Jane’s Mandarin Tutor Studio

HSK · Free resources

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HSK 1–2: Old vs New Vocabulary Guide

HSK 2.0 word list (2015 edition) vs HSK 3.0 exam syllabus (Nov 2025)

By Jane's Mandarin Tutor · janesmandarintutor.co.uk
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Which exam does your centre run?

- HSK sittings up to autumn 2026 have used the **HSK 2.0** format.
- **HSK 3.0 launches worldwide on 13 December 2026.** Registration deadlines (Beijing time): paper test 16 November 2026, computer test 3 December 2026. Your centre may close earlier.
- **Ask your test centre which format your sitting uses before you book.** If it is HSK 3.0, use the word lists in this pack.

What changes in the vocabulary

	HSK 2.0	HSK 3.0	New to learn	No longer at this level
Level 1	150 words	300 words	154	4
Level 2 (new words at Level 2 only)	150 words	198 words	125	18
Level 2 total (Levels 1–2)	300 words	497 words	217	20

- **Level 1** doubles in size. 146 of the 150 old words are still Level 1. The 154 new ones are either new to the HSK lists (82) or come down from a higher old level (72).
- **Level 2:** if you studied the old Levels 1–2, you already know 280 of the 497 words. You need **217** more: 92 from the new Level 1 list and 125 from the new Level 2 list.
- **Not panic-worthy:** most "removed" words just moved to a later level (for example 前面 and 后面 moved to Level 2, and 报纸 to Level 3), or were split into parts (for example 因为……所以…… is now listed as 因为 + 所以).

How to use the vocabulary sheets

1. Start with **Section 1** of your level's sheet: these are the words that are new for you.
2. Tick off words you already know. Many in **1b** come from higher old levels, so you may have met them already.
3. Use **Section 2** to see which old words you can stop worrying about for this level.
4. For Level 2, learn the Level 1 sheet first, then the Level 2 sheet.

How the lists count

Both official lists put each word at the level where it is first introduced. An exam at a level tests that level plus all the lower ones. Words are compared by how they are written. A few spellings with 儿 are treated as the same word, for example 2.0 面条 = 3.0 面条儿.

Sources

1. HSK 3.0: CLEC, *中文水平考试 HSK考试大纲* (published Nov 2025, in force July 2026), linked from www.chinesetest.cn: https://hsk.cn-bj.ufileos.com/3.0/%E6%96%B0%E7%89%88HSK%E8%80%83%E8%AF%95%E5%A4%A7%E7%BA%B21219.pdf
2. HSK 2.0: CTI, *汉语水平考试（HSK）词汇表（2015版）*: https://admin.chinesetest.cn/userfiles/file/HSK/HSK-2015.xlsx (Resource Centre: https://admin.chinesetest.cn/newhsk/godownload.do)
3. HSK 3.0 launch notice (CTI): https://admin.chinesetest.cn/gonewcontent.do?id=51336883

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