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| Chinese NCEA Level 1  Vocabulary List (January 2024) |

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| 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. |
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| 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. |
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| **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 |
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| **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 |
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| **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. |
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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.

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| **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 |  |
| suì | 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 qíng | 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 | duìmiàn | 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 | suì | 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 qi | 不客气 |
|  | younger brother | dì di | 弟弟 |
|  | younger sister | mèi mei | 妹妹 |
| **Z** | zero | líng | 零, O |
|  | 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 |  |
| dǎkāi 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 xi | 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, O | 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 zi | 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, nèi 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 |