

Reader Level
Breakthrough

Unique Characters
150

周海生

Zhōu Hǎishēng

**The
Misadventures of
Zhou Haisheng**

John Pasden and Jared Turner



**Mandarin
Companion**

Chinese Graded Readers

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We've worked hard to create enjoyable stories that can help you build confidence and competence and get better at Chinese—at the right level for you.

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We hope you enjoy our books, and best of luck with your studies.
Jared and John

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Do you have versions with pinyin over the characters?

No. Although this method is common for native Chinese learners, research and experience show it distracts a second language learner and slows down their ability to learn the characters. If you require pinyin to read most of the characters at this level, you should read something easier.

Is there an English translation of the story?

No. Research and experience show that an English translation will slow down the development of your Chinese language learning skills.

Is this the right level for me?

Let's find out. Open to a story page with characters and start reading. Keep track of the number of characters you *don't* know but don't count any key words you don't know. If there are more than 5 unknown characters on that page, you may want to consider working on your basic character recognition before attempting a graded reader. If the unknown characters are fewer than 5, then this book is likely at your level! If you find that you know all the characters, you may be ready for a higher level. However, even if you know all the characters but are reading slowly, you should consider building reading speed before moving up a level.

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- Include a core set of 150 Chinese words and characters learners are most likely to know.
- Are about 5,000 characters in length
- Use level appropriate grammar

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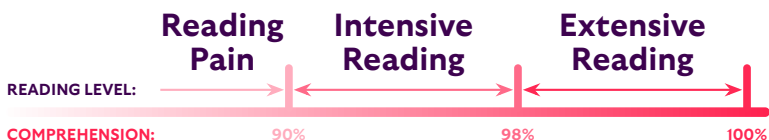
What is Extensive Reading?

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It's called Reading Pain for a reason. You spend so much time in a dictionary and after 30 painful minutes on ONE paragraph, you're not even sure what you've just read!

If you want to know more, check out our website

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Story Notes

A sizable portion of China's large cities are home to those who have come to pursue opportunities and dreams in the big city. This story captures the common tale of a young family trying to carve out a life in Shanghai while trying to provide educational opportunities for their young son. These dynamics bring diversity and, specifically for this tale, culinary variety to major cities throughout China.

The childhood escapades of young Zhou Haisheng, specifically life events that put him on the path to one day open his own restaurant, tie into the larger “Mandarin Companion Universe.” If you're curious how things turn out for him after reading this origin story, prepare to read *Emma*, a Mandarin Companion Level 1 story.

Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from this Chinese story followed by their corresponding English names from John Pasden and Jared Turner's original story. The names below are not translations; they are new Chinese names used for the Chinese versions of the original characters. Think of them as all-new characters in a Chinese story.

周海生 (Zhōu Hǎishēng) – Zhou Haisheng

老周 (Lǎo Zhōu) – Mr. Zhou

周太太 (Zhōu Tàitai) – Mrs. Zhou

钱太太 (Qián Tàitai) – Mrs. Qian

马老师 (Mǎ Lǎoshī) – Ms. Ma

Cast of Characters



周海生

(Zhōu Hǎishēng)



老周

(Lǎo Zhōu)



周太太
(Zhōu Tàitai)



钱太太
(Qián Tàitai)



马老师
(Mǎ Lǎoshī)

A map of China is shown in the background, with a white text box overlaid on the left side. The text box contains information about three locations: Shanxi, Shandong, and Shanghai. The map shows the borders of China with neighboring countries: Russia to the north, Myanmar to the south, and the sea to the east. Two cities are marked with black dots: Urumqi in the northwest and Lhasa in the southwest. The text box has a black border and a white background.

Locations

山西 (Shānxī)

Shanxi Province (not to be confused with Shaanxi 陕西), an inland province famous for its knife-shaven noodles.

山东 (Shāndōng)

Shandong Province, situated on the east coast, is known for cuisine with a light aroma and fresh taste.

上海 (Shànghǎi)

China's largest city, Shanghai embodies the past, present, and future of China. It is the cosmopolitan center of commerce and fashion for China, where western culture blends with eastern traditions.

• Urumqi

• Lhasa

MYANMAR

RUSSIA



Story 1

做面

One

上学了

周海生今年八岁¹，他的爸爸叫²老周。老周做的菜很好吃³，在上海开了一家饭店⁴，叫²“周家饭店”⁵。饭店⁵不大，可是⁶每天都有很多人。饭店⁵里有饭，有面，还⁷有很多菜。

老周的老家⁸在山西。老周和他的

1 岁 (suì) *mv.* years old

2 叫 (jiào) *v.* to be called, to call; to tell (someone to do something)

3 好吃 (hǎochī) *adj.* tasty

4 家 (jiā) *mv.* measure word for shops

5 饭店 (fàndiàn) *n.* restaurant

6 可是 (kěshì) *conj.* but

7 还 (hái) *adv.* still

8 老家 (lǎojiā) *n.* hometown



太太来上海开了这家饭店。儿子出生

在上海，名字叫周海生。

海生小的时候，每天都和爸爸妈

妈一起去饭店。他们一家人每天都

9 太太 (tàitai) *n.* wife, lady, Mrs.

10 儿子 (érzi) *n.* son

11 出生 (chūshēng) *v.* to be born

12 名字 (míngzi) *n.* name

13 的时候 (de shíhou) *phrase* when...

14 一起 (yīqǐ) *adv.* together

15 一家人 (yī jiā rén) *phrase* the whole family

在饭店吃饭，每天都很晚关门回家。

可以说，饭店是海生的第二个家。

来“周家饭店”吃饭的人都很喜
欢海生，喜欢和他说话。海生七岁生

日的时候，老周的太太对老周说：“儿

子都这么大了，不能天天都在饭店里，

可以去上学了。”老周听了点点头。

周太太小时没有上学，可是她

16 晚 (wǎn) *adj.* late

17 关门 (guānmén) *vo.* to close shop, to close a door

18 回家 (huíjiā) *vo.* to go home

19 喜欢 (xǐhuan) *v.* to like

20 说话 (shuōhuà) *vo.* to speak (words), to talk

21 生日 (shēngrì) *n.* birthday

22 这么 (zhème) *adv.* so...

23 天天 (tiāntiān) *adv.* every day

24 上学 (shàngxué) *vo.* to start school, to go to school

25 听 (tīng) *v.* to listen (to)

26 点点头 (diǎndian tóu) *phrase* to (briefly) nod one's head

27 小时 (xiǎo shíhou) *phrase* when one was little

儿子能上学，她很开心。

周海生每天中午不回家吃饭，周太

太每天早上都会做吃的，那是海生的午饭。

海生喜欢上学，上学以后，他有了很多朋友。他喜欢和朋友们在一起吃午饭，吃完饭以后，他们还能一起写字。

每天下午四点多，海生都会回到

28 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy

29 中午 (zhōngwǔ) *n.* noon

30 早上 (zǎoshang) *tn.* morning

31 吃的 (chī de) *n.* food

32 午饭 (wǔfàn) *n.* lunch

33 以后 (yǐhòu) *adv.* after; later, in the future

34 在一起 (zài yìqǐ) *phrase* to be together

35 吃完 (chī wán) *vc.* to finish eating



饭店。周太太会问儿子，今天又学了
 什么东西。要是饭店没人来吃饭，她
 会看海生写字。

36 又 (yòu) *adv.* again

38 要是 (yàoshi) *conj.* if

37 东西 (dōngxi) *n.* thing(s), stuff

Two

第一次做面

一天下午,海生对一个朋友说:“你中午没吃饭,你想去我家的饭店吗?我爸爸做的面很好吃!”

“好!”朋友开心地说。

他们一边走一边说话。走到店门边的时候,海生看到饭店关门了。

39 开心地 (kāixīn de) phrase happily

40 一边 (yībiān) conj. while doing... (two things)

41 门边 (mén biān) phrase by the door

42 看到 (kàndào) vc. to see



海生想：“怎么会₄₃ 关门₁₇呢？还₇不到

五点。”

海生又说：“妈妈，我₃₆ 回来₄₄了！”没

有人说话。₂₀

“爸爸，我朋友想吃面。”还是没有
人说话。

老周和周太太都不在，饭店里一个
人也没有，可是店门也没关好。

海生的朋友看看他，说：“你爸爸
不在，我明天再来吃面吧。”

“不行，我们都来了，吃吧！”海生
说，“我爸爸不在，我来给你做。”说
完，海生对朋友笑笑。

45 还是 (háishi) conj., adv. still

46 看看 (kànkàn) v. to take a look

47 再 (zài) adv. again (in the future)

48 不行 (bù xíng) phrase not OK

49 说完 (shuō wán) v. to finish speaking

50 笑 (xiào) v. to laugh, to smile

“你也会做面?” 朋友也笑笑, “我
要看看你是怎么做的。”

“我小时候天天看我爸爸做面, 也
跟他学了一点。” 海生一边跟朋友说
话, 一边做面。面做完了以后, 他和
朋友都很开心。

“怎么样? 好吃吗?” 海生一边吃, 一
边问朋友。

“好吃, 太好吃了!”

“那你多吃点!” 海生开心地说。

“谢谢，我吃完了。”朋友很开心，“可
是，我没有钱。多少钱？我明天给
你。”

“今天的面不要钱。”海生说完以后
他们都笑了。

这时候，来了几个人，想吃饭和
菜。

“我爸爸妈妈出去了，我不会做菜。
你们晚上再来吧。”海生对那几个人
说。

53 这时候 (zhè shíhòu) *phrase* at this time

54 出去 (chūqu) *vc.* to go out

55 做菜 (zuòcài) *vo.* to cook food

56 晚上 (wǎnshàng) *m.* evening

“那你们吃的是什么？”一个男人一边笑一边问。

“面，他做的。”海生的朋友说。

“好吃吗？”男人又问。

“很好吃。”海生的朋友开心地说。

几个男人又笑了：“好，那我们今天也吃面。去做吧。”

海生想，要是爸爸知道了会生气。

可是，他也很开心：这是他第一次

在饭店里做面！

57 生气 (shēngqì) *vo., adj.* to get angry; angry

58 第一次 (dì-yī cì) *phrase* first time



“小朋友₅₉，我喜欢₁₉你的面。”吃完₃₅

面，一个男人对海生说。“多少钱？”

“我不知道……”海生₄₆看看那个男

人，笑了₅₀：“给多少都行。”₆₀

“我们会再来的。”给了钱，几个男人走了出去。

过了一会儿，又来了几个人。海生又做了面，大家都很喜欢吃他做的面。可是，吃完以后，每个人给的钱都不一样，谁都不知道要给多少钱。

61 一会儿 (yíhuìr) *m.* a little while

62 大家 (dàjiā) *n.* everyone

63 不一样 (bù yíyàng) *phrase* not the same

Three

很开心

Story 2

送菜

Four

下午四点

Five

下午五点

Six

晚上六点

Seven

晚上六点半

Story 3

山东饭店

Eight

学那个小朋友

Nine

都好吃

Ten

和你一样



Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 岁 suì *mv.* years old
2. 叫 jiào *v.* to be called, to call; to tell (someone to do something)
3. 好吃 hǎochī *adj.* tasty
4. 家 jiā *mv.* measure word for shops
5. 饭店 fàndiàn *n.* restaurant
6. 可是 kěshì *conj.* but
7. 还 hái *adv.* still
8. 老家 lǎojiā *n.* hometown
9. 太太 tàitai *n.* wife, lady, Mrs.
10. 儿子 érzi *n.* son
11. 出生 chūshēng *v.* to be born
12. 名字 míngzi *n.* name
13. 的时候 de shíhou *phrase* when...
14. 一起 yìqǐ *adv.* together
15. 一家人 yī jiā rén *phrase* the whole family
16. 晚 wǎn *adj.* late
17. 关门 guānmén *vo.* to close shop, to close a door
18. 回家 huíjiā *vo.* to go home
19. 喜欢 xǐhuan *v.* to like
20. 说话 shuōhuà *vo.* to speak (words), to talk
21. 生日 shēngrì *n.* birthday
22. 这么 zhème *adv.* so...
23. 天天 tiāntiān *adv.* every day
24. 上学 shàngxué *vo.* to start school, to go to school
25. 听 tīng *v.* to listen (to)
26. 点点头 diǎndian tóu *phrase* to (briefly) nod one's head

27. 小时候 xiǎo shíhou *phrase* when one was little
28. 开心 kāixīn *adj.* happy
29. 中午 zhōngwǔ *n.* noon
30. 早上 zǎoshang *tn.* morning
31. 吃的 chī de *n.* food
32. 午饭 wǔfàn *n.* lunch
33. 以后 yǐhòu *adv.* after; later, in the future
34. 在一起 zài yìqǐ *phrase* to be together
35. 吃完 chī wán *vc.* to finish eating
36. 又 yòu *adv.* again
37. 东西 dōngxi *n.* thing(s), stuff
38. 要是 yàoshi *conj.* if
39. 开心地 kāixīn de *phrase* happily
40. 一边 yībiān *conj.* while doing... (two things)
41. 门边 mén biān *phrase* by the door
42. 看到 kàndào *vc.* to see
43. 怎么会 zěnmé huì *phrase* how could
44. 回来 huílai *vc.* to come back
45. 还是 hái shì *conj., adv.* still
46. 看看 kànkàn *v.* to take a look
47. 再 zài *adv.* again (in the future)
48. 不行 bù xíng *phrase* not OK
49. 说完 shuō wán *vc.* to finish speaking
50. 笑 xiào *v.* to laugh, to smile
51. 做面 zuò miàn *vo.* to make noodles
52. 怎么 zěnmé *adv.* how
53. 这时候 zhè shíhou *phrase* at this time
54. 出去 chūqu *vc.* to go out
55. 做菜 zuòcài *vo.* to cook food
56. 晚上 wǎnshang *tn.* evening
57. 生气 shēngqì *vo., adj.* to get angry; angry
58. 第一次 dì-yī cì *phrase* first time
59. 小朋友 xiǎopéngyou *n.* kid
60. 行 xíng *adj.* all right
61. 一会儿 yíhuìr *tn.* a little while
62. 大家 dàjiā *n.* everyone

63. 不一样 bù yīyàng *phrase* not the same
64. 左右 zuǒyòu *phrase* about, approximately
65. 看书 kànshū *vo.* to read, to study
66. 听起来 tīng qǐlai *vc.* to sound...
67. 有一点 yǒu yīdiǎn *phrase* to be a little (too)
68. 点菜 diǎncài *vo.* to order food
69. 时候 shíhou *n.* when
70. 过去 guòqu *vc.* to go over
71. 一个一个 yī gè yī gè *adv.* one by one
72. 那么 nàme *adv.* so (much)
73. 第二天 dì-èr tiān *phrase* the next day
74. 听说 tīngshuō *v.* to hear tell, to hear said (that)
75. 家人 jiārén *n.* family member(s)
76. 老太太 lǎotàitai *n.* old lady
77. 做饭 zuò fàn *vo.* to cook a meal
78. 送到 sòngdào *vc.* to send to
79. 到时候 dào shíhou *phrase* when the time comes
80. 好看 hǎokàn *adj.* good-looking
81. 过来 guòlai *vc.* to come over
82. 送 sòng *v.* to send, to deliver
83. 一个人 yī gè rén *phrase* alone
84. 小心点 xiǎoxīn diǎn *phrase* to be (more) careful
85. 走了过来 zǒu le guòlai *phrase* walked over
86. 那边 nàbiān *n.* over there
87. 走过来 zǒu guòlai *vc.* to walk over
88. 对不起 duìbuqǐ *phrase* I'm sorry
89. 开门 kāimén *vo.* to open the door
90. 一下 yíxià *adv.* briefly, for a second
91. 手里 shǒu lǐ *phrase* in one's hand
92. 这样 zhèyàng *pr.* like this
93. 不用谢 bùyòng xiè *phrase* You're welcome (lit. "no need to thank")
94. 后面 hòumian *n.* behind
95. 回去 huíqu *vc.* to go back
96. 晚饭 wǎnfàn *n.* dinner
97. 下次 xià cì *tn.* next time

98. 过了几天 guò le jǐ tiān *phrase* after a few days had passed
 99. 开饭店 kāi fàndiàn *vo.* to open a restaurant
 100. 上个月 shàng ge yuè *tn.* last month
 101. 听到 tīngdào *vc.* to hear
 102. 不开心 bù kāixīn *phrase* not happy, to be unhappy
 103. 一样 yīyàng *n.* the same
 104. 那样 nà yàng *adv.* like that
 105. 走出 zǒuchū *vc.* to walk out
 106. 听见 tīngjiàn *vc.* to hear
 107. 很会说 hěn huì shuō *phrase* is a smooth talker
 108. 一下子 yīxiàzi *adv.* all of a sudden; all at once
 109. 出来 chūlai *vc.* to come out
 110. 生气地 shēngqì de *phrase* angrily
 111. 大叫 dà jiào *v.* to call out loudly
 112. 老人 lǎorén *n.* old person, old man
 113. 那天 nà tiān *tn.* that day
 114. 不好听 bù hǎotīng *phrase* unpleasant-sounding
 115. 要看 yào kàn *phrase* to depend on...
 116. 有时候 yǒu shíhou *phrase* sometimes
 117. 有用 yǒuyòng *adj.* useful

Part of Speech Key

<i>adj.</i> Adjective	<i>prep.</i> Preposition
<i>adv.</i> Adverb	<i>pr.</i> Pronoun
<i>aux.</i> Auxiliary Verb	<i>pn.</i> Proper noun
<i>conj.</i> Conjunction	<i>tn.</i> Time Noun
<i>cov.</i> Coverb	<i>v.</i> Verb
<i>mw.</i> Measure word	<i>vc.</i> Verb plus complement
<i>n.</i> Noun	<i>vo.</i> Verb plus object
<i>on.</i> Onomatopoeia	
<i>part.</i> Particle	



Grammar Points

For learners new to reading Chinese, an understanding of grammar points can be extremely helpful for learners and teachers. The following is a list of the most challenging grammar points used in this graded reader.

These grammar points correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) level A2 or above. The full list with explanations and examples of each grammar point can be found on the Chinese Grammar Wiki, the definitive source of information on Chinese grammar online.

ENGLISH	CHINESE
CHAPTER 1	
Indicating location with “zai” before verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb
Directional verbs “lai” and “qu”	来 / 去 + Place
After a specific time with “yihou”	Time / Verb + 以后
In the future in general with “yihou”	以后, ……
Reduplication of verbs	Verb + Verb
Expressing “and also” with “hai”	还 + Verb
Expressing “when” with “de shihou”	……的时候
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	一起 + Verb
Two words for “but”	……, 可是 / 但是……
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	大家 / 很多人 + 都……

Expressing “some” with “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Expressing “will” with “hui”	会 + Verb
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
Expressing “every” with “mei”	每 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “again” in the past with “you”	又 + Verb + 了
Expressing “if…then…” with “yaoshi”	要是……, 就……

CHAPTER 2

Expressing “would like to” with “xiang”	想 + Verb
Asking why with “zenme”	怎么……?
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	一边 + Verb 1 (,) 一边 + Verb 2
Asking how something is with “zenmeyang”	……怎么样?
Auxiliary verb “yao” and its multiple meanings	要 + Noun / 要 + Verb
Structural particle “de”	的 / 得 / 地
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Time words and word order	Subj. + Time……/ Time + Subj.……
Change of state with “le”	……了
Special verbs with “hen”	很 + Verb
Ordinal numbers with “di”	第 + Number (+ Measure Word)
Expressing location with “zai… shang / xia / li”	在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边
Result complement “-wan” for finishing	Verb + 完 (+ 了)
Measure words with “this” and “that”	这 / 那 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “again” in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb

CHAPTER 3

Structure of times (advanced)	Number 1 + 点(钟) + Number 2 + 分
Direction complement “-qilai”	Verb / Adj. + 起来

Expressing “a little too” with “you yidian”	有一点 (儿) + Adj.
Result complements “-dao” and “-jian”	Verb + 到 / 见
Moderating positive adjectives with “hai”	还 + Adj.
Using “youde” to mean “some”	有的 + Noun
Expressing “had better” with “haishi”	还是 + Verb
The “shi... de” construction for indicating purpose	是……的
Expressing “one by one” with “yi”	一 + Measure Word + 一 + Measure Word
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Verb + 过

CHAPTER 4

Causative verbs	Subj. + 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 + Person + Predicate
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去

CHAPTER 5

Expressing “already” with “dou”	都 + Time + 了
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CHAPTER 6

Comparing “youdian” and “yidian”	有点 vs. 一点
Conceding with “ba”	……吧

CHAPTER 8

Expressing “all at once” with “yixiazi”	Subj. + 一下子 + Verb + 了
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CHAPTER 9

Expressing “to come from” with “laizi”	Subj. + 来自 + Place
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	有点 (儿) + Adj.

CHAPTER 10

Basic comparisons with “yiyang”

Noun 1 + 跟 / 和 + Noun 2 + 一样 +
Adj.

In the future in general with “yihou”

以后, ……



Credits

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About Mandarin Companion

Mandarin Companion was started by Jared Turner and John Pasden, who met one fateful day on a bus in Shanghai when the only remaining seats forced them to sit next to each other.

John majored in Japanese in college in the US and later learned Mandarin before moving to China, where he was admitted into an all-Chinese masters program in applied linguistics at East China Normal University in Shanghai. John lives in Shanghai with his wife and children. John is the editor-in-chief at Mandarin Companion and ensures each story is written at the appropriate level.

Jared decided to move to China with his young family in search of career opportunities, despite having no Chinese language skills. When he learned about Extensive Reading and started using graded readers, his language skills exploded. In 3 months, he had read 10 graded readers and quickly became conversational in Chinese. Jared lives in the US with his wife and children. Jared runs the business operations and focuses on bringing stories to life.

John and Jared work with Chinese learners and teachers all over the world. They host a podcast, You Can Learn Chinese, where they discuss the struggles and joys of learning to speak the language. They are active on social media, where they share memes and stories about learning Chinese.

You can connect with them through the website

www.mandarincompanion.com



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by John Pasden, Jared Turner

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by John Pasden, Jared Turner

Xiao Ming, Boy Sherlock

《小明》

by John Pasden, Jared Turner

Just Friends?

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by John Pasden, Jared Turner

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