Easy
轻松学中文

Easy Steps to Chinese

The 2nd edition of *Easy Steps to Chinese* will help students establish a solid foundation of Chinese in terms of characters, words, sentences and grammar through natural and gradual integration of language, themes and culture. After completing this series, the students will acquire a vocabulary of approximately 1,500 Chinese characters, and develop communication skills both orally and in written forms in real-life situations and express their viewpoints appropriately, logically and coherently.

The series is especially designed for non-Chinese background students, who are learning Chinese as a second/foreign language, and who are taking Chinese exams, such as I/GCSE (U.K.), SAT II/AP (U.S.A.), HSK (China), IB Chinese B Standard Level, or for those who are starting to learn Chinese on their own. This series is suitable for secondary school students as well as fifth and sixth graders in primary schools.

The series includes:

- Textbook with recording
- Workbook
- Teacher's Book
- Exercise Book for Writing
- Picture flashcards
- Word cards
- PowerPoint slides
- Online teaching resources

The features of this series:

- Up-to-date topics relevant to youngsters
- A wide variety of texts
- Various formats of writing
- Practical tasks and activities
- Introduction to Chinese culture
- Clearly focused aims
- Careful pacing for gradual progress
- Regular consolidation

Visit our website at www.blcup.com

The topics for each stage are:

Easy Steps to Chinese has three stages.

Stage 1: Books 1–3
- Numbers and dates
- Relationships and community
- Life at home and school
- Leisure and festivals
- China and Chinese learning
- Environment and technology

Stage 2: Books 4–5
- Families and relationships
- School life and language studies
- Traditions and Chinese arts
- Science and technology
- Community and leisure
- Environment and globalization

Stage 3: Books 6–7
- Relationships and identity
- Leisure and communication
- Customs and traditions
- Science and technology
- Environment and globalization

About the authors:

- Ms. Yamin Ma has an M.Ed. in Curriculum Design and Instruction from Queen's University, Canada. She used to teach English at both secondary and university levels in Shanghai (China), Hong Kong (China) and Kingston (Canada) for over 10 years and has taught Chinese at primary and secondary levels in Hong Kong (China) for more than 20 years.

- Ms. Xinying Li holds a postgraduate diploma in Applied Linguistics from Tsinghua University, China. She has taught English at university level in Beijing (China) before starting teaching Chinese at university and secondary levels in Edinburgh (U.K.), London (U.K.) and Hong Kong (China) for 30 years.

- Both Ms. Ma and Ms. Li are experts in the field of Chinese language teaching and learning, and authors of two Chinese textbook series, which have been best-sellers worldwide for 20 years. Ms. Ma and Ms. Li continue to offer training and workshops to teachers of Chinese around the world.

INTRODUCTION

- The 2nd edition of *Easy Steps to Chinese* is especially designed for non-Chinese background students, who are learning Chinese as a second/foreign language. The series can be used by secondary school students as well as fifth and sixth graders in primary schools.
- This series will help students establish a solid foundation of Chinese in terms of characters, words, sentences and grammar through natural and gradual integration of language, themes and culture. The simultaneous development of listening, speaking, reading and writing is especially emphasized. The ultimate aim is to help students develop communication skills in Chinese in real-life situations and express their viewpoints appropriately, precisely, logically and coherently.
- Besides the Textbook and Workbook, the series includes additional materials such as exercises for specific language skills, revision books for exams, Teacher's Book, and digital resources, as well as word cards, picture flashcards, lesson plans and test papers.

The series consists of seven books in three stages:

- Stage 1 (Books 1, 2, 3): the focus of this stage is to establish a solid foundation through the learning of pinyin, characters, vocabulary and grammar. The aim is to help students foster an interest in learning Chinese and develop skills in using simple Chinese for communication.
- Stage 2 (Books 4 and 5): the focus of this stage is to learn more vocabulary and grammar so that students are able to use the language functionally when communicating with people in real-life situations.
- Stage 3 (Books 6 and 7): the focus of this stage is to provide students with authentic materials, and help them develop communication skills. It is believed that when the time comes, the students will be confident in expressing their viewpoints precisely, appropriately, logically and coherently in both oral and written forms.

简介

- 《轻松学中文》系列（第二版）是一套专门为非华裔学生学习汉语编写的国际汉语教材，主要适用于小学高年级的学生和中学生。
- 本套教材旨在为学生奠定扎实的汉语基础，帮助学生在现实生活中得体、准确地使用语言，有逻辑、有条理地表达观点和思想。这个目标是通过语言、主题和文化的自然结合，字、词、句、语法等语言知识的学习以及听、说、读、写各项交际技能的训练来实现的。
- 为了配合教学，本套教材除了课本和练习册以外，还包括语言能力专项训练材料、各种汉语考试复习手册、教师用书、线上教学资源，以及词卡、图卡、课件、测试卷等。

本套教材共七册，分三个教学阶段：

- 第一阶段为第一、二、三册，重点是通过对语音、汉字、词语和语法的学习，帮助学生打好汉语基础，培养学生的学习兴趣，达到用汉语进行简单交流的目的。
- 第二阶段为第四、五册，重点是扩充词汇，学习更多的语法知识，使学生能在真实情景下进行有效的交流。
- 第三阶段为第六、七册，重点是让学生接触到真实的语料，使学生有信心用精准、恰当的汉语以口头和书面形式进行有逻辑、有条理的交流。

COURSE DESIGN

- The course incorporates theories and findings from brain science, educational psychology and second/foreign language teaching and learning. The course, which adopts character-based principles and takes advantage of rules of Chinese word formation, is designed logically and scientifically so that students are able to learn and acquire Chinese systematically.

课程设计

- 本教材的课程设计借鉴脑科学的研究、认知心理学以及第二语言/外语教学的理论，遵循字本位的原则，充分利用汉字构词法的优势，进行科学、合理的编排，引导学生对汉语进行系统的学习。

- The course progresses gradually and smoothly with appropriate degree of challenge in terms of language input and knowledge about Chinese history and culture.

- Relevant and authentic materials covering a wide range of themes are thoughtfully planned across the series. This consideration will help students develop a feel for the Chinese language while deepening their understanding of contemporary China and Chinese culture, and will foster their multicultural awareness as global citizens.

- In order to help students become independent learners and establish a solid foundation for their further studies of Chinese in the future, the course is carefully designed at each stage so that students are able to move from one level to the next with confidence.

- It is believed that no matter which pedagogy is adopted, what matters is that the right pedagogy is adopted at the right time, for the right purpose. Hence, the course allows teachers to use a combination of various effective teaching approaches in their teaching.

- 课程设置循序渐进，深入浅出地安排语言教学材料以及相关的中国历史和文化知识。

- 主题精心设置并整体规划，选用原汁原味的素材，让学生在潜移默化中形成汉语语感，加深对中国当代社会和文化的了解，培养具有多元文化意识的世界公民。

- 每一册的难度控制得当，各册之间自然衔接、平稳过渡，使学生的汉语水平稳步提高，帮助他们成为自主学习者，为将来继续学习汉语打下坚实的基础。

- 教学有法，教无定法，贵在得法。因此，本套教材的教学体系的设计是开放式的，教师可以采用恰当且有效的教学方法来组织课堂教学。

The course design has achieved:

- A balance of focus on language and culture
  Language learning is very important. The course focuses on helping students develop communication skills in Chinese while learning about Chinese culture.

- A balance between language knowledge and communication skills
  The course is designed to ensure that knowledge-based language learning is placed within real-life contexts, resulting in the development of both linguistic knowledge and communication competence.

- A balance between a broad and controlled course
  With the Textbook serving as the core, a broad range of other teaching materials are offered, which are enriching and stimulating enough to meet the different needs of students.

- A balance between authentic and modified language
  At the beginning level, all the teaching materials have been modified and carefully selected to accommodate the students' level of Chinese, while authentic materials are provided at more advanced levels. It is believed that in this way a gradual development of competence in using Chinese can be achieved.

- A balance between mechanical practice and tasks requiring high-level thinking
  Rehearsal and practice are necessary and useful strategies in language learning, while tasks requiring high-level thinking are placed in real-life situations in order to help students develop analytical skills, logical and critical thinking.

- A balance between teaching and students' involvement
  The role of the teacher is very important. However, there should be a balance between the teacher's guidance and the students' independence in their learning.

课程设计力求在以下六个方面取得平衡：

- 语言学习和中国文化浸润的平衡
  课程以语言学习为主轴，在培养学生用汉语进行有效交流的同时，让学生耳濡目染，了解中国文化。

- 语言知识学习和交流技能培养的平衡
  课程均以增加语言知识、提高交际能力为目的，把语言知识的学习放到真实语言交流的场景和框架中。

- 可控课程和多元素材的平衡
  课程以课本作为“主干”教材开展教学，同时补充、配置内容丰富、形式多样的各种素材，以满足不同学生的需求。

- 真实语言和调整语言的平衡
  初级阶段的语言经过严谨的选择并做了适当的调整，而中高级阶段则适时插入难度适中、贴近真实生活的语料，循序渐进地培养学生使用汉语的能力。

- 机械性操练和高级思维训练的平衡
  机械性操练对于掌握基础语言知识十分必要，而有交流目的的活动及任务能培养学生的辨别分析能力、逻辑思维和批判性思维。

- 教师授课和学生参与的平衡
  教师在教学过程中起到的关键作用不可忽视。学生自主学习能力的培养和在教师的指导下进行活动同等重要。

CONTENT OF THE COURSE

- The Textbook plays an important role in helping students to gain knowledge of Chinese language needed to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. The Workbook takes a supporting role, providing reading passages on different themes and knowledge about Chinese history and culture, as well as various exercises that serve as meaningful practice and reinforcement.
- Vocabulary, grammar and themes are carefully selected and evenly spread out across the series. Students practice what they have learned through various stimulating tasks in real-life situations, in order to gain and develop communication skills.
- In order to meet the students' needs to prepare for various exams and to achieve good grades, the core vocabulary, grammar and requirements of various exams are taken as reference when designing the series.

Some unique features of this series:

- Pinyin appears on top of characters at an early stage and is gradually removed as the students develop their Chinese proficiency. The teaching of pronunciation with corresponding exercises is designed systematically and scientifically.
- The series stresses the importance of teaching basic strokes and compound strokes, stroke order, radicals and character structures. Character writing exercises are provided to reinforce the learning of characters.
- In order for the students to better understand and more easily memorize the new words and phrases, an attempt has been made to ensure that only one character in each phrase is new, and only one meaning of this new character is given. For each lesson, new words and phrases are listed generally according to the order that they appear in the text; however, some phrases containing the same character are listed together for ease of learning.
- Vocabulary expansion is made possible through a good understanding of the meaning of each character in a phrase. Some of the words that appear in earlier stages are repeated and practiced in later stages to reinforce and consolidate the learning.
- Grammatical rules are explained in a simple manner, followed by practice exercises in contexts.
- Themes are varied and relevant to students' real life, and are carefully selected according to students' age group, interest and level of Chinese in each stage.

课程内容

- 课本包含听、说、读、写所需的语言知识，而练习册则配合课本，以多样化的练习、丰富的阅读材料以及对中国历史文化的介绍来复现、复练、巩固课本中的内容。
- 词汇、语法和主题根据难易程度平衡分布，自然、流畅地呈现。通过设计多样且有趣的真实情景来培养和提高学生的交际能力。
- 参考世界上各大主流考试的词汇和语法大纲、对语言和技能的要求以及考试形式，帮助学生应对各种公开考试并取得佳绩。

《轻松学中文》（第二版）的内容设计在以下几个方面精心布局：

- 拼音在初级阶段伴随汉字一起出现，随着学生汉语水平的提高，拼音逐渐减少。语音学习和练习系统、科学。
- 汉字学习注重基本笔画和复合笔画、笔顺、偏旁部首及字形结构。相关的汉字书写练习帮助学生巩固所学的汉字。
- 生字每次只出现本课呈现的义项，新词语中尽量只出现一个生字，以求降低学生记忆词语的难度并帮助学生更好地理解生词。每课的生字、生词一般按其出现在课文中的先后顺序排列，但成组的、相关的词语会排列在一起，方便学生集中掌握。
- 词汇扩展是通过对汉字在不同词语中的意思的深刻理解而实现的。初级阶段出现的词语会在之后不同的情景、练习中多次复现、复练，以巩固学习效果。
- 语法以公式的形式出现，讲解简明直观，让学生通过模拟真实情景来理解和掌握。
- 主题根据学生不同的年龄段、兴趣爱好及语言水平进行遴选。主题广泛、有趣且贴近生活。

- Listening exercises are evenly spread out in each lesson. The listening script uses the same topic and vocabulary as in the lesson, while adding some new words that appropriately challenge the students.
- Speaking exercises take various forms that are interesting and relevant to students' life so that the students are able to develop communication skills in real-life situations.
- Reading materials cover a wide range of topics, such as daily life, humanities, arts, history, geography, new technology, environmental protection, etc. The themes of reading are varied and the texts are authentic in nature.
- Writing training starts at the outset and remains a focal point throughout the series. The students are expected to use different styles and apply what they have learned in the course to write appropriately, precisely, logically and coherently.

- 听力练习均匀分布在每一课中，采用本课的词语、跟课文相关的话题，并加入适量扩展词汇。
- 口语能力的培养采用多样、有趣的练习形式，力图让学生在真实的情景中培养、提高交际能力。
- 阅读材料题材丰富、原汁原味，内容涵盖日常生活、人文艺术、历史地理、新兴科技、环境保护等热门话题。
- 写作能力的培养贯穿整套教材。通过不同的文体，用精准、恰当的语言，进行有逻辑、有条理的表达，是写作训练的目标。

HOW TO USE THIS SERIES

- Stress the importance of character structure when teaching new words. Knowing the meaning of the character in phrases will help students guess the meanings of new vocabulary that they encounter later on.
- Emphasize the importance of having a good grasp of the new vocabulary and content of each lesson. At the same time, the teacher should create opportunities for the students to functionally use what they have learned.
- Draw students' attention to the texts in each lesson, as the texts are samples for oral and written work. The teacher should explain explicitly the formats and requirements of different text styles. The oral and written exercises can be modified to suit students' levels.
- Select exercises in the Textbook and Workbook to match with your teaching plan. All the exercises provided can be modified or expanded according to students' abilities and levels of Chinese.
- Make good use of the supplementary resources provided. The teaching suggestions in the Teacher's Book and the answers to the exercises in the Textbook and Workbook are just for reference.
- Pace the course according to your teaching plan. As the series is continuous and ongoing, each book can be taught within any time span.

Yamin Ma
September 2020, Hong Kong, China

如何使用本系列教材

- 汉字、词语：教授新字时，教师要重点让学生了解汉字的构造，帮助学生在理解字义的基础上掌握汉语构词规律，以扩大词汇量。
- 课文内容：教师要帮助学生掌握每一课的生词及课文内容，在此基础上，尽可能为学生创造活用所学语言和技能的机会。
- 交际能力：每一篇课文都是口头和书面表达的范文，教师要注重讲解并强调写作的文体要求。不同类型的口语和写作练习可以根据学生水平做适当的调整。
- 练习选择：教师可以根据教学需要搭配使用课本、练习册中的练习。所有练习都可以根据学生的能力和水平做调整或扩展。
- 参考内容：本套教材另配多种教学资源。教师手册中提供的教学建议、课本和练习册中练习题的参考答案等，仅供教师参考。
- 教学进度：由于本套教材的教学内容是连贯的，教师可以在任何阶段根据学生的学习能力和汉语水平来决定教学进度。

马亚敏
2020年9月于中国香港