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It Cannot Hurt To Learn Chinese

By Hallidae Thomason

If today's day and age, many people are learning a second, third or even fourth language. There are

probably many reasons to learn languages other than your own. Some people just love learning about foreign cultures, and therefore they choose to study a foreign language to help them understand a culture even further. Others learn a language such as Spanish or Chinese to help prepare them for a career that they hope to have or for preparation to travel to a foreign land.

If you are thinking of starting to learn another language, regardless of your age or of other languages you have learned, you should consider learning Chinese. There are many great reasons to learn Chinese. One of the biggest reasons that I, as an artist, loved learning Chinese was because of how artistic and beautiful to the eye the written Chinese language is. When I entered my first Chinese class I could not get over how intriguing and wonderful it looked on the chalk board. In fact, as the weeks of the class went on and I was getting frustrated by my lack of ability, it was the physical beauty of written Chinese that kept me going.

Another great reason to start learning Chinese is that the nation and people of China are undoubtedly rising up to be some of the world's most powerful people. Business, travel and trade are all increasing with China, so it will not hurt you to start learning Chinese. In fact, Chinese could very well become the next world language and be used with the frequency of English. If you are ever considering international business or trade, or if you just like to travel, then consider seriously how learning Chinese could be of benefit to you.

There are many ways to actually start learning Chinese. You can purchase books at a local bookstore that will give you the basics to start learning, or you can even buy video or dvd sets that will help you learn. An even better way to learn Chinese, however, is to enroll in a Chinese class at a local college or university. Getting in the classroom and being surrounded by other students might be the best way to really learn the Chinese language. So take some time to research the opportunities for Chinese that exist in your area. Or perhaps you have a Chinese friend that will agree to give you personal lessons. Even better.

It Cannot Hurt To Learn Chinese

Realize that learning another language such as Chinese can be fun and is definitely valuable for anyone. Start the process today and you won't be sorry.

Hallidae Thomason is a professor of the Chinese language at a univeristy near her home. She is passionate about getting others to learn the second language that she loves. See

<http://www.allchinese.info>

for more.

I'm Working On The Chinese Characters

By Analeese Burnabaker

I couple of years ago I went through somewhat of a depression. I guess that is fairly normal, but I ended up going to see a counselor to talk through my issues. Being a counselor myself, it felt kind of strange at the beginning, but I did it anyway. Why? I guess because I am a firm believer that sometimes healing comes only as we get outside of ourselves and share with others. Anyway, one of the first things my counselor suggested that I do was make a list of things that intrigued me and that I'd like to learn about. Ever since then, I have been working my way through my list. I guess it is sort of my life goals in a way. I'm currently working on memorizing and being able to write the Chinese characters.

Learning how to write the Chinese characters was somewhere in the middle of my list. I'm not sure what exactly inspired me to include it on my to-do list except that I've been to China once and I still cannot get over how beautiful the written Chinese characters are. So their beauty intrigued me enough to want to learn them. So last fall I enrolled myself in an introduction to Chinese class and began plugging away at learning the Chinese characters.

The Chinese characters have proven to be as hard to master as they look. I thought they would come easily for me since I have at least a little bit of artistic talent. But no. They didn't. I have had to really discipline myself and practice consistently to grasp even the most simple Chinese characters. Many friends have suggested that I just quit because they know that I don't have any intention of ever learning how to speak or communicate the language.

There is something in me that cannot quit learning the Chinese characters though. Maybe it is because I am really trying to learn commitment to even small things and because I am trying to accomplish all of my goals. I just know that when my counselor suggested that working towards goals we care about can be really healing for people, I took her words to heart and have found that they are true. I have found a great amount of healing by focusing in on the things I want to see happen in my life. Even small things like learning to write the Chinese characters have taught me so much about myself.

Analeese Burnabaker is a counselor who is happy to receive the counsel of others. Learning the Chinese characters is just one goal among many for her. Interested? See

<http://www.funchinesecharacters.info>

for more.



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