

Chinese Quiz — Expanded Study Guide (pdfLaTeX / CJKutf8)

1. Quick Reference: Characters with Pinyin (from your quiz)

#	Character	Pinyin / Quick meaning
1	旦	dān — dawn, daybreak
2	杲	gǎo — bright (rare, literary)
3	从	cóng — from, follow
4	并	bìng — and, moreover; together
5	北	běi — north (e.g., 北京 Běijīng)
6	夭	yāo — young; to die young (classical)
7	儿	ér — child; also the -er suffix in many words
8	晚	wǎn — late, evening
9	欠	qiàn — owe; to lack; (radical often shows mouth open/yawning)
10	暮	mù — dusk; evening
11	众	zhòng — crowd; many
12	杳	yǎo — deep/unknown (literary)
13	化	huà — change; transform (also suffix -ize)
14	夫	fū — man; husband (in compounds like 丈夫 zhàngfu)
15	尸	shī — corpse (radical in some characters)
16	昏	hūn — dark; dizzy; to faint; dusk
17	子	zǐ — child; suffix; noun marker
18	老	lǎo — old; used in titles (老师 lǎoshī)
19	旭	xù — rising sun; dawn
20	了	le — (aspect particle) / completed action
21	立	lì — to stand; establish
22	交	jiāo — to exchange; to cross; to hand over
23	夫	fū — male adult / husband (duplicate entry)
24	老	lǎo — old (duplicate entry)
25	卩	jié (radical) — seal; kneel (radical form)
26	文	wén — writing; culture; language
27	早	zǎo — early; morning
28	晚	wǎn — evening / late (duplicate)
29	大	dà — big; large
30	北	běi — north (duplicate)

2. Common Compounds & Example Words (learn characters in context)

- 北 (běi): 北京 (Běijīng), 北方 (běifāng — north)
- 早 (zǎo): 早上 (zǎoshang — morning), 早点 (zǎodiǎn — breakfast; lit. early-spot)

- 晚 (wǎn): 晚上 (wǎnshang — evening), 晚安 (wǎn'ān — good night)
- 老 (lǎo): 老师 (lǎoshī — teacher), 老人 (lǎorén — elder)
- 子 (zǐ): 孩子 (háizi — child), 子女 (zǐnǚ — children)
- 化 (huà): 变化 (biànhuà — change), 化学 (huàxué — chemistry)
- 立 (lì): 立刻 (lìkè — immediately), 建立 (jiànlì — establish)
- 从 (cóng): 从来 (cónglái — always/as long as), 从前 (cóngqián — once upon a time)
- 文 (wén): 文化 (wénhuà — culture), 文学 (wénxué — literature)
- 并 (bìng): 并且 (bìngqiě — moreover), 并非 (bìngfēi — actually not)
- 旦 / 旭: 旦 (dān) and 旭 (xù) both relate to sun/dawn — useful pair for morning/dawn words

3. Radicals & Why they help

Many characters share parts (radicals). Recognizing radicals speeds up meaning guessing and writing.

- 日 (sun/day): appears in 暮、旦、旭、昏 — linked to time of day or sunlight.
- 儿 (child/suffix) — appears in 儿 and in many derived forms.
- 欠 (yawn/owe) — hints at mouth/opening / lacking / yawning; appears in 欠 itself and related characters.
- 卩 (kneel/seal) — simple radical in characters like 印.
- 文 (pattern/writing) — appears in cultural/word-related characters.

4. Short Mnemonics (one line each) — say them out loud while writing

- 旦 (dān): “sun on a plate” — dawn (sun rising in a circle).
- 杲 (gǎo): “two trees + sun = very bright” (rare word for bright).
- 从 (cóng): two people following each other → follow/from.
- 并 (bìng): two items side-by-side = together / and.
- 北 (běi): looks like two people back-to-back → north (direction).
- 夭 (yāo): a bent person — short life / young (classical).
- 儿 (ér): child shape — son/child.
- 晚 (wǎn): sun + evening sign = evening/late.
- 欠 (qiàn): open mouth yawning = owe / lack.
- 暮 (mù): sunset + grass roof = dusk.
- 众 (zhòng): three people → many.
- 杳 (yǎo): deep/hidden — think “deep forest”.
- 化 (huà): person changing shape = change / transform.
- 夫 (fū): man with broad hat → man / husband.
- 尸 (shī): corpse shape → dead / body radical.

- 昏 (hūn): sun + mix = dusk / faint.
- 子 (zǐ): small child head — child.
- 老 (lǎo): old man with long hair/beard (visual).
- 旭 (xù): rising sun → dawn.
- 了 (le): a small hook — particle showing change/completion.
- 立 (lì): person standing on ground → to stand.
- 交 (jiāo): crossing lines → to cross / exchange.
- 文 (wén): a pattern on cloth → culture / writing.
- 大 (dà): person with arms wide = big.

5. Pronunciation Tips (Pinyin & Tones) — practice naturally

1. **Say out loud.** Read each character + pinyin + tone: e.g., 北京 Běijīng — say the tones clearly.
2. **Tone practice:** Repeat simple words across four tones: *mā, má, mǎ, mà* — practice to feel high, rising, dipping, falling tones.
3. **Tone pairs:** practice two-syllable pairs like: **běi + jīng, zǎo + shang, wǎn + shang**. Record yourself and compare.
4. **Tone sandhi:** note that 不 (bù) may change to **bú** before a fourth tone; and consecutive third tones change in natural speech.
5. **Pronounce finals clearly:** exaggerate finals like *ao, an, eng, iu* slowly then speed up.

6. Natural Memorization Plan (use every day) — simple SRS + active recall

Daily 15–25 minutes split into short blocks:

1. **Warm-up (3–5 min):** Read the list out loud. Say pinyin + meaning.
2. **Active recall (7–10 min):** Cover the pinyin/meaning and *write* the character from memory (or say it). Then check.
3. **Production (5–10 min):** Use each character in a short word or sentence. Speak the sentence aloud.
4. **Quick review (2 min):** Mark which ones were hard (red), okay (yellow), easy (green).

Spaced schedule (SRS) for each card: review after **1 day, 3 days, 7 days, 14 days, 1 month, 3 months**. Use an app (Anki) or a simple notebook with dates.

7. Active practice exercises (do them aloud and in writing)

1. **Matching (10 min):** Write characters on left column and pinyin+meaning on right shuffled — match without looking.
2. **Write from pinyin:** I say “běi” → write 北 and make the example word 北京.
3. **Mini sentences:** Make one sentence for each of these: 北, 早, 晚, 老, 子, 化. (E.g., 我早上七点起床。)

4. **Flashcard test:** 30 sec per card — say pinyin, meaning, and use it in a short phrase.
5. **Tone-only drill:** For a list of 10 syllables, only speak the tones (e.g., 3rd, 1st, 4th...), then speak full pinyin.

8. Example short sentences (useful for items 31–36)

- 你是哪国人? 我是美国人。(What nationality are you? I am American.)
- 你上哪个学校? 我上古内数理与技术高中。(Which school? I go to ...)
- 你家有几口人? 我家有九口人。(How many people? I have nine people in my family.)
- 你有姐姐吗? 有, 我有一个姐姐。 / 没有, 我没有姐姐。(Do you have an older sister?)
- 她是谁? 她是我的奶奶。(Who is she? She is my grandmother.)
- 他是谁? 他是我的外公。(Who is he? He is my grandfather.)

9. Flashcard template (print or write by hand)

- | | | |
|--|--|----------------|
| 1. Front: Character (e.g., 北) | Back: Character: 晚 | 2) Example: 晚上 |
| Back: 1) Pinyin: běi 2) Meaning: north 3) | wǎnshang | |
| Example: 北京 Běijīng | | |
| 2. Front: Pinyin + tone (e.g., wǎn) | 3. Front: English (e.g., morning) | |
| | Back: 早 zǎo, 早上 zǎoshang | |

10. How to review so it “sticks” (few easy rules)

- **Write by hand.** Motor memory helps characters stick.
- **Speak and listen.** Record yourself and compare; say words in phrases.
- **Use the character in a short sentence every day.**
- **Mix:** Don't study only what you know — spend more time on the hard ones.
- **Test yourself under time pressure.** 60 seconds to recall 10 cards builds confidence.

11. Small cheatsheet: Tone symbols (for reading pinyin)

ā (1st) high flat
á (2nd) rising (like a question)
ǎ (3rd) low dip (fall-rise) — often becomes low in fast speech
à (4th) sharp falling

12. Quick trouble-shoot: similar characters

- 早 (zǎo) vs 暮 (mù): 早 = morning, 暮 = dusk/evening. Note the difference: 早 has a sun and a small top; 暮 includes grass + sun.
- 老 (lǎo) vs 考 (kǎo): note hair/beard strokes for 老.
- 子 (zǐ) vs 孑 (jié): small stroke differences — slow careful writing helps.

13. Printable one-week micro-plan (15 min/day)

1. Day 1: Read all 36 aloud; write 10 chosen hard ones.
2. Day 2: Flashcards: active recall + 5 example words.
3. Day 3: Write 20 times each of 5 hardest characters; speak sentences.
4. Day 4: Mixed review: matching quiz + tone practice 10 min.
5. Day 5: Use characters in 6 short sentences; record yourself.
6. Day 6: Timed quiz (2 mins for 12 cards) + SRS marking.
7. Day 7: Free practice: read a short paragraph or make a mini-dialog using learned words.

14. Final tips (short)

- Learn a few new chars every day, but review old ones.
- Always use pinyin+tone when you first learn the character.
- Make silly pictures for mnemonics — funny images stick best.
- Writing correctly (stroke order) makes memorization faster — if you want, I can add a stroke-order list for the top 12 characters next.

If you want: I can generate (right now)

- stroke-order lists for the top 12 characters,
 - 30 printable flashcards in pdfLaTeX format, or
 - a short timed quiz (10 questions) you can print and use.
- Tell me which one and I'll append it into this same .tex file.