
Chinese NCEA Level 1
Vocabulary List (January 2024)

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 language in this Vocabulary List reflects the Significant Learning summarised in the Chinese (Mandarin) NCEA Learning Matrix. At Curriculum Level 6, students will:

- explore language commonly used to express personal information, ideas, and opinions in everyday contexts with reference to events or experiences in the present, as well as the past or future
- engage with and make meaning of a variety of text types, featuring connected sentence and paragraph-level expression and a range of very high frequency vocabulary
- develop one-way communicative skills to express simple information, ideas, and opinions
- develop a foundational awareness that oral features such as pronunciation, and intonations can communicate different meanings.

Note for internal assessments

The language used by students during internal assessment activities (and associated learning opportunities throughout the year) will reflect the teaching and learning of Chinese (Mandarin) that takes place within the context of each classroom. Teachers may extend the language they include in teaching and learning programmes to items and expressions beyond this Vocabulary List.

AS 91952 (1.1) Interact in spoken Chinese (Mandarin) to share and respond to information, ideas, and opinions

AS 91953 (1.2) Communicate in Chinese (Mandarin) for a chosen purpose

Note for external assessments

The first four sections of this Vocabulary List (Chinese to English, English to Chinese, Categories, and Grammar and Structures) contain language that candidates are expected to recognise for the NCEA Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) external assessments:

AS 91954 (1.3) Demonstrate understanding of written Chinese related to everyday contexts

AS 91955 (1.4) Demonstrate understanding of spoken Chinese (Mandarin) related to everyday contexts

Notes to teachers

In addition to the listed vocabulary, students are also expected to be able to recognise:

- Pinyin and associated tones
- days of the week and months of the year
- numbers, including words related to measurements.

Section 1 – Chinese to English

The Vocabulary List indicates language which will guide the setting of Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) external assessments. Words outside of the approved Vocabulary List will be glossed if their meaning is not evident from the text.

Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
ài	爱	to love, love
ài hào	爱好	hobby
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
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)
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	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)?
è	饿	hungry
èr	二	two
fàn	饭	cooked rice 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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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
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

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, browse the internet
shàng wǔ	上午	morning
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
sui	岁	year for age, number + 岁
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
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
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
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
yī fu	衣服	clothes
yī shēng	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
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
zài jiàn	再见	Goodbye see you again
zǎo fàn	早饭	breakfast
zǎo shàng	早上	morning
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 cat
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)

Section 2 – English to Chinese

	English	Pronunciation	Vocabulary	
A	a little bit	yì diǎn(er)	一点(儿)	
	activity	huó dòng	活动	
	aeroplane	fēi jī	飞机	
	afternoon	xià wǔ	下午	
	airport	fēi jī chǎng	飞机场	
	already	yǐ jīng	已经	
	angry	shēng qì	生气	
	animal	dòng wù	动物	
	apple	píngguǒ	苹果	
	arrive at/to	dào	到	
	Art (school subject)	měi shù	美术	
	to attend lessons	shàng kè	上课	
	to attend school	shàng xué	上学	
	autumn	qiū tiān	秋天	
B	basketball	lán qiú	篮球	
	bathroom, toilet (polite)	xǐ shǒu jiān	洗手间	
	to be called	jiào	叫	
	beach, seaside	hǎi biān	海边	
	beautiful (more formal)	měi lì	美丽	
	behind	hòu bian	后边	
	Beijing	běi jīng	北京	
	beside, next to	páng biān	旁边	
	bicycle	zì xíng chē	自行车	
	big	dà	大	
	birthday	shēng rì	生日	
	birthday party	shēng rì huì	生日会	
	black	hēi sè	黑色	
	blue	lán sè	蓝色	
	body	shēn tǐ	身体	
	book	shū	书	
	bookstore, book shop	shū diàn	书店	
	boys	nán shēng	男生	
	boys' school	nán xiào	男校	
	bread	miàn bāo	面包	
	breakfast	zǎo fàn	早饭	
	brush pen	máo bǐ	毛笔	
	bus	gōng gòng qì chē, gōng chē	公共汽车, 公车	
	bus stop	chē zhàn	车站	
	businessperson	shāng rén	商人	
	busy	máng	忙	
	to buy	mǎi	买	
	C	cake	dàn gāo	蛋糕

to call, to make a phone call	dǎ diàn huà	打电话
cat	māo	猫
cattle, cow, ox, bull	niú	牛
to celebrate (eg 过生日)	guò	过
centre	zhōng xīn	中心
cheap	pián yi	便宜
chicken meat, poultry	jī ròu	鸡肉
China	zhōng guó	中国
Chinese characters	hàn zì	汉字
Chinese (language, school subject)	zhōng wén	中文
Chinese (spoken language)	hàn yǔ	汉语
class	bān	班
classmate, schoolmate, fellow student	tóng xué	同学
classroom	jiào shì	教室
clothes	yī fu	衣服
coke	kě lè	可乐
cold	lěng	冷
come	lái	来
comfortable	shū fu	舒服
computer (including desktop and laptop)	diàn nǎo	电脑
convenient	fāng biàn	方便
cooked rice	mǐ fàn	米饭
cooked rice	fàn	饭
correct, right	duì	对
country	guó jiā	国家
to cross	guò	过
cuisine (eg 中国菜)	cài	菜
culture	wén huà	文化
cute, lovable, pretty	kě ài	可爱
D dad, father	bà ba	爸爸
to dance	tiào wǔ	跳舞
day (spoken)	hào	号
day (written)	rì	日
day	tiān	天
delicious, yummy	hǎo chī	好吃
difficult, hard	nán	难
dinner	wǎn fàn	晚饭
dish, a plate of food	cài	菜
to do, to make (eg 做饭)	zuò	做
doctor	yī shēng	医生
dog	gǒu	狗
door	mén	门
down	xià bian	下边
to draw, to paint	huà	画
dress	qúnzi	裙子

	to drink	hē	喝
	to drive a vehicle	kāi chē	开车
	dumpling	jiǎo zi	饺子
E	East	dōng bian	东边
	easy	róng yì	容易
	to eat	chī	吃
	egg	jī dàn	鸡蛋
	eight	bā	八
	electricity, power	diàn	电
	English (spoken, eg 说英语)	yīng yǔ	英语
	English (written, eg 写英文)	yīng wén	英文
	evening	wǎn shàng	晚上
	everybody, everyone	dà jiā	大家
	every day	měi tiān	每天
	examination, test	kǎo shì	考试
	Excuse me, I'm sorry	bù hǎo yì si	不好意思
	expensive	guì	贵
F	family, home, house	jiā	家
	family member(s)	jiā rén	家人
	family name, surname, to be surnamed	xìng	姓
	a family name, also means plum	lǐ	李
	a family name, also means king	wáng	王
	famous, well-known	yǒu míng	有名
	far	yuǎn	远
	fast	kuài	快
	to feel, to think	jué de	觉得
	female	nǚ	女
	festival	jié rì	节日
	to finish a lesson, class dismissed	xià kè	下课
	to finish school	fàng xué	放学
	to finish work	xià bān	下班
	fish	yú	鱼
	five	wǔ	五
	flower	huā	花
	foreign language	wài yǔ	外语
	foreigner	wài guó rén	外国人
	forget	wàng	忘
	four	sì	四
	fried rice	chǎo fàn	炒饭
	friend	péng yǒu	朋友
	friendly	yǒu hǎo	友好
	front	qián bian	前边
	fruit	shuǐ guǒ	水果
	to fry, to stirfry	chǎo	炒
	fun, interesting	hǎo wán(er)	好玩(儿)
G	games	yóu xì	游戏

garden	huā yuán	花园
girls	nǚ shēng	女生
girls' school	nǚ xiào	女校
to give	gěi	给
go (left, right), turn	wǎng ... zǒu	往(左, 右)走, 往(前)走
to go	qù	去
to go home, to return home	huí jiā	回家
to go online, browse the internet	shàng wǎng	上网
to go to work, to attend work	shàng bān	上班
good, nice	hǎo	好
Goodbye, see you again	zài jiàn	再见
good looking	hǎo kàn	好看
grandfather	yé ye	爷爷
grandmother	nǎi nai	奶奶
the Great Wall	cháng chéng	长城
green	lǜ sè	绿色
H hair	tóu fa	头发
half	yí bàn	一半
half + time period	bàn	半
hand	shǒu	手
happy, happiness	kuài lè	快乐
happy, pleased	gāo xìng	高兴
happy, pleased (informal)	kāi xīn	开心
to have a holiday	fàng jià	放假
to have a meeting/party (eg 开生日会)	kāi huì	开会
he, him	tā	他
head	tóu	头
health, fitness, wellbeing	jiàn kāng	健康
to hear about	tīng shuō	听说
Hello	nǐ hǎo	你好
Hello (respectfully)	nín hǎo	您好
to help	bāng zhù	帮助
here	zhè lǐ	这里
hobby	ài hào	爱好
horse	mǎ	马
hospital	yī yuàn	医院
hot	rè	热
hot dog	rè gǒu	热狗
hour	xiǎo shí	小时
how about, how is it?	zěn me yàng	怎么样
how long (time)?	duō jiǔ	多久
how many, how much?	duō shǎo	多少
how many, how much (for a small number)?	jǐ	几
how old?	duō dà	多大
how old (usually for children)?	jǐ suì	几岁

	how to?	zěn me	怎么
	hundred	bǎi	百
	hungry	è	饿
I	I	wǒ	我
	I'm sorry	duì bu qǐ	对不起
	immediately	mǎ shàng	马上
	important	zhòng yào	重要
	inside	lǐ bian	里边
	in total, altogether	yí gòng	一共
	interesting	yǒu yì si	有意思
	to invite	qǐng	请
	it	tā	它
J	job, to work	gōng zuò	工作
	juice	guǒ zhī	果汁
K	kick	tī	踢
	to know	zhī dào	知道
	Kungfu	gōng fu	功夫
L	last month	shàng ge yuè	上个月
	last week	shàng ge xīng qī	上个星期
	last year	qù nián	去年
	left side	zuǒ bian	左边
	less, few	shǎo	少
	lesson	kè	课
	library	tú shū guǎn	图书馆
	to like, to be fond of, to enjoy	xǐ huan	喜欢
	to listen, to hear	tīng	听
	to live, to stay	zhù	住
	long	cháng	长
	to look at (eg 看手机)	kàn	看
	to love, love	ài	爱
	lunch	wǔ fàn	午饭
M	male	nán	男
	Māori language (spoken)	máo lì yǔ	毛利语
	Māori language (written)	máo lì wén	毛利文
	Māori people	máo lì rén	毛利人
	Mathematics, Maths (school subject)	shù xué	数学
	matter, things	shì qing	事情
	meal (eg 吃饭, 早饭)	fàn	饭
	meaning	yì si	意思
	meat	ròu	肉
	to meet in-person	jiàn miàn	见面
	meeting	huì	会
	the Mid-Autumn Festival	zhōng qiū jié	中秋节
	middle	zhōng jiān	中间
	milk (cow's)	niú nǎi	牛奶
	million	bǎi wàn	百万

	minute	fēn zhōng	分钟	
	mobile phone, cell phone	shǒu jī	手机	
	money	qián	钱	
	month, number + 月	yuè	月	
	more, much, many	duō	多	
	morning	zǎo shàng	早上	
	morning	shàng wǔ	上午	
	the most commonly used measure word, for people and many everyday objects	gè	个	
	movie	diàn yǐng	电影	
	movie theatre, cinema	diàn yǐng yuàn	电影院	
	mum, mother	mā ma	妈妈	
	Music (school subject)	yīn yuè	音乐	
N	name	míng zi	名字	
	near, close to	jìn	近	
	Never mind	méi guān xi	没关系	
	new	xīn	新	
	New Year	xīn nián	新年	
	New Zealand	xīn xī lán	新西兰	
	next month	xià ge yuè	下个月	
	next to, beside	páng biān	旁边	
	next week	xià ge xīng qī	下个星期	
	next year	míng nián	明年	
	nine	jiǔ	九	
	noodles	miàn, miàn tiáo	面, 面条	
	noon	zhōng wǔ	中午	
	North	běi bian	北边	
	North Island	běi dǎo	北岛	
	not interesting, boring	méi yǒu yì si	没有意思	
	now	xiàn zài	现在	
	O	o'clock	diǎn	点
		often, usually	cháng cháng	常常
		old	lǎo	老
older brother		gē ge	哥哥	
older sister		jiě jie	姐姐	
one		yī	一	
to open, to turn on (eg 打开电视)		dǎ kāi	打开	
opposite		duì miàn	对面	
to order dishes		diǎn cài	点菜	
ordinal number = 第 + number		dì	第	
outside		wài bian	外边	
P		painting	huà	画
	park	gōng yuán	公园	
	pen or pencil	bǐ	笔	
	person, people, human	rén	人	

	Physical Education, PE (school subject)	tǐ yù	体育
	place, area	dì fang	地方
	to play, to have fun	wán(er)	玩(儿)
	to play ball games (except for soccer)	dǎ qiú	打球
	to play soccer	tī zú qiú	踢足球
	pleasant to hear	hǎo tīng	好听
	please (eg 请坐)	qǐng	请
	plural pronoun = personal pronoun + 们	mén	~们
	practice, to practise	liàn xí	练习
	to prepare, to get ready	zhǔn bèi	准备
	present, gift	lǐ wù	礼物
	pretty, beautiful	piào liang	漂亮
	primary school	xiǎo xué	小学
	progress, improvement	jìn bù	进步
Q	question particle for yes-no questions	ma	吗
R	to rain	xià yǔ	下雨
	to read (eg 看书)	kàn	看
	recently, lately	zuì jìn	最近
	red	hóng sè	红色
	red envelope, red packet, red pocket	hóng bāo	红包
	to rest, to take a break	xiū xi	休息
	restaurant	fàn guǎn(er)	饭馆(儿)
	to ride (eg 骑自行车)	qí	骑
	right side	yòu bian	右边
	river	hé	河
	road, street	mǎ lù	马路
	rugby	gǎn lǎn qiú	橄榄球
	to run	pǎo bù	跑步
S	the same, identical	yí yàng	一样
	to say, to speak, to talk	shuō	说
	school	xué xiào	学校
	school bag	shū bāo	书包
	school bus	xiào chē	校车
	school uniform	xiào fú	校服
	school work, homework	gōng kè	功课
	Science (school subject)	kē xué	科学
	secondary school	zhōng xué	中学
	secondary school student	zhōng xué shēng	中学生
	See you tomorrow	míng tiān jiàn	明天见
	to see somebody off	sòng	送
	to sell	mài	卖
	to send, to give, to deliver	sòng	送

seven	qī	七
Shanghai	shàng hǎi	上海
she, her	tā	她
sheep	yáng	羊
shop	shāng diàn	商店
shopping mall	shāng chǎng	商场
should	yīng gāi	应该
to treat someone to something (eg a meal)	qǐng	请
to get sick, to be sick	shēng bìng	生病
side	biān/miàn	边/面
to sing (a song/songs)	chàng gē	唱歌
to sit (eg 坐下)	zuò	坐
six	liù	六
skirt	qúnzi	裙子
to sleep	shuì jiào	睡觉
slice, for cake; currency unit	kuài	块
slow	màn	慢
small, little, young	xiǎo	小
snacks, dim sum	diǎn xin	点心
to snow	xià xuě	下雪
some	yì xiē	一些
some	yǒu de	有的
sometimes	yǒu shí hou	有时候
South	nán bian	南边
South Island	nán dǎo	南岛
sports field	yùn dòng chǎng	运动场
sports, exercise, to exercise	yùn dòng	运动
spring (the season)	chūn tiān	春天
the Spring Festival, the Chinese New Year	chūn jié	春节
stadium, gym	tǐ yù guǎn	体育馆
to start, to begin, beginning	kāi shǐ	开始
steamed bun	bāo zi	包子
student	xué sheng	学生
to study	xué xí	学习
stuff, things	dōng xi	东西
summer (season)	xià tiān	夏天
Sunday	xīng qī rì, tiān	星期日, 天
to swim	yóu yǒng	游泳
T table tennis, ping pong	pīng pāng qiú	乒乓球
to take transportation (eg 坐 + type of transportation)	zuò	坐
to take, to bring	dài	带
to talk, to speak (never with an object)	shuō huà	说话
tall, high	gāo	高

tea	chá	茶
teacher	lǎo shī	老师
telephone	diàn huà	电话
television, TV	diàn shì	电视
to tell	gào su	告诉
ten	shí	十
ten thousand	wàn	万
Thank you	xiè xie	谢谢
that	nà	那
that one	nà, nèi ge	那个
there	nà lǐ	那里
these	zhè xiē	这些
thirsty	kě	渴
this	zhè	这
this month	zhè ge yuè	这个月
this one	zhè, zhèi ge	这个
this week	zhè ge xīng qī	这个星期
this year	jīn nián	今年
those	nà xiē	那些
thousand	qiān	千
three	sān	三
ticket	piào	票
time	shí jiān	时间
tired	lèi	累
today	jīn tiān	今天
together	yì qǐ	一起
tomorrow	míng tiān	明天
top (clothes)	shàng yī	上衣
train	huǒ chē	火车
train station	huǒ chē zhàn	火车站
trousers, pants	kù zi	裤子
turn (left, right), go straight	wǎng ... zǒu	往(左, 右)走, 往(前)走
two	èr	二
two (when used before a measure word)	liǎng	两
U ugly	nán kàn	难看
the United Kingdom	yīng guó	英国
the United States of America, USA	měi guó	美国
university	dà xué	大学
university student	dà xué shēng	大学生
up	shàng bian	上边
to use	yòng	用
useful	yǒu yòng	有用
used for family members	kǒu	口
often used for items such as clothes	jiàn	件

	often used for long, thin things such as pants, fish	tiáo	条	
	often used for the number of academic subjects	mén	门	
	often used for the number of classes	jié	节	
	often used for small animals such as cat	zhī	只	
	used when asking a question based on something mentioned immediately before (eg ...你呢?, ...and you?)	ne	呢	
V	vegetable	cài	菜	
	vehicle	chē	车	
	to visit (eg 看 + person, people)	kàn	看	
	volcano	huǒ shān	火山	
	volume for books	běn	本	
W	to wait	děng	等	
	to wake up	qǐ chuáng	起床	
	to walk	zǒu lù	走路	
	wallet, purse	qián bāo	钱包	
	to wash	xǐ	洗	
	to watch (eg 看电视)	kàn	看	
	water	shuǐ	水	
	to wear, to put on	chuān	穿	
	weather	tiān qì	天气	
	week, 星期 + number (except Sunday)	xīng qī	星期~	
	weekend	zhōu mò	周末	
	Welcome	huān yíng	欢迎	
	West	xī bian	西边	
	what?	shén me	什么	
	what date, what number?	jǐ hào	几号	
	what time?	jǐ diǎn	几点	
	when?	shén me shí hou	什么时候	
	where?	nǎ lǐ	哪里	
	which...?	nǎ	哪 + noun	
	which day of the week?	xīng qī jǐ	星期几	
	which one?	nǎ ge	哪个	
	white	bái sè	白色	
	who?	shéi , shuí	谁	
	whose?	shéi de, shuí de	谁的	
	why?	wèi shén me	为什么	
	wind	fēng	风	
	winter	dōng tiān	冬天	
	wool jumper	máo yī	毛衣	
	to write	xiě	写	
	Y	year for age, number + 岁	sùì	岁

	year for calendar, number + 年	nián	年
	year level	nián jí	年级
	yellow	huáng sè	黄色
	yesterday	zuó tiān	昨天
	you	nǐ	你
	you (respectful form)	nín	您
	You are welcome	bù kè qì	不客气
	younger brother	dì di	弟弟
	younger sister	mèi mei	妹妹
Z	zero	líng	零, 0
	zoo	dòng wù yuán	动物园

Section 3 – Grammar and Structures

Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English	Structure Notes (Examples are suggestions only)
shì	是	[1] yes, to confirm a Yes-or-No question [2] similar to "am, is, are" but only used to link two nouns	to confirm a yes-no question
bù	不	[1] no, to negate a Yes-or-No question [2] don't (不 + verb/adjective)	to negate a yes-no question, eg 不吃
bú shì	不是	negation of 是	negation of 是
shì bu shì	是不是	is or is not, yes or no, whether or not	
yě	也	also, too (but never used at the end of the sentence)	never used at the end of the sentence
hái shì	还是	or (used in a choice question), eg A 还是 B	
yǒu	有	[1] to have, indicating possession [2] there is, indicating existence	
méi yǒu	没有	negation of 有	
hé	和	and (only for joining words instead of sentences)	only for joining words instead of sentences
dōu	都	both, all	
hěn	很	similar to very (很+adjective), eg 他很高	很 + adjective
fēi cháng	非常	extremely	
zuì	最	the most	
ba	吧	indicating a suggestion	
de	的	[1] possessive pronoun (pronoun + 的), eg 我的 [2] equivalent to the apostrophe "s" (noun 1 + 的 + noun 2), eg 老师的名字 [3] descriptive particle (adjective + 的 + noun), eg 漂亮的衣服 [4] indicating a collection of objects (verb + 的), eg 吃的	
dé	得	indicating a descriptive compliment (verb + 得 + adjective), eg 说得好	verb + 得 + adjective
zài	在	[1] to be located at, eg 在家 [2] an action is in progress, eg 在吃饭	在 + place
guò	过	indicating an experienced action and usually a past action, eg 我去过上海	
xiǎng	想	would like to	
yào	要	[1] to want, must	

		[2] something is likely to happen soon, eg 要下雨了	
huì	会	[1] can, indicating an ability based on learning and knowledge, eg 我会开车 [2] indicating a future time, similar to "will", eg 我会来	pronoun + 会 + verb
bú huì	不会	negation of 会	
kě yǐ	可以	[1] can, express knowledge-based or physical ability [2] can, express permission to perform an action	
kě shì	可是	but	
le	了	[1] indicating an action/event is complete (subject + verb + 了 [+ modifier object]), eg 我看了一个电影 [2] indicating the event is complete (used at the end of the sentence), eg 她去图书馆了 [3] indicating a change of status (used at the end of the sentence), eg 要下雨了	used at the end of the sentence
tài...le	太...了	indicating exceptionally or extremely	
cóng...dào...	从...到...	from... to...	
...de shí hòu	...的时候	when..., eg 15 岁的时候	
A duì B	...对...	indicating the influence of A to B, (A 对 B + [modifier]) adjective, eg 运动对身体好	A 对 B + adjective
suī rán ... dàn shì	虽然...但是	even though... but..., although	
yīn wèi... suǒ yǐ...	因为...所以...	because... so/therefore...	
xiān...rán hòu...	先...然后...	first... then...	
...bǐ...	...比...	to make a comparison between A and B (A 比 B + adjective), eg A 比 B 高	A 比 B + adjective
rú guǒ... jiù...	如果...就...	if... then....	
jiù	就	just (emphasis); right away	
...lí...jìn	...离...近	... is near from ...	
...lí...yuǎn	...离...远	... is far from ...	
...yǐ qián	...以前	before an action is completed	
...yǐ hòu	...以后	after an action is completed	

Section 4 – Expressions and sample sentences

(These are suggestions only for teaching and learning)

Function	Pronunciation	Expression	English
Greetings and leave taking	lǎo shī hǎo	老师好	Hello, teacher
	zǎo/zǎo shàng hǎo	早/早上好	Morning/Good morning
	chī le ma?	吃了吗?	Have you eaten?
	nǐ qù nǎ?	你去哪?	Where are you going?
	máng shén me ne?	忙什么呢?	Are you busy?
	nín guì xìng?	您贵姓?	What is your honourable surname?
	hěn gāo xìng rèn shi nǐ	很高兴认识你	Nice to meet you
	yí huì jiàn	一会见	See you soon
	wǒ yào zǒu le	我要走了	I've got to go
	wǒ men zǒu ba!	我们走吧!	Let's go!
Praise	fēi cháng hǎo!	非常好!	Excellent! Well done!
	nǐ shì zuì hǎo de	你是最好的	You are the best
	tài hǎo wán le!	太好玩了!	It's really fun!
	tài hǎo chī le!	太好吃了!	That was so delicious!
Classroom instructions	qǐng jìn	请进	Please come in
	qǐng zuò	请坐	Please be seated
	dǎ kāi shū	打开书	Please open the book
	bú yào shuō huà	不要说话	Please keep quiet
	bù kě yǐ yòng shǒu jī	不可以用手机	You are not allowed to use your mobile phone
Surprises	wǒ de tiān!	我的天!	Oh my goodness!
	bú shì ba!	不是吧!	No way!
	nǐ shuō shén me? (also used for asking for clarification)	你说什么?	What did you say?
Comments	hái kě yǐ	还可以	That's not bad
	nǐ shuō de duì!	你说的对!	You are right!
Asking for permission	wǒ kě yǐ qù xǐ shǒu jiān ma?	我可以去洗手间吗?	May I please go to the toilet?
	wǒ kě yǐ qù hē shuǐ ma?	我可以喝水吗?	May I please drink water?
	wǒ kě yǐ wán shǒu jī ma?	我可以玩手机吗?	May I please play with my mobile phone?
Discussing well-being	nǐ zěn me le?	你怎么了?	Are you alright?
	wǒ bú tài shū fu	我不太舒服	I don't feel so well
	wǒ shēng bìng le	我生病了	I'm sick
	duō hē rè shuǐ	多喝热水	Drink more warm water
	xiū xi xiū xi	休息休息	Have a rest

	wǒmen míngtiān qù kàn nǐ	我们明天去看你	We will visit you tomorrow
	wǒ xiǎng chī yì diǎn dōng xī	我想吃一点东西	I want to eat something
	wǒ bù kěyǐ chī ròu	我不可以吃肉	I can't eat meat
Offering help	wǒ lái ba	我来吧	Let me do it
	wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ	我可以帮助你	Let me help you
Indicating ability	wǒ huì shuō yì diǎn zhōng wén	我会说一点中文	I can speak a little bit of Chinese
	wǒ bú huì kāi chē	我不会开车	I can't drive
Internet and calls	zhè yǒu Wi-Fi ma?	这有 Wi-Fi 吗?	Do you have Wi-fi here?
	wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ diàn huà	我给你打电话	I will give you a call
	shǒu jī méi diàn le	手机没电了	My phone is flat
Coming to a meeting	wǒ lái wǎn le	我来晚了	I'm late
	mǎ shàng lái	马上来!	I'll be right there
Giving	gěi nǐ	给你	There you are
	zài lái yí gè	再来一个	One more
Refusing	bú yào	不要	I don't want it
	bù kě yǐ	不可以	It's not okay
Watching out	xiǎo xīn	小心	Watch out!
	yào xià yǔ le	要下雨了!	It's going to rain soon

Section 5 – Categories

Words related to directions		
Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
biān/miàn	边/面	side
duìmiàn	对面	opposite
dōng bian	东边	East
xī bian	西边	West
nán bian	南边	South
nán dǎo	南岛	South Island
běi bian	北边	North
běi dǎo	北岛	North Island
zuǒ bian	左边	left side
yòu bian	右边	right side
shàng bian	上边	up
xià bian	下边	down
qián bian	前边	front
hòu bian	后边	behind
lǐ bian	里边	inside
wài bian	外边	outside
zhōng jiān	中间	middle
zhōng xīn	中心	centre
páng biān	旁边	next to, beside
wǎng ... zǒu	往(左, 右)走, 往(前)走	turn (left, right), go straight

Words related to numbers		
Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
líng	零, 0	zero
yī	一	one
èr	二	two
liǎng	两	two (when used before a measure word)
sān	三	three
sì	四	four
wǔ	五	five
liù	六	six
qī	七	seven
bā	八	eight
jiǔ	九	nine
shí	十	ten
bǎi	百	hundred
qiān	千	thousand
wàn	万	ten thousand
bǎi wàn	百万	million
dì	第	第 + number = ordinal number

Words related to questions		
Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
duō dà	多大	how old?
duō shǎo	多少	how many, how much?
duō jiǔ	多久	how long (time)?
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)?
nǎ	哪 + noun	which...?
nǎ ge	哪个	which one?
nǎ lǐ	哪里	where?
ne	呢	used when asking a question based on something mentioned immediately before (eg ...你呢?, ...and you?)
ma	吗	question particle for yes-no questions
shéi , shuí	谁	who?
shéi de, shuí de	谁的	whose?
shén me	什么	what?
shén me shí hou	什么时候	when?
wèi shén me	为什么	why?
xīng qī jǐ	星期几	which day of the week?
zěn me	怎么	how to?
zěn me yàng	怎么样	how about, how is it?

Words related to time		
Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
suì	岁	year for age, number + 岁
nián	年	year for calendar, number + 年
qù nián	去年	last year
jīn nián	今年	this year
míng nián	明年	next year
yuè	月	month, number + 月
shàng ge yuè	上个月	last month
zhè ge yuè	这个月	this month
xià ge yuè	下个月	next month
xīng qī	星期~	week, 星期 + number (except Sunday)
xīng qī rì, tiān	星期日, 天	Sunday
shàng ge xīng qī	上个星期	last week
zhè ge xīng qī	这个星期	this week
xià ge xīng qī	下个星期	next week
zhōu mò	周末	weekend
tiān	天	day
zuó tiān	昨天	yesterday
jīn tiān	今天	today
míng tiān	明天	tomorrow
měi tiān	每天	every day

rì	日	day (written)
hào	号	day (spoken)
diǎn	点	o'clock
fēn zhōng	分钟	minute
xiǎo shí	小时	hour
bàn	半	half + time period
zǎo shàng	早上	morning
shàng wǔ	上午	morning
zhōng wǔ	中午	noon
xià wǔ	下午	afternoon
wǎn shàng	晚上	evening
zǎo fàn	早饭	breakfast
wǔ fàn	午饭	lunch
wǎn fàn	晚饭	dinner

Words related to names

Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
míng zì	名字	name
jiào	叫	to be called
xìng	姓	family name, surname, to be surnamed
lǐ	李	a family name, also means plum
wáng	王	a family name, also means king

Words related to measurements

Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
gè	个	the most commonly used measure word, for people and many everyday objects
běn	本	volume for books
jiàn	件	often used for items such as clothes
jié	节	often used for the number of classes
kǒu	口	used for family members
kuài	块	slice, for cake; currency unit
mén	门	often used for the number of academic subjects
tiáo	条	often used for long, thin things such as pants, fish
zhī	只	often used for small animals such as cat

Personal pronouns		
Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
wǒ	我	I
nín	您	you (respectful form)
nǐ	你	you
tā	他	he, him
tā	她	she, her
tā	它	it
mén	~们	personal pronoun + 们 = plural pronoun

Demonstrative pronouns		
Pronunciation	Vocabulary	English
zhè	这	this
zhè, zhèi ge	这个	this one
zhè lǐ	这里	here
zhè xiē	这些	these
nà	那	that
nà, nài ge	那个	that one
nà xiē	那些	those
nà lǐ	那里	there
yǒu de	有的	some

Fixed functional expressions			
Function	Pronunciation	Expression	English
Greetings and leave taking	nǐ hǎo	你好	Hello
	nín hǎo	您好	Hello (respectfully)
	huān yíng	欢迎	Welcome
	zài jiàn	再见	Goodbye see you again
	míng tiān jiàn	明天见	See you tomorrow
Thanks	xiè xie	谢谢	Thank you
	bù kè qi	不客气	You are welcome
Apologies	duì bu qǐ	对不起	I'm sorry
	méi guān xi	没关系	Never mind
	bù hǎo yì si	不好意思	Excuse me, I'm sorry