Automated Anki Flashcard Generation From Lesson Vocab.

Setting up Anki

1. Go to https://ankiweb.net/account/login and create a free account.
2. Download the PC software from https://apps.ankiweb.net/
3. Install the app on your smartphone (optional but recommended). The Anki app for Android is called "Ankidroid" for IOS It's called "AnkiMobile". **N.B Do not download "AnkiApp" this is a copycat app and not linked**

Getting the vocab / phrases from your lesson:

4. Download lesson vocab from Google Spreadsheets as Excel spreadsheets. Put all spreadsheets in same folder.
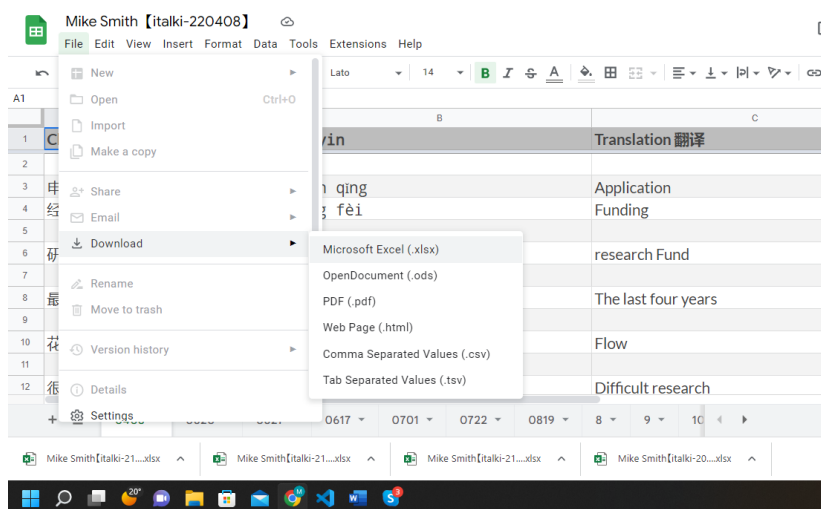
Processing the vocab into an Anki Flashcard Deck

5. This might be slightly different on Mac but on Windows:
6. Download the zip file from here:
   https://github.com/mikesmithlab/Chinese/blob/master/anki_flashcard.zip
7. Right click on the file and extract all.
8. Select where you want the software to be stored.
9. Double click on "anki_flashcard" folder
10. Within the folder find a file called "anki_flashcard" and double click
11. First time you try this Windows may pop open a window. Click on "more info" and "Run anyway"
12. A File dialog should open. Navigate to the folder where you stored your lesson spreadsheets and click ok
13. In next dialog type the name for this set of spreadsheets e.g "Lessons"
14. You should now see a black command window (maybe minimised at the bottom of screen) which will tell you as it processes each file.

If you have issues with this step I may be able to give you limited help. Please double check you've done everything described above first! Log an issue here, describing what operating system you are running and what the problem appears to be: **https://github.com/mikesmithlab/Chinese/issues**

If you know how to use python you can develop / change how the flashcards are generated. Clone the github repo: https://github.com/mikesmithlab/Chinese

Loading flashcards into anki

Start the anki software on your pc and click "File", "Import". Navigate to the folder with your spreadsheets and you will see a new file "Lessons.apkg" (if that's what you called it above).

A new "deck" called "Lessons" should now be listed which contains all the flashcards. You should then click "sync". If you sync to AnkiWeb and your phone then you can get the flashcards on your phone.

Loading new cards in at a later date

If you later on have more spreadsheets which you want to upload.

1. Store the new spreadsheets in a different folder from the old ones
2. When you get to the second file dialog (step 13 above) make sure you call them something different, i.e not Lessons
3. Import into anki as before.
4. Within anki click "Browse"
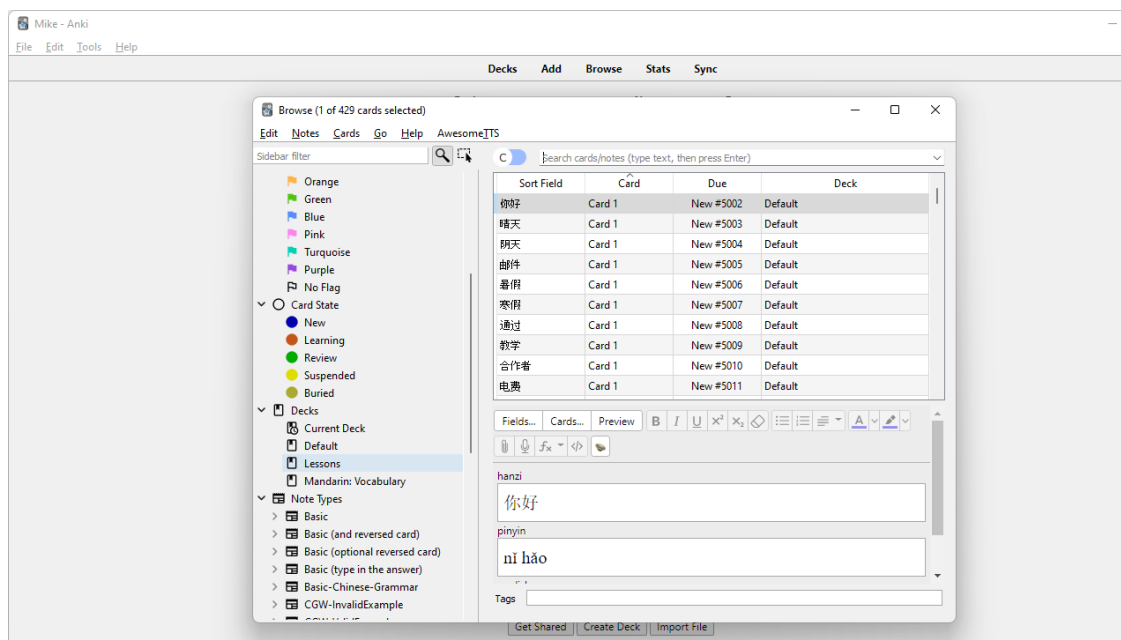
5. On the left hand side of the new window click the new deck you've just loaded in
6. On the table click one of the entries and then ctrl + a to select all.
7. Right click and select "change deck".
8. In the pop up select the original deck. Ie "Lessons" and "Move Cards".
9. Close the Browse window
10. Next to the new deck select the settings cog and delete the new deck.
11. This will result in the two decks being combined and not losing your progress!

What else can you do with Anki?

Here are a few more tips I've found helpful.

1) **Getting other people's "decks".**

There are lots of decks of varying quality that other people have made. Some are freely shared. There is a huge list here: https://ankiweb.net/shared/decks/mandarin . These can be downloaded and then imported into the anki pc software and then studied.

2) **Adding audio text to speech to Anki with Awesome TTS** - You can generate text to speech audio for your flashcards. You'll need to make sure you have added Chinese language voices to your pc. These are available for free in Windows. There may be more than one. Some sound better than others so it is worth experimenting a bit.
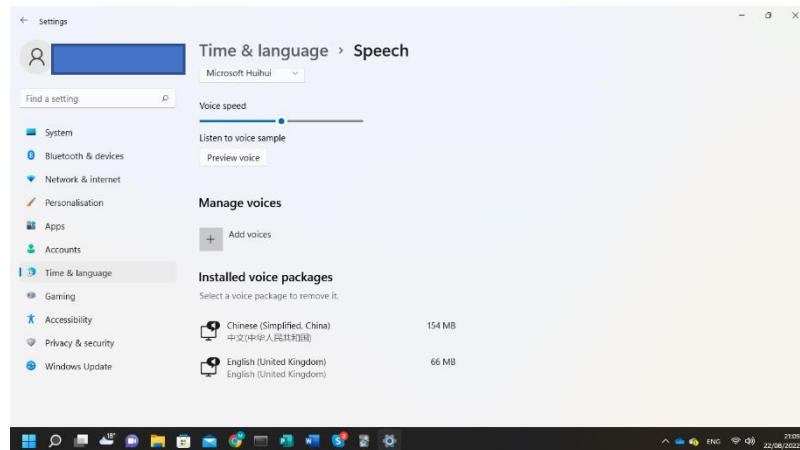
Within anki pc software Choose "Tools" and then "Add-ons". In the pop up click "Get Add-ons". In the pop up box type the following code: **1436550454** and then click OK. Restart the anki software. Now click "Browse" and then select your deck of cards on the left hand side as you did above. Now highlight all the rows corresponding to flashcards you want to add audio to. Since the cards are in both directions: English -> Chinese and Chinese -> English select all the ones with characters under hanzi.

At the top click of this window click on "Awesome TTS"
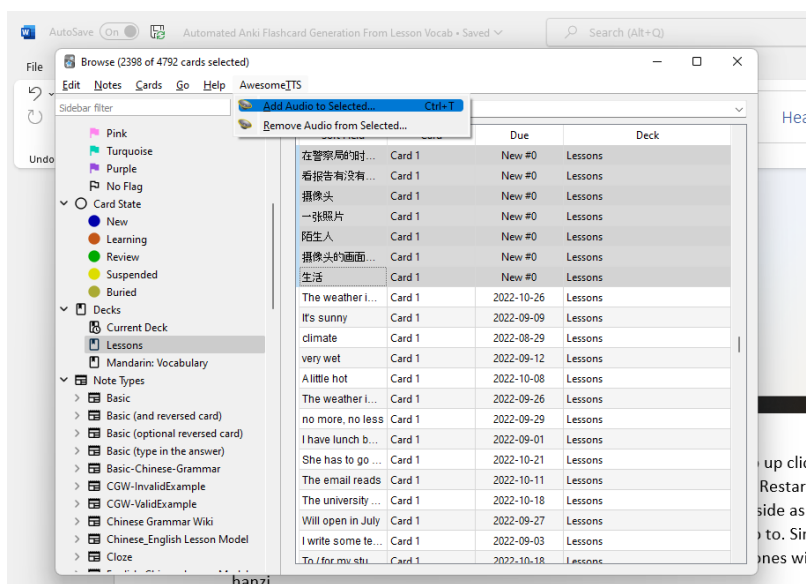
Choose a voice (Make sure it's a Chinese voice). Select "Source Field" and "Destination Field" as "hanzi". Check "Append [sound:xxx] Tag onto Destination Field". Finally click generate. It will then process all your cards. Finally in the main window click "sync".

Warning. Next time you sync to your phone make sure you are on wifi not mobile data as you could be in for a nasty surprise on your next bill!