

⇒ 8 Common Ways to Say “NO” in Mandarin Chinese

1. 不是的。bù shì de.

Literally: “Not yes” (Mostly used when someone checks a fact)

Example:

你是老板吗？不是的。

nǐ shì lǎo bǎn ma? bù shì de.

Are you the boss? No, I'm not.

2. 不对。bù duì.

Literally: “Not right” (It is commonly used when you disagree with someone's statement or opinion)

Example:

我觉得女人都爱购物，你觉得呢？不对，我就不爱购物。

wǒ jué dé nǚ rén dōu ài gòu wù, nǐ jué dé ne? bù duì, wǒ jiù bù ài gòu wù.

I think all women love shopping, what do you think? That's not right. I don't love shopping.

3. 不行。bù xíng.

Literally: “Not OK” (It is often used to say “no” when someone requests something or asks for permission to do something)

Example:

我可以用你的信用卡吗？不行。

twǒ kě yǐ yòng nǐ de xìn yòng kǎ ma? bù xíng.

Can I use your credit card? No.

4. 没有。méi yǒu.

Literally: "Not Have" (It is used to describe a negative fact or something that hasn't happened)

Examples:

你有现金吗？没有。

nǐ yǒu xiànjīn ma? méi yǒu.

Do you have cash? No, I don't.

你去过上海吗？没有。

nǐ qù guò shànghǎi ma? méi yǒu.

Have you been to Shanghai? No, I haven't.

5. 不可以。bù kě yǐ.

Literally: "Not can" (Similar usage as phrase #3 - "bù xíng")

Example:

这里可以吸烟吗？不可以。

zhè lǐ kě yǐ xī yān ma? bù kě yǐ.

Can I smoke here? No, you can't.)

6. 不要。bù yào.

Literally: "Not want"

Example:

你要喝咖啡吗？不要。

nǐ yào hē kā fēi ma? bù yào.

Do you want to drink coffee? No, I don't.

7. 没门儿! méi mén er!

No way!

Example:

我可以借更多的钱吗？ 没门儿!

wǒ kě yǐ jiè gèng duō de qián ma? méi mén ér!

Could I borrow some more money? No way!

8. 不可能。 **bù kě néng.**

Impossible.

Example:

你可以一个星期内减肥30公斤吗？ 不可能。

nǐ kě yǐ yī gè xīng qī nèi jiǎn féi 30 gōng jīn ma? bù kě néng.

Can you lose 30 kg within a week? Impossible.

VIDEO:

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