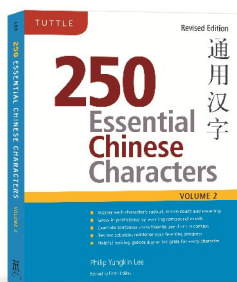


BOOK NEWS



250 Essential Chinese Characters, Vol. 2

By Philip Yungkin Lee, Revised by Darell Tibbles

Rutland, VT. (April 1, 2010).

The Tuttle Publishing company has released an updated edition

of its introductory guide to Chinese characters: 250 Essential Chinese Characters, Vol. 2. A new edition of volume 1 was released in January, and the second volume is available this month. The books are perfect for classroom use or individual study, and may be used separately or as a set to learn and drill the most frequently occurring 500 Chinese characters.

A full page is dedicated to each character. Simplified, Traditional, and pinyin forms are given for each one. Numerous vocabulary and sentence examples are given in Simplified characters, pinyin, and English. Stroke count, stroke order, and helpful hints to remember when writing a character round out the us. For example, for the character mò (末), the learner is reminded that the second horizontal stroke must be shorter than the first.

In addition to these benefits, the new editions include many improvements, such as:

1. The selection of characters was modified to better prepare students for the Chinese AP exam.
2. New "lesson" groupings create a more structured learning environment.
3. Every lesson includes AP-exam style questions, and each group of five lessons is followed by AP-style review exercises.
4. Updated sample sentences show current usage and focus on vocabulary building.
5. A new sequencing creates a more efficient learning process.
6. More emphasis is given to spoken Chinese. The focus

is still vocabulary building, but examples and exercises encourage more review and development of oral skills.

Examination copies are available for a 35% discount off the cover price of \$29.95, refundable if the book is adopted for a class of 10 or more students. For more information, please visit www.tuttlepublishing.com.

250 Essential Chinese Characters, Vol. 2

By Philip Yungkin Lee, Revised by Darell Tibbles

250 stroke-order diagrams, 30 b&w line drawings.

ISBN-13: 978-0-8048-3360-8

\$34.95, paperback

368 pages

ABC English-Chinese, Chinese-English Dictionary

ed. by John DeFrancis; Zhang Yanyin
ABC Chinese Dictionary series

The *ABC English-Chinese, Chinese-English Dictionary (ECCE)* is a student-oriented bilingual dictionary that, like other dictionaries in the ABC series, organizes Chinese words by their pronunciation as written in pinyin. This innovative, straightforward alphabetical organization allows the user to find most words more quickly and easily. It also facilitates the comparison of words that are pronounced similarly or identically, which is not possible in traditionally-ordered dictionaries. The series' alphabetical ordering has been imitated in other dictionaries, but *ECCE* is still unique in that it offers detailed and authoritative coverage of grammar (parts of speech, constructions, and examples) and orthography (both simplified and complex characters as well as pinyin). *ECCE* contains 98,643 entries: 29,670 in the English-Chinese section, 37,963 in the Chinese-English section. The latter is an abridgment of the massive *ABC Chinese-English Comprehensive Dictionary*, with improvements such as more example sentences, the inclusion of both pinyin and characters for all sentences, and indications of vocabulary grade levels to help learners prioritize their studies by indicating the most basic and