

Let's start at the very beginning – with the first chapter of Very Practical Chinese, **At the Breakfast Stand**. If you haven't bought our great book yet, you can still try out this awesome study plan, using Chapters 1, 2, and 3 of the VPC Book and VPC Study Guide, available on our website free of charge.

- VPC Chapter One Dialogue “**At the Breakfast Stand**”
- VPC Chapter One Audio (You'll need to download **CD#1 no.6**)

You'll also need the following **VPC Supplementary Study Materials**, always available at our website www.verypracticalchinese.com free of charge with our best wishes for your success!

- The VPC Line by Line Flashcards for Chapter One
- VPC Chapter One Fill-in the Pinyin Template

Have all your materials and ready to go? Let's get started!!

1. Get ready!

- Have a big enough area to have your computer by your side and at least 2 feet in front of you to spread out your flashcards.
- Put your computer at one side, cue the track (**CD#1 no.6**) and your VPC book opened to P.20 at the other side. Have two sheets of blank paper (colored paper is great because then there's no chance of anything showing through), with one sheet covering the Pinyin and Characters and the other, narrower sheet covering the English Gloss on the right hand side.
- Have a copy of the “**VPC Fill-in the Pinyin Chapter One**” PDF* in front of you.
- Get your **Chapter One Line-by-Line Flashcards** organized into piles, one pile for each of the 11 lines of the dialogue (look at the code at the bottom right hand of the card – eg.Ch.1 – 1 =Chapter One, 1st line, Ch.1 – 2 = Chapter One, 2nd line, and so one.)

2. Start the CD. Play the 1st recording (slow speed) of the Chapter One Dialogue.

- Arrange the flashcards, pausing as much as you need to (even after every character).
- When you've got your sentence mapped out, pause the CD and pull down the paper covering the 1st Line of Chinese characters to reveal the proper character order.
- Circle any mistakes you've made **in red** on the **Fill-in the Pinyin** print out in front of you.

3. Start the CD again. Play the 2nd recording (medium speed) of the Chapter One Dialogue.
 - Write out the Pinyin in the blank space provided, pausing as much as you need to.
 - Pause the CD and pull down the blank page another line to reveal the Pinyin for the 1st Line.
 - Circle any mistakes and make corrections **in red**:
 - a) If you've spelled it incorrectly, **it's wrong**.
 - b) If you've put the wrong tone, **it's wrong**. And, although we're being slightly picky...
 - c) If you put the right tone over the wrong letter, technically, **it's wrong**.

4. Start the CD again. Play the 3rd recording (fast speed) of the Chapter One Dialogue.
 - Write the English (the gloss in the right hand box and/or a word by word translation in the blank space directly under the word).
 - Pull the 2nd piece of paper down to reveal the English gloss. Check the word bank and/or the VPC Study Guide for vocabulary if you've written a word by word translation of the sentence. Circle any mistakes you've made **in red**

5. Start the CD again, for the 2nd Line of the Chapter One Dialogue
 - Repeat steps 1 to 4 for the 2nd Line.
 - Continue on for the 3rd Line, 4th Line, and so on, until you're finished.

When you're done:

- Count up your **red circles** and record your score (- 8 = 8 mistakes).
- Repeat this whole process as long as it takes you to achieve a perfect score of "0".

How long should it take to do one chapter, faithfully following every step?

Times will vary, but it should take you at least 40 minutes, if not closer to an hour.

Why do I want to follow this plan?

First, this is a good plan because **you'll learn your tones**. If you write out your tones enough times, you'll see them in your head as you speak. Accurate Tones = Great Chinese. Second, **you'll learn to read characters** in an interactive way (remember playing "Memory" as a child – same concept – active learning beats passive any day of the week). Third, this is THE plan to use because **you'll learn to write** the phonetic component (Pinyin) for each Character. If you can write Pinyin, you can type Chinese = you will be literate in addition to being fluent in Mandarin, and that's impressive!

Constructive feedback always welcome☺

Email us at: feedback@verypracticalchinese.com