

剑桥  
汉英  
双解  
汉语  
量词  
用法  
词典

CHENG & TSUI  
**CHINESE  
MEASURE  
WORD  
DICTIONARY**

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A CHINESE-ENGLISH

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ENGLISH-CHINESE

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USAGE GUIDE

Compiled by Jiqing Fang  
and Michael Connolly

房纪庆  
韩迈远

CHENG & TSUI  
**CHINESE MEASURE WORD DICTIONARY**  
A CHINESE–ENGLISH  
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剑桥汉英双解汉语量词用法词典

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*“The Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary is designed precisely to address the needs of a wide spectrum of Chinese language learners . . . any learner who is able to use Chinese creatively will find this reference work useful.”*

—Dr. Alan Aimin Li, Senior Lecturer in Chinese, Dartmouth College

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CHENG & TSUI COMPANY  
Boston

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## Preface

This book is in your hands because, more than twenty years ago, when Michael first took up the study of the Chinese language, his textbook introduced the word for “map” in Chapter 6, while the accompanying measure word wasn’t introduced until Chapter 22. For sixteen chapters, Michael could say “my map” or “her map” but not “a map.”

Later, we discovered that his textbook was not the only one giving inadequate attention to measure words — which is somewhat understandable, because for the new learner of Chinese there is a huge amount of new material to absorb: the tones, the strokes, the pinyin, the grammar, the tones, the sentence patterns, the unusual word order, the tones . . . Although many Chinese instructional textbooks don’t give extensive coverage to the usage of measure words, we feel they are an essential component of the language and must be mastered for a student to achieve fluency in Chinese. Imagine a visitor to an English-speaking country, a visitor who says something like: “Hello. I wish to buy two pants, one socks, a milk, and an eyeglasses.” First, you might be wondering what kind of store sells clothing, milk, and eyeglasses! But you would also be keenly aware that this visitor is *not* fluent in English. The absence of the measure words “pair” and “bottle” in the quoted sentence above is a red flag, and might considerably reduce the estimation in which you hold the speaker.

Learning Chinese as a second language is a true challenge. It takes a lot of time, a lot of work, and a lot of practice. There is nothing to hang the words on — you can’t tell how to pronounce a character precisely by looking at it, and you can’t sound out a word and write it down by hearing it. You might know that 小 [xiǎo] means “small” or “little,” and that 心 [xīn] means “heart,” but you still have to learn that 小心 means “be careful.” Given the tremendous amount of work it takes to even approach fluency in Chinese, it would be a shame to come off like the person quoted above by using the generic 个 [gè] — or even worse, nothing at all — when enumerating nouns that require more specific measure words. This book was written primarily to help you avoid such a dreadful fate.

In addition, by sitting down and reading this book, the student of Chinese can catch a glimpse into the Chinese mindset. For instance, if one were to guess, one might suppose there is a shared measure word to accompany the nouns “chair,” “stool,” and “sofa” — but there is not. The chair alone takes the measure word 把 [bǎ], while stools and sofas take a different measure word, 张 [zhāng]. Conversely, it might cause the new student some surprise to learn that there is a common measure word for the nouns “worm,” “snake,” and “river.” How any culture groups things together provides a sideways look into the collective mind of that culture — a different sort of sociocultural insight than the more common examinations of architecture, culinary patterns, and structures of family and work. For most students of foreign cultures, this kind of linguistic anthropology would be extremely difficult, if not entirely impossible, without years of concentrated study. The Chinese, however, offer a fairly

## *Preface*

easy way to make such an examination through the acquisition of these classifying concepts. So although Chinese measure words may for the novice learner be a cause of muttering and teeth grinding, the silver lining is that they also provide a wonderful opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of the native speakers with whom dialogue and banter await.

While the *Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary* grew out of Michael's frustrations as a beginning Chinese language student, it came into being only with the diligent and time-consuming work of the book's Chinese co-author, Jiqing Fang. Working together on this dictionary has been a stimulating learning experience. We offer sincere thanks to our many friends and teachers who joined us in pursuit of the right measure word for every occasion. Thanks also to those reviewers of this book who offered many helpful comments and suggestions.

We would like to add special thanks to our keen-eyed, high-spirited, thoughtful and encouraging editor, Eleise Jones. Her considerable efforts in connection with this book have helped to make the project run far more smoothly than we could have ever expected, and her guidance and suggestions have helped to make the book better than we could have managed on our own. She was a great pleasure to work with, and we offer Eleise a full measure of gratitude.

It is entirely fitting that we collaborated on this project, as it is partly due to our friendship dating back to our days at the University of Michigan graduate program in journalism that Michael learned Chinese in the first place and was able to go to China for the first time. Now, Beijing is what the entire Connelly family calls a second home, 7,000 miles from the tranquility of Maine. We hope that despite the great differences between our home cities and our home cultures, the dialogue and banter between us will continue to ebb and flow, rise, and fall, in a marvelous language of new tones, new sounds, new patterns — a language that itself helps to bring us closer together.

Jiqing Fang  
March 2008  
Beijing, P.R.C.

Michael Connelly  
March 2008  
Brunswick, Maine, U.S.A.

# Introduction

## Why Do You Need This Book?

In Chinese, knowledge of measure words is indispensable: nearly every noun takes a measure word. To a native English speaker who is learning Chinese, the measure words associated with Chinese nouns are among the most difficult grammatical constructs to grasp. This is both because much memorization is involved, and because English speakers are unaccustomed to thinking about measure words. Certainly, measure words do exist in English, but the majority of English nouns do not need such a classifier — we speak of a pen, a house, a car, and a bed. These kinds of nouns can be numbered without any collective noun — two pens, three houses, four cars, eight beds — and account for the vast majority of English nouns. So let us consider three categories of measure words in English; these concepts will help motivate your study of measure words in Chinese.

### *Collective Nouns*

The first category of measure words in English are collective nouns: a murder of crows, a pride of lions, a herd of cows, a flock of geese, a litter of kittens. Some of these collectives are quite common, and others so obscure as to be nearly archaic. They are all used when referring to a group without specifying any number. You could get away without knowing most of these words, but your speech would sound rather generic: “A bunch of cows were sitting in the field next to a bunch of ducks.” Similarly, in Chinese, using a generic measure word (such as 个 [gè] or 些 [xiē]) in front of every noun works for a two-year-old, but after that a two-year-old is what you will sound like.

### *Container Measure Words*

The second category of measure words in English are container measures: a box of tissues, a bottle of wine, a cup of coffee, a package of mints. Some of these are unspecific in terms of an exact amount. For example, “a bottle of wine” may refer to a liter or a gallon. These quantifying measure words are much more specific than collectives and help make your speech in English more precise. Chinese has these kinds of measure words as well, such as 一沓 [yī dá, a sheaf of], 一堆 [yī duī, a heap of], 一捆 [yī kǔn, a bundle/bale of], 一批 [yī pī, a batch of]. This is one of the reasons why more than one measure word may be used with a given noun. We need to distinguish between 一杯啤酒 [yī bēi píjiǔ, a glass of beer] and 一瓶啤酒 [yī píng píjiǔ, a bottle of beer]. Sections II and III of this book provide lists of nouns (arranged alphabetically by pinyin or English) with all the common measure words that can be used with them. The winning noun is 人 [rén, person], which has at least eight



## Introduction

measure words associated with it. 人 can be used with 口 [kǒu, mouth: a person who is or will be eating], 行 [háng, row: a row of people], 排 [pái, line: a line of people], 堆 [duī, heap: a large crowd of people], 个 [gè, common measure word: a person], 位 [wèi, polite measure word: a respected person], 家 [jiā, family: a family], and 伙 [huǒ, group: a group of people].

## Single Unit Nouns

The third category of measure words in English are nouns that, like Chinese nouns, require measure words even in single units: a loaf of bread, a slice of bread, a pair of pants, a grain of sand, a pair of eyeglasses, a piece of paper. Unlike the use of measure words as collective nouns, these measure words are used even when speaking of a specific number of these things; and unlike the use of measure words as container words, these words do not distinguish between “a pair of pants” and a single “pant.” (What is “a pant” anyway?) We are using the measure word because it is simply wrong not to use the word. While fewer in number in English than in Chinese, these types of measure words are a mark of fluency. To go into a store and ask for “three pants” or “two breads” is a greater mark of unfamiliarity with English rules than is the mangling of the subjunctive or an error in subject/verb agreement. While the meaning of “a pant” may be clear, the form is clearly inelegant. This example should help you understand how you would sound to a native Chinese speaker if you omit the measure word completely.

## Who Cares About Measure Words Anyway?

Because measure words are mandatory in Chinese, not knowing which measure word to use becomes a much larger pitfall for those coming to the language as an outsider, for we have no ear to rely on, no natural fluency to fall back upon. Each noun has one or more measure words that must be used when speaking in numerical terms. One can say in Chinese “those pandas” or “my apple” without a measure word, but to say “a panda” or “an apple” or to attach a number greater than one to any noun, the correct measure word must be used.

There are additional reasons for studying measure words beyond trying to avoid sounding uneducated. (Which is not to discount the value of this motivation. It is a powerful one for most serious language students.) Studying Chinese measure words can also give us important insights into the Chinese perspective. While there are many measure words in Chinese, most measure words are used for a set of nouns. By considering what nouns are linked together through a common measure word, we glean evidence of some ancient Chinese thought.

Take the measure word for snake: 条 [tiáo]. What does it refer to? Slippery things? Slimy things? (Yes, we know snakes aren’t slimy, but many people think of them that way!) Dangerous things? Fast things? Things that lay eggs? If you search this dictionary in the section arranged by measure words, you will find that 条 is also the measure word for worms, which might lead you to think that small, wiggly animals are the common conceptual link. But wait: the same measure word, 条, also is connected with a river — which is not an

animal of any kind. Suddenly, the similarity becomes clear, and the common element of these three wildly diverse things — a sightless invertebrate, an advanced reptile, and a moving body of water — leaps into focus, and we see through Chinese eyes that it is the irregular and undulating shape that is of primary significance. So when we translate 一条蛇 [yī tiáo shé] as “a snake,” we could be thinking somewhat more fancifully and no less accurately of “an undulating serpent.”

Just as it is interesting to think about which nouns are categorized together, it is equally insightful to consider how similar nouns are differentiated by taking on different measure words. Consider the noun 马 [mǎ, horse]. Coming from an English-speaking, Western perspective, one might expect that if the Chinese employ a special measure word for horse, that same measure word would be used for two other horse-like animals: the donkey and the mule. But no, the latter two animals require a different measure word! Clearly, the distinction must have been very important to the ancient Chinese speakers at the time when language became codified.

Finally, consider that some nouns take on more than one measure word in order to emphasize different aspects of the noun. For example, return to the measure words attached to 人 [rén, person]. One can say 一个人 [yī gè rén], 一口人 [yī kǒu rén], and 一位人 [yī wèi rén]. These measure words all refer to a person, even the same person, but are used in different situations to reflect different aspects of a complex concept. 一个人 is the most ordinary measure word, literally meaning one unit of person. 一口人 is one mouth of a person, often used when counting the number of mouths (people) that are to be fed in a family. 一位人 is a more respectful or honorific way to refer to a person. Just as we gain insight from the set of nouns that share a measure word, we gain understanding of the nuances of a noun from the choice of measure words.

## How to Use This Dictionary

The *Cheng & Tsui Chinese Measure Word Dictionary* will help you conquer the measure word mountain. We have brought together more than 150 of the most frequently used Chinese measure words and a set of the most common nouns. Our selection of measure words is based on the frequency of their appearance in modern and contemporary Chinese publications — both in print and electronic form — as well as a number of authoritative reference books and dictionaries, including the *Xinhua Dictionary* and the *Chinese-English Dictionary* (published by Shanghai Jiao Tong University Press). We have paired these measure words with nouns that appear in today’s popular introductory Chinese language textbooks — including all nouns featured in the second edition of the *Integrated Chinese* series — and nouns that will especially highlight the many nuances of Chinese measure words.

Section I contains the most frequently used Chinese measure words, with exemplary Chinese nouns and phrases they accompany. Usage is explained briefly in English terms. For those nouns that take on more than one measure word, this first section helps to distinguish those measure words that have very slight differences between them. By reading the usage

## Introduction

notes and studying the groups of nouns that are associated with a particular measure word, you will begin to recognize common factors and nuances of each measure word.

Section II provides a quick reference to frequently used English nouns with the aim of helping the reader determine the correct Chinese translation and corresponding measure words. This arrangement is obviously most helpful for English-speaking Chinese learners who are trying to find the exact measure word for a Chinese noun expressed in English. It also includes some English measure words and their Chinese equivalents.

Section III is just the opposite, including Chinese nouns followed by corresponding measure words. All sections are organized by the Chinese pinyin pronunciation system, and proper nouns are listed as they are most commonly spelled (e.g. Peking Opera, Moutai).

This dictionary is meant to be used as a companion to any Chinese instructional textbook and as a reference guide. You can look up nouns in Chinese or in English and find all the measure words connected with a specific noun. As mentioned above, you can also look up the measure word and find the group of nouns that use that particular measure word. Once you understand the characteristic that all flat things (like a piece of paper and a ticket) share, you might be able to guess that the flat bread you wish to buy takes on the same measure word.

While Chinese measure words are comprised mostly of nominal measure words, there exist a few verbal measure words as well. Whereas a nominal measure word appears before a noun (一条领带, *yī tiáo lǐngdài*, a tie), a verbal measure word appears after a verb to indicate the frequency of the action, meaning once, twice, or a number of times. (我去过一趟北京, *Wǒ qùguò yī tàng Běijīng*. I have been to Beijing once before.) In the first section of measure words, we have included a selection of verbal measure words, which are indicated with the abbreviation *vmw*.

Finally, the appendix provides a list of the most common Chinese military and organizational unitary terms and their English equivalents. These will also be of use to the diligent student of Chinese.

A note on pronunciation: The use of the retroflex suffix 儿 (-r) in conversation is quite common in Beijing and many other parts of north and northeast China. We have made a parenthetical note of such uses of the 儿 suffix, and these can be found in the main entry of each relevant measure word (Section I) or Chinese noun (Section III).

Linking nouns and measure words together is worth your effort. Since measure words are in constant and frequent use, they are an essential — not peripheral — part of daily Chinese communication. Without a sure command of Chinese measure words, the foreign student of Chinese is reduced to the status of an inarticulate outsider. It takes brains and hard work to learn Chinese, so why should you settle for sounding as though you haven't made a large investment of time and effort? By fully incorporating the correct measure words into your Chinese communication, you will signal that you are serious about your study of the Chinese language, and that you respect the Chinese people and culture.

**I. Frequently Used  
Chinese Measure Words  
with Example Nouns  
and Usage Notes**

**一. 汉语常用量词  
名词搭配举例及用法注释**

*Arranged alphabetically by Chinese measure word,  
including English translations*

SAMPLE

## B

一把 [yī bǎ] an object with a handle or a thing that can be held by hand; a handful of

- ~扳子 [bānzi] a wrench
- ~菠菜 [bōcài] a bundle of spinach
- ~菜刀 [càidāo] a cooking knife, vegetable knife or cleaver
- ~叉子 [chāzi] a fork
- ~尺子 [chǐzi] a ruler
- ~锄头 [chútou] a hoe
- ~锤子 [chuǐzi] a hammer
- ~墩布 [dūnbù] a mop
- ~二胡 [èrhú] an erhu—a two-stringed bowed Chinese musical instrument
- ~粉丝 [fěnsī] a bundle of dried vermicelli made of mung bean flour
- ~斧子 [fǔzi] an axe
- ~改锥 [gǎizhuī] a screwdriver
- ~挂面 [guàimiàn] a bundle of dried (wheat) noodles
- ~吉他 [jítā] a guitar
- ~剪刀 [jiǎndāo] a pair of scissors
- ~锯 [jù] a saw
- ~卷尺 [juǎnchǐ] a tape measure
- ~筷子 [kuàizi] a bundle of chopsticks
- ~螺丝刀 [luósīdāo] a screwdriver
- ~钳子 [qiánzi] a pair of pliers
- ~沙子 [shāzi] a handful of sand
- ~手杖 [shǒuzhàng] a walking stick, cane
- ~梳子 [shūzi] a comb
- ~刷子 [shuāzi] a brush
- ~水果刀 [shuǐguǒdāo] a fruit knife
- ~提琴 [tíqín] a violin
- ~笤帚 [tiáozhōu] a broom
- ~香蕉 [xiāngjiāo] a bunch of bananas
- ~小葱 [xiǎocōng] a bundle of spring onions

- ~小刀 [xiǎodāo] a knife
- ~钥匙 [yàoshi] a key
- ~椅子 [yǐzi] a chair
- ~雨伞 [yǔsǎn] an umbrella
- 帮我~, 好吗? [Bāng wǒ ~, hǎo ma?] *vmw.* Give me a hand, okay?
- 再玩~扑克。[Zàiwán ~ pūkè.] *vmw.* Let's play another game of poker.

一瓣(儿) [yī bàn(r)] a clove of garlic; section of citrus fruits

- ~橘子 [júzi] a section of an orange
- ~蒜 [suàn] a clove of garlic
- ~柚子 [yòuzi] a section of a grapefruit

一帮 [yī bāng] a group or band of people

- ~歹徒 [dǎitú] a band of gangsters or thugs
- ~顾客 [gùkè] a group of customers
- ~客人 [kèrén] a group of guests
- ~旅游者 [lǚyóuzhě] a group of tourists
- ~强盗 [qiángdào] a band of robbers
- ~士兵 [shìbīng] a group of soldiers

【Note】一帮 [yī bāng], 一拨 [yī bō], 一伙 [yī huǒ], 一批 [yī pī], and 一群 [yī qún] can be used interchangeably when referring to a group of people, though 一群 [yī qún] is more formal than the others. 一帮 [yī bāng] and 一伙 [yī huǒ] usually impart a derogatory connotation, for example 一帮强盗 [yī bāng qiángdào, a gang of robbers]; 一伙歹徒 [yī huǒ dǎitú, a gang of scoundrels]. 一拨 [yī bō] and 一批 [yī pī] are used when referring to a group of people who are taking part in an activity or are on the move, for example 公司又来了一拨 / 一批新雇员。

[Gōngsī yòu lái le yī bō/yī pī xīn gùyuán.]

Another group of new recruits has come to the company.] Of these, only 一拨 [yī bō], 一批 [yī pī], and 一群 [yī qún] can be used to refer to non-human objects. 一群 [yī qún] and 一拨 [yī bō] are used to refer to animals and other non-human, live organisms, whereas only 一批 [yī pī] is used for non-living things. For example: 河里又来了一群鱼 / 一拨鱼。[Hé lǐ yòu lái le yī qún yú / yī bō yú. There comes another school of fish.] 图书馆来了一批新书。[Túshūguǎn lái le yī pī xīnshū. The library has acquired a batch of new books.]

一包 [yī bāo] a bag, sack, or pack of; something wrapped up

~茶叶 [cháyè] a package of tea leaves  
~花生米 [huāshēngmǐ] a bag of peanuts  
~香烟 [xiāngyān] a pack of cigarettes  
~衣物 [yī wù] a parcel of clothing  
~中药 [zhōngyào] a package of Chinese herbal medicine

一杯 [yī bēi] a cup or glass of

~白开水 [bái kāishuǐ] a glass of boiled water  
~茶 [chá] a cup or glass of tea  
~咖啡 [kāfēi] a cup of coffee  
~茅台 [máotái] a glass of Moutai  
~葡萄酒 [pútáojiǔ] a glass of wine

一本 [yī běn] a book, volume, copy

~毕业证书 [bìyèzhèngshū] a bound diploma  
~《读者文摘》[dúzhě wénzhāi] a copy of *Reader's Digest*  
~护照 [hùzhào] a passport

~集邮册 [jíyóucè] a stamp album  
~教科书 [jiàokēshū] a textbook  
~练习本 [liànxíběn] an exercise book for practicing school lessons  
~书 [shū] a book  
~说明书 [shuōmíngshū] an instruction manual  
~小册子 [xiǎocèzi] a brochure  
~小说 [xiǎoshuō] a novel  
~影集 [yǐngjí] a photo album  
~油画集 [yóuhuàjí] a book of oil painting reproductions  
~杂志 [zázhì] a magazine  
~支票 [zhīpiào] a checkbook

一笔 [yī bǐ] an amount of money

~贷款 [dàikuán] a loan, mortgage  
~糊涂帐 [hútuzhàng] a chaotic account; a messy account  
~巨款 [jùkuǎn] a great amount of money  
~欠款 [qiánkuǎn] a debt  
~收入 [shōurù] an income  
~好字 [hǎozì] *vmw.* beautiful handwriting; 他写~好字。[tā xiě ~ hǎozì] His handwriting is beautiful.  
画~好画 [huà ~ hǎohuà] *vmw.* good at painting or drawing

一遍 [yī biàn] one time, once

再来~ [zàilái ~] *vmw.* one more time  
这本书, 我读了~。[Zhèběn shū wǒ dúle ~.] *vmw.* I have read the book once.

【Note】一遍 [yī biàn] and 一次 [yī cì] both mean one time or once and can be used interchangeably; however, 一遍 [yī biàn] emphasizes the course of an action from beginning to end.

一**辫** [yī biàn] a braid

~大蒜 [dàsuàn] a braid of garlic

~萝卜干 [luóbogān] a braid of dried  
turnip strips

~西葫芦干 [xīhúlùgān] a braid of dried  
summer squash strips

一**柄** [yī bǐng] used before ancient  
weaponry with a handle

~长矛 [chángmáo] a spear

~斧子 [fǔzi] an axe

~战刀 [zhàndāo] a saber

一**拨** [yī bō] a group or batch of

~客人 [kèrén] a group of guests

~学生 [xuésheng] a group of students

~鱼 [yú] a school of fish

分两~干 [fēn liǎngbō ~ gàn] *vmw.* work  
in two groups

顾客~接~ [gùkè ~ jiē ~] *vmw.* there is  
one group of visitors after another

**[Note]** 一帮 [yī bāng], 一拨 [yī bō], 一伙 [yī huǒ], 一批 [yī pī], and 一群 [yī qún] can be used interchangeably when referring to a group of people, though 一群 [yī qún] is more formal than the others. 一帮 [yī bāng] and 一伙 [yī huǒ] usually impart a derogatory connotation, for example 一帮强盗 [yī bāng qiángdào, a gang of robbers]; 一伙歹徒 [yī huǒ dǎitú, a gang of scoundrels]. 一拨 [yī bō] and 一批 [yī pī] are used when referring to a group of people who are taking part in an activity or are on the move, for example 公司又来了一拨 / 一批新雇员. [Gōngsī yòu lái le yī bō / yī pī xīn gùyuán. Another

group of new recruits has come to the company.] Of these, only 一拨 [yī bō], 一批 [yī pī], and 一群 [yī qún] can be used to refer to non-human objects. 一拨 [yī bō] and 一群 [yī qún] are used to refer to animals and other non-human, live organisms, whereas only 一批 [yī pī] is used for non-living things. For example: 河里又来了一群鱼 / 一拨鱼. [Héli yòu lái le yī qún yú / yī bō yú. There comes another school of fish.] 图书馆来了一批新书. [Túshūguǎn lái le yī pī xīnshū. The library has acquired a batch of new books.]

一**部** [yī bù] a literary or artistic  
work; a set of equipment

~电话 [diànhuà] a telephone

~电视剧 [diànshìjù] a television drama

~电影 [diànyǐng] a movie

~纪录片 [jìlùpiān] a documentary

~摄像机 [shèxiàngjī] a video camera

~手机 [shǒujī] a cell phone

~望远镜 [wàngyuǎnjìng] a pair of  
binoculars

~文学作品 [wénxué zuòpǐn] a literary  
work

~喜剧 [xǐjù] a comedy

~小说 [xiǎoshuō] a novel

~音乐作品 [yīnyuè zuòpǐn] a musical  
work

~照相机 [zhàoxiàngjī] a camera

~传记 [zhuànjì] a biography

**[Note]** While 一台 [yī tái] is used for most nouns ending with 机 [jī], particularly when the object is heavy or has a large base, for light and portable equipment the measure word is 一部 [yī bù], for instance with 电话 [diànhuà, telephone], 手机 [shǒujī, cell phone], and



照相机 [zhàoxiàngjī, camera]. However, for 订书机 [dìngshūjī, stapler], 一台 [yī tái] is more often used than 一部 [yī bù]. 一部 is used with an episode of a television drama, soap opera, or a movie: 一部电视剧 [yī bù diàn shì jù, a soap opera]; 一部电影 [yī bù diàn yǐng, a movie]. For an artistic performance on television, 一台 [yī tái] is more often used than 一场 [yī chǎng], whereas for a stage performance in a theater, 一场 [yī chǎng] is more often used.

一层 [yī céng] a layer of; a story of a building

~薄膜 [bómó] a thin film  
 ~尘土 [chéntǔ] a layer of dust  
 ~含义 [hányì] a shade of meaning, connotation  
 ~楼房 [lóufáng] a floor of a building  
 ~油漆 [yóuqī] a coat of paint

一茬 [yī chá] a crop of plants

~水稻 [shuǐdào] a crop of rice  
 ~小麦 [xiǎomài] a crop of wheat  
 ~玉米 [yùmǐ] a crop of corn  
 由种~改种两茬 [yóu zhòng ~ gǎizhòng liǎngchá] *vmw.* reap two crops instead of one

一场 [yī cháng] a period of rain, snow, wind, battle, lawsuit, or sickness

~暴雨 [bàoyǔ] a rainstorm  
 ~冰雹 [bīngbáo] a hailstorm  
 ~大风 [dàfēng] a strong wind  
 ~感冒 [gǎnmào] a bout of the common cold  
 ~官司 [guānsi] a lawsuit  
 ~激烈战斗 [jīliè zhàndòu] a fierce battle  
 大闹了~ [dànaole ~] *vmw.* threw a tantrum  
 又下了~ [yòuxiàle ~] *vmw.* rained or snowed again

一场 [yī chǎng] a sports match or competition; presentation; public display

~比赛 [bǐsài] a match  
 ~辩论 [biànlùn] a debate  
 ~电影 [diànyǐng] a movie showing  
 ~会议 [huìyì] a meeting  
 ~空欢喜 [kōng huānxǐ] a fleeting moment of joy and then disappointment  
 ~闹剧 [nàojù] a farce  
 ~拍卖会 [pāimài huì] an auction  
 ~骗局 [piànjú] a sham  
 ~文艺演出 [wényì yǎnchū] a stage performance  
 ~虚惊 [xūjīng] a false alarm  
 ~游戏 [yóuxì] a game  
 ~杂技 [zájì] an acrobatic show  
 还打~ [háidǎ ~] *vmw.* another set to play  
 又演出~ [yòu yǎnchū ~] *vmw.* gave another performance

【Note】 For an artistic performance on television, 一台 [yī tái] is more often used than 一场 [yī chǎng], whereas 一场 [yī chǎng] is more often used for a staged performance in a theater.

一出 [yī chū] a local opera performance; a shadow puppet performance

~京戏 [jīngxì] a Peking Opera performance

~戏 [xì] a local opera performance

【Note】一出 [yī chū] is used only for 戏 [xì, opera]. For other artistic performances, see 一场 [yī chǎng] and 一台 [yī tái].

一处 [yī chù] a place, location

~钓鱼的地方 [diàoyú de dìfāng] a place for fishing

~旅游景点 [lǚyóu jǐngdiǎn] a tourist attraction

~演出地点 [yǎnchū dìdiǎn] a venue for a performance

~住所 [zhùsuǒ] a dwelling place

一串(儿) [yī chuàn(r)] a string of; things not inherently in a line such as grapes and keys

~念珠 [niǎnzhū] a rosary

~葡萄 [pútáo] a cluster of grapes

~糖葫芦 [tánghúlu] one stick of sugarcoated crabapples

~项链 [xiàngliàn] a necklace

~羊肉串 [yáng ròuchuàn] one skewer of lamb shish kebabs

~钥匙 [yàoshi] a ring of keys

~珍珠 [zhēnzhū] a string of pearls

【Note】一串 [yī chuàn] literally means something strung together, whereas 一嘟噜 [yī dūlu] often refers to a cluster

of something, not necessarily with a string, and is often used colloquially.

一床 [yī chuáng] a single quilt or mattress

~被子 [bèizi] a quilt

~褥子 [rùzi] a mattress

一次 [yī cì] one time, once

~辩论 [biànlùn] a debate

~测验 [cèyàn] a test or quiz

~尝试 [chángshì] an attempt

~成功 [chénggōng] a success

~感冒 [gǎnmào] a bout of the common cold

~考试 [kǎoshì] an exam or test

~失败 [shībài] a failure

~试验 [shìyàn] an experiment

~谈话 [tánhuà] a talk or chat

~体检 [tǐjiǎn] a physical checkup

~游览 [yóulǎn] a tour

~约会 [yuēhuì] an appointment or date

我去过~长城。[Wǒ qùguò ~ chángchéng.] *vmw.* I have visited the Great Wall once.

我~也没去过。[Wǒ ~ yě méi qùguò.] *vmw.* I have never been there.

再来~ [zàilái ~] *vmw.* once more

【Note】一遍 [yī biàn] and 一次 [yī cì] both mean one time or once and can be used interchangeably; however, 一遍 [yī biàn] emphasizes the course of an action from beginning to end.

一撮 [yī cuō] a pinch of; a small amount or number of something put together

**II. English Nouns  
with Corresponding  
Chinese Measure Words**

**二. 英语名词及相应汉语量词**

*Arranged alphabetically by English noun,  
including Chinese translations*

*(For more details on choosing the right measure word, see usage notes  
in Section I: Frequently Used Chinese Measure Words.)*

SAMPLE

## A

**abacus**

一个算盘 [yī gè suànpán] an abacus

**abode**

一处住所 [yī chù zhùsuǒ] an abode

**accident**

一起事故 [yī qǐ shìgù] an accident

一桩事故 [yī zhuāng shìgù]  
an accident

**account**

一笔糊涂帐 [yī bǐ hútuzhàng]

a messy account

一笔帐 [yī bǐ zhàng] an account

**achievement**

一个成绩 [yī gè chéngjì]

an achievement

一项成绩 [yī xiàng chéngjì]

an achievement

**acrobatic show**

一场杂技 [yī chǎng zájì]

an acrobatic show

**activity**

一项活动 [yī xiàng huódòng]

an activity

一阵紧张 [yī zhèn jǐnzhāng]

a spell of busy activity

**activity center**

一处活动中心 [yī chù huódòng  
zhōngxīn] an activity center

**advice**

一席劝告 [yī xí quàngào]

a piece of advice

**address**

一个地址 [yī gè dìzhǐ] an address

**advertisement**

一段广告 [yī duàn guǎnggào]

a television ad

一篇广告 [yī piān guǎnggào]

a printed ad

一页广告 [yī yè guǎnggào]

a page of advertising

**afternoon**

一个下午 [yī gè xiàwǔ] an afternoon

**agreement**

一项协议 [yī xiàng xiéyì] an agreement

**air**

一些空气 [yī xiē kōngqì] some air

一股暖流 [yī gǔ nuǎnliú]

a current of warm air

**aircraft carrier**

一艘航空母舰 [yī sōu hángkōng  
mǔjiàn] an aircraft carrier

**airline company**

一家航空公司 [yī jiā hángkōng  
gōngsī] an airline company

**airplane**

一架飞机 [yī jià fēijī] an airplane

一种飞机 [yī zhǒng fēijī]

a type of airplane

一堆飞机残骸 [yī duī fēijī cánhái]

a heap of wreckage of a crashed airplane

**airplane ticket**

一沓(飞)机票 [yī dá (fēi)jīpiào]

a bunch of airplane tickets

一张飞机票 [yī zhāng fēijīpiào]

an airplane ticket

一张机票 [yī zhāng jīpiào]

an airplane ticket

**airport**

一处(飞)机场 [yī chù (fēi)jīchǎng]

an airport

**alleyway**

一条胡同 [yī tiáo hútòng]  
an alleyway or lane

**ambulance**

一辆救护车 [yī liàng jiùhùchē]  
an ambulance

**American**

一个美国人 [yī gè měiguórén]  
an American

**ammunition**

一发弹药 [yī fā dànào]  
one round of ammunition  
一箱弹药 [yī xiāng dànào]  
a box of ammunition

**animal skin**

一张皮革 [yī zhāng pígé]  
an animal skin or hide

**animal**

一群动物 [yī qún dòngwù]  
a bunch of animals  
一些动物 [yī xiē dòngwù]  
some animals  
一只动物 [yī zhī dòngwù] an animal  
一种动物 [yī zhǒng dòngwù]  
a kind of animal  
一群野兽 [yī qún yěshòu]  
a pack of wild animals  
一种珍稀动物 [yī zhǒng zhēnxī  
dòngwù] a rare animal

**anonymous letter**

一封匿名信 [yī fēng nìmíngxìn]  
an anonymous letter

**antelope**

一只羚羊 [yī zhī língyáng] an antelope

**anti-aircraft gun**

一架高射机枪 [yī jià gāoshè jīqiāng]  
an anti-aircraft gun

**antique**

一件文物 [yī jiàn wénwù] an antique

**apartment**

一套房屋 [yī tào fángwū]  
an apartment

**apartment building**

一栋居民楼 [yī dòng jūmínlóu]  
an apartment building  
一幢居民楼 [yī zhuàng jūmínlóu]  
an apartment building  
一座居民楼 [yī zuò jūmínlóu]  
an apartment building  
一栋住宅楼 [yī dòng zhùzháilóu]  
an apartment building  
一幢住宅楼 [yī zhuàng zhùzháilóu]  
an apartment building  
一座住宅楼 [yī zuò zhùzháilóu]  
an apartment building

**apple**

一个苹果 [yī gè píngguǒ] an apple  
一箱苹果 [yī xiāng píngguǒ]  
a box of apples

**apple tree**

一棵苹果树 [yī kē píngguǒshù]  
an apple tree  
一株苹果树 [yī zhū píngguǒshù]  
an apple tree

**applicant**

一位应聘者 [yī wèi yìngpìnzhě]  
an applicant

**application**

一份工作申请 [yī fèn gōngzuò  
shēnqǐng] a job application  
一份申请 [yī fèn shēnqǐng]  
a written application

**appointment**

一次约会 [yī cì yuēhuì]  
an appointment

**arm**

一只胳膊 [yī zhī gēbo] an arm

**armoire**

一个衣柜 [yī gè yī guì] an armoire

**armored vehicle**

一辆装甲车 [yī liàng zhuāngjiǎchē]  
an armored vehicle

**artwork**

一件艺术品 [yī jiàn yìshùpǐn]  
a work of art

**article**

一项条款 [yī xiàng tiáokuǎn]  
an article or clause of a document  
一段文章 [yī duàn wénzhāng]  
a passage within an article  
一篇文章 [yī piān wénzhāng]  
a piece of writing or a written article  
一页文章 [yī yè wénzhāng]  
a page of an article

**article for daily use**

一件日用品 [yī jiàn rìyòngpǐn]  
an article for daily use

**artistic film**

一部艺术片 [yī bù yìshùpiàn]  
an artistic film

**association**

一个协会 [yī gè xiéhuì] an association  
一家协会 [yī jiā xiéhuì] an association

**aspiration**

一个愿望 [yī gè yuànwàng]  
an aspiration

**athlete**

一名运动员 [yī míng yùndòngyuán]  
an athlete

**attempt**

一次尝试 [yī cì chángshì] an attempt  
一种企图 [yī zhǒng qítú] an attempt

**auction**

一场拍卖会 [yī chǎng pāimài huì]  
an auction

**audiocassette**

一盒录音带 [yī hé lùyīndài]  
an audiocassette  
一盘录音带 [yī pán lùyīndài]  
an audiocassette

**auditorium**

一处礼堂 [yī chù lǐtáng] an auditorium

**automobile**

一辆轿车 [yī liàng jiàochē] a car  
一辆汽车 [yī liàng qìchē]  
an automobile  
一排汽车 [yī pái qìchē]  
a row of automobiles

**automobile trip**

一趟汽车 [yī tàng qìchē]  
an automobile trip

**award**

一个奖 [yī gè jiǎng] an award

**awl**

一把锥子 [yī bǎ zhuīzi] an awl

**axe**

一把斧子 [yī bǎ fǔzi] an axe  
一柄斧头 [yī bǐng fǔtǒu] an axe

**axle**

一根车轴 [yī gēn chēzhóu]  
an axle of a truck or a cart

**B****baby**

一个婴儿 [yī gè yīng'ér] a baby

**background**

一种背景 [yī zhǒng bèijǐng]  
a background

**backpack**

一个背包 [yī gè bēibāo] a backpack

一个书包 [yī gè shūbāo] a backpack

**badge**

一枚纪念章 [yī méi jìniànzhāng]

a souvenir badge

**bag**

一个包 [yī gè bāo] a bag

一只包 [yī zhī bāo] a bag

**bag of**

一袋 [yī dài] a bag of

**baggage**

一件行李 [yī jiàn xíngli]

a piece of baggage

**balance**

一台秤 [yī tai chèng] a balance

一台盘秤 [yī tái pánchèng] a balance

**bale of**

一捆 [yī kǔn] a bale of

**ball of**

一团 [yī tuán] a ball of

**ballfield**

一处球场 [yī chù qiúchǎng] a ballfield

一个球场 [yī gè qiúchǎng] a ballfield

**ballgame**

一场球赛 [yī chǎng qiú sài] a ballgame

**ballgame fan**

一个球迷 [yī gè qiú mí] a ballgame fan

**ballot**

一张选票 [yī zhāng xuǎnpào] a ballot

**ballpoint pen**

一枝圆珠笔 [yī yuán zhūbǐ]

a ballpoint pen

一支圆珠笔 [yī zhī zhūbǐ]

a ballpoint pen

**ballroom**

一间舞厅 [yī jiān wǔtīng] a ballroom

**bamboo**

一根竹子 [yī gēn zhúzi] a bamboo pole

一节竹子 [yī jié zhúzi]

a section of bamboo

**bamboo mat**

一领凉席 [yī lǐng liángxí]

a bamboo mat

一张凉席 [yī zhāng liángxí]

a bamboo mat

**banana**

一把香蕉 [yī bǎ xiāngjiāo]

a bunch of bananas

一个香蕉 [yī gè xiāngjiāo] a banana

**band**

一支乐队 [yī zhī yuèduì] a music band

**band of**

一帮 [yī bāng] or 一伙 [yī huǒ]

a band of

**bank**

一家银行 [yī jiā yínháng] a bank

**banknote**

一扎钞票 [yī zā chāopiào]

a bundle of banknotes

一张钞票 [yī zhāng chāopiào]

a banknote

一张纸币 [yī zhāng zhǐbì] a banknote

**bar**

一家酒吧 [yī jiā jiǔbā] a bar

**barbershop**

一家发廊 [yī jiā fāláng] a barbershop

一家理发店 [yī jiā lǐfādìan]

a barbershop

**barbed wire fence**

一道铁丝网 [yī dào tiěsīwǎng]

a barbed wire fence



**barrel of**

一桶 [yī tǒng] a barrel

**baseball**

一个棒球 [yī gè bàngqiú] a baseball

一只棒球 [yī zhī bàngqiú] a baseball

**baseball game**

一场棒球比赛 [yī chǎng bàngqiú bǐsài] a baseball game

一局棒球比赛 [yī jú bàngqiú bǐsài]  
an inning of baseball game

**basket**

一只筐 [yī zhī kuāng] a basket

一只篮子 [yī zhī lánzi] a basket

**basketball**

一个篮球 [yī gè lánqiú] a basketball

一只篮球 [yī zhī lánqiú] a basketball

**basketball game**

一场篮球比赛 [yī chǎng lánqiú bǐsài]  
a basketball game

**batch of**

一批 [yī pī] a batch of

**bathroom**

一处厕所 [yī chù cèsuǒ] a bathroom

一间盥洗室 [yī jiān guànxǐshì]  
a bathroom

一间卫生间 [yī jiān wèishēngjiān]  
a bathroom

一间浴室 [yī jiān yùshì] a bathroom

**bath towel**

一条浴巾 [yī tiáo yùjīn] a bath towel

**battery**

一节电池 [yī jié diànr chí] a battery

**battle**

一场战斗 [yī cháng zhàndòu] a battle

**beam**

一根大梁 [yī gēn dàliáng]  
a supporting beam

**bean**

一棵豆 [yī kē dòu] a bean

一粒豆 [yī lì dòu] a bean

**bean curd**

一块豆腐 [yī kuài dòufu]  
a cube of bean curd (tofu)

**beard**

一根胡须 [yī gēn húxū]

a single beard hair

一绺胡须 [yī liǔ húxū] a tuft of beard

**beauty salon**

一家美容店 [yī jiā měiróngdiàn]  
a beauty salon

**bed**

一张床 [yī zhāng chuáng] a bed

一张单人床 [yī zhāng dānrénchuáng]  
a single bed

**bedroom**

一间寝室 [yī jiān qǐnshì] a bedroom

一间卧室 [yī jiān wòshì] a bedroom

**bedsheet**

一张床单 [yī zhāng chuángdān]  
a bedsheet

**bee**

一队蜂群 [yī duì fēngqún]

a swarm of bees

一群蜜蜂 [yī qún mìfēng]

a swarm of bees

一只蜜蜂 [yī zhī mìfēng] a bee

**beef**

一块牛肉 [yī kuài niúròu]  
a chunk of beef

一片儿牛肉 [yī piàn'r niúròu]  
a slice of beef

**beer**

- 一杯啤酒 [yī bēi píjiǔ] a glass of beer
- 一罐啤酒 [yī guàn píjiǔ] a can of beer
- 一瓶啤酒 [yī píng píjiǔ]
- a bottle of beer
- 一箱啤酒 [yī xiāng píjiǔ] a pack of beer
- 一扎啤酒 [yī zhā píjiǔ]
- a mug of draft beer

**behavior**

- 一种行为 [yī zhǒng xíngwéi]
- a kind of behavior

**bell**

- 一只铃铛 [yī zhī língdang] a bell

**belt**

- 一根皮带 [yī gēn pídài] a leather belt
- 一条皮带 [yī tiáo pídài] a leather belt

**bench**

- 一张长凳 [yī zhāng chángdèng]
- a bench

**bend**

- 一道弯 [yī dào wān] a bend

**Bible**

- 一本圣经 [yī běn shèngjīng] a Bible
- 一部圣经 [yī bù shèngjīng] a Bible

**bicycle**

- 一辆自行车 [yī liàng zìxíngchē]
- a bicycle

**big event**

- 一件大事 [yī jiàn dàshì] a big event
- 一桩大事 [yī zhuāng dàshì] a big event

**binoculars**

- 一部望远镜 [yī bù wàngyuǎnjìng]
- a pair of binoculars
- 付望远镜 [yī fù wàngyuǎnjìng]
- a pair of binoculars
- 一副望远镜 [yī fù wàngyuǎnjìng]
- a pair of binoculars

**biography**

- 一部传记 [yī bù zhuànjì] a biography
- 一篇传记 [yī piān zhuànjì] a biography

**bird**

- 一只鸟 [yī zhī niǎo] a bird
- 一只小鸟 [yī zhī xiǎoniǎo] a little bird

**birthday**

- 一个生日 [yī gè shēngrì] a birthday

**bit of**

- 一点 [yī diǎn] or 一点(儿) [yī diǎn(r)]
- a bit of

**blackboard**

- 一块黑板 [yī kuài hēibǎn] a blackboard

**blanket**

- 一条毯子 [yī tiáo tǎnzi] a blanket

**blockade**

- 一道封锁线 [yī dào fēngsuǒxiàn]
- a blockade line

**boar**

- 一头野猪 [yī tóu yězhū] a boar

**boat**

- 一艘船 [yī sōu chuán] a boat
- 一只船 [yī zhī chuán] a boat

**boiled water**

- 一杯白开水 [yī bēi báikāishuǐ]
- a glass of boiled water

**bok choy**

- 一棵小白菜 [yī kē xiǎobáicài]
- a head of bok choy
- 一捆小白菜 [yī kǔn xiǎobáicài]
- a bundle of bok choy

**bolt of**

- 一匹 [yī pǐ] a bolt of (cloth)

**bomb**

- 一颗炸弹 [yī kē zhàdàn] a bomb
- 一枚炸弹 [yī méi zhàdàn] a bomb

**III. Chinese Nouns  
with Corresponding  
Chinese Measure Words**

**三. 汉语名词及相应量词**

*Arranged alphabetically by Chinese noun,  
including English translations*

*(For more details on choosing the right measure word, see usage notes  
in Section I: Frequently Used Chinese Measure Words.)*

SAMPLE

## A

## 爱心 [àixīn]

一片爱心 [yī piàn àixīn] plentiful love  
and care

## 癌症 [áizhèng]

一种癌症 [yī zhǒng áizhèng]  
a kind of cancer

## 安全帽 [ānquán mào]

一顶安全帽 [yī dǐng ānquán mào]  
a safety helmet  
一只安全帽 [yī zhī ānquán mào]  
a safety helmet

## 按键 [ànjiàn]

一个按键 [yī gè ànjiàn]  
a single key of a keyboard  
一排按键 [yī pái ànjiàn]  
a row of keys on a keyboard

## 案件 [ànjàn]

一起案件 [yī qǐ ànjàn] a legal case  
一桩案件 [yī zhuāng ànjàn]  
a legal case  
一宗案件 [yī zōng ànjàn] a legal case

## B

## 白菜 [báicài]

一棵白菜 [yī kē báicài]  
a head of Chinese cabbage

## 白发 [báifà]

一根白发 [yī gēn báifà]  
a single white hair  
一头白发 [yī tóu báifà]  
a full head of white hair

## 白开水 [báikāishuǐ]

一杯白开水 [yī bēi báikāishuǐ]  
a glass of boiled water

## 白天 [báitián]

一个白天 [yī gè báitián]  
a day excluding the night

## 白头发 [báitóufa]

一撮白头发 [yī zuǒ báitóufa]  
a tuft of white hair

## 白云 [báiyún]

一朵白云 [yī duǒ báiyún]  
a white cloud

## 百科全书 [bǎikē quánshū]

一本百科全书 [yī běn bǎikē quánshū]  
one volume of an encyclopedia  
一集百科全书 [yī jí bǎikē quánshū]  
one volume of an encyclopedia  
一套百科全书 [yī tào bǎikē quánshū]  
one set of encyclopedia

## 百事可乐 [Bǎishìkélè]

一罐百事可乐 [yī guǎn Bǎishìkélè]  
a can of Pepsi  
一瓶百事可乐 [yī píng Bǎishìkélè]  
a bottle of Pepsi

## 扳子 [bānzi]

一把扳子 [yī bǎ bānzi] a wrench

## 班 [bān]

一个班 [yī gè bān] a class or squad

## 班机 [bānjī]

一次班机 [yī cì bānjī] a flight  
一趟班机 [yī tàng bānjī] a flight

## 斑马 [bānmǎ]

一匹斑马 [yī pǐ bānmǎ] a zebra

**板凳 [bǎndèng]**

一张板凳 [yī zhāng bǎndèng] a stool

**办公楼 [bàngōnglóu]**

一栋办公楼 [yī dòng bàngōnglóu]

an office building

一座办公楼 [yī zuò bàngōnglóu]

an office building

**办公室 [bàngōngshì]**

一间办公室 [yī jiān bàngōngshì]

an office

**棒球 [bàngqiú]**

一个棒球 [yī gè bàngqiú] a baseball

一只棒球 [yī zhī bàngqiú] a baseball

**棒球比赛 [bàngqiú bǐsài]**

一场棒球比赛 [yī chǎng bàngqiú bǐsài]

a baseball game

一局棒球比赛 [yī jú bàngqiú bǐsài]

an inning of a baseball game

**包 [bāo]**

一个包 [yī gè bāo] a bag

一只包 [yīzhī bāo] a bag

**包裹 [bāoguǒ]**

一个包裹 [yī gè bāoguǒ] a parcel

**保护区 [bǎohùqū]**

一个保护区 [yī gè bǎohùqū]

a protected or preserved area, a reserve

一片保护区 [yī piàn bǎohùqū]

a protected or preserved area, a reserve

**宝剑 [bǎojiàn]**

一方宝剑 [yī fāng bǎojiàn] a sword

**宝石 [bǎoshí]**

一颗宝石 [yī kē bǎoshí]

a precious stone

一枚宝石 [yī méi bǎoshí]

a precious stone

**宝物 [bǎowù]**

一件宝物 [yī jiàn bǎowù] a treasure

**保险 [bǎoxiǎn]**

一份保险 [yī fèn bǎoxiǎn]

an insurance policy

**报道 [bàodào]**

一份报道 [yī fèn bàodào]

a copy of a written newsreport

一篇报道 [yī piān bàodào]

a written news report

**报告 [bàogào]**

一份报告 [yī fèn bàogào]

a copy of a written report

一个报告 [yī gè bàogào] a report

**报纸 [bàozhǐ]**

一沓报纸 [yī dá bàozhǐ]

a sheaf of newspapers

一份报纸 [yī fèn bàozhǐ] a newspaper

一卷报纸 [yī juǎn bàozhǐ]

a roll of newspapers

一摞报纸 [yī luò bàozhǐ]

a stack of newspapers

一张报纸 [yī zhāng bàozhǐ]

a sheet of newspaper

**暴风雪 [bàofēngxuě]**

一场暴风雪 [yī cháng bàofēngxuě]

a snowstorm

**暴雨 [bàoyǔ]**

一场暴雨 [yī cháng bàoyǔ] a rainstorm

一阵暴雨 [yī zhèn bàoyǔ]

a spell of rain

**背包 [bēibāo]**

一个背包 [yī gè bēibāo] a backpack

**背心 [bèixīn]**

一件背心 [yī jiàn bèixīn] an undershirt

**杯子 [bēizi]**

一个杯子 [yī gè bēizi] a glass

一支杯子 [yī zhī bēizi] a glass

一枝杯子 [yī zhī bēizi] a glass

**背景 [bèijǐng]**

一种背景 [yī zhǒng bèijǐng]

a background

**被子 [bèizi]**

一张被子 [yī chuáng bèizi] a quilt

**本领 [běnlǐng]**

一个本领 [yī gè běnlǐng] a skill

一套本领 [yī tào běnlǐng] a set of skills

一项本领 [yī xiàng běnlǐng] a skill

**笔 [bǐ]**

一支笔 [yī zhī bǐ] a pen or pencil

一枝笔 [yī zhī bǐ] a pen or pencil

**鼻孔 [bíkǒng]**

一只鼻孔 [yī zhī bíkǒng] a nostril

**鼻子 [bízi]**

一个鼻子 [yī gè bízi] a nose

一只鼻子 [yī zhī bízi] a nose

**比赛 [bǐsài]**

一场比赛 [yī chǎng bǐsài] a match

一局比赛 [yī jú bǐsài] a set of a match

一轮比赛 [yī lún bǐsài]

a round of a competition

**比萨饼 [bǐsàbǐng]**

一张比萨饼 [yī zhāng bǐsàbǐng]

a piece of pizza

**笔记本 [bǐjìběn]**

一本笔记本 [yī běn bǐjìběn]

a notebook

**笔记本电脑 [bǐjìběn diànnǎo]**

一部笔记本电脑 [yī bù bǐjìběn

diànnǎo] a laptop computer

一台笔记本电脑 [yī tái bǐjìběn

diànnǎo] a laptop computer

**毕业生 [bìyèshēng]**

一届毕业生 [yī jiè bìyèshēng]

graduates of a specific year

**毕业证书 [bìyèzhèngshū]**

一本毕业证书 [yī běn bìyèzhèngshū]

a bound diploma

一张毕业证书 [yī zhāng bìyèzhèng-

shū] a diploma

**壁灯 [bìdēng]**

一盏壁灯 [yī zhǎn bìdēng] a wall lamp

**鞭炮 [biānpào]**

一挂鞭炮 [yī guà biānpào]

a string of firecrackers

一枚鞭炮 [yī méi biānpào] a firecracker

**扁担 [biǎndan]**

一根扁担 [yī gēn biǎndan]

a carrying pole

**辩论 [biànlùn]**

一场辩论 [yī chǎng biànlùn] a debate

一次辩论 [yī cì biànlùn] a debate

**辫子 [biànzi]**

一根辫子 [yī gēn biànzi]

a pigtail or braid

一条辫子 [yī tiáo biànzi]

a pigtail or braid

**标语 [biāoyǔ]**

一条标语 [yī tiáo biāoyǔ] a slogan

一张标语 [yī zhāng biāoyǔ] a placard

**表 [biǎo]**

一块表 [yī kuài biǎo] a wristwatch

一张表 [yīzhāng biǎo]

a form to be filled out

**表格 [biǎogé]**

一份表格 [yī fèn biǎogé] a form

一张表格 [yī zhāng biǎogé]

a form to be filled out

**别墅 [biéshù]**

一幢别墅 [yī zhuàng biéshù] a villa

一座别墅 [yī zuò biéshù] a villa

**别针 [biézhēn]**

一枚别针 [yī méi biézhēn]

a safety pin or paper clip

**冰 [bīng]**

一块冰 [yī kuài bīng] a cube of ice

**冰雹 [bīngbáo]**

一场冰雹 [yī cháng bīngbáo]

a hailstorm

一粒冰雹 [yī lì bīngbáo] a hailstone

**冰棍(儿) [bīnggùn(r)]**

一根冰棍 [yī gēn bīnggùn] a Popsicle

**饼 [bǐng]**

一张饼 [yī zhāng bǐng] a pancake

**饼干 [bǐnggān]**

一块饼干 [yī kuài bǐnggān]

a cracker or cookie

一片儿饼干 [yī piàn'r bǐnggān]

a cracker or cookie

**冰箱 [bīngxiāng]**

一台冰箱 [yī tái bīngxiāng]

a refrigerator

**玻璃 [bōlí]**

一块玻璃 [yī kuài bōlí] a piece of glass

一张玻璃 [yī zhāng bōlí]

a piece of glass

**菠菜 [bōcài]**

一把菠菜 [yī bǎ bōcài]

a bunch of spinach

一棵菠菜 [yī kē bōcài] a spinach plant

一捆菠菜 [yī kǔn bōcài]

a bundle of spinach

**薄膜 [bómó]**

一层薄膜 [yī céng bómó]

a thin film or membrane

**布 [bù]**

一块布 [yī kuài bù] a piece of cloth

一匹布 [yī pǐ bù] a bolt of cloth

**步枪 [bùqiāng]**

一枝步枪 [yī zhī bùqiāng] a rifle

**部门 [bùmén]**

一个部门 [yī gè bùmén] a department

**C****菜 [cài]**

一道菜 [yī dào cài] a course in a meal

一棵菜 [yī kē cài] a vegetable plant

一盘菜 [yī pán cài] a dish of food

一样菜 [yī yàng cài] a type of dish



**菜板 [càibǎn]**

一张菜板 [yī zhāng càibǎn]  
a cutting board

**菜单 [càidān]**

一份菜单 [yī fèn càidān] a menu  
一张菜单 [yī zhāng càidān] a menu

**菜刀 [càidāo]**

一把菜刀 [yī bǎ càidāo]  
a cooking knife

**彩云 [cǎiyún]**

一朵彩云 [yī duǒ cǎiyún]  
a colorful cloud

**餐馆 [cānguǎn]**

一家餐馆 [yī jiā cānguǎn]  
a restaurant or cafeteria

**餐厅 [cāntīng]**

一家餐厅 [yī jiā cāntīng] a restaurant  
一间餐厅 [yī jiān cāntīng]  
a dining room

**残骸 [cánhái]**

一堆残骸 [yī duī cánhái]  
a heap of wreckage  
一堆飞机残骸 [yī duī fēijīcánhái]  
a heap of wreckage of a crashed airplane

**草 [cǎo]**

一根草 [yī gēn cǎo] a blade of grass  
一棵草 [yī kē cǎo] a grass plant  
一捆草 [yī kǔn cǎo] a bale of hay  
一株草 [yī zhū cǎo] a grass plant  
一撮草 [yī zuǒ cǎo] a tuft of grass

**草地 [cǎodì]**

一片草地 [yī piàn cǎodì]  
a stretch of grassland

**草莓 [cǎoméi]**

一颗草莓 [yī kē cǎoméi] a strawberry

**厕所 [cèsuǒ]**

一处厕所 [yī chù cèsuǒ] a restroom,  
toilet, washroom or bathroom

**测验 [cèyàn]**

一次测验 [yī cì cèyàn] a test or quiz

**叉车 [chāchē]**

一台叉车 [yī tái chāchē] a forklift

**叉子 [chāzi]**

一把叉子 [yī bǎ chāzi] a fork

**茶 [chá]**

一杯茶 [yī bēi chá] a cup or glass of tea

**茶杯 [chábēi]**

一个茶杯 [yī gè chábēi] a tea cup

**茶馆 [cháguǎn]**

一家茶馆 [yī jiā cháguǎn] a tea house

**茶叶 [cháyè]**

一包茶叶 [yī bāo cháyè]  
a package of tea leaves  
一撮茶叶 [yī cuō cháyè]  
a pinch of tea leaves  
一罐茶叶 [yī guàn cháyè]  
a caddy of tea  
一片儿茶叶 [yī piàn'r cháyè] a tea leaf

**茶叶店 [cháyèdiàn]**

一家茶叶店 [yī jiā cháyèdiàn]  
a tea shop

**产品 [chǎnpǐn]**

一批产品 [yī pī chǎnpǐn]  
a batch of products  
一种产品 [yī zhǒng chǎnpǐn]  
a kind of product

**铲车 [chǎnchē]**

一台铲车 [yī tái chǎnchē] a forklift

**长凳 [chángdèng]**

一张长凳 [yī zhāng chángdèng]  
a bench

**长队 [chángduì]**

一排长队 [yī pái chángduì]  
a long line of people

**长颈鹿 [chángjǐnglù]**

一只长颈鹿 [yī zhī chángjǐnglù]  
a giraffe

**长矛 [chángmáo]**

一把长矛 [yī bǎ chángmáo] a spear  
一柄长矛 [yī bǐng chángmáo] a spear

**长袍 [chángpáo]**

一件长袍 [yī jiàn chángpáo]  
a evening gown

**长筒袜 [chángtǒngwà]**

一双长筒袜 [yī shuāng chángtǒngwà]  
a pair of stockings

**尝试 [chángshì]**

一次尝试 [yī cì chángshì] an attempt

**厂房 [chǎngfáng]**

一栋厂房 [yī dòng chǎngfáng]  
a factory building  
一排厂房 [yī piàn chǎngfáng]  
a row of workshops  
一座厂房 [yī zuò chǎngfáng]  
a factory building

**唱片 [chàngpiān]**

一张唱片 [yī zhāng chàngpiān]  
a musical record

**钞票 [chāopiào]**

一扎钞票 [yī zā chāopiào]  
a bundle of banknotes  
一张钞票 [yī zhāng chāopiào]  
a banknote

**超市 [chāoshì]**

一家超市 [yī jiā chāoshì] a supermarket

**车 [chē]**

一辆车 [yī liàng chē] a vehicle or car

**车队 [chēduì]**

一列车队 [yī liè chēduì]  
a motorcade or convoy

**车厢 [chēxiāng]**

一节车厢 [yī jié chēxiāng]  
a car or carriage of a train

**车站 [chēzhàn]**

一处车站 [yī chù chēzhàn]  
a bus stop or train station

**车轴 [chēzhóu]**

一根车轴 [yī gēn chēzhóu]  
an axle of a truck or cart

**尘土 [chéntǔ]**

一层尘土 [yī céng chéntǔ]  
a layer of dust  
一身尘土 [yī shēn chéntǔ]  
a complete covering of dust

**衬衫 [chènshān]**

一件衬衫 [yī jiàn chènshān] a shirt

**秤 [chèng]**

一杆秤 [yī gǎn chèng]  
a steelyard for measuring weight  
一台秤 [yī tái chèng] a balance or scale

**Appendix: Common Chinese Units of  
Weights & Measures, and  
Common Chinese Military,  
Administrative, and Educational Units**

汉语度量衡单位及军事行政学校机构

SAMPLE

Chinese Unit	Pinyin	English Definition
里	lǐ	1/2 kilometer; 0.311 mile
公里	gōnglǐ	kilometer
尺	chǐ	1/3 meter; 1.07 feet
米/公尺	mǐ/gōngchǐ	meter
厘米	lími	millimeter
平方米	píngfāng mǐ	square meter
平方公里	píngfāng gōnglǐ	square kilometer
亩	mǔ	1/6 acre; 1/15 hectare
公顷	gōngqǐng	hectare
寸	cùn	1.3 inch
斤	jīn	1/2 kg; 1.1 pounds
两	liǎng	50 grams
公斤	gōngjīn	kilogram
吨	dūn	ton; 1,000 kilograms
升	shēng	liter; 0.22 gallon
班	bān	squad ( <i>mil.</i> )
排	pái	platoon ( <i>mil.</i> )
连	lián	company ( <i>mil.</i> )
营	yíng	battalion ( <i>mil.</i> )
团	tuán	regiment ( <i>mil.</i> )
师	shī	division ( <i>mil.</i> )
军	jūn	army ( <i>mil.</i> )
科/组	kē/zǔ	section ( <i>admin.</i> )
处/部	chù/bù	department ( <i>admin.</i> )
司/局	sī/jú	division/bureau ( <i>admin.</i> )
部	bù	ministry ( <i>admin.</i> )
班	bān	class ( <i>ed.</i> )
年级	niánjí	grade ( <i>ed.</i> )
系	xì	department ( <i>ed.</i> )

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



For more than 40 years, Jiqing Fang has been working as a scriptwriter, translator, and senior editor with CCTV—China's national television network—mainly in the English language division. Michael Connelly's professional career has ranged from writing news stories for the *Burlington Free Press* to editing scientific journals for the Chinese Academy of Science and news reports for CCTV's English news pro-

gramming. Fang and Connelly met while both were pursuing a Master's degree in journalism at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, in 1982. Since then they have worked together, cooked together, and now they have finally written a book together. Between them they have two wives, six children, one grandchild, and an ever-diminishing number of blank pages in their passports.