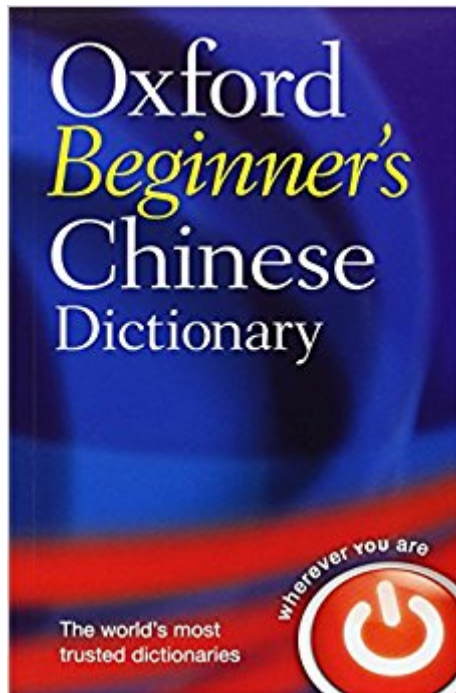




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Oxford Beginner's Chinese Dictionary



Synopsis

Each Oxford Beginner's Bilingual Dictionary is designed to offer English speaking adult learners a comprehensive, straightforward introduction to foreign languages, covering all the vocabulary needed for the first years of study, along with notes on grammar and usage and guidance on the culture where the language is spoken. These easy-to-use references break from standard dictionary design. Clear entries with examples showing how the language works in context make it quick and simple to find the translation you're looking for, and the bold, color layout makes the dictionary easy to navigate, allowing you to get to grips with the language fast. All main translations are preceded by an equals sign so that they are instantly identifiable, and all parts of the entry are spelled out in full, avoiding confusing jargon and abbreviations. Grammar and usage notes throughout the text warn of possible translation pitfalls, and thousands of example phrases show how the language is used in real life. At the center of each dictionary is a section devoted to useful information on the country, countries, or regions where the language is spoken. This includes background on lifestyles and culture, tips on etiquette and interaction, and a phrasefinder that provides handy phrases for use when traveling abroad. The dictionary also includes a section on core vocabulary--all the words you absolutely must know at a beginner's level, whether you are a student, traveler, or business person. The Oxford Beginner's Bilingual Dictionary is the perfect tool for adult language learners who need basic vocabulary at their fingertips fast.

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Customer Reviews

I'm self-studying Mandarin Chinese in preparation for an upcoming trip to China and purchased this dictionary as a supplement to the excellent Pimsleur Conversational Mandarin Chinese audio course. As most reviewers have said, it is a good book: well organized, reasonably complete for a visitor, excellent format, easy to use. By this I mean English - Chinese translations are shown in both Pinyin and 2 character formats as well as usage in a sentence or phrase. Chinese - English words are listed alphabetically using Pinyin. There's also lots of supplemental material like measures, numbers, etc. and even a section on basic rules for writing Chinese characters. This is all great and I would rate the book 5 stars if the authors had included another section on basic rules for pronunciation and speaking Mandarin Chinese. All it would have taken is 3 or 4 pages on the phonetics and tonal inflections for the Pinyin system which is used to represent the sounds of Chinese characters with western-style letters. It's not enough being able to look up a word if, once found, you're not sure how to say it. For those of you with iPhones and iPads, there's a good free series by "trainchinese" in the iTunes store. The base module has a large dictionary where you can save words and phrases into flash cards and use a pretty accurate audio feature to hear pronunciation. There are also free Pinyin, Numbers and Writing modules as well as a Common Word and Phrase library. The dictionary allows unlimited lookups and 10 flash cards / week for free. You can buy the feature to create additional flash cards but in either case, whatever you save is yours to keep.

When I started the Spring term this year of college I was excited to see that Chinese 111 was being taught; which is unusual since a lot 111 classes tend to start in the Fall. In taking the course, my professor Dr. Lee encouraged us all to buy this dictionary, so we will have access to more words and phrases that are unavailable in our text book and work book. This book in his words is the best book for all Chinese students; and it really has proved useful to me already. The book provides the student not only the basic English to Pin Ying, but it also give you Traditional and Simplified characters which are so very important to learn. If you are planning a trip to China, wanting to take a class in Chinese, watch martial art films without subtitles -- buy this book and begin your studies ASAP! (Readers will not gain insight and knowledge right off the bat without study. Understanding that in going to China that the characters are what you need to learn to read will help you even further. This book will not make you as good at fighting as Bruce Lee or Jet Li. Eating excessive amounts of Chinese food and having this book will not make you any more ready to hold a full conversation than playing World of Warcraft makes you ready for dating.)

A very good Chinese dictionary for beginners. The essential stuff without the overload of the more advanced or rarely used words. Good purchase.

Use the Tuttle Learner's Chinese-English Dictionary along with the Oxford Beginner's Chinese Dictionary. The Tuttle is better for Chinese-English in that it contains more entries and examples. The Oxford is better for English-Chinese. One very nice feature is that the measure words are included with the nouns. Use both dictionaries together for the most helpful learning experience, but keep in mind the dictionaries are geared towards students and will not be overly comprehensive.

I speak a couple of languages and have struggled with Chinese for some time. Friends in China help me on the net and an audio course picks up some more slack. This dictionary, however, is a wonderful addition to my reference library, since it offers a range of useful words and phrases that are most likely to come up in everyday life in China, among the people who might not speak any English. In view of the fact that I learn by knowing certain sounds correspond to certain letters of the alphabet used in the west, the Pinyin provided alongside the simplified Chinese characters is an eminently sensible resource. I wish Oxford had a similar dictionary for the next level up, as I also bought the intermediate Chinese dictionary which, unfortunately, has no Pinyin and is actually meant for native Chinese speakers wishing to learn English. The beginner's Chinese dictionary is definitely my go-to dictionary and will probably never leave my side when I go there next year.

well organized and easy reference ink quality good - which is very important for learning the characters

This dictionary is ideally suited for both the beginner and the more advanced user as a refresher volume. After buying one for my granddaughter, I realized that there was much in it for me, too, even though I have been studying Chinese for over 45 years. Good book.

We actually own four copies of this little dictionary as we've found it so helpful! The format is exceptional (Fei chang!) in that it provides easy readability even to those just getting started with Chinese like us. The blue headings make the words stand off the page so they are easy to browse through. Also there are specialized topics spread throughout the dictionary which clarify some of the more complicated subjects. The many example sentences provide excellent usage tips rather than just a definition in a vacuum. We only wish it were a larger dictionary with more words, though the

majority of what we've needed, we've found. Fantastic little dictionary!

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