

Basic Spoken Chinese An Introduction To Speaking And Listening

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Basic Spoken Chinese An Introduction To Speaking And Listening

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A basic course in spoken Chinese Morgan & Claypool Publishers

China Ready! prepares students and independent learners to work in the hospitality and tourism industry for high-value tourism business coming from China to English-speaking countries. The book focuses on listening and speaking skills – essential skills for learners. This book's features include the following: • Important cultural and social awareness factors for interacting with clients from China • Vocabulary • Real-life scenarios • Situational role playing and interactive listening • Experiential exercises to encourage learning outside the classroom The book is aimed at students who have attained the Common European Framework Reference (CEFR) A2 level and will bring them up to the CEFR B2/C1 level or 普通话 口语 (HSK) 4/5.

Basic Mandarin Chinese - Speaking & Listening Textbook Tuttle Publishing

Learning Chinese can be frustrating and difficult, partly because it's very different from European languages. Following a teacher, textbook or language course is not enough. They show you the characters, words and grammar you need to become proficient in Chinese, but they don't teach you how to learn them! Regardless of what program you're in (if any), you need to take responsibility for your own learning. If you don't, you will miss many important things that aren't included in the course you're taking. If you study on your own, you need to be even more aware of what you need to do, what you're doing at the moment and the difference between them. Here are some of the questions I have asked and have since been asked many times by students: How do I learn characters efficiently? How do I get the most out of my course or teacher? Which are the best learning tools and resources? How can I become fluent in Mandarin? How can I improve my pronunciation? How do I learn successfully on my own? How can I motivate myself to study more? How can I fit learning Chinese into a busy schedule? The answers I've found to these questions and many others form the core of this book. It took eight years of learning, researching, teaching and writing to figure these things out. Not everybody has the time to do that! I can't go back in time and help myself learn in a better way, but I can help you! This book is meant for normal students and independent language learners alike. While it covers all major areas of learning, you won't learn Chinese just by reading this book. It's like when someone on TV teaches you how to cook: you won't get to eat the delicious dish just by watching the program; you have to do the cooking yourself. That's true for this book as well. When you apply what you learn, it will boost your learning, making every hour you spend count for more, but you still have to do the learning yourself. This is what a few readers have said about the

book: "The book had me nodding at a heap of things I'd learnt the hard way, wishing I knew them when I started, as well as highlighting areas that I'm currently missing in my study." - Geoff van der Meer, VP engineering "This publication is like a bible for anyone serious about Chinese proficiency. It's easy for anyone to read and written with scientific precision." - Zachary Danz, foreign teacher, children's theatre artist About me I started learning Chinese when I was 23 (that's more than eight years ago now) and have since studied in many different situations, including serious immersion programs abroad, high-intensity programs in Sweden, online courses, as well as on the side while working or studying other things. I have also successfully used my Chinese in a graduate program for teaching Chinese as a second language, taught entirely in Chinese mostly for native speakers (the Graduate Institute for Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at National Taiwan Normal University). All these parts have contributed to my website, Hacking Chinese, where I write regularly about how to learn Mandarin.

Speaking of Chinese Routledge

A complete beginning-level course for spoken Mandarin Chinese designed to have you talking quickly and accurately! The Basic Mandarin Chinese series offers a complete introductory Chinese language course specifically designed for native English speakers. These books teach spoken and written Chinese separately, allowing you to focus on the area most important to you, and to learn the spoken and written forms of Chinese at different speeds depending on your available time and interest. The free audio and video recordings included with this book reinforce the content and make the learning process easy. No matter whether you're learning Mandarin for work, travel or other reasons—the Basic Mandarin Chinese approach of having two separate but integrated "tracks" helps you to learn the language more efficiently and more successfully. Key features of this Chinese textbook and discs include: Clear and detailed pronunciation, grammar and cultural explanations Exercises and activities based on real-life experiences in China Hours of video recordings filmed on location featuring dozens of native speakers in various parts of China and beyond Six hours of native-speaker audio recordings for all the book's dialogues and exercises Special software allowing you to interact with the recordings. This Mandarin textbook is designed to be used with its separately available workbook, Basic Mandarin Chinese—Speaking & Listening Practice Book which provides a range of drills and exercises designed to dramatically enhance your spoken proficiency and improve your Chinese language skills.

Basic Mandarin Chinese - Speaking & Listening Tuttle Publishing
This is a beginning-level course in written Chinese that employs a revolutionary new method designed to have you quickly reading and writing simple, connected Chinese sentences. Along with its sister book Basic Spoken Chinese and their accompanying

workbooks, *Basic Written Chinese* offers a complete introductory course to the written Chinese language. As a native English speaker, working hard to learn Chinese characters is not enough; you have to work smart in order to learn this very different language efficiently. No matter why you've chosen to learn Chinese—for business, travel, cultural studies or another goal—the Basic Chinese approach of two separate but integrated tracks in spoken and written Chinese will help you learn this language most efficiently and successfully. *Basic Written Chinese* is designed so it can be used in a class with an instructor or by independent learners working on their own. *Basic Written Chinese* systematically introduces 288 of the highest frequency characters (in both their simplified and traditional forms) and over 700 common words written with them in context in sentences and a variety of reading passages to help you master basic Chinese reading and writing. This method will greatly improve your abilities to read Chinese and write Chinese. The structure of each new character is explained in detail to make the learning of characters easier, and "look-alike" characters are compared and contrasted. Many lessons include character differentiation drills and some lessons include realia such as name cards, street signs, or email messages. Each lesson introduces 6 new characters and a number of words that are written using them. By dividing the learning into small tasks, you maintain a sense of accomplishment rather than getting bogged down. You'll experience both printed and handwritten forms of characters, as well as several different printed fonts. The downloadable audio features: Over 6 hours of audio by several native Mandarin speakers. Recordings of all reading selections. Recordings of all new characters and new vocabulary. Available separately, *Basic Written Chinese Practice Essentials* is the companion workbook for *Basic Written Chinese*. This practical guide includes a broad range of drills and exercises designed to dramatically enhance your proficiency in reading and writing Chinese. While designed for use with the companion textbook, it can be used together with any Chinese textbook or teaching program to hone your Chinese reading and writing language skills.

Workbook Level 1, Simplified Characters Tuttle Publishing

This portable, user-friendly Chinese language guide, phrasebook and dictionary is the cheapest and easiest way to learn Chinese before and during your trip. If you only want one Chinese language book—*Essential Chinese* is the way to go. Part of Tuttle Publishing's *Essential Phrasebooks Series*, it is a great first introduction and beginner guide to the language of China and Taiwan and is also designed as a great Chinese phrasebook, making it the most versatile Chinese language learning tool on the market. Perfect for business people or tourist traveling to China or for students who want to supplement their learning, this book's easy indexing feature allows it to act as a Mandarin phrase book or as English-Chinese Dictionary. A clever "point to" feature allows you to simply point to a phrase translated in Chinese without the need to say a single word or read a single character. You will soon find yourself turning to *Essential Chinese* again and again when visiting or working in China. In this book you will find: Over 1500 practical sentences for everyday use. A glossary of over 2000 terms and expressions. Terms and phrases covering essential aspects of traveling and living in China. Extensive information about Chinese grammar and pronunciation. This beginner Chinese book will help you quickly and easily learn Chinese. Your ability to read Chinese, write Chinese, speak Chinese, and comprehend Chinese will be vastly improved without having to take an entire Chinese language class. Other titles in this bestselling series of phrasebooks include: *Essential Japanese*, *Essential Arabic*, *Essential Korean*, *Essential Tagalog*,

and *Essential Arabic*.

[Mastering Conversational Chinese \(Fully Romanized and Free Online Audio\)](#) John Wiley & Sons

Learning to read and write Chinese requires lots of practice. This unique practice guide can be used with any Chinese textbook or on its own to enhance your proficiency in reading and writing Mandarin Chinese. *Intermediate Written Chinese Practice Essentials* offers a wealth of carefully-designed exercises and activities to help you develop every aspect of your reading and writing ability. This workbook has been designed so it can be used either in a class with an instructor or by independent learners working on their own. Both simplified and traditional characters are taught and practiced in the same volume. This means students can learn either or both kinds of characters without having to purchase another book, and instructors have the flexibility to teach a combined class where some students read and write one type of characters and other students the other type. This workbook provides character practice sheets for the 336 characters introduced in *Intermediate Written Chinese*, with complete information on stroke order and direction for both the simplified and traditional forms of the characters. Reading and writing exercises are included, such as those involving dictation and the answering of questions based on the content of each lesson. English-Chinese translation exercises are provided for each unit. The Downloadable content provides: Native-speaker audio recordings for dictation practice. Printable flash cards for all the new characters and words, with Chinese characters on one side and Pinyin and English on the other. Printable pdf files with additional exercises and activities. Together with this book, you can use *Intermediate Spoken Chinese* if you want to learn fluent spoken Mandarin. About the Series: Respected Chinese language expert Dr. Cornelius Kubler, who has taught diplomats, business people and students, presents a learning system that uses separate but integrated "tracks" to help you efficiently master the basics of spoken and written Chinese. The materials in the *Basic Chinese* series allow you to move from complete beginner level to basic fluency. [A Practical Guide to Learning Mandarin](#) Tuttle Publishing
This comprehensive Mandarin workbook can be used with any textbook or on its own to dramatically enhance your Mandarin speaking and listening skills. No matter what textbook you're using to learn Mandarin, it requires a lot of practice. Here is a wealth of effective activities and drills—plus over 16 hours of audio recordings—to help you improve your spoken Mandarin Chinese quickly and effectively. This book follows the *Basic Mandarin Chinese—Speaking & Listening* textbook but works equally well with other coursebooks or on its own. The free disc contains hours of audio recording as well as printable PDF files providing hundreds of pages of extra practice exercises and activities. *Basic Mandarin Chinese—Speaking & Listening Practice Book* includes hundreds of carefully designed activities to help you with every aspect of your speaking skills, including: Pronunciation exercises Vocabulary and Grammar summaries Substitution drills Transformation and Response drills Role Playing and Listening Comprehension Dictation exercises Translation exercises The downloadable audio includes: 16 hours of audio recordings by native Mandarin speakers Printable practice pages Printable exercises and activities About the *Basic Mandarin Chinese* series: Respected Chinese language educator Dr. Cornelius Kubler has taught Mandarin Chinese to diplomats, business people and students for several decades—using an effective learning system with two separate but integrated "tracks" to help you learn the spoken and written forms of the language more efficiently and more successfully. The materials in this series have been acclaimed as a breakthrough in Mandarin

Chinese language learning.

Mandarin Chinese for Beginners Tuttle Publishing

Chinese is spoken by more people than any other language in the world, and has a rich social, cultural and historical background. This book is a comprehensive guide to the linguistic structure of Chinese, providing an accessible introduction to each of the key areas. It describes the fundamentals of its writing system, its pronunciation and tonal sound system, its morphology (how words are structured), and its syntax (how sentences are formed) - as well as its historical development, and the diverse ways in which it interacts with other languages. Setting the discussion of all aspects of Chinese firmly within the context of the language in use, *Chinese: A Linguistic Introduction* will be of great benefit to learners wishing to extend their knowledge and competence in the language, and their teachers. It will also be a useful starting point for students of linguistics beginning work on the structure of this major world language.

China Ready! Basic Mandarin Chinese - Speaking & Listening Textbook An Introduction to Spoken Mandarin for Beginners (Audio and Video Downloads Included)

The Routledge Course in Modern Mandarin Chinese is a two-year undergraduate course for students with no prior background in Chinese study which takes students from complete beginner to post-intermediate level. Designed to build a strong foundation in both the spoken and written language it develops all the basic skills such as pronunciation, character writing, word use and structures, while placing strong emphasis on the development of communicative skills. Each level of the course consists of a textbook and workbook, available separately in simplified or traditional character editions. Both workbooks include a free CD with all the dialogues from the textbooks and the necessary audio for the listening for information exercises. A companion website will provide expanded listening files and a broad range of resources for students and teachers. The benefits of this course include: -focus on the long-term retention of vocabulary, characters and structures by reiterating structures and vocabulary throughout the book series -carefully selected and staged introduction of characters with staged removal of pinyin to ensure recognition and use of characters -clear and jargon-free explanations of use and structures, that are easy for students and teachers to understand -extensive workbook exercises for homework, independent study, and classroom use focusing on all language skills and modalities including a vast inventory of carefully structured exercises focusing on listening comprehension, reading for information, and writing for communication - an extensive inventory of classroom activities that guide students to develop communication-based speaking and listening skills. -a list of communication goals and key structures for each lesson allowing the student to assess progress -cultural notes explaining the context of the dialogues - language FAQs explaining aspects of Chinese language as they relate to the content and vocabulary in the lesson -storyline following a group of students studying in China from Europe, North America and East Asia, making the book attractive to a variety of students and facilitating the introduction of Chinese culture. -full-color text design for the textbook and carefully matched designs for the traditional and simplified books, allowing for easy cross-reference The course is also fully supported by an interactive companion website. The website contains a wealth of additional resources for both teachers and students. Teachers will find lesson plans in both English and Mandarin, providing a weekly schedule and overall syllabus for fall and spring, as well as activities for each lesson and answer keys. Students will be able to access downloadable character practice worksheets along with interactive pronunciation, vocabulary and character practice

exercises. All the audio material necessary for the course is also available online and conveniently linked on screen to the relevant exercises for ease-of-use. For further details please visit <http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415472517/> For bundle discounts please visit

<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415596824/>

Write and Speak Chinese Like a Native! The Ultimate Guide to Everyday Chinese Usage Penguin

This book introduces Chinese language-processing issues and techniques to readers who already have a basic background in natural language processing (NLP). Since the major difference between Chinese and Western languages is at the word level, the book primarily focuses on Chinese morphological analysis and introduces the concept, structure, and interword semantics of Chinese words. The following topics are covered: a general introduction to Chinese NLP; Chinese characters, morphemes, and words and the characteristics of Chinese words that have to be considered in NLP applications; Chinese word segmentation; unknown word detection; word meaning and Chinese linguistic resources; interword semantics based on word collocation and NLP techniques for collocation extraction. Table of Contents: Introduction / Words in Chinese / Challenges in Chinese Morphological Processing / Chinese Word Segmentation / Unknown Word Identification / Word Meaning / Chinese Collocations / Automatic Chinese Collocation Extraction / Appendix / References / Author Biographies

Speak Chinese with Confidence! (Mandarin Chinese Phrasebook) Tuttle Publishing

This user-friendly guide to the basics helps you learn how to speak Chinese quickly and easily by drawing parallels with something you already know—English. Chinese is a fascinating language that can seem impossibly difficult to learn at first, but is relatively easy if you focus on the spoken aspect. This revised edition contains new dialogues, cultural notes, IT and social media vocabulary, and new manga illustrations. This book is designed for everyone who wants to learn to speak and understand colloquial Chinese—whether it is for business, pleasure, or travel to China. A lighthearted guide that brings Chinese to life in a down-to-earth fashion, *Mandarin Chinese for Beginners* makes language learning fun. Real-life dialogues and situations help you to converse with confidence Sentence pattern exercises and drills help to reinforce what you are learning Native-speaker audio recordings enable you to pronounce Chinese vocabulary accurately Interesting notes, idioms, sayings and poems introduce you to Chinese culture *Mandarin Chinese for Beginners* contains lots of extra hints and tips drawn from the authors' many years of experience in teaching the language to foreigners. Answer keys for the exercises are provided, and an "Extend Your Vocabulary" section in each chapter helps you to remember and understand more words that you'd think possible. [An Introduction to Speaking and Listening for Beginners \(Downloadable Audio MP3 and Printable Pages Included\)](#)

University of Hawaii Press

This is a beginning-level course in spoken Chinese that employs a revolutionary new method designed to have you quickly speaking and comprehending Mandarin Chinese. Along with its sister book *Basic Written Chinese* and their accompanying workbooks, *Basic Spoken Chinese* offers a complete introductory course to the Chinese language. As a native English speaker, working hard to learn Chinese is not enough; you have to work smart to learn this very different language efficiently. An accompanying MP3 audio CD and a separate DVD with video software reinforce the material introduced in the book. No matter why you've chosen to learn Chinese—for business, travel, cultural studies or another goal—the *Basic Chinese* approach of two separate but integrated

tracks in spoken and written Chinese will help you learn this language most efficiently and successfully. Detailed explanations in English of Chinese pronunciation, grammar, usage, culture, society, and recommended learning approaches. A digital Instructor's Guide is available electronically. A written Character Transcript (Simplified and Traditional) is available electronically. The MP3 audio CD and software CDs feature: 40 videos with dozens of native speakers filmed on location in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia. 6 hours of native-speaker audio, including all of the book's conversations. Build up sections, new words, and pronunciation exercises. Available separately, *Basic Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials* is the companion workbook for *Basic Spoken Chinese*. This practical guide includes a broad range of drills and exercises designed to enhance your proficiency in speaking and comprehending dramatically. While intended for use with the companion textbook, it can be used together with any Chinese textbook or teaching program to hone your Chinese language skills.

Intermediate Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials Tuttle Publishing

This is a beginning-level course in spoken Chinese that employs a revolutionary new method designed to have you quickly speaking and comprehending Mandarin Chinese. Along with its sister book *Basic Written Chinese* and their accompanying workbooks, *Basic Spoken Chinese* offers a complete introductory course to the Chinese language. As a native English speaker, working hard to learn Chinese is not enough; you have to work smart in order to learn this very different language efficiently. Downloadable audio and video reinforce the material introduced in the book. No matter why you've chosen to learn Chinese—for business, travel, cultural studies or another goal—the Basic Chinese approach of two separate but integrated tracks in spoken and written Chinese will help you learn this language most efficiently and successfully. Detailed explanations in English of Chinese pronunciation, grammar, usage, culture, society, and recommended learning approaches. A digital Instructor's Guide is available electronically. A written Character Transcript (Simplified and Traditional) is available electronically. The downloadable materials feature: 40 videos with dozens of native speakers filmed on location in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia. 6 hours of native-speaker audio, including all of the book's conversations. Build up sections, new words, and pronunciation exercises. Available separately, *Basic Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials* is the companion workbook for *Basic Spoken Chinese*. This practical guide includes a broad range of drills and exercises designed to dramatically enhance your proficiency in speaking and comprehending. While designed for use with the companion textbook, it can be used together with any Chinese textbook or teaching program to hone your Chinese language skills.

Basic Mandarin Chinese - Reading & Writing Textbook Tuttle Publishing

The *Routledge Handbook of Chinese Language Teaching* defines Chinese language teaching in a pedagogical, historical, and contemporary context. Throughout the volume, teaching methods are discussed, including the traditional China-based approach, and Western methods such as communicative teaching and the immersion program. The Handbook also presents a pedagogical model covering pronunciation, tones, characters, vocabulary, grammar, and the teaching of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The remaining chapters explore topics of language assessment, technology enhanced instruction, teaching materials and resources, Chinese for specific purposes, classroom implementation, social contexts of language teaching and language teaching policies, and pragmatics and culture. Ideal for scholars and researchers of Chinese language teaching, the

Handbook will benefit educators and teacher training programs. This is the first comprehensive volume exploring the growing area of Chinese language pedagogy.

Intermediate Written Chinese Practice Essentials W. W. Norton & Company

This comprehensive Chinese character workbook can be used with any textbook or on its own to dramatically enhance your Mandarin reading and writing skills! No matter what textbook you're using to learn Chinese, it requires a lot of practice. Here is a wealth of effective activities and drills—plus an hour of native speaker audio recordings—to help you learn the 288 basic Chinese characters quickly and effectively. This book follows the *Basic Mandarin Chinese—Reading & Writing* textbook but works equally well with other coursebooks or on its own. The free disc contains audio recordings as well as printable PDF files providing hundreds of pages of extra exercises and activities and a set of 288 printable flash cards to help you learn the basic characters. *Basic Mandarin Chinese—Reading and Writing Practice Book* includes a wealth of carefully-designed activities designed to improve every aspect of your reading and writing skills, including: Character writing practice sheets Dictation, fill-in-the-blank, and dialog completion exercises Answering questions, reading maps, converting written style to spoken style Identifying radicals and phonetics, punctuating sentences Writing tasks based on real-life schedules, photographs and name cards Translation exercises The accompanying disc contains: Audio recordings by native Mandarin speakers Hundreds of printable practice pages A printable set of 288 Chinese flashcards About the *Basic Mandarin Chinese* series: Respected Chinese language educator Dr. Cornelius Kubler has taught Mandarin Chinese to diplomats, business people and students for several decades—using an effective learning system with two separate but integrated "tracks" to help you learn the spoken and written forms of the language more efficiently and more successfully. The materials in this series have been acclaimed as a breakthrough in Mandarin Chinese language learning.

The Routledge Handbook of Chinese Language Teaching Dorling Kindersley Ltd

Use this one-of-a-kind practice guide together with any Chinese book or language program, and dramatically enhance your speaking and listening skills. No matter what book or course you're using to learn Chinese, it takes a lot of practice. Here is a wealth of effective practice activities—including more than 16 hours of audio material!—to help polish your spoken Mandarin Chinese. This book corresponds to *Basic Spoken Chinese* and allows you to move from complete beginner level to basic proficiency. Downloadable content features over 16 hours of audio material, as well as (printable) PDF files of hundreds of additional practice pages and exercises. *Basic Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials* includes carefully designed activities to help solidify every aspect of your spoken Chinese skills, including: Pronunciation exercises. Vocabulary and Grammar summaries. Substitution drills. Transformation and Response drills. Role Play & Listening Comprehension exercises. Dictation exercises. Translation exercises. The downloadable content contains: 16 hours of audio by native Mandarin speakers. Printable practice pages. Printable exercises and activities. Together with or after this book, you can use *Basic Written Chinese* if you want to learn Chinese reading and writing. It introduces the highest-frequency characters and words in a systematic way. About the Series Respected Chinese language expert Dr. Cornelius Kubler, who has taught diplomats, business people and students, presents a learning system that uses separate but integrated "tracks" to help you efficiently master the basics of spoken and written Chinese. The materials in the *Basic Spoken Chinese* series allow

you to move from complete beginner level to intermediate fluency.

Tikki Tikki Tembo (Spanish language edition) Tuttle Publishing

Use this one-of-a-kind practice guide and Chinese workbook together with any Chinese book or language program, and dramatically enhance your speaking. No matter what book or course you're using to learn Chinese, it takes a lot of practice. Here is a wealth of effective practice activities to help polish your written Chinese. This book corresponds to Basic Written Chinese and allows you to move from complete beginner level to basic proficiency. Included downloadable content contains extensive audio material, as well as (printable) flash cards. Practice Essentials includes carefully designed activities to help solidify every aspect of your spoken Chinese skills, including: Chinese character practice sheets. Dictation, fill-in-the-blank, dialog completion. Answering questions, map reading, converting written style to spoken style. Identify radicals and phonetics; punctuating sentences. Written tasks based on realia like schedule, photographs, and name cards. Translation exercises. The downloadable materials include: 64 minutes of native-speaker audio. 288 printable flash cards. Together with this book, you can use the Basic Spoken Chinese series if you want to learn fluent spoken Mandarin. About the Series: Respected Chinese language expert Dr. Cornelius Kubler, who has taught diplomats, business people and students, presents a learning system that uses separate but integrated "tracks" to help you efficiently master the basics of spoken and written Chinese. The materials in Basic Spoken Chinese allow you to move from complete beginner level to basic fluency.

Continuing Mandarin Chinese Textbook Cambridge University Press

Class-tested and coherent, this textbook teaches classical and web information retrieval, including web search and the related areas of text classification and text clustering from basic concepts. It gives an up-to-date treatment of all aspects of the design and implementation of systems for gathering, indexing, and searching documents; methods for evaluating systems; and an introduction to the use of machine learning methods on text collections. All the important ideas are explained using examples and figures, making it perfect for introductory courses in

information retrieval for advanced undergraduates and graduate students in computer science. Based on feedback from extensive classroom experience, the book has been carefully structured in order to make teaching more natural and effective. Slides and additional exercises (with solutions for lecturers) are also available through the book's supporting website to help course instructors prepare their lectures.

A Workbook for Beginning Learners of Spoken Chinese (Audio and Practice PDF downloads Included) Tuttle Publishing

Hundreds of useful phrases at your fingertips Speak Chinese - instantly! Traveling to China but don't know Chinese? Taking Chinese at school but need to kick up your conversation skills? Don't worry! This handy little phrasebook will have you speaking Chinese in no time. Discover how to Get directions, shop, and eat out Talk numbers, dates, time, and money Chat about family and work Discuss sports and the weather Deal with problems and emergencies

Easy Peasy Chinese Routledge

What does it take to reinvent a language? After a meteoric rise, China today is one of the world's most powerful nations. Just a century ago, it was a crumbling empire with literacy reserved for the elite few, as the world underwent a massive technological transformation that threatened to leave them behind. In *Kingdom of Characters*, Jing Tsu argues that China's most daunting challenge was a linguistic one: the century-long fight to make the formidable Chinese language accessible to the modern world of global trade and digital technology. *Kingdom of Characters* follows the bold innovators who reinvented the Chinese language, among them an exiled reformer who risked a death sentence to advocate for Mandarin as a national language, a Chinese-Muslim poet who laid the groundwork for Chairman Mao's phonetic writing system, and a computer engineer who devised input codes for Chinese characters on the lid of a teacup from the floor of a jail cell. Without their advances, China might never have become the dominating force we know today. With larger-than-life characters and an unexpected perspective on the major events of China's tumultuous twentieth century, Tsu reveals how language is both a technology to be perfected and a subtle, yet potent, power to be exercised and expanded.