CHINESE BOOST

Regions and peoples of China Chinese vocabulary list

84 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 79 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

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Regions and peoples of China 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)

北京

běijīng Beijing municipality, capital of the People's Republic of China (short name 京[Jing1])

> 她要去北京。
> Tā yào qù Běijīng.
> She's going to go to Beijing.

中国 中國

zhōngguó China

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

城市

chéngshì city / town

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

南方

nánfāng south / southern direction / southern regions, often referring to areas south of the Yangtze River

> 他飞到南方。
> Tā fēi dào nánfāng.
> He took off to the south.

北方

běifāng north / the northern part a country / China north of the Yellow River

> 北方的立夏还不太热吧?
> Běifāng de Lìxià hái bú tài rè ba?
> It's not very hot yet in the north at Lixia, is it?

市

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

> 他们市有很多公园。
> Tāmen shì yǒu hěn duō gōngyuán.
> Their city has a lot of parks.

东北 東北

dōngběi northeast / Northeast China / Manchuria

> 东北的冬天又长又冷。
> Dōngběi de dōngtiān yòu cháng yòu lěng.
> Winters in Northeast China are long and cold.

西北

xīběi northwest / Northwest China (Shaanxi, Gansu, Qinghai, Ningxia, Xinjiang)

> 西北的冬天又干又冷。
> Xīběi de dōngtiān yòu gān yòu lěng.
> Winters in Northwest China are dry and cold.

西南

xīnán southwest

> 明天西南方向会下大雨吗?
> Míngtiān xīnán fāngxiàng huì xià dàyǔ ma?
> Will it rain heavily in the southwest tomorrow?

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

首都

shǒudū capital (city)

> 我住在首都。
> Wǒ zhù zài shǒudū.
> I live in the capital.

省

shěng province / provincial capital / to save / to economize / to be frugal / to omit / to delete / to leave out / a ministry (of the Japanese government)
xǐng to reflect (on one's conduct) / to come to realize / to pay a visit (to one's parents or elders) / to scrutinize

> 这辆车很省油。
> Zhè liàng chē hěn shěng yóu.
> This car is very economical on gas.

东部 東部

dōngbù the east / eastern part

> 我家在这座城市的东部。
> Wǒ jiā zài zhè zuò chéngshì de dōngbù.
> My home is in the eastern part of this city.

西部
xībù western part

> 你去过中国的西部吗?
> Nǐ qùguo Zhōngguó de xībù ma?
> Have you ever been to the western part of China?

南部
nánbù southern part

> 她们现在在法国南部。
> Tāmen xiànzài zài Fǎguó nánbù.
> They are now in the south of France.

北部
běibù northern part

> 他家在城市的北部。
> Tā jiā zài chéngshì de běibù.
> His home is in the northern part of the city.

上海
shànghǎi Shanghai municipality (short name 滬|沪[Hu4])

> 上海在中国。
> Shànghǎi zài Zhōngguó.
> Shanghai is in China.

台湾 臺灣
táiwān Taiwan

> 台湾能帮助。
> Táiwān néng bāngzhù.
> Taiwan can help.

长江 長江
chángjiāng Yangtze River, or Chang Jiang

> 长城和长江都很长。
> Chángchéng hé Cháng Jiāng dōu hěn cháng.
> The Great Wall and the Yangtze River are both very long.

少数民族 少數民族
shǎoshùmínzú ethnic minority

> 中国有五十多个少数民族。
> Zhōngguó yǒu wǔshí duōge shǎoshùmínzú.
> China has more than fifty ethnic minorities.

民族
mínzú nationality / ethnic group

> 中国有56个民族。
> Zhōngguó yǒu wǔshíliù gè mínzú.
> There are 56 ethnic groups in China.

汉族 漢族
hànzú Han ethnic group, the majority ethnic group in China

维吾尔族 維吾爾族
wéiwú'ěrzú Uyghur ethnic group

> 你吃过维吾尔族的烤肉吗?
> Nǐ chīguo Wéiwú'ěrzú de kǎoròu ma?
> Have you ever had Uyghur grilled meat?

傣族
dǎizú Dai ethnic group

> 你去过傣族人住的地方吗?
> Nǐ qùguo Dǎizú rén zhù de dìfang ma?
> Have you ever been to the places where the Dai people live?

村
cūn village / to scold / rustic / boorish

> 世界是一个小村。
> Shìjiè shì yí gè xiǎo cūn.
> The world is a small village.

区 區
qū area / region / district / distinguish / small
ōu surname Ou

> 我住在这区。
> Wǒ zhù zài zhè qū.
> I live in this place.

各地
gèdì in all parts of (a country) / various regions

> 我们游遍全国各地。
> Wǒmen yóu biàn quánguó gèdì.
> We travelled all over the country.

天津
tiānjīn Tianjin municipality (short name 津[Jin1])

> 我爸爸在天津工作了十年。
> Wǒ bàba zài Tiānjīn gōngzuòle shínián.
> My dad worked in Tianjin for ten years.

重庆 重慶
chóngqìng Chongqing municipality (short name 渝[Yu2])

> 我姐姐明年要去重庆上大学。
> Wǒ jiějie míngnián yào qù Chóngqìng shàng dàxué.
> My older sister is going to university in Chongqing next year.

藏族
zàngzú Tibetan ethnic group

> 那位藏族老人在山里养了很多牛。
> Nà wèi Zàngzú lǎorén zài shān lǐ yǎngle hěn duō niú.
> That elderly Tibetan man raises many cattle in the mountains.

回族
huízú Hui ethnic group (Chinese Muslims)

> 我同事是回族，他不吃猪肉。
> Wǒ tóngshì shì Huízú, tā bùchī zhūròu.
> My coworker is Hui and doesn't eat pork.

满族 滿族
mǎnzú Manchu ethnic group

> 我的同事是满族，家在东北。
> Wǒ de tóngshì shì Mǎnzú, jiā zài Dōngběi.
> My colleague is Manchu, and her family is from the northeast.

中部
zhōngbù middle part / central section / central region

> 这个周末我想去中部的城市看看。
> Zhège zhōumò wǒ xiǎng qù zhōngbù de chéngshì kànkan.
> This weekend I want to visit a city in the central region.

地区 地區

dìqū region / area (informal or geographical term) / prefecture (in China's administrative system)

> 这地区很安静。
> Zhè dìqū hěn ānjìng.
> The area was quiet.

地理

dìlǐ geography

> 他喜欢地理和历史。
> Tā xǐhuan dìlǐ hé lìshǐ.
> He likes geography and history.

位于 位於

wèiyú to be located at / to be situated at / to lie

> 古巴位于中美洲。
> Gǔbā wèiyú Zhōngměizhōu.
> Cuba is located in the Americas.

人口

rénkǒu population / inhabitants

> 人口正在增长。
> Rénkǒu zhèngzài zēngzhǎng.
> The population is growing.

县 縣

xiàn county / prefecture
xuán to hang / to suspend / to tie / to link / to differ widely / to be far apart

> 我爷爷一直住在一个小县里。
> Wǒ yéye yìzhí zhù zài yí gè xiǎo xiàn lǐ.
> My grandfather has always lived in a small county.

乡 鄉

xiāng country or countryside / home village or town / native place / township (PRC administrative unit)
xiàng to face / to turn toward / formerly / previously / window

> 城和乡的生活很不一样。
> Chéng hé xiāng de shēnghuó hěn bù yíyàng.
> Life in the city and life in the countryside are very different.

澳门 澳門

àomén Macao or Macau, special administrative region (SAR) of the PRC (short name 澳[Ao4])

> 我姐姐明年要去澳门工作。
> Wǒ jiějie míngnián yào qù Àomén gōngzuò.
> My older sister is going to work in Macao next year.

省会 省會

shěnghuì provincial capital

> 我哥哥在省会工作。
> Wǒ gēge zài shěnghuì gōngzuò.
> My older brother works in the provincial capital.

朝鲜族 朝鮮族

cháoxiǎnzú Korean ethnic group / Koreans (major ethnic group of the Korean Peninsula) / Korean ethnic minority in China

> 朝鲜族学生在学校里也学汉语吗?
> Cháoxiǎnzú xuésheng zài xuéxiào lǐ yě xué Hànyǔ ma?
> Do ethnic Korean students also study Chinese at school?

彝族

yízú Yi ethnic group

> 四川和云南都有很多彝族人。
> Sìchuān hé Yúnnán dōu yǒu hěn duō Yízú rén.
> Both Sichuan and Yunnan have many Yi people.

土家族

tǔjiāzú Tujia ethnic group

> 你去过土家族的村子吗?
> Nǐ qùguo Tǔjiāzú de cūnzi ma?
> Have you ever been to a Tujia village?

哈萨克族 哈薩克族

hāsàkèzú Kazakh ethnic group

> 哈萨克族主要住在哪里?
> Hāsàkèzú zhǔyào zhù zài nǎlǐ?
> Where do the Kazakh people mainly live?

瑶族 瑤族

yáozú Yao ethnic group

> 广西有很多瑶族村子。
> Guǎngxī yǒu hěn duō Yáozú cūnzi.
> There are many Yao villages in Guangxi.

白族

báizú Bai ethnic group

> 白族人喜欢在家里种花。
> Báizú rén xǐhuan zài jiālǐ zhònghuā.
> The Bai people like to grow flowers at home.

纳西族 納西族

nàxīzú Nakhi ethnic group

> 你想不想去纳西族的村子看看?
> Nǐ xiǎng bùxiǎng qù Nàxīzú de cūnzi kànkan?
> Would you like to go and see a Naxi village?

黎族

lízú Li ethnic group of Hainan

> 那个黎族村子的风景特别美。
> Nàge Lízú cūnzi de fēngjǐng tèbié měi.
> The scenery of that Li village is especially beautiful.

侗族

dòngzú Dong ethnic group

> 侗族的鼓楼很有名。
> Dòngzú de gǔlóu hěn yǒumíng.
> The Dong people's drum towers are very famous.

港澳台 港澳臺

gǎng'àotái Hong Kong 香港, Macao 澳門|澳门 and Taiwan 臺灣|台湾[Tai2 wan1]

中华民族 中華民族

zhōnghuámínzú the Chinese nation / the Chinese people (collective reference to all the ethnic groups in China)

> 中华民族是一个大家庭。
> Zhōnghuámínzú shì yí gè dàjiātíng.
> The Chinese people are one big family.

省份
shěngfèn province

> 你是哪个省份的人?
> Nǐ shì nǎge shěngfèn de rén?
> Which province are you from?

黄河 黃河
huánghé Yellow River or Huang He

> 黄河是中国的第二长河。
> Huáng Hé shì Zhōngguó de dì'èr chánghé.
> The Yellow River is the second longest river in China.

镇 鎮
zhèn small town / to guard / garrison / to press down / to subdue / to suppress / to calm / to cool or chill (food or drinks)

> 他刚来这镇上。
> Tā gāng lái zhè zhèn shàng.
> He's new in town.

华北 華北
huáběi North China

> 华北的冬天又干又冷。
> Huáběi de dōngtiān yòu gān yòu lěng.
> Winters in North China are dry and cold.

华东 華東
huádōng East China

> 上海和杭州都在华东。
> Shànghǎi hé Hángzhōu dōu zài Huádōng.
> Shanghai and Hangzhou are both in East China.

华南 華南
huánán Southern China

> 华南的冬天不太冷。
> Huánán de dōngtiān bú tài lěng.
> Winters in South China are not very cold.

华中 華中
huázhōng central China

> 华中的夏天非常热。
> Huázhōng de xiàtiān fēicháng rè.
> Summers in Central China are very hot.

沿海
yánhǎi coastal

> 沿海城市夏天常有台风。
> Yánhǎi chéngshì xiàtiān cháng yǒu táifēng.
> Coastal cities often have typhoons in summer.

Intermediate (HSK 4-6), part 2

内陆 內陸
nèilù inland / interior

州
zhōu prefecture / state (e.g. of US) / province / administrative division / oblast (Russia) / canton (Switzerland)

> 美国有50个州。
> Měiguó yǒu wǔshí gè zhōu.
> There are fifty states in the United States.

两岸 兩岸
liǎng'àn bilateral / both shores / both sides / both coasts / Taiwan and mainland

> 太平洋两岸的气候不一样。
> Tàipíngyáng liǎng'àn de qìhòu bù yíyàng.
> The climate on the two coasts of the Pacific is different.

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

香港
xiānggǎng Hong Kong, special administrative region (SAR) of the PRC (short name 港[Gang3])

> 他是香港人。
> Tā shì Xiānggǎng rén.
> He is a Hongkonger.

蒙古族
měnggǔzú Mongol ethnic group

> 我同事是蒙古族，她家在内蒙古。
> Wǒ tóngshì shì Měnggǔzú, tā jiā zài Nèiměnggǔ.
> My coworker is Mongol, and her family is in Inner Mongolia.

壮族 壯族
zhuàngzú Zhuang ethnic group, the largest ethnic minority in China

> 三月三是壮族的节日。
> Sānyuè sān shì Zhuàngzú de jiérì.
> The Third of March is a festival of the Zhuang people.

苗族
miáozú Miao ethnic group

> 我同学是苗族，她家在贵州。
> Wǒ tóngxué shì Miáozú, tā jiā zài Guìzhōu.
> My classmate is Miao, and her family is in Guizhou.

行政
xíngzhèng administration / administrative / executive

> 谁是行政助理?
> Shéi shì xíngzhèng zhùlǐ?
> Who is the Administrative Assistant?

直辖市 直轄市
zhíxiáshì municipality, namely: Beijing 北京, Tianjin 天津, Shanghai 上海 and Chongqing 重慶|重庆, the first level administrative subdivision / province level city / also called directly governed city

> 上海是中国的直辖市之一。
> Shànghǎi shì Zhōngguó de zhíxiáshì zhīyī.
> Shanghai is one of China's municipalities.

自治区 自治區
zìzhìqū autonomous region – a provincial-level administrative division of China with self-governance for ethnic minorities (five in total: Guangxi, Inner Mongolia, Ningxia, Xinjiang and Tibet)

> 中国一共有五个自治区。
> Zhōngguó yígòng yǒu wǔ gè zìzhìqū.
> China has five autonomous regions in total.

特别行政区 特別行政區

tèbiéxíngzhèngqū special administrative region (SAR), of which there are two in the PRC: Hong Kong 香港 and Macau 澳門|澳门 / refers to many different areas during late Qing, foreign occupation, warlord period and Nationalist government / refers to special zones in North Korea and Indonesia

边疆 邊疆

biānjiāng border area / borderland / frontier / frontier region

> 你想去边疆旅行吗?
> Nǐ xiǎng qù biānjiāng lǚxíng ma?
> Would you like to travel to the frontier region?

边境 邊境

biānjìng frontier / border

> 边境上有人走私汽油。
> Biānjìng shàng yǒurén zǒusī qìyóu.
> Some people are smuggling gasoline across the border.

江南

jiāngnán region of China immediately south of the lower Yangtze River, including Shanghai and adjoining parts of Jiangsu, Anhui, Jiangxi and Zhejiang

> 塞外的风光和江南很不一样。
> Sàiwài de fēngguāng hé Jiāngnán hěn bù yíyàng.
> The scenery beyond the Great Wall is very different from that south of the Yangtze.

中原

zhōngyuán Central Plain, the middle and lower regions of the Yellow river, including Henan, western Shandong, southern Shanxi and Hebei

> 中原地区的冬天很冷，夏天很热。
> Zhōngyuán dìqū de dōngtiān hěn lěng, xiàtiān hěn rè.
> In the Central Plains region, winters are cold and summers are hot.

塞外

sàiwài territories beyond the Great Wall

> 你想不想骑着马去塞外看看?
> Nǐ xiǎng bùxiǎng qízhe mǎ qù sàiwài kànkan?
> Would you like to ride a horse out beyond the Great Wall and see it?

西域

xīyù Western Regions (Han Dynasty term for regions beyond Yumen Pass 玉門關|玉门关[Yu4 men2 Guan1])

> 葡萄最早是从西域传到中原的吗?
> Pútao zuì zǎo shì cóng Xīyù chuán dào Zhōngyuán de ma?
> Did grapes first spread to the Central Plains from the Western Regions?

大陆 大陸

dàlù continent / mainland / mainland China (reference to the PRC)

> 他从大陆回来了。
> Tā cóng dàlù huílaile.
> He returned from China.

首府

shǒufǔ capital city of an autonomous region

> 你去过广西的首府吗?
> Nǐ qùguo Guǎngxī de shǒufǔ ma?
> Have you ever been to the capital of Guangxi?

内地 內地

nèidì inland / interior / hinterland / mainland China (PRC excluding Hong Kong and Macau, but including islands such as Hainan) / Japan (used in Taiwan during Japanese colonization)

> 内地的冬天比海边更干燥。
> Nèidì de dōngtiān bǐ hǎibiān gèng gānzào.
> Winters inland are drier than by the sea.

辖区 轄區

xiáqū administrative region

> 警察正在辖区内巡逻。
> Jǐngchá zhèngzài xiáqū nèi xúnluó.
> The police are patrolling within their jurisdiction.

五湖四海

wǔhúsìhǎi all parts of the country

> 大学里的同学来自五湖四海。
> Dàxué lǐ de tóngxué láizì wǔhúsìhǎi.
> The students at the university come from all over the country.

Outside HSK

长三角 長三角

chángsānjiǎo Yangtze River Delta (abbr. for 長江三角洲|长江三角洲[Chang2 jiang1 San1 jiao3 zhou1])

> 我哥哥在长三角工作了好几年。
> Wǒ gēge zài Chángsānjiǎo gōngzuòle hǎojǐnián.
> My older brother has worked in the Yangtze River Delta for several years.

珠三角

zhūsānjiǎo Pearl River Delta

> 珠三角的夏天又热又潮湿。
> Zhūsānjiǎo de xiàtiān yòu rè yòu cháoshī.
> Summers in the Pearl River Delta are hot and humid.

京津冀

jīngjīnjì Jing-Jin-Ji (Beijing, Tianjin and Hebei Province)