

MEMBERS ONLY

2017



NOVEMBER 11

INNER CIRCLE

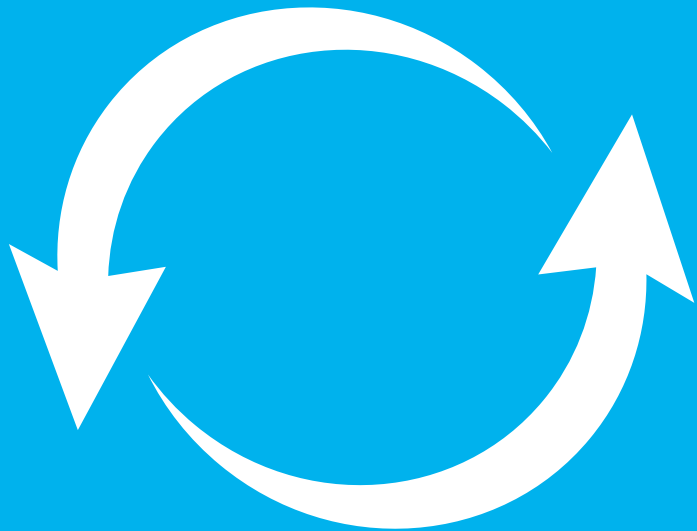
THIS MONTH

THE KEY TO THIS YEAR'S
LANGUAGE GOAL &
PASSING THE TEST

innovative LANGUAGE.COM

Taking a 180 Degree Reverse Approach

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Welcome to the Inner Circle, listeners.

Last time, you learned...

- all about the power of big decisions and commitments to turbocharge your learning progress.

There's just 1 month left in the year. I've officially signed up and committed to taking the Chinese Proficiency test in December. But, this goal is a complete 180 from how I usually learn languages. Instead of focusing on speaking, it's all about reading, grammar and vocabulary.

So, here's what I'm doing to reach my language goal of 2017.

Let's jump into this Inner Circle.

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THE KEY TO THIS YEAR'S LANGUAGE GOAL & PASSING THE TEST.
.....

You'll learn...

Why I'm Taking a 180 Degree Reverse Approach to Learning Language

How I'm Learning Grammar, Vocabulary & Reading for the Test

How You Can Apply These Tactics As Well

But first, let's jump into the first part.

1

Why I'm Taking a 180 Degree Reverse Approach to Learning Language

Listeners, when you start learning a language...
where do you start?

Most people start with reading.

I start with speaking and listening from day one.
Why? It comes down to my goals and what I want.
When I learn a new language, I want to be able to
speak and be understood. So, I aim to speak for 1
minute. Then 2 minutes. Then 5 minutes of
conversation. And I build up from there.

But, with the test...my new goal, it's different.

With exams, you're tested on the not-so-fun stuff:
reading, grammar and vocabulary. But not so
much speaking. That's why I had to adjust my
learning style and focus on these areas.



And, I also had to change how I study. Normally, I multi-task while taking lessons. Reading, grammar and vocabulary require more attention. So, I went from passively listening to lessons to actively writing out words and examples, and drilling what I've learned.

By the way, listeners, if your goal is not to pass a test and if you just want to speak with confidence, there are many other Inner Circle lessons for you.

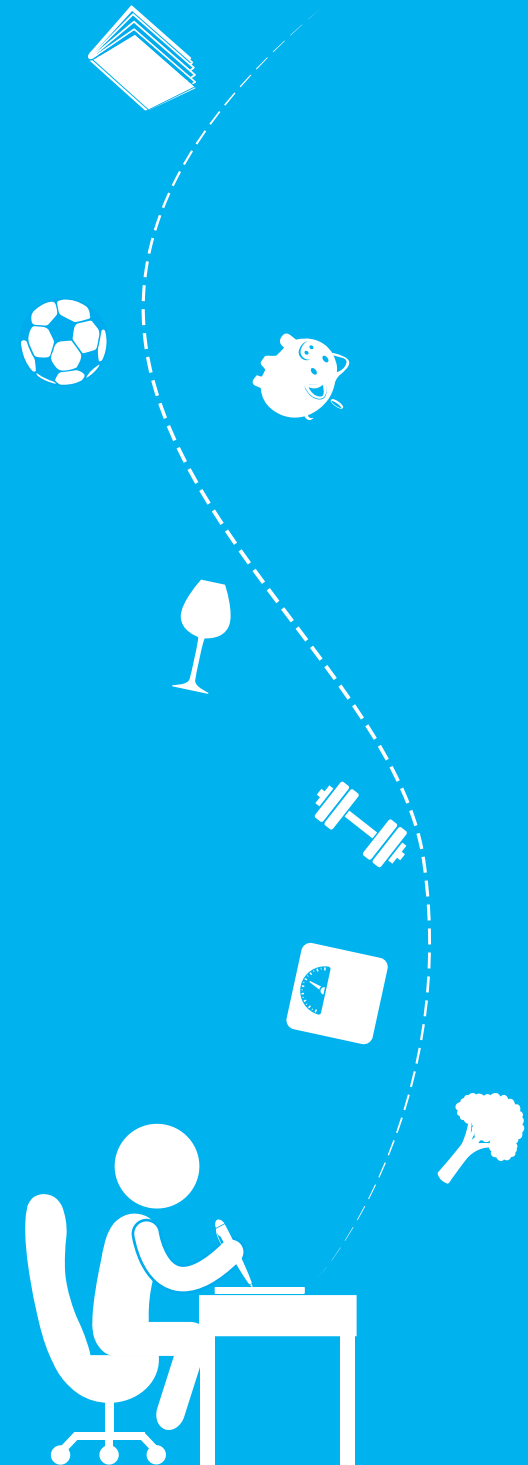
The main point here is... your actions should be in line with your goals.

If you want to speak, you need to speak from day one.

If you want to read, you should try to read from day one.

And if you want to pass a proficiency test, find out what's on the test, and work on that.

That's what I've been doing this past month.



2

How I'm Learning Grammar, Vocabulary & Reading for the Test

Let's do Reading first.

Most users don't know how to practice reading with our sites.

The first tactic will help you. It helped me improve my speaking speed and overall comprehension. What is it?

A) Read the lesson transcript as you listen to an audio or video lesson. This is useful with higher level lessons and listening lessons, where there's very little English.

Don't read the transcript alone.

When you combine it with audio, it's more fun and easier to focus. Plus, you don't struggle as much because you can hear the words being read out loud.

So if you're not sure of a word, it's right there in the transcript and you hear it.

B) Read with the Dialog tool. With the Dialog, you get the individual lines of a lesson's conversation. You get the text, the audio, the translations, and the romanization (if necessary). So, you can read, review and listen to 1 line as much as you want.

Then, move onto the next line.

This is great for beginners who want to practice reading without getting hit by too much text.



There is one more way to practice reading.

We have brand new way to practice reading called... "extensive reading books." These are currently only available for JapanesePod101, but will be available on ALL sites next year.

If you're wondering what Extensive Reading Books are...

These are simple books...designed to turn you into a fluent reader. The point is to read them without a dictionary, skip the words you don't know and jump to a new book if the current one is too tough or too easy.

Just by keeping at it, you're exposed to more text and get more practice. The goal is to run through as many books as possible.

If you're a JapanesePod101 member, you already have access to Absolute Beginner and Beginner Level Extensive Reading books.



Now, with Vocabulary, there are three ways I'm learning Chinese words.



A) Our Spaced Repetition Flashcards

You get vocabulary lists for every lesson. So, once I'm done with the lesson, I send those to a Flashcard Deck and drill the words.

The Flashcards quiz you on the words, and re-show the words you struggle with most.

Then they will re-quiz you at a later date just to keep the words fresh in your mind.

If you see a word today and get it right, you'll see it again in 2 days. Then in 4 days. Then in 8 days. And so on. The Flashcards will make sure to quiz you at spaced intervals to make sure you remember the words.

If you get it wrong, you'll see it again in 5 minutes, and again and again in that study session until you get it right.

The next tactic is the newest one...and by far, my favorite.

B) The Newly Updated Vocabulary Slideshow feature

Now you can access it on any device.

You can access this on our free Vocabulary and Phrase Lists.

What's great about it is, you can just turn the slideshow on, sit back, and review the words as much as you want. You get the text and the audio.

They're kind of like flashcards, just with less work.



C) Write Out Words By Hand in a Notebook

What I do is take out a piece of paper and a notebook...well the paper's in the notebook...and I write each word down 20 times. And I did that with my Chinese vocabulary.

Now, you might be thinking ...

"But why? I know you're studying for a test... but it's online. You don't need to write."

Well, you're right. But it's good to practice from multiple angles. Like working out, if you work one muscle with different types of exercises, you get better results.

If you just did 1 exercise, you wouldn't progress as fast and eventually plateau.

And, when you write things out, they get better ingrained into your memory.



What about grammar?

Grammar is a bit tricky... in all languages.

I don't study the rules one by one.

The goal here is to be able to use them and understand them in action.

Here's what I do.

A) First, I listen to the ChineseClass101 dialog tracks.

Our lessons already incorporate the grammar in the conversations so you can hear how a certain rule is used.

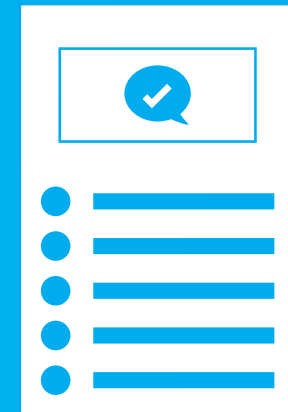
B) I read the grammar tutorials in the lesson notes.

Just so that I have a clear explanation of the rules.

C) Then, again with my notebook, I write up some examples.

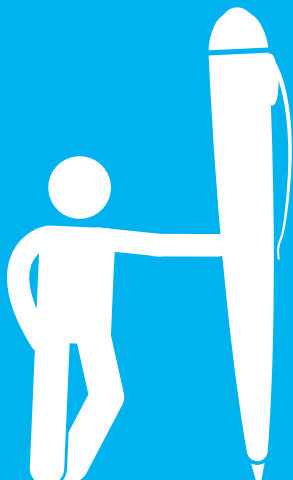
Then I type them in to an electronic device and send them to my Premium *PLUS* teacher to review. I actually send her both, the text and audio.

So, how can you take advantage of these tools and tactics?



3

How You Can Apply These Tactics As Well



With reading, if you're a JapanesePod101 user, be sure to check out the new **Extensive Reading books**. The PDF books are available for Absolute Beginner and Beginner level.



These will be available on all sites in 2018.

Also, take advantage of the **Dialog tool**. You can find this with every lesson. Just read the conversation one line at a time.

 **Dialogue**

English All

  A: Hey, Vicky!

  B: Hi, Mike! How's it going?

  A: Great! How about you? How are you doing?

  B: Not so good.

  A: Oh no! What's wrong?

  B: Oh, classes start tomorrow.

  A: Ha ha ha. Yeah, I know what you mean.

Finally, try **listening lessons and higher level lessons** - with little English - and read along with the lesson transcript.

1

Look at the image

2

Listen to the question

3

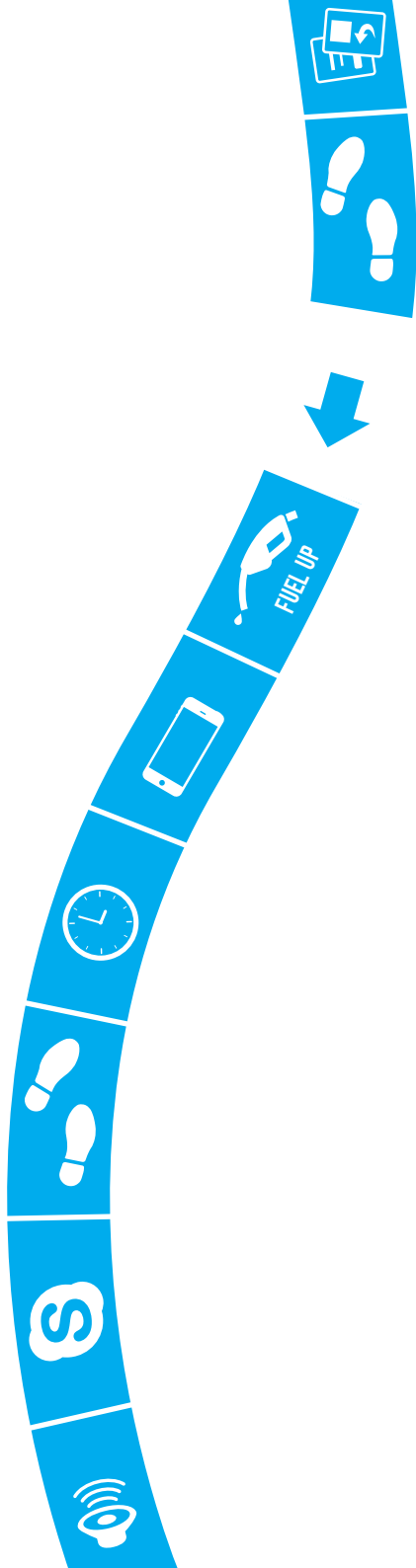
Listen to the dialogue

4

Try to answer the question



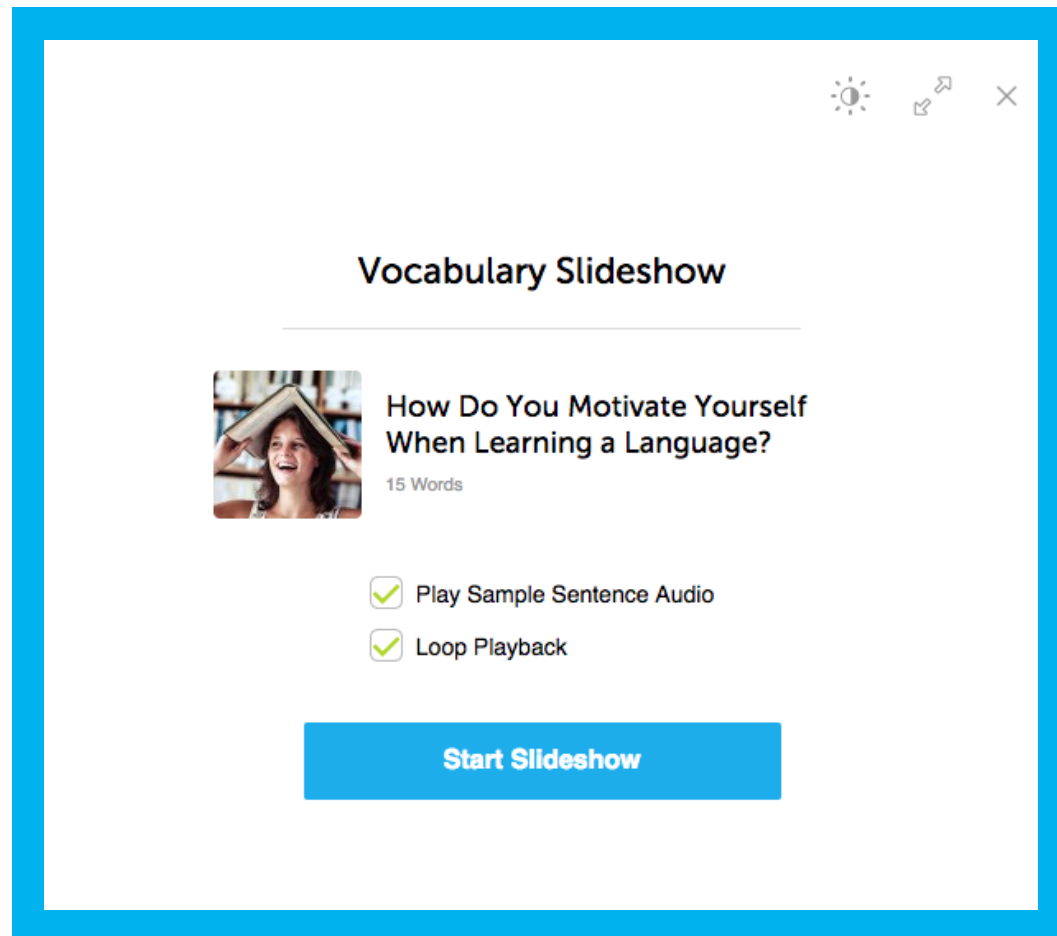




Next, vocabulary.

This is pretty straightforward and the easiest area to train.

Use our **newly updated vocabulary slideshow** and put the words on loop to get acquainted with them. This doesn't require much work at all.



The image shows a window titled "Vocabulary Slideshow". Inside, there is a title "How Do You Motivate Yourself When Learning a Language?" with a small image of a woman holding a book. Below the title, it says "15 Words". There are two checkboxes: "Play Sample Sentence Audio" and "Loop Playback", both of which are checked. At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled "Start Slideshow".

To really nail down these words, use the **flashcards** and they'll quiz you until you get them all correct.

Flashcards Session

Study All

56 Words

4% Complete

THIS SESSION YOU WILL STUDY 20 WORDS

9	New	0	Learned
11	Started	0	Mastered

Start Session

Finally, there's the grammar. Now, while I think it's important to know the rules, listeners, don't spend too much time here. Definitely read the grammar tutorials in the **lesson notes** to get acquainted.

Lesson Notes

Hide

Grammar

The Focus of This Lesson Is How to Ask for Basic Office Rules

"Where should I send the invoice?"

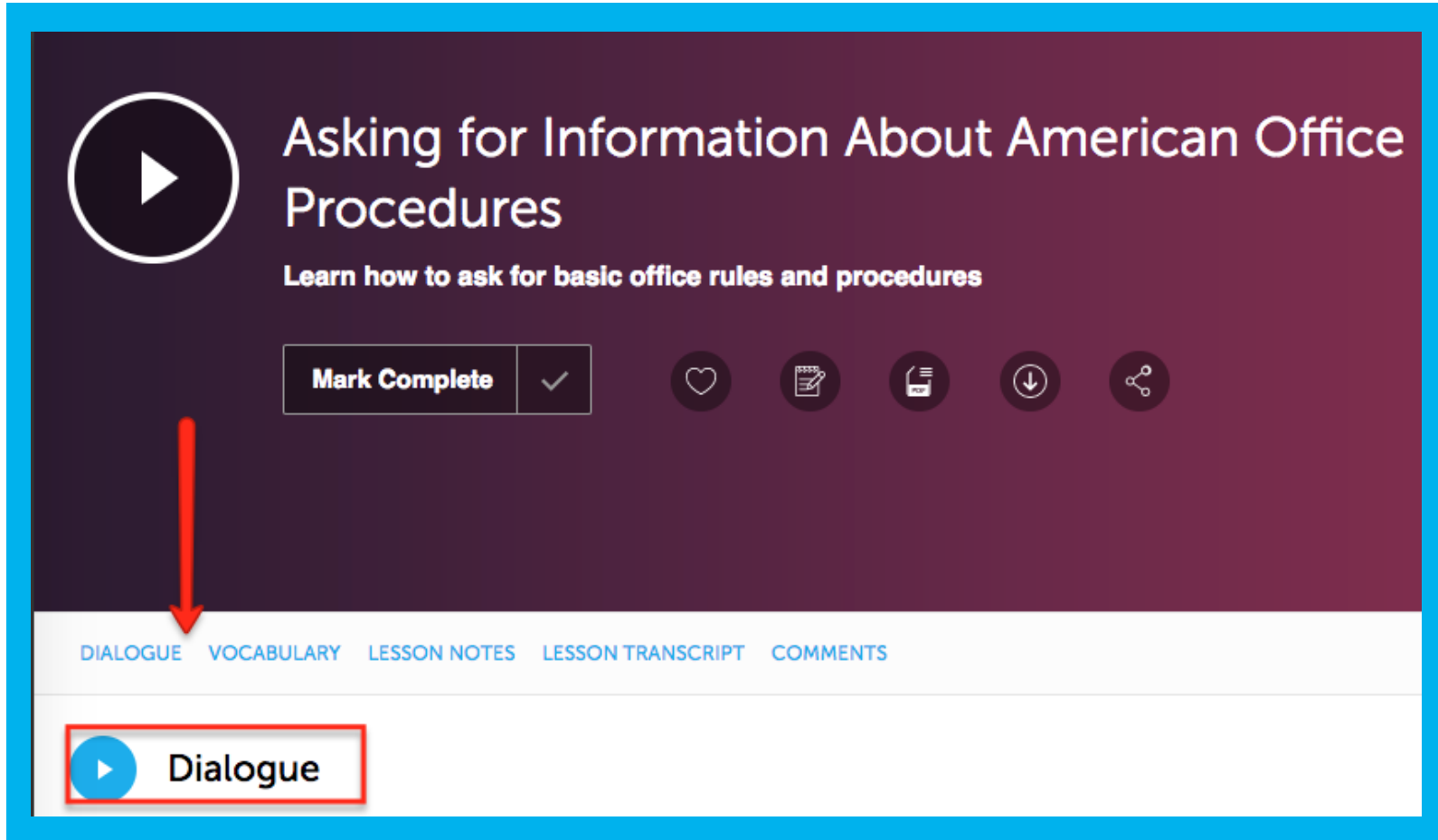
1.How to ask questions concerning the office

When you start working in a new office, you will be given training to help with your new job. The training might last a few hours, or it might just be a short ten minute tour of the office. No matter how long your training is, it's unlikely that it will cover every question you have.

To help make some questions, here are some common nouns that you will find in the office.

But, if you spend 3 minutes reading about them, you'll need to spend 6 or 8 minutes hearing how they're used.

If you listen to the **dialog track**, which gives you just the conversation of that lesson, you can hear how they're used.



The screenshot shows a lesson interface with a dark purple header. On the left is a large play button icon. To its right is the title 'Asking for Information About American Office Procedures' in white, followed by the subtitle 'Learn how to ask for basic office rules and procedures'. Below the title is a 'Mark Complete' button with a checkmark icon. To the right of this are five circular icons: a heart, a notepad, a document, a download arrow, and a share icon. A red arrow points from the 'Mark Complete' button area down to the 'DIALOGUE' tab in the bottom navigation bar. The navigation bar has five tabs: 'DIALOGUE', 'VOCABULARY', 'LESSON NOTES', 'LESSON TRANSCRIPT', and 'COMMENTS'. The 'DIALOGUE' tab is selected and highlighted with a red box. Below the navigation bar, the 'Dialogue' section is visible, featuring a play button icon and the word 'Dialogue'.

Asking for Information About American Office Procedures

Learn how to ask for basic office rules and procedures

Mark Complete ✓

DIALOGUE VOCABULARY LESSON NOTES LESSON TRANSCRIPT COMMENTS

Dialogue

You can read with the **lesson notes** as well.



JapanesePod101.com

OCTOBER 22ND, 2017 AT 1:32 PM

こんにちは、kamikoさん
コメントありがとうございます！

も is used to add something to things/people that you mentioned. For example;
コーヒーをください。みずもください。=Coffee, please. And also water, please.
Also it is used to emphasize that what you are mentioning more than one things.
いぬもねこもかっています。= I have (both) a dog and a cat.

“と” is translated “and” “with” and so on. For example,
コーヒーとみずをください。=Coffee and water, please.
いぬとねこをかっています。=I have a dog and a cat.
おとうとがっこうへいく。=I go to school with my younger brother.

Miki(美希)
Team JapanesePod101.com



kamiko

OCTOBER 16TH, 2017 AT 9:35 PM

こんにちは
what is the differences between も and と？
ども！

Finally, you have to use the grammar rules that you learn.

So, if you're a Premium *PLUS* user, write out 10 examples and send them to your teacher.

And when I say write out, what some of our students do is, they actually write out the text, take a picture and send it to their teacher.

Your Premium *PLUS* teacher will review your work and help you master that grammar point.

I ask my teacher to send me examples of her own as well. It's always good to hear it from a native speaker.

If you're a Premium user, you can always leave a comment in the lessons and our teachers will get back to you.

While I'm on track with the study plan above, I don't promise any miracles this time around.

With self-imposed goals, you can dial back, aim lower and succeed.

With the test, the bar is set and you cannot lower it. You can't really dial back here.

When's the Chinese proficiency test?

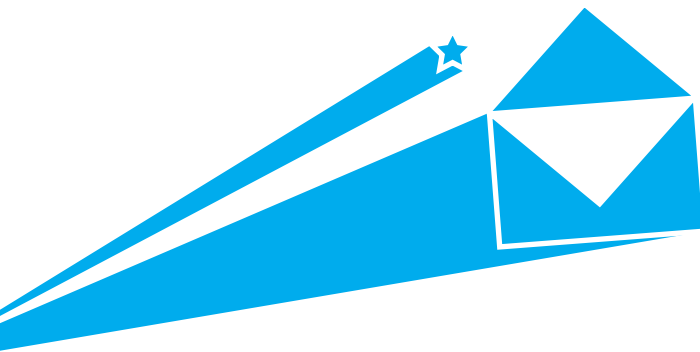
December 3rd. And that's my goal for 2017 - to pass.

Let me know what your goals are for the month.

Shoot me an email at

inner.circle@innovativelanguage.com

See you next month!



To your fluency,
Peter Galante
Founder, InnovativeLanguage.com

