

The 37th CLTAC Mandarin Speech Contest (2012)

Official Rules of Speech Contest and Registration

1. The 37th CLTAC Mandarin Speech Contest (2012) (speech contest, hence after) will be held at Lowell High School in San Francisco on Saturday, April 14th, 2012. The registration deadline is March 23rd, 2012. Complete information on the speech contest can be found on the CLTAC website at <http://www.cltac.org/speech-contest.html>.
2. The contestant must be a student currently enrolled in a Mandarin Chinese program during the 2011-2012 academic year at an elementary school, a middle/senior high school, a community college, or a university that is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), or is a member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).
3. To ensure fairness, each contestant should register for a specific category based on their linguistic background and Chinese learning experience, and must agree to participate in the assigned division and category defined in the Appendix. The CLTAC Mandarin Speech Contest Organizing Committee (Organizing Committee, hence after) reserves the right to combine categories where there are fewer than five contestants in each category.
4. In order to maintain the high quality of the speech contest and to keep its size manageable, the Organizing Committee recommends that each participating school hold a preliminary contest within the school/class and choose no more than five students per category per class to participate in the speech contest.
5. Each contestant should compose his/her own speech. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify contestants with identical speeches. Contestants should memorize the speech. Points will be deducted for reading.
6. Contestants deliver their speech within a period of time. Speech should be about 1-4 minutes for Elementary School and Middle School Divisions, and 2-5 minutes for High School and College Divisions. Points will be deducted if the speech is either too short or too long for their grade levels, as determined by the judges.
7. The contestant may speak on any appropriate topic commensurate with his/her level of training. Sample topics include: Learning Mandarin, Family Life, Favorite Sports, A School Event, Travel to China/Taiwan/Hong Kong. The purpose of the speech contest is to foster good language skills. Emphasis is placed on accuracy in pronunciation and tones, fluency, delivery, cadence, as well as content.
8. The contestants register with their instructors, who must be active members in good standing of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of California (CLTAC) in the current calendar year. CLTAC needs to receive the instructor's annual membership dues (\$15.00) before the registration deadline in order to register the contestants in the speech contest. In addition, it is the responsibility of the instructor to place each of his/her

students in the most appropriate category commensurate with the student’s language background and training. The Organizing Committee reserves the right to disqualify a contestant who provides inaccurate background and training information.

9. The registration fee is \$10 per contestant. We ask each instructor to collect the registration fees from the contestants, and make out one check payable to CLTAC. Instructors please fill out the REGISTRATION FORM (Instructor Info and Student Registration), and send the Instructor Info page along with the check, postmarked no later than **March 23rd, 2012**, to

CLTAC, P.O. Box 5661, Monterey, CA93944

Please also kindly email the REGISTRATION FORM by the above deadline to CLTACspeechcontest@gmail.com.

10. The Organizing Committee is responsible for recruiting and training the judges for the speech contest. Mandarin Chinese instructors who are currently teaching Mandarin or taught Mandarin in the past five years are eligible to apply to be the judges. CLTAC membership is preferred, but not required.

Appendix: Speech Contest Registration Categories

Division I		1st through 5th grade students
	<i>Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program should register in Category D.</i>	
Category I A		Students with no prior background or with very limited experience in Chinese
	I-A-1	Elementary school first year Chinese class
	I-A-2	Elementary school second year Chinese class
	I-A-3	Elementary school third year Chinese class
	I-A-4	Elementary school fourth year Chinese class
	I-A-5	Elementary school first year Chinese class
Category I B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin or with minimal experience in Mandarin
	Group naming following Category I A convention	
Category I C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
	Group naming following Category I A convention	
Category I D		Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program
	Group naming following Category I A convention	
Division II		6th through 8th grade students
	<i>Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program should register in Category D.</i>	
Category II A		Students with no prior background or with very limited experience in Chinese
	II-A-6	Middle school first year Chinese class
	II-A-7	Middle school second year Chinese class
	II-A-8	Middle school third year Chinese class
Category II B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin or with minimal experience in Mandarin
	Group naming following Category II A convention	
Category II C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
	Group naming following Category II A convention	
Category II D		Students in an immersion or bilingual Mandarin program
	Group naming following Category II A convention	
Division III		9th through 12th grade students

	<i>Students in AP classes should register in Category D.</i>		
	Category III A		Students with no experience in Chinese of any dialect and/or no experience of Chinese schooling in Asian countries
		III-A-1	High school first year Chinese class
		III-A-2	High school second year Chinese class
		III-A-3	High school third year Chinese class
		III-A-4	High school fourth year Chinese class
	Category III B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin and/or some experience of Chinese schooling in Asian countries
		Group naming following Category III A convention	
	Category III C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
		Group naming following Category III A convention	
	Category III D		Students in AP class
		III-D-1	Non-heritage students
		III-D-2	Heritage students
Division IV			College/University students
	Category IV A		Students with no prior background or with very limited experience in Chinese of any dialect
		IV-A-1-1	Students in first half of first year of study
		IV-A-1-2	Students in second half of first year of study
		IV-A-2-1	Students in first half of second year of study
		IV-A-2-2	Students in second half of second year of study
		IV-A-3	Students in third year of study
		IV-A-4	Students in fourth year of study
	Category IV B		Students with some experience in a dialect of Chinese other than Mandarin
		Group naming following Category IV A convention	
	Category IV C		Students with extensive experience of Mandarin
		Group naming following Category IV A convention	