



FAMILY • EARLY BEGINNER

Mandarin at Home: Everyday Family Phrases

Use short, repeatable Mandarin phrases for getting ready, meals, play, chores, comfort, and encouragement without trying to switch the whole household overnight.

Wǒmen chuān xié ba.

我们穿鞋吧。

Let's put on our shoes.

Getting ready



By the end, you can...

- ✓ Choose a small home routine for consistent Mandarin use
- ✓ Give simple requests and encouragement in context
- ✓ Respond to a child or family member without turning every exchange into a lesson

Early beginner

20 minutes to plan, then daily reuse

20 pages

Answer guide

Self-contained print practice. Audio and web tools are optional.



1

Choose one home routine

After this page, you can Start small enough to repeat tomorrow.

✓ CHOOSE

Where could Mandarin fit naturally?

Circle one routine for this week.

1

Getting dressed or leaving home

☐

2

Breakfast, snacks, or dinner

☐

3

Play, reading, or music

☐

4

Tidying and simple chores

☐

5

Bath, bedtime, or saying goodnight

☐

6

Greeting or calling extended family

☐



2

Choose one home routine CONTINUED

After this page, you can Start small enough to repeat tomorrow.

 **CHOOSE**

Our first routine

1

We will try Mandarin during _____. The adult phrase we already know is _____.

Success looks like Names one bounded routine and at least one usable phrase.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



3

Getting ready

After this page, you can Use short invitations and sequence words.

RESPOND

Say, pause, then help

1

Qǐchuáng le.

起床了。

Time to get up.

new situation

2

Wǒmen chuān yīfu ba.

我们穿衣服吧。

Let's get dressed.

invitation

3

Xiān chuān xié, zài chūmén.

先穿鞋，再出门。

First put on shoes, then go out.

sequence



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



4

Getting ready CONTINUED

After this page, you can Use short invitations and sequence words.

RESPOND

Say, pause, then help

4

Nǐ zhǔnbèi hǎo le ma?

你准备好了吗?

Are you ready?

check in

5

Wǒmen chūmén ba.

我们出门吧。

Let's head out.

leave together

6

Mànmàn lái.

慢慢来。

Take your time.

reassure without rushing



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



5

Getting ready CONTINUED

After this page, you can Use short invitations and sequence words.

RESPOND

Choose the next phrase

Pick the phrase that fits the situation.

2

WORKED EXAMPLE

Shoes are on and everyone is about to leave.



我们出门吧。



晚安。



你想吃什么？

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

3

Someone is still looking for a jacket.



慢慢来。



干杯。



我吃饱了。



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



6

Meals and choices

After this page, you can Offer a choice, request an item, and respond to being finished.

**OFFER**

At the table

A caregiver offers two choices.

A**A**

Nǐ xiǎng hē shuǐ hái shì niú nǎi?

你想喝水还是牛奶？

Would you like water or milk?

B

Wǒ xiǎng hē shuǐ.

我想喝水。

I'd like water.

B**A****A**

Hǎo, gěi nǐ.

好，给你。

Okay, here you go.

B

Xièxie. Wǒ chībǎo le.

谢谢。我吃饱了。

Thanks. I'm full now.

B

Replay it three ways Read · switch roles · change one detail



7

Meals and choices CONTINUED

After this page, you can Offer a choice, request an item, and respond to being finished.

 OFFER

Our two real choices

4

Write one choice question using food or drinks your household actually has: 你想要
___还是___?

Success looks like Uses 还是 between two clear alternatives.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



8

Play and chores

After this page, you can Invite participation without sounding like a vocabulary quiz.

 JOIN

Do it together



Wǒmen yìqǐ wán ba.

我们一起玩吧。

Let's play together.

invite



Lún dào nǐ le.

轮到你了。

It's your turn.

take turns



Qǐng bǎ shū fàng zài zhèlǐ.

请把书放在这里。

Please put the book here.

specific request



Xièxie nǐ bāngmáng.

谢谢你帮忙。

Thank you for helping.

appreciation



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



9

Play and chores CONTINUED

After this page, you can Invite participation without sounding like a vocabulary quiz.

JOIN

Match action and response

Choose the warm response.

5

WORKED EXAMPLE

Someone puts the toys away.



谢谢你帮忙。



快一点!



不可以。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

6

It is the other person's turn in a game.



轮到你了。



我吃饱了。



关灯。



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



10

Comfort and boundaries

After this page, you can Acknowledge feelings and give one clear safety boundary.

COMFORT

Short, calm language



Nǐ nánguò ma?

你难过吗?

Are you sad?
check in



Wǒ zài zhèlǐ.

我在这里。

I'm here.
reassure



Méi guānxi, wǒmen zài shì yí cì.

没关系，我们再试一次。

It's okay; we'll try one more time.
encourage



Tíng yíxià. Zhèlǐ bù ānquán.

停一下。这里不安全。

Stop for a moment. It isn't safe here.
clear boundary



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



11

Comfort and boundaries CONTINUED

After this page, you can Acknowledge feelings and give one clear safety boundary.

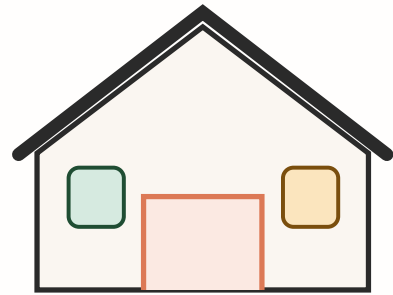
COMFORT

Meaning first

In urgent or emotional moments, use whichever language communicates safely and clearly. Mandarin practice never outranks understanding.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



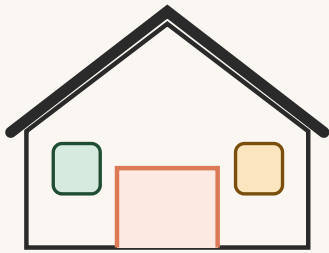
12

Seven-day family tracker

After this page, you can Notice what the household actually uses and keep only the durable phrases.

 **TRACK**

One small routine



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Day	Routine	Phrase used	What happened
1			
2			
3			
4			



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



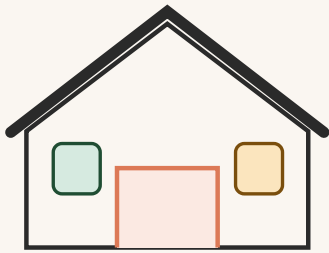
13

Seven-day family tracker CONTINUED

After this page, you can Notice what the household actually uses and keep only the durable phrases.

TRACK

One small routine



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Day	Routine	Phrase used	What happened
5			
6			
7			



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



14

Seven-day family tracker CONTINUED

After this page, you can Notice what the household actually uses and keep only the durable phrases.

 **TRACK**

Keep, change, or pause

7

The phrase that felt most natural was _____. Next week we will keep/change/pause _____.

Success looks like Reflects on actual use without treating missed days as failure.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



15

Check your work

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

1

We will try Mandarin during _____. The adult phrase we already know is _____.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Nǐ xiǎng hē shuǐ háishi niú nǎi?

We will try Mandarin during breakfast. The adult phrase we already know is 你想喝水还是牛奶?

Success criteria: Names one bounded routine and at least one usable phrase.

Second attempt

Cover the model. Recreate it from memory, change one useful detail, and note the repair you want to revisit.

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



16

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

2

Shoes are on and everyone is about to leave.

Wǒmen chūmén ba.

我们出门吧。

3

Someone is still looking for a jacket.

Mǎnmǎn lái.

慢慢来。

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



17

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

4

Write one choice question using food or drinks your household actually has: 你想要___还是___?

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Nǐ xiǎng yào mǐfàn háishi miàn?

你想要米饭还是面?

Success criteria: Uses 还是 between two clear alternatives.

Second attempt

Cover the model. Recreate it from memory, change one useful detail, and note the repair you want to revisit.

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



18

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

5

Someone puts the toys away.

Xièxie nǐ bāngmáng.

谢谢你帮忙。

6

It is the other person's turn in a game.

Lún dào nǐ le.

轮到你了。

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.



19

Check your work CONTINUED

After this page, you can compare your response, understand the repair, and choose one item to replay later.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks include a model or success criteria; your response does not need to match word for word.

7

The phrase that felt most natural was _____. Next week we will keep/change/pause _____.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

The phrase: Wōmen yìqǐ shōushi ba.

The phrase that felt most natural was 我们一起收拾吧。 Next week we will keep the cleanup routine.

Success criteria: Reflects on actual use without treating missed days as failure.

Second attempt

Cover the model. Recreate it from memory, change one useful detail, and note the repair you want to revisit.

Do not stop at checking. Circle one repair and make that response again with the answer covered.