

## My MEP Projects: Y9

# Y9 Project: Create Your Own Project!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*By now you will have done lots of MEP projects. Now it's your turn to create one yourself. This is a great opportunity to explore a favourite topic of your own and to create a project to challenge your classmates. Once you've finished creating your project, you can ask your teacher to submit it to the MEP. Yours may be one of the projects selected for general distribution and then you'd be challenging hundreds of other MEP students around the country.*

**Go for it!**

## How to go about it: A Guide

The steps outlined below will give you a suggested framework for your project. It will help you think up activities and tasks. You don't have to stick to this framework, of course. Maybe you feel some other types of tasks are more useful or just more fun. You can probably come up with some original and challenging tasks of your own.

You're aiming to give students about 3 hours of activities.

At the end of this document is a blank template for you to use for your project. Remember that certain things, like deciding how difficult it is (one, two or three dragons) and the introductory paragraphs are best done **AFTER YOU HAVE CREATED THE PROJECT**. By then you'll have a better idea of what it involves and how hard the students will find it.

Some of the tasks you set will have fixed answers. Put those answers on the separate student answer sheet (a template for this is at the end of this document) Students can then do some of the marking themselves.

## Step 1: Thinking up a subject

What a great opportunity to spend time working on a topic you are passionate about. Maybe you have a favourite football team or a hobby that you enjoy. It doesn't matter how obscure your chosen subject is. If it interests you, it will be sure to interest other students. Here's a few suggestions to help you decide:

- a favourite sport or sports team
- a hobby or something you like to do in your spare time
- a favourite media celebrity or author
- a type of music you enjoy or a musical instrument you play
- the place you live
- a country or a place that you have a connection to
- something you really care about, such as the environment or animals.
- your favourite food or restaurant
- your favourite school subject
- what you'd like to be when you grow up
- a topic you don't know much about now but would like to learn more

## Step 2: Key words

Once you've chosen your topic, think about some key words linked to the topic that students doing the project would find useful and interesting.

Here are some suggested tasks you could link to these words. There are some templates below that might be useful to adapt for these activities:

- a **word matching activity** in which students have to link the correct Chinese characters/pinyin/English meaning for some chosen words. Use your dictionary to help you find some suitable ones. One way of finding a list of Chinese words by topic is to look on a flashcard app/website like Quizlet or Memrise to see if someone has already created a set of flashcards on the topic you've chosen.
- a **word-search activity** where students have to find a list of characters related to your topic or characters with a chosen radical
- a **stroke-order activity** where students have to research the correct stroke order for a few characters related to your topic.

Below are some templates for you to cut and paste:

## Matching words or dictionary challenge template

中文		pinyin		English

## Word-search template

Just replace characters with your chosen ones. When you prepare your answer booklet, use the **highlight** function in Word to show the correct answers

猴	卢	秦	杨	孟	扣	苏	獭	丘	刘
明	李	马	狐	林	扭	利	陈	蓝	孔
张	金	猿	赵	报	侯	猪	韩	黄	狸
狻	抱	阮	管	周	方	杜	刁	徐	燕
谢	杨	梅	英	猻	沈	杨	宋	张	提
闻	狮	推	叶	王	鱼	熊	犸	楚	王
狷	挡	齐	年	和	豹	冷	周	江	左
桂	姚	猩	古	陈	捅	罗	庄	邓	獾
张	贾	王	挣	魏	陶	刘	徐	苗	李

## Stroke order template

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--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Step 3: A numbers challenge

It's always important in language learning to practise numbers. Think up a task related to your topic that helps students practise numeracy in Chinese. Here are a few suggestions

- Big numbers. Find some big numbers related to your topic and challenge students to write them in Chinese. Thousands and millions are especially tricky and make a fun challenge
- Percentages
- Money and prices
- Measurements, for example distance, time, height
- Comparisons. For example, a task which will challenge the students to write sentences using 比 or 最

### Step 4: Video challenges

Watching videos in the language you are learning is a brilliant way of boosting your listening skills. The more you hear a word, the more likely you are to remember it. And you often don't need to understand every single word to get the gist of what is being said.

The best place to find video clips is, of course, YouTube. Try typing in Chinese characters for the topic you are searching. You might find advertisements (广告 guǎng gào) or movie trailers (预告片 yù gào piàn) which would be fun to use. If you want English subtitles try adding 英文字幕 yīng wén zì mù to your search.

Think up a variety of tasks linked to your video. You could ask them to listen for certain words or answer a few simple questions about the content.

You could even set them a challenge to produce their own video with similar content.

## Step 5: A TCB Challenge (The Chairman's Bao)

In each of the Year 9 MEP projects there are two links to relevant articles from the website The Chairman's Bao (TCB). TCB have generously made the articles listed below free, specially so that you can select one to include with your own project. Find one from the following list that you think best suits your chosen topic. The tick box table for the task is included in the project template at the end of this document.

### **Animals/society**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/chinas-pet-boom-sees-rise-of-pet-sitters/>

### **Business/Food**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/man-sells-3000-bowls-of-hot-pepper-soup-every-day/>

### **Education**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/activities-held-to-help-students-relax-before-gaokao/>

### **Funny/animals**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/birds-make-nests-in-trousers-hung-out-to-dry/>

### **Nature**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/china-to-build-national-park-for-wild-pandas-covering-three-provinces/>

### **Chinese culture/theatre**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/father-hopes-daughter-will-follow-him-to-become-monkey-king-performer/>

### **Pop culture/movies**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/home-made-avengers-movie-an-online-hit-in-china/>

### **Science/technology**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/self-driving-car-competition-held-in-chongqing/>

### **Environment/travel**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/blue-roads-offer-eco-friendly-travel-choice/>

## **Society/Technology**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/henan-considers-fining-people-who-cross-road-while-looking-at-phone/>

## **Travel/food**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/would-you-visit-aeroplane-restaurant-in-hangzhou/>

## **Music**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/grandma-and-children-film-electronic-music-video/>

## **Sport**

<https://www.thechairmansbao.com/china-celebrates-10th-national-fitness-day/>

### Step 4: Describing a picture

Find a picture related to your topic. It could be from the internet, from your own photos or even a drawing you've done yourself. Challenge the students to think up some sentences and questions in Chinese related to the picture. A template for this task is included at the end of this document.

### Step 5: A task linked to grammar

Grammar may not be everybody's favourite aspect of language learning but practising sentence patterns or key grammar words is guaranteed to speed the process of a language. Grammar doesn't have to be dull either, so think up a grammar pattern or grammar word that links well with your topic and set a task linked to it.

To find a grammar topic, you could use your school textbook or chose a sentence pattern you've recently studied in class. Alternatively, you could look online. One excellent free resource for Chinese grammar is:

The Chinese Grammar Wiki

[https://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/Main\\_Page](https://resources.allsetlearning.com/chinese/grammar/Main_Page)

Each grammar point has lots of example sentences that you can copy and adapt in you task.

You can also try searching Youtube. Many Chinese learning programmes, such as Chinesepod, upload simple and fun explanations of Chinese grammar points. Try

searching with phrases like “How to talk about the future in Chinese” or “how to use 才”.

Once you’ve chosen your grammar topic, here’s some suggestions for tasks related to it.

- Show some sentence examples then challenge students to write their own using a similar pattern.
- Jumble up the characters in a sentence and ask the students to put the characters in the correct order
- Leave some blank spaces in a sentence that students have to fill in with the correct character.

If you’ve been taught a special way to help you learn a grammar topic or have come up with an idea to help you learn it, why don’t you share it in your project as a useful tip.

### Step 6: A task linked to Chinese history

To understand a language and culture, it helps to learn about a country’s history. Research and prepare a task on your topic that brings in something from Chinese history. You’ll learn lots yourself just by preparing the task. Here are some pointers to help you work on this task:

- Is there a history of your topic in China? For example, if your project is about a sport, when was that sport first played in China? If your project is about music, could you include something about ancient Chinese music or musical instruments that come from China?
- What about researching famous Chinese people involved in your chosen topic?
- Do any of the key words you used in Task 1 have interesting Chinese characters? You could research the origin of those characters from early scripts.
- If you are doing a project about a place or country, are there any historical links between that place and China that would make an interesting task?

This task doesn’t have to involve Chinese language content. You could give students some information in English, an article on a website for example, and set them a series of questions based on that information for them to answer in English.

## Step 7: A creative task

Think up a task linked to your topic that would get students being creative. Maybe drawing, making a model, a recording or a video. Think of some of the creative tasks you've been set for homework by teachers of other topics (most people have had to make volcanoes for their Geography teachers or castles in History!). Which ones did you most enjoy doing? Now try to come up with something equally creative, fun and a bit challenging linked to your topic.

## Step 8: Review and sign off

You'll find a template for the review page below. That's where students are asked to write in Chinese about the project. Don't forget to attach that – hopefully students will say that they've enjoyed all the tasks!

Use the template for the "Well Done!" page (also attached below) to remind them of what they've learnt and achieved by doing your project.

Finally, include as many answers as you can on the Student Answer Sheet so that students can mark their own work.

ENJOY!

Appendix:

The documents that follow include:

- a template for the title page
- a template for your choice of article from The Chairman's Bao
- a template for a picture task
- a template for the review page
- a template for the "Well Done" page
- a template for the Student Answer's document

The square brackets [.....] show you where you replace the words with your own

Here's the tick box to cut and paste after each task (change the number as necessary)

★	Task 1 complete	
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# Appendix

[add more dragons if wished]

## My MEP Projects: Y9

### Y9 Project: [insert project name here]

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

*[write a short introduction to the project here and briefly outline what students will learn and the kind of tasks they'll undertake. Make it sound exciting so they'll want to take up the challenge!]*

**Go for it!**

## [Title of your chosen article from The Chairman's Bao]

[Briefly tell the students what it is about and how it links with the project topic]

Instructions: Click on the link below and take the following steps to ensure that you get the most out of this important learning resource.

Tick each step as you complete it on the table on the next page. Remember, **repetition, repetition, repetition** is a key trick for successful language learners. You'll listen to the short audio five times (don't worry it's only one minute forty-seven seconds long!) *but don't skimp on it!*

[insert the link to the TCB article here]

Tick each step as you complete it:

Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
Listen to the audio again while reading the text.	
Listen to it <b>again</b> while reading the text.	
Hover your mouse over the words you don't know; the website will give you the translation.	
Listen to it again while reading the text.	
Click on 'Comprehension Questions' and do the exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you, use the Stroke Order and Writing Tool to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	
Listen to the audio <b>one more time</b> without reading the text. Enjoy how much better you understand it now!	

(Words I recognized)

## Describing a Picture.

[Insert your picture here]

A useful phrase:  
*In the picture there is....*  
画上有。。。  
huà shàng yǒu.....

Write **3 sentences** of your own and **3 questions** in Chinese characters about the picture.

Sentences:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Questions:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

## Reviewing this project

Which tasks in this project did you find most interesting and why? Which tasks were the hardest? Which task did you not enjoy doing and why?

Complete the following three sentences **in Chinese characters**. You'll find some useful vocabulary in the box below:

1. 我觉得最有意思的练习是 task number..... 因为 .....

.....

2. 我觉得最难的练习是 task number..... 因为 .....

.....

3. 我不喜欢 task number..... 因为 .....

.....

### Language Tips!

练习	<i>liàn xí</i>	“task/exercise”
难	<i>nán</i>	“difficult”
有意思	<i>yǒu yì si</i>	“interesting”
没意思	<i>méi yì si</i>	“boring”

*Well done!*



太棒了!

## Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing one MEP Project!

- [insert bullet points reminding students of what they've achieved by doing your project]

***If your teacher  
signs you off,  
you will collect  
one Badge!***

## Y9 Project: [Insert project name here]

### Student Answers

[On these pages, write the answers to any tasks that the students can mark for themselves]