MANDARIN CHINESE · GRADE 7 · AGES 12–13

# Grade 7 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 7 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 reads large numbers with 万 and 亿, chooses measure words by shape, buys tickets and plans trips with 从…到… and 要多长时间, gives a taxi driver directions, and compares things with 比, 没有…那么, 一样, 更 and 最.

Then the student talks about experiences with 过 and tells Eric Liddell's story with 了 and 没, and learns six 成语 with their stories and several Chinese proverbs set beside the book of Proverbs. 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 7 (about ages 12–13) 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 55 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: 千 (qiān), 万 (wàn), 百万 (bǎiwàn), 亿 (yì), 人口 (rénkǒu), 张 (zhāng), 条 (tiáo), 辆 (liàng), 杯 (bēi), 位 (wèi), 把 (bǎ). Unit 2: 地铁 (dìtiě), 高铁 (gāotiě), 站 (zhàn), 票 (piào), 换车 (huàn chē), 小时 (xiǎoshí), 出租车 (chūzūchē), 师傅 (shīfu), 往 (wǎng), 停 (tíng), 路口 (lùkǒu), 付 (fù). Unit 3: 比 (bǐ), 多了 (duō le), 那么 (nàme), 长城 (Chángchéng), 公分 (gōngfēn), 一点儿 (yìdiǎnr), 一样 (yíyàng), 跟 (gēn), 更 (gèng), 最 (zuì), 世界 (shìjiè). Unit 4: 过 (guo), 没 (méi), 从来 (cónglái), 次 (cì), 烤鸭 (kǎoyā), 奥运会 (Àoyùnhuì), 比赛 (bǐsài), 赢 (yíng), 金牌 (jīnpái), 主日 (zhǔrì), 跑 (pǎo). Unit 5: 成语 (chéngyǔ), 画蛇添足 (huà shé tiān zú), 自相矛盾 (zì xiāng máodùn), 守株待兔 (shǒu zhū dài tù), 一心一意 (yì xīn yí yì), 谚语 (yànyǔ), 箴言 (Zhēnyán), 智慧 (zhìhuì), 懒惰 (lǎnduò), 蚂蚁 (mǎyǐ).
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**

### Big Numbers and Measure Words: 万 and 亿

Counting past a thousand the Chinese way, by ten-thousands: 千, 万, 十万, 百万, 亿; populations and prices; then a full set of measure words: 个, 本, 张, 条, 只, 辆, 件, 双, 杯, 位, 把. Strings of old Chinese cash coins, and the God who counts the stars.

**1.1** 千, 万, 亿: Counting Big

**1.2** 一张, 一条, 一把: Choosing Measure Words

**UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4**

### Travel in China: 坐地铁, 坐高铁

Traveling: buying a ticket (买票), the subway (地铁) and high-speed train (高铁), stations (站), transferring (换车), 从…到… (from … to …), and asking how long: 要多长时间? Then taking a taxi and giving directions with 往 and 到…停. China's high-speed trains, and being Christ's witnesses "unto the uttermost part of the earth."

**2.1** 地铁和高铁: Subways and Fast Trains

**2.2** 师傅, 请在这儿停: Taking a Taxi

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

### Comparing: 比, 更 and 最

Comparisons with 比 (长城比长江长吗?), 没有 … 那么 (not as … as), 一样 (the same), and degrees with 更 (even more) and 最 (most). The Great Wall at Mutianyu; Aesop's fables of big and small; and God's ways higher than ours.

**3.1** A 比 B: Comparing Two Things

**3.2** 一样, 更, 最: Same, Even More, Most

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

### 过 and 了: Experiences and Eric Liddell

Talking about the past: 过 for experiences (你去过中国吗?), 了 for completed actions (他赢了), and 没 + verb for things that did not happen. The life of Eric Liddell (李爱锐), Olympic champion, who would not run on Sunday, and who taught and served in China until his death in 1945.

**4.1** 你去过中国吗? Have You Ever …?

**4.2** 李爱锐: Eric Liddell's Race

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

### 成语 and Proverbs: Wisdom in Four Characters

Chinese idioms (成语), four-character sayings with a story behind each: 画蛇添足, 对牛弹琴, 自相矛盾, 守株待兔, 一心一意, 高山流水. Then Chinese proverbs (谚语) such as 熟能生巧 and 一寸光阴一寸金 set beside the book of Proverbs (箴言). Ma Yuan's scholar by the waterfall, and the fear of the LORD as the beginning of wisdom.

**5.1** 成语: Idioms with Stories

**5.2** 谚语 and 箴言: Proverbs Old and True

## Weekly pacing calendar

| WEEK | PLAN |
|---|---|
| 1 | • Session 1: Lesson 1.1 千, 万, 亿: Counting Big: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 1.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (a million grains)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet |

| WEEK | PLAN |
|---|---|
| | *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 一张, 一条, 一把: Choosing Measure Words: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 1.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (measure word museum)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet<br>• End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (numbers of the world) |
| **3** | • Session 1: Lesson 2.1 地铁和高铁: Subways and Fast Trains: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 2.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (subway map)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet |
| **4** | • Session 1: Lesson 2.2 师傅, 请在这儿停: Taking a Taxi: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 2.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (taxi role-play)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet<br>• End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (a trip across china) |
| **5** | • Session 1: Lesson 3.1 A 比 B: Comparing Two Things: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 3.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (family comparison chart)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet |
| **6** | • Session 1: Lesson 3.2 一样, 更, 最: Same, Even More, Most: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 3.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (record book)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet<br>• End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (compare two places) |
| **7** | • Session 1: Lesson 4.1 你去过中国吗? Have You Ever …?: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 4.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (experience survey)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet |

| WEEK | PLAN |
|---|---|
| 8 | • Session 1: Lesson 4.2 李爱锐: Eric Liddell's Race: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 4.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (race-day newspaper)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet<br>• End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (a champion's life) |
| 9 | • Session 1: Lesson 5.1 成语: Idioms with Stories: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 5.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (idiom comics)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet |
| 10 | • Session 1: Lesson 5.2 谚语 and 箴言: Proverbs Old and True: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study<br>• Session 2: Lesson 5.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (proverb pairs)<br>• Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet<br>• End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (my idiom book) |

## 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

## Big Numbers and Measure Words: 万 and 亿

Lesson 1.1 teaches 千, 万 and 亿 and reading large numbers, with a photograph of strings of old cash coins.

Lesson 1.2 teaches eleven measure words and how to choose the right one by shape.

**PREREQUISITES**

- Numbers to 1,000 (Grade 3); measure words 个, 本, 只 (Grade 3).

**MASTERY CHECKLIST**

- ☐ I can read and say numbers into the millions with 万.
- ☐ I can say the population of China and the United States.
- ☐ I can choose the right measure word for ten common nouns.

**LESSONS IN THIS UNIT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1.1 | **千, 万, 亿: Counting Big** | 3 sessions of 30–40 minutes |
| 1.2 | **一张, 一条, 一把: Choosing Measure Words** | 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**
   Say 10,000 and 50,000.

2. **4 pts**
   Say 1,000,000.

3. **4 pts**
   About how many people live in China?

4. **4 pts**
   Give the measure word: ___ 纸, ___ 裤子, ___ 车.

5. **4 pts**
   Say “three cups of tea” and “two teachers” (polite).

**ANSWER KEY**

1. 一万; 五万.
2. 一百万.
3. 十四亿 (about 1.4 billion).
4. 一张纸, 一条裤子, 一辆车.
5. 三杯茶; 两位老师.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

### UNIT CHALLENGE: NUMBERS OF THE WORLD

Make an infographic of six big numbers: populations of three countries, the height of a mountain, the length of a river and the number of characters in a dictionary. Write each in Chinese and read it aloud.

| LOOK FOR | WHAT IT MEANS |
|---|---|
| **Speaking** | The student reads all six numbers correctly. |
| **Characters** | Numbers and labels are written in characters. |
| **Using it** | The 万-based reading is correct in every number. |
| **Care** | Tones are said and marked carefully. |

UNIT 1 · BIG NUMBERS AND MEASURE WORDS: 万 AND 亿 · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 1.1 千, 万, 亿: Counting Big

### OBJECTIVES

- Say 千, 万, 十万, 百万, 千万 and 亿.
- Read large numbers in groups of four digits.
- Talk about populations and prices.

> **Warm-up.** Write 1,000,000 on paper. How many zeros? In English we group by threes. In Chinese you group by fours. Try regrouping: 100,0000.

**WATCH**

## Learn How to Use Chinese Numbers in Everyday Life

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 8:21

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yarl96PNJnM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write the numbers you hear in digits.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: using Chinese numbers in everyday life.

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Talking About Numbers in Chinese - Chinese Conversational Phrases

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 7:20

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

ChineseClass101: talking about numbers in Chinese.

**KEY TERMS**

qiān
千 **qiān**

Thousand.

wàn
万 **wàn**

Ten thousand.

bǎiwàn
百万 **bǎiwàn**

Million (a hundred ten-thousands).

yì
亿 **yì**

A hundred million.

rénkǒu
人口 **rénkǒu**

Population (people-mouths).

**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.

千

*qiān*

**chyen (high)**

number

thousand

万

*wàn*

**wahn (falling)**

number · traditional 萬

ten thousand

百万

*bǎiwàn*

**bai-WAHN**

number · traditional 百萬

million

亿

*yì*

**ee (falling)**

number · traditional 億

hundred million

人口

*rénkǒu*

**run-KOH**

noun

population

## CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** Chinese counts big numbers by 万 (wàn) (10,000), not by thousands. 10,000 = 一万. 100,000 = 十万 (ten 万). 1,000,000 = 一百万 (yì bǎi wàn) (a hundred 万). 100,000,000 = 一亿 (yí yì).

**Reading.** Group digits by four from the right: 2,3456 = 两万三千四百五十六. A zero in the middle is read 零: 10,050 = 一万零五十.

**Populations.** 中国的人口有十四亿多 (over 1.4 billion). 美国的人口有三亿多 (over 300 million). Yet God knows each one by name, and He counts and names the stars.

PICTURE STUDY




*String of 200 cash coins*, Photograph by Scott Semans, coins of the Northern Song dynasty (960–1127) · Bronze coins on string; photograph · photograph on Wikimedia Commons (CC BY 3.0)

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

For two thousand years, Chinese coins were round with a square hole, so they could be strung together. A full string held a thousand coins (or a few less), and merchants counted big sums in strings. One coin was worth very little, so big numbers came quickly!

**Look closely**

- Why do the coins have holes?
- Count the coins in one row.
- Find the long string of coins.
- Can you see characters on any coin?

**Talk about it**

1. Why would counting in strings be useful?
2. How do we carry large sums of money today?

ACTIVITY

## A million grains

Estimate a big number.

**You will need**

- A cup of rice, a small spoon, paper

**Steps**

1. Count the grains in one small spoonful.
2. Count how many spoonfuls fill the cup.
3. Multiply to estimate the grains in the cup; write the number in digits and in Chinese with 万.
4. How many cups would make 一百万 grains? Write your answer in Chinese.

**Tips**

- Group digits by four before reading the number in Chinese.

**Check your work**

☐ I estimated and wrote a number with 万.

☐ I read it aloud correctly.

> **From history.** The old Chinese abacus (算盘) could add and multiply huge numbers quickly, and skilled users could beat early electronic calculators.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Read 35,000.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Group by four: 3,5000.
2. 3 万 + 5 千.

**Answer:** 三万五千.

**Example 2.** Read 2,000,000.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Group by four: 200,0000.
2. 200 万.

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**Answer:** 两百万 (or 二百万).

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 万?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Ten thousand.

2. Easy Say 3,000.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   三千.

3. Medium Say 60,000.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   六万.

4. Medium Say 1,500,000.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   一百五十万.

5. Hard Write the population of your state or country in Chinese.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 美国的人口有三亿四千万.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 十千 for 10,000. It is 一万.
- Reading 1,000,000 as 一千千. It is 一百万.

> **Make it a game · Number auction.** Hold a pretend auction for silly items. Bids must be spoken in Chinese with 万. The highest correct bid wins.

**Scripture.** “He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names.” (Psalm 147:4, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 他数点星宿的数目，一一称它的名。

*Tā shù diǎn xīng xiù de shù mù, yī yī chēng tā de míng.*

God counts the number of the stars and calls them all by their names.

UNIT 1 · BIG NUMBERS AND MEASURE WORDS: 万 AND 亿 · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 1.2 一张, 一条, 一把: Choosing Measure Words

OBJECTIVES

- Use 张, 条, 辆, 件, 双, 杯, 位 and 把 correctly.
- Choose a measure word by shape or kind.
- Ask 几 + measure word + noun?

**Warm-up.** In English we say “a loaf of bread,” “a sheet of paper,” “a pair of shoes.” Name three more. Chinese does this with every noun.

**WATCH**

## Ask a Chinese Teacher - Saying "Two": Is It 二 (èr) or 两 (liǎng)?

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:05

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hU5BOCdXbyk

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; note every measure word you hear.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: Ask a Chinese Teacher, is “two” 二 or 两?

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Chinese Listening Practice - Finding What You Want at a Department Store in China

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 1:46

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lsi_8b0NzMo

ChineseClass101: listening practice, finding what you want in a department store.

**KEY TERMS**

zhāng
**张 zhāng**

For flat things: paper, tables, tickets.

tiáo
**条 tiáo**

For long things: fish, rivers, pants.

liàng
**辆 liàng**

For vehicles.

bēi
**杯 bēi**

A cup of.

wèi
**位 wèi**

For people, politely.

bǎ
**把 bǎ**

For things with handles: chairs, umbrellas.

**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.

## 张

*zhāng*

**jahng (high)**

measure word · traditional 張

flat things

## 条

*tiáo*

**tyow (rising)**

measure word · traditional 條

long things

## 辆

*liàng*

**lyahng (falling)**

measure word · traditional 輛

vehicles

## 杯

*bēi*

**bay (high)**

measure word

cup of

## 位

*wèi*

**way (falling)**

measure word

people (polite)

## 把

*bǎ*

**bah (dipping)**

measure word

things with handles

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** Number + measure word + noun. Many measure words go by shape: flat things take zhāng 张 (一张纸, 一张票), long things tiáo 条 (一条鱼, 一条河), things you hold by a handle bǎ 把 (一把伞, 一把椅子).

**By kind.** Vehicles: 一辆车. Clothes for the top: 一件衬衫. Pairs: 一双筷子. Drinks: 一杯水. People, politely: 一位老师. And 个 for many other things when you are not sure.

**Asking how many.** 几 + measure word: 你有几张票? 那条河有多长? When Peter hauled in the net, John counted the fish: 一百五十三条, with 条 for fish.

ACTIVITY

## Measure word museum

Label your house with measure words.

**You will need**

- Sticky notes, a marker

**Steps**

1. Find at least twelve objects around your home.
2. Label each with number + measure word + noun: 一把椅子, 两张床, 一辆自行车.
3. Use at least eight different measure words.
4. Give a family member a guided “museum tour” in Chinese.

**Tips**

- If unsure, ask your teacher or check a dictionary before using 个.

**Check your work**

☐ I labeled twelve objects.

☐ I used eight different measure words.

> **From history.** Mandarin has dozens of measure words; some are poetic, such as 一轮明月 (a “wheel” of bright moon) and 一叶小舟 (a “leaf” of a little boat).

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Say “two tickets.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Tickets are flat: 张.
2. Two = 两.

**Answer:** 两张票.

**Example 2.** Say “a river.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Rivers are long: 条.

**Answer:** 一条河.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy Which measure word for 纸?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   张.

2. Easy Say “a cup of tea.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   一杯茶.

3. Medium Say “three cars.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   三辆车.

4. Medium Say politely “two guests.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   两位客人.

5. Hard Write five phrases with five different measure words.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 一张桌子, 两条鱼, 三辆车, 四双鞋, 五杯水.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 二张. Before a measure word use 两: 两张.
- Using 位 for yourself. 位 shows respect; say 我们家有四个人, not 四位.

> **Make it a game · Measure word snap.** Flip noun cards. The first player to call out the right measure word and phrase (一辆车!) keeps the card.

> **Scripture.** “Simon Peter went up, and drew the net to land full of great fishes, an hundred and fifty and three: and for all there were so many, yet was not the net broken.” (John 21:11, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 西门·彼得就去，把网拉到岸上。那网满了大鱼，共一百五十三条；鱼虽这样多，网却没有破。
>
> *Xīmén Bǐdé jiù qù, bǎ wǎng lā dào àn shàng. Nà wǎng mǎn le dà yú, gòng yì bǎi wǔ shí sān tiáo; yú suī zhè yàng duō, wǎng què méi yǒu pò.*
>
> After Jesus rose, the disciples caught 153 great fish, and the net did not break. Notice 条, the measure word for fish.

UNIT 2

# Travel in China: 坐地铁, 坐高铁

Lesson 2.1 teaches tickets, stations, 地铁 and 高铁, 从…到… and 要多长时间, with a photograph of high-speed trains.

Lesson 2.2 teaches taking a taxi: 去…, 往前走, 往左拐, 在…停, and paying.

### PREREQUISITES

- Grade 4 Units 2–3 (places, directions, transport).

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can buy a ticket and ask which station.
- ☐ I can say how long a trip takes with 从…到….
- ☐ I can give a taxi driver directions.

### LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 2.1 | **地铁和高铁: Subways and Fast Trains** | 3 sessions of 30–40 minutes |
| 2.2 | **师傅, 请在这儿停: Taking a Taxi** | 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 “I want to buy two tickets to Shanghai.”

2. **4 pts**
   Ask “How long does it take from Beijing to Shanghai?”

3. **4 pts**
   Say “Change trains at the next station.”

4. **4 pts**
   Tell a taxi driver “Turn right up ahead.”

5. **4 pts**
   Say “Stop here, please.”

**ANSWER KEY**

1. 我要买两张去上海的票.
2. 从北京到上海要多长时间?
3. 在下一站换车.
4. 前边往右拐.
5. 请在这儿停.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

### UNIT CHALLENGE: A TRIP ACROSS CHINA

Plan a three-city trip by 高铁 and 地铁. For each leg write from, to, how long and the cost, all in Chinese. Record a short “travel vlog” script explaining your plan.

| LOOK FOR | WHAT IT MEANS |
|---|---|
| **Speaking** | The vlog is clear and confident. |
| **Characters** | The plan is written in characters with numbers. |
| **Using it** | The student uses 从…到…, 要多长时间 and measure words correctly. |
| **Care** | Tones are said and marked carefully. |

UNIT 2 · TRAVEL IN CHINA: 坐地铁, 坐高铁 · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 2.1 地铁和高铁: Subways and Fast Trains

### OBJECTIVES

- Say 买票, 站, 地铁, 高铁, 换车, 下一站.
- Use 从…到…: 从北京到上海.
- Ask and answer 要多长时间? (半个小时, 四个半小时).

> **Warm-up.** What is the fastest you have ever traveled on land? How fast do you think China’s fastest trains go?

**WATCH**

## Beijing Subway - Riding the Train in China

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:39

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVFvllxH32s

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; read the signs on screen aloud.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: the Beijing subway, riding the train in China.

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Chinese Reading for Absolute Beginners - Buying a Train Ticket in China

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 1:18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vT5TXsU74o8

ChineseClass101: reading for absolute beginners, buying a train ticket in China.

**KEY TERMS**

dì tiě
地铁 **dìtiě**

Subway (underground iron).

gāo tiě
高铁 **gāotiě**

High-speed rail.

zhàn
站 **zhàn**

Station, stop.

piào
票 **piào**

Ticket.

huànchē
换车 **huàn chē**

To change trains/buses.

xiǎo shí
小时 **xiǎoshí**

Hour.

**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.

## 地铁

*dìtiě*

**dee-TYEH**

noun · traditional 地鐵

subway

## 高铁

*gāotiě*

**gao-TYEH**

noun · traditional 高鐵

high-speed rail

## 站

*zhàn*

**jahn (falling)**

noun

station

## 票

*piào*

**pyow (falling)**

noun

ticket

## 换车

*huàn chē*

**hwahn CHUH**

verb · traditional 換車

to transfer

## 小时

*xiǎoshí*

**shyow-SHR**

noun · traditional 小時

hour

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** 从 (cóng) A 到 (dào) B: 从北京到上海 (from Beijing to Shanghai). Ask how long: 要多 (yàoduō) 长 时间 (chángshíjiān)? Answer: 坐高铁要四个半小时 (by high-speed train it takes four and a half hours).

**At the station.** 我要买一张去上海的票 (one ticket to Shanghai). 下一站是哪儿? (What is the next stop?). 在人民广场站换车 (change at People's Square station). Subway announcements always say 下一站....

**Fast trains.** China built tens of thousands of kilometers of 高铁 in about fifteen years; trains run at up to 350 km an hour. The gospel has traveled far too, from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth.

PICTURE STUDY



*High-speed trains on the Guangdong–Hainan Railway*, Photograph (released into the public domain), 2017 · Photograph · Wikimedia Commons (CC0)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

These CRH (China Railway High-speed) trains run on electric lines. Railway lines to Hainan, a tropical island in the south, even cross the sea: train cars ride a ferry across the Qiongzhou Strait.

**Look closely**

- How many trains can you see?
- Find the overhead electric wires.
- Why is the front of each train pointed?
- What is the tall tower in the back?

**Talk about it**

1. How would a fast train change people's lives?
2. Where would you go if you could take a 350 km/h train?

ACTIVITY

## Subway map

Design your own subway map with Chinese station names.

**You will need**

- Paper, colored markers, ruler

**Steps**

1. Draw two or three lines in different colors that cross.
2. Name eight stations in Chinese (学校站, 教堂站, 公园站…).
3. Mark transfer stations with a circle.
4. Write directions for a trip: 从学校站到公园站, 在教堂站换车.

**Tips**

- Keep station names short and neat.

**Check your work**

☐ My map has eight stations in characters.

☐ I wrote a trip with 从…到… and 换车.

> **From history.** Shanghai's maglev train, opened in 2004, floats on magnets and has reached about 430 km an hour on its short run to the airport.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Ask the time from your home to church.

▼ **Show solution**

1. From … to … = 从…到….
2. How long = 要多长时间.

**Answer:** 从我家到教堂要多长时间?

**Example 2.** Say “It takes twenty minutes by subway.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. By subway = 坐地铁.
2. Twenty minutes = 二十分钟.

---

**Answer:** 坐地铁要二十分钟.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 地铁?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Subway.

2. Easy Say “ticket.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   票.

3. Medium Say “Change trains at the next stop.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   在下一站换车.

4. Medium Say “one ticket to Beijing.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   一张去北京的票.

5. Hard Write a short trip plan with 从…到… and times.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 从北京到上海坐高铁要四个半小时. 从上海站到我的酒店坐地铁要三十分钟.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 从北京去上海到. The pattern is 从 A 到 B.
- Using 点 for hours of duration: 四点 means four o’clock. Use 四个小时.

**Make it a game · Station announcer.** Take turns announcing 下一站是..., 在这儿换车 in a train-announcer voice; the passenger must get off at the right "station" (chair).

**Scripture.** "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 但圣灵降临在你们身上，你们就必得着能力，并要在耶路撒冷、犹太全地，和撒玛利亚，直到地极，作我的见证。

*Dàn Shènglíng jiàng lín zài nǐ men shēn shàng, nǐ men jiù bì dé zháo néng lì, bìng yào zài Yēlùsālěng, Yóutài quán dì, hé Sāmǎlìyà, zhí dào dì jí, zuò wǒ de jiàn zhèng.*

Jesus told His followers they would be His witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria and to the uttermost part of the earth.

UNIT 2 · TRAVEL IN CHINA: 坐地铁, 坐高铁 · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 2.2 师傅, 请在这儿停: Taking a Taxi

OBJECTIVES

- Tell a driver where to go: 师傅, 去...
- Give directions with 往: 往前走, 往左拐, 往右拐.
- Say 在...停 and pay: 多少钱? 可以用手机付吗?

**Warm-up.** Have you ever helped give directions to a driver? What words did you use?

**WATCH**

## Learn Chinese | Listening Practice - Giving Chinese Directions to a Taxi Driver

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:14

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; trace the route with your finger.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: listening practice, giving directions to a taxi driver.

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru - Direction Words

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 1:54

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8nhW0lixFw

ChineseClass101: Weekly Chinese Words with Yinru, direction words.

**KEY TERMS**

chū zū chē
出租车 **chūzūchē**

Taxi.

shī fu
师傅 **shīfu**

Master (polite way to address a driver).

wǎng
往 **wǎng**

Toward.

tíng
停 **tíng**

To stop.

lù kǒu
路口 **lùkǒu**

Intersection.

fù qián
付钱 **fù qián**

To pay.

**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.

## 出租车

*chūzūchē*

**choo-dzoo-CHUH**

noun · traditional 出租車

taxi

## 师傅

*shīfu*

**SHR-foo**

noun · traditional 師傅

master (address for drivers)

## 往

*wǎng*

**wahng (dipping)**

preposition

toward

## 停

*tíng*

**ting (rising)**

verb

to stop

## 路口

*lùkǒu*

**loo-KOH**

noun

intersection

## 付

*fù*

**foo (falling)**

verb

to pay

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** Call the driver 师傅 (shī fu) (master, a polite title for skilled workers) and name the place: 师傅, 去北京站. Directions use 往 (wǎng) (toward): 往前走 (go ahead), 在第二个路口往左拐 (turn left at the second intersection).

**Stopping and paying.** 请在这儿停 (qǐng zài zhè r tíng) (please stop here). 多少钱? 可以用手机付吗? (Can I pay by phone?). Most people in Chinese cities pay with phone apps.

**Being a good passenger.** Say 谢谢师傅! and 再见 when you get out. Courtesy to people who serve us is a way to honor God.

ACTIVITY

## Taxi role-play

Turn two chairs into a taxi.

**You will need**

- Two chairs, a map you drew, play money or a toy phone

**Steps**

1. Draw a map with five places and a few intersections.
2. The passenger gives directions using 往前走, 往左拐, 往右拐, 在…停.
3. The driver follows the route with a finger on the map.
4. Pay and say thank you; then switch roles.

**Tips**

- Use 第一个, 第二个 路口 for the intersections.

**Check your work**

- ☐ I gave directions to two places.
- ☐ I paid and thanked the driver in Chinese.

> **From history.** Before taxis, Chinese cities had rickshaws (人力车, “human-power vehicles”), pulled by men on foot; later pedicabs with bicycle pedals replaced them.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Tell the driver to go to the airport.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Address = 师傅.
2. Airport = 机场.

**Answer:** 师傅, 去机场.

**Example 2.** Say “Turn right at the first intersection.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. At the first intersection = 在第一个路口.
2. Turn right = 往右拐.

**Answer:** 在第一个路口往右拐.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 出租车?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Taxi.

2. Easy What does 停 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Stop.

3. Medium Say “Go straight ahead.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   往前走 / 一直走.

4. Medium Ask “Can I pay with my phone?”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   可以用手机付吗?

5. Hard Write directions from a station to a church using 往 and 路口.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 往前走, 在第二个路口往左拐, 教堂在右边.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Calling the driver 先生 or 你. 师傅 is the normal friendly title.
- Mixing 往 (toward, wǎng) and 网 (net, wǎng). Same sound, different characters.

> **Make it a game · Blind taxi.** One player closes eyes and walks; the other gives taxi directions in Chinese to reach a target safely.

> **Scripture.** “The LORD shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.” (Psalm 121:8, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 你出你入，耶和华要保护你，从今时直到永远。
> >
> > *Nǐ chū nǐ rù, Yēhéhuá yào bǎo hù nǐ, cóng jīn shí zhí dào yǒng yuǎn.*
>
> The LORD shall preserve your going out and your coming in from this time forth, and even for evermore.

UNIT 3

# Comparing: 比, 更 and 最

Lesson 3.1 teaches A 比 B + adjective, 比 … 多了 / 一点儿, and 没有 … 那么, with a photograph of the Great Wall.

Lesson 3.2 teaches 一样, 更 and 最 and describing the biggest, tallest and best.

**PREREQUISITES**

- Adjectives and 很 (Grade 4); Units 1–2.

**MASTERY CHECKLIST**

- ☐ I can compare two things with 比.
- ☐ I can say “not as … as” with 没有.
- ☐ I can use 更 and 最 correctly.

**LESSONS IN THIS UNIT**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3.1 | **A 比 B: Comparing Two Things** | 3 sessions of 30–40 minutes |
| 3.2 | **一样, 更, 最: Same, Even More, Most** | 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**

   Say “My brother is taller than me.”

2. **4 pts**

   Say “Today is much colder than yesterday.”

3. **4 pts**

   Say “I am not as tall as Dad.”

4. **4 pts**

   Say “The two books are the same.”

5. **4 pts**

   Say “Which mountain is the highest in the world?”

**ANSWER KEY**

1. 我哥哥比我高.
2. 今天比昨天冷多了.
3. 我没有爸爸那么高.
4. 这两本书一样.
5. 世界上哪座山最高?

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

### UNIT CHALLENGE: COMPARE TWO PLACES

Make a poster comparing your town with a Chinese city of your choice: size, population, weather, food and buildings. Write at least eight sentences with 比, 没有, 一样, 更 and 最. Present it.

| LOOK FOR | WHAT IT MEANS |
|---|---|
| **Speaking** | The presentation is clear and well organized. |
| **Characters** | Sentences are in characters with numbers where needed. |
| **Using it** | Every comparison pattern is used correctly. |
| **Care** | Tones are said and marked carefully. |

UNIT 3 · COMPARING: 比, 更 AND 最 · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 3.1 A 比 B: Comparing Two Things

### OBJECTIVES

- Compare with A 比 B + adjective: 他比我高.
- Add amounts: 高多了, 高一点儿, 高五公分.
- Say “not as … as” with 没有 … 那么.

> **Warm-up.** Line up your family by height, then by age. Who is taller than whom? Who is older?

**WATCH**

## Making Comparisons in Chinese | Daily Chinese Conversations #14

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:35

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

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; pause and make your own comparison after each example.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: making comparisons in Chinese.

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### How to Compare Age in Mandarin Chinese

Yoyo Chinese · 1:18

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o509h9l1MGs

Yoyo Chinese: how to compare age in Mandarin (single approved video).

**KEY TERMS**

bǐ
比 **bǐ**

Compared with, than.

duō le
多了 **duō le**

Much more (after an adjective).

yì diǎn r
一点儿 **yìdiǎnr**

A little.

nà me
那么 **nàme**

So, that (in “not as … as”).

chángchéng
长 城 **Chángchéng**

The Great Wall.

**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.

## 比

*bǐ*

**bee (dipping)**

preposition

than; compared with

## 多了

*duō le*

**DWOH luh**

phrase

much more

## 那么

*nàme*

**NAH-muh**

adverb · traditional 那麼

so; that

## 长城

*Chángchéng*

**chahng-CHUNG**

name · traditional 長城

the Great Wall

## 公分

*gōngfēn*

**gong-FUN**

noun

centimeter

## 一点儿

*yìdiǎnr*

**ee-DYAR**

phrase · traditional 一點兒

a little

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** A 比(bǐ) B + adjective: 我哥哥(wǒ gēge)比我高(wǒ gāo). Do not add 很: say 他比我高, never 他比我很高.

**How much.** Put the amount after the adjective: 他比我高多了 (much taller), 高一点儿 (a little taller), 大三岁 (three years older): 我姐姐比我大三岁.

**Not as ... as.** A 没有(méiyǒu) B 那么 + adjective: 我没有爸爸那么高 (I am not as tall as Dad). The Great Wall is longer than any river in China: 长城比长江长多了.

PICTURE STUDY



*The Mutianyu section of the Great Wall*, Photograph from Wikimedia Commons, 2024 · Photograph · Mutianyu, north of Beijing (CC BY-SA 4.0)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, photograph, CC BY-SA 4.0 (credit: Wikimedia Commons contributor; see the file page)

The Great Wall is not one wall but many walls built over two thousand years. The section at Mutianyu was rebuilt in the Ming dynasty, about 450 years ago, with watchtowers every few hundred meters. Counting all its branches, the walls stretch more than 20,000 kilometers.

**Look closely**

- Find the watchtower.
- How steep is the wall?
- Find the people. How big are they compared with the wall?
- What season do you think it is?

**Talk about it**

1. Why would people build a wall so long?
2. Compare the wall with a building you know using 比.

ACTIVITY

## Family comparison chart

Measure and compare your family.

**You will need**

- A tape measure, paper

**Steps**

1. Measure the height of four family members in centimeters (公分).
2. Write their ages.
3. Write six sentences with 比 and amounts: 爸爸比我高三十公分.
4. Add two sentences with 没有...那么.

**Tips**

- Ask permission before measuring!

**Check your work**

☐ I wrote six 比 sentences with amounts.

☐ I wrote two 没有 sentences.

> **From history.** A popular story says the Great Wall can be seen from the moon with the naked eye. Astronauts say it cannot; it is long but very narrow.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Say “The Yangtze is longer than the Yellow River.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. A 比 B + adjective.
2. Long = 长.

**Answer:** 长江比黄河长.

**Example 2.** Say “I am not as old as my sister.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. A 没有 B 那么 + adjective.
2. Old (age) = 大.

**Answer:** 我没有我姐姐那么大.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What does 比 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Than; compared with.

2. Easy Say “Dad is taller than Mom.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   爸爸比妈妈高.

3. Medium Say “This book is much more expensive than that one.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   这本书比那本书贵多了.

4. Medium Say “Cats are not as big as dogs.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   猫没有狗那么大.

5. Hard Write four comparisons about two of your friends.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 小明比小华高. 小华比小明大一岁. 小明没有小华那么忙. 小华比小明跑得快.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Adding 很 after 比: 他比我很高. Drop 很; use 多了 or 一点儿 instead.
- Putting the amount before the adjective: 他比我三岁大. Say 他比我大三岁.

**Make it a game · Bigger or smaller?.** Draw two picture cards. The first player to make a correct 比 sentence about them keeps both.

**Scripture.** “Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.” (Matthew 11:11, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 然而天国里最小的比他还大

*Rán ér tiān guó lǐ zuì xiǎo de bǐ tā hái dà*

Jesus said that the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John the Baptist. Find 比 and 最.

UNIT 3 · COMPARING: 比, 更 AND 最 · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 3.2 一样, 更, 最: Same, Even More, Most

**OBJECTIVES**

- Say A 跟 B 一样 (+ adjective).
- Use 更 (even more): 他更高.
- Use 最 (most): 最高, 最好, 最喜欢.

**Warm-up.** What is your favorite food? Your favorite Bible story? Your favorite place? “Favorite” in Chinese uses the word for “most.”

WATCH

## Chinese Story "Big and Small" -Miss Panda's Reading Playground

Miss Panda Chinese · 3:35

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gOwWVuISth0

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; list every 大, 小, 更 and 最 you hear.

**Note:** Miss Panda Chinese: a picture-book story, “Big and Small” (some on-screen text may be in traditional characters).

---

**BACKUP VIDEO**

**Learn Chinese Through Easy Story #4 - 想飞的小象 (An elephant who wants to fly)**

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 7:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frIH0WF49-U

ChineseClass101: easy story, an elephant who wants to fly.

### KEY TERMS

yí yàng
一样 **yíyàng**

The same.

gēn
跟 **gēn**

With, and (in comparisons).

gèng
更 **gèng**

Even more.

zuì
最 **zuì**

Most.

shì jiè
世界 **shìjiè**

World.

### 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.

## 一样

*yíyàng*

**ee-YAHNG**

adjective · traditional 一樣

the same

## 跟

*gēn*

**gun (high)**

preposition

with; and

## 更

*gèng*

**gung (falling)**

adverb

even more

## 最

*zuì*

**dzway (falling)**

adverb

most

## 世界

*shìjiè*

**shr-JYEH**

noun

world

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** A 跟(gēn) B 一样(yí yàng) (A is the same as B): 我的书跟你的书一样. Add an adjective: 他跟我一样高 (he is as tall as me).

**Degrees.** 更(gèng) means even more: 长江很长, 长城更长. 最(zuì) means most: 珠穆朗玛峰是世界上最高的山 (Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world). 最喜欢 = favorite: 我最喜欢的书是圣经.

**Greatest of all.** Jesus said the greatest commandment is to love God with all your heart: 这是诫命中的第一，且是最大的.

ACTIVITY

## Record book

Make a “book of records” in Chinese.

**You will need**

- A small notebook, pictures from magazines or the internet

**Steps**

1. Make eight pages: the tallest mountain, the longest river, the biggest animal, the fastest animal, and more.
2. Write a 最 sentence on each page: 蓝鲸是世界上最大的动物.
3. Add one 更 sentence comparing it with something else.
4. End with a page: 我最喜欢的… .

**Tips**

- Check your facts in a reference book.

**Check your work**

- ☐ My book has eight 最 sentences.
- ☐ I used 更 at least four times.

> **From history.** The tallest mountain on earth, Mount Everest, stands on the border between Nepal and China; in Chinese it is called 珠穆朗玛峰 (Zhūmùlǎngmǎ Fēng), from its Tibetan name.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Say “My bike is the same as yours.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. A 跟 B 一样.

**Answer:** 我的自行车跟你的一样.

**Example 2.** Say “The blue whale is the biggest animal in the world.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. In the world = 世界上.
2. Biggest = 最大的.

---

**Answer:** 蓝鲸是世界上最大的动物.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What does 最 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Most.

2. Easy Say “favorite food.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   最喜欢的菜 (or 食物).

3. Medium Say “Today is hot; tomorrow will be even hotter.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   今天很热, 明天会更热.

4. Medium Say “He is as tall as me.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   他跟我一样高.

5. Hard Write three sentences using 一样, 更 and 最 about animals.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 猫跟狗一样可爱. 马很快, 猎豹更快. 猎豹是跑得最快的动物.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 最很高. 最 replaces 很: 最高.
- Using 比 and 更 together wrongly: 他比我更很高. Say 他比我更高 (he is even taller than me).

> **Make it a game · Top three.** Name a category (fruit, animals, cities). Each player ranks three items with 好, 更好 and 最好 and defends the choice in Chinese.

> **Scripture.** “This is the first and great commandment.” (Matthew 22:38, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 这是诫命中的第一，且是最大的。
>
> *Zhè shì jiè mìng zhōng de dì yī, qiě shì zuì dà de.*
>
> Loving God with all your heart is the first and great commandment, 最大的.

UNIT 4

# 过 and 了: Experiences and Eric Liddell

Lesson 4.1 teaches 过 for experiences and 没…过, with 你去过…吗? and 你吃过…吗?

Lesson 4.2 tells Eric Liddell’s story with 了 and 没, with a photograph from the 1924 Olympics.

### PREREQUISITES

- 了 from Grade 6 Unit 5.

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can ask and answer about experiences with 过.
- ☐ I can tell a story with 了 and 没.
- ☐ I can tell Eric Liddell’s story in Chinese.

### LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4.1 | **你去过中国吗? Have You Ever …?** | 3 sessions of 30–40 minutes |
| 4.2 | **李爱锐: Eric Liddell’s Race** | 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**
   Ask “Have you ever been to China?”

2. **4 pts**
   Say “I have never eaten Peking duck.”

3. **4 pts**
   Say “He won the gold medal.”

4. **4 pts**
   Why did Eric Liddell not run the 100 meters?

5. **4 pts**
   What did Liddell do in China?

**ANSWER KEY**

1. 你去过中国吗?
2. 我没吃过北京烤鸭.
3. 他赢了金牌.
4. The heats were on Sunday, and he kept the Lord’s Day.
5. He taught at a school in Tianjin and served as a missionary; he died in an internment camp in 1945.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

### UNIT CHALLENGE: A CHAMPION'S LIFE

Write a ten-sentence biography of Eric Liddell in Chinese with years, 了, 没 and 过, and illustrate it as a timeline. Present it and say what you learned from him.

| LOOK FOR | WHAT IT MEANS |
|---|---|
| **Speaking** | The student tells the story clearly and finishes with a personal lesson. |
| **Characters** | The biography is in characters with correct years. |
| **Using it** | The student uses 了, 没 and 过 correctly. |
| **Care** | Tones are said and marked carefully. |

UNIT 4 · 过 AND 了: EXPERIENCES AND ERIC LIDDELL · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 4.1 你去过中国吗? Have You Ever ...?

### OBJECTIVES

- Use verb + 过 for experiences: 我去过北京.
- Say 没 + verb + 过: 我没去过.
- Ask and answer 你...过...吗?

> **Warm-up.** Make a list: three places you have been, three foods you have tried and three things you have never done.

**WATCH**

## Ask a Chinese Teacher - Does Chinese Have a Past Tense?

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 3:33

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S0bzertTZ0g

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; note one example of 过 and one of 了.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: Ask a Chinese Teacher, does Chinese have a past tense?

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

**Do I always use 了(le) for Past Tense? | Yoyo Chinese Learning Tips**

Yoyo Chinese · 2:10

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IM7xy3ESaEI

Yoyo Chinese: do I always use 了 for the past? (single approved video).

### KEY TERMS

guo
过 **guo**

Experience marker (have ever).

méi
没 **méi**

Did not; have not.

cóng lái
从来 **cónglái**

Ever, always (从来没... = never).

kǎo yā
烤鸭 **kǎoyā**

Roast duck.

cì
次 **cì**

Time(s), occurrence.

### 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.

## 过

*guo*

**gwoh (light)**

particle · traditional 過

experience marker

## 没

*méi*

**may (rising)**

adverb · traditional 沒

did not; have not

## 从来

*cónglái*

**tsong-LAI**

adverb · traditional 從來

ever (with 没: never)

## 次

*cì*

**tsz (falling)**

measure word

time(s)

## 烤鸭

*kǎoyā*

**kao-YAH**

noun · traditional 烤鴨

roast duck

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** Verb + 过 (guo) says you have had an experience at some time: 我去过北京 (wǒ qù guo běijīng) (I have been to Beijing). Ask: 你吃过饺子吗? Answer: 吃过 or 没吃过.

**Never.** 没 + verb + 过: 我没去过中国. Stronger: 我从来没去过 (wǒ cóng lái méi qù guo) (I have never ever been). Say how many times with 次: 我去过两次.

**过 or 了?** 了 tells that something happened on one occasion: 我昨天吃了饺子. 过 tells that it is part of your experience: 我吃过饺子. Jesus said even the hairs of our head are all numbered, 都被数过了.

ACTIVITY

## Experience survey

Survey your family about experiences.

**You will need**

- Paper, a pencil

**Steps**

1. Write six 你…过…吗? questions: 你去过中国吗? 你吃过烤鸭吗? 你坐过飞机吗?….
2. Ask four people and tally 过 and 没…过 answers.
3. Write a summary: 三个人坐过飞机. 一个人没坐过.
4. Present your results as a bar chart with Chinese labels.

**Tips**

- Answer with the verb + 过, not just 是.

**Check your work**

- ☐ I asked six questions to four people.
- ☐ I wrote my results in Chinese.

> **From history.** Peking roast duck (北京烤鸭) was served at the imperial court centuries ago and is still Beijing's most famous dish; the skin is eaten in thin pancakes with sauce and onion.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Ask "Have you ever ridden a horse?"

▼ **Show solution**

1. Ride (a horse) = 骑马.
2. Verb + 过 + 吗.

**Answer:** 你骑过马吗?

**Example 2.** Say “I have been to Shanghai twice.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. 去过 + place + times.

**Answer:** 我去过上海两次.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What does 过 show after a verb?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   An experience: have ever done it.

2. Easy Answer “No, I haven’t been.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   没去过.

3. Medium Ask “Have you read this book?”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   你看过这本书吗?

4. Medium Say “I have never eaten Peking duck.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   我从来没吃过北京烤鸭.

5. Hard Explain the difference between 我吃了饺子 and 我吃过饺子.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   了: I ate dumplings (on a certain occasion). 过: I have eaten dumplings before (it is part of my experience).

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 不去过. Use 没: 没去过.
- Putting 过 before the verb: 我过去北京. Put it after: 我去过北京.

> **Make it a game · Never have I ever (in Chinese).** Say 我没...过 sentences. Anyone who HAS done it raises a hand and says 我...过!

> **Scripture.** “But the very hairs of your head are all numbered.” (Matthew 10:30, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 就是你们的头发也都被数过了。
> >
> > *Jiù shì nǐ men de tóu fa yě dōu bèi shù guò le.*
>
> God knows us completely: even the hairs of our head are all numbered. Notice 过了.

UNIT 4 · 过 AND 了: EXPERIENCES AND ERIC LIDDELL · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 4.2 李爱锐: Eric Liddell’s Race

**OBJECTIVES**

- Tell Eric Liddell’s story with years, 了 and 没.
- Say sport words: 跑, 比赛, 赢, 金牌, 奥运会.
- Explain why he kept the Lord’s Day.

> **Warm-up.** Would you give up your best chance at a gold medal for something you believed? What might that be?

WATCH

## Master the Tricky Chinese Word 了 (le) in 3 MINUTES!! ⏰ | Learn Beginner Chinese

Yoyo Chinese · 3:14

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOpJEl8eqU4

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; then retell one part of Liddell's life with 了.

**Note:** Yoyo Chinese: master the word 了 in three minutes (single approved video).

---

**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Using "了(le)" in Different Situations | Yoyo Chinese Learning Tips

Yoyo Chinese · 1:52

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iObfi3Ly50I

Yoyo Chinese: using 了 in different situations (single approved video).

## KEY TERMS

lǐ ài ruì
李爱锐 **Lǐ Àiruì**

Eric Liddell's Chinese name.

ào yùnhuì
奥运会 **Àoyùnhuì**

The Olympic Games.

bǐ sài
比赛 **bǐsài**

Race, competition.

yíng
赢 **yíng**

To win.

jīn pái
金牌 **jīnpái**

Gold medal.

zhǔ rì
主日 **zhǔrì**

The Lord's Day, Sunday.

## 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.

## 奥运会

*Àoyùnhuì*

**ao-yün-HWAY**

noun · traditional 奧運會

Olympic Games

## 比赛

*bǐsài*

**bee-SAI**

noun · traditional 比賽

race; competition

## 赢

*yíng*

**ying (rising)**

verb · traditional 贏

to win

## 金牌

*jīnpái*

**jin-PAI**

noun

gold medal

## 主日

*zhǔrì*

**joo-RR**

noun

the Lord's Day

## 跑

*pǎo*

**pao (dipping)**

verb

to run

### CORE IDEAS

**The story.** 李爱锐 (lǐ ài ruì) 一九零二年生在中国天津; his parents were Scottish missionaries. He went to school in Britain and became the fastest runner in Scotland. In 1924 he went to the 奥运会 (ào yùnhuì) in Paris.

**The Lord's Day.** The heats of his best race, the 100 meters, were on Sunday. 他没跑, because he kept the Lord's Day (主日). Instead he trained for the 400 meters. Before the final, someone handed him a note with 1 Samuel 2:30: "Them that honour me I will honour." 他赢了金牌, in a world-record time of 47.6 seconds.

**Back to China.** In 1925 he returned to China and taught science and sports at a school in Tianjin; later he served poor villages. In World War II the Japanese army held him in a camp at Weixian, where he cared for children and the sick. He died there in 1945. His last words were said to be "It's complete surrender."

PICTURE STUDY




*Eric Liddell at the 1924 Olympic Games*, Unknown photographer, 1924 · Photograph · Paris (public domain)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

This photograph shows Eric Liddell at the Paris Olympics, where he won the 400 meters. His running style was famous: head thrown back, arms flying. The story of his stand for the Lord's Day was later told in the film Chariots of Fire.

**Look closely**

- What number is he wearing?
- How do you think he feels in this picture?
- What clothes did runners wear in 1924?
- What is behind him?

**Talk about it**

1. What did Liddell give up, and what did he gain?
2. Where could you honor God when it costs something?

ACTIVITY

## Race-day newspaper

Write a Chinese newspaper front page for July 11, 1924.

**You will need**

- Large paper, pencil, markers

**Steps**

1. Write a headline: 李爱锐赢了金牌!
2. Write four sentences with 了 and 没: 他没跑一百米. 他跑了四百米....
3. Draw a picture of the finish.
4. Add a box with 1 Samuel 2:30.

**Tips**

- Check the year and the event before you write.

**Check your work**

☐ My page has a headline and four sentences.

☐ I used both 了 and 没.

> **From history.** According to accounts from the camp, Liddell may have given up a place in a prisoner exchange so that a pregnant woman could go free instead.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Say “He did not run on Sunday.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Did not = 没.
2. Sunday = 星期天 / 主日.

**Answer:** 他星期天没跑.

**Example 2.** Say “He won the gold medal in 1924.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Year first: 一九二四年.
2. Won = 赢了.

---

**Answer:** 他一九二四年赢了金牌.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 金牌?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Gold medal.

2. Easy What is 奥运会?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The Olympic Games.

3. Medium Where was Liddell born?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   In Tianjin, China (天津).

4. Medium Say “He won the race.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   他赢了比赛.

5. Hard Tell Liddell’s story in five Chinese sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 李爱锐生在中国. 他跑得很快. 他星期天没跑. 他赢了金牌. 他回中国教书了.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Saying 他不跑了 for “he didn’t run.” For the past use 没: 他没跑.
- Forgetting 了 after a completed action with an object and number: 他跑了四百米.

> **Make it a game · Relay retell.** Two players take turns adding one 了 sentence to Liddell's story. Run to touch a wall between sentences.

> **Scripture.** "Wherefore the LORD God of Israel saith, I said indeed that thy house, and the house of thy father, should walk before me for ever: but now the LORD saith, Be it far from me; for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." (1 Samuel 2:30, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 尊重我的，我必重看他
> >
> > *Zūn zhòng wǒ de, wǒ bì zhòng kàn tā*
>
> These are the words handed to Eric Liddell before his race: them that honour me I will honour.

UNIT 5

# 成语 and Proverbs: Wisdom in Four Characters

Lesson 5.1 teaches six 成语 and their stories, with Ma Yuan's painting and the idiom 高山流水 (a true friend).

Lesson 5.2 teaches Chinese proverbs and compares them with the book of Proverbs, 箴言.

### PREREQUISITES

- Units 1–4.

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell the story behind three 成语.
- ☐ I can use a 成语 correctly in a sentence.
- ☐ I can compare a Chinese proverb with a verse from Proverbs.

### LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5.1 | **成语: Idioms with Stories** | 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**
   What is a 成语?

2. **4 pts**
   Tell the story of 画蛇添足.

3. **4 pts**
   What does 自相矛盾 mean?

4. **4 pts**
   Explain 熟能生巧.

5. **4 pts**
   What is 箴言?

**ANSWER KEY**

1. A set idiom, usually four characters, often with a story from history or old books.
2. In a race to draw a snake, the man who finished first added feet and lost, because snakes have no feet: overdoing ruins things.
3. To contradict oneself (the man who sold an unstoppable spear and an unbreakable shield).
4. Practice makes perfect (skill comes from familiarity).
5. The book of Proverbs.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

#### UNIT CHALLENGE: MY IDIOM BOOK

Make a small book of six 成语. For each, write the characters and pinyin, draw the story in a comic, explain the meaning, use it in a sentence, and add a Bible verse with a similar lesson. Present two of them.

| LOOK FOR | WHAT IT MEANS |
|---|---|
| **Speaking** | The student tells the stories vividly. |
| **Characters** | Characters, pinyin and sentences are neat and correct. |
| **Using it** | Each idiom is used correctly and paired with a fitting verse. |
| **Care** | Tones are said and marked carefully. |

#### UNIT 5 · 成语 AND PROVERBS: WISDOM IN FOUR CHARACTERS · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 5.1 成语: Idioms with Stories

#### OBJECTIVES

- Learn six 成语 and their stories.
- Use a 成语 in a sentence.
- Describe Ma Yuan's painting with 高山流水.

> **Warm-up.** What does "the early bird catches the worm" mean? Do you know where it comes from? Chinese has thousands of sayings like this, each in four characters.

**WATCH**

## Learn Chinese Idioms - 5 useful 成语 taught CLEARLY IN ENGLISH! (Part 1)

Yoyo Chinese · 9:05

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyTFcZn6KdM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write down each idiom you hear and its meaning.

**Note:** Yoyo Chinese: five useful 成语 taught clearly in English, Part 1 (single approved video).

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Common Chinese Idiom #1: Call Black White 指鹿为马

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 5:56

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

ChineseClass101: common Chinese idiom #1, 指鹿为马 (calling a deer a horse), a story about a lie.

**KEY TERMS**

chéng yǔ
成 语 **chéngyǔ**

Idiom (set phrase).

huàshétiān zú
画蛇添足 **huà shé tiān zú**

Draw a snake and add feet: overdo it.

duì niú tán qín
对牛弹琴 **duì niú tán qín**

Play the lute to a cow: speak to the wrong audience.

zì xiāngmáodùn
自 相 矛 盾 **zì xiāng máodùn**

Spear against shield: contradict yourself.

shǒuzhūdài tù
守 株待兔 **shǒu zhū dài tù**

Guard a stump, wait for rabbits: wait for luck instead of working.

yì xīn yí yì
一心一意 **yì xīn yí yì**

One heart, one mind: wholeheartedly.

**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.

## 成语

*chéngyǔ*

**chung-YÜ**

noun · traditional 成語

idiom

## 画蛇添足

*huà shé tiān zú*

**hwah shuh tyen DZOO**

idiom · traditional 畫蛇添足

overdo it (draw a snake, add feet)

## 自相矛盾

*zì xiāng máodùn*

**dz shyahng mao-DUN**

idiom

contradict oneself

## 守株待兔

*shǒu zhū dài tù*

**shoh joo dai TOO**

idiom

wait for luck

## 一心一意

*yì xīn yí yì*

**ee shin ee EE**

idiom

wholeheartedly

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** A 成语 (chéng yǔ) is a set phrase, usually of four characters, with a story behind it from history or old books. Educated speakers use them often.

**Stories.** 画蛇添足: men raced to draw a snake; the winner added feet, and lost. 自相矛盾: a man boasted his spear (矛) could pierce anything and his shield (盾) could stop anything; someone asked, “What if your spear hits your shield?” 守株待兔: a farmer saw a rabbit run into a tree stump and die, so he waited by the stump every day for another rabbit, and his fields went to weeds.

**Wholehearted.** 一心一意 means with one heart and one mind, as we should love and serve God. 高山流水 (high mountains, flowing water) comes from two friends: a musician and the one listener who understood his music. It means a true friend who understands you.

PICTURE STUDY



*Scholar Viewing a Waterfall*, Ma Yuan, about 1190–1225 · Album leaf, ink and color on silk · The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Ma Yuan was a court painter of the Southern Song dynasty. He was called “One-Corner Ma” because he often crowded his scenes into one corner and left the rest empty, full of mist. The quiet scholar listening to the water fits the old saying 高山流水.

**Look closely**

- Find the scholar. What is he doing?
- Find the servant boy.
- Find the waterfall.
- Why is so much of the picture empty?

**Talk about it**

1. What do you think the scholar hears?
2. Who is a friend who really understands you?

ACTIVITY

## Idiom comics

Draw two 成语 as comics.

**You will need**

- Paper divided into four panels, pencils, markers

**Steps**

1. Choose two idioms from the lesson.
2. Draw each story in four panels with Chinese speech bubbles.
3. Write the idiom large at the top and its meaning at the bottom.
4. Tell the stories to your family and ask them to guess the meaning.

**Tips**

- Keep speech bubbles short: two to six characters.

**Check your work**

- ☐ My comics tell two stories clearly.
- ☐ I wrote each idiom and its meaning.

> **From history.** Many 成语 come from writings over two thousand years old, such as the book of Han Feizi, which gave us 自相矛盾 and 守株待兔.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Use 画蛇添足 in a sentence.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Your essay was finished, but you added an unneeded paragraph.

**Answer:** 你的作文已经很好了, 不要画蛇添足.

**Example 2.** What does 守株待兔 warn against?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The farmer waited by the stump instead of working.

**Answer:** Waiting for luck instead of working hard.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy How many characters do most 成语 have?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Four.

2. Easy What is 矛? What is 盾?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Spear; shield.

3. Medium Which idiom means “wholeheartedly”?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   一心一意.

4. Medium Explain 对牛弹琴.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Playing music to a cow: speaking to someone who cannot or will not understand.

5. Hard Use two 成语 in your own sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 我们要一心一意地爱神. 他说的话自相矛盾.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Changing a character in an idiom. 成语 are fixed; say them exactly.
- Using a 成语 too literally: 画蛇添足 is not about snakes but about overdoing things.

> **Make it a game · Idiom charades.** Act out a 成语 without words. The other player must say the idiom in Chinese.

**Scripture.** “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 回答柔和，使怒消退；言语暴戾，触动怒气。

*Huí dá róu hé, shǐ nù xiāo tuì; yán yǔ bào lì, chù dòng nù qì.*

A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger: a proverb as short and wise as a 成语.

UNIT 5 · 成语 AND PROVERBS: WISDOM IN FOUR CHARACTERS · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

# 5.2 谚语 and 箴言: Proverbs Old and True

**OBJECTIVES**

- Learn five Chinese proverbs (谚语).
- Compare them with verses from Proverbs (箴言).
- Say 智慧 (wisdom) and 懒惰 (lazy).

**Warm-up.** What is a wise saying your grandparents or parents often repeat? Where do you think it came from?

**WATCH**

## Learn Chinese Through Easy Story #7 - A Clever Crow 聪明的乌鸦 (cōng ming de wū yā)

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 6:51

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cRRgo9lm0MU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; tell the lesson of the story in one Chinese sentence.

**Note:** ChineseClass101: easy story, a clever crow (聪明的乌鸦), a fable with a lesson.

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**BACKUP VIDEO**

### Learn Chinese Idioms - 5 useful 成语 taught CLEARLY IN ENGLISH! (Part 2)

Yoyo Chinese · 8:32

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7vU1ufgMBv0

Yoyo Chinese: five more useful 成语 taught in English, Part 2 (single approved video).

**KEY TERMS**

yàn yǔ
谚语 **yànyǔ**

Proverb, folk saying.

zhēnyán
箴言 **Zhēnyán**

The book of Proverbs.

zhì huì
智慧 **zhìhuì**

Wisdom.

lǎn duò
懒惰 **lǎnduò**

Lazy.

shúnéngshēngqiǎo
熟能 生 巧 **shú néng shēng qiǎo**

Practice makes perfect.

**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.

## 谚语

*yànyǔ*

**yen-YÜ**

noun · traditional 諺語

proverb

## 箴言

*Zhēnyán*

**jun-YEN**

name

Proverbs (book)

## 智慧

*zhìhuì*

**jr-HWAY**

noun

wisdom

## 懒惰

*lǎnduò*

**lahn-DWOH**

adjective · traditional 懶惰

lazy

## 蚂蚁

*mǎyǐ*

**mah-YEE**

noun · traditional 螞蟻

ant

### CORE IDEAS

**The big idea.** 谚语 (yàn yǔ) are everyday wise sayings: 熟能生巧 (shúnéngshēngqiǎo) (familiarity gives skill: practice makes perfect). 一寸光阴一寸金 (an inch of time is an inch of gold). 三个臭皮匠, 顶个诸葛亮 (three ordinary cobblers together equal one genius: teamwork). 千里之行, 始于足下 (a journey of a thousand miles begins with one step).

**Proverbs in the Bible.** The book of 箴言 (zhēnyán) is God's book of wise sayings. It begins: 敬畏耶和华是知识的开端 (the fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge). It warns the lazy: 懒惰人哪，你去察看蚂蚁 (go to the ant, thou sluggard).

**Comparing.** Many Chinese proverbs teach hard work, patience and respect for elders, which Proverbs also teaches. But true wisdom begins with knowing God, not only with clever sayings.

ACTIVITY

## Proverb pairs

Make a poster pairing Chinese proverbs with Bible proverbs.

**You will need**

- Poster paper, markers

**Steps**

1. Choose four Chinese 谚语 from the lesson.
2. For each, find a verse in Proverbs with a similar lesson (for example 熟能生巧 with Proverbs 22:29 on the diligent man).
3. Write both in Chinese with pinyin and a short English meaning.
4. Add one Bible proverb that has no Chinese match and explain why it matters.

**Tips**

- Ask a parent to help find matching verses.

**Check your work**

☐ My poster has four pairs.

☐ I explained the extra Bible proverb.

> **From history.** Zhuge Liang (诸葛亮), a brilliant strategist of the Three Kingdoms period about A.D. 200, became so famous for wisdom that his name stands for “genius” in Chinese.

WORKED EXAMPLES

**Example 1.** Explain 一寸光阴一寸金.

▼ **Show solution**

1. 寸 = an inch; 光阴 = time.
2. 金 = gold.

**Answer:** Time is as precious as gold.

**Example 2.** Which Bible proverb fits 懒惰?

▼ **Show solution**

1. The ant works without being told.

**Answer:** Proverbs 6:6: go to the ant, thou sluggard.

### PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 智慧?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wisdom.

2. Easy What is 箴言?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The book of Proverbs.

3. Medium Explain 熟能生巧.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Practice makes perfect.

4. Medium Explain 千里之行, 始于足下.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A long journey starts with one step; start big tasks with small steps.

5. Hard Pair a Chinese proverb with a Bible proverb and explain.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 三个臭皮匠, 顶个诸葛亮 with Proverbs 15:22: plans succeed with many counselors.

### COMMON MISTAKES

- Mixing 谚语 (folk proverbs) and 成语 (fixed four-character idioms). Proverbs are often longer full sentences.
- Reading 箴言 as zhēn yàn. It is zhēnyán.

**Make it a game · Proverb halves.** Write the first and second halves of proverbs on separate cards. Match the halves and say the whole proverb.

**Scripture.** “Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:” (Proverbs 6:6, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 懒惰人哪，你去察看蚂蚁的动作就可得智慧。

*Lǎn duò rén na, nǐ qù chá kàn mǎ yǐ de dòng zuò jiù kě dé zhì huì.*

Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise.