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

50 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 37 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

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The same words as a CSV, for Anki or a spreadsheet
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Words

佛教
fójiào Buddhism

> 佛教来自印度。
> Fójiào láizì Yìndù.
> Buddhism originated in India.

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.

儒家
rújiā Confucian school, founded by Confucius 孔子[Kong3 zi3] (551-479 BC) and Mencius 孟子[Meng4 zi3] (c. 372-c. 289 BC)

道家
dàojiā Daoist School of the Warring States Period (475-221 BC), based on the teachings of Laozi or Lao-tze 老子[Lao3 zi3] (c. 500 BC-) and Zhuangzi 莊子|庄子[Zhuang1 zi3] (369-286 BC)

> 你了解道家的思想吗?
> Nǐ liǎojiě dàojiā de sīxiǎng ma?
> Do you know much about Daoist thought?

哲理
zhélǐ philosophic theory / philosophy

> 他爱和朋友聊哲理。
> Tā ài hé péngyou liáo zhélǐ.
> He likes to chat about philosophy with his friends.

孟子
mèngzǐ Mencius (c. 372-c. 289 BC), Confucian philosopher second only to Confucius / book of the same name, one of the classics of Confucianism

> 在孟子看来，义比生命更重要。
> Zài Mèngzǐ kànlai, yì bǐ shēngmìng gèng zhòngyào.
> In Mencius's view, righteousness is more important than life.

老子
lǎozi father / daddy / "I, your father" (in anger, or out of contempt) / I (used arrogantly or jocularly)
lǎozǐ Laozi or Lao-tze (c. 500 BC), Chinese philosopher, the founder of Taoism / the sacred book of Daoism, 道德經|道德经 [Dao4 de2 jing1] by Laozi

> 道德经是老子写的书。
> Dàodéjīng shì lǎozi xiě de shū.
> The Tao Te Ching is a book written by Laozi.

庄子 莊子
zhuāngzǐ Zhuangzi (c. 369–286 BC), Daoist philosopher / the eponymous Daoist classic
zhuāngzi village / hamlet

> 庄子喜欢用故事讲道理。
> Zhuāngzǐ xǐhuan yòng gùshi jiǎngdàolǐ.
> Zhuangzi liked to explain ideas through stories.

论语 論語
lúnyǔ The Analects of Confucius 孔子[Kong3 zi3]

> 你最喜欢论语里的哪一句?
> Nǐ zuì xǐhuan Lúnyǔ lǐ de nǎ yíjù?
> Which line in the Analects do you like best?

仁
rén kernel / humane

礼 禮
lǐ rite / gift / ceremony / etiquette / to treat with courtesy / to show respect to / propriety / courtesy / surname Li

> 你觉得礼在今天还重要吗?
> Nǐ juéde lǐ zài jīntiān hái zhòngyào ma?
> Do you think propriety is still important today?

孝
xiào filial piety or obedience / mourning apparel

孝顺 孝順
xiàoshùn filial / dutiful / devoted to one's parents (and grandparents etc) / to show filial piety towards (an older family member) / filial piety

> 你该好好孝顺你奶奶。
> Nǐ gāi hǎohǎo xiàoshùn nǐ nǎinai.
> You should treat your grandmother with proper filial respect.

阴阳 陰陽
yīnyáng yin and yang

五行
wǔxíng five phases of Chinese philosophy: wood 木, fire 火, earth 土, metal 金, water 水

> 五行是哪五种东西？
> Wǔxíng shì nǎ wǔzhǒng dōngxi?
> Which five things are the five elements?

儒学 儒學
rúxué Confucianism

儒教
rújiào Confucianism

> 儒教重视家庭和教育。
> Rújiào zhòngshì jiātíng hé jiàoyù.
> Confucianism values family and education.

道教
dàojiào Taoism / Daoism

> 道教和佛教有什么不同？
> Dàojiào hé Fójiào yǒu shénme bùtóng?
> What is the difference between Daoism and Buddhism?

道德经 道德經
dàodéjīng the Book of Dao by Laozi or Lao-Tze, the sacred text of Daoism

> 道德经是老子写的书。
> Dàodéjīng shì lǎozi xiě de shū.
> The Tao Te Ching is a book written by Laozi.

无为 無為
wúwéi the Daoist doctrine of inaction / let things take their own course / laissez-faire

天人合一
tiānrénhéyī oneness of heaven and humanity / the theory that man is an integral part of nature

> 天人合一是什么意思？
> Tiānrénhéyī shì shénme yìsi?
> What does the unity of heaven and man mean?

中庸
zhōngyōng golden mean (Confucianism) / (of person) mediocre / ordinary / the Doctrine of the Mean, one of the Four Books 四書|四书[Si4 shu1]

> 他做事讲究中庸，从不走极端。
> Tā zuòshì jiǎngjiu zhōngyōng, cóngbù zǒujíduān.
> He believes in the golden mean and never goes to extremes.

义 義
yì meaning / righteousness / justice / adopted / artificial (tooth, limb etc) / Italy (abbr. for 義大利|义大利[Yi4 da4 li4]) / foster (father etc) / relationship / friendship / surname Yi

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智
zhì wise / wisdom

> 你觉得智和知识一样吗？
> Nǐ juéde zhì hé zhīshi yíyàng ma?
> Do you think wisdom is the same as knowledge?

忠
zhōng loyal / devoted / faithful

忠诚 忠誠
zhōngchéng devoted / loyal / fidelity / loyalty

> 狗是一种忠诚的动物。
> Gǒu shì yìzhǒng zhōngchéng de dòngwù.
> Dogs are a loyal kind of animal.

君子
jūnzǐ nobleman / person of noble character

> 他以君子之道生活。
> Tā yǐ jūnzǐ zhī dào shēnghuó.
> He lived a moral life.

小人
xiǎorén person of low social status (old) / I, me (used to refer humbly to oneself) / nasty person / vile character

> 他是个卑鄙小人。
> Tā shì gè bēibǐ xiǎorén.
> He is a despicable person.

圣人 聖人
shèngrén sage / the Sage (i.e. Confucius) / (respectful way of addressing a monarch) your sagacious majesty / saint

贤人 賢人
xiánrén great person of the past / venerable forebear / the great and the good

修身
xiūshēn to cultivate one's moral character / slim-fit / body-hugging

> 你怎样理解修身？
> Nǐ zěnyàng lǐjiě xiūshēn?
> How do you understand self-cultivation?

修养 修養
xiūyǎng accomplishment / training / self-cultivation

> 有没有修养，看他怎么对人。
> Yǒuméiyǒu xiūyǎng, kàn tā zěnme duì rén.
> Whether someone is well cultivated shows in how he treats people.

五常
wǔcháng the five cardinal virtues in traditional Chinese ethics: benevolence 仁[ren2], justice 義|义[yi4], propriety 禮|礼[li3], wisdom 智[zhi4] and honor 信[xin4] / alternative term for 五倫|五伦[wu3 lun2], the five cardinal relationships / alternative term for 五行[wu3 xing2], the five elements / the Permanent Five (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council: China, France, Russia, the UK, and the USA)

> 五常中的哪一条最难做到？
> Wǔcháng zhōng de nǎ yìtiáo zuì nán zuòdào?
> Which of the Five Constant Virtues is the hardest to live up to?

经书 經書
jīngshū classic books in Confucianism / scriptures / sutras

礼仪 禮儀
lǐyí etiquette / ceremony

> 她没有一点礼仪。
> Tā méiyǒu yìdiǎn lǐyí.
> She has no manners at all.

伦理 倫理
lúnlǐ ethics

> 这门课讲的是伦理问题。
> Zhè mén kèjiǎng de shì lúnlǐ wèntí.
> This course is about ethical issues.

人性
rénxìng human nature / humanity / human / the totality of human attributes

> 人性本来就很复杂。
> Rénxìng běnlái jiù hěn fùzá.
> Human nature is complicated to begin with.

格物致知
géwùzhìzhī to study the underlying principle to acquire knowledge (idiom) / pursuing knowledge to the end

天道
tiāndào natural law / heavenly law / weather (dialect)

> 他相信天道不会被人改变。
> Tā xiāngxìn tiāndào búhuì bèi rén gǎibiàn.
> He believes the Way of Heaven cannot be changed by people.

天命
tiānmìng Mandate of Heaven / destiny / fate / one's life span

> 老人说自己天命将尽。
> Lǎorén shuō zìjǐ Tiānmìng jiāng jǐn.
> The old man said his days were nearly over.

逍遥 逍遙
xiāoyáo free and unfettered

老庄 老莊
lǎozhuāng Laozi and Zhuangzi (or Lao-tze and Chuang-tze), the founders of Daoism

> 他最近迷上了老庄的书。
> Tā zuìjìn mí shàng le Lǎo Zhuāng de shū.
> He's become fascinated with the books of Laozi and Zhuangzi lately.

养生 養生
yǎngshēng to maintain good health / to raise a child or animal / curing (of concrete etc)

> 她喜欢早睡早起来养生。
> Tā xǐhuan zǎoshuìzǎoqǐ lái yǎngshēng.
> She likes to go to bed and get up early to keep healthy.

太极 太極
tàijí the Absolute or Supreme Ultimate, the source of all things according to some interpretations of Chinese mythology

> 他抓住了太极的精髓。
> Tā zhuāzhùle Tàijí de jīngsuǐ.
> He has grasped the essence of tai chi.

八卦
bāguà the eight divinatory trigrams of the Book of Changes 易經|易经[Yi4 jing1] / gossip / gossipy

> 同事们都爱聊八卦。
> Tóngshìmen dōu ài liáo bāguà.
> My coworkers all love to chat about gossip.

易经 易經
yìjīng I Ching / Book of Changes

> 易经是中国很古老的书。
> Yìjīng shì Zhōngguó hěn gǔlǎo de shū.
> The Book of Changes is a very ancient Chinese book.

辩证 辯證
biànzhèng to investigate / dialectical

> 他的想法很辩证，不太极端。
> Tā de xiǎngfǎ hěn biànzhèng, bú tài jíduān.
> His thinking is quite dialectical and not very extreme.

法治
fǎzhì rule of law / to rule by law

> 法治是社会稳定的基础。
> Fǎzhì shì shèhuì wěndìng de jīchǔ.
> The rule of law is the foundation of social stability.

诸子百家 諸子百家
zhūzǐbǎijiā the Hundred Schools of Thought, the various schools of thought and their exponents during the Spring and Autumn and Warring States Periods (770-220 BC)

百家争鸣 百家爭鳴
bǎijiāzhēngmíng a hundred schools of thought contend (idiom) / refers to the classical philosophic schools of the Warring States period 475-221 BC

> 战国出现了百家争鸣。
> Zhànguó chūxiànle bǎijiāzhēngmíng.
> The Warring States period saw the contention of a hundred schools of thought.