

Teen Mandarin 101 (Ages 13–17)

10 Week Syllabus

Course Description

This 10-week beginner course introduces essential Mandarin communication skills for teen learners. Lessons are interactive, engaging, and designed to build confidence through real-life communication tasks. The syllabus works with any of the recommended textbooks (HSK 1, Integrated Chinese 1, or Colloquial Chinese).

This course focuses on:

- high-frequency vocabulary
- practical communication
- confidence-building speaking tasks
- culturally relevant topics for teens

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- greet others and introduce themselves
- talk about school life, family, and hobbies
- hold simple conversations using basic sentence patterns
- understand and use high-frequency vocabulary
- participate in short real-life dialogues
- develop early awareness of Chinese tones and pinyin

Course Format

- once a week, 1-hour session
- interactive practice (pair tasks, mini-games, dialogues)
- short homework focused on listening & vocabulary
- optional tech tools: Quizlet, Kahoot, Google Classroom

Recommended Textbooks (choose ONE) - NOT required for the course

- HSK Standard Course 1 – structured and beginner-friendly
- Integrated Chinese Level 1 – widely used; good for teens planning long-term study
- Colloquial Chinese – practical, conversational, and engaging for younger learners

Specific page numbers will be aligned after Week 1 depending on the chosen textbook.

Weekly Breakdown

Week 1 — Greetings & Names

Functions: saying hello, introducing yourself

Language: 你好, 我叫..., 你叫什么名字?

Skills: tones & pinyin basics

Activities: “Name Circle,” simple greeting role-play

Week 2 — Numbers & Age

Functions: asking about age, reading basic numbers

Language: 几岁, 多大, 0–20

Skills: simple Q&A

Activities: “Find someone who is __ years old”

Week 3 — School Life

Functions: talking about school, grade, schedule

Language: 年级, 学校, 今天/明天

Skills: describing simple daily routines

Activities: “My school day” mini presentation

Week 4 — Family & Friends

Functions: introducing family members

Language: 爸爸/妈妈/哥哥/朋友, 有/没有

Skills: describing people

Activities: Family tree drawing + speaking task

Week 5 — Likes & Hobbies

Functions: talking about interests

Language: 喜欢/不喜欢, 打球, 看书, 音乐

Skills: verb-object patterns

Activities: “Find someone who likes...” survey

Week 6 — Time & Activities

Functions: telling time, simple schedule

Language: 点, 分, 现在, 下午, 晚上

Skills: sentence pattern: “A 在 B + time”

Activities: Create a “My weekly plan” poster

Week 7 — Food & Ordering

Functions: expressing preferences, ordering food

Language: 要/不要, 好吃, 饺子, 米饭

Skills: measure words

Activities: Menu role-play

Week 8 — Shopping Basics

Functions: buying things, asking prices

Language: 这个/那个, 多少钱?

Skills: classifiers

Activities: Online shopping task

Week 9 — Weather & Simple Descriptions

Functions: talking about weather and feelings

Language: 热/冷, 很..., 有点...

Skills: basic adjectives

Activities: Weather report mini-task

Week 10 — Review & Final Task

Functions: using all learned language in a real task

Assessment examples:

- Meet a new friend
- Order food
- Shop online

Homework: personalized learning plan

Activities: game review (Kahoot/Quizlet Live)