Mobile Apps for Chinese 101

Mobile Apps Mobile learning is a great way to incorporate Chinese language into your daily life away from the classroom. The following apps are just a sampling of what is available from the iTunes app store and Android Market. Highlighted programs are especially recommended for Chinese 101 students.

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.

lcon	Name	Price	Recommendation	iPhone	iPad	Android	
魚	Pleco Chinese Dictionary	Free Varying prices for upgrades		\checkmark	~	\checkmark	
Description: Has neat add-on features like full-screen handwriting, flashcard system, and stroke order diagram for varying prices. Very intuitive and easy to use . Android is in Beta form. Download at this link: <u>http://www.pleco.com/androidbeta.html</u>							
	iCED Chinese Dictionary	Free \$3.99 for iCED+ \$29.99 for ABC Edition					
Description: Being able to search with pinyin and tones is a nice touch. Much better English look-up with the free version than with the Pleco free version. For \$3.99 , you can create unlimited word lists. This would be more helpful for advanced students looking up words from authentic materials like newspapers and novels and not as helpful for new students.							
英汉 English Chinese	KTdict C-E	Free \$3.99 for KTdict C-E+		~	~		
Description: Really does a great job of providing a variety of translations and pointing out the differences between them. The \$3.99 upgrade unlocks "trainer" mode and is really worthwhile because it is easy to create lists of flash cards for self-quizzing and even keeps a log of your statistics.							
Games							

 Icon
 Name
 Price
 Recommendation
 iPhone
 iPad
 Android

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 E神煲冬瓜
 Free \$.99 to unlock levels 2 and 3.
 ★★★
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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.

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

lcon	Name	Price	Recommendation	iPhone	iPad	Android		
	Pinyin Chart	Free						
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. If you download one pinyin app, this is the one!!!								
hao	Pinyin Trainer by trainchinese	Free		~	~			
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). Very similar to the quizzes and test for the Introduction unit.								
B	Chinese Pinyin Teacher	Free	***					
	Description: Another program to check pinyin sounds. Similar in use to Pinyin chart (above), just presented in a different format.							

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

lcon	Name	Price	Recommendation	iPhone	iPad	Android
Chinese number trainer 一百零一	Chinese Number Trainer	Free \$2.99 to expand range of numbers			K	

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.

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Andrew Olson, UW-Milwaukee

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	iPhone	iPad	Android			
筆	eStroke Animated Chinese Characters	\$6.99 iPhone \$8.99 iPad FREE Android				\checkmark			
order for without of used. V program	Description: Awesome program with many uses if you can justify the price. Animates the stroke order for more than 20,000 characters. 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 east 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: http://fast.eon.com.hk:1818/estroke/ Highly Recommended!								
	Skritter VIDEO: www.skritter.com/ios	30 days Free \$9.99 month				~			
chapter	Description: The BEST character writing app out there in my opinion. 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.								
5	Chinese Writer by trainchinese.com	Free \$.99 additional character packs	***						
screen a hit the b	ion: A fun game for pra and as you click on ther ottom of the screen. Bo a list of only character	n they enlarge and h ecause the characte	have to trace the correct r packs cost extra, it is	t stroke o n't possib	order befo le to put	ore they			
识字	Shi Zi	\$1.99							
Description: This program features animated explanations of many ancient pictographic characters . 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. Good for supplemental knowledge and learning about those important radicals.									
字	Chinese Writer by Popup Chinese	Free	**	~	~				
proper s	ion: Presents random c troke order. Does well totally random. Also, y	to reinforce stroke o	rder, but you cannot se	elect whic	h charac	ters to			

Vocabulary and Flash Cards: The challenge with finding vocabulary programs for Chinese 101 is that they all feature words that are not from class and will never be tested. All of the following apps are for supplemental vocabulary, with the exception of uTalk HD Chinese, which is useful for certain topics.

lcon	Name	Price	Recommendation	iPhone	iPad	Android		
	-uTalk HD Chinese -uTalk Mandarin	\$7.99	***		\checkmark			
Description: An effective and fun way to practice vocabulary from certain topics and learn more words that will not be covered in class. The program is very well designed and offers practice mode as well as quizzes for each topic in the form of "Easy Game, Easy Game+, and Hard Game". Among the topics that will be useful to Chinese 101 students are numbers , time , colors , and useful phrases. This program only supports simplified characters .								
The second secon	WCC Chinese Flashcards Character/Bigram	Free \$9.99 each to unlock all vocabulary	*					
two char	Description: Two different programs that are similar. One offers just single characters, the other two character words (or bigrams). The free version only offers a few sample characters and at \$9.99, you'd be better served to buy eStroke Animated Chinese for \$6.99, which is much better.							
	Language Master Mandarin	\$0.99	**	✓				
Description: This program presents new vocabulary in sets of three words which are repeated several times. Next the order is mixed up and you have to match pictures with the pronunciation. This continues until there are 12 pictures visible. Once you've learned all 12 words, two types of games are unlocked. This program is useful to learn a few words, and is fun but won't do much to hepl you succeed in Chinese 101.								
Chinese	Play & Learn Chinese	\$2.99	***	~	~			
Description: This program features a variety of maps and picture scenes that can be explored in two modes: Learn Mode and Game Mode . In Learn Mode, you click on objects to learn their names. In Game Mode, you hear a word and have to find it by touching the screen. This program is fun, but doesn't show Chinese characters, only pinyin and English. Also, some of the correlations between pictures and definitions are a stretch. This program would be more beneficial to Intermediate students .								

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

lcon	Name	Price	Recommendation	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 rediculous 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	CETV (China Entertainment TV)	Free	**			~		
interface	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			\checkmark			
Chinese			ries of funny pictures Please be warned tha		-			
O	Crunchyroll	Free \$14.99/month for Premium		~	\checkmark	~		
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 TW	-Radio CN -Radio Taiwan	Free		~		~		
China ar	nd Taiwan respectivel		sts from a host of static music stations are incl as good as these.					

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Icon	Name	Price	Recommendation	iPhone	iPad	Android
DeDeTY month	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!

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TVULite Free TVUPlayer \$4.99	***	~	<	<
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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!

NOTE: If you don't have a smart phone, you can download TVU for your PC or Mac as well!