

生活汉语初步

First Steps in Chinese

[英] Martin Symonds (石明理)

[美] David Parshall

[英] David Seiboth

短期课程

Short Course
in Everyday Chinese



陕西师范大学出版社
Shaanxi Normal University Press

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INTRODUCTION & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book is written to help you *communicate*. Since language *is* communication, the learner should want to be able to talk fluently and naturally as quickly as possible. We've tried to present each lesson in a user-friendly format so that learning Mandarin will be *fun*! So you will find this book heavy on communication and light on reading and writing.

The first 10 lessons cover the pronunciation of Mandarin Chinese, as well as starting you off on some simple sentence patterns. Lessons 11-33 cover topics which you will meet frequently while living in China.

Do take a look at the Reference Section (Pages 323-358) for lists of useful words covering everyday topics.

Needing ideas for how to go about learning Chinese? Then look up the website: <http://www.chinesemadeeasy.com/>

Confused about the *Parts of Speech*? Then turn to Page 78.

A complete Chinese-English alphabetical *pinyin* list of all the *new vocabulary* can be found on Pages 359-384.

What makes this book different from other Chinese textbooks in China?

- The content of each lesson is intensely practical. We have assumed that you are living in China and want to communicate on everyday topics as quickly as possible. So only useful vocabulary, immediately relevant to your everyday needs, is included.
- We have worked hard at trying to make the grammar explanations as simple and clear as possible, avoiding complicated linguistic terminology.
- Each lesson contains an activity related to the topic to get you using the words.

So get out daily and use what you learn in class. And we trust that, as you do so, you will not only find that learning Chinese is fun, but you will also experience the kindness and hospitable nature of the Chinese people.

Many people have contributed to the compilation of this textbook. A special word of thanks to 丁少农, 王晓音 and 王岚 at 陕西师大 who carefully went through the final manuscript and offered many helpful suggestions.

Martin Symonds
David Parshall
David Seiboth

July 1, 2004

给老师的话

(to the teacher)

此书是为在中国停留时间较短的外国人设计的短期课程。教此书
前，老师应充分准备，因为该书在句型方面的练习较少。请老师尽量
利用生词跟学生练习句型，勿仅仅领念，或以原句型为基础，参考《实
用速成汉语》内的同一句型，加以练习至熟练。

《课内活动》部分非常重要，请老师与学生互扮角色进行多次练
习，达到能很自然地与中国人交谈的目的。

本书在顺序的编排上，有时为顺应课文需要，由简单的句型忽然
衔接较长较困难的句型，此时学生最易产生挫折感，为此请老师多鼓
励学生，并比照《实用速成汉语》句型，以金字塔方式教授之。

作业方面，请学生针对课文主题，写出自己的状况，由老师订正
后还给学生，再由学生以“说”的方式表达出来，如此将有助于学生日
后的沟通。

石明理

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5. *yǒu* 有 (to have) *shéi* 谁 (who?)
6. Telling the Time Action Verbs
7. Choice-type Questions Chinese Adjectives
8. *zài* 在 as a Verb, a Co-Verb and as Action Which is Going on Now
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16. Measure Words Large Numbers *gěi* 给 (to give) *rúguǒ* 如果 (if)
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17. Asking the Date and Day of the Week Emphasis with *shì* 是 *de* 的
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26. When Frequency Within a Period Mode of Transport *zuò* 坐 & *qí* 骑
27. *suīrán* 虽然, *dànshì* 但是 (although)
cóng 从 *dào* 到 (from ... to ...) past experiences *guò* 过
yīnwèi 因为 *suǒyǐ* 所以..... (because)
28. *háishì* 还是 (or?)
29. Double-syllable Auxiliary Verbs Shortened to one Syllable
30. Comparison of Distances with Co-Verb *lí* 离 The Same *yíyàng* 一样
32. Verb + *dào* 到 + PW/TW *yuè lái yuè* 越来越 (more and more)
33. *duō* 多 (more) and *shǎo* 少 (less) Co-Verb *yòng* 用 (with, in, using)

Lesson One

第一课

1

What's in this lesson

1. An overall view of the basic sound elements in Mandarin
2. Pronunciation and Tones. Practice and Contrast exercises
3. An exercise in responding to questions about one's nationality
4. A fluency workout including practical phrases and sentences
5. A Mini-dialogue
6. New Vocabulary to Memorize
7. Choose a Chinese surname for yourself

An Overview of the Mandarin Sound System

Mandarin Chinese consonants and vowels combined or standing alone produce a total of just over 400 monosyllabic sounds. Most words are one syllable or a combination of two or three syllables. The electrifying twist comes with the addition of four tones. The 1st tone is a high level pitch, the 2nd tone rises, the 3rd tone is a falling-rising pitch, and the 4th tone falls sharply. See the tone chart on Page 7.

The Chinese writing system is ideographic. There are 214 basic radicals or ideographs. These ideographs can stand alone or are combined together to make up a unit of meaning. Each radical can represent a broad domain of meaning like divinity, humans, animal, water, metal etc. For example, the character for sea will include the water radical; the character for vegetable will include the radical for grass. College students are said to know between 4000-6000 characters. However, this book will focus on using the Mandarin romanization called Pinyin.

In the exercise below, your teacher will pronounce the Mandarin alphabet twice. The first time through listen carefully to the sounds and acquaint yourself with the Mandarin Pinyin. The next time through you will mimic your teacher.

老师：请先给学生读一次，然后让学生跟着朗读

CONSONANTS

b	Similar to an English 'b'	bā	bá	bǎ	bà
p	Similar to an English 'p', but with more aspiration	pā	pá	pǎ	pà
m	Same as an English 'm'	mā	má	mǎ	mà
f	Same as an English 'f'	fā	fá	fǎ	fà
d	Similar to an English 'd'	dā	dá	dǎ	dà
t	Similar to an English 't', but with more aspiration	tā	tá	tǎ	tà
n	Similar to an English 'n'	nā	ná	nǎ	nà
l	Similar to an English 'l'	lā	lá	lǎ	là

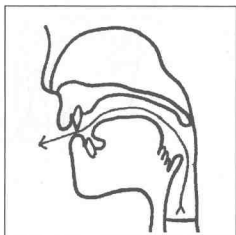
g	Similar to an English 'g'			
	gā	gá	gǎ	gà
k	Similar to an English 'k', but with more aspiration			
	kā	ká	kǎ	kà
h	Similar to the English 'h' as in 'hood', but with a slight rasping sound			
	hā	há	hǎ	hà
j	Similar to an English 'j' as in 'jeep', but the tongue tip is <i>down</i>			
	jī	jí	jǐ	jì
q	Similar to an English 'ch' as in 'cheap', but the tongue tip is <i>down</i>			
	qī	qí	qǐ	qì
x	Similar to an English 'sh' as in 'sheep', but the tongue tip is <i>down</i>			
	xī	xí	xǐ	xì
zh	Similar to an English 'j' as in 'jar'; note that the tip of the tongue is <i>up</i>			
	zhā	zhá	zhǎ	zhà
ch	Similar to an English 'ch' as in 'chart'; note that the tip of the tongue is <i>up</i>			
	chā	chá	chǎ	chà
sh	Similar to an English 'sh' as in 'shark'; note that the tip of the tongue is <i>up</i>			
	shā	shá	shǎ	shà
r	Similar to an English 'r' as in 'raj'; note that the tip of the tongue is <i>up</i>			
	rā	rá	rǎ	rà
z	Similar to the final 'ds' sound in 'woods'			
	zā	zá	zǎ	zà
c	Similar to the final 'ts' sound in 'curtsy', but with much more aspiration			
	cā	cá	cǎ	cà
s	Similar to an English 's'			
	sā	sá	sǎ	sà
w	Similar to an English 'w' as in 'wall'			
	wā	wá	wǎ	wà
y	Similar to an English 'y' as in 'yes'			
	yā	yá	yǎ	yà

VOWELS

i	Similar to the 'ee' in the English word 'bee'	ī	í	ǐ	ì
u	Similar to the 'oo' in 'boom'	ū	ú	ǔ	ù
yu/ü	To make this sound, pronounce the 'e' in 'bee' and then round your lips	yū	yú	yǔ	yù
a	As when the doctor says: "Open your mouth wide and say <u>Ah</u> "	ā	á	ǎ	à
o	Similar to the 'or' in British English 'core'	wō	wó	wǒ	wò
e	Similar to the English 'e' sound in the phrase "Go to the right"	ē	é	ě	è
ye/ie	Similar to the English exclamation " <u>Yeah!</u> "	yē	yé	yě	yè
ai	Similar to the 'uy' in 'buy'	āi	ái	ǎi	ài
ei	Similar to the 'ei' in 'weigh'	ēi	éi	ěi	èi
ao	Similar to the 'au' in 'sauerkraut'	āo	áo	ǎo	ào
ou	Similar to the 'ou' in 'dough'	ōu	óu	ǒu	òu
an	Similar to the 'an' in 'tan'	ān	án	ǎn	àn
en	Similar to the 'un' in 'under'	ēn	én	ěn	èn
ang	Mandarin 'a' followed by an 'ng'	āng	áng	ǎng	àng
eng	Mandarin 'e' followed by an 'ng'	ēng	éng	ěng	èng
er	To make this sound, pronounce the 'e' and then curl your tongue back	ēr	ér	ěr	èr

Pronunciation and Tones

This lesson will introduce you to some consonants, vowels and the four tones.

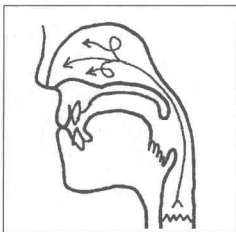
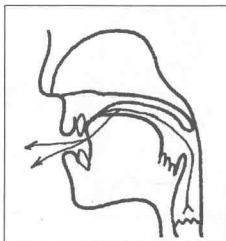


f

Mandarin 'f' is the same as the 'f' in 'four'.

l

The Mandarin 'l' is similar to the English 'l' in 'lip', but in Mandarin, the tip of the tongue touches the teeth as in the word 'health'.

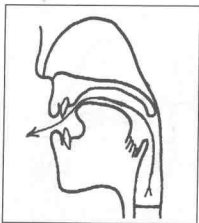


m

Mandarin 'm' is the same as the 'm' in 'man'.

n

This Mandarin sound is the 'n' in the English word 'tenth'. Keep in mind that in the Mandarin 'n' the tip of the tongue touches the upper teeth while the English 'n' normally touches the alveolar ridge.

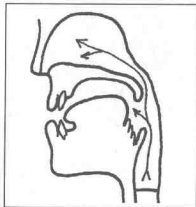


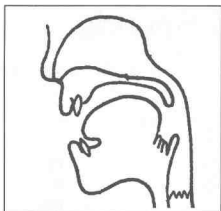
s

The Mandarin 's' is similar to the English 's', but the tongue is pushed slightly further forward as in the word 'monthg'. Some people place the tip of the tongue behind the *lower* teeth while making this sound.

h

The Mandarin 'h' is similar to the 'h' in 'hair'. The difference is the Mandarin 'h' has a slight rasping sound similar to the Scottish ch in 'loch' or the German 'ch'.



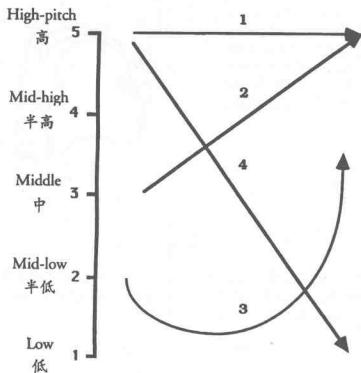


a

This Mandarin vowel resembles the British 'a' in 'father', or the American 'o' in 'brother'. The front of the tongue is down, and the lips are unrounded.

The Four Tones

In this section, we will use the above sounds to begin our practice of tones, but first a couple of things about tones. Mandarin has four tones, but keep in mind tones are relative to a person's own voice pitch.



1st tone 一声

This pitch is relatively high and is kept level throughout. The pitch is around Eb or Db for women, and Middle C or Db for men.

2nd tone 二声

This tone rises from a mid-pitch to the level of your 1st tone pitch.

3rd tone 三声

Starting from a mid-low, this tone drops down and then rises to a mid-high pitch.

4th tone 四声

This tone falls sharply from a high pitch to a low pitch very quickly.

Tasting Tones and Sounds

In this workout, first listen to your teacher pronounce these sounds for you, then pronounce them together.

老师：请先给学生读一次，然后让学生跟着朗读

fā
lā
mā
nā
sā
hā

fá
lá
má
ná
sá
há

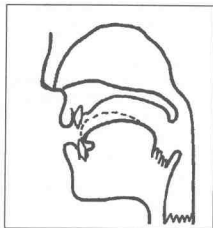
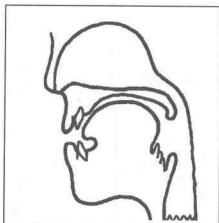
fǎ
lǎ
mǎ
nǎ
sǎ
hǎ

fà
là
mà
nà
sà
hà

Three Vowels in the Final Position

i

The 'i' vowel closely resembles the vowel in the words 'feet, bee, leaf, reef'. The tongue is in the high-front position while the lips remain unrounded. Mandarin vowels are pure vowels which means the tongue doesn't move when making a Mandarin vowel. In contrast, when making an English vowel, a slight glide often occurs.

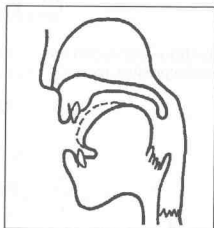


ei

This vowel is the 'ei' diphthong. In English, it sounds like the 'ay' in 'may'. The tongue moves from the mid-front position to a high-front one.

ai

The last vowel in this lesson is the 'ai' diphthong. This diphthong is similar to 'eye' or 'buy'. It is a Mandarin 'a' which glides to a high-front 'i'.



These Mandarin diphthongs place an even amount of stress from the first vowel gliding all the way to the second. This is different from English where the first vowel is stressed and the glide is unstressed. So remember when practicing your Mandarin diphthongs to stress the glide as well.

Contrasting Sounds

In this workout, you will be given an opportunity to listen to the differences between closely related sounds, and also reproduce these sounds yourself. Tones are included but not contrasted.

请反复练习汉语发音的区别

Contrasting 'i' with 'ei'

mī
lí
nǐ
ì

mēi
léi
něi
èi

mēi
léi
něi
èi

mǐ
lí
nǐ
ì

Contrasting 'a' with 'ai'

sā
má
nǎ
hà

sāi
mái
nǎi
hài

sāi
mái
nǎi
hài

sā
má
nǎ
hà

Contrasting Tones

In this workout, you will first listen to the differences between the four tones, then you will reproduce these sounds and tones yourself. The sounds will not be contrasted.

请反复练习汉语四声的区别

Contrasting the Four Tones

ā
ī
ēi
āi

á
í
ēi
ái

ǎ
ǐ
ěi
ǎi

à
ì
èi
ài

Contrasting 1st and 2nd tones

lā
lī
lēi
lái

lá
lí
léi
lái

lǎ
lǐ
lěi
lǎi

là
lì
lèi
lài

Contrasting 1st and 3rd tones

mā
mī
mēi
māi

mǎ
mǐ
mēi
mǎi

mǎ
mǐ
mēi
mǎi

mā
mī
mēi
māi

Contrasting 1st and 4th tones

nā
nī
nēi
nāi

nà
nì
nēi
nài

nà
nì
nēi
nài

nā
nī
nēi
nāi