

Overview of Chinese Linguistic Characteristics

Chinese Name

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Population:

1.5 Billion (2010 est.)

total area:

9,596,960 sq km

land area:

9,326,410 sq km

comparative area:

slightly larger than the U.S.



Map of China

Locations of provinces,
autonomous regions
and municipalities.



Chinese Characters History

- The Chinese language has existed for probably 5,000 years or more.
- Original writing system was pictographic, similar to the Egyptian hieroglyphs
- Since 1958, the PRC mandated a new simplification of Chinese characters. Taiwan still uses the traditional/older system.

Traditional Chinese:

學 漢 餐

Simplified Chinese :

学 汉 餐 **(since 1958)**

Japanese:

学 漢 食

Japanese/Chinese/Korean differences

Languages

今にあ

A.Chinese, Korean, Japanese

B.Chinese, Japanese, Korean

C.Japanese, Chinese, Korean

D.Japanese, Korean, Chinese

녕하세오

你好

Picture and Chinese

- <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gr-9RXp1kzs&playnext=1&list=PL02BA89A04098B884>

Activity: Chinese Websites

- www.baidu.com
- www.56.com
- www.sina.com
- <http://www.cultural-china.com/>

Pin-yin

- **Pin-yin is attempt at teaching Chinese pronunciation to native/non-native speakers.**

A Chinese syllable is composed of
an initial and final.

L ao

initial final

Z i

initial

final

Give Tones

- **Each syllable has a tone or movement of its pitch which is important to the meaning of the word.**
- **In Chinese an incorrect intonation of a single word can completely change its meaning.**

mā má mǎ mà

tāng táng tǎng tàng

wān wán wǎn wàn

Activities

<http://www.mdbg.net/chindict/chindict.php> (Typing Tones)

Please listen to me and mark the mark tones

Useful Expression

1. ní hǎo (Hello)

你好

2. Hén hǎo (very good)

很好

3. Xiè xiè (Thanks)

谢谢

4. Zài Jiàn! (Bye-bye)

再见

5. wǒ shì měi guó rén (I am an American)

我是美国人

Typing Chinese

- www.typingchinese.com/main.htm
- www.nciku.com

1. ní hǎo (Hello)

你 好

2. Hén hǎo (very good)

很 好

再见!



Zài Jiàn!
(Bye)