wishyou.today learning

day 10 dates

Chinese HSK 1 in 30 days
unit 2 · family & people

Say and read dates, and talk about yesterday, today, tomorrow and this year.

Dates are everywhere: tickets, birthdays, appointments and every calendar you'll see in China.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
今天	jīntiān	today	今 now; present + 天 day; sky
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow	明 bright; next + 天 day; sky
昨天	zuótiān	yesterday	昨 yesterday + 天 day; sky
天	tiān	day; sky	A person stretching up, and the sky right above: 天. Each new sky is a new day.
年	nián	year	年 began as a person carrying grain on their back: the harvest that rounds off each year.
今年	jīnnián	this year	今 now; present + 年 year
明年	míngnián	next year	明 bright; next + 年 year
去年	qùnián	last year	去 to go; gone + 年 year
月	yuè	month; moon	月 began as a crescent moon, and the moon's cycle gave us the month.
日	rì	day of month; sun	日 began as a picture of the sun: a circle with a dot in the middle, later squared off.
号	hào	date; number	号 has a 口 mouth on top: the date you say out loud.
星期	xīngqī	week	星 star + 期 period of time

pattern dates go big to small

year 年 month 月 day 号

Dates run from big to small: year, month, day, then the weekday. Months and weekdays are numbers: 十月 is October, 星期一 is Monday. Say 号 for the day; 日 is the written style.

二零二六年十月二十三日，星期五。 **Èrlíng'èrliù nián shí yuè èrshísān rì, xīngqīwǔ.** Friday, 23 October 2026 (written style).

明天星期几？ **Míngtiān xīngqī jǐ?** What day is it tomorrow?

一个星期有七天。 **Yí gè xīngqī yǒu qī tiān.** A week has seven days.

dialogue a year of chinese

anna 小明，今天几号？
Xiǎomíng, jīntiān jǐ hào? · Xiaoming, what's the date today?

xiaoming 十月二十三号，星期五。
Shí yuè èrshísān hào, xīngqīwǔ. · The 23rd of October. A Friday.

anna 去年十月二十三号，我不会说汉语！
Qùnián shí yuè èrshísān hào, wǒ bú huì shuō Hànyǔ! · On 23 October last year, I couldn't speak any Chinese!

xiaoming 今年呢？
Jīnnián ne? · And this year?

anna 今年我会说汉语！我认识一百个汉字。
Jīnnián wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ! Wǒ rènshi yìbǎi gè Hànzì. · This year I can! I know a hundred characters.

xiaoming 明年呢？
Míngnián ne? · And next year?

anna 明年？一千个汉字！
Míngnián? Yìqiān gè Hànzì! · Next year? A thousand characters!

xiaoming 一千个？很好！
Yìqiān gè? Hěn hǎo! · A thousand? Brilliant!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

今
jīn
now; present

年
nián
year

天
tiān
day; sky

日
rì
day of month; sun

good to know · Weekdays are numbers: 星期一 Monday, 星期二 Tuesday … 星期六 Saturday. Sunday is the odd one out; you'll meet it on day 11. Years are read digit by digit: 二零二六年 for 2026. In print, the zero in a year is often written 〇.

Now you can read a Chinese date, make plans for tomorrow and say how far you've come since last year.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**