

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 165 [English]

Kirin: [Chinese Learn Online lesson 165](#) .

Kirin: [Hello everyone](#) , I'm Kirin .

Raphael: [Hello everyone](#) , I'm Raphael .

Kirin: [Welcome to Taiwan and our progressive course teaching Chinese](#) . What are we studying today ?

Raphael: [Today we are going to discuss](#) , what different ways there are to write Chinese .

Kirin: [Oh, really](#) . So what ways are there to write Chinese ?

Raphael: [In our course](#) , there are three different kinds of characters . Pinyin , simplified , as well as traditional .

Kirin: [Wow, so what are those three kinds](#) ?

Raphael: [I'll teach you these three types in a moment](#) . For many people, the most difficult part of studying Chinese , is writing characters .

Kirin: [As well as reading Chinese characters](#) .

Raphael: [Right, because Chinese has thousands of frequently used characters](#) .

Kirin: [Right](#) . Many Chinese people also have no way of remembering all the Chinese characters .

Raphael: [But don't worry](#) . There is a simpler way of studying Chinese . So you don't have to study all the characters .

Kirin: [Chinese characters are still important](#) , you can take your time studying them .

Raphael: [Before studying Chinese](#) , you can first study pinyin .

Kirin: [Why is pinyin simpler](#) ?

Raphael: [Because pinyin uses English to write the sounds of Chinese characters](#) .

Kirin: [What do you mean](#) ? I don't understand .

Raphael: [For example](#) , teacher . The pinyin for this word is l-a-o-s-h-i.

Kirin: But when looking at a pinyin word , how do you now what tone to use when saying it ?

Raphael: Ah, so this is the difference between pinyin and English .

Kirin: What's the difference ?

Raphael: When using pinyin to read Chinese , on top of the characters , they will tell you what tone to use .

Kirin: Oh, that's convenient .

Raphael: Right . When some people start learning Chinese , they first learn pinyin . Then later they can slowly study Chinese characters .

Kirin: So what are the other two ways to write Chinese characters ?

Raphael: The characters used in Taiwan , are a bit different from the characters used by most people in China .

Kirin: Yes, the characters they use there look simpler .

Raphael: Right, so what is this kind called ?

Kirin: Simplified characters . It's the "jiǎn" in "jiǎndān" (simple) , with the "tǐ" in "shēntǐ" (body) .

Raphael: Right, so in Taiwan , what are the characters we use called ?

Kirin: Traditional characters . This "fǎn" (complicated) is the opposite of "jiǎn" (simple) .

Raphael: Right, this type of characters is more difficult to write .

Kirin: So why do we still use traditional characters then ?

Raphael: Hmm, a long time ago , there were traditional characters in Chinese culture . And in Taiwan , schools teach students how to write traditional characters , so traditional characters aren't difficult for Taiwanese to write .

Kirin: But many students feel , it's really difficult to learn Chinese characters , do we have any suggestions to give them ?

Raphael: Yes we do . On our website ,you can see Chinese characters for each lesson .

Kirin: So in the website , what kind of Chinese characters are there ?

Raphael: Pinyin , simplified , and traditional - all three types are there , as well as English .

Kirin: Wow, that's great .

Raphael: Right, they work very hard . If you read the Chinese characters for each lesson , you will see some characters are more commonly used . You should first study these characters .

Kirin: Why should you study these characters first ?

Raphael: Because you will see them often . For example , after you were born , what was the first word you could say ?

Kirin: The first word I could say ? Let me think . Probably “mama” (mother) .

Raphael: Why was “mother” the first word you could say ?

Kirin: Because I always saw her the most .

Raphael: Right, so when we are studying Chinese , it is best if we first memorize the most commonly used characters , then slowly study the more difficult ones .

Kirin: Ah, that's a good suggestion .

Raphael: Let's take a moment to review , the three ways of writing Chinese that we taught you today .

Kirin: Pinyin , simplified , traditional .

Raphael: Ok, I hope today's lesson , will help you better understand , what ways there are to write Chinese characters .

Kirin: If you need more practice , you can go to our website ChineseLearnOnline-com .

Raphael: Continue to keep at it !