



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL

MANDARIN CHINESE VISUAL PHRASE BOOK



面条
miantiao
noodles



寺庙
simiao
temple



鞭炮
bianpao
firecrackers

折扇
zheshan
fan

SEE IT • SAY IT • LIVE IT!



EYEWITNESS TRAVEL
MANDARIN
CHINESE
V I S U A L
PHRASE BOOK



A Dorling Kindersley Book



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Acknowledgments

INTRODUCTION

This book provides all the key words and phrases you are likely to need in everyday situations. It is grouped into themes, and key phrases are broken down into short sections, to help you build a wide variety of sentences. A lot of the vocabulary is illustrated to make it easy to remember, and “You may hear” boxes feature questions that you are likely to hear. At the back of the book there is a menu guide, listing about 300 food terms, and a 2,000-word dictionary. Numbers and the most useful phrases are listed on the inside covers for quick reference.

Nouns

In Chinese, the plural of nouns is normally the same as the singular. There is also no direct equivalent of the English “a/an” or “the.”

Adjectives

Chinese adjectives may have different endings depending on how they are used, and are also very often preceded by **hen** (“very”).

Verbs

Verbs have no tenses and do not generally change according to who or what is the subject, but there are some characters that can be added in order to indicate a particular mood or time:

to come	lai
is coming	lai le
isn't coming	bu lai le
came	lai guo
didn't come	mei lai guo
please come!	lai ba!

Pronunciation guide

The Chinese phrases in this book are given in Mandarin Chinese, the main language of the People's Republic of China (PRC). Below each Chinese word or phrase, you will find a pronunciation guide in italics. The pronunciation is written in pinyin, the official romanization system used in the PRC. Most pinyin spellings reflect the nearest equivalent sound in English, but some are different, so take note of how the letters below are pronounced.

- c** like ts in sits
- e** like ay in pay
- i** like ee in see
- q** like ch in chin
- v** u pronounced with rounded lips, like few in English or über in German
- x** like sh in ship
- z** like ds in kids
- zh** like j in just

Take care to pronounce vowels individually: **xie** (shoe), for example, is pronounced "shee-ay"

Mandarin Chinese has four tones that affect how a word is pronounced. Each syllable is pronounced with one of four tones: high, rising, falling-rising, or falling. These tones can be written as accents on the pinyin, but are not really helpful to a beginner. Use the audio CD that accompanies this phrase book or find a native speaker to help you with pronunciation, then you can use the pinyin as a memory aid. You will gradually develop an ear for the tones of the most common words and phrases. Also, even if you don't pronounce a word absolutely correctly, the context in which you use it will mean that you are often still understood.

ESSENTIALS

In this section, you will find the essential words and useful phrases that you will need for basic everyday talk and situations in China. Traditionally, when Chinese people greet each other, they cup one hand inside the other, in front of the chest, and they may nod or bow slightly. However, due to increasing Western influence, they may shake hands with you now instead, especially if you are traveling to China on business.



GREETINGS

Hello	你好 <i>nihao</i>
Good morning	早上好 <i>zaoshanghao</i>
Good evening	晚上好 <i>wanshanghao</i>
Goodnight	晚安 <i>wan'an</i>
Goodbye	再见 <i>zaijian</i>
Pleased to meet you	很高兴认识你 <i>hengaoxing renshi ni</i>
How are you?	你好吗？ <i>nihaoma</i>
Fine, thanks	我很好，谢谢 <i>wohenhao, xiexie</i>
You're welcome	不用谢 <i>buyongxie</i>
My name is...	我叫... <i>wojiao</i>
What's your name?	你叫什么名字？ <i>ni jiao shenme mingzi</i>
What's his/her name?	他/她叫什么名字？ <i>ta/ta jiao shenme mingzi</i>
This is...	这是... <i>zheshi</i>
Nice to meet you	很高兴认识你 <i>hengaoxing renshi ni</i>
See you soon	回见 <i>huijian</i>
See you tomorrow	明天见 <i>mingtianjian</i>

SMALL TALK

Yes/no	是/不是 <i>shi/bushi</i>
Please	请 <i>qing</i>
Thank you (very much)	(非常) 谢谢你 <i>(feichang) xiexieni</i>
You're welcome	不用谢 <i>buyongxie</i>
OK/fine	好的/很好 <i>haode/henhao</i>
Pardon?	请再说一遍？ <i>qing zai shuo yibian</i>
Excuse me	劳驾 <i>laojia</i>
Sorry	对不起 <i>duibuqi</i>
I don't know	不知道 <i>buzhidao</i>
I don't understand	我不明白 <i>wo bu mingbai</i>
Could you repeat that?	你能重复一遍么？ <i>ni neng chongfu yibian me</i>
I don't speak Chinese	我不会说中文 <i>wo buhui shuo zhongwen</i>
Do you speak English?	你会说英文么？ <i>ni hui shuo yingwen me</i>
What is the Chinese for...	中文...怎么说 <i>zhongwen...zenme shuo</i>
What's that?	那是什么？ <i>na shi shenme</i>
What's that called?	那叫什么？ <i>na jiao shenme</i>
Can you tell me...	你能告诉我... <i>ni neng gaosu wo</i>

TALKING ABOUT YOURSELF

I'm from...	我来自... <i>wo laizi</i>
I'm...	我是... <i>woshi</i>
...English	...英国人 <i>yingguo ren</i>
...American	...美国人 <i>meiguoren</i>
...Canadian	...加拿大人 <i>jianada ren</i>
...Australian	...澳大利亚人 <i>aodaliya ren</i>
...single	...单身 <i>danshen</i>
...married	...已婚 <i>yihun</i>
...divorced	... 离婚了 <i>lihun le</i>
I am...years old	我...岁 <i>wo...sui</i>
I have...	我有... <i>woyou</i>
...brothers/sisters	...兄弟/姐妹 <i>xiongdijiemei</i>
...a son/daughter	...儿子/女儿 <i>erzi/nver</i>

You may hear...

- 你从哪里来?
ni cong nali lai
Where are you from?
- 你结婚了么?
ni jiehun leme
Are you married?
- 你有孩子么?
ni you haizi me
Do you have children?



SOCIALIZING

Do you live here?	你住这儿吗？ <i>nǐ zhù zhè'ér ma</i>
Where do you live?	你住哪儿？ <i>nǐ zhù zhè'ér ma</i>
I am here...	我在这儿... <i>wǒ zài zhèr</i>
...on vacation	...度假 <i>dùjià</i>
...on business	...出差 <i>chūchāi</i>
I'm a student	我是学生 <i>wǒ shì xuéshēng</i>
I work in...	我在...工作 <i>wǒ zài...gōngzuò</i>
I am retired	我累了 <i>wǒ lèile</i>
May I have...	可以给我... <i>kěyǐ gei wǒ</i>
...your telephone number?	...你的电话号码么？ <i>nǐ de diànhuà hàomǎ me</i>
...your email address?	...你的电子邮件么？ <i>nǐ de diànzǐyóujiàn me</i>
It doesn't matter	没关系 <i>méiguānxi</i>
Cheers	谢了！ <i>xièle</i>
Are you alright?	你没事吧？ <i>nǐ méishì ba</i>
Do you mind if I smoke?	你介意我抽烟么？ <i>nǐ jièyì wǒ chōuyān me</i>
I'm OK	我很好 <i>wǒ hénhǎo</i>
What do you think?	你觉得怎么样？ <i>nǐ juéde zěnmeyàng</i>

LIKES AND DISLIKES

I like/love...	我喜欢/爱... <i>wo xihuan/ai</i>
I don't like...	我不喜欢... <i>wo buxihuan</i>
I hate...	我讨厌... <i>wo taoyan</i>
I somewhat/really like...	我十分/很喜欢... <i>wo shifen/hen xihuan</i>
Don't you like it?	你喜欢这个么？ <i>ni xihuan zhege me</i>
I would like...	我想要... <i>wo xiangyao</i>
I'd like this one/that one	我喜欢这个/那个 <i>wo xihuan zhege/nage</i>
My favorite is...	我最喜欢... <i>wo zui xihuan</i>
I prefer...	我更喜欢... <i>wo geng xihuan</i>
It's delicious	好吃 <i>haochi</i>
What would you like to do?	你想做什么？ <i>ni xiang zuo shenme</i>
I don't mind	我无所谓 <i>wo wusuowei</i>

You may hear...

- 你做什么的？
ni zuo shenmede
What do you do?
- 你放假了么？
ni fangjia leme
Are you on vacation?
- 你想...吗？
nixiang...ma
Do you like...?



DAYS OF THE WEEK

What day is it today? 今天星期几？
jintian xingqiji

Sunday 星期天
xingqitian

Monday 星期一
xingqiyi

Tuesday 星期二
xingqi'er

Wednesday 星期三
xingqisan

Thursday 星期四
xingqisi

Friday 星期五
xingqiwu

Saturday 星期六
xingqiliu

today 今天
jintian

tomorrow 明天
mingtian

yesterday 昨天
zuotian

in...days ...天之内
tianzhinei

THE SEASONS



春天
chuntian
spring



夏天
xiatian
summer

MONTHS

January	一月 <i>yiyue</i>
February	二月 <i>eryue</i>
March	三月 <i>sanyue</i>
April	四月 <i>siyue</i>
May	五月 <i>wuyue</i>
June	六月 <i>liuyue</i>
July	七月 <i>qiyue</i>
August	八月 <i>bayue</i>
September	九月 <i>jiuyue</i>
October	十月 <i>shiyue</i>
November	十一月 <i>shiyiyue</i>
December	十二月 <i>shi'eryue</i>



秋天
qiutian
fall



冬天
dongtian
winter

TELLING THE TIME

What time is it?

现在几点？
xianzai jidian

It's nine o'clock

九点
jiudian

...in the morning

...上午
shangwu

...in the afternoon

...下午
xiawu

...in the evening

...晚上
wanshang



一点
yidian
one o'clock



一点十分
yidiانشifen
ten past one



一点一刻
yidiányike
quarter past one



一点二十
yidian'ershi
twenty past one



一点半
yidianban
half past one



两点差一刻
liangdian cha yike
quarter to two



两点差十分
liangdian cha shifen
ten to two



两点
liangdian
two o'clock

It's noon/midnight	现在是中午/午夜 <i>xianzai shi zhongwu/wuye</i>
second	秒 <i>miao</i>
minute	分钟 <i>fenzhong</i>
hour	小时 <i>xiaoshi</i>
a quarter of an hour	一刻钟 <i>yikezhong</i>
half an hour	半小时 <i>banxiaoshi</i>
three-quarters of an hour	四十五分钟 <i>sishiwufenzhong</i>
late	晚 <i>wan</i>
early	早 <i>zao</i>
soon	马上 <i>mashang</i>
What time does it start?	几点开始？ <i>jidian kaishi</i>
What time does it finish?	几点结束？ <i>jidian jieshu</i>
How long will it last?	要多久？ <i>yao duojiu</i>

You may hear...

- 一会见
yihui jian
See you later.
- 你来早了
ni laizao le
You're early.
- 你迟到了
ni chidao le
You're late.



MAKING APPOINTMENTS

May I make an appointment?

我们可以定个见面时间吗?
women keyi dingge jianmian shijian ma

Can we meet tomorrow?

我们可以明天见吗?
women keyi mingtianjian ma

At 10 o'clock?

10点?
shidian

What time is best for you?

你什么时间合适?
ni shenme shijian heshi

I'm sorry, I'm busy that day

对不起.我那天忙
duibuqi, wo natian mang

How about Tuesday?

星期二怎么样?
xingqier zenmeyang

In the morning/afternoon

在早晨/下午
zai zaochen/xiauwu

That's fine for me

可以
keyi

I'll see you then

到时候见
daoshihou jian

I look forward to meeting you tomorrow

我期待着明天和你见面
wo qidai zhe mingtian hen jianmian



名片
mingpian
business card



备忘录
beiwanglu
personal organizer



便笺
bianjian
note pad



公文包
gongwenbao
briefcase

AT THE MEETING

I'm here...	我来这儿... <i>wolaizhe'er</i>
...on business	...谈生意 <i>tan shengyi</i>
...for a conference	...出席研讨会 <i>chuxi yantaohui</i>
...for a meeting	...出席会议 <i>chuxi huiyi</i>
I have a meeting with...	我和...有个会议 <i>wohe...youge huiyi</i>
...at two o'clock	...在两点 <i>zai liangdian</i>
I'm sorry I'm late	对不起我迟到了 <i>duibuqi wo chidaole</i>
Here's my card	这是我的名片 <i>zheshi wo de mingpian</i>
It's a pleasure to meet you	很高兴见到你 <i>hen gaoxing jiandaoni</i>



传真机
chuanzhenji
fax machine



打印机
dayinji
printer

You may hear...

- 你有预约吗?
niyou yuyue ma
Do you have an appointment?
- 和谁?
heshui
With whom?
- 在什么时候?
zai shenmeshihou
At what time?



THE WEATHER

What's the weather like?

天气怎么样？

tianqi zenmeyang

It's...

...天气

tianqi

...good

很好...

henhao

...bad

不好...

buhao

...warm

暖和...

nuanhuo

...hot

热...

re

...cold

冷...

leng

...humid

潮湿...

chaoshi



晴天

qingtian

It's sunny



下雨

xiayu

It's raining



多云

duoyun

It's cloudy



暴风雨

baofengyu

It's stormy

What's the forecast?	天气预报怎么样？ <i>tianqiyubao zenmeyang</i>
What's the temperature?	气温怎么样？ <i>qiwen zenmeyang</i>
It's...degrees	...度 <i>...du</i>
It's a beautiful day	天气真好 <i>tianqi zhenhao</i>
The weather's changing	天气在变化 <i>tianqi zai bianhua</i>
Is it going to get colder/ hotter?	会变冷/热吗？ <i>hui bian leng/re ma</i>
It's cooling down	降温了 <i>jiangwen le</i>
Is it going to freeze?	会结冰么？ <i>hui jiebing me</i>



下雪
xiaxue
It's snowing



结冰
jiebing
It's icy



下薄雾
xiabaowu
It's misty



刮风
guafeng
It's windy

GETTING AROUND

China has an excellent rail network, which links all the major cities and smaller towns, as well as an extensive bus system for long-distance travel. Most of the big cities have their own underground subway systems as well as taxis and public buses. Although you can rent a car in many cities, you can usually only drive within the city limits, and may have to hire a driver if you wish to travel farther afield around this vast country.



ASKING WHERE THINGS ARE

Excuse me, please	对不起，请问 <i>duibuqi, qingwen</i>
Where is...	...在哪儿 <i>zai na'er</i>
...the town center?	...市中心？ <i>shizhongxin</i>
...the railroad station?	...火车站？ <i>huochezhan</i>
...a cash machine?	...取款机？ <i>qukuanji</i>
How do I get to...?	...怎么去？ <i>zenmequ</i>
I'm going to...	我去... <i>wo qu.</i>
I'm looking for...	我在找... <i>wo zaizhao</i>
I'm lost	我走丢了 <i>wo zoudiule</i>
Is it near?	近吗？ <i>jinma</i>
Is there a...nearby?	这附近有...吗？ <i>zhe fujin you...ma</i>
Is it far?	远吗？ <i>yuanma</i>
How far is...	...有多远？ <i>youduoyuan</i>
...the nearest bus stop?	...最近的公共汽车站？ <i>zuijinde gonggong qichezhan</i>
...the market?	...自由市场？ <i>ziyoushichang</i>
Can I walk there?	我可以走着去么？ <i>wo keyi zouzhe qume</i>

CAR RENTAL

Where is the car rental desk?

汽车出租柜台在哪儿?
qiche chuzu guitai zainá'er

I want to rent...

我想租...
wo xiangzu

...a car

...一辆车
yiliang che

...a motorcycle

...一辆摩托车
yiliang motuoche

...a bicycle

...一辆自行车
yiliang zixingche



家庭轿车，三厢车
jiating jiaochē, sanxiangche
sedan



揭背式轿车
jiebeishi jiaochē
hatchback



摩托车
motuoche
motorcycle



小轮摩托
xiaolunmotuo
scooter



山地车
shandiche
mountain bike



公路车
gongluche
road bike

for...days

租...天
zu...tian

for a week

租一星期
zuyi xingqi