

This document is created to record real stories of use of Mandarin by my students. These examples can be used as a basis to develop future materials for assessment and instruction.

Place: Chengdu Taste, Honolulu

Time: April 15, 2025

Participants

Students (names, ages, proficiency/experience): MYP4&5 students, total 13

Servers

Instances of language usage:

1. Teacher: 这个可以给吗？[gives printout of food order]
Host: 啊，点这些吗？
Teacher: 啊，对，行吗？
Host: 行。
Teacher: 好，谢谢！
2. Server: 你好，干煸四季豆。[places dish on table]
Teacher: 啊，好。
3. Server: 你好，干煸四季豆。[places dish on table]
Teacher: 是素的吗？
Server: 嗯，没有肉的。
Teacher: 啊，好，谢谢。
Server: 嗯，请慢用。
4. Teacher: 你好，这个干煸四季豆有肉，你看。
Server: 嗯，对，有一点点肉。
Teacher: 可是我们点的是素的。
Server: 啊，好，我去看看。
Teacher: 谢谢。
5. Aiden: 可以再加一个干煸四季豆吗？
Server: 四季豆，不要肉的吗？
Aiden: 对，谢谢。
6. Aiden: 啊，你好，可以加一个牙签羊肉。老师，可以加两个四季豆吗？
Teacher: 只加一个吧。
Server: 一个干煸四季豆，一个牙签羊肉，对吗？
Aiden: 对，谢谢。
Teacher: 对，谢谢。

Place: Online, Gaming (reported in class by a student)

Time: 2024

Participants

Students (names, ages, proficiency/experience): one DP2 student

Chinese gamers, speaking Mandarin to each other

Instances of language usage:

(general description) The student reported he heard the gamers talking to each other about what to do in the game.

Place: New Zealand, travelling with family (reported in class by a student)

Time: 2024

Participants

Students (names, ages, proficiency/experience): one DP2 student

Chinese tourists, standing in line near the DP2 student

Instances of language usage:

(general description) The student reported he started a simple conversation about the tourist site they were standing in line for.

Place: Honolulu, at a dance school (reported in class by a student)

Time: 2025

Participants

Students (names, ages, proficiency/experience): one DP1 student

Chinese dance instructor, Chinese dance students

Instances of language usage:

(general description) The student reported she saw a dance instructor giving instructions in Mandarin to young children. She said she was surprised how much she understood.

Place: Our classroom

Time: 2025

Participants

Students (names, ages, proficiency/experience): our whole DP1 class

Chinese teacher

Student from another class who speaks Mandarin at home, coming to put eggs back in the fridge in our classroom

Instances of language usage:

Teacher: 你找冰箱吗？

Student: 对。

Teacher: 在那边。

Student: 好。

Place: Impact Term ("I-Term"), LJA room 312

Time: May 29, 2025

Participants

Students (names, ages, proficiency/experience): one middle school Mandarin student

Two Mandarin teachers sitting across the room

Instances of language usage:

Student: 老师 !

MS Mandarin teacher: Which 老师 are you talking to?

HS Mandarin teacher: She's 潘老师 and I'm 芮老师。

Student: 潘老师。

潘老师: 怎么了?

Here are some trials at prompting ChatGPT to create micro-exchanges.
Completed April 27, 2025.

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You said:

Please help me create micro-dialogues in Mandarin Chinese, simplified characters, in the style of how family members and friends talk at home. The family members and friends are tidying up, putting things away, doing some light cleaning. Interactional exchanges should be between four to six turns at talking, limited to no more than six turns at talking. Thank you!

ChatGPT said:

Sure! Here are **three micro-dialogues** in **Mandarin Chinese (simplified characters)**, each showing natural conversations among **family members or friends** as they **tidy up or clean at home**. Each one has **4 to 6 turns**, as you requested:

对话一：整理客厅

妈妈：这个沙发上怎么这么多衣服？
弟弟：我刚换的衣服，等一下就收。
妈妈：赶快收好，别让客人看到乱糟糟的。
弟弟：好啦，我现在就收。

对话二：擦桌子

朋友A：这张桌子上好像有点脏。
朋友B：我去拿抹布。
朋友A：谢谢你，我来帮你一起擦。
朋友B：没问题，两个一起擦得快。

对话三：收拾房间

姐姐：地上这些书是谁的？
妹妹：是我的，刚刚在找资料。
姐姐：用完要放回书架，不然走路会踩到。
妹妹：嗯，我马上整理。

Would you like more of these with specific people (e.g. roommates, grandparents) or for specific rooms (like kitchen, bathroom)?

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You said:

Please help me create extremely casual micro-dialogues in Mandarin Chinese, simplified characters, in the style of how family members and friends talk at home. The family members and friends are tidying up, putting things away, doing some light cleaning. Interactional exchanges should be between four to six turns at talking, limited to no more than six turns at talking. Thank you!

ChatGPT said:

Absolutely! Here are **three extremely casual micro-dialogues** in **simplified Mandarin Chinese**, in the style of **natural, relaxed home talk** among family and friends doing **light cleaning or tidying**. Super chill, short and real-sounding.

对话一：扫地

哥哥：你踩到我刚扫的地方啦！

妹妹：哎呀，我没看到～

哥哥：再这样我要重扫一遍。

妹妹：我帮你，我拿扫把！

对话二：擦窗户

朋友A：你那边擦完了吗？

朋友B：差不多，还剩一点点。

朋友A：这窗户太高了，我够不到。

朋友B：你等下，我去拿个小凳子。

对话三：收衣服

妈妈：外面衣服晒干了没？

儿子：干了吧，我刚看了一下。

妈妈：那快去收一下，天要下雨了。

儿子：啊？那我冲！

Want a few with even more slang or regionally casual vibes? Or scenes like cleaning up after dinner, tidying a messy desk, or packing for a trip?

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You said:

Please help me create extremely casual micro-dialogues in Mandarin Chinese, simplified characters, in the style of how family members and friends talk at home. The family members and friends are tidying up, putting things away, doing some light cleaning. Interactional exchanges should be between four to six turns at talking, limited to no more than six turns at talking. Repeat as if we are looking into five households, each doing relatively the same tidying activity. Thank you!

ChatGPT said:

You got it! Here are **five extremely casual micro-dialogues** in **Mandarin Chinese (simplified)**—like you're eavesdropping on five different households, all just **tidying up, putting things away, doing light cleaning**. Each has a super natural, homey tone, between **4 to 6 turns**.

家庭一：客厅整理中

爸爸：这地上是谁的袜子？

儿子：哎呀，我的，我刚脱的～

爸爸：快拿去洗，不然我收啦。

儿子：别别别，我拿我拿。

爸爸：动作快点！

家庭二：饭后收拾

姐姐：碗你洗还是我洗？

妹妹：我洗你擦吧～

姐姐：行，那你别偷懒啊。

妹妹：哪敢，我怕你念我一整天。

姐姐：你知道就好，开干！

家庭三：房间清理

朋友A：你桌上堆一座山了欸。

朋友B：我也觉得……不知道从哪开始收。

朋友A:从地上的衣服先吧。
朋友B:好,丢洗衣篮先~
朋友A:我来帮你擦桌子!

家庭四:扫地进行中

奶奶:小心点,我刚扫的。
孙女:知道啦~我轻轻走。
奶奶:你脚上有土,别踩回来。
孙女:我脱鞋了~放心啦!

家庭五:厨房小清洁

妈妈:那个酱油谁没盖紧?
哥哥:呃...可能是我...
妈妈:都流出来了你知道吗?
哥哥:我擦我擦,马上!
妈妈:以后记得看一眼啊!

Would you like a version of this where they're talking in slightly different regional styles (like Beijing vs. Taiwan vs. Southern China), or want to mix in some school friends or roommates next?

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You said:

Please help me create extremely casual micro-dialogues in Mandarin Chinese, simplified characters, in the style of how family members and friends talk at home in Singapore Mandarin-speaking household. The family members and friends are tidying up, putting things away, doing some light cleaning. Interactional exchanges should be between four to six turns at talking, limited to no more than six turns at talking. Repeat as if we are looking into five households, each doing relatively the same tidying activity. Thank you!

ChatGPT said:

Sure thing! Here are **five extremely casual micro-dialogues** in **simplified Mandarin**, modeled after how people might speak at home in **Singapore Mandarin-speaking households**. These include some natural **local-style phrasing** and casual tone. Each dialogue has **4–6 turns**, with family and friends doing **light cleaning or tidying** at home.

家庭一：收玩具

妈妈：你看，满地玩具，走路都要跳舞咯。

儿子：等下啦，我刚玩完。

妈妈：等下等下，等到蟑螂来跳舞！

儿子：Okay okay, 我现在收～

家庭二：清理餐桌

爸爸：谁把饭粒掉到地上？

女儿：我不小心的啦～

爸爸：不小心也要自己扫干净hor。

女儿：好啦，我拿扫把。

家庭三：洗衣服前

姐姐：你衣服又丢整床，不会放洗衣篮meh？

弟弟：我刚换，还没来得及放。

姐姐：整天都“还没来得及”！

弟弟：Okay okay, 我现在拿去放。

家庭四：擦厨房台面

阿嬷：哎哟，这边油油的，谁煮的？

孙子：是我啦，刚炒完面。

阿嬷：炒完就要擦一下咯，很滑很危险leh。

孙子：好，我现在擦掉。

家庭五：扫地中

朋友A：你地上好多碎纸喔。

朋友B：刚剪东西啦，等下扫。

朋友A：你等下又忘记的咯～

朋友B：不会啦，这次confirm不会忘！

Want more like this with **more Singlish**, more **teens and cousins**, or even scenes like **packing before going out**?

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You said:

Please help me create extremely casual micro-dialogues in Mandarin Chinese, simplified characters, in the style of how family members and friends talk at home in Beijing. The family members and friends are tidying up, putting things away, doing some light cleaning. Interactional exchanges should be between four to six turns at talking, limited to no more than six turns at talking. Repeat as if we are looking into five households, each doing relatively the same tidying activity. Thank you!

ChatGPT said:

当然可以！以下是五组来自北京家庭的极其随意的中文小对话，语气轻松，带点儿地道的北京口语味儿，场景都是家人或朋友在收拾、归位、做些简单打扫的时候的对话。每组都有**4到6**轮对话，像是你就在他们家客厅偷听似的 😊

家庭一：茶几乱七八糟

妈妈：你这茶几上怎么跟杂货铺似的？

儿子：哎我刚写完作业，一会儿就收。

妈妈：你这“一会儿”都说三遍了。

儿子：得嘞，我马上收，不唠叨了哈～

家庭二：扫地进行时

爷爷：你别走这儿，我刚扫干净。

孙子：哎呀爷爷，我脚都抬着呢！

爷爷：你还抬脚走路呢，厉害了。

孙子：哈哈，那我去屋里待着，等您扫完。

家庭三：厨房台面收拾

朋友A：你炒完菜怎么啥都不擦啊？

朋友B：哎我还没来得及呢～

朋友A:来得及上厕所就来得及擦台面！

朋友B:好好好，我擦，我擦还不行嘛！

家庭四:衣服乱丢

姐姐:这是谁把衣服扔沙发上的？

弟弟:我脱了衣服懒得走……

姐姐:你还挺诚实哈。

弟弟:我现在就收，还不行嘛？

家庭五:整理书桌

妈妈:你桌子都快看不见桌面了。

女儿:别看，其实我都知道啥在哪儿。

妈妈:你那叫“混乱中的秩序”？

女儿:对对对，北京孩子就讲究这点儿随性！

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