

Beyond the Panda 熊猫后续



Zoo Fun with Mandarin

in partnership with



SCILT Scottish National Centre for Languages



西南交通大学
Southwest Jiaotong University



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Zoo Fun with Mandarin

'Zoo Fun with Mandarin' is one of the courses within the RZSS Beyond the Panda programme. The full course is available online at beyondthepanda.org.uk - 'Zoo Fun with Mandarin' section.

This booklet contains some basic notes and worksheets. Please note that it is designed to accompany the course and therefore does not contain all the background information.

beyondthepanda.org.uk



Sandie Robb, 罗桑迪

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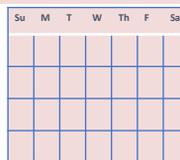
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Zoo Fun with Mandarin

Let's count the animals!



Days, weeks, months



I, you, he, she, they, we...

我 你 他 她 他们 我们

Let's introduce ourselves



Looking more closely at characters

人 大 月 竹
小 日

Giant pandas and much more!



Let's count the animals!

Numbers 1- 10 一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八 九 十



yì zhī dà xióng māo
一只大熊猫



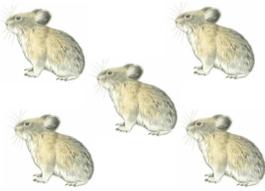
liǎng zhī xiǎo xióng māo
两只小熊猫
* see note



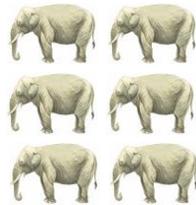
sān zhī lǎo hǔ
三只老虎



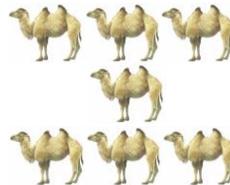
sì zhī cháng bì yuán
四只长臂猿



wǔ zhī shǔ tù
五只鼠兔



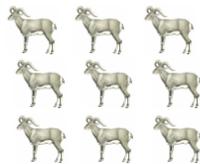
liù zhī dà xiàng
六只大象



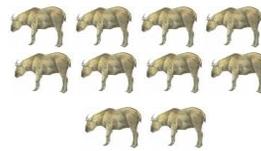
qī zhī shuāng fēng tuó
七只双峰驼



bā zhī shuǐ tā
八只水獭



jiǔ zhī yán yáng
九只岩羊



shí zhī líng niú
十只羚羊

Notes:

- Each sentence translates as 'one giant panda'; two red pandas; three tigers etc.
- Note that the number 2 is èr 二 but when saying 'two of something', liǎng 两 is used.
- Measure words are required in Mandarin and zhī 只 is a measure word for animals. There are different measure words for different nouns. Another common measure word for people and general objects is gè 个, for example: wǔ gè rén 五个人 meaning 'five people'.
- The other characters are the names of the animals – see page 17.
- Mandarin is a tonal language and the accents over the pinyin translations show the tone. There are four tones and one neutral.



1st



2nd



3rd



4th

Let's count the animals!

Big numbers

Notes:

- Once you know the numbers 1 to 10, you can count up to 99.
- 11 = 10 + 1; 12 = 10 + 2 etc. see table
- 20 = 2 x 10; 30 = 3 x 10 etc. see table
- 21 = (2 x 10) + 1 which is 二十一
- 37 = (3 x 10) + 7 which is 三十七
- There are different numbers to learn for 100, 1000, 10,000...
- 100 is bǎi 一百 yì bǎi; 200 二百; 300 三百
- 1000 is qiān 一千 yì qiān
- 10,000 is wàn 一万 yì wàn
- 100,000 = 10 x 10,000, so 十万 shí wàn
- 1,000,000 = 100 x 10,000, so 一百万 yì bǎi wàn

11	十一
12	十二
13	十三
14	十四
15	十五
16	十六
17	十七
18	十八
19	十九
20	二十
30	三十
40	四十
50	五十



exercise

Write these numbers in characters:

15		60		71	
99		42		86	



activity

Download the Panda Game -

A fun interactive introduction to learning about the Mandarin language and China.

Days, Weeks, Months

Now we know numbers, we can learn how to say and write the date.

day
hào
号

month
yuè
月

year
nián
年

To write the date in Chinese, the year is first, then the month, then the day. For the year, the numbers are listed in order. Zero is líng 零.

	èr líng èr yī nián	èr yuè	qī hào
7 th February 2021	二零二一年,	二月,	七号
literally	2021 year,	2 month,	7 day



Write when your birthday is:

Example – The 12th June is my birthday.

Liù yuè shí èr hào shì wǒ de shēng rì.

六月十二号是我的生日。

yuè
月

month

hào shì wǒ de shēng rì.

号 是我的生日。

day is my birthday.



activity

Play the online 'Months and years' game.

Additional note:

- yī (one) is pronounced in the first tone when it stands alone.
- It is pronounced in the fourth tone, yì, if it is said in front of the first, second, or third tone. For example, you may have noticed when counting giant pandas, 一只大熊猫 is yì zhī dàxióngmāo.
- It is pronounced in the second tone when it is said in front of the fourth tone. For example, you may have noticed for 10,000, 一万 is yí wàn.
- yī, when listed as part of the date, is pronounced with the first tone.

Days, Weeks, Months

Now we know numbers, we can learn the days of the week.

week
xīng qī
星期

Sunday	星期日 or 星期天
Monday	星期一
Tuesday	星期二
Wednesday	星期三
Thursday	星期四
Friday	星期五
Saturday	星期六

Write the day of the week:

Example – Today is Wednesday.

Jīn tiān shì xīng qī sān.

今天是星期三。

Jīn tiān shì xīng qī

今天是星期_____。

Today is week (day)

exercise

exercise
activity

Translate the days below and then play the online 'Days of the week' game.

星期五 _____

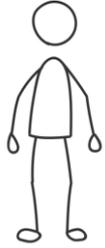
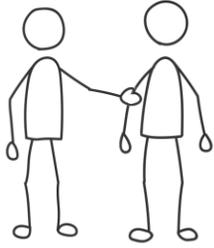
星期二 _____

星期一 _____

星期日 _____

I, you, he, she, they, we...

The table shows how we form the words for I, my, we and us.

我	wǒ	means I or me	
的	de	means belonging to (when used in this example)	not a word on its own
我的	wǒde	means belonging to me - my or mine	
们	men	means plural	not a word on its own
我们	wǒmen	means we or us	
我们的	wǒmende	means belonging to us - our, ours	

I, you, he, she, they, we... (examples)

I, me	我	wǒ	我是老师。 Wǒ shì lǎoshī.	I am a teacher.
my, mine	我的	wǒde	这是我的书。 Zhè shì wǒ de shū.	This is my book.
we, us	我们	wǒmen	我们是学生。 Wǒmen shì xuésheng.	We are students.
our, ours	我们的	wǒmende	这是我们的水。 Zhè shì wǒmende shuǐ.	This is our water.
you	你	nǐ	你叫什么名字? Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?	What are you called?
your	你的	nǐde	那是你的书。 Nà shì nǐde shū.	That is your book.
YOU (plural)	你们	nǐmen	你们好! Nǐmen hǎo!	Hello everyone!
your, yours (plural)	你们的	nǐmende	这些是你们的东西吗? Zhè xiē shì nǐmende dōngxi ma?	Are these your things?
he	他	tā	他喜欢中国饭。 Tā xǐhuan Zhōngguó fàn.	He likes Chinese food.
his	他的	tāde	这是他的水。 Zhè shì tāde shuǐ.	This is his water.
they, them (male)	他们	tāmen	他们都学中文。 Tāmen dōu xué Zhōngwén.	They all study Chinese.
their, theirs (male)	他们的	tāmende	那是他们的纸。 Nà shì tāmende zhǐ.	That is their paper.
she	她	tā	她是学生。 Tā shì xuésheng.	She is a student.
her, hers	她的	tāde	这是她的水。 Zhè shì tāde shuǐ.	This is her water.
they, them (female)	她们	tāmen	她们是美国人。 Tāmen shì měiguórén.	They are Americans.
their, theirs (female)	她们的	tāmende	那是她们的纸。 Nà shì tāmende zhǐ.	That is their paper.

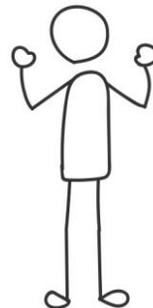
Notes:

- It is the same pattern for: I 我 wǒ ; you 你 nǐ ; he 他 tā ; she 她 tā
- He and she are pronounced exactly the same but the character is slightly different. She 她 has the character for women within it. (This and other 'building blocks' of characters will be looked at in the 'Looking more closely at characters' section.)

Let's introduce ourselves

你好。

你好。
你好吗？



我很好，
你呢？

我很好。
你叫什么名字？

我叫王英，
你呢？

我叫张伟。

Pinyin:

Wáng Yīng: Nǐ hǎo

Zhāng Wěi: Nǐ hǎo. Nǐ hǎo ma?

Wáng Yīng: Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?

Zhāng Wěi: Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?

Wáng Yīng: Wǒ jiào Wáng Yīng, nǐ ne?

Zhāng Wěi: Wǒ jiào Zhāng Wěi.

activity

Introduce yourself in Mandarin.



Looking more closely at characters

The earliest form of Chinese writing is from around 2000 BCE.

Simple drawings or pictograms were found on animal bones and the writing is known as oracle bone script.

The Chinese scripts have changed through time. Today there are traditional and simplified characters in use. Simplified characters are used in mainland China. Some other countries use the traditional characters. This course uses simplified characters.



Oracle bone script for some animals are shown below with the simplified characters underneath.

Write the animal name under the oracle bone script. Choose from the following animals:

elephant dog turtle rat horse chicken tiger

Clue: You may know some of the simplified characters or you may be able to recognise some of the animals from the oracle bone drawings.



马 虎 鸡 狗 鼠 象 龟
mǎ hǔ jī gǒu shǔ xiàng guī

Looking more closely at characters

Today there are four different types of Chinese characters:

- **Pictograms** – A picture of something. We have seen examples of these in the last exercise.
- **Ideograms** – A picture of an idea. For example, the characters for the first three numbers represent the idea of these numbers 一 二 三.
- **Mixture of pictograms and/or ideograms** – Putting characters together to make new characters. For example, the word for good is 好 好. This is the pictogram for woman with the pictogram for child. It was always thought that a woman with a child was good.

女 and 子 is 好
woman child good

- **Phonograms** – Putting characters together to make new characters where one character shows the meaning and one character shows the sound. For example, the words far 远 and garden 园 both have the character 元. This provides the sound 'yuan'. The other parts of the characters show their meaning. Also note that each word has different tone.

元 and 辶 is 远
sound - yuan to walk quickly far
yǎn

元 and 囗 is 园
sound - yuan enclosure garden
yuán

Writing Chinese Characters

Characters are made up of basic strokes and the order you write the strokes is important to form the character.

General rules:

1. top to bottom
2. left to right
3. horizontal first, vertical second
4. enclosures before content
5. close the frames last

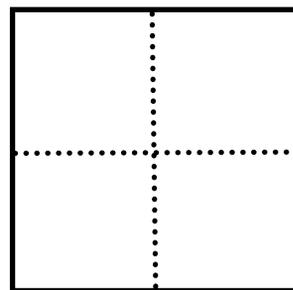
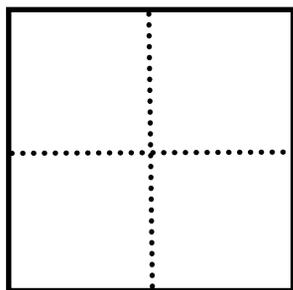
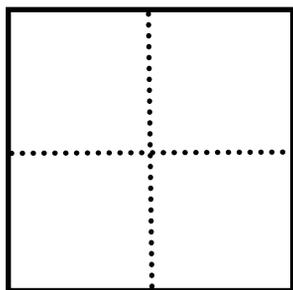
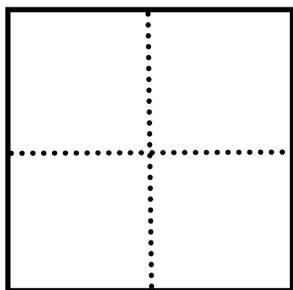
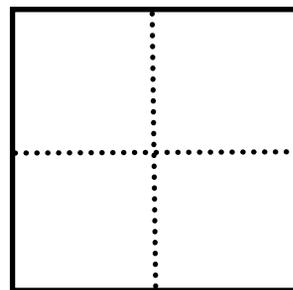
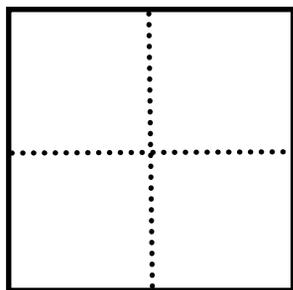
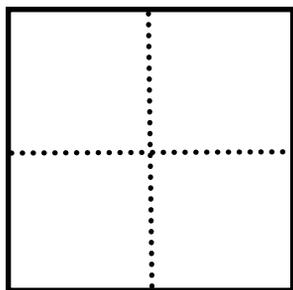
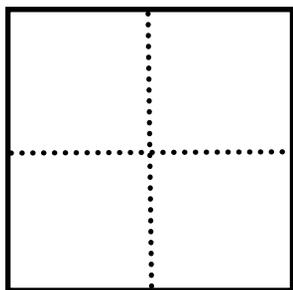
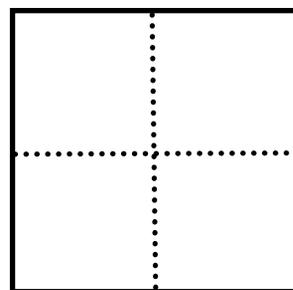
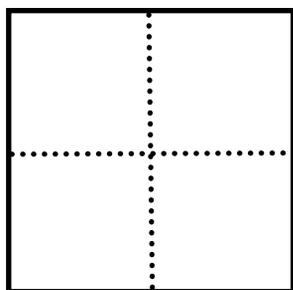
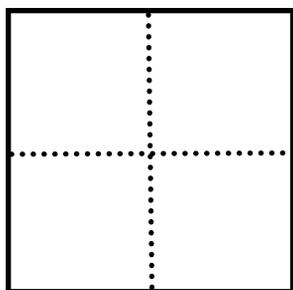
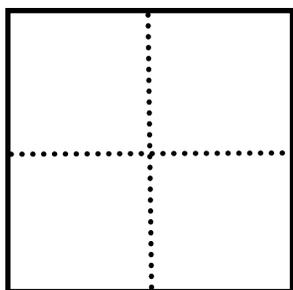
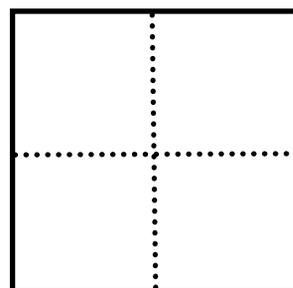
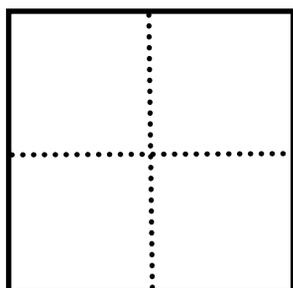
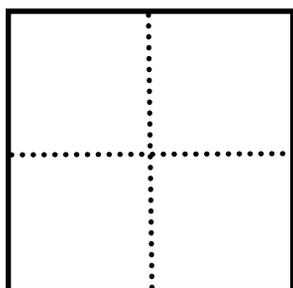
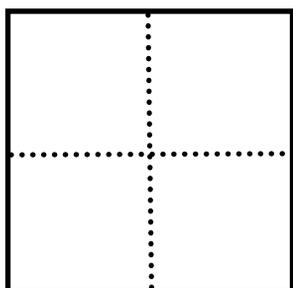
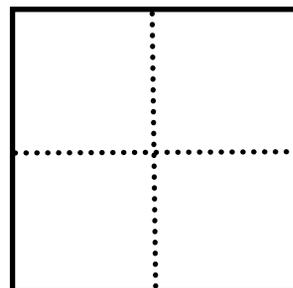
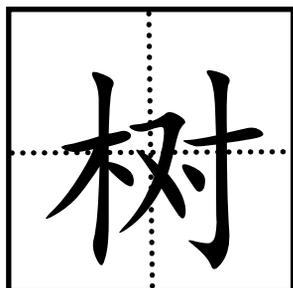
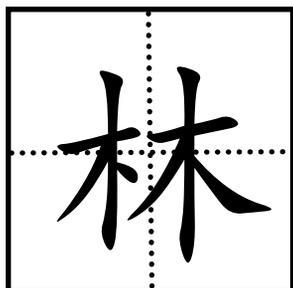
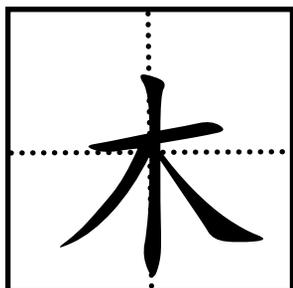
There are some other rules when a character is symmetrical and strokes that cut across other strokes but you can learn these as you learn the different characters.

exercise

Use the practice sheets (on the following pages) to write some Chinese characters.

Character practice grid

Character grids help beginners form the character correctly. Each Chinese character forms a square shape. Notice that characters which have been formed from two characters still fit into one square shape. For example, 木 radical for tree meaning wood, is part of 林 meaning forest and 树 meaning tree and all characters form the same square shape.



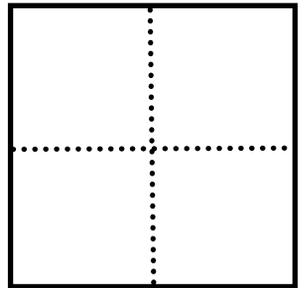
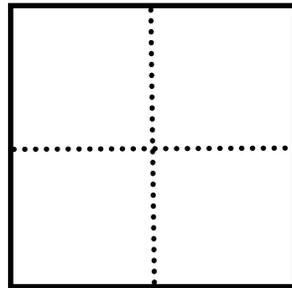
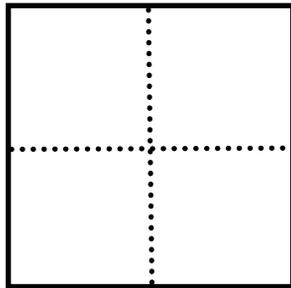
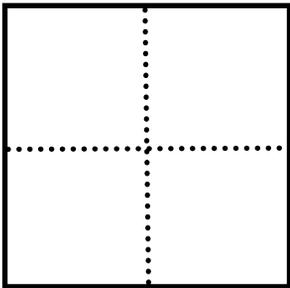
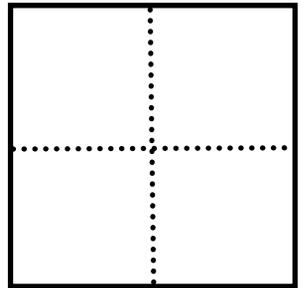
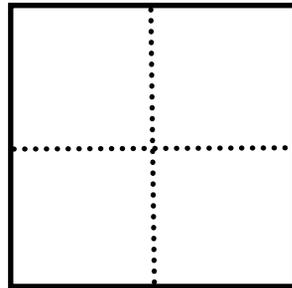
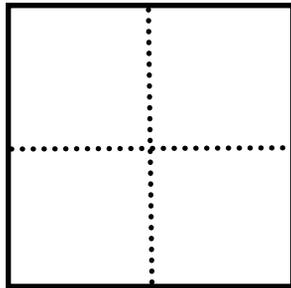
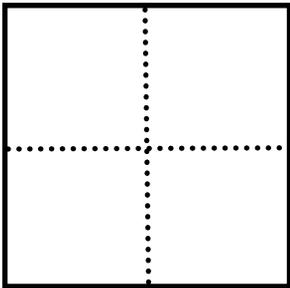
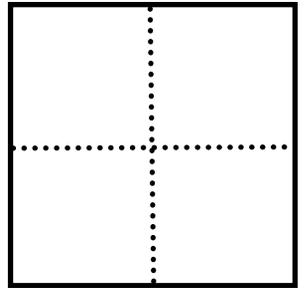
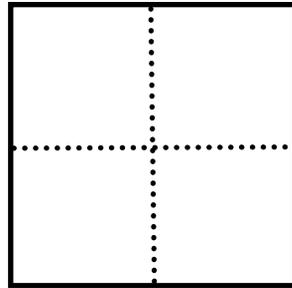
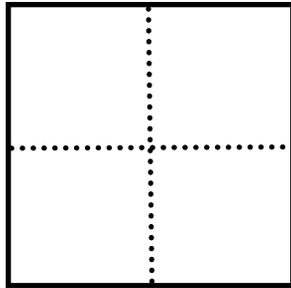
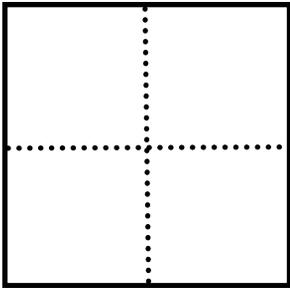
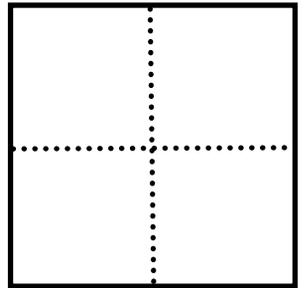
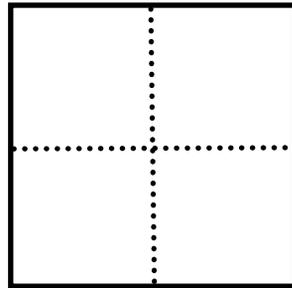
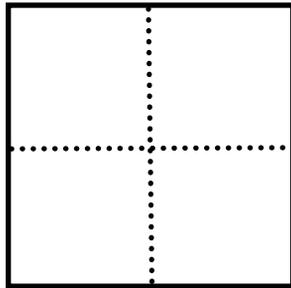
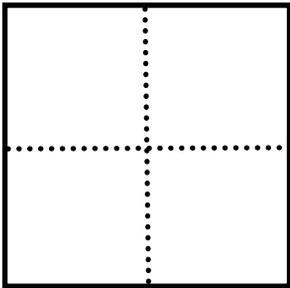
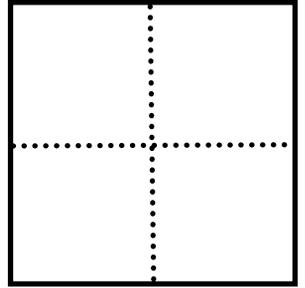
Character practice grid

Giant panda dà xióng māo is three characters and shown in the first three boxes.
Try to follow the stroke order rules.

大

熊

猫



Pandas and much more!



dà xióng māo
大熊猫



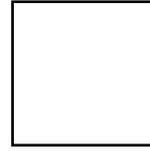
xiǎo xióng māo
小熊猫

exercise

1. What does the Chinese name for the giant panda literally mean?
2. What does the Chinese name for the red panda literally mean?
3. Write the characters for big and small.



dà



xiǎo

activity

Download the current China habitat map and try to identify the different habitats in China. Look closely to see the current distribution of giant pandas. Download the historic China habitat map to see where giant pandas used to live. The main threat to giant pandas has been habitat loss.



Habitats of China



desert	shā mò	沙漠
mountain	shān mài	山脉
mixed forest	hùn jiāo lín	混交林
rainforest	yǔ lín	雨林
grasslands	cǎo yuán	草原
river	hé liú	河流

exercise

Looking at the translations above, work out the meaning of

shān lín

山林

This is the habitat that the giant pandas currently live in.

activity

Play the online 'Chinese habitats with matching characters' game. To find out about some other Chinese animals and how they are adapted to their habitats, play the online 'China's animals and habitats' game.

Animal names in 'Let's count the animals!'

English	Pinyin	Literal translation	Chinese
giant panda	dà xióng māo	<i>big bear cat</i>	大熊猫
red panda	xiǎo xióng māo	<i>small bear cat</i>	小熊猫
tiger	lǎo hǔ	<i>old tiger</i>	老虎
gibbon	cháng bì yuán	<i>long arm ape</i>	长臂猿
pika	shǔ tù	<i>mouse rabbit</i>	鼠兔
elephant	dà xiàng	<i>big elephant</i>	大象
Bactrian camel	shuāng fēng tuó	<i>double peak camel</i>	双峰驼
otter	shuǐ tǎ	<i>water otter</i>	水獭
bharal	yán yáng	<i>cliff sheep</i>	岩羊
takin	líng niú	<i>antelope ox</i>	羚牛



Explore beyondthepanda.org.uk website to find lots more information on giant pandas, other Chinese wildlife, Chinese culture and the Mandarin language.

Definitions

Pinyin

Pinyin is the name of the system we can use to spell out the sounds of the Chinese characters. Tone marks are written with the pinyin to show which tone to use. It is important to note that the sounds still have to be learnt as the pinyin words are not pronounced the same as English.

Tone

Mandarin has 4 tones and one neutral (toneless) tone. The tone used determines the meaning of the word.

For example:

mā means mother;

妈

má means hemp;

麻

(hemp is a fibre used to make rope)

mǎ means horse;

马

mà means to scold

骂

ma denotes a question.

吗

Radical

A Chinese radical is part of a Chinese character and is how the character would be found in a traditional Chinese dictionary. The radical usually relates to the meaning of the character. Some radicals are useful to know and recognise.

Useful Greetings and Expressions

hello	nǐ hǎo	你好
thanks	xièxie	谢谢
you are welcome	bù kè qi	不客气
sorry (excuse me)	duìbuqǐ	对不起
that's all right (it's OK)	méi guānxi	没关系
goodbye	zàijiàn	再见

Notes

Beyond the Panda 熊猫后续



Beyond the Panda 熊猫后续

The RZSS Beyond the Panda educational programme is designed for cross curricular learning where students investigate and discover more about China, its culture, language, geography, giant pandas and other Chinese wildlife.



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