

Chinese Elementary Course Curriculum

Our Chinese for Absolute Beginners course syllabus provides a first contact with the language for those students with no previous knowledge or studied it a long time ago. The syllabus is based on different topics that will help you get by when meeting Chinese speaking people. At the same time, it introduces the workings and sounds of the language and it provides the necessary tools to enable students to make sentences from scratch.

Module # 1: Topics & Vocabulary:

➤ Topics:

- Intro to Pinyin-Chinese phonetics system
- Greetings in normal and polite ways
- Introduce self, introduce others
- Talking about oneself
- Likes & dislikes
- Taking a taxi
- Asking about directions
- Expressing time, days and counting numbers from 0-100
- Shopping, asking about prices, sizes and colours
- Buying tickets for travel; start with “qing wen 请问”
- Talking about jobs, company and business etiquette.
- Asking for help
- Review & practise previous level vocabulary (e.g. through dialogue creation)
- Ask someone for help (talk to customer service)
- Learn how to book a room in a hotel and other related hotel language
- Learn to describe physical uncomfortableness and illness; how to talk to a doctor
- Conversation in a post office
- Pay compliments, praise somebody else
- Make an apology in different situations (being late, forget things, unable to finish a task..)
- Express gratitude formally and informally in different situations
- Pay a compliment, ask for compensation.
- Arrange an appointment formally and informally.
- Talking about one’s capability, writing simple sentences in CV
- Refuse an invitation and express regrets

- Agree or disagree, give others permission
- Make a telephone call and leave a message for somebody
- Make a request for a refund or an exchange in a shop
- Make an excuse to leave earlier in different situations
- Bargains in shopping
- Ask for services in a bank (exchange money, transfer money..)
- Saying goodbye in different situations
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Module # 2: Grammar:

➤ Topics:

- Review & practise previous level grammar (e.g. sentence order and tenses)
- Difference between 能 and 会
- Words about permission and refusal, agree and disagree 可以, 不可以, 能, 不能
- Present continuous e.g. “zheng zai正在”
- Adverbs “cai才” and “jiu就”
- Conditional clause “yao shi要是...jiu就...”
- Understanding potential verb phrases with “de得/bu不”
- Attributive clause with “de的”
- Review & practise previous level grammar (e.g. through mixed tense work – present/past/future)
- Difference between 或者 and 还是
- Difference between two negative words: 不 and 没有
- Complement of degree construction : Sentence structure V+de+hen+adj (做得很好, 说得很不错)
- 好吗 and 好不好 / 行吗 and 行不行
- Sentence structure with 怎么
- Basic sentences with to be “shi是”, to have “you有” and to do “zuo做”
- Sentences with stative verb (hen, 我很好)
- Past, and the situation has changed with a functional marker “le”
- Pronouns – subject “wo我”, plural form 我们 · 你们 · 他们
- possessive word “de的”
- Auxiliary words e.g. “xiang想”
- Word order in sentences (Chinese sentence orders, difference between English and Chinese)
- Sentence forms – statement, question and negative
- Measure words (e.g. a cup of tea = “yi bei cha” 一杯茶)

- Particles with “ba 吧” “ma 吗”

Module # 3: Cultural Content:

➤ Topics

- Various forms of Chinese
- Lucky/unlucky numbers
- Hand shaking
- Business card
- China tea
- Politeness in Chinese language (different modal words)
- Chinese characters
- Bargaining in China
- Money system
- Chinese idioms and proverbs
- Telephone call etiquette
- Compliments in Chinese culture
- Medical system in China
- Table manners
- Customs of celebration, e.g. special food for Chinese New Year
- Famous Chinese Kong Fu movies

Module # 4: Skills Work:

➤ Topics:

- Pronunciation – key sounds practice
- Lots of speaking and listening practice
- Memorize longer frequently used daily life Chinese sentences.
- Longer oral presentation
- Recognising characters and writing common characters practice
- Self-learning skills (using dictionary and online websites)
- Lots of Pinyin and tones practice (reading and listening)
- Recognising simple characters (10-20 characters)
- Improve intonation via practising drills and sentence patterns
- Self-learning skills (using dictionary and online websites)
- Practice and memorize frequently used short daily life sentences and frequently used sentence patterns.