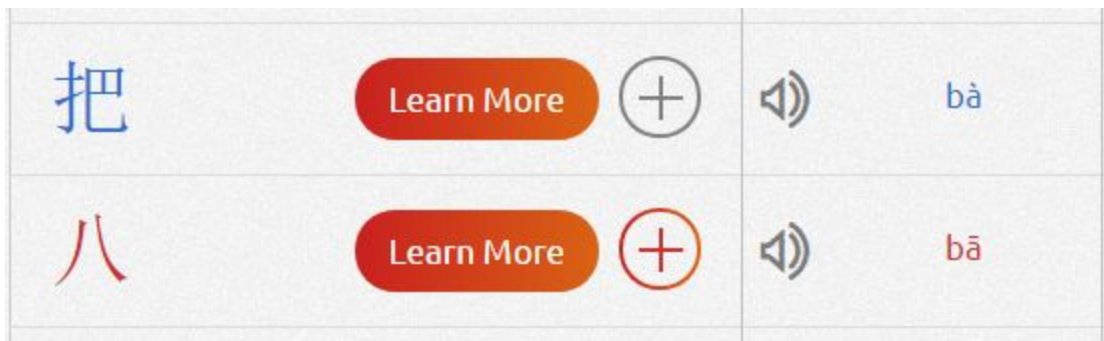


4. Look at the list of words that appear, and choose an example that has the first tone of ' – ' above the pinyin.

OUR TOP RECOMMENDED CHINESE CHARACTERS

Simplified Chinese	Pinyin	English Definition for Chinese Text	Traditional Chinese
把   	bǎ	to hold / to contain / to grasp / to take hold of / handle / particle marking the following noun as a direct object / classifier for objects with handle / classifier for small objects: handful	same
把   	bà	handle	same
八   	bā	eight / 8	same
巴   	bā	ba state during zhou dynasty (in east of modern sichuan) / abbr. for east sichuan or chongqing / abbr. for palestine or palestinian / abbr. for pakistan / to long for / to wish / to cling to / to stick to / sth that sticks / close to / next to / spread open / informal abbr. for bus 巴士 [ba1 shi4] / bar (unit of pressure) / nominalizing suffix on certain nouns, such as 尾巴[wei3 ba5], tail / surname ba	same
吧   	bā	bar (loanword) (serving drinks, or providing Internet access etc) / to puff (on a pipe etc) / (onom.) bang / abbr. for 贴吧 贴吧[tiē1 ba1]	same

5. Press the audio button and listen to the pronunciation.



You can see that there are lots of patterns within the Chinese language. For example, once you understand that the pinyin 'ao' is pronounced like 'ow' (as in 'ow! That hurt!') in English, you can begin to add the consonants and make new words.

How To Read Pinyin Tone Markers

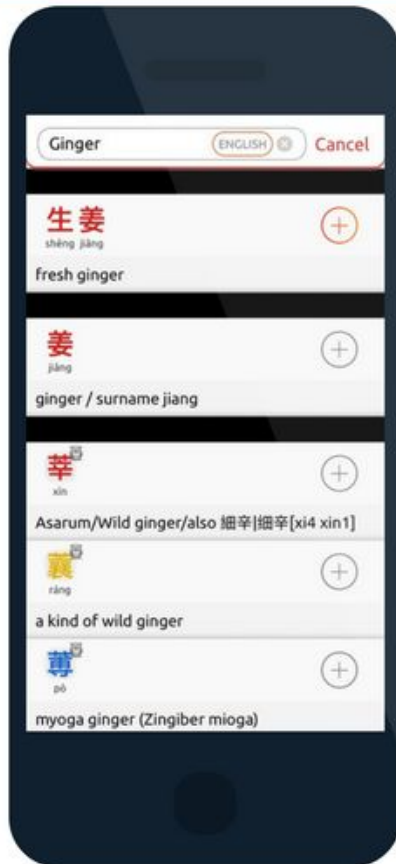
Learning to use tones is imperative if you want to speak Chinese properly. You may have heard that tones are not necessary, and that you can 'get by' just fine without them. Infact, this is absolutely true and the reality is, that you will never manage fluency without them. It is far easier to learn tones right from the beginning than to realize after 6 months of studying that you should have really buckled down and learned them. It's super difficult to backtrack and learn it once you're already several months (or even years) into speaking Chinese.

This is especially important for those of you who are in China and 'learning' Chinese, as it's much easier to become complacent about doing some serious studying.

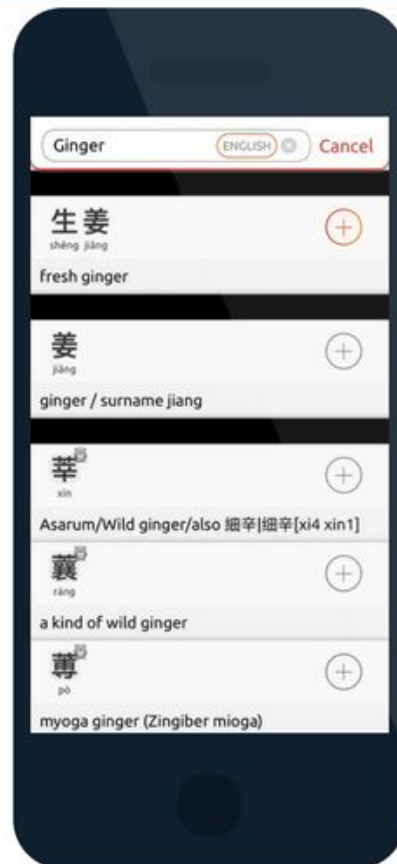
Although the line markers are a common way to read the tone of a word, you may also see Pinyin marked with a number and be colour coded.

Both our [Online Dictionary](#) and [mobile app](#) have the function to change from markers to numbers and for the Pinyin to have colours or not. It's completely your choice!

Tone Colours and Pinyin Markers



Tone Colours OFF and Pinyin Numbers



To change the tone settings in the Written Chinese Dictionary, tap on the Menu button and then go to Settings.

The 5 Tones of Mandarin Chinese

There are 5 'tones' in Mandarin Chinese. A tone **声调** (shēng diào) refers to the way a character should be spoken. Tones can often be one of the difficult parts of learning Chinese, but the most important reason why you need to learn tones, is because pinyin + tone = a word. So, if either the Pinyin or tone changes, it creates a new word.

Don't panic! It's not as crazy as it sounds. Remember that Pinyin is just the basis of your Chinese learning. Once you've grasped these concepts, you can begin to

introduce Chinese characters and much of what you've learned won't be so intimidating!

Using the Pinyin 'ma', the 5 tones are as follows: mā má mǎ mà ma

If you click on each of the 5 'ma's, you will be taken to the Online Dictionary where you can listen to the different tones. (Don't forget to press the audio button to listen!)

[mā/ma1](#) – if a vowel has a flat line above it, the pinyin is spoken with a flat high tone. This is known as the first tone.

[má/ma2](#) – if a vowel has an upward line above it, then the pinyin is spoken with a rising tone. This is known as the second tone.

[mǎ/ma3](#) – if a vowel has a 'v' shape above it, then the pinyin is spoken with a dipped tone and this is known as the third tone.

[mà/ma4](#) – if a vowel has a downward line above it, then the pinyin is spoken with a down tone and this is known as the fourth tone.

[ma/ma5](#) – if the pinyin has no line, then the pinyin has no tone. This is known as the fifth tone.

Technically, a fifth tone pinyin does have a tone, but it is dependent on the character that comes before it. As a beginner, this is something to be aware of, but not something to panic about!

Test Your Tones!

Once you've listened to the different tones, you can test yourself using our tone trainer. Even if you're brand new to Chinese, this can help train your ear to hearing the five different tones.

Try [our Tone Trainer](#)



Perfect Your Chinese Pronunciation

So, now that you've learned the importance of Pinyin, you can make a start on using the Pinyin Chart, to perfect your Chinese pronunciation from the very beginning of your Chinese adventure!

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/the-definitive-guide-to-pinyin-chinese-pronunciation/>

	a	ai	ao	an	ang	o	ong	ou	e	ei	en	eng	er	i	ia	iao	ie	iu	ian	iang	in	ing	iong	u	ua	uo	ui	uai	uan	un	uang	ueng	ü	üe	üan	ün				
	a	ai	ao	an	ang	o	ong	ou	e		en	eng	er	yi	ya	yao	ye	yu	yan	yang	yin	ying	yong	wu	wa	wo	wei	wai	wan	wen	wang	weng	yu	yue	yuan	yun				
b	ba	bai	bao	ban	bang	bo			e	bei	ben	beng	er	bi	biao	bie			bian		bin	bing	bu																	
p	pa	pai	pao	pan	pang	po		pou		pei	pen	peng		pi	piao	pie			pian		pin	ping	pu																	
m	ma	mai	mao	man	mang	mo		mou	me	mei	men	meng		mi	miao	mie	miu		mian		min	ming	mu																	
f	fa			fan	fang	fo		fou		fei	fen	feng											fu																	
d	da	dai	dao	dan	dang		dong	dou	de	dei		deng		di	diao	die	diu		dian		ding		du		duo	dui		duan	tun											
t	ta	tai	tao	tan	tang		tong	tou	te	tei		teng		ti	tiao	tie		tian		ting		tu		tu	tu	tui		tuan	dun											
n	na	nai	nao	nan	nang		nong	nou	ne	nei	nen	neng		ni	niao	nie	niu	nian	nian	niang	nin	ning	nu		nuo			nuan				nü	nüe							
l	la	lai	lao	lan	lang		long	lou	le	lei		leng		li	liao	lie	liu	lian	lian	liang	lin	ling	lu		luo			luan	lun		lü	lüe								
g	ga	gai	gao	gan	gang		gong	gou	ge	gei	gen	geng											gu	gua	guo	gui	guai	guan	gun	guang										
k	ka	kai	kao	kan	kang		kong	kou	ke	kei	ken	keng											ku	kua	kuo	kui	kuai	kuan	kun	kuang										
h	ha	hai	hao	han	hang		hong	hou	he	hei	hen	heng											hu	hua	huo	hui	huai	huan	hun	huang										
z	za	zai	zao	zan	zang		zong	zou	ze	zei	zen	zeng		zi									zu		zuo	zui		zuan	zun											
c	ca	cai	cao	can	cang		cong	cou	ce		cen	ceng		ci									cu		cuo	cui		cuan	cun											
s	sa	sai	sao	san	sang		song	sou	se		sen	seng		si									su		suo	sui		suan	sun											
zh	zha	zhai	zhao	zhan	zhang		zhong	zhou	zhe	zhei	shen	sheng		zhi									zhu	zhua	zhuo	zhui	zhuai	zhuan	zhun	zhuang										
ch	cha	chai	chao	chan	chang		chong	chou	che		chen	cheng		chi									chu	chua	chuo	chui	chuai	chuan	chun	chuang										
sh	sha	shai	shao	shan	shang			shou	she	shei	shen	sheng		shi									shu	shua	shuo	shui	shuai	shuan	shun	shuang										
r			rao	ran	rang		rong	rou	re		ren	reng		ri									ru	rua	ruo	rui		ruan	run											
j										ji	jiao	jie	jiu	jian	jia	jiao	jie	jiu	jian	jiang	jin	jing	jiong										ju	jue	juan	jun				
q										qi	qiao	qie	qiu	qian	qia	qiao	qie	qiu	qian	qiang	qin	qing	qiong									qu	que	quan	qun					
x										xi	xiao	xie	xiu	xian	xia	xiao	xie	xiu	xian	xiang	xin	xing	xiong									xu	xue	xuan	xun					

What's the Best Way to Learn Chinese? Some Do's & Don'ts from a Student of Mandarin

I have to admit, I'm not the best student. I've been in China for a number of years, and I've learned a lot of lessons that I wish I'd known before I started learning Chinese.

For a start, I wish I'd been more disciplined, because what I found was that unless I actually opened my ears and listened to this language, I would never actually learn anything.

To help those of you who are maybe new to learning Chinese, are considering studying a new language or even just need a push in the right direction, I've come up with some suggested do's and don'ts I wish I had known a long time ago. I feel as though my studying would have been smoother, more enjoyable and my Chinese would have progressed way quicker!

My list obviously doesn't need to be followed to the letter, and you probably all have other do's and don'ts that you would like to share with fellow learners. If you would like to share any ideas, please share them in the comments below! Also, I wouldn't expect everyone to agree with my list, it's just based on my (and my friends/ colleagues/ and other Chinese learners) experiences, but they might not fit everyone.

To keep things positive and to move forward with our Chinese learning, I've got more do's than don'ts.

Here's my list to help you find the best way to learn Chinese:

DO...learn to read and write

If I'd have known this a few years back, I wouldn't feel like I'm now back in kindergarten learning to write ABC again. I can't stress enough how much more

difficult it is to learn to read and write all those characters you are now able to speak. So many people are put off from learning to read and write Chinese characters, including myself, because it's 'too hard'. Since I started learning to read and write Chinese Characters, I'm way more excited about learning Chinese. That probably sounds a bit strange, but I find learning and understanding characters so interesting! Characters are made up of smaller 'parts' known as radicals ([that you can read more about here](#)) that help understand pronunciation and meaning. Although, I don't suggest learning characters as soon as you begin learning to speak, after a month or so, you could begin to learn some basic 'pictograph' characters to get you started.

Written  Chinese

Pictographic characters

雨 手 伞 目 口 川



www.writtenchinese.com

If you're not convinced, take a look at [some other reasons why Characters are great!](#)

DO...get a teacher

I think until I got a teacher, I wasn't disciplined enough to focus on seriously learning Chinese. Once I finally got a teacher, it was a bit disheartening to realize my tones were atrociously bad and I basically had to start from scratch. Now obviously that's my personal experience, and I do know a lot of people who've

[Back to Top](#)

learned Chinese, although not fluently, without formal classes, I believe getting a teacher can really benefit your Chinese learning. Not only can they guide you in the right direction, and give encouragement, but they're also someone to practice speaking with! A teacher doesn't have to be someone who works in a school either, they can just be a friend or a colleague (one that speaks Chinese, obviously). On a side note, a lot of men I know here who've had Chinese girlfriends, have great Chinese, although I'm not suggesting you go on the hunt for one just to improve your Mandarin!

DO...immerse yourself in the Language

If you have an opportunity to come to China to travel or teach, then take it! Nora and I record a weekly podcast where we talk about living in China, so if you're interested in making the move over here, have a listen! Seriously though, plonking yourself (for a short time) in a 2nd tier City here in China, is probably gonna not only improve your Chinese, but teach you some valuable lessons about culture and Chinese people! You might have to go without some home comforts, but your Chinese will be great!

Of course, if you can't get to China right now, there are still plenty of ways in which you can become more immersed in Chinese. You can visit your nearest Chinatown or local Chinese restaurant. There you can listen to them speak, try and read the Chinese characters on the menu and even try and order your food in Chinese. [Nora strongly recommends watching game shows and reality TV shows to improve your Chinese](#), although movies are great too! Finally, make some Chinese friends!

DO...make time to study

Even if you don't have a lot of free time, it will really help your studies if you're able to put time aside each day to learn some vocabulary, or do the [Written Chinese Dashboard homework](#). Why not use your commute to review some flashcards, or take 10 minutes of your lunch break to practice writing some characters. This is my current study schedule:

One 1 ½ hour Chinese class per week where I might get 20 – 30 new vocabulary words for speaking and around 20 characters to learn to read and write. I then add those words to a new flashcard list in my [Written Chinese Dictionary app](#). Either on my way to work or if I take a break at work, I use the 'study' function to learn the vocabulary words, first beginning with Chinese – English and gradually

making it more difficult to English – Chinese. Also, each day at work, I take a break in the afternoon when I try and complete the Daily homework. I have a notebook I keep by my desk where I write the character, pinyin and meaning and then find the top 2 or 3 bigrams since these are extremely useful. Then I try and use the character to write 1 or 2 sentences. I don't put too much pressure on myself to be able to write all the characters without checking the stroke order, it's more about just practicing writing and using correct grammar! I share my homework on the dictionary, and wait for Chamcen 老师 (lǎo shī) to tell me where I went wrong! Finally, when I get home, I practice writing the 20 or so characters for about 10 minutes. I don't do this every night, but I try and mix it up by using my hanzi note book, my 'magic' writing mat and also using my mobile to write the characters. Overall, I spend around 20-30 minutes a day studying, in 10 minute slots.



My method might not work for you, [find out how my colleague, Mike studies Chinese!](#)

DO...learn about Chinese culture

A few months ago, I had some great classes from a local non-profit organization where the teacher taught a lot about culture, specifically geography and food. Learning just a little about Chinese culture can actually teach you a lot about the language. Once you begin to understand about China and its traditions, both the spoken and written language will probably make a lot more sense. Plus, it's a great opportunity to pick up a hobby too. You could learn to play Mahjong, [learn about Chinese tea](#) or [how to cook Chinese dishes](#)!

DO...look at the Traditional Characters

As you might already know, Chinese characters have changed considerably since their beginnings, but looking back at Traditional characters, or sometimes even further back, can help us get a better understanding of a specific character. Some simplified characters bare very little resemblance to their traditional counterpart, which is why many people find traditional characters more beautiful and also informative. There are great books out there that teach a bit about the etymology of a character. I especially like 'Fun with Chinese characters'. [You can find links for the whole series here.](#)

You can see both simplified and traditional characters in our [Online Dictionary](#) and [Written Chinese Dictionary mobile app](#), just tap the button to flip between them quickly!

Etymology of 木



木 (mù): tree/ wood/
wooden

DO...learn Radicals

I can't emphasise enough how [essential radicals can be to your Chinese learning](#)! I kind of have a strange obsession with radicals, because I love making connections between characters with similar radicals. Not only are radicals the 'building blocks' of characters, but they will also make your learning both more interesting and easier. Recognising some radicals will help you understand both the pronunciation and the meaning of a character. You'll also begin to look at a character and associate it with a specific area. For example, characters that have 2 strokes on the left side, like this: 冰 (bīng) are associated with ice. The following characters all have the 'ice' radical on the left side of the character so this means they are all 'cold' in some way: 冷 (lěng – cold), 冻 (dòng – freeze) and 凝 (níng – congeal).

These 4 characters

冰 冷 冻 凝

All share the 冫 (bīng) 'ice'
radical

DO...listen to different regional accents

You've probably listened to the mp3s that come with your textbook and know the typical Beijing accent. But if you're going to travel around China, or communicate with Chinese people, chances are they won't speak like a Beijing-er. For example, in our city of Shenzhen, there are lots of people from Hunan, although if you take what they say to be true, they're actually from 'Funan'. Hunan people, speak 'H's as 'F's, and it doesn't stop there. Many other Chinese accents have similar differences compared with the standard Beijing accent you might only have heard. Try and listen to Chinese podcasts and regional TV shows to listen to different accents. These resources are easy to come by and will probably be free! You can use [LizhiFM to download Chinese podcasts](#) and there are a variety of video streaming sites such as YouKu and Viki.

DO...learn Tones

As I mentioned previously, in the early days my tones were terrible, and I quickly realized that context could help me get away with it! However, trying to cop out of learning tones has only my spoken Chinese sloppy, and yet another thing I now have to go back and learn from scratch! You can try out Tone trainer to practice

listening to the different tones; once your ear becomes accustomed to the 5 different sounds, it will be easier to speak them yourself. Finally, both our [Online Dictionary](#) and [Written Chinese Dictionary](#) have audio files for each character and bigram to help you learn from pronunciation and tone.

Now let's look at some 'don'ts' for learning Chinese, most of which I've been a culprit of myself!

DON'T...learn each individual character

Seriously, the idea of initially trying to learn every individual character gives me nightmares!

If you're learning to read and write Chinese characters, forget this idea that you should start from scratch with each individual character. It makes more sense to [begin learning with bigrams](#). A bigram is a 2 character combination that basically makes a 'word' in Chinese. The meaning of a character can sometimes be vague and it can be daunting to know how to use it. Once you begin to learn Chinese bigrams, you'll start to recognize and understand individual characters much more!

DON'T...be so serious!

Use games, get a hobby or listen to Chinese music! Using a book and a dictionary is not the only way to study; there are so many great resources and tools out there to make learning fun! Written Chinese has its own game, [Chinese Match Game Mobile App](#), that you can check out here.

There are plenty of hobbies that will help you learn Chinese. Nora recommends [finding a calligraphy class](#), or learning Mahjong with Chinese people without speaking English (if possible!) [Listening to music](#) or watching [Chinese tv shows](#) or movies, can be a brilliant way to practice your listening and reading skills (from the subtitles), and the best thing is, many of these resources are free! Finally, I suggest learning some [Chinese slang](#), which can give you an insight into contemporary Chinese culture and mindset. Plus, they can often be pretty funny and they'll impress your friends!

My final, and possibly most important point is

DON'T... give up!

I'd like to preface this final comment, by congratulating all of you for sticking with learning a language. If you've gotten this far, then I really hope that you continue to enjoy learning this great language!

I think that once you have a method to learning Chinese, you'll realize it's not as difficult as everyone told you. Yes, it has tones, and you don't recognize the written language, never mind write it, but many people have learned Chinese, and many fluently enough to communicate as a native. Learning a language should be a bit of a challenge anyway, otherwise where's the fun?!

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/whats-the-best-way-to-learn-chinese-some-dos-donts-from-a-student-of-mandarin/>

The Chinese Bigram: Why Learning Chinese Characters is Easier in Twos

What is a Bigram?

A bigram, is according to the Oxford Dictionary,

“A pair of consecutive written units such as letters, syllables, or words”

In the English language, an example of a letter bigram would be ‘th’, as found in ‘the’, ‘their’ and ‘there’.

Bigrams also exist in the Chinese language, because almost all Chinese ‘words’ are made up of more than 1 character.

Although a single character has its own meaning, it is often when it is combined with another character that it is used as a word in Chinese.

Let’s look at a few examples:

工 (gōng) is one of the most commonly used characters in the Chinese language and means ‘work’. However, this character is rarely used alone and it more commonly found to create the following words:

工作 (gōng zuò) – to work (工 – work + 作 – to do)

工业 (gōng yè) – industry (工 – work + 业 – business)

工资 (gōng zī) – salary (工 – work + 资 – money)

工人 (gōng rén) – worker (工 – work + 人 – person)

Single Chinese Characters

We often get questions from users on our [Written Chinese Facebook page](#) and also on our detail pages of our [Online Living Dictionary](#).

We recently had a question about how single characters work in Chinese. He offered up the example search of the English word 'but'.



Thelastofthemexicans → Nora Joy Wilson · 4 days ago

Awesome writing! do you learn by yourself? I have been trying for some months but I really have a problem when words like this have several meanings, when I look a word in a dictionary I find some words like "but" can be 而, 但, 只, and within these three characters have several meanings, how the chinese language deals with this?

^ | v · Reply · Share >

If you search for the English word 'but' in the [Written Chinese Dictionary](#), you will see several different Chinese characters that all translate to 'but'.

Simplified Chinese	Pinyin	English Definition for Chinese Text	Traditional Chinese
Learn More 而	ér	and / as well as / and so / but (not) / yet (not) / (indicates causal relation) / (indicates change of state) / (indicates contrast)	same
Learn More 只	zhǐ	only / merely / just / but	same
Learn More 只	zhǐ	but / only	祇
Learn More 但	dàn	but / yet / however / only / merely / still	same
Learn More 却	què	but / yet / however / while / to go back / to decline / to retreat / nevertheless / even though	卻
Learn More 喪	sàng	to lose sth abstract but important (courage, authority, one's life etc) / to be bereaved of (one's spouse etc) / to die / disappointed / discouraged	喪

As you can see in the image above, all three characters 但, 而 and 只 mean 'but'.

If you scroll down the page showing the results of the 'but' search you will see different results that use the two character combination, known as a bigram.

Simplified Chinese	Pinyin	English Definition for Chinese Text	Traditional Chinese
☑ 但是	▶ dàn shì	but / however	same
☑ 可是	▶ kě shì	but / however / (used for emphasis) indeed	same
☑ 不过	▶ bú guò	only / merely / no more than / but / however / anyway (to get back to a previous topic) / cannot be more (after adjectival)	不過
☑ 只是	▶ zhǐ shì	merely / simply / only / but	same
☑ 而且	▶ ér qiě	(not only ...) but also / moreover / in addition / furthermore	same
☑ 然而	▶ rán ér	however / yet / but	same

Many 'words' in Chinese are often found in the form of a bigram, whilst the components of the word are the individual characters.

So if we look at the three characters in question, 但, 而 and 只, although they all mean 'but', once they become a bigram, their meaning becomes more useful and create words that are synonymous with the word 'but'. Although individual characters have meaning, once they're in the 2 character combination, their meaning (and use) often becomes more clear.

How to Use a Chinese Bigram

Below we look at the three characters 但, 而 and 只 and how they are used in a sentence.

但 / 但是 (dàn shì): But / however

我想和你一起去逛街, 但是我已经和人约好了今天看电影。 (wǒ xiǎng hé nǐ yī qǐ qù guàng jiē, dàn shì wǒ yǐ jīng hé rén yuē hǎo le jīn tiān kàn diàn yǐng.) = I want to go shopping with you, however I have already arranged to watch a movie today.

而 / 而是 (ér shì): Rather

有时候, 成功不在于你是否有天赋, 而是取决于你是否有决心。 (yǒu shí hou, chéng gōng bù zài yú nǐ shì fǒu yǒu tiān fù, ér shì qǔ jué yú nǐ shì fǒu yǒu jué xīn.) = Sometimes, success does not depend on whether you have talent or not, rather it depends on whether you are determined or not.

只 / 只是 (zhǐ shì) = only / merely / simply

他只是我最喜欢的歌手之一。 (tā zhǐ shì wǒ zuì xǐ huan de gē shǒu zhī yī.) = He is but one of my favorite singers.

As you can see, the three characters make more sense when they are combined with another character to create a bigram.

Of course, as you're learning Chinese, it's natural (and important) to be able to recognize characters individually, but for me personally, learning bigrams has been much easier than struggling through individual characters.

Why You Should Learn Chinese Bigrams

I strongly suggest that all students of Chinese that are beginning to learn to read and write Chinese characters use bigrams to get started. Here are just a few reasons:

You'll naturally begin to break down the bigram and understand the meaning of each individual character

After some time, you'll begin to feel more comfortable about learning individual characters, especially the ones that pop up more frequently in bigrams. These characters will probably be useful to you as well!

You'll be able to read more, faster

How is that possible? Let me tell you. If you're learning bigrams, you're learning 2 characters at a time. If you learn the word for world, 世界 (shì jiè) you don't need to spend time (at least not immediately), trying to understand the meaning of each character.

You'll be able to express yourself more and make more comprehensive sentences

Once you begin learning bigrams, and constructing your own sentences, you can post them on our [Online Dictionary](#). Although our dictionary includes many example sentences, we think it's awesome when people leave their own example sentences, character mnemonics and ways to remember a character or bigram. You can also complete the daily homework on the Written Chinese Study space


dashboard which can be found in the [Written Chinese Dictionary mobile app](#), or at [WrittenChinese.Com](#).

Characters have so many different meanings it can be overwhelming, bigrams are usually limited to only a few meanings.

You might find that single characters can sometimes have many different meanings. When you use the single character with another and make a bigram, the meaning of the word can often make more sense.

For example, let's look at the character 道 (dao).

The definition for the character include some of the following: direction / way / road / path / principle / truth / morality / reason / skill / method / to say / to speak / to talk.

Learn More 道	 dào	direction / way / road / path / CL: 线条[tiao2], 股[gu3] / principle / truth / morality / reason / skill / method / Dao (of Daoism) / to say / to speak / to talk / classifier for long thin things (rivers, cracks etc), barriers (walls, doors etc), questions (in an exam etc), commands, courses in a meal, steps in a process / province (of Korea or Japan)
------------------------------	---	--

Which definition should you focus on, and which is more important to learn first?

Instead of learning this sole character, it would be more useful (and save lots of confusion) to leave the bigram which includes to character 道 (dao), 知道 (zhī dao), which means 'to know'.

Learn More <input type="checkbox"/> 知道	 zhī dao	know / be aware of
--	---	--------------------

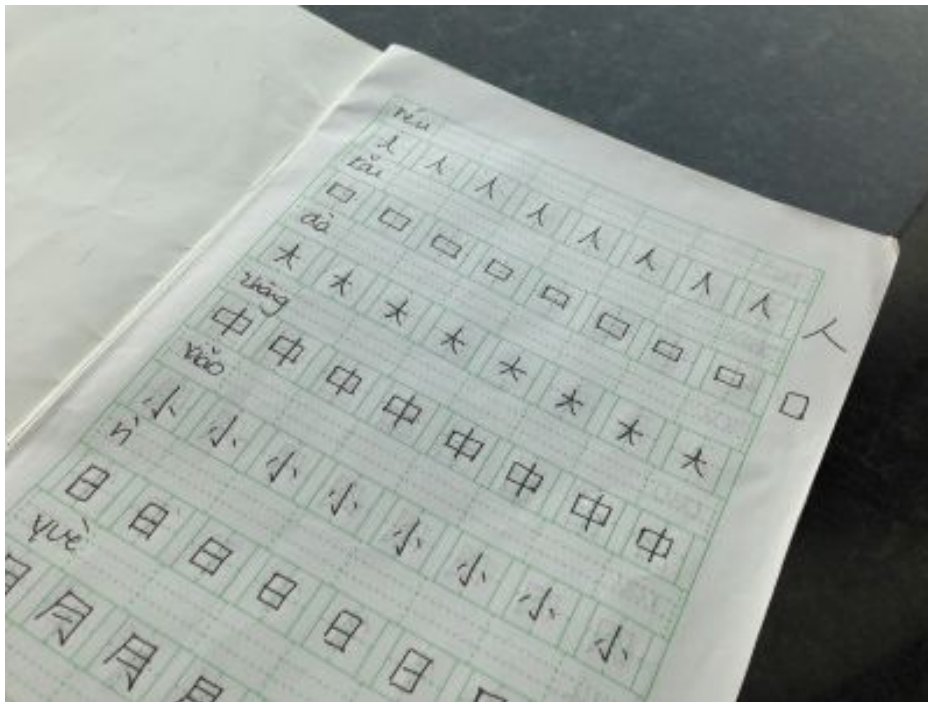
You can study Chinese bigrams by using the Common Bigrams flashcard set that has 318 of the top Chinese bigrams.

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/chinese-bigram-why-learning-chinese-characters-is-easier-in-twos/>

The Radical Truth: The Importance of Learning Radicals

I remember the class when my Chinese teacher said we were going to do some writing. She gave my friend and I one of those books with the grids they give to school children and I just thought: 'I have no idea what I'm doing!'



You can call it defeatist, or a bad attitude, but I honestly thought that it was just too complicated for little old me. Even as we started I felt like I couldn't even hold the pen properly to make a stroke. Actually by the end of the class I quite enjoyed myself, but it wasn't until after a few weeks that she began to teach us about radicals. That was when I got really excited about learning to read and write Chinese. The fact that characters had a meaning, that they weren't just lots of lines that sometimes made pretty pictures was amazing! The penny dropped (from a great height), a light bulb went on after a long power cut and I realised that maybe I actually 'got' it and that even I had a chance to learn to read and write Chinese.

We have written several posts focused on radicals and their meanings and it seems as though a lot of you really understand the value of radicals. However, there are lots of newcomers to Written Chinese and so it seems fitting to now explain the reason why learning radicals is important in order to further your Chinese.

So let's start by having a look at the following characters:

休, 你, 们, 作

Now let's have a look at the left side of all four characters. You can probably see that what they all have in common is this: 亻(rén). This is a radical meaning 'person'. The 'person' radical is also the stand alone character 人, the radical is just turned slightly on its side.

So what does that mean?

It means that these 4 characters 休 (xiū), 你 (nǐ), 们 (men) and 作 (zuò) are all related in some way to people.



Written 字 Chinese

These 4 characters

休 你 们 作

All share the 亻 (rén) 'person' radical



www.writtenchinese.com

I guess what we need to remember is that this written language has existed for thousands of years and has gone through many transitions, not all of them

particularly sympathetic to the meaning of a character. The result is that sometimes, the meaning of a radical in relation to a character is a little hard to understand, because it is based on a traditional meaning. However, in this case the four characters have a direct connection to the 人 (rén) radical.

休 (xiū) is a pictographic character so it can literally be taken apart. We have 亻 meaning person and 木 (mù) meaning tree (you can check out our blog post on [木字旁: The Tree Radical](#) later for more information on that.). So what would a person be doing stood next to a tree? Having a rest of course! After hours of working in the fields, he sits down in the shade of the tree and relaxes.

The meaning of 休 (xiū) is to have a rest.

The meaning of the next three is less obvious, but because of the radical you can tell that they must have something to do with people.

你 (nǐ) – You

们 – (men) Plural marker for pronouns

作 – (zuò) To do

A radical usually indicates the meaning or pronunciation of a character. Radicals are not only important to help us understand the meaning of the character, but it also helps when using a dictionary. Now, I know most of us are using [online dictionaries](#) and Chinese dictionary apps such as [WCC Dictionary](#), but there are still people using those things made of paper (shock!). Basically, in order to use a [汉语词典](#) (hàn yǔ cí diǎn) or Chinese Dictionary (made of paper) you need to have a good knowledge of radicals to find a characters.

梅膺祚 (Méi Yīng Zuò) developed the radical-and-stroke-sorting principle during the Ming Dynasty, which was published first within the [字汇](#) (zì huì) or ‘Lexicon’. This means that characters are listed by radical and then ordered by the number of strokes needed to write them. Actually, our own [WCC Chinese Dictionary Mobile App](#) also uses a similar function!

Check out More Chinese Radicals

On the Written Chinese Living Online Dictionary

Chinese Characters with 1 Stroke	Chinese Characters with 9 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 17 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 25 Strokes
Chinese Characters with 2 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 10 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 18 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 26 Strokes
Chinese Characters with 3 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 11 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 19 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 27 Strokes
Chinese Characters with 4 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 12 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 20 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 29 Strokes
Chinese Characters with 5 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 13 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 21 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 30 Strokes
Chinese Characters with 6 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 14 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 22 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 32 Strokes
Chinese Characters with 7 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 15 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 23 Strokes	
Chinese Characters with 8 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 16 Strokes	Chinese Characters with 24 Strokes	



Or in the WCC Dictionary App



www.writtenchinese.com/wccdictionary

Here are some basic instructions for using a Chinese Dictionary:

- First you need to know which radical the character was indexed under. You can probably guess by using the element on the left or on top of the character.
- Find the section of the dictionary related to that radical.
- Count the strokes in the remainder of the character (not including the radical strokes)

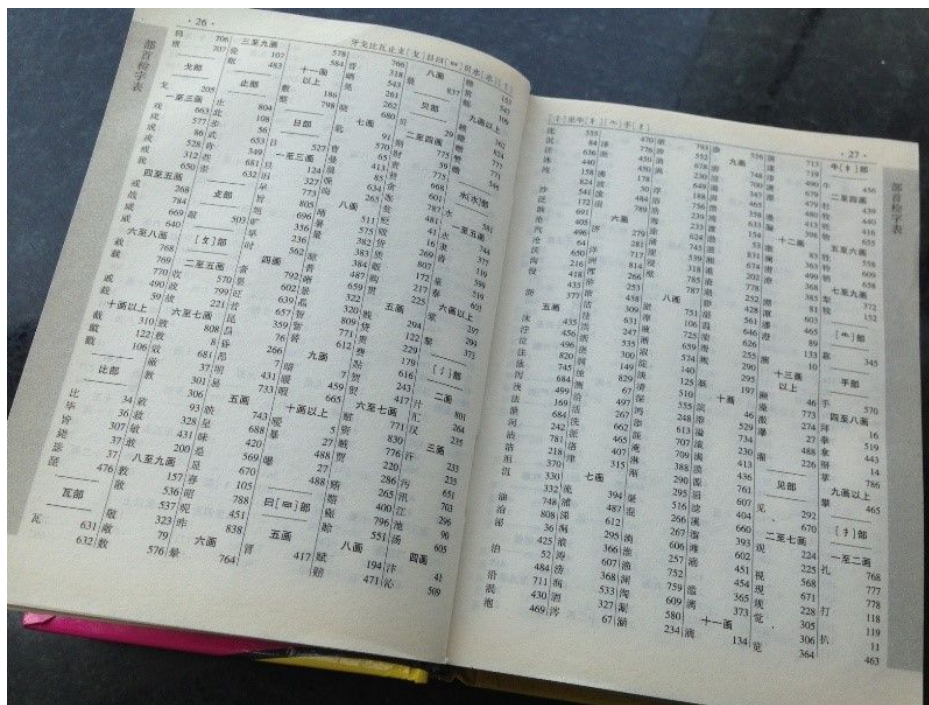
- Find the pages that include the radical that also have the number of additional strokes.
- Find the character you're looking for, or repeat steps 1-3.

Let me give you an example.

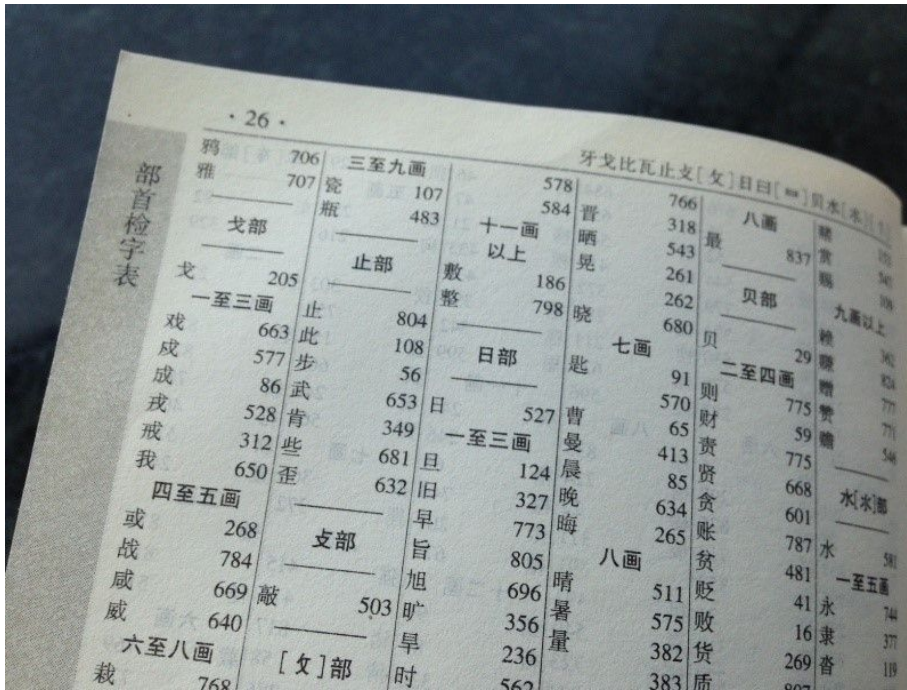
I want to find this character 晚 in the dictionary. So following my steps, first I need to know which radical to look for...

晚

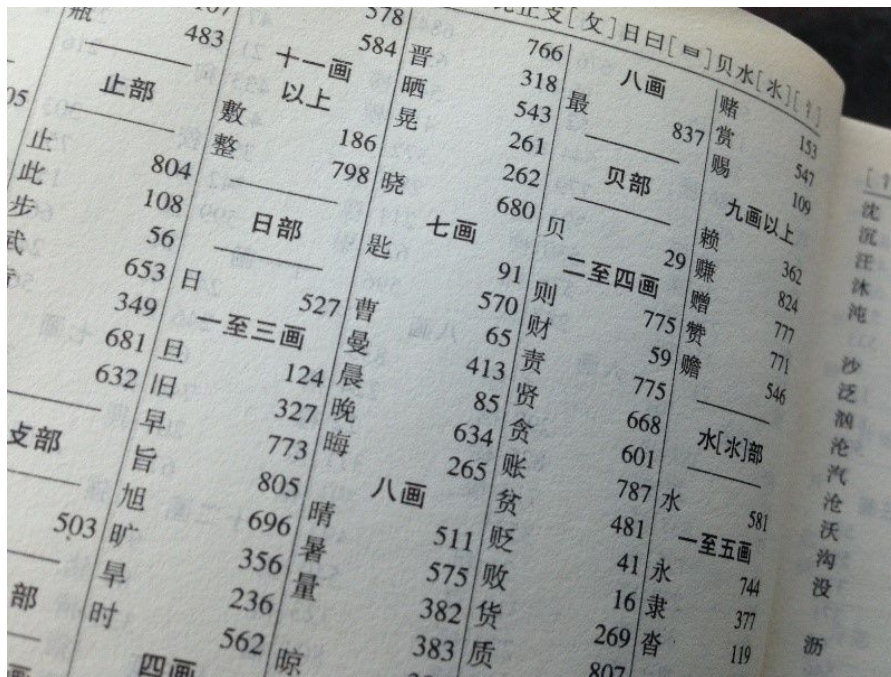
1. I looked at the left of the character, and found 日 (ri), the sun radical.



2. Now I know that this character has the radical 日, I can find the pages in the dictionary.



Got it!



3+4. Now, I have to find the section with the 日 radical and +7 strokes. I should check out page 634 for the character '晚'.



5. There it is at the bottom of the page!



If you weren't sure, **晚** (wǎn) means evening or night.

So, grab yourself a dictionary and get searching!

We all know that learning Chinese is a challenge, but what's important is not to feel defeated. Learn at your own pace, with tools that work for you and most of all enjoy it and treat it like an adventure!

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/radical-truth-importance-learning-radicals/>

Weighing Up Measure Words

There's been one area of my Chinese studying that I've found pretty confusing, at times quite annoying, but inevitably (once the penny dropped) rather interesting. For me Chinese measure words became an added challenge when learning an already intriguing language. But it has to be said, they are an essential part of learning Mandarin.

As always I had questions, confrontation and somewhat reluctant acceptance until I realized it was never that bad to begin with (you may have noticed a theme in my writing):

Why do I need to measure anything?

I have a/an = 一个.

Simple.

No. No, it can't be can it.

Let's have a measure word for flat things, skinny things, small animals, big animals, and to confuse things a little more, horses have their OWN measure word...

If measure words are getting a little heavy here's my whistle-stop guide to measure words to help you lose some worry weight and be on your merry way!

张 (zhāng) is the classifier for flat objects such as paper.

一张纸巾 (yì zhāng zhǐ jīn) is a piece of tissue. If you want a whole pack of tissues you need to say 一包纸巾 (yì bāo zhǐ jīn).

But 张 does not extend to books which has its own classifier: 本, for example 一本书 meaning 'a book'.

In the past I've gotten rather irritable over 张 because although it is a measure word for flat objects, if it is long and flat (oh er), apparently the 'long' classifier is given preference (yes, the pun continued).



Long and narrow things are given the classifier 条 (tiáo).

For example 一条领带 (yī tiáo lǐng dài) is 'a tie'. Amusingly enough sharks and fish are also measured using 条 as in 一条鲨鱼 (yī tiáo shā yú), although personally I'm glad I'm not the one measuring sharks.

Continuing with animals...



Big animals such as elephants, cows and giraffes are measured using the character 头 (tóu).

But small animals and birds are measured using 只 (zhī) so for example: 一只龟 (yī zhī guī) = a turtle and 一只企鹅 (yī zhī qǐ é) = a penguin.

Horses and other horsey looking animal such as mules randomly, have their own measure word 匹 (pǐ). History suggests the measure word was meant to reflect to relationship between the horse and man.



只 is also used to indicate something is 1 of a pair.

Clumsy people can use 一只筷子 (yī zhī kuài zi) for 1 chopstick, pirates can say 一只眼睛 (yī zhī yǎn jīng) 1 eye.

When you talk about a pair of something we use the measure word 双 (shuāng). A pair of hands are 双手 (shuāng shǒu), but unlike English you DO NOT say 双裤子 (shuāng kù zi) for a pair of trousers or pants, depending on whose side you're on. Go back to 条 (tiáo) the measurer of all things long and narrow for 一条裤子 which, unless you enjoy wearing bell bottom-ed flairs, works well enough.



件 (jiàn) is the measure word for clothes that are not straight and narrow and don't come in twos and all you're left with is sweater 一件毛衣 (máo yī), swimsuit: 一件泳衣 (yǒng yī), and shirt: 一件衬衫 (chèn shān).



所 (suǒ) is used for institutions for example 一所医院 (yì suǒ yī yuàn) a hospital and 二所学校 (èr suǒ xué xiào) is a school.



However, 家 (jiā) is the measure word used when talking about businesses and homes. For example 一家酒店 (yì jiā jiǔ diàn) for a hotel and 一家餐馆 (yì jiā cān guǎn) is a restaurant.

When you're in the restaurant, you can use the measure word 份 (fèn) for a 'batch' of something....

An essential measure word to know is 瓶 (píng) for when buying a bottle of wine 一瓶红葡萄酒 (yī píng hóng pú tao jiǔ) or ordering beers 五瓶啤酒 (wǔ píng pí jiǔ).

If you're visiting 星巴克 (xīng bā kè = Starbucks) and want a skinny vanilla latte with no cream you can use the measure word 杯 (bēi), this character is also the noun 'cup' – 杯子 (bēi zi).

The last example is 次 (cì) used to indicate 'time'. For example 下次 (xià cì) means next time, 上次 (shàng cì) is last time. You can combine 次 with many different verbs just as in english. 每次 (měi cì) – every time, 这次 (zhè cì) – this time or now.

Measure words are not the most difficult thing to learn and although there are rules, there are often exceptions that you need to be aware of. Otherwise they're gonna stick a foot out and trip you up.

笔	bǐ	pen / pencil / writing brush / to write or compose / the strokes of Chinese characters / classifier for sums of money, deals / CL:支[zhi1],枝[zhi1]
---	----	---

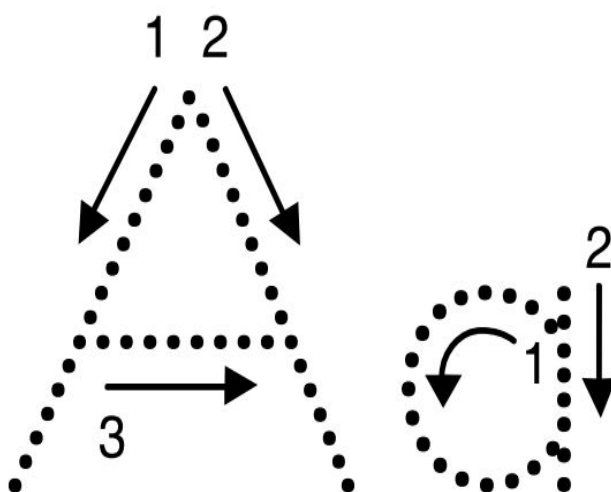
When you search for a noun in the [Written Chinese Online Dictionary](#) or [WCC Dictionary Mobile App](#) many of the examples provide a measure word for that noun. For example when searching for pencil 笔 (bǐ) the results show 2 different measure words (CL stands for classification): CL:支[zhi1], 枝[zhi1]. They are both have same first tone and have similar meanings. 支 is a measure word for rods such as guns and pens (how these two got into the same category is beyond me!) and 枝 is a classifier for sticks, branches and pencils! If you're using the [WCC Dictionary app](#), you can make a special flashcard list for the measure words you want to learn!

You can read the original article at <https://www.writtenchinese.com/weighing-measure-words/>

Chinese Character Stroke Rules (And How To Break Them!)

I think it's fair to say that just trying to recognise Chinese characters is hard enough. Even when you know your **radicals** inside out, have made a nice story (or mnemonic) woman + home = peace 安 (ān), putting pen to paper can still be a bit of a daunting prospect.

Remembering the stroke order for each and every character is, according to many of you, the most difficult thing about learning Chinese. However, ACTUALLY learning the stroke order for Characters often helps the learner to remember the character, which is why stroke order is taught in Chinese Schools from a young age. Kind of a nice catch22 there isn't it?



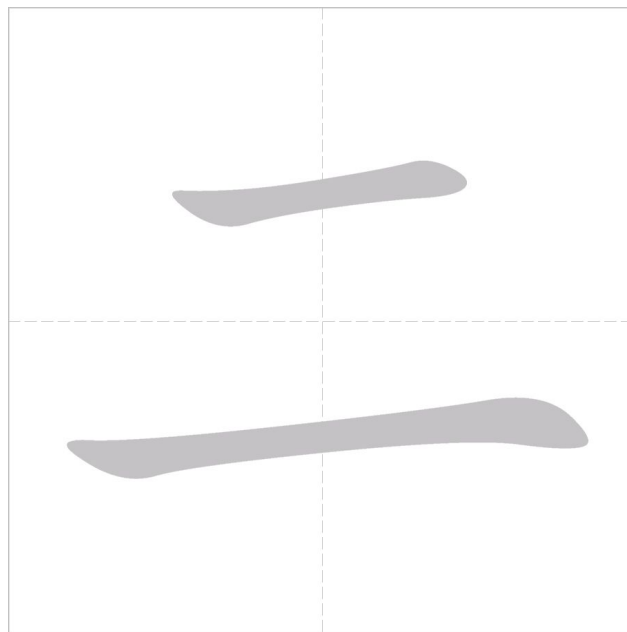
As with all 'alphabets' there are rules to produce the shape of a letter or character. In my past life as an English teacher, I taught lots of children to read and write English, and the first thing they want to do is break the rules and draw a ball and a stick to make the letter 'd'. As frustrating as this was for me, I do understand why and also have to admit that I, a grown woman over 20 years older than my students was also a culprit of writing (albeit Chinese characters) however I wanted.

So, here are some rules for writing characters that will hopefully help you get to grips with Chinese Character strokes. Of course, even with these rules there are always rebellious characters that don't follow the rules and for those, you can always check out the stroke animations on both our [online dictionary](#) and our [WCC Dictionary App](#).

It's also important for me to add that there are different strokes patterns for different locations. The stroke system in Hong Kong is different from that of Taiwan and Traditional stroke patterns differ from the order in Mainland China. Since Written Chinese focuses on Mandarin Chinese, the stroke rules shown here are those used in PRC (People's Republic of China).

1. From Top to Bottom, Left to Right

Maybe the most important things to remember, is that MOST of the time (but not always) characters are written from top to bottom and left to right.



A simple example of this is 二 (èr). Begin at the top left corner and cross to the right side. Repeat with the line below.



This is the same when a character is separated into radicals. So for example the radical on the left is completed first like here 时 (shí), unless there is a radical above like this one: 要 (yào) in which case the radical on the top is completed first.



2. Horizontal then Vertical

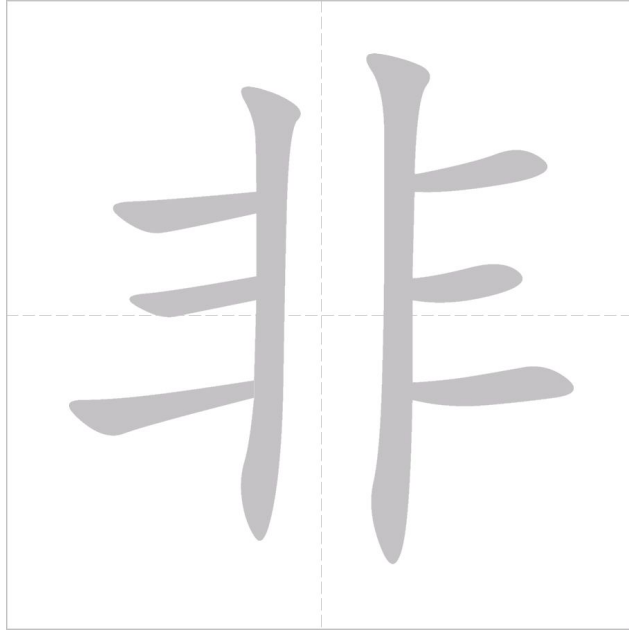
Our next stroke order rule is usually, when a horizontal and a vertical line cross, the horizontal lines comes first.



For example, the first stroke of 车 is the top horizontal line, followed by the diagonal line from top to bottom.

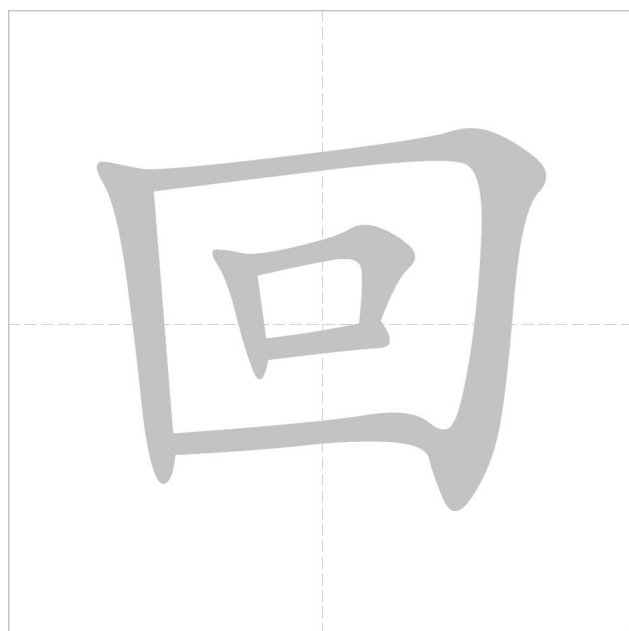
3. From the Inside Out if Symmetrical

If the character is almost symmetrical like this 非 (fēi), begin from the inside and then complete the outside from the left side and then the right.



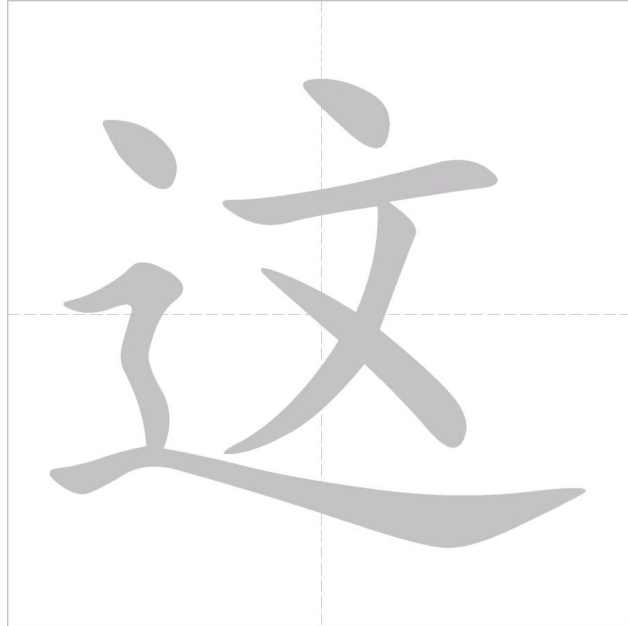
4. 'Enclosed' Characters Finish with the Bottom Horizontal to 'Close' the character.

If the character has an 'enclosure', begin the enclosure like this character 回 (huí), the first three lines are completed of the enclosure and then the central character is added, finished with a line from left to right at the bottom of the character.



5. 'Enclose' a Character on the Bottom Left at the End

Bottom 'enclosures' are usually last. For example in the character 这 (zhè) the right side of the character is completed first and the enclosure follows.



6. Dots and Dashes are Completed Last

Dots and smaller lines are usually at the end. For example with this character 雨 (yǔ), the external lines are completed first, the 'dots' or rain (this is the character for rain) come at the end.

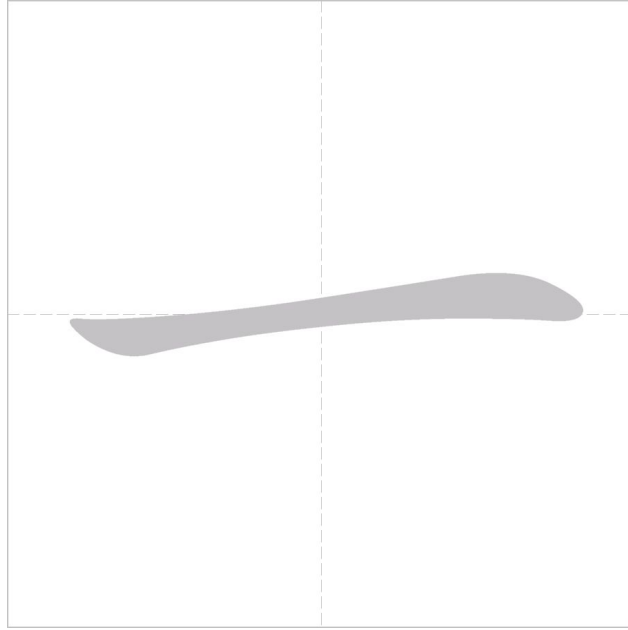


So, to confuse things a little more, not only is there a stroke ORDER, but there is also a name for each different strokes and also stroke compounds. I have heard Chinese children (and a few western friends) speak out loud when they write and I think that knowing the stroke names will also help to make your characters more legible (and pretty).

橫 (héng)



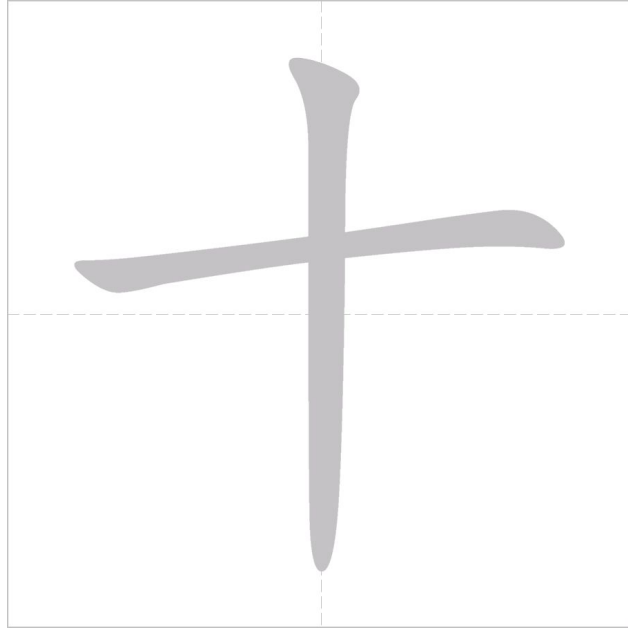
This is the horizontal line from left to right, shown in 一 (yī):



竖 (shù)



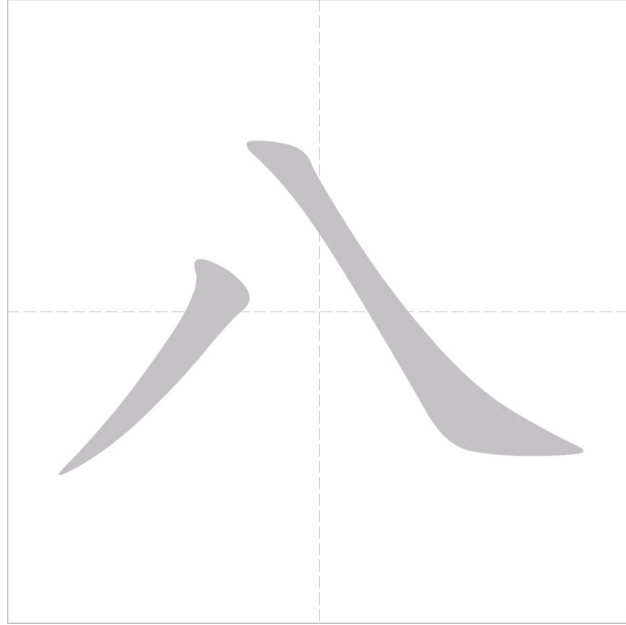
This is the vertical line from top to bottom like in the character 十 (shí):



撇 (piě)



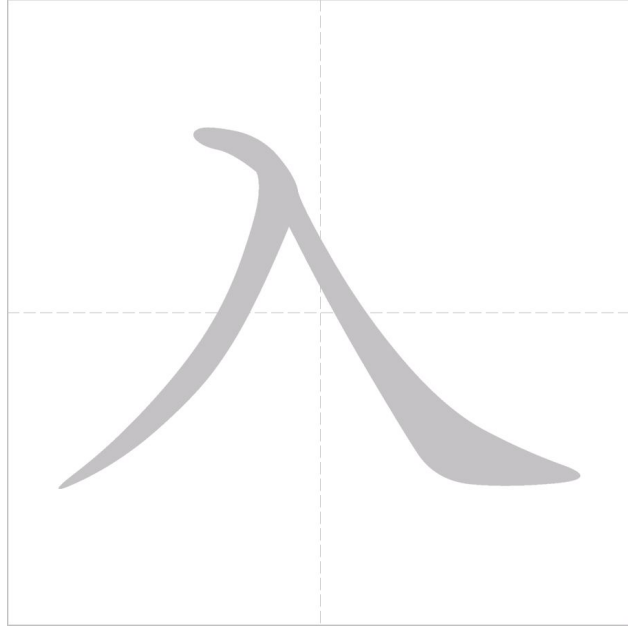
To 'cast or throw away' a stroke falling from right to left with a slight curve, as in 八 (bā):



捺 (nà)



The downwards from left right stroke. You can see it in the character 入 (rù):



点 (diǎn)



A dot or dash, like in 为 (wèi):



提 (tí)

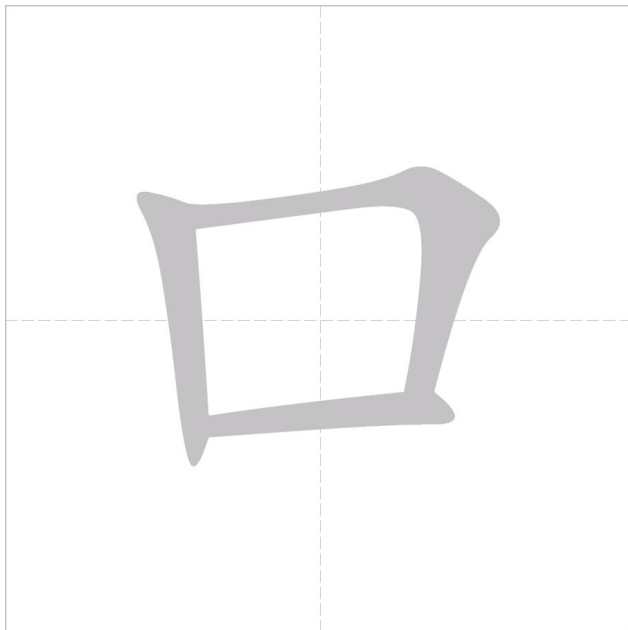


An upwards character stroke from bottom left to top right, such as in 冰 (bīng):



折 (zhé)

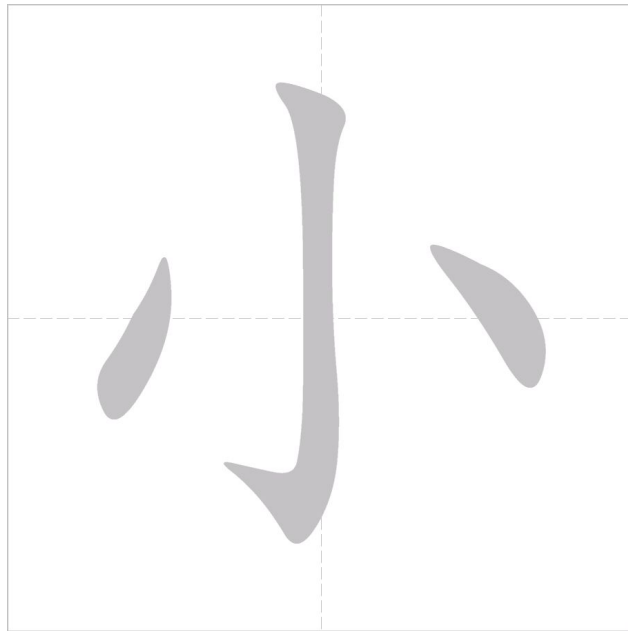
A turn or bend stroke combined with another stroke such as 横 (héng) to create the compound stroke 横折 (héng zhé) like in 口 (kǒu):



钩 (gōu)



The 'hook', a tick or a flick added to a stroke. This can be seen in 小 (xiǎo):



You can access the stroke animations for all the characters in both our [online dictionary](#) and our [Written Chinese Dictionary Mobile App](#). Even if you learn the names and order of strokes, when you first get started it can't hurt to check you're on the right track.

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/chinese-character-stroke-rules-break/>

10 Essential Chinese Sentence Patterns Every Beginner Should Know

Learning Chinese already seems like a daunting task what with 5 (sort of) spoken tones and Chinese characters, and although the word 'grammar' might make you want to head for the hills, once you learn some basic sentence patterns, you'll be well on your way to making sentences in Chinese.

Obviously, there are other sentence patterns to learn, but let's not get ahead of ourselves here. Master these 10 sentence patterns for beginners of Chinese first before moving on to the bigger fish (and they're not really that big).

Once you've gotten to grips with these patterns, check out some of the more advanced articles listed throughout and at the end of this article!

1. 是 (shì) means 'to be' and joins two noun phrases.

N + 是 (shì) + N

他是学生。(tā shì xué sheng) He is a student.

我是老师。(wǒ shì lǎo shī) I am a teacher.

Negate 是 (shì) with 不 (bù):

N + 不是 (bú shì) + N

她不是美国人。(tā bú shì měi guó rén) She is not American.

这本书不是我的。(zhè běn shū bú shì wǒ de) This book is not mine.

Note: You may notice that by itself, 不 has the 4th downward tone (bù), but when together with 是 has a second tone (bú). Once you've mastered these 10 basics, you might want to take a look at [how some tones change](#) depending on the arrangement of characters. Don't stress out about this though, it'll come naturally over time!

是 (shì) cannot be used to connect an adjective with a noun. For this we replace 是 (shì) with [很](#) (hěn) or other adverb such as [真](#) (zhēn) or [好](#) (hǎo), which means 'very'.

N + 很 (hěn) + Adj

[他很聪明](#)。(tā hěn cōng míng) He is smart.

2. Use [在](#) (zài) to indicate location

在 (zài) has many usages, but is most commonly used as a verb meaning 'at'. Use it in between a 'something' and a place to show where something is.

Subject + 在 (zài) + Place

[他在家](#)。(tā zài jiā) He is at home.

[我的裙子在衣柜里面](#)。(wǒ de qún zi zài yī guì lǐ miàn) My dress is inside the wardrobe.

Negate 在 (zài) with 不 (bù) :

[我不在咖啡店](#)。(wǒ bú zài kā fēi diàn) I'm not at the coffee shop.

3. Use [有](#) (yǒu) to say 'to have'

有 (yǒu) means 'to have' and can be used when the subject possesses something.

Since there is no conjugation of verbs in Chinese, 有 (yǒu) is used for both 'have' and 'has'.

Subject + 有 (yǒu) + object

我有一个妹妹。 (wǒ yǒu yī gè mèi mei.) I have a younger sister.

他有白头发了。 (tā yǒu bái tóu fa le) He has had white hair already.

Negate 有 (yǒu) with 没有 (méi yǒu) .

Subject + 没有 (méi yǒu) + object

我没有哥哥。 (wǒ méi yǒu gē ge) I don't have an older brother.

4. Use **要** (yào) to say 'want'

要 (yào), in my opinion, may be the most important verb in Chinese, since it can be used in many ways, and is also pretty essential to day-to-day conversation.

Subject + 要 (yào) + Object

我要一个苹果。 (wǒ yào yī gè píng guǒ) I want an apple

要 (yào) can also be used to describe something that will happen in the future:

我要吃蛋糕。 (wǒ yào chī dàn gāo.) I want to eat cake.

Negate 要 (yào) with 不 (bù):

Subject + 不要 (bù yào) + Object

他不要吃蛋糕。 (tā (bù) yào chī dàn gāo) He doesn't want to eat cake.

5. Use **不** (bù) and **没有** (méi yǒu) to negate verbs

不 (bù) / 没 (méi) + verb

不 (bù) is used to negate adjectival, stative and modal verbs.

他不喝茶。 (tā bù hē chá) He doesn't drink tea.

我不喜欢吃肉。 (wǒ bù xǐ huan chī ròu.) I don't like to eat meat.

没 (méi) is used to negate the verb 有 (yǒu):

她没有时间。 (tā méi yǒu shí jiān) She doesn't have time.

我还没有吃饭。 (wǒ hái méi yǒu chī fàn.) I still haven't eaten.

6. Use 的 (de) to indicate possession

To say that someone has something use the particle 的 (de). 的 (de) does have other uses, but for now, let's just stick with possession.

If you're curious about how else 的 (de) is used, you can take a look at our [article about 的 \(de\) and his 2 brothers \(they're real characters\) 得 and 地.](#)

possessor + 的 (de) + possessed noun

他的手机。 (tā de shǒu jī) His mobile phone.

Possessed noun + possessor + 的 (de)

这本书是你的。 (zhè běn shū shì nǐ de) This is your book.

Quite often, you can associate 的 (de) with an apostrophe in English, indicating possession.

小猫的眼睛。 (xiǎo māo de yǎn jing) The cat's eyes.

7. 吗 to ask yes-no questions

When 吗 (ma) is added to the end of a question, a statement becomes a yes-no question:

她是法国人吗？ (tā shì fǎ guó rén ma?) Is she French?

你会说中文吗？ (nǐ huì shuō zhōng wén ma?) Can you speak Chinese?

你们有草莓吗？ (nǐ men yǒu cǎo méi ma?) Do you have strawberries?

The response to these questions can often just be the statement minus the 吗 (ma) and with the addition of the negation (不 or 没) depending on the situation:

她不是 (法国人)。 (tā bú shì (fǎ guó rén)) She isn't (French).

我会说中文。 (wǒ huì shuō zhōng wén) I can speak Chinese. (You can also say 会一点 (huì yī diǎn), meaning 'yes, I can a little'.)

(我们) 没有 (草莓)。 ((wǒ men) méi yǒu (cǎo méi)) (We) don't have (strawberries).

You might want to recap #5 to learn how to negate verbs.

8. Time Phrase position

A time phrase, such as 上午 (shàng wǔ) or 今天 (jīn tiān), comes after the subject but before the sentence predicate:

Subject + time phrase + predicate

我每天都要工作。 (wǒ měi tiān dōu yào gōng zuò) I work every day.

If time is emphasized, it can come before the subject:

Time phrase + subject + predicate

昨天他不太舒服。 (zuó tiān tā bù tài shū fu) Yesterday he wasn't well. (a bit uncomfortable)

9. Verb + **了** (le) to indicate a change of state.

Since verbs don't change in Chinese, the 了 (le) particle can be used to indicate that something has been done or completed.

Verb + 了 (le)

你瘦了。 (nǐ shòu le) You've lost weight.

我懂了。 (wǒ dǒng le) I understand! (now)

他去上课了。 (tā qù shàng kè le) He had class.

10. Begin with the Subject

Most of the time, the subject goes at the beginning of a sentence. The subject is the person or thing that is doing something.

你去哪儿？ (nǐ qù nǎr?) Where are you going?

这是什么？ (zhè shì shén me) What is this?

她是谁？ (tā shì shéi?) Who is her?

你现在有空吗？ (nǐ xiàn zài yǒu kòng ma?) Are you available now?

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/10-essential-chinese-sentence-patterns-every-beginner-should-know/>

20 Practical Chinese Verbs You Need to Learn

We have already looked at some [Chinese greetings](#) and [farewells](#) as well as some phrases for beginners. Now it's time to focus on learning some simple verbs and starting to construct basic sentences. You may notice that sometimes the Chinese character has more than one meaning, but for the purpose of this post, we have chosen the most frequently used or most relevant verb for a beginner of Chinese. If you haven't already, it's a good time to take a look at some of the Chinese characters and try to remember what they look like.

You can create a mnemonic or story to help you remember their meaning, pronunciation and even tone. If you think of a good mnemonic, share it with your fellow Chinese learners on the character page within our [Online Dictionary](#). The story you create to remember a character can be very simple, like the one I use to remember the character [要](#) or more complex like the one below.

You can see this example by visiting the [page for the character 量](#).



Stucando • 6 months ago

Famous Taiwanese director, Li Ang, was out shooting a movie in an ancient forest one glorious spring morning with four actors. As the sun peaked over one little village he began to estimate the amount of trees and ponder the content of his work.

2 ^ | v • Reply • Share

Don't forget to click on the red linked Chinese characters to listen to the pronunciation, watch how to write the character and view the characters radicals, pinyin and example sentences. You can also toggle between simplified and traditional characters!

Below are a list of 20 Chinese verbs with example sentences for you to learn. In Chinese, most simple sentences, like the ones below, follow this sentence pattern:

Subject + verb phrase + object

You can learn about different sentence patterns in our article about [Chinese Sentence Structures](#).

1. to want 要 (yào)

The original meaning of this character was 'waist' 腰 (yāo), and depicts a woman 女 (nǚ) pointing to her midsection 西 (xī).

I want an apple. [我要一个苹果](#)。(wǒ yào yī gè píng guǒ.)

2. to eat 吃 (chī)



The character 吃 (chī) has the mouth 口 (kǒu) radical, and the character 乞 (qǐ) meaning to beg. This right side of the character provides the pronunciation of the character (qǐ ->chī).

I am eating noodles. [我在吃面](#)。(wǒ zài chī miàn.)

3. To drink 喝 (hē)



The 喝 (hē) character features the mouth 口 (kǒu) radical to the left. On the top right hand side is the sun 日 (rì), underneath there is a man 人 (rén) leaning against an object and sitting in the shade. This suggests that a person might drink something when taking a rest from working in the sun.

I drink tea. 我喝茶。(wǒ hē chá.)

4. To take 拿 (ná)

The 拿 (ná) character depicts a hand 手 (shǒu) on the bottom of the character, whilst on the top is the character for unity 合 (hé). If you take something into your hand then you have unity and togetherness.

Please take the book 请拿上这本书。(qǐng ná shàng zhè běn shū.)

5. To give 给 (gěi)



The radical on the left side of the character 给 (gěi) is silk 丝 (sī), traditionally given as a present. Combined with the character for unity 合 (hé) suggests happiness when giving something.

Please give me... 请给我...(qǐng gěi wǒ...)

6. To open 打开/开 (dǎ kāi / kāi)



It's easier to look at the traditional character (開) of 开 (kāi) to understand why it looks the way it does. Once surrounded by a door 门 (mén), the 开 represented two hands removing a bolt or bar from the door in order to open it.

Open the door 开门 (kāi mén)

7. To have 有 (yǒu)



Originally, the top part of the 有 (yǒu) character resembled a hand 手 (shǒu) and the bottom radical looked more like meat 肉 (ròu). Now, man has forgotten about meat, and strives to possess or have the moon 月 (yuè), which now makes up the bottom of the character.

I have a younger brother. 我有一个弟弟。(wǒ yǒu yī gè dì di.)

8. To know 知道 (zhī dao)



The character 知 (zhī) is shown by as an arrow 矢 (shǐ) and a mouth 口 (kǒu) which represents knowledge. The idea is that a person with knowledge speaks 口 (kǒu) with the precision of an arrow 矢 (shǐ).

I know. 我知道。 (wǒ zhī dao)

9. To like 喜欢 (xǐ huan)



The 喜 (xǐ) character represents happiness which is often expressed with music and singing. The top half of the character depicts a drum on it's stand and a hand striking it.

I like her. 我喜欢她。 (wǒ xǐ huan tā)

10. To love 爱 (ài)



The simplified character of 爱 (ài) is made up of three parts: 'breathe', 'hand' and 'co-operation'. It suggests that love is more about friendship which is represented by the hand 手 (shǒu) than by the heart 心 (xīn) which is seen in the traditional character of love 愛 (ài) .

I love him 我爱他。 (wǒ ài tā)

11. To be 是 (shì)/ 成为 (chéng wéi)



In Chinese the character 是 (shì), not only means 'to be', but can also sometimes be used to say 'yes' or 'correct'. 是 (shì) shows the sun 日 (rì) over the character for 'exact', 正 (zhèng). The meaning is that the sun is precisely on the meridian line and therefore a standard of correctness.

I am a teacher. 我是一个老师。(wǒ shì yī gè lǎo shī.)

12. To Do/Make 做 (zuò)



The character 做 (zuò) shows a man 人 (rén) causing 故 (gù) an effect by doing something.

I make dinner every day. 每天我都做晚饭。 (měi tiān wǒ dōu zuò wǎn fàn.)

13. To Sit **坐** (zuò)



The character **坐** (zuò) is a pictograph depicting two men **人** (rén) 人 sitting on the ground **土** (tǔ) 土 facing each other.

I usually sit there when I go to the library. 当我去图书馆我习惯坐那里。 (dāng wǒ qù tú shū guǎn wǒ xí guàn zuò nà li.)

14. To See **看** (kàn)



The character **看** (kàn) depicts a hand **手** (shǒu) 手 covering the eyes **目** (mù) 目 as it looks at the sun.

I like to watch movies. 我喜欢看电影。 (wǒ xǐ huan kàn diàn yǐng.)

15. To Go **去** (qù)



去 (qù) is a pictograph of an empty vessel **凵** (sī) , say a bowl or pot and it's cover, represented by the **土** (tǔ). Once the lid is taken off, the contents of the vessel are ready to 'go'.

I go to Beijing often. 我经常去北京。 (wǒ jīng cháng qù běi jīng.)

16. To Use **用** (yòng)

The original form of the **用** (yòng) character was a water bucket **桶** (tǒng). The character **用** (yòng) takes its pronunciation from the **桶** (tǒng) character.

I use my mobile phone too much. 我用手机的频率太高了。 (wǒ yòng shǒu jī de pín lǜ tài gāo le)

17. To Find **找** (zhǎo)



The **找** (zhǎo) character is made of a hand **扌** (shǒu) and a spear **戈** (gē) suggesting a time when food needed to be found.

I can find the book. **我可以找到那本书。** (wǒ kě yǐ zhǎo dào nà běn shū.)

18. To tell **告诉** (gào su)

The second character **诉** (sù) features the 'speech radical' **讠** (yán) and the character **斥** (chì) meaning 'to reprimand'.

Tell me his phone number **告诉我他的电话号码。** (gào su wǒ tā de diàn huà hào mǎ.)

19. To Ask **问** (wèn)



The 问 (wèn) character shows a door 门 (mén) surrounding a mouth 口 (kǒu). As many introductions would occur in the entrance to a house in Chinese culture, it would be a place where neighbours would ask or inquire about the family inside.

Please ask your friend. 请问你的朋友。 (qǐng wèn nǐ de péng you.)

20. To Think 想 (xiǎng) / 觉得 (jué de)



The character 想 (xiǎng) is composed of three parts: the tree 木 (mù), the eye 目 (mù) and the heart 心 (xīn). An interpretation of the character is that the eye is behind the tree looking out for or inspecting for possible danger. The heart in Chinese culture often represents both heart and mind, and suggests the examination of the heart or to think or ponder.

I think it's strange. 我觉得很奇怪。 (wǒ jué de hěn qí guài.)

You can read the original article at

<https://www.writtenchinese.com/20-practical-chinese-verbs-need-learn/>

You & Me. This & That: Pronouns in Chinese

Personal Pronouns in Chinese 人称代词 (rén chēng dài cí)

Personal Pronouns in Chinese

	我		你	
	wǒ		nǐ	
	I		you	
他		它		她
tā		tā		tā
he		it		she

www.writtenchinese.com

One of the first words you probably need to learn is 'I' 我 (wǒ). Although in Chinese, you can often get away with missing off the 我 (wǒ) 'I' in spoken Chinese, it is important to use it within written Chinese.

The word for 'you' is 你 (nǐ) and can also be used in its formal version 您 (nín), which is used to show respect to elders or superiors.

Do you know that in spoken Chinese, the words for he she and it are all the same? In a conversation with someone, it's easy to ask the other person for clarification, but what happens in written Chinese? Luckily, personal pronouns in the written language of Mandarin Chinese have different characters.

他 (tā) – he

她 (tā) – she

它 (tā) – it

If you know a little about radicals in Chinese, you might know that usually, the meaning of the character is on the left, and the pronunciation is on the right side. Both the characters for he and she have the same radical to suggest the way it is spoken.

The left side of the character for he 他 (tā) has the person radical 人/亻 (rén), suggesting male origins. The character for 'she' 她 (tā), has the female radical 女 (nǚ) to the left of it, which indicates it is female.

Plurals

Personal Pronouns in Chinese

我们 你们
wǒ men nǐ men
us you

他们 它们 她们
tā men tā men tā men
they/them

www.writtenchinese.com

In order to pluralize personal pronouns in Chinese and create 'we', 'us' 'they' or 'them', you simply add 们 (men).

我们 (wǒ men) – us/we

你们 (nǐ men) – you (plural)

他们 (tā men) – they/them

她们 (tā men) – they/them

它们 (tā men) – they/them

他们去外面吃饭。 (tā men qù wài mian chī fàn.) – They went out to eat.

Possessive 物主代词 (wù zhǔ dài cí)

Technically, the Chinese language does not have possessive pronouns, but it is classed as a rule of the 的 (de) particle.

To make a pronoun 'possessive', you add the 的 (de) particle. Although the 的 (de) particle has many uses, at the moment it is enough to know that it makes pronouns possessive.

我的 (wǒ de) – mine

你的/您的 (nǐ de/nín de) – yours

他的 (tā de) – his

她的 (tā de) – hers

If you want to say 'my cup', it would look like this:

我的杯子。 (wǒ de bēi zi)

Me (s) cup.

In the case of alienable possession (if the object is close to the subject like a family member), the 的 (de) particle can be removed.

我妈。 (wǒ mā) My mother.

Finally, to say ours, theirs or yours add the 的 (de) particle to the plural pronoun.

我们的 (wǒ men de) – ours

你们的 (nǐ men de) – yours

他们的 (tā men de) – theirs

她们的 (tā men de) – theirs

Reflexive Pronouns

Reflexive Pronouns in Chinese

我自己	你自己
wǒ zì jǐ	nǐ zì jǐ
myself	yourself
他自己	她自己
tā zì jǐ	tā zì jǐ
himself	herself

www.writtenchinese.com

To refer to the 'self' in Chinese, we add the bigram 自己 (zì jǐ) to a personal pronoun:

我自己 (wǒ zì jǐ) – myself

你自己 (nǐ zì jǐ) – yourself

他自己 (tā zì jǐ) – himself

她自己 (tā zì jǐ) – herself

我们自己 (wǒ men zì jǐ) – ourselves

请用一句话介绍你自己。 (qǐng yòng yī jù huà jiè shào nǐ zì jǐ.) Please introduce yourself in one sentence.

Interrogative Pronouns 疑问代词 (yí wèn dài cí)

Interrogative Pronouns in Chinese

谁	什么	哪个
shéi	shén me	nǎ ge
who	what	which
为什么	怎么	
wèi shén me	zěn me	
why	how	

www.writtenchinese.com

Interrogative pronouns are ‘question’ words that express an enquiry.

谁 (shéi) – Who

他是谁 ? (tā shì shéi) Who is he?

什么 (shén me) – What

这是什么 ? (zhè shì shén me) What is this?

哪个 (nǎ ge) – Which

这两个玩具, 你喜欢哪一个 ? (zhè liǎng gè wán jù, nǐ xǐ huan nǎ yī gè)

Which of these two toys do you prefer?

为什么 (wèi shén me) – Why

这么晚了，为什么你还不回家？(zhè me wǎn le, wèi shén me nǐ hái bù huí jiā.)

It's late. Why don't you go home?

怎么 (zěn me) – How

这个问题怎么解决？(zhè ge wèn tí zěn me jiě jué)

How do we solve this problem?

什么时候 (shén me shí hou) – When

你什么时候来中国？(nǐ shén me shí hou lái zhōng guó.)

When will you come to China?

哪里 (nǎ lǐ) – Where

我忘记把钥匙放哪里了。(wǒ wàng jì bǎ yào shi fàng nǎ lǐ le)

I have forgotten where I put my keys.

几 (jǐ) How much/How many

我们几点见面？(wǒ men jǐ diǎn jiàn miàn)

When shall we meet?

多 (duō) – Many/Much

你花了多长时间写作业？(nǐ huā le duō cháng shí jiān xiě zuò yè.)

How much time did you spend on your homework?

Rules for Interrogative Pronouns

There are some rules regarding interrogative pronouns. Here are some examples of when to use these pronouns:

For people or things use: 谁 (shéi) – who, 什么 (shén me) – what, 哪 (nǎ) which

For place or location use: 哪儿 (nǎr) or 哪里 (nǎ lǐ)

For time use: 哪会儿 (nǎ huì er) or 多会儿 (duō huì er)

For status, actions, method or property use: 怎么 (zěn me) or 怎么样 (zěn me yàng)

For quantity use: 多 (duō), 多少 (duō shao) or 几 (jǐ).

Generally, the usage of 几 (jǐ), is almost the same as 多少 (duō shao), so they can replace each other. However, 多 (duō) can also be used to ask for levels or amounts such as 多长 (duō cháng) meaning 'how long' or 多大 (duō dà) meaning 'how large', whereas 几 (jǐ) can not be used in this way.

When interrogative pronouns are used in the way that relative pronouns are used in English, then there should be always be an adverb such as 都 (dōu) or 也 (yě). These characters are interchangeable as they have almost the same meaning. Sometimes they will be used with words such as 不管 (bù guǎn) or 无论 (wú lùn) to create emphasis.

If 都 (dōu) or 也 (yě) are removed from the sentences below, they no longer have the same meaning. The first example shows the sentence with 都 (dōu) or 也 (yě), the second shows it without.

谁也不知道他在哪儿了。(shéi yě bù zhī dao tā zài nǎr le) – No one knows where he is.

≠ 谁不知道他在哪儿。 Every knows where he is (don't they?)

你什么都不懂。(nǐ shén me dōu bù dǒng) – You know nothing.

≠ 你什么不懂。 You know everything (don't you?)

Take a look at the [Chinese sentence type](#) blog post to find out more about this interrogative sentence pattern.

[不管怎么解释，他都不明白。](#) (bù guǎn zěn me jiě shì, tā dōu bù míng bai.) – No matter how it has been explained, he is unable to understand.

Indefinite Pronouns

Since there are no clear cut way to translate English indefinite pronouns into their Chinese equivalents, the words we know in the English language such as 'anything' and 'something' etc are not indefinite pronouns in Chinese. In the English language, indefinite pronouns are words that include some-, any-, every- etc

Here are the some of the ways you can translate the English indefinite pronouns into Chinese:

[任何事\(情\)](#) / [任何东西](#) (rèn hé shì (qíng) / rèn hé dōng xi) – Anything

[有些事\(情\)](#) / [有些东西](#) (yǒu xiē shì (qíng) / yǒu xiē dōng xi) – Something

[有人/某人](#) (yǒu rén/mǒu rén) – Someone

[每\(个\)人/人人](#) (měi (gè) rén / rén rén) – Everyone

[任何人](#) (rèn hé rén) – Anyone

Demonstrative Pronouns 指示代词 (zhǐ shì dài cí)

Demonstrative Pronouns in Chinese

这些

zhè

this

那

nà

that

这些

zhè xiē

these

那些

nà xiē

those

www.writtenchinese.com

This and That

这 (zhè) and 那 (nà) can be used as both demonstratives and specifiers. A demonstrative is used to 'point out' an item, so that it is not confused with another object. These two characters will be used as 这 (zhè) 'this' and 那 (nà) 'that'.

这样 (zhè yàng) – like this/this way

这么 (zhè me) – this much

这会儿 (zhè huìr) – at this moment

那样 (nà yàng) – that kind

那么 (nà me) – like that

那会儿 (nà huìr) – never been seen

那是我的被子。(nà shì wǒ de bèi zi.) That is my quilt.

These and Those

This 这 (zhè) and that 那 (nà) can be turned into plurals by adding the character 些 (xiē), meaning 'few' or 'several'. 这些 (zhè xiē) be used to say 'these' and 那些 (nà xiē) for 'those'.

Here and There

这儿/这里 (zhèr / zhè lǐ) – Here

那儿/那里 (nàr / nà li) – There

There are several ways to pronounce here and there in Chinese. In the north of China, especially in Beijing, the first 这儿 (zhèr) and 那儿 (nàr) pronunciations are common. Whereas the 这里 (zhè lǐ) and 那里 (nà li) pronunciations are used in the south.

Sometimes 这儿 (zhèr) and 那儿 (nàr) are used at the beginning of a sentence as a subject and can be, but not necessarily followed by the preposition 在 (zài). Take a look at [our article about the 在 character here](#).

在这里有很多东西。(zài zhè lǐ yǒu hěn duō dōng xi.) There is a lot of stuff here.

If they are not the subject, then the 在 (zài) preposition must be used.

我在这里工作。(wǒ zài zhè lǐ gōng zuò) I work here.

You can read the original article at <https://www.writtenchinese.com/you-me-this-that-pronouns-in-chinese/>

Resources

- [Written Chinese Dictionary app](#) - Download our dictionary for your iOS and Android Device
- [Written Chinese Online Dictionary](#) - Our dictionary online
- [Chinese Tone Trainer](#) - Practise your tones by listening and selecting the correct tone
- [Chinese Name Generator](#) - Get your own Chinese name!
- [Bookshop](#) - Textbooks and reading books recommended by other learners and the Written Chinese team.
- [Music](#) - Learn Chinese by listening to music and watching music videos
- [Video](#) - Use Chinese TV shows to learn Chinese and about Chinese culture
- [Podcast](#) - Learn about Chinese culture from the Western perspective.
- [Written Chinese Blog](#) - Continue your Chinese learning journey by checking out our weekly blog posts on culture, learning tips and vocabulary.



Week 1

GETTING STARTED
WITH WRITING

Week 2

HEARING AND
SPEAKING

Week 3

EAR TRAINING AND
MORE WRITING

Week 4

SETTING A LEARNING
GOAL

30-DAY JUMPSTART



15 MINUTES A DAY TO REV UP YOUR LEARNING

The following study guide will take you about 15 minutes each day to complete.

The exercises are designed to accompany our free WCC Dictionary app which is available for Android and iOS, but they can also be used with any Chinese learning software including WCC Dictionary's free online version at WrittenChinese.com which doesn't require an app.

You could also use a paper dictionary, but we recommend a digital dictionary that has audio files and writing guides such as WCC Dictionary.

GET
WCC DICTIONARY
FREE AT
WrittenChinese.com



TOOLS

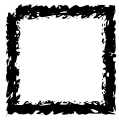
Gather up the following tools to make sure that you have everything you need when it's time to study. Find yourself a pleasant spot to study so that you start your study sessions off on the right foot.

WEEK 1



Chinese dictionary

(Get a free one at WrittenChinese.com)



Notebook or Chinese writing paper

(Chinese writing paper available on WrittenChinese.com)

Week 2



Mandarin pronunciation audio files

(already built into the WCC Dictionary app)



Recording device

(most smartphones have them built-in)



Space

(where you don't feel shy speaking out loud)

Week 3



Speech-to-text software

(such as Siri or Google Voice)

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION

In Chinese writing, each time you lift your pen from the paper the line you've drawn is called a stroke.

For example, when you write a standard capital letter "A" in English you would count 3 strokes: one line going from top to left, one going top to right, and finally one through the middle.

The first step is to get familiar with the strokes and to learn the proper stroke order. You absolutely must write the characters in the correct stroke order or you will have problems later on.

If have a real, live Chinese teacher, then let them help get you started with the basics.

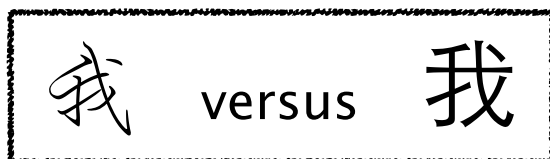
Not all of us have the chance to have a Chinese teacher, but not to worry!

Stroke animations are included in the WCC Dictionary app so that you can watch how characters are properly written. If you aren't using the app, you can see the animations online at WrittenChinese.com. Click the LEARN MORE when you search any word in the dictionary to see the stroke animations.

Pay close attention to whether the stroke is written from left to right, or right to left and no going rogue! The shortcuts you make now will backfire later, so do it carefully and do it right!

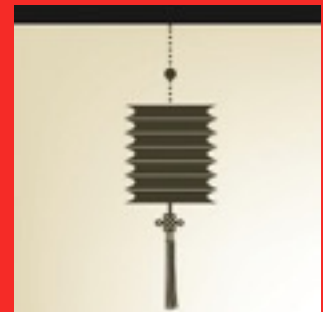
You may notice that some Chinese computer fonts are simpler block letters while others are written with many swoops like in cursive or in Chinese calligraphy.

You don't need to pay close attention to the way that Chinese looks in its calligraphy form. When you see little swooping lines running this way and that, refer to the simpler block letters. If they also make the line swoop, then you know it's necessary to have them.



You'll get the hang of it quickly as you practice.

This Week:
Let's Write Some
Chinese



Tip: Don't throw out your old Chinese writing notebooks.

They are a great way to remind yourself of how far you've come!

WEEK 1 DAILY CHECKLIST

Step 1

Open the WCC Dictionary app and tap the flashcard icon.



Tap HSK VOCABULARY and then HSK 1. Tap on the first new character.

If you aren't using the app, get the HSK 1 vocabulary PDF at WrittenChinese.com.

Step 2

Tap SEE RADICALS below the word details in the app, or search the pinyin of the word on our online dictionary and click the LEARN MORE button next to the character.

Both methods allow you to see the radicals. Think of a creative way that the pieces go together to form the meaning.

Example: “爱” (ai4) means “love” and includes the radicals: claw, cover, left, and right hand. You might imagine a lioness COVERing her cubs with her RIGHT HAND and CLAWing at a predator with her LEFT.

Step 3

Tap WRITING at the bottom of the app to see a stroke animation for the character. Watch closely which strokes are written first and in which direction they move.

Tap the screen to watch the animation again.

Step 4

Write the character once using a pen and paper. Now carefully study the proportions of your character versus the stroke animation. How far away is one stroke from another? Where does one line finish in relation to another line?

This is where Chinese writing paper comes in handy since it gives you a perfect square with grid lines for each character.

Step 5

Write the character again 9 times. Each time you write it, write the Pinyin and tone mark near the character and think about the meaning of the word.

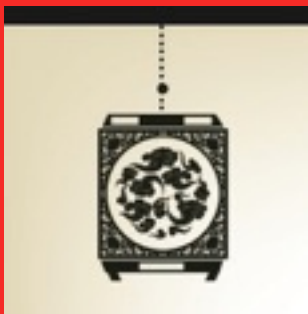
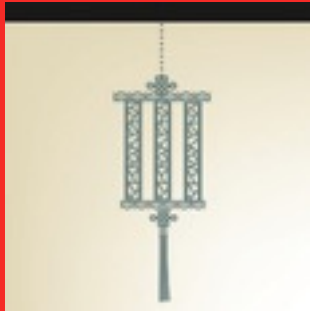
Step 6

Review your 10 written characters. Which one did you write the best compared with the stroke animation? Circle that one for your reference later.

Step 7

Repeat steps 2–6 for the next 6 characters in the HSK 1 flashcard set.

This Week: Let's Speak Some Chinese



Tip: Learning to train your ear will not only help you speak properly, but it will help you to understand Chinese speakers faster.

WEEK 2 INTRODUCTION

Oh dear...this seems to be the most disliked part of studying Chinese: repeating words out loud. It can sometimes be uncomfortable, strange or even a bit embarrassing.

Sorry to break it to you, but it's also one of the most critical components of learning the language so let's conquer it and get it out of the way.

To most of us, Chinese sounds quite foreign and nasally. In fact at first it can be quite difficult to distinguish one word from another.

You might already know that Chinese is a tonal language, meaning that when you change the tone, it changes the meaning completely.

Congratulations to those of you who have musical hearing! You're already one step ahead because you know how to listen for tonal changes. For those of you that can't carry a tune, this will probably be your biggest frustration when learning Chinese, but have no fear, you CAN do it!

Some people might tell you that you don't need to learn the tones. I must admit that it is tempting to listen to these people. You might think, here's my escape! I don't really need to bother with tones! Sorry, but none of the people who believe that can speak properly, **guaranteed**.

You can roll your eyes if you want, but if you don't learn how to use tones from the start, you'll end up repeating yourself over and over again while Chinese people attempt to correct every word you say. Or worse, they won't understand you at all.

Remember, saying a Chinese word in two different tones is like saying two different words in English such as "dead" and "bed": it completely changes the meaning. Thus, speaking tones correctly is critical to learning to speak Chinese well. Really all it takes is careful listening.

WEEK 2 DAILY CHECKLIST

Step 1

Open the WCC Dictionary app to the dashboard. If you don't see it, tap MENU and then DASHBOARD.

If you aren't using the app, Login to your free online account at [WrittenChinese.com](https://www.WrittenChinese.com).

Step 2

Look at the character of the day and its definition. Then tap LEARN MORE to see more details about this character.

Step 3

Tap the audio button to the upper left of the character to hear its pronunciation.



Listen to it 3 times, paying close attention to every part of the pronunciation.

How does the word start? What does the vowel sound like? Can you recognize which tone it is without looking at the pinyin? How does the ending of the word sound?

Step 4

Repeat the word 3 times out loud and then listen again to the audio file.

The key to learning a new language is mirroring. You want to imitate exactly how the speaker is saying the word.

Don't be shy, not being afraid to make mistakes is key to nailing the pronunciation!

Step 5

Record yourself saying the word 3 times. Listen again to the audio file before playing your own recording back.

Have you ever met someone who thinks they are an amazing singer but really aren't that good? It's the same principle: How you think or imagine yourself saying the word isn't necessarily how it actually sounds.

Invest time listening to yourself carefully.

Tip: Saying the character louder will make it easier for you to hear and correct pronunciation mistakes.

Step 6

Go to the HSK 1 vocabulary list. Repeat steps 3–5 with 4 more characters from this list. Start from the top and work your way down the list.

As you practice the words, visualize their meaning. Don't think of the English translation. Instead, imagine the actual object or action associated with the word.

This will help you to better remember its meaning.

Step 7

Write each of the words you've studied today 5 times with a pen and paper.

WEEK 3 INTRODUCTION

You survived week 2, nice work! Never give up on trying to perfect your pronunciation, even if it puts you out of your comfort zone at times.

If you have native Chinese-speaking friends around, bug them into showing you which words you're not saying well. Watch their mouths as they speak and imitate the shapes they make when you speak.

If you don't have any native speakers around you, try getting your hands on some Chinese movies or TV shows. Netflix definitely has some and if you're looking for recommendations, check out the TV Shows section of WrittenChinese.com.

Now that you have a general concept for what Chinese sounds like, it's time to test what you've learned as well as continue writing.

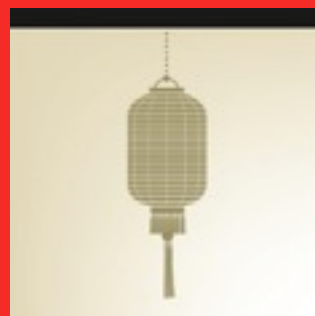
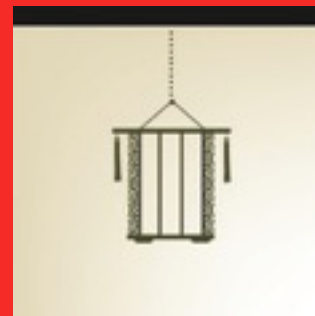
You can use a voice-to-text service such as Siri or Google Voice to check if you're saying the Chinese correctly. If the service can understand your Chinese, then you're on the right track!

Keep in mind that many Chinese words have the same pronunciation. If you say a 2-character word (called a Bigram) or a phrase, it is more likely the voice-to-text service will be able to more accurately produce the Chinese characters that you were trying to say.

If you are saying one character at a time, the voice-to-text service might give you a different character from the one you were aiming for. Check to see if that character has the same pinyin AND tone as the one you were trying to say.

You're pronouncing the word correctly if you're getting a word with the right pinyin and tone, even if it's a different Chinese character.

This Week: Listen and Write Chinese



Tip: For Siri, switch the keyboard Chinese so that it knows you're trying to speak Chinese.

For Google Voice, it will detect which language you are speaking automatically.

WEEK 3 DAILY CHECKLIST

Step 1

Open your HSK 1 vocabulary list in the WCC Dictionary app.

Remember you can also get HSK 1 vocabulary online at WrittenChinese.com.

Step 2

Start from the last word that you learned and practice writing it 10 times.

Write the pinyin and tone mark of the word each time to reinforce the pronunciation.

Step 3

Do **Step 2** for the next 6 words in the list.

Make sure to think about the meaning of the word as you write it.

Instead of thinking of the English translation, picture the meaning visually.

You can also tap STUDY in the lower right corner of the app to test if you can remember the meanings and/or write the words from memory.

Step 4

On the WCC Dictionary app, tap in the search box to bring up your phone's keyboard.

Note: If you are not using the app, many text editing programs such as Microsoft Word also include voice-to-text transcription technology.

Step 5

Hold down the voice input button and speak the words that you have just written.

iOS users: Remember to switch your keyboard to Chinese.

Step 6

Once you've finished speaking, tap the search button on your keyboard to run a search for those words.

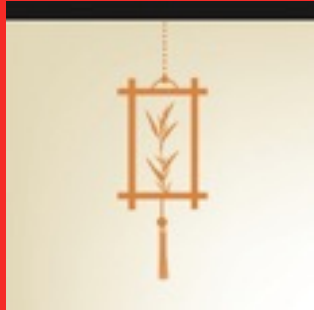
Some of them may not be the correct character, but check to see if the voice recognition got the right pinyin. The tone must also match to get it right!

For those words that you didn't get right, listen to the audio files and try again.

Step 7

Say 10 other Chinese words that you have learned from memory to see if the voice-to-text service gets them right.

This Week: Setting a Learning Goal



Tip: Learning 3-5 words a day may seem like a super easy goal at first, but remember that you must retain all the vocabulary as the days pile up.

We recommend you learn about 20 words per week.

Set a reasonable goal to get it right! Trying to do too much at once is how many students end up failing.

WEEK 4 INTRODUCTION

To say that you “want to speak Chinese” is not a good learning goal because you’ll **never** know every word. Words get borrowed from other languages, new inventions get named, and slang evolves constantly. You must define what you hope to achieve more clearly if you want to succeed.

You might want to decide how many characters you want to learn in a given time frame. As a point of reference, most Chinese high school students can recognize between 4000–6000 characters. Wow...that’s a lot, right? But don’t worry, you can learn FAR less and still be able to communicate well in Chinese and even read.

Here are 2 ideas for goals to keep your learning on track:

Idea 1: Start Studying to Take the HSK

The HSK is a standardized test for Chinese proficiency. It’s divided into 6 levels, and you can find more detailed information about it on WrittenChinese.com.

If this is your goal, start by learning Level 1 vocabulary. The WCC Dictionary app has free vocabulary for all the levels.

Idea 2: Read 75% of Chinese by Learning 521 Characters

You don’t have to learn thousands of characters to be able to read most Chinese text. We calculated which characters are used most often and put them into a flashcard set called MOST COMMON CHINESE CHARACTERS in the flashcard section of the WCC Dictionary app.

After you learn all 521 words, you’ll be able to read over 75% of written Chinese. Not such a daunting task after all!

You can also get the wall poster of these characters from WrittenChinese.com by clicking CHINESE TOOLS->PHYSICAL STUFF.

Finally, set an achievable goal, such as learning 100 words in a month. Then calculate how many words per day you need to learn.

WEEK 4 DAILY CHECKLIST

Step 1

Choose a flashcard set that you want to learn in the WCC Dictionary app and tap STUDY in the lower right corner.

Make sure that the Display Question is marked as Chinese so that you see the Chinese character first and try to guess the English meaning.

If you're not using the app, you can use your own handmade flashcards.

Step 2

Go through the first 20 flashcards, saying the Chinese out loud and thinking the meaning in your head, then flipping over the flashcard to see if you got it right.

Step 3

For words that you have a hard time remembering, draw a picture or write a sentence that will help you remember its meaning, pronunciation and character.

See how other learners are doing this by searching for the word in the online dictionary at WrittenChinese.com and then clicking the LEARN MORE button.

Scroll down to the Comments section of the Learn More page to see what people have said about the character as well as to add your own ideas.

Step 4

Shuffle and switch your flashcard set to the other side so that you see the English meaning first.

Study 20 words while looking at the English first. Write the pinyin and tone mark with a pen and paper, then try writing the Chinese character to the best of your ability.

If you only have a vague idea what the character looks like, just try drawing its general shape.

You might be way off at first, but that's okay. Give yourself some slack, it takes time to learn Chinese!

Step 5

Once you have gone through all 20 flashcards, look back at your written list and try to recall what each character means.

Step 6

Now re-write each word 3 times with its pinyin and tone mark.

Step 7

Circle your best attempt at writing and feel good about all of your progress.

Happy Studying!

RESOURCES

Search “**WCC Dictionary**” in the iOS App Store or on Google Play to download our free dictionary and learning toolkit.

Check out the free online dictionary at WrittenChinese.com

Get learning tips, flashcards and culture lessons at facebook.com/writtenchinese

Peek at Shenzhen life and get flashcards at instagram.com/writtenchinese

Stay current with Chinese learning tools and news at twitter.com/writtenchinese

Ask questions and listen in about life in China at writtenchinese.com/podcast

Watch Chinese videos and lessons at youtube.com/user/writtenchinese

Written Chinese

HSK Level 1 Vocabulary

#	Character	Pinyin	English	#	Character	Pinyin	English
1	爱	ài	to love / affection / to be fond of / to like	76	朋友	péngyou	friend
2	八	bā	eight/ 8	77	漂亮	piàoliang	pretty/ beautiful
3	爸爸	bàba	(informal) father	78	苹果	píngguǒ	apple
4	杯子	bēizi	cup / glass	79	七	qī	seven/ 7
5	北京	Běijīng	Beijing, capital of People's Republic of China / Peking / PRC government	80	钱	qián	coin/ money
6	本	běn	roots or stems of plants / origin / source / this / the current / root / foundation / basis / classifier for books, periodicals, files etc / originally	81	前面	qiánmiàn	ahead / in front / preceding / above

Written 字 Chinese

7	不客气	búkèqi	you're welcome / don't mention it / impolite / rude / blunt	82	请	qǐng	to ask / to invite / please (do sth) / to treat (to a meal etc) / to request
8	不	bù	not (negative prefix)/ no	83	去	qù	to go / to go to (a place) / to cause to go or send (sb) / to remove / to get rid of / (when used either before or after a verb) to go in order to do sth / to be apart from in space or time
9	菜	cài	dish (type of food) / vegetable / cuisine	84	热	rè	to warm up / to heat up / hot (of weather) / heat / fervent
10	茶	chá	tea / tea plant /	85	人	rén	man / person / people
11	吃	chī	to eat / to consume / to eat at (a cafeteria etc) / to eradicate / to destroy / to absorb /	86	认识	rènshi	to know / to recognize / to be familiar with / to get acquainted with sb / knowledge / understandi

Written Chinese

			to suffer / to stammer				ng / awareness / cognition
12	出租车	chūzūchē	taxi	87	日	rì	japan / sun / day / date, day of the month
13	打电话	dǎdiànhuà	to make a telephone call	88	三	sān	three/ 3
14	大	dà	big / huge / large / major / great / wide / deep / older (than) / oldest / eldest / greatly	89	商店	shāngdiàn	store/ shop
15	的	de	of / ~'s (possessiv e particle) / (used after an attribute) / (used to form a nominal expression) / (used at the end of a declarative sentence for emphasis)	90	上	shàng	on
16	点	diǎn	point / dot / drop / speck / o'clock /	91	上午	shàngwǔ	morning

Written 字 Chinese

			point (in space or time) / to draw a dot / to check on a list / to choose / to order (food in a restaurant) / to touch briefly / to hint / to light / to ignite / to pour a liquid drop by drop / (old) one fifth of a two-hour watch				
17	电脑	diànnǎo	computer	92	少	shǎo	few/ little/ lack
18	电视	diànshì	television/ TV	93	谁	shéi	who / also pr. [shui2]
19	电影	diànyǐng	movie/ film	94	什么	shénme	what?/ who?/ something/ anything
20	东西	dōngxi	thing/ stuff/ person	95	十	shí	ten/ 10
21	都	dōu	all / both / entirely / (used for emphasis) even / already / (not) at all	96	时候	shíhou	time / length of time / moment / period

Written 字 Chinese

22	读	dú	to read / to study / reading of word (i.e. pronunciation)	97	是	shì	to be/ yes
23	对不起	duìbuqǐ	unworthy/to let down/I'm sorry/excuse me/pardon me/if you please/sorry? (please repeat)	98	书	shū	book / letter / document
24	多	duō	many / much / often / a lot of / numerous / more / in excess / how (to what extent) / multi-	99	水	shuǐ	surname shui / water / river / liquid / beverage / additional charges or income / (of clothes) classifier for number of washes
25	多少	duōshǎo	how much / how many / which (number) / as much as	100	水果	shuǐguǒ	fruit
26	儿子	érzi	son	101	睡觉	shuìjiào	to go to bed / to sleep
27	二	èr	two/ 2/ stupid (Beijing dialect)	102	说话	shuōhuà	to speak / to say / to talk / to gossip / to tell stories / talk / word

Written 字 Chinese

28	饭馆	fànguǎn	restaurant	103	四	sì	four/ 4
29	飞机	fēijī	airplane	104	岁	sui	classifier for years (of age) / year / year (of crop harvests)
30	分钟	fēnzhōng	minute	105	她	tā	she
31	高兴	gāoxìng	happy / glad / willing (to do sth) / in a cheerful mood	106	他	tā	he or him / (used for either sex when the sex is unknown or unimportant) / (used before sb's name for emphasis) / (used as a meaningless mock object) / other / another
32	个	gè	individual / this / that / size / classifier for people or objects in general	107	太	tài	highest / greatest / too (much) / very / extremely
33	工作	gōngzuò	to work / (of a machine) to operate / job / work / task	108	天气	tiānqì	weather

Written Chinese

34	狗	gǒu	dog	109	听	tīng	to listen / to hear / to obey / a can (loanword from English "tin") / classifier for canned beverages
35	汉语	hànyǔ	Chinese language	110	同学	tóngxué	(fellow) classmate
36	好	hǎo	good / well / proper / good to / easy to / very / so / (suffix indicating completion or readiness) / (of an unmarried couple) to be close / to be keen on each other	111	喂	wèi	hey / to feed (an animal, baby, invalid etc)
37	喝	hē	to drink / My goodness!	112	我	wǒ	I/ me/ my
38	和	hé	surname he / japanese (food, clothes etc) / and / together with / with / sum / union /	113	我们	wǒmen	we / us / ourselves / our

Written Chinese

			peace / harmony /				
39	很	hěn	(adverb of degree) / quite / very / awfully	114	五	wǔ	five/ 5
40	后面	hòumiàn	rear / back / behind / later / afterwards	115	喜欢	xǐhuan	to like / to be fond of
41	回	huí	to circle / to go back / to turn around / to answer / to return / to revolve / Hui ethnic group (Chinese Muslims) / time / classifier for acts of a play / section or chapter (of a classic book)	116	下	xià	down / downwards / below / lower / later / next (week etc) / second (of two parts) / to decline / to go down / to arrive at (a decision, conclusion etc) / measure word to show the frequency of an action
42	会	huì	can / to be possible / to be able to / will / to be likely to / to be sure to / to assemble / to meet / to gather / to see / union / group / association	117	下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon/ p.m.

Written 字 Chinese

43	火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station	118	下雨	xiàyǔ	to rain / rainy
44	几	jǐ	how much / how many / several / a few	119	先生	xiānsheng	teacher/ Mister (Mr.) / husband
45	家	jiā	surname jia / home / family / (polite) my (sister, uncle etc) / classifier for families or businesses / refers to the philosophical schools of pre-han china / noun suffix for a specialist in some activity, such as a musician or revolutionary, corresponding to english -ist, -er, -ary or -ian	120	现在	xiànzài	now / at present / at the moment / modern / current / nowadays
46	叫	jiào	to shout / to call / to order / to ask / to be called / by	121	想	xiǎng	to think / to believe / to suppose / to wish / to want / to

Written Chinese

			(indicates agent in the passive mood)				miss (feel wistful about the absence of sb or sth)
47	今天	jīntiān	today / at the present / now	122	小	xiǎo	small / tiny / few / young
48	九	jiǔ	nine/ 9	123	小姐	xiǎojie	young lady / miss
49	开	kāi	to open / to start / to turn on / to boil / to write out (a prescription, check, invoice etc) / to operate (vehicle)	124	些	xiē	some / few / several / measure word indicating a small amount or small number (greater than 1)
50	看	kàn	to see / to look at / to read / to watch / to visit / to call on / to consider / to regard as / to look after / to treat (an illness) / to depend on / to feel (that) / (after verb) to give it a try / Watch out! (for a danger)	125	写	xiě	to write

Written 字 Chinese

51	看见	kànjiàn	to see / to catch sight of	126	谢谢	xièxie	to thank/ thanks
52	块	kuài	lump (of earth) / chunk / piece / classifier for pieces of cloth, cake, soap etc / (coll.) classifier for money and currency units	127	星期	xīngqī	week
53	来	lái	to come / to arrive / to come round / ever since / next	128	学生	xuésheng	student/ school child
54	老师	lǎoshī	teacher	129	学习	xuéxí	to learn/ to study
55	了	le	(modal particle intensifying preceding clause) / (completed action marker)	130	学校	xuéxiào	school
56	冷	lěng	cold	131	一	yī	one / 1 / single / a (article) / as soon as / entire / whole / all / throughout / "one"

Written 字 Chinese

							radical in chinese characters (kangxi radical 1)
57	里	lǐ	lining / interior / inside / internal	132	衣服	yīfu	clothes
58	零	líng	zero / nought / zero sign / fractional / fragmentary / odd (of numbers) / (placed between two numbers to indicate a smaller quantity followed by a larger one) / fraction / (in mathematics) remainder (after division) / extra / to wither and fall / to wither	133	医生	yīshēng	doctor
59	六	liù	six/ 6	134	医院	yīyuàn	hospital
60	吗	ma	(question particle for	135	椅子	yǐzi	chair

Written 字 Chinese

			"yes-no" questions)				
61	妈妈	māma	mama/ mommy/ mother	136	有	yǒu	to have / there is / there are / to exist / to be
62	买	mǎi	to buy/ to purchase	137	月	yuè	moon / month / monthly
63	猫	māo	cat	138	在	zài	(located) at / (to be) in / to exist / in the middle of doing sth / (indicating an action in progress)
64	没	méi	(negative prefix for verbs) / have not / not	139	再见	zàijiàn	goodbye / see you again later
65	没关系	méiguānxi	it doesn't matter	140	怎么	zěnmē	how?/ what?/ why?
66	米饭	mǐfàn	(cooked) rice	141	怎么样	zěnmeyàng	how?/how about?/how was it?/how are things?
67	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow	142	这儿	zhèr	here
68	名字	míngzi	name (of a person or thing)	143	中国	Zhōngguó	China; Middle Kingdom
69	哪儿	nǎr	where?/ wherever/ anywhere	144	中午	zhōngwǔ	noon/ midday

Written 字 Chinese

70	那儿	nàr	there	145	住	zhù	to live / to dwell / to stay / to reside / to stop / (suffix indicating firmness, steadiness, or coming to a halt)
71	呢	ne	(question particle for subjects already mentioned)	146	桌子	zhuōzi	table/ desk
72	能	néng	surname neng / can / to be able to / might possibly / ability / (physics) energy	147	字	zì	letter / symbol / character / word
73	你	nǐ	you (informal, as opposed to polite 您 [nin2])	148	昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
74	年	nián	year	149	做	zuò	to do / to make / to produce / to write / to compose / to act as / to engage in / to hold (a party) / to be / to become / to function (in some

Written 字 Chinese

							capacity) / to serve as / to be used for / to form (a bond or relationship) / to pretend / to feign / to act a part / to put on appearance
75	女儿	nǚér	daughter	150	坐	zuò	to sit / to take a seat / to take (a bus, airplane etc) / to bear fruit

Written Chinese

HSK Level 2 Vocabulary

#	Character	Pinyin	English	#	Character	Pinyin	English
1	吧	bā	(modal particle indicating suggestion or surmise) / ...right? / ...OK? / ...I presume.	76	您	nín	you (polite)/ as opposed to informal you 你[ni3])
2	白	bái	surname bai / white / snowy / pure / bright / empty / blank / plain / clear / to make clear / in vain / gratuitous / free of charge / reactionary / anti-communist / funeral / to stare coldly / to write wrong character / to state / to explain / vernacular / spoken lines in opera	77	牛奶	niúniǎi	cow's milk
3	百	bǎi	surname bai / hundred / numerous / all kinds of	78	女人	nǚrén	woman

Written Chinese

4	帮助	bāngzhù	assistance / aid / to help / to assist	79	旁边	pángbiān	lateral / side / to the side / beside
5	报纸	bàozhǐ	newspaper/ newsprint	80	跑步	pǎobù	to run / to jog / (military) to march at the double
6	比	bǐ	(particle used for comparison and "-er than") / to compare / to contrast / to gesture (with hands) / ratio	81	便宜	piányi	small advantages / to let sb off lightly / cheap / inexpensive
7	别	bié	surname bie / to leave / to depart / to separate / to distinguish / to classify / other / another / do not / must not / to pin / to stick (sth) in	82	票	piào	ticket / ballot / bank note / person held for ransom / amateur performance of Chinese opera / classifier for groups, batches, business transactions
8	长	cháng	length / long / forever / always / constantly	83	妻子	qīzi	wife
9	唱歌	chànggē	to sing a song	84	起床	qǐchuáng	to get up
10	出	chū	to go out / to come out /	85	千	qiān	thousand

Written 字 Chinese

			to occur / to produce / to go beyond / to rise / to put forth / to happen / classifier for dramas, plays, operas etc				
11	穿	chuān	to bore through / to pierce / to perforate / to penetrate / to pass through / to dress / to wear / to put on / to thread	86	晴	qíng	clear/ fine (weather)
12	船	chuán	a boat / vessel / ship	87	去年	qùnián	last year
13	次	cì	next in sequence / second / the second (day, time etc) / secondary / vice- / sub- / infra- / inferior quality / substandard / order / sequence / hypo- (chemistry) / classifier for enumerated events: time	88	让	ràng	to yield / to permit / to let sb do sth / to have sb do sth / to make sb (feel sad etc)

Written 字 Chinese

14	从	cóng	surname cuo / mistake / wrong / bad / interlocking / complex / to grind / to polish / to alternate / to stagger / to miss / to let slip / to evade / to inlay with gold or silver	89	上班	shàngbān	to go to work / to be on duty / to start work / to go to the office
15	错	cuò	mistake; error; blunder; fault; cross; uneven; wrong;	90	身体	shēntǐ	(human) body/ health
16	打篮球	dǎlánqiú	play basketball	91	生病	shēngbìng	to fall ill/ to sicken
17	大家	dàjiā	everyone	92	生日	shēngrì	birthday
18	但是	dànshì	but/ however	93	时间	shíjiān	time/ period
19	到	dào	to (a place) / until (a time) / up to / to go / to arrive / (verb complement denoting completion or result of an action)	94	事情	shìqing	affair / matter / thing / business
20	得	de	structural particle: used after a	95	手表	shǒubiǎo	wrist watch

Written 字 Chinese

			verb (or adjective as main verb), linking it to following phrase indicating effect, degree, possibility etc				
21	等	děng	class / rank / grade / equal to / same as / to wait for / to await / et cetera / and so on / et al. (and other authors) / after / as soon as / once	96	手机	shǒujī	cell phone / mobile phone
22	弟弟	dìdì	younger brother	97	送	sòng	to deliver / to carry / to give (as a present) / to present (with) / to see off / to send
23	第一	dìyī	first/ number one	98	所以	suǒyǐ	therefore / as a result / so / the reason why
24	懂	dǒng	to understand / to know	99	它	tā	it (inanimate thing or animal)
25	对	duì	right / correct /	100	踢足球	tīzúqiú	play soccer (football)

Written 字 Chinese

			couple / pair / towards / at / for / to face / opposite / to treat (sb a certain way) / to match together / to adjust / to fit / to suit / to answer / to reply / classifier: couple				
26	房间	fángjiān	room	101	题	tí	surname ti / topic / problem for discussion / exam question / subject / to inscribe / to mention
27	非常	fēicháng	unusual / extraordinary / extreme / very / exceptional	102	跳舞	tiàowǔ	to dance
28	服务员	fúwùyuán	waiter / waitress / attendant / customer service personnel	103	外	wài	outside / in addition / foreign / external
29	高	gāo	surname gao / high / tall / above average / loud / your (honorific)	104	完	wán	to finish / to be over / whole / complete / entire

Written 字 Chinese

30	告诉	gàosu	to tell / to inform / to let know	105	玩	wán	toy / sth used for amusement / curio or antique
31	哥哥	gēge	older brother	106	晚上	wǎnshang	in the evening
32	给	gěi	to / for / for the benefit of / to give / to allow / to do sth (for sb)	107	为什么	wèishénme	for what reason? / why?
33	公共汽车	gōnggòng qìchē	bus	108	问	wèn	to ask
34	公斤	gōngjīn	kilogram (kg)	109	问题	wèntí	question / problem / issue / topic
35	公司	gōngsī	(business) company / company / firm / corporation / incorporated	110	西瓜	xīguā	watermelon
36	贵	guì	expensive / noble / your (name) / precious	111	希望	xīwàng	to wish for / to desire / hope
37	过	guò	surname guo / (experience d action marker) / to cross / to go over / to pass (time) / to celebrate (a holiday) / to live / to	112	洗	xǐ	to wash / to bathe / to develop (a photo)

Written Chinese

			get along / excessively / too-				
38	还	hái	still / still in progress / still more / yet / even more / in addition / fairly / passably (good) / as early as / even / also / else	113	向	xiàng	surname xiang / towards / to face / to turn towards / direction / to support / to side with / shortly before / formerly / always / all along
39	孩子	háizi	child	114	小时	xiǎoshí	hour
40	好吃	hǎochī	tasty/ delicious	115	笑	xiào	laugh/ smile
41	号	hào	ordinal number / day of a month / mark / sign / business establishme nt / size / ship suffix / horn (wind instrument) / bugle call / assumed name / to take a pulse / classifier used to indicate number of people	116	新	xīn	new/ newly meso- (chemistry)

Written 字 Chinese

42	黑	hēi	black / dark / sinister / secret / shady / illegal / (loanword) to hack (computing)	117	姓	xìng	family name / surname
43	红	hóng	surname hong / red / popular / revolutionary / bonus	118	休息	xiūxi	rest/ to rest
44	欢迎	huānyíng	to welcome / welcome	119	雪	xuě	surname xue / snow / snowfall / to have the appearance of snow / to wipe away, off or out / to clean
45	回答	huídá	to reply / to answer / the answer	120	颜色	yánsè	color
46	机场	jīchǎng	airport/ airfield	121	眼睛	yǎnjīng	eye
47	鸡蛋	jīdàn	(chicken) egg/ hen's egg	122	羊肉	yáng ròu	mutton/ goat meat
48	件	jiàn	item / component / classifier for events, things, clothes etc	123	药	yào	medicine / drug / substance used for a specific purpose
49	教室	jiàoshì	classroom	124	要	yào	important / vital / to want / to

Written Chinese

							ask for / will / going to (as future auxiliary) / may / must
50	姐姐	jiějie	older sister	125	也	yě	surname ye / also / too / (in classical chinese) final particle implying affirmation
51	介绍	jièshào	to introduce (sb to sb) / to give a presentation / to present (sb for a job etc) / introduction	126	已经	yǐjīng	already
52	进	jìn	to advance / to enter / to come (or go) into / to receive or admit / to eat or drink / to submit or present / (used after a verb) into, in / to score a goal	127	一起	yìqǐ	in the same place / together / with / altogether (in total)
53	近	jìn	near/ close to/ approximately	128	意思	yìsi	idea / opinion / meaning / wish / desire / interest / fun / token of appreciation

Written Chinese

							, affection etc
54	就	jiù	at once / right away / only / just (emphasis) / as early as / already / as soon as / then / in that case / as many as / even if / to approach / to move towards / to undertake / to engage in / to suffer / subjected to / to accomplish / to take advantage of / to go with (of foods) / with regard to / concerning	129	阴	yīn	surname yin / overcast (weather) / cloudy / shady / yin (the negative principle of yin and yang)
55	觉得	juéde	to think/ to feel	130	因为	yīnwèi	because / owing to / on account of
56	咖啡	kāfēi	coffee	131	游泳	yóuyǒng	swim
57	开始	kāishǐ	to begin / beginning / to start / initial	132	右边	yòubian	right side / right, to the right
58	考试	kǎoshì	exam	133	鱼	yú	fish

Written Chinese

59	可能	kěnéng	might (happen) / possible / probable / possibility / probability / maybe / perhaps	134	圆	yuán	circle / round / circular / spherical / (of the moon) full / unit of Chinese currency
60	可以	kěyǐ	can / may / possible / able to / not bad / pretty good	135	远	yuǎn	far / distant / remote
61	课	kè	subject / course / class / lesson	136	运动	yùndòng	movement/ campaign / sports
62	快	kuài	rapid / quick / speed / rate / soon / almost / to make haste / clever / sharp (of knives or wits) / forthright / plain-spoken / gratified / pleased / pleasant	137	再	zài	again / once more / re- / second / another / then (after sth, and not until then))
63	快乐	kuàilè	happy/ merry	138	早上	zǎoshang	early morning/ Good morning!
64	离	lí	surname li / to leave / to part from / to be away from / (in	139	张	zhāng	surname zhang / to open up / to spread / sheet of

Written 字 Chinese

			giving distances) from / without (sth) / independent of				paper / classifier for flat objects, sheet / classifier for votes
65	两	liǎng	both/ two/ ounce/ some/ a few/ tael/ weight equal to 50 grams	140	丈夫	zhàngfu	husband
66	旅游	lǚyóu	rip / journey / tourism / travel / tour	141	找	zhǎo	to try to find / to look for / to call on sb / to find / to seek / to return / to give change
67	路	lù	road/ path/ way	142	着	zhe	particle attached after verb to indicate action in progress, like -ing ending
68	马上	mǎshàng	at once / right away / immediately / on horseback (i.e. by military force)	143	真	zhēn	really / truly / indeed / real / true / genuine
69	卖	mài	to sell / to betray / to spare no effort / to	144	正在	zhèngzài	in the process of (doing something or

Written 字 Chinese

			show off or flaunt				happening) / while (doing)
70	慢	màn	slow	145	知道	zhīdào	to know/ to be aware of
71	忙	máng	busy / hurriedly / to hurry / to rush	146	准备	zhǔnbèi	preparation/ prepare
72	每	měi	each/ every	147	自行车	zìxíngchē	bicycle/ bike
73	妹妹	mèimei	younger sister / young woman	148	走	zǒu	to walk / to go / to run / to move (of vehicle) / to visit / to leave / to go away / to die
74	门	mén	surname men / gate / door / gateway / doorway/ opening / valve / switch / way to do something / knack / family / house / (religious) sect / school (of thought) / class / category / phylum or division	149	最	zuì	most/ the most/ -est

Written 字 Chinese

75	男人	nánrén	a man / a male / men	150	左边	zuǒbian	left/ the left side/ to the left of
----	----	--------	-------------------------	-----	----	---------	---

Written Chinese

HSK Level 3 Vocabulary

#	Character	Pinyin	English	#	Character	Pinyin	English
1	啊	a	modal particle ending sentence, showing affirmation, approval, or consent	151	脸	liǎn	face
2	阿姨	āyí	maternal aunt/ step-mother/ childcare worker/ nursemaid/ woman of similar age to one's parents (term of address used by child)	152	练习	liànxí	exercise/ drill/ practice
3	矮	ǎi	low/ short (in length)	153	辆	liàng	classifier for vehicles
4	爱好	àihào	interest/ hobby/ appetite for/	154	了解	liǎojiě	to understand / to realize / to find out
5	安静	ānjìng	quiet/ peaceful/ calm	155	邻居	línjū	neighbor next door
6	把	bǎ	to hold/ to contain/ to grasp/ to take hold of/ a handle/	156	楼	lóu	house with more than 1 story/ storied

Written 字 Chinese

			particle marking the following noun as a direct object/ classifier for objects with handle				building/ floor
7	搬	bān	to move/ to shift/ to remove/ to transport/ to apply indiscriminately/ to copy mechanically	157	绿	lǜ	green
8	班	bān	team/ class/ squad/ work shift/ classifier for groups/ ranking/ surname Ban	158	马	mǎ	horse/ abbr. for Malaysia
9	半	bàn	half/ semi-/ incomplete/ (after a number) and a half	159	满意	mǎnyì	satisfied / pleased / to one's satisfaction
10	办法	bànfǎ	means/ method/ way (of doing sth)	160	帽子	màozi	hat/ cap
11	帮忙	bāngmáng	to help/ to lend a hand/ to do a favor/ to do a good turn	161	米	mǐ	rice/ meter (classifier)

Written 字 Chinese

12	办公室	bàngōngshì	an office/ business premises/ a bureau	162	面包	miànbāo	bread
13	包	bāo	to cover/ to wrap/ to hold/ to include/ to take charge of/ package/ wrapper/ container/ bag/ to hold or embrace/ bundle/ packet/ to contract (to or for)/ surname Bao	163	面条	miàntiáo	noodles
14	饱	bǎo	to eat till full/ satisfied	164	明白	míngbai	clear / obvious / unequivocal / to understand / to realize
15	北方	běifāng	north/ the northern part a country/ China north of the Yellow River	165	拿	ná	to hold / to seize / to catch / to apprehend / to take
16	背	bèi	the back of a body or object/ to turn one's back/ to hide something from/ to learn by heart/ to	166	奶奶	nǎinai	(informal) father's mother/ paternal grandmothe r

Written 字 Chinese

			recite from memory				
17	鼻子	bízi	nose	167	南	nán	south
18	比较	bǐjiào	compare/ contrast/ fairly/ comparatively/ relatively/ quite/ rather	168	难	nán	difficult (to...)/ problem/ difficulty/ difficult/ not good
19	比赛	bǐsài	competition (sports etc)/ match/	169	难过	nánguò	to hold / to seize / to catch / to apprehend / to take
20	必须	bìxū	to have to/ must/ compulsory/ necessarily	170	年级	niánjí	grade/ year (in school, college etc)
21	变化	biànhuà	change/ variation/ to change/ to vary	171	年轻	niánqīng	young
22	表示	biǎoshì	to express/ to show/ to say/ to state/ to indicate/ to mean	172	鸟	niǎo	bird
23	表演	biǎoyǎn	play/ show/ performance / exhibition/ to perform/ to act/ to demonstrate	173	努力	nǔlì	great effort/ to strive/ to try hard
24	别人	biérén	others	174	爬山	páshān	to climb a mountain/ to mountaineer / hiking/

Written 字 Chinese

							mountaineer ing
25	宾馆	bīnguǎn	guesthouse	175	盘子	pánzi	tray/ plate/ dish
26	冰箱	bīngxiāng	icebox/ freezer cabinet/ refrigerator	176	胖	pàng	fat/ plump
27	才	cái	ability/ talent/ endowment/ gift/ an expert/ only (then)/ only if/ just	177	啤酒	píjiǔ	beer
28	菜单	càidān	menu	178	葡萄	pútáo	grape
29	参加	cānjiā	to participate/ to take part/ to join	179	普通话	pǔtōnghuà	Mandarin (common language)/ Putonghua (common speech of the Chinese language)/ ordinary speech
30	草	cǎo	grass/ straw/ manuscript/ draft (of a document)/ careless/ rough/	180	骑	qí	to ride (an animal or bike)/ to sit astride
31	层	céng	layer/ stratum/ laminated/ floor (of a building)/ storey/	181	奇怪	qíguài	strange/ odd

Written 字 Chinese

			classifier for layers/ repeated/ sheaf (math.)				
32	差	chà	differ from/ short of/ to lack/ poor	182	其实	qíshí	actually/ in fact/ really
33	超市	chāoshì	supermarket	183	其他	qítā	other/ the others/ else/ other than (that person)/ in addition to the person mentioned above
34	衬衫	chènshān	shirt/ blouse/	184	铅笔	qiānbǐ	(lead) pencil
35	成绩	chéngjì	achievement / performance records/ grades/	185	清楚	qīngchū	clear/ clearly understood/ distinct
36	城市	chéngshì	city/ town/	186	秋	qiū	autumn/ fall/ harvest time/ a swing/ surname Qiu
37	迟到	chídào	to arrive late	187	裙子	qúnzi	skirt
38	出现	chūxiàn	to appear/ to arise/ to emerge/ to show up	188	然后	ránhòu	after/ then (afterwards) / after that/ afterwards
39	厨房	chúfáng	kitchen	189	热情	rèqíng	cordial/ enthusiastic/ passion/

Written Chinese

							passionate/ passionately
40	除了	chúle	besides/ apart from (... also...)/ in addition to/ except (for)	190	认为	rènwéi	to believe/ to think/ to consider/ to feel
41	春	chūn	spring (time)/ gay/ joyful/ youthful/ love/ lust/ life	191	认真	rènzhēn	conscientiou s/ earnest/ serious/ to take seriously/ to take to heart
42	词语	cíyǔ	word (general term including monosyllabl es through to short phrases)/ term (e.g. technical term)/ expression	192	容易	róngyì	easy/ likely/ liable (to)
43	聪明	cōngmíng	acute (of sight and hearing)/ clever/ intelligent/ bright/ smart	193	如果	rúguǒ	if/ in case/ in the event that
44	打扫	dǎsǎo	to clean/ to sweep	194	伞	sǎn	umbrella/ parasol
45	打算	dǎsuàn	to plan/ to intend/ to	195	上网	shàngwǎng	to be on the internet/ to

Written 字 Chinese

			calculate/ plan/ intention/ calculation				stretch a net (in a sports game or for covering sth)/ to be netted (of fish)
46	带	dài	band/ belt/ girdle/ ribbon/ tire/ area/ zone/ region/ to wear/ to carry/ to lead/ to bring/ to look after/ to raise	196	生气	shēngqì	angry/ mad/ offended/ animated/ to get angry/ to be enraged/ to take offense/ animation
47	担心	dānxīn	anxious/ worried/ uneasy/ to worry/ to be anxious	197	声音	shēngyīn	voice/ sound
48	当然	dāngrán	of course/ without doubt/ only natural/ as it should be/ certainly	198	使	shǐ	to make/ to cause/ to enable/ to use/ to employ/ to send/ to instruct sb to do sth/ envoy/ messenger
49	蛋糕 dàngāo	dàngāo	cake	199	世界	shìjiè	world
50	地	de	-ly/ structural particle: used before a verb or adjective, linking it to	200	瘦	shòu	tight/ thin/ lean

Written Chinese

			preceding modifying adverbial adjunct				
51	灯	dēng	lamp/ light/ lantern/	201	舒服	shūfu	comfortable/ feeling well
52	低	dī	low/ beneath/ to lower (one's head)/ to let droop/ to hang down/ to incline	202	叔叔	shūshu	father's younger brother/ uncle
53	地方	dìfang	region/ regional (away from the central administratio n)	203	树	shù	tree
54	地铁	dìtiě	subway/ metro	204	数学	shùxué	mathematic s/ mathematic al
55	地图	dìtú	map	205	刷牙	shuāyá	to brush teeth
56	电梯	diàntī	elevator	206	双	shuāng	two/ double/ pair/ both
57	电子邮件	diànzǐyóujiàn	electronic mail/ email	207	水平	shuǐpíng	level (of achievemen t etc)/ standard/ horizontal
58	东	dōng	east/ host (i.e. sitting on east side of guest)/ landlord/ surname Dong	208	司机	sījī	chauffeur/ driver

Written Chinese

59	冬	dōng	winter	209	虽然	suīrán	although/ even though/ even if
60	动物	dòngwù	animal	210	太阳	tàiyáng	sun
61	短	duǎn	short or brief/ to lack/ weak point/ fault	211	糖	táng	sugar/ sweets/ candy
62	段	duàn	paragraph/ section/ segment/ stage (of a process)/ classifier for stories, periods of time, lengths of thread etc	212	特别	tèbié	especially/ special/ particular/ unusual
63	锻炼	duànliàn	to engage in physical exercise/ to toughen/ to temper	213	疼	téng	(it) hurts/ love fondly/ ache/ pain/ sore
64	多么	duōme	how (wonderful etc)/ what (a great idea etc)/ however (difficult it may be etc)	214	提高	tígāo	to raise/ to increase
65	饿	è	to be hungry/ hungry	215	体育	tǐyù	sports/ physical education
66	而且	érqiě	(not only...) but also/ moreover/ in	216	甜	tián	sweet

Written 字 Chinese

			addition/ furthermore				
67	耳朵	ěrduo	ear	217	条	tiáo	strip/ item/ article/ clause (of law or treaty)/ classifier for long thin things (ribbon, river, road, trousers etc)
68	发烧	fāshāo	have a high temperature (from illness)/ have a fever	218	同事	tóngshì	colleague/ co-worker
69	发现	fāxiàn	to find/ to discover	219	同意	tóngyì	to agree/ to consent/ to approve
70	方便	fāngbiàn	convenient/ to help out/ to make things easy for people/ convenience / suitable/ having money to spare/ (euphemism) to go to the toilet	220	头发	tóufa	hair (on the head)
71	放	fàng	to release/ to free/ to let go/ to put/ to place/ to let out/ to set off (fireworks)	221	突然	tūrán	sudden/ abrupt/ unexpected

Written 字 Chinese

72	放心	fàngxīn	to set one's mind at rest/ to be at ease/ to rest	222	图书馆	túshūguǎn	library
73	分	fēn	to divide/ to separate/ to allocate/ to distinguish (good and bad)/ part or subdivision/ fraction/ one tenth (of certain units)/ unit of length equivalent to 0.33 cm/ minute/ a point (in sports or games)/ 0.01 yuan (unit of money)	223	腿	tuǐ	leg
74	附近	fùjìn	(in the) vicinity/ nearby/ neighboring/ next to	224	完成	wánchéng	complete/ accomplish/ perfect tense (grammar)
75	复习	fùxí	to revise/ to review/ revision	225	碗	wǎn	bowl/ cup
76	干净	gānjìng	clean/ neat	226	万	wàn	ten thousand/ a great number
77	敢	gǎn	to dare/ daring/ (polite) may I venture	227	忘记	wàngjì	to forget

Written 字 Chinese

78	感冒	gǎnmào	to catch cold/ (common) cold	228	为	wèi	because of/ for/ to
79	刚才	gāngcái	just now/ a moment ago	229	位	wèi	position/ location/ place/ seat/ classifier for people (honorific)/ classifier for binary bits (e.g. 十六位 16-bit or 2 bytes)
80	跟	gēn	heel/ to follow closely/ to go with/ to marry sb (of woman)/ with/ towards/ as (compared to)/ from (different from)/ and (in addition to)	230	为了	wèile	in order to/ for the purpose of/ so as to
81	根据	gēnjù	according to/ based on/ basis/ foundation	231	文化	wénhuà	culture/ civilization/ cultural
82	更	gèng	more/ still more/ even more	232	西	xī	west
83	公园	gōngyuán	public park	233	习惯	xíguàn	habit/ custom/ usual practice/ to be used to

Written 字 Chinese

84	故事	gùshi	story/ tale/ narrative	234	洗手间	xǐshǒujiān	toilet/ lavatory/ washroom
85	刮风	guāfēng	to be windy	235	洗澡	xǐzǎo	to bathe/ to take a shower
86	关	guān	mountain pass/ to close/ to shut/ to turn off/ to concern/ to involve	236	夏	xià	summer
87	关系	guānxi	relation/ relationship/ to concern/ to affect/ to have to do with/ guanxi/	237	先	xiān	early/ prior/ former/ in advance/ first
88	关心	guānxīn	to care for sth/ caring/ concerned	238	香蕉	xiāngjiāo	banana
89	关于	guānyú	pertaining to/ concerning/ regarding/ with regards to/ about/ a matter of	239	相同	xiāngtóng	identical/ same
90	国家	guójiā	country/ nation/ state/	240	相信	xiāngxìn	be convinced (that something is true)/ believe/ to accept sth as true
91	果汁	guǒzhī	fruit juice	241	像	xiàng	(look) like/ similar (to)/

Written 字 Chinese

							appearance/ to appear/ to seem/ image/ portrait/ resemble/ seem
92	过去	guòqu	(in the) past/ former/ previous/ to go over/ to pass by	242	小心	xiǎoxīn	to be careful/ to take care
93	还是	háishi	or/ still/ nevertheless	243	校长	xiàozhǎng	(college, university) president/ headmaster
94	害怕	hàipà	to be afraid/ to be scared	244	鞋	xié	shoe
95	河	hé	river	245	新闻	xīnwén	news
96	黑板	hēibǎn	blackboard	246	新鲜	xīnxiān	fresh (experience, food etc)/ freshness
97	护照	hùzhào	passport	247	信	xìn	letter/ mail/ to trust/ to believe/ to profess faith in/ truthful/ confidence/ trust/ at will/ at random
98	花	huā	to spend (money, time)/ flower	248	行李箱	xínglixiāng	suitcase
99	花园	huāyuán	garden	249	兴趣	xìngqu	interest in (something)

Written 字 Chinese

100	画	huà	to draw/ picture/ painting	250	熊猫	xióngmāo	panda
101	坏	huài	bad/ spoiled/ broken/ to break down	251	需要	xūyào	to need/ to want/ to demand/ needs/ to require
102	环境	huánjìng	environment / circumstances/ surroundings/ ambient/	252	选择	xuǎnzé	to select/ to pick/ choice/ option/ alternative
103	换	huàn	change/ exchange	253	眼镜	yǎnjìng	spectacles/ eyeglasses
104	黄	huáng	yellow/ pornographic/ to fall through	254	要求	yāoqiú	to request/ to require/ to stake a claim/ to ask/ to demand
105	会议	huìyì	meeting/ conference	255	爷爷	yéye	(informal) father's father/ paternal grandfather
106	或者	huòzhě	or/ possibly/ maybe/ perhaps	256	一直	yīzhí	straight (in a straight line)/ continuously / always/ from the beginning of... up to.../ all along
107	几乎	jīhū	almost/ nearly/ practically	257	一定	yídìng	surely/ certainly/ necessarily/

Written 字 Chinese

							fixed/ a certain (extent etc)/ given/ particular/ must
108	机会	jīhuì	opportunity/ chance/ occasion	258	一共	yí gòng	altogether
109	极	jí	extremely/ pole (geography, physics)/ utmost/ top	259	一会儿	yí huìr	a while
110	记得	jìde	to remember	260	一样	yí yàng	same/ like/ equal to/ the same as/ just like
111	季节	jìjié	time/ season/ period	261	以后	yǐ hòu	after/ later/ afterwards/ following/ later on/ in the future
112	检查	jiǎnchá	inspection/ to examine/ to inspect	262	以前	yǐ qián	before/ formerly/ previous/ ago
113	简单	jiǎndān	simple/ not complicated	263	以为	yǐ wéi	to believe/ to think/ to consider/ to be under the impression
114	健康	jiànkāng	health/ healthy	264	一般	yí bān	same/ ordinary/ common/ general/ generally/ in general

Written 字 Chinese

115	见面	jiànmiàn	to meet/ to see sb/	265	一边	yìbiān	one side/ either side/ on the one hand/ on the other hand/ doing while
116	讲	jiǎng	to speak/ to explain/ to negotiate/ to emphasise/ to be particular about/ as far as sth is concerned/ speech/ lecture	266	音乐	yīnyuè	music
117	教	jiāo	to teach	267	银行	yínháng	bank
118	脚	jiǎo	foot/ leg/ base/ kick	268	应该	yīnggāi	ought to/ should/ must
119	角	jiǎo	angle/ corner/ horn/ horn-shaped / unit of money equal to 0.10 yuan	269	影响	yǐngxiǎng	an influence/ an effect/ to influence/ to affect (usually adversely)/ to disturb
120	接	jiē	to receive/ to answer (the phone)/ to meet or welcome sb/ to connect/ to catch/ to join/ to extend/ to take one's turn on duty/	270	用	yòng	to use/ to employ/ to have to/ to eat or drink/ expense or outlay/ usefulness/ hence/ therefore

Written 字 Chinese

			take over for sb				
121	街道	jiēdào	street	271	游戏	yóuxì	game/ play
122	结婚	jiéhūn	to marry/ to get married	272	有名	yǒumíng	famous/ well-known
123	节目	jiémù	program/ item (on a program)	273	又	yòu	(once) again/ also/ both... and.../ again
124	结束	jiéshù	termination/ to finish/ to end/ to conclude/ to close	274	遇到	yùdào	to meet/ to run into/ to come across
125	解决	jiějué	to settle (a dispute)/ to resolve/ to solve	275	元	yuán	first/ primary/ basic
126	借	jiè	to lend/ to borrow/ excuse/ pretext/ by means of/ to seize (an opportunity)/ to take (an opportunity)	276	愿意	yuànyì	to wish/ to want/ ready/ willing (to do sth)
127	节日	jiérì	holiday/ festival	277	越	yuè	to exceed/ to climb over/ to surpass/ the more... the more
128	经常	jīngcháng	day to day/ everyday/ daily/ frequently/ constantly/	278	月亮	yuèliang	moon

Written 字 Chinese

			regularly/ often				
129	经过	jīngguò	to pass/ to go through/ process/ course/	279	云	yún	cloud
130	经理	jīnglǐ	manager/ director	280	站	zhàn	station/ to stand/ to halt/ to stop/ branch of a company or organisation
131	久	jiǔ	(long) time/ (long) duration of time	281	长	zhǎng	chief/ head/ elder/ to grow/ to develop
132	旧	jiù	old/ opposite: new 新/ former/ worn (with age)	282	着急	zháojí	to worry/ to feel anxious
133	举行	jǔxíng	to hold (a meeting, ceremony etc)	283	照顾	zhàogu	to take care of/ to show consideratio n/ to attend to/ to look after
134	句子	jùzi	sentence	284	照片	zhàopiàn	photo/ photograph/ picture
135	决定	juéding	to decide (to do something)/ to resolve/ decision/ certainly	285	照相机	zhàoxiàngjī	camera
136	渴	kě	thirsty	286	只	zhǐ	only/ merely/ just/ but

Written Chinese

137	可爱	kěài	amiable/ cute/ lovely	287	中间	zhōngjiān	between/ intermediate / mid/ middle
138	刻	kè	quarter (hour)/ moment/ to carve/ to engrave/ to cut/ oppressive/ classifier for short time intervals	288	终于	zhōngyú	at last/ in the end/ finally/ eventually
139	客人	kèrén	visitor/ guest/ customer/ client	289	种	zhǒng	abbr. for 物 种, genus/ race/ seed/ breed/ species/ strain/ kind/ type/ has guts (i.e. courage)/ nerve/ classifier for types: kind, sort/ classifier for languages
140	空调	kōngtiáo	air conditioning	290	重要	zhòngyào	important/ significant/ major
141	口	kǒu	mouth/ classifier for things with mouths (people, domestic animals, cannons, wells etc)	291	周末	zhōumò	weekend

Written Chinese

142	哭	kū	to cry/ to weep	292	主要	zhǔyào	main/ principal/ major/ primary
143	裤子	kùzi	trousers/ pants	293	祝	zhù	invoke/ pray to/ wish/ to express good wishes/ surname Zhu
144	筷子	kuàizi	chopsticks	294	注意	zhùyì	to take note of/ to pay attention to
145	蓝	lán	blue/ indigo plant	295	字典	zìdiǎn	dictionary/ character dictionary
146	老	lǎo	prefix used before the surname of a person or a numeral indicating the order of birth of the children in a family or to indicate affection or familiarity/ old (of people)/ venerable (person)/ experienced/ of long standing/ always/ all the time/ of the past/ very/ outdated/ (of	296	自己	zìjǐ	self/ (reflexive pronoun)/ own

Written 字 Chinese

			meat etc) tough				
147	累	lèi	tired/ weary/ to strain/ to wear out/ to work hard	297	总是	zǒngshì	always
148	离开	líkāi	to depart/ to leave	298	最近	zuìjìn	recent/ recently/ these days/ latest/ soon/ nearest (of locations)/ shortest (of routes)
149	礼物	lǐwù	gift/ present	299	作业	zuòyè	school assignment/ homework/ work/ task/ operation/ to operate
150	历史	lìshǐ	history	300	作用	zuòyòng	to act on/ to affect/ action/ function/ activity/ impact/ result/ effect/ purpose/ intent/ to play a role/ corresponds to English -ity, -ism, -ization