

Mandarin in 21st Century China

地道

URBAN
CHINESE

The background of the central text is a photograph of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. The image shows the traditional Chinese architecture with its white walls, red roofs, and ornate details. The sky is a clear blue, and the overall scene is well-lit, suggesting a bright day.

汉语

北京语言文化大学出版社

Gerald Scott Klayman 赵云峰

地道汉语

URBAN CHINESE:
Mandarin in 21st Century China

Gerald Scott Klayman 编著
赵云峰 (Yunfeng Zhao)

北京语言文化大学出版社

(京)新登字 157 号

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

地道汉语/(美)龙杰瑞(Klayman, G.S.),赵云峰编著.

- 北京:北京语言文化大学出版社,2002

ISBN 7-5619-1090-8

I. 地…

II. ①龙… ②赵…

III. 汉语-口语-对外汉语教学-教学参考资料

IV. H195.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2002)第 045541 号

著作权合同登记号图字:01-2002-2484

版权所有,翻印必究

Copyright © 2002 by the authors. All rights reserved. No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form or by any means; electronics, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior written permission from the publisher.

责任印制:乔学军

出版发行:北京语言文化大学出版社

社 址:北京海淀区学院路 15 号 邮政编码 100083

网 址:<http://www.blcup.com>

<http://www.blcu.edu.cn/cbs/index.htm>

印 刷:北京北林印刷厂

经 销:全国新华书店

版 次:2002 年 8 月第 1 版 2002 年 8 月第 1 次印刷

开 本:787 毫米×1092 毫米 1/16 印张:23 彩插:1

字 数:460 千字 印数:1-3000 册

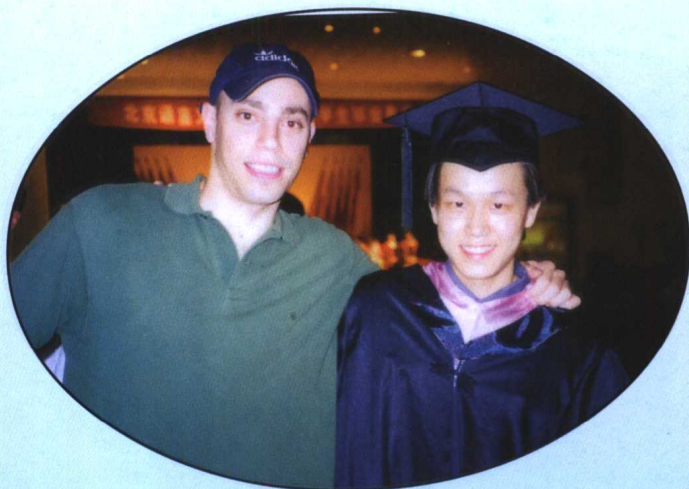
书 号:ISBN 7-5619-1090-8/H.02076

定 价:55.00 元

发行部电话:010-82303651 82303591

传真:010-82303081

E-mail: fxb@blcu.edu.cn



两位作者
The Authors



赵云峰在伦敦
Yunfeng in London



男生不许进入
No Entry for Men



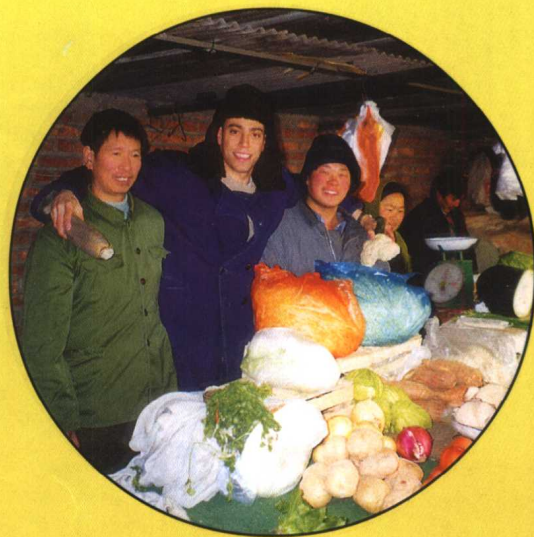
在中国的心脏
At the Heart of China



“您去哪儿？”
“Where can I take you?”



与异乡父母在一起
With my parents away from home



和中国人一起卖菜
Selling vegetables with the locals



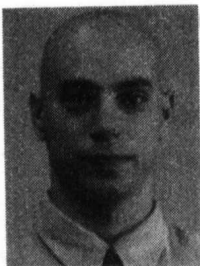
中国的未来
The future of China

Acknowledgements

I want to show thanks to my family for giving me the support needed by any individual living abroad for an extended period of time. Thanks also go to Song Wei, Jiang Jin, Cheng Yue, Liu Dansong, Fu Zhong, David Van Menderbrook, Andy Kuo, Gary Chen, Rocky Dean, Nima Yousefian, Sean Blacksmith, France Houdard, Parlc Su Young, Zhang Youjun, Song Yinong, Teng Yun, Wen Fang-tang, Dr. Dennis Donham, and Professors Thomas McKechnie and Anthony Giunta for helping me deepen my understanding of the Chinese culture and language and for being there when I needed advice. To Li Tingting of LeesDesign for designing such a wonderful cover. To Wang Biao, Guo Rong and the rest of the BLCU Press staff for making *Urban Chinese* a reality. Finally, special thanks go to Zhao Yun-feng, for having the confidence in me to take on this project.

Gerald Scott Klayman

About the Authors



Gerald Scott Klayman came to Beijing in the summer of 1998 to do an internship for an international consulting firm. Through his work he realized that China's economy was full of potential, but that he needed to learn Chinese, as well as possess a deep understanding of the Chinese culture in order to efficiently operate in China's business environment. As a result he embarked on a sojourn that he thought would take six months, but lasted two and a half years. During this time he immersed himself into the Chinese culture, living and working with Chinese. Gerald also conducted research into the social, economic and political issues facing Beijing cabdrivers that became the basis for his Honors thesis. In 2001 Gerald graduated Magna Cum Laude from the University of Pittsburgh with an Honors Political Science degree. He now works for Baoying Fund Management in Shenzhen. He is one of the first foreigners to work in China's fund management industry.



Zhao Yunfeng, Michael by English name, graduated from the Beijing Language & Culture University (BLCU), where he majored in English with an orientation of International Finance. The college years were important to Michael not only in the sense that he honed his language skills, but also that he expanded his knowledge, vision, and more importantly his personal contacts with friends from different parts of the world. It is one of these friendships, the one with Gerald Scott Klayman that led to the successful production of *Urban Chinese*. A very good friend of Gerald, Michael tutored his friend on a regular basis and later took an active part in co-authoring the book based on Gerald's own learning experience. It is their sincere hope the book will meet the demand of increasing number of Chinese learners searching for effective learning materials.

Michael currently works at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, serving as a foreign affairs officer. Michael has served the Academy in Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. He has a personal web site at <http://www.100md.com/zhaoyunfeng/>.

Introduction

Regardless of how you break it down, studying Chinese is an overly daunting task. When people invest their time to study, they want to know that the material that they are struggling to learn is used in public discourse. Over the past two and a half years, I have had access to a cross section of Chinese life. I have lived with two young Chinese professionals; had Chinese classmates, tutors and friends with whom I spent time on both formal and informal occasions; worked in an all-Chinese professional services firm; taught English to students aged 6-50; and conversed with my older generation neighbors on a regular basis. Due to this complete immersion, I have been able to capture the contemporary nuances of urban Chinese. *Urban Chinese: Mandarin in 21st Century China* is a compilation of my notes which will give the reader the vocabulary, and more saliently the usage necessary to effectively operate in 21st Century China.

I started studying Chinese in the fall of 1998. At that time, like most foreigners, the characters, tones, pronunciation, etc. overwhelmed me. What I did to overcome these obstacles was subconsciously develop word association techniques that facilitated my learning process, utilizing Chinese strong logic, based on my native language English. After all, when studying a foreign language, one cannot help but use their mother tongue as a base, at least in the beginning stage. By breaking down the meaning of each individual character, words became easier to learn, as I was not memorizing a word, but an idea. These mnemonics also proved helpful when learning grammar.

Throughout the course of my studies, I have been a very diligent note taker. If I heard a new word, I would write it down and the next time I met with my tutor, we would go over how I could apply it into my everyday vocabulary. Indeed, these techniques have made it possible for me to attain a high level of proficiency, something that I thought would never happen when I commenced my studies. In fact, a Chinese language teacher at Tsinghua University learned of my experience and invited me to lecture on the very techniques introduced here.

I began working on this project after a few of my classmates expressed their dissatisfaction with their Chinese learning materials, and suggested that I explore the options of publishing my notes. My sincere hope and belief is that *Urban Chinese* will satisfy their and your demands.

Gerald Scott Klayman
Beijing, 2001

Structure

Urban Chinese is broken down into five sections. The first section, *Pinyin and Tones* provides the reader training wheels for learning Chinese. Based upon standard American English, the *pinyin* component will present similarities to which speakers of English can relate. The tones section will outline and explain the tones of Chinese, providing tips and practice exercises.

Section Two, *Radicals*, reveals the logic and meanings of the most commonly used radicals, the components that are mixed and matched like puzzle pieces to form Chinese characters.

The third section, *Category Usage Dictionary*, provides the most frequently used words on topics such as the body, business, cabs and directions, colors, countries and country leaders, education, electronics, emotions and feelings, foods and restaurants, hobbies, holidays, language study, telling time, vehicles, weather and Chinese zodiac signs.

Learning the stories behind Chinese idioms is a great way of deepening your understanding of the Chinese culture while also expanding your vocabulary. In Section Four, *Idioms*, the background stories of 25 idioms are told along with an example sentence that will enable the student to use the idiom in public discourse.

Section Five, *Slang*, will provide the student with the “real” language that is not printed in textbooks, but is said as much as, if not more than, the material that is. Each entry has undergone a usage test. Only if a majority of the people questioned use the word, was it selected. Examples with the “Chinglish” formula are used to guarantee the student complete understanding and usage.

Lastly, throughout the book, there are backgrounds and words of some of China’s most commonly referenced personages including Lei Feng, Da Shan, Norman Bethune, etc., which will give the reader a basic understanding of why these persons are brought up today.

Table of Contents

I	<i>Pinyin</i> (拼音)	(1)
II	Radicals (部首)	(7)
III	Measure Words (量词)	(15)
IV	"Chinglish" Key	(25)
V	Category Dictionary (分类词典)	(35)
	Hobbies (爱好)	(36)
	Numbers (数字)	(43)
	Time and Calendar (时间与日期)	(49)
	Weather (天气)	(55)
	Family and Addressing People (家庭与称呼)	(63)
	Holidays (节日)	(65)
	Chinese Zodiac (生肖)	(71)
	Emotions (情感)	(76)
	Human (人)	(85)
	Body Parts (身体部位)	(99)
	Colors (颜色)	(102)
	Clothing (衣服)	(103)
	Foods (食物)	(112)
	Beverages (饮料)	(120)
	Restaurants (餐馆)	(131)
	Vehicles (交通工具)	(149)
	Cabs and Directions (出租车与问路)	(154)
	Education (教育)	(167)
	Electronics (电器)	(187)
	Business (商务)	(208)
	Countries (国家)	(225)
	Country Leaders (国家元首)	(230)
	Language Studies (语言学习)	(234)
VI	Personages (人物)	(251)
VII	Idioms (成语)	(261)
VIII	Slang (俚语)	(293)

Chapter I

PINYIN

拼音

The Pinyin Romanization System

English has a phonetic alphabet, which enables the reader to pronounce with rather certainty a never-seen-before word even if he/she does not know the meaning. Chinese, on the other hand, is an ideographic language, meaning that if the reader has not studied the character, he/she probably will not be able to read it. In order to facilitate the learning process for Chinese and foreign students of Chinese alike, an official international transcription system was introduced by the Chinese government in the 1950s. This system, called *pinyin*, which in Chinese means *pin*—spell and *yin*—sound, constitutes your training wheels for Chinese.

FINALS

1. Simple vowels

a	like 'a' in 'father'
e	like 'ur' in 'fur'
i	like 'i' in 'bin'
o	like 'o' in 'or'
u	like 'u' in 'flute'
ü	place your lips as if you were going to whistle and pronounce 'ee', like 'u' in 'lune' (French pronunciation)
er	like 'ar' in 'are'

2. Compound vowels

ai	like 'y' in 'fly'
ao	like 'ow' in 'cow'
ei	like 'ay' in 'say'
ia	like 'ya' in 'yard'
ie	like 'ye' in 'yesterday'
iu	like 'yo' in 'yolk'
iao	like 'i' in 'bin' plus 'ow' in 'cow'
ou	like 'ow' in 'blow'
ua	pronounced like wah
ui	like 'way' in 'sway'

uo	like the word 'war'
uai	like the word 'why'
üe	like 'u' in 'lune' (French pronunciation) plus 'e' in 'yesterday'

3. Nasal finals

an	like 'an' in 'and'
ang	like 'a' in 'father' plus 'ng' in 'long'
en	like 'en' in 'stolen'
eng	like 'en' in 'stolen' plus 'ng' in 'long'
ong	like 'o' in 'worn' plus 'ng' in 'long'
in	like 'in' in 'bin'
ing	like 'ing' in 'sitting'
ian	like the word 'yen'
iang	like the word 'young'
iong	like 'i' in 'bin' plus 'o' in 'worn' plus 'ng' in 'long'
uan	like 'wan' in 'swan'
uang	like 'u' in 'flute' plus 'a' in 'father' plus 'ng' in 'long'
un	like 'u' in 'flute' plus 'en' in 'stolen'
ueng	like 'u' in 'flute' plus 'ng' in 'long'
üan	after j, q, and x, like 'u' in 'lune' (French pronunciation) plus 'an' in 'and'
ün	like 'un' in 'lune' (French pronunciation)

INITIALS

b	like 'p' in 'speak'
p	like 'p' in 'peak'
m	like 'm' in 'me'
f	like 'f' in 'fast'
d	like 't' in 'state'
t	like 't' in 'tea'
n	like 'n' in 'need'
l	like 'l' in 'let'
g	like 'g' in 'game'
k	like 'k' in 'keep'
h	like 'h' in 'he'
j	like 'j' in 'jeep'
q	like 'ch' in 'check'
x	like 'sh' in 'shirt'
z	like the 'ds' in 'fads'
c	like 'ts' in 'nuts'

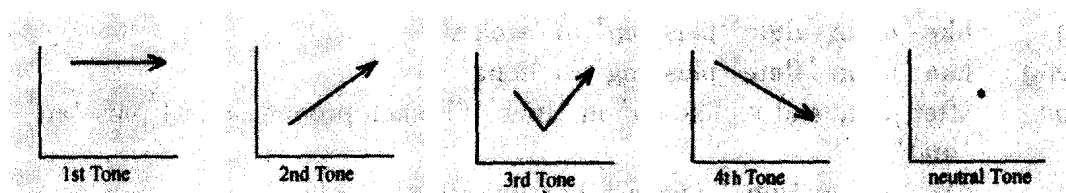
s	like 's' in 'sir'
zh	like 'j' in 'jeep'
ch	like 'ch' in 'cheese'
sh	like 'sh' in 'shy'
r	like 'r' in 'raise'

When pronouncing 'zh', 'ch', 'sh' and 'r', curl the tongue over and press it onto the roof of the mouth to create retroflex sounds.

When 'i' appears after retroflexed consonants 'zh', 'ch', 'sh' and 'r', it is always pronounced like 'r'.

When 'i' appears after 'z', 'c' and 's', it is always pronounced like 'z'.

Tones



Chinese is a tonal language, which means that the tone of your voice changes the meaning of the word. For instance, if you say *mǎi* in the third tone, it means to buy, but in the fourth tone means to sell. Tones are by far the biggest obstacle confronted by foreigners when studying Chinese. Getting your tones down early in your studies will pave the way for future success. And, not placing enough importance on your tones will lead to frustration. Chinese ears are very sensitive to tones. So if your tones are not accurate, more often than not, they will not understand you. As time goes on, the tones will become more and more natural.

If asked, most Chinese will say that there are only four tones in Mandarin Chinese, but actually there are five. The first tone is flat and high-pitched and is conveyed by a $\bar{}$.

The second tone is the rising tone and is conveyed by a $\acute{}$. Your voice starts out low and rises, kind of like the intonation of your voice when you are asking a question. Notice the difference in your voice when you say these two sentences: "He is coming here." and "He is coming here?" Another hint is to make your voice explode upwards.

The third tone starts at a low pitch and then rises. It is conveyed by a ˇ. The secret to the third tone is to make a dip or pause in the voice. The second and third tones are the hardest for foreigners to conquer, as they are the most similar. If your voice does not go directly up when pronouncing the second tone, it very likely will be mistaken for the third tone.

The fourth tone starts out high and then sharply declines, similar to the situation when you are speaking in a shrewd manner. Shut up! It is conveyed by a ˋ.

The tone that Chinese often forget is the silent tone, or neutral tone. The neutral tone, which has no tone mark, is the easiest to pronounce, as the speaker just needs to speak in his normal voice inflection.

Tonal Changes

There are a few words in Chinese whose tones are dependent upon the tone of the character by which it is followed. The most common four are yī(one), qī(seven), bā(eight) and bù(no). If the word following these words has a first, second or third tone, the bù and yī are pronounced in the fourth tone. If the following word carries a fourth tone, the bù or the yī is pronounced as a second tone. The following are the examples of yī and bù:

bù			
bù hē	won't drink	bù xíng	not alright
bù gǎn	not dare	bú qù	won't go

yī			
yì tiān	one day	yì píng	one bottle
yì tǒng	one pitcher	yí guǎn	one can (of soda)

When there are consecutive third tones, the tone of the first character automatically becomes a second tone while the tone of the second character stays a third tone. In theory this sounds rather difficult, actually as you will see, this is the natural shape that your voice will take when pronouncing consecutive third tones.

mǐngǎn becomes míngǎn	(sensitive)
zhǐyǒu becomes zhíyǒu	(only)
miǎnqiǎng becomes miánqiǎng	(reluctant)

Tonal Exercises

First Tone

fēijī (airplane)	jīhū (almost)	bōxuē (exploit)
gōngmín (citizen)	gōngrén (worker)	yāoqiú (request)
zībǔ (nutritious)	shēntǐ (body)	yōngjǐ (crowded)
yālì (stress)	yōuhuì (discount)	gāngà (awkward)
qīzi (wife)	tāmen (they)	yīfu (clothes)

Second Tone

tígōng (provide)	tígāng (outline)	báichī (idiot)
hége (qualified)	shímáo (fashionable)	méiménr (no way)
niúǎi (milk)	píngguǒ (apple)	huáxuě (ski)
tóupiào (vote)	dúlì (independent)	quánlì (power)
péngyou (friend)	zhémo (torture)	máfan (hassle)

Third Tone

zǔzhī (organization)	xiǎo māo (kitten)	měi tiān (everyday)
jiǎohuá (cunning)	hǎowánr (fun)	Měiguó (America)
huǒtuǐ (ham)	jiǎngpǐn (prize)	lǎobǎn (boss)
lǐlùn (theory)	dǎjià (fight)	kěxiào (funny)
qǐzi (opener)	dǐzi (base)	yǐzi (chair)

Fourth Tone

càidān (menu)	sàichē (race car)	fùdān (burden)
quèshí (indeed)	nèiróng (content)	zìrán (natural)
yàodiǎn (key point)	bùguǎn (regardless)	tèdiǎn (feature)
huòbì (currency)	tèsè (special)	chìzì (deficit)
kuàizi (chopsticks)	hùshi (nurse)	rènao (lively)

Chapter II

RADICALS

部首