

# Asian phrasebook!

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*This phrasebook was made possible by:*  
Tamil Nadu, vangine(HC), Hannes Raebiger

*Thank you, thank you, thank you!*

If you find some errors, want to offer some translation help or just show your appreciation you're most welcome to contact me at [jurgen@jurgenoffline.com](mailto:jurgen@jurgenoffline.com)

# 1 English

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting the ride* \*\*\*\*\*

01. Hello / Excuse me
02. Do you drive in the direction of ...?
03. Can I get a lift until ...?
04. - a gasstation (along the highway) or a parking place?
05. Is the lift free? / I can't pay. / hitchhiking

\*\*\*\*\* *Some conversation* \*\*\*\*\*

06. My name is ... / I come from ... / What's your name?
07. Do you speak (any other languages, English)?
08. yes / no / maybe / no thanks
09. I don't understand. / I don't know.

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting where you want to be* \*\*\*\*\*

10. I'm going to ... / Where are you going?
11. Can you stop there? / Stop!
12. Thank you! / Have a nice day!

\*\*\*\*\* *Finding what you need* \*\*\*\*\*

13. Where can I find ...? / the city center / a map
14. - a toilet / a supermarket / a pharmacy / a camping
15. - an internetcafe / a cashmachine
16. - a metrostation / a busstation / a trainstation
17. - the highway to ... / a place to hitchhike

\*\*\*\*\* *Food & Drinks* \*\*\*\*\*

18. water / (herbal) tea / hot chocolate / coffee
19. beer / (red, white) wine / juice
20. vegetarian / diner / bread / a cheap restaurant
21. Cheers! / Enjoy your meal!

\*\*\*\*\* *Some general words* \*\*\*\*\*

22. north, east, south, west / yesterday, today, tomorrow
23. one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine
24. hour, day, week, month / kilometer
25. left, right, straight on / before, after

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting some answers* \*\*\*\*\*

26. How much does it cost? / What time is it? / When?
27. We are looking for a place to sleep. / What?
28. How far is it (by foot)? / Where are we? / How?

*Imperial measurements:* (Britain's logical measuring system :-)) One inch = 2.54 cm, one foot (12 inches) = 0.30 m, one yard (3 feet) = 0.91 m, one mile (1760 yards) = 1.6 km.

*Weights:* one ounce (oz) = 28.4 g, one pound (lb, 16 oz) = 0.45 kg, one stone (14 lb) = 6.4 kg.

## 2 Chinese (Mandarin)

*Spoken in:* Malaysia, Taiwan and in China (not all areas though).

*Tones:* Mandarin is a tonal language; the tone of a word is relevant for the meaning:

-1st tone: Steady high-level tone, like singing. (Mā: mother)

-2nd tone: Rises from mid-level to high. (Má: hemp)

-3rd tone: Drops from below mid-level to low-level then rises above mid-level. (Mǎ: horse)

-4th tone: A sharp drop from high-level to low-level. (Mà: to curse)

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting the ride* \*\*\*\*\*

01. Ní hǒu / Dwày bù chí

02. Ní zài zǒ nǎ fāng xiàng?

03. Wǒ néng zuò dǎu ...?

04. Gasstation: jā yóu zàn / Parking lot: tíng tschē tschǎng

05. Yào tsch-ían mā? / Wǒ máy tsch-ían / dā schùn fēng chē

\*\*\*\*\* *Some conversation* \*\*\*\*\*

06. Wǒ dràu ... / Wvo lié gì ... / Nǐ dràu schèn mē?

07. Nǐ néng schūo yīng yǔ mā?

08. Schì / bù / húo zhě / bù yòng lé

09. Wǒ bù dòng / Wǒ bù zhì dǎu.

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting where you want to be* \*\*\*\*\*

10. Wǒ ràu tschèw ... / Nǐ yào tschèw nǎ?

11. Nǐ néng tín drỳ zhè mā? / Tín!

12. Schè schè! / Jōke hǎo!

\*\*\*\*\* *Finding what you need* \*\*\*\*\*

13. Nǎ néng rǎod ...? / Schì zhūng schīn / dèe tú

14. - tschè schūo / ciao schì / ràu pháng / lù yíng dèe

15. - wǎng bā / tschēw qǔang drī

16. - Dèe tēg dràn / tschē / hǔo tschē dràn

17. Tschèw ... thè gōng lù / tschèw zhùo schùn fēng chē thè dèe pháng

\*\*\*\*\* *Food & Drinks* \*\*\*\*\*

18. Schǎy / tschá / ... / cār pfei

19. Pí jǐll / hóng jǐll / grǎw zhēe

20. schù schée / mian bāu / pían yée fàn

21. Gān bāy! / Tschēe kāi xīn

\*\*\*\*\* *Some general words* \*\*\*\*\*

22. Bǎy, dōng, náng, xī / zúo ten, jean ten, mínt tēn

23. Yēe, èr, schān, sī, wǔ, liù, tschēe, bār, drīll, schée

24. Shǒut schée, tēn, jōke, yùe / gōng lěe

25. Zǔo, yò, zhǐ / tschían, hòu

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting some answers* \*\*\*\*\*

26. Tā dūo schǎu tschián? / Gée diǎn? / Schén?

27. Wǒ yào zhǎu dèe pfāng schùì jàu / schéng mé?

28. Dúo yǎn (zǒu lù)? Wǒ mén zài nà? / Rú hé?

Chinese people greet each other not only by 'Ni hao', but also ask 'Ni tschi le ma?' (have you had the meal?). 'Zhaj jan' means goodbye. Wo: I, Ni: you, Ta: he/she/it, Meng: more than one.

*Party:* Spring festival, first day of Chinese lunar year (not a fixed day in the Roman calendar).

Lots of local activities will be taking place everywhere.

### 3 Hindi

*Spoken in:* Northern and central India.

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting the ride* \*\*\*\*\*

01. Namaste / . .
02. Kya aap ... ke ore ja rahe hain?
03. Kya aap mujhe ... tak lift de sakte hain?
04. Raste me koi petrol pump hai?
05. Aap paise to nahi lenge? / Mein hitch hike kar raha hoon aur paise nahi de sakta.

\*\*\*\*\* *Some conversation* \*\*\*\*\*

06. Mera naam ... hai. / Me ... ka rehne wala hoon. / Aapka naam kya hai?
07. Aap (aur koi bhasha, Angrezi) bolte hain?
08. Haan / nahi / ho sakta hai / nahi shukriya
09. Mujhe samajh me nahi aa raha hai / Mujhe nahi malum.

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting where you want to be* \*\*\*\*\*

10. Me (place) nahi ja sakta. / Aap kahan ja rahe hain?
11. Aap yahan rok sakte hain? / Rokiye!
12. Shukriya. / . .

\*\*\*\*\* *Finding what you need* \*\*\*\*\*

13. ... kahan par hai? / -city centers don't exist- / . .
14. - shanuchalay / dukanen / dawai ka dukaan / -\*-
15. - internet cafe / atm machine
16. - railway station / bus stand / railway station
17. - ... ki ore janewala road / . .

\*\*\*\*\* *Food & Drinks* \*\*\*\*\*

18. pani / chai / chai / coffee
19. beer / wine / juice
20. shakahari / . . / paav / sasta restaurant
21. Cheers! / Khana jam ke khayiye.

\*\*\*\*\* *Some general words* \*\*\*\*\*

22. uttar, poorv, dakshin, pashchim / kal, aaj, kal(!)
23. ek, do, teen, char, paanch, che, saat, aath, nau
24. ghanta, din, hafta, mahina / kilometer
25. bayan, dayan, seedha / .. ke pehle, .. ke baad

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting some answers* \*\*\*\*\*

26. Kitna paisa lagega? / Time kitna hua? / Kabhi?
27. Ham sone ke liye jagah dhoondh rahe hain. / Kya?
28. Paidal chalen to kitna door hai. ( . ) / Hum abhi kahan hain?) / Kaise?

-\*-\*: Campings don't exist; you can camp everywhere or nowhere, depending on your viewpoint.

## 4 Japanese

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting the ride* \*\*\*\*\*

01. konnichiwa/ (anō) sumimasen
02. ...no hō ni ikimasuka?
03. ...made okutte kuremasuka?
04. - (kōsokudōri no) gasolinsutando ka, chūshajō demo ii.
05. tada de okutte kuremasuka? / watashi wa haraemasen. / hitchihaiku desu.

\*\*\*\*\* *Some conversation* \*\*\*\*\*

06. watashi wa ...desu / ...jin desu. / onamae wa nan desuka?
07. (gaikokugo, eigo) hanasemasuka?
08. hai, un, ee / iie, iya / tabun / iie, ii desu
09. wakarimasen / wakarimasen

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting where you want to be* \*\*\*\*\*

10. ...ni ikimasu. / doko ni ikimasuka?
11. asoko ni tomete kuremasuka? / tomete!
12. arigatō / ki o tsukete!

\*\*\*\*\* *Finding what you need* \*\*\*\*\*

13. ...wa doko ni arimasuka? / shitisentā / chizu
14. - toile / sūpā / yakkyoku / kyampuguraundo
15. - intānettokissa / ei-ti-emu (=ATM)
16. - chikatetsu / basutei / densha no eki
17. - ...made no kōsokudōri / hitchihaikuyō na basho

\*\*\*\*\* *Food & Drinks* \*\*\*\*\*

18. omizu / ocha (=green), kōcha (black), hābuti (herbal) / kokoa / kōhī
19. biru / (aka, shiro) wain / jūsu
20. vejetarian / dinā / pan / yasui shokujiyasan
21. kanpai! / itadakimasu!

\*\*\*\*\* *Some general words* \*\*\*\*\*

22. kita, higashi, minami, nishi / kinō, kyō, ashita
23. ichi, ni, san, shi/yon, go, roku, shichi/nana, hachi, kyū
24. jikan, ichinichi, issūkan, ikkagetsukan / kilo
25. hidari, migi, massugu / mae, ato

\*\*\*\*\* *Getting some answers* \*\*\*\*\*

26. ikura desu ka? / ima nanji desu ka? / itsu?
27. tomaru tokoro o sagashite imasu. / nani?
28. (aruite) nanopun desuka? / ima doko ni imasuka? / dō?

Vowels: 'a' as in 'car', 'i' as in 'see', 'u' as in 'sue', 'e' as in 'bet', 'o' as in 'top'

Bar above vowel means elongation ('ī' as 'ee' in feet)

Tones: intonation always in beginning of phrase / first syllable of word. Strong tone at ending (even in questions!<sup>1</sup>) sounds angry—avoid it. Try to speak as monotonously as you can.

Best seasons are Spring and Autumn (cherry blossoms bloom around first week of May depending on latitude & elevation). Lots of festivals in Summer, but its hot & humid & crowded.

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<sup>1</sup>questions can be indicated by changing the pitch at ending, but that's another story...