

8.4 Cities, population

8.4.1 *Zuì* ‘most; very’

zuì guì	zuì hǎo
zuì lěng	zuì nán
shìjiè shàng zuì dà de chéngshì	the largest city in the world
shìjiè shàng zuì guì de qìchē	the most expensive car in the world
shìjiè shàng zuì lěng de dìfang	the coldest place in the world

Chinese uses the expression zhīyī, containing Classical Chinese zhī, which in this context functions like modern DE, to mean ‘one of’:

zuì dà de chéngshì zhīyī	one of the largest cities in the world
zuì hǎo de Zhōngguó mǐjiǔ zhīyī	one of the best Chinese rice wines
Zhōngguó shì wǔ ge Ānlǐhuì chéngyuánguó zhīyī.	China is one of the 5 permanent member states of the Security Council.

Note

The Chinese equivalents to what are called acronyms in alphabetic languages (eg NATO or WTO) are shortened or ‘telescoped’ phrases. Thus Àolínpíkè Yùndònghuì gets shortened to Àoyùnhuì; Ānquán Lǐshì Huì, literally ‘security directorship organization’ gets shortened to Ānlǐhuì; and Shìjiè Mào yì Zǔzhī ‘World Trade Organization’ gets shortened to Shìmào.

The same pattern with zhīyī is also the basis of fractions (and percentages):

sān fēn zhīyī	1/3
sì fēn zhīyī	1/4
wǔ fēn zhī èr	2/5
bǎi fēn zhī wǔ	5%
bǎi fēn zhī èrshí	20%

8.4.2 *Approximately*

Large figures are usually approximate. There are several expressions that may be used to indicate that a figure is rough. Chàbuduō and dàgài have been used in earlier units, both placed before the amount. Dàyuē ‘about; around; approximately (big-about)’ also appears before the amount. Zuǒyòu, on the other hand, which combines roots for left and right to mean ‘more or less’, is placed after the amount.

Shí Lín zài Kūnmíng de dōngbiānr, chàbuduō yǒu yìbǎi sānshí gōnglǐ.	‘The Stone Forest’ is about 130 kilometers east of Kunming.
Dàlǐ zài Kūnmíng de xībiānr, dàgài yǒu sìbǎi gōnglǐ.	Dali is about 400 kms west of Kunming.

Měi nián, dàyuē yìbǎiwàn rén cóng
xiāngxià yímindào Běijīng.

About a million people emigrate
from the countryside to Beijing
every year.

Xīchāng zài Kūnmíng de běibiānr,
yǒu wǔbǎi gōnglǐ zuǒyòu.

Xichang is about 500 kms north
of Kunming.

Notes

a) Yímín ‘to emigrate (move-people)’; yímindào ‘to move to [place]’.

8.4.3 Large numbers

Apart from the numerals 0 to 9, Chinese also has simple words for five powers of 10: shí ‘10’, bǎi ‘100’, qiān ‘1000’, wàn ‘10,000’ and yì ‘100,000,000’. (100 million can also be expressed as wànwàn for figures from 100 – 900 million.) Notably missing is ‘million’, and it is useful to remember bǎiwàn ‘100 x 10,000’ as ‘million’. Nowadays, large numbers are often written out in Arabic numerals, rather than Chinese characters, though they are, of course, read out in Chinese.

One important rule to note is that in stating large numbers, the highest possible power of ten is always used: in other words, 1,500 is always expressed in Chinese as yìqiān wǔbǎi rather than as *shíwǔbǎi. The key to forming large numbers, then, is to keep the five basic powers of 10 in mind, and work down from the largest relevant power to the smallest. Empty tens and hundreds columns (one or more than one) that are not final in the figure are signaled by líng ‘zero’.

105	yìbǎi líng wǔ
902	jiǔbǎi líng èr
982	jiǔbǎi bāshí'èr
1,201	yìqiān èrbǎi líng yī
11,045	yíwàn yìqiān líng sìshí wǔ
45,904	sìwàn wǔqiān jiǔbǎi líng sì
100,000	shíwàn
345,985	sānshísìwàn wǔqiān jiǔbǎi bāshí wǔ
1,000,009	yìbǎiwàn líng jiǔ
1,000,300	yìbǎiwàn líng sānbǎi
8,500,800	bābǎiwǔshíwàn líng bābǎi
11,500,000	yìqiān yìbǎi wǔshí wàn
140,000,000	yíyì sìqiānwàn
1,340,000,000	shísānyì sìqiānwàn

Exercise 4.**a) Populations**

One of the more common occasions to cite very large numbers is in talking about population, so here are some rough figures to practice with. [Zhōngguó rénkǒu shì shísānyì.]; cite them as approximations, using zuǒyòu.

<i>place</i>	<i>population</i>	<i>place</i>	<i>population</i>
China	1.3 billion	Canada	32 million
Hong Kong	8 million	India	1.069 billion
Iraq	24 million	Indonesia	231 million
Italy	58 million	Nigeria	130 million
Singapore	4,500,000	Thailand	63 million
UK	59 million	USA	292 million
Beijing	14 million	Shanghai	17 million
NY	8 million	Chicago	2.8 million

b) Write Chinese equivalents for the following:

1. The Jin Mao Building (Jīn Mào Dàshà) in Shanghai is one of the tallest buildings (dàlóu) in the world. And so is the Oriental Pearl Tower (Dōngfāng Míngzhū Tǎ); the latter is 468 meters tall (pictured below).
2. Wall Mart (Wǎ'ěrmǎ) is one of the largest companies in the world.
3. 30% of MIT graduate students are from abroad.
4. Although everyone in Chinese class has been abroad, about 15% of us have never studied a foreign language before.

Notes

gōngsī ‘company’; gǔfèn yǒuxiàn gōngsī ‘corporation (stocks limited company)’; màoyì gōngsī ‘trading corporation (trade company)’.



One of Shanghai’s older streets, with the Dōngfāng Míngzhū Tǎ on the Pǔdōng side of the Huangpu River (Huángpǔ Jiāng) in the background.

8.4.4 Talking about size of cities, population

a)

Shànghǎi shì bu shì Zhōngguó zuì dà de chéngshì?

Is Shanghai the largest city in China?

*Nǐ shuō de shì rénkǒu ma?**You mean in terms of population?*

Shì.

Yes.

*Dàgài Shànghǎi bǐ Běijīng dà yìdiǎnr.
Tīngshuō xiànzài shì yìqiān bābǎiwàn!**I guess Shanghai's a bit bigger than Bj.
I hear it's 18 million nowadays.*

b)

Měiguó zuì dà de chéngshì shì nǐ ge?

Which is the largest city in the US?

*Shì Niǔ Yuē; Luòshānjī shì dì-èr.
Zhījiāgē bú shì bǐ Luòshānjī dà ma?**It's NY; LA is second.
Isn't Chicago bigger than LA?**Bù, Zhījiāgē shì dì-sān ...huòzhě
xiànzài Xiūsīdùn [Háosīdùn] kěnéng
bǐ Zhījiāgē shāowēi dà yìdiǎnr.**No, Chicago's #3...or is Houston
perhaps Houston is now a little bit
bigger than Chicago.*

c)

Zhōngguó ne, Shànghǎi zuì dà,
kěshì dì-èr, dì-sān wǒ bú tài qīngchū.As for China, Shanghai's the largest,
but I'm not sure about 2nd and 3rd.*Běijīng shì bu shì dì-èr?**Is Beijing #2?*Yǒurén shuō Chóngqìng yě shì Zhōngguó
zuì dà de chéngshì zhīyī!Some say that Chongqing is also
one of the biggest cities in China.*Kěshì Chóngqìng hǎoxiàng méiyǒu
Běijīng nàme dà!**But it seems that Chongqing isn't as
big as Beijing.*Chóngqìng shì ge zhíxiáshì,
duì ma?Chongqing is a 'directly
administered city', isn't it?*Duì a, Běijīng, Tiānjīn, Shànghǎi,
Chóngqìng dōu shì zhíxiáshì!**Right, Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and
Chongqing are all dir. adm. cities.*

Běijīng de rénkǒu shì duōshǎo?

What's Beijing's population?

*Běijīng de wǒ bù zhīdao, Tiānjīn de rénkǒu
shì bābǎiwàn ba.**I don't know what Beijing's is, [but]
Tianjin's is 8 million, I guess.*

d)

Zhōngguó shì shìjièshàng rénkǒu zuì duō de guójiā, yǒu shísānyì. Yīndù shì dì-èr, rénkǒu shì shíyì zuǒyòu.

China is the largest country in the world, with 1.3 billion. India is second, with a population of about 1 billion.

Kěshì yǒu rén shuō zài 2050 (èrlíng wǔlíng nián), Yīndù huì yǒu shíliùyì, Zhōngguó shísiyì. Nèiyàng, Yīndù huì shì zuì dà de! But people say that by 2050, India will have 1.6 billion, China 1.4 billion. That'll make India the largest country.

8.5 Bargaining

Purchases in China, as in most countries, can be subject to bargaining. This means a certain amount of time and engagement, but it also offers a chance for language practice. The rules for bargaining are difficult to make explicit, and in any case, outsiders (to say nothing of foreigners) cannot really know local prices, so the best to hope for is to get within a few percentage points of a good price. Chinese friends will generally say you overpaid (tài guì le), but you can respond that you got a free language lesson in return (yǒu jīhuì liànxi Zhōngwén ‘have opportunity to practice Chinese’)!

Bargaining for expensive items, jewelry for example, or crafts, is a rather different skill from making minor purchases of commodity items. If there is a ‘give’ of a few percentage points built into the asking price of fruit or vegetables at your local market, or perhaps 10 to 20% in the price of material at your local bazaar, the difference between asking price and best price for an expensive item sold in a market, or even in a shop, may be 100%, or even 200%, particularly at notorious bargain markets frequented by tourists, like the Yǎxiū Fúzhūāng Shìchǎng ‘Yaxiu Clothing Market’ in east Beijing, or the Xiāngyáng Shìchǎng in Shanghai. Merchants know that if you make an absurdly low counter offer of, say 30%, that constitutes a promise, and you are stuck with the goods even if you eventually figure out that they are only worth 10% or the original asking price. So always respond to the question, ‘What are you willing to pay?’ with the counter-question, ‘What is your best price?’. Many people would say that for more expensive purchases, best to get help from a local friend.

For low intensity bargaining, here are some useful phrases to begin with:

Seeking a reduction

Kěyǐ shǎo yìdiǎnr ma?

Can you reduce it a bit?

Piányi yìdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma?

Can you make it a little cheaper?

Néng piányi yìdiǎnr ma?

Finding the bottom

Nǐ zuì shǎo duōshao qián?

How much is your lowest (‘best’) price?

Zuì dī de jiàgé shì duōshao?

What’s your lowest (‘best’) price?

Discounts

Kěyǐ dǎ zhé<kòu> ma?	Can you ‘allow a discount’?
Hǎo, dǎ ge jiǔ zhé.	Okay, I’ll give you 90%.
Hǎo, dǎ ge bā-wǔ zhé.	Okay, I’ll give you 85%.
Hǎo, dǎ ge qī zhé.	Okay, I’ll give you 70%.

Time to think

Suíbiàn kànkàn.	Just looking.
Shāowēi děng yíxià.	Hang on; just a minute.

Seller’s defense

Huòzhēn-jiàshí, méi piàn nǐ!	The goods are true and the price is right – I’m not ‘taking you for a ride’!
Kuài sān wǒ jiu méi qián zhuàn le.	At \$1.30 won’t make anything.
Jìnkǒu lái de, mài+de bǐjiào guì.	[They]’re imported, so they cost [‘sell for’] a bit more.

Finally, the sale

Nà hǎo ba, mài gei nǐ ba.	Okay, that’s fine, I’ll sell [it] to you!
Hǎo, xíng, xíng.	Okay, can do.

Notes

- jiàgé ‘price’; also jiàwèi in southern regions.
- dǎ zhékòu, or colloquially, simply dǎ zhé ‘do a discount’. Zhé has a range of meanings, from ‘snap’ to ‘fold’, but in combination with dǎ, it means a ‘discount’. However, while English typically focuses on the amount of the reduction (‘10% off’), Chinese states the resulting discounted price (‘90%’), and it indicates this with a numerical modifier before zhé: jiǔ zhé ‘90%’; bāshíwǔ zhé, ‘85%’.
- děng yíxià (一下) ‘wait for a bit (one time)’; cf. xiūxi yíxià ‘take a break’; kàn yíxià ‘take a look at’.
- zhuàn ‘earn’
- jìnkǒu ‘import (enter-mouth+of+river)’; cf. §8.5 below.
- With transactional verbs that involve movement away from the possessor, such as mài ‘sell’, dì ‘to pass; to forward’, the recipient – the person who ends up with the object in question – can be introduced with gěi (often untoned) placed directly after the verb: mài gei tā ‘sell to him’; dì gei tā ‘pass [it] to her’. This makes yet another pattern associated with gěi.

8.5.1 At the fruit stand

G is a gùkè ‘customer’, L is the lǎobǎn ‘owner; boss’:

G	Lǎobǎn, júzi duōshao qián yì jīn?	Sir, how much are oranges per catty?
L	Yí kuài wǔ. Hěn xīnxiān.	Y1.50. [They]’re fresh.

- G. Yì jīn dàgài yǒu jǐ ge? Approximately how many in a catty?
- L. Dàgài sì wǔ ge. About 4 or 5.
- G. Piányi diǎnr mài ma? Kuài sān, Will you sell 'em a bit cheaper?
kěyǐ ma? How about \$1.30?
- L. Yí kuài sān wǒ jiu méi qián At Y1.30, I won't make any
zhuàn le; yí kuài sì ba. money; how about \$1.40?
- G. Hǎo, lái liǎng jīn. Okay, I'll take two catty.
- L. Liǎng jīn èr liǎng xíng ma? (He weighs them - they weigh a little over.)
Is two catty two ounces okay?
- G. Xíng. Jiù zhèiyàng ba. Sure. That's it then.

Notes

- jīn M 'jin' a unit of weight, usually translated 'catty', = 1/2 kg.
piányi SV 'be cheap; inexpensive'; piányi diǎnr 'a bit cheaper' – yìdiǎnr
after the SV is comparative.
- mài V 'sell'; cf. mǎi 'buy' and zuò mǎimài 'do business'.
<yí>kuài sān... Note the implied conditional: '[if] ¥1.30', which is resolved by jiù
'then'.
- liǎng M, sometimes translated 'ounce'; equivalent to 0.05 kg. 10 liangs
= 1 jin. Most people seem to say èr liǎng rather than liǎng liǎng.

Other fruit

tiánguā	honeydew melon	xīguā	watermelon
mùguā	papaya	shìzi	persimmons
chéngzi	oranges	yēzi	coconuts
mángguǒ	mangos	píngguǒ	apples
gānzhe	sugarcane	níngméng	lemons
shíliu	pomegranites	pútao	grapes
xiāngjiāo	bananas	bōluó	pineapple (Tw. fènglí)
liúlián	durian	táozi	peaches
lǐzi	plums	lí	pear
yòuzi	pomelo	lìzhī	lychees
huólóngguǒ	dragonfruit	lóngyǎn	longans ('dragon-eyes')



Fruit stand, Kūnmíng. The large, red fruit on the front left are lóngguǒzi ‘dragonfruit’; the even larger, spiny fruit in the middle back are liúlián ‘durian’.

8.5.2 Tastes and flavors

	<i>tastes</i>		<i>ingredients</i>
tián	‘sweet’	táng	‘sugar’
xián	‘salty’	yán	‘salt’
		jiàngyóu	‘soy sauce’
suān	‘sour’	cù	‘vinegar’
là	‘hot’	làjiāo	‘chilies’
		jiāng	‘ginger’
má	‘numbing’	huājiāo	‘Sichuan pepper’
kǔ	‘bitter’		
dàn	‘bland’		
sè	‘astringent; puckery’		

Notes

a) Chinese call ‘pepper’ hújiāo ‘foreign pepper’. Hújiāo is not used as much in Chinese cooking as huājiāo ‘flower pepper’, also called *fagara*, brown pepper, or Sichuan pepper. Unlike the sharp heat of làjiāo ‘chilies’ which is associated with Hunnan cuisine, huājiāo has a slightly numbing effect and, mixed with làjiāo, is characteristic of Sichuan food; cf. Sichuan dishes beginning with *mala*: eg málà ěrduo ‘spicy pig-ears’ and málà-jīsī ‘spicy shredded chicken’.

b) Dàn, méiyóu wèidào.

c) Sè is a taste characteristic of shìzi ‘persimmons’ or unripe pears and peaches (shēng de lí, táozi).

Zhōngguó rén shuō xīfāng cài tài dàn,
méiyóu wèidào; tāmen yě shuō nánfāng

The Chinese say that Western food is too
bland, [it] doesn’t have any flavor; they

cài (xiàng Yìndù de, Tàiguó de) tài zhòng. say southern food (like Indian and Thai)
 Xīfāng de tài dàn, nánfāng de tài zhòng, is too heavy. Western food, too dull,
 kěshì Zhōngguó de zhèng hǎo! Southern, too heavy, but Chinese is just
 right!

8.5.3 Adding or subtracting amounts

If it's not salty enough, you put in more salt; if you've given too much money, you want to take some back. The pattern is as follows – note the contrast with English:

<i>ADV</i>	<i>V</i>	<i>amount</i>
duō / shǎo	fàng	amount
	gěi	amount

Though the pattern also occurs with zǎo 'early' and wǎn 'late', it is most common with duō and shǎo, normally SVs, but here filling the adverbial position. Here are some relevant verbs:

	gěi <i>give</i>	fàng <i>put</i>	ná <i>hold; take</i>	lái <i>bring ('cause to come')</i>	niàn <i>read</i>
1.	Duō chī yìdiǎnr cài! <i>Xièxie, chībǎo le, chībǎo le.</i>			Have some more food! <i>Thank you, [I]'m fine, [I]'m full.</i>	
2.	Tài dàn le, gāi duō fàng yìdiǎnr yán / jiàngyóu. <i>Bù, bù, hái hǎo, zhèi yàng hái hǎo.</i>			It's too bland – [you] should add more salt / soysauce. <i>No, it's fine; it's fine as is.</i>	
3.	Qǐng duō fàng yí kuài táng. <i>Yí kuài gòu le ma?</i> Gòu le, gòu le.			Another cube of sugar please. [coffee] <i>One is enough?</i> That's fine.	
4.	Qǐng duō lái sān ge kuàngquánshuǐ. Qǐng duō lái liǎng ge bēizi. Qǐng duō lái yì shuāng kuàizi.			Please bring 3 more mineral waters. Please bring 2 more glasses. Please bring another pair of chopsticks.	
5.	Qǐng duō dú ~ niàn yì háng / yí duàn / yì yè.			Please read one more line / paragraph / page.	
6.	Wǒ duō ná liǎng ge, hǎo bu hǎo?			I'll take 2 more, okay?	
7.	Wǒ duō mǎi yí ge.			I'll take [ie buy] another.	

When only one item is involved, the effect of the duō pattern can be achieved with zài (zàijiàn de zài [再]):

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 8. | Zài chī yìdiǎnr ba! | Eat some more. |
| | Qǐng zài lái yì píng kělè. | Please bring another bottle of cola. |
| | Nǐ zài ná yí ge, hǎo bu hǎo? | Take another one, okay? |

And in fact, zài and duō can co-occur:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|---|
| 9. | Qǐng zài duō chī yìdiǎnr cài! | Literally ‘Please have some more food again’, but used to mean, ‘Do have some more food!’ |
|----|-------------------------------|---|

8.5.4 Cuisines

Chinese generally distinguish 8 regional cuisines which, for the most part, are named after the provinces with which each is primarily associated. These cuisines are often signaled on restaurant fronts by using standard regional abbreviations, or ‘alternate names’ (biéchēng) of the relevant provinces: Yuè for Canton, Mǐn for Fújiàn, etc. (Abbreviated names of provinces are also used on automobile licence plates and for names of regional languages, cf. §8.6 below.)

vocabulary

bāokuò <i>includes</i>	biéchēng <i>another-designation</i>	Huái Hé <i>Huai River</i>	kǒuwèi<r> <i>flavor</i>
zhīr <i>sauce</i>	nóng <i>thick; concentrated</i>	yánsè <i>color</i>	shēn hǎixiān <i>deep seafood</i>
Shāndōng cài:	yě jiào Lǔ (魯) cài; Lǔ shi Shāndōng de biéchēng. Shāndōng cài yě bāokuò Běijīng cài. Kǒuwèir hěn zhòng, bǐjiào nóng; jiàngyóu duō.		
Guǎngdōng cài:	yě jiào Yuè (粵) cài. Yuè shi Guǎngdōng de biéchēng. Kǒuwèir hěn dàn, yǒu yìdiǎnr tián; jiàngyóu bǐjiào shǎo.		
Sìchuān cài:	yě jiào Chuān (川) cài. Chuān jiùshi Sìchuān de biéchēng. Hěn má, yě hěn là.		
Jiāngsū cài:	yě jiào Huáiyáng (淮揚) cài. Huái shi Huái Hé, zài Jiāngsū; Yáng shì Yángzhōu, yě zài Jiāngsū. Zhīr bǐjiào dàn, jiàngyóu shǎo.		
Zhèjiāng cài ~ Shànghǎi cài:	yě jiào Zhè (浙) cài. Zhè shi Zhèjiāng. Kǒuwèir hěn dàn, jiàngyóu bǐjiào shǎo.		

- Ānhuì cài: yě jiào Wǎn (皖) cài. Wǎn shì Ānhuì de biéchēng. Yánsè bǐjiào shēn, jiàngyóu duō.
- Húnán cài: yě jiào Xiāng (湘) cài. Xiāng shì Húnán de biéchēng. Hěn là.
- Fújiàn cài: yě jiào Mǐn (闽) cài. Mǐn shì Fújiàn de biéchēng. Hǎixiān duō, kǒuwèi bǐjiào dàn.

Exercise 5.

Provide Chinese for the following:

1. Sichuan food is hot, but it isn't as hot as Hunan food; Thai food is even hotter, I feel.
 2. If you prefer a 'saltier' taste, put in more soysauce.
 3. I'm not used to eating hot food, so please put fewer chillies in; please don't cook it too spicy.
 4. Lychees are a bit too sweet for me; I prefer plums or peaches.
 5. Durian is cheaper in southern regions than in the north. Durian tastes a bit sour.
 6. Cantonese food tends to be a little sweet, with not much soysauce; Sichuan food is hot and 'numbing'.
 7. If durian is even a tiny bit overripe [shú], it stinks to high heaven. However, if it's too unripe [shēng], it doesn't taste good either.
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8.5.5 Banquets and toasts

Banquets and formal meals, whether in restaurants or elsewhere, are almost always served in private rooms, with food brought in from the kitchen. The host generally sits farthest from the door to the room, or at home, farthest from the kitchen, with guests arranged to his/her left and right, roughly according to rank. Guests seated in a place of honor may ritually offer the place to someone of about the same rank before falling into line with the host. (A useful expression for resisting such social honors is bùgǎndāng 'not-dare-assume-[it]', ie 'I don't deserve it; you flatter me.')

Conversation at banquets is usually light and humorous, with anecdotes, personal stories, and often a lot of language play, so that foreigners even of quite advanced conversational ability may find it difficult to follow. One subject that can break the ice is the food itself – food names, ingredients, regional dishes and differences in Chinese and foreign eating habits and cuisines.

At a banquet or formal meal, there may be several drinks served, including mineral water, soft drinks and one or more wines and liquors. While soft drinks may be drunk at one's pleasure, wines and liquor are usually drunk only with toasts, which may be made to individuals, or to the whole table. The standard toast of 'bottoms up' only applied to drinks served in small glasses:

<Dàjiā> gānbēi, gānbēi! Cheers everyone! ('dry-cup')
 Hǎo, gānbēi. Fine, cheers.

Women will find it easier to resist calls to gānbēi, since many women in China do not drink in public. But men of sober character will have developed ways of resisting calls to drink with minimum loss of face. The expression suíyì 'as you please (follow-intention)' can help for a while:

Jiā Lái, lái gānbēi, gānbēi! Come on, bottoms up!
 Yǐ Wǒ bù néng hē, suíyì, suíyì. I can't drink [it all], [so] at one's pleasure.
 Jiā Bù xíng, gānbēi, gānbēi. That won't do, bottoms up!
 Yǐ Hǎo, hǎo, wǒ suíyì, [in jest] Okay, fine, I'll sip, you swig.
 nǐmen gānbēi.

Other toasts may involve health, cooperation, success, etc. The CV wèi 'for the sake of', or the verb zhù 'wish for' may introduce such toasts. For the actual invitation to drink, jīng nǐmen yì bēi, literally, 'respect you a cup' may be used instead of gānbēi. Here are some samples toasts:

Wèi dàjiā de jiànkāng gānbēi! Here's to everyone's health!
 Wèi zánmen gòngtóng de shìyè gānbēi! Here's to our common cause!
 Wèi nǐmen de xuéxí jìnbù gānbēi! Here's to progress in your studies!
 Wèi wǒmen de hézuò yúkuài gānbēi! Here's to successful cooperation!
 Zhù nín jiànkāng, jīng nǐ yì bēi! A glass to your health!
 Zhù nǐmen chénggōng, jīng nǐmen yì bēi! A glass to your success!
 Jiāqiáng jiāoliú, zēngjìn yǒuyì! Strengthen exchanges and promote friendship!

In giving toasts, it is important to raise the glass with two hands; extra deference can be shown by raising the glass high (still with two hands). At large gatherings, normally the host will toast first, at or near the beginning of the meal, and then later on, the head of the guest delegation will return the toast. Where a number of tables are involved, hosts and guests may walk over to toast other tables. People will often rise to toast. Possible expressions of thanks to the hosts are:

Xièxie nǐmen de kuǎndài. Thank you for the hospitality.

Xièxie nǐmen de rèqíng zhāodài! Thanks for your warm reception!

At banquets or other meals, Chinese often play very rapid games of huáquán 'finger guessing' or more generally, hējiǔ de yóuxì 'drinking games', with the loser<s> drinking. Such games come in a number of varieties, and need a lot of practice. With

foreigners, the simpler children's game of 'scissors, stone, paper' often substitutes for the real thing. That game is called shítou, jiǎnzi, bù ('stone, scissors, cloth') in Chinese, and participants play by shouting out 'shítou, jiǎnzi, bù', displaying their choice on the count of 'bù'. Another game, chóngzi, bàngzi, lǎohǔ, jī 'insect, club, tiger, chicken', is common and simple enough to learn. The rules are:

Chóngzi chī bàngzi, bàngzi dǎ lǎohǔ, lǎohǔ chī jī, jī chī chóngzi.

The cadence is fast, and participants simply utter their choice in unison, adding up wins and losses until some previously designated number is reached and losers drink.



Chóngqing: Street stall selling Táiwan 'Zhēnzhū' nǎichá 'bubble tea'.

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