

Introduction to the Chinese language

Class objective:

Getting to know the basic Chinese pronunciations and words.

Concept A: Some facts and reasons that people love the Chinese language

1. One in six people speaks Chinese.

With over a billion native speakers, about 15% of the world's population speaks Chinese as their mother tongue. That's more than Spanish, English, French, and German — combined!

2. There is no alphabet.

It consists of thousands of standalone characters. However, Chinese can be transcribed into Roman characters by using pinyin, removing some of the burden on the learner that comes with memorizing thousands of individual characters.

3. Nouns don't have a singular/plural distinction.

Unlike English, in which plural nouns are marked with an -s, Chinese nouns retain the same form regardless of whether or not they are in singular or plural form.

4. Different tones can drastically change a word's meaning.

Chinese is a tonal language, meaning that a word's pitch can affect its meaning. For example, wǒ xiǎng wèn nǐ — in which “wen” is spoken with a falling pitch — means “I want to ask you”. But wǒ xiǎng wěn nǐ — in which “wen” rises and falls in pitch — means “I want to kiss you”. Yikes — that's not a mistake you want to make!

5. It's an official UN language.

Chinese joins English, Arabic, French, Russian, and Spanish as one of the six official UN languages.

6. The Chinese writing system is over 3,000 years old.

Of all languages spoken today, Chinese has the most ancient writing system. Indeed, Chinese characters have been found engraved in animal bones that date from 1600 BC! In contrast, the Latin alphabet didn't originate until almost 1,000 years later, in the 7th century BC.

7. The word “Mandarin” comes from Sanskrit.

The English word “Mandarin” originally referred to an official of the Chinese empire. It comes from the Portuguese word mandarim, which is derived from the Malay word menteri, which in turn originates from the Sanskrit word mantrin, which means “minister”. Among Chinese speakers, Mandarin Chinese is often called Guóyǔ (国语), which means “national language”, or Pǔtōnghuà (普通话), which means “common speech”.

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3. **Method**

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- 2. **Participants**
- 3. **Intervention**

4. **Results**

- 1. **Primary Outcome**
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- 3. **Subgroup Analysis**

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- 1. **Summary**

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1. **Introduction**

This document describes the system architecture and components.

2. **System Architecture**

- 1. **System Overview**
- 2. **System Components**
- 3. **System Flow**

3. **System Components**

- 1. **System Overview**
The system is designed to provide a comprehensive solution for managing data and resources. It consists of several key components that work together to ensure efficient operation.
- 2. **System Components**
The system is composed of the following main components:
 - Database Layer**: Stores and manages the data.
 - Application Layer**: Processes the data and provides the user interface.
 - Presentation Layer**: Displays the data to the user.
- 3. **System Flow**
The system flow is as follows:
 - User input is received by the presentation layer.
 - The data is then processed by the application layer.
 - The results are stored in the database layer.

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9. **Notes**

- 1. **Author Contributions**
- 2. **Conflicts of Interest**
- 3. **Disclaimer**

10. **References**