CHINESE BOOST

HSK 3 Chinese vocabulary list, part 1

50 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 47 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

HSK 3 Chinese vocabulary list, part 1 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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Words

为 為

wèi because of / for / to / on behalf of / in order to / for the purpose of / to help / to protect
wéi as (in the capacity of) / to take sth as / to act as / to serve as / to behave as / to become / to be / to do / by (in the passive voice) / intensifying suffix after some monosyllabic words, e.g. 广为, 极为 / (sentence-final question particle) / (exclamation particle)

> 为我高兴吧。
> Wèi wǒ gāoxìng ba.
> Be happy for me.

中

zhōng within; among; in / while (doing sth); during / middle / impartial; neutral / China / (dialect) OK; all right
zhòng to hit a target / to be struck by (a bullet, illness etc) / to win (a prize or lottery)

> 给我拿件中号的。
> Gěi wǒ ná jiàn zhōng hào de.
> Get me one in size "M", please.

又

yòu both... and... / again / also / anyway / and yet

> 她又老又病。
> Tā yòu lǎo yòu bìng.
> She was very old and ill.

把

bǎ marks the object before the verb / classifier for things with handles / handlebar / to hold / classifier: handful, bundle, bunch / to hold a baby in position to help it urinate or defecate / to control; to monopolise / to guard; to keep watch over / about; or so (after a classifier, as in 个把) / one or two / sworn (brotherhood)
bà handle (of a tool or utensil) / stalk of a flower, leaf or fruit

> 把钱给我。
> Bǎ qián gěi wǒ.
> Give me the money.

被

bèi used to indicate passive voice (placed before the doer of the action like "by" in English passive-voice sentences, or, if the doer is not mentioned, before the verb) / quilt / to cover (with) / to suffer (a misfortune) / (sarcastic or jocular) used to indicate that the following word should be regarded as being in air quotes (as in 被旅遊|被旅游[bei4 lu : 3 you2] to "go on a trip")
bì hairpiece / false hair
pī to wear / to drape over the shoulders / to let hang loose / cape / shawl / suit (of armor) / scattered / dispersed

> 你被人爱着。
> Nǐ bèi rén àizhe.
> You are loved.

可

kě can / may / able to / -able / (particle used for emphasis) certainly / very / but / however / to approve / to permit / to suit / (adverb in questions) whether / is it that...? / to the fullest extent within a range (dialect) / surname Ke / about / approximately
kè used in 可汗 kèhán (khan)

> 我没书可读。
> Wǒ méi shū kě dú.
> I have no books to read.

国家 國家

guójiā country / nation / state

> 你是哪国家?
> Nǐ shì nǎ guójiā?
> Where do you come from?

或

huò or / maybe / perhaps / might / possibly / someone / some / some of them / slightly

> 你说德语或英语吗?
> Nǐ shuō Déyǔ huò Yīngyǔ ma?
> Do you speak German or English?

用

yòng to use / to make use of / to employ / with / using / to eat / to drink / usefulness / utility / to need / to have to (usu. used in the negative or in questions) / expense / outlay / hence / therefore

> 我可以用吗?
> Wǒ kěyǐ yòng ma?
> May I use this?

向
xiàng towards / to / direction / orientation / to face / to turn towards / to support / to side with / always / all along / to tend toward / to guide / suitable for ... / oriented to ... / to approach / to be close to / shortly before / formerly / surname Xiang

> 我向妈妈学习。
> Wǒ xiàng māma xuéxí.
> I follow my mom's example.

发展 發展
fāzhǎn to develop / to grow / to expand / development / growth

> 中国发展得很快。
> Zhōngguó fāzhǎn de hěn kuài.
> China is developing very quickly.

起
qǐ to set out / to start / to launch / to initiate (action) / verb suffix, to start / to rise / to raise / to appear / classifier for occurrences or unpredictable events: case, instance / to get up / starting from (a time, place, price etc) / to recall, to call to mind (as in 想起, 记起) / can (or cannot) afford, in 付得起, 租不起 and 请不起 / to establish / to play (a role), to take effect (in 起作用) / to draft / to get (from a depot or counter) / classifier for groups: batch, group

> 你女儿起了吗?
> Nǐ nǚ'ér qǐle ma?
> Is your daughter up?

主要
zhǔyào main / principal / major / primary

> 我早饭主要吃水果。
> Wǒ zǎofàn zhǔyào chī shuǐguǒ.
> I mostly have fruit for breakfast.

更
gèng more / even more / further / still / still more / again / once more
gēng one of the five two-hour periods into which the night was formerly divided / watch (e.g. of a sentry or guard) / to change or replace / to experience

> 做更多工作。
> Zuò gèng duō gōngzuò.
> Work more.

才
cái then and only then / (before an expression of quantity) only / (emphatic, esp. in contrast or correction) really / actually / just now / ability / talent / a capable individual / sb of a certain type

> 我才下班。
> Wǒ cái xiàbān.
> I just got off work.

地方
dìfāng region / regional (away from the central administration) / local
dìfang place / location / area / space / territory / aspect / part

> 我在找地方坐。
> Wǒ zài zhǎo dìfang zuò.
> I'm looking for a place to sit.

市
shì city / market / municipality (administrative unit) / to trade / to buy and sell goods
fú ceremonial leather knee-cover worn in ancient times

如果
rúguǒ if / in case / in the event that

> 如果你喜欢。
> Rúguǒ nǐ xǐhuan.
> If you like.

重要
zhòngyào important / significant / major

> 对她很重要。
> Duì tā hěn zhòngyào.
> It's important to her.

米
mǐ uncooked rice / meter (unit of length) / Chinese yuan / surname Mi

> 我1米9几。
> Wǒ yì mǐ jiǔ jǐ.
> I am around 190 centimetres tall.

文化
wénhuà culture / cultural / civilization

> 电脑文化是好是坏?
> Diànnǎo wénhuà shì hǎo shì huài?
> Is PC culture good or bad?

历史 歷史
lìshǐ history

> 我喜欢历史。
> Wǒ xǐhuan lìshǐ.
> I like history.

世界
shìjiè world

> 你好，世界!
> Nǐ hǎo, shìjiè!
> Hello, world!

老
lǎo old (of people) / venerable (person) / of long standing / always / all the time / very / prefix used before the surname of a person or a numeral indicating the order of birth of the children in a family or to indicate affection or familiarity / of the past / outdated / experienced / (of meat etc) tough

> 你别老这样!
> Nǐ bié lǎo zhèyàng!
> Don't always be like this!

决定 決定
juédìng to decide / to determine / to make up one's mind / decision

> 她决定进房。
> Tā juédìng jìn fáng.
> She decided to enter the room.

关系 關係

guānxi relation / relationship / to concern / to affect / to have to do with / guanxi / bearing / importance / significance

> 跟你没有关系。
> Gēn nǐ méiyǒu guānxi.
> It has nothing to do with you.

像

xiàng to resemble / to be like / to look as if / such as / appearance / image / portrait / image under a mapping (math.)

> 她很像她妈。
> Tā hěn xiàng tā mā.
> She closely resembles her mother.

生活

shēnghuó life / to live / livelihood

> 他生活很忙。
> Tā shēnghuó hěn máng.
> He lived a busy life.

一般

yībān general / generally / in general / same / ordinary / so-so / common

> 我一般六点起床。
> Wǒ yìbān liù diǎn qǐchuáng.
> I usually get up at six.

认为 認為

rènwéi to believe / to think / to consider / to feel

> 你认为她多大?
> Nǐ rènwéi tā duō dà?
> How old do you think she is?

不同

bùtóng different / distinct / not the same / not alike

> 每个人都是不同的。
> Měige rén dōu shì bùtóng de.
> Each individual is different.

会议 會議

huìyì meeting / conference

> 会议怎么样?
> Huìyì zěnmeyàng?
> What were the meetings like?

该 該

gāi should / ought to / probably / must be / to be sb's turn to do sth / that / the above-mentioned / to deserve / to owe / to include / to embrace

> 今天该我了。
> Jīntiān gāi wǒ le.
> It's my turn today.

需要

xūyào to need / to want / to demand / to require / needs

> 你不需要钱。
> Nǐ bù xūyào qián.
> You don't need money.

受

shòu to suffer / subjected to / (passive marker) / to receive / to accept / to bear / to stand / pleasant / (LGBT) bottom

其他

qítā other / else / the rest

> 其他人怎么想?
> Qítā rén zěnme xiǎng?
> What does everybody else think?

带 帶

dài to carry / to take along / to bring / to lead / to bear (i.e. to have) / to wear / to look after / to raise / area / zone / region / band / belt / girdle / ribbon / tire

> 你带书没有?
> Nǐ dài shū méiyǒu?
> Did you bring the book?

先

xiān beforehand / first / earlier / for the time being / for now / my late (in referring to deceased relatives older than oneself) / at first / originally

> 先谢谢您了。
> Xiān xièxie nín le.
> Thanking you in advance.

一定

yīdìng surely / certainly / definitely / a certain ... / a given ... / fixed / settled

> 这一定是我。
> Zhè yídìng shì wǒ.
> It has to be me.

城市

chéngshì city / town

> 我想住在城市。
> Wǒ xiǎng zhù zài chéngshì.
> I want to live in the city.

以上

yǐshàng that level or higher / that amount or more / the above-mentioned / (used to indicate that one has completed one's remarks) That is all.

> 40%以上的学生去读大学。
> Bǎifēnzhīsìshí yǐshàng de xuésheng qù dú dàxué.
> More than 40 percent of the students go to university.

发现 發現

fāxiàn to discover / to find / to detect / to notice / to become aware of / a discovery

> 他们发现了。
> Tāmen fāxiànle.
> They found out.

南

nán south / surname Nan

nā used in 南无 nāmó (Buddhist invocation)

> 告诉我你在湘南做了什么。
> Gàosu wǒ nǐ zài xiāng Nán zuòle shénme.
> Tell me what you did in Shounan.

根据 根據

gēnjù according to / based on / basis / foundation

影响 影響

yǐngxiǎng to influence / to affect (usually adversely) / to disturb / influence / effect / groundless / hearsay

> 这对他没有影响。
> Zhè duì tā méiyǒu yǐngxiǎng.
> It has had no effect on him.

发生 發生

fāshēng to happen / to occur / to take place / to break out

> 在哪里发生?
> Zài nǎlǐ fāshēng?
> Where did it happen?

张 張

zhāng sheet of paper / classifier for flat objects, sheet / classifier for votes / to open up / to spread / surname Zhang
zhàng curtain / tent / to swell / to bloat / to rise (of water) / arrogant / self-important

> 这张桌子不好。
> Zhè zhāng zhuōzi bù hǎo.
> This table is not good.

要求

yāoqiú to request / to require / to stake a claim / to ask / to demand / requirement

> 我只要求做这件事。
> Wǒ zhǐ yāoqiú zuò zhè jiàn shì.
> I only asked to do this.

总 總

zǒng in every case / always / invariably / anyway / after all / eventually / sooner or later / surely / general / overall / to sum up / abbr. for 總經理|总经理[zong3 jing1 li3] or 總編|总编[zong3 bian1] etc

> 他不是总来晚。
> Tā bú shì zǒng lái wǎn.
> He doesn't always come late.

山

shān mountain / hill / small bundle of straw for silkworms to spin cocoons on / surname Shan

> 山是绿色的。
> Shān shì lǜsè de.
> The mountain is green.