

在線漢語資料 - 在线汉语资料 - Online Chinese resources

BBC Chinese service:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/chinese/simp/hi>
(or simp -> trad if you prefer 繁體). Also <http://BBCchinese.com>. This contains Chinese written version of BBC news, and also audio webcasts and podcasts of the BBC world service Chinese broadcasts.

Dictionaries

The online dictionaries are usually many times faster to use than paper dictionaries.

MDBG 学中文

<http://www.xuezhongwen.net/> + click on advanced dictionary
You can paste in whole sentences or whole pages in Chinese (even if you can't read a word of it) and get out a word-by-word analysis of the vocabulary. This is user-maintained (like Wikipedia), and the database is under construction. Try pasting a page from the BBC Chinese news into MDBG advanced dictionary.

nCiKu or n詞酷 n词酷 (酷[ku3] is English “cool”)

<http://www.nciku.com/>

paste in single words of English to Chinese. It often gives related example sentences. It has computer generated spoken version of most of its words and sentences. If n词酷 fails to find a word or expression, try the following:

Jukuu 句酷

<http://jukuu.com/>

Jukuu often gives many example sentences (taken from existing parallel texts, so not necessarily representative).

愛詞霸 爱词霸 iCiBa (Internet Word Hegemon)

<http://www.iciba.com/>

Similar to nCiKu, and rapidly developing its format. CiBa 词霸 is the standard (pirated) commercial software that every Chinese has on their Windows machines.

Chinese-German word dictionary

http://www.chinaboard.de/chinesisch_deutsch.php

漢典網 汉典网

<http://www.zdic.net/cd/>

This is really three dictionaries. The above address takes single words of Chinese (or initial segments thereof), and gives a dictionary definition in Chinese, sometimes with an English rough equivalent. The other two dictionaries

<http://www.zdic.net/zd/>

<http://www.zdic.net/cy/>

are respectively a character dictionary (enter single characters only) and a saw dictionary (成語詞典 成语词典).

在線新華字典 在线新华字典 Online Xinhua character dictionary

<http://xh.5156edu.com/>

Organised as a character dictionary, but it lists compounds, often with a rough English equivalent.

Dictionaries using traditional form 繁體 繁体

Taiwan, Hong Kong and most western universities teaching Chinese use the traditional form of Chinese characters 繁體 繁体 as opposed to the simplified form 簡體 简体. (MDBG includes both 繁体 and 简体.) The main online dictionaries (to my knowledge) that use 繁體 are Taiwan and Hong Kong based:

<http://tw.dictionary.yahoo.com/>

<http://hk.dictionary.yahoo.com/>

<http://140.111.34.46/newDict/dict/>

Saw dictionary 成語詞典 成语词典

Saws are classical Chinese proverbial expressions, some dating back to Confucius (etc.) or to the pre-Han Book of Songs. They are constantly used in modern Chinese, in the same way that we use allusions to Shakespeare or the Bible (as ye sow, so shall ye reap). There are very many online saw dictionaries, for example:

<http://chengyu.souuo.com/searchresult.asp>

This has buttons to click for the stories and (sometimes) English equivalents.

Encyclopaedias – Baidu online encyclopaedia 百度百科

<http://baike.baidu.com>

Baidu is a major PRC web portal, similar to Yahoo. 百科 encyclopaedia is abbreviation for 百科全書 百科全书. The website baike.baidu.com contains a vast amount about Chinese geography, history, science, arts, people and culture.

Wikipedia 維基百科 维基百科

<http://wikipedia.org/> + 中文

Similar to Baidu in most respects (many articles are cribbed from one to the other), except that Baidu is consistently in 简体, whereas Wikipedia is often an illiterate mixture of 简体 and 繁體.

Other resources

You can almost always figure out even difficult puzzles by asking Google. For example, search for short text in Chinese plus a plausible word of English, to get a website containing parallel text. You can find most CCTV series pirated on YouTube, e.g. http://uk.youtube.com/watch?v=yymGd_c79aw

Great Firewall of China 防火長城 防火长城

To view the Great Firewall of China, put 张戎 (Yung Chang, the author of Wild Swans and of a highly critical biography of Mao) or 六四运动 or 北京之春 (Beijing Spring, referring to 4th Jun 1989) or 雪豹 (Snow leopard, the flag of the Tibetan separatists) into any PRC search engine.

Japanese online dictionary

<http://www.csse.monash.edu.au/~jwb/cgi-bin/wwwjdic.cgi?1C>

Like MDBG, this allows you to paste in whole sentences (or pages of Japanese text), and gives an intelligent analysis of all the vocabulary. It allows you to get the meaning out of a Japanese webpage, even if you have little or no Japanese.