So you always wanted to learn Chinese?

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General introduction

- Over hundred different dialects differ in pronunciation
- Mandarin: official language, called Putonghua
- Cantonese is one of the ten major dialects
- Written in characters - strokes
- Phonetic form is Pinyin (拼音)
- Learning Chinese – pronunciation, characters, vocabulary and grammar
Pronunciation

- Pin (拼) means “spell” and yin (音) means “sound”
- There are 23 consonants or initials in Pinyin
- There are 35 vowels or finals in Pinyin
- 432 syllables. 1376 syllables if all tonal variation is taken into account
- There are four tones in Mandarin - ā á ě à
Consonant or initial

- b  p  m  f
- d  t  n  l
- g  k  h
- j  q  x
- zh  ch  sh  r
- z  c  s
- y  w

www.youtube.com/watch?v=f_bkxliz_7A&feature=related
Vowels or finals

<table>
<thead>
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[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h-C0agoZrg&NR=1](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3h-C0agoZrg&NR=1)
• Tone 1: flat (5-5) ā  
• Tone 2: up (3-5) á  
• Tone 3: curve (2-1-4) ǎ  
• Tone 4: down (5-1) à  
• Toneless a

mā  má  mǎ  mà  ma
妈  麻  马  骂  吗
mother  hemp  horse  to scold  question word
# Some daily expressions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nǐ hǎo！</th>
<th>Hello</th>
<th>你好</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Xièxiè！</td>
<td>Thank you</td>
<td>谢谢</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bú kèqi</td>
<td>You’re welcome</td>
<td>不客气</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duì bu qǐ</td>
<td>I am sorry</td>
<td>对不起</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Méi guānxi</td>
<td>It’s alright</td>
<td>没关系</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zài jiàn！</td>
<td>Goodbye</td>
<td>再见</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gān bēi</td>
<td>Cheers</td>
<td>干杯</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Characters, words and sentences

• One character which consists of one syllable
• Chinese words can consist of one character, two characters or more than two characters
• Most words in modern Chinese are disyllabic
• Phrases / words build up sentence
• Two sorts of characters in use today - traditional and simplified
## Chinese character

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Traditional characters:</th>
<th>Simplified characters:</th>
<th>Meaning:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>龍</td>
<td>龙</td>
<td>Dragon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>說</td>
<td>说</td>
<td>To speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>買</td>
<td>买</td>
<td>To buy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>國</td>
<td>国</td>
<td>Country</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chinese character

- Characters are derived from pictures

fish              cow               people       vehicle
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stroke</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Diǎn&quot;</td>
<td>A simple dot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Héng&quot;</td>
<td>Horizontal stroke, left to right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Shù&quot;</td>
<td>Vertical stroke, top to bottom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Piě&quot;</td>
<td>Left-falling stroke, falling from right to left</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Nà&quot;</td>
<td>Right-falling stroke, falling from left to right</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Zhé&quot;</td>
<td>Horizontal stroke followed by short hook</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Gōu“</td>
<td>Hook appended to other strokes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Tí&quot;</td>
<td>Rising stroke, rising from left to right</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chinese character

• Character consists of component and component consists of stroke
• Single component character and compound character
• Radical
Some grammar points

• All words only one form
• Nouns – don’t indicate singular or plural
• Verbs – don’t indicate past, present or future tense; remain unchanged regardless of the pronoun
• The use of measure words
• The word order
QUESTIONS