

### How The Talking CDs or Audio Cassettes Are Read:

In order to keep **The Talking English / Chinese CourseBook** workable, in size and cost, we've made many compensations during the ten months it took to create this course. Oftentimes we've had to eliminate things we really did not want to eliminate! The major reason for these discardments was the logical conclusion that not many people want to buy 30 hours of talking CDs or audio cassettes. Price always has to be a major consideration with a product. Who are we selling to? Although our customer demographics extend far beyond just students (who are limited on funds) and the masses of China (who are very poor), still, the number of CDs or audio cassettes was the major factor in sentence selection and discardment. Consequently hundreds of sentences were eliminated, making things smaller, tighter. On the CDs / tapes, we have had to make things faster, but without sacrificing the all-important slow pronunciation of the words (which we esteem tantamount to hearing the sentences themselves!)

The speaker does not say things in parenthesis ( ). Things in parenthesis are mainly there for English speakers to feel a bit more comfortable with.

My apartment has (a) bed, (a) desk, [and] two chairs.

The “(a)” “(a)” “[and]” is for your benefit in reading the passage when the CD or tape is not on. When playing the CDs or tapes, you should train your eyes to skip over things in parenthesis. This makes it easier to keep up with what the speakers are saying. Chinese does not have the American articles (“a” “an” “the”) so we have inserted them in parenthesis for you. English readers can see what was taken out, and Chinese people learning English can more easily see what they need to add to their Chinese-Grammar-to-English-Grammar conversion process. So things in parenthesis help in both respects. In the above sentence we deliberately left out the word, “hé”, in order to illustrate this concept even more. “And” is optional in a Chinese list. More often things like “a bed, a desk, two chairs” is simply separated by commas. Note that the word has been shown in brackets [ ] instead of parenthesis. Brackets differentiate that the word could have been used – that it was optional and we chose not to use it.

One of the time-savers we utilize in Chapter One, which contains a lot of short sentences, is not saying the English Grammar Line when it is the same as the Chinese Grammar Line. In those cases we repeat the two or three word sentences only twice, instead of three times.

On combinations however in which even one word is different (not referring to the absence of “a,” “an,” or “the,” etc.) both the American Grammar Sentence and the Chinese Grammar Sentence in English is read. The order of reading goes like this:

Chinese common language	=	Pǔtōnghuà	普通話
aka Mandarin	=	...	...
<b>Can</b>	<b>you</b>	<b>speak</b>	<b>Mandarin?</b>
You	can	speak	<u>Mandarin</u>
Nǐ	huì	shuō	<u>Pǔtōnghuà</u>
你	會	說	普通話嗎?

Joel Richards, our American speaker reads: “Chinese common language, also known as Mandarin”

Chang Hong Wang, our Chinese speaker from Beijing reads: “Pǔtōnghuà”

Joel, the American, reads: “**Can you speak Mandarin?**”

(at regular speed)

--- Bolded sentence =  
American grammar sentence.

Joel again reads: “You can speak Mandarin yes / no?”

(at slow speed)

--- Un-Bolded sentence =  
Chinese grammar sentence  
written in English.

Chang Hong Wang reads: “Nǐ huì shuō Pǔtōnghuà ma?”

(at slow speed)

--- Chinese Pinyin sentence.

Joel reads: “You”

Miss Chang reads: “Nǐ”

Joel reads: “can”

Miss Chang reads: “huì”

Joel reads: “speak”

Miss Chang reads: “shuō”

Joel reads: “Mandarin”

Miss Chang reads: “Pǔtōnghuà”

Joel reads: “yes / no?”

Miss Chang reads: “ma?”

Joel reads: “You can speak Mandarin yes / no?”

(at regular speed)

--- Un-Bolded sentence =  
Chinese grammar sentence  
written in English.

Miss Chang reads: “Nǐ huì shuō Pǔtōnghuà ma?”

(at regular speed)

--- Chinese Pinyin sentence.

Final Note: Measure words, as well as words like “de” and “le”, etc., are generally read together with the word that precedes them.

NOTES