

A feature of *The New Practical Reader, Revised Edition* is that each chapter has a list of key sentences over 14 chapters totaling approximately 100 sentences. While “key sentences” are a standard feature of many older teaching materials, for Chinese they can serve multiple purposes.

1) Sentences can be considered as long vocabulary items. While discrete vocabulary items only test a phrase or “word,” sentences combine multiple vocabulary items, sentence patterns, and “grammar.” If you are a somewhat okay with “死背” students can be required to write the characters when given English or Pinyin. This requires students to memorize characters, and also gives them at a passive awareness of vocabulary and sentence patterns.

2) If you incorporate the audio for the sentences into question banks, it’s a useful way to have students practice typing Pinyin for randomized sentences. At the end of the semester, cumulative, randomized quizzes can be used to check students’ study habits and familiarity with the key sentences.

For this type of automated quiz, each chapter is a pool. So, a test/practice can be designed to randomly pull sentences from each chapter. At the end of 14 chapters, students could be give a quiz that pulls one or two sentences from each chapter.

As a reminder, for this type of quiz, typing Pinyin with no tones is the most practical way to avoid incorrect answers due to simple typing mistakes. For this type of quiz, it is important to give students preparation material so they know the “correct” Pinyin in advance, such as the table below.

As a second reminder, this type of practice should be done for each chapter. If students are on chapter seven, they would have a quiz on chapter seven only (probably four sentences for each attempt), and a second cumulative quiz for chapters 1-7. This process is repeated for each chapter. Chapter eight has a quiz, plus a cumulative quiz for 1-8, then a chapter nine quiz with a cumulative quiz for 1-9, and so on.

* If you would like to have students write characters on paper, you could still use the question pools to generate randomized quizzes giving Pinyin, having students write these in characters, and submit to the teacher for manual grading.

Here is the chart:

One		
你好.	Nǐ hǎo.	Hello, hi.
你好吗 ?	Nǐ hǎo ma?	Hello, How are you?
我很好, 你呢 ?	Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?	I’m fine, and you?
我也很好。	Wǒ yě hěn hǎo.	I’m also fine.
Two		
他们都很好。	Tāmen dōu hěn hǎo.	They are all fine (well).

你忙吗？	Nǐ máng ma?	Are you busy?
我不忙。	Wǒ bù máng.	I am not busy.
你要咖啡吗？	Nǐ yào kāfēi ma?	(Do) you want coffee?
我们都喝咖啡。	Wǒmen dōu hē kāfēi.	We all want coffee.
Three		
那是谁？	Nà shì shéi?	Who is that?
那是我们老师。	Nà shì wǒmen lǎoshī.	That is our teacher.
她是哪国人？	Tā shì nǎ guó rén?	Which country is she from?
她是中国人。	Tā shì Zhōngguó rén.	She is Chinese.
这是我朋友。	Zhè shì wǒ péngyou.	This is my friend.
你也是老师吗？	Nǐ yěshì lǎoshī ma?	Are you also a teacher?
我不是老师，我是医生。	Wǒ bùshì lǎoshī, wǒ shì yīshēng.	I'm not a teacher, I'm a student.
Four		
可以进来吗？	Kěyǐ jìnlai ma?	May I come in?
请进。	Qǐng jìn.	Please come in.
您贵姓？	Nín guìxìng?	Your honorable surname?
我姓陆，叫陆雨平。	Wǒ xìng Lù, jiào Lù Yǔpíng.	I am surnamed Lu, my name is Lu Yuping.
认识你很高兴。	Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.	Pleased to meet you.
我是语言学的学生。	Wǒ shì Yǔyán Xuéyán de xuéshēng.	I am a student of the language institute.
我学习汉语。	Wǒ xuéxí Hànyǔ.	I study Chinese.
Five		
请进，请坐。	Qǐng jìn, qǐng zuò.	Please come in, please sit (down)
我不知道。	Wǒ bù zhīdao.	I don't know.
再见。	Zàijiàn.	Goodbye
请问，餐厅在哪？	Qǐngwèn, cāntīng zài nǎr?	Excuse me, cafeteria is where?
谢谢。	Xièxie.	Thank you
不用谢。	Búyòng xiè.	No need (to) thank.

对不起。	Duìbuqǐ.	Sorry
没关系。	Méi guānxi.	No problem (It doesn't matter.
Six		
昨天的京剧怎么样？	Zuótiān de jīngjù zěnmeyàng?	How was yesterday's Beijing Opera?
今天天气很好，我们去游泳好吗？	Jīntiān tiānqì hěn hǎo, wǒmen qù yóuyǒng hǎo ma?	Today's weather is good, let's go swimming, okay?
太好了！什么时候去？	Tài hǎo le! Shénme shíhòu qù?	Swell! (What Mai Laoshi's Grandma used to say). When [will we] go?
现在去可以吗？	Xiànzài qù kěyǐ ma?	Can we go now?
可以	Kěyǐ	Yes. [can]
明天您有时间吗？	Míngtiān nín yǒu shíjiān ma?	Tomorrow do you have time?
读不起，请在说一边。	Dúbùqǐ, qǐng zài shuō yī biān.	Sorry, please say that again.
很抱歉，恐怕不行。	Hěn bàoqiàn, kǒngpà bù xíng.	Sorry [baoqian], [I'm] afraid it's not okay.
Seven		
他是不是我们学院的老师？	Tā shì bù shì wǒmen xuéyuàn de lǎoshī?	Is he a teacher of our language institute?
你认识不认识他？	Nǐ rènshi bù rènshi tā?	Do you know him/her?
我们认识一下，我的中文名字叫马大为。	Wǒmen rènshi yīxià, wǒ de Zhōngwén míngzì jiào Mǎ Dàwéi.	Let's introduce ourselves. My Chinese name is Ma Dawei.
你学习什么专业？	Nǐ xuéxí shénme zhuānyè?	What is your major?
我学习美术专业。你呢？	Wǒ xuéxí měishù zhuānyè. Nǐ ne?	I major in aesthetics [art]. And you?
现在我们都学习汉语，也都是汉语系的学生。	Xiànzài wǒmen dōu xuéxí Hànyǔ, yě dōu shì Hànyǔ xì de xuéshēng.	Now we all study Chinese, and are all students in the Chinese department.
Eight		
你们家有几口人？	Nǐmen jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?	How many people in your family?

这是五口人，还有谁？	Zhè shì wǔ kǒu rén, hái yǒu shéi?	This is five people, who else?
你有没有男朋友？	Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu nán péngyǒu?	(Do you have a boyfriend?
我有男朋友。	Wǒ yǒu nán péngyǒu.	I have a boyfriend.
他做什么工作？	Tā zuò shénme gōngzuò?	What work does he do?
你们外语系有多少老师？	Nǐmen wàiyǔ xì yǒu duōshǎo lǎoshī?	How many teachers are there in your foreign language department?
外语系有二十八位中国老师。	Wàiyǔ xì yǒu èrshíbā gè Zhōngguó lǎoshī.	There are twenty-eight Chinese teachers in the foreign language department.
Nine		
他今年多大？	Tā jīnnián duō dà?	How old is he this year?
他今年二十岁。	Tā jīnnián èrshí suì.	This year he is 20.
星期日是几号？	Xīngqīrì shì jǐ hào?	What is Sunday's date?
星期五上午你有没有课？	Xīngqīwǔ shàngwǔ nǐ yǒu méiyǒu kè?	Friday morning do you have class?
他一九八二年十月二十七号出生。	Tā yījiǔbā'èr nián Shíyuè èrshíqī hào chūshēng.	He was born October 27, 1982.
我买一个大蛋糕，好吗？	Wǒ mǎi yīgè dà dànɡāo, hǎo ma?	I'll buy a big cake, okay?
我很喜欢吃烤鸭。	Wǒ hěn xǐhuān chī kǎoyā.	I really like to eat roast duck.
祝你生日快乐！	Zhù nǐ shēng rì kuàilè!	Happy birthday!
Ten		
这个商场很大。	Zhègè shāngchǎng hěn dà.	This market is big.
一斤香蕉多少钱？	Yī jīn xiāngjiāo duōshǎo qián?	A jin of bananas is how much?
两块七毛五一斤。	Liǎng kuài qī máo wǔyī jīn.	Three dollars per jin.
您在哪儿工作？	Nín zài nǎr gōngzuò?	Where do you work?
我常常跟林娜去小商场。	Wǒ chángcháng gēn Lín Nà qù xiǎo shāngchǎng.	I often go with Lin Na to the small market.
我再送您一个苹果。	Wǒ zài sòng nín yī gè píngguǒ.	I'll Give you another apple.
您给我二十块钱，我找您六块。	Nín gěi wǒ èrshí kuài qián, wǒ zhǎo nín liù kuài.	You gave me 20 dollars, I give you six dollars (in change)

这个汉语怎么说？	Zhege Hanyu zenme shuo?	This - Chinese - how say (How do you say this in Chinese.)
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Eleven		
请问，现在几点？	Qǐngwèn, xiànzài jǐ diǎn?	Excuse me, what time is it?
现在差五分八点，他还没有起床。	Xiànzài chà wǔ fēn bā diǎn, tā hái méiyǒu qǐchuáng.	Now it's 7:55, he/she still has not gotten up.
你们几点上课？	Nǐmen jǐ diǎn shàngkè?	What time do you all have class?
他昨天下午两点去朋友家玩儿。	Tā zuótiān xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn qù péngyǒu jiā wán.	Yesterday afternoon at 2:00 he went to play at his friend's house.
我会说一点儿汉语。	Wǒ huì shuō yīdiǎn Hànyǔ.	I can speak some Chinese.
他为什么不能来上课？	Tā wèishéme bù néng lái shàngkè?	Why can't he come to class?
他应该来。	Tā yīnggāi lái.	He/she should come.
可以问您一个问题吗？	Kěyǐ wèn nín yīgè wèntí ma?	May I ask you a question?
Twelve		
你怎么还不起床？	Nǐ zěnméi hái bù qǐchuáng?	How come you still haven't gotten out of bed?
我头疼，有点儿发烧。	Wǒ tóuteng, yǒu diǎn fāshāo.	My head hurts, and have a little fever.
我跟你一起去。	Wǒ gēn nǐ yìqǐ qù.	I will go with you.
我要睡觉，不想去看病。	Wǒ yào shuìjiào, bù xiǎng qù kànbing.	I want to go to sleep, I don't want to see the doctor.
他要不要住院？	Tā yào bù yào zhùyuàn?	Does he have to stay in the hospital?
你愿意吃中药还是愿意吃西药？	Nǐ yuànyì chī zhōngyào háishì yuànyì chī xīyào?	Are you willing to take Chinese medicine or willing to take Western medicine?
今天天气很冷，要多穿点儿衣服	Jīntiān tiānqì hěn lěng, yào duō chuān diǎnr yīfú.	Today the weather is cold, you should wear a little more.

我身体没问题,不用去看病	Wo shenti mei wenti, wo bu yong qu kanbing.	My body is fine, I don't need to go to the doctor.
Thirteen		
你们看没看房 子?	Nimen kàn méi kàn fángzi?	Did you all see the house?
我们看了一间房 子。	Wǒmen kàn le yī jiàn fángzi.	We saw one house.
你们找了经理没 有?	Nimen zhǎo le jīnglǐ méiyǒu?	Did you all look for the manager?
我们没有找经 理。	Wǒmen méiyǒu zhǎo jīnglǐ.	We didn't look for the manager.
我给陆雨平打个 电话,让他来帮 助我们。	Wǒ gěi Lù Yǔ Píng dǎ gè diànhuà, ràng tā lái bāngzhù wǒmen.	I gave Lu Yuping a phone call, and had him come help us.
晚上我们请你和 你朋友吃饭。	Wǎnshàng wǒmen qǐng nǐ hé nǐ péngyǒu chīfàn.	Tonight we'll treat you and your friend to a meal.
他会来吗?	Tā huì lái ma?	Will he come?
她不能常来我这 儿。	Tā bù néng cháng lái wǒ zhè'er.	He can't often come to my place.
我想租一间有厨 房和厕所的房 子。	Wǒ xiǎng zū yī jiàn yǒu chúfáng hé cèsuǒ de fángzi.	I would like to rent a house with a kitchen and a bathroom.
Fourteen		
你不再,我让他 中午再给你打。	Nǐ bù zài, wǒ ràng tā zhōngwǔ zài gěi nǐ dǎ.	You (were not) home, I'll have him call you again at noon.
我刚才去邮局给 妈妈寄了点儿东 西。	Wǒ gāngcái qù yóujú gěi māmā jì le diǎnr dōngxī.	I just went to the post office and mailed Mom some things.
他让我问你们 好。	Tā ràng wǒ wèn nimen hǎo.	He/she asked me to say hello (to you all).
我们也问她好。	Wǒmen yě wèn tā hǎo.	We also say hello (to him/her).
你住的宿舍大不 大?	Nǐ zhù de sùshè dà bù dà?	Is the dorm you live in big?

祝你们圣诞快乐。	Zhù nǐmen shèngdàn kuàilè.	Wish you all Merry Christmas. Since it will be June soon, and we did not do this lesson fall semester ☺.
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