

Writing Chinese with 99 simple characters

中 Booklet 2

三个大人入山



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The next 50 Chinese characters 汉字

The booklet "Writing Chinese with 50 easy characters" shows on 24 pages 50 of the easy Chinese characters with a form of "memorizing hint" with the purpose that elementary students of Chinese can overcome to learn the first characters and get some idea of this interesting part of the Chinese culture. Further there are included 35 other a little more complicated characters which are needed to write a few important elementary sentences, see the summary on the back of the booklet, page 24 in booklet no. 1 (上), which we here refer to as: p 1-24. We now enlarge here in this booklet no. 2 (中) with 50 also a little less easy characters, e.g. with the intension of being able to write a few more words from China's rich geography and culture, and to expand the Chinese numeral system.

汉字

Hànzì

Chinese character, or: 汉 Han-people 字 character

汉 Han-people (as in the typography here): we see a face with a flat-topped headscarf with bristle hair and a hair pigtail on his right. 字 is shown on p 1-16.

(The Han Dynasty lasted for ca. 400 years, from ca. 200 B.C. to ca. 200 A.D., i.e. in the same period as the Roman Empire evolved and expanded to the whole Mediterranean area).

Characters can be seen big size on the back of this booklet, p 24, in the common typography here.

汉人 Hànrén = Han people.

好汉 hǎohàn = brave man, hero

汉子 hànzi = man, fellow; notice the small difference to: 汉字 Hànzì = character.

(子 zǐ = son: p 1-16).

汉语

Hànyǔ

Chinese language

汉 Han people 语 language. 语 is made of 3 elements: in front the small "i" person with a cap informs us of the 5 tones in Chinese language by letting the numeral 5 stand on a box: 口 kǒu; 5:

五

wǔ

5 (five)

Written as an "h" standing on the horizontal ground with a horizontal hat on top, an h as a *hand* with 5 fingers, a hand like the Roman numeral V (= 5).

(The other numerals are shown later, on p 12).

五十个汉字 wǔshí gè Hànzì = 50 Chinese characters

日语 Rìyǔ = Japanese language (see p 1-6).

语文 yǔwén = language and literature; (文 wén = language, literature, see p 1-13).

口语 kǒuyǔ = spoken language; (口 kǒu = mouth:)

On p 1-7 we have the easy character for mouth: 口 kǒu, a square for an open mouth, which could be a singing mouth, here a choir of 3:

唱
chàng
sing

3 persons sing with an open mouth, by the low person to the right and the tall person behind we see the tongue in the middle of the mouth. The open square (or quadrangle) speaking mouth is part of several characters and words:

说
shuō
speak

We see a person as one big open mouth, 2 bristle hair, stamping his foot, standing by a sign like an "i" for informing with his speech.

说明 shuōmíng = explain, explanation, illustrate; (明 míng = bright, see p 1-7).

话
huà
word, speak, speech

On a box (the speaking square mouth symbol) by an "i" sign we see a speaker with open arms giving information. (The 讠 (radical) symbol is often part of characters in connection with speech, language, etc. as we see here; see also about radicals p 15, p 1-13, 1-20, 1-21).

说话 shuōhuà = speak, talk 说大话 shuō dàhuà = brag, big talk; (大 dà = big, see p 1-4).

电 话
diànhuà
telephone

Telephone: speak by electricity.

(Our speaking person has taken the phone-receiver to speak by a box phone with 4 segments):

电
diàn
electricity

A cable leads from the ground up through a box divided into 4 segments.

电门 diànmén = switch (p 1-7) 电车 diànchē = tram, trolleybus (p 1-11).

电 脑
diànnǎo
computer

An electric brain, shown as a box with cross wires, having a lid with handle, placed by a moon 月 yuè giving brightness, (p 1-6).

脑子 nǎozi = brain

听

tīng

listen

We saw p 1-10, the simple open shed character 厂 chǎng = factory. A person with open gaping mouth stands by the wall and listens to the standing T-person inside Telephoning, T for tīng.

听说 tīngshuō = be told, hear about, it is said ...

If we remove the gaping mouth from 听 we get:

斤

jīn

pound, Chinese weight unit ca. ½ kg

公斤 gōngjīn = kg (kilogram), modern weight unit ("public pound"):

公

gōng

public

A public servant is sitting leaning forward below 2 shields and writing. Public servants were highly respected and important in China.

公公 gōnggōng = grandfather (father's father), the wife's father in law

The most important person in the family. The family is important in China and the elder people are highly respected.

There are also other words for grandfather.

(See next page: 公共 gōnggòng).

太公 tài gōng = great grandfather (p 1-4).

公安 gōng'ān = public security, police, "creating public peace", 安 ān = peace (p 1-18).

公文 gōngwén = document, official paper, (p 1-13).

公里 gōnglǐ = km (kilometre), modern length unit ("public li"):

里

lǐ

li = ca. 500 m, Chinese length unit

Does also mean: 里 lǐ = inside

What is inside the gift box placed on the post standing from the ground?

米

mǐ

m (meter) modern length unit (1000 m = 1 km)

Does also mean: 米 mǐ = rice

Looks like a tree 木 mù (p 1-8) with 2 bristly rice straws on the upper part.

Looks somehow like a + and an x combined.

公 共

gōnggòng

public

Each character means public. The second public servant stands there happy with cross twinkling eyes, arms stretched out, and legs apart, waiting for the message from the other writer.

中 共 Zhōnggòng = CPC = the Communist Party of China

公 园

gōngyuán

park

Our Greek number π pi now with a flat cap walks around in the square, fenced park.

园子 yuánzi = garden

We saw the character 子 zǐ = son, child on p 1-16, so a garden is a small park, a "park child".

元

yuán

Chinese dollar

Our Greek number π pi with a flat cap, here without the fence around, without the frame.

公元 Gōngyuán = A.D. (= after the year 0)

分

fēn

Chinese cent, 100 分 = 1 元

Does also mean: minute (see p 7)

Here a stunted π pi is squeezed down below 2 shields.

人 民 币

rénmínbì

RMB = China currency

Notice the small difference between: 币 bì = currency and 市 shì = municipality (see p 16).

民

mín

people, civilian

We see a person with a rectangular head walking on stepping feet and waving his arms.

人民 rénmín = people 公民 gōngmín = citizen 民主 mínzhǔ = democracy (see next page)

平民 píngmín = civilian, common people

平

píng

calm, peaceful, common, flat, even

A common calm face with a wide mouth, oblique Chinese eyes, and a flat hat.

早

zǎo

early morning

We aim our sight cross towards the low early morning sun 日 rì (p 1-6).

早上 zǎoshang = early morning (p 1-11)

午

wǔ

noon

The draught ox 牛 niú (see p 11) gets a rest at noon 午 wǔ with feeding at this hay stand, made as a post with 2 crossbars. (Notice the small writing difference: 午, 午, the ox 牛 niú has a top-horn).

上午 shàngwǔ = morning before noon

You get towards noon, like 上车 shàngchē = getting into the car (see p 1-12).

下午 xiàwǔ = afternoon

You get away from noon, like 下车 xiàchē = getting out of the car (see p 1-12).

主

zhǔ

host

We earlier (p 1-9) saw the characters: 工 gōng = work and 王 wáng = king.

Now we just place a tassel on top of the king and he becomes a host.

主人 zhǔrén = host, owner, master

If we squeeze the wry T person radical symbol (p 1-13) tight to him the host invites us to stay:

住

zhù

live (where you live)

床

chuáng

bed

Consists of 木 mù = tree under an open shed roof with a bird on the top 广 guǎng = broad, (p 1-8, 10). Inside the shed a wooden bed is placed.

用

yòng

use

The character for moon 月 yuè (p 1-6) has here got a centre line to make more use of its light.

不用 búyòng = it is not necessary (p 1-19)

公用 gōngyòng = for public use (p 4)

公用电话 gōngyòng diànhuà = phone for public use (p 3)

点

diǎn

o'clock

In the old days you often saw a big sundial on a gable wall or tower wall, e.g. as a horizontal rod stretching out from the wall, making its shadow on a circle arch with the time written.

We here see such a sundial from the side, placed on top of a box raised on 4 "legs".

五点 wǔ diǎn = 5 o'clock

五点二十五 wǔ diǎn èrshíwǔ = the time is 5:25,

or 五点二十五分 wǔ diǎn èrshíwǔ fēn = the time is 5:25 (5 o'clock hours 25 minutes) (p 5).

十分 shí fēn = very much

十二分 shí èr fēn = more than very much, more than 100%, extremely

时

shí

time / hour

A person stands watching the sun 日 rì (p 1-6) to see the time.

时时 shíshí = always

时间 shíjiān = time (e.g. hours and minutes):

间

jiān

room / measure word for room

We look through a door 门 mén (p 1-7) into a room with 2 boxes.

点 diǎn has more meanings (than o'clock above):

点 diǎn = drop

4 drops come from the bottom of the box here, a box with a handle at the top. In characters the different strokes have their special names, and the 4 small drops from the bottom are called: 点 diǎn. Dots, 点 diǎn, are part of many characters right from our first pages, see e.g. p 1-4 太 tài = very.

点子 diǎnzi = idea, key point; (子 zǐ = child p 1-16), (the small drop that becomes something big).

一点儿 yìdiǎnr = a little bit; 一 yì = yī = number 1, 儿 (ér) = child (p 1-3 and 1-17).

点火 diǎnhuǒ = ignite a fire:

火

huǒ

fire

A person 人 rén is waving his arms, because there is a fire.

火车 huǒchē = train; 车 chē = vehicle (p 1-11).

飞机 fēijī = airplane:

飞

fēi

fly

We see an artificial bird fly with its 2 wings.

机

jī

machine, engine

A piece of wood 木 mù (p 1-8) is mounted to a steel stand 几 jǐ (p 13) to give a machine.

行

xíng

go, travel / OK, all right, it is acceptable

We see a T with a foot after a wry T, both with a hat, so it is all right to travel, everything is OK.

(There are also other expressions for OK).

行人 xíng rén = pedestrian

行 is also pronounced: 行 háng = row / firm / occupation, profession

The 2 T's stands in a row ready to enter the firm. (行 is used e.g. p 13 and 17).

The pronunciation Háng is also due for: 杭 Háng for the city: 杭州 Hángzhōu (see p 16).

来

lái

come

Both a cross + and a kind of X and on the top a cross line shows the joy by coming, (see 米 mǐ p 4)

去

qù

go, leave

A cross on top on a cross line on a barge shows that someone is leaving.

无

wú

nothing, has not

A person with a narrow face and a flat hat waves his arms and one foot, because he has got nothing.

无用 wú yòng = useless, (p 6)

无不 wú bù = without exception, (p 1-19)

Toilet e.g.:

无人 wú rén = vacant, without person, (p 1-2)

有人 yǒu rén = occupied, has a person, (p 1-15)

手机 shǒu jī = cell phone, (p 1-13)

回来 huílái = return, (p 1-7)

开

kāi

open, start

E.g. the shop has opened. The entrance door spreads out its arms to show that here is open.

关

guān

close, turn off

E.g. the shop has closed. 人 rén = a person has taken on his hat with 2 feathers to leave, and stretches his arms out to show: closed here.

开关 kāi guān = switch

雨

yǔ

rain

The rain drips with 4 drops inside the house that even has an extra roof on a big post.

下雨 xià yǔ = it rains (p 1-11)

伞

sǎn

umbrella, sunshade

An umbrella or sunshade with leaning supports is placed on a post above a table.

果

guǒ

fruit

A tree 木 mù grows a box of fruit on its top, a 4 segmented box (p 1-8).

水果 shuǐguǒ = fruit (水 shuǐ = water, see p 15).

李

lǐ

plum / surname

A tree 木 mù grows its offspring, children 子 zǐ from the bottom: as plums (p 1-8 and 1-16).

花

huā

flower

2 stalks carry a flat flower tray with 2 flowers, the 2 stalks as a wry T + an L with 2 inclined leaf stalks. (Left side stalk: see p 1-13 person radical 亻, right side stalk: see 七 qī = 7 p 12).

马

mǎ

horse

I remember this as an artistic horse with a rider: we see the belly and the back of the horse with galloping hind legs, and the rider sits leaning over the raised head of the horse. (The historic evolution of this and other characters is different, but this is left for a later interesting cultural study).

马上 mǎshàng = immediately, ("I shall do that fast as on a horse"). 上 on p 1-11.

妈 妈

māma

mother, mommy

妈 mā = mother is pronounced in the same manner as 马 mǎ = horse, so the same symbol is used here but with the female symbol 女 nǚ in front. The character is doubled to "soften" the word, (to about the same word as it is used by children in many languages).

吗

ma

question marker particle

吗 ma is pronounced in the same way as 马 mǎ = horse, so the same symbol is used, but with an open gaping mouth in front: 口 kǒu (p 1-7).

Questions can be formed by adding 吗 ma after the normal sentence:

你说汉语吗? nǐ shuō Hànyǔ ma? = do you speak Chinese?

We saw p 1-19 that we can also make a question using 不 bù = not:

你说不说汉语? nǐ shuō bù shuō Hànyǔ? = do you speak Chinese?

ANIMAL CALENDAR: 农历 nónglì = Lunar Calendar, Agricultural Calendar (see next page):

The traditional Chinese calendar, works according to the phases of the moon with shift of month by new moon. There are 12 months in a normal year, and occasionally 13 months (about every 3' year). Traditional Chinese philosophy of life finds it of influence what animal year you are born, and how different people are in harmony with one another.

马 mǎ = horse is one of the 12 animals in 农历 nónglì = Animal Calendar: the year 2002 is the year of the horse, and so is every 12th year before and after, e.g. 1990 and 2014. The animal year changes at the 2' new moon after winter solstice and begins with the Chinese New Year festival lasting 2 weeks. The moon new year falls on different dates in late January or February from year to year. The year of the horse begins in 2014 on Friday January 31st, and lasts to Thursday February 19th, 2015, when the year of the sheep (or goat) begins:

羊

yáng

sheep, goat

We see the 2 ears of the sheep and that its sides are bristly round with wool.

山羊 shānyáng = goat, mountain goat

农

nóng

farmer

A farmer walks with his wide shadowy hat with a seed basket on his stomach and swinging his arm back to sow his grain.

历

lì

calendar / go through

We here see our h-strength 力 lì (p 1-14) has gone below the factory shed roof 厂 chǎng (p 1-10) to look into the calendar.

农民 nóngmín = farmer (see p 5)

日历 rìlì = calendar (normal calendar, like the western), (p 1-6).

生

shēng

give birth to

This character is described as: up from the ground 土 tǔ (p 1-8) there grows, is born, a plant with a vertical stalk and 2 upper cross stalks and to the left with a leaf.

With (p 1-18) 长 pronounced zhǎng we get: 生长 shēngzhǎng = grow for our born plant.

生日 shēngrì = birthday (p 1-6 日 rì = sun, day)

学生 xuéshēng = student

姓

xìng

is called, is named (regarding the surname alone)

The character for woman 女 nǚ + the character for giving birth 生 shēng. The woman gives birth to a child to get the surname. 姓 xìng is used for the surname only, and 叫 jiào (p 1-2) is used for the given name or the full name. Chinese: first the family name then the given name, e.g. Jensen Niels.

先 生

xiānsheng

Mister, Mr., husband, teacher

Our Greek pi π with a cross like head with a cap in his back head walked earlier towards being born:

先 xiān = first, earlier

If we let 生 shēng loose the ground connection by removing the bottom cross line we get:

牛

niú

cow, ox

An important animal in farming. 牛 niú is in the Animal Calendar (e.g. year 2009). (See 午 wǔ p 6).

NUMBERS

We have earlier considered some easy numbers, numerals, p 1-3. Here are all the numbers:

一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	百	千	万	亿
yī	èr	sān	sì	wǔ	liù	qī	bā	jiǔ	shí	bǎi	qiān	wàn	yì
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	100	1,000	10,000	100,000,000
Chinese system:												1 0000	1 0000 0000

100 (one hundred) is called: 一百 yī bǎi = 100

1000 is: 一千 yī qiān = 1,000

1 0000 is: 一万 yī wàn = 10,000

1 0000 0000 is: 一亿 yī yì = 100,000,000

(The pronunciation of yī can be yí or yì depending on the tone of the following word).

The Chinese numeral system operates with blocks of 4 zeros, where the West uses 3 zeros. (This should be remembered also when we communicate in English, and also remember that billion is 1000 times bigger in part of Europe than in USA).

We have earlier considered the numbers: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 100, 1,000 (p 1-3 and p 2). The rest are:

六 liù = 6, a head + a cross line + two legs: looks like a running man without body.

七 qī = 7, looks like the numeral 7 with a cross line, turned around top down.

八 bā = 8, looks like 2 simple curved lines striving upwards.

九 jiǔ = 9, looks like an h with an outwards tamping foot.

万 wàn = 10,000, looks like an h with a flat hat with an inwards tamping foot.

亿 yì = 100,000,000, from the wry T through the alphabet to Z.

零 líng = 0 (zero)

The complicated character for 0 is here included to make the numbers complete.

Being a farmer's boy, so: a dairy maid who is milking cows has a flat cap, her arms are stretched out with hanging relaxed hands, she has 4 breasts (or is it rolls of fat), she has just got up from her overturning milking stool so that she is about dropping her underpants in one side).

Forget for now to write this character. The Chinese instead often write the European: 0

两 liǎng = 2

2 circus artists with flat hats perform on a carpet beater steel pipe stand.

The number 2: in correct Chinese 两 liǎng = 2 is used instead of 二 èr = 2 when it is followed by a measure word or the like, e.g.:

两个人 liǎng gè rén = 2 persons

两 liǎng is only used for 2, not for 12 og 22 etc: 二十二个人 èr shí èr gè rén = 22 persons

两亿二千万 = 220,000,000 一万一 = 11,000 三千一 = 3,100

一 yāo = 1: 一 yī = 1 is pronounced yāo when a row of numbers is said e.g. for a phone or bus number. (This is said to make distinct the difference between 一 yī = 1 and 七 qī = 7).

号 号
hào háo
date, number yell

We see a speaker platform with a speaker as a big mouth 口 kǒu yelling numbers and dates (p 1-7).

口号 kǒuhào = slogan (p 1-7) 号叫 háojiào = yell (p 1-2)

Date is expressed as: number month and then date. e.g.:

十二月二十五号 shíèr yuè èrshíwǔ hào = 12 month 25 date, i.e. December 25th.

年
nián
year

On the upper part of a post there are placed 3 cross bars for the 3 normal years and then the special leap year is marked to the left on the 2 upper bars with a small vertical and inclined dot.

The year is expressed by mentioning the 4 digits as numbers from 0 to 9, e.g.:

二零一二年 èr líng yī èr nián = 2012 year, i.e. year 2012.

Date is expressed as: year, month, day. E.g. August 31st, 1976 is:

一九七六年八月三十一号 yī jiǔ qī liù nián bā yuè sānshíyī hào = 1976 year 8 month 31 date, the same as 1976.08.31 which is according to EU rule.

几
jǐ
how many, several

One is walking to the left, another to the right, and they cover up for others. How many are there?

几月 jǐ yuè = which month

几号 jǐ hào = what date

(几 jǐ = how many is used here even when the answer is up to 31.

Otherwise 几 is reserved for cases where the answer does not exceed much more than 10).

今天
jīntiān
today

今 jīn: we see the bow of a fruit boat with a sunshade coming to the river market today.

天 tiān = day (p 1-4).

今天几月几号 jīntiān jǐ yuè jǐ hào = what date is it today?

今年 jīnnián = this year

九天 Jiǔtiān = the 9th Heaven (the highest) (p 1-4). (In the West the 7th Heaven is the highest).

七十二行 qī shí èr háng = all sorts of occupations (p 8).

五花八门 wǔ huā bā mén = of a wide variety, multifarious (p 9, 1-7).

九牛一毛 jiǔ niú yì máo = one hair from 9 oxhides = it is just a drop in the ocean! (p 11, 1-13)

GEOGRAPHY

Geographic names of e.g. some of China's provinces and cities include the words east, west, south, north, and rivers and lakes. (In China there are several big cities and cultural cities bigger than Paris and Rome and there are several provinces with more inhabitants than Great Britain, see p 17).

The 4 compass directions do not have the most simple characters:

西	东	北	南
xī	dōng	běi	nán
west	east	north	south

We have previously (p 1-10, 1-11) had 西 xī = west and 东 dōng = east.

The cold north 北 běi is shown by a couple of naked dead trees.

South 南 nán: in China you traditionally prefer to open up your house to the south: a small man stands in the opening with a cross like lamp over and looks to the south (see e.g. 门 mén = door p 1-7, somewhat alike). He stands with outstretched arms and has a flat hat with 2 big feathers.

Chinese say e.g.: west-north: 西北 xīběi = north-west, and east-south: 东南 dōng nán = south-east.

东西 dōngxī = thing

川

chuān

river; creek; plain; an area of level country; abbreviation for 四川 Sichuan Province

3 vertical lines show a stream running down the slope.

四川 Sìchuān. A western province (not far west), 80 mill inhabitants.

四川 Sìchuān was the first province to get more than 100 mill inhabitants.

Then 重庆市 Chóngqìng Shì (see p 16) was separated from 四川 Sìchuān as a selfgoverning 市 shì = municipality (like Běijīng Shì), a metropol city with a surrounding area twice the size of Denmark. 重庆市 Chóngqìng Shì is often called the world's biggest city, with 30 mill inhabitants, but this is then including a very big area (see p 16).

100 million = 一亿 yī yì = 1 0000 0000 is a more "round" number in Chinese than in the West (see p 12).

重 庆

Chóngqìng

庆 qìng = celebrate, consists of: 大 dà = big below the symbol 广 guǎng = broad, i.e. two big words for this great city.

重 chóng = repeat / again: looks like a great ladder with a vertical post from the ground up to the sky: with steps of cross lines repeated to 5 lines + a box around the centre step.

So here far up the 长江 Chángjiāng = Yangtze River we again arrived at a very big city.

水
shuǐ
water

The water in the stream 川| chuān has stopped so the 3 small lines are curled, to a K like symbol with mirror reflection (K like Kettle for water).

黄
huáng
yellow

A small yellow gift box with 2 legs and a hat decorated with 2 crosses.

河
hé
river

At 江 jiāng = river (p 1-18) we have stains of water splash on a steel bridge across the river. Here by 河 hé we have stains of water splash on a timber bridge: a flat bridge deck lies on a post with a horizontal □ beam. The water stain symbol (radical) is often part of characters involving water. (Radicals are important in reading Chinese Characters and using dictionaries).

黄河 Huánghé = The Yellow River (the cradle of Chinese ancient culture).

河口 hékǒu = river mouth (p 1-7)

河水 héshuǐ = river water

江河 jiānghé = rivers (p 1-18)

河山 héshān = land, territory (p 1-6)

江山 jiāngshān = land, landscape (p 1-18, 1-6)

山川 shānchuān = land, landscape (p 1-6, p 14)

火山 huǒshān = volcano (p 7, p 1-6)

运河 yùnhé = canal:

运
yùn
carry, transport

A small man like an “i” with a cap walks and pulls a river barge with our writing official on from earlier (p 4: 公 gōng, see also p 8 去 qù).

湖
hú
lake

The character consists of a box with a cross on top between the water stain symbol and the moon symbol: a little man = the cross stands on top of a box to better see the moon by the lake.

西湖 Xīhú = the West Lake at 杭州 Hángzhōu (e.g. praised by Marco Polo):

杭

Háng

surname Háng / or abbreviation for the city:

杭州 Hángzhōu (3 lines of streams + 3 diǎn dots of lakes, see p 1-18).

杭 Háng as a cool tree 木 mù by a stylistic covered park bridge.

海

hǎi

sea, ocean

4 containers are piled on a ship with roof covering, and with the water splash symbol.

黄海 Huánghǎi = The Yellow Sea (p 15)

上海 Shànghǎi = e.g. where you get onto the sea / where the ocean begins (p 1-11)

海口 hǎikǒu = sea port (p 1-7)

下海 xiàhǎi = go to sea, engage in trade, self-employed (p 1-11)

林海 línhǎi = immense forest (p 1-8)

京

jīng

capital

The square emperor walks in the capital with his wide hat with a tassel on the top and in his wide coat.

南京 Nánjīng = the former south capital

东京 Dōngjīng = Tokyo (east capital)

北京 Běijīng = north capital

北 大

Běi Dà

Peking University

北 京 话

Běijīng huà

Beijing dialect

北 京 时 间

Běijīng Shíjiān

Chinese Standard Time

市

shì

city, market

On the market we look into a square market booth with an extra roof above.

市

shì

市 shì (municipality)

the 市 shì area

main city, inhab.

(from UN 2010)

北京市

Běijīng Shì

20 mill inhab

17.000 km²

11 mill.

上海市

Shànghǎi Shì

23 mill inhab

6.000 km²

16 mill.

重庆市

Chóngqìng Shì

29 mill inhab

80.000 km²

7 mill.

Some Chinese provinces:

(see e.g. p 1-18)

人口 rénkǒu = inhabitants (mill.)

四川 Sìchuān = 4 rivers	80	
河北 Héběi = north of the river 黄河 Huánghé	70	
河南 Hénán = south of the river 黄河 Huánghé	100	
江西 Jiāngxī = west on the river 长江 Chángjiāng	50	
湖北 Húběi = north of the lake	60	
湖南 Húnán = south of the lake	70	
广东 Guǎngdōng = broad east	110	
广西 Guǎngxī = broad west	50	(autonomous)
山东 Shāndōng = east of the mountains	100	
山西 Shānxī = west of the mountains	40	
海南 Hǎinán = south sea	9	(southern tropical island)

Some Chinese cities:

北京 Běijīng = north capital	11
上海 Shànghǎi = at the sea	16
重庆 Chóngqìng = again celebrate	7
广州 Guǎngzhōu = broad district (= Canton)	9
西安 Xī'ān = west peace	4
南京 Nánjīng = south capital	4
杭州 Hángzhōu = Háng district	3

山东 Shāndōng = east of 太行山 Tàihángshān, and 山西 Shānxī = west of 太行山 Tàihángshān:

太行山

Tàihángshān

"The very big row of mountains". Tàiháng mountains on the border between 河北 Héběi and 山西 Shānxī.

(太, 行, 山 see p 1-4, 8, 1-6)

西湖 Xīhú = West lake (by 杭州 Hángzhōu)

天山 Tiān Shān = The Tiān Mountains, the celestial mountains, in West China

京杭大运河

Jīng Háng Dà yùn hé

The Grand Canal, length = 1777 km

大运河 Dà yùn hé = big canal, from 京 Jīng to 杭 Háng, from 北京 Běijīng to 杭州 Hángzhōu.

The world's longest man made canal, construction started 2,500 years ago. A big part was built in the years 600 A.D. From ca. 1000 A.D. ship locks began to be installed, after its Chinese invention, to replace the difficult and labour demanding sliding ramps.

Above (p 15) we considered 河 hé = river. If we remove the water splash we get:

可 kě = but

可是 kěshì = but, however

And if we also remove the 冫 beam we get:

丁 dīng = adult man, diced food

If we have 2 of 可 and pile one on top of another we get:

哥 gē = big brother

哥哥 gēge = big brother, as we in Chinese often say the syllable twice to “soften” the word.

Above (p 16) we considered 京 jīng = capital. If we remove the hat and centre foot we get:

只

zhǐ

only, merely

A simple small box that runs.

只

zhī

measure word

There are also other words for only, e.g.:

才 cái = ability, just, only

A person just has the ability to balance on only one leg.

才干 cáigàn = competent (p 1-9)

天才 tiāncái = talent (p 1-4)

A fruit 果 guǒ (p 9) of information, an information fruit:

课 kè = lesson, class

课本 kèběn = text book (p 1-8: 本 běn = root, is also e.g. measure word for books).

The next 50 simple Chinese characters

85 characters are presented here. The reader then can select 50 to understand and learn:

page 2 3 4 5 6 7
 汉语五唱说话电脑听斤公里米共园元分民币平早午主住床用点时间火
 8 9 10 11 12
 飞机行来去无开关雨伞果李花马妈吗羊农历生姓先牛六七八九万亿零
 13 14 15 16 18
 两号年几今北南川重庆水黄河运湖杭海京市可丁哥只才课

A few short reading exercises for this booklet 2 (“99 simple characters”)

page 2-3:

中国人说汉语	Zhōngguó rén shuō Hànyǔ	The Chinese speak Chinese
他们有电脑	tāmen yǒu diànnǎo	They have a computer

p 4-5:

听说公园太小	tīngshuō gōngyuán tài xiǎo	It is said that the park is too small
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p 6-7:

上午十点五分,	shàngwǔ shí diǎn wǔ fēn,	In the morning at 10:05,
你的主时时下火车	nǐ de zhǔ shíshí xià huǒchē	your host always gets off the train

p 8-9:

果是无用,	guǒ shì wú wúyòng,	The fruits are without exception useless,
行人有白花	xíng rén yǒu bái huā	and the pedestrian had a white flower

p 10-11:

先山羊生吗?	xiān shānyáng shēng ma?	Is the mountain goat the first to give birth?
--------	-------------------------	---

p 12-13:

她的生日是几号?	tā de shēngrì shì jǐ hào?	What date is her birthday?
----------	---------------------------	----------------------------

p 14-15:

飞机运大东西来湖	fēijī yùn dà dōngxī lái hú	Airplanes transport big things to the lake
----------	----------------------------	--

p 16-17:

海南有九百万人口	Hǎinán yǒu jiǔbǎiwàn rénkǒu	Hǎinán has 9 mill inhabitants
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p 18:

汉语我说不好,	Hànyǔ wǒ shuō bù hǎo,	I do not speak Chinese so well,
可是她哥哥才干。	kěshì tā gēge cáigàn.	but her big brother is competent.
丁文明也是天才	Dīng Wénmíng yě shì tiāncái,	Dīng Wénmíng also has talent,
他是大学生	tā shì dàxuéshēng	he is a university student

明天有雨	míngtiān yǒu yǔ	It will rain tomorrow
是不是大雨?	shì bú shì dà yǔ?	Will it be heavy rain?
小雨	xiǎo yǔ	No, it will just be drizzling (light rain)
行	xíng	OK, it is acceptable

你是今天去的?	nǐ shì jīntiān qù de?	Did you go today?
我是早上去的	wǒ shì zǎoshang qù de	I went this early morning
你坐火车去北京吗?	nǐ zuò huǒchē qù Běijīng ma?	Will you be going by train to Běijīng?
我开车去, 去两个小时	wǒ kāichē qù, qù liǎng gè xiǎoshí	I am going to drive a car, for 2 hours
我去北京买东西	wǒ qù Běijīng mǎi dōngxī	I am going to Běijīng for shopping
我是在北京买的	wǒ shì zài Běijīng mǎi de	I bought it in Běijīng

我马上来	wǒ mǎshàng lái	I shall come to you right away
东西是好吗?	dōngxī shì hǎo ma?	Are the things OK?
不行, 床是太长,	bù xíng, chuáng shì tài cháng,	No, the bed is too long,
毛巾不是白可是黄	máojīn bú shì bái kěshì huáng	and the towels are not white but yellow

Exercise: PRESENTATION:

你们好!	nǐmen hǎo!	Hello! (to more than one person)
我姓 Jensen	wǒ xìng Jensen	My name is Jensen (family name)
我叫 Niels,	wǒ jiào Niels,	My name is Niels (given name),
叫 Jensen Niels	jiào Jensen Niels	my name is Jensen Niels
我住在 Virum	wǒ zhù zài Virum	I live in Virum (Copenhagen suburb)
我是学生	wǒ shì xuéshēng	I am a student
我学中文	wǒ xué Zhōngwén	I study Chinese language and literature
四月十二号是我的生日	sì yuè shíèr hào shì wǒ de shēngrì	My birthday is April 12
我妈妈是农民	wǒ māmā shì nóngmín	My mother is a farmer
我公公是农民	wǒ gōnggōng shì nóngmín	My grandfather was a farmer
我太公是农民	wǒ tài gōng shì nóngmín	My great grandfather was a farmer
我哥哥是工人	wǒ gēgē shì gōngrén	My big brother is a worker
我太太是大夫	wǒ tàitài shì dàifu	My wife is doctor
我们有女儿, 有儿子	wǒmen yǒu nǚ'ér, yǒu érzi	We have a daughter and sons
他们也姓 Jensen	tāmen yě xìng Jensen	Their family names are also Jensen

(This got to be many times exercising in writing 我 wǒ = I (myself), probably not the obvious character for beginners to include among the 50 easy ones from booklet 1!)

你好!	nǐ hǎo!	Hello! (to one person)
你好吗?	nǐ hǎo ma?	How are you?
我好	wǒ hǎo	I am fine
我也好.	wǒ yě hǎo	I am also fine

A CHINESE greeting us:

早上好	zǎoshang hǎo	Good morning
我姓林	wǒ xìng Lín	My name is Lín
我是中国人,	wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén,	I am Chinese,
是北京人	shì Běijīng rén	from Běijīng
林先生, 您好!	Lín xiānsheng, nín hǎo!	Hello Mr Lín!
他是你儿子吗?	tā shì nǐ érzi ma?	Is this your son?
不是. 他是我的学生	bú shì. Tā shì wǒ de xuéshēng	No, he is my student
他叫王海	tā jiào Wáng Hǎi	His name is Wáng Hǎi (Hai Wang)
他是广东人	tā shì Guǎngdōng rén	He is from Guǎngdōng province

Try to learn some of these short simple sentences (or the like) for a presentation and greeting.

好运	hǎo yùn!	Good luck!
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READING EXERCISES IN THE FIRST BOOKLET: **Writing Chinese with 50 easy characters**

On the front page there is written:

三个大人入山	sān gè dà rén rù shān	3 big people went into the mountains
太大人工土木	tài dà réngōng tǔmù	a very big manmade construction

These characters are in the booklet explained partly directly and partly by stepwise making more complex characters from the simple characters.

Reading exercises

The first booklet (booklet 1) contains a few reading exercises and here are my translations:

p 4:

十二个大人叫大夫	shí èr gè dà rén jiào dàifu	12 adults are calling a doctor
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p 6:

四月明日笑	sì yuè míng rì xiào	in April the bright sun smiles
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p 8:

十月林太太卖小木	shí yuè Lín tàitai mài xiǎo mù	in October Mrs. Lin (Mrs. Wood) sells a small tree
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p 11:

冬王上车哭	dōng wáng shàngchē kū	one winter the king got into the car crying
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p 13:

毛夫人买白毛巾	Máo fūren mǎi bái máojīn	Mrs. Máo buys white towels
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p 15:

有三千一百四十二个太太工人出入白山	yǒu sān qiān yī bǎi sì shí èr gè tài dà gōngrén chū rù bái shān	there were 3.142 very big workers going in and out of the white mountains
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p 16:

白天小子坐学中文字	báitiān xiǎo zǐ zuò xué Zhōngwén zì	during the day the little son sits and studies the Chinese characters.
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p 18:

工人在广州有广手	gōngrén zài Guǎngzhōu yǒu guǎng shǒu	workers in Guǎngzhōu have broad hands.
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The first booklet, booklet 1, with these reading exercises was reviewed in 南京 Nánjīng by professor 田 Tián with whom The Technical University of Denmark cooperates.

This was the start to write 3 booklets together aimed at introducing Westerners to relatively easy learn 148 basic Chinese Characters.

Some short Chinese sentences and dialogues by: 田 Tián. Booklet 3 characters are included:

王平的家在南京。	Wáng Píng de jiā zài Nánjīng.	Wang Ping's home is in Nanjing.
春天很多花开。	chūntiān hěnduō huā kāi.	Many flowers open in spring.
夏天常常下雨。	xiàtiān chángcháng xià yǔ.	It often rains in summer.
秋天有太多果子。	qiūtiān yǒu tàiduō guǒzi.	There are too many fruits in autumn.
冬天有时下雪。	dōngtiān yǒushí xià xuě.	It sometimes snows in winter, (雪 xuě = snow).

请问，王平在家吗？

qǐngwèn, Wáng Píng zài jiā ma?

Excuse me, is Wang Ping at home?

在。你是谁？

zài. nǐ shì shuí?

Yes. Who are you?

我是王平的朋友，我叫江明。你是谁？

wǒ shì Wáng Píng de péngyǒu, wǒ jiào Jiāng Míng. nǐ shì shuí?

I am Wang Ping's friend, my name is Jiang Ming. Who are you?

我是王平的哥哥，请进。

wǒ shì Wáng Píng de gēge. qǐngjìn.

I am Wang Ping's brother, come in, please.

谢谢。

xièxie. / Thank you.

果多少元一斤？

guǒ duōshǎo yuán yījīn?

How many yuan a pound for the fruit?

三元一斤，您要多少？

sān yuán yījīn, nín yào duōshǎo?

Three yuan a pound, how many pounds do you want?

我要三斤。

wǒ yào sānjīn.

I want three pounds.

好的，这是三斤。您还要花吗？

hǎode, zhè shì sānjīn. nín hái yào huā ma?

OK, these are three pounds. Do you also want flowers?

不要了，谢谢。

búyào le, xièxie.

No, thanks.

请问，你认识这个字吗？

qǐngwèn, nǐ rènshi zhège zì ma?

Excuse me, do you know this character?

这个字是好，它是一个汉字。

zhège zì shì hǎo, tā shì yíge hànzi.

This character is hao, it's a Chinese character.

谢谢，你认识那个字吗？

xièxie, nǐ rènshi nàge zì ma?

Thank you. And do you know that character?

那也是一个汉字，可是我不认识那个字。

nà yě shì yíge hànzi, kěshì wǒ búrènshi nàge zì.

That is also a Chinese character, but I don't know that character.

还是谢谢你了，明天我去问汉语老师。

háishì xièxie nǐ le, míngtiān wǒ qù wèn hànyǔ lǎoshi.

Thank you all the same. I will go to ask the Chinese teacher tomorrow.

明天是九月三十号吗？

míngtiān shì jiǔyuè sānshí hào ma?

Is tomorrow September 30th?

不是，明天是十月一号。

búshì, míngtiān shì shíyuè yīhào.

No, tomorrow is October 1st.

你明天上学吗？

nǐ míngtiān shàngxué ma?

Will you go to school tomorrow?

不，明天是国庆节，我要和哥哥去长城。你要去哪？

bù, míngtiān shì guóqìngjié, wǒ yào hé gēge qù chángchéng. nǐ yào qù nǎ?

No, tomorrow is the National Day, I will go to the Great Wall with my brother.

Where are you going?

(长城 chángchéng = the Great Wall: see p 19 in booklet 3 for this extra word).

我在家写本子。

wǒ zàijiā xiěběnzi.

I shall write the notebook at home.

你要和我们去长城吗？

nǐ yào hé wǒmen qù chángchéng ma?

Would you like to go to the Great Wall with us?

好的。

hǎode.

Yes, I like to.

今天天气很好。

jīntiān tiānqì hěnhǎo.

It's a fine day today.

是的，太阳很大，风很小。

shìde, tàiyang hěn dà, fēng hěn xiǎo.

Yes, the sun is shining, and the wind is slight.

(太阳 tàiyang = sun).

你今天去哪里？

nǐ jīntiān qù nǎlǐ?

Where are you going today?

我去公园看花，听说花很美。你呢？

wǒ qù gōngyuán kàn huā, tīngshuō huā hěn měi. nǐ ne?

I'm going to the park to see flowers, it's said that the flowers are very beautiful. What about you?

我要和朋友去书店买书。我先走了，明天见。

wǒ yào hé péngyǒu qù shūdiàn mǎishū. wǒ xiān zǒu le, míngtiān jiàn.

I want to go to the bookstore to buy books with my friend. I go first, see you tomorrow.

明天见。

míngtiān jiàn.

See you tomorrow.

Chinese: the 50 next characters
+ 35 other important characters 中 Booklet 2

Niels Mejlhede Jensen, (www.mejlhede.dk)
田 Tián (English: Qian Tian), 2013

汉语五唱说话电脑听斤

Hàn yǔ wǔ =5 chàng shuō huà diàn nǎo tīng jīn
p2 3 4

公里米共园元分民币平

gōng lǐ mǐ gòng yuán yuán fēn mín bì píng
5

早午主住床用点时间火

zǎo wǔ zhǔ zhù chuáng yòng diǎn shí jiān huǒ
6 7

飞机行来去无开关雨伞

fēi jī xíng / háng lái qù wú kāi guān yǔ sǎn
8 9

果李花马妈吗羊农历生

guǒ lǐ huā mǎ mā ma yáng nóng lì shēng
10 11

姓先牛号年几今北南川

xìng xiān niú hào / háo nián jǐ jīn běi nán chuān
(11) 13 14

重庆水黄河运湖杭海京

Chóng qìng shuǐ huáng hé yùn hú Háng hǎi jīng
15 16

市可丁哥只才课

shì kě dīng gē zhǐ / zhī cái kè
(16) 18

New 六七八九万亿两零0

numbers: liù 6 qī 7 bā 8 jiǔ 9 wàn 10000 yì 10⁸ liǎng 2 líng = líng
p12