

WAY TO
Chinese

Get Ahead

in Chinese

中学阶梯汉语

第一册 主编 宣力
Lik Suen



Vol.1



华语教学出版社
SINOLINGUA

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宣力 主编

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Preface

Get Ahead in Chinese is designed to help students achieve their potential as language learners, enabling them to overcome the inherent complexity of Chinese and reach GCSE and equivalent proficiency through a new approach to learning.

The distinctive features of this series of textbooks are:

The students are active participants in the language learning process, playing the main role in exploring, discovering and practising the language. The teacher's role is to support students by providing examples of correct pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar, while assessing their progress.

The students learn to use Chinese characters from the very first lesson; pinyin supports this process, but is rapidly phased out. Vocabulary and grammar are built up systematically throughout the book. Character practice and a high frequency of repetition ensure students to better recognize and memorize Chinese characters. Students who follow this approach tend to move ahead of those who stick with pinyin during the second year of study.

Get Ahead in Chinese systematically covers grammar and vocabulary and aims to enable the student's to communicate with Chinese about the things they find mutually interesting, to travel in China as a tourist and to provide a basis for future study and employment.

From the first unit the learners develop all four language skills, listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each unit contains three activities which reinforce learning points through realistic tasks, topics and settings.

How to use this book:

Each task starts with listening. After listening to the recording of the text, the teacher should allow students enough time to figure out the meaning of new vocabulary by themselves. Solutions to the vocabulary exercise in the textbook are provided in the following recording.

Oral practice is important. Students should be encouraged to speak as much as they can.

The new characters in each character practice section are allowed to be photocopied and used as flashcards.

The Compiler
March 2008

About the Author

Lik Suen is Senior Lecturer in Chinese in the Chinese Department, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

She is a graduate of Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) and has an MA in Chinese Linguistics from Hong Kong.

She has 15 years experience of teaching Chinese as a foreign language at schools and universities in China's mainland and Hong Kong, USA and UK. She also taught methodology, pedagogy and linguistics on the teaching training programme at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

She is a national examiner for the Mandarin Proficiency Test (PSC) of the People's Republic of China and held an equivalent examiner position in China's Hong Kong. She is also Chief Examiner in Chinese for a major examining group in UK.

前 言

《中学阶梯汉语》是一套从零起点开始的初级中学汉语教材，适合海外及国际学校的非母语学习者使用。全套书共分四册，前三册为主体教材，第四册为复习册。在校学习者可望在二至三年修毕全套教材。本教材具有以下主要特点：

- 在功能上采用了欧洲框架，涵盖了初级到中级的相关语用要求。
- 在话题选择方面，既包括海外中学生的日常活动，又紧贴中国现实，多元化地介绍中国的文化与生活。
- 在语言技能的培养方面，听说读写四项技能平衡发展，力求学生做到四能：能听，能说，能读和能写，以达到交际及应试的要求。
- 在编写理念方面，鼓励学生成为主动学习者，去发现和使用中文，因此在课文和练习编写时，遵循少讲多练的原则，安排符合中学年龄段学习心理的语言练习。
- 教材以汉字教学为核心，考虑到中学教学时数的限制，教材严格控制每课的新字量，通过增加汉字的复现率以及各种类型的书写练习，帮助学生克服汉字记忆难的问题。
- 全套教材教授约八百个汉字，其中第一册的汉字量为一百八十个，第二册为二百二十二个，第三册为二百八十五个。第四册为综合复习册，除整合前三册的语法词汇外，还补充了相当数量的基础汉字和词汇。

希望这套教材达到和满足您的学习要求。我们热切盼望您的反馈意见与批评指正。

编者

二零零八年于伦敦

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Unit 1

Welcome 欢迎

In this unit you will learn:

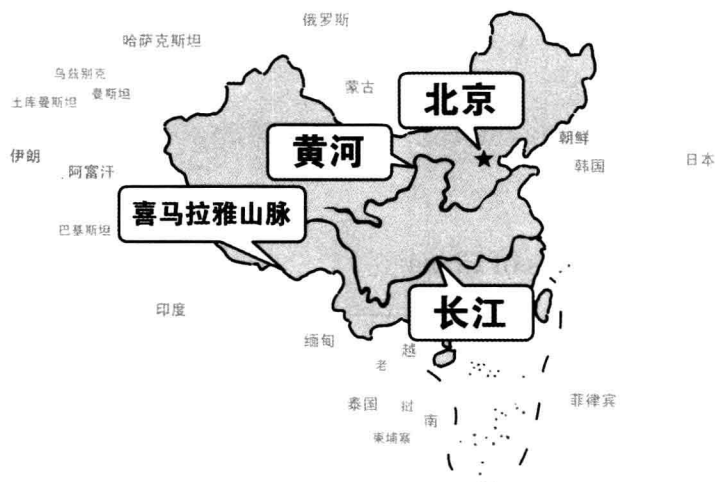
- information about China, Chinese language, Chinese characters, and Chinese pronunciation
- numbers 0 to 10
- how to write Chinese characters

Task 1 China

Location and national flag



China is located in East Asia, with Russia and Mongolia to the north, Pakistan and India to the west, Thailand and Vietnam to the south, with Korea and Japan to the east. The national flag has five stars on a red background.



The highest mountain in the world

Mount Everest, with a height of 8,844 metres (29,017 ft) is situated at the edge of the Tibetan Plateau (Qing-Zang Gaoyuan), on the border between Nepal and China.

China descends in elevation step by step from the west to the east. Mountains and hills make up 69.4% of the total area, including 6 other mountain peaks reaching higher than 8,000 metres.

Size of China

The total area of China is 9,596,960 sq km.

- Similar in size to the United States;
- About 40 times the size of the United Kingdom;
- Sichuan, one province in central China which is famous for its spicy cuisine, is as big as France with a population of more than 100 million.

Economic growth

The annual economic growth rate has stood at more than 7% since 1995.

Currency

The Chinese currency is called Renminbi (RMB), meaning “people’s currency”. Units of RMB are popularly referred to as *yuan*. One *pound* is equal to about 14 *yuan* (2008).



Ex. 1.1 Answer the following questions about China.



1. Name 4 neighbouring countries of China:
_____, _____, _____ and _____.
2. The colour of the national flag is _____. There are _____ stars on it.
3. The highest mountain, Mount Everest, is _____ metres tall, i.e. _____ feet.
4. What is the total area of China in sq km ?
5. What is the name of the Chinese currency? £100 can buy how many *yuan* at present?

Task 2 Chinese language and cities

Chinese language

Chinese is one of the 5 working languages of the United Nations.

The national language is Putonghua (普通话, common speech) or Mandarin. This is also called Guoyu (国语) in the Taiwan area and Huayu (华语) in Singapore and Malaysia. As a written language, Chinese has been in use for over 4,000 years.

Putonghua is used as a spoken language in more and more areas in China. Most people who live in areas where different dialects are spoken can also understand Putonghua.

Southern Chinese have a long tradition of working overseas and Chinese immigrants have built up Chinatowns around the world, such as those in London, Manchester, Los Angeles, New York and Vancouver.

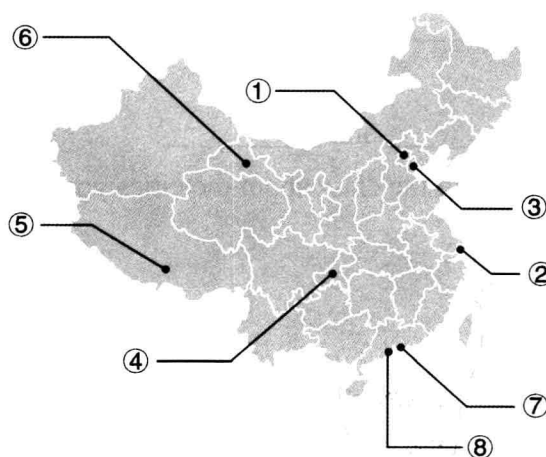
Cantonese is one of the local dialects of southern China and is widely used in overseas Chinese communities. "Dim sum" is a typical Cantonese food.

As a working language in the United Nations, Chinese has the most users in the world. About 1.5 billion people in the world speak Chinese.

Population and cities

China has about 22% of the total population of the world. Its population reached 1.3 billion in 2006. Eleven cities have a population of over 2 million, including Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong.

The following map shows some cities in China.



- ① **Beijing** (北京) is the capital of China and has many historic and scenic sites attracting many visitors.
- ② **Shanghai** (上海) is a major port and the biggest commercial city in China.
- ③ **Tianjin** (天津) and ④ **Chongqing** (重庆) are two cities that are also municipalities directly under the central government.
- ⑤ **Lasa** (拉萨), known as **Lhasa**, is the provincial capital of the Tibet Autonomous Region at an altitude of 3,650 metres.
- ⑥ **Dunhuang** (敦煌) was an important junction on the ancient Silk Road. This ancient route from China to the Mediterranean has served as a highway for merchandise as well as for religious and cultural ideas since the 5th century AD.
- ⑦ **Xianggang** (香港), known as **Hong Kong**, was governed by the United Kingdom for about 100 years before it was handed back to China in 1997.
- ⑧ **Aomen** (澳门), known as **Macao**, was governed by Portugal, and was given back to China in 1999.

Ex. 1.2 Questions about Chinese language and cities.



1. The national language of China is _____.
2. What is the most commonly used Chinese dialect in overseas Chinese towns? _____.
3. The population of China is about _____.
4. Name 4 big cities in China:
_____, _____, _____ and _____.
5. Have you been to China? If yes, tell the class about the cities you have visited.

Task 3 Chinese characters

Knowledge about Chinese characters

Chinese characters are used for written Chinese and have influenced the Japanese and Korean scripts.

You can read a newspaper if you know 3,000 characters.

The sound of a Chinese character can vary in different dialects, but in each dialect it usually has the same meaning.

Some characters are pictograms, but in modern Chinese more than 80% of characters are composed of one phonetic component and one meaning component.

In China's mainland, simplified Chinese characters were introduced in 1956 to help reduce mass illiteracy. They are widely used in China's mainland, Singapore and overseas Chinese communities.

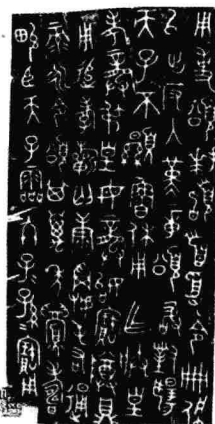
Traditional characters are still used in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

The following are some of the ancient types of Chinese characters.

- (a) Oracle Bone Script (1600 BC – 1046 BC)
- (b) Bronze Script (1122 BC – 256 BC)
- (c) Seal Script in the Qin Dynasty (221 BC – 206 BC)



(a)



(b)



(c)

Look at the table on page 6. You can see how the character “dragon” has gradually evolved over 4,000 years from Oracle Script, to Bronze, to Bamboo, to Seal, to Clerk, to Traditional, and to Simplified version.

甲骨文

金文

楚简文字

小篆

隶书

楷书

简体楷书

龍

龍

龍

龍











龍

龍

龙

Ex. 1.3 Now, can you guess the meaning of the following characters?



	Oracle	Today's character	Meaning		Oracle	Today's character	Meaning
1.		日		2.		月	
3.		山		4.		水	
5.		火		6.		马	
7.		羊		8.		牛	
9.		家		10.		龟	

Chinese characters and their strokes

All Chinese characters are built up from basic strokes.

The simplest have only one stroke while the more complex characters can have more than 20 strokes.

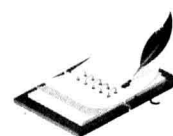
The following table in Ex. 1.4 will show you how to write the strokes and how they are put together to make different characters.



Ex. 1.4 Stroke practice. Fill in the strokes in the boxes. Pay attention to the direction.

Stroke	Direction	Name	As in						
丶		Dot	火 羊	丶	丶	丶	丶	丶	丶
一		Horizontal	羊	一	一	一	一	一	一
丨		Vertical	羊 山	丨	丨	丨	丨	丨	丨
丿		Curve left	月 家 牛	丿	丿	丿	丿	丿	丿
㇏		Curve right	火 水	㇏	㇏	㇏	㇏	㇏	㇏
㇚		Horizontal plus vertical	日 月	㇚	㇚	㇚	㇚	㇚	㇚
丨		Vertical plus tick	小 水	丨	丨	丨	丨	丨	丨

Ex. 1.5 Character practice. Copy the following characters 4 times each on a piece of paper. Make sure you are following the stroke orders the directions showing.



Meaning	Today's character		Oracle Script
► Left vertical stroke before top horizontal stroke			
mouth		 	

► Centre vertical stroke last

middle			
--------	--	--	--

► Left before right

young boy			
female			
people			

► Bottom horizontal stroke last

son, boy			
----------	--	--	--