

Revised Edition

**MAKING**

**OUT**



**IN**

**CHINESE**

From everyday conversation to the language of love—a guide to Chinese as it's really spoken!

by Ray Daniels

Learn to speak the colloquial language the Chinese really use with *Making Out in Chinese*. This best-selling phrase book has now been completely revised to be even more helpful as a guide to the modern Chinese spoken in everyday interactions—but still giving access to lots of colorful, colloquial expressions not covered in other phrase books.

*Making Out in Chinese* features a pronunciation guide and notes on Chinese language and culture. The phrases are organized according to typical encounters, including:

- \* Making acquaintances
- \* Discussing likes and dislikes
- \* Sharing a meal
- \* Going out on the town
- \* Developing a romantic relationship

In addition to the Hanyu Pinyin and romanized forms of phrases, each expression is now also given in Chinese script so that you can show the book to the person you are speaking to. *Making Out in Chinese* will bring you a new level of fluency and communication in Chinese!

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# **Making Out in Chinese**

**Revised Edition**

by Ray Daniels  
revised by Haiyan Situ

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*Japan*  
Tuttle Publishing  
Yaekari Building 3F  
5-4-12 Osaki, Shinagawa-ku  
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*Asia-Pacific*  
Berkeley Books Pte Ltd  
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# Introduction

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The idea behind *Making Out in Chinese* is to aid those who wish to speak real Chinese rather than the dry textbook style taught all over the world. No one really speaks textbook English, and the same is true of Chinese, so why not make out using real everyday Chinese? This book will save students valuable study time so that they can quickly move on to communicate naturally. I hope you will be successful in your attempts at making out in Chinese!

## INFORMATION

Customs, habits, and traditions vary greatly throughout the world, and the traveler must take this into consideration when encountering other cultures. In my travels throughout China, I have often heard the expression: *Níměnn shīfāng rén hǔn kāifāng*, *Wǒměnn jōngguó rén hǔnbówshǒ* (You Westerners are very liberal. We Chinese are very conservative). The forwardness of Western men and women, particularly in dealings with the opposite sex, has left many Chinese with the impression that Westerners are lacking in morals. If you are amorously interested in a Chinese, or just want to make friends, an indirect approach is recommended. It's better to give subtle hints about your feelings rather than just come out with them directly. The more subtle you are, the more well-intentioned you will seem.

The phrases in this book will be comprehensible in all Chinese-speaking countries. However, the degree of openness, especially in sexual matters, differs from country to country. My own personal ranking, from most liberal to most conservative, is as follows: Hong Kong, mainland China, Macao, Taiwan, Singapore,

Malaysia. My high ranking of mainland China may surprise some, but a great deal of openness is due to the number of Chinese seeking a foreign partner (and passport!).

## PRONUNCIATION TIPS

All words in Chinese have a tone, and an incorrect tonal pronunciation can greatly change a word's meaning. For example:

**The first tone ( ˉ ):** The word *mā* spoken with first tone means "mother." The first tone is an even pitched sound, almost like singing.

**Second tone ( ˊ ):** The word *má* with second tone means "hemp." The second tone rises, like one would say the word "right?"

**Third tone ( ˇ ):** The word *mǎ* spoken with the third tone means "horse." It is pronounced with a lowering of the voice.

**Fourth tone ( ˋ ):** The word *mà* with fourth tone means "to scold" (for instance, if one were to reprimand someone, one would *mà!* the said individual). The fourth tone is spoken sharply, like the word "Damn!"

There is one more tone, *mǎ*, referred to by the Chinese as "light sound," which indicates that the syllable should be spoken like the fourth tone pronunciation of the word "Damn!" except shorter (as if the speaker had tried to say "Damn" but only had time to pronounce the "da").

I advise the reader not to worry about the tones but to focus on the phonetic transcriptions which have been written so that English speakers can pronounce them easily. Just as English is spoken with different accents, so is Chinese; learners of Chinese must therefore develop an ear for the language.

## CONSONANTS

The following offers a guide to the pronunciation of the standard *Hanyu Pinyin* system of romanization, which is used almost all over the world.

Most consonants are pronounced as in English.

<u>Chinese</u>	<u>English</u>
c	<b>its</b>
q	<b>cheat</b> (said with a puff of air)
r	<b>urn</b>
x	<b>sea</b>
z	<b>bits</b>
ch	<b>church</b> (said with one's tongue rolled back and with a puff of air)
sh	<b>shit</b> (said with one's tongue rolled back)
zh	<b>jerk</b> (said with one's tongue rolled back )

## VOWELS

<u>Chinese</u>	<u>English</u>
a	<b>father</b>
e	<b>hen</b>
i	<b>pin</b> (A simple "i" is pronounced as "e" in <b>he</b> )
o	<b>go</b>
u	<b>July</b>
ü	<b>feud</b> (said with rounded lips)
ao	<b>how</b>
ei	<b>hay</b>
ou	<b>no</b> (said with a slight pull)
ui	<b>wait</b>



The more challenging combinations are as follows:

ci	<b>its</b>
qi	<b>chip</b>
si	<b>swing</b>
zi	<b>bits</b>

The "i" in *ci*, *si* and *zi* is silent.

In the subsequent sections of the book, the *Hanyu Pinyin* system of romanization is presented on the right with phonetic transcriptions given below it. Phonetic transcriptions are included to cue you in on the English equivalent of a speech sound in the *Hanyu Pinyin* system.

## TENSES

Tenses are expressed simply in Chinese. If you want to express that you already did something, you can add the word *lǚh* at the end of the sentence. If you wish to express that you will do something, you can use the words *jiāng huà*. For example, "I will go" is *Wǒ jiāng huà chù*. A sentence can also be made past or future by the use of time words such as *míng tiān* (tomorrow) or *dzúo tiān* (yesterday). Time is usually mentioned at the beginning of a sentence. For example, "I will go tomorrow" is *Wǒ míng tiān chù*; "I went yesterday" is *Wǒ dzúo tiān chù lǚh*.

# Basic Phrases

---

# 1

**Who?**

谁?

Shéi?

(Sháy?)

**What?**

什么?

Shén me?

(Shém-mǔh?)

**Where?**

哪里?

Ná lǐ?

(Nár-lǐ?)

**When?**

什么时候?

Shén me shí hòu?

(Shém-mǔh shér-hò?)

**Why?**

为什么?

Wèi shén me?

(Wày shém-mǔh?)

**How?**

怎么样?

Zěn me yàng?

(Dzēm mǔh yàng?)

**Whose?**

谁的?

Shuí de?

(Sháy dǔh?)

**This**

这个

Zhè ge

(Jùh-gǔh)

**That**

那个

Nà ge

(Nàh-gǔh)

**Here**

这里。

Zhè lǐ

(Jùh-lǐ)

**There**

那里

Nà lǐ

(Nàh-lǐ)

**If**

如果

Rú guǒ

(Rú-guǒ)

<b>But</b> 但是	Dàn shì (Dèn-shèr)
<b>However</b> 可是	Kě shì (Kǔh shèr)
<b>Nevertheless</b> 不过	Bú guò (Bú-guò)
<b>Because</b> 因为	Yīn wéi (īng-wáy)
<b>Thus</b> 那么	Nà me (Nàh-mǔh)
<b>So, therefore</b> 所以	Suó yǐ (Suó-ǐ)
<b>Yes</b> 是的	Shì de (Shèr dǔh)
<b>The verb "to be"</b> 是	Shì (Shèr)
<b>No</b> 不是的	Bù (Bù) Bú shì de (Bú shèr dǔh)



**Maybe**

可能

Kě néng

(Kǔh núng)

**Maybe not**

可能不是

Kě néng bú shì

(Kǔh-núng bú shèr)

**I**

我

Wǒ.

(Wǒ.)

**You**

你。

Nǐ

(Nǐ)

**He/She/It**

他 / 她 / 它

Tā

(Tā)

**We**

我们

Wǒ men

(Wǒ-mě'n)

**You (plural)**

你们

Nǐ men

(Nǐ-mě'n)

**They**

他们 / 她们 / 它们

Tā men

(Tā-mě'n)

**Don't ...**

不要

Bú yào...

(Bú yào...)

**I would like to ... .**

我想...

Wó xiǎng... .

(Wó shiǎng... .)

**I don't want to ... .**

我不想...

Wǒ bù xiǎng... .

(Wǒ bù shiǎng... .)

**Hear, listen**

听

Tīng

(Tīng)

**See, look**

看

Kàn

(Kàn)

**Smell**

闻

Wén

(Wén)

<b>Touch.</b> 摸	Mō (Mō)
<b>Listen to me!</b> 听我说!	Tīng wǒ shuō! (Tīng wǒ shuō!)
<b>Have you seen Lee?</b> 你看到李了吗?	Nǐ kàn dào lǐ le ma? (Nǐ kàn dào lǐ le ma?)
<b>I saw Lee.</b> 我看到李了。	Wǒ kàn dào lǐ le. (Wǒ kàn dào lǐ le.)
<b>I want to go and see you!</b> 我想去看你!	Wó xiǎng qù kàn nǐ! (Wó xiǎng qù kàn nǐ!)
<b>I want meet you!</b> 我想见你!	Wó xiǎng jiàn nǐ! (Wó xiǎng jiàn nǐ!)
<b>I'll show it to you.</b> 我给你看。	Wó gěi nǐ kàn. (Wó gěi nǐ kàn.)
<b>Please (polite)</b> 请	Qǐng (Chǐng)
<b>Please (begging)</b> 拜托	Bài tuō (Bài-tuō)
Also means "please" as in "What do you take me for?"	
<b>Thank you.</b> 谢谢。	Xiè xie. (Shièh-shièh.)



**You're welcome.**

不谢。

Bú-xiè.

(Bú-shièh.)

**Don't mention it.**

不客气。

Bú kè qì.

(Bú kùh-chèe.)

**Where is the toilet?**

厕所在哪儿?

Cè suǒ zài nǎ ér?

(Tsè-suǒ zài nǎr?)

**Where is the washroom?**

洗手间在哪儿?

Xí shǒu jiān zài nǎ ér?

(Shí shǒu jiān zài nǎr?)

**What is this?**

这是什么?

Zhè shì shén me?

(Jùh shèr shém-mùh?)

**What is this/that called?**

这个 / 那个叫什么?

Zhè ge/Nà ge jiào shén me?

(Jùh-gùh/Nàh-gùh jiào shém-mùh?)

**What does ... mean?**

...是什么意思?

... shì shén me yì sī?

(... shèr shém-mùh ì-sǐ?)

**How do you pronounce this?**

这个怎么念?

Zhè ge zěn me niàn?

(Jùh gùh dzěm-mùh nièn?)

**I have a question.**

我有一个问题。

Wó yǒu yí ge wèn tí.

(Wó yǒ í-gùh wèn-tí.)



**Do you understand?**

懂不懂?

Dǒng bu dǒng?

(Dǒng bù dǒng?)

**Are you clear about it?**

你明白吗?

Nǐ míng-bai ma?

(Nǐ míng-bǎi ma?)

**I don't understand.**

我不懂。

Wǒ bù dǒng.

(Wǒ bù dǒng.)

**I am not clear (on this matter)**

我不明白。

Wǒ bù míng bai.

(Wǒ bù míng-bǎi.)

**I know.**

我明白。

Wǒ míng bai.

(Wǒ míng-bǎi.)

**I understand.**

我懂。

Wó dǒng.

(Wó dǒng.)

**Please explain.**

请解释。

Qíng jiě shì.

(Chíng jiě shì.)

**Please clarify.**

请说明。

Qǐng shuō míng.

(Chíng shuō míng.)

**Complex**

复杂

Fù zá

(Fù-záh)

**Simple, easy**

简单

Jiǎn dān

(Jiǎn-dān)

**Difficult**

困难

kùn nan

(Kwèn-nǎn)

**No wonder.**

怪不得。

Guài bù dé.

(Guài bù dé.)

**It's obvious.**

很明显。

Hěn míng xiǎn.

(Hěn míng shiǎn.)

**I know.**

我知道。

Wǒ zhī dào.

(Wǒ jīr-dòw.)

**I don't know.**

我不知道。

Wǒ bù zhī dào.

(Wǒ bù jīer-dào.)

**I forgot.**

我忘记了。

Wǒ wàng jì le.

(Wǒ wàng-jì lùh.)

**I remember.**

我记得。

Wǒ jì de.

(Wǒ jì dǔh.)

**Tell me.**

告诉我。

Gào sù wǒ.

(Gào-sù wǎ)

**What did you say?**

你说什么?

Nǐ shuō shén me?

(Nǐ shuō shém-mùh?)

**Is it OK?**

好不好?

Hǎo bu hǎo?

(Hǎo bú hǎo?)

**Is it acceptable?**

可以吗?

Ké yǐ ma?

(Kéh-ǐ mǎ?)

**Can you do it?**

行吗?

Xíng ma?

(Shíng mǎ?)

**No way (you don't have permission).**

不行!

Bù xíng!

(Bù shíng!)







<b>Have permission.</b> 行。	Xíng. (Shíng.)
<b>Either is fine.</b> 都可以。	Dōu ké yǐ. (Dōh kúh-í.)
<b>Is this right?</b> 对不对?	Duì bu duì? (Dwày bú dwày?)
<b>Right</b> 对。	Duì (Dwày)
<b>By the way.</b> 顺便说。	Shùn biàn shuō. (Shuèn-bièn shuō.)
<b>Wrong</b> 不对	Bú duì (Bú dwày)
<b>Success</b> 成功	Chéng gōng (Chúng gōng)
<b>Failure</b> 失败	Shī bài (Shēr bài)
<b>Almost</b> 几乎	Jī hū (Jǐ-hū)
<b>Same</b> 一样	Yí yàng (Í-yàng)
<b>About the same.</b> 差不多。	Chā bù duō. (Chā bù-duō.)

**Imitate**

模仿

Mó fǎng

(Muó fǎng)

**I'm in trouble!**

我有麻烦了!

Wó yǒu má fan le!

(Wó yǒ má-fǎn lǚh!)

**What's wrong with you?**

你怎么了?

Ní zěn me le?

(Ní dzěm-mǔh lǚh?)

**What's wrong?**

有什么问题?

Yóu shén me wèn tí?

(Yó shém-mǔh wèn-tí?)

**Nothing's wrong!**

没问题吧。

Méi wèn tí ba.

(Má y wèn-tí bǎ.)

**You aren't hurt, are you?**

你没事吧?

Nǐ méi shì ba?

(Nǐ má y shèr bǎ?)

**Do you need help?**

你需要帮助吗?

Nǐ xū yào bāng zhù ma?

(Nǐ shīu yò w bāng-jù mǎ?)

**I need help.**

我需要帮助。

Wǒ xū yào bāng zhù.

(Wǒ shīu yò w bāng-jù.)

**I don't need help.**

我不需要帮助。

Wǒ bù xū yào bāng zhù.

(Wǒ bù shīu yò w bāng-jù.)

**I'll help you do it.**

我帮你做?

Wǒ bāng nǐ zuò.

(Wǒ bāng nǐ dzuò.)

**Help me.**

帮我一下?

Bāng wǒ yí xià.

(Bāng wǒ í-shiàh.)

**Help!**

救命!

Jiù mìng!

(Jiòu-mìng!)

**Be careful!**

小心!

Xiǎo xīn!

(Shiǎo shīn!)

**Dangerous!**

危险!

Wēi xiǎn!

(Wāy-shiǎn!)

**Careless**

不小心

Bù xiǎo xīn

(Bù shiǎo shīn)

**I'm sick.**

我病了。

Wǒ bìng le.

(Wǒ bìng lǚh.)

**Where's the hospital?**

医院在哪儿?

Yī yuàn zài nǎ ér?

(Yī-yuèn zài nǎr?)

**How much?**

多少?

Duō shǎo?

(Duō shǎu?)

**Buy it!**

买下来!

Mǎi xià lái!

(Mǎi shiàh lái!)

**I don't want to buy it.**

我不想买。

Wǒ bù xiǎng mǎi.

(Wǒ bù shiǎng mǎi.)

**It's too expensive!**

太贵了。

Tài guì le!

(Tài guà y lǚh!)

**Very poor quality.**很烂。  
质量不好。

Hěn làn.

(Hǔn làn.)

Zhì liàng bù hǎo.

(Jǐ liàng bù hǎw.)



**Give me a better price.**

算便宜点。

Suàn pián yì diǎn.

(Swàn pién-ì diǎn.)

**Do you want it?**

要不要?

Yào bù yào?

(Yòu bù yòu?)

**I want ...**

我要...

Wǒ yào...

(Wǒ yòu...)

**I don't want ...**

我不要...

Wǒ bú yào...

(Wǒ bú yòu...)

**Please give me change.**

请给我换零钱。

Qǐng géi wǒ huàn líng qián.

(Chǐng gáy wǒ huàn líng-chián.)

**Enough?**

够了吗?

Gòu le ma?

(Gòu lǚ mǎ?)

**Enough.**

够了。

Gòu le.

(Gòu lǚ.)

**Not enough.**

不够。

Bú gòu.

(Bú gòu.)

**Satisfied?**

满意吗?

Mǎn yì ma?

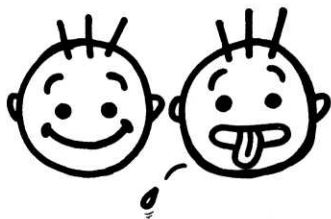
(Mǎn-ì mǎ?)

**Satisfied.**

满意。

Mǎn yì.

(Mǎn-ì.)



<b>Not satisfied.</b> 不满意。	Bù mǎn yì. (Bù mǎn-ì.)
<b>Separate</b> 分开	Fēn kāi (Fēn-kāi)
<b>Put together.</b> 放在一起。	Fàng zài yì qǐ. (Fàng zài ì-chǐ.)
<b>All together.</b> 一共。	Yí gòng. (Í-gòng.)
<b>It's OK (acceptable).</b> 还可以。	Hái ké yǐ. (Hái kúh-ǐ.)
<b>Give it to me.</b> 给我。	Géi wǒ. (Gáy wǒ.)
<b>Here, take it.</b> 拿去吧。	Ná qù ba. (Náh chiù bà.)
<b>Hold this.</b> 拿着。	Ná zhe. (Náh jǔh.)
<b>I have ...</b> 我有…。	Wó yǒu... (Wó yǒ...)
<b>I don't have ...</b> 我没有…。	Wǒ méi yǒu... (Wó máy yǒ...)
<b>What's next?</b> 接下来呢?	Jiē xià lái ne. (Jiēh shiàh lái nǚh?)
<b>Last time.</b> 上次。	Shàng cì. (Shàng ts.)
<b>This time.</b> 这次。	Zhè cì. (Jày ts.)
<b>Next time.</b> 下次。	Xià cì. (Shiàh ts.)

**A long time ago.**

很久以前。

Hén jiǔ yǐ qián.

(Hún jiǒu ĭ-chién.)

**Just a moment ago.**

剛才。

Gāng cái.

(Gāng tsái.)

**After**

以后

Yǐ hòu

(ĭ-hò)

**Before**

以前

Yǐ qián

(ĭ-chién)

**Time**

时间

Shí jiān

(Shí jĕn)

**What time? (When?)**

什么时候?

Shén me shí hòu?

(Shém-mùh shér-hò?)

**What time is it (now)?**

现在几点了?

Xiàn zài jí diǎn le?

(Shièn zài jí-diĕn lùh?)

**Sometimes**

有时候

yǒu shí hòu

(Yǒ shér-hò)

**Always**

经常

Jīng cháng

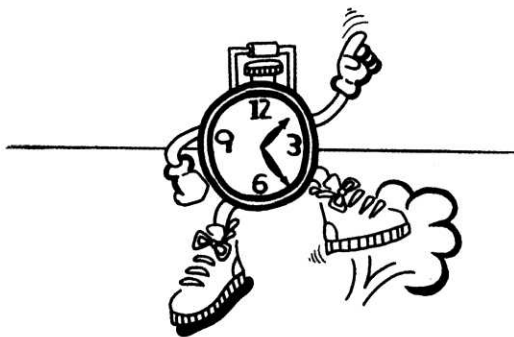
(Jīng-cháng)

**Seldom**

很少

Hén shǎo

(Hún shǎo)



**Occasionally**

偶尔

Óu'ěr

(Ó-ér)

**Never**

从来没有

Cóng lái méi yǒu

(Tsóng lái máy yǒ)

**Not even once.**

一次都没有。

Yí chī dōu méi yǒu.

(Í-ts dōh máy yǒ.)

**At long last/finally**

总算

Zǒng suàn

(Jǒng Swàn)

**Forever**

永远

Yǒng yuǎn

(Yóng yuǎn)

**Please fix ...**

请修理…。

Qǐng xiūlǐ... .

(Chǐng shioū-lǐ...)

**Of course.**

当然。

Dāng rán.

(Dāng rán.)

**Convenient.**

方便。

Fāng biàn.

(Fāng-bièn)

**Not convenient.**

不方便。

Bù fāng biàn.

(Bù fāng-bièn)

**Definitely/For sure.**

一定。

Yí dìng.

(í-dìng.)

**Not definitely/Not necessarily.**

不一定。

Bù yí dīng.

(Bù í-dīng.)

**It's impossible.**

不可能。

Bù kě néng.

(Bù kǔh-núng.)

**It's possible.**

可能。

Kě néng.

(Kǔh-núng.)

**No patience.**

没耐心。

Méi nài xīn.

(Máy nài shīn.)

**No confidence.**

没信心。

Méi xìn xīn.

(Máy shìn shīn.)

**Don't worry!**

不要担心。

Bú yào dān xīn!

(Bú yào dān shīn!)

**Be happy!**

高兴一点。

Gāo xìng yì diǎn!

(Gāu-shìng ì-diǎn!)

**Happy Birthday!**

生日快乐!

Shēng rì kuài lè!

(Shēng rì kuài-lùh!)

**Happy**

高兴

Gāo xìng

(Gāu-shìng)

**Lucky**

幸运

Xīng yùn

(Shìng Yuèn)







**Unlucky**

倒霉

Dǎo méi  
(Dǎo-máy)

**Unfortunate**

不幸

Bú xìng  
(Bú shìng)

# Getting Acquainted 2

---

**What's your family name?** Nín guì xìng?  
您贵姓? (Nín guày shìng?)

This is a very polite way to ask someone's name and should be said when meeting someone for the first time. *Nín* is an especially polite form of "you," and *guày* means "honorable."

**What's your name?** Nǐ jiào shén me míng zi?  
你叫什么名字? (Nǐ jiào shén-mǎh míng-dz?)

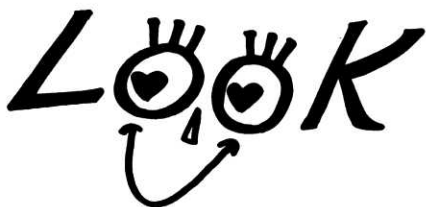
**Hi, how's it going?** Ní hǎo ma?  
你好吗? (Ní hǎo mǎ?)

**How are you?** Zěn me yàng?  
怎么样? (Dzěm-mǎh yàng?)

**How have you been lately?** Nǐ zuì jìn zěn me yàng?  
你最近怎么样? (Nǐ dzuày jìn dzěm-mǎh yàng?)

**I'm fine.** Wó hén hǎo.  
我很好。 (Wó hún hǎo.)

**I'm happy.** Wó hěn kuài lè.  
我很快乐。 (Wó hún kwài lùh.)





**I feel sad.**

我觉得难过。

Wǒ jué de nán guò.

(Wǒ juáy-dǔh nán-guò.)

**I feel tired.**

我觉得累。

Wǒ jué de lèi.

(Wǒ juáy-dǔh lày.)

**I've got a headache.**

我头疼。

Wǒ tóu téng.

(Wǒ tó túng.)

**I feel sick.**

我觉得不舒服。

Wǒ jué de bù shū-fu.

(Wǒ juáy dǔh bù shū-fǔ.)

**I'm sleepy.**

我想睡觉。

Wó xiǎng shuì jiào.

(Wó shiǎng shuà-y-jìòw.)

**What have you been up to lately?**

最近忙什么?

Zuì jìn máng shén me?

(Dzuày jìn máng shém-mǔh?)

**Long time no see.**

好久不见。

Háo jiǔ bú jiàn.

(Hów jiouǔ bú-jièn.)

This statement was originally a Chinese expression and has become an English one. It is a literal translation.

**My Chinese/English is poor.** Wǒ-de zhōng-wén/yīng-wén

我的中文 / 英文不好。

bù hǎo.

(Wó-dǔh jōng-wén/īng-wén bù hǎw.)



**Please speak in English.**

请讲英文。

Qíng jiǎng yīng wén.  
(Chíng jiǎng īng-wén.)

**Please speak in Chinese.**

请讲中文。

Qíng jiǎng zhōng wén.  
(Chíng jiǎng jōng-wén.)

**Please speak slower.**

请说慢一点。

Qǐng shuō màn yì diǎn.  
(Chǐng shuō màn ì-diǎn.)

**Please say it again.**

请再说一遍。

Qǐng zài shuō yí biàn.  
(Chǐng zài shuō í-biàn.)

**What do you mean?**

您的意思是什么？

Nín de yì sī shì shén me?  
(Nín dǔh ì-sz shèr shém-mǔh?)

**What do you want to say?**

你要说什么？

Nǐ yào shuō shén me?  
(Nǐ yòu shuō shém-mǔh?)

**Please come in.**

请进。

Qǐng jìn.  
(Chǐng jìn.)

**Do you want to sit down?**

你要坐吗？

Nǐ yào zuò ma?  
(Nǐ yòu dzuò mǎ?)

**Please sit down.**

请坐。

Qǐng zuò.  
(Chǐng dzuò.)

**May I sit down?**

我可以坐吗?

Wǒ ké yǐ zuò ma?

(Wǒ kúh-í dzuò má?)

**Someone is sitting here.**

这个位子有人坐。

Zhè ge wèi zi yǒu rén zuò.

(Jùh gǔh wày-dz yǒ rén dzuò.)

**Where are you from?**

你从哪来的?

Nǐ cóng nǎ lái de?

(Nǐ tsóng nǎ lái dǔh?)

**What do you do for a living?**

你做什么工作?

Nǐ zuò shén me gōng zuò?

(Nǐ dzuò shém-mǔh  
gōng-dzuò?)**How old are you?**

你几岁?

您多大?

Ní jǐ suì?\*

(Ní jí swày?)

Nín duō dà?\*\*

(Nín duō dàh?)

\* For children.

\*\* For adults.

**How long have you been here?**

你在这多久了?

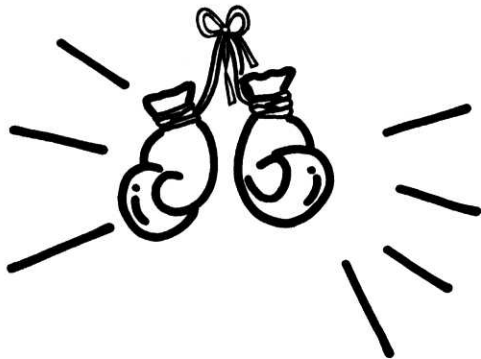
Ní zài zhè duō jiǔ le?

(Ní dzài jèr duō jiǒu lǔh?)

**What are you interested in?**

你对什么有兴趣?

Nǐ duì shén me yǒu xìng qù?

(Ní dwày shém-mǔh yǒ shìng-  
chiu?)

**What's your hobby?**

你有什么爱好?

Nǐ yǒu shén me ài hào?

(Ní yǒ shém-mǔh ài-hòw?)

**My hobbies are... .**

我的爱好是...。

Wǒ de ài hào shì... .

(Wǒ-dǔh ài-hòw shè... .)

**I'm interested in it.**

我对这个有兴趣。

Wǒ duì zhè ge yǒu xìng qù.

(Wǒ dwà y jùh gǔh yǒ shìng-chiù.)

**I'm not interested in it.**

我没兴趣。

Wǒ méi xìng qù.

(Wǒ má y shìng-chiù.)

**It means nothing to me.**

不算什么。

Bú suàn shén me.

(Bú swàn shém-mǔh.)

**I like ... .**

我喜欢...。

Wó xǐ huān... .

(Wó shǐ-huān... .)

**I don't like ...**

我不喜欢...。

Wǒ bù xǐ huān... .

(Wǒ bù shǐ-huān... .)

**I hate ... .**

我讨厌...。

Wó tǎo yàn... .

(Wó tǎu-yèn ... .)

**I loathe ... .**

我恨...。

Wǒ hèn... .

(Wǒ hùn... .)

Very strong statement and is seldom said.

**Have you done ... before?**

你以前做...过吗?

Ní yǐ qián zuò... guò ma?

(Ní í-chién dzuò... guò mǎ?)

**What is your religion?**

你信什么教?

Nǐ xìn shén me jiào?

(Nǐ shìn shém-mǔh jiòw?)

**Buddhist**

佛教

Fó jiào

(Fó jiòw)

**Taoist**

道教

Dào jiào

(Dòw jiòw)

**Christian**

基督教

Jī dū jiào

(Jī-dū jiòw)

**Catholic**

天主教

Tiān zhǔ jiào

(Tiān jǔ jiào)

**Muslim**

回教

Huí jiào

(Huáy jiào)

**Atheist**

无神论者

Wú shén lùn zhě

(Wú shén luèn jǔh)

**No religion**

不信教

Bú xìn jiào

(Bú shìn jiào)

**Sleep**

睡觉

Shuì jiào

(Shuà y jiào)

This is a common joke as "sleep" sounds like a religion. Notice the ending *jiào*.

**What's your blood type?**

你是什么血型?

Nǐ shì shén me xié xíng?

(Nǐ shèr shém-mǔh shiéh shíng?)

In Asia, this is an important indicator of your personality.

Type A : *Tender, neat, and kind; they make good wives.*

Type B : *Loving, cute, active, and humorous.*

Type O : *Bad tempered, good decision makers; they are typical leaders and are wise; they make good elder brothers.*

Type AB : *Weird geniuses; sometimes thought to be crazy and emotional.*



**I'm type A.**

我是 A 型。

Wǒ shì (Ā) xín.

(Wǒ shè (Ā) shín.)

**What's your year sign?**

你属什么?

Nǐ shǔ shén me?

(Nǐ shǔ shén-mǔh?)

This is concerned with Chinese astrology. Each year is denoted by one of twelve different animals. Your animal-year is supposed to be an indicator of your personality.

**My year sign is ...**

我属...。

Wó shǔ... .

(Wó shǔ... .)

**Mouse**

鼠

Shǔ

(shǔ)

**Ox**

牛

Niú

(Nióu)

**Tiger**

虎

Hǔ

(Hǔ)

**Rabbit**

兔

Tù

(Tù)

**Dragon**

龙

Lóng

(Lóng)

**Snake**

蛇

Shé

(Shéh)

**Horse**

马

Mǎ

(Mǎ)

**Sheep**

羊

Yáng

(Yáng)



**Monkey**

猴

Hóu

(Hó)

**Rooster**

鸡

Jī

(Jī)

**Dog**

狗

Gǒu

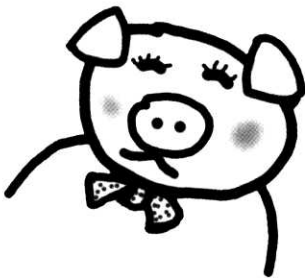
(Gǒ)

**Pig**

猪。

Zhū

(Jū)



## How the system of Chinese Astrology was created

Long, long ago, there was no concept of time. There were no clocks or calendars. People wanted to mark the passing of time but didn't know how. So, they sought advice from the Emperor, known for his wisdom in such matters. He pondered for a considerable time before deigning to offer his learned advice: "Because animals and humans have a close affinity and the names of animals are easily remembered, they should be used to symbolize time. Henceforth, a river crossing race shall be held to determine those animals best suited to signify time".

Thereupon the event was held. All manner of beasts attended. The cat and the mouse, who were good friends, discussed the best manner in which to cross, as neither could swim. They decided to ask the ox to aid them. The ox, being a sincere and kindhearted soul, agreed to carry them across. The race began and the ox, who was by far the best swimmer, emerged in the lead. As they neared the finish line, the cat proudly rose and declared the three of them to be the first to cross the line. But the mouse, a cunning and selfish soul, secretly desired to cross the line first. So he caught the cat unawares and pushed him into the water. He then jumped behind the ox's ear.

The ox, unaware of the commotion, swam on to the finish line. Just as he reached the shore, the mouse leaped forward and ran to victory, quickly followed by the ox, the tiger, the rabbit [1], the dragon [2], the snake [3], the horse [3], the sheep [4], the monkey [4], the cock [4], the dog [4], and the pig [5]. The exhausted cat finally scrambled to shore, but the race was already over. The cat was extremely angry at the mouse, and every time they met, the cat would try to bite him. He then reported the mouse's crime to all of his progeny, beginning a feud between the two animals which continues to this very day. The mouse, knowing full-well his sin, skulked away in guilt and spent the rest of his days hiding in dark, sullen places.

[1] *The rabbit*, who could not swim, made the crossing by leaping across the other animals' heads. He acquired his peculiarly shaped mouth because he ran too fast, and after crossing the finish line, ran into a tree.

[2] *The dragon*, who should have been placed higher in the ranking, had been busy in the heavens creating thunder and lightning. He absent-mindedly made the thunder too loud, which caused him to become fairly deaf. As a consequence, he did not hear the start of the race and had to come from behind to acquire fifth place.

[3] *The snake*, in order to defeat the horse, scared him and dashed in front. Unfortunately for him, he ran too fast, causing his four legs to break off, leaving him in his present legless state.

[4] *The sheep*, monkey, and rooster had agreed to make the crossing together. They did so by putting the sheep on the shoulders of the monkey, who in turn sat upon the back of the rooster. As they were crossing, the sheep (who was a sort of lookout) saw the dog (who was naughtily bathing in the river) and scolded him severely. The dog continued the race and finished next to last but he didn't really care. The sheep ended up over-straining his eyes and permanently damaged his vision. The monkey, who sat far too long, acquired a permanently red posterior. The rooster, who had been supporting the group, lost two of his original four legs as they were crushed.

[5] *The pig* finished last as he decided to finish eating before crossing the river. When he finally made it across, he entreated the Emperor for more food. His gluttony caused him to become the laughing stock of all those present.



## Year and Personalities

The animal years repeat every 12 years.

### 2003: Sheep

Gentle, artistic, peace-loving, sweet-natured, lovable, creative, inventive, amorous, tasteful, intelligent. Insecure, pessimistic, unpunctual, undisciplined, dissatisfied, irresponsible.

### 2004: Monkey

Merry, enthusiastic, witty, good in business, clever, fascinating, passionate, youthful, very intelligent, inventive. Vain, adolescent, long-winded, unfaithful, untruthful, untrustworthy.

### 2005: Rooster

Proud, enthusiastic, stylish, popular, lively, amusing, generous, adventurous, industrious, conservative, courageous. Pompous, pedantic, short-sighted, boastful, mistrustful, extravagant.

### 2006: Dog

Faithful, loyal, noble, modest, devoted, prosperous, courageous, respectable, selfless, dutiful, intelligent. Introverted, cynical, critical, moralizing, stubborn, defensive.

### 2007: Pig

Scrupulous, loyal, sincere, honest, loving, sociable, sensitive, sensual, truthful, peaceful, intelligent. Naive, Epicurean, insecure, gullible, defenseless, non-competitive, earthy.

### 2008: Mouse

Aggressive, energetic, jolly, charming, sociable, humorous, generous, intellectual, sentimental, honest, persistent. Greedy, small-minded, power-hungry, destructive, suspicious, tiresome, likes to gamble.

### 2009: Ox

Hard-working, lonely, leaders, strong, proud, reserved, methodical, original, eloquent, patient, silent. Rigid, bad losers, authoritarian, conventional, jealous, stubborn, slow.

### 2010: Tiger

Smiling, magnetic, lucky, strong, honorable, good leaders, liberal-minded, courageous, generous, passionate. Vain, rash, disobedient, undisciplined, argumentative, rebellious.

**2011: Rabbit**

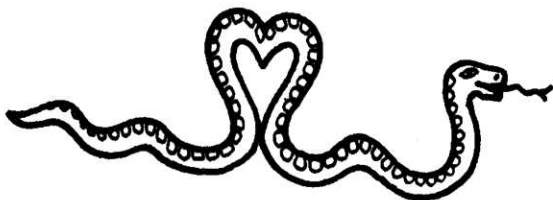
Cautious, clever, hospitable, sociable, friendly, sensitive, ambitious, careful, private. Timid, thin-skinned, old-fashioned, hypochondriac, squeamish.

**2012: Dragon**

Showy, artistic, enthusiastic, lucky, healthy, generous, sentimental, successful, independent. Demanding, irritable, loudmouthed, stubborn, discontented, and willful. The dragon is the symbol of the emperor.

**2013: Snake**

Wise, sympathetic, lucky, sophisticated, calm, decisive, attractive, philosophical, elegant, compassionate. Lazy, possessive, tight-fisted, bad losers, changeable, vengeful, extravagant.

**2014: Horse**

Gifted, athletic, charming, quick-witted, hard-working, entertaining, powerful, skillful, cheerful, eloquent, independent. Weak, unfeeling, hot-headed, selfish, ruthless, tactless, impatient, rebellious.

**What's your astrological sign?**

你是什么星座?

Nǐ shì shén me xīng zuò?  
(Nǐ shèr shém-mùh shīng  
dzuò?)

**Aries**

白羊座

Bái yáng zuò  
(Bái-yáng dzuò)

<b>Taurus</b> 金牛座	Jīn niú zuò (Jīn-niú dzuò)
<b>Gemini</b> 双子座	Shuāng zī zuò (Shuāng-dī dzuò)
<b>Cancer</b> 巨蟹座	Jù xiè zuò (Jiù-shièh dzuò)
<b>Leo</b> 狮子座	Shī zi zuò (Shēr-dz dzuò)
<b>Virgo</b> 处女座	Chù nǚ zuò (Chù-nǚ dzuò)
<b>Libra</b> 天平座	Tiān píng zuò (Tiān-píng dzuò)
<b>Scorpio</b> 天蝎座	Tiān xiē zuò (Tiān-shiēh dzuò)
<b>Sagittarius</b> 射手座	Shè shǒu zuò (Shùh-shǒu dzuò)
<b>Capricorn</b> 摩羯座	Mó xiē zuò (Muó-shiēh dzuò)
<b>Aquarius</b> 水瓶座	Shuǐ píng zuò (Shuǎy-píng dzuò)
<b>Pisces</b> 双鱼座	Shuāng yú zuò (Shuāng-yú dzuò)
<b>Do you believe it?</b> 你相信吗?	Nǐ xiāng xìn ma? (Nǐ shiāng shìn mǎ?)
<b>It might be true.</b> 可能是真的。	Kě néng shì zhēn de. (Kǔh núng shèr jēn-dǔh.)
<b>I believe it!</b> 我相信!	Wǒ xiāng xìn! (Wó shiāng-shìn!)

**I don't believe it!**

我不相信!

Wǒ bù xiāng xìn!

(Wǒ bù shiāng-shìn!)

**Really?**

真的吗?

Zhēn de ma?

(Jēn-dǔh mǎ?)

**That's a lie!**

那是谎话!

Nà shì huǎng huà!

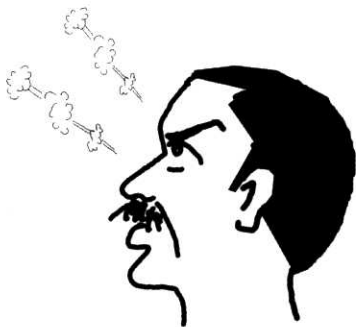
(Nàh shèr hwǎng-hwàh!)

**You lied!**

你说慌!

Nǐ shuō huǎng!

(Nǐ shuō hwǎng!)



**Tell the truth!**

说真的!

Shuō zhēn de!

(Shuō jēn-dǔh!)

**How do you know?**

你怎么知道?

Ní zěn me zhī dào?

(Ní dzēm-mǔh jēr dòw?)

**Who said it?**

谁说的?

Shuí shuō de?

(Sháy shuō dǔh?)

**I know that person.**

我认识那个人。

Wǒ rèn shi nà gè rén.

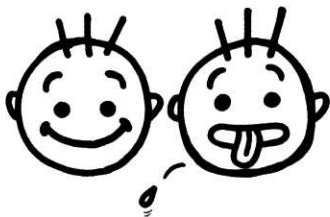
(Wǒ rèn-shèr nàh gǔh rén.)

**I know him/her.**

我认识他 / 她。

Wǒ rèn shi tā

(Wǒ rèn-shèr tā)



**It depends.**

看情形。

Kàn qíng xíng.  
(Kàn chéng-shíng.)

**I agree with you.**

我同意。

Wǒ tóng yì.  
(Wǒ tóng-ì.)

**I don't agree with you.**

我不同意。

Wǒ bù tóng yì.  
(Wǒ bù tóng-ì.)

**I didn't think of that.**

我没想到。

Wǒ méi xiǎng dào.  
(Wǒ máy shiāng dòw.)

**I didn't consider that.**

我没考虑过。

Wǒ méi kǎo lǚ guò.  
(Wǒ máy kǎu-liu gò.)

**I figured that.**

我就知道。

Wǒ jiù zhī dào.  
(Wǒ jiù jēr dòw.)

**Our thoughts are the same.**

我们的想法相同。

Wǒ men de xiǎng fǎ xiāng  
tóng.  
(Wǒ -mèn dǔh shiāng-fǎh  
shiāng-tóng.)

**Do you care?**

你在乎吗?

Nǐ zài hū ma?  
(Nǐ zài-hū mǎ?)

**Do you care about ... ?**

你在乎...吗?

Nǐ zài hū... ma?  
(Nǐ zài-hū... mǎ?)

**I don't care.**

我不在乎。

Wǒ bú zài hū.  
(Wǒ bú zài-hū.)



**Who cares?**

谁在乎?

Shuí zài hū?

(Sháy zài-hū?)

**Either is fine.**

都可以。

Dōu ké yǐ.

(Dō kúh-í.)

**No problem.**

没问题。

Méi wèn tí.

(Máy wèn-tí.)

**It doesn't matter.**

没关系。

Méi guān xi.

(Máy guān-shi.)

**Go for it!**

去做吧!

Qù zuò ba!

(Chiu dzuò bǎ!)

**I've got an idea.**

我有办法。

Wó yǒu bàn fa.

(Wó yó bàn-fǎh.)

**What way?**

什么办法?

Shén me bàn fa?

(Shém-mǔh bàn-fǎh?)

**There's no way you can do it!**

你没办法!

Nǐ méi bàn fa!

(Nǐ máy bàn-fǎh!)

**It can't be helped.**

没办法。

Méi bàn fa.

(Máy bàn-fǎh.)



**Why did you do that?**

你为什么这么做?

Nǐ wèi shén me zhè-me zuò?  
(Nǐ wèi shén-mě dzè-mě mùh  
dzuò?)

**Let's start it.**

开始吧。

Kāi shǐ ba.  
(Kāi-shǐ bǎ.)

**Finished?**

做好了吗?

Zuò hǎo le ma?  
(Dzuò hǎo lǎh mǎ?)

**Finished.**

做好了。

Zuò hǎo le.  
(Dzuò hǎo lǎh.)

**Do you have free time?**

有空吗?

Yǒu kòng ma?  
(Yǒ kòng mǎ?)

**Would you like to go  
(to) ... ?**

你想去...?

Ní xiǎng qù... ?  
(Ní shiǎng chiu... ?)

**Bar/Pub**

酒吧

Jiǔ bā  
(Jiǒu-bā)

**Restaurant**

餐厅

饭店

Cān tīng  
(Tsān-tīng)  
Fàn diàn  
(Fàn-diàn)





<b>Park</b> 公园	Gōng yuán (Gōng-yuén)
<b>Jogging</b> 慢跑	Màn pǎo (Màn pǎow)
<b>Swimming</b> 游泳	Yóu yǒng (Yó-yǒng)
<b>Movie</b> 电影	Diàn yǐng (Dièn-ǐng)
<b>Let's go see a movie!</b> 我们去看电影!	Wǒ men qù kàn diàn yǐng! (Wǒ-mě'n chù kàn dièn-ǐng!)
<b>Have you seen ... before?</b> 你看过...吗?	Nǐ kàn guò... ma? (Nǐ kàn guò... mǎ?)
<b>Two tickets please.</b> 请给我两张票。	Qǐng géi wǒ liǎng zhāng piào. (Chǐng géi wǒ liǎng jāng piào.)
<b>What kind of movie would you like to see?</b> 你喜欢看什么电影?	Nǐ xǐ huān kàn shén me diàn yǐng? (Nǐ shǐ-huān kàn shè-mùh dièn-ǐng?)
<b>Science fiction</b> 科幻片	Kē huàn piàn (Kūh-huàn pièn)

**Comedy**

喜剧片

Xǐ jù piàn

(Xǐ-jù piàn)

**Romance**

言情片

Yán qíng piàn

(Yán-chíng piàn)

**Horror**

恐怖片

Kǒng bù piàn

(Kǒng-bù piàn)

**Ghost.**

鬼怪片

Guǐ guài piàn

(Guǐ-guài piàn)

**Adventure**

动作片

Dòng zuò piàn

(Dòng-dzuò piàn)

**Gangster**

警匪片

Jǐng fěi piàn

(Jǐng-fěi piàn)

**Mystery**

神怪片

Shén guài piàn.

(Shén-guài piàn)

**Western**

西部片

Xī bù piàn

(Xī-bù piàn)

**X-rated**

色情片

Sè qíng piàn

(Sèh chíng piàn)

**American movie**

欧美电影

Ōu měi diàn yǐng)

(Ōu-měi diàn-ǐng)



**Chinese movie**

中国电影

Zhōng guó diàn yǐng  
(jōng-guó diàn-ǐng)**Good idea.**

好主意。

Hǎo zhú yì.  
(Hǎo jú-i.)**Let me think it over.**

让我想一下。

Ràng wó xiǎng yí xià.  
(Ràng wó shiǎng í-shiàh.)**Have you decided yet?**

你决定了吗？

Nǐ jué dìng le ma?  
(Nǐ juáy-dìng lǚh mǎ?)**It's up to you.**

随便你。

Suí biàn nǐ.  
(Swáy-bièn nǐ.)**You decide.**

你决定。

Nǐ jué dìng.  
(Nǐ juáy-dìng.)**When can you ... ?**

你什么时候可以...？

Nǐ shén me shí hòu ké yǐ... ?  
(Nǐ shém-māh shé-hò  
kúh-r... ?)**Come**

来

Lái  
(Lái)**Go**

去

Qù  
(Chìu)**Do it**

做

Zuò  
(Dzuò)

**Do you want to go?**

你想去吗?

Nǐ xiǎng qù ma?

(Nǐ xiǎng chīu mǎ?)

**I can't go.**

我不能去。

Wǒ bù néng qù.

(Wǒ bù nung chīu.)

**Are you ready?**

你好了没有?

Nǐ hǎo le méi yǒu?

(Nǐ hǎo lǚh máy yǒ?)

**Ready**

好了

Hǎo le

(Hǎo lǚh)

**Not yet.**

还没。

Hái méi.

(Hái máy.)

**Meet me at ...**

我们在...见。

Wǒ men zài... jiàn.

(Wǒ-mě'n zài... jièn.)

**I'll wait for you.**

我等你。

Wǒ déng nǐ.

(Wǒ dúng nǐ.)

**I won't leave until you  
come.**

不见不散。

Bù jiàn bù sǎn.

(Bù jièn bù sǎn.)

**Please don't stand me up!**

请不要让我白等!

Qǐng bù yào ràng wǒ bái  
děng!(Chíng bù yòu ràng wǒ bái  
dǔng!)**Let's go!**

我们走吧!

Wǒ men zǒu ba!

(Wǒ-mě'n zǒ bǎ!)

**Please give me a ride to ...**

请送我去...。

Qǐng lā wǒ qù... .

(Chíng sòng wǒ chīu... .)

**Can you come here?**

你可以来这里吗?

Nǐ ké yǐ lái zhè lǐ ma?

(Nǐ kúh-í lái jùh-lǐ mǎ?)

**Where do you live?**

你住哪儿?

Nǐ zhù nǎ ér?

(Nǐ jù nǎr?)

**What's your address?**

你的地址是什么?

Nǐ de dì zhǐ shì shén me?

(Nǐ dǔh dì-jě shèr shém-mùh?)

**Please write it down.**

请写下来。

Qǐng xiě xià lái.

(Chíng shiěh shièh lái.)

**I'll see you home.**

我送你回家。

Wǒ sòng nǐ huí jiā.

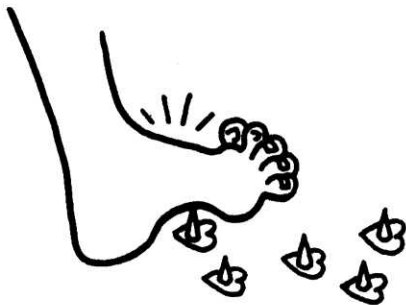
(Wǒ sòng nǐ hwáy jiāh.)

**Watch your step.**

慢走。

Màn zǒu.

(Màn zǎo)

Literally means "walk slowly" and is commonly used. The response is *hwày jièn*.**I'll write you a letter.**

我会写信给你。

Wǒ huì xiě xìn gěi nǐ.

(Wǒ hwày shiěh shìn gáy nǐ.)

**If you have free time, let's get together.**

有空见。

Yǒu kòng jiàn.

(Yǒ kòng jièn.)

**I'll leave first.**

我先走。

Wǒ xiān zǒu.

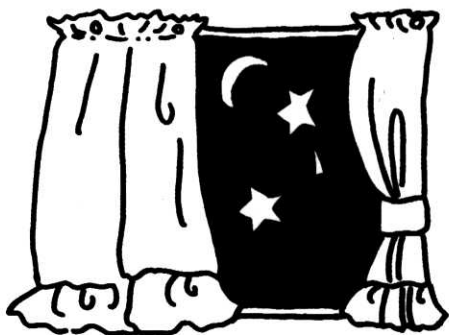
(Wǒ shiēn zǎo.)

**See you in a while.**

回头见。

Huí tóu jiàn.

(Hwáy tó jièn.)



**See you later.**

改天见。

Gǎi tiān jiàn.

(Gǎi tiān jiàn.)

**See you tomorrow.**

明天见。

Míng tiān jiàn.

(Míng-tiān jiàn.)

**See you tonight.**

晚上见。

Wǎn shang jiàn.

(Wǎn-shǎng jiàn.)

**Come back sometime!**

再来。

Zài lái!

(Zài lái!)

**Good bye.**

再见。

Zài jiàn.

(Zài-jiàn.)



# Shooting the Breeze

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# 3

**Bullshit!**

废话!

Fèi huà!

(Fày-hwàh!)

**Talk nonsense!**

乱讲!

Luàn jiǎng!

(Luàn-jiǎng!)

**To brag**

吹牛

Chuī niú

(Chuāy nióu)

**To flatter**

拍马屁。

Pāi mǎ pì.

(Pāi mǎ pì.)

Literally means "to pat the horse's rear end."

**Everyday spoken Chinese.**

普通话。

Pǔ tōng huà.

(Pú-tōng hwàh.)

This literally means "common" language.

**Weird, bizarre, strange.**

奇怪。

Qí guài.

(Chée-guài.)

**I'm sick of ...**

我讨厌...。

Wó tǎo yàn... .

(Wó tǎo yèn... .)

**Boring**

无聊

Wú liáo

(Wú-lióu)

**To be cheated/ripped off.**

被骗。

Bèi piàn.

(Bày pièn.)

**To be at a disadvantage,  
suffer a loss.**

吃亏。

Chī kuī.

(Chēr kwāy.)

**Don't let others cheat you!**

别上当。

Bié shàng dàng.

(Biéh shàng dàng!)

**That really makes me  
laugh!**

真好笑!

Zhēn hǎo xiào!

(Jēn hǎw shiào!)

**Is it fun?**

好玩吗?

Hǎo wán ma?

(Hǎw wán mǎ?)

**Is it funny?**

好笑吗?

Hǎo xiào ma?

(Hǎw shiào mǎ?)

**What are you laughing at?**

笑什么?

Xiào shén me?

(Shiào shém-mǔh?)

**That's really interesting!**

有意思!

Yǒu yì sī!

(Yǒ ì-s-ž!)

**Go on (continue).**

继续。

Jì xù.

(jì-shiù.)

**And then?**

然后呢?

Rán hòu ne?

(Rán hò nǔh?)

**Bizarre**

奇异

Qí yì

(Chée yì)

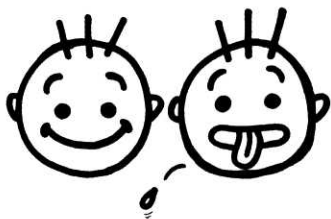
**Frighteningly ugly person!**

可怖。

Kě bù!

(Kǔh bù!)

This is a contraction of two Chinese words – *kě pà* meaning "frightening" and *kǒng bù* meaning "horrible".



**Who farted?**

谁放屁了?

Shuí fàng pì le?

(Sháy fàng-pì lǚh?)

**Guess!**

猜猜看。

Cāi cāi kàn!

(Tsāi tsāi kàn!)

**You did!**

就是你。

Jiù shì nǐ!

(Jiòu shèr nǐ!)

**Embarrassed.**

不好意思。

Bù hǎo yì si.

(Bù hów ì-sz.)

**Damn it! (I screwed up)**

糟了。

Zāo le!

(Zōw lǚh!)

**I can't stand ... !**

我受不了...!

Wǒ shòu bu liǎo... !

(Wǒ shòu bú-liǎow... !)

**Behaving mysteriously.**

神秘兮兮。

Shén mì xī xī.

(Shén mì shī shī.)

**Person with a jovial face.**

笑嘻嘻。

Xiào xī xī.

(Shiào shī shī.)

**A sulky expression.**

苦瓜脸。

Kǔ guā liǎn.

(Kǔ-guāh liǎn.)

**A wry smile.**

苦笑。

Kǔ xiào

(Kǔ shiào)

**Leader**大哥大  
大姐大Dà gē dà  
(Dà-gūh dà\*)  
Dà jiě dà  
(Dà-jiěh dà\*\*)

\* Male; literally means "big brother;" it's also used for Mafia bosses and cordless telephones.

\*\* Female; literally means "big sister."

**Boss**

老板

Láu bǎn  
(Láu běn)**How pitiful!**

真可怜!

Zhēn kě lián!  
(Jūn kǔh-lién!)

Used to describe people.

**What a waste!**

真可惜!

Zhēn kě xī!  
(Jūn kǔh-shī!)

Used to describe things.

**Tenderfoot**

新手

Xīn shǒu  
(Shīn shǒu)**Experienced person**

老手

Láo shǒu  
(Láu shǒu)**Person who loves to show off.**

爱出风头。

Ài chū fēng tóu.  
(Ài chū fōng tó.)**Good, kind person.**

好好先生

Háo hǎo xiān shēng.  
(Hóh hǒw shiēn shūng.)**Person who has many talents.**

有两下子。

Yóu liǎng xià zi.  
(Yó liáng shièh dz.)**Shocking!**

吓人!

Xià rén!  
(Shièh rén!)**Outlandish clothes**

奇装异服

Qí zhuāng yì fú  
(Chée juāng ì fú)

**Foreign ghost/devil**

洋鬼子

Yáng guǐ zi

(Yáng guǎy-dǐ)

Usually used to refer to Western Caucasians.

**Foreigner**

外国人

Wài guó rén

(Wài-guó-rén)

**Yankee**

洋人

Yáng rén

(Yáng-rén)

**Black person**

黑人

Hēi rén

(Hāy-rén)

**Red person**

棕色人

Zōng sè rén

(Jōng-sùh-rén)

**White person**

白人

Bái rén

(Bái-rén)

**It's a good thing that....**

还好...。

Hái hǎo... .)

(Hái hǎo... .)

**Don't be like that!**

别这样。

Bié zhè yàng.

(Biéh jùh yàng!)

**Awesome!/Fierce!**

厉害。

Lì hài!

(Lì-hài!)

This is a commonly used phrase and well worth remembering.



**Say it again.**

再说一遍。

Zài shuō yí biàn.

(Zài shuō í-biàn.)

**A liar's true intent.**

真像。

Zhēn xiàng.

(Jūn shiàng.)

**Don't waste your energy  
doing useless things.**

省省吧。

Shéng shěng ba!

(Shúng shǔng bǎ!)

**As if!**

才怪!

Cái guài!

(Tsái guài!)



**Junior high school girl!**

黄毛丫头!

Huáng máo yā tóu!

(Huáng máu yāh-tó!)

**That hurts!**

很痛!

Hěn tòng!

(Hǔn tòng!)

**I'm not sure.**

我不确定。

Wǒ bú què dīng.

(Wǒ bú chuà y dīng.)

**He/She/It's gone!**

他 / 她 / 它走了!

Tā zǒu le!

(Tā zó lǚh!)

**There's so many people!** Hǎo duō rén!  
 好多人。 (Hǎo duō rén!)

**Hide.** Duó qǐ lái  
 躲起来 (Duó chē lái)

**Lively, exciting, good time.** Rè nào.  
 热闹! (Rè-nào.)

**Too early!** Tài zǎo!  
 太早。 (Tài zǎo!)

**Too late!** Tài wǎn!  
 太晚。 (Tài wǎn!)

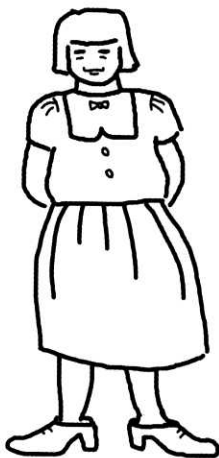
**Late** Chí dào le  
 迟到了 (Chí-dào le)

**No-one's there.** Nà méi rén ér.  
 那没人儿。 (Nà méi rén.)

**Too much!** Tài duō le!  
 太多了。 (Tài duō le!)

**Too little!** Tài shǎo le!  
 太少了。 (Tài shǎo le!)





**He/She/It came back.**

他 / 她 / 它又来了。

Tā yòu lái le.

(Tā yòu lái lǚh.)

**Embarrassed to death.**

羞死人了。

Xiū sǐ rén le.

(Shiōu sǐ rén lǚh.)

**Old-fashioned.**

老土。

Láo tǔ.

(Lóu tǔ.)

**To have fallen out of style.**

落伍了。

Luò wǔ le.

(Luò wǔ. lǚh.)

**Exaggeration.**

夸张。

Kuā zhāng.

(Kuāh jiāng.)



**Too exaggerated.**

太夸张了。

Tài kuā zhāng le.

(Tài kuāh jiāng lǚh.)

**The difference is too great!**

差远了!

Chà yuǎn le!

(Chà yuǎn lǚh.)

**You're kidding!**

开玩笑!

Kāi wán xiào!

(Kāi wán-shiào.)

**Over-exerted**

昏了头

Hūn le tóu

(Huēn lǚh tó)

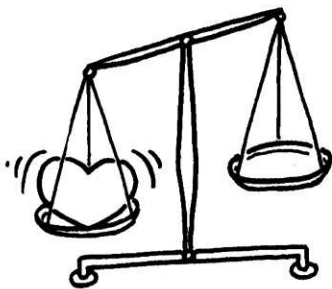
To have done so much that you're going crazy.

**Workaholic**

工作狂

Gōng zuò kuáng.

(Gōng-dzùo kuáng.)



# Eat, Drink, Be Merry!

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# 4

**Are you hungry?**

你饿了吗?

Nǐ è le ma?

(Nǐ èr lǔh mǎ?)

**I'm starving!**

我饿死了

Wǒ è sǐ le!

(Wǒ èr sǐ lǔh!)

**I'm hungry.**

我肚子饿了。

Wǒ dù zi è le.

(Wǒ dù-dz èr lǔh.)

Literally means "my stomach is hungry."

**No, I'm not.**

我不饿。

Wǒ bú è.

(Wǒ bú èr.)

**I'm not very hungry.**

我不太饿。

Wǒ bú tài è.

(Wǒ bú tài èr.)

**I want to eat.**

我想吃。

Wó xiǎng chī.

(Wó shiǎng chēr.)

**I don't want to eat.**

我不想吃。

Wǒ bù xiǎng chī.

(Wǒ bù shiǎng chēr.)

**Are you thirsty?**

你渴吗?

Ní kě ma?

(Ní kǔh mǎ?)

**I'm thirsty.**

我渴了。

Wó kě le.

(Wó kǔh lǔh.)

**I'm not thirsty.**

我不渴。

Wǒ bù kě.

(Wó bù kǔh.)

**I'm not very thirsty.**

我不太渴。

Wǒ bú tài kě.

(Wó bú tài kǔh.)

**I don't want to drink.**

我不想喝。

Wó bù xiǎng hē.

(Wó bù shiǎng hūh.)

**I want to drink.**

我想喝。

Wǒ xiǎng hē.

(Wǒ shiǎng hūh.)

**Have you ordered?**

你点菜了吗?

Nǐ diǎn cài le ma?

(Nǐ diǎn tsài lǚh mǎ?)

**Waiter**

先生

Xiān sheng

(Shiēn shūng)

Alternatively, *xiān sheng* means "Mister."**Waitress**

小姐

Xiǎo jiě

(Shiǎu jiěh\*\*)

Alternatively, *xiǎo jie* means "Miss."**Menu please.**

请给我菜单。

Qǐng géi wǒ cài dān.

(Chíng gáy wǎ tsài-dān.)

**I'll order for us.**

我来点菜。

Wǒ lái diǎn cài.

(Wǒ lái diǎn tsài.)

**Would you like a drink?**

你想喝饮料吗?

Nǐ xiǎng hē yǐng liào ma?

(Nǐ shiǎng hūh yǐng-liào mǎ?)

**Are you drunk?**

你醉了吗?

Nǐ zuì le ma?

(Nǐ dzuày-lǚh mǎ?)





**I'm drunk.**

我醉了。

Wǒ zuì le.

(Wó dzuày lǚh.)

**Drink more!**

多喝一点。

Duō hē yì diǎn.

(Duō hūh ì-diǎn.)

A polite way to refuse is to say *suáy-ì*.

**I drank too much.**

我喝得太多了。

Wǒ hē de tài duō le

(Wǒ hūh-dùh tài duō lǚh.)

**Don't drink so much!**

少喝点儿。

Shǎo hē diǎn ér!

(Shǎo hūh diǎn!)

**Hangover.**

宿醉。

Sù zuì

(Sù dzuày)

**It smells delicious!**

闻起来很香。

Wén qǐ lái hěn xiāng

(Wén chí-lái hǔn shiāng!)

**It looks delicious!**

看起来很好吃。

Kàn qǐ lái hěn hǎo chī.

(Kàn chí-lái hún hǎo chēh!)

**Let's start eating!**

开吃了。

Kāi chī le!

(Kāi-chēh lǚh!)

**Help yourself.**

自己来。

Zì jǐ lái.

(Dzì-jǐ lái.)

**This is delicious.**

这个很好吃。

Zhè ge hén hǎo chī.

(Jùh-gùh hún hǎo chēr.)

**Try eating some.**

吃吃看。

Chī chī kàn.

(Chēr chēr kàn.)

**I don't like it very much.**

我不太喜欢。

Wǒ bú tài xǐ huān.

(Wǒ bú tài shǐ-huān.)

**What would you like to drink?**

你想喝点什么？

Ní xiǎng hē diǎn shén me?

(Ní shiǎng hūh diǎn shém-mùh?)

**Beer**

啤酒

Pí jiǔ

(Pí-jiǔ)

**Wine, whiskey, etc**

酒

Jiǔ

(Jiǔ)

**Coffee**

咖啡

Kā fēi

(Kāh-fāy)

**Juice**

果汁

Guǒ zhī

(Guǒ jēr)

**Soda**

汽水

Qì shuǐ

(Chè shuǎy)

**Water**

开水

Kāi shuǐ

(Kai shuǎy)

Literally means "boiled water."

**This is for me.**

这是我的。

Zhè shì wǒ de.

(Zhè shèr wǒ dǔh.)

**This is for him/her.**

这是他 / 她的。

Zhè shì tā de.

(Zhè shèr tā dǔh.)

**I want to order the dish that he's having.**

我点跟他一样的菜。

Wó diǎn gēn tā yí yàng de cài.

(Wó diǎn gēn tā í-yàng dǔh tsài.)

**It's expensive.**

很贵。

Hěn guì.

(Hǔn guàiy.)

**It's cheap.**

很便宜。

Hěn pián yì.

(Hǔn pián-i.)

**Cheers!**

干杯。

Gān bēi.

(Gān bāy!)

Means "dry your cup."

**This is awful.**

这个难吃死了。

Zhè gè nán chī sǐ le.

(Jùh-gùh nán chēr sǐ lǔh.)

Sǐ means "death," and the implication is that the food is so bad it will kill you.

**Eat more!**

多吃点儿。

Duō chī diǎn ér.

(Duō chēr diǎn!)



**Please give me a little more.**

请给我多一点。

Qǐng gěi wǒ duō yì diǎn.  
(Chǐng gáy wǒ duō ì-diǎn.)

**Are you full?**

你吃饱了吗?

Nǐ chī bǎo le ma?  
(Nǐ chēr bǎo lǚh mǎ?)

Sometimes said as a friendly greeting.

**I'm full.**

我饱了。

Wó bǎo le.  
(Wó bǎo lǚh.)

**I'm not full.**

我还没饱。

Wǒ hái méi bǎo.  
(Wǒ hái máy bǎo.)

**I ate too much.**

我吃的太多了。

Wǒ chī de tài duō le.  
(Wǒ chēr-dǔh tài duō lǚh.)

# Curses and Insults

# 5

**I hate you!**

我讨厌你!

Wó tǎo yàn nǐ!

(Wó tǎu-yèn ní!)

**I loathe you!**

我恨你!

Wǒ hèn nǐ!

(Wǒ hùn ní!)

Very strong statement and is seldom used.

**I'll kill you!**

我要杀了你!

Wǒ yào shā le nǐ!

(Wǒ yào shāh-lǚh ní!)

**You've gone too far!**

太过分了!

Tài guò fēn le!

(Tài guò fēn lǚh!)

**Shut up!**

住口!

Zhù kǒu!

(Jù kǒ!)

**Don't speak!**

别说了!

Bié shuō le!

(Biéh shuō lǚh!)

**Listen to me!**

听我说!

Tīng wǒ shuō!

(Tīng wǒ shuō!)

**Get the hell out of here!**

滚出去!

Gǔn chū qù!

(Gwěh chū chiù!)

Literally means "roll away."

**I'm a bit angry (pissed off)!**

我有一点火大!

Wó yǒu yì diǎn huǒ dà!

(Wó yǒ ì-dién huǒ dàh!)

**What do you do for a living?**

你做什么工作?

Nǐ zuò shén me gōng zuò?

(Nǐ dzòu shém-mùh gōng-dzòu?)

**I'm mad as hell!**

我火大了!

Wó huǒ dà le!

(Wó huǒ dàh lǚh!)



**Calm down!**

冷静一点。

Lěng jìng yì diǎn!

(Lěng-jìng ì-diǎn!)

**What the hell are you  
doing?**

干什么？

Gàn shén me?

(Gàn shém-mǔh?)

**Have you finished speaking  
yet?**

说完了没有？

Shuō wán le méi yǒu?

(Shuō wán lǚh máy yǒ?)

**It's none of your business!**

没你的事！

Méi nǐ de shì.

(Má y nǐ-dǔh shèr!)

**Damn it!**

该死！

Gāi sǐ!

(Gāi sǐ!)

**Don't complain!**

不要抱怨！

Bù yào bào yuàn!

(Bù yòu bào-yuèn!)

**Stop screwing around!**

别闹了！

Bié nào le!

(Biéh nòw lǚh!)

**You deserve it!**

活该！

Huó gāi!

(Huó-gāi!)



<b>Leave me alone!</b> 不要管我!	Bù yào guǎn wǒ! (Bù yào wǎn guǎn wǒ!)
<b>Don't bother me!</b> 别烦我!	Bié fán wǒ! (Biéh fán wǒ!)
<b>Stop bothering me!</b> 饶了我!	Ráo le wǒ! (Ráo lǚ wǒ!)
<b>Nagging person.</b> 罗嗦。	Luō suo. (Luō-suo.)
<b>Person who is always criticizing and nagging others.</b> 唠叨。	Láo dāo. (Láo-dāo.)
<b>Be polite!</b> 客气点!	Kè qì diǎn! (Kùh-chèè diǎn!)
<b>The noise is killing me!</b> 吵死人了!	Cháo sǐ rén le! (Tsáu sǐ rén lǚ!)
<b>Don't come to find me!</b> 别找我!	Bié zhǎo wǒ! (Biéh jów wǒ!)
<b>Forget it!</b> 算了吧!	Suàn le ba! (Swàn lǚ bǎ!)
<b>Who do you think you are?</b> 你算老几?	Nǐ suàn lǎo jǐ? (Nǐ swàn lǎu-jǐ?)
<b>You don't know your own shortcomings!</b> 马不知脸长，猴子不知 屁股红!	Mǎ bù zhī liǎn cháng, hóu zi bù zhī pì gu hóng! (Mǎ bù jēr liǎn cháng, hó-dz bù jēr pì-gǔ hóng!)
Literally means "A horse doesn't know his face is long; a monkey doesn't know his ass is red."	
<b>Stuck up, arrogant person.</b> 好拽。	Hào zhuài. (Hòw juǎi)

**You're a ... !**

你是个…!

Nǐ shì ge... !

(Nǐ shèr gǔh... !)

**No, you're a ... !**

你才是个…!

Nǐ cái shì ge... !

(Nǐ tsái shèr gǔh... !)

**Good-for-nothing person.**

孬种。

Nāo zhǒng.

(Nāo-jǒng.)

**You're nothing.**

你不是东西。

Nǐ bú shì dōng xi.

(Nǐ bù shèr dōng-shi.)

**Stupid**

笨蛋

Bèn dàn

(Bùn dàn)

**Pretending to be ignorant**

装蒜。

Zhuāng suàn.

(Juāng swàn.)

**Crazy person.**

疯子

Fēng zi

(Fōng-tz)

**Crazy**

神经病

Shén jīng bìng

(Shén jīng bìn)

**Sick**

有病

Yǒu bìng

(Yǒ bìng)



**Not normal**

不正常

Bú zhèng cháng

(Bú jèng-cháng)

**Day-dreaming**

做白日梦

Zuò bái rì mèng

(Dzuò bái-rèr-mòng)

**Dreaming**

发呆

做梦

Fā dāi

(Fāh dāi)

Zuò mèng

(Dzuò mòng)



**You're screwed up.**

有毛病。

Yǒu máo bìng.

(Yǒ máu-bìng.)

This means that something is OK sometimes and at other times not; for example, a broken-down machine.

**Weird**

奇怪

Qí guài

(Chée-guài)

**This is too weird.**

莫名其妙。

Mò míng qí miào.

(Muò míng chée miào.)

**Weird guy**

怪才

Guài cái

(Guài tsāi)

**Horny guy**

色狼

Sè láng

(Sùh-láng)

Literally means "colored wolf."

**Perverted**

变态

Biàn tài

(Bièn-tài)

A person who is mentally ill.

**Pig**

猪八戒

Zhū bā jiè

(Jū-bā jièh)

Women's talk—for someone you can't stand.

**Fat person**

汽油桶

Qì yóu tǒng

(Chè-yó-tǒng)

**Loves to eat.**

吃货。

Chī huò.

(Chēr huò.)

**Skinny (like a monkey).**

瘦皮猴。

Shòu pí hóu.

(Shòu-pí-hó.)

**Skinny (like a stick).**

柴火棍。

Chái huò gùn.

(Qái-huo gwèn.)

**Fat-legged woman**

萝卜腿。

Luó bo tuǐ.

(Luó-buo twǎy.)

A woman who has legs that look like carrots.

**Moron**

白痴

Bái chī

(Bái-chēr)



**Electrical shortage in the brain.**

短路。

Duǎn lù.  
(Duǎn-lù.)**IQ of zero**

弱智

Ruò zhì  
(Ruò-jèr)**Bimbo**

二百五

Èr bái wǔ  
(Èr bái wǔ)**Busybody (female)**

三八

Sān bā  
(Sān-bā)**A simple soul**

四九

Sì jiǔ.  
(Sì-jioǔ)

A person who simply passes messages to others without considering if they're right or wrong.

**Stingy**

吝啬

Lìn sè  
(Lìn-sùh)**Big mouth**

大嘴巴

Dà zuǐ bā  
(Dàh dzuǎy-bā)**To shoot one's mouth off.**

多嘴。

Duō zuǐ.  
(Duō dzuǎy.)**Gossip, blabbermouth**

长舌妇

长舌男

Cháng shé fù\*  
(Cháng-shùh-fù)  
Cháng shé nán  
(Cháng-shùh-nán\*\*)

\* For a woman.

\*\* For a man.

**Useless person**

废物

Fèi wu  
(Fày- wǔ)**Bad guy** (will do anything for money)

混混

Hùn hun  
(Huèn-hǔen)

A person who will do anything for money.

**Monster**

怪物

Guài wù  
(*Guài wù*)**Bad teenager**小太保  
小太妹Xiǎo tài bǎo  
(*Shiǎo-tài-bǎo*)  
Xiǎo tài mèi  
(*Shiǎo-tài-mèi*\*)

\* For a girl.

**Narrow-minded**

小心眼

Xiǎo xīn yǎn  
(*Shiǎo shīn-yǎn*)**Disgusting**

恶心

Ě xīn  
(*Ěr-shīn*)**Very mean**

很凶

Hěn xiōng  
(*Hǔn shiōng*)**You're cold-hearted.**

没良心。

Méi liáng xīn.  
(*Máy liáng-shīn.*)**A heartless lover.**

薄情郎。

Bó qíng láng.  
(*Buó chéng-láng.*)

Women's insult intended for a man.

**Cold-blooded animal.**

冷血动物。

Léng xuě dòng wù.  
(*Lúng shuě dòng wù.*)**Extremely ugly**

丑八怪

Chǒu bā guài  
(*Tsǒu bā-guài*)

**You should look in the mirror.**

也不照照镜子。

Yě bú zhào zhào jìng zi.  
(Yiěh bú jòw-jòw jìn-tz.)**Old man**

老先生

Lǎo xiān shēng  
(Lǎo shiān shūng)**Old woman**

老太太

Lǎo tài tài  
(Lǎo-tài-tài)**Homosexual**

同性恋

Tóng xìng liàn  
(Tóng shìng lièn)**Coward**

胆小鬼

Dǎn xiǎo guǐ  
(Dǎn shiǎu-guǎy)**Miser**

小气鬼

Xiǎo qì guǐ  
(Shiǎu-chè-guǎy)**Lazy person**

懒虫

Lǎn chóng  
(Lǎn chóng)**Person who never expresses his feelings.**

自闭症。

Zì bì zhèng.  
(Dzì bì jèn.)**Unappreciative person**

不知好歹。

Bù zhī hǎo dǎi.  
(Bù jēr hów-dǎi.)

A person who can't tell when others treat him well.

**Rash, reckless person.**

不知死活。

Bù zhī sǐ huó.  
(Bù jēr sǐ huó.)**Your conscience bothers you.**

心里有鬼。

Xīn lǐ yǒu guǐ.  
(Shīn-lí yó guǎy.)

When you know that you've done something wrong.

**Inside you know the truth**

心里有数。

Xīn lǐ yǒu shù.  
(Shīn-lí yó shù.)

When you know what you should rightfully do.



**I never want to see you  
again.**

我再也不要看到你。

Wǒ zài yě bù yào kàn dào nǐ.  
(Wǒ zài yěh bù yòw kàn dòw  
nǐ.)

**I'm leaving!**

我要走了!

Wǒ yào zǒu le.  
(Wǒ yòw zǒ lǚh!)



**Screw you!**

去你的!

Qù nǐ de.  
(Chìu nǐ dǔh!)

**Fuck you!**

他妈的!

Tā mā de!  
(Tā mā dǎ!)

**Fuck your mother!**

操你妈!

Cào nǐ mā.  
(Tsàu nǐ mā!)

**Bitch!**

泼妇!

Pō fù!  
(Poā fōo!)

**Whore!**

婊子!

Biǎo zi.  
(Biǎo-tz!)

**Bastard!**

王八蛋。

Wáng bā dàn.  
(Wáng-bā-dàn!)

Literally means "turtle's egg."

**I'm sorry/Excuse me.**

对不起。

Duì bù qǐ.  
(Dwày bù chí.)

**To feel apologetic/  
regretful.**

抱歉。

Bào qiàn.  
(Bào chièn.)

**Please forgive me!**

请你原谅我!

Qíng nǐ yuán liàng wǒ!

(Chíng nǐ yuán-liàng wǒ!)

**I forgive you.**

我原谅你。

Wǒ yuán liàng nǐ.

(Wǒ yuán-liàng nǐ.)

**I can't forgive you.**

我不能原谅你。

Wǒ bù néng yuán liàng nǐ.

(Wǒ bù néng yuán-liàng nǐ.)

**I'll never forgive you.**

我永远不会原谅你。

Wǒ yǒng yuǎn bú huì yuán  
liàng nǐ.(Wǒ yǒng-yuǎn bú huì  
yuán-liàng nǐ.)**I want to apologize.**

我想道歉。

Wǒ xiǎng dào qiàn.

(Wǒ xiǎng dào-chiàn.)

**You'd better apologize.**

你最好道歉。

Nǐ zuì hào dào qiàn.

(Nǐ zuì hào dào-chiàn.)

**Ok, but don't let it ever  
happen again.**好,但是不要再发生这  
种事情。Hǎo, dàn shì bù yào zài fā  
shēng zhè zhǒng shì qíng.(Hǎo, dàn-shì bù-yào zài fāh-  
shēng zhè zhǒng shì-qíng.)**Don't do it again!**

下不为例。

Xià bù wéi lì!

(Xià bù wéi lì!)

**OK, you're right.**

算你对。

Suàn nǐ duì.

(Suàn nǐ duì.)

**OK, you win.**

算你赢。

Suàn nǐ yíng.

(Suàn nǐ yíng.)

**OK, I lose.**

算我输。

Suàn wǒ sū.

(Suàn wǒ sū.)

**You are/were ...**

你是…。

Nǐ shì ...

(Nǐ shì...)

**I am/was ...**

我是…。

Wǒ shì... .

(Wǒ shèr... .)

**He/She/It was ...**

他 / 她 / 它是…。

Tā shì... .

(Tā shèr... .)

**Right**

对了

Duì le

(Dwày lǚh)

**Wrong**

错了

Cuò le

(Tsuò lǚh)

**Retribution**

报应

Bào yìng

(Bàu-ìng)

**What goes around comes  
around**

恶有恶报。

È yǒu è bào.

(Èr yǒ èr bàu.)

This phrase applies to evil deeds.

**What goes around comes  
around.**

善有善报。

Shàn yǒu shàn bào.

(Shàn yǒ shàn bàu.)

This phrase applies to good deeds.

# On the Phone

# 6

**Do you have a phone?**

你有电话吗?

Ní yǒu diàn huà ma?

(Ní yǒu diàn-hwàh mǎ?)

**What's your phone number?**

你的电话是多少?

Nǐ de diàn huà shì duō shǎo?

(Nǐ dǎ diàn-hwàh shèr duō shǎo?)

**Can I call you?**

我可以给你打电话吗?

Wǒ ké yǐ géi nǐ dǎ diàn huà ma?

(Wǒ kúh-ǐ gáy nǐ dǎ diàn hwàh mǎ?)

**Hello, is ... there?**

喂, 请问... 在吗?

Wéi, qǐng wèn... zài ma?

(Wáy, qǐng-wèn... zài mǎ?)

**Please give me extension ...**

请转...。

Qǐng zhuǎn... .

(Chǐng juǎn... .)





**The line's busy.**

占线。

Zhàn xiàn.

(Jàn-shièn.)

**Who's calling please?**

请问，你是哪位？

Qǐng wèn, nǐ shì nǎ wèi?

(Chǐng-wèn, nǐ shè nǎh wà?)

**Please hold on for a moment.**

请等一下。

Qíng děng yí xià.

(Chíng dǔng í-shiàh.)

**John isn't in.**

John 不在。

John bú zài.

(John bú zài.)

**When will he/she be back?**

他 / 她什么时候回来。

Tā shén me shí hòu huí lái.

(Tā shém-mǔh shér-hò  
hwáy lái?)

**Please tell him/her John called**

请告诉他 / 她 John  
打电话给他 / 她。

Qǐng gào sù tā John dǎ  
diàn huà gěi tā.

(Chǐng gòw-sǔ tā John dǎh  
dièn-hwàh gáy tā.)

**Please tell him/her ...**

请告诉他 / 她...

Qǐng gào sù tā...

(Chǐng gòw-sǔ tā...)

**I'll phone again.**

我再打。

Wǒ zài dǎ.

(Wǒ zài dǎh.)

**I'll call you.**

我打电话给你。

Wó dǎ diàn huà gěi nǐ.

(Wó dǎh dièn hwàh gáy nǐ.)

**Please call me.**

请打电话给我。

Chíng dǎ diàn huà gěi wǒ.

(Chíng dǎh dièn hwàh gáy wǒ.)

**Please have him/her call me.**

请他 / 她给我回电话。

Qǐng tā gěi wǒ huí diàn huà

(Chǐng tā gáy wǒ hwáy dièn hwàh.)

**My phone number is ... .**

我的电话是…。

Wǒ de diàn huà shì... .

(Wǒ-dùh dièn-hwàh shè... .)

**I'll call you back.**

我给你回电话。

Wǒ gěi nǐ huí diàn huà.

(Wǒ gáy nǐ hwáy dièn hwàh.)

# Lover's Language

# 7

## Lover

爱人

Ài rén  
(Ài-rén)

In mainland China this means "wife" or "husband," but in other countries it means "mistress" or "lover." Don't make the mistake of referring to someone's wife as their mistress.

## Electrifying sensation of love at first sight.

起电。

Qǐ diàn.  
(Chǐ diàn.)

Diàn literally means "electricity."

## Chemistry

来电

Lái diàn  
(Lái diàn)

This usually happens when one falls in love.

## Old cows eat tender grass.

老牛吃嫩草。

Lǎo niú chī nèn cǎo.  
(Lǎo nióu chēr nùn tsów.)

This refers to older men chasing younger women.

## Man trying to woo a woman.

泡妞。

Pào niū.  
(Pòw nióū.)



<b>Woman trying to catch a rich man.</b> 钓金龟婿	Diào jīn guī xù (Diào jīn guāy xù)
<b>Rich man</b> 有钱人	Yǒu qián rén (Yǒ chién rén)
<b>Rich woman</b> 富家女	Fù jiā nǚ (Fù jiāh nǚ)
<b>Miss.</b> 小姐	Xiǎo jiě (Shiáu-jiěh)
<b>Sir.</b> 先生	Xiān shēng (Shiēn-shūng)
<b>Single man.</b> 单身汉	Dān shēn hàn (Dān-shēn hàn)
<b>Single woman.</b> 单身女郎	Dān shēn nǚ láng (Dān-shēn níu láng)
<b>Single person</b> 单身贵族 Means "single, happy person."	Dān shēn guì zú (Dān-shēn guày dzú)
<b>Old single man</b> 光棍 A man who has never married.	Guāng gùn (Guāng-guèn)
<b>Playboy</b> 花花公子	Huā huā gōng zǐ (Hwāh hwāh gāng dzǐ)
<b>You're very cute.</b> 你很可爱。	Ní hén kě ài. (Ní hún kǔh-ài .)
<b>You're very pretty.</b> 你很漂亮。	Ní hěn piào liàng. (Ní hún piòw-liàng.)
<b>You're very beautiful.</b> 你很美。	Ní hén měi. (Ní hún mǎy.)





**Very charming.**

很迷人。

Hěn mí rén.

(Hún mí rén.)

**You're so sexy!**

你很性感。

Ní hěn xìng gǎn!

(Ní hǔn shìng-gǎn!)

**You have a beautiful body!**

你的身材很美!

Nǐ de shēn cái hén měi!

(Nǐ-dùh shūn-tsái hún mǎy!)

**You have beautiful eyes!**

你的眼睛很美。

Nǐ de yǎn jing hén měi!

(Nǐ-dùh yǎn-gīng hún mǎy!)

**Beautiful lady.**

美女。

Méi nǚ

(Má y nǚ.)

**Handsome guy.**

帅哥。

Shuài gē.

(Swài gūh.)

**You changed your  
hairstyle.**

你变发型了。

Nǐ biàn fǎ xíng le.

(Nǐ biàn fǎh-shíng lǚh.)

**I want to know more  
about you.**

我想更了解你。

Wó xiǎng gèng liáo jiě nǐ.

(Wó shiǎng gèng liáo-jiěh nǐ.)

**I like you!**

我喜欢你!

Wó xǐ huān nǐ!

(Wó shǐ-huān nǐ!)

# 愛

**Do you like ... girls/boys?**

你喜欢…女孩 / 男孩吗?

Ní xǐ huān... nǚ hái/nán  
hái ma?

(Ní shǐ-huān... nǚ-hái/  
nán-hái ma?)

**Chinese.**

中国人。

Zhōng guó rén.

(Jōng guó rén.)

**American.**

美国人。

Měi guó rén.

(Mǎy guó rén.)

**I'm crazy about you!**

我为你疯狂!

Wǒ wèi nǐ fēng kuáng!

(Wó wày nǐ fūng-kwáng!)

**I'd like to take you**

**out** (on a date).

我想请你出来。

Wó xiǎng chéng nǐ chū lái.

(Wó shiǎng chéng nǐ chū-lái.)

**Would you like to dance?**

你想跳舞吗?

Ní xiǎng tiào wǔ ma?

(Ní shiǎng tiào-wǔ ma?)

**Would you accompany  
me?**

陪我好吗?

Péi wó hǎo ma?

(Páy wó hǎo ma?)

**I'll see you home.**

我送你回家。

Wǒ sòng nǐ huí jiā.

(Wǒ sòng nǐ huáy jiāh.)

**I miss you.**

我想你。

Wó xiǎng nǐ.

(Wó shiǎng nǐ.)

**I want you.**

我要你。

Wǒ yào nǐ.

(Wǒ yào nǐ.)

**Close your eyes.**

闭上眼睛。

Bì shàng yǎn jīng.

(Bì-shàng yǎn-jīng.)

**Open your eyes.**

睁开眼睛。

Zhāng kāi yǎn jīng.

(Jūng kāi yǎn-jīng.)

**Kiss me!**

吻我。

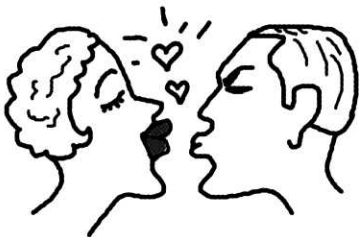
亲我。

Wén wǒ!

(Wén wǒ!\*)

Qīn wǒ!

(Chīn wǒ!\*\*)



**Bad breath.**

口臭。

Kǒu chòu.

(Kǒ-tsòu.)

**Really stinks.**

很臭

Hěn chòu.

(Hǔn tsòu.)

**Hug me!**

抱我!

Bào wǒ!

(Bào wǒ!)

**I'm yours.**

我是你的。

Wǒ shì nǐ de.

(Wǒ shèr nǐ-děh.)

**You're mine.**

你是我的。

Nǐ shì wǒ de.

(Nǐ shèr wǒ-děh.)

**I'm so happy!**

我很高兴!

Wó hěn gāo xìng!  
(Wó hěn gōw-shìng!)**Stay here.**

留下来。

Liú xià lái.  
(Liú shiàh lái.)**Come close to me.**

靠近我。

Kào jìn wǒ.  
(Kòw jìn wǒ.)**What are you doing?**

你在做什么?

Nǐ zài zuò shén me?  
(Nǐ dzài dzuò shém-mǔh?)**I want to make love.**

我想做爱。

Wó xiǎng zuò ài.  
(Wó shiǎng dzuò ài.)**Excellent!**

好极了!

Hǎo jí le!  
(Hǎw jí lǔh!)**No way!**

不行!

Bù xíng!  
(Bù shíng!)**I don't want to get  
pregnant.**

我不想怀孕。

Wǒ bù xiǎng huái yùn.  
(Wǒ bù shiǎng huái-yuèn.)**Is today safe for you?**

今天是你的安全期吗?

Jīn tiān shì nǐ de ān quán  
qī ma?  
(Jīn-tiēn shèr ní-dùh ān-chuén  
chēe mǎ?)



**Are you using protection?**

你有避孕吗?

Ní yǒu bì yùn ma?

(Ní yǒu bì-yuàn mǎ?)

**Please use protection.**

请你带保险套。

Qíng nǐ dài bǎo xiǎn tào.

(Chíng nǐ dài bǎu-shiǎn tào.)

Means "please wear a condom."

**Condom (rubber)**

避孕套

Bì yùn tào

(Bì-yuàn tào)

**Do you have your period?**

你有月事吗?

Ní yǒu yuè shì ma?

(Ní yǒu yuèh-shì mǎ?)

**Are you on the rag?**

你有月经吗?

Ní yǒu yuè jīn ma?

(Ní yǒu yuèh-jīn mǎ?)

**I've got my period.**

我的月经来了。

Wǒ de yuè jīn lái le.

(Wǒ de yuèh-jīn lái le.)

**Is this your first time?**

你是第一次吗?

Nǐ shì dì yī cì ma?

(Nǐ shì dì yī cì mǎ?)

**Male virgin**

童男子

Tóng nán zǐ

(Tóng nán zǐ)

**Female virgin**

处女

Chù nǚ

(Chù-nǚ)

**Old virgin**

老处女

Lǎo chù nǚ  
(Lǎo chù- níu)

An insulting term for an old, unmarried woman.

**Take your ... off.**

脱下你的…。

Tuō xià nǐ de...  
(Tuō-shiàh nǐ-dùh...)**Clothes**

衣服

Yī fu.  
(ī-fǔ)**Coat**

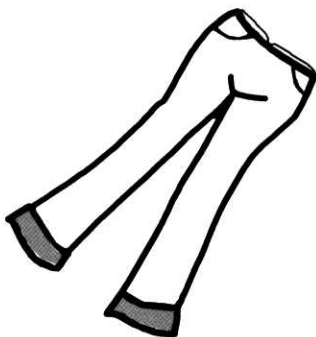
大衣

Dà yī  
(Dà ī)**Shirt**

衬衫

Chèn shān  
(Chèn-shān)**Bra**

胸罩

Xiōng zhào  
(Shiōng-jòw)**Pants**

裤子

Kù zi  
(Kù-tz)**Dress**

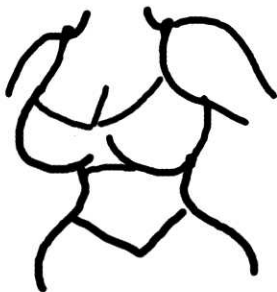
洋装

Yáng zhuāng  
(Yáng-juāng)**Underwear**

内衣

Nèi yī  
(Này-ī)

<b>Shoes</b> 鞋子	Xié zi (Shiéh-tz)
<b>Body</b> 身体	Shēn tǐ (Shūn-tǐ)
<b>Hair</b> 头发	Tóu fa (Tó-fáh)
<b>Eyes</b> 眼睛	Yǎn jīng (Yén-jīng)
<b>Ears</b> 耳朵	Ěr duō (Ēr-duō)
<b>Lips</b> 嘴唇	Zuǐ chún (Dzuǎy-chuén)
<b>Chest</b> 胸部	Xiōng bù (Shiōng-bù)
<b>Breasts</b> 乳房	Ru fáng (Rǔ-fáng)



<b>Nipples</b> 乳头	Rǔ tóu (Rǔ-tó)
<b>Rear end (ass)</b> 屁股	Pì gu (Pì-gǔ)

**Navel**

肚脐

Dù qí

(Dù-chée)

**Vagina**

阴道

Yīn dào

(īng-dòw)

**Penis**

阴茎

Yīn jīng

(īng-jīng)

**Testicles**

睾丸

Gāo wán

(Gōw-wán)

**Your ... is/are so  
(big/small)!**

你的…很(大/小)!

Nǐ de... hěn (dà/xiǎo)!

(Nǐ-dǔh... hǔn (dàh/shiǎu!))

**Touch me!**

摸我!

Mō wǒ!

(Muō wǒ!)

**Don't touch me!**

不要碰我!

Bú yào pèng wǒ!

(Bú-yào pòng wǒ!)

**Don't touch me there!**

不要碰我那里!

Bú yào pèng wǒ nà lǐ!

(Bú-yào pòng wǒ nàh-lǐ!)

**Don't do that!**

不要这样子!

Bú yào zhè yàng zi!

(Bù yào jùh yàng-dz!)





<b>Stop!</b> 停止!	Tíng zhǐ! (Tíng-jǐ!)
<b>I'm a little nervous.</b> 我有点紧张。	Wó yǒu diǎn jǐn zhāng. (Wó yóu diǎn jǐn-jāng.)
<b>Don't be nervous.</b> 不要紧张。	Bù yào jǐn zhāng. (Bù yào jǐn-jāng.)
<b>I'm afraid.</b> 我很怕。	Wó hěn pà. (Wó hǔn pàh.)
<b>What are you afraid of?</b> 怕什么?	Pà shén me? (Pàh shém-mǔh?)
<b>Don't worry about it.</b> 不要担心。	Bú yào dān xīn. (Bù yào dān shīn.)
<b>Bite me!</b> 咬我!	Yáo wǒ! (Yóu wǒ!)
<b>Lick me!</b> 舔我!	Tián wǒ! (Tién wǒ!)
<b>Blow me!</b> 吸我!	Xī wǒ! (Shī wǒ!)
<b>Softer.</b> 轻一点。 别使劲。	Qīng yì diǎn. (Chīng ì-diǎn.) Bié shǐ jìn. (Biéh shǐ-jìn.)
<b>More tender.</b> 温柔一点。	Wēn róu yì diǎn. (Wēn-ró ì-diǎn.)
<b>Stronger.</b> 使劲一点。	Shī jìn yì diǎn. (Shí-jìn ì-diǎn.)
<b>Missionary style.</b> 正常体位。	Zhèng cháng tǐ wèi. (Jèng-cháng tǐ-wày.)
<b>Girl on top.</b> 骑乘体位。	Qí chéng tǐ wèi. (Chí chùng tǐ-wày.)

<b>Doggie style.</b> 后背体位。	Hòu bèi tǐ wèi. (Hò-bày tǐ-wày.)
<b>Have you come?</b> 你高潮了吗?	Nǐ gāo cháo le ma? (Nǐ gōw-chów lǚ mǎ?)
<b>Not yet!</b> 还没!	Hái méi! (Hái máy!)
<b>I haven't come!</b> 我还没高潮!	Wǒ hái méi gāo cháo! (Wǒ hái máy gōw-chów!)
<b>Oh no!</b> 哎呀!	Ai ya! (Ai-yǎ!)
<b>Orgy.</b> 杂交。	Zá jiāo. (Záh-jiōw.)
<b>I'm coming!</b> 我快高潮了!	Wǒ kuài gāo cháo le! (Wǒ kwài gōw-chów lǚ!)
<b>I've come!</b> 我高潮了!	Wǒ gāo cháo le! (Wǒ gōw-chów lǚ!)
<b>I feel good!</b> 我好爽!	Wó hǎo shuǎng! (Wó hów shuǎng!)
Sometimes said after sex.	
<b>You do it so well!</b> 你做得很好!	Nǐ zuò de hén hǎo! (Nǐ dzuò-dǔh hún hǎw!)
<b>You're brilliant!</b> 你很厉害!	Ní hěn lì hài! (Ní hǔn lì-hǎi!)
<b>I love you!</b> 我爱你!	Wǒ ài nǐ! (Wǒ ài nǐ!)
<b>I don't want to leave you!</b> 我不想离开你!	Wǒ bù xiǎng lí kāi nǐ! (Wǒ bù shiǎng lí-kāi nǐ!)
<b>I can't live without you!</b> 我不能没有你!	Wǒ bù néng méi yǒu nǐ! (Wǒ bù núng máy yó nǐ!)



**One more time.**

再来一次。

Zài lái yí cì.

(Dzài lái lí-tz.)

**I'm pregnant.**

我怀孕了。

Wǒ huái yùn le.

(Wǒ hwái-yuèn lǔh.)

**Abortion**

堕胎

Duò tāi

(Duò-tāi)

**Let's get married!**

我们结婚吧!

Wǒ men jié hūn ba!

(Wǒ-mèn jiéh-hwēn bǎ!)

**I want to marry you!**

我想嫁给你!

我想娶你!

Wó xiǎng jià géi nǐ!

(Wó shiǎng jiàh gáy nǐ!\*)

Wó xiǎng qú nǐ!

(Wó shiǎng chóu nǐ!\*\*)

\* For women only.

\*\* For men only.

**I have a ...**

我有…。

Wó yǒu... .

(Wó yǒ... .)

**I don't have a ...**

我没有…。

Wó méi yǒu... .

(Wó máy yǒ... .)

**I want a ...**

我要...

Wǒ yào... .

(Wǒ yào... .)

**I don't want a ...**

我不要...

Wǒ bú yào... .

(Wǒ bù-yào... .)

**Girlfriend**

女朋友

Nǚ péng yǒu

(Nǚ-péng-yǒu)

**Boyfriend**

男朋友

Nán péng yǒu

(Nán-péng-yǒu)

**Wife**

太太

Tài tai

(Tài-tai)

**Husband**

丈夫

Zhàng fū

(àng-fū)

**I don't love you!**

我不爱你!

Wǒ bù ài nǐ!

(Wǒ bù ài nǐ!)



**I can't go out with you any more.**

我不能再跟你出去了!

Wǒ bù néng zài gēn nǐ chū qù le!

(Wǒ bù néng zài gēn nǐ chū chū lǚh!)



**I've got another lover.**

我爱上另外一个人。

Wǒ ài shàng lìng wài yí ge rén.  
(Wǒ ài-shàng lìng-wài í-gùh rén.)

**I'm jealous of him/her.**

我很嫉妒他 / 她。

Wó hěn jì dù tā.  
(Wó hǔn jì-dù tā.)

**Let's end our relationship!**

结束我们的关系吧!

Jié shù wǒ men de guān xī ba!  
(jiě-sù wǒ-mèn-dùh guān-shī  
bǎ!)

**I've got a sexual disease.**

我中标了。

Wǒ zhòng biāo le.  
(Wó jòng biāw lǚh.)

**I've got ...**

我有…。

Wó yǒu... .  
(Wó yǒ... .)

**You gave me ... .**

你传染…给我了!

Nǐ chuán rǎn... géi wǒ le!  
(Nǐ chuán-rán... gáy wǒ lǚh!)

**AIDS**

艾滋病

Ài zì bìng  
(Ài-dz bìng)

**Herpes**

疱疹

Pào zhěn  
(Pào-jǔn)

**Gonorrhea**

淋病

Lín bìng  
(Lín-bìng)

**Syphilis**

梅毒

Méi dú  
(Má-y-dú)

**Whore, prostitute**

妓女

Jì nǚ  
(Jì-nǚ)

# Vogue Expressions 8

---

**I'm ugly but I'm tender.**

我很丑，可是我很温柔。

Wó hén chǒu, kě shì wó hén  
wēn róu.

(Wó hǔn tsǒu, kǔh-shèr wó hǔn  
wēn-ró.)

Usually said by men.

**Sexy lady.**

正点。

Zhèng diǎn.

(Jèn-diǎn.)

**Very cute (fashionable).**

很酷。

Hěn kù.

(Hǔn kù.)

**Person completely out  
of style** (geek, hick).

乡巴佬。

Xiāng ba lǎo.

(Shiāng-bǎ lǎu.)

**Stupid-looking person.**

傻瓜。

Shá guā.

(Shiáh guāh.)



**A genius may look stupid.** Dà zhì ruò yú.  
大智若愚。(Dà zhì ruò yú.)

This is an old expression (not exactly in vogue), but is a nice comeback if anyone ever accuses you of looking stupid.

**You've solved a problem.** Bǎi píng.  
摆平。(Bǎi píng.)

**I want to make love.** Wó shiáng dǎ pào.  
我想打炮。(Wó shiáng dǎ pào.)

**Wrinkles by eyes.** Yú wěi wén.  
鱼尾纹。(Yú-wěi wén)

In the West such wrinkles are known by the slang "crow's feet," as if stepped on by such a bird, but the Chinese don't see it that way. They envision a fish whose body is your eye and whose tail is the wrinkles. The expression literally means "fishtail wrinkles."





## FOR THE LOVE OF BASEBALL!

Many Chinese love to play baseball—so much so that they've come to refer to many things with baseball-related terminology—just like Americans.

**First base (got a date)**

一垒打

Yī léi dǎ.  
(Ī-láy-dǎh.)

**Second base (held hands)**

二垒打

Èr léi dǎ.  
(Èr-láy-dǎh.)

**Third base (kissed and  
fooled around a bit)**

三垒打

Sān léi dǎ.  
(Sān-láy-dǎh.)

**Home run (made love)**

全垒打

Quán léi dǎ.  
(Chuán-láy-dǎh.)

## A RATING SYSTEM

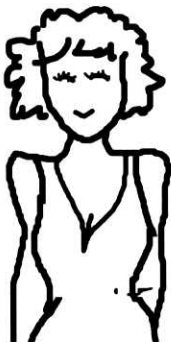
The Chinese are extremely polite people and are such even when young men are rating women. The following is used by men to categorize women by appearance.

**She is very beautiful.**

她很漂亮。

Tā hěn piào liàng.  
(Tā hěn piào-liǎng.)

This is said of extremely beautiful women.



**She is very cute.**

她很可爱。

Tā hén kě ài.

(Tā hún kǎh-ài.)

This is said of women of moderate beauty.

**She is very patriotic.**

她很爱国。

Tā hěn ài guó.

(Tā hún ài-guó.)

This is said of plain-looking women.

**She obeys the rules well.**

她很守规矩。

Tā hén shǒu guī jù.

(Tā hún shǒu guāy-jiu.)

This is said of ugly women.

**Her writing is very beautiful.**

她的字很漂亮。

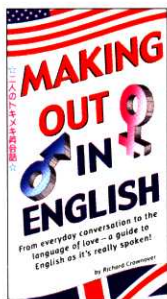
Tā de zì hěn piào liàng.

(Tā dǔn dǔ hún piào-liàng.)

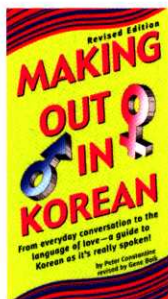
This is said of extremely ugly women.

# The Making Out Phrase Book Series

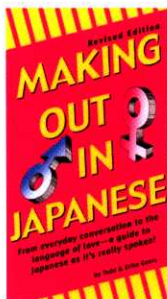
The books in the Making Out series are fun and accessible guides to languages as they're spoken on the street. These bestselling phrase books have been updated and expanded for use in informal situations such as bars, parties, or anywhere else one needs to know slang to survive!



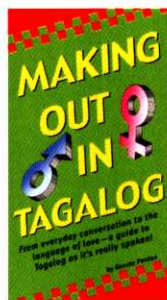
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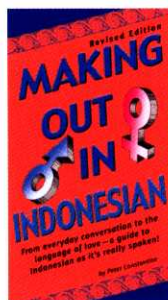
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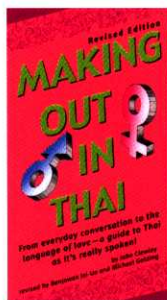
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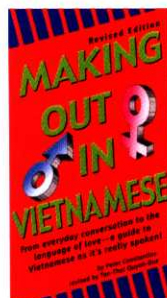
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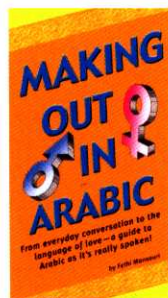
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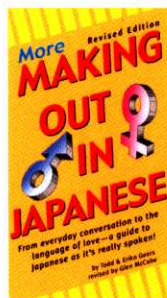
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