

Reader Level
Level One

Unique Characters
300

王子和穷孩子

Wángzǐ hé Qióng Háizi

The Prince and the Pauper

Mark Twain



Mandarin
Companion

Chinese Graded Readers

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What Graded Readers can do for you

Welcome to Mandarin Companion!

We've worked hard to create enjoyable stories that can help you build confidence and competence and get better at Chinese—at the right level for you.

Our graded readers have controlled and simplified language that allows you to bring together the language you've learned so far and absorb how words work naturally together. Research suggests that learners need to “encounter” a word 10-30 times before truly learning it. Graded readers provide the repetition that you need to develop fluency NOW at your level.

In the next section, you can take an assessment and discover if this is the right level for you. We also explain how it won't just improve your Chinese skills but will have a wide range of benefits, from better test scores to increased confidence.

We hope you enjoy our books, and best of luck with your studies.
Jared and John

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you have versions with pinyin over the characters?

No. Although this method is common for native Chinese learners, research and experience show it distracts a second language learner and slows down their ability to learn the characters. If you require pinyin to read most of the characters at this level, you should read something easier.

Is there an English translation of the story?

No. Research and experience show that an English translation will slow down the development of your Chinese language learning skills.

Is this the right level for me?

Let's find out. Open to a story page with characters and start reading. Keep track of the number of characters you *don't* know but don't count any key words you don't know. If there are more than 6 unknown characters on that page, you may want to consider reading our books at a lower level. If the unknown characters are fewer than 6, then this book is likely at your level! If you find that you know all the characters, you may be ready for a higher level. However, even if you know all the characters but are reading slowly, you should consider building reading speed before moving up a level.

How do you decide which characters to include at each level?

Each level includes a core set of characters based on our extensive analysis of the most common characters and words taught to and used by those learning Chinese as a second language. All books at each level are based on the same core set and they can be read in any order.

What to expect in a Level 1 book?

It's important that you read at the level that is right for you. Check out the next page to learn more about Extensive Reading and how we use that in graded readers to support the learning of Chinese by just enjoying a good story.

Books in our Level 1 like this one:

- Include a core set of 300 Chinese words and characters learners are most likely to know.
- Are about 10,000 characters in length
- Use level appropriate grammar
- Include pinyin and a translation of words and characters you are not

expected to know at this level

- Include a glossary at the back of book
- Include proper nouns that are underlined

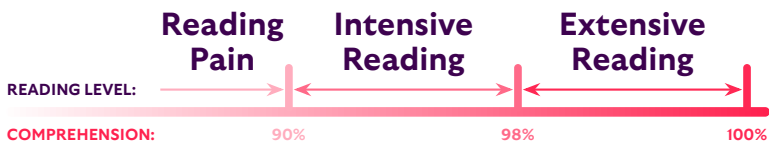
What is Extensive Reading?

It will improve test scores, your reading speed and comprehension, speaking, listening and writing skills. You'll pick up grammar naturally, you'll begin understanding in Chinese, your confidence will improve, and you'll enjoy learning the language.

Graded Readers are based on science that is backed by mountains of research and proven by learners all over the world. They are founded on the theories of Extensive Reading and Comprehensible Input.

Extensive Reading is reading at a level where you can understand almost all of what you are reading (ideally 98%) at a comfortable speed, as opposed to stumbling through dense paragraphs word by word.

When you read extensively, you'll understand most of the words and find yourself fully engaged with the story.



Reading at 98% comprehension is the sweet spot to max out your learning gains. You do still learn at the Intensive Reading level (90–98%), but the closer you are to the Extensive level, the faster your progress.

No one should be reading below a 90% comprehension level.

It's called Reading Pain for a reason. You spend so much time in a dictionary and after 30 painful minutes on ONE paragraph, you're not even sure what you've just read!

If you want to know more, check out our website

www.mandarincompanion.com



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Story Notes

Mark Twain's classic novel *The Prince and the Pauper* has been the subject of countless retellings, but has never before been done in such a uniquely Chinese way. In order to keep the focus on the story, we set this version in a fictional Chinese kingdom in the remote past without specifying a year or dynasty. The setting's location, a city called 西京 (Xījīng), is also fictional.

However, some character names have a certain relationship to actual Chinese history. For example, although 宋 (Sòng) is the name of a historical Chinese dynasty, we chose it for the king's name in our story precisely because there was no famous Chinese emperor with that surname. As for the name 宋知远 (Sòng Zhīyuǎn), the name of the prince, we borrowed the given name from the actual historical emperor 刘知远 (Liú Zhīyuǎn).

The title, *The Prince and the Pauper*, posed a challenge in adapting. The word “pauper” means “beggar,” and can be translated as 乞丐 (qǐgài) in Chinese. However, this word is both formal and also contains two low-frequency characters. The more colloquial option, 要饭的 (yàofàn de), also means “beggar,” but is so informal that it is not suitable for a book title (nevertheless, it does appear in the story). Thus, we decided to go with 穷孩子 (qióng hái zi), meaning “poor child,” a less direct translation of the English “pauper.”

It should also be noted that the hairstyle of the prince in our story does not conform to the actual historical royal hairstyles of ancient China. Sometimes you just have to go with design choices that look a little cooler.

Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from this Chinese story followed by their corresponding English names from Mark Twain's original story. The names below are not translations; they are new Chinese names used for the Chinese versions of the original characters. Think of them as all-new characters in a Chinese story.

宋知远 (Sòng Zhīyuǎn) – Edward Tudor, Prince of Wales

李小朋 (Lǐ Xiǎopéng) – Tom Canty

李大 (Lǐ Dà) – John Canty

周兵 (Zhōu Bīng) – Sir Miles Hendon

白老师 (Bái Lǎoshī) – Father Andrew

雨平 (Yǔpíng) – Lady Edith

老国王 (Lǎo Guówáng) – King Henry VIII

Cast of Characters



宋知远
(Sòng Zhīyuǎn)



李小朋
(Lǐ Xiǎopéng)



李大

(Lǐ Dà)



周兵

(Zhōu Bīng)



Locations

西京 (Xījīng)

Xijing is the capital of a fictional medieval China, set in a time when China had kings rather than a single emperor.



One

不一样的生活

一千多年前的一天晚上，国王¹的儿子
在西京²出生了。

国王¹很老了，一直没有儿子，所以王
子³的出生²是一件大事，西京⁴的人都很高兴⁵。
王子³叫宋知远，他住在又大又漂亮⁶的王宫⁷
里。每天都有很多人帮⁸王子³做事，他吃的、
用的也都是最好的。可以说，他过着最好

-
- 1 国王 (guówáng) *n.* king
2 出生 (chūshēng) *v.* to be born
3 王子 (wángzǐ) *n.* prince
4 件 (jiàn) *mw.* [measure word]

- 5 高兴 (gāoxìng) *adj.* happy
6 漂亮 (piàoliang) *adj.* pretty
7 王宫 (wánggōng) *n.* the royal palace
8 帮 (bāng) *v.* to help; for



的生活。王子每天都要学写字，他的字写得很好。天气好的时候，他喜欢在外面玩。不过，他只能在王宫里走一走，不能出王宫。

就在王子出生的那一天晚上，李大的儿子李小明也出生了。李大很穷，是个要

9 生活 (shēnghuó) *n.* life

11 穷 (qióng) *adj.* poor

10 喜欢 (xǐhuan) *v.* to like

饭的，有时候还会偷¹²东西。小朋²的妈妈和两个姐姐也都是要饭的。小朋²出生的时候，家里人一点也不高兴⁵，因为他的出生²让这个家更穷¹¹了。

他们一家人跟很多穷¹¹人都住在西京最穷¹¹的地方。他们的家又小又破¹³，家里只有一个很破¹³的床¹⁴，是爸爸妈妈的，两个姐姐都睡在地上。小朋²出生¹⁵以后，就生活⁹在这样的家里。家里常常没有吃的，他总是很饿¹⁶，穿¹⁷的衣服也都很破¹⁸。

小朋²的两个姐姐比他大两岁，小朋¹³

12 偷 (tōu) *v.* to steal

13 破 (pò) *adj.* beat-up, run-down

14 床 (chuáng) *n.* bed

15 以后 (yǐhòu) *adv.* after, later

16 饿 (è) *adj.* hungry

17 穿 (chuān) *v.* to wear

18 衣服 (yīfu) *n.* clothing

岁这一年，她们都 15 岁。两个姐姐长得很漂亮，但是也只能穿很破的衣服。家里没有钱让她们上学，但是妈妈会让姐姐们学做很多事。姐姐对小朋很好。爸爸李大很喜欢喝酒，还常常打小朋。这时候，妈妈和姐姐都会帮小朋。但是，小朋觉得爸爸不是坏人，因为他不喝酒的时候，很少打人。

李大每天都让小朋去要饭，但是小朋去要饭以前，总是会先去白老师家里。白老师以前住在王宫，做王子的老师。但是国王不喜欢他，只给了他一点点钱，就让他



走了。白老师现在还是在西京做老师，他
常常让孩子们学写字。穷人家的孩子都喜
欢去他家，他们还不用给钱。

小朋很喜欢听白老师说他以前在王宫
的生活，最喜欢听王子的事。他常常一边
听一边想，如果他是王子，就可以住在

漂亮的王宫里，有时间学更多的东西，也不会总是觉得很饿。他常常让白老师跟他说王子是怎么说话、怎么做事的，然后他会学王子说话、做事。这时候他很快会忘记那些让他不高兴的事。不过，小朋知道，他不可能做真的王子，所以他又想，能见一见真王子就已经很不错了。但是，他的朋友听他这么说都笑他。

小朋还常常看白老师的书，看不懂的地方就问白老师，所以小朋知道的事也不少。小朋能记住很多东西，他跟白老师学

21 忘记 (wàngjì) *v.* to forget

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

23 笑 (xiào) *v.* to smile, to laugh

24 懂 (dǒng) *v.* to understand

过的东西从来不会忘记。²¹孩子和大人们有什么不懂的问题²⁴，都会来问小朋²⁵。但是小朋²⁴的家人对这些事一点都不知道。

小朋在白老师家的时候总是很开心。可是，他每天还要去要饭，回到家的时候，他会很不开心，因为爸爸常常打他。不过，每天晚上的这个时候，他都已经很累²⁶了，所以能很快睡着²⁷。睡着以后²⁷，他就是王子¹⁵，住在王宫里³，很多人帮他做事⁸，还有很多人跟他一起玩。第二天早上起床以后²⁸，他会很难过¹⁵。因为他还是个要饭的，不能做王子²²，也不可能见到王子³。

25 问题 (wèntí) *n.* problem, question

26 累 (lèi) *adj.* to be tired

27 睡着 (shuìzháo) *vc.* to fall asleep

28 起床 (qǐchuáng) *vo.* to get out of bed

29 难过 (nánguò) *adj.* upset

Two

两个人的见面

有一天，小朋出去要饭，路上一直在想王子在王宫里的生活。走了一会儿，他看见在不远的地方，有很多士兵站在一个大门口。小朋发现前面就是王宫！

“啊！好漂亮！”小朋太高兴了，他很想进去看看，但是门口有两个士兵不让他走近宫门。这时候，宫门开了。很快，小朋就看见一个马车出来了。但是，马车

30 士兵(shìbīng) n. soldier

31 门口(ménkǒu) n. doorway

32 发现(fāxiàn) v. to discover

33 宫(gōng) n. palace

34 马车(mǎchē) n. carriage, chariot

上的人不是王子。₃

王宫的门口还有一些穷人，他们跟小
 朋想的一样，也想看看王子长什么样。就
 在那些士兵跟马车上的人说话的时候，小
 朋偷偷地走近宫门口，他看到一个跟他差
 不多大的男孩，穿着漂亮的衣服，在不远
 的地方玩水。几个仆人一直站在他的后
 面。“他一定就是知远王子！”小朋想再
 走近一点，但是士兵发现了他，一边大声
 让他走开，一边重重地打他的头。

“你们为什么打他？”王子走过来问₃

35 偷偷地 (tōutōu de) *adv.* stealthily, secretly

36 差不多 (chàbùduō) *adv.* more or less

37 仆人 (pú rén) *n.* servant

38 大声 (dàshēng) *adv.* loudly

39 走开 (zǒukāi) *vc.* to go away

40 重重地 (zhòngzhòng de) *adv.* heavily



士兵。“快放开他！让他进来。”

“是！王子！”士兵马上放开了小朋，知

远王子带小朋进了王宫，士兵关上了宫门。

小朋有点怕，但是也很开心，因为他没有

41 放开 (fàngkāi) *vc.* to let go, to release

43 怕 (pà) *v.* to be afraid (of)

42 马上 (mǎshàng) *adv.* immediately (lit. “on horseback”)

想到这么快就进了王宫₇，见到了王子₃。他们一边走一边说话，王子₃问了小朋很多问题₂₅。他没想到₄₄小朋₄₄的家那么穷₁₁，但是也觉得小朋₉的生活₉很好玩。走了一会儿以后₁₅，王子₃有点累了₂₆。仆人₃₇马上₄₂拿来₄₅了一些好吃的。

“吃吧，想吃什么就吃什么。”王子₃笑着₂₃对小朋说。他看着小朋，越看越觉得他们长得很像₄₆！

小朋很难相信₄₇这是真的：王子₃请他₄₈进了王宫₇，还请他₄₈吃东西！

看着面前这么多好吃的东西，小朋

44 没想到 (méi xiǎngdào) phrase to not have imagined

45 拿 (ná) v. to pick up, to get

46 像 (xiàng) v. to resemble, to be like

47 相信 (xiāngxìn) v. to believe

48 请 (qǐng) v. to invite, to request; please

不知道先吃哪个好。他不好意思地对王子

笑了笑，很快就吃完了很多东西。

“太好吃了！”小朋从来没有吃过这么好吃的东西。王子看小朋吃得那么高兴，也跟着他一起吃了起来。

“对了，我还没问你叫什么？”王子一边吃，一边问。

“李小朋。”小朋还在吃，他觉得很开心，但是也很不好意思。

“在宫里，总是有人一直跟着我，看着我。”王子说，“我说话做事都要很有礼貌，我觉得这样的生活很累。你每天都去

要饭，但是你的生活听起来很有意思。”王
子说完就不吃了。

“王子，没想到你会觉得我的生活有意思。不过，我也不太明白你怎么会不喜
欢王宫的生活。我一直很想住在王宫里，
过一天王子的生活。”然后，小朋又小声
说：“我知道这是不可能的。可是，如果
能让我穿一下你的衣服也好啊！”

“你想穿我的衣服？来吧！”王子觉得
这样做很好玩，“那我也穿上你的衣服
吧！”

小朋开心死了，马上就跟王子去了他



的房间。王子让仆人都不要进来。

知远王子穿上了小朋的破衣服，小朋穿

上了王子的漂亮衣服。他们长得真的太像

了！如果他们不告诉别人，没有人会知道

谁是真王子，谁是要饭的。

“你的头是士兵打的吗?!” 王子问。

“是，不过，很快就会好的。请王子
不要生气。”

“不行，我一定要告诉他们，这样做是不
对的。”说完，王子在床下放了一个包，包
里的东西好像有点重。然后，王子就出去
了。

“开门！快点!” 王子很快走到外面，大
声对士兵说。

士兵看到穿破衣服的知远王子，以为他
是要饭的小朋，开了门就让他出去了。知
远王子一走出去就对门口的士兵说：“你

53 生气 (shēngqì) *vo.* to be angry

54 放 (fàng) *v.* to put

55 包 (bāo) *n.* bag

56 好像 (hǎoxiàng) *adv.* it seems that

57 重 (zhòng) *adj.* heavy

58 以为 (yǐwéi) *v.* to (mistakenly) think that

们怎么能打人呢？这是不对的！”

士兵听了很不高兴：“死要饭的，找死吗？”说完又来打他。

王子很生气，一边往外面跑，一边对士兵大叫：“我是王子，你怎么可以打王子？”

“死要饭的，你疯了吧?! 快走开!” 士兵关上了大门。

站在王宫外面的人也都看到了这些，人们都觉得这个男孩疯了！所有的人都在笑他。

“我是王子，你们要相信我！”知远

59 死要饭的 (sǐ yàofànde) *phrase* miserable beggar

60 往 (wǎng) *prep.* toward

61 跑 (pǎo) *v.* to run

62 疯 (fēng) *adj.* crazy

63 所有的 (suǒyǒu de) *adj.* all

王子大声对那些人说。可是谁都不相信
他，因为他的衣服太破了，王子是不会穿
这样的衣服的。

王子很难过，也很怕。他只是想玩玩，
没想到会发生这样的事。他一个人跑了很
久，等到他跑累了，才在路边坐了下来。
这时候他发现前面有一个地方，是他以前
去过的。“国王带我去过这个地方！里面
有很多的老师，他们应该都认识我！”他
一边想，一边跑进去。学生们看到知远王
子，也都以为他是要饭的，对他大叫：“死
要饭的，快走开！”

64 发生 (fāshēng) *v.* to happen

66 学生 (xuéshēng) *n.* student

65 等 (děng) *n.* to wait (for)

“我是王子₃，我要找你们的老师₂₀！”

学生们₆₆都大笑₂₃起来，有的说：“死要饭
的₅₉，你疯₆₂了吧！”。还有一个学生₆₆说：“死要
饭的₅₉，如果你不快点走，我们就打死你！”

王子₃很生气₅₃，也很怕₄₃，只能往外跑_{60 61}：“你
们等着！我明天就抓₆₅你们去坐牢_{67 68}！”他一
边跑₆₁一边想这件事，越想越生气_{4 53}。

一个好心的老人看到知远王子₃，以为₅₈
他是小朋₃，就跟他说话。这让王子₃想到去
找小朋的家人，让他们送₆₉他回王宫₇！

走了好久，王子₃在路上看到了一个
男人。男人一看到小朋，就大声₃₈对他说：

67 抓 (zhuā) v. to grab, to catch

69 送 (sòng) v. to send, to give

68 坐牢 (zuòláo) v. to do time in jail

“小朋，你去哪儿了？这么晚才回来！”

“这个男人穿得这么破，像是要饭的，他应该就是小朋的爸爸。”王子一边想，一边说：“你好，我是知远王子，不是你儿子小朋。你送我回王宫，我会给你很多钱的。”

“你是王子?!” 李大笑着说，“如果你是王子，我就是国王!”

“我真的是王子，是这样的……” 王子还没说完，李大就要过来打他。

Three

小朋做王子

Four

出了王宫以后

Five

小朋友做国王



李大抓知远

Seven

回周兵的老家

Eight

牢里的生活

Nine

新国王大会



做回自己



Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 国王 guówáng *n.* king
2. 出生 chūshēng *v.* to be born
3. 王子 wángzǐ *n.* prince
4. 件 jiàn *mv.* [measure word]
5. 高兴 gāoxìng *adj.* happy
6. 漂亮 piàoliang *adj.* pretty
7. 王宫 wánggōng *n.* the royal palace
8. 帮 bāng *v.* to help; for
9. 生活 shēnghuó *n.* life
10. 喜欢 xǐhuan *v.* to like
11. 穷 qióng *adj.* poor
12. 偷 tōu *v.* to steal
13. 破 pò *adj.* beat-up, run-down
14. 床 chuáng *n.* bed
15. 以后 yǐhòu *adv.* after, later
16. 饿 è *adj.* hungry
17. 穿 chuān *v.* to wear
18. 衣服 yīfu *n.* clothing
19. 喝酒 hējiǔ *vo.* to drink alcohol
20. 老师 lǎoshī *n.* teacher
21. 忘记 wàngjì *v.* to forget
22. 可能 kěnéng *adv.* maybe, possibly; possible
23. 笑 xiào *v.* to smile, to laugh
24. 懂 dǒng *v.* to understand
25. 问题 wèntí *n.* problem, question
26. 累 lèi *adj.* to be tired

27. 睡着 shuìzháo *vc.* to fall asleep
28. 起床 qǐchuáng *vo.* to get out of bed
29. 难过 nánguò *adj.* upset
30. 士兵 shìbīng *n.* soldier
31. 门口 ménkǒu *n.* doorway
32. 发现 fāxiàn *v.* to discover
33. 宫 gōng *n.* palace
34. 马车 mǎchē *n.* carriage, chariot
35. 偷偷地 tōutōu de *adv.* stealthily, secretly
36. 差不多 chàbùduō *adv.* more or less
37. 仆人 púrén *n.* servant
38. 大声 dàshēng *adv.* loudly
39. 走开 zǒukāi *vc.* to go away
40. 重重地 zhòngzhòng de *adv.* heavily
41. 放开 fàngkāi *vc.* to let go, to release
42. 马上 mǎshàng *adv.* immediately (lit. “on horseback”)
43. 怕 pà *v.* to be afraid (of)
44. 没想到 méi xiǎngdào *phrase* to not have imagined
45. 拿 ná *v.* to pick up, to get
46. 像 xiàng *v.* to resemble, to be like
47. 相信 xiāngxìn *v.* to believe
48. 请 qǐng *v.* to invite, to request; please
49. 不好意思 bùhǎoyìsi *adj.* embarrassed
50. 礼貌 lǐmào *n.; adj.* manners; polite
51. 房间 fángjiān *n.* room
52. 告诉 gàosu *v.* to tell
53. 生气 shēngqì *vo.* to be angry
54. 放 fàng *v.* to put
55. 包 bāo *n.* bag
56. 好像 hǎoxiàng *adv.* it seems that
57. 重 zhòng *adj.* heavy
58. 以为 yǐwéi *v.* to (mistakenly) think that
59. 死要饭的 sǐyàofànde *phrase* miserable beggar
60. 往 wǎng *prep.* toward
61. 跑 pǎo *v.* to run
62. 疯 fēng *adj.* crazy

- 63. 所有的 suǒyǒu de *adj.* all
- 64. 发生 fāshēng *v.* to happen
- 65. 等 děng *n.* to wait (for)
- 66. 学生 xuéshēng *n.* student
- 67. 抓 zhuā *v.* to grab, to catch
- 68. 坐牢 zuòláo *vo.* to do time in jail
- 69. 送 sòng *v.* to send, to give
- 70. 奇怪 qíguài *adj.* strange
- 71. 生病 shēngbìng *vo.* to get sick
- 72. 哭 kū *v.* to cry
- 73. 记得 jìde *v.* to remember
- 74. 办法 bànfǎ *n.* way, solution
- 75. 王叔 wángshū *n.* brother of the king
- 76. 大臣 dàchén *n.* royal official
- 77. 重要 zhòngyào *adj.* important
- 78. 点头 diǎntóu *vo.* to nod one's head
- 79. 睡觉 shuìjiào *vo.* to sleep
- 80. 一下子 yīxiàzi *adv.* all of a sudden
- 81. 开心果 kāixīnguǒ *n.* pistachio nuts
- 82. 慢慢 mànman *adv.* slowly
- 83. 打开 dǎkāi *v.* to open
- 84. 开会 kāihuì *vo.* to have a meeting
- 85. 疯子 fēngzi *n.* crazy person
- 86. 大会 dàhuì *n.* conference, big meeting
- 87. 新 xīn *adj.* new
- 88. 钱包 qiánbāo *n.* wallet, money purse
- 89. 刀 dāo *n.* knife
- 90. 牢里 láo lǐ *phrase* in jail
- 91. 饭店 fàndiàn *n.* restaurant, inn
- 92. 房子 fángzi *n.* house
- 93. 公平 gōngpíng *adj.* fair, just
- 94. 法律 fǎlù *n.* the law
- 95. 老婆 lǎopo *n.* wife
- 96. 小时 xiǎoshí *n.* hour
- 97. 关系 guānxi *n.* relationship
- 98. 万岁 wànsuì *phrase* long live (the king!)

99. 王印 wángyìn *n.* royal seal**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



Grammar Points

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.

ENGLISH	CHINESE
CHAPTER 1	
Time words and word order	Subj. + Time …… / Time + Subj…….
Indicating location with “zai” before verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + V
Change of state with “le”	[New Situation] + 了
Expressing “all along” with “yizhi”	Subj. + 一直 + Predicate
Special cases of “zai” following verbs	Subj. + [Special Verb] + 在 + Location
Expressing “both A and B” with “you”	Subj. + 又 + Adj. 1 + 又 + Adj. 2
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	Subj. + 都 + Verb + Obj.
Ye and “dou” together	Subj. + 也 + 都 + Verb / Adj.
Aspect particle “zhe”	Verb + 着
Superlative “zui”	最 + Adj.

Descriptive complement	Verb / Adj. + 得 + Description
Auxiliary verb “yao” and its multiple meanings	Subj. + 要 + Verb
When with “de shihou”	(Subj.) + Verb / Adj. + 的时候, Subj. + Verb + Obj.
A softer “but”	Clause 1, 不过 + Clause 2
Expressing “and also” with “hai”	Subj. + Verb + Obj. 1, 还 + Verb + Obj. 2
Cause and effect with “yinwei” and “suoyi”	因为 + Cause, 所以 + Effect
Expressing “even more” with “geng”	更 + Adj.
Using “gen” to mean “with”	Subj. + 跟 + Person + Verb + Obj.
Expressing location with “zai... shang / xia / li”	在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边 / etc.
Expressing “only” with “zhi”	只 + Verb
After a specific time with “yihou”	Time / Verb + 以后, Subj. + Verb + Obj.
Expressing “always” with “zongshi”	Subj. + 总是 + Verb
Basic comparisons with “bi”	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj.
Two words for “but”	Statement, 可是 / 但是 + [Contrary Statement]
Causative verbs	Subj. + Causative Verb + Noun / Pronoun + Verb-Obj.
Using “dui” with verbs	对 + Obj. + Verb Phrase
Expressing “will” with “hui”	Subj. + 会 + Verb + Obj.
Before a specific time with “yiqian”	Time / Verb + 以前, Subj. + Verb + Obj.
Before in general with “yiqian”	以前, Subj. + Verb + Obj.
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Special verbs with “hen”	Subj. + 很 + [Certain Verbs] + [General Verbs / Nouns]
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	Subj. + 一边 + Verb (,) + 一边 + Verb
If..., then... with “ruguo..., jiu...”	如果 + Statement, 就 + Result

Potential complement “-bu dong” for not understanding	Subj. + Verb + 不懂
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Subj. + Verb + 过 + Obj.
Expressing “not at all” with “yidianr ye bu”	Subj. + 一点也 / 都 + 不 + Adj.
Sequencing with “xian” and “zai”	先 + [Verb Phrase 1] + 再 + [Verb Phrase 2]
Expressing “already” with “yijing”	已经 + Verb / [Verb Phrase] + 了
Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	[Subj.] + 一起 + Verb + Obj.
“zhao” as complement	Verb + 着

CHAPTER 2

Expressing “would like to” with “xiang”	Subj. + 想 + Verb + Obj.
Reduplication of verbs	Subj. + Verb + Verb
Basic comparisons with “yiyang”	Noun 1 + 跟 / 和 + Noun 2 + 一样
Expressing “some” with “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Expressing actions in progress	Subj. + 在 + Verb + Obj.
Approximations with “chabuduo”	差不多 + Adj. / Verb
Result complements “dao” and “jian”	Subj. + Verb + 到 + Obj.
Verbs that take double objects	Subj. + Verb + [Indirect Obj.] + [Direct Obj.]
Tricky uses of “dao”	Subj. + Verb + 到
Reduplication of adjectives	Adj. + Adj. + 的 (+ Noun)
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	Subj. + 有点 (儿) + Adj.
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	Subj. + 那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Expressing “as one likes” with “jiu”	想 + Verb (+ Obj.) + 就 + Verb (+ Obj.)
Expressing “the more... the more...” with “yue... yue...”	Subj. + 越 + Verb + 越 + Adj.
Expressing “difficult” with “nan”	Subj. + (很) 难 + Verb
Many types of “not only...but also...”	Subj. + 不仅 / 不但 / 不只 + ……，而且 / 还 / 也 + ……

Expressing not knowing how to do something using “hao”	Subj. + 不知道 + Verb Phrase + 好
Result complement “wan” for finishing	Subj. + Verb + 完 + Obj.
Expressing “never” with “conglai”	Subj. + 从来 + 不 + [Verb Phrase]
Continuation with “hai”	Subj. + 还在 + Verb + Obj.
Expressing “not anymore” with “le”	(已经 +) 不 / 没(有) + [Verb Phrase] + 了
Expressing “not very” with “bu tai”	Subj. + 不太 + Adj.
Verbing briefly with “yixia”	Subj. + Verb + 一下 + Obj.
Suggestions with “ba”	Command + 吧
Negative adjectives with “-si le”	(Subj. +) Negative Adj. + 死了
Directional verbs “lai” and “qu”	来 / 去 + Place
Inability with “mei banfa”	Subj. + 没办法 + Verb + Obj.
Shi... de construction	Subj. + 是 + Information to be Emphasized + Verb + 的
Expressing earliness with “jiu”	Subj. + Time + 就 + Verb + Obj.
It seems with “haoxiang”	Subj. + 好像 + [Observation]
Mistakenly think that	Subj. + 以为 + Phrase
Using “youde” to mean “some”	有的 + (Subj.) + Predicate, 有的 + (Subj.) + Predicate
Expressing “everyone” with “shei”	谁 + 都 + Verb Phrase
Expressing “should” with “yinggai”	Subj. + 应该 + Verb + Obj.
In the future in general with “yihou”	以后 + Subj. + Verb + Obj.
Expressing lateness with “cai”	Subj. + Time + 才 + Verb + Obj.

CHAPTER 3

Events in quick succession with “yi... jiu”	Subj. 一 + Event 1, 就 + Event 2
Again in the future with “zai”	Subj. + 再 + Verb Phrase
Expressing “in addition” with “haiyou”	[Clause], + 还有, + [Clause 2]

Referring to “all” using “suoyou”	所有的 + Noun + 都 + Verb / Adj.
Just now with “gangcai”	刚才 + Verb
Resultative complement “huai”	Verb + 坏
Appearance with “kanqilai”	Subj. + 看起来 + Adj.
Expressing duration of inaction	Subj. + Duration + 没 + Verb + Obj. + 了
Result complement “-qilai”	Verb + 起来
Expressing “more and more” with “yuelaiyue”	Subj. + 越来越 + Adj. + 了
Expressing “all at once” with “yixiazi”	Subj. + 一下子 + Verb + 了
Using “hao” to mean “easy”	好 + Verb
Using “lai” to connect two verb phrases	通过 / 用 + Agent + 来 + Verb Phrase
Resultative complement “kai”	Verb + 开
Again in the past with “you”	又 + Verb + 了

CHAPTER 4

Expressing “stop doing” with “bie…le”	别 + Verb / Verb Phrase + 了
Result complement “-cuo”	Obj. + Subj. + Verb + 错 + 了
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Subj. + Adj. + 地 + Verb
Result complement “-hao”	Obj. + Verb + 好 + 了
Using “dao” to mean “to go to”	Subj. + 到 + Place

CHAPTER 5

Expressing “about to” with “jiuyao”	快 (要) / 就 (要) + Verb Phrase + 了
Intensifying with “duo”	Subj. + 多 + Adj.
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多 + Measure word + (Noun)
Expressing “just” with “gang”	Subj. + 刚 + Verb
Conceding a point with “shi”	Adj. + 是 + Adj. , 但是……

In addition with “zaishuo” Clause 1, 再说 + Clause 2

CHAPTER 6

Resultative complement “zhu”	Verb + 住
Comparing specifically with “xiang”	Noun 1 + 像 + Noun 2 + 一样 + Adj. / Verb
Coincidence with “zhenghao”	Noun + 正好 (as an Adj.)

CHAPTER 7

Negative commands with “bie”	别 + Verb + (Obj.)
Ending a non-exhaustive list with “shenme de”	List + 什么的
For with “gei”	Subj. + 给 + [Recipient] + Verb + Obj.
Already with “dou...le”	都 + Verb / Adj. / Quantity + 了

CHAPTER 8

Expressing “in this way” with “zheyang”	Condition, 这样 + Result / Purpose
Result complement “xiaqu”	Subj. + Verb + 下去
Expressing “for” with “wei”	为 + [Some Part] + Verb

CHAPTER 9

Emphasizing with “cai”	Subj. + 才 + Verb + Obj. + 呢
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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 seats forced them to sit next to each other.

John majored in Japanese in college in the US and later learned Mandarin before moving to China, where he was admitted into an all-Chinese masters program in applied linguistics at East China Normal University in Shanghai. John lives in Shanghai with his wife and children. John is the editor-in-chief at Mandarin Companion and ensures each story is written at the appropriate level.

Jared decided to move to China with his young family in search of career opportunities, despite having no Chinese language skills. When he learned about Extensive Reading and started using graded readers, his language skills exploded. In 3 months, he had read 10 graded readers and quickly became conversational in Chinese. Jared lives in the US with his wife and children. Jared runs the business operations and focuses on bringing stories to life.

John and Jared work with Chinese learners and teachers all over the world. They host a podcast, You Can Learn Chinese, where they discuss the struggles and joys of learning to speak the language. They are active on social media, where they share memes and stories about learning Chinese.

You can connect with them through the website

www.mandarincompanion.com



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