Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar Workbook

SECOND EDITION

Claudia Ross
Jing-heng Sheng Ma
Baozhang He
Pei-Chia Chen
# Contents

Introduction viii  
How to use this book ix  

## Part A Structures 1

1 Overview of pronunciation and Pinyin romanization 3  
2 Syllable, meaning, and word 4  
3 The Chinese writing system: an overview 5  
4 Phrase order in the Mandarin sentence 7  
5 Nouns 11  
6 Numbers 13  
7 Specifiers and demonstratives 17  
8 Classifiers 20  
9 Noun phrases 24  
10 Adjectival verbs 28  
11 Stative verbs 31  
12 Modal verbs 34  
13 Action verbs 39  
14 Prepositions and prepositional phrases 42  
15 Adverbs 46  
16 Conjunctions 49  
17 Aspect 51  
18 Resultative verbs 55  
19 Directional verbs 60
## CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>把 bā sentences: the ‘disposal’ construction</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>The passive</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Part B</strong> Situations and functions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Names, kinship terms, titles, and terms of address</td>
<td>73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Greetings and goodbyes</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Basic strategies for communication</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Telecommunications and e-communications:</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>telephones, the internet, and faxes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Negating information</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Asking questions and replying to questions</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Expressing identification, possession, and existence</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Describing people, places, and things</td>
<td>98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Describing how actions are performed</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Indicating result, conclusion, potential, and extent</td>
<td>104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>Making comparisons</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Talking about the present</td>
<td>115</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>Talking about habitual actions</td>
<td>118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Talking about the future</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>Indicating completion and talking about the past</td>
<td>125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Talking about change, new situations, and changing situations</td>
<td>132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Talking about duration and frequency</td>
<td>137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>Expressing additional information</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Expressing contrast</td>
<td>145</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Expressing sequence</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Expressing simultaneous situations</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Contents

44 Expressing cause and effect or reason and result 159
45 Expressing conditions 165
46 Expressing ‘both,’ ‘all,’ ‘every,’ ‘any,’ ‘none,’ ‘not any,’ and ‘no matter how’ 168
47 Expressing location and distance 173
48 Talking about movement, directions, and means of transportation 176
49 Talking about clock time and calendar time 180
50 Expressing obligations and prohibitions 185
51 Expressing commands and permission 187
52 Expressing ability and possibility 190
53 Expressing desires, needs, preferences, and willingness 193
54 Expressing knowledge, advice, and opinions 196
55 Expressing fear, worry, and anxiety 200
56 Expressing speaker attitudes and perspectives 203
57 Topic, focus, and emphasis 205
58 Guest and host 211
59 Giving and responding to compliments 212
60 Expressing satisfaction and dissatisfaction 215
61 Expressing gratitude and responding to expressions of gratitude 218
62 Invitations, requests, and refusals 221
63 Expressing apologies, regrets, sympathy, and bad news 224
64 Expressing congratulations and good wishes 227
Answer key 229
Index 349
Introduction

The Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar Workbook is a companion to Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar and is designed to help you to strengthen your command of Mandarin Chinese. It can be used alongside a Chinese language textbook in a regular language program, or as review material for self study. The Answer Key at the end of the book allows you to check your answers as you work through the exercises. Exercises in the Workbook are graded in terms of level of difficulty, making the book appropriate for near-beginners as well as Mandarin learners at the advanced level in a high school or university program. Instructions are written in English, and all exercises are presented in simplified and traditional characters and Pinyin romanization.

The Workbook focuses on the major structural patterns and communication strategies used in Mandarin Chinese. Exercises focusing on structure are presented in Part A ‘Structures’ and those focusing on communication are presented in Part B ‘Situations and functions.’ Since successful communication is built in part on structural accuracy, there is overlap between the two sections. We recommend that as you work on situations and functions in Part B, you also practice the related structure exercises in Part A. For example, when working on Chapters 47 ‘Expressing location and distance’ and 48 ‘Talking about movement, directions, and means of transportation,’ you should also work through the structure exercises involving prepositions in Part A. Use the table of contents to find exercises for specific structures or general communication tasks. Consult the Index for exercises focusing on specific topics such as illness, or the weather, or reciting telephone numbers. Follow the cross-references to Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar for explanations about structure and usage.

Chinese language study is an interesting journey. We hope that the Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar Workbook and Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar are helpful in your navigation, and wish you enjoyment and success as you develop your language skills.

Claudia Ross
Jing-heng Sheng Ma
Baozhang He
Pei-Chia Chen
January 2014
How to use this book

We have written this book as a companion to *Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar* to provide practice with the major structures and functions of Mandarin Chinese. Use it to strengthen your grammatical skills and your ability to communicate in Mandarin.

The presentation of material follows the order of presentation in *Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar*. You can work on the chapters in any order, selecting chapters that focus on the structures and functions that address your specific needs.

This *Workbook* is divided into two parts. Part A focuses on structures. If you want to focus on basic structures such as the formation of numbers, or noun modification, or the phrase order of the Mandarin sentence, you should select exercises in Part A. Part A also includes some practice with Pinyin romanization, and some activities involving Chinese characters that will help you to use a Chinese dictionary. Part B, ‘Situations and functions,’ focuses on communication. When you want to practice giving an opinion, or politely refusing a request, or to talk about the past, you should select exercises from Part B. You can work on related structures as you practice communicative tasks. For example, when practicing talking about the past you may wish to consult the chapters on verbs in Part A.

Each exercise in the *Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar Workbook* is followed by one or more numbers indicating the section(s) of the *Grammar* in which the relevant structures or functions are discussed. For example, the number 30.2 following an exercise indicates that the exercise targets the material presented in Chapter 30, section 2. You should study the presentation in the *Grammar* before completing the relevant activities in the *Workbook*.

This *Workbook* includes an alphabetical Index to help you to locate exercises that focus on particular structures or functions. The numbers following each item in the Index indicate the sections of the *Workbook* in which activities are presented.

Finally, an Answer Key is provided at the end of the book. Check the answer key *only after* you have completed each activity!
Part A

Structures
Overview of pronunciation and Pinyin romanization

1. Put the tone mark over the appropriate vowel.
   a. xian (1)  e. tou (2)
   b. bie (2)  f. huai (4)
   c. xuan (3)  g. chui (1)
   d. yue (4)  h. zao (3)

2. Rewrite these sentences and phrases to indicate the changed tones in natural speech.
   - Example: nǐ hǎo  →  ní hǎo
     a. Xiǎo Lí
     b. wǔ bǎ yīzi
     c. Nǐ yǒu gòu ma?
     d. Wǒ hěn hǎo.
     e. Tā yé xiǎng mài bǐ.
     f. Wǒ xiǎng mǎi shū.
     g. Tā yǒu jiǔ gè péngyou.
     h. wūshíwù běn shū

3. Correct the Pinyin spelling for each of the following words and syllables.
   a. kwai  f. üe
   b. uan  g. shuesheng
   c. pengyow  h. jungguo
   d. quian  i. hsiao
   e. dwo  j. iao

1.1.1, 1.1.2, 1.2.2