



Chinese Graded Reader

Level 1: 300 Characters

卷发公司的案子

Juǎnfà Gōngsī de Ànzi

Sherlock Holmes and the Case of the Curly Haired Company [SAMPLE]

based on *The Red Headed League*

by Arthur Conan Doyle

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 Level 1

Level 1 is intended for Chinese learners at an upper-elementary level. Most learners will be able to approach this book after one to two years of formal study, depending on the learner and program. This series is designed to combine simplicity of characters with an easy-to-understand storyline which helps learners to expand their vocabularies and language comprehension abilities. The more they read, the better they will become at reading and grasping the Chinese language.

Level 1 is based on a core set of 300 fundamental characters, ensuring each book's vocabulary will be simple everyday words that the reader is most likely to know. Level 1 books contain approximately 400 unique words, introducing a limited number of new key words relevant to the story.

Key words 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

Original Author: Charles Dickens

Editor-in-Chief: John Pasden

Adapted by: Yang Renjun

Content Editor: Yu Cui

Illustrator: Hu Shen

Producer: Jared Turner

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Thank you to Heather Turner for being the inspiration behind the entire series, and to Song Shen for supporting us, handling all the small thankless tasks, and spurring us forward if we dared to fall behind.

Moreover, we will be forever grateful for Yuehua Liu and Chengzhi Chu for pioneering the first graded readers in Chinese and to whom we owe a debt of gratitude for their years of tireless work to bring these type of materials to the Chinese learning community.

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Story Adaptation Notes

This story is an adaptation of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1891 Sherlock Holmes story, *The Red-Headed League*. This Mandarin Companion graded reader has been adapted into a fully localized Chinese version of the original story. The characters have been given authentic Chinese names as opposed to transliterations of English names, which sound foreign in Chinese. The locations have been adapted to well-known places in China.

The location has been adapted from Victorian London, England to 1920's Shanghai, China. During this period, Shanghai was known as "The Paris of the East, the New York of the West." It became the focal point of many activities that would eventually shape modern China. The architectural style of many grand buildings built during this period were modeled after British and American designs to suit the preferences of the influential Western businessmen. This time period of Shanghai parallels the period of Victorian London.

Although the original story involves a group of red-headed males, there are no native Chinese with this hair color. To suit the purposes of the story, we have changed "red-headed" to "curly-haired" since Chinese with curly hair are about as uncommon as red-heads are in the western world.

Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from *The Red Headed League* in Chinese followed by their corresponding English names from Doyle's original story. There are, of course, other characters in the story besides these, but many do not have exact correspondences to the original. The names below aren't translations; they're new Chinese names used for the Chinese versions of the original characters. Think of them as all-new characters in a Chinese story.

高明 (Gāo Míng) - Sherlock Holmes

赵亮 (Zhào Liàng) - Doctor Watson

谢先生 (Xiè Xiānsheng) - Jabez Wilson

刘路飞 (Liú Lùfēi) - Vincent Spaulding

老板 (Lǎobǎn) - Duncan Ross/William Morris

万经理 (Wàn Jīnglǐ) - Mr. Merryweather

老王 (Lǎo Wáng) - Peter Jones

Cast of Characters



高明
(Gāo Míng)



赵亮
(Zhào Liàng)



谢先生
(Xiè Xiānshēng)



刘路飞
(Liú Lùfēi)



卷发公司的老板
(Juǎnfà Gōngsī de Lǎobǎn)



万经理
(Wàn Jīnglǐ)



老王
(Lǎo Wáng)

Locations

上海 (Shànghǎi)

Known as “The Paris of the East, the New York of the West”, 1920’s Shanghai was a bustling center of commerce and western influence in pre-modern China. Today it is the center of business in modern day China.

外滩 (Wàitān)

The Bund in Shanghai, a row of grand buildings modeled after British and American architectural styles lining the west bank of the Huangpu River.



— Chapter 1 —

有意思的案子

一个星期五的上午，天气很好。高明一边吃早饭一边看那天的报纸¹，可是他觉得很没意思，因为他很长时间没有处理²案子³了。赵亮不想看报纸¹，他想一个人出去走走。中午，赵亮回来的时候，看到高明在跟一个男人说话。现在，高明看起来很高兴，话很多，跟上午很不一样⁴。赵亮又看了一下那个男人，不高，有点儿胖，最有意思⁵的是，他的头发⁶是卷的。“头发⁶这么卷的男人，我从来没有⁷看到过。有意思！”⁵

1 报纸 (bàozhǐ) *n.* newspaper

2 处理 (chǔlǐ) *n.* to handle, to deal with

3 案子 (ànzi) *n.* (criminal or legal) case

4 跟……一样 (gēn……yīyàng) *phrase*
the same as...

5 有意思 (yǒuyìsi) *adj.* interesting

6 头发 (tóufa) *n.* hair

7 从来没有 (cónglái méiyǒu) *phrase* to
have never (done something)

赵亮想。

这个时候，高明也看到了赵亮。他笑₈着对赵亮说：“来，小赵。我这里有一个新案子，你一定想听一下。”说完，他对那个卷发男人说：“谢先生，这是我的朋友赵亮。他会跟我一起处理你的案子。”那个男人看了看赵亮，好像不太相信赵亮。

“谢先生，你再多说一点你的案子吧。₃我很少听说这么奇怪的事。现在，我还不知道你的案子是不是跟别的案子有关。”_{3 14}高明又对卷发男人说。₁₀

卷发男人慢慢地拿出了一张报纸。这_{10 1}个时候，赵亮又认真地看了一下这个人。₁₅

8 笑 (xiào) *n.* to laugh at (someone)

9 一定 (yīdìng) *adv.* surely, certainly

10 卷发 (juǎnfà) *n.* curly hair

11 好像 (hǎoxiàng) *n.* to seem that

12 相信 (xiāngxìn) *n.* to believe

13 奇怪 (qíguài) *adj.* strange

14 跟……有关 (gēn……yǒuguān)
phrase about..., related to...

15 认真 (rènzhēn) *adj.* earnest, serious

他很想跟高明一样，很快就可以知道这个人⁴是做什么的。可是，赵亮又看了一会儿，还是不知道这个男人是做什么的。

高明好像知道赵亮在想什么，马上¹¹问卷发男人：“谢先生，你是茶馆老板吧？¹⁰你以前是不是在饭店工作过？¹⁶ 还有，你是¹⁷不是去过海南？”¹⁸



16 茶馆 (cháguǎn) *n.* teahouse
17 老板 (lǎobǎn) *n.* boss

18 饭店 (fàndiàn) *n.* restaurant

“你怎么知道？我没告诉过你啊！”卷发₁₀

男人没想到高明知道这些事。

高明马上笑了，对他说：“你的身上有茶的味道。如果不是每天都在茶馆里，就不可能会有这样的味道。你看你的左手，上面有一些伤口，经常用刀的人才会有这样的伤口。还有，我去过海南，你手上的这个东西，只有海南才有。”

赵亮一下子不知道应该说什么。他以前总是听别人说高明聪明，这次他真的知道了。卷发男人笑了，他对高明说：“我真没想到你都说对了！别人都说这样的案子应该找你，现在，我真的相信了！”

19 味道 (wèidào) *n.* scent, flavor

20 伤口 (shāngkǒu) *n.* wound, cut

21 刀 (dāo) *n.* knife

22 应该 (yīnggāi) *aux.* should, ought to

23 总是 (zǒngshì) *adv.* always

24 聪明 (cōngmíng) *adj.* smart

高明也笑了，说：“那个广告是不是在这张报纸上？你能给我看一下吗？”

“对。就是这张。”卷发男人一边说，一边给高明那张报纸。



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

Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 报纸 (bàozhǐ) *n.* newspaper
2. 处理 (chǔlǐ) *v.* to handle, to deal with
3. 案子 (ànzǐ) *n.* (criminal or legal) case
4. 跟……一样 (gēn…yīyàng) *phrase* the same as…
5. 有意思 (yǒuyìsi) *adj.* interesting
6. 头发 (tóufa) *n.* hair
7. 从来没有 (cónglái méiyǒu) *phrase* to have never (done something)
8. 笑 (xiào) *v.* to laugh at (someone)
9. 一定 (yīdìng) *adv.* surely, certainly
10. 卷发 (juǎnfà) *n.* curly hair
11. 好像 (hǎoxiàng) *v.* to seem that
12. 相信 (xiāngxìn) *v.* to believe
13. 奇怪 (qíguài) *adj.* strange
14. 跟……有关 (gēn…yǒuguān) *phrase* about…, related to…
15. 认真 (rènzhēn) *adj.* earnest, serious
16. 茶馆 (cháguǎn) *n.* teahouse
17. 老板 (lǎobǎn) *n.* boss
18. 饭店 (fàndiàn) *n.* restaurant
19. 味道 (wèidao) *n.* scent, flavor
20. 伤口 (shāngkǒu) *n.* wound, cut
21. 刀 (dāo) *n.* knife
22. 应该 (yīnggāi) *aux.* should, ought to
23. 总是 (zǒngshì) *adv.* always
24. 聪明 (cōngmíng) *adj.* smart
25. 广告 (guǎnggào) *n.* advertisement
26. 需要 (xūyào) *v.* to need
27. 助理 (zhùlǐ) *n.* assistant
28. 百 (bǎi) *num.* hundred
29. 面试 (miànshì) *v.* to interview
30. 记 (jì) *v.* to make a note, to write down

31. 刚才 (gāngcái) *tn.* just now
32. 生意 (shēngyi) *n.* business
33. 为了 (wèile) *prep.* in order to, for the purpose of
34. 拍照 (pāizhào) *vo.* to take a photo
35. 照片 (zhàopiàn) *n.* photograph
36. 地下室 (dìxiàshì) *n.* basement, underground room
37. 洗照片 (xǐ zhàopiàn) *vo.* to develop photographs
38. 不错 (bùcuò) *adj.* pretty good, not bad
39. 希望 (xīwàng) *n.* to wish, to hope
40. 开始 (kāishǐ) *n.* to start
41. 不一定 (bùyīdìng) *adv.* not necessarily
42. 后来 (hòulái) *tn.* afterwards
43. 同意 (tóngyi) *n.* to agree (with)
44. 试 (shì) *n.* to try
45. 难过 (nánguò) *adj.* sad, upset
46. 桌子 (zhuōzi) *n.* table, desk
47. 椅子 (yǐzi) *n.* chair
48. 找到 (zhǎodào) *vc.* to find
49. 漂亮 (piàoliang) *adj.* pretty
50. 一点也 (yīdiǎn yě) *phrase* (not) at all
51. 上班 (shàngbān) *vo.* to go to work
52. 放心 (fàngxīn) *vo.* to relax, to rest assured
53. 平常 (píngcháng) *adv.; adj.* ordinarily; ordinary
54. 再说 (zàishuō) *conj.* and besides
55. 一直 (yīzhí) *adv.* all along, continuously
56. 越来越 (yuèláiyuè) *adv.* more and more...
57. 想法 (xiǎngfǎ) *n.* idea, way of thinking
58. 发现 (fāxiàn) *n.* to discover
59. 生气 (shēngqì) *adj.; n.* angry; to get angry
60. 没用 (méiyòng) *adj.* useless
61. 机会 (jīhuì) *n.* opportunity

62. 大叫 (dàjiào) *n.* to yell, to loudly cry out
63. 好笑 (hǎoxiào) *adj.* funny
64. 不好意思 (bùhǎoyìsi) *adj.* embarrassed, “I’m sorry, but…”
65. 真相 (zhēnxiàng) *n.* the true situation
66. 睡觉 (shuìjiào) *vo.* to sleep
67. 外滩 (Wàitān) *n.* the Bund (in Shanghai)
68. 等 (děng) *n.* to wait
69. 石头 (shítou) *n.* rock, stone
70. 地面 (dìmiàn) *n.* the ground
71. 敲 (qiāo) *n.* to knock
72. 鞋 (xié) *n.* shoe
73. 书店 (shūdiàn) *n.* book store
74. 银行 (yínháng) *n.* bank
75. 记得 (jìde) *n.* to remember
76. 枪 (qiāng) *n.* gun
77. 警察 (jǐngchá) *n.* police officer, the police
78. 灯 (dēng) *n.* a light
79. 箱子 (xiāngzi) *n.* box, crate
80. 空的 (kōngde) *adj.* empty
81. 小心 (xiǎoxīn) *n.* to be careful
82. 黄金 (huángjīn) *n.* gold
83. 抓住 (zhuāzhù) *vc.* to catch
84. 开枪 (kāiqiāng) *vo.* to fire a gun
85. 紧张 (jǐnzhāng) *adj.* nervous
86. 灯光 (dēngguāng) *n.* lamplight
87. 打开 (dǎkāi) *vc.* to open
88. 问路 (wèn lù) *vo.* to ask the way
89. 目的 (mùdì) *n.* purpose, motive
90. 地道 (dìdào) *n.* tunnel

Part of Speech Key

adj. Adjective

adv. Adverb

aux. Auxiliary Verb

conj. Conjunction

cov. Coverb

mw. 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

讨论问题 (Tǎolùn Wèntí)

Chapter 1 有意思的案子

1. 高明不认识谢先生，但是他为什么知道谢先生的很多事？他是怎么知道的？
2. 你喜欢什么样头发的男生和女生？为什么？
3. 如果你有一次机会，你希望你的头发是什么颜色的？
4. 如果你的头发的颜色很奇怪，你父母会不高兴吗？为什么？
5. 一百多年以前，中国男人的头发都是很长的。你知道为什么后来中国男人都是短头发吗？

Chapter 2 一个广告

1. 请说一说你看过的有意思的广告。
2. 你觉得什么样的工作是好工作？
3. 你听说过什么奇怪的工作吗？请说一说。

Chapter 3 新工作

1. 如果你是谢先生，刘路飞告诉你那个工作以后，你会去卷发公司面试吗？为什么？
2. 你的第一次面试怎么样？请说一说。

Chapter 4 公司关门了？

1. 如果有一份工作，你很不喜欢但是会有很多钱，你会不会做？为什么？
2. 说说你的第一个老板。

Chapter 5 茶馆里的事

1. 如果你是高明，谢先生告诉你所有的事以后，你会想什么？
2. 你以后想自己做老板吗？你想做什么？为什么？

Chapter 6 去茶馆

1. 高明和刘路飞去南京路以后，为什么高明用石头在路面上敲了几下？
2. 你觉得上海怎么样？上海哪里最好玩？
3. 你知道中国哪些有名的地方？你想去吗？为什么？

Chapter 7 你们听！

1. 你听说过像高明一样聪明的人吗？请说一说他的事。
2. 现在在中国，只有警察可以有枪。你同意吗？为什么？

Chapter 8 等人

1. 你怕黑吗？你有没有一个人去过很黑的地方？请你说一说。
2. 你什么时候会很紧张？如果你很紧张，你会怎么做？

Chapter 9 真的是他！

1. 在银行的地下室里，高明抓住刘路飞的时候，你觉得刘路飞在想什么？
2. 小时候，你和你的朋友有没有做过不好的事？请说一说。

Chapter 10 都明白了

1. 在处理案子的时候，赵亮有哪些不明白的地方？请都说一说。
2. 你什么时候最开心？

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 1-2 (3rd Ed.)

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

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
赵	zhào	赵亮	Zhào Liàng
案	àn	案子	ànzǐ
卷	juǎn	卷发	juǎnfà
刘	liú	刘路飞	Liú Lùfēi
奇	qí	奇怪	qíguài
怪	guài	奇怪	qíguài
万	wàn	万经理	Wàn jīnglǐ
银	yín	银行	yínháng
相	xiāng	相信	xiāngxìn
门	mén	关门 出门	guānmén chūmén
板	bǎn	老板	lǎobǎn
处	chù	处理	chǔlǐ
滩	tān	外滩	Wàitān
需	xū	需要	xūyào

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
敲	qiāo	敲	qiāo
警	jǐng	警察	jǐngchá
石	shí	石头	shítou
察	chá	警察	jǐngchá
助	zhù	助理	zhùlǐ
逃	táo	逃	táo
抓	zhuā	抓住	zhuāzhù
枪	qiāng	开枪	kāiqiāng
目	mù	目的	mùdì
伤	shāng	伤口	shāngkǒu
总	zǒng	总是	zǒngshì
光	guāng	灯光	dēngguāng
山	shān	中山路	Zhōngshān Lù
刀	dāo	刀	dāo

New Practical Chinese Reader, Books 1-2 (1st Ed.)

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

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
赵	zhào	赵亮	Zhào Liàng
案	àn	案子	ànzǐ
卷	juǎn	卷发	juǎnfà
刘	liú	刘路飞	Liú Lùfēi
奇	qí	奇怪	qíguài
怪	guài	奇怪	qíguài
板	bǎn	老板	lǎobǎn
更	gèng	更	gèng
黄	huáng	黄金	huángjīn

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
灯	dēng	灯光	dēngguāng
处	chǔ	处理	chǔlǐ
椅	yǐ	椅子	yǐzi
滩	tān	外滩	Wàitān
需	xū	需要	xūyào
直	zhí	一直	yīzhí
敲	qiāo	敲	qiāo
班	bān	上班	shàngbān
逃	táo	逃	táo
枪	qiāng	开枪	kāiqiāng
望	wàng	希望	xīwàng
希	xī	希望	xīwàng
紧	jǐn	紧张	jǐnzhāng
味	wèi	味道	wèidao
胖	pàng	胖	pàng

Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Levels 1-3

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

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
赵	zhào	赵亮	Zhào Liàng
知	zhī	知道	zhīdao
案	àn	案子	ànzǐ
卷	juǎn	卷发	juǎnfà
刘	liú	刘路飞	Liú Lùfēi
从	cóng	从来	cónglái
王	wáng	老王	lǎo wáng
金	jīn	黄金	huángjīn

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
更	gèng	更	gèng
处	chù	处理	chǔlǐ
像	xiàng	好像	hǎoxiàng
广	guǎng	广告	guǎnggào
滩	tān	外滩	Wàitān
敲	qiāo	敲	qiāo
察	chá	警察	jǐngchá
往	wǎng	往	wǎng
警	jǐng	警察	jǐngchá
石	shí	石头	shítou
逃	táo	逃	táo
海	hǎi	上海 海南	Shànghǎi Hǎinán
枪	qiāng	开枪	kāiqiāng
抓	zhuā	抓住	zhuāzhù
拍	pāi	拍照	pāizhào
伤	shāng	伤口	shāngkǒu
光	guāng	灯光	dēngguāng
紧	jǐn	紧张	jǐnzhāng
味	wèi	味道	wèidào
活	huó	生活	shēnghuó
刀	dāo	刀	dāo

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	
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
Modifying nouns with phrase + “de”	(Phrase) + 的 + Noun
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	(一) 边 + V, (一) 边 + Verb
Two words for “but”	Statement, 可是/但是 + transitional statement
Explaining causes with “yinwei”	……, 因为 ……
“Would like to” with “xiang”	想 + Verb
Explaining results with “suoyi”	……, 所以 ……
Actions in a row	(Verb Phrase 1) + (Verb Phrase 2)
Verb reduplication with “yi”	Verb + 一 + Verb
At the time when	…… 的时候
Result complements “dao” and “jian”	Verb + 到 / 见
Expressing actions in progress	(正) 在 + Verb
Expressing “with” with “gen”	跟 …… + Verb
Appearance with “kanqilai”	看起来 ……
Again in the past with “you”	又 + Verb
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	有点 (儿) + Adj.

The “zui” superlative	最 + Adj.
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
“Never” with “conglai”	从来不/从来没(有)
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Verb + 过
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Aspect particle “zhe”	Verb + 着
Using “dui”	对 + Noun……
Verbing briefly with “yixia”	Verb + 一下
“-wan” result complement	Subj. + Verb + 完 + Obj.
Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	一起 + Verb
“It seems” with “haoxiang”	好像……
“Not very” with “bu tai”	不太 + Adj.
Again in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb
Doing something more with “duo”	多 + Verb
Suggestions with “ba”	?
Continuation with “hai”	还 + Verb / Adj.
Measure words to differentiate	这 / 那 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Reduplication of adjectives	Adj. + Adj.
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Adj. + 地 + Verb
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去
Measure words to differentiate	这 / 那 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing earliness with “jiu”	就
Expressing duration with “le”	Verb + 了 + Duration
Softening speech with “ba”	……吧。
“Before” in general	以前, ……
Using “zai” with verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb
Expressing “in addition” with “haiyou”	Clause 1, 还有 + (,) + Clause 2
“If..., then...” with “ruguo..., jiu...”	如果……, 就……

Expressing “every” with “mei” and “dou”	每……都……
Expressing location with “zai...shang/xia/li”	在 + Location + 上/下/里/旁边
Auxiliary verb “hui” for “will”	会 + Verb
“Some” using “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Expressing lateness with “cai”	才
“Yinggai” for should	应该 / 该 + Verb
“Always” with “zongshi”	总是 + Verb
Measure words for verbs	Verb + number + Measure Word
Change of state with “le”	……了
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	大家 / 很多人 + 都……
Verbs with “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Target + Verb + Obj.
Emphasis with “jiu”	就 + Verb
CHAPTER 2	
“Already” with “yijing”	已经……了
Auxiliary verb “yao” and its multiple meanings	要 + Noun/要 + Verb
“Just now” with “gangcai”	刚才 + Verb
Expressing purpose with “weile”	为了 + Purpose + Verb
“Even more” with “geng”	更 + Adj.
Special verbs with “hen”	很 + Verb
Continuation with “hai”	还 + Verb / Adj.
Softening the tone of questions with “ne”	?
Basic comparisons with “yiyang”	Noun 1 + 跟 + Noun 2 + 一样 + Adj.
Causative verbs	Noun 1 + 让/叫/请 + Noun 2……
Separable verb	Verb-Obj. / Verb + …… + Obj.
After a specific time	Time/Time phrase + 以后

“Shi... de” construction	Subj. + 是 + [information to be emphasized] + Verb + 的
Before a specific time	Time / Verb + 以前
CHAPTER 3	
“Some” with “youde”	有的 + Noun
“Just” with “gang”	Subj. + 刚 + Verb
“Both A and B” with “you”	又……又……
“Not at all”	一点(儿)也不……
Ordinal numbers with “di”	第 + number (+ Measure Word)
Inability with “mei banfa”	没办法 + Verb
“In addition” with “zaishuo”	再说……
“All along” with “yizhi”	Subj. + 一直 + Predicate
Expressing “more and more” with “yue... yue...”	越……越……
CHAPTER 4	
Expressing “all” with “shenme dou”	什么都/也
Using “ji” to mean “several”	几 + Measure Word + Noun
Mistakenly think that	以为……
“Zai” following verbs	Verb + 在 + Place
Negative commands with “bie”	别 + Verb
Asking why with “zenme”	怎么……?
Sentence-final interjection “a”	……啊!
CHAPTER 5	
Expressing duration (ongoing)	Verb + 了 + Duration + 了
CHAPTER 6	
Difficult to do something	难 + Verb
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多
“From... to...” with “cong... dao...”	从……到……
CHAPTER 7	
“Ye” and “dou” together	也 + 都 + Verb / 也 + 都 + Adj.

Descriptive complements	Verb/Adj. + 得 ·····
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>	

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