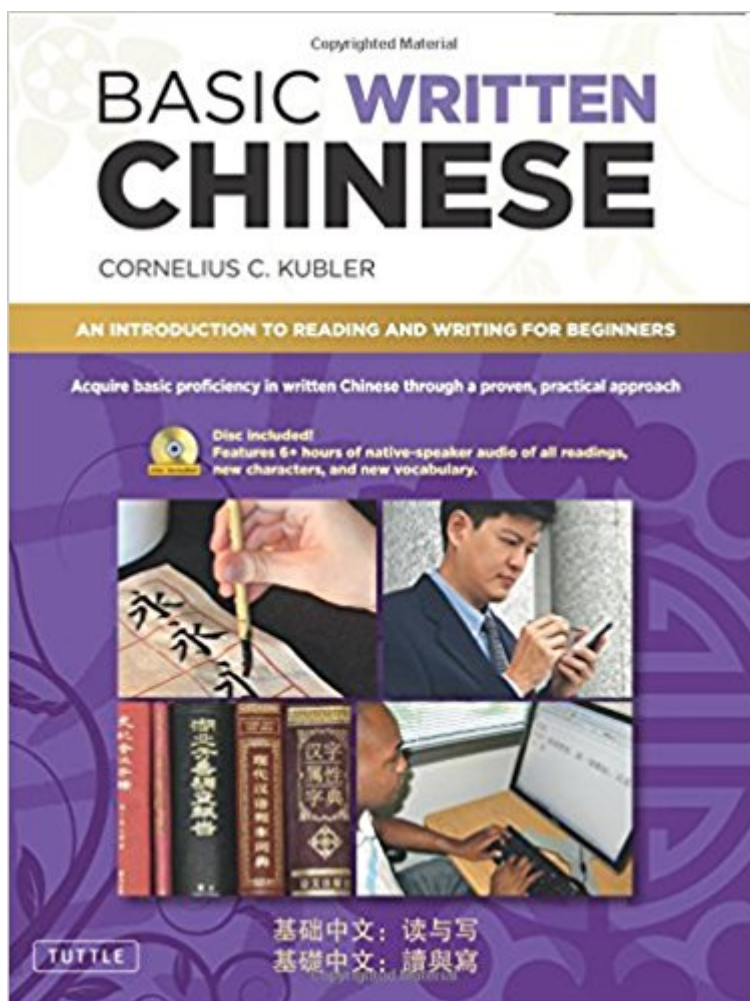


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Basic Written Chinese: Move From Complete Beginner Level To Basic Proficiency (Audio CD Included)



Synopsis

This is a beginning-level course in written Chinese that employs a revolutionary new method designed to have you quickly reading and writing simple, connected Chinese sentences. Along with its sister book Basic Spoken Chinese and their accompanying workbooks, Basic Written Chinese offers a complete introductory course to the written Chinese language. As a native English speaker, working hard to learn Chinese characters is not enough; you have to work smart in order to learn this very different language efficiently. No matter why you've chosen to learn Chinese—whether for business, travel, cultural studies or another goal—the Basic Chinese approach of two separate but integrated tracks in spoken and written Chinese will help you learn this language most efficiently and successfully. Basic Written Chinese is designed so it can be used in a class with an instructor or by independent learners working on their own. Basic Written Chinese systematically introduces 288 of the highest frequency characters (in both their simplified and traditional forms) and over 700 common words written with them in context in sentences and a variety of reading passages to help you master basic Chinese reading and writing. This method will greatly improve your abilities to read Chinese and write Chinese. The structure of each new character is explained in detail to make the learning of characters easier, and "look-alike" characters are compared and contrasted. Many lessons include character differentiation drills and some lessons include realia such as name cards, street signs, or email messages. Each lesson introduces 6 new characters and a number of words that are written using them. By dividing the learning into small tasks, you maintain a sense of accomplishment rather than getting bogged down. You'll experience both printed and handwritten forms of characters, as well as several different printed fonts. The accompanying MP3 audio CD includes: Over 6 hours of audio by several native Mandarin speakers. Recordings of all reading selections. Recordings of all new characters and new vocabulary. Available separately, Basic Written Chinese Practice Essentials is the companion workbook for Basic Written Chinese. This practical guide includes a broad range of drills and exercises designed to dramatically enhance your proficiency in reading and writing Chinese. While designed for use with the companion textbook, it can be used together with any Chinese textbook or teaching program to hone your Chinese reading and writing language skills.

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Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies at Williams College, received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in linguistics from Cornell University. He earned a second M.A. in Chinese literature from National Taiwan University. From 1980-1991 he was employed at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, where he served as Language Training Supervisor in Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and Mongolian; as Principal of the advanced Chinese field school in Taiwan; and as Chair of the Department of Asian and African Languages. Since joining Williams College in 1991, he has chaired the former Department of Chinese and Asian Studies Program as well as the Department of Asian Studies, which he was instrumental in founding. He has also served as visiting professor at Eisenhower College, Portland State University, Middlebury College, National Taiwan Normal University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. Kubler, who is author or coauthor of 20 books and over 50 articles on Chinese language pedagogy and linguistics, frequently serves as reviewer or consultant for Chinese and Asian Studies programs in the U.S. and overseas. He has served as Chair of the Test Development Committee for the SAT Subject Test in Chinese and as member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages of the Modern Language Association. He is currently serving as American Co-Director of The Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing, China.

I use this book daily to learn characters. It's the only book that provides practical explication of how or why the characters are and you WILL want to know as this aids in memorizing them! Good written reviews and dialogs. Buy the written practice book to learn to write them. (As for a real total Chinese course, there is no good one. I learn speech from CHINESE POD and POP UP CHINESE which are online courses. I believe that learning speech from textbooks is useless and that includes INTEGRATED CHINESE.)

I like the layout of the lessons and that he often gives background or other meanings with each of the characters which is so important to building visual connections in the mind. Our only disappointment so far has been the flash cards. They are printable, if you want to cut 37 pages of

cards, then 37 pages of the backs, then glue 297 cards to the back of the correct pinyin and meaning. In other words, none of the cards will match up front to back, no matter how your printer handles the paper.

I've looked at, and rejected, many Chinese language learning materials. I learned my spoken Chinese with Fluenz, which rocks, but it doesn't teach reading and writing. This book takes good chunk sizes, and understands the importance of lots of practice. They even manage to make the practice reasonably interesting right from the start (difficult when your vocabulary is at the level of a dozen or so characters!). By about the fifty character mark, I was laughing at the occasional burst of humor in their exercise samples. Note that this review really relates to the combination of Basic Written Chinese and the Practice Essentials workbook.

Very interesting and helpful with learning

I appreciate the tremendous amount of effort that has gone into the preparation of this book; the result is beautiful and draws the reader in to learn the language. I especially love the pictures and signs, and the introduction at the beginning describing the various languages spoken in China. The author's knowledge is very impressive and I enjoyed learning the history of various characters (which also acts as a memory aid). Given the effort of preparation, I am at a loss to understand why the book is so riddled with errors. Some characters are used in the examples before they have been introduced, some characters seem not to appear in the glossary at the end, and many individual syllables are not in the Pinyin glossary (although their compounds are). Information on radicals is repeated for every character with the same radical, which I found irritating. The subject matter in the examples has a very narrow focus on Americans studying in China, which I found boring and not particularly relevant to street conversation.

Great! The size: - big - with big ideographs. The paper: - strong, bright! The content:- clever ! Almost 400 pages of both simplified and traditional characters ! Colorful - dozens of beautiful pages with photos and illustrations ! Basic - for besides the 700 words one has the Mp3 audio. More: can print them in Pdf ! Do I need to say more ? Congratulations to Tuttle and .

This book along with the Basic Written Essentials is the best way to learn the characters. Six words in each chapter, plenty of supplementary vocabulary and practical selection of words one would

need.

These are the absolute BEST Chinese language textbooks on the market. The author (Kubler) has created a curriculum that anyone can learn. The CD's work great, the textbook is easy to follow, and you'll be learning some basic written Chinese in no time! Great purchase!

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