

Different Ways to Say “Ask” in Chinese

Part 1

To ask a question: 问

I asked him a question.

Wǒ wèn le tā yí ge wèntí.

我问了他一个问题。

(Lit. I asked him a question)

I asked her where she lived.

Wǒ wèn tā zhù zài nǎr.

我问她住在哪儿。

(Lit. I asked her lived where)

Part 2

To ask around: 打听

I'll ask around and see if there is a good restaurant nearby.

Wǒ dǎtīng xià, kàn fùjìn yǒu méi yǒu hǎo de fàndiàn.

我打听下，看附近有没有好的饭店。

(Lit. I ask around, see nearby if there is a good restaurant)

You should ask around to find out more about this guy.

Nǐ yīnggāi duō dǎtīng xià zhè ge rén.

你应该多打听下这个人。

(Lit. You should more ask around this person)

Part 3

To invite someone: 请

Let's ask them to have dinner with us some time.

Wǒmen zhǎo ge shíjiān qǐng tāmen chī fàn ba.

我们找个时间请他们吃饭吧。

(Lit. We find a time invite them have dinner ba)

Let's ask our neighbors over for a drink.

Wǒmen qǐng línjū lái hē diǎnr dōngxi ba.

我们请邻居来喝点儿东西吧。

(Lit. We invite neighbors over drink something ba)

Part 4

To ask for something: 要

The children were asking for drinks.

Háizimen yào yǐnliào hē.

孩子们要饮料喝。

(Lit. Children ask for drinks)

Mary asked her dad for ¥100.

Mǎlì guǎn tā bàba yào le yì bǎi kuài.

玛丽管她爸爸要了一百块。

(Lit. Mary asked for her dad 100 kuai)

Part 5

To ask somebody out: 约

You should ask her out sometime.

Nǐ kěyǐ zhǎo ge shíjiān yuē tā chū qù.

你可以找个时间约她出去。

(Lit. You should find a time ask her out)

Jack has asked her to the movies this evening.

Jiékè yuē le tā wǎnshàng kàn diànyǐng.

杰克约了她晚上看电影。

(Lit. Jack asked her out this evening see a movie)

Part 6

To ask somebody to do something: 让, 叫

Don't leave them standing on the doorstep – ask them in!

Bié ràng tāmen zhàn zài ménkǒu, ràng tāmen jìn lái.

别让他们站在门口，让他们进来！

(Lit. Don't let them stand on the doorstep, ask them in)

I asked him to open the window.

Wǒ jiào tā dǎ kāi le chuānghu.

我叫他打开了窗户。

(Lit. I asked him open the window)

Part 7

To make a request: 请求, 寻求

Mary asked to see the doctor.

Mǎlì qǐngqiú kàn yīshēng.

玛丽请求看医生。

(Lit. Mary asked see the doctor)

You can call this number to ask for assistance.

Nǐ kěyǐ dǎ zhè ge diànhuà xúnqiú bāngzhù.

你可以打这个电话寻求帮助。

(Lit. You can call this number ask for assistance)

Part 8

To set as a price for selling something: 出价

He's asking ¥100,000 for his car.

Tā de chē chū jià shí wàn yuán.

他的车出价十万元。

(Lit. His car price 100,000 yuan)

How much are they asking for their house?

Tāmen de fángzi chū jià duōshǎo?

他们的房子出价多少？

(Lit. Their house price how much)