

HSK 3 Vocabulary List

All 300 words this level adds — in frequency order, with pinyin, traditional forms and native notes. From purrlearn.com

300

words listed

600

cumulative total

15

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	啊 多音字	ā, á, ǎ, à, a	ah; (particle showing elation, doubt, puzzled surprise, or approval) Native note — A pure particle 啊 the tone floats with the emotion rather than being fixed, which is why the dictionary lists five. Neutral a is the default sentence-ender; rising ǎ is surprise or a request to repeat.
2	还 多音字	hái, huán 繁 還	still; yet; in addition repay; to return Native note — hái (still, also, even) is what you need at this level: èr 二 hái 二 not yet, èr 二 hái 二 hái 二 or / still. huán is a different word meaning to give back hái 还 èr 二 huán 还 shàng 上 return a book.
3	把 多音字	bǎ, bà	(mw for things with handles); (pretransitive particle); to hold a grip; a handle; stem (of plants) Native note — bǎ, and it is the grammar point HSK 3 is built around: 把 moves the object in front of the verb to say what happened to it hái 还 把 hái 把 hái 把 I shut the door. The reading bà (a handle) is rare.
4	过	guò 繁 過	to pass; to cross; go over
5	如果	rúguǒ	if; in the event that
6	只 多音字	zhǐ, zhī 繁 隻	only; merely; just (mw for birds and certain animals) Native note — Two words sharing one simplified form. zhǐ = only (ǎ ǎ ǎ ǎ, ǎ, ǎ). zhī = the measure word for animals and one of a pair (ǎ, ǎ ǎ ǎ). In traditional they are even written differently: 隻 vs 隻.
7	被	bèi	by (indicates passive voice sentences); a quilt/blanket
8	跟	gēn	to follow; go with; heel
9	自己	zìjǐ	oneself; self
10	用	yòng	to use (Kangxi radical 101)
11	像	xiàng	be like; resemble; appearance

12	为 多音字	wéi, wèi 繁 為	to act (as); become; to mean for; because of; to Native note — wǎi = for the sake of (ǎ, ǎo 爲, wǎi 爲, ǎ, ǎo 爲, wǎi 爲). wǎi = to act as, to be (è 爲, ǎ, ǎo 爲, wǎi 爲, ǎ, ǎo 爲, wǎi 爲). If it means because of or for, it is wǎi.
13	需要	xūyào	to need; to want; to demand
14	应该	yīnggāi 繁 應該	should; ought to; must
15	起来	qǐ lai 繁 起來	(beginning or continuing an action); to rise; get up (from bed)
16	才	cái	ability; talent; just now
17	又	yòu	(once) again; also; both (Kangxi radical 29)
18	拿	ná	carry in your hand; seize; to catch
19	更 多音字	gèng, gēng	more; even more change; watch (e.g. of a sentry or guard) Native note — gēng = more, the comparison word (gēng 更, gēng 更). gēng = to change or a night-watch period; you will not need it at this level.
20	带	dài 繁 帶	band; belt; ribbon
21	然后	ránhòu	then; afterwards
22	一样	yíyàng 繁 一樣	the same; alike; equal to
23	当然	dāngrán 繁 當然	of course; naturally
24	相信	xiāngxìn	believe (sb.); be convinced of
25	认为	rènwéi 繁 認為	believe; think that
26	明白	míngbai	clear; obvious; understand
27	一直	yìzhí	always; all along; straight (in a straight line)
28	地 多音字	dì, de	earth; ground (adverbial particle) Native note — dì = ground, earth (dì 地, dì 地, dì 地). de = the adverb marker attached to a description before a verb: de 地, de 地, de 地. Same character, and the de reading is always neutral.
29	地方	dìfang	place; space; room
30	离开	líkāi 繁 離開	leave; depart
31	一定	yídìng	surely; certainly; necessarily
32	还是	háishi 繁 還是	or; still; nevertheless
33	发 多音字	fā, fà 繁 發	send out; to issue; to show (one's feelings) hair Native note — fā = to send out, to issue (fā 发, fā 发, fā 发). fā = hair (fā 发, fā 发). Traditional splits them: fā 发 vs fà 发. Note fā 发 is usually said tǎ fā with a neutral second syllable.
34	发现	fāxiàn 繁 發現	discover; to find
35	而且	érqiě	moreover; in addition; as well as
36	必须	bìxū 繁 必須	must; have to

37	放	fàng	put; to place; to release
38	为了	wèile 繁 為了	in order to; for the sake of; for the purpose of
39	向	xiàng	direction; towards; to turn
40	老	lǎo	old; aged; tough
41	位	wèi	position; location; (polite mw for people)
42	先	xiān	first; early; before
43	种 多音字	zhǒng, zhòng 繁 種	type; breed; race to plant Native note — zhǒng = kind, type, and the measure word for kinds (èr § ç § ㄖ). zhǎng = to plant (ç § ㄆ § ㄆ). The noun is 3rd tone, the verb is 4th.
44	最后	zuìhòu	last; final; ultimately
45	其他	qítā	other; else
46	记得	jìde 繁 記得	remember
47	或者	huòzhě	or; possible; maybe
48	过去	guòqù 繁 過去	in the past; formerly
49	担心	dānxīn 繁 擔心	to worry; feel anxious
50	条	tiáo 繁 條	strip; (mw for long thin objects); item
51	以前	yǐqián	before; formerly; previous
52	长 多音字	cháng, zhǎng 繁 長	long; length grow; chief (Kangxi radical 168) Native note — cháng = long (ér § ㄖ § ㄖ, ㄆ § ㄆ § ㄆ). zhǎng = to grow, or a chief (è § ㄖ § ㄖ, è § ㄖ § ㄆ). Adjective is cháng, person-in-charge is zhǎng.
53	世界	shìjiè	world
54	重要	zhòngyào	important; significant; major
55	别人	biéren 繁 別人	other people; others
56	机会	jīhuì 繁 機會	opportunity; chance; occasion
57	张	zhāng 繁 張	(mw for flat objects); to spread out; (common surname)
58	接	jiē	connect; to meet; to pick up (somebody)
59	比赛	bǐsài 繁 比賽	(sports) match; competition
60	关	guān 繁 關	to close; shut; concern
61	关系	guānxi 繁 關係	relation; to concern
62	马	mǎ 繁 馬	horse (Kangxi radical 187)
63	马上	mǎshàng 繁 馬上	at once; immediately; right away

64	决定	juéding 繁 決定	decide; resolve
65	关于	guānyú 繁 關於	about; regarding; concerning
66	难 多音字	nán, nàn 繁 難	difficult trouble; to blame Native note — nǎn = difficult, which is all you need here. nǎn = disaster (é'ān 难民 refugee) and appears much later.
67	了解	liǎojiě	comprehend; understand; know
68	站	zhàn	stand; a station; be on one's feet
69	结束	jiéshù 繁 結束	to end; to finish; conclude
70	清楚	qīngchu	clear; distinct; be clear about
71	愿意	yuànyì 繁 願意	be willing; want to; be ready
72	花	huā	flower; blossom; spend money
73	照片	zhàopiàn	picture; photograph
74	欢迎	huānyíng 繁 歡迎	to welcome; greet
75	总是	zǒngshì 繁 總是	always; eventually
76	嘴	zuǐ	mouth
77	参加	cānjiā 繁 參加	participate; join; take part in
78	办法	bànfǎ 繁 辦法	method; way (of doing something)
79	选择	xuǎnzé 繁 選擇	select; to pick; choose
80	坏	huài 繁 壞	bad; broken
81	打算	dǎsuàn	to plan; intend
82	试	shì 繁 試	to try; to test; examination
83	特别	tèbié 繁 特別	special; especially; particular
84	注意	zhùyì	pay attention to; take notice of; be careful
85	其实	qíshí 繁 其實	actually; in fact
86	小心	xiǎoxīn	be careful
87	久	jiǔ	long (time)
88	只有	zhǐyǒu 繁 隻有	only
89	讲	jiǎng 繁 講	to talk; to lecture; to explain
90	故事	gùshi	story; tale
91	换	huàn 繁 換	change; to exchange; to barter

92	结婚	jiéhūn 繁 結婚	get married
93	段	duàn	paragraph; segment; section
94	努力	nǔlì	to work hard; to strive
95	害怕	hàipà	afraid of; to fear
96	刚才	gāngcái 繁 剛才	just now; a moment ago
97	节目	jiémù 繁 節目	program; item (on a program)
98	辆	liàng 繁 輛	(mw for vehicles)
99	万	wàn 繁 萬	ten thousand
100	解决	jiějué 繁 解決	settle (a dispute); resolve; solve
101	办公室	bàngōngshì 繁 辦公室	office
102	奇怪	qíguài	strange; odd
103	同意	tóngyì	agree; to consent; approve
104	游戏	yóuxì 繁 遊戲	game; play; recreation
105	帮忙	bāngmáng 繁 幫忙	to help
106	国家	guójiā 繁 國家	country; state; nation
107	最近	zuìjìn	recently; lately; these days
108	声音	shēngyīn 繁 聲音	sound; voice
109	可爱	kě'ài 繁 可愛	cute; lovely
110	分 多音字	fēn, fèn	divide; part; minute component; share; ingredient Native note — fǎn = to divide, minute, cent (ǎnǎnǎnǎn). fǎn = a share or component (é'ǎn bǎ'fēn, ǎnǎn). Verb and time unit are 1st tone.
111	完成	wánchéng	to complete; accomplish; to fulfill
112	半	bàn	half; semi-; incomplete
113	要求	yāoqiú	to request; to demand; requirement
114	除了	chúle	besides; except for; aside from
115	容易	róngyì	easy; likely; liable (to)
116	教 多音字	jiāo, jiào	teach; instruct religion; teaching Native note — jiāo = to teach, the action (ǎǎǎǎǎ, ǎǎǎ). jiào = education as a thing (ǎǎǎǎǎ, ǎǎǎǎǎ, ǎǎǎǎǎ). The verb is 1st tone ǎǎǎ most learners get this backwards
117	脸 多音字	liǎn 繁 臉	face

118	简单	jiǎndān 繁 簡單	simple; not complicated
119	检查	jiǎnchá 繁 檢查	to check; examine; inspect
120	音乐	yīnyuè 繁 音樂	music
121	越	yuè	even more; the more; exceed
122	照顾	zhàogu 繁 照顧	take care of; look after; give consideration
123	聪明	cōngmíng 繁 聰明	intelligent; clever; bright
124	甜	tián	sweet
125	突然	tūrán	sudden; abrupt
126	终于	zhōngyú 繁 終於	at last; in the end; finally
127	船	chuán	a boat; vessel; ship
128	口	kǒu	mouth (Kangxi radical 30)
129	回答	huídá	to reply; to answer
130	礼物	lǐwù 繁 禮物	gift; present
131	头发	tóufa 繁 頭髮	hair (on the head)
132	关心	guānxīn 繁 關心	concerned about/with
133	脚	jiǎo 繁 腳	foot (body part)
134	生气	shēngqì 繁 生氣	angry; mad
135	哭	kū	cry; weep
136	画	huà 繁 畫	draw; picture; painting
137	年轻	niánqīng 繁 年輕	young
138	包	bāo	to cover; to wrap; to hold
139	腿	tuǐ	leg
140	忘记	wàngjì 繁 忘記	forget
141	搬	bān	to move; to transport
142	楼	lóu 繁 樓	story; floor; (multi-story) building
143	遇到	yùdào	to meet; run into; come across
144	新闻	xīnwén 繁 新聞	news
145	比较	bǐjiào 繁 比較	compare; contrast; relatively

146	双	shuāng 繁 雙	two; double; (mw for pairs)
147	见面	jiànmiàn 繁 見 面	meet/see somebody (face to face); meeting
148	经常	jīngcháng 繁 經 常	often; frequently; daily
149	城市	chéngshì	city or town
150	一会儿	yíhuìr 繁 一會兒	a while; a moment
151	附近	fùjìn	(in the) vicinity; nearby; neighboring
152	借	jiè	lend; borrow; excuse
153	影响	yǐngxiǎng 繁 影 響	influence; affect; effect
154	认真	rènzhēn 繁 認真	serious; earnest; take seriously
155	米	mǐ	rice; meter (Kangxi radical 119)
156	差 多音字	chà, chā, chāi, cī	differ from; fall short of; poor difference to dispatch Native note — chǎ = poor, lacking (æŋç»©â¼ŋâ·°, â·°ä, ŋâ¼ŋ). chǎ = a difference (â·°â¼«). chǎi = an assignment, which is where âŋ°â·° chǎ«chǎi (business trip) comes from âŋŋ that word is on the HSK 4 list, so learn this reading now.
157	银行	yínháng 繁 銀行	bank
158	安静	ānjìng 繁 安靜	quiet; peaceful; calm
159	多么	duōme 繁 多麼	how (wonderful, etc.); what (a great idea)
160	饿	è 繁 餓	hungry
161	根据	gēnjù 繁 根據	according to; based on; basis
162	几乎	jīhū 繁 幾乎	almost
163	后来	hòulái 繁 後來	afterwards; after; later
164	动物	dòngwù 繁 動物	animal
165	西	xī	West (Kangxi radical 146)
166	一边	yìbiān 繁 一邊	one side; on the one hand; at the same time
167	舒服	shūfu	comfortable; feeling well
168	一般	yìbān	general; ordinary; common
169	叔叔	shūshu	(informal) father's younger brother; uncle
170	疼	téng	ache; sore; (it) hurts
171	迟到	chídào 繁 遲到	arrive late
172	历史	lìshǐ 繁 歷史	history

173	啤酒	píjiǔ	beer
174	短	duǎn	short (in length, duration, or height); lack
175	经过	jīngguò 繁 經過	to pass; go through; as a result of
176	周末	zhōumò	weekend
177	班	bān	team; class; squad
178	习惯	xíguàn 繁 習慣	habit; be accustomed to; usual practice
179	公园	gōngyuán 繁 公 園	public park
180	干净	gānjìng 繁 干淨	clean; neat and tidy
181	鸟	niǎo 繁 鳥	bird (Kangxi radical 196)
182	健康	jiànkāng	health; healthy
183	树	shù 繁 樹	tree
184	蛋糕	dàngāo	cake
185	元	yuán	Chinese monetary unit; dollar; first
186	客人	kèrén	guest; customer
187	会议	huìyì 繁 會議	meeting; conference
188	奶奶	nǎinai	grandma; (informal) paternal grandmother
189	裤子	kùzi 繁 褲子	pants; trousers
190	邻居	línjū 繁 鄰居	neighbor
191	经理	jīnglǐ 繁 經理	manager; director
192	层	céng 繁 層	(mw for layers, floors of buildings)
193	灯	dēng 繁 燈	lamp; light
194	练习	liànxí 繁 練習	practice; exercise
195	爷爷	yéye 繁 爺爺	(informal) father's father; paternal grandfather
196	蓝	lán 繁 藍	blue
197	难过	nánguò 繁 難過	be grieved; be sad; have a hard time
198	中间	zhōngjiān 繁 中 間	center; middle; between
199	帽子	màozi	hat; cap
200	司机	sījī 繁 司機	driver; chauffeur

201	旧	jiù 繁 舊	old; past; used
202	满意	mǎnyì 繁 滿意	satisfied; pleased
203	骑	qí 繁 騎	to ride (an animal or bike); to sit astride
204	太阳	tàiyáng 繁 太陽	the sun
205	极	jí 繁 極	an extreme; pole; very
206	主要	zhǔyào	main; principal; major
207	同事	tóngshì	colleague; co-worker
208	鼻子	bízi	nose
209	角 多音字	jiǎo, jué	horn; angle; unit of money (1/10 yuan) role (theater) Native note — jǐǎo = corner, angle, horn, and 1/10 of a yuan. juǎn = a role or part (è § 角è² juǎn'sǎ"). Money and geometry take jǐǎo.
210	变化	biànhuà 繁 變化	change
211	东	dōng 繁 東	East
212	年级	niánjí 繁 年級	grade; year (in school)
213	环境	huánjìng 繁 環境	environment; surroundings
214	胖	pàng	fat; plump
215	地图	dìtú 繁 地圖	map
216	面包	miànbāo	bread
217	电子邮件	diànzǐ yóujiàn 繁 電子郵件	email
218	耳朵	ěrduo	ear
219	裙子	qúnzi	skirt
220	新鲜	xīnxiān 繁 新鮮	fresh (experience, food, etc.); new; novel
221	放心	fàngxīn	relax; feel relieved; rest assured
222	聊天	liáotiān	to chat
223	南	nán	South
224	热情	rèqíng 繁 熱情	cordial; warm; enthusiastic
225	信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ	credit card
226	电梯	diàntī 繁 電梯	elevator
227	方便	fāngbiàn	convenient

228	洗手间	xǐshǒujiān 繁 洗手間	toilet; lavatory; washroom
229	洗澡	xǐzǎo	bathe; take a bath or shower; bath or shower
230	饮料	yǐnliào 繁 飲料	beverage; drink
231	校长	xiàozhǎng 繁 校 長	principal (of school, college or university); president; headmaster
232	水平	shuǐpíng	level; standard; horizontal
233	作业	zuòyè 繁 作業	school assignment; homework; task
234	衬衫	chènshān 繁 襯 衫	shirt; blouse
235	成绩	chéngjì 繁 成績	achievement; success; results (of work or study)
236	碗	wǎn	bowl; cup
237	阿姨	āyí	auntie; step-mother; mother's younger sister
238	图书馆	túshūguǎn 繁 圖書館	library
239	文化	wénhuà	culture; civilization
240	绿	lǜ 繁 綠	green
241	打扫	dǎsǎo 繁 打掃	to clean; to sweep
242	草	cǎo	grass; straw; draft (of a document)
243	冰箱	bīngxiāng	refrigerator
244	数学	shùxué 繁 數學	mathematics
245	自行车	zìxíngchē 繁 自 行車	bike; bicycle
246	着急	zháojí 繁 著急	to worry; feel anxious
247	瘦	shòu	thin; tight; lean
248	提高	tígāo	to raise; heighten; improve
249	起飞	qǐfēi 繁 起飛	take off (in an airplane); liftoff
250	矮	ǎi	short; low
251	地铁	dìtiě 繁 地鐵	subway
252	体育	tǐyù 繁 體育	physical training; sports
253	刻	kè	quarter (hour); (mw for short time intervals); carve
254	护照	hùzhào 繁 護照	passport

255	节日	jiérì 繁 節日	holiday; festival
256	盘子	pánzi 繁 盤子	plate; dish; tray
257	一共	yígòng	altogether; in total
258	瓶子	píngzi	bottle
259	街道	jiēdào	street
260	锻炼	duànliàn 繁 鍛煉	to exercise; work out; toughen
261	感冒	gǎnmào	catch cold; (common) cold
262	爱好	àihào 繁 愛好	hobby; fond of; to like
263	超市	chāoshì	supermarket
264	月亮	yuèliang	the moon
265	饱	bǎo 繁 飽	eat until full; satisfied
266	有名	yǒumíng	famous; well-known
267	香蕉	xiāngjiāo	banana
268	笔记本	bǐjìběn 繁 筆記本	notebook
269	夏	xià	summer
270	菜单	càidān 繁 菜單	menu
271	北方	běifāng	north; the northern part of the country
272	上网	shàngwǎng 繁 上網	to surf the web; to go online
273	季节	jìjié 繁 季節	season; time; period
274	渴	kě	thirsty
275	发烧	fāshāo 繁 發燒	have a fever
276	不但	búdàn	not only
277	空调	kōngtiáo 繁 空調	air conditioning
278	照相机	zhàoxiàngjī 繁 照相機	camera
279	春	chūn	spring (season); joyful
280	伞	sǎn 繁 傘	umbrella; parasol
281	公斤	gōngjīn	kilogram

282	个子	gèzi 繁 个子	height; stature; build
283	熊猫	xióngmāo 繁 熊貓	panda
284	刷牙	shuāyá	brush one's teeth
285	复习	fùxí 繁 復習	revise; to review
286	冬	dōng	winter
287	请假	qǐng jià 繁 請假	to ask for time off
288	中文	Zhōngwén	Chinese (language)
289	秋	qiū	autumn; fall; harvest time
290	句子	jùzi	sentence
291	行李箱	xínglǐxiāng	trunk; suitcase
292	筷子	kuàizi	chopsticks
293	皮鞋	píxié	leather shoes
294	爬山	páshān	mountain climbing
295	黑板	hēibǎn	blackboard
296	感兴趣	gǎn xìngqù 繁 感興趣	be interested in
297	词典	cídiǎn 繁 詞典	dictionary
298	留学	liú xué 繁 留學	study abroad
299	刮风	guāfēng 繁 刮風	windy; to blow (wind)
300	黄河	huánghé 繁 黃河	Yellow River