

## Why I Study Chinese

Over the course of my life, I have been in love with language learning and the doors it has opened up for me have become indispensable. In fact, I remember being told that my first words were Serbian, a product of my living there during my first three. When I lived in Ukraine, I became fluent in the Russian language at the age of four in order to communicate with the people around me. It was apparent that I could pick up languages without trouble, and I very much enjoyed being enveloped in the culture surrounding a foreign language. At 12 years of age, I entered middle school. In India, I was given a choice in terms of what language I'd like to pursue. There was Spanish, French, and Chinese. While many people decided to take the more familiar French and Spanish, I dove in to what I believed would give me the opportunity to again be educated in a wondrous new culture previously unfamiliar to me. I chose Chinese.

When I first started learning Chinese, I do admit that I was quite overwhelmed by the difficulty that learning such a complicated language presents. As I progressed in Chinese language learning, I began to become exposed to the amazing Chinese culture that I never would have been inclined to explore had I not taken Chinese. The fact that Chinese language learning has opened this door to a whole new and amazing culture is a big part of me studying this language. The idea that through learning Chinese, I will be able to immerse myself in a culture that has really piqued my interest is a great prospect for me. As well as the cultural aspect of Chinese language, another thing that I truly believe draws me to studying it is the difficulty aspect. It gives me a great deal of self-confidence to think that if I continue working hard, I will be able to speak what some say is one of the most difficult languages to learn. I now have this mindset that if I can learn to speak Chinese, I should be able to learn many other things that I may have previously thought were too difficult to even attempt. Another aspect of learning this difficult language is my desire to prove myself wrong. As I said before, the language was extremely overwhelming for me at first, and I did at times think to myself that I had made the wrong decision in terms of what language I'd like to learn. Looking back on that now, and considering the fact that nowadays I am absolutely loving learning Chinese, I can say with confidence that taking Chinese was not a bad decision, but in fact one of the best decisions I've ever made.