Lesson 1: Greetings

Learning Objectives:  
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Exchange basic greetings;
* Request a person’s last name and full name and provide your own;
* Determine whether someone is a teacher or a student;
* Ascertain someone’s nationality.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. How do people greet each other when meeting for the first time?
2. Do people say their given name or family name first?
3. How do acquaintances or close friends address each other?

Lesson 2: Family

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Employ basic kinship terms;
* Describe a family photo;
* Ask about someone’s profession;
* Say some common professions.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. What is the typical family structure?
2. Does an adult consider his/her parents’ house his/her home?
3. Do adults live with their parents?
4. Do people mention their father or mother first when talking about family members?
5. Is it culturally appropriate to ask about people’s professions upon first meeting them?

Lesson 3: Dates and Time

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Tell and speak about time and dates;
* Talk about one’s age and birthday;
* Invite someone to dinner;
* Arrange a dinner date.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. Do people write the month before the day or the day before the month?
2. Is it appropriate to ask about people’s age and birthday?
3. What do people typically do to celebrate their birthday?

Lesson 4: Hobbies

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Say and write the terms for basic personal hobbies;
* Ask about someone’s hobbies;
* Ask friends out to see a movie;
* Set up plans for the weekend.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. What are people’s favorite pastimes?
2. What do people usually do on weekends?

Lesson 5: Visiting Friends

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Welcome a visitor;
* Introduce one person to another;
* Compliment someone on his/her house;
* Ask for beverages as a guest at someone else’s place;
* Offer beverages to a visitor;
* Briefly describe a visit to a friend’s place.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. Is it common to pay a visit to a friend’s house without advance notice?
2. Do people bring anything when visiting a friend’s house?
3. What are some of the common beverages and foods offered to visitors?

Lesson 6: Making Appointments

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Answer a phone call and initiate a phone conversation;
* Set up an appointment with a teacher on the phone;
* Ask for a favor;
* Ask someone to return your call.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. What does one say first when answering the phone call?
2. Do people state their names when answering the phone?
3. How do students address their teachers?
4. What do you say to ask a favor?

Lesson 7: Studying Chinese

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Comment on one’s performance in an exam;
* Comment on one’s character writing;
* Talk about one’s experience in learning Chinese vocabulary and grammar;
* Talk about one’s study habits;
* Remark on typical scenes from one’s language class.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. How do people convey that they have done well in a course of study?
2. How do people convey that they have done poorly in a course of study?
3. What are considered good study habits for a foreign language student?

Lesson 8: School Life

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Describe the routine of a student’s life on campus;
* Write a simple diary entry;
* Write a brief letter in the proper format;
* Express your modesty in terms of your foreign language ability;
* Invite friends to go on an outing.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. Is there a fixed format for diary entries?
2. Do people follow a certain format in writing letters?
3. Are expressions of modesty considered culturally appropriate?

Lesson 9: Shopping

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Speak about the color, size, and price of a purchase;
* Recognize Chinese currency;
* Pay bills in cash or with a credit card;
* Determine the proper change you should receive;
* Ask for a different size and/or color of merchandise;
* Exchange merchandise.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. Do people haggle over prices in stores?
2. Can merchandise be returned or exchanged?
3. How do people pay for their purchases: in cash, with a check, or with a credit card?

Lesson 10: Transportation

Learning Objectives:   
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to

* Comment about several means of transportation;
* Explain how to travel from one station to another;
* Describe a traffic route;
* Express your gratitude after receiving a personal favor;
* Offer New Year’s wishes.

Relate and Get Ready:  
In your own culture/community—

1. What is the most popular means of public transportation?
2. Can people hail a taxi on the street easily or do they have to call one by phone?
3. How do people express their gratitude?
4. What do people say to each other on the New Year?