MANDARIN CHINESE · GRADE 8 · AGES 13–14

Grade 8 Mandarin

First edition · 5 units · 10 lessons · one quarter · Simplified characters with pinyin

A song or video for every lesson

FIRST EDITION

Course guide

Grade 8 Mandarin is a short course of 10 lessons (5 units of 2), one lesson a week for a quarter, with three sessions of 30–40 minutes a week.

The student learns how the Bible came into Chinese from the Nestorian Stele to the Union Version, reads Bible references and John 1:1, memorizes two Tang poems and compares their parallel lines with the Psalms, and writes paragraphs with connecting words.

Then the student writes journals and letters, practices calligraphy, tells the story of Matteo Ricci and Xu Guangqi, and memorizes and recites Psalm 23 in Chinese with a short testimony. Every Chinese word is shown in simplified characters with pinyin.

> Every embedded video comes from a channel approved for School Launch: ChineseClass101 (short lessons by native-speaking teachers, the workhorse of the older grades), Little Fox Chinese (animated Mandarin songs and graded stories with Chinese subtitles) and Miss Panda Chinese (songs and picture words), with a few single pinyin and grammar lessons from Yoyo Chinese, each one approved individually. The videos play in YouTube's privacy-enhanced player. ChineseClass101 videos usually end with an invitation to visit its website; you can stop the video when the lesson's part ends. Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Start with Lesson 1.1 →

Who it is for

Written for students in grade 8 (about ages 13–14) who read independently. No earlier Chinese is needed: the course reviews the sounds and the first characters and builds from there, though a student who has done earlier grades will feel at home. A parent or teacher reads along, joins the speaking practice and checks the practice answers with the key. Nothing needs to be bought: every activity uses paper, index cards, pencil and household things. Families who speak Chinese at home use the same lessons with the *At home in Chinese* notes.

How to use this course

1. **The weekly rhythm.** The quarter has 10 lessons, one a week, each with three sessions of 30–40 minutes. Session 1 is the warm-up, the video, the teaching and the picture study (in the first lesson of each unit). Session 2 is the activity and the Chinese notebook, with the characters written in squares. Session 3 is the worked examples, the practice and a recitation: the student says the week's Chinese out loud to the family. In the second week of each unit, use part of Session 3 for the unit review and the unit challenge.
2. **Say it every day.** Chinese is learned out loud, a few minutes a day. Open every session by saying the sentences learned so far, with their tones. Five minutes of cheerful speaking beats an hour of silent staring.
3. **Story, then how Chinese works, then doing.** The core ideas are written to be read aloud or read by the student. *The story* tells what happened; *How Chinese works* explains the pattern; *Say it out loud* gives the sounds. After each paragraph, ask the student to tell it back.
4. **Characters, stroke by stroke.** Each lesson has a few characters to write. Write them in squares (a 田字格 tiánzìgé grid is on every worksheet, or use graph paper), stroke by stroke in the right order, saying the sound and meaning each time. Order matters: top before bottom, left before right, outside before inside, and close the box last.

5. **Flashcards.** Every lesson adds new words. Make a flashcard for each one: the character on the front, the pinyin with tone marks and the meaning on the back.
6. **Unit review and unit challenge.** Each unit ends with a short review (25 points), which may be done orally, and a unit challenge. Keep the challenge work in a folder.
7. **Tones are part of the word.** Every Chinese syllable has a tone, and the tone changes the meaning. Say every new word with its tone from the first day, draw the tone in the air with your hand, and copy the tone marks carefully. A word said with the wrong tone is a different word.
8. **Characters and pinyin.** The course writes Chinese in simplified characters, the form used in mainland China and Singapore and by most learners, with pinyin printed above the characters. Each vocabulary card also gives the traditional form, used in Taiwan and Hong Kong, when it is different. Families who read traditional characters at home are welcome to use them.
9. **The word list.** The quarter teaches 54 words and phrases, in this order. Unit 1: 圣经 (Shèngjīng), 旧约 (Jiùyuē), 新约 (Xīnyuē), 翻译 (fānyì), 碑 (bēi), 章 (zhāng), 节 (jié), 福音 (fúyīn), 诗篇 (Shīpiān), 道 (dào). Unit 2: 诗 (shī), 明月 (míngyuè), 霜 (shuāng), 故乡 (gùxiāng), 思 (sī), 春晓 (chūn xiǎo), 眠 (mián), 鸟 (niǎo), 风雨 (fēngyǔ), 落 (luò). Unit 3: 因为 (yīnwèi), 所以 (suǒyǐ), 虽然 (suīrán), 但是 (dànshì), 然后 (ránhòu), 而且 (érqiě), 日记 (rìjì), 信 (xìn), 亲爱的 (qīn'ài de), 祝 (zhù), 想念 (xiǎngniàn). Unit 4: 书法 (shūfǎ), 毛笔 (máobǐ), 墨 (mò), 砚 (yàn), 永 (yǒng), 笔画 (bǐhuà), 地图 (dìtú), 几何 (jǐhé), 科学 (kēxué), 朋友 (péngyou), 世界 (shìjiè). Unit 5: 牧者 (mùzhě), 缺乏 (quēfá), 青草地 (qīngcǎodì), 安歇 (ānxiē), 灵魂 (línghún), 羊 (yáng), 幽谷 (yōugǔ), 安慰 (ānwèi), 恩惠 (ēnhuì), 慈爱 (cí'ài), 同在 (tóng zài), 见证 (jiànzhèng).
10. **Word games.** The crossword, word-find and hangman games used in other School Launch language courses need typed letters; Chinese needs characters or pinyin with tone marks, so the games are turned off for Mandarin. Each lesson has a spoken game instead.
11. **Printables.** Each lesson has a one-page worksheet, and the answers are in a separate key for the parent. Each unit review also has a printable key.
12. **The Chinese Bible.** Chinese verses are quoted from the Chinese Union Version (和合本 Héhéběn), the Mandarin translation finished in 1919 by a team of

missionaries and Chinese scholars and still the Bible of most Chinese-speaking churches. The 1919 text is in the public domain. The course prints it in simplified characters, the form taught in this course, with modern punctuation; every verse has been checked word for word against the 1919 edition, and where the 1988 New Punctuation edition changed a word, the 1919 word is printed. A small space is printed before 神 (shén, God) in this version, as in the original: it was a mark of reverence, and it let the same printing plates serve the edition that used the two-character name 上帝 (Shàngdì). God's name, printed LORD in the King James Version, is 耶和华 (Yēhéhuá, Jehovah) in the Union Version. The pinyin under each verse was added by School Launch to help with reading aloud. The English verse is always the King James Version, quoted exactly.

Scope and sequence

UNIT 1 · WEEKS 1–2

The Bible in Chinese: 圣经

How the Bible came into Chinese: the Nestorian Stele of 781, Robert Morrison's translation (finished 1819, printed 1823) and the Chinese Union Version of 1919 (和合本), still the Bible of most Chinese Protestants. Bible words (旧约, 新约, 卷, 章, 节), reading references like 约翰福音三章十六节, and 道 in John 1:1.

1.1 景教碑 to 和合本: How the Bible Came to China

1.2 太初有道: Reading References and John 1:1

UNIT 2 · WEEKS 3–4

Tang Poems: 静夜思 and 春晓

Two of the most famous poems in Chinese, memorized by nearly every Chinese child: Li Bai's "Quiet Night Thoughts" (静夜思) and Meng Haoran's "Spring Dawn" (春晓). Reading five-character lines, rhyme and parallel lines, and comparing them with Hebrew poetry in the Psalms. Liang Kai's portrait of Li Bai.

2.1 静夜思: Li Bai's Quiet Night Thoughts

2.2 春晓: Spring Dawn, Rhyme and Parallelism

UNIT 3 · WEEKS 5–6

Writing Paragraphs: 因为…所以

From sentences to paragraphs: connecting words (因为…所以, 虽然…但是, 先…然后…最后, 除了…以外, 不但…而且), and writing a short paragraph, a journal entry (日记) and a letter (信) in Chinese, with the right openings and closings.

3.1 因为, 所以, 虽然, 但是: Connecting Ideas

3.2 日记和信: Journals and Letters

UNIT 4 · WEEKS 7–8

Brush and Map: 书法 and Ricci and Xu Guangqi

Chinese calligraphy (书法): the four treasures of the study, the eight basic strokes in 永, and the beauty of Wen Zhengming's poems; then the friendship of Matteo Ricci (利玛窦) and Xu Guangqi (徐光启), who translated Euclid together, and Ricci's world map of 1602, which showed China a picture of the whole world.

4.1 书法: The Art of the Brush

4.2 利玛窦和徐光启: A Map and a Friendship

UNIT 5 · WEEKS 9–10

Capstone: 诗篇二十三篇, Psalm 23

The year ends by learning Psalm 23 in Chinese, line by line: 耶和华是我的牧者, 我必不至缺乏…. Its vocabulary (牧者, 缺乏, 青草地, 水边, 灵魂, 幽谷, 杖, 竿, 恩惠, 慈爱), reading it aloud with good tones, reciting it, and sharing what it means in simple Chinese. Bernhard Plockhorst's Good Shepherd.

5.1 耶和华是我的牧者: Psalm 23:1–3

5.2 你与我同在: Psalm 23:4–6 and My Testimony

Weekly pacing calendar

WEEK	PLAN
1	• Session 1: Lesson 1.1 景教碑 to 和合本: How the Bible Came to China: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (translation challenge) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
	Three sessions a week of 30–40 minutes. On the other days, say the week's words and verse aloud for five minutes and write two characters in the 田 grid.
2	• Session 1: Lesson 1.2 太初有道: Reading References and John 1:1: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 1.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (reference relay) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 1 review and unit challenge (a chinese bible timeline)
3	• Session 1: Lesson 2.1 静夜思: Li Bai's Quiet Night Thoughts: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (poem scroll) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
4	• Session 1: Lesson 2.2 春晓: Spring Dawn, Rhyme and Parallelism: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 2.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (parallel lines) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 2 review and unit challenge (poetry recital)
5	• Session 1: Lesson 3.1 因为, 所以, 虽然, 但是: Connecting Ideas: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (paragraph builder) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
6	• Session 1: Lesson 3.2 日记和信: Journals and Letters: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 3.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (write a real letter) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 3 review and unit challenge (a week of journals and a letter)
7	• Session 1: Lesson 4.1 书法: The Art of the Brush: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (brush practice) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet

WEEK	PLAN
8	• Session 1: Lesson 4.2 利玛窦和徐光启: A Map and a Friendship: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 4.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (bilingual map) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 4 review and unit challenge (a calligraphy gift)
9	• Session 1: Lesson 5.1 耶和华是我的牧者: Psalm 23:1–3: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.1 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (illustrated psalm) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet
10	• Session 1: Lesson 5.2 你与我同在: Psalm 23:4–6 and My Testimony: warm-up, core ideas, key terms and picture study • Session 2: Lesson 5.2 video, speaking practice, characters and activity (recital and testimony) • Session 3: Worked examples, practice, the game and the worksheet • End of unit: Unit 5 review and unit challenge (psalm 23 recital and testimony)

Materials

Chinese notebook (any notebook; graph paper is best)

One for the quarter: vocabulary, tone charts, characters in squares and copywork.

Index cards and a box, bag or ring to keep them

For the flashcard deck that grows every lesson.

Pencil, colored pencils and a fine-tip marker

For charts, characters and lettering.

Scissors, glue, tape and some poster board or taped printer paper

For the unit challenges.

Grading

Grades come mostly from the daily work: the recitations, the flashcard reviews, the notebook and the practice, because a language is learned by steady, honest

repetition. A student who speaks Chinese out loud faithfully, keeps a neat notebook and corrects his or her own practice earns full credit.

PART	%
Recitation and flashcards (daily speaking, vocabulary reviews, reading aloud)	**30**
Chinese notebook (dated pages, characters, copywork)	**25**
Practice (corrected with the answer key)	**15**
Unit reviews	**15**
Unit challenges	**15**

Scale: A 90–100, B 80–89, C 70–79, D 60–69. Below 60: repeat the speaking drills and practice with help.

- A written answer is right when the characters are right, or the pinyin is right with its tone marks. A missing tone mark costs half a point.
- Unit reviews may be done orally for a student who writes slowly; the parent writes down the answers.
- Pronunciation is graded on courage and consistency, not perfection. The tones get steadier with every week of practice.

A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to know Chinese to teach this course. Every Chinese word has its pinyin and meaning, every practice question has its answer in the key, and the videos do the explaining a specialist would. Learn alongside your child, quiz each other with the flashcards, and let your child catch your tones.

Please preview every video yourself before you show it to your child. The videos were chosen by title and channel from channels approved for School Launch and checked one by one, and YouTube may show its own suggestions when a video ends, so stay nearby and stop the player when the lesson's part is done.

Why Chinese? Because more people speak Mandarin than any other language on earth; because Chinese writing is one of the oldest still in use, a window onto three thousand years of history; and because there are tens of millions of Chinese Christians, many of whom have kept their faith through hard times, and a Chinese-speaking neighbor is never far away.

This is a course in the Chinese language and in the history and culture of the Chinese people, not in modern politics. Chinese festivals are taught as facts about Chinese life (what families do, eat and say), not as religious practice. Where a custom comes from Chinese folk religion, the lesson says so plainly, and it explains how Chinese Christians keep the day. The stories focus on courage, faith, family and good work, from the ancient scribes and painters to the missionaries who gave China the Bible.

UNIT 1

The Bible in Chinese: 圣经

Lesson 1.1 teaches the history of the Chinese Bible and Bible words, with the Nestorian Stele.

Lesson 1.2 teaches reading Bible references and the word 道 in John 1:1, with an engraving of Robert Morrison at work.

PREREQUISITES

- Grades 6–7.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell three milestones of the Bible in Chinese.
- ☐ I can read and say a Bible reference in Chinese.
- ☐ I can explain why 道 was chosen in John 1:1.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

1.1	**景教碑 to 和合本: How the Bible Came to China**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 1 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   What is the 和合本?

2. **4 pts**
   Who was Robert Morrison?

3. **4 pts**
   Say “Old Testament” and “New Testament.”

4. **4 pts**
   Read the reference 约翰福音三章十六节.

5. **4 pts**
   What does 道 mean in John 1:1, and what else can it mean?

ANSWER KEY

1. The Chinese Union Version, finished in 1919, the most widely used Chinese Protestant Bible.
2. The first Protestant missionary to China, who translated the whole Bible into Chinese (finished 1819).
3. 旧约, 新约.
4. John 3:16.
5. The Word; it can also mean way, path, or to speak.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A CHINESE BIBLE TIMELINE

Make a timeline from 781 to today: the Nestorian Stele, Matteo Ricci, Robert Morrison, the Union Version, and Chinese Christians reading the Bible today. Copy John 1:1 in Chinese in your best handwriting at the end. Present it.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student explains each milestone clearly.
Characters	Dates, names and John 1:1 are written neatly in characters.
Using it	Facts are accurate and in order.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 1 · THE BIBLE IN CHINESE: 圣经 · LESSON 1.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.1 景教碑 to 和合本: How the Bible Came to China

OBJECTIVES

- Tell three milestones: the stele (781), Morrison (1819), the Union Version (1919).
- Say 圣经, 旧约, 新约, 翻译, 传教士.
- Describe the Nestorian Stele.

> **Warm-up.** How many languages do you think the whole Bible has been translated into? Why does it matter that people can read it in their own language?

WATCH

Book Minute: The Nestorian Stele in China

Museum of the Bible · 1:07

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mTWJbtSaS6Y

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write down one date from each video.

Note: Museum of the Bible: Book Minute, the Nestorian Stele in China (official museum).

BACKUP VIDEO

Lonesome Curator Episode 35 - Bible Translations

Museum of the Bible · 4:08

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=scKc-MpncF4

Museum of the Bible: Lonesome Curator, Bible translations (official museum).

KEY TERMS

shèngjīng
圣 经 **Shèngjīng**

The Bible (holy scripture).

jiù yuē
旧约 **Jiùyuē**

Old Testament (old covenant).

xīnyuē
新约 **Xīnyuē**

New Testament (new covenant).

fān yì
翻译 **fānyì**

To translate; translation.

hé hé běn
和合本 **Héhéběn**

Chinese Union Version.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

圣经

Shèngjīng

shung-JING

noun · traditional 聖經

the Bible

旧约

Jiùyuē

jyoh-YWEH

noun · traditional 舊約

Old Testament

新约

Xīnyuē

shin-YWEH

noun · traditional 新約

New Testament

翻译

fānyì

fahn-YEE

verb · traditional 翻譯

to translate

碑

bēi

bay (high)

noun

stone tablet; stele

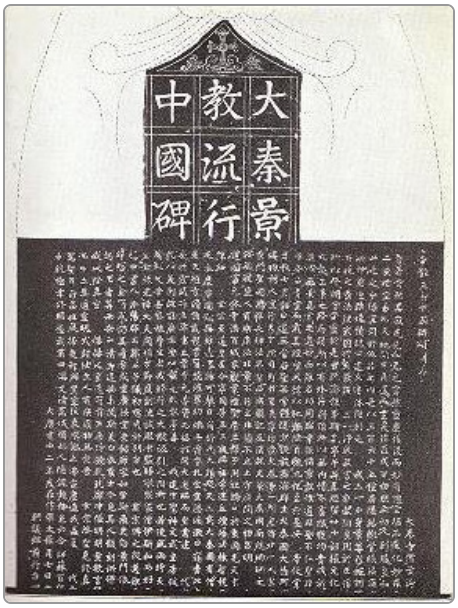
CORE IDEAS

The stele. In 781, Christians of the Church of the East in the Tang capital Chang'an set up a great stone tablet (碑) telling of the "Luminous Religion" (景教) that had come to China in 635. It was buried and rediscovered around 1625.

Morrison. Robert Morrison (马礼逊), the first Protestant missionary to China, arrived in 1807, when teaching Chinese to foreigners was forbidden. Working with Chinese helpers and William Milne, he finished translating the whole Bible in 1819; it was printed in 1823.

The Union Version. In 1890 missionaries agreed to make one shared Bible in Mandarin. Translators, Western and Chinese, worked for nearly thirty years, and the 和合本 (hé hé běn) appeared in 1919. It is still the Bible most Chinese Protestants read, and it is the Chinese text in this course.

PICTURE STUDY



The Nestorian Stele (drawing of the top and part of the text), Monk Jingjing (text); drawing published by Henri Havret, stele 781; drawing published 1895 · Drawing of a stone stele · from Henri Havret, La stèle chrétienne de Si-ngan-fou (1895)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

The stele is about 2.8 meters tall and is now kept in the Forest of Steles Museum in Xi'an. Its heading reads 大秦景教流行中国碑 (A memorial of the spread of the Luminous Religion of Da Qin in China). The text tells of creation, the birth of the Messiah and the coming of missionaries.

Look closely

- Find the cross at the top.
- Count the large characters in the box.
- Find 中 and 国 in the heading.
- How many columns of small writing can you count?

Talk about it

1. Why might Christians carve their story in stone?
2. What does it tell us that there were Christians in China 1,200 years ago?

ACTIVITY

Translation challenge

Try translating like Morrison.

You will need

- Paper, pencil, a Chinese-English dictionary or app

Steps

1. Choose a short verse in English, such as Psalm 119:105.
2. Try to write it in Chinese with words you know.
3. Compare your version with the Union Version on your worksheet.
4. Write three things you learned about how hard translation is.

Tips

- Do not worry about mistakes; that is the point.

Check your work

☐ I wrote my own translation.

☐ I compared it and listed three lessons.

> **From history.** Morrison also wrote a six-volume Chinese–English dictionary, which helped generations of students and translators.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What do 旧约 and 新约 mean word by word?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 旧 = old; 新 = new.
2. 约 = covenant, agreement.

Answer: Old covenant and new covenant: the Old and New Testaments.

Example 2. Say “I read the Bible every day.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Every day = 每天.
2. Read = 读 / 看.

Answer: 我每天读圣经.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 圣经?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The Bible.

2. Easy What is 翻译?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To translate; translation.

3. Medium When was the Union Version finished?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   1919.

4. Medium What year was the Nestorian Stele set up?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   781.

5. Hard Tell the history of the Chinese Bible in four sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 七八一年有景教碑. 马礼逊翻译了圣经. 和合本是一九一九年出版的. 很多中国基督徒读和合本.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking Christianity came to China only with modern missionaries. Christians were there in the Tang dynasty.
- Saying 新约 xīn yuè. 约 is yuē (high).

> **Make it a game · Bible word race.** Call out an English Bible word (Bible, Old Testament, translate, missionary); the first to say and write it in Chinese scores.

> **Scripture.** “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalm 119:105, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 你的话是我脚前的灯，是我路上的光。
> >
> > *Nǐ de huà shì wǒ jiǎo qián de dēng, shì wǒ lù shàng de guāng.*
>
> God’s word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, in every language.

UNIT 1 · THE BIBLE IN CHINESE: 圣经 · LESSON 1.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

1.2 太初有道: Reading References and John 1:1

OBJECTIVES

- Read and say Bible references: 约翰福音三章十六节.
- Name books: 创世记, 诗篇, 箴言, 马太福音, 约翰福音, 罗马书.
- Explain 道 in John 1:1.

> **Warm-up.** How do you find a verse in your Bible? What do the numbers in “John 3:16” mean?

WATCH

Martin Luther: Great Translators of the Bible

Museum of the Bible · 3:40

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5c2p5YqwNF4

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; then look up John 1:1 together.

Note: Museum of the Bible: Martin Luther, great translators of the Bible (official museum).

BACKUP VIDEO

Wycliffe Translators Origins

Museum of the Bible · 1:00

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZOgkwSQnJk

Museum of the Bible: the origins of Wycliffe Bible Translators (official museum).

KEY TERMS

zhāng
章 **zhāng**

Chapter.

jié
节 **jié**

Verse.

fú yīn
福音 **fúyīn**

Gospel (good news).

shīpiān
诗篇 **Shīpiān**

Psalms.

dào
道 **dào**

Way; word; the Word (John 1:1).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

章

zhāng

jahng (high)

noun

chapter

节

jié

jyeh (rising)

noun · traditional 節

verse

福音

fúyīn

foo-YIN

noun

gospel

诗篇

Shīpiān

shr-PYEN

name · traditional 詩篇

Psalms

道

dào

dow (falling)

noun

way; word

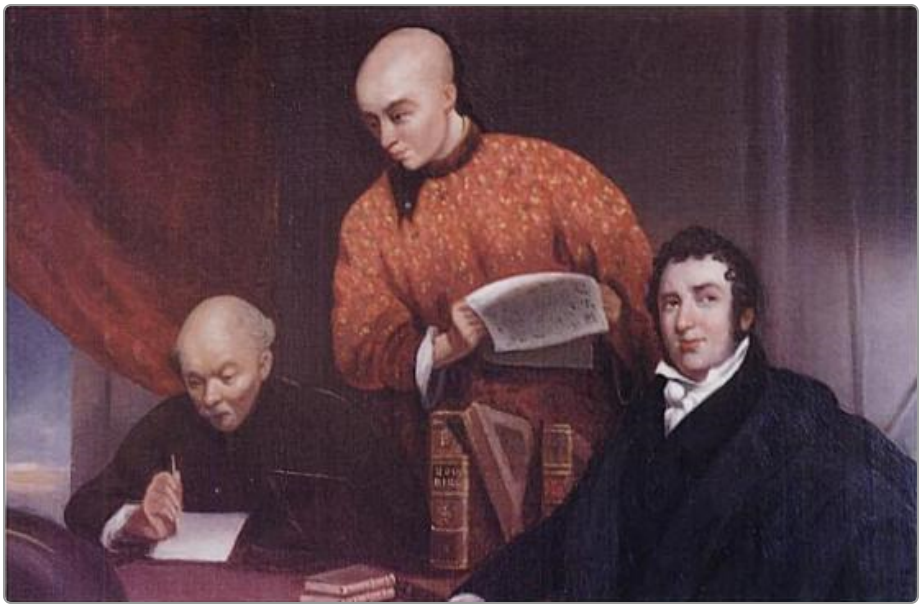
CORE IDEAS

The big idea. A reference is book + number + 章 (zhāng) + number + 节 (jié): 约翰福音三 章 十六 节 (yuēhàn fú yīn sān zhāng shí liù jié) (John 3:16). 诗篇二十三篇 (Psalm 23) uses 篇 for a psalm.

Books. 创世记 (Genesis), 诗篇 (Psalms), 箴言 (Proverbs), 以赛亚书 (Isaiah), 马太福音 (Matthew), 约翰福音 (John), 罗马书 (Romans). The Gospels are 福音书.

道. John 1:1 in Chinese: 太初有道 (tài chū yǒu dào), 道与神同在, 道就是神. 道 means way, word and also "to speak." Chinese thinkers had long used 道 for the deepest order behind everything. The translators chose it to say that Jesus, the Word, is the true Way, who was with God and is God.

PICTURE STUDY



Robert Morrison translating the Bible, Engraving after George Chinnery, painting about 1828 (later engraving) · Engraving · Wikimedia Commons (public domain)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

The original painting by George Chinnery was destroyed in a fire; only engravings like this survive. It shows Morrison with his Chinese helpers, Li Shigong and Chen Laoyi. Chinese scholars helped with every Chinese Bible translation.

Look closely

- Find Robert Morrison.
- Find the two Chinese helpers.
- What are they using to work?
- How are their clothes different?

Talk about it

1. Why did Morrison need Chinese helpers?
2. How long do you think it took to translate the whole Bible?

ACTIVITY

Reference relay

Practice finding and reading references.

You will need

- A Bible (English or Chinese), cards with Chinese references

Steps

1. Write ten Chinese references on cards: 诗篇二十三篇一节, 约翰福音三章十六节....
2. A partner draws a card and reads it aloud in Chinese.
3. You find the verse in your Bible and read it in English.
4. Switch roles and time yourselves.

Tips

- Learn the Chinese names of ten books first.

Check your work

☐ I read ten references in Chinese.

☐ I found every verse.

> **From history.** Because Chinese has no capital letters, the Union Version shows respect for God by leaving a blank space before 神 (and some editions print 上帝 instead of 神).

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Read 罗马书八章二十八节.

▼ **Show solution**

1. 罗马书 = Romans.
2. 八章 = chapter 8; 二十八节 = verse 28.

Answer: Romans 8:28.

Example 2. Say Psalm 119:105 as a reference.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Psalm = 诗篇; psalms use 篇.
2. 一百一十九篇一百零五节.

Answer: 诗篇一百一十九篇一百零五节.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 章?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Chapter.

2. Easy What is 节?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Verse.

3. Medium Name the four Gospels in Chinese.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   马太福音, 马可福音, 路加福音, 约翰福音.

4. Medium Read 创世记一章一节.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Genesis 1:1.

5. Hard Explain why 道 was a wise choice for John 1:1.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   道 means word and way; Chinese readers already used it for the deepest truth, and Jesus is the Word and the Way.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading 节 as “festival” here. In references it means verse.
- Using 章 for psalms. Psalms use 篇: 诗篇二十三篇.

> **Make it a game · Book order.** Shuffle cards with Chinese book names. Race to put them in Bible order.

> **Scripture.** “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” (John 1:1, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 太初有道，道与　神同在，道就是　神。
> >
> > *Tài chū yǒu dào, dào yǔ Shén tóng zài, dào jiù shì Shén.*
>
> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God: 太初有道.

UNIT 2

Tang Poems: 静夜思 and 春晓

Lesson 2.1 teaches 静夜思 line by line, with Liang Kai’s ink portrait of Li Bai.

Lesson 2.2 teaches 春晓, rhyme and parallelism, and compares Tang poems with the Psalms.

PREREQUISITES

- Units 1; seasons and weather from Grade 5.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can recite 静夜思 and 春晓 from memory.
- ☐ I can explain what each line means.
- ☐ I can point out rhyme and parallel lines.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

2.1	**静夜思: Li Bai’s Quiet Night Thoughts**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
2.2	**春晓: Spring Dawn, Rhyme and Parallelism**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 2 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Recite 静夜思.

2. **4 pts**
   Who wrote 静夜思, and in which dynasty?

3. **4 pts**
   What is the poet looking at, and what does he miss?

4. **4 pts**
   Recite the first line of 春晓.

5. **4 pts**
   Which two lines of 静夜思 are parallel?

ANSWER KEY

1. 床前明月光，疑是地上霜。举头望明月，低头思故乡。
2. Li Bai (李白), Tang dynasty.
3. The bright moon; his hometown.
4. 春眠不觉晓.
5. 举头望明月 and 低头思故乡 (raise head / lower head).

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: POETRY RECITAL

Memorize and recite both poems with expression. Then write your own four-line poem in Chinese (it need not rhyme perfectly) about the night sky or a spring morning, ending with a line of praise to God. Record it.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The recital is clear and expressive.
Characters	Both poems and your own poem are written neatly.
Using it	Your poem has four lines and a parallel pair.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 2 · TANG POEMS: 靜夜思 AND 春晓 · LESSON 2.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.1 靜夜思: Li Bai's Quiet Night Thoughts

OBJECTIVES

- Read and recite 靜夜思.
- Explain 床, 明月, 霜, 举头, 低头, 故乡.
- Notice the five-character line and the rhyme.

> **Warm-up.** Have you ever been far from home and looked at the moon? What did you feel?

WATCH

Learn Chinese Through Poems #2 - 悯农 mǐn nóng (Toiling Farmers) and 七步诗 qī bù shī (7 Steps Poem)

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 6:43

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DTtBElU61Q

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after you read 静夜思; listen for the rhythm of five-character lines.

Note: ChineseClass101: learn Chinese through poems #2, 悯农 (toiling farmers) and 七步诗.

BACKUP VIDEO

Yoyo Chinese Student Nwode Chinelo Reciting the Classic Chinese Poem 九月九日忆山东兄弟

Yoyo Chinese · 0:55

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVt6uPgXUw8

Yoyo Chinese: a student recites Wang Wei's Tang poem 九月九日忆山东兄弟 (single approved video); its lines have seven characters, not five.

KEY TERMS

shī
诗 **shī**

Poem, poetry.

míngyuè
明月 **míngyuè**

Bright moon.

shuāng
霜 **shuāng**

Frost.

jǔ tóu
举头 **jǔ tóu**

To raise the head.

gù xiāng
故乡 **gùxiāng**

Hometown.

lǐ bái
李白 **Lǐ Bái**

Li Bai, Tang poet (701–762).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

诗

shī

shr (high)

noun · traditional 詩

poem

明月

míngyuè

ming-YWEH

noun

bright moon

霜

shuāng

shwahng (high)

noun

frost

故乡

gùxiāng

goo-SHYAHNG

noun · traditional 故鄉

hometown

思

sī

sz (high)

verb

to think of; miss

CORE IDEAS

The poem. chuángqiánmíngyuèguāng yí shì dì shàngshuāng jǔ tóuwàngmíngyuè dī tóu sī gù xiāng
床 前 明月 光, 疑是地 上 霜. 举头 望 明月, 低头思故 乡. (Before my bed, bright moonlight; I wonder if it is frost on the ground. I raise my head and gaze at the bright moon; I lower my head and think of home.)

Form. Four lines of five characters. Lines 1, 2 and 4 rhyme: guāng, shuāng, xiāng. Lines 3 and 4 are parallel: 举头 / 低头 (raise / lower), 望明月 / 思故乡 (gaze at the moon / think of home).

The poet. lǐ bái
李白 wandered all over China and wrote about a thousand surviving poems. Here a homesick traveler sees moonlight on the floor. David also looked at the moon and stars and thought about God, who made them.

PICTURE STUDY



Li Bai Strolling, Liang Kai, 13th century · Hanging scroll, ink on paper · Tokyo National Museum

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Liang Kai was a Southern Song painter who left the court and became famous for "abbreviated" ink paintings, using as few strokes as possible. He painted Li Bai nearly five hundred years after the poet died, capturing his relaxed, dreamy spirit.

Look closely

- How many strokes do you think make up the robe?
- Which way is Li Bai looking?
- Why is the rest of the scroll empty?
- What might he be thinking about?

Talk about it

1. How can a few strokes say so much?
2. If you painted yourself thinking about home, what would you show?

ACTIVITY

Poem scroll

Make a hanging scroll of 静夜思.

You will need

- A long strip of paper, two dowels or straws, a brush or black marker

Steps

1. Write the poem from top to bottom, right to left, five characters per column.
2. Leave space at the top for a small moon drawing.
3. Sign your name and add a red “seal” with a stamp or marker.
4. Hang it and recite the poem to your family.

Tips

- Practice each character on scrap paper first.

Check your work

- ☐ My scroll has all twenty characters in the right order.
- ☐ I recited the poem from memory.

> **From history.** The Tang dynasty (618–907) is called the golden age of Chinese poetry; a collection made in the Qing dynasty, the Complete Tang Poems, holds nearly 50,000 poems by over 2,000 poets.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What does 疑是地上霜 mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 疑 = to suspect, wonder.
2. 地上霜 = frost on the ground.

Answer: I wonder if it is frost on the ground.

Example 2. Which words rhyme in 静夜思?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Look at the last character of each line.

Answer: 光 guāng, 霜 shuāng, 乡 xiāng.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 明月?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   The bright moon.

2. Easy Who wrote 静夜思?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Li Bai (李白).

3. Medium What is 故乡?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Hometown.

4. Medium How many characters are in each line?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Five.

5. Hard Explain the parallel lines and what feeling the poem shows.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   举头望明月 / 低头思故乡: raising the head to the moon, lowering it to think of home; the feeling is homesickness.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading 思 as sì. It is sī (high).
- Thinking 床 must mean “bed.” Scholars debate whether it meant a bed, a seat or the rail of a well; the meaning “before my bed” is the usual school reading.

> **Make it a game · Line puzzle.** Cut the poem into twenty character cards. Race to rebuild it in order while reciting.

> **Scripture.** “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;” (Psalm 8:3, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 我观看你指头所造的天，并你所陈设的月亮星宿
>
> *Wǒ guān kàn nǐ zhǐ tou suǒ zào de tiān, bìng nǐ suǒ chén shè de yuè liang xīng xiù*
>
> David considered the heavens, the work of God’s fingers, the moon and the stars He ordained.

UNIT 2 · TANG POEMS: 静夜思 AND 春晓 · LESSON 2.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

2.2 春晓: Spring Dawn, Rhyme and Parallelism

OBJECTIVES

- Read and recite 春晓.
- Explain 眠, 晓, 啼鸟, 风雨, 花落.
- Compare Chinese parallel lines with parallelism in the Psalms.

> **Warm-up.** What sounds do you hear when you wake up on a spring morning?

WATCH

Learn Chinese Through Poems #3 - A traveler's song 游子吟 & Farewells on Grassland 赋得古原草送别

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 6:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5yZpTyfLrTM

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after you read 春晓; listen for words about nature and seasons.

Note: ChineseClass101: learn Chinese through poems #3, 游子吟 (a traveler's song) and a farewell poem.

BACKUP VIDEO

Seasons Are Fun (四季真有趣) | Single Story | Early Learning 1 | Chinese | By Little Fox

Little Fox Chinese - Stories & Songs for Learners · 1:20

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EpyDp_v12H8

Little Fox Chinese: Seasons Are Fun (四季真有趣), simple spring and season words.

KEY TERMS

chūnxiǎo
春 晓 **chūn xiǎo**
Spring dawn.

mián
眠 **mián**
To sleep.

tí niǎo
啼鸟 **tí niǎo**
Singing birds.

fēng yǔ
风雨 **fēngyǔ**
Wind and rain.

huāluò
花落 **huā luò**
Flowers fall.

duìzhàng
对 仗 **duìzhàng**
Parallel lines (in poetry).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

春晓

chūn xiǎo

chwun SHYOW

noun · traditional 春曉

spring dawn

眠

mián

myen (rising)

verb

to sleep

鸟

niǎo

nyow (dipping)

noun · traditional 鳥

bird

风雨

fēngyǔ

fung-YÜ

noun · traditional 風雨

wind and rain

落

luò

lwoh (falling)

verb

to fall

CORE IDEAS

chūnmián bù jué xiǎo chùchùwén tí niǎo yè lái fēng yǔ shēng huā luò zhī duōshǎo

The poem. 春 眠 不觉晓, 处处闻啼鸟. 夜来风雨 声, 花落知多 少. (Sleeping in spring, I didn't notice the dawn; everywhere I hear birds singing. Last night came the sound of wind and rain; who knows how many flowers fell?) By Meng Haoran (孟浩然, 689–740).

Rhyme and parallelism. Lines 1, 2 and 4 rhyme: xiǎo, niǎo, shǎo. Chinese poets loved 对仗, pairs of lines that match word for word. Hebrew poetry in the Psalms also pairs lines, but it matches ideas: "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork."

Spring. The Song of Solomon also celebrates spring: flowers appear, birds sing, the voice of the turtledove is heard. Every spring morning is a gift from the Creator.

ACTIVITY

Parallel lines

Write your own parallel couplets.

You will need

- Paper, pencil

Steps

1. Study the pattern 举头望明月 / 低头思故乡.
2. Write two pairs of lines of five characters each that match: 早上看太阳 / 晚上看月亮.
3. Find two verses in Psalms with parallel ideas and copy them in English.
4. Read your couplets and the verses aloud.

Tips

- Match word types: verb with verb, noun with noun.

Check your work

☐ I wrote two parallel couplets.

☐ I found two parallel Psalm verses.

> **From history.** Tang poems were meant to be chanted aloud. In Tang times the words were pronounced differently, so some lines that rhymed then do not rhyme as well in modern Mandarin.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What does 处处闻啼鸟 mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 处处 = everywhere.
2. 闻 = hear; 啼鸟 = singing birds.

Answer: Everywhere I hear birds singing.

Example 2. Which words rhyme in 春晓?

▼ **Show solution**

1. Last characters of lines 1, 2, 4.

Answer: 晓 xiǎo, 鸟 niǎo, 少 shǎo.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 春晓?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Spring dawn.

2. Easy Who wrote 春晓?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Meng Haoran (孟浩然).

3. Medium What happened during the night in the poem?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wind and rain came; flowers fell.

4. Medium What is 对仗?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Parallel, matching lines in poetry.

5. Hard Compare Chinese and Hebrew parallelism.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Chinese 对仗 matches words and tones; Hebrew poetry pairs lines with matching or contrasting ideas.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading 少 here as shào. It is shǎo (few, how many).
- Reading 觉 as jiào. Here it is jué (to notice).

> **Make it a game · Poem relay.** Two players take turns saying one line of a poem; the other must say the next line. Mix both poems for a challenge.

Scripture. “The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle is heard in our land;” (Song of Solomon 2:12, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 地上百花开放，百鸟鸣叫的时候已经来到；斑鸠的声音在我们境内也听见了。

Dì shàng bǎi huā kāi fàng, bǎi niǎo míng jiào de shí hou yǐ jīng lái dào; bān jiū de shēng yīn zài wǒ men jìng nèi yě tīng jiàn le.

Flowers appear on the earth, the time of the singing of birds is come.

UNIT 3

Writing Paragraphs: 因为...所以

Lesson 3.1 teaches six pairs of connecting words and how to build a paragraph with a beginning, middle and end.

Lesson 3.2 teaches the format of a Chinese journal entry and a friendly letter, with Paul’s letters as a model of thankfulness.

PREREQUISITES

- Grades 6–7 grammar (了, 过, 比).

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can use five pairs of connecting words.
- ☐ I can write a paragraph of six sentences in order.
- ☐ I can write a journal entry and a letter in the right format.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

3.1	**因为, 所以, 虽然, 但是: Connecting Ideas**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
3.2	**日记和信: Journals and Letters**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 3 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Join with 因为…所以: It rained. We stayed home.

2. **4 pts**
   Join with 虽然…但是: Chinese is hard. I like it.

3. **4 pts**
   Put in order with 先, 然后, 最后: eat, pray, wash dishes.

4. **4 pts**
   How does a Chinese letter begin and end?

5. **4 pts**
   Write the date as it appears on a diary entry: October 18, 2026, Sunday.

ANSWER KEY

1. 因为下雨了, 所以我们在家.
2. 虽然中文很难, 但是我很喜欢.
3. 我们先祷告, 然后吃饭, 最后洗碗.
4. It begins with 亲爱的… (Dear …) and ends with a wish such as 祝你平安 and the writer's name and date.
5. 二〇二六年十月十八日 星期日 (or 2026年10月18日).

> Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A WEEK OF JOURNALS AND A LETTER

Keep a Chinese journal for five days (four to six sentences a day, using connecting words). Then write a letter to a real or pen-pal friend about your week. Read one entry and the letter aloud.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student reads clearly with good phrasing.
Characters	Entries and the letter are written neatly in correct format.
Using it	Connecting words are used correctly and varied.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 3 · WRITING PARAGRAPHS: 因为…所以 · LESSON 3.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.1 因为, 所以, 虽然, 但是: Connecting Ideas

OBJECTIVES

- Use 因为…所以 and 虽然…但是.
- Order events with 先…然后…最后.
- Add ideas with 不但…而且 and 除了…以外.

> **Warm-up.** Tell what you did yesterday in one long sentence using “because,” “although,” “first,” “then” and “finally.”

WATCH

How to use 除了...之外 (chú le...zhī wài) to say "besides" in Chinese | Learn Chinese Grammar

Yoyo Chinese · 4:59

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPWDZVP9Fw8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; write one sentence with each pattern.

Note: Yoyo Chinese: how to use 除了…之外 to say “besides” (single approved video).

BACKUP VIDEO

The Easiest Way to Start Writing in Chinese

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 6:45

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WMpyt4uBX8w

ChineseClass101: the easiest way to start writing in Chinese.

KEY TERMS

yīn wèi
因为 **yīnwèi**
Because.

suǒ yǐ
所以 **suǒyǐ**
So, therefore.

suī rán
虽然 **suīrán**
Although.

dàn shì
但是 **dànshì**
But.

bú dàn
不但 **búdàn**
Not only.

ér qiě
而且 **érqiě**
But also; moreover.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

因为

yīnwèi

yin-WAY

conjunction · traditional 因爲

because

所以

suǒyǐ

swoh-YEE

conjunction

so; therefore

虽然

suīrán

sway-RAHN

conjunction · traditional 雖然

although

但是

dànshì

dahn-SHR

conjunction

but

然后

ránhòu

rahn-HOH

conjunction · traditional 然後

then; afterward

而且

érqiě

er-CHYEH

conjunction

moreover

CORE IDEAS

The big idea. Chinese often uses connecting words in pairs: 因为 (yīn wèi)…所以 (suǒ yǐ)… (because … so …): 因为我很累, 所以我早点睡觉. 虽然 (suī rán)…但是 (dàn shì)… (although … but …): 虽然很冷, 但是我们去教会了.

Order. 先…然后…最后… (first … then … finally): 我先读圣经, 然后吃早饭, 最后上学. Adding: 不但…而且… (not only … but also …): 他不但会说中文, 而且会写汉字. 除了…以外 (besides): 除了中文以外, 我也学西班牙语.

A paragraph. Start with a topic sentence, give three or four details joined by connecting words, and finish with a closing sentence. John 3:16 is a perfect "because-so" sentence about God's love: 神爱世人， 甚至将他的独生子赐给他们….

ACTIVITY

Paragraph builder

Build a paragraph from sentence strips.

You will need

- Paper strips, a pencil, tape

Steps

1. Choose a topic: 我的周末, 我的家, or 我最喜欢的节日.
2. Write a topic sentence, four detail sentences and a closing sentence on strips.
3. Add connecting words to join them: 因为, 所以, 先, 然后, 最后, 虽然, 但是.
4. Tape them in order on a sheet and read the paragraph aloud.

Tips

- Use at least four different connecting words.

Check your work

- ☐ My paragraph has six sentences in order.
- ☐ I used four connecting words.

> **From history.** Classical Chinese essays followed strict patterns; in the imperial exams the famous “eight-legged essay” (八股文) had eight required parts.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Join: I was sick. I didn’t go to school.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Because … so ….

Answer: 因为我生病了, 所以我没去上学.

Example 2. Say “Not only is he tall, he also runs fast.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. 不但...而且....

Answer: 他不但很高, 而且跑得很快.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What does 因为 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Because.

2. Easy What does 但是 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   But.

3. Medium Join with 虽然...但是: It is expensive. I want to buy it.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   虽然很贵, 但是我想买.

4. Medium Order three things you do in the morning with 先, 然后, 最后.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 我先起床, 然后刷牙, 最后吃早饭.

5. Hard Write a six-sentence paragraph about your favorite place.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 我最喜欢的地方是公园. 因为公园很大, 所以我常常去. 我先跑步, 然后看书. 虽然冬天很冷, 但是我也去. 公园不但漂亮, 而且很安静. 我很喜欢那里.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Dropping 所以 or 但是 because English drops “so” and “but” in these patterns. Chinese usually keeps both halves.
- Putting 因为 after the result like English (“I slept because...”). Chinese usually puts the reason first.

Make it a game · Connector chain. One player starts a sentence with a connecting word (虽然…); the other must finish it correctly. Swap.

Scripture. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 神爱世人，甚至将他的独生子赐给他们，叫一切信他的，不至灭亡，反得永生。

Shén ài shì rén, shèn zhì jiāng tā de dú shēng zǐ cì gěi tā men, jiào yí qiè xìn tā de, bú zhì miè wáng, fǎn dé yǒng shēng.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son: the most important "because" in the world.

UNIT 3 · WRITING PARAGRAPHS: 因为…所以 · LESSON 3.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

3.2 日记和信: Journals and Letters

OBJECTIVES

- Write a journal entry with the date, weekday and weather.
- Write a friendly letter with 亲爱的…, 祝你…, and the date.
- Thank someone in writing as Paul did.

Warm-up. Do you keep a journal or have you ever written a real letter? Who would you most like to get a letter from?

WATCH

Writing a Journal in Chinese - Chinese Conversational Phrases

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 8:05

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QfswfNW4ulo

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the core ideas; note the phrases you can use in your own journal.

Note: ChineseClass101: writing a journal in Chinese, useful phrases.

BACKUP VIDEO

Chinese Listening Practice - Reading a Chinese Journal

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 1:27

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnbwC17O4TI

ChineseClass101: listening practice, reading a Chinese journal.

KEY TERMS

rì jì
日记 **rìjì**

Diary, journal.

xìn
信 **xìn**

Letter.

qīn ài de
亲爱的 **qīn'ài de**

Dear ...

zhù
祝 **zhù**

To wish (well).

xiǎngniàn
想 念 **xiǎngniàn**

To miss (someone).

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

日记

rìjì

rr-JEE

noun · traditional 日記

diary

信

xìn

shin (falling)

noun

letter

亲爱的

qīn'ài de

chin-AI duh

phrase · traditional 親愛的

dear ...

祝

zhù

joo (falling)

verb

to wish (well)

想念

xiǎngniàn

shyahng-NYEN

verb

to miss

CORE IDEAS

A journal. A 日记 (rì jì) begins with the date, weekday and weather in the top line: 2026年10月18日 星期日 晴. Then write what happened, how you felt, and why: 今天我们去教会了. 因为天气很好, 所以下午我们去公园散步. 我很高兴.

A letter. Begin with 亲爱的 (qīn ài de) + name + colon. Greet: 你好! 好久不见 (long time no see).

Write your news. Close with a wish: 祝你平安 (zhù nǐ píngān) (wishing you peace) or 祝你身体健康.

Sign your name, then the date on the next line.

Letters in the Bible. Much of the New Testament is letters. Paul often began by thanking God for his readers: 我每逢想念你们，就感谢我的神 (I thank my God upon every remembrance of you).

ACTIVITY

Write a real letter

Write and mail a letter in Chinese.

You will need

- Nice paper, an envelope, a stamp

Steps

1. Choose someone: a grandparent, a pastor, a missionary or a pen pal.
2. Write the letter with the Chinese opening, three paragraphs of news, a thank-you, and a closing wish.
3. Add an English translation on a second page if the reader does not know Chinese.
4. Mail it with a parent's help.

Tips

- Check the format: greeting, body, wish, name, date.

Check your work

☐ My letter has the right format.

☐ I mailed or delivered it.

> **From history.** Families in old China treasured letters, called 家书 (family letters). A Tang poem by Du Fu says a letter from home is worth ten thousand pieces of gold: 家书抵万金.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Write a diary heading for today.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Date + weekday + weather.

Answer: For example: 2026年10月18日 星期日 晴.

Example 2. How do you close a letter to a friend?

▼ **Show solution**

1. A wish + your name.

Answer: 祝你平安! (your name)

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 日记?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A diary or journal.

2. Easy What is 信?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A letter.

3. Medium Write the opening of a letter to your grandmother.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   亲爱的奶奶: 你好!

4. Medium Say “I miss you very much.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   我很想念你.

5. Hard Write a four-sentence journal entry about today.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 今天是星期日, 天气很好. 我们先去教会, 然后去奶奶家. 虽然路很远, 但是我很高兴. 晚上我写了日记.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Writing the date English-style (month, day, year). Chinese goes big to small: year, month, day.
- Ending a letter with “Sincerely.” Chinese ends with a wish like 祝你平安 or 祝好.

> **Make it a game · Mixed-up letter.** Cut a sample letter into parts (greeting, body, wish, name, date). Race to put it in the right order.

> **Scripture.** "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you," (Philippians 1:3, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 我每逢想念你们，就感谢我的　神；
>
> *Wǒ měi féng xiǎng niàn nǐ men, jiù gǎn xiè wǒ de Shén;*
>
> Paul thanked God every time he remembered his friends: a good way to begin any letter.

UNIT 4

Brush and Map: 书法 and Ricci and Xu Guangqi

Lesson 4.1 teaches calligraphy terms, the eight strokes of 永 and good posture, with a leaf of Wen Zhengming's calligraphy from the Met.

Lesson 4.2 tells the story of Ricci and Xu Guangqi, with Ricci's world map.

PREREQUISITES

- Grades 5–6 (radicals, scripts).

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can name the four treasures and the eight strokes of 永.
- ☐ I can write five characters with a brush (or brush pen).
- ☐ I can tell the story of Ricci and Xu Guangqi in Chinese.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

4.1	**书法: The Art of the Brush**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
4.2	**利玛窦和徐光启: A Map and a Friendship**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 4 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   What are the four treasures of the study?

2. **4 pts**
   Why do calligraphy students practice 永?

3. **4 pts**
   What is 书法?

4. **4 pts**
   Who were 利玛窦 and 徐光启?

5. **4 pts**
   What did Ricci's 1602 map show?

ANSWER KEY

1. 笔 (brush), 墨 (ink), 纸 (paper), 砚 (inkstone).
2. It contains the eight basic strokes.
3. Calligraphy, the art of writing characters beautifully.
4. Matteo Ricci, an Italian Jesuit missionary, and Xu Guangqi, a Ming scholar-official and Christian; they translated Euclid's geometry together.
5. The whole world, with continents and oceans, labeled in Chinese.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: A CALLIGRAPHY GIFT

Write a short verse or the character 爱 or 福音 with a brush on good paper, mount it, and give it to someone with a card explaining what it says and how you made it. Include a photo of your practice sheets.

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The student explains the piece and its meaning clearly.
Characters	Strokes are in the right order with steady pressure.
Using it	The piece shows care, practice and good layout.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 4 · BRUSH AND MAP: 书法 AND RICCI AND XU GUANGQI · LESSON 4.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.1 书法: The Art of the Brush

OBJECTIVES

- Name 笔, 墨, 纸, 砚 and 书法.
- Write the eight strokes of 永.
- Hold a brush correctly and write five characters.

> **Warm-up.** Write your name in your best handwriting and in your worst. What makes handwriting beautiful?

WATCH

Celebrate the Year of the Horse with Chinese Calligraphy

The Met · 2:57

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dU_wfQFstPU

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> before you pick up the brush; watch how the brush presses and lifts.

Note: The Met: a Chinese calligraphy demonstration (official museum; it is framed around the zodiac year, and we use it only to watch the brush at work).

BACKUP VIDEO

The Story of "Man": Part 1 | Yoyo Chinese Character Course II: Unit 1, Lesson 1

Yoyo Chinese · 4:22

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HN-NJfMGH8Y

Yoyo Chinese: the story of the character 人, part 1 (single approved video).

KEY TERMS

shū fǎ
书法 **shūfǎ**

Calligraphy.

máo bǐ
毛笔 **máobǐ**

Brush (hair pen).

mò
墨 **mò**

Ink.

yàn
砚 **yàn**

Inkstone.

yǒng
永 **yǒng**

Eternal (it has all eight basic strokes).

bǐ huà
笔画 **bǐhuà**

Stroke.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

书法

shūfǎ

shoo-FAH

noun · traditional 書法

calligraphy

毛笔

máobǐ

mao-BEE

noun · traditional 毛筆

writing brush

墨

mò

mwoh (falling)

noun

ink

砚

yàn

yen (falling)

noun · traditional 硯

inkstone

永

yǒng

yong (dipping)

adjective

eternal

笔画

bǐhuà

bee-HWAH

noun · traditional 筆畫

stroke

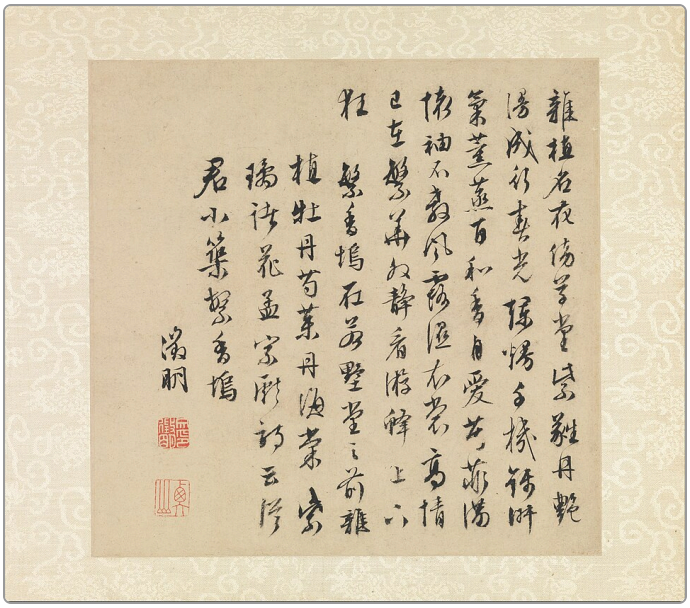
CORE IDEAS

The big idea. 书法 (shū fǎ) (the way of writing) has been honored in China as highly as painting. Its tools are the four treasures of the study: 笔 (brush), 墨 (ink), 纸 (paper) and 砚 (inkstone).

The eight strokes. Students practice 永 (yǒng) (eternal) because it contains the eight basic strokes: dot, horizontal, vertical, hook, rising, left-falling (short and long) and right-falling. Sit straight, hold the brush upright, and press and lift for thick and thin lines.

Masters. Wang Xizhi (4th century) is called the Sage of Calligraphy. Wen Zhengming (1470–1559), a Ming scholar, wrote poems in elegant small script beside his own garden paintings. Moses was told to write God's words on the doorposts; Chinese homes hang calligraphy by the door too.

PICTURE STUDY



Poem from the album Garden of the Inept Administrator, Wen Zhengming, 1551 · Album leaf, ink on paper · The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Wen Zhengming painted views of a famous garden in Suzhou and wrote a poem about each view on the facing page. His small regular script is admired for being calm, even and balanced, like a well-kept garden.

Look closely

- How many columns of characters can you count?
- Which way do you read them?
- Find the red seals.
- Can you find a character you know, like 人, 山 or 水?

Talk about it

1. Why might people hang beautiful writing on their walls?
2. What verse would you like to write beautifully?

ACTIVITY

Brush practice

Practice with a brush or brush pen.

You will need

- A Chinese brush and ink (or a brush pen)
- Newspaper or practice paper with 田字格 grids

Steps

1. Sit straight and hold the brush upright with the fingertips.
2. Practice each of the eight strokes ten times.
3. Write 永 five times, then 人, 大, 天, 爱.
4. Choose your best of each and mount it on colored paper.

Tips

- Put newspaper under your work; ink stains!

Check your work

☐ I practiced all eight strokes.

☐ I mounted my best five characters.

> **From history.** Wang Xizhi's Preface to the Orchid Pavilion (353) is the most famous work of calligraphy in China; the original is lost, and only copies survive.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Why practice 永?

▼ **Show solution**

1. It contains all the basic strokes.

Answer: Because 永 has the eight basic strokes.

Example 2. Name the four treasures of the study.

▼ **Show solution**

1. Brush, ink, paper, inkstone.

Answer: 笔, 墨, 纸, 砚.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 毛笔?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A writing brush.

2. Easy What does 永 mean?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Eternal, forever.

3. Medium Who is called the Sage of Calligraphy?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Wang Xizhi (王羲之).

4. Medium Say “I like calligraphy.”

   ▼ **Show answer**

   我喜欢书法.

5. Hard Describe how to write a good stroke with a brush.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sit straight, hold the brush upright, press down to thicken and lift to thin, and move steadily in the right direction and order.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Holding a brush like a pencil. Hold it upright with the fingertips.
- Going back over a stroke. In calligraphy each stroke is made once.

> **Make it a game · Stroke order race.** Call out a character; both players “write” it in the air while counting strokes in Chinese. Correct count wins.

> **Scripture.** “And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.” (Deuteronomy 6:9, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 又要写在你房屋的门框上，并你的城门上。
> >
> > *Yòu yào xiě zài nǐ fáng wū de mén kuāng shàng, bìng nǐ de chéng mén shàng.*
>
> God told Israel to write His words on the posts of their houses and on their gates.

UNIT 4 · BRUSH AND MAP: 书法 AND RICCI AND XU GUANGQI · LESSON 4.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

4.2 利玛窦和徐光启: A Map and a Friendship

OBJECTIVES

- Tell the story of Ricci and Xu Guangqi with years and 了.
- Say 地图, 世界, 几何, 朋友, 科学.
- Describe Ricci’s world map.

> **Warm-up.** Imagine seeing a map of the whole world for the first time. What would surprise you?

WATCH

The Astor Chinese Garden Court | In Focus

The Met · 4:17

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vVwGGTxfbus

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> after the story; picture Ricci and Xu talking in a scholar's garden.

Note: The Met: the Astor Chinese Garden Court, a Ming scholar's garden like those of Ricci's friends (official museum).

BACKUP VIDEO

Gardens in Chinese Art

Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art · 3:12

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZV8C7XT4nQ

Smithsonian National Museum of Asian Art: gardens in Chinese art (official museum).

KEY TERMS

lì mǎdòu
利玛窦 **Lì Mǎdòu**

Matteo Ricci (1552–1610).

xú guāng qǐ
徐 光 启 **Xú Guāngqǐ**

Xu Guangqi (1562–1633).

dì tú
地图 **dìtú**

Map.

jǐ hé
几何 **jǐhé**

Geometry.

kē xué
科学 **kēxué**

Science.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

地图

dìtú

dee-TOO

noun · traditional 地圖

map

几何

jǐhé

jee-HUH

noun · traditional 幾何

geometry

科学

kēxué

kuh-SHWEH

noun · traditional 科學

science

朋友

péngyou

PUNG-yoh

noun

friend

世界

shìjiè

shr-JYEH

noun

world

CORE IDEAS

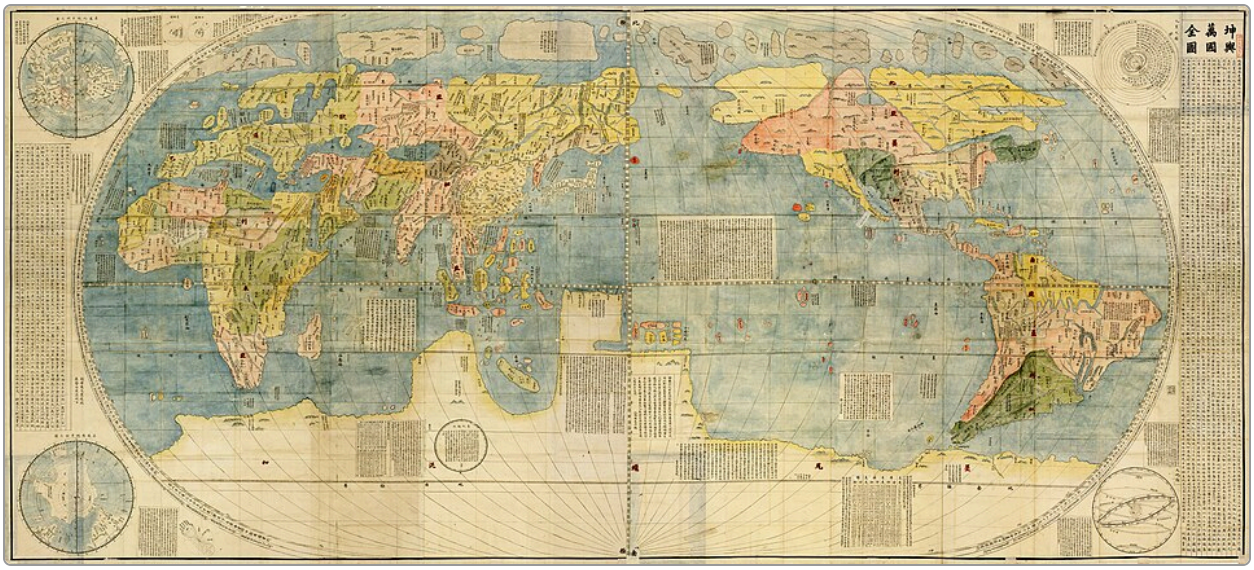
The story. 利玛窦 (lì mǎdòu), an Italian Jesuit, came to China in 1582. He learned Chinese, dressed as a scholar, and studied the classics. In 1601 he became the first European allowed to live in Beijing. His Chinese friend 徐光启 (xú guāng qǐ), a high official, was baptized in 1603 and took the name Paul.

Working together. 他们一起翻译了几何 (they translated Euclid's Elements of geometry together, 1607). The word 几何 they used for geometry is still used today. Xu also wrote on farming, astronomy and the calendar, and helped Christians in Shanghai; his family land became the district Xujiahui (徐家汇).

The map. In 1602 Ricci and his helpers printed a huge world map, the 坤輿万国全图, labeled in Chinese, which showed China the continents and oceans. Ricci placed

China near the center to respect his readers. God made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on the face of the earth.

PICTURE STUDY



Map of the Myriad Countries of the World (坤舆万国全图), Matteo Ricci with Li Zhizao and Chinese helpers, 1602 · Woodblock print on paper, six panels · a 1602 copy (Wikimedia Commons)
Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Ricci's map was the first map in Chinese to show the Americas. It is covered with notes in Chinese about countries, peoples and the shape of the earth. Copies were made for the emperor, and only a handful of original prints survive.

Look closely

- Find China. Where did Ricci put it?
- Find the Americas.
- Find the round diagrams in the corners.
- Why are there so many notes?

Talk about it

1. How might this map have changed how Chinese scholars saw the world?
2. Why would Ricci put China in the middle?

ACTIVITY

Bilingual map

Make a world map labeled in Chinese.

You will need

- A blank world map, colored pencils

Steps

1. Label the seven continents in Chinese (亚洲, 欧洲, 非洲, 北美洲, 南美洲, 大洋洲, 南极洲).
2. Label China, America and three other countries.
3. Draw Ricci's route from Italy to Beijing.
4. Write three 了 sentences about his journey on the back.

Tips

- Ask a parent to help check the Chinese continent names.

Check your work

☐ My map has seven continents in Chinese.

☐ I wrote three sentences about Ricci.

> **From history.** Ricci was the first Westerner buried in Beijing, by special permission of the emperor in 1611. His tomb can still be visited.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. Say "They translated a geometry book together."

▼ **Show solution**

1. Together = 一起; translated = 翻译了.
2. A geometry book = 一本几何书.

Answer: 他们一起翻译了一本几何书.

Example 2. What does 地图 mean word by word?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 地 = earth, land.
2. 图 = picture, chart.

Answer: Earth-picture: map.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 地图?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Map.

2. Easy What is 几何?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Geometry.

3. Medium When did Ricci come to China?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   1582.

4. Medium What was Xu Guangqi's Christian name?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Paul (保禄).

5. Hard Tell the story of Ricci and Xu in four Chinese sentences.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   For example: 利玛窦是意大利人. 他一五八二年来了中国. 他和徐光启是好朋友. 他们一起翻译了几何.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Thinking Ricci brought only religion. He also shared mathematics, astronomy and maps, and learned deeply from Chinese culture.
- Reading 几何 as jī hé. It is jǐhé.

> **Make it a game · Continent quiz.** Point to a continent on a map; the other player names it in Chinese. Switch.

> **Scripture.** "And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;" (Acts 17:26, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 他从一本造出万族的人，住在全地上
>
> *Tā cóng yì běn zào chū wàn zú de rén, zhù zài quán dì shàng*
>
> God made of one blood all nations of men to dwell on all the face of the earth.

UNIT 5

Capstone: 诗篇二十三篇, Psalm 23

Lesson 5.1 teaches Psalm 23:1–3 word by word, with Plockhorst's painting of the Good Shepherd.

Lesson 5.2 teaches Psalm 23:4–6, recitation, and sharing a short testimony in Chinese.

PREREQUISITES

- Grade 8 Units 1–4.

MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can recite Psalm 23 in Chinese.
- ☐ I can explain ten words from the psalm.
- ☐ I can say in Chinese what the psalm means to me.

LESSONS IN THIS UNIT

5.1	**耶和华是我的牧者: Psalm 23:1–3**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes
5.2	**你与我同在: Psalm 23:4–6 and My Testimony**	3 sessions of 30–40 minutes

Unit 5 review

The student answers aloud or in writing. The test is worth 20 points.

1. **4 pts**
   Recite Psalm 23:1 in Chinese.

2. **4 pts**
   What do 牧者 and 缺乏 mean?

3. **4 pts**
   What are 青草地 and 水边?

4. **4 pts**
   What is 死荫的幽谷?

5. **4 pts**
   Say one sentence about what Psalm 23 means to you.

ANSWER KEY

1. 耶和华是我的牧者，我必不至缺乏。
2. Shepherd; to lack, be in want.
3. Green pastures (grass fields); beside the waters.
4. The valley of the shadow of death.
5. For example: 耶和华是我的牧者, 所以我不怕.

Printable answer key (PDF, for the parent)

UNIT CHALLENGE: PSALM 23 RECITAL AND TESTIMONY

Recite all of Psalm 23 in Chinese from memory, then give a one-minute talk in Chinese about what it means to you, using at least three connecting words. Record both and write the psalm out by hand (or with a brush).

LOOK FOR	WHAT IT MEANS
Speaking	The recital is clear, accurate and reverent.
Characters	The handwritten psalm is complete and neat.
Using it	The talk uses three connecting words and simple, correct Chinese.
Care	Tones are said and marked carefully.

UNIT 5 · CAPSTONE: 诗篇二十三篇, PSALM 23 · LESSON 5.1 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.1 耶和华是我的牧者: Psalm 23:1–3

OBJECTIVES

- Read Psalm 23:1–3 in Chinese.
- Learn 牧者, 缺乏, 躺卧, 青草地, 安歇, 水边, 灵魂, 苏醒, 义路.
- Describe a painting of the Good Shepherd.

> **Warm-up.** What does a shepherd do all day? Make a list of everything a sheep needs.

WATCH

Learn Chinese with Video - Farm Animals

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:23

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mS0jcWblPFk

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> before the psalm; find the word for sheep (羊) and say it.

Note: ChineseClass101: learn Chinese with video, farm animals.

BACKUP VIDEO

Learn Chinese With Pictures - Farm Animals

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 2:41

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvEKNZF8ypQ

ChineseClass101: learn Chinese with pictures, farm animals.

KEY TERMS

mùzhě
牧者 **mùzhě**

Shepherd.

quē fá
缺乏 **quēfá**

To lack, be in want.

qīngcǎo dì
青草地 **qīngcǎodì**

Green pasture.

ānxiē
安歇 **ānxiē**

To rest.

línghún
灵魂 **línghún**

Soul.

yì lù
义路 **yì lù**

Paths of righteousness.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

牧者

mùzhě

moo-JUH

noun

shepherd

缺乏

quēfá

chweh-FAH

verb

to lack

青草地

qīngcǎodì

ching-tsao-DEE

noun

green pasture

安歇

ānxiē

ahn-SHYEH

verb

to rest

灵魂

línghún

ling-HWUN

noun · traditional 靈魂

soul

羊

yáng

yahng (rising)

noun

sheep

CORE IDEAS

yē hé huá shì wǒ de mù zhě　wǒ bì bú zhì quē fá

Verse 1. 耶和华是我的牧者, 我必不至缺乏. (The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.) 必 = surely; 不至 = will not come to.

Verse 2. 他使我躺卧在青草地上, 领我在可安歇的水边. (He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters.) 使 = to make (someone do); 领 = to lead.

Verse 3. 他使我的灵魂苏醒, 为自己的名引导我走义路. (He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.) Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd."

PICTURE STUDY



The Good Shepherd, Bernhard Plockhorst, late 19th century · Oil on canvas (reproduction) · Wikimedia Commons (public domain)

Image: Wikimedia Commons, public domain

Bernhard Plockhorst was a German painter whose pictures of Jesus were printed in Bibles and Sunday-school books around the world. This one shows Jesus as the Good Shepherd who carries the weak lamb and leads the flock.

Look closely

- Find the lamb in his arms.
- Find the staff (杖).
- How many sheep can you count?
- What time of day is it?

Talk about it

1. Why would the shepherd carry one lamb?
2. How is Jesus like a shepherd for you?

ACTIVITY

Illustrated psalm

Make an illustrated page for Psalm 23:1–3.

You will need

- Good paper, pencils, watercolors

Steps

1. Copy verses 1–3 in Chinese in your best handwriting.
2. Draw a picture for each verse: the shepherd, green pastures and still water, a path.
3. Label five words from the psalm in your picture.
4. Read the verses aloud to your family.

Tips

- Leave room around the text for the pictures.

Check your work

- ☐ My page has three verses and three pictures.
- ☐ I labeled five words.

> **From history.** Psalm 23 is one of the best-loved passages among Chinese Christians, often sung to hymn tunes and written in calligraphy for homes and churches.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What does 我必不至缺乏 mean word by word?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 必 = surely; 不至 = will not come to.
2. 缺乏 = lack, want.

Answer: I surely will not come to lack: I shall not want.

Example 2. What does 使 do in 他使我躺卧?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 使 = cause, make.

Answer: It means “He makes me” (lie down).

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 牧者?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Shepherd.

2. Easy What is 羊?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Sheep.

3. Medium What is 青草地?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Green pasture.

4. Medium What is 灵魂?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Soul.

5. Hard Recite verses 1–2 and explain each phrase.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   耶和华是我的牧者 (the LORD is my shepherd), 我必不至缺乏 (I shall not want); 他使我躺卧在青草地上 (He makes me lie down in green pastures), 领我在可安歇的水边 (He leads me beside the still waters).

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading 不至 as bù zhì. Before a fourth tone 不 is bú: bú zhì.
- Mixing 领 (lead, lǐng) and 岭 (mountain ridge, lǐng).

> **Make it a game · Psalm puzzle.** Cut verses 1–3 into phrases. Race to put them in order while reading aloud.

> **Scripture.** "A Psalm of David. The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want." (Psalm 23:1, KJV)
>
> Chinese Union Version (和合本):
>
> > 耶和华是我的牧者，我必不至缺乏。
>
> *Yēhéhuá shì wǒ de mù zhě, wǒ bì bú zhì quē fá.*
>
> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

UNIT 5 · CAPSTONE: 诗篇二十三篇, PSALM 23 · LESSON 5.2 OF 10 · 3 SESSIONS OF 30–40 MINUTES

5.2 你与我同在: Psalm 23:4–6 and My Testimony

OBJECTIVES

- Read and recite Psalm 23:4–6.
- Learn 死荫, 幽谷, 遭害, 杖, 竿, 安慰, 恩惠, 慈爱, 殿.
- Give a short testimony in Chinese.

> **Warm-up.** When have you been afraid? What helped you? Who was with you?

WATCH

Yoyo Chinese Student Nwode Chinelo Reciting the Classic Chinese Poem 九月九日忆山东兄弟

Yoyo Chinese · 0:55

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVt6uPgXUw8

> **WHEN TO WATCH**
> before you memorize; use the tips to learn the psalm.

Note: Yoyo Chinese: a student recites a classic Chinese poem (single approved video), a model for reciting with good rhythm.

BACKUP VIDEO

How to write 1,000 Chinese Words in a 5 Minutes a Day

Learn Chinese with ChineseClass101.com · 6:11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xTWQuC4fvEM

ChineseClass101: how to learn Chinese words by writing them five minutes a day.

KEY TERMS

yōu gǔ
幽谷 **yōugǔ**

Deep, dark valley.

ān wèi
安慰 **ānwèi**

To comfort.

ēn huì
恩惠 **ēnhuì**

Goodness, grace, favor.

cí ài
慈爱 **cí'ài**

Mercy, loving-kindness.

tóng zài
同在 **tóng zài**

To be with.

jiànzhèng
见 证 **jiànzhèng**

Testimony, witness.

VOCABULARY FOR THE WEEK

Pinyin spells each syllable; the mark over the vowel is the tone: ā high and level, á rising, ǎ low and dipping, à falling, a with no mark light and short. In the sound guides, (high), (rising), (dipping) and (falling) name the tone.

幽谷
yōugǔ
yoh-GOO
noun
deep valley

安慰
ānwèi
ahn-WAY
verb
to comfort

恩惠
ēnhuì
un-HWAY
noun
goodness; grace

慈爱
cí'ài
tsz-AI
noun · traditional 慈愛
mercy; loving-kindness

同在
tóng zài
tong DZAI
verb
to be with

见证
jiànzhèng
jyen-JUNG
noun · traditional 見證
testimony

CORE IDEAS

Verse 4. 我虽然行过死荫的幽谷, 也不怕遭害, 因为你与我同在(nǐ yǔ wǒ tóng zài); 你的杖, 你的竿, 都安慰我. (Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.) Notice 虽然 and 因为 from Unit 3!

Verses 5–6. God prepares a table before me and anoints my head; my cup runs over. 我一生一世必有恩惠慈爱随着我; 我且要住在耶和华的殿中, 直到永远. (Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.)

A testimony. A 见证 (jiànzhèng) tells what God has done for you. Keep it simple: 以前我.... 后来我认识了耶稣. 现在我知道耶和华是我的牧者. 因为他与我同在, 所以我不怕.

ACTIVITY

Recital and testimony

Present Psalm 23 and a testimony.

You will need

- Your handwritten psalm, a phone to record

Steps

1. Memorize the psalm in sections: verses 1–2, 3–4, 5–6.
2. Practice each section aloud three times a day, checking tones.
3. Write a five-sentence testimony with 以前, 后来, 现在 and 因为…所以.
4. Recite the psalm and share your testimony for your family, and record it.

Tips

- Speak slowly and reverently; this is God's word.

Check your work

☐ I recited the whole psalm.

☐ I shared a five-sentence testimony.

> **From history.** Chinese Christians have long memorized Psalm 23; during times of hardship and imprisonment, believers who had no Bibles recited psalms like this from memory.

WORKED EXAMPLES

Example 1. What does 你与我同在 mean?

▼ **Show solution**

1. 与 = with; 同在 = to be together.

Answer: Thou art with me.

Example 2. Begin a testimony with “Before, I …; later, I came to know Jesus.”

▼ **Show solution**

1. Before = 以前; later = 后来.
2. Came to know = 认识了.

Answer: 以前我…. 后来我认识了耶稣.

PRACTICE

1. Easy What is 安慰?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   To comfort.

2. Easy What is 慈爱?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   Mercy, loving-kindness.

3. Medium Which connecting words appear in verse 4?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   虽然 and 因为.

4. Medium What is 见证?

   ▼ **Show answer**

   A testimony; witness.

5. Hard Recite verse 4 and explain it.

   ▼ **Show answer**

   我虽然行过死荫的幽谷，也不怕遭害，因为你与我同在；你的杖，你的竿，都安慰我. Even in the darkest valley I will not fear, because God is with me and His rod and staff comfort me.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Reading 荫 in 死荫 as yīn. In this verse it is usually read yìn.
- Mixing 恩惠 (goodness, grace) and 恩典 (grace). Both are gifts from God; Psalm 23 uses 恩惠.

Make it a game · Fill the gap. One player recites the psalm and stops; the other says the next phrase. Go through all six verses.

Scripture. “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4, KJV)

Chinese Union Version (和合本):

> 我虽然行过死荫的幽谷，也不怕遭害，因为你与我同在；你的杖，你的竿，都安慰我。

Wǒ suī rán xíng guò sǐ yìn de yōu gǔ, yě bú pà zāo hài, yīn wèi nǐ yǔ wǒ tóng zài; nǐ de zhàng, nǐ de gān, dōu ān wèi wǒ.

Even in the valley of the shadow of death, we need fear no evil, for the Lord is with us.