HSK 1 · Objects, Quantities and Buying

Beginner shopping and counting; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Your first shopping trip

> Count with measure words, ask the price, say what you want — three moves and the shop is yours.

- 两 counts objects; 二 stays in dates.
- 的 marks ownership.

Quantity + measure word + noun

1. **The pattern** Quantity + measure word + noun: 一个苹果 (yí ge píngguǒ) — one apple.
2. **Count to two** 两个苹果 (liǎng ge píngguǒ) — two apples, with 两 before the measure word.
3. **The bridge** The measure word bridges number and thing, like "two cups of tea" — except Chinese needs it for almost every noun.
4. **Try it** Count three things on your desk with 个.

Decision

个 is the everyday measure word — start there.

两 versus 二

两 — counts objects

两个苹果 (liǎng ge píngguǒ) — two apples.

二 — names and orders

二十三 (èrshí sān) — twenty-three.

星期二 (xīngqī èr) — Tuesday.

多少钱? 我要 ...

The shop dialogue

Customer: 我要两个苹果。(Wǒ yào liǎng ge píngguǒ.) — I'll take two apples.

Seller: 十块钱。(Shí kuài qián.) — Ten kuai.

我想买 ..... (wǒ xiǎng mǎi...) — I'd like to buy...; 多少钱 ? (duōshao qián?) — How much?

Watch out: the bridge is compulsory

- 一个苹果, not 一苹果 — never omit the measure word.
- Learn each noun together with its measure word, in context.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Which number counts objects before a measure word? (2) Which word marks ownership?

A. 二; 的
B. 两; 的
C. 两; 个
D. 二; 块