Laowai

# Chinese measure words

Number + classifier + noun: learn the complete phrase. Selected reference; source levels and full explanations are online.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 个 | gè | 两个人 / liǎng ge rén<br>two people · People and general items |
| 本 | běn | 两本书 / liǎng běn shū<br>two books · Books and bound volumes |
| 只 | zhī | 两只猫 / liǎng zhī māo<br>two cats · Many animals; one of a pair |
| 件 | jiàn | 三件衬衫 / sān jiàn chènshān<br>three shirts · Clothes, matters and individual items |
| 条 | tiáo | 两条鱼 / liǎng tiáo yú<br>two fish · Long things; fish; trousers |
| 位 | wèi | 三位老师 / sān wèi lǎoshī<br>three teachers · People, politely |
| 间 | jiān | 两间卧室 / liǎng jiān wòshì<br>two bedrooms · Rooms |
| 张 | zhāng | 三张票 / sān zhāng piào<br>three tickets · Flat objects and sheets |
| 把 | bǎ | 两把伞 / liǎng bǎ sǎn<br>two umbrellas · Many things with handles |
| 辆 | liàng | 三辆自行车 / sān liàng zìxíngchē<br>three bicycles · Wheeled vehicles |

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| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 封 | fēng | 两封信 / liǎng fēng xìn | two letters · Letters |
| 双 | shuāng | 两双鞋 / liǎng shuāng xié | two pairs of shoes · Matching pairs |
| 台 | tái | 两台电脑 / liǎng tái diànnǎo | two computers · Machines and equipment |
| 份 | fèn | 两份报告 / liǎng fèn bàogào | two copies of a report · Copies, portions and sets of documents |
| 次 | cì | 去过三次 / qùguo sān cì | have been three times · Occurrences of an action |
| 遍 | biàn | 读了两遍 / dúle liǎng biàn | read it through twice · Complete runs through an action |
| 趟 | tàng | 去一趟医院 / qù yí tàng yīyuàn | make a trip to the hospital · Trips or journeys |
| 场 | chǎng | 两场比赛 / liǎng chǎng bǐsài | two matches · Organized events and performances |
| 届 | jiè | 第三届比赛 / dì sān jiè bǐsài | the third edition of the competition · Successive sessions or editions |
| 匹 | pǐ | 两匹马 / liǎng pǐ mǎ | two horses · Horses |

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| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 束 | shù | 两束花 / liǎng shù huā<br>two bunches of flowers · Bunches and bundles |
| 套 | tào | 两套教材 / liǎng tào jiàocái<br>two sets of teaching materials · Complete sets |
| 栋 | dòng | 三栋楼 / sān dòng lóu<br>three buildings · Buildings |
| 艘 | sōu | 两艘船 / liǎng sōu chuán<br>two boats · Ships and boats |
| 枚 | méi | 三枚硬币 / sān méi yìngbì<br>three coins · Small objects such as coins or medals |
| 则 | zé | 两则新闻 / liǎng zé xīnwén<br>two news items · Short written items |
| 盏 | zhǎn | 两盏灯 / liǎng zhǎn dēng<br>two lamps · Lamps and lights |
| 缕 | lǚ | 一缕阳光 / yì lǚ yángguāng<br>a shaft of sunlight · Thin strands and wisps |

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# Choose the measure word

Complete each phrase. Check your answers at the foot of this page.

1. 我买了两___书。 本 / 张 / 辆

2. 桌上有三___票。 张 / 只 / 封

3. 他养了两___猫。 件 / 只 / 台

4. 这两___鞋一共是四只。 双 / 位 / 栋

5. 请把课文从头到尾读一___。 遍 / 趟 / 封

6. 这是第六___电影节。 届 / 把 / 辆

7. 河上有两___船。 艘 / 辆 / 间

8. 今天有两___重要新闻。 则 / 盏 / 匹

9. 房间里有一___灯。 盏 / 枚 / 缕

10. 她把三___硬币放进盒子。 枚 / 栋 / 位

## Answers

1. 本 · 2. 张 · 3. 只 · 4. 双 · 5. 遍 · 6. 届 · 7. 艘 · 8. 则 · 9. 盏 · 10. 枚

次 counts occurrences. 遍 counts a complete run through something. 场 counts an individual match; 届 identifies an edition or session. Read the online explanations after checking your answers.