



Tina's Chinese Cheat Sheet

Locale	Spoken	Written*
Mainland China	Mandarin (official), many other dialects	Simplified
Taiwan	Mandarin (official), Minnan, Hakka	Traditional
Hong Kong & Macao	Cantonese (official), Mandarin	Traditional (+Cantonese**)
Malaysia	Mandarin, Minnan, Cantonese, Hakka, etc.	Simplified (new-school), Traditional (old)
Singapore	Mandarin (official), Minnan, Cantonese, Hakka, etc.	Simplified (new-official), Traditional (old)
USA / SE Asia	Mixed	Traditional / mixed

*The official written language is Mandarin Chinese, which has two writing systems — simplified and traditional characters.

**Usually all texts are written in Mandarin and smaller dialects shouldn't be written for any formal communication. However, in Hong Kong and Macao, it's possible to write Cantonese (with traditional characters). Beware, though, that people who don't speak Cantonese wouldn't be able to read and understand the text because the two languages are very different in terms of grammar, word order and so on. If your client asks for Chinese translations for Hong Kong, make sure to double-check if they want Mandarin Chinese or Cantonese.