

Adult Mandarin 101

10-Week Syllabus

Course Description

This **10-week beginner course** introduces essential Mandarin communication skills for adult learners. This class will mainly rely on *Speedy Chinese* and *HSK 1*. Textbook is NOT required for this class but is recommend for students who wish to have one for additional practice. Other resources can also be recommended for those who wish to have additional self-study material.

By the end of this 10-week course, students will be able to:

- greet others and introduce themselves
- talk about basic daily topics using simple sentences
- ask and answer essential beginner-level questions
- use high-frequency vocabulary for daily life situations
- participate in short guided conversations

Course Format

- once a week, 1-hour session
- combination of speaking practice, listening activities, vocabulary building, and cultural notes
- homework is light and practical

Recommended Textbooks (choose ONE based on learner goals)

- HSK Standard Course 1 – structured, vocabulary-based, systematic progression
- Integrated Chinese Level 1 – comprehensive, academic, full-skill development
- Colloquial Chinese – practical communication focus, natural dialogues

Specific page numbers and exercises will be aligned with the chosen textbook after Week 1.

Week 1 — Greetings & Self-Introduction

Functions: saying hello, exchanging names

Language: 你好, 我叫..., 你叫什么名字?

Skills: tones introduction, pinyin basics

Week 2 — Numbers & Basic Daily Expressions

Functions: numbers 0–20, asking simple questions

Language: 多少, 几, 是, 不是

Skills: simple sentence patterns, listening practice

Week 3 — Nationality & Where You're From

Functions: asking/answering about country and place

Language: 你是哪国人? 我从...来。

Skills: A+是+B

Week 4 — Family & People Around You

Functions: talking about family members

Language: 爸爸/妈妈/朋友, 有/没有

Skills: describing people

Week 5 — Daily Activities

Functions: describing routines

Language: 吃饭、工作、学习、喜欢

Skills: basic verb phrases

Week 6 — Time & Schedule

Functions: telling time, making simple appointments

Language: 点、分、现在、今天、明天

Skills: expressing time, describing schedules

Week 7 — Food & Ordering

Functions: expressing preferences, simple ordering dialogue

Language: 要/不要、喜欢/不喜欢

Skills: measure words

Week 8 — Shopping Basics

Functions: prices, quantity, choosing items

Language: 这个/那个, 多少钱?

Skills: classifiers

Week 9 — Weather & Simple Descriptions

Functions: describing weather, simple adjectives

Language: 热/冷、很...、不...

Skills: A 很 B pattern

Week 10 — Review & Practical Conversation

Functions: consolidating all core skills, final task

Assessment: speaking tasks, real-life dialogue

Homework: personalized next-steps plan