Objective

To outline briefly:
• What I did
• What I learned
• What I plan to do next
context

- Y11 Mandarin class
- 18 students, predicted A*-C

Problem:
- Low grades in December mock reading exam
- Because of poor retention of characters

goal

To find more and better ways to help students to memorise characters and develop reading skills in order to achieve better GCSE grades
What I did

1. Letter to parents

2. Questionnaire to students to find out:
   - How useful current activities were
   - Ideas for what the teacher could do to help more

3. Semi-structured interviews with students to probe some questionnaire results more deeply.

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Questionnaire

How can you prepare effectively for the GCSE reading exam?

Predicted grade for Chinese GCSE: ……………
Mock reading grade (Dec 2013): ……………

Please answer the questions below.

1. How useful is a weekly vocab test?
   1=very useful, 2=useful, 3=okay, 4=not useful, 5=useless, 6=I don’t know
   - 1 2 3 4 5 6

2. How useful are past GCSE questions grouped in topics?
   - 1 2 3 4 5 6

3. How useful are past AQA reading papers?
   - 1 2 3 4 5 6

4. How useful are past Edexcel reading papers?
   - 1 2 3 4 5 6

5. How useful are on-line resources?
   - 1 2 3 4 5 6

Please list any on-line resources you use, and how you use them:

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6. What ways are most effective for you to learn vocabulary?
   List as many as you can (10 maximum).
   Then number them 1 – 10. Most effective = 1. Least effective = 10
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7. What can your teacher do to help you to learn vocabulary and to prepare for the reading exam?
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THANK YOU FOR ANSWERING THESE QUESTIONS!
What I learned

Varied usefulness:
• Edexcel past papers
• Online resources

Surprising: student comments in ivre online learning

To learn vocab, what they thought most effective:
1. Writing & re-writing characters
2. Flashcards
3. Games/past papers/vocab lists/on-line

What the teacher could do:
1. Past papers 2. games/puzzles 3. vocab lists

What I did next

Adapted my lessons:
• Time to write/re-write on 'pretty' sheet
• Time to make flashcards in class & test each other (games in pairs/groups)
• Found 'puzzle' starters
• Put Edexcel past papers in shared drive and 'made' students try them
• Reminded re Quizlet website details
• Access to Vocab Express - free trial
• Continued with games, vocab test, AQA qns
### What happened

- Increased motivation & engagement
- Edexcel papers - students said they would now access independently to revise
- Vocab Express - most students used it; some found the learning format helpful; others liked the competition
- Quizlet - most students used it; some preferred the format to V.E.
Future ideas

Consider:
• Subscription to Vocab Express or something similar for whole of GCSE course
• Use other ideas (eg 'pretty' vocab copying sheet) earlier