

Learn to Speak Chinese



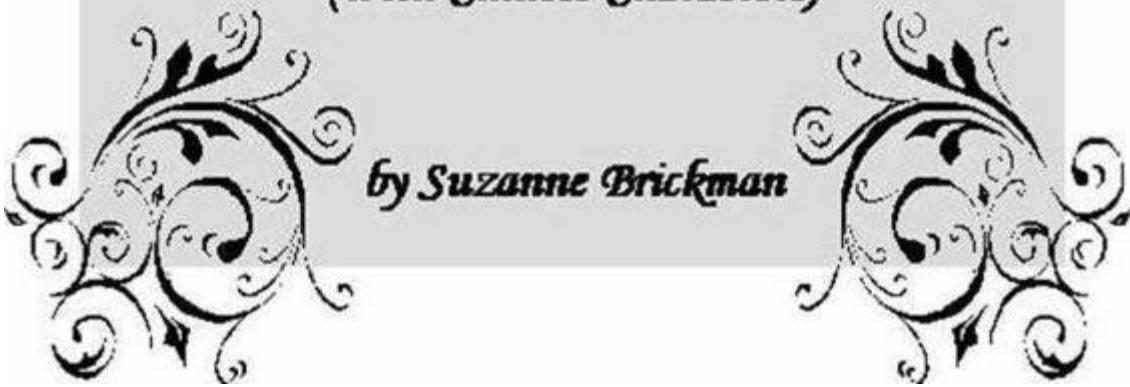
Beginning Mandarin Chinese for Native English Speakers



Learn to Speak Chinese: Beginning Mandarin Chinese for Native English Speakers

(with Chinese Characters)

by Suzanne Brickman



Prologue: Embarking on Your Journey!

Welcome to Learn to Speak Chinese: Beginning Mandarin Chinese for Native English Speakers! I'm so glad that you've started your journey to learn Mandarin—because it will be a journey! But, I truly believe that it is important to have fun along the way and know that this book will help you with that part of the process!

That is why you will find this book to be a brief introduction to the spoken Mandarin language. It is by no means comprehensive, but a stepping stone for the large gap that was found between someone wanting to learn Mandarin and someone who was ready for some of the more academic texts. My hope is that this book will give you a glimpse of what it's like to learn Mandarin and help you to focus on the most essential skills that are foundational to learning Mandarin!

In Book 1 of the series Learn to Speak Chinese we'll take a look at tones, PinYin, basic sentence structure, and very practical sets of vocabulary so that you can take these **fundamentals** and begin to chart your own course through the Mandarin language. For some, this will certainly not be an in-depth enough look at Chinese language or culture. In Learn to Speak Chinese II: How to Speak Chinese with People (An Insight into Family, Occupations, and Nationalities featuring Chinese Characters, PinYin, and English), we take a look at **family and societal structure** in China while learning greetings, family names and culture, as well as occupations and cultural expectations for work. This second book helps to strengthen your vocabulary while giving you a practical perspective on Chinese culture and practical dialogue that is used in China.

Learn to Speak Chinese III: Numbers the Key to Life (An Overview of Numbers, Time, and Money featuring Chinese Characters, PinYin, and English Dialogues) reveals some of the **core values** of Chinese culture that help one gain insight into motivations and propensities toward certain behaviors that would at first seem odd to the foreign observer. As you gain more competence in the language itself and insight into the culture, you will find it much easier to communicate with others in Chinese!

Key to Your Success—the Fundamentals!

Well, you can definitely get started with a few basic phrases that will get the ball rolling! But, may I suggest that after these first few phrases that you sit down and make a plan for successfully learning the language?

Here's what I mean: We all want to be able to see immediate results as we begin a new endeavor. But, if we ONLY focus on the results, then we will not learn the fundamentals that will carry us through and help us to truly learn the language as fast as possible!

An Interesting Analogy

Think of it this way. Suppose there is a little one who really wants to be able to crawl. The adult who is watching desperately wants to help, and so, reaches down and helps the baby get on all fours, and even make the first few movements. But, what happens when the adult lets go?

Now, what if the little one learns over and over again by repetitive motion that certain muscles need to be exercised in order to crawl? As the baby practices **these** muscles, they are then soon able to amply and quickly move across the floor!

I know you want results—a first few basic steps. But, you will not be able to move along on your own until you have two skills firmly in place—tones and PinYin. As difficult as they may be to practice, and as strange as it may seem to be practicing them, they really are the key that can allow you to soon fly across the floor at lightning speed!

And of course, I concede that until the new learner sees what those repetitive motions can do for them, it's really hard to go through the exercises! We need the vision to see where those exercises can take us! That's why we need to learn just a few beginning phrases and feel comfortable repeating them—it's only natural!

Your Road to Success

Please don't deny the importance of these two elements—tones and PinYin! Once you accept them and embrace them, you really will be off to the races! Not only that, but you will feel the wind in your hair and the invigorating thrill of exercising your own skills to a degree you never thought possible!

Mandarin doesn't have to be hard unless you let it! Time has shown again and again that the principles of mastering the tones and PinYin are the road to success. Don't think that you can veer off the path and still make the same type of progress. Realize that you have a limited time to learn this language, and that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. Stay on the path to success!

During your journey, be exposed to, understand, practice, apply, and MASTER the fine art of tones and the PinYin system of phonetics—you'll be so glad you did!

Table of Contents

Prologue: Embarking on Your Journey!

Key to Your Success—the Fundamentals!

An Interesting Analogy

Your Road to Success

Overview of the Tones

Easy Combinations

Moderate Combinations

Challenging Combinations

Overview of PinYin

Overview of the Grammar

Overview of Grammar: Simple Questions

Overview of the Grammar: Simple Phrases

Simple Phrases: Prepositions

Simple Phrases: Question Words

Overview of the Grammar: Simple Dialogue

Overview of Important Words

Subjects

Review of Subjects

Answers for Subjects

Time Phrases

Review of Time Phrases

Answers for Time Phrases

Places

Review of Places

Answers for Places

Verbs

Review of Verbs

Answer for Verbs

Epilogue: A Pause in Your Journey

Overview of the Tones

What are tones? Tones are the pitches that are used when speaking a particular sound—kind of like music added to the words that someone says. And boy, do they make a huge difference in learning Mandarin! You can say four entirely different things (with the SAME sound, but with different tones).

The basics of each tone are briefly explained below. Understanding how each tone works is crucial to your mastery of the language. If you skip over this as if it is nothing, then I can guarantee that most Chinese speakers will feel you know NOTHING about the language itself!

On the other hand, if you master the tones, you will get compliments all day long about how wonderful your Chinese is—even if you can only speak a few words!

- **First tone: a higher than normal flat pitch** (This pitch is extremely annoying if repeated over & over again—much like a high monotone singer who is blatantly trying to annoy you!)
- **Second tone: a rising pitch that begins at your normal speaking pitch and rises** (This is probably the hardest to distinguish and even native Chinese speakers sometimes confuse the second and third tones).
- **Third tone: a falling & rising tone that begins at your normal pitch, falls, & then rises** (It's sometimes pretty obvious when you hear this pitch because it's pretty distinct).
- **Fourth tone: a falling pitch that usually begins at a higher than normal pitch and falls softly** (Most English speakers make the mistake of landing too quickly & makes it sound as if you are angry as you speak this tone. Be careful not to be part of the vast majority: Land with style and grace).

The true difficulty and skill comes in two parts. First, being able to both speak and distinguish between the various tones is quite a challenge! But never fear, with time it will become easier! Basically, you will need to train your ear over time to be able to tell the difference between the four tones (and the one neutral tone—which is toneless like when speaking English).

The good news is that even many native Chinese speakers sometimes have difficulty distinguishing between the second and third tone! If their PinYin training wasn't solid, or they did not even receive this type of training when they were in school, they might even have difficulty identifying the tone for you (even though they can speak it perfectly)!

Another reason for this, however, is that the third tone when it is combined in a particular sequence, NO LONGER IS A THIRD TONE! Yeah, talk about tricky! (But,

it's a great rule to keep your throat and voice box from going crazy)! When there is a 3-3 sequence (or two third tones together), then the first of the two tones actually changes to rising pitch (second tone). When you take this into consideration, it's very easily understood how the second and third tones could be confused!

At any rate, the second challenge should be discussed. Second, putting the various tones together in different combinations of sequences is the TRUE challenge and test of your tonal skills! It's really the connection between the tones that threw me off, so let's take a look at some of the common combinations (that cause us trouble) more closely.

Easy Combinations

- 1-1 In each of these three cases, it seems obvious how to make the transition to the next tone. In the 1-1 you're high and so, begin the second half where you left off.
- 1-4 When you're speaking the first tone, it's quite simple to gently fall for the fourth tone and finish the 1-4 combination with ease.
- 2-1 Continue rising in pitch until you reach the first tone.
- 2-4 Continuing where you left off is also true for the 2-4 where you rise and are already at a high pitch from which you can fall.
- 4-2 The opposite is true when using the 4-2, you gently fall and then begin the rising tone at the lower pitch.

Moderate Combinations

- 4-1 After you gently fall, there is now a huge gap between where you ended and where you must begin the first tone! In this case, there is a brief silence between the fourth and first tones.
- 3-4 OR 3-1 For both of these combinations, upon finishing the third tone, you will continue raising the pitch in order to meet the high point from which to begin the first or fourth tone (whichever you happen to be practicing).
- 2-3 In theory, this is not a difficult combination, but when you use your voice, it's another story! Begin rising, fall, and rise again—in an almost seamless manner. The problem is that before you fall, you must begin the sound of the second character you are speaking! Good luck!

Challenging Combinations

- 3-3 Thankfully, the 3-3 converts into the 2-3 above!
- 3-2 THE REAL CHALLENGE! Some speakers can fall gracefully and then continue rising until they reach the high pitch. However, since you must usually begin speaking the second character somewhere in the process, I've found it easier to actually briefly drop the pitch mid-ascent in order to begin the second character. In this way, it's not seamless, but at least I can be understood!

Overview of PinYin

The second essential skill you'll need next in speaking Mandarin is your mastery of the PinYin system of phonetics. **This is your code book for making sense of the language!** Chinese does not have an alphabet. Instead, characters are used as a picture to describe an idea or thought.

That character is then given a sound (like reading a picture) and that's why PinYin is important. Basically, PinYin is the system that helps us make sense of the sounds so that one day in the future, we can not only understand the spoken language, but can also look up the written characters in the dictionary based on the sound.

When you learn this system by practicing it every day, you'll strengthen your tones by using each of the sounds to practice your four tones—that's 46×4 , so 184 times! If you "sing" each of the tones on every single sound—that means that you will have practiced each tone with each sound daily—making you a confident Chinese speaker in no time!

When you "sing" all four tones with each sound, you learn the tones so much better & soon can speak the difference AND hear the difference between each of the tones. (Basically, you're on your way to accomplish the MOST IMPORTANT step—the tones—extremely well)! ☺

Please NOTE

**INITIAL + FINAL = one sound in
Chinese (or one character)**

**But, I'll teach you the FINALS first
because they are most like our
VOWELS!**

Overview of

PinYin: the Finals

I'm sure you're wondering why I'm starting at the end with the finals! For

Chinese speakers, this is absolutely absurd! But, when you take into consideration that native English speakers often learn vowels before consonants, it's not that difficult to see why I chose to start here.

Finals		
a “ah” as in a-hah!	o “aw” as in awful (mouth forms half long o sound)	e “ugh” (the sound you make when something is really gross!)
i “ee” as glee	u “oo” as in spoon	ü *** (see below)

Finals (Continued)

ai “ai” as in aisle	ei “ei” as in eight	ui “wei” as in weight
ou “oa” as in boat	iu “you” as in you	ie “ye” as in yet

Finals (Continued)

ue “you+e” as in you + “e” as in egg	er “ar” as in art	un “won” as in wonderful
ün “you+in” as in you + “in” as in inside	an “on” as in on	en “un” as in under

Finals (Continued)

in “een” as in seen	ang* “ong” as in song *(nasal)	eng* “ung” as in sung *(nasal)
ing* “eing” as in seing *(nasal)	ong* “own” as in owner *(nasal)	

Finals (Note on ü)

*****The HARDEST sound! Say “ee” as in seek, but make your lips form an “oa” sound as in boat. The combination of the two give you a sound close to “ye” in English, but very nasal and for a sustained period of time.**

Overview of PinYin:

the Initials

The initials are very similar to consonants in English! You will see the names of the initials below. The initial is the “sound” that it makes, while its name is the combination of the initial with the final that follows it in parenthesis.

Here’s what I mean. When you say the letters, “b,” “c,” and “d” in English, you actually say “bee,” “cee,” and “dee.” But, when you say the sound of the letter at the beginning of the word, you only hear the consonant “b” instead of “bee.” (Imagine trying to read “boat” as “bee+oat”)!

In the same way, be sure to only say the sound of the initial when pronouncing a character, but use its name as you practice your daily “singing” routine. View a brief video on the daily routine.

But, you will also notice below that there are a few apparently repeated sounds. Notice that j (i) and zh (i) would appear to be repetitive. However, because “j” is ONLY used with the “i” when it sounds as “ee” and the “zh” is used with the “i” when it sounds as “ir.”

Please NOTE (Continued)

INITIALS never truly appear by themselves! They are always accompanied by a **FINAL**, so you will see that the **FINAL** is written for your convenience in parentheses.

Usually, it takes two or more characters to form a **WORD** or a **COMPLETE THOUGHT**, but only one character is needed for an **IDEA** or an abbreviation of a word.

Initials (Continued)

b (o)	p (o)	m (o)
f (o)	d (e)	t (e)

Initials (Continued)

n (e)	l (e)	g (e)
k (e)	h (e)	j (i) “jee” as in jeep

Initials (Continued)		
q (i) “chee” as in cheap	x (i) “shee” as in sheep	zh (i) “jer” as in jerk
ch (i) “chir” as in chirp	sh (i) “shir” as in shirt	r (i) “r+ir” as in “r” as in red + “ir” as in dirt

Initials (Continued)		
z (i) “ds” as in hands	c (i) “ts” as in hurts	s (i) “s” as in serve
y (i) “ee” as in seek	w (u) “w” as in womb	

Overview of the Grammar

Subject

Verb

Location

Time

I'll see you at the meeting at 7pm.

Subject

Time

Location

Verb

我们晚上七点开会见。

Wǒ men wǎn shàng qī diǎn kāi huì jiàn.

LITERALLY:

We evening 7:00 meeting meet.

You're going to hate me for saying this (and it's not entirely true for all cases), but in general if you think of Mandarin as exactly opposite of English in word order, you'll be right most of the time! You'll see what I mean in the following examples.

Of course, this is the hugely simplified version (without talking about direct objects, prepositions, or adjectives), but you get the general idea! ☺ Also, just like we can flip around a sentence for emphasis or use in a particular situation, so can Chinese speakers.

Instead of "I'll see you at the meeting at 7pm," we could say, "At the meeting, at 7pm, I'll see you there!" The Chinese rendition would be something more like "At 7pm, at the meeting, I'll see you there!" So you can see that one example isn't enough to explain the entire language because it's living and flexible, just like your native tongue!

Also good to note is the fact that there are NO CONJUGATIONS in Chinese! Hip-hip-hooray! No "am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been," just plain, simple

是

shi to express being! You don't have to worry whether it's singular or plural, or past, present, or future)!

Overview of Grammar: Simple Questions

The wild part begins when we start to take a look at how questions are asked! Really, Chinese makes a lot more sense in this instance than does English. (Try explaining our word order to someone who is learning English, and see the response you get)!

If you're concerned about past, present, or future, you only need to be

concerned with **了** le & **过** guò with past and **要** yào [to want], **会** hui
想 xiǎng [will—as in definitely], or [would like to]. But, those explanations can wait for a future date!

The question word order reflects the same idea in statement form, but uses a special article at the end of the sentence to indicate that it is a question. (I know, some of you Chinese teachers out there are going to argue with me whether or not

吗

ma

is an article! But, I have to ask you, what type of equivalent word do we have for this in English?)

Subject

Verb

Location

Time

I'll see you at the meeting at 7pm.

Time

Verb/Subject

Verb

Location

When will I see you at the meeting?

OR

**What time are we
getting together for the meeting?**

But with Mandarin . . .

Subject**Time****Location****Verb**

我们晚上七点开会见。

Wǒ men wǎn shàng qī diǎn kāi huì jiàn.

LITERALLY: We evening 7:00 meeting meet.

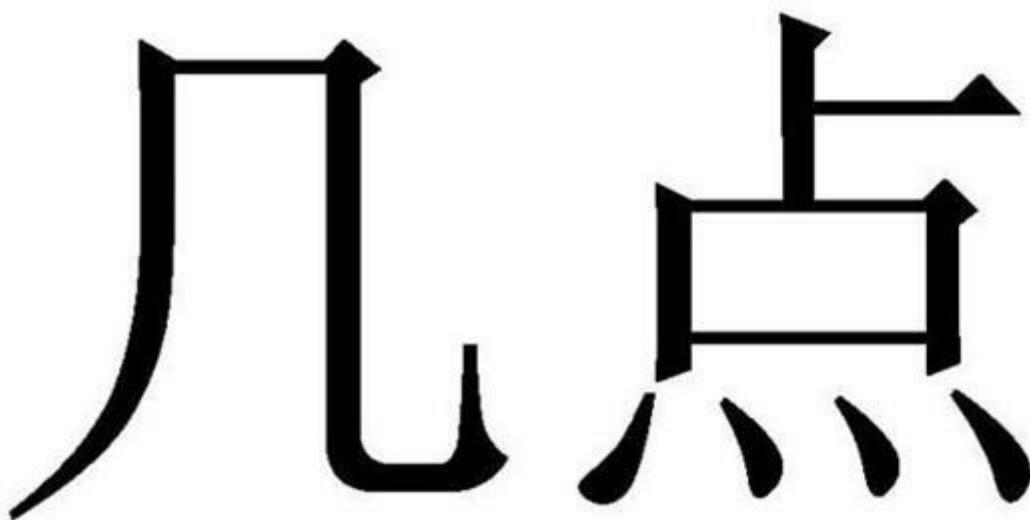
Subject**Time****Location****Verb**

我们晚上几点开会？

Wǒ men wǎn shàng jǐ diǎn kāi huì?

LITERALLY: We evening (at what time) hold/attend meeting?

The EXACT same placement of words, but substituting in



jǐ diǎn

for the time! How

logical is that?! (And we wonder sometimes why Chinese students call it “crazy English”)? But, hopefully you can see the simplicity in transferring between a question and a statement, and can definitely use this to your advantage!

All you need to do is identify the question word in the sentence and simply replace it with the answer, while repeating the exact same phrases for the rest of the sentence! (Well, all except the subject—use I instead of you or you instead of I).

So, I guess this brings us to the next section of this brief book where you get the chance to learn some of the basic questions and answers that you'll need! Probably the most important beginning concepts are numbers, prepositions, and questions, but I'm going to assume that you can find information on numbers easily enough! That brings us to prepositions and question words.

Overview of the Grammar: Simple Phrases

Congratulations! You've made it all the way to simple phrases! Give yourself a quick pat on the back (and rest for a minute) for a job well done! Then, continue on in your journey (and determination!) to learn Mandarin!

Let's start with the basic structure for using prepositional phrases. At first, you might be thinking, "Why in the world is this even important to start with? Who cares about in, at, on, in front of, next to, etc.?" If you ARE thinking this, then you are not alone!

But, as you will see, this comes to be pretty important as it is used in almost every single sentence structure! To get this wrong (or not start with this) would be setting you up to fail. You'll need this essential skill and will soon see why as you begin speaking your first few sentences!

Simple Phrases: Prepositions

At/To be Located . . .

Object

Preposition (on)

在 (object) 上面

Now let's take a look at some of the prepositions you'll need:

At
在

Zài

Under
下面

Xìà
Miàn

On
上面

Shàng
Miàn

In Front Of
前面

Qián
Miàn

In
里面

Lǐ Miàn

Behind
后面

Hòu
Miàn

Then, to get some practice try saying the following phrases:

On the table	(table=桌子zhōu zi)
In the drawer	(drawer=抽屉chōu tǐ)
Under the bed	(bed=床 chuáng)
Behind the chair	(chair=椅子yǐ zi)
In front of the bookshelf	(bookcase=书柜shū guì)
At the office (in the office)	(office=办公室bàn gōng shì)

在 _____ 上面	Zài _____ Shàng Miàn
在 _____ 里面	Zài _____ Lǐ Miàn
在 _____ 下面	Zài _____ Xià Miàn
在 _____ 后面	Zài _____ Hòu Miàn
在 _____ 前面	Zài _____ Qián Miàn
在 _____ 里	Zài _____ (Lǐ)

(Cover the

gray box for practice)

Note: Sorry for all the new terms, but you can look them up easily enough (and should see both the PinYin and characters) in most dictionaries. Since you know how to read PinYin, any word is now fair game and yours to explore!

Then, whether you're **at work**, **at a party**, or going to sit **on a bench at the park**, you'll know how to express all of these phrases in sentence form! Now, aren't you glad you learned these necessary phrases?! (If not, try speaking an entire day without using any of these phrases in English)!

Simple Phrases: Question Words

What? 什么?	Shén Me?	Who? 谁?	Shéi?
Why? 为什么?	Wèi Shén Me?	How? 怎么?	Zén Me?
When? 什么时候?	Shén Me Shí Hòu?	Where? 在哪? 在哪里?	Zài När? Zài Nǎ Lǐ?

I love using the question words because they seem so intuitive! Take a look at “what” and then “when” and then “why!” Do you notice a pattern? When is literally “what time” and why is “for what” (as in—for what purpose). Chinese can really be a lot of fun when you make some great connections like this! It makes it easier to learn AND remember!

Note: When question words are used, there is no need for the article

吗
ma !

Now, let’s move on to some of the more common conversations that you’ll have with people in Chinese! Getting prepared to speak will give you the confidence to do so! (You’ve still been practicing your tones and PinYin every day, right?) Have fun! You’re going to be **great** at this!

Overview of the Grammar: Simple Dialogue

你吃过饭了吗？

Nǐ chī guò fàn le ma?

Have you eaten?

我吃过了。谢谢。

Wǒ chī guò le. Xiè xiè.

I've eaten. Thank you.

Well, here we go! Time to jump right in to the thick of it!

If you haven't eaten, the one who offered may feel obligated to give you something to eat! Then, depending upon your relationship with them, you may cause them to go to too much trouble in order to prepare something for you to eat!

As a general rule, this is only a polite inquiry into your well being. It is easiest to say that you have already eaten. If the one who offered is intent upon seeing that you are well pleased, they will **continue to offer** you snack or appetizers no matter what your response was! They want you to feel at home and sometimes won't take no for an answer!

If you truly prefer not to eat anything, then it is probably best just to accept some hot water. However, sometimes the host or hostess cannot rest easily until you have at least accepted some type of edible treat.

In this case, you should probably accept a small portion of whatever is being offered to you and just savor it slowly (not consume it entirely) so that you will not be offered more. Once you have thanked your host several times over, both you and your host can finally rest peacefully through the conversation.

你是哪个国家的人？

Nǐ shì nǎ ge guó jiā de rén?

What nationality are you?

我是美国人。

Wǒ shì měi guó rén.

I am American.

我是澳大利亚人。

Wǒ shì ào dà lì yà rén.

I am Australian.

我是英国人。

Wǒ shì yīng guó rén.

I am British.

你在哪里工作？

Nǐ zài nǎr gōng zuò?

Where do you work?

我在_____工作。

Wǒ zài _____ gōng zuò.

I work at _____.

我做生意。

Wǒ zuò shēng yì.

I do business.*

*(as in possibly has own business)

Other than “Have you eaten?” the question, “Where do you work?” is probably the most frequently asked. It is not uncommon for you to also be asked how much you make in a year, so don’t be shocked to be asked this question! In Chinese culture, this question is not considered rude, just curious and practical.

Throughout your journey of learning Mandarin, you will find TONS of cultural differences that (if you handle them well) you will be able to share with others for years to come! Some will make you laugh, cry, or even shout (out of anger or excitement?—it’s hard to say)!

Vital to this journey is that you are patient with yourself—even when others are not patient with you. I know that you have been successful in many other areas of your life, but learning a language is a unique journey that requires patience and perseverance. Press onward! You can do it!

我们一起去逛街吧！

Wǒ men yì qǐ qù guàng jiē ba!

Let's go shopping!

太好了！我们什么时候去？

Tài hǎo le!

Wǒ men shén me shí hòu qù?

Super! When do we leave?

不好意思。我很累，去不了。

Bù hǎo yì si. Wǒ hěn lèi, qù bù liǎo.

Sorry, I'm too tired to go.

不好意思。 最近我很忙。 下次吧。

Bù hǎo yì si.

Zuì jìn wǒ hěn máng.

Xià cì ba.

Sorry, lately I've been so busy.

Next time.

你的电话号码是多少？

Nǐ de diàn huà hào mǎ shì duō shǎo?
What's your phone number?

我的电话号码是_____。

Wǒ de diàn huà hào mǎ shì _____.
My phone number is _____.

你要我的手机号码还是 家里的电话号码？

Nǐ yào wǒ de shǒu jī hào mǎ hái shì
jiā lǐ de diàn huà hào mǎ?
Do you want my cell or home number?

Overview of Important Words

Following you will find the twelve most important nouns (subjects and places), adverbs (time phrases), and verbs that I found important while speaking the language. Putting these together will give you flexibility and freedom in learning Chinese!

Narrowing down each category was NOT easy, but I hope that you will find only the most essential words to help you get moving in the language. Each category is introduced, vocabulary given, then a review that could be used as a mental quiz if you so desire!

Please note that for many of the vocabulary terms SEVERAL Chinese words could have been chosen because some words in Chinese tend to be much more specific than when used in English, depending upon the context. With that in mind, have fun using the building blocks that will help you get started speaking and using the language!

Most Common Simple Sentence Structure

Subject

Time

Location

Verb

我们晚上六点在饭店见。

Wǒ men wǎn shàng liù diǎn zài fàn diàn jiàn.

**(literally) We evening 6:00 at restaurant meet.
We'll meet at the restaurant at 6pm.**

Second Most Common Simple Sentence Structure

Time

Subject

Location

Verb

晚上六点我们在饭店见。

Wǎn shàng liù diǎn wǒ men zài fàn diàn jiàn.

(literally) Evening 6:00 we at restaurant meet.

At 6pm, we'll meet at the restaurant.

Subjects

Twelve Subjects

Twelve Subjects

I, me	我	wǒ
We, us	我们	wǒ men
You	你	nǐ
You (plural)	你们	nǐ men
He	他	tā
They	他们	tā men
She	她	tā
They (feminine)	她们	tā men
Friend	朋友	péng yǒu
Teacher	老师	lǎo shī
Doctor	医生	yī shēng
Police officer	警察	jǐng chá

I, me

我

wǒ

we, us

我们

wǒ men

you

你

nǐ

you

(plural)

你们

nǐ men

he

他
tā

they, them

他们

tā men

she

她
tā

they, them

(feminine)

她们

tā men

friend

朋友

péng yǒu

teacher

老师

lǎo shī

doctor

医生

yī shēng

police

officer

警察

jǐng chá

Review **of** **Subjects**

*Random
Review of
Subjects*

老
師

1

我

2

他

3

朋 友

4

她们

5

你

6

医 生

7

他們

8

她

9

警 禁

10

你们

11

我們

12

Answers

for

Subjects

Answers

for

Subjects



Subject Answers



1.	Teacher	老师	lǎo shī
2.	I, me	我	wǒ
3.	He	他	tā
4.	Friend	朋友	péng yǒu
5.	They (feminine)	她们	tā men
6.	You	你	nǐ
7.	Doctor	医生	yī shēng
8.	They	他们	tā men
9.	She	她	tā
10.	Police officer	警察	jǐng chá
11.	You (plural)	你们	nǐ men
12.	We, us	我们	wǒ men

Twelve *Time Phrases*

Twelve Time Phrases

Everyday	每天	měi tiān
Today	今天	jīn tiān
Yesterday	昨天	zuó tiān
Tomorrow	明天	míng tiān
Morning	早上	zǎo shàng
Noon	中午	zhōng wǔ
Afternoon	下午	xià wǔ
Evening	晚上	wǎn shàng
Usually	通常	tōng cháng
Often, frequently	经常	jīng cháng
Always	总是	zǒng shì
Sometimes	有时候	yǒu shí hou

every day

每天

měi tiān

today

今天

jīn tiān

yesterday

昨天

zuó tiān

tomorrow

明天

míng tiān

morning

早上

zǎo shàng

noon

中午

zhōng wǔ

afternoon

下午

xià wǔ

evening

晚上

wǎn shàng

usually

通常

tōng cháng

often

(or frequently)

经常

jīng cháng

always

总是

zǒng shì

sometimes

有时候

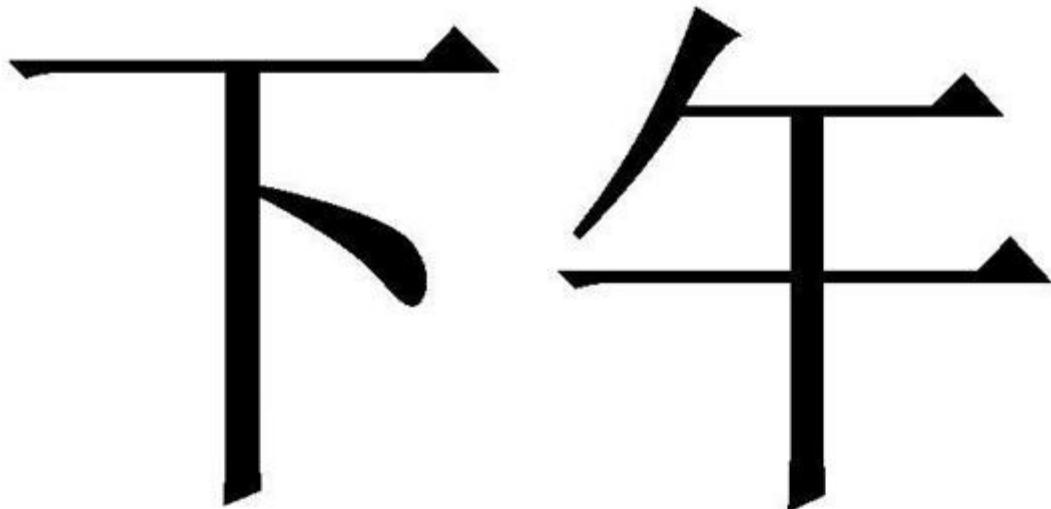
yǒu shí hòu

Review of Time Phrases

*Random
Review of
Time Phrases*

经常

1



2

今 天

3

是 感

4

每天

5

晚

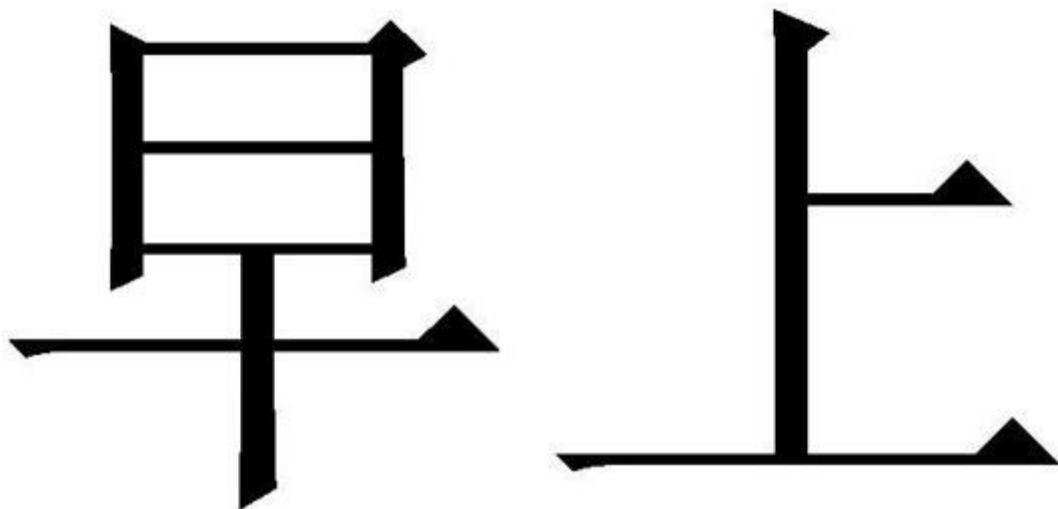
6

昨天

7

有时候

8



9



10

明天

11

通 常

12

Answers for Time Phrases



Answers for *Time Phrases*





Time Phrase Answers

1. Often, frequently	经常	jīng cháng
2. Afternoon	下午	xià wǔ
3. Today	今天	jīn tiān
4. Always	总是	zǒng shì
5. Everyday	每天	měi tiān
6. Evening	晚上	wǎn shàng
7. Yesterday	昨天	zuó tiān
8. Sometimes	有时候	yǒu shí hou
9. Morning	早上	zǎo shàng
10. Noon	中午	zhōng wǔ
11. Tomorrow	明天	míng tiān
12. Usually	通常	tōng cháng

Twelve Places



Twelve Places



House	房子, 家	fáng zi, jiā
Room	房间	fáng jiān
Store	超市	chǎo shì
Restaurant	饭店	fàn diàn
Park	公园	gōng yuán
Downtown	市中心	shì zhōng xīn
Hospital	医院	yī yuàn
School	学校	xué xiào
Train station	火车站	huǒ chē zhàn
Bus station	公共汽车站	gōng gòng qì chē zhàn
Airport	飞机场	fēi jī chǎng
Hotel	旅馆	lǚ guǎn

house

房子, 家
fáng zi, jiā

room

房间
fáng jiān

store

超市
chǎo shì

restaurant

饭店
fàn diàn

park

公园

gōng yuán

downtown

市中心

shì zhōng xīn

hospital

医院

yī yuàn

school

学校

xué xiào

train station

火车站

**huǒ chē
zhàn**

bus station

公共汽车站

**gōng gòng qì
chē zhàn**

airport

飞机场

fēi jī chǎng

hotel

旅馆

lǚ guǎn

Review of Places

*Random
Review of
Places*

市 中 心

1

公共汽车站

2

房間

3

超市

4

火车站

5

公 元

6

学校

7

医院

8

旅館

9

房 手

10

飞机场

11

饭店

12

Answers

for

Places

Answers

for

Places



Place Answers



1.	Downtown	市中心	shì zhōng xīn
2.	Bus station	公共汽车站	gōng gòng qì chē zhàn
3.	Room	房间	fáng jiān
4.	Store	超市	chǎo shì
5.	Train station	火车站	huǒ chē zhàn
6.	Park	公园	gōng yuán
7.	School	学校	xué xiào
8.	Hospital	医院	yī yuàn
9.	Hotel	旅馆	lǚ guǎn
10.	House	房子, 家	fáng zi, jiā
11.	Airport	飞机场	fēi jī chǎng
12.	Restaurant	饭店	fàn diàn

Twelve Verbs

Twelve Verbs

To be located at	在	zài
To arrive at	到	dào
To go	去	qù
To come	来	lái
To have, there is/are	有	yǒu
To give	给	gěi
To see, to visit	看	kàn
To like	喜欢	xǐ huān
To do, to work on	做	zuò
To speak	说	shuō
To think	想	xiǎng
To study	学习	xué xí

located at

在

zài

arrive at

到

dào

go

去

qù

come

来

lái

have, there is

有
yǒu

give

给
gěi

see, visit

看
kàn

like

喜欢
xǐ huān

do, work

做

zuò

speak

说

shuō

**think,
would like to**

想

xiǎng

study

学习

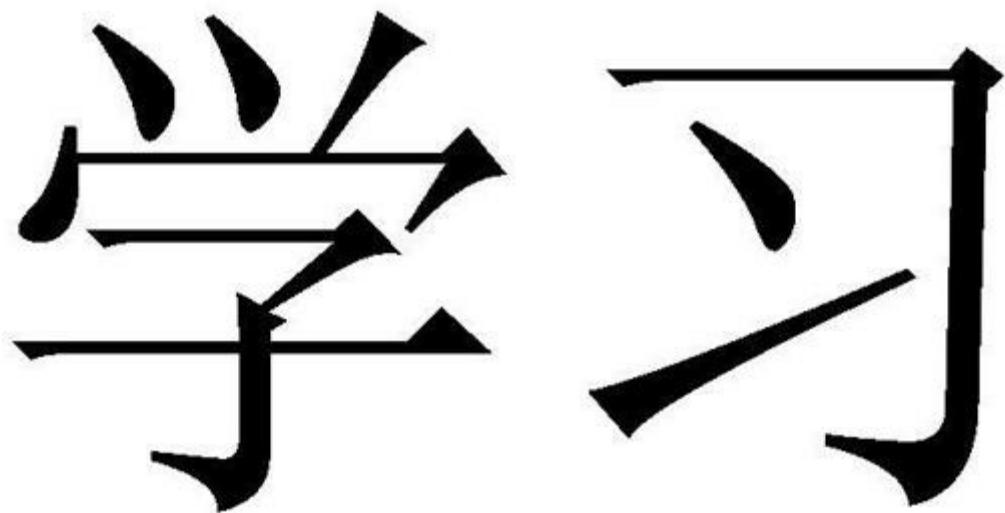
xué xí

Review of Verbs

*Random
Review of
Verbs*

喜 欢

1



2

有

3

剣至

4

看

5

去

6

給

7

说

8

想

9

來

10

倣

11

在

12

Answer **for** **Verbs**

Answers

for

Verbs



Verb Answers



1.	To like	喜欢	xǐ huān
2.	To study	学习	xué xí
3.	To have, there is/are	有	yǒu
4.	To arrive at	到	dào
5.	To see, to visit	看	kàn
6.	To go	去	qù
7.	To give	给	gěi
8.	To speak	说	shuō
9.	To think	想	xiǎng
10.	To come	来	lái
11.	To do, to work on	做	zuò
12.	To be located at	在	zài

Epilogue: A Pause in Your Journey

Now that you've completed this brief overview, you should be well prepared to continue your journey of learning Mandarin. Although the journey may not always be easy, you can be sure to add some fun to your adventure by meeting new friends and traveling to new places!

In Book 1 of the series Learn to Speak Chinese we've taken a look at tones, PinYin, basic sentence structure, and very practical sets of vocabulary so that you can take these **fundamentals** and begin to chart your own course through the Mandarin language. For some, this will certainly not be an in-depth enough look at Chinese language or culture. In [Learn to Speak Chinese II: How to Speak Chinese with People \(An Insight into Family, Occupations, and Nationalities featuring Chinese Characters, PinYin, and English\)](#), we take a look at **family and societal structure** in China while learning greetings, family names and culture, as well as occupations and cultural expectations for work. This second book helps to strengthen your vocabulary while giving you a practical perspective on Chinese culture and practical dialogue that is used in China.

[Learn to Speak Chinese III: Numbers the Key to Life \(An Overview of Numbers, Time, and Money featuring Chinese Characters, PinYin, and English Dialogues\)](#) reveals some of the **core values** of Chinese culture that help one gain insight into motivations and propensities toward certain behaviors that would at first seem odd to the foreign observer. As you gain more competence in the language itself and insight into the culture, you will find it much easier to communicate with others in Chinese!

It won't be long until you'll be able to look back on your journey and see how much progress you've made! (As long as you don't give up on yourself and keep practicing tones and PinYin, you WILL be successful in learning Chinese)! Make it a worthwhile journey by learning from others around you and creating an environment that will support your language learning! I wish you the greatest success on your journey!

Listen carefully, observe meticulously, and experience fully the joy that can be yours as you learn about a new language and culture!

Table of Contents

Prologue: Embarking on Your Journey!	3
Key to Your Success—the Fundamentals!	4
An Interesting Analogy	5
Your Road to Success	6
Overview of the Tones	8
Easy Combinations	10
Moderate Combinations	11
Challenging Combinations	12
Overview of PinYin	13
Overview of the Grammar	23
Overview of Grammar: Simple Questions	24
Overview of the Grammar: Simple Phrases	27
Simple Phrases: Prepositions	28
Simple Phrases: Question Words	30
Overview of the Grammar: Simple Dialogue	31
Overview of Important Words	36
Subjects	39
Review of Subjects	44
Answers for Subjects	57
Time Phrases	59
Review of Time Phrases	63
Answers for Time Phrases	76
Places	78
Review of Places	83
Answers for Places	96
Verbs	98
Review of Verbs	103
Answer for Verbs	116

