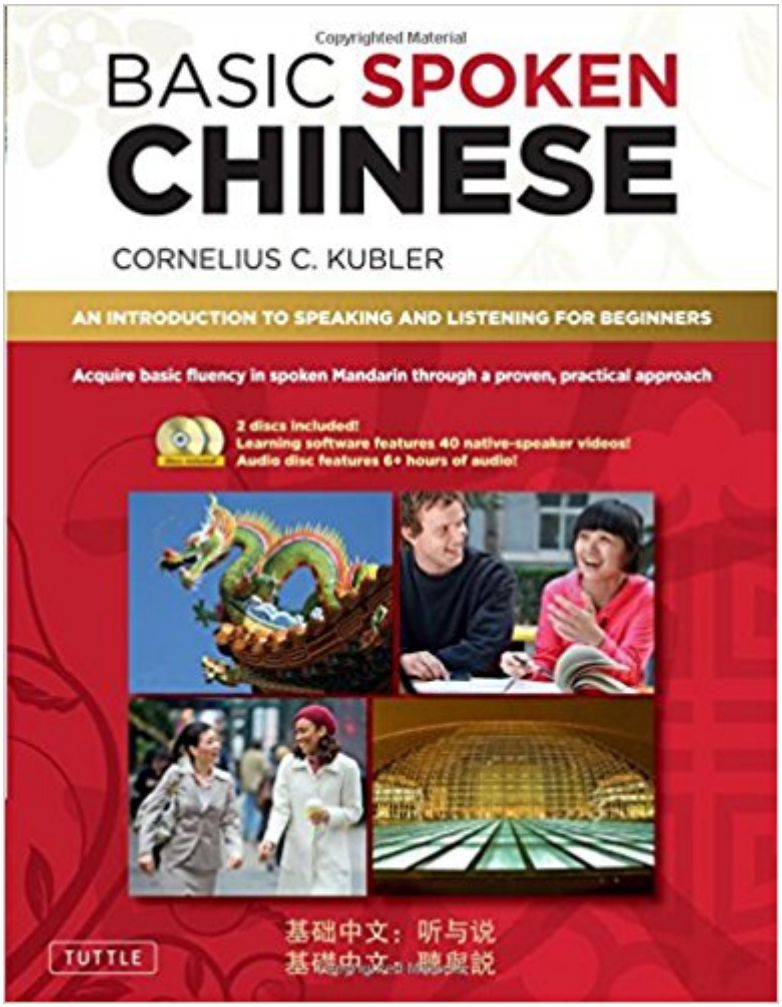
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Basic Spoken Chinese: An Introduction To Speaking And Listening For Beginners (DVD And MP3 Audio CD Included) (Basic Chinese)




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Synopsis

This is a beginning-level course in spoken Chinese that employs a revolutionary new method designed to have you quickly speaking and comprehending Mandarin Chinese.Along with its sister book Basic Written Chinese and their accompanying workbooks, Basic Spoken Chinese offers a complete introductory course to the Chinese language. As a native English speaker, working hard to learn Chinese is not enough; you have to work smart in order to learn this very different language efficiently. An accompanying MP3 audio CD and a separate DVD with video software reinforce the material introduced in the book. No matter why you've chosen to learn ChineseÃ¢â ¬â •for business, travel, cultural studies or another goalÃ¢â ¬â •the Basic Chinese approach of two separate but integrated tracks in spoken and written Chinese will help you learn this language most efficiently and successfully. Detailed explanations in English of Chinese pronunciation, grammar, usage, culture, society, and recommended learning approaches. A digital Instructor's Guide is available electronically. A written Character Transcript (Simplified and Traditional) is available electronically.The MP3 audio CD and software CDs feature: 40 videos with dozens of native speakers filmed on location in mainland China, Hong Kong, Macao, Taiwan, Singapore, and Malaysia. 6 hours of native-speaker audio, including all of the book's conversations. Build up sections, new words, and pronunciation exercises.Available separately, Basic Spoken Chinese Practice Essentials is the companion workbook for Basic Spoken Chinese. This practical guide includes a broad range of drills and exercises designed to dramatically enhance your proficiency in speaking and comprehending. While designed for use with the companion textbook, it can be used together with any Chinese textbook or teaching program to hone your Chinese language skills.

Book Information

Series: Basic Chinese
Paperback: 384 pages
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Customer Reviews

"I have been teaching Chinese to high school students for over 25 years and have used a variety of texts. I decided to try Basic Spoken Chinese (BSC) with one of my classes on an experimental level, and I have to say it is the best text of its kind that I have ever seen. Ã¢â ¬â •Richard Ayres, St. Xavier High School, Louisville, KY"Professor Kubler in a detailed manner explains the structure of Mandarin sentences and does a good job comparing Mandarin sentences with the corresponding English ones, highlighting many of the pitfalls faced by the average English speakers trying to learn Chinese." Ã¢â ¬â •Study More Chinese blog"Meticulously planned, carefully prepared and patiently tested for over a decade, the Basic Chinese series represents the most comprehensive introductory materials available now. The eclectic approach, the flexibility in use, the attention to authenticity of language in its sociolinguistic context, the myriad of audio and visual aids, and the array of rigorously designed exercises makes the Basic Chinese the ideal material for any committed learner embarking on the journey of learning the Chinese language." Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. Jun Yang, Senior Lecturer in Chinese, University of Chicago"This is one of the best elementary Chinese textbooks, I believe, ever produced in the history of teaching Chinese as a second languageÃ¢â ¬Â| A great and unique work which will benefit students and teachers for many years to come." Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. Shengli Feng, Professor of Chinese Linguistics, Chinese University of Hong Kong"Outstanding for its carefully graduated presentation of material in easily digestible sub-units, comprehensive and clearly written grammatical and cultural notes, and perhaps most important of all, its separation of the task of learning to speak the language from the very different processes of learning to read and write Chinese charactersÃ¢â ¬Â| The most exciting Chinese language textbook I have seen in many years." Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. James E. Dew, retired associate professor of Chinese, University of Michigan; former Director of the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies in Taipei"A breath of fresh airÃ¢â ¬Â| Its dual track for spoken and written language finally gives American students a chance to develop oral proficiency without being slowed down by the character writingÃ¢â ¬Â| An ideal textbook for any program that seeks to advance rapidly in spoken Chinese and to fully prepare the students for their encounter with China." Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. Jingqi Fu, Associate Professor of Chinese, St. Mary’s College of Maryland"Contextualized so learners know not only what to say, but why, when, and with whom it is appropriate to use such language. Ã¢â ¬Â¦thorough and clearÃ¢â ¬Â|refreshing." Ã¢â ¬â •Dr. Matthew Christensen, Associate

Professor of Chinese, Brigham Young University"Kubler's books distinguish themselves with natural, culturally-rooted dialogues, detailed notes (for both written and spoken language), generous practice activities and an amazing care for organization. These books will be valuable tools for both students and their teachers." Ã¢â ¬â •Prof. Eric Pelzl, Wisconsin Lutheran College

Cornelius C. Kubler, Stanfield Professor of Asian Studies at Williams College, received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees in linguistics from Cornell University. He earned a second M.A. in Chinese literature from National Taiwan University. From 1980-1991 he was employed at the Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, where he served as Language Training Supervisor in Mandarin, Cantonese, Japanese, and Mongolian; as Principal of the advanced Chinese field school in Taiwan; and as Chair of the Department of Asian and African Languages. Since joining Williams College in 1991, he has chaired the former Department of Chinese and Asian Studies Program as well as the Department of Asian Studies, which he was instrumental in founding. He has also served as visiting professor at Eisenhower College, Portland State University, Middlebury College, National Taiwan Normal University, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and Wenzao Ursuline University of Languages. Kubler, who is author or coauthor of 20 books and over 50 articles on Chinese language pedagogy and linguistics, frequently serves as reviewer or consultant for Chinese and Asian Studies programs in the U.S. and overseas. He has served as Chair of the Test Development Committee for the SAT Subject Test in Chinese and as member of the Executive Committee of the Association of Departments of Foreign Languages of the Modern Language Association. He is currently serving as American Co-Director of The Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing, China.

I"m giving this 3 stars only because of problems with the dvd, which of course, is very important. The dvd worked once and i was happy. To clarify, I love the text for written language. I also liked the start of the dvd. I felt it would be very helpful and I would learn well using it. However, the second time I tried to use it, the dvd did not work in my pc I get a 'computer will not accept this format' message. Very frustrating to say the least after spending the money and going to all the trouble to get it to me. I live in a remote area of mexico and a friend actually carried this down to me from the US. Now I can't use it. I noticed there was one other reviewer who had a similar problem only on a mac.Can anyone suggest a pathway to solution?

Although I really like the overall materials, the practice essentials are poorly organized and the DVD

and videos did not work at all on my Mac Book Pro 2012. Better coordination between the basic textbook and the workbook is really required to make this an excellent course, which it could be.

The DVD does not work after the first use. I have a brand new laptop and play DVDs frequently and watch many training videos for other courses. I have a PC with Windows 10. Does anyone know how to get the DVD to work?

I have been teaching Chinese to high school students for over 25 years and have used a variety of texts. I decided to try "Basic Spoken Chinese" (BSC) with one of my classes on an experimental level, and I have to say it is the best text of its kind that I have ever seen. In the first place, separating the speaking/listening components from the reading/writing components enables students to make rapid progress in oral/aural skills without the limitations imposed by time taken in character mastery. The language used is colloquial and authentic, arranged topically with each unit building upon the previous ones. The ancillary materials are both abundant and exceptional in quality, providing multiple venues for drill (listening comprehension, pronunciation, substitution, role playing, translation, etc.). The audio components (included on CDs that come with the text) are excellent. The companion volume, "Basic Written Chinese", will be available early next year, and I am anxious to see this and incorporate a writing component into the class. If it’s as good as BSC, this textbook will set a new standard for Chinese instruction.It should be noted that BSC and BWC are intended primarily to be used as college texts. However, this should NOT deter Chinese instructors at the secondary level from considering adopting them. In the final analysis, the difference simply comes down to pace. The lesson plans which accompany the text can easily be modified for high school classes, or the teacher can prepare his own lesson plans, as I do. The material is appropriate for any level provided that the instructor adjust the pace at which new material is introduced and the time devoted to any given unit.Another impressive feature to BSC is the amount of relevant (and interesting!) culture information introduced in the "Grammar and Culture" segment of each part of the units. The explanations and insights far surpass anything I have seen in other texts, not excluding such classics as the "Integrated Chinese" series. If the teacher is so inclined, entire class periods can be devoted to discussions of these culture points. My students actually enjoy reading them. In a China (PRC) which is changing almost daily, the cultural insights offer marvelous opportunities to discuss Chinese culture in the context of the language being studied at the moment. The wealth of information offered in a very reader-friendly manner is breath-taking and makes the cultural component of the course fall into place naturally.If I were to

voice any complaint---and it is a very minor one---I could have wished that the video component were of better quality. While it does allow the instructor to choose what he wants his students to see (characters, pinyin, English, or nothing but the actual video), the voices are actually dubbed over the real voices of the speakers. Though I understand that this guarantees phonetic accuracy, it impinges upon the real-life feel of the video. However, this point pales to insignificance given the quality of the text as a whole and should under no circumstances be a deterrent to adopting this text.BSC will work very well with independent learners, a point which Dr. Kubler addresses in the Instructor's Manual.In short, I believe Dr. Kubler's text is truly ground-breaking, marking a new standard for spoken Chinese instruction. I am very anxious to see "Basic Written Chinese" when it appears. For those teachers (especially at the secondary level) who have lived with the frustration of students' oral proficiency progressing only as fast as they can master the written characters, BSC is a breath of fresh air even in a time where new Chinese texts appear almost daily. Most importantly, the students themselves are motivated by making rapid progress in the two most important skills of speaking and listening comprehension. It is my sincere hope that this text achieves the recognition (and adoption) which it deserves.

"Basic Spoken Chinese" is an excellent multi-media (print / audio / video) for learning spoken Mandarin and useful Pinyin. I am using it at the Institute of Strategic Languages & Cultures (ISLC) in Columbia, SC as an adult student of Mandarin.Yes, it's difficult learning (any) language at 54 years old, but I am. I tried the Pimsleur Mandarin I and II audio series previously, and though I learned a little, at best it merely prepared me to understand this material and provided a basic familiarity with tone and core vocabulary. Now I'm learning, and with command of Pinyin can finally understand and synthesize conversation.As an English speaker, you MUST learn proper pronunciation and mastery of tone before getting anywhere with Mandarin. This material has an excellent preface that grounds the basics necessary. There is NO SUBSTITUTE for a physical teacher, preferably a native speaker, to explain and correct as well as to elaborate on the excellent cultural insights the text offers. There is just so much you can put in a text, and I think this material has just the right balance.Yes, the audio drills are fast paced, but that's how the language is spoken, and you must prepare yourself for reality. I have found the basic windows media player tools are fine for playback, and with a modest (10% or so) slowdown you can control playback to learn and then get to full speed for full practice.Finally, I also recommend purchase of the supplementary text and audio package "Basic Spoken Chinese - Practice Essentials" - very helpful to gain full mastery of the material. That and a nice little stack of 3x5 note cards to create a vocabulary flash card set - and

you’re ready to get serious!

My wife is Chinese so I am using this to help in my quest to communicate with her and her family.I haven’t run into any issues where she has had to correct the book or where the book is teaching something that is unpopular or not actually used. The book also works for me, so I recommend it.

The CDs that came with it won’t work on Windows even though they are supposed to. They work ok on OSX.

Pretty good book for learning

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