**Leftpain updated Mandarin Learning Guide:**

**Twitter:left\_plain**

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**Structure:** This guide is a bit shorter and more to the point than the last one but it will still include some notes on general mindset, best strategies, the philosophy of language learning, etc. Unlike the previous guide, however, my main focus is providing a (fairly) comprehensive list of resources as well as any relevant personal experiences with these tools. So, unlike the prior list, I hope to update this one. That being said. I am going to lead with some potentially irrelevant thoughts on the purpose of doing this (studying Chinese) in the first place.

**Intro:**

**Motives:**I think when you’re studying any language, whether it’s Chinese or something much closer to your native tongue, it’s fairly essential to develop a concrete conception of what you’re doing this *for*. There are people who seem to be not only interested in but capable of learning the fundamentals of a language, even up to a fairly comprehensive level, purely out of the desire to satisfy their curiosity and the enjoyment of learning the language itself. This isn’t me, and I’m going to assume it isn’t you if you’re reading this guide either. That’s not to say that I don’t love learning Chinese, because I do, but I find it necessary to provide some sort of motivating structure and goalposts for this project. By this I mean something as simple as “I like this TV show and I want to watch it and understand it,” or “I want to understand these weird memes Chinese accounts post on twitter,” to as complicated as “I want to read Hongloumeng and Plumb in the Golden Vase in the original Classical Chinese.” These are all acceptable goals. Though the higher your goal is the more important it is to set yourself some intermediary objectives so that you don’t get lost on your way to Romance of the Three Kingdoms or whatever you’ve set your sights on. Bird people, from what I gather about their weird cult, will call the creature that gets them into the hobby their “spark bird.” I’m going to borrow this concept here. You need a spark bird. A spark Chinese Thing. It can’t be an abstract project or you won’t find the motivation to continue when you’re feeling like it’s a burden and not a “fun thing” any more.

**Technique and Tools:** Again, subjective, but I think it’s very important to figure out what your ideal study workflow is as soon as possible. This is also something that’s going to evolve as you advance, but you should try to grow accustomed to your habits and figure out what works for you/what definitely doesn’t. This means considering things like flashcards, what sort of reading/listening materials draw your attention, how often you want to study/how many hrs a week you expect to devote, how you record and correct errors, etc. My workflow continues to evolve today, and I correct and improve on shit constantly but getting a general impression of what’s right for you is essential.

**Resources:** I’m really going to focus on this section here, some info I might organize in to other sections I’ll include in the commentary on specific links for now. Maybe I’ll change this later, maybe not. If you want to give me some feedback on structure or suggest a new resource please do.

**ALL STAR MOST IMPORTANT:**

**HEAVENLY PATH:** [**https://heavenlypath.notion.site/heavenlypath/Heavenly-Path-d9be1806465b4525afeb132d1079194c**](https://heavenlypath.notion.site/heavenlypath/Heavenly-Path-d9be1806465b4525afeb132d1079194c)**:   
THE GREATEST CHINESE LEARNING RESOURCE COLLECTION AS EXISTS NOW. Everything I’m telling you here is probably here, in more detail, explained better, more resources are linked, more information, more analysis, etc. God tier website. Feel free to close this guide and just go to them. I’m copy pasting half this shit here.**

**ANKI**: You need to use this for flashcards. There is really no debating it, don’t try to say like “oh well I can use quizlet” no you can’t they don’t have spaced repetition any more. You have to use Anki. Get used to it. The program is really annoying and made by Japanese learners (lowest of the low worm ppl) so it’s really unpleasant to use sometimes and has a lot of quirks but get used to it. Read guides, look at YT vids, etc. Make your own cards, get the extension that lets you use the **zhongwen browser extension** to MINE new cards off stuff you see online.

**CHINESE GRAMMAR WIKI:** [**https://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/**](https://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/)self-explanatory. It’s a grammar wiki, you need it. A lot of stuff won’t be explained in text books or apps if you are self-learning, please use this.

**ITALKI:** [**https://www.italki.com/**](https://www.italki.com/)**:** if you’re serious you need to spend money and do this, assuming you can’t go to China/Taiwan and don’t have access to a classroom environment/aren’t in one anymore. It’s fairly cheap to reserve lessons with a teacher in PRC, Taiwan is more expensive. You can run the price range from what is basically “chatting” with someone who will talk to you for an hr to fully professional/registered teachers who will do lesson plans and assign you HW and so on. This is unbeatably useful.

**PLECO:** Dictionary app, OCR scanning, flashcards, example sentences, audio etc. Just pay for the full version, it’s a one time payment. Just do it if you’re fr about it. It’s basically mandatory.   
**Ximayalya FM:** App for audiobooks, recordings, listening practice, basically free.

### ****【 BEGINNER RESOURCES 】****

[**HelloChinese**](http://www.hellochinese.cc/) – Good beginner mobile app, much better than Duolingo. Don’t do Duo if you have any money to pay for something better.  
[**Chinese Reading Practice**](http://chinesereadingpractice.com/) - Short stories with tools to help comprehension for beginners and

### ****【 INTERMEDIATE RESOURCES 】****

[**HelloTalk**](https://www.hellotalk.com/): website/app that lets you speak with foreign speakers, can be free/paid depending on what you put forth. Some people will want to learn English, you can help them.  
[**Readibu**](https://www.readibu.com/) – reading focused learning app.

### ****【 ADVANCED RESOURCES 】****

[**Qidian/Qdmm**](https://www.qidian.com/) webnovel reading sites.  
[**微信读书**](https://weread.qq.com/) – wechat reading app, audiobooks and webnovels and published fiction.  
 [**B站 - 哔哩哔哩**](https://www.bilibili.com/) – Chinese youtube anime hell.