

剑桥汉英双解汉语量词用法词典

CHENG & TSUI
**CHINESE
MEASURE
WORD
DICTIONARY**

A CHINESE-ENGLISH

ENGLISH-CHINESE

USAGE GUIDE

Compiled by Jiqing Fang
and Michael Connelly

房纪庆
韩迈远

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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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Table of Contents; Preface and Introduction;
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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 pījiǔ, a glass of beer] and 一瓶啤酒 [yī píng pījiǔ, 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*

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 [chuízi] 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 [jítá] 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。[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 [pútāojiǔ] 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 dú le ~.] *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.

**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.)*

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 měiguó rén]
an American

ammunition

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

animal skin

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

animal

一群动物 [yī qún dòng wù]
a bunch of animals
一些动物 [yī xiē dòng wù]
some animals
一只动物 [yī zhī dòng wù] an animal
一种动物 [yī zhǒng dòng wù]
a kind of animal
一群野兽 [yī qún yě shòu]
a pack of wild animals
一种珍稀动物 [yī zhǒng zhēn xī dòng wù]
[yī zhǒng zhēn xī dòng wù] a rare animal

anonymous letter

一封匿名信 [yī fēng nì míng xìn]
an anonymous letter

antelope

一只羚羊 [yī zhī líng yáng] an antelope

anti-aircraft gun

一架高射机枪 [yī jià gāo shè jī qiāng]
an anti-aircraft gun

antique

一件文物 [yī jiàn wén wù] an antique

apartment

一套房屋 [yī tào fáng wū]
an apartment

apartment building

一栋居民楼 [yī dòng jū mǐn lóu]
an apartment building
一幢居民楼 [yī zhuàng jū mǐn lóu]
an apartment building
一座居民楼 [yī zuò jū mǐn lóu]
an apartment building
一栋住宅楼 [yī dòng zhù zhái lóu]
an apartment building
一幢住宅楼 [yī zhuàng zhù zhái lóu]
an apartment building
一座住宅楼 [yī zuò zhù zhái lóu]
an apartment building

apple

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

apple tree

一棵苹果树 [yī kē píng guǒ shù]
an apple tree
一株苹果树 [yī zhū píng guǒ shù]
an apple tree

applicant

一位应聘者 [yī wèi yìng pìn zhě]
an applicant

application

一份工作申请 [yī fèn gōng zuò shēn qǐng]
a job application
一份申请 [yī fèn shēn qǐng]
a written application

appointment

一次约会 [yī cì yuē huì]
an appointment

**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.)*

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 [ànjiàn]

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

一罐百事可乐 [yī guǎn Bǎishìkèlè]
a can of Pepsi
一瓶百事可乐 [yī píng Bǎishìkèlè]
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 chǎng bàofēngxuě]

a snowstorm

暴雨 [bàoyǔ]

一场暴雨 [yī chǎng 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

**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

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	línmǐ	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 programming. 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.