



SPEAKING • EARLY BEGINNER

Order Food and Drinks in Mandarin

A self-contained printable workbook for choosing an item, adding a quantity, making a simple adjustment, confirming the order, and finishing politely in Mandarin.

Wǒ xiǎng yào yì bēi chá.

我想要一杯茶。

I'd like a cup of tea.

A complete item-and-quantity request.



By the end, you can...

- ✓ Build a short order with a quantity and item
- ✓ Ask for one simple food or drink adjustment
- ✓ Respond to a basic follow-up question

Early beginner

45–60 minutes

20 pages

Answer guide

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



1

Six items, two request frames

After this page, you can Recognize common item words and attach one safe request frame.

CHOOSE

A tiny practice menu

These are generic words, not a claim about what any venue sells.



shuǐ

水

water

Drink



chá

茶

tea

Drink



kāfēi

咖啡

coffee

Drink



mǐfàn

米饭

cooked rice

Food



miàn

面

noodles

Food



jiǎozi

饺子

dumplings

Food



Cover + retrieve

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



2

Six items, two request frames CONTINUED

After this page, you can Recognize common item words and attach one safe request frame.

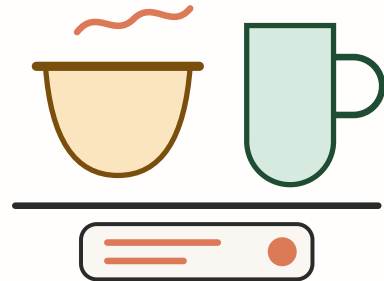
CHOOSE

Start with one frame

我要..... (Wǒ yào...; I want...) is direct and common in an ordering context.
我想要..... (Wǒ xiǎng yào...; I'd like...) is a useful softer starter. Add 谢谢 after the complete request rather than translating every English politeness word.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



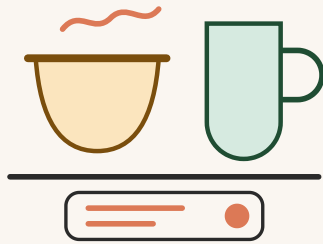
3

Quantity plus item

After this page, you can Choose a useful measure word and build a complete order.

BUILD

Four practical quantity chunks



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Chunk	Pinyin	Typical job	Example
一杯	yì bēi	one cup or glass	一杯茶 · one cup of tea
一碗	yì wǎn	one bowl	一碗面 · one bowl of noodles
一份	yí fèn	one portion or order	一份饺子 · one order of dumplings
一瓶	yí píng	one bottle	一瓶水 · one bottle of water



Find, cover, recall

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



4

Quantity plus item

CONTINUED

After this page, you can Choose a useful measure word and build a complete order.

BUILD

Build the order

Choose the most natural quantity chunk for the pictured-in-words item.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

One cup of tea

☒ 一杯茶☐ 一碗茶☐ 一份茶

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

2

One bowl of noodles

☐ 一碗面☐ 一瓶面☐ 一杯面

3

One order of dumplings

☐ 一份饺子☐ 一杯饺子☐ 一瓶饺子

4

Complete: 我想要 _____. (I'd like a bottle of water.)

☐ 一瓶水☐ 一碗水☐ 一份水

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



5

One clear adjustment

After this page, you can Attach a simple preference to the order and recognize the safety boundary.

ADJUST

Preference phrases



Bú yào là.

不要辣。

Not spicy, please.

A preference request; preparation can still vary.



Shǎo yìdiǎnr táng.

少一点儿糖。

A little less sugar.

Ask for a reduced amount.



Bú yào xiāngcài.

不要香菜。

No cilantro, please.

Ask to leave out one ingredient.



Wǒ yào rè de.

我要热的。

I want the hot one.

Choose between offered temperature options.



Wǒ yào bīng de.

我要冰的。

I want the iced one.

Choose an iced option if it is offered.



Cover + retrieve

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



6

One clear adjustment CONTINUED

After this page, you can Attach a simple preference to the order and recognize the safety boundary.

 **ADJUST**

Choose one adjustment

Match the English preference to the Mandarin line.

5

WORKED EXAMPLE

No cilantro, please.



不要香菜。



少一点儿糖。



我要热的。

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

6

A little less sugar.



少一点儿糖。



不要辣。



我要冰的。



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.



7

One clear adjustment CONTINUED

After this page, you can Attach a simple preference to the order and recognize the safety boundary.

 **ADJUST**

Choose one adjustment

Match the English preference to the Mandarin line.

7

I want the hot one.

☐ 我要热的。

☐ 我要冰的。

☐ 不要香菜。

8

Which is the safe plan for a serious food allergy?

☐ Use a reliable bilingual allergy card or interpreter and confirm directly

☐ Rely only on 不要 plus the ingredient

☐ Assume the menu has complete cross-contact information



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.



8

A complete café exchange

After this page, you can Follow the order from invitation to confirmation.

 ACT

Tea and dumplings

A fictional café; no real menu, price, or availability is implied

S

STAFF

Nǐ hǎo, qǐngwèn nǐ yào shénme?

你好，请问你要什么？

Hello. What would you like?

CUSTOMER

Wǒ xiǎng yào yì bēi chá.

我想要一杯茶。

I'd like a cup of tea.

C

S

STAFF

Rè de háishi bīng de?

热的还是冰的？

Hot or iced?

CUSTOMER

Rè de, xièxie.

热的，谢谢。

Hot, thank you.

C

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



9

A complete café exchange CONTINUED

After this page, you can Follow the order from invitation to confirmation.

 **ACT**

Tea and dumplings

A fictional café; no real menu, price, or availability is implied

S

STAFF

Hái yào biéde ma?

还要别的吗?

Would you like anything else?

CUSTOMER

Zài yào yí fèn jiǎozi. Bú yào là.

再要一份饺子。不要辣。

Also, one order of dumplings. Not spicy, please.

C

S

STAFF

Hǎo de. Yì bēi rè chá, yí fèn jiǎozi.

好的。一杯热茶，一份饺子。

Okay. One hot tea and one order of dumplings.

CUSTOMER

Duì, xièxie.

对，谢谢。

Correct, thank you.

C

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



10

For here, to go, and finished

After this page, you can Answer three common follow-up moments without a long explanation.

RESPOND

Short operational replies



Zài zhèr chī.

在这儿吃。

For here.

Literally, eat here.



Dàizǒu.

带走。

To go / takeaway.

Terms can vary by region and venue.



Hái yào biéde ma?

还要别的吗?

Anything else?

A common follow-up question.



Bú yòng le, xièxie.

不用了，谢谢。

No more, thank you.

Politely finish the order.



Máfan jiézhàng.

麻烦结账。

The check, please.

Request checkout; procedures vary.



Yígòng duōshao qián?

一共多少钱?

How much is it altogether?

Ask for the total without assuming a price.



Cover + retrieve

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



11

For here, to go, and finished CONTINUED

After this page, you can Answer three common follow-up moments without a long explanation.

RESPOND

Read the question, choose the reply

Choose the shortest adequate response.

9

WORKED EXAMPLE

在这儿吃还是带走? (For here or to go?) You will stay.



在这儿吃。



不用了。



一共多少钱?

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

10

还要别的吗? (Anything else?) You are finished.



不用了, 谢谢。



带走。



少一点儿糖。

11

You want to ask for the total.



一共多少钱?



还要别的吗?



我要热的。

12

You want to request checkout.



麻烦结账。



不要辣。



在这儿吃。

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



12

Order repair lab

After this page, you can Choose complete, useful lines in a new fictional order.

REPAIR

Complete the exchange

Select the best line for each turn.

13

WORKED EXAMPLE

Staff: 请问你要什么?



我想要一碗面。



一共多少钱?



在这儿吃还是带走?

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

14

Staff: 还要别的吗? You also want water.



再要一瓶水。



不用了, 谢谢。



不要香菜。

15

Staff repeats: 一碗面, 一瓶水。Is that correct?



对, 谢谢。



真的吗?



请问你要什么?



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.



13

Order repair lab CONTINUED

After this page, you can Choose complete, useful lines in a new fictional order.

REPAIR

Complete the exchange

Select the best line for each turn.

16

Your preference is "not spicy."

☐ 不要辣。☐ 少一点儿糖。☐ 带走。

17

Which order has quantity + item?

☐ 一份饺子☐ 饺子一☐ 份一饺子

18

Which line makes no current price claim?

☐ 一共多少钱?☐ 这一定十块钱。☐ 所有店都一样贵。

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.



14

Your real-world rehearsal

After this page, you can Plan a complete order while keeping unknown venue details open.

✓ **REHEARSE**

A five-part order

Check each part after you include it.

1

Choose one request frame: 我要 or 我想要

☐

2

Add a quantity chunk

☐

3

Add the food or drink

☐

4

Add at most one simple preference

☐

5

Confirm the repeated order and finish with 谢谢

☐



15

Your real-world rehearsal CONTINUED

After this page, you can Plan a complete order while keeping unknown venue details open.

REHEARSE

Write your six-line order

19

Write a fictional six-line exchange between staff and customer. Include one quantity, one follow-up question, a confirmation, and no invented claim about current price or availability.

Success looks like Accept any coherent six-line order using the target frames; pinyin may replace Hanzi. Preferences must not be presented as a medical-safety guarantee.

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



16

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

One cup of tea

yì bēi chá

一杯茶

2

One bowl of noodles

yì wǎn miàn

一碗面

3

One order of dumplings

yí fèn jiǎo zǐ

一份饺子

4

Complete: 我想要 _____. (I'd like a bottle of water.)

yì píng shuǐ

一瓶水

5

No cilantro, please.

Bú yào xiāngcài.

不要香菜。

6

A little less sugar.

Shǎo yìdiǎnr táng.

少一点儿糖。

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.

7

I want the hot one.

Wǒ yào rè de.

我要热的。

8

Which is the safe plan for a serious food allergy?

Use a reliable bilingual allergy card or interpreter and confirm directly

Why: A beginner phrase alone cannot guarantee ingredient or cross-contact safety.

9

在这儿吃还是带走? (For here or to go?) You will stay.

Zài zhèr chī.

在这儿吃。

10

还要别的吗? (Anything else?) You are finished.

Bú yòng le, xièxiè.

不用了, 谢谢。

11

You want to ask for the total.

Yíòng duōshao qián?

一共多少钱?

12

You want to request checkout.

Máfan jiézhàng.

麻烦结账。

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.

13

Staff: 请问你要什么?

wǒ xiǎng yào yì wǎn miàn

我想要一碗面。

14

Staff: 还要别的吗? You also want water.

zài yào yì píng shuǐ

再要一瓶水。

15

Staff repeats: 一碗面, 一瓶水。Is that correct?

Duì, xièxie.

对, 谢谢。

16

Your preference is "not spicy."

Bú yào là.

不要辣。

17

Which order has quantity + item?

yí fèn jiǎo zǐ

一份饺子

18

Which line makes no current price claim?

Yígòng duōshao qián?

一共多少钱?

Why: It asks for the live total instead of inventing one.

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.

19

Write a fictional six-line exchange between staff and customer. Include one quantity, one follow-up question, a confirmation, and no invented claim about current price or availability.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Staff: Nǐ hǎo, qǐngwèn yào shénme? / Customer: Wǒ xiǎng yào yì wǎn miàn, bú yào là, xièxie. / Staff: Zài zhèr chī háishi dài zǒu? / Customer: Zài zhèr chī. / Staff: Yì wǎn bú là de miàn, duì ma? / Customer: Duì, xièxie.

店员：你好，请问要什么？ / 顾客：我想要一碗面，不要辣，谢谢。 / 店员：在这儿吃还是带走？ / 顾客：在这儿吃。 / 店员：一碗不辣的面，对吗？ / 顾客：对，谢谢。

Why: A preference request such as 不要辣 does not guarantee ingredients, preparation, or allergy safety.

Success criteria: Accept any coherent six-line order using the target frames; pinyin may replace Hanzi. Preferences must not be presented as a medical-safety guarantee.

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