



COLLOQUIAL CHINESE PHRASES

- VOLUME 2 -



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COLLOQUIAL CHINESE LESSONS - VOLUME 2

In this book, you will learn colloquial Chinese lessons that are regularly used by Chinese people, especially the young generation. Learning colloquial Chinese phrases is essential to communicate confidently and effectively in Chinese in a broad range of situations. No prior knowledge of the language is required.

We recommend to learn at least one or two phrases daily and apply them in your conversations with the local Chinese.

Chinese phrases in this book:

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1. "Upstart"

土豪
Tǔ háo
Upstart



Let's break it down:

土 (tǔ): earth

豪 (háo): luxurious [comes from the word 豪华 (háo huá)]

The character 土 (tǔ) is associated with China's poor, unsophisticated rural areas.

土豪 (tǔ háo) is used to refer to China's nouveau riches. This term conjures up images of uncouth, uncultured people from the countryside who have become rich overnight, and who love to flaunt their wealth in the most ostentatious manner possible. It's also often used jokingly on friends.

Examples:

He bought 10 iphones yesterday, he is a real upstart.

他昨天买了10个苹果手机，他真是一个土豪。

Tā zuó tiān mǎi le 10 gè píng guǒ shǒu jī, tā zhēn shì yī gè tǔ háo.

Tom owns 10 villas, he is an upstart.

Tom有10栋别墅，他是一个土豪。

Tom yǒu 10 dòng bié shù, tā shì yī gè tǔ háo.

2. "Speechless"

醉了
Zuì le
Speechless



Let's break it down:

醉(zuì) : drunk

Although 醉(zuì) means drunk, in colloquial Chinese, it is used to convey "speechless".

You can often hear people say "我也是醉了 (wǒ yě shì zuì le)", which means "I am speechless", if they don't want to make any further comment on something.

Examples:

He fell asleep in class. I'm speechless.

他上课时睡着了，我也是醉了。

Tā shàng kè shí shuì zháo le, wǒ yě shì zuì le.

She spent 100RMB on a plastic bag. I'm speechless.

她花100块买了一个塑料袋，我也是醉了。

Tā huā 100 kuài mǎi le yī gè sù liào dài, wǒ yě shì zuì le.

3. “Buy, Buy, Buy”

买买买
Mǎi mǎi mǎi
Buy buy buy



Let's break it down:

买 (mǎi): buy

Repeating a word three times puts an emphasis on its meaning. It's a way to convey excitement over the activity of buying something (shopping).

I guess you can imagine how Chinese people (especially Chinese girls) love shopping when you see a phrase containing three “buys”.

Examples:

Chinese girls love buy buy buy.

中国女孩都爱买买买。

Zhōng guó nǚ hái dōu ài mǎi mǎi mǎi.

If you are in a bad mood, then go buy buy buy.

如果你心情不好，就去买买买。

Rú guǒ nǐ xīn qíng bù hǎo, jiù qù mǎi mǎi mǎi.

4. “Internet Celebrity”

网红
Wǎng hóng
Internet celebrity



Let's break it down:

网 (wǎng): the internet or the web

红 (hóng): popular

网红 (wǎng hóng) is a term that is used to refer to internet celebrities – people who have gained fame on social media.

Examples:

Fengjie was an internet celebrity.

凤姐曾经是一个网红。

Fèng jiě céng jīng shì yí gè wǎng hóng.

A female internet celebrity usually has a V-shaped face.

女网红通常都有一张V字脸。

Nǚ wǎng hóng tōng cháng dōu yǒu yī zhāng V zì liǎn.

5. "Extremely"

不要不要的
Bú yào bú yào de
Extremely



Let's break it down:

不要 (bú yào): don't want

"不要" means "don't want", however, "不要不要的 (bú yào bú yào de)" can be used to emphasize an adjective.

The structure is as follows:

"adjective + 的(de) + 不要不要的 (bú yào bú yào de)"

Examples:

The xiaolongbao (small pork buns) here is extremely tasty.
这里的小笼包好吃的不要不要的。

Zhè lǐ de xiǎo lóng bāo hǎo chī de bú yào bú yào de.

This song is extremely nice.

这首歌好听的不要不要的。

Zhè shǒu gē hǎo tīng de bú yào bú yào de.

6. "You Know"

你懂的
Nǐ dǒng de
You know...



JUST U KNOW Y
你 懂 的

Let's break it down:

懂 (dǒng): to understand

你懂的 (nǐ dǒng de) is used when something is very obvious and plain for all to see. Often, it's used in situations where there is an inconvenient truth that is better left unsaid.

Examples:

A: I didn't do my homework yesterday, will the teacher be angry at me?

B: You know...

A: 我昨天没做作业，老师会生气吗?

B: 你懂的...

A: Wǒ zuó tiān méi zuò zuò yè, lǎo shī huì shēng qì ma?

B: Nǐ dǒng de...

Tomorrow is the deadline, if you still haven't finished the article, you know...

明天是截止日期，如果你文章还没写完，你懂的...

Míng tiān shì jié zhǐ rì qī, rú guǒ nǐ wén zhāng hái méi xiě wán, nǐ dǒng de...

7. "Go Die"

狗带
Gǒu dài
Go die



Let's break it down:

狗 (gǒu): dog

狗 (gǒu) means "dog", but 狗带 (gǒu dài) has absolutely nothing to do with dogs.

It has become popular these days among youngsters because it sounds like "go die". You can use the phrase if you want to tell a friend to "go to hell" in a half-joking manner. Definitely not recommended for use when speaking with a stranger.

Examples:

A: Can you lend me 1000RMB?	B: Go die!
A: 你可以借我1000块钱吗?	B: 狗带!
A: Nǐ kě yǐ jiè wǒ 1000 kuài qián ma?	B: Gǒu dài!

Boy: You are really fat!	Girl: Go die!
Boy: 你真胖啊!	Girl: 狗带!
Boy: Nǐ zhēn pàng a!	Girl: Gǒu dài!

8. "Shrewd"

腹黑
Fù hēi
Shrewd



Let's break it down:

腹 (fù): abdomen
黑 (hēi): black

To say a person has a 腹黑 (fù hēi) or "black abdomen" means you're saying they are full of ideas up their sleeves. This can be used to describe people who are shrewd and/or cunning, which can have a positive meaning depending on the situation.

Examples:

He is good at concealing his feelings, he is shrewd.
他善于掩饰自己的感受，他是个腹黑的人。
tā shàn yú yǎn shì zì jǐ de gǎn shòu, tā shì gè fù hēi de rén.

Mike is good at pleasing girls and induces them to fall in his traps, he is shrewd.

Mike善于讨好女孩子并引诱她们掉入自己的陷阱，他是个腹黑的人。

Mike shàn yú tǎo hǎo nǚ hái zi bìng yǐn yòu tā men diào rù zì jǐ de xiàn jǐng, tā shì gè fù hēi de rén.

9. "Send Chills Down One's Spine"

倒吸一口凉气
Dào xī yì kǒu liáng qì
Send chills down one's spine



Let's break it down:

吸 (xī): to inhale
凉气 (liáng qì): cold air.

We use this phrase to refer to someone who is frightened or astonished by something unexpected.

Examples:

The car almost hit me, and it sent chills down my spine.
车差点撞到我，我当时倒吸一口凉气。

Chē chà diǎn zhuàng dào wǒ, wǒ dāng shí dào xī yì kǒu liáng qì.

In a dark alley, I heard someone calling my name. I turned around, but nobody was there. It sent chills down my spine.
在一条黑暗的小巷里，我听见有人叫我的名字。我转过身，但是身后却没有人，这让我倒吸一口凉气。

Zài yì tiáo hēi àn de xiǎo xiàng lǐ, wǒ tīng jiàn yǒu rén jiào wǒ de míng zì。wǒ zhuǎn guò shēn, dàn shì shēn hòu què méi yǒu rén, zhè ràng wǒ dāng shí dào xī yì kǒu liáng qì.

10. "Insider"

老司机
Lǎo sī jī
Insider



Let's break it down:

老 (lǎo): old
司机 (sī jī): driver

We say someone is a 老司机 (lǎo sī jī) to imply that she/he knows something particularly well.

Examples:

He often goes to pubs and night clubs, he's an insider.
他经常去酒吧和夜店，他是一个老司机。

Tā jīng cháng qù jiǔ bā hé yè diàn, tā shì yī gè lǎo sī jī.

Judging by what he said, I can tell that he's an insider.
听他说话就知道他是一个老司机。

Tīng tā shuō huà jiù zhī dào tā shì yī gè lǎo sī jī.

