SAYMEI · EVERYDAY CHINESE · CHEAT SHEET

How to Say Sit in Chinese

Sit is 坐 (zuò). To offer someone a seat, say 请坐 (qǐng zuò). Here's how to tell a class or a child to sit down, ask if a seat is taken, and the commands people use with dogs.



坐 **zuò** Sit

Sounds like dzwaw. zuò falls: 4th tone. When someone offers you a seat: 谢谢 (xièxie), Thank you.

Which one fits?

A guest arrives	快请坐！ Kuài qǐng zuò! Come in, have a seat!
A meeting or interview	请坐。 Qǐng zuò. Please, have a seat.
A noisy class	大家坐下！ Dàjiā zuòxia! Everyone, sit down!
Kids in the car	坐好，系好安全带。 Zuò hǎo, jì hǎo ānquándài. Sit properly and buckle up.
An empty seat on a train	这儿有人坐吗？ Zhèr yǒu rén zuò ma? Is this seat taken?
Your dog	坐！ Zuò! Sit!

12 ways to say sit in Chinese

OFFERING A SEAT

请坐 qǐng zuò Please, have a seat POLITE

坐吧 zuò ba Sit down, go ahead CASUAL

快坐 kuài zuò Come, sit down WARM

坐这儿 zuò zhèr Sit here CASUAL

FINDING A SEAT

这儿有人坐吗 zhèr yǒu rén zuò ma Is this seat taken? EVERYDAY

SIT DOWN: TO KIDS AND CLASSES

坐 zuò Sit EVERYDAY

坐下 zuòxia Sit down EVERYDAY

坐好 zuò hǎo Sit properly EVERYDAY

DOG COMMANDS IN CHINESE

趴下 pā xia Down (lie down) CASUAL

别动 bié dòng Stay, don't move CASUAL

过来 guòlai Come here CASUAL

握手 wòshǒu Shake (paw) CASUAL

When you're offered a seat

谢谢 xièxie Thank you EVERYDAY

您先坐 nín xiān zuò After you, please sit POLITE

VISITING A FRIEND'S FAMILY

A: 快坐快坐，别客气！ Kuài zuò kuài zuò, bié kèqi! Sit, sit, make yourself at home!

B: 谢谢阿姨。 Xièxie āyí. Thank you, auntie.

ON THE BUS

A: 奶奶，您坐这儿吧。 Nǎinai, nín zuò zhèr ba. Grandma, please take this seat.

B: 谢谢你，小伙子。 Xièxie nǐ, xiǎohuǒzi. Thank you, young man.

A JOB INTERVIEW

A: 请坐。 Qǐng zuò. Please, have a seat.

B: 谢谢。 Xièxie. Thank you.

What to avoid, and why

- × Don't bark 坐下 (zuòxia) at a guest or a colleague. It's a command, the way you'd talk to a class. Offer the seat with 请坐 (qǐng zuò).
- × At a formal dinner, don't sit until the host shows you where. The seat facing the door is usually for the guest of honor or the oldest person.
- × Seats marked 爱心专座 (àixīn zhuānzuò), priority seats, are for older people, pregnant women and people with disabilities. Give them up without being asked.

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

Keep speaking with Mei Lin, SayMei's AI tutor: **saymei.app**

Mei Lin on your iPhone

Scan with your iPhone camera

iPhone is a trademark of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries and regions.