I started to learn Mandarin because I thought it was necessary and helpful for my future business plan which is to work in China or open a business relate to Chinese consumer. I took a private class expecting to have more intensive and interactive lesson. Especially I was hoping the class could be fun and exciting since Mandarin seems to be one of the complicated and difficult language. The first impression of my Chinese teacher was not impressive. She started the class with a short introduction of herself and explain how she plan to proceed the class. She seems not interesting in understanding my expectation or preferred learning style. She was focusing on lecturing based on the textbook and asking me to read after her. The subject was limited within the content of the textbook which didn’t reflect interesting topics that I could linked to. I had no problem memorizing what I learned during class, but I couldn’t recall it the next day. To catch up all what I’ve learned, I start recording the class and practiced at home. But some of the words were difficult to recognize only by listening to the recorded sounds. The mandarin class became difficult to catch up and I start getting boring and demotivated. Naturally I began to compare with my French class which was quite a long time ago. It was also a private lesson which I learned together with my colleague. It was much more exciting and interesting than the Mandarin class. Maybe it was the language itself since I loved how it sound and thought it was very attractive. Also, I could easily apply it to my daily life since I was working for a French company. But most of all I think it was the classroom activities and the teaching style which created the excitement. Our French teacher was a Korean lady but had been living in France more than 20 years and married to a French man. I remember she was also trying to share with us the French culture besides the language which helped us to be more familiar with the language. She was trying to motivate us and make us feel ease with the new language. I think it was easier for her to understand our expectation and difficulties to start French since she also had the experience as a beginner. She shared her experience and reflected it to her lessons. She always started with an interesting opening by showing visualizing materials which relates to France such as photos of French dining, short film, artworks…etc., and invited us to describe about it using words and sentence which we’ve learned. She never missed to give us specific feedback, both positive and negative right after our presentation. I felt confident and interested in the language and even tried to use it during my Paris business trip with my French colleagues. Thanks to the effective teaching of my French teacher, I have the motivation to keep studying French

I’ve finally gave up Mandarin after taking couple of month lesson. I was demotivated and thought mandarin was much more difficult to learn than expected. I begin to think maybe it is too late to start learning and better improve and focus on English. On the other hand, I also consider maybe I should find another teacher but through the 2 months experience I was already getting bored and lost the passion to start mandarin. Maybe I easily gave up Mandarin compare to French. Maybe it was the language itself which was more appealing while Mandarin was a language for more necessity. But still I believe the difference of the teaching process effected my interest and motivation to the language. I was more affected to the way of my French teacher’s teaching style which I can say is closer to the “involver” style. The way she created the content of class was reflecting my interest in visualizing format and trying to create the interest in the language first before focusing on the techniques. I could feel she was really trying to make me feel interested in French and was excited to share her experience and know-how. While the mandarin teacher’s teaching style was ineffective to me. She was focusing on delivering the technique without trying to understand my feedback. She was lacking of asking questions and utilizing the resources for the content. Instead, she was trying to provide too many information in a short time which made me think mandarin more complicated and difficult to learn. I was demotivated and getting bored at the end. Through this 2 different learning experience I realized the importance of how teachers relate to students, to understand the right teaching style based on the students’ intelligence and preference.