Oxford Dictionaries Chinese is more than just a dictionary. Discover our additional Chinese language resources and learn more about Chinese language and culture.

Navigating an entry

On every entry page in our Premium dictionary, you will see the headword, pronunciation, part of speech, translations and labels where necessary.

Translations

On the English-Chinese side of the dictionary, all translations (main and example translations) are given in Chinese characters. For main translations, a pinyin transliteration is also provided.

The different senses of the headword itself are translated, with information to help you find which sense you need. In addition, many examples of a sense in use are provided and translated, especially when the main translation does not work in all contexts, or when unexpected sentence structure is needed.

Whenever a translation is a headword on the other side of the dictionary it is blue and hyperlinked. You can click the hyperlink to go to that entry.
Pronunciations

British and US pronunciation is given using audio and IPA (symbols that show the sound that each letter represents in the word in question). Click on the IPA for an explanation of the symbols. Click on the speaker buttons to hear the word spoken aloud.

Chinese audio pronunciation (computer-generated) is provided for all Chinese content (headwords, examples, translations).

All headwords and compound headwords have a pronunciation section containing the pinyin transliteration.

Compounds and phrasal verbs

Compound words on the Chinese-English side, and phrasal verbs on the English-Chinese side are found both under their parents, and as standalone entries with links back to their parents.
Ways of searching

You can look up a Chinese word by entering Chinese characters directly, or by entering pinyin characters, in which case you will be given a choice of relevant results.

You can also search for a phrase by typing the phrase in the search box. If that phrase is in the dictionary, you will be taken to the entry that it is in and the relevant section will be highlighted.

Homographs

Once you are on an entry page, you can also jump quickly between homograph entries (entries which have the same spelling but different origins) by clicking the numbers at the top of the page.

Cultural Notes

Notes are provided to explain culturally specific terms, as in this example from our entry for 鞭炮.
A detailed guide to the dictionary can be found here

Additional resources

Click ‘GRAMMAR’ at the top of the homepage to explore language resources, including grammar, pronunciation information, useful phrases, cultural information, sample letters and emails.

Basic Rules for writing Chinese characters

Basic strokes
1. The horizontal stroke is written from left to right.

2. The vertical stroke is written from the top downward.

Quizzes

You can find quizzes to test your language skills on the Chinese dictionary homepage, and in the side bar for every entry.

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