

# HSK 2 Vocabulary List

(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!

(HSK1 and HSK2 Vocabularies are available [here](#))

## 15 Chinese Words for Numbers

Numbers in Chinese are easy to learn as the system is extremely regular. Once you know how to count to ten, it shouldn't take you more than two minutes to learn the rest. (In case you don't know how, read [here](#))

Pay attention to 二 (èr) and 两 (liǎng), they are both translated as “two” in English, but are used for different circumstances in Chinese. Essentially, 二 (èr) is the “two” for numbers and 两 (liǎng) is the “two” for measure words. (Read [here](#) if you are confused about when to use 二 èr and when to use 两 liǎng)

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
两	liǎng	two
百	bǎi	hundred

千	qiān	thousand
第一	dì-yī	first

Ordinal numbers in Chinese can be formed simply by adding the prefix 第 (dì) to the cardinal number, like 第一 (dì-yī), 第二 (dì-èr). Just note that some nouns can form ordinals without 第 (dì). For example: 二哥 (èr gē) – “the second (oldest) brother”, 三号 (sān hào) – “the third date (of the month)”.

## 10 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”, “it” (or “him”, “her”, “it”) are represented by three different Chinese characters, they are pronounced in exactly the same way.

The plural personal pronouns in Chinese are formed with the simple addition of 们 (men) to the singular forms, but note that you cannot add it to 您 (nín), as the honorific form only exists for the singular “you”.

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

Pay attention to 这儿 (zhèr) – “here”, and 那儿 (nàr) – “there”. People in southern China often use 这里 (zhèli) and 那里 (nàli) instead as part of the regional differences (both versions are readily understood anywhere in China though).

## 8 Chinese Question Words

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 and HSK 2 tests.

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
为什么	wèi shénme	why

## 20 Chinese Words for Time

These time words required by HSK 2 are often used together with numbers. You can pair numbers up with words like 月 (yuè) to construct the months of the year, like 一月 (yī yuè) – “January”, or 星期 (xīngqī) to construct 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)/号 (hào) (the latter is somewhat more colloquial to express the day of the month).

Words like 早上 (zǎoshàng), 上午 (shàngwǔ), 下午 (xiàwǔ), 晚上 (wǎnshàng), 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
早上	zǎoshàng	early morning
上午	shàngwǔ	morning
中午	zhōngwǔ	noon
下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon
晚上	wǎnshàng	evening
点	diǎn	o'clock
小时	xiǎoshí	hour
分钟	fēnzhōng	minute
年	nián	year
月	yuè	month
日	rì	day
号	hào	<u>date</u> or number
星期	xīngqī	week
时候	shíhou	a certain point in time
时间	shíjiān	a period of time
去年	qùnián	last year

Notice that there are two words for “time” in Chinese? Don’t get them mixed up! 时候 (shíhou) refers to a point in time, and you use it to ask “when” or “what time” – 什么时候? (shénme shíhou?). 时间 (shíjiān) refers to a duration of time, e.g, “Do you have time tomorrow?” – 明天你有时间吗? (Míngtiān nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma?).

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

HSK 2 expects you to master 72 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 everywhere.

Some of them are less commonly said in daily Chinese, but you still have to learn them. For example, you may think 羊肉 (lamb or mutton) will never show up in the HSK 2 test, and yet it often does. It translates as “sheep meat” or “goat meat”.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
人	rén	person or people
男人	nánrén	man
女人	nǚrén	woman
名字	míngzì	name
妈妈	māma	mom
爸爸	bàba	dad
丈夫	zhàngfu	husband
妻子	qīzi	wife
孩子	háizi	child
儿子	érzi	son
女儿	nǚ'ér	daughter
哥哥	gēge	elder brother
姐姐	jiějie	elder sister
弟弟	dìdi	younger brother
妹妹	mèimei	younger sister
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

服务员	fúwùyuán	waiter or waitress
身体	shēntǐ	body
眼睛	yǎnjīng	eye
生日	shēngrì	birthday
东西	dōngxi	thing
钱	qián	money
水	shuǐ	water
茶	chá	tea
咖啡	kāfēi	coffee
牛奶	niúnnǎi	milk
菜	cài	dish
米饭	mǐfàn	(cooked) rice
鸡蛋	jīdàn	egg
鱼	yú	fish
羊肉	yáng ròu	lamb or mutton
衣服	yīfu	clothes
书	shū	book
报纸	bàozhǐ	newspaper
票	piào	ticket
桌子	zhuōzi	table or desk
椅子	yǐzi	chair
水果	shuǐguǒ	fruit
苹果	píngguǒ	apple
西瓜	xīguā	watermelon
药	yào	medicine
杯子	bēizi	cup or glass

手表	shǒubiǎo	watch
手机	shǒujī	mobile phone
电视	diànshì	TV
电脑	diànnǎo	computer
电影	diànyǐng	movie
飞机	fēijī	plane
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi
公共汽车	gōnggòng qìchē	bus
自行车	zìxíngchē	bike
船	chuán	boat
门	mén	door
颜色	yánsè	color
猫	māo	cat
狗	gǒu	dog
天气	tiānqì	weather
雪	xuě	snow
字	zì	character
汉语	Hànyǔ	Chinese (language)
课	kè	lesson
考试	kǎoshì	exam
问题	wèntí	question
题	tí	question (exam, exercise)
意思	yìsi	meaning
事情	shìqing	matter

## 22 Chinese Words for Places & Directions

Words for places and directions are always important to know to get by in China. You'll encounter the following 22 words under this category in the HSK 2 test.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
中国	Zhōngguó	China
北京	Běijīng	Beijing
家	jiā	home or family
房间	fángjiān	<u>room</u>
学校	xuéxiào	school
教室	jiàoshì	classroom
公司	gōngsī	company
饭馆	fànguǎn	restaurant
商店	shāngdiàn	shop
医院	yīyuàn	hospital
机场	jīchǎng	airport
火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station
路	lù	road
上	shàng	on, above or last
下	xià	under, below or next
左边	zuǒbiān	left
右边	yòubiān	right
旁边	pángbiān	side
前面	qiánmiàn	front
后面	hòumiàn	back
里	lǐ	inside
外	wài	outside



Note that the word 公司 (gōngsī) is perceived as the physical place of the business establishment in Chinese. That's why you will always hear Chinese speakers say "I am going to the company", "I am in the company", when they mean to say "office".

Pay attention to the word 饭馆 (fànguǎn) as well. It typically refers to those small, traditional Chinese restaurants where rice is served (the word literally means "rice hall"), and it's not the most commonly used word for "restaurant" in Chinese (but oddly it's required by HSK 2).

In daily Chinese, people would actually use the word 餐厅 (cāntīng) for "restaurant" in a general sense. It could refer to a fancy Michelin-starred restaurant or just a fast food chain like KFC.

## **10 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 2, you only need to learn ten of them.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
个	gè	generic measure word
元	yuán	basic monetary unit of China
块	kuài	basic monetary unit of China
本	běn	for books
岁	suì	year (of age)
些	xiē	some
次	cì	time (frequency of an act)
公斤	gōngjīn	kilo
件	jiàn	for affairs, clothes, <u>furniture</u>
张	zhāng	for flat objects

Both 元 (yuán) and 块 (kuài) are the basic monetary unit of China. They are exactly the same, it's just that 块 (kuài) is more colloquial. Think of them as Chinese "dollars" and "bucks" if it helps.

(We've written a detailed post on how to use these common measure words in Chinese. [Read it here](#))

## 73 Chinese Verbs

In the HSK 2 test, you'll be quizzed on the following 73 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 farther in your Chinese studies. For now, I simply included their most common meanings you need to know for taking HSK 2.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
做	zuò	to do
是	shì	to be
姓	xìng	to be surnamed
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
进	jìn	to enter
出	chū	to get out
到	dào	to arrive
想	xiǎng	to think
要	yào	to want
吃	chī	to eat
喝	hē	to drink
说话	shuōhuà	to speak
告诉	gàosù	to tell
问	wèn	to ask
回答	huídá	to answer

看	kàn	to look or to watch
看见	kànjiàn	to see
听	tīng	to listen
笑	xiào	to smile or to laugh
给	gěi	to give
送	sòng	to give as a gift or to deliver
叫	jiào	to call
买	mǎi	to buy
卖	mài	to sell
穿	chuān	to wear
开	kāi	to drive or to open
坐	zuò	to sit
读	dú	to read
写	xiě	to write
等	děng	to wait
打电话	dǎ diànhuà	to make a phone call
介绍	jièshào	to introduce
认识	rènshi	to know
知道	zhīdao	to know
觉得	juéde	to feel or to think
懂	dǒng	to understand
找	zhǎo	to find
让	ràng	to let
希望	xīwàng	to hope
帮助	bāngzhù	to help
玩	wán	to play

学习	xuéxí	to learn
工作	gōngzuò	to work
上班	shàng bān	to go to work
睡觉	shuìjiào	to sleep
起床	qǐ chuáng	to get up
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
爱	ài	to love
唱歌	chàng gē	to sing
跳舞	tiào wǔ	to dance
旅游	lǚyóu	to travel
运动	yùndòng	to do sports
走	zǒu	to walk
跑步	pǎo bù	to run
游泳	yóu yǒng	to swim
踢足球	tī zúqiú	to play soccer
打篮球	dǎ lánqiú	to play basketball
休息	xiūxi	to rest
生病	shēng bìng	to get sick
洗	xǐ	to wash
开始	kāishǐ	to begin
完	wán	to finish
准备.	zhǔnbèi	to prepare
欢迎	huānyíng	to welcome
会	huì	can (to know how to)
能	néng	can (to be able to)
可以	kěyǐ	can (to be permitted to)

下雨	xià yǔ	to rain
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## **47 Chinese Adjectives and Adverbs**

Coming up next are the most basic Chinese adjectives and adverbs to describe things and actions. You will surely be quizzed on how to link nouns with adjectives on the HSK 2 test. To do that, simply use 很 (hěn), the default connecting word, like 我很高兴 (wǒ hěn gāoxìng). The literal meaning of 很 (hěn) – “very” is very weak in such cases.

If you actually want to stress the meaning of “very” in a sentence, use other adverbs instead, such as 非常 (fēicháng), a stronger “very”, or 真 (zhēn) – “really”.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
好	hǎo	good
大	dà	big
小	xiǎo	small
多	duō	many
少	shǎo	few
热	rè	hot
冷	lěng	cold
快	kuài	fast
慢	màn	slow
远	yuǎn	far
近	jìn	near
对	duì	right
错	cuò	wrong
长	cháng	long
高	gāo	tall or high
新	xīn	new
贵	guì	expensive
便宜	piányi	cheap

黑	hēi	black
白	bái	white
红	hóng	red
晴	qíng	sunny
阴	yīn	cloudy
好吃	hǎochī	tasty
漂亮	piàoliang	pretty
高兴	gāoxìng	happy
快乐	kuàilè	happy
忙	máng	busy
累	lèi	tired
很	hěn	very
非常	fēicháng	extremely
太	tài	too...
都	dōu	both or all
不	bù	not
没	méi	not
每	měi	every
最	zuì	most
真	zhēn	really
也	yě	also
还	hái	still
再	zài	again
就	jiù	at once
别	bié	don't...
已经	yǐjīng	already

一起	yìqǐ	together
可能	kěnéng	maybe
正在	zhèngzài	indicating action in progress

Pay attention to the synonyms 高兴 (gāoxìng) and 快乐 (kuàilè). 高兴 (gāoxìng) is used to describe a temporary state of mind (like “glad” or “delighted” in English), while 快乐 (kuàilè) is used to describe a long-lasting state of mind (a more profound kind of happiness). That’s why you can say 认识你很高兴 (rènshi nǐ hěn gāo xìng) – “nice to meet you”, but never 认识你很高兴 (rènshi nǐ hěn kuàilè).

## 4 Chinese Prepositions

To pass HSK 4, you are expected to master 4 Chinese prepositions. Learning these prepositions requires a little more attention than learning other parts of speech in Chinese. This is because to use them correctly, you need to pay attention to a bunch of distinctions that do not even exist in English.

Take 离 (lí), for example, it’s often translated as “be away from” in English. It’s a close interpretation, but not an exact 1-1 match.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
从	cóng	from
向	xiàng	towards
离	lí	away from
比	bǐ	than

## 8 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 2, you need to know four more particles on top of the four required by HSK 1.

Pay special attention to the particle 吧 (ma). Not only can it be used as a question particle at the end of a sentence to seek confirmation, it can also be used to make concessions and raise suggestions in different contexts.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
的	de	possession particle
得	de	structure particle

了	le	aspect particle
着	zhe	aspect particle
过	guò	aspect particle
吗	ma	question particle
呢	ne	question particle
吧	ba	question particle

## **4 Chinese Conjunctions**

You need to know the following 4 Chinese conjunctions to pass HSK 2.

Be aware of 和 (hé)! 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)! (read [this article](#) to learn what to do instead)

Also, take note that the conjunctions 因为 (yīnwèi) and 所以 (suǒyǐ) are often used together in one sentence in Chinese as a pair to clearly indicate cause and effect. To English speakers, this grammar pattern could take a little getting used to.

Chinese	Pinyin	English
和	hé	and
但是	dànshì	but
因为	yīnwèi	because
所以	suǒyǐ	so

## **7 Chinese Expressions**

Finally, there are seven basic expressions that you must master for HSK Level 2 test (you’ll most likely hear them in the Listening Section). Since these expressions are already required by HSK 1, you should definitely be very comfortable using them by now.

Just 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
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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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