

# Contents

Preface .....	xvii
Academic Committee .....	xviii
Acknowledgments .....	xix
Introduction .....	xx
<b>Introductory Unit: “You’ll pick it up fast” .....</b>	<b>1</b>
一學就會 <i>Yì xué jiù huì</i>	
Introduction to Chinese	
<b>1: Tones and numbers .....</b>	<b>2</b>
FYI The neutral tone .....	3
FYI Tonal shifts (sandhi) on <i>yī</i> (the number one) .....	4
▶ <b>More on numbers</b> .....	4
FYI Pinyin .....	4
<b>2: Chinese syllables .....</b>	<b>5</b>
FYI About Chinese sounds .....	5
▶ <b>The initial consonants + <i>y</i> and <i>w</i></b> .....	5
▶ <b>The final vowels + <i>n</i> and <i>ng</i></b> .....	6
<b>3: Poems from the Tang dynasty (618–907 CE) .....</b>	<b>7</b>
▶ “Thoughts on a Quiet Night” .....	7
▶ “Climbing Stork Tower” .....	9
<b>4: Introduction to Chinese characters .....</b>	<b>11</b>
▶ <b>Recognizing radicals</b> .....	12
▶ <b>Recognizing numbers</b> .....	13
▶ <b>Reading real-life texts</b> .....	14
Radicals and numbers on signs	
▶ <b>Unit Rap</b> .....	15
<b>5: Writing .....</b>	<b>15</b>
▶ <b>Learning to write characters</b> .....	15
一, 二, 三, 四, 五, 六, 七, 八, 九, 十, 火, 口, 木, 人, 山, 水	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> What is culture? .....	15
<b>RECAP .....</b>	<b>16</b>
▶ <b>Vocabulary</b> .....	16
▶ <b>Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	16

<b>Unit One: “We’re all one family”</b> .....	17
四海一家 <i>Sihǎiyìjiā</i>	
Introducing yourself by nationality and background	
<b>1: Greeting people and introducing yourself</b> .....	18
▶ <b>Greeting people</b> .....	18
FYI Greetings in Chinese .....	19
FYI Other common greetings .....	19
▶ <b>Introducing yourself</b> .....	20
FYI Introductions .....	20
▶ <b>Grammar: Personal pronouns</b> .....	21
<b>2: Leave-taking and more introductions</b> .....	22
▶ <b>Saying good-bye</b> .....	22
FYI Saying good-bye .....	22
▶ <b>Grammar: The verbs <i>shì, jiào, xìng</i></b> .....	23
GRAMMAR BITS Stative verbs • Equative verbs .....	24
▶ <b>Grammar: Negation</b> .....	25
FYI More on tone sandhi: The negative adverb <i>bù</i> .....	25
▶ <b>Formal and informal speech</b> .....	26
FYI Levels of formality .....	26
<b>3: Talking about where you come from</b> .....	27
GRAMMAR BITS The particle <i>ma</i> .....	28
▶ <b>Recognizing tones</b> .....	28
▶ <b>Grammar: Question words <i>nǎr, shénme, shéi</i></b> .....	29
<b>4: Asking for and giving phone numbers</b> .....	29
GRAMMAR BITS Review of question words .....	30
<b>5: Expressing thanks, apologizing, and asking for clarification</b> .....	31
▶ <b>Thanking and apologizing</b> .....	31
▶ <b>Asking for clarification</b> .....	31
▶ <b>Putting it all together</b> .....	33
▶ <b>Unit Rap</b> .....	33
<b>6: Reading and writing</b> .....	33
▶ <b>Recognizing traditional vs. simplified characters</b> .....	33
FYI Development of simplified characters .....	34
▶ <b>Recognizing radicals</b> .....	35
▶ <b>Reading real-life texts</b> .....	35
Familiar terms in signs and handwritten notes	
▶ <b>Learning to write characters</b> .....	37
我, 你, 他, 們/们, 好, 嗎/吗, 是, 姓, 叫, 甚/什, 麼/么,	
名, 字, 請/请, 謝/谢, 再, 見/见, 對/对, 不, 起	
▶ <b>Writing a note</b> .....	37
Exchanging names with a classmate	
CULTURAL BITS Introductions, greetings, and good-byes .....	37
<b>RECAP</b> .....	38
▶ <b>Grammar</b> .....	38
Stative verbs • Equative verbs • Question words • Plurals • Particles <i>ma</i> and <i>ne</i> •	
Adverbs • Possessive marker <i>de</i> • Negation with <i>bù</i>	
▶ <b>Vocabulary</b> .....	39
▶ <b>Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	40

<b>Unit Two: “Friends from the start”</b> .....	41
一見如故 <i>Yìjiànrúgù</i>	
Introducing yourself by age, contact information, and relationship to others	
<b>1: Finding out someone’s age and stating your own</b> .....	42
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Sentences without verbs .....	45
<b>FYI</b> Calculating age .....	45
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Changing things up with <i>le</i> .....	46
<b>2: Finding out someone’s age and stating your own— Chinese style</b> .....	47
<b>FYI</b> The Chinese zodiac .....	47
<b>FYI</b> What’s your sign? .....	48
<b>3: Finding out someone’s birth date and stating your own</b> .....	49
<b>▶ Months of the year</b> .....	49
<b>▶ Days of the month</b> .....	50
<b>FYI</b> The Chinese calendar .....	51
<b>FYI</b> Talking about dates .....	51
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> The <i>shì</i> ... <i>de</i> construction .....	52
<b>4: Finding out someone’s e-mail and street address and stating your own</b> .....	54
<b>▶ Asking for someone’s e-mail address</b> .....	54
<b>FYI</b> Translation vs. transliteration .....	54
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Take your pick: <i>ma</i> vs. <i>bu</i> .....	55
<b>▶ Asking for a street address</b> .....	55
<b>FYI</b> Chinese addresses .....	55
<b>5: Identifying a third party’s relationship to yourself</b> .....	56
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> “This,” “that,” and some other things .....	57
<b>▶ Unit Rap</b> .....	58
<b>6: Reading and writing</b> .....	58
<b>▶ Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters</b> .....	58
<b>FYI</b> Listing things in Chinese fashion .....	58
<b>▶ Reading real-life texts</b> .....	62
Business cards • Newspaper banners	
<b>▶ Learning to write characters</b> .....	65
您, 多, 大, 小, 幾/几, 歲/岁, 了, 的, 地, 址, 年, 月, 日, 號/号, 生, 那, 哪, 兒/儿, 這/这, 位	
<b>▶ Writing a note</b> .....	65
Introducing yourself	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> Self-introduction .....	65
<b>RECAP</b> .....	66
<b>▶ Grammar</b> .....	66
Sentence-ending particle <i>le</i> • Specifiers • Formulating questions • The <i>shì</i> ... <i>de</i> construction • Time words	
<b>▶ Vocabulary</b> .....	67
<b>▶ Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	68

<b>Unit Three: “Don’t leave before I arrive”</b> .....	69
不見不散 <i>Bújiànbúsàn</i>	
Making an appointment	
<b>1: Telling time</b> .....	70
FYI Two words for “two” .....	71
FYI Time measure words .....	72
FYI Alternate ways of telling time .....	73
FYI Lining up units of time .....	74
▶ Reading practice .....	74
<b>2: Divisions of the day and relative time</b> .....	75
GRAMMAR BITS Stating alternatives with <i>háishi</i> .....	75
▶ Reading practice .....	77
<b>3: Days of the week</b> .....	77
GRAMMAR BITS Suggesting with <i>ba</i> .....	77
FYI The workweek in China .....	78
<b>4: More time words</b> .....	79
FYI Chinese concepts of time .....	82
<b>5: Making an appointment</b> .....	83
FYI Beijing time .....	84
▶ Unit Rap .....	84
<b>6: Reading and writing</b> .....	84
▶ Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters .....	84
▶ Reading real-life texts .....	89
Bulletin board posting • Sports schedule • Handwritten notes	
▶ Learning to write characters .....	91
現/现, 在, 點/点, 分, 半, 上, 下, 午, 早, 晚, 今, 天, 星, 期, 時/时, 候, 有, 事, 等	
▶ Writing a note .....	91
Setting a time to meet with a friend	
CULTURAL BITS Time and timeliness .....	91
<b>RECAP</b> .....	91
▶ Grammar .....	91
Sentence-ending particle <i>le</i> • Measure words (MW) and the always handy <i>ge</i> •	
Specifying “here” and “there” • Forming questions • Adding tone to whole sentences •	
Forming tenses in Chinese	
▶ Vocabulary .....	93
▶ Checklist of “can do” statements .....	94

<b>Unit Four: “If only we had met sooner”</b> .....	95
相見恨晚 <i>Xiāngjiànhènwǎn</i>	
Talking about your nationality and background	
<b>1: Expressing nationality</b> .....	96
▶ Reading practice .....	98
<b>2: Talking about your birthplace and where you have lived</b> .....	98
FYI So, where are you from? .....	100
GRAMMAR BITS Sharing experiences: Verb + <i>guo</i> .....	101
<b>3: Talking about travel experiences</b> .....	101
GRAMMAR BITS The “flexible” adverb <i>dōu</i> .....	102
<b>4: Talking about languages spoken</b> .....	104
FYI Deflecting a compliment .....	104
FYI Chinese languages and dialects .....	106
▶ Putting it all together .....	107
▶ Unit Rap .....	107
<b>5: Reading and writing</b> .....	107
▶ Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters .....	107
▶ Reading real-life texts .....	112
Country names on signs and in telephone calling code tables • Postcard	
▶ Learning to write characters .....	113
國/国, 中, 英, 美, 出, 會/会, 說/说, 話/话, 文, 得, 去, 過/过, 家, 都, 没, 喜, 歡/欢	
▶ Writing a note .....	113
Talking about your nationality, places you’ve lived, and the languages you speak	
CULTURAL BITS Social interaction .....	113
<b>RECAP</b> .....	114
▶ Grammar .....	114
The <i>shì . . . de</i> construction: Review • Verb + <i>guo</i> • <i>dōu</i> + verb • <i>dōu</i> + question word	
▶ Vocabulary .....	114
▶ Checklist of “can do” statements .....	116

<b>Unit Five: “Family and friends”</b> .....	117
親朋好友 <i>Qīnpéngzhāoyǒu</i>	
Talking about family and friends	
<b>1: Talking about nuclear family members</b> .....	118
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> To have ( <i>yǒu</i> ) and to have not ( <i>méiyǒu</i> ) • To <i>de</i> or not to <i>de</i> •	
The most versatile measure word: <i>ge</i> .....	119
▶ <b>Reading practice</b> .....	120
<b>2: Talking about immediate family members</b> .....	120
<b>FYI</b> Addressing family members—Chinese style .....	121
<b>3: Talking about birth order</b> .....	122
<b>4: Describing family members</b> .....	124
▶ <b>Reading practice</b> .....	125
<b>FYI</b> Understanding cultural differences .....	126
<b>5: More family and personal relationships</b> .....	126
<b>FYI</b> From <i>xiānsheng/tàitai</i> to <i>àiren</i> and back again: Language reflecting culture .....	126
<b>6: Extending the family</b> .....	129
<b>FYI</b> Chinese terms for family members .....	130
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Repeating verbs for effect .....	131
<b>FYI</b> How people address one another in the community .....	131
▶ <b>Unit Rap</b> .....	131
<b>7: Reading and writing</b> .....	132
▶ <b>Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters</b> .....	132
▶ <b>Reading real-life texts</b> .....	137
Handwritten description of a family photo	
▶ <b>Learning to write characters</b> .....	138
裡/里, 個/个, 和, 爸, 媽/妈, 哥, 姐, 弟, 妹,	
兄, 男, 女, 父, 母, 親/亲, 才, 兩/两	
▶ <b>Writing a note</b> .....	138
Describing a family photo	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> Changing families .....	138
<b>RECAP</b> .....	138
▶ <b>Grammar</b> .....	138
The unique negative: <i>méi</i> • Possessives without <i>de</i> • The versatile measure word: <i>ge</i> •	
Use of <i>dōu</i> in lists: Review • Repeating the verb to lessen effect	
▶ <b>Vocabulary</b> .....	139
▶ <b>Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	140

<b>Unit Six: “Happy at home and work”</b> .....	141
安居樂業 <i>Ānjūlèyè</i>	
Discussing school, professions, and careers	
<b>1: Talking about school and grade level</b> .....	142
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Flexing your verbal muscles: Verb-object combinations.....	143
<b>FYI</b> The Chinese educational system .....	144
<b>2: Discussing career choices</b> .....	145
<b>FYI</b> What’s in a job? .....	148
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Expressing “or” one way OR the other .....	148
<b>3: Talking about occupations of family and friends</b> .....	149
<b>4: Discussing reasons behind your career choice</b> .....	150
<b>FYI</b> From “work unit” to want ads: Changes in modern China .....	152
▶ <b>Unit Rap</b> .....	152
<b>5: Reading and writing</b> .....	153
▶ <b>Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters</b> .....	153
▶ <b>Reading real-life texts</b> .....	159
Employment agency ad • For rent sign • Help wanted sign	
▶ <b>Learning to write characters</b> .....	160
做, 將/将, 來/来, 想, 要, 念, 級/级, 為/为, 因, 當/当, 也,	
意, 思, 賺/赚, 錢/钱, 幫/帮, 別, 或, 者, 還/还, 知, 道, 她	
▶ <b>Writing a note</b> .....	160
Describing what you and your family members do or would like to do	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> Education and careers .....	160
<b>RECAP</b> .....	161
▶ <b>Grammar</b> .....	161
Verb-object (VO) combinations • <i>Háishi</i> vs. <i>huòzhě</i>	
▶ <b>Vocabulary</b> .....	161
▶ <b>Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	162

<b>Unit Seven: “Meeting our needs”</b> .....	163
各有所求 <i>Gèyǒusuǒqiú</i> Discussing personal needs	
<b>1: Stating how you feel</b> .....	164
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> The noun that is and isn’t there • “Rising intonation” questions without <i>ma</i> .....	165
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> <i>Le</i> : Review and extension .....	166
<b>2: Asking about someone’s well-being</b> .....	168
<b>FYI</b> Restraint as a social virtue .....	168
▶ <b>Reading practice</b> .....	169
<b>3: Suggesting a course of action</b> .....	172
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> “Duping” your verbs: Review and extension .....	173
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> <i>Zánmen</i> vs. <i>wǒmen</i> .....	174
<b>4: Expressing urgency</b> .....	174
<b>FYI</b> Chinese terms for “restroom” .....	175
▶ <b>Unit Rap</b> .....	177
<b>5: Reading and writing</b> .....	177
▶ <b>Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters</b> .....	177
▶ <b>Reading real-life texts</b> .....	181
Format of signs and notes	
▶ <b>Learning to write characters</b> .....	183
熱/热, 冷, 累, 餓/饿, 飽/饱, 忙, 恹, 樣/样, 吧, 吃, 飯/饭, 東/东, 西, 坐, 走, 回, 高, 興/兴, 著/着, 急	
▶ <b>Writing a note</b> .....	183
Describing your feelings	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> Meeting our needs .....	183
<b>RECAP</b> .....	184
▶ <b>Grammar</b> .....	184
Sentence-ending particles: Review • Rising intonation questions without <i>ma</i> • Possessive <i>de</i> with and without nouns • <i>Zánmen</i> vs. <i>wǒmen</i> • “Softening” an action	
▶ <b>Vocabulary</b> .....	184
▶ <b>Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	186



<b>Unit Eight: “Early to bed, early to rise . . . ”</b> .....	187
早睡早起 身體好 <i>Zǎo shuì zǎo qǐ shēntǐ hǎo</i>	
Discussing daily routines	
<b>1: Discussing morning routines</b> .....	188
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Expressing how an action was done.....	189
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Expressing similarities and differences.....	190
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Counting nouns—and now, counting verbs!.....	192
<b>2: Discussing daytime activities</b> .....	194
<b>3: Discussing evening activities</b> .....	196
<b>FYI</b> Many terms for meals .....	197
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Yes, you can signal the plural in Chinese!.....	198
<b>4: Discussing weekend activities</b> .....	198
<b>5: Expressing actions that occur before, during, or after other actions</b> .....	201
<b>FYI</b> When are teeth best brushed?.....	202
▶ <b>Unit Rap</b> .....	202
<b>6: Reading and writing</b> .....	203
▶ <b>Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters</b> .....	203
▶ <b>Reading real-life texts</b> .....	210
Signs on stores and other establishments	
▶ <b>Learning to write characters</b> .....	211
每, 洗, 手, 看, 電/电, 視/视, 網/网, 玩, 睡,	
覺/觉, 週/周, 末, 門/门, 班, 影, 以, 前, 後/后	
▶ <b>Writing a note</b> .....	211
Describing a typical day	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> Daily routines.....	211
<b>RECAP</b> .....	212
▶ <b>Grammar</b> .....	212
Commenting on how an action is performed • Expressing similarities and differences •	
Counting verbs with <i>cì</i> • Signaling the plural with <i>xīē</i>	
▶ <b>Vocabulary</b> .....	212
▶ <b>Checklist of “can do” statements</b> .....	214

<b>Unit Nine: “You get what you pay for”</b> .....	215
一分價錢 一分貨 <i>Yì fēn jiàqián yì fēn huò</i> Shopping and bargaining	
<b>1: Handling money</b> .....	216
FYI Dollars and cents in China .....	216
<b>2: Bargaining</b> .....	220
FYI Haggling over price .....	221
<b>3: Comparing prices</b> .....	221
GRAMMAR BITS Another “round” with the comparison pattern .....	224
<b>4: Specifying colors and sizes</b> .....	224
GRAMMAR BITS Making your Chinese “colorful” .....	225
▶ Putting it all together .....	228
▶ Unit Rap .....	228
<b>5: Reading and writing</b> .....	228
▶ Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters .....	228
▶ Reading real-life texts .....	236
Signs on stores and other establishments • Prices	
▶ Learning to write characters .....	237
買/买, 賣/卖, 黑, 紅/红, 白, 金, 銀/银, 少, 元, 太, 貴/贵, 便, 宜, 夠/够, 能, 比, 跟, 給/给	
▶ Writing a note .....	237
Describing recent purchases	
CULTURAL BITS Shopping and handling money .....	237
<b>RECAP</b> .....	238
▶ Grammar .....	238
Money measure words • Comparison: Review and expansion • More “colorful” grammar	
▶ Vocabulary .....	238
▶ Checklist of “can do” statements .....	240

<b>Unit Ten: “Good quality at a low price”</b>	241
價廉物美 <i>Jiàliánwùměi</i>	
Getting around town to shop	
<b>1: Picking a store</b>	242
FYI Shopping in China: Then and now	242
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Readying the action: Using coverbs	244
FYI Chinese taste in clothing: Then and now	247
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> The measure of the thing	251
<b>2: Giving and following directions</b>	252
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> More about coverbs and the locative verb <i>zài</i>	253
<b>3: Managing directions</b>	255
<b>4: Discussing modes of transportation</b>	256
FYI Modes of transportation	258
<b>GRAMMAR BITS</b> Taking a ride with more coverbs— <i>zuò, dā, qí</i>	258
FYI From bicycle-to-bicycle to bumper-to-bumper	261
<b>5: Moving around within a department store</b>	261
▶ Unit Rap	264
<b>6: Reading and writing</b>	264
▶ Reading familiar sentences in Chinese characters	264
▶ Reading real-life texts	272
Signs on stores and other establishments	
▶ Learning to write characters	274
到, 用, 心, 百, 貨/貨, 商, 場/場, 店, 離/離, 遠/遠,	
近, 路, 左, 右, 南, 北, 面, 邊/邊, 開/開, 車/車	
▶ Writing a note	274
Describing shopping habits and recent purchases	
<b>CULTURAL BITS</b> Shopping and finding specific items	274
<b>RECAP</b>	275
▶ Grammar	275
Coverbs • Measure words	
▶ Vocabulary	276
▶ Checklist of “can do” statements	278
 <b>REFERENCE SECTION</b>	
Chinese-English Glossary	R-3
English-Chinese Glossary	R-14
Index	R-27
Credits	R-29
Chinese Place Names	R-30