

shivering, slurred speech, irrational or violent behaviour, lethargy, stumbling, dizzy spells, muscle cramps and violent bursts of energy.

To treat mild hypothermia, first get the person out of the wind and/or rain, remove their clothing if it's wet and replace it with dry, warm clothing. Give them hot liquids – not alcohol – and some high-calorie, easily digestible food. The early recognition and treatment of mild hypothermia is the only way to prevent severe hypothermia, which is a critical condition and requires medical attention.

### Insect Bites & Stings

Bedbugs don't carry disease but their bites are very itchy. They live in the cracks of furniture and walls and then migrate to the bed at night to feed on you. You can treat the itch with an antihistamine.

Lice inhabit various parts of the human body but most commonly the head and pubic areas. Transmission is via close contact with an affected person. Lice can be difficult to treat and you may need numerous applications of an antilice shampoo such as Permethrin. Pubic lice (crab lice) are usually contracted from sexual contact.

Ticks are contracted after walking in rural areas. Ticks are commonly found behind the ears, on the belly and in armpits. If you have had a tick bite and experience symptoms such as a rash at the site of the bite or elsewhere, fever or muscle aches you should see a doctor. Doxycycline prevents some tick-borne diseases.

### WOMEN'S HEALTH

Pregnant women should receive specialised advice before travelling. The ideal time to travel is in the second trimester (between 14 and 28 weeks), when the risk of pregnancy-related problems is at its lowest and pregnant women generally feel at their best. During the first trimester there is a risk of miscarriage and in the third trimester complications such as premature labour and high blood pressure are possible. It's wise to travel with a companion. Always carry a list of quality medical facilities available at your destination and ensure you continue your standard antenatal care at these facilities. Avoid rural travel in areas with poor transportation and medical facilities. Most of all, ensure travel insurance covers

all pregnancy-related possibilities, including premature labour.

Malaria is a high-risk disease in pregnancy. WHO recommends that pregnant women do not travel to areas with Chloroquine-resistant malaria.

Traveller's diarrhoea can quickly lead to dehydration and result in inadequate blood flow to the placenta. Many of the drugs used to treat various diarrhoea bugs are not recommended in pregnancy. Azithromycin is considered safe.

Supplies of sanitary products may not be readily available in rural areas. Birth control options may be limited so bring adequate supplies of your own form of contraception. Heat, humidity and antibiotics can all contribute to thrush. Treatment is with antifungal creams and pessaries such as Clotrimazole. A practical alternative is a single tablet of Fluconazole (Diflucan). Urinary tract infections can be precipitated by dehydration or long bus journeys without toilet stops; bring suitable antibiotics.

### TRADITIONAL MEDICINE

Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) views the human body as an energy system in which the basic substances of *qi* (vital energy), *jīng* (essence), *xuè* (blood, the body's nourishing fluids) and *tǐyé* (body fluids; blood and other organic fluids) function. The concept of Yin and Yang is fundamental to the system. Disharmony between Yin and Yang or within the basic substances may be a result of internal causes (emotions), external causes (climatic conditions) or miscellaneous causes (work, exercise, sex etc.). Treatment modalities include acupuncture, massage, herbs, diet and *qigōng*, and aim to bring these elements back into balance. These therapies are particularly useful for treating chronic diseases and are gaining interest and respect in the Western medical system. Conditions that can be particularly suitable for traditional methods include chronic fatigue, arthritis, irritable bowel syndrome and some chronic skin conditions.

Be aware that 'natural' doesn't always mean 'safe', and there can be drug interactions between herbal medicines and Western medicines. If you are utilising both systems ensure you inform both practitioners what the other has prescribed.

# Language

## CONTENTS

<b>Chinese</b>	
The Spoken Language	985
The Written Language	985
Grammar	986
<b>Mandarin</b>	986
Pinyin	986
Pronunciation	986
Gestures	987
Phrasebooks	987
Accommodation	988
Conversation & Essentials	988
Directions	989
Health	990
Emergencies	990
Language Difficulties	991
Numbers	991
Paperwork	991
Question Words	992
Shopping & Services	992
Time & Dates	993
Transport	993
Travel with Children	994
<b>Cantonese</b>	995
Romanisation & Pronunciation	995
Accommodation & Shopping	996
Conversation & Essentials	996
Numbers	996
Transport	996
<b>Tibetan</b>	997
Pronunciation	997
Accommodation	998
Conversation & Essentials	998
Health	998
Time & Numbers	998
Out & About	998

## CHINESE

The official language of the PRC is the dialect spoken in Beijing. It is usually referred to in the west as 'Mandarin', but the Chinese call it Putonghua – common speech. Putonghua is variously referred to as *hànyǔ* (the Han language), *guóyǔ* (the national language) or *zhōngwén* or *zhōngguóhuà* (simply 'Chinese').

## THE SPOKEN LANGUAGE Dialects

Discounting its ethnic minority languages, China has eight major dialect groups: Putonghua (Mandarin), Yue (Cantonese), Wu (Shanghainese), Minbei (Fuzhou), Minnan (Hokkien-Taiwanese), Xiang, Gan and Hakka. These dialects also divide into many more sub-dialects.

With the exception of the western and southernmost provinces, most of the population speaks Mandarin, although regional accents can make comprehension difficult.

## THE WRITTEN LANGUAGE

Chinese is often referred to as a language of pictographs. Many of the basic Chinese characters are in fact highly stylised pictures of what they represent, but most (around 90%) are compounds of a 'meaning' element and a 'sound' element.

So just how many Chinese characters are there? It's possible to verify the existence of some 56,000 characters, but the vast majority of these are archaic. It is commonly felt that a well-educated, contemporary Chinese person might know and use between 6000 and 8000 characters. To read a Chinese newspaper you will need to know 2000 to 3000 characters, but 1200 to 1500 would be enough to get the gist.

Writing systems usually alter people's perception of a language, and this is certainly true of Chinese. Each Chinese character represents a spoken syllable, leading many people to declare that Chinese is a 'monosyllabic language.' Actually, it's more a case of having a monosyllabic writing system. While the building block of the Chinese language is indeed the monosyllabic Chinese character, Chinese words are usually a combination of two or more characters. You could think of Chinese words as being compounds. The Chinese word for 'east' is composed of a single character (*dōng*), but must be combined with the character for 'west' (*xi*) to form the word for 'thing' (*dōngxi*). English has many compound words too, examples being 'white-wash' and 'backslide'.

Theoretically, all Chinese dialects share the same written system. In practice, Cantonese adds about 3000 specialised characters of its own and many of the dialects don't have a written form at all.

### Simplification

In the interests of promoting universal literacy, the Committee for Reforming the Chinese Language was set up by the Beijing government in 1954. Around 2200 Chinese characters were simplified. Chinese communities outside China (notably Taiwan and Hong Kong), however, continue to use the traditional, full-form characters.

Over the past few years – probably as a result of large-scale investment by overseas Chinese and tourism – full-form or ‘complex’ characters have returned to China. These are mainly seen in advertising (where the traditional characters are considered more attractive) and on restaurant, hotel and shop signs.

### GRAMMAR

Chinese grammar is much simpler than that of European languages. There are no articles (a/the), no tenses and no plurals. The basic point to bear in mind is that, like English, Chinese word order is subject-verb-object. In other words, a basic English sentence like ‘I (subject) love (verb) you (object)’ is constructed in exactly the same way in Chinese. The catch is mastering the tones.

## MANDARIN

### PINYIN

In 1958 the Chinese adopted a system of writing their language using the Roman alphabet. It's known as *pinyin*. The original idea was to eventually do away with characters. However, tradition dies hard, and the idea has been abandoned.

*Pinyin* is often used on shop fronts, street signs and advertising billboards. Don't expect Chinese people to be able to use *Pinyin*, however. There are indications that the use of the *Pinyin* system is diminishing.

In the countryside and the smaller towns you may not see a single *Pinyin* sign anywhere, so unless you speak Chinese you'll need a phrasebook with Chinese characters.

Since 1979 all translated texts of Chinese diplomatic documents, as well as Chinese magazines published in foreign languages, have used the *Pinyin* system for spelling names and places. *Pinyin* replaces the old Wade-Giles and Lessing systems of Romanising Chinese script. Thus under *Pinyin*, ‘Mao Tse-tung’ becomes Mao Zedong; ‘Chou En-lai’ becomes Zhou Enlai; and ‘Peking’ becomes Beijing. The name of the country remains as it has been written most often: ‘China’ in English and German, and ‘Chine’ in French. In *Pinyin* it's correctly written as Zhōngguó.

Now that Hong Kong (a Romanisation of the Cantonese for ‘fragrant harbour’) has gone over to China, many think it will only be a matter of time before it gets renamed Xiānggǎng.

### PRONUNCIATION

#### Vowels

a	as in ‘father’
ai	as in ‘aisle’
ao	as the ‘ow’ in ‘cow’
e	as in ‘her’, with no ‘r’ sound
ei	as in ‘weigh’
i	as the ‘ee’ in ‘meet’ (or like the ‘oo’ in ‘book’ after c, ch, r, s, sh, z or zh)
ian	as the word ‘yen’
ie	as the English word ‘yeah’
o	as in ‘or’, with no ‘r’ sound
ou	as the ‘oa’ in ‘boat’
u	as in ‘flute’
ui	as the word ‘way’
uo	like a ‘w’ followed by ‘o’
yu/ü	like ‘ee’ with lips pursed

#### Consonants

c	as the ‘ts’ in ‘bits’
ch	as in ‘chop’, but with the tongue curled up and back
h	as in ‘hay’, but articulated from farther back in the throat
q	as the ‘ch’ in ‘cheese’
r	as the ‘s’ in ‘pleasure’
sh	as in ‘ship’, but with the tongue curled up and back
x	as in ‘ship’
z	as the ‘dz’ in ‘suds’
zh	as the ‘j’ in ‘judge’ but with the tongue curled up and back

The only consonants that occur at the end of a syllable are n, ng and r.

### PINYIN Charles Qin

While there are many dialects across China, the one thing all Chinese speakers have in common is their written language. Efforts have been made over the last 100 years to reform the written language, and a system called *Pinyin* (literally meaning ‘spell sound’) was invented last century as the standard for spelling Chinese characters. While *Pinyin* started life as a communist ploy to unite the peoples and popularise Mandarin within China, in its short life it has become the United Nations standard for ‘spelling’ Chinese characters, and for transliterating the names of people, places and scientific terms. Taiwan initially promulgated a different system of Romanisation, but recently announced that it was switching to the communist-designed *Pinyin* system, falling into line with the rest of the world.

*Pinyin* was not the first foray into spelling out Chinese characters. As early as the 17th century, even the Bible was reproduced in such scripts. In the late 19th century the Chinese themselves started to explore the issue of phonetic spelling systems. In 1933 the communists worked with a Russian and designed what they called Latinised New Script. This was based on Mandarin pronunciation and in 1958 the communist government implemented this as the official system, coinciding with its decision to adopt Mandarin as the official language of China. This new script came to be known as *Pinyin*. The government's prime purpose for adopting a Roman alphabet spelling of Chinese characters was to promote Mandarin throughout the nation. Although Mandarin was the language of government, it had previously only enjoyed the same status as numerous other dialects spoken in China. A secondary purpose was to enable non-Chinese ethnic groups in China to create or reform their languages with a common base.

Another, less important, aim of *Pinyin* was to assist foreigners to learn Chinese. As foreign language learners will tell you, *Pinyin* is a fantastic tool, particularly at the beginning of a quest on the road to fluency. Unlike English, once you learn the *Pinyin* pronunciation system it is completely consistent. However, once the pronunciation system is learnt, problems start to arise: for one, *Pinyin* does not itself indicate tones (Mandarin has four tones) and there may be dozens of characters represented by one *Pinyin* word: for example there are about 80 dictionary entries for the word pronounced and written yi. Luckily, context and grammatical structure, as well as the formation of compound words when yi combines with other sounds, usually give a few clues as to which of the 80 possibilities is meant. To assist travellers, this book has used tones throughout to towns, cities, sights, hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues.

*Pinyin* has permeated some groups in Chinese society, but most ordinary Chinese cannot use it very effectively, and some people argue that *Pinyin* is for foreigners. For those travelling in China government's regulation that all signs be in *Pinyin* and characters will be a blessing.

In *Pinyin*, apostrophes are occasionally used to separate syllables in order to prevent ambiguity, eg the word ping'an can be written with an apostrophe after the 'g' to prevent it being pronounced as pín'gān.

### Tones

Chinese is a language with a large number of words with the same pronunciation but a different meaning; what distinguishes these ‘homophones’ is their ‘tonal’ quality – the raising and lowering of pitch on certain syllables. Mandarin has four tones – high, rising, falling-rising and falling, plus a fifth ‘neutral’ tone which you can all but ignore. To illustrate the importance of getting tones right, look at the word ma,

which has four different meanings according to tone:

high tone	mā (mother)
rising tone	má (hemp, numb)
falling-rising tone	mǎ (horse)
falling tone	mà (scold, swear)

Mastering tones is tricky for newcomers to Mandarin, but with a little practice it can be done.

### GESTURES

Hand signs are frequently used in China. The ‘thumbs-up’ sign has a long tradition as an indication of excellence. Another way to indicate excellence is to gently pull

**CHINESE SAYINGS**

Chinese is an extremely rich idiomatic language. Many sayings are four-character phrases that combine a great balance of rhythm and tone with a clever play on the multiple meanings of similar-sounding characters. Perhaps most interesting is how many phrases have direct English equivalents.

**缘木求鱼 (yuánmù qúyú)**

Like climbing a tree to catch fish (a waste of time)

**问道于盲 (wèndào yú máng)**

Like asking a blind man for directions (another waste of time)

**新瓶装旧酒 (xīnpíng zhuāng jiùjiǔ)**

A new bottle filled with old wine (a superficial change)

**坐井观天 (zuòjǐng guāntiān)**

Like looking at the sky from the bottom of a well (not seeing the whole picture)

**水落石出 (shuǐluò shíchū)**

When the tide goes out the rocks are revealed (the truth will out)

**守株待兔 (shǒuzhū dài tù)**

Like a hunter waiting for a rabbit to kill itself by running into a tree (trusting to dumb luck)

**临阵磨枪 (línzhēn móqiāng)**

To not sharpen your weapons until the battle is upon you (to do things at the last minute)

your earlobe between your thumb and index finger.

**PHRASEBOOKS**

Phrasebooks are invaluable, but sometimes seeking help by showing a phrase to someone can result in them wanting to read every page! Reading place names or street signs isn't difficult, since the Chinese name is usually accompanied by the Pinyin form; if not, you'll soon learn lots of characters just by repeated exposure. A small dictionary with English, Pinyin and Chinese characters is also useful for learning a few words.

Lonely Planet's *Mandarin Phrasebook* has script throughout and loads of useful phrases – it's also a very useful learning tool.

**ACCOMMODATION**

I'm looking for a ...

Wǒ yào zhǎo... 我要找...

**camping ground**

lùyíngdì

**guesthouse**

bīnguān

我要找...

露营地

宾馆

**hotel**

lāguǎn

旅馆

**tourist hotel**

bīnguān/fàn diàn/jiǔdiàn 宾馆/饭店/酒店

**hostel**

zhāodàisuo/lǚshè

招待所/旅社

**youth hostel**

qīngnián lǚshè

青年旅舍

Where is a cheap hotel?

Nǎr yǒu pián yí de lāguǎn?

哪儿有便宜的旅馆?

What is the address?

Dìzhì zài nǎr?

地址在哪儿?

Could you write the address, please?

Néngbùnéng qǐng nǐ bǎ dìzhì xiě xiàilái?

能不能请你把地址写下来?

Do you have a room available?

Nǐmen yǒu fángjiān ma?

你们有房间吗?

I'd like (a) ...

Wǒ xiǎng yào ...

我想要...

**bed**

yí ge chuāngwèi

一个床位

**single room**

yījiān dānrénfáng

一间单人房

**double room**

yījiān shuāng rén fáng

一间双人房

**bed for two**

shuāng rén chuāng

双人床

**room with two beds**

shuāng rén fáng

双人房

**economy room (no bath)**

pǔtōng fáng (méiyóu yúshì)

普通房 (没有浴室)

**room with a bathroom**

yǒu yúshì de fángjiān

有浴室的房间

**standard room**

biāozhǔn fángjiān

标准房间

**deluxe suite**

háihuá tào fáng

豪华套房

**to share a dorm**

zhù sùshè

住宿舍

**How much is it ...?**

... duōshǎo qián

... 多少钱?

**per night**

měitiān wǎnshàng

每天晚上

**per person**

měgerén

每个人

**May I see the room?**

Wǒ néng kān kān fángjiān ma?

我能看看房间吗?

**Where is the bathroom?**

Yúshì zài nǎr?

浴室在哪儿?

**Where is the toilet?**

Cèsuō zài nǎr?

厕所所在哪儿?

**I don't like this room.**

Wǒ bù xǐhuān zhějīan fángjiān.

我不喜欢这间房间

**Are there any messages for me?**

Yǒu méiyóu rén gěi wǒ liú huà?

有没有人给我留话?

**May I have a hotel namecard?**

Yǒu méiyóu lāguǎn de míngpiàn?

有没有旅馆的名片?

**Could I have these clothes washed, please?**

Qǐng bá zhè xiē yīfu xǐ gānjǐng, hǎo ma?

请把这些衣服洗干净, 好吗?

**I'm/We're leaving today.**

Wǒ/Wǒmen jīntiān líkāi.

我/我们今天离开

**CONVERSATION & ESSENTIALS**

Hello.

Nǐ hǎo.

你好

Goodbye.

Nǐn hǎo. (pol)

您好

Please.

Zàijiàn.

再见

Qǐng.

请

**CHINGLISH**

Help!

Initially you might be puzzled by a sign in the bathroom that reads 'Please don't take the odds and ends put into the nightstool'. In fact this is a warning to resist sudden impulses to empty the contents of your pockets or backpack into the toilet. An apparently ambiguous sign with anarchic implications like the one in the Lhasa Bank of China, 'Question Authority', is really just an economical way of saying 'Please address your questions to one of the clerks'.

On the other hand, just to confuse things, a company name like the 'Risky Investment Co' means just what it says. An English-Chinese dictionary proudly proclaims in the preface that it is 'very useful for the using'. And a beloved sign in the Liangmao Hotel in Tai'an proclaims:

*Safety Needing Attention!  
Be care of depending fire  
Sweep away six injurious insect  
Pay attention to civilisation*

If this all sounds confusing, don't worry. It won't be long before you have a small armoury of Chinglish phrases of your own. Before you know it, you'll know without even thinking that 'Be careful not to be stolen' is a warning against thieves; that 'Shoplifters will be fined 10 times' means that shoplifting is not a good idea in China; that 'Do not stroke the works' (generally found in museums) means 'No touching'; and 'very liking' something means liking it very much.

The best advice for travellers in China grappling with the complexities of a new language is not to set your sights too high. Bear in mind that it takes a minimum of 15 years of schooling in the Chinese language and a crash course in English to be able to write Chinglish with any fluency.

Thank you.

Xièxie.

谢谢

Many thanks.

Duōxiè.

多谢

You're welcome.

Bùkèqì.

不客气

Excuse me, ...

Qǐng wèn, ...

请问, ...

(When asking a question it is polite to start with the phrase *qing wèn* – literally, 'may I ask?' – this expression is only used at the beginning of a sentence, never at the end.)

I'm sorry.

Duibùqǐ. 对不起

May I ask your name?

Nín guìxìng? 您贵姓?

My (sur)name is ...

Wǒ xìng ... 我姓...

Where are you from?

Nǐ shì cóng nǎr lái de? 你是从哪儿来的?

I'm from ...

Wǒ shì cóng ... lái de. 我是从...来的

I like ...

Wǒ xǐhuān ... 我喜欢...

I don't like ...

Wǒ bù xǐhuān ... 我不喜欢...

Wait a moment.

Děng yíxià. 等一下

**Yes & No**

There are no specific words in Mandarin that specifically mean 'yes' and 'no' when used in isolation. When a question is asked, the verb is repeated to indicate the affirmative. A response in the negative is formed by using the word 不 *bù* (meaning 'no') before the verb. When *bù* (falling tone) occurs before another word with a falling tone, it becomes *bú* (ie with a rising tone).

Are you going to Shanghai?

Nǐ qù shànghǎi ma? 你去上海吗?

Yes.

Qù. ('go')

去

No.

Bú qù. ('no go')

不去

No.

Méi yǒu. ('not have')

没有

No.

Búshì. ('not so')

不是

**DIRECTIONS**

Where is (the) ...?

... zài nǎr?

Go straight ahead.

Yízhí zǒu.

Turn left.

Zuǎn zuǎn.

Turn right.

Yóu zuǎn.

at the next corner

zài xià yíge guǎijiao 在下一个拐角

at the traffic lights

zài hónglùdēng 在红绿灯

map

ditú 地图

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at the traffic lights

zài hónglùdēng 在红绿灯

map

ditú 地图

**SIGNS**

入口	Rùkǒu	Entrance
出口	Chūkǒu	Exit
问讯处	Wènxùnchù	Information
开Kāi	Open	
关Guān	Closed	
禁止	Jìnzhǐ	Prohibited
有空房	Yǒukōngfáng	Rooms Available
客满	Kèmǎn	No Vacancies
警察	Jīngchá	Police
警察局	Jīngchájú	Police Station
厕所	Cèsuō	Toilets
男	Nán	Men
女	Nǚ	Women

Could you show me (on the map)?

Nǐ néng bunéng (zài dìtú shàng) zhǐ gěi wǒ kàn?

你能不能(在地图上)指给我看?

behind

hòubianr 去后边儿

in front of

qiánbianr 去前边儿

near

jìn 近

far

yuǎn 远

opposite

duimianr 对面儿

beach

hǎitān 海滩

bridge

qiáoliáng 桥梁

island

dǎoyǔ 岛屿

main square

guāngchǎng 广场

market

shìchǎng 市场

old city

lǎochéng 老城

palace

gōngdiàn 宫殿

sea

hǎiyáng 海洋

**HEALTH**

I'm sick.

Wǒ bìngle. 我病了

It hurts here.

Zhèr téng. 这儿疼

I need a doctor.

Wǒ děi kàn yīshēng. 我得看医生

Is there a doctor here who speaks English?

Zhèr yǒu huìjiāng yīngyǔ de dàifú ma?

这儿有会讲英语的大夫吗?

I'm ...

Wǒ yǒu ... 我有...

asthmatic

xiāochuānbìng 哮喘病

diabetic

tángniàobìng 糖尿病

epileptic

diànxuānbìng 癫痫病

我有...

哮喘病

糖尿病

癫痫病

药

妇女卫生巾

fùnǚ wéishēngjīn

妇女卫生巾

lonelyplanet.com

**PAPERWORK**

name	xìngmíng	姓名
nationality	guójí	国籍
date of birth	chūshēng rìqī	出生日期
place of birth	chūshēng dìdiǎn	出生地点
sex (gender)	xìngbie	性别
passport	hùzhào	护照
passport number	hùzhào hào mǎ	护照号码
visa	qiānzhèng	签证
extension	yáncháng	延长

**Public Security Bureau (PSB)**

gōng'ānjú	公安局
Foreign Affairs Branch	外事科

**QUESTION WORDS**

Who?	Shéi?	谁?
What?	Shénme?	什么?
What is it?	Shí shénme?	是什么?
When?	Shénme shíhòu?	什么时候?
Where?	Zài nǎr?	在哪儿?
Which?	Néige?	哪个?
Why?	Wéishénme?	为什么?
How?	Zěnme?	怎么?

**SHOPPING & SERVICES**

I'd like to buy ...	
Wǒ xiǎng mǎi ...	我想买...
I'm just looking.	
Wǒ zhǐshì kānkan.	我只是看看
How much is it?	
Duōshǎo qián?	多少钱?
I don't like it.	
Wǒ bù xǐhuān.	我不喜欢
Can I see it?	
Néng kānkan ma?	能看看吗?
I'll take it.	
Wǒ jiù mǎi zhège.	我就买这个
It's cheap.	
Zhè bugui.	这不贵
That's too expensive.	
Tài guì.	太贵了
Is there anything cheaper?	
Yǒu pián yí yídiǎn de ma?	有便宜一点的吗?
Can I pay by travellers cheque?	
Kěyǐ fù lǚxíng zhípiào ma?	可以付旅行支票吗?
Do you accept ...?	
... shōu bushǒu?	... 收不收?
credit cards	
xìnyòngkǎ	信用卡

**travellers cheques**

lǚxíng zhípiào	旅行支票	
more	duō	多
less	shǎo	少
smaller	gèng xiǎo	更小
bigger	gèng dà	更大
too much/many	tài duō	太多

**Excuse me, where's the nearest ...?**

Qǐng wèn, zuijindé ... zài nǎr?  
请问, 最近的... 在哪儿?

**I'm looking for a/the ...**

Wǒ zài zhǎo ... 我在找...  
automatic teller machine  
zìdòng guìyuánjī 自动柜员机

**bank**

yínháng 银行

**Bank of China**

zhōngguó yínháng 中国银行

**chemist/pharmacy**

yàodiàn 药店

**city centre**

shìzhōngxīn 市中心

**... embassy**

... dàshíguǎn ... 大使馆

**foreign affairs police**

wàishí jīngchá 外事警察

**foreign exchange office/currency exchange**

wàihuì dùihuànchù 外汇兑换处

**hospital**

yīyuàn 医院

**hotel**

bīnguǎn/ 宾馆/

**飯店/****lǚguǎn**

旅馆

**market**

shìchǎng 市场

**museum**

bówùguǎn 博物馆

**police**

jīngchá 警察

**post office**

yóujú 邮局

**public toilet**

gōnggòng cèsuo 公共厕所

**telephone**

dìànhuà 电话

**telephone office**

dìànhùn dàilóu 电讯大楼

**the tourist office**

lǚyóujú 旅游局

**change money**

huàn qián 换钱

**travellers cheques****旅行支票****旅****游****支****票****旅****游****支**

**When's the ... bus?**  
... bānchē shénme shíhòu lái?  
... 班车什么时候来?  
**first**            *tóu*            头  
**last**            *mò*            末  
**next**            *xià*            下

**I want to go to ...**  
Wǒ yào qù ...  
我要去...

**The train has been cancelled/delayed.**

Huǒchē tuīchí le/qūxiāo le.  
火车推迟了/取消了

**CAAC ticket office**

zhōngguó mínháng shòupiào chù  
中国民航售票处

<b>boarding pass</b>	<i>dēngjī kǎ</i>	登机卡
<b>left-luggage room</b>	<i>jícún chù</i>	寄存处
<b>platform number</b>	<i>zhàntái hào</i>	站台号
<b>ticket office</b>	<i>shòupiào chù</i>	售票处
<b>timetable</b>	<i>shíkèbiāo</i>	时刻表

#### Private Transport

**I'd like to hire a ...**

Wǒ yào zū yǐliàng ...  
我要租一辆...

<b>car</b>	<i>qìchē</i>	汽车
<b>4WD</b>	<i>sìlún qùdòng</i>	4轮驱动
<b>motorbike</b>	<i>mótuoche</i>	摩托车
<b>bicycle</b>	<i>zìxíngchē</i>	自行车

**How much is it per day?**  
yìtiān duōshǎo qián? 一天多少钱?

**How much is it per hour?**  
yíge xiāoshí duōshǎo 一个小时多少钱?  
qián?

**How much is the deposit?**  
yājīn duōshǎo qián? 押金多少钱?

**Does this road lead to ...?**  
Zhè tiào lù dào ...? 这条路到...?

<b>road</b>	<i>lù</i>	路
<b>section</b>	<i>duàn</i>	段
<b>street</b>	<i>jiē/dàjiē</i>	街/大街
<b>No 21</b>	<i>21 hào</i>	21号

**Where's the next service station?**

xia yíge jiāyóuzhàn zài nǎr?  
下一个加油站站在哪儿?

**Please fill it up.**

Qing jiāmǎn yóuxiāng.  
请加满油箱

**I'd like ... litres.**

Wǒ yào ... gōngshéng.  
我要... 公升

#### ROAD SIGNS

减速让行	Jiǎnsù Mànxitng	Give Way
绕行	Ràoxitng	Detour
不得入内	Bùdé Rùnèi	No Entry
不得超车	Bùdé Chāochē	No Overtaking
不得停车	Bùdé Tíngchē	No Parking
入口	Rùkǒu	Entrance
保持畅通	Bǎochí Chāngtōng	Keep Clear
收费	Shòufèi	Toll
危险	Wéixiān	Danger
减速慢行	Jiǎnsù Mànxitng	Slow Down
单行道	Dānxíngdào	One Way
出口	Chūkǒu	Exit

<b>diesel</b>	<i>cháiyóu</i>	柴油
<b>leaded petrol</b>	<i>hánqiān qiyóu</i>	含铅汽油
<b>unleaded petrol</b>	<i>wúqiān qiyóu</i>	无铅汽油

**How long can I park here?**

Zhèr kěyǐ tíng duojiǔ? 这儿可以停多久?

**Can I park here?**

Zhèr kěyǐ tíngchē ma? 这儿可以停车吗?

**Where do I pay?**

Zài nár fùkuǎn? 在哪儿付款?

**I need a mechanic.**

Wǒ xūyào jīxiūgōng. 我需要机修工

**We need a mechanic.**

Wǒmen xūyào jīxiūgōng. 我们需要机修工

**The car has broken down (at ...)**

Qìchē shí (zài ...) huài de. 汽车是(在...)坏的

**The car won't start.**

Qìchē fādòng bùqǐlái. 汽车发动不起来

**I have a flat tyre.**

Lántai biě le. 轮胎瘪了

**I've run out of petrol.**

Méiyou qiyóu le. 没有汽油了

**I had an accident.**

Wǒ chū shìguān le. 我出事故了

**TRAVEL WITH CHILDREN**

**Is there a/an ...?**

Yǒu ... ma? 有... 吗?

**I need a/an ...**

Wǒ xūyào ... 我需要...

**baby change room**

yǐngér huànxiši 婴儿换洗室

**baby food**

yǐngér shípín 婴儿食品

**baby formula (milk)**

pèifángnǎi 配方奶

**baby's bottle**

nǎipíng 奶瓶

#### child-minding service

tuóér fúwù	托儿服务
<b>children's menu</b>	儿童菜单
értóng cǎidān	
(disposable) nappies/diapers	(一次性)尿片
(yícxíng) niǎopípiàn	
<b>(English-speaking) babysitter</b>	婴儿保姆
(huì shuō yǐngwén de)	(会说英文的)
yǐngér bǎomǔ	婴儿保姆
<b>highchair</b>	婴儿高脚椅
yǐngér gāojǐāoyǐ	
<b>potty</b>	婴儿便盆
yǐngér biànpén	
<b>pusher/stroller</b>	婴儿推车
yǐngér tulichē	

**Do you mind if I breastfeed here?**

Wǒ kěyǐ zài zhèr wèi ndi ma?

我可以在这儿喂奶吗?

**Are children allowed?**

Yǒnxǔ értóng ma?

允许儿童吗?

## CANTONESE

What a difference a border makes. Cantonese is still the most popular dialect in Hong Kong, Guangzhou and the surrounding area. It differs from Mandarin as much as French differs from Spanish. Speakers of both dialects can read Chinese characters, but a Cantonese speaker will pronounce many of the characters differently from a Mandarin speaker. For example, when Mr Ng from Hong Kong goes to Beijing the Mandarin-speakers will call him Mr Wu. If Mr Wong goes from Hong Kong to Fujian the character for his name will be read as Mr Wee, and in Beijing he is Mr Huang.

For a more detailed guide to Cantonese, with script throughout, loads of phrases, and information on grammar and pronunciation, get a copy of Lonely Planet's *Cantonese Phrasebook*.

#### ROMANISATION & PRONUNCIATION

Unfortunately, several competing systems of Romanisation of Cantonese script exist and no single one has emerged as an official standard. A number have come and gone, but at least three have survived and are currently in use in Hong Kong: Meyer-Wempe, Sidney Lau and Yale. In this language guide we use the Yale system. It's the

most phonetically accurate and the one generally preferred by foreign students.

#### Vowels

Note that the examples given below for the pronunciation of vowels reflect British pronunciation.

<b>a</b>	as in 'father'
<b>ai</b>	as the 'i' in 'find', but shorter
<b>au</b>	as the 'ow' in 'cow'
<b>e</b>	as in 'let'
<b>ei</b>	as the 'a' in 'say', but without the 'y' sound
<b>eu</b>	similar to the 'ur' in 'urn' with lips pursed, but without the 'r' sound
<b>i</b>	as in 'marine'
<b>iu</b>	similar to the word 'you'
<b>o</b>	as in 'not'; as in 'no' when at the end of a word
<b>oi</b>	as the 'oy' in 'boy'
<b>oo</b>	as in 'soon'
<b>ou</b>	as the word 'owe'
<b>u</b>	as in 'put'
<b>ue</b>	as the 'u-e' in 'suet'
<b>ui</b>	as 'oo-ee'

#### Consonants

In general, consonants are pronounced as in English. Three that may give you a little trouble are:

<b>g</b>	as in 'go'
<b>j</b>	as the 'ds' in 'suds'
<b>ng</b>	as in 'sing'

#### Tones

Cantonese has seven tones (although you can easily get by with six). In the Yale system used in this language guide, six basic tones are represented: three 'level' tones, which do not noticeably rise or fall in pitch (high, middle and low), and three 'moving' tones, which either rise or fall in pitch (high rising, low rising and low falling).

Remember that it doesn't matter whether you have a high or low voice when speaking Cantonese as long as your intonation reflects relative changes in pitch. The following examples show the six basic tones. Note how important they can be to your intended meaning:

**high tone:** represented by a macron above a vowel, as in *foo* (husband)