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2 Welcome to the Michel Thomas Method

Congratulations on purchasing the truly remarkable way to learn a language. With the Michel Thomas Method there's no reading, no writing and no homework. Just sit back, absorb, and soon you'll be speaking another language with confidence.

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About Michel Thomas

Michel Thomas (1914–2005) was a gifted linguist who mastered more than ten languages in his lifetime and became famous for teaching much of Hollywood's 'A' list how to speak a foreign language. Film stars such as Woody Allen, Emma Thompson and Barbra Streisand paid thousands of dollars each for face-to-face lessons.

Michel, a Polish Jew, developed his method after discovering the untapped potential of the human mind during his traumatic wartime experiences. The only way he survived this period of his life, which included being captured by the Gestapo, was by concentrating and placing his mind beyond the physical. Fascinated by this experience, he was determined that after the war he would devote himself to exploring further the power of the human mind, and so dedicated his life to education.

In 1947, he moved to Los Angeles and set up the Michel Thomas Language Centers, from where he taught languages for over fifty years in New York, Beverly Hills and London.

Michel Thomas died at his home in New York City on Saturday 8th January 2005. He was 90 years old.

Total Mandarin Chinese index

Note about transliteration

The Mandarin words are transliterated in this track listing using the *pin-yin* method of romanization. In this method the tones are represented by marks on the vowels that look like the hand movements that we're using (see pages 20–21):

- flat tone (green thumb out)
- ˙ rising tone (blue finger up)
- ∨ falling and rising tone (red 'V' for victory)
- ˘ falling tone (black finger down)

In addition, two dots are used above the letter 'u' (*ü*). This indicates that the 'u' should be pronounced like the 'oo' in 'moon', but while you say 'oo', shape your lips towards the 'i' sound in 'sit'.

CD 1 Track 1

Introduction. How to use this course. Background to Chinese.

CD 1 Track 2

Tones in Chinese languages.

CD 1 Track 3

Flat tone (green thumb out); *zhōng* 'middle'

CD 1 Track 4

Rising tone (blue finger up); *rén* 'person'

CD 1 Track 5

Falling and rising tone (red 'V' for victory); *wǒ* 'I, me'

CD 1 Track 6

Falling tone (black finger down); *shì* 'to be'

CD 1 Track 7

The form of the verb 'to be' in Chinese doesn't change: *shì* ('to be') also means 'am, are, is'; *wǒ shì* 'I am'

CD 1 Track 8

nǐ 'you'; *nǐ shì* 'you are'; the forms of Chinese verbs never change. No word for 'a' or 'an': *wǒ shì rén* 'I am a person'

CD 1 Track 9

guó 'kingdom, nation'; *zhōng guó* 'middle kingdom' = China; *zhōng guó rén* 'middle kingdom person' = Chinese (person)

CD 1 Track 10

tā 'he, him, she, her, it'; *dōu* 'both, all'; *hé* 'and'; position of *dōu* 'both, all' in Mandarin sentences: 'You and he both are Chinese', not 'are both', as in English

CD 1 Track 11

měi 'beautiful'; *měi guó* 'America'; *měi guó rén* 'American'; *yīng* 'brave'; *yīng guó* 'England, Britain'; *yīng guó rén* 'English'

CD 1 Track 12

mén = plural form of individual, single form; *wǒmen* 'we, us'; *nǐmen* 'you'; *tāmen* 'they, them'; *kěshì* 'but'

CD 1 Track 13

ma = question marker, to change a statement into a question; *shì* 'is' can be used to mean 'yes'

CD 1 Track 14

nǐne 'how about you?'; *tāmenne* 'how about them?'

CD 1 Track 15

máng 'busy'; also means 'to be busy'

CD 1 Track 16

bù 'no, not'

CD 1 Tracks 1 and 2

hěn 'very', also fulfils the two-syllable meter rule: a dummy word to go with an adjective; *bù máng* 'not busy'

CD 1 Tracks 3 and 4

nǐ hǎo 'hello'; *hǎo* 'good, to be good, do well'; *nǐ hǎo ma* 'you good? you doing well?' = 'how are you?'

CD 2 Track 5

In Chinese the character/word has the same form for both individual and plural form; word order determines meaning

CD 2 Track 6

yě 'also, too'; *bù hěn hǎo* 'not very good, well'

CD 2 Track 7

bú shì 'not is' ('trampoline' rule)

CD 2 Track 8

A question with a question word, such as *wèi shénme* 'why'. All Chinese languages use the same characters to mean the same thing, but their pronunciation differs.

CD 2 Track 9

kàn 'to look, see'; *shū* 'book'; *kàn shū* 'to read book'; saying 'yes' by repeating verb

CD 2 Track 10

xiàn zài 'now'; *zài* 'at' emphasizes 'at this very moment'

CD 2 Track 11

Word order in Chinese: who–when–what is happening

CD 2 Track 12

xiǎng 'would like to'

CD 2 Track 13

jiàn 'to get together, see somebody, meet'; *bù xiǎng* 'would not like to'

CD 2 Track 14

tài 'too'; *néng* 'can'; *bù néng* 'cannot'; *tài ... bù néng* 'too ... no can' = 'too ... to'

CD 3 Track 1

yīnwei 'because'

CD 3 Track 2

-*de* indicates possession: *wǒde* 'my, mine'; *nǐde* 'your, yours'; *tāde* 'his, her, hers, its'; *wǒmende* 'our, ours'; *nǐmende* 'your, yours'; *tāmende* 'their, theirs'; *péngyǒu* 'friend'

CD 3 Track 3

lǎoshī 'teacher'

CD 3 Track 4

wén 'literature, culture'; *zhōngwén* 'Chinese language'; *yīngwén* 'English language'; *xiǎng* ('would like to') in Chinese can only be followed by a verb

CD 3 Track 5

kàn diànshì 'to watch TV'; *diàn* 'electrical'; *shì* 'vision'; *zài* 'at' represents doing something at this moment; word order in Chinese: who–when–how–what is happening

CD 3 Track 6

zhè 'this'; *nǐ(de) hé wǒde* 'your and my': you can omit the first *de* (possessive marker) after *nǐ* 'you' when you have both *nǐde* 'your' and *wǒde* 'my'

CD 3 Track 7

nà 'that'; *shì* 'is': can be used to answer 'yes' to a question without using the verb in the question; *bù* 'not': can be used to answer 'no' to a question without using the verb

CD 3 Track 8

tàitai 'wife'; *tài ... bù néng* 'too ... no can' = 'too ... to'

CD 3 Track 9

shénme 'what'; *zhè shì shénme* 'what is this?'; *nà shì shénme* 'what is that?'; word order in questions and answers

CD 3 Track 10

shuō 'to speak, say'; *shuō yīngwén* 'speak English'; *shuō zhōngwén* 'speak Chinese'

CD 4 Track 1

hui 'to be able to' (involves ability); *bú hui* 'not able to'; *hui shuō* 'able to speak'; *wǒ hui* 'I am able to'

CD 4 Track 2

yìdiǎnr 'a little bit of'

CD 4 Track 3

dāngrán 'of course'

CD 4 Track 4

shéi 'who'

CD 4 Track 5

xuéshēng 'student'; *hé* ('and') cannot be used to connect sentences or phrases

CD 4 Track 6

zhēnde 'really'; *zhēnde ma* 'really?' (as a question); *māma* 'mother, Mum'

CD 4 Track 7

ge = classifier; *zhège shū* 'this book'; *nàge rén* 'that man'; *nàge péngyǒu* 'that friend'; *nǚ* 'female'

CD 4 Tracks 8 and 9

yíge 'a, an, one'; *yíge xuéshēng* 'a student'; *yíge hǎo lǎoshī* 'a good teacher'; *yíge shū* 'a book'

CD 4 Track 10

jiā 'home'; *zài jiā* 'to be at home'; *zài* in Chinese can be used as and functions as a verb ('to be at ...')

CD 5 Track 1

nǎr 'where'; *zài nǎr* 'at where'

CD 5 Track 2

yuǎn 'far'

CD 5 Track 3

dàgài 'maybe'; *běijīng* 'Beijing' ('northern capital')

CD 5 Track 4

zhù (zài) 'to live, stay'; *shàng hǎi* 'Shanghai' ('on the sea'); *shàng* 'on'; *hǎi* 'sea'

CD 5 Track 5

yǒu 'to have'

CD 5 Tracks 6 and 7

nán 'male'; word order: who–when–what is happening

CD 5 Track 8

cèsuǒ 'toilet'

CD 5 Track 9

méi yǒu 'not have'

CD 5 Track 10

nàme 'well, in that case'; *yǒuge* (from *yǒu yīge*) 'have a'; *shìge* (from *shì yīge*) 'be a'

CD 5 Track 11

More practice with *yǒu* 'have' and *zhù* 'live'.

CD 5 Track 12

tài hǎo le 'wonderful'

CD 5 Track 13

zài jiā 'to be at home / in the house'; *zài jiā lǐ* 'inside the house'; *zài* [possessive] *jiā lǐ* 'in [someone's] house'

CD 6 Track 1

zhuōzi 'table'

CD 6 Track 2

lǐ not used with geographical location; *lúndūn* 'London'

CD 6 Tracks 3 and 4

yào 'to want'; *bú yào* 'not want'

CD 6 Track 5

hěn duō 'a lot of'; *wǒ yào zhège / nàge* 'I want this one / that one'

CD 6 Track 6

qù 'to go to'

CD 6 Track 7

rènshi 'to meet, to be acquainted with'

CD 6 Track 8

jīntiān 'today'; *jīn* 'current'; *tiān* 'day'

CD 6 Track 9

qǐng wèn 'excuse me'; *qǐng* 'please'; *wèn* 'to ask'; *aiya* 'too bad, very bad, my God'

CD 6 Track 10

shàng 'to be on'; *zài ... shàng* 'on ...'

CD 6 Track 11

kàn jiàn 'to notice, see'

CD 7 Track 1

zài ... xià 'to be under...'

CD 7 Track 2

dà 'big'; *bú dà* 'not big'

CD 7 Track 3

yǒu 'there is, there are'; *méi yǒu* 'there is not'; *zài nǎr yǒu shū?* 'where is there a book?'; omitting *zài* 'to be at' with *yǒu* 'there is' and *méi yǒu* 'there is not'

CD 7 Track 4

xuéxiào 'school'

CD 7 Track 5

zhèr 'here'; *zài zhèr* 'to be here'; *nàr* 'there'

CD 7 Track 6

měi 'every'; *měitiān* 'every day'

CD 7 Track 7

yǒude 'there is / are some'; *zài* 'to be at' can be omitted with *yǒu* 'there is' and *méi yǒu* 'there is not' when there is no ambiguity as to who is doing the action; *jiā* 'family'; *měi jiā* 'every family'

CD 7 Track 8

duì 'correct'; *bú cuò* 'not bad'; *cuò* 'bad'; three ways to say 'yes': repeat the verb, *shì* 'is', *duì* 'correct'; *yě* 'either / too'

CD 7 Track 9

bú duì 'not correct'

CD 7 Tracks 10 and 11

zài jiā 'to be at home'; *zài jiā lǐ* 'at [somebody's] home'

CD 8 Track 1

qǐng wèn 'excuse me'; two-syllable meter rule

CD 8 Track 2

bàba 'father, Dad'; *zhī dào* 'to know'

CD 8 Track 3

yào shuō 'want to speak'; *néng shuō* 'can speak'

CD 8 Track 4

xiānsheng (or *shēng*) 'Mister, husband'; *xiān* 'first, before'; *wáng xiānsheng* 'Mr. Wang'

CD 8 Track 5

hěn duō 'very many, many'

CD 8 Track 6

xiè xie 'Thank you, thanks'; *bú xiè* 'no thanks, you are welcome'; when to say *xiè xie*

CD 8 Track 7

zài jiàn 'Good bye, see you again'; *zài* 'again'; *jiàn* 'to see someone / to meet'; *lái* 'to come'; *bù néng lái* 'cannot come'

CD 8 Track 8

duì(ma)? 'right?'

12

CD 8 Track 9

mǎi 'to buy'; *bú yào* 'not want'

CD 8 Track 10

dōngxi 'a thing, things'

CD 8 Track 11

kànkàn 'to take a look'

NB CD references below refer to CDs 1 and 2 of *Total Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary*.

CD 1 Track 1

Introduction

CD 1 Track 2

guò 'to cross, pass time', is added after a repeatable action to indicate 'have you?', e.g. *nǐ qù guò zhōng guó ma?* 'Have you ever been/gone to China?'

To say you 'do not do something' in the present tense, use '*bú* + do something', e.g. *wǒ bú qù nà* 'I don't go there'. To say you 'have not done something' in the past tense, use '*méi* do *guò* something', e.g. *wǒ méi qù guò měi guó* 'I have not been/gone to America.'
niǔ yuē 'New York'; *bié de* 'other, different'

CD 1 Track 3

zhǐ 'only'

gěi 'to give'; *gěi* somebody something 'give somebody something', e.g. *qǐng gěi wǒ bié de shū* 'Please give me a different book.'

qián 'money', also a popular Chinese surname

CD 1 Track 4

shí hou 'time', *shén me shí hou* 'what time?', e.g. *nǐ gěi tā qián de shí hou* 'when you give her money'

gěi somebody *kàn* 'to show to somebody', e.g. *wǒ gěi nǐ kàn* 'I show you'; *dōng xi* 'things', *zhè xiē dōng xi* 'these things'

CD 1 Track 5

kě yǐ 'may'; *dāng rán kě yǐ* 'of course, you may'

jǐ is used to ask how many, usually referring to a smaller quantity such as ten or less. *jǐ* implies a question, so *ma* is not needed at the end of the sentence, e.g. *nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ ge rén* 'How many people are in your family (home)?'

CD 1 Track 6

liǎng 'pair of'

hái zi 'children'

nán hái zi 'boy' (where *nán* means male), *nǚ hái zi* 'girl' (where *nǚ* means female)

CD 1 Track 7

xiǎo 'little'. It is common to call a young child *xiǎo péng you* 'little friend'. Also to address 20–30-year-olds as "*xiǎo* + surname" in the workplace, e.g. *xiǎo Wáng*, and to address elders as "*lǎo* 'old' + surname", e.g. *lǎo Wáng kā fēi guǎn* 'coffee shop'
sān 'three', e.g. *nǐ yǒu liǎng ge hái zi hái shì sān ge hái zi* 'Do you have two children or three children?'

CD 1 Track 9

yào '(you) will, (you) want', speaking of the future, e.g. *wǒ yào qù nǐ (de) jiā* 'I will go to your house.'
zuò 'to do'
hù zhào 'passport'
dǎ 'hit', e.g. *wǒ yào dǎ diàn huà* 'I will make a phone call = hit a telephone.'

CD 1 Track 10

bào 'newspaper'
cóng 'from (somewhere)', *zuò* 'by means of (vehicle)', *dào* 'to, towards (somewhere)', e.g. *wǒ cóng běi jīng zuò huǒ chē dào shàng hǎi* 'I am taking a train from Beijing to Shanghai.'

CD 1 Track 11

chē 'vehicle'; *huǒ chē* 'train = fire vehicle'; *fēi jī* 'airplane = fly machine'; *qì chē* 'car = vapour vehicle'; *gōng gōng qì chē* 'bus = public vapour vehicle'

CD 1 Track 12

kāi chē 'to drive a vehicle'; *xiāng gǎng* 'Hong Kong'
běi jīng 'Beijing, northern capital', *běi* 'north'; *nán jīng* 'Nanjing, southern capital', *nán* 'south'; *xī ān* 'Xian, western peace', *xī* 'west'; *shān dōng* 'Shangdong province', *dōng* 'east'

CD 2 Track 1

gào sù 'to tell, inform, let know'
le is used to indicate that something is done, e.g. *wǒ mǎi le liǎng ge qì chē* 'I bought two cars.' Another use of *le* is to indicate a change from the way things were.
lèi 'tired', e.g. *wǒ lèi le* 'I am tired.'

CD 2 Track 2

kuài 'about to, almost, soon to happen', e.g. *tā zuò huǒ chē kuài dào niú yuē le* 'He took the train and just arrived in New York.'
cuò 'bad, mistake'; *cuò* can also be used as a verb, 'to make a mistake', e.g. *wǒ cuò le* 'I am mistaken, I made a mistake.'

CD 2 Track 3

bēi 'cup', *yī bēi chá* 'a cup of tea'

CD 2 Track 4

hǎo chī 'very tasty = good eat'; *hǎo hē* 'good drink' *wǎn* 'late'

CD 2 Track 5

yīng gāi 'should'
chà bu dūo 'about the same'
yí yàng 'the same, just like'; *bù yí yàng* 'different, not the same'

CD 2 Track 6

piào 'ticket'; *fēi jī piào* 'airline ticket'; *huǒ chē piào* 'train ticket'
mài 'to sell': be careful not to mix up *mài* 'to sell' and *mǎi* 'to buy'.
 Tones matter.

CD 2 Track 7

sì 'four'; *wǔ* 'five'; *liù* 'six'

CD 2 Track 8

kuài colloquial term for a unit of currency
rén mín bì 'Chinese money': literally 'people's currency': currency of China as distinct from Taiwan where the New Taiwan Dollar (*Tai bi*) is used.
shí 'ten'

CD 2 Track 9

sì shí 'forty', *wǔ shí* 'fifty'; *sì shí sān* 'forty-three'
èr 'two'; use *èr* in telephone numbers, dates or counting, e.g. *èr shí* 'twenty'. Otherwise use *liǎng*, e.g. *liǎng ge hái zi* 'a pair of children'.

CD 2 Track 10

xīng qī 'week' (start + period of time); *xīng qī yī* 'Monday'; *xīng qī èr* 'Tuesday'; *xīng qī sān* 'Wednesday'; *xīng qī sì* 'Thursday'; *xīng qī wǔ* 'Friday'; *xīng qī liù* 'Saturday'

CD 2 Track 11

xīng qī tiān/ri 'Sunday'. *ri* = sun, e.g. *xīng qī tiān jiàn* 'See you on Sunday.'

qī 'seven'; *bā* 'eight'; *jiǔ* 'nine'

xià ge 'next'; *shàng ge* 'last'

hào 'number', e.g. *diàn huà hào* 'telephone number'

CD 2 Track 12

líng 'zero'

nián 'year'

yuè 'month'; *yī yuè* 'January'; *èr yuè* 'February'; *sān yuè* 'March'; *sì yuè* 'April'; *wǔ yuè* 'May'; *liù yuè* 'June'; *qī yuè* 'July'; *bā yuè* 'August'; *jiǔ yuè* 'September'; *shí yuè* 'October'; *shí yī yuè* 'November'; *shí èr yuè* 'December'

CD 2 Track 13

When giving a date start with the biggest unit.

CD 2 Track 14

Conclusion

NB This glossary contains vocabulary from *Total Mandarin Chinese Vocabulary*, as well as some extra vocabulary which is taught in *Perfect Mandarin Chinese with the Michel Thomas Method*. Go to www.michelthomas.co.uk for more information.

<i>ba</i> indicates suggestion of agreement	<i>dān wèi</i> 'company, workgroup', 'workpace'
<i>bā</i> 'eight'	<i>dāng rán</i> 'of course'
<i>bǎi</i> 'hundred'	<i>dēng</i> 'to wait'
<i>bǎi wàn</i> 'million'	<i>diǎn</i> 'o'clock'
<i>bàn</i> 'half'	<i>diàn huà</i> 'telephone (electrical speech)'
<i>bàn</i> 'to solve a problem'	<i>diàn tī</i> 'lift, elevator = electric stairs'
<i>bàn fǎ</i> 'method, way of doing something'	<i>dōng</i> 'east'
<i>bāng</i> to do something 'to help to do something'	<i>dǒng</i> 'to comprehend, understand'
<i>bāng</i> someone <i>máng</i> 'to help someone out'	<i>duì bu qǐ</i> 'sorry'
<i>bào</i> 'newspaper'	<i>duō</i> 'more'
<i>bēi</i> 'cup'	<i>dòu fu</i> 'tofu'
<i>běi</i> 'north'	<i>duō jiǔ le</i> 'how long have...?'
<i>bié de</i> 'other, different'	<i>duō shǎo</i> 'how much?, how many?' (referring to any number, especially a larger number)
<i>bú kè qǐ</i> 'don't be polite', 'don't mention it'	<i>è</i> 'hungry'
<i>bú xiè</i> 'don't thank me'	<i>èr</i> 'two'
<i>bú yào qián</i> 'free'	<i>fàn diàn</i> 'hotel'
<i>bù yí yàng</i> 'different'	<i>fáng jiān</i> 'room'
<i>cài</i> 'food, dish'	<i>fēi jī</i> 'airplane = fly machine'
<i>cān guǎn</i> 'restaurant'	<i>fēi jī chǎng</i> 'airport'
<i>cì</i> 'times' (one time, two times, the first time, an occasion)	<i>fù qián</i> 'to pay money'
<i>chá</i> 'tea'	<i>gào sù</i> 'to tell, inform, let know'
<i>chà bù dūo</i> 'about the same'	<i>gěi</i> 'to give'
<i>chē</i> 'vehicle'	<i>gěi</i> somebody <i>kàn</i> 'to show to somebody'
<i>chī fàn</i> 'to eat'	<i>gōng gōng qì chē</i> 'bus = shared vapour vehicle'
<i>chuáng</i> 'bed'	<i>guì</i> 'expensive'
<i>cóng</i> 'from'	<i>guò</i> 'cross, pass time'
<i>dǎ</i> 'hit'	<i>hǎi shì</i> 'or' (used in question sentences)
<i>dà jiā</i> 'everyone, all'	<i>hǎi zi</i> 'children'
<i>dà jiā hǎo</i> 'Hello, everyone.' (a way to say 'Hello' to or begin speaking to any group')	<i>hǎo</i> 'OK'
<i>dào</i> 'to, toward'	

hào 'number' (telephone number)
 hǎo bu hǎo 'OK?, is that OK?'
 hǎo chī 'delicious, tasty (good eat)'
 hǎo kàn 'pretty (good look)'
 hē someone *shuō huà* 'to speak
 with someone'
 hē 'to drink'
 hù zhào 'passport'
 huà 'spoken language'
 huài 'broken, bad'
 huǒ chē 'train = fire vehicle'
 huò zhě 'or' (in positive sentence)

jǐ 'how many?' (referring to a
 relatively small quantity)
 jiào 'to be called'
 jiǔ 'nine'
 jiǔ 'wine'
 jiǔ 'passage of time, a long time
 passed'
 jué de 'to feel, think'

kā fēi 'coffee'
 kā fēi guǎn 'coffee shop'
 kāi chē 'to drive a car'
 kàn de dǒng 'to understand
 by seeing'
 kě xī 'it's a pity'
 kě yǐ 'may'
 kǒng pà 'afraid that..., perhaps...'
 kuài 'about to, almost'
 kuài 'unit of currency'
 (colloquial term)
 kuài 'fast'

lǎo 'elder'
 lǎo bǎn 'boss, person in charge'
 le sentence + le represents
 something changes
 lèi 'tired'
 lǐ mian 'inside'
 liǎng 'pair of'
 líng 'zero'
 liù 'six'

mài 'to sell'
 mǎi dōng xī 'to buy something
 (go shopping)'
 màn 'slow'
 méi shén me 'don't worry,

it's nothing'
 méi (yǒu) bàn fǎ 'there's nothing
 to be done about it'
 méi yǒu rén 'no one'
 méi guān xi 'never mind,
 does not matter'
 méi wèn tí 'no problem'
 méi yǒu 'did not (do something
 in the past)'
 míng tiān 'tomorrow'
 míng zì 'name'

ná 'to take something'
 nǎ 'which?'
 nǎ ge 'which one?'
 nǎ lí response to a compliment to
 express politeness
 nǎ xiē 'which of these?'
 nán 'south'
 nán hái zǐ 'boy = male child'
 nián 'year'
 niǔ yuē 'NewYork'
 nǚ hái zǐ 'girl = female child'

pí jiǔ 'beer'
 piào 'ticket'

qī 'seven'
 qì chē 'car = vapour vehicle'
 qián 'money'
 qiān 'thousand'
 qǐng 'please'

rán hòu 'then' (after some time
 has passed)
 rì 'sun'

sān 'three'
 shàng ge 'last'
 shàng wǔ 'a.m., morning'
 shǎo 'few, less'
 shéi de 'whose?'
 shén me de 'so on, etc.'
 shén me dōu 'everything'
 (non-specific)
 shén me something dōu
 'every specific thing'

shén me shí hòu 'when?,
 what time?'

shén me yàng de 'what kind of...?'
shí 'ten'
shí hòu 'time'
shí fu 'mate, buddy'
shuì (jiào) 'to sleep'
sì 'four' (unlucky number: same sound as *sǐ* 'death', different tone)

tīng de dǒng 'to understand from hearing'
tīng shuō 'heard'

wài 'out'
wài guó 'foreign'
wài mian 'outside'
wǎn 'late'
wàn 'ten thousand'
wǎn fàn 'evening food, supper'
wǎn shàng 'evening'
wèn tí 'problem, question'
wǔ 'five'

xī 'west'
xǐ huan 'to like to do something'
xià ge 'next'
xià wǔ 'afternoon, p.m.'
xiāng gǎng 'Hong Kong'
xiǎo 'little'
xiǎo shí 'hour'
xiē plural marker instead of *ge* (*zhè xiē rén* 'these men')
xīng qī 'week'
xīng qī èr 'Tuesday'
xīng qī liù 'Saturday'
xīng qī rì/tiān 'Sunday'
xīng qī sān 'Wednesday'
xīng qī sì 'Thursday'
xīng qī yī 'Monday'
xīng qī wú 'Friday'

xiū xi 'to rest'
xué xí 'to study, learn'

yào 'will, shall'
yào bù rán 'otherwise'
yì bēi chá 'a cup of tea'
yí dìng 'definitely, certainly'
yǐ hòu 'after, behind'
yǐ jīng 'already'
yǐ qián 'before'
yí yàng 'the same, just like'
yín háng 'bank (silver money firm)'
yīng gāi 'should'
yǒu méi yǒu 'is there...?', 'do you have...?'
yǒu qián 'rich'
yǒu yì sī 'interesting'
yǒu yòng 'useful'
yòng 'to use'
yú 'fish'
yuè 'month'

zěn me 'how?'
zěn me bàn? 'what's to be done?'
zěn me yàng 'how is it going?', 'what do you think of...?', 'how about...?'
zhàn 'stop, station'
zhǎo 'to seek, look for'
zhǐ 'only'
zì 'word'
zǒu 'to walk, go, depart'
zuì 'most'
zuì hǎo 'very best'
zuò 'to do'
zuò 'by means of' (different character from *zuò* 'to do')
zuó tiān 'yesterday'
zùo 'to sit down'

Learning the tones using hand movements

Mandarin has four tones, plus a neutral non-tone, which are critical for communication. While there is considerable leeway for differences in pronunciation (many Chinese learn Mandarin as a second language) there is very little for tones. If your tone is off you won't be understood. Tones, when made user-friendly, are actually quite simple to grasp and integrate into your learning.

The method for learning the tones* which you will experience in this course is specifically designed to address all styles of language learning. It will permit your central nervous system to permanently create pathways that reflect your personal learning style (visual, kinaesthetic, auditory, etc.) and support you in effortless recall and usage of the correct tone at the proper moment in your communication. It works on a subconscious level. You will very quickly find that you are using the movements as a natural part of your learning. These movements work. They have been tested and refined on students without any previous knowledge of Mandarin from many different backgrounds and age levels (teens to the elderly). I encourage you to allow your hands to move with the movements. For some of you that will be essential. For others, this will be less essential. Trust whatever helps you. It will work for you as you permit it to do so.

In this method of teaching tones, each movement is linked to a tone and colour. Romanized Mandarin (*pin-yin*) is written with four distinct tones, which are shown with marks over the affected vowel. These marks are shown in brackets below. The tones are generally listed in the following order when taught and when words are listed in a dictionary.

*patent pending

First tone: (ˉ) long, steady tone.
Colour: Green.
Movement: Thumb out to side with closed fist.
Example: *zhōng* ('middle').



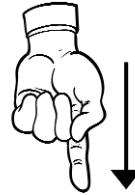
Second tone: (ˊ) rising tone.
Colour: Blue.
Movement: Index finger pointing up.
Example: *rén* ('person').



Third tone: (ˇ) falling–rising tone. This tone actually resembles a tick mark (UK) or check mark (US) (✓). It starts rather low, goes down a bit and then rises up to the level of the green tone. Please pay close attention to the Chinese native speaker's demonstration of this tone.
Colour: Red.
Movement: Closed fist with index and middle fingers forming a V and pointing up.
Example: *wǒ* ('I, me').



Fourth tone: (ˋ) falling tone. **Colour:** Black.
Movement: Index finger pointing down.
Example: *shì* ('to be, am, is, are').



Neutral non-tone: toneless.
Colour: None.
Movement: Closed fist.
Example: *ma* (question marker).



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