

NCEA Level 3 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 3 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 8. 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).

At Level 3, candidates may also be expected to make informed guesses about unfamiliar words in external assessment texts using context and prior knowledge.

Notes to teachers

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

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• items from relevant L1 and L2 Chinese (Mandarin) Vocabulary Lists• rules and patterns of word formation• where a compound word can be easily constructed using basic characters at previous levels• relevant classifiers for nouns covered in the list• obvious loan words such as 咖啡 (kāfēi), 巧克力 (qiǎokèlì). |
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	Pinyin	Chinese	English	Vocabulary Class
A	ài qíng	爱情	romantic love	noun
B	bào gào	报告	to report, report	verb, noun
	bǎo hù	保护	to protect	verb
	bào míng	报名	to sign up	verb
	bì xū	必须	must, have to	modal verb
	biàn huà	变化	change	noun
	bù rú	不如	not as good	verb
	bù tài	不太	not quite	chunk
C	chá	查	to search	verb
	chāo guò	超过	to surpass	verb
	chú le	除了	except, besides	preposition
D	dài biǎo	代表	to represent, representation	verb, noun
	dì tú	地图	map	noun
	duō me	多么	how (used in exclamations)	adverb
F	fǎn duì	反对	to oppose	verb
	fāng fǎ	方法	method	noun
	fàng xīn	放心	to feel relieved	verb
	fù qīn	父亲	father	noun
	fù jìn	附近	nearby	noun
G	gǎn jué	感觉	to feel, feeling	verb, noun
	gǎn xiè	感谢	to thank	verb
	gēn běn	根本	fundamental, absolutely, base	adjective, adverb, noun
	gōng mín	公民	citizen	noun
	guān zhù	关注	to follow with interest	verb
H	hài pà	害怕	to be afraid	verb
	hé píng	和平	peaceful, peace	adjective, noun
	hé shì	合适	appropriate	adjective
	hòu lái	后来	later, after that	adverb
	huá rén	华人	overseas Chinese	noun
	huán jìng	环境	environment	noun
	huí shōu	回收	to recycle	verb
J	jì huà	计划	to plan, plan	verb, noun
	jī huì	机会	chance	noun
	jiǎn dān	简单	simple	adjective
	jiāng lái	将来	future	noun
	jiāo liú	交流	to exchange (information), exchange	verb, noun
	jié guǒ	结果	result, as a result	noun, conjunction
	jié shù	结束	to end	verb
	jiě jué	解决	to solve	verb
	jīng guò	经过	to pass by	verb
	jīng yàn	经验	experience	noun
	jiù	旧	old	adjective
	jù shuō	据说	it is said	verb
K	kàn fǎ	看法	view	noun
	kě pà	可怕	fearful	adjective

	kōng jiān	空间	space	noun
L	lā jī	垃圾	rubbish	noun
	lè guān	乐观	optimistic	adjective
	lèi sì	类似	similar	adjective
	lì yòng	利用	to make use of	verb
	lǐ yóu	理由	reason	noun
	liáo tiān	聊天(儿)	to chat	verb
	liú lì	流利	fluent	adjective
M	mǎn yì	满意	to be satisfied	verb
	méi tǐ	媒体	media	noun
	mèng xiǎng	梦想	to dream of, dream	verb, noun
	miàn duì	面对	to face	verb
	míng bái	明白	to understand	adjective, verb
	mù dì	目的	purpose	noun
N	néng lì	能力	ability	noun
	nián qīng	年轻	young	adjective
	nǔ lì	努力	hard-working	adjective
P	pá	爬	to climb	verb
	pái duì	排队	to line up	verb object
	píng cháng	平常	usual, usual practice	adjective, noun
	píng děng	平等	equal	adjective
Q	qí shí	其实	actually	adverb
	qìng zhù	庆祝	to celebrate	verb
R	rè nào	热闹	lively, to liven up	adjective, verb
	rèn zhēn	认真	serious, carefully	adjective
S	shāng pǐn	商品	commodity	noun
	shè huì	社会	Social Studies (school subject)	noun
	shè jì	设计	to design, scheme	verb, noun
	shēng mìng	生命	life	noun
	shēng yì	生意	business	noun
	shēng yīn	声音	sound, voice	noun
	shì jiè	世界	world	noun
	shì shí	事实	fact	noun
	shǐ yòng	使用	to use	verb
	shōu rù	收入	to receive money, income	verb, noun
	shuǐ píng	水平	level	noun
T	tài dù	态度	manner, attitude	noun
	tǎo lùn	讨论	to discuss	verb
	tí chū	提出	to put forward	verb + complement
	tǐ yàn	体验	to learn from experience	verb
	tián	甜	sweet	adjective
	tiān kōng	天空	sky	noun
	tiáo jiàn	条件	condition, requirement	noun
	tiáo zhěng	调整	to adjust	verb
	tū rán	突然	sudden	adjective
W	wán chéng	完成	to complete	verb
	wán měi	完美	perfect	adjective

	wàng jì	忘记	to forget	verb
	wēi xiǎn	危险	dangerous, danger	adjective, noun
	wēn nuǎn	温暖	warm, to warm	adjective, verb
	wū rǎn	污染	pollution	noun
X	xí guàn	习惯	be used to, habit	verb, noun
	xī wàng	希望	to hope, hope	verb, noun
	xiàn dài	现代	modern times	noun
	xiàn shí	现实	reality	noun
	xiǎng dào	想到	to think of	verb
	xiǎng fǎ	想法	idea	noun
	xīn qíng	心情	mood	noun
	xīn xiān	新鲜	fresh	adjective
	xìng fú	幸福	happy, happiness	adjective, noun
	xìng yùn	幸运	lucky, good luck	adjective, noun
	xū yào	需要	to need, need	verb, noun
	xuǎn zé	选择	to select, choice	verb, noun
Y	yī bān	一般	general	adjective
	yí mín	移民	to immigrate, immigration	verb, noun
	yì yì	意义	meaning	noun
	yìn xiàng	印象	impression	noun
	yù dào	遇到	to encounter	verb
	yuē	约	to make an appointment	verb
Z	zhèng shì	正式	formal	adjective
	zhī chí	支持	to support	verb
	zhì yuàn zhě	志愿者	volunteer	noun
	zhǐ hǎo	只好	with no choice but	adverb
	zhōng yú	终于	finally	adverb
	zhù yì	注意	to notice	verb
	zì rán	自然	natural, naturally, nature	adjective, adverb, noun
	zì xìn	自信	self-confident, self-confidence	adjective, noun
	zú gòu	足够	sufficient, to satisfy	adjective, verb
	zuò pǐn	作品	works	noun

Idioms		
Pinyin	Chinese	English
qīn rú yì jiā, qíng tóng shǒu zú.	亲如一家，情同手足。	As close as one family, as close as brothers/sisters.
rù xiāng suí sú.	入乡随俗。	When in Rome, do as the Romans do.
tiān xià yì jiā.	天下一家。	The world as one family (implying global unity and harmony).
tóng zhōu gòng jì.	同舟共济。	We are all in this together.
zūn lǎo ài yòu.	尊老爱幼。	Respect the elderly and care for the young.