



SayMei

A CURATED BEGINNER PRACTICE
ROUTE

FOUR STAGES • 30 FOCUSED MODULES

The SayMei Beginner Mandarin Practice Book

A print-first route from your first Mandarin sounds to more accurate, resilient everyday conversation.

30

topic lessons

4

beginner
stages

158

designed
pages



Learn • retrieve • use • revisit

Every topic has a clear model, printable practice, and a replay plan. The individual PDFs contain each topic's full practice set.

Starter → confident beginner

US Letter

Answer key



1

How to use this book

Use this page to choose a route and use each module as active practice, not passive reading.

CHOOSE YOUR ROUTE

1

Follow the whole path

Begin with Unit 1 and complete one focused module at a time. Use the review page before moving on.

2

Solve today's problem

Use the four route maps to jump to food, typing, tones, travel, grammar, characters, or conversation repair.

3

Build a weekly packet

Download the corresponding individual PDF for the full practice set. Add this book's review or reference page as a compact reminder.

Notice

Study one pattern or model.



Try

Complete the guided task.



Use

Change a detail or make it personal.



Revisit

Retrieve it after a delay.

Print lightly.

Pages use a white writing surface with bounded color. Color supports navigation, but every instruction and answer also works in grayscale.



2

Starter: your route

Use this page to see what each module solves and jump to the right page.

UNIT 1 ROUTE MAP

Choose a route, map the sounds, start typing, and handle the first exchanges that make Mandarin feel usable.

01

30-Day Mandarin Plan

Getting started · 35–50 minutes to plan, then 10–20 minutes per study day

p. 8

02

Mandarin Sound Map

Pronunciation · 60–90 minutes across several short sessions

p. 11

03

First 14 Days

Getting started · 10–15 minutes a day for 14 days

p. 14

04

Meet People in Mandarin

Speaking · 60–90 minutes across several short sessions

p. 17

05

Polite Phrases

Speaking · 35–45 minutes

p. 20

06

Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time

Vocabulary · 90–120 minutes across several sessions

p. 23

07

Time Words & Plans

Speaking · 60–80 minutes across several short sessions

p. 26

08

Build Pinyin Syllables

Pronunciation · 35–50 minutes, then keep as a reference

p. 29

09

Type Chinese Messages

Writing · 45–70 minutes with any phone or computer

p. 32

You do not need to finish every module.

Choose the route that solves a real communication need, then return for the next useful step.



3

Early beginner: your route

Use this page to see what each module solves and jump to the right page.

UNIT 2 ROUTE MAP

Turn core sentence patterns into questions, choices, errands, home talk, character practice, and short stories.

01

Sentence Builder

Grammar · Four 20-minute sessions

p. 36

02

Question Builder

Grammar · 45–60 minutes

p. 39

03

No, Not Yet & Preferences

Grammar · 70–100 minutes across several short sessions

p. 42

04

Food and Drinks

Speaking · 45–60 minutes

p. 45

05

Shop for Clothes

Speaking · 75–95 minutes across several sessions

p. 48

06

Getting Around

Travel · 45–60 minutes

p. 51

07

Mandarin at Home

Family · 20 minutes to plan, then daily reuse

p. 54

08

100 Characters by Component

Characters · 4–6 hours across many short sessions

p. 57

09

Character Practice Cards

Characters · 10–15 minutes per review session

p. 60

10

Five Mini-Stories

Listening · 60–90 minutes across five sessions

p. 63

You do not need to finish every module.

Choose the route that solves a real communication need, then return for the next useful step.



4

Developing beginner: your route

Use this page to see what each module solves and jump to the right page.

UNIT 3 ROUTE MAP

Strengthen connected speech, classifiers, aspect, sentence expansion, and visual character discrimination.

01

Tone Changes

Pronunciation · 45–60 minutes

p. 67

02

Tone-Pair Lab

Pronunciation · Four 15-minute sessions

p. 70

03

Measure Words

Grammar · Three 20-minute sessions

p. 73

04

Two Uses of 了

Grammar · 45–60 minutes

p. 76

05

Sentence Expansion Ladders

Grammar · 35–50 minutes

p. 79

06

Look-Alike Characters

Characters · 35–55 minutes

p. 82

You do not need to finish every module.

Choose the route that solves a real communication need, then return for the next useful step.



5

Confident beginner: your route

Use this page to see what each module solves and jump to the right page.

UNIT 4 ROUTE MAP

Repair misunderstandings, sound more natural, clarify high-value grammar, and rehearse a complete travel route.

01

Conversation Rescue

Speaking · Three 20-minute sessions

p. 86

02

Conversation Particles

Speaking · 30–45 minutes

p. 89

03

The Three de Words

Writing · 35–50 minutes

p. 92

04

Mandarin Repair Clinic

Grammar · 50–75 minutes

p. 95

05

7-Day Travel Refresher

Travel · 15 minutes a day for 7 days

p. 98

You do not need to finish every module.

Choose the route that solves a real communication need, then return for the next useful step.

UNIT 1 • STARTER

Set up your Mandarin foundation

Choose a route, map the sounds, start typing, and handle the first exchanges that make Mandarin feel usable.



INSIDE THIS UNIT

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 30-Day Mandarin Plan | 2 Mandarin Sound Map |
| 3 First 14 Days | 4 Meet People in Mandarin |
| 5 Polite Phrases | 6 Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time |
| 7 Time Words & Plans | 8 Build Pinyin Syllables |
| 9 Type Chinese Messages | |



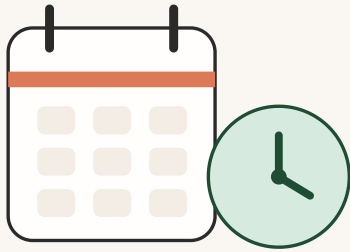
1.1

Repeat the learning loop every week

Use this page to Plan repeated opportunities to retrieve and use the same small set in changing contexts.

NOTICE

Use all four jobs each week



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Week	Run the whole loop	Weekly emphasis
1 · Start small	LEARN a tiny set; RETRIEVE before looking; APPLY one changed detail; REVISIT later	Use prompts, then repair one miss
2 · Return and extend	Repeat all four jobs with week 1 plus one small addition	Start cold and remove one prompt
3 · Mix and transfer	Repeat all four jobs while mixing older and newer material	Change a role, question, or setting
4 · Consolidate	Repeat all four jobs across the month's most useful set	Complete a small mission; schedule the next revisit



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



1.2

Match the goal to the route

Use this page to Distinguish useful can-do outcomes from vague study activity.

MATCH

Choose the strongest primary route

Circle the route that most directly serves each learner's stated outcome.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

A learner wants to introduce herself and ask where another person is from.



Conversation



Travel



Reading and typing



Family at home

Why it works: The desired action is a social exchange.

2

A learner wants to read a destination name and show it to a driver.



Pronunciation only



Travel



Family at home



Grammar terminology



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



1.3

30-Day Mandarin Plan: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Nǐ hǎo!

你好!

Hello!

A useful first greeting, not a claim that the whole conversation is learned.

Wǒ xiǎng xué Zhōngwén.

我想学中文。

I want to learn Chinese.

Use this to name your goal aloud.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Choose one 30-day outcome that can be observed in a real situation
- ☐ Schedule short sessions that repeat learn, retrieve, apply, and revisit jobs each week
- ☐ Use a simple review rule instead of treating completion as proof of learning

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

If you miss a day, continue with the next scheduled box instead of cramming two sessions together.



2.1

How a pinyin syllable works

Use this page to Read pinyin as a sound map rather than as English spelling.

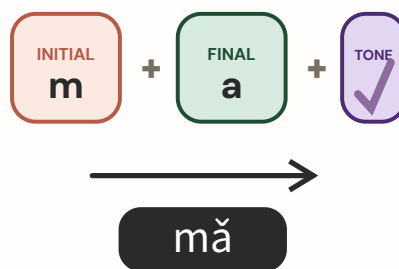
👁 SPLIT

Initial + final + tone

Most pinyin syllables can be understood as an optional initial consonant plus a final, with a tone over the vowel: m + a + third tone = mǎ. Some syllables begin directly with a vowel sound. Pinyin letters do not promise their usual English sounds: q, x, c, and the i in zi are important examples.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



2.2

Map the five tone patterns

Use this page to Connect each tone mark with a pitch movement and a physical gesture.

 TRACE

Read the mark

Write the tone number or N for neutral.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

mā

One answer **1**

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

má

**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



2.3

Mandarin Sound Map: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

mā / má / mǎ / mà / ma

妈 / 麻 / 马 / 骂 / 吗

mother / hemp / horse / scold / question particle

The same syllable shape carries five different tone patterns.

jī / qī / xī

鸡 / 七 / 西

chicken / seven / west

All three use a high, front tongue position; airflow and friction distinguish them.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Split a written pinyin syllable into initial, final, and tone
- ☐ Identify the contour represented by each tone mark
- ☐ Use airflow rather than English-style voicing to contrast b/p, d/t, and g/k

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Circle two contrasts for later feedback from a teacher or proficient speaker; do not self-certify a perfect accent.



3.1

Use one ten-minute loop every day

Use this page to Establish a repeatable routine that ends in retrieval and a personal answer.

LOOP

The daily loop

Move	What to do	Why it matters
1. Retrieve	Try yesterday's callback before reading	Find what you can bring back cold
2. Notice	Read today's short model and one key contrast	Connect meaning to a usable frame
3. Rehearse	Say the model once, then rebuild it with a cue	Stabilize a small pattern
4. Personalize	Change one detail and answer without reading	Use the language for your own meaning
5. Revisit	Retry tomorrow before reopening the page	Test later retrieval instead of page completion



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



3.2

Day 1: Meet someone and return the question

Use this page to Say your name and keep the exchange moving with 你呢.

 MEET

Use your name, then ask back

1

Write 我叫____。你呢? with your real name or a practice name. Cover the model and say both parts.

Success looks like Accept 我叫 plus a name and the topic-return question 你呢.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



3.3

First 14 Days: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ jiào Ānnà. Nǐ ne?

我叫安娜。你呢？

My name is Anna. And you?

A first introduction plus a topic-return question.

Wǒ xiǎng yào yì bēi chá.

我想要一杯茶。

I would like a cup of tea.

A complete quantity-and-item request.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Introduce yourself and return a simple question
- ☐ Order a drink and simple food item
- ☐ Ask about time, place, direction, price, and preferences

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Retry once after checking the filled model, then return to the target on a later day.



4.1

Build a two-way introduction

Use this page to Move through greet, share, ask, respond, and close.

 FOLLOW

Five conversation jobs

Job	Hanzi	Pinyin	English
Greet	你好!	Nǐ hǎo!	Hello!
Share	我叫安娜。	Wǒ jiào Ānnà.	My name is Anna.
Ask	你叫什么名字?	Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?	What's your name?
Return	你呢?	Nǐ ne?	And you?
Close	很高兴认识你。	Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.	Nice to meet you.

**Find, cover, recall**

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



4.2

Name and origin

Use this page to Ask where someone is from and answer with a country, city, or general place.

ASK

Choose the matching question

Circle the question that would produce the given answer.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Answer: 我叫美玲。



你叫什么名字？



你是哪里人？



你会说中文吗？

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Answer: 我是新加坡人。



你喜欢什么？



你是哪里人？



你叫什么名字？

3

Answer: 我来自上海。



你从哪里来？



你做什么工作？



你几岁？

**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



4.3

Meet People in Mandarin: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ jiào Ānnà. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

我叫安娜。你叫什么名字?

My name is Anna. What's your name?

Give one detail, then invite the other person in.

Wǒ shì Jiānádà rén. Nǐ ne?

我是加拿大人。你呢?

I'm Canadian. And you?

你呢 returns the current question without repeating it.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Give a four-to-six-line beginner introduction with support
- ☐ Ask and answer simple questions about name, origin, language, work or study, and interests
- ☐ Use 你呢 to return a question naturally

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Use the final page with a partner, teacher, or by alternating both roles yourself.



5.1

Four useful social jobs

Use this page to Connect each phrase with the job it performs.

MATCH

Core phrases

Learn the job, not only the English translation.



Qǐngwèn...

请问……

Excuse me / May I ask...

Open a polite question.



Xièxie.

谢谢。

Thank you.

Acknowledge help, a gift, or a kindness.



Duìbuqǐ.

对不起。

I'm sorry.

Use for a genuine apology.



Bù hǎoyìsi.

不好意思。

Sorry / Excuse me.

Often lighter: a small interruption or inconvenience.



Bú kèqì.

不客气。

You're welcome.

A standard reply to thanks.



Méi guānxi.

没关系。

It's okay / No problem.

A reassuring reply to an apology.



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



5.2

Match the response

Use this page to Retrieve the safest short reply for four everyday moments.

REPLY

Choose the reply

Circle the best beginner response.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Someone says 谢谢 after you help.

- ☒ 不客气。 ☐ 对不起。 ☐ 真的吗?

Why it works: A standard response to thanks.

2

Someone bumps you lightly and says 对不起.

- ☐ 没关系。 ☐ 谢谢。 ☐ 请问。

3

You need to ask a stranger where the restroom is.

- ☐ 请问, 洗手间在哪儿? ☐ 太好了! ☐ 不用了。

4

You did not understand a sentence.

- ☐ 不好意思, 请再说一遍。 ☐ 不客气。 ☐ 没关系。

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



5.3

Polite Phrases: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ **RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK**

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Xièxie! — Bú kèqì.

谢谢! — 不客气。

Thank you! — You're welcome.

A dependable thank-you pair.

Bù hǎoyìsi, wǒ méi tīng dǒng.

不好意思, 我没听懂。

Sorry, I didn't understand.

Useful for a small conversational problem.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Choose a safe phrase for thanks, apology, attention, or refusal
- ☐ Respond to common social phrases without translating word for word
- ☐ Use short reactions that match good news, surprise, or new information

Today

Complete the module

**Tomorrow**

Retrieve one line

**In 3 days**

Change one detail

**Next week**

Use it in context

**Make it yours**

Return the next day and do the final page before reviewing earlier pages.



6.1

Build numbers instead of memorizing lists

Use this page to Use place-value blocks to construct new numbers.

BUILD

Core blocks

Hanzi	Pinyin	Value	Example
零	líng	0; zero inside a number	一百零五 · 105
一	yī	1	十一 · 11
二 / 两	èr / liǎng	2	二十 · 20; 两个人 · two people
三	sān	3	三十 · 30
四	sì	4	四十二 · 42



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



6.2

Construct new numbers

Use this page to Place 零 only where a missing place needs to be heard.

CONSTRUCT

Write the Mandarin number

Write hanzi; then add pinyin if you can.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

16

One answer shíliù

十六

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

20



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



6.3

Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Liǎng bēi chá, sānshí kuài.

两杯茶，三十块。

Two cups of tea, thirty kuai.

两 commonly comes before a classifier such as 杯.

Jīntiān bā yuè èrshíwǔ hào.

今天八月二十五号。

Today is August 25.

Chinese dates move from larger unit to smaller unit.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Build and understand common numbers through the low thousands
- ☐ Choose 二 or 两 in high-frequency beginner contexts
- ☐ Say a simple price in formal or everyday units

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Revisit any missed number after a delay instead of copying it repeatedly in one sitting.



7.1

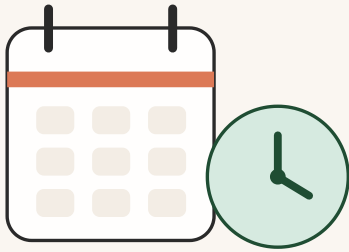
Move around today and this week

Use this page to Anchor common day and week phrases to now instead of memorizing an unordered list.

LOCATE

A relative-time line

Read each scale from past to future: days first, then weeks.



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Position	Hanzi	Pinyin	Meaning
two days back	前天	qiántiān	the day before yesterday
one day back	昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
anchor day	今天	jīntiān	today
one day ahead	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



7.2

Move around today and this week

Use this page to Anchor common day and week phrases to now instead of memorizing an unordered list.

LOCATE

Locate the phrase

Choose the meaning or sequence that matches the anchor.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

后天

☐ the day before yesterday☐ tomorrow☒ the day after tomorrow

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

上个星期

☐ last week☐ this week☐ next week

3

Which order moves from yesterday to tomorrow?

☐ 昨天 → 今天 → 明天☐ 明天 → 今天 → 昨天☐ 今天 → 昨天 → 明天

4

this week

☐ 上个星期☐ 这个星期☐ 下个星期

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



7.3

Time Words & Plans: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ míngtiān shàngwǔ xuéxí.

我明天上午学习。

I'm studying tomorrow morning.

The larger day word comes before the smaller part of day, and the complete time phrase comes before the predicate.

Wǔfàn yǐhòu wǒ yǒu kòng.

午饭以后我有空。

I am free after lunch.

Put 以后 after the reference point: lunch + after.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Distinguish common past, present, and future day, week, month, and year phrases
- ☐ Build larger-to-smaller time chunks such as 明天上午
- ☐ Place a when-time phrase before its associated predicate

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Use the last page to negotiate one real or fictional plan without adding a clock time.



8.1

Start with parts, not English spelling

Use this page to Use a compact analytic inventory before applying the visible spelling rules.

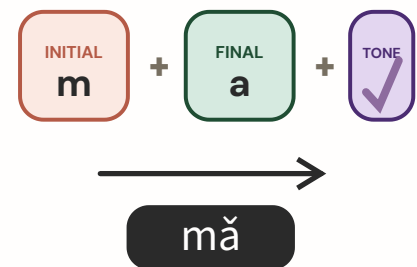
ASSEMBLE

The assembly path

Choose a legal optional initial + base final, apply any spelling change, then add a tone: d + iou + first tone becomes diū. The base-final labels on these pages make the structure visible; finished pinyin uses conventional spellings. The chart organizes symbols—it does not tell your mouth exactly what to do. Listen to a reliable model and use articulation guidance alongside it.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



8.2

Place tones and show a syllable boundary

Use this page to Finish the spelling with a correctly placed tone mark and apostrophe when needed.

MARK

Apostrophe before a, o, or e

Inside a multisyllable pinyin word, add an apostrophe before a syllable that begins with a, o, or e when the boundary could be misread. The mark separates syllables; it does not add a sound. Join each pair and apply the rule.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Xī + ān

One answer Xī'ān

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

nǚ + ér



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



8.3

Build Pinyin Syllables: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

d + iou + 1 → diū

丢

lose

After an initial, iou contracts to iu; in iu, the tone mark goes on the second written vowel.

q + üan + 2 → quán

全

whole; all

After q, the dots disappear in writing, but the final remains the ü-family final üan.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Decide whether a common initial-final combination belongs to the SayMei learner chart
- ☐ Convert analytic final labels into conventional spellings such as liu, gui, you, and yuan
- ☐ Explain why ju contains an underlying ü sound while lu and lü stay distinct

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Use the linked audio chart or a proficient speaker to calibrate pronunciation; this printed map cannot supply sound or feedback.



9.1

What the pinyin keyboard does

Use this page to Understand the three-step path from sound code to checked Chinese text.

 FOLLOW

Code → candidates → meaning check

A pinyin input method editor, or IME, does not translate English. You type the pinyin sound code, usually without tone marks. It offers characters and words that could match that sound. You select the intended candidate, then reread the finished message because a different candidate may sound the same.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



9.2

Learn four high-value input habits

Use this page to Convert tone-marked pinyin into the plain codes common pinyin keyboards expect.

 TYPE

Write the input code

Write the plain-letter code you would type.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

你好 · nǐ hǎo

One answer **nihao**

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

绿 · lǜ

**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



9.3

Type Chinese Messages: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Nǐ hǎo!

你好!

Hello!

Type nihao, then select 你好. Tone marks are not normally entered in the IME code.

Wǒ sān diǎn dào.

我三点到。

I will arrive at three.

Type the whole phrase so context can improve the candidate order.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Find and enable a Simplified Chinese pinyin input method
- ☐ Type pinyin without tone marks and choose a candidate by meaning
- ☐ Use v for ü and an apostrophe where a syllable boundary is ambiguous

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Finish by rereading the Chinese message against the intended English meaning.

UNIT 2 • EARLY BEGINNER

Build useful everyday exchanges

Turn core sentence patterns into questions, choices, errands, home talk, character practice, and short stories.



INSIDE THIS UNIT

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| 5 Shop for Clothes | 6 Getting Around |
| 7 Mandarin at Home | 8 100 Characters by Component |
| 9 Character Practice Cards | 10 Five Mini-Stories |



10.1

Build one sentence from five movable blocks

Use this page to See a neutral beginner sentence as meaning blocks instead of an English sentence to translate word by word.

BUILD

Worked example: grow the action

Read each line, then cover it and rebuild the next line from the block labels.



Xué Zhōngwén.

学中文。

Study Chinese.

Action + thing.



Wǒ xué Zhōngwén.

我学中文。

I study Chinese.

Add who.



Wǒ jīntiān xué Zhōngwén.

我今天学中文。

I study Chinese today.

Add when before the action.



Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā xué Zhōngwén.

我今天在家学中文。

I study Chinese at home today.

Add where before the action.



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



10.2

Keep the action and its thing together

Use this page to Build short subject-verb-object sentences before adding more blocks.

GROUP

Rebuild the sentence

Put the printed blocks in a neutral order. Write the full sentence.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

茶 / 我 / 喝

One answer wǒ hē chá

我喝茶。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

电影 / 她 / 看



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



10.3

Sentence Builder: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā xué Zhōngwén.

我今天在家学中文。

I am studying Chinese at home today.

Who + when + where + action + thing.

Nǐ zài nǎlǐ xué Zhōngwén?

你在哪里学中文？

Where do you study Chinese?

哪里 stays where the place answer belongs.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Build neutral subject-verb-object sentences
- ☐ Place time and 在 plus place before the action in the target frame
- ☐ Keep 谁, 什么, 什么时候, or 哪里 in the information slot

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Check closed tasks only after finishing a page; do the final cold check on another day.



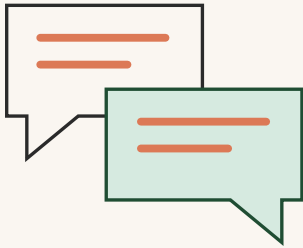
11.1

Eight missing-information words

Use this page to Match each question word with the kind of answer it requests.

MATCH

Question-word map



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Hanzi	Pinyin	Asks for	Tiny example
谁	shéi	person	他是谁? Who is he?
什么	shénme	thing or identity	你喝什么? What do you drink?
哪儿	nǎr	place	你住哪儿? Where do you live?
什么时候	shénme shíhou	time	你什么时候来? When are you coming?



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



11.2

Keep the statement, add 吗

Use this page to Turn a proposition into a neutral yes-no question without changing word order.

ASK

Choose the 吗 question

Pick the form that preserves the statement order.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Statement: 你忙。(You are busy.)



你忙吗?



吗你忙?



你吗忙?

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Statement: 他喝咖啡。



他喝咖啡吗?



他吗喝咖啡?



喝他咖啡吗?

3

Short affirmative answer to 你有时间吗?



有。



是。



吗。

4

Short negative answer to 你是老师吗?



不是。



没有。



不有。

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



11.3

Question Builder: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Nǐ hē chá ma?

你喝茶吗?

Do you drink tea?

Statement order stays in place; 吗 is added at the end.

Nǐ xiǎng bu xiǎng qù?

你想不想去?

Do you want to go?

A-not-A already marks the question, so no 吗.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Turn a simple statement into a yes-no question with 吗
- ☐ Build common A-not-A forms without adding 吗
- ☐ Place a question word where its answer would normally appear

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Return the next day and build the final questions from the answer cues alone.



12.1

Give each kind of 'not' a job

Use this page to Choose a pattern from meaning rather than from the English word alone.

 SORT

Five beginner patterns

Pattern	Core job	Example	Meaning
不 + verb/adjective	Habit, description, intention, or future choice	我不忙。	I'm not busy.
没(有) + action	An action did not happen	我昨天没去。	I didn't go yesterday.
没有 + noun	Do not have; there is not	我没有时间。	I don't have time.
还没(有) + action	An expected action has not happened yet	我还没吃饭。	I haven't eaten yet.
别 / 不要 + action	Negative command	别走。 / 不要走。	Don't leave.



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



12.2

Choose 不 or 没有

Use this page to Separate general choices and descriptions from non-occurrence and possession.

CHOOSE

Fill the gap

Choose 不, 没, or 没有. More than one form is accepted only where the answer note says so.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

我___喝咖啡。 I don't drink coffee (habit).

☒ 不☐ 没☐ 没有

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

我昨天___喝咖啡。 I didn't drink coffee yesterday.

☐ 不☐ 没☐ 别

3

我___时间。 I don't have time.

☐ 不☐ 没有☐ 别

4

我明天___忙。 I won't be busy tomorrow.

☐ 不☐ 没☐ 没有

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



12.3

No, Not Yet & Preferences: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ bù hē kāfēi.

我不喝咖啡。

I don't drink coffee.

不 fits a habit or general choice.

Wǒ hái méi chīfàn.

我还没吃饭。

I haven't eaten yet.

还没 says an expected action has not happened up to now.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Use 不 for common habits, descriptions, intentions, and future choices
- ☐ Use 没 or 没有 for non-occurrence and lack of possession
- ☐ Use 还没 to say that an expected action has not happened yet

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Use polite softeners when refusing an offer; do not assume a bare translation is appropriate in every relationship.



13.1

Six items, two request frames

Use this page to Recognize common item words and attach one safe request frame.

 CHOOSE

A tiny practice menu

These are generic words, not a claim about what any venue sells.



shuǐ

水

water

Drink



chá

茶

tea

Drink



kāfēi

咖啡

coffee

Drink



mǐfàn

米饭

cooked rice

Food



miàn

面

noodles

Food



jiǎozi

饺子

dumplings

Food



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



13.2

Quantity plus item

Use this page to Choose a useful measure word and build a complete order.

 BUILD

Build the order

Choose the most natural quantity chunk for the pictured-in-words item.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

One cup of tea

- ☒ 一杯茶 ☐ 一碗茶 ☐ 一份茶

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

One bowl of noodles

- ☐ 一碗面 ☐ 一瓶面 ☐ 一杯面

3

One order of dumplings

- ☐ 一份饺子 ☐ 一杯饺子 ☐ 一瓶饺子

4

Complete: 我想要 _____. (I'd like a bottle of water.)

- ☐ 一瓶水 ☐ 一碗水 ☐ 一份水

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



13.3

Food and Drinks: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ **RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK**

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ xiǎng yào yì bēi chá.

我想要一杯茶。

I'd like a cup of tea.

A complete item-and-quantity request.

Bú yào là, xièxie.

不要辣，谢谢。

Not spicy, please. Thank you.

A simple preference request, not a medical-safety guarantee.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Build a short order with a quantity and item
- ☐ Ask for one simple food or drink adjustment
- ☐ Respond to a basic follow-up question

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Use the final page to build an order that matches something you actually like.



14.1

Choose the garment, not just the word

Use this page to Recognize six useful clothing nouns and connect each one to a shopping decision.

CHOOSE

A compact wardrobe

Hanzi	Pinyin	Meaning	Shopping cue
衣服	yīfu	clothes / clothing	general category
衬衫	chènshān	shirt	upper-body item
外套	wàitào	jacket / coat	outer layer
裤子	kùzi	pants / trousers	long lower-body item
裙子	qúnzi	skirt	lower-body item
鞋	xié	shoes	paired item



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



14.2

Choose the garment, not just the word

Use this page to Recognize six useful clothing nouns and connect each one to a shopping decision.

 CHOOSE

Pick the item

Choose the garment that matches the shopper's need.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

a shirt

☐ 裤子☐ 鞋

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

pants / trousers

☐ 外套☐ 裤子☐ 裙子

3

a jacket or coat

☐ 衬衫☐ 外套☐ 鞋

4

a paired item worn on the feet

☐ 裙子☐ 衣服☐ 鞋

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



14.3

Shop for Clothes: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Yǒu zhōnghào de lán sè wàitào ma?

有中号的蓝色外套吗?

Do you have a medium blue jacket?

Use a size and color to narrow the request; store labels vary.

Wǒ kěyǐ shìchuān ma?

我可以试穿吗?

May I try it on?

A reusable permission question before trying on an item.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Identify and request several common clothing items and colors
- ☐ Choose 件, 条, or 双 for the target garment phrase
- ☐ Ask for a size and say whether an item is too big, too small, or suitable

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Use the final role card to make at least two different choices rather than memorizing one script.



15.1

Ask where

Use this page to Build a polite location question around one destination.

 ASK

Four location questions



Qǐngwèn, dìtiězhàn zài nǎr?

请问，地铁站在哪儿？

Excuse me, where is the metro station?

请问 opens the question politely.



Xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr?

洗手间在哪儿？

Where is the restroom?

Replace the destination; keep 在哪儿.



Gōngjiāochēzhàn zài nǎr?

公交车站在哪儿？

Where is the bus stop?

A place-location question.



Lí zhèr yuǎn ma?

离这儿远吗？

Is it far from here?

A useful follow-up.



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



15.2

Ask where

Use this page to Build a polite location question around one destination.

ASK

Choose the useful question

Select the line that matches the traveler's goal.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Ask where the bus stop is.



公交车站在哪儿？



在哪一站下车？



请送我到这个地址。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Ask whether it is far from here.



离这儿远吗？



一直走吗？



我要换车吗？

3

Politely open a question to a stranger.



请问.....



不用了.....



到了.....

4

Which frame lets you replace only the destination?



[place] 在哪儿？



[place] 多少钱？



[place] 吃什么？

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



15.3

Getting Around: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Qǐngwèn, dìtiězhàn zài nǎr?

请问，地铁站在哪儿？

Excuse me, where is the metro station?

A polite location question.

Yízhí zǒu, ránhòu zuǒzhuǎn.

一直走，然后左转。

Go straight, then turn left.

A two-step direction.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Ask politely where a place is and whether it is far
- ☐ Follow a two- or three-step spoken direction
- ☐ Show and confirm a written destination for a driver

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Before real travel, replace fictional details with a verified written address and current local route information.



16.1

Comfort and boundaries

Use this page to Acknowledge feelings and give one clear safety boundary.

COMFORT

Short, calm language



Nǐ nánguò ma?

你难过吗？

Are you sad?

check in



Wǒ zài zhèlǐ.

我在这里。

I'm here.

reassure



Méi guānxi, wǒmen zài shì yí cì.

没关系，我们再试一次。

It's okay; we'll try one more time.

encourage



Tíng yíxià. Zhèlǐ bù ānquán.

停一下。这里不安全。

Stop for a moment. It isn't safe here.

clear boundary



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



16.2

Choose one home routine

Use this page to Start small enough to repeat tomorrow.

 CHOOSE

Our first routine

1

We will try Mandarin during _____. The adult phrase we already know is _____.

Success looks like Names one bounded routine and at least one usable phrase.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



16.3

Mandarin at Home: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒmen chuān xié ba.

我们穿鞋吧。

Let's put on our shoes.

Getting ready

Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?

你想吃什么？

What would you like to eat?

Meals

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Choose a small home routine for consistent Mandarin use
- ☐ Give simple requests and encouragement in context
- ☐ Respond to a child or family member without turning every exchange into a lesson

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Repeat for a week, then keep only what the family actually uses.



17.1

Know what you are looking at

Use this page to Distinguish four related ideas before using the component families.

COMPARE

Stroke, component, radical, character

Term	Plain-language job	Example
Stroke	One continuous pen movement	𠂇 is written with two strokes
Component	A reusable graphic unit inside a character	𠂇 in 你 and 他
Radical	The indexing component chosen to classify a character in a dictionary	你 is indexed under 𠂇 in common radical systems
Character	A complete written unit linked to a spoken syllable and usually a morpheme	你 nǐ · you
Word	The meaning unit you use in context; it may contain one or more characters	你好 nǐ hǎo · hello



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



17.2

Check the component map

Use this page to Retrieve components and useful words without reading the grids first.

CHECK

Eight closed checks

Answer from memory, then use the detachable key.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Which two characters both contain 讠 ?

- ☒ 说 and 请 ☐ 洗 and 没 ☐ 你 and 他 ☐ 问 and 间

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Which side form of 水 appears in 没?

- ☐ 亠 ☐ 讠 ☐ 扌 ☐ 巾

3

What is inside 门 in 问?

- ☐ 日 ☐ 口 ☐ 玉 ☐ 女

4

Which useful word means 'we; us'?

- ☐ 他们 ☐ 你们 ☐ 我们 ☐ 人们

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



17.3

100 Characters by Component: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

nǐ → nǐ hǎo

你 → 你好

you → hello

亻 is the left-side form of 人, the person component.

qǐng → qǐngwèn

请 → 请问

please → may I ask...

讠 is the Simplified Chinese side form associated with 言, speech.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Explain the difference between a stroke, a component, and an indexing radical
- ☐ Recognize recurring forms such as 亻, 讠, 扌, 讠, and 讠
- ☐ Connect 100 characters to useful words rather than memorizing isolated English labels

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Revisit missed characters in words on a later day instead of repeatedly copying the full list.



18.1

Print, align, cut, and retrieve

Use this page to Prepare a usable deck without losing front-to-back alignment or turning review into rereading.

✓ PREPARE

Before cutting

1

Print at actual size or 100%; disable fit-to-page scaling.

☐

2

Choose duplex printing and flip on the long edge.

☐

3

Test Set 1 only, then hold the sheet to a light to check the borders.

☐

4

The paired back uses the same logical card order; its physical columns are mirrored for long-edge duplex alignment.

☐

5

Cut on the printed guides only after both sides align.

☐



18.2

Cumulative check • Form and sound

Use this page to Retrieve character–pinyin mappings across all six sets.

RETRIEVE

Choose without consulting the cards

Choose the exact character or tone-marked pinyin.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Which character is nǐ?

- ☒ 你 ☐ 他 ☐ 她 ☐ 人

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Which pinyin belongs to 姓?

- ☐ xīng ☐ xìng ☐ shēng ☐ shì

3

Which character is the neutral-tone yes-no question particle ma?

- ☐ 吗 ☐ 呢 ☐ 哪 ☐ 的

4

Which pinyin belongs to 昨?

- ☐ zǎo ☐ zuó ☐ zǒu ☐ zhǎo

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



18.3

Character Practice Cards: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

nǐ → nǐ hǎo

你 → 你好

you → hello

Front: retrieve nǐ. Back: connect 你 + 好 to the useful word 你好.

shí → shíjiān

时 → 时间

time; hour → time

The card keeps character-level sound and word-level meaning together.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Retrieve a character's spoken syllable from its written form before flipping the card
- ☐ Connect a character to a useful word rather than relying on an isolated English label
- ☐ Notice recurring components without treating them as guaranteed definitions or pronunciations

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Occasionally start from the back and write or point to the character from memory; do not use these cards as stroke-order models.



19.1

Shared core word bank

Use this page to Preview the small set of language that will recur across all five stories.

PREVIEW

Words the stories reuse

Do not memorize this table first. Use it to preview, then return only when a line blocks meaning.

Group	Hanzi	Pinyin	English
People	我、他、她、它、朋友	wǒ, tā, tā, tā, péngyou	I; he; she; it; friend
Places	家、咖啡店、饭馆、图书馆	jiā, kāfēidiàn, fànguǎn, túshūguǎn	home; café; restaurant; library
Time	今天、早上、中午、下午、现在	jīntiān, zǎoshang, zhōngwǔ, xiàwǔ, xiànzài	today; morning; noon; afternoon; now
Movement	来、去、回家	lái, qù, huí jiā	come; go; go home
Location	在、有、没有、住、这里	zài, yǒu, méiyǒu, zhù, zhèlǐ	be at; have/there is; not have; live/stay; here



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



19.2

Comprehension: Stories 1–3

Use this page to Retrieve the main event and one detail without rereading first.

 **RECALL**

Answer from memory

Complete all six, then check the detachable scripts.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

Story 1: 安娜在哪儿? (Where is Anna?)

- ☒ 在家。 ☐ 在图书馆。 ☐ 在饭馆。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

Story 1: Why does Anna wait?

- ☐ The coffee is too hot ☐ There is no coffee ☐ She is not at home

3

Story 2: 门口有什么? (What is at the door?)

- ☐ 一只小猫 ☐ 一杯咖啡 ☐ 一本书

**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



19.3

Five Mini-Stories: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Tā yǒu chá, yě yǒu kāfēi.

她有茶，也有咖啡。

She has tea and coffee.

Story 1 repeats 有 and everyday drink words.

Ménkǒu yǒu yì zhī xiǎomāo.

门口有一只小猫。

There is a kitten at the door.

Story 2 highlights three useful focus words; a few other short words are supported by pinyin and English.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Read five short connected texts built from recurring beginner language
- ☐ Retrieve who, where, what, and why details after reading
- ☐ Run a partner dictation or solo read-cover-write recall without website audio

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Revisit the story later and retell it with one person, place, item, or time changed.

UNIT 3 • DEVELOPING BEGINNER

Make your Mandarin more accurate

Strengthen connected speech, classifiers, aspect, sentence expansion, and visual character discrimination.



INSIDE THIS UNIT

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Tone Changes | 2 Tone-Pair Lab |
| 3 Measure Words | 4 Two Uses of 了 |
| 5 Sentence Expansion Ladders | 6 Look-Alike Characters |



20.1

Two layers, one phrase

Use this page to Separate the stable dictionary label from a pronunciation cue for connected speech.

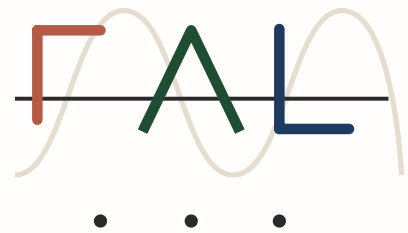
SEPARATE

Do not erase the dictionary tone

Dictionary pinyin tells you the lexical tone to remember and look up. A surface cue describes a common realization in a particular context. In this workbook, “rising-like” and “low” are listening and rehearsal cues, not new dictionary spellings.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



20.2

Two third tones

Use this page to Predict the rising-like first syllable in clear 3 + 3 pairs.

 PREDICT

Choose the surface cue

Use only the short two-syllable rule shown above.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

你好 (dictionary nǐ hǎo)

- ☒ First syllable rising-like ☐ First syllable low only ☐ No contextual change

Why it works: A clear 3 + 3 pair triggers third-tone sandhi on the first syllable.

2

很好 (dictionary hěn hǎo)

- ☐ First syllable rising-like ☐ Second syllable becomes Tone 4
☐ Both become Tone 2

3

水果 (dictionary shuǐguǒ)

- ☐ Roughly 2 + 3 on the surface ☐ Roughly 3 + 4 on the surface
☐ Roughly 4 + 3 on the surface

4

Which layer still labels 你 in 你好 as Tone 3?

- ☐ Dictionary layer ☐ Surface cue only ☐ English translation

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



20.3

Tone Changes: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

nǐ hǎo

你好

hello

Dictionary: 3 + 3. Common surface cue: the first syllable rises, roughly 2 + 3.

bù shì

不是

is not

Dictionary: 4 + 4. Common surface cue: bú shì, roughly 2 + 4.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Keep a word's dictionary tone separate from a context-driven surface pronunciation
- ☐ Predict the common change in a two-syllable third-tone sequence
- ☐ Predict the beginner-level tone changes for 不 and 一

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

On another day, complete the mixed page before reopening the rule pages.



21.1

Meet the five contour jobs

Use this page to Recall the four lexical tones and recognize the neutral syllable as short and light.

 TRACE

Read the movement, not a frozen height

Label	Movement cue	Voice-and-hand cue
Tone 1	high and level	Hold one steady line
Tone 2	rising	Lift from comfortable to higher
Tone 3	low; fuller dip when isolated	Settle low before lifting only when space allows
Tone 4	sharp fall	Drop cleanly and stop
Neutral	short and light	Release quickly after the stressed syllable



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



21.2

See all sixteen pairs at once

Use this page to Use the row for the first syllable and the column for the second syllable.

 LABEL

Point, then label

Name the pair from the printed pinyin before checking the options.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

jīntiān

jīntiān

- ☒ 1-1
 ☐ 1-2
 ☐ 2-1

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

wénhuà

wénhuà

- ☐ 2-4
 ☐ 4-2
 ☐ 2-3

3

diànyǐng

diànyǐng

- ☐ 4-3
 ☐ 3-4
 ☐ 4-4

4

lǔxíng

lǔxíng

- ☐ 3-2
 ☐ 2-3
 ☐ 3-1

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



21.3

Tone-Pair Lab: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ **RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK**

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

jīntiān

今天

today

A 1-1 pair with two high, level lexical tones.

wénhuà

文化

culture

A 2-4 pair that rises and then falls.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Label all sixteen two-syllable dictionary-tone combinations
- ☐ Keep dictionary tones separate from connected-speech observations
- ☐ Identify which position in a pair needs focused rehearsal

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Record the word inside a sentence, change one detail, and repeat the missed pairs on another day.



22.1

Build one complete counting chunk

Use this page to Use quantity or demonstrative plus classifier plus noun as a single spoken unit.

BUILD

Worked example: two cups of tea

Read the three pieces, then say the complete phrase without pausing.



liǎng

两

two

The quantity.



bēi

杯

cup classifier

The container or classifier.



chá

茶

tea

The noun.



liǎng bēi chá

两杯茶

two cups of tea

Say all three parts as one useful chunk.



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



22.2

Choose 两 or 二 without guessing

Use this page to Use 两 before an ordinary classifier quantity and preserve common number uses of 二.

🔊 CHOOSE

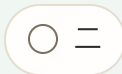
Pick the form that fits the job

Choose 两 only for the ordinary quantity directly before a classifier.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

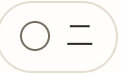
___ 杯茶 (two cups of tea)



Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

___ 十 (twenty)



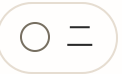
3

第 ___ (second)



4

___ 本书 (two books)



Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



22.3

Measure Words: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ **RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK**

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

liǎng bēi chá

两杯茶

two cups of tea

Quantity plus container plus drink.

zhè wèi lǎoshī

这位老师

this teacher

位 is a polite classifier for people.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Build complete quantity phrases instead of naming classifiers alone
- ☐ Choose a likely classifier for twelve common noun families
- ☐ Use 两 before classifiers in ordinary quantities and 二 in bounded number uses

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

On another day, do the cold check and make two phrases about objects you can actually see.



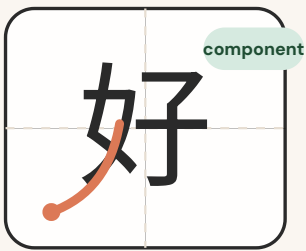
23.1

Two jobs, one character

Use this page to Use meaning and position to form a first working distinction.

 DISTINGUISH

The beginner map



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Job	Plain-language question	Common position	Clear example
A · bounded event	Is the speaker viewing a specific event as a whole?	After the verb, often before an object	我买了两本书。
B · new situation	Is the speaker saying the situation is now different?	At the end of the sentence	天冷了。



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



23.2

Job A: view a bounded event as a whole

Use this page to Recognize clear verb-suffix 了 examples with an overt object or boundary.

 FIND

Find Job A

Choose the sentence that clearly reports a bounded event.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

A counted purchase



我买了两本书。



天冷了。



我饿了。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

A specific drink event



她喝了一杯茶。



下雨了。



他二十岁了。

3

In 我们看了那部电影, where is 了?



After the verb 看



Before the subject 我们



After the entire sentence only

4

What explicitly places 他昨天去了北京 in past time?



昨天



了 alone



北京

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



23.3

Two Uses of 了: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ **RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK**

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ mǎi le liǎng běn shū.

我买了两本书。

I bought two books.

Verb-suffix 了 presents the bounded buying event as a whole.

Tiān lěng le.

天冷了。

It has gotten cold now.

Sentence-final 了 highlights a change from the earlier situation.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Distinguish the two target jobs of 了 in clear beginner sentences
- ☐ Use verb-suffix 了 to present a bounded event as a whole
- ☐ Use sentence-final 了 to signal a new or changed situation

Today

Complete the module

☐

Tomorrow

Retrieve one line

☐

In 3 days

Change one detail

☐

Next week

Use it in context

☐

Make it yours

Return the next day and do the final cold-recall page without rereading.



24.1

The sentence-block map

Use this page to See which details normally sit before and after the action.

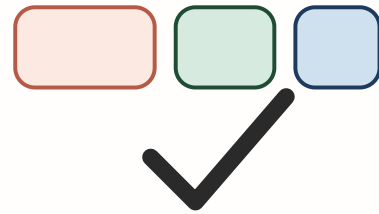
BUILD

A reliable starting line

SUBJECT + TIME + PLACE + MANNER
+ ACTION + QUANTITY/OBJECT. You
will not fill every slot in every
sentence. Treat each block as a
movable meaning unit, not as a
word-by-word English translation.

Put it in your own words.

Cover this card and explain the idea in one sentence.



A visual anchor for this page's idea



24.2

Add time before the action

Use this page to Place today, tomorrow, weekdays, and clock time naturally.

MOVE

Put the time in a natural place

Rewrite each set as one sentence.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

I drink coffee in the morning.

wǒ / zǎoshang / hē kāfēi

我 / 早上 / 喝咖啡

One answer wǒ / zǎoshang / hē kāfēi

我早上喝咖啡。

Why it works: 早上 may also begin the sentence.

2

We will eat together tomorrow evening.

wǒmen / míngtiān wǎnshang / yìqǐ chīfàn

我们 / 明天晚上 / 一起吃饭

**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



24.3

Sentence Expansion Ladders: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ hē chá.

我喝茶。

I drink tea.

Core

Wǒ zǎoshang zài jiā hē chá.

我早上在家喝茶。

I drink tea at home in the morning.

Time + place

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Add time and place before the main action
- ☐ Keep number-measure word-noun groups together
- ☐ Expand a familiar sentence without translating English word for word

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Finish by building one ladder about your own day.



25.1

The four-step contrast method

Use this page to Look precisely before you name or write the character.

✓ NOTICE

Notice -> name -> anchor -> retrieve

1

Notice: circle the exact stroke or component that differs.

☐

2

Name: say the character and tone-marked pinyin.

☐

3

Anchor: read one useful word containing it.

☐

4

Retrieve: cover the model and choose it in a new sentence.

☐



25.2

Choose by context

Use this page to Retrieve the right form inside a useful word or sentence.

🔍 CHOOSE

Circle the character

Choose the character that completes the meaning.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

周___ (weekend)

☐ 未☒ 末

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

___□ (entrance)

☐ 人☐ 入

3

___奶 (milk)

☐ 牛☐ 午**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



25.3

Look-Alike Characters: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

rén / rù

人 / 入

person / enter

Opening direction

wèi / mò

未 / 末

not yet / end

Upper stroke length

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Name the exact stroke or component that distinguishes a pair
- ☐ Connect each character to a word rather than a shape alone
- ☐ Create a retrieval cue for a personally confusing set

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Add only the pairs you actually confuse to the final review cards.

UNIT 4 • CONFIDENT BEGINNER

Keep conversations moving

Repair misunderstandings, sound more natural, clarify high-value grammar, and rehearse a complete travel route.



INSIDE THIS UNIT

- 1 Conversation Rescue
- 3 The Three de Words
- 5 7-Day Travel Refresher

- 2 Conversation Particles
- 4 Mandarin Repair Clinic



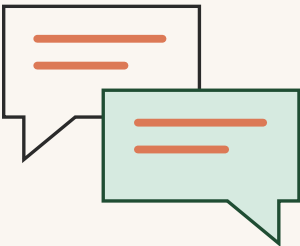
26.1

Use three moves when the conversation breaks

Use this page to Signal the problem, request one kind of help, and confirm the detail you need.

 REPAIR

The three-move rescue loop



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Move	Job	Model
1. Signal	Show what went wrong	不好意思，我没听懂。
2. Ask	Request one useful kind of help	可以说一遍吗？
3. Confirm	Repeat the key detail you think you heard	你是说九点半，对吗？



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



26.2

Watch a missed time become a clear plan

Use this page to Follow a worked sequence from confusion to confirmation.

 CONFIRM

Change the high-value detail

1

Rewrite the learner's confirmation for 8:15 or 10:45, then rehearse the entire rescue with the model covered.

Success looks like Accept a coherent confirmation that repeats the selected time and asks 对吗.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



26.3

Conversation Rescue: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Kěyǐ zài shuō yí biàn ma?

可以再说一遍吗?

Could you say that again?

Use when you need one clean repeat.

Kěyǐ shuō de jiǎndān yìdiǎn ma?

可以说得简单一点吗?

Could you say it a little more simply?

Use when the wording, not the volume, is the problem.

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Ask for repetition, slower speech, or shorter chunks
- ☐ Distinguish a sound problem from a meaning problem
- ☐ Switch from speech to typed, written, or pointed information when helpful

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Choose a four-phrase pocket kit, rehearse it in two new scenarios, and cold-check it tomorrow.



27.1

Four endings, four conversation jobs

Use this page to Choose an ending by what you want from the listener.

NOTICE

Intent map

Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Ending	Beginner job	Core frame
吗 ma	Ask a neutral yes-no question	你...吗?
呢 ne	Return or continue a topic	你呢? / ...呢?
吧 ba	Leave a proposal, direction, inference, or acceptance open	...吧。 / ...吧?
啊 a	Add a warm or emphatic reaction	好啊! / 是啊。

Find, cover, recall
Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



27.2

吗 ma: ask yes or no

Use this page to Turn a statement into a neutral yes-no question without changing its order.

 **ASK**

Make the question

Add 吗 in the correct place and punctuation.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

你会说中文

One answer nǐ huì shuō zhōng wén ma

你会说中文吗?

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

这里可以坐



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



27.3

Conversation Particles: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Nǐ hē chá ma?

你喝茶吗?

Do you drink tea?

Neutral question

Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?

我很好，你呢?

I'm well. How about you?

Return topic

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Use 吗 for a neutral yes-no question
- ☐ Use 呢 to return a topic or ask about something already in focus
- ☐ Distinguish four common jobs for 吧 from context

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Practice only the four bounded uses in this pack before collecting more particles.



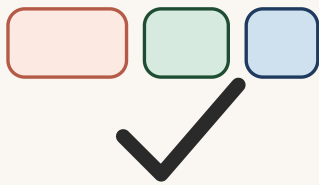
28.1

Find the anchor word

Use this page to Decide whether de points toward a noun, an action, or a complement.

FIND

Position map



Use the visual cue, then find the matching row.

Character	Core frame	Question to ask
的 de	description + 的 + NOUN	Which person or thing?
地 de	manner + 地 + ACTION	How is the action done?
得 de	ACTION + 得 + degree/result	How well, fast, clear, or much?



Find, cover, recall

Find one useful row. Cover it and reconstruct the target form before checking.



28.2

Find the anchor word

Use this page to Decide whether de points toward a noun, an action, or a complement.

 FIND

Name the job first

Choose noun, action, or degree/result.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

我的朋友 – what follows de?

☒ noun☐ action☐ degree/result

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

跑得很快 – what follows de?

☐ noun☐ action☐ degree/result**One more from you**

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



28.3

The Three de Words: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

wǒ xǐhuan de shū

我喜欢的书

the book I like

的 + noun

mànmàn de shuō

慢慢地说

speak slowly

地 + action

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Use 的 before a noun phrase
- ☐ Recognize 地 between a manner description and an action
- ☐ Use 得 after a verb or adjective to add degree or result information

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Check the whole phrase, not only the two words beside the blank.



29.1

Repair 1: adjective predicates

Use this page to Stop inserting 是 before every English 'be'.

REPAIR

A descriptive adjective can be the predicate



Wǒ hěn máng.

我很忙。

I am busy.

neutral description



Jīntiān hěn lěng.

今天很冷。

It is cold today.

weather



Zhège cài bú là.

这个菜不辣。

This dish is not spicy.

negative



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



29.2

Repair 1: adjective predicates

Use this page to Stop inserting 是 before every English 'be'.

🔧 REPAIR

Remove the English frame

Repair the intended neutral description.

1

WORKED EXAMPLE

我是很累。(I am tired.)

One answer Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

Why it works: It completes the requested job using the target pattern.

2

天气是很热。(The weather is hot.)



One more from you

Make a new response with the same target pattern.

Finish from memory. Choose one completed response, cover the page, and make it again.



29.3

Mandarin Repair Clinic: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

I am tired.

No 是 before adjective

Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén.

我家有四口人。

There are four people in my family.

Use 有

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Spot an English frame before translating it
- ☐ Repair a sentence by moving or replacing one block
- ☐ Name the Mandarin pattern you will retrieve next time

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Add one recurring mistake to the personal repair log.



30.1

Day 4: Price and payment

Use this page to Ask a price and ask which payment methods this business accepts.

 ASK

Ask instead of assume



Zhège duōshao qián?

这个多少钱?

How much is this?

price



Yígòng duōshao qián?

一共多少钱?

How much altogether?

total



Kěyǐ shuākǎ ma?

可以刷卡吗?

Can I pay by card?

ask acceptance



Kěyǐ fù xiànjīn ma?

可以付现金吗?

Can I pay cash?

ask acceptance



Cover + retrieve

Choose one line. Hide it, say it once, then uncover and repair one detail.



30.2

Day 1: Arrival and a ride

Use this page to Show a written destination and confirm where you are going.

 CONFIRM

My destination card

1

Write the venue name, full Chinese address, and a contact number from your confirmed booking. Do not translate or guess the address.

Success looks like A completed card copies verified booking details exactly; the fictional model demonstrates format only and is not destination data.

Choose your mode Write in Hanzi · write in tone-marked pinyin · say and record it



30.3

7-Day Travel Refresher: after-class replay

Use this page to retrieve one useful line, check your can-do, and schedule the next replay.

✓ RETRIEVE BEFORE YOU LOOK BACK

1. Say or write from memory

Cover the module and rebuild one useful line. Then uncover and repair only what changed.

Qǐng dài wǒ qù zhège dìzhǐ.

请带我去这个地址。

Please take me to this address.

Ride

Wǒ yùdìng le yí ge fángjiān.

我预订了一个房间。

I reserved a room.

Hotel

2. Check what you can do

- ☐ Retrieve a short phrase under light time pressure
- ☐ Confirm a destination, price, time, or choice
- ☐ Repair a missed word instead of abandoning the exchange

Today

Complete the module



Tomorrow

Retrieve one line



In 3 days

Change one detail



Next week

Use it in context



Make it yours

Keep written addresses, tickets, and current official travel information separate from this language practice pack.

REFERENCE • ANSWERS • SOURCES

Keep what you learned close

Use the reference library for a quick restart. Use the answer guide to diagnose a repair. Return to a source when you want the fuller explanation behind a teaching choice.



Reference library

Consolidated answers

Research sources



101

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

1

30-Day Mandarin Plan

Nǐ hǎo!

你好!

Hello!

A useful first greeting, not a claim that the whole conversation is learned.

2

Mandarin Sound Map

mā / má / mǎ / mà / ma

妈 / 麻 / 马 / 骂 / 吗

mother / hemp / horse / scold / question particle

The same syllable shape carries five different tone patterns.

3

First 14 Days

Wǒ jiào Ānnà. Nǐ ne?

我叫安娜。你呢?

My name is Anna. And you?

A first introduction plus a topic-return question.

4

Meet People in Mandarin

Wǒ jiào Ānnà. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?

我叫安娜。你叫什么名字?

My name is Anna. What's your name?

Give one detail, then invite the other person in.

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



102

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

5

Polite Phrases

Xièxie! — Bú kèqì.

谢谢！ — 不客气。

Thank you! — You're welcome.

A dependable thank-you pair.

6

Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time

Liǎng bēi chá, sānshí kuài.

两杯茶，三十块。

Two cups of tea, thirty kuai.

两 commonly comes before a classifier such as 杯.

7

Time Words & Plans

Wǒ míngtiān shàngwǔ xuéxí.

我明天上午学习。

I'm studying tomorrow morning.

The larger day word comes before the smaller part of day, and the complete time phrase comes before the predicate.

8

Build Pinyin Syllables

d + iou + 1 → diū

丢

lose

After an initial, iou contracts to iu; in iu, the tone mark goes on the second written vowel.

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



103

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

9

Type Chinese Messages

Nǐ hǎo!

你好!

Hello!

Type nihao, then select 你好. Tone marks are not normally entered in the IME code.

10

Sentence Builder

Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā xué Zhōngwén.

我今天在家学中文。

I am studying Chinese at home today.

Who + when + where + action + thing.

11

Question Builder

Nǐ hē chá ma?

你喝茶吗?

Do you drink tea?

Statement order stays in place; 吗 is added at the end.

12

No, Not Yet & Preferences

Wǒ bù hē kāfēi.

我不喝咖啡。

I don't drink coffee.

不 fits a habit or general choice.

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



104

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

13

Food and Drinks

Wǒ xiǎng yào yì bēi chá.

我想要一杯茶。

I'd like a cup of tea.

A complete item-and-quantity request.

14

Shop for Clothes

Yǒu zhōnghào de lán sè wàitào ma?

有中号的蓝色外套吗？

Do you have a medium blue jacket?

Use a size and color to narrow the request; store labels vary.

15

Getting Around

Qǐngwèn, dìtiězhàn zài nǎr?

请问，地铁站在哪儿？

Excuse me, where is the metro station?

A polite location question.

16

Mandarin at Home

Wǒmen chuān xié ba.

我们穿鞋吧。

Let's put on our shoes.

Getting ready

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



105

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

17

100 Characters by Component

nǐ → nǐ hǎo

你 → 你好

you → hello

亻 is the left-side form of 人, the person component.

18

Character Practice Cards

nǐ → nǐ hǎo

你 → 你好

you → hello

Front: retrieve nǐ. Back: connect 亻 + 尔 to the useful word 你好.

19

Five Mini-Stories

Tā yǒu chá, yě yǒu kāfēi.

她有茶，也有咖啡。

She has tea and coffee.

Story 1 repeats 有 and everyday drink words.

20

Tone Changes

nǐ hǎo

你好

hello

Dictionary: 3 + 3. Common surface cue: the first syllable rises, roughly 2 + 3.

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



106

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

21

Tone-Pair Lab

jīntiān

今天

today

A 1-1 pair with two high, level lexical tones.

22

Measure Words

liǎng bēi chá

两杯茶

two cups of tea

Quantity plus container plus drink.

23

Two Uses of 了

Wǒ mǎi le liǎng běn shū.

我买了两本书。

I bought two books.

Verb-suffix 了 presents the bounded buying event as a whole.

24

Sentence Expansion Ladders

Wǒ hē chá.

我喝茶。

I drink tea.

Core

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



107

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

25

Look-Alike Characters

rén / rù

人 / 入

person / enter

Opening direction

26

Conversation Rescue

Kěyǐ zài shuō yí biàn ma?

再说一遍吗？

Could you say that again?

Use when you need one clean repeat.

27

Conversation Particles

Nǐ hē chá ma?

你喝茶吗？

Do you drink tea?

Neutral question

28

The Three de Words

wǒ xǐhuan de shū

我喜欢的书

the book I like

的 + noun

Reference is a launch point,
not a script.

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse
the line.



108

Quick-reference lines

Use this page to restart a useful pattern and change one detail before using it.

ONE ANCHOR FROM EACH MODULE

29

Mandarin Repair Clinic

Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

I am tired.

No 是 before adjective

30

7-Day Travel Refresher

Qǐng dài wǒ qù zhège dìzhǐ.

请带我去这个地址。

Please take me to this address.

Ride

**Reference is a launch point,
not a script.**

Change a person, time, place, object, or preference before you reuse the line.



A1

30-Day Mandarin Plan: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

A learner wants to introduce herself and ask where another person is from.

Conversation

Why: The desired action is a social exchange.

2

A learner wants to read a destination name and show it to a driver.

Travel

Why: Reading a destination supports a travel mission.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A2

Mandarin Sound Map: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

mā

1

2

má

2

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A3

First 14 Days: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Write 我叫____。你呢? with your real name or a practice name. Cover the model and say both parts.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Wǒ jiào Dàwèi. Nǐ ne?

我叫大卫。你呢?

Why: Use a real or practice name.

Success criteria: Accept 我叫 plus a name and the topic-return question 你呢.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A4

Meet People in Mandarin: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Answer: 我叫美玲。

Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

你叫什么名字?

2

Answer: 我是新加坡人。

Nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?

你是哪里人?

3

Answer: 我来自上海。

nǐ cóng nǎ lǐ lái

你从哪里来?

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A5

Polite Phrases: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Someone says 谢谢 after you help.

Bú kèqì.

不客气。

Why: A standard response to thanks.

2

Someone bumps you lightly and says 对不起.

Méi guānxi.

没关系。

Why: Reassure the person after a minor apology.

3

You need to ask a stranger where the restroom is.

Qǐngwèn, xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr?

请问，洗手间在哪儿？

Why: 请问 politely opens the information request.

4

You did not understand a sentence.

Bù hǎoyìsi, qǐng zài shuō yí biàn.

不好意思，请再说一遍。

Why: Name the small problem and request one repeat.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A6

Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

16

shíliù

十六

2

20

èr shí

二十

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A7

Time Words & Plans: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

后天

the day after tomorrow

2

上个星期

last week

3

Which order moves from yesterday to tomorrow?

zuó tiān · jīn tiān · míng tiān

昨天 → 今天 → 明天

4

this week

zhè ge xīng qī

这个星期

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A8

Build Pinyin Syllables: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Xī + ān

Xī'ān

2

nǚ + ér

nǚ'ér

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A9

Type Chinese Messages: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

你好 · nǐ hǎo

nihao

2

绿 · lǜ

lv

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A10

Sentence Builder: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

茶 / 我 / 喝

wǒ hē chá

我喝茶。

2

电影 / 她 / 看

Tā kàn diànyǐng.

她看电影。

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A11

Question Builder: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Statement: 你忙。(You are busy.)

nǐ máng ma

你忙吗?

2

Statement: 他喝咖啡。

tā hē kā fēi ma

他喝咖啡吗?

3

Short affirmative answer to 你有时间吗?

yǒu

有。

4

Short negative answer to 你是老师吗?

bú shì

不是。

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A12

No, Not Yet & Preferences: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

我___喝咖啡。 I don't drink coffee (habit).

bù

不

2

我昨天___喝咖啡。 I didn't drink coffee yesterday.

méi

没

Why: 没有 is also grammatical before the action verb, but the listed option is 没.

3

我___时间。 I don't have time.

méi yǒu

没有

4

我明天___忙。 I won't be busy tomorrow.

bù

不

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A13

Food and Drinks: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

One cup of tea

yì bēi chá

一杯茶

2

One bowl of noodles

yì wǎn miàn

一碗面

3

One order of dumplings

yí fèn jiǎo zǐ

一份饺子

4

Complete: 我想要 _____. (I'd like a bottle of water.)

yì píng shuǐ

一瓶水

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A14

Shop for Clothes: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

a shirt

chèn shān

衬衫

2

pants / trousers

kù zǐ

裤子

3

a jacket or coat

wài tàò

外套

4

a paired item worn on the feet

xié

鞋

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A15

Getting Around: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Ask where the bus stop is.

Gōngjiāochēzhàn zài nǎr?

公交车站在哪儿?

2

Ask whether it is far from here.

Lí zhèr yuǎn ma?

离这儿远吗?

3

Politely open a question to a stranger.

qǐng wèn

请问……

4

Which frame lets you replace only the destination?

zài nǎ ér

[place] 在哪儿?

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A16

Mandarin at Home: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

We will try Mandarin during _____. The adult phrase we already know is _____.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Nǐ xiǎng hē shuǐ háishi niúǎi?

We will try Mandarin during breakfast. The adult phrase we already know is 你想喝水还是牛奶?

Success criteria: Names one bounded routine and at least one usable phrase.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A17

100 Characters by Component: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Which two characters both contain 讠?

shuō · qǐng

说 and 请

2

Which side form of 水 appears in 没?

shuǐ

氵

3

What is inside 门 in 问?

kǒu

口

4

Which useful word means 'we; us'?

wǒmen

我们

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A18

Character Practice Cards: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Which character is nǐ?

nǐ

你

2

Which pinyin belongs to 姓?

xìng

3

Which character is the neutral-tone yes-no question particle ma?

ma

吗

4

Which pinyin belongs to 昨?

zuó

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A19

Five Mini-Stories: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Story 1: 安娜在哪儿? (Where is Anna?)

zài jiā

在家。

2

Story 1: Why does Anna wait?

The coffee is too hot

3

Story 2: 门口有什么? (What is at the door?)

yì zhī xiǎo māo

一只小猫

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A20

Tone Changes: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

你好 (dictionary nǐ hǎo)

First syllable rising-like

Why: A clear 3 + 3 pair triggers third-tone sandhi on the first syllable.

2

很好 (dictionary hěn hǎo)

First syllable rising-like

3

水果 (dictionary shuǐguǒ)

Roughly 2 + 3 on the surface

Why: The first syllable remains lexical Tone 3 despite the rising-like realization.

4

Which layer still labels 你 in 你好 as Tone 3?

Dictionary layer

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A21

Tone-Pair Lab: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

jīntiān

1-1

2

wénhuà

2-4

3

diànyǐng

4-3

4

lǚxíng

3-2

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A22

Measure Words: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

___ 杯茶 (two cups of tea)

liǎng

两

2

___ 十 (twenty)

èr

二

3

第 ___ (second)

èr

二

4

___ 本书 (two books)

liǎng

两

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A23

Two Uses of 了: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

A counted purchase

Wǒ mǎi le liǎng běn shū.

我买了两本书。

2

A specific drink event

Tā hē le yì bēi chá.

她喝了一杯茶。

3

In 我们看了那部电影, where is 了?

kàn

After the verb 看

4

What explicitly places 他昨天去了北京 in past time?

zuó tiān

昨天

Why: 了 contributes aspectual viewpoint; 昨天 supplies past-time location.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A24

Sentence Expansion Ladders: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

I drink coffee in the morning.

wǒ / zǎoshang / hē kāfēi

我早上喝咖啡。

Why: 早上 may also begin the sentence.

2

We will eat together tomorrow evening.

wǒmen / míngtiān wǎnshang / yìqǐ chīfàn

我们明天晚上一起吃饭。

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A25

Look-Alike Characters: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

周___ (weekend)

mò

末

2

___□ (entrance)

rù

入

3

___奶 (milk)

niú

牛

Why: The full word is 牛奶; the contrast cue is 牛 versus 午 in the first character.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A26

Conversation Rescue: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Rewrite the learner's confirmation for 8:15 or 10:45, then rehearse the entire rescue with the model covered.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Nǐ shì shuō bā diǎn yí kè, duì ma?

你是说八点一刻，对吗？

Why: A coherent confirmation with the chosen time is valid.

Success criteria: Accept a coherent confirmation that repeats the selected time and asks 对吗.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A27

Conversation Particles: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

你会说中文

nǐ huì shuō zhōng wén ma

你会说中文吗？

2

这里可以坐

zhè lǐ kě yǐ zuò ma

这里可以坐吗？

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A28

The Three de Words: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

我的朋友 – what follows de?

noun

2

跑得很快 – what follows de?

degree/result

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A29

Mandarin Repair Clinic: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

我是很累。(I am tired.)

Wǒ hěn lèi.

我很累。

2

天气是很热。(The weather is hot.)

tiān qì hěn rè

天气很热。

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



A30

7-Day Travel Refresher: answers

Use this page to compare your response, understand one repair, and replay the item from memory.

✓ ANSWER GUIDE

Answers with useful feedback

Closed tasks have a direct answer. Open tasks show one valid model and success criteria, not a sentence you must copy.

1

Write the venue name, full Chinese address, and a contact number from your confirmed booking. Do not translate or guess the address.

ONE POSSIBLE ANSWER

Fictional layout: Shìlì Jiǔdiàn / Běijīng Shì Shìlì Qū Shìlì Lù XX hào / 010-XXXX-XXXX.

Fictional layout—do not travel to it: 示例酒店 / 北京市示例区示例路XX号 / 010-XXXX-XXXX. Replace every field by copying your confirmed booking exactly.

Success criteria: A completed card copies verified booking details exactly; the fictional model demonstrates format only and is not destination data.

Repair, then retrieve. Cover the answer and make the response again before you move on.



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

A framework for subjective motion production: A construal approach with Mandarin evidence

[pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

The explicit distinction between postverbal perfective -le and sentence-final le, and the caution that perfective is not simply past tense.

Used in: Two Uses of 了

Acquiring the Structure of a Writing System Is Important in Learning to Read

[cambridge.org](https://www.cambridge.org)

Pairing character-level form and pronunciation practice with word-level meaning instead of teaching isolated character glosses alone.

Used in: 100 Characters by Component · Look-Alike Characters

Acquiring the Structure of a Writing System Is Important in Learning to Read

doi.org

Keeping character-level form-to-sound mappings together with useful word-level meaning rather than teaching isolated English glosses alone.

Used in: Character Practice Cards

ACTFL - Facilitate Target Language Use

actfl.org

Visual and verbal support, comprehension checks, familiar question building, and changed-context practice.

Used in: First 14 Days · Conversation Rescue



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Are Mandarin Sandhi Tone 3 and Tone 2 the Same or Different?

aclanthology.org

The beginner rules and examples for — before Tone 4 versus Tones 1, 2, and 3.

Used in: Tone Changes

British Council TeachingEnglish - Checking Comprehension

teachingenglish.org.uk

Practice in asking for clarification, verbally checking understanding, and clearing up misunderstanding.

Used in: Conversation Rescue

China International Travel Information

travel.state.gov

The boundary separating language practice from current travel, transport, payment, and safety guidance.

Used in: 7-Day Travel Refresher

Conversational Chinese 1

confuciusinstitute.manchester.ac.uk

No-prerequisite sequencing of greetings, self-introduction, age, family, job, and practical exchanges.

Used in: Meet People in Mandarin · Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Council of Europe - CEFR Companion Volume 2020

rm.coe.int

Communication strategies that seek confirmation, clarification, simpler language, repetition, and other channels during interaction.

Used in: Conversation Rescue

Does practice with dictation improve language skills?

[sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

The listen-write-compare structure that links a speech stream with its written representation.

Used in: Five Mini-Stories

Elementary Chinese I

open.umn.edu

Cross-checking first-contact, nationality, family/occupation, interests, and dialogue scope for beginner learners.

Used in: Meet People in Mandarin · No, Not Yet & Preferences

Elementary Chinese I

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Michigan State University examples and explanations for last-this-next week and month phrases, scheduled plans, and reference point + 以后 order.

Used in: Time Words & Plans



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Elementary Chinese I - Calling a Friend

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

The contrast between 见 plus a person and 跟 or 和 plus a person plus the verb-object phrase 见面.

Used in: Mandarin Repair Clinic

Elementary Chinese I — Basic Expressions Used in Class

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Beginner forms for thanks, apology, reassurance, and asking for repetition.

Used in: Polite Phrases

Elementary Chinese I — Introduction

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

First-semester simplified-Chinese scope and integrated reading, listening, and dialogue practice; all five stories are independently authored.

Used in: Five Mini-Stories

Elementary Chinese I — Meeting People for the First Time

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

The beginner use of 请 and 请问 to make requests and questions more polite.

Used in: Polite Phrases · Question Builder



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Elementary Chinese I — What would you like to drink?

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Beginner 要 ordering frames, drink vocabulary, 杯 and 瓶 quantities, and follow-up dialogue structure.

Used in: Food and Drinks · Mandarin Repair Clinic

Elementary Chinese II — Welcome to Beijing

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Beginner-facing verb-suffix 了 scope and bounded-event examples; workbook examples were independently authored.

Used in: Two Uses of 了

Elementary Chinese II: Lesson 10 Dialogue 1 — 在商店买衣服

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Michigan State University coverage of clothes-shopping vocabulary, size and fit language, colors, and the classifiers 件, 条, and 双.

Used in: Shop for Clothes · Measure Words

Elementary Mandarin

open.umn.edu

Cross-checking novice-level real-life task scope and the balance of speaking, reading, listening, and writing.

Used in: Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time · Food and Drinks



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Family language policy and vocabulary of bilingual children across different ages

[sciencedirect.com](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

The flexible family-language-policy framing and caution against presenting one universal home strategy.

Used in: Mandarin at Home

Family language policy retention across generations

[pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov)

Family interaction and home-language use as context, not a one-size-fits-all prescription.

Used in: Mandarin at Home

GB/T 16159-2012 汉语拼音正词法基本规则

openstd.samr.gov.cn

Current national-standard status and the orthographic framing for tone marks and syllable boundaries.

Used in: Build Pinyin Syllables

Getting started with Chinese 2: I am going to London tomorrow

open.edu

Open University guidance on using time expressions to establish future context and placing them before the predicate, either before or after the subject.

Used in: Time Words & Plans



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Hong Kong Polytechnic University — Basic Tones

polyu.edu.hk

The low or half-third realization and the fuller pre-pausal third-tone contour.

Used in: Tone Changes

How Does Prior Word Knowledge Affect Vocabulary Learning Progress in an Extensive Reading Program?

cambridge.org

The shared core-word preview and low-level graded text design for learners with limited prior vocabulary.

Used in: Five Mini-Stories

How to ask questions in Mandarin Chinese — CUNY Academic Works

academicworks.cuny.edu

The four-way distinction among particle, A-not-A, 还是, and question-word questions.

Used in: Question Builder

Improving Students' Learning With Effective Learning Techniques

psychologicalscience.org

Practice testing and distributed practice recommendations behind the weekly rhythm and restart rules.

Used in: 30-Day Mandarin Plan



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Learning a Language Through Reading: A Meta-analysis

link.springer.com

Controlled-vocabulary graded-reader design and comprehension questions after short texts.

Used in: Five Mini-Stories

Learning Chinese: A Foundation Course in Mandarin, Character Lesson 1

ocw.mit.edu

Beginner contrasts and contextual examples involving 不, 没有, 还没, negative questions, and everyday actions.

Used in: No, Not Yet & Preferences

Learning Chinese: A Foundation Course in Mandarin, Part III

ocw.mit.edu

MIT OpenCourseWare sequencing of store interaction, clothes, colors, and practical choice-making within a broader beginner curriculum.

Used in: Shop for Clothes

Learning Chinese: A Foundation Course in Mandarin, Unit 5

ocw.mit.edu

MIT OpenCourseWare guidance that time words may precede or follow the subject but come before their associated verb, plus beginner planning language.

Used in: Time Words & Plans · Question Builder



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Mastering Mandarin Sounds

pressbooks.uiowa.edu

Beginner sequencing of initials, finals, tones, and physical articulation practice.

Used in: Mandarin Sound Map

Michigan State University - Elementary Chinese I

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Complete-beginner communicative scope and progression through introductions, family, time, food, locations, and everyday exchanges.

Used in: First 14 Days · Sentence Builder

Michigan State University - Elementary Chinese I: Talking About a Photo

openbooks.lib.msu.edu

Beginner classifier framing, number plus classifier plus noun structure, and 个 and 张 examples.

Used in: Measure Words

Microsoft Simplified Chinese IME

support.microsoft.com

Candidate-window behavior, selection controls, and Chinese/English input-mode concepts.

Used in: Type Chinese Messages



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China - Basic Rules of Hanyu Pinyin Orthography

moe.gov.cn

Editorial reference for word-spaced Hanyu Pinyin presentation.

Used in: First 14 Days

Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China — Basic Rules of Hanyu Pinyin Orthography

hudong.moe.gov.cn

The decision to preserve standard dictionary pinyin separately from connected-speech teaching cues.

Used in: Tone Changes

MIT - Hanyu Pinyin for Mandarin Speakers: Tones

web.mit.edu

Four-tone contour descriptions, neutral-tone notation, and the separation of tone labels from common connected-speech variation.

Used in: Tone-Pair Lab

MIT OpenCourseWare — Learning Chinese online textbook

ocw.mit.edu

Course-level sequencing checks; all fictional routes and practice items were independently authored.

Used in: Getting Around



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

MIT OpenCourseWare — Learning Chinese, Part I

ocw.mit.edu

Scope checks for beginner greetings, thanks, apologies, and short connected exchanges.

Used in: Polite Phrases · Numbers, Prices, Dates & Time · 100 Characters by Component · Mandarin Repair Clinic · 7-Day Travel Refresher

MIT OpenCourseWare — Learning Chinese, Unit 6

ocw.mit.edu

Direction-question scope and the use of landmarks and confirmation in route exchanges.

Used in: Getting Around

MIT OpenCourseWare — Learning Chinese, Unit 7

ocw.mit.edu

Beginner transport vocabulary and travel-by-taxi or public-transit communicative contexts.

Used in: Getting Around

MIT OpenCourseWare — Learning Chinese, Unit 8

ocw.mit.edu

The teaching distinction between sentence-final change in phase and postverbal event completion or priority.

Used in: Two Uses of 了



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

MIT OpenCourseWare — The Chinese Menu

ocw.mit.edu

Restaurant dialogue and menu-reading scope; all workbook examples and exercises were newly authored.

Used in: Food and Drinks

Modern Common Chinese Character Components and Component Names

moe.gov.cn

The distinction between character-building components and other labels used in instruction.

Used in: Look-Alike Characters

NCSSFL-ACTFL Can-Do Statements

actfl.org

Framing novice goals as observable communication on familiar everyday topics rather than lesson completion.

Used in: 30-Day Mandarin Plan · First 14 Days · Meet People in Mandarin · No, Not Yet & Preferences · Shop for Clothes · Mandarin at Home · Sentence Expansion Ladders · Conversation Particles · 7-Day Travel Refresher

Official Chinese Character Radical Standards

moe.gov.cn

Keeping dictionary radicals separate from every visible component.

Used in: Look-Alike Characters



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Research sources

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RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning

ies.ed.gov

Cold retrieval, delayed review, and active quizzing guidance used in the four-week loop.

Used in: 30-Day Mandarin Plan

Representing an issue as open: Mandarin discourse particle ba

journals.linguisticsociety.org

Avoiding the oversimplification that 吧 has only one fixed translation.

Used in: Conversation Particles

Sentence-Final Particles in Mandarin

onlinelibrary.wiley.com

The context-sensitive discourse framing and bounded descriptions of ma, ne, ba, and a.

Used in: Conversation Particles

Sounds and Symbols: An Overview of Pinyin

ocw.mit.edu

English-speaker cautions, syllable analysis, tone behavior, and difficult letter-to-sound mappings.

Used in: Mandarin Sound Map · Build Pinyin Syllables · Tone-Pair Lab



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Spacing Effects in Learning: A Temporal Ridgeline of Optimal Retention

doi.org

Spacing repeated reviews over time while labeling the printed Day 0–14 schedule as a flexible starting plan rather than a universal optimum.

Used in: Character Practice Cards

Speaker presupposition and Mandarin Chinese sentence-final -le

experts.umn.edu

The change-of-state interpretation and the need to ground sentence-final 了 in prior context.

Used in: Two Uses of 了

Teaching Elementary School Students to Be Effective Writers

ies.ed.gov

The one-change-at-a-time sentence construction and expansion routine.

Used in: Sentence Expansion Ladders

Tense and Aspect in Mandarin Chinese

academic.oup.com

The distinction between perfective verb 了 and sentence-final discourse 了, and the warning against calling 了 simple past tense.

Used in: Mandarin Repair Clinic



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

Test-Enhanced Learning: Taking Memory Tests Improves Long-Term Retention

pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

The retrieve-before-flipping workflow and the distinction between active recall and additional rereading.

Used in: Character Practice Cards

The Effects of Repetition on Incidental Vocabulary Learning: A Meta-Analysis

eric.ed.gov

Planned recurrence of high-use words across multiple stories rather than isolated one-time exposure.

Used in: Five Mini-Stories

The Open University — Beginners Chinese: Asking for directions

open.edu

Absolute-beginner scope and the polite ask-then-follow direction sequence.

Used in: Getting Around

The Open University — Beginners Chinese: Placing orders

open.edu

Absolute-beginner scope and the decision to rehearse ordering as short conversational turns.

Used in: Food and Drinks



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

The Open University — Beginners' Chinese: Greetings

open.edu

Absolute-beginner greeting and thanks coverage and concise response-pair design.

Used in: Polite Phrases

The role of phonological alternation in speech production: evidence from Mandarin tone sandhi

pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov

The distinction between lexical Tone 3 and its surface realization in the 3 + 3 sandhi pattern.

Used in: Tone Changes

Type Chinese using Pinyin – Simplified on Mac

support.apple.com

Candidate selection, whole-word input, apostrophe-separated syllables, and the v-for-ü convention.

Used in: Type Chinese Messages

UCL Discovery — Boundary threshold of Mandarin tone sandhi

discovery.ucl.ac.uk

The caution that longer third-tone strings depend on grouping, structure, and prosodic boundaries.

Used in: Tone Changes



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

University of California Press - Mandarin Chinese: A Functional Reference Grammar

ucpress.edu

Conceptual boundary for neutral beginner frames versus the broader Mandarin grammar system.

Used in: Sentence Builder

University of Oxford CTCFL — Elementary Chinese Grammar

ctcfl.ox.ac.uk

Beginner 吗 formulas, question words, and statement-like word order.

Used in: Question Builder · Two Uses of 了

University of Texas Linguistics Research Center - Syntactic Typology: Mandarin

lrc.la.utexas.edu

The scope guard that Mandarin word order is shaped by topic, meaning, and discourse and cannot be reduced to one universal SVO formula.

Used in: Sentence Builder · Sentence Expansion Ladders · The Three de Words · Mandarin Repair Clinic

What Works Clearinghouse - Organizing Instruction and Study to Improve Student Learning

ies.ed.gov

Spacing, worked examples, active retrieval, delayed checks, and changed-context application in the daily learning loop.

Used in: First 14 Days · Sentence Builder · Tone-Pair Lab · Measure Words · Conversation Rescue



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

正确区分的、地、得

xass.cbpt.cnki.net

The standard written division between noun modification, adverbial modification, and complements.

Used in: The Three de Words

汉语信息处理词汇 02 部分：汉语和汉字

moe.gov.cn

Standard definitions distinguishing strokes, character components, indexing components, and complete character forms.

Used in: 100 Characters by Component · Character Practice Cards

汉语拼音方案 (Scheme for the Chinese Phonetic Alphabet)

moe.gov.cn

The official pinyin initials, finals, spelling conventions, and tone marks.

Used in: Mandarin Sound Map · Build Pinyin Syllables

汉语拼音方案的通用键盘表示规范

moe.gov.cn

Grounding pinyin keyboard representation in the national language-standard reference.

Used in: Type Chinese Messages



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Research sources

Use this page to trace the evidence used to shape this book's explanations and learning design.

RESEARCH TRAIL

These sources informed scope and explanation. SayMei authored the exercises, examples, visual system, and sequence independently.

的、地、得的用法

journal.sdufe.edu.cn

The shared neutral pronunciation and high-frequency connector framing.

Used in: The Three de Words

通用规范汉字笔顺规范

moe.gov.cn

The standardized stroke-order framing and the warning that general tendencies do not replace character-specific order.

Used in: 100 Characters by Component

Your next useful step

Choose one topic lesson, retrieve one line without looking, and use it with one detail changed.