

INTRODUCTION ON MANDARIN CHINESE

Jingnan





Mandarin Introduction

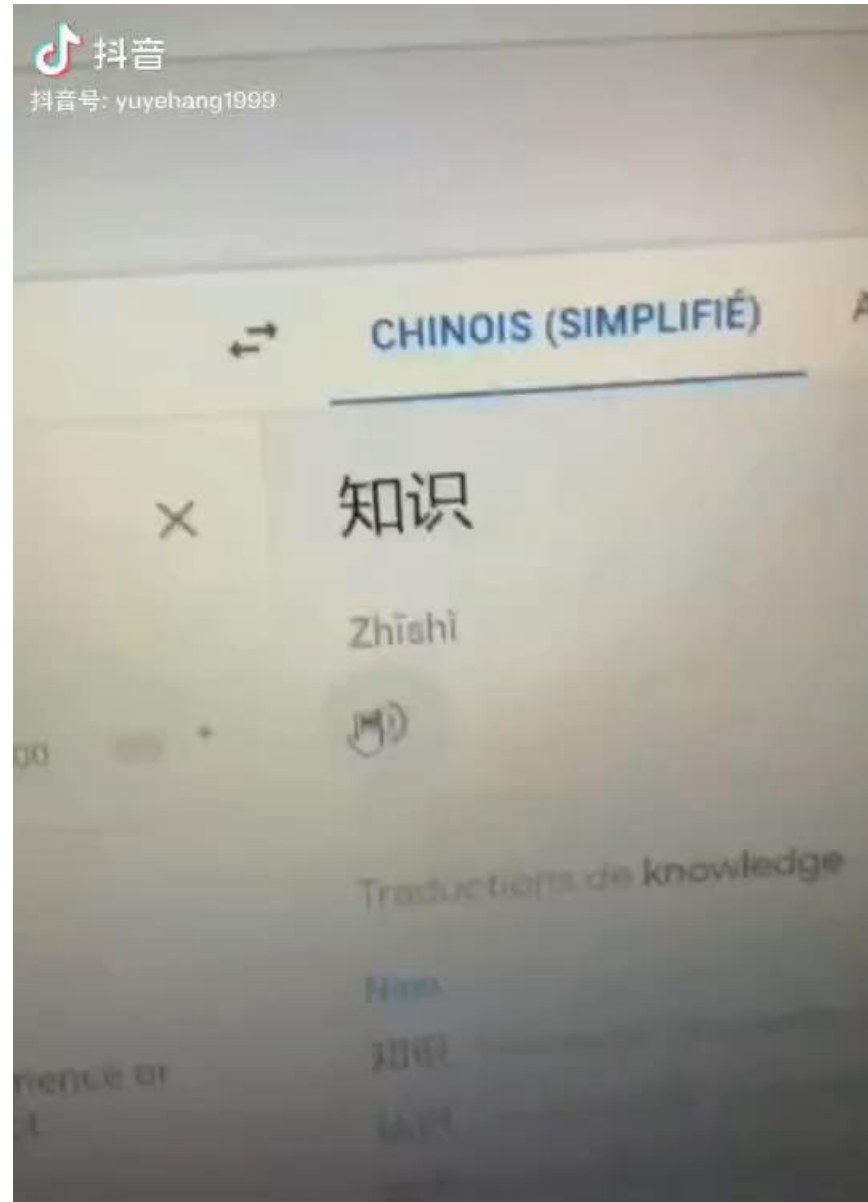
- Mandarin is simple and complex
- Current situation and history
- Characters
 - Calligraphy
- Pronunciation (Phonetic sign)
 - Pinyin
 - Tones
- Grammar

Mandarin Introduction

- **Mandarin is simple and complex.**
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Is Learning mandarin difficult?

Zhi Shi



Learning Mandarin could be easy !

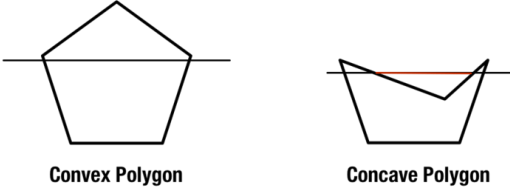
Hieroglyph (象形字)

The diagram shows the evolution of three Chinese characters from pictograms to standard forms:

- Sun:** A yellow sun icon evolves through four stages: a circle with a central dot, a circle with a dot inside, a circle with a horizontal line through the middle, and the final character '日'.
- Mountain:** A green mountain icon evolves through four stages: a jagged line, a crown-like shape, a 'W' shape, and the final character '山'.
- Elephant:** A blue elephant icon evolves through four stages: a stylized elephant, a stick-figure elephant, a more detailed stick-figure elephant, and the final character '象'.

Labels: Sun, Mountain, Elephant, Evolution of pictograms

- 凸: convex
- 凹: concave



- 上: up
- 下: down
- 人: person
- 众: people
- 口: mouth
- 木: wood
- 伞: umbrella
- 森: forest



Learning Mandarin could be easy !



Mandarin is simple and complex !

Simplest character:

一(one), 二(two), 三(three),

More complex character:

零(zero)

Most complex character:



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Top languages by population [edit]

Ethnologue (2021, 24th edition) [edit]

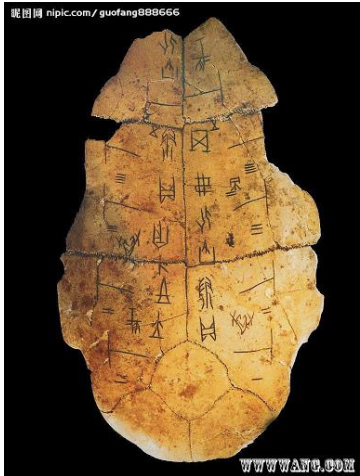
The following languages are listed as having 40 million or more total speakers in the 2021 edition of *Ethnologue*.^[4] Entries identified by *Ethnologue* as macrolanguages are included in this section.

Rank ↕	Language ↕	Family ↕	Branch ↕	No. of First language (L1) speakers ↕	No. of Second language (L2) speakers ↕	Total No. of speakers ↕
1	English	Indo-European	Germanic	369.9 million	978.2 million ^[5]	1.348 billion
2	Mandarin Chinese (incl. Standard Chinese)	Sino-Tibetan	Sinitic	921.2 million	198.7 million ^[6]	1.120 billion
3	Hindi	Indo-European	Indo-Aryan	342.2 million	258.3 million ^[7]	600 million
4	Spanish	Indo-European	Romance	471.4 million	71.5 million ^[8]	543 million
5	Standard Arabic	Afro-Asiatic	Semitic	—	— ^[9]	274 million
6	Bengali	Indo-European	Indo-Aryan	228.7 million	39.0 million ^[10]	268 million
7	French	Indo-European	Romance	79.6 million	187.4 million ^[11]	267 million
8	Russian	Indo-European	Slavic	153.7 million	104.3 million ^[12]	258 million
9	Portuguese	Indo-European	Romance	232.4 million	25.2 million ^[13]	258 million
10	Urdu	Indo-European	Indo-Aryan	69.0 million	161.0 million ^[14]	230 million

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_languages_by_total_number_of_speakers

Oracle bone script
(1700 BC)

Clerical script
(100 AD)



人
虫
雨
馬
魚
山

人
虫
雨
馬
魚
山

人
虫
雨
馬
魚
山

人
女
雨
馬
魚
山

人
女
雨
馬
魚
山

- person
- woman
- rain
- horse
- fish
- mountain

Modern Character
(Now)

Time line



Oracle bone script

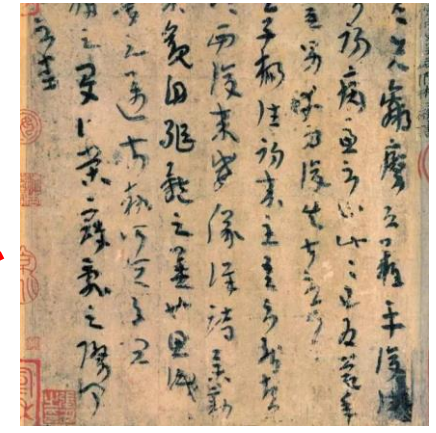


bronze



bamboo slip

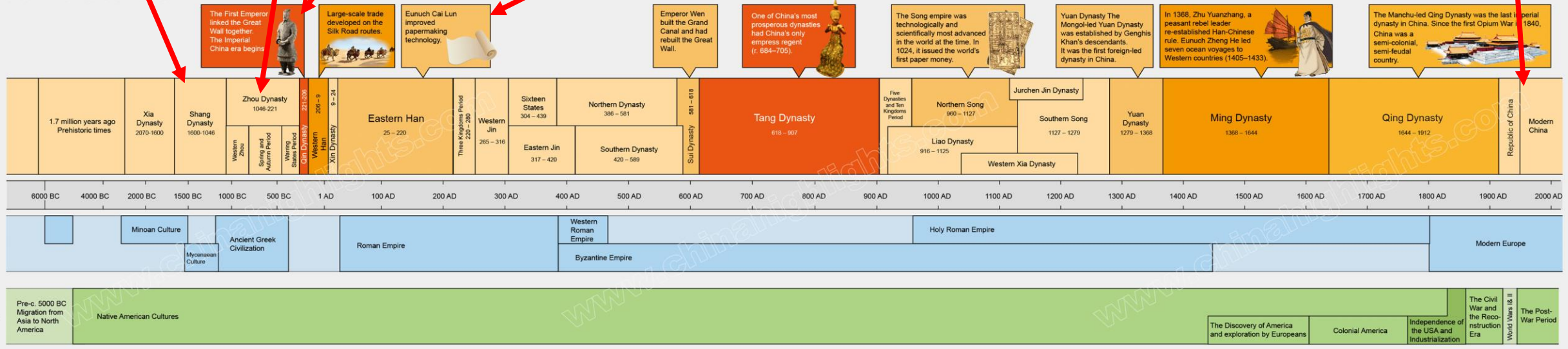
paper



Simplified

聲	→	声
飛	→	飞
虧	→	亏

Timeline of World Cultures





头条 @京津小飞侠

Unified characters



Unified currency



<https://convert.french-property.co.uk/>

头条 @京津小飞侠

Unified measures

The characters, currency and measurement had been unified, so China became a unified whole.

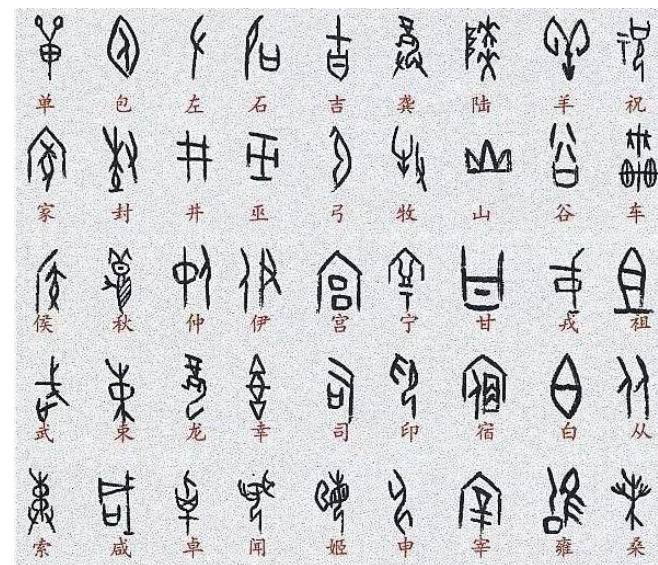
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Oracle bone script



hieroglyph



bow



vehicle



house



mountain



goat



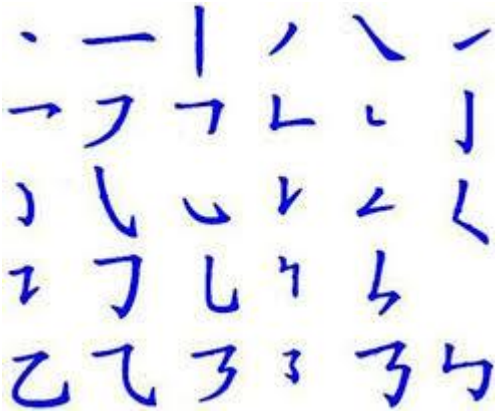
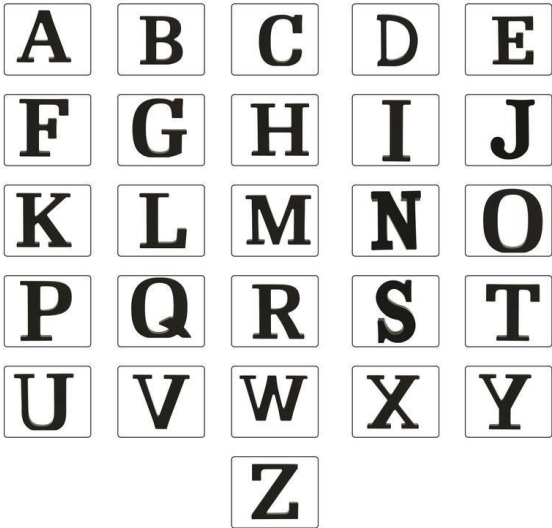
graze



Ancient Egypt hieroglyph



Chinese character component



Each English word consists of several letters (26 total) from left to right.

Each Chinese word consists of several components (over 56 total) with different structures.

Left-right structure



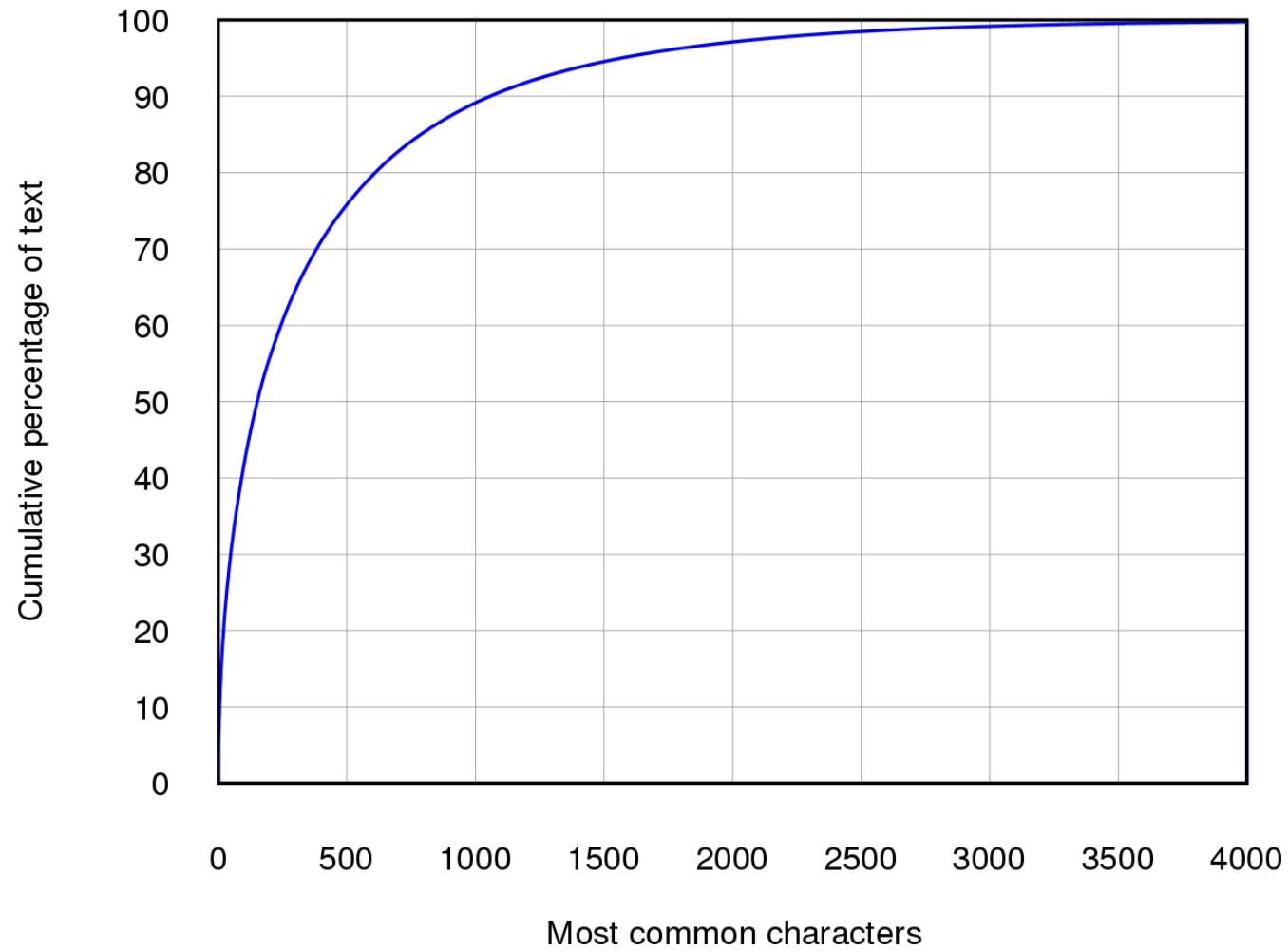
Up-down structure



Complex structure



How many characters are enough?



Calligraphy (书法)



Calligraphy (书法)



Calligraphy (书法)




Calligraphy (书法)



Pronunciation

Phonetic sign

Pinyin

 **Interactive phonetic chart**

/i:/	/ɪ/	/ʊ/	/u:/	/ɪə/	/eɪ/
/e/	/ə/	/ɜ:/	/ɔ:/	/ʊə/	/ɔɪ/
/æ/	/ʌ/	/ɑ:/	/ɒ/	/eə/	/aɪ/
/aʊ/	/p/	/b/	/t/	/d/	/tʃ/
/dʒ/	/k/	/g/	/f/	/v/	/θ/
/ð/	/s/	/z/	/ʃ/	/ʒ/	/m/
/n/	/ŋ/	/h/	/l/	/r/	/w/
/j/					

Chinese Pinyin Alphabet

a o e i u ü
b p m f d t n l g k
h j q x z c s r y w



['kæt]

cat

[,reprɪ'zent]

represent

Pinyin chart 拼音字母表

	mā	妈	mother
	má	麻	sesame
	mǎ	马	horse
	mà	骂	to scold
	ma	吗	question particle for "yes-no" questions

The 4 tones in Mandarin are:

Tone 1: Level Tone →

Tone 2: Rising Tone ↗

Tone 3: Departing Tone ↘

Tone 4: Stop-Final Tone ↙

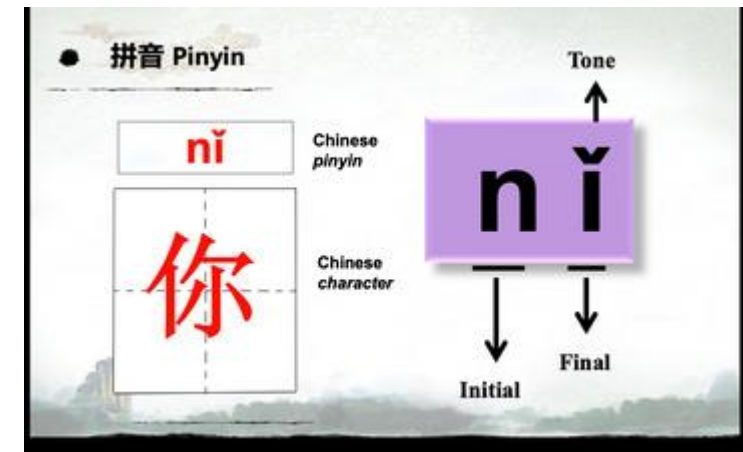
What this means for you is tones matter when learning how to speak Mandarin. One word in Chinese can mean completely different things when you change the tones.

mā

mother



m a -
↓ ↓ ↓
Initial Final Tone
Pinyin



Advantage of Mandarin's pronunciation?

Single Syllable !!!

Advantage of Mandarin's pronunciation?

Single Syllable !!!

Shoe	鞋
Bag	包
Cat	猫
Ten	十
Vehicle	车
Home	家

single syllable words

on	off	old	owl	ox	of
oh	om	out	eel	eye	elk
ex	if	ice	ion	ick	ink
in	ish	lke	up	once	own
how	why	what	where	when	who

single syllable words

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Real
single
syllable

Remember numbers in daily life

Phone number (mine and my families'): 11 digits

Passport number: 9 digits

ID Card number: 14 digits

$$\text{Sqrt}(2) = 1.414$$

$$\text{Sqrt}(3) = 1.732$$

$$\text{Pi} = 3.141592653$$

$$E = 2.71828$$

Syllable matters

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Sixth !!!

11 Eleven 十一
12 Twelve 十二
13 Thirteen 十三

13 Thirteen 十三
31 Thirty 三十

1×1=1									
1×2=2	2×2= 4								
1×3=3	2×3= 6	3×3= 9							
1×4=4	2×4= 8	3×4=12	4×4=16						
1×5=5	2×5=10	3×5=15	4×5=20	5×5=25					
1×6=6	2×6=12	3×6=18	4×6=24	5×6=30	6×6=36				
1×7=7	2×7=14	3×7=21	4×7=28	5×7=35	6×7=42	7×7=49			
1×8=8	2×8=16	3×8=24	4×8=32	5×8=40	6×8=48	7×8=56	8×8=64		
1×9=9	2×9=18	3×9=27	4×9=36	5×9=45	6×9=54	7×9=63	8×9=72	9×9=81	

6×6=36。

英文读法：似克斯太母斯似克斯爱滋涩提似克斯（共16个音节）。

中文读法：六六三十六（共5个音节）。



愉快的学习
健康地成长

一一得一

一二得二

一三得三

一四得四

一五得五

一六得六

一七得七

一八得八

一九得九

二二得四

二三得六

二四得八

二五一十

二六一十二

二七一十四

二八一十六

二九一十八

三三得九

三四一十二

三五一十五

三六一十八

三七二十一

三八二十四

三九二十七

四四一十六

四五二十

四六二十四

四七二十八

四八三十二

四九三十六

五五二十五

五六三十

五七三十五

五八四十

五九四十五

六六三十六

六七四十二

六八四十八

六九五十四

七七四十九

七八五十六

七九六十三

八八六十四

八九七十二

九九八十一

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- **Grammar**

Grammar

- Chinese grammar is the most simplest thing in the world !
- No different tenses.
- No conjugation.

E.g.

- He **went** to the UK yesterday.
- He **loves me**.

He **go** to the UK yesterday.
He **love I**.

The following table illustrates the proper use of verb tenses:

Simple Present

I read nearly every day.

Simple Past

Last night, I read an entire novel.

Simple Future

I will read as much as I can this year.

Present Continuous

I am reading Shakespeare at the moment.

Past Continuous

I was reading Edgar Allan Poe last night.

Future Continuous

I will be reading Nathaniel Hawthorne soon.

Present Perfect

I have read so many books I can't keep count.

Past Perfect

I had read at least 100 books by the time I was twelve.

Future Perfect

I will have read at least 500 books by the end of the year.

Present Perfect Continuous

I have been reading since I was four years old.

Past Perfect Continuous

I had been reading for at least a year before my sister learned to read.

Future Perfect Continuous

I will have been reading for at least two hours before dinner tonight.



Every word only has one style

Verb



I **go** to school.

He **goes** to school.

I **went** to school. yesterday

I am **going** to school. now

I **have already gone** to school.

我(I)

他(He)

我(I)

我(I)

我(I)

昨天(yesterday)

现在(now)

已经(already)

去(go)学校(school)

去(go)学校(school)

去(go)学校(school)

去(go)学校(school)

去(go)学校(school)

Every word only has one style

Noun

Subject

I

I (我)

She

She (她)

He

He (他)

Object

me

Her

Him

I love **her**.

She **loves me**.

我(I)

她(He)

爱(love) 她(**she**).

爱(**love**) 我(I).

Single

dog

dog

watch

watch

water

water

Plural

dogs

(狗)

watches

(表)

water

(水)

I have 2 dogs.

He needs water.

我(I)

他(He)

有(have)

需要(**need**)

2

水(water).

只狗(**dog**).

Sentence structures are fixed.

Simple (Yes-No) question sentences.

Statement

You are from China .
你 来自 中国

Question

Are you from China?

You are from China ma ?
你 来自 中国 吗 ?

Sentence structures are fixed.

Simple (Yes-No) question sentences.

Statement: He will be the president of the US.
Question in Mandarin: He will be the president of the US **ma (吗)** ?

Statement: He has been working here for 10 years.
Question in Mandarin: He has been working here for 10 years **ma (吗)** ?

Statement: This is a cat.
Question in Mandarin: This is a cat **ma (吗)** ?

Statement: They are happy.
Question in Mandarin: They are happy **ma (吗)** ?

Sentence structures are fixed.

Complex question sentences.

He rides bike to school.
他 骑 车 去 学校

1. He rides bike to where ?
2. Where he rides bike to ?
3. Where does he rides bike to ?
4. Where does he ride bike to ?

Q: Where does he ride bike to? (A: school) He ride bike to **where** ?
他 骑 车 去 **哪里** ?

Q: Who ride bike to school? (A: He) **Who** ride bike to school ?
谁 骑 车 去 学校 ?

Q: How does he go to school? (A: By bike) He **how** to school ?
他 **怎么** 去 学校 ?

Sentence structures are fixed.

Complex question sentences.

Statement: This is a cat.

Question in Mandarin: This is **what** ?

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END