CHINESE BOOST

Colours Chinese vocabulary list

70 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 53 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

Parts 1 2 3 4

Colours Chinese vocabulary list on the web
The same words as a CSV, for Anki or a spreadsheet
A free account, which keeps 简体 or 繁體, pinyin or 注音 and the rest of how you read Chinese on every device

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Elementary (HSK 1-3)

颜色 顏色

yánsè colour / pigment / dyestuff / countenance / appearance / facial expression

> 颜色是什么？
> Yánsè shì shénme?
> What is color?

红色 紅色

hóngsè red (color) / revolutionary

> 我最喜欢红色。
> Wǒ zuì xǐhuan hóngsè.
> My favorite color is red.

白色

báisè white / fig. reactionary / anti-communist

> 纸是白色的。
> Zhǐ shì báisè de.
> Paper is white.

黑色

hēisè black

> 猫是黑色的。
> Māo shì hēisè de.
> The cat is black.

绿色 綠色

lǜsè green

> 变成了绿色。
> Biànchéngle lǜsè.
> It turned green.

蓝 藍

lán blue / indigo plant / surname Lan

> 她有双蓝眼睛。
> Tā yǒu shuāng lán yǎnjing.
> She has blue eyes.

绿 綠

lǜ green / (derived from 綠帽子|绿帽子[lu:4 mao4 zi5]) to cheat on (one's spouse or boyfriend or girlfriend)
lù used in names / green (in 绿林 and 绿营)

> 我喜欢绿颜色。
> Wǒ xǐhuan lǜ yánsè.
> I like the green colour.

蓝色 藍色

lánsè blue (color)

黄色 黃色

huángsè yellow / vulgar / lewd / pornographic

> 我喜欢黄色。
> Wǒ xǐhuan huángsè.
> I like yellow.

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

紫色

zǐsè purple / violet (color)

咖啡色

kāfēisè coffee color / brown

深

shēn deep

> 颜色深了些。
> Yánsè shēnle xiē.
> The colour is a bit too dark.

金

jīn gold / chemical element Au / golden / money / generic term for lustrous and ductile metals / Jurchen Jin dynasty (1115–1234) / surname Kim (Korean) / one of the eight categories of ancient musical instruments /八音[ba1 yin1] / highly respected / surname Jin

> 这个项目是一块金。
> Zhège xiàngmù shì yíkuài jīn.
> This project is a gold nugget.

亮

liàng bright / light / to shine / to flash / to show (one's passport etc) / to make public (one's views etc) / loud and clear

> 灯没有亮着。
> Dēng méiyǒu liàngzhe.
> The lights aren't on.

橙

chéng orange tree / orange (color)
dèng stool / seat

红 紅

hóng red / surname Hong / bonus / popular / revolutionary
gōng used in 女红 nǚgōng (needlework; women's handiwork)

> 我喜欢红肉。
> Wǒ xǐhuan hóng ròu.
> I love red meat.

白

bái white / in vain / free of charge / (of facts, the truth, a situation) clear / evident (e.g. 真相大白[zhen1 xiang4 da4 bai2]) / reactionary / anti-communist (e.g. 白區|白区[bai2 qu1]) / Bai ethnic group / to explain / to state (e.g. 辯白|辩白[bian4 bai2]) / spoken lines in opera (e.g. 念白[nian4 bai2]) / to give a disdainful look (e.g. 白了他一眼[bai2 le5 ta1 yi1 yan3]) / vernacular (e.g. 白話|白话[bai2 hua4]) / plain / without additions (e.g. 白飯|白饭[bai2 fan4]) / surname Bai

> 他没有白死。
> Tā méiyǒu bái sǐ.
> He didn't die in vain.

黑

hēi black / dark / sinister / secret / shady / illegal / short name for Heilongjiang 黑龍江|黑龙江[Hei1 long2 jiang1] / to hack (computing) / to hide (sth) away / to vilify

> 云越来越黑。
> Yún yuèláiyuè hēi.
> The clouds are getting darker.

灰色

huīsè gray / ash gray / grizzly / pessimistic / gloomy / dispirited / ambiguous

> 她的袜子是灰色的。
> Tā de wàzi shì huīsè de.
> Her socks are gray.

橙色

chéngsè orange (color)

浅 淺

qiǎn shallow / not close (of relationships) / light (color) / superficial / limited (of learning or insight) / simple / easy to understand / short (of time)
jiān sound of moving water

> 这条河浅吗?
> Zhè tiáo hé qiǎn ma?
> Is this river shallow?

彩色

cǎisè color / multicolored

> 她穿了一条彩色的裙子。
> Tā chuān le yìtiáo cǎisè de qúnzi.
> She is wearing a multicolored skirt.

黑白

hēibái black and white / right and wrong / monochrome

> 这张老照片是黑白的。
> Zhè zhāng lǎo zhàopiān shì hēibái de.
> This old photo is black and white.

金色

jīnsè golden / gold (color)

银色 銀色

yínsè silver (color)

色彩

sècǎi tint / coloring / coloration / flavor / character

> 这幅画的色彩很丰富。
> Zhè fú huà de sècǎi hěn fēngfù.
> The colors in this painting are very rich.

淡

dàn indifferent / light in color / insipid / diluted / weak / mild / tasteless / nitrogen
yǎn (of water) brimming and calm

> 你有任何淡啤酒吗?
> Nǐ yǒu rènhé dàn píjiǔ ma?
> Do you have any light beer?

浓 濃

nóng dense / strong (smell etc) / concentrated

> 这咖啡很浓。
> Zhè kāfēi hěn nóng.
> This coffee is very strong.

五颜六色 五顏六色

wǔyánliùsè multicolored / every color under the sun

> 他们的旗五颜六色。
> Tāmen de qí wǔyánliùsè.
> Their flag was colourful.

青

qīng green / youth / short name for Qinghai 青海[Qing1 hai3] / blue / young (of people) / black

> 这些橘子还是青的，很酸。
> Zhèxiē júzi háishi qīng de, hěn suān.
> These oranges are still green and very sour.

象征 象徵

xiàngzhēng symbol / emblem / to symbolize / to signify / to represent

> 富士山是日本的象征。
> Fùshì Shān shì Rìběn de xiàngzhēng.
> Mt. Fuji is a symbol of Japan.

暗

àn dark / secret / hidden / to turn dark / confused / ignorant

> 天暗了下来。
> Tiān àn le xiàlai.
> The sky turned dark.

雪白

xuěbái snow white

> 这只小猫的毛是雪白的。
> Zhè zhī xiǎomāo de máo shì xuěbái de.
> This kitten's fur is snow white.

金黄 金黃

jīnhuáng golden yellow / golden

丰富多彩 豐富多彩

fēngfùduōcǎi richly colorful

> 大学生活丰富多彩。
> Dàxué shēnghuó fēngfù-duōcǎi.
> University life is rich and colorful.

火红 火紅
huǒhóng fiery / blazing

> 火红的太阳慢慢升起来了。
> Huǒhóng de tàiyang mànmàn shēng qǐlaile.
> The blazing red sun slowly rose.

粉红色 粉紅色
fěnhóngsè pink

> 女儿的书包是粉红色的。
> Nǚ'ér de shūbāo shì fěnhóngsè de.
> My daughter's schoolbag is pink.

淡黄 淡黃
dànhuáng light yellow

> 春天到了，树上长出淡黄的小花。
> Chūntiān dàole, shù shàng zhǎng chū dànhuáng de xiǎohuā.
> Spring has come, and little light yellow flowers are growing on the trees.

黄 黃
huáng yellow / surname Huang or Hwang / pornographic / to fall through

> 这花是黄的。
> Zhè huā shì huáng de.
> The flower is yellow.

棕色
zōngsè brown

> 她有棕色鞋。
> Tā yǒu zōngsè xié.
> She has brown shoes.

鲜艳 鮮豔
xiānyàn bright-colored / gaily-colored

> 春天的花开得很鲜艳。
> Chūntiān de huā kāi de hěn xiānyàn.
> The spring flowers are blooming in bright colors.

颜料 顏料
yánliào paint / dye / pigment

染
rǎn to contaminate / to dye / to add color washes to a painting / to catch (a disease) / to acquire (bad habits etc)

> 你染过头发吗?
> Nǐ rǎnguo tóufa ma?
> Have you ever dyed your hair?

明亮
míngliàng bright / shining / glittering / to become clear

> 我喜欢明亮的颜色。
> Wǒ xǐhuan míngliàng de yánsè.
> I like bright colors.

银 銀
yín relating to money or currency / silver / silver-colored

> 你在哪买的银?
> Nǐ zài nǎ mǎi de yín?
> How do you buy silver?

图案 圖案
tú'àn design / pattern

> 我注意到一个图案。
> Wǒ zhùyì dào yí gè tú'àn.
> I noticed a pattern.

花色
huāsè variety / design and color / suit (cards)

乌黑 烏黑
wūhēi jet-black / dark

单色 單色
dānsè monochrome / monochromatic / black and white

墨绿 墨綠
mòlǜ dark green / forest green

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

花纹 花紋
huāwén decorative design

> 她喜欢买有花纹的杯子。
> Tā xǐhuan mǎi yǒu huāwén de bēizi.
> She likes to buy cups with decorative patterns.

格子
gézi lattice / check (pattern of squares)

> 他穿着一件红色格子衬衫。
> Tā chuānzhe yí jiàn hóngsè gézi chènshān.
> He is wearing a red checked shirt.

斑点 斑點
bāndiǎn spot / stain / speckle

> 她脸上长了一些斑点。
> Tā liǎnshàng zhǎngle yìxiē bāndiǎn.
> She has some spots on her face.

朱红 朱紅
zhūhóng vermilion

> 故宫的墙是朱红的，很好看。
> Gùgōng de qiáng shì zhūhóng de, hěn hǎokàn.
> The walls of the Forbidden City are vermilion and very beautiful.

翠绿 翠綠
cuìlǜ greenish-blue / emerald green

> 湖水看起来很翠绿。
> Hú shuǐ kànqǐlai hěn cuìlǜ.
> The lake water looks a deep greenish-blue.

喜庆 喜慶
xǐqìng jubilation / festive

> 这身红衣服穿着真喜庆!
> Zhè shēn hóng yīfu chuānzhe zhēn xǐqìng!
> This red outfit looks so festive!

吉利
jílì auspicious / lucky / propitious / Geely, Chinese car make

> 八是个吉利的数字。
> Bā shì gè Jílì de shùzì.
> Eight is a lucky number.

通红 通紅

tōnghóng very red / red through and through / to blush (deep red)

> 老师的脸涨得通红。
> Lǎoshī de liǎn zhǎng de tōnghóng.
> The teacher's face was bright red.

漆黑

qīhēi pitch-black

> 外面一片漆黑。
> Wàimiàn yípiàn qīhēi.
> It's all dark outside.

碧绿 碧綠

bìlǜ dark green

> 雨后的茶园一片碧绿。
> Yǔ hòu de cháyuán yípiàn bìlǜ.
> After the rain, the tea garden is a sea of deep green.

刺眼

cìyǎn to dazzle / to offend the eyes / dazzling / harsh (light) / crude (colors) / unsightly

> 这灯太刺眼了，请关掉。
> Zhè dēng tài cìyǎnle, qǐng guāndiào.
> This light is too harsh, so please turn it off.

蔚蓝 蔚藍

wèilán azure / sky-blue

> 雨后的天空特别蔚蓝。
> Yǔ hòu de tiānkōng tèbié wèilán.
> The sky is especially blue after the rain.

Outside HSK

条纹 條紋

tiáowén stripe

变色 變色

biànsè to change color / to discolor / to change countenance / to become angry

灰暗

huī'àn dull gray / drab / murky

> 灰暗的天空让人心情不好。
> Huī'àn de tiānkōng ràng rén xīnqíng bù hǎo.
> The dull grey sky puts people in a bad mood.

天蓝 天藍

tiānlán sky blue

> 她穿了一条天蓝的裙子。
> Tā chuān le yìtiáo tiānlán de qúnzi.
> She was wearing a sky-blue skirt.

深蓝 深藍

shēnlán dark blue / Deep Blue, chess-playing computer, first to defeat reigning world champion, developed by IBM (1985-1997)

> 远处的海水是深蓝的。
> Yuǎnchù de hǎishuǐ shì shēnlán de.
> The sea in the distance is dark blue.

米色

mǐsè beige

褐色

hèsè brown

大红 大紅

dàhóng crimson

> 门口挂着两个大红的灯笼。
> Ménkǒu guàzhe liǎng gè dàhóng de dēnglóng.
> Two bright red lanterns hang by the door.