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Amedeo  
*Chinese*

*HSK1 ~ For Medical Students & Physicians*

  
STEINHÄUSER

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Amedeo Chinese

HSK 1

[www.AmedeoChinese.com](http://www.AmedeoChinese.com)

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# Amedeo Chinese

HSK 1 – For Medical Students & Physicians

A multimedia Chinese course in 21 languages: English,  
Arabic, Bengali, Dutch, Farsi, French, German, Hindi,  
Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese,  
Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian,  
Urdu, Vietnamese

Steinhäuser

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### **Disclaimer**

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## Preface

*Amedeo Chinese: HSK 1 — For Medical Students and Physicians* is a fast-track course for trained learners beginning Chinese. “Fast-track” does not mean “easy.” It means we assume you know how to study: daily, intensely, and patiently.

We emphasize two principles that many language courses treat too lightly. First, listen to sentences again and again — five times, ten times, sometimes more. Speech recognition develops slowly. Even familiar words may take months to be recognized instantly in real time by the ear and brain. Second, vocabulary is non-negotiable. You cannot understand human speech without knowing the words. That is why *Amedeo Chinese* asks you to learn new words every day, seven days a week.

We have built a suite of focused exercises to make this possible: text study, word study, audio loops, Bubble Mode, autoplay, and spaced repetition. Read the Study Guide — and the *Amedeo Chinese Guide for Teachers*, if you teach — to understand how these tools work together.

Take a look around. See how *Amedeo Chinese* works. If the method appeals to you, don’t start immediately. Start on the day you are ready to study every day.

Welcome to *Amedeo Chinese*, a playful, demanding journey. Welcome to the Chinese language.

Andrea Melis

Bernd Sebastian Kamps

May 8, 2026

## Why?

Why learn a foreign language in the age of instant translation? The honest answer: perhaps you shouldn't. Even after hundreds of hours of study, you may still be weaker than the device in your pocket. There are only two obvious practical reasons for serious language learning: living abroad for years, or loving someone who speaks the language.

But there is a third reason: mental discipline. Language learning is sustained intellectual effort—memory training, concentration training, and an exercise in patience that keeps the mind flexible and alert.

If you choose this path, choose Chinese.

It is a language rooted in a civilization spanning 4,000 years, not just 250. Its writing system awakens the eye, and its tonal system sharpens the ear. Chinese culture opens up a world of philosophy, poetry, painting, calligraphy, and one of the richest cuisines on Earth. Chinese is both ancient and fully alive. It is spoken by one of the world's largest linguistic communities and is tied to one of the most dynamic societies of our time.

## Who

*Amedeo Chinese* is designed for medical students and physicians — individuals accustomed to rigorous study. Medical training requires mastering over 10,000 technical terms related to anatomy, histology, physiology, biochemistry, pathology, and pharmacology, as well as the endless descriptive language of clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment. This experience prepares them well for the daily vocabulary work and daily listening that Chinese demands.

*Amedeo Chinese* is equally ideal for serious learners in other demanding fields, such as law, engineering, mathematics, computer science, and the natural sciences, as well as high-performing professionals, musicians, chess players, and anyone else who deliberately trains their mind. You do not need a university degree. However, you must be willing to put in daily effort, do memory work, be patient, repeat tasks, and be precise.

## When?

Learning a language is like drinking water—it's an everyday part of life. You learned your native language the same way: day after day, with no days off. The same principle applies to learning a foreign language.

How much time you need each day depends on your goals. For instance, if you are preparing for a trip to China, 15 minutes a day might be enough. If you want to use Chinese professionally, you should aim for about an hour a day. If you are studying Chinese in college, three hours a day is a more realistic minimum.

In the beginning, don't worry too much about writing. The most important part of learning any language is building your vocabulary—first hundreds of words, then thousands. For now, it is enough to recognize Chinese characters and connect them with their sound and meaning. Writing can come later.

But listening and vocabulary must begin immediately, and they must be daily.

## How?

Do you want to know how Amedeo Chinese really works? The app's study guide shows how to use *T* and *W/W\** effectively, how Loop, Pause, Autoplay, and *Bubble Mode* change the learning rhythm, and why each chapter requires multiple study rounds.

In short: *T* is for listening to and understanding the lesson sentences; *W* and *W\** are for learning and reviewing the words.

- First, in *T*, listen to the sentences in Loop mode, hearing them repeatedly while trying to understand the meaning of each word. Later, use Autoplay.
- Second, in *W* and *W\**, learn the words carefully and reinforce them through Bubble Mode.
- Third, review each lesson (*T*, *W*, and *W\**) multiple times, returning to it at gradually increasing intervals — Day 2, Day 4, Day 8, Day 16, and so on — and keep track of your progress in a spreadsheet.

The final goal is simple and powerful: to understand the audio without reading the text.

## Why we built Amedeo Chinese

Amedeo Chinese evolved from Amedeo.com, a medical information service with 13,000 subscribers. While developing Chinese-learning tools such as Hanzi Hunter, several medical colleagues asked us to create an HSK 1 manual.

After discussing it, we decided against writing a typical beginner's manual. Existing manuals often progressed too slowly, demanded too little, and did not emphasize daily listening, intensive vocabulary work, and spaced repetition enough.

Our intended learners were different. They were people accustomed to difficult study and large amounts of unfamiliar terminology. Medical students learn early that unfamiliar words are not the enemy. Rather, they are the entrance to a new world. Chinese vocabulary works the same way. This idea became central to Amedeo Chinese: a demanding HSK 1 course for experienced learners.

Each lesson introduces 35 to 40 new words, which learners are expected to master within a week, ideally in two or three days. The pace is deliberate. Experienced learners do not need an artificially slow pace. They need structure, repetition, audio, and a demanding rhythm. Listening must be a daily practice, and vocabulary must be reviewed until recognition becomes automatic. Repetition is not a sign of failure. It is how difficult material becomes accessible.

## Why is Amedeo Chinese free?

Because our goal is circulation, not monetization.

For decades, we have believed that serious educational material should be freely accessible. Amedeo Chinese follows that philosophy. The complete PDF is free. The companion app is free. The printed edition is sold at production cost for readers who prefer paper.

There are no subscriptions, paywalls, advertising models, or hidden catches. Free forever means exactly that.

However, free does not mean casual. Amedeo Chinese asks for a different kind of payment: daily attention. Start with Lesson 1. Listen every day. Learn the words. Repeat them. Then return after two, four, and eight days. Give the course seven days before judging it.

Don't pay us. Pay attention.

## Vocabulary Selection

The official HSK 1 syllabus<sup>1</sup>, published in November 2025, contains 300 words arranged in alphabetical order. To increase its pedagogical value, the authors rearranged the words by frequency using a corpus drawn from 35 episodes of a Chinese television drama. The HSK 1 vocabulary was introduced according to this ranking whenever possible. At the same time, the analysis revealed that many of the highest-frequency words in the drama were absent from HSK 1, so approximately 150 of the most useful high-frequency words were added for a total of 450 words.

### Sources

Center for Language Education and Cooperation (CLEC):

<https://www.chinese.cn>

Chinese Tests Service Website:

<https://www.chinesetest.cn/>

Official HSK syllabus hosting:

<https://hsk.cn->

[bj.ufileos.com/3.0/%E6%96%B0%E7%89%88HSK%E8%80%83%E8%AF%95%E5%A4%A7%E7%BA%B21219.pdf](https://bj.ufileos.com/3.0/%E6%96%B0%E7%89%88HSK%E8%80%83%E8%AF%95%E5%A4%A7%E7%BA%B21219.pdf)

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## 1. Do you love me?

你爱我吗？ | Nǐ ài wǒ ma?

### Read and listen at the same time!

Always listen and read simultaneously – loop the audio and use the word-by-word translation to understand every word. Don't speak yet; just absorb the sounds for days or weeks. Children listen for months before they start speaking. Listen to this lesson today, tomorrow and the day after.

我爱你!	Wǒ ài nǐ!	I love you!
真的吗?	Zhēn de ma?	Really?
真的。	Zhēn de.	Really.
为什么?	Wèishénme?	Why?
我不知道。	Wǒ bù zhīdào.	I don't know.
你病了吗?	Nǐ bìng le ma?	Are you sick?

### Words

我	wǒ	I/me
爱	ài	to love
你	nǐ	you
吗	ma	particle (question)
真的	zhēn de	really
为什么	wèishénme	why
不	bù	not
知道	zhīdào	to know
病	bìng	sick/illness

了                    le                    particle (change of state)

## Grammar 1: Fun

School grammar was often dry: verb tables, exceptions, and endless drills. However, grammar is usually the easiest part to understand and often only requires a few dozen hours of focused study. In contrast, mastering vocabulary and listening skills typically requires hundreds.

Let's start with one of the simplest and most elegant aspects of Chinese grammar: so-called **pronouns**.

### Pronouns

Pronouns are short words such as *I, you, he, she, we, they, my, and mine*. They stand in place of names or show possession. English has many pronoun forms such as *I, me, my, mine / you, your, yours / he, him, his / she, her, hers / we, us, our, ours / they, them, their, theirs*. Chinese is more economical. To express the singular forms, only four words are needed: 我 (*wǒ*), 你 (*nǐ*), 他 (*tā*), 她 (*tā*). To form the plural, simply add 们 (*mén*).

The **singular** forms:

我 — I, me, my, mine

你 — you, your, yours

他 — he, him, his

她 — she, her, hers

Now add 们 to form the **plurals**:

我们 — we, us, our, ours

你们 — you (plural), your, yours

他们 — they, them, their, theirs

她们 — they, them, their, theirs (all female)

The third-person pronouns 他 (he etc.) and 她 (she etc.) have the same pronunciation ("tā") and differ only in writing. So when you hear a man passing on the street—someone whose personal life you know nothing about—say "Wǒ ài tā," you cannot tell from the sound alone whether he is expressing heterosexual (我爱她) or homosexual love (我爱他).

Let's briefly explore the versatility of the pronoun, 我 (wǒ). This single form performs four different functions:

我爱你。 (Wǒ ài nǐ.) = I love you. (subject)

你爱我。 (Nǐ ài wǒ.) = You love me. (object)

我的书。 (Wǒ de shū) = my book (possessive determiner)

这是我的。 (Zhè shì wǒ de.) = This is mine. (possessive pronoun)

我, 你, 他, 她, 们 – provide the basis for a remarkably large number of simple sentences.

## One Verb, One Form

Verbs are words that describe actions or states of being, such as 'love', 'eat', 'drink' or 'go'. While the English verb 'to love' can take many forms, such as 'loves', 'loved' and 'loving'<sup>1</sup>, the Chinese verb

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<sup>1</sup> Even English is simple compared with Romance languages such as French, Italian, Spanish and Portuguese. The Italian verb *amare*, the

'to love' has only one form: 爱 *ài*. Period. It never changes for the past, future or conditional meanings. To express these, Chinese uses context, time words or particles, which we'll explore later.

## Golden Keys

In each lesson, we introduce a few one-character words that play a central role in the Chinese language. These "Golden Keys" are short words that are structurally important.

### 吗 – Instant Questions

Add 吗 (*ma*) to the end of a statement, and you create a yes/no question.

你爱我。(Nǐ ài wǒ. You love me.)

你爱我吗? (Nǐ ài wǒ ma? Do you love me?)

Chinese does not change word order or add helper verbs such as *do* or *does*. It simply adds 吗.

### 不 – Easy Negation

Negation in Chinese is equally simple: place 不 (*bù* not) before a verb, and the meaning becomes negative.

---

infinitive meaning "to love," also has the present participle *amando* and the past participle *amato*. In addition, there are 36 simple forms in basic tenses: Present: *amo, ami, ama, amiamo, amate, amano*; Imperfect: *amavo, amavi, amava, amavamo, amavate, amavano*; Future: *amerò, amerai, amerà, ameremo, amerete, ameranno*; Conditional: *amerei, ameresti, amerebbe, ameremmo, amereste, amerebbero*; Past historic: *amai, amasti, amò, amammo, amaste, amarono*; Present subjunctive: *ami, ami, ami, amiamo, amiate, amino*. One may sympathize with Obélix: "Ils sont fous, ces Romains !"

我知道。(Wǒ zhīdào. I know.)

→ 我不知道。(Wǒ bù zhīdào. I don't know.)

我爱你。(Wǒ ài nǐ. I love you.)

→ 我不爱你。(Wǒ bù ài nǐ. I don't love you.)

This works with all verbs in Chinese—with one important exception (see Lesson 2).

### 的 – The Most Common Word in Chinese

的 (*de*) is the most common word in written Chinese. It marks possession, as in 我的书 (*wǒ de shū* my book), and links descriptions to nouns, as in 好的咖啡 (*hǎo de kāfēi* good coffee). 的 is everywhere—in reading, in listening, and speech.

### 了 – Change of State

了 (*le*) often signals that something has changed. When you say 你病了吗? (*Nǐ bìng le ma?* Are you sick? / Have you become sick?), you are not simply asking about a state, but about a change—from healthy to sick. This small particle is one of the main ways Chinese talks about new situations and completed actions. We will explore its full range in later lessons.

## Pronunciation 1: Tone 3 and 1

Learning Chinese tones requires daily listening and practice. Children pick them up naturally, but adults must train their ears and voices for months or even years. Focusing on the initial pitch of each tone can greatly improve pronunciation.

Mandarin Chinese has five tones: four main tones and one neutral tone. For now, consider the **main characteristic** of each tone to be its **initial pitch**. This pitch varies within a range of approximately eight semitones on the Western musical scale, for example from C to G $\sharp$ , or from G to D $\sharp$  (see Figure 1.1.). These are reference

itches, not absolute rules, since every speaker has a different natural voice range. This range is wider than in most European languages.

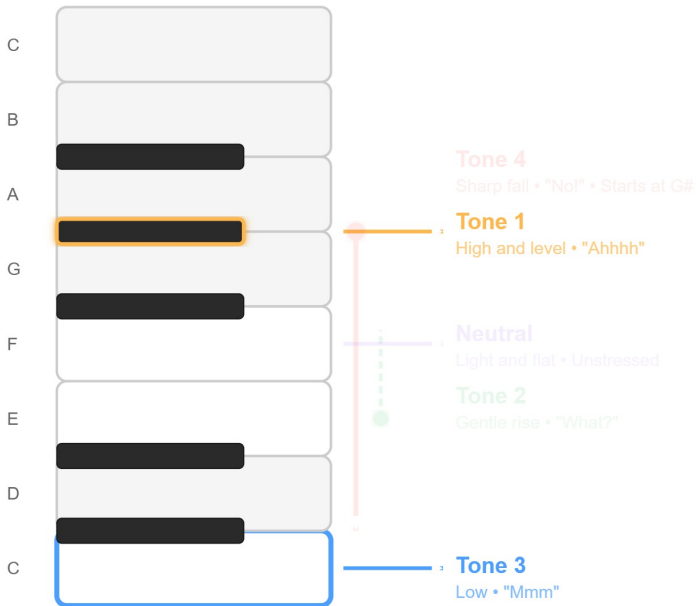


Figure 1.1: Shows tones 1 and 3, which are about eight semitones apart. The starting pitch of tone 3 can be C, G, or any other note (<https://amedeochnese.com/images/Tones13.jpg>).

Today, we will study tones 1 and 3, which differ from typical European pronunciation habits. Tone 1, marked by the macron, must begin clearly high and remain high: ā, ī, ē, ō, ū, ũ. For example, "he" is "tā." While European languages often have high

initial pitches, they usually do not maintain such a high pitch consistently. This makes Tone 1 unusual for European speakers.

Tone 3, marked by the caron: ǎ, ǐ, ǔ, ǒ, ǔ, ǔ, is a very low tone, about eight semitones lower than Tone 1. Examples include wǒ, meaning "I," and nǐ, meaning "you." Such a low tone clearly falls outside the normal pronunciation habits of most European languages.<sup>2</sup>

For now, the main rule is simple: Tone 1 is high. Tone 3 is low. Both tones require students to move beyond their typical European speaking habits.

Listen to these short sentences, hearing the low–high–low pattern:

我帮你。(Wǒ bāng nǐ. I help you.)

我加你。(Wǒ jiā nǐ. I'll add you.)

我听你。(Wǒ tīng nǐ. I listen to you.)

## Your Word Bank

Each lesson concludes with three or more tables, each containing seven words. This is deliberate. Rather than forcing all 300 HSK 1 words into unnatural dialogues, we engage in natural, lively conversations and present the remaining vocabulary in digestible portions.

These tables are intended for daily use. Most learners should study at least one table per day. University students studying Chinese should aim to learn all three tables in one day. Note that “learning” does not mean seeing a word once and moving on. Rather,

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<sup>2</sup> Although Tone 3 is technically a falling-rising tone, in normal speech it simply sounds like a low tone. The full dip-and-rise pattern is only noticeable when speaking slowly, especially at the end of a sentence.

knowing a word means being able to name something without giving it a second thought. One useful test is the “corkscrew test.” Imagine being woken up at 3 a.m., shown a corkscrew, and asked, “What is this?” In your native language, the answer comes immediately: “A corkscrew! Ein Korkezieher! Un cavatappi! Un sacacorchos! Um saca-rolhas! Un tire-bouchon!” Knowing a word means being able to answer spontaneously, even under pressure, without hesitation. Chinese words must eventually become just as automatic.

Real learning requires repetition. Study each table again tomorrow, and again the next day. If necessary, study it again later. Vocabulary grows through repeated exposure. To speed up the process, play the innovative Amedeo Chinese Word Bubble Game on our website: [www.amedeochinese.com](http://www.amedeochinese.com). It will greatly accelerate your learning and review of the table words.

## Words 2: Most Important Verbs

是	shì	to be
有	yǒu	to have
在	zài	to be at/in
去	qù	to go
来	lái	to come
做	zuò	to do/make
看	kàn	to see/look/watch

## Words 3: Important Nouns

家	jiā	home/family
学校	xuéxiào	school
朋友	péngyou	friend

老师	lǎoshī	teacher
书	shū	book
电影	diànyǐng	movie
饭	fàn	food/meal

## Words 4: Golden Words

就	jiù	then; just; exactly
这个	zhège	this
那个	nàge/nèige	that
还	hái	still; also; yet
也	yě	also
都	dōu	all
啊	a	particle that adds tone or feeling

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2 (Most Important Verbs), Words 3 (Important Nouns), and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

## Sentences 2

他是我的老师。	Tā shì wǒ de lǎoshī.	He is my teacher.
你有书吗?	Nǐ yǒu shū ma?	Do you have a book?
我在家。	Wǒ zài jiā.	I am at home.
我们去学校吗?	Wǒmen qù xuéxiào ma?	Are we going to school?

你来我家吗?	Nǐ lái wǒ jiā ma?	Are you coming to my home?
他不做饭。	Tā bù zuò fàn.	He does not cook.
她看电影了吗?	Tā kàn diànyǐng le ma?	Did she watch a movie?

### Sentences 3

这是我的家。	Zhè shì wǒ de jiā.	This is my home.
老师在学校。	Lǎoshī zài xuéxiào.	The teacher is at school.
她是我的朋友。	Tā shì wǒ de péngyou.	She is my friend.
你是老师吗?	Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma?	Are you a teacher?
这是我的书。	Zhè shì wǒ de shū.	This is my book.
我们看电影。	Wǒmen kàn diànyǐng.	We watch a movie.
我做饭了。	Wǒ zuò fàn le.	I cooked.

### Sentences 4

好，我就去。	Hǎo, wǒ jiù qù.	Okay, I'll go right away.
这个是我的。	Zhège shì wǒ de.	This one is mine.
那个不是我的。	Nàge bù shì wǒ de.	That one is not mine.
你还爱我吗?	Nǐ hái ài wǒ ma?	Do you still love me?
我也去。	Wǒ yě qù.	I am going too.
我们都在家。	Wǒmen dōu zài jiā.	We are all at home.
你来了啊。	Nǐ lái le a.	Oh, you came.

## Summary + Preview

In just one lesson, you've seen that:

- 8 Chinese pronouns replace 21 English forms
- verbs never change: 爱 ài = love/loves/loved/loving
- 吗 ma turns any statement into a question

Chinese grammar is refreshingly economical. Instead of relying on many changing forms, it often uses short, stable words to express grammatical meaning: 不 bù negates most verbs with a single syllable, 的 de marks possession and descriptions, and 了 le signals a change of state. You'll master the core patterns in hours, not months, leaving you free to focus on vocabulary and listening, which demand far more time.

Total words learned so far: ~35 words

In Lesson 2, you'll start discovering 是 (shì to be) and 有 (yǒu to have)—two verbs that let you introduce yourself, ask identities, state what you own, and form questions about anything. But here's the twist: English uses "to be" everywhere (I am tired, I am in Beijing, I am a student), but Chinese splits these into completely different patterns. 是 works for only one of these—guess wrong and you'll sound unnatural.



## 2. Meeting Friends

见朋友 | Jiàn péngyou

### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. Making your brain familiar with the sounds of a completely different language takes years—start now, not later. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

你好！你叫什么名字？	Nǐ hǎo! Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?	Hello! What's your name?
我叫珊珊。你呢？	Wǒ jiào Shānshān. Nǐ ne?	I'm called Shanshan. And you?
我是小凯。	Wǒ shì Xiǎo Kǎi.	I'm Xiao Kai.
你有微信吗？	Nǐ yǒu Wēixìn ma?	Do you have WeChat?
有，我加你吧。	Yǒu, wǒ jiā nǐ ba.	Yes, I'll add you.
好啊。	Hǎo a.	Okay.
今天见面吗？	Jīntiān jiànmiàn ma?	Shall we meet today?
今天不行，明天见吧。	Jīntiān bù xíng, míngtiān jiàn ba.	Today doesn't work, let's meet tomorrow.

### Words

好	hǎo	good/okay
叫	jiào	to be called
什么	shénme	what
名字	míngzi	name
呢	ne	particle (and you?)

是	shì	to be
有	yǒu	to have
微信	Wēixìn	WeChat
加	jiā	to add
吧	ba	particle (suggestion)
啊	a	particle (exclamation)
好啊	hǎo a	okay
今天	jīntiān	today
见	jiàn	to meet/see
不行	bù xíng	doesn't work / not okay
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow

## Grammar 2: To Be and To Have

What defines you more—who you are or what you have? Is this an ideological divide? In any case, English uses two verbs: “to be” and “to have.” The verb “to be,” however, works differently in Chinese, which uses several different structures depending on function.

### "To Be" in Chinese

In English, we use "am," "is," and "are" constantly—for identity, description, location, and existence. Chinese is different. It splits the concept into specialized tools for different jobs. 是 (*shì*) is one of those tools. It links two things that share the same identity or category—X 是 Y means "X = Y":

我是小美。(Wǒ shì Xiǎo Měi. I am Xiao Mei.)

你是老师吗? (Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma? Are you a teacher?)

Like all Chinese verbs, 是 never changes form.

Now let's explore three other ways to translate "to be" in Chinese:

### 1. Descriptions with Adjectives → No “to be” Needed

When English uses “to be” with an adjective — “I am tired,” “he is busy,” “the room is big” — Chinese usually needs no equivalent of “to be”. It is simply omitted. The adjective can follow the subject directly.

我累。(Wǒ lèi. I'm tired.)

他很忙。(Tā hěn máng. He is very busy.)

### 2. Location → Use 在(zài)

When English uses “to be” to say where someone or something is — “I am in Beijing,” “he is at home,” “the book is on the table” — Chinese uses 在 zài.

我在北京。(Wǒ zài Běijīng. I'm in Beijing.)

他在家。(Tā zài jiā. He is at home.)

### 3. Existence (“there is/are”) → Use 有(yǒu)

When English uses “there is” or “there are” to express existence — “there is a phone,” “there is class today,” “there are people in the room” — Chinese uses 有 yǒu.

桌子上有手机。(Zhuōzi shàng yǒu shǒujī. There is a phone on the table.)

今天有课吗？(Jīntiān yǒu kè ma? Is there class today?)

#### Word List

累	lèi	tired
很	hěn	very
忙	máng	busy
家	jiā	home

桌子	zhuōzi	table
上	shàng	on; above
手机	shǒujī	mobile phone
今天	jīntiān	today
课	kè	class; lesson

## 有 (yǒu) – To Have"

有 (yǒu) is typically used to express possession: to *have* friends, to *have* a phone, to *have* a house, to *have* a car, to *have* time.

你有微信吗? (Nǐ yǒu Wēixìn ma? Do you have WeChat?)

我有三个朋友。(Wǒ yǒu sān gè péngyou. I have three friends.)

有 is the **only** common verb that uses 没 (méi) for negation:

我**没有**微信。(Wǒ méiyǒu Wēixìn. I don't have WeChat.)

他**没有**时间。(Tā méiyǒu shíjiān. He doesn't have time.)

Remember: as you saw in the section about “to be”, 有 also expresses existence: “there is/are.”

## How to Say 'Yes' and 'No'"

Lesson 1 introduced 吗 (ma) as a way to create yes/no questions. Here is a quick reminder with a new word: 学生 (xuésheng student):

你是学生吗? (Nǐ shì xuésheng ma? Are you a student?)

你有微信吗? (Nǐ yǒu Wēixìn ma? Do you have WeChat?)

But how does one say “yes” and “no” in Chinese? Surprise: Chinese has no direct translations for “yes” and “no.” The Chinese solution is to repeat the verb for affirmative answers or add negation for negative answers:

你是学生吗? (*Nǐ shì xuésheng ma?* Are you a student?)  
是。(*Shì.* Yes.) | 不是。(*Bú shì.* No.)

你有微信吗? (*Nǐ yǒu Wēixìn ma?* Do you have WeChat?)  
有。(*Yǒu.* Yes.) | 没有。(*Méiyǒu.* No.)

## Golden Keys

Each lesson introduces frequent one-character words — true *Allerweltswörter* — that appear everywhere in Chinese.

### 呢 – The Echo Question

呢 (*ne*) creates follow-up questions instantly. After answering a question, add 你呢? (*Nǐ ne?* And you?) to echo it back.

我叫珊珊。你呢? (*Wǒ jiào Shānshān. Nǐ ne?* I'm Shanshan.  
And you?)

### 吧 – Gentle Suggestions

吧 (*ba*) softens commands into suggestions or proposals. It turns direct statements into friendly invitations.

我加你。(*Wǒ jiā nǐ.* I'll add you.)  
→ 我加你吧。(*Wǒ jiā nǐ ba.* Let me add you, okay?)  
明天见。(*Míngtiān jiàn.* See you tomorrow.)  
→ 明天见吧。(*Míngtiān jiàn ba.* Let's meet tomorrow, shall we?)

## Pronunciation 2: Second and Fourth Tone

In Lesson 1, you learned about Tone 3, which starts and stays low, and Tone 1, which starts and stays high. Now, let's explore the remaining two main tones: Tone 2 and Tone 4. European speakers often find the combination of Tone 2 followed by Tone 4 easy to produce because it resembles the intonation of common

expressions when they are said with surprise, irritation, or disbelief:

- “Why that?” in English
- “Putain !” or “Pourquoi ?” in French
- “Warum?” in German
- “¿Por qué?” in Spanish
- “Perché?” in Italian

In these examples, the first syllable usually starts in the middle register and rises slightly. The second syllable starts higher and drops sharply. Together, they closely resemble a Tone 2–Tone 4 sequence in Mandarin.

In our reference scale of C to G $\sharp$ , if Tone 3 is a low C and Tone 1 is a G $\sharp$ , then Tone 2 starts around E and rises slightly but does not reach G $\sharp$ . Meanwhile, Tone 4 starts at G $\sharp$  and falls sharply through almost the entire Chinese tone range (see Figure 2-1).

The same **Tone 2–Tone 4** pattern appears in the following word combinations:

没事 (*méi shì*) no problem; it’s nothing)

回去 (*huí qù*) go back)

然后 (*ránhòu*) then; after that)

学校 (*xuéxiào*) school)

文化 (*wénhuà*) culture)

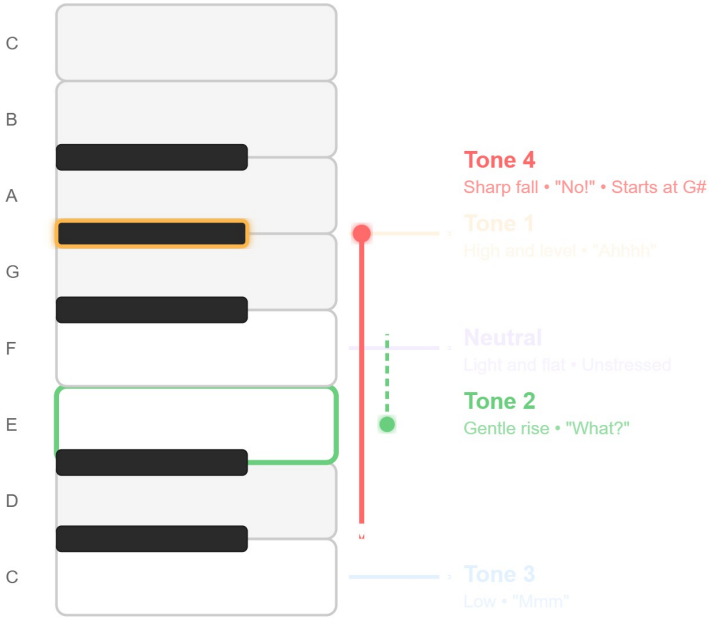


Figure 2-1: Approximate pitch levels and movements for Chinese tones 2 and 4. (<https://amedeochinese.com/images/Tones24.jpg>).

In summary, Tone 2 sounds like the rising intonation used when asking a surprised question in English. It rises smoothly from start to finish:

- "What?"
- "Where?"
- "Really?"

In contrast, Tone 4 is a falling tone. It starts high, like Tone 1, but instead of staying level, it drops sharply to a low pitch. Because Tone 4 spans almost the full tonal range of Mandarin, it is more

forceful and pronounced than the other tones. In English, it can sound like a firm command:

- “No!”
- “Stop!”

It should be short, clear and decisive.

### Tones 3-2-1

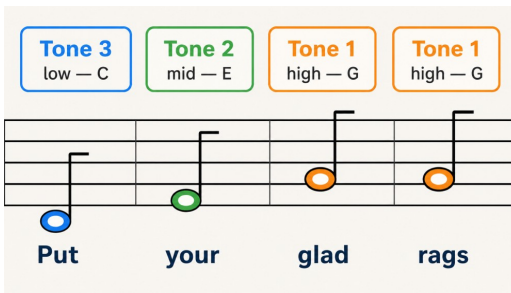


Figure 2-2: These starting pitches can be compared, roughly, to the opening phrase of *Rock Around the Clock*. Listen here: <https://amedeochinese.com/1/Rock>.

Fans of 1950s music may find it helpful to compare the sequence of tones 3–2–1 with "Rock Around the Clock," which is best known from Bill Haley & His Comets' recording. The tones resemble the first nine notes of the opening verse in terms of their starting pitch. In the opening line, "Put your glad rags on and join me, hon', we'll have some fun," low (third), mid (second), and high (first) occur three times in succession.

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Time & Dates

现在	xiànzài	now
今天	jīntiān	today
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow
昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
早上	zǎoshang	morning
晚上	wǎnshang	evening
中午	zhōngwǔ	noon / midday

### Words 3: Communication & Tech

手机	shǒujī	mobile phone
电话	diànhuà	phone / telephone call
号	hào	number (for example, phone number)
名字	míngzi	name
叫	jiào	to be called
说	shuō	to speak / say
问	wèn	to ask

### Words 4: Gold Words

人	rén	person/people
朋友	péngyou	friend
家	jiā	home/family
时间	shíjiān	time
东西	dōngxi	thing/stuff
钱	qián	money
水	shuǐ	water

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

我现在很忙。	Wǒ xiànzài hěn máng.	I am very busy now.
明天见吧。	Míngtiān jiàn ba.	See you tomorrow, okay?
昨天我很累。	Zuótiān wǒ hěn lèi.	I was very tired yesterday.
今天有课吗？	Jīntiān yǒu kè ma?	Is there class today?
早上我去学校。	Zǎoshang wǒ qù xuéxiào.	I go to school in the morning.
晚上看电影吧。	Wǎnshang kàn diànyǐng ba.	Let's watch a movie in the evening.
中午我做饭。	Zhōngwǔ wǒ zuò fàn.	I cook at noon.

### Sentences 3

我的手机在桌子上。	Wǒ de shǒujī zài zhuōzi shàng.	My phone is on the table.
我有你的电话。	Wǒ yǒu nǐ de diànhuà.	I have your phone number.
这是我的微信号。	Zhè shì wǒ de Wēixin hào.	This is my WeChat ID.
你叫什么名字？	Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?	What is your name?
我叫小美。你呢？	Wǒ jiào Xiǎo Měi. Nǐ ne?	My name is Xiao Mei. And you?
老师说今天有课	Lǎoshī shuō jīntiān yǒu	The teacher says there

。	kè.	is class today.
你问老师吧。	Nǐ wèn lǎoshī ba.	Ask the teacher.

## Sentences 4

这个人老师吗？	Zhège rén shì lǎoshī ma?	Is this person a teacher?
他是我的朋友。	Tā shì wǒ de péngyou.	He is my friend.
我现在在家。	Wǒ xiànzài zài jiā.	I am at home now.
我没有时间。	Wǒ méiyǒu shíjiān.	I don't have time.
这个东西是你的吗？	Zhège dōngxi shì nǐ de ma?	Is this thing yours?
我没有钱。	Wǒ méiyǒu qián.	I don't have money.
你有水吗？	Nǐ yǒu shuǐ ma?	Do you have water?

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 2! Here's what you learned:

- 是 (shì): identity only; not used with adjectives or for location.
- 有 (yǒu): possession (“have”) and existence (“there is/are”).
- How to answer yes/no questions

For pronunciation, the lesson focused on Tones 2 and 4. Tone 2 is a rising tone with a smooth upward movement, similar to the intonation of a surprised “What?” Tone 4 is a falling tone that starts high and drops sharply, similar to a firm “No!” or “Stop!”

Total words learned so far: ~70 words

In Lesson 3, you will revisit Chinese negation with 不 (bù) and 没 (méi), especially how 没 (méi) negates completed actions. For pronunciation, you will learn two essential tone-change rules: why 不 (bù) changes tone before certain words, and what happens when two or more third tones come together.

### 3. Drinking coffee

喝咖啡 – Hē kāfēi

#### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each individual sentence. Even familiar words can be difficult for your ears to recognize in the maelstrom of fast human speech. Listen to and read each sentence a few times; if some need ten or more repetitions, no problem — do it.

我们去喝咖啡吧！	Wǒmen qù hē kāfēi ba!	Let's go drink coffee!
好啊！去哪儿？	Hǎo a! Qù nǎr?	Okay! Where to go?
那家咖啡馆很好。	Nà jiā kāfēiguǎn hěn hǎo.	That coffee shop is very good.
你想喝什么？	Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?	What do you want to drink?
这里有拿铁吗？	Zhèlǐ yǒu nátǐe ma?	Do they have latte here?
有！你要吗？	Yǒu! Nǐ yào ma?	Yes! Do you want one?
我要热拿铁。你呢？	Wǒ yào rè nátǐe. Nǐ ne?	I want a hot latte. And you?
我要黑咖啡。加糖吗？	Wǒ yào hēi kāfēi. Jiā táng ma?	I want black coffee. Add sugar?
无糖。	Wú táng.	No sugar.

#### Words

去                      qù                      to go

喝	hē	to drink
咖啡	kāfēi	coffee
哪儿	nǎr	where
家	jiā	home; family; (measure word for shops/establishments)
这里	zhèlǐ	here
咖啡馆	kāfēiguǎn	coffee shop
很	hěn	very
想	xiǎng	to want; to think
要	yào	to want
拿铁	nátǐe	latte
热	rè	hot
冰	bīng	ice; iced
糖	táng	sugar
无	wú	without; no; none

### Grammar 3: Negation – 不 (bù) & 没有 (méiyǒu)

You have already met the two basic negation words: 不 (bù) for most verbs and adjectives, and 没有 (méiyǒu) for 有 (yǒu). This section brings them together, then adds one new point: 没 (méi) for negating completed actions.

#### 不 (bù) – General Negation

不 (bù) is the normal negation word for verbs. Simply place it before the word:

我不喝咖啡。(Wǒ bù hē kāfēi. I don't drink coffee.)

我不累。(Wǒ bù lèi. I'm not tired.)

咖啡不热。(Kāfēi bù rè. The coffee isn't hot.)

We remember from Chapter 2 that adjectives do not use 是. 不 goes directly before the adjective.

## 没有 (méiyǒu) — negation of 有 (yǒu)

The important exception is 有 (yǒu). To negate 有, use 没有 (méiyǒu).

我没有微信。(Wǒ méiyǒu Wēixìn. I don't have WeChat.)

这里没有咖啡馆。(Zhèlǐ méiyǒu kāfēiguǎn. There's no coffee shop here.)

没有 covers both possession (“don’t have”) and existence (“there isn’t / there aren’t.”)

## 没 (méi) and 了 (le) — preview of completed actions

没有 can often be shortened to 没 (méi). Later, 没 becomes especially important **when combined with 了 (le)**. In affirmative sentences, 了 often indicates that an action has been completed:

我去了。(Wǒ qù le. I went.)

他吃了。(Tā chī le. He ate.)

Note also that when a completed action is negated, Chinese uses only 没, and 了 disappears:

我没去。(Wǒ méi qù. I didn't go.)

他没吃。(Tā méi chī. He didn't eat.)

So the useful preview rule is:

Verb + 了 → 没 + Verb

This point will return in Chapter 12.

## Short Answers – Review

In Lesson 2, you learned how to answer simple questions such as “Are you...?” or “Do you have...?” using 是 (shì) and 有 (yǒu). Now we extend this pattern to other verbs: repeat the verb for “yes,” and add 不 for “no.”

你去吗? (*Nǐ qù ma?* Are you going?)

去。 (*Qù.* Yes.) | 不去。 (*Bù qù.* No.)

你喝咖啡吗? (*Nǐ hē kāfēi ma?* Do you drink coffee?)

喝。 (*Hē.* Yes.) | 不喝。 (*Bù hē.* No.)

The verb carries the answer.

## In short

Chinese negation uses 不 (*bù*) for general negation and 没有 (*méiyǒu*) specifically for the verb 有 (*yǒu*) — this is the important exception.

没有 can often be shortened to 没 (*méi*), which later becomes essential for negating completed actions with 了: Verb + 了 becomes 没 + Verb.

## Golden Keys

### ↑ – *The Universal Measure Word*

In Chinese, direct translation often doesn’t work for phrases like “two cafés” or “that friend.” After numbers and demonstratives (“this,” “that”), a noun usually cannot follow directly — a measure word must be inserted, similar to “piece of” or “cup of” in English. Chinese uses measure words more extensively, but they are easy to learn over time.

个 (*gè*) is the general, all-purpose measure word and the safest fallback when the specific one is not known; it works for many common nouns and is the best default for beginners. When in doubt, use 个—it covers people, objects, ideas, and many everyday things.

- 一个人 (*yí ge rén* one person)
- 那个朋友 (*nàge péngyou* that friend)
- 两个咖啡馆 (*liǎng ge kāfēiguǎn* two cafés)

### 会 – Know How To / Will

会 (*huì*) is a very useful word because it can express future meaning. Like in German and English, Chinese verbs do not change form for the future; instead, words like 会 can appear before the verb to show that something will happen or is likely to happen.

明天会下雨。 (*Míngtiān huì xiàyǔ*. It will rain tomorrow.)

他会来吗? (*Tā huì lái ma?* Will he come?)

我会帮你。 (*Wǒ huì bāng nǐ*. I'll help you.)

会 can also mean “can” in the sense of “know how to,” especially for learned skills:

我会说中文。 (*Wǒ huì shuō Zhōngwén*. I can speak Chinese / I know how to speak Chinese.)

我会游泳。 (*Wǒ huì yóuyǒng*. I know how to swim.)

This differs from 能 (*néng*), which refers more to physical ability or whether circumstances allow something. For now, remember: 会 = will / know how to; 能 = be able to.

### 过 – Experience Marker

When placed after a verb, 过 (*guò*) asks: “Have you ever...?” It marks life experience, not just completion.

你去过中国吗? (*Nǐ qùguò Zhōngguó ma?* Have you ever been to China?)

我吃过北京烤鸭。 (*Wǒ chīguò Běijīng kǎoyā.* I've eaten Peking duck [before].)

我没见过他。 (*Wǒ méi jiànguò tā.* I've never met him.)

The question is not about yesterday or last week, but rather about one's entire life. 过 (*guò*) opens a window onto accumulated experience.

### Pronunciation 3: The Neutral Tone

Some Chinese syllables are pronounced with a neutral tone, which is short, light, and unstressed. In Pinyin, these syllables are written without a tone mark.

The neutral tone is especially important at the end of a word or phrase. Chinese tones are based on relative pitch rather than fixed absolute pitch. Because of this, the neutral tone often acts as a **final anchor**, helping listeners determine whether the previous syllable began higher (first and fourth tones) or lower (second and third tones), particularly in fast speech.

Common examples:

- 妈妈 (*māma* mom)
- 爸爸 (*bàba* dad)
- 爷爷 (*yéye* grandpa)
- 奶奶 (*nǎinai* grandma)

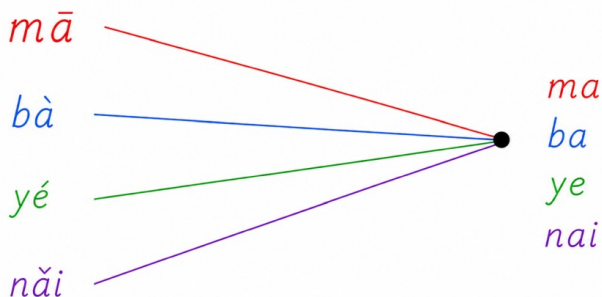


Figure 3.1: **Four tones, one destination.** The first syllables *mā*, *bà*, *yé*, and *nǎi* all lead to the neutral second syllables *ma*, *ba*, *ye*, and *nai*.

Where you'll find neutral tones:

- Grammar particles: 吧 (*ba*), 吗 (*ma*), 呢 (*ne*), 的 (*de*) and 了 (*le*)
  - 你呢? (*Nǐ ne?* And you?)
  - 好吧! (*Hǎo ba!* Okay then!)
- The second syllable in repeated words: 谢谢 (*xièxie*)
- Common two-syllable words: 朋友 (*péngyou* friend), 衣服 (*yīfu* clothes)

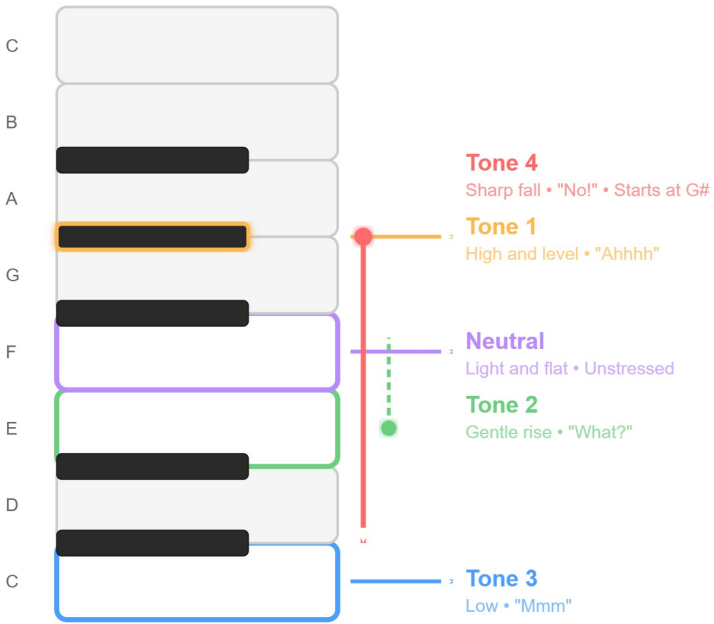


Figure 3-2. **Five Tones.** Approximate keyboard keys and pitch movements for Chinese Tones 1 to 4 and the neutral tone (Tones12345.jpg).

### 3<sup>rd</sup> tone + 3<sup>rd</sup> tone

A fundamental principle of Mandarin pronunciation is that when two or more third tones occur consecutively, each tone except the last one is pronounced as a second tone. This pattern is known as the third-tone sandhi rule.

Syllables	Chinese	Written	Spoken
2	你好 (hello)	nǐ hǎo	ní hǎo
2	很好 (very good)	hěn hǎo	hén hǎo
2	我也 (me too)	wǒ yě	wó yě
3	我给你 (I give you)	wǒ gěi nǐ	wó géi nǐ
3	我扫码 (I'll scan the code)	wǒ sǎomǎ	wó sǎomǎ
4	我也给你 (I also give you)	wǒ yě gěi nǐ	wó yé géi nǐ

### Pronunciation Rule: 不 Before Tone 4

The word 不 normally sounds like bù. However, when 不 comes before a fourth-tone syllable, it is pronounced bú instead. This is only a pronunciation change; the character remains 不.

Some books write the pinyin as bú in this situation to show the actual pronunciation, while others keep bù because that is the dictionary form.

#### 1. Before Tones 1, 2, and 3: bù

Chinese	Pinyin	Meaning
不高	bù gāo	not tall; not high
不来	bù lái	not come
不忙	bù máng	not busy

Chinese	Pinyin	Meaning
不好	bù hǎo	not good

## 2. Before Tone 4: *bú*

Chinese	Pinyin	Meaning
不是	bú shì	is not
不在	bú zài	not be at; not be in
不去	bú qù	not go
不看	bú kàn	not look; not watch; not read

我不是老师。(Wǒ bú shì lǎoshī. I'm not a teacher.)

他不在北京。(Tā bú zài Běijīng. He's not in Beijing.)

我不去。(Wǒ bú qù. I'm not going.)

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Coffee Culture

咖啡	kāfēi	coffee
咖啡馆	kāfēiguǎn	coffee shop
拿铁	nátiě	latte
卡布奇诺	kǎbùqínò	cappuccino
热	rè	hot
冰	bīng	iced/ice
糖	táng	sugar

### Words 3: Food & Drinks

茶	chá	tea
水	shuǐ	water
菜	cài	dish/vegetable
饭	fàn	meal/rice
米饭	mǐfàn	cooked rice
牛奶	niúniǎi	milk
苹果	píngguǒ	apple

### Words 4: Golden Words

吃	chī	eat
什么	shénme	what
怎么	zěnmē	how
这么	zhème	this; like this; so
要	yào	want; need
想	xiǎng	think; want
对	duì	correct; toward

### Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

## Sentences 2

你喝过咖啡吗？	Nǐ hēguò kāfēi ma?	Have you ever had coffee?
这里有个咖啡馆。	Zhèlǐ yǒu ge kāfēiguǎn.	There is a café here.
我想要拿铁。	Wǒ xiǎng yào nátǐe.	I want a latte.
你要卡布奇诺吗？	Nǐ yào kǎbùqínò ma?	Do you want a cappuccino?
这杯咖啡不热。	Zhè bēi kāfēi bù rè.	This cup of coffee isn't hot.
我要冰的。	Wǒ yào bīng de.	I want an iced one.
不要糖。	Bú yào táng.	No sugar.
我喝茶，你呢？	Wǒ hē chá, nǐ ne?	I drink tea. And you?

## Sentences 3

这里没有水。	Zhèlǐ méiyǒu shuǐ.	There is no water here.
我会做这个菜。	Wǒ huì zuò zhège cài.	I can make this dish.
我们吃饭吧。	Wǒmen chī fàn ba.	Let's eat.
我要米饭。	Wǒ yào mǐfàn.	I want rice.
你喝牛奶吗？	Nǐ hē niúǎi ma?	Do you drink milk?
这个苹果很甜。	Zhège píngguǒ hěn tián.	This apple is very sweet.
我没吃。	Wǒ méi chī.	I didn't eat.

## Sentences 4

你想吃什么？	Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?	What do you want to eat?
这个怎么说？	Zhège zěnmē shuō?	How do you say this?
咖啡怎么这么甜	Kāfēi zěnmē zhème tián?	Why is the coffee so sweet?

?

你要什么？	Nǐ yào shénme?	What do you want?
我想去咖啡馆。	Wǒ xiǎng qù kāfēiguǎn.	I want to go to the café.
对，这是我的。	Duì, zhè shì wǒ de.	Right, this is mine.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 3! Here's what you learned:

- 不 (bù) — the general negation word, placed before most verbs and adjectives
- 没有 / 没 (méiyǒu / méi) — used to negate 有 (yǒu) and completed actions. (Never say 不有!)
- Short answers — repeat the verb with or without negation, such as 去 / 不去 or 有 / 没有.

You also met 个 (*gè*), the most useful beginner measure word; 过 (*guò*), which marks life experience; and, importantly, learned about how Chinese expresses future events and likely developments with 会 (*huì*), as in 明天会下雨。 (*Míngtiān huì xiàyǔ*. It will rain tomorrow.)

In pronunciation, you reviewed the neutral tone, the third-tone sandhi rule, and the tone change of 不 before a fourth-tone syllable, as in 不是 (*bú shì*), 不在 (*bú zài*), 不去 (*bú qù*), and 不看 (*bú kàn*).

Total words learned so far: ~105 words

In Lesson 4, you will learn about one of the most powerful connectors in Chinese: 的 (*de*.) This tiny particle appears everywhere!

It shows possession, links descriptions to nouns, and helps avoid repeating words. You'll see how one small, neutral-tone particle can transform everything around it.

## 4. My Selfie

我的自拍 – Wǒ de zìpāi

### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. Native speakers produce speech at over 200 syllables per minute, so train your brain daily. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

看我的自拍!	Kàn wǒ de zìpāi!	Look at my selfie!
很漂亮! 这是今天拍的吗?	Hěn piàoliang! Zhè shì jīntiān pāi de ma?	Very pretty! Was this taken today?
是! 好看吗?	Shì! Hǎokàn ma?	Yes! Does it look good?
好看! 你这件衣服是新的吗?	Hǎokàn! Nǐ zhè jiàn yīfu shì xīn de ma?	It looks good! Is this piece of clothing of yours new?
是新的。你喜欢吗?	Shì xīn de. Nǐ xǐhuan ma?	It's new. Do you like it?
喜欢! 你发朋友圈了吗?	Xǐhuan! Nǐ fā péngyouquān le ma?	I like it! Did you post to Moments?
发了! 你看见了吗?	Fā le! Nǐ kànjiàn le ma?	I posted it! Did you see it?
看见了。我点赞了!	Kànjiàn le. Wǒ diǎnzàn le!	I saw it. I liked it!
只有你点赞了!	Zhǐyǒu nǐ diǎnzàn le!	Only you liked it!

## Words

看	kàn	to look/watch/see
自拍	zìpāi	selfie
漂亮	piàoliang	pretty/beautiful
这	zhè	this
拍	pāi	to take (a photo)/to shoot
好看	hǎokàn	good-looking
件	jiàn	(measure word for clothing)
衣服	yīfu	clothes
新	xīn	new
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
发	fā	to post/send
朋友圈	péngyǒuquān	Moments (WeChat)
看见	kànjiàn	to see/perceive
点赞	diǎnzàn	to like (thumbs up)
只有	zhǐyǒu	only

## Grammar 4: The Magic Connector 的 (de)

In this chapter, you'll learn 的 (*de*), one of the key particles in Chinese. This one particle can show possession, connect descriptions to nouns, and replace repeated nouns:

- Show possession — who something belongs to: 我的朋友 (*wǒ de péngyou* my friend)
- Connect descriptions to nouns — what kind of thing something is: 好看的衣服 (*hǎokàn de yīfu* good-looking clothes)

- Replace repeated nouns — avoid saying the same noun again: 我的 (wǒ de mine)

## Possession

The most basic use of 的 links pronouns to nouns. The pattern is:

我的自拍 (wǒ de zìpāi my selfie)

你的咖啡 (nǐ de kāfēi your coffee)

## Description and Attribution

The particle 的 links descriptive words (adjectives, time words, place words, or any other modifier) to nouns. The pattern is Modifier + 的 + Noun:

新的衣服 (xīn de yīfu new clothes)

今天的咖啡 (jīntiān de kāfēi today's coffee)

## Standalone 的 – Replacing Nouns

Chinese uses 的 on its own when the noun is already clear, avoiding repetition. In the dialogue, 是新的 (shì xīn de they're new) uses 新的 to stand for 新的衣服: (xīn de yīfu new clothes). Another example: 这个是我的。(Zhège shì wǒ de. This is mine.).

## When 的 Can Be Omitted

With very close relationships, 的 is often dropped: 我妈妈 (wǒ māma my mom) instead of 我的妈妈 (wǒ de māma). Using 的 is never wrong, but omitting it often sounds more natural with family and close friends.

## Golden Keys

### 给 – Give / To / For

给 (*gěi*) has two related but different uses. First, it can be a real verb meaning “to give.”

给我一杯水。 (*Gěi wǒ yì bēi shuǐ*. Give me a glass of water.)

我给你打电话。 (*Wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà*. I'll call you / I'll make a phone call to you.)

Second, it can point to the person who receives or benefits from an action; in English, this often becomes “to” or “for,” not “give.”

这是给你的。 (*Zhè shì gěi nǐ de*. This is for you.)

The basic idea is that 给 + person points toward the recipient or beneficiary.

### 要 – Want / Will / Need

要 (*yào*) is a versatile word. It can express desire, intention, necessity, or something about to happen.

With a noun, it usually means “want” or “would like”:

我要咖啡。 (*Wǒ yào kāfēi*. I want coffee. / I'll have coffee.)

With a verb, it can mean “want to,” “be going to,” or “need to,” depending on context:

我要去北京。 (*Wǒ yào qù Běijīng*. I want to go to Beijing. / I'm going to Beijing.)

我要工作。 (*Wǒ yào gōngzuò*. I need to work. / I have to work.)

With 了 (*le*), it often means “be about to”:

要下雨了。 (*Yào xià yǔ le*. It's about to rain.)

## Pronunciation 4: ü, yu, ju, qu, xu

Today, we will learn how to pronounce the pinyin sounds **ü, j, q, and x**, which may seem difficult at first. Fortunately, these sounds follow a systematic pattern, so once you understand it, you can master them together. The key is to position the **tip of your tongue behind your lower front teeth**.

### How to Make ü – a Sound, Not Just a Spelling

The pinyin sound ü is a sound, not just a spelling mark. To produce it, say a long “ee” as in see. Keep your tongue where it is with the tip forward, perhaps touching your lower front teeth. Then, round your lips as if you were saying “oo.” The formula is tongue of “ee” + lips of “oo” = ü. The French describe this as ***avoir la bouche en cul de poule*** — literally, “to have a hen’s-ass mouth” (la bouche = “the mouth,” cul = “ass,” poule = “hen”). In Chinese, a crude approximation could be 鸡屁股嘴 (*jī pìgǔ zuǐ* hen-asshole mouth).

In pinyin, ü is written with dots after **n** and **l**:

女 (*nǚ* female)

绿 (*lǜ* green)

However, after **j, q, x**, the sound ü is written **simply as u**. So **ju, qu, xu** are pronounced like **jü, qü, xü**.

去 (*qù* to go)

需 (*xū* to need)

### How to Make j, q, x

The sounds **j, q, x** belong together. For all three, the tip of the tongue stays behind the lower front teeth.

- **j** is close to the sound in *jeep*.
- **q** is close to *ch* in *cheese* or Italian *ciao*.
- **x** is a sharp, forward sound between English *s* and *sh*, again with the tongue tip behind the lower front teeth.

Watch a few pronunciation videos on social media about the Chinese sounds "ü," "j," "q," and "x." Seeing the tongue and lip positions can help you understand the patterns better.

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Social Media

照片	zhàopiàn	photo/picture
拍照	pāizhào	to take a photo
美	měi	beautiful
分享	fēnxiǎng	to share
评论	pínglùn	comment
转发	zhuǎnfā	to repost/share
关注	guānzhù	to follow

### Words 3: Describing Things

大	dà	big
小	xiǎo	small
贵	guì	expensive
便宜	piányi	cheap
冷	lěng	cold
高兴	gāoxìng	happy
多	duō	many/much

## Words 4: Golden Words

跟	gēn	with; follow
得	děi	must; have to
给	gěi	give; for
能	néng	can; be able to
走	zǒu	walk; leave
让	ràng	let; allow
做	zuò	to do/make

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

这是我的照片。	Zhè shì wǒ de zhàopiàn.	This is my photo.
我们拍照吧。	Wǒmen pāizhào ba.	Let's take a photo.
她很美。	Tā hěn měi.	She is beautiful.
我想分享这张照片。	Wǒ xiǎng fēnxiǎng zhè zhāng zhàopiàn.	I want to share this photo.
我看见你的评论了。	Wǒ kànjiàn nǐ de pínglùn le.	I saw your comment.
不要转发我的照片。	Bú yào zhuǎnfā wǒ de zhàopiàn.	Don't repost my photo.

我关注你了。	Wǒ guānzhù nǐ le.	I followed you.
这个手机很大。	Zhège shǒujī hěn dà.	This phone is big.

### Sentences 3

那个苹果很小。	Nàge píngguǒ hěn xiǎo.	That apple is small.
这件衣服太贵了。	Zhè jiàn yīfu tài guì le.	This piece of clothing is too expensive.
这家咖啡馆很便宜。	Zhè jiā kāfēiguǎn hěn piányi.	This café is cheap.
今天很冷。	Jīntiān hěn lěng.	It is cold today.
我很高兴。	Wǒ hěn gāoxìng.	I am very happy.
这里人很多。	Zhèlǐ rén hěn duō.	There are many people here.
我跟朋友去学校。	Wǒ gēn péngyou qù xuéxiào.	I go to school with a friend.

### Sentences 4

你说得对。	Nǐ shuō de duì.	You are right.
这是给你的。	Zhè shì gěi nǐ de.	This is for you.
你能来吗？	Nǐ néng lái ma?	Can you come?
我们走吧。	Wǒmen zǒu ba.	Let's go.
让我看看。	Ràng wǒ kànkàn.	Let me have a look.
我会做饭。	Wǒ huì zuò fàn.	I can cook.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 4! Here's what you learned:

- 的 (*de*) — the connector for possession, description, and repeated nouns.
- 给 (*gěi*) and 要 (*yào*) — two Golden Keys with several everyday uses.
- Pronunciation: the neutral tone, the *ü* sound, and the **j, q, x** sounds.

Total words learned so far: about 140.

In Lesson 5, you will learn 这个 (*zhège* this) and 那个 (*nàge* that), review the general measure word 个 (*gè*), and learn a few other measure words. You will also practice using 没 (*méi*) in common phrases such as 没关系 (*méi guānxi* it's okay), 没事 (*méi shì* no problem / I'm fine), and 没问题 (*méi wèntí* no problem). Finally, you will see an overview table of all 20 possible two-character tone combinations.



## 5. Do you have money?

你有钱吗? – Nǐ yǒu qián ma?

### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. Sound recognition happens subconsciously, but only after massive repetition. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

这个多少钱?	Zhège duōshao qián?	How much is this?
三十块。	Sānshí kuài.	Thirty yuan.
这次我请吧。	Zhè cì wǒ qǐng ba.	Let me treat you this time.
不用不用, 我自己付就行。	Búyòng búyòng, wǒ zìjǐ fù jiù xíng.	No need, no need, I'll just pay for myself.
可以微信支付吗?	Kěyǐ Wēixìn Zhīfù ma?	Can I pay with WeChat Pay?
可以, 微信、支付宝都可以。	Kěyǐ, Wēixìn, Zhīfùbǎo dōu kěyǐ.	Yes, WeChat and Alipay both work.
好的, 我扫码。	Hǎo de, wǒ sǎomǎ.	Okay, I'll scan the code.
好了, 谢谢!	Hǎo le, xièxie!	Done, thanks!
下次我请你!	Xià cì wǒ qǐng nǐ!	Next time I'll treat you!

### Words

这个	zhège	this
多少	duōshao	how much/many
钱	qián	money

三十	sānshí	thirty
块	kuài	yuan (RMB)
这次	zhè cì	this time
请	qǐng	to treat/invite
不用	búyòng	no need
自己	zìjǐ	self/myself
付	fù	to pay
就行	jiù xíng	that's enough/will do
可以	kěyǐ	can/may
微信支付	Wēixìn Zhīfù	WeChat Pay
支付宝	Zhīfùbǎo	Alipay
都	dōu	both/all
好的	hǎo de	okay
好了	hǎo le	done/finished
扫码	sǎomǎ	to scan code
谢谢	xièxie	thank you
下次	xià cì	next time

## Grammar 5: This, That, and Which One

This chapter shows how Chinese points to things with 这个 (*zhège* this) and 那个 (*nàge* that). Both words contain 个 (*gè*), the general measure word introduced in Lesson 3.

Measure words are among the most intriguing features of Chinese. These small words **classify things** in the world — things one can touch, such as objects, and things one can only think about, such as ideas or revolutions — **according to shape, size, or type**. They may seem unfamiliar at first, but handling the most common ones is no more difficult than learning basic makeup vocabulary:

foundation, concealer, blush, bronzer, eyeliner, mascara, and lip gloss.

## 个 (ge) – The Universal Measure Word

The word 个 is your default measure word for people, things, and abstract concepts. In Chinese, you cannot simply say “one person” or “two phones” — you must insert 个 between the number and the noun:

一个人 (*yī ge rén* one person)

两个手机 (*liǎng ge shǒujī* two phones)

三个问题 (*sān ge wèntí* three problems)

The pattern is: Number + 个 + Noun. Think of 个 as similar to saying “one piece of cake” or “two cups of coffee” in English — but in Chinese, measure words are used much more widely, even with people and abstract ideas.


Some nouns have their own specific measure words. For example, remember the first three entries in the following list (book, clothing, paper) and take a look at the others. These are the most frequent measure words. For now, 个 is the safest default when the specific measure word is not yet known. Though its dictionary pronunciation is 个 (*gè*), it is often pronounced with a neutral tone, *ge*, in everyday speech.

 本 (*běn*) – books

一本书 (*yī běn shū*)

= one **bound thing** of book


= **a book**


 件 (*jiàn*) – clothing


一件衣服 (*yī jiàn yīfu*)


= one **wearable thing** of clothing


= **a piece of clothing**


 **张 (zhāng)** – flat objects  
 一张纸 (yì zhāng zhǐ)  
 = one **flat pancake** of paper  
 = **a sheet of paper**

 **双 (shuāng)** – pairs  
 一双鞋 (yì shuāng xié)  
 = one **pair bundle** of shoes  
 = **a pair of shoes**

 **口 (kǒu)** – mouthfuls  
 一口气 (yì kǒu qì)  
 = one **mouthful blast** of air  
 = **a breath**

 **只 (zhī)** – animals  
 一只猫 (yì zhī māo)  
 = one **single critter** of cat  
 = **a cat**

 **辆 (liàng)** – vehicles  
 一辆车 (yì liàng chē)  
 = one **rolling machine** of car  
 = **a car**

 **条 (tiáo)** – long things  
 一条鱼 (yì tiáo yú)  
 = one **long noodle** of fish  
 = **a fish**

## 这个/那个 – This One / That One

这 (zhè) and 那 (nà) mean "this" and "that," but when you want to combine them with a noun, you must insert the measure word 个. This creates 这个 (zhège this one) and 那个 (nàge that one)—among the most frequent words in Chinese:

这个很好。(Zhège hěn hǎo. This one is very good.)

我要那个。(Wǒ yào nàge. I want that one.)

这个手机是新的。(Zhège shǒujī shì xīn de. This phone is new.)

## 这 and 那 – As Pronouns

When 这 (*zhè* this) and 那 (*nà* that) combine with 是 (*shì*), they function as pronouns, pointing at something without directly naming it:

这是我的手机。(Zhè shì wǒ de shǒujī. This is my phone.)

那是咖啡馆吗？(Nà shì kāfēiguǎn ma? Is that a coffee shop?)

Notice the difference: 这 (*zhè*) can stand alone before 是, as in 这是手机 (*Zhè shì shǒujī*. This is a phone). But before a noun, Chinese normally uses 这个 (*zhège*), as in 这个手机 (*zhège shǒujī* this phone). In short: 这 = “this” as a pronoun; 这个 = “this” before a noun.

## 哪个 (nǎge) – Which One

The question word 哪 (*nǎ* which) follows the same pattern—it combines with 个 to create 哪个, asking “which one.”

哪个是你的？(Nǎge shì nǐ de? Which one is yours?)

你要哪个？(Nǐ yào nǎge? Which one do you want?)

Note that 哪 (*nǎ* which) and 那 (*nà* that) are different words. They have different characters and different tones.

## Common Phrases with 没

In many common phrases, you can shorten 没有 to just 没 (*méi*). These phrases are used constantly in daily conversation, so memorize them!

*没关系* (*méi guānxi* – *it doesn't matter / no worries / it's okay*)

Used as a reply to an apology:

对不起! (*Duìbuqǐ!* Sorry!)

没关系。 (*Méi guānxi.* It's okay.)

*没事* (*méi shì* – *it's nothing / I'm fine / no problem*)

Used to say that everything is okay:

你好吗? (*Nǐ hǎo ma?* How are you?)

没事。 (*Méi shì.* I'm fine.)

*没问题* (*méi wèntí* – *no problem*)

Used to agree or reassure:

好吗? (*Hǎo ma?* Is it okay?)

没问题。 (*Méi wèntí.* No problem.)

## Golden Keys

Although 还 (*hái*) and 再 (*zài*) can both be translated into European languages with words such as “still,” “again,” or “more,” they have clearly distinct meanings in Chinese. 还 focuses on continuation or addition, while 再 focuses on future repetition:

- 还 (*hái*) = continuation of a state or adding more: “still,” “also,” “in addition”
- 再 (*zài*) = repetition in the future: “again,” “one more time”

### 还 – Still / Also / In Addition

还 (hái) signals continuation or addition.

还有啊! (*Hái yǒu a!* There's more! / There's still more!)

还有吗? (*Hái yǒu ma?* Is there more? / Anything else?)

我还在。 (*Wǒ hái zài.* I'm still here.)

我还在吃。 (*Wǒ hái zài chī.* I'm still eating.)

还要咖啡吗? (*Hái yào kāfēi ma?* Do you still want coffee? / Do you want more coffee?)

### 再 – Again / One More Time

再 (zài) looks forward. It means “again” or “one more time” for actions that will happen in the future.

再见! (*Zàijiàn!* Goodbye! / See you again!)

再说一次。 (*Zài shuō yí cì.* Say it again / Say it one more time.)

我再吃一个。 (*Wǒ zài chī yí ge.* I'll eat one more.)

French and Italian speakers should be careful because *encore* and *ancora* behave more like English words such as “still,” “again,” and “more”: the meaning depends heavily on context. Spanish is closer to Chinese here, because it often separates these ideas: *todavía/aún* means “still,” *otra vez/de nuevo* means “again,” and *más* means “more.”

## Pronunciation 5: Two-Syllable Combinations

The true secret of Chinese tones lies not in the pronunciation of a single tone, but in the combinations of the four main tones plus the neutral tone, or Tone 5.

In two-character words or short phrases, the first character can have Tone 1, 2, 3, or 4, and the second character can have Tone 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. This gives 20 possible combinations. For three characters, there are 80 combinations. For four characters, there are 320 combinations.

There are many possible combinations, but for beginners it helps to bring some order to the apparent chaos. Today, let's take a quick look at the 20 possible two-character combinations.

Table 5.1. Possible two-character tone combinations

First tone	Second tone				
	1	2	3	4	5
1	1-1	1-2	1-3	1-4	1-5
2	2-1	2-2	2-3	2-4	2-5
3	3-1	3-2	3-3	3-4	3-5
4	4-1	4-2	4-3	4-4	4-5

The examples use words and short phrases that have already been introduced. Click on a word in the app to hear its pronunciation. More examples will appear in later lessons.

## Tone 1 first

1-1

今天 (jīntiān – today)

咖啡 (kāfēi – coffee)

1-2

三十 (sānshí – thirty)

喝茶 (hē chá – drink tea)

1-3

中午 (zhōngwǔ – noon)

分享 (fēnxiǎng – to share)

1-4

微信 (Wēixìn – WeChat)

知道 (zhīdào – to know)

拍照 (pāizhào – to take a photo)

高兴 (gāoxìng – happy)

1-5

真的 (zhēn de – real; really)

东西 (dōngxi – thing; things)

衣服 (yīfu – clothes)

多少 (duōshao – how much; how many)

## Tone 2 first

2-1

明天 (míngtiān – tomorrow)

时间 (shíjiān – time)

红包 (hóngbāo – red envelope with money)

钱包 (qiánbāo – wallet)

2-2

没钱 (méi qián – have no money)

没糖 (méi táng – no sugar)

2-3

没有 (méiyǒu – do not have; there is not)

拿铁 (nátǐe – latte)

苹果 (píngguǒ – apple)

牛奶 (niúniǎi – milk)

2-4

学校 (xuéxiào – school)

评论 (pínglùn – comment; to comment)

2-5

朋友 (péngyou – friend)

什么 (shénme – what)

名字 (míngzi – name)

便宜 (piányi – cheap)

## Tone 3 first

3-1

老师 (lǎoshī – teacher)

手机 (shǒujī – mobile phone)  
转发 (zhuǎnfā – to repost; to forward)

3-2

我来 (wǒ lái – I'll come; I'll do it)

你来 (nǐ lái – you come; your turn)

也来 (yě lái – also come)

3-3<sup>3</sup>

你好 (nǐ hǎo – hello)

很好 (hěn hǎo – very good)

扫码 (sǎomǎ – scan a code)

可以 (kěyǐ – can; may)

只有 (zhǐyǒu – only)

3-4

我爱 (wǒ ài – I love)

你去 (nǐ qù – you go)

我是 (wǒ shì – I am)

好看 (hǎokàn – good-looking)

点赞 (diǎnzàn – to like; to give a thumbs-up)

3-5

我们 (wǒmen – we; us)

你呢 (nǐ ne – and you?)

早上 (zǎoshang – morning)

晚上 (wǎnshang – evening)

怎么 (zěnmē – how; why)

### *Tone 4 first*

4-1

自拍 (zìpāi – selfie)

那家 (nà jiā – that place; that shop)

去喝 (qù hē – go drink)

4-2

不行 (bùxíng – not possible; not okay)

就行 (jiùxíng – that will do; that's enough)

付钱 (fù qián – to pay money)

4-3

电影 (diànyǐng – movie)

这里 (zhèlǐ – here)

号码 (hàomǎ – number)

自己 (zìjǐ – oneself)

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<sup>3</sup> Note: in actual pronunciation, 3-3 becomes 2-3. For example, 你好 is written nǐ hǎo, but pronounced ní hǎo.

付款 (fùkuǎn – payment; to pay)

4-4

见面 (jiànmiàn – to meet)

电话 (diànhuà – phone call; telephone)

看见 (kànjiàn – to see)

照片 (zhàopiàn – photo)

下次 (xiàcì – next time)

4-5

这个 (zhège – this)

那个 (nàge – that)

这么 (zhème – so; this much)

漂亮 (piàoliang – beautiful)

谢谢 (xièxie – thank you)

病了 (bìng le – got sick; is sick now)

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Mobile Payment

二维码	èrwéimǎ	QR code
扫码	sǎomǎ	to scan code
付款	fùkuǎn	to pay/make payment
收款	shōukuǎn	to receive payment
转账	zhuǎnzhàng	to transfer money
红包	hóngbāo	red envelope (containing money)
钱包	qiánbāo	wallet

### Words 3: Money & Shopping

买	mǎi	to buy
卖	mài	to sell
商店	shāngdiàn	shop/store
超市	chāoshì	supermarket
饭店	fàndiàn	restaurant

贵	guì	expensive
便宜	piányi	cheap

## Words 4: Golden Words

就是	jiùshì	exactly; precisely; simply is
吧	ba	(suggestion/softening particle)
和	hé	and
呀	ya	softening sentence-final particle
里	lǐ	inside; in
会	huì	will; know how to
多	duō	many; much; more

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

这个二维码可以扫吗?	Zhège èrwéimǎ kěyǐ sǎo ma?	Can I scan this QR code?
请扫码付款。	Qǐng sǎomǎ fùkuǎn.	Please scan the code to pay.
我用微信付款。	Wǒ yòng Wēixìn fùkuǎn.	I pay with WeChat.
这里可以用微信付款吗?	Zhèlǐ kěyǐ yòng Wēixìn fùkuǎn ma?	Can I pay with WeChat here?

我给你转账吧。	Wǒ gěi nǐ zhuǎnzhàng ba.	I'll transfer the money to you, okay?
这是给你的红包。 。	Zhè shì gěi nǐ de hóngbāo.	This red envelope is for you.
我的钱包里没有钱。	Wǒ de qiánbāo lǐ méiyǒu qián.	There is no money in my wallet.
我想买这个。	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi zhège.	I want to buy this.

### Sentences 3

你卖咖啡吗？	Nǐ mài kāfēi ma?	Do you sell coffee?
那家商店很小。	Nà jiā shāngdiàn hěn xiǎo.	That shop is small.
我去超市买水。	Wǒ qù chāoshì mǎi shuǐ.	I'm going to the supermarket to buy water.
这家饭店不贵。	Zhè jiā fàndiàn bú guì.	This restaurant is not expensive.
这个太贵了。	Zhège tài guì le.	This is too expensive.
那个很便宜。	Nàge hěn piányi.	That one is cheap.
就是这个。	Jiùshì zhège.	This is exactly it.

### Sentences 4

明天见吧。	Míngtiān jiàn ba.	See you tomorrow, okay?
我和朋友去饭店。 。	Wǒ hé péngyou qù fàndiàn.	I'm going to a restaurant with a friend.
好贵呀！	Hǎo guì ya!	So expensive!
手机在包里。	Shǒujī zài bāo lǐ.	The phone is in the bag.

我会扫码。	Wǒ huì sǎomǎ.	I know how to scan a code.
这里人很多。	Zhèlǐ rén hěn duō.	There are many people here.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 5! Here's what you learned:

- 这个 (*zhège* this one), 那个 (*nàge* that one), and 哪个 (*nǎge* which one)
- 个 (*gè* – general measure word), used after numbers and demonstratives
- 还 (*hái* still / also / more) and 再 (*zài* again, for future repetition)

You also practiced common phrases with 没 (*méi*), such as 没关系 (*méi guānxi* it doesn't matter), 没事 (*méi shì* it's nothing), and 没问题 (*méi wèntí* no problem).

In pronunciation, you saw that Chinese tones become most interesting in combinations. With four main tones plus the neutral tone, two-character words have 20 possible tone patterns.

Total words learned so far: ~180 words

In Lesson 6, you'll look at one of the most common puzzles for Chinese learners: why 很 (*hěn*) appears so often, even when it does not mean “very.”

## 6. What do you want?

你想要什么? - Nǐ xiǎng yào shénme?

### Listen AND Read Together!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. You're building neural pathways for a tonal language—repetition is the only way. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

我饿了。你呢?	Wǒ è le. Nǐ ne?	I'm hungry. And you?
我也饿了。一起点外卖吧!	Wǒ yě è le. Yìqǐ diǎn wàimài ba!	I'm hungry too. Let's order delivery together!
好啊! 你想吃什么?	Hǎo a! Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?	Okay! What do you want to eat?
我想吃饺子。这个餐厅很好。	Wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎozi. Zhège cāntīng hěn hǎo.	I want to eat dumplings. This restaurant is good.
好! 我要吃面。还要别的吗?	Hǎo! Wǒ yào chī miàn. Hái yào biéde ma?	Good! I want noodles. Do you want anything else?
再点一个菜。够吗?	Zài diǎn yí ge cài. Gòu ma?	Let's order one more dish. Is that enough?
够了! 多少钱?	Gòu le! Duōshao qián?	Enough! How much is it?
五十块。很便宜!	Wǔshí kuài. Hěn piányi!	Fifty yuan. Very cheap!
半小时到。我们一起吃吧!	Bàn xiǎoshí dào. Wǒmen yìqǐ chī ba!	It'll arrive in half an hour. Let's eat together!

## Words

饿	è	hungry
点	diǎn	to order
外卖	wàimài	takeout/food delivery
一起	yìqǐ	together
吃	chī	to eat
饺子	jiǎozi	dumplings
餐厅	cāntīng	restaurant
要	yào	to want/need
面	miàn	noodles
还	hái	still/also
别的	biéde	other/else
再	zài	again
菜	cài	dish/vegetable
够	gòu	enough
五十	wǔshí	fifty
便宜	piányi	cheap
半	bàn	half
小时	xiǎoshí	hour
到	dào	to arrive

## Grammar 6: Adjectives with 很

One curious feature of Chinese is that adjectives often appear with 很 (*hěn*). However, even though 很 means "very," the word is often not translated at all. Why is that?

## Adjectives Function as Verbs

In Chinese, adjectives can function as the main verb in a sentence, so they do not need a separate verb “to be.” For example, “I’m hungry” or “This restaurant is good” can be expressed with just the adjective acting as “to be + adjective”:

我饿。(Wǒ è. I'm hungry.)

这个餐厅好。(Zhège cāntīng hǎo. This restaurant is good.)

However, in neutral statements like these, a bare adjective can sound comparative in Chinese. For example, 这个餐厅好 (Zhège cāntīng hǎo. This restaurant is good.) may suggest “good compared with others.” To make the sentence sound natural and neutral, Chinese speakers commonly add 很 (hěn) before the adjective.

## 很 as Grammatical Filler

In most neutral adjective statements, 很 before an adjective does not mean “very”; it works as a grammatical filler in the pattern **Subject + 很 + Adjective**. So 饭馆很好 usually means “The restaurant is good,” not necessarily “The restaurant is very good.”

这个餐厅很好。(Zhège cāntīng hěn hǎo. This restaurant is good.)

外卖很贵。(Wàimài hěn guì. Delivery is expensive.)

她很忙。(Tā hěn máng. She's busy.)

## Drop 很 in these situations

In questions with 吗 (*ma*):

贵吗? (*Guì ma?* Is it expensive?)

够吗? (*Gòu ma?* Is it enough?)

With 了 (*le*) indicating change of state:

我饿了。 (*Wǒ è le.* I'm hungry now.)

够了! (*Gòu le!* That's enough!)

In negation with 不 (*bù*):

不贵。 (*Bú guì.* Not expensive.)

不好。 (*Bù hǎo.* Not good.)

## Golden Keys

就 (*jiù*) – Then / Only / Exactly / Right Away

就 (*jiù*) is one of the most essential but challenging words in Chinese. Its meaning changes with context, and there is no single English equivalent. It can mean “then,” “only,” “just,” “right away,” or “exactly.” Mastering 就 takes time, but it is useful to start recognizing it early.

- 我就来! (*Wǒ jiù lái!* I'm coming right away!)
- 就这样。 (*Jiù zhèyàng.* Just like this. / That's it.)
- 就是这个。 (*Jiù shì zhège.* It's exactly this one. / This is the one.)

"就是" (*jiù shì*) deserves special mention—it means "exactly," "precisely," or "it's just that." You'll hear it constantly: 就是这样。

(*Jiù shì zhèyàng*. It's just like this./That's exactly right.) Or 就是你!  
(*Jiù shì nǐ!* It's you!).

Don't worry if 就 feels confusing now. For now, simply recognize it when it appears and observe how its meaning changes in different contexts.

## 多少 (duōshao) – How Much / How Many

多少 (*duōshao*) means “how much” or “how many.” It is used to ask about quantities and prices, especially in markets and shops. For prices, the key question is 多少钱? (*duōshao qián?* How much is it?) Here, 多少 means “how much,” and 钱 means “money.”

这个多少钱? (*Zhège duōshao qián?* How much is this?)

你有多少朋友? (*Nǐ yǒu duōshao péngyou?* How many friends do you have?)

When answering prices, Chinese often uses 块 (*kuài*) for yuan. For example, 三十块 means “thirty yuan.”

## Pronunciation: Retroflex Sounds zh, ch, sh, r

To properly pronounce the Chinese sounds zh, ch, and sh, **use j, q, and x as reference positions**. With j, q, and x, the tip of the tongue stays down and touches the lower front teeth. For zh, ch, and sh, curl the tongue tip back slightly from the j/q/x position, but don't pull it as far back as you might expect—it's a subtle curl, not a dramatic retraction. Chinese ch is not like the strongly pulled-back “ch” sometimes produced by German speakers. The pattern is:

j → zh

q → ch

x → sh

## zh, ch, sh

**zh:** similar to the **j** in English “judge,” but slightly retroflex.

知 (*zhī* to know)

这 (*zhè* this)

中 (*zhōng* middle)

**ch:** similar to the **ch** in English “church,” but slightly retroflex and strongly aspirated.

吃 (*chī* to eat)

车 (*chē* car)

出 (*chū* to go out)

**sh:** similar to the **sh** in English “shoe,” but slightly retroflex.

是 (*shì* to be)

什么 (*shénme* what)

书 (*shū* book)

## The "r" Sound

The Chinese “r” sound is similar to the “s” in the English words “pleasure” or “measure”—a buzzing “sh” sound.

Some Chinese speakers pronounce the “r” sound more like the “j” in the French “je t’aime” (without curling the tongue back). Many learners find this pronunciation easier to produce than the standard retroflex r, and it will be understood everywhere.

The Chinese r is not trilled like the Spanish "perro," not guttural like the French or German "r," and not like the Japanese flap.

Practice with these words:

人 (*rén* person)

热 (*rè* hot)

日 (*rì* day)

认识 (*rènshi* to know)

容易 (*róngyì* easy)

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Food Delivery Apps

美团	Měituán	Meituan (delivery app)
饿了么	È le me	Ele.me (delivery app)
外卖员	wàimàiyuán	delivery person
骑手	qíshǒu	rider (delivery person)
送餐	sòngcān	deliver food
订单	dìngdān	order
配送	pèisòng	delivery/distribution

### Words 3: Meals & Food

包子	bāozi	steamed bun
鸡蛋	jīdàn	egg
面包	miànbāo	bread
水果	shuǐguǒ	fruit
早饭	zǎofàn	breakfast

午饭	wǔfàn	lunch
晚饭	wǎnfàn	dinner

## Words 4: Golden Words

又	yòu	again
自己	zìjǐ	self; oneself
一下	yíxià	a bit; once
还是	háishi	or; still
可以	kěyǐ	can; may
时候	shíhou	time; moment
上	shàng	up; on; above

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

我在美团上点外卖。	Wǒ zài Měituán shàng diǎn wàimài.	I order delivery on Meituan.
饿了么也可以。	È le me yě kěyǐ.	Ele.me is also fine.
外卖员到了吗?	Wàimài yuán dào le ma?	Has the delivery worker arrived?
骑手在送餐。	Qíshǒu zài sòngcān.	The rider is delivering food.

送餐要半小时。	Sòngcān yào bàn xiǎoshí.	Food delivery takes half an hour.
我的订单到了。	Wǒ de dìngdān dào le.	My order has arrived.
配送不贵。	Pèisòng bú guì.	Delivery is not expensive.

### Sentences 3

早上我吃包子。	Zǎoshang wǒ chī bāozi.	I eat baozi in the morning.
我想要鸡蛋。	Wǒ xiǎng yào jīdàn.	I want eggs.
这个面包很好吃。	Zhège miànbāo hěn hǎochī.	This bread is good.
我买了一点水果。	Wǒ mǎi le yìdiǎn shuǐguǒ.	I bought some fruit.
早饭吃什么？	Zǎofàn chī shénme?	What are we having for breakfast?
午饭一起吃吧。	Wǔfàn yìqǐ chī ba.	Let's have lunch together.
晚饭我自己做。	Wǎnfàn wǒ zìjǐ zuò.	I'll make dinner myself.
你又点外卖了？	Nǐ yòu diǎn wàimài le?	Did you order delivery again?

### Sentences 4

我自己付钱。	Wǒ zìjǐ fù qián.	I'll pay myself.
我看一下订单。	Wǒ kàn yíxià dìngdān.	I'll take a look at the order.
你要面还是饺子？	Nǐ yào miàn hái shì jiǎozi?	Do you want noodles or dumplings?
现在可以送吗？	Xiànzài kěyǐ sòng ma?	Can it be delivered now?
吃饭的时候别看	Chīfàn de shíhou bié	Don't look at your

手机。	kàn shǒujī.	phone while eating.
桌子上有面包。	Zhuōzi shàng yǒu miànbāo.	There is bread on the table.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 6! Here's what you learned:

- 很 (*hěn*) — a grammatical filler that makes adjective statements neutral, not “very”
- 就 (*jiù*) — one of the most frequent but most slippery words in Chinese
- Retroflex sounds zh, ch, sh, r — slightly retracted from j, q, x, but with the tongue still fairly far forward

You also learned 多少 (*duōshao* how much / how many), essential for markets worldwide.

**Total words learned so far:** ~220 words

In Lesson 7, you'll learn how Chinese handles key question words in a very natural way, without changing word order, and you'll start to hear important pronunciation differences that make spoken Chinese more precise. You'll also explore how words for ability and permission, 能 (*néng*) and 可以 (*kěyǐ*), are used differently.

## 7. Where did you go?

你去哪儿了? – Nǐ qù nǎr le?

### Read and listen at the same time!

Always listen and read simultaneously – loop the audio and use the word-by-word translation to understand every word. You can't think your way to fluency because your brain must hear thousands of sentences and absorb thousands of words through repeated exposure. Listen to this lesson today, tomorrow and the day after.

你昨天去哪儿了? ?	Nǐ zuótiān qù nǎr le?	Where did you go yesterday?
我去电影院了。	Wǒ qù diànyǐngyuàn le.	I went to the cinema.
跟谁一起去的?	Gēn shéi yìqǐ qù de?	Who did you go with?
跟你一起啊!	Gēn nǐ yìqǐ a!	With you!
我? 我们去电影院了吗?	Wǒ? Wǒmen qù diànyǐngyuàn le ma?	Me? Did we go to the cinema?
对啊! 昨天晚上。你忘了?	Duì a! Zuótiān wǎnshang. Nǐ wàng le?	Yes! Yesterday evening. Did you forget?
看什么电影了?	Kàn shénme diànyǐng le?	What movie did we watch?
一部港片。很有意思!	Yí bù gǎng piàn. Hěn yǒu yìsi!	A Hong Kong film. Very interesting!
电影后我们吃饭了。	Diànyǐng hòu wǒmen chīfàn le.	After the movie we had dinner.
哦! 我想起来了	Ō! Wǒ xiǎng qǐ lái!	Oh! I remember now!

! le!

## Words

昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
电影院	diànyǐngyuàn	cinema/movie theater
跟	gēn	with
谁	shéi/shuí	who
对	duì	correct/right/yes
晚上	wǎnshàng	evening
忘	wàng	to forget
电影	diànyǐng	movie
部	bù	measure word (for films, books, machines)
港片	gǎng piàn	Hong Kong film
有意思	yǒu yìsi	interesting
后	hòu	after
吃饭	chīfàn	to eat/have a meal
哦	ō	oh (exclamation)
想起来	xiǎng qǐlái	to remember/recall

## Grammar 7: Question Words

In this chapter, you will learn the essential question words:

- 什么 (*shénme* what)
- 谁 (*shéi* who)
- 哪 (*nǎ* which)
- 哪儿 (*nǎr* where)

- 怎么 (zěnmě how)
- 为什么 (wèishénme why)
- 怎么样 (zěnmeyàng how is it?)

## The Key Principle

Chinese follows SVO (Subject–Verb–Object) order, the same as English. The question word goes where the answer would appear.

### 什么 (shénme) – What

Asks about things:

这是什么? (Zhè shì shénme? What is this?)

你想吃什么? (Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme? What do you want to eat?)

### 怎么 (zěnmě) – How

Asks about manner or method:

你怎么去? (Nǐ zěnmě qù? How are you getting there?)

### 谁 (shéi) – Who

Asks about people:

谁去了? (Shéi qù le? Who went?)

你认识谁? (Nǐ rènshi shéi? Who do you know?)

### 为什么 (wèishénme) – Why

Asks for reasons:

为什么这么贵? (Wèishénme zhème guì? Why is it so expensive?)

*怎么样(zěnmeyàng) – How is it?*

Asks for opinions or evaluations:

这个餐厅怎么样? (Zhège cāntīng zěnmeyàng? How is this restaurant?)

*哪个(nǎge) – Which / Which One*

Combines 哪(nǎ which) with 个(the general measure word). Can be used alone ("which one") or with a noun ("which + noun"):

哪个? (Nǎge? Which one?)

哪个电影? (Nǎge diànyǐng? Which movie?)

*哪儿(nǎr) – Where*

你去哪儿? (Nǐ qù nǎr? Where are you going?)

**Note:** 哪儿(nǎr) and 哪里(nǎlǐ) mean the same.

**Golden Keys***能(néng) – Can / Able To (Capability)*

能(néng) expresses physical ability or whether circumstances permit something. It asks: "Are you able to?" or "Is it possible?"

我能帮你。(Wǒ néng bāng nǐ I can help you. / I'm able to help you.)

你能来吗?(Nǐ néng lái ma? Can you come? / Are you able to come?)

我今天不能去。(Wǒ jīntiān bù néng qù. I can't go today. / I'm not able to go today.)

## 可以 (kěyǐ) – Can / May (Permission and Acceptability)

"可以" (kěyǐ) asks for or grants permission and relates to social acceptability, not physical ability. It can mean "May I?", "Is it okay to?", or "It's allowed."

我可以走了吗? (Wǒ kěyǐ zǒu le ma? May I go now? / Can I leave?)

可以进来。(Kěyǐ jìnlái. You may come in. / It's okay to come in.)

## Pronunciation 7: The Three Faces of Pinyin "i"

Here's an interesting fact about pinyin: the letter *i* can represent three different sounds depending on the preceding letter. Many learners try to pronounce all "i" sounds the same way, which makes their pronunciation sound unnatural.

### 1. Regular i

After most consonants, pinyin *i* sounds like **ee** in *see*. The exceptions are **z, c, s** and **zh, ch, sh, r** (see below).

- 你 (*nǐ* you)
- 米 (*mǐ* rice)
- 七 (*qī* seven)

### 2. Dental buzzing i

After *z, c,* and *s*, pinyin *i* is not pronounced like *ee*. It's just the consonant sound continuing!

- 四 (*sì* four) — **sounds like "sss" extended, not "see"**
- 次 (*cì* time; occurrence)

- 字 (zì character)

### 3. Retroflex buzzing i

After **zh**, **ch**, **sh**, and **r**, pinyin **i** is also not pronounced like **ee**. Again, it's just the consonant sound continuing!

- 是 (*shì* to be) — **sounds like "shhh" extended, not "shee"**
- 吃 (*chī* to eat)
- 日 (*rì* day)

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Numbers & Small Quantities

零	líng	zero
千	qiān	thousand
元	yuán	yuan (RMB)
岁	suì	years old
一半	yíban	half
一些	yìxiē	some
一点儿	yìdiǎnr	a little

### Words 3: Places & Transportation

学校	xuéxiào	school
书店	shūdiàn	bookstore
医院	yīyuàn	hospital
车	chē	car/vehicle
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi
火车	huǒchē	train

飞机	fēijī	airplane
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## Words 4: Golden Words

告诉	gàosu	tell
还有	háiyǒu	also; in addition; there is also
事	shì	matter; thing
不会	búhuì	cannot; will not
是不是	shì bú shì	is it?; isn't it?; right?; whether or not
谁	shéi	who
不能	bùnéng	cannot; must not

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

这儿可以拍照吗？	Zhèr kěyǐ pāizhào ma?	Can I take photos here?
那儿有家书店。	Nàr yǒu jiā shūdiàn.	There is a bookstore over there.
你要看哪部电影？	Nǐ yào kàn nǎ bù diànyǐng?	Which movie do you want to watch?
她在电影院。	Tā zài diànyǐngyuàn.	She is at the movie theater.

他们晚上去吃饭。 。	Tāmen wǎnshang qù chīfàn.	They are going to eat tonight.
她们是我的朋友。 。	Tāmen shì wǒ de péngyou.	They are my friends.
它在车里。	Tā zài chē lǐ.	It is in the car.

### Sentences 3

学校在哪儿？	Xuéxiào zài nǎr?	Where is the school?
我想去书店。	Wǒ xiǎng qù shūdiàn.	I want to go to the bookstore.
医院离这儿不远。 。	Yīyuàn lí zhèr bù yuǎn.	The hospital is not far from here.
这是你的车吗？	Zhè shì nǐ de chē ma?	Is this your car?
我们坐出租车吧。 。	Wǒmen zuò chūzūchē ba.	Let's take a taxi.
我没坐过火车。	Wǒ méi zuòguò huǒchē.	I have never taken a train.
你坐过飞机吗？	Nǐ zuòguò fēijī ma?	Have you ever taken a plane?

### Sentences 4

我告诉你一件事。 。	Wǒ gàosu nǐ yí jiàn shì.	I'll tell you something.
还有别的吗？	Hái yǒu bié de ma?	Is there anything else?
我有事，不能去。 。	Wǒ yǒu shì, bù néng qù.	I have something to do, so I can't go.
我不会说这个。	Wǒ bù huì shuō zhège.	I don't know how to say this.
你是不是忘了？	Nǐ shì bu shì wàng le?	Did you forget?

你跟谁去?	Nǐ gēn shéi qù?	Who are you going with?
今天不能看电影。	Jīntiān bù néng kàn diànyǐng.	I can't watch a movie today.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 7! The question words introduced in this lesson are:

- 什么 (*shénme* what)
- 怎么 (*zěnmē* how)
- 谁 (*shéi* who)
- 哪儿 (*nǎr* where)
- 为什么 (*wèishénme* why)
- 怎么样 (*zěnmeyàng* how is it?)
- 哪个 (*nǎge* which one)

In pronunciation, the key point is that pinyin *i* after *z*, *c*, *s*, *zh*, *ch*, *sh*, and *r* is not pronounced like English "ee." The "i" is not a separate vowel—it's just the consonant sound continuing:

- 四 (*sì* four) — sounds like "sss" extended, not "see"
- 是 (*shì* to be) — sounds like "shhh" extended, not "shee"

**Total words learned so far:** ~255 words

In Lesson 8, you'll learn how Chinese uses numbers, measure words, and nouns together in everyday speech. You'll also see the difference between 两 (*liǎng* two before measure words) and 二

(èr two in numbers), and hear how the pronunciation of — (yī one) changes in context.

## 8. What do you want?

你要什么? - Nǐ yào shénme?

### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. The gap between "I hear gibberish" and "I hear words" closes through repetition, not explanation. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

你在买什么?	Nǐ zài mǎi shénme?	What are you buying?
我买两件衣服。给你的!	Wǒ mǎi liǎng jiàn yīfu. Gěi nǐ de!	I'm buying two pieces of clothing – for you!
给我的? 多少钱一件?	Gěi wǒ de? Duōshao qián yí jiàn?	For me? How much per piece?
五十块。还买了三本书。	Wǔshí kuài. Hái mǎi le sān běn shū.	Fifty yuan per piece. I also bought three books.
什么书?	Shénme shū?	What books?
学中文的书。我们一起看。	Xué zhōngwén de shū. Wǒmen yìqǐ kàn.	Books for learning Chinese. We'll read them together.
太好了! 一共多少钱?	Tài hǎo le! Yígòng duōshao qián?	Great! How much altogether?
一百七十块。还有一个包。	Yībǎi qīshí kuài. Hái yǒu yí ge bāo.	One hundred seventy yuan. And there's also a bag.
给我看看!	Gěi wǒ kànkàn!	Show me!
你看, 很漂亮吧?	Nǐ kàn, hěn piàoliang ba?	Look, it's very pretty, right?

## Words

买	mǎi	to buy
在	zài	in the process of (progressive marker)
两	liǎng	two (with measure words)
给	gěi	to give / for
一	yī	one
三	sān	three
本	běn	measure word (books)
书	shū	book
学	xué	to learn
中文	Zhōngwén	Chinese
太	tài	too/very
一共	yíòng	altogether/in total
一百	yībǎi	one hundred
七十	qīshí	seventy
包	bāo	bag
看看	kànkàn	to take a look

## Grammar 8: Measure Words and Counting

### Numbers 1 to 10

1	一	yī	11	十一	shíyī
2	二	èr	12	十二	shí'èr
3	三	sān	13	十三	shísān
4	四	sì	14	十四	shísì
5	五	wǔ	15	十五	shíwǔ
6	六	liù	16	十六	shíliù
7	七	qī	17	十七	shíqī
8	八	bā	18	十八	shíbā
9	九	jiǔ	19	十九	shíjiǔ
10	十	shí	20	二十	èrshí

In Chinese, counting follows the pattern number + measure word + noun. From **Lesson 5**, remember some common measure words: 个 (*gè*: universal measure word), 件 (*jiàn*: for clothing), 本 (*běn*: for books), 杯 (*bēi*: for drinks), and 张 (*zhāng*: for flat objects such as photos, paper, tickets, or tables).

Examples:

- 一件衣服 (*yī jiàn yīfu* one piece of clothing)
- 三本书 (*sān běn shū* three books)
- 两杯茶 (*liǎng bēi chá* two cups of tea)
- 一张照片 (*yì zhāng zhàopiàn* one photo)

A key distinction is between 两 (*liǎng* two) and 二 (*èr* two). Use 两 before a measure word: 两个人 (*liǎng ge rén* two people). Use 二 (*èr*) in compound numbers:

- 十二 (*shí'èr* twelve)
- 二十 (*èrshí* twenty)
- 二百 (*èrbǎi* two hundred)

For prices, Chinese often uses a “per unit” pattern:

- 多少钱一件? (*Duōshao qián yí jiàn?* How much per piece?)
- 一件五十块。 (*Yí jiàn wǔshí kuài.* Fifty yuan per piece.)

## Golden Keys

### 别— Don't (Negative Command)

别 (*bié*) is often used before verbs to mean “don’t.” It is a normal everyday form, not especially aggressive or impolite. While 不 (*bù*) negates statements, 别 (*bié*) gives negative instructions, such as “don’t do this” or “don’t do that.”

- 别走! (*Bié zǒu!* Don't go!)
- 别说了。 (*Bié shuō le.* Stop talking. / Don't say anymore.)
- 别担心。 (*Bié dānxīn.* Don't worry.)

## Pronunciation 8: The Changing Tones of 一

The dictionary form of 一, meaning “one,” is *yī*, first tone. In real speech, however, *yī* is used only in a few specific cases: when 一 is pronounced alone, when counting, and inside numbers:

1            一            一

*yī*

1, 2, 3	一 二 三	yī èr sān
11	十一	shí yī
21	二十一	èrshí yī
first	第一	dì yī

Everywhere else, 一 usually changes tone.

### 1. Before a first, second, or third tone, 一 becomes yì

- 一天 (yìtiān one day)
- 一年 (yìnián one year)
- 一起 (yìqǐ together)
- 一点 (yìdiǎn a little)

### 2. Before a fourth tone, 一 becomes yí

- 一样 (yíyàng same)
- 一定 (yídìng certainly)
- 一半 (yíbàn half)

### 3. Before a neutral tone, 一 is often yí too

- 一个 (yí ge one; a)

### 4. Between two identical verbs, 一 becomes neutral yì

- 看一看 (kàn yi kàn take a look)
- 试一试 (shì yi shì give it a try)
- 等一等 (děng yi děng wait a moment)

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Years & Calendar

今年	jīnnián	this year
去年	qùnián	last year
明年	míngnián	next year
上午	shàngwǔ	morning, a.m.
下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon
白天	báitiān	daytime
星期天	xīngqītiān	Sunday

### Words 3: Household Items

杯子	bēizi	cup/glass
桌子	zhuōzi	table/desk
椅子	yǐzi	chair
电脑	diànnǎo	computer
电视	diànshì	television
书	shū	book
店	diàn	shop/store

### Words 4: Golden Words

看看	kànkàn	have a look
没事	méishì	it's okay; no problem; nothing wrong
不要	búyào	do not; don't want
到	dào	arrive; to
然后	ránhòu	then; after that

等	děng	wait; etc.
喜欢	xǐhuan	like

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

我要五个包子。	Wǒ yào wǔ ge bāozi.	I want five baozi.
六杯水够吗？	Liù bēi shuǐ gòu ma?	Are six cups of water enough?
七个人一起吃饭。	Qī ge rén yìqǐ chīfàn.	Seven people are eating together.
。		
我有八本书。	Wǒ yǒu bā běn shū.	I have eight books.
九点见吧。	Jiǔ diǎn jiàn ba.	See you at nine, okay?
这个杯子是我的。	Zhège bēizi shì wǒ de.	This cup is mine.
。		
书在桌子上。	Shū zài zhuōzi shàng.	The book is on the table.

### Sentences 3

椅子在这儿。	Yǐzi zài zhèr.	The chair is here.
我的电脑在桌子上。	Wǒ de diànnǎo zài zhuōzi shàng.	My computer is on the table.
晚上看电视吧。	Wǎnshang kàn diànshì	Let's watch TV tonight.

我买了三本书。	ba.	Wǒ mǎi le sān běn shū.	I bought three books.
这家店很便宜。		Zhè jiā diàn hěn piányi.	This shop is cheap.
我可以看看吗?		Wǒ kěyǐ kànkàn ma?	May I take a look?
没事, 不用谢。		Méi shì, bú yòng xiè.	No problem, no need to thank me.

## Sentences 4

不要这个。	Bú yào zhège.	I don't want this one.
外卖到了。	Wàimài dào le.	The delivery has arrived.
我买书, 然后看电影。	Wǒ mǎi shū, ránhòu kàn diànyǐng.	I'll buy books, then watch a movie.
等一下。	Děng yíxià.	Wait a moment.
我喜欢这本书。	Wǒ xǐhuan zhè běn shū.	I like this book.
你等我一下。	Nǐ děng wǒ yíxià.	Wait for me a moment.
她也喜欢中文。	Tā yě xǐhuan Zhōngwén.	She also likes Chinese.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 8! Here's what you learned:

- Chinese counting follows the pattern number + measure word + noun
- 两 (*liǎng* two) is used before measure words, while 二 (*èr* two) is used in compound numbers
- 一 (*yī* one) changes tone in connected speech: *yí*, *yì*, *yī*, or neutral *yì*

You also learned four useful measure words: 件 (*jiàn*: for clothing), 本 (*běn*: for books), 杯 (*bēi*: for drinks), and 张 (*zhāng*: for flat objects). In addition, you saw the common “per unit” pattern used in shopping and pricing, such as 多少钱一件? (*Duōshao qián yī jiàn?* How much per piece?). In pronunciation, the most important point is that 一 does not always stay *yī*: its tone changes automatically depending on the tone or structure that follows.

### **Total words learned so far: ~290 words**

In Lesson 9, you’ll review and expand how Chinese talks about location and how small word choices make meaning more precise. You’ll return to the difference between 在 (*zài* to be at / in / on) and 有 (*yǒu* to have / there is), which was introduced earlier, get used to common location expressions, and see how 只 (*zhǐ* only / just) and 才 (*cái* only / not until) add different shades of “only.”



## 9. Where are you?

你在哪里？ - Nǐ zài nǎlǐ?

### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. Tones aren't something you think your way into—they become automatic through hearing them over and over. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem. Do it.

你在哪里？发 定位给我。	Nǐ zài nǎlǐ? Fā dìngwèi gěi wǒ.	Where are you? Send me your location.
好！我发了。 你看见了吗？	Hǎo! Wǒ fā le. Nǐ kànjiàn le ma?	Okay! I sent it. Did you see it?
看见了。你在 图书馆里面？	Kànjiàn le. Nǐ zài túshūguǎn lǐmiàn?	I saw it. You're inside the library?
对！在二楼。	Duì! Zài èr lóu.	Right! I'm on the second floor.
我等你很久了 ！	Wǒ děng nǐ hěn jiǔ le!	I've been waiting for you for a long time!
对不起！我现 在在外面。很 快到！	Duìbuqǐ! Wǒ xiànzài zài wàimiàn. Hěn kuài dào!	Sorry! I'm outside now. I'll be there soon!
你走路来还是 开车？	Nǐ zǒulù lái háishi kāi chē?	Are you walking or driving?
我坐出租车。 五分钟到。	Wǒ zuò chūzūchē. Wǔ fēnzhōng dào.	I'm taking a taxi. I'll arrive in five minutes.

好! 我在门口 等你。	Hǎo! Wǒ zài ménkǒu děng nǐ.	Okay! I'll wait for you at the entrance.
快点儿! 我想 你了!	Kuài diǎnr! Wǒ xiǎng nǐ le!	Hurry! I miss you!

## Words

哪里	nǎli	where
定位	dìngwèi	location/position
图书馆	túshūguǎn	library
里面	lǐmiàn	inside
二	èr	two
楼	lóu	floor/building
等	děng	to wait
很久	hěn jiǔ	a long time
对不起	duìbuqǐ	sorry
现在	xiànzài	now
外面	wàimiàn	outside
快	kuài	fast/quick/soon
走路	zǒulù	to walk
还是	háishi	or
开车	kāi chē	to drive
坐	zuò	to sit/take (transportation)
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi
五	wǔ	five
分钟	fēnzhōng	minute
门口	ménkǒu	entrance/doorway

快点儿	kuài diǎnr	hurry up
想	xiǎng	to miss

## Grammar 9: 在 (zài) and Location Words

### 1. 在 + Location: where something is

Chapter 2 introduced 在 (zài) for location:

我在北京。(Wǒ zài Běijīng. I'm in Beijing.)

In this lesson, we expand this pattern with more precise location words and show how to express where actions happen.

#### 1. Location words

Location words describe position and typically come **after** the place they describe:

里面	lǐmiàn	inside
外面	wàimiàn	outside
上面	shàngmiàn	on top
下面	xiàmiàn	below
前面	qiánmiàn	in front
后面	hòumiàn	behind
左边	zuǒbiān	left side
右边	yòubiān	right side
旁边	pángbiān	beside
门口	ménkǒu	entrance; doorway

Examples:

图书馆里面 (*túshūguǎn lǐmiàn* inside the library)

学校旁边 (*xuéxiào pángbiān* beside the school)

你在图书馆里面? (*Nǐ zài túshūguǎn lǐmiàn?* Are you inside the library?)

在二楼。 (*Zài èr lóu.* On the second floor.)

## 2. 在 + Place + Verb: Where an Action Happens

To show where an action happens, use this pattern:

Subject + 在 + Place + Verb

我在家吃饭。 (*Wǒ zài jiā chīfàn.* I eat at home.)

他在图书馆看书。 (*Tā zài túshūguǎn kàn shū.* He reads at the library.)

## 3. 在 vs 有

- 在 says where someone or something is.
- 有 (*yǒu*) says what **exists** in a place.

Examples:

我在家。 (*Wǒ zài jiā.* I'm at home.)

家里有人。 (*Jiā lǐ yǒu rén.* There is someone at home.)

## Golden Keys

### 只 (*zhǐ*) – Only (Neutral Limit)

只 means "only" without emotion—just stating a limit:

只有我。 (*Zhǐ yǒu wǒ.* Only me.)

我只要水。 (*Wǒ zhǐ yào shuǐ.* I only want water.)

*才 (cái) – Only (Implies Expectation)*

才 means "only" but suggests surprise, delay, or "less/later than expected":

我才知道。(Wǒ cái zhīdào. I only just found out.)

现在才三点。(Xiànzài cái sān diǎn. It's only three o'clock [earlier than expected].)

*Key contrast*

只有三个人。(Zhǐ yǒu sān ge rén. There are only three people.) [neutral fact]

才三个人。(Cái sān ge rén. Only three people?) [fewer than expected]

In short: 只 = simple fact; 才 = fact + attitude.

**Pronunciation: chi/che, shi/she, zhi/zhe**

After certain consonant groups, such as **ch**, **sh**, and **zh**, final **-i** and final **-e** are radically different.

In **chi**, **shi**, **zhi**, the final **-i** is not a separate vowel—it's just the consonant continuing (like "shhh" extended).

In **che**, **she**, **zhe**, the final **-e** is a real vowel. For French speakers, this **e** is somewhere between the vowel in *je* and the vowel in *sæur*.

Compare carefully:

- 吃 (*chī* to eat) / 车 (*chē* car)
- 是 (*shì* to be) / 蛇 (*shé* snake)
- 知 (*zhī* to know) / 这 (*zhè* this)

## Your Word Bank

### Words 2: Location & Direction

这里	zhèlǐ	here
那里	nàlǐ	there
上面	shàngmiàn	above/on top
下面	xiàmiàn	below/underneath
前面	qiánmiàn	in front
后面	hòumiàn	behind
旁边	pángbiān	beside/next to

### Words 3: Actions & Verbs

找	zhǎo	to look for/find
开	kāi	to drive/open
走路	zǒulù	to walk
等	děng	to wait
读	dú	to read
写	xiě	to write
听	tīng	to listen

### Words 4: Golden Words

谢谢	xièxie	thank you
这样	zhèyàng	this way; like this
快	kuài	fast; quick
应该	yīnggāi	should

过	guò	pass; cross; experience
未来	wèilái	future
太	tài	too; very

## Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

### Sentences 2

我在这里等你。	Wǒ zài zhèlǐ děng nǐ.	I'll wait for you here.
那里有一家书店。	Nàlǐ yǒu yì jiā shūdiàn.	There is a bookstore there.
书在桌子上。	Shū zài zhuōzi shàng.	The book is on the table.
手机在书下。	Shǒujī zài shū xià.	The phone is under the book.
我在学校前面。	Wǒ zài xuéxiào qiánmiàn.	I am in front of the school.
出租车在后面。	Chūzūchē zài hòumiàn.	The taxi is behind us.
图书馆在学校旁边。	Túshūguǎn zài xuéxiào pángbiān.	The library is beside the school.

### Sentences 3

我去找老师。	Wǒ qù zhǎo lǎoshī.	I'm going to find the teacher.
我不会开车。	Wǒ bú huì kāichē.	I don't know how to drive.

我们走路去吧。	Wǒmen zǒulù qù ba.	Let's walk there.
等一下，我就来。	Děng yíxià, wǒ jiù lái.	Wait a moment. I'm coming right away.
她在图书馆读书。	Tā zài túshūguǎn dú shū.	She is reading at the library.
我会写中文。	Wǒ huì xiě Zhōngwén.	I can write Chinese.
你听我说。	Nǐ tīng wǒ shuō.	Listen to me.

## Sentences 4

谢谢你告诉我。	Xièxie nǐ gàosu wǒ.	Thank you for telling me.
就这样吧。	Jiù zhèyàng ba.	Let's leave it like this.
快点儿，我们走吧。	Kuài diǎnr, wǒmen zǒu ba.	Hurry up. Let's go.
你应该吃饭了。	Nǐ yīnggāi chīfàn le.	You should eat now.
你去过那里吗？	Nǐ qùguò nàlǐ ma?	Have you been there?
未来会很好。	Wèilái huì hěn hǎo.	The future will be good.
这个太贵了。	Zhège tài guì le.	This is too expensive.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 9! Here's what you learned:

- 在 (zài) for location — "to be at/in/on" (not 是), with pattern Subject + 在 + Location
- Location words like 里面 (*lǐmiàn* inside) / 外面 (*wàimiàn* outside), 上面 (*shàngmiàn* on top) / 下面 (*xiàmiàn* below) — though shorter forms 上 (*shàng* on) / 下 (*xià* under) work for simple positions like "on the table"

- 只 (*zhǐ*) vs 才 (*cái*) — both mean "only" but 只 sets limits while 才 suggests expectation, delay, or "less than expected"

You also learned 在 + Place + Verb to show actions at locations, and the key distinction between 在 (where something is) and 有 (what exists in a place). In pronunciation, the crucial difference is *chi/shi/zhi* (with -i as just the consonant continuing) versus *che/she/zhe* (with real vowel -e). Master these patterns—especially the 在 vs 是 distinction—and your ability to describe locations and actions in Chinese will become precise and natural.

**Total words learned so far:** ~330 words

In Lesson 10, you'll learn how Chinese talks about time, days, and daily routines. You'll see how time expressions work without prepositions, and how Chinese relies on time words rather than verb changes. You'll also learn how small words like 又 (*yòu* — again) and 不再 (*bú zài* — no longer / not anymore) show repetition and change with precision.



## 10. Are you very tired?

你很累吗？ - Nǐ hěn lèi ma?

Read and listen at the same time! 

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. Breakthrough moments come from accumulated listening hours reaching critical mass. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

你今天很累吗？	Nǐ jīntiān hěn lèi ma?	Are you very tired today?
很累！我去健身房了。	Hěn lèi! Wǒ qù jiànshēnfáng le.	Very tired! I went to the gym.
你每天都去吗？	Nǐ měitiān dōu qù ma?	Do you go every day?
对。运动对身体很好。	Duì. Yùndòng duì shēntǐ hěn hǎo.	Yes. Exercise is very good for the body.
你做什么运动？	Nǐ zuò shénme yùndòng?	What kind of exercise do you do?
我跑步。你也做运动吗？	Wǒ pǎobù. Nǐ yě zuò yùndòng ma?	I run. Do you exercise too?
我太忙了。没时间。	Wǒ tài máng le. Méi shíjiān.	I'm too busy. I don't have time.
周末一起去公园跑步吧！	Zhōumò yìqǐ qù gōngyuán pǎobù ba!	Let's go running in the park on the weekend!
好啊！星期六还是星期天？	Hǎo a! Xīngqīliù háishi xīngqītiān?	Okay! Saturday or Sunday?
星期天早上八	Xīngqītiān	Sunday morning at eight.

点。不要迟到!

zǎoshang bā diǎn.  
Búyào chídào!

Don't be late!

## Words

累	lèi	tired
健身房	jiànshēnfáng	gym
每天	měitiān	every day
运动	yùndòng	exercise/sports
身体	shēntǐ	body
做	zuò	to do, to make
跑步	pǎobù	to run/jog
也	yě	also/too
忙	máng	busy
没	méi	not (have)
时间	shíjiān	time
周末	zhōumò	weekend
公园	gōngyuán	park
星期六	xīngqīliù	Saturday
星期天	xīngqītiān	Sunday
早上	zǎoshang	morning
八	bā	eight
点	diǎn	o'clock
不要	búyào	don't
迟到	chídào	to be late

## Grammar 10: Time Expressions

In this lesson, you'll learn essential time expressions for talking about days and daily routines. You already know that Chinese verb forms never change to indicate tense. Another simplification is that time words work without prepositions like "on," "in," or "at."

### Time Words as Adverbs

Unlike in English, Chinese time words stand alone without prepositions. Where English says "in the morning" or "on Monday," Chinese simply says 早上 (*zǎoshang* morning) or 星期(*xīngqīyī* Monday). They usually appear at the beginning of sentences.

早上我跑步。(Zǎoshang wǒ pǎobù. I run in the morning.)  
星期一我工作。(Xīngqīyī wǒ gōngzuò. I work on Monday.)

### Time Words in Short Phrases

Time words can also appear in short everyday phrases without a subject:

明天见! (Míngtiān jiàn! See you tomorrow!)  
周末见! (Zhōumò jiàn! See you on the weekend!)

### The Essential Three

The three most frequently used time words are:

- 今天 (*jīntiān* today)
- 明天 (*míngtiān* tomorrow)
- 昨天 (*zuótiān* yesterday)

Examples:

今天很热。(Jīntiān hěn rè. It's hot today.)

明天见! (*Míngtiān jiàn!* See you tomorrow!)

你昨天去哪儿了? (*Nǐ zuótiān qù nǎr le?* Where did you go yesterday?)

Notice the verb 去 doesn't change form despite referring to the past—the time word 昨天 and particle 了 handle temporal context.

### Every Day: 每天 (*měitiān*)

The word 每 (*měi*) means "every" and combines with time units:

我每天跑步。 (*Wǒ měitiān pǎobù.* I run every day.)

你每天都去吗? (*Nǐ měitiān dōu qù ma?* Do you go every day?)

The pattern 每...都 adds emphasis ("every single"). We'll explore 都 fully in Lesson 17.

### Days of the Week

Chinese days follow a logical system. 星期 (*xīngqī*) or 周 (*zhōu*) means "week," and days are numbered:

Day	Full Form	Short Form
Monday	星期一 ( <i>xīngqīyī</i> )	周一 ( <i>zhōuyī</i> )
Tuesday	星期二 ( <i>xīngqī'èr</i> )	周二 ( <i>zhōu'èr</i> )
Wednesday	星期三 ( <i>xīngqīsān</i> )	周三 ( <i>zhōusān</i> )
Thursday	星期四 ( <i>xīngqīsi</i> )	周四 ( <i>zhōusi</i> )
Friday	星期五 ( <i>xīngqīwǔ</i> )	周五 ( <i>zhōuwǔ</i> )

Day	Full Form	Short Form
Saturday	星期六 (xīngqīliù)	周六 (zhōuliù)
Sunday	星期天 (xīngqītiān)	周日 (zhōutiān)

To ask what day it is: 今天星期几? (*Jīntiān xīngqī jǐ?* What day is today?)

## The weekend

The weekend is 周末 (*zhōumò*):

周末做什么? (*Zhōumò zuò shénme?* What are you doing on the weekend?)

## In short

Time expressions in Chinese are remarkably learner-friendly. They function as adverbs without prepositions and usually appear near the beginning of the sentence.

Verbs never change form — time words and particles like 了 (*le* particle) handle temporal context. Master 今天 (*jīntiān* today), 明天 (*míngtiān* tomorrow), 昨天 (*zuótiān* yesterday), 每天 (*měitiān* every day), the days of the week, and 周末 (*zhōumò* weekend).

## Golden Keys

### 又 (*yòu*) vs 再 (*zài*) – Two Ways to Say "Again"

In Lesson 5, you learned 再 (*zài* again) for future repetition. Now add 又 (*yòu*) for past or present repetition:

Simple rule: 再 looks forward; 又 looks back.

我明天再来。(Wǒ míngtiān zài lái. I'll come again tomorrow.) [future]

他又来了。(Tā yòu lái le. He came again / He's here again.) [past/present]

又 often suggests "here we go again," especially for unwanted repetition:

又下雨了。(Yòu xià yǔ le. It's raining again.)

你又迟到了! (Nǐ yòu chí dào le! You're late again!)

### 不再(bú zài) – No Longer / Not Anymore

不再 literally means "not again" (不 = not + 再 = again). It negates future repetition—something will not happen again or no longer continues:

他不再来了。(Tā bú zài lái le. He's not coming anymore / He won't come again.)

我不再工作了。(Wǒ bú zài gōng zuò le. I'm not working anymore.)

The logic:

- 再 = will happen again
- 不再 = will NOT happen again = it's over

## Pronunciation: Initial Fourth Tone

In Lesson 5, we introduced the twenty possible two-syllable tone combinations. Here, we return to the combinations that begin with tone 4 and give a fuller practice list. These words, all from the first ten lessons of our HSK 1 manual, will help train your ear to recognize the fourth tone at the beginning of a word. A rough

English equivalent is the sharp, falling pitch of "No!" when said firmly. Use the Amedeo Chinese app to listen to these words.

#### 4-1 (Fourth Tone + First Tone)

- 健身 (*jiànshēn* fitness)
- 自拍 (*zìpāi* selfie)
- 上班 (*shàngbān* go to work)
- 下班 (*xiàbān* get off work)
- 面包 (*miànbāo* bread)
- 健康 (*jiànkāng* healthy)

#### 4-3 (Fourth Tone + Third Tone)

- 电脑 (*diànnǎo* computer)
- 号码 (*hàomǎ* number)
- 快点 (*kuàidiǎn* hurry up)
- 电影 (*diànyǐng* movie)

#### 4-4 (Fourth Tone + Fourth Tone)

- 外卖 (*wàimài* food delivery)
- 电视 (*diànshì* television)
- 定位 (*dìngwèi* location/GPS)
- 运动 (*yùndòng* exercise/sports)
- 上课 (*shàngkè* attend class)
- 下课 (*xiàkè* class ends)

- 电话 (*diànhuà* telephone)
- 外面 (*wàimiàn* outside)
- 上面 (*shàngmiàn* above)
- 下面 (*xiàmiàn* below)
- 后面 (*hòumiàn* back)
- 锻炼 (*duànliàn* exercise)
- 饭店 (*fàndiàn* restaurant)

#### 4-5 (Fourth Tone + Neutral Tone)

- 漂亮 (*piàoliang* beautiful)
- 谢谢 (*xièxie* thank you)

### Your Word Bank

#### Words 2: Fitness & Health

健康	jiànkāng	healthy/health
瑜伽	yújiā	yoga
游泳	yóuyǒng	to swim/swimming
篮球	lánqiú	basketball
足球	zúqiú	soccer/football
打球	dǎqiú	to play ball
锻炼	duànliàn	to exercise/work out

#### Words 3: Time & Work

上班	shàngbān	to go to work
下班	xiàbān	to get off work

上课	shàngkè	to attend class
下课	xiàkè	to finish class
工作	gōngzuò	work/job
老师	lǎoshī	teacher
学生	xuéshēng	student

### Words 4: Golden Words

中	zhōng	middle; in; among
大	dà	big; large
帮	bāng	help
可能	kěnéng	possible; maybe
那么	nàme	so; that; like that
找	zhǎo	look for; find
先	xiān	first

### Your Sentence Bank

Practice these sentences in Section E of our website. They contain words from Words 2, Words 3, and Words 4 (Golden Words) in that order. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow and later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

#### Sentences 2

每天运动对健康很好。	Měitiān yùndòng duì jiànkāng hěn hǎo.	Exercising every day is good for health.
周末我做瑜伽。	Zhōumò wǒ zuò yújiā.	I do yoga on the weekend.

你会游泳吗？	Nǐ huì yóuyǒng ma?	Can you swim?
他喜欢篮球。	Tā xǐhuan lánqiú.	He likes basketball.
我喜欢看足球。	Wǒ xǐhuan kàn zúqiú.	I like watching soccer.
下班后我去打球。	Xiàbān hòu wǒ qù dǎqiú.	I go play ball after work.
我每天锻炼。	Wǒ měitiān duànliàn.	I exercise every day.
我八点上班。	Wǒ bā diǎn shàngbān.	I start work at eight.

### Sentences 3

他五点下班。	Tā wǔ diǎn xiàbān.	He gets off work at five.
我们九点上课。	Wǒmen jiǔ diǎn shàngkè.	We have class at nine.
下课后去吃饭吧。	Xiàkè hòu qù chīfàn ba.	Let's go eat after class.
我今天在家工作。	Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā gōngzuò.	I'm working at home today.
老师在上课。	Lǎoshī zài shàngkè.	The teacher is teaching class.
她是学生吗？	Tā shì xuésheng ma?	Is she a student?
我要中杯咖啡。	Wǒ yào zhōng bēi kāfēi.	I want a medium coffee.

### Sentences 4

这个健身房很大。	Zhège jiànshēnfáng hěn dà.	This gym is big.
我帮你找手机。	Wǒ bāng nǐ zhǎo shǒujī.	I'll help you find your phone.
他可能在公园。	Tā kěnéng zài gōngyuán.	He may be at the park.

不要那么快。	Bú yào nàme kuài.	Don't be so fast.
我在找老师。	Wǒ zài zhǎo lǎoshī.	I'm looking for the teacher.
我先去上课。	Wǒ xiān qù shàngkè.	I'll go to class first.

## Summary + Preview

You've completed Lesson 10! Here's what you learned:

- Chinese time expressions work directly as adverbs — no prepositions like "on" or "in" are needed
- Chinese verbs don't change form for tense — time is shown through time words and particles like 了 (*le* change/completion marker)
- 又 (*yòu* again, for repeated past or present events) contrasts with 不再 (*bú zài* no longer/not anymore)

You also learned the core time words 今天 (*jīntiān* today), 明天 (*míngtiān* tomorrow), 昨天 (*zuótiān* yesterday), and 每天 (*měitiān* every day), as well as the basic pattern for the days of the week and 周末 (*zhōumò* weekend).

A key point is that Chinese marks time with clear expressions rather than verb changes. You also saw how 每...都 (*měi...dōu* every...all) strengthens the idea of regularity. Master these patterns, and talking about routines becomes much easier.

**Total words learned so far:** ~370 words

In Lesson 11, you'll begin exploring the Chinese "can" family and see that English "can" actually splits into different ideas. You'll

learn how 能 (*néng* can, be able to) expresses ability or possibility, while 会 (*huì* can, know how to/will) is used for learned skills and sometimes for future events.

## 11. Can you see me?

你能看见我吗? – Nǐ néng kànjiàn wǒ ma?

### Read and listen at the same time!

Read and listen repeatedly to each single sentence. Breakthrough moments come from accumulated listening hours reaching critical mass. Listen and read each sentence a few times; if some need 10+ repetitions, no problem—do it.

珊珊，你在哪里工作?	Shānshān, nǐ zài nǎlǐ gōngzuò?	Shanshan, where are you working?
我在咖啡馆。这里的WiFi非常快!	Wǒ zài kāfēiguǎn. Zhèlǐ de WiFi fēicháng kuài!	I'm at the coffee shop. The WiFi here is very fast!
我也在咖啡馆! 我看到你了。	Wǒ yě zài kāfēiguǎn! Wǒ kàndào nǐ le.	I'm at the coffee shop too! I can see you.
什么? 你在哪儿?	Shénme? Nǐ zài nǎr?	What? Where are you?
在你后面。回头看!	Zài nǐ hòumiàn. Huítóu kàn!	Behind you. Turn around!
啊! 你怎么不早说?	A! Nǐ zěnmē bù zǎo shuō?	Ah! Why didn't you say so earlier?
我五分钟后有个视频会议。	Wǒ wǔ fēnzhōng hòu yǒu ge shìpín huìyì.	I have a video call in five minutes.
一起工作吧。我会帮你。	Yìqǐ gōngzuò ba. Wǒ huì bāng nǐ.	Let's work together. I'll help you.

## Words

非常	fēicháng	very/extremely
看到	kàndào	to see; to catch sight of
后面	hòumiàn	behind/back
回头	huítóu	turn around/look back
怎么	zěnmē	how/why
早	zǎo	early
分钟	fēnzhōng	minute
后	hòu	after/later
个	ge	measure word
会	huì	can/will
帮	bāng	to help

## Word Bank

### Words 2: Remote Work

视频	shìpín	video
会议	huìyì	meeting
笔记本电脑	bǐjìběn diànnǎo	laptop
WiFi	WiFi	WiFi
老板	lǎobǎn	boss
同事	tóngshì	colleague
工作日	gōngzuòrì	workday

### Words 3: Time Expressions

分	fēn	minute (classifier)
小时	xiǎoshí	hour
天	tiān	day
星期	xīngqī	week
月	yuè	month
年	nián	year
时候	shíhou	time/moment

### Words 4: Golden Words

最好	zuihǎo	best; had better
嘛	ma	sentence particle
拿	ná	take; hold
但	dàn	but
挺	tǐng	quite; very
打开	dǎkāi	open; turn on
不过	búguò	however; but

### Your Word Bank Practice

You will find practice sentences using these words in Section E of our website. Listen to each sentence repeatedly to understand how the words combine. Review the sentences again tomorrow, and again later if necessary. Finally, try reading them aloud.

**The full chapters 11–20 are currently in preparation and will be published soon.**





ANDREA MELIS  
BERND SEBASTIAN KAMPS

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