Chinese language

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*For the official language of China, Taiwan, and Singapore, also known as Mandarin, see*[*Standard Chinese*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Chinese)*. For other languages spoken in China, see*[*Languages of China*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Languages_of_China)*.*

*Unless otherwise specified, Chinese texts in this article are written in (*[*Simplified Chinese*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese)*/*[*Traditional Chinese*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese)*;*[*Pinyin*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin)*) format. In cases where Simplified and Traditional Chinese scripts are identical, the Chinese term is written once.*

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| **Chinese** | |
| 汉语; 漢語 or 中文 Hànyǔ or Zhōngwén | |
| [Chineselanguage.svg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Chineselanguage.svg)  Hànyǔ (*Chinese*) written in [traditional](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters) (top), [simplified](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters) (middle) characters and alternative name (bottom) | |
| **Native to** | [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China), [Taiwan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taiwan), [Singapore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Singapore) |
| **Ethnicity** | [Han Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han_Chinese) |
| **Native speakers** | (1.2 billion cited 1984–2001)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language#cite_note-FOOTNOTELewisSimonsFennig2015-1) |
| [**Language family**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Language_family) | [Sino-Tibetan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Tibetan_languages)   * [Sinitic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sinitic_languages)   + **Chinese** |
| **Early forms** | [Old Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Chinese)   * [Middle Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Chinese) |
| **Standard forms** | [Standard Mandarin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Mandarin)  [Standard Cantonese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Standard_Cantonese) |
| **Dialects** | * [Mandarin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandarin_Chinese) * [Jin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jin_Chinese) * [Wu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Chinese) * [Gan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gan_Chinese) * [Xiang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiang_Chinese) * [Min](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min_Chinese) * [Hakka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakka_Chinese) * [Yue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yue_Chinese) * [Ping](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ping_Chinese) * [Huizhou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huizhou_Chinese) |
| [**Writing system**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Writing_system) | [Simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters) [Traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters)  Transcriptions: [Bopomofo](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bopomofo) [Pinyin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pinyin) (Latin) [Xiao'erjing](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiao%27erjing) (Arabic) [Dungan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dungan_alphabet) (Cyrillic) [Chinese Braille](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Braille_(disambiguation)) ['Phags-pa script](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%27Phags-pa_script) (Historical) |
| **Official status** | |
| **Official language in** | [Mandarin:](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_territorial_entities_where_Chinese_is_an_official_language#Mandarin_as_an_official_spoken_language)[[show]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language)  [Cantonese:](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_territorial_entities_where_Chinese_is_an_official_language#Cantonese_as_an_official_spoken_language)[[show]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language) |
| [**Regulated by**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_language_regulators) | National Commission on Language and Script Work (China)[[2]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language#cite_note-2) [National Languages Committee](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Languages_Committee) (Taiwan) [Civil Service Bureau](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Civil_Service_Bureau) (Hong Kong) [Promote Mandarin Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Promote_Mandarin_Council)(Singapore) [Chinese Language Standardisation Council](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_Language_Standardisation_Council_of_Malaysia)(Malaysia) |
| **Language codes** | |
| [**ISO 639-1**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_639-1) | [zh](http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?iso_639_1=zh) |
| [**ISO 639-2**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_639-2) | [chi](http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=84) (B) [zho](http://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=84) (T) |
| [**ISO 639-3**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_639-3) | [zho](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=zho) – [inclusive code](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/ISO_639_macrolanguage) Individual codes: [cdo](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=cdo) – [Min Dong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min_Dong) [cjy](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=cjy) – [Jinyu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jin_Chinese) [cmn](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=cmn) – [Mandarin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandarin_Chinese) [cpx](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=cpx) – [Pu Xian](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pu_Xian) [czh](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=czh) – [Huizhou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Huizhou_Chinese) [czo](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=czo) – [Min Zhong](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min_Zhong) [gan](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=gan) – [Gan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gan_Chinese) [hak](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=hak) – [Hakka](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hakka_Chinese) [hsn](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=hsn) – [Xiang](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xiang_Chinese) [mnp](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=mnp) – [Min Bei](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min_Bei) [nan](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=nan) – [Min Nan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Min_Nan) [wuu](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=wuu) – [Wu](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wu_Chinese) [yue](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=yue) – [Yue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yue_Chinese) [och](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=och) – [Old Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Old_Chinese) [ltc](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=ltc) – [Late Middle Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Middle_Chinese) [lzh](http://www-01.sil.org/iso639-3/documentation.asp?id=lzh) – [Classical Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Classical_Chinese) |
| [**Glottolog**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Glottolog) | [sini1245](http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/sini1245) |
| [**Linguasphere**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguasphere_Observatory) | 79-AAA |
| [New-Map-Sinophone World.PNG](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:New-Map-Sinophone_World.PNG)  Map of the Sinophone world  **Legend:**    Countries identified Chinese as a primary, administrative, or native language    Countries with more than 5,000,000 Chinese speakers    Countries with more than 1,000,000 Chinese speakers    Countries with more than 500,000 Chinese speakers    Countries with more than 100,000 Chinese speakers    Major Chinese-speaking settlements | |
| **This article contains**[**IPA**](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet)**phonetic symbols.** Without proper [rendering support](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet#Fonts), you may see [question marks, boxes, or other symbols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Replacement_character) instead of [Unicode](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unicode) characters. For an introductory guide on IPA symbols, see [Help:IPA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA). | |

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| Chinese languages (Spoken) | |
| [Traditional Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Traditional_Chinese_characters) | [漢語](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E6%BC%A2%E8%AA%9E) |
| [Simplified Chinese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Simplified_Chinese_characters) | [汉语](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E6%B1%89%E8%AF%AD) |
| Literal meaning | [Han](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han_Chinese) language |
| |  | | --- | | [[show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language)]**Transcriptions** | | |
| **Chinese language (Written)** | |
| Chinese | [中文](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/%E4%B8%AD%E6%96%87) |
| Literal meaning | Chinese [text](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Text_(literary_theory)) |
| |  | | --- | | [[show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_language)]**Transcriptions** | | |

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| https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/9/9e/Zhongwen.svg/40px-Zhongwen.svg.png | **This article contains Chinese text.**Without proper [rendering support](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:Multilingual_support_(East_Asian)), you may see [question marks, boxes, or other symbols](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Replacement_character) instead of [Chinese characters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinese_character). |

**Chinese** (汉语/漢語; *Hànyǔ* or 中文; *Zhōngwén*) is a group of related, but in many cases [mutually unintelligible](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mutual_intelligibility), language [varieties](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Variety_(linguistics)), forming a branch of the [Sino-Tibetan language family](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sino-Tibetan_language_family). Chinese is spoken by the [Han](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Han_Chinese) majority and many other ethnic groups in [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China). Nearly 1.2 billion people (around 16% of the world's population) speak some form of Chinese as their [first language](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/First_language).