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!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Sounds</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>woa</td>
<td>wǒ</td>
<td>我 (wǒ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>would like</td>
<td>siang yao</td>
<td>xiǎng yào</td>
<td>想要 (xiǎng yào)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coffee</td>
<td>ka fey</td>
<td>kā fēi</td>
<td>咖啡 (kā fēi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>with</td>
<td>chia</td>
<td>jiā</td>
<td>加 (jiā)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>milk</td>
<td>nio-nai</td>
<td>niú nǎi</td>
<td>牛奶 (niú nǎi)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’d like a coffee with milk and sugar</td>
<td>woa siang yao ka fey chia nio-nai her tung cha</td>
<td>wǒ xiǎng yào kā fēi jiā niú nǎi hé táng chá</td>
<td>我想要咖啡加牛奶和糖 茶 (wǒ xiǎng yào kā fēi jiā niú nǎi hé táng chá)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>tea/bad*</td>
<td></td>
<td>chǎh</td>
<td>茶 (chá)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Sounds</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>bad</td>
<td>chǎh</td>
<td>hěn hǎo</td>
<td>很好 (hěn hǎo)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very good</td>
<td>her</td>
<td>pí jiǔ</td>
<td>啤酒 (pí jiǔ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>beer</td>
<td>pee jio</td>
<td>shuǐ</td>
<td>水 (shuǐ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>shwey</td>
<td>fēng shuǐ</td>
<td>风水 (fēng shuǐ)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>wind and water</td>
<td>feng shwey</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 di

drinks ying liao

wine poo tao jioe

red hong

white bai

a bottle ee ping

a glass of ee bay

Cheers! gan bay

bread mee’en bao

a little ee see eh

Don’t mention it. buh chee

Very very good. feh chung hao

3. Have you got…?

Have you got a table for two?

you ni / n’ing

have got yoh

seats zuor way

for 2 persons are ren der

for 3 persons san ren der

Don’t mention it. buh cur chee

Very very good. feh chung hao

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

You would like…? ni’ing siung yao?

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

Enjoy your meal! way coh how

Are you satisfied(?) ni’ing man ee (ma?)

satisfied man ee

You satisfied(?) ni’ing man ee (ma?)

the bill jiang dan

I can - use - a card (?) woa nen - yung - car (ma?)

Can (i.e. Yes, you can) nen
4. Please go to the airport please (t)ching q ăng

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’

a “to Beijing” type ticket

choo beijing der peeao qù běi jīng de piào

a “to Shanghai” ticket

choo shanghai der peeao qù shàn gāi de piào

Hong Kong

sjeenung gung xiăng gāng

How much - money?

duoor shao - tjien?
duoor shao tjien?

How much does it cost?

shrr you-an shì yuán

10 yuan

Numbers, days & time

1 ee yī

2 are ěr

3 san sān

4 soor sì

5 aw wǔ

6 leo liù

7 tjee qī

8 baah bā

9 geo jiǔ

10 shrr shí

11 shrr ee shí yī

12 shrr are shí ěr

13 shrr san shí sān

14 shrr suh shí sì

15 shrr aw shí wǔ

16 shrr lieo shí liù

17 shrr tjee shí qī

18 shrr baah shí bā

19 shrr jieo shí jiǔ

20 are shrr ěr shí

21 are shrr ee ěr shí yī

30 san shrr sān shí

40 soor shrr sì shí

50 aw shrr wǔ shí

60 leo shrr liù shí

70 tjee shrr qī shí
Is there...?

Excuse me  lau tia  láo jià  劳驾
May I ask (please ask) (t)ching wern  qīng 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  yǐ yuàn  医院
I don’t know.  woa bu jr dow  wǒ bù zhī dào  我不知道
I don’t know.  bu  bù  不
Know  jr dow  zhī dào  知道

7. Directions

Excuse me.  lau tia  劳驾
I’m looking for a bank.  woa jn sai chi-ao ying hung  wǒ zhèng zài zhāo yín háng  我正在找银行
Something you are doing now is expressed by:  ‘jn sai’ zhèng zài  ‘找’ 等
going for  chi-ao  zhāo  找
waiting for  dêrm  dēng  等
a friend  pung yo  péng yú  朋友
a post office  yo ju  yóu jú  邮局
Take (walk) this street.  z̄-oo cher chow loo  zǒu zhè tiáo lù  走这条路
walk  z̄-oo  zǒu

‘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  wāng zuǒ, wāng yòu  往左，往右
to
wong
wong chen
wong chen zō-oo
Go straight on. (to the front walk)
Is it far(?)
Chinese currency
how far?
Walk /about/ 10/ min.
You’re welcome.
See you again.

8. Where & what time

What time?
gee dien
ji diàn?
Where?
na leé
wǒ de
my
woa der
ning der
your
luggage
shing-lee
Your luggage...
ning der shing-lee
…is where (in)?
tsai na leé
nǐn de xíng lǐ
our
woa men der
wǒ men de
we
woa men
our Luggage
woa men der shing-lee
wǒ men de xíng lǐ
Our luggage is where in?
woa men der shing-lee tsai na leé?
wǒ men de xíng lǐ zài nà lǐ?
There!, Here!
na leé!, jūr leé!
fáng jiān
the room
fung chien
tsai - fung chien - lee
My room...
woa de fung chien
zài fáng jiān lǐ
…is at where?
tsai na leé?
zài nà lǐ?
On the first floor.
tsai ar lo
zài ér lóu
does not work.
eer lo
your room
ning de fung chien
nǐn de fáng jiān
Breakfast – what time?
 dsau tsan – (d)gee dien?
zǎo cān - jǐ diàn?
From 7 O’clock…
tzong tchee dien…
…to 10 O’clock
…dào shí diàn

9. Problems, problems

You can…
ning nung…
nǐn néng…
…help me(?)
bung-choo woa (ma?)
…bàng zhù wǒ (ma?)
I’ve - lost
woa - dio ler
diū, diū le
my
woa der pronounced ‘wadder’
wo de
passport
hoo jaow
hù zhào
camera
chow sian dzee
zhào xiàng jī
card
wallet
tien bau = money bag
qián bāo
I need…
woa shoo-jau…
yǒu piào
…stamps
…yo piau
…ji

de to send
tchee
zài jiàn
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English</th>
<th>Traditional Chinese</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>this card</td>
<td>zhè zhǎng kǎ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>to England</td>
<td>qù yǐng guó</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I need …</td>
<td>wǒ xū yào…</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>flu medicine</td>
<td>gǎn mào yào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>medicine</td>
<td>yào</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>plasters</td>
<td>bǎng dí</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>a doctor</td>
<td>yī shēng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>help</td>
<td>bǎng zhù</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**10. Do you speak...?**

- How are you? (friend)  
  ni hǎo (ma?)
- How are you? (official) 
  nín hào (ma?)
- I'm fine, thanks.  
  wǒ hěn hǎo, xiè xiè
- You can speak English(?) 
  nǐ huì shuō yīng yǔ (ma?)
- Chinese 
  zhōng wén
- You can speak Chinese? 
  nǐ huì shuō zhōng wén (ma?)
- I not can speak-Chinese. 
  wǒ bù huì shuō zhōng wén
- A little more slowly please 
  qǐng màn yǐ diǎn
- difficult 
  fēi cháng nán
- not easy 
  bù jiǎn dān
- easy 
  jiǎn dān
- You like Shanghai(?) 
  nǐ xiān huān Shānghǎi (ma?)
- You like chow mien? 
  nǐ xiān huān chōu miàn (ma?)
- Mm.. delicious! 
  hào chī!
- good food! 
  hào chī!
- Good bye. (again see) 
  zài jiàn
- tomorrow 
  míng tiān
- See you tomorrow! 
  míng tiān jiàn!
- (tomorrow see) 
- Have fun! 
  wán de kǎi xīn!