

CHOOSE BY SITUATION, NOT BY LIST

Measure Words in Real Life

Twelve high-utility classifiers learned through people, books, cafés, shopping, transport, and everyday requests.

WHAT YOU WILL DO

- 01** Connect each classifier to a useful noun image.
- 02** Say complete quantity phrases with 一, 两, 这, and 那.
- 03** Repair common mismatches and build a request of your own.

OPEN THE COMPANION PRACTICE

Scan for the current public practice page, audio samples, and any corrections.

12 guided pages · Version 1.1 · August 2026



CORE PATTERN

Number or demonstrative + classifier + noun

For ordinary countable nouns, the classifier links the quantity to the noun. Learn a complete phrase—not an isolated translation.

两

liǎng

+

杯

bēi

+

茶

chá

two cups of tea

01 Use 两 before most classifiers

两本书 means two books. 二 appears in counting, numbers, dates, and ordinals such as 第二.

02 Treat 个 as a rescue choice, not a universal answer

个 is common with people and abstract items, but fixed phrases such as 一本书 and 一辆车 remain worth learning.

03 Expect 一 to change in connected speech

It is usually yì before tones 1–3 and yí before tone 4. Isolated and ordinal 一 stays yī.

TRY IT NOW

Say one phrase with 一, one with 两, and one with 这 or 那. Keep the classifier attached to the noun.

CLASSIFIER FAMILIES

People + study

Learn the classifier with two nouns, then speak one complete quantity phrase. Color is navigation only; the text carries the meaning.



ge

GENERAL

人 rén · person

问题 wèntí · question

一个人

yí ge rén

one person

Say the number of people waiting with you.



wèi

POLITE PEOPLE

老师 lǎoshī · teacher

客人 kèrén · guest

这位老师

zhè wèi lǎoshī

this teacher

Introduce one teacher or guest politely.



běn

BOUND BOOKS

书 shū · book

杂志 zázhì · magazine

两本书

liǎng běn shū

two books

Name two books or magazines you use.

MAKE IT YOURS

1 Choose one classifier above. 2 Change the quantity or demonstrative. 3 Replace the noun.
4 Say the complete phrase twice.

CLASSIFIER FAMILIES

Flat things + food containers

Learn the classifier with two nouns, then speak one complete quantity phrase. Color is navigation only; the text carries the meaning.

张

zhāng

FLAT SURFACES

票 piào · ticket

地图 dìtú · map

两张票

liǎng zhāng piào

two tickets

Ask for the number of tickets you need.

杯

bēi

CUPS

茶 chá · tea

咖啡 kāfēi · coffee

一杯茶

yì bēi chá

a cup of tea

Order a real drink.

碗

wǎn

BOWLS

面 miàn · noodles

米饭 mǐfàn · rice

一碗面

yì wǎn miàn

a bowl of noodles

Order a bowl of food.

MAKE IT YOURS

1 Choose one classifier above. 2 Change the quantity or demonstrative. 3 Replace the noun.
4 Say the complete phrase twice.

CLASSIFIER FAMILIES

Clothing + pairs + animals

Learn the classifier with two nouns, then speak one complete quantity phrase. Color is navigation only; the text carries the meaning.

件

jiàn

衣服 yīfu · clothing

这件衣服

CLOTHES / MATTERS

事情 shìqing · matter

zhè jiàn yīfu

this item of clothing

Point to clothing and ask the price.

双

shuāng

鞋 xié · shoes

一双鞋

PAIRS

筷子 kuàizi · chopsticks

yì shuāng xié

a pair of shoes

Choose a quantity and a paired object.

只

zhī

猫 māo · cat

一只猫

MANY ANIMALS

鸟 niǎo · bird

yì zhī māo

a cat

Say which animal you or a friend has.

MAKE IT YOURS

1 Choose one classifier above. 2 Change the quantity or demonstrative. 3 Replace the noun.
4 Say the complete phrase twice.

CLASSIFIER FAMILIES

Long things + transport + businesses

Learn the classifier with two nouns, then speak one complete quantity phrase. Color is navigation only; the text carries the meaning.

条

tiáo

鱼 yú · fish

这条路

LONG / FLEXIBLE

路 lù · road

zhè tiáo lù

this road

Use 这 or 那 with a long thing.

辆

liàng

车 chē · car

一辆车

VEHICLES

自行车 zìxíngchē · bicycle

yí liàng chē

a vehicle

Say which vehicle you see or need.

家

jiā

店 diàn · shop

那家公司

BUSINESSES

公司 gōngsī · company

nà jiā gōngsī

that company

Name a business you know.

MAKE IT YOURS

1 Choose one classifier above. 2 Change the quantity or demonstrative. 3 Replace the noun.
4 Say the complete phrase twice.

EXERCISE 1

Write the best classifier for this scene.

Then add 一, 两, 这, or 那 and say a complete phrase. Other classifiers may fit a different noun sense; use the meaning shown here.

01 书 shū
book
____ 本 / 张 / 杯

02 老师 lǎoshī
teacher, polite
____ 位 / 条 / 辆

03 咖啡 kāfēi
coffee
____ 杯 / 双 / 家

04 票 piào
ticket
____ 张 / 只 / 件

05 鞋 xié
shoes
____ 双 / 本 / 碗

06 猫 māo
cat
____ 只 / 家 / 辆

07 路 lù
road
____ 条 / 个 / 位

08 自行车 zìxíngchē
bicycle
____ 辆 / 张 / 杯

09 衣服 yīfu
clothing
____ 件 / 碗 / 双

10 公司 gōngsī
company
____ 家 / 只 / 本

SAY FOUR FULL PHRASES

Use different starters: 一..., 两..., 这..., 那.... Circle the one that still feels slow.

EXERCISE 2

Choose, repair, and explain.

First circle the natural option for this meaning. Then rewrite each sentence so the quantity and classifier fit the noun.

A • CIRCLE

1 两 本 / 个 书

2 一 张 / 杯 地图

3 三 辆 / 条 车

4 这 件 / 双 衣服

5 那 位 / 碗 客人

6 两 家 / 只 公司

B • REWRITE

01 我要二杯茶。

I would like two cups of tea.

REWRITE

02 我有一双猫。

I have one cat.

REWRITE

03 请给我一辆票。

Please give me one ticket.

REWRITE

04 墙上有一本地图。

There is a map on the wall.

REWRITE

EXPLAIN ONE CHOICE

What image does the classifier add—flat, paired, container, long, vehicle, person, animal, or business?

USE IT

Shadow, cover, and replace.

For each scene: 1 read both turns, 2 cover the model, 3 change one quantity or noun, 4 perform the exchange without looking.

CAFÉ

A 你想喝什么？

Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?

B 我要一杯茶。

Wǒ yào yì bēi chá.

What would you like to drink? / I would like a cup of tea.

MY VERSION

A _____

B _____

TICKET DESK

A 你要几张票？

Nǐ yào jǐ zhāng piào?

B 我要两张票。

Wǒ yào liǎng zhāng piào.

How many tickets? / I would like two tickets.

MY VERSION

A _____

B _____

USE IT

Shadow, cover, and replace.

For each scene: 1 read both turns, 2 cover the model, 3 change one quantity or noun, 4 perform the exchange without looking.

CLOTHING SHOP

A 这件衣服多少钱？

Zhè jiàn yīfu duōshao qián?

B 三百块。

Sān bǎi kuài.

How much is this item of clothing? / Three hundred yuan.

MY VERSION

A _____

B _____

AT HOME

A 你家有宠物吗？

Nǐ jiā yǒu chǒngwù ma?

B 有，我有一只猫。

Yǒu, wǒ yǒu yì zhī māo.

Does your family have a pet? / Yes, I have a cat.

MY VERSION

A _____

B _____

ANSWER KEY

Check the classifier, then say the whole phrase.

These answers match the exact noun senses in the exercises. Another classifier can be correct when the noun means something different or regional usage changes.

EXERCISE 1

1 本 · 2 位 · 3 杯 · 4 张 · 5 双 · 6 只 · 7 条 · 8 辆 · 9 件 · 10 家

EXERCISE 2A

1 本 · 2 张 · 3 辆 · 4 件 · 5 位 · 6 家

EXERCISE 2B

两杯茶 · 一只猫 · 一张票 · 墙上有一张地图

OPEN-RESPONSE CHECK

- ☐ The quantity matches what you meant.
- ☐ The classifier matches this noun sense.
- ☐ The noun stays clear in the complete phrase.
- ☐ You can say it without pausing between classifier and noun.

IF YOU ARE UNSURE

Open the public Measure Word Finder, compare the noun sense, then return here and say a complete phrase.



NEXT PRACTICE

Build a classifier habit around your own day.

Choose six real things around you. Name the quantity, classifier, and noun; then put two into requests or questions.

THING	QUANTITY + CLASSIFIER	COMPLETE PHRASE

TURN TWO PHRASES INTO SPEECH

Request _____

Question _____

READY TO MOVE ON?

Choose one classifier family that feels automatic and one that needs another scene.