

All About China



The English Hub

Welcome to China!

In today's lesson, we'll practise speaking English fluently by learning how to talk about experiences: using grammar, vocabulary, and topics related to China.

Discuss:

Have you ever visited China or learnt about it before?"

Objectives:

- Use **present perfect** and **past simple** clearly
- Build travel-related vocabulary
- Speak about experiences and cultural sights
- Improve natural rhythm and pronunciation



What Do You Know About China?

Discuss:

- Have you been to China before?
- What comes to mind when you think of China?
- Do you know any Chinese food, cities, or landmarks?

Tip: Sentence support:

“I’ve heard...”, “Maybe...”, “I know about...”



Introduction: Facts About China

Read and review the following information with your tutor:

- Capital city: **Beijing**
- Known for: **The Great Wall, Terracotta Army, Pandas, Spring Festival**
- Food: Dumplings, noodles, hotpot, tea
- Size: One of the biggest countries in the world!

Fun Fact:

The Great Wall of China is over 21,000 km long; that's more than half the length of the Earth!



Vocabulary: Landmarks & Experiences

Review the vocabulary below with your tutor:

Word	Explanation
Landmark	A famous place or building
Temple	A peaceful religious building
Lantern	A hanging light, often colourful or decorative
Dumpling	A small piece of dough with filling, cooked by steaming
Pagoda	A tower-like temple with many levels
Festival	A special event or celebration
Hotpot	A meal where food is cooked at the table in boiling soup
Bullet train	A very fast train, common in China

Discuss: Which of these words have you heard of before?

Task: Have a go at creating a sentence using one of the words from the list.



Vocabulary Practice: Use in Conversation

Answer the questions below with your tutor, focusing on vocabulary progress:

- Have you ever tried dumplings?
- Would you like to see a temple or a pagoda?
- What kind of festivals are common in your country?
- Have you been on a fast train before?

Tip: Practise full responses:

“Yes, I have.” / “No, I haven’t.” / “I think I’d enjoy...”



Grammar Focus: Present Perfect vs. Past Simple

Grammar Rule:

We use **present perfect (have/has + past participle)** for life experiences (no time).

We use **past simple** for finished actions (with time).

Examples:

- “I’ve visited China.” (unspecified time)
- “I visited China in 2019.” (specific time)
- “She’s eaten hotpot before.”
- “He went to Beijing last year.”



Grammar Practice: Spot the Tense

Task: Your tutor will read out sentences, your job is to correct the tense in the sentences with the correct grammar.

- We (ate / have eaten) dumplings **at the market yesterday**.
- He (has ridden / rode) a bullet train **last week**.
- She (has tried / tried) Peking duck **three times**.
- I (have visited / visited) Beijing **in 2018**.
- We (have taken / took) many photos **already**.

Example:

- I (have seen / saw) the Great Wall **last summer**. → **saw**
- They (have travelled / travelled) to China **before**. → **have travelled**

Tip:

- Past Simple → with exact time (yesterday, last week, in 2019).
- Present Perfect → with no exact time (ever, before, already, yet).



Grammar Add-On: Talking About Experience

Key phrases with **present perfect**:

- “I’ve been to...”
- “I’ve never eaten...”
- “Have you ever visited...?”
- “Yes, I have.” / “No, I haven’t.”

Practise: Have a go at answering the following questions using the grammar from above:

- Have you ever tried Chinese tea?
- Have you been on a train like a bullet train?
- What’s something you’ve never done on holiday?

Build fluency: **I’ve tried / I’ve never / I have**



Pronunciation: “-ed” Endings and Rhythm

In past simple, -ed endings sound different depending on the word.

Practice the three endings:

- /t/ – walked, asked
- /d/ – played, cleaned
- /id/ – visited, wanted

Sentences:

- “I visited Beijing last year.”
- “We watched a lantern festival.”
- “She tried hotpot for the first time.”

Tip: Emphasise clarity and natural pace



Activity: Your Day in China

Scenario:

Imagine you're spending one day in China. What have you done? What did you eat or see? Discuss with your tutor:

Helpful prompts:

- “I’ve visited...”
- “I tried...”
- “I saw...”
- “I’ve never...”

Tip: Your tutor will guide you in using present perfect and past simple naturally



Game: Have You Ever...?

Your tutor will ask you the following questions, have a go at answering them within 30 seconds using full sentences:

- Have you ever used chopsticks?
- Have you ever visited a temple?
- Have you ever eaten duck?
- Have you ever travelled by train?



Fun Facts About China

Read and discuss the facts below with your tutor:

- China has the **largest high-speed rail network** in the world
- **Pandas** are only found naturally in China
- The **Spring Festival (Chinese New Year)** lasts **15 days**
- The **Terracotta Army** has over **8,000 life-sized soldiers**
- China has **over 50 UNESCO World Heritage Sites**

Discuss:

Which place or experience sounds most interesting to you?

