

MANDARIN FOR TRAVEL AND BEGINNERS



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Introduction

Learn Mandarin for Travel and Beginners. Within this guide, you will find useful words and phrases in Mandarin and English.

This guide was inspired by the following question: what language is needed from and for real life? Grammar and vocabulary out of context will not be found here. While these things are important for creating with language (intermediate learners) they are of little use for everyday communication for the beginning-level learner. Use the guide to understand, practice, and speak. This is how languages are learned and people grow their skills and levels of proficiency. Work on these words and phrases while you are in the novice range. You will start to make connections, and learn and understand grammar and vocabulary, all in context. Learn enough words and phrases, and then you will begin to move into the intermediate level where you can make your own phrases and sentences.

Pay attention to the written language here. Reading a language like Mandarin takes a great deal of time. My suggestion at this level is to put your focus on communicating using the phrases, regardless of how rudimentary it might feel. As you practice and review these words and phrases, you will start to make connections. You didn't memorize symbols to death when you started speaking English. You communicated first orally, and then you learned what English looked like as you learned to read. Reading opened up a great deal of knowledge to you, but it didn't teach you basic communicative skills.

The numbers you see embedded in the word and phrases signify tones. Focus on the sounds you hear in the audio. You will make connections with what the tones sound like.

Mandarin for Travel and Beginners is organized into communicative tasks. You will learn a language for the airport, hotel, restaurants, shopping, emergencies, getting around, meeting and greeting, and useful phrases.



Photo by Jonathan Kos-Read

Welcome 欢迎/huan1 ying2

At the airport

在机场 Zài jīchǎng

	Original	Pinyin
How many bags are you checking?	你检查了几个包？	nǐ jiǎn chá liǎo jǐ gè bāo ?
You need to check this bag.	你要检查这个包。	nǐ yào jiǎn chá zhè gè bāo 。
There is a fee for this.	这要付钱。	zhè yào fù qián 。
Passport, please.	请出示护照。	qǐng chū shì hù zhào 。
I would like a window seat.	我想要一个靠窗的位置。	wǒ xiǎng yào yī gè kào chuāng de wèi zhì 。
I would like an aisle seat.	我想要一个靠走廊的位置。	wǒ xiǎng yào yī gè kào chuāng de wèi zhì 。
Pass through.	走过去	zǒu guò qù



Photo by Jonathan Kos-Read

	Original	Pinyin
Hands up, please.	请举手	qǐng jǔ shǒu
Place laptop and keys here, please.	请将笔记本电脑和钥匙放在这里。	qǐng jiāng bǐ jì běn diàn nǎo hé yuè chí fàng zài zhè lǐ 。
Do you have a clear plastic bag?	你有清洁塑料袋吗?	nǐ yǒu qīng jié sù liào dài má ?
Have a good trip.	旅途愉快。	lǚ tú yú kuài 。



	Original	Pinyin
Where is.....?	哪里是....	nǎ lǐ shì ...
The Bar	酒吧	jiǔ bā
Duty Free	免税店	miǎn shuì diàn
Gift Shop	礼品店	lǐ pǐn diàn
Restroom	卫生间	wèi shēng jiān
News Stand	报亭	Bàotíng
Bookstore	书店	shūdiàn
Is this seat free?	可以坐这个座位吗?	kěyǐ zuò zhège zuòwèi ma?
Please sit down.	请坐。	Qǐng zuò.
Headphones	耳机	Ěrjī
Magazine	杂志	zá zhì
Newspaper	报纸	bào zhǐ
Passport	护照	hù z h ào



Photo by Marc van der Chijsh

	Original	Pinyin
How long do you plan to stay in the country?	你打算在这个国家呆多久?	Nǐ dǎsuàn zài zhège guójiā dāi duōjiǔ?
What flight did you arrive on?	你乘坐哪个航班来的?	Nǐ chéngzuò nǎge hángbān lái de?
Do you have a return ticket?	你有回去的机票吗?	Nǐ yǒu huíqù de jīpiào ma?
Where will you stay while you are in this country?	你来这个国家准备住在哪?	Nǐ lái zhège guójiā zhǔnbèi zhù zài nǎ?
Do you plan to work while you are here?	你打算在这里工作吗?	Nǐ dǎsuàn zài zhèlǐ gōngzuò ma?
Here is my passport and landing card.	这是我的护照和入境卡。	Zhè shì wǒ de hùzhào hé rùjìng kǎ.
Enjoy your stay.	旅行愉快。	Lǚxíng yúkuài.
My luggage is lost.	我的行李丢了。	Wǒ de xínglǐ diūle.



Photo by Marc van der Chijsh

	Original	Pinyin
Where did you travel from today?	你今天是从哪儿来?	Nǐ jīntiān shì cóng nǎ'er lái?
Do you have any items to declare?	你有什么东西要报关吗?	Nǐ yǒu shé me dōngxī yào bàoguān ma?
Custom declarations, please.	请报关。	Qǐng bàoguān.
Open your suitcase, please.	请打开你的行李厢。	Qǐng dǎkāi nǐ de xínglǐ xiāng.
Suitcase	手提箱	Shǒutí xiāng
Luggage	行李	xínglǐ
Baggage Claim Ticket	行李认领票	xínglǐ rènling piào
My suitcase is black.	我的箱子是黑色的。	wǒ de xiāngzi shì hēisè de.



	Original	Pinyin
My suitcase is red.	我的箱子是红色的。	wǒ de xiāngzi shì hóngsè de.
My suitcase is blue.	我的箱子是蓝色的。	Wǒ de xiāngzi shì lán sè de.
My suitcase is brown.	我的箱子是棕色的。	My case is brown.
My suitcase is gray.	我的箱子是灰色的。	Wǒ de xiāngzi shì huīsè de.
Luggage Trolley	行李车	Xínglǐ chē



Getting Around

出行 Chūxíng

	Original	Pinyin
Subway	地铁	dìtiě
Train	火车	huǒchē
Bus	公共汽车	gōnggòng qìchē
Taxi	出租车	chūzū chē
I need to go to _____, please.	我要去 _____	Wǒ yào qù _____
Where is the ticket office?	售票处在哪儿?	Shòupiào chù zài nǎ?
Where can I buy a ticket?	我能在哪里买票?	Wǒ néng zài nǎlǐ mǎi piào?
One ticket, please.	请给我一张票。	Qǐng gěi wǒ yī zhāng piào.
Where is the bus stop?	公共汽车站在哪儿?	Gōnggòng qìchē zhàn zài nǎ?



	Original	Pinyin
How much does it cost to the city center?	到市中心多少钱?	Dào shì zhōngxīn duōshǎo qián?
How much does it cost to the airport?	到机场多少钱?	Dào jīchǎng duōshǎo qián?
Here, please.	这里。	Zhèlǐ.
Where is the closest taxi stand?	最近的出租车站台在哪?	Zuìjìn de chūzū chē zhàntái zài nǎ?
Where is the closest subway stop?	最近的地铁站在哪?	Zuìjìn dì dìtiě zhàn zài nǎ?
I'd like to rent a car, please.	我想要租一辆车。	Wǒ xiǎng yào zū yī liàng chē.
A small car.	一辆小型汽车。	Yī liàng xiǎoxíng qìchē.
A medium car.	一辆中型汽车。	Yī liàng zhōngxíng qìchē.
A big car.	一辆大型汽车。	Yī liàng dàxíng qìchē.



	Original	Pinyin
I would like a ticket to _____	我要一张去 _____ 的票。	Wǒ yào yī zhāng qù _____ de piào.
I would like a round trip ticket.	我要一张往返票。	Wǒ yào yī zhāng wǎngfǎn piào.
At what time _____ ?	什么时候 _____ ?	Shénme shíhòu _____
Is it close?	很近吗?	Hěn jìn ma?
Is it far?	很远吗?	Hěn yuǎn ma?
Turn left.	左拐。	Zuǒ guǎi.
Turn right.	右拐。	Yòu guǎi.
Go straight.	直走。	Zhí zǒu.
Block	街区。	Jiēqū.
Roundabout	绕行	Rào xíng
Do you have a map?	你有地图吗?	nǐ yǒu dìtú ma?



Money

钱 Qián

	Original	Pinyin
Currency Exchange	货币兑换	Huòbì duìhuàn
ATM	自动柜员机	Zìdòng guìyuánjī
Cash	現金	xiànjīn
Do you take credit cards?	你接受信用卡吗?	nǐ jiēshòu xìnyòngkǎ ma?
What is your commission rate?	佣金多少?	Yōngjīn duōshǎo?
How much does it cost?	费用多少?	Fèiyòng duōshǎo?
Payment	付款	Fùkuǎn
Credit Card	信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ
What types of payment do you accept?	你接受哪些付款方式?	nǐ jiēshòu nǎxiē fùkuǎn fāngshì?
What is the rate?	多少钱?	Duōshǎo qián?



Make a reservation

预订 Yùdìng

	Original	Pinyin
Is Internet included?	网络费用包含在内吗?	wǎngluò fèiyòng bāohán zài nèi ma?
Is there a pool?	有游泳池吗?	Yǒu yóuyǒngchí ma?
Is there a fitness center?	有健身中心吗?	Yǒu jiànshēn zhōngxīn ma?
I'd like to make a reservation for a _____ room.	我想预订一个_____房间。	Wǒ xiǎng yùdìng yīgè _____ fángjiān.
I'd like a room for _____ nights.	我想要_____个晚上	Wǒ xiǎng yào _____ gè wǎnshàng
Is breakfast included?	早餐包含在内吗?	Zǎocān bāohán zài nèi ma?
A non-smoking room, please.	请给我一个禁止吸烟的房间。	Qǐng gěi wǒ yīgè jìnzhǐ xīyān de fángjiān.
A smoking room, please.	请给我一个可以吸烟的房间。	Qǐng gěi wǒ yīgè kěyǐ xīyān de fángjiān.



At a hotel

在酒店 Zài jiǔdiàn

	Original	Pinyin
Smoking/non-smoking	可以吸烟 / 禁止吸烟	Kěyǐ xīyān / jìnzhǐ xīyān
I would like to check in.	我想入住。	wǒ xiǎng rùzhù.
I have a reservation.	我已经预订了。	Wǒ yǐjīng yùdìngle.

Questions for guests

客人的问题 Kèrén de wèntí

	Original	Pinyin
What time is check out?	什么时候退房?	Shénme shíhòu tuì fáng?
Can you please bring toothpaste to my room, please?	你能把牙刷送到我的房间吗?	Nǐ néng bǎ yáshuā sòng dào wǒ de fángjiān ma?



	Original	Pinyin
Can you please bring shampoo to my room, please?	你能把洗发水送到我的房间吗?	nǐ néng bǎ xǐ fǎ shuǐ sòng dào wǒ de fángjiān ma?
Can you please bring a razor to my room, please?	你能把剃须刀送到我的房间吗?	Nǐ néng bǎ tì xū dāo sòng dào wǒ de fángjiān ma?
Iron	熨斗	Yùndǒu
Hair Dryer	吹风机	chuīfēngjī
Towel	毛巾	máojīn
Sunscreen	Fángshài shuāng	Hiyakedome
The television doesn't work.	电视坏了。	diànshì huàile.
It's really hot.	太热了。	Tài rèle.
It's really cold.	太冷了。	Tài lěngle.
There's a lot of noise.	太吵了。	Tài chǎole.
I need _____	我要 _____	wǒ yào _____



Eating and Drinking

饮食 Yǐn shí

	Original	Pinyin
Can you recommend a restaurant?	你能推荐一家餐厅吗?	Nǐ néng tuījiàn yījiā cāntīng ma?
Are there any good bars near the hotel?	酒店附近有好的酒吧吗?	Jiǔdiàn fùjìn yǒu hǎo de jiǔbā ma?
Are there any coffee shop close to here?	附近哪有咖啡店?	Fùjìn nǎ yǒu kāfēi diàn?
What time is breakfast served?	什么时候提供早餐?	Shénme shíhòu tíngōng zǎocān?



Common Drinks

一般饮料

	Original	Pinyin
Tea	茶	Chá
Water	水	shuǐ
Soda	汽水	qìshuǐ
Coffee	咖啡	kāfēi
Beer	啤酒	píjiǔ
Wine	酒	Jiǔ
One Glass	一杯	Yībēi
One Bottle	一瓶	yī píng
White Wine	白酒	Báijiǔ
Red Wine	红酒	Hóngjiǔ
Cheers!	干杯!	gānbēi!
Wine list, please.	请给我酒水单。	Qǐng gěi wǒ jiǔshuǐ dān.



Foods

	Original	Pinyin
Salt	盐	Yán
Pepper	胡椒粉	hújiāo fěn
Bread	面包	miànbāo
Beef	牛肉	niúròu
Chicken	鸡肉	jīròu
Milk	牛奶	niúnnǎi
Pork	猪肉	zhūròu
Cheese	奶酪	nǎilào
Juice	果汁	guǒzhī
Vegetables	蔬菜	shūcài
Fruits	水果	Shuǐguǒ
Seafood	海鲜	hǎixiān
Rice	米饭	mǐfàn
Noodles	面条	miàntiáo
Soup	汤	tāng
Chopsticks	筷子	kuàizi
Eggs	鸡蛋	jīdàn

Useful Phrases 实用短语 Shíyòng duǎnyǔ

	Original	Pinyin
Enjoy your meal!	请慢享用!	qǐng màn xiǎngyòng!
I'd like a_____, please.	我想要_____。	Wǒ xiǎng yào_____
Could I get the bill, please?	我想要买单。	Wǒ xiǎng yào mǎidān.
Where is the bathroom?	洗手间在哪儿?	Xǐshǒujiān zài nǎ'er?
Excuse me.	对不起。	Duìbùqǐ.
Thank you.	谢谢。	Xièxiè.
You're welcome.	不客气。	Bù kèqì.
One more, please.	再来一份。	zàilái yī fèn.
Please	请	Qǐng
Yes	是	shì
No	不是	Bù shì
Sorry	对不起	duìbùqǐ



Photo by Jen the librarian

	Original	Pinyin
Hello	你好。	Nǐ hǎo
Good morning.	早上好。	zǎoshang hǎo.
Good afternoon.	下午好。	Xiàwǔ hǎo.
Good evening.	晚上好。	Wǎnshàng hǎo.
Bye	再见	Zàijiàn
Goodbye.	再见	Zàijiàn.
See you later.	回头见。	Huítóu jiàn.
I don't understand.	我不明白。	Wakari Masen
Do you speak English?	你讲英语吗?	Nǐ jiǎng yīngyǔ ma?
Can you speak more slowly please?	你能说慢点吗?	Nǐ néng shuō màn diǎn ma?
It was nice to see you.	很高兴见到你。	Hěn gāoxìng jiàn dào nǐ.
What's your name?	你叫什么名字?	Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?



Photo by jen the librarian

	Original	Pinyin
My name is _____	我叫 _____	Wǒ jiào _____
I'm sorry.	对不起。	duì bù qǐ 。
Take care.	保重	bǎo zhòng
How are you?	你好吗?	nǐ hǎo má ?
Good.	很好。	hěn hǎo 。
So- so.	还行。	huán xíng 。
Are you all right?	你没事吧?	nǐ méi shì ba ?
Where are you from?	你从哪儿来?	Nǐ cóng nǎ' er lái?
I'm from _____	我从 _____ 来	wǒ cóng _____ lái
It's nice to meet you.	很高兴见到你	hěn gāo xīng jiàn dào nǐ
Likewise.	我也是。	wǒ yě shì 。
Where do you live?	你住在哪里?	nǐ zhù zài nǎ lǐ ?
I live in _____	我住在 _____ 。	wǒ zhù zài _____ 。



Photo by Miki Yoshimoto

When something is wrong... 当出现问题的时候....

	Original	Pinyin
I have a headache.	我头疼。	wǒ tóu téng 。
I have a sore throat.	我喉咙疼。	wǒ hóu lóng téng 。
My back hurts	我背疼	wǒ bèi téng
I have an upset stomach.	我胃不舒服	wǒ wèi bù shū fú
Vomiting	呕吐	ǒu tǔ
I have a fever.	我发烧了。	wǒ fā shāo liǎo 。
Do you have antibiotics?	你有抗生素吗?	nǐ yǒu kàng shēng sù má ?
Help!	救命!	jiù mìng !
Where is the police station?	警察局在哪?	jǐng chá jú zài nǎ ?
I've been robbed!	我被抢了!	wǒ bèi qiǎng liǎo !
Where's the embassy?	大使馆在哪?	dà shǐ guǎn zài nǎ ?



Photo by Miki Yoshida

Places in a community

	Original	Pinyin
market	市场	shì chǎng
hospital	医院	yī yuàn
shoe store	鞋店	xié diàn
restaurant	餐厅	cāntīng
bus station	公交车站	gōngjiāo chē zhàn
train station	火车站	huǒchē zhàn
airport	机场	jī chǎng
pharmacy	药店	yào diàn
theater	剧院	jù yuàn
shopping center	购物中心	gòu wù zhōng xīn
clothing store	服装店	fú zhuāng diàn
jewelry store	珠宝店	zhū bǎo diàn
supermarket	超市	chāo shì



Numbers

数字 shù zì

	Original	Pinyin
0	零	líng
1-10	一 - 十	yī - shí
11-19	十一 - 十九	shí yī - shí jiǔ
21-29	二十一 - 二十九	èr shí yī - èr shí jiǔ
30-39	三十 - 三十九	sān shí - sān shí jiǔ
40-49	四十 - 四十九	sì shí - sì shí jiǔ
50-59	五十 - 五十九	wǔ shí - wǔ shí jiǔ
60-69	六十 - 六十九	liù shí - liù shí jiǔ
70-79	七十 - 七十九	qī shí - qī shí jiǔ
80-89	八十 - 八十九	bā shí - bā shí jiǔ
90-99	九十 - 九十九	jiǔ shí - jiǔ shí jiǔ
100	一百	yī bǎi



	Original	Pinyin
200	两百	wǔ bǎi
300	三百	sān bǎi
400	四百	sì bǎi
500	五百	wǔ bǎi
600	六百	liù bǎi
700	七百	qī bǎi
800	八百	bā bǎi
900	九百	jiǔ bǎi
1000	一千	yī qiān
1,000,000 (1 million)	一百万	yī bǎi wàn



Playlists

Below are some examples of playlists to get you through that beginning level and up into creating your own messages in Mandarin:

- Meeting and greeting
- Taking leave
- Introducing people
- Talking about yourself
- Giving compliments
- Getting around
- At the train station
- At the bus stop
- In a taxi
- Asking for directions
- At a coffee shop
- At a fast-food restaurant
- Getting food delivered to your house
- Making travel reservations
- Checking in at the airport
- At baggage claim
- At customs
- At the bank
- At currency exchange
- At the doctor's
- At the hospital
- At the emergency room
- At the post office
- Buying clothes
- At the supermarket
- At any store
- On the telephone
- Dating
- Love
- A night out