SAYMEI · EVERYDAY CHINESE · CHEAT SHEET

How to Say OK in Chinese

OK is 好的 (hǎo de) most of the time. Here's 行 (xíng), 可以 (kěyǐ) and 没问题 (méi wèntí) for saying yes, 收到 (shōudào) for work, and how to ask "are you OK?"



好的 **hǎo de** OK

Sounds like how duh. hǎo dips: 3rd tone, de light: neutral tone. To ask "are you OK?": 你没事吧 (nǐ méi shì ba), Are you OK?.

Which OK fits?

Agreeing to a plan	好的，明天见！ Hǎo de, míngtiān jiàn! OK, see you tomorrow!
Someone asks a favor	没问题！ Méi wèntí! No problem!
"Is it OK if...?"	可以，坐吧。 Kěyǐ, zuò ba. Sure, have a seat.
A message from your boss	收到，我马上处理。 Shōudào, wǒ mǎshàng chǔlǐ. Got it, I'll handle it now.
Someone trips	你没事吧？ Nǐ méi shì ba? Are you OK?
"How was it?"	还行吧。 Hái xíng ba. It was OK.

12 ways to say OK in Chinese

OK, SURE

好的 hǎo de OK EVERYDAY

好 hǎo OK, sure EVERYDAY

行 xíng OK, that works CASUAL

可以 kěyǐ OK, you may EVERYDAY

没问题 méi wèntí No problem EVERYDAY

ARE YOU OK? I'M OK

你没事吧 nǐ méi shì ba Are you OK? EVERYDAY

我没事 wǒ méi shì I'm OK EVERYDAY

还行 hái xíng It's OK, not bad CASUAL

没关系 méi guānxi It's OK, don't worry EVERYDAY

QUICK AND CASUAL

嗯 èn Mm-hm CASUAL

好吧 hǎo ba Fine, OK then CASUAL

收到 shōudào Got it EVERYDAY

Saying no, and short exchanges

不行 bù xíng Not OK, no CASUAL

MAKING PLANS

A: 我们七点见，行吗？ Wǒmen qī diǎn jiàn, xíng ma? Let's meet at seven, OK?

B: 行，没问题。 Xíng, méi wèntí. Sure, no problem.

AT A CAFÉ

A: 我可以用一下洗手间吗？ Wǒ kěyǐ yòng yíxià xǐshǒujiān ma? Is it OK if I use the restroom?

B: 可以，在那边。 Kěyǐ, zài nàbiān. Sure, it's over there.

AFTER A FALL

A: 你没事吧？ Nǐ méi shì ba? Are you OK?

B: 没事，没事。 Méi shì, méi shì. I'm fine, I'm fine.

What to avoid, and why

- × Don't answer good news with 好吧 (hǎo ba). It sounds like you're giving in, as in "fine, if you say so". Use 好的 (hǎo de) or 太好了 (tài hǎo le), great.
- × A lone 嗯 (èn) or 哦 (ò) in a text can read as cold, as if you're annoyed. Doubling it, 嗯嗯 (èn èn), or adding 好的 (hǎo de) sounds friendlier.
- × To say something was just OK, use 还行 (hái xíng) or 还可以 (hái kěyǐ), so-so. On its own, 可以 (kěyǐ) answers whether something is allowed.

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