

10 Common Chinese Words & Phrases Used in Daily Conversation

<https://youtu.be/WXYnjMELdEE>

Content

1

suàn le

算了

forget (about) it, let it be

We use “算了[suàn le]” a lot in real life. It means forget about something. That is, you have accepted something resignedly because you can't change it.

For example:

(1)

Jīntiān cāntīng rén zhēn duō ya, hái yào děng liǎng ge xiǎoshí ne!

A: 今天 餐厅 人 真 多 呀, 还 要 等 两 个 小 时 呢!

There are so many people in this restaurant. I'm afraid we have to wait for two hours.

Suàn le ba, wǒmen hái shì qù bié de dìfang chī ba.

B: 算 了 吧, 我 们 还 是 去 别 的 地 方 吃 吧。

Forget it, let's go to another place.

(2)

Lǎogōng.

A: 老公。

Honey.

Gàn shá?

B: 干 啥?

What?

Bǎ yīfu qù xǐ yíxià ba.

A: 把 衣服 去 洗 一 下 吧。

Do laundry.

Děng huìr, wǒ yóuxì cái gāng kāishǐ ne.

B: 等 会儿, 我 游戏 才 刚 开始 呢。

Wait a moment. I just started playing the video game.

Suàn le, wǒ zìjǐ qù xǐ ba.

A: 算 了, 我 自己 去 洗 吧。

Alright, I'll do it myself.

(3)

Duìbuqǐ, wǒ xiàcì bú huì zhèyàng le.

A: 对不起, 我下次 不 会 这样 了。

Sorry, I won't do that again.

Wǒ kàn wǒmen háishì suàn le ba.

B: 我 看 我们 还是 算 了吧。

Maybe we should call off our marriage.

2

Zhēn de ma? / Zhēn de jiǎ de?

真 的 吗? /真 的 假 的?

Really?

When you hear about something and can't believe it, you can say “真的吗[zhēn de ma]?” or “真的假的[zhēn de jiǎ de]?”.

For example:

(1)

Tīngshuō Xiǎo Wáng tā lǎopó yòu huáiyùn le.

A: 听说 小 王 他 老婆 又 怀孕 了。

I heard Xiao Wang's wife got pregnant again.

Zhēn de ma? Zhēn de jiǎ de?

B: 真 的 吗? 真 的 假 的?

Really?

Zhēn de.

A: 真的。

Yeah.

(2)

Xiǎo Zhāng hé tā nǚ péngyou fēnshǒu le.

A: 小张和他女朋友分手了。

Xiao Zhang broke up with his girlfriend.

Zhēn de ma? Wǒ shàng ge xīngqī hái kànjiàn tā liǎ zài yìqǐ chī fàn ne.

B: 真的吗? 我上个星期还看见他俩在一起吃饭呢。

Really? I saw they had dinner together last week.

3

chī tǔ

吃土

run out of money, broke

“吃土[chī tǔ]” is jokingly used to say someone has no money, so he can only eat dirt.

For example:

(1)

Dèngdeng, wǒmen xiàwǔ qù guàng jiē ba.

A: 邓邓, 我们下午去逛街吧。

Dengdeng, how about shopping with me this afternoon?

Bú qù le, wǒ zuìjìn gāng mǎi yí ge xīn shǒujī, zhège yuè qióng de kuài chī tǔ le.

B: 不去了, 我最近刚买一个新手机, 这个月穷得快吃土了。

No, I just bought a new phone, so I almost ran out of money.

(2)

Dèngdeng, nǐ jīntiān zěnmē zhème kāixīn a!

A: 邓邓, 你今天怎么这么开心啊!

Dengdeng, why are you so happy today?

Fā gōngzī le ya, zhōngyú búyòng chī tǔ le.

B: 发工资了呀，终于不用吃土了。

I got my paycheck today, so I don't have to worry about being broke now.

4

Wǒ de mā ya! / Wǒ de tiān a!

我的妈呀! / 我的天啊!

Oh, my god!

We often use “我的妈呀[wǒ de mā ya]” to express our disbelief or surprise. We also say “我的天啊[wǒ de tiān a]”, or just say “天啊[tiān a]”, “妈呀[mā ya]”.

For example:

(1)

Nǐ hǎo, wǒ jiào Mǎlì, wǒ shì Měiguó rén.

A: 你好，我叫玛丽，我是美国人。

Hello. My name is Mary. I'm American.

Wǒ de tiān a! Nǐ de zhōngwén shuō de yě tài hǎo le ba . Zhēn lihai!

B: 我的天啊! 你的中文说得也太好了吧。真厉害!

Oh my god! You speak Chinese so well. Impressive!

(2)

Wǒ de mā ya ! Xià sǐ wǒ le.

我的妈呀! 吓死我了。

Oh my god! It freaks me out.

5

fàng gēzi

放鸽子

stand somebody up

In daily life, we often use “放鸽子[fàng gēzi]” to say someone didn't show up when they were supposed to. If you were stood up, that is “你被鸽了[nǐ bèi gē le]”. If you often stand people up, then you are a “鸽王[gēwáng]”.

For example:

(1)

Dèngdeng, nǐ bú shì hé nǐ nán péngyou qù kàn diànyǐng le ma?

A: 邓邓, 你不是和你男朋友去看电影了吗?

Dengdeng, didn't you go see a movie with your boyfriend?

Āi , bié tí le. Wǒ jīntiān bèi wǒ nán péngyou fàng gēzi le.

B: 唉, 别提了。我今天被我男朋友放鸽子了。

Don't mention it. My boyfriend stood me up today.

(2)

Wèi, wǒ gàosu nǐ ya. Nǐ míngtiān bù zhǔn zài fàng wǒ gēzi le.

A: 喂, 我告诉你呀。你明天不准再放我鸽子了。

Hey, I am telling you. Don't stand me up tomorrow.

6

diàndēngpào

电灯泡

a third wheel

In real life, we often use “电灯泡[diàndēngpào]” to say someone out of a trio who is seemingly the least relevant.

For example:

Míngtiān wǒ hé wǒ nán péngyou yào yìqǐ qù chī huǒguō, nǐ hé wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba.

A: 明天我和我男朋友要一起去吃火锅, 你和我们一起去吧。

Tomorrow, I'll have hotpot with my boyfriend, will you join us?

Bù le , wǒ cái bù xiǎng dāng nǐmen de diàndēngpào ne.

B: 不了, 我才不想当你们的电灯泡呢。

No, I don't want to be the third wheel.

7

wūyāzuǐ

乌鸦嘴

jinx, doomsayer

“乌鸦嘴[wūyāzuǐ]” refers to someone who has made an inauspicious remark.

For example:

Nǐ zhège wūyāzuǐ bú yào zài shuō le.

(1) 你 这个 乌鸦嘴 不要 再 说了。

Stop talking, you are such a jinx.

Wǒ fāxiàn nǐ jiùshì ge wūyāzuǐ, hǎo de bù líng huài de líng.

(2) 我 发现 你 就是 个 乌鸦嘴, 好 的 不 灵 坏 的 灵。

I find that you are a Jinx.

8

bì zuǐ

闭嘴

shut up

“闭嘴[bì zuǐ]” is a rude word. If you are annoyed or angry at what somebody said, then you can say “闭嘴[bì zuǐ]”.

For example:

(1)

Qǐng bì zuǐ hǎo ma? Nǐ yào zài shuō xiàqu wǒ jiù méi fǎ xuéxí le.

A: 请 闭嘴 好吗? 你 要 再 说 下去 我就 没法 学习 了。

Please shut up. I can't focus on my studies if you keep talking.

(2)

Nǐ zài zhèyàng xiàqu, kěndìng kǎobùshàng dàxué.

A: 你 再 这样 下去, 肯定 考不上 大学。

You won't make it to university if don't change.

Bìshàng nǐ de wūyāzuǐ!

B: 闭上 你的 乌鸦嘴!

Shut up!

9

chī cù

吃 醋

be jealous of

In everyday life, we often use “吃醋[chī cù]” to describe someone is jealous in a romantic relationship. We also use “醋坛子[cùtánzi]” to describe someone who is really jealous.

For example:

(1)

Xiǎo Wáng, nǐ gǎnkuài huí jiā ba. Nǐ lǎopo chīcù le.

小 王，你 赶快 回家 吧。你 老婆 吃醋 了。

Xiao Wang, just go home right now. Your wife is getting jealous.

(2)

Xiǎo Wáng, xià bān hòu yìqǐ chī fàn ba.

A: 小 王，下 班 后 一起 吃饭 吧。

Xiao Wang, would you like to have dinner with me after work?

Bù le bù le. Wǒ lǎopo jiù shì ge cùtánzi. Tā bú ràng wǒ hé nǚ tóngshì yìqǐ chī fàn.

B: 不了了。我 老婆 就是 个 醋坛子。她 不 让 我 和 女 同事 一起 吃饭。

I'm sorry. My wife would be jealous. She hates it when I have dinner with female co-workers.

10

gǎodìng

搞 定

Done

“搞定[gǎodìng]” means something is done.

For example:

(1)

Wǒ xiāngxìn nǐ yídìng néng gǎodìng zhè jiàn shì.

我 相信 你 一定 能 搞定 这 件事。

I believe you can get the job done.

(2)

Nǐ gǎodìng méi?

A: 你 搞定 没?

Have you finished it?

Méiwèntí. Gǎodìng le.

B: 没问题。搞定了。

Done.

conclusion

suàn le

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4. 我 的 妈 呀! /我 的 天 啊! Oh, my god!

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|---------|---------------|
| bì zuǐ | |
| 8. 闭嘴 | shut up |
| chī cù | |
| 9. 吃醋 | be jealous of |
| gǎoding | |
| 10. 搞定 | done |