



Chinese Particles (了, 吗, 呢, 吧, and More)

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Word	Pinyin	Type	Meaning	Example Pinyin
的 de	Before a noun		Connects owner or description to a noun	delicious dishes
得 de	After a verb		Describes the result or degree of an action	do very well
地 de	Before a verb		Describes how an action is done	sing happily
A 的 de B	A describes or owns B		新的手机	new phone
Verb + 得 de + Adj	action happens to a certain degree		看得很清楚	see very clearly
Adj + 地 de + Verb	action is done in a certain way		开心地聊天	chat happily
Verb + 得 de + Complement	result or state after the action		忙得没时间	so busy there is no time
Phrase + 的 de + Noun	longer modifier before a noun		我昨天买的书	the book I bought yesterday
了	le	Aspect particle	Indicates completed action or change of state	wǒ chī le
吗	ma	Question particle	Turns a statement into a yes/no question	nǐ hǎo ma
呢	ne	Question particle / follow-up	And you? / How about...? / Ongoing aspect	nǐ ne
吧	ba	Suggestion / assumption particle	Indicates suggestion, assumption, or softens tone	zǒu ba
啊	a	Interjection / softening particle	Expresses emotion or softens a command	lái a
嘛	ma	Emphatic particle	Of course; indicates something is obvious	jiù shì zhèyàng ma
过	guo	aspect particle	indicates past experience	Wǒ qù guo Zhōngguó.
着	zhe	aspect particle	indicates ongoing state or action	Tā chuānzhe hóng yīfu.
呀	ya	modal particle	softens questions or exclamatory	Nǐ hǎo ya!
呗	bei	modal particle	suggests obviousness or mild suggestion	Qù jiù qù bei.

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来着	láizhe	modal particle	indicates recent past (colloquial)	Nǐ gāngcái shuō shénme láizhe?
罢了	bàle	limiting particle	"that's all", indicates no more than stated	Wǒ zhǐshì kāi wánxiào bàle.
而已	éryǐ	Limiting particle placed at the end of a phrase to mean 'only, merely, nothing more'	only; nothing more	Wǒ zhǐshì kāi wánxiào éryǐ.
哦	ó	Modal particle indicating sudden realization, understanding, or acknowledgment	oh (indicating realization)	Ó, yuánlái shì zhèyàng!
哟	yō	Modal particle used to express exclamation, emphasis, or mild surprise; adds a lively tone	oh (exclamatory)	Hǎo piàoliang yo!
哈	hā	Softening particle used in suggestions or statements to sound friendly or seek agreement	right?; isn't it? (friendly tone)	Wǒmen míngtiān jiàn, hā?
哇	wā	Variant of 啊 (a) used after syllables ending in -u or -ao; exclamatory or softening particle	wow; ah (variant of 啊)	Hǎo dà de yǔ wā!
哪	nā	Variant of 啊 (a) used after syllables ending in -n; expresses exclamation, question, or pause	ah (variant of 啊 after -n)	Nǐ zěnmē bù qù nā?
着呢	zhe ne	intensifier (adj + 着呢)	quite, indeed	hǎo zhe ne
的话	de huà	conditional particle (phrase + 的话)	if	nǐ qù de huà
看	kàn	tentative particle (verb + 看)	try and see	shì shì kàn
也好	yě hǎo	concessive particle	either is fine; might as well	qù yě hǎo