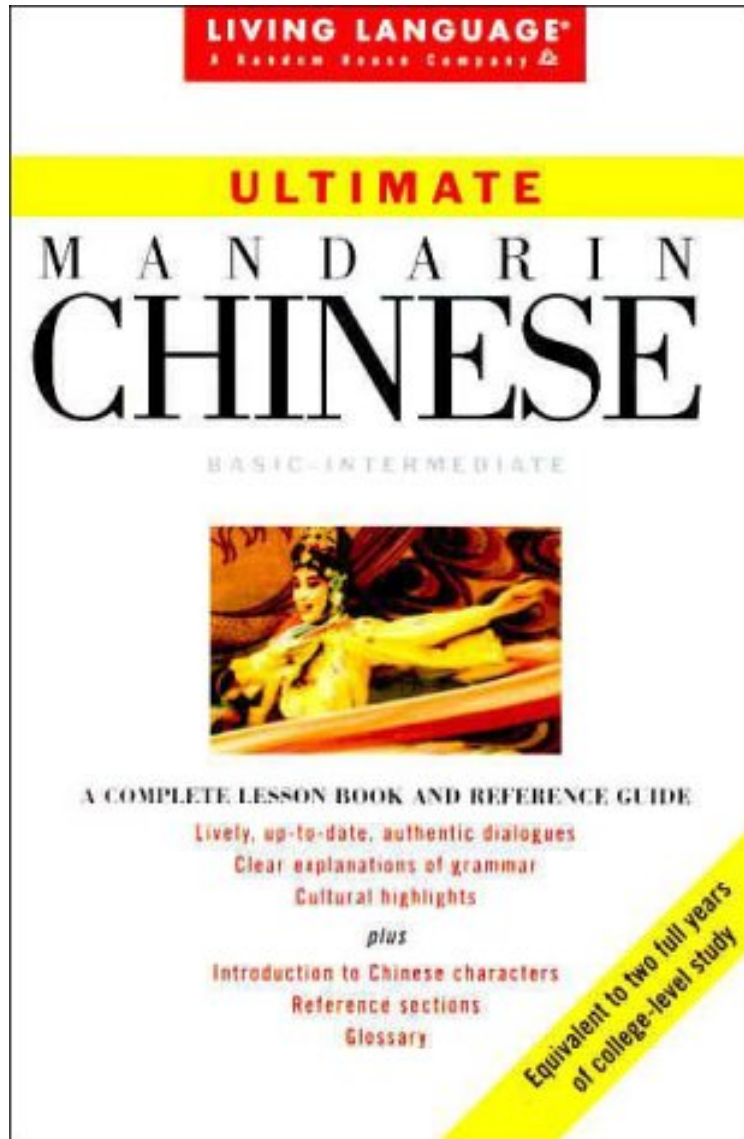


Ultimate Chinese: Mandarin (Living Language Ultimate Courses, Basic-Intermediate)

Jennifer Humphries, Audrey Li, Cathy Wei
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Jennifer Humphries, Audrey Li, Cathy Wei : Ultimate Chinese: Mandarin (Living Language Ultimate Courses, Basic-Intermediate) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Ultimate Chinese: Mandarin (Living Language Ultimate Courses, Basic-Intermediate):

28 of 29 people found the following review helpful. Supurb. By David Shamma This instruction set is supurb! It consists of two sets of tapes. The first set follows the included text book and is to be used in conjunction. The second set is for

driving, or anywhere the book isn't or can't be used. Unlike other instruction sets, the tapes are mirrors of each other and use different constructions, phrases, and/or speakers. This gives you some variability, so you don't just pick up a pattern of the tape. The book walks you through several practical chapters, "at the office" or "eating dumplings", etc. The focus of each chapter is used in some context to introduce not only vocabulary, but also structure notes and grammar. So much better than simply providing catch phrases. In little time (by the third lesson), a user can construct simple sentences and understand speakers. At the end of each chapter, it introduces some hanzi (characters) but focuses more so on pin-in romanization. Learning to speak and learning to read are really two separate tasks, but it's good of this set not to completely ignore reading. The book is available without the tapes, but would not be recommended as Chinese tonal pronunciation is near impossible without them. Living Language claims the college equivalent of two years of study...which seems about right given the depth of excellent coverage this set provides. 9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. A very good resource By Becky I used this set on and off for about a year and was surprised at how much I learned. I only got through the first 16 lessons, but I feel that with a more rigorous practice schedule I could have learned much more. My Chinese colleagues were very impressed with my speaking abilities after a few months- I could talk about clothes, food, times and dates, places, and ask simple questions about families and activities. I think I would be ok going to China and checking into a hotel, ordering food, or taking public transportation. This set has much more material than many book tape sets. I spent a lot of time on each lesson and studied the book carefully. Many times a new concept will be slipped in to the dialogue a lesson or two before it is formally introduced. I wish the glossaries were more complete, and there are a few odd bits to the recordings (like making the pause too short on occasion), but overall I feel the book and cassette set is well worth the price. 21 of 25 people found the following review helpful. For Mandarin Intermediate only By A Customer When I first started on this book/tape course, I was very disappointed. I was thinking about giving this book a one star rating. Now, after having one year of Mandarin conversation under my belt, I am still struggled to get through this book. This is NOT a beginner book. I wish the author speaks slowly and repeats twice for each phrases. I have been searching for more than a year, but this is the best intermediate mandarin out there. Quite frankly, I could not find any other intermediate mandarin booktapes alternative out there. Oh, I don't have any complains regarding there isn't any chinese characters in this book. To get to intermediate level, it took me one year just to learn conversation. Believe me, my colleagues learned both characters and conversation for two years, and they can not even order a simple hamburger in China. I know, without knowing chinese characters you are consider illiterate, but I want to learn mandarin fast so I have to give up something. Oh, one good thing about this book is they have tapes version to study in your car. This book has 4 tapes to study at home, and 4 tapes to study in your car. The on-the-go conversations tapes are great. It's very interesting.

Developed by the experts at Living Language, this book offers a highly effective combination of conversational Mandarin Chinese with grammar and culture. It covers the equivalent of two years of college-level study. 40 lessons, each with a lively, authentic Chinese dialogue that includes the most common and useful expressions for everyday conversation. English translations and explanations of Chinese grammar and usage, pronunciation, vocabulary, and cultural notes. Sections that introduce you to reading and writing Chinese characters. Quizzes to check your progress. Summaries of measure words, question formation, and particles. An extensive two-way glossary. While this book stands on its own as a complete course and an invaluable reference, you'll find that using it with the recorded lessons is even more effective. Along with the recordings, Living Language Ultimate Mandarin Chinese cassette packages include this manual.

Praise for Living Language Ultimate Mandarin Chinese "Sophisticated--easy to follow. This book provides an efficient and highly effective approach to learning Chinese."--Professor Theresa Jen, Bryn Mawr College From the Inside Flap Developed by the experts at Living Language, this book offers a highly effective combination of conversational Mandarin Chinese with grammar and culture. It covers the equivalent of two years of college-level study. 40 lessons, each with a lively, authentic Chinese dialogue that includes the most common and useful expressions for everyday conversation. English translations and explanations of Chinese grammar and usage, pronunciation, vocabulary, and cultural notes. Sections that introduce you to reading and writing Chinese characters. Quizzes to check your progress. Summaries of measure words, question formation, and particles. An extensive two-way glossary. While this book stands on its own as a complete course and an invaluable reference, you'll find that using it with the recorded lessons is even more effective. Along with the recordings, Living Language Ultimate Mandarin Chinese cassette packages include this manual. From the Back Cover Praise for Living Language Ultimate Mandarin Chinese "Sophisticated--easy to follow. This book provides an efficient and highly effective approach to learning Chinese."--Professor Theresa Jen, Bryn Mawr College