



Pimsleur[®]

Mandarin Chinese 4

Reading Booklet
&
Culture Notes

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before traveling abroad.

Booklet Design: Maia Kennedy

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*To learn a language is to have one more window
from which to look at the world. Chinese proverb*

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Mandarin

Mandarin Chinese, also known as Standard Chinese or Modern Standard Mandarin, is the sole official language of China and Taiwan, and one of the four official languages of Singapore. Although there are eight major Chinese dialects, Mandarin is native to approximately 70% of the population. Chinese who are educated through at least the primary grades speak Mandarin as well as the local dialects. However, due to the size of China and the ethnic diversity of its inhabitants, hundreds of other dialects are spoken in different areas. The dialects spoken today are based more on geography than on ethnicity. For instance, residents of Shanghai will speak *Wu*, and in some parts of China, particularly the central and southern areas, official business is transacted in the locally dominant language. Although people from different parts of China generally do not understand one another's spoken language, they all use Mandarin characters (*hanzi*) for writing.

Today's Mandarin is closely based on "northern speech" which was the *lingua franca* of the ruling class, spoken in Beijing, the capital during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. After the Nationalists overthrew the Qing Dynasty in 1912, government officials at first considered creating a new "national language" by adopting a mixture of dialects, but in the end it was decided to retain Mandarin as the "National Language." The Communists, who defeated the

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Nationalists in 1949, continued this policy, but they changed the name and coined the term *pu tong hua*, or "common speech," for "Mandarin." This is the word for Mandarin used throughout mainland China. In Hong Kong, however, as in Taiwan and most overseas communities, *guo yu*, the older term, continues to be used.

Pronunciation of the national language differs slightly geographically, and there are some significant regional vocabulary differences. The Nationalists, whose capital was the southern city of Nanjing, were influenced by southern dialects, primarily Cantonese. The Communists, whose capital is Beijing, were influenced by "northern speech."

Pictographs

It is commonly thought that every Chinese character is a picture, or "pictograph," but only a few hundred of the several thousand characters are true pictographs. However, most of these are now written in such a way that it is difficult to immediately guess their meaning. There is also a very small group of characters called ideographs or ideograms, which represent ideas or objects directly. All other Chinese characters are combinations of these pictographs and basic ideographs.

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Traditional and Simplified Script

In 1949 China's new government considered instituting an alphabet in place of the traditional characters, as a refutation of traditional or "feudal" culture. Instead, they decided to simplify the existing characters by reducing the number of strokes necessary to create them. By 1964, a list of 2,200 simplified characters was created for use as a modified script. Further simplification was briefly adopted, then abandoned, at the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1977.

Presently, simplified characters are used in mainland China and Singapore, although there is a movement for the restoration of traditional characters, especially in southern China. Hong Kong, Taiwan, and many overseas Chinese communities continue to use the traditional characters.

Pinyin Transliteration

In Level 4 you will continue practicing reading-pinyin. It's the official phonetic system for transcribing pronunciations of the Chinese characters into a Latin alphabet, and will give you a way to "read" an approximation of the sounds in written form. In China it's often used in elementary schools as a first step toward learning to read. It is also used to alphabetically order dictionary entries, and

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it is used for entering Chinese text into computers as well as communicating via email and text messaging. In many large cities, street signs are often displayed in both Chinese characters and pinyin to aid foreign visitors.

Readings

There are twenty Reading Lessons in all. Although the pinyin alphabet may appear similar to the Latin alphabet, the sounds of some letters in pinyin are quite different. You will learn to sound out the pinyin starting with individual letters, then letter combinations, words, then word combinations and short phrases, building in length until you will be sounding out complete sentences. Keep in mind that learning to read pinyin is not the same as learning to read the hanzi. These lessons are designed to give you an easy way to "read" the Chinese sounds, and the Simplified Chinese characters are displayed as well.

Feel free to repeat each Reading Lesson until you feel comfortable proceeding to the next. With a little effort, you will be astonished at how quickly you are able to sound out the Mandarin words. A pronunciation chart is included which is for reference

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only, however, as all the information you need to do the readings is contained in the audio.

Although translations are included, the meanings at this point are secondary, and we recommend that you look at them only after first attempting to sound out the phrases with Mandarin pronunciation. Each item has been selected especially to give you practice in the tones, the sounds, and the sound combinations. You should read aloud, as directed, which will help to lodge the sounds in your memory. Before long you will be reading pinyin aloud without an American accent.

Tonality

Chinese is a tonal language. This means that in addition to the sounds of the consonants and vowels, the tone with which a syllable is pronounced helps to determine its meaning. The Chinese languages are almost exclusively made up of one-syllable words, composed of an initial consonant sound followed by the syllable's main vowel, sometimes in combination with another consonant or vowel. Longer words do exist, but almost all are compound words, formed by combining one-syllable words.

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The tone is determined by the pronunciation of the syllable's main vowel. Each tone has a name which describes the motion of the sound: falling, rising, or even. With the tones, several meanings can be assigned to any one syllable. For example, when pronounced using a falling-rising tone, the word *nar* means "where." However, when pronounced with just a falling tone, it means "there."

There are four main tones used in speaking Mandarin – high, rising, falling-rising, falling – and a fifth, referred to as a soft or neutral tone. This last tone is used for the second syllable in a set of doubled characters, as well as for the final syllable (or question word) at the end of a query. This neutral tone doesn't have a marker. For example, in the questions, *nǐ ne?* (How about you?) and *hǎo ma?* (OK?), the syllables *ne* and *ma* are pronounced using this soft, falling sound, as if the sound is fading away. Here is an example of one word with different meanings depending on the tone with which it is pronounced:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • 1st tone: high | <i>shī</i> (poem) |
| • 2nd tone: rising | <i>shí</i> (ten or time) |
| • 3rd tone: falling-rising | <i>shǐ</i> (history) |
| • 4th tone: falling | <i>shì</i> (to be) |

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There are tonal markers to indicate the tones of the vowels. In these lessons, we will include them for the four tones above the vowels they affect. Pay close attention to the markers because they can change the meaning of a word completely. It may take a while before you hear the differences, and we encourage you to repeat each lesson as often as necessary, in order to both familiarize yourself with the Mandarin sounds represented by the letters and to practice the tones.

All tonal markers are placed above the single vowels (a, o, e, i, u, ü). The chart that follows uses the vowel "a" as an example.

Tone #	English Name	Marker shown with "a"
1.	High-level tone – Starts with normal vocal range of the speaker and stays even.	ā
2.	Rising tone – Starts at normal vocal range, then rises up.	á
3.	Falling-rising tone – Starts at normal vocal range, then falls down and rises up.	ǎ
4.	Falling tone – Starts at normal vocal range, then falls down.	à

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In Mandarin the absence of a tonal marker above a vowel, as in "a," indicates a neutral tone. This neutral tone starts with a slightly soft sound and is shorter than the sounds of the tones listed above.

Tone Change or Tone Sandhi

Although each Chinese syllable standing alone has a specific tone, in the flow of speech the tone of a syllable can change depending on the tone of the following syllable. In some Chinese dialects, tone change is common, and there are complex rules governing it. In contemporary Mandarin, however, it is less common than in other dialects, and there are only a few rules to remember. The first governs falling-rising or 3rd tones when they are spoken in sequence:

1. When two falling-rising or 3rd tones occur together, the first falling-rising tone becomes a rising, or 2nd tone. The second remains a falling-rising or 3rd tone. For example, "very" and "good" are both falling-rising, 3rd tones by themselves, but when spoken together as *hen hao*, the first word changes to a rising or 2nd tone, while the second keeps its original falling-rising, 3rd tone.

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2. When three falling-rising tones are spoken one after the other, the first two become rising or 2nd tones, while the third remains a falling-rising tone.
3. When four falling-rising tones occur one after the other, the first three change to rising or 2nd tones, while the fourth remains a falling-rising or 3rd tone.

In contemporary Mandarin, tone change is also associated with two specific characters. The first of these is *yi* (one).

1. *yi* is a high level or 1st tone when it is by itself or at the end of a word.
2. When *yi* comes before a falling or 4th tone, it changes to a rising or 2nd tone, for example, *yi* (2nd) *yue* (4th) ("one month").
3. When *yi* comes before any of the three remaining tones (high, rising, or falling-rising), it changes to a falling or 4th tone.

The second character associated with tone change in contemporary Mandarin is *bu* (means "no" or "not").

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1. When *bu* stands alone, it is a falling or 4th tone.
2. *bu* changes to a rising or 2nd tone only when it comes before another falling or 4th tone.
3. When combined with the 2nd and 3rd tones, *bu* remains a falling tone.

The various tone changes occur in speech only. In writing, the original tone is retained. In time, these changes will become automatic and natural.

Pinyin Pronunciation Chart

(where no sound is indicated, the sound matches English)

Letter	Sound
a	"a" in "father"
b	
c	"ts" in "boots"
ch	"ch" in "church"
d	
e	"ir" in "girl"
f	
g	"g" in "go"
h	

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Letter	Sound
i	"ee" as in "feet" but after "r" sounds like the "ir" in "shirt"
j	
k	
l	
m	
n	
o	"o" in "no"
p	
q	"ch" in "cheese"
r	"r" as in "war" or "run" (before an "i" it sounds somewhere between an "r" and "j" or the "s" in "leisure")
s	"s" as in "seed"
sh	"sh" as in "shine"
t	
u	"oo" as in "boot"
ü	similar to the "u" sound in "you"
x	the sound in between "s" and "sh"
w	
y	"y" as in "yes"
z	"ds" as in "lads"
zh	"j" as in "jam"

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Letter	Sound Combinations
ai	"eye"
ei	"ay" in "say"
ao	"ow" in "how"
ou	"o" in "dough"
ia	"ee-ya"
ie	"ee-yeah"
iu	"ee-oo"
ua	"wa" like the end of "aqua"
uo	"wo" in "won't"
üe	"u" in "you" followed by the sound "e" – "ee"
iao	like "meow"
iou (iu)	"eew"
uai	"why"
uei (ui)	"way"
an	"un" in "until"
en	"en" in "hen"
in	"een" in "seen"
ün	"une" in "tune"
ang	"ong" in "song"
eng	"ung" in "sung"
ing	"ing" in "sing"
ong	like "long," except with the "o" pronounced "oh"
ian	"yan"

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Letter	Sound Combinations
uan	"wan"
uen (un)	similar to "one"
üan	"u" in "you" plus "an"
iang	"young"
iong	"yong," with the "o" pronounced "oh"
uang	"wong"
ueng	like "wor" in "work," plus an "ng" at the end
er	sounds like "are," but is usually linked to the previous word to form an "er" sound

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Lesson One

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. qíng gǎn | 情感 |
| 2. dà xiào | 大笑 |
| 3. kū qì | 哭泣 |
| 4. jī dòng | 激动 |
| 5. yōu lǜ | 忧虑 |
| 6. píng jìng | 平静 |
| 7. xiǎng niàn | 想念 |
| 8. shāng xīn | 伤心 |
| 9. xīng fèn | 兴奋 |
| 10. yú kuài | 愉快 |
| 11. wǎn xī | 惋惜 |
| 12. fā nù | 发怒 |
| 13. hán qíng mò mò | 含情脉脉 |
| 14. méi kāi yǎn xiào | 眉开眼笑 |
| 15. mèn mèn bú lè | 闷闷不乐 |
| 16. jīn tiān hěn gāo xìng. | 今天很高兴。 |
| 17. wǒ men duì yíng le. | 我们队赢了。 |
| 18. rén rén dōu fēi cháng xīng fèn. | 人人都非常兴奋。 |
| 19. kě duì fāng de duì yuán ... | 可对方的队员 ... |
| 20. gè gè mèn mèn bú lè. | 个个闷闷不乐。 |

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Lesson One Translations

1. emotion
2. laugh
3. cry
4. emotional
5. worry
6. calm
7. to miss someone
8. sad
9. exciting, be excited
10. pleasant
11. to feel sorry for
12. angry
13. full of tender feelings
14. Brows raised in delight, eyes laughing, beaming with joy
15. depressed, unhappy
16. Today (we) are happy.
17. Our team won the game.
18. Everyone is very excited.
19. But the opponent team members ...
20. are all unhappy.

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Lesson Two

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. bǎi huò shāng diàn | 百货商店 |
| 2. diàn qì diàn | 电器店 |
| 3. huà zhuāng pǐn diàn | 化妆品店 |
| 4. shí pǐn diàn | 食品店 |
| 5. fú zhuāng diàn | 服装店 |
| 6. yīn yuè diàn | 音乐店 |
| 7. xié diàn | 鞋店 |
| 8. ér tóng shāng diàn | 儿童商店 |
| 9. gù kè | 顾客 |
| 10. diàn zhǔ | 店主 |
| 11. zuò mǎi mài | 做买卖 |
| 12. xiào liǎn xiāng yíng | 笑脸相迎 |
| 13. fú wù zhōu dào | 服务周到 |
| 14. shēng yì xīng lóng | 生意兴隆 |
| 15. xiǎo gōng yì pǐn | 小工艺品 |
| 16. shǒu shì | 首饰 |
| 17. nǐ kàn zhòng le shén me? | 你看中了什么? |
| 18. wǒ xǐ huan zhè gè gōng yì pǐn. | 我喜欢这个工艺品。 |
| 19. shì fēi cháng piào liang. | 是非常漂亮。 |
| 20. wǒ yào mǎi xià lái. | 我要买下来。 |

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Lesson Two Translations

1. department store
2. electronics store
3. cosmetics store
4. grocery store
5. clothing store
6. music store
7. shoe store
8. children's store – general children's merchandise, toys, clothing, etc.
9. customer
10. store owner
11. doing business
12. greeting someone with a smile
13. satisfactory/thorough service
14. business is booming
15. small craft(s)
16. jewelry
17. What do you take a fancy to?
18. I like this handcraft.
19. It is very beautiful.
20. I'm going to buy it.

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Lesson Three

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|---------|
| 1. | cài shì chǎng | 菜市场 |
| 2. | xī hóng shì | 西红柿 |
| 3. | huáng guā | 黄瓜 |
| 4. | jī dàn | 鸡蛋 |
| 5. | shū cài | 蔬菜 |
| 6. | dà bái cài | 大白菜 |
| 7. | xiǎo qīng cài | 小青菜 |
| 8. | tiáo wèi pǐn | 调味品 |
| 9. | dà cōng | 大葱 |
| 10. | shēng jiāng | 生姜 |
| 11. | gǎn lǎn yóu | 橄榄油 |
| 12. | yán | 盐 |
| 13. | jiàng yóu | 酱油 |
| 14. | cù | 醋 |
| 15. | měi gōng jīn yì yuán | 每公斤一元 |
| 16. | zhè gè guā yǒu duō zhòng? | 这个瓜有多重? |
| 17. | lái chēng yí xià. | 来称一下。 |
| 18. | bàn gōng jīn duō yì diǎn. | 半公斤多一点。 |
| 19. | duō shǎo qián? | 多少钱? |
| 20. | suàn liǎng yuán ba. | 算两元吧。 |

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Lesson Three Translations

1. food market
2. tomato
3. cucumber
4. egg
5. vegetables
6. napa cabbage
7. baby bok choy
8. seasonings
9. green onion
10. ginger
11. olive oil
12. salt
13. soy sauce
14. vinegar
15. one yuan per kilogram
16. What is the weight of this melon?
17. Let's weigh it.
18. A little bit more than half of a kilogram.
19. How much money?
20. Two yuan should be ok.

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Lesson Four

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. | biǎo yǎn yì shù | 表演艺术 |
| 2. | gē chàng | 歌唱 |
| 3. | wǔ dǎo | 舞蹈 |
| 4. | jiǎng xiào huà | 讲笑话 |
| 5. | wǔ tái | 舞台 |
| 6. | jiāo xiǎng yuè tuán | 交响乐团 |
| 7. | gē jù | 歌剧 |
| 8. | bā léi wǔ | 芭蕾舞 |
| 9. | gǔ diǎn yīn yuè | 古典音乐 |
| 10. | yáo gǔn yuè | 摇滚乐 |
| 11. | jué shì yuè | 爵士乐 |
| 12. | qīng yīn yuè | 轻音乐 |
| 13. | yǎn chū | 演出 |
| 14. | yì chǎng yīn yuè huì | 一场音乐会 |
| 15. | wǒ yǒu liǎng zhāng piào. | 我有两张票。 |
| 16. | shì gē wǔ jù de. | 是歌舞剧的。 |
| 17. | nǐ xiǎng hé wǒ ... | 你想和我 ... |
| 18. | yì qǐ qù ma? | 一起去吗? |
| 19. | hǎo a! | 好啊! |
| 20. | nà jiù xiè xie la. | 那就谢谢啦。 |

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Lesson Four Translations

1. performing arts
2. singing
3. dancing
4. talk show
5. stage
6. symphony orchestra
7. opera
8. ballet
9. classical music
10. rock 'n' roll
11. jazz
12. light / pop music
13. performance / show
14. a concert
15. I have two tickets.
16. It's musical.
17. Do you want to (go) with me ...
18. go together?
19. Great!
20. Thank you so much.

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Lesson Five

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | yùn dòng | 运动 |
| 2. | ào lín pǐ kè yùn dòng huì | 奥林匹克运动会 |
| 3. | bǐ sài | 比赛 |
| 4. | tián jìng | 田径 |
| 5. | tǐ cāo | 体操 |
| 6. | tiào shuǐ | 跳水 |
| 7. | jǔ zhòng | 举重 |
| 8. | tái quán dào | 跆拳道 |
| 9. | dǎ pái qiú | 打排球 |
| 10. | lán qiú bǐ sài | 篮球比赛 |
| 11. | mǎ lā sōng cháng pǎo | 马拉松长跑 |
| 12. | huá chuán | 划船 |
| 13. | huá bīng | 滑冰 |
| 14. | chōng làng | 冲浪 |
| 15. | nǎ xiàng yùn dòng shì ... | 哪项运动是 ... |
| 16. | nǐ zuì xǐ huan de? | 你最喜欢的? |
| 17. | wǒ zuì shàn cháng ... | 我最擅长 ... |
| 18. | dǎ yǔ máo qiú. | 打羽毛球。 |
| 19. | nà wǒ hé nǐ | 那我和你 ... |
| 20. | bǐ shì bǐ shì. | 比试比试。 |

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Lesson Five Translations

1. sports
2. Olympic Games
3. game / match / competition
4. track and field
5. gymnastics
6. diving
7. weight lifting
8. Tae Kwon Do
9. playing volleyball
10. basketball game
11. marathon
12. crew / boating
13. ice skating
14. surfing
15. Which sport is ...
16. your favorite?
17. I'm best at ...
18. playing badminton.
19. I'd like to (compete) with you ...
20. try to compete.

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Lesson Six

1. hù lián wǎng de fā míng, ... 互联网的发明, ...
2. xiǎn zhù de gǎi biàn le ... 显著地改变了...
3. shū xìn jiāo liú fāng shì, ... 书信交流方式, ...
4. yǐ shǐ yòng le qī bǎi nián. 已使用了千百年。
5. rén men kě yǐ ... 人们可以 ...
6. suí shí suí dì ... 随时随地 ...
7. jìn xíng jiāo liú. 进行交流。
8. tóng shí, shùn jiān dé dào ... 同时, 瞬间得到 ...
9. dà liàng de xìn xī. 大量的信息。
10. dāng rán yě bāo kuò ... 当然也包括 ...
11. lā jī xìn xī. 垃圾信息。
12. nǐ kě yǐ tōng guò ... 你可以通过 ...
13. gè zhǒng shè jiāo wǎng zhàn, ... 各种社交网站, ...
14. lián luò péng yǒu hé jiā rén. 联络朋友和家人。
15. yě kě jié jiāo xīn péng yǒu. 也可结交新朋友。
16. bǐ rú, liǎn shū, ... 比如、脸书、...
17. tuī tè, wēi xìn děng. 推特、微信等。
18. zhēn shì fāng biàn. 真是方便。
19. dàn shì yào zhù yì ... 但是要注意 ...
20. bǎo hù zì jǐ. 保护自己。

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Lesson Six Translations

1. The invention of the internet, ...
2. has changed dramatically ...
3. the way of correspondence communication, ...
4. it has already used for thousands of years. (*The invention of the Internet has dramatically changed the way correspondence communication has been used for thousands of years.*)
5. People can ...
6. anytime anywhere ...
7. communicate with each other.
8. In the mean time, instantly you get ...
9. enormous information.
10. Of course it includes ...
11. junk information.
12. You may go through ...
13. various social-networking sites, ...
14. to contact friends and family members.
15. You also can make new friends.
16. For example, Facebook®, ...
17. Twitter®, WeChat®, etc.
18. It is really convenient.
19. But you have to pay attention ...
20. to protect yourself.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Seven

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | jiā jù | 家具 |
| 2. | zhuō zi | 桌子 |
| 3. | yǐ zi | 椅子 |
| 4. | shā fā | 沙发 |
| 5. | chá jī | 茶几 |
| 6. | cān zhuō | 餐桌 |
| 7. | chuáng tóu guì | 床头柜 |
| 8. | chuān yī jìng | 穿衣镜 |
| 9. | tái dēng | 台灯 |
| 10. | diào dēng | 吊灯 |
| 11. | shū jià | 书架 |
| 12. | xiě zì tái | 写字台 |
| 13. | wǒ bān jiā le. | 我搬家了。 |
| 14. | xū yào mǎi yí tào ... | 需要买一套 ... |
| 15. | wò shì lǐ de jiā jù. | 卧室里的家具。 |
| 16. | yīng gāi bāo kuò ... | 应该包括 ... |
| 17. | yì zhāng chuáng, ... | 一张床、... |
| 18. | liǎng gè chuáng tóu guì, ... | 两个床头柜、... |
| 19. | yí gè yī guì hé ... | 一个衣柜和 ... |
| 20. | yí miàn chuān yī jìng. | 一面穿衣镜。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Seven Translations

1. furniture
2. table
3. chair
4. sofa
5. coffee table
6. dining table
7. night stand
8. dressing mirror
9. desk lamp
10. chandelier / ceiling lamp
11. bookshelf
12. writing desk
13. I moved (as from a house or home).
14. I need to buy a set of ...
15. bedroom furniture.
16. It should include ...
17. a bed, ...
18. two night stands, ...
19. a dresser and ...
20. a dressing mirror.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Eight

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | sì fāng xíng | 四方形 |
| 2. | cháng fāng xíng | 长方形 |
| 3. | yuán xíng | 圆形 |
| 4. | tuǒ yuán xíng | 椭圆形 |
| 5. | sān jiǎo xíng | 三角形 |
| 6. | bù guī zé xíng zhuàng | 不规则形状 |
| 7. | zhí xiàn de | 直线的 |
| 8. | píng miàn de | 平面的 |
| 9. | lì tǐ de | 立体的 |
| 10. | shàng xiǎo xià dà | 上小下大 |
| 11. | shàng dà xià xiǎo | 上大下小 |
| 12. | duì chèn | 对称 |
| 13. | bú duì chèn | 不对称 |
| 14. | yuán xíng de zhuō zi | 圆形的桌子 |
| 15. | cháng fāng xíng de hé zi | 长方形的盒子 |
| 16. | fáng jiān hěn tè bié. | 房间很特别。 |
| 17. | dì bǎn shì bù guī zé tú àn. | 地板是不规则图案。 |
| 18. | jiā jù bǎi de ... | 家具摆得 ... |
| 19. | yě bú duì chèn | 也不对称。 |
| 20. | dàn shì, kàn shàng qù
hěn shū shì. | 但是, 看上去很舒适。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Eight Translations

1. square
2. rectangle
3. circle
4. oblong / oval / ellipse
5. triangle
6. irregular shape
7. linear / straight
8. flat / planar
9. three-dimensional
10. narrow end up
11. big / wide end up
12. symmetry
13. asymmetry
14. round table
15. rectangular box
16. The room is unique.
17. The floor pattern is irregular.
18. The furniture is set up ...
19. also asymmetric.
20. But it looks very comfortable.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Nine

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. ruǎn / yìng | 软 / 硬 |
| 2. kuān / zhǎi | 宽 / 窄 |
| 3. xiāng / chòu | 香 / 臭 |
| 4. hǎo / huài | 好 / 坏 |
| 5. hòu / báo | 厚 / 薄 |
| 6. gāo / ǎi | 高 / 矮 |
| 7. míng liàng / huī àn | 明亮 / 灰暗 |
| 8. cū zào / guāng huá | 粗糙 / 光滑 |
| 9. chǎo nào / ān jìng | 吵闹 / 安静 |
| 10. qiáng zhuàng / ruǎn ruò | 强壮 / 软弱 |
| 11. míng liàng de fáng jiān | 明亮的房间 |
| 12. chǎo nào de jiē dào | 吵闹的街道 |
| 13. guāng huá de zhuō miàn | 光滑的桌面 |
| 14. zuò gōng cū zào | 做工粗糙 |
| 15. nà gè chǎn pǐn bú huài. | 那个产品不坏。 |
| 16. zhè jiān fáng yǒu diǎn zhǎi. | 这间房有点窄。 |
| 17. zhǐ hǎo fàng yì zhāng ... | 只好放一张 ... |
| 18. cháng fāng xíng de cān zhuō. | 长方形的餐桌。 |
| 19. dàn wǒ hái shì xǐ huan ... | 但我还是喜欢 ... |
| 20. zhè lǐ de ān jìng. | 这里的安静。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Nine Translations

1. soft / hard
2. wide / narrow
3. smells good (fragrant) / smells bad
4. good / bad
5. thick / thin
6. tall (high) / short
7. bright / dim
8. rough / smooth
9. noisy / quiet
10. strong / weak
11. bright room
12. noisy street
13. smooth desktop
14. low-quality work
15. That product is not bad.
16. This room is a little bit narrow.
17. It only can place a ...
18. rectangular dining table.
19. But I still like ...
20. the quiet here.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Ten

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. bǐ jì běn | 笔记本 |
| 2. jì suàn qì | 计算器 |
| 3. qiān bǐ | 铅笔 |
| 4. xiàng pí | 橡皮 |
| 5. yuán zhū bǐ | 圆珠笔 |
| 6. chǐ zi | 尺子 |
| 7. jiǎn jià shū | 减价书 |
| 8. dú guò zhè běn shū ma? | 读过这本书吗? |
| 9. hái méi yǒu. | 还没有。 |
| 10. shì yì běn hǎo shū. | 是一本好书。 |
| 11. zhí dé yì dú. | 值得一读。 |
| 12. zuò zhě yǒu míng ma? | 作者有名吗? |
| 13. xiàn zài méi yǒu, ... | 现在没有, ... |
| 14. dàn tā kěn dìng néng ... | 但它肯定能 ... |
| 15. chéng wéi yì běn chàng xiāo shū. | 成为一本畅销书。 |
| 16. wǒ yù dìng de shū ... | 我预定的书 ... |
| 17. dào le ma? | 到了吗? |
| 18. bù hǎo yì si, hái méi dào. | 不好意思, 还没到。 |
| 19. zài děng jǐ tiān, xíng ma? | 再等几天, 行吗? |
| 20. yě zhǐ hǎo děng le. | 也只好等了。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Ten Translations

1. notebook
2. calculator
3. pencil
4. eraser
5. ball pen
6. ruler
7. bargain book
8. Have you read this book?
9. Not yet.
10. It is a good book.
11. It'll be worth a read.
12. Is the author famous?
13. Not now, ...
14. but it definitely will ...
15. become a bestseller.
16. The book I pre-ordered ...
17. has arrived yet?
18. I'm sorry, it's not here yet.
19. Wait for a few days, ok?
20. I'll have to wait.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Eleven

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| 1. wèi, shì lǚ xíng shè ma? | 喂, 是旅行社吗? |
| 2. shì. nín qù nǎ lǐ lǚ yóu? | 是。您去哪里旅游? |
| 3. wǒ zhǐ xiǎng dìng ... | 我只想订... |
| 4. qù guì lín de jī piào ... | 去桂林的机票 ... |
| 5. hé zài nà lǐ de jiǔ diàn. | 和在那里的酒店。 |
| 6. méi wèn tí. qǐng wèn nǎ tiān zǒu? | 没问题。请问哪天走? |
| 7. nǎ tiān fǎn huí? | 哪天返回? |
| 8. yì zhōu hòu zǒu, ... | 一周后走, ... |
| 9. zài nà lǐ dòu liú yì zhōu. | 在那里逗留一周。 |
| 10. dìng wǔ xīng jí jiǔ diàn ma? | 订五星级酒店吗? |
| 11. nà yào kàn jià qián le. | 那要看价钱了。 |
| 12. wǒ yù dìng le nǐ men ... | 我预订了你们 ... |
| 13. jiǔ diàn de fáng jiān. | 酒店的房间。 |
| 14. qǐng shāo děng, ràng wǒ chá yì chá. | 请稍等, 让我查一查。 |
| 15. nín guì xìng? | 您贵姓? |
| 16. wǒ xìng hú. | 我姓胡。 |
| 17. ō, chá dào le. | 噢, 查到了。 |
| 18. huān yíng guāng lín běn diàn. | 欢迎光临本店。 |
| 19. zhè shì nín de yào shi. | 这是您的钥匙。 |
| 20. zhù nín zài zhè lǐ yú kuài! | 祝您在这里愉快! |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Eleven Translations

1. Hello, is this the travel agency?
2. Yes. Where will you go for travel?
3. I only want to book ...
4. an airline ticket to Guilin ...
5. and a hotel there.
6. No problem. May I ask which day you will leave?
7. Which day will you return?
8. I will leave a week later, ...
9. and stay there for a week.
10. Will you book a five-star hotel?
11. That depends on the price.
12. I've booked your ...
13. hotel room.
14. One moment please, let me check.
15. What's your last name?
16. My last name is Hu.
17. Oh, I got it.
18. Welcome to our hotel.
19. This is your room key.
20. Have a pleasant stay!

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Twelve

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1. | jiàn zhù wù | 建筑物 |
| 2. | fáng zi | 房子 |
| 3. | wò shì | 卧室 |
| 4. | kè tīng | 客厅 |
| 5. | zǒu láng | 走廊 |
| 6. | chú fáng | 厨房 |
| 7. | shuǐ lóng tóu | 水龙头 |
| 8. | shuǐ guǎn | 水管 |
| 9. | xià shuǐ dào | 下水道 |
| 10. | dì xià shì | 地下室 |
| 11. | qiáng bì | 墙壁 |
| 12. | lóu tī | 楼梯 |
| 13. | wǔ céng lóu | 五层楼 |
| 14. | dà lóu | 大楼 |
| 15. | dà táng | 大堂 |
| 16. | yàn huì tīng | 宴会厅 |
| 17. | qǐng wèn, qù huì yì tīng
zěn me zǒu? | 请问, 去会议厅怎么走? |
| 18. | chéng diàn tī dào èr lóu, ... | 乘电梯到二楼, ... |
| 19. | xiàng zuǒ zhuǎn jiù dào le. | 向左转就到了。 |
| 20. | xiè xie. huí tóu jiàn! | 谢谢。回头见! |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Twelve Translations

1. building
2. house
3. bedroom
4. living room
5. hallway
6. kitchen
7. faucet
8. water pipe
9. drain
10. basement
11. wall
12. stairs
13. five-story building
14. multi-storied building
15. lobby
16. banquet hall
17. Excuse me, how do I get to the auditorium?
18. Take the elevator to the second floor, ...
19. and then turn left.
20. Thanks. See you later!

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Thirteen

- | | | |
|-----|---|--------------|
| 1. | jiǎng xué jīn | 奖学金 |
| 2. | xué fèi | 学费 |
| 3. | lǎo shī | 老师 |
| 4. | xué sheng | 学生 |
| 5. | tóng xué | 同学 |
| 6. | xiào zhǎng | 校长 |
| 7. | dà xué | 大学 |
| 8. | xué yuàn | 学院 |
| 9. | yán jiū suǒ | 研究所 |
| 10. | shí yàn shì | 实验室 |
| 11. | zhuān yè | 专业 |
| 12. | jiào shì | 教室 |
| 13. | xiào yuán | 校园 |
| 14. | zài zhōng guó shēn
qǐng dà xué ... | 在中国申请大学... |
| 15. | yǔ zài měi guó yǒu ... | 与在美国有... |
| 16. | hěn dà de bù tóng. | 很大的不同。 |
| 17. | měi nián yí cì de
gāo kǎo, ... | 每年一次的高考, ... |
| 18. | jiù xiàng yì chǎng jiān nán
de “zhàn dòu.” | 就像一场艰难的“战斗”。 |
| 19. | dàn duì wài guó liú
xué shēng, ... | 但对外国留学生, ... |
| 20. | lù qǔ fāng shì bù yí yàng. | 录取方式不一样。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Thirteen Translations

1. scholarship
2. tuition
3. teacher
4. student
5. classmate / schoolmate
6. principal / college president
7. university
8. college
9. research institute
10. laboratory
11. major
12. classroom
13. campus
14. College application process in China ...
15. and in US are ...
16. very different.
17. The annual national college entrance exam ...
18. is just like a tough "fight."
19. But for foreign students, ...
20. the admission process is different.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Fourteen

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|----------|
| 1. | huā māo | 花猫 |
| 2. | zhào māo huà hǔ | 照猫画虎 |
| 3. | lǎo hǔ | 老虎 |
| 4. | hǔ dú bù shí zǐ. | 虎毒不食子。 |
| 5. | shī zi | 狮子 |
| 6. | shī zi dà kāi kǒu | 狮子大开口 |
| 7. | jùn mǎ | 骏马 |
| 8. | mǎ dào chéng gōng | 马到成功 |
| 9. | gōng niú | 公牛 |
| 10. | jiǔ niú èr hǔ zhī lì | 九牛二虎之力 |
| 11. | mián yáng | 绵羊 |
| 12. | yáng máo chū zài yáng shēn shàng. | 羊毛出在羊身上。 |
| 13. | gǒu | 狗 |
| 14. | gǒu bù xián jiā pín. | 狗不嫌家贫。 |
| 15. | tù zi | 兔子 |
| 16. | jiǎo tù sān kū. | 狡兔三窟。 |
| 17. | xiǎo niǎo | 小鸟 |
| 18. | bèn niǎo xiān fēi. | 笨鸟先飞。 |
| 19. | yú ér | 鱼儿 |
| 20. | rú yú dé shuǐ | 如鱼得水 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Fourteen Translations

1. cat
2. painting a tiger with a cat as a model (Meaning: to copy something without catching its spirit)
3. tiger
4. Even a vicious tiger doesn't eat its cubs. (Meaning: No one is capable of hurting his/her own children.)
5. lion
6. The lion opens its mouth wide. (Meaning: demand an exorbitant price.)
7. fine horse / steed
8. Win instant success, gain an immediate victory
9. bull
10. the strength of nine bulls and two tigers (Meaning: tremendous effort)
11. sheep
12. Sheep wool comes from the sheep. (Meaning: there is no such thing as a free lunch.)
13. dog
14. A dog never shuns its poor owner.
15. rabbit / hare
16. A wily hare has three burrows. (Meaning: have more than one hiding place)
17. little bird

Mandarin Chinese 4

- 18. Clumsy birds must start flying before the rest.
(Meaning: an inefficient person must start work earlier for fear of falling behind.)
- 19. fish
- 20. like a stranded fish put back into water (Meaning: glad to be back in one's proper surroundings)

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Fifteen

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|------------|
| 1. | jiào shòu | 教授 |
| 2. | lǚ shī | 律师 |
| 3. | gōng chéng shī | 工程师 |
| 4. | kē xué jiā | 科学家 |
| 5. | yīn yuè jiā | 音乐家 |
| 6. | huà jiā | 画家 |
| 7. | yín háng jiā | 银行家 |
| 8. | chú shī | 厨师 |
| 9. | hù shì | 护士 |
| 10. | kuài jì | 会计 |
| 11. | jūn rén | 军人 |
| 12. | shāng rén | 商人 |
| 13. | shòu huò yuán | 售货员 |
| 14. | diàn gōng | 电工 |
| 15. | shuǐ nuǎn gōng | 水暖工 |
| 16. | chéng xù yuán | 程序员 |
| 17. | bèi duō fēn shì yì míng ... | 贝多芬是一名 ... |
| 18. | zhù míng de yīn yuè jiā. | 著名的音乐家。 |
| 19. | tā de zuò pǐn ... | 他的作品 ... |
| 20. | liú fāng bǎi shì. | 流芳百世。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Fifteen Translations

1. professor
2. lawyer
3. engineer
4. scientist
5. musician
6. artist / painter
7. banker
8. chef
9. nurse
10. accountant
11. military personnel
12. businessman
13. sales clerk
14. electrician
15. plumber
16. programmer
17. Beethoven was a ...
18. famous musician.
19. His works ...
20. remain immortal.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Sixteen

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|------------|
| 1. | shāng yè | 商业 |
| 2. | guǎng gào | 广告 |
| 3. | shì chǎng diào chá | 市场调查 |
| 4. | yè wù | 业务 |
| 5. | bàn gōng shì | 办公室 |
| 6. | dǎ diàn huà | 打电话 |
| 7. | diàn huà huì yì | 电话会议 |
| 8. | chū chāi | 出差 |
| 9. | xiāo shòu | 销售 |
| 10. | tuī xiāo yuán | 推销员 |
| 11. | gōng sī yùn yíng | 公司运营 |
| 12. | yù suàn | 预算 |
| 13. | cái wù bào gào | 财务报告 |
| 14. | nǐ men gōng sī zuò ... | 你们公司做 ... |
| 15. | shén me yè wù? | 什么业务? |
| 16. | wǒ men xiāo shòu diàn qì. | 我们销售电器。 |
| 17. | nà wǒ shì nǐ men de ... | 那我是你们的 ... |
| 18. | gù kè le. | 顾客了。 |
| 19. | kè hù yǒng yuǎn ... | 客户永远 ... |
| 20. | shì dì yí wèi de. | 是第一位的。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Sixteen Translations

1. trade / commerce
2. advertisement / a commercial
3. market survey / research
4. business / professional work
5. office
6. phone calls
7. conference call
8. to go on an official or business trip
9. sales
10. salesman
11. company operations
12. budget
13. financial report
14. What does your company ...
15. do for business?
16. We sell electrical appliances.
17. Then I'm your ...
18. customer.
19. Customers always ...
20. are the first.

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Seventeen

- | | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| 1. | wǒ gōng sī de chǎn pǐn ... | 我公司的产品 ... |
| 2. | zhì liàng hěn hǎo. | 质量很好。 |
| 3. | guì gōng sī yǒu xìng qù ... | 贵公司有兴趣 ... |
| 4. | liǎo jiě yí xià ma? | 了解一下吗? |
| 5. | dāng rán hǎo. | 当然好。 |
| 6. | qǐng nǐ jiè shào yí xià ... | 请你介绍一下... |
| 7. | zhè gè chǎn pǐn. | 这个产品。 |
| 8. | zhè shì zuì xīn yán fā ... | 这是最新研发 ... |
| 9. | chū lái de yí kuǎn. | 出来的一款。 |
| 10. | tā kě yǐ bāng zhù ... | 它可以帮助 ... |
| 11. | guì gōng sī jié shéng
kāi xiāo. | 贵公司节省开销。 |
| 12. | nà hěn hǎo. | 那很好。 |
| 13. | wǒ men yǒu xìng qù. | 我们有兴趣。 |
| 14. | qǐng liú xià ... | 请留下 ... |
| 15. | lián xì fāng shì. | 联系方式。 |
| 16. | zhè cì de jiāo yì huì ... | 这次的交易会 ... |
| 17. | lái de gōng sī zhēn bù shǎo. | 来的公司真不少。 |
| 18. | shì a. zhēn gòu rè nào de. | 是啊。真够热闹的。 |
| 19. | nǐ mén dài lái le shén me chǎn pǐn?
你们带来了什么产品? | |
| 20. | wǒ mén dài lái le zuì xīn kuǎn shì de shǒu jī. | 我们带来了最新款式的手机。 |

Mandarin Chinese 4

Lesson Seventeen Translations

1. The quality of our company's products ...
2. is very good.
3. Is your company interested in ...
4. learning more about it?
5. Certainly.
6. Please introduce ...
7. this product to us.
8. This is a newly-developed ...
9. version.
10. It can help ...
11. your company save expenses.
12. That's great.
13. We are interested in this one.
14. Please leave ...
15. the contact information.
16. This trade show ...
17. so many companies show up.
18. Yeah. It looks so bustling.
19. What product did you bring?
20. We have brought the newest version of mobile phones.

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Lesson Eighteen

1. huān yíng bō dǎ ...
欢迎拨打...
2. běn diàn huà gōng sī de diàn huà
本电话公司的电话。
3. diàn huà jìn rù ...
电话进入...
4. yǔ yīn xì tǒng.
语音系统。
5. rú guǒ nín xiǎng jiā rù ...
如果您想加入...
6. běn gōng sī fú wù xiàng mù, ...
本公司服务项目, ...
7. qǐng àn "yī."
请按“一”。
8. rú guǒ nín yǐ shì ...
如果您已是 ...
9. běn gōng sī yòng hù, qǐng àn "èr."
本公司用户, 请按“二”。
10. wèi le gèng hǎo de wèi nín fú wù, ...
为了更好地为您服务, ...
11. qǐng shū rù nín de ...
请输入您的...

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12. diàn huà hào mǎ.
电话号码。
13. zhàng dān wèn tí, qǐng àn "sān."
账单问题, 请按“三”。
14. qí tā wèn tí, qǐng àn "líng."
其它问题, 请按“零”。
15. wèi le bú ràng nín jiǔ děng, ...
为了不让您久等, ...
16. nín ké xuǎn zé liú yán.
您可选择留言。
17. zài sān shí fēn zhōng nèi, ...
在三十分钟内, ...
18. wǒ men huì yǔ nín lián xì.
我们会与您联系。
19. nín yě kě jì xú děng hòu.
您也可继续等候。
20. gǎn xiè shǐ yòng wǒ men de fú wù.
感谢使用我们的服务。

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Lesson Eighteen Translations

1. Thank you for calling ...
2. our company's phone.
3. This call is entering into ...
4. an automated answering system.
5. If you would like to join ...
6. our company's services, ...
7. please press "one."
8. If you already are ...
9. our customer, please press "two."
10. In order to serve you better, ...
11. please enter your ...
12. phone number.
13. For billing questions, please press "three."
14. For all other questions, please press "zero."
15. In order to not keep you waiting ...
16. you may choose to leave a message.
17. Within thirty minutes, ...
18. we will contact you.
19. You can also continue to wait.
20. Thank you for using our services.

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Lesson Nineteen

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. yí yè zhī qiū. | 一叶知秋。 |
| 2. xiōng yǒu chéng zhú. | 胸有成竹。 |
| 3. dī shuǐ chéng hé. | 滴水成河。 |
| 4. yǒu zhì bú zài nián gāo. | 有志不在年高。 |
| 5. rén wú yuǎn lǜ, ... | 人无远虑, ... |
| 6. bì yǒu jìn yōu. | 必有近忧。 |
| 7. sān rén xíng, ... | 三人行, ... |
| 8. bì yǒu wǒ shī. | 必有我师。 |
| 9. sài wēng shī mǎ, ... | 塞翁失马, ... |
| 10. yān zhī fēi fú. | 焉知非福。 |
| 11. shī bài shì chéng gōng zhī mǔ. | 失败是成功之母。 |
| 12. zhòng rén shí chái huǒ yàn gāo. | 众人拾柴火焰高。 |
| 13. yuǎn qīn bù rú jìn lín. | 远亲不如近邻。 |
| 14. fàn hòu bǎi bù zǒu, ... | 饭后百步走, ... |
| 15. huó dào jiǔ shí jiǔ. | 活到九十九。 |
| 16. píng shuǐ xiāng féng, ... | 萍水相逢, ... |
| 17. jìn shì tā xiāng zhī kè. | 尽是他乡之客。 |
| 18. xǔ duō de chéng yǔ ... | 许多的成语... |
| 19. shì lì shǐ gù shì ... | 是历史故事... |
| 20. huò jiǎng yì xiē zhé lǐ. | 或讲一些哲理。 |

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Lesson Nineteen Translations

1. The falling of one leaf heralds the coming of autumn. (Meaning: A small sign can indicate a great trend.)
2. One has a complete image of the bamboo before painting it. (Meaning: To have a well-thought-out plan)
3. Many drops of water make a river. (Meaning: Little drops make a mighty ocean.)
4. Those with determination will succeed regardless of their age.
5. One who doesn't plan ahead, ...
6. will have immediate worries.
7. If there are three men walking together, ...
8. one of them must be qualified to be my teacher.
9. Just like the old frontiersman losing his horse, ...
10. Who knows but that this may be a blessing in disguise. (Meaning: a bad thing may become a good thing under certain conditions.)
11. Failure is the mother of success.
12. When everyone adds firewood, the flames shoot high. (Meaning: the more people, the more strength)
13. A neighbor is better than a distant relative.
14. Walk a hundred steps after each meal, ...
15. and you will live a long life.

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16. To meet by chance like patches of drifting duckweed, ...
17. all are guests of that place. (Meaning: Strangers come together by chance.)
18. Many idioms ...
19. are historical stories ...
20. or teachings of philosophy.

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Lesson Twenty

- | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. | zhōng wén zì ... | 中文字 ... |
| 2. | shì xiàng xíng zì. | 是象形字。 |
| 3. | zuì zǎo shì zhào ... | 最早是照 ... |
| 4. | shí wù ... | 实物 ... |
| 5. | huà chū lái de. | 画出来的。 |
| 6. | hòu lái yǎn biàn chéng ... | 后来演变成 ... |
| 7. | fāng kuài zì. | 方块字。 |
| 8. | xǔ duō zhōng wén zì ... | 许多中文字 ... |
| 9. | shì yóu piān páng, bù shǒu ... | 是由偏旁、部首 ... |
| 10. | hé dú tǐ zì ... | 和独体字 ... |
| 11. | zǔ chéng de. | 组成的。 |
| 12. | bǐ rú, ... | 比如, ... |
| 13. | dān lì rén páng, ... | 单立人旁、... |
| 14. | sān diǎn shuǐ páng ... | 三点水旁、... |
| 15. | bǎo gài tóu. | 宝盖头。 |
| 16. | hái yǒu de shì ... | 还有的是 ... |
| 17. | jǐ gè dú tǐ zì ... | 几个独体字... |
| 18. | fàng zài yì qǐ. | 放在一起。 |
| 19. | lì rú, ... | 例如, ... |
| 20. | mù, lín, sēn. | 木、林、森。 |

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Lesson Twenty Translations

1. Chinese characters ...
2. are pictographic.
3. Initially they were drawn ...
4. from physical objects ...
5. and became pictures.
6. Later, they gradually became ...
7. block characters.
8. Many Chinese characters ...
9. (consist of) side-by-side radical, top or bottom radical ...
10. and single character ...
11. consist of.
12. For instance, ...
13. 亻 - radical symbol called dān lì rén páng (单立人旁), ...
14. 氵 - radical symbol called sān diǎn shuǐ páng (三点水旁), ...
15. 宀 - radical symbol called bǎo gài tóu (宝盖头).
16. Also, some of them (consist of) ...
17. a few single characters ...
18. together.
19. Such as, ...
20. wood, trees, forest.



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Culture Notes

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Major Airport Hubs in China

The three busiest Chinese airports are in Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou. Shanghai has two airports. Pudong International Airport, the city's gateway to the world, lies 19 miles east of the city center by the East China Sea. Its cargo terminal is the country's busiest. Construction of the first runway and terminal began in 1997 and took only two years to complete. The airport was soon expanded to include three runways and two terminals. Terminal 2 serves international airlines. Closer to downtown, the older Hongqiao Airport connects Shanghai to the rest of the country and major East Asian metropolises: Tokyo, Seoul, Taipei, and Hong Kong. A mega expansion in 2010 created a second terminal as well as concourses linking the city's subways, long distance buses, and high-speed railways. Beijing Capital Airport is China's largest airport and the world's second busiest after Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson International. Terminal 3, which covers an area of more than ten million square feet, is the world's second largest passenger terminal. It includes a main and two satellite concourses. Plans to build a second airport were approved by the central government in 2012. Guangzhou, formerly known as Canton, is the capital of Guangdong province, which is one of the country's most important economic engines. The Pearl River delta region is home to China's largest manufacturing base. Guangzhou hosts an annual trade fair, which attracts buyers from

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around the world. A large percentage of the overseas Chinese population in Southeast Asia and elsewhere originates from Guangdong. It is not surprising that Guangzhou Baiyun International is the third major airline hub in China.

The Huangpu River

The Huangpu, a tributary of the Yangtze River, meanders through Shanghai. The most scenic part of the river is called the Bund, an Anglo-Indian word meaning "embankment." It bears a remarkable resemblance to the waterfront of Liverpool, England. The similarity is by no means accidental: the architectural legacy of the Bund is a reminder of the century-long British influence in Shanghai from the 1840s to the 1940s. The skyline is dominated by imposing former bank buildings in a variety of eclectic western styles. Many have been converted into luxury boutiques, upscale restaurants, and art galleries. Tourists throng the long esplanade to take in the views and snap pictures of the barges and buildings along the banks of the river. East of the Huangpu is the Pudong New Area. As its name suggests, until the 1990s that part of the city was still largely rural in character.

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The Yu Garden

The Yu Garden and its surrounding area is a major tourist attraction in Shanghai. It is located in Shanghai's old city not far from the Huangpu River. First constructed in the 16th century, the historic garden features multiple pavilions, ponds, and artificial rockeries. The original owner intended the garden as a retreat for his parents, naming it the "Garden of Tranquility." However, construction took so long that in reality the garden became a playground for the profligate retired government official. After he died, the garden quickly fell into decline. Over the centuries, ownership changed hands and the garden was rebuilt numerous times. Today the walled garden fronts a small man-made lake with a picturesque pavilion in the middle and a zigzag walkway called the Nine-Bend Bridge. The hexagonal pavilion was built in the 18th century as a gathering place for cloth merchants. Today it's a teahouse. The walkway, originally made of wood, was destroyed by a fire in 1922. Two years later it was reconstructed in concrete. From the bridge skyscrapers on the other side of the Huangpu River are clearly visible over treetops in the garden forming a dramatic backdrop. The five-acre garden is embedded in a cobweb of narrow alleyways lined with restaurants and specialty shops selling traditional crafts such as chopsticks, combs, folding fans, and paper cuts. Nearby there are several Taoist temples including one devoted to the City God.

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Bridges over the Huangpu River

Until 1991, the only way to cross the Huangpu River in downtown Shanghai was by ferry. However, following the central government's decision to develop the area east of the river, within about ten years, four bridges were constructed over the river within the city limits. The first to complete was the Nanpu Bridge. It's a cable-stayed bridge with a main span of 1,388 feet. Because of its cramped location, the two-mile long ramp west of the river is in the shape of a double helix climbing to a height of 151 feet. Two years later the Yangpu Bridge opened to traffic. It is a double-tower and double-cable-stayed bridge. Its 1,975-foot span makes it one of the largest cable-stayed bridges in the world. It connects the Inner Ring Expressway in the industrial Yangpu District in Puxi to the Pudong New Area. The bridge, originally unpainted, received a festive coat of red paint for the new millennium. The third bridge, the Xupu, is very similar in design. It got its name from its location in Xupu District and is connected to the Outer Ring Expressway. It opened in 1997. The fourth bridge is the Lupu Bridge in downtown Shanghai. Like the Sidney Harbor Bridge in Australia, the Lupu is a through arch bridge. It has a main span of 1,804 feet. It is adjacent to the Expo 20 site and a popular attraction in its own right. Adventurers can climb to the observation deck at the top of the bridge. After a high-speed elevator ride, those unafraid of vertiginous heights can walk 367 steps along the arch of the bridge to the top.

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Skyscrapers in Pudong

The peninsula across the Huangpu River facing Shanghai's historic banking and business district (the Bund) is the new Lujiazui Finance and Trade Zone. Development of this wedge of land started in the early 1990s. Lujiazui occupies an area of about 12 sq. miles and has the city's highest concentration of skyscrapers. The tallest three, the Jinmao Tower, the Shanghai World Finance Center, and the Shanghai Tower, are clustered around a large public park. The Jinmao Tower at 88 stories was completed in 1999. Its exterior is clad in a combination of glass, metal, and stone. The design draws from Chinese and western architecture. Its overall shape evokes the Chinese pagoda. The setbacks of the building's top are reminiscent of Art Deco. The Shanghai World Financial Center was finished nine years later. It was developed by a big Japanese real estate company, the same company responsible for Tokyo's Roppongi Hills, a new upscale urban center in that city. It is an elegant building with 101 floors. Its nickname the "Bottle Opener" derives from the trapezoid opening at the top to reduce wind pressure. The tallest at 121 stories with a total floor area of 4,090,000 square feet is the Shanghai Tower. Its form is said to resemble a writhing dragon. All three skyscrapers were designed by American architectural firms.

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Jiading

Located in northwestern Shanghai, Jiading was incorporated into Shanghai in 1958, along with 9 other rural counties, to ensure the city's supply of food and produce. Jiading has more than 800 hundred years of history. During the Ming and Qing dynasties hundreds of Jiading's native sons passed the imperial examinations and went on to pursue successful official careers. Today this legacy of education and culture is reflected in Jiading's Temple of Confucius, which is one of the most important in the Shanghai region. Since the 1990s manufacturing has rapidly become the most important economic activity. There is a large automobile industry in Jiading. Some of its best-known companies are joint ventures with multinational companies including Volkswagen, General Motors, and General Electric.

Nanxiang

Nanxiang is an ancient town in Jiading. It's famous in Shanghai and beyond for its historic architecture and its soup dumplings. Connected to downtown Shanghai by Metro Line 11, Nanxiang is a pleasant destination for day trips. Its most important landmarks are a pair of ancient brick pagodas and a classical Suzhou-style garden. Nanxiang is also the birthplace of Shanghai's legendary soup dumplings, *xiaolongbao*. These are small bite-sized steamed buns with a minced

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pork filling. The delicate translucent skin is made from half-raised flour. The buns are typically eaten at breakfast dipped in vinegar and finely shredded ginger. The characteristic soup or broth comes from the pork aspic in the filling. The buns also come in a gourmet version with a mixed filling of pork, crabmeat, and roe. Although originally a Shanghai specialty, Din Tai Fung, a Taiwanese chain, has earned rave reviews for its high-quality *xiaolongbao*. The company runs restaurants in major Asian cities, Australia, and on the American west coast.

Guyiyuan

Originally named Yiyuan ("Luxuriant Garden"), this garden was first laid out in the 16th century by a master bamboo carver, painter, and landscape designer. The name alludes to the garden's extensive plantings of bamboos and a line from the *Classic of Poetry*, an ancient literary work: "Luxuriant are the emerald bamboos." When the garden was restored and enlarged two hundred years later, it acquired its current name *Guyiyuan*, or the Ancient Luxuriant Garden. Its most recent expansion took place in the 1980s. It is now the largest of five large classical-style gardens in Shanghai and incorporates numerous historic structures such as carved Buddhist pillars, pagodas, and Ming era pavilions relocated from all over Jiading. Groves of rare and exotic bamboos are seen throughout the garden.

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Anting

Known as "Automobile City," Anting is another old town in Jiading. Shanghai Volkswagen, a joint venture between the German auto giant and Shanghai Automobile Group, is located in Anting. Shanghai Volkswagen is one of the most important car companies in China.

Anting New Town

Anting New Town was planned as a sustainable residential community based on German expertise. It was part of a larger scheme to develop nine satellite towns on the outskirts of Shanghai. International consultants and designers from Germany, Britain, Italy, and elsewhere were invited to provide masterplans. Some of these towns, for instance Thames Town, have a quaint Ye Olde European appearance and have become tourist attractions in their own right. Anting New Town, which consists of mostly four- and five-story apartment blocks, was built in a contemporary German idiom and painted in bright candy colors. Unusual for Shanghai, the apartments were meant to have energy-efficient central heating and air-conditioning. A copy of a famous bronze monument to Goethe and Schiller in Weimar, Germany, standing in the center of Anting New Town, is a visible reminder of its German provenance.

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Shanghai Automobile Museum

Shanghai Automobile Museum is the first of its kind in China. It's located in Shanghai International Automobile City, a vast industrial park in Jiading. The museum's four galleries showcase the history of the automobile, vintage cars, cutting-edge technology, and famous automakers. The museum is housed in an aerodynamic ultramodern building.

Shanghai International Circuit

Shanghai International Circuit is a \$450 million racetrack about 4.5 miles from Anting. It was conceived as part of Shanghai International Automobile City and completed in 2004. It is one of the most advanced and challenging racecourses in the world. Since it opened, it has hosted the Formula 1 Chinese Grand Prix and other races, which attract fans from all over the city and beyond.

Cars, Bicycles, and the Environment

Bicycles were ubiquitous in Chinese cities until the 1990s when they were all but displaced by automobiles. The Chinese government promoted car manufacturing as one of the country's "pillar industries." Leading automobile companies from the West and Japan rushed to form joint ventures with

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Chinese state companies. Within a short space of time, China overtook the United States to become the world's largest market for cars. In the meantime China developed a massive network of national and inner city expressways, now clogged with cars during peak hours and national holidays. The sudden surge in automobile ownership and road construction cannot but have consequences for the environment, which are exacerbated by the use of low-grade gasoline. In 2011 the Chinese government announced new standards for gasoline and diesel, bringing them to levels similar to those in the EU and North America. Some cities have also taken steps to encourage people to get back on bicycles by rolling out sharing schemes and dedicated bike lanes.

Exercise and Street Dancing

One of the most remarkable sights an international traveler is likely to encounter in Chinese cities is large groups of older men and women doing tai-chi, sword dancing, and calisthenics in the morning accompanied by loud music in parks and other open spaces. There is very often an instructor leading the exercises. In warm weather it is not uncommon to see men and women in their 50s and older practicing social dances such as the waltz and the Charleston in corner parks in the evening. As life expectancy increases, more and more senior citizens are out exercising and socializing at dawn and dusk. It is rare to see young people

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engaged in similar activities in the morning, as they are in a rush to go to school or work. However, schools and some companies schedule exercise breaks.

"Little Emperors" and the "Silver-Haired Tribe"

China is seeing a huge demographic change. The percentage of only children has increased dramatically since the government introduced the one-child policy in the late 1970s. Except for rural and minority families and for twin births or families in which the first-born is seriously handicapped, one child per family is the norm in China's urban areas. This has given rise to the so-called "little emperors" phenomenon. These are children who grow up without any siblings. Parents and grandparents bend to their every whim and wish. They are said to be spoiled and self-centered, untrusting and timid. However, study results are contradictory. Some conclude that China's only children are more confident and more likely to help others.

There is no controversy, however, on the burden of these children to care for their and their spouses' elderly parents. China's population is rapidly aging. According to government forecast, by 2020 more than 17% of the population will be sixty or over. China's largest cities such as Shanghai and Beijing have already passed that percent. In 2011 one of every four registered Shanghai residents was aged

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60 or over. By 2015 that percentage is predicated to climb to 30%. These expanding demographic groups, "the little emperors" and the "silver haired tribe," will have far-reaching consequences on every aspect of Chinese society.

"Is Professor Li's son married?"

li jiao shou er zi jie hun le ma?

(李教授儿子结婚了吗?)

Chinese people use titles much more often than Americans. When speaking to a stranger, it is more deferential to address that person by his or her professional or academic rank and avoid the casual second person singular pronoun *ni* (你) or "you" altogether. "Is Professor Li's son married" may sound like you are asking the question of a third person, but it is much more polite than the more direct "Is your son married?" People in northern China, especially in Beijing, frequently use the polite form of *ni, nin* (您), to convey respect, for instance, "*nin de er zi jie hun le ma?* (您的儿子结婚了吗?)" However, this usage is limited to northern China and rare even in Mandarin-speaking regions in the South such as Sichuan and Yunnan. Professions and ranks that are almost never used as courtesy titles in America, but are frequently used in China as formal addresses include "manager," "section head," "factory director," "teacher" and so on.

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airen (爱人)

airen literally means, "loved one." It is a term made popular in the 1950s by the communists, who preferred the word over more traditional ways to refer to one's spouse out of the belief that marriage should be based on love rather than convenience or wealth. It is peculiar to Mainland China and never heard in Hong Kong or Taiwan. In Mainland China *airen* displaced *xiansheng* (先生) or "husband" and *taitai* (太太) or "wife." The more literary terms for "husband" and "wife" *zhangfu* (丈夫) and *qizi* (妻子) are seldom used in speech. In recent years, however, *airen* has gradually fallen out of favor with young people, who are increasingly resorting to the very informal *laogong* (老公) and *laopo* (老婆), meaning literally "old man" and "old woman." People in their forties and fifties may find the words too casual or even vulgar and tend to be more comfortable with the more old-fashioned *airen*.

Pet Ownership

With rising affluence pet ownership has become very common in Chinese cities. Pure breeds of dogs, in particular, are prized. The ferocious Tibetan mastiff, for instance, now commands hundreds of thousands of dollars and is a status symbol for the newly rich. As in the West, increased pet ownership has changed many people's relationships to small animals such

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as cats and dogs, which are frequently pampered, elaborately coiffed, and fancifully clothed. Cruelty towards pets generates much negative publicity and anger from passionate cat and dog lovers. There have been many large-scale private rescue operations to save cats and dogs from unscrupulous traffickers. At the same time the government tries to enforce laws to license the ownership of pets and ensure proper vaccination. There are also restrictions as to the number and size of dogs one can own, out of concerns for public safety.

Flower and Bird Markets

Large flower and bird markets are delightful places to explore in Chinese cities. In addition to all manner of plants and flowers, small pets such as birds, rabbits, turtles, and goldfish can be found at these large open-air markets. There are also bonsai, birdcages, and flowerpots for sale. Prices are often cheaper and the selections wider than in brick and mortar stores.

Auspicious Animals and Flowers

Turtles and cranes are symbols of longevity in China and are frequent decorative motifs in Chinese arts (the expression "old turtle," however, is a vulgar curse word for an old man). Other auspicious animals include fish, which symbolize abundance, and bats, which represent luck because the Chinese words

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for fish and bats sound like those for bountifulness and fortune.

The peony, especially the bright red variety, is a symbol of wealth because of its large extravagant petals and festive color. Pines, bamboos, flowering apricots, and chrysanthemums are the so-called "Four Gentlemen" of Chinese painting. They represent fortitude because of their ability to not only withstand but flourish in cold weather.

Popular Associations with Chinese Zodiac Signs

There are many popular beliefs associated with the Chinese zodiac signs. For instance, many couples avoid getting married in the year of the rabbit because the animal's short tail is a metaphor for a temporary state of affairs. Having a child in the year of the dragon, on the other hand, is considered very auspicious because the dragon projects vigor and authority. Some parents are reluctant to see their daughters who were born in the year of the lamb become engaged to a man born in the year of the tiger, again because of a popular saying, "The lamb ends up in the mouth of the tiger." The rooster and the dog are fractious together as are the dragon and the tiger. Unions between *these* signs, however, are considered harmonious: the mouse and the ox, the tiger and the boar, the rabbit and the dog, the dragon and the rooster, the horse and the lamb, the snake

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and the monkey. Of course, not everyone takes these beliefs seriously, especially those about compatible zodiac signs. Other superstitions have a significant impact on people's behavior. For example, news reports have suggested that many more would-be parents try to give birth in the year of the dragon than in the year of the lamb. To some parents having a daughter born in the year of the lamb exposes her to a lifetime of vulnerability and hardship.

Organic Food

Food safety is a major concern in China. "Green" or organic food has become a popular, albeit expensive, alternative for those who are upwardly mobile. There is a nascent "green food" movement in China. Upscale supermarkets carrying organic produce and meat can be found in large cities. Where possible, some few have even taken to growing their own food.

Vegetarianism

Vegetarianism is traditionally associated with Buddhism in China. Devout Buddhists abstain from not only meat and dairy, but also strong-tasting vegetables such as garlic, onions, and chives. Collectively, these are known as *hunshi* (荤食) – "food that stimulates the senses." Less committed followers of Buddhism refrain from eating the proscribed

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food periodically. The diet sanctioned by Buddhism is called *sushi* (素食) or "plain food." It's not to be confused with Japanese *sushi*. Many Buddhist temples serve vegetarian food to worshippers. There are also restaurants specializing in vegetarian food. There is a large variety of soy products that simulate the texture of meat such as *suji* (素鸡) "mock chicken" and *suya* (素鸭) "mock duck." Old commercial vegetarian restaurants, in particular, tend to serve food that looks and tastes like meat dishes. Newer vegetarian restaurants place more emphasis on bringing out the flavors of fresh vegetables instead of imitating meat.

Sichuan Cuisine

Sichuan cuisine has become one of the most popular regional cuisines in China. The general use of pepper, Sichuan peppercorns, chilies, garlic, onions, ginger, and fermented bean paste results in big, eye-watering flavors and tastes. A unique combination of flavors in Sichuan cuisine is the numbing and spicy sensation called *mala* (麻辣) caused by the mix of Sichuan peppercorns and chilies. Intensely spicy authentic Sichuan food is not for everyone, even in China. However, people's tolerance for heat has increased dramatically in areas where the local food is very mild, such as southeastern China.

A Sichuan tradition that has become widespread in China is the hotpot. Originally associated with the city

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of Chongqing, hotpot allows people to sample many different kinds of thinly sliced meat, seafood, and vegetables that are cooked very quickly in a boiling broth in a metal pot at the table. Hotpot is especially popular for family gatherings and small parties with friends. The atmosphere in hotpot restaurants is lively and the food is flavorful.

Chengdu

Chengdu is the capital of Sichuan, which is one of the most populous provinces in China. Its ancient history and relaxed atmosphere make it one of the most visited cities in the country. A historic site near Chengdu that is well known to almost all Chinese is the *Dujiangyan* (都江堰) irrigation system. A levee was first constructed in 256 BC to redirect the flow of the local river to prevent annual flooding. At the same time a channel was cut through the mountain to irrigate the dry Chengdu plain beyond. The system is still in use to irrigate some 2050 squares of land.

Chengdu is also famous in China for its huge variety of snack food and large number of teahouses. Whereas traditional teahouses have largely disappeared in other Chinese cities, Chengdu still has an abundance. Located in Sichuan basin, Chengdu and its environs have an almost unlimited supply of bamboos. Local teahouses feature bamboo furniture, particularly bamboo chairs. Surrounded by mountains, Chengdu's

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weather is often cloudy, which encourages people to stay indoors. Many people, especially retirees, while away time in teahouses playing cards, Chinese chess (*xiangqi* [象棋]), or mahjong.

Halal Restaurants

China has a significant Muslim population, especially in the country's northwest. Many Chinese cities have halal restaurants, which serve food that is in compliance with Islamic dietary laws. The Islamic concept of cleanliness is called *qingzhen* (清真) in Chinese. The word means "clean and pure." Because of the Islamic taboo against pork, *qingzhen* menus focus heavily on beef and mutton and use spices that are originally from central and west Asia, such as cumin and curry. Halal restaurants are easily identifiable from their green and white color scheme and use of the Arabic script and Islamic symbols.

Flat Bread in Mutton Broth and Xi'an Street Food

Flat bread in mutton broth is a signature Xi'an dish. Customers break flat bread into small pieces and dunk them in a mutton broth. It is a flavorful and filling dish. Like Chengdu, Xi'an is known for its vibrant street food culture, particularly in the city's Muslim quarter. Unlike in Chengdu, wheat is the staple in Xi'an instead

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of rice. Noodles, buns, dumplings, and breads are all made from wheat dough.

Xi'an

The capital of thirteen dynasties, Xi'an is one of the most historically significant cities in China. Known as Chang'an during the Han, Sui, and Tang dynasties, it was the starting point of the legendary Silk Road. Particularly during the Tang dynasty, from the 7th to the 10th centuries, Chang'an's influence extended far beyond the Chinese borders. Paintings and tricolor-glazed pottery figures dating from the Tang dynasty showing heavily-bearded merchants and musicians from central and west Asia on camel back are concrete and vivid reminders of Xi'an's cosmopolitan past. Large communities of traders and diplomats from all over Asia and the eastern Mediterranean lived next to one another in Chang'an. It was the world's largest city for 138 years from 636 AD to 775 AD. Shaanxi History Museum in Xi'an is full of wondrous archeological finds. Its collection of bronzes, tomb murals, and pottery is particularly impressive.

Modern Xi'an is surrounded by ancient tombs. The most awe-inspiring is perhaps that of the First Emperor of China. The total area of the mausoleum is 50 sq. kilometers or 19 sq. miles. The burial mound has been left undisturbed. However, in the 1970s local farmers unearthed terracotta warriors and horses while drilling

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a well. Archeological explorations soon ensued. Four main pits of terracotta armies were excavated six miles east of the burial mound. The life-sized standing or kneeling warriors holding crossbows, swords, or spears in large phalanxes were buried with the First Emperor in 210–209 BC to safeguard him in his afterlife. A museum was constructed over the pits. It is one of the most visited archeological sites in China.

Northern and Southern China

The most important geographic and cultural divide in China is that between north and south. The climate is generally more arid north of the Yangtze River. In the north wheat is the main crop while in the south rice, which requires abundant water, reigns supreme. Except for brief periods of time, the country has been ruled from the north. The Yellow River in northern China is traditionally considered the cradle of Chinese civilization. However, at least since the 14th century, southern China, particularly the fertile Yangtze Delta, has been predominant economically and culturally. A disproportionate number of scholars, writers, and painters in the Ming and Qing dynasties hailed from the southeastern region. The purpose of the Grand Canal, which began in Hangzhou in the southeast and terminated in Beijing, was to transport grains to the capital in the north. Although modern mass media and frequent population moves have leveled the regional differences to a certain extent, geographic and

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cultural disparities are still evident. Southern China is very humid and southern dialects are very distinct from those spoken in the north. Southern cooking, which takes advantage of the region's natural bounty, incorporates a much larger variety of fresh vegetables and fresh water fish and seafood.

The 798 Art District

798 is the name of an old military electronics factory in Beijing. The 798 Art District refers to a large number of manufacturing facilities around the factory that were converted into art galleries and other kinds of exhibition and performance spaces beginning in 2002. The precinct covers an area of almost a quarter mile. Many of the soaring industrial buildings in reinforced concrete or bricks were donated by the East German government and designed by East German architects in the 1950s. Beijing is the undisputed artistic capital of China. The 798 Art District is one of the most important showcases of Beijing's artistic vibrance. In recent years, however, the 798 Art District has become increasingly commercialized. Many artists have moved into more affordable studios in the city's outer suburbs. Newer artistic hotspots have sprung up, but 798 remains the most famous to the general public.

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Massage Parlors and Bath Palaces

Having a foot massage is a popular way to relax in China. One does not have to walk very far to find a foot massage parlor in Chinese cities. The routine is called a "foot bath." The masseur or masseuse begins by pouring hot water infused with medicinal herbs into a bucket. The patron receives a complimentary back and shoulder rub while soaking his or her feet. The masseur or masseuse then applies pressure to various acupuncture points on the feet and calves. Each session lasts thirty to forty minutes. Massage parlors of every description from fancy western-style spas to modest neighborhood operations are also common sights in China.

Public bathhouses with lobbies that resemble those in five-star hotels are something one won't find in the United States. These multi-storied establishments feature multiple pools in various sizes and at different temperatures, massage rooms, mahjong parlors, cafeterias, even cinemas and theaters. These establishments are for family entertainment. One could easily spend hours or even stay overnight in these "bath palaces."

Cupping and Acupuncture

Cupping is a traditional Chinese therapy. A partial vacuum is created in cups placed on the skin utilizing

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heat. The theory is that the treatment promotes healing by stimulating blood flow. Many people swear by it and think it alleviates symptoms of arthritis and other ailments; others find it overrated.

Acupuncture is another form of traditional Chinese medicine. The Chinese word *zhenjiu* (针灸) literally refers to two associated therapeutic methods – acupuncture and moxibustion. In practice, the former is far more common than the latter. Small needles are inserted into the patient's skin at specific nodal points to direct the flow of *qi* (气), or vital energy, through channels called meridians. Moxibustion uses a plant material known as moxa, or dried mugwort, which is ground up and shaped into a stick. Moxa can be applied through acupuncture needles or burned on top of the patient's skin.

Kunming

Kunming is the capital of Yunnan province. Chinese people have dubbed Kunming the "City of Perennial Spring" because of its year-round temperate weather. Kunming is China's gateway to Southeast Asia with air, road, and rail links to the region. Many of the ethnic minority groups in Yunnan share similar languages and cultures with peoples in neighboring countries such as Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos. Lakes in and around Kunming attract large flocks of migratory birds in the winter, among them red-billed gulls. Numerous

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significant religious buildings are another reason for tourists to visit the city.

Yunnan and Biodiversity

Yunnan is a highly mountainous province in southwestern China. Its rugged terrain gives rise to many localized atmospheric zones called "microclimates." Depending on the elevation and other geographical factors, Yunnan's climate ranges from temperate, to arctic-like, to subtropical and tropical. Its diverse geographic and climate conditions have made Yunnan the most biodiverse region of China. Roughly half of China's fauna and flora find home in Yunnan. It is the world's epicenter for rhododendrons and boasts more than 100 species of camelias.

Pu'er Tea

Pu'er tea is a type of fermented black tea originating from the city of the same name in Yunnan. Unlike green tea, which is the most common variety of tea in China and best consumed young, Pu'er can be stored to mature. The process of fermentation and oxidation darkens the leaves, which can then be pressed into different shapes. Depending on the variety, the ripening takes several months to ten or fifteen years. Another difference from green tea, which comes from the small-leaf varietal, Pu'er is made from

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the broad-leaf varietal common in southwestern China and India. It is the fermentation that gives Pu'er its characteristic mellow and sweet aftertaste. In recent years Pu'er tea has become highly prized among connoisseurs and speculators, who buy and sell vintage Pu'er tea for big profits.

Yiwu

Yiwu is a small city about 190 miles southwest of Shanghai. Its wholesale small commodities market is the world's largest. The city boasts three clusters of trade marts covering a total area of 43 million square feet. The range of merchandise available in Yiwu is also staggering: clothing accessories, costume jewelry, Christmas decorations, stationery, sporting goods, toys, crafts, bags and suitcases, hardware, kitchenware. The list goes on and on. One rough estimate of the variety of goods for sale at Yiwu is over 400,000. Many traders from the Middle East and Africa have become long-term residents. Muslim restaurants and mosques have become part of Yiwu's cityscape.

Solar Energy and Solar Panels

The main source of energy in China is coal, the dirtiest of all fossil fuels. Along with low-grade gasoline, coal emits vast amounts of greenhouse gases and causes heavy smogs, especially in

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the country's north. In recent years China has announced ambitious plans to develop renewable energy such as hydro, wind, solar, biofuel, and geothermal power. China already is the world's largest manufacturer of solar panels. Rooftop solar water heaters can be seen all over the country. Nearly all the big rivers in China have been dammed to generate electricity. However, because China has huge reserves of coal, it remains to be seen whether China will be able to reduce significantly its dependence on coal. The environmental costs of the so-called green energy such as hydropower are also controversial.

The Canton Fair

The Canton Fair is the oldest and largest international trade fair in China. It takes place twice every year, in the spring and the fall. It started out in 1957 as China Export Commodities Fair and is sponsored by the Ministry of Commerce and the Guangdong provincial government. Before China opened up in the 1980s, the Canton Fair was the only venue for the country's exporters to exhibit their products. In 2007 its official name became China Import and Export Fair. Although it has continued to grow, the importance of the Canton Fair has been reduced somewhat by more specialized trade fairs and e-commerce.

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Shenzhen

Before it was made the country's first Special Economic Zone in 1980, Shenzhen was the name of a small town in a rural county next to Hong Kong. Its growth since then has been nothing short of explosive. Within a few decades Shenzhen became one of Mainland China's first-tier cities, after Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou, with a population of thirteen million. The city also hosts one of Mainland China's two stock exchanges. Along with China's four other Special Economic Zones, Shenzhen enjoys preferential economic policies from the central government, such as reduced tariffs. The city's cheap land and labor costs and geographic proximity to Hong Kong made it an attractive place to invest. Shenzhen's economy was initially heavily dependent on export processing and capital from across the border. However, in 2008 the so-called tertiary or service industry overtook manufacturing to become the largest contributor to the city's economy. Today Shenzhen is a stunning example of China's economic miracle. The number of skyscrapers in Shenzhen is second only to that in Shanghai on the mainland.

yum cha (飲茶)

yum cha is a Cantonese-style breakfast and morning tea. The word literally means, "drinking tea." In Mandarin, *yum cha* is pronounced *yin cha* (饮茶). It

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is the combination of a wide selection of dumplings, buns, pastries, savory and sweet dishes collectively known as "*dim sum*"— *dian xin* (点心). The pastries, the tea, and the way in which the food is served make *yum cha* unique. Tea is the most popular drink in China, but people rarely drink tea at breakfast except in Guangdong and Hong Kong. Different versions of wontons and noodles can be found all over China, but it's the sheer variety available in Cantonese teahouses and restaurants that is unrivaled elsewhere in the country. Typically before the food arrives, a server brings a pot of tea and a bill. Customers then wait for other servers to roll out the food in bamboo steamers and plates on small steam carts and stop at each table. Customers pick what they like and the servers use different stamps to note the selections on the bill. Restaurants begin serving *dim sum* as early as 6:30 and continue through mid-afternoon.

Hong Kong

Hong Kong was a British colony until its sovereignty reverted to China in 1997 and it became a Special Administrative Region. Hong Kong enjoys a high degree of autonomy and has a separate legal, monetary, and economic system. Unlike the rest of China where Mandarin is the standard spoken language, in Hong Kong Cantonese holds sway in schools and mass media. Also unlike Mainland China, Hong Kong did not adopt simplified Chinese characters. These and other

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differences beside its colonial history give Hong Kong a unique identity. During the negotiations with the British, the Chinese government promised to allow Hong Kong to keep its way of life for fifty years. As Deng Xiaoping, China's paramount leader, reputedly put it to Margaret Thatcher, people in Hong Kong would be able to continue to race horses, play the stock market, and dance the night away in nightclubs after the turnover.

The British introduced horse racing to Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Jockey Club, which organizes racing and betting in the former colony, is a venerable institution in Hong Kong and has helped fund many educational and cultural bodies in the city. Hong Kong is also one of the most important financial centers in the world. Its stock exchange is the world's sixth largest in terms of market capitalization. Many Chinese companies try to list on the exchange. Hong Kong has a vibrant entertainment industry. Its films and popular music, nicknamed Cantopop, have large numbers of fans in Mainland China and Southeast Asia.

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