

INTRODUCTION

This book is a sequel to its companion volume *Basic Chinese: A Grammar and Workbook* and is likewise designed to assist learners of Mandarin or Modern Standard Chinese, which is the language spoken by close on 70 per cent of the people in China. It presents the more complex features of Chinese syntax in an easily accessible reference-and-practice format. We hope it will be of help to students of the Chinese language at intermediate and advanced levels, and we envisage that it will be suitable for classroom use and, in particular, for independent study, as well as for reference purposes.

The book is divided into 25 units. First it introduces a number of intricate linguistic structures, which are characteristic elements in the Chinese language, and then it goes on to provide in-depth reviews and analyses of basic grammatical patterns, which have already been dealt with in the sister volume *Basic Chinese*, but which are discussed here in variant and more complex forms.

Each unit deals with an individual language category or structure, and provides follow-up exercises for immediate reinforcement of the grammatical rules covered in the unit. A key to the exercises is given at the end of the book. Readers may wish to consult the units separately or work progressively through the book, but we suggest that, when going through a particular unit, they attempt all the exercises in it, before consulting the key.

In this second edition, extra vocabulary and pattern drills (similar to those in the second edition of *Basic Chinese*) have been introduced with the aim of enhancing good speech habits. A further set of exercises, 'contrastive perspectives', has also been included. They highlight the different syntactic approaches used by English and Chinese speakers to express similar ideas, and they invite the reader to explore ways of converting English speech patterns into Chinese. Keys to the vocabulary and pattern drills and the contrastive perspectives are provided with those for the exercises. In the case of the 'contrastive perspectives', which are essentially advanced translation exercises, more than one Chinese version may be possible and the key offers the most straightforward alternative(s).

Practical, functional vocabulary is used in the grammatical explanations and exercises, and overall provides an extensive range of frequently occurring

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terms and Hexpressions. All illustrative examples throughout the book are given in Chinese script and *pinyin* romanization with English translations.

Students looking for guidance on more elementary grammatical structures should refer to *Basic Chinese: A Grammar and Workbook*.

The first edition of this book received financial assistance from the University of Leeds Academic Development Fund. For that edition two Research Assistants, Ms Zhang Xiaoming and Ms Rachel Henson carried out much of the important work of assembling the exercise material and English translations, and their contribution remains an important feature of this second edition. The present revision, however, could not have been completed without the help of Mrs Yip Li Quzhen, who closely monitored the vocabulary progression, partially revamped the exercises, and compiled the vocabulary list.

Finally we would like to thank the readers and reviewers who have made valuable comments on these books. We have been glad to take their views into consideration when reshaping the present volume.

Any errors or omissions that remain are, of course, the fault of the authors.

Note: We have used ‘a’ rather than ‘ α ’, which is the standard form in *pinyin* romanization.