

Practical Chinese

HUA YÜ HSÜ CHIH

BY

HARRY S. ALDRICH

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PRACTICAL CHINESE

INCLUDING A TOPICAL DICTIONARY OF
5000 EVERYDAY TERMS

By

HARRY S. ALDRICH

FIRST LIEUTENANT, UNITED STATES ARMY
CHINESE LANGUAGE OFFICER, AMERICAN LEGATION, PEIPING

I



HENRI VETCH · PEKING

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As mentioned in the discussion on page 2 of this volume, due to the nature of the Dictionary a brief examination of it page by page will give a better idea of the scope of its contents than may be had from the table below or from the alphabetical index following this table.

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TOPICAL DICTIONARY

or

FEN¹-LEI¹-TZU¹-TIEN³ 分類字典

THIS dictionary has been prepared and made integral with the text in order that it may be as easily used by the student who has neither the time nor inclination for more than two or three months' sustained study, as by the more professional student who contemplates reading and writing Chinese characters covering many months or years of study. For both classes of students it provides a practicable means of developing a large vocabulary of every-day terms in a very short time and with a minimum of study. The terms have been listed under topics in order that each student may select for himself most of the basic terms making up the particular type of vocabulary he finds most suited to his special needs. Unlimited use of the dictionary requires:

1. Familiarity with the Wade romanization;
2. The acquirement of reasonably distinguishable TONES and an understanding of the manner in which they may be influenced by ACCENT and EMPHASIS (read over carefully RHYTHM in the INTRODUCTION, Volume 1, page 6, and the explanatory paragraphs of Lessons 5 and 6. Failure to do so will not give the maximum benefit to be obtained in using this dictionary);
3. Sufficient study of the text proper to acquire a fair working knowledge of Chinese syntax.

This will not make of one a sinologist, but it will quickly provide a working vocabulary with which to practice and it supplements the necessarily limited scope of the terms contained in the texts. It was due to the impracticability of including in the lessons the many terms desired by the average student that gave rise to the appending of this topical dictionary to Volume 1.

Before trying to use the dictionary, the system followed in its preparation should be understood. The accented characters of the terms or **ming¹-tz'u²** have been printed in heavy type, the unaccented in italics, as in Volume 1. Where long phrases or sentences have been given, the emphasis (as distinguished from the accent of a single term) is indicated by printing all of the words in heavy type and indicating those emphasized by printing their tone symbol. Where the **erh²**-character (兒) is normally a part of the term, it has been written as an ordinary character. Where its inclusion in a given term is peculiar only to the Peiping speech, it has been combined in a transliterative spelling with the preceding character in order to indicate the sound, and enclosed in parenthesis. It is recommended that the use of **erh²** be avoided where possible. A knowledge of its existence, however, is necessary to understand much of the speech of the large class of uneducated Chinese with which the average foreigner in Peiping and its vicinity must come into daily contact.

As an example, "pepper" is given herein as **hu²-chiao¹-mien⁴ (-mierrh⁴)**, 胡椒面 (兒). In **mierrh⁴** are combined the characters **mien⁴** and **erh²** and it will be seen that the final consonant of the first character has been elided or dropped entirely. In Peiping, one's cook or "boy" will say **hu²-chiao¹-mierrh⁴** and hence **mierrh⁴** must

mean **mien**⁴ to the hearer. In all parts of North China and in many of the South, **erh**² is used to some extent but over-use of it not only harshens the naturally pleasant sound of the language, but it also is considered unrefined. There are many cases where **erh**² is used universally although retaining its individual sound, as in **tao**⁴-**erb**², 道兒, "road". To say **tao**⁴ without following it with **erh**² is considered by Chinese grammarians as **kan**¹, 乾, —"dry". As generally used, this **erh**²-character which makes so much trouble for the student, has the force of a diminutive and it is well to bear this in mind. **Erh**² in the Peiping dialect is often replaced in other localities by **tzu**², 子. See Volume 1, par. 1, page 84.

The dictionary should by no means be considered other than an elementary dictionary. Its topical nature has made it unfeasible to include many terms used in the text proper. This has been overcome in part by adding supplements. The student is reminded that many terms entirely familiar to a number 1 boy or a cook working for a foreign family will be unintelligible to the average Chinese instructor.

It is believed that greater use may be made of this dictionary if it is considered in the light of a supplement to the lessons in Volume 1 rather than as a separate reference book. An index of the topics has been given but due to the nature of the dictionary the topics frequently are not strictly descriptive of all the terms which are listed under them (i.e., the word "demeanor" under the topic THE HUMAN BODY). A more comprehensive idea of its scope will therefore be had if the dictionary is briefly examined page by page before making actual use of it.

Twenty	erh ⁴ -shib ²	二十
Twenty-one	erh ⁴ -shib ² -i ¹	二十一
Twenty-two	erh ⁴ -shib ² -erh ⁴	二十二
Twenty-three	erh ⁴ -shib ² -san ¹	二十三
Thirty	san ¹ -shib ²	三十
Forty	szu ⁴ -shib ²	四十
Fifty	wu ³ -shib ²	五十
Sixty	liu ⁴ -shib ²	六十
Seventy	ch'i ¹ -shib ²	七十
Eighty	pa ¹ -shib ²	八十
Ninety	chiu ² -shib ²	九十
One hundred	i ⁴ -pai ³	一百
One hundred one	i ⁴ -pai ³ -ling ² -i ¹	一百零一
One hundred ten	i ⁴ -pai ³ -i ¹ -shib ²	一百一十
One hundred eleven	i ⁴ -pai ³ -i ¹ -shib ² -i ¹	一百一十一
Two hundred	erh ⁴ -pai ³	二百
Three hundred	san ¹ -pai ³	三百
One thousand	i ⁴ -ch'ien ¹	一千
Two thousand	liang ² -ch'ien ¹	二千
	erh ⁴ -ch'ien ¹	二千
Six thousand	liu ⁴ -ch'ien ¹	六千
Ten thousand	i ⁽⁴⁾ -wan ⁴	一萬
Twenty thousand	liang ² -wan ⁴	二萬
	erh ⁴ -wan ⁴	二萬
Fifty thousand	wu ³ -wan ⁴	五萬
One million	pai ³ -wan ⁴	百萬
Two million	erh ⁴ -pai ³ -wan ⁴	二百萬
Ten million	ch'ien ¹ -wan ⁴	千萬
One hundred million	wan ⁴ -wan ⁴	萬萬
One billion	shih ² -wan ⁴ -wan ⁴	十萬萬
Ten billion	pai ³ -wan ⁴ -wan ⁴	百萬萬
One hundred billion	ch'ien ¹ -wan ⁴ -wan ⁴	千萬萬

The following are examples of the manner of writing numerals on the number plates of houses, rickshaws, and also frequently on shop bills, etc. This form of writing is termed *su¹-chow¹-ma²-tzu⁴*, 蘇州碼字. The Arabic numerals are coming more and more into use by the Chinese, but this type is still used extensively. Enough examples have been given to indicate the system followed in writing these.

1 — 一

8 — 八

15 — 十五

2 — 二

9 — 九

26 — 二十六

3 — 三

10 — 十

37 — 三十七

4 — 四

11 — 十一

48 — 四十八

5 — 五

12 — 十二

59 — 五十九

6 — 六

13 — 十三

69 — 六十九

7 — 七

14 — 十四

74 — 七十四

85 — 八十五	110 — 一百一十	1,000 — 一千
90 — 九十	111 — 一百一十一	1,234 — 一千二百三十四
100 — 一百	271 — 二百七十一	5,948 — 五千九百四十八
101 — 一百零一	871 — 八百七十一	10,000 — 一萬

The following characters are used to write figures on currency, bonds, stamps, etc., and usually on the bills and receipts of Chinese shops. They are used where it is important that they not be altered, hence their large number of strokes. They are termed *ta⁴-hsieh³-shu⁴-mu⁴-tzu⁴*, 大寫數目字:

One	i ¹	壹
Two	erh ⁴	貳
Three	san ¹	叁
Four	szu ⁴	肆
Five	wu ³	伍
Six	liu ⁴	陸
Seven	ch'i ¹	柒
Eight	pa ¹	捌
Nine	chiu ³	玖
Ten	shih ⁴	拾
Hundred	pai ³	佰
Thousand	ch'ien ¹	仟
One hundred twenty-five	i ⁴ -pai ³ -erh ⁴ -shih ⁴ -wu ³	壹佰貳拾伍
One thousand three hundred and six,	i ⁴ -ch'ien ¹ -san ¹ -pai ³ -ling ³ -liu ⁴	壹仟叁佰零陸

2.

ORDINAL NUMBERS

(These are formed by using *ti⁴*, 第, before the cardinal numbers.)

Ordinal numbers	hsu ⁴ -shu ⁴ (-shurrl ⁴)	序數(兒)
First	ti ⁴ -i ¹	第一
Second	ti ⁴ -erh ⁴	第二
Third	ti ⁴ -san ¹	第三
Hundredth	ti ⁴ -i ⁴ -pai ³	第一百
Millionth.	ti ⁴ -i ⁴ -pai ³ -wan ⁴	第一百萬
SUPPLEMENT		
The fifth character	ti ⁴ -wu ³ -ke ⁴ -tzu ⁴	第五個字
The tenth book	ti ⁴ -shih ⁴ -pen ³ -shu ¹	第十本書
The first character	ti ⁴ -i ⁴ -ke ⁴ -tzu ⁴	第一個字
	t'ou ² -i ⁴ -ke ⁴ -tzu ⁴	頭一個字
The first two men	t'ou ² -liang ² -ke ⁴ -jen ³	頭兩個人
The last book	mo ⁴ -i ⁴ -pen ³ -shu ¹	末一本書

(Note above that where **t'ou²**, 頭, and **mo⁴**, 末, are used to mean "first" and "last", **ti⁴**, 第, is not used. Where "first" and "last" modify the verb, **hsien¹**, 先, and **mo⁴**, 末, are used. In this case neither **ti⁴**, nor **i⁴**, 一, are used; thus,

"Who was the first to come?", **Shui shih hsien⁴ lai² ti**, 誰是先來的.

"Are you the last man to go?", **Ni shih mo⁴ tsou² ti ma**, 你是末走的嗎.)

3.

FRACTIONS

(These are formed by using **fen¹-chih¹**, 分之, the denominator being placed before this, and the numerator after.)

Fractions	fen¹-shu⁴(-shurrb)⁴	分數(兒)
A half, one-half	erh⁴-(or liang³-)fen¹-chih¹-i¹	二(兩)分之一
	i⁽⁴⁾²-pan⁴	一半
A third, one-third	san¹-fen¹-chih¹-i¹	三分之一
Two-thirds	san¹-fen¹-chih¹-erh⁴	三分之二
Sixty-five sixths	liu⁴-fen¹-chih¹-liu⁴-shih²-wu³	六分之六十五
Seven two-hundredths	erh⁴-pai³-fen¹-chih¹-ch²i¹	二百分之七

SUPPLEMENT

One and one-half	i⁽⁴⁾²-ke⁴-pan⁴	一個半
Five and three-fourths	wu³-yu⁴-szu⁴-fen¹-chih¹-san¹	五又四分之三

4.

PERCENTAGE

(These are formed just as are fractions or **fen¹-shu⁴**, 分數.)

Percentage	pai³-fen¹-lü⁴	百分率
One percent	pai³-fen¹-chih¹-i¹	百分之一
Two percent	pai³-fen¹-chih¹-erh⁴	百分之二
Twenty-five percent	pai³-fen¹-chih¹-erh⁴-shih²-wu³	百分之二十五
One hundred percent	pai³-fen¹-chih¹-pai³	百分之百

5.

MULTIPLE NUMBERS

(These are formed by using cardinal numbers before **pei⁴**, 倍.)

Multiple numbers	pei⁴-shu⁴ (-shurrb ⁴)	倍數(兒)
Twice as much, double	erh⁴-pei⁴	二倍
Three times as much, triple	san¹-pei⁴	三倍
Four times as much, quadruple	szu⁴-pei⁴	四倍
Eight times as much, eight-fold	pa⁽¹⁾²-pei⁴	八倍

Using the character **chia¹**, 加, has the same force as "again as much" does in English; thus,

Again as much, double	chia¹-i⁽⁴⁾²-pei⁴	加一倍
Twice again as much, triple	chia¹-erh⁴-pei⁴	加二倍
Nine times again as much, ten-fold	chia¹-chiu²-pei⁴	加九倍

(It will be noted that **erh⁴-pei⁴** and **chia¹-i⁽⁴⁾²-pei⁴** have the same meaning.)

CHI²-SHU⁴(-SHURRH⁴) 積數(兒)

(This class of numbers has no exact translation in English. "Collective" is probably the closest rendering. They are formed by using the cardinals with **hui²**, 回, and **tz'u⁴**, 次. Thus they have the meaning of "the number of times" rather than "times", the latter being the meaning of multiple numbers.)

Once, one time	i⁴-hui² (or i⁽⁴⁾²-tz'u⁴)	一回(一次)
Twice, two times	erh⁴-hui² (or erh⁴-tz'u⁴)	二回(二次)
Ten times	shih²-hui² (or shih²-tz'u⁴)	十回(十次)
The first time	t'ou²-i⁴-hui²	頭一回
	ti⁴-i¹-hui²	第一回
	t'ou²-i⁽⁴⁾²-tz'u⁴	頭一次
	ti⁴-i⁽⁴⁾²-tz'u⁴	第一次
The last time	mo⁴-i⁴-hui²	末一回
	mo⁴-i⁽⁴⁾²-tz'u⁴	末一次

7.

FIGURING (ARITHMETIC)

See also under Lesson 28. COUNTING (Vol. 1, page 151)

To add (plus)	chia ¹	加
To subtract (minus)	chien ³	減
To multiply (times).	ch'eng ²	乘
To divide	ch'u ²	除
Equals	teng ³ -yü ²	等於

(One may say "is"—shih²—in Chinese to mean "equals", but teng³-yü² is preferable.)

One added to three equals four, I¹ chia¹ san¹ teng³-yü szu⁴, 一加三等於四

Seven minus three equals four, Ch'i¹ chien³ san¹ teng³-yü szu⁴, 七減三等於四

Three times three equals nine,

San¹ ch'eng² san¹ teng³-yü chiu³, 三乘三等於九

Twelve divided by three equals four,

Shih-erh⁴ yung san¹ ch'u teng³-yü szu⁴, 十二用三除等於四

Three "divides into" twelve four times,

San¹ chu¹ shih-erh⁴ teng³-yü szu⁴ 三除十二等於四

(NOTE: If chien³, 減, is translated as "minus" it will aid in avoiding error, for the Chinese say "5 minus 2" and not "2 subtracted from 5". Some care should be used, also as regards division for the translation of "divided by three" is yung⁴ san¹ ch'u², 用三除, while the translation for "three 'divides into'" is san¹ ch'u², 三除.)

Four minus two equals two, Szu⁴ chien³ erh⁴ teng³-yü erh⁴ 四減二等於二

Two dollars "divides into" ten dollars five times,

Liang³-k'uai-ch'ien ch'u shih²-k'uai-ch'ien teng³-yü wu²,

兩塊錢除十塊錢等於五

Four dollars divided by two dollars equals two,

Szu⁴-k'uai-ch'ien yung liang³-k'uai-ch'ien ch'u teng³-yü erh⁴,

四塊錢用兩塊錢除等於二

Nineteen divided by six equals three and one over,

Shih-chiu³ yung liu⁴ ch'u shih san¹ ken i¹ ch'u²-pu-chin⁴-ti,

十九用六除是三跟一除不盡的

8.

TIME (OF DAY)

A second	i ⁴ -miao ³ -chung ¹	一秒鐘
A minute	i ⁴ -fen ¹ -chung ¹	一分鐘
An hour	i ⁴ -tien ³ -chung ¹	一點鐘

	i⁴-hsiao³-shih²	一 小 時
	i⁽⁴⁾²-ke⁴-chung¹-t'ou²	一 個 鐘 頭
Half an hour	pan⁴-tien³-chung¹	半 點 鐘
	pan⁴-ke⁴-hsiao³-shih²	半 個 小 時
	pan⁴-ke⁴-chung¹-t'ou²	半 個 鐘 頭
An hour and a half	i⁽⁴⁾²-ke⁴-pan⁴-hsiao³-shih²	一 個 半 小 時
	i⁽⁴⁾²-ke⁴-pan⁴-chung¹-t'ou²	一 個 半 鐘 頭
One o'clock	i⁴-tien³-chung¹	一 點 鐘
Nine o'clock	chiu⁽³⁾²-tien³-chung¹	九 點 鐘
A quarter of an hour	i⁽⁴⁾²-k'è⁴-chung¹	一 刻 鐘
Half-past two	liang⁽³⁾²-tien³-pan⁴-chung¹	兩 點 半 鐘
	liang⁽³⁾²-tien³-erh⁴-k'è⁴-chung¹	兩 點 二 刻 鐘
A quarter-past four	szu⁴-tien³-i⁽⁴⁾²-k'è⁴-chung¹	四 點 一 刻 鐘
A quarter to five	szu⁴-tien³-san¹-k'è⁴-chung¹	四 點 三 刻 鐘
A day, one day	i⁴-t'ien¹	一 天
(Note that t'ien¹ does not take a classifier)		
To-day	chin¹-t'ien¹	今 天
	chin¹-jih⁴-ke⁴ (chirrh¹-ke⁴)	今 日 個 (今 兒 個)
Yesterday	tso²-t'ien¹	昨 天
	tso²-jih⁴-ke⁴ (tsorrh²-ke⁴)	昨 日 個 (昨 兒 個)
Day before yesterday	ch'ien²-t'ien¹	前 天
Day before day before yesterday	ta⁴-ch'ien²-t'ien¹	大 前 天
To-morrow	ming²-t'ien¹	明 天
	ming²-jih⁴-ke⁴ (mierrh²-ke⁴)	明 日 個 (明 兒 個)
Day after to-morrow	hou⁴-t'ien¹	後 天
Day after day after to-morrow	ta⁴-hou⁴-t'ien¹	大 後 天
Every day	mei³-t'ien¹	每 天
Every other day	mei⁽³⁾²-liang³-t'ien¹	每 兩 天
Nowadays	ju²-chin¹	如 今
Day-break, dawn	t'ien¹-ming²	天 明
	t'ien¹-liang⁴	天 亮
Morning (midnight to noon)	shang⁴-wu³	上 午
Morning (midnight to 6 a.m.)	hou⁴-pan⁴-yeh⁴	後 半 夜
Morning (6 a.m. to noon)	shang⁴-pan⁴-t'ien¹	上 半 天
	ch'ien²-pan⁴-t'ien¹	前 半 天
Forenoon (any time before noon)	wu³-ch'ien²	午 前
Morning (before 10 a.m.)	tsao³-ch'ien²	早 晨
Day, day-time	pai³-t'ien¹	白 天
Morning (11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), midday	shang⁽³⁾²-wu³	晌 午
(Note that the Shang³ , 晌, in this term is not the same character as the Shang⁴ , 上, given above for "morning 6 to 12".)		
Noon (exactly)	cheng⁴-shang⁽³⁾²-wu³	正 晌 午
This morning	chin¹-t'ien¹-shang⁴-wu³	今 天 上 午
Yesterday morning	tso²-t'ien¹-shang⁴-wu³	昨 天 上 午