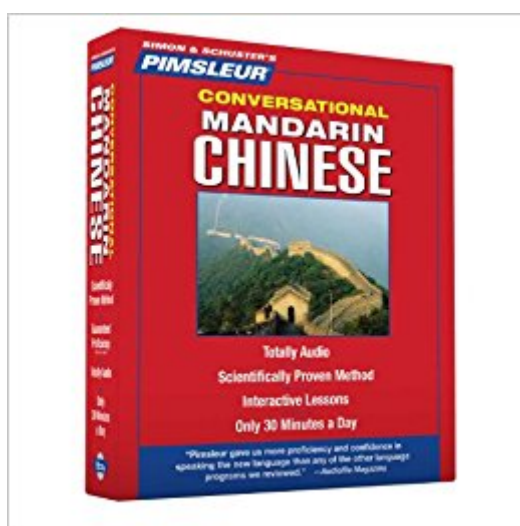


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Pimsleur Chinese (Mandarin) Conversational Course - Level 1 Lessons 1-16 CD: Learn To Speak And Understand Mandarin Chinese With Pimsleur Language Programs



Synopsis

Pimsleur's [®] equals success. Just one 30-minute lesson a day gets you speaking and understanding like no other program. This course includes Lessons 1-16 from the Chinese (Mandarin) Level 1 program - 8 hours of audio-only effective language learning with real-life spoken practice sessions. Each lesson provides 30 minutes of spoken language practice, with an introductory conversation, and new vocabulary and structures. Detailed instructions enable you to understand and participate in the conversation. Practice for vocabulary introduced in previous lessons is included in each lesson. Topics include: greetings, numbers, meals, shopping, telling time, scheduling activities, and asking and giving directions. The emphasis is on pronunciation and comprehension, and on learning to speak Mandarin Chinese. The Mandarin Chinese Language Over one billion people speak Chinese. The two most common dialects are Mandarin and Cantonese. They are not mutually intelligible. Mandarin is the official language in Mainland China, Taiwan, and Singapore. The Mandarin dialect is used in most Chinese schools, and in most TV programs, movies, and radio stations throughout the country, even in Guangzhou (formerly Canton), where people speak Cantonese in their daily lives. Mandarin is one of the six official languages of the United Nations. Tech Talk - CDs are formatted for playing in all CD players, including car players, and users can copy files for use in iTunes or Windows Media Player.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Dr. Paul Pimsleur devoted his life to language teaching and testing and was one of the

world's leading experts in applied linguistics. After years of experience and research, Dr. Pimsleur developed The Pimsleur Method based on two key principles: the Principle of Anticipation and a scientific principle of memory training that he called "Graduated Interval Recall." This Method has been applied to the many levels and languages of the Pimsleur Programs.

A good way to learn Mandarin while driving in your car! The only drawback of this is that the entire lesson is one track so you cannot fast forward or rewind, you can only skip to the next lesson or start the entire lesson again. This is a little annoying when you hear a phrase and you want to listen to it again, you basically have to start the whole track again. Other than that the lessons are great and I really like the style in which it is taught. Unlike most audio tapes you don't just repeat mindlessly, it is more interactive and because the lesson puts the words into good context, you learn the words faster. One thing to know is that this version of Mandarin is northern China so if you are trying to speak with Taiwanese Chinese, then some of the words are going to be different or just pronounced differently.

Having graduated from this starter series to the full program, I can confidently say that this is the BEST program, bar none, for learning to speak and comprehend Mandarin quickly. In my opinion, there is only one occasional flaw (aside from the relatively high price of the full program). That is that the speakers are inconsistent in their pronunciation of the tones. I mean they are sometimes inconsistent in their pronunciation of the SAME phrases at different times!! One could excuse this, even for a tonal language, if there was some type of written aid or perhaps an explanation (e.g. a dialectal difference, etc.). But there is no excuse for this type of erratic pronunciation in an audio-only program. Even still, this is a five-star product for how rapidly it gets you up and running. Some people do not like the Pimsleur audio "immersion" and quizzing method. I was skeptical, but am now a wholehearted believer.

Upfront notice: This package offers the same first 15 lessons as in Pimsleur's Mandarin I. (Wish I'd known, because I bought them all over again, in order to continue with just the next 15 lessons!) I like learning languages and have used all kinds of tapes / CDs to practice in the car. Used in that way, this program is tops! (A friend from mainland China was astonished at how, in just a few weeks, I started speaking in fluent sentences, with a near-perfect accent -- and using current, idiomatic expressions.) With Pimsleur, you won't progress through many topics or an extensive

vocabulary -- but what you encounter, you'll learn well. (The program repeats concepts over and over, configured in different ways to avoid monotony and to embed them into your head.) And--as far as it goes--the material is all high-value, immediate-use. To really learn Mandarin, you'll also need to take up other resources about the written characters and grammar, and to build vocabulary. And be aware: this program proceeds at a fairly sedate pace. If you want to go zero-to-60 in Mandarin for a trip to Beijing in 2 weeks, you need to find a different approach. For me, this is a way not to waste time in the car--and I go through about one lesson per week until I know the content cold! But Pimsleur has been an incredibly effective kick-off to what clearly will be a lifetime of effort . . . like losing 10 pounds, the first week of a diet.

I bought this product as a sort of test for the Pimsleur method of language learning. I have found it very useful, and actually have fun learning the Mandarin that they teach you. This method of learning languages is, really, a logical approach. You shouldn't learn a language from a textbook, nor from "studying" verb tenses and whatnot, but you should learn new languages like you learned your native language, by listening. This is what Pimsleur is all about, and I agree with it totally.

great tool, i listen to it on way to work. still learning but its a good start.

I would highly recommend Pimsler to anyone learning beginning Mandarin because it uses effective teaching techniques. For example, it teaches you words, and then phrases, and helps you to retain them by asking questions that require you to employ them. I listen on my iPod as I commute on the train, and it's a pleasurable, engaging way to pass the time. I have received several curious looks, particularly from Chinese folk, after speaking poor quality Mandarin aloud, but my accent is slowly improving. At first, I was utterly unintelligible. Then, after just 6 units of Pimsler, I actually was able to carry on a brief conversation with a Mandarin speaking telemarketer last night. In Mandarin, I said, "Hi." I asked her if she spoke English. I told her that I didn't speak that well. I told her I didn't understand her (even though I did). Perhaps more importantly, I understood most of her responses! I asked her if she knew where College Road was when I started running out of things I knew how to say. She seemed a bit puzzled by that, so I just said, "Thank you," and hung up. If you've ever been intimidated by the prospect of learning Mandarin, you don't have to be. It does require you to use your brain, but, as long as you can take some time to listen (e.g., while commuting), you can learn. Enjoy!

This is the best, and I have tried others. The competition, which boasts about being the most sold, is the cheapest, but not the best. The competition has you memorizing hundreds of words, without using them in sentences. The Pimsleur method trains your ear and brain. Later you get to learn two different ways of asking the same question. Basically, in Chinese yes/no depends on the verb. And you can ask questions with a high sounding pitch at the end, or say yes or no with the verb. I also learned how to add the numbers 1 through 99, and you get to perform adding with native speakers. Couldn't say how more thrilled I am with it. I would even give it six stars, if I could.

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