100 C-drama phrases 台词

The tags: casual friends and family. polite strangers, shops and anyone older. slang internet and young people's talk. rude hear it, don't say it. careful can offend. No tag: anyone can say it.

Greetings and goodbyes

你好
nǐ hǎo
hello

您好 polite
nín hǎo
hello, to someone older

早 casual
zǎo
morning!

早上好
zǎoshang hǎo
good morning

吃了吗? casual
chī le ma?
eaten yet? (just a hello)

好久不见
hǎojiǔ bù jiàn
long time no see

最近怎么样? casual
zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?
how have you been?

欢迎光临 polite
huānyíng guānglín
welcome! (shops)

拜拜 casual
bàibài
bye-bye

再见
zàijiàn
goodbye

回头见 casual
huítóu jiàn
see you later

明天见
míngtiān jiàn
see you tomorrow

慢走 polite
màn zǒu
take care, to a guest leaving

路上小心
lùshang xiǎoxīn
get home safe

晚安
wǎn'ān
good night

Reactions

天哪
tiān na
oh my god!

我的天
wǒ de tiān
oh my god! (my heavens)

真的吗?
zhēn de ma?
really?

真的假的? casual
zhēn de jiǎ de?
for real? (true or fake?)

不会吧 casual
bù huì ba
no way!

怎么可能?
zěnme kěnéng?
how can that be?

太好了
tài hǎo le
great! wonderful!

厉害
lìhai
amazing, so good

牛 slang
niú
awesome (cow!)

糟糕
zāogāo
oh no, this is bad

完了 casual
wán le
it's over, I'm done for

哎呀
āiyā
oh no! ugh!

吓死我了 casual
xià sǐ wǒ le
you scared me to death

好吧 casual
hǎo ba
fine, OK then

算了 casual
suàn le
forget it, never mind

无语 slang
wúyǔ
I'm speechless, ugh

好可怜
hǎo kělián
poor thing

活该 careful
huógāi
serves you right

吃了吗? isn't an invite. It's a warm hello, mostly from older people. 吃了, I have, is a fine answer even if you haven't.

Love and fights 爱情 • 吵架

Love and drama

我爱你
wǒ ài nǐ
I love you

我喜欢你
wǒ xǐhuan nǐ
I like you

我想你
wǒ xiǎng nǐ
I miss you

你别走
nǐ bié zǒu
don't go

对不起
duìbuqǐ
I'm sorry

原谅我
yuánliàng wǒ
forgive me

相信我
xiāngxìn wǒ
trust me

我等你
wǒ děng nǐ
I'll wait for you

你是我的
nǐ shì wǒ de
you're mine

有我在
yǒu wǒ zài
I'm here for you

别哭了
bié kū le
don't cry

你在乎我吗?
nǐ zàihu wǒ ma?
do you care about me?

我不会放手
wǒ bù huì fàngshǒu
I won't let you go

做我女朋友吧
zuò wǒ nǚpéngyou ba
be my girlfriend

嫁给我
jià gěi wǒ
marry me

我们分手吧
wǒmen fēnshǒu ba
let's break up

Arguments

够了 casual
gòu le
enough!

别管我 casual
bié guǎn wǒ
leave me alone

走开 casual
zǒukāi
go away

放开我 casual
fàngkāi wǒ
let go of me

你给我站住 casual
nǐ gěi wǒ zhànzhù
stop right there!

你敢! casual
nǐ gǎn!
don't you dare!

凭什么? casual
píng shénme?
says who? why should I?

你听我解释
nǐ tīng wǒ jiěshì
let me explain

我不想听
wǒ bù xiǎng tīng
I don't want to hear it

你疯了吗? careful
nǐ fēng le ma?
are you crazy?

关你什么事 careful
guān nǐ shénme shì
none of your business

闭嘴 rude
bì zuǐ
shut up

神经病 rude
shénjīngbìng
you're nuts, psycho

滚 rude
gǔn
get lost (roll!)

Don't copy the rude ones: 闭嘴, 神经病 and 滚 are fine to understand, not to say. With a stranger they start a real fight.

Taiwan dramas have their own slang. 机车 jīchē, a scooter, means someone is being a pain: 你很机车.

Everyday lines 日常

Everyday

没事
méi shì
it's nothing, I'm fine

没关系
méi guānxi
that's OK, no problem

等一下
děng yīxià
wait a moment

我知道了
wǒ zhīdào le
got it, OK

怎么了?
zěnme le?
what's wrong?

怎么办?
zěnme bàn?
what do I do now?

小心
xiǎoxīn
careful!

放心
fàngxīn
don't worry, relax

加油
jiāyóu
you've got this! (add oil)

走吧
zǒu ba
let's go

快点 casual
kuài diǎn
hurry up

我饿了
wǒ è le
I'm hungry

谢谢
xièxie
thank you

不好意思
bù hǎoyìsi
sorry, excuse me

辛苦了
xīnkǔ le
thanks for your hard work

我先走了
wǒ xiān zǒu le
I'll head off first

Palace and wuxia dramas: period speech

Costume dramas use old-style words that nobody says today, except as a joke. Many are ways to say I or you that show rank: a humble 在下 for yourself, a proud 本宫 from a consort.

公子 gōngzǐ
young master · to a young man of good family

姑娘 gūniang
miss, young lady · to a young woman

在下 zàixià
I, humbly · a man about himself, to a stranger

大人 dàrén
my lord · to an official or a judge

皇上 huángshang
Your Majesty · to the emperor

本宫 běngōng
I, this palace lady · an empress or consort about herself

臣妾 chénqiè
I, your consort · a consort to the emperor

放肆! fàngsì!
how dare you! · a superior, furious

遵命 zūnmìng
as you command · to a master or a ruler

告辞 gàocí
I take my leave · anyone, leaving politely

Short answers do a lot: 没事, 我知道了 and 放心 each answer a whole question. Said flat, 我知道了 can sound cold, so listen to the tone.

What to call people 称呼

Titles over names. Chinese often calls people by what they are to you: big brother, boss, teacher. 你 nǐ is fine with friends. With someone older, say 您 nín.

哥 gē

big brother, bro

To an older brother, and to a guy a bit older than you, friendly. 哥哥 gēge is sweeter.

姐 jiě

big sister

To an older sister, and to a woman a bit older than you. Friendly, often with shop staff.

宝贝 bǎobèi

babe, baby, treasure

Couples, and parents to small children.

亲爱的 qīn'ài de

dear, darling

Couples and close friends. Online shops shorten it to 亲 for customers.

老板 lǎobǎn

boss

To your boss, and to the owner of any shop, stall or restaurant.

师傅 shīfu

polite

master (of a trade)

To drivers, cooks and repair workers. Polite and everyday.

老师 lǎoshī

polite

teacher

To teachers, and as a polite title for writers, artists and experts.

小王 Xiǎo Wáng

little Wang

小 + surname: to someone younger, a junior colleague or a friend.

老李 Lǎo Lǐ

old Li

老 + surname: to a friend or colleague your age or older. Warm, not rude.

兄弟 xiōngdì

brother, bro

Men to close male friends. In wuxia, sworn brothers.

哥们儿 gēmenr

Beijing

buddy, mate

Men to or about their friends. The 儿 on the end sounds very Beijing.

And in costume dramas

Wuxia heroes call their kung fu teacher 师父 shīfu. Same sound as 师傅, but 父 is father: a teacher for life.

Practice 练习

5 · liànxí · ten lines to cover and recall

How: cover the right side with a strip of paper. Read the English, say the Chinese out loud, then slide the strip down to check. Do it again tomorrow with the lines you missed.

1	**I miss you**	我想你 wǒ xiǎng nǐ
2	**that's OK, no problem**	没关系 méi guānxi
3	**enough!**	够了 gòu le
4	**eaten yet? (just a hello)**	吃了吗? chī le ma?
5	**what do I do now?**	怎么办? zěnme bàn?
6	**don't go**	你别走 nǐ bié zǒu
7	**long time no see**	好久不见 hǎojiǔ bù jiàn
8	**no way!**	不会吧 bù huì ba
9	**wait a moment**	等一下 děng yīxià
10	**don't worry, relax**	放心 fàngxīn

Dramas mix old and new. A modern romance throws in internet slang like 无语 and 牛, while a palace drama speaks like page three. The same show can do both when a character is joking.

Subtitles cut corners. They often skip the full stop and use a space for a comma, and a long line may be shortened to fit the screen, so it won't always match what you hear word for word.

Meet a word you don't know? In Kitsumi, hover any word in Chinese subtitles to see what it means.