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Living Language : Ultimate Chinese (Mandarin) Beginner-Intermediate (CD/Book) (Ultimate Beginner-Intermediate) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ultimate Chinese (Mandarin) Beginner-Intermediate (CD/Book) (Ultimate Beginner-Intermediate):

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. It depends on what you want. By Colin McLarty This program aims to do what a college course would, and I think it succeeds at that. It teaches conversation, with much grammar, and some reading and writing of Chinese. After using it for a week (from the library) I decided not to stay with it. Right now I want much more focus on conversation, and in fact on conversation useful on a first trip to China. And I want to use only "on the go" audio. This program aims at a more thorough knowledge of Chinese spoken and written than I hope for right now -- so I want to be clear I am not faulting the series. It depends on what you want. I have decided to go with the Pimsleur CDs (Pimsleur worked well for me in German, and Italian). As an example of the difference: Living Language starts out teaching you how to ask someone about their family, while Pimsleur starts out teaching you how to ask if someone speaks English. I have one year to prepare for one week in Beijing. It is absolutely

certain that I will sometimes need to find someone who speaks English, and it is unlikely I will ask many people about their family life. Again this is not to fault the different goals of the Living Language program. Pimsleur is an audio-only course, entirely suitable for use while driving, and by design they teach you nothing about written Chinese. And they have very little explicitly on grammar or pronunciation. You are supposed to get those from immersion. I am supplementing them with ChinesePod downloads which are even faster paced immersion than Pimsleur but also come with written material so they are not *only* immersion. This is the balance I want right now. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great Product By Kindle Customer This is a very good product (have the 2004 version), FOR SERIOUS LEARNERS WHO AREN'T AFRAID TO WORK HARD! I use the program every morning for about 1 hour. I average 1-2 lessons/week. (Honestly, mostly just one lesson/week ... but I am a perfectionist.) The set-up is user-friendly: 40 dialogues (with transcript written in pinyin), pronunciation (in the first 10 chapters), grammar (take a more prominent role in chapters 11+), characters and then vocabulary list (pinyin on one side, English on the opposite side, pronounced in Mandarin) so you can quiz yourself in each language. I actually start with the vocabulary (so as to review what will be in the dialogues), then go through the grammar, and then finally test my newly acquired knowledge by listening to the chapter's presenting dialogue. I'll occasionally use the car CD's (set B), and like the abridged format to review what I learned with the formal lessons. I also agree that the dialogues are very realistic and sophisticated: my husband is a native speaker and gives it high marks for the authentic conversations. The dialogue starts out at regular to fast speed. The second time through, it is slowed down so that you can practice the pronunciation. Even with the slow down, I listen to the dialogue perhaps a dozen times before I can move on to the next lesson. I do agree that this is a beginner-intermediate level course and sometimes get overwhelmed by the amount and difficulty of the material. But, it achieves its intended purpose: I am learning! Occasionally, I'll say something to my husband and he is surprised that I just said what I said in Chinese, which is always a rewarding feeling ... like I'm not wasting time every am to study this program. I do also agree that this program is a bit weak with the characters (why I only give 4 stars)... but am supplementing it with A Primer for Advanced Beginners of Chinese, Simplified Characters : Volume 1, by Duanduan Li et al. (So impressed with the format of this second reference that I bought volume 2!) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good if you know some Chinese By Helen This book is better than the listed "Good condition" (Props!). The size of the book is like a novel. Like other reviews, this book may be hard for beginners. Preferably, you have some previous knowledge on Chinese, although it does involve introductory materials such as the four tones. This book includes:- Dialogues in English and Pinyin (No characters for dialogue)- Vocabulary (Some characters)- Pronunciations- Questions (For grammar and sentence structure) Overall, there is a lack of characters; mostly pinyin and English. It practices more on speaking and vocabulary.

Ultimate Mandarin Chinese has everything you need to learn Chinese from scratch or to revive the Chinese that you learned years ago. This course combines conversation and culture in an easy-to-follow, enjoyable, and effective format. It's the perfect way to learn Chinese for school, travel, work, or personal enrichment. Ultimate Chinese Beginner-Intermediate includes: 40 lessons in a comprehensive 416-page textbook: Each lesson contains a lively and authentic dialogue, vocabulary, grammar and usage, step-by-step character writing, cultural highlights, and plenty of practice. The first ten lessons also include special pronunciation sections that will have you speaking right from the beginning. The book also contains review sections, readings, supplemental vocabulary sections, appendixes on essential Chinese grammar, and a Chinese-English/English-Chinese glossary. 8 hours of recordings with an ingenious two-step approach: Learn at home: Listen to the first set of recordings as you follow along in your textbook. Immerse yourself in Chinese while you listen and repeat with the all-Chinese recordings, and learn conversation, grammar, vocabulary, and more. Learn on the go: Then practice, review, and expand upon what you've learned with the second set of recordings. An instructor will guide you through each lesson, and since no reading is required, you can listen in the car, on the train, at the gym anywhere!