

Buy a small quantity

HSK 1

Original teaching practice. Read one pattern, cover its model and try the questions before checking the separate answer section. Examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA) retain the course-reference provenance.

Ask the price and buy a stated number of things.

Before you start: Recall numbers one to ten and the difference between asking a question and making a request. The price facts needed for each task are supplied locally.

■ Build the meaning

Count ordinary objects with number + measure word + noun: 两个苹果, two apples. 两 is useful before 个; 二 is used in numbers such as 二十.

多少钱 asks a price. 我要 says what you want in this buying situation; it is not the same as 我有, I have.

Ask a price, then buy a number of things

number

三个

sān ge

three

thing

苹果

píngguǒ

apples

question word

多少钱

duōshao qián

how much

answer

九块钱

jiǔ kuài qián

nine yuan

■ Work through a decision

A sign says 一个苹果三块钱 – one apple costs three yuan. For two apples, first identify the unit price (three), then multiply by the quantity (two): six yuan. 两个苹果六块钱 reports that total. This assumes the stated per-apple price applies to both apples; do not import a price from a different shop.

Compare: 我要两个苹果 requests two apples; 我有两个苹果 reports possession. Both are grammatical, but only the first expresses the customer's order. 两个苹果六块钱 gives the price for the pair, not six yuan for each apple.

■ Useful words in context

- 苹果 píngguǒ – apple. 我要两个苹果。
- 个 ge – general measure word. 三个苹果。
- 多少钱 duōshao qián – how much money. 多少钱?
- 块 kuài – yuan, spoken. 十块钱。
- 要 yào – want, in this request. 我要水。

■ Listen before reading the script

Ask a partner to read the listening script from the answer section while you keep it covered. Then attempt the listening question. If you work alone without audio, use the script for reading practice; it is not a listening test.

■ Read a different account

林安要两个苹果和一杯水。两个苹果六块钱，一杯水三块钱。一共九块钱。

Try the reading question before checking the English meaning in the answer section.

■ Speak with a partner

Be a customer: ask a price, then order three apples. Be the seller and give a price.

Check the distinction: The count is 两个, not 二个 in this ordinary phrase. Use a measure word instead of directly copying English two apples.

Learn step by step · Practise and review.

Practice without the models

Choose a pattern, cover its teaching examples, and attempt its questions. Use the labels to find feedback in the separate key.

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0301.1 Listening. What does the customer buy?

- A. Two apples and water
- B. Three apples without water
- C. One apple

0301.2 Reading. How much is Lin An's purchase altogether?

- A. 六块钱
- B. 九块钱
- C. 三块钱

0301.3 Complete “two apples”: 两 苹果。

0301.4 Match each word with its meaning in this unit.

- 1. 苹果

- 1. 个
- 1. 多少钱
- 1. 块
- 1. 要
- A. apple
- B. want, in this request
- C. how much money
- D. general measure word
- E. yuan, spoken

0301.5 Write a short order for two apples and water. State a fictional total price.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

0301.6 A customer asks 多少钱? What information should the seller supply?

- A. A destination
- B. A price
- C. A personal name

0301.7 A sign says 一个苹果四块钱 – one apple costs four yuan. You want two. First identify the unit price, then the quantity. Which statement gives the total for your order?

- A. 一个苹果八块钱。
- B. 两个苹果八块钱。
- C. 两个苹果四块钱。

0301.8 At a different stall: 三个苹果十二块钱，一杯水两块钱。A customer orders 我要三个苹果，不要水。What is the total for this order?

- A. 十四块钱 – fourteen yuan
- B. 十二块钱 – twelve yuan
- C. 两块钱 – two yuan

0301.9 Use Mandarin for the new sentences or dialogue. You may explain your reasoning in English. Invent a shop sign with a per-apple price from one to five yuan. Write a customer's order for two or three apples and a seller's total. Exclude water explicitly. Read the exchange aloud or try it with a partner, then check your arithmetic and request wording.

Write or say your own response before reading the key.

A fresh situation

R1. Interpret and repair. A shop sells apples for five yuan each. A learner says 我买二个苹果. Improve the everyday counting phrase and find the total price.

R2. Use it yourself. Ask for three apples and one bottle of water, keeping the

measure words.

Write your responses before opening the key. Compare meaning as well as form; a different valid answer need not copy the model.

Answers and explanations

Check after your attempt. For open tasks, compare the message and the stated criteria, then revise one detail.

■ Buy a small quantity

0301.1 B. Three apples without water

三个苹果 gives the quantity; 不要水 excludes water.

0301.2 B. 九块钱

Six yuan plus three yuan is nine.

0301.3 个

The measure word 个 sits between 两 and 苹果.

0301.4 1-A: 苹果 = apple; 2-D: 个 = general measure word; 3-C: 多少钱 = how much money; 4-E: 块 = yuan, spoken; 5-B: 要 = want, in this request

Use the example sentences to check each word's meaning in context.

0301.5 One possible response: 我要两个苹果和一杯水。一共十块钱。

Check meaning and form:

- Use a number and measure word with 苹果.
- Include both requested items.
- Label the price as a total.

Compare the meaning and structure with the checklist. Your own response may differ from the model.

0301.6 B. A price

多少钱 asks how much money. A name or place does not answer that question; revisit the price phrase if you chose either.

0301.7 B. 两个苹果八块钱。

Four yuan per apple times two apples is eight yuan for the pair. The first option keeps the one-apple price while changing the quantity; the third changes the unit price rather than stating your two-apple order.

0301.8 B. 十二块钱 – twelve yuan

The three apples have the stated group price 十二块钱, twelve yuan. 不要水 excludes water. Fourteen adds the rejected water; two counts only that rejected drink. Use this stall's facts, not an earlier example's price.

0301.9 One possible response: One possible sign: 一个苹果两块钱。Customer: 我要三个苹果, 不要水。Seller: 三个苹果六块钱。The sign sets two yuan each, so three cost six. Different prices and quantities are valid if their total is consistent.

How to revise: Check the request, quantity and arithmetic separately. If the total is wrong, calculate from your own sign again; if the order reports possession, replace 有 with the intended request frame. This self-check does not assess pronunciation.

Check meaning and form:

- State a per-apple price before calculating.
- Use 要 for the order and 不要水 to exclude water.
- Use a quantity and 个 before 苹果.
- Make the total match your own sign and quantity.
- Write or speak the requested sentences, questions or dialogue in Mandarin; optional English reasoning does not replace them.

Check the request, quantity and arithmetic separately. If the total is wrong, calculate from your own sign again; if the order reports possession, replace 有 with the intended request frame. This self-check does not assess pronunciation.

■ Listening script and meaning

我要三个苹果，不要水。三个苹果九块钱。

I want three apples, not water. Three apples cost nine yuan.

■ Reading meaning

Lin An wants two apples and one cup of water. The apples cost six yuan and the water three: nine yuan altogether.

■ Speaking model

A: 三个苹果多少钱? B: 九块钱。A: 我要三个苹果。

Compare the intended message first. Ask a listener to comment on intelligibility and pronunciation; matching the written model does not establish speaking accuracy.

■ Fresh-situation answers

R1. 我买两个苹果 is the usual everyday phrase; 两 is normally used before the measure word 个 here. Two apples cost ten yuan. 二 remains normal in counting and many numbers.

R2. One possible response. 我要三个苹果和一瓶水。个 counts these apples; 瓶 counts the bottle. Quantities may change, but keep the measure word with the item it counts.

Recall later. Later, order two different quantities without copying the original objects.