

Useful Chinese Words for the China vs USOEC Event

English	Chinese	(Sounds like)
Hello	你好 nǐ hǎo	("knee how")
Welcome	欢迎 huān yíng	("hwan ing")
China	中国 zhōng guó	("j'hong gwo")
U. S.	美国 měi guó	("may gwo")
Weightlifting	举重 jǔ zhòng	("jeoo jhong")
Wrestling	摔跤 shuāi jiǎo	("shwai jyow")
Boxing	拳击 quán jī	("tchwen jee")
Go! (cheering)	加油! jiā yóu!	("ja Yo!")



Created by Ellisa Clumpner with assistance from the following:

The Chinese Language: Fact and Fantasy
by John DeFrancis

Lawrence Lo's Ancient Scripts.com
<http://www.ancientscripts.com/chinese.html>

加油 Jiayou!

CHINA VS USOEC

**WRESTLING
BOXING
WEIGHTLIFTING**

7 p.m., October 23, 2007
Berry Events Center
Northern Michigan University
Marquette, Michigan, USA

WWW.NMU.EDU/TICKETS
CALL FOR INFO 906-227-2888

中文

The Chinese Language

For the China vs USOEC Event

7:00 pm

October 23, 2007

Berry Events Center

Northern Michigan University

The Chinese language is for the most part a morphosyllabic language. This means that each syllable has the smallest unit of meaning (a morpheme), although usually each syllable is not by itself a word.

Classifying Chinese

“Chinese” is not just one language. It is a group of many languages that are closely related. The different Chinese languages have been called multiple names, but here let’s call them *regionalects*. Regionalects are languages that are very similar, but speakers of one regionalect cannot understand what is being said by speakers of another regionalect, unless they have had training.

Mandarin Chinese is the regionalect that is now the language spoken by more people than any other language in the world. Mandarin is originally from the northeastern part of China, around Beijing. However, many Chinese people

speak their local regionalect as well.

For example, people in the areas of Szechuan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Shanghai all

have different regionalects.

It has been said that a native Cantonese speaker (the regionalect from the Hong Kong area) learning Mandarin is like a native Spanish speaker learning French, or a native English speaker learning Dutch!



Chinese Characters

In writing Chinese, the same characters are used all over despite different regionalects. However, while Hong Kong and Taiwan use the Traditional older characters, China and Singapore use a newer Simplified set of characters. Chinese characters were once pictographic, but barely are any more due to centuries of simplification.

Fish	Rain	Mountain	Horse

The evolution of some Chinese characters over time.

About Speaking Chinese

Because the Chinese language sounds so different from English, many English speakers think of it as a difficult language to learn. This is partially because it is so difficult to write out Chinese using ABCs, unless you already know something about the Romanization system used. Right next to the Chinese characters on the other side are written the *pinyin* pronunciations. Pinyin is the most common system used to write Mandarin out using the ABCs. *Beijing* is the pinyin way to spell the name of the capital of China, while *Peiking* is the Wade-Giles way to spell it. However, Romanization brings up problems because often readers see a letter and want to pronounce it the same as in their native language, which is usually not quite correct.

Mandarin has four different tones. That means that mā, má, mǎ, and mà are all said differently, and each have separate and very different meanings. The shapes of the tonal marks are pretty accurate at illustrating how your voice should move during the syllable you are pronouncing. The first one, as in ā, is a ‘neutral’ tone; your voice doesn’t move up or down in range. Generally it is said in the upper half of the range. The second tone, as in á, goes up, so it begins in the lower half of the range and rises. The third tone, such as ǎ, makes a scoop; beginning higher, going low, and returning back up. The fourth tone, as in à, goes down, meaning it begins in the upper half and lowers.

Some of the most confusing of these are x, q, and zh. Sounds like these have been written out many ways using different systems. Here are some examples:

- Xi or Hsi** the “x” is like a soft “ssh”; more on your tongue than by your teeth
- Qu or Ch’u** the “q” is like a soft, dainty “ch” sound
- Zhou or Jzou** for this, the mouth & lips are as if to say “Shh!” but instead make a “Jh” sound