



CyberChinese

1.0

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CyberChinese

A Tutorial for Introductory Chinese

The first year of Chinese language instruction presents three challenges to the average American student: recognizing and reproducing tones and sounds, memorizing and learning how to write Chinese characters, and mastering syntactical structures and a grammatical idiom that differ fundamentally from those of their native language. The multimedia computer tutorial CyberChinese addresses these challenges by providing students with a stimulating and responsive environment for learning and drilling pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar.

The software connects main modules to various types of information in the form of hypermedia links, such as graphics, video, and sound; the program also provides cultural notes when called for. The software's flexible environment gives the student control over many of its parameters, allowing him or her to tailor the tutorial to suit individual schedules, needs, and interests. At the end of the tutorial, CyberChinese not only grades the student's responses to the drills, but also records them on a file server, which remains available for subsequent examination by the instructor.

The following pages show the main features of CyberChinese.



Log in

This page records the name and student number of the user.



Main Menu

This menu gives the student access to the first twelve lessons of CyberChinese.



Lesson Menu

This menu allows the student to jump to any of the modules in the lesson he or she has selected.

Students are thus able to concentrate on a particular area if needed.



Menu Bar

This menu bar appears at the top of each card in CyberChinese, allowing the the student to perform several functions throughout the program:



Quit — click here to quit the program



Main Menu — click here to go to the main menu



Help — click here for a help text box



Play All — click here to hear all of the sounds on a tutorial card



Record — click here to record your own voice



Play Voice — click here to playback your recorded voice and compare it with the native speaker.



Next Card — click here to go to the next card



Previous Card — click here to go to the previous card



Lesson Jump Menu — clicking here reveals a menu which allows the student to go to any card in the lesson



Voice Toggle — click here to change from female to male voice recordings

Lesson 1

Introduction

Chinese is a tonal language. Every word or word component has a corresponding tone which must be pronounced correctly in order for the word to be understood. To mispronounce a tone is analogous to mispronouncing a consonant or vowel in English. If a word is spoken without a tone or in the wrong tone it will be misunderstood.

Tones refer to the different patterns of pitch with which a syllable is pronounced. They are relative to the individual voice, key and mood at the moment of speaking.

Play 1
Tone 1
Tone 2
Tone 3
Tone 4
Play 2

Hold the mouse button down over this gap - appears to jump to a specific section.

Tones Explanation

This card gives a textual explanation of tones.

In addition, by pressing on each of the tone buttons, the student can hear a musical representation of each of the four tones.

Lesson 1

Track 8:10

Volume

Tone 1

Tone 2

Tone 3

Tone 4

Pitch

5 - High

4 - Mid-high

3 - Middle

2 - Mid-low

1 - Low

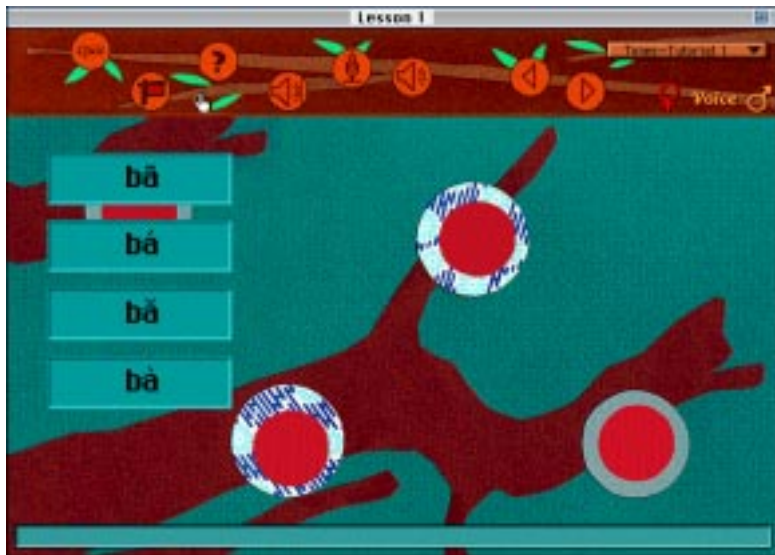
Show Graph

Click here to see an animation of the tones.

Tones Explanation 2

This card allows the student to see an animated graph which illustrates the contours of the four tones.

Click on the "Show Graph" button to see the graph.



Tones Tutorial

This series of cards allows the student to hear syllables pronounced by native speakers.

The student may choose to hear a male or female voice by clicking on the voice toggle button.

The student may also record his or her own voice by using the record and playback buttons.



Tones Game

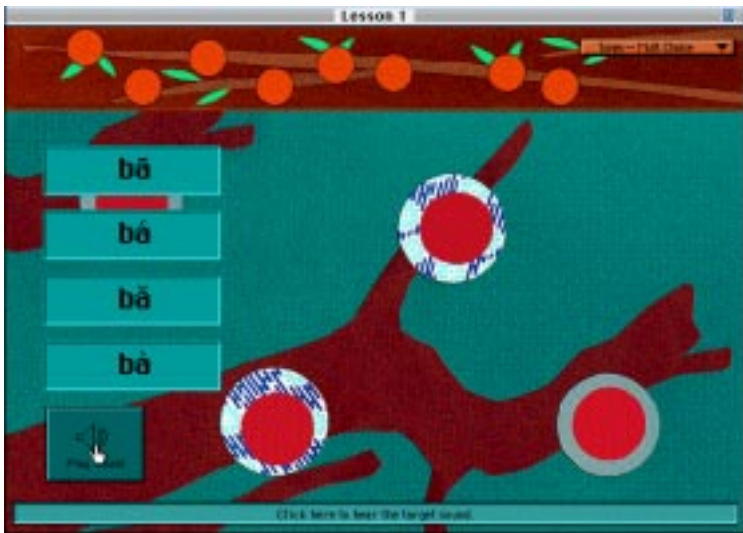
This card helps students practice their tone recognition.

Click on the “Play Sound” button to hear a word spoken, then click on the corresponding tone.

Level 1 words contain one syllable; level 2 words contain two syllables.

A minimum score is required to advance to level 2.

Correct answers receive points and a happy face.



Tones Multiple Choice

Students click “Play Sound” to hear a syllable or syllables pronounced and choose the correct syllable in *pinyin*.

A correct answer allows the student to proceed

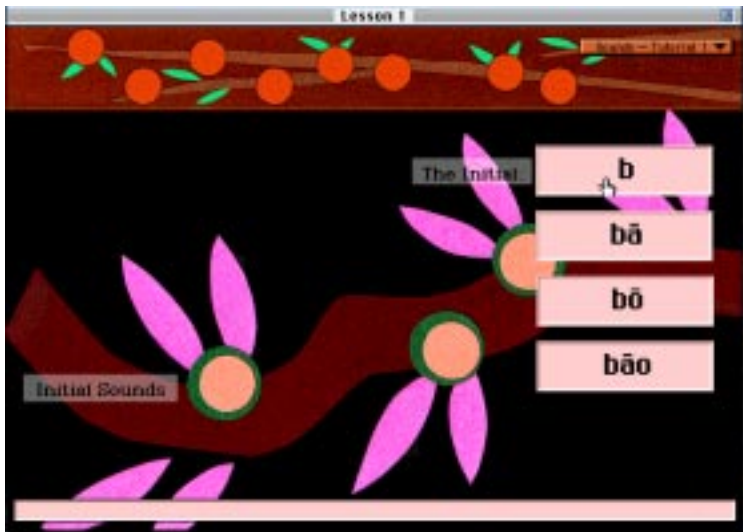
If an answer is incorrect, the student is instructed to try again. Each incorrect answer results in a deduction of points. Three incorrect answers results in a score of zero.



Test Report

Students' scores are printed automatically at the conclusion of each test section. Each attempt at an answer, correct or incorrect, is recorded and reported in the printed results.

This gives instructors a valuable tool with which to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the students.



Sounds Tutorial

This section helps the student learn the romanization and sound of syllables in Chinese.

The student can hear various initials, finals, and combinations pronounced by native speakers, as well as record his or her own voice.

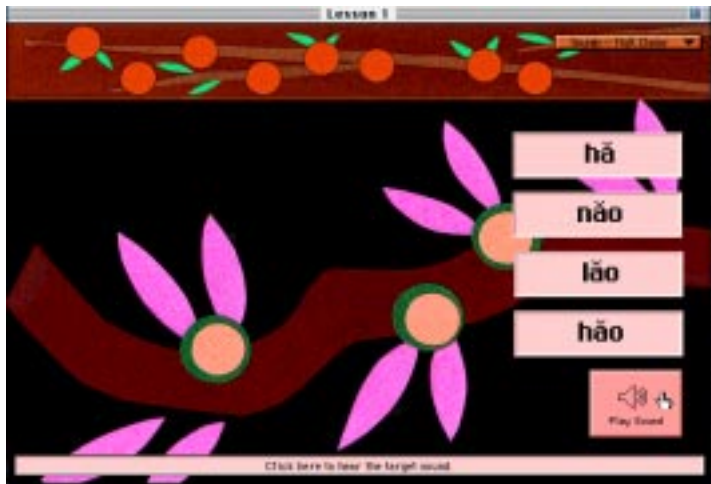


Sounds Game

The function of this module is to train students' ability to respond quickly and immediately.

Students are required to recognize sounds and their *pinyin* equivalents.

A sound is repeated while four choices in *pinyin* drop down the screen. Choose the correct answer before the words hit the bottom. Click on "Start Game" to begin. (A similar game appears in the Vocabulary Section.)



Sounds Multiple Choice

Similar to Tones Multiple Choice.

Students click "Play Sound" to hear a syllable or syllables pronounced and choose the correct syllable in *pinyin*.

Scores are reported to instructor as above.



Vocabulary Tutorial

In this section, students are introduced to Chinese characters, both single characters and compounds. (Up to a four -character word may be supported)

The buttons below the box give definition and pronunciation information.

By clicking on an individual character, the student may access more detailed information in the Character Stack.



Character Stack

More detailed information on individual characters.

To return to the lesson, click on the "Go Back" button.

Functions are shown on following page.

Stroke order and stroke order speed control

Show phonetic element

Show radical element

Show pinyin equivalent, click pinyin to hear word

English gloss

Show pictorial representation

Show simplified version

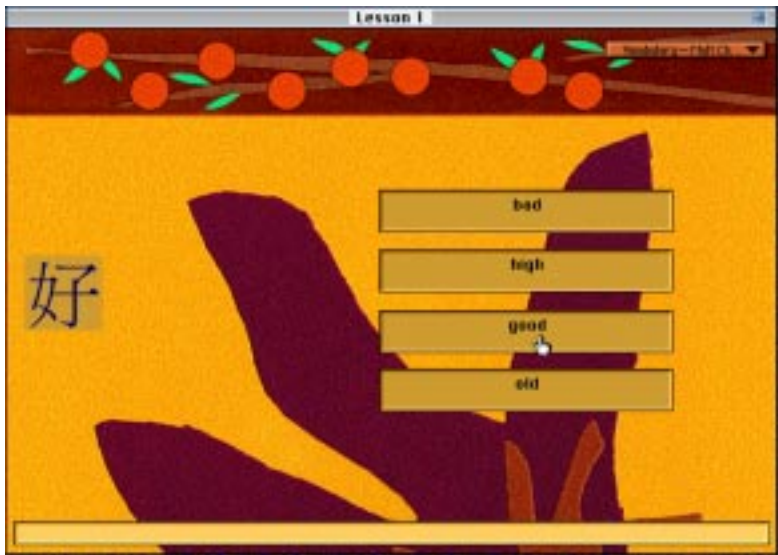
Show compound words with this character

Explanation of controls in the Characters Module.



Vocabulary Game

Similar to the Sounds Game, except with Chinese characters. A sound is repeated while four choices drop down the screen. Choose the correct answer before the characters hit the bottom. Click on "Start Game" to begin.



Vocabulary Multiple Choice

Tests the student's knowledge of several aspects of vocabulary including character recognition, romanization and English equivalent. Test scores are reported to the instructor as above.



Radical Tutorial

Functions are similar to those in the Character Stack.

Examples of characters which contain the radical are given, with the radical highlighted in red.

Alternate forms of the radical, as it appears when part of a character, can be accessed by pressing the left-middle button.



Radical Multiple Choice

Students must choose the correct radical for the given character.
Test scores are reported as above.

Lesson 1



王小蘭： 張大中，你好。

張大中： 你好，王小蘭。

en route

Grammar Tutorial

A text is shown which can be seen in characters, *pinyin* or English by clicking on the appropriate button. An explanation of grammatical points can also be accessed by clicking on the “Show Explanation” button.

The text may be heard one line at a time by clicking to the left of each line. The entire text may also be heard by clicking on the “Play All” button in the menu bar.



Grammar Game

Click on the “Play Words” button to hear a sentence taken from the text in the Grammar Tutorial section.

Build a response sentence by dragging characters from the tree. The apples “ripen” when used.

Once the sentence is completed, click on “Check Answer.”

If the answer is correct, you may move on.

Lesson 1

你好

好你

你好

他她

我好

Click here to start the exercise

Grammar Test 1

This is one of three different grammar tests that are used in CyberChinese.

In this exercise, the student chooses the correct response to the statement at the top of the card.

Scores are reported to the instructor as above.

System Requirements:

Optimum:

Power Macintosh G3 or Later
System 9.0.4

Chinese Language Kit (both Simplified and Traditional)

64 MB RAM

32 bit color

TCP/IP network connection

DVD ROM or CD ROM Drive

Minimal:

Power Macintosh
System 7.6

Chinese Language Kit (both Simplified and Traditional)

32MB RAM

8 bit color

CD ROM Drive