

5 Myths To Chinese Learners



1. Tone Language

▶ 9 tones: si

▶ **si1** 詩 : 詩歌(poem)

▶ **si2** 史 : 歷史(history)

▶ **si3** 試 : 考試(exam)

▶ **si4** 時 : 時間(time)

▶ **si5** 市 : 街市(market)

▶ **si6** 事 : 事件(event)

▶ **sik7** 昔 : 奶昔(milkshake)

▶ **sik8** 錫 : 錫紙
(aluminum foil)

▶ **sik9** 蝕 : 蝕錢 (loss of
money)



一牛三
百脯碗
碟麵半



X 100

三碗半牛腩麵一百碟

saam1 wun2 bun3 ngau4 naam5 min6 jay1 baak1 dip6

2. Different Tones Give Different Meanings

▶ 睡覺 seoi6 gaau3 (sleep)

水餃 seio2 gaau2 (dumplings)

▶ 文字 man4 zi6 (words)

蚊子 man1 zi2 (mosquitoes)

▶ 糖 tong2 (candy)

糖 tong4 (sugar)

▶ 時事 si4 si6 (current affair)

詩史 si1 si2 (poem history)

3. Number Games

▶ 四 sei3 死 sei2 (die)

▶ 444-4444 (電話號碼)

▶ 六六大順 luk6 luk6 daai6 seon6 (double 6 brings good luck)

▶ 發 faat3 -- 八 baat3

▶ 長長久久 coeng4 coeng4 gau2 gau2 (forever)

▶ 利是 (red envelope)



4. 敬老尊賢 長幼有序

ging3 lou5 zyun1 jin4 zoeng2 jau3 jau5 zeoi6

▶ Chinese people respect older people and loyal people.

▶ Chinese people follow the order based on the ages;
the older, the wiser.

▶ 不聽老人言吃虧在眼前

bat1 ting1 lou5 jan4 jin4 hek3 kwai1 zoi6 ngaan5 chin4

▶ 姜係老嘅辣 (Ginger gets spicier as it gets older.)

goeng1 hai6 lou5 ge3 laat6

5. 常識 soeng4 sik1 (common sense)

- ▶ Don't pick clock as a gift.
 - ▶ 送鐘 sung3 zung1 (give a **clock** as a gift)
 - ▶ 送終 sung3 zung1 (attend a funeral)
- ▶ Don't say 再見 zoi3 gin3 in the funeral.
- ▶ Don't pick shoes as a gift.
 - ▶ 鞋 (haai4)
 - ▶ 鞋鞋聲

