

CHINESE MEASURE WORDS

PEOPLE AND ANIMALS

Chinese	Usage	Example
个	gè Person, general measure word	四个人 sì gè rén Four people
位	wèi More respectful than 个, used only for people	一位老师 yī wèi lǎoshī A teacher
名	míng People with status, used for a person's occupation	一名医生 yī míng yīshēng A doctor
口	kǒu Family members, households (rarely used in speech)	一家四口人 yī jiā sì kǒu rén A family of four
只	zhī Most animals including birds	一只大象 yī zhī dà xiàng An elephant
头	tóu Bigger animals, normally livestock	两头猪 liǎng tóu zhū Two pigs
匹	pǐ Horses, mules etc.	一匹马 yī pǐ mǎ A horse
条	tiáo Long, thin animals like fish, snakes, dragons etc.	一条蛇 yī tiáo shé A snake



BODY PARTS

张 zhāng For face, mouth 一张脸 yì zhāng liǎn
A face

根 gēn Thin, slender body parts
e.g. finger, a hair 一根手指 yì gēn shǒu zhǐ
A finger

只 zhī For body parts,
it means "one of a pair" 一只耳朵 yì zhī ěr duo
An ear

条 tiáo Long, narrow body parts 一条腿 yì tiáo tuǐ
A leg

双 shuāng A pair of body parts 一双眼睛 yì shuāng yǎnjīng
A pair of eyes

颗 kē Small, normally round
body parts 一颗心 yì kē xīn
A heart

PLANTS

棵 kē For trees, grass etc.
(also includes cabbages) 一棵树 yì kē shù
A tree

株 zhū Smaller trees/plants,
flower still in the ground 三株花 sān zhū huā
Three flowers

朵 duǒ For flowers, clouds or
things similar to them 一朵玫瑰 yì duǒ méiguī
A stem of rose



FOOD & DRINK #1

碗

wǎn

For food in bowl

一碗面 yì wǎn miàn
A bowl of noodles

份

fèn

For a meal of a fixed menu in a restaurant

一份米饭 yí fèn mǐfàn
An order of rice

串

chuàn

A skewer

一串肉 yī chuàn ròu
A skewer of meat

盘

pán

A dish, and can be used for a plate of food

一盘饺子 yì pán jiǎozi
A plate of dumplings

锅

guō

Pot, pan, boiler

一锅汤 yì guō tāng
A pot of soup

笼

lóng

Bamboo or wooden utensil for steaming food

一笼包子 yì lóng bāozi
An order of baozi

碟

dié

Small plate

一碟醋 yì dié cù
A dish of vinegar

顿

dùn

A meal

一顿早餐 yí dùn zǎocān
A breakfast

片

piàn

Thin slice of food

一片面包 yí piàn miànbāo
A slice of bread

块

kuài

A portion, piece or thick slice of food

一块蛋糕 yí kuài dàngāo
A piece of cake

包

bāo

Pack, packet or bag

一包薯片 yī bāo shǔ piàn
A bag of crisps

盒

hé

Box or carton

一盒巧克力 yì hé qiǎokèlì
A box of chocolate



FOOD & DRINK #2

瓶 píng Bottles 两瓶啤酒 liǎng píng píjiǔ
Two bottles of beer

杯 bēi Glasses or cups 一杯茶 yī bēi chá
A cup of tea

听 tīng A can 一听可乐 yì tīng kělè
A can of cola

罐 guàn Jar, pot, tin 一罐蜂蜜 yí guàn fēngmì
A jar of honey

FRUITS & VEGETABLES

根 gēn Long slender objects;
thin, flexible strands 一根胡萝卜 yì gēn húluóbo
A carrot

颗 kē Small objects that are
usually roundish in shape 一颗樱桃 yì kē yīng táo
A cherry

粒 lì Grain; classifier for
small round things 六粒米 liù lì mǐ
Six grains of rice

头 tóu A bulb 一头洋葱 yì tóu yángcōng
An onion

瓣 bàn For segment, section, clove
(normally 儿 is added) 一瓣儿蒜 yì bànr suàn
A clove of garlic

把 bǎ For a quantity of things that
can be held in one hand 一把香蕉 yì bǎ xiāngjiāo
A bunch of bananas



UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

斤

jīn

Chinese unit of weight
equivalent to 0.5 kg

八斤苹果 bā jīn píngguǒ
Four kilos of apples

吨

dūn

Ton

两吨 liǎng dūn
Two tons

磅

bàng

Pound (lb)

一磅糖 yī bàng táng
A pound of sugar

寸

cùn

One inch (different to
western inch – 3.333cm)

12寸 shí èr cùn
Twelve inches

尺

chǐ

One foot (different to
western foot – 1/3 m)

六尺高 liù chǐ gāo
Six feet tall

里

lǐ

Chinese unit of length
equivalent to 0.5 km

六公里 liù gōng lǐ
Six kilometres

块

kuài

Colloquial measure
word for 1 元 yuán

一百块钱 yībǎi kuài qián
100 yuan

毛

máo

Colloquial measure word
for 1 角 jiǎo (1/10 yuan)

四毛钱 sì máo qián
Four jiao

笔

bǐ

An unspecified
sum of money

一笔钱 yī bǐ qián
A sum of money

升

shēng

1 litre

三升啤酒 sān shēng píjiǔ
Three litres of beer

斗

dǒu

10 litres

一斗水 yī dǒu shuǐ
Ten litres of water

度

dù

Degree, level (e.g. angle,
temperature, etc.)

四十度 sìshí dù
Forty degrees

HOUSEHOLD & EVERYDAY ITEMS

张

zhāng

Rectangular or flat objects

一张照片 yī zhāng zhàopiàn
A photo

本

běn

For books, magazines,
notebooks etc.

三本书 sān běn shū
Three books

件

jiàn

For some items of clothing,
presents or problems.

一件礼物 yī jiàn lǐwù
A present

把

bǎ

Objects that can be grasped
or objects with a handle

一把勺子 yī bǎ sháozi
A spoon

床

chuáng

For bedsheets (床 is also
the word for bed)

一床棉被 yī chuáng miánbèi
A quilt

条

tiáo

Towel, tablecloth

一条毯子 yī tiáo tǎnzi
A towel

台

tái

Heavy electronic objects
(TVs, computers, etc.)

一台电视 yī tái diànshì
A television

部

bù

For small devices, films,
machines, dictionaries, etc.

一部手机 yī bù shǒujī
A mobile phone

盏

zhǎn

For lamps

一盏灯 yī zhǎn dēng
A lamp

扇

shàn

For doors, windows

一扇门 yī shàn mén
A door



VEHICLES

辆 liàng For most wheeled vehicles 一辆汽车 yí liàng qìchē
A car

艘 sōu For ships and vessels 一艘船 yì sōu chuán
A ship

列 liè For trains etc. (列 is used for a series or row of things) 一列火车 yí liè huǒchē
A train

架 jià For airplanes (also used for pianos ,machines) 一架飞机 yí jià fēijī
An aeroplane

CLOTHING & JEWELLERY

件 jiàn Article of clothing 一件衬衫 yī jiàn chènshān
A shirt

条 tiáo A long article of clothing or jewellery 一条领带 yī tiáo lǐngdài
A necktie

套ào A set/suit of clothing 一套西装 yī tào xīzhuāng
A suit

枚 méi Small objects e.g. rings, brooches 一枚戒指 yī méi jièzhǐ
A ring

顶 dǐng For things that have a top e.g. hats 一顶帽子 yī dǐng màozi
A hat

对 duì For certain pairs of objects 一对耳环 yī duì ěrhuán
A pair of earrings



TIME

秒 miǎo Second 一秒钟 yī miǎo zhōng
One second

分 fēn Minute, fraction 一分钟 yī fēn zhōng
One minute

天 tiān Day 一天 yī tiān
One day

日 rì Day (used in written form) 一日 yī rì
One day

周 nián Week (used in written form) 一周 yī zhōu
One week

年 nián Year 一年 yī nián
One year

代 dài Era, generation 上一代 shàng yī dài
The previous generation

次 cì A time 一次 yī cì
Once



BUILDINGS & STRUCTURES

座 zuò For big buildings, mountains, bridges 一座桥 yí zuò qiáo
A bridge

栋 dòng For building 一栋房子 yí dòng fángzi
A house

间 jiān Rooms 一间教室 yì jiān jiàoshì
A classroom

所 suǒ For buildings whose purposes are explicitly stated 一所医院 yì suǒ yīyuàn
A hospital

家 jiā For families or businesses 一家宾馆 yì jiā bīnguǎn
A hotel

面 miàn Wall 一面墙 yì miàn qiáng
A wall

PAIRS, COLLECTIONS & GROUPS #1

双 shuāng Pair of identical objects 一双筷子 yī shuāng kuàizi
A pair of chopsticks

副 fù Pair of complementary objects 一副刀叉 yī fù dāo chā
A knife and fork

对 duì For couples e.g. man and wife 一对夫妻 yī duì fūqī
A man and wife



PAIRS, COLLECTIONS & GROUPS #2

些

xiē

A few

一些糖果 yī xiē tángguǒ
A few sweets

种

zhǒng

A kind

一种动物 yī zhǒng dòngwù
A type of animal

群

qún

Group, flock

一群羊 yī qún yáng
A flock of sheep

众

zhòng

A crowd

一众人 yī zhòng rén
A crowd of people

组

zǔ

Set, series

一组邮票 yī zǔ yóupiào
A set of stamps

帮

bāng

A group, a band

一帮贼 yī bāng zéi
A group of thieves

班

bān

A class

一班学生 yī bān xuéshēng
A class of students

排

pái

A row, queue

一排电杆 yī pái diàn gān
A row of electrical posts

队

duì

A team, battalion

一队军人 yī duì jūnrén
A battalion of soldiers

打

dǎ

A dozen

一打鸡蛋 yī dá jīdàn
A dozen eggs

叠

dié

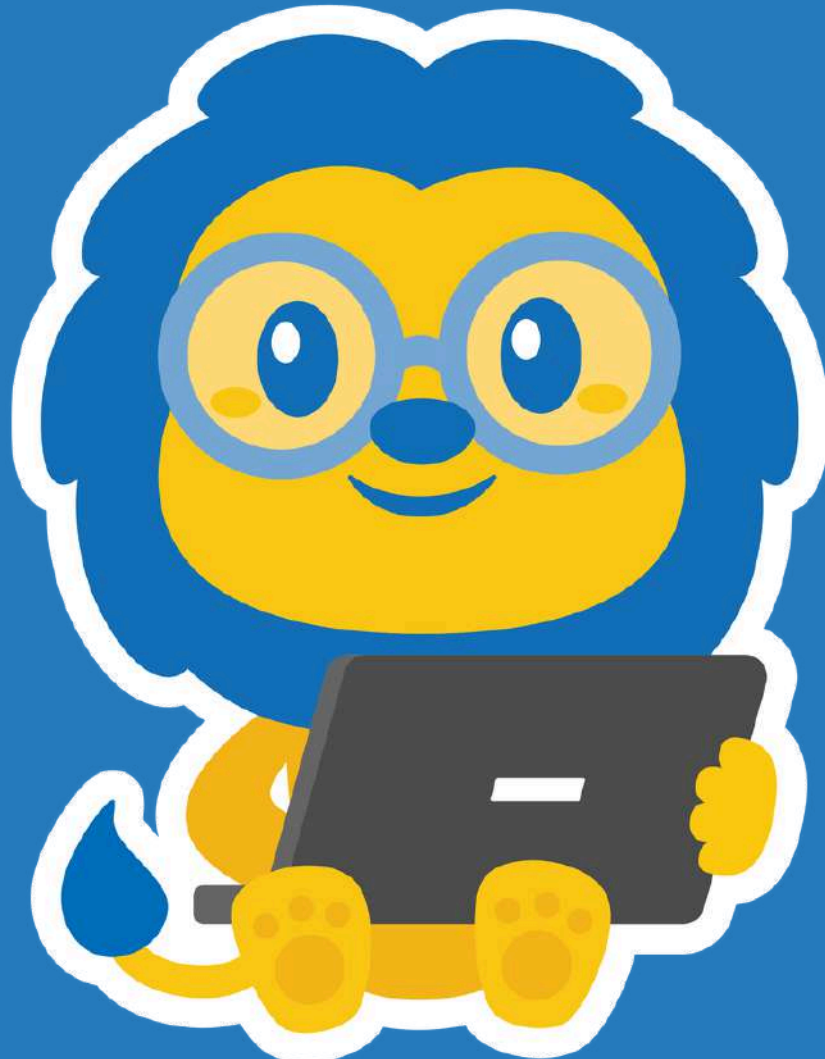
A stack

一叠钱 yī dié qián
A stack of money



WANT MORE?

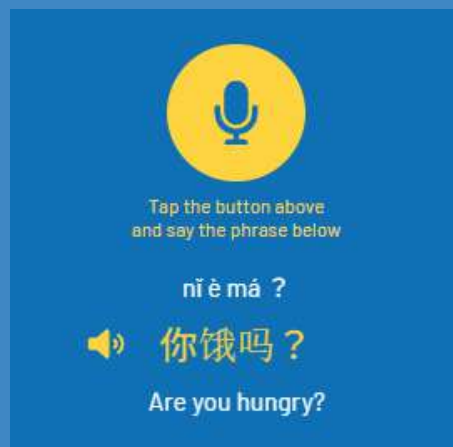
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