Jane’s Mandarin Tutor Studio

HSK · Free resources

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HSK 3–6: Old vs New Vocabulary Guide

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

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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 (Levels 3–6)

	HSK 2.0	HSK 3.0	New at this level	No longer in Levels 1–N
Level 3 (new words at Level 3 only)	299 words	499 words	252	20
Level 3 total (Levels 1–3)	595 words	988 words	428	35
Level 4 (new words at Level 4 only)	600 words	997 words	473	33
Level 4 total (Levels 1–4)	1,193 words	1,978 words	848	63
Level 5 (new words at Level 5 only)	1,300 words	1,595 words	705	352
Level 5 total (Levels 1–5)	2,493 words	3,557 words	1,461	397
Level 6 (new words at Level 6 only)	2,500 words	1,794 words	837	1,663
Level 6 total (Levels 1–6)	4,992 words	5,334 words	2,162	1,820

- **Level 3:** 252 words are new at Level 3 in 3.0 (199 not in any 2.0 list; 53 moved down from a higher 2.0 level). If you already know old Levels 1–3, you still need **428** more words across Levels 1–3 in 3.0.
- **Level 4:** 473 new at Level 4 (385 brand-new to the HSK lists; 88 moved down). Cumulative gap vs old Levels 1–4: **848** words to add.
- **Level 5:** 705 new at Level 5 (580 brand-new; 125 moved down). Many old Level 5 words leave Levels 1–5 (**352**), often moving into 3.0 Levels 6–9.
- **Level 6:** 837 new at Level 6 — all of them are brand-new to the 2.0 lists (nothing can "move down" into Level 6 from a higher 2.0 level, because 2.0 stops at 6). A large block of old Level 6 words (**1,663**) is no longer in 3.0 Levels 1–6; many reappear in 3.0 Levels 7–9.

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 at that level.
2. Tick off words you already know. Many in **1b** come from higher old levels.
3. Use **Section 2** to see which old words you can stop treating as Level-N targets (they may sit later in 3.0, or not be listed).
4. Learn lower-level sheets first (1 → 2 → 3 → …), because each exam is cumulative.

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. Homograph numbers in 3.0 (for example 花1 / 花2) count as one word here. Totals may differ slightly from the round "150 / 300 / …" marketing figures because duplicate spellings after normalisation are counted once.

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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