

Chinese Independent Study

Language Magazine's guide to Mandarin self-study programs

TELL ME MORE Chinese

Developed in collaboration with INALCO (National Institute of Oriental Languages and Civilizations), TELL ME MORE Chinese is a comprehensive program featuring real-world simulated conversation dialogues, 3,000 word written and oral glossary, exclusive speech recognition, and Chinese cultural workshops to understand more than just the language. With six levels and over 1,500 exercises, TELL ME MORE Chinese provides an effective way to address the Chinese language learning needs of students at all skill levels. Focusing on Mandarin Chinese, simplified writing and Pinyin, the program addresses all the essential areas of Chinese language learning: command of over 800 basic characters, reading and listening comprehension, pronunciation and speaking, written expression and grammar.

A world leader in language acquisition for over twenty years, TELL ME MORE revolutionized the way people learn languages and continues to empower learners today with the ability to practice speaking and receive instant feedback. Advanced speech recognition technology enables learners to dialogue with native speakers within the program. Pronunciation modules featuring 3-D images demonstrate how to form

the mouth in order to create sounds, thereby improving pronunciation and building learner confidence. The patented SETS® technology identifies letters and syllables with which a learner is struggling and provides additional practice to address those areas. TELL ME MORE's pre-defined and customizable learning paths provide self-paced, progress-driven paths to language mastery while also providing flexibility.

Penpower Chinese Expert

Penpower Chinese Expert is a learning tool; not curriculum or teaching materials, but a customizable, open-end tool that allows students to use it in their own way: It uses phrase segmentation, speech recognition, text to speech technology, optical character recognition, handwriting and even machine translation software to basically convert any resource into a digital format. Students can utilize resources (internet, magazines, books, newspapers), and transform them into learning materials.

Penpower's tools combine a number of different elements to create a language environment that supports reading/writing, speech, and listening skills development.

Students can strengthen listening comprehension with the human-



like text pronunciation feature, and improve their speech ability with instant speech recognition correction feedback and oral exams. Reading comprehension is developed through the use of an on-screen phrase dictionary while handwriting skills, an important element of learning Chinese, are supported through handwriting recognition technology.

Penpower Chinese Expert also offers a recording feature and converts speech to WMA format, which you can listen to on an iPod/MP3 player so you can learn while commuting or even jogging.

InstantSpeak Chinese

InstantSpeak Chinese is a research based self-study system that specializes in teaching spoken Mandarin Chinese. Students are immersed in over 100 lessons that take the user from beginner to high intermediate speaking levels at an accelerated pace. Lessons cover the most commonly encountered daily situations and grammar. Sentences from the dialogues can be played individually or as part of a conversation at normal or slow speeds. In order to master proper pronunciation, users can listen to the pronunciation of individual words by placing the cursor over the word. To aid recall and provide insight into the meaning of a sentence, the literal meaning for each word in the sentence is provided. Other features include an English-Chinese Dictionary, a section that teaches Pinyin, and vocabulary and phrase sections that pronounce over 2500 of the most frequently used vocabulary and phrases. All of the items in the program can be added to a flash card system for later review.

Learning Chinese 123

From the creator of Pronunciation Patterns, Learning Chinese 123 is a language learning and practice software tool for Chinese learners who want to perfect and master Chinese. With its auto-play and pattern group feature, users can learn and practice pinyin or Chinese pronunciation with ease. In addition, Learning Chinese 123 provides the basic and intermediate characters/writing symbols for each pinyin translation with detailed translation in English to help students learn the meanings of each character. Users can also learn how to write over 2000 characters step by step with stroke animations. It can annotate any Chinese website with pinyin and an English translation to assist you in reading Chinese sites, putting your learning into practice. If you are a teacher, not only can you use Learning Chinese 123 for students to learn and perfect their Chinese after classroom, but also you can easily integrate lessons with Learning Chinese 123 to make them interactive and effective for your students as well.

iPhrase Mandarin Chinese

Now available from Berlitz Publishing, iPhrase Mandarin Chinese can be downloaded to an iPod where it catalogues essential words, phrases, and audio. iPhrase is convenient for travelers. An easy to navigate interface helps users to quickly find everything they need, including underlined text with accurate pronunciations in each section. iPhrase Mandarin Chinese contains more than 8,000 words and phrases, and audio for more than 600 English and Mandarin Chinese phrases. Full color photos, organized by themes such as Survival,

Materials

Food, People, Shopping and more, give users the option to click to see an image of the phrases they are learning.

Royal Epen

Royal Epen is a device which uses technology to improve handwriting by merging traditional techniques of writing calligraphy and Chinese characters with computerized software; allowing users to quickly master the concept of character forming. Epen is an innovative way of learning calligraphy, as the digital pen mimics a real calligraphy brush. It is pressure sensor, so the more pressure used the thicker the strokes. Daily Chinese is a software program designed with interactive pictures based on 17 daily themes, from the bedroom to the office, and from the supermarket to the park. Users can click on the items to learn how to read, in pinyin or zhuyin, and write in both traditional and simplified form.

Let's Go Guang! Chinese for Children

Let's Go Guang! Chinese for Children by aha!Chinese is a learning program designed to introduce kids to the language and culture of China. Kids learn effortlessly through a well-researched approach that is simultaneously engaging and enriching. The aha!Chinese team of linguists, educators, animators, an Emmy-nominated composer, an award-winning designer, parents, and kids developed the Chinese learning kit specifically to appeal and teach children Mandarin Chinese as a second language. The learning kit is based on the concept that language acquisition is most effective when new material is presented in multiple ways.

The first component of the learning kit is a DVD containing the animated story of "Let's Go Guang!," which features a Chinese-American sister and brother team, Ling and Kai, and Guang, the Chinese Dragon, who is their guide to their educational adventures. Mini-lessons, which use repetition and sing-a-long songs to focus

on key phrases spoken in the stories, are interspersed throughout the main story. In addition to language, the story is rich in insights about Chinese culture. The second and third components are a storybook and audio CD, whose tale closely mirrors that of the animated video. The CD with narration makes it easy for parents to ensure their child always has access to proper pronunciation. The fourth component is a duplicate set of flashcards, which includes the vocabulary words, phrases, and sentences used in the episode. Simplified Chinese characters, Romanized Chinese (pinyin), and English are printed on each card.

Integrated Chinese Online & DVDs

Cheng & Tsui, publisher of Integrated Chinese, recently announced the development of two supplementary multimedia products:

The Integrated Chinese Online Workbook offers electronic versions of the series' Level 1 workbooks in a convenient, web-based format. The engaging online environment contains all of the exercises and audio files from the print edition, accessible through user accounts on any computer connected to the Internet. Immediate feedback is available for most exercises, and students with access to audio-recording capabilities can record many of their responses, allowing instructors to listen to their pronunciation. Students can also work with partners via the Internet to practice speaking and listening skills. Access is provided through printed or e-mailed keys valid for 24 months after activation.

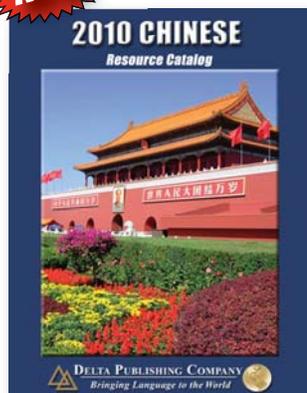
The Integrated Chinese DVDs present real-life dramatizations of all 40 dialogues and narratives in the Level 1, Part 1 and Level 1, Part 2 textbooks. The segments follow the stories of four young students as they learn Mandarin Chinese, from the days their studies begin until they depart for a summer trip to China. Their adventures along the way provide plenty of opportunities to practice their language skills and work together as classmates and friends. Each segment has optional subtitles in simplified and traditional characters, pinyin and English.

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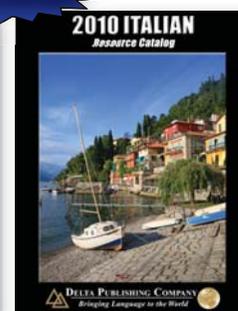
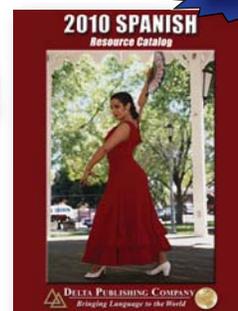


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Separate cultural segments put language in context with authentic speakers around Beijing. While designed for use with Integrated Chinese, the DVD material is adaptable to almost any introductory Chinese course.

Fluenz Mandarin

Fluenz Mandarin is an interactive language program featuring a real teacher who guides learners, explaining in English the intricacies and shortcuts of Chinese. Ideal for those who thrive in a teacher-oriented learning environment, who need to understand how the language works in plain English, and who seek relevant Chinese they can actually use while in China. The team behind the application combines recent Harvard and Cornell graduates, some of whom went to China to learn the language and understand the specific challenges for English speakers, seasoned Chinese teachers trained in the teaching of Mandarin to non-native speakers, and veterans of technology startups. The goal was to create the ideal program they would have needed when they went to China.

Fluenz Mandarin 1+2 is composed of 45 full sessions taking up to 2.5 hours of work each. Every session combines realistic conversations between native Mandarin speakers with comprehensive tutorials

explaining each new word and structure being learned, followed by a series of increasingly challenging workouts that provide thorough training in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Each session features a set of clear, common sense tools that progressively increase the learner's range of communication. Fluenz builds steadily from useful structures like questions and commands (Where can I get a taxi?, Stop here), and useful vocabulary (restaurants, transportation, directions, etc.) to more and more complex speech.

Communicate in Chinese

Hosted by Dashan (Mark Roswell), a famous westerner in China, Communicate in Chinese helps students speak Mandarin Chinese for daily use. With situational dialogues, new words, common expressions, cultural background, language points, and substitution drills, it integrates comprehension with practical usage. The teaching materials concentrate on spoken Chinese. Through the character's daily activities, language context is reflected and students will find their interest grow as they gradually grasp the ability to communicate in Chinese. It offers viewers a direct window on understanding Chinese people and culture as well.

Each DVD set contains six hours of program. **IX**

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