

Chinese, Min Nan for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

Tobias Hartmann

December 9, 2025

Copyright

© 2025 Innov-AI-tive GmbH. All rights reserved.

Author: Tobias Hartmann

Contributor: Synapse Lingo AI Tools (human-supervised)

ISBN Print: 978-3-69263-430-2

ISBN eBook: 978-3-69263-429-6

ISBN Audiobook: 978-3-69263-431-9

This book is for informational purposes only and does not replace professional advice.

AI Development Notice: This e-book was developed with AI-assisted tools and subsequently editorially reviewed to ensure the highest learning quality.

Additional Training Materials

Enhance your learning experience with our interactive on-line training materials and audio resources.

Access your interactive language trainer:

[http://app.synapse-lingo.de/language-trainer
/en_nan/index.html](http://app.synapse-lingo.de/language-trainer/en_nan/index.html)



Scan the QR code or click the link to go directly to your interactive trainer.

This interactive trainer includes:

- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises

- Additional vocabulary practice
- Progress tracking

Simply click the link or enter the URL in your web browser to access these supplementary materials.

Contents

Additional Training Materials	3
1 Lesson 1: Learn English → Chinese Min Nan: have = 𠱇 (ū)	8
2 Lesson 2: English to Min Nan: Master be with sī – I am, you are, they are	13
3 Lesson 3: English – Min Nan: go = 𠂇 (khì)	18
4 Lesson 4: English to Min Nan: Master “can” – ē-sái and “I can” – góa ē-tàng	23
5 Lesson 5: Make/Do in Chinese, Min Nan: 𠂇 (tsò) made easy	28
6 Lesson 6: I had vs 𠂇 (goá ū): Learn Min Nan Chinese (Hokkien) ‘had’ forms fast	33
7 Lesson 7: I was = góa sī: Master “was/were” in Min Nan (Taiwanese Hokkien)	38
8 Lesson 8: English – Min Nan Chinese Past of ‘Go’: I went = 𠂇 𠂇 (guá khì – ah)	43
9 Lesson 9: I made = 𠂇 𠂇 (goá ū tsò): Past Action	

in Chinese, Min Nan – Fun Drill	49
10 Lesson 10: English to Min Nan Chinese: Will Have – I will have = 𠱇 𠱇 𠱻 (goá ē ū)	54
11 Lesson 11: English to Min Nan: Will be = ẽ sī	60
12 Lesson 12: English to Min Nan: “I will go” – 𠱇 𠱻 (Goá ē khì) and all future forms	65
13 Lesson 13: English to Min Nan: I will do – 𠱇 𠱻 (guá beh tsò) (Future Forms)	70
14 Lesson 14: English to Min Nan: Travel Essentials – Is there...? ū bô ...?, May I...? Guá thang ... bô?	75
15 Lesson 15: Is there ...? in Min Nan (Taiwanese): Learn 𠱇 ... 𠱻 (ū ... bô?) Fast and Fun	81
16 Lesson 16: English – Min Nan: May I ...? with Guá ē-tàng ... bô?	86
17 Lesson 17: English to Min Nan: I need ... – 𠱻 𠱻 ... (goá su-iàu ...)	91
18 Lesson 18: English to Min Nan Chinese: Where is ...? = ... tī tó-ūi?	95
19 Lesson 19: Min Nan Chinese Made Easy: What is ...? = ... sī siánn-mih?	99
20 Lesson 20: How much is ...? in Min Nan: 𠱻 𠱻 ... (bē guā-tsē...?)	104
21 Lesson 21: English to Min Nan: I would like ... – 𠱻 𠱻 ... (Guá beh ...)	109

22 Lesson 22: English to Chinese, Min Nan: Can you ... ? = 会...会 (Lí ē ... bô?)	113
23 Lesson 23: English – Min Nan Chinese: Can you ... ? = Lín ē-sái ... bô?	118
About the Author	123
Stay in Touch	124

Lesson 1

Lesson 1: Learn English → Chinese Min Nan: have = 𠱇 (ū)

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this fun English-to – Chinese Min Nan mini-lesson helps you master “have” = 𠱇 (ū). You’ll nail forms like “I have” 𠱇 (goá ū), “you have” (sing.) 𠱇 (lí ū), “he/she/it has” 𠱇 (i ū), “we have” 𠱇 (gún ū), “you (plural) have” 𠱇 (lín ū), and “they have” 𠱇 (in ū). Practice with quick dialogues, rhythm drills, and a cheeky quiz so you can say what you’ve got – anytime, anywhere.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey you, great to have you here! This episode is brought to you by SynapseLingo – visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources and freebies.

Today you’ll master the tiny but mighty word “have” = 𠱇 (ū). By the end, you’ll confidently say who has what – without dropping your coffee... unless your coffee says, “I

have you!"

Your goal today

Repeat after me and feel the rhythm – short, clear, and powerful.

- have – □ (ū)
- I have – □□ (goá ū)
- you have (singular) – □□ (lí ū)
- he has – □□ (i ū)
- she has – □□ (i ū)
- it has – □□ (i ū)
- we have – □□ (gún ū)
- you have (plural) – □□ (lín ū)
- they have – □□ (in ū)

Rhythm drill

Clap on each “ū.” Ready? Let’s groove your memory.

- I have a book – □□□□□ (goá ū chit pún tsheh)
- You have time – □□□□ (lí ū sî-kan)
- He has money – □□□ (i ū tsînn)
- She has three cats – □□□□□ (i ū sann tsiah niau)
- It has two doors – □□□□□ (i ū nîng ê mîng)

- We have two tickets – 𠂔𠂔𠂔𠂔 (gún ū n̄ng tiunn phiò)
- You (plural) have cash – 𠂔𠂔 (lín ū tsînn)
- They have a car – 𠂔𠂔 (in ū tshia)

Mini comedy dialogue

Listen, smile, and repeat the punchlines. You've got this.

- A: Do you have time? B: Yes, I have – 𠂔 (goá ū).
- A: Does he have a pen? B: He has – 𠂔 (i ū). But it's invisible ink – classic.
- A: Do we have tickets? B: Relax, we have – 𠂔 (gún ū) – and popcorn.
- A: Do you all have cash? B: Yup, you (plural) have – 𠂔 (lín ū tsînn). Snacks secured!
- A: Does it have two doors? B: It has – 𠂔𠂔 (i ū n̄ng ê m̄ng). And a squeaky hinge soundtrack.
- A: Do they have a car? B: They have – 𠂔 (in ū tshia). It even says 'vroom' politely.

Culture tip

Sound local with this tiny habit.

At Taiwanese markets, vendors often shout a cheerful "We have it!" – 𠂔 (ū!) If they don't, you'll hear 𠂔 (bô). Smile, point, and say: "Do you have...?" → 𠂔... (lí ū ... bô?)

Quick quiz

Answer out loud; your plant will be impressed.

- Q1: English → Min Nan: “have”. A: ㄇ (ū)
- Q2: Say “I have” in Min Nan. A: ㄇ (goá ū)
- Q3: Say “you have” (singular). A: ㄇ (lí ū)
- Q4: “he has / she has / it has”? (Any one) A: ㄇ (i ū)
- Q5: “we have”? A: ㄇ (gún ū)
- Q6: “you (plural) have”? A: ㄇ (lín ū)
- Q7: “they have”? A: ㄇ (in ū)

Challenge time

Now you create the magic – three sentences, go!

- 1) Say: “We have a plan.” → ㄇ ㄇ ㄇ (gún ū kè-uē).
- 2) Say: “She has three cats.” → ㄇ ㄇ ㄇ (i ū sann tsiah niau).
- 3) Ask your group: “Do you (plural) have money?” → ㄇ ㄇ ㄇ (lín ū tsînn bô?)
- Bonus: Whisper to your wallet: “I have cash.” → ㄇ ㄇ ㄇ (goá ū hiān-kim). If it answers back, that's advanced level.

Wrap-up

Nice work – du nailed it!

Today you conquered “have” □ (ū): I/you/he/she/it/we/you all/they. Keep practicing with short daily lines – your fluency jar already says, “we have progress” → □□□□ (gún ū tsìn-pō). Thanks for listening, and visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more lessons, downloads, and laughs.

Lesson 2

Lesson 2: English to Min Nan: Master be with sī – I am, you are, they are

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this fun English-to-Min Nan Chinese lesson teaches the verb be as sī with real-life laughs. You'll practice I am, you are, he is, she is, it is, we are, you are (plural), and they are as 𠱇 (goá sī), 𠱵 (lí sī), 𠱵 (i sī), 𠱵 (i sī), 𠱵 (l sī), 𠱵 (lán sī), 𠱵 (lín sī), and 𠱵 (in sī). Visit www.synapse-lingo.com for transcripts, flash-cards, and more Min Nan boosts.

SynapseLingo welcome

Hey you! This episode is brought to you by SynapseLingo – your smart path to playful language gains. For extras and freebies, swing by www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today, your mission is simple and powerful: learn the

English verb be as the Min Nan identity stamp sī. We'll turn I am, you are, he is, she is, it is, we are, you are (plural), and they are into easy wins – with jokes!

Your forms toolkit

Grab these forms and you're unstoppable. Repeat after me and smile – yes, you!

- be = sī
- I am = 𠱇 (goá sī)
- you are (singular) = 𠱇 (lí sī)
- he is = 𠱇 (i sī)
- she is = 𠱇 (i sī)
- it is = 𠱇 (l sī)
- we are = 𠱇 (lán sī)
- you are (plural) = lín sī
- they are = 𠱇 (in sī)
- Pro tip: Use sī for identity (A is B). For existence or location, use ū (there is/has) or tī (at).

Funny mini-dialogue: The name-tag party

Let's crash a party – politely – and tag everyone with identity like a boss. You're the MC!

- You: "Hi, I am Alex – 𠱇Alex (goá sī Alex)."

- Friend: “Nice! You are the host – 𠵼𠵼𠵼 (lí sī tsú-lâng).”
- You point to a guy: “He is the DJ – 𠵼𠵼DJ (i sī DJ).”
- You point to a woman: “She is the teacher – 𠵼𠵼𠵼 (i sī lāu-su).”
- You lift a mysterious box: “It is a prize – 𠵼𠵼𠵼 (l sī tsióng-phín)... or a donut?”
- Crowd laughs. You rally everyone: “We are ready – 𠵼𠵼𠵼 (lán sī chún-pī hó)!”
- You point to the front row: “You are champions – lín sī champions!”
- All together: “They are our friends – 𠵼𠵼𠵼𠵼 (in sī gún ê pīng-iú)!”

Call-and-response drills

Your turn – short echoes. I cue in English; you answer in Min Nan. Big voice!

- I am... a student. → 𠵼𠵼 (goá sī hák-seng)
- You are... amazing. → 𠵼𠵼 (lí sī tsin tsàn)
- He is... my friend. → 𠵼𠵼𠵼 (i sī góa ê pīng-iú)
- She is... the manager. → 𠵼𠵼 (i sī King-lí)
- It is... a book. → 𠵼𠵼 (l sī tsit pún tsheh)
- We are... one team. → 𠵼𠵼 (lán sī tsit-ê thoân-tuī)
- You are (plural)... ready. → lín sī ready!
- They are... teachers. → 𠵼𠵼 (in sī lāu-su)

Culture tip: Inclusive we

Quick cultural superpower for you. This one makes your Min Nan sound instantly friendlier.

Min Nan has two flavors of we: inclusive 𠱇 (lán) and exclusive 𠱓 (gún). When you say “we are” as 𠱇𠱓 (lán sī), you include the listener – great for teamwork vibes.

Lightning quiz

Quickfire – answer out loud. If you smile while answering, you get bonus charisma points.

- 1) In Min Nan, the verb be is...? → sī
- 2) Say “I am”: → 𠱇 (goá sī)
- 3) Say “you are” (singular): → 𠱇 (lí sī)
- 4) Say “he is” and “she is”: → both 𠱇 (i sī)
- 5) Say “it is”: → 𠱇 (l sī)
- 6) Say “we are”: → 𠱇 (lán sī)
- 7) Say “you are” (plural): → lín sī
- 8) Say “they are”: → 𠱇 (in sī)

Challenge and outro

Final boss time – tiny, friendly, and beatable by you.

- Challenge: In 10 seconds, introduce three people and one thing using be-forms. Example: “I am Alex – 𠱇 Alex (goá sī Alex). You are the captain – 𠱇𠱓 (lí sī tuī-tiúnn). He is my friend – 𠱇𠱓 (i sī góa ê

pîng-iú). It is a donut – ဗုံး (l sī tinn-tinn-khian).” Go!

- Recap keywords for your memory palace: be, I am, you are, he is, she is, it is, we are, you are (plural), they are → sī, ဗုံး (goá sī), ဗုံး (lí sī), ဗုံး (i sī), ဗုံး (sī), ဗုံး (l sī), ဗုံး (lán sī), lín sī, ဗုံး (in sī).
- Thanks for learning with SynapseLingo! Keep practicing a few lines every day, and come grab more lessons, drills, and printables at www.synapse-lingo.com. You've got this – ဗုံး (lán sī) unstoppable!

Lesson 3

Lesson 3: English – Min Nan: go = ☐ (khi)

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this fun mini-lesson teaches you how to say and use go in English and Chinese, Min Nan: go = ☐ (khi). You'll practice I go, you go, he goes, she goes, we go, you (plural) go, they go, plus the super useful it works = ☐☐ (ē-sái). Perfect for quick daily practice with real-life lines and a night-market vibe. Visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more tips, drills, and downloads.

Welcome

Hey there! Ready to learn fast and have a laugh?

This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – your friendly boost for real-life language. Visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources, printables, and extra drills. Today your magic key is go in Min Nan: ☐ (khi). Let's unlock it!

Your goal today

You'll master nine power phrases. Say them out loud with me.

- go = ☐ (khì)
- I go = ☐☐ (guá khì)
- you go (singular) = ☐☐ (lí khì)
- he goes = ☐☐ (i khì)
- she goes = ☐☐ (i khì)
- we go (let's/we inclusive) = ☐☐ (lán khì)
- you (plural) go = ☐☐ (lín khì)
- they go = ☐☐ (in khì)
- it works = ☐☐ (ē-sái)

Beat drill

Clap, breathe, and echo me. Short, strong, smiley!

- go – ☐ (khì)
- I go – ☐☐ (guá khì)
- you go – ☐☐ (lí khì)
- he goes – ☐☐ (i khì)
- she goes – ☐☐ (i khì)
- we go – ☐☐ (lán khì)
- you (plural) go – ☐☐ (lín khì)

- they go – 他们 (in khì)
- it works – 它行 (ē-sái)

Night-market dialogue

Picture bright lights and sizzling snacks – time to use your words.

- You: Let's go! – 咱们去 (lán khì!)
- Friend: Where? – Night market! – 夜市 (lán khì iā-chhī!)
- Guide to the squad: You (plural) go grab seats. – 咱们去抢座位 (lín khì tshuē uī-á.)
- Update: He goes to buy skewers. – 他去买串 (i khì bé tshuàn-kháu.)
- And she goes for bubble tea. – 她去买珍珠奶茶 (i khì bé chin-chu lâi-tê.)
- The whole crew? They go pay together. – 咱们一起付 (in khì tsò-hué kiat-tiòng.)

Tech check: does it work?

You press the button like a brave snack scientist.

- Press it... it works! – 按一下它行 (án-ne ē-sái!)
- If it doesn't work: – 它不行 (bē-sái.) But today? 它行 (ē-sái!)
- Victory dance: English you go, Min Nan 去 (lí khì); English we go, Min Nan 去 (lán khì). Everything's green-light.