

Speaking Mandarin Formula

This guidebook helps you to understand
Mandarin Chinese quickly and easily by relating
with something you already know - Malay & English

BelajarBahasaCina.com.my

If you have no or little basic knowledge of Mandarin, this is the book created especially for you to understand basics of Mandarin

Hi I am Vincent Ong, master trainer of Belajar Bahasa Cina BBC. I'd like to share with you my background and the reason why we started teaching Mandarin back in 2015.

We are in the same boat

I born in Jakarta, Indonesia. I can't understand and speak Mandarin before I came to Malaysia. When I was 6 years old, my parents sent me to Malaysia to study Mandarin language and live with my grandparents because they know Mandarin is equally important as English.

Mandarin is a language barrier for me

I felt uneasy to communicate Mandarin with my grandparents and friends because I prefer to speak Bahasa Indonesia but they prefer to speak Mandarin. I struggled to understand what the Chinese teacher said. At that time I was inferior and had no friends in school.

I almost give up in learning Mandarin

Initially, I almost give up as Chinese characters are too difficult to write and I felt my hand was going to

be broken. Until I met a dedicated & caring teacher who inspired me to master Mandarin, since then I started to enjoy learning Mandarin and get to know many good friends.

I have a mission to empower Malaysians to pick up Mandarin

I feel blessed and fortunate to have Mandarin education in Malaysia. After graduated, i worked as Accountant for few years before decided to follow my passion, which is to help non-native Mandarin speakers to be proficient in Mandarin language.

Mandarin is actually not that difficult

I have learned English, Malay, Mandarin, Bahasa Indonesia, Hokkien, Cantonese, Japanese, Korean languages, etc. In my opinion, Mandarin is the easiest for anyone to understand and speak (I will show you later).

Importance of knowing Mandarin language

Nowadays, many companies and people aware that knowing Mandarin will help them in getting more business opportunities and better career prospects.

Our experience in China, particularly in Guangzhou, made us realize that Western people can speak fluent Mandarin and even crack joke in Mandarin.

And then I wondered, why not Malaysians?

As we know, there is around 20% Chinese population in Malaysia. Most Chinese people can speak English, Malay and Mandarin, it would be awesome if non-Chinese can understand and speak Mandarin.

In this book, we will share with you what Mandarin is all about, compare with English and Malay. You will also discover that speaking Mandarin is just as easy as speaking Malay and English.

Apart from this book, there are more knowledge that we'd like to share with you through video & audio. We have prepared a series of learning materials for you at www.belajarbahasacina.com.my.

Once you have mastered Mandarin, you can't unlearn it, you will understand and speak Mandarin to your advantage. We are certain that it is worth your time and effort to master it.

Jia you! Gambateh! Semoga berjaya! All the best!

To your successs in learning Mandarin,
Vincent Ong
Belajar Bahasa Cina BBC

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Chapter 1



What is Mandarin?

Mandarin = Standard Chinese = Chinese

Official Chinese language: Mandarin

Other Chinese languages / dialects : Cantonese, Hokkien, Teochew, Hakka, etc (more than 100 individual dialects)

Mandarin is the official language in China and Taiwan.

One of the four official languages of Singapore

One of the six official languages of the United Nations.

There are many different ways to say “Chinese language”. You can say zhōng wén, hàn yǔ, pǔ tōng huà, guó yǔ and huá yǔ. So what are the differences?

zhōng wén 中文 = *Chinese Language*

It covers both spoken language and written form.

pǔ tōng huà 普通话 / 普通話 = *Common Language*

It is official language of China, mainly use in China.

guó yǔ 国语 / 國語 = *National Language*

It is used in Taiwan and sometimes Hong Kong

huá yǔ 华语 / 華語 = *Standard Mandarin*

It is used in Southeast Asia, mainly Singapore, Malaysia.

Summary: *zhōng wén*, *hàn yǔ*, *pǔ tōng huà*, *guó yǔ* and *huá yǔ* actually means the same. They are just different "nicknames" for Mandarin.

Mandarin is written using **Chinese characters** (汉字 *hàn zì*), an ancient pictorial system where each symbol represents a different word.

There are two main versions – “traditional” characters, used in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macau and “simplified” characters, used in China, Singapore, and Malaysia. You only need to learn around 3000 characters to be able to read a Chinese newspaper.

Chapter 2

Why Learn Mandarin?



As the world become more globalised and competitive, those who are less competent and less valuable to the company may be retrenched when company or economy slows down.

“How can I be more competent and competitive in this fast-changing job market?”

One of the most important skill is to enhance **social and interpersonal skill** that can help you nurture strong connection with your Chinese clients, bosses, colleagues, and suppliers.

Do you feel uneasy, worried & confused when...

- ✓ Your China suppliers can only understand Mandarin
- ✓ Your Chinese customers prefer to deal in Mandarin
- ✓ The job you want to apply prefer Mandarin speaker

- ✓ Your colleagues converse Mandarin in the meeting
- ✓ Your company offer higher salary to Mandarin speaker

Learning Mandarin offers many benefits to personal and professional growth. Knowing mandarin = Understanding Chinese's mindset. You will also understand of one of the richest cultures in the world.

Here are 7 main reasons why it's important to learn Mandarin nowadays:

01 Mandarin is the second most spoken language in the world

Heres' 5 most widely-spoken languages in 2021:

English. : 1,132 million speakers

Mandarin Chinese : 1,117 million speakers

Hindi : 615 million speakers

Spanish : 534 million speakers

French. 280 million speakers

In addition to the People's Republic of China and Taiwan, Mandarin Chinese is also spoken in important

and influential Chinese communities of Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Brunei, the Philippines, and Mongolia

02 Chinese Mandarin gives you competitive edge

Knowing Mandarin will give you an edge when competing for an important position. Do you know that employer will usually choose the candidates who can speak Mandarin? Some companies are also willing to pay additional salary to employees who can speak Mandarin.

If you can speak Mandarin, you will have the confidence to speak with the locals in Mandarin and it would be beneficial for your work and business. Travelling around the world is always more enriching when you make friends with local people.

03 Mandarin is important for International business

As China market and economy is growing so fast, business leaders are looking for people who can speak Mandarin and operate successfully in a Chinese cultural context.

Mandarin is also an open door to a huge job market in all of the countries where Mandarin is the language of commerce like Mainland China, Taiwan, Malaysia and Singapore.

Learning Mandarin today can help make a better future for you. Abundant opportunities for government and business careers as well as scientific and cultural exchanges await the student of Chinese.

China market is blossoming after decades of global isolation. Now China is rapidly becoming a world economic power as it opens its doors to foreign investment expands its infrastructure, those who know Mandarin will be valuable to business.

In the past, people learn Mandarin because they are interested in Mandarin language and culture. Today if you can understand and speak Mandarin, you will have more opportunities of getting business deals and higher paying job.

04 Mandarin is actually easier than what you think

There are no verbs, no plurals, no tenses, no subject-verb agreement, and no conjugations in Mandarin.

There are over 100,000 Chinese characters but generally only 3,500 are used in conversation. In fact, Mandarin is regarded as a more logical language than English.

05 Mandarin takes intensive brain power

Do you know that learning Mandarin utilizes areas of the brain that other languages do not? Studies have been done on this, which means learning Mandarin takes intensive brain power.

English speakers use the left temporal lobe. Mandarin speakers use both! In addition to using both sides of your temporal lobe, bilingual people are said to be better at prioritizing and multitasking than monolingual people.

06 Mandarin helps in personal growth

Mandarin may seem daunting. The non-lettered alphabet and the different tones, but it's not as daunting as it seems. We will help you to understand the language and why this language will benefit your future.

When you learn Mandarin, not only do you learn the language, but you learn the Chinese way of life too. It may be surprising to you how different life can be. These experiences and language skills will deepen your personal growth.

07 Stronger bonding among Malaysian

This is the reason we started Belajar Bahasa Cina BBC. We hope every Malaysian can speak Malay, English, Mandarin and Tamil.

So, what is your main purpose of learning Mandarin? It must be very clear and strong reason so that you will have the perseverance to learn Mandarin.

Chapter 3

Is Mandarin Easy or Difficult to Learn?



What do you think about learning Mandarin? In order to answer whether Mandarin is easy or difficult to learn, let's compare Mandarin language with other languages.

How do we say “thank you” in:



English : Thank you

Malay : Terima kasih

Mandarin : Xiè xiè

Korean : Gamsahabnida

Japanese: Arigatōgozaimashita

What do you think?

Which one is the easiest to pronounce & remember?

Of course, it's “Xiè xie”!

Do you still think that Mandarin language is difficult ?

Let us analyse based on the following categories:

Speaking (Pronunciation): Moderate

Difficult for English speakers but easy for Malay speakers (because the pronunciation is very similar to Malay).

Words & Grammar: Easy

Mandarin words are relatively shorter than other languages, no tenses, no grammatical cases, no gender, neat use of numbers, logical number system, etc.

Sentences: Easy

Mandarin sentences are also relatively shorter and there's only 1 formula to construct sentences, which is the STPA formula.

Writing: Difficult

Chinese characters are probably the most difficult characters to read and write

Verdict: If you can speak Malay, it would be easy for you to speak Mandarin.

A

3 Main Reasons Why People Think Mandarin is Difficult

Characters

Mandarin has two systems, one is called pinyin 拼音 (Mandarin spelling or the romanization of Chinese characters based on their pronunciation) and the other is called *Hànzì* 汉字 (Chinese characters).

It is true that Chinese characters are the most complicated characters in the world. Even a simple word in English such as “I / me” is written as 我 *wǒ* (which has 7 strokes).

Different tones = Different meanings

Mandarin has 4 + 1 tones and each tone has different meaning. For example:

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
妈	mā (first tone)	Mother
麻 (雀)	má (second tone)	Sparrow
马	mǎ (third tone)	Horse
骂	mà (fourth tone)	Scold

**Same pinyin & tone,
but different characters & meanings**

As you learn more Chinese words, you will notice that even when some Chinese pinyin and tone sound the same, they can be different characters and meanings.

For example:

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
书	shū	Book
输	shū	Lose

B

3 Main Reasons Why Mandarin is Easy to Learn

No complicated grammar, grammatical gender, tenses, words

I / me	我 wǒ
my / mine	我的 wǒ de
he / she / it	他 / 她 / 它 tā
is / are / am / was / were	是 shì / 很 hěn
go / going / went / gone	去 qù

Numbers are used effectively

10 / ten	十 shí
11 / eleven	十一 shí yī
12 / twelve	十二 shí èr

Week	星期 xīng qī
Monday	星期一 xīng qī yī
Tuesday	星期二 xīng qī èr

Month	月 yuè
January	一月 yī yuè
February	二月 èr yuè

Mandarin vocabularies can be treated like building blocks

Mandarin vocabularies are very logical. You can guess their meanings correctly based on the words combination.

Character	Pinyin	Meaning
电	diàn	Electric
脑	nǎo	Brain
话	huà	Speech
影	yǐng	Shadow

Let's guess the meanings of these words:

电脑 *diàn nǎo*

电话 *diàn huà*

电影 *diàn yǐng*



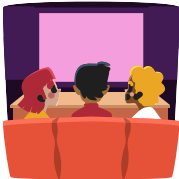
Answer

diàn *nǎo*
电 + 脑 = 电脑
electric + brain = **Computer**

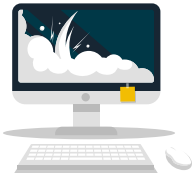
diàn *huà*
电 + 话 = 电话
electric + speech = **Telephone**

diàn *yǐng*
电 + 影 = 电影
electric + shadow = **Movie**

电 + 池 → 
 diàn / electric chí / reservoir
 电 池
 Diànchí / battery

电 + 影 → 
 diàn / electric yǐng / shadow
 电 影
 Diànyǐng / movie

电 + 话 → 
 diàn / electric huà / speech
 电 话
 Diànhuà / telephone

电 + 脑 → 
 diàn / electric nǎo / brain
 电 脑
 Diànnǎo / computer



Conclusion

Mandarin is not as difficult as what you think. The moment you start learning Mandarin, you will notice that it is actually quite similar to Malay in terms of pronunciation and sentence structure.

We believe most Malaysians will say Malay is easier than English, which means Mandarin is also easier to learn compare to English.

If you want to learn something, you have to become friends with it, and do not regard it as an unbeatable enemy!

We won't deny that Mandarin has unique challenges that are difficult to overcome, but try to look at Mandarin as something easy and exciting, rather than difficult or impossible. It's a self-fulfilling prophecy.

Chapter 4

Han Yu Pin Yin - Mandarin Spelling



Han yu means Mandarin while pin yin means spelling. Pinyin (eg: *xué zhōng wén*) is how Chinese words are pronounced. Pinyin is an essential tool for you to type characters by using qwerty keyboard on your laptop, tablet and phone.

Chinese characters (eg: 学 中 文) are how they are seen and written in textbooks, newspapers, books, etc.

There are 3 components of han yu pin yin:
6 vowels, 4+1 tones, 21 consonants

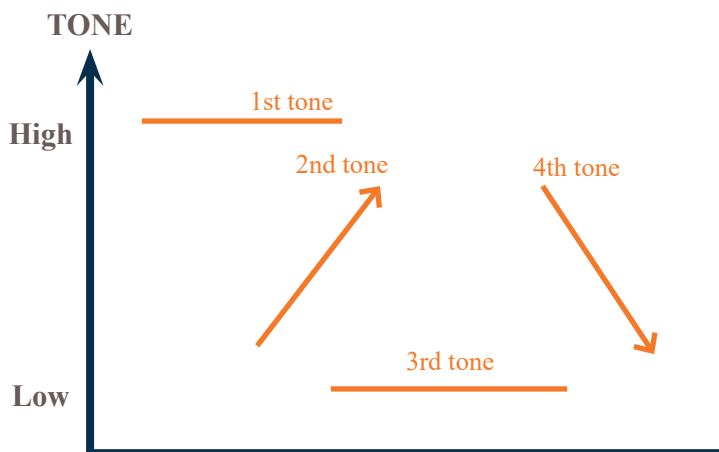
6 vowels

6 vowels	In Malay	In English
a	Ayam	
o	Orang	Obama
e	Emak	
i	Ibu	

6 vowels	In Malay	In English
u	Ular	
ü		Yui > Yü

4+1 Tones

4+1 Tones	Symbol	Sounds like
1st	—	Flat & high tone, Hi!
2nd	/	Rising tone, What?
3rd	∨	Flat & low tone, Err...
4th	\	Power tone, Yes! Go!
5th		Neutral/Soft tone



Combine all 6 vowels & 4 tones

a	o	e	i	u	ü
ā á ǎ à	ō ó ǒ ò	ē é ǝ è	ī í ǐ ì	ū ú ǔ ù	ǖ ǘ ǚ ǜ

21 Consonants

Pronounce with h		Pronounce without h	
pinyin	Pronounce like in Malay	pinyin	Pronounce like in Malay
ba	p agi	pa	ph agi
de	t eman	te	th eman
ge	k ecil	ke	kh ecil
ji	c inta	qi	ch inta
ma	m ami	ne	n elayan
fa	f asih	le	l elaki
he	h elang	xi	s iapa

pinyin	Pronounce without r	pinyin	Pronounce with r
zi	zi / tsu	zhi	zhir
ci	ci	chi	chirp
si	si	shi	shirt
-	-	ri	ri

Summary

Pronounce without h	Pronounce with h		
bo	po	mo	fo
de	te	ne	le
ge	ke	he	-
ji	qi	xi	-
zi	ci	si	-
zhi	chi	shi	ri

Chapter 5

Understand & Memorise Vocabulary



How many Mandarin words do you need to speak basic Mandarin?

You need to have at least 1000 words in mind and that's quite a lot to remember. We suggest students to breakdown into 10 words per day. In 100 days, you will have around 1000 words.

Learning words alone are not good enough as you may forget them easily and do not know how to apply. So, what is the more effective way to learn? One of the most effective methods is to construct sentences by using the words that you have learned.

Here are 10 Mandarin vocabularies, we will construct them into 3 questions and answers:

EN	Malay	CN	pinyin
I / me	Saya	我	wǒ
You	Kamu	你	nǐ
Called as	Panggil	叫	jiào
What	Apa	什么	shén me
Name	Nama	名字	míng zì
How many/much	Berapa	几	jǐ
Years old	Umur	岁	suì
Live	Tinggal	住	zhù
At/in/on	Di	在	zài
Where	Mana	哪里	nǎ lǐ

How to construct sentence?

(Tips: Think like Malay / broken English)

Q1

What do you called as / What is your name?

Awak panggil apa nama?

你叫什么名字?

nǐ jiào shén me míng zì?

A1

wǒ jiào Vincent.

Q2

How old are you?

Awak berapa umur?

你 几 岁?

nǐ jǐ suì?

A2

wǒ 33 suì.

Q3

Where do you live?

Awak tinggal di mana ?

你住在哪里?

nǐ zhù zài nǎ lǐ?

A3

wǒ zhù zài Malaysia.

Awesome! You just learned 13 words and 6 sentences.
Keep on learning for the next 100 days and you will have 1000 words in your mind.

NUMBERS

Let's learn number 1 to 10 in Mandarin. We will learn how to pronounce and memorise the words in Malay language. Are you ready to take on the challenge?

Number	CN	Pinyin	Pronounce like Malay
1	一	yī	Ibu
2	二	èr	Emak
3	三	sān	Son
4	四	sì	Sir
5	五	wǔ	Ubat
6	六	liù	Air Liur
7	七	qī	Cheese
8	八	bā	Bapa
9	九	jiǔ	Cium
10	十	shí	Shirt

STEP 1

Pronunciation

If you are not sure whether you pronounce them correctly or not, simply go to <https://www.belajarbahasacina.com.my/> and our teacher will gladly assist you.

STEP 2

Memorise: By Creating A Story



Saya ada Satu **I**bu
Saya panggil dia **E**mak
Emak saya ada Tiga **S**on
Saya pergi jumpa **S**ir
Sir bagi saya Lima biji **U**bat
Saya telan dengan 6 titis air **L**iur
Dan saya makan tujuh keping **C**heese
Saya pergi jumpa Ba**p**a
Bapa **c**ium saya sembilan kali
Dan beli sepuluh **s**hirt untuk saya

Chapter 6

Sentence Structure Formula



The main formula for sentence structure is either STPA or TSPA, where



S = Subjects (who) come at the beginning of the sentence.

T = Time (when) expressions come immediately before or after the subject.

P = Place (where) to explain where an event happened, the place expression comes before the verb.

A = Action, do something.

STA

In this sentence, the sequence is Subject, Time and Action (STA)

Princess | yesterday | went to see the doctor.

gōng zhǔ | zuó tiān | qù kàn yī shēng

公主昨天去看医生。

TSA

You can also use the other sequence, which is Time, Subject and Action (TSA) :

Yesterday | princess | went to see the doctor.

zuó tiān | gōng zhǔ | qù kàn yī shēng

昨天公主去看医生。

STPA

Now, we include Place to the same sentence. The place is hospital. The sequence is Subject, Time, Place and Action (STPA) :

Princess | yesterday | went to the hospital | see the doctor

gōng zhǔ | zuó tiān | qù yī yuàn | kàn yī shēng

公主昨天去医院看医生。

Chapter 7

Chinese Characters









After you have a good command of Mandarin, you can start to learn Chinese characters. We don't encourage Beginners to learn Chinese characters in the first place as it may not be easy for you.



Most people agree that Chinese characters is the hardest and most complicated characters in the world. A Chinese character contains an indication of pronunciation as well as an indication of meaning.

There are more than 100,000 different Chinese characters. However, the number of characters commonly used is around 2,000 to 5,000. Chinese characters look like image symbols, they are not random drawings. They are made of strokes.

In a way, strokes are closer to the concept of letters than characters are. They are the smallest unit of Chinese writing. Stroke order is important. Characters that look very complex at first sight, are in fact just a familiar sequence of strokes. These are 6 basic strokes:

English	Stroke	Chinese	Description	Example
Dot		Diǎn (点)	Tiny dash, speck	广
Horizontal		Héng (横)	Rightward stroke	王
Vertical		Shù (竖)	Downward stroke	巾
Throw		Piě (撇)	Falling leftwards	白
Press		Nà (捺)	Falling rightwards	八
Upward Hor-izontal		Tí (提)	Flick up and right-wards	打

These strokes can be combined to create more strokes. The basic idea is that most characters are made from small number of strokes.

English	Stroke	Chinese	Description	Example
Left falling dot		Piě Diǎn (撇点)	A slanting stroke from top right turns to leave a point	巡
Vertical rising		Shù Tí (竖提)	Vertical stroke with an upward stroke	农

English	Stroke	Chinese	Description	Example
Horizontal turning upward		Héng Zhé Tí (横折提)	Horizontal stroke with a vertical turn and an upward stroke	论
Clockwise curve		Wān Gōu (弯钩)	A tapering thin curve, usually concave left (convex outward right)	承
J hook		Shù Gōu (竖钩)	Appended to other strokes, suddenly going down or left only	小
Vertical curve hook		Shù Wān Gōu (竖弯钩)	The stroke is drawn downwards and curving right finishing with an upwards flick to create a small hook	屯
Slanting hook		Xié Gōu (斜钩)	Slant stroke with a hook	浅
Lying hook		Wò Gōu (卧钩)	Level bending stroke with a hook	心
Horizontal hook		Héng Gōu (横钩)	Horizontal stroke with a hook on the end point-ing downwards	写
Horizontal turning hook		Héng Zhé Gōu (横折钩)	From left to right and bending downward with a hook	月

English	Stroke	Chinese	Description	Example
Horizontal turning curve hook		Héng Zhé Wān Gōu (横折弯钩)	Horizontal stroke with a vertical turn and a level bending stroke with a hook	九
Horizontal left falling curve hook		Héng Piě Wān Gōu (横撇弯钩)	Horizontal stroke with a down to the left and a bending stroke with a hook	那
Horizontal turning (3x) hook		Héng Zhé Zhé Zhé Gōu (横折折折钩)	Horizontal stroke with a triple and a hook	奶
Vertical turn-ing (2x) hook		Shù Zhé Zhé Gōu (竖折折钩)	Vertical stroke with a double turn and a hook	与
Vertical curve		Shù Wān (竖弯)	Vertical stroke combined with a level bending stroke	四
Horizontal turning curve		Héng Zhé Wān (横折弯)	Horizontal stroke with a vertical turn and a level bending stroke	沿
Horizontal Break		Héng Zhé (横折)	A horizontal rightward stroke then a downwards to vertical	口

English	Stroke	Chinese	Description	Example
Vertical Break		Shù Zhé (竖折)	A vertical turning to the right	山
Left falling turning		Piě Zhé (撇折)	Down stroke to the left combined with a turn to the right	云
Horizontal left falling		Héng Piě (横撇)	Horizontal stroke with a down stroke to the left	水
Horizontal turning (2x) left falling		Héng Zhé Zhé Piě (横折折撇)	Horizontal stroke with a double turn and a down stroke to the left	建
Vertical turn-ing left falling		Shù Zhé Piě (竖折撇)	Vertical stroke with a level turn and a down stroke to the left	专

Radicals

氵 (三点水)

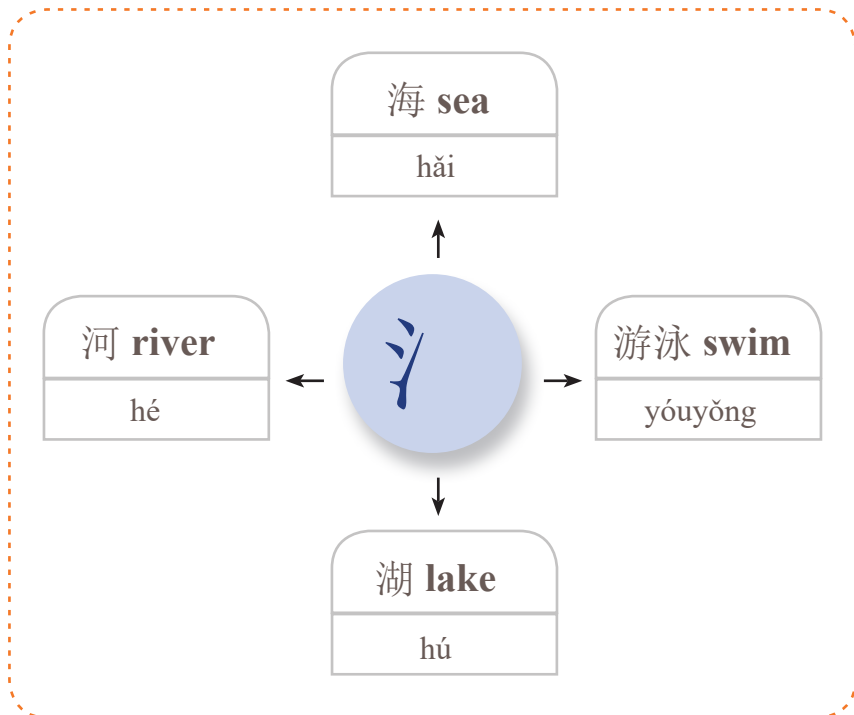
氵 (三点水) means three drops of water.

Most of the characters with the radical 氵 are related to



=

三点水 **water**
sān diǎn shuǐ



Examples of the character:

– 河 (river)

– 海 (ocean)

– 游 (swim)

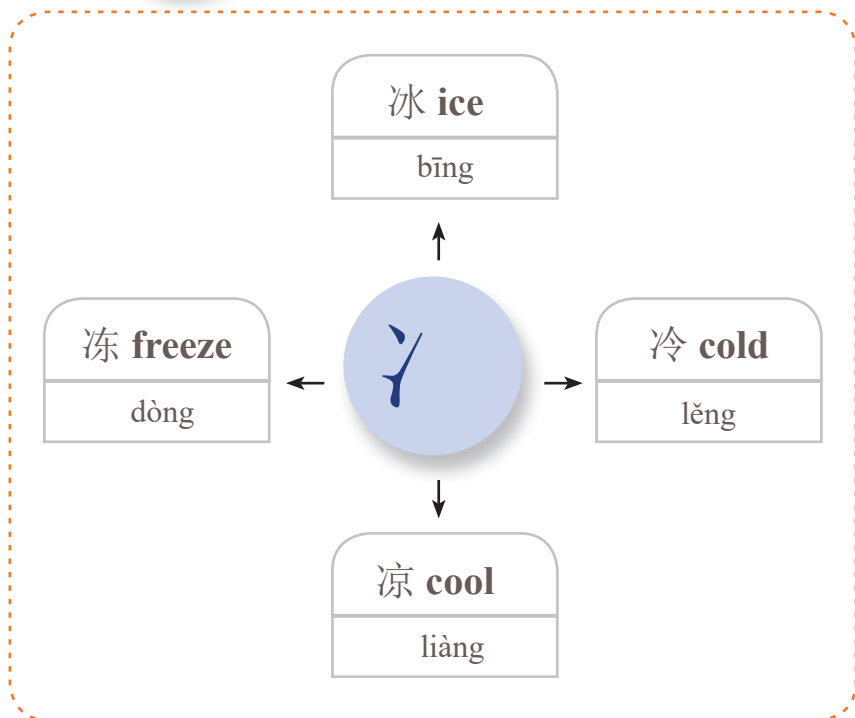
冫 (两点水)

冫 (两点水) means ice. Most of the characters with the radical 冫 are related to ice.



=

两点水 **ice**
liǎng diǎn shuǐ



Examples of the character:

– 冰 (ice)

– 冷 (cold)

– 冻 (freeze)

钅 (金字旁)

钅 (金字旁) means gold or metal. Most of the characters with the radical 钅 are related to gold or metal.



=

金字旁 metal / gold
jīn zì páng

Examples of the character:

– 铁 (iron)

– 银 (silver)

– 铜 (copper)

Please read the following Table of Radicals (简体字部首名称表) for your learning exploration.

Table of Radicals (简体字部首名称表)		
Radicals	Name	Examples
冫	两点水	冰、冷、冻
宀	秃宝盖	军、写、冠
十	十字儿	华
讠	言字旁	说、语、讲
刂	立刀旁	制、利、剑
八	八字旁	谷、分、公
人	人字头	仓、全、合
厂	厂字旁	原、压、历
力	力字旁	努
又	又字旁	艰
亻	单人旁	你、他、偷
卩	单耳刀	却
阝	双耳刀	陆
廴	建字旁	延
勹	包字头	甸
厶	私字儿	参
匚	三框儿	医
冂	同字框	网
氵	三点水	河、海、游
扌	三撇儿	彤
忄	竖心旁	快、愉
广	广字旁	底
夕	夕字旁	梦
辶	走字旁	邀、进
寸	寸字旁	封
扌	提手旁	拍、提、打
土	提土旁	地、垃、圾
艹	草字头	药、草、花
大	大字头	套
小	小字头	肖










Table of Radicals (简体字部首名称表)

Radicals	Name	Examples
口	口字旁	唱、吃、喝
囗	方框儿	国、园
门	门字框	阅、间、闯
巾	巾字旁	师
山	山字旁	峡、崩、岗
彳	双人旁	徐
犭	反犬旁	猪、猎、猫
饣	食字旁	饱、饭
户	户字头	屡
弓	弓字旁	张
子	子字旁	孩
女	女字旁	妈、姐、妹
纟	绞丝旁	绒、红
马	马字旁	骑、驾、驱
灬	四点底	热、煮、蒸
方	方字旁	旅
手	手字旁	拜
欠	欠字旁	欲
火	火字旁	灭、烧、灯
心	心字旁	意
止	止字旁	武
户	户字旁	扇
礻	示字旁	祖
王	王字旁	琅
木	木字旁	树、林、橱
车	车字旁	辆、输、轻
日	日字旁	晚、明、暗
臼	冒字头	冒、暑、显
父	父字头	爹、斧、釜
牛	牛字旁	牵、特、物
攴	反文旁	敏、故
斤	斤字旁	新
爪	爪字头	爱
月	月字旁	腹、肋、胖
穴	穴宝盖	穿、空、窟

Table of Radicals (简体字部首名称表)

Radicals	Name	Examples
立	立字旁	竖
目	目字旁	眼、瞳、盯
田	田字旁	男、胃、累
石	石字旁	研、碗、磊
矢	矢字旁	矮
疒	病字旁	疼、病、癌
钅	金字旁	铁、银、铜
𠂔	𠂔字头	蜀
皿	皿字底	孟、盖
禾	禾木旁	秋、种、秒
白	白字旁	泉
鸟	鸟字旁	鸭
米	米字旁	粒、糕、料
西	西字头	栗、要
页	页字旁	顷
舌	舌字旁	乱
缶	缶字旁	缸、缺
耳	耳字旁	耽、职
虫	虫字旁	蛹、蚂、蚁
虍	虎字头	虑、虚、虎
竹	竹字头	管、篮、笔
舟	舟字旁	船、艇
走	走字旁	赵
足	足字旁	跑、踢、跳
角	角字旁	触、解
身	身字旁	躲
鱼	鱼字旁	鲜、鳄、鳔
隹	隹字旁	雀
雨	雨字头	露、霜、零
齿	齿字旁	龄
革	革字旁	靴、鞭、勒
骨	骨字旁	骼
音	音字旁	韶、韵
宀	宝盖头	宝、家、室

Chinese character is a pictographic/ ideographic writing system, not a phonetic writing system. Being a “pictographic/ ideographic writing system” means that Chinese characters are images, like Egyptian hieroglyphs.

一	one	yī	
二	two	èr	
三	three	sān	
上	up	shàng	
下	down	xià	
大	big	dà	
小	small	xiǎo	
人	human	rén	
车	car	chē	

Chapter 8

Ways & Options to Pick Up Mandarin



A

9 Ways to Pick Up Mandarin

Choose the right study material

We develop our course materials in house especially for children & adults who have zero/ little basic of Mandarin.

Read Chinese conversations aloud

We will read the conversations aloud together in class.

Listen to Chinese audio and repeat them

There are exercises, song lyrics, dialogues, audio and video files for BBC students.

Write down conversations in pin yin.

You have to write and take notes in class.

Practice with Chinese songs

We will sing Chinese songs together.

Get a language tutor

You will have 2 tutors. One is your offline tutor and another one is your online tutor.

Understand & memorise the vocabularies

We have effective methods to help you understand the vocabularies.

Don't be shy to converse with others

Our student has to do Mandarin presentation/dialogue in class.

Speak Mandarin everyday

You have to speak Mandarin at least 15 minutes everyday.

B

5 Options to Start Learning Mandarin

Download free/ paid app in Google Play/ Apple store

Disadvantages: No interaction with real person, no support given if you have any question, no one can practice with you.

Learn from Youtube / Google

Disadvantages: Information overload, no interaction with real person, no support given if you have question, no one can practice with you

Join weekly class

Disadvantages: No teacher support after class, you can only ask your teacher during class.

1-day Seminar / workshop

Disadvantages: You only learn limited knowledge and will forget what you have learned after the seminar

Private one-to-one class

Disadvantages: Expensive, no chance to practice with other students as there's only you and your teacher

Now you may ask yourself, “Do I have other options?”

Chapter 9

BBC's Approach in Teaching Mandarin



Have you been searching your Dream Teacher 梦想老师？

Dedicated teacher who can ensure you to stay committed and inspired

Supportive teacher who is always by your side (so you can learn anytime & anywhere without need to travel)

Competent teacher who can provide systematic & relevant study materials (training videos + course book)

Here's your Dream Teacher 梦想老师

We have all these resources to guarantee you can speak fluent Mandarin!

+ Competent & supportive teacher

+ Video training & Course book

+ Every class session is recorded

+ Practice 15 minute daily

+ Lively & Interactive class

+ Affordable by everyone

+ Without need to travel

+ Easy

If you have zero or little basic of Mandarin, you must start from Beginner Level which is to learn 500 most important words

After you can speak basic Mandarin fluently, then only start to learn Chinese characters and more vocabularies in Intermediate Level.

Here are the most important topics that you should start with:

Topic 1 **Basics of Mandarin**

Topic 2 **Closed-ended question**

Topic 3 **Open-ended question (7W1H)**

Topic 4 **Self introduction**

Topic 5 **Numbers**

Topic 6 **Buy things**

Topic 7 **Mandarin Song**

Topic 8 **Examination**

Here's what we provide for our students:

- Speak Mandarin everyday via BBC Whatsapp Group
- Learn BBC (Malaysia) & HSK (China) course syllabus
- Lifetime Access to learning portal (Notes, Audios, Videos)
- Connect with supportive teachers, seniors and students
- Online Revision Class
- Certificate of Achievement

Chapter 10

4 Common Mistakes Made by Beginners



Mistake 1

Difference between *shì* (是) & *hěn* (很)

It is wrong to say “*wǒ shì hǎo*” (我是好).

One of the first things you learn in Mandarin is the “verb to be” — *shì* (是). You might automatically assume that whenever you need to say “is, am, are, were, was,” you should use *shì* (是). However, this assumption is wrong.

shì (是) = *ialah / adalah* (in Malay).

Do you say “*Saya ialah baik*” ?

In this case, we have to use the word *hěn* (很).

hěn (很) = *sangat / quite / very*

am/is/are/was/were - for **Noun** *shì* (是)

am/is/are/was/were -for **Adjective** *hěn* (很)

Examples of using the word “*shì*” for Noun

01 I **am** student = *Wǒ shì xué shēng* (我是学生)

02 I **am** Malaysian = *Wǒ shì mǎ láì xī yǎ rén*
(我是马来西亚人)

Examples of using the word “*hěn*” for Adjective

01 She **is** beautiful = *Tā hěn piào liang* (她很漂亮)

02 I **am** tall = *Wǒ hěn gāo* (我很高)



Exercise (Fill in the blank)

She is a teacher.	她 ____ 老师。
Lucas is playful.	卢卡斯 ____ 好玩。
She is intelligent.	她 ____ 聪明。
My father is a businessman.	我的爸爸 ____ 商人。
I am very happy.	我 ____ 快乐。
Lina's head is very pain.	琳娜的头 ____ 痛。
My mother's hair is very long.	我的妈妈头发 ____ 长。
Who are you?	你 ____ 谁?
I am a fisherman.	我 ____ 渔夫。
I am fine.	我 ____ 好。

Mistake 2

Ignoring Chinese Measure Word (Penjodoh Bilangan)

When quantity is involved — you must insert a measure word in between **number** of the object and **name** of the object.

In English it would be like : a **slice** of cake, a **box** of chocolate, a set of furniture.

In Malay it would be like: **sebuah** kereta, **sebijl**i telur, **se-****pinggan** nasi.

In Chinese, you can use **gè** 个 . It is the “general/universal” measure word that can be used for many things.

Examples of using Mandarin measure word

01

One person = *yī gè rén* (一个人)

02

One school bag = *yī gè shū bāo* (一个书包)

03

Three eggs = *sān gè jī dàn* (三个鸡蛋)

Mistake 3

Difference between *bù* (不) & *méi* (没)

You should never say “*bù yǒu* (不有) ”.

“*yǒu*” is a status, it means “have/got”. It deserves its own special negation word which is “*méi* (没)”. To say “don't have,” you should say “*méi yǒu* (没有) ”.

You should never say “*bù yǒu* (不有) ”. There is no such a thing! Here are the examples when we use ***bù*** (不) & ***méi*** (没):

Examples of using the word *bù* (不) and *méi* (没)

01

Have / Don't have = 有 *yǒu* / 没有 *méi yǒu*

02

Yes / No = 是 *shì* / 不是 *bù shì*

03

Want / Don't want = 要 *yào* / 不要 *bù yào*

04

Wish / Don't wish = 想 *xiǎng* / 不想 *bù xiǎng*

05

Need / No need = 需要 *xū yào* / 不需要 *bù xū yào*



Exercise

Do you have pencils?	你 _____ 铅笔吗?
I do not need any help.	我 _____ 需要任何帮助。
They don't want the cake.	他们 _____ 蛋糕。
Lina wish to become a lawyer.	琳娜 _____ 成为律师。
Fazli don't wish to know more.	法兹里 _____ 想知道更多。

Mistake 4

Forget to insert *de* (的) in between the adjective and the noun.

“*de* (的)” means **belonging/ punya** in Malay. In English, you can use the same word “cute” for both “he is cute” and “he is a cute boy” and nothing needs to change for the word “cute”.

But in Mandarin, to use an adjective that contains more than one word to describe a noun, you have to insert “*de* (的)” in between adjective and noun.

Example of using the word *de* (的)

01

He is cute = *tā hěn kě ài* (他很可爱)

02

Cute boy (Comel **punya** budak lelaki) = *Kě ài de nán hái* (可爱的男孩)

However, for adjectives that only contain one word, you don't need to insert “*de* (的)”.

Example of don't need using the word *de* (的)

01

Good student = *hǎo xué shēng* (好学生)

02

Pretty girl = *měi nǚ* (美女)

I want to congratulate you for taking time to read this book, to invest in your knowledge and personal growth.

We hope we can speak Mandarin with you in near future!

About Belajar Bahasa Cina BBC

BBC Learning Hub Plt aka Belajar Bahasa Cina BBC is established in May 2015. We are approved training centre registered under Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) and Ministry of Finance (MOF).

Our mission is to provide quality Mandarin language instruction and to promote international and intercultural understanding.

We have been invited to conduct Mandarin corporate training in more than 20 organisations such as

- Petroliam Nasional Berhad (PETRONAS)
- Sapura Secured Technologies Sdn Bhd
- Les' Copaque Production (Upin & Ipin)
- Pihak Berkuasa Kemajuan Pekebun Kecil Perusahaan Getah (RISDA)
- Gamuda GM Klang Sdn Bhd

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