

Alpha School

Mandarin Chinese - Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Date: _____ Grade: _____

Instructions: Answer each question in the space provided. All foreign-language words in this worksheet are written in Roman letters (transliteration). Say each new word aloud before you write it.

1. Explain in your own words: Why do tones matter in Mandarin? Give one example of two words that differ only in tone and have different meanings.

2. Aspect words: Fill in the correct word (le, guo, zai4, hui4, yao4). (a) Wo3 ____ chi1 fan4. (I am eating.) (b) Wo3 qu4 ____ Beijing. (I have been to Beijing.) (c) Ming2tian1 wo3 ____ qu4 xue2xiao4. (Tomorrow I will go to school.)

3. Translate to Chinese (Pinyin with tone numbers): (a) Yesterday I went to the market. (b) Tomorrow we will play soccer.

4. Measure words: Write the correct measure word for each noun: (a) ____ ren2 (person) (b) ____ che1 (car) (c) ____ dian4ying3 (movie).

5. 'Ba' construction: Rewrite this sentence using 'ba': 'Wo3 kan4 wan2 le shu1.' (I finished reading the book.)

6. Write 5 sentences: Write five sentences in Pinyin (tone numbers) about your family. Use at least one measure word and one comparison with 'bi3'.

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7. Short paragraph: Write a short paragraph (5-6 sentences) in Pinyin (tone numbers) describing your daily routine, from morning to night.

8. Complex sentences: Join each pair with the connector in parentheses. (a) Wo3 qu4 xue2xiao4. Wo3 yao4 du2 shu1. (yin1wei4...suo3yi3 = because...so) (b) Ni3 lai2. Wo3men wan2. (ru2guo3...jiu4 = if...then)

9. Shopping dialogue: Write a short dialogue in Pinyin (4 lines) between a shopkeeper and a customer buying fruit. Include a price question and a polite thank-you.

10. Culture: In your own words, explain one Chinese idiom (chengyu) or festival custom from Lesson 11 and what it teaches.

ANSWER KEY - For Teacher/Parent Use

1. Tones change meaning: the same syllable with a different tone is a different word. Example: ma1 (mother) vs ma3 (horse).
2. (a) zai4; (b) guo; (c) hui4 / yao4.
3. (a) Zuo2tian1 wo3 qu4 le shi4chang3. (b) Ming2tian1 wo3men hui4 ti1 zu2qiu2.
4. (a) ge4; (b) liang4; (c) bu4 / chang3 (yi1 bu4 dian4ying3).
5. Wo3 ba3 shu1 kan4 wan2 le.
6. Scored by teacher/parent: five Pinyin sentences, one measure word, one 'bi3' comparison, correct tone numbers.
7. Scored by teacher/parent: 5-6 sentences, clear time order, correct word order and tone numbers.
8. (a) Yin1wei4 wo3 yao4 du2 shu1, suo3yi3 wo3 qu4 xue2xiao4. (b) Ru2guo3 ni3 lai2, wo3men jiu4 wan2.
9. Scored by teacher/parent: 4 lines, price question (Duo1shao qian2?), polite thank-you (Xie4xie).
10. Answers vary. Example: The idiom 'ke4zhou1 qiu2 jian4' (marking the boat to find a lost sword) teaches that clinging to old methods fails when conditions change.