

Student Testimonials

Ms. Tang is a marvelous teacher. Besides being expert in Chinese language, of course, she is patient, encouraging, and fun. She works well with both adults and children.

I thought the teacher was so adorable, that I could barely think about the Mandarin lesson. I found the method was easy to follow and I felt comfortable with the learning process.

Bridget is an enthusiastic, patient, and very reliable teacher, making each lesson something to eagerly anticipate. Her methods allowed me to quickly "get" the basic structure of Chinese syntax and phrasing. Her English is also very good, making her easy to communicate with. Highly recommended.

Bridget's class is perfect for me, a working adult. She provides concentrated practice in the language while keeping a stress-free environment. How much I learn in one hour a week amazes me. This I attribute to Bridget's style of teaching, which is energetic, relevant, and personalized. During a recent trip to China I found myself actually understanding and using some of what I learned in Bridget's class.

I take Bridget's Mandarin class because not only do I get to practice the language, I learn something new each week. Though I've taken the same class repeatedly for years, each class is different because Bridget adds supplemental readings (stories and articles). She is a happy person who clearly enjoys teaching. She accommodates the range of language proficiency found in her students well. Everyone has fun and learns Mandarin too.

Bridget-Tao Tang is an incredible teacher. She is always charming and pleasant and, in class after class, always manages to be energetic and upbeat as well. The classes pass too quickly. She is patient with those of us who find Chinese to be extremely challenging, and yet is also able to explain the subtle points to students who bring to class prior knowledge of Chinese and who are confused by its complexity. She's a great teacher.

Bridget Tao Tang has opened a door for me into a language and a culture that would otherwise be remote and mysterious. Her techniques for teaching Mandarin Chinese are winners with the busy adults who flock to her classes.

The classes prepared me to travel on my own to China as a teacher of English, where I taught in Beijing and traveled extensively in other areas of China. My Chinese students were surprised and pleased to know that an American could communicate in Chinese as well as in English.

I highly recommend China Bridge classes and continue to seek Bridget Tao Tang's guidance in expanding my knowledge of Chinese.

When I first met Bridget it was among a group of other persons willing to learn Chinese. I rapidly realized that her course was a great help but I did prefer to go for private sessions, undoubtedly much more effective for me. Her patience and dedication and willingness to accommodate her schedule with my busy one were amazing, not to mention her teaching skills. I highly recommend that anyone who aims at learning and speaking mandarin quickly give it a try. I am now able to communicate and to understand basic Chinese conversations. Once in, she manages to bring the best out of you to succeed in this wonderful adventure. No hesitation, no procrastination, go register to enjoy her class as a beginner or to improve your skills. A + rated.

Mandarin is considered one of the most difficult languages to learn. Bridget-Tao Tang's teaching style creates a fun and interactive environment that expedites the learning process. I especially appreciate the emphasis in learning to speak like Chinese natives versus straight textbook. If you are interested in learning Mandarin, I highly recommend Bridget-Tao Tang's class.

What makes Bridget an excellent teacher is her ability to make her lessons immediately applicable to all of her students. She helped me immensely in communicating with my daughter. I highly recommend that you take this class if you want to learn Mandarin.

Bridget Tang-Tao is a most remarkable teacher and person. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to take her Chinese classes during my tenure as CEO of a Chamber of Commerce. Her teaching style is

interactive and lively, and you can learn at your own pace without pressure. When I traveled to China on two occasions, I had practical knowledge of conversational conventions and cultural mores that couldn't be learned from books or tapes. Over the years I have taken Chinese courses at UC Berkeley and Foothill College. Bridget's classes are by far the most effective, challenging and fun. I highly recommend her teaching methods.

I used to think Mandarin Chinese was overwhelming & virtually impossible for me, an English speaker, to master. Well, I was right. I will never master that complex, emotion-infused language. However, thanks to Bridget-Tao Tang, I have learned enough to limp around & bargain a little on the streets of Shanghai—and evoke a smile from some of the people I meet there. (I prefer to think they're laughing WITH me.)

Bridget's conversation-based class is a great way to learn Mandarin. Her class follows a set of lessons of her own creation, while exploring new areas each session based on the interests and particular experience of the class. Her class is a great way to learn Mandarin in a relaxed, fun way.

I first started learning Mandarin Chinese from Tang Tao while preparing for a trip to China. Upon my return from China I decided to learn a little more of the language and took more of her classes. This multi-year effort has led to an interesting life experience for me to learn more about China, its history and its culture through its language. Tang Tao has been a wonderful teacher because of her broad experience in writing books both in Chinese and English and her first hand knowledge of the culture and life in China. Most importantly for me is her wonderful sense of humor that makes studying Chinese really fun.

PS Tang Tao also loves ice cream, oatmeal cookies and chocolate cookies.

I work in a large county hospital. Ms. Tang has been of immeasurable help to me in learning Chinese to communicate with my monolingual patients. She is very erudite, and has an enormous command of both languages, but is able to present the language in very basic, simple terms that I can understand. I am deeply indebted to her for helping me to learn this

most difficult of languages.

For an American, Learning Chinese is a tremendous undertaking. There are challenges in vocabulary, challenges in pronunciation, challenges in writing.

Often, Americans trying to learn the language simply become overwhelmed and discouraged and just “give up.” Ms. Tang will not let you “give up.” She is strict and precise when she needs to be, but forgiving and supportive when that is needed. She knows how to walk that fine line between strictness and support. This is the sign of a truly good teacher, and I feel lucky to be her student.

One of the great things about studying with Ms. Tang is her wide knowledge of how Chinese is spoken in different parts of the world. When you study with Ms.

Tang you are not learning a formal, stilted Chinese that no one understands. You are learning a live, vibrant Chinese that is spoken “on the street.” This is the Chinese I want to learn. I want to be able to talk to “regular people.”

This is so impressive that she can teach this “conversational” Chinese so well, because she is actually a respected scholar with deep roots and knowledge of ancient classics. Amazing lady!

Beginning Chinese is an excellent start for learning Chinese. The instructor, Bridget Tao Tang creates a pleasant and enjoyable learning environment and does an excellent job of teaching the basics of the Chinese language. She also provides useful and interesting insights into Chinese culture, which greatly enhance the learning experience. After completing the basic course, I was rewarded with the ability to conduct simple conversations with non-English speaking Chinese. I highly recommend the class.

I have taken many Mandarin conversation classes over the last several years, but have found my progress to be the greatest with Bridget's class. In Bridget's short one-hour sessions, we learn 15-20 new words and how to use these words in common everyday situations. The written materials and CDs that Bridget uses in conjunction with her class give us plenty of excellent material to review and practice between class sessions. I have appreciated Bridget's enthusiasm in

class and more importantly, her genuine deep interest in our progress. The only complaint I have about Bridget's classes is that they're too short. The one hour of intensive, yet fun, learning always leaves me yearning for more!

My Company is a software company with headquarters in San Jose, CA, and with a significant presence in Beijing, PRC. As CEO, I need to be able to communicate effectively with our team, customers and business partners in China - in their language. I tried taking Mandarin classes through local community adult education, but found it too basic and not of sufficient quality to meet my needs. Then, I was introduced to Bridget-Tao Tang.

Bridget brings enthusiasm, energy, fun and a love for the language to her class. She has helped me "cram" for trips to Beijing so that I had some of the basics for communicating in Mandarin. I encourage anyone – and especially business executives - who want to learn Mandarin Chinese to join Bridget as a student. You won't be sorry!

In recent years, I have had an increasing number of Mandarin speaking colleagues. While the normal mode of operation for my American colleagues is to expect our partners to speak English, I have found it more interesting to balance the scales a bit and learn to speak a little Mandarin. Early on, I started taking classes with Bridget-Tao Tang through a local education program.

Bridget is very good at teaching Mandarin. As a teacher in general she is cheerful, perceptive, supportive and accepting. At the same time she encourages her students to stretch their skills. Her teaching role is particularly challenging because of the wide variety of skill levels in her students, and the wide divergence in their goals. Even so, her classes provide value for all as she covers language elements through various class and assignment techniques, making individual contact with all.

One of the most valuable lessons one can learn from Bridget is the diversity in the Mandarin language itself. She teaches this well because of her deep understanding of the language. For example, she understands why some of my colleagues use a different word for "week" than she taught us, or which regional accents are more likely to pronounce things differently, or how the meaning of certain expressions can be emphasized or changed by alteration of the tones.

Beyond this, Bridget is an intelligent and literate academic, and a published author of fiction in both English and Chinese. I count her as a good teacher and a valued friend.

Bridget-Tao Tang has a deep love and knowledge of Chinese language and literature. My lessons with her covered far more than spoken and written Chinese. I learned a great deal about life in modern China, and also about the beliefs, traditions, historical events and personages that over the generations have been integrated into the fabric of Chinese culture. Highly recommended.

Bridget's teaching is fun, effective and worth every investment of time and \$. Through private lessons we were able to go at the pace that suited me the best. I learned so much and retained the information as her approach is practical and fun. When traveling to Asia on business I was able to use these skills to bridge the cultural gaps, create trust and ultimately accomplish my goals for my employer. She is bright, creative and truly a gifted teacher.

Bridget is a wonderful teacher! Her patient instruction and supervised practice helped me improve my Mandarin from 'beginner' to "intermediate" within a short time. I hope I will have another chance to study with her again.

What makes Bridget's classes unique is their success in building practical communication skills. Students are shown how to construct a seemingly endless number of expressions from just a few words. On a subsequent visit to China, I was able to purchase subway tickets, negotiate with sales people, and find a bank. Whether meeting people in China or chatting with coworkers here in California, the language skills that I acquired have opened many cultural doors.

Bridget-Tao Tang is a marvelous foreign language teacher! Her enthusiasm for her subject is contagious, and she makes the language come alive through her comments about Chinese culture and the evolution of the Mandarin dialect. But, most importantly, she excels at drawing out the most timid of her students, and at encouraging everyone in the class to participate in the oral exercises.

It seemed like such a difficult language, such an arduous task. I had just four months before my first trip to China. I would be traveling alone, taking care of my two little grandsons, navigating Shanghai's crowded streets and strange grocery stores. In short, a challenge that seemed impossible. Bridget-Tao Tang made it seem not only possible, but also a lot of fun. With lucid lessons and an encouraging approach, the weekly meetings flew by in a flurry of conversation. Respectful of her student's individual needs, Bridget has the technique and competence to offer each person the basic phrases enhanced by a delight with the adventure of acquiring new communication skills. In short, it was more than "mama huhu," (decidedly my favorite phrase.) When I was introduced to my son's colleagues, telling them in practiced Mandarin that I was pleased to meet them, I received gracious compliments on my "accent." What more could anyone ask?

I came to China to teach English in February 2006, and Bridget's class was a great help to me in learning the basics of Chinese conversation. In just a few months with Bridget I learned the words, phrases, pronunciation and grammar that I needed to get around in a country where English speakers are very hard to find. Her instruction is well organized and easy to understand. Thank you Bridget!

Bridget's classes are very lively and fun. Sometimes they even seem too short because of that. But they are always different. Very often in language courses the instructor just goes over the same material every term and when there no more levels the students are left puzzled what to next. With Bridget as a teacher the classes are always different. It is possible to take the same Level 2 Conversational Mandarin over and over and always learn something new - new words, new characters, new incites into the culture.

I was in several classes Bridget taught and thought they were excellent. Her classroom material was practical and interesting. She did a good job of patiently working with students with different levels of ability.

I took Bridget's class to learn Mandarin for my trip to China. She graciously taught me some basic Chinese phrases that I could use on my trip to communicate. I enjoyed her class because she is a pleasant, patient instructor that made it simple and fun to learn this complex language. I hope to take her class again to continue learning the language in hopes someday I will feel comfortable enough to

communicate with confidence.

I studied beginning Mandarin with Bridget-Tao and really enjoyed her classes. Being an adult educator myself, I know that it is always a challenge to motivate adult students. Bridget's-Tao is really good at it and I would recommend her class to anyone interesting in learning Mandarin.

I took two classes taught by Bridget and they were fun, interactive and memorable. Whether it was pronunciation, grammar or writing short stories, these classes enriched my learning experience of the Mandarin language.

We enrolled in Bridget-Tao Tang's beginning Chinese classes so that I could learn enough Mandarin to get by on my quarterly trips to Shanghai. Basic communication was what I was looking for, and while I found it difficult to stay focused and retain a lot, I did find that when I dedicated the time and effort to study and learning the pinyin method of spelling Chinese words and learning the 4 tones, it in fact has helped me in my travels. My wife was a fluent Cantonese speaker having been raised in Hong Kong, but needed the refresher to hone her Mandarin, as the two are quite different. Plus, she was able to coach me in between Bridget's classes so that I was semi-able to participate in class. I found Bridget's methodology and easy ways of engaging her class members in open dialogue to be very effective and non-threatening. I would encourage others to try to learn Mandarin if they ever plan to travel to China.

My wife and I have been taking Mandarin Chinese classes from Bridget Tao Tang for a period of two and a half years. As non-speakers, we started at the beginning level I, moved onto the Beginning level II and are now trying the Intermediate level classes.

We have found Ms. Tao Tang to be very well informed on all facets of the Chinese language from classical to modern both spoken and written. She is energetic and creative. We spend part of the time in class in conversation with her guidance and the balance of the hour learning vocabulary and syntax.

We are enjoying the classes and are gaining some fluency in everyday Mandarin Chinese.

Ms. Tang is an exceptional teacher of the Chinese language and culture. My two daughters have learned a great deal about the oral, written and historical nature of Mandarin. As a teacher Ms. Tang is creative, patient and can personalize the curriculum to the needs of each student. We have recommended her to several friends who have been very pleased with her instruction. We feel very fortunate to have her as part of our children's educational experience.

I have studied Mandarin under Ms. Tao Tang both in the classroom and in semi-private lessons ever since I married into a Chinese family. I feel that I have been truly blessed to have found her. She is encouraging, patient, and supportive and at the same time she is very precise. The language is not easy to learn since it involves something English speakers are not used to doing; mastering the tones. Through Tao's teaching, guidance, enthusiasm, and complete dedication, I have been able to grasp this concept and to love the beauty and nuances of the Mandarin language. I am now able to follow and even participate in the family discussions and have even held my own when it came to bartering in the markets in China.

Tao brings much love and devotion to her work and she makes it so fun. I highly recommend Ms. Tang.

Tao is a WONDERFUL teacher. Patient and well-organized, she makes the lessons fun.

Teacher Tang Tao brought the beauty of the Mandarin Chinese language and Chinese culture into our home, and we thank her for that. My children have studied with Teacher Tang Tao for over 4 years. Teacher Tang's strengths are that she loves children, understands their approach to learning, is patient with them, and gives all of her energy to engage the children to learn. Tang Tao is tireless; always prepared with new teaching tools to excite her students. She is as likely to have her students write a story in Mandarin as she is to teach them to make dumplings. Her kindness and enthusiasm make her a special teacher, and as a result her students love her.