
Class Review

Cynthia Qiu • Class #2 • January 17, 2009



Summary

We had a good showing today despite of the bitter cold weather. We definitely impressed ourselves. Ken even put the videos on his iPod, that's great, use all the technologies and make learning more mobile and fun! Everyone was put on the spot today to identify the 五官 (wu3 guan1), it's not something we want to do but it really forced us to memorize the words quickly, didn't it? You all did a fantastic job!!! Thank you Darla and Ken, Darla is out of town but still went out of her way to make the conference room available for us to use. Thomas brought water for everyone, how thoughtful...

What we've learned

- We reviewed the vowels (simple finals) and the initials (consonants) first;
- Then we introduced the compound finals. With extra help from the Vocal Apparatus chart (thanks Justin for the excellent material you forwarded), they are not really difficult but it will take practice to get them exactly right!
- Now with all the basics of Hanyu Pinyin (汉语拼音) we tried it out by combining the vowels and consonants, pronouncing the Greetings words, a few new words (早 zao3;



咖啡 ka1fei1; 茶 cha2; 你好
ni2hao3, note the tone change with
ni3 to ni2; 大家好 da4 jia1 hao3; 欢
迎 huan1ying2)

• After pinyin, we practiced the tones by listening to Instant Immersion 1.8~1.9 with phrases that come with 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th (and neutral) tones in sequence. 1.10 gives some examples of pinyin and asked us to identify the tones.

- We learned 五官 using the cute girl face and my lovely cat (猫 mao1) Bonnie's yawning face. We learned that 头发 (toufa, hair) can only be used for hair on the head of a human. For hair on the body and animals, we use 毛 (mao2), so hopefully Bonnie (cat 猫 mao1) will remind you of the pinyin for 毛, it's the same but with different tones.



What you can do at home before the next class: 10 minutes a day

- Watch the videos online to practice all the vowels and consonants, this can be tedious but you're building the very important foundation for everything else. Every morning, when you are brushing your teeth, look in the mirror and say hair, nose, eye, ear and mouth in Mandarin. If you forget the pronunciations, go to the website for video on Wu Guan. If you have extra time, practice greetings, just to spell out the pinyin.
- Now you can complete the Instant Immersion CD1, sound track 1.1~1.12. Idea: Load the CD in your car, and listen to it on the way to and back from work.
- Learning is also a process of exploring our potentials. Everyone has the same ability to master Mandarin, but only if you're determined to master it, and stick with it!
- Next class is scheduled for Feb 7th due to conflict of other events, on Jan 31st we have a workshop for catch-up at 6pm at Starbucks, it's still not too late to join us!