

Table of Mainland China–Taiwan Lexical Correspondences

This table includes, in the alphabetical order of the forms used in mainland China, all the words introduced in the Basic Conversation and Supplementary Vocabulary sections of the 24 units of *Basic Spoken Chinese* and *Intermediate Spoken Chinese* that have alternate forms in common use in Taiwan. Some of the alternate forms involve minor pronunciation differences comparable to pronunciation differences between American English and British English, while others involve partially or completely different words such as American “elevator” vs. English “lift.”

On each line, after the form used in mainland China, are given the corresponding form used in Taiwan, the English equivalent, and the unit and part where the item first occurred. While the forms listed are the official or most commonly used forms, in fact there are, in not a few cases, speakers in mainland China who use the “Taiwan” form and speakers in Taiwan who use the “mainland China” form. Actually, there are many similarities in vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation between the Mandarin of Southern China and that of Taiwan. In fact, it could be said that an even more basic linguistic division than Mainland China vs. Taiwan would be Northern China, on the one hand, vs. Southern China and Taiwan, on the other hand. In the Mandarin spoken in Hong Kong, Macao, Singapore, Malaysia, and other overseas Chinese speech communities, both the “mainland China” and “Taiwan” forms are commonly encountered.

Our advice to students of Chinese is to learn to understand all of these terms. For speaking, learn for active use the form used in the Chinese speech community where you anticipate spending the longest time. To the degree possible, you should try to accommodate your speech to that of the people you speak with.

| Mainland China | Taiwan | English | Unit-Part |
|----------------|-------------------|----------------------|-----------|
| àirén | xiānsheng, tàitai | husband, wife | 1-2 |
| Àodàliyà | Àozhōu | Australia | 6-4 |
| bīnggùnr(r) | bīngbàng | ice pop | 12-1 |
| chūzū qìchē | jìchéngchē | taxi | 8-2 |
| diū | diào | lose | 22-3 |
| duō | duó | how | 3-2 |
| Fǎguo | Fàguo | France | 3-1 |
| Fǎyǔ | Fàyǔ | French language | 7-2 |
| hé | hàn | with | 7-1 |
| hútòng(r) | xiàngzi | lane | 13-1 |
| guǎi | zhuǎn | turn | 9-1 |
| jiāotōngjǐng | jiāotōng jǐngchá | traffic police | 9-1 |
| kūlong | dòng | hole | 22-4 |
| láojià | duibuqǐ | excuse me | 8-1 |
| lei | le | (particle) | 14-2 |
| Pǔtōnghuà | Guóyǔ | Mandarin | 7-2 |
| qīmò kǎoshì | qīmò kǎoshì | final examination | 19-1 |
| qīzhōng kǎoshì | qīzhōng kǎoshì | mid-term examination | 19-1 |

| Mainland China | Taiwan | English | Unit-Part |
|----------------|------------|---------------------|-----------|
| ruǎnjiàn | ruǎntǐ | (computer) software | 24-4 |
| shāowēi | shāowéi | slightly | 11-3 |
| shūshu | shúshu | uncle | 6-1 |
| suīrán | suírán | although | 16-4 |
| tè | tèbié | especially | 11-4 |
| tūrán | túrán | suddenly | 18-4 |
| wēixiǎn | wéixiǎn | danger | 22-4 |
| xīngqī | xīngqí | week | 4-1 |
| xuéqī | xuéqí | semester | 19-2 |
| xuéxí | xué | learn, study | 2-3 |
| yàngnr | yàngzi | appearance | 22-4 |
| yāo | yī | one | 5-3 |
| yāo | chēng | weigh out | 12-4 |
| yòu'éryuán | yòuzhiyuán | kindergarten | 7-1 |
| yǒuyì | yǒuyí | friendship | 8-2 |
| yuánzhūbǐ | yuánzìbǐ | ball-point pen | 12-2 |
| zámmen | wǒmen | we (you and I) | 14-1 |
| zhuānyè | zhǔxiū | major | 12-1 |
| zìxíngchē | jiāotàchē | bicycle | 22-4 |