guistic environment in which a given word occurs in order to de-
cide how it should be written. Consider the following sentence
pairs:
\[
\begin{align*}
yìdòng jiù kū & \quad \text{(burst into tears readily) (yìdòng means “easily, readily”)}; \\
yì dòng jiù téng & \quad \text{(to start aching as soon as one moves)}
\end{align*}
\]
(dòng means “to move,” while yì is part of the construction yì...jiù..., “as soon as... then...”).

\[
\begin{align*}
yì qì pǎo le wǔ lǐ & \quad \text{(ran five miles without stopping) (yì qì 一气 means “without stopping”)}; \\
yì qì jiù lǐ kǎi jì & \quad \text{(left home as soon as one got angry) (yì qì 一气 means “as soon as one gets angry”)}.
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
yīlái kàn shū, èr lái chá zíliào & \quad \text{(first to read books, secondly to consult reference materials)(yīlái 一来 means “first”)}; \\
yī lái jiù zuò xià kàn shū & \quad \text{(sit down and start reading as soon as one arrives)}
\end{align*}
\]
(yī lái 一来 means “as soon as one arrives”).

**Measure Words**

Measure words express units of measure for objects or ac-
tions. Measure words for objects are the more common of the
two types; they appear frequently in Putonghua, most often in the
construction "numeral + measure word + noun" to indicate the amount or quantity of an object. Measure words are written separately from the words that precede and follow them:

yi gé rén 一个人 (one person) (numeral + measure word + noun);
sān wǎn fàn 三碗饭 (three bowls of rice) (numeral + measure word + noun).

Other elements may be inserted into this structure. In this situation, all components are still written separately:

sān dà wǎn fàn 三大碗饭 (three big bowls of rice); (numeral + adjective + measure word + noun).

Measure words are divided into two main subcategories, noun measure words and verb measure words, in the discussion below.

4.5 Noun Measure Words

Noun measure words are units used to show the number or amount of an object. There are least a hundred measure words in common use in modern Putonghua. Accepted usage determines which measure word is used with which nouns; while there is a certain logic to the matching, the student of Putonghua must be prepared to spend some time memorizing measure words and mastering their usage. Noun measure words are divided into four types in the discussion below.

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1) Measure words for individual units

**bǒ 把**: used for objects which can be grasped in the hand.

- 一 bǒ dāo 一把刀 (a knife);
- 一 bǒ cháhuó 一把茶壶 (a teapot);
- 一 bǒ shànzi 一把扇子 (a fan);
- 一 bǒ mǐ 一把米 (a handful of rice);
- 一 bǒ húzi 一把胡子 (a beard).

**bùnr 瓣儿**: used for flower petals, leaves and sections of fruit.

- 一 bùnr méihuār 一瓣梅花 (a plum blossom petal);
- 一 bùnr júzi 一瓣橘子 (a section of tangerine).

**bāo 包**: “bundle”; used for objects in bundles or packages.

- 一 bāo yīfu 一包衣服 (a bundle of clothes);
- 一 bāo tánɡɡuǒ 一包糖果 (a bag of candy).

**bēi 杯**: “glass, cup”; used for measuring liquids.

- 一 bēi chá 一杯茶 (a cup of tea);
- 一 bēi niúnǎi 一杯牛奶 (a glass of milk).

**běn 本**: used for books, notebooks, and other bound objects.

- 一 běn shū 一本书 (a book);
- 一 běn bìjì 一本笔记 (a notebook full of notes);
- 一 běn zázhì 一本杂志 (a magazine).
bi 笔: used for sums of money, Chinese characters, and calligraphy.

yi bi qian 一笔钱 (a sum of money);
yi bi kuanzi 一笔款子 (a sum of money);
yi bi hao zi 一笔好字 (good handwriting).

bing 柄: used for objects, particularly tools, having handles.

yi bing fuzi 一柄斧子 (an axe);
yi bing gangcha 一柄钢叉 (a steel fork (a kind of weapon)).

bu 部: used for books, movies, machines and cars.

yi bu cidian 一部词典 (a dictionary);
yi bu yingpian 一部影片 (a movie);
yi bu ji qi 一部机器 (a machine).

ceng 册: "volume": used for individual books in a series or set.

yi ceng shu 一册书 (a volume);
yuwen keben di san ceng 语文课本第三册 (the third volume of a language textbook).

ceng 层: used for objects in layers, or for floors of a building.

yi ceng lou 一层楼 (one story of a building);
yi ceng hui 一层灰 (a layer of dust).

cho 出: used for plays and dramas.

yi cho xi 一出戏 (a play).
chù 处: used for places or the things occupying them.
yī chù dìfāng 一处地方 (a place);
yī chù shānghén 一处伤痕 (a scar).

chuàn 串: “string”; used for objects strung together or resembling a string.
yī chuàn zhēnzhū 一串珍珠 (a string of pearls);
yī dà chuàn rén-mǎ 一大串人马 (a long string of troops).

dài 袋: “sack”; used for objects in bags or sacks.
yī dài miànfěn 一袋面粉 (a sack of flour);
yī dài dàmǐ 一袋大米 (a sack of rice).

dào 道: used for rivers and other long, narrow objects; also used for doors and windows, commands and examination questions.
yī dào hé 一道河 (a river);
yī dào dàmén 一道大门 (a door);
yī dào mínglíng 一道命令 (a command);
yī dào shùxué tímù 一道数学题目 (a math problem).

dī 滴: “drop”; used for drops of liquid.
yī dī shuǐ 一滴水 (a drop of water);
yī dī yǎnlèi 一滴眼泪 (a tear).

dìng 顶: used for objects having a peak.
yī dìng màozi 一顶帽子 (a hat);
yī dǐng wénzhàng 一顶蚊帐 (a mosquito net).

dǔ 塞: used for walls.
yī dǔ qiáng 一堵墙 (a wall).

duàn 段: used for long, narrow objects, or for intangible things which may be visualized as being long and narrow.
yī duàn mùtòu 一段木头 (a length of wood);
yī duàn shíjiān 一段时间 (a period of time);
yī duàn huà 一段话 (a talk, a statement).

duō 朵: used for flowers and clouds.
yī duō méiguìhuā 一朵玫瑰花 (a rose);
yī duō bái yún 一朵白云 (a white cloud).

fèn 份儿: used for newspapers and documents, as well as for other objects made up of elements matched together.
yī fèn fàn 一份儿饭 (a set meal);
yī fèn bāozhǐ 一份儿报纸 (a newspaper).

fēng 封: used for objects which can be put in envelopes.
yī fēng xìn 一封信 (a letter).

fú 幅: used for textiles and paintings.
yī fú bèìmìàn 一幅被面 (a quilt cover);
yī fú huàxiàng 一幅画像 (a portrait).

gǎn 杆: used for objects having shafts.
yī gǎn qiāng 一杆枪 (a rifle);
yī gǎn hóngqí 一杆红旗 (a red flag).

gè 个: a generally applicable measure word. Can be used for people, as well as for many tangible and intangible objects.
yī gè rén 一个人 (a person);
yī gè píngguǒ 一个苹果 (an apple);
yī gè gùshì 一个故事 (a story).

gēn 根: used for long, slender objects.
yī gēn gāngguǎn 一根钢管 (a steel tube);
yī gēn tóufā 一根头发 (a hair).

gǔ 股: used for objects in strips, as well as for odors, gases, and groups of people.
yī gǔ xiàn 一股线 (a thread);
yī gǔ xiāngwèi 一股香味儿 (a fragrant aroma);
yī gǔ tǔfēi 一股土匪 (a gang of bandits).

háng 行: "row, line"; used for objects in rows.
yī háng zì 一行字 (a line of Chinese characters);
yī háng dàyuàn 一行大雁 (a line of wild geese).

hé 盒: "box"; used for objects in boxes.
yī hé bǐnggān 一盒饼干 (a box of biscuits);
yī hé huǒchái 一盒火柴 (a box of matches).

jiā 家: used for households or business enterprises.
yi jia caizhu  一家财主 (a wealthy family);
yi jia fanguan  一家饭馆 (a restaurant);
yi jia shudian  一家书店 (a bookstore).

jie  架: used for certain mechanical objects.
yi jia feiji  一架飞机 (an airplane);
yi jia diziji  一架打字机 (a typewriter).

jian  间: used for small architectural units—rooms and houses.
yi jian fangzi  一间房子 (a house);
yi jian jiaoshi  一间教室 (a classroom).

jian  件: used for certain household objects, articles of clothing, and affairs.
yi jian xingli  一件行李 (a piece of luggage);
yi jian chenyi  一件衬衣 (a shirt);
yi jian shiqing  一件事情 (an affair, a piece of business).

jie  裁: used for long, slender objects which are in some way cut off.
yi jie dianxian  一截电线 (a length of wiring);
yi jie shuzhi  一截树枝 (a tree branch).

jie  节: used for sections of segmented objects.
yi jie huoche  一节火车 (one car of a train); 
yi jie ganzhe  一节甘蔗 (a section of sugarcane);
yi jie ke  一节课 (a class, one meeting of a class).
句  句： unit of speech or writing.
yī jù huà  一句话 (a word, a remark);
yī jù shī  一句诗 (one line of verse).

卷 卷： used for rolled-up objects.
yī juàn pùgài  一卷铺盖 (a roll of bedding);
yī juàn gāozhǐ  一卷稿纸 (a roll of drafting paper).

棵 棵： used for trees and for certain plants which grow like trees.
yī kē shù  一棵树 (a tree);
yī kē báoicài  一棵白菜 (a head of Chinese cabbage).

颗 颗： used for small, round objects.
yī kē zìdàn  一颗子弹 (a bullet);
yī kē huángdòu  一颗黄豆 (a soybean).

口 口： used for people (in counting population, members of a household, etc.), pigs, and inanimate objects having a mouth.
yī kǒu rén  一口人 (a person);
yī kǒu zhū  一口猪 (a pig);
yī kǒu jīng  一口井 (a well).

块 块： used for objects in the form of pieces or slices.  kuài is also a unit of money, equivalent to yuan 元.
yī kuài bǐnggān  一块饼干 (a biscuit);
yī kuài shǒupà  一块手帕 (a handkerchief).
yī kuài qián 一块钱 (one yuan).

li lì  粒: used for objects in pellet form.
yī li lì mǐ 一粒米 (a grain of rice);
yī li lì zǐ dàn 一粒子弹 (a bullet).

liàng 车: used for wheeled vehicles.
yī liàng qì chē 一辆汽车 (an automobile);
yī liàng zì xíng chē 一辆自行车 (a bicycle).

liè 列: used for objects in rows, and for trains.
yī liè huǒ chē 一列火车 (a train);
yī liè shī bīng 一列士兵 (a row of soldiers).

lǚ 缕: used for very slender objects, and for thoughts and feelings.
yī lǚ tóu fà 一缕头发 (a hair);
yī lǚ qíng sī 一缕情思 (a feeling of love).

měi 枚: used for medals, badges, and similar small objects; also used for ammunition.
yī měi jiǎng zhāng 一枚奖章 (a medal);
yī měi zhà dàn 一枚炸弹 (a bomb).

mén 门: used for guns, technical skills, and academic courses.
yī mén dà pào 一门大炮 (a cannon, a gun);
yī mén gōng kè 一门功课 (a course, a subject);
yi mén xuéwèn 一门学问 (a branch of learning).

miàn 面: used for flat objects.
yi miàn jìngzi 一面镜子 (a mirror);
yi miàn hóngqí 一面红旗 (a red flag).

míng 名: used for persons of a specified status or occupation.
yi míng yǎnyuán 一名演员 (a performer);
yi míng fàn yì 一名翻译 (an interpreter).

pí排: used for objects in rows.
yi pí yízi 一排椅子 (a row of chairs);
yi pí guǒshù 一排果树 (a row of fruit trees).

pán 盘: “plate”; used for objects in dishes, as well as for objects resembling plates.
yi pán cài 一盘菜 (a plate of food);
yi pán wénxiāng 一盘蚊香 (a coil of mosquito-repellent incense);
yi pán qí 一盘棋 (a game of chess).

pén 盆: “basin”; used for objects in pots or basins.
yi pén shuǐ 一盆水 (a basin of water);
yi pén lánhuā 一盆兰花 (a pot of orchids).

pǐ 匹: used for horses and mules, as well as for bolts of cloth.
yi pǐ mǎ 一匹马 (a horse);
yi pǐ chóu zi 一匹绸子 (a bolt of silk);
yi pī bù 一匹布  (a bolt of cloth).

yī piān zhǐ 一篇纸  (a sheet of paper);
yī piān lúnwén 一篇论文  (a dissertation).

piān 片: used for objects in slices, flat, level objects, and certain abstract objects.
yī piān miàn bāo 一片面包  (a slice of bread);
yī piān cǎo dì 一片草地  (a lawn);
yī piān shēn qìng 一片深情  (a deeply felt emotion).

píng 瓶: used for objects in bottles.
yī píng jiǔ 一瓶酒  (a bottle of wine);
yī píng qí shuǐ 一瓶汽水  (a bottle of soda).

shān 扇: used for doors and windows.
yī shān dà mén 一扇大门  (a door);
yī shān bō lǐ chūng 一扇玻璃窗  (a glass window).

shēn 身: used for suits of clothing and other things that cover the body.
yī shēn xīn yī fu 一身新衣服  (a new suit);
yī shēn hàn shuǐ 一身汗水  (sweat from head to toe).

shǒu 首: used for poems and songs.
yī shǒu shī 一首诗  (a poem).
yī shǒu gēqǔ 一首歌曲 (a song).

shǒu 手: used for talents or skills which employ the hands.
yī shǒu hǎo zì 一手好字 (good handwriting);
yī shǒu hǎo zhēnxiān 一手好针线 (good needlework).

shū 束: used for objects in bunches.
yī shū xiānhuār 一束鲜花 (a bouquet of fresh flowers);
yī shū xìnjiàn 一束信件 (a sheaf of letters).

sōu 艘: used for large ships.
yī sōu lúnchuán 一艘轮船 (a steamship);
yī sōu jūnjiàn 一艘军舰 (a warship).

suǒ 所: used for buildings, schools, hospitals, and other large establishments.
yī suǒ fūngzi 一所房子 (a house, a building);
yī suǒ xuéxiào 一所学校 (a school);
yī suǒ yǐyuàn 一所医院 (a hospital).

tái 台: used for machines, equipment, and stage performances.
yī tái diànshíjiē 一台电视机 (a TV set);
yī tái huàjù 一台话剧 (a play);
yī tái hǎo xié 一台好戏 (a good performance).

tiáo 条: used for long, narrow objects, and for items of a series.
yī tiáo hé 一条河 (a river);
yī tiáo yú 一条鱼 (a fish);
yī tiáo jie 一条街 (a street);
yī tiáo xīnwén 一条新闻 (an item of news).

tóu 头: used for cattle, donkeys, sheep, and certain other domestic animals.
yī tóu shuǐniú 一头水牛 (a water buffalo);
yī tóu lù 一头驴 (a donkey);
yī tóu luózi 一头骡子 (a mule).

tuán 团: used for objects in balls or clumps.
yī tuán miánhuā 一团棉花 (a ball of cotton);
yī tuán lièhuǒ 一团烈火 (a heart full of raging fire).

wèi 位: used for people; carries respectful overtones.
yī wèi xuézhě 一位学者 (a scholar);
yī wèi kèrén 一位客人 (a guest).

wō 窝: used for a group of animals born or hatched at the same time.
yī wō xiǎozhū 一窝小猪 (a little of piglets);
yī wō xiǎojiā 一窝小鸡 (a brood of chicks).

xiàng 项: used for items in a series.
yī xiàng rènwù 一项任务 (a task);
yī xiàng yánjiū kètiě 一项研究课题 (a research topic).
Chinese Romanization: Pronunciation and Orthography

yang样：“sort”; used to indicate a certain sort of object.
san yang cai 三样菜 (three dishes);
yibai duo yang shangpin 一百多样商品 (over a hundred kinds of merchandise).

ye页: used for pages of a book.
yi ye shu 一页书 (one page of a book).

yuun员: used for generals (most often seen in novels and dramas).
yi yuun dajiung 一员大将 (a general).

zhuan盏: used for lights and lamps.
yi zhuan diandeng 一盏电灯 (an electric light);
yi zhuan meiyoudeng 一盏煤油灯 (a kerosene lamp).

zhong张: used for paper, hides, beds, tables, mouths, and certain other objects.
yi zhong zhi 一张纸 (a sheet of paper);
yi zhong niupi 一张牛皮 (a cowhide);
yi zhong muchuang 一张木床 (a wooden bed);
yi zhong zhuozi 一张桌子 (a table);
yi zhong zubo 一张嘴巴 (a mouth).

zhi只: used for certain animals and utensils, as well as for single components of a pair.
yi zhi ji 一只鸡 (a chicken);
yi zhi laohu 一只老虎 (a tiger);
yi zhì xiōngzi 一只箱子 (a suitcase);
yi zhì fānchuán 一只帆船 (a sailboat);
yi zhì ěrduo 一只耳朵 (an ear);
yi zhì wòzi 一只袜子 (a sock).

zhī 枝：used for sticklike objects and for branches bearing leaves or flowers.
yi zhī gānbi 一枝钢笔 (a fountain pen);
yi zhī méihuā 一枝梅花 (a branch of plum blossoms);
yi zhī yángrìu 一枝杨柳 (a willow branch).

zhī 支：used for troops, songs, and certain other objects.
yi zhī duìwǔ 一支队伍 (a contingent of troops);
yi zhī míngróng 一支民歌 (a folksong).

zhòng 种：“sort”; used to indicate a certain sort of person or object.
sān zhòng rén 三种人 (three kinds of people);
liǎng zhòng bù 两种布 (two kinds of cloth);
yī qiān duō zhòng shāngpǐn 一千多种商品 (over a thousand kinds of merchandise).

zhū 株：used for trees and plants.
yī zhū sōngshù 一株松树 (a pine tree);
yī zhū mǔdān 一株牡丹 (a peony bush).

zhùng 梁：used for affairs or pieces of business.
yī zhùng shìr 一桩事儿 (an affair).
zhuàng 童: used for buildings, particularly those of several stories.

yi zhuàng dàlóu 一幢大楼 (a multi-storied building).

zhuō 桌: used for meals and banquets.

yi zhuō jiǔxí 一桌酒席 (a feast);
yi zhuō kěrén 一桌客人 (a table of guests (at a banquet)).

zuò 座: used for large, immovable objects.

yi zuò shān 一座山 (a mountain);
yi zuò tiěqiáo 一座铁桥 (an iron bridge);
yi zuò tóngxiàng 一座铜像 (a bronze statue).

2) Measure words for collectives

bān 班: used for groups of people.

lái le yi bān péngyou 来了一班朋友 (a group of friends arrived);
yi bān xuésheng 一班学生 (a class of students).

bāng 帮: used for groups of people.

lái le yi dà bāng rén 来了一大帮人 (a big group of people arrived);
yi bāng tūfěi 一帮土匪 (a gang of bandits).

cóng 丛: used for plants growing in clumps.

yi cóng júhuā 一丛菊花 (a patch of chrysanthemums);
yī cōng guàn mù —丛灌木 (a clump of bushes).

dié 堆: used for objects stacked in layers.
yī dié zhǐ —叠纸 (a stack of papers);
yī dié xìn fēng —叠信封 (a stack of envelopes);
yī dié yīfú —叠衣服 (a pile of clothes).

duì 堆: used for piles of things.
yī duì nītǔ —堆泥土 (a pile of earth);
yī duì lājī —堆垃圾 (a pile of trash).

duì 队: used for people drawn up in ranks or rows.
yī duì xuéshēng —队学生 (a row of students);
yī duì rén-mǎ —队人马 (a row of troops).

duì 对: used for pairs of people or objects.
yī duì liàn rèn —对恋人 (a pair of lovers);
yī duì ěrhuān —对耳环 (a pair of earrings).

fù 副: used for sets of things.
yī fù shǒutào —副手套 (a pair of gloves);
yī fù xiàngqì —副象棋 (a Chinese chess set).

huǒ 伙: used for groups of people.
yī huǒ xué shēng —伙学生 (a group of students);
yī huǒ fēi tú —伙匪徒 (a gang of bandits).

pī 批: used for large quantities of merchandise or large
groups of people.

yi pí záhuò  一批杂货  (a lot of dry goods);
yi pí jūnrén  一批军人  (a group of soldiers).

qún 群: used for groups of people or animals.
yi qún háizi  一群孩子  (a group of children);
yi qún yáng  一群羊  (a flock of sheep).

shuāng 双: used for pairs of objects.
yi shuāng xié  一双鞋  (a pair of shoes);
yi shuāng shǒu  一双手  (a pair of hands).

tào 套: used for sets of objects.
yi tào kèběn  一套课本  (a set of textbooks);
yi tào jiājù  一套家具  (a set of furniture).

zǔ 组: used for organized groups of people or objects.
yi zǔ xuéshēng  一组学生  (a group of students);
yi zǔ diànchì  一组电池  (a set of batteries).

3) Measure words for weights and measures

Length:  

fēn 分  (= $\frac{1}{3}$ cm);
   cùn 寸  (= 10 fēn, or $3 \frac{1}{3}$ cm);
   chǐ 尺  (= 10 cùn, or $33 \frac{1}{3}$ cm);
   zhāng 丈  (= 10 chǐ, or $3 \frac{1}{3}$ m);
ll 里  ( = 150 zhòng, or 500m);

línǐ 厘米  (centimeter);

mǐ 米  (meter);

gōnglǐ 公里  (kilometer);

hǎi lǐ 海里  (nautical mile);

Yīnglǐ 英里  (mile).

Weight:

qión 钱  ( = 5 gm);

liǎng 两  ( = 10 qión, or 50 gm);

jīn 斤  ( = 10 liǎng, or 500 gm);

kè 克  (gram);

gōngjīn 公斤  (kilogram);

dūn 吨  (ton).

Area:

fēn 分  ( = 66 2/3 sq m);

mǔ 亩  ( = 10 fēn, or 6 2/3 are);

píngfāngcūn 平方寸  (square cùn);

píngfāngchǐ 平方尺  (square chi);

píngfāngmǐ 平方米  (square meter).

Volume:

lǐfāngcūn 立方寸  ( = .000037 cub m);

lǐfāngchǐ 立方尺  ( = .037 cub m);
4) Indefinite measure words

There are only two indefinite measure words in Putonghua: xie 些 (some, a few) and diăn点儿 (a little, a bit).

xie 些: indicates a fairly large number or amount. It can follow the numeral yi 一 (one), a demonstrative pronoun zhè 这 (this) or nà 那 (that), or certain other modifiers. It is written as one unit with the component it follows:
- yi xie 一些 (some);
- zhè xie 这些 (these);
- nà xie 那些 (those);
- hǎo xie 好些 (a lot of).

diăn点儿: indicates a small number or amount. It can follow yi 一 (one), a demonstrative pronoun zhè 这 (this) or nà 那 (that), or certain other modifiers. It is written as one unit with the component it follows:
- yi diăn点儿 一点儿 (a bit, a little);
- zhè diăn点儿 这点儿 (this bit, these few);
- nà diăn点儿 那点儿 (that bit, those few).

When xie or diăn点儿 are preceded by a verb, however, they are written separately from it:
- chī xie dōngxi 吃些东西 (eat something);
- xie xie wénzhāng 写些文章 (do some writing);
- chī diăn点儿 dōngxi 吃点儿东西 (eat a little something);
- xie diăn点儿 wénzhāng 写点儿文章 (do a little writing).
4.6 Verb Measure Words

Verb measure words are used to show the number of times an action is carried out. Not many of these words are used in Putonghua; the most important few are introduced below. Verb measure words are written separately from the numerals that precede them.

**cl** 次: used to indicate the number of times an action is performed.

Zhège diànyīng wǒ kànle sān cl. 这个电影我看了三次。
(I’ve seen this movie three times.)

**hù** 回: used to indicate the number of times an action is performed. *hù* is often used with actions indicating motion, as coming or going.

Tā jiā wǒ qùguó liǎng hù. 他家我去过两回。 (I’ve been to his house twice.)

**xià** 下: used to indicate the number of times an action is performed. Used only with actions that take a short period of time to perform.

Wǒ qīngqīng de zài tā de bèi shàng pāile liǎng xià. 我轻轻地在他的背上拍了两下。 (I lightly patted him twice on the back.)

**dùn** 顿: used to indicate the number of times an action is performed. It is used mainly for the actions of eating, scolding,
beating, and giving advice.

Wōmén měi tiān chī sān dùn fàn. 我们每天吃三顿饭。
(We eat three meals a day.)

Tā bèi rén māle yī dùn. 他被人骂了一顿。
(He got a scolding.)

zhèn 阵: indicates that an action took up only a short period of time.

Jīntiān xiào le yī zhèn yǔ, mǎoshàng jiù qíng le. 今天下了一阵雨，马上就晴了。 (It rained for a little while today and then cleared up immediately.)
Dōngbiān xiǎnglé yī zhèn qiāngshēng. 东边响了一阵枪声。 (There was a sound of gunfire to the east.)

chǎng 场: used for theatrical and artistic performances, movies, and sports activities.

Zuótiān wǒmen dǎo le yī chǎng qiú. 昨天我们打了一场球。
(We played ball yesterday.)

Wǎnshàng yǒu liǎng chǎng diànyǐng. 晚上有两场电影。
(There are two movies being shown tonight.)

tōng 趟: used to indicate a number of trips or journeys taken.

Jīnlínián wǒ qùle yī tōng Chéngdū. 今年我去了一趟成都。
(I made a trip to Chengdu this year.)
bian 遍: used to indicate the number of times an action is carried out in entirety.
Qīng nǐ zǎi shuō yī biàn. 请你再说一遍。 (Could you say that again?);

Wǒ bǎ kèwén cóng tóu dào wěi kànle liǎng biàn. 我把课文从头到尾看了两遍。 (I read the text twice from beginning to end.).

zōo 遭: indicates the number of times a journey is taken.
Dào Běijīng wǒ huí shí dì yī zōo. 到北京我还是第一遭。 (This is my first trip to Beijing.).

fān 番: used to indicate the number of times a relatively strenuous action is performed.
Wǒ sīkǎole yī fān, zhōngyú bā wèntí nòng míngbái le. 我思考了一番，终于把问题弄明白了。 (I thought about the problem for a while before I finally got it straightened out in my mind.).

One can also use the names of tools or parts of the body as measure words for certain actions:

kànle yī dāo. 砍了一刀 (took a chop at), dāo 刀 (knife);
dōle yī qiāng 打了一枪 (took a shot at), qiāng 枪 (gun);
tīle yī jiǎo 踢了一脚 (kicked), jiǎo 脚 (foot);
yǒo le yī kǒu 咬了一口 (bit), kǒu 口 (mouth);
kànle liǎng yǎn 看了两眼 (took a look at), yǎn 眼 (eye);

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4.7 Compound Measure Words

A compound measure word is made up of two measure words, and expresses a compound unit of measure. In writing, a hyphen links the two components. The most common few compound measure words are listed below:

jiào-cì 架次 (sortie; measures the number of airplanes flying over a given period of time);

rén-cì 人次 (person-time; measures the number of people taking part in a given activity over a given period of time);

miǎo-mǐ 秒米 (meters per second);

miǎo-lǐfāngmǐ 秒立方米 (cubic meters per second).
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