

JIANYI HANYU HUIHUA

简易汉语会话

SIMPLE CHINESE
CONVERSATION

JIANYI HANYU HUIHUA

簡易漢語會話

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文字改革出版社

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內容說明

這是一本從英語學習現代漢語的自修讀本。從最簡單的句子到稍稍複雜一些的課文，一共 20 課。全部課文用漢字、漢語拼音、英文三者對照，每課附有生詞的解釋和語法的簡單說明。書的開頭有漢語拼音字母的發音說明。書的末尾有本書所用的“詞匯”，按照字母順序排列。

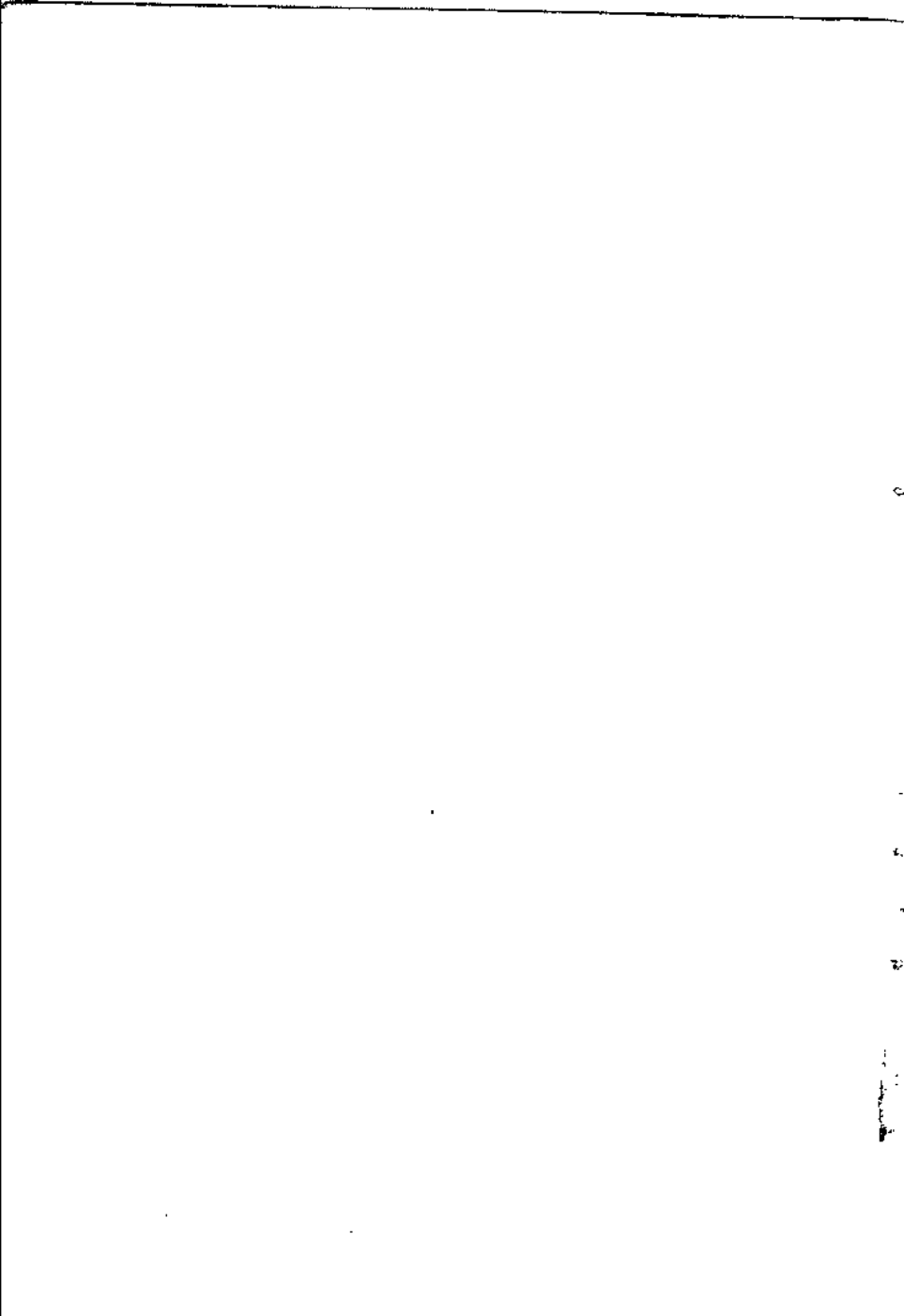
本書原來是《中國建設》月刊(英文) 1958 年 10 月號的一個附冊，現在作單行本出版。

This booklet is a self-teaching course for English speaking beginners. The 20 colloquial lessons are written in the new Chinese alphabet side by side with Chinese characters and English translation. A brief explanation of the new alphabet is given at the beginning and a glossary at the end. New words and grammatical notes are found in each lesson.

This booklet was first published in October, 1958, as a supplement of *China Reconstructs*, an English language monthly.

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P R E F A C E

The table below shows at a glance the evolution of the Chinese characters. Unlike most languages, they are not written alphabetically, but in a script derived originally from picture writing. To express abstract ideas, certain pictures are combined — for instance, the idea of "brightness" is expressed by putting together the sun 日 and moon 月, forming the character 明. Sometimes one component of a character may indicate the meaning and another the sound. Thus, the left side of the character 河 (meaning "river") signifies "water" and the right side gives the approximate sound.

As a result of the long simplification process and phonetic changes that took place before the third century A.D., the pictorial quality is no longer recognizable and the sound indicator has become less and less reliable. To an ordinary reader, the characters have become arbitrary symbols consisting of a given number of strokes.

These difficulties have long been recognized in China, especially by educators. In the past sixty years

	Before B.C. 220	220 B.C.- A.D. 25	A.D. 25- 220	A.D. 220- present day
Sun	𠄎	𠄎	日	日
Moon	𠄎	𠄎	月	月
Horse	𠄎	𠄎	馬	馬
Fish	𠄎	𠄎	魚	魚

many proposals for reform have been made, among which the appeal for a phonetic script was very widespread. But real reform came only after the liberation when the whole nation was united under the leadership of the Communist Party.

The Committee for the Reform of the written Language, under the guidance of the State Council, is in charge of this task. It has taken measures to modify the writing to meet the needs of the people. The first was the adoption of 425 simplified characters (with a reduced number of strokes) introduced in successive groups from 1956 to 1958. Secondly the "common speech" or putonghua based on Peking pronunciation is being promoted on a nationwide scale. All school children are being taught this in addition to the dialect of their birth. Thirdly, a phonetic script based on the Latin alphabet was adopted by the National People's Congress early in 1958. At present the script is being used merely as an aid to pronunciation, for promoting the "common speech", and to wipe out illiteracy.

Today all publications are printed in horizontal instead of vertical lines. Words in phonetic script are seen everywhere, side by side with the characters, in posters, book-titles, commodity labels, signboards, etc.

The Chinese language has often been regarded as very hard to learn. This is largely due to the elaborate nature of the writing. As for its pronunciation and grammar, they are no more difficult than those of any other language.

This little book is not intended to teach Chinese systematically. It merely offers some useful expressions that one may come across in daily life. The phonetic script has made it much easier to pronounce and memorize them. Block characters, however, are still given for those readers who are interested in them.

HOW TO SAY THE ALPHABET

IN the phonetic alphabet for the Chinese language each letter has its own name, just as in English, French or German. Below we give the way to pronounce the letters when you are "saying the alphabet" in Chinese (ê is pronounced like the *e* in the English word "yes"). In the list below, the first line gives the Chinese phonetic alphabet, the second their names in Chinese, and the third the approximate English equivalent.

a	b	c	d,	e	f	g;
a	bê	cê	dê,	e	éf	gê;
ah	bay	ts'ay	day,	e	ayf	gay;
h	i	j	k,	l	m	n;
ha	i	jié	kê,	êl	êm	nê;
hah	ec	jay	kay,	ayl	aym	nay;
o	p	q,	r	s	t;	
o	pê	qin,	ar	ês	tê;	
o	pay	chew,	ahr	ace	tay;	
u	v	w,	x	y	z.	
u	vê	wa,	xi	ya	zê.	
oo	vay	wah,	she	yah	dzay.	

- Note: (1) h, d, g, j, z, are unvoiced.
 (2) e is pronounced as in French *ê*, or International Phonetic Symbol *ø*.
 (3) o is as in *more*.

CONSONANTS

<i>Chinese Phonetic alphabet</i>	<i>International Phonetic Symbol</i>	<i>Key</i>
b	[b]	speak
p	[p']	peak
m	[m]	man
f	[f]	fan
d	[d]	steam
t	[t']	team
n	[n]	no
l	[l]	law
g	[g]	skill
k	[k']	kill
h	[x]	ach (German)
j	[tʃ]	jeer
q	[tʃ']	cheer
x	[ç]	ship
z	[ts]	adze
c	[ts']	that's
s	[s]	sound
zh	[tʃ]	rich (tip of tongue curved back)
ch	[tʃ']	chew (tip of tongue curved back)
sh	[ʃ]	shrub (tip of tongue curved back)
r	[ʒ]	between English r (run) and French j (jeune)
ng	[ŋ]	sing
y	[j]	you
w	[w]	way

VOWELS

<i>Chinese Phonetic alphabet</i>	<i>International Phonetic Symbol</i>	<i>Key</i>
a	[a]	father
o	[o]	saw
e	[ə]	le (French)
ê	[ɛ]	les (French)
i, yi	[i]	machine
u, wu	[u]	rude
ü, yu	[y]	ü (German)

(after j, q, x, the umlaut on ü is omitted)

ai	[ai]	aisle
ao	[au]	now
ou	[ou]	know
ci	[ɛi]	eight
ia, ya	[ia]	Asia
iao, yao	[iau]	yow!
iou, iu, you	[iou]	few
ie, ye	[iɛ]	yes
ua, wa	[ua]	waft
uai, wai	[uai]	wife
uo, wo	[uo]	woman
uei, ui, wei	[uei]	way
üe, yue	[yɛ]	ti + eh
er	[ər]	err
-i (in zi, ci, si)	[i]	Prolonged Z
-i (in zhi, chi, shi, ri)	[ʔ]	Vocalized r

Vowels + n or ng

an	[an]	can
ian, yan	[iæn]	yen
uan, wan	[uan]	wander

üan, yuan	[yæn]	ü + an
en	[en]	omen
uen, un, wen	[uen]	wen
in, yin	[in]	machine
ün, yun	[yn]	ü + n
ang	[aŋ]	bang (German)
iang, yang	[iaŋ]	young
uang, wang	[uaŋ]	wang
ong	[uŋ]	ung (German)
iong, yong	[iuŋ]	i + ung
eng	[eŋ]	sung
ueng, weng	[ueŋ]	u + eng
ing, ying	[iŋ]	sing

THE FOUR TONES

EACH Chinese vowel has not only its proper sound (as indicated by the spelling) but also a certain tone of voice which helps to determine its meaning.

In the standard speech, there are four tones. The first one, marked $\bar{}$, is called the "upper even tone" because it is spoken high but the voice neither rises nor falls. The second, \checkmark , starts with the voice lower but ends up as high as in the first. In the third tone, \vee , the voice is dropped at first and then rises in rather a drawn-out way, and in the fourth, \searrow , the voice falls from high to low.

It is important to try and get the tones right from the beginning, because in some instances you may be misunderstood if you pronounced them incorrectly. For example, the Chinese word meaning "sell" is written 卖 (*mài*), while that for "buy" is written 买 (*mǎi*); both sound like the English word "my". The difference is that the first is pronounced in the fourth or falling tone, and the second in the third or falling-rising.

LESSON 1

You and I

我 看 你。

Wo kan ni.

I look at you.

你 看 我。

Ni kan wo.

You look at me.

我 看 见 他。

Wo kanjian ta.

I see him.

他 看 见 你。

Ta kanjian ni.

He sees you.

我们 看 见 你们。

Women kanjian nimen.

We see you.

你们 看 见 我们。

Nimen kanjian women.

You see us.

他们 看 我们。

Tamen kan women.

They look at us.

你们 看 他们。

Nimen kan tamen.

You look at them.

New Words

wǒ I, me
nǐ you (sing.)
tā he, him,
kàn to look at

wǒmen we, us
nǐmen you (pl.)
tāmen they, them
kànjiàn to see

Grammatical Notes

The above sentences illustrate the basic word-order in a Chinese sentence: subject-verb-object.

The verb remains the same whether the subject is in singular or plural number, or in the first, or second, or third person. This is quite different from the English.

There is also no case in Chinese. *Wo* is good for both "I" and "me".

For these reasons, observation of word-order is very important.

LESSON 2

Common Salutations

AS elsewhere when friends meet, they begin their conversation by talking about weather or health.

您 好 嗎?

Nin hao ma?

You well? (How do you do?)

很 好。謝 謝 您。

Hen hao. Xiexie nin.

Very well. Thank you.

您 好 不 好?

Nin hao-buhao?

You well, not well?

我 也 很 好。謝 謝。

Wo ye hen hao. Xiexie.

I also very well. Thanks.

今 天 天 氣 好。

Jintian tianqi hao.

Today (the) weather (is) fine.

昨 天 天 氣 不 好。

Zuotian tianqi bu hao.

Yesterday (the) weather (was) not fine.

昨 天 很 冷。

Zuotian hen leng.

Yesterday very cold.

明 天 天 氣 好 不 好?

Mingtian tianqi hao-buhao?

Tomorrow (will the) weather (be) fine, not fine?

New Words

nín	you (polite form)	yě	also, too
hǎo	well, good, fine	jīntiān	today
ma?	has no meaning; indicates a question	tiānqi	weather
hěn	very	zuótiān	yesterday
xièxiè	thanks	bù	no, not
hǎo-bùhǎo?	good, not good? fine, not fine?	lěng	cold
		míngtiān	tomorrow

Grammatical Notes

In Chinese, adjectives like *hao*, *leng*, can be used as verbs. *Nín hao ma?* means "are you well?" Here the adjective *hao* is used as a verb. The same is true with *nín leng ma?*

There are several ways of asking a question in Chinese. One is to add the word *ma* at the end of the sentence. No change of word order takes place. Another way is to repeat the verb in the negative, e.g. *hao-buhao?* Here *hao* is actually a verb, and *buhao* is its negative form. We shall learn other ways later when we come to them.

LESSON 3

Numerals and Classifiers

他 是 一 个 人。

Ta shì yige rén.

He is a man.

我 看 一 本 书。

Wo kan yi-ben shu.

I read a book.

你 有 三 本 书。

Ni you san-ben shu.

You have three books.

我 昨 天 看 见 五 个 人。

Wo zuotian kanjian wu-ge ren.

I yesterday saw five men.

New Words

yī	one	shí'èr	twelve
èr	two	èrshí	twenty
sān	three	sānshí	thirty
sì	four	sìshí wǔ	forty-five
wǔ	five	liùshí qī	sixty-seven
liù	six	yīgè	a general classifier
qī	seven	rén	man
bā	eight	běn	a classifier for books, etc.
jiǔ	nine		
shí	ten	shū	book
shí	to be	kàn	to read
shíyī	eleven	yǒu	to have

Grammatical Notes

Chinese numerals are very regular. Once you learn *yī* (one) to *shí* (ten), you will be able to count from one to ninety-nine without difficulty. For instance, 10 is *shí*, 20 is *èrshí*, 30 is *sānshí*, 40 is *sìshí* and so on up to 90, which is *jiùshí*. Likewise, 11 is *shíyī*, 12 *shí'èr*, 13 *shí sān*, 14 *shí sì*, 15 *shí wǔ*, 16 *shí liù*, 17 *shí qī*, 18 *shí bā*, 19 *shí jiǔ*, 21 *èrshí yī*, 22 *èrshí èr* and so on.

We have singular and plural pronouns, as seen in the preceding lesson. But in ordinary nouns, we have no such differences. One book is *yī-ben shu*; three books, *san-ben shu*. In *yige ren* and *san-ge ren*, *ren* remains the same.

In Chinese we do not say *yi ren*, but *yige ren*; not *yi shu*, but *yi-ben shu*. Here the *ge* and *ben* are the so-called classifiers. This is one of the peculiarities of the Chinese language. We shall learn more of them as we go on.

LESSON 4

Days, Months, Years

你 生 在 哪 一 年 ？

Ni sheng zai na yi nian?
You (were) born in what year?

我 生 在 一 九 三 八 年 。

Wo sheng zai yi-jiu-san-ba nian.
I (was) born in 1938.

你 的 生 日 是 几 月 几 日 ？

Nide shengri shi ji yue, ji ri?
Your birthday is which month, which day?

三 月 十 八 日 。

Sanyue, shiba ri.
March 18.

明 天 不 是 三 月 十 八 日 吗 ？

Mingtian bushi Sanyue shiba ri ma?
Tomorrow is (it) not March 18?

是 呀 ！ 明 天 是 我 的 生 日 。

Shi ya! Mingtian shi wode shengri.
Oh yes! Tomorrow is my birthday.

New Words

shēng	to be born	yuè	month, moon
zài	at, in	rì	day, sun
nǎ	which, what	búshì	to be not
niǎn	year	yal	oh!
nǐde	your, yours	wǒde	my, mine
shēngri	birthday		
ji?	how many?		
	how much?		
	which?		