

Learning Chinese: A Foundation Course in Mandarin.

Part I

Preface

1. Getting started
2. Writing
3. Lesson content
 - a) *The pinyin lessons*
 - b) *The character lessons*
4. flashCube

Background

I. Names

1. China
2. Chinese places
 - a) *The People's Republic of China (PRC)*
 - b) *Mainland China; the Mainland*
 - c) *The Republic of China (ROC)*
 - d) *Taiwan*
 - e) *Hong Kong*
 - f) *Greater China*
 - g) *Nationalists and Communists*
 - h) *Běijīng and Běipíng (and Peking)*

II. Chinese speech

1. Chinese
2. Mandarin
3. The origins of Mandarin (speech)
4. Varieties of Mandarin
5. Regional languages or 'topolects'

III. The written language

1. Written Mandarin
2. From Classical Chinese to modern written Chinese
3. Characters
4. Traditional (fántǐzì) and simplified characters (jiǎntǐzì)
5. Homophony
6. Transcribing sound in characters
7. Pictographs, ideographs, logographs.
8. Representing the sounds of Chinese
9. *Hànyǔ Pīnyīn*

IV. Key Terms

V. Further Reading

Sounds and symbols

I. An overview of Hanyu Pinyin

1. Sound versus symbol (letter)
2. The syllable

II. Details

1. Tones

- a) *Tone names*
- b) *Concepts*
- c) *The low tone (or third)*
- d) *Examples*

Exercise 1

- e) *A note on the origin and history of Mandarin tones*

2. Initial consonants

Exercise 2

3. Rhymes

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Exercise 5

4. Returning to the chart of initials

III. Miscellany

1. Tonal shifts

- a) *The low tone shift*
- b) *Two single word shifts*

IV. Culminating exercises

Exercise 6

V. The apostrophe

VI. Writing connected text in *pinyin*

Lesson 1

I. Conventions

1. Writing Chinese language material

II. Numbering and ordering

1. The numbers, 1 – 10
2. Beyond 10
3. The ordinal numbers
4. Dates
5. The celestial stems

III. Verbs

1. Types of verbs

2. Stative Verbs

- a) *Questions and positive responses*
- b) *Negative responses*
- c) *V-not-V questions*
- d) *Three degrees of response*
- e) *Today, yesterday and tomorrow*
- f) *SVs plus le*

Exercise 1

3. Action verbs

- a) *Positive and negative answers*
- b) *Questions*
- c) *The addition of guò (usually untoned)*
- c) *Reductions*

Exercise 2

III Pronouns

1. The particle ne and the adverb yě

Exercise 3

IV. Greeting and taking leave

1. Names and titles

2. Hello

3. Goodbye

4. Smoothing the transitions

- a) *Prior to asking a question*
- b) *Prior to leaving*

V. Scenario

VI. Tones

1. Tone combos

2. Tone lock

3. The first 'rule of 3'

Exercise 4

VII. Rhymes

Lesson 2

I. Expanding SV material

1. Adverbs

2. Conjunctions

3. More SVs

4. Examples

Exercise 1

II. New subjects

1. Some nouns
2. Measure Words
3. Possessive pronouns
4. Demonstrative pronouns

III. Identity

1. Shì 'be'
2. Questioning names
 - a) Xìng
 - b) Jiào
 - c) *Asking and giving a name*
 - d) Shì with names

Exercise 2

3. Titles

Exercise 3

IV. Location

1. Some Chinese place names
2. Proximity
3. Zài 'be+at'
 - a) Zài as a main verb
 - b) Zài in conjunction with other verbs
 - c) *Welcome*

V. Miscellany

1. The verb yǒu 'have'
2. Particles
3. Praise

VI. First Dialogue

Exercise 4

VII. Reflections: What have you learned?

1. Words
2. Meaning

VIII. Pinyin

1. Toneless syllables
 - a) *Should changed tones be indicated when you write pinyin?*
2. A pinyin quirk

Exercise 5

IX. Rhymes

Lesson 3

I. Nationality

1. Country names

2. Asking about nationality
 - a) *First some vocabulary*
 - b) *Ways of asking about nationality and place*
3. The cardinal directions: NSEW
4. Dialogues
5. When in doubt
 - a) *Tag-questions*
 - b) *Is it the case that...?*

Exercise 1

II. Thanks and sorry.

1. Responses to thanking
2. Sorry
3. Negation

III. Cause and effect

1. Zěnmeyàng
2. Why? Because.

IV. Existence

1. Locations
 - a) *Some things and places which might need locating*
 - b) *Some new location words*
 - c) *Existence versus location*
2. Tests, reports and other school things
3. Question words as indefinites

Exercise 2

V. Amounts

1. Numbers above 10
2. Measure words
3. How many
 - a) Duōshao
 - b) Jǐ ge?
4. Telephone numbers
5. Days of the week
6. Days of the month
 - a) *Names of the months*
7. Siblings
8. Yígòng

Exercise 3

VI. Courses and classes

1. Subjects of study
2. Talking about classes
3. Moveable adverbs
 - a) Dāngrán 'of course'
 - b) Yídìng 'for certain; for sure'

VII. Dialogue

Exercise 4

VIII. Sounds and Pinyin

Exercise 5

1. Initials

Exercise 6

IX. Highlights

1. Topics for class practice
2. Distinguishing words.

X. Rhymes

Appendix: Countries and nationalities

Lesson 4

I. Time Phrases

1. Order of elements: topic--comment
2. Clock time
 - a) *The hours*
 - b) *Details*
3. Time of events
4. Business hours
5. Time zones (shíqū)

Exercise 1

II. DE

1. Where the noun head is omitted
2. Where de might be expected but is not found
 - a) *Country names*
 - b) *Pronouns with kin terms*
 - c) *SVs without modifiers*
 - d) *Duō (and shǎo) as attributes*
 - e) *Several de's in the same phrase*

Exercise 2

III. Names in detail

1. The form of names
2. Xìng
3. Other names
4. Míngzì ('name-character')
5. Usage

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

IV. Years

1. Dates
2. Age
3. Year in school or college

V. Subjects of study

1. Major
2. Zài + verb ‘action in progress’
3. Studying
4. Courses of study
5. The names of universities
 - a) *Non-Chinese*
 - b) *Chinese*

Exercise 5

VI. Forms of Address

1. General address forms
2. Other terms
3. Titles
4. Addressing strangers
 - a) *Used by locals or foreigners*
 - b) *More used by locals*
 - c) *Kin and friendship terms*
5. The changing scene

Exercise 6

VII. Introductions

1. Relational information
 - a) *With de*
 - b) *Usually without de*
2. Words for husband and wife
3. Responses
4. Dialogues

Exercise 7

VIII. Sounds and pinyin

1. Tone combos II
2. Pinyin words beginning with y and w
3. Recognizing foreign place names
 - a) *Place names*
 - b) *Common nouns*
 - c) *People (Mainland usage)*

IX Highlights

1. Topics to practice in class:
2. Vocabulary practice:

X. Rhymes

Lesson 5

I. One thing or another

1. Vocabulary
2. Or

Exercise 1

II. At the beginning of class

1. Vocabulary
2. Dialogues

III. Expanding the V+de construction

1. Vocabulary
2. Recall: praising language ability
3. Huì ‘be able’; yìdiǎn<r> ‘a bit’

Exercise 2

IV. Music and musicians

1. Singers, styles and other vocabulary
2. Dialogue – musical preferences

Exercise 3

V. Verbs of cognition

1. Knowing
2. Understanding
3. Reporting on questions
 - a) Zhīdao
 - b) Wèn ‘ask [a question]’

Exercise 4

VI. Destination

1. Going places
2. Where to?
3. Zǒu versus qù
4. Nǎr ~ nǎlǐ as an indefinite
5. Specifying a time
6. Inserting foreign words

VII. Purpose

1. The verb kàn ‘look at’
2. Other things to do
3. Reasons for going somewhere
4. Qù and purpose
5. Intention

VIII. In the past

1. Not having done something [yet]:
2. The role of le
3. The position of le
4. Time expressions (and one adverb)
5. Examples, past events

IX. And

Exercise 5

X. SPORTS

1. Scores

Exercise 6

XI. Dialogue

Exercise 7

XII. Pinyin and sounds

1. Tone combos III – the last three sets
2. More than two low tones in a phrase
3. The r-suffix

a) Pronunciation

XIII. Rhymes

Lesson 6

I. Verb + guò ‘have you ever...’

1. Vocabulary and expressions

a) Words

2. During the time...; when
3. Ever, never
4. Mini dialogues
5. A longer dialogue

Exercise 1

II. ‘When’ as a question

III. Place

1. The position of location phrases
2. The shì-de construction
3. The position of objects

Exercise 2

4. Shì-de in short

Exercise 3

IV. Lexical notes

1. Xiàng versus xiǎng
2. Shàng and xià
3. Wánr

V. Dialogue

Exercise 4

VI. More destinations and purposes

1. Destinations
2. More purposes

3. Waiting and rushing
 - a) *The words*
 - b) *In examples*

Exercise 5

VII. Jiào with two objects

Exercise 6

VIII. More Dialogues

1. Sūzhōu
2. We call him 'fēirén'
3. Ordering food

IX. Pinyin and Sounds.

1. Contrasts for special attention.
2. Practice with film titles

X. Highlights

1. Focus of class practice
2. Word confusions

XI. Rhymes

Lesson 7

I. Duration

1. Units of time
2. Duration in context
 - a) *Modes of transport*
 - b) *Examples dialogues*
3. Times
4. Huílái 'return [back here]'; huíqù 'return [back there]'; huíjiā 'go home'

Exercise 1

II. More le patterns

1. Vocabulary
2. Two new le patterns
 - a) *Enduring states*
 - b) *Continuous action*
3. Enduring states
 - a) *Examples*
 - b) *Another view*
4. Continuous actions
 - a) *'Only' and constraints on final le*

Exercise 2

III. Connecting Sentences

1. Yīnwèi...suǒyǐ ‘because...so’
2. Suīrán...kěshì / dànshì ‘although’
3. Yàoshi...jiù ‘if’

Exercise 3

IV. Backing off; intensifying

1. Backing off
2. Intensifying

V. More on DE

Exercise 4

VI. Weather

1. The seasons
2. China’s weather patterns
3. Weather
4. Rain and precipitation
5. Sun and wind
6. Hot and humid; dry
7. Yòu...yòu...(又...又)

Exercise 5

VII. Dialogue

VIII. A Narrative

Exercise 6

IX. Miscellany

1. Finding out how to address someone
2. Xiǎo, Lǎo and Dà prefixed to names
3. Interjections
4. Examples of ‘vivid SVs’ of the form XYY-de

X. Pronunciation and pinyin

1. Tones
2. Phrases for pronunciation practice
3. Pronunciation practice with some colloquial words with the r-suffix

XI. Class focus

XII. Rhymes

The character text: Part I

第一課 (A) [after L-1]

PART I

甲. General Features of Chinese Texts

1. Size
2. Spacing
3. Punctuation
4. Direction
5. Simplified (jiǎntǐzì) versus traditional characters (fántǐzì):

乙. Function

丙. Writing

1. Writing in the age of word processors
2. Principles of drawing characters
 - a) *Form*
 - b) *Direction*
 - c) *Order*
 - d) *Two illustrative characters*

PART II

甲. Presentation

乙. Numbers

Exercise 1

丙. Dates

Exercise 2

丁. Days

Exercise 3

戊. Surnames

Exercise 4

己. Observations

Exercise 5

第二課 (B) [after L-2]

Part I

甲. Set 1

1. Practice. Words and phrases

Exercise 1

乙. Set 2: Places

Exercise 2

丙. Simplified characters

Exercise 3

Part II

1. Representational characters
2. Additive characters – or blends
 - a) *Semantic blends*
 - b) *Blends of sound and meaning (rare)*
3. Phonosemantic characters
4. Character retrieval
5. An illustration
6. The radicals and their names

第三課 (C) [after L-3]

Part I

甲. Set 1

1. Phrases
2. Comment-response

乙. Set 2

1. Phrases
2. Comment-response

Exercise 1

丙. Simplified characters

1. Phrases
2. Six characters

Exercise 2

Part II: Creating new characters

1. Representing sounds – onomatopoeia
2. Atomic elements

第四課 (D)[after L-4]

Part I

甲. First Set

1. Phrases
2. Dialogues
3. Simplified

Exercise 1

Exercise 2

乙. Second Set

1. Phrases
2. Dialogues

Exercise 3

Exercise 4

Part II

1. The Five Elements
2. Talking about Chinese characters
 - a) Identifying a character
 - b) Number of strokes (*bǐhuà*r)
 - c) Radicals (*bù<shǒu>*)

第五課 (E) [after L-5]

Part I

甲. First set

1. Phrases
2. Dialogues

Exercise 1

乙. Second set.

1. Phrases
2. Dialogues

Exercise 2

丙. Simplified characters

1. Phrases

Exercise 3
Exercise 4

Part II: On the street

第六課 (F) [after L-6]

Part I

甲. Set 1

1. Phrases
2. Comment-response

Exercise 1

乙. Second set

1. Phrases
2. Six biographies

丙. Simplified characters

1. Phrases
2. Narrative

Exercise 2.
Exercise 3.
Exercise 4.

Part II

甲. On the street #2

乙. Animal radicals

