

MISSED A WORD? KEEP THE CONVERSATION ALIVE.

Mandarin Conversation Rescue Cards

Eighteen compact phrases for asking, checking, and trying again-without switching away from Mandarin.

01
SIGNAL

02
ASK ONE THING

03
CONFIRM

WHAT YOU WILL PRACTICE

- 01** Ask for the exact help you need
- 02** Confirm a time, word, or choice
- 03** Use four guided real-life scenes
- 04** Cut out a personal pocket set

KEEP THE PATH CONNECTED

Scan to browse the public library and choose the next practice step.



PAGE 2 • GUIDED PRACTICE

The three-step rescue loop

Teach signal, specific request, and confirmation as a calm sequence.

01

Signal

Show that you need a moment or missed something.

不好意思，我没听懂。

Bù hǎoyìsi, wǒ méi tīng dǒng.

02

Ask one thing

Request repetition, slower speech, simpler words, text, or a gesture.

可以再说一遍吗？

Kěyǐ zài shuō yí biàn ma?

03

Confirm

Repeat the key detail you think you heard.

你是说九点半，对吗？

Nǐ shì shuō jiǔ diǎn bàn, duì ma?

REHEARSE THE FULL LOOP

SPEAKER 我们九点半见。

Wǒmen jiǔ diǎn bàn jiàn.

LEARNER 不好意思，我没听懂。

Bù hǎoyìsi, wǒ méi tīng dǒng.

LEARNER 请说慢一点。

Qǐng shuō màn yìdiǎn.

LEARNER 你是说九点半，对吗？

Nǐ shì shuō jiǔ diǎn bàn, duì ma?

Read the learner lines as one calm sequence. Then replace 九点半 with a different time.

PAGE 3 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Hear it again

Practice repetition, slower speech, and one-sentence-at-a-time requests.

CR-P01 • HEAR AGAIN

不好意思，可以说一遍吗？

Bù hǎoyìsi, kěyǐ zài shuō yí biàn ma?

Sorry, could you say that again?

USE WHEN

You missed the whole sentence or need one clean repeat.

DO

Raise one finger to signal one more time.

Polite and broadly useful.

CR-P02 • HEAR AGAIN

请说慢一点。

Qǐng shuō màn yìdiǎn.

Please speak a little more slowly.

USE WHEN

You recognize some words but the pace is too fast.

DO

Move one hand slowly while you speak.

Direct but polite with 请.

CR-P03 • HEAR AGAIN

可以一句一句地说吗？

Kěyǐ yí jù yí jù de shuō ma?

Could you say it one sentence at a time?

USE WHEN

A long explanation is hard to hold in memory.

DO

Tap once for each sentence.

Useful in lessons, directions, or step-by-step explanations.

CR-P17 • HEAR AGAIN

我没听清楚。

Wǒ méi tīng qīngchū.

I didn't hear it clearly.

USE WHEN

The sound-not necessarily the meaning-was unclear.

DO

Follow with repetition or slower-speech request.

Useful when audio quality or noise is the problem.

PAGE 4 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Clarify the meaning

Ask what a word means, request simpler wording, or ask how to say a missing word.

CR-P04 • CLARIFY MEANING

这个词是什么意思？

Zhège cí shì shénme yìsi?

What does this word mean?

USE WHEN

One word-not the whole sentence-is blocking you.

DO

Point to the printed or typed word if possible.

Use 这句话 for 'this sentence.'

CR-P05 • CLARIFY MEANING

“___”用中文怎么说？

“___” yòng Zhōngwén zěnmē shuō?

How do you say '___' in Chinese?

USE WHEN

You know the idea in another language but need the Mandarin word.

DO

Fill the blank with a word, object, or short idea.

Keep the blank short so the listener knows what to translate.

CR-P06 • CLARIFY MEANING

可以说得简单一点吗？

Kěyǐ shuō de jiǎndān yìdiǎn ma?

Could you say it a little more simply?

USE WHEN

A repeat will not help because the wording is unfamiliar.

DO

Pair it with the part you did understand.

Asks for simpler wording, not louder speech.

PAGE 5 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Switch the channel

Ask the speaker to type, write, or point.

CR-P07 • SWITCH CHANNEL

可以打字给我看吗？

Kěyǐ dǎzì gěi wǒ kàn ma?

Could you type it for me?

USE WHEN

You may recognize the characters or want to look up a word.

DO

Point to your phone or chat box.

Useful in person or on a call.

CR-P08 • SWITCH CHANNEL

请写下来。

Qǐng xiě xiàlai.

Please write it down.

USE WHEN

A name, address, number, or new word needs to be visible.

DO

Offer paper or open a notes app.

Short request; add 不好意思 first if the situation feels formal.

CR-P09 • SWITCH CHANNEL

可以指给我看吗？

Kěyǐ zhǐ gěi wǒ kàn ma?

Could you point it out to me?

USE WHEN

A direction, button, item, or location is easier to show than explain.

DO

Open your palm toward the map, menu, or object.

Useful when a visual answer will be faster.

PAGE 6 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Confirm the part you caught

Check a guess and isolate which part was missed.

CR-P10 • CONFIRM

你的意思是____吗？

Nǐ de yìsi shì ____ ma?

Do you mean ____?

USE WHEN

You have a specific interpretation to check.

DO

Fill the blank with a short word, time, place, or choice.

Use a complete guess after 是 when possible.

CR-P11 • CONFIRM

你是说____，对吗？

Nǐ shì shuō ____, duì ma?

You mean ____, right?

USE WHEN

You think you heard the key detail and need a yes-or-no check.

DO

Repeat only the detail that matters.

Especially useful for numbers, times, addresses, and choices.

CR-P12 • CONFIRM

前面我听懂了，后面没听懂。

Qiánmiàn wǒ tīng dǒng le, hòumiàn méi tīng dǒng.

I understood the first part, but not the later part.

USE WHEN

You want the speaker to repeat only the missed section.

DO

Gesture first, then later, with two small hand movements.

More informative than saying only 我没听懂.

CR-P18 • CONFIRM

明白了，谢谢。

Míngbai le, xièxie.

Got it, thank you.

USE WHEN

The repair worked and you want to close the loop.

DO

Repeat the key detail once before this line if accuracy matters.

A warm way to signal that the conversation can continue.

PAGE 7 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Buy time and try again

Pause, restart, or name a missing expression without ending the conversation.

CR-P13 • BUY TIME

请等一下，我想一想。

Qǐng děng yíxià, wǒ xiǎng yí xiǎng.

Please wait a moment; let me think.

USE WHEN

You understood but need time to form an answer.

DO

Pause, breathe out, and plan one short sentence.

In 想一想, the middle 一 is unstressed here, so it is written yi without a tone mark.

CR-P14 • BUY TIME

我再说一遍。

Wǒ zài shuō yí biàn.

Let me say it one more time.

USE WHEN

Your first attempt did not express what you meant.

DO

Restart with a shorter sentence.

A statement that smoothly holds your turn.

CR-P15 • BUY TIME

我不知道怎么说。

Wǒ bù zhīdào zěnmē shuō.

I don't know how to say it.

USE WHEN

You understand the idea but cannot produce the Mandarin expression.

DO

Follow with CR-P05 and the missing English word if the listener understands English.

Names the production problem without ending the exchange.

CR-P16 • BUY TIME

我的中文还不太好。

Wǒ de Zhōngwén hái bú tài hǎo.

My Chinese isn't very good yet.

USE WHEN

You want to set expectations at the start of a longer exchange.

DO

Follow it with a specific request such as 请说慢一点.

Do not use this as an apology after every sentence; one specific request is more useful.

PAGE 8 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Choose the smallest useful rescue

Match eight communication problems to a specific phrase.

Circle the best phrase ID. Say the full phrase from pages 3-7, then write why it solves this specific problem.

CR-M01 You heard the first half, but lost the ending.

☐ CR-P12 ☐ CR-P16 ☐ CR-P05

CR-M02 You heard every word, but the wording is too advanced.

☐ CR-P02 ☐ CR-P06 ☐ CR-P08

CR-M03 You need to check whether the train leaves at 9:30.

☐ CR-P11 ☐ CR-P03 ☐ CR-P15

CR-M04 One unfamiliar word is blocking the sentence.

☐ CR-P04 ☐ CR-P14 ☐ CR-P17

CR-M05 The address will be easier to copy from a screen.

☐ CR-P07 ☐ CR-P02 ☐ CR-P10

CR-M06 You understood the question but need ten seconds to answer.

☐ CR-P13 ☐ CR-P01 ☐ CR-P09

CR-M07 You know the English word but not the Mandarin word.

☐ CR-P05 ☐ CR-P18 ☐ CR-P12

CR-M08 Noise made the sentence hard to hear clearly.

☐ CR-P17 ☐ CR-P06 ☐ CR-P16

PAGE 9 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Use it: café and shop

Complete two short, realistic repair sequences.

CR-S01

At a café: hot or iced

The staff member asks a choice question faster than you expected.

- STAFF** 您要热的还是冰的？
Nín yào rè de háishi bīng de?
Would you like it hot or iced?
- LEARNER** 不好意思，再说一遍吗？
Bù hǎoyìsi, kěyǐ zài shuō yí biàn ma?
Sorry, could you say that again?
- STAFF** 热的还是冰的？
Rè de háishi bīng de?
Hot or iced?
- LEARNER** 你是说热的还是冰的，对吗？
Nǐ shì shuō rè de háishi bīng de, duì ma?
You mean hot or iced, right?
- STAFF** 对。
Duì.
Right.
- LEARNER** 冰的，谢谢。
Bīng de, xièxie.
Iced, thank you.

YOUR TASK

Cover the learner lines. Use one repeat phrase, one confirmation, and your own choice.

CR-S02

At a shop: one unknown size word

The staff member uses 小号, a word you do not know.

- STAFF** 这件没有小号了。
Zhè jiàn méiyǒu xiǎohào le.
This item is no longer available in a small.
- LEARNER** “小号”是什么意思？
“Xiǎohào” shì shénme yìsi?
What does ‘small size’ mean?
- STAFF** 就是小一点的。
Jiùshì xiǎo yìdiǎn de.
It means the smaller one.
- LEARNER** 明白了，谢谢。
Míngbai le, xièxie.
Got it, thank you.

YOUR TASK

Replace 小号 with a word from your own study list and practice asking its meaning.

PAGE 10 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Use it: station and directions

Complete two short repair sequences and confirm a key detail.

CR-S03

At a station: confirm the time

You only need one key detail from the answer.

- STAFF** 末班车九点半开。
Mòbān chē jiǔ diǎn bàn kāi.
The last train leaves at 9:30.
- LEARNER** 请说慢一点。
Qǐng shuō màn yìdiǎn.
Please speak a little more slowly.
- STAFF** 九点半。
Jiǔ diǎn bàn.
9:30.
- LEARNER** 你是说九点半，对吗？
Nǐ shì shuō jiǔ diǎn bàn, duì ma?
You mean 9:30, right?
- STAFF** 对。
Duì.
Right.

YOUR TASK

Repeat with 8:15 and 10:45. Accuracy matters more than speed.

CR-S04

Asking directions: switch to a gesture

You understand 'go straight' but lose the last part of a longer direction.

- LOCAL** 一直走，过了路口以后往左拐。
Yìzhí zǒu, guò le lùkǒu yǐhòu wǎng zuǒ guǎi.
Go straight, then turn left after the intersection.
- LEARNER** 前面我听懂了，后面没听懂。
Qiánmiàn wǒ tīng dǒng le, hòumiàn méi tīng dǒng.
I understood the first part, but not the later part.
- LEARNER** 可以指给我看吗？
Kěyǐ zhǐ gěi wǒ kàn ma?
Could you point it out to me?
- LOCAL** 可以，在那边。
Kěyǐ, zài nàbian.
Sure, over there.
- LEARNER** 明白了，谢谢。
Míngbai le, xièxie.
Got it, thank you.

YOUR TASK

Circle the phrase that identifies the missed part. Underline the phrase that changes the explanation into a visual answer.

PAGE 11 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Pocket cards

Provide sixteen cut-out cards with one phrase and one use cue each.

Cut on the dashed lines. Choose four cards to keep visible during a lesson, exchange, call, or trip.

CR-P01 Hear again 不好意思，可以再说一遍吗？	CR-P02 Hear again 请说慢一点。
CR-P04 Clarify meaning 这个词是什么意思？	CR-P06 Clarify meaning 可以说得简单一点吗？
CR-P07 Switch channel 可以打字给我看吗？	CR-P09 Switch channel 可以指给我看吗？
CR-P10 Confirm 你的意思是____吗？	CR-P11 Confirm 你是说____，对吗？
CR-P12 Confirm 前面我听懂了，后面没听懂。	CR-P13 Buy time 请等一下，我想一想。
CR-P14 Buy time 我再说一遍。	CR-P15 Buy time 我不知道怎么说。
CR-P16 Buy time 我的中文还不太好。	CR-P17 Hear again 我没听清楚。
CR-P18 Confirm 明白了，谢谢。	CR-P05 Clarify meaning “____”用中文怎么说？

PAGE 12 • GUIDED PRACTICE

Answers, rehearsal, and next step

Check closed tasks and select a four-card personal rescue kit.

CR-M01 CR-P12 - 前面我听懂了，后面没听懂。

It identifies exactly which part needs repair.

CR-M05 CR-P07 - 可以打字给我看吗？

A typed address can be copied or checked visually.

CR-M02 CR-P06 - 可以说得简单一点吗？

The problem is wording, not speed or volume.

CR-M06 CR-P13 - 请等一下，我想一想。

The learner needs planning time, not a repeat.

CR-M03 CR-P11 - 你是说九点半，对吗？

It checks one high-value detail with a yes-or-no confirmation.

CR-M07 CR-P05 - ‘___’用中文怎么说？

The missing information is the Mandarin expression.

CR-M04 CR-P04 - 这个词是什么意思？

It isolates the unknown word.

CR-M08 CR-P17 - 我没听清楚。

It names a hearing or audio-clarity problem.

BUILD YOUR FOUR-CARD KIT

Choose one phrase from each job. Write its card ID on the line below, cut the matching card from page 11, then rehearse the four phrases in order.

Hear again

CR-P01 / CR-P02 /
CR-P03 / CR-P17

My card _____

Clarify or switch

CR-P04 / CR-P06 /
CR-P07 / CR-P09

My card _____

Confirm

CR-P10 / CR-P11 /
CR-P12

My card _____

Continue

CR-P13 / CR-P14 /
CR-P15 / CR-P18

My card _____

SELF-CHECK

☐ I can say one repeat request without looking.

☐ I can ask for simpler wording instead of only asking for louder or slower speech.

☐ I can confirm a number, time, place, or choice.

☐ I can end the repair with 明白了，谢谢 and continue the conversation.