

GoChinese Chinese Learning Platform Grade 4

(Translated from Chinese)

1 What is GoChinese?

Interviewee: Andrew (Grade 4 Student)

GoChinese is a website that allows you to learn Chinese.

Interviewee: Herman (Grade 4 Student)

After you type in a passage, you can then copy and paste this passage into GoChinese. [GoChinese] will read it for you. It also offers online exercises, which are created by [GoChinese].

2 How to use GoChinese?

Interviewee: Herman (Grade 4 Student)

Type the passage ourselves. Just like this, copy and drag it here. When you [press] 'Submit,' there is Pinyin shown and it will read [the text] for you.

[GoChinese reads aloud a passage]

3 How has GoChinese helped you learn Chinese?

Interviewee: Andrew (Grade 4 Student)

How has it helped [learning]? When you see Chinese words that you don't know, you can just select it [to view the definition].

I go to 'Personal Content', then 'Saved Lesson'. I can [locate] the materials that I created [previous-ly]. There is Pinyin and English definitions, and you can listen to them.

4 How to use GoChinese with this learning unit?

Interviewee: Ms Viola Li (Grade 4 Chinese Teacher)

Today's lesson is for a Grade 4 Hanyu class. As students have different language backgrounds, we have different ways of teaching listening, speaking, reading and writing skills with each class. In this class, students' listening and speaking skills are stronger than their reading and writing skills. So I used GoChinese to assist them with writing. This helps make their writing process easier.

Today our writing topic is 'My Favorite Animal,' using a first person description, as in saying, 'I am a cat,' or 'I am a fish.' Because every student has different favorite animals, this is a way to boost their interest. When accessing the Internet, [the students find] many cute graphics and a lot of interesting information, so they find this very interesting.

5 Compared to before, what is the difference with learning?

Interviewee: Ms Viola Li (Grade 4 Chinese Teacher)

In the past, writing work during class required strenuous effort. The students do not have a large vocabulary base and when they do not know, they always ask, 'Miss, What's this? How to write this?' But after we started using GoChinese, students can collect unlimited amount of information on the Internet, then choose their favorite passages to place into GoChinese. GoChinese generates the Pinyin, voice recordings and English definitions. This saves a lot of 'ask and answer' time with teachers and students also are able to do independent learning.

6 Do students like GoChinese?

Interviewee: Ms Viola Li (Grade 4 Chinese Teacher)

For curious students, this web application is very good. Because students now think that, 'oh, [learning is] not just listening to what teachers say, copying the characters and words' -- now [students] can search for information on [and learn from] whatever he [or she] likes.

7 Can students use GoChinese at home?

Interviewee: Ms Viola Li (Grade 4 Chinese Teacher)

Besides using GoChinese with students during class, I also ask them to try GoChinese at home. Some of the students upload [Chinese] content at home, and print them out for me to have a look.

Parents' feedback has been supportive and positive. Because these tools help their children to translate and as [the parents'] Putonghua are not very good, they say that this one [GoChinese] is marvelous!