

Survival Chinese

Chinese is the world's most popular language, spoken by more than 1.3 billion people in the People's Republic of China (PRC), Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and elsewhere in East Asia. The official phonetic system of romanizing Chinese is pinyin. Pinyin means "phonetic transcription." Since 1958, pinyin has been the officially endorsed system in China.

Below is a list of simple yet useful Chinese phrases or expressions most likely to be used by tourists. Speaking a few Chinese words or phrases typically awes locals when traveling around in China, and having a few Chinese words or sentences to play with, you would find it easier to befriend Chinese. You may want to print out the list as a survival guide in case of communication difficulties when the body language alone doesn't do the trick. If your computer is not installed with a Chinese decoding program, you may want to print out [Survival Chinese in FDF format](#). For a Chinese beginner, however, this is a perfect 101 lesson with the audio player as your private tutor. Please be advised that this list, broken into seven categories, is prioritized in the order of urgency and relevancy.

Our goal is to expand the list so as to cover all situations while keeping it as concise as possible. Please email us your thought and comment at service@TimelyVisa.com.¹

GREETING AND SOCIAL LANGUAGE

(Click to hear how it sounds in Chinese)

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalents	Audio Player
早上好!	Zao Shang Hao!	Good morning.	Click
下午好!	Xia Wu Hao!	Good afternoon.	Click
晚上好!	Wan Shang Hao!	Good evening.	Click
欢迎。	Huan Ying	Welcome.	Click
你好。	Ni Hao	Hello.	Click
你好吗?	Ni Hao Ma?	How are you?	Click
我很好。 谢谢你。	Wo Hen Hao. Xie Xie Ni.	I am very well. Thanks you.	Click
你是谁?	Ni Shi Shui?	What's your Name?	Click
我是 MIKE。	Wo Shi Mike.	My Name is Mike.	Click
很高兴认识你。	Hen Gao Xing Ren Shi Ni	Nice to meet you.	Click
你从哪里来?	Ni Cong Na Li Lai?	Where are you from?	Click
我来自美国。	Wo Lai Zi Mei Guo.	I am from America.	Click
请进来。	Qing Jin Lai.	Please come in.	Click
请坐。	Qing Zuo.	Please sit down.	Click
会讲英语吗?	Hui Jiang Ying Yu Ma?	Do you speak English?	Click
对不起。 我听不懂。	Dui Bu Qi. Wo Ting Bu Dong.	Sorry. I don't understand.	Click
请慢慢讲。	Qing Man Man Jiang.	Please speak slowly.	Click
我明白。	Wo Ming Bai.	I understand.	Click
很好。	Hen Hao.	Very good.	Click
再见。	Zai Jian.	Good-bye.	Click

ASKING FOR DIRECTION

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalents	Audio Player
银行在那里?	Yin Hang Zai Na Li?	Where is the bank?	Click
邮局在那里?	You Ju Zai Na Li?	Where is the post office?	Click
宾馆在那里?	Bin Guan Zai Na Li?	Where is the hotel?	Click
怎么去学校?	Zen Me Qu Xue Xiao?	How to the school?	Click
这里离火车站多远?	Zhe Li Li Huo Che Zhan Duo Yuan?	How far is it from here to the train station?	Click
附近有商店吗?	Fu Jin You Shang Dian Ma?	Is there any store nearby?	Click
McDonald 在那里?	Mai Dang Lao Zai Na Li?	Where is McDonald?	Click
			Click
请告诉我厕所在哪里?	Qing Gao Su Wo Ce Suo Zai Na Li?	Please tell me where the restroom is?	Click

DINING

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalents	Audio Player
请给我菜单。	Qing Gei Wo Cai Dan.	Please give me menu.	Click
菜里多放点 (少放点) 辣椒。	Cai Li Duo (Shao) Fang Dian La Jiao.	Put more (less) paper in the dish.	Click
不要放味精。	Bu Yao Fang Wen Jing.	No MSG.	Click
好吃吗?	Hao Chi Ma?	Is it tasty?	Click
非常好吃。	Fei Chang Hao Chi.	Very delicious.	Click
我要冰水。	Wo Yao Bing Shui.	I want ice water.	Click
我要啤酒。	Wo Yao Pi Jiu.	I want beer.	Click
请结帐。	Qing Jie Zhang.	Check please.	Click
干杯。	Gan Bei.	Cheers.	Click
为友谊干杯。	Wei You Yi Gan Bei.	Toast to friendship.	Click
			Click

SHOPPING

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalents	Audio Player
我想买这个。	Wo Xiang Mai Zhe Ge.	I want to buy this.	Click
多少钱?	Duo Shao Qian?	How much is it?	Click
有折扣吗?	You Zhe Kou Ma?	Any discount?	Click

MEETING, CONFERENCE, EXPO

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalents	Audio Player
会议几点开始?	Hui Yi Ji Dian Kai Shi?	When will the meeting begin?	Click
会场在那里?	Hui Chang Zai Na Li?	Where is the meeting?	Click
会议注册	Hui Yi Zhu Ce	Conference registration	Click
同声翻译 ²	Tong Sheng Fan Yi	Bilingual translation	Click
会议议程。	Hui Yi Yi Cheng	Meeting agenda	Click
摊位	Tan Wei	Booth	Click

SEEING A DOCTOR

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalent	Audio Player
我生病了。	Wo Sheng Bing Le.	I am sick.	Click
感冒	Gan Mao	Flu	Click
发烧	Fa Shao	Fever	Click
传染	Chuan Ran	Infection	Click
发炎	Fa Yan	Inflammation	Click
拉肚子	La Du Zi	Diarrhea	Click
头痛	Tou Tong	Headache	Click
请带我去看医生。	Qing Dai Wo Qu Kan Yi Sheng.	Please take me to see a doctor.	Click
对青霉素过敏。	Dui Qing Mei Shu Guo Min.	Allergic to penicillin.	Click
对磺氨药过敏	Dui Huang An Yao Guo Min.	Allergic to sulfa drugs.	Click
哮喘	Xiao Chuai.	Asthma	Click
花粉过敏	Hua Fen Guo Min	Allergic to pollen	Click
疲倦	Pi Juan.	Fatigue	Click
痛	Tong	Pain	Click
痒	Yang	Itch	Click
恶心	E Xin	Nausea	Click
流鼻涕	Liu Bi Ti	Running nose	Click
打喷嚏	Da Pen Ti	Sneeze	Click
呕吐	Ou Tu	Vomit	Click
头晕	Tou Yun	Dizzy	Click

EVERYTHING ELSE

Chinese Phrases	Pinyin	English Equivalent	Audio Player
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Yi, Er, San, Si, Wu, Liu, Qi, Ba, Jiu, Shi	One, Two, Three, Four, Five, Six, Seven, Eight, Nine, Ten	Click
出租车	Chu Zu Che	Taxi	Click
公交车	Gong Jiao Che	Bus	Click
地铁	Di Tie	Subway	Click
飞机	Fei Ji	Plane	Click
火车	Huo Che	Train	Click
美国人	Mei Guo Ren	American	Click
旅游	Lu You	Travel	Click
商务	Shang Wu	Business	Click
朋友	Peng You	Friend	Click
钱	Qian	Money	Click