# The AhaBulb Party Game

STUFF EVERY TRAVELER SHOULD SAY IN CHINESE

## How to play (30 seconds)

1. The reader reads a card and its three answers out loud.
2. Everyone says "One, two, three, Goldilocks!" and holds up 1, 2, or 3 fingers.
3. The reader flips the card and reads the answer and the Why.
4. Everyone who was right takes a point.
5. The reader reads the joke with a straight face. Anyone laughs or groans? The reader takes a point. Nobody got it right? The reader takes a point.
6. Pass the deck left. Most points when the points run out wins.

## What you need

These cards and the point tokens on the last two pages. No tokens? Use coins, buttons, pebbles, or marshmallows. 3 to 10 players, ages 8 and up.

## Expert rule: Bet It

Before the reader flips the card, you may put one of your points on your answer. Right: take your normal point plus one extra. Wrong: your bet goes back to the pile. That's it.

## Printing

Print single-sided, on cardstock if you have it. Cut on the dashed lines. Each card is a 3.5 x 5 inch index card. The answer half is upside down on purpose, so the table can't peek.

Cards 1 to 50 of 55. More cards and the free daily online game at sesk.info. Built 2026-10-14.

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'Hello' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** nǐ hǎo (你好)
- **B** zàijiàn (再见)
- **C** xièxie (谢谢)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A ni hǎo (你好)**

**WHY** Nǐ hǎo literally means 'you good' and works almost anywhere. Zàijiàn means goodbye and xièxie means thank you. In Taiwan it is written the same way, 你好.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
What did the teapot say to the tired traveler? Nǐ hǎo! Let me pour you a warm welcome.

SESK.INFO #9612

LANGUAGES

## Which Mandarin greeting is the polite 'Hello' to use with an older person or a hotel manager?

- **A** nǐ men hǎo (你们好)
- **B** zǎo (早)
- **C** nín hǎo (您好)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C nín hǎo (您好)**

**WHY** Nín (您) is the courteous form of nǐ (你), so nín hǎo shows respect. Nǐmen hǎo greets a group, and zǎo means good morning.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Nín hǎo is hello with good manners built in. It is basically a greeting wearing a tie.

SESK.INFO #9613

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'Thank you' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** duìbuqǐ (对不起)
- **B** qǐngwèn (请问)
- **C** xièxie (谢谢)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C xièxie (谢谢)**

**WHY** Xièxie is the word you will use most on a trip, for every shop, meal and taxi. Duìbuqǐ means I'm sorry and qǐngwèn means excuse me, may I ask. Taiwan writes it 謝謝.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I said xièxie so many times on my trip, my tour guide started calling me Mister Thankful.

SESK.INFO #9614

LANGUAGES

## Someone thanks you in Mandarin. Which phrase means 'You're welcome'?

- **A** méi wèntí (没问题)
- **B** bú kèqi (不客气)
- **C** bú duì (不对)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B bú kèqi (不客气)**

**WHY** Bú kèqi is the standard reply to xièxie. Méi wèntí means no problem and bú duì means that's not right. Bú yòng xiè (不用谢), 'no need to thank', is another polite reply.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
My friend said xièxie, I said bú kèqi, and we kept going back and forth until the bus left without us.

SESK.INFO #9615

LANGUAGES

**You want to ask a stranger a question. What polite phrase do you start with in Mandarin?**

A duìbuqǐ (对不起)

B qǐngwèn (请问)

C zàijiàn (再见)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B qǐngwèn (请问)**

**WHY** Qǐngwèn literally means 'please ask' and opens any question: qǐngwèn, cèsuǒ zài nǎr? Duìbuqǐ is an apology and zàijiàn is goodbye.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Qǐngwèn is my favorite word. It turns 'Hey you!' into 'Excuse me, kind sir!' in two syllables.

SESK.INFO #9619

LANGUAGES

**Which Mandarin word means 'please' at the start of a request, like 'Please speak slowly'?**

A qǐng (请)

B hǎo (好)

C duì (对)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A qǐng (请)**

**WHY** Qǐng goes in front of the verb: qǐng shuō mǎn yìdiǎn, please speak slowly. Hǎo means good or OK and duì means right or correct.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
In Chinese class the magic word is qǐng. Say it and doors open, menus appear, and the teacher smiles.

SESK.INFO #9618

LANGUAGES

**Someone says duìbuqǐ (I'm sorry) to you. Which reply means 'It doesn't matter' or 'That's all right'?**

A bú shì (不是)

B xièxie (谢谢)

C méi guānxi (没关系)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C méi guānxi (没关系)**

**WHY** Méi guānxi is the friendly answer to an apology. Bú shì means no, it isn't, and xièxie means thank you. The full form is méiyǒu guānxi.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
My friend stepped on my foot and said duìbuqǐ. I said méi guānxi. My foot said otherwise.

SESK.INFO #9617

LANGUAGES

**You bump into someone on a crowded subway. How do you say 'I'm sorry' in Mandarin?**

A duìbuqǐ (对不起)

B méi guānxi (没关系)

C bú kèqi (不客气)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A duìbuqǐ (对不起)**

**WHY** Duìbuqǐ is the everyday apology. Méi guānxi is the reply, 'it doesn't matter', and bú kèqi means you're welcome.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the cookie say duìbuqǐ? It felt a little crummy about bumping into the milk.

SESK.INFO #9616

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'My name is Tom' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** Wǒ shì lǎoshī (我是老师)
- **B** Wǒ yào Tom (我要 Tom)
- **C** Wǒ jiào Tom (我叫 Tom)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C Wǒ jiào Tom (我叫 Tom)**

**WHY** Jiào means 'to be called', so wǒ jiào plus your name introduces you. Wǒ yào means I want, and wǒ shì lǎoshī means I am a teacher.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
My name is Cliff. Drop over sometime!

SESK.INFO #9620

LANGUAGES

## How do you ask 'What is your name?' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** Nǐ qù nǎr? (你去哪儿？)
- **B** Nǐ hǎo ma? (你好吗？)
- **C** Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? (你叫什么名字？)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? (你叫什么名字？)**

**WHY** Shénme means what and míngzi means name, so this is 'You are called what name?' Nǐ qù nǎr asks where you are going, and nǐ hǎo ma asks how you are.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
What is your name? Justin. Justin who? Justin time for Chinese class!

SESK.INFO #9621

LANGUAGES

## In a Chinese name like Zhang Wei, which part comes first?

- **A** The given name
- **B** The family name
- **C** The middle name

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B The family name**

**WHY** Chinese names in Chinese order put the surname first, then the given name. In Zhang Wei, Zhang is the family name. Most surnames are one character.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
In China, the family always comes first, even on the name tag.

SESK.INFO #9622

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'My family name is Wang' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** Wǒ xìng Wáng (我姓王)
- **B** Wǒ ài Wáng (我爱王)
- **C** Wǒ zài Wáng (我在王)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A Wǒ xìng Wáng (我姓王)**

**WHY** Xìng means both 'surname' and 'to be surnamed', so wǒ xìng Wáng means my family name is Wang. Wǒ ài means I love and wǒ zài means I am at.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
My surname is Wang. My cousin is also Wang. Together we are a Wang-derful team.

SESK.INFO #9623

LANGUAGES

**Your guide asks if you are going to the airport, and you want to say 'Right, correct!' Which word fits?**

A duì (对)

B cuò (错)

C xièxie (谢谢)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A duì (对)**

**WHY** Duì means right or correct and is a very common way to agree. Cuò means wrong, and bù duì means that's not right.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
What did the teacher say to the correct answer? Duì, you are right on!

SESK.INFO #9625

LANGUAGES

**Someone asks 'Zhè shì bēizi ma?' (Is this a cup?). Which word answers 'Yes'?**

A Duōshao (多少)

B Ma (吗)

C Shì (是)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C Shì (是)**

**WHY** Mandarin usually answers yes by repeating the verb of the question, here shì, 'is'. Ma turns a sentence into a yes or no question and duōshao asks how much.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Is this a cup? Shì. Is this a cup? Shì. My Chinese is going great, I only know one answer.

SESK.INFO #9624

LANGUAGES

**Bù (不, not) is normally fourth tone. What happens to it right before another fourth tone, as in bù + shì?**

A It changes to second tone

B It becomes silent

C It changes to third tone

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A It changes to second tone**

**WHY** Bù rises to bú before a fourth tone, so 不是 is said bú shì and 不客气 is bú kèqi. Before first, second and third tones it stays bù.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Even the word 'no' in Chinese knows how to compromise. Before a fourth tone, it goes up.

SESK.INFO #9627

LANGUAGES

**Asked 'Is that rice?', how do you answer 'No, it isn't' in Mandarin?**

A Méiyǒu (没有)

B Bú shì (不是)

C Bú yào (不要)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B Bú shì (不是)**

**WHY** Bú shì means 'is not', the no answer to a shì question. Bú yào means don't or I don't want, and méiyǒu means don't have.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
No means no, and in Mandarin it even changes its tone to make the point.

SESK.INFO #9626

LANGUAGES

**How many main tones does Mandarin Chinese have, not counting the light neutral tone?**

A Two

B Four

C Nine

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9629

**B Four**

**WHY** Mandarin has four tones plus a light neutral tone. The same syllable, like ma, means different words in different tones.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Mandarin has four tones. My singing voice has one, and it is usually wrong.

LANGUAGES

**When two third tones come together, like nǐ + hǎo, how is the first one said?**

A As a first tone

B As a second tone

C As a fourth tone

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9628

**B As a second tone**

**WHY** A third tone followed by another third tone changes to second tone. The spelling stays nǐ hǎo, but you say ní hǎo.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Two third tones walked into a café. The first one decided to rise to the occasion.

LANGUAGES

**You want 'two bottles of water'. Which word for two goes in front of the measure word?**

A èr (二)

B shuāng (双)

C liǎng (两)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9631

**C liǎng (两)**

**WHY** Use èr when counting or in numbers like 12 and 20. Use liǎng for 'two of something', before a measure word: liǎng gè rén, two people.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the two 4s skip lunch? They already 8!

LANGUAGES

**Mā, má, mǎ, mà are four different words. Which one means 'horse'?**

A mā (妈)

B mà (骂)

C mǎ (马)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

SESK.INFO #9630

**C mǎ (马)**

**WHY** Mā (first tone) is mother, má (second) is hemp, mǎ (third) is horse and mà (fourth) is to scold. Getting the tone wrong can turn mom into a horse!

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I wanted to call my mom, but I used the third tone. Now the horse is on the phone.

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'Monday' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** xīngqīyī (星期一)
- **B** xīngqīliù (星期六)
- **C** yī yuè (一月)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A xīngqīyī (星期一)**

**WHY** Days are xīngqī (week) plus a number, starting with Monday as one. Xīngqīliù (week six) is Saturday, and yī yuè is January.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
In Chinese, Monday is 'week one'. My week one always feels like week ten.

SESK.INFO #9635

LANGUAGES

## A vendor says something costs 'shí kuài'. What does kuài (块) mean here?

- **A** Fast
- **B** Yuan, a unit of money
- **C** Ten cents

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B Yuan, a unit of money**

**WHY** Price tags say yuán (元), but people usually say kuài (块). Shí kuài means 10 yuan. Máo is one tenth of a yuan.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
The price was ten kuài. That sounded fast to me, because kuài also means fast!

SESK.INFO #9633

LANGUAGES

## How do you ask 'What time is it?' in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** Jǐ diǎn le? (几点了？)
- **B** Duōshao qián? (多少钱？)
- **C** Jīntiān xīngqī jǐ? (今天星期几？)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A Jǐ diǎn le? (几点了？)**

**WHY** Diǎn means o'clock, so jǐ diǎn is 'how many o'clock'. Duōshao qián asks how much money, and jīntiān xīngqī jǐ asks what day of the week it is.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I asked jǐ diǎn le so often on my trip, my watch started answering in Chinese.

SESK.INFO #9634

LANGUAGES

## How do you say the number 20 in Mandarin Chinese?

- **A** shí'èr (十二)
- **B** èrbǎi (二百)
- **C** èrshí (二十)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C èrshí (二十)**

**WHY** Chinese builds numbers from one to ten: 20 is two ten, èrshí, and 12 is ten two, shí'èr. Èrbǎi is 200.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Chinese numbers are like building blocks: two, ten, done. That's twenty.

SESK.INFO #9632

LANGUAGES

## In China, which one-hand sign means the number 6?

A Thumb and little finger up

B All five fingers up

C A closed fist

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

## A Thumb and little finger up

**WHY** China signals 1 to 10 on one hand. Six is thumb and pinky out, a bit like a 'hang loose' sign. Five is all fingers up, and a closed fist is ten.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
**In China, 'hang loose' means six. Now every surfer I see is telling me a number.**



LANGUAGES

## In China, what does a hand with the thumb pointing up and the index finger pointing sideways (like an L) mean?

A Two

B Eight

C Seven

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

## B Eight

**WHY** The L shape looks a little like the character 八. Seven is the fingertips pinched together, and two is the index and middle fingers up.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
**I ordered eight dumplings with one hand and ate them with the other. Very efficient.**



LANGUAGES

## Monday to Saturday are xīngqī plus 1 to 6. What is Sunday?

A xīngqīliù (星期六)

B xīngqītiān (星期天)

C zhōumò (周末)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

## B xīngqītiān (星期天)

**WHY** Sunday is not 'week seven'. It is xīngqītiān, or more formally xīngqīrì. Xīngqīliù is Saturday and zhōumò means the weekend.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
**Why is Sunday the strongest day? Because all the others are weekdays!**



LANGUAGES

## Which Mandarin word means "tomorrow"?

A zuótiān (昨天)

B jīntiān (今天)

C míngtiān (明天)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

## C míngtiān (明天)

**WHY** Zuótiān is yesterday, jīntiān is today and míngtiān is tomorrow. All three end in tiān, day.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
**I'll tell you a joke about procrastination... míngtiān.**

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'turn left' in Mandarin Chinese?

A yòu zhuǎn (右转)

B yìzhí zǒu (一直走)

C zuǒ zhuǎn (左转)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C zuǒ zhuǎn (左转)**

**WHY** Zuǒ (左) means left, and zhuǎn (转) means to turn. Use this when giving or following directions.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
My GPS said zuǒ zhuǎn, so I turned left. Then it recalculated.

SESK.INFO #9643

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'go straight' in Mandarin Chinese?

A zuǒ zhuǎn (左转)

B yìzhí zǒu (一直走)

C tíng xià (停下)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B yìzhí zǒu (一直走)**

**WHY** Yìzhí (一直) means straight or continuously, and zǒu (走) means to walk or go. Together they mean go straight ahead.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I told my shoes yìzhí zǒu. They asked for directions.

SESK.INFO #9642

LANGUAGES

## What does zài nǎr (在哪儿) mean in Mandarin Chinese?

A Where

B When

C Who

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A Where**

**WHY** Zài nǎr (在哪儿) is the everyday way to ask where something is. Use it after a place word, like dìtiě zhàn zài nǎr?

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the compass refuse to answer zài nǎr? It was already pointed in the right direction.

SESK.INFO #9641

LANGUAGES

## Which of these is a common Chinese hand sign for 10?

A Thumb and little finger up

B A closed fist

C All five fingers spread

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B A closed fist**

**WHY** A fist can mean ten, and some people cross the index and middle fingers or make a cross with both index fingers, like the character 十. All five fingers up means five.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I showed a fist to say ten dumplings. The cook laughed and brought me eleven.

SESK.INFO #9640

LANGUAGES

## What does diǎncài (点菜) mean in a Chinese restaurant?

A To order food

B To pay the bill

C To ask for water

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A To order food**

**WHY** Diǎn (点) means to point or choose, and cài (菜) means dishes or food. Wǒ yào diǎncài (我要点菜) means I would like to order.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I took so long to diǎncài that the menu started reading me.

SESK.INFO #9645

LANGUAGES

## Which Mandarin word for bathroom is the more polite public form?

A cèsuǒ (厕所)

B yùshì (浴室)

C xǐshǒujiān (洗手间)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C xǐshǒujiān (洗手间)**

**WHY** Xǐshǒujiān (洗手间) literally means hand-washing room and is the polite public restroom term. Cèsuǒ (厕所) is plainer, while yùshì (浴室) is a shower or bath room.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the polite restroom have good manners? It always said, 'Please wash your hands.'

SESK.INFO #9644

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'I do not want spicy food' in Mandarin Chinese?

A wǒ yào là (我要辣)

B qǐng gěi wǒ là (请给我辣)

C bú yào là (不要辣)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C bú yào là (不要辣)**

**WHY** Bú yào (不要) means do not want, and là (辣) means spicy or hot. Use this at Sichuan or Hunan restaurants if you need mild food.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the pepper say bú yào là? It wanted to be a bell pepper.

SESK.INFO #9647

LANGUAGES

## How do you ask for the bill or check in a Chinese restaurant?

A bú yào là (不要辣)

B mǎidān (买单)

C diǎncài (点菜)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B mǎidān (买单)**

**WHY** Mǎidān (买单) literally means buy the bill, but everyone uses it for check please. In a casual spot, you can raise your hand and say mǎidān.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the bill bring a calculator? It wanted to count on you.

SESK.INFO #9646

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'subway station' in mainland Mandarin?

A huǒchē zhàn (火车站)

B dìtiě zhàn (地铁站)

C xǐshǒujiān (洗手间)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B dìtiě zhàn (地铁站)**

**WHY** Dìtiě (地铁) means subway or metro, and zhàn (站) means station. Big cities like Beijing and Shanghai use this for metro stops.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the subway station get promoted? It had good underground connections.

SESK.INFO #9651

LANGUAGES

## What does qǐng dǎbiǎo (请打表) mean in a taxi?

A Please run the meter

B Please slow down

C Please stop here

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A Please run the meter**

**WHY** Qǐng (请) means please, and dǎbiǎo (打表) means to use the taxi meter. It is useful if a driver has not turned on the meter.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the taxi meter get a gold star? It always kept count.

SESK.INFO #9650

LANGUAGES

## What does yùdìng (预订) mean when booking a hotel?

A To check out

B To reserve or book

C To clean a room

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B To reserve or book**

**WHY** Yù (预) means in advance, and dìng (订) means to book. Say wǒ yùdìng le fángjiān (我预订了房间) for I reserved a room.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the reservation go to school? It wanted to be well-booked.

SESK.INFO #9649

LANGUAGES

## Which Mandarin word usually means hotel for a traveler?

A bīnguǎn (宾馆)

B cèsuǒ (厕所)

C cāntīng (餐厅)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A bīnguǎn (宾馆)**

**WHY** Bīnguǎn (宾馆) is a standard word for a hotel or guesthouse on the mainland. Jiǔdiàn (酒店) also means hotel and often appears in bigger hotel names.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the hotel have a great memory? It kept a lot of reservations.

SESK.INFO #9648

LANGUAGES

## How do you ask 'how much is this?' in Mandarin Chinese?

A zhège duōshao qián? (这个多少钱?)

B nǐ hǎo ma? (你好吗?)

C zài nǎr? (在哪儿?)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C piányi yìdiǎn ba (便宜一点吧)**

**WHY** Piányi (便宜) means cheap, yìdiǎn (一点) means a little, and ba (吧) softens the request. It is a polite bargaining phrase.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the bargain shopper bring a telescope? To see the lower prices coming.

SESK.INFO #9655

LANGUAGES

## How do you ask a vendor to make something cheaper in Mandarin?

A duōshao qián? (多少钱?)

B mǎidān (买单)

C piányi yìdiǎn ba (便宜一点吧)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A zhège duōshao qián? (这个多少钱?)**

**WHY** Zhège (这个) means this, duōshao (多少) means how many, and qián (钱) means money. It is the key shopping question.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the wallet ask duōshao qián? It wanted to know if it had enough.

SESK.INFO #9653

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'train station' in Mandarin Chinese?

A dìtiě zhàn (地铁站)

B fēijī chǎng (飞机场)

C huǒchē zhàn (火车站)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C huǒchē zhàn (火车站)**

**WHY** Huǒchē (火车) means train, literally fire vehicle, and zhàn (站) means station. Use it for intercity rail stations.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the train station get a medal? It stayed on track.

SESK.INFO #9652

LANGUAGES

## What does tài guì le (太贵了) mean in Chinese?

A Too cheap

B Too expensive

C Too heavy

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B Too expensive**

**WHY** Tài (太) means too, guì (贵) means expensive, and le (了) adds emphasis. Use it when bargaining at markets.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the price tag say tài guì le? It knew it was over the top.

SESK.INFO #9654

LANGUAGES

## In mainland China, which emergency number should you call for an ambulance?

A 120
B 110
C 119

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A 120**

**WHY** 120 is the mainland medical emergency number. Use 110 for police, and 119 for fire.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why do ambulances in China never get lost? They always know the number to follow.

SESK.INFO #9659

LANGUAGES

## In mainland China, which phone number do you dial for police emergencies?

A 120
B 911
C 110

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C 110**

**WHY** Mainland emergency numbers include 110 for police, 120 for ambulance, and 119 for fire. In Taiwan, 110 is also the police number.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the phone call 110? It could not find its owner.

SESK.INFO #9658

LANGUAGES

## What does jiùmìng (救命) mean in an emergency?

A Thank you
B Help or save me
C Goodbye

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B Help or save me**

**WHY** Jiù (救) means to save, and mìng (命) means life. Shout this in a life-threatening emergency to get attention.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I yelled jiùmìng at the dumpling stall. Turns out I was just very hungry.

SESK.INFO #9657

LANGUAGES

## How do you say 'mobile payment' in Mandarin Chinese?

A shǒujī zhīfù (手机支付)
B xiànjīn (现金)
C xìnyòngkǎ (信用卡)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**A shǒujī zhīfù (手机支付)**

**WHY** Shǒujī (手机) means cellphone, and zhīfù (支付) means to pay. Mainland shops commonly accept WeChat Pay or Alipay through QR codes.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
My phone paid for lunch, so now it thinks it is the boss of the wallet.

SESK.INFO #9656

LANGUAGES

## Which Chinese sign pair marks men's and women's restrooms?

- **A** zuǒ (左) and yòu (右)
- **B** rùkǒu (入口) and chūkǒu (出口)
- **C** nán (男) and nǚ (女)

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**C nán (男) and nǚ (女)**

**WHY** Nán (男) means male or men, and nǚ (女) means female or women. These single characters appear on most public restroom doors.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
Why did the restroom signs break up? They needed space.

SESK.INFO #9661

LANGUAGES

## What does wǒ tīng bù dǒng (我听不懂) mean in Mandarin?

- **A** Please speak slowly
- **B** I don't understand
- **C** I can't find it

FLIP FOR THE ANSWER

**B I don't understand**

**WHY** Wǒ (我) means I, tīng (听) means listen, bù (不) negates, and dǒng (懂) means understand. Use it when spoken Mandarin is too fast or advanced.

**STRAIGHT FACE**
I said wǒ tīng bù dǒng so many times that the parrot at my hotel learned it.

SESK.INFO #9660

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AhaBulb POINT

1
AhaBulb POINT