

中文基础包

Chinese Starter Kit

Your first 30 minutes with Mandarin — free forever.

Pinyin & Tones · 20 Essential Phrases · First 10 Characters · Numbers

How to use this kit

Mandarin is simpler than it looks: no verb conjugation, no gender, no plural forms, no alphabet to memorize — pinyin tells you how to say every word. Spend 10 minutes on tones, 10 minutes on the 20 phrases, and 10 minutes on characters. Then go say *Nǐ hǎo* to someone. That's how it starts.

1 · The Four Tones 四个声调

Every Mandarin syllable carries one of four tones. Same letters, different tone, different word. Say them like this:

Tone	Example	Pitch pattern	Meaning
1st (high)	m ā	High and flat — like singing a note	妈 mother
2nd (rising)	m á	Rising — like asking 'what?'	麻 hemp
3rd (dipping)	m	Down, then up — like a sigh of doubt	马 horse
4th (falling)	m à	Sharp falling — like a firm 'no!'	骂 to scold

Plus a light neutral tone (ma, no mark) used in particles like 吗 ma (question marker).

2 · Pinyin in 5 Minutes 拼音速览

Pinyin is Mandarin written in Latin letters. Most letters sound close to English — watch out for these exceptions:

Pinyin	Sounds like	Example
q	'ch' in cheese	qǐ (起) — to rise
x	'sh' but softer	xiè (谢) — thank
zh	'j' in jump	zhōng (中) — middle
c	'ts' in cats	cài (菜) — food/vegetable
z	'ds' in beds	zǎo (早) — early
r	like 's' in measure	rén (人) — person
ü	lips rounded, say 'ee'	lǜ (绿) — green

Every syllable = initial (consonant) + final (vowel). Example: h- o, x-i è , zh- ō ng.

3 · 20 Essential Phrases 二十句必备

中文	Pinyin	English
你好	Nǐ hǎo	Hello
早上好	Zǎoshang hǎo	Good morning
谢谢	Xièxie	Thank you
不客气	Bú kèqi	You're welcome
对不起	Duì buqǐ	Sorry / excuse me
没关系	Méiguānxi	It's okay / no problem
再见	Zàijiàn	Goodbye
是 / 不是	Shì / Búshì	Yes (is) / no (is not)
我叫...	Wǒ jiào...	My name is...
你叫什么名字？	Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?	What's your name?
我不懂	Wǒ bù dǒng	I don't understand
你会说英文吗？	Nǐ huì shuō Yīngwén ma?	Do you speak English?
多少钱？	Duōshao qián?	How much is it?
太贵了！	Tàiguì le!	Too expensive!
便宜一点吧	Piányi yìdiǎn ba	Can you make it cheaper?
卫生间在哪里？	Wèishēngjiān zài nǎlǐ?	Where is the restroom?
我要这个	Wǒ yào zhège	I want this one
买单	Mǎidān	Check, please
好吃！	Hǎochī!	Delicious!
干杯！	Gānbēi!	Cheers!

4 · Your First 10 Characters 最初的十个汉字

Characters are not random — many are drawings. Learn these ten and you'll start seeing them everywhere, inside bigger characters.

字	Pinyin	Meaning	Why it looks like that
人	rén	person	Two strokes leaning on each other — a walking person
口	kǒu	mouth / opening	A simple box — an open mouth
日	rì	sun / day	The sun with a dot (now a line) inside
月	yuè	moon / month	A crescent moon
山	shān	mountain	Three peaks — the middle one tallest
水	shuǐ	water	A flowing stream with splashes
火	huǒ	fire	Flames rising from a person-shaped base
木	mù	tree / wood	A tree: trunk, branches, roots
心	xīn	heart	The heart with its chambers
手	shǒu	hand	Fingers on a palm

Try it: 木 (tree) + 木 = 林 (forest). 人 + 人 = 从 (to follow). Characters are Lego.

5 · Numbers 数字

Number	中文	Pinyin
1	一	y ī
2	二	è r
3	三	s ā n
4	四	s ì
5	五	w
6	六	li ù
7	七	q ī
8	八	b ā
9	九	ji
10	十	sh í
100	百	b i
1,000	千	qi ā n

Build any number: 11 = 十一 (ten-one), 25 = 二十五 (two-ten-five), 368 = 三百六十八. Now you can hear any price — try 多少钱? on your next trip.

Keep going — free

This kit is the first step. Free forever at thechinesepath.com: the Learn Chinese portal, culture deep-dives (food, festivals, calligraphy), daily flashcards and a 2-minute level check. When you're ready for 500 real-world Chinese phrases across 12 scenarios — travel, food, business, culture — the 500 Chinese Phrases pack is \$9.90.

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