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5 Tips To Learn The Chinese Language (reading – 2.10. - 8.10.)

by: **Shalini Madhav**

Have you been looking for a way to learn the Chinese language as fast as possible? If so, we suggest that you follow the 5 tips given below. Read on.

1. Chinese is Easy to Learn

According to most people, learning Chinese is hard as this language is the most difficult one in the world. This is partially true. As a matter of fact, the writing system of this language is non-alphabetic consisting of tons of pictographs known as "characters". You have to study and internalize them through constant reading and rote memorization. Aside from this, you have to write in the language over and over again.

The thing is that the language has a very easy grammar to learn. The sentence structure is similar to that of the English language. The verbs have only one form with zero conjugations. Aside from this, Chinese has no gender and no plural forms of nouns. All these things make this language easy to learn.

2. Learn Mandarin

If you have been trying to learn Chinese, you may want to go for Mandarin. This is the most common dialect of Northern China. Aside from this, this is the official language of education, politics and the media in Taiwan and China. Moreover, this is on the list of top languages spoken in Singapore.

In Mainland China, Mandarin means the "common language". Outside of Mainland, Mandarin is considered the national language. To Chinese students, Mandarin is the easiest of the dialects to learn.

3. Speak first

Since the written Chinese is hard, it's a good idea that you focus on practice speaking the language first. Once you have done enough practice, your next step is to improve your writing skills, especially if this is your study or business requirement. While it's a challenge to speak the language, you can master it quickly.

As a matter of fact, the majority of Chinese language apps teach both written and spoken Chinese. So, it's up to you to choose between the written or spoken Chinese.

4. Learn "simplified" characters

Nowadays, there are two main writing systems in China: "complicated" characters and "simplified characters". Now, the traditional characters evolve from the classic Chinese pictographs. They were used throughout the history of China. As a matter of fact, they have still been used.

Around 100 years ago, the government of China started promulgating an alternative system of writing known as "simplified" characters in order to add to the written literacy in the country.

Nowadays, simplified characters is considered the official script of China and Singapore. On the other hand, the traditional characters are popular in Hong Kong and Taiwan.

5. Be Serious

Unlike most of the western languages, learning the Chinese language requires that you have a commitment and perseverance. The reason is that the language doesn't have linguistic roots in the English language.

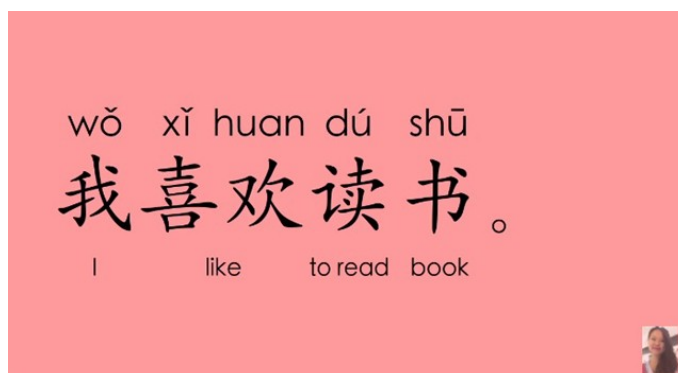
So, you should stick to these 5 tips if you want to learn and improve your Chinese. With these tips, you can learn to speak and write the language in a short period of time.

Are you trying to learn the Chinese language? If so, we suggest that you look for a Chinese tutor. The tutor will help you learn the language faster.

About The Author

Article Source:

http://EzineArticles.com/expert/Shalini_Madhav/2396631



Tips for Managing Time Efficiently (reading – 9.10. - 15.10.)

by: **Calum Macleod**

One thing that people constantly wish they had more of other than money is time. We are time rich in our youth and time poor as we grow older. It's one of those clichéd sayings that 'Time is money' but it's a cliché because it's true. Were rich entrepreneurs born with more time than the rest of us? Of course not, but they find ways to manage their time so that they have enough to go around.

Whether you have lots of business or personal tasks that need attention, having a lax attitude to time management can lead to an avalanche of tasks that will never get done. This not only restricts the flow of new and on-going tasks but can also cause an unnecessary mental burden which can lead to stress.

So how do you make the most of your time? There are some simple things you can do to make sure that your time is being spent on the right tasks and that you are managing your time efficiently. I see time management in three stages. Information, organisation and discipline.

1. Get informed

You no doubt know what tasks need doing but are you aware of the importance of each and how long they will take. Even if you have an idea in your head of the time you need for a task it can help to write it all down. Keep a record of the time it takes to complete tasks so that you will be better informed in the future. An hour can very easily turn into an afternoon. Once you know or have estimates about the time you need think about the importance of each task. Are some tasks time critical? Are some far more crucial than others? Write all of your tasks down on paper and rate them on their importance.

2. Get organised

Now that you are informed about what needs done as a priority and how long it should take you can assess how much time you actually have and see if the maths add up. If you simply don't have enough time you have a couple of options. You can only do the tasks that you feel need to be done or you can get some help. If you run a small business this can range from outsourcing your call answering or bookkeeping to doing your shopping online to save you time for other tasks.

3. Get disciplined

None of the above will work unless you are disciplined in how you go about it. You can write as many to do lists as you like but if you are not keeping one eye on the time it takes to complete a task you will find that the avalanche of tasks will return to overwhelm you. Being disciplined with time is not an easy thing to get right as there will always be unforeseen circumstances in play and distractions on every corner. One great tip that has served me well is to do the worst thing first. If there is an item on your list of high importance that you are not looking forward to that's the one to do first. This is as much for the mental boost as anything else. Having a task weighing on your mind all day while you are carrying out work you're enjoying doesn't help anyone. How much more will you enjoy the work once that horrible task is ticked off?

About The Author

If you need to take control of your time and outsource your call answering visit Blue Square Telephone Answering.

Article Source:

<http://www.articlebiz.com/article/1051570489-1-tips-for-managing-time-efficiently/>



Tea through Time: A History in Brief (reading – 16.10. - 22.10.)

by: **Yolanda Saez**

Finely ground dried leaves added to boiling water and stirred with a bamboo rod: Here begins the early practice of tea drinking.

In 2700 B.C., fresh leaves in hot water were consumed for medicinal purposes in China, but by 200 A.D., tea infusions became a common cultural activity, where the green leaves of wild trees were prepared as a beverage to be enjoyed daily. In this time, tea bushes were cultivated for their properties and a system of drying leaves and marketing infusions was developed.

By 400 A.D. Chinese exporters began to ship tea to neighboring countries, including Japan and Tibet. In 800 A.D. the first tea seeds were brought to Japan for cultivating, where new appreciation for the infused drink was born and was permanently grown in the region by 1200 A.D.

As early as the thirteenth century and by way of China and Japan, tea consumption traveled to parts of Southeast Asia, including the Philippines, Indonesia and India. Tea houses in China had also become widely popular. Marco Polo, the renowned Venetian adventurer, brought tea from China to the court of the Indian emperor Harsha Vardhana.

In the 14th century, tea entered the land of the Mongols, Muslim countries and Russia before reaching

Europe. During China's Ming Dynasty, the traditional fashion of preparing tea as an infusion was put into practice. The method by which green tea was prepared then is still used today.

Moving into the 16th century Vasco de Gama established the first Portuguese enclave for trade with Asia. Portuguese sailors came to Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, which became one of the largest producers of tea. At that time, spices, silk and tea were in the hands of the Portuguese.

Until the mid-16th century, only green tea produced in China had been pressed into pills. As the market demand grew, it became necessary to cultivate tea in a form where its properties were not lost. Producers of tea discovered they could better preserve the tea if left to ferment and then heated it for a dehydration process. This form of preserving tea provided a natural process of decomposition, wherein Oolong Tea and Black Tea were born.

In this time, Philip II was proclaimed king and the two largest colonial empires, Spain and Portugal, were united. Captain James Lancaster became the first Englishman to reach India and broke the Portuguese trade monopoly.

At the end of 16th century, sailors with the East India Company from the Netherlands established a commercial sea route to East Asia. They colonized certain territories in order to compete and in some cases displace the Portuguese merchants.

In 1606 Europe's first large shipment of tea arrived and a trade war between Spain, the Netherlands and Portugal began. Traders from the Netherlands later arrived in Japan and the Japanese government authorized a commercial market for tea with the Netherlands. The English went on to compete with the East India Company from the Netherlands, and in 1624, England had also declared war on Spain.

Dutchmen continued their expansion and established what would become a thriving commercial center in Ceylon. Different varieties of tea were offered in England from the East India Company. Around 1650, the first shipment of tea arrived to colonists of New Amsterdam, a city which later became New York. Tea became a drink popular among the English who lived in newly established American cities.

In 17th century London, Garway Coffee became the first public setting in which tea was served. The positive effects of this new and exotic beverage were noted: "Stimulates the body, relieves pain and headaches, cleanses the kidneys, betters one's sleep, and improves memory." Over time, tea became not only an essential drink, but one that played a vital part in the British Empire's culture.

At the end of the 17th century in London, the cheapest tea averaged 7 shillings per pound, almost a week's wages for an average worker. Still, there was a growing demand for tea from all social classes, resulting in a lively black market, which sold contraband tea brought from Holland.

By the late 18th century, Americans in New York and Boston had grown a liking for tea; but, England put higher taxes into place, including a tea tax among others. To protest against such high taxes, colonists disguised as Indians boarded British merchant ships and threw 342 bales of tea in the water. This historic event known as the Boston Tea Party was a prelude to the American Revolution.

By the 19th century, the English had established a tradition for tea drinking, which now includes "early morning tea" and "afternoon tea" served with buns, muffins, scones, cakes and jams.

In the early 19th century, China was virtually the sole supplier of tea in the world. By 1834, tea plantations were created in India.

In 1843 Scottish explorer and naturalist Robert Fortune stated in his thesis that the origin of tea, its flavor, aroma and color came from one single tree called the *Camellia Sinensis*. It was acknowledged that green tea and black tea could be obtained from the same plant and that the distinction came down to the treatment of the tea leaves during harvest.

In the late 19th century and early 20th century, tea cultivation had spread to Russia; Iran; Uganda, Kenya, Congo, Tanzania, and Mozambique in Africa; Argentina, Brazil and Peru in South America; and Queensland in Australia. In the United States, New York merchant Thomas Sullivan sent customers samples of his different blends of tea in small bags. He had discovered filtered tea bags.

In this same period, an Englishman named Richard Blechynden hosted a stand which offered tea infusions from India and further served tea with ice at the World Fair in Saint Louis. So was "Iced Tea" born.

Today, whether you go to a tea shop, the local supermarket, or buy tea online, a variety of flavored teas are available with mixed spices, herbs, flower petals and fruit oils, all to be enjoyed in your favorite mug in the comfort of your own home.

About The Author

About the Author: Yolanda Saez's Profile

Article Source: <http://www.articlesphere.com>



The five most popular motives to procrastinate (reading – 23.10. - 29.10.) by: **Joe Hamilton**

Everybody knows about procrastination, right? Everybody also seems to experience procrastination at a certain quantity. In fact, about 20% of the population is affected by procrastination and 26% of them regard themselves as chronic procrastinators. Here is a direct overview of the mental motives we give ourselves to procrastinate.

5. I have too much time, I can do this later.

Let's face it, most to-do's are boring, and if you are like many people, you don't enjoy doing boring things. Well most people, when given a lot of time, will favor delaying it until it becomes urgent in order to do enjoyable tasks first.

That's tempting at first but you don't actually have a lot of time to do the work because you invest some time on cool things. You wind up being late and having a very short time span to finish your tasks so they get done awfully.

4. I'm not motivated enough

Motivation is the direction and the force with which you participate in an activity. In more common words, it

makes you want to do something. Now, a lot of persons will, when faced with boring things to do, say they are not motivated so they can't do their activities.

The thing is motivation isn't a random experience that you have absolutely no influence over. You can and you should stimulate yourself and the path to accomplishing your aims will be more pleasing that way.

Also, you don't actually need motivation to do things. I'm not motivated to get up of bed in the morning but guess what? I still do it! That is called willpower and it is the power we have that makes us do things independently of our mental state. You don't need to train willpower, you already have it, simply use it more often.

3. That's not really important

We do things in life to attain something or get something. In this process, there are actions we have to take (you don't get anything by giving nothing) to get there.

These actions can be boring and seemingly unimportant but they are actually backing the bigger tasks that are really important. By putting off little things, you put off the bigger tasks that need a lot of attention. Dispose of the little tasks first, so you can focus on the bigger ones.

2. I don't get results anyway, so why do it?

A popular realm where people procrastinate is fitness. They workout frequently for some time but get discouraged because they don't see prompt results.

Perhaps you can relate to that in another domain? I personally use this mental subterfuge with cleaning up my apartment by saying to myself. "Why waste your time with this, it'll not even show up if you clean up", but it actually does make a difference.

1. I have a trouble with procrastination

Yeah, you heard that right, folks use procrastination as an excuse to procrastinate. That's the all powerful process of self-fulfilling prophecies. You procrastinate, then your mental researches for a satisfying mental reason to do it, and it discovers the procrastination problem, what a clever brain we have!

The problem with these excuses is they make you vegetate. You don't get out of procrastination by doing nothing, you get out of procrastination by taking actions.

I advocate that you monitor your thought processes when you procrastinate and you'll find that most of them are illogical or inefficient. Act without thinking or should I say do something no matter what you are thinking, it's painless, just decide to do so.

About The Author

If you have a tendency to regularly procrastinate, get some procrastination help

Article Source:

<http://www.articlebiz.com/article/1051520087-1-the-five-most-popular-motives-to-procrastinate/>





Will artificial intelligence make us smarter or stupider? (reading – 30.10. - 5.11.)

by: **Kathleen Thurston**

Technology is now developing at an unprecedented rate as new technologies allow us to develop even more technologies at an exponential rate. Many have wondered whether a world run by increasingly intelligent machines will eventually cause us to become less intelligent.

The age of machines

This wouldn't be the first time that major advancements in technology resulted in changes in mankind. After the industrial revolution, when the work performed by manual laborers was outsourced to machines, people became less physically active. Many believe that our sedentary lifestyle and a worldwide obesity epidemic can be attributed to the industrial revolution. Of course, the industrial revolution wasn't all bad. Though it led to poorer physical health, it also likely contributed to greater human intelligence. Because humans were freed from monotonous manual labor, they were free to devote more time to intellectual pursuits. Furthermore, humans needed to be more intelligent to navigate a congested modern city than a small rural town.

The internet age

Now, we are in the internet age where limitless amounts of knowledge are at our fingertips. Anyone with a computer, tablet, or smartphone has access to virtually every bit of information that exists in the world. This has allowed humans to become even more intelligent.

The artificial intelligence age

The artificial intelligence age is still years ahead of us. But already we are beginning to see many early artificial intelligence systems taking over certain tasks. For instance, planes are for the most part flown by automatic pilot systems except during takeoff and landing. The task of handling air traffic at busy airports has become so monumental, that we have turned it over to artificial intelligence systems. Already, artificial intelligence has been able to beat Gary Kasparov, a chess genius, at his own game and Ken Jennings in a game of Jeopardy. Thanks to Moore's Law, which states that there will be an exponential increase in electronic processing capacity over time, artificial intelligence machines will be able to do more and more of the thinking for us. Already we have personal assistants like Siri (if you own an Apple device) or Cortana (if you own a Windows device running Windows 10). In the not too distant future, these personal assistants can become so advanced that they will automate much of our day-to-day tasks.

The easy life

The real question is whether a future with artificial intelligence will make us smarter or stupider. Just as the industrial revolution automated manual labor and made humans lazier, the artificial intelligence age could automate our thinking and make us stupider. However, also like the industrial revolution, the artificial intelligence age could also automate tasks that make us free to follow intellectual pursuits ultimately making us smarter. Only time will tell exactly how artificial intelligence will affect our day-to-day life.

About The Author

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