# Beginner 101 – Live Course

The Beginner 101 Live Course is your first step into speaking Colloquial Tibetan. Over six modules, you’ll learn to read and pronounce Tibetan script, build sentences, and hold simple conversations about daily life. This course combines live classes, pre-recorded resources, and one-on-one practice with native speakers to give you a solid foundation in the Central/Exile dialect.

## Course structure

Modules: 0–5 (Beginner 101); Modules 6–11 continue in Beginner 102  
Module 0 – Learning How to Learn (Online): orientation to Moodle and our learning approach  
Modules 1–5: grammar, vocabulary, and conversation topics  
  
After Beginner 101, students can continue directly to Beginner 102.

## Learning outcomes

By the end of Beginner 101, you will:  
• Read and pronounce the Tibetan script with confidence  
• Use the three main tenses (past, present, future) and the imperative  
• Converse about everyday topics: school, family, food, weather, free time, and shopping  
• Understand Tibetan categories of grammar and cultural perspectives

## Course rhythm & workload

• One track for all students: a balance between “Ms. Giraffe” (fast pace) and “Mr. Sloth” (slow pace)  
• Each module = 3 weeks  
• Recommended study time: 10 hours per week

## Live classes

• Zoom sessions offered in two time slots each week:  
 – Saturday 7:30 a.m. CET  
 – Saturday 4:00 p.m. CET  
• One session per module held on a weekday  
• White Wednesday Talks (optional) focus on Tibetan culture  
• Live class format: speaking practice, games, Q&A, songs, cultural discussion, grammar review, metacognitive reflections  
• Recordings available on Moodle (YouTube/Vimeo) for review or make-up  
• Students can send questions in advance if they will miss a session

## What’s included

• Weekly live classes with Tibetan and international instructors  
• Small Learning Communities (SLCs): groups of ~4 students meeting weekly  
• One-on-one tutor sessions: weekly speaking practice with a Tibetan tutor via WhatsApp/Telegram/Zoom  
• Digital tools: flashcards (Anki), exercises, podcasts, games, songs  
• Animated key-point videos (5 minutes each)

[Embed the Key Point YouTube video here](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxjOGWFvN-s)

• Webinars (30–60 minutes each) with clear grammar explanations

[Embed the Webinar YouTube video here](https://dharmapublishing.com/products/the-heart-of-tibetan-language-textbook-and-exercise-book?_pos=4&_psq=heart%20of%20&_ss=e&_v=1.0&variant=39512897847472)

• Dialogue podcasts and final challenges each module  
• E-Portfolio: track progress, reflect on learning, receive personalized feedback

## Materials

• Platform: Moodle (accessible on any device, tech support provided)

[Open the Moodle landing page](https://tibetanonline.sinibridge.org/)

• Textbook: The Heart of Tibetan Language, Vol. 1 (with accompanying workbook)

– Order hardcopy from Dharma Publishing [here](https://dharmapublishing.com/products/the-heart-of-tibetan-language-textbook-and-exercise-book?_pos=4&_psq=heart%20of%20&_ss=e&_v=1.0&variant=39512897847472)

– Get eBook on Google Play [here](https://play.google.com/store/books/details/Franziska_Oertle_%E0%BD%96_%E0%BD%91_%E0%BD%A6_%E0%BD%91_%E0%BD%A6_%E0%BD%84_%E0%BD%94_The_Heart_of_Tibeta?id=NW32DwAAQBAJ&hl=en&gl=US)

– Access the audio files [on this website](http://franziska.in/)

The textbook includes dialogues, vocabulary, cultural notes, phrasebook, and detailed grammar. Exercises support listening, reading, conversation, and writing.

## Teachers & companions

You’ll be supported by:  
• Teachers: Franziska Oertle, Gen Jamyang Woser-la, Gen Lhakpa Tsering-la  
• Tutor team: kind, patient native speakers in India and Nepal  
• Learning peers: classmates worldwide in live and small-group settings  
  
✨ Non-human companions: Ms. Giraffe, Ms. Ostrich, and Mr. Sloth join you in videos and webinars, each with their own personality to make lessons fun and memorable.

🐾 Pets are welcome learning buddies too: they’re patient listeners who never complain about grammar mistakes!

## Methodology

Our approach is both **student-centered** and **learning-centered**. We believe that people learn best when they are active, curious, and supported by a caring community.

* We draw on **Dr. Fink’s 6-fold Taxonomy of Significant Learning**, which highlights knowledge, application, integration, the human dimension, caring, and learning how to learn.
* Special focus is placed on **soft skills**: reflection, self-awareness, collaboration, and empathy. Students are invited to keep an **e-Portfolio** and share reflections in forums, helping them grow not only as language learners but as human beings.
* Classes blend **traditional Tibetan grammar** with modern, interactive pedagogy. Grammar and vocabulary are balanced with songs, stories, cultural exchange, and playful activities.
* Joy and humor are essential to our method. A smile, a bit of laughter, and curiosity keep learning light while ensuring deep progress.

## Prerequisites

• Must be able to read Tibetan script fluently  
• No prior speaking required  
• If you cannot yet read: enroll in the Alphabet Pre-Course (5 weeks, with live classes and tutor practice)

## Tuition & financial support

• Beginner 101: from $400 (sliding scale)  
• Alphabet Pre-Course: from $100  
• Scholarships: available for monastics  
• Payment plans: monthly installments possible  
• Sponsor option ($108): support fellow students and course development

## Refund policy

Refunds depend on withdrawal date and whether a replacement is found:  
• Module 0: 55–70%  
• Module 1: 40–65%  
• Module 2: 30–55%  
• Later: minimal or no refund

## Why choose Beginner 101?

This course gives you more than grammar and vocabulary — it offers a supportive community, personalized tutor sessions, and a playful, caring approach to learning. With small groups, live feedback, and diverse learning activities, you’ll gain both skills and confidence while enjoying the process.