

Lesson 4 – notes

We started with the following revision tasks:

What does this say?

1. 你好吗？
2. 我是中国人
3. 中文很好
4. 你是工人
5. 工人很好
6. 你好
7. 中国很好
8. 王很好
9. 她是女人
10. 谢谢

We learnt the character: 文 (wén) which means language so now we can talk about 中文 and 英文 - (zhōngwén and yīngwén) Chinese and English (language)

On the subject of language we talked about Simplified and Traditional characters – simplified being the form mainly used in mainland China (and what you're learning with me).

I explained that characters can be divided into 3 types: 1) Ones which are made up of just one radical – which indicates the meaning – such as:

女 (woman nǚ) and 人 (person/people) 2) Then there are characters which are made of more than one component which together illustrate meaning, such as:

国 (country) (guó) made up of 'enclosure' and 'imperial jade'

Or 好 (hǎo) (made up of 'woman' and 'child') 3) Then finally there are characters where one component indicates meaning and another component indicates (or hints at) pronunciation. An example would be: 红 (red)

Here the first component means 'silk', giving a clue to meaning, and the second component is the 'phonetic' – 'gong' which hints at the pronunciation of the character which is: hóng

Another example would be the character 认 (rèn) which is found in the 'word' 认识 (rènshí)– meaning 'to know'. Here the first component indicates that it is something to do with speech or language, the second component hints at the pronunciation 'ren'

Next we looked at 中国的国庆节

(Zhōngguó de guóqìng jié) China's National Day on the 1st Oct

1949 年 10 月 1 日 (on the principal of largest to smallest so the year comes first)

月 yue = month or moon

日 rì = sun or day

年 nián = year

Here's the link to the Quizlet I meant to give you:

<https://quizlet.com/155284207/mandarin-beginners-1-2016-flash-cards/>

Practise hard – especially on 'flashcard' mode – make sure audio is on and try to say the Chinese word without looking at the screen. Then flip the card to check. The repetition will really help and will soon take the strain off your memory. Honestly !

Here are the links to the two YouTube videos I asked you to look at for homework:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=42UEgHpPrxY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2eLP3FuuEVs>