

Continue





























Mandarin Chinese Characters
As one of the six official languages used by UN (United Nations), Chinese now has earned itself greater status in the World. The official language of China is the Mandarin, which is the very name of 'Hanyu' or 'Putonghua', belonging to Sino-Tibetan.Putonghua is a parlance in mainland China. It is the common language of all modern Han nationality people. In Taiwan Province and Hong Kong, it is called 'Guoyu' while in Singapore and Malaysia, it is often called 'Huayu'.Mandarin is shaped and based on the Beijing dialect and other dialects spoken in the northern areas of China. Students are often taught mandarin as 'Yuwen' in their schoolbooks. It is beyond all doubt, that mandarin is used as a mother tongue by the most people accounting for about one fifth of the world's population. Chinese once had 'great influence on some peripheral countries with their languages and characters, such as Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese.English is a required course and universal education in China and has great popularity. Nowadays many Chinese people can speak basic English, especially the youth, students, and staff of service trades like hotels, restaurants, airlines, banks and post offices. Bilingual Signboard in a Toilet In large cities there are more people who can communicate with foreigners in English than smaller towns & cities. Some may master a second foreign language like French, German, Japanese, Italian, and Spanish. However, in rural or remote areas, few people can speak English or other foreign languages.The language barrier now is not a problem at all for those that wish to come to China. You can refer to the Basic Expressions in Chinese. Learn to Speak Chinese DialectsWith a vast territory and huge population, China has many different dialects which are of great complexity. Divided into official and non-official dialects, they vary between different areas. The official dialects generally refer to the northern dialects, while the non-official dialects are often spoken in the southeast part of the country. Below is a table showing the dialects in four categories: Dialects Spoken in Areas of:
Official North China: Beijing, Tianjin, Hebei Province, Shanxi Province, Shandong Province, Henan Province, Shaanxi Province, Inner Mongolia, Heilongjiang Province, Part of Inner Mongolia, Northwest of Shanxi Province, Gansu Province, Ningxia Province, Qinghai Province, and Inner Mongolia.
Southwest China: Most areas of Hubei Province (southeastern and eastern parts excluded ), Yunnan Province, Guizhou Province, Sichuan Province, north-sides of Hubeian Province and Guangxi Province
Yangtze-HuaiRiver Areas: along the northern and southern banks of Yangtze River in Anhui Province, Northern areas of Yangtze River in Jiangsu Province (Huizhou excluded), Southern areas of Yangtze River (northernmost to Nanjing and southernmost to Zhenjiang)
Non-official Wu: Southern part of Jiangsu Province; Zhejiang Province
Gan/JiangxiProvince: Xiang HuananProvince; northern part of Guangxi Province
Yue/GuangdongProvince; Southeast part of Guangxi Province
Min/FujianProvince; Taiwan Province; Guangdong Province (Chaoshou, Shantou), Hainan Province
Hakka Eastern and northern part of Guangdong Province; Western part of Fujian Province; Southern part of Jiangxi Province; Taiwan Province
Chinese Characters
Due to the differences between each of the dialects, there are obvious obstacles to people speaking their own dialects and communicating with each other, especially among the non-official dialects. CharactersThe Chinese character has more than 3,000 years of history. It is a kind of hieroglyphic which originated from carapace-bone-script in the Shang Dynasty (16th - 11th century BC). It then developed into different forms of calligraphic handwritings like large seal script, small seal script, official script, regular script, cursive script and running script.There are altogether 80,000 Chinese words or so that originate from ancient times; however, only about 3,000 words for daily use are available to express over 99% of the information in written form because a word contains many different meanings. The character is now of two kinds - Simplified and Traditional. Simplified style are often used in mainland China, Singapore, and overseas Chinese communities in Southeast Asia, while the latter is often accepted in Taiwan Province, Hong Kong, Macau and overseas Chinese communities in North America.MinoritiesActually, the Chinese and characters used by Han people are also the common language for other minorities. Among all the 55 ethnic minorities, the people of Hui and Manchu speak almost the same Mandarin and Han characters. 29 ethnic minorities have their own traditional languages like Tibetan, Yi, Mongol, Uyghur, Kazak, Lahu, Chaoxian and Kirgiz. Some minorities, like Dai nationality and Jingpo nationality, use even more than one kind of language. Tibetan Language Dongba Characters of Naxi Minority Further Reading : Chinese CalligraphyLast updated on Aug. 08, 2024 HomeSitemapUSA CitiesWest VirginiaAccvilleChinese Recent service reviewsVery good prices, delivery on times of any time I ordered . Good service. Good product. You can find anything's on Weee!PriceDelivery/ Product QualityI've hunted all over Connecticut for Asian groceries and they're difficult to find in my area. I love being able to order them on Weee!Product VarietyGreat customer service. Experienced customer service who answers the phone could always solve problem efficiently.Customer serviceI really appreciate that you work hard to uphold standards of quality. I like the wide variety of products and the ease of shopping with you.Product VarietyApp experience China is one of the Four Ancient Civilizations (alongside Babylon, India and Egypt), according to Chinese scholar Liang Qichao (1900). It boasts a vast and varied geographic expanse, 3,600 years of written history, as well as a rich and profound culture. Chinese culture is diverse and unique, yet harmoniously blended — an invaluable asset to the world. Our China culture guide contains information divided into Traditions, Heritage, Arts, Festivals, Language, and Symbols. Topics include Chinese food, World Heritage sites, China's Spring Festival, Kungfu, and Beijing opera. China's national heritage is both tangible and intangible, with natural wonders and historic sites, as well as ethnic songs and festivals included. As of 2018, 53 noteworthy Chinese sites were inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List: 36 Cultural Heritage, 13 Natural Heritage, and 4 Cultural and Natural Heritage. China has several traditional festivals that are celebrated all over the country (in different ways). The most important is Chinese New Year, then Mid-Autumn Festival. China, with its "55 Ethnic Minorities", also has many ethnic festivals. From Tibet to Manchuria to China's tropics, so different tribes celebrate their year, harvest, and other things, in various ways. Chinese is reckoned to be the most difficult language in the world, but it's also must make it the most interesting. It's the world's only remaining pictographic language in common use, with thousands of characters making up a written language. Its pronunciation is generally one syllable per character, in one of five tones. China's rich literary culture includes many pithy sayings and beautiful poems. Symbols of China Every nation has its symbols, but what should you think of when it comes to China? What must conjure up images of long coiling dragons, the red flag, pandas, the Great Wall... table tennis, the list goes on... Geography & Travel Languages Chinese languages, principal language group of eastern Asia, belonging to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Chinese exists in a number of varieties that are popularly called dialects but that are usually classified as separate languages by scholars. More people speak a variety of Chinese as a native language than any other language in the world, and Modern Standard Chinese is one of the six official languages of the United Nations.The spoken varieties of Chinese are mutually unintelligible to their respective speakers. They differ from each other to about the same extent as the modern Romance languages. Most of the differences among them occur in pronunciation and vocabulary; there are few grammatical differences. These languages include Mandarin in the northern, central, and western parts of China; Wu; Northern and Southern Min; Gan (Kan); Hakka (Kejia); and Xiang; and Cantonese (Yue) in the southeastern part of the country.All the Chinese languages share a common literary language (wenyan), written in characters and based on a common body of literature. This literary language has no single standard of pronunciation; a speaker of a language reads texts according to the rules of pronunciation of his own language. Before 1917 the wenyan was used for almost all writing; since that date it has become increasingly acceptable to write in the vernacular style (baihua) instead, and the old literary language is dying out in the daily life of modern China. (Its use continues in certain literary and scholarly circles.In the early 1900s a program for the unification of the national language, which is based on Mandarin, was launched; this resulted in the Standardization of the Chinese Language in 1956. The system of Chinese characters is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminutives, abstract nouns, and so on), particles placed after nouns indicating relationships in time and space, and verb particles for modes and aspects. Adjectives act as one of several kinds of verbs. Verbs can occur in a series (concatenation) with irreversible order (e.g., the verbs 'take' and 'come' placed next to one another denote the concept 'bring'). Nouns are collective in nature, and only classifiers can be counted and referred to singly. Specific particles are used to indicate the relationship of nominals (e.g., nouns and noun phrases) to verbs, such as transitive verb-object, agent-passive verb; in some of the languages this system forms a sentence construction called ergative, in which all nominals are marked for their function and the verb stays uninflected. Final sentence particles convey a variety of meanings (defining the whole sentence or the predicate) that indicate "command, surprise, or new situation." The general word order of subject-verb-object is the same in all the languages, but the use of the proposed particles and verbs in a series varies considerably. Grammatical elements of one or more foreign-language publications in English-speaking countries. Some scholars divide the history of the Chinese languages into Proto-Sinitic (Proto-Chinese, until 500 bc), Archaic (Old Chinese (8th to 3rd century bc), Ancient (Middle) Chinese (8th through ad 907), and Modern Chinese (from c. the 10th century to modern times). The Proto-Sinitic period is the period of the most ancient inscriptions and poetry; most loanwords in Chinese were borrowed after that period. The works of Confucius and Mencius mark the beginning of the Archaic Chinese period. Modern knowledge of the sounds of Chinese during the Ancient Chinese period is derived from a pronouncing dictionary of the language of the Ancient period published in ad 601 by the scholar Lu Fayan and also from the works of the scholar-official Sima Guang, published in the 11th century. The sound system of Chinese is marked by its use of tones to indicate differences of meaning between words or syllables that are otherwise identical in sound (i.e., have the same consonants and vowels). Modern Standard Chinese has four tones, while the more archaic Cantonese language uses at least six tones, as did Ancient Chinese. Chinese words often have only one syllable, although modern Chinese makes greater use of compounds than did the earlier language. In Chinese compound words, few prefixes or infixes occur, but there are a great number of suffixes. Few words end in a consonant, except in such archaic dialects as Cantonese. A Chinese word is invariable in form (i.e., it has no inflectional markers or markers to indicate parts of speech) and, within the range allowed by its intrinsic meaning, can serve as any part of speech. Because there is no word inflection in the language, there is a fixed word order. Person and number are expressed in the pronoun rather than in the verb. Chinese has no definite article (i.e., no word meaning 'the'), although the word meaning 'one' and the demonstrative adjective are sometimes used as articles in the language today. Adjectives, which are probably of verbal origin, are not inflected for degree or comparison and may be used as adverbs without change. All modern Sinitic languages—i.e., the "Chinese dialects"—have an important typological feature: they have a maximum syllabic structure of the type consonant-syllable-semivowel-consonant. Some languages lack one or more of these features, and, in some, gemination (doubling) or clustering of vowels occurs. The languages also employ a system of tones (pitch and contour), with or without concomitant glotal features, and occasionally stress. For the most part, tones are lexical (i.e., they distinguish otherwise similar words); in some languages tones also carry grammatical meaning. Nontonal grammatical units (i.e., affixes) may be smaller than syllables, but usually the meaningful units consist of one or more syllables. Words can consist of one syllable, of two or more syllables each carrying an element of meaning, or of two or more syllables that individually carry no meaning. For example, Modern Standard Chinese tian 'sky, heaven, day' is a one-syllable word; ritou 'sun' is composed of ri 'sun, day,' a word element that cannot occur alone as a word, and the noun suffix tou; and hudie 'butterfly' consists of two syllables, each having no meaning in itself (this is a rare type of word formation). The Southern languages have more monosyllabic words and word elements than the Northern ones. The Sinitic languages distinguish nouns and verbs with some overlapping, as do Sino-Tibetan languages in general. There are noun suffixes that form different kinds of nouns (concrete nouns, diminut



[illegible]