

## Chinese Characters First Steps App – Developed by The Open University, UK

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=uk.ac.open.kmi.chinesecharacters>

To download, search ‘Chinese Characters First Steps’ in Google Play Store for Android (the iOS version is no longer compatible with versions 11+).



### Description


This application contains 400 plus characters introduced in the Beginners’ Chinese module 第一步 Dì yī bù of The Open University (UK), most of which are covered in GCSE Chinese core vocabulary. By combining them, you will learn a further 300+ useful words and phrases.

There are 20 lessons which chronologically build upon each other. The first five lessons with over 100 characters and related activities are for free download to give you a taste of what this app can do. The other 15 lessons are available via in-app purchase by tapping the ‘upgrade’ button at a price of £1.49 (or US\$1.99) for the whole App.

### Lesson features:

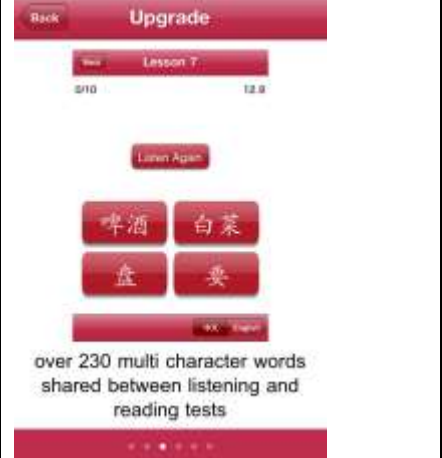
Each lesson comprises four sections

#### (1) Writing Practice


	<p>Here you are presented with about 20 characters that you can learn to draw with your fingers using the correct stroke order, which is essential in assisting you to memorise Chinese characters. Once a character is drawn, the correct pronunciation by a native Chinese speaker is played to aid your learning of the selected character. You can choose to reset the character to have another go, listen again to the pronunciation or move to the next character in the character list.</p>
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You can change the difficulty settings in this section to test your skill at writing Chinese characters. The default setting is ‘easy’ with the arrow indicating the stroke order.

## (2) Listening Test


	<p>This part of the application presents you with the opportunity to test yourself on understanding: i) the meaning of the single-character words you have just learnt in the lesson; and ii) two-character words which are made up of characters you have learnt.</p> <p>The test consists of 10 randomly chosen words or phrases. You will hear a word or phrase and you must select the correct answer from the choices displayed. As you answer the next word or phrase will be played automatically. The text on the buttons can be toggled between displaying the Chinese character or English. A summary page displays how many words/phrases you have matched correctly.</p>
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## (3) Reading Test

	<p>This part of the application presents you with the opportunity to test yourself on recognising: i) the characters you have learnt in the lesson; and ii) two-character words which are made up of characters you have learnt.</p> <p>The test consists of 10 randomly chosen words or phrases. You will see a word or phrase and you must select the correct answer from the choices displayed. As you answer the next word or phrase will be displayed automatically. The text on the buttons can be toggled between displaying English or Pinyin. A summary page displays how many words/phrases you have matched correctly.</p>
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The timer for both Listening and Reading can be changed via the Settings menu in the opening page of each lesson.

## (4) Word Search

	<p>Here you are presented with a word search puzzle of characters that you have learned in the Writing Practice section of a particular lesson and from previous lessons.</p> <p>The scrollable tablets at the bottom of the screen display the English words or phrases that you need to find in the grid. Tap the tablet to display the Pinyin of the word or phrase. On the grid, drag your finger either horizontally from left to right or vertically from top to bottom where you think the correct answer is.</p> <p>As you trace your finger, a line will be drawn showing your selection. If it matches the words or phrases in the list, the pink line will remain on the grid and the tablet view will automatically scroll to the right answer displaying both the Chinese characters and a tick. The correct pronunciation of the found word or phrase is automatically played too.</p>
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