



100 Most Common Chinese Characters

The Chinese Language Institute

No.	汉字	Pinyin	English
1	的	de	(possessive particle), of / really and truly / aim, clear
2	一	yī / yì / yí	one / single / a(n)
3	是	shì	is, are, am, yes to be
4	不	bù	(negative prefix) no, not
5	了	le / liǎo	(modal particle intensifying preceding clause), (past tense marker) / to know, to understand, to know
6	人	rén	man, person, people
7	我	wǒ	I, me, myself
8	在	zài	(located) at, in, exist
9	有	yǒu	to have, there is, there are, to exist, to be
10	他	tā	he, him
11	这	zhè	this/ these
12	为	wéi / wèi	act as, take...to be, to be, to do, to serve as, to become / because of, for, to
13	之	zhī	him, her, it
14	大	dà	big, huge, large, major, great, wide, deep, oldest, eldest / doctor
15	来	lái	to come
16	以	yǐ	to use, take, according to, because of, in order to
17	个	gè	(a measure word), individual
18	中	zhōng	within, among, in, middle, center, while (doing something), during
19	上	shàng	above, on, over, top, (go) up, last, previous
20	们	men	(plural marker for pronouns and a few animate nouns)
21	到	dào	to (a place), until (a time), up to, to go, to arrive
22	说	shuō	to speak, to say
23	国	guó	country, state, nation
24	和	hé / huò	and, together, with, peace / harmony
25	地	dì / de	earth, ground, field, place, land / -ly
26	也	yě	too, also, as well
27	子	zǐ	child, son
28	时	shí	time, when, hour, period, season
29	道	dào	direction, way, method, road, path, principle, truth, reason, skill, method, Tao (of Taoism), a measure word, to say, to speak, to talk
30	出	chū	to go out, to come out, to occur, to produce, to go beyond, to rise, to occur
31	而	ér	and, as well as, but (not), yet (not), (shows causal relation), (shows change of state), (shows contrast)

32	要	yào / yāo	vital, to want, to be going to, must / demand, ask, request
33	于	yú	at, in, in regard to
34	就	jiù	at once, then, right away, only, just
35	下	xià	below, under, (go) down, next (as opposed to previous/last)
36	得	dé / de / děi	obtain, get, gain, to have to, must, ought to, to need to
37	可	kě	can, may, able to, certain(ly), (particle used for emphasis)
38	你	nǐ	you
39	年	nián	year
40	生	shēng	to be born, to give birth, life, to grow
41	自	zì	from, self, oneself, since
42	会	huì	can, able, meet, meeting, society, union, party
43	那	nà	that, those
44	后	hòu	back, behind, rear, afterwards, after, later
45	能	néng	can, may, capable, energy, able
46	对	duì	couple, pair, to be opposite, to oppose, to face, for, to, correct (answer), to answer, to reply, to direct (towards something), right
47	着	zhe / zhuó / zhāo / zháo	verb particle marking a continuing progress/state
48	事	shì	matter, thing, item, work, affair
49	其	qí	his, her, its, theirs, that, such, it (refers to something preceding it)
50	里	lǐ	within, inside
51	所	suǒ	actually, place
52	去	qù	to go, to leave, to depart
53	行	háng / xíng	a row, profession, professional / all right, capable, competent, okay, to go, to do, to travel, temporary, to walk, to go, will do / behavior, conduct
54	过	guò	(past tense marker), to cross, to go over, to pass (time), to live, to get along, (surname)
55	家	jiā	home, family, a person engaged in a certain art or profession
56	十	shí	ten
57	用	yòng	to use
58	发	fā / fà	to send out, to show (one's feeling), to issue, to develop / hair
59	天	tiān	day, sky, heaven
60	如	rú	as (if), such as
61	然	rán	correct, right, so, thus, like this, -ly
62	作	zuò	to regard as, to take (somebody) for, to do, to make
63	方	fāng	square, quadrilateral, direction, just
64	成	chéng	finish, complete, accomplish, become, turn into, win, succeed
65	者	zhě	-ist, -er (person), person (who does something)
66	多	duō	many, much, a lot of, numerous, multi-
67	日	rì	day, sun, date, day of the month

68	都	dōu	all, both (if two things are involved), entirely (due to)each, even, already
69	三	sān	three
70	小	xiǎo	small, tiny, few, young
71	军	jūn	army, military, arms
72	二	èr	two
73	无	wú	-less, not to have, no, none, not, to lack, un-
74	同	tóng	like, same, similar, together, alike, with
75	么	me	(interrog. suff.)
76	经	jīng	classics, sacred book, pass through, to undergo, scripture
77	法	fǎ	law, method, way, Buddhist teaching
78	当	dāng / dàng	to be, to act as, withstand, when, during, ought, should, match equally, equal, same, obstruct, just at (a time or place), on the spot, right, just at / at or in the very same..., suitable, adequate, fitting, proper, replace, represent
79	起	qǐ	qǐ : to rise, to raise, to get up
80	与	yú / yǔ / yù	(interrog. part.) / and, to give, together with / take part in
81	好	hǎo / hào	good, well / be fond of
82	看	kān / kàn	to look after, to take care of, to watch, to guard / it depends, think, to see, to look at
83	学	xué	learn, study, science, -ology
84	进	jìn	advance, enter, to come in
85	种	zhǒng / zhòng	kind, type, race (of people), seed, type / to grow, to plant
86	将	jiāng / jiàng	(will, shall, future tense), ready, prepared, to get, to use / a general
87	还	hái / huán	also, in addition, more, still, else, still, yet, (not) yet / (surname), pay back, return
88	分	fēn / fèn	to divide, minute, (a measure word), (a unit of length = 0.33centimeter) / part
89	此	cǐ	this, these
90	心	xīn	heart, mind
91	前	qián	before, in front, ago, former, previous, earlier, front
92	面	miàn	face, side, surface, aspect, top, face, flour, noodles
93	又	yòu	(once) again, also, both... and..., again
94	定	dìng	to set, to fix, to determine, to decide, to order
95	见	jiàn / xiàn	to see, to meet, to appear (to be something), to interview / appear
96	只	zhī / zhǐ	only, just, but, measure word for one of a pair
97	主	zhǔ	to own, to host, master, lord, primary
98	没	méi / mò	(negative prefix for verbs), have not, not / sink, disappear
99	公	gōng	just, honorable (designation), public, common
100	从	cóng	from, since, obey, observe, follow