

List of Chinese classifiers

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In the following tables, the first column contains the traditional version of the classifier's character, the second contains the simplified version (in cases where it differs from the traditional), the third contains the pronunciation given in Hanyu Pinyin, the fourth contains the pronunciation given in Cantonese romanization (Yale), and the fifth explains the word's principal uses. Quotation marks surround the literal meaning of the measure word.

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Nominal classifiers

Classifiers proper

Trad.	Simp.	Pinyin	Cantonese (Yale Romanization)	Main uses
把		bǎ	ba2	"handful" — objects that can be held, relatively long and flat objects (knives 刀, scissors 剪刀, swords 劍/劍, keys 鑰匙/钥匙; also chairs 椅子)
本		běn	bun2	"volume" — bound print matter (books 書/书, etc.)
部		bù	bou6	novels 小說/小说, movies 電影/电影, TV dramas etc
冊/册	冊/册	cè	chaak3	volumes of books (冊 is more common in Traditional Chinese, 册 vice versa)
層	层	céng	chaang4	"story", "layer" — buildings 樓/楼, etc
場	场	chǎng	cheung4	public spectacles, games 比賽/比赛, drama 戲/戏, film 電影/电影, etc
處	处	chù		"location", "site" — ruins 廢墟/废墟, construction site 工地
齣	出	chū		acts in a play, "performance" — plays 戲/戏, circus 馬戲/马戏, etc
道		dào	dou6	linear projections (light rays 亮光, etc.), orders given by an authority figure 命令, courses (of food) 點心/点心, walls and doors 門/门, questions 題/题, number of times (for

				certain procedures) 工序
頂	顶	dǐng	deng2	objects with protruding top (hats 帽子, etc.)
棟	栋	dòng	dung6	lit. pillars, used for buildings 房子
堵		dǔ	dou6	walls and encompassing fixtures 牆/墙
朵		duǒ	do2/deu2	flowers 花, clouds 雲/云
發	发	fā	fa1	Military projectiles, such as bullets 子彈/子弹, artillery shells 炮彈/炮弹, rockets, guided missiles etc.
封		fēng	fung1	letters 信, mail, fax 傳真/传真
幅		fú	fuk1	works of art (paintings 畫兒/画儿, etc.)
個	个	ge (gè)	go3	individual things, people — general, catch-all measure word (usage of this classifier in conjunction with any noun is generally accepted if the person does not know the proper classifier)
根		gēn	gan1	thin, slender objects (needles 針/针, pillars 支柱, etc.); strands 絲/丝 (e.g. hair 頭髮/头发)
架		jià	ga3	aircraft 飛機/飞机, pianos 琴, machines 儀器/仪器
間	间	jiān	gaan1	rooms 屋子
件		jiàn	gin6	matters (affairs 事情), clothing 衣裳, etc.
屆	届	jiè	gaai3	regularly scheduled sessions or meetings 會/会, year-groups in a school (e.g. Class of 2006) 畢業生/毕业生
卷		juǎn		"roll" scrolls - film 膠卷/胶卷, toilet paper 手紙/手纸
棵		kē	po1	trees (樹/树) and other such flora
顆	颗	kē	fo2	small objects (hearts 心, pearls 珠子, teeth 牙齒/牙齿, diamonds 鑽石/钻石, etc.) and also objects appearing to be small (distant stars 星星 and planets 星球)
口		kǒu	hau2	people in villages 人, family members; wells 井
類	类	lèi	leui6	objects of the same type or category — affair 事情, circumstance 情況/情况
粒		lì	lap1	"grain", small objects such as a grain of rice 米
輛	辆	liàng	leung2	wheeled vehicles: automobiles 汽車/汽车, bicycles 自行車/自行车, etc.
列		liè	lit6	trains 火車/火车
輪	轮	lún		round — competition 比賽/比赛, discussions 會談/会谈
枚		méi	mui4	medals 獎章/奖章, small flat things like stamps 郵票/邮票 or coins 硬幣/硬币, banana peels, bomb shells 大砲/大炮, also for rings 戒指
門	门	mén	mun4	objects pertaining to academics (courses 課/课, majors 專業/专业, etc.), also for artillery pieces 大砲/大炮.
面		miàn	min6	"surface" — flat and smooth objects (mirrors 鏡子/镜子, flags 旗子, etc.)

名		míng	ming4	honorific, or persons with perceived higher social rank (doctors 醫生/医生, lawyers 律師/律师, politicians, royalty, etc.); in formal language, can also be used for any type of person (not necessarily high-ranking, e.g. mother 母親)
盤	盘	pán	pun4	flat objects (video cassettes 錄影帶/录影带, etc.); literally means "dishes" and can be used for a plate of food
匹		pǐ	pat1	horses 馬/马 and other mounts; also rolls/bolts of cloth 布
篇		piān	pin1	written work: papers 論文/论文, articles 文章, novels etc.
片		piàn	pin3	"slice" — flat objects, cards, slices of bread 麵包/面包, etc.
瓶		píng	ping4	"bottle" — drinks 飲料/饮料
扇		shàn	sin3	doors 門/门, windows 窗戶/窗户.
首		shǒu	sau2	songs 歌, poems 詩/诗, music 曲子, etc.
艘		sōu	sau2	ships 船
所		suǒ	so2	for buildings whose purposes are explicitly stated, ex. hospitals 醫院/医院. Otherwise can use "座"
臺/台	台	tái	toi4	heavy objects, esp. machines (TVs 電視機/电视机, computers 電腦/电脑, etc.); performances (theatre 話劇/话剧, etc.)
堂		táng	tong4	periods of classes 課/课 (e.g. "I have two classes today"), suites of furniture
趟		tàng	tong3	trips (usually repetitive), scheduled transportation services — flights 班機/班机
題	题	tí	tai4	classifier for questions
條	条	tiáo	tiu4	long, narrow, flexible objects (fish 魚/鱼, dogs 狗, trousers 褲子/裤子, etc.), also for roads 路 and rivers 河, pertaining to human lives, eg. "兩條人命" two (human) lives, "一條心", lit. "one heart" (to work as one), classifiers for certain things like counter-measures, etc.
頭	头	tóu	tau4	"head" — domesticated animals 家畜 (pigs 豬/猪, cows 牛, etc.), hair
團	团	tuán	tyun4	"ball" — rotund and wound objects (balls of yarn 毛線/毛线, etc.)
位		wèi	wai2	polite classifier for people (attached to positions, not names) — workers 工人, director 主任
項	项	xiàng	hong6	items, projects — initiative 倡議/倡议, ordinances 法令, statements 聲明/声明
樣	样	yàng	yeung6	general items of differing attributes
盞	盏	zhǎn	jaan2	light fixtures (usually lamps 燈/灯), pot of tea etc.
張	张	zhāng	jeung1	"sheet" — flat objects (paper 紙/纸, tables 桌子, etc.), faces 臉/脸, bows, paintings 圖畫/图画, tickets 票, constellations, blankets, bedsheets 床單/床单

支	zhī	ji1	fairly long, stick-like objects (pens 筆/笔, chopsticks, roses, rifles 槍/枪, etc.)
枝	zhī	ji1	alternative form of 支 ("stalk"): can be used for rifles 槍/枪 and flowers
種 种	zhǒng	jung2	types or kinds of objects
座	zuò	jo6	large structures/buildings 樓/楼, mountains 山

Measure words/massifiers

Trad.	Simp.	Pinyin	Cantonese (Yale Romanization)	Main uses
班		bān	baan1	scheduled services (trains 火車/火车, etc.), group of people 人, a class as in pupils 學生/学生
幫		bāng		"group", "gang" (bandits 匪徒, children 孩子)
包		bāo	baau1	"package", "bundle" (cookies 餅乾/饼干, cigarettes 香煙/香烟)
杯		bēi	bui1	"cup" — liquids (water 水)
輩 辈		bèi		"generation", "lifetime" (people 人)
筆 笔		bǐ	bat1	large quantities of money (money 錢/钱, funds 資金/资金)
串		chuàn		sets of numbers; or something that comes in a string (e.g. 號碼/号码: "a string of numbers"; 珍珠頸鏈/项链: "pearl necklace"; 葡萄: "a bunch of grapes"), objects on a skewer/stick (kebabs, satays)
床		chuáng	chong4	"bed" — blankets 毯子, sheets
次		cì	chi3	"time" — opportunities 機會/机会, accidents 事故
袋		dài	doi6	"bag" — sackfuls, pouchfuls, bagfuls, pocketfuls — flour 麵粉/面粉
道		dào	dou6	linear projections (light rays 亮光, etc.), orders given by an authority figure 命令, courses (of food) 點心/点心, walls and doors 門/门, questions 題/题, number of times (for certain procedures) 工序
滴		dī	dik6	"droplet" water 水, blood 鮮血/鲜血, other such fluids
點 点		diǎn	dim2	ideas 意見/意见, suggestions, can also mean "a bit" (often used to denote amount) — courage 膽量/胆量
段		duàn	dyun6	"adjoining length" — cables 電線/电线, roadways 路, a part in a drama, play etc. 臺詞/台词
堆		duī	deui3	"pile", "mass" — trash 垃圾, sand 沙子
對 对		duì	deui3	"couple" — people 人, "pair" (for certain things only) earrings 耳環/耳环, couplets
頓 顿		dùn	deun6	meals 飯/饭

份	fèn	fan6	portions, copies — newspapers 報紙/报纸, notarized document 公證/公证, contract 合同
服	fù	fuk6	"dose" — (Chinese) medicine
副	fù	fu3	objects which come in pairs (gloves 手套, etc.) also for spectacles 眼鏡/眼镜, a pack of cards 牌, mahjong 麻將/麻将
股	gǔ	gu2	flows (of air 氣/气, smell 香味, influence 潮流)....
管	guǎn		"tube" — toothpaste and things that comes in tubes — toothpaste 牙膏
罐	guàn		Small to medium cans of soda, of juice, bottles of water, cans of food...
行	háng	hong4	"row" — objects which form lines (words 詞/词, etc.). — 行 is also read xíng, see below.
盒	hé	hap6	"small box" — e.g. tape, foods
戶/户	户	hù	households (戶 is common in handwritten Traditional Chinese) — household 人家
壺	壺	hú	pot — tea 茶
伙	huǒ	fo2	generally derogatory classifier for bands of people such as gangs or hoodlums (匪徒)
劑	剂	jì	dose (medicine 藥/药)
家	jiā	ga1	gathering of people (families 人家, companies 公司, etc.), establishments (shops 商店, restaurants 酒店, hotels 飯店/饭店)
件	jiàn	gin6	matters (affairs 事情), clothing 衣裳, etc.
節	节	jié	"section" — of bamboo 竹子, etc.; a class period at school 課/课; batteries (that look like a section of bamboo): "兩節電池。"
句	jù	geui3	lines, sentences, etc. — sentence 話/话, English 英語/英语
塊	块	kuài	"chunk", "lump", "piece" — land 地, stones 石頭/石头, etc.; cake 蛋糕 (piece/slice), bread (not slices) 麵包/面包, "dollar" 錢/钱
俩	liǎ		sometimes used informally instead of 两个 (liǎng ge), to mean "two" (especially two things or people that are close to one another)
排	pái	paai4	"row" — objects grouped in rows (chairs 座位, etc)
批	pī	pai1	(a large amount of) people 人, goods 商品, etc.
期	qī	kei4	(issues of) periodicals 雜誌/杂志
群	qún	kwan4	"group" (incl. people 人), "herd" — students 學生/学生, birds 鳥/鸟
仨	sā		sometimes used informally instead of 三个 to mean "three", "three of"

束		shù	chuk1	"bundle", for flowers 花, light, etc.
雙	双	shuāng	seung1	pair of objects which naturally come in pairs (e.g. chopsticks 筷子, shoes 鞋, etc.)
套		tào	tou3	"set" — books 書/书, magazines, collectibles, clothes 衣裳, etc
碗		wǎn		"bowl" — soup 湯/汤, rice 米飯/米饭, congee 粥
行		xíng		groups of people traveling together, such as a trade commission or diplomats and aides visiting a foreign country: "国王一行人离开巴黎后十分兴奋" (having left Paris, the king and retinue were enthused). Note: almost only used in the form 一行人. — 行 is also read háng, see above)
扎		zhā	ja1	In Cantonese usage, this is used in lieu of shù (束), e.g. a bundle of flowers "jar", "jug" — drinks such as beer, soda, juice, etc. (A recent loan-word from English, it may be considered informal or slang.)
陣	阵	zhèn	jan6	"gust", "burst" — events with short durations (e.g. lightning storms, gusts of wind 風/风, etc.)
隻	只	zhī	jek3	one of a pair (hands 手, legs); animals (birds 鸟, cats 貓/猫, etc.)
組	组	zǔ	jou2	sets, rows, series, group of people 人, batteries 電池/电池 (military)

Measurement units

Trad.	Simp.	Pinyin	Cantonese	Main uses
Time				
秒		miǎo	miu5	"second"
分		fēn	fan1	"minute"
刻		kè	hak1 haak1	"quarter", "15 minutes" (mainly in some dialects, such as Shanghainese, and translations)
小時	小时	xiǎoshí	siu2 si4	"hour" (not itself a measure word)
鐘	钟	zhōng	jung1	"hour" (found in southern Chinese, not a measure word, must be used with 個/个)
時辰	时辰	shíchén	si4 san4	"2 hours" (ancient, not a measure word, must be used with 個/个)
天		tiān	tin1	"day"
日		rì	yat6	"day"
年		nián	nin4	"year"

載	载	zǎi	joi2 joi3	"year" (ancient)
世紀	世纪	shìjì	sai3 gei2	"century" (not a measure word, must be used with 個/个 to express a number of centuries) (100 years)
Weight/mass				
克		kè	hak1 haak1	"gram"
兩	两	liǎng		<i>50 grams</i> (1/10 <i>jīn</i>), used to be 1/16 <i>jīn</i>
加仑		jiālún		gallon
斤		jīn	gan1	"catty", "pound", <i>1/2 kilograms</i>
公斤		gōngjīn	gung1 gan1	"metric <i>jīn</i> ", kilogram
千克		qiānkè	chin1 hak1/haak1	"kilogram"
噸	吨	dūn	deun1	"ton"
Length/distance				
公分		gōngfēn	gung1 fan1	"metric <i>fēn</i> ",centimetre
厘米		línmǐ	lei4 mai5	"centimetre" (More common in Mainland China)
寸		cùn	chyun3	Chinese "inch" (1/3 of a decimetre)
吋		cùn	chyun3	British inch
尺		chǐ	che2/chek3	Chinese "foot" (1/3 of a metre)
呎		chǐ	chek3	British foot
英尺		yīngchǐ	ying1 chek3	British foot
公尺		gōngchǐ	gung1 chek3	"metric <i>chǐ</i> ", metre
米		mǐ	mai5	"metre"
里		lǐ	lei5	"lǐ", (500 metres)
哩		lǐ	le1/lei5/li1	British mile
英里		yīnglǐ	ying1 lei5	British mile
公里		gōnglǐ	gung1 lei5	"kilometre" (1000 metres)
天文單位	天文单位	tiānwéndānwèi	tin1 man4 daan1 wai2	"astronomical unit"
光年		guāngnián	gwong1 nin4	"light year"
秒差距		miǎochājù	miu5 cha1 geui6	"parsec"
Money				
圓/元	圆/元	yuán	yun4	"yuán", "¥" (main unit of currency) (either form can be used in Traditional Chinese text)
塊	块	kuài	faai3	"block", yuán (a slang term, like "quid" or "buck")
角		jiǎo	gok3	"jiǎo", "dime", "tenpence"
毛		máo	hou4	"máo", "dime", "tenpence" (slang)
分		fēn	fan1/fan6	"fēn" "cent" "penny"

ㄉ	個	個 / 箇	個 , 個 , 個
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Verbal classifiers

Trad.	Simp.	Pinyin	Cantonese	Main uses
遍		biàn	bin3 pin3	the number of times an action has been completed
場	场	chǎng	cheung4	a length of an event taking place within another event
次		cì	chi3	times (unlike 遍, 次 refers to the number of times regardless of whether or not it was completed)
頓	顿	dùn	deun6	actions without repetition
回		huí	wui4	occurrences (used colloquially)
聲	声	shēng	seng1/sing1	cries, shouts, etc.
趟		tàng	tong3	trips, visitations, etc.
下		xià	ha5/ha6	brief and often sudden actions (much more common in Cantonese than in North dialects).

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