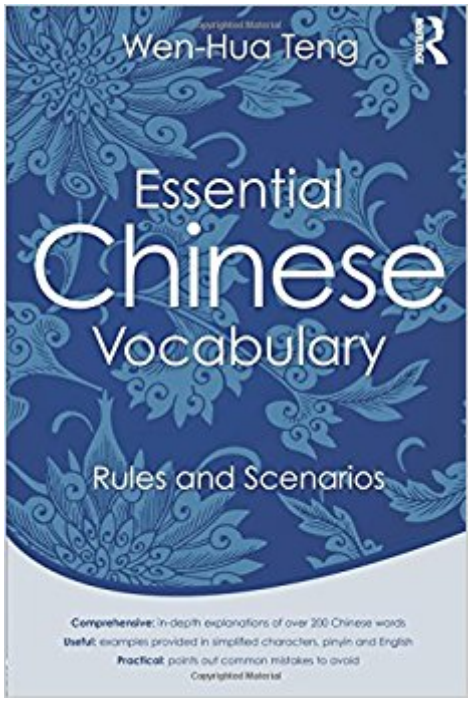
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Essential Chinese Vocabulary: Rules And Scenarios



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Synopsis

Essential Chinese Vocabulary: Rules and Scenarios is an indispensable guide for beginner to intermediate students of Chinese who wish to use essential Chinese words and phrases accurately. The book provides the crucial context and explanations of grammar structures and language rules related to important Chinese words and phrases, too often glossed over in primary textbooks. Students are given the tools necessary to refine their use of these words and phrases in order to communicate effectively in Chinese. Key features: In-depth explanations of commonly used words and phrases contextualized with a range of authentic examples providing learners with a comprehensive understanding of the vocabulary-use and allowing them to express themselves accurately and appropriately. Bridges the gap between grammar and vocabulary by presenting the frequently-neglected rules that govern the use of words and phrases. Clear and systematic comparisons between the uses of ostensibly similar words, highlighting the nuances of the Chinese language. Examples provided in simplified Chinese characters, pinyin and English Identifies common mistakes made by learners and ways to avoid them Extensive cross-references. Essential Chinese Vocabulary: Rules and ScenariosÃ Â is a unique reference and useful complement to basic and intermediate Chinese language textbooks.

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Customer Reviews

Wen-Hua Teng is a senior lecturer in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Amazing! You can open this book to any random page and learn so much. I know enough characters to read Chinese fluently, but these are the nuances you never get in the textbooks. The author really takes the time to go into detail and gives wonderful examples of each usage.Thank you!!(Note: despite the title, this is NOT a book for beginners)

Full of detailed, clear explanations of each word, with lots of illustrative sentences. Very helpful for a beginner: a great tool to learn correct usage from the start.

I have been studying Chinese for quite some time now, lived in China for about 4.5 years, and have used various materials. I would say this is book is a must for students past the beginner level that need to improve to solid intermediate or higher, and just can't get it quite right. You know how when you speak with Chinese people, you can communicate, but you can't understand everything they are saying and you can't quite say it like they do? You wish you could just form long properly structured sentences but you end up doing more of a direct translation of English? Like you can't form perfect Chinese sentences in it's idiomatic way like a local? This is an excellent book to help that.This book is not only vocabulary but proper usage of this vocabulary. This usage and proper sentence structure is one of the absolute keys to progressing in Chinese. Please look at the preview of the book here and you will see what I mean. For example, the phrase, "Bu guan" is "no matter" but this book will show you bu guan + question word + dou and give you a dialogue where this is used.The problem, as many who have been at this for a while know, is remembering it all! You can study grammar and sentence structure but when you put the book down and speak to a Chinese person, can you use what you studied and make a perfect sentence? This would be helpful with a matching CD or MP3s which this book has none!As you know, the internet is filled with hacks and products claiming how easy Chinese is to learn with the right shortcuts and how they speak so great in months or something like this. As many will eventually find out, they are 100% BS! You think Chinese is easy? Ok, go study 8 hours a day for 3 years and then tell me how easy it is. Oh what was that? Your Chinese still sucks? Yeah, that's what I thought!This is not a grammar book in the literal sense of the word, but more of a sentence structure book and loaded with key vocabulary to also help you. It has thorough explanations and examples of sentence structure, which is one of the KEYS to speaking fluent Chinese. Again, remembering what you studied will always be a challenge. Of course, one must practice.A complaint for me is the text does seem smaller than it should be, and wish the book was bigger so it was clearer.One more complaint is there is no traditional

characters. For me, I study both side by side any chance I can, as traditional characters is what you commonly see outside of Mainland China such as in the US, not only Taiwan, and I find the logic to the traditional characters important to memorizing and learning characters. If you are ONLY studying simplified characters, I urge you to consider learning both side by side when you read and write. They are not harder to learn, and they actually are easier to memorize because there is more there to clarify.Oh and for you who refuse to practice writing characters, your laziness will prove a detriment in the end. You can't, I repeat, CAN NOT read Chinese well if you never practiced writing. You can't speak well if you can't read. Unless you grew up in China, you will need to read and write. Now, you do not need to be able to write fast and perfect like English, but practicing writing in an organized way will help you read better rather than just guess.The best list I found to practice writing is the NEW HSK list. They are organized in a very good way for those who already can read at least a little. After HSK Level 6, you can use other material to practice, but after HSK Level 5, you will have a really good grasp of the structure of the writing system. What I did was buy the flashcard box here on of 1000. I started with HSK 1 and made my own flashcards. These flashcards were only to help writing, not memorize meanings of words although if that happened, that would be a bonus. One side of the flashcard has English and pinyin, other side traditional and simplified characters. Now the NEW HSK list is words, not just single characters. NEVER study single characters unless that single character is a word. So I would make 10-30 flashcards at a time, practice writing on a blank piece of paper a few times.After a certain amount of days studying, I would go through all of Level 1, by looking at the English word, "Good" and Pinyin, "Hao" then write it. Flip the card over and if I couldn't remember how to write it I would set it aside. So let's say for example, studying the 150 Level 1 list for 2 weeks, I do a final test, and 5 of them I wrote wrong, I would put the 145 away, and keep the 5. Then move on to level 2, adding these 5 within that pack and do the same. The 145 cards of Level 1 I put aside I knew, but in a few weeks time review again, and whatever I forgot, add back to the study pack. Keep doing this. Eventually you will have thousands of cards, which is immense! So when you are on Level 4, you can every so often go back to Level 1, 2 or 3 for review, but not all the time.Now, the goal for me, is not to be able to write perfectly because I have really barely any use for that in my life since we use computers and text. The goal for me is to fully know the characters well, and this can't be done without practicing writing. So the goal is to be able to write decent, not perfect. Once you practice writing you will understand what I am saying here. You will read differently and have a much clearer and deeper understanding of the logic behind the characters.. A certain logic to the character are uncovered by practicing writing. Again, I have no interest in writing well, just writing well enough to improve my reading which improves speaking, and

to be honest, writing Chinese is fun! I assume many I will forget eventually, but as soon as I glance at it again, I will go, "AH I remember" and be able to write it again.Since the HSK list is about 5000 words and many of the characters repeat, I have a rule where if I already learned to write all the characters of that word, I won't make a flashcard of it, unless I want to for some reason. For example, if I already made 2 flashcards of "hao" and "kan" so if the word comes up, "hao kan" as in good looking, I will probably not make a flashcard of it. That way I limit the immense amount of cards. Remember, my goal for flashcards is simply writing, not learning vocabulary. Learning straight vocabulary I use other books for that. Mainly books where they give you vocabulary and then dialogues, and hopefully a CD or MP3 with it to practice listening. Of course, this book can help with vocabulary as it is filled with good vocab beyond the 200 listed.Back to the Essential Chinese Vocabulary review: The book is so well done I decided to give it a 5 star review besides my minor complaints.I recommend this book to anyone past the beginner stage that wants to get their Chinese right or at least, much more natural and correct than where they currently are. NEVER believe the hacks that claim you can be fluent in Chinese in 3 months or even 3 years. This language is extremely difficult and will take an immense amount of diligence and there are no shortcuts. Actually, the shortcuts is what blocks your progress.I highly recommend the Princeton series of books too which have traditional and simplified characters, huge print and also grammar explanations. I have purchased Oh China and A New China and they are also a MUST purchase! They go into subjects and content you rarely see, such as racial discrimination, history of Chinese working overseas, politics, gov't, and vocabulary you would use in a real conversation with a Chinese friend, not just how much is a room for the night or taxi talk. For the Princeton books you have to send separately for the MP3s of the lessons but do it! It is worth it!For newspaper reading, this same company, Routledge has a book called The Routledge Course in Chinese Media Literacy and is one of the absolute best books to help you read a newspaper in Chinese. The book is in simplified characters but online you can download the traditional version. Again, I highly recommend studying both fonts. The higher level Princeton books also dive into newspapers and literature but I haven't got that far yet in the series.Good luck in your studies!

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