

Reader Level  
Level One

Unique Characters  
300

# 红猴的价格

Hóng Hóu de Jiàgé

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# The Ransom of Red Chief

O. Henry



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

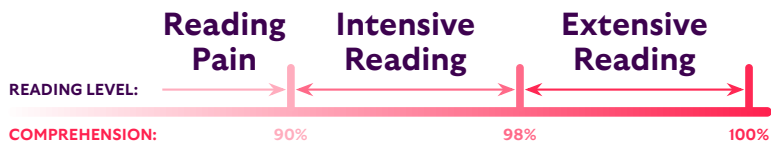
## What is Extensive Reading?

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](http://www.mandarincompanion.com)





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## Story Notes

Perhaps best known for “The Gift of the Magi,” O. Henry is a well-known American writer of short stories. Written in 1910, the story “The Ransom of Red Chief” brilliantly tapped into a rich vein of comedy associated with the many difficulties of caring for a mischievous child. The “Red Chief” in the title, however, calls attention to the very different culture of the time, when “cowboys and Indians” was the most common game all children knew, and the United States had barely begun to address its real issues of racial equality. The original story, set in Alabama around the turn of the century, was swapped out for backwoods Shanxi province around the turn of the millennium.

The story’s larger theme of a child so unruly that he can barely be contained is all too familiar in a modern Chinese one-child household. And yet Chinese kids do have a uniquely Chinese hero all their own, unparalleled in his naughtiness: 孙悟空 (Sūn Wùkōng), known as the Monkey King from *Journey to the West*. Thus, our story uses its own version of Sun Wukong, a modern-day, fictional caped simian superhero named 红猴 (Hóng Hóu), and gleefully jettisons the anachronistic “Red Chief.” You won’t miss him at all.

# Character Adaptations

The following is a list of the characters from this Chinese story followed by their corresponding English names from O. Henry'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.

老马 (Lǎo Mǎ) – Bill

林哥 (Lín Gē) – Sam

高先生 (Gāo Xiānsheng) – Dorset

红猴 (Hóng Hóu) – Johnny

## Cast of Characters



老马  
(Lǎo Mǎ)



林哥  
(Lín Gē)



高先生  
(Gāo Xiānsheng)



红猴  
(Hóng Hóu)

A map of China is shown in the background, with neighboring countries Russia to the north and Myanmar to the south. The city of Urumqi is marked in the northwest, and Lhasa is marked in the southwest. A large white text box with a black border is overlaid on the left side of the map.

## Locations

### 西安 (Xī'ān)

The capital of Shaanxi 陕西 Province, Xi'an is known for being one of the Four Great Ancient Capitals and home to the famous Terracotta Warriors. It is the most populous city in North-west China.

### 山西 (Shānxī)

Shanxi Province in northern China (not to be confused with Shaanxi 陕西 where Xi'an is located), meaning “West of the Mountains”, is characterized by arid plateaus surrounded by mountain ranges.





## One

## 一个生意

1995 年的一天，我和老马来到了山西的一个村子<sup>1</sup>。那时候，我们很想去西安做生意<sup>2</sup>，可是只有六百多块钱。

“不行，”我对老马说，“六百多块太少了。我们要买<sup>3</sup>吃的东西，还要坐车。如果去西安做生意<sup>2</sup>，最少还要两千块。”

“可是我们去哪儿找那么多钱？”老马看起来很不开心<sup>4</sup>。

1 村子 (cūnzi) *n.* village, town

2 生意 (shēngyì) *n.* business

3 买 (mǎi) *v.* to buy

4 起来 (qǐlái) *v.* to get up

5 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy

“我们可以先在这里做一个小‘生意’。”我看着前面的村子说。

这个村子不太大，人也不多，但是每家都很有钱。大人们去工作的时候，孩子们就在一起玩。他们开心的笑声让我想到了一个好办法。

“村里的人很爱他们的孩子，他们也很有钱。如果我们抓走一个孩子，他的父母一定会给我们钱，让我们放孩子回家。这里没有警察，别的村的警察来的时候，我们早就跑了。”

6 有钱 (yǒuqián) *adj.* rich; to have money

7 笑 (xiào) *v.* to laugh, to smile

8 想到 (xiǎngdào) *vc.* to think of

9 办法 (bànfǎ) *n.* way of doing

10 抓 (zhuā) *v.* to grab

11 放 (fàng) *v.* to put, to release

12 警察 (jǐngchá) *n.* police

13 跑 (pǎo) *v.* to run





“这个办法好。”老马开心地说，“村子  
 西边有一个山，山上有个山洞，我们可以买  
 一些吃的放在那里。抓到孩子以后，就带  
 他去那儿。”

我们都觉得抓高先生的儿子最好。

14 山洞(shāndòng) *n.* cave (in the mountains)

15 带(dài) *v.* to carry

高先生是村子里 最有钱的人，两千块这个价格对他来说，应该不高。再说，他只有一个八岁的儿子，所以他一定会给钱的。

我和老马在他家外面看了几天，高先生不在家的时候，孩子就外面玩。他只有八岁，但是力气不小，常常打别的孩子。村子里的孩子都不喜欢跟他一起玩，所以他总是一个玩。

村子里的大人也不喜欢这个孩子，因为他常常拿别人家的东西，还用石头在别人的车上写字。他一直以为别人都不知道

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16 价格 (jiàgé) *n.* price

17 力气 (lìqì) *n.* strength

18 拿 (ná) *v.* to pick up

19 石头 (shítou) *n.* stone

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



是他做的坏事。别人问他的时候，他也  
从来不说 “对不起”。  
 21

高先生的儿子不喜欢上学。如果高先  
 22  
生发现儿子没去上学，一定会打他。可是，  
 23 22  
他儿子还是不听话，高先生也没办法。  
 24 25 9

21 从来不 (cónglái bù) phrase never

22 上学 (shàngxué) v. to go to school

23 发现 (fāxiàn) v. to discover

24 还是 (háishì) conj.; adv. still; had better

25 听话 (tīnghuà) v. to be obedient, to listen

“这个孩子是不好管，”老马说，“不过，  
如果我是他爸爸，我一定会想办法让他听  
话。”

“对，他只是一个八岁的孩子，我们  
是大人，一定有办法管他。”我想了一下，  
又说：“明天等高先生出门，我们就去抓  
人，然后给高先生写信要钱。”

“林哥，我们很快就有钱去西安做生意  
了！”老马开心地笑了，“明天我们先去买  
一些吃的放在山洞里，再去抓人。”

26 管 (guǎn) *v.* to manage, to handle

27 等 (děng) *v.* to wait

28 出门 (chūmén) *va.* to go out the door

29 信 (xìn) *n.* letter

30 很快 (hěn kuài) *phrase* quickly, soon

## Two

## 抓人

第二天早上，我和老马<sub>31</sub>开车去买了一些孩子喜欢吃的东西。

“孩子都爱吃这些东西，如果给他吃这个，他一定会跟我们走的。”买<sub>3</sub>好东西以后，我开心<sub>5</sub>地说。

“对，如果孩子高兴<sub>32</sub>，这件<sub>33</sub>事就会很好办。”老马<sub>7</sub>也笑<sub>7</sub>了，“如果孩子一直大哭大<sub>34</sub>叫，别人一定会发现<sub>23</sub>我们。”

31 开车 (kāichē) *v.* to drive (a car)

32 高兴 (gāoxìng) *adj.* happy

33 件 (jiàn) *mw.* [measure word for clothing, incidents]

34 哭 (kū) *v.* to cry

35 大叫 (dàjiào) *v.* to cry out loudly

十点多的时候，我们开车到了高先生家外面，他已经出门了。他儿子一个人坐在门口玩石头。

“小孩儿，要不要吃这个？很好吃的。”  
老马一边问，一边拿出好吃的。

孩子看了我们一下，没有说话，又去玩石头。

我又问了一次，孩子还是不说话。老马看孩子一直不说话，很不高兴，大声问：“小孩儿，听不见我们的话吗?!”

老马刚说完，孩子手里的石头就打到了他头上。



“啊……” 老马 大叫了一声，“我的头！”

35

你用石头打我！林哥，我要让高先生多给  
五百块！”

19

“老马，小声点。我们的价格可以高一

16

点，这个晚上再说。”我小声说。

“可是吃的东西对他没有用，怎么办？”

老马说。

“我有办法。”我走过去，笑着对孩子说：“小孩儿，我们的车很大，你想不想和我们一起坐车去山里玩？我们在山里放了很多好吃的东西。”

“真的吗？你们要带我去山里玩？还能坐车？”孩子高兴地叫了起来，“太好了，我一直想去山里玩！”

“那我们快点上车吧。”我一边说，一边让老马打开车门。



路上，老马对孩子说：“我是大人，孩子不可以打大人。以后你再打我，我就打你，听见了吗？”

孩子看了看老马：“如果你打我，我就让我的朋友红猴来打死你。”

“你的朋友？他在哪儿呢？”老马笑了起来。“我是大人，怎么会怕两个孩子？”

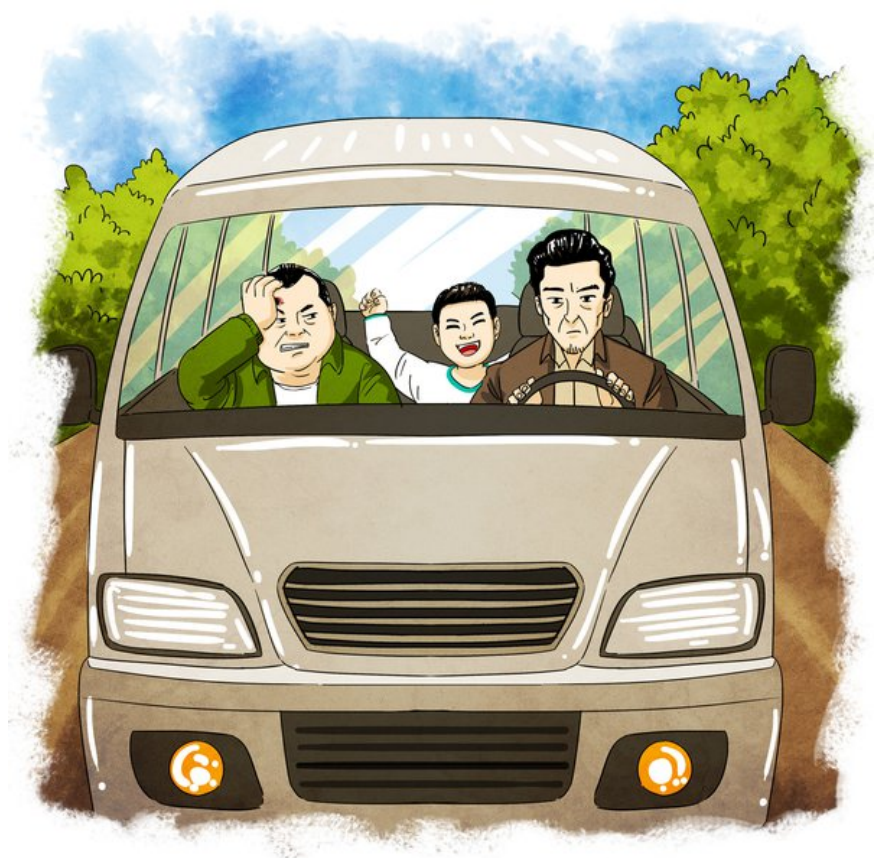
老马刚说完，孩子就用力打了一下他的头：“等红猴明天来了，一定会让你知道他的厉害。”

“啊……你这个小孩儿！”老马大叫。“林哥，这个孩子的力气真大！”

38 怕 (pà) *v.* to fear

40 厉害 (lìhai) *adj.* impressive

39 用力 (yòng lì) *v.* to use force



“老马，别说了！”说完，我又对孩子说：“小孩儿，你要听话，<sup>25</sup>别再打老马了。一会儿我们给你好吃的。”

回到山洞以后，<sup>14</sup>我让老马去拿一些吃<sup>18</sup>

的，孩子跟我们一起坐在地上，吃得很开  
心。  
5

“山里真好，我真喜欢这里！”孩子一边吃一边说。“我爸爸总是管我，不让我来山里玩。这些东西真好吃，比我家的饭好吃多了！”孩子说完，又吃了一大口。“这个山洞怎么这么大？我们晚上睡在哪儿？老马，再给我拿点儿吃的。你们知道我的朋友红猴吗？老马，等明天红猴来了，你就会知道他有多厉害……”  
14 18 26 27 40

“小孩儿，你想不想爸爸？想不想回家？”我问孩子。

“回家多没意思，我才不想回家呢！我喜欢在这里跟你们一起玩。”孩子高兴地说。

“好啊，那你就在这里跟我们一起玩几天再回家吧。”我笑着说。我很高兴孩子这么喜欢这里，这样他就会好好在这里玩，不会很难管的。老马也可以放心地跟他一起玩了。

晚上睡觉以前，老马在地上放了几件很大的衣服，睡在上面一点也不冷。

我和老马都累坏了，很快就睡着了。

41 放心 (fàngxīn) *v.* to relax

42 睡觉 (shuìjiào) *v.* to sleep

43 衣服 (yīfu) *n.* clothing

44 累 (lèi) *adj.* tired

45 睡着 (shuìzháo) *v.* to fall asleep

Three

红猴来了

## Four

## 写信

Five

送信

Six

# 有钱人的孩子



Seven

回信

**Eight**

## 新的价格

Nine

# 最后的价格



再见



## Key Words 关键词 (Guānjiàncí)

1. 村子 cūnzi *n.* village, town
2. 生意 shēngyì *n.* business
3. 买 mǎi *v.* to buy
4. 起来 qǐlai *v.* to get up
5. 开心 kāixīn *adj.* happy
6. 有钱 yǒuqián *adj.* rich; to have money
7. 笑 xiào *v.* to laugh, to smile
8. 想到 xiǎngdào *vc.* to think of
9. 办法 bànfǎ *n.* way of doing
10. 抓 zhuā *v.* to grab
11. 放 fàng *v.* to put, to release
12. 警察 jǐngchá *n.* police
13. 跑 pǎo *v.* to run
14. 山洞 shāndòng *n.* cave (in the mountains)
15. 带 dài *v.* to carry
16. 价格 jiàgé *n.* price
17. 力气 lìqi *n.* strength
18. 拿 ná *v.* to pick up
19. 石头 shítou *n.* stone
20. 以为 yǐwéi *v.* to (mistakenly) think that
21. 从来不 cónglái bù *phrase* never
22. 上学 shàngxué *vo.* to go to school
23. 发现 fāxiàn *v.* to discover
24. 还是 háishi *conj.; adv.* still; had better
25. 听话 tīnghuà *vo.* to be obedient, to listen
26. 管 guǎn *v.* to manage, to handle

27. 等 děng *v.* to wait
28. 出门 chūmén *vo.* to go out the door
29. 信 xìn *n.* letter
30. 很快 hěn kuài *phrase* quickly, soon
31. 开车 kāichē *vo.* to drive (a car)
32. 高兴 gāoxìng *adj.* happy
33. 件 jiàn *mzv.* [measure word for clothing, incidents]
34. 哭 kū *v.* to cry
35. 大叫 dàjiào *v.* to cry out loudly
36. 大声 dàshēng *adv.* loudly
37. 打开 dǎkāi *vc.* to open
38. 怕 pà *v.* to fear
39. 用力 yònglì *vo.* to use force
40. 厉害 lìhai *adj.* impressive
41. 放心 fàngxīn *v.* to relax
42. 睡觉 shuìjiào *vo.* to sleep
43. 衣服 yīfu *n.* clothing
44. 累 lèi *adj.* tired
45. 睡着 shuìzháo *vc.* to fall asleep
46. 穿 chuān *v.* to put on, to wear
47. 小心 xiǎoxīn *v.* to be careful
48. 洞口 dòngkǒu *n.* mouth of a cave
49. 奇怪 qíguài *adj.* strange
50. 树 shù *n.* tree
51. 往 wǎng *cov.* toward
52. 好像 hǎoxiàng *adv.* it seems (that)
53. 换 huàn *v.* to change
54. 像 xiàng *v.* to resemble
55. 生气 shēngqì *vo.* to get angry
56. 虫子 chóngzi *n.* bug, insect, worm
57. 好玩 hǎowán *adj.* fun, amusing
58. 一下子 yíxiàzi *adv.* all at once
59. 骑 qí *v.* to ride on
60. 身上 shēnshang *n.* on one's body
61. 抓住 zhuāzhù *vc.* to grab hold of
62. 送 sòng *v.* to send, to deliver, to take (someone to a place)

- 63. 相信 xiāngxìn *v.* to believe
- 64. 告诉 gàosu *v.* to tell
- 65. 没想到 méi xiǎngdào *phrase* to never have imagined
- 66. 马上 mǎshàng *adv.* right away
- 67. 放下 fàngxia *vc.* to put down
- 68. 可怕 kěpà *adj.* scary
- 69. 里面 lǐmiàn *n.* inside
- 70. 肉 ròu *n.* meat
- 71. 包子 bāozi *n.* steamed bun
- 72. 卖 mài *v.* to sell
- 73. 不用 bùyòng *phrase* no need
- 74. 草 cǎo *n.* grass
- 75. 破 pò *adj.* worn out, beat-up
- 76. 出国 chūguó *vo.* to leave the country
- 77. 难过 nánguò *adj.* upset, sad
- 78. 帮 bāng *v.* to help
- 79. 包 bāo *n.* bag, pack
- 80. 关系 guānxi *n.* relationship
- 81. 刚才 gāngcái *adv.* just now
- 82. 真话 zhēnhuà *n.* the truth (lit. “true speech” )
- 83. 发生 fāshēng *v.* to happen
- 84. 火 huǒ *n.* fire
- 85. 可能 kěnéng *aux.; n.* possibly; possibility
- 86. 可笑 kěxiào *adj.* laughable
- 87. 从来没 cónglái méi *phrase* have never
- 88. 难听 nántīng *adj.* terrible-sounding
- 89. 试试 shìshi *phrase* to give it a try
- 90. 慢慢地 mànman de *adv.* slowly

## Part of Speech Key

<i>adj.</i>	Adjective	<i>prep.</i>	Preposition
<i>adv.</i>	Adverb	<i>pr.</i>	Pronoun
<i>aux.</i>	Auxiliary Verb	<i>pn.</i>	Proper noun
<i>conj.</i>	Conjunction	<i>tn.</i>	Time Noun
<i>cov.</i>	Coverb	<i>v.</i>	Verb
<i>mzw.</i>	Measure word	<i>vc.</i>	Verb plus complement
<i>n.</i>	Noun	<i>vo.</i>	Verb plus object
<i>on.</i>	Onomatopoeia		
<i>part.</i>	Particle		





# 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	
Special verbs with “hen”	很 + Verb
Actions in a row	(Verb Phrase 1) + (Verb Phrase 2)
Two words for “but”	……, 可是 / 但是……
Expressing “only” with “zhi”	只 + Verb
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多
Using “dui” with verbs	对 + Noun……
Auxiliary verb “yao” and its multiple meanings	要 + Noun / 要 + Verb
Expressing “and also” with “hai”	还 + Verb
Modifying nouns with phrase + “de”	Phrase + 的 + Noun
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Appearance with “kanqilai”	看起来……

Indicating location with “zai” before verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb
Aspect particle “zhe”	Verb + 着
Expressing “not very” with “bu tai”	不太 + Adj.
Expressing “every” with “mei”	每 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “when” with “de shihou”	……的时候
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	大家 / 很多人 + 都……
Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	一起 + Verb
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Causative verbs	Noun 1 + 让 / 叫 / 请 + Noun 2……
Expressing earliness with “jiu”	Subj. + Time Word + 就 + Verb + 了
Expressing “if…, then…” with “ruguo…, jiu…”	如果……, 就……
Expressing “will” with “hui”	会 + Verb
Verbs that take double objects	Subj. + Verb + Indirect Obj. + Direct Obj.
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Adj. + 地 + Verb
Structural particle “de”	的 / 得 / 地
Expressing “some” with “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Special cases of “zai” following verbs	Verb + 在 + Place
Tricky uses of “dao”	Verb + 到
Superlative “zui”	最 + Adj.
Phrases using “laishuo”	……来说
Expressing “in addition” with “zaishuo”	再说……
Using “gen” to mean “with”	跟……+ Verb
Cause and effect with “yinwei” and “suoyi”	因为……所以……
Expressing “always” with “zongshi”	总是 + Verb
Expressing “all along” with “yizhi”	Subj. + 一直 + Predicate

Expressing “mistakenly think that” with “yiwei”	以为……
Expressing “never” with “conglai”	从来 + 不 / 没(有) + Verb
Continuation with “hai”	还在 + Verb / Adj.
Using “hao” to mean “easy”	好 + Verb
A softer “but” with “buguo”	……, 不过……
Verbing briefly with “yixia”	Verb + 一下
After a specific time with “yihou”	Time / Verb + 以后
Verbs preceded by “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Target + Verb + Obj.
Sequencing with “xian” and “zai”	先……再……
Expressing “when” with “dengdao”	等(到) + ……, Subj. + 再 / 就 / 才……

## CHAPTER 2

Result complements	Verb + 好
Using “dao” to mean “to go to”	到 + Place
Expressing “already” with “yijing”	已经……了
Using “de” (modal particle)	……的
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	一边 + Verb 1, 一边 + Verb 2
Measure words for verbs	Verb + Number + Measure Word
Expressing “again” in the past with “you”	又 + Verb
Result complements “-dao” and “-jian”	Verb + 到 / 见
Expressing “just” with “gang”	Subj. + 刚 + Verb
Doing something more with “duo”	多 + Verb
Softening speech with “ba”	……吧
Expressing “again” in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去
Questions with “le ma”	Verb + 了 + 吗?
Name-calling with “zhege”	Noun + 这个 + Category

Expressing “really” with “zhen”	真 + Adj.
Negative commands with “bie”	别 + Verb
Expressing “much more” in comparisons	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj. + 多了 / 得多
Intensifying with “duo”	Subj. + 多 + Adj.
Using “ji” to mean “several”	几 + Measure Word + Noun
Expressing “not at all” with “yidianr ye bu”	Subj. + 一点 + 也 / 都 + 不 + Adj.
Complement “-huai le”	Verb + 坏了

### CHAPTER 3

Emphasis with “jiu”	就 (是) + Verb
Expressing actions in progress with “zai”	(正) 在 + Verb
Using the “shi... de” construction	是……的
Comparing “chao” “xiang” and “wang”	朝 vs 向 vs 往
Expressing “it seems” with “haoxiang”	好像……
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	有点 (儿) + Adj.
Conceding with “ba”	……吧
Expressing “all at once” with “yixiazi”	Subj. + 一下子 + Verb + 了
Advanced result complements	Verb + 住
Basic comparisons with “bi”	Noun 1 + 比 + Noun 2 + Adj.
Negative adjectives with “-si le”	Adj. + 死了
Result complement “-qilai”	Verb + 起来
Expressing “in this way” with “zheyang”	Condition, 这样 + Result / Purpose
Potential complement	Verb + 得 / 不……

### CHAPTER 4

Reduplication of verbs	Verb + Verb
Expressing “difficult” with “nan”	难 + Verb

Conceding a point with “shi”	Adj. + 是 + Adj., 但是……
Expressing “about to happen” with “le”	快 + Verb / Adj. + 了
Expressing “had better” with “haishi”	还是 + Verb
Expressing “for” with “gei”	Subj. + 给 + Recipient + Verb + Obj.

## CHAPTER 5

Expressing “even more” with “geng”	更 + Adj.
Expressing “every” with question words	谁 / 哪里 + 都
Inability with “mei banfa”	没办法 + Verb
Asking why with “zenme”	怎么……?
Expressing lateness with “cai”	Subj. + Time + 才 + Verb-Obj.
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Verb + 过

## CHAPTER 6

Expressing “should” with “yinggai”	应该 / 该 + Verb
Expressing “both A and B” with “you”	又……又……
Expressing “now” with “le”	……了
Expressing “before” in general with “yiqian”	以前, ……
Expressing “not very” with “bu zenme”	不怎么 + Adj.
Expressing “not anymore” with “le”	不 / 没(有) + Verb Phrase + 了

## CHAPTER 7

Change of state with “le”	……了
Expressing “had better” with “zuihao”	Subj. + 最好 + Verb Phrase
Expressing “just now” with “gangcai”	刚才 + Verb
Using “zhe” when “verbing away”	Verb + 着 + Verb + 着

## CHAPTER 8

Expressing location with “zai... shang / xia / li”	在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边
Doing something less with “shao”	少 + Verb
Advanced yes-no questions with “ma”	……吗?
Expressing “everything” with “shenme dou”	什么 + 都 / 也……

## CHAPTER 9

Expressing “not even one”	一 + Measure Word + (Noun) + 也 / 都 + Verb
Turning adjectives into adverbs	Adj. + 地 + Verb

## CHAPTER 10

Expressing “as long as” with “zhiyao”	只要……, 就……
Expressing “for” with “wei”	为 + Noun……



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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](http://www.mandarincompanion.com)





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