SAYMEI · EVERYDAY CHINESE · CHEAT SHEET

How to Say Cute in Chinese

Cute is 可爱 (kě'ài), and you can say it about almost anything small and sweet. Here's how to say so cute, cute to a person, praise for a good child or pet, and the internet slang.



可爱 **kě'ài** Cute

Sounds like kuh-eye. kě dips: 3rd tone, ài falls: 4th tone. If someone calls you cute: 谢谢 (xièxie), Thank you.

Which one fits?

A baby or a puppy	好可爱啊！ Hǎo kě'ài a! So cute!
A child being good	真乖！ Zhēn guāi! What a good kid!
Someone you like	你笑起来好可爱。 Nǐ xiào qilai hǎo kě'ài. You're cute when you smile.
Commenting on a photo	太可爱了吧！ Tài kě'ài le ba! That's way too cute!
A little object	这个杯子好可爱。 Zhège bēizi hǎo kě'ài. This cup is so cute.
A friend's new outfit	这件衣服很好看。 Zhè jiàn yīfu hěn hǎokàn. That outfit looks great.

11 ways to say cute in Chinese

EVERYDAY CUTE

可爱 kě'ài Cute EVERYDAY

好可爱 hǎo kě'ài So cute CASUAL

太可爱了 tài kě'ài le Too cute WARM

可爱死了 kě'ài sǐ le Cute to death CASUAL

FOR KIDS AND PETS

乖 guāi Good, well-behaved WARM

TO A PERSON

你好可爱 nǐ hǎo kě'ài You're so cute WARM

小可爱 xiǎo kě'ài Cutie PLAYFUL

俏皮 qiàopí Cute and cheeky EVERYDAY

INTERNET SLANG

萌 méng Cute (internet slang) CASUAL

萌萌哒 méngméngdā Super cute PLAYFUL

WHEN IT ISN'T CUTE, IT'S GOOD-LOOKING

好看 hǎokàn Good-looking, nice EVERYDAY

What to say when someone calls you cute

谢谢 xièxie Thank you EVERYDAY

你也是 nǐ yě shì So are you WARM

哪有 nǎ yǒu Me? No way CASUAL

MEETING A FRIEND'S DOG

A: 它叫什么名字？好可爱！ Tā jiào shénme míngzi? Hǎo kě'ài! What's its name? So cute!

B: 它叫豆豆。 Tā jiào Dòudou. His name is Doudou.

ON A DATE

A: 你好可爱。 Nǐ hǎo kě'ài. You're so cute.

B: 哪有，你也是。 Nǎ yǒu, nǐ yě shì. Me? No way. So are you.

VISITING FAMILY

A: 你的孩子真乖！ Nǐ de háizi zhēn guāi! Your kid is so good!

B: 谢谢，他今天很乖。 Xièxie, tā jīntiān hěn guāi. Thanks, he's being good today.

What to avoid, and why

- × Be careful calling a grown man 可爱 (kě'ài) at work. It's friendly between close friends, but to a colleague it can sound like you don't take him seriously. 好看 (hǎokàn) or 很帅 (hěn shuài) is safer.
- × Don't use 萌萌哒 (méngméngdā) and expect it to sound current. It was everywhere online in the mid-2010s; now it's a joke or a throwback.
- × In some families it's traditional not to gush too much over a newborn. Most parents today love the compliment, but if they seem uneasy, praise how healthy the baby looks instead.

Hear every phrase and take the quiz: **saymei.app/tools/cute-in-chinese**

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