



Hanxue Yazheng

REAL CHINESE. REAL COMMUNICATION.

—— 学中文 · 用中文 · 真正的中文 ——

The Chinese Phrases Your Textbook Never Taught You

25 Real-World Chinese Phrases
for Business, Travel &
Everyday Conversations

真实
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Real
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“

Learn what
Chinese people
actually say—
and what they
really mean.”



A FREE GUIDE
from Hanxue Yazheng



Speak
Confidently



Connect
Naturally



Understand
Deeply



Start Your
Chinese Journey!





Why Textbook Chinese Isn't Enough

You can study Chinese for months and still feel confused in a real conversation.

Why?

Because Chinese textbooks teach you what words mean — but real conversations also depend on **context**, **tone**, **culture**, and **what people actually say**.



TEXTBOOK CHINESE

谢谢。

Xièxie.

Thank you.



REAL-WORLD CHINESE

辛苦了。

Xīnkǔ le.

Thanks for your hard work.



Both can express appreciation, but they are used differently.



Our goal is simple:
to help you communicate naturally and confidently in real-life situations.





改天一起吃饭。

Gǎitiān yìqǐ chīfàn.

Let's have dinner together another day.



What it really means

This can be a genuine invitation, but it can also be a friendly, polite way to end a conversation. Context and follow-up matter.



Try it

A 今天聊得很开心。
I enjoyed our conversation today.

B 我也是，改天一起吃饭！
Me too. Let's have dinner together another day!



When to use it

Casual conversation / Networking /
Business social situations



Pay attention to the context and follow-up.
Understanding intent is key in real conversations.



有时间再聊。

Yǒu shíjiān zàiliáo.

Let's talk again when we have time.



What it really means

It can sound warm, but it does not necessarily mean a specific follow-up is planned.



Try it

那今天先这样吧，
有时间再聊。

Nà jīntiān xiān zhèyàng ba,
yǒu shíjiān zàiliáo.

Let's leave it at this for today.
Let's talk again when we have time.



When to use it

Ending a conversation /
When no specific plan
is made



Pay attention to tone and situation.

Warm words don't always mean future actions.



方便吗?

Fāngbiàn ma?

Is now a good/convenient time?



What it really means

A natural way to check whether someone can talk, meet, or do something.



Try it

现在给你打电话方便吗?

Xiànzài gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà fāngbiàn ma?

Is it convenient if I call you now?



When to use it

Before calling, meeting, asking for a favor, or starting a task.



A small question shows respect
and makes, communication smoother.



麻烦你了。

Máfan nǐ le.

Sorry to trouble you /
Thanks for taking care of this.



What it really means

It acknowledges that you are asking someone to do something and expresses appreciation.



Try it

这份文件麻烦你今天帮我看一下。

Zhè fèn wénjiàn máfan nǐ jīntiān
bāng wǒ kàn yíxià.

Could you help me take a look
at this document today?



When to use it

When asking for a favor,
making a request, or
delegating a task.



A humble tone opens doors.

It shows respect and builds good relationships.



辛苦了。

Xīnkǔ le.

Thanks for your hard work.



What it really means

Very common at work and in everyday life.
It recognizes someone's effort rather
than simply saying "thank you."



Try it

今天开了一整天的会，辛苦了！

Jīntiān kāi le yì zhěng tiān de huì, xīnkǔ le!

We had meetings all day today.
Thanks for your hard work!



When to use it

Workplace / After a task or project /
After someone has helped you
or put in effort



A simple phrase that builds respect
and strengthens relationships.



你先忙。

Nǐ xiān máng.

Go ahead and take care of what you need to do.



What it really means

Often used when someone is busy.
It can politely end a conversation without sounding abrupt.



Try it

你还有事情要处理？那**你先忙**，我们改天再聊。

Nǐ hái yǒu shìqíng yào chǔlǐ?

Nà **nǐ xiān máng**, wǒmen gǎitiān zàiliáo.

Do you have more things to handle?
Go ahead and take care of what you need to do.
Let's talk again another day.



When to use it

When someone is busy /
Ending a conversation politely /
When you don't want to interrupt



A thoughtful phrase that shows understanding
and gives the other person space.



我请客。

Wǒ qǐngkè.

It's my treat.



What it really means

Useful when paying for a meal or drink.
In some situations, people may politely argue over who pays.



Try it

这顿我请客，下次你再请。

Zhè dùn wǒ qǐngkè, xià cì nǐ zài qǐng.

This meal is on me.
You can treat me next time



When to use it

When paying for a meal or drinks /
When you want to be generous /
When inviting someone



It shows generosity,
but be prepared for some friendly negotiation!



随便。

Suíbiàn.

Whatever / Anything is fine.



What it really means

Tone matters.

It can mean relaxed flexibility
or sound dismissive.



Try it

A: 你想吃什么?

Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

A: What do you want to eat?

B: 随便，你决定吧。

Suíbiàn, nǐ juéding ba.

B: Anything is fine, you decide.



When to use it

Choosing food / Picking a place
Plans or activities
When you're not particular



A small word with big impact—
your tone will shape how it's understood.



还行。

Hái xíng.

It's okay / Not bad.



What it really means

A common understated response meaning something is acceptable or reasonably good.



Try it

A: 这家餐厅怎么样?

Zhè jiā cāntīng zěnmeyàng?

A: How is this restaurant?

B: 还行，味道不错。

Hái xíng, wèidào bùcuò.

B: It's okay, the taste is good.



When to use it

After trying something /
Giving a modest opinion /
When you don't want to be too direct



Simple, polite, and widely used—
perfect for everyday conversations.



挺好的。

Tǐng hǎo de.

Pretty good / Quite good.



What it really means

“挺” is a useful conversational intensifier and often sounds more natural than always saying 很好.



Try it

A: 新工作怎么样?

Xīn gōngzuò zěnmeyàng?

A: How is your new job?

B: 挺好的，同事都不错。

Tǐng hǎo de, tóngshì dōu búcuò.

B: Pretty good, my colleagues are great.



When to use it

Giving a positive but modest opinion /
Responding to how something is going /
More natural in daily conversation



A small word that adds strength without being too strong—
it makes your Chinese sound more natural and friendly.



真的假的？

Zhēn de jiǎ de?

Seriously? / Is that for real?



What it really means

A natural informal reaction to surprising information.



Try it

A: 他明天就要辞职了。

Tā míngtiān jiù yào cízhí le.

A: He is quitting tomorrow.

B: 真的假的？

Zhēn de jiǎ de?

B: Seriously? / Is that for real?



When to use it

Hearing surprising news /
Doubting unexpected information /
Expressing surprise in a conversation



It's very common in spoken Chinese.

Use it with the right tone to show real surprise!



不会吧！

Bú huì ba!

No way! / Really?



What it really means

An emotional reaction to surprising news.
It does not literally mean that
something is impossible.



Try it

你说你从来没吃过火锅？

Nǐ shuō nǐ cónglái méi chīguò huǒguō?

You said you've never had hot pot?

不会吧！

Bú huì ba!

No way! / Really?



When to use it

Hearing surprising news /
Expressing disbelief /
Reacting to something unexpected



It adds emotion and makes your reaction more natural.
Use it in casual conversations with friends and family.



我懂了。

Wǒ dǒng le.

Got it. / I understand now.



What it really means

The 了 marks a change of state:
you understand now.



Try it

哦，我懂了，
Ó, wǒ dǒng le,
你的意思是……
nǐ de yìsi shì……
Oh, I understand now,
you mean that……



When to use it

In conversations /
When someone explains something /
When you finally understand



Simple, natural, and very useful.

A must-know expression for real conversations.



没事。

Méi shì.

It's okay / No problem.



What it really means

Common after an apology or minor inconvenience.



Try it

A: 不好意思，我迟到了。

Bù hǎoyìsi, wǒ chí dào le.
I'm sorry, I'm late.

B: 没事。

Méi shì.
It's okay / No problem.



When to use it

After an apology /
When someone makes a small mistake /
To show understanding and be polite



A small phrase with a big heart.

It shows kindness, understanding, and good manners in everyday conversations.



没关系。

Méi guānxi.

No problem / It's okay.



What it really means

Often used in response to an apology
and generally sounds neutral and polite.



Try it

A: 抱歉，让你等这么久。

Bàoqiàn, ràng nǐ děng zhème jiǔ.
I'm sorry to keep you waiting
for so long.

B: 没关系。

Méi guānxi.
No problem / It's okay.



When to use it

In response to an apology /
When someone thanks you /
To show understanding and keep
the conversation friendly



A simple and natural way to show kindness.

It helps build good relationships in everyday conversations.



我先走了。

Wǒ xiān zǒu le.

I'm going to head out first.



What it really means

A natural way to leave
a group or gathering.



Try it

时间不早了，
我先走了，大家再见。

Shíjiān bù zǎo le,
wǒ xiān zǒu le, dàjiā zàijiàn.

It's getting late,
I'm going to head out first.
See you all!



When to use it

When you need to leave a gathering /
When it's getting late /
When you have another commitment



Add “大家再见” (see you all) to be polite and friendly.
It's commonly used in both formal and informal situations.



慢慢来。



Mànmàn lái.

Take your time / No rush.



What it really means

Useful for reducing pressure
and encouraging someone
to go step by step.



Try it

别着急，慢慢来。

Bié zhāojí,
mànmàn lái.

Don't worry,
take your time.



When to use it

When someone is in a hurry /
When someone is nervous /
When learning or trying something new



A small phrase that shows patience and support
— and is much appreciated.



看情况。

Kàn qíngkuàng.

It depends / We'll see.



What it really means

Useful when the answer depends on circumstances and you are not ready to commit.



Try it

周末能不能去?
看情况吧。

Zhōumò néng bù néng qù?
Kàn qíngkuàng ba.

Can we go this weekend?
It depends / We'll see.



When to use it

When the outcome is uncertain /
When the plan is not finalized /
When external factors will decide



A flexible and polite way to keep your options open.
It shows you are being realistic and thoughtful.



到时候再说。

Dàoshíhòu zài shuō.

We'll decide/talk about it then.



What it really means

Often means the decision is not being made yet; it can be practical or noncommittal.



Try it

现在还不能确定，
到时候再说吧。

Xiànzài hái bù néng quèdìng,
dàoshíhòu zài shuō ba.

We can't decide right now,
we'll decide/talk about it then.



When to use it

When the timing isn't right /
When you need more time to think /
When you don't want to commit now



A practical and flexible way to delay a decision without saying "no" directly.



没问题。

Méi wèntí.

No problem / Absolutely.



What it really means

A confident way to agree
to a request.



Try it

A: 明天上午能把文件
发给我吗?

Míngtiān shàngwǔ néng bǎ
wénjiàn fā gěi wǒ ma?

Could you send me the
file tomorrow morning?

B: 没问题。

Méi wèntí.

No problem.



When to use it

When someone asks for a favor /
When agreeing to a request /
When letting someone know
you can do it



A simple and confident way to say "yes"
in both casual and professional situations.



我考虑一下。

Wǒ kǎolǔ yíxià.

Let me think about it.



What it really means

Useful when you do not want to answer or commit immediately, especially in business settings.



Try it

这个方案不错，
我考虑一下，
明天回复你。

Zhège fāng'àn bùcuò,
wǒ kǎolǔ yíxià,
míngtiān huífù nǐ.

This plan is not bad.
Let me think about it,
I'll get back to you tomorrow.



When to use it

When you need time to think /
When the decision is not clear yet /
When you want to avoid pressure
or give a polite delay



A polite way to create time and space
without saying "no" directly.



再看看吧。

Zài kànkān ba.

Let's take another look / Let's see.



What it really means

Often intentionally noncommittal:
you are still evaluating options.



Try it

这个价格有点高，
我们再看看吧。

Zhègè jiàgé yǒudiǎn gāo,
wǒmen zài kànkān ba.

This price is a bit high,
let's take another look.



When to use it

When comparing options /
When unsure about a decision /
When you need more information
before committing



A soft way to delay a decision
while keeping the conversation open.



其实.....

Qíshí...

Actually...



What it really means

Often introduces a correction,
a different opinion, or something
you want to say more gently.



Try it

其实，我觉得还有一个更好的办法。

Qíshí, wǒ juéde hái yǒu
yí ge gèng hǎo de bànfǎ.

Actually, I think there is
an even better way.



When to use it

When you want to correct something /
When you have a different opinion /
When you want to say something
more gently or politely



A gentle way to introduce your true thoughts
without being too direct.



我觉得.....

Wǒ juéde...

I think... / In my view...



What it really means

A useful way to soften
an opinion or disagreement.



Try it

我觉得这个方案
还可以再改一下。

Wǒ juéde zhège fāng'àn
hái kěyǐ zài gǎi yíxià.

I think this plan could
be improved a bit more.



When to use it

When sharing your opinion /
When disagreeing politely /
When giving feedback /
When suggesting improvements



It helps you express your thoughts
in a polite and respectful way.



不太方便。

Bú tài fāngbiàn.

It's not very convenient /
That may be difficult.



What it really means

An important softening phrase that can communicate difficulty, inappropriateness, or inability without a blunt "no."



Try it

- A: 明天见面？
Míngtiān jiànmiàn?
Meet tomorrow?
- B: 不好意思，
Bú hǎoyisi,
Sorry,
明天不太方便。
míngtiān bú tài fāngbiàn.
Tomorrow is not
very convenient.



When to use it

When declining an invitation /
When you have a scheduling conflict /
When you want to say "no"
politely and indirectly



A polite way to say "no"
while maintaining relationships and showing respect.



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25

ESSENTIAL
PHRASES

25 REAL-WORLD **CHINESE** PHRASES

YOUR TEXTBOOK NEVER TAUGHT YOU

Speak Chinese more naturally.
Understand the **real** meaning.



REAL EXPRESSIONS

Used by native speakers
every day.



REAL COMMUNICATION

Perfect for daily life,
work, and travel.



REAL IMPACT

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