CHINESE BOOST

Modern life and trends Chinese vocabulary list

55 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 49 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

Parts 1 2 3 4

Modern life and trends 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)

新

xīn new / newly / meso- (chemistry)

> 他是新来的。
> Tā shì xīn lái de.
> He's a newcomer.

高铁 高鐵

gāotiě high speed rail

> 高铁比火车快多了。
> Gāotiě bǐ huǒchē kuài duō le.
> High-speed rail is much faster than the ordinary train.

方便

fāngbiàn convenient / suitable / to facilitate / to make things easy / to relieve oneself / having money to spare

> 这方便得多了。
> Zhè fāngbiàn de duō le.
> It's much more convenient.

变化 變化

biànhuà change / variation / to change / to vary

> 有些东西在变化。
> Yǒuxiē dōngxi zài biànhuà.
> Something is changing.

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.

城市

chéngshì city / town

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

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.

外卖 外賣

wàimài to provide a takeout or home delivery meal / takeout (business) / takeout (meal)

> 外卖到了，你去开一下门。
> Wàimài dàole, nǐ qù kāi yíxià mén.
> The takeout is here, so please go open the door.

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

流行

liúxíng (of a style of clothing, song etc) popular / fashionable / (of a contagious disease etc) to spread / to propagate

> 红色不流行了。
> Hóngsè bù liúxíngle.
> Red is out of fashion.

网购 網購

wǎnggòu Internet shopping / to purchase online

> 现在很多人喜欢网购。
> Xiànzài hěn duō rén xǐhuan wǎnggòu.
> Many people like to shop online these days.

社会 社會

shèhuì society

> 社会在变化。
> Shèhuì zài biànhuà.
> Society is changing.

科技

kējì science and technology

> 现在的科技发展得真快!
> Xiànzài de kējì fāzhǎn de zhēn kuài!
> Science and technology are developing so fast these days!

快递 快遞

kuàidì express delivery

> 请帮我拆这个快递。
> Qǐng bāng wǒ chāi zhège kuàidì.
> Please help me open this package.

现代 現代

xiàndài modern times / modern age / modern era / Hyundai, South Korean company

> 他喜欢现代音乐。
> Tā xǐhuan xiàndài yīnyuè.
> He has a liking for modern music.

时代 時代

shídài age / era / epoch / period (in one's life) / Time, US weekly news magazine

> 时代在变化。
> Shídài zài biànhuà.
> Times are changing.

网络 網絡

wǎngluò network / Internet

> 我讨厌网络。
> Wǒ tǎoyàn wǎngluò.
> I hate the internet.

智能

zhìnéng intelligent / able / smart (phone, system, bomb etc)

> 我家的灯是智能的。
> Wǒ jiā de dēng shì zhìnéng de.
> The lights in my home are smart.

趋势 趨勢

qūshì trend / tendency

> 经济有变好的趋势。
> Jīngjì yǒubiàn hǎo de qūshì.
> The economy is showing a trend of getting better.

现象 現象

xiànxiàng phenomenon / appearance

> 你怎么看这种社会现象?
> Nǐ zěnme kàn zhèzhǒng shèhuì xiànxiàng?
> What do you think of this social phenomenon?

时期 時期

shíqī period / phase

> 那是困难时期。
> Nà shì kùnnan shíqī.
> Those were difficult times.

现代化 現代化

xiàndàihuà modernization

> 农业现代化让农民的生活好多了。
> Nóngyè xiàndàihuà ràng nóngmín de shēnghuó hǎo duō le.
> Agricultural modernization has made farmers' lives much better.

消费 消費

xiāofèi to consume (goods and services, resources etc)

> 在日本生活消费很高。
> Zài Rìběn shēnghuó xiāofèi hěn gāo.
> Life in Japan is expensive.

直播

zhíbō to broadcast live / live broadcast / to livestream / direct seeding

> 她每晚都在家直播做饭。
> Tā měiwǎn dōu zàijiā zhíbō zuòfàn.
> She livestreams herself cooking at home every night.

二维码 二維碼

èrwéimǎ 2D barcode / matrix code / QR code

> 这个二维码说什么?
> Zhège èrwéimǎ shuō shénme?
> What does the QR code say?

新型

xīnxíng new type / new kind

> 医院买了一台新型机器。
> Yīyuàn mǎile yì tái xīnxíng jīqì.
> The hospital bought a new type of machine.

时尚 時尚

shíshàng fashion / fad / fashionable

> 她很了解最新的时尚趋势。
> Tā hěn liǎojiě zuìxīn de shíshàng qūshì.
> She knows a lot about the latest fashions.

新兴 新興

xīnxīng (of markets, industries, infectious diseases etc) rising / emerging / in the ascendant

> 中国是一个新兴市场。
> Zhōngguó shì yí gè xīnxīng shìchǎng.
> China is an emerging market.

潮流

cháoliú tide / current / trend

> 这种帽子早就不合潮流了。
> Zhèzhǒng màozi zǎojiù bùhé cháoliú le.
> This kind of hat went out of style long ago.

新媒体 新媒體

xīnméitǐ new media (digital media, as contrasted with traditional media)

热门 熱門

rèmén popular / hot / in vogue

> 棒球在台湾是热门的运动。
> Bàngqiú zài Táiwān shì rèmén de yùndòng.
> Baseball is a popular sport in Taiwan.

打卡

dǎkǎ to clock on (or off) / to punch in (or out) / to check in to a location

> 下班前别忘了打卡。
> Xiàbān qián bié wàngle dǎkǎ.
> Don't forget to clock out before you leave work.

当今 當今

dāngjīn the present time / (in reference to the reigning monarch) His Majesty

> 他是当今最有名的歌手之一。
> Tā shì dāngjīn zuì yǒumíng de gēshǒu zhīyī.
> He is one of the most famous singers of the present day.

当代 當代

dāngdài the present age / the contemporary era

> 当代人的生活节奏很快。
> Dāngdài rén de shēnghuó jiézòu hěn kuài.
> The pace of life in the contemporary era is fast.

数字化 數字化

shùzìhuà to digitize

> 图书馆想把这些旧书数字化。
> Túshūguǎn xiǎng bǎ zhèxiē jiùshū shùzìhuà.
> The library wants to digitize these old books.

过时 過時
guòshí old-fashioned / out of date / to be later than the time stipulated or agreed upon

> 他的衣服过时了。
> Tā de yīfu guòshí le.
> His clothes are out of fashion.

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

时髦 時髦
shímáo in vogue / fashionable

> 你奶奶穿得真时髦!
> Nǐ nǎinai chuān de zhēn shímáo!
> Your grandmother dresses so fashionably!

风气 風氣
fēngqì general mood / atmosphere / common practice

> 这里有早起锻炼的风气。
> Zhèlǐ yǒu zǎoqǐ duànliàn de fēngqì.
> It is common practice here to exercise early in the morning.

风尚 風尚
fēngshàng current custom / current way of doing things

> 早起跑步成了新风尚。
> Zǎoqǐ pǎobù chéng le xīn fēngshàng.
> Running early in the morning has become a new trend.

网红 網紅
wǎnghóng Internet celebrity / influencer / popular on the Internet

前卫 前衛
qiánwèi advanced guard / vanguard / avant-garde / forward (soccer position)

风行 風行
fēngxíng to become fashionable / to catch on / to be popular

追随 追隨
zhuīsuí to follow / to accompany

> 她追随父亲的脚步当了医生。
> Tā zhuīsuí fùqīn de jiǎobù dāng le yīshēng.
> She followed in her father's footsteps and became a doctor.

潮
cháo tide / damp / moist / humid / fashionable / trendy / inferior / substandard

> 她今天穿得真潮啊!
> Tā jīntiān chuān de zhēn cháo a!
> She's dressed so trendy today!

新潮
xīncháo modern / fashionable

> 我奶奶的想法很新潮。
> Wǒ nǎinai de xiǎngfǎ hěn xīncháo.
> My grandmother's way of thinking is very modern.

代言
dàiyán to be a spokesperson / to be an ambassador (for a brand) / to endorse

> 她不敢乱给产品代言。
> Tā bùgǎn luàn gěi chǎnpǐn dàiyán.
> She doesn't dare endorse products carelessly.

快时尚 快時尚
kuàishíshàng fast fashion

> 你常常买快时尚的衣服吗?
> Nǐ chángcháng mǎi kuàishíshàng de yīfu ma?
> Do you often buy fast fashion clothes?

Outside HSK

信息时代 信息時代
xìnxīshídài information age

> 信息时代学习更方便了。
> Xìnxīshídài xuéxí gèng fāngbiànle.
> Studying has become more convenient in the information age.

跟风 跟風
gēnfēng to follow the trend / to jump on the bandwagon

> 你为什么总是跟风?
> Nǐ wèishénme zǒngshì gēnfēng?
> Why do you always follow the crowd?

短视频 短視頻
duǎnshìpín short video / video clip

> 我妹妹每天睡前刷短视频。
> Wǒ mèimei měitiān shuì qián shuā duǎnshìpín.
> My younger sister scrolls through short videos every night before bed.

内卷 內卷
nèijuǎn to involute / involution / (neologism, attested by 2017) (of a society) to become more and more of a rat race / to become increasingly competitive (due to limited resources)

> 现在的社会越来越内卷了。
> Xiànzài de shèhuì yuèláiyuè nèijuǎn le.
> Society is becoming more and more of a rat race these days.

躺平
tǎngpíng to lie stretched out / (neologism, attested by 2021) to opt out of the rat race

> 躺平的人不一定不快乐。
> Tǎngpíng de rén bù yídìng bú kuàilè.
> People who have opted out of the rat race aren't necessarily unhappy.

种草 種草
zhòngcǎo (slang) to spark interest in a product or idea (esp. on social media)

> 她给我种草了一支口红。
> Tā gěi wǒ zhòngcǎo le yìzhī kǒuhóng.
> She got me interested in a lipstick.

刷屏
shuāpíng to flood (on an Internet forum etc)

佛系
fóxì (neologism, attested by 2017) (coll.) chill about everything (typically used to describe young people who don't buy into aspirational society)

> 他对工作很佛系，从不加班。
> Tā duì gōngzuò hěn fóxì, cóngbù jiābān.
> He's very laid-back about work and never works overtime.

斜杠青年 斜槓青年

xiégàngqīngnián young person who pursues multiple careers simultaneously / a young slashie