

Course Title Starting Out [12]
Course Level Beginners
Course Description 12 sessions 90 mins £232



Aims This course provides an intensive focused approach ideal for Beginners who would like to acquire the practical speaking and listening skills needed to cope with day-to-day scenarios when socialising and travelling abroad. The course is communicative in approach focusing on speaking and listening, and employing a range of participative activities in order to revisit the topic areas detailed below. Key structures of basic grammar are introduced inductively. Practise exchanging greetings, getting about and obtaining goods and services. The course provides an introduction to the language and also the building block to enable learners to progress. Learners can repeat to consolidate, move to Beginners Plus Level and then continue to build on this foundation level or fast-track to post-beginner level. Ask us for more information.

Who is it for?

For absolute beginners and those who wish to progress at absolute beginner pace.

Programme	Open to discussion and amendment at any time
Meeting & greeting	<i>Greeting people appropriately, pronunciation; coping strategies.</i>
Getting to know you	<i>Exchanging personal information I</i>
Getting to know you	<i>Exchanging personal information II</i>
Getting about	<i>Travelling around, asking the way, follow directions.</i>
Language Work Out	<i>Flexing and strengthening new language muscles</i>
At the cafe	<i>Ordering a food and drinks</i>
At the market place	<i>Using currency: units, weights, price, price range; asking and saying "how much?".</i>
In a boutique	<i>Talking about colour and articles of clothing. Saying what kind of clothes you are wearing.</i>
What's the time?	<i>Talking about dates and times</i>
At the hotel	<i>Booking accommodation</i>
At the chemist's	<i>Explaining ill health. Obtaining goods at the chemist</i>
Language Work Out	<i>Flexing and strengthening new language muscles</i>

You should be able toNo previous learning required

Indicative structures to be covered at Beginner Level: phonology – basic sounds and pronunciation. Grammar – basic word order, common sentence patterns, common nouns, numerals, measure words, personal pronouns and demonstratives, basic expressions of description, definite, indefinite articles; registers; question formation, negation, noun endings, adjectival agreement; indicative present tense 1pps, 2pps, 3pps of core regular and irregular verbs. Numbers and alphabet. Body language, emotional expression.

Indicative structures covered at Beginner Plus Level: Numbers and alphabet. Nouns, gender, plural endings, definite and indefinite articles, partitive article, adjectival agreement in outline, present tense – regular verbs, modals, and some key irregulars, subject pronouns, direct object pronouns; (contracted) prepositions, conjunctions, interrogatives and negatives. Further structures may be taught globally and/or in context: some reflexives, imperative and conditionals necessary for polite requests. Present perfect tense, where appropriate

Working towards CEFR* A1 level/ICCLE Stage 1 - *Common European Framework/International Curriculum of Chinese Language Education. ICCL

Speaking and Listening: Intended outcomes at this level

Listening

A1/Stage 1

- I can understand basic, familiar and well-pronounced words in simple sentences, deduce meaning and respond appropriately.
- I can understand basic greetings and phrases (e.g. 'hello', 'good morning', 'excuse me', 'sorry', 'thank you') and methods of addressing people
- I can understand simple questions about myself when people speak slowly and clearly.
- I can understand very simple information concerning numbers and time (e.g. days of the week, months of the year, numbers, prices and times).
- I can understand short simple instructions and directions given in clear slow speech.
- I can understand very limited and brief expressions related to personal and daily life when people speak slowly and clearly.
- I can understand simple words concerning myself, my family, my immediate environment when people speak slowly and clearly.
- I can understand basic numerals

Speaking

A1/Stage 1

- I can repeat, retell and recite words and sentences learned, with proper tones
- I can address new acquaintances and make basic introductions (e.g. say who I am, ask someone's name and introduce someone).
- I can initiate and respond to basic greetings and courtesy phrases (e.g. 'please', 'thank you', 'how are you?', 'I'm fine').
- I can make simple purchases, using pointing and gestures to support what I say.
- I can ask and answer very simple questions about myself if I can take my time and get help from the person I am talking to.
- I can reply to simple direct questions about personal details if these are spoken very slowly and clearly in standard language.
- I can indicate that I understand or do not understand.
- I can give and respond to simple instructions and commands.
- I can indicate basic needs and wants.
- I can seek assistance.

This is not prescriptive; structures covered will vary from one language to another, as appropriate and in accordance with student need.

Levels Explained

Each course we offer is mapped to the Common European Framework, CEFR or the International Curriculum of Chinese Language Education, ICLE. The CEFR was established by the Council of Europe and grades language attainment levels from A1 beginners to C2 mastery level: A1, A2, B1, B2, C1, C2. A good GCSE C- A*, for example, represents level B1 on the CEFR. Find out more in our FAQs section where you can download our Language Bio questionnaire to assess your skills level.

Beginners: This level is for absolute beginners and is suitable if you wish to start from the beginning and have no previous knowledge of the language or if you wish to progress at absolute beginner pace. ∞ Working towards CEFR A1 0 contact hours needed

Beginners Plus: This level is for those who have completed an introductory survival course, our Starting Out Module or Weekender for Beginners or if you are a 'false beginner' or rusty returner' wishing to learn at beginner level. You can exchange some personal information and use a few set phrases. This level is made up of 6 incremental evening modules or two daytime modules. ∞ Working towards CEFR A1 from 5-9 hours needed for first module

Post Beginners: For those who have completed a beginner's course have equivalent experience or are returning to learn having learnt at a higher level. You should be able to get by well in a range of predictable day-to-day situations, although key 'beginner level' topic areas will be revisited and reinforced. At this stage you will learn to handle problems linguistically in familiar situations. You may be able to talk about past events, such as what you did on holiday last year, although this will be introduced/consolidated within the first two modules of the Headway programme. ∞ Working towards CEFR A2 from approx 50 hours needed for first module

Pre - Intermediate: For those who have completed a post-beginners course recently, have equivalent experience or are returning to learning having learnt in the past at a higher level. You may have studied to GCSE or 'O' Level in the past. You wish to reactivate/consolidate prior learning progressing to a higher level. You can cope adequately in predictable day to day situations. You will be able to talk about what you usually do, what you have done, used to do and will do (use present, present perfect, imperfect and future) though you may still make basic errors. You will be able to interact with a native speaker providing they speak slowly and clearly. There is still a strong emphasis on listening and speaking. An 'Easy reader' reading text will be introduced at this level. ∞ Working towards CEFR A2 from approx 100 hours needed for first module

Intermediate: Working towards this level you should be able to communicate in everyday situations and on common topics using set phrases with confidence. You should be able to use present, future and some past tenses with reasonable accuracy and deal fairly confidently with authentic listening and reading materials at basic level. You will be able to give commands, make polite requests, cope with problems and unpredicted events in everyday routine situations and justify opinion simply. ∞ Working towards CEFR B1 from approx 150- hours needed for first module

Intermediate Plus: You may have lived abroad, or studied for more than 4 years in adult education or equivalent. You will be able to discuss topical issues and express yourself fairly well. You can confidently deal with authentic listening and standard reading material. You'll be able to cope with most situations likely to arise whilst travelling in an area where the language is spoken.. Can describe experiences and events, dreams, hopes & ambitions and briefly give reasons and explanations for opinions and plans. You'll be able to produce simple connected text on topics which are familiar or of personal interest ∞ Working towards CEFR B2 from approx 200 hours needed for first module

Pre - Advanced: At this level you should be able to express yourself quite fluently, although not always accurately, with a wide range of vocabulary and a command of comprehensive grammar structures. You should be able to use the target language in a variety of contexts. You can marshal arguments and express opinions. You can interact with a degree of spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party. You can write discursively to explain and sustain argument and debate about topical issues. You will be fairly comfortable reading most authentic texts of contemporary writing.

Advanced: You will be able to find strategies to understand a wide range of more challenging longer texts, and recognise implicit meaning. You can express yourself comfortably, fluently and spontaneously without too much obvious searching for expressions. You'll be able to use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes. You can produce succinct well-organised writing on complex subject. ∞ CEFR B2 + from approx 200+ hours needed for first module ∞ Working towards CEFR B2 from approx 200+ hours needed for first module