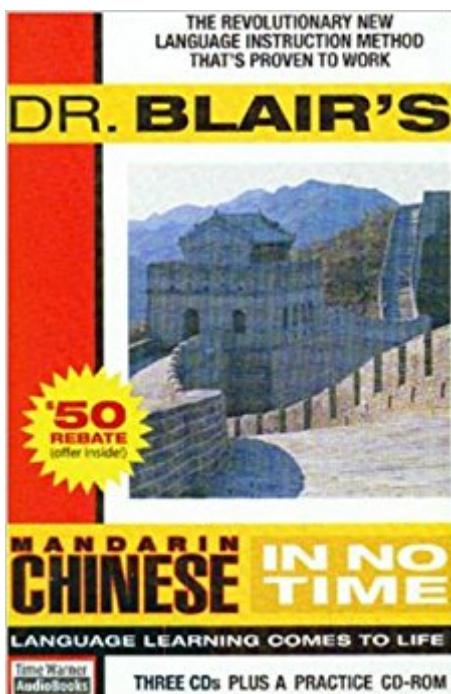


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Dr. Blair's Mandarin Chinese In No Time: The Revolutionary New Language Instruction Method That's Proven To Work!



Synopsis

Master the basics of the Mandarin Chinese language with Dr. Blair's tried and true methods.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I am so impressed by this diminutive (in both size and price) package. I bought it for the price and internet reviews of Dr. Blair's courses (they are all filled with praise). I am now a believer because the method works in the most creative of ways. I'm not yet through lesson 2 but am able to innovatively think through the construction and translation of sentences. This is an introductory package to the Power-glide method of language learning. It includes 3 audio CDs with 6 total lessons and 1 computer CD with the written (in Simplified Chinese characters and pinyin) and spoken vocabulary that you have learned organized by lesson, additional travel vocabulary, and a diglot written story which merges both English language and Chinese pinyin to practice with. The audio CD portion uses a story-line to start immediate learning as you listen and practice along with 'the other students'. You have to listen many times to each section in order to really absorb what you are learning. For me, each lesson (6 total) takes at least a week to truly 'get it'. So, at \$12 we're talking about \$2/week for fairly intensive instruction. In combination with the computer CD resources, this package can lay quite a constructive foundation in the Chinese language. What a fantastic and inexpensive way to see if you enjoy learning a new language! Because of my positive experience with this package, I have looked into buying the comprehensive Power-glide Mandarin Chinese course which Power-glide has yet to complete. It is due by the end of 2006 and it, too, will be a bargain (25%-30% cost of competitor products). I know that this is the language learning

method for me.

1. I had problems installing the CDs.2. Their help line was very responsible even in the evening by e-mail.3. The beginning was very good and then just fell apart.4. It reminds me of one of those hacked together chop-socky movies that Jackie Chan was forced to make - All advertising, some, but very little delivery. The sample has the narrative about an interesting story where I expected to solve a problem and use your language skills. Out of three hours, I bet less than 10 minutes TOTAL are spent on the story and I haven't seen anything related to the adventure in the learning. The mnemonic devices were good, that is haidou = sea pirates, Shanghai = near the Sea, but I bet less than 20% of the words used mnemonic devices. Two hours into the three hours of the course and they are stringly irrelevant phrases together, e.g. Do you want to pet my tiger? (I'm not kidding) with that... I don't know, [...].

For an absolute beginner who is serious about learning Chinese, I would recommend starting with Pimsleur (the mini-series) to get the pronunciation and sentence rhythms pounded into your head. I've heard so many great reviews about Pimsleur from people who have used it and then traveled to China. Then when you're ready to expand your vocabulary and speaking skills as a quicker (and more fun) pace, "Dr. Blair" fits the bill for beginner stage 2. They don't hesitate to give you goofy mnemonic tips to help you remember the Chinese. i.e. "tou fa" for hair-- "With that crazy hairstyle, you've really gone tou fa!" or "peng you" friend. "Sort of sounds like "stung yo" but it's "peng you." "Dan shi" (of course) "Sounds a bit like "darn sure." A bit crude but very helpful to get the gist of the unusual Chinese sounds.

It's very simple: if you're going to make a language CD, you should damn well know how to pronounce it correctly. The Chinese speaker on the CD is fine, but the American (Dr. Blair?) makes gross mispronunciations every sentence or two. I'd rate it lower than one star if I could... if you pattern your speaking after him, the only people that will be able to understand your Mandarin (as my Chinese teacher used to say) is you and your dog. It's not just bad, but it's actively harmful to your efforts to learn the language correctly. Only audio CD I've ever returned.

I've tried lots of other language programs, but Dr. Blair's is the first that held my interest long enough that I didn't mind doing the necessary work. Chinese pronunciations are quite a challenge to westerners, but this program takes such care to demonstrate them that you'll be surprised how

quickly you can make them sound authentic. On top of the entertaining program--you sort of have to hear it to believe it--a huge plus is the CD-ROM that helps you review pronunciations and characters as well as everything else on the program. And you can't beat the price!

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