

Basic phrase guide for China

If you are planning to move to a foreign country, it's a good idea to start learning the language (just basic words and sentences), so you do not feel completely lost when you arrive. It helps just to know how to say "please", "I want to buy this", "go left", "go right" etc. Here are some basic Chinese phrases that will help you get started!

The essentials

Hello.

你好。 Nǐ hǎo.

Please.

请。 Qǐng.

Thank you.

谢谢。 Xièxiè.

Excuse me. (*getting attention*)

请问 qǐng wèn

Excuse me. (*coming through*)

对不起 Duìbùqǐ

Go left

左拐 Zuǒ guǎi

Go right

右拐 Yòu guǎi

I want to buy this.

我要买这个。 wǒ yào mǎi zhège

Goodbye

再见。 Zàijiàn

Water

水 Shuǐ

Do you speak English?

你会说英语吗？ Nǐ huì shuō Yīngyǔ ma?

I don't understand.

我听不懂。 Wǒ tīng bù dǒng.

Where is the bathroom (polite)?

洗手间在哪里？ Xǐshǒujiān zài nǎlǐ?

I don't want it! (useful for people who come up trying to sell you something)

我不要 wǒ búyào

How much money?

多少 Duōshǎo qián

Check please

买 mǎidān

Waiter

服务员 Fúwùyuán

Numbers

0

〇 (零) líng

1

一 (壹) yī

2

二 (貳) èr (两 liǎng is used when specifying quantities)

3

三 (叁) sān

4

四 (肆) sì

5

五 (伍) wǔ

6

六 (陆) liù

7

七 (柒) qī

8

八 (捌) bā

9

九 (玖) jiǔ

10

十 (拾) shí