

Mandarin for Beginners

Year 2024

Term 1 Week 1 (7/02/2024)

新年	xīnnián - new year
快乐	kuài lè - happy
新年快乐	xīn nián kuài lè - Happy New Year
拜年	bài nián - to wish a Happy New Year
年夜饭	nián yè fàn - Chinese New Year's Eve dinner
健康	jiàn kāng - health, healthy
鱼	yú - fish
年年有余	nián nián yǒu yú - have an abundant year

Sentences

Wǒ zhù nǐ jiàn kāng	I wish you good health
Wǒ gěi nǐ bài nián	Greeting to an older person

Term 1 Week 2 (14/02/2024)

元宵节	yuán xiāo jié the Lantern Festival
汤圆	Tāngyuán - glutinous rice dumplings
我	wǒ - I, me
喜欢	xǐ huān - to like
吃	chī - to eat
香蕉	xiāng jiāo - banana
苹果	píng guǒ - apple
菠萝	bō luó - pineapple
你	nǐ - you
吗	ma - question word
水果	shuǐguǒ - fruit

Sentences

Wǒ xǐ huān chī píng guǒ, xiāng jiāo hé jú zi	I like apples, bananas and mandarins
Nǐ xǐ huān chī píng guǒ ma?	Do you like apples?

Term 1 Week 3 (21/02/2024)

你好	nǐ hǎo - hello
你好吗	Nǐ hǎo ma? - How are you?
我很好	Wǒ hěn hǎo - I am fine
不错	búcuò - pretty good
马马虎虎	mǎmǎhūhū - so-so

还可以	hái kěyǐ - not bad, OK
不太好	bú tài hǎo - not so good
谢谢	xièxie - thanks
谢谢你	xiè xiè nǐ - thank you
不客气	bú kèqì - not at all, don't mention it, you're welcome
不谢	bú xiè - don't mention it, you're welcome
不用谢	búyòngxiè - don't mention it; not at all; you're welcome
你呢?	nǐ ne - how about you
再见	zài jiàn - goodbye

Phrases

zěn me la	What? How? What? Why?
Liàn xí shuō huà	Practise speaking

Term 1 Week 4 (28/02/2024)

再见	zài jiàn - goodbye
一会儿	yíhuìr - little while
一会儿见	yíhuìr jiàn - See you soon
明天	míngtiān - tomorrow
明天见	míng tiān jiàn - See you tomorrow
星期	xīngqī - week
星期一	xīng qī yī - Monday
星期二	xīng qī èr - Tuesday
星期三	xīng qī sān - Wednesday
下个	xià ge - next
下个星期三见	xià ge xīng qī sān - see you next Wednesday
星期四	xīngqī sì - Thursday
星期五	xīng qī wǔ - jiàn Friday
星期六	xīng qī liù - Saturday
星期天	xīng qī tiān - Sunday
星期天见	xīng qī tiān jiàn - see you Sunday

Sentences

zuó tiān wǒ kàn jiàn nǐ	Yesterday I saw you
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Term 1 Week 5 (6/03/2024)

对	duì - right, correct
不	bù - not; no
不对	bù duì - incorrect / wrong
好	hǎo - good
不好	bù hǎo - not good
吃	chī - to eat

好吃	hǎo chī - delicious
看	kàn - to read, to see, to watch, to look at
好看	hǎokàn - good-looking
听	tīng - to listen
好听	hǎo tīng - pleasant to hear
闻	wén - to smell
好闻	hǎowén- smells good
玩	wán - to play
好玩	hǎo wán - fun, amusing

Term 1 Week 6 (13/03/2024)

看过	kànguò - have seen
听过	tīng guò - heard
吃过	chī guò - have eaten
闻过	wén guò - have smelled
去	qù - to go
去过	qù guò - have been to
没有	méi yǒu - don't have, there is not
还没有	hái méi yǒu - not yet
看	kàn - to read, to see, to watch, to look at
听	tīng - to listen
吃	chī - to eat
闻	wén - to smell
我	wǒ - I, me
你	nǐ - you

Sentences

Nǐ kàn guò Oppenheimer ma?	Have you watched Oppenheimer yet? Ma = (question particle for "yes-no" questions)
Wǒ kàn guò	I have
Wǒ méi yǒu	I have not
Wǒ hái méi yǒu	I have not yet
Nǐ wén guò CHANEL xiāng shuǐ ma?	Have you smelled CHANEL perfume before?
Nǐ chī guò píng guǒ ma?	Have you eaten apples before?
Nǐ chī guò Zhōng guó fàn ma?	Have you eaten Chinese food before?
Nǐ zuò guò Zhōng guó fàn ma?	Have you cooked Chinese food before?
Wǒ chī le fàn	I have eaten
Nǐ qù guò Zhōng guó ma?	Have you been to China before?
Nǐ tīng guò TIAN MI MI ma?	Have you listened to TIAN MI MI yet?

Nǐ tīng shuō guò JACK sǐ le?	Have you heard (hearsay) that JACK has died? le = (modal particle intensifying preceding clause) (completed action marker)
Wǒ shuō Yīng wén, bù shuō Zhōng wén	I speak English, do not speak Chinese
Yǒu méi tí ma?	Any questions?

Term 1 Week 7 (20/03/2024)

水果	shuǐguǒ - fruit
苹果	píng guǒ - apple
西瓜	xī guā - watermelon
油桃	Yóu táo - Nectarine
葡萄	pútáo - grape
香蕉	xiāng jiāo - banana
桔子	jú zi - tangerine
橙子	chéng zi - orange
桃	táo - peach
梨	lí - pear
龙眼	lóng yǎn - longan
荔枝	lìzhī - lychee
白	bái - white
红	hóng - red
绿	lǜ - green
黄	huáng - yellow
蓝	lán - blue
黑	hēi - black
喜欢	xǐ huān - to like
什么	shénme - what
为什么	wèi shén me - why
都	dōu - both; all
甜	tián - sweet
酸	suān - sour
苦	kǔ - bitter

Sentences

Nǐ xǐ huān shénme shuǐguǒ?	What fruits do you like?
Shénme shuǐguǒ wǒ dōu xǐ huān	I like all types of fruit
Shénme suān shuǐguǒ wǒ dōu bù xǐ huān	I do not like any sour fruit

Term 1 Week 8 (27/03/2024)

咸	xián - salty
辣	là - spicy
太	tài - too
因为	yīnwèi - because
越。。越好	yuè.. yuè hǎo - the more the better
脆	cùi - crispy
你喜欢什么水果	ni xǐ huān shenme shuiguó? - What fruit do you like?
我喜欢绿苹果因为酸	wǒ xǐ huān lǜ píng guǒ yīnwèi suān - I like green apples because they are sour
太辣	tài là - too spicy
太咸	tài xián - too salty
太甜	tài tián - too sweet
还是	háishì – or (only used in questions)
越甜越好	yuè tián yuè hǎo - the sweeter the better
一点儿	yìdiǎnr - a little, a bit
麻辣	málà - numbingly spicy
我都喜欢	wǒ dōu xǐ huan - I like both

Sentences

Hóng píng guǒ hěn tián, hěn cuì	Red apples are sweet and crispy
Nǐ xǐ huān hóng pútao hái shì bái pútao?	Do you like red grapes or white grapes?
wǒ bù xǐ huān yīnwèi tài là	I do not like it because it is too spicy
wǒ xǐ huān yī diǎn er là dàn shì bù xǐ huān tài là	I like a little bit of spice but not too spicy

Term 2 Week 2 (24/04/2024)

天天	tiān tiān – every day
有点	yǒu diǎn – (have) a little bit
可是	kě shì or dàn shì – but, however
过去	guò qù – in the past
从来不	cóng lái bù – never
抽烟	chōu yān – to smoke
太酸	bù tài suān – not too sour
不太喜欢	bù tài xǐ huān – do not like it much
谎不话	huǎng huà – tell lies
白葡萄酒	bái pú tao jiǔ – white wine
红葡萄酒	hóng pú tao jiǔ or hóng jiǔ – red wine
白酒	bái jiu – spirits (hard liquor)
巧克力	qiǎo kè lì – chocolate

Sentences

wǒ cóng lái bù chōu yān	I have never smoked before
wǒ cóng lái bù hē jiǔ	I have never drunk alcohol before
guò qù wǒ bù chōu yān	In the past, I did not smoke
nǐ guò qù hē jiǔ ma?	Have you ever drunk alcohol in the past?
wǒ bù hē jiǔ yīn wèi wǒ guò mǐn	I don't drink alcohol because I am allergic to it
duì jiǔ, wǒ guò mǐn	I am allergic to alcohol
nǐ duì shén me guò mǐn?	What are you allergic to?
lǜ píng guǒ yǒu diǎn suān	Green apples can be a little sour

Term 2 Week 3 (1/05/2024)

最	zuì - most
黑	hēi - black
西红柿	xī hóng shì - tomato
汁	zhī juice
多	duō (many, much)
猕猴桃	mí hóu táo - kiwi fruit
白	bái - white
红	hóng - red
绿	lǜ - green
黄	huáng - yellow
蓝	lán - blue

Term 2 Week 4 (8/05/2024)

健康	jiàn kāng - health, healthy
觉得	juéde - to feel; to think
麻烦	má fan troublesome
籽	zǐ seed
无籽	wú zǐ seedless
色	sè colour
红色	hóng sè - red
白色	bái sè - white
黄色	huáng sè - yellow
蓝色	lán sè - blue
绿色	lǜ sè - green
黑色	hēi sè - black

Term 2 Week 5 (15/05/2024)

贵	guì - expensive
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便宜	piányi - cheap, inexpensive
每天	měi tiān - every day
天天	tiān tiān- every day
种	(zhǒng) measure word for kinds, sorts, types
比如	bǐ rú for example; for instance; such as
菠萝	bō luó - pineapple

Term 2 Week 6 (22/05/2024)

够	gòu - enough
钻石	zuàn shí - diamond
宝石	bǎo shí – precious stone or gem

Phrases

bù yào	Do not want
bù gòu piányi	Not cheap enough
bù gòu tián	Not sweet enough

Term 2 Week 7 (29/05/2024)

除了	chú le - besides, apart from
都	dōu - both; all
还是	háishì - or
当然	dāng rán - of course

Term 2 Week 8 (5/06/2024)

高兴	gāoxìng - happy
开心	kāi xīn - be happy (colloquial)
大方	dà fāng – generous (colloquial)
慷慨	kāngkǎi - generous

Term 2 Week 9 (12/06/2024)

野心	Yěxīn - ambition
负心	Fùxīn - ungrateful
放心	Fāngxīn - don't worry
安心	Ānxìn - peace of mind
伤心	Shāng xīn - sad
痛心	Fùxīn Tòngxīn - pained distressed
死心	Sǐxīn - to give up

Sentences

wǒ sǐ xīn le	I give up
bù yào sǐ xīn	Don't give up
Tā sǐ le	He /She is dead
tā shì fù xīn de rén	He is a person who betrays others

qǐng fàng xīn	Please don't worry
méi yǒu xīn cháng	Heartless, brutal

Term 2 Week 10 (19/07/2024)

总是	zǒng shì - always
一直	yìzhí - straight; continuously
饭	fàn - meal
今天	jīntiān - today
早上	zǎoshang - morning
中午	zhōngwǔ - noon
晚上	wǎnshang - evening, night
可是	kěshì - but
没有	méi yǒu - don't have, there is not