

NCEA Level 2 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 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](#).

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:
• 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).

	Pinyin	Chinese	English
A	āyí	阿姨	auntie
	àixīn	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
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

	dào chù	到处	everywhere
	dà fāng	大方	generous
	dà rén	大人	adult
	dǎ suàn	打算	to plan to do
	dà yī	大衣	coat, jacket
	dēng jī	登机	board a plane
	dī	低	low
	dì tiě	地铁	subway, underground train
	diàn shāng	电商	online business
	dú	读	to read, to attend
	dù	度	degree (temperature, level)
	duǎn	短	short (length)
	duǎn xìn	短信	text message
	duì	队	team (eg, 橄榄球队)
	duì miàn	对面	opposite side
	duō shù	多数	majority
	duō yún	多云	cloudy, partly cloudy
	dù zi	肚子	stomach, tummy
E	é tóng	儿童	children, kids
F	fā	发	to send a message or email (eg, 发短信)
	fàng	放	to put, to place
	fáng jiān	房间	room
	fáng zi	房子	house
	fā xiàn	发现	to find out, to discover, discovery
	fǎ yǔ	法语	French (language)
	fēi cháng	非常	very, extremely
	fú wù	服务	service, to service
	fú wù yuán	服务员	waiter, waitress
	fù xí	复习	to review, to revise
G	gān jìng	干净	clean
	gǎn dòng	感动	to be moved, to be touched
	gāng cái	刚才	just now
	gǎn mào	感冒	have a cold/flu, cold
	gāo zhōng	高中	high school, secondary school
	gè zi	个子	height of a person
	gōng chéng shī	工程师	engineer
	gōng jīn	公斤	kilogram
	gōng lǐ	公里	kilometre
	gōng rén	工人	worker
	gōng sī	公司	company
	gòu	够	enough, sufficient
	guā fēng	刮风	windy
	guān xi	关系	relationship
	guǎng chǎng	广场	square, plaza
	guān xīn	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
	hào xué	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
	huá chuán	划船	boating
	huài chù	坏处	disadvantages
	huài le	坏了	broken
	huán	还	to return
	huáng hé	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
	jí gé	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
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
	xīngxīng	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
yáyī		牙医	dentist
yǎnjīng		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
	zuòxiǎn shíjiān	作息时间	daily schedule, one's personal timetable
	zuòyè	作业	homework, assignment
	zǔxiān	祖先	ancestor