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About the author

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Review Panel

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Mastering Chinese is a modern, new Mandarin

Chinese course. Based on the author's 10 years of experience teaching Chinese in the UK and in China and on extensive reviewer feedback, the book has been carefully structured and developed for a broad range of learners. It is especially suited to non-specialist university undergraduates on Institution-Wide Language Programmes (or similar provision), to Sixth Form beginners, as a primer for new Chinese degree undergraduates and other students new to the language.

It has a friendly conversational style and is packed with illustrations. Real life examples and interesting cultural insights will keep students engaged and keen to learn more.

The course has been developed over twelve gently paced, clearly structured units – manageable in one academic year – and includes three review units for revision and reinforcement. Units build on previous ones, reminding students of the basics as they progress. The structure prioritises and guides learning, helping students to progress effectively.

Mastering Chinese is a paperback book. Two audio CDs accompany the course. These can be bought separately or as part of a complete pack.

Additional material including extra audio for pronunciation practice and the full tapescript for the course is available to accompany this book at www.palgrave.com/modernlanguages/xiang.

To find out more go to www.palgrave.com and search for 'Xiang'

■ Illustrations and photos make this a friendly, fun yet fascinating introduction

■ Dual use of pinyin and script with options to learn script or stick with pinyin only

■ Uses a variety of exercises to help encourage good pronunciation

2 Listen and circle the tones based on what you hear:

1. chāi chāi chāi chāi 4. qīng qīng qīng qīng
2. zhūi zhūi zhūi zhūi 5. kēng kēng kēng kēng
3. bāng bāng bāng bāng

3 Listen and write down the words you hear in Pinyin with tones:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

4 You met these words in the previous unit. See if you can remember their meanings and mark up their tones. Then check them against the numbers and word list on pages 64 and 74.

1. líng
2. èr
3. sì
4. qī
5. shíwǔ
6. sānshíjiǔ
7. xuēxī
8. zhōngwén
9. duì
10. jīnnián
11. jì
12. diànhuà
13. qū
14. hé
15. suì
16. yìqǐ

Communicating in Chinese

Hàn yǔ jiāo liú 汉语交流

1 When is your birthday? 你的生日是几月几号?

In Chinese, the days of the week are wonderfully simple. Just say the word for 'week' and add a number, starting with 'one' for Monday. The only exception is Sunday, 'week' + 'day'.

Key expressions: Days of the week

- | | | |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| xīng qī yī | xīng qī èr | xīng qī sān |
| 1. 星期一 | 2. 星期二 | 3. 星期三 |
| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday |
| xīng qī sì | xīng qī wǔ | xīng qī liù |
| 4. 星期四 | 5. 星期五 | 6. 星期六 |
| Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| xīng qī rì | xīng qī tiān | |
| 7. 星期日 / 星期天 | Sunday | |

In Chinese, you also use numbers to say the months. Just say the number and add the word for 'month'.

Key expressions: Months of the year

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|------------|------------|
| yī yuè | èr yuè | sān yuè | sì yuè |
| 一月 | 二月 | 三月 | 四月 |
| January | February | March | April |
| wǔ yuè | liù yuè | qī yuè | bā yuè |
| 五月 | 六月 | 七月 | 八月 |
| May | June | July | August |
| jiǔ yuè | shí yuè | shí yī yuè | shí èr yuè |
| 九月 | 十月 | 十一月 | 十二月 |
| September | October | November | December |



Spring festival/Chinese New Year (Jan/Feb)



Mooncakes for the Moon Festival (Sept/Oct)



Dragon Boat Festival (May/June)



Lantern Festival (Jan/Feb)

■ Helps develop the full range of skills

■ Covers a range of everyday situations which students might encounter in China

■ Designed for complete beginners, with a wealth of interactive practice to build confidence

贵	ㄨˋ	ㄇˋ	ㄛˋ	ㄓˋ	ㄔˋ	ㄌˋ	ㄍˋ	ㄆˋ	ㄇˋ	ㄏˋ
guì										
expensive										
便宜	ㄅˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ	ㄨˋ
piányi										
cheap										
卖	ㄇˋ	ㄊˋ	ㄓˋ	ㄔˋ	ㄌˋ	ㄍˋ	ㄆˋ	ㄇˋ	ㄏˋ	ㄏˋ
mài										
to sell										
次	ㄘˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ	ㄗˋ
cì										
time (refers to frequency of action)										
再	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ	ㄘˋ
zài										
again										

The art of bargaining

For Chinese people, bargaining is not only a way of getting the best price but also a way of socializing. The key to bargaining is to know how to 'make friends'. Walking down Huaihai Road in Shanghai, you will hear salesmen saying: 'Bags, watches, my friend, I can sell one to you more cheaply.' But you are hardly their friend! The reverse strategy works well when you are trying to bargain. Try saying 交个朋友嘛! 便宜点! Jiāo ge péngyou ma! Piányi diǎn! (Let's be friends! A bit cheaper!) or 我下次带朋友来! Wǒ xiàcì dài péngyou lái! (I will bring my friends next time).

Language note

2.1 To express conditions with 如果...就... (If..., then...)

The structure 如果 rúguo...就 jiù... (If..., then ...) can be used to express conditions and possibilities just as in English.

Rú guo nǐ xǐ huan chá wǒ men jiù hē chá.
如果你喜欢茶，我们就喝茶。
If you like tea, then we will drink tea.

Rú guo nǐ jīn tiān máng nǐ jiù bié lái le.
如果你今天忙，你就别来了。
If you are busy today, then you don't need to come.

Rú guo tiān qì bù hǎo wǒ men jiù bù qù yě cǎn le.
如果天气不好，我们就不去野餐了。
If the weather's bad, we won't go for a picnic.

Practice

8 Listen to a dialogue between four friends. Complete the sentences about what they like and dislike doing in their spare time.

Xiao Wang: 喜欢 _____, 不喜欢 _____

Xiao Zhang: 喜欢 _____, 更喜欢 _____

Xiao Li: 最喜欢 _____, 最不喜欢 _____

Xiao Liu: 对 _____ 有兴趣,
对 _____ 没兴趣

9 Look at the pictures below and describe each set with comparative and superlative forms. The first one has been done for you.

1.

Tā xǐ huan hē tā xǐ huan hē tā zuì xǐ huan hē
她喜欢喝 她更喜欢 她最喜欢喝
咖啡。 喝茶。 热巧克力。

2.

3.

4.

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