

CHINESE INDIVIDUALIZED INSTRUCTION

READING

NOTE: You must sign up for a FACT session before beginning to read and write Chinese.

The third skill covered in Chinese I.I. is reading. Always bear in mind that the purpose of reading is to get information from a text; therefore, understanding the meaning is crucial. Since our readings in DeFrancis' *Character Text for Beginning Chinese* (CTBC) are paced behind the spoken part of the curriculum and cover the same material, you need only be able to use Chinese characters to understand what you should already be able to understand in listening, and to discuss it. The material in *Read Chinese Book II* (RCII) is new to you, but the same recommendations below apply to it.

We suggest you listen to the tape and read along in the text. You may find it necessary to work with the vocabulary list at the beginning of each chapter to gain initial familiarity with the characters. Simply reading through them may be effective; or you may wish to practice writing the more difficult-to-remember terms. Some students find it helpful to keep a list of similar characters and review them. Regardless of how you prepare, you should aim to work with the characters in context--i.e. in sentences--as soon as possible.

Once in a text, practice reading aloud with the tape: the part of every CTBC dialog tape which is broken into segments with space after to repeat is particularly useful here. Try to get as close as possible to a natural speed and read in complete phrases instead of one character at a time, making sure you understand the content. If there are characters whose meaning and/or pronunciation you cannot remember at first, write the information in the margins or at the bottom of the text or on a separate page--DO NOT WRITE IN THE TEXT ITSELF. The key to learning to read short texts is to REREAD--test yourself by reading the same text over and over until you have good speed and understand the content. Writing in the text itself makes it very difficult to test yourself in future rereadings. You may want to write in pencil and erase words as you reread and learn them. Your instructors will not allow you to read from a marked up text, so you must actually learn the material.

During appointments, be prepared to do any or all of the following: Retell the content of the reading in Chinese with book closed, either the dialog in CTBC or the story in RCII; answer questions in Chinese about the content or language of the reading with book closed; read aloud from the assignment; give an oral translation in English.

Tapes for CTBC are in Cunz 108 and are the DEF BC series. The tape for the first reading is DEF BC1a; for the second, DEF BC2a, etc. For RCII, the tape series is Chi RCII plus the lesson number 1 through 5. Also be sure and buy the *Study Guide to Read Chinese Book II*. This will save you time in preparing the readings.

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WRITING

NOTE: You must sign up for a FACT session before beginning to read and write Chinese.

The fourth skill to be learned in Chinese I.I. is writing. You will be required to write the dialogs in DeFrancis' *Character Text for Beginning Chinese* entirely or in part from a tape supplied by the I.I. Center front desk. These tapes are also located in Cunz 108, where you may either practice with them or copy them to practice at home. The tape numbers are DEF BC plus the unit number and 'a.' Thus, the first tape you will need is DEF BC1a, the second tape DEF BC2a, etc. To take the test, you must write as much of the dialog as you can fit on one standard sheet of squared writing paper, which you must obtain from an instructor or from the I.I. Center front desk personnel. You may not look at the dialog while you are writing. If you need a tape player, the Center front desk can loan you one if you present your student ID. You may rewind and repeat the tape as often as needed to write the dialog, but **DO NOT** write more than one page, no matter how long the dialog is. When you are finished, turn in the tape, paper, and tape player (if you borrowed one from the Center) to the front desk person. Writings will be graded by instructors and placed in your file. Be sure to consult with an instructor on it during your next appointment.

To practice writing, consult DeFrancis' *Character Text for Beginning Chinese Stroke Order Chart* starting on page 455, and **Note on Chinese Writing** on p. 453. It is very important that you write according to the stroke order given there. You may want to buy some tracing paper and trace the characters from the right side of the page to the left, filling in the missing strokes as you go--PLEASE NOTE, however, that the actual stroke order in the chart goes from left to right. Once you have the stroke order down, practice writing entire characters until you can look at the pinyin and do it from memory. Once you have reached this stage, you may practice with whole texts by either converting from pinyin in *Beginning Chinese* (green book) or by taking dictation from the tape. Be sure to check yourself against the character text. Pay attention to the way the characters look: each character should be written to occupy a square space in a visually balanced manner, a square space which is the same size as that for all the other characters in a text. Try to make your characters as close in appearance as possible to those in *CTBC*. This is the value of tracing.

If you have questions about this, please consult an instructor ASAP.

Chinese I.I. handout

Guidelines for writing a composition

1. You need to present a draft of the composition and discuss with your instructor before submitting the final draft, which your grade will be based on. Please use the composition paper provided by your instructor for your final draft and pay attention to the format and your handwriting--including punctuations (see section 4 for instructions on using punctuations in written Chinese).
2. The composition should have a title. The title of the composition should be written in the middle of the top line, with your name written in the middle or to the right corner of the line below the title line.
3. A composition should have multiple paragraphs, and the first line of each paragraph should be indented by two boxes. Usually, the composition will begin with a short introductory paragraph about the main idea of the essay, then develop it in the following paragraph(s) which give more detailed descriptions, explanations, examples, or analysis to back up the main point, and sum it up with a conclusion or summarizing passage.
4. Punctuations are integrated part of a composition. China's contemporary punctuation system has markers which are unique to Chinese, markers which are similar in written shape and function to English punctuation markers, and markers which are written identically in English and Chinese texts, but which have both similar and dissimilar functions in the two languages. Here are some commonly used punctuation markers in Chinese writing. Please remember the usages of these markers and try to apply them appropriately in your writing.
 1. [、] Comma: used in Chinese sentences to separate and thus emphasize materials. You must avoid automatically transferring your understanding of how commas are used in English to your reading of Chinese. It is crucial to be aware that Chinese commas can separate grammatical structures which English commas do not. You will find that while Chinese use commas to mark grammatical structures within sentences, commas are very often used to

indicate pauses and emphases in ways which English comma usages do not allow. It is common to find sentences such as S, VO, SV, O, SP, V among others in which a comma separates the subject from its core verb, the core verb from its object, etc. If you understand how commas function in Chinese texts, you will be able to make those all important segmenting decisions more accurately.

2_ [。] Sentence period: marks the end of sentences.

3_ [、] Listing comma: marks items in lists. e.g. 我星期一、三、五去学校。

4_ [《》] title markers: mark literary titles. e.g. 《我看〈画上的美人〉》

5) [“ ”] Quotation markers: mark quotes and use of materials with special meanings. e.g. 他说：“……”

6_ [……] Ellipsis marker: marks the omission of texts.

7_ [（）] Parentheses marker: marks parenthetical material.

8) [?] Question mark: mark the sentence as a question.

9) [!] Exclamation mark: mark the sentence as an exclamation.

10) Other less often used punctuations include a) [:] Colon; b) [;] Semi-colon; c) [-] Dash; d) [--] Hyphen. The usage of these punctuation markers is roughly similar as in English.

5. The composition assignment is designed for you to practice writing coherently and logically around a certain topic. And usually, the topic of composition is related to one or more of the texts you read within the unit. So you may refer to the reading texts to see how the Chinese write on the similar topic. At this stage, you are not required to write something very complicated and rhetoric, but are supposed to demonstrate your ability of writing in Chinese with reasonable structure, clearly-stated ideas, logic sentences, and right word choice. When you start writing, pay attention to the vocabulary you've mastered or newly learned from an English dictionary. Contact your instructors for any questions about writing.

Chinese I.I. Au/03

211.51 / 311.51 / 511.51

Supplemental Introduction of Composition Session

1. The available instructors:

Wang, Jianqi (Wang Laoshi)

Bao, Ying (Bao, Laoshi)

Zhang, Yulong (Zhang Laoshi)

Yan, Jing (Yan Laoshi)

2. Procedure:

There are two steps for each composition: **first draft** and **final version**.

After you compose the first draft, you must arrange at least one FACT appointment with one of the available instructors. Please bring your first draft to the FACT session. Diagnosing your first draft, the instructor will give you some suggestions on how to revise it. The students are allowed to make more than one FACT appointment for the composition if their problems cannot be solved in one 15-minute FACT session.

Based on the advices given by the instructors, the student must revise his/her first draft and turn in the final version to the instructor who has given instruction to his/her first draft. The student need not meet the instructor after he/she turns in the final version unless he/she receives a notice from the instructor.

EXPRESSIONS FOR
THE DISCUSSION OF COMPOSITION

1. 作文(zuòwén) composition
2. 題目, 題目(tímù) title
3. 开头, 開頭(kāitóu) beginning
4. 结尾, 結尾(jiēwěi) end
5. 内容(nèiróng) content
6. 标点符号, 標點符號(biāodiǎn fúhào) punctuation mark
7. 逗号, 逗號(dòuhào) comma ,
8. 句号, 句號(jùhào) period 。
9. 顿号, 頓號(dùnhào) a slight-pause mark used to set off items in a series
10. 破折号, 破折號(puòzhéhào) dash ----
11. 引号, 引號(yǐnhào) quotation marks " " ' '
12. 书名号, 書名號(shūmíng hào) punctuation marks used to enclose the title of a book or an article « »
13. 结构, 結構(jiégòu) structure
14. 提纲, 提綱(tígāng) outline
15. 草稿(cǎogǎo) rough draft
16. 空格(kònggé) empty square (as on a piece of squared paper)
17. 编, 編(biān) fabricate
18. 遍(biàn) measure word (emphasizing the whole process of an action)
19. 重新(chóngxīn) once more
20. 重写一遍, 重寫一遍(chóngxiě yíbiàn) write one more time