

Reader Level
Level Two

Unique Characters
450

美好的前途 (上)

Měihǎo de Qiántú (Shàng)

Great Expectations: Part 1

Charles Dickens



Mandarin
Companion

Chinese Graded Readers

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What Graded Readers can do for you

Welcome to Mandarin Companion!

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.

Our graded readers have controlled and simplified language that allows you to bring together the language you've learned so far and absorb how words work naturally together. Research suggests that learners need to “encounter” a word 10-30 times before truly learning it. Graded readers provide the repetition that you need to develop fluency NOW at your level.

In the next section, you can take an assessment and discover if this is the right level for you. We also explain how it won't just improve your Chinese skills but will have a wide range of benefits, from better test scores to increased confidence.

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

Frequently Asked Questions

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 8 unknown characters on that page, you may want to consider reading our books at a lower level. If the unknown characters are fewer than 8, 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.

How do you decide which characters to include at each level?

Each level includes a core set of characters based on our extensive analysis of the most common characters and words taught to and used by those learning Chinese as a second language. All books at each level are based on the same core set and they can be read in any order.

What to expect in a Level 2 book?

It's important that you read at the level that is right for you. Check out the next page to learn more about Extensive Reading and how we use that in graded readers to support the learning of Chinese by just enjoying a good story.

Books in our Level 2 like this one:

- Include a core set of 450 Chinese words and characters learners are most likely to know.
- Are about 15,000 characters in length
- Use level appropriate grammar
- Include pinyin and a translation of words and characters you are not

expected to know at this level

- Include a glossary at the back of book
- Include proper nouns that are underlined

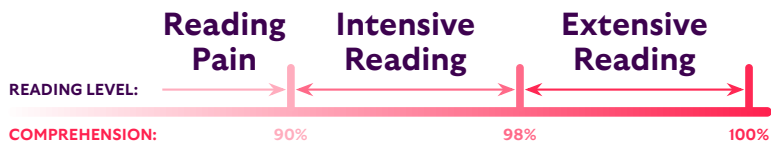
What is Extensive Reading?

It will improve test scores, your reading speed and comprehension, speaking, listening and writing skills. You'll pick up grammar naturally, you'll begin understanding in Chinese, your confidence will improve, and you'll enjoy learning the language.

Graded Readers are based on science that is backed by mountains of research and proven by learners all over the world. They are founded on the theories of Extensive Reading and Comprehensible Input.

Extensive Reading is reading at a level where you can understand almost all of what you are reading (ideally 98%) at a comfortable speed, as opposed to stumbling through dense paragraphs word by word.

When you read extensively, you'll understand most of the words and find yourself fully engaged with the story.



Reading at 98% comprehension is the sweet spot to max out your learning gains. You do still learn at the Intensive Reading level (90–98%), but the closer you are to the Extensive level, the faster your progress.

No one should be reading below a 90% comprehension level.

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

www.mandarincompanion.com



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Story Notes

Written in the last decade of his life and published in 1861, *Great Expectations* was Charles Dickens's last great novel and is widely considered to be his finest. A complex and multifaceted story, this tale required special care and attention when adapting into a Chinese graded reader. It follows the growth, trials, maturation, and ultimate self-realization of the main character, Pip, from boy to manhood. Its drama, satire, intrigue, and unexpected twists have captivated readers for over a century.

This story was adapted from Victorian England to modern day Shanghai, both periods that feature stark contrasts between old and new, the wealthy and the poor. While most readers may imagine Shanghai to be a bustling city filled with high rises, it also is home to outskirts sprawling into less developed areas akin to rural villages throughout China, an ideal parallel for this classic tale.

Additionally, Shanghai proved an appropriate setting to address many themes in Dickens's novel such as wealth, poverty, injustice, mercy, unrequited love, and, of course, expectations, both societal and those self-imposed by the ambitions of youth.

As of the publishing of this book, the combined volumes of 美好的前途 (Měihǎo de Qiántú) is over thirty-thousand characters long and the longest Chinese graded reader in existence. A story that ages like wine, we expect you'll enjoy discovering this classic tale in Chinese.

Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from this Chinese story followed by their corresponding English names from Charles Dickens'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.

吴小毛 (Wú Xiǎomáo) – Pip
 姐姐 (Jiějie) – Mrs. Joe Gargery
 姐夫 (Jiěfu) – Joe Gargery
 胖子 (Pàngzi) – Dolge Orlick
 思思 (Sīsi) – Biddy
 白小姐 (Bái Xiǎojiě) – Miss Havisham
 冰冰 (Bīngbīng) – Estella
 金子文 (Jīn Zǐwén) – Mr. Jaggers

Cast of Characters



吴小毛
(Wú Xiǎomáo)



姐姐
(Jiějie)



姐夫

(Jiěfu)



胖子

(Pàngzi)



思思

(Sīsi)



白小姐

(Bái Xiǎojiě)



冰冰

(Bīngbīng)



金子文

(Jīn Zǐwén)

A map of China and surrounding regions. Russia is to the north, Myanmar to the south, and the Indian Ocean to the south. A large white box is overlaid on the left side of the map, containing text about Shanghai and Waitan. The map shows the coast of China, with a blue area representing the sea. A black dot marks Urumqi, and another black dot marks Lhasa. The word 'RUSSIA' is written in the north, and 'MYANMAR' is written in the south.

RUSSIA

Locations

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.

外滩 (Wàitān)

The Bund in Shanghai is a row of grand buildings built in the early 1900's modeled after British and American architectural styles lining the west bank of the Huangpu River. The iconic Pudong skyline is on the east bank and home to three of the world's tallest buildings.

• Urumqi

• Lhasa

MYANMAR



One

帮一个坏人

我叫吴小毛，住在上海旁边的一个小村子¹里。人人都知道上海是一个大城市，可是这个热闹的地方好像跟我没什么关系。

我家离上海的市中心挺远的，我跟姐姐和姐夫住在一起。我姐姐是我们村子里¹特别有名的女人。她声音很大，而且特别容易生气，村子¹里的人都叫她“吴大姐”。

我今年八岁了，比我姐姐小十五岁。在我很小的时候，我父母就死了，从那时候开始，我就一直跟姐姐一起生活。姐姐总是对我说：“你知

1 村子 (cūnzi) *n.* village



道你有多烦吗？死小孩²！要是没有你，我一定会过得比现在好得多。”因为她一直这样说，村
子里¹的人自然就认为，姐姐过得不好都是我的
错。所以他们经常说，我要听姐姐的话，长大以
后要感谢³姐姐。

我姐夫今年二十五岁，村¹子里的人都爱叫
他老周。姐夫是一个修理工⁴，不管⁵工作多累，生

2 死小孩 (sǐ xiǎohái) *n.* rotten kid (not literally “dead child”)

3 感谢 (gǎnxiè) *v.* to be grateful (to)

4 修理工 (xiūlǐ gōng) *n.* repairman

5 不管 (bùguǎn) *conj.* no matter...

活多难，他从来都不说。可是，他很怕我姐姐，因为我姐姐生气的时候，总是打我和姐夫，但姐夫从来都不跟姐姐吵，也不生她的气。

离我家不远的地方有一条小河，我喜欢玩水，所以经常去河边。今天我又在河边玩了一个多小时。天有点黑了，我觉得差不多应该回家了，就站起来往家走。突然，一个男人从后面抓住了我的衣服。

“别叫！”那个男人抓着我的衣服，“再叫我就杀了你！”他小声说，我轻轻地点点头，不敢再说话了。

我看了一下那个男人，他身上脏得很，衣服都破了，脚上还有一个奇怪的东西。我不知

6 吵 (chǎo) *adj.* noisy

7 黑 (hēi) *adj.* dark

8 突然 (tūrán) *adv.; adj.* suddenly; sudden

9 抓 (zhuā) *v.* to grab, to try to catch

10 杀 (shā) *v.* to kill

11 轻轻地 (qīngqīng de) *adv.* lightly

12 敢 (gǎn) *v.* to dare (to)

13 脏 (zāng) *adj.* dirty

14 破 (pò) *adj.* worn out, run-down

15 脚 (jiǎo) *n.* foot

道那个东西是什么，但是我觉得他应该是个犯人。想到这里，我更害怕了。

“你叫什么名字？爸爸妈妈在哪儿？”那个男人问我。

“我叫吴小毛，也许你不相信，不过我真的没有爸爸妈妈，我一直跟姐姐和姐夫住在一起。我们就住在前面的那个修理店里。”因为太害怕，我的声音都变小了。

“修理店？你说你家开了一个修理店？”那个男人看了一下他脚上的东西，把我按得更紧了。

“对。千万别杀我！”因为太害怕，我说着说着就哭了起来。

“你看到我脚上这个东西了吗？我需要一个工具把它打开，还要一些吃的。明天早上，我

16 犯人 (fànrén) *n.* a convict

17 害怕 (hàipà) *v.* to be afraid (of)

18 也许 (yěxǔ) *adv.* perhaps

19 修理店 (xiūlǐ diàn) *n.* repair shop

20 按 (àn) *v.* to press, to hold (down)

21 千万 (qiānwàn) *adv.* absolutely (not)

22 工具 (gōngjù) *n.* tool



们还在这里见面，你把工具²²和吃的带过来。要是你没来或者把这件事告诉别人，你知道会发生什么吗？我还有一个朋友也在这里，他特别喜欢吃小孩的心。如果你不听我的话或者你明天没来，我就让他吃了你的心！”听到那个男人这样说，我更害怕¹⁷了：“我明天一定来，一定来！”我说完以后，那个男人很快就离开了，我看他走远了以后马上往家跑去。

Two

不一样的节日

“小毛，我们正在找你呢！你姐姐发现你下午不在家，又生气了。”我到家的時候，姐夫已经在门口等我了。因为姐姐经常打我们，姐夫和我已经成了好朋友，他也总是帮我。

“你去哪儿了？你这个死小孩₂，烦死了！”姐姐一看到我就对我大叫起来。我怕她又要打我，很快跑到姐夫身后：“我去河边抓鱼_{9 23}了，明天过中秋节，我想抓₉一条鱼₂₃回来，这样明天就能多做一个菜，可是一条都没抓₉到。”

“死小孩₂，如果没有我，你早就饿死了！你

难道不知道明天过节吗？²⁴ 家里有那么多事等着要做，你还跑到外面去玩？还不快来帮我！”姐姐越说越生气。

姐姐真的很忙，因为中秋节是一个很重要的节日。²⁵ 中秋节要吃月饼，²⁶ 可是我们买不起²⁷ 月饼，所有好吃的东西都要自己做。每年过中秋节的时候，姐姐都会做一种特别好吃的饼，还有别的平时吃不到的菜，²⁸ 因为要请叔叔²⁹ 来家里吃饭。

晚上，姐姐和姐夫睡着以后，我小心地走出房间，偷³⁰ 了一些姐姐做的饼，还有姐夫修东西的工具，偷偷地³¹ 放在了衣服里。那天晚上，我一点也没睡着。我一直在想那个犯人¹⁶，想起来我就

24 难道 (nándào) *conj.* “Could it be that...?” [rhetorical question marker]

25 节日 (jiérì) *n.* holiday

26 月饼 (yuèbǐng) *n.* moon cake

27 买不起 (mǎibuqǐ) *vc.* cannot afford (to buy)

28 平时 (píngshí) *adv.* usually

29 叔叔 (shūshu) *n.* uncle

30 偷 (tōu) *v.* to steal

31 偷偷地 (tōutōu de) *adv.* stealthily, secretly

害怕¹⁷，还有那个要吃我心的人。除了³²这些，我也很担心³³姐姐会发现我偷³⁰了她的饼。可是我还能有什么别的办法呢？

我害怕¹⁷被姐姐和姐夫³⁴发现，所以天还没亮³⁵，我就起来了，然后偷偷地³¹跑去了河边。

在去河边的路上，我发现了另一个男人。他身上脏脏的^{13 13}，衣服也很破¹⁴，脚上也有那个奇怪的东西¹⁵，不过他好像没有注意到³⁶我。想到他可能是那个喜欢吃人心的人，我马上跑走了。

我来到了那个老地方，可是没看到昨天那个犯人¹⁶。我想把东西放下就走，可是就在这时候，那个犯人¹⁶出现了。他一下子把我按³⁷在地上：“你有没有把我们的事跟别人说？”²⁰

“我真的没告诉别人，我是一个人来的。”

32 除了 (chúle) *conj.* except for

33 担心 (dānxīn) *v.* to worry

34 被 (bèi) *part.* [passive particle]

35 亮 (liàng) *adj.* bright

36 注意 (zhùyì) *v.* to notice

37 出现 (chūxiàn) *v.* to appear, to emerge



他很快用工具²²打开了脚¹⁵上的东西，拿起我给
他带的饼，大口大口地吃了起来。他一定很久
没吃东西了，一下子就把所有的饼都吃完了。

“你不分一点给你的朋友吃吗？我刚刚看到
他了。”

“什么朋友？你看到谁了？”犯人¹⁶好像一下子
想起了什么。

“我刚刚看到你的朋友，他穿的衣服跟你一样，脚₁₅上也有这个东西。他就是那个喜欢吃小孩的心的人吗？”我是害怕₁₇，不过也有点好奇₃₈。

“快告诉我他在哪儿。我要杀₁₀了他！”犯人₁₆的脸色₃₉突然₈变得很难看，大叫着跑走了，好像是去找他的朋友了，我也马上往家跑去。

中秋节这天晚上，月亮₃₅特别大，也特别亮₃₅。我一个人坐在家门口，月光照₄₀着门前的路，也照₄₀在我的脸₄₁上，好像在试着跟我说话，让我高兴起来。可我紧张₄₂得要死，不敢₁₂待在离姐姐太近的地方。

饭快做好的时候，叔叔₂₉来了。我觉得叔叔₂₉很烦，因为他总是跟我姐姐一样，叫我“死小”

38 好奇 (hàoqí) *adj.* curious

39 脸色 (liǎnsè) *n.* the look on one's face, lit. "face color"

40 照 (zhào) *v.* to shine (on)

41 脸 (liǎn) *n.* one's face

42 紧张 (jǐnzhāng) *adj.* nervous

43 待 (dāi) *v.* to stay

孩²”。可是姐姐很喜欢叔叔²⁹，因为叔叔²⁹每次来都会带一些吃的。

看到叔叔²⁹又带了东西，姐姐笑着说：“谢谢叔叔²⁹！”这时候，叔叔²⁹看着我：“听到了吗？‘谢谢’。你也要好好感谢³你姐姐，要是没有她，你早就饿死了！”姐夫觉得我听了这些话可能会很难过，马上给了我一个好吃的饼，可是他不知道我现在有多紧张⁴²。

我从来没有这么害怕¹⁷过吃饭，因为知道姐姐很快会发现她做的饼少了几个。因为太紧张⁴²，我一直都不敢看姐姐的眼睛，但是，我害怕¹⁷的事还是发生了。

Three

犯人被抓了

Four

奇怪的老小姐

Five

回家以后



他们吵起来了

Seven

第二次去白小姐家

Eight

六年以后

Nine

难过的一天

Ten

美好的前途

Eleven**离开村子**



Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 村子 cūnzi *n.* village
2. 死小孩 sǐ xiǎohái *n.* rotten kid (not literally “dead child”)
3. 感谢 gǎnxiè *v.* to be grateful (to)
4. 修理工 xiūlǐ gōng *n.* repairman
5. 不管 bùguǎn *conj.* no matter...
6. 吵 chǎo *adj.* noisy
7. 黑 hēi *adj.* dark
8. 突然 tūrán *adv.; adj.* suddenly; sudden
9. 抓 zhuā *v.* to grab, to try to catch
10. 杀 shā *v.* to kill
11. 轻轻地 qīngqīng de *adv.* lightly
12. 敢 gǎn *v.* to dare (to)
13. 脏 zāng *adj.* dirty
14. 破 pò *adj.* worn out, run-down
15. 脚 jiǎo *n.* foot
16. 犯人 fànrén *n.* a convict
17. 害怕 hàipà *v.* to be afraid (of)
18. 也许 yěxǔ *adv.* perhaps
19. 修理店 xiūlǐ diàn *n.* repair shop
20. 按 àn *v.* to press, to hold (down)
21. 千万 qiānwàn *adv.* absolutely (not)
22. 工具 gōngjù *n.* tool
23. 鱼 yú *n.* fish
24. 难道 nándào *conj.* “Could it be that...?” [rhetorical question marker]
25. 节日 jiérì *n.* holiday

26. 月饼 yuèbǐng *n.* moon cake
27. 买不起 mǎibuqǐ *vc.* cannot afford (to buy)
28. 平时 píngshí *adv.* usually
29. 叔叔 shūshu *n.* uncle
30. 偷 tōu *v.* to steal
31. 偷偷地 tōutōu de *adv.* stealthily, secretly
32. 除了 chúle *conj.* except for
33. 担心 dānxīn *v.* to worry
34. 被 bèi *part.* [passive particle]
35. 亮 liàng *adj.* bright
36. 注意 zhùyì *v.* to notice
37. 出现 chūxiàn *v.* to appear, to emerge
38. 好奇 hàoqí *adj.* curious
39. 脸色 liǎnsè *n.* the look on one's face, lit. "face color"
40. 照 zhào *v.* to shine (on)
41. 脸 liǎn *n.* one's face
42. 紧张 jǐnzhāng *adj.* nervous
43. 待 dāi *v.* to stay
44. 偷吃 tōuchī *v.* to sneakily eat
45. 撞 zhuàng *v.* to crash into
46. 警察 jǐngchá *n.* police officer, the police
47. 希望 xīwàng *v.; n.* to hope; hope
48. 胖 pàng *adj.* fat
49. 只有 zhǐyǒu *conj.* only if
50. 阿姨 āyí *n.* aunt
51. 只是 zhǐshì *phrase* it's just that
52. 愿意 yuànyì *v.* to be willing
53. 瘦 shòu *adj.* thin
54. 公主 gōngzhǔ *n.* princess
55. 友好 yǒuhǎo *adj.* friendly
56. 窗 chuāng *n.* window
57. 婚纱 hūnshā *n.* wedding dress
58. 桌子 zhuōzi *n.* table
59. 其实 qíshí *adv.* actually
60. 无聊 wúliáo *adj.* bored, boring, lame
61. 笨 bèn *adj.* stupid

62. 伤 shāng *v.* to hurt (someone)
63. 理解 lǐjiě *v.* to understand, to comprehend
64. 成为 chéngwéi *v.* to become
65. 心情 xīnqíng *n.* mood
66. 打伤 dǎshāng *vc.* to hit and injure
67. 打算 dǎsuàn *v.; n.* to plan to; plans
68. 原来 yuánlái *adv.* originally
69. 玩具 wánjù *n.* toy
70. 干活 gàn huó *vo.* to do manual labor
71. 结婚 jiéhūn *vo.* to get married
72. 就算 jiùsuàn *conj.* even if
73. 快乐 kuàilè *adj.* happy
74. 只要 zhǐyào *conj.* as long as
75. 住口 zhùkǒu *vo.* to shut one's mouth
76. 了不起 liǎobuqǐ *adj.* amazing
77. 好不容易 hǎobùróngyì *adv.* with great difficulty
78. 戴 dài *v.* to wear (glasses, jewelry, accessories)
79. 打架 dǎjià *vo.* to fight
80. 赢 yíng *v.* to win
81. 亲 qīn *v.* to kiss
82. 要饭的 yàofàn de *n.* beggar
83. 前途 qiántú *n.* prospects, future, “expectations”
84. 交给 jiāogěi *v.* to hand over
85. 意识到 yìshí dào *vc.* to realize
86. 家具 jiājù *n.* furniture
87. 当 dāng *v.* to become
88. 失去 shīqù *v.* to lose
89. 认出 rènchū *vc.* to recognize (someone)
90. 律师 lǜshī *n.* lawyer
91. 美好 měihǎo *adj.* wonderful, glorious
92. 条件 tiáojiàn *n.* condition; (living) conditions
93. 受伤 shòushāng *vo.* to be injured

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>mzw.</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	
“It seems” with “haoxiang”	好像.....
Clarifying relationships with “guanxi”	跟/和.....（没）有关系
Quite with “ting”	挺 + Adj. + 的
Expressing “not only... but also”	Expressing “not only..... but also.....”
Expressing earliness with “jiu”	就
Using “dui”	对 + Noun.....
If..... then..... with “yaoshi”	要是....., 就.....
Descriptive complements	Verb/Adj. + 得.....
Expressing “much more” in comparisons	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj. + 多了 / 得多
No matter with “buguan”	不管....., 都/也.....

Separable verb	Verb-Obj. / Verb + ... + Obj.
Again in the past with “you”	又 + Verb
Comparing “chao” “xiang” and “wang”	朝 vs 向 vs 往
Comparing “turan” and “huran”	突然 vs 忽然
Resultative complement “zhu”	Verb + 住
Aspect particle “zhe”	Verb + 着
Reduplication of adjectives	Adj. + Adj.
Adjectival complement “de hen”	Adj. + 得很
Tricky uses of “dao”	Verb + 到
Again in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb
A softer “but”, 不过.....
Result complement “-qilai”	Verb + 起来
Ba sentence	把 + Noun + Verb.....
Expressing “to make certain” with “qianwan”	千万 + Verb / Verb Phrase
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去
Resultative complement “kai”	Verb + 开
If..., then... with “ruguo..., jiu...”	如果....., 就.....
Causative verbs	Noun 1 + 让/叫/请 + Noun 2.....

CHAPTER 2

Events in quick succession with “yi... jiu”	一..... 就.....
Expressing “not even one”	一 + Measure Word + (Noun) + 也/都 + Verb
Rhetorical questions with “nandao”	难道.....?
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Expressing “more and more” with “yue... yue...”	越..... 越.....
Referring to “all” using “suoyou”	所有..... 都.....
Further uses of resultative complement “qilai”	Verb + 起来

Complements with “dao”, “gei” and “zai”	Verb + 到 / 给 / 在.....
Expressing “every” with “mei” and “dou”	每..... 都.....
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Adj. + 地 + Verb
“Not at all”	一点(儿)也不.....
“Except” and “in addition” with “chule... yiwai”	除了..... (以外), 还.....
“Bei” sentence	被 + Verb + ...
“Shi... de” construction	是..... 的
“All at once” with “yixiazi”	一下子

CHAPTER 3

Potential complement “bu liao”	Verb + 不了
Expressing “almost” using “chadian”	Subj. + 差点(儿) + Verb + 了
Resultative complement “chu(lai)”	Verb + 出(来)
Mistakenly think that	以为.....
Assessing situations with “kanlai”	看来 + Judgment of the situation; 在 + somebody + 看来
Expressing “all” with “shenme dou”	什么都/也.....
“Never again” with “zai ye bu”	再也不 + Verb + 了
Comparing specifically with “xiang”	Noun 1 + 像 + Noun 2 + (那么.....)
“Must” modal “dei”	得 + Verb

CHAPTER 4

Appearance with “kanqilai”	看起来.....
Although “with” suiran “and” danshi”	虽然....., 但是.....
Expressing lateness with “cai”	才 + Verb Phrase
“Already” with “dou...le”	都..... 了
Result complement “xiaqu”	Verb + 下去
Doing something more with “duo”	多 + Verb

Sequencing with “xian” and “zai”

先....., 再.....

CHAPTER 5

Sequencing past events with “houlai”

....., 后来.....

“All along” with “yuanlai”

原来.....

Comparing “benlai” and “yuanlai”

本来 vs 原来

Comparing “buduan” and “buting”

不断 vs 不停

Comparing “gang” and “gangcai”

刚 vs 刚才

Expressing “even if...” with “jiusuan”

就算....., 也.....

“In addition” with “zaishuo”

再说,.....

CHAPTER 6

Expressing purpose with “weile”

为了 + Purpose + Verb

“As long as” with “zhiyao”

只要....., 就.....

Adding emphasis with “jiushi”

就是

Continuation with “hai”

还 + Verb / Adj.

Positive and negative potential complements

Verb + 得 / 不.....

Result complement “-cuo”

Verb + 错

CHAPTER 7

Expressing difficulty with “hao (bu) rongyi”

好 (不) 容易

Expressing actions in progress (full form)

正在 + Verb + 着 + 呢

“Verbing around” with “lai” and “qu”

Verb + 来 + Verb + 去

Expressing “as one likes” with “jiu”

想 + Verb + 就 + Verb

Comparing “haishi” and “huozhe”

还是 vs 或者

CHAPTER 8

“Only if” with “zhiyou”	只有....., 才.....
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CHAPTER 10

Expressing “everyone” with “shei”	谁都/也.....
Conceding a point with “shi”	Adj. + 是 + Adj., 但是.....

CHAPTER 11

Expressing comparable degree with “you”	A 有 B + Adj. + 吗?
Topic-comment sentences	Topic + Comment
“For” with “wei”	为 + Noun.....



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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