A herd of geese, or a flock? A stick of gum, or a tablet? A jug of wine, or a glass?

Just as English nouns often need classifiers, so do Chinese nouns require the correct “measure word.” Ready access to the hundreds of varying measure words is key to speaking and writing polished Chinese, but even advanced students sometimes struggle to find the right one for a particular noun or context.

In your hands is the essential resource for every student concerned with accurate and fluent usage: the Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary. This new and unprecedented reference work is the only dictionary that allows you to search entries in three different ways: by measure word, by English noun, and by Chinese noun. Entries comprise the most frequently used measure words and nouns, including vocabulary from the Integrated Chinese textbook series.

This essential guide features:

↑ Section 1: Chinese measure words, arranged alphabetically (by pinyin), with usage notes
↑ Section 2: English nouns, arranged alphabetically, with corresponding measure words
↑ Section 3: Chinese nouns, arranged alphabetically (by pinyin), with corresponding measure words

Accessible and one-of-a-kind, the Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary is an indispensable reference for all students of modern Chinese.

The Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary is designed precisely to address the needs of a wide spectrum of Chinese language learners. While other measure word dictionaries provide only a list of measure words with English translation and usage examples, this one also lists commonly used nouns in both Chinese and English. Anyone who is able to use Chinese creatively will find this reference work useful.

— Dr. Alan Aimin Li, Senior Lecturer in Chinese, Dartmouth University

Compiled by Jiqing Fang and Michael Connelly

CHENG & TSUI
CHINESE MEASURE WORD DICTIONARY

A CHINESE-ENGLISH
ENGLISH-CHINESE
USAGE GUIDE

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“The Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary is designed precisely to address the needs of a wide spectrum of Chinese language learners . . . any learner who is able to use Chinese creatively will find this reference work useful.”
—Dr. Alan Aimin Li, Senior Lecturer in Chinese, Dartmouth College

THIS IS A SAMPLE FOR PREVIEW AND EVALUATION, AND IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR SOLD.

This sample includes:
Table of Contents; Preface and Introduction; and sample pages from each section

To purchase a copy of this book, please visit www.cheng-tsui.com or call 1-800-554-1963.
CHINESE MEASURE WORD DICTIONARY

A CHINESE–ENGLISH ENGLISH–CHINESE USAGE GUIDE

Compiled by Jiqing Fang and Michael Connelly

CHENG & TSUI COMPANY
Boston
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This book is in your hands because, more than twenty years ago, when Michael first took up the study of the Chinese language, his textbook introduced the word for “map” in Chapter 6, while the accompanying measure word wasn’t introduced until Chapter 22. For sixteen chapters, Michael could say “my map” or “her map” but not “a map.”

Later, we discovered that his textbook was not the only one giving inadequate attention to measure words — which is somewhat understandable, because for the new learner of Chinese there is a huge amount of new material to absorb: the tones, the strokes, the pinyin, the grammar, the tones, the sentence patterns, the unusual word order, the tones . . . Although many Chinese instructional textbooks don’t give extensive coverage to the usage of measure words, we feel they are an essential component of the language and must be mastered for a student to achieve fluency in Chinese. Imagine a visitor to an English-speaking country, a visitor who says something like: “Hello. I wish to buy two pants, one socks, a milk, and an eyeglasses.” First, you might be wondering what kind of store sells clothing, milk, and eyeglasses! But you would also be keenly aware that this visitor is not fluent in English. The absence of the measure words “pair” and “bottle” in the quoted sentence above is a red flag, and might considerably reduce the estimation in which you hold the speaker.

Learning Chinese as a second language is a true challenge. It takes a lot of time, a lot of work, and a lot of practice. There is nothing to hang the words on — you can’t tell how to pronounce a character precisely by looking at it, and you can’t sound out a word and write it down by hearing it. You might know that 小 [xiǎo] means “small” or “little,” and that 心 [xīn] means “heart,” but you still have to learn that 小心 means “be careful.” Given the tremendous amount of work it takes to even approach fluency in Chinese, it would be a shame to come off like the person quoted above by using the generic 个 [gè] — or even worse, nothing at all — when enumerating nouns that require more specific measure words. This book was written primarily to help you avoid such a dreadful fate.

In addition, by sitting down and reading this book, the student of Chinese can catch a glimpse into the Chinese mindset. For instance, if one were to guess, one might suppose there is a shared measure word to accompany the nouns “chair,” “stool,” and “sofa” — but there is not. The chair alone takes the measure word 把 [bā], while stools and sofas take a different measure word, 张 [zhāng]. Conversely, it might cause the new student some surprise to learn that there is a common measure word for the nouns “worm,” “snake,” and “river.” How any culture groups things together provides a sideways look into the collective mind of that culture — a different sort of sociocultural insight than the more common examinations of architecture, culinary patterns, and structures of family and work. For most students of foreign cultures, this kind of linguistic anthropology would be extremely difficult, if not entirely impossible, without years of concentrated study. The Chinese, however, offer a fairly
easy way to make such an examination through the acquisition of these classifying concepts. So although Chinese measure words may for the novice learner be a cause of muttering and teeth grinding, the silver lining is that they also provide a wonderful opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the native speakers with whom dialogue and banter await.

While the *Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary* grew out of Michael’s frustrations as a beginning Chinese language student, it came into being only with the diligent and time-consuming work of the book’s Chinese co-author, Jiqing Fang. Working together on this dictionary has been a stimulating learning experience. We offer sincere thanks to our many friends and teachers who joined us in pursuit of the right measure word for every occasion. Thanks also to those reviewers of this book who offered many helpful comments and suggestions.

We would like to add special thanks to our keen-eyed, high-spirited, thoughtful and encouraging editor, Eleise Jones. Her considerable efforts in connection with this book have helped to make the project run far more smoothly than we could have ever expected, and her guidance and suggestions have helped to make the book better than we could have managed on our own. She was a great pleasure to work with, and we offer Eleise a full measure of gratitude.

It is entirely fitting that we collaborated on this project, as it is partly due to our friendship dating back to our days at the University of Michigan graduate program in journalism that Michael learned Chinese in the first place and was able to go to China for the first time. Now, Beijing is what the entire Connelly family calls a second home, 7,000 miles from the tranquility of Maine. We hope that despite the great differences between our home cities and our home cultures, the dialogue and banter between us will continue to ebb and flow, rise, and fall, in a marvelous language of new tones, new sounds, new patterns — a language that itself helps to bring us closer together.

Jiqing Fang  
March 2008  
Beijing, P.R.C.

Michael Connelly  
March 2008  
Brunswick, Maine, U.S.A.
Introduction

Why Do You Need This Book?

In Chinese, knowledge of measure words is indispensable: nearly every noun takes a measure word. To a native English speaker who is learning Chinese, the measure words associated with Chinese nouns are among the most difficult grammatical constructs to grasp. This is both because much memorization is involved, and because English speakers are unaccustomed to thinking about measure words. Certainly, measure words do exist in English, but the majority of English nouns do not need such a classifier — we speak of a pen, a house, a car, and a bed. These kinds of nouns can be numbered without any collective noun — two pens, three houses, four cars, eight beds — and account for the vast majority of English nouns. So let us consider three categories of measure words in English; these concepts will help motivate your study of measure words in Chinese.

Collective Nouns

The first category of measure words in English are collective nouns: a murder of crows, a pride of lions, a herd of cows, a flock of geese, a litter of kittens. Some of these collectives are quite common, and others so obscure as to be nearly archaic. They are all used when referring to a group without specifying any number. You could get away without knowing most of these words, but your speech would sound rather generic: “A bunch of cows were sitting in the field next to a bunch of ducks.” Similarly, in Chinese, using a generic measure word (such as 个 [gē] or 些 [xiē]) in front of every noun works for a two-year-old, but after that a two-year-old is what you will sound like.

Container Measure Words

The second category of measure words in English are container measures: a box of tissues, a bottle of wine, a cup of coffee, a package of mints. Some of these are unspecific in terms of an exact amount. For example, “a bottle of wine” may refer to a liter or a gallon. These quantifying measure words are much more specific than collectives and help make your speech in English more precise. Chinese has these kinds of measure words as well, such as 沓 [yī dá], a sheaf of, 一[堆 [yī duī], a heap of], 一捆 [yī kǔn, a bundle/bale of], 一批 [yī pī, a batch of]. This is one of the reasons why more than one measure word may be used with a given noun. We need to distinguish between 一杯啤酒 [yī bēi píjiǔ, a glass of beer] and 一瓶啤酒 [yī píng píjiǔ, a bottle of beer]. Sections II and III of this book provide lists of nouns (arranged alphabetically by pinyin or English) with all the common measure words that can be used with them. The winning noun is 人 [rén, person], which has at least eight
measure words associated with it. 人 can be used with 口 [kǒu, mouth: a person who is or will be eating], 行 [háng, row: a row of people], 排 [pái, line: a line of people], 堆 [duī, heap: a large crowd of people], 个 [gè, common measure word: a person], 位 [wèi, polite measure word: a respected person], 家 [jiā, family: a family], and 伙 [huò, group: a group of people].

**Single Unit Nouns**

The third category of measure words in English are nouns that, like Chinese nouns, require measure words even in single units: a loaf of bread, a slice of bread, a pair of pants, a grain of sand, a pair of eyeglasses, a piece of paper. Unlike the use of measure words as collective nouns, these measure words are used even when speaking of a specific number of these things; and unlike the use of measure words as container words, these words do not distinguish between “a pair of pants” and a single “pant.” (What is “a pant” anyway?) We are using the measure word because it is simply wrong not to use the word. While fewer in number in English than in Chinese, these types of measure words are a mark of fluency. To go into a store and ask for “three pants” or “two breads” is a greater mark of unfamiliarity with English rules than is the mangling of the subjunctive or an error in subject/verb agreement. While the meaning of “a pant” may be clear, the form is clearly inelegant. This example should help you understand how you would sound to a native Chinese speaker if you omit the measure word completely.

**Who Cares About Measure Words Anyway?**

Because measure words are mandatory in Chinese, not knowing which measure word to use becomes a much larger pitfall for those coming to the language as an outsider, for we have no ear to rely on, no natural fluency to fall back upon. Each noun has one or more measure words that must be used when speaking in numerical terms. One can say in Chinese “those pandas” or “my apple” without a measure word, but to say “a panda” or “an apple” or to attach a number greater than one to any noun, the correct measure word must be used.

There are additional reasons for studying measure words beyond trying to avoid sounding uneducated. (Which is not to discount the value of this motivation. It is a powerful one for most serious language students.) Studying Chinese measure words can also give us important insights into the Chinese perspective. While there are many measure words in Chinese, most measure words are used for a set of nouns. By considering what nouns are linked together through a common measure word, we glean evidence of some ancient Chinese thought.

Take the measure word for snake: 条 [tiáo]. What does it refer to? Slippery things? Slimy things? (Yes, we know snakes aren’t slimy, but many people think of them that way!) Dangerous things? Fast things? Things that lay eggs? If you search this dictionary in the section arranged by measure words, you will find that 条 is also the measure word for worms, which might lead you to think that small, wiggly animals are the common conceptual link. But wait: the same measure word, 条, also is connected with a river — which is not an
an animal of any kind. Suddenly, the similarity becomes clear, and the common element of these three wildly diverse things — a sightless invertebrate, an advanced reptile, and a moving body of water — leaps into focus, and we see through Chinese eyes that it is the irregular and undulating shape that is of primary significance. So when we translate 一条蛇 [yī tiáo shé] as “a snake,” we could be thinking somewhat more fancifully and no less accurately of “an undulating serpent.”

Just as it is interesting to think about which nouns are categorized together, it is equally insightful to consider how similar nouns are differentiated by taking on different measure words. Consider the noun 马 [mǎ, horse]. Coming from an English-speaking, Western perspective, one might expect that if the Chinese employ a special measure word for horse, that same measure word would be used for two other horse-like animals: the donkey and the mule. But no, the latter two animals require a different measure word! Clearly, the distinction must have been very important to the ancient Chinese speakers at the time when language became codified.

Finally, consider that some nouns take on more than one measure word in order to emphasize different aspects of the noun. For example, return to the measure words attached to 人 [rén, person]. One can say 一个人 [yī gè rén], 一口人 [yī kǒu rén], and 一位人 [yī wèi rén]. These measure words all refer to a person, even the same person, but are used in different situations to reflect different aspects of a complex concept. 一个人 is the most ordinary measure word, literally meaning one unit of person. 一口人 is one mouth of a person, often used when counting the number of mouths (people) that are to be fed in a family. 一位人 is a more respectful or honorific way to refer to a person. Just as we gain insight from the set of nouns that share a measure word, we gain understanding of the nuances of a noun from the choice of measure words.

How to Use This Dictionary

The Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary will help you conquer the measure word mountain. We have brought together more than 150 of the most frequently used Chinese measure words and a set of the most common nouns. Our selection of measure words is based on the frequency of their appearance in modern and contemporary Chinese publications — both in print and electronic form — as well as a number of authoritative reference books and dictionaries, including the Xinhua Dictionary and the Chinese–English Dictionary (published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University Press). We have paired these measure words with nouns that appear in today’s popular introductory Chinese language textbooks — including all nouns featured in the second edition of the Integrated Chinese series — and nouns that will especially highlight the many nuances of Chinese measure words.

Section I contains the most frequently used Chinese measure words, with exemplary Chinese nouns and phrases they accompany. Usage is explained briefly in English terms. For those nouns that take on more than one measure word, this first section helps to distinguish those measure words that have very slight differences between them. By reading the usage
notes and studying the groups of nouns that are associated with a particular measure word, you will begin to recognize common factors and nuances of each measure word.

Section II provides a quick reference to frequently used English nouns with the aim of helping the reader determine the correct Chinese translation and corresponding measure words. This arrangement is obviously most helpful for English-speaking Chinese learners who are trying to find the exact measure word for a Chinese noun expressed in English. It also includes some English measure words and their Chinese equivalents.

Section III is just the opposite, including Chinese nouns followed by corresponding measure words. All sections are organized by the Chinese pinyin pronunciation system, and proper nouns are listed as they are most commonly spelled (e.g. Peking Opera, Moutai).

This dictionary is meant to be used as a companion to any Chinese instructional textbook and as a reference guide. You can look up nouns in Chinese or in English and find all the measure words connected with a specific noun. As mentioned above, you can also look up the measure word and find the group of nouns that use that particular measure word. Once you understand the characteristic that all flat things (like a piece of paper and a ticket) share, you might be able to guess that the flat bread you wish to buy takes on the same measure word.

While Chinese measure words are comprised mostly of nominal measure words, there exist a few verbal measure words as well. Whereas a nominal measure word appears before a noun (一条领带, yì tiáo língdài, a tie), a verbal measure word appears after a verb to indicate the frequency of the action, meaning once, twice, or a number of times. (我去过一趟能, Wǒ qùguò yītàng Běijīng, I have been to Beijing once before.) In the first section of measure words, we have included a selection of verbal measure words, which are indicated with the abbreviation vmw.

Finally, the appendix provides a list of the most common Chinese military and organizational unitary terms and their English equivalents. These will also be of use to the diligent student of Chinese.

A note on pronunciation: The use of the retroflex suffix 儿 (-r) in conversation is quite common in Beijing and many other parts of north and northeast China. We have made a parenthetical note of such uses of the 儿 suffix, and these can be found in the main entry of each relevant measure word (Section I) or Chinese noun (Section III).

Linking nouns and measure words together is worth your effort. Since measure words are in constant and frequent use, they are an essential — not peripheral — part of daily Chinese communication. Without a sure command of Chinese measure words, the foreign student of Chinese is reduced to the status of an inarticulate outsider. It takes brains and hard work to learn Chinese, so why should you settle for sounding as though you haven’t made a large investment of time and effort? By fully incorporating the correct measure words into your Chinese communication, you will signal that you are serious about your study of the Chinese language, and that you respect the Chinese people and culture.
I. Frequently Used Chinese Measure Words with Example Nouns and Usage Notes

一. 汉语常用量词 名词搭配举例及用法注释

Arranged alphabetically by Chinese measure word, including English translations
一把 [yī bā] an object with a handle or a thing that can be held by hand; a handful of

～扳子 [bānzi] a wrench
～菠菜 [bócài] a bundle of spinach
～菜刀 [càidāo] a cooking knife, vegetable knife or cleaver
～叉子 [chāzi] a fork
～尺子 [chǐzi] a ruler
～锄头 [chútóu] a hoe
～锤子 [chuízi] a hammer
～墩布 [dūnbù] a mop
～二胡 [èrhu] an erhu—a two-stringed bowed Chinese musical instrument
～粉丝 [fēnsī] a bundle of dried vermicelli made of mung bean flour
～斧子 [fúzi] an axe
～改锥 [gǎizhuī] a screwdriver
～挂面 [guàmiàn] a bundle of dried (wheat) noodles
～吉他 [jítá] a guitar
～剪刀 [jiǎndāo] a pair of scissors
～锯 [jù] a saw
～卷尺 [juàncǐ] a tape measure
～筷子 [kuǎizi] a bundle of chopsticks
～螺丝刀 [luósīdāo] a screwdriver
～钳子 [qiánzi] a pair of piers
～沙子 [shāzi] a handful of sand
～手杖 [shǒuzhàng] a walking stick, cane
～梳子 [shūzi] a comb
～刷子 [shuāzi] a brush
～水果刀 [shuiguǒdāo] a fruit knife
～提琴 [tíqín] a violin
～笤帚 [tiáozhǒu] a broom
～香蕉 [xiāngjiāo] a bunch of bananas
～葱 [xiāocōng] a bundle of spring onions

～小刀 [xiǎodāo] a knife
～钥匙 [yàoshi] a key
～椅子 [yīzi] a chair
～雨伞 [yǔsăn] an umbrella

帮我～，好吗? [Bāng wǒ～，hào ma?]  vmw. Give me a hand, okay?
再玩～扑克。[Zài wán～ pòkè.] vmw. Let’s play another game of poker.

～瓣(儿) [yī bàn(r)] a clove of garlic; section of citrus fruits
～橘子 [júzi] a section of an orange
～蒜 [suàn] a clove of garlic
～柚子 [yōuzi] a section of a grapefruit

～歹徒 [dǎitú] a band of gangsters or thugs
～顾客 [gùkè] a group of customers
～客人 [kèrén] a group of guests
～旅游者 [lǚyóuzhě] a group of tourists
～强盗 [qiángdào] a band of robbers
～士兵 [shībīng] a group of soldiers

【Note】一帮 [yī bāng]，一拨 [yī bō]，一伙 [yī huǒ]，一批 [yī pí]，和一群 [yī qún] can be used interchangeably when referring to a group of people, though a group [yī qún] is more formal than the others. 一帮 [yī bāng] and 一伙 [yī huǒ] usually impart a derogatory connotation, for example 一帮强盗 [yī bāng qiángdào, a gang of robbers]; 一伙歹徒 [yī huǒ dǎitú, a gang of scoundrels]. 一拨 [yī bō] and 一批 [yī pí] are used when referring to a group of people who are taking part in an activity or are on the move, for example 公司又来了一拨 / 一批新雇员. [Gōngsī yòu lái le yī bō/yī pí xīn gùyuán.]
Another group of new recruits has come to the company. Of these, only 一批 [yī bō], 一批 [yī pī], and 一群 [yī qún] can be used to refer to non-human objects. 一群 [yī qún] and 一拨 [yī bō] are used to refer to animals and other non-human, live organisms, whereas only 一批 [yī pī] is used for non-living things. For example: 河里又来了一群鱼 / 一拨鱼。[Héli yòu láile yī qún yú/yī bō yú. River comes another school of fish.] 图书馆来了一批新书。[Túshūguǎn láile yī pī xīnshū. The library has acquired a batch of new books.]

一包 [yī bāo] a bag, sack, or pack of; something wrapped up

~茶叶 [cháye] a package of tea leaves
~花生米 [huāshēngmǐ] a bag of peanuts
~香烟 [xiāngyān] a pack of cigarettes
~衣物 [yī wù] a parcel of clothing
~中药 [zhōngyào] a package of Chinese herbal medicine

一杯 [yī bēi] a cup or glass of

~白开水 [bái kāishuǐ] a glass of boiled water
~茶 [chá] a cup or glass of tea
~咖啡 [kāfēi] a cup of coffee
~茅台 [máotái] a glass of Moutai
~葡萄酒 [pútaojīu] a glass of wine

一本 [yī běn] a book, volume, copy

~毕业证书 [bìzhèngshū] a bound diploma
~《读者文摘》 [dúzhè wénzhāi] a copy of Reader's Digest
~护照 [hùzhào] a passport

～集邮册 [jíyóucè] a stamp album
～教科书 [jiàokēshū] a textbook
～练习本 [liànxíběn] an exercise book for practicing school lessons
～书 [shū] a book
～说明书 [shuōmíngshū] an instruction manual
～小册子 [xiǎocèzi] a brochure
～小说 [xiǎoshuō] a novel
～影集 [yǐngjí] a photo album
～油画集 [yóuhuàjí] a book of oil painting reproductions
～杂志 [zázhì] a magazine
～支票 [zhīpiào] a checkbook

一把 [yī bǐ] an amount of money

～贷款 [dàikuǎn] a loan, mortgage
～糊涂账 [hútúzhuàng] a chaotic account; a messy account
～巨款 [jùkuǎn] a great amount of money
～欠款 [qiànkuǎn] a debt
～收入 [shōuruì] an income
～好字 [hǎozi] vmw. beautiful handwriting; 他写～好字。[tā xiě～hǎozi] His handwriting is beautiful.

再～ [zàilái ~] vmw. one more time
这本书, 我读了～。[Zhèběn shū wǒ dúle ~.] vmw. I have read the book once.

【Note】～一遍 [yī biàn] and 一次 [yī cì] both mean one time or once and can be used interchangeably; however, ～一遍 [yī biàn] emphasizes the course of an action from beginning to end.

一遍 [yī biàn] one time, once

再～ [zàilái ~] vmw. one more time
## II. English Nouns with Corresponding Chinese Measure Words

Arranged alphabetically by English noun, including Chinese translations

(For more details on choosing the right measure word, see usage notes in Section I: Frequently Used Chinese Measure Words.)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>English Nouns</th>
<th>Chinese Characters</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>abacus</td>
<td>一个算盘 [yī ge suàn pán] an abacus</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>abode</td>
<td>一处住所 [yī chù zhù suǒ] an abode</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accident</td>
<td>一起事故 [yī qǐ shì gu] an accident</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一桩事故 [yī zhuāng shì gu] an accident</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>account</td>
<td>一笔糊涂账 [yī bǐ hú tuó zhàng] a messy account</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一笔账 [yī bǐ zhàng] an account</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>achievement</td>
<td>一个成绩 [yī ge chéng jì] an achievement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一项成绩 [yī xiàng chéng jì] an achievement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>acrobatic show</td>
<td>一场杂技 [yī chǎng zá jì] an acrobatic show</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>activity</td>
<td>一项活动 [yī xiàng huò dònɡ] an activity</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一阵紧张 [yī zhèn jīnzhāng] a spell of busy activity</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>activity center</td>
<td>一处活动中心 [yī chù huò dònɡ zhōng xīn] an activity center</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>advice</td>
<td>一席劝告 [yī xí quàn gào] a piece of advice</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>address</td>
<td>一个地址 [yī ge dì zhī] an address</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>advertisement</td>
<td>一段广告 [yī duàn guǎng gào] a television ad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一篇广告 [yī piān guǎng gào] a printed ad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一页广告 [yī yè guǎng gào] a page of advertising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>afternoon</td>
<td>一个下午 [yī ge xià wù] an afternoon</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>agreement</td>
<td>一项协议 [yī xiànɡ xiè yì] an agreement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air</td>
<td>一些空气 [yī xī kōnɡ qì] some air</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一股暖流 [yī ɡū nuǎn liú] a current of warm air</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>aircraft carrier</td>
<td>一艘航空母舰 [yī sōu hánɡ kōnɡ mù jiàn] an aircraft carrier</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airline company</td>
<td>一家航空公司 [yī jiā hánɡ kōnɡ gōnɡ sī] an airline company</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airplane</td>
<td>一架飞机 [yī jiā fēi jī] an airplane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一种飞机 [yī zhònɡ fēi jī] a type of airplane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一堆飞机残骸 [yī duī fēi jī cán hái] a heap of wreckage of a crashed airplane</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airplane ticket</td>
<td>一沓(飞)机票 [yī dà (fēi) jiē piào] a bunch of airplane tickets</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一张飞机票 [yī zhānɡ fēi jī piào] an airplane ticket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>一张机票 [yī zhānɡ jī piào] an airplane ticket</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>airport</td>
<td>一处(飞)机场 [yī chù (fēi) jiē chǎnɡ] an airport</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Nouns</td>
<td>Chinese Pinyin</td>
<td>Translation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>alleyway</td>
<td>yī tiáo hútòng</td>
<td>an alleyway or lane</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ambulance</td>
<td>yī liàngh jìhùchē</td>
<td>an ambulance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American</td>
<td>yī gè měiguórén</td>
<td>an American</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ammunition</td>
<td>yī fā dànyāo</td>
<td>one round of ammunition</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>animal skin</td>
<td>yī zhāng pígé</td>
<td>an animal skin or hide</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>animal</td>
<td>yī quín dòngwù</td>
<td>a bunch of animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī xiē dòngwù</td>
<td>some animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī zhī dōngwù</td>
<td>an animal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī zhòng dōngwù</td>
<td>a kind of animal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī quín yěshòu</td>
<td>a pack of wild animals</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī zhōng zhēnxī dōngwù</td>
<td>a rare animal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anonymous letter</td>
<td>yī fēng nimíngxin</td>
<td>an anonymous letter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antelope</td>
<td>yī zhī língyáng</td>
<td>an antelope</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>anti-aircraft gun</td>
<td>yī jià gāoshè jīqiāng</td>
<td>an anti-aircraft gun</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>antique</td>
<td>yī jiàn wénwù</td>
<td>an antique</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apartment</td>
<td>yī duo fāngwū</td>
<td>an apartment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apartment building</td>
<td>yī duò jūmínlóu</td>
<td>an apartment building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī chuàng jūmínlóu</td>
<td>an apartment building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī zuò jūmínlóu</td>
<td>an apartment building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī dōng zhūzháilóu</td>
<td>an apartment building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī chuàng zhūzháilóu</td>
<td>an apartment building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī zuò zhūzháilóu</td>
<td>an apartment building</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apple</td>
<td>yī gè píngguó</td>
<td>an apple</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī xiāng píngguó</td>
<td>a box of apples</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apple tree</td>
<td>yī kè píngguóshù</td>
<td>an apple tree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī zhū píngguóshù</td>
<td>an apple tree</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>applicant</td>
<td>yī wèi yìngpinzhé</td>
<td>an applicant</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>application</td>
<td>yī fēn gōngzuò shēnqìng</td>
<td>a job application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>yī fēn shēnqìng</td>
<td>a written application</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>appointment</td>
<td>yī ci yùchuí</td>
<td>an appointment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## III. Chinese Nouns with Corresponding Chinese Measure Words

三．汉语名词及相应量词

Arranged alphabetically by Chinese noun, *including English translations*

*For more details on choosing the right measure word, see usage notes in Section I: Frequently Used Chinese Measure Words.*
A

爱心 [ài xīn]
一片爱心 [yī piàn ài xīn] plentiful love and care

癌症 [ái zhèng]
一种癌症 [yī zhǒng ái zhèng] a kind of cancer

安全帽 [ānquán mào]
一顶安全帽 [yī dǐng ānquán mào] a safety helmet

按键 [àn jiàn]
一个按键 [yī gè àn jiàn] a single key of a keyboard

案件 [àn jiàn]
一起案件 [yī qǐ àn jiàn] a legal case

按键 [àn jiàn]

百事可乐 [bǎi shì kě lè]
一罐百事可乐 [yī guàn Bǎi shì kě lè] a can of Pepsi

白菜 [bái cài]
一棵白菜 [yī kē bái cài] a head of Chinese cabbage

白发 [bái fà]
一根白发 [yī gēn bái fà] a single white hair

白发 [bái fà]

B

扳子 [bān zi]
一把扳子 [yī bā bān zi] a wrench

班 [bān]
一个班 [yī gè bān] a class or squad

斑马 [bān mǎ]
一匹斑马 [yī pǐ bān mǎ] a zebra
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese Nouns</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 板凳 [bândèng]  
一 张 板 坦 [yī zhāng bândèng] a stool |
| 办公楼 [bàngōnglóu]  
一 栋 办 公 楼 [yī dōng bàngōnglóu]  
an office building  
一 座 办 公 楼 [yī zuò bàngōnglóu]  
an office building |
| 办公室 [bàngōngshì]  
一 间 办 公 室 [yī jiàn bàngōngshì]  
an office |
| 棒球 [bāngqiú]  
一 个 棒 球 [yī gè bāngqiú] a baseball  
一 只 棒 球 [yī zhī bāngqiú] a baseball |
| 棒球比赛 [bāngqiú bǐsài]  
一 场 棒 球 比 赛 [yī chǎng bāngqiú bǐsài]  
a baseball game  
一 局 棒 球 比 赛 [yī jú bāngqiú bǐsài]  
an inning of a baseball game |
| 包 [bāo]  
一 个 包 [yī gè bāo] a bag  
一 只 包 [yīzhī bāo] a bag |
| 包裹 [bāoguǒ]  
一 个 包 裹 [yī gè bāoguǒ] a parcel |
| 保护区 [bāohùqū]  
一 个 保 护 区 [yī gè bāohùqū]  
a protected or preserved area, a reserve  
一 片 保 护 区 [yī piàn bāohùqū]  
a protected or preserved area, a reserve |
| 宝剑 [bāojiàn]  
一 方 宝 剑 [yī fāng bāojiàn] a sword |
| 宝石 [bāoshí]  
一 颗 宝 石 [yī kē bāoshí]  
a precious stone |
| 一枚 宝 石 [yī méi bāoshí]  
a precious stone |
| 宝物 [bāowù]  
一 件 宝 物 [yī jiàn bāowù] a treasure |
| 保险 [báoxiǎn]  
一 份 保 险 [yī fèn báoxiǎn]  
an insurance policy |
| 报道 [bàodào]  
一 份 报 道 [yī fèn bàodào]  
a copy of a written newsreport  
一 篇 报 道 [yī piān bàodào]  
a written news report |
| 报告 [bàogào]  
一 份 报 告 [yī fèn bàogào]  
a copy of a written report  
一 个 报 告 [yī gè bàogào] a report |
| 报纸 [bàozhǐ]  
一 帧 报 纸 [yī jià fà bāozhǐ]  
a sheet of newspapers  
一 份 报 纸 [yī fèn bāozhǐ] a newspaper  
一 卷 报 纸 [yī juàn bāozhǐ]  
a roll of newspapers  
一 摞 报 纸 [yī luò bāozhǐ]  
a stack of newspapers  
一 张 报 纸 [yī zhāng bāozhǐ]  
a sheet of newspaper |
| 暴风雪 [bàofēngxuě]  
一 场 暴 风 雪 [yī chǎng bàofēngxuě]  
a snowstorm |
| 暴雨 [bàoyǔ]  
一 场 暴 雨 [yī chǎng bàoyǔ] a rainstorm  
一 阵 暴 雨 [yī zhèn bàoyǔ]  
a spell of rain |
| 背包 [bēibāo]  
一 个 背 包 [yī gè bēibāo] a backpack |
Appendix: Common Chinese Units of Weights & Measures, and Common Chinese Military, Administrative, and Educational Units

汉语度量衡单位及军事行政学校机构
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese Unit</th>
<th>Pinyin</th>
<th>English Definition</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>里</td>
<td>lǐ</td>
<td>1/2 kilometer; 0.311 mile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>公里</td>
<td>gōnglǐ</td>
<td>kilometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>尺</td>
<td>chǐ</td>
<td>1/3 meter; 1.07 feet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>米/公尺</td>
<td>mí/gōngchǐ</td>
<td>meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>厘米</td>
<td>lí</td>
<td>millimeter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>平方米</td>
<td>píngfāng mì</td>
<td>square meter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>平方公里</td>
<td>píngfāng gōnglǐ</td>
<td>square kilometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>亩</td>
<td>mú</td>
<td>1/6 acre; 1/15 hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>公顷</td>
<td>gōngqīng</td>
<td>hectare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>寸</td>
<td>cùn</td>
<td>1.3 inch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>斤</td>
<td>jīn</td>
<td>1/2 kg; 1.1 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>两</td>
<td>liáng</td>
<td>50 grams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>公斤</td>
<td>gōngjīn</td>
<td>ton; 1,000 kilograms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>升</td>
<td>shēng</td>
<td>liter; 0.22 gallon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 班 | bān | squad (mil.) |
| 排 | pái | platoon (mil.) |
| 连 | lián | company (mil.) |
| 营 | yíng | battalion (mil.) |
| 团 | tuán | regiment (mil.) |
| 师 | shī | division (mil.) |
| 军 | jūn | army (mil.) |
| 科/组 | kē/zuǔ | section (admin.) |
| 处/部 | chù/bù | department (admin.) |
| 司/局 | sī/jú | division/bureau (admin.) |
| 部 | bù | ministry (admin.) |
| 班 | bān | class (ed.) |
| 年级 | niánjí | grade (ed.) |
| 系 | xì | department (ed.) |
For more than 40 years, Jiqing Fang has been working as a scriptwriter, translator, and senior editor with CCTV—China’s national television network—mainly in the English language division. Michael Connelly’s professional career has ranged from writing news stories for the *Burlington Free Press* to editing scientific journals for the Chinese Academy of Science and news reports for CCTV’s English news programming. Fang and Connelly met while both were pursuing a Master’s degree in journalism at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1982. Since then they have worked together, cooked together, and now they have finally written a book together. Between them they have two wives, six children, one grandchild, and an ever-diminishing number of blank pages in their passports.