

Very Common Measure Words



把
bǎ

Objects with handles (chairs, knives, umbrellas, toothbrushes, scissors, etc.)



本
běn

Books and magazines.



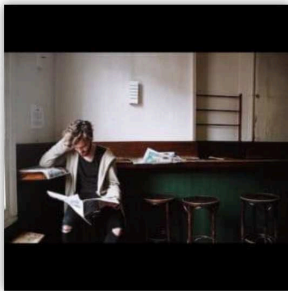
串
chuàn

Items that come in bunches or clusters (grapes or bananas, skewer of vegetables, etc.); or are joined together (such as a set of keys, etc.)



顶/頂
dǐng

Hats.



份
fèn

Portions (such as newspapers, shares, copies, jobs, etc.)



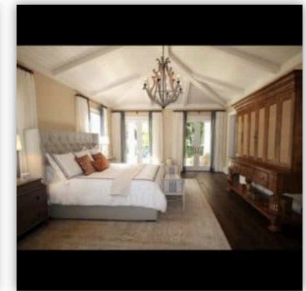
封
fēng

Letters (written document) or mail.



个/個
gè

Generic measure word (when in doubt use 个). Commonly used for people, ideas, things like apples, etc.)



间/間
jiān

Rooms (one bedroom, one house, two bathrooms, etc.)



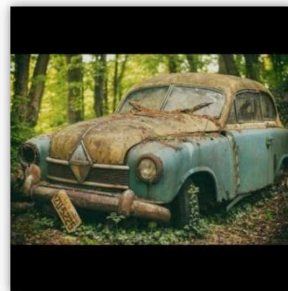
件
jiàn

Clothes, luggage or matters (one coat, one affair, one blouse, etc.)



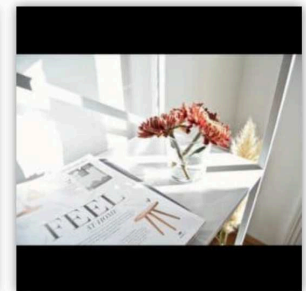
棵
kē

Trees.



辆/輛
liàng

Wheeled vehicles (car, truck, bus, bicycle, etc.)



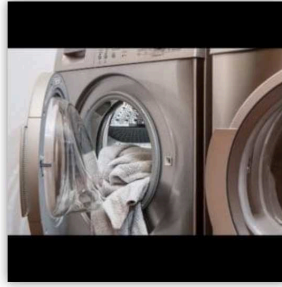
篇
piān

Written items (article, report, essay, etc.)



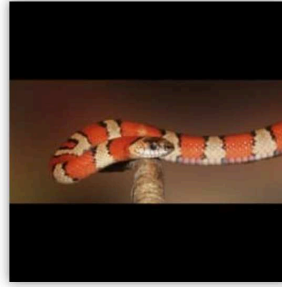
首
shǒu

Passages of verse (songs, poems).



台
tái

Used for large electrical things (washing machine, dryer, television, computers, radios, treadmill, etc.)



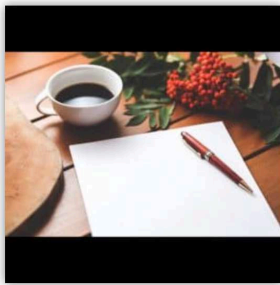
条/條
tiáo

Long, winding objects (snake, river, streets, dragon, necklace, pants, etc.)



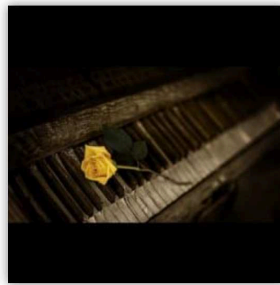
位
wèi

Polite replacement for 个 gè when referring to people (teacher, guest, preacher, etc.)



张/張
zhāng

Flat items or surfaces (map, bed, table, a sheet of paper, photograph, etc.)



支
zhī

Long stick like objects (pencil, pen, cigarette, rose, etc.)



只/隻
zhī

Animals, birds, insects, or one of a pair (hand, shoe, etc.)



座
zuò

Huge and relatively permanent things (mountains, bridges, etc.)