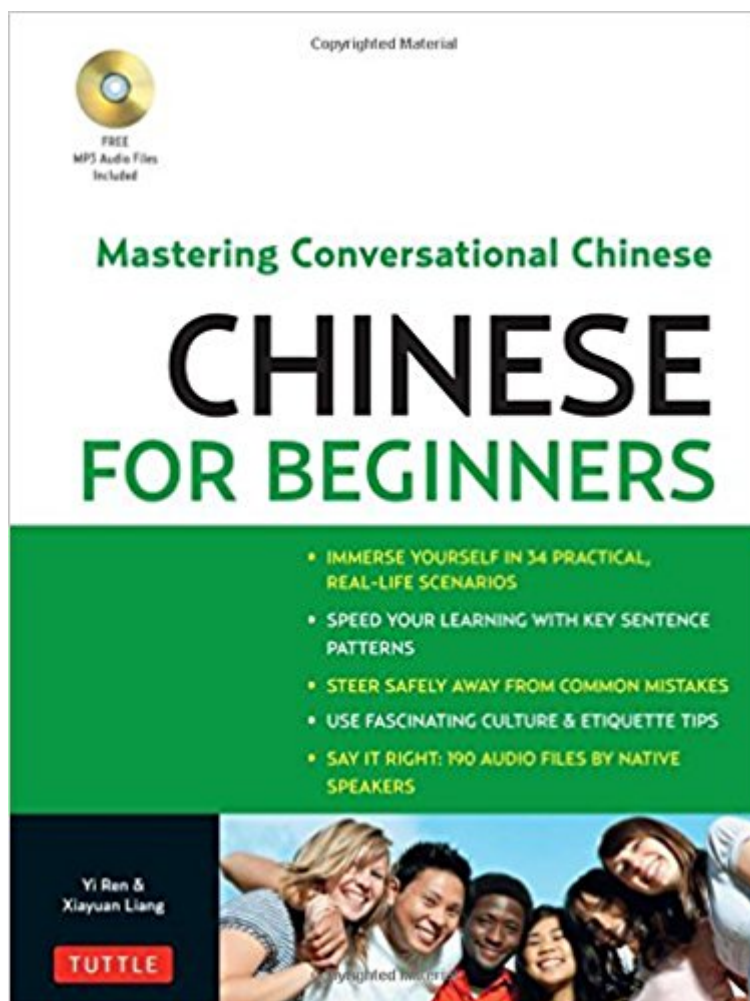


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Chinese For Beginners: Mastering Conversational Chinese (Audio CD Included)



Synopsis

This is an excellent, user-friendly book for learning the Chinese language. Yi Ren has taught thousands of Americans to speak Chinese fluently. Now, she and co-author Xiayuan Liang share their secrets for fast mastery of Mandarin Chinese with you. China has 1.3 billion people and due to initiatives to phase out regional dialects in favor of Mandarin Chinese, nearly all of them can communicate in Mandarin. Don't let yourself be intimidated by this rewarding language. Although it is true that mastery of the Chinese language takes time, Mandarin Chinese actually has simpler grammar than English and there are no conjugations – meaning anyone can learn a few important phrases in no time. Chock full of extra hints and tips drawn from the authors' many years of experience teaching Mandarin Chinese in adult evening classes, Chinese for Beginners focuses on realistic situations you'll encounter when you meet people in China. New words are explained in terms of how you'll actually use them to communicate with new friends. The audio-CD is another great way to learn Chinese and lets you listen and repeat and remember the sentences with ease, and will help you soon declare with pride, "I can say that in Chinese!" Chinese for Beginners includes: Lighthearted approaches that bring Chinese to life in a down-to-earth fashion. Real-life dialogues and situations to help you converse with confidence. An "Extend Your Vocabulary" feature in each chapter helps you to remember and understand more words that you'd think possible. Native-speaker audio recordings teach you to pronounce Chinese tones accurately. Answer Keys help you keep track of your learning process. Interesting notes, idioms, sayings, photos, poems, and insider tips about China's culture, special places, and everyday life add to the adventure. This user-friendly guide to learning the basics will work for anyone who wants to speak and understand Chinese for business, for pleasure, or for travel – and who wants to enjoy the process of learning a new language while they're at it!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As a teacher myself, I have always been impressed with Yi's knowledge of language acquisition. As her pupil, I found her passion and determination inspiring. Learning with Yi gave me the feeling of being in China all over again." — Karen Enos, Mandarin learner "One other thing I really enjoyed about this book is the inclusion of traditional Chinese poetry. Before, I never dared approach Chinese poetry, but this book gives me the understanding to read great poems without needing a specialty text." — Silvia Gleizer, Vision Times "A fantastic place to start — offers a less intimidating barrier to Chinese than other textbooks." — Greg Bell, En Route To Fluency blog "I really liked how the book is packed with cultural details. It's a nice touch that gives you some background knowledge about Chinese culture. Indeed, I was impressed to see Chinese poems from the Tang dynasty appearing at the end of most chapters!" — Perapera Language Tools blog " — well-written and helps you speak Chinese in no time." — FluentU.com "This is a good book for non-native speaking parents. Each chapter included vocabulary, dialogues and culture information. This is a book written by an experienced Chinese instructor." — Miss Panda Chinese "I loved my Chinese classes with Yi Ren. She didn't just teach the language — but also Chinese culture and history. Her new book reflects her warmth and breadth of teaching." — Mike Farer, former student and City Planner "Thanks to Yi Ren, I actually learned about the Mandarin language, to speak phrases, to understand snippets of Mandarin conversations when I hear others speak, and to have the confidence to tackle this very complex language." — Beth A. Buonanno, Mandarin learner

Yi Ren taught and did research in Beijing after graduating from Tsinghua University. On moving to the U.S. she began to teach Chinese to children at weekend Chinese Schools, and also to tutor others in Chinese. After years of being worn down by her adult students' begging her to do it, Yi decided to capture her special teaching methods on paper, in a book to help other adult Chinese learners. She lives with her family in Denver, Colorado. Xiayuan Liang practiced medicine in China before coming to the United States in 1986. She did biomedical research at Washington University in St. Louis and Georgetown University, then resumed her career as a physician. She currently is an associate professor at University of Colorado School of Medicine. In her spare time, Xiayuan likes to

read and to discuss interesting topics with friends – in Chinese, of course!

This book by itself is not a very good resource for learning Mandarin. Overall, this reads more like a phrasebook for me. The way the chapters are broken up is fine, but I would have preferred to have vocab listed in a more logical way. In each chapter, there is a list of words pertaining to the subject (directions, greetings, making a phone call), but the vocab can range from articles and linking words to pronouns or specific nouns of that subject. I would have preferred to see them grouped more by type instead of all over the place. Also, the notes section, which seems to be where most of the grammar and helpful usage tips are, is too short to get a good grasp at the language. I like to know the how and why. The glossary in the back is seriously lacking. I purchased this book thinking it'd be of the same caliber as the Tuttle Korean for Beginners (which is a lot more thorough), but I haven't opened it much; In fact, my cell phone app is more useful by leaps and bounds.

Mastering Conversational Chinese, Chinese for Beginners is the best introductory book for teaching Mandarin you could ask for. I spent 3 years in China. Yi Ren was my first Mandarin teacher. I studied with her before I left and remember her saying our book we used wasn't the best. I had just had a few months of lessons before I left and continued to study while in China. I had 4 teachers and 4 different books. Yi and I continued to stay in touch when I would be in town. When I ordered her book I was amazed at the way it was put together. I wished I had been able to have it in the beginning. The other books I had used were not as organized and easy to understand. The effort that was put into it made it so much easier and much more fun. The Special Notes, Useful Sentences and Extended Vocabulary were consistent with every chapter. The Cultural tips all throughout the book would have been so helpful to me in China if I had them in the beginning. To understand the culture helps so much in learning the language. The Poetry, Songs and Pictures are so interesting. The way sentence structure was taught was invaluable and not done well in the other books I have used. Not that I am living stateside again I use it to brush up on what I know and use the CD to practice as well. I highly recommend this book. I am hoping there will be another book as well.

I have the e-book format and downloaded the audio to my tablet as well. Having the audio is very helpful in learning correct pronunciation and intonation. The only reason I didn't give the book 5 stars is that the audio would be so much easier to use if it were clickable directly from the text like I have occasionally seen in e-books. The instructions given in the text for downloading audio are a

little outdated, but I was able to figure it out from the website. Otherwise, the format of the text is good, introducing words and dialog in small chunks. The choice of vocabulary seems pretty consistent with what I see in other beginning texts. Both pinyin and characters are presented together. It would be possible to go through the whole book without learning any characters if you only want to concentrate on spoken Chinese, but I find for myself, becoming familiar with the characters enriches the learning experience. There is a presentation on Chinese culture and a simple poem in Chinese also for each chapter, both of which are interesting additions to the book. Overall, I would recommend this book as a beginner text.

I agree 100% with Paul Ramsey's review of, "Chinese for Beginners: Mastering Conversational Chinese." I took one of Yi Ren's classes offered at the library. I had always wondered why people said learning Chinese was so difficult. Now I understand that it partly has to do with the five possible different tones used to pronounce a single word that is spelled one way. The Chinese use symbols above the Roman letters, to indicate which of the five tones, or inflections of voice, to use to differentiate the possible meaning of a particular word. For example, the Chinese word, yu, depending on how it is pronounced, means either fish, rain, jade, or to become silted up. If that sounds difficult, consider this ... some of the characteristics of the English language can be challenging, as well. In the English language, a word spelled and pronounced one way can have multiple meanings. The word blue, can mean a color, or a melancholy way of feeling. Additionally, an English word can be pronounced the same way, spelled differently, and have different meanings. For example: hear and here. So there! :) Some of the sounds required of our voices while speaking the Chinese language, are not sounds we use when speaking the English language. At first, it feels challenging and odd to make the sounds required. With practice, though, it feels great to become proficient and master this skill. The big smiles on the students' faces reflect their sense of pride and accomplishment at rising to such an enriching challenge. I really appreciate the audio CD included with the very reasonably priced workbook. I found it invaluable to be able to follow the lessons in the book with the CD, while studying at home. And now, I have the CD and book forever, so that I can refresh my skills anytime I want. I have listened to the CD in my car and on my laptop. My 2 year-old grand daughter has listened to it with me. She now correctly says, "Thank you," and "Hello," in Chinese. And ... she caught on faster than I did! The Chinese culture, so ancient and rich, is to be admired. I loved reading the brief passages sprinkled throughout the book that give insight into the Chinese way of life. They add inspiration and intrigue, encouraging us to want to master the language on a higher level ... and perhaps, one day, even to visit China, and speak this remarkable

language with the Chinese people themselves. If you ever have the chance to take Yi Ren's class ... as a beginner, I can honestly say it was very informative and enjoyable. Practice is essential - and this workbook and CD are at-home helpful companions for sharpening your skills for beginning conversational Chinese.

This is a good book for learning some conversational Chinese. It starts out slow with greetings, introductions, and then business terms, making it a great option for anyone working with, or looking into working with international businesses. The included CD is alright for learning some pronunciation; however, there are websites that do a pretty good job at pronouncing words in the event you can't use the CD, or if yours didn't come with one.

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