

Numbers

Work along the row of number cards once so everyone hears the sequence. Then point out of order. A learner who can chant from one to ten may need a moment to retrieve 七 on its own. Draw a zero and an eleven on the board for the extension round.

In the scene

一 yī one	二 èr two	三 sān three	四 sì four
五 wǔ five	六 liù six	七 qī seven	八 bā eight
九 jiǔ nine	十 shí ten		

Classroom extensions

零 líng zero	十一 shíyī eleven

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Colors

Start with two colors that are easy to tell apart. Point to a colored object, ask 什么颜色？ and accept a color word on its own. Invite a partner to find the same color elsewhere in the classroom. Use pencils or paper scraps to introduce the extra shades.

In the scene

红色 hóng sè red	蓝色 lán sè blue	黄色 huáng sè yellow	绿色 lǜ sè green
黑色 hēi sè black	白色 bái sè white	紫色 zǐ sè purple	橙色 chéng sè orange

Classroom extensions

粉色 fěnsè pink	棕色 zōngsè brown	灰色 huīsè gray	金色 jīnsè gold

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Measure words

Hold up a book and say 一本书. Keep the book in view while a partner repeats just the middle word, 本. Move on to a sheet of paper and elicit 一张纸. Once learners hear the pattern, they can supply the missing measure word when you pause between number and noun.

In the scene

个
gè
general classifier

只
zhī
classifier for many animals

本
běn
classifier for books

张
zhāng
classifier for flat objects

条
tiáo
classifier for long objects

位
wèi
polite classifier for people

辆
liàng
classifier for vehicles

件
jiàn
classifier for clothing and matters

Classroom extensions

杯
bēi
cupful

碗
wǎn
bowlful

双
shuāng
pair

瓶
píng
bottleful

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Animals

Choose a small animal and a large one from the yard. Have learners point as you say each name, then give the pointer to someone else. On paper, sketch a deer and a fox alongside the scene. Ask which two animals the class added from memory.

In the scene

猫
māo
cat

狗
gǒu
dog

鸟
niǎo
bird

鱼
yú
fish

兔子
tùzi
rabbit

马
mǎ
horse

牛
niú
cow

羊
yáng
sheep

熊猫
xióngmāo
panda

大象
dàxiàng
elephant

Classroom extensions

鹿
lù
deer

狐狸
húli
fox

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Family & people

Use the imagined family in the picture so learners can practice without having to talk about their own households. Put 哥哥 and 弟弟 side by side and ask who is older. Change the speaker in your example and see whether students can explain why the relationship word changes.

In the scene

妈妈
māma
mother

爸爸
bàba
father

姐姐
jiějie
sister

朋友
péngyou
friend

老师
lǎoshī
teacher

妹妹
mèimei
younger sister

哥哥
gēge
older brother

弟弟
dìdi
younger brother

爷爷
yéye
paternal grandfather

奶奶
nǎinai
paternal grandmother

Classroom extensions

叔叔
shūshu
father's younger brother

阿姨
āyí
auntie

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Food & drinks

Find the bowl of cooked rice and the uncooked grains before naming either. 米饭 is what you might order for lunch. 大米 is the ingredient you would buy to cook it. Ask pairs to assemble one imaginary lunch and read their choices back to each other.

In the scene

水
shuǐ
water

苹果
píngguǒ
apple

米饭
mǐfàn
rice

香蕉
xiāngjiāo
banana

面包
miànbāo
bread

鸡蛋
jīdàn
egg

牛奶
niúnǎi
milk

茶
chá
tea

面条
miàntiáo
noodles

大米
dàmǐ
uncooked rice

Classroom extensions

杯子
bēizi
cup

碗
wǎn
bowl

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Vegetables

Give partners a shopping list of three items from the market scene. One partner plays the customer and asks for a vegetable. The other points to it before repeating its name. Swap roles and change one item on the list, so listening matters on the second turn.

In the scene

白菜 báicài napa cabbage	青菜 qīngcài leafy greens	菠菜 bōcài spinach	黄瓜 huángguā cucumber
茄子 qiézi eggplant	西红柿 xīhóngshì tomato	土豆 tǔdòu potato	胡萝卜 húluóbo carrot
蘑菇 mógu mushroom	豆芽 dòuyá bean sprouts	辣椒 làjiāo chili pepper	冬瓜 dōngguā winter melon

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.



Breakfast

Let each learner order two things from the table. A student could ask for 豆浆 and 包子 while a partner points to the drink and the bun. Compare 馒头 with 包子 and ask which one usually has a filling. Finish by ordering again with the word list covered.

In the scene

粥
zhōu
congee

包子
bāozi
stuffed steamed bun

油条
yóutiáo
fried dough stick

豆浆
dòujiāng
soy milk

馒头
mántou
plain steamed bun

鸡蛋
jīdàn
egg

小笼包
xiǎolóngbāo
soup dumpling

煎蛋
jiāndàn
fried egg

牛奶
niúnǎi
milk

面条
miàntiáo
noodles

咸菜
xiáncài
pickled vegetables

葱油饼
cōngyóubǐng
scallion pancake

Cover the word list. Choose three things in the picture and write or say their names in Mandarin.