

STYLE RADAR

TAP THAT APP

Pleco Chinese Dictionary

A free app in its most basic form, Pleco lets you input a word in English, pinyin or Chinese characters and view a comprehensive list of all related translations. Search 'pjiu' for example and you'll see the translation - 'beer' - plus its Chinese characters and tone marks. You'll also find related words and their translations, like 'brewery,' 'beer belly,' 'hops' and 'beer festival.' Each word comes with example sentences in Chinese characters, pinyin and an audio recording, so you can learn how to pronounce it correctly in Mandarin (or play it out loud and hope for the best).

This English-Chinese dictionary app is also one of the few with easily searchable Chinese idioms. Brush up on phrases like 'when in Rome' (入乡随俗) or simply input the word 'idiom' to see a collection of four-character expressions in Mandarin.

Pleco add-ons include a flashcard system (USD9.99), which allows you to save words you're having trouble memorizing and then test yourself later by playing multiple-choice or fill-in-the-blank quizzes.

Mastered Mandarin but still having trouble with Cantonese? A new ABC Cantonese Dictionary will be available early this year within the current Pleco app. It will be the first comprehensive Cantonese-to-English dictionary published in 30 years, and will feature about 15,000 Cantonese-specific words with plenty of example sentences, so you can navigate Guangdong's historic neighborhoods - or Chinatowns abroad - with ease.

Available on iOS and Android devices. Requires iOS 8.1 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.



PEACH JOHN LONG-LACE DRESS
TAOBAO SHOP: PEACH JOHN
RMB398



SLEEPY JONES MARINA PRINTED SILK-CHARMEUSE PAJAMA SET
WWW.NET-A-PORTER.COM
RMB5,070

CHEAP CHIC VS LUX LABEL

Slumber Number

Being stylish doesn't need to end when preparing for bed. This month we look at PJs that scream style despite being comfortable enough for a quiet snooze. In the lux category, we have the American brand Sleepy Jones' printed silk pajamas. Ostensibly designed for men, most will find this smooth sleepwear a good fit. The two-piece sports smooth French seams that contrast the white piping, with the designer saying the set was inspired by Pablo Picasso's relaxed style. On the cheap yet chic side, we have the Peach John lace dress. This Japanese company is offering up affordable sleepwear that stays high class despite the low price.

INSPECT-A-GADGET

Bluetooth Glove Phone

Usually we try to find a gadget that is at least minimally useful to your daily life. This month, we've stumbled upon something borderline indispensable: Bluetooth phone gloves.

Think of the possibilities. Cold weather? Talk to the hand. Need to call reinforcements to a snowball fight? No problem. Want to report a crime in progress while convincing the thieves you're a few cups short of a cupboard? That's a little bit risky... but totally doable.

Before you can become a crime fighting snowball assassin, you need to set the Hi-Call gloves up. It's basically the same as tethering any Bluetooth device - the buttons are pretty self-explanatory and smartphone screens respond to your thumb and forefinger through the gloves.



FOR WHO: BADASSES
HOW MUCH: RMB115
SOLD WHERE: TAOBAO.COM

But how do the hand-mounted speaker and microphone stack up?

The speaker is not quite as clear as a normal phone, but clear enough if you're the type of person who walks around with their thumb inside their ear. The pinky-finger microphone, on the other hand, er, on the same hand, is on par with the average headset.