

Basic words and phrases

Hello	nǐ hǎo
Good morning	zǎoshang hǎo
Good afternoon	xiàwǔ hǎo
Good evening	wǎnshang hǎo
Good bye	zàiyàn
Please	qǐng
Thank you	xièxie nǐ
Yes	duì
No	bú duì
Sorry	duì bu qǐ
I don't understand	wǒ bu míngbai
Please speak more slowly	qǐng shuō de zài màn diǎn
Excuse me	láojià !
May I use your phone?	wǒ néng yòng nǐ de diànhuà ma?
What is the telephone number?	diànhuà hàomǎ shì shénme?
How much is this?	zhège duōshǎo qián?
Where is the train station?	huǒchē zhàn zài nǎr?
Where can I get a taxi?	zài nǎr néng yào dào chūzū chē
What would you like to drink?	nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?
The bill, please	qǐng jiézhàng

Numbers

1	yī	11	shíyī
2	èr	12	shíèr
3	sān	13	shí sān
4	sì	14	shí sì
5	wǔ	15	shí wǔ
6	liù	16	shí liù
7	qī	17	shí qī
8	bā	18	shí bā
9	jiǔ	19	shí jiǔ
10	shí	20	èrshí

Time

What time is it?	xiànzài shénme shíjiān la?
One o' clock	yīdiǎnzhōng
Two o' clock	liǎngdiǎnzhōng
4:15	sìdiǎn yíkè
5:30	wǔdiǎn bàn
7:45	qīdiǎn sìshíwǔ

Notes and links

This written form of the Mandarin language, using the Roman alphabet, is called 'pinyin'.

Mandarin is a tonal language, and its **four tones** are marked by accents above the vowels: ˉ ˊ ˋ ˋˊ. To listen to a free podcast introducing the four tones of Mandarin, go to www.chinesepod.com and search for 'tones' in the Learning Center.

www.zhongwen.com is another great resource for learning Mandarin.

www.blis.org.uk is a free, quality-assured database with Chinese translators, interpreters, language trainers and cultural consultants.

In partnership with www.eurotalk.com and www.rln-yh.com.
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