**HSK 1 Vocabulary List – the 150 Words**

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

**(**[**https://vaskarchakma.github.io/**](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!

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| **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 |

**11 Chinese Words for Numbers**

### **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 (zhèli)** and **那里 (nàli)** instead as part of the regional differences (all these words are readily understood in China though).

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| **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**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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 | zěnme | 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.

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| **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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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)!

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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”.

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **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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