



MANGO®

ADVENTURES IN LANGUAGE



MANDARIN CHINESE ACTIVITY

How to use small quantity words in Mandarin Chinese?

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1 Fill in the blanks with 一点 (yīdiǎn) or 有点 (yǒudiǎn), or 一会儿 (yíhuǐr).

1. 今天 () 冷, 多穿 () 衣服。
Jīntiān () lěng, duō chuān () yīfú.
It is a bit cold today, so wear a bit more clothes.
2. 小王, 这是 () 小意思, 请收下。
Xiǎo Wáng, zhè shì () xiǎoyìsi, qǐng shōu xià.
Xiao Wang, this is a small token of gratitude, please accept it.
3. 我比妹妹高 () 。
Wǒ bǐ mèimei gāo () .
I am a bit taller than my younger sister.
4. 昨晚他准备考试, () 也没睡觉。
Zuówǎn tā zhǔnbèi kǎoshì, () yě méi shuìjiào.
He was preparing for the exam last night and didn't sleep at all.
5. 我 () 不喜欢他了。
Wǒ () bù xǐhuan tā le.
I kind of don't like him anymore.
6. 他看了 () 电视就睡觉了。
Tā kàn le () diànshì jiù shuìjiào le.
He went to sleep after watching TV for a bit.

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2 Explain the differences between 一点 (yīdiǎn) and 一些 (yìxiē) in the following sentences: 1 vs 2, 3 vs 4.

1. 这本书我看了一点。
Zhè běn shū wǒ kàn le yīdiǎn.
2. 这本书我看了一些。
Zhè běn shū wǒ kàn le yìxiē.
3. 他比弟弟聪明一点。
Tā bǐ dìdì cōngmíng yīdiǎn.
4. 他比弟弟聪明一些。
Tā bǐ dìdì cōngmíng yìxiē.

3 Scenario: A mother asks her son to buy things.

Describe his shopping list in Mandarin:

1. a couple of lemons
2. some apples (slightly red)
3. some oranges (a bit soft to the touch)

Mandarin	Pinyin	Translation
柠檬	níngméng	lemon
红	hóng	red
苹果	píngguǒ	apple
橙子	chéngzi	orange
软	ruǎn	soft
摸	mō	touch



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4 Turn the following sentences into a more polite version.

1. 这里是医院, 小声说话!
Zhèlǐ shì yīyuàn, xiǎoshēng shuōhuà!
This is a hospital, keep your voice down!
2. 老师还没来, 你们等着。
Lǎoshī hái méi lái, nǐmen děngzhe.
The teacher hasn't come yet, you wait.
3. 菜咸了。
Cài xián le.
The food is salty.
4. 我现在要打个电话, 你出去。
Wǒ xiànzài yào dǎ gè diànhuà, nǐ chūqù.
I'm going to make a phone call now, you go out.

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1. 今天**有点**冷，多穿一点衣服。
Jīntiān yǒudiǎn lěng, duō chuān yīdiǎn yīfú.
It is a bit cold today, so wear a bit more clothes.
2. 小王，这是**一点**小意思，请收下。
Xiǎo Wáng, zhè shì yīdiǎn xiǎoyìsì, qǐng shōu xià.
Xiao Wang, this is a small token of gratitude, please accept it.
3. 我比妹妹高**一点**。
Wǒ bǐ mèimei gāo yīdiǎn.
I am a bit taller than my younger sister.
4. 昨晚他准备考试，**一点**也没睡觉。
Zuówǎn tā zhǔnbèi kǎoshì, yīdiǎn yě méi shuìjiào.
He was preparing for the exam last night and didn't sleep at all.
5. 我**有点**不喜欢他了。
Wǒ yǒudiǎn bù xǐhuan tā le.
I kind of don't like him anymore.
6. 他看了**一会儿**电视就睡觉了。
Tā kàn le yīhuǐr diànshì jiù shuìjiào le.
He went to sleep after watching TV for a bit.

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2

1. 这本书我看了一点。
Zhè běn shū wǒ kàn le yīdiǎn.
I have read a bit of this book.
2. 这本书我看了一些。
Zhè běn shū wǒ kàn le yīxiē.
I have read some of this book.
 1. 一点 (yīdiǎn) highlights “a bit of the book”
 2. 一些 (yīxiē) highlights “some part of the book”
3. 他比弟弟聪明一点。
Tā bǐ dìdì cōngmíng yīdiǎn.
He is a bit smarter than his younger brother.
4. 他比弟弟聪明一些。
Tā bǐ dìdì cōngmíng yīxiē.
He is smarter than his younger brother.
 3. 一点 (yīdiǎn) highlights “smarter by just a bit”
 4. 一些 (yīxiē) highlights “smarter by more than a bit”

3

1. 买一点柠檬
mǎi yīdiǎn níngméng
a couple of lemons
2. 买一些苹果 (稍微红一点的)
mǎi yīxiē píngguǒ (shāowēi hóng yīdiǎn de)
some apples (slightly red)
3. 买一些橙子 (摸上去软一些的)
mǎi yīxiē chéngzi (mō shàngqù ruǎn yīxiē de)
some oranges (a bit soft to the touch)

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4.
 1. 这里是医院, 说话请小声一点。
Zhèlǐ shì yīyuàn, shuōhuà qǐng xiǎoshēng yīdiǎn.
This is a hospital, please keep your voice down a bit.
 2. 老师还没来, 请你们稍等。
Lǎoshī hái méi lái, qǐng nǐmen shāo děng.
The teacher hasn't come yet, please wait a moment.
 3. 菜有点咸了。
Cài yǒudiǎn xián le.
The food is a little salty.
 4. 我现在要打个电话, 麻烦您出去一下/一会儿, 可以吗?
Wǒ xiànzài yào dǎ gè diànhuà, máfan nín chūqù yíxià/yíhuǐr, kěyǐ ma?
I'm going to make a phone call now, would you please go out for a short while?

