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Mandarin Grammar (Quickstudy: Academic)

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Quick Study **Mandarin Grammar**
 Essentials of Chinese Grammar for Students, Travelers & Businesspeople

Eng. = English; Trad. = Traditional; Simp. = Simplified

PRONUNCIATION

TONES
 Chinese is a tonal language. There are four tones in Mandarin Chinese: first tone, flat and high-pitched; second tone, rising, similar to tone used in questions in English; third tone, dipping, low first, then rising halfway up; fourth tone, falling, like a firm "No!" in English. These four tones are indicated by "ˊ", "ˊˊ", and "ˋ", respectively, and marked over the vowel in a syllable (X, mǎ, mǎ, mǎ, mǎ. Tones are essential because they distinguish words from one another. There is also the neutral tone (indicated by not placing any diacritic mark), and its pitch changes according to the tone preceding it.

TIPE CHANGES
 1 Third Tone
 When a third tone is followed by another third, it changes to a second tone, making the syllable a second-third combination. ǎ hǎo (hello) → ǎ hǎo ǎo hǎo (very good) → ǎo hǎo
 When followed by a first, second or fourth tone, a third tone is pronounced with only the dipping part (i.e., without the rising toward the end), forming a so-called "half-third" tone. This half-third tone is normally the lowest tone one would produce. Note that any first-tone change occurs only once, and is not reflected in the marking of the diacritic marks.

2. When "uo" combines with the labial initials b, p, m, and L, the "u" in it drops out. EU: bǒ "broke," pǒ "to break," mǒ "to touch," lǒ "huddle"
 3. When "ü" combines with a palatal initial (j, q, or x), the umlaut drops out. EU: jǚ → jǚ "greenish," qǚ → qǚ "to go," xǚ → xǚ "brown"
 4. When finals beginning with "ü" occur without an initial, "ü" changes to "y." EU: ü → yǔ, "rain" ü → yǔ, "to" üng → yǔng, "to use"
 5. When "ü" occurs without an initial, it is spelled "you" as in jǚ, "to have," yǚ, "apple"
 6. When finals beginning with "ü" occur without an initial, "ü" changes to "u." EU: ü → wǔ, "5" ü → wǔ, "horse" üng → wǔng, "strong"
 7. When "ü" occurs without an initial, add a "y" before it, then: EU: ü → wǔ, "five" ü → wǔ, "big"
 When "ü" and "ü" occur without an initial, in addition to "u" changing to "ü," add an "ü" after the "ü."
 EU: ü → wǔ, "good" ü → wǔ, "cousin"
 8. When finals beginning with "ü" including "ü" occur without an initial, the umlaut drops out and a "y" is added before "ü."
 EU: ü → yǔ, "rain" ü → yǔ, "to" üng → yǔng, "to use"

PINYIN
 The most widely adopted Romanization system for Chinese sounds is called Pinyin, "spelling sound." It consists of three parts: an initial, a final, and a tone mark.

1. Initials

b	p	m	f	t	ts	s	sh	ch	tsʰ	tsʰ	shʰ	tsʰ	shʰ	tsʰ	shʰ	tsʰ	shʰ	tsʰ	shʰ	tsʰ	shʰ
d	t	n	l	l	n	l	n	l	l	n	l	n	l	l	n	l	n	l	l	n	l

2. Finals

a	o	ou	uo	ai	ei	ui	ao	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou	ou
an	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang	ang

PINYIN SPELLING RULES
 1. Positioning of Tone Marks
 Every tone is indicated by placing its tone mark above the vowel in the final, as in dǎ "to," mǎ "horse." If more than one vowel in the final (EX: ai, ao, ou), place the tone mark over the vowel that is nearest to the end, as in mǎi "buy," xiǎo "small," guǎi "strange," however, if that vowel happens to be an "ü" or "ü," place the tone mark over the last vowel, as in wǔ "five," shǔ "sharp."

WRITING SYSTEM
 • **Common Radicals** & Meaning
 口 mouth 山 shān 土 tǔ earth 心 xīn heart 水 shuǐ water 火 huǒ fire 木 mù wood 刀 dāo knife 手 shǒu hand 足 zú foot 目 mù eye 月 yuè moon 身 shēn body 工 gōng labor/work

• **Phonetic Elements**
 80 to 90% of modern characters are a combination of a semantic part (radical) and a phonetic element. Many characters have similar sounds because of the common phonetic parts they share. The phonetic element in a character serves as an effective tool for Chinese speakers to read and write the characters.
 Examples of characters sharing the same phonetic components with different radicals, or 形声字 xíngshēngzì:
 ① 白 bái, "white"
 ② 色, "color" (person radical)
 ③ 色, "woman" (eye radical)
 ④ 色, "to attract" (dog radical)
 ⑤ 色, "shame" (woman radical)

• **Stroke Order**
 When you write a character, it is important to follow the proper stroke order as the character looks proportionally and aesthetically correct. These Rules for Stroke Order:
 • left to right
 • top to bottom
 • middle before sides
 • horizontal before vertical
 • outside before inside
 • outer before inner
 • outer before stroke last

TRADITIONAL CHARACTERS & SIMPLIFIED CHARACTERS
 In order to make writing characters easier, the mainland Chinese government has simplified many characters since the 1970s. The simplified characters, 简体字 jiǎntǐzì, are standard in mainland China and in Singapore, while the traditional characters, 繁体字 fántǐzì, are used officially in Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Macao.

Eng.	Pinyin	Trad.	Simp.	radical	radical	radical
to enter	zǐ	入	入	door	門	門
correct	zhèng	正	正	food	食	食
cut	qǐ	切	切	to help	助	助
to be	shì	是	是	door	門	門



Synopsis

Featuring Mandarin characters (ideograms), pinyin (Mandarin transliterated into the Latin alphabet) and English translations, this 3-panel guide provides grammar essentials for students, travelers, and business people.

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Customer Reviews

the writer has a talent for precision and clarity. she is obviously expert in English and Mandarin - only someone who is could write something like this. everyone - not just those who want to study Chinese, should buy the two - grammar and vocabulary - barcharts. we are all going to have to get some understanding of the language (the Chinese already have - marketing people know that the PRC, of all countries, has the largest number of English speakers). this and the vocabulary edition provide a painless and reassuring base for learning Mandarin. everything a student of Mandarin learns will branch from the information in these guides.i am so relieved i could get this (and the Mandarin vocabulary edition).

A nice condensed view of the overview of Mandarin Grammar including sentence structure, sentence particles , adverbs, conjunctions and prepositions as well as more. May not have everything you'd like on one sheet but it gets pretty close. Also contains all grammar examples including English, Pinyin and Chinese Characters. Great Piece!

It is good but kind of disappointed that this one does not have the simplified characters comparison like the other 'Mandarin Vocabulary' I brought from the same company.

I've been learning Chinese for about 5 years. At first glance at this chart there were several things that were new to me and would have been useful if I had learned them sooner. It's easy to use and the fact that you can refer back to it any time without having to do a lot of searching makes it wonderful!

I studied Mandarin Chinese many many years ago and I forgot a lot of things about the grammar even about certain words and this little chart here inside of my binder helps me remember all the things that I forgot 10 years ago I would recommend this for any beginner intermediate and even sometimes advance just in case I'm fine you do forget things at the same as in English when you forget How to spell something

it is great to learn grammar and pronunciation, but most of it is in traditional chinese which wasn't described in the product description. i loved the vocabulary bar chart, and this is great with it. But, i now have to look up every character on there to see the simplified characters, which is going to not be an easy task. Also it wont be great for me to look back on for reference if i forget the simplified version of the character. The grammar is great, but i wish it had the same thing as the vocabulary one: (both kinds of characters). i know it would have taken more space and it sames more room for more grammar but i thought most of mainland china uses simplified. thankfully, many of the characters are the same for both simplified and traditional and the grammar doesn't change but to be sure on characters i will have to look each one up and make notes for each page which will cause clutter in this nice pamphlet. grammar is good but the new vocab isn't good for simplified chinese. but, i will/would keep/recommend this for the grammar.

This is a good reference to have. Lot's of helpful information. However, the print is VERY SMALL. With my 50+ year old eyes, I need stronger than usual reading glasses to read it.

This was a huge help with my attempt at learning Mandarin. I took off a star because the writing is soooo small. There is a lot on the sheets and it does come in handy. It does have some really good information and is very useful for the college student learning Mandarin.

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