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LANGUAGES · CHEAT SHEET

Chinese measure words cheat sheet

How measure words work and the ones HSK 3.0 lists per level

1 How they work

- **Word order:** This/that + number + measure word + noun: 这三本书 *zhè sān běn shū* (these three books)
- **Two = 两:** 两本书 *liǎng běn shū* (two books); 二 stays inside bigger numbers: 十二个人 *shí'èr gè rén* (twelve people)
- **After 这 / 那:** The 一 is usually dropped: 这种茶 *zhè zhǒng chá* (this kind of tea)
- **How many:** 几 takes one too: 你有几本书？ *Nǐ yǒu jǐ běn shū?* (How many books do you have?)
- **Possessive:** No measure word: 我的车 *wǒ de chē* (my car), but 三辆车 *sān liàng chē* (three cars)

2 HSK 3.0 level 1

Word	Used for	Example
个 *gè*	People; the general measure word	三个人 *sān gè rén* (three people)
本 *běn*	Books, notebooks, magazines	两本书 *liǎng běn shū* (two books)
口 *kǒu*	Members of a household	我家有四口人 *wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén* (there are four of us in my family)
家 *jiā*	Shops, restaurants, companies, households	一家饭馆 *yì jiā fànguǎn* (a restaurant)
块 *kuài*	Pieces; yuan in speech	一块蛋糕 *yí kuài dàngāo* (a piece of cake) · 十块钱 *shí kuài qián* (ten yuan)
件 *jiàn*	Clothes (tops, jackets); matters	一件衣服 *yí jiàn yīfu* (a piece of clothing)
只 *zhī*	Most animals; one of a pair	一只猫 *yì zhī māo* (a cat)
元 *yuán*	Yuan (written, formal)	五十元 *wǔshí yuán* (fifty yuan)
杯 *bēi*	A cup or glass of	一杯咖啡 *yì bēi kāfēi* (a cup of coffee)

3 HSK 3.0 level 2

Word	Used for	Example
条 *tiáo*	Long, thin things: roads, rivers, fish, trousers, skirts	一条裤子 *yì tiáo kùzi* (a pair of trousers)
位 *wèi*	People, polite	三位老师 *sān wèi lǎoshī* (three teachers)
间 *jiān*	Rooms	两间教室 *liǎng jiān jiàoshì* (two classrooms)
名 *míng*	People in formal or written use	二十名学生 *èrshí míng xuésheng* (twenty students)
包 *bāo*	A bag or pack of	一包饼干 *yì bāo bǐnggān* (a pack of cookies)

TIP

个 is a fallback, not a strategy: 一张纸 *yì zhāng zhǐ* (a sheet of paper). Learn each noun with its measure word.

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4 HSK 3.0 level 3

Word	Used for	Example
张 *zhāng*	Flat things: paper, tickets, tables, beds	两张票 *liǎng zhāng piào* (two tickets)
辆 *liàng*	Vehicles: cars, bikes, buses	一辆车 *yí liàng chē* (a car)
双 *shuāng*	Pairs: shoes, socks	一双鞋 *yì shuāng xié* (a pair of shoes)
把 *bǎ*	Things held by a handle: umbrellas, chairs	一把伞 *yì bǎ sǎn* (an umbrella)
种 *zhǒng*	Kinds, types	这种茶 *zhè zhǒng chá* (this kind of tea)
头 *tóu*	Cattle, pigs and other large animals	一头牛 *yì tóu niú* (a cow)
封 *fēng*	Letters	一封信 *yì fēng xìn* (a letter)
句 *jù*	Sentences, lines	一句话 *yí jù huà* (a sentence)
节 *jié*	Class periods	两节课 *liǎng jié kè* (two classes)
段 *duàn*	Stretches of time, road or text	一段时间 *yí duàn shíjiān* (a while)
层 *céng*	Floors, layers	这栋楼有十层 *zhè dòng lóu yǒu shí céng* (this building has ten floors)
页 *yè*	Pages	三页 *sān yè* (three pages)
所 *suǒ*	Schools, hospitals (vocabulary list: level 5)	一所大学 *yì suǒ dàxué* (a university)

5 Measure words for actions (after the verb)

Word	Counts	Example	Level
次 *cì*	Times (general)	我去过北京三次。*Wǒ qùguo Běijīng sān cì.* (I've been to Beijing three times.)	2
遍 *biàn*	Times through, start to finish	这本书我看了两遍。*Zhè běn shū wǒ kànle liǎng biàn.* (I've read this book twice, cover to cover.)	3
回 *huí*	Times (colloquial)	我去过两回。*Wǒ qùguo liǎng huí.* (I've been there twice.)	3
趟 *tàng*	Trips there and back	我去了一趟超市。*Wǒ qùle yí tàng chāoshì.* (I made a trip to the supermarket.)	4
顿 *dùn*	Meals (and scoldings)	我们吃了一顿饭。*Wǒmen chīle yí dùn fàn.* (We had a meal.)	4

6 Family, cars, computers, clothes

	Family	Cars, bikes	Computers, TVs	Shirts, jackets	Trousers, skirts	Shoes, socks	Hats
Word	口 *kǒu*	辆 *liàng*	台 *tái*	件 *jiàn*	条 *tiáo*	双 *shuāng*	顶 *dǐng*
Level	1	3	4	1	2	3	6 (vocabulary list)