

Reader Level
Level One

Unique Characters
300

六十年的梦

Liùshí Nián de Mèng

The Sixty Year Dream

Washington Irving



Mandarin
Companion

Chinese Graded Readers

Published by Mind Spark Press LLC Shanghai, China

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Instructor and learner resources and traditional Chinese editions of the Mandarin Companion series are available at WWW.MANDARINCOMPANION.COM.

First paperback print edition 2013

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data
The Sixty Year Dream: Mandarin Companion Graded Readers: Level 1, Simplified Chinese Edition / Washington Irving; [edited by] John Pasden, Yang Renjun, Yu Cui Shanghai, China: Mind Spark Press LLC, 2013
Library of Congress Control Number: 2015901574

ISBN: 9781941875049 (Paperback)

ISBN: 9781941875179 (Paperback/traditional ch)

ISBN: 9780991005215 (ebook)

ISBN: 9780991005291 (ebook/traditional ch)

MCID: SSS20220926T170127

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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 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.

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 1 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 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

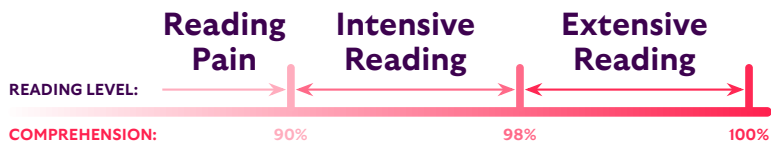
What is Extensive Reading?

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

“Rip Van Winkle,” the creation of Washington Irving, endured the passage of years much like the titular protagonist and remains widely celebrated in the author’s American homeland. However, this story is an interesting case for adaptation because Chinese folklore has a similar tale called 爛柯人 (Làn Kē Rén) that predates “Rip Van Winkle” by at least 1,000 years.

In that story, the main character, 王質 (Wáng Zhì), while traveling deep into the woods, came across some men playing chess. After eating something like a date the men gave him, he felt neither hunger nor thirst and became entranced with the game. After what seemed a short time, he came to his senses but the men were gone, the handle of his axe had rotted, and upon returning to his village, he discovered that decades had passed, his family had disappeared, and no one even remembered his name.

In the American story, Rip Van Winkle slept for 20 years, missing the American Revolution. For maximum dramatic effect, this adaptation settled on a period of 60 years, skipping the Sino-Japanese War, Chinese Civil War, and Cultural Revolution—fast forwarding to an industrialized and modernized China.

Character Adaptations

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

周学发 (Zhōu Xuéfā) – Rip Van Winkle

王小花 (Wáng Xiǎohuā) – Dame Van Winkle

小黑 (Xiǎo Hēi) – Wolf

周国平 (Zhōu Guópíng) – Rip Van Winkle, Jr.

周国英 (Zhōu Guóyīng) – Judith Gardenier

Cast of Characters



周学发

(Zhōu Xuéfā)



王小花

(Wáng Xiǎohuā)



小黑

(Xiǎo Hēi)



周国英

(Zhōu Guóyīng)



周欢欢

(Zhōu Huānhuān)



奇怪的老人

(Qíguài de Lǎorén)



刘老三

(Liú Lǎo Sān)



老张

(Lǎo Zhāng)



老胡

(Lǎo Hú)

A map of China and surrounding regions. Russia is to the north, Myanmar to the southwest, and the South China Sea to the south. A white box is overlaid on the left side of the map, containing text about locations in China. The map shows the borders of China, Russia, and Myanmar. The South China Sea is shown in blue. The text 'RUSSIA' is in the top right, and 'MYANMAR' is in the bottom right. The white box contains the title 'Locations' and two entries: '北京 (Běijīng)' and '香山 (Xiāng Shān)'. Each entry has a description of the location. The location 'Urumqi' is marked with a black dot in the northwest, and 'Lhasa' is marked with a black dot in the southwest.

RUSSIA

Locations

北京 (Běijīng)

Beijing (formerly known as Peking), home of the last emperor of China. Today it is the capital of modern-day China and the center of Chinese culture, politics, and education.

香山 (Xiāng Shān)

Formerly an imperial garden and today a popular tourist destination, Xiang Shan is part of the Western Hills mountains bordering Beijing. Literally translated meaning “Fragrant Mountains,” the name comes from the park’s highest peak, Xianglu Feng (Incense Burner Peak).

• Urumqi

• Lhasa

MYANMAR



One

1931 年

在北京，每个人都知道一个地方，叫香
山。香山看到了北京所有的变化¹。它看到
过住在北京的第²一³个皇⁴帝，也看到²过⁵最后
一个皇⁴帝。它看到²过²皇⁴帝的出⁶生，也看到
过皇²帝的死⁴。香山还看着每个北京人的生
活⁷，它看着他们哭，也看着他们笑。北
京人都觉得，香山像一个不会说话的

-
- 1 变化 (biànhuà) *n.* change, changes
2 看到过 (kàndào guò) *vc.* have seen (before)
3 第 (dì) *prefix* [ordinal marker for numbers, used in “first,” “second,” etc.]
4 皇帝 (huángdì) *n.* emperor

- 5 最后 (zuìhòu) *adj.* last, final
6 出生 (chūshēng) *n.* birth
7 生活 (shēnghuó) *n.* (daily) life

老朋友。

1931 年的北京跟以前很不一样了。⁸那时候，中国已经没有皇帝了，⁴人们都在想中国以后会怎么样。人们真希望，香山⁹可以告诉他们。

周学发是一个北京人，他的家在香山不远的地方。周学发的爸爸以前在有钱人家工作，每天总是很早出门，很晚才回家。但是周学发跟他爸爸很不一样，⁸他不关心家里的事，¹¹也不想工作，只喜欢玩，所以他一直没有钱。¹²周学发19 岁的时候，

8 跟……不一样 (gēn...bù yīyàng) *phrase*
not the same as...

9 希望 (xīwàng) *v.* to hope

10 总是 (zǒngshì) *adv.* always

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

12 一直 (yīzhí) *adv.* continuously, all along



他爸爸妈妈帮¹³他找了个老婆¹⁴，不久以后，
他的爸爸妈妈就死了。

周学发的老婆¹⁴叫王小花。王小花是一个
很有意思¹⁵的女人。她有点胖¹⁶，说话很大声。

13 帮 (bāng) *v.* to help

14 老婆 (lǎopo) *n.* wife (informal)

15 有意思 (yǒuyìsi) *adj.* interesting

16 胖 (pàng) *adj.* fat

跟别的中国女人不同，她从来不觉得女人应该听男人的话。因为周学发不喜欢在家里做事，也不想出去工作，所以家里的事总是他老婆做。这让王小花很生气，她总是对周学发大声说：“我从来没有见过像你这样的男人。你为什么从来不关心家里的事？如果我不跟你在一起，没有女人会要你。”每次王小花生气的时候，周学发就像个孩子一样，看着天，很长时间不说话。

周学发和王小花有一个儿子和一个女儿。儿子叫周国平，跟周学发很像，每天都

17 跟……不同 (gēn...bùtóng) *phrase*
different from...

18 听……的话 (tīng...dehuà) *phrase* to
listen to..., to do as... says

19 生气 (shēngqì) *v.* to get angry

在外面²⁰玩。他有很多朋友，他不喜欢跟周学发一起玩。女儿叫周国英，比周国平小，她不太喜欢出去玩，经常在家帮王小花¹³做事。周学发很喜欢他的女儿，在家的時候他经常跟女儿一起玩，给她做很多好²¹玩的东西。可是如果王小花看到他跟女儿一起玩，就会很生气¹⁹，因为她觉得周学发应该多做一点家里的事。

在家里，周学发只有一个朋友，就是他的狗²²。这只狗²²很黑，所以周学发叫它小黑。但是王小花很不喜欢小黑，她生气¹⁹的时候，也会大声对小黑说：“周学发

20 外面 (wàimiàn) *n.* outside22 狗 (gǒu) *n.* dog21 好玩 (hǎowán) *adj.* fun



不做事，都是你的错。”所以小黑很怕²³
王小花，每次看到王小花，都会小心地跑²⁴
开。²⁵

23 怕 (pà) v. to be afraid of

25 跑开 (pǎokāi) v. to run away

24 小心 (xiǎoxīn) v. to be careful

Two

茶馆里的朋友

别人都知道王小花喜欢生气，也都知
 道周学发不喜欢在家里做事，但是他们都
 很喜欢周学发。

周学发是个奇怪的人，他的想法跟别
 人很不一样。他在家的时候，什么事都不
 做，但是在外面，总是喜欢帮别人。他会帮
 老人买东西，帮女人打水、送水，给小孩子
 们做好玩的东西。周学发觉得，他帮别人

- 26 别人 (biérén) *n.* other people
 27 奇怪 (qíguài) *adj.* strange
 28 想法 (xiǎngfǎ) *n.* thinking, idea

- 29 打水 (dǎshuǐ) *vo.* to draw water (from a communal source)
 30 送水 (sòngshuǐ) *vo.* to deliver water

的时候很开心³¹。这就是奇怪的²⁷周学发，他
不喜欢做家里的事，可是他喜欢帮别人^{13 26}
做事。所有的人都很喜欢周学发。因为周
学发，别人²⁶也很喜欢小黑。

但是因为这样，王小花¹⁰总是生气¹⁹。如
果别人²⁶听说王小花又生气¹⁹了，那他们一定
不会觉得这是周学发的错。王小花¹⁹生气的
时候会说很多不好听³²的话。周学发不想听，
就和小黑一起出门。

周学发经常去一个茶馆³³。在茶馆³³里，他
有很多朋友。他们经常来茶馆³³里喝茶，

31 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy

32 不好听 (bùhǎotīng) *adj.* bad-sounding,
harsh, mean

33 茶馆 (cháguǎn) *n.* tea house



一边喝茶一边谈国家大事。

34

刘老三说：“我觉得以前比现在好。以前我爸爸为皇帝工作，我们家很有钱，我不用工作。现在如果我不工作，就没有钱。”

我希望⁹以后还会有皇帝⁴。”

老张说：“我觉得现在比以前好。以前所有的钱都在皇帝⁴手里，他高兴的时候，可以给我们很多东西。他不高兴的时候，可以让我们死。”

周学发说：“我觉得以前跟现在都一
样³⁵。以前，我们要听皇帝的话¹⁸，可能以后³⁶，我们要听下一个‘皇帝’¹⁸的话。所以，我们应该让自己开心³¹，不要去想别的事。”

老胡是这里最老的人。只有他认识字，别人²⁶都不认识字。人们都知道他看过很多书，所以很想听他的想法²⁸。老胡

35 跟……一样 (gēn...yíyàng) phrase the same as...

36 可能 (kěnéng) adv. possibly, maybe

说：“你们说的都不对。以后的中国跟以前不一样，跟现在也不一样。中国不可能再有皇帝。以后的中国不是一个人的中国，是我们每一个人的中国！”

周学发觉得很奇怪：“中国不是一个人的中国，是我们每一个人的中国。什么意思？”就在这个时候，王小花跑进来，看起来很生气，大声对周学发说：“我知道你又在这里喝茶。家里那么多事，你不做，你来这里谈中国的事？”周学发一下子不说话了，小黑也小心地走到别的地方。

然后，王小花又生气地对周学发的

37 看起来 (kànqǐlái) *v.* to appear, to look (a certain way)

38 一下子 (yíxiàzǐ) *adv.* all at once, all of a sudden



朋友说：“他从来不关心家里的事，每
天都出来玩，跟你们一样。他来茶馆喝茶、
谈国家大事，一定是你们让他来的。这都

11

35

33

34

是你们的错!” 周学发的朋友们不知道应该说什么，因为他们从来没有见过这样的中国女人，他们的老婆都很听话。周学发觉得这样很没面子，从那以后，他再也没有去过茶馆。

39 听话 (tīnghuà) *adj.* obedient

40 没面子 (méimiànzi) *phrase* humiliating,
lit. “to have no face”

41 再也没有 (zài yě méiyǒu) *phrase* never
again have

Three

去香山

Four

奇怪的老人

Five

老人不见了!

Six

这是北京吗？

Seven

什么？我死了？

Eight

1991 年

Nine

六十年的事

Ten

六十年的梦



Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 变化 biànhuà *n.* change, changes
2. 看到过 kàndào guò *vc.* have seen (before)
3. 第 dì *prefix* [ordinal marker for numbers, used in “first,” “second,” etc.]
4. 皇帝 huángdì *n.* emperor
5. 最后 zuìhòu *adj.* last, final
6. 出生 chūshēng *n.* birth
7. 生活 shēnghuó *n.* (daily) life
8. 跟……不一样 gēn…bù yíyàng *phrase* not the same as...
9. 希望 xīwàng *v.* to hope
10. 总是 zǒngshì *adv.* always
11. 关心 guānxīn *v.* to be concerned about
12. 一直 yízhí *adv.* continuously, all along
13. 帮 bāng *v.* to help
14. 老婆 lǎopo *n.* wife (informal)
15. 有意思 yǒuyìsi *adj.* interesting
16. 胖 pàng *adj.* fat
17. 跟……不同 gēn…bùtóng *phrase* different from...
18. 听……的话 tīng…dehuà *phrase* to listen to..., to do as... says
19. 生气 shēngqì *v.* to get angry
20. 外面 wàimiàn *n.* outside
21. 好玩 hǎowán *adj.* fun
22. 狗 gǒu *n.* dog
23. 怕 pà *v.* to be afraid of
24. 小心 xiǎoxīn *v.* to be careful
25. 跑开 pǎokāi *vc.* to run away

26. 别人 *biérén* *n.* other people
27. 奇怪 *qíguài* *adj.* strange
28. 想法 *xiǎngfa* *n.* thinking, idea
29. 打水 *dǎshuǐ* *vo.* to draw water (from a communal source)
30. 送水 *sòngshuǐ* *vo.* to deliver water
31. 开心 *kāixīn* *adj.* happy
32. 不好听 *bùhǎotīng* *adj.* bad-sounding, harsh, mean
33. 茶馆 *cháguǎn* *n.* tea house
34. 谈 *tán* *v.* to talk about, to discuss
35. 跟……一样 *gēn...yīyàng* *phrase* the same as...
36. 可能 *kěnéng* *adv.* possibly, maybe
37. 看起来 *kànqǐlai* *v.* to appear, to look (a certain way)
38. 一下子 *yíxiàzi* *adv.* all at once, all of a sudden
39. 听话 *tīnghuà* *adj.* obedient
40. 没面子 *méimiànzi* *phrase* humiliating, lit. “to have no face”
41. 再也没有 *zài yě méiyǒu* *phrase* never again have
42. 发生 *fāshēng* *v.* to happen, to occur
43. 木头 *mùtóu* *n.* wood
44. 小木头人 *xiǎo mùtóu rén* *phrase* little wooden figurine
45. 难过 *nánguò* *adj.* sad, upset
46. 地上 *dìshang* *n.* on the ground
47. 放心 *fàngxīn* *v.* to rest assured, to not worry
48. 好像 *hǎoxiàng* *v.* it seems that
49. 长得 *zhǎngde* *v.* to (physically) look (a certain way)
50. 好看 *hǎokàn* *adj.* good-looking
51. 漂亮 *piàoliang* *adj.* pretty
52. 记得 *jìde* *v.* to remember
53. 原因 *yuányīn* *n.* cause, reason
54. 花 *huā* *v.* to spend
55. 后来 *hòulái* *tn.* afterwards
56. 要不然 *yàoburán* *conj.* otherwise
57. 下山 *xiàshān* *vo.* to go down the mountain
58. 声音 *shēngyīn* *n.* sound, voice
59. 可怕 *kěpà* *adj.* frightening, scary
60. 马上 *mǎshàng* *adv.* right away
61. 刚才 *gāngcái* *tn.* just now

62. 平时 píngshí *adv.* usually, normally
63. 上山 shàngshān *vo.* to go up the mountain
64. 瘦 shòu *adj.* thin
65. 头发 tóufà *n.* hair
66. 拿不动 nábudòng *vc.* cannot move, cannot carry
67. 山洞 shāndòng *n.* cave
68. 发现 fāxiàn *v.* to discover
69. 天上 tiānshàng *n.* in heaven
70. 小河 xiǎohé *n.* stream, lit. “small river”
71. 样子 yàngzi *n.* appearance
72. 不好意思 bùhǎoyisi *adj.* embarrassed
73. 睡着 shuìzháo *vc.* to fall asleep
74. 睡醒 shuìxǐng *vc.* to awake from sleep
75. 出现 chūxiàn *v.* to appear
76. 过分 guòfèn *adj.* going too far
77. 八九十岁 bā-jiǔshí suì *phrase* 80 or 90 years old
78. 胡子 húzi *n.* beard
79. 破 pò *adj.* worn out
80. 变成 biànchéng *vc.* to turn into
81. 短 duǎn *adj.* short
82. 做梦 zuòmèng *vo.* to dream
83. 越来越 yuèlái yuè *adv.* more and more
84. 睡觉 shuìjiào *vo.* to sleep
85. 要饭的 yàofànde *n.* a beggar
86. 好奇 hàoqí *adj.* curious
87. 战争 zhànzhēng *n.* war
88. 活着 huózhe *vc.* living
89. 再也不 zài yě bù *phrase* never again
90. 方便 fāngbiàn *adj.* convenient
91. 自来水 zìláishuǐ *n.* tap water

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

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Pronoun “mei” for “every” | 每 + Measure Word (+ Noun) |
| Expressing “every” with “mei” and “dou” | 每……都…… |
| Measure words for counting | Number + Measure Word + Noun |
| Result complements “dao” and “jian” | Verb + 到 / 见 |
| Expressing completion with “le” | Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj. |
| Referring to “all” using “suoyou” | 所……都…… |
| Expressing experiences with “guo” | Verb + 过 |
| “Zai” following verbs | Verb + 在 + Place |
| Modifying nouns with phrase + “de” | (Phrase) + 的 + Noun |
| Ordinal numbers with “di” | 第 + Number (+ Measure Word) |
| Expressing “and also” with “hai” | 还 + Verb |

| | |
|---|---|
| Basic comparisons with “yiyang” | Noun 1 + 跟 + Noun 2 + 一样 + Adj. |
| “Already” with “yijing” | 已经……了 |
| In the future in general | 以后, …… |
| Auxiliary verb “hui” for “will” | 会 + Verb |
| “Before” in general | 以前, …… |
| Expressing location with “zai...shang/xia/li” | 在 + Location + 上/下/里/旁边 |
| “Always” with “zongshi” | 总是 + Verb. |
| Expressing lateness with “cai” | 才 |
| Two words for “but” | Statement, 可是/但是 + transitional statement |
| “Would like to” with “xiang” | 想 + Verb |
| “All along” with “yizhi” | Subj. + 一直 + Predicate |
| At the time when | ……的时候 |
| After a specific time | Time/Time phrase + 以后 |
| Expressing earliness with “jiu” | 就 |
| Modifying nouns with adjective + “de” | Adj. + 的 + Noun |
| Expressing “a little too” with “you dian” | 有点(儿) + Adj. |
| “Never” with “conglai” | 从来不/从来没(有) |
| “Yinggai” for should | 应该 / 该 + Verb |
| Explaining causes with “yinwei” | ……, 因为…… |
| Using “zai” with verbs | Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb |
| Referring to “all” using “suoyou” | 所有……都…… |
| Causative verbs | Noun 1 + 让/叫/请 + Noun 2…… |
| Using “dui” | 对 + Noun…… |
| “If..., then...” with “ruguo..., jiu...” | 如果……, 就…… |
| Expressing “with” with “gen” | 跟……+ Verb |
| Expressing “together” with “yiqi” | 一起 + Verb |

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Basic comparisons with “bi” | Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj. |
| “Not very” with “bu tai” | 不太 + Adj. |
| Verbs with “gei” | Subj. + 给 + Target + Verb + Obj. |
| Doing something more with “duo” | 多 + Verb |
| Measure words to differentiate | 这 / 那 + Measure Word (+ Noun) |
| Measure words for verbs | Verb + Number + Measure Word |
| Turning adjectives into adverbs | Adj. + 地 + Verb |

CHAPTER 2

| | |
|---|---|
| “Ye” and “dou” together | 也 + 都 + Verb / 也 + 都 + Adj. |
| Expressing “all” with “shenme dou” | 什么都/也 |
| Special verbs with “hen” | 很 + Verb |
| Again in the past with “you” | 又 + Verb |
| Simultaneous tasks with “yibian” | (一) 边 + Verb, (一) 边 + Verb |
| “For” with “wei” | 为 + Noun…… |
| Continuation with “hai” | 还 + Verb / Adj. |
| The “zui” superlative | 最 + Adj. |
| Again in the future with “zai” | 再 + Verb |
| Direction complement | Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去 |
| Appearance with “kanqilai” | 看起来…… |
| Adjectives with “name” and “zheme” | 那么 / 这么 + Adj. |
| Complements with “dao”, “gei” and “zai” | Verb + 到 / 给 / 在…… |
| “Shi... de” construction | Subj. + 是 + [information to be emphasized] + Verb + 的 |

CHAPTER 3

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Verb reduplication with “yi” | Verb + 一 + Verb |
| Verbing briefly with “yixia” | Verb + 一下 |

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| Expressing actions in progress | (正) 在 + Verb |
| Descriptive complements | Verb/Adj. + 得…… |
| Comparing “yihou” and “houlai” | 以后 Verbs 后来 |
| Adding emphasis with “jiushi” | 就是 + [focus] |

CHAPTER 4

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Expressing duration of inaction | Duration + 没 + Verb Phrase (+ 了) |
| Expressing “otherwise” with “yaobu” | 要不…… |
| Result complement “-cuo” | Verb + 错 |
| “Just now” with “gangcai” | 刚才 + Verb |
| “Even more” with “geng” | 更 + Adj. |
| Using “ji” to mean “several” | 几 + Measure Word + Noun |
| Before a specific time | Time / Verb + 以前 |
| Potential complement “bu dong” | Verb + 不动 |
| “Just” with “jiu” | Subj. + 就 + (只) + Verb; 就 + single things or persons |
| Expressing duration with “le” | Verb + 了 + Duration |

CHAPTER 5

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Asking why with “zenme” | 怎么……? |
| Separable verb | Verb-Obj. / Verb + ……+ Obj. |
| Negative commands with “bie” | 别 + Verb |

CHAPTER 6

| | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| “Both A and B” with “you” | 又……又…… |
| Expressing “in addition” with “haiyou” | Clause 1, 还有 + (,)+ Clause 2 |
| Sentence-final interjection “a” | ……啊! |
| “Some” using “yixie” | 一些 + Noun |

Expressing “more and more” with “yue…yue…” 越……越……

“De” (modal particle)

……的

CHAPTER 7

Questions with “le ma”

Verb + 了 + 吗?

Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”

Adj. + 的 + Noun

Indicating purpose or intent using “shi…de”

是……的

CHAPTER 9

Expressing purpose with “weile”

为了 + Purpose + Verb

“-wan” result complement

Subj. + Verb + 完 + Obj.

CHAPTER 10

“Some” with “youde”

有的 + Noun



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Acknowledgments

We are grateful to Yang Renjun, Yu Cui, Song Shen and the entire team at AllSet Learning for working on this project and contributing the perfect mix of talent to produce this series.

Thank you to our enthusiastic testers, Ben Slye, Brandon Sanchez, Logan Pauley, and Ashlyn Weber.

A special thanks to Rob Waring, to whom we refer as the “god-father of extensive reading” for his encouragement, expert advice, and support with this project.

Thank you to Heather Turner for being the inspiration behind the entire series, and to Song Shen for supporting us, handling all the small thankless tasks, and spurring us forward if we dared to fall behind.

Moreover, we will be forever grateful for Yuehua Liu and Chengzhi Chu for pioneering the first graded readers in Chinese and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their years of tireless work to bring these type of materials to the Chinese learning community.



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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