



Chinese Graded Reader

Breakthrough Level: 150 Characters

我的老師是火星人

Wǒ de Lǎoshī Shì Huǒxīngrén

My Teacher Is a Martian [SAMPLE]

by John Pasden and Jared Turner

Mind Spark Press LLC

SHANGHAI

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Mandarin Companion Graded Readers

Now you can read books in Chinese that are fun and help accelerate language learning. Every book in the Mandarin Companion series is carefully written to use characters, words, and grammar that a learner is likely to know.

The Mandarin Companion Leveling System has been meticulously developed through an in-depth analysis of textbooks, education programs and natural Chinese language. Every story is written in a simple style that is fun and easy to understand so you improve with each book.

Mandarin Companion Breakthrough Level

The Breakthrough Level is intended for Chinese learners who have obtained a low elementary or novice level of Chinese. Most students will be able to approach this book after one year of traditional formal study, depending on the learner and program. In creating this story, we have carefully balanced the need for level-appropriate simplicity against the needs of the story's plot.

The Breakthrough Level is written using a core set of 150 characters, a subset of the 300 characters used in Mandarin Companion Level 1. This ensures that the vocabulary will be limited to simple, everyday words, composed of characters that the learner is most likely to know. Any new characters used outside of the 150 Breakthrough Level characters are exclusively borrowed from the Level 1 character set, meaning that with each new story, the reader is systematically building toward Level 1.

Key words that the reader is not likely to know are added gradually over the course of the story accompanied by a numbered footnote for each instance. Pinyin and an English definition are provided at the bottom of the page for the first instance of each key word, and a complete glossary is provided at the back of the book. All proper nouns have been underlined to help the reader distinguish between names and other words.

What level is right for me?

If you are able to comfortably read this book without looking up lots of words, then this book is likely at your level. It is ideal to have at most only one unknown word or character for every 40-50 words or characters that are read.

Once you are able to read fluidly and quickly without interruption you are ready for the next level. Even if you are able to understand all of the words in the book, we recommend that readers build fluidity and reading speed before moving to higher levels.

How will this help my Chinese?

Reading extensively in a language you are learning is one of the most effective ways to build fluency. However, the key is to read at a high level of comprehension. Reading at the appropriate level in Chinese will increase your speed of character recognition, help you to acquire vocabulary faster, teach you to naturally learn grammar, and train your brain to think in Chinese. It also makes learning Chinese more fun and enjoyable. You will experience the sense of accomplishment and confidence that only comes from reading entire books in Chinese.

Extensive Reading

After years of studying Chinese, many people ask, “why can’t I become fluent in Chinese?” Fluency can only happen when the language enters our “comfort zone.” This comfort comes after significant exposure to and experience with the language. The more times you meet a word, phrase, or grammar point the more readily it will enter your comfort zone.

In the world of language research, experts agree that learners can acquire new vocabulary through reading only if the overall text can be understood. Decades of research indicate that if we know approximately 98% of the words in a book, we can comfortably “pick up” the 2% that is unfamiliar. Reading at this 98% comprehension level is referred to as “extensive reading.”

Research in extensive reading has shown that it accelerates vocabulary learning and helps the learner to naturally understand grammar. Perhaps most importantly, it trains the brain to automatically recognize familiar language, thereby freeing up mental energy to focus on meaning and ideas. As they build reading speed and fluency, learners will move from reading “word by word” to processing “chunks of language.” A defining feature is that it’s less painful than the “intensive reading” commonly used in textbooks. In fact, extensive reading can be downright fun.

Graded Readers

Graded readers are the best books for learners to “extensively” read. Research has taught us that learners need to “encounter” a word 10-30 times before truly learning it, and often many more times for particularly complicated or abstract words. Graded readers are appropriate for learners because the language is controlled and simplified, as opposed to the language in native texts, which is inevitably difficult and often demotivating. Reading extensively with graded readers allows learners to bring together all of the language they have studied and absorb how the words naturally work together.

To become fluent, learners must not only understand the meaning of a word, but also understand its nuances, how to use it in conversation, how to pair it with other words, where it fits into natural word order, and how it is used in grammar structures. No textbook could ever be written to teach all of this explicitly. When used properly, a textbook introduces the language and provides the basic meanings, while graded readers consolidate, strengthen, and deepen understanding.

Without graded readers, learners would have to study dictionaries, textbooks, sample dialogs, and simple conversations until they have randomly encountered enough Chinese for it to enter their comfort zones. With proper use of graded readers, learners can tackle this issue and develop greater fluency now, at their current levels, instead of waiting until some period in the distant future. With a stronger foundation and greater confidence at their current levels, learners are encouraged and motivated to continue their Chinese studies to even greater heights. Plus, they’ll quickly learn that reading Chinese is fun!

About Mandarin Companion

Mandarin Companion was started by Jared Turner and John Pasden who met one fateful day on a bus in Shanghai when the only remaining seat left them sitting next to each other. A year later, Jared had greatly improved his Chinese using extensive reading but was frustrated at the lack of suitable reading materials. He approached John with the prospect of creating their own series. Having worked in Chinese education for nearly a decade, John was intrigued with the idea and thus began the Mandarin Companion series.

John majored in Japanese in college, but started learning Mandarin and later moved to China where his learning accelerated. After developing language proficiency, he was admitted into an all-Chinese masters program in applied linguistics at East China Normal University in Shanghai. Throughout his learning process, John developed an open mind to different learning styles and a tendency to challenge conventional wisdom in the field of teaching Chinese. He has since worked at ChinesePod as academic director and host, and opened his own consultancy, AllSet Learning, in Shanghai to help individuals acquire Chinese language proficiency. He lives in Shanghai with his wife and children.

After graduate school and with no Chinese language skills, Jared decided to move to China with his young family in search of career opportunities. Later while working on an investment project, Jared learned about extensive reading and decided that if it was as effective as it claimed to be, it could help him learn Chinese. In three months, he read 10 Chinese graded readers and his language ability quickly improved from speaking words and phrases to a conversational level. Jared has an MBA from Purdue University and a bachelor in Economics from the University of Utah. He lives in Shanghai with his wife and children.

Credits

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Story Adaptation Notes

Any learner that has managed to learn 150 Chinese characters knows it is not an easy task, and the prospect of reading a real text in Chinese seems discouragingly far-off. Typically textbook dialogs are the only reading material available for years on end. That's why being able to read an actual story with only 150 Chinese characters is a very big deal, and a huge help to the fluency development of early-stage learners.

The stories told at this 150-character Breakthrough Level are special, however. Nouns, verbs and adjectives at this level are in short supply, and the stories revolve around the limited vocabulary by necessity. This is why Breakthrough Level stories are not adaptations of western classics. They are original stories co-written by John Pasden and Jared Turner, specifically designed to be engaging to readers despite the limitations.

When John and Jared were generating story ideas at the Breakthrough Level, the character for “fire,” 火 (huǒ), and for “star,” 星 (xīng), were on a sheet of possible characters to be used. Together, these characters form the Chinese word for Mars: 火星 (Huǒxīng), which ignited an ambition to create a sci-fi story using the Chinese name of the fourth planet in our solar system. Jared recalled reading a story called “My Teacher is an Alien” in his youth, which provided the inspiration for a story about two Chinese elementary school students who suspect their teacher is, in fact, from Mars. From this spark of an idea, the Mandarin Companion story *My Teacher is a Martian* was born. For those who can read this book at an enjoyable pace, you are already well on your way towards progressing to the Level 1 stories.

P.S. There are two “Mandarin Companion Universe” and two sci-fi easter eggs hidden in the illustrations of this book. Can you find them?

Cast of Characters



謝心月
(Xiè Xīnyuè)



馬天明
(Mǎ Tiānmíng)



車老師
(Chē Lǎoshī)



方老師
(Fāng Lǎoshī)



水老師
(Shuǐ Lǎoshī)

Locations

山東 (Shāndōng)

Although not explicitly stated, this story takes place in a smallish city in China's Shandong Province.



— Chapter 1 —

外星人

謝心月 今年十歲¹，她是一個小學生²。
她有一個新³朋友，叫⁴“馬天明”，馬天明
今年也是十歲¹。他們每天都一起⁵去
上學⁶。

馬天明 的爸爸今年已經⁷ 四十歲¹
了，他寫過很多書，他的新³書裡有
外星人⁸，馬天明 和謝心月 都會看他寫
的書。有時候⁹，兩個爸爸會和他們一起⁵

1 歲 (suì) *mm.* years old

2 小學生 (xiǎoxuéshēng) *n.*
elementary school student

3 新 (xīn) *adj.* new

4 叫 (jiào) *v.* to be called, to call; to tell
(someone to do something)

5 一起 (yīqǐ) *adv.* together

6 上學 (shàngxué) *vo.* to start school,
to go to school

7 已經 (yǐjīng) *adv.* already

8 外星人 (wàixīng rén) *n.* alien

9 有時候 (yǒu shíhòu) *phrase*
sometimes

去山上 看 星星。

10

11



“有很多星星，可是星星太小了，
星星上有外星人嗎？”馬天明問謝心月。

11

12

11

11

8

“我也不知道。我很想見見外星人！”

8

謝心月說。

10 山上 (shānshàng) *phrase* on the mountain(s)

11 星星 (xīngxing) *n.* star, stars

12 可是 (kěshì) *conj.* but

“你不怕 外星人 嗎?” 馬天明 問。

“我不怕，你呢?” 謝心月 說。

馬天明 說：“我也 不怕。我爸爸 說，
外星人 在 天上 可以 看見 我們，可是，我
們不能 看見 他們。”

“我看了你爸爸 寫的 新書，書裡說
了 外星人 的樣子。他是不是 已經 見過
外星人 了?” 謝心月 問。

馬天明 笑了：“他沒有 見過 外星人。”

“你說，外星人 會說 中文 嗎?” 謝心月
問。“要是 他們不會 說 中文，我們 怎麼
和他們 說話?”

13 怕 (pà) *n.* to be afraid (of)

14 天上 (tiānshàng) *n.* in the sky

15 看見 (kànjian) *v.* to see

16 見過 (jiàn guo) *phrase* have met before

17 笑 (xiào) *v.* to laugh, to smile

18 要是 (yàoshi) *conj.* if

19 怎麼 (zěnmě) *adv.* how

20 說話 (shuōhuà) *v.* to speak (words), to talk

馬天明 想了想 說：“我不知道，可能
21 22
他們可以。”

“要是 你見了一個會說中文的外星人，
18 8
你會跟他說什麼？”謝心月 又 問。
23

馬天明 有很多話想問外星人，說：“我
8
……我要問他們，他們的家 在什麼地方，
24 25
他們那裡和我們這裡有什麼不一樣，他
26
們為什麼要來我們這裡……”

馬爸爸 聽完以後 就 笑了。
27 28 29 17

“明天星期一，又 要上學了。不知
30 23 6
道 外星人 小朋友 是不是也都要上學？”
8 31 6

21 想了想 (xiǎng le xiǎng) *phrase*
thought about it for a second

22 可能 (kěnéng) *adv.; aux* maybe,
possibly; possible

23 又 (yòu) *adv.* again

24 家 (jiā) *mm., n.* measure word for
shops; home

25 地方 (dìfang) *n.* place

26 不一樣 (bù yīyàng) *phrase* not the
same

27 聽 (tīng) *v.* to listen (to)

28 以後 (yǐhòu) *adv.* after; later, in the
future

29 就 (jiù) *adv.* just

30 星期一 (Xīngqīyī) *tn.* Monday

31 小朋友 (xiǎopéngyou) *n.* kid



謝心月 說。

“見到外星人 的 時候，你就 問他們
吧。”馬爸爸 笑了 笑。

We hope you enjoyed this sample chapter.
For the full version and other books in this series, please visit:
www.MandarinCompanion.com

Key Words 關鍵詞 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 歲 (suì) *mm.* years old
2. 小學生 (xiǎoxuéshēng) *n.* elementary school student
3. 新 (xīn) *adj.* new
4. 叫 (jiào) *v.* to be called, to call; to tell (someone to do something)
5. 一起 (yīqǐ) *adv.* together
6. 上學 (shàngxué) *vo.* to start school, to go to school
7. 已經 (yǐjīng) *adv.* already
8. 外星人 (wàixīng rén) *n.* alien
9. 有時候 (yǒu shíhou) *phrase* sometimes
10. 山上 (shānshàng) *phrase* on the mountain(s)
11. 星星 (xīngxing) *n.* star, stars
12. 可是 (kěshì) *conj.* but
13. 怕 (pà) *v.* to be afraid (of)
14. 天上 (tiānshàng) *n.* in the sky
15. 看見 (kànjian) *vc.* to see
16. 見過 (jiàn guo) *phrase* have met before
17. 笑 (xiào) *v.* to laugh, to smile
18. 要是 (yàoshi) *conj.* if
19. 怎麼 (zěnmē) *adv.* how
20. 說話 (shuōhuà) *vo.* to speak (words), to talk
21. 想了想 (xiǎng le xiǎng) *phrase* thought about it for a second
22. 可能 (kěnéng) *adv.; aux.* maybe, possibly; possible
23. 又 (yòu) *adv.* again
24. 家 (jiā) *mm., n.* measure word for shops; home
25. 地方 (dìfang) *n.* place
26. 不一樣 (bù yīyàng) *phrase* not the same
27. 聽 (tīng) *v.* to listen (to)
28. 以後 (yǐhòu) *adv.* after; later, in the future
29. 就 (jiù) *adv.* just
30. 星期一 (Xīngqīyī) *tn.* Monday

31. 小朋友 (xiǎopéngyou) *n.* kid
32. 的時候 (de shíhou) *phrase* when...
33. 第二天 (dì-èr tiān) *phrase* the second day
34. 小學 (xiǎoxué) *n.* elementary school
35. 大家 (dàjiā) *n.* everyone
36. 有一點 (yǒu yīdiǎn) *phrase* to be a little (too)
37. 好笑 (hǎoxiào) *adj.* funny
38. 火星 (Huǒxīng) *pn.* Mars
39. 每次 (měi cì) *phrase* every time
40. 開心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy
41. 這麼 (zhème) *adv.* so...
42. 有一天 (yǒu yī tiān) *phrase* one day...
43. 回來 (huílai) *vc.* to come back
44. 拿 (ná) *n.* to get, to hold
45. 東西 (dōngxi) *n.* thing(s), stuff
46. 門邊 (mén biān) *phrase* by the door
47. 看到 (kàndào) *vc.* to see
48. 裡面 (lìmiàn) *n.* inside
49. 一邊 (yībiān) *conj.* while doing... (two things)
50. 看書 (kànshū) *vo.* to read, to study
51. 第一次 (dì-yī cì) *phrase* first time
52. 這樣 (zhèyàng) *pr.* like this
53. 聽到 (tīngdào) *vc.* to hear
54. 回家 (huíjiā) *vo.* to go home
55. 中午 (zhōngwǔ) *n.* noon
56. 一個人 (yī gè rén) *phrase* alone
57. 過去 (guòqu) *vc.* to go over
58. 後面 (hòumian) *n.* behind
59. 還 (hái) *adv.* still
60. 好吃 (hǎochī) *adj.* tasty
61. 回頭 (huítóu) *vo.* to turn one's head
62. 說完 (shuō wán) *vc.* to finish speaking

63. 吃完 (chī wán) *vc.* to finish eating
64. 這時候 (zhè shíhou) *phrase* at this time
65. 手裡 (shǒu lǐ) *phrase* in one's hand
66. 那麼 (nàme) *adv.* so...
67. 一下子 (yīxiàzi) *adv.* all of a sudden; all at once
68. 一樣 (yīyàng) *n.* the same
69. 看看 (kànkàn) *v.* to take a look
70. 小心 (xiǎoxīn) *v.* to be careful
71. 小時 (xiǎoshí) *n.* hour
72. 不見了 (bùjiàn le) *phrase* disappeared
73. 聽起來 (tīng qǐlai) *vc.* to sound...
74. 不開心 (bù kāixīn) *phrase* not happy, to be unhappy
75. 不可能 (bù kěnéng) *phrase* impossible (to)
76. 再 (zài) *adv.* again (in the future)
77. 路上 (lùshang) *n.* on the road, on the way
78. 小心地 (xiǎoxīn de) *phrase* carefully
79. 怎麼了 (zěnmē le) *phrase* what happened, what's the matter
80. 次 (cì) *mv.* time(s)
81. 一個多星期 (yī gè duō xīngqī) *phrase* over a week
82. 馬上 (mǎshàng) *adv.* right away
83. 怎麼會 (zěnmē huì) *phrase* how could
84. 上面 (shàngmian) *n.* on, on top, above
85. 下面 (xiàmian) *n.* below, under
86. 開門 (kāimén) *vo.* to open the door
87. 再說 (zàishuō) *conj.* furthermore, besides
88. 一下 (yīxià) *adv.* briefly, for a second
89. 聽見 (tīngjiàn) *vc.* to hear
90. 生氣 (shēngqì) *vo., adj.* to get angry; angry
91. 不小心 (bù xiǎoxīn) *phrase* to not be careful; accidentally
92. 好了 (hǎo le) *phrase* done
93. 火星人 (Huǒxīng-rén) *pn.* Martian
94. 那天 (nà tiān) *tn.* that day

95. 本子 (běnzi) *n.* notebook
96. 一次 (yīcì) *phrase* one time
97. 拿到 (nádào) *vc.* to get, to manage to get
98. 聽說 (tīngshuō) *n.* to hear tell, to hear said (that)
99. 出去 (chūqu) *vc.* to go out
100. 認識 (rènshi) *n.* to recognize
101. 點點頭 (diǎndiǎn tóu) *phrase* to (briefly) nod one's head
102. 一會兒 (yīhuìr) *tn.* a little while
103. 好看 (hǎokàn) *adj.* good-looking
104. 看起來 (kàn qǐlai) *vc.* to look...
105. 出來 (chūlai) *vc.* to come out
106. 幾個月 (jǐ gè yuè) *phrase* several months
107. 開心地 (kāixīn de) *phrase* happily
108. 第二年 (dì-èr nián) *phrase* second year
109. 男生 (nánshēng) *n.* boy, male student
110. 下一個 (xià yī ge) *phrase* next (one)
111. 沒想到 (méi xiǎngdào) *phrase* to never have imagined
112. 喜歡 (xǐhuan) *n.* to like

Part of Speech Key

adj. Adjective

adv. Adverb

aux. Auxiliary Verb

conj. Conjunction

cov. Coverb

mm. Measure word

n. Noun

on. Onomatopoeia

part. Particle

prep. Preposition

pr. Pronoun

pn. Proper noun

tn. Time Noun

v. Verb

vc. Verb plus complement

vo. Verb plus object

Discussion Questions

討論問題 (Tǎolùn Wèntí)

Chapter 1 外星人

1. 馬爸爸的書裡寫了什麼?
2. 你喜歡看星星嗎? 你覺得星星上有外星人嗎?
3. 要是你見了一個會說英文的外星人, 你會跟他說什麼?

Chapter 2 車老師

1. 車老師是哪裡人?
2. 車老師為什麼知道火星在哪裡?
3. 馬天明和謝心月看到了什麼?

Chapter 3 他是人嗎?

1. 馬天明為什麼說車老師是外星人?
2. 你覺得車老師是外星人嗎? 為什麼?
3. 馬天明和謝心月為什麼要去車老師家看看?

Chapter 4 車老師的家

1. 車老師在路上不見了, 你覺得車老師去了哪裡?
2. 你覺得車老師知道馬天明和謝心月跟在他後面嗎? 為什麼?
3. 你覺得車老師的家裡有什麼?

Chapter 5 很大的星星

1. 你覺得那個大星星上面有什麼?
2. 馬天明為什麼不開心?
3. 你想去車老師的家裡看看嗎?

Chapter 6 方老師

1. 方老師去過車老師家嗎?
2. 方老師為什麼和他們去車老師家?
3. 方老師和他們去車老師家看到了什麼?

Chapter 7 本子

1. 他們還去車老師家嗎?
2. 他們為什麼想看車老師的本子?
3. 他們想怎麼看到那個本子?

Chapter 8 不認識的字

1. 車老師的本子上有什麼?
2. 方老師看到本子上的字了嗎?
3. 你想想，為什麼本子上的字沒有了?

Chapter 9 車老師走了

1. 大家知道車老師是外星人嗎?
2. 你想想，為什麼車老師要走呢?
3. 車老師給了他們什麼?

Chapter 10 水老師

1. 新來的老師叫什麼名字?
2. 新來的老師認識車老師嗎?
3. 你想想，新來的老師是外星人嗎?

Appendix A: Character Comparison Reference

This appendix is designed to help Chinese teachers and learners use the Mandarin Companion graded readers as a companion to the most popular university textbooks and the HSK word lists.

The tables below compare the characters and vocabulary used in other study materials with those found in this Mandarin Companion graded reader. The tables below will display the exact characters and vocabulary used in this book and not covered by these sources. A learner who has studied these textbooks will likely find it easier to read this graded reader by focusing on these characters and words.

Integrated Chinese Level 1, Part 1 (3rd Ed.)

Words and characters in this story not covered by these textbooks:

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
心	xīn	心 開心 小心 心裡	xīn kāixīn xiǎoxīn xīnli
馬	mǎ	馬 馬上	Mǎ mǎshàng
山	shān	山上	shānshàng
怕	pà	不怕 怕	bù pà pà
又	yòu	又	yòu
完	wán	完 說完	wán shuōwán
拿	ná	拿 拿到	ná nádào
本	běn	本子	běnzǐ
火	huǒ	火星 火	Huǒxīng huǒ

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
次	cì	每次 第一次 幾次 次	měi cì dì-yī cì jǐ cì cì
門	mén	門邊 開門 門	mén-biān kāimén mén
左	zuǒ	左手	zuǒshǒu
右	yòu	右手	yòushǒu
頭	tóu	回頭 點點頭 頭	huítóu diǎndian tóu tóu

New Practical Chinese Reader, Book 1 (1st Ed.)

Words and characters in this story not covered by these textbooks:

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
已	yǐ	已經	yǐjīng
山	shān	山上	shānshàng
笑	xiào	笑 好笑 笑笑	xiào hǎoxiào xiàoxiao
又	yòu	又	yòu
地	de	地方 地	dìfang de
完	wán	完 說完	wán shuōwán
後	Hòu	以後 後面 後來	yǐhòu hòumiàn hòulái
就	jiù	就	jiù
邊	biān	一邊	yībiān

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
		門邊	simplified wordstring does not exist
火	huǒ	火星 火	Huǒxīng huǒ
走	zǒu	走	zǒu
門	mén	門邊 開門 門	mén-biān kāimén mén
左	zuǒ	左手	zuǒshǒu
手	shǒu	左手 右手 手裡	zuǒshǒu yòushǒu shǒulǐ
右	yòu	右手	yòushǒu
路	lù	路 路上	lù lùshang

Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Levels 1-2

Words and characters in this story not covered by these levels:

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
心	xīn	心 開心 小心 心裡	xīn kāixīn xiǎoxīn xīnli
馬	mǎ	馬 馬上	mǎ mǎshàng
山	shān	山上	shānshàng
怕	pà	不怕 怕	bù pà pà
文	wén	中文	Zhōngwén

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
跟	gēn	跟	gēn
又	yòu	又	yòu
地	de	地方 地	dìfang de
方	fāng	地方 方	dìfang fāng
拿	ná	拿 拿到	ná nádào
用	yòng	用 不用	yòng bùyòng
頭	tóu	回頭 點點頭 頭	huítóu diǎndian tóu tóu

Appendix B: Grammar Point Index

For learners new to reading Chinese, an understanding of grammar points can be extremely helpful for learners and teachers. The following is a list of the most challenging grammar points used in this graded reader.

These grammar points correspond to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR) level A2 or above. The full list with explanations and examples of each grammar point can be found on the Chinese Grammar Wiki, the definitive source of information on Chinese grammar online.

CHAPTER 1	
The “all” adverb “dou”	都 + Verb / Adj.
Tag questions with “ma”	…… 是嗎 / 對嗎 / 好嗎?
Reduplication of verbs	Verb + Verb
After a specific time with “yihou”	Time / Verb + 以後
Expressing “if... then...” with “yaoshi”	要是……, 就……
Expressing a learned skill with “hui”	會 + Verb
The “also” adverb “ye”	也 + Verb / Adj.
Expressing “will” with “hui”	會 + Verb
How to do something with “zenme”	怎麼 + Verb?
Expressing “when” with “de shihou”	…… 的時候
Two words for “but”	……, 可是 / 但是……
CHAPTER 2	
Suggestions with “ba”	Command + 吧
Expressing location with “zai... shang / xia / li”	在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 裡 / 旁邊
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	一邊 + Verb 1 (,) 一邊 + Verb 2
Using “dui” with verbs	Subj. + 對 + Person + Verb
CHAPTER 3	

Expressing “all at once” with “yixiazi”	Subj. + 一下子 + Verb + 了
Expressing “and” with “he”	Noun 1 + 和 + Noun 2
Expressing ability or possibility with “neng”	能 + Verb
Basic comparisons with “yiyang”	Noun 1 + 跟 / 和 + Noun 2 + 一樣 + Adj.
CHAPTER 4	
Expressing “again” in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb
Expressing “then…” with “name”	那麼……
Expressing duration with “le”	Verb + 了 + Duration
Sequencing past events with “houlai”	……，後來……
CHAPTER 5	
Expressing “everything” with “shenme dou”	什麼 + 都 / 也……
Expressing “in addition” with “zaishuo”	……，再說，……
Expressing “with” with “gen”	跟…… + Verb
Causative verbs	Subj. + 讓 / 叫 / 請 / 使 + Person + Predicate
CHAPTER 6	
<i>There are no new grammar points in this chapter.</i>	
CHAPTER 7	
<i>There are no new grammar points in this chapter.</i>	
CHAPTER 8	
<i>There are no new grammar points in this chapter.</i>	
CHAPTER 9	
<i>There are no new grammar points in this chapter.</i>	
CHAPTER 10	
<i>There are no new grammar points in this chapter.</i>	

Other Stories from Mandarin Companion

Breakthrough Readers: 150 Characters

The Misadventures of Zhou Haisheng 《周海生》 by John Pasden, Jared Turner

Xiao Ming, Boy Sherlock 《小明》 by John Pasden, Jared Turner

In Search of Hua Ma 《花馬》 by John Pasden, Jared Turner

Just Friends? 《我們是朋友嗎?》 by John Pasden, Jared Turner

Level 1 Readers: 300 Characters

The Secret Garden 《秘密花園》 by Frances Hodgson Burnett

The Sixty Year Dream 《六十年的夢》 by Washington Irving (based on *Rip Van Winkle*)

The Monkey's Paw 《猴爪》 by W. W. Jacobs

The Country of the Blind 《盲人國》 by H. G. Wells

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Curly-Haired Company 《捲髮公司的案子》 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (based on *The Red Headed League*)

The Prince and the Pauper 《王子和窮孩子》 by Mark Twain

Emma 《安末》 by Jane Austen

The Ransom of Red Chief 《紅猴的價格》 by O. Henry

Level 2 Readers: 450 Characters

Great Expectations: Part 1 《美好的前途（上）》 by Charles Dickens

Great Expectations: Part 2 《美好的前途（下）》 by Charles Dickens

Journey to the Center of the Earth 《地心遊記》 by Jules Verne

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graded readers for Chinese language learners.

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