

Read four sentences. Keep one useful word.

Read about a daily commute. Choose a word you want to understand, then return to the passage. Use a paper dictionary, a dictionary website or Laowai on iPhone or iPad.

我每天坐地铁去上班。
路上我喜欢读中文。
看到不认识的词，我会查词典。
晚上我再复习这些词。

1. Read for the situation

How does the speaker get to work? What do they do on the way?

2. Choose one word

My word: _____ Its meaning here: _____

Look up the word. Copy the part of the passage that helps you understand it.

3. Read again

Read the passage again without your notes. Can you recognize your word in its sentence? Tell a partner what the speaker does when a word is unfamiliar.

Keep the word on paper or save it in a dictionary app. Check it again later before revealing the meaning.

Text and app demo: laowaiapp.com/read-chinese-epub-on-iphone/

A word in its sentence

Suggested format: individual reading followed by a pair discussion. Learners need some familiarity with Chinese characters; introduce unfamiliar everyday vocabulary as needed. Use it as a short warm-up or a reading task between lessons.

Translation and discussion

I take the subway to work every day. I like reading Chinese on the way. When I see a word I do not recognize, I look it up in a dictionary. In the evening, I review those words again.

The speaker takes the subway, reads Chinese on the way, looks up unfamiliar words and reviews them in the evening. Accept answers in the learner's own words.

Possible vocabulary

地铁	dìtiě	subway
路上	lùshang	on the way
认识	rènshi	recognize
词典	cídiǎn	dictionary
复习	fùxí	review

Optional Laowai workflow

Read the sheet or web activity. Search for your chosen word in Laowai, read its definition and save useful vocabulary in a word list. Return to the sentence on the sheet. This version needs no file import.

Dictionary search stays free. Laowai Pro unlocks unlimited practice, unlimited widgets and Live Activities, and iCloud sync. Current prices and subscription terms appear before purchase. Requires iOS or iPadOS 26 or later.

The public demo shows an included Chinese classic in Laowai EN 5.3.5 running in iPhone Simulator: lookup, saving to Favorites and returning to reading. Use the student sheet separately for the original commute passage.

Original activity by Dmytro Polianskyi, Laowai developer. Teachers may print and share it with learners, including in ordinary paid classes, with attribution. No student information needs to be sent to the developer. The passage contains no textbook excerpt or learner record.