

Chinese Measure Words Summary Table

The following table covers the most common Chinese measure words (classifiers). For detailed explanations regarding measure words, please refer to the following link:

http://www.yoyochinese.com/common_Chinese_mistakes_made_by_English_speakers_03.pdf

Measure words used in a similar way in English

For example:

Measure Word	Used with	Examples		
包 bāo	Pack	One pack of cigarettes	yì bāo yān	一包烟
杯 bēi	Cup of, glass of	One cup of coffee	yì bēi kā fēi	一杯咖啡
盒 hé	Box of	A box of chocolate	yì hé qiǎo kè lì	一盒巧克力
块 / 塊 kuài	Piece of (cake, soap, land)	One piece of cake	yí kuài dàn gāo	一块蛋糕 一塊蛋糕
瓶 píng	Bottle of something	One beer	yì píng pí jiǔ	一瓶啤酒
群 qún	Crowd, group, herd, flock, pack of (cows, bees, sheep)	One pack of herd	yì qún yáng	一群羊
双 / 雙 shuāng	Pair of (shoes, chopsticks, gloves)	One pair of shoes	yì shuāng xié	一双鞋 一雙鞋
套 tào	Set of (furniture, stamps)	One set of furniture	yí tào jiā jù	一套家具
种 / 種 zhǒng	Types of, kind of	One type of fruit	yì zhǒng shuǐ guǒ	一种水果 一種水果

Measure words sometimes used or not required in English

For example:

Measure Word	Used with	Examples		
把 bǎ	Objects with a handle such as Knife, umbrella, toothbrush and chair	One knife	yì bǎ dāo	一把刀

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本 běn	Things with volume, such as books, magazines	One book	yì běn shū	一本书 一本書
串 chuàn	Items joined together, e.g. by a string	One bunch of grapes	yí chuàn pú táo	一串葡萄
顶 / 頂 dǐng	Hat	One hat	yì dǐng mào zi	一顶帽子 一頂帽子
份 fèn	Newspaper	One newspaper	yí fèn bào zhǐ	一份报纸 一份報紙
封 fēng	Letters, mail	One letter	yì fēng xìn	一封信
个 / 個 ge	Generic measure word that can be used with anything	One person	yí ge rén	一个人 一個人
间 / 間 jiān	Room (living room, bedroom, etc)	One bedroom	yì jiān wò shì	一间卧室 一間臥室
件 jiàn	Items of clothing (generally for the upper body), matters, affairs,	One shirt One matter	yí jiàn chèn shān yí jiàn shì	一件衬衫 一件襯衫 一件事
棵 kē	Trees	One tree	yì kē shù	一棵树 一棵樹
辆 / 輛 liàng	Wheeled vehicles (such as cars, bicycles, trucks)	One car	yí liàng chē	一辆车 一輛車
篇 piān	Essay, article, report	One article	yì piān wén zhāng	一篇文章
首 shǒu	Passage of text (such as poems, songs)	One song	yì shǒu gē	一首歌
台 tái	Fairly large electrical items (such as computers, washing machines)	One computer	yì tái diàn nǎo	一台电脑 一台電腦
条 / 條 tiáo	Long and winding objects (such as towel, street, pants , rope)	One towel One (pair) pants	yì tiáo máo jīn yì tiáo kù zi	一条毛巾 一條毛巾 一条裤子 一條褲子
位 wèi	People (a polite measure word to replace 个-ge)	One guest	yí wèi kè rén	一位客人
张 / 張 zhāng	Flat surfaces (table, sheet of paper, bed, photo)	One table	yì zhāng zhuō zi	一张桌子 一張桌子

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支 zhī	Fairly long, stick-like objects such as pens, pencils, cigarettes	One pen	yì zhī bǐ	一支笔 一支筆
只 / 隻 zhī	Animals, birds and insects One of a pair	One cat One hand One shoe	yì zhī māo yì zhī shǒu yì zhī xié zǐ	一只猫 一隻貓 一只手 一隻手 一只鞋子 一隻鞋子
座 zuò	Large, relatively permanent thing	One mountain	yí zuò shān	一座山

Have fun with measure words!