

# HSK 1 Vocabulary List – the 150 Words

(HSKNEST- <https://vaskarchakma.github.io/hsknest/>)  
(<https://vaskarchakma.github.io/>)

I've organized these words based on category (e.g. numbers, time, people, and places) because Chinese words are easiest to learn when you associate them with related words.

Enjoy the list!

## 11 Chinese Words for Numbers

Chinese	Pinyin	English
零	líng	zero
一	yī	one
二	èr	two
三	sān	three
四	sì	four
五	wǔ	five
六	liù	six
七	qī	seven
八	bā	eight
九	jiǔ	nine
十	shí	ten

## 7 Chinese Pronouns

Chinese pronouns don't change form according to whether they are the subject (doer of the action, e.g. "I") or object (undergoer of the action, e.g. "me").

Note while "he", "she" (or "him", "her") are represented by two different Chinese characters, they are pronounced in exactly the same way.

Pay attention to 这儿 (zhèr) – “here”, and 那儿 (nàr) – “there” as well. People in southern China often use **这里** (zhèlǐ) and **那里** (nàlǐ) instead as part of the regional differences (all these words are readily understood in China though).

Chinese	Pinyin	English
我	wǒ	I or me
你	nǐ	you (singular)
他	tā	he or him
她	tā	she or her
我们	wǒmen	we or me
这/这儿	zhè/zhèr	this/here
那/那儿	nà/nàr	that/there

### 7 Chinese Question Words

Chinese	Pinyin	English
哪/哪儿	nǎ/nǎr	which/where
谁	shéi	who
什么	shénme	what
多少	duōshao	how many or how much
几	jǐ	how many or how much
怎么	zěnmē	how
怎么样	zěnmeyàng	how about

Question words like “what”, “where”, “who” are technically pronouns too. I’ve listed them separately here because I would like to draw your attention to how WH Questions are raised in Chinese.

Essentially, the word order of a WH question in Chinese stays in line with the basic Chinese structure **S-V-O (subject-verb-object)**, that is, you need to keep the word order of the statement and change the “asked part” to the corresponding question word.

This is a key grammar point in HSK 1 test. If you are not sure how to craft a WH question, read here.

### 14 Chinese Words for Time

These time words required by HSK 1 are often used together with numbers. You can pair numbers up with words like 月 (yuè) to say months of the year, like 一月 (yī yuè) – “January”, or 星期 (xīngqī) to say days of the week, like 星期二 (xīngqī èr) – “Tuesday”.

Note, the time in Chinese is expressed quite differently than in English. For instance, the elements of the dates must be named in ascending order: **year + month + day**, that is, 年 (nián) + 月 (yuè) + 日 (rì).

Words like 上午 (shàngwǔ), 下午 (xiàwǔ), if used, also need to be placed **before the time** to depict the period accurately.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
现在	xiànzài	now
今天	jīntiān	today
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow
昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
上午	shàngwǔ	morning
中午	zhōngwǔ	noon
下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon
点	diǎn	o’clock

分钟	fēnzhōng	minute
年	nián	year
月	yuè	month
日	rì	day
星期	xīngqī	week
时候	shíhou	a certain point in time

### **36 Chinese Words for People & Things**

HSK 1 expects you to know 36 nouns related to people and things to pass. Some of them are very important in Chinese culture, such as 茶 (chá) – “tea”, and 米饭 (mǐfàn) – “rice”, so they pop up a lot.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
人	rén	person or people
名字	míngzì	name
妈妈	māma	mom
爸爸	bàba	dad
儿子	érzi	son
女儿	nǚ'ér	daughter
朋友	péngyǒu	friend
先生	xiānsheng	Mr or sir
小姐	xiǎojiě	Miss

老师	lǎoshī	teacher
学生	xuésheng	student
同学	tóngxué	schoolmate
医生	yīshēng	doctor
东西	dōngxi	thing
钱	qián	money
水	shuǐ	water
茶	chá	tea
菜	cài	dish
米饭	mǐfàn	(cooked) rice
衣服	yīfu	clothes
书	shū	book
桌子	zhuōzi	table or desk
椅子	yǐzi	chair
水果	shuǐguǒ	fruit
苹果	píngguǒ	apple
杯子	bēizi	cup or glass
电视	diànshì	TV

电脑	diànnǎo	computer
电影	diànyǐng	movie
飞机	fēijī	plane
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi
猫	māo	cat
狗	gǒu	dog
天气	tiānqì	weather
字	zì	character
汉语	Hànyǔ	Chinese (language)

### **13 Chinese Words for Places & Directions**

The following 13 words for places and directions are the ones you'll encounter in HSK 1 test. Of course, they are equally useful outside the realm of testing to get by in China.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
中国	Zhōngguó	China
北京	Běijīng	Beijing
家	jiā	home or family
学校	xuéxiào	school
饭馆	fànguǎn	restaurant
商店	shāngdiàn	shop

医院	yīyuàn	hospital
火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station
上	shàng	on, above or last
下	xià	under, below or next
前面	qiánmiàn	front
后面	hòumiàn	back
里	lǐ	inside

### 5 Chinese Measure Words

The use of measure words is unique to the Chinese language. There are more than one hundred measure words used for different kinds of things in daily Chinese. Luckily, to pass HSK 1, you only need to learn five of them.

In real life, you can get by for quite a while by just using **the most common, general-purpose measure word 个 (gè)**. It may not be strictly correct (works like 30% of the time), but you'll be understood.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
个	gè	generic measure word
块	kuài	basic monetary unit of China
本	běn	for books
岁	suì	year (of age)
些	xiē	some

### 31 Chinese Verbs

In the HSK 1 test, you'll be quizzed on the following 31 verbs. Many of the verbs have multiple meanings, especially when combined with other words. Don't worry about that for now, but just know there maybe – and usually are, more ways to use them once you get fluence in your Chinese studies. For now, I simply included their most common meanings you need to know for taking HSK 1.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
做	zuò	to do
是	shì	to be
在	zài	to be in
有	yǒu	to have
住	zhù	to live or to stay
来	lái	to come
去	qù	to go
回	huí	to return
想	xiǎng	to think
吃	chī	to eat
喝	hē	to drink
说话	shuōhuà	to speak
看	kàn	to look or to watch
看见	kànjiàn	to see
听	tīng	to listen



叫	jiào	to call
买	mǎi	to buy
开	kāi	to drive or to open
坐	zuò	to sit
读	dú	to read
写	xiě	to write
打电话	dǎ diànhuà	to make a phone call
认识	rènshi	to know
学习	xuéxí	to learn
工作	gōngzuò	to work
睡觉	shuìjiào	to sleep
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
爱	ài	to love
会	huì	can (to know how to)
能	néng	can (to be able to)
下雨	xià yǔ	to rain

### **14 Chinese Adjectives and Adverbs**

Coming up next are the most basic Chinese adjectives and adverbs to describe things and actions. You will most likely be quizzed on how to describe things on the HSK 1 test. To do

that, simply use **很 (hěn)**, the **default connecting word to link a noun to an adjective**, like **我很好 (wǒ hěn hǎo)**. The literal meaning of 很 (hěn) – “very” is very weak in such cases.

Another grammar point you’ll definitely need to know for the HSK 1 test would be the use of **不 (bù)** vs **没 (méi)**. Bear in mind that **不 (bù)** works with almost all the nouns and adjectives in Chinese, but to negate the verb **有 (yǒu)**, you have to use the negating word **没 (méi)**. That’s the only exception.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
好	hǎo	good
大	dà	big
小	xiǎo	small
多	duō	many
少	shǎo	few
热	rè	hot
冷	lěng	cold
漂亮	piàoliang	pretty
高兴	gāoxìng	happy
很	hěn	very
太	tài	too...
都	dōu	both or all
不	bù	not
没	méi	not

## 4 Chinese Particles

Chinese particles are those function words that don't have a concrete meaning on their own, but are used together with another word, phrase, or sentence to serve a grammatical purpose. To pass HSK 1, you need to know the following four basic particles.

Pay special attention to the question particle 吗 (ma). Don't think of it as the question mark in Chinese. Use it only for yes-no questions.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
的	de	possession particle
了	le	aspect particle
吗	ma	question particle
呢	ne	question particle

## 1 Chinese Conjunction

和 (hé) is the only conjunction you need to know for HSK 1. However, be aware of the pitfall! It is much less versatile than the English "and", and should only be used to **connect nouns** in Chinese. Never attempt to connect adjectives, verbs, phrases, or sentences with 和 (hé)!

Chinese	Pinyin	English
和	hé	and

## 7 Chinese Expressions

Finally, there are seven basic expressions that you must master for HSK Level 1 test (you'll most likely hear them in the Listening Section).

Pay attention to the word 请 (qǐng). In Chinese, you can only use the word **at the beginning of a sentence** to start a request, not at the end. That is, you can say things like "please sit down", but not "sit down, please".

Chinese	Pinyin	English
喂	wèi	hello (on the phone)

谢谢	xièxie	thanks
不客气	bú kèqi	you're welcome
再见	zàijiàn	goodbye
请	qǐng	please...
对不起	duìbuqǐ	sorry
没关系	méi guānxi	it's all right

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**Nantong University  
Seyuan Road, Nantong, Jiangsu, China.  
+86-175 05222 809  
vaskarchakma.edu@gmail.com**