

London's Languages Syracuse Symposium



MANDARIN Language Passport

MANDARIN



Place of Origin:
China



*London area
most spoken in:*
City of London

Some facts about Mandarin:

- Mandarin is one of several Chinese dialects
- the language uses 50,000 different characters
- Mandarin has five tones: four main tones and a neutral tone, and they drastically change the meaning of otherwise equivalent words

Idioms Exercise

Review the phrases below. Speaking with your group (but without Googling!), guess the meaning of each idiom.

Phrase: 冬吃萝卜夏吃姜, 不用医生开药方 (dōng chī luó bo xià chī jiāng, bú yòng yī shēng kāi yào fang)

Literal Translation: eat carrots in winter and ginger in summer, then the doctor won't have to write a prescription

What we think it means: _____

Phrase: 杀鸡给猴看 (shā jī gěi hóu kàn)

Literal Translation: kill the chicken for the monkey to see

What we think it means: _____

Phrase: 缘木求鱼 (yuán mù qiú yú)

Literal Translation: climbing trees to catch fish

What we think it means: _____
