**Strategy inventory for character learning （59 Strategies that you can try and use）**

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**When a new character (or word) is first introduced ...**

1. I listen carefully to the pronunciation and the explanation of how the sound or meaning of the character is derived and take notes when necessary. 2. I pay attention to the tone and try to associate the sound with pinyin. 3. I try to repeat the character (or word) several times aloud (or silently to myself). 4. I look carefully at the strokes and try to make associations with a similar character (or word) previously learned. 5. I try to visualize the character in my head. 6. I try to recognize the radicals that I have already learned. 7. I pay attention to how the character (or word) is used in context. 8. I try to associate the sound of the character with its shape and meaning. 9. I write the character (or word) down. 10. I observe the character (or word) carefully and pay attention to stroke order.

**In order to increase my understanding of new characters (or words) after they have been introduced ...**

11. I look in the textbook or dictionary to check the characters (or words) meaning that I am not sure of. 12. I check the character in the dictionary to see related meanings and how it is used. 13. I try to use the character or (words) in sentences orally. 14. I ask how the words could be used in different sentences if I dont understand them (ask a teacher, classmates, language partner, or friend). 15. I find out how they are used in conversation. 16. I try to find sentences with the new characters. 17. I convert the word to my own native language and find an equivalent in meaning. 18. I see what radicals are in the character and try to make sense of why they are there. 19. I see if the character in a new word has been used in previously learned words or phrases.

**In order to memorize newly learned characters (or words)...**

20. I listen to audiotapes and think of the meaning and shape of the characters (or words). 21. I read the word out loud until I know how to say it, and associate the sound with meaning and shape. 22. I memorize the sound first then the meaning and the shape. 23. I usually say the character (or word) to myself as I write it repeatedly. 24. I say the word over to myself and try to picture what the characters look like in my mind. 25. I use flashcards, and flip through them many times to familiarize myself with sound, shape, and meaning, then I try to write them without looking. 26. I associate the new character with previously learned radicals to find connections among sound, shape, and meaning. 27. I try to make a story of the character or word. 28. I classify the words into different categories according to their meaning. 29. I group the words with similar features such as similarity in meaning, sound, or shape. 30. I use my imagination to picture the meaning that the character represents, as if each character is a picture. 31. I compare among the words to see the differences and similarities in shape. 32. I memorize the shape of the character first, then the pronunciation. I quiz myself during memorization; for example, given the sound, I try to think of the characters shape and meaning. 34. I discuss with other students the methods of memorization. 35. I memorize the characters (or words), then have someone quiz me. 36. I do my homework first before memorizing the characters, since often I have to write out many of the characters in my homework.

**I practice new characters (or words) by...**

37. trying to use new words in journal or letter writing. 38. listening to or singing Chinese (or Japanese) songs. 39. watching Chinese (or Japanese) cartoons, movies, or TV program. 40. talking to native speakers or friends who know Chinese (or Japanese). 41. taking some notes by using characters in class or at home. 42. making sentences and writing out sentences. 43. listening to conversation by native Chinese (or Japanese) speakers. 44. reading Chinese (or Japanese) childrens book or other reading materials. 45. using the language lab frequently to listen to the words. 46. teaching others the characters (or words) that I think they would find interesting. 47. using the new words in the Chinese Corner (or Japanese Conversation Hour) or any other social activities.

**I use the following ways to preview or review new characters...**

48. I preview the new words right before class. 49. I preview the new words the night before the class. 50. I make vocabulary cards (note cards) before learning the new lesson. 51. I go to the language lab and listen to the new words right before class. 52. I review them every other night. 53. I review them only before quizzes and exams. 54. I review them on a daily basis 55. I review them before class, weekends and before quizzes. 56. I review them by going over my flashcards whenever I have time during the day. 57. I review them by writing the characters many times. 58. I review them by asking someone to test me. 59. I review them by reading over notes, example sentences, and the lesson in the textbook.