CHINESE BOOST

Cooking Chinese vocabulary list

113 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 97 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

Parts 1 2 3 4

Cooking 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

Chinese Boost. Licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International Licence.

Elementary (HSK 1-3)

做饭 做飯

zuòfàn to prepare a meal / to cook

> 你们会做饭吗?
> Nǐmen huì zuòfàn ma?
> Can you cook?

菜

cài dish (of food) / vegetable / greens / weak / poor / (one's) type

> 是日本菜吗?
> Shì Rìběn cài ma?
> Is it Japanese food?

米饭 米飯

mǐfàn rice

> 我在吃米饭。
> Wǒ zài chī mǐfàn.
> I am eating rice.

鸡蛋 雞蛋

jīdàn egg / hen's egg

> 我不喜欢鸡蛋。
> Wǒ bù xǐhuan jīdàn.
> I don't care for eggs.

饺子 餃子

jiǎozi dumpling / pot-sticker

> 我很想吃饺子。
> Wǒ hěn xiǎng chī jiǎozi.
> I feel like having some dumplings.

肉

ròu meat / flesh / pulp (of a fruit) / (of a fruit) squashy / flabby / irresolute / Kangxi radical 130

> 你们吃肉吗?
> Nǐmen chī ròu ma?
> Do you eat meat?

洗

xǐ to wash / to bathe / to clear away / to wipe out (a shame) / to loot / to wipe out / to shuffle (cards etc) / to erase (a recording) / to develop (photographs)
xiǎn surname Xian

> 他洗了苹果。
> Tā xǐle píngguǒ.
> He washed the apples.

包

bāo bag / container / package / wrapper / bundle / packet / to cover / to wrap / to hold / to hold or embrace / stuffed bun / surname Bao / to take charge of / to contract (to or for) / to include

> 你的包开着。
> Nǐ de bāo kāizhe.
> Your bag's open.

盘子 盤子

pánzi plate / dish / tray

> 我需要盘子。
> Wǒ xūyào pánzi.
> I need a plate.

面条 麵條

miàntiáo noodles

> 我吃面条。
> Wǒ chī miàntiáo.
> I eat noodles.

糖

táng sugar / sweets / candy

> 你用多少糖?
> Nǐ yòng duōshǎo táng?
> How much sugar do you use?

加

jiā to add / to increase / to augment / plus / (used before a disyllabic verb, often after an adverb like 不[bu4], 大[da4], 稍[shao1] etc, to indicate that the action applies to sth previously mentioned, as in 稍加改良[shao1 jia1 gai3 liang2] "make some minor improvements to (it)") / Canada (abbr. for 加拿大[Jia1 na2 da4]) / surname Jia

> 能加你微信吗?
> Néng jiā nǐ Wēixìn ma?
> Can I have your number?

放
fàng to put / to place / to release / to free / to let go / to let out / to show (a film) / to play (a recording) / to loosen up / to ease (tension) / to make (more) relaxed / to set off (fireworks)
fǎng to follow / to rely on / to imitate / to reach / to arrive at
fāng to lash boats side by side

> 多放一点糖。
> Duō fàng yìdiǎn táng.
> Put in a little more sugar.

冰箱
bīngxiāng refrigerator / icebox

> 他们卖了冰箱。
> Tāmen màile bīngxiāng.
> They sold a refrigerator.

碗
wǎn bowl / cup

> 我们有几个碗?
> Wǒmen yǒu jǐ ge wǎn?
> How many bowls do we have?

筷子
kuàizi chopsticks

> 筷子怎么用?
> Kuàizi zěnme yòng?
> How do I use chopsticks?

勺子
sháozi spoon / ladle

> 把勺子给我。
> Bǎ sháozi gěi wǒ.
> Give me the spoon.

新鲜 新鮮
xīnxiān fresh (experience, food etc) / freshness / novel / uncommon

> 面包不新鲜。
> Miànbāo bù xīnxiān.
> The bread is not fresh.

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

做菜
zuòcài to cook / cooking

> 做菜的时候要小心火。
> Zuòcài de shíhou yào xiǎoxīn huǒ.
> You need to be careful with the fire when cooking.

厨房 廚房
chúfáng kitchen

> 厨房不干净。
> Chúfáng bù gānjìng.
> The kitchen is not clean.

刀
dāo knife / blade / single-edged sword / cutlass / classifier for knife cuts or stabs / to bargain / to ask for a small discount (esp. on second-hand marketplaces) / (loanword) dollar / classifier for sets of one hundred sheets (of paper) / to knife (sb) (often used hyperbolically, as in 想刀他[xiang3 dao1 ta1] "I could kill him!") / surname Dao

> 这才是刀!
> Zhè cái shì dāo!
> Now this is a knife!

盐 鹽
yán salt
yàn to salt / to pickle / to admire / to envy / prelude of a song / melody

> 别放太多盐。
> Bié fàng tài duō yán.
> Don't add too much salt.

烤
kǎo to roast / to grill / to broil / to bake / to toast (bread) / to warm oneself by a fire

> 你在你的厨房里烤东西。
> Nǐ zài nǐ de chúfáng lǐ kǎo dōngxi.
> You bake in your kitchen.

油
yóu oil / fat / grease / petroleum / oily / greasy / to apply tung oil, paint or varnish / glib / cunning

> 我们没油了。
> Wǒmen méi yóu le.
> We have run out of gas.

火
huǒ fire / hot (popular) / fiery or flaming / internal heat (Chinese medicine) / ammunition / urgent / classifier for military units (old) / Kangxi radical 86 / surname Huo

> 我们需要火。
> Wǒmen xūyào huǒ.
> We need fire.

熟
shú thoroughly cooked / done / familiar / acquainted / ripe / mature / experienced / skilled / deep / profound
shóu cooked / done (colloquial pronunciation of 熟)

> 我跟她不熟。
> Wǒ gēn tā bù shú.
> I'm not acquainted with her.

生
shēng to grow / to give birth / to produce / to be born / to arise / to occur / to get angry (as in 生气) / raw / uncooked / unprocessed / to live / to be alive / life / student / person engaged in a field / to light (a fire) / means of livelihood / life / lifetime / unfamiliar / strange / male role in traditional opera / in a forced manner (as in 生拉硬拽[sheng1 la1 ying4 zhuai4]) / very / intensely (as in 生疼[sheng1 teng2])

> 他生在希腊。
> Tā shēng zài Xīlà.
> He was born in Greece.

汤 湯

tāng soup / water in which sth has been boiled / decoction of medicinal herbs / hot or boiling water / hot spring (mostly in place names) / surname Tang
shāng rushing current
tàng to heat / to scald / to sway / to wander about / to bump into / to collide with
yáng sunny / bright (of the rising sun)

> 我要这个汤。
> Wǒ yào zhège tāng.
> I would like to have this soup.

厨师 廚師

chúshī cook / chef

> 厨师在哪里？
> Chúshī zài nǎlǐ?
> Where's the cook?

锅 鍋

guō pot / pan / wok / cauldron / pot-shaped thing

> 锅里的水已经开了。
> Guō lǐ de shuǐ yǐjīng kāile.
> The water in the pot is already boiling.

炒

chǎo to sauté / to stir-fry / to sack / to fire (sb) / to hype up / to speculate (in real estate etc) / to scalp

> 秘书被炒了。
> Mìshū bèi chǎole.
> The secretary was dismissed.

煮

zhǔ to cook / to boil

> 她煮菜不加盐。
> Tā zhǔ cài bù jiā yán.
> She doesn't use salt when cooking.

炸

zhà to blow up / to bomb / to burst / to explode / to scamper off / to scatter / to fly into a rage
zhá to deep fry / to blanch (a vegetable)

> 我的头要炸了。
> Wǒ de tóu yào zhà le.
> My head is exploding.

烧 燒

shāo to burn / to set on fire / to heat (over a fire) / to boil (water, tea etc) / to cook / to prepare food / fever / to braise / to run a fever / to become full of oneself / to get carried away
shào wildfire / grass fire / to burn off wild grass (to fertilize land)

> 我发了两天烧。
> Wǒ fāle liǎng tiān shāo.
> I had fever for two days.

食材

shícái ingredient

叉子

chāzi fork

> 叉子不见了。
> Chāzi bújiànle.
> The fork is missing.

原料

yuánliào raw material

> 日本依赖进口原料。
> Rìběn yīlài jìnkǒu yuánliào.
> Japan depends on imports for raw materials.

醋

cù vinegar / jealousy (in love rivalry)
zuò (of a guest) to pledge the host in return

> 我们需要买醋。
> Wǒmen xūyào mǎi cù.
> We need to buy vinegar.

酱油 醬油

jiàngyóu soy sauce

> 混合米、蛋跟酱油。
> Hùnhé mǐ, dàn gēn jiàngyóu.
> Mix the rice and eggs with soy sauce.

食谱 食譜

shípǔ cookbook / recipe / diet

步骤 步驟

bùzhòu procedure / step

> 第一个步骤是先把水烧开。
> Dì yī gè bùzhòu shì xiān bǎ shuǐ shāokāi.
> The first step is to boil the water.

面粉 麵粉

miànfěn flour

> 面包是面粉做的。
> Miànbāo shì miànfěn zuò de.
> Bread is made from flour.

辣椒

làjiāo hot pepper / chili

> 这道菜放太多辣椒了。
> Zhè dào cài fàng tài duō làjiāo le.
> This dish has too much chili pepper in it.

料酒

liàojiǔ cooking wine

> 炒鱼之前，先倒一点料酒。
> Chǎo yú zhīqián, xiān dào yìdiǎn liàojiǔ.
> Before stir-frying the fish, pour in a little cooking wine first.

盛

chéng to contain / to hold / to ladle / to pick up with a utensil
shèng flourishing / magnificent / vigorous / intense / warm (of feeling) / extensively / surname Sheng / greatly / with all one's might

> 你有碗盛汤吗？
> Nǐ yǒu wǎn chéng tāng ma?
> Do you have a soup bowl?

酱 醬

jiàng marinated in soy paste / jam / thick paste of fermented soybean / paste

> 炒肉时放点酱，会更香。
> Chǎo ròu shí fàng diǎn jiàng, huì gèng xiāng.
> Add a little soybean paste when you stir-fry meat, and it'll taste better.

电饭锅 電飯鍋
diànfànguō electric rice cooker
> 我想买一个新的电饭锅。
> Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yí gè xīn de diànfànguō.
> I want to buy a new rice cooker.

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

菜谱 菜譜
càipǔ menu (in restaurant) / recipe / cookbook
> 这道菜的菜谱是我奶奶教我的。
> Zhè dào cài de càipǔ shì wǒ nǎinai jiāo wǒ de.
> My grandmother taught me the recipe for this dish.

蒸
zhēng to steam / to evaporate / torch made from hemp stalks or bamboo (old) / finely chopped firewood (old)
> 锅里的水都蒸光了。
> Guō lǐ de shuǐ dōu zhēng guāng le.
> All the water in the pot has boiled away.

煎
jiān to pan fry / to sauté
> 我去用锅煎一个蛋。
> Wǒ qù yòng guō jiān yí gè dàn.
> I am going to fry an egg in a pan.

炖 燉
dùn to stew
tún blazing (of fire)
> 东坡肉要慢慢炖才好吃。
> Dōngpōròu yào mànmàn dùn cái hǎochī.
> Dongpo pork has to be stewed slowly to taste good.

调料 調料
tiáoliào condiment / seasoning / flavoring
> 做这道菜要放什么调料?
> Zuò zhè dào cài yào fàng shénme tiáoliào?
> What seasoning should I put in this dish?

火候
huǒhou heat control / mastery / crucial moment
> 炒菜要掌握好火候。
> Chǎocài yào zhǎngwò hǎo huǒhou.
> When stir-frying, you have to control the heat well.

炉子 爐子
lúzi stove / oven / furnace
> 炉子的热向四周辐射。
> Lúzi de rè xiàng sìzhōu fúshè.
> The heat from the stove radiates in all directions.

微波炉 微波爐
wēibōlú microwave oven
> 我们是时候买新的微波炉了。
> Wǒmen shì shíhou mǎi xīn de wēibōlú le.
> It is about time we bought a new microwave oven.

搅拌 攪拌
jiǎobàn to stir / to agitate
> 把鸡蛋和牛奶搅拌均匀。
> Bǎ jīdàn hé niúnǎi jiǎobàn jūnyún.
> Stir the eggs and milk together until evenly mixed.

揉
róu to rub / to knead / to massage / to bend or straighten wood
> 她揉了揉她的眼睛。
> Tā róule róu tā de yǎnjing.
> She rubbed her eyes.

馅 餡
xiàn filling / stuffing (for dumplings, pies etc)
> 这饺子是什么馅的啊?
> Zhè jiǎozi shì shénme xiàn de a?
> What is the filling in these dumplings?

葱 蔥
cōng green onion / scallion
chuāng a carriage with lattice windows
> 我不喜欢葱。
> Wǒ bù xǐhuan cōng.
> I don't like green onions.

姜
jiāng ginger / surname Jiang
> 我讨厌姜味。
> Wǒ tǎoyàn jiāng wèi.
> I hate the taste of ginger.

蒜
suàn garlic
> 出家人不吃葱蒜这类荤。
> Chūjiārén bùchī cōng suàn zhè lèi hūn.
> Monks do not eat pungent vegetables like onions and garlic.

胡椒
hújiāo pepper

味精
wèijīng monosodium glutamate (MSG)
> 请问汤里放味精了吗?
> Qǐngwèn tāng lǐ fàng wèijīng le ma?
> Excuse me, is there MSG in the soup?

香料
xiāngliào spice / flavoring / condiment / perfume
> 我喜欢香料。
> Wǒ xǐhuan xiāngliào.
> I like spices.

淀粉 澱粉
diànfěn starch / amylum (C6H10O5)n
> 土豆里含有很多淀粉。
> Tǔdòu lǐ hányǒu hěn duō diànfěn.
> Potatoes contain a lot of starch.

菜刀
càidāo vegetable knife / kitchen knife / cleaver
> 孩子还小，别让他一个人拿菜刀。
> Háizi hái xiǎo, bié ràng tā yí gè rén ná càidāo.
> The child is still small, so don't let him hold a kitchen knife alone.

腌
yān to marinate / to salt / to pickle / to cure (meat) / to irritate the skin (of sweat, tears) / to make skin red or sore
ā used in 腌臢|腌臜[a1 za1]

煲
bāo to cook slowly in such a pot / deep cooking pot

> 周末妈妈会煲鸡汤。
> Zhōumò māma huì bāo jītāng.
> On weekends Mom simmers chicken soup.

剥 剝
bāo to peel / to skin / to shell / to shuck
bō to peel / to skin / to flay / to shuck

> 我给你剥橙子。
> Wǒ gěi nǐ bāo chéngzi.
> I'll peel an orange for you.

削
xiāo to cut (a ball at tennis etc) / to peel with a knife / to pare
xuē to exploit / to fleece / to reduce / to remove / to pare
qiào scabbard / sheath

> 帮我削一下土豆。
> Bāng wǒ xiāo yíxià tǔdòu.
> Help me peel the potatoes.

切片
qiēpiàn to slice / slice / thin section of a specimen (for microscopic examination)

> 把土豆切片，然后放进锅里。
> Bǎ tǔdòu qiēpiàn, ránhòu fàngjìn guō lǐ.
> Slice the potatoes, then put them in the pot.

调味 調味
tiáowèi seasoning / condiment / flavoring / dressing / essences

> 炒菜时别太早调味。
> Chǎocài shí bié tài zǎo tiáowèi.
> Don't season too early when stir-frying.

沸腾 沸騰
fèiténg to boil / to boil over / to flare up / to be impassioned

> 水已经沸腾了，快关火。
> Shuǐ yǐjīng fèiténgle, kuài guān huǒ.
> The water is boiling, so turn off the heat quickly.

烹饪 烹飪
pēngrèn cooking / culinary arts

> 你擅长烹饪吗？
> Nǐ shàncháng pēngrèn ma?
> Are you good at cooking?

烹调 烹調
pēngtiáo to cook

> 烹调海鲜时，火不能太大。
> Pēngtiáo hǎixiān shí, huǒ bùnéng tài dà.
> When cooking seafood, the heat can't be too high.

熬
áo to cook on a slow fire / to extract by heating / to decoct / to endure
āo to simmer / to boil slowly

> 妈妈正在用小火熬粥。
> Māma zhèngzài yòng xiǎohuǒ áo zhōu.
> Mom is cooking porridge over a low flame.

拌
bàn to mix / to mix in / to toss (a salad)
pàn to split / to separate / to give up / to disregard

> 用勺子把酸奶拌一拌。
> Yòng sháozi bǎ suānnǎi bàn yí bàn.
> Stir the yogurt with a spoon.

料理
liàolǐ to cook / cuisine / art of cooking / to arrange / to handle

> 我爱韩国料理。
> Wǒ ài Hánguó liàolǐ.
> I love Korean food.

榨
zhà device for extracting juice, oils etc / to press / to extract (juice) / to press / to extract (juice)

> 花生可以榨出很多油。
> Huāshēng kěyǐ zhà chū hěn duō yóu.
> Peanuts can be pressed to yield a lot of oil.

蘸
zhàn to dip in (ink, sauce etc)

> 你吃饺子喜欢蘸什么？
> Nǐ chī jiǎozi xǐhuan zhàn shénme?
> What do you like to dip your dumplings in?

发酵 發酵
fājiào to ferment / (of trends, emotions or repercussions etc) to bubble away / to simmer / to develop

> 酒被放在桶里发酵。
> Jiǔ bèi fàng zài tǒng lǐ fājiào.
> Wine is put in barrels to mature.

配方
pèifāng prescription / cooking recipe / formulation / completing the square (to solve quadratic equation, math.)

> 老店一直沿用传统配方。
> Lǎo diàn yìzhí yányòng chuántǒng pèifāng.
> The old shop has always kept using its traditional recipe.

冷冻 冷凍
lěngdòng to freeze (food etc) / freezing

> 你能冷冻它吗？
> Nǐ néng lěngdòng tā ma?
> Can you freeze it?

酿造 釀造
niàngzào to brew / to make (wine, vinegar, soybean paste etc) by fermentation

> 外婆每年都酿造米酒。
> Wàipó měinián dōu niàngzào mǐjiǔ.
> My grandmother makes rice wine every year.

腌制 腌製
yānzhì marinated / to make by pickling, salting or curing

涮
shuàn to cook by dipping finely sliced ingredients briefly in boiling water or soup (generally done at the dining table) / to rinse / to swish (in water) / to trick / to fool sb

> 锅开了，快把肉片涮一下吧。
> Guō kāile, kuài bǎ ròupiàn shuàn yíxià ba.
> The pot is boiling, so quickly swish the meat slices in.

香油
xiāngyóu sesame oil / perfumed oil

> 家里的香油用完了吗?
> Jiālǐ de xiāngyóu yòng wánle ma?
> Have we run out of sesame oil at home?

炊具
chuījù cooking utensils / cookware / cooker

调味料 調味料
tiáowèiliào seasoning / condiment / flavoring / dressing / essences

> 做饭前先把调味料准备好。
> Zuòfàn qián xiān bǎ tiáowèiliào zhǔnbèi hǎo.
> Get the seasonings ready before you start cooking.

作料
zuòliao condiments / seasoning / coll. pr. [zuo2 liao5]

> 炒菜时放点作料，味道更好。
> Chǎocài shí fàng diǎn zuòliao, wèidao gèng hǎo.
> Add some seasoning when you stir-fry, and it tastes better.

烘焙
hōngbèi to cure by drying over a fire (tea, meat etc) / to bake

> 茶叶烘焙太久会发苦。
> Cháyè hōngbèi tài jiǔ huì fā kǔ.
> If tea leaves are roasted too long, they turn bitter.

Outside HSK

砧板
zhēnbǎn cutting board / chopping block

炒锅 炒鍋
chǎoguō wok / frying pan

> 新买的炒锅要先洗干净。
> Xīn mǎi de chǎoguō yào xiān xǐ gānjìng.
> A newly bought wok has to be washed clean first.

蒸笼 蒸籠
zhēnglóng steamer basket (e.g. for dim sum)

电饭煲 電飯煲
diànfànbāo electric rice cooker

> 电饭煲里的饭还热着呢。
> Diànfànbāo lǐ de fàn hái rè zhe ne.
> The rice in the rice cooker is still warm.

凉拌 涼拌
liángbàn to dress cold food with sauce / there's not much you can do about it (wordplay using 拌[ban4] instead of its homophone 辦|办[ban4])

> 凉拌黄瓜里要加几滴香油。
> Liángbàn huángguā lǐ yào jiā jǐ dī xiāngyóu.
> You need to add a few drops of sesame oil to the cucumber salad.

红烧 紅燒
hóngshāo to braise in soy sauce until reddish-brown

> 你想吃红烧鲤鱼还是蒸鱼?
> Nǐ xiǎng chī hóngshāo lǐyú háishi zhēng yú?
> Would you like braised carp or steamed fish?

焯
chāo to blanch / to parboil
zhuō bright / clear / obvious

焖 燜
mèn to cook in a covered vessel / to casserole / to stew

爆炒
bàochǎo to stir-fry rapidly using a high flame / to conduct a media blitz / to manipulate a stock market through large-scale buying and selling

> 这道菜要用大火爆炒。
> Zhè dào cài yào yòng dàhuǒ bàochǎo.
> This dish needs to be quick-fried over high heat.

勾芡
gōuqiàn to thicken with cornstarch

刀工
dāogōng knife work (food preparation)

砂锅 砂鍋
shāguō casserole / earthenware pot

文火
wénhuǒ small flame (when cooking, simmering etc)

> 汤要用文火慢慢炖。
> Tāng yào yòng wénhuǒ mànmàn dùn.
> The soup should be stewed slowly over a gentle flame.

擀面杖 擀麵杖
gǎnmiànzhàng rolling pin

高压锅 高壓鍋
gāoyāguō pressure cooker

> 高压锅炖牛肉特别快。
> Gāoyāguō dùnniúròu tèbié kuài.
> Stewing beef in a pressure cooker is especially fast.

翻炒
fānchǎo to stir-fry

> 先翻炒几下，再加点盐。
> Xiān fānchǎo jǐ xià, zài jiādiǎn yán.
> Toss it in the pan a few times first, then add a little salt.

锅铲 鍋鏟
guōchǎn wok spatula / cooking spatula

> 木头锅铲不会刮坏锅。
> Mùtou guōchǎn búhuì guā huài guō.
> A wooden spatula won't scratch the pan.

蒸锅 蒸鍋
zhēngguō steamer

> 你有大一点的蒸锅吗?
> Nǐ yǒu dà yìdiǎn de zhēngguō ma?
> Do you have a bigger steamer?

高汤 高湯
gāotāng clear soup / soup stock

> 煮面时加一点高汤更香。
> Zhǔmiàn shí jiā yìdiǎn gāotāng gèng xiāng.
> Adding a little stock when cooking noodles makes them more fragrant.

酱料 酱料

jiàngliào sauce

> 店里的酱料可以自己调。
> Diàn lǐ de jiàngliào kěyǐ zìjǐ diào.
> You can mix the sauces yourself at this restaurant.

量杯

liángbēi measuring cup / graduated measuring cylinder

焯水

chāoshuǐ to blanch / to parboil