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Michel Thomas Beginner Mandarin Chinese Lesson 3



Synopsis

What is the Michel Thomas Method? The Michel Thomas Method teaches everyday conversational language that will allow you to communicate in a wide variety of situations, empowered by the ability to create your own sentences and use the language instinctively, having absorbed the vocabulary and grammatical structures. These all-audio courses were perfected over 25 years by gifted linguist and teacher Michel Thomas, and provide an accelerated method for language learning that is truly revolutionary.

Lessons 1-8, the Beginner course: This course makes no assumption of knowledge of any language other than English and gives the beginner practical and functional use of the spoken language. It is also appropriate for anyone who has studied Mandarin Chinese before, but has forgotten much of it or does not have confidence in speaking. The Beginner course is designed to take you from complete beginner to intermediate level.

Lessons 9-12, the Intermediate course: This course is for those with an intermediate-level foundation in Mandarin Chinese, or those who have completed lessons 1-8 and want to take their learning to an advanced level and speak Mandarin Chinese proficiently and easily.

How does it work? Unlike most language courses that focus around topics or grammar forms, the Michel Thomas Method works by breaking a language down into its component parts, enabling you to reconstruct the language yourself - to form your own sentences, to say what you want, when you want. Within the first 10 minutes of the course, you will be generating complete sentences on your own. It is important that you complete the lessons in order. The Method is successful because it builds on the language you learn in each lesson and 'recycles' language taught in earlier lessons, allowing you to build ever-more complicated sentences. Because the Method is based on understanding, not memorisation, there is no set limit to the length of time that you should study each lesson. Once you feel you have a good grasp of the language taught in one lesson, you can move on to the next.

In lesson 3 of the Mandarin Chinese Beginner course, you'll be able to say 'my, mine' etc. with the possessive marker 'de', understand how word order works in questions and answers, and talk about speaking English and Chinese with...

- conjunction: 'because'
- marker for possession: 'my, mine' etc.
- nouns: 'friend', 'teacher', 'literature, culture', 'Chinese language', 'English language', 'TV', 'electricity', 'vision', 'wife'
- demonstrative adjectives: 'this', 'that'
- question word: 'what?'
- word order in questions and answers
- verb: 'to speak/say'

In the next lesson you'll be able to use the classifier 'ge' and learn that prepositions function as verbs.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

Alright, i'm only 2 CDs out of 8 + 2 through this, so this is a preliminary review. I'm writing it partly out of frustration, but i am hoping i'll be able to increase the rating later. Already in writing this opus i've optimistically upgraded it to a 3 from the 2 I was originally going to give it. Here goes: This program seems excellent for someone like me w/ no or nearly no experience. It really starts from zero. I already knew ABOUT the language a little bit (like that it has 4 tones etc), but I was not able to produce or understand any words or identify or produce the tones so i was practically at zero. The main teacher is a somewhat edgier Mr. Rogers type. (For NPR listeners he sounds just a little like Richard Sher, host of "Says you!"). It's a little bit corny, but it's quite palatable. I compare this with the Fluenz test lesson you can see online (and also some of the podcasts i've tried) which have a tone and affect that makes me squirm. Those are somehow falsely dulcet and over enthusiastic. This is not. (My language background, BTW: I'm was an immigrant to the US (as a kid) and speak English quite well (80% -90% of people i meet think i'm a native speaker and it's the language I think and operate in, except if i speak my native tongue, which i don't do very well or that often). Took French in middle-school and HS many years ago. Not good, but not terrible. I took a term of Japanese (over a decade ago). NOT gifted (got a "gentleman's C" in that. My very weak defense is that 75%+ of the people in that class had taken some Japanese before, but i didn't put in as much work as maybe it took either). A few years ago I tried Pimsleur Japanese, but only made it through a few lessons.

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