

The BBC logo, consisting of the letters 'B', 'B', and 'C' each inside a white square, which are themselves inside a larger black square.

BBC

GET BY

in

CHINESE

**ALL THE CHINESE YOU NEED TO
GET BY WITH CONFIDENCE**

Essential travel language

Introduction & Contents

introduction

Get By in Chinese is devised specifically for travellers. The 70-minute audio will help you to get to grips with the basics of spoken Chinese, and introduces the most relevant language you'll hear when you're there. Listen to the audio a couple of times to practise the key phrases and vocabulary, and familiarise yourself with Chinese pronunciation.

This booklet shows the key phrases and vocabulary as they appear on the audio. In each section there are a couple of short dialogues where you can check out the language you have heard, with questions to focus your listening. At the end of each section there is the opportunity to practise what you've learned in a guided dialogue, 'as if you were there'.

The spoken Chinese language used on the audio is Mandarin, and the written form is represented in pinyin, which is a widely used transliteration system using Latin scripts. The four different tones are represented with marks above the letters.

tone mark		
—	(high)	first tone
/	(rising)	second tone
∨	(falling-rising)	third tone
\	(falling)	fourth tone

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Bare Necessities

greetings

Hello!	Nǐ hǎo.
Good morning!	Zǎoshang hǎo!
Good evening!	Wǎnshang hǎo!
Good night!	Wǎn'ān!
How are you?	Nǐ hǎo ma?
I'm fine, and you?	Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?
Goodbye.	Zàijiàn.
See you later	Yī huì jiàn.
See you tomorrow!	Míngtiān jiàn!

useful words and phrases

Excuse me./I'm sorry.	Duibuqǐ.
It's alright./ It doesn't matter.	Méi guānxi.
Thank you.	Xièxie.
Thank you very much.	Fēicháng gǎnxiè.
You're welcome.	Bú kèqi.
Yes.	Shìde.
No.	Bú shì.

getting things straight

Say that again, please.	Qǐng zài shuō yī biàn.
Could you speak more slowly?	Nǐ néng shuō màn yīdiǎnr ma?
I understand.	Wǒ dǒng le.
I don't understand.	Wǒ bù dǒng.
Do you speak English?	Nǐ shuō yīngyǔ ma?

talking about yourself

My name's ...	Wǒ jiào ...
Pleased to meet you.	Hěn gāoxìng jiàndào nǐ.
Which country are you from?	Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?
I'm British.	Wǒ shì yīngguó rén.
I'm American.	Wǒ shì měiguó rén.
Where do you come from?	Nǐ cóng nǎ lái?
I come from London.	Wǒ cóng lóndūn lái.
Do you speak Chinese?	Nǐ huì shuō zhōngwén ma?
I speak a little Chinese.	Huì shuō yīdiǎnr zhōngwén.
Are you married?	Nǐ jiéhūn le ma?
Do you have any children?	Nǐ yǒu hái zi ma?
How old are you?	Nǐ duō dà le?
I'm ...	Wǒ ... suì.
I'm 28 years old.	Wǒ èrshíbā suì.
I have two children.	Wǒ yǒu liǎng ge hái zi.
one boy	yī ge nán hái
one girl	yī ge nǚ hái

check out

Q Where is Meifang from? Does she have any children?

- ◆ Nǐ cóng nǎ lái?
- ▲ Wǒ cóng lóndūn lái, wǒ shì yīngguó rén.
- ◆ Nǐ yǒu hái zi ma?
- ▲ Wǒ yǒu liǎng ge hái zi.

A She comes from London: Wǒ cóng lóndūn lái.
She has two children: Wǒ yǒu liǎng ge hái zi.

Bare Necessities

numbers

0	líng	13	shísān
1	yī	14	shísì
2	èr	15	shíwǔ
3	sān	16	shíliù
4	sì	17	shíqī
5	wǔ	18	shíbā
6	liù	19	shíjiǔ
7	qī	20	èrshí
8	bā	21	èrshíyī
9	jiǔ	30	sānshí
10	shí	99	jiǔshíjiǔ
11	shíyī	100	yī bǎi
12	shí'èr		

changing money

Chinese currency	Rénmínbì
largest unit	yuán/kuài
next unit	jiǎo/máo
smallest unit	fēn
to change	huàn
I'd like to change £100 into yuan.	Wǒ xiǎng huàn yī bǎi yīngbàng de rénminbì.
the exchange rate	duìhuàn lǜ
the commission charge	shǒuxù fèi
traveller's cheque	lǚxíng zhīpiào
passport	hùzhào
May I see your passport?	Kàn yíxià nǐde hùzhào, kěyǐ ma?

check out

Q How much money does Meifang try to change? What is the exchange rate?

- ◆ Wǒ xiǎng huàn yī bǎi yīngbàng de rénminbì.
- ▲ Kàn yíxià nǐde hùzhào, kěyǐ ma?
- ◆ Kěyǐ. Jīntiān de duìhuàn lǜ shì duō shǎo?
- ▲ Yī yīngbàng huàn shíwǔ kuài sān máo.

A She wants to change £100 into Chinese yuan: Wǒ xiǎng huàn yī bǎi yīngbàng de rénminbì.
The exchange rate is one pound to 15 kuai and 3 mao: Yī yīngbàng huàn shíwǔ kuài sān máo.

useful phrases

What time is it?	Jǐ diǎn le?
morning	shàngwǔ
afternoon	xiàwǔ
evening	wǎnshang
9am	shàngwǔ jiǔ diǎn
It's 2pm.	Xiànzài shì xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn.
9pm	wǎnshang jiǔ diǎn
half past two	liǎng diǎn bàn
quarter past two	liǎng diǎn yī kè
two o'clock	liǎng diǎn
two children	liǎng ge háizi

days

Monday	Xīngqīyī
Tuesday	Xīngqī'èr
Wednesday	Xīngqīsān
Sunday	Xīngqītiān/Xīngqīrì

Bare Necessities

months

month	yuè
January	Yīyuè
February	Èryuè
March	Sānyuè
December	Shí'èryuè

as if you were there

◆ Nǐ hǎo! Nǐ shuō zhōngwén ma?

Say a little. Then ask where she comes from.

▲ Shuō yīdiǎnr. Nǐ cóng nǎr lái?

◆ Wǒ cóng xī'ān lái. Nǐ shì yīngguó rén ma?

Ask her to speak more slowly.

▲ Nǐ néng shuō màn yīdiǎnr ma?

◆ Wǒ cóng xī'ān lái. Nǐ shì yīngguó rén ma?

Say no, then say you're American.

▲ Bú shì, wǒ shì měiguó rén.

Getting Around

asking the way

Excuse me.	Duìbuqǐ./Láojià.
Where is ...?	... zài nǎr?
Where is the bank?	Yínháng zài nǎr?
Where's the railway station?	Huǒchē zhàn zài nǎr?
Where's the supermarket?	Chāoshì zài nǎr?
Where's the nearest petrol station? please	Lǐ zhèr zuìjìn de jiāyóu zhàn zài nǎr? qǐng wèn
Where's the nearest petrol station, please?	Qǐng wèn, lǐ zhèr zuìjìn de jiāyóu zhàn zài nǎr?
How do I get to the station?	Qù huǒchē zhàn zěnme zǒu?
How do I get to the post office?	Qù yóujú zěnme zǒu?

directions

right	yòu
left	zuǒ
Turn right.	Wǎng yòu guǎi.
Turn left.	Wǎng zuǒ guǎi.
It's on the left.	Zài zuǒ biān.
It's at the traffic lights.	Zài hónglǜ dēng.
Straight on.	Yīzhí zǒu.
East	Dōng
South	Nán
West	Xī
North	Běi
It's to the east.	Zài dōngbiān.
It's to the north.	Zài běibiān.
first	diyī
The first street.	Diyī tiáo jiē.

Getting Around

The first street on the right.	Yòubiān de dìyī tiáo jiē.
The second street on the left.	Zuǒbiān de dì èr tiáo jiē.
It's at the end of the street.	Zài zhè tiáo lù de jìntóu.
It's on the corner.	Zài guǎijiǎochù.
It's near.	Zài fùjìn.
It's far.	Hěn yuǎn.
It's opposite.	Zài duimiàn.

check out

Q What directions is Meifang given?

- ◆ Qǐng wèn, lí zhèr zuìjìn de yóujú zài nǎr?
- ▲ Yīzhí zǒu, zài hónglǜ dēng wǎng yòu guǎi.

A She's told to go straight on: Yīzhí zǒu.

Then at the traffic lights, turn right: Zài hónglǜ dēng wǎng yòu guǎi.

hiring a car or bike

I'd like to hire a car.	Wǒ xiǎng zū yī liàng chē.
I'd like to hire a bike.	Wǒ xiǎng zū yī liàng zìxíngchē.
For two days.	Zū liǎng tiān.
For a week.	Zū yī ge xīngqī.
Your driving licence please.	Qǐng bǎ jiàzhào gěi wǒ kàn yīxià.
There's a deposit to pay.	Xūyào fù yājīn.

taking a taxi

please	láojià
To the airport, please.	Láojià, qù jīchǎng.
To this address, please.	Láojià, qù zhè ge dìzhǐ.
How long will it take?	Duō cháng shíjiān néng dào?

How much is it?	Duō shǎo qián?
I need a receipt.	Wǒ xūyào yī zhāng shōujù.
Not long.	Hěn kuài.
About 20 minutes.	Dàyuē èrshí fēnzhōng.

check out

Q How long does it take to get to the Beijing Hotel? How much does it cost?

- ◆ Láojià, qù běijīng fàndiàn.
- ▲ Hǎo.
- ◆ Duō cháng shíjiān néng dào?
- ▲ Dàyuē shí fēnzhōng.
- ◆ Duō shǎo qián?
- ▲ Sānshí kuài.
- ◆ Wǒ xūyào yī zhāng shōujù, xièxie.

A It takes about 10 minutes to get there: Dàyuē shí fēnzhōng. And it costs 30 yuan: Sānshí kuài.

getting information

Is there ...?/Are there ...?	Yǒu ... ma?
Are there any trains to ...?	Yǒu qù ... de huǒchē ma?
Are there any trains to the Great Wall?	Yǒu qù chángchéng de huǒchē ma?
Is there a shuttle service to the airport?	Yǒu qù jīchǎng de bānchē ma?
What time does it leave?	Jǐ diǎn fāchē?
What time does it arrive?	Jǐ diǎn dào zhàn?
Which platform?	Nǎ ge zhàntái?
Where should I get off?	Wǒ yīnggāi zài nǎ xià chē?
It leaves at 8 o'clock in the evening.	Wǎnshang bā diǎn fāchē.
Get off at Tian'anmen.	Zài tiān'ānmén xià chē.
Take Line One.	Zuò yī hào xiàn.
You must change at ...	Nǐ yào zài ... huàn chē.

Getting Around

check out

Q Which platform is the train at? What time does it leave?

- ▲ Qǐng wèn, qù běijīng de huǒchē zài nǎ ge zhàntái?
- ◆ Dì yī zhàntái.
- ▲ Jǐ diǎn fāchē?
- ◆ Wǎnshang qī diǎn.

A The train is at platform 1: Dì yī zhàntái.

It leaves at 7 o'clock in the evening: Wǎnshang qī diǎn.

buying a ticket

Where is the ticket office, please?	Qǐng wèn, shòupiào chù zài nǎr?
Do you have tickets for tomorrow?	Yǒu míngtiān de piào ma?
a return ticket	yī zhāng wǎngfǎn piào
I'd like a return ticket.	Yào yī zhāng wǎngfǎn piào.
a single ticket	yī zhāng dānchéng piào
I'd like to reserve a soft sleeper ticket.	Wǒ xiǎng dìng yī zhāng ruǎn wò.
Is there a discount ...?	... yōuhuì ma?
Is there a discount for senior citizens?	Lǎo rén yōuhuì ma?
Is there a discount for students?	Xuéshēng yōuhuì ma?
Sorry, today's tickets are sold out.	Duibuqǐ, jīntiān de piào mài wán le.

as if you were there

- ◆ Nǐ hǎo.

Say hello and ask for a return ticket to the Great Wall.

- ▲ Nǐ hǎo, yào yī zhāng qù cháng chéng de wǎngfǎn piào.
- ◆ Duibuqǐ, jīntiān de piào mài wán le.

Ask if they have any tickets for tomorrow.

- ▲ Yǒu míngtiān de piào ma?
- ◆ Yǒu. Nǐ yào jǐ zhāng?

Say you'd like one ticket, and ask if there's a discount for students.

- ▲ Yī zhāng piào, xuéshēng yōuhuì ma?
- ◆ Bù yōuhuì.

Somewhere to Stay

finding a place

Do you have ...?	Yǒu ... ma?
Do you have a room available?	Yǒu kòng fángjiān ma?
a single room	yī ge dānrén jiān
a double room	yī ge shuāngrén jiān
a family room	yī ge jiāting tàofáng
two single beds	liǎng ge dānrén chuáng
for tonight	jīntiān yī ge wǎnshang
for three nights	sān ge wǎnshang
How much is it per night?	Yī ge wǎnshang duō shǎo qián?
Is breakfast included?	Bāo zǎocān ma?
May I see the room?	Kěyǐ kàn yíxià fángjiān ma?
Okay, I'll take it.	Hǎo, wǒ yào le.
For how many nights?	Zhù jǐ ge wǎnshang?
For how many people?	Jǐ wèi?
Do you want a single room or a double room?	Nín yào dānrén jiān háishì shuāngrén jiān?
Breakfast isn't included.	Bù bāo zǎocān.
I'm sorry. We're full.	Duibuqǐ, kèfáng yǐ mǎn.

check out

Q What sort of room is Chengang looking for? How much does it cost per night?

- ◆ Qǐng wèn, yǒu shuāngrén jiān ma
- ▲ Yǒu.
- ◆ Yī ge wǎnshang duō shǎo qián?
- ▲ Liǎng bǎi sìshí kuài.
- ◆ Bāo zǎocān ma?
- ▲ Duibuqǐ, bù bāo zǎocān.

A He's looking for a double room: Qǐng wèn, yǒu shuāngrén jiān ma?

It costs 240 yuan a night: Liǎng bǎi sìshí kuài.

Somewhere to Stay

checking in

Is there an internet connection?	Yǒu hùlián wǎng ma?
Is there a restaurant?	Yǒu cāngtīng ma?
I have a reservation.	Wǒ yùdìng le fángjiān?
My name is ...	Wǒ jiào ...
What time is breakfast?	Zǎocān shì jǐdiǎn?
Where's the restaurant?	Cāngtīng zài nǎr?
Have you got a reservation?	Nín yùdìng fángjiān le ma?
Your name, please.	Qǐng wèn nín de xìngmíng.
Your passport, please.	Qǐng chūshì nín de hùzhào.
Breakfast is from 7am to 9.30am.	Zǎocān shíjiān shì qī diǎn dào jiǔ diǎn bàn.
Your room is number 28.	Nín de fángjiān hào shì èrshíbā hào.
on the ground floor	zài yī céng
on the first floor	zài èr céng

check out

Q What does Meifang have to do? What is her room number?

- ◆ Nín hǎo! Nín yùdìng fángjiān le ma?
- ▲ Yùdìng le.
- ◆ Qǐng chūshì nín de hùzhào.
- ▲ Kěyǐ.
- ◆ Nín de fángjiān hào shì èrshíliù hào. Zhè shì yàoshi.
- ▲ Xièxie!

A She has to give the receptionist her passport: Qǐng chūshì nín de hùzhào. Her room number is 26: Nín de fángjiān hào shì èrshíliù hào.

finding out what's available

Could you ...?	Nǐ néng ... ma?
Could you call a taxi for me?	Nǐ néng bāng wǒ jiào yī liàng chūzūchē ma?
How do I get an outside number?	Wàixiàn zěnmē dǎ?
The air conditioning isn't working.	Kōngtiáo huài le.
There isn't any hot water	Méi yǒu rè shuǐ.
There aren't any blankets.	Méi yǒu tǎnzi.

checking out

I'd like to pay the bill.	Wǒ yào jiézhàng.
by credit card	yòng xìnyòng kǎ
I think there's a mistake.	Wǒ juéde yǒu ge cuò.
What room number?	Fáng hào shì duō shǎo?
How would you like to pay?	Nín xiǎng zěnmē fùkuǎn?
Sign here.	Qǐng zài zhè qiānmíng.
Of course you can.	Dāng rán kěyǐ.

as if you were there

Say excuse me, then ask if they have any rooms available.

- ◆ Qǐng wèn, yǒu kòng fángjiān ma?
- ▲ Yǒu, nín yào dān jiān háishi shuāng jiān?

Say a double room with two single beds.

- ◆ Yī ge shuāng jiān, yào liǎng ge dānrén chuáng.
- ▲ Kěyǐ, zhù jǐ ge wǎnshang?

Say three nights. Then ask how much it is per night.

- ◆ Sān ge wǎnshang, yī ge wǎnshang duō shǎo qián?
- ▲ Sān bǎi yuán, yīgòng jiǔbǎi yuán.

Ask if you can see the room.

- ◆ Kěyǐ kàn yíxià fángjiān ma
- ▲ Dāngrán kěyǐ

Buying things

general phrases

Do you have any beer?	Yǒu píjiǔ ma?
jasmine tea	mòlihuā chá
Do you have any jasmine tea?	Yǒu mòlihuā chá ma?
postcards	míngxìnpiàn
Do you have any postcards?	Yǒu míngxìnpiàn ma?
How much is it?/How much are they?	Duō shǎo qián?
How much is that?	Nàge duō shǎo qián?
I'd like ...	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi ...
I'd like two postcards.	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi liǎng zhāng míngxìnpiàn.
I'd like./I want.	Wǒ yào ...
I want two postcards.	Wǒ yào liǎng zhāng míngxìnpiàn.
Can I help you?	Xūyào bāngmáng ma?
How much/How many do you want?	Nǐ yào duō shǎo?
Here you are.	Gěi nǐ.
Is that enough?	Gòu ma?
Anything else?	Hái yào biéde ma?
Sorry, it's sold out.	Duibuqǐ, mài wán le.
That's ten yuan altogether.	Gòng shí yuán.

quantities

a kilo	yī gōngjīn
One kilo of apples	Yī gōngjīn píngguǒ.
half a kilo	bàn gōngjīn
100 grammes	yī bǎi kè
a jin (half a kilo)	jīn
half a jin of lychees	bàn jīn lǐzhī
That's all.	Jiù zhèxiē ba.

check out

Q What kind of tea does Meifang want, and how much of it does she buy?

- ◆ Yǒu mòlihuā chá ma?
- ▲ Zhè jiù shì mòlihuā chá.
- ◆ Wǒ yào bàn jīn.
- ▲ Gòu ma?
- ◆ Jiù zhèxiē ba.

A She wants jasmine tea: Mòlihuā chá.
She buys half a jin: Wǒ yào bàn jīn.

buying clothes

I'm just looking.	Wǒ suíbiàn kànkàn.
I'd like a shirt.	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yī jiàn chènshān.
I'd like a pair of trousers.	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yī tiáo kùzi.
I'd like a silk dressing gown.	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yī jiàn zhēn sī shuìyī.
in cotton	mián de
in silk	zhēn sī de
small	xiǎo hào
medium	zhōng hào
large	dà hào

Buying Things

extra large	jiā dà hào
Can I try it on?/Can I try them on?	Wǒ kěyǐ shìshi ma?
It's too small.	Tài xiǎo le.
It's too big.	Tài dà le.
Do you have anything smaller?	Yǒu xiǎo yīdiǎnr de ma?
Do you have anything cheaper?	Yǒu piányi yīdiǎnr de ma?
I like it.	Wǒ xǐhuān zhège.
I like it, but ...	Wǒ xǐhuān, búguò ...
I'll take it.	Wǒ yào le.
What size?	Duō dà hào de?
Do you like it?/Do you like them?	Nǐ xǐhuān ma?
Try it on./Try them on.	Nǐ shìshi ba.

colours

colour	sè
black	hēisè
blue	lánsè
green	lǜsè
red	hónɡsè
yellow	huánɡsè
Do you have it in yellow?	Yǒu huánɡsè de ma?

check out

Q Does Chengang like the trousers? What is the problem?

- ◆ Nǐ xǐhuān ma?
- ▲ Wǒ xǐhuān, búguò tài xiǎo le.
- ◆ Zhè tiáo dà, nǐ shìshi ba.
- ▲ Xièxie.

A He likes the trousers: Wǒ xǐhuān.
But they're too small: Búguò tài xiǎo le.

at a department store

Where is ...?	... zài nǎr?
Where's the children's department?	Értóng yòngpǐn zài nǎr?
Where do I pay?	Zài nǎr fù qián?
Where can I find leather goods?	Zài nǎr néng zhǎodào píjù?

as if you were there

▲ Nǐ yào shénme?

Say that you are just looking.

◆ Wǒ suíbiàn kànkàn.

▲ Nǐ xǐhuān zhè jiàn zhēnsī shuìyī ma?

Ask if you can try it on.

◆ Wǒ kěyǐ shìshi ma?

▲ Dāngrán kěyǐ.

Ask if she has it in black.

◆ Yǒu hēisè de ma?

▲ Yǒu, qǐng děng yíxià.

Eating out

arriving

Do you have a table for two?	Yǒu liǎng rén zhuō ma?
I have a reservation for four people.	Wǒ xiǎng dīng ge zhuō, sì ge rén de.
The menu, please.	Qǐng gěi wǒ càidān kàn yīxià.
Do you have the menu in English?	Yǒu yīnwén càidān ma?

asking about the menu

What do you recommend?	Nǐ tuījiàn shénme cài?
What is ...?	... shì shénme?
What's the local speciality?	Dāngdì tècài shì shénme?
What's your restaurant's speciality?	Nǐmen fàndiàn de tècài shì shénme?
Do you have any dumplings?	Yǒu jiǎozi ma?
Do you have any vegetarian dishes?	Yǒu sù shí ma?
What's this?	Zhè shì shénme?
Does it contain ...?	Lǐmiàn yǒu méi yǒu ...?
meat	ròu
Does it contain meat?	Lǐmiàn yǒu méi yǒu ròu?

dietary requirements

I'm allergic to ...	Wǒ duì ... guòmǐn.
Monosodium glutamate (MSG)	wèijīng
I'm allergic to MSG.	Wǒ duì wèijīng guòmǐn.
I'm allergic to seafood.	Wǒ duì hǎixiǎn guòmǐn.
Please do not use MSG.	Qǐng bú yào fàng wèijīng.
Today, we have ...	Jīntiān yǒu ...
There's no meat in it.	Lǐmiàn méi yǒu ròu.
I'll tell the kitchen.	Wǒ huì gàosu chúfáng de.
Dumplings and hot pot are the speciality here.	Jiǎozi hé huǒguō shì zhèr de tècài.

ordering

I'll have ...	Wǒ yào ...
set menu	tào cān
I'll have the 200 yuan set menu.	Wǒ yào liǎng bǎi yuán de tào cān.
I'll have seafood soup.	Wǒ yào hǎixiǎn tāng.
I'll have dumplings.	Wǒ yào jiǎozi.
We'll have hot pot.	Wǒmen yào huǒguō.
Are you ready to order?	Xiànzài diǎncài ma?
Anything to drink?	Hē diǎnr shénme?

check out

Q What's the restaurant's speciality? What's Chengang's special requirement?

- ◆ Xiànzài diǎncài ma?
- ▲ Diǎn. Nǐmen fàndiàn de tècài shì shénme?
- ◆ Jiǎozi hé huǒguō shì zhèr de tècài.
- ▲ Wǒmen yào huǒguō. Qǐng bú yào fàng wèijīng.

A The restaurant's specialities are dumplings and hot pot: Jiǎozi hé huǒguō. The special requirement is, do not put MSG in the food: Qǐng bú yào fàng wèijīng.

ordering drinks

What kind of tea do you have?	Nǐmen yǒu shénme chá?
I'd like to have jasmine tea.	Wǒ xiǎng hē mòlihuā chá.
Do you have coffee?	Nǐmen yǒu kāfēi ma?
I'll have a beer.	Wǒ yào yī ge píjiǔ.
What kind of tea would you like?	Hē diǎnr shénme chá?
Sorry, we don't have red wine.	Duìbuqǐ, méi yǒu hóng pútāojiǔ.

Eating Out

during the meal

Excuse me!	Duibuqǐ!
I didn't order ...	Wǒ méi diǎn ...
I didn't order this.	Wǒ méi diǎn zhège.
Another bottle of wine.	Zài lái yī píng pútáojiǔ.
More rice, please!	Zài lái diǎn mǐfàn!
It's delicious!	Zhēn hǎochī!

problems

It's cold.	Zhègè yǒu diǎnr liáng.
It's underdone.	Zhègè yǒu diǎnr méi shóu.
Is everything alright?	Fàn cài wèidào zěnmeyàng?
Would you like anything else?	Hái yào diǎnr shénme?

check out

Q Is Chengang happy with the meal? What else he would like to have?

- ◆ Fàn cài wèidào zěnmeyàng?
- ▲ Zhēn hǎochī, xièxie!
- ◆ Hái yào diǎnr shénme?
- ▲ Nǐmen yǒu kāfēi ma?
- ◆ Duibuqǐ, méi yǒu kāfēi.

A He thinks the food is delicious: Zhēn hǎochī, xièxie.
 He would like to have some coffee: Nǐmen yǒu kāfēi ma.
 Unfortunately they don't have any coffee: Duibuqǐ, méi yǒu kāfēi.

paying the bill

The bill, please.	Duibuqǐ, qǐng jiézhàng.
Do you take credit cards?	Kěyǐ yòng xīnyòng kǎ ma?
Is service included?	Fúwùfèi bāokuò zài nèi ma?
Service is included.	Fúwùfèi bāokuò zài nèi.
We only accept cash.	Wǒmen zhī shōu xiànjīn.

as if you were there

Say excuse me, and ask for the bill.

- ◆ Duibuqǐ, qǐng jiézhàng.
- ▲ Hǎode, jiù lái. Zhè shì nǐde zhàngdān.

Say that you think there's a mistake, you didn't have any beer.

- ◆ Wǒ juéde zhè yǒu ge cuò. Wǒmen méi yǒu yào píjiǔ.
- ▲ Duibuqǐ.

Say that's alright, and ask if you can pay by credit card.

- ◆ Méi guānxi. Kěyǐ yòng xīnyòng kǎ ma?
- ▲ Duibuqǐ, wǒmen zhī shōu xiànjīn.

finding out what's on

I'd like an entertainment guide.	Wǒ xiǎng yào yī fèn yúlè zhīnán.
Do you have any information in English?	Yǒu yīngwén de jièshào cáiliào ma?
What's there to see?	Yǒu shénme kèkàn de?
here	zhèr
What is there to see here?	Zhèr yǒu shénme kèkàn de?
What is there to do here?	Zhèr yǒu shénme kězuò de?
What is there to do here for children?	Zhèr yǒu shénme háizi xǐhuān de?
Is there a one-day tour to the Great Wall?	Yǒu cháng chéng yī rì yóu ma?
Can you recommend ...?	Kěyǐ tuījiàn ... ma?
Can you recommend a good tea-house?	Kěyǐ tuījiàn yī jiā hǎo chá guǎn ma?
Can you recommend an interesting museum?	Kěyǐ tuījiàn yī ge yǒuyìsi de bówùguǎn ma?
What do you like to see?	Nín xǐhuān kàn shénme?
I like Peking Opera very much.	Wǒ fēicháng xǐhuān jīngjù.
There's a Peking Opera performance tonight.	Jīntiān wǎnshang yǒu jīngjù.

things to see and do

acrobatic show	záji biǎoyǎn
Forbidden City	gù gōng
museum	bówùguǎn
tai chi	tàijíquán

getting more information

What time does it open?	Jǐ diǎn kāimén?
What time does it close?	Jǐ diǎn guānmén?
When is it open?	Shénme shíhòu kāimén?
It's open from 10am to 6pm.	Shàngwǔ shí diǎn dào xiàwǔ liù diǎn kāimén.
It's open every day.	Měitiān dōu kāimén.

check out

Q What does Chengang ask and what answer does he get?

- ◆ Gù gōng shénme shíhòu kāimén?
- ▲ Měitiān shàngwǔ bā diǎn bàn.
- ◆ Jǐ diǎn guānmén?
- ▲ Xiàwǔ sì diǎn bàn.

A He asks when the Forbidden City is open: Gù gōng shénme shíhòu kāimén. He's told it opens every day at 8.30: Měitiān shàngwǔ bā diǎn bàn. And it closes at 4.30 in the afternoon: Xiàwǔ sì diǎn bàn.

buying tickets

Where can I buy tickets?	Zài nǎr mǎi piào?
Two tickets for tomorrow, please.	Mǎi liǎng zhāng míngtiān de piào.
How long does it last?	Dàgài duō cháng shíjiān?
Is there an interval?	Zhōngjiān xiūxi ma?
You can buy your tickets here.	Jiù zài zhèr mǎi piào.
Sorry, it's sold out.	Duìbuqǐ, mài wán le.
There's no show today.	Jīntiān méi yǒu.
It lasts three hours.	Yǎn sān ge xiǎoshí.

check out

Q When is the show on? How long does it last?

- ◆ Jīntiān wǎnshang yǒu zájì biǎoyǎn ma?
- ▲ Jīntiān méi yǒu, xīngqīliù wǎnshang yǒu.
- ◆ Dàgài duō cháng shíjiān?
- ▲ Liǎng ge bàn xiǎoshí.

A The show is on Saturday evening: Xīngqīliù wǎnshang yǒu.
It lasts for two and a half hours: Liǎng ge bàn xiǎoshí.

sport

Where can I/we go ...?	Kěyǐ qù nǎr ...?
Where can I go swimming?	Kěyǐ qù nǎr yóuyǒng?
Where can we play table tennis?	Kěyǐ zài nǎr dǎ pīngpāngqiú?
I'd like to learn a martial art.	Wǒ xiǎng xué wǔ shù.
Are there any martial arts classes?	Yǒu wǔ shù bān ma?
Are there any tennis courts?	Yǒu wǎngqiú chǎng ma?

as if you were there

Ask what is there to see here.

- ◆ Zhèr yǒu shénme kèkàn de?
- ▲ Nín xǐhuān kàn shénme?

Say you like Peking Opera very much.

- ◆ Wǒ fēicháng xǐhuān jīngjù.
- ▲ Xīngqīliù wǎnshang yǒu jīngjù.

Ask where you can get tickets.

- ◆ Zài nǎr mǎi piào?
- ▲ Jiù zài zhèr mǎi piào.

Say three tickets please.

- ◆ Mǎi sān zhāng piào.

getting help

Excuse me!	Duìbuqǐ!
Can you help me?	Nǐ néng bāngzhù wǒ ma?
Does anyone speak English?	Yǒu rén jiǎng yīngyǔ ma?
Where is ...?	... zài nǎr?
Where's the police station?	Gōng'ān jú zài nǎr?
Where's the nearest hospital?	Lí zhèr zuì jìn de yīyuàn zài nǎr?
I need ...	Wǒ xūyào ...
I need to see a doctor.	Wǒ xūyào kàn yīshēng.
I need an ambulance.	Wǒ xūyào yī liàng jiùhùchē.

talking to a doctor or dentist

It hurts./It aches.	Téng.
I've got a headache.	Wǒ tóuténg.
I've got toothache.	Wǒ yáténg.
It hurts very much.	Hěn téng.
a lot/bad	lihai
My stomach hurts a lot.	Wǒ dùzi téng de lihai.
I have a bad cough.	Wǒ késòu de lihai.
It hurts here.	Zhèr téng.

saying what's wrong

I've got a cold.	Wǒ gǎnmào le.
I've got diarrhoea.	Wǒ lādùzi.
My child has a temperature.	Wǒde hái zi fā shāo le.
She/He feels sick.	Tā bìng le.
What's wrong with you?	Nǎr bù shūfu?
Where does it hurt?	Nǎr téng?

Emergencies

Does it hurt here?	Zhè téng ma?
Does your throat hurt?	Sǎngzi téng ma?
It's not serious.	Bú tài yánzhòng.
You must rest.	Nǐ bìxū xiūxi.

check out

Q What is wrong with Meifang?

- ◆ Nǎr bù shūfu?
- ▲ Wǒ lādùzi.
- ◆ Dùzi téng ma?
- ▲ Hěn téng.

A She's got diarrhoea: Wǒ lādùzi.

traditional Chinese medicine

Traditional Chinese medicine	zhōng yào
Traditional Chinese medicine doctor	zhōngyī
I'd like to try some traditional Chinese medicine.	Wǒ xiǎng shìshi zhōng yào.
acupuncture	zhēnjiǔ
I'd like to try acupuncture.	Wǒ xiǎng shìshi zhēnjiǔ.
Are there side effects?	Yǒu fùzuòyòng ma?

at the chemist's

Do you have anything for diarrhoea?	Yǒu méi yǒu shénme yào kěyǐ zhì lādùzi?
I need some cold medicine.	Wǒ xiǎng mǎi diǎnr gǎnmào yào.
Do you have any aspirin?	Yǒu méi yǒu āsīpǐlín?
How do I take it?/How do I take them?	Zhè zhǒng yào zěnmē chī?

Would you like to take traditional Chinese medicine?	Nǐ xiǎng chī zhōng yào?
Western medicine	háishì xī yào
Here are some cold relief sachets.	Gěi nǐ yīxiē gǎnmào chōngjì.
Take these tablets.	Chī zhèxiē yàopiàn.
twice a day	měitiān liǎng cì
before meals	fàn qián chī
after meals	fàn hòu chī

at the police station

I've lost my wallet.	Wǒde qiánbāo diū le.
I've lost my passport.	Wǒde hùzhào diū le.
My handbag was stolen.	Wǒde bāo bèi tōu le.
What colour is it?	Shénme yánsè de?
What was in it?	Lǐmiàn yǒu shénme?
When?	Shénme shíhòu?

check out

Q What colour is Meifang's stolen handbag? What was inside it?

- ◆ Wǒde shǒutíbāo bèi tōu le.
- ▲ Shénme yánsè de?
- ◆ Hēisè.
- ▲ Lǐmiàn yǒu shénme?
- ◆ Hùzhào hé shǒujī.

A Her handbag is black: hēisè Inside were her passport: hùzhào And mobile phone: hé shǒujī

Emergencies

as if you were there

Tell the chemist that you've got a cold.

- ◆ Wǒ gǎnmào le.
- ▲ Nǐ xiǎng chī zhōng yào háishì xī yào?

Say you'd like to try some traditional Chinese medicine.

- ◆ Wǒ xiǎng shìshi zhōng yào.
- ▲ Hǎode. Gěi nǐ yīxiē gǎnmào chōngjì.

Ask how to take them.

- ◆ Zhè zhǒng yào zěnmē chī?
- ▲ Měitiān liǎng cì, fàn qián chī.