中文量词

Chinese Measure Words

27 essential classifiers · pinyin · example sentences

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个

gè HSK 1 The universal classifier

people

三个人 sān gè rén
three people

一个苹果 yī gè píng guǒ
one apple

Tip: When in doubt, use 个! It's the safest choice and native speakers will understand you.

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张

zhāng HSK 2 Classifier for flat, thin objects: paper, tickets, tables, photos, faces.

writing

一张纸 yī zhāng zhǐ
one piece of paper

两张票 liǎng zhāng piào
two tickets

Tip: Flat and thin? 张 it is! Paper, tickets, tables, even faces use 张.

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间

jiān HSK 2 Classifier for rooms and spaces.

buildings

一间房 yī jiān fáng
one room

两间卧室 liǎng jiān wò shì
two bedrooms

Tip: 间 is for rooms. Any enclosed space you can enter = 间.

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位

wèi HSK 3 Polite/formal classifier for people, used to show respect to guests, teachers, elders.

people

两位老师 liǎng wèi lǎo shī
two teachers

一位客人 yī wèi kè rén
one guest

Tip: 位 shows respect. Use it for teachers, guests, and professionals — never for yourself.

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只

zhī HSK 2 Classifier for small animals, birds, and one of a pair

animals

一只猫 yī zhī māo
one cat

两只鸟 liǎng zhī niǎo
two birds

Tip: 只 is your go-to for small animals. Think of it as 'one critter'.

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本

běn HSK 1 Classifier for books, notebooks, magazines, and other bound publications.

writing

三本书 sān běn shū
three books

一本词典 yī běn cí diǎn
one dictionary

Tip: 本 is for anything bound like a book. Book = 本!

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条

tiáo HSK 2 Classifier for long, thin things — fish, snakes, roads, and some abstract items like news.

animals

一条鱼 yī tiáo yú
one fish

一条路 yī tiáo lù
one road

Tip: If it's long and thin — fish, road, river, pants — 条 is your word!

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名

míng HSK 3 Formal classifier for people in a specific role or profession, often used in written…

people

一名医生 yī míng yī shēng
one doctor

三名学生 sān míng xué shēng
three students

Tip: 名 is formal and often used in news or official contexts. Think of it as 'one named person'.

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杯

bēi HSK 1 Classifier for cup-shaped containers and beverages.

food

一杯咖啡 yī bēi kā fēi
one cup of coffee

两杯水 liǎng bēi shuǐ
two cups of water

Tip: 杯 is simple — it's for anything in a cup or glass. Cheers!

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口

kǒu HSK 2 Classifier for family members (counting people in a household) and things spoken.

people

三口人 sān kǒu rén
three family members (household size)

五口家 wǔ kǒu jiā
a five-person household

Tip: Almost exclusively used for counting family members (几口人?) or in idioms like 一口流利 (fluent). Super high frequency in daily life!

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棵

kē HSK 3 Classifier for plants (trees, flowers, grass) — those with roots.

nature

一棵树 yī kē shù
one tree

两棵草 liǎng kē cǎo
two blades of grass

Tip: Only for plants that grow from roots. Don't use for cut flowers (use 朵 for those).

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把

bǎ HSK 3 Classifier for things with a handle: chairs, umbrellas, keys, knives, fans.

tools

一把椅子 yī bǎ yǐ zi
one chair

一把伞 yī bǎ sǎn
one umbrella

Tip: 把 is for things with handles! Chair, umbrella, key, knife — they all have grips.

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头

tóu HSK 2 Classifier for large animals, especially livestock like cattle, pigs, and elephants.

animals

一头牛 yī tóu niú
one cow

三头猪 sān tóu zhū
three pigs

Tip: 头 is for big animals you'd see on a farm. Big animal = 头!

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朵

duǒ HSK 4 Classifier for flowers, clouds, and anything with a blossom-like shape.

nature

一朵花 yī duǒ huā
one flower

一朵云 yī duǒ yún
one cloud

Tip: One of the most visually intuitive classifiers — anything that 'blooms' or has a fluffy shape uses 朵.

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双

shuāng HSK 2 Classifier for pairs of things: shoes, socks, chopsticks, hands.

clothing

一双鞋 yī shuāng xié
one pair of shoes

一双筷子 yī shuāng kuài zi
one pair of chopsticks

Tip: 双 means 'pair'. Two things that go together = 双!

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次

cì HSK 3 Classifier for occurrences, times, or frequency of actions.

abstract

去一次 qù yī cì
go once

第一次 dì yī cì
the first time

Tip: 次 is for how many times something happens. 'I've been there 3 times' = 三次.

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回

huí HSK 3 Classifier for rounds, times, or occasions (performances, games, meals).

abstract

这是第一回。 zhè shì dì yī huí
This is the first round/time.

这部电影我看了两回。 zhè bù diàn yǐng wǒ kàn le liǎng huí
I've watched this movie twice (two rounds).

Tip: 回 counts rounds/occasions, common in traditional arts (一出戏演了几回). 次 is the general 'times.' 遍 is one complete pass through an action. (遍/次/回 — see comparison.)

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场

chǎng HSK 3 Classifier for events, activities, sessions, and natural phenomena of some duration.

abstract

一场比赛 yī chǎng bǐ sài
one game/match

一场雨 yī chǎng yǔ
one rain (session)

Tip: 场 is for events that have a beginning and end — like a 'session' of something. A rain shower, a dream, a game.

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遍

biàn HSK 3 Classifier for actions done from beginning to end (complete iterations).

abstract

读一遍 dú yī biàn
read (it) through once

再看一遍 zài kàn yī biàn
watch it one more time

Tip: Use 遍 when an action is completed from start to finish. One 遍 = one full cycle.

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块

kuài HSK 2 Classifier for pieces, chunks, or slices of solid things

food

一块蛋糕 yī kuài dàn gāo
one piece of cake

两块手表 liǎng kuài shǒu biǎo
two watches

Tip: 块 is for chunks and pieces. Also slang for yuan (money): 十块 = 10 yuan.

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些

xiē HSK 5 Indefinite classifier meaning 'some' or 'a few' — indicates a small, unspecified quantity.

abstract

一些书 yī xiē shū
some books

一些人 yī xiē rén
some people

Tip: The closest Chinese equivalent to the English word 'some'. Very commonly used in daily speech!

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根

gēn HSK 4 Classifier for long, thin, rigid objects: sticks, ropes, noodles, hair.

tools

一根筷子 yī gēn kuài zi
one chopstick

一根绳子 yī gēn shéng zi
one rope

Tip: 根 is for long, thin, and rigid things. Think of roots (根) — long and thin!

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封

fēng HSK 4 Classifier for letters, emails, and sealed documents.

writing

一封信 yī fēng xìn
one letter

两封邮件 liǎng fēng yóu jiàn
two emails

Tip: Specifically for sealed/written correspondence. Think 'an envelope of'.

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篇

piān HSK 4 Classifier for essays, articles, writings, and compositions.

writing

一篇文章 yī piān wén zhāng
one article

一篇作文 yī piān zuò wén
one essay

Tip: For written compositions longer than a sentence. Essays, articles, reports, stories.

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粒

lì HSK 5 Classifier for tiny grains (rice, seeds, sand, pills).

other

一粒米。 yí lì mǐ
a grain of rice.

三粒药。 sān lì yào
three pills.

Tip: 粒 is for the tiniest grains. 颗 is for slightly bigger round things. 滴 is for liquid drops. (颗/粒/滴 — see comparison.)

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幅

fú HSK 5 Classifier for paintings, pictures, maps, and curtains.

other

一幅画 yī fú huà
one painting

一幅地图 yī fú dì tú
one map

Tip: 幅 is for flat artwork and images. Paintings, maps, photos — think 'one canvas'.

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套

tào HSK 3 Classifier for sets of things: suit, furniture, system, method.

clothing

一套衣服 yī tào yī fú
one set of clothes

一套房子 yī tào fáng zi
one apartment

Tip: 套 is for sets. Anything that comes as a complete set — suit, apartment, system — uses 套.

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