



How to Ask Questions in Chinese

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Word	Pinyin	Meaning	Example Pinyin	Translation
Statement + 吗 ma	Turns a statement into a yes/no question	你是老师吗?	Are you a teacher?	
是.....不是.....		你是不是学生?		
有.....没有.....		你有没有时间?		
去.....不去.....		你去不去北京?		
忙.....不忙.....		你忙不忙?		
什么 shénme	what	你喝什么?	What are you drinking?	
谁 shéi	who	谁来了?	Who came?	
哪儿 nǎr	where	洗手间在哪儿?	Where is the restroom?	
什么时候 shénme shíhou	when	你什么时候回家?	When are you going home?	
为什么 wèishénme	why	他为什么不来?	Why is he not coming?	
怎么 zěnmē	how	你怎么去学校?	How do you go to school?	
几 jǐ	how many	现在几点?	What time is it now?	
多少 duōshao	how many or how much	你家有多少人?	How many people are in your family?	
吗	ma	yes or no question marker	nǐ shì xuésheng ma?	Are you a student?
是不是	shì bu shì	is or is not	tā shì bu shì lǎoshī?	Is he a teacher?
有没有	yǒu méi yǒu	have or not have	nǐ yǒu méi yǒu qián?	Do you have money?
能不能	néng bu néng	can or cannot	nǐ néng bu néng lái?	Can you come?
什么	shénme	what	nǐ mǎi shénme?	What are you buying?
谁	shéi	who	shéi huì shuō Fǎyǔ?	Who can speak French?
哪儿	nǎr	where	nǐ de shǒujī zài nǎr?	Where is your phone?
什么时候	shénme shíhou	when	wǒmen shénme shíhou kāishǐ?	When do we start?
为什么	wèishénme	why	nǐ wèishénme chídào?	Why are you late?
怎么	zěnmē	how	nǐ zěnmē huí jiā?	How are you going home?
几	jǐ	how many, small number	nǐmen bān yǒu jǐ ge lǎoshī?	How many teachers are in your class?

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多少	duōshao	how many or how much	zhè běn shū duōshao qián?	How much is this book?
哪	nǎ	which		Which one do you want?
哪里	nǎlǐ	where		Where are you?
怎么样	zěnmeyàng	how about		How about this one?
多长	duō cháng	how long		How long?
多远	duō yuǎn	how far		How far?