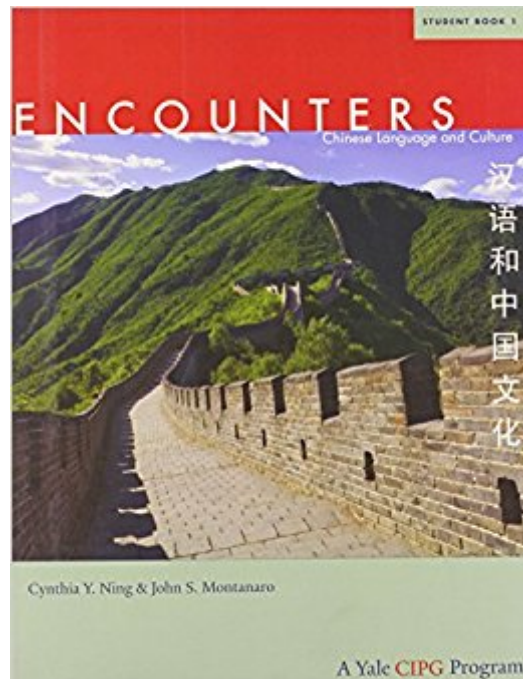




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Encounters: Chinese Language And Culture, Student Book 1



Synopsis

Welcome to Encounters, a groundbreaking Chinese language program that features a dramatic series filmed entirely in China. The program's highly communicative approach immerses learners in the Chinese language and culture through video episodes that directly correspond to units in the combination textbook-workbook. By combining a compelling story line with a wealth of educational materials, Encounters weaves a tapestry of Chinese language and culture rich in teaching and learning opportunities. Encounters follows a carefully structured and cumulative approach. Students progress from listening and speaking to the more difficult skills of reading and writing Chinese characters, building grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation skills along the way. The Encounters program includes:

- Two Full-color Student Books for introductory Chinese study
- Annotated Instructor's Editions with answer keys and suggested class activities
- Two Character Writing Workbooks linked directly to the Student Book
- Ten hours of video materials, comprising dramatic episodes, cultural segments, and animations, all integrated with the Student Books
- A total of 200 minutes of audio material, linked to the Student Books, for listening and speaking practice
- A website, www.encounterschinese.com, providing access to all audiovisual material of the program upon adoption

Each new, print copy of a Student Book comes with a 10-digit access code which provides one year of complimentary access to the website and its media. Students who purchase an eBook, or who are looking to extend their access to the website material, must buy a new access code. These codes are available at <http://yalebooks.com/yupbooks/encounters.asp>.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Encounters provides a well-rounded introduction to the language. . . .Â [It is] well organised and comprehensive."â "Francesca Sablan, second-year Chinese studies student, University of Manchester, Times Higher Education"Encounters excel[s] as a communicative methodology [for] this drastically changing global age. . . . A multifaceted interface for learners to explore real-life language use in rich contexts."â "Chen-Hui Tsai, China Review International"As a foreign language instructor and researcher, I am very meticulous and demanding regarding the selection and utilization of instructional materials. In the last ten years, we have seen a significant increase of interest in Chinese language and culture in K-16 settings. As is true for many foreign language programs, not all Chinese programs provide the same quality of education. Authentic and meaningful learning materials, especially textbooks, are the foundation of any high-quality foreign language instructional program. I strongly recommend the Encountersmaterials, a remarkable series of textbooks, to all Chinese instructors, especially those teaching at the high school and college levels. I believe both teachers and students will very much enjoy this exemplar of a new generation of language programming."â "Ting Shen, University of Mount Union, Journal of Technology and Chinese Language Teaching"This is a unique effort. Â The key here is the focus on the essentials of communication. The Web component is great, and I love the videoÂ â " as a nonnative speaker, I especially want the kids to hear someone who is not me!"â "Erica Dieselman, Hingham High School"A powerful and innovative textbook series for students of Chinese."â "Christopher Lupke, Washington State University"The Encounters series has been a definite success for us and we are glad we made the switch."â "Fred Kosak, The Rivers School"Among the many strengths of Encounters are the emphasis on culture in the videos, the variety of activities, and the useful review sections."â •Jing Zhai, Marquette University"I like the natural context and the different types of exercises in the Encounters textbook.Â Further, the video is nothing short of great."â •Hanna Lin, West Virginia University

Cynthia Y. Ning is associate director of the Center for Chinese Studies and U.S. director of the Confucius Institute of the University of Hawaiâ ™i at Manoa, where she has taught courses in Chinese language and film for more than 25 years. She is the former president and executive director of the Chinese Language Teachers Association. John S. Montanaro recently retired as

Senior Lecturer in Chinese at Yale University, where he taught for more than 30 years.

Most of the criticisms described in other reviews are absolutely valid. For example, the criticisms about the high cost of materials for this course and the incomplete vocabulary index are accurate. The criticism that there is not a transcript is not accurate - the transcript is sold as "Screenplays." This is not the best course for someone who is still trying to learn tones and basic vocabulary. Five stars deleted for selling a book as an introductory book when it would not be helpful to complete beginners without a good teacher doing most of the early prep work. But the book gets back 4 stars for what it does right. Providing students with extensive detailed vocabulary that they need for the world outside a college campus, such as words for adoptive parents and stepparents and various types of clothing and professions, is a good thing. Letting students hear Chinese at the speed and in the various accents that they would encounter in China is a good thing even for (near-)beginners. If you're using it for self-study, do not pay the ridiculous full price for the textbook and do use supplementary grammar books. Note that the price of the online program has been reduced to about \$20 for 24 months, which is far more reasonable. The prices for the DVDs are still absurd. I recommend this book with these reservations for people who plan to work to a very advanced level in Chinese and want an early introduction to the language as it is spoken in real life. Those people still need other resources available to supplement. *edited 7/8*

This is a required text for my online class. I haven't looked at any other Chinese Textbooks, but I really dislike this one. I bought the online version, which is good for a year... but it's entirely pointless with a separate purchase of the media access code as well as a separate purchase for the workbook that goes with it. Talk about a ripoff. Plus, it doesn't even open up properly on my Chromebook, which I use exclusively for schoolwork. It'll open up just fine on my personal laptop and desktop since they both use a Windows OS, but this is completely inaccessible on my Chromebook. It also doesn't have a very good quick reference section just for vocabulary or quick grammar structure tips. I'm so mad that this is a required text for my class. It's not cost efficient at all.

This book was required for my Chinese 101 class. My instructor insists that it works "very well" for people who "study hard" but not casual learners. If you buy the book used, you will not be given free access to the video segments on the website, unless by some miracle the person who owned the book before you never activated the code. This means spending an additional \$25 for a six month

subscription or \$50 for a one-year subscription. Depending on the cost of a used book, you may want to just buy a new one. As for the book itself, there is a lot of guesswork as you begin a chapter. The book seems to be going for the immersion approach, rather than being straightforward with the meaning of the words. Characters are not emphasized in this book, so of course you need to spend more money on the accompanying character workbook if you want to know things like stroke order, use as a radical or some compound words. The most interesting information is on the simpler characters. The workbook also asks cheeky questions like "Can you come up with any memory aids for this character?" If you look up a word in the back of the encounters textbook, it will give you pinyin, characters and meaning, but no page number. I suppose if you use every resource at your disposal, study diligently, and hope your teacher compensates for all the shortcomings of this book, then maybe it will be of some use to you. Avoid this book if it is possible to do so.

i like it

I think that the title "encounters" makes it sound like a porn, like sexual encounters of the third kind alienporn spoof

This textbook was the assigned textbook for a college conversational Chinese course I took. As a quick summary, it is a slightly below-average textbook, but I'm talking a full point off just for its cost. At \$90, it's already on the high end for a textbook. But the fact that it only provides a one year subscription to non-downloadable audio/video really puts it on the pricey side. It suffers the many problems one would expect to find in a first edition textbook, but I do feel there are core issues with the design. I found myself not understanding many of the design decisions at all --- decisions that make the book just seem less didactic. Review is incredibly difficult: -The dictionary at the end lacks a reference to the chapter where a vocab word was introduced. In a very unfamiliar language like Chinese, this is crucial to understand concepts. -New vocabulary is not sensibly introduced. Things might reference a video or audio or just a "figure it out".. which really devalues the book six months out. An otherwise great podcast is harmed by poor design decisions: -I can't download it, making "podcast" a bit of a misnomer -Uses occasional vocabulary outside the book -No written transcript Books video and audio programs have a lot of problems: -Every chapter is introduced with a 10 minute "dramatic video". This video is intriguing, but: a. Vocabulary is way outside the scope of the chapter (and a lot, at least a third in earlier chapters). Hell, some words used aren't even in the textbook! b. Speakers talk way too fast and too accented; this is an Introductory book - I expect to

hear nice, clean, slow CCTV Mandarin, not some heavy-accented Beijiner; leave that for Intermediate courses.-Because of a and b, understanding the videos is pretty much impossible. Actually when I took the class, the videos lacked even captions -- so I just gave up watching them. Since then captions seem to have been added, making it merely difficult to understand the videos -- I'm at a loss how captions were not the highest priority on day 1.Overall though, I don't understand what the point of this (probably expensive to produce) video is. I might as well just watch Chinese historical drama, which actually has clearer speakers. Traditional books with their hand-drawn characters and audio dialogs work just as well (actually better) for teaching the language.c. No transcripts (other than characters) of long audio materials. I'd expect a Chinese textbook to have lots of audio with transcripts in pinyin and translation - such is crucial to learning to hear a language. For some reason, the book has a combination of no transcript or a transcript only in characters (and the occasional translation..)Bizarre learning priorities and exercise expectations:-For a book covering 900 vocabulary words, the grammar explanations leave a lot to be desired. Compared to other books, things are described far too informally for a student to learn the overall rules. As a comparison, the classic Colloquial Chinese book explains the usage of the particle 'de' better in the first fifty pages than this entire book.-The expectation for hearing grows way too fast. After only very basic tone exercises, the student is expected in the first chapter to hear sentences consisting mainly of novel words and infer their tones. For those of you who haven't yet learned Chinese, that's an incredibly difficult task for native English speakers - one that may take a semester or two to actually have.Overall, the book's "groundbreaking" program is certainly novel, but ultimately drag the book down. In its current form, I cannot recommend this book over more conventional textbooks.

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