



# Pimsleur®

## Mandarin Chinese 3

Reading Booklet  
&  
Culture Notes

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Travelers should always check with their nation's State Department for current advisories on local conditions before traveling abroad.

Booklet Design: Maia Kennedy

© and ® Recorded Program 2003 Simon & Schuster, Inc.

© Reading Booklet 2016 Simon & Schuster, Inc.  
Pimsleur® is an imprint of Simon & Schuster Audio,  
a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. Mfg. in USA.

All rights reserved.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### VOICES

#### Audio Program

English-Speaking Instructor . . . . . *Ray Brown*

Mandarin-Speaking Instructor . . . . . *Haitao Gao*

Female Mandarin Speaker . . . . . *Mei Ling Diep*

Male Mandarin Speaker . . . . . *Hongyuan Weng*

#### Reading Lessons

Female Mandarin Speaker . . . . . *Xinxing Yang*

Male Mandarin Instructor . . . . . *Jay Jiang*

### AUDIO PROGRAM COURSE WRITERS

Yaohua Shi ♦ Christopher J. Gainty

### EDITORS

Joan Schoellner ♦ Beverly D. Heinle

### REVIEWER

Zhijie Jia

### READING LESSON WRITERS

Xinxing Yang ♦ Elizabeth Horber

### PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

Sarah H. McInnis

### RECORDING ENGINEERS

Peter S. Turpin ♦ Kelly Saux

Simon & Schuster Studios, Concord, MA

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Table of Contents

Introduction	
Mandarin .....	1
Pictographs .....	2
Traditional and Simplified Script.....	3
Pinyin Transliteration .....	3
Readings .....	4
Tonality .....	5
Tone Change or Tone Sandhi.....	8
Pinyin Pronunciation Chart .....	10
Lesson One.....	14
Translations .....	15
Lesson Two .....	16
Translations .....	17
Lesson Three .....	18
Translations .....	19
Lesson Four .....	20
Translations .....	21
Lesson Five.....	22
Translations .....	23
Lesson Six .....	24
Translations .....	25
Lesson Seven.....	26
Translations .....	28
Lesson Eight.....	29
Translations .....	30

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Lesson Nine .....	31
Translations .....	32
Lesson Ten .....	33
Translations .....	34
Lesson Eleven .....	35
Translations .....	36
Lesson Twelve .....	37
Translations .....	38
Lesson Thirteen .....	39
Translations .....	40
Lesson Fourteen .....	41
Translations .....	42
Lesson Fifteen .....	43
Translations .....	44
Lesson Sixteen .....	45
Translations .....	46
Lesson Seventeen .....	47
Translations .....	48
Lesson Eighteen .....	49
Translations .....	50
Lesson Nineteen .....	51
Translations .....	52
Lesson Twenty .....	53
Translations .....	54

# Mandarin Chinese 3

*To learn a language is to have one more window  
from which to look at the world. Chinese proverb*

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Mandarin

Mandarin Chinese, also known as Standard Chinese or Modern Standard Mandarin, is the sole official language of China and Taiwan, and one of the four official languages of Singapore. Although there are eight major Chinese dialects, Mandarin is native to approximately 70% of the population. Chinese who are educated through at least the primary grades speak Mandarin as well as the local dialects. However, due to the size of China and the ethnic diversity of its inhabitants, hundreds of other dialects are spoken in different areas. The dialects spoken today are based more on geography than on ethnicity. For instance, residents of Shanghai will speak *Wu*, and in some parts of China, particularly the central and southern areas, official business is transacted in the locally dominant language. Although people from different parts of China generally do not understand one another's spoken language, they all use Mandarin characters (*hanzi*) for writing.

Today's Mandarin is closely based on "northern speech" which was the *lingua franca* of the ruling class, spoken in Beijing, the capital during the Ming and Qing Dynasties. After the Nationalists overthrew the Qing Dynasty in 1912, government officials at first considered creating a new "national language" by adopting a mixture of dialects, but in the end it was decided to retain Mandarin as the "National Language." The Communists, who defeated the

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Nationalists in 1949, continued this policy, but they changed the name and coined the term *pu tong hua*, or "common speech," for "Mandarin." This is the word for Mandarin used throughout mainland China. In Hong Kong, however, as in Taiwan and most overseas communities, *guo yu*, the older term, continues to be used.

Pronunciation of the national language differs slightly geographically, and there are some significant regional vocabulary differences. The Nationalists, whose capital was the southern city of Nanjing, were influenced by southern dialects, primarily Cantonese. The Communists, whose capital is Beijing, were influenced by "northern speech."

## **Pictographs**

It is commonly thought that every Chinese character is a picture, or "pictograph," but only a few hundred of the several thousand characters are true pictographs. However, most of these are now written in such a way that it is difficult to immediately guess their meaning. There is also a very small group of characters called ideographs or ideograms, which represent ideas or objects directly. All other Chinese characters are combinations of these pictographs and basic ideographs.



# Mandarin Chinese 3

## **Traditional and Simplified Script**

In 1949 China's new government considered instituting an alphabet in place of the traditional characters, as a refutation of traditional or "feudal" culture. Instead, they decided to simplify the existing characters by reducing the number of strokes necessary to create them. By 1964, a list of 2,200 simplified characters was created for use as a modified script. Further simplification was briefly adopted, then abandoned, at the end of the Cultural Revolution in 1977.

Presently, simplified characters are used in mainland China and Singapore, although there is a movement for the restoration of traditional characters, especially in southern China. Hong Kong, Taiwan, and many overseas Chinese communities continue to use the traditional characters.

## **Pinyin Transliteration**

In Level 3 you will continue practicing reading-pinyin. It's the official phonetic system for transcribing pronunciations of the Chinese characters into a Latin alphabet, and will give you a way to "read" an approximation of the sounds in written form. In China it's often used in elementary schools as a first step toward learning to read. It is also used to alphabetically order dictionary entries, and

# Mandarin Chinese 3

it is used for entering Chinese text into computers as well as communicating via email and text messaging. In many large cities, street signs are often displayed in both Chinese characters and pinyin to aid foreign visitors.

## Readings

There are twenty Reading Lessons in all. Although the pinyin alphabet may appear similar to the Latin alphabet, the sounds of some letters in pinyin are quite different. You will learn to sound out the pinyin starting with individual letters, then letter combinations, words, then word combinations and short phrases, building in length until you will be sounding out complete sentences. Keep in mind that learning to read pinyin is not the same as learning to read the Chinese characters, hanzi. These lessons are designed to give you an easy way to "read" the Chinese sounds; the Simplified Chinese characters are displayed as well.

Feel free to repeat each Reading Lesson until you feel comfortable proceeding to the next. With a little effort, you will be astonished at how quickly you are able to sound out the Mandarin words. A pronunciation chart is included which is for reference

# Mandarin Chinese 3

only, however, as all the information you need to do the readings is contained in the audio.

Although translations are included, the meanings at this point are secondary, and we recommend that you look at them only after first attempting to sound out the phrases with Mandarin pronunciation. Each item has been selected especially to give you practice in the tones, the sounds, and the sound combinations. You should read aloud, as directed, which will help to lodge the sounds in your memory. Before long you will be reading pinyin aloud without an American accent.

## **Tonality**

Chinese is a tonal language. This means that in addition to the sounds of the consonants and vowels, the tone with which a syllable is pronounced helps to determine its meaning. The Chinese languages are almost exclusively made up of one-syllable words, composed of an initial consonant sound followed by the syllable's main vowel, sometimes in combination with another consonant or vowel. Longer words do exist, but almost all are compound words, formed by combining one-syllable words.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

The tone is determined by the pronunciation of the syllable's main vowel. Each tone has a name which describes the motion of the sound: falling, rising, or even. With the tones, several meanings can be assigned to any one syllable. For example, when pronounced using a falling-rising tone, the word *nar* means "where." However, when pronounced with just a falling tone, it means "there."

There are four main tones used in speaking Mandarin – high, rising, falling-rising, falling – and a fifth, referred to as a soft or neutral tone. This last tone is used for the second syllable in a set of doubled characters, as well as for the final syllable (or question word) at the end of a query. This neutral tone doesn't have a marker. For example, in the questions, *ni ne?* (How about you?) and *hao ma?* (OK?), the syllables *ne* and *ma* are pronounced using this soft, falling sound, as if the sound is fading away. Here is an example of one word with different meanings depending on the tone with which it is pronounced:

- 1st tone: high                      *shī* (poem)
- 2nd tone: rising                    *shí* (ten or time)
- 3rd tone: falling-rising        *shǐ* (history)
- 4th tone: falling                  *shì* (to be)

# Mandarin Chinese 3

There are tonal markers to indicate the tones of the vowels. In these lessons, we will include them for the four tones above the vowels they affect. Pay close attention to the markers because they can change the meaning of a word completely. It may take a while before you hear the differences, and we encourage you to repeat each lesson as often as necessary, in order to both familiarize yourself with the Mandarin sounds represented by the letters and to practice the tones.

All tonal markers are placed above the single vowels (a, o, e, i, u, ü). The chart that follows uses the vowel "a" as an example.

Tone #	English Name	Marker shown with "a"
1.	<b>High-level tone</b> – Starts with normal vocal range of the speaker and stays even.	ā
2.	<b>Rising tone</b> – Starts at normal vocal range, then rises up.	á
3.	<b>Falling-rising tone</b> – Starts at normal vocal range, then falls down and rises up.	ǎ
4.	<b>Falling tone</b> – Starts at normal vocal range, then falls down.	à

# Mandarin Chinese 3

In Mandarin the absence of a tonal marker above a vowel, as in "a," indicates a neutral tone. This neutral tone starts with a slightly soft sound and is shorter than the sounds of the tones listed above.

## Tone Change or Tone Sandhi

Although each Chinese syllable standing alone has a specific tone, in the flow of speech the tone of a syllable can change depending on the tone of the following syllable. In some Chinese dialects, tone change is common, and there are complex rules governing it. In contemporary Mandarin, however, it is less common than in other dialects, and there are only a few rules to remember. The first governs falling-rising or 3<sup>rd</sup> tones when they are spoken in sequence:

1. When two falling-rising or 3<sup>rd</sup> tones occur together, the first falling-rising tone becomes a rising, or 2<sup>nd</sup> tone. The second remains a falling-rising or 3<sup>rd</sup> tone. For example, "very" and "good" are both falling-rising, 3<sup>rd</sup> tones by themselves, but when spoken together as *hen hao*, the first word changes to a rising or 2<sup>nd</sup> tone, while the second keeps its original falling-rising, 3<sup>rd</sup> tone.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

2. When three falling-rising tones are spoken one after the other, the first two become rising or 2<sup>nd</sup> tones, while the third remains a falling-rising tone.
3. When four falling-rising tones occur one after the other, the first three change to rising or 2<sup>nd</sup> tones, while the fourth remains a falling-rising or 3<sup>rd</sup> tone.

In contemporary Mandarin, tone change is also associated with two specific characters. The first of these is *yi* (one).

1. When it is by itself or at the end of a word it is a high level or 1<sup>st</sup> tone.
2. When *yi* comes before a falling or 4<sup>th</sup> tone, it changes to a rising or 2<sup>nd</sup> tone, for example, *yi* (2<sup>nd</sup>) *yue* (4<sup>th</sup>) ("one month").
3. When *yi* comes before any of the three remaining tones (high, rising, or falling-rising), it changes to a falling or 4<sup>th</sup> tone.

The second character associated with tone change in contemporary Mandarin is *bu* ("no" or "not").

# Mandarin Chinese 3

1. When *bu* stands alone, it is a falling or 4<sup>th</sup> tone.
2. It changes to a rising or 2<sup>nd</sup> tone only when it comes before another falling or 4<sup>th</sup> tone.
3. When combined with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> tones, *bu* remains a falling tone.

The various tone changes occur in speech only. In writing, the original tone is retained. In time, these changes will become automatic and natural.

## Pinyin Pronunciation Chart

*(where no sound is indicated, the sound matches English)*

Letter	Sound
a	"a" in "father"
b	
c	"ts" in "boots"
ch	"ch" in "church"
d	
e	"ir" in "girl"
f	
g	"g" in "go"
h	



# Mandarin Chinese 3

Letter	Sound
i	"ee" as in "feet" but after "r" sounds like the "ir" in "shirt"
j	
k	
l	
m	
n	
o	"o" in "no"
p	
q	"ch" in "cheese"
r	"r" as in "war" or "run" (before an "i" it sounds somewhere between an "r" and "j" or the "s" in "leisure")
s	"s" as in "seed"
sh	"sh" as in "shine"
t	
u	"oo" as in "boot"
ü	similar to the "u" sound in "you"
x	the sound in between "s" and "sh"
w	
y	"y" as in "yes"
z	"ds" as in "lads"
zh	"j" as in "jam"

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Letter	Sound Combinations
ai	"eye"
ei	"ay" in "say"
ao	"ow" in "how"
ou	"o" in "dough"
ia	"ee-ya"
ie	"ee-yeah"
iu	"ee-oo"
ua	"wa" like the end of "aqua"
uo	"wo" in "won't"
üe	"u" in "you" followed by the sound "e" - "ee"
iao	like "meow"
iou (iu)	"eew"
uai	"why"
uei (ui)	"way"
an	"un" in "until"
en	"en" in "hen"
in	"een" in "seen"
ün	"une" in "tune"
ang	"ong" in "song"
eng	"ung" in "sung"
ing	"ing" in "sing"
ong	like "long," except with the "o" pronounced "oh"
ian	"yan"

# Mandarin Chinese 3

<b>Letter</b>	<b>Sound Combinations</b>
uan	"wan"
uen (un)	similar to "one"
üan	"u" in "you" plus "an"
iang	"young"
iong	"yong," with the "o" pronounced "oh"
uang	"wong"
ueng	like "wor" in "work," plus an "ng" at the end
er	sounds like "are," but is usually linked to the previous word to form an "er" sound

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson One

- |                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1. guì lín                      | 桂林      |
| 2. sū zhōu yuán lín             | 苏州园林    |
| 3. lì jiāng gǔ chéng            | 丽江古城    |
| 4. gǔ làng yǔ                   | 鼓浪屿     |
| 5. zhāng jiā jiè                | 张家界     |
| 6. dà yàn tǎ                    | 大雁塔     |
| 7. shān hǎi guān                | 山海关     |
| 8. lóng mén shí kū              | 龙门石窟    |
| 9. dūn huáng bì huà             | 敦煌壁画    |
| 10. chéng dé bì shǔ shān zhuāng | 承德避暑山庄  |
| 11. zhōng guó dà fàn diàn       | 中国大饭店   |
| 12. xiāng gé lǐ lā jiǔ diàn     | 香格里拉酒店  |
| 13. jià rì jiǔ diàn             | 假日酒店    |
| 14. kǎi yuè jiǔ diàn            | 凯悦酒店    |
| 15. wàn háo jiǔ diàn            | 万豪酒店    |
| 16. xǐ lái dēng jiǔ diàn        | 喜来登酒店   |
| 17. nǐ xiǎng qù zhōng guó ma?   | 你想去中国吗? |
| 18. wǒ fēi cháng xiǎng qù.      | 我非常想去。  |
| 19. wǒ qù mǎi jī piào.          | 我去买机票。  |
| 20. nǐ qù dìng jiǔ diàn.        | 你去订酒店。  |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson One Translations

1. Guilin, a tourist attraction in Guangxi Province
2. Suzhou gardens
3. Lijiang Old Town, a tourist attraction in Yunnan Province
4. a famous island in Fujian Province
5. a tourist attraction in Hunan Province
6. Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, a tourist attraction in Shaanxi Province
7. Shanhai pass, the Eastern pass of the Great Wall in Hebei Province
8. Longmen Grottoes, a tourist attraction in Henan Province
9. Dunhuang Frescoes, a tourist attraction in Gansu Province
10. Chengde Mountain Resort, also referred to as Rehe Imperial Palace in Hebei Province
11. China World Hotel in Beijing
12. Shangri-La Hotel
13. Holiday Inn®
14. Hyatt Hotel®
15. Marriott Hotel®
16. Sheraton Hotel®
17. Do you want to go to China?
18. I really want to go.
19. I'm going to buy airplane tickets.
20. You'll book a hotel.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Two

- |                        |        |
|------------------------|--------|
| 1. lǚ yóu tuán         | 旅游团    |
| 2. dǎo yóu             | 导游     |
| 3. yù dìng             | 预订     |
| 4. wǎng shàng yù dìng  | 网上预订   |
| 5. jǐng diǎn           | 景点     |
| 6. míng shèng gǔ jì    | 名胜古迹   |
| 7. sì miào             | 寺庙     |
| 8. tǎ                  | 塔      |
| 9. tíng tái lóu gé     | 亭台楼阁   |
| 10. gōng yuán          | 公园     |
| 11. fēng jǐng          | 风景     |
| 12. zhēn měi a!        | 真美啊！   |
| 13. xiū xi yí xià.     | 休息一下。  |
| 14. měi shí            | 美食     |
| 15. péng yǒu men hǎo!  | 朋友们好！  |
| 16. wǒ shì dǎo yóu.    | 我是导游。  |
| 17. qǐng gēn wǒ lái.   | 请跟我来。  |
| 18. zhè biān zǒu.      | 这边走。   |
| 19. qǐng kàn yuǎn chù. | 请看远处。  |
| 20. zhù lǚ tú yú kuài! | 祝旅途愉快！ |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Two Translations

1. tour group
2. tour guide
3. reservation
4. online booking
5. tourist attractions
6. places of historic interest and scenic beauty
7. temple
8. pagoda
9. pavilions, terraces, open halls, and towers
10. park
11. scenery
12. So beautiful!
13. Take a break.
14. gourmet food
15. Hello friends!
16. I'm the tour guide.
17. Please follow me.
18. Walk this way.
19. Please look far away.
20. Wish you a pleasant trip!

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Three

- |                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. gè wèi chéng kè, ...             | 各位乘客, ...  |
| 2. qǐng zhù yì.                     | 请注意。       |
| 3. zhōng diǎn zhàn ...              | 终点站 ...    |
| 4. jiù yào dào le.                  | 就要到了。      |
| 5. qǐng ná hǎo ...                  | 请拿好 ...    |
| 6. zì jǐ de wù pǐn, ...             | 自己的物品, ... |
| 7. zhǔn bèi xià chē.                | 准备下车。      |
| 8. zhuǎn chē                        | 转车         |
| 9. qǐng dào fú wù tái.              | 请到服务台。     |
| 10. yuè tái                         | 月台         |
| 11. huǒ chē wù diǎn le.             | 火车误点了。     |
| 12. qù běi jīng de ...              | 去北京的 ...   |
| 13. háng bān ...                    | 航班 ...     |
| 14. àn shí qǐ fēi.                  | 按时起飞。      |
| 15. zhuǎn jī                        | 转机         |
| 16. qǐng dào dēng jī kǒu.           | 请到登机口。     |
| 17. qǐng wèn, tā zài jiǎng shén me? | 请问, 他在讲什么? |
| 18. tā zài jiǎng ...                | 他在讲 ...    |
| 19. chéng jī zhù yì shì xiàng.      | 乘机注意事项。    |
| 20. ào, shì zhè yàng.               | 噢, 是这样。    |



# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Three Translations

1. Dear passengers, ...
2. attention please.
3. The final destination ...
4. is coming up soon.
5. Please pick up ...
6. your luggage, ...
7. be ready to get off the train.
8. transfer to another train/bus
9. Please come to the service desk.
10. platform
11. The train is delayed.
12. To Beijing's ...
13. flight ...
14. takeoff is on time.
15. transfer to another flight
16. Please go to the gate.
17. Excuse me, what is he talking about?
18. He is talking about ...
19. the rules of taking flight.
20. Oh, that's it.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Four

- |                                   |             |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. rù kǒu                         | 入口          |
| 2. chū kǒu                        | 出口          |
| 3. xún wèn chù                    | 询问处         |
| 4. qǐng wù xī yān                 | 请勿吸烟        |
| 5. qǐng wù rù nèi                 | 请勿入内        |
| 6. jìn zhǐ rù nèi                 | 禁止入内        |
| 7. tíng chē chǎng                 | 停车场         |
| 8. zhù yì                         | 注意          |
| 9. dāng xīn huā diē               | 当心滑跌        |
| 10. qǐng pái duì.                 | 请排队。        |
| 11. qián tái jiē dài              | 前台接待        |
| 12. dēng jì jìn rù.               | 登记进入。       |
| 13. wèi shēng jiān                | 卫生间         |
| 14. nán wèi shēng jiān            | 男卫生间        |
| 15. nǚ wèi shēng jiān             | 女卫生间        |
| 16. qǐng wèn, huì yì shì zài nǎr? | 请问, 会议室在哪儿? |
| 17. zài nà biān.                  | 在那边。        |
| 18. jīng guò jiē dài shì.         | 经过接待室。      |
| 19. mén kǒu yǒu pái zi.           | 门口有牌子。      |
| 20. zhī dào le, xiè xiè nǐ.       | 知道了, 谢谢你。   |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Four Translations

1. Entrance
2. Exit
3. Information Center
4. No Smoking
5. Please Do Not Enter
6. Do Not Enter
7. parking lot
8. Caution
9. Beware Slippery
10. Please line up.
11. reception
12. Register to enter.
13. restroom
14. Male Restroom
15. Female Restroom
16. Excuse me, where is the conference room?
17. It's over there.
18. Pass the reception room.
19. There is a sign by the door.
20. I got it, thank you.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Five

- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. jiāo tōng                 | 交通        |
| 2. fāng xiàng                | 方向        |
| 3. xíng rén                  | 行人        |
| 4. jiāo tōng jǐng chá        | 交通警察      |
| 5. ràng                      | 让         |
| 6. tíng                      | 停         |
| 7. jìn zhǐ tōng xíng         | 禁止通行      |
| 8. jiāo tōng dēng            | 交通灯       |
| 9. hóng dēng                 | 红灯        |
| 10. huáng dēng               | 黄灯        |
| 11. lǜ dēng                  | 绿灯        |
| 12. zhuǎn wān dēng           | 转弯灯       |
| 13. xiàng zuǒ zhuǎn          | 向左转       |
| 14. xiàng yòu zhuǎn          | 向右转       |
| 15. zhí xíng                 | 直行        |
| 16. kāi chē qù kāi huì.      | 开车去开会。    |
| 17. jiāo tōng zhēn yōng jǐ.  | 交通真拥挤。    |
| 18. zuǒ zhuǎn dēng liàng le. | 左转灯亮了。    |
| 19. gāi xiàng zuǒ zhuǎn.     | 该向左转。     |
| 20. zāo gāo, kāi cuò lù le!  | 糟糕, 开错路了! |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Five Translations

1. traffic
2. direction
3. pedestrian
4. traffic control officers
5. Yield
6. Stop
7. Do Not Enter
8. traffic light
9. red light
10. yellow light
11. green light
12. turn signal light
13. to turn left
14. to turn right
15. to go straight
16. (I) will drive to the meeting.
17. Traffic is very heavy.
18. The left turn signal light is on.
19. Should turn left.
20. Oops, we're on the wrong way!

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Six

- |                                 |           |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. dàn huā tāng                 | 蛋花汤       |
| 2. liáng bàn hǎi dài sī         | 凉拌海带丝     |
| 3. xiǎo lóng tāng bāo           | 小笼汤包      |
| 4. qīng chǎo cài miáo           | 清炒菜苗      |
| 5. gōng bǎo jī dīng             | 宫保鸡丁      |
| 6. huí guō ròu                  | 回锅肉       |
| 7. má pó dòu fu                 | 麻婆豆腐      |
| 8. cōng bào niú ròu             | 葱爆牛肉      |
| 9. bǐ sà bǐng                   | 比萨饼       |
| 10. sān míng zhì                | 三明治       |
| 11. hàn bǎo bāo                 | 汉堡包       |
| 12. shǔ tiáo                    | 薯条        |
| 13. zhá jī tuǐ                  | 炸鸡腿       |
| 14. kě kǒu kě lè                | 可口可乐      |
| 15. xuě bì                      | 雪碧        |
| 16. zhōng guó fàn zhēn hǎo chī. | 中国饭真好吃。   |
| 17. wǒ qǐng kè.                 | 我请客。      |
| 18. wǒ mǎi dān.                 | 我买单。      |
| 19. bù hǎo yì si, ...           | 不好意思, ... |
| 20. ràng nǐ pò fèi le.          | 让你破费了。    |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Six Translations

1. egg drop soup
2. seaweed salad
3. steamed mini juicy pork buns
4. sautéed baby bok choy
5. kung pao chicken
6. twice cooked pork
7. Mapo tofu
8. beef with onion and green scallion
9. pizza
10. sandwich
11. hamburger
12. French fries
13. fried chicken legs
14. Coca Cola®
15. Sprite®
16. Chinese food is really delicious.
17. My treat.
18. I'll pay the bill.
19. I'm sorry, ...
20. to let you spend for me.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Seven

1. nǐ hǎo! wǒ shì sū gé lín.  
你好！我是苏格林。
2. hěn gāo xìng jiàn dào nǐ.  
很高兴见到你。
3. wǒ jiào wáng huá.  
我叫王华。
4. nǐ shì xīn lái de?  
你是新来的？
5. shì de. wǒ shì liǎng tiān qián dào běi jīng de.  
是的。我是两天前到北京的。
6. wǒ shì cóng bō shì dùn lái de.  
我是从波士顿来的。
7. wǒ jiāng yào zài zhōng guó ...  
我将要在中国 ...
8. shàng yì nián xué.  
上一年学。
9. wǒ hái méi yù jiàn ...  
我还没遇见 ...
10. hěn duō rén.  
很多人。
11. méi wèn tí.  
没问题。



# Mandarin Chinese 3

12. wǒ huì bāng zhù nǐ de.  
我会帮助你的。
13. wǒ yě shì xué sheng.  
我也是学生。
14. wǒ zhèng zài hē kā fēi ...  
我正在喝咖啡…
15. hé chī diǎn xīn.  
和吃点心。
16. nǐ xiǎng yào diǎn shén me ma?  
你想要点什么吗?
17. qǐng gěi wǒ yào yì bēi chá.  
请给我要一杯茶。
18. wǒ hái yào yì fèn bāo zi shì shì.  
我还要一份儿包子试试。
19. xiè xiè nǐ yuàn yì bāng zhù wǒ.  
谢谢你愿意帮助我。
20. bú kè qì. nǐ huì xǐ huān zhè lǐ de.  
不客气。你会喜欢这里的。

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Seven Translations

1. Hello! I'm Sue Green.
2. Pleased to meet you.
3. I'm Wang Hua.
4. You're new here?
5. Yes. I arrived two days ago in Beijing.
6. I'm from Boston.
7. I will be in China ...
8. a year for school.
9. I haven't yet met ...
10. many people.
11. No problem.
12. I'll help you.
13. I'm a student too.
14. I'm having coffee ...
15. and some pastry.
16. Would you like something?
17. Tea for me, please.
18. And I'll try a steamed bun.
19. Thank you for offering to help me.
20. Not at all. You'll like it here.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Eight

- |     |                             |           |
|-----|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | tú shū guǎn                 | 图书馆       |
| 2.  | guǎn lǐ yuán                | 管理员       |
| 3.  | jiè shū                     | 借书        |
| 4.  | huán shū                    | 还书        |
| 5.  | jiè shū kǎ                  | 借书卡       |
| 6.  | jiào kē shū                 | 教科书       |
| 7.  | wén yì shū jí               | 文艺书籍      |
| 8.  | xiǎo shuō                   | 小说        |
| 9.  | zá zhì                      | 杂志        |
| 10. | bào kān                     | 报刊        |
| 11. | huà bào                     | 画报        |
| 12. | ér tóng dú wù               | 儿童读物      |
| 13. | zì diǎn                     | 字典        |
| 14. | cān kǎo shū                 | 参考书       |
| 15. | bǎi kē quán shū             | 百科全书      |
| 16. | wǒ xiǎng jiè ...            | 我想借 ...   |
| 17. | zhè běn shū.                | 这本书。      |
| 18. | hǎo de.                     | 好的。       |
| 19. | qǐng zài liǎng zhōu hòu ... | 请在两周后 ... |
| 20. | huán huí lái.               | 还回来。      |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Eight Translations

1. library
2. librarian
3. borrow book(s)
4. return book(s)
5. library card(s)
6. textbook(s)
7. book(s) of literature and art
8. novel(s)
9. magazine(s)
10. newspaper(s)
11. illustrated magazine(s)
12. children's book(s)
13. dictionary(ies)
14. reference book(s)
15. encyclopedia(s)
16. I want to borrow ...
17. this book.
18. All right.
19. Please after two weeks ...
20. return it.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Nine

- |                              |           |
|------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. qǐ chuáng                 | 起床        |
| 2. shuā yá                   | 刷牙        |
| 3. xǐ liǎn                   | 洗脸        |
| 4. chī zǎo fàn               | 吃早饭       |
| 5. hē niú nǎi                | 喝牛奶       |
| 6. shàng xué                 | 上学        |
| 7. shàng bān                 | 上班        |
| 8. fàng xué                  | 放学        |
| 9. xià bān                   | 下班        |
| 10. zuò zuò yè               | 做作业       |
| 11. dú shū                   | 读书        |
| 12. xǐ tóu                   | 洗头        |
| 13. xǐ zǎo                   | 洗澡        |
| 14. shuì jiào                | 睡觉        |
| 15. jīn tiān shì xiū xi rì.  | 今天是休息日。   |
| 16. kě yǐ zuò yí dùn ...     | 可以做一顿 ... |
| 17. hǎo chī de fàn.          | 好吃的饭。     |
| 18. tài hǎo le!              | 太好了！      |
| 19. wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎo zi.    | 我想吃饺子。    |
| 20. nà jiù yì qǐ lái zuò ba. | 那就一起来做吧。  |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Nine Translations

1. get up
2. brush teeth
3. wash face
4. have breakfast
5. drink milk
6. go to school
7. go to work
8. To dismiss students at the end of the school day
9. to get off work
10. do homework
11. read books
12. wash hair
13. take a shower or bath
14. sleep
15. Today is a rest day.
16. I can make a ...
17. delicious meal.
18. Great!
19. I want to eat dumplings.
20. Then let's make them together.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Ten

- |     |                            |          |
|-----|----------------------------|----------|
| 1.  | rì cháng yòng pǐn          | 日常用品     |
| 2.  | jìng zi                    | 镜子       |
| 3.  | hù fū shuāng               | 护肤霜      |
| 4.  | mào zi                     | 帽子       |
| 5.  | wéi jīn                    | 围巾       |
| 6.  | yǔ sǎn                     | 雨伞       |
| 7.  | shǒu tí bāo                | 手提包      |
| 8.  | yǎn jìng                   | 眼镜       |
| 9.  | zhào xiàng jī              | 照像机      |
| 10. | zhào piān                  | 照片       |
| 11. | lù xiàng                   | 录像       |
| 12. | rì lì                      | 日历       |
| 13. | xiān huā                   | 鲜花       |
| 14. | jiǔ                        | 酒        |
| 15. | zì xíng chē                | 自行车      |
| 16. | qì chē                     | 汽车       |
| 17. | gāi chū mén le.            | 该出门了。    |
| 18. | wǒ zhǎo bú dào shǒu jī le. | 我找不到手机了。 |
| 19. | gǎn kuài qù zhǎo.          | 赶快去找。    |
| 20. | ào, zài bèi bāo li.        | 噢, 在背包里。 |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Ten Translations

1. daily necessities
2. mirror
3. skin lotion
4. hat
5. scarf
6. umbrella
7. handbag
8. eyeglasses
9. camera
10. photo
11. video
12. calendar
13. fresh flowers
14. alcohol (all types)
15. bicycle
16. car
17. We should leave now.
18. I can't find my cellphone.
19. Hurry and find it.
20. Oh, it was in my backpack.



# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Eleven

- |     |                        |           |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | gǎn jué                | 感觉        |
| 2.  | bǎo le                 | 饱了        |
| 3.  | è le                   | 饿了        |
| 4.  | kě le                  | 渴了        |
| 5.  | bù kě                  | 不渴        |
| 6.  | lèi                    | 累         |
| 7.  | kùn                    | 晒         |
| 8.  | xǐ huan                | 喜欢        |
| 9.  | bù xǐ huan             | 不喜欢       |
| 10. | gāo xìng               | 高兴        |
| 11. | nán guò                | 难过        |
| 12. | zháo jí                | 着急        |
| 13. | bù jí                  | 不急        |
| 14. | nǐ men qù nǎr le?      | 你们去哪儿了?   |
| 15. | qù pá le shān.         | 去爬了山。     |
| 16. | nǐ xǐ huan pá shān ma? | 你喜欢爬山吗?   |
| 17. | wǒ hěn xǐ huan.        | 我很喜欢。     |
| 18. | lèi bú lèi?            | 累不累?      |
| 19. | tiān qì hěn rè, ...    | 天气很热, ... |
| 20. | wǒ tè bié lèi.         | 我特别累。     |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Eleven Translations

1. to feel or have feelings
2. full after eating
3. hungry
4. thirsty
5. not thirsty
6. tired
7. sleepy
8. like
9. don't like
10. happy
11. sad
12. worried
13. not worried
14. Where did you go?
15. We went hiking.
16. Do you like hiking?
17. I like it very much.
18. Are you tired?
19. The weather was very hot, ...
20. I am VERY tired.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Twelve

- |     |                                       |             |
|-----|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1.  | ài hào                                | 爱好          |
| 2.  | kàn diàn yǐng                         | 看电影         |
| 3.  | kàn xì                                | 看戏          |
| 4.  | tīng yīn yuè huì                      | 听音乐会        |
| 5.  | chàng gē                              | 唱歌          |
| 6.  | tiào wǔ                               | 跳舞          |
| 7.  | xià qí                                | 下棋          |
| 8.  | tán gāng qín                          | 弹钢琴         |
| 9.  | lā xiǎo tí qín                        | 拉小提琴        |
| 10. | chuī dí zi                            | 吹笛子         |
| 11. | qí mǎ                                 | 骑马          |
| 12. | pǎo bù                                | 跑步          |
| 13. | dǎ pái qiú                            | 打排球         |
| 14. | dǎ pīng pāng qiú                      | 打乒乓球        |
| 15. | nǐ yǒu shén me ài hào?                | 你有什么爱好?     |
| 16. | wǒ xǐ huan dǎ wǎng qiú.<br>nǐ ne?     | 我喜欢打网球。你呢?  |
| 17. | wǒ yě xǐ huan.                        | 我也喜欢。       |
| 18. | xiàn zài zhèng hǎo<br>yǒu kòng.       | 现在正好有空。     |
| 19. | zán men qù liàn lian, zěn<br>me yang? | 咱们去练练, 怎么样? |
| 20. | tài hǎo le! zǒu!                      | 太好了! 走!     |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Twelve Translations

1. hobbies
2. watch movies
3. watch plays
4. go to concerts
5. singing
6. dancing
7. play chess
8. play piano
9. play violin
10. play Chinese flute
11. horseback riding
12. running
13. play volleyball
14. play ping-pong / table tennis
15. What kind of hobbies do you have?
16. I like to play tennis. How about you?
17. I also like it.
18. It's the break time now.
19. Let's go to practice. What do you think?
20. That's great! Let's go.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Thirteen

- |                               |         |
|-------------------------------|---------|
| 1. guā fēng                   | 刮风      |
| 2. dà wù                      | 大雾      |
| 3. bīng báo                   | 冰雹      |
| 4. tiān qì qíng lǎng          | 天气晴朗    |
| 5. wū yún mǎn tiān            | 乌云满天    |
| 6. qíng zhuǎn yīn             | 晴转阴     |
| 7. qì wēn xià jiàng           | 气温下降    |
| 8. qì wēn shēng gāo           | 气温升高    |
| 9. mèn rè                     | 闷热      |
| 10. qīng fēng                 | 轻风      |
| 11. lóng juǎn fēng            | 龙卷风     |
| 12. hóng shuǐ                 | 洪水      |
| 13. gān hàn                   | 干旱      |
| 14. kōng qì wū rǎn            | 空气污染    |
| 15. jīn tiān shì qíng tiān.   | 今天是晴天。  |
| 16. dàn xià wǔ huì zhuǎn yīn. | 但下午会转阴。 |
| 17. hái néng guàng jiē ma?    | 还能逛街吗?  |
| 18. méi wèn tí.               | 没问题。    |
| 19. bú huì xià yǔ.            | 不会下雨。   |
| 20. nà wǒ men zǒu ba.         | 那我们走吧。  |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Thirteen Translations

1. windy
2. foggy
3. hail
4. a clear day
5. very cloudy
6. from sunny turning to cloudy
7. temperature falls
8. temperature rises
9. humid and hot
10. breeze
11. tornado
12. flood
13. drought
14. air pollution
15. Today is a sunny day.
16. But it will turn cloudy in the afternoon.
17. Can we still go shopping?
18. No problem.
19. It will not rain.
20. Then let's go.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Fourteen

- |     |                                    |            |
|-----|------------------------------------|------------|
| 1.  | jié rì                             | 节日         |
| 2.  | yuán dàn                           | 元旦         |
| 3.  | chūn jié                           | 春节         |
| 4.  | xīn nián                           | 新年         |
| 5.  | qíng rén jié                       | 情人节        |
| 6.  | qīng míng jié                      | 清明节        |
| 7.  | duān wǔ jié                        | 端午节        |
| 8.  | zhōng qiū jié                      | 中秋节        |
| 9.  | guó qìng jié                       | 国庆节        |
| 10. | mǔ qīn jié                         | 母亲节        |
| 11. | fù qīn jié                         | 父亲节        |
| 12. | shèng dàn jié                      | 圣诞节        |
| 13. | shēng rì                           | 生日         |
| 14. | qìng shēng huì                     | 庆生会        |
| 15. | hūn lǐ                             | 婚礼         |
| 16. | jié hūn jì niàn rì                 | 结婚纪念日      |
| 17. | wǒ yào guò shēng rì le.            | 我要过生日了。    |
| 18. | zhù nǐ shēng rì kuài lè!           | 祝你生日快乐!    |
| 19. | xiè xie. qǐng lái cān jiā pài duì. | 谢谢。请来参加派对。 |
| 20. | xiè xie yāo qǐng. wǒ yí dìng qù.   | 谢谢邀请。我一定去。 |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Fourteen Translations

1. holiday
2. New Year's Day
3. Chinese New Year
4. first day of the New Year
5. Valentine's Day
6. Chinese Memorial Day
7. Dragon Boat Festival (May fifth of lunar calendar)
8. August Moon Festival (August 15th of lunar calendar)
9. National Day
10. Mother's Day
11. Father's Day
12. Christmas
13. birthday
14. birthday party
15. wedding
16. anniversary
17. My birthday is coming up.
18. Happy Birthday!
19. Thank you. Please come to my birthday party.
20. Thank you for the invitation. I will definitely go.



# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Fifteen

- |     |                       |          |
|-----|-----------------------|----------|
| 1.  | hàn yǔ                | 汉语       |
| 2.  | fāng yán              | 方言       |
| 3.  | zhōng wén             | 中文       |
| 4.  | xiàng xíng wén zì     | 象形文字     |
| 5.  | shū fǎ                | 书法       |
| 6.  | guó huà               | 国画       |
| 7.  | gǔ shī cí             | 古诗词      |
| 8.  | jīng jù               | 京剧       |
| 9.  | cì xiù                | 刺绣       |
| 10. | jiǎn zhǐ              | 剪纸       |
| 11. | mǐ jiǔ                | 米酒       |
| 12. | lóng jǐng chá         | 龙井茶      |
| 13. | tài jí quán           | 太极拳      |
| 14. | mín gē                | 民歌       |
| 15. | dà xióng māo          | 大熊猫      |
| 16. | wǔ shī zi             | 舞狮子      |
| 17. | qí páo                | 旗袍       |
| 18. | zhōng guó yǒu ...     | 中国有 ...  |
| 19. | shǔ bù qīng de ...    | 数不清的 ... |
| 20. | nán dǒng de fāng yán. | 难懂的方言。   |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Fifteen Translations

1. Mandarin Chinese
2. dialect(s)
3. Chinese language
4. pictograph, hieroglyph
5. calligraphy
6. traditional Chinese painting
7. ancient Chinese poetry
8. Peking Opera
9. embroidery
10. Chinese paper-cutting art
11. rice wine
12. Longjing tea
13. tai chi (a type of martial arts)
14. folk songs
15. giant panda
16. lion dance
17. cheongsam, traditional Chinese dress
18. China has ...
19. uncountable ...
20. dialects that are hard to understand.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Sixteen

- |     |                         |           |
|-----|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | chuán tǒng              | 传统        |
| 2.  | fēng shuǐ               | 风水        |
| 3.  | shí èr shēng xiāo       | 十二生肖      |
| 4.  | cháng é bēn yuè         | 嫦娥奔月      |
| 5.  | niú láng zhī nǚ         | 牛郎织女      |
| 6.  | sī mǎ guāng zá gāng     | 司马光砸缸     |
| 7.  | kǒng róng ràng lí       | 孔融让梨      |
| 8.  | kǒng zǐ                 | 孔子        |
| 9.  | rú jiā sī xiǎng         | 儒家思想      |
| 10. | lǎo zǐ                  | 老子        |
| 11. | dào jiā sī xiǎng        | 道家思想      |
| 12. | cháo dài                | 朝代        |
| 13. | qín cháo                | 秦朝        |
| 14. | qīng cháo               | 清朝        |
| 15. | qín shǐ huáng           | 秦始皇       |
| 16. | sūn zhōng shān          | 孙中山       |
| 17. | zhōng guó de lì shǐ ... | 中国的历史 ... |
| 18. | yǒu wǔ qiān duō nián.   | 有五千多年。    |
| 19. | jīng lì le ...          | 经历了 ...   |
| 20. | xǔ duō cháo dài.        | 许多朝代。     |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Sixteen Translations

1. tradition
2. feng shui
3. Chinese Zodiac
4. Chang'e Flew to the Moon (Chinese legend)
5. The Cowherd and the Weaving Maid (Chinese legend)
6. Sima Guang Smashed a Water Vat (an ancient Chinese story)
7. Kong Rong Gave Up the Biggest Pear (an ancient Chinese story)
8. Confucius
9. Confucianism
10. Lao-tzu
11. Taoism
12. dynasty
13. Qin Dynasty
14. Qing Dynasty
15. Qin Shi Huang (the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty)
16. Sun Yat-sen (a revolutionary and political leader of modern China)
17. Chinese history ...
18. has more than five thousand years.
19. It has gone through ...
20. many dynasties.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Seventeen

- |                                  |            |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| 1. chéng yǔ                      | 成语         |
| 2. chē shuǐ mǎ lóng              | 车水马龙       |
| 3. shān qīng shuǐ xiù            | 山清水秀       |
| 4. qiǎo duó tiān gōng            | 巧夺天工       |
| 5. liú lián wàng fǎn             | 流连忘返       |
| 6. měi lún měi huàn              | 美轮美奂       |
| 7. yǐ lǐ xiāng dài               | 以礼相待       |
| 8. liǎo rú zhǐ zhǎng             | 了如指掌       |
| 9. yàn yǔ                        | 谚语         |
| 10. qiān lǐ zhī xíng, ...        | 千里之行, ...  |
| 11. shǐ yú zú xià.               | 始于足下。      |
| 12. yù sù zé bù dá.              | 欲速则不达。     |
| 13. bǎi wén bù rú yí jiàn.       | 百闻不如一见。    |
| 14. qiān lǐ sòng é máo, ...      | 千里送鹅毛, ... |
| 15. lǐ qīng qíng yì zhòng.       | 礼轻情意重。     |
| 16. mǎi mài bù chéng rén yì zài. | 买卖不成仁义在。   |
| 17. shéng jù mù duàn, ...        | 绳锯木断, ...  |
| 18. shuǐ dī shí chuān.           | 水滴石穿。      |
| 19. sòng jūn qiān lǐ, ...        | 送君千里, ...  |
| 20. zhōng xū yì bié.             | 终须一别。      |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Seventeen Translations

1. idioms
2. incessant stream of horses and carriages – heavy traffic bustling with noise
3. green hills and clear water – picturesque scenery
4. superb workmanship / excelling nature
5. linger on and forget to return
6. magnificent
7. treat someone with due respect
8. know something like the palm of one's hand
9. proverbs
10. A thousand-mile journey, ...
11. is started by taking the first step.
12. More haste, less speed.
13. Seeing for oneself is a hundred times better than hearing from others.
14. Send swan feather from a thousand miles away – the gift is light ...
15. but the goodwill is deep: a small gift with great meaning.
16. Business is off, but the friendship (benevolence) is always on.
17. Little strokes fell great oaks, ...
18. dripping water wears through a stone.
19. Accompany a guest a thousand miles,
20. and yet there is bound to be a parting at last.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Eighteen

- |     |                        |           |
|-----|------------------------|-----------|
| 1.  | yǒu hǎo                | 友好        |
| 2.  | rè qíng                | 热情        |
| 3.  | hào kè                 | 好客        |
| 4.  | hào qí                 | 好奇        |
| 5.  | kuān róng              | 宽容        |
| 6.  | zhèng zhí              | 正直        |
| 7.  | yǒu zhì                | 有志        |
| 8.  | zhù rén                | 助人        |
| 9.  | qín láo                | 勤劳        |
| 10. | yǒng gǎn               | 勇敢        |
| 11. | chī kǔ                 | 吃苦        |
| 12. | nài láo                | 耐劳        |
| 13. | cōng míng              | 聪明        |
| 14. | yōu mò                 | 幽默        |
| 15. | nǐ qù guò zhōng guó.   | 你去过中国。    |
| 16. | wǒ hěn hào qí, ...     | 我很好奇, ... |
| 17. | nà li de ...           | 那里的 ...   |
| 18. | rén men yǒu hǎo ma?    | 人们友好吗?    |
| 19. | fēi cháng yǒu hǎo, ... | 非常友好, ... |
| 20. | hái hěn hào kè.        | 还很好客。     |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Eighteen Translations

1. friendly
2. enthusiastic
3. hospitable
4. curious
5. tolerant
6. upright / integrity
7. ambitious
8. helpful
9. hard working
10. brave
11. hardship
12. enduring hardships
13. smart
14. humor / humorous
15. You went to China.
16. I'm wondering, ...
17. over there ...
18. are people friendly?
19. Very friendly, ...
20. and very hospitable.



# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Nineteen

- |     |                            |              |
|-----|----------------------------|--------------|
| 1.  | jié hūn                    | 结婚           |
| 2.  | fū qī                      | 夫妻           |
| 3.  | yīng ér                    | 婴儿           |
| 4.  | ér tóng                    | 儿童           |
| 5.  | qīng shào nián             | 青少年          |
| 6.  | yòu ér yuán                | 幼儿园          |
| 7.  | xiǎo xué                   | 小学           |
| 8.  | zhōng xué                  | 中学           |
| 9.  | xué yīn yuè                | 学音乐          |
| 10. | xué měi shù                | 学美术          |
| 11. | zuò yóu xì                 | 做游戏          |
| 12. | yóu lè chǎng               | 游乐场          |
| 13. | jiào yù                    | 教育           |
| 14. | hái zi jǐ suì le?          | 孩子几岁了?       |
| 15. | wǔ suì le.                 | 五岁了。         |
| 16. | ò, gāi shàng xué le.       | 哦, 该上学了。     |
| 17. | shì a, kě wǒ hái xiǎng ... | 是啊, 可我还想 ... |
| 18. | péi tā wánr ne.            | 陪他玩儿呢。       |
| 19. | xiàn zài de hái zi ...     | 现在的孩子 ...    |
| 20. | tài jiāo guì.              | 太娇贵。         |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Nineteen Translations

1. get married
2. husband and wife
3. infant(s)
4. young child(ren)
5. teenager(s) / adolescent(s)
6. nursery / day care
7. elementary school
8. middle school and high school
9. learning music
10. learning arts
11. playing games
12. playground
13. education
14. How old is your child?
15. Five years old.
16. Oh, he will go to school.
17. Yeah, but I still want to ...
18. accompany him to play.
19. Today's children are ...
20. too delicate.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Twenty

- |                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| 1. gǔ shí hòu, ...             | 古时候, ...   |
| 2. yǒu yí gè xiǎo hái, ...     | 有一个小孩, ... |
| 3. jiào sī mǎ guāng.           | 叫司马光。      |
| 4. tā hé péng yǒu men ...      | 他和朋友们 ...  |
| 5. yì qǐ wán shuǎ shí, ...     | 一起玩耍时, ... |
| 6. yí wèi xiǎo péng yǒu ...    | 一位小朋友 ...  |
| 7. diào jìn le ...             | 掉进了 ...    |
| 8. chéng shuǐ de dà gāng.      | 盛水的大缸。     |
| 9. kuài yào yān sǐ le.         | 快要淹死了。     |
| 10. dà jiā dōu hěn hài pà, ... | 大家都害怕, ... |
| 11. dàn bù zhī dào ...         | 但不知道 ...   |
| 12. gāi zěn me bàn.            | 该怎么办。      |
| 13. tā hěn chén zhuó,          | 他很沉着,      |
| 14. ná qǐ dà shí tóu ...       | 拿起大石头 ...  |
| 15. bǎ gāng zá pò.             | 把缸砸破。      |
| 16. shuǐ liú chū lái,          | 水流出来,      |
| 17. péng yǒu dé jiù le.        | 朋友得救了。     |
| 18. dà jiā zàn yáng tā,        | 大家赞扬他,     |
| 19. jì yǒng gǎn ...            | 既勇敢 ...    |
| 20. yòu cōng míng.             | 又聪明。       |

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Lesson Twenty Translations

1. In ancient times, ...
2. there was a little child, ...
3. called Sima Guang.
4. When he and his friends ...
5. played together, ...
6. one of his friends ...
7. fell into ...
8. a big water vat.
9. He was drowning.
10. Everyone was very scared, ...
11. but didn't know ...
12. what to do.
13. He was very calm,
14. picked up a big stone ...
15. and broke the water vat.
16. The water flowed out,
17. and his friend was saved.
18. Everyone praised him,
19. that he was both brave ...
20. and smart.



# Pimsleur<sup>®</sup>

Mandarin Chinese 3

Culture Notes

# Mandarin Chinese 3

*Travelers should always check with  
their nation's State Department for  
current advisories on local conditions  
before traveling abroad.*

Booklet Design: Maia Kennedy

© and ® Recorded Program 2002 Simon & Schuster, Inc.

© Reading Booklet 2002 Simon & Schuster, Inc.  
Pimsleur® is an imprint of Simon & Schuster Audio,  
a division of Simon & Schuster, Inc. Mfg. in USA.

All rights reserved.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

### VOICES

English-Speaking Instructor . . . . . *Ray Brown*  
Male Mandarin Speaker . . . . . *Yaohua Shi*

### COURSE WRITERS

Yaohua Shi ◆ Christopher J. Gainty

### REVIEWER

Zhijie Jia

### EDITORS

Joan Schoellner ◆ Beverly D. Heinle

### PRODUCER & DIRECTOR

Sarah H. McLinnis

### RECORDING ENGINEERS

Peter S. Turpin ◆ Kelly Saux

Simon & Schuster Studios, Concord, MA

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Table of Contents

China's Weather .....	1
Types of Tea .....	2
Careers for the Younger Generation.....	3
IT Industries in China .....	4
Harbin .....	5
Chinese Adjectives .....	5
Dialects.....	6
Purpose or Motion .....	7
Classifiers, or "Measure Words" .....	8
<i>bai jiu</i> .....	10
Peking Duck .....	11
Hotels .....	12
Restaurants .....	13
Hainan and Sanya .....	13
Hotel – <i>jiu dian</i> vs. <i>lü guan</i> .....	14
Chang'an Avenue and Tian'anmen Square.....	15
Embassies .....	16
Wangfujing Avenue .....	16
Beihai Park.....	17
<i>guo</i> vs. <i>le</i> .....	18
More on <i>le</i> .....	19
<i>gan bei!</i> .....	20
Omission of Pronouns .....	21
Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks.....	22
Women in Business .....	23



# Mandarin Chinese 3

Suzhou .....	23
Interpreters .....	25
Flower Appreciation.....	26
The Palace Museum in Beijing .....	27
Luoyang .....	28
Gift-Giving / Hospitality .....	29
Books and Bookstores .....	30
Classical Music .....	31
The Chinese Educational System.....	32
Exercising, Chinese-style.....	33
Tourist Souvenirs .....	34
Saying Good-bye.....	35

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## China's Weather

Because of its vast size, China's weather varies a great deal from north to south, east to west. From the subarctic in the northeast to the subtropical in parts of Yunnan province in the southwest, China covers several climate zones. The three northeastern provinces – Heilongjiang, Jilin, and Liaoning – are bitterly cold in the winter, with temperatures often dipping to minus forty degrees Fahrenheit. China's population of 1.2 billion (five times that of the United States) is largely centered in the eastern part of the country. The terrain in the west consists largely of mountains and deserts. Although China boasts some of the world's longest rivers, only land in the east is fertile enough to support agriculture. The nation's capital, Beijing, receives a fair amount of snow, although heavy storms and blizzards are rare. To escape the winter weather, tourists flock to the warm, sandy beaches of Hainan Island in the South China Sea. Xishuangbanna in Yunnan is another popular winter destination for those who wish to escape the cold. Summer is the rainiest season in China. From mid-June to mid-July much of the lower Yangtze River valley is shrouded in rain. Sea resorts like Qingdao and Beidaihe in the north, and mountainous regions like Putuoshan and Lushan in the south, provide relief from the stifling heat and humidity.

Spring and autumn are probably the best times to visit China: throughout much of the country, the

# Mandarin Chinese 3

skies are clear, with daytime temperatures hovering between sixty and eighty degrees Fahrenheit. However, Beijing, which used to be famous for its clear, azure-blue, autumnal skies, now suffers from smog and air pollution. In addition, every spring the winds from the Gobi desert bring heavy sandstorms from the north. Although the government has mounted a massive campaign to reforest northern and northwestern China, Beijing is still often a dustbowl from March to May. It is not unusual to see women cover their heads and faces with silk scarves for protection.

## **Types of Tea**

Tea is the most popular non-alcoholic beverage in China. There are four types: green tea, black tea, oolong tea, and the very rare white tea. The differences among the first three lie not in the type of plant, but in the way the leaves are processed.

Green tea is the most common. It is produced from freshly picked, unfermented tea leaves, which are first steamed, then dried over a charcoal fire. The most famous green tea in China is known as Dragon Well and is grown on the hillsides of Hangzhou.

Black tea – which the Chinese call “red tea” – is made from fermented tea leaves, which explains its darker color. The leaves are first allowed to wither, or

# Mandarin Chinese 3

dry, in bamboo trays. Next they are rolled and sifted. This process bruises the leaves, thus encouraging fermentation. With oxidation, the leaves turn even darker in color and acquire a recognizable tea odor. When the leaves have fermented to the desired level, they are roasted to stop fermentation and to destroy bacteria.

Oolong tea is partially fermented, making it half-way between black and green tea in flavor. Once the edges of the leaves turn brown, the fermentation process is stopped by roasting the leaves in a pan.

White tea is made from the buds of a very rare type of tea plant. The tea, which is harvested for only a few days a year, is very subtle in flavor.

In addition to these four kinds of tea, there are multiple variations, including scented teas. To produce these, dried flowers are added to green and oolong teas. The most popular of the scented teas is jasmine.

## **Careers for the Younger Generation**

As China's economy develops, an increasing number of career options is open to the country's young and ambitious. Expanded options, however, often come at the cost of decreased job security. Gone are the days when a job with a state-owned

# Mandarin Chinese 3

company was considered an "iron rice-bowl," that is, a meal ticket for life. State-owned companies have to compete to survive in the new market economy, and private enterprise is growing. Today, college graduates dream of pursuing white-collar work in banking, foreign or joint-venture enterprises, and high-tech industries. These young people represent an emerging middle class in Chinese society.

## **IT Industries in China**

In recent years many high-tech firms have sprung up in China, especially in Beijing, Shenzhen (which lies across the border from Hong Kong), and the region around Shanghai. In Beijing, most of China's burgeoning software companies are concentrated in a small area called zhong guan cun. Its prominence derives from the fact that Beijing is home to many of the country's most prestigious universities and colleges, as well as to government research institutions. This vast pool of talents is the biggest asset of zhong guan cun. The success of Shenzhen is due to the city's status as a special economic zone with flexible policies and to its proximity to Hong Kong, while the greater Shanghai metropolitan area in recent years has begun to attract many chip-makers and notebook manufacturers from Taiwan.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## Harbin

Harbin is the capital of China's northernmost province, Heilongjiang. The city derives its name from the Manchu word for "honor" or "fame." Harbin's geography and history lend it a distinctly Russian flavor. In the late nineteenth century, the Russians built a railway line from Vladivostok to Harbin. Several decades later, after the Russian Revolution of 1917, the city saw an influx of refugees from Siberia. The Russian imprint is still visible in much of the city's architecture. Today, there is flourishing trade and cross-border tourism between Harbin and the Russian far eastern region.

Harbin's main tourist attraction is its Ice Lantern Festival. This takes place every winter from January 5 to February 15. Whimsical ice sculptures are displayed in the main park and illuminated at night.

### ***pu tong hua hen nan*, or Chinese Adjectives**

Chinese adjectives are inherently contrastive. For this reason, adjectives are not used on their own in Chinese when no contrast is intended. To cancel out the contrast, a qualifier such as *hen* ("very") is added to the adjective: *pu tong hua hen nan* ("Chinese is very difficult") as opposed to simply, *pu tong hua nan*. If you say *pu tong hua nan*, you are actually saying that Mandarin is difficult compared to some

# Mandarin Chinese 3

other language, whether or not that language is mentioned. The comparison or contrast is implicit. To make a blanket statement with no comparison implied, you must add "very" or a similar qualifier, such as "extraordinarily," "a little," and so on. This rule of thumb applies not only to *nan*, but to most other adjectives as well – for example, *pu tong hua hen rong yi* ("Chinese is very easy").

## Dialects

China is a country of many dialects. There are seven major groups: Mandarin, Wu, Xiang, Gan, Kejia or Hakka, Min, and Yue (Cantonese). The main differences among them are in pronunciation and vocabulary, although there are differences in syntax as well.

The most important and widespread of these dialects is Mandarin, which is the standard spoken language in China. Approximately 70 percent of the population speaks some variety of Mandarin as a mother tongue. Standard Chinese is based on the dialect spoken by the residents of Beijing, China's capital since the thirteenth century. Some of the so-called "dialects" – some linguists classify them as different languages – are mutually unintelligible. For example, someone from the province of Guangdong in the deep south will not be able to communicate with his compatriots from the north, unless they

# Mandarin Chinese 3

both resort to Mandarin. It is known as "Mandarin" in English because it was the lingua franca among scholar-officials, or Mandarins, in pre-modern China.

Unlike Mandarin, or *pu tong hua*, the term *zhong wen* in its narrow sense refers to the written Chinese language used by about 95 percent of the population in China. It should be noted that *zhong wen* implies the written form of Chinese; the many dialects, including Mandarin, represent a variety of spoken forms. (Colloquially, *zhong wen* can also refer to spoken Chinese, but *wen* properly means "written language.") Because *zhong wen* is the standard written language, it is possible for people from all over the country to communicate with one another in writing. However, with the increasing spread of education and mass media, particularly film and TV, more and more people throughout China also understand and speak Mandarin. Because the Chinese government discourages the use of dialects, some of them are in danger of becoming displaced by Mandarin all together.

## **Purpose or Motion: *shang da xue* vs. *qu da xue***

*wo shang da xue*, means "I'm a college student," or "I go to college." Notice that you use *shang*, rather than *qu*. In colloquial Chinese *shang* often has the meaning "to go." The difference between *shang* and *qu*, which is the standard equivalent of "to go," is that *shang* connotes the activity associated with a



# Mandarin Chinese 3

specific location rather than the simple act of going there. Therefore, *shang da xue* means to study at the university, whereas *qu da xue* merely suggests movement towards the university. The purpose of the action is left unspecified. One could go to the university (*qu da xue*) to visit a friend, for instance. For the same reason, *shang fan dian* means "to eat at a restaurant" rather than simply "to go to a restaurant."

## Classifiers, or "Measure Words"

A distinguishing feature of modern Chinese is its use of classifiers, also known as "measure words." In classical Chinese they were largely absent. In modern Chinese, however, when describing quantity, you need not only the appropriate nouns and numerals, but also the corresponding classifiers. For example, to say "a book," you say *yi ben shu*; "two people" is *liang ge ren*. The choice of measure word is usually determined by the nature of the item in question.

*Ge* is perhaps the most versatile classifier. It can be used as a somewhat generic measure word with a wide variety of countable nouns, especially in colloquial Chinese; in formal Chinese, however, more specific classifiers are preferred. For instance, when speaking informally, you could get away with *yi ge ren* ("a person" or "one person"), *yi ge fan dian* ("a restaurant"), *yi ge yin hang* ("a bank"). Most

# Mandarin Chinese 3

measure words, however, are much more restrictive and can be used only with specific nouns or categories of nouns.

Some common measure words follow.

- *wei*: This measure word is used to refer to people. It's more polite than *ge*. Therefore, to show respect to a friend, you say, *yi wei peng you*, rather than, *yi ge peng you*. The original meaning of the word *wei* is "seat" – by implication, it means the person occupying the seat of honor.
- *zhang* is used to refer to objects with wide flat surfaces, such as sofas, desks, or beds: *yi zhang sha fa* ("a sofa"), *liang zhang zhuo zi* ("two desks"), *san zhang chuang* ("three beds"). The original meaning of the word is "to stretch."
- *ba* refers to objects that you can get a grip on, for instance, chairs: *liang ba yi zi* ("two chairs"). Its original meaning is "handle."
- *tou* applies to things that have heads, like animals: *yi tou niu* ("an ox," "a bull," or "a cow") or *yi tou zhu* ("a pig"). Not all animals take this measure word, however.
- *ben* is used primarily to refer to books: *wu ben shu* ("five books").

# Mandarin Chinese 3

- *jia*: The original meaning of the word is "home." As a measure word, it is used with the names for institutions and establishments closely associated with the physical structures that house them, such as banks, restaurants, or libraries.

Chinese has well over one hundred fifty measure words. Of these, at least a hundred are relatively common, and dozens are used in daily conversation.

## ***bai jiu***

*bai jiu* is the generic name for many different types of distilled spirits. They are called *bai jiu*, or "white liquor," because they are colorless. Most are made from grains – often sorghum, a type of millet. The grains are steamed and yeast is added, to aid in the fermentation process.

Most of the liquor consumed by the Chinese is made in the Sichuan province. The most famous *bai jiu* from Sichuan is known as *wu liang ye*, meaning "five grain liquid" or "five grain nectar." As its name suggests, it is made from five varieties of grains: "regular" rice, glutinous rice, wheat, sorghum, and corn. It is slightly sweet and highly fragrant.

Shanxi province, near Beijing, is famous for its *fen jiu*, which is made from local sorghum. Yeast made

# Mandarin Chinese 3

from wheat and peas is added, and the sorghum is steamed and buried underground for twenty-one days to allow fermentation. More yeast is then added, and the mixture is fermented and distilled again. After blending, the liquor is ready to bottle.

Another well-known variety of *bai jiu* is called *er guo tou*. It's particularly popular with the working class in northern China. The most famous of all the white liquors is *mao tai*, which is named after the town in Guizhou Province where it is produced.

## Peking Duck

Perhaps the most famous dish associated with the capital of China, Peking duck is prepared in several steps, all of which ensure its unique flavor. The duck is raised on farms around Beijing (formerly called "Peking") on a diet of grain and soybean paste. The mature fattened duck is slaughtered, then lacquered with molasses; air is pumped under the skin to separate it from the carcass, after which the duck is boiled, dried, and finally roasted over a fruitwood fire.

Quanjude Restaurant in Beijing, which dates back to 1864, is the place to try this delectable dish. The entire feast consists of two main stages. First the boneless meat and skin are served with a plum sauce, scallions, and crepes. Then comes the duck soup, made from the bones and other parts of the

# Mandarin Chinese 3

duck. Although the most authentic version can be had only at Quanjude, Peking duck is widely available throughout Beijing.

## Hotels

There is a wide range of tourist accommodations in China, all the way from budget guesthouses to luxurious five-star hotels. In most big cities, high end hotel prices are comparable to those in Europe and North America. The luxury market is dominated by familiar international chains such as Hilton, Sheraton, Ritz-Carlton, and Four Seasons. For the frugally-minded, it's possible to find university dormitories and government-run guesthouses. However, many, although not all, are off-limits to international travelers. Western-style youth hostels and bed-and-breakfasts are still rare.

For travelers in the know, it is sometimes possible to stay at one of the five-star hotels while avoiding the exorbitant rate. Some of them have discounts available for the asking, but you must inquire, as these discounts are not always advertised.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## **Restaurants**

As the Chinese standard of living continues to rise, dining out is becoming increasingly common. Many, if not all, of the popular restaurants in the big cities are privately owned. These range from mom-and-pop holes-in-the-wall to vast, opulently-decked-out multi-story gastronomical emporia. In fact, size seems in direct proportion to flash and price. Some of the glitzy restaurants feature live orchestras and private banquet rooms. Patrons are invited to inspect live seafood in water tanks on the first floor while waitresses, most of whom come from the provinces, take the orders.

There is a vast array of food to be had, from regional cuisine to international fare. In Beijing and Shanghai, virtually all types of Chinese and foreign food can be found, although Chinese dishes are still the most popular. Two trends, regionalism and cosmopolitanism, are emerging in the restaurant scene. Authentic regional cuisine is on the rise, but so is fusion food. Foie gras and sashimi have both made their way onto some of the fancier restaurant menus.

## **Hainan and Sanya**

Hainan is a large tropical island off the coast of southern China. Its yearly average temperature is seventy-eight degrees Fahrenheit. From March to

# Mandarin Chinese 3

November the island is shrouded in heat and humidity. Hainan is famous for its tropical plants and crops: coconuts, pepper, coffee, and rubber, among others. Many of the farms on Hainan were founded by ethnic Chinese from Southeast Asia, the descendants of emigrants who resettled in their ancestral homeland after the waves of anti-Chinese feeling in Indonesia and Malaysia in the 1960s. Since there is little heavy industry, pollution is minimal. Until 1988 Hainan was part of Guangdong Province. The island was elevated to provincial status when the Chinese government decided to open it up to foreign investors. Its capital city is Haikou, on the northern coastline. During peak season, Hainan is a favored site for tourists.

The most popular tourist destination, however, is Sanya in the south. Blessed with miles of excellent beaches, it's one of the most well-known winter resorts in China.

## **Hotel – *jiu dian* vs. *lü guan***

As you know, Chinese has multiple dialects, which can result in several names for the same thing. A second word for "hotel" is *lü guan* rather than *jiu dian*. *lü guan* is more common in the north, *jiu dian* in the south. Their connotations may differ as well.

In Mandarin *lü guan* is the generic word for "hotel." This term covers the whole range of tourist

# Mandarin Chinese 3

accommodations from the simplest inn to the glitziest five-star hotel.

*jiu dian*, on the other hand, almost always refers to big, fancy establishments. In addition, it generally occurs as part of a hotel name. *jiu dian* literally means "wine shop"; it originally designated a traditional Chinese-style pub where rice wine or other kinds of alcohol and simple food are served, and customers sit on long narrow benches around rectangular tables. Then, in the 1980s, developers from Hong Kong built the first modern international tourist hotels in China. Since these hotels were located in the south, the term *jiu dian* was often applied to them. For this reason, *jiu dian* sounds vaguely Cantonese to Mandarin speakers, although today they may use it as well, to refer to a top-quality hotel.

## **Chang'an Avenue and Tian'anmen Square**

Chang'an Avenue is Beijing's answer to the Champs Elysées. It is one of the main thoroughfares in Beijing. Government offices, monuments, and museums sit side-by-side along this multi-lane artery. The retail epicenter Wangfujing is a stone's throw away. At the heart of Chang'an Avenue is the immense windswept Tian'anmen Square. Both the avenue and the square were created by Mao Zedong in the 1950s. The square is named after the Tian'anmen Gate in the Forbidden City, from which



# Mandarin Chinese 3

Chairman Mao proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. Tian'anmen Square is fraught with economic and political significance, as many momentous events in modern Chinese history took place there and in the surrounding area.

## **Embassies**

China has diplomatic relations with more than one hundred countries. Most foreign embassies in Beijing are concentrated in two areas: Jianguomenwai and Sanlitun, east and northeast of the Forbidden City, respectively. It is not unusual to see long lines of Chinese outside the tightly-guarded compounds, waiting for visas to study or work abroad.

Sanlitun is also home to Beijing's well-known "bar street" – or rather "streets," as there is now a "Sanlitun North Street" and a "Sanlitun South Street," both of which are highly popular among tourists. Scores of bars and nightclubs line the sides of these narrow dusty roads. Because of their proximity to the diplomatic quarters, the variously-themed bars and clubs cater to a largely foreign clientele.

## **Wangfujing Avenue**

Along with Chang'an Avenue, Wangfujing is one of the most famous street addresses not only in Beijing,

# Mandarin Chinese 3

but all over China. Most of the older department stores, traditional shops, boutiques, and bookstores can be found on this block. After a recent makeover, however, the street is now almost unrecognizable to those who visited it even a few years ago. Locals and tourists throng the area, especially on weekends. Part of Wangfujing has been closed to vehicular traffic. Life-size sculptures depicting old Beijing urban life dot the pedestrian zone. While it's no longer the most prestigious or fashionable shopping area in the city, it's still the most famous.

## **Beihai Park**

Lying northwest of the Forbidden City, Beihai Park is the former playground of the Manchu emperors. Artificial hills, picturesque pavilions, and colorful temples compose the landscape. Half of the park is a man-made lake. The most prominent landmark of the park is the bulbous White Pagoda. Built in a Tibetan architectural style, it commemorates a visit by the Dalai Lama. Another well-known feature of the park is the Painted Gallery. Idyllic sceneries are depicted on the beams of the winding covered walkway. Equally well known is the Nine Dragon Screen, whose sixteen by eighty-eight foot wall is made of colored glazed tiles. Beihai Park is also famous for its restaurant, which serves the favorite recipes of the Manchu emperors and empresses. Prices, as one can imagine, are high.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## *guo vs. le*

Note the following sentence: *wo shang ge xing qi lai guo zhe jia fan dian.* ("I came to this restaurant last week.") In this statement you used *guo* instead of *le* because you were explaining why you know the food is good at the restaurant – it's because you've tried it. You were at the restaurant last week. The word *guo* suggests the experience of having done something. In other words, with *guo* the emphasis is on the present implication of a past action rather than on its completion. On the other hand, if you say: *wo shang ge xing qi lai le zhe jia fan dian,* the focus is on the completion of the action. Perhaps it was something you were supposed to do, and you did it. You completed the task.

Here's another example: You know that Sam has been to Beijing, so you think he should know what the weather is like there. You could then say, *Sam, ni qu guo bei jing. Bei jing de tian qi zen me yang?* ("Sam, you have been to Beijing. How is Beijing's weather?") The particle *le* would be incorrect here. *le* would emphasize that Sam completed the trip instead of having had the experience of being in Beijing. For this reason, if Sam is a traveling salesman and was supposed to stop in Beijing and you'd simply like to know whether he's done that, then you would ask, *Sam, ni qu Bei jing le ma?* ("Sam, did you go to Beijing?")

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## More on *le*

For an English speaker, it may take some getting used to the fact that Chinese has no tenses. Many grammatical features that English speakers take for granted, such as tenses (past, present, future), number (singular or plural), and articles ("the," "a," "an,"), do not apply to Chinese. Instead, Chinese has its own unique set of grammatical characteristics. One is the aspect marker *le*.

*le* is easily confused with the equivalent of the English past tense. Rather, *le* signifies the completion of an action regardless of time. In other words, it is possible to use *le* to refer to the future completion of an action – for example, *ming tian wo kan le dianying qu kan wo de peng you* ("Tomorrow after I see the film – literally, after I complete seeing the film – I'm going to see my friend.")

By the same token, one does not automatically use *le* when describing past actions. Native speakers of Chinese distinguish between background and foreground information. *le* is used for foreground, but not for background. In conveying background information, the speaker is merely setting the scene of a past event, and *le* is omitted. In a description of foreground information, *le* is needed. For example, consider the following pair of Chinese sentences and their English equivalents:

# Mandarin Chinese 3

*zuo tian wan shang wo men qu fan dian chi fan.*  
"Last night we went to a restaurant to eat."

*fan dian li ren hen duo, suo yi wo men deng le  
hen jiu.*

"There were many people in the restaurant, so  
we waited a long time."

Notice the absence of *le* in the first Chinese sentence ("Last night we went to a restaurant to eat") and the presence of *le* in the second ("... we waited a long time"). "We waited a long time" is the focus of the narration, or the foreground information. That is why the speaker uses *le*. Everything prior to that clause is the background information. The act of going to a restaurant is not the emphasis of the speaker's narration. Therefore the particle *le* is omitted.

## ***gan bei!***

In China as elsewhere, large quantities of alcohol are sometimes consumed on various festive occasions. The level of formality and the elaborateness of the toasts depend on the status and the number of the guests. Generally, the more elevated the guests' status, or the greater their number, the more formal and elaborate the toasts will be. The most common toast at Chinese banquets is probably *gan bei!* or, "Bottoms up!" (literally, "Make the cups dry!"). Highly formulaic and literary Chinese is often used to

# Mandarin Chinese 3

add dignity to the occasions. Speeches frequently end with an exhortation to raise the cup and down the drink, which is often *mao tai*, one of the "white liquors." Cognac or other kinds of foreign liquor are also popular.

## Omission of Pronouns

The Chinese language is highly dependent on context. One example of this characteristic is the omission of pronouns. English-speakers may occasionally omit pronouns when speaking very informally. For example, they may ask, "Need any help?" or, "Want some dessert?" However, this is much more common in Chinese. In Chinese, pronouns can usually be omitted as long as there is no possibility of confusion. For example, if someone asks you in Chinese where you are going, you can leave out the pronoun "I" in your answer without causing any misunderstanding. Likewise, if you are clearly addressing just one person, you can ask, "Have a fever?" without any ambiguity as to whom is meant.

Pronouns are also omitted for social reasons. When addressing one's superior, it is a good idea to use his or her title rather than the pronoun *ni* ("you"). The more formal *nin*, however, is perfectly respectful and can be used in place of the title.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## **Special Economic Zones and Industrial Parks**

One of the most important engines driving the Chinese economy in the last twenty years has been the formation of so-called "special economic zones" along China's coast. Such zones were given tax breaks and other preferential treatment to enable them to attract investment from overseas. The infusion of capital and technology, along with the abundant supply of cheap labor, became a foolproof recipe for success. The most spectacular example is Shenzhen, located between Mainland China and Hong Kong. Once a sleepy border crossing, it was transformed into a thriving metropolis almost over-night. Thanks to many such zones, today Chinese products can be found on department store shelves all over the world.

Two decades ago, when the country was still trying to shake off the communist orthodoxy of the planned economy, the special economic zones were an important, albeit sometimes controversial, testing ground for an alternative economic system. Essentially, they were experiments in a free-market economy. Now, many of the special economic zones are seeking to upgrade from manufacturing to high tech business. Gleaming office buildings and immaculate industrial parks, many built with Taiwanese capital, stand as a symbol of China's ever-increasing economic importance.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

## **Women in Business**

Since it was founded in 1949, the People's Republic of China has officially embraced gender equality. Practices such as prostitution and concubinage were outlawed, and the new constitution provided for equal rights for women in all areas of life. Chairman Mao famously said, "Times have changed. Men and women are equal. Women can accomplish whatever men can," and even more famously, "Women hold up half the sky." Women were encouraged to work outside the home. As a result, women can be found in all walks of life. In certain professions, for instance medicine, there are equal numbers of women and men. In others, such as elementary and secondary education, women generally outnumber men.

One exception is the business world. While some successful, high-profile businesswomen can be found, most women still occupy entry-level or subsidiary positions. Women, mostly young and attractive, requisite qualities as described in want ads, fill the ranks of secretaries and receptionists. The business culture in China is still very much male dominated.

## **Suzhou**

Seventy-five miles to the northwest of Shanghai, Suzhou was an important cultural center during the Ming and Qing dynasties, which lasted from the



# Mandarin Chinese 3

fourteenth through the nineteenth century. Suzhou is especially renowned for its many traditional gardens which date from this era. Though not as grand as the vast imperial parks in Beijing, the small gardens in Suzhou were the retreats of the city's many scholar-officials during the Ming and Qing dynasties. Much thought went into the design of these gardens, which often featured pavilions, ponds, and stone bridges. Fantastically eroded stones for rock gardens were harvested from the bottom of nearby Lake Tai. Unlike in western gardens, plantings did not play a predominant role in the design.

Much of the charm of the city came from its dense network of waterways. Unfortunately, many of the small canals and rivers were paved over. With tourism booming, efforts are being made to restore some of the surrounding small towns, which are miniatures of Suzhou and feature the same combinations of landscaped gardens, stone arch bridges, and canalscapes. Along with Hangzhou, which lies at the end of China's Grand Canal, Suzhou is one of the most popular tourist cities in China. Its many Buddhist and Daoist temples, historic sites, traditional scholar-gardens, and canals attract busloads of tourists every day. Both Hangzhou and Suzhou are located in China's prosperous Yangtze River delta, which is known as China's "land of fish and rice." The natural abundance and material affluence of the two cities gave rise to the old Chinese saying, "[there's] heaven on high and Suzhou and Hangzhou on earth."

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Today Suzhou is also an economic powerhouse. Its suburbs have become especially popular with Taiwanese high-tech firms. The Suzhou metropolitan area is rapidly becoming one of the world's most important manufacturing centers of laptop computers.

## **Interpreters**

As more and more international companies invest in China, the demand for interpreters is growing accordingly. Most interpreters in China are graduates of foreign-language departments at Chinese colleges and universities. The curriculum for foreign-language majors can be quite rigorous, with heavy emphasis on grammar and theoretical knowledge of the target languages. Twenty years ago many students went through their course of study without having ever met a single native speaker. This situation has improved considerably during the past two decades. Today, many so-called "foreign experts" are hired to teach foreign languages, and Chinese students have more opportunities to study abroad.

Foreign-language programs have also become quite common on Chinese television. These changes have resulted in a higher level of competence among Chinese interpreters. In addition to colleges and universities, many "evening schools" – as continuing education is called in China – offer foreign-language

# Mandarin Chinese 3

classes. Their graduates can also be found among the ranks of interpreters.

Besides English and Japanese, interpreters of Korean are also in great demand, especially in Shandong Peninsula and Jilin Province, a reflection of the growing presence of Korean businesses in China.

## **Flower Appreciation**

Every year, as various kinds of flowers come into bloom, people in China go on excursions to admire them. The suburbs of Nanjing and Suzhou are especially famous for their plum blossoms, which blanket the surrounding hills each spring. Farther to the north, Luoyang attracts many tourists when the peonies are in bloom in April. In the fall, parks put on chrysanthemum shows. The flowers are trained or arranged to form spectacular topiaries and abstract patterns. Plum blossoms, peonies, and chrysanthemums are popular in China partly because of the qualities associated with them. Plum blossoms symbolize nobility and purity; showy peonies, prosperity; and hardy chrysanthemums are particularly respected for their endurance.

In traditional China, flowers also inspired many poets and painters. The scholar literati, of course, did not need to venture far to appreciate flowers. Their carefully laid-out gardens provided the ideal setting

# Mandarin Chinese 3

for them to get together, drink rice wine, and compose poetry. These occasions often contained an element of competition, as difficult or obscure rhymes were chosen and friends attempted to outdo one another in poetic virtuosity. If a friend was absent, the poems would be sent to him. Many court painters specialized in the “flower and bird” genre, which, unlike literati painting, was known for its attention to realistic detail.

## **The Palace Museum in Beijing**

Most museums in China derive their core collections from archeological finds. One of the notable exceptions is the Palace Museum in Beijing. The Palace Museum is housed in the vast Forbidden City, home and administrative center of the Ming and Qing emperors for well over five hundred years. During this time (1368–1911), it was occupied by not only the emperors and their families, but hundreds of court ladies and palace eunuchs. It was, however, forbidden to the common people; even the highest civil and military leaders could not enter without good reason. All four sides were protected by a moat and high walls, almost 33 feet high, that slant inward from the base, making them extremely difficult to climb. The entire complex covers 182 acres and contains 9,999 buildings, palaces, halls, and courtyards. After China's last emperor abdicated from the throne and vacated the palace in the early 1900s, the Forbidden City became a museum and was opened to the public.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Today, both the architectural ensemble and the former imperial collection of art are crowd-pleasers. The art works, which consist of bronzes, paintings, ceramics, and decorative objects, reflect the tastes of China's former rulers. UNESCO has designated the entire complex a World Heritage Site.

In addition to the better-known original in Beijing, Taipei also has a National Palace Museum. This curious coexistence and rivalry is a product of China's turbulent modern history. On the eve of its retreat to Taiwan, the Nationalist government removed thousands of crates of relics belonging to the Palace Museum in Beijing to the outskirts of Taipei. A complex of pale yellow buildings in traditional Chinese style was built, and the National Palace Museum opened in 1965. Today the museum boasts of having a collection superior to its rival in Beijing.

## **Luoyang**

Luoyang, in Henan province, is one of the most ancient cities in China. It was the capital of thirteen dynasties. During Buddhism's heyday, Luoyang was also home to thirteen hundred Buddhist temples. Today, however, the city's past glory lingers mainly in historical records. Although there are some sites to be seen within the city limits, tourists invariably flock to the Longmen Caves on the outskirts of the city. There, more than one hundred thousand Buddhist images and

# Mandarin Chinese 3

statues were carved into the cliff overlooking the Yi River. Most of the Buddhist art works in the Longmen Caves date from the fifth through ninth centuries.

Luoyang is also famous throughout China for its peonies. The city has a long history of growing these flowers, and their sheer variety is unrivaled throughout the world. Every year from April 15 to April 25, the city holds a peony festival.

## **Gift-Giving / Hospitality**

Gift-giving in China is traditionally associated with specific festivals or social occasions. For instance, at Chinese New Year it is customary to give small children pocket-money wrapped in red paper embossed with gold characters. During the Mid-Autumn Festival, elaborately packaged moon cakes are exchanged among friends and relatives. To celebrate the birthday of an elderly person, well-wishers traditionally give noodles, as their long stringy shape symbolizes longevity. Some items, however, are not appropriate as gifts: clocks, for example, are considered highly unsuitable, because the phrase for "giving the gift of a clock" – *song zhong*, sounds exactly the same as the phrase meaning "attending upon a dying parent or senior family member."

Chinese people are less inclined to invite casual friends home than Americans, simply because most

# Mandarin Chinese 3

city-dwellers live in small apartments. They are therefore more likely to socialize in restaurants or other public spaces. In this case, the standard gesture of hospitality is to argue over the check after a meal or before a show. To the more traditionally-minded Chinese, the practice of splitting a check is a foreign concept, although it is gaining acceptance among westernized young people. When Chinese people do invite guests over, a common hostess gift is a basket of fresh fruit.

## **Books and Bookstores**

If you walk into a bookstore in China, you're likely to see swarms of elementary and high school students with their parents in tow looking for various kinds of study guides, which they hope will help them get into the school of their choice. Indeed, some smaller bookstores seem to carry nothing but reference works aimed at those preparing for the all-important and very competitive high school and college entrance exams. Sometimes an entire floor of a bookstore is devoted to these books. School-age children probably represent the most lucrative demographic group for the Chinese publishing industry.

Other children's books sell very well, too. Harry Potter has an enthusiastic readership among Chinese children. Their parents, however, are another matter. Often they forbid their children to waste their time

# Mandarin Chinese 3

on "idle" reading materials. It seems likely that even Harry Potter is outsold by the ubiquitous study guides.

Other popular categories of books include computer references and stock investment guides, which are always very prominently displayed. The book trade used to be dominated by the state-owned *xinhua* (New China) group, but in recent years, private bookstores have appeared all over China. They vary greatly in size, quality of service, and range of merchandise.

## Classical Music

When people say *gu dian yin yue*, they are usually referring to western classical music. It is considered "high, elegant art," or *gao ya yi shu* in Chinese. Therefore, it enjoys considerable cachet and popularity among the urban educated classes. Western orchestras can be found in the cities of Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. Beijing and Shanghai each have several orchestras. Shanghai, in fact, boasts of having the oldest western orchestra in East Asia, a legacy of its semi-colonial past. The municipal council in the so-called International Settlement in Shanghai set up this orchestra at the end of the nineteenth century. The first generation of classical musicians in China was trained under the tutelage of western conductors.



# Mandarin Chinese 3

During the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976), western classical music was labeled “decadent bourgeois art” and was in effect banned. When the Philadelphia Orchestra visited China at the invitation of Chairman Mao’s wife in 1973, it was the first western orchestra to do so. The visit was considered big news, and both Chinese and American politicians dubbed the orchestra the “symphony ambassador.” After the Cultural Revolution, western classical music made a comeback and is now more popular than ever. The Chinese government actively promotes it and is especially proud of the fact that young Chinese musicians routinely win prizes at international competitions.

## **The Chinese Educational System**

Primary education in China lasts six years, junior and senior high another six. In addition to regular school hours, additional sessions are held in the evenings and on weekends. These classes are not for the academically challenged, everyone takes them. A Chinese student’s schedule, therefore, can be quite grueling. Newspaper editorials routinely call for schools to lessen the burden on students, but these appeals have little effect. Parents and students may complain about the workload, but that does not stop them from hiring tutors and cramming evening classes and extracurricular activities into the schedule.

# Mandarin Chinese 3

Primary and secondary education are subsidized by the state, but schools often charge "sponsorship fees," which can be quite high. Higher education is no longer free, either. To help college students and their parents, various scholarships and loans are available. A fairly recent development is the rise of private schools. They have sprung up all over China, but particularly along China's prosperous eastern seaboard. Compared with public schools, private schools often enjoy superior facilities and attract better qualified teachers. However, the most prestigious schools are the so-called "key schools," which are all public. Only the most academically gifted need apply. Admission is extremely competitive and is widely viewed as a ticket to future success at the college level and beyond.

## **Exercising, Chinese-style**

If you go to China, the chances are that every morning you'll see armies of people in parks, in schoolyards, or on street corners, doing their daily exercises, usually to the accompaniment of rather loud music. Various types of *tai ji* are particularly popular with older people and women. School-age children, factory workers, and company employees often get a mid-morning exercise break, during which they do calisthenics. Students also perform a set of exercises designed to protect their eyesight; to this end, they massage the various acupuncture pressure points around the eyes for about five to ten minutes. Jogging

# Mandarin Chinese 3

and weight-training, by contrast, are not nearly as popular or common as they are in America, aerobics is. Many western-style gyms have sprung up in big cities. Young urban professionals, who are often health-conscious and have the requisite disposable income, flock to these fashionable health clubs.

Despite what a casual visitor to the country may see, obesity, coronary conditions, and diseases such as diabetes are on the rise. Ironically, as the country becomes more prosperous, certain health problems have also become more prevalent. For this reason, diabetes and heart conditions are known as *fu gui bing*, or "diseases of affluence."

## Tourist Souvenirs

Unless they are "off the beaten track," travelers to China will find it hard to avoid tourist shops. Antique stores and souvenir stands often overflow into the streets. Increasingly, tourism is becoming an important source of revenue.

The souvenirs available depend on the locales. In Xi'an, for example, it is difficult to miss reproductions of Tang dynasty pottery. The brightly colored earthenware is known as *tang san cai*, or Tang-style tricolored glazed ware. The name *san cai* stems from the predominant glazes of brown, yellow, and green. Camels with bearded Central Asian merchants on the

# Mandarin Chinese 3

their backs are a frequent theme. Hand-embroidered shoes and pouches are also common.

In Suzhou, silk scarves and sandalwood fans are ubiquitous. Suzhou is also famous for its fine embroidery, particularly its *shuang mian xiu*, or "double-embroidery." A highly skilled artisan can embroider two different designs, one on each side of the fabric, which is usually silk – for instance, a Persian cat on one side, and a Pekingese on the other.

Of course, handicrafts are not the only thing for sale. In Beijing, T-shirts emblazoned with pictures of the Great Wall, the Temple of Heaven, or other famous sights are offered by the many souvenir peddlers plying their business around the capital.

## **Saying Good-bye**

Bidding someone farewell is an elaborate social ritual in China. A considerable length of time may elapse between the time one says good-bye and the time one actually leaves. The host or hostess's first response is invariably, "Oh, please stay a bit longer." And no host or hostess would be content just seeing guests to the door. In fact, that would be perceived as downright cold and inhospitable. More often than not, the host will insist on accompanying his or her guest to the bus stop or waiting with the guest for a taxi. In fact, most hosts go even further and wait until

# Mandarin Chinese 3

the guest is out of sight – that is, until the bus or taxi has driven away.

In traditional China, leave-taking for a long separation was even more ceremonious. Often a series of farewell banquets was hosted in the departing friend's honor, and heartfelt poems were exchanged. When the actual day of departure arrived, people would travel a significant distance with the departing friend, until final farewells were exchanged. Classical Chinese poetry abounds in works depicting poignant moments when one's most intimate friends are departing for distant destinations, perhaps never to return. Today, of course, departures are less likely to be final, and communication is much easier; nevertheless, leave-taking is still much more formal than in the West.

For more information,  
call 1-800-831-5497  
or visit us at [Pimsleur.com](http://Pimsleur.com)