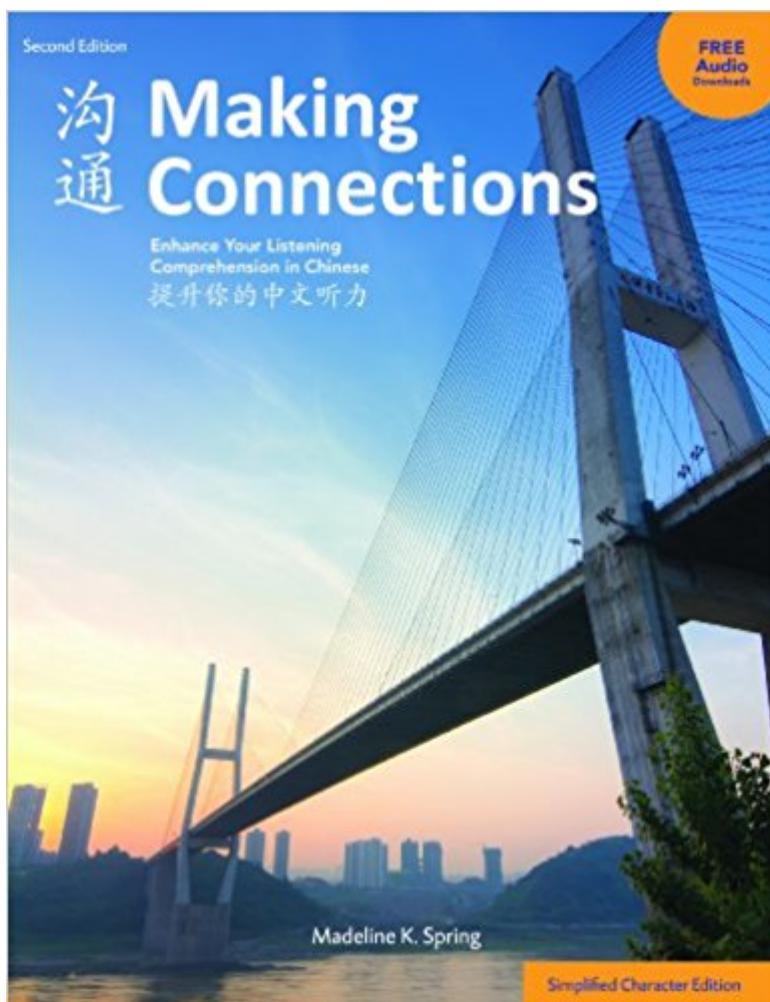


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Making Connections, 2nd Edition (Simplified) (English And Chinese Edition)



Synopsis

Making Connections, Second Edition gives beginning and intermediate students of Chinese an early start in developing strategies to dramatically improve their listening comprehension. An effective companion to any first or second year textbook, Making Connections improves listening skills through the use of recordings of natural, unrehearsed conversations between native Mandarin speakers. Students will hear the spoken language in a variety of contexts, from chats between friends to conversations between doctor and patient to radio broadcasts. The accompanying written exercises guide students through each audio track, explaining particular aspects of the language, supplemented with related realia and cartoon illustrations. Pre- and post-listening activities train students to listen for detail and intent, and an index lists vocabulary terms by lesson, in both simplified and traditional characters. The first 23 lessons in the book correspond to lesson topics from Integrated Chinese, Level 1, Parts 1 and 2. Lessons 24-45 offer additional situational topics that range in difficulty from novice to high-intermediate.

Book Information

Paperback: 355 pages

Publisher: Cheng & Tsui; 2nd Edition edition (February 14, 2012)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0887277675

ISBN-13: 978-0887277672

Product Dimensions: 1 x 10.8 x 11.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #376,684 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #167 in Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Foreign Languages > Chinese

Customer Reviews

As a long-time Chinese teacher, I have found "Making Connections" (either 1st or 2nd edition) to be an excellent piece of supplemental material for my students. The recordings cover a wide range of relevant topics. And best of all, they are largely unscripted, giving a truly authentic flavor. This is one of the best materials ever for helping students to improve their listening skills. The book gives a variety of activities for each chapter to gauge comprehension. A couple of things to note: (1) The text does NOT contain any transcriptions of the dialogues. The book accompanying the downloadable audio files is designed to provide activities for the student based on the material he has heard, but

the dialogues themselves are not written down. (2) While the publisher states that this book can be used at all levels, it is most effective after a student has had at least one year of Chinese. While it is true that beginners can listen to the dialogues to see what simple information they can gather (e.g., names, nationalities, etc.), the dialogues are designed for students already familiar with some basic Chinese structures and vocabulary. Beginners, and even advanced beginners, can expect to miss a lot of the information. However, this should not be a problem if the instructor recognizes the modest steps beginning Chinese students make. The dialogues themselves are interesting, covering a wide variety of topics, clearly articulated, and very colloquial in nature, often making them preferable to audio clips for textbook dialogues, or at least an excellent supplement to them. A significant amount of Chinese culture is also taught through these dialogues, increasing their value and effectiveness as a learning tool to strengthen listening comprehension. I could only wish that some company would work on simpler colloquial dialogues in the same vein but truly geared towards the absolute or early beginner. "Making Connections" is a superb tool for the audience for which it was designed. It would be ideal if it could be preceded by more elementary material. Such material, alas!, is hard to find. But this text is wonderful, and the Chinese teacher who has intermediate students---or very motivated advanced beginners---would miss a great teaching tool if s/he were not to use this resource.

This is ok as a supplement for a Chinese teacher to go over the conversation with you. But for self study I would not recommend it because it does not have the transcripts to the dialogues. If it did I would recommend this book and probably rank it 5 stars.

This is an excellent textbook to help you improve your listening in Mandarin. It's very practical and the recorded dialogues between Xiao Zhang and Xiao Li are quite interesting.

It is a pity that the texts of the conversations are not written down in the book, Could you send me the texts separately ? Thank you !

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