FIRST EVER HISTORY OF CHINA IN GRAPHIC NOVEL FORM

The high value and need for our friendship work in a time of great planetary change
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About the cover: Stone Bridge Press presents the first ever history of China in comic book form, an educational tool for all ages, by Chinese graphic artist Jing Liu. China’s history is long and complex. This format assists both young and old to easily get in touch with it—visually! See article on page 21.
How to Buy a SIM Card in China

By Elena Trevino

Arriving in Beijing a year ago to begin my Mandarin Chinese course was a pretty intimidating experience. I was settling in China to master Chinese and perhaps begin a long and exciting career in this mysterious country. Such things as a hotel reservation and transportation were surprisingly simple and convenient.

However, while on my way from the airport to the hotel, I realized I had no mobile Internet to check maps and no phone number from which to call. I felt stranded, and I didn’t know how to get a SIM card. It turns out that many of my fellow classmates had the same dilemma.

As it turns out, getting a SIM card with Internet data and calling minutes is more simple than it seems at first. I will share with you some essential Chinese to know before you purchase one of your own.

First, you need to choose a mobile phone service company. There are essentially three:

中国移动 (zhongguó yídòng) China Mobile.
中国联通 (zhongguó liántong) China Unicom.
中国电信 (zhongguó diànxìn) China Telecom.

China Mobile is the most convenient of the three (and also the largest telecommunications company in the world!). I decided to put my bags down and head to the nearest China Mobile shop near my hotel.

At the recommendation of the hotel reception, I was sure to bring my “护照 (hùzhào) passport”, as this is required by law. You can certainly expect to hear:

Qing wèn ni xiàng yào bǎnli na yì zhòng tàocan ne?
请问你想要办理哪一种套餐呢？
Which package do you want?

If you’re like me and don’t have a constant need to be on the phone 24/7 you can, like many other students and travelers, go with the most basic “套餐 (tàocan) plan/package”:

Wo xiàng yào xiǎn zuì piányí de.
我想要选最便宜的。
I want the cheapest one.

Once you have your SIM and have made the initial payment, that’s not the end of it. Eventually, you will need to “top up” and add money to your plan. One simply pops back into any China Mobile shop and says:

Wo xiàng yào géi wò de shǒu jī chōngzhí.
我想给我的手机充值！
I would like to add money to my phone.

Quiz: When you want to ask about the plans and packages offered by the mobile phone company, you can request to see all of the various:

A. 套餐 (tàocan)
B. 护照 (hùzhào)
C. 中国移动 (zhongguó yídòng)

Elena Trevino is a Mandarin Chinese student in Beijing studying the language to get a head start in international trade. She is most interested in seeing how Mandarin is affecting the fashion industry throughout the world as Chinese shoppers are now such a large factor. She frequently attends fashion industry events in Beijing and throughout China.

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