

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. This class will mainly rely on Speedy Chinese and HSK 1. Textbook is NOT required for this class but is recommended 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.

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)