CHINESE BOOST

Greetings and politeness Chinese vocabulary list

103 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 88 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

Parts 1 2 3 4

Greetings and politeness 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)

你好
nǐhǎo hello / hi

谢谢 謝謝
xièxie to thank / thanks / thank you

> 不冷，谢谢。
> Bù lěng, xièxie.
> I'm not cold, thanks.

不客气 不客氣
bùkèqi you're welcome / don't mention it / impolite / rude / blunt

对不起 對不起
duìbuqǐ I'm sorry / excuse me / I beg your pardon / to let (sb) down / to disappoint

> 你对不起我。
> Nǐ duìbuqǐ wǒ.
> You do me wrong.

没关系 沒關係
méiguānxi it doesn't matter

> 不，没关系。
> Bù, méiguānxi.
> No, there's no problem.

再见 再見
zàijiàn goodbye

> 我不会再见她。
> Wǒ búhuì zàijiàn tā.
> I won't see her again.

请 請
qǐng please (do sth) / to ask / to invite / to request / to treat (to a meal etc)
qìng autumn court audience

> 请上去。
> Qǐng shàngqù.
> Please go up.

您
nín you (courteous, as opposed to informal 你[ni3])

> 中国欢迎您！
> Zhōngguó huānyíng nín!
> Welcome to China!

请问 請問
qǐngwèn Excuse me, may I ask...?

> 请问这是谁？
> Qǐngwèn zhè shì shéi?
> Who is this, please?

您好
nínhǎo hello (polite)

> 您好，我想买两个苹果。
> Nínhǎo, wǒ xiǎng mǎi liǎng gè píngguǒ.
> Hello, I'd like to buy two apples.

快乐 快樂
kuàilè happy / joyful

> 万圣节快乐！
> Wànshèngjié kuàilè!
> Happy Halloween!

新年快乐 新年快樂
xīnniánkuàilè Happy New Year!

> 老师，新年快乐！
> Lǎoshī, xīnniánkuàilè!
> Happy New Year, teacher!

生日快乐 生日快樂
shēngrìkuàilè Happy birthday

> 我给姐姐打电话说生日快乐。
> Wǒ gěi jiějie dǎdiànhuà shuō shēngrìkuàilè.
> I called my older sister to say happy birthday.

早上好
zǎoshanghǎo Good morning!

> 见到老师要说早上好。
> Jiàndào lǎoshī yàoshuō zǎoshanghǎo.
> When you see your teacher, you should say good morning.

不好意思
bùhǎoyìsi to be sorry (for inconveniencing sb) / to feel embarrassed / to find it embarrassing

> 不好意思，借过一下。
> Bùhǎoyìsi, jièguò yíxià.
> Sorry, excuse me, let me through.

欢迎 歡迎
huānyíng to welcome / welcome

> 中国欢迎你!
> Zhōngguó huānyíng nǐ!
> Welcome to China!

多谢 多謝
duōxiè many thanks / thanks a lot

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

有礼貌 有禮貌
yǒulǐmào courteous / polite

祝
zhù to wish (sb bon voyage, happy birthday etc) / to pray for / surname Zhu / person who invokes the spirits during sacrificial ceremonies / to cut off / to sever
zhòu to curse

> 祝一切都好!
> Zhù yíqiè dōu hǎo!
> All the best!

麻烦 麻煩
máfan trouble / inconvenience / to bother sb / to put sb to trouble / inconvenient / troublesome / annoying

> 不用麻烦了。
> Búyòng máfan le.
> Don't bother.

晚安
wǎn'ān Good night! / Good evening!

> 我要睡觉了，晚安。
> Wǒ yào shuìjiàole, wǎn'ān.
> I'm going to bed. Good night.

礼貌 禮貌
lǐmào courteous / polite / courtesy / politeness / manners

> 你不讲礼貌。
> Nǐ bù jiǎng lǐmào.
> You have no manners.

客气 客氣
kèqi polite / courteous / formal / modest

> 请不要客气。
> Qǐng búyào kèqi.
> Please make yourself at home.

抱歉
bàoqiàn to be sorry / to feel apologetic / sorry!

> 我非常抱歉。
> Wǒ fēicháng bàoqiàn.
> I'm terribly sorry.

道歉
dàoqiàn to apologize

> 他会道歉的。
> Tā huì dàoqiàn de.
> He'll apologize.

感谢 感謝
gǎnxiè to thank / to be grateful

> 同样感谢你。
> Tóngyàng gǎnxiè nǐ.
> Thank you all the same.

祝贺 祝賀
zhùhè to congratulate / congratulations

> 他们祝贺我们的胜利。
> Tāmen zhùhè wǒmen de shènglì.
> They congratulated us on our victory.

打招呼
dǎzhāohu to greet sb by word or action / to give prior notice

> 每次见面都打招呼。
> Měicì jiànmiàn dōu dǎzhāohu.
> Greet someone every time you meet them.

问好 問好
wènhǎo to say hello to / to send one's regards to

> 回家请向你妈妈问好。
> Huíjiā qǐng xiàng nǐ māma wènhǎo.
> Please give my regards to your mother when you get home.

表扬 表揚
biǎoyáng to praise / to commend

> 老师当着全班表扬了他。
> Lǎoshī dāngzhe quánbān biǎoyángle tā.
> The teacher praised him in front of the whole class.

鼓励 鼓勵
gǔlì to encourage

> 没有人鼓励他。
> Méiyǒu rén gǔlì tā.
> Nobody encouraged him.

原谅 原諒
yuánliàng to excuse / to forgive / to pardon

> 你原谅我吗?
> Nǐ yuánliàng wǒ ma?
> Do you forgive me?

打扰 打擾
dǎrǎo to disturb / to bother / to trouble

> 别打扰我。
> Bié dǎrǎo wǒ.
> Don't disturb me.

尊重
zūnzhòng to esteem / to respect / to honor / to value / eminent / serious / proper

> 他们互相尊重。
> Tāmen hùxiāng zūnzhòng.
> They have mutual respect.

慢走
mànzǒu Stay a bit! / Wait a minute! / Take care!

> 再见，慢走，下次再来玩!
> Zàijiàn, mànzǒu, xiàcì zài lái wán!
> Goodbye, take care, and come visit again next time!

欢迎光临 歡迎光臨

huānyíngguānglín Welcome! (used by staff to greet customers when they enter a shop or restaurant)

> 欢迎光临，请问几位？
> Huānyíngguānglín, qǐngwèn jǐ wèi?
> Welcome! How many in your party?

恭喜

gōngxǐ to congratulate / congratulations!

> 我要恭喜你。
> Wǒ yào gōngxǐ nǐ.
> I should congratulate you.

幸会 幸會

xìnghuì nice to meet you

握手

wòshǒu to shake hands
òushǒu burial hand-covering

> 让我们握手吧。
> Ràng wǒmen wòshǒu ba.
> Let's shake hands.

拥抱 擁抱

yōngbào to embrace / to hug

> 她想拥抱他。
> Tā xiǎng yōngbào tā.
> She wants to hug him.

迎接

yíngjiē to welcome / to greet

> 她用一个微笑迎接了我。
> Tā yòng yí gè wēixiào yíngjiēle wǒ.
> She greeted me with a smile.

接待

jiēdài to receive / to entertain / to host (guests, visitors or clients)

> 明天公司要接待重要客户。
> Míngtiān gōngsī yào jiēdài zhòngyào kèhù.
> The company will receive an important client tomorrow.

称赞 稱讚

chēngzàn to praise / to commend / to compliment

> 他称赞了我。
> Tā chēngzànle wǒ.
> He paid me a compliment.

告别 告別

gàobié to leave / to part from / to bid farewell to / to say goodbye to

> 他向学生们告别了。
> Tā xiàng xuéshengmen gàobiéle.
> He bade farewell to the students.

尊敬

zūnjìng to respect / to revere / to esteem / honorable / distinguished (used on formal occasions before a term of address)

> 大家都尊敬他。
> Dàjiā dōu zūnjìng tā.
> Everybody looked up to him.

久等

jiǔděng to wait for a long time

> 久等了，您的咖啡好了。
> Jiǔděng le, nín de kāfēi hǎole.
> Thanks for waiting, your coffee is ready.

一路顺风 一路順風

yīlùshùnfēng to have a pleasant journey (idiom)

> 祝你一路顺风。
> Zhù nǐ yílùshùnfēng.
> I hope you have a good trip.

祝福

zhùfú blessings / to wish sb well

> 谢谢你的祝福。
> Xièxie nǐ de zhùfú.
> Thanks for your well-wishes.

夸

kuā to boast / to exaggerate / to praise / used in transliteration

> 我就当你夸我了。
> Wǒ jiù dāng nǐ kuā wǒ le.
> I'll take that as a compliment.

夸奖 誇獎

kuājiǎng to praise / to applaud / to compliment

> 妈妈很少当面夸奖我。
> Māma hěn shǎo dāngmiàn kuājiǎng wǒ.
> My mom rarely praises me to my face.

招待

zhāodài to hold a reception / to offer hospitality / to entertain (guests) / to serve (customers)

> 谢谢你们热情招待我们。
> Xièxie nǐmen rèqíng zhāodài wǒmen.
> Thank you for hosting us so warmly.

拜访 拜訪

bàifǎng to pay a visit / to call on

> 他们拜访了首都。
> Tāmen bàifǎngle shǒudū.
> They visited the capital.

拜年

bàinián to pay a New Year call / to wish sb a Happy New Year

> 初一我们去外婆家拜年。
> Chūyī wǒmen qù wàipójiā bàinián.
> On the first day of the New Year, we go to Grandma's house to pay a New Year call.

谦虚 謙虛

qiānxū modest / self-effacing / to make modest remarks

> 你太谦虚了。
> Nǐ tài qiānxūle.
> You're too modest.

祝愿 祝願

zhùyuàn to wish

> 她写信祝愿爷爷长寿。
> Tā xiěxìn zhùyuàn yéye chángshòu.
> She wrote a letter wishing her grandfather a long life.

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

敬酒
jìngjiǔ to toast / to propose a toast

> 新郎正在向客人敬酒。
> Xīnláng zhèngzài xiàng kèrén jìngjiǔ.
> The groom is toasting the guests.

万事如意 萬事如意
wànshìrúyì to have all one's wishes (idiom) / best wishes / all the best / may all your hopes be fulfilled

> 祝爷爷身体好，万事如意！
> Zhù yéye shēntǐ hǎo, wànshìrúyì!
> Wishing Grandpa good health and everything he hopes for!

久仰
jiǔyǎng honorific: I've long looked forward to meeting you. / It's an honor to meet you at last.

> 原来是您啊，久仰久仰！
> Yuánlái shì nín a, jiǔyǎng-jiǔyǎng!
> So it's you! It's an honor to finally meet you!

礼节 禮節
lǐjié etiquette

> 到国外要懂当地的礼节。
> Dào guówài yào dǒng dāngdì de lǐjié.
> When you go abroad, you need to know the local etiquette.

礼仪 禮儀
lǐyí etiquette / ceremony

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

寒暄
hánxuān to exchange conventional greetings / to exchange pleasantries

> 他和客人寒暄了一会儿。
> Tā hé kèrén hánxuān le yíhuìr.
> He exchanged pleasantries with the guests for a while.

致敬
zhìjìng to salute / to pay one's respects to / to pay tribute to / to pay homage to

> 我们要向每位医生致敬！
> Wǒmen yào xiàng měi wèi yīshēng zhìjìng!
> We should pay tribute to every doctor!

谦让 謙讓
qiānràng to modestly decline

道谢 道謝
dàoxiè to express thanks

失礼 失禮
shīlǐ to act discourteously / forgive me (for my impropriety)

> 我不想失礼。
> Wǒ bùxiǎng shīlǐ.
> I don't mean to be rude.

款待
kuǎndài to entertain / to be hospitable to

> 主人用美酒好菜款待客人。
> Zhǔrén yòng měijiǔ hǎo cài kuǎndài kèrén.
> The host entertained his guests with fine wine and good food.

鞠躬
jūgōng to bow / to bend down

> 我向老师鞠躬，表示敬意。
> Wǒ xiàng lǎoshī jūgōng, biǎoshì jìngyì.
> I bowed to my teacher to show my respect.

客套
kètào polite greeting / civilities / to exchange pleasantries

慰问 慰問
wèiwèn to express sympathy, greetings, consolation etc

> 请接受我最深切的慰问。
> Qǐng jiēshòu wǒ zuì shēnqiè de wèiwèn.
> Please accept my most heartfelt condolences.

敬
jìng respectful / to respect / to offer politely

> 他很正直，大家都敬他。
> Tā hěn zhèngzhí, dàjiā dōu jìng tā.
> He is very upright, and everyone respects him.

告辞 告辭
gàocí to say goodbye / to take one's leave

> 他站起来，向大家告辞。
> Tā zhàn qǐlai, xiàng dàjiā gàocí.
> He stood up and took his leave of everyone.

恭敬
gōngjìng deferential / respectful

> 他对长辈一向很恭敬。
> Tā duì zhǎngbèi yíxiàng hěn gōngjìng.
> He has always been respectful toward his elders.

问候 問候
wènhòu to give one's respects / to send a greeting / (coll.) to make offensive reference to (somebody dear to the person to whom one is speaking)

> 他问候了你。
> Tā wènhòu le nǐ.
> He asked after you.

贵宾 貴賓
guìbīn honored guest / distinguished guest / VIP

> 欢迎各位贵宾光临！
> Huānyíng gèwèi guìbīn guānglín!
> Welcome, honored guests!

不敢当 不敢當
bùgǎndāng lit. I dare not (accept the honor) / fig. I don't deserve your praise / you flatter me

> 您夸我做得好，我真不敢当。
> Nín kuā wǒ zuò de hǎo, wǒ zhēn bùgǎndāng.
> You say I did well, but I really don't deserve such praise.

指教
zhǐjiào to offer advice, guidance, or feedback

> 请多多指教，愿闻高见。
> Qǐng duōduō zhǐjiào, yuàn wén gāojiàn.
> Please advise us; we'd be glad to hear your brilliant ideas.

保重
bǎozhòng to take care of oneself

> 请多保重身体。
> Qǐng duō bǎozhòng shēntǐ.
> Please take care of your body.

过意不去 過意不去
guòyìbùqù to feel very apologetic

> 他白跑一趟，我过意不去。
> Tā báipǎoyítàng, wǒ guòyìbúqù.
> He made the trip for nothing, and I feel terrible about it.

歉意
qiànyì apology / regret

> 我对她毫无歉意。
> Wǒ duì tā háowú qiànyì.
> I don't feel sorry for her.

莅临 蒞臨
lìlín to arrive (esp. of notable person) / to visit (more formal than 光臨|光临[guang1 lin2])

> 感谢您莅临我们的婚礼。
> Gǎnxiè nín lìlín wǒmen de hūnlǐ.
> Thank you for honoring our wedding with your presence.

来宾 來賓
láibīn guest / visitor

> 请各位来宾就座。
> Qǐng gèwèi láibīn jiùzuò.
> Guests, please take your seats.

荣幸 榮幸
róngxìng honored (to have the privilege of ...)

> 这是我们的荣幸。
> Zhè shì wǒmen de róngxìng.
> It's our pleasure.

久违 久違
jiǔwéi for a long time / a long time since we last met

> 久违的阳光终于出来了。
> Jiǔwéi de yángguāng zhōngyú chūláile.
> The long-missed sunshine has finally come out.

敬请 敬請
jìngqǐng please (do sth) (deferential form)

> 敬请大家保持安静。
> Jìngqǐng dàjiā bǎochí ānjìng.
> Everyone, please kindly keep quiet.

后会有期 後會有期
hòuhuìyǒuqī I'm sure we'll meet again some day. (idiom) / Hope to see you again.

> 车要开了，我们后会有期。
> Chē yào kāile, wǒmen hòuhuìyǒuqī.
> The bus is about to leave, but I'm sure we'll meet again.

见外 見外
jiànwài to treat sb with the formal courtesy accorded to a host or a guest

> 一家人，别这么见外。
> Yìjiārén, bié zhème jiànwài.
> We're family, so don't stand on ceremony.

道别 道別
dàobié to say goodbye / to bid farewell / to pay a farewell call

> 临走前，我去邻居家道别。
> Línzǒu qián, wǒ qù línjū jiā dàobié.
> Before leaving, I went to my neighbor's home to say farewell.

包涵
bāohan to excuse / to forgive / to bear with / to be tolerant

贺信 賀信
hèxìn congratulatory letter or message

> 这封贺信写得又短又真诚。
> Zhè fēng hèxìn xiě de yòu duǎn yòu zhēnchéng.
> This congratulatory letter is short and sincere.

过奖 過獎
guòjiǎng to overpraise / to flatter

> 哪里哪里，你过奖了！
> Nǎlǐ-nǎlǐ, nǐ guòjiǎng le!
> Not at all, you're too kind!

劳驾 勞駕
láojià excuse me

> 劳驾，给我倒杯茶。
> Láojià, gěi wǒ dào bēi chá.
> Excuse me - could you pour me some tea? (In a tea house or restaurant)

贺电 賀電
hèdiàn congratulatory telegram

> 那封贺电写得很简短。
> Nà fēng hèdiàn xiě de hěn jiǎnduǎn.
> That congratulatory telegram was written very briefly.

留步
liúbù no need to see me out

> 外面冷，老师请留步吧！
> Wàimiàn lěng, lǎoshī qǐng liúbù ba!
> It's cold outside, teacher, please don't come out to see me off!

礼尚往来 禮尚往來
lǐshàngwǎnglái lit. proper behavior is based on reciprocity (idiom) / fig. to return politeness for politeness

> 中国人讲究礼尚往来。
> Zhōngguórén jiǎngjiu lǐshàngwǎnglái.
> Chinese people place importance on reciprocity in courtesy.

久仰大名
jiǔyǎngdàmíng I have been looking forward to meeting you for a long time (idiom)

> 久仰大名，很高兴见到您！
> Jiǔyǎngdàmíng, hěn gāoxìng jiàndào nín!
> I've heard so much about you, and I'm very glad to meet you!

心想事成
xīnxiǎngshìchéng to have one's wishes come true / wish you the best!

> 生日快乐，愿你心想事成！
> Shēngrìkuàilè, yuàn nǐ xīnxiǎngshìchéng!
> Happy birthday, may all your wishes come true!

恭贺新禧 恭賀新禧
gōnghèxīnxǐ Happy New Year

Outside HSK

见谅 見諒
jiànliàng please forgive me

赔礼 賠禮
péilǐ to offer an apology / to make amends

作揖
zuòyī to bow with hands held in front

失陪
shīpéi Excuse me, I must be leaving now.

赏光 賞光
shǎngguāng to do sb the honor (of attending etc) / to put in an appearance / to show up

借光
jièguāng excuse me (i.e. let me through, please) / reflected glory / to benefit from sb else's prestige

> 不好意思，借光，我要下车了。
> Bùhǎoyìsi, jièguāng, wǒ yào xiàchēle.
> Sorry, excuse me, I'm getting off.