



Essential Traditional Chinese Grammar Words

· 100 words · 2026-07-03

Word	Pinyin	Type	Meaning	Example	Example Pinyin	Translation
了	le	Aspect particle	Indicates completed action or change of state	我吃飯了。	Wǒ chīfàn le.	I ate. (I've eaten.)
的	de	Possessive / attributive particle	Marks possession or modifies a noun	這是我的書。	Zhè shì wǒ de shū.	This is my book.
在	zài	Preposition / adverb	At, in, on; indicates location or ongoing action	他在學校。	Tā zài xuéxiào.	He is at school.
和	hé	Conjunction	And (connects nouns, not clauses)	我喜歡蘋果和香蕉。	Wǒ xǐhuān píngguǒ hé xiāngjiāo.	I like apples and bananas.
因為	yīnwèi	Conjunction	Because	因為下雨，所以我不去。	Yīnwèi xiàyǔ, suǒyǐ wǒ bú qù.	Because it's raining, I'm not going.
所以	suǒyǐ	Conjunction	So, therefore	他生病了，所以沒來上課。	Tā shēngbìng le, suǒyǐ méi lái shàngkè.	He is sick, so he didn't come to class.
但是	dànshì	Conjunction	But, however	我想去，但是沒有時間。	Wǒ xiǎng qù, dànshì méiyǒu shíjiān.	I want to go, but I don't have time.
嗎	ma	Question particle	Used at the end of a sentence to form a yes-no question	你好嗎？	Nǐ hǎo ma?	How are you? (Lit: Are you good?)
呢	ne	Particle for follow-up questions / continuation	How about...? / And you? / What about...?	我很好，你呢？	Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?	I'm very well, and you?
吧	ba	Suggestion particle	Suggests a course of action; softens a command	我們走吧！	Wǒmen zǒu ba!	Let's go!
過	guo	Experiential aspect particle	Indicates an experience (have done something before)	我去過台灣。	Wǒ qù guo Táiwān.	I have been to Taiwan.
還	hái	Adverb	Still, yet; also, in addition	他還在睡覺。	Tā hái zài shuǐjiào.	He is still sleeping.
是	shì	verb	is/am/are	我是學生。	Wǒ shì xuéshēng.	I am a student.
有	yǒu	verb	have/there is	我有一本書。	Wǒ yǒu yī běn shū.	I have a book.
不	bù	adverb	not (negation for verbs/adjectives)	我不喜歡咖啡。	Wǒ bù xǐhuān kāfēi.	I don't like coffee.

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沒	méi	adverb	not (negation for 有 or past actions)	我沒有錢。	Wǒ méiyǒu qián.	I don't have money.
要	yào	auxiliary verb	want/will/need	我要喝水。	Wǒ yào hē shuǐ.	I want to drink water.
會	huì	auxiliary verb	can/will (ability or future)	我會說中文。	Wǒ huì shuō Zhōngwén.	I can speak Chinese.
可以	kěyǐ	auxiliary verb	can/may (permission)	我可以進來嗎?	Wǒ kěyǐ jìnlái ma?	May I come in?
就	jiù	adverb	then/just (emphasis on immediacy or earliness)	他來了我就走。	Tā lái le wǒ jiù zǒu.	I'll leave as soon as he comes.
才	cái	adverb	only then/late (emphasis on lateness or small quantity)	我昨天才到。	Wǒ zuótiān cái dào.	I only arrived yesterday.
也	yě	adverb	also/too	我也喜歡學英文。	Wǒ yě xǐhuān xué Yīngwén.	I also like learning English.
都	dōu	adverb	all/both	他們都是學生。	Tāmen dōu shì xuéshēng.	They are all students.
把	bǎ	preposition	(object marker) used to move object before verb for disposal	請把門打開。	Qǐng bǎ mén dǎkāi.	Please open the door.
很	hěn	adverb (degree)	very	我很好。	Wǒ hěn hǎo.	I am fine.
真	zhēn	adverb	really	她真聰明!	Tā zhēn cōngmíng!	She is really smart!
太	tài	adverb	too, extremely	這個太貴了。	Zhège tài guì le.	This is too expensive.
最	zuì	adverb	most, -est	他最喜歡看書。	Tā zuì xǐhuān kàn shū.	He likes reading most.
比	bǐ	preposition (comparison)	than	我比你高。	Wǒ bǐ nǐ gāo.	I am taller than you.
被	bèi	passive marker	by (passive voice)	書被我放在桌上。	Shū bèi wǒ fàng zài zhuō shàng.	The book was put on the table by me.
給	gěi	preposition / verb	to, for, give	我給你一本書。	Wǒ gěi nǐ yī běn shū.	I give you a book.
對	duì	preposition / adjective	to, towards; correct	他對我說「你好」。	Tā duì wǒ shuō "nǐ hǎo".	He said "hello" to me.
從	cóng	preposition	from	我從台北來。	Wǒ cóng Táiběi lái.	I come from Taipei.
到	dào	preposition / verb	to, until; arrive	火車到站了。	Huǒchē dào zhàn le.	The train arrived at the

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						station.
讓	ràng	verb / causative marker	to let, make (someone do something)	媽媽讓我出去玩。	Māma ràng wǒ chūqù wán.	Mom let me go out to play.
跟	gēn	preposition / conjunction	with, and	我跟你一起去。	Wǒ gēn nǐ yìqǐ qù.	I go with you.
著	zhe	aspect particle	indicates ongoing state or continuous action	門開著。	Mén kāi zhe.	The door is open.
得	de	structural particle	connects verb and complement for evaluation or possibility	他跑得很快。	Tā pǎo de hěn kuài.	He runs very fast.
地	de	adverbial marker	turns an adjective into an adverb	她高興地笑了。	Tā gāoxìng de xiào le.	She smiled happily.
再	zài	adverb	again (in the future)	明天再來吧。	Míngtiān zài lái ba.	Come again tomorrow.
又	yòu	adverb	again (in the past)	昨天又下雨了。	Zuótiān yòu xià yǔ le.	It rained again yesterday.
正	zhèng	adverb	just in the middle of doing something	我正忙著呢。	Wǒ zhèng máng zhe ne.	I am busy right now.
剛剛	gānggāng	adverb	just now	他剛剛離開。	Tā gānggāng líkāi.	He left just now.
已經	yǐjīng	adverb	already	我已經吃了。	Wǒ yǐjīng chī le.	I have already eaten.
一定	yídìng	adverb	certainly, definitely	我明天一定來。	Wǒ míngtiān yídìng lái.	I will definitely come tomorrow.
可能	kěnéng	adverb	possibly, maybe	他可能不知道。	Tā kěnéng bù zhīdào.	He might not know.
應該	yīnggāi	modal verb	should, ought to	你應該早點睡。	Nǐ yīnggāi zǎodiǎn shuì.	You should go to bed earlier.
必須	bìxū	modal adverb	must, have to	你必須馬上來。	Nǐ bìxū mǎshàng lái.	You must come immediately.
能	néng	modal verb (ability/possibility)	can / be able to	我能來。	Wǒ néng lái.	I can come.
還是	háishi	conjunction (or in questions)	or (used in questions)	你想喝茶還是咖啡?	Nǐ xiǎng hē chá háishi kāfēi?	Do you want tea or coffee?
完	wán	complement (completion of action)	finish doing (used after verbs)	我吃完了。	Wǒ chī wán le.	I finished eating.
一下	yíxià	complement (brief action)	briefly, a little (softens tone)	請等一下。	Qǐng děng yíxià.	Please wait a moment.
如果	rúguǒ	Conjunction (conditional)	if, in case	如果下雨, 我不去。	Rúguǒ xià yǔ, wǒ bú qù.	If it rains, I won't go.

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雖然	suīrán	Conjunction (concessive)	although, even though	雖然很忙，他還是來了。	Suīrán hěn máng, tā háishì lái le.	Although he was very busy, he still came.
將	jiāng	Preposition / Future marker	will; (formal object marker similar to 把)	他將杯子放下。	Tā jiāng bēizi fàng xià.	He will put the cup down.
而	ér	Conjunction (and/yet)	and; yet, while; furthermore	她聰明而努力。	Tā cōngmíng ér nǔlì.	She is smart and hardworking.
只	zhǐ	adverb	only / merely	我只要一杯水。	Wǒ zhǐ yào yì bēi shuǐ.	I only want a cup of water.
或	huò	conjunction	or (in statements)	你可以坐公車或捷運。	Nǐ kěyǐ zuò gōngchē huò jiéyùn.	You can take the bus or the MRT.
更	gèng	adverb	more / even more	今天比昨天更冷。	jīn tiān bǐ zuó tiān gèng lěng	Today is even colder than yesterday.
為了	wèile	preposition/conjunction	in order to / for the sake of	我為了考試而努力。	wǒ wèile kǎoshì ér nǔlì	I study hard in order to take the exam.
卻	què	adversative conjunction	but, however, yet	他很累，卻還在工作。	tā hěn lèi, què hái zài gōng zuò	He is very tired, but he is still working.
甚至	shènzhì	adverb, conjunction	even, so far as to	他很聰明，甚至會三種語言。	tā hěn cōngmíng, shènzhì huì sān zhǒng yǔ yán	He is very smart and even speaks three languages.
除非	chúfēi	conjunction	unless	除非下雨，不然我們去爬山。	chúfēi xià yǔ, bù rán wǒ men qù pá shān	Unless it rains, we will go hiking.
以便	yǐbiàn	conjunction	in order to, so that	請寫下地址，以便我聯絡你。	qǐng xiě xià dì zhǐ, yǐbiàn wǒ lián luò nǐ	Please write down your address so that I can contact you.
每	měi	determiner/measure word	every	我每天下午喝茶。	wǒ měi tiān xià wǔ hē chá	I drink tea every afternoon.
自己	zìjǐ	reflexive pronoun	oneself	這是我自己做的。	zhè shì wǒ zìjǐ zuò de	I made this myself.
其實	qíshí	adverb	actually; in fact	其實我不喜歡咖啡。	qíshí wǒ bù xǐ huān kā fēi	Actually, I don't like coffee.
終於	zhōngyú	adverb	finally; at last	他終於回家了。	tā zhōngyú huí jiā le	He finally came home.
可	kě	conjunction/adverb for contrast or emphasis	but, however; indeed, finally	我想去，可是下雨	wǒ xiǎng qù, kěshì xià yǔ	I want to go, but it started

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				了。	le.	raining.
倒	dào	adverb indicating something contrary to expectation or emphasis	actually, on the contrary	他看起來很忙，倒很有耐心。	tā kàn qǐ lái hěn máng, dào hěn yǒu nài xīn.	He looks very busy, but he is actually very patient.
總	zǒng	adverb meaning 'always' or 'after all', expressing inevitability	always, in the end	他總是早到。	tā zǒng shì zǎo dào.	He always arrives early.
並	bìng	adverb used before negatives for emphasis	actually, indeed (with negative)	我並不喜歡咖啡。	wǒ bìng bù xǐ huān kāfēi.	I do not really like coffee.
們	men	plural suffix for pronouns and human nouns	plural marker (we, you, they)	他們在教室裡。	tāmen zài jiàoshì lǐ.	They are in the classroom.
啊	a	sentence-final particle for exclamation or confirmation	ah! (softens tone or exclaims)	這個好啊！	zhège hǎo a!	This is great!
個	gè	general measure word (classifier)	general classifier for nouns	我有一個問題。	wǒ yǒu yī gè wèntí.	I have one question.
除了	chúle	preposition meaning 'except' or 'besides'	except, besides	除了我，大家都去了。	chúle wǒ, dàjiā dōu qù le.	Everyone went except me.
以	yǐ	preposition; introduces means, purpose, or basis	with; by means of; in order to; according to	我們以中文交流。	wǒmen yǐ zhōngwén jiāoliú.	We communicate in Chinese.
然而	rán'ér	conjunction; indicates contrast	however; yet; but	他很努力，然而還是失敗了。	tā hěn nǔ lì, rán'ér hái shì shībài le.	He worked hard; however, he still failed.
因此	yīncǐ	conjunction; introduces result or consequence	therefore; thus; as a result	今天下雨，因此我們取消了行程。	jīntiān xià yǔ, yīncǐ wǒmen qǔxiāo le xíngchéng.	It rained today, therefore we canceled the trip.
此外	cǐwài	conjunction; adds supplementary information	besides; in addition; furthermore	這家店很便宜；此外，服務也很好。	zhè jiā diàn hěn piányí; cǐwài, fúwù yě hěn hǎo.	This shop is cheap; in addition, the service is also very good.
而已	éryǐ	particle	only, nothing more	我只是學生而已。	wǒ zhǐ shì xuéshēng éryǐ.	I'm just a student, nothing more.
否則	fǒuzé	conjunction	otherwise	快點出門，否則會遲到。	kuài diǎn chū mén, fǒuzé huì chí dào.	Hurry and leave, otherwise you'll be late.
以及	yǐjí	conjunction	and, as well as	我買了蘋果以及香蕉。	wǒ mǎi le píngguǒ yǐjí xiāngjiāo.	I bought apples and bananas.
既然	jìrán	conjunction	since, now that	既然你來了，就一	jìrán nǐ lái le, jiù yì qǐ chī fàn ba.	Since you're here, let's eat together.

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				起吃飯吧。		
用	yòng	Preposition	using; with	請用筷子吃飯。	qǐng yòng kuàizi chīfàn.	Please use chopsticks to eat.
可是	kěshì	Conjunction	but; however	我想去，可是我沒時間。	wǒ xiǎng qù, kěshì wó méi shíjiān.	I want to go, but I don't have time.
的話	dehuà	Particle	if (conditional particle)	你有空的話，來找我。	nǐ yǒu kòng dehuà, lái zhǎo wǒ.	If you have time, come find me.
嘛	ma	Particle	indicates obviousness or emphasis	這件事很簡單嘛。	zhè jiàn shì hěn jiǎndān ma.	This matter is very simple, you know.
或者	huòzhě	conjunction	or (in statements)	你或者我去。	nǐ huòzhě wǒ qù.	Either you or I will go.
於	yú	preposition	at, in, on, with regard to (formal)	我於昨天到達。	wǒ yú zuótiān dàodá.	I arrived yesterday.
即使	jíshǐ	conjunction	even if	即使下雨，我也去。	jíshǐ xià yǔ, wǒ yě qù.	Even if it rains, I will go.
由	yóu	preposition	by (agent), from	這件事由他決定。	zhè jiàn shì yóu tā juédìng.	This matter is decided by him.
所	suǒ	Structural particle: nominalizer or passive marker	that which; used in 被...所 pattern	我所知道的很少。	wǒ suǒ zhīdào de hěn shǎo.	What I know is very little.
連	lián	Emphatic adverb: 'even' (with 都/也)	even (including the extreme case)	連我也不知道。	lián wǒ yě bù zhīdào.	Even I don't know.
越	yuè	Comparative adverb: 越...越... pattern	the more... the more...	天氣越來越好。	tiānqì yuè lái yuè hǎo.	The weather is getting better and better.
則	zé	Contrastive conjunction / then (literary)	whereas; then (in that case)	他喜歡茶，則我喜歡咖啡。	tā xǐhuān chá, zé wǒ xǐhuān kāfēi.	He likes tea, whereas I like coffee.
怎麼	zěnmē	question word (how, why)	how; why; what's the matter	你怎麼了？	nǐ zěnmē le?	What's wrong with you?
什麼	shénme	question word (what)	what	你要什麼？	nǐ yào shénme?	What do you want?
誰	shéi	question word (who)	who	他是誰？	tā shì shéi?	Who is he?
哪	nǎ	question word (which)	which	你要哪一本書？	nǐ yào nǎ yī běn shū?	Which book do you want?