

## PROS AND CONS OF LEARNING CHINESE

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### **Abstract**

*The article examines the aspects of difficulties and advantages of learning Chinese. The results of the research provide an opportunity to understand the importance and key points that need to be paid attention to when learning the language. The popularity of studying the Chinese language in previous years has been analyzed.*

**Keywords:** Chinese language, pros, cons, tones, hieroglyphs.

### **Анотація**

*У статті розглянуто аспекти труднощів та переваг щодо вивчення китайської мови. Результати дослідження надають можливість зрозуміти важливість та ключові моменти на які потрібно звертати увагу при вивченні мови. Проаналізовано популярність вивчення китайської мови за попередні роки .*

**Ключові слова:** китайська мова, переваги, труднощі, тони, ієрогліфи.

### **Introduction**

China's emergence as a global economic powerhouse has made the Chinese language an increasingly important tool for business and cultural exchange that is why nowadays a growing number of people embark on learning Chinese as a second language, especially among non-native speakers. In 2019, due to research it has been estimated that there were 100 million non-native speakers in the world, an increase of 30% from 2010. The number of Chinese language programs, courses, mobile apps increased likewise, it has become popular tools for learns. There are 1,500 Confucius Institutes and more than 160 countries in the entire world.[1,2]

### **Research results**

Learning Chinese can be a challenge, particularly for those who have no experience in learning languages, especially in tonal languages or who is not familiar with the Chinese writing system. In addition, it is long process to learn. Chinese government estimates that it takes a minimum of 2200 hours of study to achieve basic fluency in Chinese. This is equivalent to studying intensively for approximately 2-3 years.[3]

Chinese is a tonal language, which means that the meaning of words can change depending on the tone you use to pronounce. This features of language can be challenging for non-native speakers and can lead to misunderstandings. There are only 4 tones and at the first glance it is little number of tones but it is enough to easily get confused in pronunciation. On my experience , I have been learning Chinese for 4 years and I still have some problems with Chinese pronunciation . Got stunning pronunciation by learning yourself almost impossible therefore you need make Chinese friends to communicate with them. In addition, Chinese is spoken across a vast geographic area, and there are many different regional dialects and various of the languages. This can make it difficult to communicate with people from different parts of China.[4]

One more complex part of learning is writing system. Chinese characters can be difficult to learn and memorize. There are thousands of characters, each with their own unique meaning, pronunciation and stroke order. According to the Chinese dictionary, the Kangxi Dictionary, there are 47,035 commonly used characters in Chinese. Honestly, Chinese do not all hieroglyphics. Most native speaker have knowledge of around 3000-5000 characters and even highly educated persons may only be familiar with around 8000 to 10000 characters. In my experience , I have passed B2(HSK 4) Chinese Proficiency Test two years ago and I can recognize about 1200 hieroglyphics , this is at least a fourth part of what an educated Chinese knows that is why it is not a bid deal for me to communicate with Chinese about range of items. I mean that non-native speaker does not need to

be familiar with all hieroglyphics , even knowledge with 1000 Chinese characters is enough to communicate with Chinese.[5]

Chinese grammar and sentence structure can be quite different from English. For sure, both English and Chinese have their own unique grammar structures, but ,on my own experience, Chinese grammar easier than English one. For example, Chinese grammar does not have verb conjugation or plurals, which can be challenging for English learners. However, Chinese has a different sentence structure, with the subject-verb-object order, which can be challenging for English speakers who are used to the subject-verb-complement order.[6]

Talking about benefits of learning Chinese we can highlight 5 aspects. The first one, there are opportunities for business and career. China has the world's largest population and its economy is rapidly growing. Chinese can open up new job opportunities and enhance chances of doing business with Chinese companies. The second one, it is Cultural enrichment. Learning Chinese can give you a deeper appreciation and understanding of Chinese culture, history, and traditions. It can also allow a person to appreciate Chinese literature, music, art and cinema. The third one, Improved cognitive function. Learning Chinese requires a great deal of memorization, analytical thinking. The fourth one, it is enhancing travel experiences. China is popular tourist destination, and being able to communicate by means of Chinese can help a person navigate the country more easily, engage with locals, and better appreciate the local culture. The fifth one, it is personal growth and development. Learning a new language can make a person more confidence. It can open up new opportunities for personal and professional growth.[7]

### Conclusions

In conclusion, learning Chinese can be an enriching experience that opens up a wide range of opportunities, both personal and professional. Some of the benefits of learning Chinese include enhanced cultural understanding, improved cognitive abilities, and increased employability. However, it is important to acknowledge that learning Chinese can also present some challenges, such as the complex writing system and tonal pronunciation. Nonetheless, with dedication and effort, the benefits of learning Chinese can outweigh the difficulties. As China continues to grow as a global economic power, the ability to communicate in Chinese is becoming increasingly valuable, making it a worthwhile investment for anyone interested in expanding their horizons and understanding of the world.

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