

earworms



Chinese

In the following table, as well as the original Chinese, the English and the sounds of the words using the English alphabet, you will also find a column headed 'Pinyin'. Pinyin is the official transcription of Chinese, which is taught in Chinese schools, and which is necessary to be able to type Chinese characters on a computer keyboard. With the right software configuration, you print 'pinyin' in, e.g. chá (tea) and get Chinese out: 茶. Isn't technology wonderful!

English	Sounds	Pinyin	Chinese
I	woa	wǒ	我
would like	siang yao	xiǎng yào	想要
coffee	ka fey	kā fēi	咖啡
with	chia	jiā	加
milk	nio-nai	niú nǎi	牛奶
I'd like a coffee with milk	woa siang yao ka fey chia nio nai	wǒ xiǎng yào kā fēi jiā niú nǎi	我想要咖啡加牛奶
and	her	hé	和
sugar	tung	táng	糖
tea/bad*	cha ^a	chá	茶

Be careful with the intonation.* Tone up at the end means 'tea', but down means 'bad'.

bad	cha-a ↘		
Very good	herng hao	hěn hǎo	很好
beer	pee jio	pí jiǔ	啤酒
water	shwey	shuǐ	水
wind and water	feng shwey	fēng shuǐ	风水

In a restaurant situation , 'A water please' is a request for us, but not in Chinese. You have to tell the waiter what to do, i.e. : 'Please give me...'

Please give me ...	(t)ching gay woa...	qǐng gěi wǒ...	请给我...
please	(t)ching	qǐng	请
give	gay	gěi	给
me	woa	wǒ	我
thank you	shieh shieh	xiè xie	谢谢

2. To order

to order	djien	diǎn	点
drinks	ying liao	yǐn liào	饮料
wine	poo tao jioe	pú táo jiǔ	葡萄酒
red	hong	hóng	红
white	bai	bái	白
a bottle	ee ping	yī píng	一瓶
a glass of	ee bay	yī bēi	一杯
Cheers!	gan bay	gān bēi	干杯!
bread	mee'en bao	miàn bāo	面包
a little	ee see-eh	yī xiē	一些
Don't mention it.	buh cur chee	bù kè qì	不客气
Very very good.	feh chung hao	fēi cháng hǎo	非常好

3. Have you got...?

Have you got a table for two?

You literally say: You got two person's seats?

you	ni / nǐ'ing	nǐ / nín	你 / 您
have got	yoh	yǒu	有
seats	zuor way	zuò wèi	坐位
for 2 persons	are ren der	èr rén de	二人的
for 3 persons	san ren der	sān rén de	三人的
?	ma	ma	吗

'Ma' at the end, turns a statement into a question.

sorry	dway buh chee	duì bù qǐ	对不起
no	may yoh	méi yǒu / bù	没有 / 不
Yes, of course.	shou duh, dung ran	shì de, dāng rán	是的, 当然

**What would you like to drink? is expressed as:
You would like to drink what?**

You would like...?	nǐ'ing siung yao?	nín xiǎng yào?	您想要?
what	sher mer	shén me	什么
to drink	huur	hē	喝
to eat	chrr	chī	吃
fried noodles	chow mi en	chǎo miàn	炒面
a fork	ee bah cha tsuh	chā zi	叉子

As we say, a cup of tea, the Chinese say 'one of fork' for 'a fork'

Enjoy your meal!	way coh how	wèi kǒu hǎo	胃口好!
Are you satisfied(?)	nǐ'ing man ee (ma?)	nín mǎn yì (ma?)	您满意 (吗?)
satisfied	man ee	mǎn yì	满意
You satisfied(?)	nǐ'ing man ee (ma?)	nín mǎn yì (ma?)	您满意 (吗?)
the bill	jiang dan	zhàng dān	帐单
I can - use - a card (?)	woa nen - yung - car (ma?)	wǒ néng - yòng - kǎ (ma?)	我可以用卡 (吗?)
Can (i.e. Yes, you can)	nen	néng	能

4. Please go ...airport

please
go
center
city center
airport
address
this address
bye
a ticket
to buy

The answer to the question : 'Can I?' is not 'Yes' or No' as we might expect , but 'Can' or 'Not can'

chao	qu
jung-sing	zhong xin
shuh jung-sing	shi zhong xin
dsee chang	ji chang
dee juhr	di zhi
jugga dee juhr	zhe ge di zhi
zai jien	zai jian
piao	piao
mai	mai

请
去
中心
市中心
机场
地址
这个地址
再见
票
买

'a ticket to' is literally 'a to type ticket'

a "to Beijing" type ticket
a "to Shanghai" ticket
Hong Kong
How much - money?
How much does it cost?
10 yuan

chao beijing der peeao	qu bei jing de piao
chao shanghai der peeao	qu shang hai de piao
sjeung gung	xiang gang
duoor shao - tjién?	duo shao - qian?
duoor shao tjién?	duo shao qian?
shrr you-an	shi yuan

去北京的票
去上海的票
香港
多少 - 钱?
多少钱?
十元

Numbers, days & time

1	ee
2	are
3	san
4	soor
5	aw
6	leo
7	tjee
8	baah
9	geo
10	shrr
11	shrr ee
12	shrr are
13	shrr san
14	shrr suh
15	shrr aw
16	shrr lieo
17	shrr tjee
18	shrr baah
19	shrr jioe
20	are shrr
21	are shrr ee
30	san shrr
40	soor shrr
50	aw shrr
60	leo shrr
70	tjee shrr

yī	一
èr	二
sān	三
sì	四
wǔ	五
liù	六
qī	七
bā	八
jiǔ	九
shí	十
shí yī	十一
shí èr	十二
shí sān	十三
shí sì	十四
shí wǔ	十五
shí liù	十六
shí qī	十七
shí bā	十八
shí jiǔ	十九
èr shí	二十
èr shí yī	二十一
sān shí	三十
sì shí	四十
wǔ shí	五十
liù shí	六十
qī shí	七十

80	baah shrr	bā shí	八十
90	geo shrr	jiǔ shí	九十
100	ee by	yī bǎi	一百
200	are by	èr bǎi	二百
300	san by	sān bǎi	三百
8 o'clock	baa djien (djien = o'clock)	bā diǎn	八点
7.30	tchee djien san shuh fuhn	qī diǎn sān shí fēn	七点三十分
40 minutes	Soor sher fn jong	sì shí fēn zhōng	四十分
6.40	lieo djien soor shrr foon	liù diǎn sì shí fēn	六点四十分
In the morning	dsow shung	zǎo shàng	早上
In the evening	won shung	wǎn shàng	晚上
6.00 in the evening	won shung leo djien	wǎn shàng liù diǎn	晚上六点
Monday	shing chee ee	xīng qī yī	星期一
Tuesday	shing chee er	xīng qī èr	星期二
Wednesday	shing chee san	xīng qī sān	星期三
Sunday	shing chee uh	xīng qī rì / xīng qī tiān	星期日 / 星期天

Is there...?

Excuse me	lau tia	láo jià	劳驾
May I ask (please ask)	(t)ching wern	qǐng wèn	请问
Near by	fu jing	fù jìn	附近
Is there	yo	yǒu	有
A bank	ying hung	yín háng	银行
Nearby is there a bank(?)	fu jing yo ying hung (ma?)	fù jìn yǒu yín háng (ma?)	附近有银行 (吗?)
a supermarket	chao shuh	chāo shì	超市
a toilet	tour saw	cè suǒ	厕所
a hospital	ee jooan	yī yuàn	医院
sorry	doeee bu chee	duì bù qǐ	对不起
I don't know.	woa bu jr dow	wǒ bù zhī dào	我不知道
don't	bu	bù	不
know	jr dow	zhī dào	知道

7.Directions

Excuse me.	lau tia	láo jià	劳驾
I'm looking for a bank.	woa jn sai chi-ao ying hung	wǒ zhèng zài zhǎo yín háng	我正在找银行
Something you are doing now is expressed by:	'jn sai'	zhèng zài	正在
looking for	chi-ao	zhǎo	找
waiting for	d _e rm	děng	等
a friend	pung yo	péng yǒu	朋友
a post office	yo ju	yóu jú	邮局
Take (walk) this street.	z _o -oo cher chow loo	zǒu zhè tiáo lù	走这条路
walk	z _o -oo	zǒu	走

'chow' literally means 'one of'

this street	cher chow loo	zhè tiáo lù	这条路
to the left, to the right	wong tsor, wong yio	wǎng zuǒ, wǎng yòu	往左, 往右

to	wong	wǎng	往
to the front/straight on	wong chen	wǎng qián	往前
Go straight on. (to the front walk)	wong chen zō-oo	wǎng qián zǒu	往前走
Is it far(?)	yu _a n (ma?)	yuǎn (ma?)	远 (吗?)
Chinese currency	yu ^{an}	yuán	元
how far?	door yuan	duō yuǎn	多远?
Walk /about/ 10/ min.	zō-oo /dar guy /shr/ fn joong	zǒu dà gài shí fēn zhōng	走大概十分钟
You're welcome.	boo ker chee	bù kè qì	不客气
See you again.	sai chien	zài jiàn	再见

8. Where & what time

What time?	gee dien	jǐ diǎn?	几点?
Where?	na lee	nǎ lǐ?	哪里?
my	woa der	wǒ de	我的
your	ning der	nín de	您的
luggage	shing-lee	xíng lǐ	行李
Your luggage...	ning der shing-lee	nín de xíng lǐ	您的行李
...is where (in)?	tsai na lee	zài nǎ lǐ?	在哪里?
our	woa men der	wǒ men de	我们的
we	woa men	wǒ men	我们
our Luggage	woa men der shing lee	wǒ men de xíng lǐ	我们的行李
Our luggage is where in?	woa men der shing lee tsai na lee?	wǒ men de xíng lǐ zài nǎ lǐ?	我们的行李在哪里?
There!, Here!	na lee!, jur lee!	nà lǐ! zhè lǐ!	那里! 这里!
the room	fung chien	fáng jiān	房间
...is at - the room - within	...tsai - fung chien - lee	zài fáng jiān lǐ	在房间里
My room...	woa de fung chien	wǒ de fáng jiān	我的房间
...is at where?	tsai na lee?	zài nǎ lǐ?	在哪里?
On the first floor.	tsai ar lo	zài èr lóu	在二楼
level 1, level 2	ee lo, ar lo	yī lóu, èr lóu	一楼, 二楼
your room	ning de fung chien	nín de fáng jiān	您的房间
Breakfast – what time?	dsau tsan – (d)gee dien?	zǎo cān - jǐ diǎn?	早餐-几点?
From 7 O'clock...	tzong tchee dien...	cóng qī diǎn...	从七点...
...to 10 O'clock	...dow shrr dien	...dào shí diǎn	...到十点

9. Problems, problems

You can...	ning nung...	nín néng...	您能...
...help me(?)	...bung-choo woa (ma?)	...bāng zhù wǒ (ma?)	...帮助我 (吗?)
I've - lost	woa - dio ler	wǒ diū le	我丢了
to lose, lost	dio, dio ler	diū, diū le	丢, 丢了
my	woa der pronounced 'wadder'	wǒ de	我的
passport	hoo jaow	hù zhào	护照
camera	chow sian dzee	zhào xiàng jī	照相机
wallet	tien bau = money bag	qián bāo	钱包
I need...	woa shoo-jau...	wǒ xū yào...	我需要...
...stamps	...yo piau	yóu piào	邮票
to send	tchee	jì	寄

this card	jur jang ca-ar	zhè zhāng kǎ	这张卡
this	jur	zhè	这
to England	chuh ingoa	qù yīng guó	去英国
I need ...	woa shoo- jau	wǒ xū yào...	我需要...
...flu medicine.	gan-mao yao	gǎn mào yào	感冒药
flu	gan-mao	gǎn mào	感冒
medicine	yao	yào	药
plasters	bang di = from band-age	bāng dí	绑迪
a doctor	ee-shen	yī shēng	医生
help	bung choo	bāng zhù	帮助

10. Do you speak...?

How are you? (friend)	ni how (ma?) = you good(?)	nǐ hǎo (ma?)	你好 (吗?)
How are you? (official)	ni'ing how (ma?)	nín hǎo (ma?)	您好 (吗?)
I'm fine, thanks.	woa herng how, shier shier	wǒ hěn hǎo, xiè xie	我很好, 谢谢
You can speak English(?)	ni'ing huey - shoor - ing-oo (ma?)	nín huì shuō yīng yǔ (ma?)	您会说英语 (吗?)
Chinese	joong ven	zhōng wén	中文
You can speak Chinese?	ni'ing huey shoor joong-ven (ma?)	nín huì shuō zhōng wén (ma?)	您会说中文 (吗?)
I not can speak-Chinese.	woa boo huey shoor - joong-ven	wǒ bù huì shuō zhōng wén	我不会说中文
I (not) understand	woa (boo) don-g	wǒ bù dǒng	我不懂
A little more slowly please (Please - slow - a little.)	(t)ching man ee dien (t)ching - man - ee dien	qǐng màn yī diǎn	请慢一点
difficult	nan	nán	难
very difficult	fey chung nan	fēi cháng nán	非常难
not easy	boo chien dan	bù jiǎn dān	不简单
easy	chien dan	jiǎn dān	简单
You like Shanghai(?)	ni shi huan Shanghai (ma?)	nǐ xǐ huān shàng hǎi (ma?)	你喜欢上海 (吗?)
You like chow mien?	ni shi huan chow mien (ma?)	nǐ xǐ huān chǎo miàn (ma?)	你喜欢炒面 (吗?)
Mm.. delicious!	mm..how chrr !	hǎo chī !	好吃!
good food!	how chrr !	hǎo chī !	好吃!
Good bye. (again see)	zai chien	zài jiàn	再见
tomorrow	ming-tien	míng tiān	明天
See you tomorrow! (tomorrow see)	ming-tien chien!	míng tiān jiàn!	明天见!
Have fun!	wan der kai shing!	wán de kāi xīn!	玩的开心!