

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

Mandarin Corner

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1

zhè shì...

这是...

This is...

zhè shì wǒ de shū.

这是我的书。

This is my book.

zhè shì wǒ de péngyou.

这是我的朋友。

This is my friend.

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2

zhèxiē shì...

这些是...

These are...

zhèxiē shì wǒ de tóngshì.

这些是我的同事。

These are my co-workers.

zhèxiē shì wǒ de yīfu.

这些是我的衣服。

These are my clothes.

3

wǒ xiǎng + verb...

我想...

I want to (do something)...

wǒ xiǎng shàng cèsuǒ.

我想上厕所。

I want to go to the toilet.

wǒ xiǎng shuìjiào.

我想睡觉。

I want to sleep.

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4

wǒ xiǎngyào + noun / verb...

我想要...

I want (something)... / I want to (do something)...

wǒ xiǎngyào yī bēi shuǐ.

我想要一杯水。

I want a glass of water.

wǒ xiǎngyào mǎi gè xīn shǒujī.

我想要买个新手机。

I want to buy a new cellphone.

5

wǒ yào + noun / verb...

我要...

I want (something)... / I want to (do something)...

(more affirmative compared to "我想要 / wǒ xiǎngyào ")

wǒ yào yī wǎn mǐfàn.

我要一碗米饭。

I want a bowl of rice.

wǒ yào cízhí!

我要辞职!

I want to quit my job!

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6

wǒ xūyào...

我需要...

I need...

wǒ xūyào nǐ de bāngzhù.

我需要你的帮助。

I need your help.

wǒ xūyào xiān xǐ gè zǎo.

我需要先洗个澡。

I need to take a shower first.

7

wǒ bìxū...

我必须...

I must...

wǒ bìxū zǎodiǎn shuìjiào.

我必须早点睡觉。

I must sleep earlier.

wǒ bìxū měitiān dōu xuéxí.

我必须每天都学习。

I must study everyday.

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8

wǒ děi...

我得...

I need to... / I have to...

wǒ děi zǒu le.

我得走了。

I have to go.

wǒ děi mǎshàng gěi tā dǎ gè diànhuà.

我得马上给他打个电话。

I need to give him a call right away.

9

wǒ juéde...

我觉得...

I feel... / I think...

(expressing feelings or opinions that you are not entirely sure about)

wǒ juéde tā hěn chéngshí.

我觉得他很诚实。

I think he is very honest.

wǒ juéde yǒudiǎn tóuyūn.

我觉得有点头晕。

I feel a little dizzy.

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10

wǒ rènwéi...

我认为...

I believe... / I think...

(expressing opinions which you have analyzed)

wǒ rènwéi tā shì gè kěkào de rén.

我认为他是个可靠的人。

I think that he is a reliable person.

wǒ rènwéi zhège jiàgé hěn hélǐ.

我认为这个价格很合理。

I think this price is reasonable.

11

wǒ gèrén...

我个人...

I personally...

wǒ gèrén bù xǐhuan yǎng chǒngwù.

我个人不喜欢养宠物。

I personally don't like having pets.

wǒ gèrén juéde zhè shì gè hǎo zhǔyi.

我个人觉得这是个好主意。

I personally think this is a good idea.

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12

wǒ xiāngxìn...

我相信...

I believe that...

wǒ xiāngxìn tā shuō de shì zhēn de.

我相信他说的是真的。

I believe what he said was true.

wǒ xiāngxìn tā bùshì gùyì de.

我相信他不是故意的。

I believe that he didn't mean it.

13

wǒ yǐwéi...

我以为...

I thought that...

wǒ yǐwéi jīntiān shì zhōuliù.

我以为今天是周六。

I thought today was Saturday.

wǒ yǐwéi nǐ zài kāiwánxiào.

我以为你在开玩笑。

I thought you were kidding.

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14

wǒ zài + verb...

我在...

I am (doing something)...

wǒ zài xǐzǎo.

我在洗澡。

I am taking a shower.

wǒ zài chīfàn.

我在吃饭。

I am eating (a meal).

15

wǒ zhèngzài...

我正在...

I am currently (doing something)...

(right in the middle of doing something)

wǒ zhèngzài kàn diànshì.

我正在看电视。

I am watching TV (right now).

wǒ zhèngzài xiūxi.

我正在休息。

I am resting (right now).

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16

wǒ xiànzài zài + (a place word)

我现在在...

I am now at (somewhere)...

wǒ xiànzài zài jiā.

我现在在家。

I am now at home.

wǒ xiànzài zài xuéxiào.

我现在在学校。

I am now at school.

17

nǐ yīnggāi...

你应该...

You should...

nǐ yīnggāi duō yùndòng.

你应该多运动。

You should exercise more.

nǐ yīnggāi duō chī diǎn shūcài.

你应该多吃点蔬菜。

You should eat more vegetables.

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18

wǒ huì...

我会...

a) I can... (a skill)

wǒ huì shuō zhōngwén.

我会说中文。

I can speak Chinese.

wǒ huì tán jítā.

我会弹吉他。

I can play guitar.

b) I will... (be likely to / be sure to)

wǒ huì lái de.

我会来的。

I will come.

wǒ huì gěi nǐ dǎdiànhuà de.

我会给你打电话的。

I will call you.

19

wǒ xīwàng...

我希望...

I hope...

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wǒ xīwàng nǐ kuàidiǎn hǎo qǐlai.

我希望你快点好起来。

I hope you get well soon.

wǒ xīwàng míngtiān bù yào xià yǔ.

我希望明天不要下雨。

I hope it doesn't rain tomorrow.

20

wǒ cāi...

我猜...

I guess...

wǒ cāi tā yǐjīng zhīdào zhè jiàn shì le.

我猜她已经知道这件事了。

I guess that she already knew about this matter.

wǒ cāi nǐ wùhuì wǒ le.

我猜你误会我了。

I guess you misunderstood me.

21

wǒ hěn qīdài...

我很期待...

I am looking forward to...

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wǒ hěn qīdài yǔ nǐ jiànmiàn.

我很期待与你见面。

I am looking forward to meeting you.

wǒ hěn qīdài nǐ de huífù.

我很期待你的回复。

I am looking forward to your reply.

22

wǒ tīngshuō...

我听说...

I heard that...

wǒ tīngshuō nǐ jiéhūn le.

我听说你结婚了。

I heard that you got married.

wǒ tīngshuō tā huílai le.

我听说他回来了。

I heard that he is back.

23

nǐ tīngshuō guò... ma?

你听说过... 吗?

Have you heard... ?

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nǐ tīngshuō guò zhège rén ma?

你听说过这个人吗？

Have you heard of this person?

nǐ tīngshuō guò zhège gùshi ma?

你听说过这个故事吗？

Have you heard of this story?

24

wǒ kěyǐ...

我可以...

I can... (to have the capability)

wǒ kěyǐ bāng nǐ.

我可以帮你。

I can help you.

wǒ kěyǐ jiāo nǐ zhōngwén.

我可以教你中文。

I can teach you Chinese.

25

wǒ kěyǐ... ma?

我可以... 吗？

Can I... ? (asking for permission)

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wǒ kěyǐ shì yīxià zhè jiàn yīfu ma?

我可以试一下这件衣服吗？

Can I try this on? (clothes)

wǒ kěyǐ jìnlái ma?

我可以进来吗？

Can I come in?

26

nǐ jièyì... ma?

你介意... 吗？

Do you mind...?

nǐ jièyì wǒ chōuyān ma?

你介意我抽烟吗？

Do you mind if I smoke?

nǐ jièyì wǒ yòng yīxià nǐ de diànnǎo ma?

你介意我用一下你的电脑吗？

Do you mind if I use your computer?

27

wǒ hěn hàoqí...

我很好奇...

I am very curious...

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wǒ hěn hàoqí, nǐ wèishénme bù xǐhuan chī ròu?

我很好奇，你为什么不喜欢吃肉？

I am very curious, why don't you like eating meat?

wǒ hěn hàoqí, nǐ xiànzài jǐ suì le?

我很好奇，你现在几岁了？

I am very curious, how old are you?

28

wǒ jìde...

我记得...

I remember...

wǒ jìde tā shì měiguórén.

我记得他是美国人。

I remember that he is an American.

wǒ jìde wǒ kàn guò zhè bù diànyǐng.

我记得我看过这部电影。

I remember that I've seen this movie.

29

nǐ hái jìde... ma?

你还记得... 吗？

Do you still remember...?

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nǐ hái jìde de wǒ ma?

你还记得我吗？

Do you still remember me?

nǐ hái jìde zhège zì ma?

你还记得这个字吗？

Do you still remember this Chinese character?

30

wǒ qù guò... / wǒ méi qù guò...

我去过... / 我没去过...

I have been to... / I have not been to...

wǒ qù guò měiguó.

我去过美国。

I have been to America.

wǒ méi qù guò shàng hǎi.

我没去过上海。

I have not been to Shanghai.

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nǐ qù guò... ma?

你去过...吗？

Have you been to... ?

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nǐ qù guò xiānggǎng ma?

你去过香港吗?

Have you been to Hong Kong?

nǐ qù guò zhè jiā cāntīng ma?

你去过这家餐厅吗?

Have you been to this restaurant (before)?

32

nǐ (men) yǒu... ma?

你(们)有...吗?

Do you have...?

"你们 / nǐmen" is the plural form of "你 / nǐ".

nǐ yǒu xiǎohái ma?

你有小孩吗?

Do you have any children?

nǐmen yǒu chāzi ma?

你们有叉子吗?

Do you have a fork?

33

wǒ yǒu...

我有...

I have...

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wǒ yǒu yī gè dìdì.

我有一个弟弟。

I have a younger brother.

wǒ yǒu yī liàng zìxíngchē.

我有一辆自行车。

I have a bicycle.

34

wǒ fāxiàn...

我发现...

I noticed... / I found...

wǒ fāxiàn nǐ hěn xǐhuan chī tiánsí.

我发现你很喜欢吃甜食。

I noticed that you like eating sweet food very much.

wǒ fāxiàn tā hěn gǎoxiào.

我发现他很搞笑。

I found him to be very funny.

35

wǒ jīngcháng...

我经常...

I often...

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wǒ jīngcháng zài gōngyuán lǐ kànjiàn tā.

我经常在公园里看见他。

I often see him in the park.

wǒ jīngcháng gēn tā chǎojià.

我经常跟他吵架。

I often quarrel with him.

36

wǒ tōngcháng / yībān...

我通常/一般...

I usually...

wǒ tōngcháng qī diǎn qǐchuáng.

我通常七点起床。

I usually get up at 7.

wǒ yībān bù chī zǎocān.

我一般不吃早餐。

I usually don't have breakfast.

37

wǒ dǎsuàn...

我打算...

I plan to... / I intend to...

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wǒ dǎsuàn míngtiān bānjiā.

我打算明天搬家。

I intend to move tomorrow.

wǒ dǎsuàn xià gè yuè huíguó.

我打算下个月回国。

I plan to go back to my country next month.

38

wǒ gānggāng...

我刚刚...

I just (did something)...

wǒ gānggāng gěi tā dǎ le diànhuà.

我刚刚给她打了电话。

I just called her.

wǒ gānggāng chī wán wǎnfàn.

我刚刚吃完晚饭。

I just finished dinner.

39

wǒ xǐhuan...

我喜欢...

I like...

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wǒ xǐhuan zhèzhǒng diànyǐng.

我喜欢这种电影。

I like this kind of movie.

wǒ xǐhuan gēn nǐ liáotiān.

我喜欢跟你聊天。

I like chatting with you.

40

wǒ yǐjīng...

我已经...

I already...

wǒ yǐjīng xǐ guò zǎo le.

我已经洗过澡了。

I already took a shower.

wǒ yǐjīng gēn nǐ shuō guò le.

我已经跟你说过了。

I already told you.

41

wǒ bǐjiào xǐhuan...

我比较喜欢...

I prefer...

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wǒ bǐjiào xǐhuan chī xīcān.

我比较喜欢吃西餐。

I prefer eating western food.

wǒ bǐjiào xǐhuan hē kāfēi.

我比较喜欢喝咖啡。

I prefer drinking coffee.

42

wǒ zuì xǐhuan...

我最喜欢...

I like... the most.

wǒ zuì xǐhuan xiàtiān.

我最喜欢夏天。

I like summer the most.

wǒ zuì xǐhuan chī miàntiáo.

我最喜欢吃面条。

I like eating noodles the most.

43

wǒ dānxīn...

我担心...

I worry...

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wǒ dānxīn wǒ huì chídào.

我担心我会迟到。

I worry that I will be late.

wǒ dānxīn nǐ de jiànkāng.

我担心你的健康。

I worry about your health.

44

nǐ zuìhǎo...

你最好...

You better...

nǐ zuìhǎo shǎo chī tiánshí.

你最好少吃甜食。

You better eat less sweets.

nǐ zuìhǎo xiànzài qù yīyuàn.

你最好现在去医院。

You better go to the hospital now.

45

wǒ zhīdào...

我知道...

I know (that)...

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wǒ zhīdào tā bù xǐhuan wǒ.

我知道他不喜欢我。

I know that he doesn't like me.

wǒ zhīdào nǐ yào shuō shénme.

我知道你要说什么。

I know what you're going to say.

46

nǐ zhīdào... ma?

你知道... 吗?

Do you know...?

nǐ zhīdào wǒ de shǒujī zài nǎr ma?

你知道我的手机在哪儿吗?

Do you know where my cellphone is?

nǐ zhīdào tā zhù jǐ lóu ma?

你知道他住几楼吗?

Do you know what floor he lives on?

47

nǐ zhīdào ma?...

你知道吗? ...

Hey! You know... / Guess what...

(when you want to tell your friend something)

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nǐ zhīdào ma? zuótiān wǎnshang wǒ mèng dào nǐ le.

你知道吗？昨天晚上我梦到你了。

Guess what! I dreamed of you last night.

nǐ zhīdào ma? wǒ shēngzhí le!

你知道吗？我升职了！

Guess what! I got promoted!

48

nǐ rènshi... ma?

你认识... 吗？

Do you know... ? / Do you recognize...?

nǐ rènshi tā ma?

你认识他吗？

Do you know him?

nǐ rènshi zhège zì ma?

你认识这个字吗？

Do you recognize this Chinese character?

49

wǒ bù rènshi...

我不认识...

I don't recognize... / I don't know...

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wǒ bù rènshi zhège zì.

我不认识这个字。

I don't recognize this Chinese character.

wǒ bù rènshi nàge rén.

我不认识那个人。

I don't know that person.

50

nǐ wèishénme... ?

你为什么...?

Why (do / did / are...) you...?

nǐ wèishénme shēng wǒ de qì?

你为什么生我的气?

Why are you angry with me?

nǐ wèishénme bùxiǎng gēn tā shuōhuà?

你为什么不想跟他说话?

Why you don't want to talk to him?

51

wǒ xiǎng zhīdào...

我想知道...

I want to know...

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wǒ xiǎng zhīdào wèishénme.

我想知道为什么。

I want to know why.

wǒ xiǎng zhīdào nǐ wèishénme lái zhōngguó.

我想知道你为什么来中国。

I want to know why you came to China.

52

wǒ bù xíguàn...

我不习惯...

I am not used to...

wǒ bù xíguàn chī zhōngcān.

我不习惯吃中餐。

I am not used to Chinese food.

wǒ bù xíguàn nàme zǎo qǐchuáng.

我不习惯那么早起床。

I am not used to getting up that early.

53

wǒ juéding...

我决定...

I decided...

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wǒ juéding qù běijīng gōngzuò.

我决定去北京工作。

I decided to go to work in Beijing.

wǒ juéding zàiyě bù gēn tā shuōhuà le.

我决定再也不跟他说话了。

I decided that I will never talk to him again.

54

wǒ xiǎng wèn yīxià...

我想问一下...

I'd like to ask...

wǒ xiǎng wèn yīxià xǐshǒujiān zàinǎr?

我想问一下洗手间在哪儿？

I'd like to ask, where is the toilet?

wǒ xiǎng wèn yīxià dìtiězhàn zěnmē zǒu?

我想问一下地铁站怎么走？

I'd like to ask, how can I get to the subway?

55

wǒ jiànyì...

我建议...

I suggest...

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wǒ jiànyì nǐ zài shì yī cì.

我建议你再试一次。

I suggest that you give it another try.

wǒ jiànyì nǐ qù wèn tā.

我建议你去问她。

I suggest that you go ask her.

56

wǒ zuìjìn zài...

我最近在...

Recently, I have been (doing something)...

wǒ zuìjìn zài xué zhōngwén.

我最近在学中文。

Recently, I've been learning Chinese.

wǒ zuìjìn zài mángzhe gōngzuò.

我最近在忙着工作。

Recently, I've been busy with work.

57

wǒ zài kǎolǜ...

我在考虑...

I am thinking about... / I am considering...

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wǒ zài kǎolǜ mǎi yī tái xīn diànnǎo.

我在考虑买一台新电脑。

I am considering buying a new computer.

wǒ zài kǎolǜ yào bù yào bāng tā.

我在考虑要不要帮他。

I am thinking about whether I should help him or not.

58

wǒ zài xiǎng...

我在想...

I am thinking...

wǒ zài xiǎng jīntiān wǎnshang chī shénme.

我在想今天晚上吃什么。

I am thinking what I should eat tonight.

wǒ zài xiǎng zuótiān fāshēng de shì.

我在想昨天发生的事。

I am thinking about what happened yesterday.

59

wǒ yǐjīng hěn jiǔ méiyǒu...

我已经很久没有...

I have not (done something) for a long time.

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wǒ yǐjīng hěn jiǔ méiyǒu jiàndào tā le.

我已经很久没有见到他了。

I have not seen him for a long time.

wǒ yǐjīng hěn jiǔ méiyǒu zhème kāixīn le.

我已经很久没有这么开心了。

I have not been this happy for a long time.

60

rúguǒ nǐ bù jièyì dehuà, ...

如果你不介意的话, ...

If you don't mind, ...

rúguǒ nǐ bù jièyì dehuà, wǒ xiǎng zài wèn nǐ yī gè wèntí.

如果你不介意的话, 我想再问你一个问题。

If you don't mind, I'd like to ask you another question.

rúguǒ nǐ bù jièyì dehuà, wǒ wǎndiǎn zài dǎ gěi nǐ.

如果你不介意的话, 我晚点再打给你。

If you don't mind, I will call you later.

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rúguǒ kěyǐ dehuà, ...

如果可以的话, ...

If it's okay, ...

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rúguǒ kěyǐ dehuà, wǒ xiǎng xiàzhōu zài jiāo zuòyè.

如果可以的话，我想下周再交作业。

If it's okay, I'd like to give you the homework next week.

rúguǒ kěyǐ dehuà, wǒ zhōuyī zài huífù nǐ.

如果可以的话，我周一再回复你。

If it's okay, I will reply on Monday.

62

nándào nǐ bù juéde... ma?

难道你不觉得... 吗？

Don't you think that...?

nándào nǐ bù juéde zhè hěn míngxiǎn ma?

难道你不觉得这很明显吗？

Don't you think that this is very obvious?

nándào nǐ bù juéde tā hěn cūlǔ ma?

难道你不觉得他很粗鲁吗？

Don't you think that he is very rude?

63

nǐ yīdìng... ba?

你一定... 吧？

You must be... ?

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

nǐ yīdìng hěn shēngqì ba?

你一定很生气吧？

You must be very angry, right?

nǐ yīdìng hěn lèi ba?

你一定很累吧？

You must be very tired, right?

64

shuí (shéi) huì... ?

谁会...？

Who can... ?

shuí huì shuō yīngyǔ?

谁会说英语？

Who can speak English?

shuí huì chàng zhè shǒu gē?

谁会唱这首歌？

Who can sing this song?

65

wǒ shòubùliǎo...

我受不了...

I can't stand...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

wǒ shòubùliǎo zhèzhǒng tiānqì.

我受不了这种天气。

I can't stand this kind of weather.

wǒ shòubùliǎo tā de píqì.

我受不了她的脾气。

I can't stand her temper.

66

nǐ néng gàosu wǒ... ma?

你能告诉我... 吗?

Can you tell me...?

nǐ néng gàosu wǒ lǐfàdiàn zài nǎr ma?

你能告诉我理发店在哪儿吗?

Can you tell me where the barber shop is?

nǐ néng gàosu wǒ zěnmé tián zhè zhāng biǎogé ma?

你能告诉我怎么填这张表格吗?

Can you tell me how to fill out this form?

67

bùyào...

不要...

Don't...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

bùyào piàn wǒ!

不要骗我!

Don't cheat me!

bùyào gàosu rènhé rén!

不要告诉任何人!

Don't tell anyone!

68

nǐ zěnmē zhīdào... ?

你怎么知道... ?

How did you know... ?

nǐ zěnmē zhīdào wǒ bù xǐhuan tā?

你怎么知道我不喜欢她?

How did you know that I don't like her?

nǐ zěnmē zhīdào wǒ cízhí le?

你怎么知道我辞职了?

How did you know that I quit my job?

69

kànlai...

看来...

It seems that...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

kànlai yào xià yǔ le.

看来要下雨了。

It seems that it will rain.

kànlai nǐ zhēn de hěn xǐ huan tā.

看来你真的很喜欢他。

It seems that you really like him.

70

duìle, ...

对了, ...

By the way, ...

duìle, nǐ de shǒu jī hào mǎ shì duō shǎo?

对了, 你的手机号码是多少?

By the way, what is your phone number?

duìle, nǐ zhōu mò yǒu shén me jì huà ma?

对了, 你周末有什么计划吗?

By the way, do you have any plans for the weekend?

71

wǒ měi tiān dōu huì ...

我每天都会...

Everyday I (will)...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

wǒ měitiān dōu huì yùndòng yī xiǎoshí.

我每天都会运动一小时。

Everyday I exercise for an hour.

wǒ měitiān dōu huì chī liǎng gè jīdàn.

我每天都会吃两个鸡蛋。

Everyday I eat two eggs.

72

zhè ràng wǒ xiǎngqǐ le...

这让我想起了...

This reminded me of...

zhè ràng wǒ xiǎngqǐ le yī shǒu gē.

这让我想起了一首歌。

This reminded me of a song.

zhè ràng wǒ xiǎngqǐ le wǒ de chūliàn.

这让我想起了我的初恋。

This reminded me of my first love.

73

wǒ hòuhuǐ...

我后悔...

I regret that...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

wǒ hòuhuǐ méiyǒu zǎodiǎn gàosu tā.

我后悔没有早点告诉她。

I regret that I didn't tell her earlier.

wǒ hòuhuǐ zuótiān méiyǒu qù hǎitān.

我后悔昨天没有去海滩。

I regret that I didn't go to the beach yesterday.

74

wǒ pà...

我怕...

I am afraid... / I fear...

wǒ pà gǒu.

我怕狗。

I am afraid of dogs.

wǒ pà wǒ huì chí dào.

我怕我会迟到。

I am afraid that I will be late.

75

má fan...

麻烦...

Please... / May I trouble you... ?

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

máfan gěi wǒ yī zhī bǐ!

麻烦给我一支笔！

Please give me a pen!

máfan ānjìng yīdiǎn!

麻烦安静一点！

Please be quiet!

76

wǒ hái méi xiǎng hǎo...

我还没想好...

I haven't yet decided... / I haven't made up my mind...

wǒ hái méi xiǎng hǎo zěnmébàn.

我还没想好怎么办。

I haven't yet decided what to do.

wǒ hái méi xiǎng hǎo chī shénme.

我还没想好吃什么。

I haven't yet decided what to eat.

77

qíshí...

其实...

Actually... / In fact...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

qíshí wǒ shì zài kāiwánxiào de.

其实我是在开玩笑的。

Actually, I was kidding.

qíshí wǒ bùshì lǎoshī.

其实我不是老师。

Actually, I am not a teacher.

78

nǐ shì shuō... ?

你是说... ?

Are you saying... ?

nǐ shì shuō tā bùhuì lái le?

你是说他不会来了？

Are you saying that he is not coming?

nǐ shì shuō zhè shì jiǎ de?

你是说这是假的？

Are you saying that this is fake?

79

nǐ shuō... ?

你说... ?

Tell me, ... ? / (what) do you think... ? (your opinion)

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

nǐ shuō tā wèishénme líkāi wǒ?

你说他为什么离开我？

Tell me, why did he leave me?

nǐ shuō tā huì lái ma?

你说他会来吗？

Do you think he will come?

80

suǒyǐ nǐ de yìsi shì... ?

所以你的意思是... ?

So, you're saying... ? / So, your meaning is... ?

suǒyǐ nǐ de yìsi shì tā zhège rén bù kěxìn?

所以你的意思是他这个人不可信？

So, you're saying that he is not a trustworthy person?

suǒyǐ nǐ de yìsi shì wǒ bù yīnggāi cízhí?

所以你的意思是我不应该辞职？

So, you're saying that I shouldn't quit my job?

81

hěn míngxiǎn, ...

很明显, ...

Obviously, ...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

hěn míngxiǎn, tā zài piàn nǐ.

很明显，他在骗你。

Obviously, he's lying to you.

hěn míngxiǎn, nà shì bùkěnéng de.

很明显，那是不可能的。

Obviously, that is impossible.

82

gāng kāishǐ...

刚开始...

At first... / At the beginning...

gāng kāishǐ wǒ shì xiāngxìn tā de, dànshì hòulái fāxiàn wǒ cuò le.

刚开始我是相信他的，但是后来发现我错了。

At first I believed him, but later on I found out I was wrong.

gāng kāishǐ wǒ yǐwéi hěn róngyì, dànshì hòulái fāxiàn hěn nán.

刚开始我以为很容易，但是后来发现很难。

At the beginning I thought it was easy, but later on I found out that it was very hard.

83

wǒmen... + (verb) ba!

我们... 吧!

Let's (do something)!

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

wǒmen zǒu ba!

我们走吧！

Let's go!

wǒmen jīnwǎn qù kàn diànyǐng ba!

我们今晚去看电影吧！

Let's go watch a movie tonight!

84

rúguǒ...

如果...

If...

rúguǒ nǐ juéde bùshūfu, jiù gěi wǒ dǎdiànhuà.

如果你觉得不舒服，就给我打电话。

If you don't feel well, call me.

rúguǒ míngtiān xià yǔ, wǒ jiù zài jiā kàn diànshì.

如果明天下雨，我就在家看电视。

If tomorrow rains, I will stay at home and watch TV.

85

yàobù... ba?

要不... 吧？

How about... ?

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

yàobù wǒmen chūqù chī ba?

要不我们出去吃吧?

How about we eat outside?

yàobù wǒmen qù kāfēitīng ba?

要不我们去咖啡厅吧?

How about we go to the coffee shop?

86

zuìjìn...

最近...

Recently...

zuìjìn wǒ juéde shēntǐ hěn bùshūfu.

最近我觉得身体很不舒服。

Recently, I feel very sick.

zuìjìn wǒ hěn máng.

最近我很忙。

Recently, I've been very busy.

87

qiánjǐtiān...

前几天...

A few days ago, ...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

qiánjǐtiān wǒ kàn le yī bù hěn hǎokàn de diànyǐng.

前几天我看了一部很好看的电影。

A few days ago, I saw a very good movie.

qiánjǐtiān wǒ shēngbìng le.

前几天我生病了。

A few days ago, I was sick.

88

cóng xiànzài qǐ, ...

从现在起, ...

From now on,...

cóng xiànzài qǐ, wǒ yào jièyān.

从现在起, 我要戒烟。

From now on, I will quit smoking.

cóng xiànzài qǐ, wǒ zàiyě bù chī língshí le.

从现在起, 我再也不吃零食了。

From now on, I won't eat snacks anymore.

89

zài wǒ kàn lái, ...

在我看来, ...

In my opinion, ...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

zài wǒ kàn lái, tā shì duì de.

在我看来，他是对的。

In my opinion, he's right.

zài wǒ kàn lái, tā yīdiǎn dōu bù zài hu nǐ.

在我看来，他一点都不在乎你。

In my opinion, he doesn't care about you at all.

90

wǒ zuò guò...

我做过...

I worked as... (to describe what type of jobs you did before)

wǒ zuò guò lǎoshī.

我做过老师。

I worked as a teacher.

wǒ zuò guò xiāoshòu.

我做过销售。

I worked as a salesperson.

91

nǐ zěnmē zhème... !

你怎么这么...!

Why are you so...!

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

nǐ zěnmē zhènmē bèn!

你怎么这么笨!

Why are you so stupid!

nǐ zěnmē zhènmē kě'ài!

你怎么这么可爱!

Why are you so cute!

92

lǎoshíshuō, ...

老实说, ...

Frankly, ... / Honestly speaking, ...

lǎoshíshuō, tā bùshì wǒ de cài.

老实说, 他不是我的菜。

Frankly, he's not my type.

lǎoshíshuō, wǒ duì nǐ hěn shīwàng.

老实说, 我对你很失望。

Frankly, I am very disappointed in you.

93

yībānláishuō, ...

一般来说, ...

Generally speaking, ...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

yībānláishuō, wǒ wǎnshang bù chūmén.

一般来说，我晚上不出门。

Generally speaking, I don't go out at night.

yībānláishuō, zhèlǐ de xiàtiān duō hǎn rè.

一般来说，这里的夏天都很热。

Generally speaking, the summers here are very hot.

94

jù wǒ suǒzhī, ...

据我所知，...

As far as I know, ...

jù wǒ suǒzhī, tā shì gè lǎoshī.

据我所知，他是个老师。

As far as I know, he's a teacher.

jù wǒ suǒzhī, zhè fùjìn méiyǒu yīyuàn.

据我所知，这附近没有医院。

As far as I know, there is no hospital around here.

95

qǐngwèn... ?

请问... ?

Please, may I ask ...?

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

qǐngwèn nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?

请问你是哪里人？

May I ask, where are you from?

qǐngwèn xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr?

请问洗手间在哪儿？

May I ask, where is the toilet?

96

wǒ céngjīng...

我曾经...

I once...

wǒ céngjīng zhù zài běijīng.

我曾经住在北京。

I once lived in Beijing.

wǒ céngjīng zài gōngchǎng gōngzuò.

我曾经在工厂工作。

I once worked in a factory.

97

wǒ tūrán yìshí dào...

我突然意识到...

Suddenly, I realized that...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

wǒ tūrán yìshí dào jīntiān shì zhōuwǔ.

我突然意识到今天是周五。

Suddenly, I realized today is Friday.

wǒ tūrán yìshí dào wǒ cuò le.

我突然意识到我错了。

Suddenly, I realized that I was wrong.

98

wànyī...

万一...

What if...

wànyī tā wàngjì le ne?

万一他忘记了呢？

What if he forgets?

wànyī dǔchē ne?

万一堵车呢？

What if there is a traffic jam?

99

wǒ àishàng le...

我爱上了...

I fell in love with... / I developed a liking for...

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

wǒ àishàng le tā.

我爱上了他。

I fell in love with him.

wǒ àishàng le zhōngwén.

我爱上了中文。

I developed a liking for Chinese.

100

tā shì yī gè... de rén.

他是一个... 的人。

a) He is a ... person. (talking about personality)

tā shì yī gè méiyǒu nàixīn de rén.

他是一个没有耐心的人。

He is an impatient person.

tā shì yī gè lèguān de rén.

他是一个乐观的人。

He is an optimistic person.

Survival Chinese - 100 Sentence Starters

b) He is a person who... (describing what someone is like)

tā shì yī gè ài xiào de rén.

他是一个爱笑的人。

He is a person who is always smiling.

tā shì yī gè xǐhuan shuōhuà de rén.

他是一个喜欢说话的人。

He is a person who likes to talk.

— The End —