

Re: How many years dedicated to characters learning in China ?

## Re: How many years dedicated to characters learning in China ?

---

*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.lang/2006-12/msg00607.html>

---

- *From:* LEE Sau Dan <[danlee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:danlee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Thu, 07 Dec 2006 22:48:12 +0800
- 

"Joachim" == Joachim  
Pense  
<[snob@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:snob@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>  
writes:

>> (In extreme cases, it may turn out that this character has NO  
>> pronunciation in Chinese, because it is a Japanese-coined  
>> character, which only has proper pronunciation in Japanese. In  
>> other words, that's not a Chinese character. It's a Japanese  
>> one. But that doesn't hurt my comprehension of the text at  
>> all. After all, that character is just a visual sign to me.)

Joachim> Does that mean you read on a purely visual level without  
Joachim> any subvocalizing?

My Ph.D. supervisor finds the Croatian island name "Krk" funny,  
because he can't understand how it can be pronounced.

Now, tell me, did you subvocalize "Krk" when reading the paragraph  
above?

I don't.

Joachim> Or will you put some sort of "stub-word" (like, say  
Joachim> "some-kind-of-fish" into your subvocalizing stream?

Neither.

To me, "Krk" are just those 3 Latin letters. I don't pronounce these  
letters nor the name. (I don't care whether to pronounce it as  
"kay-ar-kay" (English letter names) or "ka-er-ka" (German/French  
names). To me, they're just 3 Latin letters. I know how to recognize  
and write these 3 letters. And I can pronounce them in different ways  
when I need to. But when I'm reading these 3 letters, I don't need to  
think about sounds.

Re: How many years dedicated to characters learning in China ?

Re: How many years dedicated to characters learning in China ?

So, I'd say I don't subvocalize "Krk", nor read it purely visually. I read it on the grapheme level. And the sequence K-R-K forms a mnemonic to me. That's a logical unit. You print the same name in another font (or even Suetterlin), and I still interpret it as the same mnemonic.

--

Lee Sau Dan N^f ~{ @nJX6X~ }

E-mail: danlee@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Home page: <http://www.informatik.uni-freiburg.de/~danlee>

.