**A logo with a tree and text

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**NCEA Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) Revised Vocabulary List 2025**

**Editable Word doc**

Updated NCEA Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3 Vocabulary Lists for Asian and European languages were published on the NCEA Education website in December 2024.

Below is the revised Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) Vocabulary List that should be used with students in 2025 (and thereafter).

The Vocabulary List supports teaching and learning and helps teachers understand the language appropriate at Curriculum Level 6. Language drawn from this Vocabulary List is used to create external assessments and may be used to support teachers when preparing students for internal assessments.

The vocabulary lists belong to the Ministry of Education. The list in this document has been **formatted by NZALT** to make it easier for teachers to print and photocopy for students. NZALT has provided two versions:

1. A PDF that can be printed and photocopied for students.
2. A Word document for teachers who would like to do further formatting.

This version of the vocabulary list is arranged **alphabetically (Chinese to English)**.

Other configurations of this list (eg. English to Chinese; by category) can be found online [here](https://ncea.education.govt.nz/learning-languages/mandarin?view=teaching).

Alternatively, you can navigate to the revised vocabulary lists by following this pathway:   
ncea.education.govt.nz > New Zealand Curriculum > Learning Languages: Chinese > Teaching

Teachers are advised to read the Introduction to the vocabulary lists (online, as above), as these contain useful context for teaching and learning, and for internal and external assessments (including the notes below).

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| **Notes to teachers** |
| In addition to the listed vocabulary, students are also expected to be able to recognise: |
| ● Pinyin and associated tones |
| ● rules and patterns of word formation |
| ● months of the year |
| ● numbers, including words related to measurements. |

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Pinyin** | **Chinese** | **English** |
| **A** | ài | 爱 | to love, love |
| ài hào | 爱好 | hobby |
| **B** | bā | 八 | eight |
| bà ba | 爸爸 | dad, father |
| bái sè | 白色 | white |
| bǎi | 百 | hundred |
| bǎi wàn | 百万 | million |
| bān | 班 | class |
| bàn | 半 | half + time period |
| bāng zhù | 帮助 | to help |
| bāo zi | 包子 | steamed bun |
| běi bian | 北边 | north |
| běi dǎo | 北岛 | North Island |
| běi jīng | 北京 | Beijing |
| běn | 本 | volume for books |
| bǐ | 笔 | pen or pencil |
| biān/miàn | 边/面 | side |
| bù hǎo yì si | 不好意思 | Excuse me, I’m sorry |
| bù kè qi | 不客气 | You are welcome |
| **C** | cài | 菜 | cuisine (eg, 中国菜) dish, a plate of food vegetable |
|  | chá | 茶 | tea |
|  | cháng | 长 | long |
|  | cháng cháng | 常常 | often, usually |
|  | cháng chéng | 长城 | the Great Wall |
|  | chàng gē | 唱歌 | to sing (a song/songs) |
|  | chǎo | 炒 | to fry, to stirfry |
|  | chǎo fàn | 炒饭 | fried rice |
|  | chē | 车 | vehicle |
|  | chē zhàn | 车站 | bus stop |
|  | chī | 吃 | to eat |
|  | chuān | 穿 | to wear, to put on |
|  | chūn jié | 春节 | the Spring Festival, the Chinese New Year |
|  | chūn tiān | 春天 | spring (season) |
| **D** | dǎ diàn huà | 打电话 | to call, to make a phone call |
| dǎ kāi | 打开 | to open, to turn on (eg, 打开电视) |
| dǎ qiú | 打球 | to play ball games (except for soccer) |
| dà | 大 | big |
| dà jiā | 大家 | everybody, everyone |
| dà xué | 大学 | university |
| dà xué shēng | 大学生 | university student |
| dài | 带 | to take, to bring |
| dàn gāo | 蛋糕 | cake |
| dào | 到 | to arrive at/to |
| děng | 等 | to wait |
| dì | 第 | 第 + number = ordinal number |
| dì di | 弟弟 | younger brother |
| dì fang | 地方 | place, area |
| diǎn | 点 | o’clock |
| diǎn cài | 点菜 | to order dishes |
| diǎn xin | 点心 | snacks, dim sum |
| diàn | 电 | electricity, power |
| diàn huà | 电话 | telephone |
| diàn nǎo | 电脑 | computer (including desktop and laptop) |
| diàn shì | 电视 | television, TV |
| diàn yǐng | 电影 | movie |
| diàn yǐng yuàn | 电影院 | movie theatre, cinema |
| dōng tiān | 冬天 | winter |
| dòng wù | 动物 | animal |
| dòng wù yuán | 动物园 | zoo |
| dōng bian | 东边 | east |
| dōng xi | 东西 | stuff, things |
| duì | 对 | correct, right |
| duì bu qǐ | 对不起 | I’m sorry |
| duì miàn | 对面 | opposite |
| duō | 多 | more, much, many |
| duō dà | 多大 | how old? |
| duō shǎo | 多少 | how many, how much? |
| duō jiǔ | 多久 | how long (time)? |
| **E** | è | 饿 | hungry |
| èr | 二 | two |
| **F** | fàn | 饭 | cooked rice (casual form for conversation), meal (eg, 吃饭,早饭) |
| fàn guǎn(er) | 饭馆(儿) | restaurant |
| fāng biàn | 方便 | convenient |
| fàng jià | 放假 | to have a holiday |
| fàng xué | 放学 | to finish school |
| fēi jī | 飞机 | aeroplane |
| fēi jī chǎng | 飞机场 | airport |
| fēn zhōng | 分钟 | minute |
| fēng | 风 | wind |
| **G** | gǎn lǎn qiú | 橄榄球 | rugby |
| gāo | 高 | tall, high |
| gāo xìng | 高兴 | happy, pleased |
| gào su | 告诉 | to tell |
| gē ge | 哥哥 | older brother |
| gè | 个 | the most commonly used measure word, for people and many everyday objects |
| gōng fu | 功夫 | Kungfu |
| gōng gòng qì chē, gōng chē | 公共汽车,公车 | bus |
| gōng kè | 功课 | school work, homework |
| gōng yuán | 公园 | park |
| gōng zuò | 工作 | job, to work |
| gǒu | 狗 | dog |
| guì | 贵 | expensive |
| guó jiā | 国家 | country |
| guò | 过 | to celebrate (eg, 过生日) to cross |
| guǒ zhī | 果汁 | juice |
| **H** | hǎi biān | 海边 | beach, seaside |
| hàn yǔ | 汉语 | Chinese (spoken language) |
| hàn zì | 汉字 | Chinese characters |
| hǎo | 好 | good, nice |
| hǎo chī | 好吃 | delicious, yummy |
| hǎo kàn | 好看 | good looking |
| hǎo tīng | 好听 | pleasant to hear |
| hǎo wán(er) | 好玩(儿) | fun, interesting |
| hào | 号 | day (spoken) |
| hē | 喝 | to drink |
| hé | 河 | river |
| hēi sè | 黑色 | black |
| hóng bāo | 红包 | red envelope, red packet, red pocket |
| hóng sè | 红色 | red |
| hòu bian | 后边 | behind |
| huā | 花 | flower |
| huā yuán | 花园 | garden |
| huà | 画 | to draw, to paint  painting |
| huān yíng | 欢迎 | Welcome |
| huáng sè | 黄色 | yellow |
| huí jiā | 回家 | to go home, to return home |
| huì | 会 | meeting |
| huó dòng | 活动 | activity |
| huǒ chē | 火车 | train |
| huǒ chē zhàn | 火车站 | train station |
| huǒ shān | 火山 | volcano |
| **J** | jī dàn | 鸡蛋 | egg |
| jī ròu | 鸡肉 | chicken meat, poultry |
| jǐ | 几 | how many, how much (for a small number)? |
| jǐ diǎn | 几点 | what time? |
| jǐ hào | 几号 | what date, what number? |
| jǐ suì | 几岁 | how old (usually for children)? |
| jiā | 家 | family, home, house |
| jiā rén | 家人 | family member(s) |
| jiàn | 件 | often used for items such as clothes |
| jiàn kāng | 健康 | health, fitness, wellbeing |
| jiàn miàn | 见面 | to meet in person |
| jiào | 叫 | to be called |
| jiào shì | 教室 | classroom |
| jiǎo zi | 饺子 | dumpling |
| jié | 节 | often used for the number of classes |
| jié rì | 节日 | festival |
| jiě jie | 姐姐 | older sister |
| jīn nián | 今年 | this year |
| jīn tiān | 今天 | today |
| jìn | 近 | near, close to |
| jìn bù | 进步 | progress, improvement |
| jiǔ | 九 | nine |
| jué de | 觉得 | to feel, to think |
| **K** | kāi chē | 开车 | to drive a vehicle |
| kāi huì | 开会 | to have a meeting/party (eg, 开生日会) |
| kāi shǐ | 开始 | start, begin |
| kāi xīn | 开心 | happy, pleased (informal) |
| kàn | 看 | to look at (eg, 看手机) to read (eg, 看书) to visit (eg, 看 + person, people) to watch (eg, 看电视) |
| kǎo shì | 考试 | examination, test |
| kē xué | 科学 | Science (school subject) |
| kě | 渴 | thirsty |
| kě ài | 可爱 | cute, lovable, pretty |
| kě lè | 可乐 | coke |
| kè | 课 | lesson |
| kǒu | 口 | used for family members |
| kù zi | 裤子 | trousers, pants |
| kuài | 块 | slice (for cake), currency unit |
| kuài | 快 | fast |
| kuài lè | 快乐 | happy, happiness |
| **L** | lái | 来 | to come |
| lán qiú | 篮球 | basketball |
| lán sè | 蓝色 | blue |
| lǎo | 老 | old |
| lǎo shī | 老师 | teacher |
| lèi | 累 | tired |
| lǐ | 李 | a family name, also means plum |
| liǎng | 两 | two (when used before a measure word) |
| liù | 六 | six |
| líng | 零 | zero |
| lěng | 冷 | cold |
| lǐ bian | 里边 | inside |
| lǐ wù | 礼物 | present, gift |
| liàn xí | 练习 | practice, to practise |
| lǜ sè | 绿色 | green |
| **M** | ma | 吗 | question particle for yes-no questions |
| mā ma | 妈妈 | mum, mother |
| mǎ | 马 | horse |
| mǎ lù | 马路 | road, street |
| mǎ shàng | 马上 | immediately |
| mǎi | 买 | to buy |
| mài | 卖 | to sell |
| màn | 慢 | slow |
| máng | 忙 | busy |
| māo | 猫 | cat |
| máo bǐ | 毛笔 | brush pen |
| máo lì rén | 毛利人 | Māori people |
| máo lì wén | 毛利文 | Māori language (written) |
| máo lì yǔ | 毛利语 | Māori language (spoken) |
| máo yī | 毛衣 | wool jumper |
| méi guān xi | 没关系 | Never mind |
| méi yǒu yì si | 没有意思 | not interesting, boring |
| měi guó | 美国 | the United States of America, USA |
| měi lì | 美丽 | beautiful (more formal) |
| měi shù | 美术 | Art (school subject) |
| měi tiān | 每天 | every day |
| mèi mei | 妹妹 | younger sister |
| mén | 门 | door often used for the number of academic subjects |
| mén | ~们 | personal pronoun + 们 = plural pronoun |
| mǐ fàn | 米饭 | cooked rice |
| miàn, miàn tiáo | 面, 面条 | noodles |
| miàn bāo | 面包 | bread |
| míng nián | 明年 | next year |
| míng tiān | 明天 | tomorrow |
| míng tiān jiàn | 明天见 | See you tomorrow |
| míng zi | 名字 | name |
| **N** | nǎ | 哪 + noun | which…? |
| nǎ ge | 哪个 | which one? |
| nǎ lǐ | 哪里 | where? |
| nà lǐ | 那里 | there |
| nǎi nai | 奶奶 | grandmother |
| nán | 男 | male |
| nán shēng | 男生 | boys |
| nán xiào | 男校 | boys’ school |
| nán bian | 南边 | south |
| nán dǎo | 南岛 | South Island |
| nán | 难 | difficult, hard |
| nán kàn | 难看 | ugly |
| ne | 呢 | used when asking a question based on something mentioned immediately before (eg, ...你呢？, ...and you?) |
| nǐ | 你 | you |
| nǐ hǎo | 你好 | Hello |
| nián | 年 | year for calendar, number + 年 |
| nín | 您 | you (respectful form) |
| nín hǎo | 您好 | Hello (respectfully) |
| niú | 牛 | cattle, cow, ox, bull |
| niú nǎi | 牛奶 | milk (cow’s) |
| nǚ | 女 | female |
| nǚ shēng | 女生 | girls |
| nǚ xiào | 女校 | girls’ school |
| **P** | páng biān | 旁边 | next to, beside |
| pǎo bù | 跑步 | to run |
| péng yǒu | 朋友 | friend |
| pián yi | 便宜 | cheap |
| piào | 票 | ticket |
| piào liang | 漂亮 | pretty, beautiful |
| pīng pāng qiú | 乒乓球 | table tennis, ping pong |
| píngguǒ | 苹果 | apple |
| **Q** | qī | 七 | seven |
| qí | 骑 | to ride (eg, 骑自行车) |
| qǐ chuáng | 起床 | to wake up |
| qiān | 千 | thousand |
| qián | 钱 | money |
| qián bāo | 钱包 | wallet, purse |
| qián bian | 前边 | front |
| qǐng | 请 | to invite to treat someone to something (eg, a meal) please (eg, 请坐) |
| qiū tiān | 秋天 | autumn |
| qù | 去 | to go |
| qù nián | 去年 | last year |
| qúnzi | 裙子 | dress, skirt |
| **R** | rè | 热 | hot |
| rè gǒu | 热狗 | hot dog |
| rén | 人 | person, people, human |
| rì | 日 | day (written) |
| róng yì | 容易 | easy |
| ròu | 肉 | meat |
| **S** | sān | 三 | three |
| shān | 山 | mountain, hill |
| shāng chǎng | 商场 | shopping mall |
| shāng diàn | 商店 | shop |
| shāng rén | 商人 | businessperson |
| shàng bān | 上班 | to go to work, to attend work |
| shàng bian | 上边 | up |
| shàng hǎi | 上海 | Shanghai |
| shàng kè | 上课 | to attend lessons |
| shàng wǎng | 上网 | to go online, to browse the internet |
| shàng wǔ | 上午 | morning (before noon, formal) |
| shàng xué | 上学 | to attend school |
| shàng yī | 上衣 | top (clothes) |
| shàng ge yuè | 上个月 | last month |
| shàng ge xīng qī | 上个星期 | last week |
| shǎo | 少 | less, few |
| shéi , shuí | 谁 | who? |
| shéi de, shuí de | 谁的 | whose? |
| shēn tǐ | 身体 | body |
| shén me | 什么 | what? |
| shén me shí hou | 什么时候 | when? |
| shēng bìng | 生病 | to get sick, to be sick |
| shēng qì | 生气 | angry |
| shēng rì | 生日 | birthday |
| shēng rì huì | 生日会 | birthday party |
| shí | 十 | ten |
| shí jiān | 时间 | time |
| shì qíng | 事情 | matter, things |
| shǒu | 手 | hand |
| shǒu jī | 手机 | mobile phone, cell phone |
| shū | 书 | book |
| shū bāo | 书包 | school bag |
| shū diàn | 书店 | bookstore, book shop |
| shū fu | 舒服 | comfortable |
| shù xué | 数学 | Mathematics, Maths (school subject) |
| shuǐ | 水 | water |
| shuǐ guǒ | 水果 | fruit |
| shuì jiào | 睡觉 | to sleep |
| shuō | 说 | to say, to speak, to talk |
| shuō huà | 说话 | to talk, to speak (never with an object) |
| sì | 四 | four |
| sòng | 送 | to see somebody off  to send, to give, to deliver |
| suì | 岁 | year for age, number + 岁 |
| **T** | tā | 他 | he, him |
| tā | 她 | she, her |
| tā | 它 | it |
| tī | 踢 | to kick |
| tī zú qiú | 踢足球 | to play soccer |
| tǐ yù | 体育 | Physical Education, PE (school subject) |
| tǐ yù guǎn | 体育馆 | stadium, gym |
| tiān | 天 | day |
| tiān qì | 天气 | weather |
| tiáo | 条 | often used for long, thin things such as pants, fish |
| tiào wǔ | 跳舞 | to dance |
| tīng | 听 | to listen, to hear |
| tīng shuō | 听说 | to hear about |
| tóng xué | 同学 | classmate, schoolmate, fellow student |
| tóu | 头 | head |
| tóu fa | 头发 | hair |
| tú shū guǎn | 图书馆 | library |
| **W** | wǎng … zǒu | 往(左,右)走,往(前)走 | turn (left, right), go straight |
| wài bian | 外边 | outside |
| wài guó rén | 外国人 | foreigner |
| wài yǔ | 外语 | foreign language |
| wán(er) | 玩(儿) | to play, to have fun |
| wǎn fàn | 晚饭 | dinner |
| wǎn shàng | 晚上 | evening |
| wàn | 万 | ten thousand |
| wáng | 王 | a family name, also means king |
| wàng | 忘 | to forget |
| wèi shén me | 为什么 | why? |
| wén huà | 文化 | culture |
| wǒ | 我 | I |
| wǔ | 五 | five |
| wǔ fàn | 午饭 | lunch |
| **X** | xī bian | 西边 | west |
| xǐ | 洗 | to wash |
| xǐ huan | 喜欢 | to like, to be fond of, to enjoy |
| xǐ shǒu jiān | 洗手间 | bathroom, toilet (polite) |
| xià bān | 下班 | to finish work |
| xià bian | 下边 | down |
| xià kè | 下课 | to finish a lesson, class dismissed |
| xià wǔ | 下午 | afternoon |
| xià xuě | 下雪 | to snow |
| xià yǔ | 下雨 | to rain |
| xià ge xīng qī | 下个星期 | next week |
| xià ge yuè | 下个月 | next month |
| xià tiān | 夏天 | summer (season) |
| xiàn zài | 现在 | now |
| xiǎo | 小 | small, little, young |
| xiǎo shí | 小时 | hour |
| xiǎo xué | 小学 | primary school |
| xiào chē | 校车 | school bus |
| xiào fú | 校服 | school uniform |
| xiě | 写 | to write |
| xiè xie | 谢谢 | Thank you |
| xīn | 新 | new |
| xīn nián | 新年 | New Year |
| xīn xī lán | 新西兰 | New Zealand |
| xīng qī | 星期~ | week, 星期 + number (except Sunday) |
| xīng qī jǐ | 星期几 | which day of the week? |
| xīng qī rì, tiān | 星期日, 天 | Sunday |
| xìng | 姓 | family name, surname, to be surnamed |
| xiū xi | 休息 | to rest, to take a break |
| xué sheng | 学生 | student |
| xué xí | 学习 | to study |
| xué xiào | 学校 | school |
| **Y** | yáng | 羊 | sheep |
| yé ye | 爷爷 | grandfather |
| yī | 一 | one |
| yí bàn | 一半 | half |
| yí gòng | 一共 | in total, altogether |
| yí yàng | 一样 | the same, identical |
| yì diǎn(er) | 一点(儿) | a little bit |
| yì qǐ | 一起 | together |
| yì xiē | 一些 | some (for unspecified quantity) |
| yī fu | 衣服 | clothes |
| yīshēng | 医生 | doctor |
| yī yuàn | 医院 | hospital |
| yǐ jīng | 已经 | already |
| yì si | 意思 | meaning |
| yīn yuè | 音乐 | Music (school subject) |
| yīng gāi | 应该 | should |
| yīng guó | 英国 | the United Kingdom |
| yīng wén | 英文 | English (written, eg, 写英文) |
| yīng yǔ | 英语 | English (spoken, eg, 说英语) |
| yòng | 用 | to use |
| yǒu hǎo | 友好 | friendly |
| yǒu de | 有的 | some (among a larger group) |
| yǒu míng | 有名 | famous, well-known |
| yǒu shí hou | 有时候 | sometimes |
| yǒu yì si | 有意思 | interesting |
| yǒu yòng | 有用 | useful |
| yóu xì | 游戏 | games |
| yóu yǒng | 游泳 | to swim |
| yòu bian | 右边 | right side |
| yú | 鱼 | fish |
| yuǎn | 远 | far |
| yuè | 月 | month, number + 月 |
| yùn dòng | 运动 | sports, exercise, to exercise |
| yùn dòng chǎng | 运动场 | sports field |
| **Z** | zài jiàn | 再见 | Goodbye see you again |
| zǎo fàn | 早饭 | breakfast |
| zǎo shàng | 早上 | morning (early morning, casual) |
| zěn me | 怎么 | how to? |
| zěn me yàng | 怎么样 | how about, how is it? |
| zhè | 这 | this |
| zhè, zhèi ge | 这个 | this one |
| zhè ge xīng qī | 这个星期 | this week |
| zhè ge yuè | 这个月 | this month |
| zhè lǐ | 这里 | here |
| zhè xiē | 这些 | these |
| zhī | 只 | often used for small animals such as cats |
| zhī dào | 知道 | to know |
| zhōng guó | 中国 | China |
| zhōng jiān | 中间 | middle |
| zhōng qiū jié | 中秋节 | the Mid-Autumn Festival |
| zhōng wén | 中文 | Chinese (language, school subject) |
| zhōng wǔ | 中午 | noon |
| zhōng xīn | 中心 | centre |
| zhōng xué | 中学 | secondary school |
| zhōng xué shēng | 中学生 | secondary school student |
| zhòng yào | 重要 | important |
| zhōu mò | 周末 | weekend |
| zhù | 住 | to live, to stay |
| zhǔn bèi | 准备 | to prepare, to get ready |
| zì xíng chē | 自行车 | bicycle |
| zǒu lù | 走路 | to walk |
| zuì jìn | 最近 | recently, lately |
| zuó tiān | 昨天 | yesterday |
| zuǒ bian | 左边 | left side |
| zuò | 坐 | to sit (eg, 坐下) to take transportation (eg, 坐 + type of transportation) |
| zuò | 做 | to do, to make (eg, 做饭) |