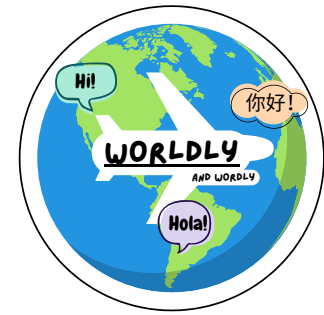


HOW TO READ CHINESE



How does Chinese writing work?

Chinese does not have an alphabet. Instead, Chinese uses a system of **characters that each represent one sound** and have their own meaning.

How do I know how to pronounce each character?

Each character has its own **pinyin**, which is **the spelling of how each character sounds**. The vowel in each pinyin has a mark above it indicating the tone of each spelling.

How do I know what each character means?

Chinese **characters often look like what they describe**. For example, 口 (kǒu) is the character for mouth, and it looks like an open mouth. Sometimes Chinese characters are made up of simpler characters, which gives clues about their meaning. For example, 吃 (chī) means to eat, and when you eat you use your mouth, so the word has a 口 on the left side.

When exploring China through Worldly, sometimes you will see Chinese words, their pinyin, and their English meaning... How should I use this information?

Most Chinese words contain multiple characters. For some words, look at the characters and think about how they represent the word's meaning. For other characters that look more confusing, focus on the pinyin and pronunciation of the word.

You got this! Remember that **Worldly is just the beginning of your language learning journey**, and you will get more used to the Chinese reading and writing system as you learn more. So **let's get exploring!**