

CHINESE FOR EVERYONE

Book One

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Chinese for Everyone Series

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PREFACE

Chinese for Everyone was developed over a few years at the Language Centre in the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), University of London. It was primarily designed for adult English speakers who wish to learn Chinese for practical purposes.

There are ten lessons in this book, each centred on a Chinese speech pattern based on one of the most essential verbs. Grammar explanations have been kept to the minimal in order to focus the learner's attention on practising and using the language. The vocabulary introduced in each lesson has also been limited to the most basic so that the learner can use familiar words to say short, simple sentences, thereby gaining a degree of fluency in a relatively short period of time. From the beginning, a lot of emphasis has been placed on word orders, which are one of the most important aspects of Chinese grammar, especially at beginner's level. By following and repeating the exercises in each lesson, which include listening, speaking and writing, learners soon build up a confidence that enables them to start communicating in Chinese.

The material and approach of this book had been piloted in the Language Centre at SOAS over a considerable length of time before publication, and had proved effective and user-friendly. Over that trial period, the authors received, and continue to receive, strong support from the SOAS Language Centre Administration, as well as valuable comments and feedback from those teachers and students who had used this book. In particular, the authors wish to thank An Hongzhen, Hu Weisan and Li Mingfang for freely giving their time to supply detailed comments. The authors also wish to thank Cypress Book Company (UK) Ltd, in particular Xia Zhansheng, Xu Xian and Zhang Wenqing, for undertaking the publication of this book, and for their patience and professionalism in the editing and production of the book.

The authors do realise that there is ample room for improvement in every aspect of this book. It is, however, hoped that its publication will make learning Chinese less of a struggle and more of a pleasure. Any comments from readers and users of this book will be most gratefully received.

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