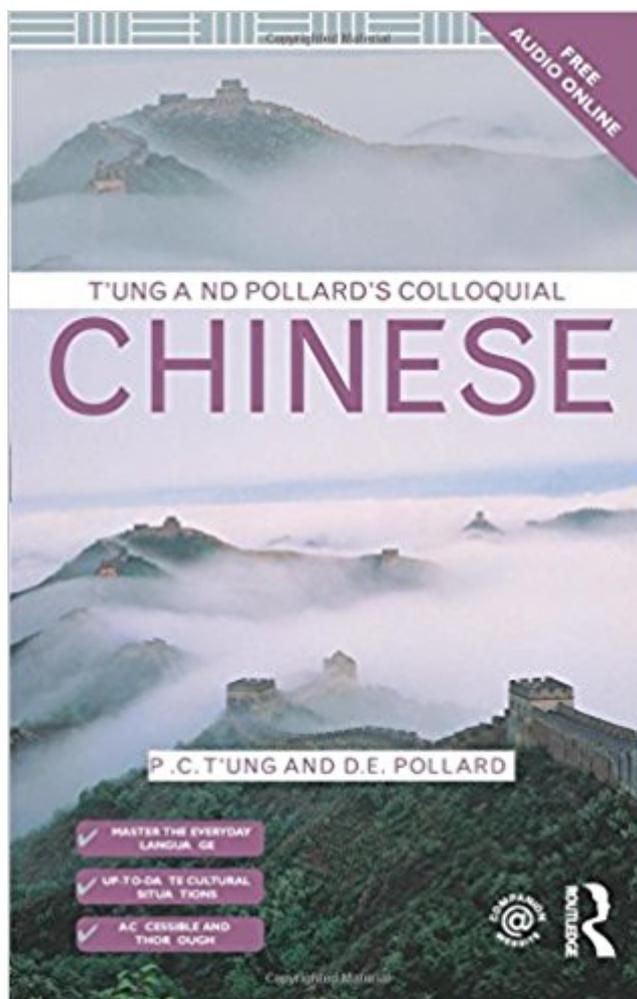


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T'ung & Pollard's Colloquial Chinese (The Colloquial Series)



Synopsis

Tâ™ung and Pollardâ™s Colloquial Chinese course is the ideal introductory course for all dedicated learners of Mandarin Chinese. Written by experienced teachers, the course provides a rigorous introduction to the pronunciation, vocabulary and grammar of Mandarin Chinese. By the end of this rewarding course learners will be able to communicate confidently in a wide variety of situations. The solid foundation provided is also ideal for those who wish to advance their language skills to higher levels. Divided into 17 lessons, each lesson contains conversations based on common daily situations, vocabularies, grammar notes and exercises to help learn and practice basic skills. Key features include: clear grammar explanations lots of exercises for regular practice Pinyin Romanization used throughout Chinese-English glossary for quick reference. Audio material to accompany the course is available to download free in MP3 format from www.routledge.com/cw/colloquials. Recorded by native speakers, the audio material features the dialogues and texts from the book and will help develop your listening and pronunciation skills.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

the book is great because it explains everything and has exercises for you to follow. however, it would be helpful if there were at least chinese characters so you can start to recognize them while you're reading and doing the exercises. but if you only want to speak, i guess that's good enough.

Good

This book offers some insights into the language one would otherwise not be aware of. Those little things one only knows by actually living within the country of the language. However, without the audio CDs or cassetts it is not worth studying. Learning to pronounce words incorrectly creates a speech base that then becomes difficult to overcome. I recommend it...but get the audio that is offered with it.

This book is in Pinyin only. A great book for anyone who wishes to learn Chinese.

my college chinese book

This item doesn't meet my expectations. It is not the edition that the picture was posted on website, but it can be used.

"Colloquial Chinese" (the older version) is an excellent Mandarin primer, as long as you are aware of its limitations and have a plan for supplementing it. The only real problem with this book is that it uses a lot of Maoist scenarios that were relevant in the early eighties but are now rather comical. One chapter, for example, talks about going to visit the Clear Mountain People's Commune. Although this will not help you much in China today it is only a minor setback. To make this series work, I suggest you do two things. First, get the supplementary character text book, as this one only uses the Pinyin romanization system. Second, get a tutor, or conversation partner, or someone to help you out. Not only will that person help you learn the material, but the chances are he/she will give you more updated, contextual information to supplement the lessons. Other than that, this is an excellent book. If you stick with the lessons and listen to the tapes you will develop a foundation in Mandarin.

This is a strong course for the motivated learner keen to get a solid grounding in the basics of Mandarin Chinese grammar and vocabulary in order to continue their studies at a higher level. Someone who is more interested in quickly learning situational language and useful phrases for travelling or for business would be better served by a different course more focused on their particular needs since the vocabulary given in this one is quite general. There's another book with the same title and publisher, but by a different author (K Qian). That book is simpler and more

suitable for the casual learner wanting to learn Chinese for travelling, but it doesn't reach as high a level of Chinese as this one. But then again, neither is it as hard going! Back to this one: there are no Chinese characters in the book. To learn these, it would be useful to buy the companion Chinese character version of the book, which gives all the texts and grammatical pattern sentences, but not the grammar explanations, in Chinese characters and teaches you how to write the 700 plus characters introduced. That's available only directly from the authors I think. Unfortunately, there aren't any cassette tapes currently available for this book so it's not really suitable for someone learning completely by themselves unless they already have a good knowledge of Mandarin Chinese pronunciation. Nor are the answers to the exercises given. So it's more suitable to use with a tutor or as supplementary reading for someone attending a Chinese class. I have two quibbles with the book. Firstly, the grammar explanations are a bit dryly written so they are not always easy to understand. Secondly, the lengths of the chapters vary too much. The first few lessons are quite short and concise (perhaps 20 new words get introduced) but by the end of the book, the number of new words given per chapter has ballooned to well over 100. So the later chapters are much more hard going than the earlier ones. The first point can be overcome by buying a set of good Chinese grammars, e.g. the books "Basic Chinese" and "Intermediate Chinese" by Yip and Rimmington and of course by asking your Chinese teacher! If you include learning how to write, I think there's enough material in the book for 6 months of intensive study or a year for someone who wants to study more slowly (but still regularly). After mastering the material in the book and learning the 500-700 associated characters, the learner is well-placed to go on to a lower-intermediate text, i.e. at the beginning 2nd year college level.

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