

## NCEA Level 1 Chinese (Mandarin) Revised Vocabulary List 2025 Easy-print PDF version

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](#).

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).

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
<b>A</b>	ài	爱	to love, love
	ài hào	爱好	hobby
<b>B</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	
<b>C</b>	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)
<b>D</b>	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)?
<b>E</b>	è	饿	hungry
	èr	二	two
<b>F</b>	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
<b>G</b>	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
<b>H</b>	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
<b>J</b>	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
<b>K</b>	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
<b>L</b>	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
<b>M</b>	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
<b>N</b> 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
<b>P</b>	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
<b>Q</b>	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
<b>R</b>	rè	热	hot
	rè gǒu	热狗	hot dog
	rén	人	person, people, human
	rì	日	day (written)
	róng yi	容易	easy
	ròu	肉	meat
<b>S</b>	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	
	sui	岁	year for age, number + 岁	
<b>T</b>	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	
<b>W</b>	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	
	<b>X</b>	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
<b>Z</b> 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)