The first 100 Chinese characters

The most frequent characters in Chinese film and TV dialogue, in order. Together they make up 58% of the characters in a 33-million-word subtitle corpus.

1 **我 wǒ**
I; me
我们 wǒmen · we; us

2 **的 de**
of; ’s (links a describing word to a noun)
我的 wǒ de · my; mine

3 **你 nǐ**
you
你好 nǐ hǎo · hello

4 **是 shì**
to be (links two nouns)
是的 shì de · yes; that’s right

5 **了 le**
marks that something is done or has changed
知道了 zhīdao le · got it

6 **不 bù**
not; no
不好 bù hǎo · not good

7 **们 men**
plural ending for people
他们 tāmen · they; them

8 **这 zhè**
this
这里 zhèlǐ · here

9 **一 yī**
one
第一 dì yī · first

10 **他 tā**
he; him
他的 tā de · his

11 **么 me**
word ending, as in shénme (what) and zěnme (how)
什么 shénme · what

12 **在 zài**
to be at; in; at
正在 zhèngzài · in the middle of (doing)

13 **有 yǒu**
to have; there is
没有 méiyǒu · not have; there is no

14 **个 gè**
the general measure word
那个 nàge · that one

15 **好 hǎo**
good; well
好吃 hǎochī · tasty

16 **来 lái**
to come
回来 huílai · to come back

17 **人 rén**
person; people
中国人 Zhōngguórén · Chinese person

18 **那 nà**
that
那里 nàli · there

19 **要 yào**
to want; to need; will
不要 bùyào · don’t

20 **会 huì**
can (know how to); will
不会 bù huì · can’t; won’t

21 **就 jiù**
then; right away; just
就是 jiùshì · exactly; that is

22 **什 shén**
first half of 什么, what
为什么 wèishénme · why

23 **没 méi**
not (have); did not
没事 méishì · it’s nothing; no problem

24 **到 dào**
to arrive; to reach; to
看到 kàndào · to see

25 **说 shuō**
to say; to speak
说话 shuōhuà · to talk

26 **吗 ma**
turns a sentence into a yes-or-no question
好吗 hǎo ma · OK?

27 **为 wèi**
for; because of
因为 yīnwèi · because

28 **想 xiǎng**
to think; to want to; to miss
想法 xiǎngfǎ · idea

29 **能 néng**
can; to be able to
可能 kěnéng · maybe; possible

30 **上 shàng**
up; on; to go up
马上 mǎshàng · right away

31 **去 qù**
to go
出去 chūqu · to go out

32 **她 tā**
she; her
她们 tāmen · they (women)

33 **道 dào**
road; way; to say
知道 zhīdao · to know

34 **很 hěn**
very
很好 hěn hǎo · very good

35 **看 kàn**
to look; to watch; to read
好看 hǎokàn · good-looking

36 **可 kě**
can; may
可以 kěyǐ · can; may

37 **知 zhī**
to know
知识 zhīshi · knowledge

38 **得 de**
links a verb to how it is done
说得很好 shuō de hěn hǎo · speaks very well

39 **过 guò**
to pass; after a verb: have done before
过来 guòlai · to come over

40 **吧 ba**
softens a sentence; let’s … (a suggestion)
好吧 hǎo ba · OK then

41 **还 hái**
still; also
还是 háishi · or (in questions); still

42 **对 duì**
right; correct; to, toward
对不起 duìbuqǐ · sorry

43 **里 lǐ**
inside; in
哪里 nǎlǐ · where

44 **以 yǐ**
with; by (mostly inside words)
以后 yǐhòu · after; later

45 **都 dōu**
all; both

46 **事 shì**
matter; thing
事情 shìqing · matter; affair

47 **子 zǐ**
child; also a noun ending, said zi
孩子 háizi · child

48 **生 shēng**
to be born; life
生日 shēngrì · birthday

49 **时 shí**
time
时候 shíhou · time; moment

50 **样 yàng**
kind; way; appearance
怎么样 zěnmeyàng · how is it?

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The first 100 Chinese characters

Characters 51 to 100.

51 也 yě
also; too
也许 yěxǔ · maybe

52 和 hé
and; with

53 下 xià
down; below; next
下午 xiàwǔ · afternoon

54 真 zhēn
really; true
真的 zhēn de · really

55 现 xiàn
present; current; to appear
现在 xiànzài · now

56 做 zuò
to do; to make
做饭 zuòfàn · to cook

57 大 dà
big
大家 dàjiā · everyone

58 啊 a
adds feeling at the end of a sentence

59 怎 zěn
how (in question words)
怎么 zěnme · how

60 出 chū
to go out; to come out
出来 chūlai · to come out

61 点 diǎn
dot; o'clock; a little
几点 jǐ diǎn · what time

62 起 qǐ
to rise; to get up
起床 qǐchuáng · to get up (out of bed)

63 天 tiān
day; sky
今天 jīntiān · today

64 把 bǎ
puts the object before the verb; measure word for things with a handle

65 开 kāi
to open; to turn on; to drive
开心 kāixīn · happy

66 让 ràng
to let; to make (someone do)

67 给 gěi
to give; for; to
送给 sònggěi · to give (as a present)

68 但 dàn
but
但是 dànshì · but

69 谢 xiè
to thank
谢谢 xièxie · thank you

70 着 zhe
marks an ongoing action or state
接着 jiēzhe · next; then

71 只 zhǐ
only; just
只要 zhǐyào · as long as

72 些 xiē
some; a few
这些 zhèxiē · these

73 如 rú
if; like
如果 rúguǒ · if

74 家 jiā
home; family
国家 guójiā · country

75 后 hòu
after; behind
后来 hòulái · afterwards; later

76 儿 ér
child; also an ending said as -r
儿子 érzi · son

77 多 duō
many; much
多少 duōshao · how many; how much

78 意 yì
meaning; idea
意思 yìsi · meaning

79 别 bié
don't; other
别人 biéren · other people

80 所 suǒ
place (mostly inside words)
所以 suǒyǐ · so; therefore

81 话 huà
words; speech
电话 diànhuà · phone; phone call

82 小 xiǎo
small; little
小时 xiǎoshí · hour

83 自 zì
self; from
自己 zìjǐ · oneself

84 回 huí
to return; to go back
回家 huíjiā · to go home

85 然 rán
so; like that (mostly inside words)
然后 ránhòu · then; after that

86 果 guǒ
fruit; result
水果 shuǐguǒ · fruit

87 发 fā
to send; to give out
发现 fāxiàn · to discover; to notice

88 见 jiàn
to see; to meet
再见 zàijiàn · goodbye

89 心 xīn
heart; mind
小心 xiǎoxīn · careful; watch out

90 走 zǒu
to walk; to leave
走路 zǒulù · to walk

91 定 dìng
to fix; to decide; settled
决定 juédìng · to decide

92 听 tīng
to listen; to hear
听说 tīngshuō · to hear (that)

93 觉 jué
to feel
觉得 juéde · to feel; to think

94 太 tài
too; extremely
太好了 tài hǎo le · great!

95 该 gāi
should
应该 yīnggāi · should; ought to

96 经 jīng
to pass through
已经 yǐjīng · already

97 当 dāng
to act as; when
当然 dāngrán · of course

98 妈 mā
mom
妈妈 māma · mom

99 用 yòng
to use
有用 yǒuyòng · useful

100 打 dǎ
to hit; to play (a sport); to make (a call)
打电话 dǎ diànhuà · to make a phone call

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