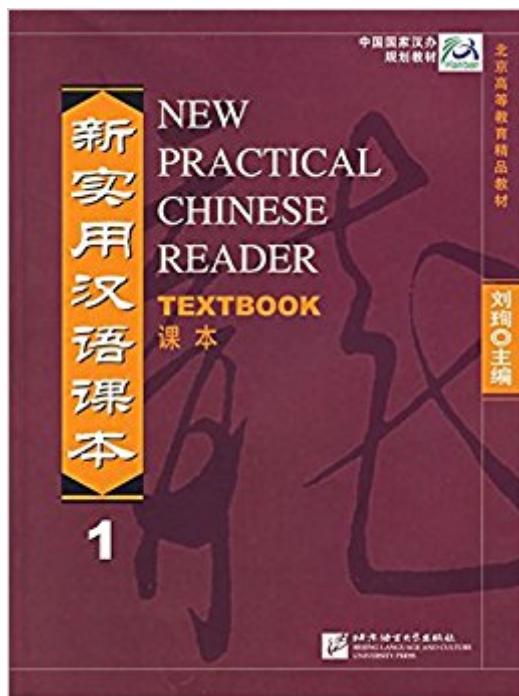


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New Practical Chinese Reader: Textbook 1



Synopsis

The first volume of the long-awaited revised edition of the popular Practical Chinese Reader series are finally available! This completely new edition (it will encompass six volumes in 70 lessons when completed) takes the student from an absolute beginner to an intermediate level, approximately 3 years of higher-level classroom instruction. The text follows the story of Ding Libo (the son of Gubo and Ding Yun from the first edition) and other international students as they live in China, learning about Chinese culture and society as they learn contemporary Mandarin. Emphasizing the basic skills of reading, writing (simplified characters), speaking, and listening, with supplementary exercises, many illustrations, charts, and in a larger 8 x 11 format.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The key provided for the exercises in the accompanying Workbook and the tests for Lessons 1-6 and 7-14 in the Instructor's Manual are helpful and therefore I consider good, especially to enable me to check my work. The CD that came with the instructor's manual only contain the Revision tests for Lessons 1-6 and 7-14. However, instructions (I assume for the teacher to help him/her to deliver the Textbook) are in Chinese. I personally think this should also be given in English, especially to help those students who want to learn Chinese on their own or do not have access to a native Chinese speaking teacher or a teacher whose main language is not Chinese. This, I find is the only disadvantage of the Instructor's Manual.

I first used the Practical Chinese Reader series in 1985 as a college textbook. The original books were green, fat, and printed on the cheapest of paper. Nonetheless, they were an excellent Chinese textbook series. The new PCR's have kept the good points of the earlier readers and have improved upon them significantly. These improvements are the format, the quality of the dialogues, the references at the end of the book, and a first-rate 4-skills pedagogical approach. The authors of this book really do expect you to learn to speak, read, and write Chinese. As a home study tool for a first time learner, the books are not great because they depend on having a university level instructor or advanced high school teacher to get you through the difficult parts. One of the earlier reviewers here noted this problem as the book suddenly morphs from pinyin to kanji. The workbooks are also superfluous and not useful. The CD's are a complete ripoff. There is a plethora of audio material available for free on the Internet. Home learners should check out some of the excellent videocam Chinese lessons offered on the Internet, most of which come with their own textbooks, which are cheaper than PCR. [...] Their textbook was comparable to PCR in quality. Bottom line: excellent textbook, shoddy ancillary materials, great for structured classroom, poor for home learning.

This is a book bought for my son when he took Chinese classes in college. The texts, classes, and the verbiage have had a big impact on his life and five years later, he still practices his Chinese language.

Kids dived right in. They love it and I love that they love it. One of the best Homeschool tools for learning Chinese ever!

Excellent, practical activities. Mostly for memorising characters though. A bit old-school as far as language education goes.

This is the first in a relatively new series of Chinese textbooks produced in mainland China. It has an excellent mix of conversation, culture, reading and writing. The text emphasizes communication, starting with day to day situations. I have studied Chinese off and on for a few years, using many different texts, but I keep forgetting when I don't continue studying, so I am using the book as review. I chose it on the recommendation of my teacher. This text is good for me, but it is also good for total beginners. In fact, my teacher chose it for herself because it works with students of many different levels. The writing aspect is particularly good, and quite different from other texts I have used. Characters are introduced right away, and the components of the characters are emphasized.

It's like teaching the 'alphabet' of parts that are used to construct characters, and the logic of it. One point to make is that the characters used are primarily in simplified form as used in mainland China, although the traditional forms are usually given too.

Thanks

Good work book to use along with the companion text book. Helps you to practice what you learnt in the text through ample exercises, text questions, phonetics and writing characters.

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