

# Mandarin for Beginners

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## Year 2024

### Term 3 Week 2 (24/07/2024)

学校	xué xiào - school
中国	Zhōngguó - China
文字	Wén zì - language
中文	Zhōngwén - Chinese language (includes dialects)
普通话	pǔ tōng huà - Mandarin Chinese (does not include dialects)

### Sentences / Phrases

Nǐ shuō Zhōngwén ma?	Do you speak Chinese?
Nǐ jiǎng Zhōngwén ma?	Do you speak Chinese?
Wǒ men fàng le sān gè xīng qī jià qī Note: "ge" is not used for year (nian) nor day (tian)	We had 3 weeks' holidays jià qī = holiday
wǔ gè yuè	5 months yuè = month
wǔ yuè	the month of May (5 <sup>th</sup> month)
Nǐ jǐ suǐ?	How old are you?
Nǐ de shēng rì shì shén me shí hòu?	When is your birthday?
Nǐ de shēng rì shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?	On which month and day is your birthday?
Èr líng èr shí nián	2024 (as in year) líng = zero
Èr shí sì hào	24 <sup>th</sup> (as in date)
Jīn tián qī hào?	What date is today?
Jīn tián shì ...< nián > < yuè > <day> hào Jīn tián shì èr líng èr sì nián, qī yuè, shí liù hào	Today's date is ... <year> <month> <day> Today's date is 2024 July 16

### Term 3 Week 4 (7/08/2024)

年	nián – year
月	yuè - month; the moon
星期	xīngqī - week

天	tiān – day
有	yǒu - to have
早上	zǎoshang – morning (before 8AM)
上午	shàngwǔ – morning (between 8AM to 12PM)
中午	zhōngwǔ - noon
下午	xiàwǔ - afternoon
晚上	wǎnshang - evening, night
半夜	bànyè - midnight
分钟	fēn zhōng - minute
点	diǎn - o'clock
分	fēn - minute

### Sentences / Phrases

Wǒ de shēng rì shì <DATE> hào	My birthday is on <DATE> DATE = <year> <month> <day>
Wǒ de shēng rì shì <yī jiǔ wǔ qī nián> <yī yuè> <sān shí> hào	DATE = 1957-01-30
Yī gè xīng qī yǒu jǐ tiān?	One week has how many days?
Yī tiān yǒu èr shí sì xiǎo shí	One day has twenty-four hours Hours = xiǎo shí
Yī nián yǒu shí èr gè yuè	One year has twelve months
Yī xiǎo shí yǒu liù shí fēn zhōng	One hour has sixty minutes
Liù yuè yǒu sān shí tiān	June has thirty days

### Term 3 Week 6 (21/08/2024)

小时	xiǎoshí - hour
秒	miǎo - second
几	jǐ - How many?
现在	xiàn zài - now
点	diǎn - o'clock
刻	xiàn zài kè - a quarter of an hour

### Sentences / Phrases

Xiàn zài shì sì diǎn èr shí	(the time) Now is 4:20
Shàng wǔ shí diǎn sì shí sì fēn	10:44 AM
Xià wǔ sì diǎn	4:00 PM
bànyè yī diǎn	1:00 AM

### Term 3 Week 7 (28/08/2024)

普通话	pǔ tōng huà - Mandarin Chinese (does not include dialects)
老年大学	Lǎo nián dà xué - university for the elderly (U3A)
从。。到	cóng... dào... - from...to...
零	líng - zero
每	měi - every
在	zài - at, in, on
学生	xuésheng - student

### Sentences / Phrases

Xiǎo xué	Primary school
Xiǎo xuésheng	Primary school student
zhōng xué	Middle school
Dà xué	University
Sān diǎn líng wǔ fēn	3:05
Sān diǎn shí fēn	3:10
Xiàn zài jǐ diǎn zhōng	What is the time now?
Měi gè xīng qī sān, cóng sān diǎn zhōng dào sì diǎn èr shí fēn, wǒ men zài Lǎo nián dà xué, xué pǔ tōng huà	Every Wednesday, from three o'clock to four-twenty, we study Mandarin at U3A
	Mandarin Sentence Structures: a. <WHEN> <WHERE> <WHO> <WHAT> b. <WHO> <WHEN><WHERE>WHAT>
	When specifying an address, the bigger unit comes first Example: Australia, Victoria, Doncaster, Blackburn Road, 45

### Term 3 Week 8 (4/09/2024)

上课	shàng kè - to go to class, attend class
堂	táng - measure word for classes
跳舞	tiào wǔ - to dance
唱歌	chàng gē - to sing
烹调	pēng tiáo - (v) cook / (n) cooking

### Sentences / Phrases

Měi gè xīng qī, cài lǎo nián dà xué, wǒ shàng sān táng kè	Every week, at U3A, I attend 3 classes
Yí táng kè shì tiào wǔ, yí táng shì Chàng gē, yí táng shì pēng tiáo	One is a dance class, one is a singing class, One is a cooking class
Tāmen shàng pēng tiáo kè	They attend a cooking class
hē tāng	drink soup
hē zhōu	drink congee
hē jīròu zhōu	drink chicken congee
yóu tiáo	Chinese donut / cruller / deep-fried breadstick

### Term 3 Week 9 (11/09/2024)

都	dōu - both; all
只	zhǐ - only
两	liǎng - two
哪	nǎ/něi - which
有意思	yǒu yì si - interesting
没有意思	méi yǒu yì si - not interesting
最	zuì - most
肯定	kěn dìng - to be sure; to be certain; sure; certain; definite; to confirm; to affirm; affirmative

### Sentences / Phrases

Yí gè xīng qī, cài lǎo nián dà xué, shàng jǐ táng kè?	How many classes do you attend at U3A in a week?
Yí gè xīng qī, zhǐ shàng yí táng kè	Only attend one class in a week
liǎng táng kè	Two classes
Něi liǎng táng?	Which two classes?
Něi zuì yǒu yì si?	Which is the most interesting?
Něi zuì méi yǒu yì si?	Which is the least interesting?
Wǒ de kè, dōu yǒu yì si	All my classes are interesting
wǔ táng, tài duō	5 classes is too many
Tiào wǔ kè, kěn dìng yǒu yì si	Dance class is certainly interesting
Xià gè xīng qī san, shì zuì hòu yí táng kè	Next Wednesday is the last class

### Term 3 Week 10 (18/09/2024)

放假	fàng jià - to have a holiday or vacation
假期	jià qī - vacation

下个星期	xià gè xīngqī - next week
上个星期	shàng gè xīngqī - last week
开始	kāishǐ - to start; to begin
从	cóng - xià ge xīngqī from
做	zuò - to do, to make
里	lǐ - inside
什么	shénme - what
我们	wǒmen - we, us

### Sentences / Phrases

nǐmen	you (plural)
tāmen	they
Jià qī yǐ hòu	After the holidays, ...
Shèngdàn jié	Christmas holidays
Shǔ jià	Summer holidays
hán jià	Winter holidays
Xià gè xīngqī sān shì zuìhòu yī táng kè	Next Wednesday is the last class
Wǒmen cóng xià ge xīngqī kāishǐ fàng jià	We will start our holiday from next week
Cóng xià ge xīngqī, wǒmen kāishǐ fàng jià	From next week, we will start to go on holidays
Cóng xià ge xīngqī, lǎo nián dà xué kāishǐ fàng jià	From next week, U3A will start to be on holidays
Jià qī lǐ, ni zuò shénme?	What are you going to do during the holidays?
Wǒ bù zuò shénme	I am not doing anything
Shàng gè jià qī, ni zuò shénme?	Last holidays, what did you do?
Wǒ méi yǒu zuò shénme	I did not do anything Note: "méi yǒu" is only used to refer to something in the past
Shénme de wǒ bù zuò	I do absolutely nothing
Fàng liǎng ge xīngqī jià	Holiday for two weeks
Wǒ hé wǒ de péngyǒu qù hē kāfēi	I and my friend went out to drink coffee
Èrshí sān hào, wǒ qù Wollongong	On the 23 <sup>rd</sup> , I am going to Wollongong
Zài Wollongong, ni zuò shénme?	In Wollongong, what will you do?
Shàng yī ge xiǎoshí èrshí fēnzhōng kè	Attend a 1hour 20 min class
Yī xiǎoshí yǒu liùshí fēnzhōng	1 hour has 60 minutes