Chinese history Chinese vocabulary: Advanced (HSK 7-9)

50 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 42 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

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Words

孔子
kǒngzǐ Confucius (551-479 BC), Chinese thinker and social philosopher, also known as 孔夫子[Kong3 fu1 zi3]

> 孔子是两千多年前的思想家。
> Kǒngzǐ shì liǎng qiān duōnián qián de sīxiǎngjiā.
> Confucius was a thinker who lived over two thousand years ago.

丝绸之路 絲綢之路
sīchóuzhīlù the Silk Road

> 丝绸之路上有很多古城。
> Sīchóuzhīlù shàng yǒu hěn duō gǔchéng.
> There are many ancient cities along the Silk Road.

王朝
wángcháo dynasty

> 清朝是中国最后一个王朝。
> Qīngcháo shì Zhōngguó zuìhòu yí gè wángcháo.
> The Qing was the last dynasty of China.

出土
chūtǔ to dig up / to appear in an excavation / unearthed / to come up out of the ground

> 老墓里出土了很多宝贝。
> Lǎo mù lǐ chūtǔle hěn duō bǎobèi.
> Many treasures were unearthed from the old tomb.

皇后
huánghòu empress / imperial consort

> 她在话剧里扮皇后。
> Tā zài huàjù lǐ bàn huánghòu.
> She plays the queen in the stage play.

皇宫 皇宮
huánggōng imperial palace

> 你去过北京的皇宫吗?
> Nǐ qùguo Běijīng de huánggōng ma?
> Have you been to the imperial palace in Beijing?

鸦片战争 鴉片戰爭
yāpiànzhànzhēng the Opium War (1839–1842) / the Opium Wars (1839–1842 and 1856–1860)

> 鸦片战争是哪一年开始的?
> Yāpiànzhànzhēng shì nǎ yì nián kāishǐ de?
> In what year did the Opium War begin?

辛亥革命
xīnhàigémìng Xinhai Revolution (1911), which ended the Qing Dynasty

> 辛亥革命带来了共和。
> Xīnhàigémìng dàiláile gònghé.
> The Xinhai Revolution brought republicanism.

五四运动 五四運動
wǔsìyùndòng May Fourth Movement / Chinese national renewal movement that started with 4th May 1919 protest against the Treaty of Versailles

> 五四运动发生在哪一年?
> Wǔsìyùndòng fāshēng zài nǎ yì nián?
> In which year did the May Fourth Movement take place?

抗日战争 抗日戰爭
kàngrìzhànzhēng War of Resistance against Japan (1937-1945)

> 我外公经历过抗日战争。
> Wǒ wàigōng jīnglì guò Kàngrìzhànzhēng.
> My grandfather lived through the War of Resistance against Japan.

新中国 新中國
xīnzhōngguó New China (post-1949 China)

改革开放 改革開放
gǎigékāifàng reform and opening up (Chinese policy introduced in 1978)

> 改革开放后，生活变好了。
> Gǎigékāifàng hòu, shēnghuó biàn hǎole.
> After reform and opening up, life got better.

毛泽东 毛澤東
máozédōng Mao Zedong (1893–1976), leader of the Chinese Communist Party 1935–1976

> 毛泽东出生在湖南。
> Máo Zédōng chūshēng zài Húnán.
> Mao Zedong was born in Hunan.

邓小平 鄧小平
dèngxiǎopíng Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997), Chinese communist leader, de facto leader of PRC 1978-1990 and creator of "socialism with Chinese characteristics"

> 历史书上常提到邓小平。
> Lìshǐ shū shàng cháng tídào Dèng Xiǎopíng.
> Deng Xiaoping is often mentioned in history books.

郑和 鄭和

zhènghé Zheng He (1371-1433), famous early Ming dynasty admiral and explorer

武则天 武則天

wǔzétiān Wu Zetian (624-705), Tang empress, reigned 690-705

> 你听说过武则天的故事吗?
> Nǐ tīngshuōguo Wǔ Zétiān de gùshi ma?
> Have you heard the stories about Wu Zetian?

成吉思汗

chéngjísīhán Genghis Khan (1162-1227), founder and ruler of the Mongol Empire

康熙

kāngxī Kangxi, reign title (1662–1722) of the Kangxi Emperor 聖祖|圣祖[Sheng4 zu3] / the Kangxi Emperor (Qing dynasty)

> 康熙当了六十多年皇帝。
> Kāngxī dāng le liùshí duōnián huángdì.
> The Kangxi Emperor was on the throne for more than sixty years.

朝廷

cháotíng court / imperial household / dynasty

> 朝廷派人去海边看看。
> Cháotíng pài rén qù hǎibiān kànkan.
> The imperial court sent people to take a look at the coast.

太子

tàizǐ crown prince

> 太子以后会当皇帝。
> Tàizǐ yǐhòu huì dāng huángdì.
> The crown prince will become emperor later.

封建

fēngjiàn system of enfeoffment / feudalism / feudal / feudalistic

> 他爷爷的想法很封建。
> Tā yéye de xiǎngfǎ hěn fēngjiàn.
> His grandfather's way of thinking is very feudalistic.

科举 科舉

kējǔ imperial examination

> 他参加科举，可惜没考上。
> Tā cānjiā kējǔ, kěxī méi kǎoshàng.
> He took the imperial examination, but unfortunately he didn't pass.

起义 起義

qǐyì uprising / insurrection / revolt

> 那次起义最后失败了。
> Nà cì qǐyì zuìhòu shībàile.
> That uprising failed in the end.

殖民地

zhímíndì colony

侵略

qīnlüè to invade / invasion

> 人民一起抵抗外来的侵略。
> Rénmín yìqǐ dǐkàng wàilái de qīnlüè.
> The people resisted the foreign invasion together.

远古 遠古

yuǎngǔ antiquity / ancient times

> 远古的人是怎么生活的?
> Yuǎngǔ de rén shì zěnme shēnghuó de?
> How did people live in remote antiquity?

史书 史書

shǐshū history book

史记 史記

shǐjì Records of the Grand Historian, by 司馬遷|司马迁[Si1 ma3 Qian1], first of the 24 dynastic histories 二十四史[Er4 shi2 si4 Shi3]

青铜器 青銅器

qīngtóngqì bronze implement / refers to ancient bronze artifacts, from c. 2,000 BC

> 博物馆里有很多古代青铜器。
> Bówùguǎn lǐ yǒu hěn duō gǔdài qīngtóngqì.
> The museum has many ancient bronze objects.

甲骨文

jiǎgǔwén oracle script / oracle bone inscriptions (an early form of Chinese script)

统治 統治

tǒngzhì to rule (a country) / to govern / rule / regime

> 国王统治了这个国家。
> Guówáng tǒngzhìle zhège guójiā.
> The king governed the country.

皇上

huángshang the emperor / Your majesty the emperor / His imperial majesty

> 太监给皇上端来了茶。
> Tàijiàn gěi huángshang duān láile chá.
> The eunuch brought tea to the emperor.

贵族 貴族

guìzú lord / nobility / nobleman / noblewoman / aristocrat / aristocracy

> 古代欧洲的贵族有很多特权。
> Gǔdài Ōuzhōu de guìzú yǒu hěn duō tèquán.
> The nobility of ancient Europe had many privileges.

奴隶 奴隸

núlì slave

> 他是个奴隶。
> Tā shì gè núlì.
> He is a slave.

宫廷 宮廷

gōngtíng court (of king or emperor)

> 这幅画是宫廷画家画的。
> Zhè fú huà shì gōngtíng huàjiā huà de.
> This painting was made by a court painter.

帝国 帝國

dìguó empire / imperial

> 这个帝国存在了三百年。
> Zhège dìguó cúnzàile sān bǎinián.
> This empire lasted for three hundred years.

战士 戰士

zhànshì fighter / soldier / warrior

> 战士们凯旋归来了！
> Zhànshìmen kǎixuán guīláile!
> The soldiers have returned in triumph!

战场 戰場

zhànchǎng battlefield

> 那里就像战场一样。
> Nàli jiù xiàng zhànchǎng yíyàng.
> It's like a war zone there.

投降

tóuxiáng to surrender

> 那支军队为什么不愿意投降？
> Nà zhī jūnduì wèishénme bú yuànyì tóuxiáng?
> Why was that army unwilling to surrender?

战役 戰役

zhànyì military campaign

> 历史书里有一章专门讲那次战役。
> Lìshǐ shū lǐ yǒu yìzhāng zhuānmén jiǎng nà cì zhànyì.
> The history book has a whole chapter on that campaign.

王国 王國

wángguó kingdom / realm

> 王国的公主喜欢骑马。
> Wángguó de gōngzhǔ xǐhuan qímǎ.
> The kingdom's princess likes riding horses.

军阀 軍閥

jūnfá military clique / junta / warlord

历代 歷代

lìdài successive generations / successive dynasties / past dynasties

> 历代皇帝都住过这里。
> Lìdài huángdì dōu zhùguo zhèlǐ.
> Emperors of every dynasty have lived here.

入侵

rùqīn to invade

> 军队歼灭了入侵的敌人。
> Jūnduì jiānmiède rùqīn de dírén.
> The army annihilated the invading enemy.

共和

gònghé republic / republicanism

> 辛亥革命带来了共和。
> Xīnhàigémìng dàiláile gònghé.
> The Xinhai Revolution brought republicanism.

推翻

tuīfān to overthrow

> 预言被实验结果推翻了。
> Yùyán bèi shíyàn jiéguǒ tuīfānle.
> The prediction was falsified by the result.

状元 狀元

zhuàngyuán top scorer in the palace examination (highest rank of the Imperial examination system) / top scorer in college entrance examination 高考[gao1 kao3] / the most brilliantly talented person in the field / leading light

> 古时候他考中了状元。
> Gǔshíhou tā kǎo zhōng le zhuàngyuán.
> In ancient times, he came first in the imperial examination.

勋章 勳章

xūnzhāng medal / decoration

> 这名士兵被授予紫心勋章。
> Zhè míng shìbīng bèi shòuyǔ zǐ xīn xūnzhāng.
> This soldier was awarded the Purple Heart.

封建社会 封建社會

fēngjiànshèhuì feudal society

> 封建社会是怎么结束的？
> Fēngjiànshèhuì shì zěnme jiéshù de?
> How did feudal society come to an end?

皇室

huángshì royal family / imperial household / member of the royal family

> 他出生在一个皇室家庭。
> Tā chūshēng zài yí gè huángshì jiātíng.
> He was born into a royal family.