

### General rules :

- no grammatical gender, plurals or tenses
- Subject-object-verb order
- no articles
- Adjectives = verbs, no need to use “to be” before an adjective

### Aspects :

Instead of proper grammatical tenses, Chinese verbs can have different aspects :

present +ing: 在 [zài] + verb

### Past:

perfective: verb +了 [le]

experiential: verb +過, 过 [guò]

### Interrogative pronouns

怎麼, 怎么 [zěnmě] : how

什麼, 什麼 [shén-mě] : what

什麼時候, 什么时候 [shénme shíhòu] : when ( what time )

哪儿 [nǎr] : where

哪 [nǎ] : which

谁 [shéi] : who

為什麼, 為什麼 [wèi-shén-mě] : why

多少 [duōshǎo] : how much/many ( more than 10 )

幾個, 几个 [jǐgè] : how much/many ( less than 10 )

還是, 还是 [háishì] or

### Pronouns :

	1st person	2nd person	3rd person
Singular	我 [wǒ]	你 [nǐ]	他 [tā]
Plural	我們, 我们 [wǒmen]	你們, 你们 [nǐmen]	他們, 他们 [tāmen]

### To be :

- 是 [shì] : to be ( to exist, to be equal to )
- 在 [zài] : to be somewhere, occupy a place.
- 有 [yǒu] : to be ( to exist, to take place ) /there is / to have.

### Yes / no :

對, 对 [duì] correct

好 [hǎo] good, OK

不 [bù] no

沒 [méi] no (past or before to have)

### Comparatives:

比 [bǐ] than

更 [gèng] more

最 [zuì] the most

更少 [gèng shǎo] less

### Demonstratives pronouns :

This/that : 這, 这 [zhè] this / 那 [nà] that

These/those : 這些, 这些 [zhèxiē] this / 那些 [nàxiē] that

### Conjonctions

nouns connectors

和 [hé] and

或 [huò] or

phrase connectors

可是 [kěshì] but

因為, 因为 [yīnwèi] because

如果 [rúguǒ] if

### Coverbs :

as preposition / as verb

在 [zài] at / be

從, 从 [cóng] from

到 [dào] to / arrive

坐 [zuò] by / sit

幫, 帮 [bāng]: for / help

跟 [gēn] with / follow

### 的 [de] :

To express possession :

-possessor +的 [de] + possessed

Between adjective and noun

-adjective +的 [de] + noun

Relative clause, describe object ( that )

-description+的 [de] + object

( you gave me **de** money = the money that you gave me )

### Classifiers :

( see vocabulary )

To use after number or

demonstrative before a noun.

When you don't know simply use 個, 个 [gè]

### Postpositions :

裡, 里 [lǐ] in, inside

以前 [yǐqián] before, in front

後, 后 [...hòu] behind, back

上 [shàng] on

下 [xià]: under

### Imperative :

請, 请 [qǐng] please begin sentence

吧 [ba] “let's” end sentence