AIkits

LANGUAGES · CHEAT SHEET

HSK levels cheat sheet

Nine levels in three stages, word counts, test format, the switch date

1 The nine HSK 3.0 levels: words are cumulative

HSK	Stage	What you can do (CTI)	Words	Six-level words	New characters
1	Elementary	Simple communication about everyday life	300	150	246
2	Elementary	Basic communication in daily life, study and work	500	300	125
3	Elementary	Effective communication in daily life, study and work	1,000	600	284
4	Intermediate	Complete, coherent communication in daily life, study and work	2,000	1,200	441
5	Intermediate	Accurate, appropriate communication at work and in study	3,600	2,500	431
6	Intermediate	Rich, smooth communication at work, in study and in general professional settings	5,400	5,000+	413
7–9	Advanced	One exam. 7: correct, fluent · 8: appropriate, in-depth · 9: precise, in-depth	11,000	–	1,148

2 Test format: questions / minutes

Level	HSK 3.0 (+ speaking paper)	Six-level
1	40 / 40	40 / 40
2	60 / 60 (10 writing)	60 / 55
3	70 / 83 (+ 15 / 15)	80 / 90
4	70 / 85 (+ 5 / 20)	100 / 105
5	72 / 110 (+ 5 / 23)	100 / 125
6	82 / 125 (+ 5 / 23)	101 / 140
7–9	91 / 200, speaking included	Separate exam

3 Which exam will you sit?

Before 13 Dec 2026	Six-level exam, "HSK (Levels 1-6)"
13 Dec 2026	HSK 3.0 launches worldwide
Register by	16 Nov (paper) or 3 Dec 2026 (computer), 24:00 Beijing time
Six-level pass	Levels 1–2: 120 of 200 · levels 3–4: 180 of 300
500-word lists	Follow the 2021 Standard (GF0025-2021); the 2025 syllabus sets HSK 1 at 300
Not published yet	HSK 3.0 scoring and pass marks

4 Grammar by level, with examples

1 · 了, 在/正在	我买了三本书。*Wǒ mǎi le sān běn shū.* (I bought three books.)
2 · 过, 比, 着	我去过北京。*Wǒ qù guo Běijīng.* (I've been to Beijing.)
3 · 把, 被, 越来越	天气越来越冷了。*Tiānqì yuèláiyuè lěng le.* (It's getting colder and colder.)
4 · 连……也/都	他连早饭都没吃。*Tā lián zǎofàn dōu méi chī.* (He didn't even have breakfast.)