



## LESSON A.4

# NUMBERS

数字 SHÙZÌ



# LESSON A.3 REVISION



Construct words/phrases from the below characters:

马马  
mǎmǎ

真  
zhēn

中  
zhōng

高  
gāo

对  
duì

不  
bù

—  
yī

怎么  
zěnme

不起  
bùqǐ

虎虎  
hūhū

点儿  
diǎn er

棒!  
bàng

样?  
yàng

兴  
xìng

明白  
míngbái

文  
wén



**Zero**

零

*líng*

- Learning numbers will enable you to learn months and days of the week too in Chinese.

**One**

—

*yī*

**Two**

—

*èr*

**Three**

—

*sān*

**Four**

—

*sì*

**Five**

—

*wǔ*

**Six**

—

*liù*

**Seven**

—

*qī*

**Eight**

—

*bā*

**Nine**

—

*jiǔ*

**Ten**

—

*shí*



## Two simple rules

1. For 10 to 20, add the numbers after "ten" **+**. Apply the same for 20 to 30, 30 to 40 etc.
2. For 10x increments, insert the number before "ten" **+**.

Arabic	Chinese	Pinyin	Method
11	十一	<i>shíyī</i>	add 一 after <b>十</b> , i.e. $10 + 1$
12	十二	<i>shí'èr</i>	add 二 after <b>十</b> , i.e. $10 + 2$
13	十三	<i>shísān</i>	add 三 after <b>十</b> , i.e. $10 + 3$
19	十九	<i>shíjiǔ</i>	add 九 after <b>十</b> , i.e. $10 + 9$
20	二十	<i>èrshí</i>	insert 二 before <b>十</b> , i.e. $2 \times 10$
25	二十五	<i>èrshíwǔ</i>	insert 二 before <b>十</b> , add 五 after <b>十</b> , i.e. $2 \times 10 + 5$
99	九十九	<i>jiǔshíjiǔ</i>	insert 九 before <b>十</b> , add 九 after <b>十</b> , i.e. $9 \times 10 + 9$



- Same rules apply here...

100	1,000	10,000	1,000,000	100,000,000	1,000,000,000
百 <i>bǎi</i>	千 <i>qiān</i>	万 <i>wàn</i>	百万 <i>bǎiwàn</i>	亿 <i>yì</i>	十亿 <i>shí yì</i>

Arabic	Chinese	Pinyin	Method
150	一百五十	<i>yībǎi wǔshí</i>	insert 一 before 百, insert 五 before 十, i.e. $1 \times 100 + 5 \times 10$
5,500	五千五百	<i>wǔqiān wǔbǎi</i>	insert 五 before 千, insert 五 before 百, i.e. $5 \times 1,000 + 5 \times 100$
55,000	五万五千	<i>wǔwàn wǔqiān</i>	insert 五 before 万, insert 五 before 千, i.e. $5 \times 10,000 + 5 \times 1,000$
3,500,000	三百五十万	<i>sānbǎi wǔshí wàn</i>	insert 三 before 百万, insert 五十 between 百 and 万, i.e. $3 \times 1,000,000 + 50 \times 10,000$
40,200,000	四千二十万	<i>sìqiān èrshí wàn</i>	insert 四 before 千万, insert 二十 between 千 and 万, i.e. $4 \times 10,000,000 + 20 \times 10,000$
43,000,000	四千三百万	<i>sìqiān sānbǎi wàn</i>	insert 四 before 千万, insert 三百 between 千 and 万, i.e. $4 \times 10,000,000 + 300 \times 10,000$
1,300,000,000	十三亿	<i>shísān yì</i>	insert 十三 before 亿, i.e. $13 \times 100,000,000$



## Two

- Number 2 is 二, but is quite often replaced by 两 *liǎng* when saying "two of something".

Example: two guests 两位嘉宾 *liǎng wèi jiābīn*

- However, in counting, 二 is used instead.

Example: 二十二 as twenty two

Two

两

*liǎng*

## Twenty and thirty

- Number 20 is 二十, but it is quite often replaced by 廿 in writing only (the character resembles two 十 together). It is still pronounced as 二十 *èrshí*.
- Similar token for 30 廿 which resembles three 十 together.

Twenty

廿

*èrshí*

Thirty

卅

*sānshí*



## Tone Change for One

- **Yī as first tone**
  - when used in isolation, e.g. *yī* (one)
  - at the end of a word or phrase e.g. *sí'yī* (eleven)
- **Yí as second tone**
  - when preceding fourth tone, e.g. *yí liàng chē* (one car)
- **Yì as fourth tone**
  - when preceding all the other 3 tones, e.g. *yìběn shū* (one book), *yítóu niú* (one cow)
- **if unsure, simply use first tone**



## Ranking/Position

- In English, one adds suffix such as "th" to the number to express ranking or position. In Chinese, simply add 第 in front of the numbers.

No.	• No. 1 or "First"	<i>dì yī</i>	第一
第 <i>dì</i>	• No. 2 or "Second"	<i>dì èr</i>	第二
	• No. 3 or "Third"	<i>dì sān</i>	第三
	• No. 9 or "Ninth"	<i>dì jiǔ</i>	第九
	• "Last"	<b><i>zuìhòu</i></b>	最后 (literally very last)

- Colloquial alternatives for first and last:

"Head" **tóu** 头 versus "Tail" **wěi** 尾

"Front" **qián** 前 versus "Last" **hòu** 后

# CULTURE – SUPERSTITIONS ABOUT CERTAIN NUMBERS

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- 4 is a bad omen as its pronunciation (**si**) is similar to **sǐ 死** which is death.



- 8 is lucky as its pronunciation (**bā**) resembles **fā** **發** which means becoming rich.



## By chance

万一

wàn yī

- 万 (wàn) is 10,000, a common benchmark unit in Chinese numbers.
- 万一 (wàn yī) is often used to convey “just in case” or “by chance”.
- For example 例如 (lìrú), 万一我有不幸,让我给你这张彩票吧! (wàn yī wǒ yǒu bùxìng, ràng wǒ gěi nǐ zhè zhāng cǎipiaò ba!) In case I have ill fate, let me give you this lotto ticket.

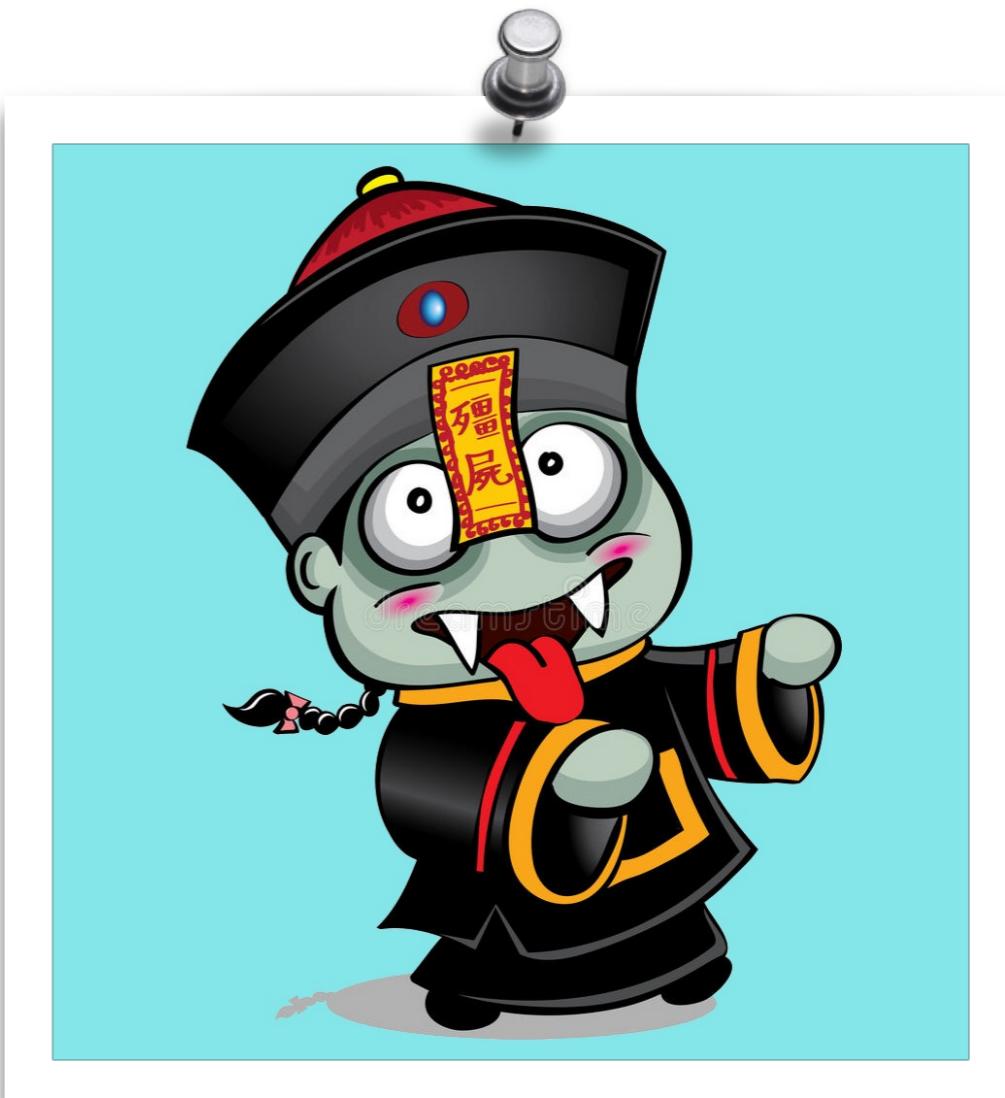


Halloween

万圣节

wànshèngjié

- Halloween is known as 万圣节 (wànshèngjié) (literally 10,000 saints' festival, aka all saints). Pumpkin 南瓜 (nánguā) takes the centre stage of celebration.
- Alternatively, many Chinese observes the **Hungry Ghost Festival** 盂兰节 (yú lán jié) or 中元节 (zhōng yuán jié) which falls on the 15th July per lunar calendar. On that day, the deceased/zombie 僵尸 (jiāngshī) are believed to visit the living.



# CLASSROOM EXERCISE A.4 – PHONE NUMBER

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- Work with the person next to you, ask and give phone number:



Telephone number

电话号码

*diànhuà hàomǎ*

Mobile number

手机号码

*shǒujī hàomǎ*

**A. What's your phone number?**

您的电话号码是什么?

*nín de diànhuà hàomǎ shì shénme?*

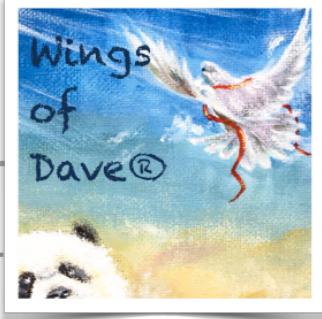


**B. My mobile number is.....**

我的手机号码是\_\_\_\_\_

*wǒ de shǒujī hàomǎ shì \_\_\_\_\_*

# CLASSROOM GAME: 宾果游戏 BĪN GUŌ YÓUXÌ



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- Your tutor will assign each a random table and call out each number by random.
- All players check if that number appears on their card. If it is, mark it with a cross. When a player has 5 marked numbers in a **row, column, or diagonal**, he or she calls out **宾果** (*bīn guō*).

1

8	15	14	4	18
13	5	3	6	19
24	11	★	10	21
16	23	1	7	22
12	17	2	20	9

2

15	8	22	13	18
23	9	24	17	10
14	21	★	20	4
1	11	19	5	12
7	3	2	16	6

3

21	12	24	18	22
14	6	11	10	7
1	8	★	20	17
13	23	15	16	4
9	3	19	5	2

4

23	16	6	21	17
3	8	15	20	5
9	19	★	14	22
18	10	4	13	7
12	24	1	2	11

5

8	5	14	1	18
16	11	10	15	24
2	9	★	12	6
13	4	22	7	19
21	23	3	20	17

6

23	13	22	7	14
12	24	17	4	5
11	18	★	16	8
20	6	2	9	15
3	19	21	1	10

7

19	11	17	16	9
2	5	22	24	4
18	21	★	8	10
23	12	15	6	20
14	13	7	1	3

8

19	2	14	5	13
9	1	21	6	18
3	12	★	20	15
17	23	7	22	11
8	10	4	16	24