















**Dictionaries:** All three free dictionaries are great and there is no need to download add-ons for beginning students. Which dictionary is best comes down to personal preference.

Games						
Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation ★ to ★★★★★	iPhone	iPad	Android
	E神煲冬瓜	Free \$.99 to unlock levels 2 and 3.	★★★	✓	✓	✓
<p>Description: In this game, you are a buy with a shopping list. You will hear the Chinese name of a grocery item and have to scroll through around 60 items to find the right one before time is up. While the game is a real challenge and doesn't have a learning mode, it is a lot of fun. More appropriate for Intermediate learners.</p>						

Mobile Apps for Chinese 101  
**Pīnyīn and Pronunciation:** Get them all, for FREE!!!

Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation ★ to ★★★★★	iPhone	iPad	Android
	Pinyin Chart	Free	★★★★★			
<p>Description: Provides a chart of all possible pinyin syllables with pronunciation of all four tones. Very simple to use and a great reference tool during the early stages of the semester. <b>If you download one pinyin app, this is the one!!!</b></p>						
	Pinyin Trainer by hao	Free	★★★★★			
<p>Description: A great way to quiz yourself about pinyin sounds, spelling, as well as tones. Super easy to use. Just listen to the sounds and either pick the correct spelling or draw the tone mark. (has those two question types). <b>Very similar to the quizzes and test for the Introduction unit.</b></p>						
	Chinese Pinyin Teacher	Free	★★★			
<p>Description: Another program to check pinyin sounds. Similar in use to Pinyin chart (above), just presented in a different format.</p>						

**Numbers:** Excellent for the first few weeks of class and beyond!

Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation ★ to ★★★★★	iPhone	iPad	Android
	Chinese Number Trainer	Free \$2.99 to expand range of numbers	★★★★★			













Description: Provides a **timed quiz on numbers 1-100**. You hear the pronunciation of random numbers and have to select the correct number from a list of 5 choices. Also, you can select any combination of **numbers** from 1-999 and the **translation in characters, pinyin, and audio** is given. Eventually, the range of numbers for the quiz and translation can be expanded for \$2.99, but the free version is very sufficient.

**Chinese Character Practice:** There are quite a few free programs for practicing writing Chinese character and pretty much all of them stink. *eStroke Animated Chinese Characters* is by far the best program for this I've encountered and is well worth the money.

Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation ★ to ★★★★★	iPhone	iPad	Android
	eStroke Animated Chinese Characters	\$6.99 iPhone \$8.99 iPad FREE Android	★★★★★			
<p>Description: Awesome program with many uses if you can justify the price. <b>Animates the stroke order for more than 20,000 characters.</b> Allows you to write characters with touchscreen with or without corrections. If corrections are turned on, a buzzer will sound if the wrong stroke order is used. Very easy to switch between Traditional and Simplified Characters. The only gripe is that this program has a bit of a learning curve. The manual is available online: <a href="http://fast.eon.com.hk:1818/estroke/">http://fast.eon.com.hk:1818/estroke/</a> <b>Highly Recommended!</b></p>						
	Skritter VIDEO: <a href="http://www.skritter.com/ios">www.skritter.com/ios</a>	30 days Free \$9.99 month	★★★★★			
<p>Description: <b>The BEST character writing app out there in my opinion.</b> You can easily download chapter by chapter vocabulary lists from many common textbooks. Supports proper stroke order and shapes. Many ways to adjust the app to fit your needs and learning style.</p>						
	Chinese Writer by <a href="http://trainchinese.com">trainchinese.com</a>	Free \$.99 additional character packs	★★★			
<p>Description: A fun <b>game</b> for practicing <b>correct stroke order</b>. Characters fall from the top of the screen and as you click on them they enlarge and have to trace the correct stroke order before they hit the bottom of the screen. Because the character packs cost extra, it isn't possible to put together a list of only characters from class, but for just stroke order practice it is great (and free).</p>						
	Shi Zi	\$1.99	★★★★			
<p>Description: This program features <b>animated</b> explanations of many ancient <b>pictographic characters</b>. The interface is extremely well-explained and easy to use. However, the characters featured are limited to pictographs which are only a small percentage of modern characters. The program also allows you to record your voice and compare to native-speaker pronunciation. <b>Good for supplemental knowledge and learning about those important radicals.</b></p>						
	Chinese Writer by Popup Chinese	Free	★★			
<p>Description: Presents random characters in Traditional or Simplified that must be traced using the proper stroke order. Does well to reinforce stroke order, but you cannot select which characters to write, it's totally random. Also, you need to sign up for a free Popup Chinese account to use.</p>						



## Media (News, TV, Radio, Movies, Jokes, Pics etc.)

Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation ★ to ★★★★★	iPhone	iPad	Android
	台灣蘋果日報 Taiwan Apple News	Free	★★★★★			
Description: Apple News is the news agency famous for using computer animations to recreate the most ridiculous news stories each day. This app provides access to both written, video, and animated news stories and is updated daily. Its a great way to increase your exposure to native Chinese language. Make sure that you download the Taiwanese version as there is a regular version that doesn't say Taiwan (台灣) and is in Cantonese! Only shows traditional characters.						
	CETV (China Entertainment TV)	Free	★★★★			
Description: Provides frequently updated video news about the Mainland Chinese industry. The interface is all in Chinese, of course, but this app is another good way to increase exposure to authentic Chinese language.						
	— 爆笑GIF — 雷人图片 — 搞笑图片	Free	★★★★			
Description: These are similar apps that offer <b>libraries of funny pictures or animated gifs</b> with <b>Chinese captions</b> , usually in simplified characters. Please be warned that there is often <b>R-rated content</b> in the galleries.						
	Crunchyroll	Free \$14.99/month for Premium	★★★★★			
Description: Incredible!!! Watch hundreds of TV dramas and anime on your mobile device for free! Free service has adds like hulu and new episodes aren't available until a week after release. With premium adds are removed and new episodes are available on the day of release. Be aware that some Chinese language programs are in Cantonese or other dialects besides Mandarin.						
	-Radio CN -Radio Taiwan	Free	★★★★★			
Description: These apps stream live radio broadcasts from a host of stations across mainland China and Taiwan respectively. Both talk radio and music stations are included. There are many apps for iOS and android that are probably equally as good as these.						

Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation ★ to ★★★★★★	iPhone	iPad	Android
	DedoTV 滴兜TV	Free	★★★★★			
Description: DedoTV is similar to Crunchyroll, but features episodes of popular variety shows from the mainland and Taiwan. Such variety shows are definitely a TV mainstay in East Asia. A great way to pick up on slang expressions!						
	TVULite TVUPlayer	Free \$4.99	★★★			
Description: TVU allows users to watching streaming content from hundreds of TV channels worldwide. To find Chinese language channels just do a search for China, Taiwan, or Singapore. The picture quality isn't great and channels are somewhat limited. Its still pretty cool, though. Every time I open this app, I feel like I'm in a Chinese hotel room channel surfing!						
<b>NOTE: If you don't have a smart phone, you can download TVU for your PC or Mac as well!</b>						