Creating an immersive learning environment with technology - exchange trips and homestays

Jingjing Ruan
What is the biggest challenge your Mandarin students are facing?
A SLA metaphor: distance = difficulty
Classroom performance (learning) ≠ Real-world proficiency (acquisition)
Edmodo social networking site: to shorten the distance

Jingjing Ruan

Groups

Year 8 Mandarin
Year 9 Mandarin
Year 10 Mandarin
Year 11 Mandarin

Topics

English Language Arts

Note

Assignment
Quiz
Poll
Insights

Type your note here...

Type the name of a group, student, or teacher...

Manage Groups
Create a Group
Join a Group

Latest Posts

By Me

Me to Year 10 Mandarin

This is the document of possible questions and topic of Local Facilities. :-)

Possible questions and answer

docs.google.com

Isn't this social networking site amazing? It allows us to create groups and share notes and documents. I've also created a group for Year 8 Mandarin. What about you? Do you have any groups that you join or create?
明天万圣节！
It's halloween tomorrow! I am so unprepared! Haha

The exam will go on for 3 days / the exam will be 3 days long. *omg that is so long!!*

Its okay! hahah you are more busy than me~ @ halloween was really fun, i went to a party

wow! it is interesting isn't it? I went to have the violin lesson on that day 😊

I agree 😊 i had my test today and it wasn't bad! I am so relieved hahaha how was your first test? I bet you are really busy~

我们考试结束了！但是我的数学不理想 😞

Translate

Translate

Translate

Translate
Our class will have a group singing contest this Friday. I am so nervous 😅.

Have you had a singing contest before? 😞(My throat is hurt)

We had a singing contest this week.

We are nervous 😅.

You are nervous 😅.

I prefer to play Australian Rules Football or basketball or running. How about you?

Recently England has been extremely foggy and cold. I love Christmas and snow but I don't like the cold! 😞
你好！我必须写两次因为我偶然的删除了我的第一消息。我很抱歉。
好运在你的考试，我觉得你会有好成绩。不烦恼，是冷静。校订很有帮助。
我的校订意见是：时常吃饭菜，或者巧克力。例如何时你学一段落。
我希望这很有帮助！你必须吃点健康。
打排球是打篮球但是你不运动和球。是好的，但是我宁愿打篮球！
你的野餐听起来好吃。我爱野餐！尤其是饭菜。
你的意思是反复？:-) xx

你好！我盼望你的考试不难！:-)
你的爱好是什么？我记得你喜欢音乐和聊天。我妹妹会练体操，她很好！
明天我和我的朋友一起滑雪。我是不好滑雪哦！:-O
你们怎么过光棍节？你们双十一买东西了吗？(二0一五年十一月十一日)
说不久！:-) xx

Hi，I hope your exams aren't too difficult! :-)
What is your hobby? I really enjoy to listen to music and to chat. My little sister loves to practice gymnastics, she is very good!
Tomorrow I am going ice skating with my friend. I am no good at skating. Oh well! :-O
How did you celebrate Singles Day? Did you do shopping on Singles Day?
(11/11/2015)
Speak soon! xx :-)) Less...
AHAHAHAH! exam finish! My result is ok, I think so but my parents are displeased with me. They always want me to be No.1 (sad QQ). Single day... that day we had English exam and lots of homework! And that day, my mum is almost... "crazy". She did shopping online at the midnight. The clothes were much cheaper at that time.

(she didn't get enough sleep. Maybe that's why she is angry with me today?)

In China, the single people are called "single dog". That's not a mean word, it's just a joke. Some couple are very... I don't know how to tell you. They kiss or hug on the street (oh no! I am a single dog and I am only 13) 🥳 In China, we think that is a little unnatural.

I like writing and music. I write some short stories sometimes, and I put them online... (Is "put them online" right?) My favourite band is One Direction. I also like Maroon 5 and Simple Plan.

Can you tell me something about your classmates? I have a deskmate. He is humorous and kind.

哈哈哈哈哈哈哈考试结束啦！我想成绩还不错，但是我的父母不满意。他们只希望我第一（悲伤）。

光棍节。这天我们英语考试并且有很多作文要交（有很多作业的意思）我妈妈快疯了，她在网上购物。衣服在那时真的很便宜。

(她没准备好所以可能是她今天对我生气的原因?)

在中国，单身人被称为单身狗。这不是一个刻薄的词汇，只是一个玩笑。有些情侣，我不知道怎么告诉你们。他们公开在外面拥抱和亲吻。 (天哪是个单身狗而且我只是个孩子啦!) 在中国，我们认为这行为不太正常。

我喜欢写作和听音乐。我有时写一些短故事并把它们上传上网。我最喜欢的乐队是小破团 (One Direction) 我也很喜欢魔力红 (Maroon 5) 和草图计划 (Simple Plan)。

你能告诉我一些关于你班级同学的事吗? 我有一个同桌。他非常的幽默和善良。

Less...
Skype Video conferences: to create intercultural dialogues
WeChat communication: to push performance to proficiency

Ben十五岁，有十六个姐姐。有一天，他的大姐问他，你想去公园吗？Ben说，我不想去，因为公园有大风。他的三姐说，我们可以遛狗。那只狗是黑白两色，叫Lemon，很可爱。他的七姐，八姐，九姐，十姐，十一姐是quintuplets。她们长得一样，Lemon不知道她们who’s who。现在，他打wheelchair篮球。他的篮球比normal篮球打得好。后来，Ben的十六个姐姐都结婚了，他有八十个侄子和侄女一共。但是他们都很矮，都只有十六厘米高。不幸，他accidently step了他的十侄女。她死了，所以她的soul去了heaven。她每天看Ben的篮球比赛在heaven。
An example of WeChat Moments

Use student WeChat Moments for reflections upon cultural differences:

e.g. gift giving

Modern Chinese people send apples on Christmas Eve, based on a word-play of 平 in the word 平安夜 (Christmas Eve) and 苹 in the word 苹果 (apples).
Postcard Exchange via WeChat: to develop friendship

你好！很高兴认识你。你比我更大！你是个姐姐，对吗？我有一个10岁的姐姐叫Cindy，她的数学怎么样呢？我希望你喜欢我的小桃的毛。也有小眼睛的小熊。

你提到Paprika是英语的一个调料吗？太可爱了！我要叫你Paprika小白。

你喜欢古风歌曲！哇！太了不走了！

我喜欢我的音乐是Indie Indie音乐是乐队

我最喜欢的乐队是Bashile和Shifty Finger。但是你不懂，他们因为他们在YOUTUBE。如果你来英国，我要给你看电影。我也喜欢BIGBANG!!! Kpop euyu。

你喜欢中国吗？我们也有英文课，也要学英语。

我生活在，这里是一个很美丽的地方。我们的学校有很多树，空气清新。

我想送一句诗给你和你的朋友：海内存知己，天涯若比邻。

好好学汉字，加油！

See you.
Tips and Tricks to Make Life Easier in China

What tips and tricks have you learned that have made it easier to live in China?

Read more

中国文化有哪些特点？

What are some peculiarities of Chinese culture?

中国文化有哪些特点？

- 要面子 - Saving "Face" -- Shame is intolerable. (在中国做事情要给别人留面子，不能丢脸)
Student feedback

- sending pictures/emojis
- sending voice messages
- sending text messages
- video conferences
- the learning community
- others replying me
- replying others
- reading posts
- sending posts
- answering question in Chinese
- asking questions in Chinese
- doing paperless homework
- making sentences
- talking in a big group
- talking with language partner
What technologies did you use to support Mandarin learners?

Any innovative ideas to share?
Language partners visited us in January 2017

Activities included:

• Stay at English students’ homes
• Having lessons at our school
• Tour around Nottingham and visit to York
Friday 20\textsuperscript{th} October 2017

Activities included:

- Beijing courtyards and Hutongs
- Peking Duck feast
- Keep in touch with school & family: WeChat
Saturday 21 October 2017

Activities included:

- Temple of Heaven
- Beijing downtown
- Gubeikou village
- Jinshanling Great Wall
Sunday 22 October 2017

Activities included:

- Jinshanling Great Wall Sunrise
- Forbidden City
- Tian’anmen square
- Jinshan park
- 15-hour overnight train from Beijing to Shanghai
Monday 23 October 2017

- Welcome ceremony at link school
- Full day classes in link school
- Meet homestay families
Staying with language partners
Tuesday-Thursday 24th-26th October

• Full days at Link School (e.g. lessons/martial arts/morning excise/cultural activities etc.)
• Trips to Shanghai Museums, Shanghai downtown, the Huangpu River, the Pearl Tower, Lujiazui, modern Chinese buildings etc.
• Visits to Yu Yuan Gardens, Suzhou Gardens, Chinese ancient architecture
• Activities with host families
C: 我喜欢种植东西，尽管我并不是特别擅长种植物。并且，这些花看起来很漂亮不是吗？我可是自己种的呢～我认为我并不擅长拍照。
E: 很美丽！very beautiful! 🌸🌼 你自己种植了吗？哇太漂亮了。我只可以种植杂草 哈哈😆
C: 谢谢～。(≧∇≦) 其实种植这些花并不困难。你只需要及时浇水即可。并且我想你也可以做到自己种植它～
E: They're very big
C: 花不大，主要是房子和阳台很小。
E: 很漂亮 They're very pretty :-) ❤ 这是什么花？😊
C: 不知道是不是油菜花，因为分不清青菜花和油菜花。
Dear Christina and Family,

Thank you for hosting and taking care of me!

This week was very exciting. Thank you so very much!

非常感谢！
这个星期很了令人兴奋。

祝好,爱伦 😊
Friday 27 October 2017

- Farewell ceremony (speech; students performance)
- Transfer from link school to airport
## Vocabulary I learnt today

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chinese</th>
<th>English</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>甜 - tián</td>
<td>Sweet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>酸 - suān</td>
<td>Sour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>咸 - xián</td>
<td>Salty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>辣 - là</td>
<td>Spicy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>故乡 - gù xiāng</td>
<td>Hometown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>桥 - qiáo</td>
<td>Bridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>外滩 - wài tān</td>
<td>The Bund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>喷泉 - pēn quán</td>
<td>Water fountain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
During the exchange

SECTION 1. Arrival in Beijing
What are your first impressions of the country? What is the weather like? What are the surroundings like?
- Very busy and full of traffic
- Very crowded and modern
- Very warm
Are there any differences to your own country?
- A lot busier and lots more cars
- Drive on the right hand side of the road

SECTION 2. Shanghai and your host family neighbourhood
Where does your host family live? How far is it from school? How does your partner travel to and from school?
- The host family lives in a flat in the middle of Shanghai
- Dad gives them a lift to school and it takes about 20 mins

What is Shanghai like? How does Shanghai compare to Long Eaton?
- Shanghai is very big, very busy and crowded
- There are many high rise buildings that are very modern and home to big families
- It is a lot warmer than Long Eaton
- Everyone lives in flats
During the exchange

Where did you go? Tianmen Square and Forbidden City

What activities did you do, what did you see, how did you travel, what did you enjoy, what surprised you, what did you eat/drink, what did you learn?

- We first had to get a four hour bus journey from the hotel to Tianmen Square.
- After having breakfast (bananas, apples, sandwiches), we then had a walk through Tianmen Square, which was a magical experience. We saw the Chinese equivalent of the Houses of Parliament and the National Museum.
- The architecture of the city is magnificent, and I will certainly remember it.
- The view on top of the hill, overlooking the city, is breathtaking.

- We ate chicken and mushroom noodles for lunch, which were yummy.
During the exchange

Outside my window I see lot of other flat. My room has a piano and a big bed.

What did you eat for dinner on your first night? Did you enjoy it?

We ate in a restaurant. I had ed dumplings and drank orange juice. Very good!

How are meals in your family different to what you normally have at home?

What is break time like?

We at break time do gymnastics.

What are the teachers like?

Teacher is very kind and young, but also strict.

Where did you have lunch on your first day at school? How do you compare it to your way of eating during lunch time?

We...
SECTION 7. Preparing to leave

What did you do for your last evening with your host partner and family?

- In the last evening, we went out for a delicious meal at a restaurant with his grandparents. Afterwards, we exchanged gifts.

Have you bought any gifts to take back to people at home?

- I have bought tea for my nan, Chinese sweets for my brothers and fudge magnets for my granddaughter.

Have you made a thank you card or bought a present for your partner/host family?

- I wrote a thank you card for my host.
- I also bought her shortbread, coffee, a Long Eaton trawler and some Nottingham lace.

Have you packed everything ready to leave?

- Unfortunately, everything is packed away, ready to go back home. 😞
After the exchange: feedback

Thank you for the time and effort you spent organising the trip to China. [Name] has had the most incredible and memorable experience, she absolutely loved every moment. It was most definitely the trip of a lifetime!

She has come home full of stories which she's shared with all her family and friends.

The family were so kind to her and had a wonderful time with them.

Thank you again! You've opened up a whole new world to me and we are so grateful.

[Name] got my GCSE, also thank you for helping to make the trip to China the most amazing and memorable it could be.

Language and culture!

And thank you for organising the Chinese exchange, it was an experience I will never forget!
Thank you!

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