

HSK 1 Vocabulary List

All 150 words this level adds — in frequency order, with pinyin, traditional forms and native notes. From purrlearn.com

150	150	0
words listed	cumulative total	multi-reading characters

Why this order. These words are sorted by how often they actually appear, not alphabetically by pinyin. Studying top-down pays off immediately: the first few dozen entries carry a large share of everything you will read and hear at this level. Every word on this list also has native audio on the web version.

Which HSK is this? This list is the **2012 standard** (HSK 2.0): six levels, 150 / 300 / 600 / 1200 / 2500 / 5000 words cumulatively — still what most textbooks, apps and prep material use. The 2021 standard (HSK 3.0) restructures the system into three stages and nine levels and raises the counts sharply; its Level 1 alone is 500 words. The two are not interchangeable — check which one your test provider specifies.

1	的	de	indicates possession, like adding 's to a noun Native note — Always neutral tone de here âĖĖ never dĖ. It is the most frequent word in written Chinese, and it is never stressed.
2	我	wĖ	I; me
3	你	nĭ	you (singular)
4	是	shì	be; is; are
5	了	le	indicates a completed or finished action
6	不	bù	no; not Native note — Written bĀ ¹ , but said bĀ ^o before another 4th tone: äĖ, ĖæĖ ⁻ bĀ ^o shĀ ⁻ , äĖ, ĖĀ ^o » bĀ ^o qĀ ¹ , äĖ, ĖèĖ [!] bĀ ^o yĀ ^o . Everywhere else it stays bĀ ¹ . This is the single most common beginner tone mistake.
7	在	zài	at; on; in
8	他	tā	he; him
9	我们	wĖmen 繁 我們	we; us
10	好	hǎo	good Native note — In äĖ½ āĖ½ two 3rd tones collide, so the first shifts up: written nĈĖ hĈĖ, actually said nĀ hĈĖ. This happens to every 3rd + 3rd pair in Chinese.
11	有	yĖu	have
12	这	zhè 繁 這	this
13	会	huì 繁 會	know how to Native note — äĖ¼ huĀ ⁻ = can, in the sense of a learned skill (æĖĖäĖ¼æĖ, æ ³³ I can swim, I learned how). Compare èĖ½ nĀĈng = physically able or permitted right now. Beginners mix these constantly.
14	吗	ma 繁 嗎	indicates a yes/no question (added to a statement)

HSK 1 Vocabulary List · 150 words · updated 2025-06-27 · free to share, please keep this line · <https://purrlearn.com/en/hsk-1-vocabulary> — play native audio for every word there

15	什么	shénme 繁 什麼	what? (replaces the noun to turn a statement into a question)
16	说	shuō 繁 說	speak
17	她	tā	she
18	想	xiǎng	think; believe; suppose
19	一	yī	one; once; a Native note — Three readings by position: yǎ« when counting or alone; yǎ¬ before a 1st, 2nd or 3rd tone (ä, ㄣ̂© yǎ¬tiǎㄣ̂n); yǎ before a 4th tone (ä, ㄣ̂ä, ^a yǎge, ä, ㄣ̂ ^a yǎdǎ¬ng). Dictionaries only show yǎ«.
20	很	hěn	very; quite
21	人	rén	person; man; people
22	那	nà	that; then
23	来	lái 繁 來	come; arrive; ever since
24	都	dōu	all; both Native note — Here it is dǎㄣ̂u = all, and it goes before the verb, not after the subject-list: æㄣ̂ㄣ̂ä»-éㄣ̂½ǎㄣ̂» (we all go). The other reading dǎ« means capital city.
25	个	ge 繁 個	general measure word
26	能	néng	can; be able Native note — èㄣ̂½ nǎㄣ̂ng = able or allowed in this situation (æㄣ̂ㄣ̂ä»ㄣ̂â©ä, ㄣ̂èㄣ̂½ǎㄣ̂» I can't go today). Not for learned skills âㄣ̂ㄣ̂ that is ä¼ㄣ̂ huǎ¬.
27	去	qù	go; to leave
28	和	hé	and; with
29	做	zuò	do; make
30	上	shàng	above; up
31	没有	méiyǒu 繁 沒有	not have; there is not
32	看	kàn	see; look at; to watch
33	怎么	zěnmě 繁 怎麼	how?
34	现在	xiànzài 繁 現在	now
35	点	diǎn 繁 點	a dot; a little; o'clock
36	呢	ne	indicates a question; how about...?
37	太	tài	too (much)
38	里	lǐ 繁 裡	inside; Chinese mile (~.5 km)
39	听	tīng 繁 聽	listen; hear

40	谁	shéi 繁 誰	who Native note — Say shěi. The dictionary reading shuí is correct but sounds formal or bookish; almost nobody says it in conversation.
41	多	duō	many
42	时候	shíhou 繁 時候	time
43	下	xià	fall; below
44	谢谢	xièxie 繁 謝謝	thank you
45	先生	xiānsheng	Mr.; Sir
46	喜欢	xǐhuan 繁 喜歡	to like
47	大	dà, dài	big; large
48	东西	dōngxi 繁 東西	things; stuff
49	小	xiǎo	small; young
50	叫	jiào	to be called
51	爱	ài 繁 愛	love
52	年	nián	year
53	请	qǐng 繁 請	please; invite; to treat someone to something
54	回	huí	to return; to reply; to go back
55	工作	gōngzuò	work; a job
56	钱	qián 繁 錢	money; coin
57	吃	chī	eat
58	开	kāi 繁 開	to open; to start; to operate (a vehicle)
59	家	jiā	family; home
60	哪	nǎa	which; how
61	朋友	péngyou	friend
62	妈妈	māma 繁 媽媽	mom; mum Native note — Second syllable is neutral: māma, not mā mā. Same for 爸爸, 爸爸, bǎ ba, 爸爸爸爸 gǎge. Doubling a family word always neutralises the second one.
63	今天	jīntiān	today
64	几	jǐ 繁 幾	how many; several; a few Native note — 几 jǐ asks how many when you expect a small number (under about ten). For anything possibly large, use 多少 duǎoshao. 几 also always needs a measure word after it: 几个 ä, 几套 ä.
65	爸爸	Baba 爸爸	Dad Native note — Neutral second syllable: bǎ ba, not bǎ bǎ .

66	些	xiē	some; few; several
67	怎么样	zěnmeyàng 繁 怎麼樣	how about?; how is/was it?
68	对不起	duìbuqǐ 繁 對不起	sorry
69	住	zhù	to live; reside; to stop
70	三	sān	three
71	高兴	gāoxìng 繁 高興	happy; glad
72	买	mǎi 繁 買	to buy
73	医生	yīshēng 繁 醫生	doctor
74	哪儿	nǎr 繁 哪兒	where? (Beijing accent) Native note — The ǎ: is not a separate syllable ǎ it curls the ending of the syllable before it. Say nÇr, one beat, not nÇ Ār. Northern standard; southern speakers often say ǎ ^a é ǎ nÇlÇ instead.
75	字	zì	letter; character
76	名字	míngzi	name
77	认识	rènshi 繁 認識	recognize; know (a person)
78	坐	zuò	sit
79	喝	hē	to drink
80	写	xiě 繁 寫	to write; to compose
81	月	yuè	moon; month; flesh (radical)
82	号	hào 繁 號	number; day of a month Native note — hǎo is how you say a date out loud: ǎºæ ħǎ«ǎ. In writing you will usually see æ¥ rǎ instead: ǎºæ ħǎ«æ¥. Same day, different register.
83	狗	gǒu	dog
84	岁	suì 繁 歲	years old; age
85	看见	kànjiàn 繁 看見	see; catch sight of Native note — è § is a result complement: ç is the looking, ç è § is the seeing. æ ç ħǎºæ½ ç è § (I looked but didn't see it) is a perfectly normal sentence.
86	打电话	dǎ diànhuà 繁 打電話	make a phone call
87	喂	wèi	hello (on the phone) Native note — Dictionary tone is wǎi, but when answering the phone almost everyone says it with a rising tone, wǎi. Falling wǎi sounds like you are shouting at someone.
88	儿子	érzi 繁 兒子	son
89	漂亮	piàoliang	pretty; beautiful

90	分钟	fēnzhōng 繁 分 鐘	minute; (measure word for time)
91	再见	zàijiàn 繁 再見	goodbye; see you later
92	本	běn	measure word for books
93	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow
94	少	shǎo	few; little
95	多少	duōshao	how much?; how many? Native note — ǎo duǎshao asks how many or how much with no size expectation, and unlike ǎo it can drop the measure word: ǎo ǎo is fine. Note ǎo is neutral toned here.
96	块	kuài 繁 塊	lump; piece; sum of money Native note — kuǎi is the spoken word for the currency unit; yuǎn is the written one. A price tag says ǎo, a shopkeeper says ǎo.
97	女儿	nǚér 繁 女兒	daughter
98	小姐	xiǎojie	young lady; miss; Ms.
99	衣服	yīfu	clothes
100	水	shuǐ	water
101	学校	xuéxiào 繁 學校	school
102	电影	diànyǐng 繁 電 影	movie; film
103	书	shū 繁 書	book; letter
104	四	sì	four
105	五	wǔ	five
106	医院	yīyuàn 繁 醫院	hospital
107	没关系	méi guānxi 繁 沒關係	it doesn't matter; never mind
108	飞机	fēijī 繁 飛機	airplane
109	二	èr	two Native note — ǎr is for counting and for numbers themselves. Before a measure word you must switch to ǎ, liǎng: ǎ, ǎ, ǎ, never ǎ, ǎ.
110	电视	diànshì 繁 電視	television; TV
111	读	dú 繁 讀	to read; to study
112	后面	hòumian	back; behind
113	昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
114	睡觉	shuì jiào 繁 睡覺	to sleep; go to bed
115	六	liù	six

116	老师	lǎoshī 繁 老師	teacher
117	星期	xīngqī	week
118	十	shí	ten
119	猫	māo 繁 貓	cat
120	电脑	diànnǎo 繁 電腦	computer
121	热	rè 繁 熱	heat; hot
122	学生	xuésheng 繁 學生	student
123	下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon
124	学习	xuéxí 繁 學習	learn; to study
125	冷	lěng	cold
126	不客气	bú kèqì 繁 不客氣	you're welcome; don't be polite
127	前面	qiánmiàn	in front
128	八	bā	eight
129	中国	Zhōngguó 繁 中國	China
130	七	qī	seven
131	菜	cài	dish (type of food); vegetables
132	桌子	zhuōzi	table; desk
133	出租车	chūzūchē 繁 出租車	taxi; cab
134	天气	tiānqì 繁 天氣	weather
135	茶	chá	tea
136	九	jiǔ	nine
137	商店	shāngdiàn	shop; store
138	椅子	yǐzi	chair
139	同学	tóngxué 繁 同學	fellow student; schoolmate
140	一点儿	yìdiǎnr 繁 一點兒	a bit; a few Native note — Said yǎ~diǎnr ǎnr ǎnr three characters, but the last two are one syllable. Note ǎ, ǎ is yǎ~ here (before a 3rd tone).
141	苹果	píngguǒ 繁 蘋果	apple
142	饭店	fàndiàn 繁 飯店	restaurant; hotel

143	中午	zhōngwǔ	noon; midday
144	上午	shàngwǔ	late morning (before noon)
145	水果	shuǐguǒ	fruit
146	杯子	bēizi	cup; glass
147	下雨	xiàyǔ	to rain
148	米饭	mǐfàn 繁 米飯	(cooked) rice
149	北京	Běijīng	Beijing
150	汉语	Hànyǔ 繁 漢語	Chinese language