CHINESE BOOST

Space and the universe Chinese vocabulary list

72 words with pinyin, 繁體 and meanings, 51 of them with an example sentence.
Every word here links to its entry on the site.

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Space and the universe 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)

月亮
yuèliang the moon

> 太阳比月亮大。
> Tàiyang bǐ yuèliang dà.
> The sun is larger than the moon.

太阳 太陽
tàiyang sun / sunlight / sunshine / temple (on the side of the human head) (abbr. for 太陽穴|太阳穴[tai4 yang2 xue2])

> 太阳出来了。
> Tàiyang chūláile.
> Sunshine appeared.

Intermediate (HSK 4-6)

星星
xīngxing a star / the stars in the sky

> 星星没有被看到。
> Xīngxing méiyǒu bèi kàndào.
> Not a star was to be seen.

地球
dìqiú the earth

> 地球出现了。
> Dìqiú chūxiànle.
> Earth appeared.

空间 空間
kōngjiān space / room / scope / leeway / outer space / (physics, math.) space

> 床占了很多空间。
> Chuáng zhànle hěn duō kōngjiān.
> The bed took up a lot of space.

太空
tàikōng outer space

> 太空旅行已不再是幻想。
> Tàikōng lǚxíng yǐ búzài shì huànxiǎng.
> Space travel is no longer a dream.

天文
tiānwén astronomy

> 哥哥在大学学天文。
> Gēge zài dàxué xué tiānwén.
> My older brother studies astronomy at university.

轨道 軌道
guǐdào track (for trains etc) / orbit (of a satellite) / a person's established path in life / desired trajectory (of a business or other endeavor) / track / orbital

> 你在正确的轨道上。
> Nǐ zài zhèngquè de guǐdào shàng.
> You're on the right track.

对接 對接
duìjiē to join up / to dock / a joint (between components)

> 这根水管的对接漏水了。
> Zhè gēn shuǐguǎn de duìjiē lòushuǐ le.
> The joint of this water pipe is leaking.

月球
yuèqiú the moon

> 月球上有兔子吗?
> Yuèqiú shàng yǒu tùzi ma?
> Are there rabbits on the Moon?

Advanced (HSK 7-9)

宇宙
yǔzhòu universe / cosmos / space

> 但宇宙无限。
> Dàn yǔzhòu wúxiàn.
> But the universe is infinite.

航天
hángtiān space flight

> 航天博物馆周末开门吗?
> Hángtiān bówùguǎn zhōumò kāimén ma?
> Is the space museum open on weekends?

卫星 衛星
wèixīng satellite / satellite / moon

> 金星没有卫星。
> Jīnxīng méiyǒu wèixīng.
> Venus has no moons.

火箭
huǒjiàn rocket

> 他们发射火箭。
> Tāmen fāshè huǒjiàn.
> They launched a rocket.

宇航员 宇航員
yǔhángyuán astronaut

行星
xíngxīng planet

> 你来自哪个行星？
> Nǐ láizì nǎge xíngxīng?
> Which planet are you from?

银河 銀河
yínhé Milky Way

> 夜里在山上能看见银河。
> Yèli zài shānshàng néng kànjiàn yínhé.
> At night you can see the Milky Way from the mountains.

星球
xīngqiú celestial body (e.g. planet, satellite etc) / heavenly body

> 我们能拯救这颗星球吗？
> Wǒmen néng zhěngjiù zhè kē xīngqiú ma?
> Can we save the planet?

太阳系 太陽系
tàiyángxì solar system

> 飞船离开太阳系了。
> Fēichuán líkāi tàiyángxì le.
> The spacecraft has left the solar system.

银河系 銀河系
yínhéxì Milky Way Galaxy / the galaxy (our galaxy)

> 夜里能看见银河系吗？
> Yèli néng kànjiàn yínhéxì ma?
> Can you see the Milky Way at night?

恒星 恆星
héngxīng star

> 地球不是恒星，而是行星。
> Dìqiú bú shì héngxīng, érshì xíngxīng.
> The earth is not a star, but a planet.

彗星
huìxīng comet

火星
huǒxīng spark (from a fire) / Mars (planet)

天文学 天文學
tiānwénxué astronomy

> 我哥哥大学学的是天文学。
> Wǒ gēge dàxué xué de shì tiānwénxué.
> My older brother studied astronomy at university.

大气层 大氣層
dàqìcéng the atmosphere / atmospheric layer

> 大气层怎么会影响天气？
> Dàqìcéng zěnme huì yǐngxiǎng tiānqì?
> How can the atmosphere affect the weather?

引力
yǐnlì gravitation (force) / attraction

> 黑洞的引力为什么那么大？
> Hēidòng de yǐnlì wèishénme nàme dà?
> Why is the gravitational pull of a black hole so strong?

重力
zhònglì gravity

> 飞机起飞要克服重力。
> Fēijī qǐfēi yào kèfú zhònglì.
> An airplane has to overcome gravity to take off.

失重
shīzhòng weightlessness

航天员 航天員
hángtiānyuán astronaut

> 我儿子长大想当航天员。
> Wǒ érzi zhǎngdà xiǎng dāng hángtiānyuán.
> My son wants to be an astronaut when he grows up.

飞船 飛船
fēichuán spaceship / spacecraft / dirigible / airship

> 那艘飞船真大啊。
> Nà sōu fēichuán zhēn dà a.
> How huge that airship is!

航天器
hángtiānqì spacecraft

探测器 探測器
tàncèqì detector / probe

探测 探測
tàncè to probe / to survey

> 飞船正在探测那颗星球。
> Fēichuán zhèngzài tàncè nà kē xīngqiú.
> The spacecraft is probing that planet.

发射 發射
fāshè to shoot (a projectile) / to fire (a rocket) / to launch / to emit (a particle) / to discharge / emanation / emission

> 他们发射火箭。
> Tāmen fāshè huǒjiàn.
> They launched a rocket.

空间站 空間站
kōngjiānzhàn space station

> 空间站在太空中绕着地球转。
> Kōngjiānzhàn zài tàikōng zhōng ràozhe dìqiú zhuàn.
> The space station orbits the Earth in outer space.

登月
dēngyuè to go (up) to the moon

> 我爷爷还记得当年登月的新闻。
> Wǒ yéye hái jìde dāngnián dēngyuè de xīnwén.
> My grandfather still remembers the news of the moon landing back then.

大爆炸
dàbàozhà Big Bang (cosmology)

> 大爆炸之前到底有什么？
> Dàbàozhà zhīqián dàodǐ yǒu shénme?
> What was there before the Big Bang, anyway?

黑洞
hēidòng black hole

> 黑洞的引力为什么那么大?
> Hēidòng de yǐnlì wèishénme nàme dà?
> Why is the gravitational pull of a black hole so strong?

望远镜 望遠鏡
wàngyuǎnjìng telescope / binoculars

> 用望远镜能看见星星。
> Yòng wàngyuǎnjìng néng kànjiàn xīngxing.
> You can see the stars using a telescope.

外星人
wàixīngrén space alien / extraterrestrial

> 我被外星人绑架了。
> Wǒ bèi wàixīngrén bǎngjiàle.
> I was abducted by aliens.

飞行器 飛行器
fēixíngqì flying craft (airplane, drone, missile, balloon, spacecraft, satellite etc)

星空
xīngkōng starry sky / the star-studded heavens

陨石 隕石
yǔnshí meteorite / aerolite

> 那颗陨石是从太空掉下来的。
> Nà kē yǔnshí shì cóng tàikōng diào xiàlai de.
> That meteorite fell from space.

流星
liúxīng meteor / shooting star / meteor hammer (abbr. for 流星錘|流星锤[liu2 xing1 chui2])

小行星
xiǎoxíngxīng asteroid / minor planet

> 这颗小行星离地球很远。
> Zhè kē xiǎoxíngxīng lí dìqiú hěn yuǎn.
> This asteroid is very far from the Earth.

星云 星雲
xīngyún nebula

超新星
chāoxīnxīng supernova / breakout star

暗物质 暗物質
ànwùzhì dark matter

> 暗物质至今还没被找到。
> Ànwùzhì zhìjīn hái méi bèi zhǎodào.
> Dark matter still hasn't been found.

宇宙飞船 宇宙飛船
yǔzhòufēichuán spaceship / spacecraft

> 宇宙飞船明天就要起飞了。
> Yǔzhòufēichuán míngtiān jiùyào qǐfēile.
> The spaceship is about to take off tomorrow.

航天飞机 航天飛機
hángtiānfēijī space shuttle

> 航天飞机终于回到地球了。
> Hángtiānfēijī zhōngyú huídào dìqiú le.
> The space shuttle has finally returned to Earth.

推进器 推進器
tuījìnqì propeller / propulsion unit / thruster

着陆 著陸
zhuólù landing / touchdown / to land / to touch down

太空舱 太空艙
tàikōngcāng space capsule / ejection capsule (cabin)

> 太空舱里面又小又冷吗?
> Tàikōngcāng lǐmiàn yòu xiǎo yòu lěng ma?
> Is it small and cold inside the space capsule?

木星
mùxīng Jupiter (planet)

金星
jīnxīng gold star / stars (that one sees from blow to the head etc) / Venus (planet)

> 金星自转得非常慢。
> Jīnxīng zìzhuàn de fēicháng màn.
> Venus rotates on its axis very slowly.

水星
shuǐxīng Mercury

土星
tǔxīng Saturn (planet)

北斗星
běidǒuxīng the Big Dipper / the Plow

> 晚上往北看，就能找到北斗星。
> Wǎnshang wǎng běi kàn, jiù néng zhǎodào Běidǒuxīng.
> Look north at night and you can find the Big Dipper.

光年
guāngnián light-year

> 一光年到底有多长?
> Yì guāngnián dàodǐ yǒu duō cháng?
> Just how long is one light-year?

星座
xīngzuò constellation / astrological sign

> 你什么星座啊?
> Nǐ shénme xīngzuò a?
> What's your sign?

Advanced (HSK 7-9), part 2

航天局
hángtiānjú space agency

> 航天局明年要发射一艘新的飞船。
> Hángtiānjú míngnián yào fāshè yì sōu xīn de fēichuán.
> The space agency will launch a new spacecraft next year.

发射场 發射場
fāshèchǎng launch site

> 火箭已经运到发射场了。
> Huǒjiàn yǐjīng yùn dào fāshèchǎng le.
> The rocket has already been transported to the launch site.

天文台
tiānwéntái astronomical observatory

> 周末我们带孩子去天文台看星星。
> Zhōumò wǒmen dài háizi qù tiānwéntái kàn xīngxing.
> This weekend we're taking the kids to the observatory to look at the stars.

运载火箭 運載火箭
yùnzàihuǒjiàn carrier rocket

光速
guāngsù the speed of light / extremely quickly

人造卫星 人造衛星
rénzàowèixīng artificial satellite

> 这颗人造卫星绕着地球转。
> Zhè kē rénzàowèixīng ràozhe dìqiú zhuàn.
> This artificial satellite orbits the Earth.

Outside HSK

宇航
yǔháng space flight

太阳风 太陽風
tàiyángfēng solar wind

> 太阳风的速度有多快?
> Tàiyángfēng de sùdù yǒu duō kuài?
> How fast is the solar wind?

中子星
zhōngzǐxīng neutron star

引力波
yǐnlìbō gravitational wave

太空行走
tàikōngxíngzǒu spacewalk

> 太空行走很危险吗?
> Tàikōngxíngzǒu hěn wēixiǎn ma?
> Is a spacewalk very dangerous?

近地轨道 近地軌道
jìndìguǐdào low Earth orbit (LEO)

> 近地轨道上的垃圾越来越多了。
> Jìndìguǐdào shàng de lājī yuèláiyuè duō le.
> There is more and more debris in low Earth orbit.