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**NCEA Level 2 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 2 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 7. 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:   |
| ● items from relevant L1 Chinese (Mandarin) Vocabulary List |
| ● rules and patterns of word formation |
| ● obvious loan words such as 咖啡 (kāfēi), 巧克力 (qiǎokèlì). |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Pinyin** | **Chinese** | **English** |
| **A** | āyí | 阿姨  | auntie |
| ài xīn | 爱心 | care |
| àihù  | 爱护  | to cherish, to care for, to protect |
| ānjìng | 安静 | quiet |
| ānpái  | 安排 | to arrange, arrangement |
| ānquán | 安全 | safe, safety |
| **B** | bǎo | 饱 | full (after a meal) |
| bàngōngshì | 办公室 | office |
| běibànqiú  | 北半球 | northern hemisphere |
| biéde | 别的 | other |
| biérén  | 别人 | another person, the others |
| bīng  | 冰 | ice  |
| bīngqílín  | 冰淇淋 | ice cream |
| bǐrú | 比如 | for example |
| bǐsài  | 比赛 | competition, match |
| búcuò | 不错 | not bad |
| búgòu  | 不够 | not enough |
| bùshǎo | 不少 | quite a few |
| bùtóng | 不同 | different, unlike, not the same |
| **C** | cānjiā | 参加 | to participate, to join in |
| càidān | 菜单 | menu |
| cǎodì | 草地 | lawn, grassland |
| chà | 差 | fall short of (eg, 差一块钱), poor, bad (eg, 服务很差) |
| chàbuduō | 差不多 | almost, nearly |
| chángjiāng  | 长江 | Yangtse River |
| chāoshì | 超市 | supermarket |
| chénggōng  | 成功 | success, to succeed |
| chéngjì | 成绩 | achievement, score, result |
| chéngshì  | 城市 | city |
| chéngwéi | 成为 | to become |
| chídào  | 迟到  | to be late, arrive late |
| chuán | 船  | boat  |
| chuānghu  | 窗户 | window |
| chūfā  | 出发 | set off, depart, start a journey  |
| chūshēng | 出生 | to be born |
| cónglái | 从来 | always, at all times (eg, 从来不) |
| cōngmíng  | 聪明 | smart |
| cóngxiǎo | 从小 | from childhood |
| **D** | dàgài  | 大概  | approximately, roughly, about |
| dǎgōng | 打工 | to do part-time job, to work as an employee |
| dàhǎi | 大海 | ocean, sea |
| dàmén | 大门 | gate, the main entrance |
| dāng | 当 | to work as a profession (eg, 当老师), when… |
| dāngrán  | 当然 | of course |
| dàochù | 到处 | everywhere |
| dàfāng | 大方 | generous |
| dàren | 大人 | adult |
| dǎsuàn | 打算 | to plan to do |
| dàyī | 大衣 | coat, jacket |
| dēngjī  | 登机 | board a plane |
| dī | 低 | low |
| dìtiě | 地铁 | subway, underground train |
| diànshāng | 电商 | online business |
| dú | 读 | to read, to attend |
| dù | 度 | degree (temperature, level) |
| duǎn | 短 | short (length) |
| duǎnxìn | 短信 | text message  |
| duì | 队 | team (eg, 橄榄球队) |
| duìmiàn | 对面 | opposite side |
| duōshù | 多数 | majority  |
| duōyún | 多云 | cloudy, partly cloudy |
| dùzi | 肚子 | stomach, tummy |
| **E** | értóng  | 儿童 | children, kids |
| **F** | fā | 发 | to send a message or email (eg, 发短信) |
| fàng | 放 | to put, to place |
| fángjiān  | 房间 | room |
| fángzi | 房子 | house |
| fāxiàn | 发现 | to find out, to discover, discovery |
| fǎyǔ  | 法语  | French (language) |
| fēicháng | 非常 | very, extremely |
| fúwù | 服务 | service, to service |
| fúwùyuán  | 服务员 | waiter, waitress |
| fùxí  | 复习  | to review, to revise |
| **G** | gān jìng | 干净 | clean |
| gǎndòng | 感动 | to be moved, to be touched |
| gāngcái | 刚才 | just now |
| gǎnmào  | 感冒 | have a cold/flu, cold |
| gāozhōng | 高中 | high school, secondary school |
| gèzi | 个子 | height of a person |
| gōngchéngshī  | 工程师 | engineer |
| gōngjīn | 公斤 | kilogram |
| gōnglǐ | 公里 | kilometre |
| gōngrén  | 工人 | worker |
| gōngsī | 公司 | company |
| gòu | 够 | enough, sufficient |
| guāfēng | 刮风 | windy |
| guān xì | 关系 | relationship  |
| guǎngchǎng | 广场 | square, plaza |
| guānxīn | 关心 | to care about |
| guònián | 过年 | celebrate the new year |
| gùshi | 故事 | story |
| **H** | hǎochī  | 好吃 | tasty |
| hǎochù | 好处 | benefit, advantage  |
| hàoxué  | 好学  | to be fond of learning, be eager to learn |
| hǎoyùn  | 好运 | good luck (eg, 祝你好运) |
| hòu  | 厚  | thick |
| hóuzi | 猴子 | monkey |
| hú | 湖 | lake |
| huáchuán | 划船 | boating |
| huàichù | 坏处 | disadvantages |
| huàile  | 坏了 | broken |
| huán  | 还 | to return |
| huánghé  | 黄河  | Yellow River  |
| huānyíng  | 欢迎 | welcome |
| hùshi | 护士  | nurse |
| hùzhào  | 护照 | passport |
| **J** | jí | 急  | urgent |
| jì | 记 | to remember, to write down |
| jiàqī | 假期 | holiday, vacation |
| jiǎng | 讲 | to talk, to say, to explain |
| jiǎnghuà | 讲话 | to give a speech, to talk |
| jiànshēn | 健身 | to work out |
| jiànshēnfáng | 健身房 | gymnasium, gym |
| jiànyì | 建议 | to suggest, suggestion  |
| jiāo péngyou | 交朋友 | to make friends |
| jiāo zuòyè  | 交作业 | to hand in homework |
| jiāxiāng  | 家乡 | hometown  |
| jiāzhǎng | 家长 | parent(s)  |
| jiè | 借 | to borrow, to lend |
| jiē | 接 | to receive (phone calls), to pick up (people), to catch (objects) |
| jiémù | 节目 | programme for a performance or TV |
| jièshào  | 介绍  | to introduce, introduction |
| jiēshòu  | 接受  | to accept, to receive |
| jígé  | 及格  | to pass (an exam) |
| jīhuì | 机会 | chance, opportunity |
| jìjié  | 季节 | season |
| jīngcháng | 经常 | often, frequently |
| jiǔdiàn  | 酒店 | hotel |
| **K** | kěnéng  | 可能 | possible, maybe, possibly  |
| kèrén  | 客人 | guest, customer |
| kōngqì  | 空气 | air  |
| kū  | 哭 | to cry |
| kuàizi  | 筷子 | chopsticks |
| **L** | là  | 辣  | spicy, hot |
| lǎohǔ | 老虎 | tiger |
| lǎoshǔ  | 老鼠 | rat |
| liángkuai | 凉快 | pleasantly cool |
| líkāi | 离开 | to leave, to depart  |
| línghuāqián  | 零花钱 | pocket money |
| língqián  | 零钱 | small change |
| línjū  | 邻居 | neighbour |
| línyǔ  | 淋雨  | to be in the rain, to get caught in the rain |
| lóng  | 龙  | dragon  |
| lǚyóu | 旅游 | to travel, tourism |
| **N** | nánbànqiú  | 南半球 | southern hemisphere |
| nánfāng | 南方 | the south |
| nánguò | 难过 | feel sad |
| niǎo | 鸟 | bird |
| **P** | pà | 怕 | be afraid of |
| **Q** | qīdài | 期待 | to expect |
| qīmò  | 期末 | end of the term |
| qiānzhèng  | 签证 | travel visa |
| qīnqiè | 亲切 | kind, warm  |
| qíngtiān | 晴天 | sunny day |
| qiúduì | 球队 | team for ball players |
| quánguó | 全国 | nationwide |
| quánhēiduì  | 全黑队  | All Blacks |
| quánjiā | 全家 | whole family |
| **R** | ràng | 让 | to let, to allow |
| rénkǒu | 人口 | population |
| rénmen | 人们 | people |
| rènshi | 认识 | to know |
| rènwéi | 认为 | to think, to consider |
| rèqíng | 热情 | enthusiastic, enthusiasm |
| **S** | sànbù  | 散步 | to take a walk |
| shǎoshù | 少数 | a small number of, minority |
| shé  | 蛇  | snake  |
| shè qū | 社区 | community  |
| shēngcí  | 生词  | new words |
| shèngdànjié | 圣诞节 | christmas |
| shēnghuó | 生活 | life |
| shīwàng | 失望 | disappointed |
| shì | 试  | to try, to test |
| shì zhōng xīn  | 市中心 | city center |
| shǒubiǎo  | 手表  | watch |
| shōudào | 收到 | to receive (messages, letters, gifts, or delivery) |
| shù  | 树  | tree  |
| shùlín  | 树林 | forest  |
| shūshu  | 叔叔 | uncle |
| suānnǎi  | 酸奶  | yoghurt |
| **T** | tàiyáng | 太阳 | sun |
| táng  | 糖  | sugar, lolly |
| tèbié | 特别 | particularly, special  |
| Tiān'ānmén  | 天安门 | Tiān'ānmén, name of a place |
| tiándiǎn  | 甜点 | dessert |
| tíngchēchǎng | 停车场 | car park |
| tóngshí | 同时 | at the same time |
| tóngyàng | 同样 | similarly, same (adverb) |
| tóngyì  | 同意 | to agree |
| tuìbù  | 退步 | set back, regress |
| **W** | wàimài | 外卖 | takeaway, delivery |
| wǎn'ān | 晚安 | good night |
| wǎngqiú | 网球 | tennis |
| wǎngzhàn | 网站 | website |
| wǎnhuì | 晚会 | evening party |
| wàzi  | 袜子 | socks |
| wēndù  | 温度 | temperature |
| wèntí | 问题 | question |
| wǔ xiū  | 午休 | lunch break |
| **X** | xián  | 咸  | salty  |
| xiāng  | 香  | fragrant, aromatic |
| xiǎng (niàn) | 想(念) | to remember with longing |
| xiǎng jiā  | 想家 | homesick, missing home |
| xiāngtóng | 相同 | identical, same (adjective) |
| xiāngxìn | 相信 | to believe, to trust |
| xiǎoqì  | 小气 | stingy  |
| xiǎoxīn | 小心 | be careful, watch out |
| xiàozhǎng | 校长 | school principal  |
| xié | 鞋 | shoes |
| xìnxīn | 信心 | confidence |
| xīngxing | 星星 | stars  |
| xínglǐ | 行李 | luggage |
| xìngfèn | 兴奋 | excited, exciting |
| xiōngdì jiěmèi  | 兄弟姐妹 | siblings  |
| xīyī | 西医 | Western medicine |
| xǐzǎo  | 洗澡  | have a bath/shower |
| xuǎnkè  | 选课 | to select a subject |
| xuéqī | 学期 | school term, semester |
| **Y** | yá | 牙 | tooth, teeth |
| yáyī  | 牙医 | dentist |
| yǎnjing | 眼睛 | eyes |
| yánsè | 颜色 | colour  |
| yěcān | 野餐 | picnic |
| yídìng | 一定 | surely |
| yíhuì (ér) | 一会(儿) | for a while |
| yì | 亿 | one hundred million |
| yìzhí | 一直 | all the time |
| yǐzi | 椅子 | chair |
| yīntiān | 阴天 | overcast (weather) |
| yǐngxiǎng | 影响 | influence, to influence  |
| yínháng | 银行 | bank |
| yóukè | 游客 | travellers, tourist  |
| yǒukòng(ér) | 有空(儿) | free time |
| yǒushàn | 友善 | friendly |
| yuánlái | 原来 | original, as it turns out |
| yuànyì | 愿意 | to be willing to |
| yuèliang | 月亮 | moon |
| yǔyán | 语言 | language |
| **Z** | zāng  | 脏  | dirty  |
| zhǎng | 长 | to grow, leader of a team (eg, 班长) |
| zhǎo | 找 | to look for (eg, 找工作), to give change (eg, 找钱) |
| zhàogù | 照顾 | to take care of, to look after |
| zhàopiàn | 照片 | photo |
| zhàoxiàng | 照相 | to take a photo |
| zhèngqián  | 挣钱 | to earn money  |
| zhōngyī | 中医 | Chinese medicine |
| zhū | 猪 | pig |
| zhù  | 祝 | to wish (eg, 祝你生日快乐) |
| zhuōzi | 桌子 | desk, table |
| zhūròu  | 猪肉  | pork |
| zìdiǎn  | 字典  | dictionary |
| zuòxī shíjīan | 作息时间 | daily schedule, one’s personal timetable |
| zuòyè | 作业 | homework, assignment |
| zǔxiān  | 祖先 | ancestor  |