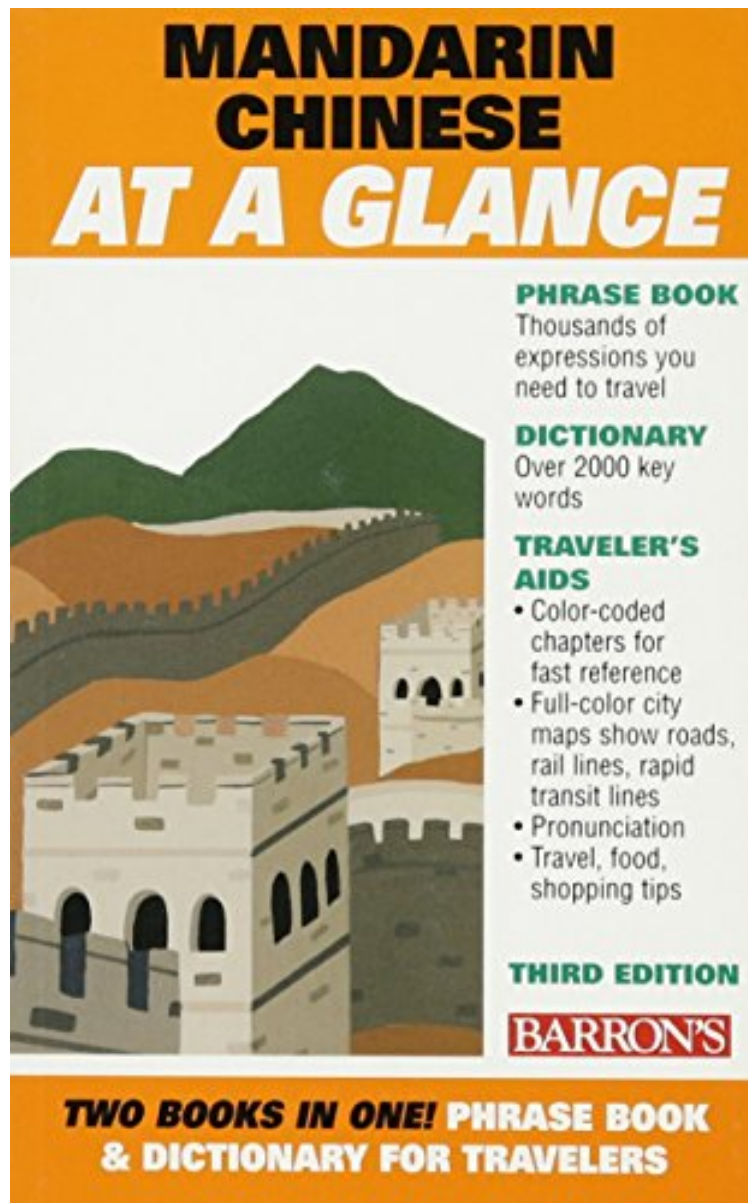


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Scott D. Seligman, I-Chuan Chen : Mandarin Chinese At a Glance: Foreign Language Phrasebook Dictionary (At a Glance Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised

Mandarin Chinese At a Glance: Foreign Language Phrasebook Dictionary (At a Glance Series):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Another Quality Product of the SeriesBy pdotAfter finding the Italian version (I rated that 5/5) so useful on my first trip to Italy, I bought a used copy of this for my trip to China. For background, I have an intermediate understanding of Mandarin and nothing except a few audio lessons on Italian. I'm unsure if it's just by chance that I found a few shortcomings with the Chinese version, but I'm docking it one star for that. Basically, there were a few phrases/words and guidance I wanted to look up that weren't in the section I'd expected it to be. It's been almost two months since I'd used it last, so my memory is a little fuzzy, but I believe it had to do with currency and restaurants. I would just check, but I lost the book near the end of my trip when it fell out of my side pocket (stupid cargo pants) as I walked out of the taxi. I think it happened when my coat got partly stuck. For those that aren't familiar with the series, it provides general guidance on cultural and practices of the country's name on the cover. Following a brief intro to each section, there's pages of helpful phrases and words in the native written language and in English, so if you have a problem with pronunciation, you can show it to the listener. There's also a short dictionary section in the back, but that's more for words I've found that portion rather limited. The book has some info on general regions in China and partial maps of Shanghai and Beijing, but you'll find much more useful information online by just printing a few pages from Wikipedia and online maps, though I found the section on regions a fun read since I traveled to a few on my trip and most of my prep was on the cities I was visiting, not the regions. Like the other books in this series, the cover has a nice, plastic jacket. I bought it used, "like new," but the jacket was slightly wrinkled, though it was worth the ~\$2 I saved, especially since I lost the book. The jacket works great and kept my copy practically dry even in light rain and allowed me to stuff it into pant pockets and bags w/o doing any visible damage. In fact, my Italian version was chewed on by small dogs and left out overnight in foggy weather and the only damage was a few teeth marks on the jacket and one torn page of the relatively useless map section. The paper quality has a slight gloss to it, which probably made it a little moisture resistant. 10 of 10 people found the following review helpful. You will get good use out of thisBy AbbeHaving lived in China, this is the phrase book I recommend the most to friends and family that travel to the PRC. The main reason is that I found many new expats and visitors using guides that had the English word and the Pinyin pronunciation (the English version of the Mandarin word) -- but would fail to provide the Chinese Characters. If you don't know the language, it will be very difficult to speak it, with any phrase book. What is going to help you the most is pointing to the characters -- whether you're pointing it to a cab driver, someone at a restaurant, on the train, in an internet cafe, etc, they will understand you. If you just try to speak the pinyin, and don't know the language, you will be SOL. If you're a vegetarian or have dietary restrictions (including kosher, etc), this book covers it. It's very comprehensive. The size is great, fits in a purse or pocket; and the clear protective cover helps to protect it from the elements. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Great book. By Robert M. Elliott This book is a very informative and useful tool for anyone traveling to China. It is small enough, to take and carry with you where ever you go in China. This book covers the main words and phrases a traveler might encounter, as well as a dictionary with over 2000 key words. It provides tips on pronunciation, travel, food, and shopping. I recommend this book for anyone who will be visiting China for the first time. and others who do not speak the language fluently. There is also a cd that goes along with this book, that does not have, or I could not find on . Perhaps could obtain a copy and offer it along with this book, as a package. Both, would provide a valuable tool. But, by itself, the book is good.

This attractive, illustrated Mandarin Chinese phrasebook for travelers has been updated and re-designed. Perfect as a take-along guide for visitors to the Far East, it features city maps, information on public transportation systems, general information for visitors to China, and bilingual lists of more than 1,500 most-often-used words and expressions for travelers, in the form of phonetic spellings of Mandarin words with their English translations. The books page edges are color-coded by topic for quick reference.