

Reader Level
Level One

Unique Characters
300

秘密花园

Mìmì Huāyuán

The Secret Garden

Frances Hodgson Burnett



Mandarin
Companion

Chinese Graded Readers

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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

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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 6 unknown characters on that page, you may want to consider reading our books at a lower level. If the unknown characters are fewer than 6, 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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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 1 like this one:

- Include a core set of 300 Chinese words and characters learners are most likely to know.
- Are about 10,000 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

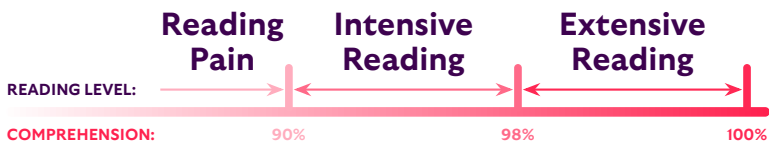
What is Extensive Reading?

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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.

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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.

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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

www.mandarincompanion.com



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Story Notes

A celebrated author of her day, Frances Hodgson Burnett began writing children's fiction later in her career. *The Secret Garden* was first published in serialized form beginning in 1910. Interestingly enough, the publication was a magazine with adult readers, but Burnett intended the story for children, perhaps the first instance of this, foreshadowing its appeal to readers of all ages.

At the time of Burnett's death in 1924, *The Secret Garden* was not considered to be among her greatest works, not even garnering a mention in her obituary. Today, *The Secret Garden* is considered among the best children's novels of all time, and in a 2003 survey of the British public, was identified as the "Nation's Best-loved Novel," not just children's novels.

The original story begins in India and later moves to Yorkshire. In this adaptation, the story begins on the tropical southern island of Hainan and then moves to the city of Nanjing.

In adapting this work, decisions were faced on how to portray aspects of the story in ways that were both culturally accurate to Chinese culture and culturally acceptable to Western audiences. For example, Chinese culture traditionally has limited physical expression of affection between a parent and child, whereas the original version of the story portrays a tearful embrace between a parent and child. Regardless of your cultural frame of reference, we think you'll enjoy how this story was adapted.

This was the first story published in the Mandarin Companion series and, arguably, still one of the best. After all, it is a classic.

Character Adaptations

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

李叶 (Lǐ Yè) – Mary Lennox

马阿姨 (Mǎ Āyí) – Mrs. Medlock

文先生 (Wén Xiānsheng) – Archibald Craven

文太太 (Wén Tàitai) – Mistress Craven

王乐心 (Wáng Lèxīn) – Martha Sowerby

林爷爷 (Lín Yéye) – Ben Weatherstaff

王乐天 (Wáng Lètiān) – Dickon Sowerby

文思远 (Wén Sīyuǎn) – Colin Craven

Cast of Characters



李叶
(Lǐ Yè)



马阿姨
(Mǎ Āyí)



文先生
(Wén Xiānsheng)



文太太
(Wén Tàitai)



王乐心
(Wáng Lèxīn)



林爷爷
(Lín Yéye)



王乐天
(Wáng Lètiān)



文思远
(Wén Sīyuǎn)

A map of China is shown in the background, with neighboring countries Russia to the north and Myanmar to the south. Two cities are marked with black dots: Urumqi in the northwest and Lhasa in the southwest. A large white text box with a black border is positioned on the left side of the map, containing the title 'Locations' and two entries for Hainan and Nanjing.

Locations

海南 (Hǎinán)

The southernmost province of China, Hainan is a large tropical island off the southern coast of mainland China. Today it is known as a popular tourist destination for its clear water and white sandy beaches.

南京 (Nánjīng)

A prominent place in Chinese history and culture, Nanjing has long been one of China's most important cities. It is recognized as one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals and today is one of China's largest cities and commercial centers.



One

没有人喜欢的女孩

她叫李叶，是一个不太好看的女孩。

李叶出生在海南。海南在中国的最南边，很远很远。李叶的爸爸经常在外面，很少在家。李叶的妈妈是个很好看的女人，她有很多朋友，每天都和朋友一起玩。李叶的爸爸妈妈都很忙，他们没有时间理他们的女儿。还有，李叶的妈妈好像一点也不喜欢李叶，她觉得李叶一点也不像

1 玩 (wán) v. to play

3 好像 (hǎoxiàng) v. it seems

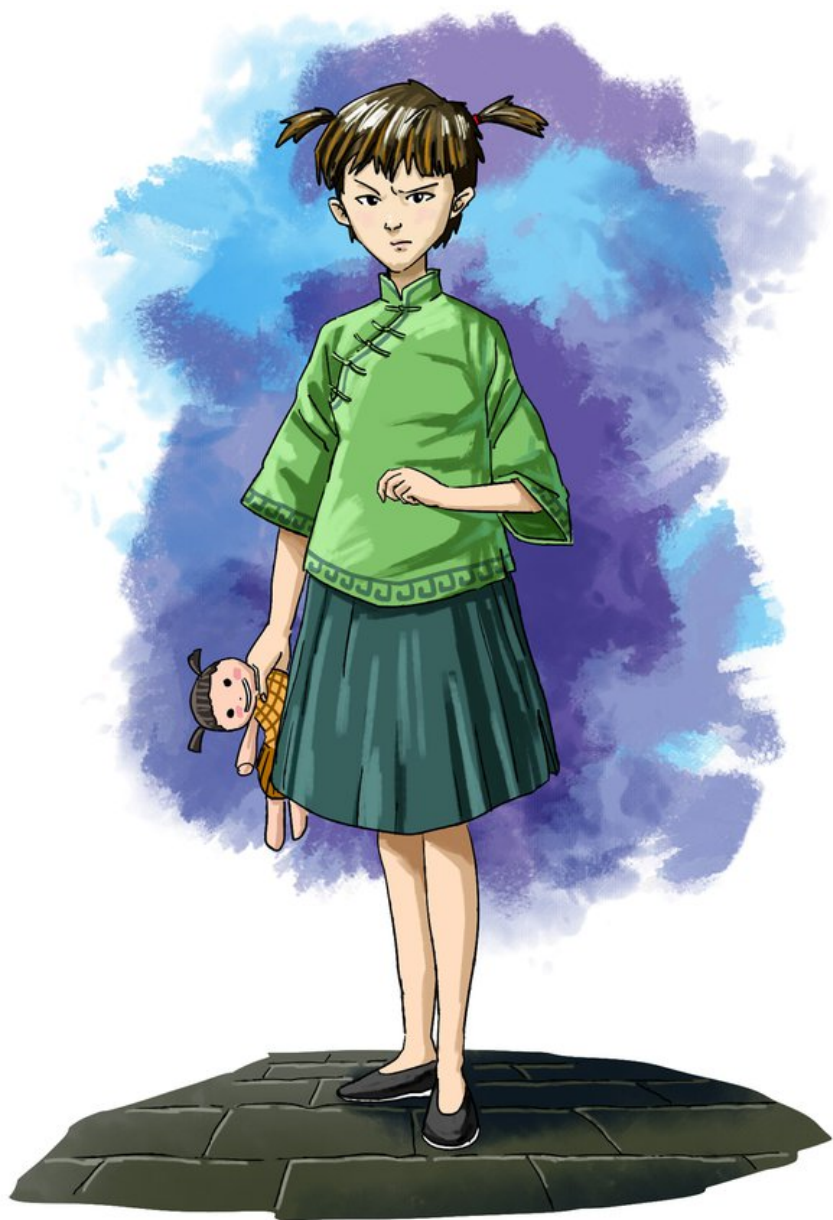
2 理 (lǐ) v. to pay attention to

她。李叶出生以后，她就告诉家里的阿
姨：“如果你们想让我开心，就不要让我
 看到这个孩子。”所以，李叶很少能见到
 她的爸爸妈妈。

李叶真的跟她的妈妈不一样，她看起
来又瘦又小，还经常生病。她总是喜欢生
气，生气的时候总是哭。如果李叶的妈妈
 听到她哭，就会很生气。所有的人都不
 喜欢这个孩子，他们从来没有见过这样
 的孩子。为了不让李叶哭，她的阿姨总是
 很听李叶的话。李叶喜欢什么，她的阿姨

- 4 阿姨 (āyí) *n.* maid, housekeeper
 5 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy
 6 看起来 (kànqilai) *vc.* to look (a certain way)
 7 瘦 (shòu) *adj.* thin
 8 生病 (shēngbìng) *v.* to get sick

- 9 总是 (zǒngshì) *adv.* always
 10 生气 (shēngqì) *vo.* to get angry
 11 哭 (kū) *v.* to cry
 12 为了 (wèile) *conj.* for the purpose of, in order to



就给她什么。李叶觉得在这个家里只有她的阿姨关心她。

李叶还不到十岁的时候，有一天，她早上起来以后看到一个新的阿姨，又生气了，因为她想要以前的阿姨。阿姨告诉李叶：“她不会来了。”李叶更生气了，她让这个新阿姨马上出去，让以前的阿姨马上来。可是很长时间，她的新阿姨没有回来，她以前的阿姨也没来。

那一天和平时不一样，没有人跟她说话，也没有人跟她玩。她很不开心，不知道为什么今天只有她一个人。一定

13 关心 (guānxīn) *v.* to be concerned about

15 一定 (yīdìng) *adv.* definitely

14 平时 (píngshí) *m.* usual; usually



出事了!

16

后来, 她听到妈妈和别人说话, 才知道真的出事了。她家里很多人都生病了, 不到两天就死了很多人。李叶很难过, 因为所有人都不理她。她一个人回到房间哭了一会儿, 然后睡了很久。她起来

17

16

8

18

2

11

16 出事 (chūshì) *vo.* to have an accident

17 后来 (hòulái) *tn.* afterwards

18 难过 (nánguò) *adj.* to feel upset

的时候，还是没有人来看她。

“这儿有个孩子！”后来¹⁷，几个人发现¹⁹
了又瘦⁷又小的李叶，她一个人在房间里。

“孩子，你是谁？为什么在这里？”有
个人问她。

“我叫李叶，我睡了很久。为什么我的阿
姨⁴不来？”李叶问。

“孩子，他们都死了。”

后来¹⁷李叶才知道，她的爸爸妈妈和以
前的阿⁴姨都死了，别人都走了。没有人想
到这个孩子，因为他们不喜欢她，所以没
有人关心¹³她。

Two

去南京

李叶的爸爸妈妈死了以后，她在海南没有别的家人₂₀了，但是她有一个叔叔₂₁在南京。

他的叔叔₂₁是一个很有钱的人。知道李叶的事以后，叔叔₂₁让家里的阿姨₄带李叶₂₂来南京。

叔叔₂₁家的阿姨₄姓马，是一个又高又瘦₇的女人。李叶很不喜欢她，也不理₂她。

20 家人 (jiārén) *n.* family22 带 (dài) *v.* to bring21 叔叔 (shūshu) *n.* uncle, father's younger brother

马阿姨好像也不喜欢李叶。她觉得孩子应该可爱听话，但是李叶又瘦又黄，总是不理别人，她从来没有见过这么不可爱的孩子。

但是马阿姨很喜欢说话，看到李叶不理她，她就问：“你认识你的叔叔吗？”

“不认识。”李叶说。

“你的爸爸妈妈没有跟你说过他吗？”

马阿姨又问。

“没有。”想到爸爸妈妈很少跟她说话，李叶更不开心了。

“你知不知道你要去一个很奇怪的地

23 应该 (yīnggāi) *aux.* should, ought to

24 听话 (tīnghuà) *vo.* to obey, lit. “to listen to (someone’s) words”

25 奇怪 (qíguài) *adj.* weird, strange



方？”马阿姨问。李叶不说话。马阿姨觉得
这个孩子真奇怪，一点也不关心她要去哪
儿。
25 13

看见李叶不说话，马阿姨又说：“文先
生的房子很老，已经六百年了。房子里有

一百个房间，房间²⁶里面的东西都很贵。但是很多房间都关着，我们都不可以进去。房子外面有几个很大的花园，有很多树。”

李叶觉得叔叔²¹的家很有意思²⁷，跟海南很不一样。但是她不想让马阿姨知道她的想法²⁸，所以还是不说话。

“你觉得怎么样？”马阿姨问。

“我没有想法。”李叶说。²⁸

“你跟文先生一样奇怪。²⁵我不知道你为什么要去南京，但是我知道文先生¹⁵一定不会跟你说话，因为他从来不关心¹³别人。文先生的身体有病，认识他的太太以前，他

26 里面 (lǐmiàn) *n.* inside

27 有意思 (yǒuyìsi) *adj.* interesting

28 想法 (xiǎngfǎ) *n.* thinking, idea

从来没有开心过。” 马阿姨说。

李叶没想到这个奇怪的叔叔有太太, 马阿姨觉得李叶很想听, 又说: “他的太太是一个很好看的女人, 文先生很爱他的太太, 她死的时候……”

“什么? 她死了?” 李叶觉得很奇怪, 马上问。

“对。太太死了以后, 文先生又像以前一样奇怪了。他在家的時候, 总是在房间里, 不想见人, 只有很少的人可以看到他。你也别想看到他, 你只能自己玩。” 马阿姨说。

李叶坐在车上, 想了很久: 叔叔家有



很大的花园，花园里有很多树，很多花；
还有一百个房间，但是不可以进去；叔叔²¹
是一个奇怪²⁵的人……她在南京会怎么样，
她也不知道。

Three

这个阿姨不一样

Four

有人在哭

Five

秘密花园



两个人的秘密

Seven

是他在哭！

Eight

三个人的秘密

Nine

一起去花园

Ten

“你可以做到！”

Eleven

“在花园里！”

Twelve

没有秘密了



Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 玩 wán *v.* to play
2. 理 ĭ *v.* to pay attention to
3. 好像 hǎoxiàng *v.* it seems
4. 阿姨 āyí *n.* maid, housekeeper
5. 开心 kāixīn *adj.* happy
6. 看起来 kànqilai *vc.* to look (a certain way)
7. 瘦 shòu *adj.* thin
8. 生病 shēngbìng *v.* to get sick
9. 总是 zǒngshì *adv.* always
10. 生气 shēngqì *vo.* to get angry
11. 哭 kū *v.* to cry
12. 为了 wèile *conj.* for the purpose of, in order to
13. 关心 guānxīn *v.* to be concerned about
14. 平时 píngshí *tn.* usual; usually
15. 一定 yīdìng *adv.* definitely
16. 出事 chūshì *vo.* to have an accident
17. 后来 hòulái *tn.* afterwards
18. 难过 nánguò *adj.* to feel upset
19. 发现 fāxiàn *v.* to discover
20. 家人 jiārén *n.* family
21. 叔叔 shūshu *n.* uncle, father's younger brother
22. 带 dài *v.* to bring
23. 应该 yīnggāi *aux.* should, ought to
24. 听话 tīnghuà *vo.* to obey, lit. "to listen to (someone's) words"
25. 奇怪 qíguài *adj.* weird, strange
26. 里面 lǐmiàn *n.* inside

27. 有意思 yǒuyìsi *adj.* interesting
28. 想法 xiǎngfǎ *n.* thinking, idea
29. 草地 cǎodì *n.* lawn, grassy area
30. 记住 jìzhu *vc.* to remember, to memorize
31. 衣服 yīfu *n.* clothing
32. 健康 jiànkāng *adj.* healthy
33. 一直 yízhí *adv.* all along
34. 学会 xuéhuì *vc.* to learn
35. 往前 wǎngqián *phr.* forward
36. 样子 yàngzi *n.* appearance
37. 种 zhòng *v.* to plant (a tree or other plant)
38. 不怎么 bùzěnmē *adv.* not very
39. 做事 zuòshì *vo.* to do things
40. 墙 qiáng *n.* wall
41. 忘记 wàngjì *v.* to forget
42. 打理 dǎlǐ *v.* to take care of
43. 掉 diào *v.* to fall
44. 声 shēng *n.* noise, sound
45. 紧张 jǐnzhāng *adj.* nervous
46. 记得 jìde *v.* to remember
47. 试 shì *v.* to try
48. 打开 dǎkāi *vc.* to open
49. 方向 fāngxiàng *n.* direction
50. 不然 bùrán *conj.* otherwise
51. 树林 shùlín *n.* forest
52. 小心 xiǎoxīn *v.* to be careful
53. 亮 liàng *adj.* bright
54. 钥匙 yàoshi *n.* key
55. 秘密 mìmi *n.* secret
56. 关上 guānshang *vc.* to close
57. 工具 gōngjù *n.* tool
58. 问题 wèntí *n.* problem
59. 种子 zhǒngzi *n.* seed
60. 放心 fàngxīn *v.* to relax, to be relieved
61. 办法 bànfǎ *n.* way, method
62. 睡觉 shuìjiào *vo.* to sleep

63. 家具 jiājù *n.* furniture
 64. 左右 zuǒyòu *adv.* about, more or less, lit. “left-right”
 65. 常常 chángcháng *adv.* often
 66. 旅行 lǚxíng *v.* to travel
 67. 恨 hèn *v.* to hate
 68. 起床 qǐchuáng *vo.* to get out of bed
 69. 可能 kěnéng *adv.* possibly, maybe
 70. 走路 zǒulù *vo.* to walk
 71. 轮椅 lúnǐ *n.* wheelchair
 72. 认真 rènzhēn *adj.* serious, earnest
 73. 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	
Modifying nouns with phrase + “de”	[Phrase] + 的 + Noun
Measure words for counting	Number + Measure Word + Noun
“Not very” with “bu tai”	不太 + Adj.
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
“Zai” following verbs	Verb + 在 + Place
The “zui” superlative	最 + Adj.
Pronoun “mei” for “every”	每 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “every” with “mei” and “dou”	每 + Measure Word + Noun + 都 + Adj./Verb
Expressing “and” with “he”	Noun 1 + 和 + Noun 2
Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	一起 + Verb
The “all” adverb	都 + Verb/ 都 + Adj.

Expressing “in addition” with “haiyou”	Clause 1, 还有 + (,)+ Clause 2
“It seems” with “haoxiang”	好像……
“Not at all”	一点(儿)也不……
“If…, then…” with “ruguo…, jiu…”	如果……, 就……
Causative verbs	Noun 1 + 让/叫/请 + Noun 2……
Result complements “dao” and “jian”	Verb+ 到 / 见
Measure words to differentiate	这 / 那 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing ability or possibility	能 + Verb
“Both A and B” with “you”	又……又……
Expressing “and also” with “hai”	还 + Verb
“Always” with “zongshi”	总是 + Verb
At the time when	……的时候
Auxiliary verb “hui” for “will”	会 + Verb
Special verbs with “hen”	很 + Verb
Referring to “all” using “suoyou”	所有……都……
“Never” with “conglai”	从来不/从来没(有)
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Verb + 过
Comparing specifically with “xiang”	Noun 1 + 像 + Noun 2 + (那么……)
Explaining results with “suoyi”	……, 所以……
Expressing purpose with “weile”	为了 + Purpose + Verb
Expressing “as one likes” with “jiu”	还 + Verb/ Adj.
Continuation with “hai”	还 + Verb/ Adj.
Again in the past with “you”	又 + Verb
Explaining causes with “yinwei”	Result, 因为 + Reason
“Would like to” with “xiang”	想 + Verb
Wanting to do something with “yao”	要 + Verb
“Before” in general	以前 + Subj. + Verb + Obj.

“Even more” with “geng”	更 + Adj.
Expressing “with” with “gen”	跟……+ Verb
Change of state with “le”	……了
Expressing lateness with “cai”	才
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	大家 / 很多人 + 都……
Expressing earliness with “jiu”	就
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Complements with “dao”, “gei” and “zai”	V + 到 / 给 / 在……
Expressing duration with “le”	Verb + 了 + Duration
Sequencing past events with “houlai”	……, 后来……
Using “ji” to mean “several”	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb

CHAPTER 2

After a specific time	Time/Time phrase + 以后
Two words for “but”	Statement, 可是/但是 + transitional statement
“Yinggai” for should	应该 / 该 + Verb
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Yes-no questions with “ma”	……吗?
Modifying nouns with phrase + “de”	(Phrase) + 的 + Noun
“Already” with “yijing”	已经……了
Aspect particle “zhe”	Verb+ 着
Expressing permission	可以 + Verb
Basic comparisons with “yiyang”	Noun 1 + 跟 + Noun 2 + 一样 + Adj.
Before a specific time	Time / Verb+ 以前
Negative commands with “bie”	别 + Verb

CHAPTER 3

Positive and negative potential complements	Verb + 得 / 不……
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	有点 (儿) + Adj.
Using “dui”	对 + Noun……
Using “zai” with verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb
Ordinal numbers with “di”	第 + Number (+ Measure Word)
“Just” with “gang”	Subj. + 刚 + Verb
Expressing “a bit too”	Adj. + (一) 点儿
Verbing briefly	Verb + 一下
“Some” using “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Verbs with “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Target + Verb + Obj.
Expressing a learned skill	Subj. + 会 + Verb + Obj.
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	(一) 边 + Verb, (一) 边 + Verb
Suggestions with “ba”	……吧
Expressing location with “zai...shang/xia/li”	在 + Location + 上/下/里/旁边
“Shi... de” construction	是……的
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Adj. + 地 + Verb
Measure words for verbs	Verb + Number + Measure Word
“-wan” result complement	Subj. + Verb + 完 + Obj.
Verb reduplication with “yi”	Verb + 一 + Verb
Comparing “chao” “xiang” and “wang”	朝 vs 向 vs 往

CHAPTER 4

Expressing actions in progress	(正) 在 + Verb
Reduplication of adjectives	Adj. + Adj.
Softening speech with “ba”	……吧。
“Not very” with “bu zenme”	不怎么 + Adj.

Adding emphasis with “jiushi”	就是
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多
Appearance with “kanqilai”	看起来……
Basic comparisons with “bi”	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj.
Negative commands with “bu yao”	不要 + Verb
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去
Questions with “le ma”	Verb + 了 + 吗?
Result complement “-cuo”	Verb + 错

CHAPTER 5

Expressing “excessively” with “tai”	太 + Adj. + 了
“De” (modal particle)	……的
Expressing “otherwise” with “yaobu”	要不……

CHAPTER 6

Verbs with “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Target + Verb + Obj.
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CHAPTER 7

About to happen with “kuai... le”	快 + Verb/Verb Phrase + 了
Intensifying with “duo”	Subj. + 多 + Adj.

CHAPTER 8

“As long as” with “zhiyao”	只要……, 就……
Expressing duration (ongoing)	Verb + 了 + Duration + 了
“Never again” with “zai ye bu”	再也不 + Verb

CHAPTER 9

Expressing purpose with “weile”	为了 + Purpose + Verb
Mistakenly think that	以为……
Expressing duration of inaction	Subj. + Duration + 没 + Verb + Obj.+ 了

CHAPTER 10

Asking why with “zenme”	怎么……?
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CHAPTER 12

Softening the tone of questions with “ne”	……呢?
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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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