MANDARIN CHINESE · GRADE 6 · AGES 11–12

Grade 6 Mandarin

First edition | 5 units | 10 lessons · one quarter | Simplified characters with pinyin

A song or video for every lesson

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 6 Mandarin is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student traces Chinese writing from oracle bones to typing with pinyin, locates places with 东南西北, explains where simplified and traditional characters are used, and asks questions with 吗, 呢 and question words.

Then the student makes suggestions with 吧 and speaks warmly with 啊, describes the Spring, Lantern, Dragon Boat and Mid-Autumn festivals factually, tells Hudson Taylor's story with years and 了, and gives thanks in several ways. Every Chinese word is shown in simplified characters with pinyin.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: ChineseClass101 (short lessons by native-speaking teachers, the workhorse of the older grades), Little Fox Chinese (animated Mandarin songs and graded stories with Chinese subtitles) and Miss Panda Chinese (songs and picture words), with a few single pinyin and grammar lessons from Yoyo Chinese, each one approved individually. The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. ChineseClass101 videos usually end with an invitation to visit its website; you can stop the video when the lesson's part ends. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 6 (about ages 11–12) who read independently. No earlier Chinese is needed: the course reviews the sounds and the first characters and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the speaking practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things. Families who speak Chinese at home use the same lessons with the *At home in Chinese* notes.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Chinese notebook, with the characters written in squares. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice and a recitation: the student says the week's Chinese out loud to the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Say it every day.** Chinese is learned out loud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by saying the sentences learned so far, with their tones. Five minutes of cheerful speaking beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Chinese works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Chinese works* explains the pattern; *Say it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Characters, stroke by stroke.** Each lesson has a few characters to write. Write them in squares (a 田字格 tiánzìgé grid is on every worksheet, or use graph paper), stroke by stroke in the right order, saying the sound and meaning each time. Order matters: top before bottom, left before right, outside before inside, and close the box last.

5. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new words. Make a flashcard for each one: the character on the front, the pinyin with tone marks and the meaning on the back.
6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **Tones are part of the word.** Every Chinese syllable has a tone, and the tone changes the meaning. Say every new word with its tone from the first day, draw the tone in the air with your hand, and copy the tone marks carefully. A word said with the wrong tone is a different word.
8. **Characters and pinyin.** The course writes Chinese in simplified characters, the form used in mainland China and Singapore and by most learners, with pinyin printed above the characters. Each vocabulary card also gives the traditional form, used in Taiwan and Hong Kong, when it is different. Families who read traditional characters at home are welcome to use them.
9. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 54 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: 甲骨文 (jiǎgǔwén), 篆书 (zhuànshū), 楷书 (kǎishū), 写字 (xiě zì), 历史 (lìshǐ), 拼音 (pīnyīn), 打字 (dǎ zì), 电脑 (diànnǎo), 手机 (shǒujī), 声调 (shēngdiào). Unit 2: 东 (dōng), 南 (nán), 西 (xī), 北 (běi), 长江 (Cháng Jiāng), 黄河 (Huáng Hé), 中文 (Zhōngwén), 普通话 (pǔtōnghuà), 简体字 (jiǎntǐzì), 繁体字 (fántǐzì), 方言 (fāngyán), 说 (shuō). Unit 3: 吗 (ma), 呢 (ne), 为什么 (wèishénme), 怎么 (zěnme), 谁 (shéi), 吧 (ba), 啊 (a), 一起 (yìqǐ), 真 (zhēn), 当然 (dāngrán). Unit 4: 春节 (Chūn Jié), 除夕 (chúxī), 饺子 (jiǎozi), 红包 (hóngbāo), 春联 (chūnlián), 过年 (guò nián), 元宵节 (Yuánxiāo Jié), 灯笼 (dēnglong), 端午节 (Duānwǔ Jié), 龙舟 (lóngzhōu), 中秋节 (Zhōngqiū Jié), 月饼 (yuèbǐng). Unit 5: 传教士 (chuánjiàoshì), 福音 (fúyīn), 年 (nián), 英国 (Yīngguó), 了 (le), 感谢 (gǎnxiè), 感恩 (gǎn'ēn), 多谢 (duōxiè), 不用谢 (bú yòng xiè), 哪里 (nǎli).
10. **Word games.** The crossword, word-find and hangman games used in other School Launch language courses need typed letters; Chinese needs characters or pinyin with tone marks, so the games are turned off for Mandarin. Each lesson has a spoken game instead.
11. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.

12. **The Chinese Bible.** Chinese verses are quoted from the Chinese Union Version (和合本 Héhéběn), the Mandarin translation finished in 1919 by a team of missionaries and Chinese scholars and still the Bible of most Chinese-speaking churches. The 1919 text is in the public domain. The course prints it in simplified characters, the form taught in this course, with modern punctuation; every verse has been checked word for word against the 1919 edition, and where the 1988 New Punctuation edition changed a word, the 1919 word is printed. A small space is printed before 神 (shén, God) in this version, as in the original: it was a mark of reverence, and it let the same printing plates serve the edition that used the two-character name 上帝 (Shàngdì). God's name, printed LORD in the King James Version, is 耶和华 (Yēhéhuá, Jehovah) in the Union Version. The pinyin under each verse was added by School Launch to help with reading aloud. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and Sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

The Story of Chinese Writing: 甲骨文 to 拼音

How Chinese writing grew over 3,000 years: oracle-bone script (甲骨文) on turtle shells, seal script (篆书), clerical script and the regular script (楷书) we read today; then pinyin (拼音) and typing Chinese on a keyboard. A Shang-dynasty turtle shell, and the command to "write the vision, and make it plain."

1.1 甲骨文: Writing on Shells and Bones

1.2 拼音 and Typing: Chinese on a Keyboard

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Where Mandarin Is Spoken: 地理

The geography of China: 东南西北, the big cities 北京 and 上海, the rivers 长江 and 黄河, mountains and deserts; then where Mandarin is spoken around the world (mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore and Chinese communities everywhere) and where simplified and traditional characters are used. The Li River near Guilin.

2.1 东南西北: China on the Map

2.2 说中文: Mandarin Around the World

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Little Words, Big Meaning: 吗, 呢, 吧, 啊

Sentence-final particles: 吗 for yes/no questions, 呢 for “and you?” and follow-up questions, 吧 for suggestions and guesses, and 啊 for warmth and feeling. Question words (什么, 谁, 哪儿, 怎么, 为什么) and the A-not-A question (你去不去?). Fan Kuan’s travelers on the mountain road.

3.1 吗 and 呢: Asking Questions

3.2 吧 and 啊: Suggestions and Feelings

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Traditional Festivals: 春节 and More

China’s traditional festivals, described factually: the Spring Festival (春节) with New Year’s Eve dinner, dumplings, red envelopes and couplets; the Lantern Festival (元宵节), the Dragon Boat Festival (端午节) and the Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节). A Song painting of children doing a lion dance, a dragon-boat regatta scroll, and the God who crowns the year with goodness.

4.1 春节: The Spring Festival

4.2 元宵, 端午, 中秋: Lanterns, Boats and Mooncakes

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Hudson Taylor and Thankful Hearts: 感恩

The life of J. Hudson Taylor (戴德生, 1832–1905), who learned Chinese, wore Chinese clothes and founded the China Inland Mission, told with the past tense marker 了 and time words; then saying thank you well: 谢谢, 感谢, 感恩, 不客气, 哪里哪里. “Jehovah-jireh”: the LORD will provide.

5.1 戴德生: Hudson Taylor’s Story

5.2 感恩: Many Ways to Say Thank You

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 甲骨文: Writing on Shells and Bones: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 1.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (clay oracle tablet) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet *Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, say the week's words and verse aloud for five minutes and write two characters in the 田 grid.*
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 拼音 and Typing: Chinese on a Keyboard: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (type a verse) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (a timeline of writing)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 东南西北: China on the Map: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (salt dough map) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 说中文: Mandarin Around the World: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (simplified and traditional) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (map of china)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 吗 and 呢: Asking Questions: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (interview) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 吧 and 啊: Suggestions and Feelings: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (particle comic) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (particle dialogue)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 春节: The Spring Festival: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study

WEEK	PLAN
	• Session 2: Lesson 4.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (spring couplets with scripture) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 元宵, 端午, 中秋: Lanterns, Boats and Mooncakes: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (paper lantern) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (festival calendar)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 戴德生: Hudson Taylor's Story: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (map of a journey) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 感恩: Many Ways to Say Thank You: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (thank-you notes) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (a missionary biography)

Materials

Chinese notebook (any notebook; graph paper is best)

One for the quarter: vocabulary, tone charts, characters in squares and copywork.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils and a fine-tip marker

For charts, characters and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest repetition. A student who speaks Chinese out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily speaking, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	**30**
Chinese notebook (dated pages, characters, copywork)	**25**
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the speaking drills and practice with help.

- A written answer is right when the characters are right, or the pinyin is right with its tone marks. A missing tone mark costs half a point.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. The tones get steadier with every week of practice.

A note to parents

You do not need to know Chinese to teach this course. Every Chinese word has its pinyin and meaning, every practice question has its answer in the key, and the videos do the explaining a specialist would. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your tones.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Why Chinese? Because more people speak Mandarin than any other language on earth; because Chinese writing is one of the oldest still in use, a window onto three thousand years of history; and because there are tens of millions of Chinese Christians, many of whom have kept their faith through hard times, and a Chinese-speaking neighbor is never far away.

This is a course in the Chinese language and in the history and culture of the Chinese people, not in modern politics. Chinese festivals are taught as facts about Chinese life (what families do, eat and say), not as religious practice. Where a custom comes from Chinese folk religion, the lesson says so plainly, and it explains how Chinese Christians keep the day. The stories focus on courage, faith, family and good work, from the ancient scribes and painters to the missionaries who gave China the Bible.

UNIT 1

The Story of Chinese Writing: 甲骨文 to 拼音

Lesson 1.1 teaches the main stages of Chinese script with a photograph of a Shang-dynasty inscribed turtle shell.

Lesson 1.2 teaches how pinyin works as a spelling system, earlier romanizations made by missionaries and scholars, and typing Chinese with pinyin.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 5, Unit 1 (radicals) helps.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name four stages of Chinese writing in order.
- ☐ I can explain what oracle bones are.
- ☐ I can explain what pinyin is for and type a word with it.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**甲骨文: Writing on Shells and Bones**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
1.2	**拼音 and Typing: Chinese on a Keyboard**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 Review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   What is 甲骨文?

2. **4 pts**
   Put in order: 楷书, 甲骨文, 篆书.

3. **4 pts**
   What does 汉字 mean?

4. **4 pts**
   What is 拼音 for?

5. **4 pts**
   How do you type 你好 on a computer?

ANSWER KEY

1. Oracle-bone script: the oldest Chinese writing we have, carved on turtle shells and ox bones about 3,200 years ago.
2. 甲骨文, 篆书, 楷书.
3. Chinese characters.
4. Spelling the sounds of Mandarin with Roman letters and tone marks; it is used for learning and for typing.
5. Type the pinyin nihao and choose the characters.

> Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A TIMELINE OF WRITING

Make a timeline poster from oracle bones to typing on a phone, with at least five stages, a date and a drawing for each. Write one character (such as 人 or 马) the way it looked at each stage as best you can. Explain it to your family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student explains each stage clearly.
Characters	Characters and labels are written neatly.
Using it	Stages and dates are in the right order.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 1 · THE STORY OF CHINESE WRITING: 甲骨文 TO 拼音 · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 甲骨文: Writing on Shells and Bones

OBJECTIVES

- Explain what oracle bones are.
- Name the stages 甲骨文, 篆书, 隶书, 楷书.
- Say 写字 (write characters) and 历史 (history).

> **Warm-up.** What is the oldest thing you own with writing on it? How old is the oldest writing you have ever seen?

WATCH

Curator's Cut | Anyang: China's Ancient City of Kings

Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art · 7:14

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w83Op5ddaiw

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; look for the carved characters.

Note: Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art: a curator's tour of the Shang capital Anyang, where oracle bones were found (official museum; mentions Shang rituals and burials, so preview it).

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Chinese Characters in 5 Minutes with Yoyo Chinese(Part 2)

Yoyo Chinese · 4:55

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UWli6r-GIEs

Yoyo Chinese: Learn Chinese Characters in 5 Minutes, Part 2 (single approved video).

KEY TERMS

jiǎ gǔ wén
甲骨文 **jiǎgǔwén**

Oracle-bone script (shell-bone writing).

zhuànshū
篆 书 **zhuànshū**

Seal script.

kǎi shū
楷书 **kǎishū**

Regular script (today's standard).

xiě zì
写字 **xiě zì**

To write characters.

lì shǐ
历史 **lìshǐ**

History.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

甲骨文

jiǎgǔwén

jyah-goo-WUN

noun

oracle-bone script

篆书

zhuànshū

jwahn-SHOO

noun · traditional 篆書

seal script

楷书

kǎishū

kai-SHOO

noun · traditional 楷書

regular script

写字

xiě zì

shyeh DZ

verb · traditional 寫字

to write characters

历史

lìshǐ

lee-SHR

noun · traditional 歷史

history

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. The oldest Chinese writing we have is 甲骨文 (jiǎ gǔ wén), carved on turtle shells (甲) and ox bones (骨) in the Shang dynasty, about 1200 B.C. Kings asked questions about harvests, weather and war, and scribes carved the questions and answers.

Stages. 甲骨文 (shell-bone, about 1200 B.C.) → 篆书 (seal script, used when China was united in 221 B.C.) → 隶书 (clerical script, Han dynasty) → 楷书 (kǎi shū) (regular script, used for about 1,700 years, and the model for printed characters today).

Same characters, long story. Many oracle-bone characters can still be read, such as 人, 日, 月, 马 and 王. The Bible was also written down so that it could be read "plainly" by people long after.

PICTURE STUDY



Inscribed turtle plastron, Shang-dynasty scribe, about 1200 B.C., reign of King Wu Ding · Turtle shell, carved · photograph by BabelStone (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph, CC BY-SA 3.0 (credit: Wikimedia Commons contributor; see the file page)

In the Shang dynasty a diviner heated a shell until it cracked, and the king "read" the cracks to answer a question. Then a scribe carved the question on the shell. People believed the cracks showed the ancestors' answers. Archaeologists have found well over 100,000 pieces of shell and bone like this one.

Look closely

- Find the cracks across the shell.
- Find the columns of tiny characters on the left and right.
- Can you find a character that looks like a person or the sun?
- Why are the two sides similar?

Talk about it

1. Why would people carve on shell and bone instead of paper?
2. Where do Christians look for guidance instead of cracks in a shell?

ACTIVITY

Clay oracle tablet

Carve your own “oracle bone.”

You will need

- Air-dry clay or a bar of soap
- A toothpick or craft stick

Steps

1. Shape a flat oval tablet.
2. Carve five characters you know in columns from top to bottom: 人, 日, 月, 山, 马.
3. Underneath, carve a question to God you would pray, in simple Chinese or English.
4. Let it dry and display it with a card explaining 甲骨文.

Tips

- Carve slowly; straight lines are easier than curves.

Check your work

- ☐ My tablet has five clear characters.
- ☐ I can explain what real oracle bones were.

> **From history.** Oracle bones were rediscovered only in 1899, when a scholar noticed carvings on “dragon bones” sold in a medicine shop and realized they were ancient writing.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What do 甲 and 骨 mean in 甲骨文?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 甲 = shell (armor).
2. 骨 = bone; 文 = writing.

Answer: Shell-bone writing: oracle-bone script.

Example 2. Which is older, 楷书 or 篆书?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 篆书 was used around 221 B.C.
2. 楷书 became standard centuries later.

Answer: 篆书 is older.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 历史?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   History.

2. Easy Say “write characters.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   写字.

3. Medium What were oracle bones used for?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Kings had questions carved on shells and bones and read cracks made by heat to find answers.

4. Medium Which script do we read today?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   楷书 (regular script), in simplified form.

5. Hard Put the four stages in order with a fact about each.

▼ **Show answer**

甲骨文 (Shang shells and bones); 篆书 (seal script, Qin unification); 隶书 (clerical, Han); 楷书 (regular, today).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking Chinese writing has never changed. It has changed a great deal, but slowly, so old texts can still be studied.
- Reading 骨 as gū. It is gǔ (dipping).

> **Make it a game · Script sort.** Make cards describing each script (oldest, on shells, square and modern…). Race to put them in order.

> **Scripture.** "And the LORD answered me, and said, Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." (Habakkuk 2:2, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 他对我说：将这默示明明地写在版上，使读的人容易读。
>
> *Tā duì wǒ shuō: Jiāng zhè mò shì míng míng de xiě zài bǎn shàng, shǐ dú de rén róng yì dú.*
>
> God told Habakkuk to write the vision plainly on tablets so that people could read it easily.

UNIT 1 · THE STORY OF CHINESE WRITING: 甲骨文 TO 拼音 · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 拼音 and Typing: Chinese on a Keyboard

OBJECTIVES

- Explain what pinyin is and is not.
- Know that missionaries and scholars made earlier ways to spell Chinese with letters.
- Type a Chinese word with pinyin.

> **Warm-up.** How do you think people type Chinese, with thousands of characters and only 26 letters on a keyboard?

WATCH

Learn How to Type Chinese Characters Using a Keyboard with Yoyo Chinese

Yoyo Chinese · 5:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Ip4VjlD7Ew

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; then try typing on a computer or phone.

Note: Yoyo Chinese: how to type Chinese characters on a keyboard (single approved video).

BACKUP VIDEO

How to Learn Chinese Words by Writing Them Out

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gvz0lVI1ft4

ChineseClass101: learning Chinese words by writing them out.

KEY TERMS

pīnyīn
拼音 **pīnyīn**

Pinyin (spell-sound).

dǎ zì
打字 **dǎ zì**

To type.

diànnǎo
电脑 **diànnǎo**

Computer (electric brain).

shǒu jī
手机 **shǒujī**

Mobile phone (hand machine).

shēngdiào
声 调 **shēngdiào**

Tone.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

拼音
pīnyīn
pin-YIN
noun
pinyin

打字
dǎ zì
dah DZ
verb
to type

电脑
diànnǎo
dyen-NAO
noun · traditional 電腦
computer

手机
shǒujī
shoh-JEE
noun · traditional 手機
mobile phone

声调
shēngdiào
shung-DYOW
noun · traditional 聲調
tone

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. pīn yīn 拼音 spells Mandarin sounds with Roman letters and tone marks: 你好 = nǐ hǎo. It is a tool for learning and typing; it does not replace characters.

Earlier systems. Long before modern pinyin, missionaries such as Matteo Ricci and Robert Morrison spelled Chinese with letters, and missionaries printed Bibles in letters for people who spoke local dialects. The Wade–Giles system gave English the spellings Peking and Tao. Hanyu Pinyin was adopted in mainland China in 1958 and is now used around the world.

Typing. On a 电脑 (diànnǎo) or 手机 (shǒu jī), type the pinyin (nihao), and the computer offers characters to choose from: 你好. Many people now type more than they write by hand, so some forget how to write characters!

ACTIVITY

Type a verse

Type a Bible verse in Chinese.

You will need

- A computer or phone with a Chinese (pinyin) keyboard turned on, with a parent's help

Steps

1. Turn on the simplified Chinese pinyin keyboard.
2. Type 你好, 谢谢 and your Chinese name.
3. Type Psalm 119:105 from your worksheet: 你的话是我脚前的灯....
4. Print it or write it out by hand beside the typed copy.

Tips

- Choose the right character from the list; many share the same pinyin.

Check your work

☐ I typed three words and a verse.

☐ I wrote the verse by hand too.

> **From history.** Before computers, Chinese typewriters had trays of over 2,000 metal characters, and a typist hunted for each one with a lever.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. How would you type 中国?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Pinyin: zhōngguó.
2. Type zhongguo and choose the characters.

Answer: zhongguo → 中国.

Example 2. What does 电脑 mean word by word?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 电 = electric.
2. 脑 = brain.

Answer: Electric brain: computer.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 手机?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mobile phone.

2. Easy What is pinyin for?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Showing pronunciation; learning and typing.

3. Medium Name a missionary who spelled Chinese with letters.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Matteo Ricci or Robert Morrison.

4. Medium Why do typists choose from a list?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Many characters share the same pinyin.

5. Hard Explain two good things and one danger of typing Chinese.

▼ **Show answer**

Fast; easy to look up words; but people may forget how to write characters by hand.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking pinyin is a separate language. It is just a way to spell Mandarin sounds.
- Typing without checking the characters. 是, 事 and 市 are all shi!

> **Make it a game · Homophone hunt.** Type a pinyin syllable like shi or ma and count how many characters appear. Highest count wins.

> **Scripture.** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” (Isaiah 40:8, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 草必枯干，花必凋残，惟有我们　神的话必永远立定。
>
> *Cǎo bì kū gān, huā bì diāo cán, wéi yǒu wǒ men Shén de huà bì yǒng yuǎn lì dìng.*
>
> Scripts change and machines change, but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

UNIT 2

Where Mandarin Is Spoken: 地理

Lesson 2.1 teaches compass directions, China’s main regions, cities and rivers, with a photograph of the Li River.

Lesson 2.2 teaches where Mandarin is spoken, 说中文, and where simplified and traditional characters are used.

PREREQUISITES

- Unit 1; directions from Grade 4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can say 东, 南, 西, 北 and locate places with them.
- ☐ I can name two cities and two rivers of China.
- ☐ I can say where Mandarin is spoken and which characters are used there.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**东南西北: China on the Map**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**说中文: Mandarin Around the World**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Say north, south, east and west.
2. **4 pts**
   Say “Beijing is in the north of China.”
3. **4 pts**
   Name China’s two longest rivers in Chinese.
4. **4 pts**
   Name three places where many people speak Mandarin.
5. **4 pts**
   Where are traditional characters used?

ANSWER KEY

1. 北, 南, 东, 西.
2. 北京在中国的北边.
3. 长江 and 黄河.
4. Mainland China, Taiwan, Singapore (and Chinese communities in many countries).
5. In Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau, and by many overseas Chinese.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: MAP OF CHINA

Draw a large map of China and its neighbors. Label in characters: the four directions, 北京, 上海, 香港, 长江, 黄河 and 台湾. Present it in Chinese: 北京在北边....

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents the map in clear Chinese sentences.
Characters	Labels are in neat characters.
Using it	Places and directions are correct.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 2 · WHERE MANDARIN IS SPOKEN: 地理 · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 东南西北: China on the Map

OBJECTIVES

- Say 东, 南, 西, 北 and 北边, 南边.
- Name 北京, 上海, 长江, 黄河 and 长城.
- Describe where a place is: 上海在中国的东边.

Warm-up. Look at a globe. Find China. Which countries border it? How big is it compared with the United States?

WATCH

Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru - Geography

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:01

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VlTLiwVgM80

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; point to each place on a map.

Note: ChineseClass101: Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru, geography.

BACKUP VIDEO

Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru - Major Chinese Cities

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_Z8a9ey8zs

ChineseClass101: Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru, major Chinese cities.

KEY TERMS

dōng
东 **dōng**

East.

nán
南 **nán**

South.

xī
西 **xī**

West.

běi
北 **běi**

North.

chángjiāng
长 江 **Cháng Jiāng**

The Yangtze River (long river).

huáng hé
黄 河 **Huáng Hé**

The Yellow River.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

东

dōng

dong (high)

noun · traditional 東

east

南

nán

nahn (rising)

noun

south

西

xī

shee (high)

noun

west

北

běi

bay (dipping)

noun

north

长江

Cháng Jiāng

chahng JYAHNG

name · traditional 長江

Yangtze River

黄河

Huáng Hé

hwahng HUH

name · traditional 黃河

Yellow River

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. Chinese says the directions in the order 东 南西北 (dōngnán xī běi) (east, south, west, north). Place + 在 + 中国的 + direction + 边: 北京在 中 国的北边. (běijīng zài zhōngguó de běi biān)

Places. 北京 (Beijing, the northern capital) and 上海 (Shanghai, on the sea) are the biggest cities. The 长江 (Yangtze), about 6,300 km long, is the longest river in Asia; the 黄河 (Yellow River) is named for its yellow mud. The 长城 (Great Wall) runs across the north.

A big land. China has snowy mountains in the west, deserts in the northwest, rice fields in the south and a long coast in the east. It is about the size of the United States.

PICTURE STUDY



Hills in mist on the Li River, Photograph by Dcrjsr, 2008 · Photograph · Li River near Guilin, southern China (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph, CC BY-SA 3.0 (credit: Wikimedia Commons contributor; see the file page)

Near the city of Guilin in southern China, the Li River winds between hundreds of steep limestone hills. Chinese painters and poets have loved this scenery for centuries, and it is printed on the back of the 20-yuan bill.

Look closely

- Find the river.
- How many hills can you count?
- What is the weather like?
- Is this in the north or the south of China?

Talk about it

1. Why do you think painters loved this place?
2. What does this landscape tell you about the Creator?

ACTIVITY

Salt dough map

Build a relief map of China.

You will need

- Salt dough (flour, salt, water), cardboard, paint

Steps

1. Trace an outline of China on cardboard.
2. Build up mountains in the west with dough; leave plains in the east.
3. Paint the 长江 and 黄河 in blue; add dots for 北京 and 上海.
4. Label with flags in characters and a compass rose with 东南西北.

Tips

- Let the dough dry a day before painting.

Check your work

- ☐ My map has two rivers and two cities labeled.
- ☐ My compass rose is in characters.

> **From history.** The Grand Canal, dug over many centuries, joins the Yellow River and the Yangtze and was for a long time the longest canal in the world.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say “Shanghai is in the east of China.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Place + 在 + 中国的 + 东边.

Answer: 上海在中国的东边.

Example 2. Which river is the longest in China?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 长 = long; 江 = big river.

Answer: 长江 (the Yangtze).

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 北?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   North.

2. Easy Say "east, south, west, north."

   ▼ **Show answer**

   东南西北.

3. Medium Where is Beijing?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   北京在中国的北边.

4. Medium Why is the 黄河 called yellow?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Its water carries yellow mud.

5. Hard Write three sentences about China's geography.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 中国很大. 长江很长. 北京在北边, 上海在东边.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 北东 for northeast. Chinese says 东北 (east-north).
- Mixing 江 (big river, often the Yangtze) and 河 (river). Both have 氵.

> **Make it a game · Compass commands.** Label the walls of a room 东, 南, 西, 北. The caller shouts a direction; players run to that wall.

> **Scripture.** “A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD’s, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.” (Psalm 24:1, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 地和其中所充满的，世界和住在其间的，都属耶和华。
> >
> > *Dì hé qí zhōng suǒ chōng mǎn de, shì jiè hé zhù zài qí jiān de, dōu shǔ Yēhéhuá.*
>
> The earth is the LORD’s, and all that fills it, every land, river and city.

UNIT 2 · WHERE MANDARIN IS SPOKEN: 地理 · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 说中文: Mandarin Around the World

OBJECTIVES

- Say 说中文 / 说普通话 and ask 你会说中文吗?
- Name places where Mandarin is spoken.
- Explain where simplified (简体字) and traditional (繁体字) characters are used.

> **Warm-up.** About how many people in the world do you think speak Mandarin as their first language? (Guess, then check: about 900 million to a billion.)

WATCH

Should I Learn Simplified or Traditional Chinese Characters? Learn Characters with Yoyo Chinese

Yoyo Chinese · 5:46

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ykigTQL8iOo

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; note one difference between the two kinds of characters.

Note: Yoyo Chinese: should I learn simplified or traditional characters? (single approved video).

BACKUP VIDEO

Ask a Chinese Teacher - What are Traditional and Simplified Characters?

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=haffXTa_EZk

ChineseClass101: Ask a Chinese Teacher, what are traditional and simplified characters?

KEY TERMS

zhōngwén
中 文 **Zhōngwén**

Chinese (language, especially written).

pǔ tōnghuà
普 通 话 **pǔtōnghuà**

Mandarin (common speech).

jiǎn tǐ zì
简体字 **jiǎntǐzì**

Simplified characters.

fán tǐ zì
繁体字 **fántǐzì**

Traditional characters.

fāngyán
方 言 **fāngyán**

Dialect, regional language.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

中文

Zhōngwén

jong-WUN

noun

Chinese (language)

普通话

pǔtōnghuà

poo-tong-HWAH

noun · traditional 普通話

Mandarin

简体字

jiǎntǐzì

jyen-tee-DZ

noun · traditional 簡體字

simplified characters

繁体字

fántǐzì

fahn-tee-DZ

noun · traditional 繁體字

traditional characters

方言

fāngyán

fahng-YEN

noun

dialect

说

shuō

shwoh (high)

verb · traditional 說

to speak; say

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. 普通话 (pǔ tōnghuà) (Mandarin, “common speech”) is the main shared language of mainland China and of Taiwan (where it is usually called 国语) and one of the official languages of Singapore. Chinese communities in America, Canada, Malaysia and around the world speak it too. Ask: 你会说中文吗? (nǐ huì shuō zhōngwén ma)

Two ways to write. Mainland China and Singapore use 简体字 (jiǎn tǐ zì) (simplified characters, introduced in the 1950s and 1960s). Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau use 繁体字 (fán tǐ zì) (traditional characters). This course teaches simplified characters; the words and grammar are the same.

Many tongues. China also has many regional languages (方言) such as Cantonese and Shanghainese. At Pentecost, people heard the gospel “in our own tongue,” and

today the Bible is read in Mandarin, Cantonese and many minority languages.

ACTIVITY

Simplified and traditional

Compare characters in both forms.

You will need

- Paper, ruler, pencil
- A list from your teacher or an online converter (with a parent)

Steps

1. Make a two-column chart: 简体 and 繁体.
2. Write ten words in both forms, such as 马/馬, 书/書, 门/門, 爱/愛, 说/說.
3. Circle the words that look the same in both (人, 山, 大).
4. Write a sentence: Which do you find easier, and why?

Tips

- Remember: the pronunciation is the same in both.

Check your work

- ☐ My chart has ten pairs.
- ☐ I can explain where each form is used.

> **From history.** Chinese is the first language of more people than any other language on earth.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Ask “Can you speak Chinese?”

▼ **Show solution**

1. 会 for skills; 说中文 = speak Chinese.

Answer: 你会说中文吗?

Example 2. What is the traditional form of 马?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Traditional characters keep more strokes.

Answer: 馬.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 普通话?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mandarin (common speech).

2. Easy What are 简体字?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Simplified characters.

3. Medium Where are traditional characters used?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and many overseas communities.

4. Medium Say “I can speak a little Chinese.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   我会说一点儿中文.

5. Hard Write three sentences about where Mandarin is spoken.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 很多人说普通话. 新加坡人也说中文. 台湾用繁体字.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking Cantonese is just an accent. It is a separate regional language with its own sounds, though it is written with characters too.
- Thinking simplified and traditional are different languages. They are two ways of writing the same language.

> **Make it a game · Which form?.** Show a character card. Players shout 简体! or 繁体! (or 一样! if both are the same).

> **Scripture.** “And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?” (Acts 2:8, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 我们各人怎么听见他们说我们生来所用的乡谈呢?
>
> *Wǒ men gè rén zěn me tīng jiàn tā men shuō wǒ men shēng lái suǒ yòng de xiāng tán ne?*
>
> At Pentecost people from many lands asked how each heard the apostles in his own native language. Notice 呢 at the end of the question.

UNIT 3

Little Words, Big Meaning: 吗, 呢, 吧, 啊

Lesson 3.1 teaches 吗, A-not-A questions, question words and 呢, with Fan Kuan’s Travelers among Mountains and Streams.

Lesson 3.2 teaches 吧 (let’s...; ...right?) and 啊 (warm or excited tone), and how particles change the feel of a sentence.

PREREQUISITES

- 吗 questions from Grade 3; Units 1–2.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can ask yes/no questions three ways.
- ☐ I can use 呢 to bounce a question back.
- ☐ I can make a suggestion with 吧 and sound warm with 啊.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**吗 and 呢: Asking Questions**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**吧 and 啊: Suggestions and Feelings**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Make a 吗 question: “Are you busy?”

2. **4 pts**
   Make an A-not-A question: “Are you going?”

3. **4 pts**
   Say “I am fine, and you?”

4. **4 pts**
   Say “Let’s go!”

5. **4 pts**
   What does 啊 add in 好啊!?

ANSWER KEY

1. 你忙吗?
2. 你去不去?
3. 我很好, 你呢?
4. 我们走吧!
5. Warmth or eagerness: “Sure! Great!”

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PARTICLE DIALOGUE

Write and perform a two-minute dialogue between two friends planning a Saturday. Use 吗, 呢, 吧 and 啊 at least twice each, and three question words.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The dialogue sounds natural and friendly.
Characters	The script is in characters with particles marked.
Using it	Each particle is used correctly.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 3 · LITTLE WORDS, BIG MEANING: 吗, 呢, 吧, 啊 · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 吗 and 呢: Asking Questions

OBJECTIVES

- Ask with 吗 and with A-not-A (好不好, 去不去).
- Use question words: 什么, 谁, 哪儿, 怎么, 为什么.
- Use 呢: 你呢? 我的书呢?

> **Warm-up.** How many ways can you ask “Do you want to come?” in English? Chinese has several too.

WATCH

Learn Beginner Conversational Chinese | Asking A Yes/No Question in Mandarin | Yoyo Chinese

Yoyo Chinese · 5:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k3OUtJXk2tE

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; ask your teacher one question of each kind.

Note: Yoyo Chinese: asking a yes/no question in Mandarin (single approved video).

BACKUP VIDEO

Chinese Grammar Lesson | How to ask and answer content questions in Chinese | Yoyo Chinese

Yoyo Chinese · 4:13

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zLv8x7UXrvg

Yoyo Chinese: asking and answering content questions (single approved video).

KEY TERMS

ma
吗 ma

Yes/no question particle.

ne
呢 ne

“And…?”; follow-up question particle.

wèishénme
为什么 wèishénme

Why.

zěnme
怎么 zěnme

How.

shéi
谁 shéi

Who.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

吗

ma

mah (light)

particle · traditional 嗎

yes/no question particle

呢

ne

nuh (light)

particle

and…?; follow-up particle

为什么

wèishénme

way-SHUN-muh

pronoun · traditional 爲什麼

why

怎么

zěnme

DZUN-muh

pronoun · traditional 怎麼

how

谁

shéi

shay (rising)

pronoun · traditional 誰

who

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. Three ways to ask yes or no: add 吗 (你 忙 吗?), or say the verb twice with 不 (你 忙 不 忙?), or add 是不是 (你是不是很忙?). Answer with the verb: 忙 or 不忙.

Question words stay where the answer goes, and need no 吗: 你叫什么? (我叫…). 他是谁? 你去哪儿? 你怎么去? 你为什么学中文?

呢. After a statement, 你呢? bounces the question back: 我很好, 你呢? After a thing, it asks where: 我的书呢? (Where's my book?). It also softens question-word questions: 你在做什么呢?

PICTURE STUDY



Travelers among Mountains and Streams, Fan Kuan, about 1000 · Hanging scroll, ink and light color on silk · National Palace Museum, Taipei

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Fan Kuan lived in the mountains of northern China in the early Song dynasty and studied them for years. His painting is one of the most famous in Chinese history. The travelers are so small you might miss them; the mountain seems to tower over everything.

Look closely

- Find the travelers and their mules.
- Find the waterfall.
- Find the temple roofs in the trees.
- How big are the people compared to the mountain?

Talk about it

1. Ask the travelers three questions in Chinese: 你们去哪儿? 你们怎么去? 你们为什么去?
2. How does a great mountain make you think of God?

ACTIVITY

Interview

Interview a family member in Chinese.

You will need

- A notebook, a phone to record (optional)

Steps

1. Write six questions: two with 吗, two A-not-A, two with question words.
2. Ask them in Chinese (help your family member answer in English or Chinese).
3. Write down the answers.
4. Report back with 呢: 我喜欢..., 妈妈呢? 她喜欢....

Tips

- Smile and be polite: 请问 (may I ask).

Check your work

☐ I asked six questions of three kinds.

☐ I used 呢 in my report.

> **From history.** Classical Chinese, the written language of old China, had its own particles such as 乎 and 也. Modern 吗 and 呢 came into use as written Chinese moved closer to everyday speech.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Make “Do you like tea?” in two ways.

▼ **Show solution**

1. 吗: 你喜欢茶吗?
2. A-not-A: 喜欢不喜欢 (or 喜不喜欢).

Answer: 你喜欢茶吗? / 你喜不喜欢茶?

Example 2. Your friend says 我是美国人. Ask “What about him?”

▼ **Show solution**

1. 他 + 呢.

Answer: 他呢?

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does 谁 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Who.

2. Easy Say “And you?”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   你呢?

3. Medium Make an A-not-A question: “Is it good?”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   好不好?

4. Medium Ask “Why are you learning Chinese?”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   你为什么学中文?

5. Hard Explain why 你叫什么吗? is wrong.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   什么 already makes a question; do not add 吗.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Adding 吗 to a question-word question: 你去哪儿吗? Drop 吗.
- Moving the question word to the front like English: 什么你喜欢? Keep it where the answer goes: 你喜欢什么?

> **Make it a game · Twenty questions.** Think of an animal. The other player may ask only 吗 or A-not-A questions in Chinese to guess it.

> **Scripture.** “How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Romans 10:14, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 未曾听见他，怎能信他呢?
> >
> > *Wèi céng tīng jiàn tā, zěn néng xìn tā ne?*
>
> Paul asks how people can believe in Christ without hearing about Him. Find 呢 in the question.

UNIT 3 · LITTLE WORDS, BIG MEANING: 吗, 呢, 吧, 啊 · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 吧 and 啊: Suggestions and Feelings

OBJECTIVES

- Make suggestions with 吧: 我们走吧!
- Make a guess with 吧: 你是老师吧?
- Add warmth with 啊: 好啊! 真好看啊!

> **Warm-up.** Say “OK” in English three ways: bored, excited and unsure. The word is the same; the feeling changes. Chinese particles do this job.

WATCH

The differences between 吗(ma), 吧(ba) and 啊(a) | Yoyo Chinese Learning Tips

Yoyo Chinese · 1:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZEyW7ZN_5E

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; copy the teacher's tone of voice.

Note: Yoyo Chinese: the differences between 吗, 吧 and 啊 (single approved video).

BACKUP VIDEO

Ask a Chinese Teacher - How Do You Use the Particle 啊 (a)?

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGxYUDWN2ec

ChineseClass101: Ask a Chinese Teacher, how do you use the particle 啊?

KEY TERMS

ba
吧 ba

Particle for suggestions and guesses.

a
啊 a

Particle for warmth, surprise or eagerness.

yì qǐ
一起 yìqǐ

Together.

zhēn
真 zhēn

Really, truly.

dāngrán
当然 dāngrán

Of course.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

吧

ba

bah (light)

particle

suggestion or guess particle

啊

a

ah (light)

particle

particle of feeling

一起

yìqǐ

ee-CHEE

adverb

together

真

zhēn

jun (high)

adverb

really

当然

dāngrán

dahng-RAHN

adverb · traditional 當然

of course

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. 吧 (ba) makes a friendly suggestion: 我们走吧 (wǒ menzǒu ba)! (Let's go!). 吃饭吧! (Let's eat!). It also makes a guess you expect to be true: 你是美国人吧? (You're American, right?).

啊 adds feeling: 好啊 (hǎo a)! (Sure!), 真好看啊! (So beautiful!), 你来啊! (Come on!). Without 啊, 好 can sound flat; with it, eager.

Compare. 你去吗? (Are you going?) 你去吧! (Go ahead! / You go.) 你去啊! (Go on, go!). The psalm begins 来啊 (O come!), a warm invitation to sing to the LORD.

ACTIVITY

Particle comic

Draw a comic where the particles carry the feeling.

You will need

- Paper, pencils, markers

Steps

1. Draw four panels of two friends planning a picnic.
2. Write speech bubbles using 吗, 呢, 吧 and 啊.
3. Color each particle a different color.
4. Read it aloud with the right feelings.

Tips

- Faces should show the feeling of each particle.

Check your work

- ☐ My comic uses all four particles.
- ☐ I read it with feeling.

> **From history.** After certain sounds, 啊 changes in speech: 好啊 can sound like hǎo wa, and 是啊 like shì ra. Sometimes it is even written 哇 or 呀.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Suggest “Let’s sing together!”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Together = 一起.
2. Suggestion = 吧.

Answer: 我们一起唱歌吧!

Example 2. Answer an invitation eagerly.

▼ **Show solution**

1. 好 + 啊.

Answer: 好啊!

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does 吧 do in 我们走吧?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Makes a suggestion: let's go.

2. Easy Say "Sure!" eagerly.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   好啊!

3. Medium Guess: "You're a student, right?"

   ▼ **Show answer**

   你是学生吧?

4. Medium Say "It's really beautiful!"

   ▼ **Show answer**

   真好看啊!

5. Hard Explain the difference between 你去吗? and 你去吧!

   ▼ **Show answer**

   吗 asks a yes/no question; 吧 suggests or tells someone to go ahead.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using 吧 for a real yes/no question when you have no idea. Use 吗; 吧 is for guesses you expect to be true.
- Over-using 啊 after every sentence. Use it when you mean warmth or surprise.

> **Make it a game · Mood swap.** One player says a short sentence; the other repeats it with 吗, 吧 or 啊 and acts out the feeling. Guess which particle was used.

Scripture. “O come, let us sing unto the LORD: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.” (Psalm 95:1, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 来啊，我们要向耶和华歌唱，向拯救我们的磐石欢呼！

Lái a, wǒ men yào xiàng Yēhéhuá gē chàng, xiàng zhěng jiù wǒ men de pán shí huān hū!

O come, let us sing unto the LORD. The Chinese begins with 来啊, a warm and eager invitation.

UNIT 4

Traditional Festivals: 春节 and More

Lesson 4.1 teaches the Spring Festival: 过年, 除夕, 饺子, 红包, 春联 and the greeting 新年好, with Su Hanchen’s lion dance.

Lesson 4.2 teaches the Lantern, Dragon Boat and Mid-Autumn festivals and their foods, with a dragon-boat scroll from the Met.

PREREQUISITES

- Months and dates from Grade 3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can describe how the Spring Festival is celebrated.
- ☐ I can match four festivals with their foods.
- ☐ I can greet someone for the New Year in Chinese.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**春节: The Spring Festival**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**元宵, 端午, 中秋: Lanterns, Boats and Mooncakes**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Say “Happy New Year!” two ways.

2. **4 pts**
   What is a 红包?

3. **4 pts**
   What do many families eat on New Year’s Eve in the north?

4. **4 pts**
   Match: 中秋节, 端午节, 元宵节.

5. **4 pts**
   How can a Christian family enjoy these festivals?

ANSWER KEY

1. 新年好! 新年快乐! (also 过年好!)
2. A red envelope with money given at New Year, usually to children.
3. 饺子 (dumplings).
4. 中秋节: mooncakes; 端午节: zongzi and dragon boats; 元宵节: lanterns and sweet rice balls.
5. Enjoy family, food and gratitude, thank God for the year, and leave out fortune-telling or offerings to spirits.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: FESTIVAL CALENDAR

Make a calendar page for each of the four festivals with its Chinese name, date (lunar month and day), foods, customs and a greeting. Add a Bible verse of thanks to each. Present it to your family.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student presents each festival clearly.
Characters	Names and greetings are in characters.
Using it	Facts are accurate and customs are described factually.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 4 · TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS: 春节 AND MORE · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 春节: The Spring Festival

OBJECTIVES

- Say 春节, 过年, 除夕, 饺子, 红包, 春联, 放鞭炮.
- Greet: 新年好! 新年快乐!
- Describe a family New Year’s Eve.

> **Warm-up.** What does your family do for New Year’s Eve? What foods do you eat? Who do you visit?

WATCH

Chinese Holidays - Chinese New Year - 春节

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:34

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCjuF8V7Fw8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; repeat each greeting.

Note: ChineseClass101: Chinese Holidays, Chinese New Year (春节). Parents: it may mention zodiac animals and folk customs, which the lesson treats as facts about culture.

BACKUP VIDEO

Playful Chinese Podcast - Lunar New Year Greetings in Chinese

Miss Panda Chinese · 4:47

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrQ0UFuc66g

Miss Panda Chinese: Lunar New Year greetings in Chinese (some on-screen text may be in traditional characters).

KEY TERMS

chūn jié
春 节 **Chūn Jié**

Spring Festival (Chinese New Year).

chú xī
除夕 **chúxī**

New Year's Eve.

jiǎo zi
饺子 **jiǎozi**

Dumplings.

hóngbāo
红 包 **hóngbāo**

Red envelope (money gift).

chūnlián
春 联 **chūnlián**

Spring couplets on the door.

xīn nián hǎo
新 年 好 **xīnnián hǎo**

Happy New Year!

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

春节

Chūn Jié

chwun JYEH

noun · traditional 春節

Spring Festival

除夕

chúxī

choo-SHEE

noun

New Year’s Eve

饺子

jiǎozi

JYOW-dz

noun · traditional 餃子

dumplings

红包

hóngbāo

hong-BAO

noun · traditional 紅包

red envelope

春联

chūnlián

chwun-LYEN

noun · traditional 春聯

spring couplets

过年

guò nián

gwoh NYEN

verb · traditional 過年

to celebrate New Year

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. 春节 (chūn jié) is the biggest holiday in China, on the first day of the first month of the traditional lunar calendar (late January or February). Hundreds of millions of people travel home to be with family.

Customs. On 除夕 (New Year’s Eve) the family eats a big dinner; in the north they make 饺子 together. Doors get red 春联 (couplets of good wishes), children receive 红包 (red envelopes), people set off fireworks (放鞭炮) and visit relatives to say 新年好 (xīn nián hǎo)! or 过年好! The lion dance is performed in streets.

Christians and the New Year. Each year is also named after one of twelve animals; this is an old calendar custom, not something Christians use for luck. Chinese Christians often hold New Year services, write couplets with Bible verses, and thank God, who crowns the year with goodness.

PICTURE STUDY



Children Performing a Lion Dance (detail of One Hundred Children Playing in Spring), Su Hanchen (attributed), Song dynasty, 12th century · Album leaf, ink and color on silk (detail) · detail of a Song-dynasty album leaf

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Su Hanchen was a Song-dynasty court painter famous for pictures of children at play. Here dozens of boys put on their own lion dance, a performance still seen at New Year today, with one child as the head and another as the tail.

Look closely

- Find the lion's head. Who is inside?
- Find the boy leading the lion.
- What colors are the children wearing?
- Which children look excited?

Talk about it

1. Why do children love to copy grown-up celebrations?
2. What does your family do to celebrate a new year?

ACTIVITY

Spring couplets with Scripture

Write a pair of couplets for your door.

You will need

- Two long strips and one short strip of red paper
- Black marker or brush and ink

Steps

1. On the short strip write 新年快乐 or 以马内利 (Immanuel).
2. On the long strips write two lines of a verse, such as 耶和华是我的牧者 and 我必不致缺乏.
3. Write from top to bottom.
4. Hang them on either side of your door.

Tips

- Practice on scrap paper first.

Check your work

- ☐ My couplets are written top to bottom.
- ☐ I can read them aloud.

> **From history.** The Spring Festival travel rush (春运) is often called the largest yearly human migration on earth, with billions of trips by train, bus, car and plane.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What do you say when visiting relatives at New Year?

▼ **Show solution**

1. New Year = 新年 / 过年.
2. Good = 好.

Answer: 新年好! / 过年好!

Example 2. Say “We eat dumplings on New Year’s Eve.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. New Year’s Eve = 除夕.
2. Dumplings = 饺子.

Answer: 除夕我们吃饺子.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 红包?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A red envelope with money.

2. Easy Say “Happy New Year!”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   新年好! / 新年快乐!

3. Medium When is 春节?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The first day of the lunar new year, in late January or February.

4. Medium What are 春联?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Red paper couplets on doors.

5. Hard Describe a New Year’s Eve in three Chinese sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 除夕我们回家. 我们一起吃饺子. 孩子们拿红包.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Calling it only “Chinese New Year.” In China it is 春节, and many other Asian countries celebrate a lunar new year too.
- Saying 饺子 jiǎo zi with a full tone. 子 is light.

> **Make it a game · Red envelope quiz.** Put question cards in red envelopes. Answer correctly in Chinese to keep the envelope (with a sticker or treat inside).

> **Scripture.** “Thou crownest the year with thy goodness; and thy paths drop fatness.” (Psalm 65:11, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 你以恩典为年岁的冠冕
>
> *Nǐ yǐ ēn diǎn wéi nián suì de guān miǎn*
>
> God crowns the year with His goodness. A new year is a time to thank Him.

UNIT 4 · TRADITIONAL FESTIVALS: 春节 AND MORE · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 元宵, 端午, 中秋: Lanterns, Boats and Mooncakes

OBJECTIVES

- Name 元宵节, 端午节 and 中秋节 and their foods.
- Say festival dates with the lunar calendar: 正月十五, 五月初五, 八月十五.
- Describe the festivals factually.

> **Warm-up.** Which American holidays have special foods? Can you name a food for each?

WATCH

Learn Chinese Holiday Words - Lantern Festival

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:15

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4uQyB3YV-DY

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write the festival foods you hear.

Note: ChineseClass101: Chinese holiday words, the Lantern Festival.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Chinese Holiday Words - Dragon Boat Festival

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VCptuRX787o

ChineseClass101: Chinese holiday words, the Dragon Boat Festival.

KEY TERMS

yuánxiāo jié
元宵节 **Yuánxiāo Jié**
Lantern Festival.

dēnglong
灯笼 **dēnglong**
Lantern.

duānwǔ jié
端午节 **Duānwǔ Jié**
Dragon Boat Festival.

lóngzhōu
龙舟 **lóngzhōu**
Dragon boat.

zhōngqiū jié
中秋节 **Zhōngqiū Jié**
Mid-Autumn Festival.

yuèbǐng
月饼 **yuèbǐng**
Mooncake.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

元宵节

Yuánxiāo Jié

ywen-shyow JYEH

noun · traditional 元宵節

Lantern Festival

灯笼

dēnglong

DUNG-long

noun · traditional 燈籠

lantern

端午节

Duānwǔ Jié

dwahn-woo JYEH

noun · traditional 端午節

Dragon Boat Festival

龙舟

lóngzhōu

long-JOH

noun · traditional 龍舟

dragon boat

中秋节

Zhōngqiū Jié

jong-chyoh JYEH

noun · traditional 中秋節

Mid-Autumn Festival

月饼

yuèbǐng

yweh-BING

noun · traditional 月餅

mooncake

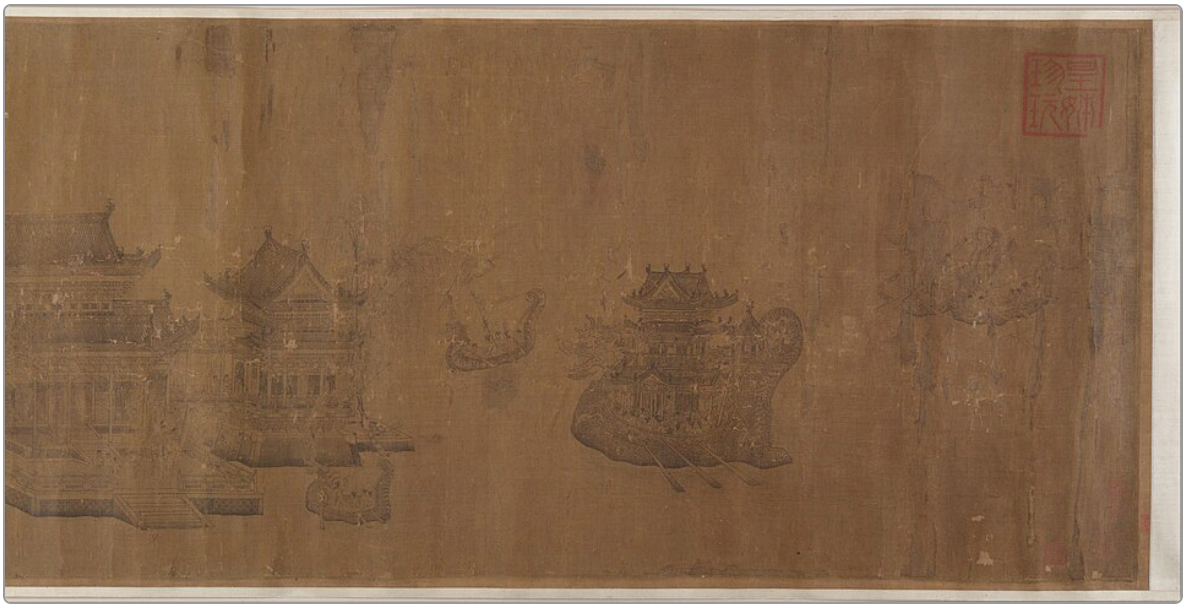
CORE IDEAS

Lanterns. yuánxiāo jié 元宵节 (正月十五, the 15th of the first month) ends the New Year season. People hang dēnglong 灯笼, solve riddles written on lanterns, and eat 元宵 or 汤圆 (sweet rice balls).

Dragon boats. duān wǔ jié 端午节 (五月初五) has races of long lóngzhōu 龙舟 paddled to a drumbeat, and 粽子 (sticky rice wrapped in leaves). Tradition links it to the poet Qu Yuan, who died in a river about 278 B.C.

Mooncakes. zhōngqiū jié 中秋节 (八月十五) is when the moon is full and bright. Families gather, look at the moon and share yuèbǐng 月饼. Old stories tell of a lady on the moon; they are legends. The Bible says God made the moon to rule the night.

PICTURE STUDY



Dragon Boat Regatta on Jinming Lake (section), Unknown artist, after Wang Zhenpeng, Yuan dynasty, 14th century · Handscroll, ink on silk · The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York (CC0)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Wang Zhenpeng was a court painter famous for drawing buildings and boats with a ruler-straight brush. This copy shows boat races held for the emperor on a lake in the old capital, Kaifeng. Every roof tile and oar is drawn in fine detail.

Look closely

- Find the big dragon boat. Where is the dragon's head?
- Find the oars.
- Find the pavilion on the boat.
- Find the palace halls on the shore.

Talk about it

1. Why would people race boats shaped like dragons?
2. How would you decorate a racing boat?

ACTIVITY

Paper lantern

Make a paper lantern with a riddle.

You will need

- Red paper, scissors, glue, string

Steps

1. Fold a sheet of paper in half and cut slits from the fold.
2. Unfold, roll into a tube and glue.
3. Add a handle and write a riddle in Chinese on a strip: 什么动物有长鼻子? (大象).
4. Hang your lanterns and let your family guess the riddles.

Tips

- Never put a real candle in a paper lantern.

Check your work

- ☐ My lantern has a Chinese riddle.
- ☐ I can name the food of each festival.

> **From history.** Because the lunar calendar is about 11 days shorter than the solar year, an extra month is added about every three years to keep the festivals in their seasons.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. When is the Mid-Autumn Festival?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Lunar month 8, day 15.

Answer: 八月十五 (of the lunar calendar).

Example 2. What do people eat at 端午节?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Sticky rice in leaves.

Answer: 粽子 (zòngzi).

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 月饼?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mooncake.

2. Easy What is 灯笼?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Lantern.

3. Medium Which festival has boat races?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   端午节 (Dragon Boat Festival).

4. Medium What is eaten at 元宵节?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   元宵 / 汤圆 (sweet rice balls).

5. Hard Write one sentence about each of the three festivals.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 元宵节我们看灯笼. 端午节我们吃粽子. 中秋节我们吃月饼.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Using Western dates. These festivals follow the lunar calendar, so their dates change each year.
- Writing 中秋 as “middle-fall” and thinking it is in winter. It is in September or early October.

> **Make it a game · Festival match.** Lay out cards for festivals, foods and dates face down. Match all three for a point.

> **Scripture.** “The moon and stars to rule by night: for his mercy endureth for ever.” (Psalm 136:9, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 他造月亮星宿管黑夜，因他的慈爱永远长存。
>
> *Tā zào yuè liang xīng xiù guǎn hēi yè, yīn tā de cí ài yǒng yuǎn cháng cún.*
>
> God made the moon and stars to rule by night, for His mercy endures for ever.

UNIT 5

Hudson Taylor and Thankful Hearts: 感恩

Lesson 5.1 tells Hudson Taylor’s story with 了, 去/来 and years (一八五四年), with his photograph of 1865.

Lesson 5.2 teaches many ways to give and answer thanks, and the call to give thanks in everything.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4; years and dates from Grade 3.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell five facts about Hudson Taylor in Chinese.
- ☐ I can use 了 for completed actions.
- ☐ I can thank people in four ways and answer thanks politely.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**戴德生: Hudson Taylor’s Story**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**感恩: Many Ways to Say Thank You**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Who was 戴德生?

2. **4 pts**
   Say “He came to China in 1854.”

3. **4 pts**
   Why did he wear Chinese clothes?

4. **4 pts**
   Give three ways to say thank you.

5. **4 pts**
   How do you answer 谢谢?

ANSWER KEY

1. Hudson Taylor, an English missionary to China (1832–1905) who founded the China Inland Mission.
2. 他一八五四年来了中国. (or 他一八五四年来中国.)
3. To live like the people he served so they would listen to the gospel.
4. 谢谢, 多谢, 感谢, 太谢谢你了.
5. 不客气 / 不用谢 / 没事.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY

Make a short illustrated biography of Hudson Taylor (or another missionary to China, such as Eric Liddell or Gladys Aylward) with six Chinese sentences using years and 了. Present it, and end with a thank-you prayer in Chinese.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student tells the story clearly.
Characters	Sentences are in characters with correct years.
Using it	The student uses 了 and a thank-you phrase correctly.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 5 · HUDSON TAYLOR AND THANKFUL HEARTS: 感恩 · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 戴德生: Hudson Taylor's Story

OBJECTIVES

- Tell Hudson Taylor's story with years: 一八三二年.
- Use 了 for things that happened: 他去了中国.
- Say 传福音 (share the gospel) and 传教士 (missionary).

> **Warm-up.** Would you move to another country where you didn't know the language, to serve God? What would be hardest?

WATCH

5 Must-Know Chinese Words: Travel and Transport

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 7:18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DfJSBBrhiL0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; find the cities and travel words from Taylor's journeys.

Note: ChineseClass101: five must-know Chinese words for travel and transport.

BACKUP VIDEO

Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru - Major Chinese Cities

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:26

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_Z8a9ey8zs

ChineseClass101: Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru, major Chinese cities (find Shanghai, where Hudson Taylor landed).

KEY TERMS

dài dé shēng
戴德 生 **Dài Déshēng**

Hudson Taylor's Chinese name.

chuán fú yīn
传 福音 **chuán fúyīn**

To spread the gospel.

nián
年 **nián**

Year.

chuánjiào shì
传 教士 **chuánjiàoshì**

Missionary.

le
了 **le**

Marker for completed actions.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

传教士

chuánjiàoshì

chwahn-jyow-SHR

noun · traditional 傳教士

missionary

福音

fúyīn

foo-YIN

noun

gospel

年

nián

nyen (rising)

noun

year

英国

Yīngguó

ying-GWOH

name · traditional 英國

England; Britain

了

le

luh (light)

particle

completed-action marker

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. Years are read digit by digit: 一八五四年 (yī bā wǔ sì nián, 1854). 了 (le) after a verb shows a completed action: 他去了 (tā qù le) 中国 (zhōngguó) (he went to China).

The story. 戴德生一八三二年生在英国 (born in England in 1832). He trusted God for his needs and studied medicine. 一八五四年他来了中国, to Shanghai. He learned Chinese, wore Chinese clothes and grew a queue like Chinese men, so people would listen. In 1865 he founded the China Inland Mission (中国内地会), which sent hundreds of missionaries into China's inland provinces. 他一九零五年死在中国 (he died in China in 1905).

God provides. Taylor never asked people for money; he prayed. The mission's mottos were "Ebenezer" (hitherto the LORD has helped us) and "Jehovah-jireh" (the LORD will provide), 耶和华以勒 in the Chinese Bible.

PICTURE STUDY



J. Hudson Taylor, Unknown photographer, 1865 · Photograph · public domain photograph

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This photograph was taken in 1865, the year Hudson Taylor, at 33, founded the China Inland Mission in England. Soon after, he sailed back to China with his family and a team of new missionaries on the ship Lammermuir.

Look closely

- What kind of clothes is he wearing here?
- How would he look different in China, in Chinese clothes?
- How old do you think he is?
- What do his eyes tell you about him?

Talk about it

1. Why would wearing Chinese clothes help him share the gospel?
2. What could you give up to serve others?

ACTIVITY

Map of a journey

Map Hudson Taylor's journey.

You will need

- A world map printout, colored pencils

Steps

1. Mark England and Shanghai and draw his sea route around Africa (there was no Suez Canal yet in 1854).
2. Mark inland China, where the mission went.
3. Label with years and 了 sentences: 一八五四年他去了上海.
4. Add a box: 耶和华以勒, the LORD will provide.

Tips

- Ask a parent to help find old sailing routes.

Check your work

☐ My map has three places and three years.

☐ I wrote sentences with 了.

> **From history.** The China Inland Mission still works today under the name OMF International, serving in many countries of East Asia.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read 1865 as a year.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Digit by digit + 年.

Answer: 一八六五年 (yī bā liù wǔ nián).

Example 2. Say “He learned Chinese.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Learn = 学; completed = 了.

Answer: 他学了中文.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 传教士?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Missionary.

2. Easy Read 一八三二年.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   1832.

3. Medium Say “He went to Shanghai.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   他去了上海.

4. Medium What was the China Inland Mission?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The mission Hudson Taylor founded in 1865 to send missionaries into inland China.

5. Hard Tell his story in four Chinese sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 戴德生是英国人. 他一八五四年来了中国. 他穿中国衣服. 他传福音.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading years like big numbers: 一千八百五十四年. Read digit by digit: 一八五四年.
- Putting 了 on everything in the past. Use it for completed actions, not for descriptions like 他很高.

Make it a game · Timeline line-up. Write years and events on cards. Read each year in Chinese and put the cards in order.

Scripture. “And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovah-jireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.” (Genesis 22:14, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 亚伯拉罕给那地方起名叫“耶和华以勒”，直到今日人还说：“在耶和华的山上必有预备。”

Yàbólāhǎn gěi nà dì fang qǐ míng jiào “Yēhéhuá yǐ lè”, zhí dào jīn rì rén hái shuō: “Zài Yēhéhuá de shān shàng bì yǒu yù bèi.”

Abraham named the place “Jehovah-jireh,” the LORD will provide, one of the mottos of Hudson Taylor’s mission.

UNIT 5 · HUDSON TAYLOR AND THANKFUL HEARTS: 感恩 · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.2 感恩: Many Ways to Say Thank You

OBJECTIVES

- Thank with 谢谢, 多谢, 感谢, 太谢谢你了.
- Answer thanks with 不客气, 不用谢, 没事.
- Answer praise humbly: 哪里哪里.

Warm-up. Make a list of five people you should thank this week. What did each one do for you?

WATCH

3 Ways to Say Thank You in Chinese

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-UAMHZKQsG4

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; practice each thank-you with a partner.

Note: ChineseClass101: three ways to say thank you in Chinese.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Chinese - Chinese in Three Minutes - Thank You & You're Welcome in Chinese

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mkd7j0zkAM0

ChineseClass101: Chinese in Three Minutes, thank you and you’re welcome.

KEY TERMS

gǎn xiè
感谢 gǎnxiè

To thank (deeply, formally).

gǎne ̄n
感恩 gǎn’ēn

To be thankful, give thanks.

bú yòng xiè
不用 谢 bú yòng xiè

No need to thank me.

nǎ li
哪里 nǎli

“Not at all” (in answer to praise).

gǎn xiè zhǔ
感谢主 gǎnxiè Zhǔ

Thank the Lord.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

感谢

gǎnxiè

gahn-SHYEH

verb · traditional 感謝

to thank (deeply)

感恩

gǎn'ēn

gahn-UN

verb

to give thanks

多谢

duōxiè

dwoh-SHYEH

phrase · traditional 多謝

many thanks

不用谢

bú yòng xiè

boo yong SHYEH

phrase · traditional 不用謝

no need to thank me

哪里

nǎli

NAH-lee

phrase · traditional 哪裏

not at all (to praise)

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. Thank-yous from light to deep: 谢谢 (thanks), 多谢 (many thanks), 太谢谢你了 (thank you so much!), 感谢 (I am grateful; used in speeches and prayers).

Answers. 不客气 (you're welcome), 不用谢 (no need to thank me), 没事 (it's nothing). When someone praises you, Chinese manners answer humbly: 哪里哪里 (oh, not at all).

Thanks to God. Chinese Christians often say 感谢主! (thank the Lord!) and 感恩 (give thanks). Paul says: in every thing give thanks, 凡事谢恩.

ACTIVITY

Thank-you notes

Write three thank-you notes in Chinese.

You will need

- Cards, markers

Steps

1. Choose three people (a parent, a friend, a pastor or teacher).
2. Write: 亲爱的..., 谢谢你.... (thank you for ...) with one specific thing.
3. End with 祝你平安 and your name.
4. Deliver them, and write 感谢主 in your own journal with three things you thank God for.

Tips

- Be specific: what exactly are you thankful for?

Check your work

☐ I wrote and delivered three notes.

☐ I wrote a thank-you list to God.

> **From history.** Hudson Taylor wrote that he learned to "move man, through God, by prayer alone," and thanked God in his letters for every gift the mission received.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Someone says 你的中文很好! Answer humbly.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Humble answer to praise.

Answer: 哪里哪里!

Example 2. Thank your mom for dinner.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Thank you for = 谢谢你做的....

Answer: 妈妈, 谢谢你做的晚饭!

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 感恩?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To be thankful; give thanks.

2. Easy Answer 谢谢.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   不客气.

3. Medium Say “Thank you so much!”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   太谢谢你了!

4. Medium When might you say 哪里哪里?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   When someone praises you.

5. Hard Write a three-line prayer of thanks in Chinese.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 感谢主! 谢谢你给我家. 谢谢你给我朋友. 奉耶稣的名, 阿们.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Answering praise with 谢谢 only. That is fine today, but 哪里哪里 shows traditional Chinese humility.
- Saying 不客气 with 不 as bù. Before a 4th tone 不 becomes bú: bú kèqi.

> **Make it a game · Thank-you chain.** Pass a ball. Each person thanks the next for something specific in Chinese; the receiver answers with 不客气 or 哪里哪里.

> **Scripture.** “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 凡事谢恩；因为这是　神在基督耶稣里向你们所定的旨意。
> >
> > *Fán shì xiè ēn; yīn wèi zhè shì Shén zài Jīdū Yēsū lǐ xiàng nǐ men suǒ dìng de zhǐ yì.*
>
> In every thing give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.