



Mandarin
Companion

Chinese Graded Reader

Breakthrough Level: 150 Characters

周海生

Zhōu Hǎishēng

**The Misadventures of
Zhou Haisheng
[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.

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Table of Contents

i Story Adaptation Notes

ii Characters

iii Locations

Story 1: 做面

2 Chapter 1 上学了

Chapter 2 第一次做面

Chapter 3 很开心

Story 2: 送菜

Chapter 4 下午四点

Chapter 5 下午五点

Chapter 6 晚上六点

Chapter 7 晚上六点半

Story 3: 山东饭店

Chapter 8 学那个小朋友

Chapter 9 都好吃

Chapter 10 和你一样

8 Key Words

15 Appendix A: Character Comparison Reference

19 Appendix B: Grammar Points

22 Other Stories from Mandarin Companion

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.

This story also ties into the larger “Mandarin Companion Universe.” You'll read about the childhood escapades of young Zhou Haisheng, specifically life events which put him on the path to one day opening his own restaurant. If you're curious how things turn out for him, you'll definitely want to prepare to read *Emma*, a Mandarin Companion Level 1 story. 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.

Cast of Characters



周海生
(Zhōu Hǎishēng)



老周
(Lǎo Zhōu)



周太太
(Zhōu Tàitai)



钱太太
(Qián Tàitai)



马老师
(Mǎ Lǎoshī)

Locations

山西 (Shānxī)

Shanxi Province (not to be confused with Shaanxi 陝西), an inland province famous for its knife-shaven noodles.

山东 (Shāndōng)

Shandong Province, situated on the east coast, is known for cuisine with a light aroma and fresh taste.

上海 (Shànghǎi)

China's largest city, Shanghai embodies China's present and future.



Story 1: 做面

— Chapter 1 —

上学了

周海生今年八岁¹，他的爸爸叫老周²。老周做的菜很好吃³，在上海开了一家饭店⁴，叫“周家饭店”⁵。饭店⁵不大，可是⁶每天都有很多人。饭店⁵里有饭，有面，还⁷有很多菜。

老周的老家⁸在山西。老周和他的太太⁹来上海开了这家饭店⁴。儿子¹⁰出生¹¹在上海，名字¹²叫周海生²。

海生小的时候¹³，每天都和爸爸妈

1 岁 (suì) *mm.* years old

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

3 好吃 (hǎochī) *adj.* tasty

4 家 (jiā) *mm.* measure word for shops

5 饭店 (fàndiàn) *n.* restaurant

6 可是 (kěshì) *conj.* but

7 还 (hái) *adv.* still

8 老家 (lǎojiā) *n.* hometown

9 太太 (tàitai) *n.* wife, lady, Mrs.

10 儿子 (érzi) *n.* son

11 出生 (chūshēng) *n.* to be born

12 名字 (míngzi) *n.* name

13 的时候 (de shíhou) *phrase* when...



妈14一起5去饭店。他们15一家人每天都在
5饭店吃饭，每天都很16晚17关门18回家。可
以说，5饭店是海生的第二个家。

来“周家饭店”吃饭的人都很19喜欢5

14 一起 (yīqǐ) *adv.* together

15 一家人 (yī jiā rén) *phrase* the whole family

16 晚 (wǎn) *adj.* late

17 关门 (guānmén) *va.* to close shop, to close a door

18 回家 (huíjiā) *va.* to go home

19 喜欢 (xǐhuan) *v.* to like

海生，喜欢和他说话。海生七岁生日的时候，老周的太太对老周说：“儿子都这么大了，不能天天都在饭店里，可以去上学了。”老周听了点点头。

周太太小时候没有上学，可是她儿子能上学，她很开心。

周海生每天中午不回家吃饭，周太太每天早上都会做吃的，那是海生的午饭。

海生喜欢上学，上学以后，他有

- | | |
|---|--|
| 20 说话 (shuōhuà) <i>vt.</i> to speak (words), to talk | 27 小时候 (xiǎo shíhou) <i>phrase</i> when one was little |
| 21 生日 (shēngrì) <i>n.</i> birthday | 28 开心 (kāixīn) <i>adj.</i> happy |
| 22 这么 (zhème) <i>adv.</i> so... | 29 中午 (zhōngwǔ) <i>n.</i> noon |
| 23 天天 (tiāntiān) <i>adv.</i> every day | 30 早上 (zǎoshang) <i>m.</i> morning |
| 24 上学 (shàngxué) <i>vt.</i> to start school, to go to school | 31 吃的 (chī de) <i>n.</i> food |
| 25 听 (tīng) <i>v.</i> to listen (to) | 32 午饭 (wǔfàn) <i>n.</i> lunch |
| 26 点点头 (diǎndian tóu) <i>phrase</i> to (briefly) nod one's head | 33 以后 (yǐhòu) <i>adv.</i> after; later, in the future |

了很多朋友。他喜欢和朋友们在一起
吃午饭，吃完饭以后，他们还能一起
写字。



每天下午四点多，海生都会回到
饭店。周太太会问儿子，今天又学了什

34 在一起 (zài yìqǐ) *phrase* to be together

35 吃完 (chī wán) *vc.* to finish eating

36 又 (yòu) *adv.* again

么东西。要是 饭店 没人来吃饭，她会
看海生 写字。

37 东西 (dōngxi) *n.* thing(s), stuff

38 要是 (yàoshi) *conj.* if

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. 岁 (suì) *mm.* years old
2. 叫 (jiào) *v.* to be called, to call; to tell (someone to do something)
3. 好吃 (hǎochī) *adj.* tasty
4. 家 (jiā) *mm.* measure word for shops
5. 饭店 (fàndiàn) *n.* restaurant
6. 可是 (kěshì) *conj.* but
7. 还 (hái) *adv.* still
8. 老家 (lǎojiā) *n.* hometown
9. 太太 (tàitai) *n.* wife, lady, Mrs.
10. 儿子 (érzi) *n.* son
11. 出生 (chūshēng) *v.* to be born
12. 名字 (míngzi) *n.* name
13. 的时候 (de shíhou) *phrase* when...
14. 一起 (yìqǐ) *adv.* together
15. 一家人 (yī jiā rén) *phrase* the whole family
16. 晚 (wǎn) *adj.* late
17. 关门 (guānmén) *v.* to close shop, to close a door
18. 回家 (huíjiā) *v.* to go home
19. 喜欢 (xǐhuan) *v.* to like
20. 说话 (shuōhuà) *v.* to speak (words), to talk
21. 生日 (shēngrì) *n.* birthday
22. 这么 (zhème) *adv.* so...
23. 天天 (tiāntiān) *adv.* every day
24. 上学 (shàngxué) *v.* to start school, to go to school
25. 听 (tīng) *v.* to listen (to)
26. 点点头 (diǎndian tóu) *phrase* to (briefly) nod one's head
27. 小时候 (xiǎo shíhou) *phrase* when one was little
28. 开心 (kāixīn) *adj.* happy
29. 中午 (zhōngwǔ) *n.* noon
30. 早上 (zǎoshang) *tn.* morning

31. 吃的 (chī de) *n.* food
32. 午饭 (wǔfàn) *n.* lunch
33. 以后 (yǐhòu) *adv.* after; later, in the future
34. 在一起 (zài yìqǐ) *phrase* to be together
35. 吃完 (chī wán) *vc.* to finish eating
36. 又 (yòu) *adv.* again
37. 东西 (dōngxi) *n.* thing(s), stuff
38. 要是 (yàoshi) *conj.* if
39. 开心地 (kāixīn de) *phrase* happily
40. 一边 (yībiān) *conj.* while doing... (two things)
41. 门边 (mén biān) *phrase* by the door
42. 看到 (kàndào) *vc.* to see
43. 怎么会 (zěnmé huì) *phrase* how could
44. 回来 (huílai) *vc.* to come back
45. 还是 (háishi) *conj., adv.* still
46. 看看 (kànkàn) *v.* to take a look
47. 再 (zài) *adv.* again (in the future)
48. 不行 (bù xíng) *phrase* not OK
49. 说完 (shuō wán) *vc.* to finish speaking
50. 笑 (xiào) *v.* to laugh, to smile
51. 做面 (zuò miàn) *vc.* to make noodles
52. 怎么 (zěnmé) *adv.* how
53. 这时候 (zhè shíhòu) *phrase* at this time
54. 出去 (chūqu) *vc.* to go out
55. 做菜 (zuòcài) *vc.* to cook food
56. 晚上 (wǎnshàng) *tn.* evening
57. 生气 (shēngqì) *vo., adj.* to get angry; angry
58. 第一次 (dì-yī cì) *phrase* first time
59. 小朋友 (xiǎopéngyou) *n.* kid
60. 行 (xíng) *adj.* all right
61. 一会儿 (yīhuìr) *tn.* a little while
62. 大家 (dàjiā) *n.* everyone

63. 不一样 (bù yīyàng) *phrase* not the same
64. 左右 (zuǒyòu) *phrase* about, approximately
65. 看书 (kànshū) *vo.* to read, to study
66. 听起来 (tīng qǐlai) *vc.* to sound...
67. 有一点 (yǒu yīdiǎn) *phrase* to be a little (too)
68. 点菜 (diǎncài) *vo.* to order food
69. 时候 (shíhou) *n.* when
70. 过去 (guòqu) *vc.* to go over
71. 一个一个 (yī gè yī gè) *adv.* one by one
72. 那么 (nàme) *adv.* so (much)
73. 第二天 (dì-èr tiān) *phrase* the next day
74. 听说 (tīngshuō) *n.* to hear tell, to hear said (that)
75. 家人 (jiārén) *n.* family member(s)
76. 老太太 (lǎotàitai) *n.* old lady
77. 做饭 (zuò fàn) *vo.* to cook a meal
78. 送到 (sòngdào) *vc.* to send to
79. 到时候 (dào shíhou) *phrase* when the time comes
80. 好看 (hǎokàn) *adj.* good-looking
81. 过来 (guòlai) *vc.* to come over
82. 送 (sòng) *n.* to send, to deliver
83. 一个人 (yī gè rén) *phrase* alone
84. 小心点 (xiǎoxīn diǎn) *phrase* to be (more) careful
85. 走了过来 (zǒu le guòlai) *phrase* walked over
86. 那边 (nàbiān) *n.* over there
87. 走过来 (zǒu guòlai) *vc.* to walk over
88. 对不起 (duìbuqǐ) *phrase* I'm sorry
89. 开门 (kāimén) *vo.* to open the door
90. 一下 (yīxià) *adv.* briefly, for a second
91. 手里 (shǒu lǐ) *phrase* in one's hand
92. 这样 (zhèyàng) *pr.* like this
93. 不用谢 (bùyòng xiè) *phrase* You're welcome (lit. "no need to thank")
94. 后面 (hòumian) *n.* behind

95. 回去 (huíqù) *vc.* to go back
96. 晚饭 (wǎnfàn) *n.* dinner
97. 下次 (xià cì) *tn.* next time
98. 过了几天 (guò le jǐ tiān) *phrase* after a few days had passed
99. 开饭店 (kāi fàndiàn) *vo.* to open a restaurant
100. 上个月 (shàng ge yuè) *tn.* last month
101. 听到 (tīngdào) *vc.* to hear
102. 不开心 (bù kāixīn) *phrase* not happy, to be unhappy
103. 一样 (yīyàng) *n.* the same
104. 那样 (nàyàng) *adv.* like that
105. 走出 (zǒuchū) *vc.* to walk out
106. 听见 (tīngjiàn) *vc.* to hear
107. 很会说 (hěn huì shuō) *phrase* is a smooth talker
108. 一下子 (yīxiàzi) *adv.* all of a sudden; all at once
109. 出来 (chūlai) *vc.* to come out
110. 生气地 (shēngqì de) *phrase* angrily
111. 大叫 (dà jiào) *v.* to call out loudly
112. 老人 (lǎorén) *n.* old person, old man
113. 那天 (nà tiān) *tn.* that day
114. 不好听 (bù hǎotīng) *phrase* unpleasant-sounding
115. 要看 (yào kàn) *phrase* to depend on...
116. 有时候 (yǒu shíhou) *phrase* sometimes
117. 有用 (yǒuyòng) *adj.* useful

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 上学了

1. 周海生是在哪里出生的？请说说他为什么叫海生？
2. 周太太看到海生去上学，为什么很开心？
3. 周海生喜欢上学吗，为什么？你呢？

Chapter 2 第一次做面

1. 周海生为什么做面？
2. 那几个男人吃面给钱了吗？给了多少钱？
3. 你喜欢吃什么样的面？

Chapter 3 很开心

1. 老周看到有人在店里吃面，他开心吗？
2. 老周为什么生气？
3. 大家喜欢海生的面吗？你想吃海生的面吗？

Chapter 4 下午四点

1. 钱太太和马老师来店里做什么？
2. 老周为什么不让周太太去送菜？
3. 你觉得周太太是个什么样的人？

Chapter 5 下午五点

1. 海生在送菜的路上看见了谁？
2. 海生为什么一边说一边走？
3. 你妈妈让你送过东西吗？送过什么东西？

Chapter 6 晚上六点

1. 送菜的时候，海生晚到了。他晚到了多长时间？
2. 钱太太为什么对海生说：“怎么是你送来的？”
3. 有人给你送菜，菜不好吃，你会生气吗？还会吃吗？

Chapter 7 晚上六点半

1. 马老师家在哪里？
2. 那个男人为什么要给海生钱？
3. 周太太为什么说，下次不叫海生送菜了？

Chapter 8 学那个小朋友

1. 周太太为什么让海生学山东饭店的小朋友？
2. 山东饭店的小朋友在叫什么？
3. 周太太喜欢山东饭店的小朋友吗？为什么？

Chapter 9 都好吃

1. 海生为什么说山东菜不好吃？
2. 那个老人为什么走了？
3. 老人走了以后，海生和山东饭店的小朋友为什么都不说话了？

Chapter 10 和你一样

1. 为什么喜欢山东饭店的人也多了？
2. 周太太为什么说海生有一点喜欢开饭店？
3. 你想开饭店吗？为什么？

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
海	hǎi	海生 上海	Hǎishēng Shànghǎi
山	shān	山西 山东 山东人 山西人	Shānxī Shāndōng Shāndōngrén Shānxīrén
关	guān	关门 关	guānmén guān
门	mén	关门 店门 开门 小门 门 门边	guān mén diàn-mén kāi mén xiǎo mén mén mén-biān
头	tóu	点头	diǎn tóu
心	xīn	开心 小心	kāixīn xiǎoxīn
完	wán	完	wán

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
		说完	shuōwán
又	yòu	又	yòu
次	cì	第一次 下次	dì-yī cì xià cì
左	zuǒ	左右 左	zuǒyòu zuǒ
右	yòu	左右 右	zuǒyòu yòu
马	mǎ	马 马上	Mǎ mǎshàng

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

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

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
周	zhōu	周 老周	Zhōu Lǎo Zhōu
菜	cài	菜 点菜	cài diǎncài
山	shān	山西 山东 山东人 山西人	Shānxī Shāndōng Shāndōngrén Shānxīrén
门	mén	关门 店门 开门 小门 门 门边	guān mén diàn-mén kāi mén xiǎo mén mén mén-biān
早	zǎo	早上	zǎoshang
后	hòu	以后 后面	yǐhòu hòumiàn

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
完	wán	完 说完	wán shuōwán
又	yòu	又	yòu
地	de	地	de
边	biān	一边 边 那边 门边	yībiān biān nàbian mén-biān
走	zǒu	走 走出	zǒu zǒuchū
笑	xiào	笑	xiào
左	zuǒ	左右 左	zuǒyòu zuǒ
右	yòu	左右 右	zuǒyòu yòu
手	shǒu	手里	shǒulǐ

Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) Levels 1-2

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

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
周	zhōu	周 老周	Zhōu Lǎo Zhōu
海	hǎi	海生 上海	Hǎishēng Shànghǎi
山	shān	山西 山东 山东人 山西人	Shānxī Shāndōng Shāndōngrén Shānxīrén
头	tóu	点头	diǎn tóu
心	xīn	开心 小心	kāixīn xiǎoxīn

Character	Pinyin	Word(s)	Pinyin
又	yòu	又	yòu
地	de	地	de
行	xíng	行	xíng
跟	gēn	跟	gēn
半	bàn	半	bàn
马	mǎ	马 马上	Mǎ mǎshàng
用	yòng	不用 有用	bùyòng yǒuyòng

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	
Indicating location with “zai” before verbs	Subj. + 在 + Place + Verb
Directional verbs “lai” and “qu”	来 / 去 + Place
After a specific time with “yihou”	Time / Verb + 以后
In the future in general with “yihou”	以后, ……
Reduplication of verbs	Verb + Verb
Expressing “and also” with “hai”	还 + Verb
Expressing “when” with “de shihou”	……的时候
Adjectives with “name” and “zheme”	那么 / 这么 + Adj.
Expressing “together” with “yiqi”	一起 + Verb
Two words for “but”	……, 可是 / 但是……
Emphasizing quantity with “dou”	大家 / 很多人 + 都……
Expressing “some” with “yixie”	一些 + Noun
Expressing “will” with “hui”	会 + Verb
Modifying nouns with adjective + “de”	Adj. + 的 + Noun
Expressing “every” with “mei”	每 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “again” in the past with “you”	又 + Verb + 了

Expressing “if... then...” with “yaoshi”	要是……, 就……
CHAPTER 2	
Expressing “would like to” with “xiang”	想 + Verb
Asking why with “zenme”	怎么……?
Simultaneous tasks with “yibian”	一边 + Verb 1 (,) 一边 + Verb 2
Asking how something is with “zenmeyang”	…… 怎么样?
Auxiliary verb “yao” and its multiple meanings	要 + Noun / 要 + Verb
Structural particle “de”	的 / 得 / 地
Expressing completion with “le”	Subj. + Verb + 了 + Obj.
Time words and word order	Subj. + Time…… / Time + Subj……
Change of state with “le”	…… 了
Special verbs with “hen”	很 + Verb
Ordinal numbers with “di”	第 + Number (+ Measure Word)
Expressing location with “zai... shang / xia / li”	在 + Place + 上 / 下 / 里 / 旁边
Result complement “-wan” for finishing	Verb + 完 (+ 了)
Measure words with “this” and “that”	这 / 那 + Measure Word (+ Noun)
Expressing “again” in the future with “zai”	再 + Verb
CHAPTER 3	
Structure of times (advanced)	Number 1 + 点 (钟) + Number 2 + 分
Direction complement “-qilai”	Verb / Adj.+ 起来
Expressing “a little too” with “you yidian”	有一点 (儿) + Adj.
Result complements “-dao” and “-jian”	Verb + 到 / 见

Moderating positive adjectives with “hai”	还 + Adj.
Using “youde” to mean “some”	有的 + Noun
Expressing “had better” with “haishi”	还是 + Verb
The “shi... de” construction for indicating purpose	是……的
Expressing “one by one” with “yi”	一 + Measure Word + 一 + Measure Word
Expressing experiences with “guo”	Verb + 过
CHAPTER 4	
Causative verbs	Subj. + 让 / 叫 / 请 / 使 + Person + Predicate
Indicating a number in excess	Number + 多
Direction complement	Verb (+ Direction) + 来 / 去
CHAPTER 5	
Expressing “already” with “dou”	都 + Time + 了
CHAPTER 6	
Comparing “youdian” and “yidian”	有点 vs. 一点
Conceding with “ba”	……吧
CHAPTER 7	
<i>There are no new grammar points in this chapter.</i>	
CHAPTER 8	
Expressing “all at once” with “yixiazi”	Subj. + 一下子 + Verb + 了
CHAPTER 9	
Expressing “to come from” with “laizi”	Subj. + 来自 + Place
Expressing “a little too” with “you dian”	有点 (儿) + Adj.
CHAPTER 10	
Basic comparisons with “yiyang”	Noun 1 + 跟 / 和 + Noun 2 + 一样 + Adj.
In the future in general with “yihou”	以后, ……

Other Stories from Mandarin Companion

Breakthrough Readers: 150 Characters

My Teacher Is a Martian 《我的老师是火星星人》 by John Pasden, Jared Turner

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

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

Just Friends? 《我们是朋友吗?》 by John Pasden, Jared Turner

Level 1 Readers: 300 Characters

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

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

The Monkey's Paw 《猴爪》 by W. W. Jacobs

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

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

The Prince and the Pauper 《王子和穷孩子》 by Mark Twain

Emma 《安末》 by Jane Austen

The Ransom of Red Chief 《红猴的价格》 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 《地心游记》 by Jules Verne

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graded readers for Chinese language learners.

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