

How To Learn Traditional Chinese Characters

499 words - 2026-07-07

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
A		
啊	a	ah, an exclamation
阿姨	āyí	one's mother's sister, auntie
矮	ǎi	short (of stature), low
愛	ài	to love / be apt to
安靜	ānjìng	to be quiet, calm, peaceful
安全	ānquán	safety / to be safe, secure
B		
吧	ba	question particle, implying probability / sentence suffix, indicating a request
八	bā	eight
把	bǎ	indicating pre-verbal object as thing dealt with by the action
爸爸	bàba	father
白	bái	white/ to be white
百	bǎi	hundred
百貨公司	bǎihuògōngsī	department store
班	bān	Measure word for a group of organized people.
搬	bān	to move
半	bàn	half
辦法	bànfǎ	method, way of doing something
辦公室	bàngōngshì	office
幫	bāng	to help, to assist
幫忙	bāngmáng	to help someone do something
棒	bàng	good; fine; excellent, great!
棒球	bàngqiú	baseball
包	bāo	package of, parcel of/ to wrap, to contain
包子	bāozi	steamed pork bun
飽	bào	to be full (after eating)
抱	bào	to hug, to embrace, to hold or carry in one's arms
報紙	bàozhǐ	newspaper, newsprint
杯	bēi	A cup of
杯子	bēizi	cup
北	běi	north
被	bèi	a passive voice indicator
本	běn	Individual measure word for books or magazines, etc.
本子	bēnzi	book, notebook, edition
筆	bǐ	pen
比	bǐ	to compare; compared to, than
比較	bǐjiào	comparatively; to compare
邊	biān	side

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
遍	biàn	Measure word for the course of an action from the beginning to the end.
錶	bìǎo	watch
別	bié	don't
別人	biérén	other people
冰箱	bīngxiāng	refrigerator
餅乾	bīnggān	biscuit, cracker, cookie
病	bìng	illness, disease
病人	bìngrén	patient
必須	bìxū	must
不	bú	not, no
不錯	búcuò	to be not bad, pretty good
不但	búdàn	not only
不客氣	búkèqì	you're welcome
不用	bùyòng	need not, don't have to
不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	to feel embarrassed; to be ill at ease
不一定	bùyídìng	uncertain, not for sure, not necessarily
C		
擦	cā	to rub, to wipe, to clean
猜	cāi	guess, suspect
才	cái	not until, only then , only, merely
菜	cài	food, cuisine
菜單	càidān	menu
參加	cānjiā	to attend, to participate
餐廳	cāntīng	restaurant
餐桌	cānzhuō	dining table
草	cǎo	grass
草地	cǎodì	lawn
常	cháng	often, usually, generally
常常	chángcháng	often, frequently
唱歌(兒)	chànggē(ér)	sing
超級市場	chāojīshìchǎng	supermarket
吵	chǎo	to make a noise, to disturb, to quarrel/ to be noisy
成績	chéngjì	grade (at school), academic record, achievement
城市	chéngshì	city
襯衫	chènshān	a dress shirt or a collared blouse with buttons
吃	chī	to eat
吃飽	chībǎo	satiate; full
遲到	chídào	to be late/ arrive late
出	chū	to go or come out
出國	chūguó	go abroad (from one's own country)
出來	chūlái	to come out
出去	chūqù	to go out, to leave
廚房	chúfáng	kitchen
穿	chuān	to wear, to put on

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
船	chuán	ship, boat
窗/窗戶	chuāng / chuānghù	window
床	chuáng	bed
春天	chūntiān	spring, springtime
吹	chuī	blow, puff, play (wind instruments)
次	cì	Measure word for the number of repetitions in a given period of time
聰明	cōngmíng	to be intelligent
從	cóng	from
從前	cóngqián	formerly, in the past, used to
錯	cuò	to be wrong/ mistake
打	dǎ	to hit, to beat, to strike
打開	dǎkāi	to open up
打掃	dǎsǎo	to sweep, to clean
打算	dǎsuàn	to plan
大	dà	to be big, to be large
大家	dàjiā	everyone
大聲	dàshēng	loud voice
大學	dàxué	university
大衣	dàyī	overcoat, topcoat
帶	dài	to bring
戴	dài	to wear (hat, watch, jewelry etc.)
袋子	dàizi	bag, sack
蛋	dàn	egg
蛋糕	dàngāo	cake
但是	dànshì	but, still, however
當然	dāngrán	of course
刀叉	dāochā	knife and fork
倒	dǎo	to pour, to dump out
到	dào	to reach, to arrive/ to leave for
的	de	possessive or modifying particle
得	de	a particle used between a verb or adjective and its complement to indicate manner or degree
德國	déguó	Germany, German
等	děng	to wait
低	dī	to be low
地	dì	the earth, land, soil, fields, ground, place, position, background, distance
第	dì	a prefix for ordinal numbers
弟弟	dìdì	younger brother
掉	diào	drop, fall, come off, lose, be missing, fall behind, change, turn
點(兒)	diǎn(ér)	Partial measure word for a small quantity of things.
點菜	diǎncài	to order food
點心	diǎnxīn	a snack, light refreshment
點鐘	diǎnzhōng	o'clock

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
店	diàn	store, shop
電	diàn	electricity
電燈	diàndēng	electric lamp / light
電話	diànhuà	telephone, call
電腦	diànnǎo	computer
電視(機)	diànshì (jī)	television set
電影	diànyǐng	movie
電影院	diànyǐngyuàn	cinema, movie(house)
地方	dìfāng	place
地上	dìshàng	ground
地圖	dìtú	map
東(邊)	dōng(biān)	east
冬天	dōngtiān	winter, wintertime
東西	dōngxi	thing
懂	dǒng	to understand
動	dòng	to move; to be moved
動物	dòngwù	animal
動物園	dòngwùyuán	zoo
都	dōu	all, both
讀	dú	to read; to go to/ attend school or college
短	duǎn	to be short
讀書	dúshū	to study, to read
肚子	dùzi	stomach, belly, abdomen
對	duì	answer, reply, treat
對不起	duìbuqǐ	I'm sorry; Excuse me
對面	duìmiàn	the other side, place across from
多	duō	more than the correct, required number, much, far more/ many, much, more
多少	duōshǎo	how much, how many
朵	duǒ	Individual measure word for cloud and flowers
E		
餓	è	to be hungry
二	èr	two
兒子	érzi	son
耳朵	ěrduo	ear
F		
發生	fāshēng	to happen, to occur, take place
發現	fāxiàn	to discover
法國	fǎguó	France, French
飯	fàn	food, meal
飯店	fàndiàn	hotel, restaurant
方便	fāngbiàn	to be convenient
方法	fāngfǎ	method, way, means
房(子)	fáng(zi)	house
房間	fángjiān	room

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
放	fàng	to put, to release
放假	fàngjià	to have a holiday, vacation
放下	fàngxià	to lay down; to put down; to let sth. down; to lower; to set down
飛	fēi	to fly
飛機	fēijī	airplane
非常	fēicháng	very, extremely
分(鐘)	fēn(zhōng)	minute
封	fēng	Measure word for letters, telegrams, etc.
風	fēng	wind
風景	fēngjǐng	scenery, view landscape
服務生	fúwùshēng	attendant, service person, waiter
附近	fùjìn	nearby
父親	fùqīn	father
G		
改	gǎi	to change, to alter, to correct
乾	gān	to be dry
乾淨	gānjìng	to be clean
感冒	gǎnmào	to have a cold; cold, flu
剛剛	gānggāng	just now
高	gāo	to be tall, to be high
高興	gāoxìng	to be happy
告訴	gàosù	to tell, to inform
個	gè	Individual measure word for persons and material things.
歌(兒)	gē(ér)	song
哥哥	gēge	elder brother
給	gěi	to give/ for, for the benefit of, by (in passive cons.)
跟	gēn	with/ and
更	gèng	even more, still more
公車	gōngchē	city bus
公共汽車	gōnggòngqìchē	city bus
功課	gōngkè	schoolwork, homework
公司	gōngsī	company
恭喜	gōngxǐ	to congratulate
公寓	gōngyù	apartment building
公園	gōngyuán	park
工作	gōngzuò	work/ to work
狗	gǒu	dog
夠(了)	gòu(le)	to be enough
故事	gùshi	story
掛	guà	to hang
乖	guāi	well-behaved
關	guān	to close; to turn off
關上	guānshàng	to close, to shut; to turn off

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
貴	guì	to be expensive
國(家)	guó(jiā)	nation, country
果汁	guǒzhǐ	fruit juice
過	guò	V: to pass, P: a suffix indicating completion of an action, or completion of an action as an experience
過來	guòlái	come over/ up, come here
過年	guònián	to celebrate the Chinese New Year
過去	guòqù	in the past, formerly/ go over, pass by
H		
還	hái	still, yet
還是	háishì	or
孩(子)	hái(zi)	child
海(邊)	hǎi(biān)	ocean, sea
害怕	hàipà	be afraid / scared
韓國	hánguó	the Republic of Korea
寒假	hánjià	winter vacation
漢堡(包)	hànbǎo(bāo)	hamburger
漢語	hànyǔ	Chinese / Sinitic language(s)
漢字	hànzì	Ch. character, sinograph
好	hǎo	very, quite/ to be good, well
好吃	hǎochī	to be fond of eating
好看	hǎokàn	to be good-looking
好像	hǎoxiàng	to seem, to be likely, to be like
好玩(兒)	hǎowán(ér)	to be interesting, to be full of fun
號	hào	Measure word for numbers and dates.
號碼	hàomǎ	number
喝	hē	to drink
和	hé	and
河	hé	river
盒(子)	hé (zi)	box, case
黑	hēi	black/ to be black
很	hěn	very
紅	hóng	red/ to be red
紅包	hóngbāo	red envelope containing a money gift
紅茶	hóngchá	black tea
紅綠燈	hónglǜdēng	traffic light
後面	hòumiàn	back
後來	hòulái	afterwards, later on
護士	hùshì	(hospital)nurse
花(兒)	huā(ér)	flower
花園	huāyuán	flower garden
滑雪	huáxuě	to ski
畫	huà	picture, drawing
畫家	huàjiā	a painter (as in an artist)
壞	huài	to be bad

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
換	huàn	to change
黃	huáng	yellow/ to be yellow
歡迎	huānyíng	welcome
回	huí	to return
回答	huídá	answer
回家	huíjiā	return home
回來	huílái	to return, to come back
回去	huíqù	to leave, to go back
會	huì	can, be able to, be good at, be skillful in
活	huó	live, save (sb.'s life)
活動	huódòng	activity
火	huǒ	fire
火車	huǒchē	train
或	huò	or, either or
或是	huòshì	or, perhaps
J		
機會	jīhuì	chance, opportunity
機場	jīchǎng	airport
幾	jǐ	a few, several; how many
寄	jì	to mail
記	jì	to record, to write, to jot down
計程車	jìchéngchē	taxi
計畫	jìhuà	plan, project, program/ to plan, to map out
加	jiā	to add to
家	jiā	home, family
家庭	jiātíng	family, household
間	jiān	Container measure word for houses or other buildings.
簡單	jiǎndān	to be simple, uncomplicated
件	jiàn	Individual measure word for clothes, etc.
見	jiàn	to see, to meet
見面	jiànmiàn	to meet someone, to see someone
健康	jiànkāng	to be healthy, in good physical condition; health
講	jiǎng	to speak, explain
講話	jiǎnghuà	speak, talk, address
交	jiāo	hand over, deliver
腳	jiǎo	foot
腳踏車	jiǎotàchē	bicycle
餃(子)	jiǎo(zǐ)	Chinese dumpling
叫	jiào	to be called, to call
教	jiāo	to teach
教室	jiàoshì	classroom
接(到)	jiē(dào)	to receive, to meet, to come into contact with
結婚	jiéhūn	to marry, to get married
節目	jiémù	program, events (of entertainment, a program, etc.)

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
姐姐	jiějie	elder sister
解決	jiějué	to resolve, settle
借	jiè	to borrow, to lend
介紹	jièshào	to introduce, to suggest
斤	jīn	A unit of weight
今年	jīnnián	this year
今天	jīntiān	today
警察	jīngchá	police officer
緊張	jīnzhāng	to be nervous, to be tense
近	jìn	to be near
進	jìn	move forward, enter
進步	jìnbù	progress; to improve
進來	jìnlái	come in
進去	jìnqù	go in
經過	jīngguò	to pass by, to pass through
九	jiǔ	nine
久	jiǔ	to be a long time
酒	jiǔ	wine or liquor
就	jiù	just, exactly, only; then, right away; (indicating immediacy)
舊	jiù	to be old, to be used
就要	jiùyào	soon, in no time
句子	jùzi	sentence
覺得	juéde	to feel, to think, to consider
決定	juéding	to decide
K		
咖啡	kāfēi	coffee
卡片	kǎpiàn	card
開	kāi	to drive, to open, to turn on
開車	kāichē	to drive a car
開始	kāishǐ	to start, to begin
開水	kāishuǐ	boiling/ boiled water
開心	kāixīn	feel happy, rejoice
開學	kāixué	start school, begin term
烤	kǎo	to roast, to toast, to bake
考試	kǎoshì	test, exam/ to take a test
看	kàn	to watch, to read, to look at
看到	kàndào	to see
看見	kànjiàn	to see
棵	kē	Individual measure word for plants and vegetable.
科學	kēxué	science
渴	kě	to be thirsty
可愛	kěài	to be lovable, likeable, adorable, cute
可樂	kělè	cola
可能	kěnéng	probably, maybe

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
可是	kěshì	but, however
可以	kěyǐ	can, may, be permitted
課	kè	class
課本	kèběn	textbook
客氣	kèqì	to be polite
客人	kèrén	guest, visitor
客廳	kètīng	living room
課文	kèwén	text in a school book
空氣	kōngqì	air
口	kǒu	Mouthful, measure word for things kept in the mouth
哭	kū	to cry, to weep
苦	kǔ	to be toilsome, hard; sad; bitter / toil, hardship
褲(子)	kù(zǐ)	trousers, pants
快	kuài	quickly/ to be fast
塊	kuài	Partial measure word for lumps of foodstuff.
筷(子)	kuài(zǐ)	chopsticks
快樂	kuàilè	to be happy
L		
拉	lā	to pull, to tug
來	lái	to come
藍	lán	blue/ to be blue
籃球	lánqiú	basketball
老	lǎo	old, aged
老人	lǎorén	old man/woman
老師	lǎoshī	teacher
了	le	often used after stative verbs
累	lèi	to be tired
冷	lěng	to be cold
冷氣(機)	lěngqì(jī)	air conditioning; cold air
離	lí	be away from, apart from, separated from
離開	líkāi	to leave
裡	lǐ	inside
裡面	lǐ(miàn)	inside
裡邊(兒)	lǐbiān(ér)	interior, inside
禮物	lǐwù	present, gift
臉	liǎn	face
練習	liànxí	to practice, to drill/ practice, exercise
涼	liáng	to be cool
涼快	liángkuài	to be (pleasantly)cool
兩	liǎng	two
輛	liàng	Measure word for any conveyance, etc.
亮	liàng	to be sunny, to be bright
聊天(兒)	liáotiān(ér)	to chat/ chatting
零	líng	zero

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
留	liú	to leave (message, thing, etc.), to stay, to remain
六	liù	six
樓	lóu	Measure word for floor or story
路	lù	road
路上	lùshàng	on the road
亂	luàn	to be messy
旅行	lǚxíng	to travel, to take a trip
旅遊	lǚyóu	travel
綠	lǜ	green, to be green
M		
嗎	ma	a question particle
媽媽	māma	mother
馬	mǎ	horse
馬上	mǎshàng	immediately
麻煩	máfan	an on annoyance, troublesome/ to be annoyed; to bother
買	mǎi	to buy
賣	mài	to sell
慢	màn	to be slow; slowly
慢慢地	mànmànde	slowly; gradually
忙	máng	to be busy
貓	māo	cat
毛	máo	one-tenth of a yuan
毛衣	máoyī	sweater
帽(子)	mào(zi)	hat, cap, headgear
沒	méi	not (have)
沒關係	méiguānxi	no problem, never mind, it doesn't matter
沒問題	méiwèntí	no problem
沒有	méiyǒu	did not, have not
每	měi	every
美	měi	to be beautiful
美國	měiguó	U.S.A., American
美麗	měilì	beautiful
妹妹	mèimei	younger sister
門	mén	door, gate
門口	ménkǒu	entrance, doorway
米	mǐ	uncooked rice
麵	miàn	flour, dough, noodle
麵包	miànbāo	bread
麵包店	miànbāodiàn	bakery
明年	míngnián	next year
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow
名字	míngzì	full name, given name
摩托車	mótuōchē	motorcycle, motor scooter
木(頭)	mù(tóu)	wood, log, timber

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
N		
拿	ná	to bring, to carry (in one's, or with one's hand)
哪	nǎ	which
哪兒	nǎr	where
哪裡	nǎlǐ	where
那	nà	that
那邊	nàbiān	there, over there
那兒	nàr	there
那裡	nàlǐ	there
那麼	nàme	well, in that case/ like that, in that way
奶奶	nǎinai	grandma, grandmother (father's mother)
難	nán	to be difficult
南(邊)	nán(biān)	south
男孩(兒)(子)	nánhái(ér)(zi)	boy
難過	nánguò	to be sad, to be distressed
呢	ne	a question particle / a particle indicating the situation or state of affairs is being sustain
你(們)	nǐ(men)	you
能	néng	can, be physically able to
年	nián	A year of
年紀	niánjì	age
年輕	niánqīng	to be young
念	niàn	to read aloud, to study
鳥	niǎo	bird
您	nín	you (formal usage)
牛奶	niúnnǎi	cow's milk
女孩(兒)(子)	nǚhái(ér)(zi)	girl
努力	nǔlì	make great effort, try hard
暖和	nuǎnhuo	to be warm
P		
爬	pá	to climb, to crawl
爬山	páshān	to climb a mountain, to hike on hills
怕	pà	to fear
拍	pāi	to clap, beat, pat; to take a photo, shoot a film
盤	pán	Container measure word for the contents of a plate.
盤子	pánzi	plate
旁邊(兒)	pángbiān(ér)	side, by the side of, near by
胖	pàng	to be fat
跑	pǎo	to run
朋友	péngyou	friend
皮包	píbāo	handbag, briefcase
片	piàn	Partial measure word for thin, flat pieces of something.
便宜	piányi	to be cheap
票	piào	ticket

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
漂亮	piàoliàng	to be beautiful, to be pretty
瓶(子)	píng(zi)	Collective measure word for the things wrapped, tied up or fixed in bundles.
蘋果	píngguǒ	apple
破	pò	to be broken
Q		
七	qī	seven
騎	qí	to ride; to drive (a bicycle, motor cycle, horse, etc.)
奇怪	qíguài	to be strange, to be queer, to be unusual
起	qǐ	to stand up, get up, to lift, to rise
起床	qǐchuáng	to get up
起來	qǐlái	to stand up, to rise
汽車	qìchē	automobile, car
汽水	qìshuǐ	soda pop, carbonated drink
千	qiān	thousand
鉛筆	qiānbǐ	pencil
錢	qián	money
前面	qiánmiàn	front, forward, before
前天	qiántiān	the day before yesterday
牆	qiáng	wall
橋	qiáo	bridge
巧克力	qiǎokèlì	chocolate
親	qīn	to kiss
輕	qīng	to be light
清楚	qīngchǔ	to be clear