

Bridging the gap to real-world content comprehension

Differentiated Instruction at the intermediate and advanced levels through AI-powered personalization





Solving our own problem

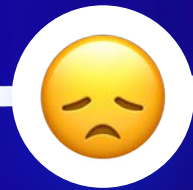
Bridging the gap to finally understand real-world Chinese



Seeking authenticity: content natives consume as well



**Despite years of learning, we
still couldn't meaningfully
engage with authentic, real-
world Chinese**



PAINFUL TRADE-OFF AFTER 3+ YEARS

Content was either...



**Interesting but
too difficult**



**Understandable
but boring**

mylingua is trusted by



Individual learners

> 5,000 globally



Chinese language programs globally

Adopted or piloted at 20+ universities and colleges



& many more



Bridging the gap to real-world content comprehension

Differentiated Instruction at the intermediate and advanced levels through AI-powered personalization

Agenda

1. Problem
Managing heterogenous classrooms
2. mylingua concept and demo
Differentiated instruction at scale
3. AI-enhanced personalization across institutions
Approaches, observations & learnings
4. Q&A
Discussion



”

How do I support the diverse needs of (all) my students, without spending hours preparing?

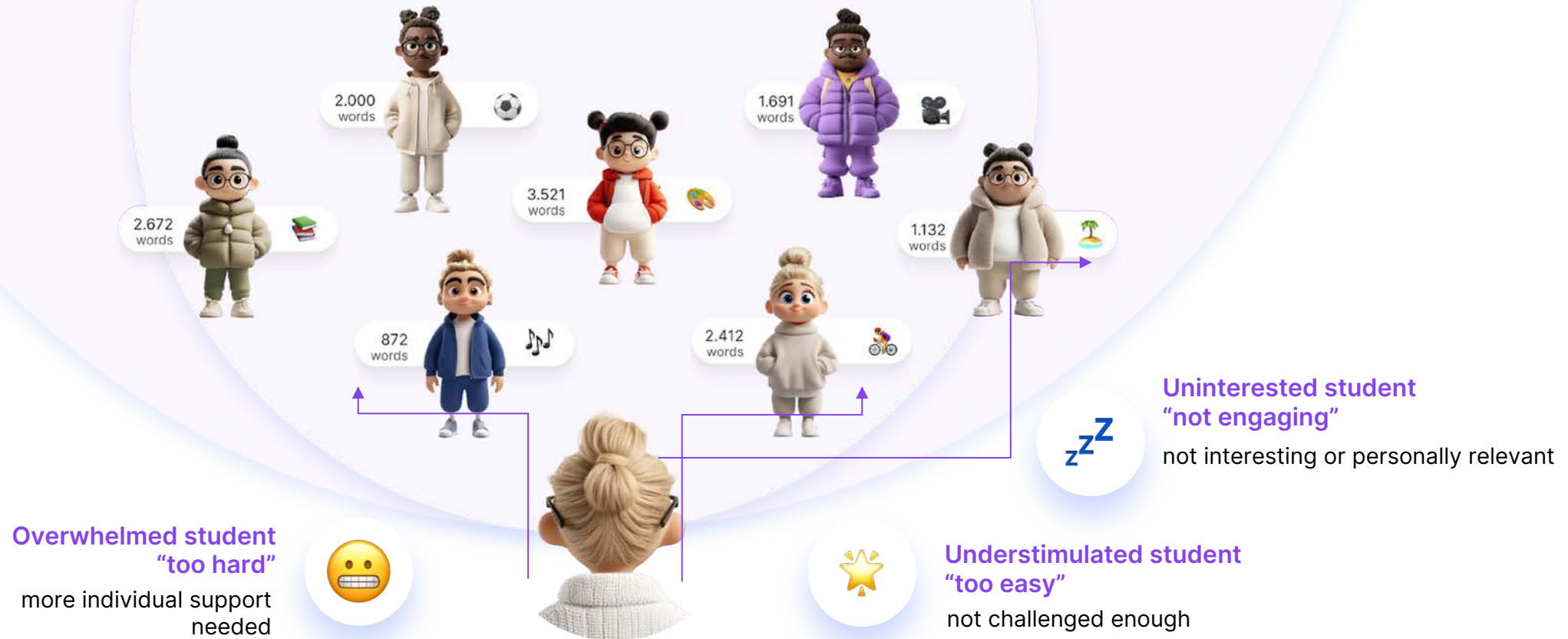
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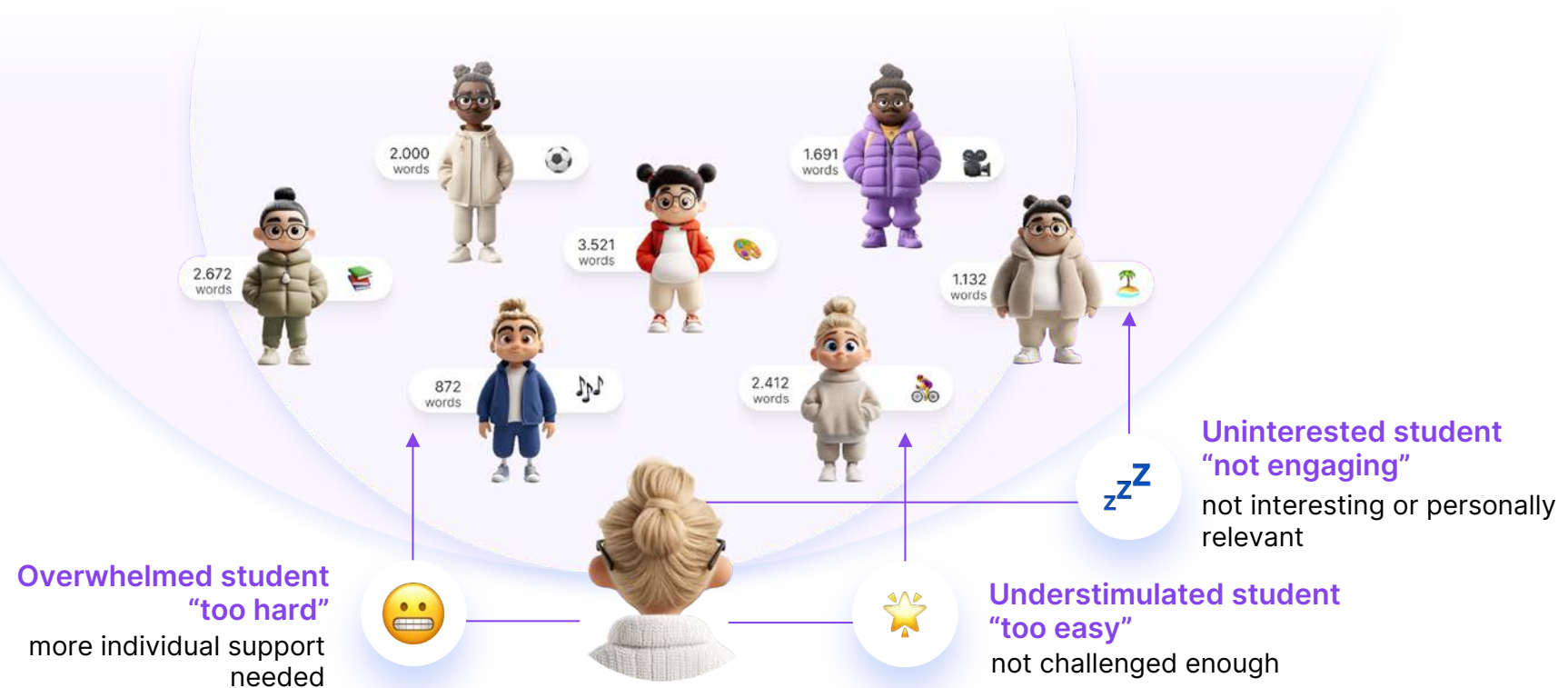
What we kept hearing from teachers

Insights from 100+ conversations with Chinese language instructors globally, across different course types and proficiency levels

Why one-size-fits-all teaching materials fall short - especially at intermediate & advanced levels



Limited flexibility in addressing the diverse needs of students



Limited differentiation for diversity

- Proficiency and vocabulary knowledge
- Learning pace
- Personal interests and cultural backgrounds

Time-intensive sourcing and preparation

- Despite high time investment, teachers struggle to adapt for multiple proficiency levels and interests

Misallocation of classroom time

- Too much class time spent decoding unfamiliar texts with often low individual relevance
- Less time for meaningful engagement with real-world content

Even with significant time investment & manual effort, educators struggle to find engaging & appropriately challenging materials for each student

	Time-invest (search & translation)	Authentic	Variety of topics	Up-to-date	Personalized (to individual student)	Additional requirements
 Teacher manually searches for materials	High <i>several hours per week</i>	✓	Medium	✓	no	
 Students manually search for materials	High <i>several hours per week</i>	maybe	High	✓	no	
 Textbooks	Medium	no	Low	no	no	
 Graded readers	Medium	no	Low	no	no	
 Large Language Models (e.g. ChatGPT)	Medium	maybe	High	✓	maybe	

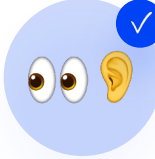


Multimodality
Learners can also listen to AI-generated audio of articles they want to read



Learning Support Functions
Targeted assistance like context-aware translations

Differentiation at scale: authentic materials for every student

	Time-invest (search & translation)	Authentic	Variety of topics	Up-to-date	Personalized (to individual student)	Additional requirements
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 mylingua	Low	✓	High	✓	✓	



ENDLESS AUTHENTIC CONTENT ON THE WEB

**There must be content that is
interesting and
comprehensible for
each individual learner**



SOLUTION: AUTOMATION

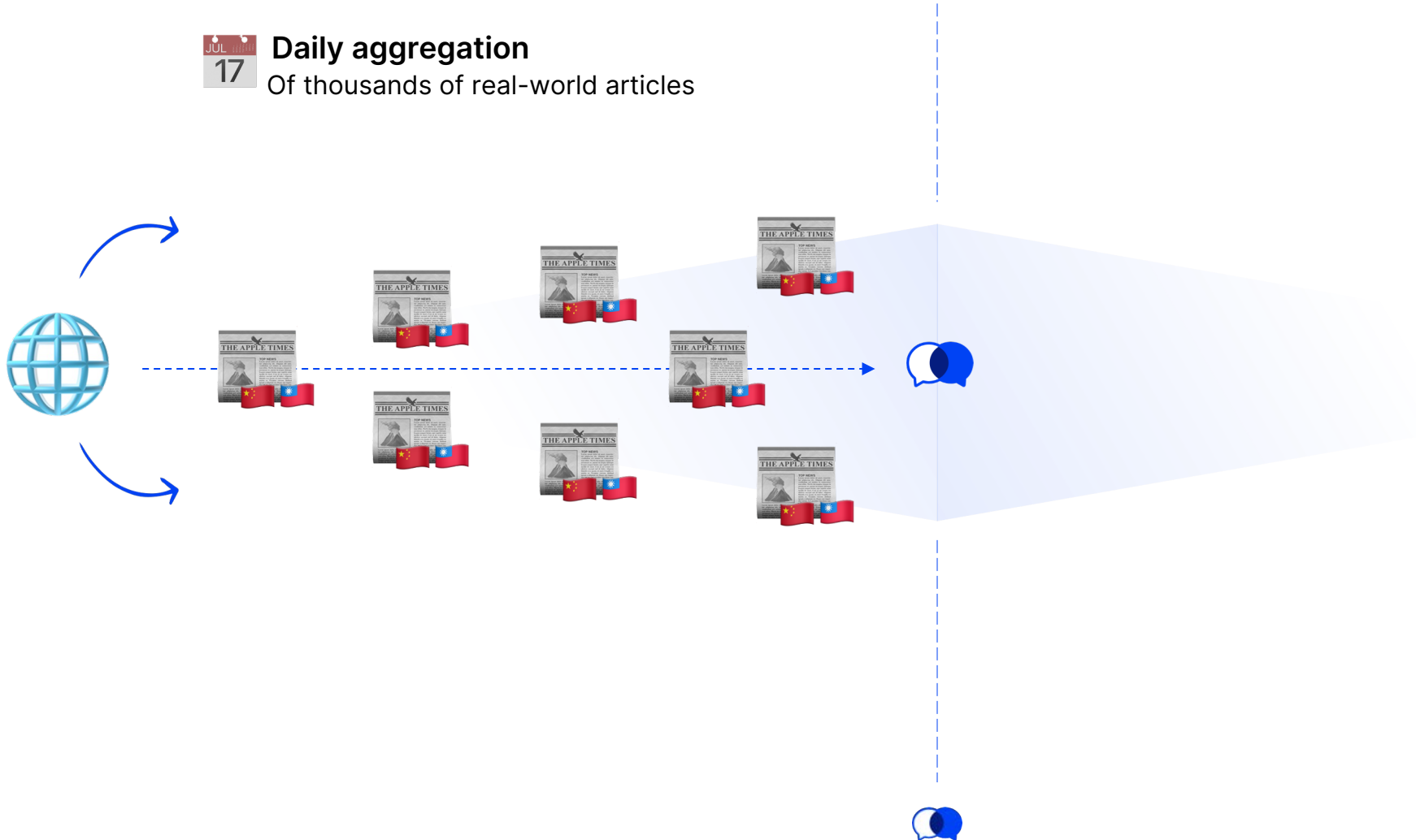
**Our AI finds the
needle in the haystack**

Matching authentic content pieces with each individual learner in real-time

JUL 17

Daily aggregation

Of thousands of real-world articles



Matching authentic content pieces with each individual learner in real-time



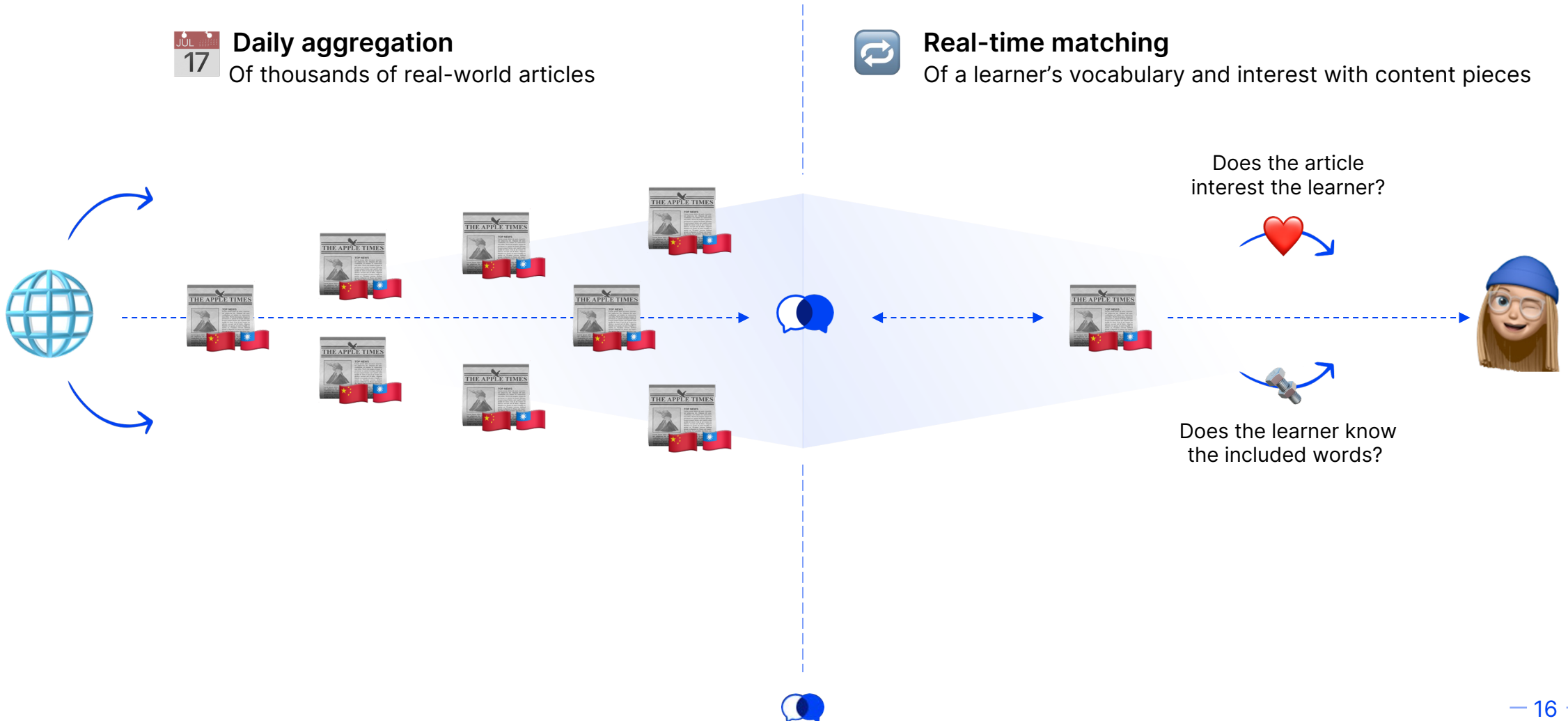
Daily aggregation

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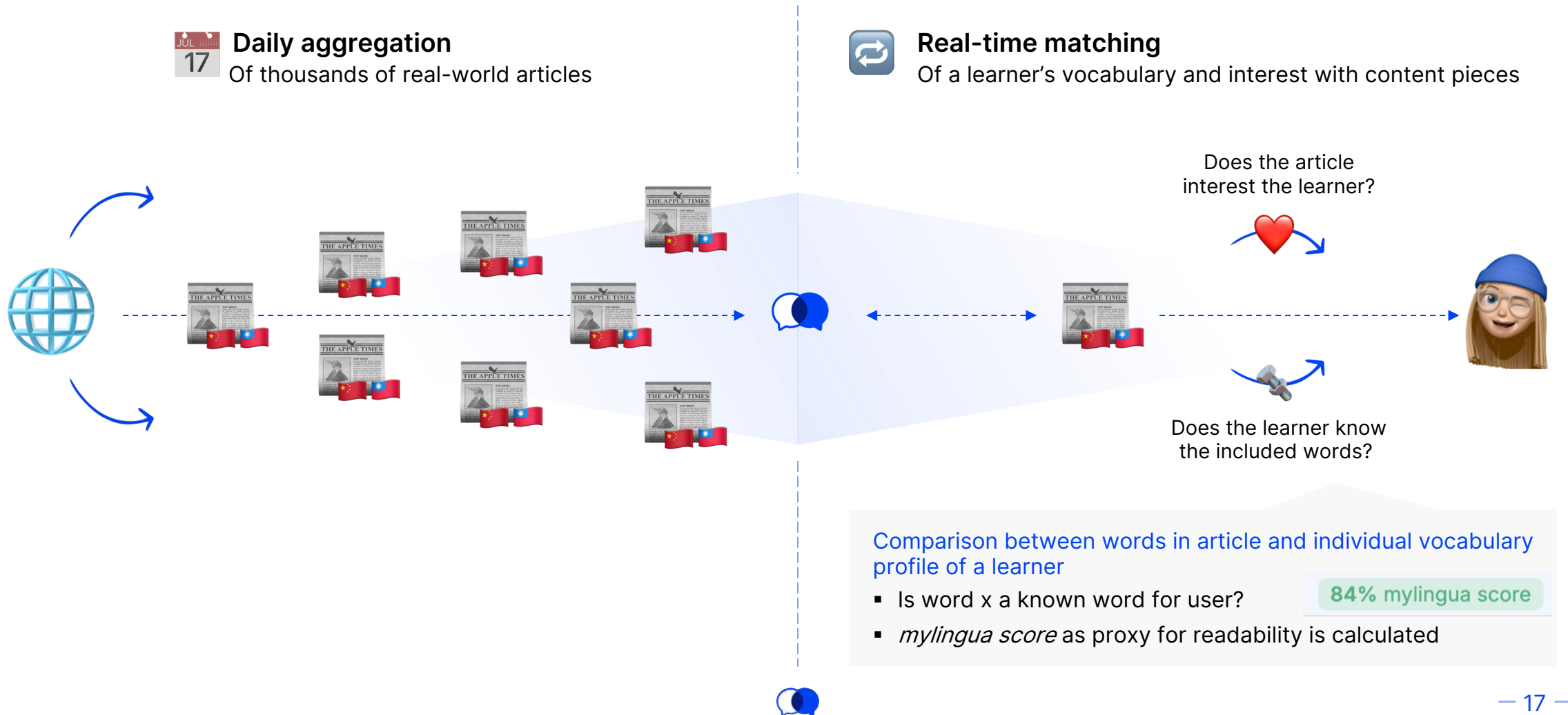


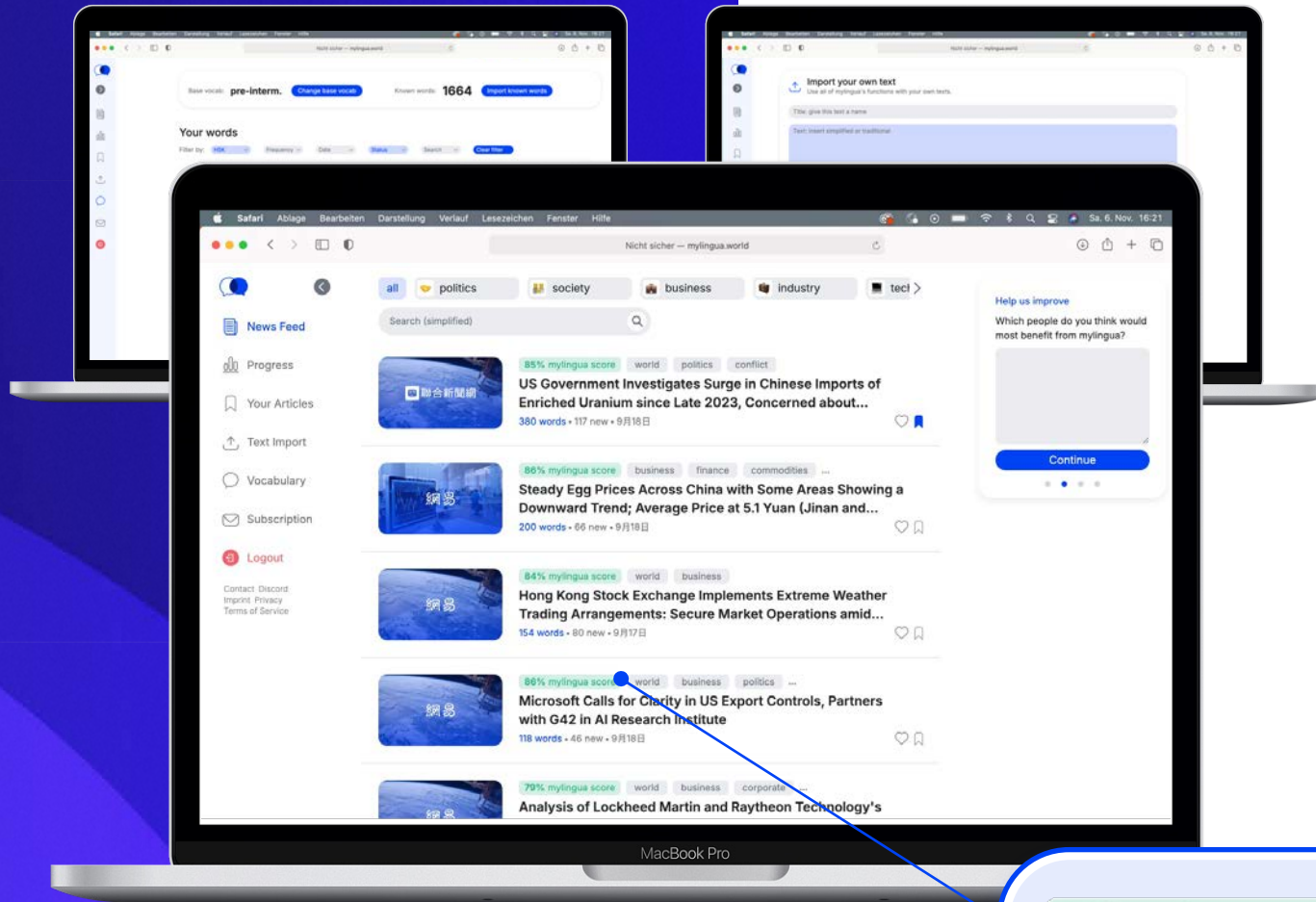
Real-time matching

Of a learner's vocabulary and interest with content pieces



Personalized content recommendations for every learner based on overlap with individual vocabulary and interest





News Feed

Learners can choose from a personalized selection of real-world articles

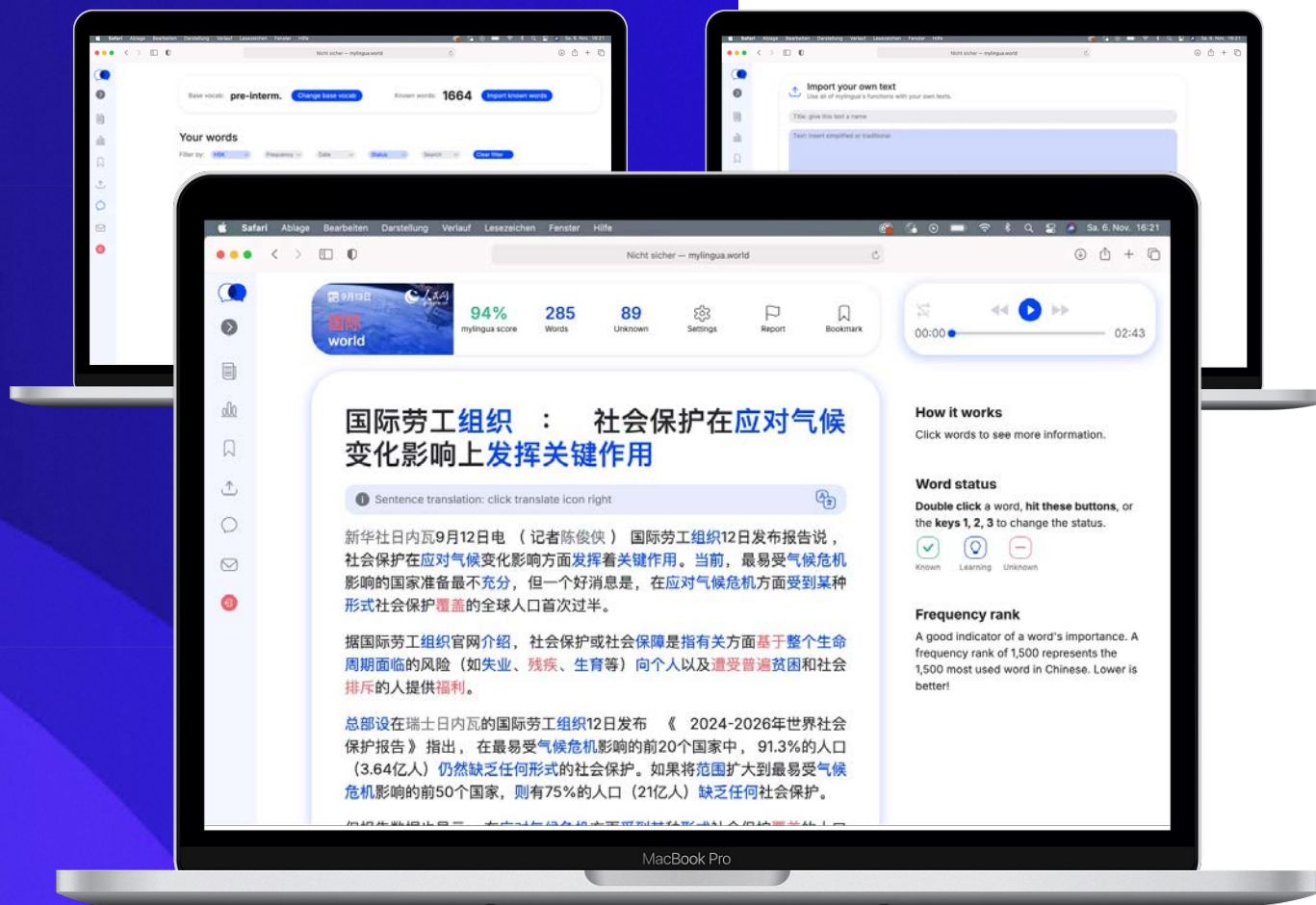
- ✓ Personalized recommendations based on individual vocabulary and interest
- Daily selection from over 5,000
- ✓ articles across more than 50 topics, sourced from mainland China and Taiwan

84% mylingua score

Overlap

Learner's vocabulary ↔ words in content piece

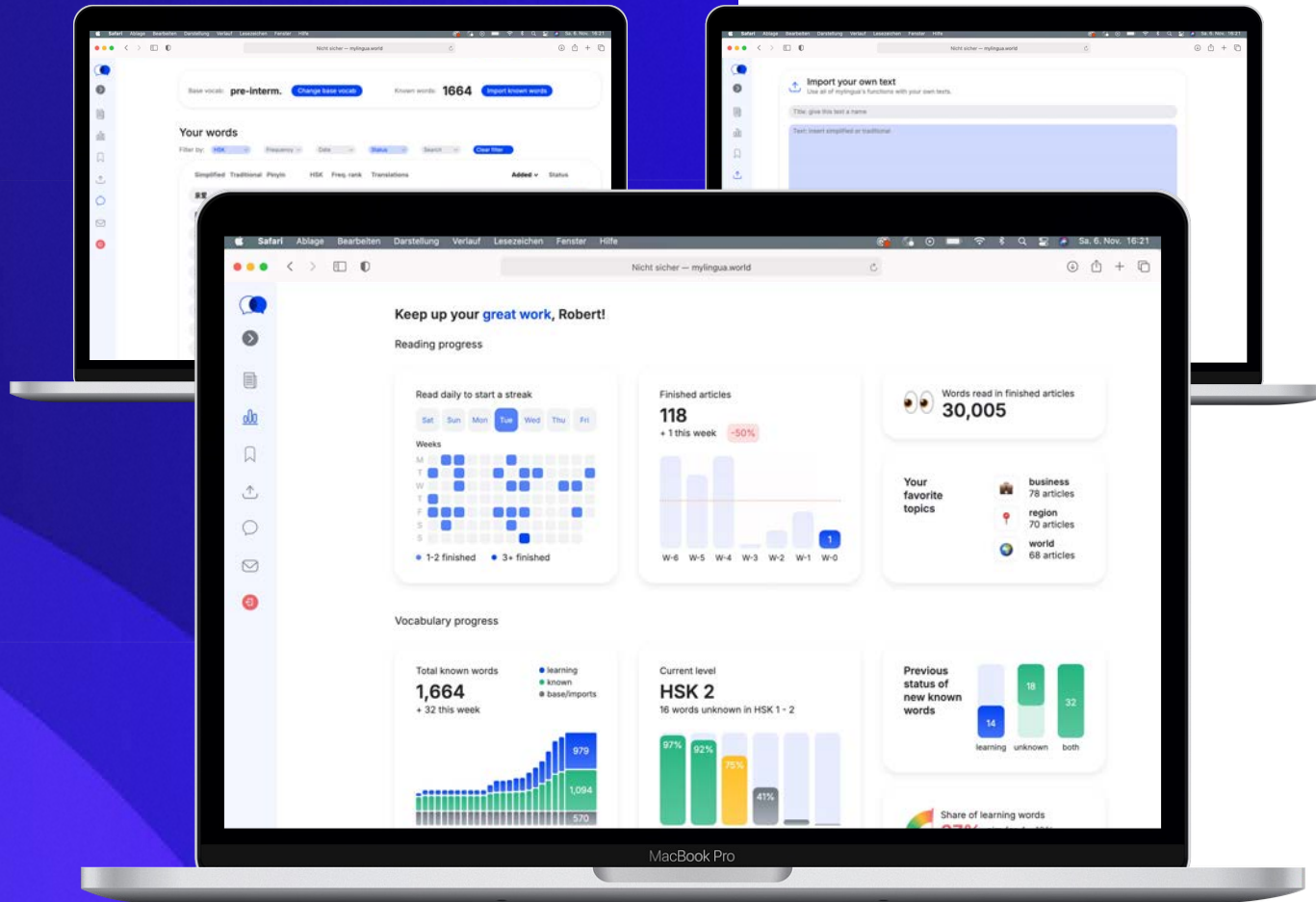




Smart Reader

While reading an article, learners add new words to their individual vocabulary profile

- ✓ Word coloring reflects a learner's continuously evolving vocabulary base
- ✓ Learning features for supported reading and listening (e.g. pop-up dictionary, pinyin, sentence translation, AI-generated audio)



Additional features

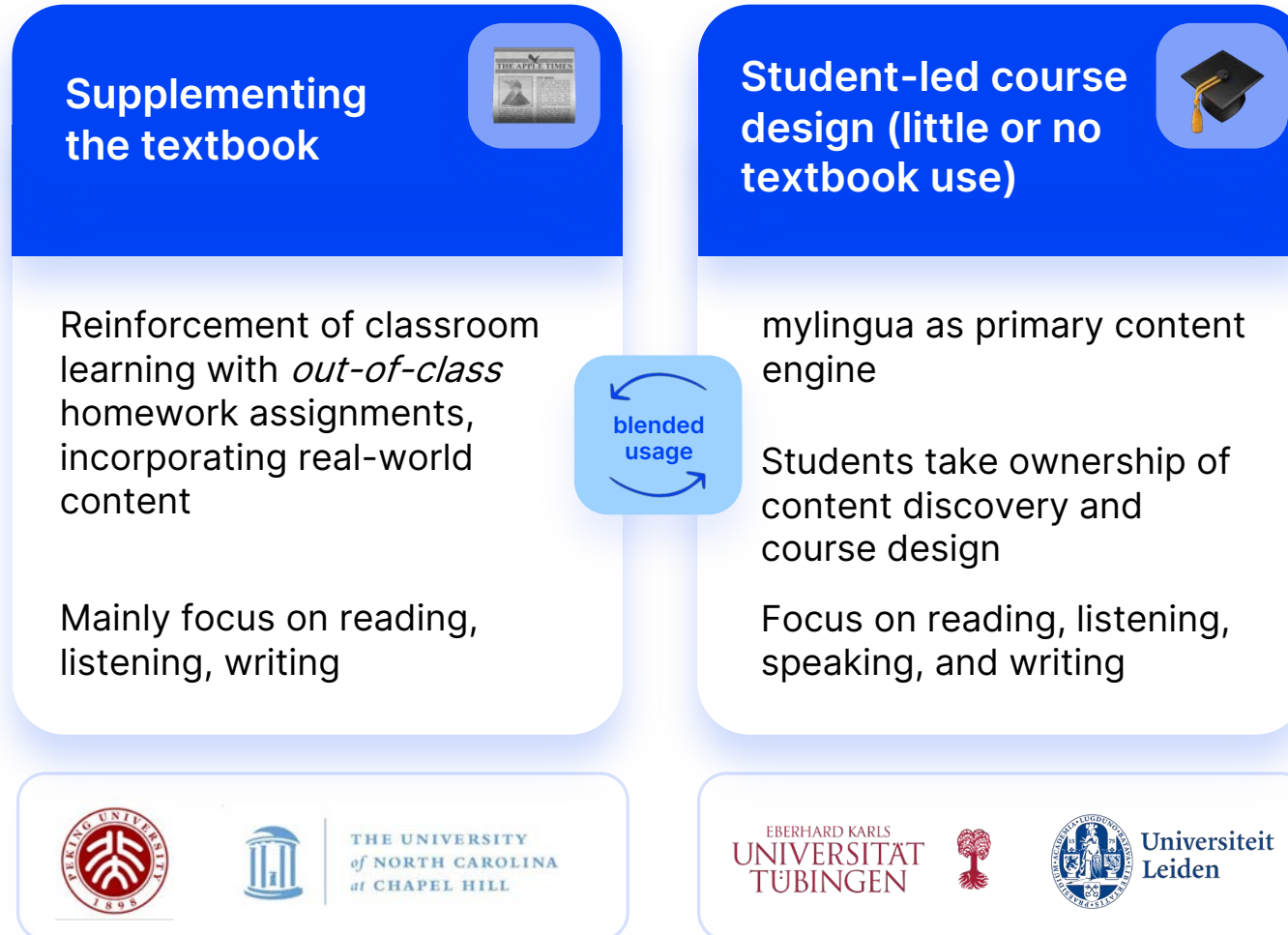
Learners can upload their own texts, manage their vocabulary and visually track their learning progress

- ✓ Import of own articles including audio generation
- ✓ Vocabulary list builder
- ✓ Progress dashboard

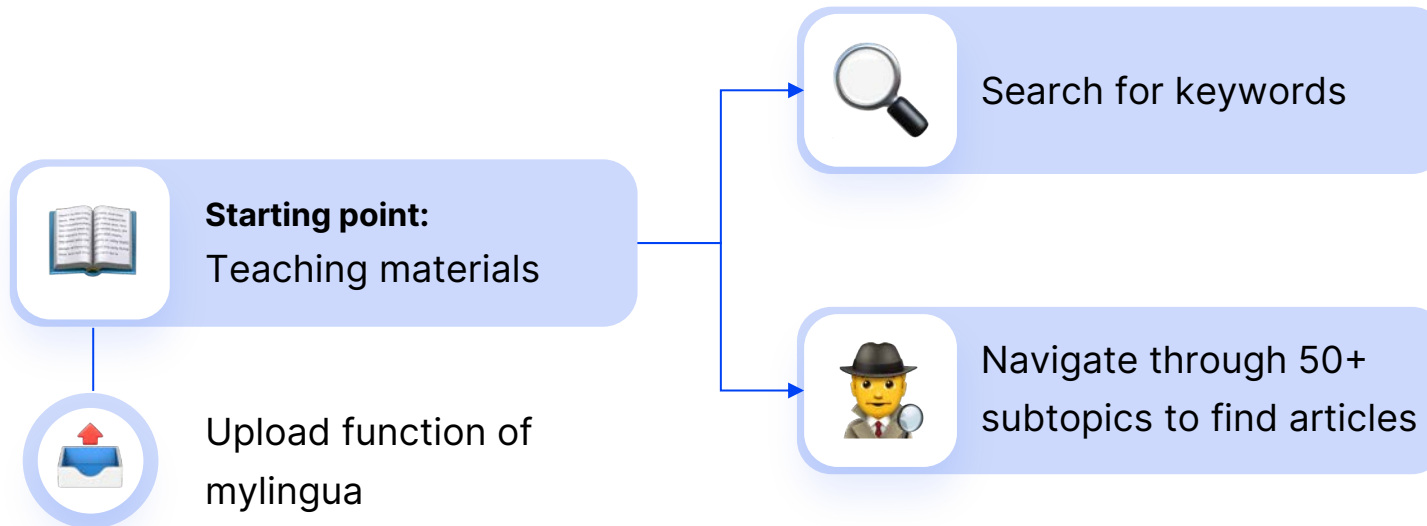


Product Demo

Two ways instructors integrate mylingua in intermediate and advanced courses



Supplement existing materials by building the bridge to real-world content



Read or listen to articles that **fit individual vocabulary**



Application of knowledge in **real-world, up-to-date context** (learning-support functions)



Increased motivation thanks to **personally relevant** content

Supplement existing materials by building the bridge to real-world content



Teachers assign a certain number of articles per week to work through. **Examples:**



Weekly article summaries

Find article(s) related to topics covered in class, political news, recent trends etc.



Language analysis

Select sentences or short passages & explain why they stood out (challenging grammar, expressions or slang, etc.).



Article analysis

Compare multiple articles on the same theme, analyzing differences in sources, style, or tone



Vocabulary focus

Find article(s) of choice, add X new words to mylingua “learning” list and form sentences.



Read or listen to articles that **fit individual vocabulary**

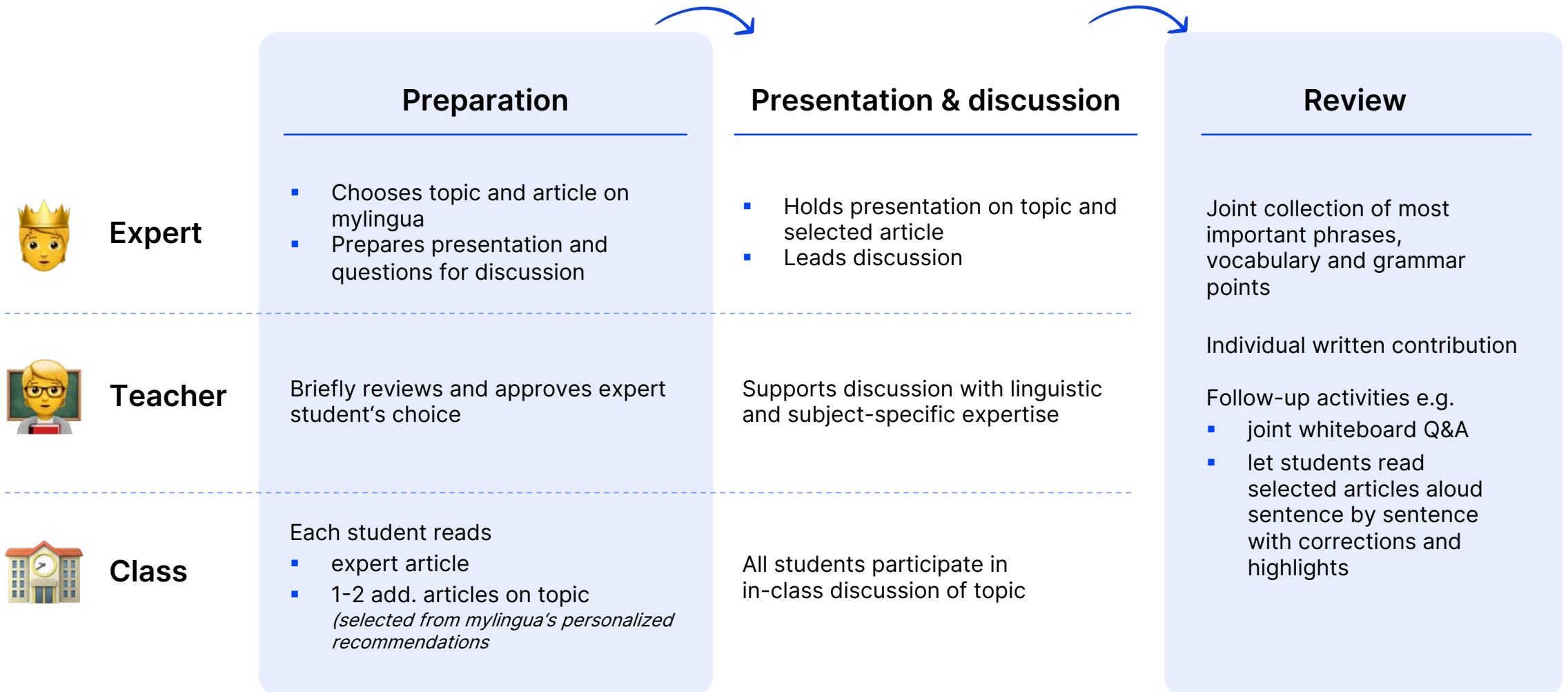


Application of knowledge in **real-world, up-to-date context** (learning-support functions)



Increased motivation thanks to **personally relevant** content

Students take on the role of experts, present a self-chosen topic, lead the discussion and prepare exercises



Renowned institutions globally are using mylingua across diverse course formats



Current discourse in China
First-year MA – [Student-led](#)

Zhongguo Shehui Jingji Shikuang
MA – [Student-led](#)



Three courses in heritage learner track (Advanced Beginner, Elementary written)

Second year BA (Advanced Beginner, Elementary written) –
[Both](#)



Advanced Chinese
Third-year BA – [Student-led](#)



BA3 Mandarijn 3a & 3b
Third-year BA – [Supplementary](#)

Social Media (Internet Chinese)
First-year MA – [Student-led](#)



Specialist language in current topics
热门话题的专业语言
First-year MA “Sinophone cultures” –
[Student-led](#)



Chinese Media, Advanced Reading
First-year MA Chinese Studies –
[Supplementary](#)

Intermediate Reading
First-year MA Chinese Economy –
[Supplementary](#)

Finally break free from the preparation treadmill & save hours every week

”

I finally have the headspace to focus on guiding my students — instead of constantly planning topics, structure, and exercises for each session.

It makes my teaching more sustainable. I wouldn't want to go back.

”

Meet every student where they are

”

The AI allows me to differentiate effortlessly. I've seen students become more proactive and come to class better prepared.

”

Explore technological innovation

”

A great way to apply state-of-the art technology at scale, without sacrificing depth or relevance.

”

Feedback from teachers



mylingua's AI-powered personalization helps students meaningfully engage with authentic materials, building their vocabulary through repeated exposure

”

mylingua enables **comprehensive linguistic progression** instead of isolated vocabulary research.

It doesn't require additional effort, just a **shift in mindset**.

It can be integrated into **almost any course**.

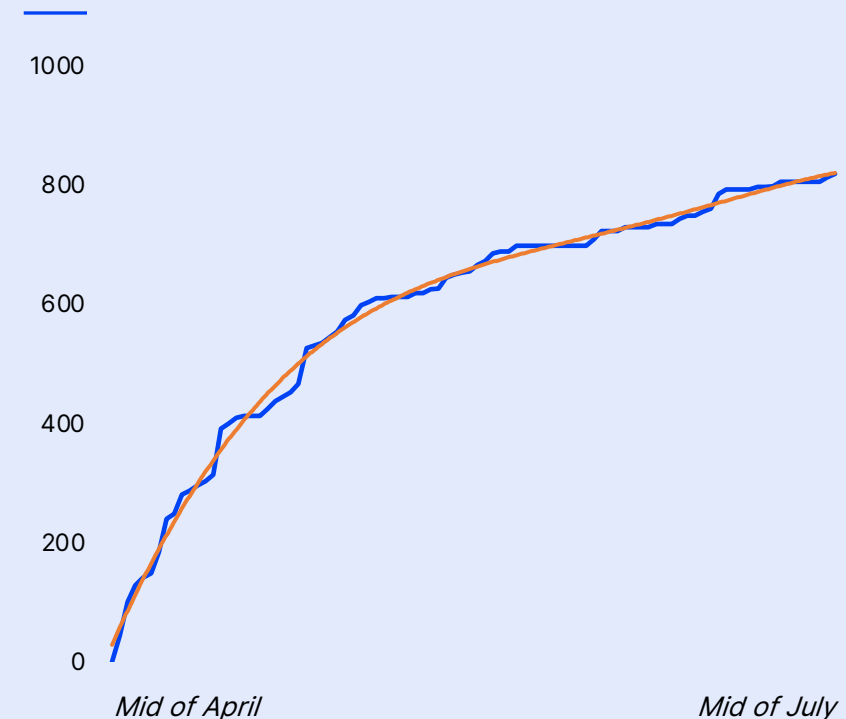
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**Prof.
Vera Schick,**
University of Tübingen

Vocabulary growth over one semester

Average number of words added to "known" by course participants on mylingua



See what the classroom might miss - surface hidden engagement and support motivated learners with ease

Excerpt of usage data of a single cohort



Average over
students in course

483

Word status
changes

143

Words added
as "learning"

35

Articles
engaged

15

Articles
finished



Most active
student

1217

Word status
changes

582

Words added
as "learning"

89

Articles
engaged

30

Articles
finished



Increased motivation and engagement with real-world content

”

Changing the status of words over time and continuously expanding my vocabulary by turning words from red to black really got me hooked.

”

Foster deeper connections with culture, society and current events

”

I really like it, because most learner materials don't reflect what you actually encounter in real life. Knowing that mylingua articles are written by native speakers for native speakers really boosts my motivation.

”

Build real-world language comprehension more independently

”

I can combine two interests: learning a language I love and get insights into every aspect of Chinese life.

”

Feedback from students in courses

“What are your thoughts on mylingua's concept & approach? ”



Move from learning the language → learning in the language

”

It gives me a safe space to leave my comfort zone. The word coloring and learning support tools reduce friction when reading Chinese texts. And because it suggests content based on my vocabulary, I can really test my knowledge with real-world Chinese.

”

Across courses, students consistently report that mylingua is engaging, effective, and worth continuing

USAGE DATA (as of June 26, 2025)

8	Students		Most active student
483	Ø average word status changes per student	1217	word status changes
143	Ø average words added as „learning“	582	words added as „learning“
35	Ø average articles opened	89	articles opened
15	Ø average articles finished (read)	30	articles finished (read)

Top article categories opened

- 
1. Society (83x)
 2. Family (34x)
 3. Business (33x)
 4. Culture (31x)
 5. Lifestyle (29x)

High diversity of search terms



„Matchmaking“, „Spy“, „blind date“, „Robot“, „Pressure to get married“, „Women’s Day“

* Several students have also actively shared feedback, asked questions, and reported issues with word segmentation and translations, helping us continuously improve the platform.



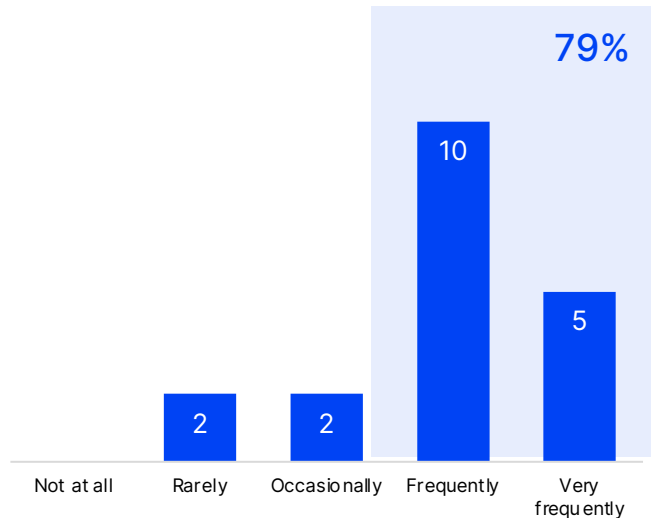
More than half of all students also used mylingua for other courses



Nearly 80% of students used mylingua frequently or very frequently last semester.

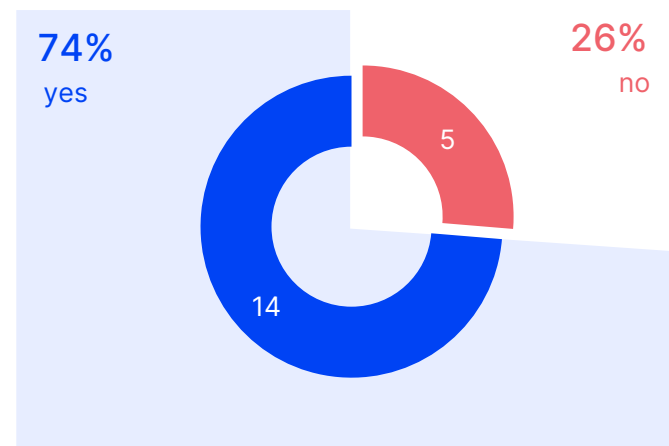
„How often did you use mylingua during the course?“

n=19



3/4 of all students used mylingua also outside of this course.

„Did you use mylingua outside of this course as well?“



„If you used mylingua outside of this course, what did you use it for?“

” To import texts into mylingua, look up unknown vocabulary more quickly or easily translate them, and better understand the texts.

” To easily identify unknown words using the individual color marking and save new words to my personal profile.

” In a translation class and while working on Chinese newspaper articles for another seminar.

” To generally analyze and read articles and texts more effectively.



Students received valuable support from mylingua in a variety of ways



16 /20

Students found mylingua “*helpful*” or “*very helpful*” for **expanding their text comprehension**.



18 /20

Students regularly used the **AI-powered reading aids**, such as explanations, translations, and dynamic word statuses (*learning support functions*).



15 /20

Students found mylingua “*helpful*” or “*very helpful*” for **preparing assignments** as part of the course (e.g., presentations).



18 /20

Students **regularly imported** texts into mylingua to make them easier to work with.



Very broad topic choice



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

男人须有车？她指外出「不...	Do men have to have a car? She pointed out that it is ver...	377	83%	Nov 08, 24	
汉语和日语是两种语言，为...	Chinese and Japanese are two languages, but why did...	710	70%	Jul 08, 24	
中国通！John Cena流利普...	You know China very well! John Cena is fluent in...	293	71%	Jul 03, 24	
中国年轻人钟爱民族服饰，...	Chinese young people love national costumes, and...	423	66%	Jul 01, 24	
不同国家的高考 / 马德伟	College Entrance Examination in Different Countries / M...	504	66%	Jun 25, 24	
王思聪网红女友分巨额分手...	Wang Sicong's Internet celebrity girlfriend shares a hug...	365	63%	Jun 17, 24	
My upload: 锦衣纳口之时...	My upload: When the brocade clothes are gluttonous, th...	129	71%	Jun 03, 24	
我国力推马铃薯主粮化战略 ...	China's strategy to turn potatoes into a staple food - wh...	523	56%	May 28, 24	
吴亦凡案细节首次披露！两...	The details of Wu Yifan's case were disclosed for the fir...	440	66%	May 27, 24	
世界四大主粮之一——土豆...	One of the world's four major staple foods, potatoes, ho...	522	60%	May 22, 24	



Students particularly enjoyed the role reversal

Start of semester



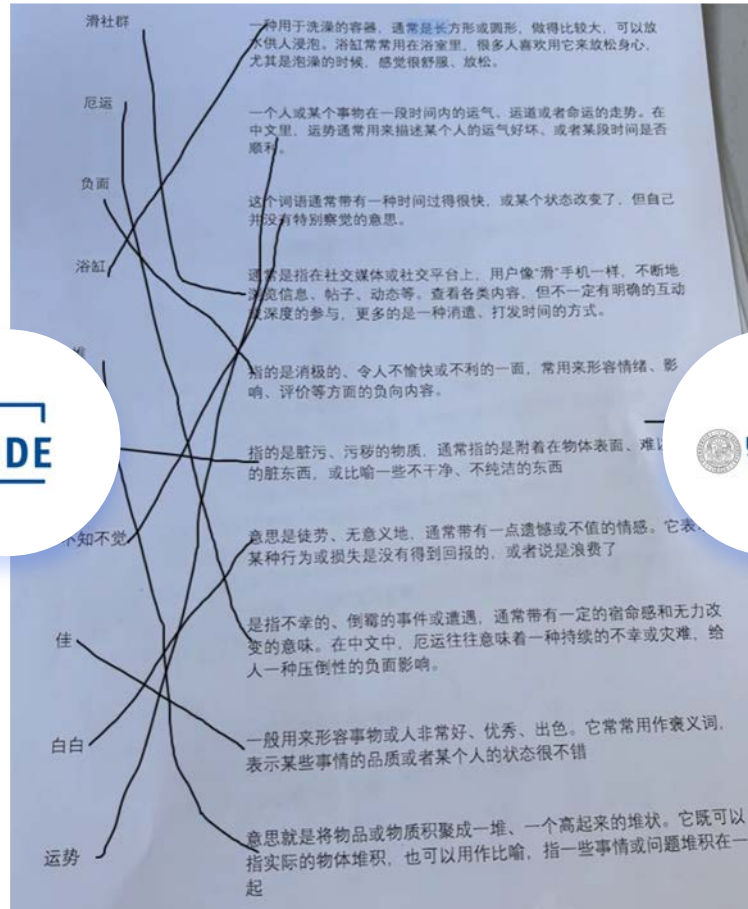
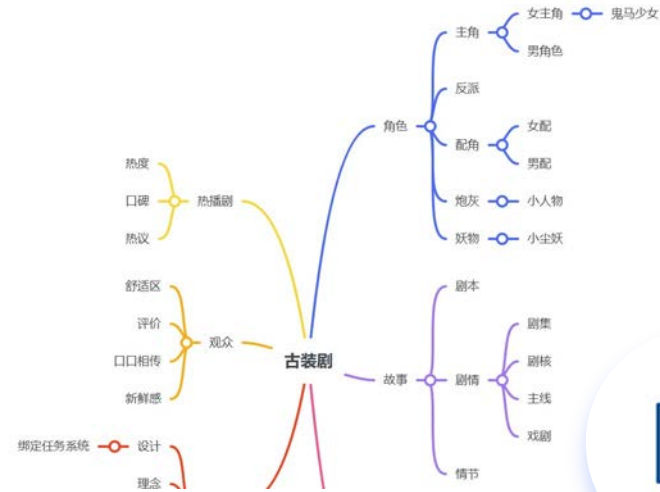
During semester



Teachers observed high levels of creativity in the design of the 'expert lectures' (1/2)



Teachers observed high levels of creativity in the design of the 'expert lectures' (2/2)



Vocabulary list (《永夜星河》打破古装剧刻板印象实现破圈)

汉字	拼音	翻译
古装剧	Gu3zhuang1ju4	Costume drama (古装的电视剧)
同质化	Tong2zhi4hua4	Always the same
年度黑马	Nian2du4hei1ma3	Unexpected success of the year
穿书	Chuan1shu1	„pass through a book“ (reborn as a character in a book)
系统	Xi4tong3	System (in this case „Host“)
夹子音	Jia1ziyin1	High pitched voice (same as 娃娃音, voice like a doll)
	Gu3ou3tian2ju4	古装剧 + 偶像剧 + 甜剧 = costume drama with idolized actors in a romantic/sweet plot
	Gui3ma3shao4nu3	Used to describe a cute and lively but at the same time clever and quick witted character
炮灰	Pao4hui1	Cannon fodder (character in stories with their only purpose being killed/sacrificed for the sake of advancing the main plot)
反派	Fan3pai4	villain
一穿改命	Yi4chuan1gai3ming4	To change the fate of oneself
口口相传	Kou3kou3xiang1chuan2	Spread the word/information
996 生活	996 sheng1huo2	Life consists of working from 9-9, 6days per

Planned expansions over the next year



Additional content types
(blog, video)



More habit-building
support (mobile app)



Smarter word segmentation
& handling of neologisms



Quizzes & Exercises

We offer a one-term free trial, unlimited in numbers of students and teachers, so that you can explore the ideal application of mylingua



Easy setup (runs in browser)

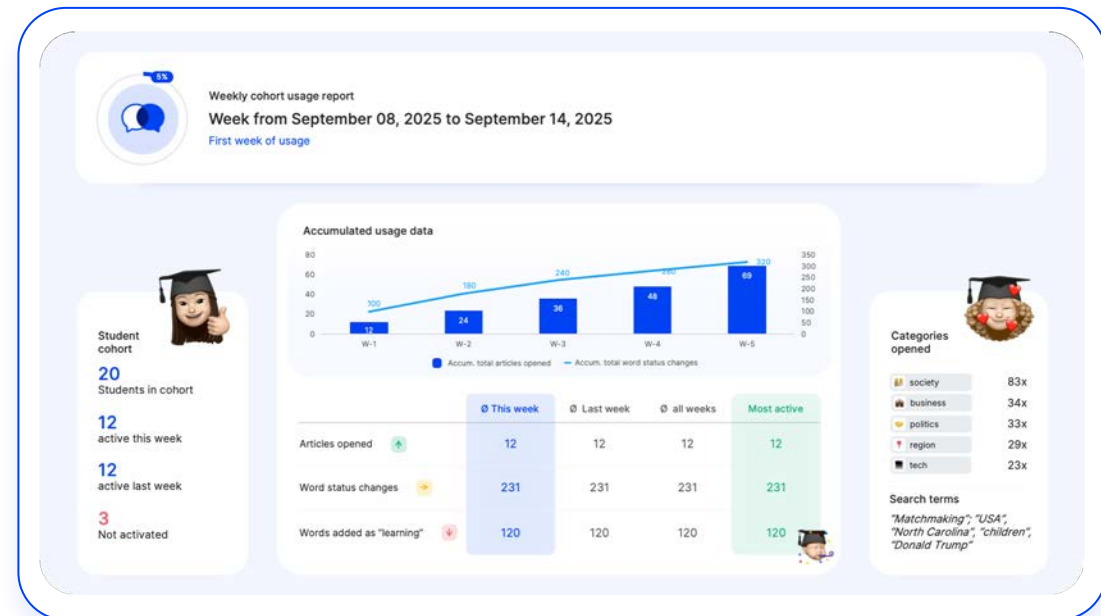


Supports differentiated teaching while **saving hours of content preparation**



Access to **6,000+ authentic materials daily**, aligned with student vocabulary

Regular usage reports



Teachers have used different ways to fund their use of mylingua in class

Grants



Applied for innovation or teaching-related funding

- Common for pilots lasting 6–12 months
- We're happy to support with grant language and documentation

Department Budget



Existing department or course budgets

- High success rate when backed by usage reports and positive feedback from trial phase

Required student resource



Students pay a small fee, similar to textbooks

- In those cases, mylingua usually replaces textbooks entirely



Ready to explore mylingua?

Use your university email to unlock full access



1st step

Intro call with Robert to set up your mylingua account



2nd step

Joint Q&A session (mylingua + teacher + students) to share best practices



3rd step

Students **warm up** their individual accounts and explore the platform



4th step

Activate unlimited access to mylingua and **apply tool in and outside of class**

Start leveraging the power of personalization in your classroom!

Website



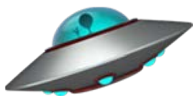
www.mylingua.world

Contact details



robert@mylingua.world





Appendix

Future roadmap: Potential future applications of AI within mylingua

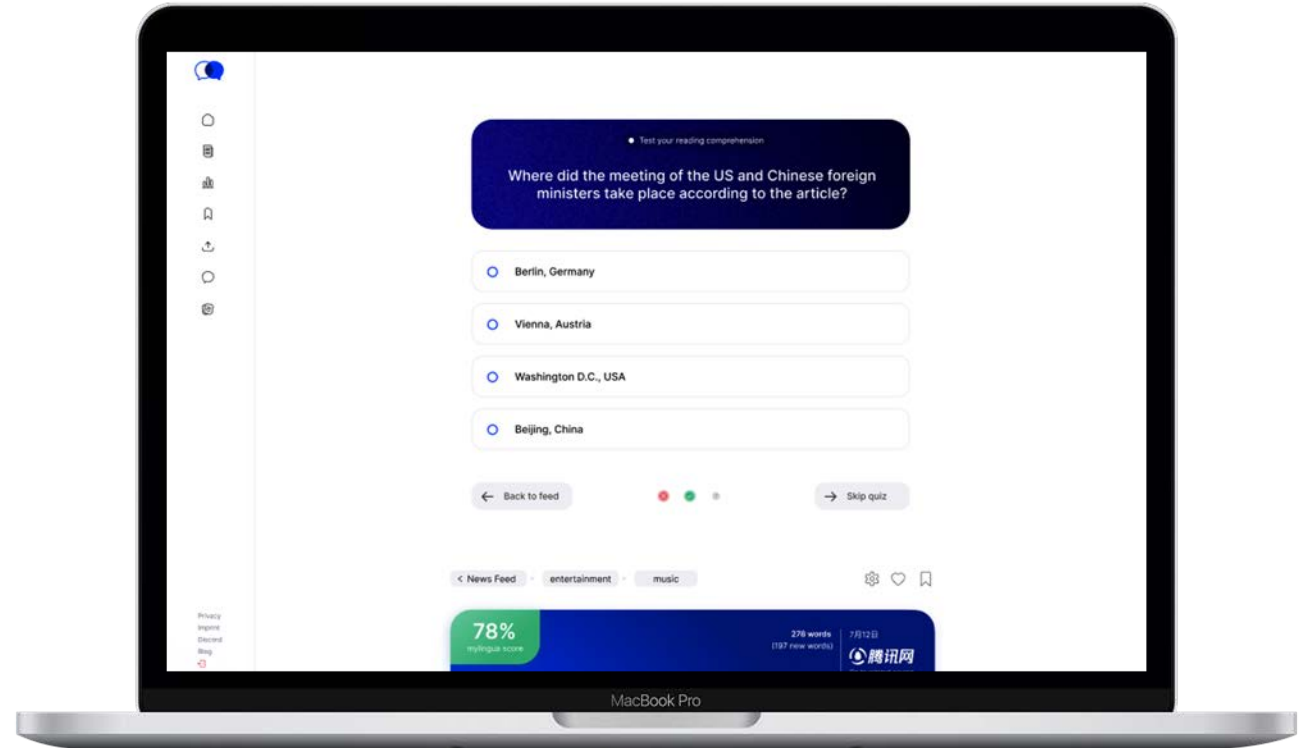
Automatic generation of comprehension quizzes

Assess students' reading comprehension

After reading an article, learners receive an AI-generated quiz with questions about the article's content.

Teachers can customize the quiz to focus on specific aspects, such as content comprehension, grammar, vocabulary, or other key skills.

Learners can earn points for a more engaging and gamified experience.



Benefits for learners

More feedback mechanisms on individual learning aspects



Success moments boosting motivation



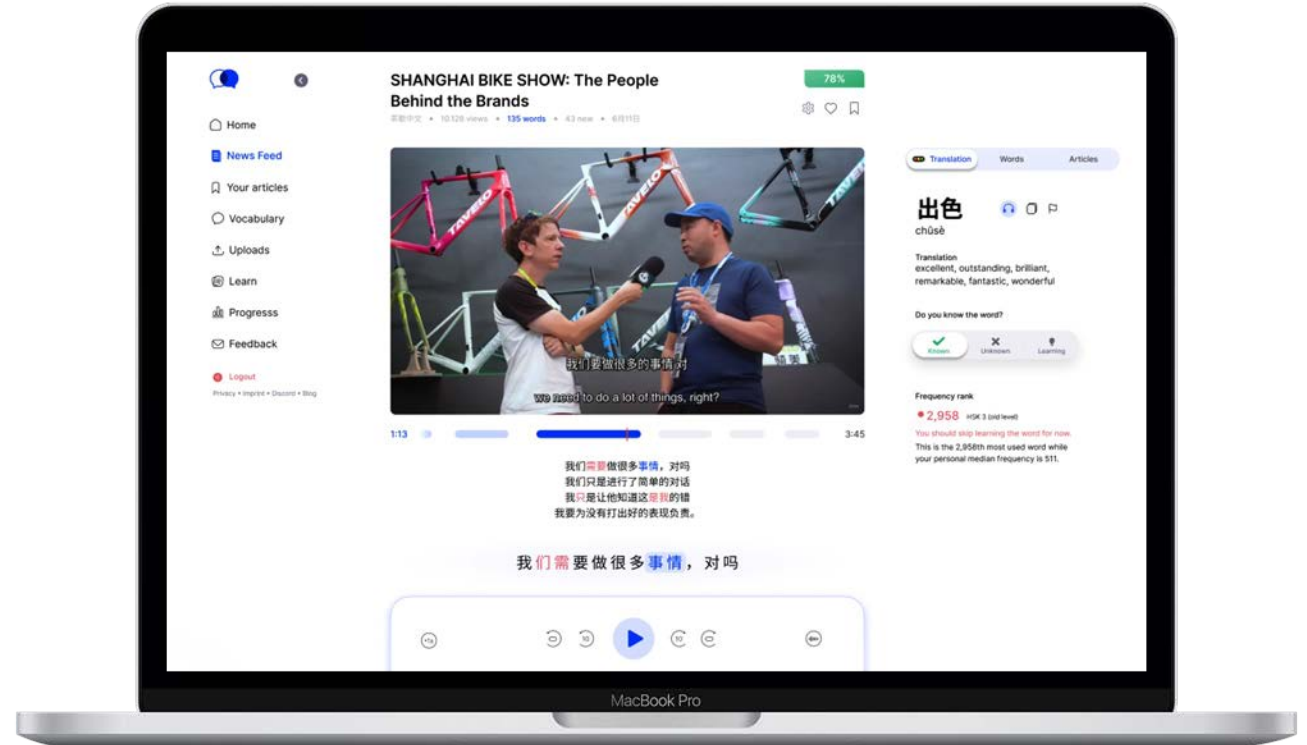
Audio and video content

Engaging content types

Advancements in AI applications, such as voice recognition, enable the generation of video transcripts that we can utilize.

Offers the same personalized recommendation experience for audio and video content as for news articles.

Considers additional complexity factors, such as accents, to tailor content further.



Benefits for learners

Gain deeper understanding of words through exposure to different format

Videos are typically more engaging, boosting motivation

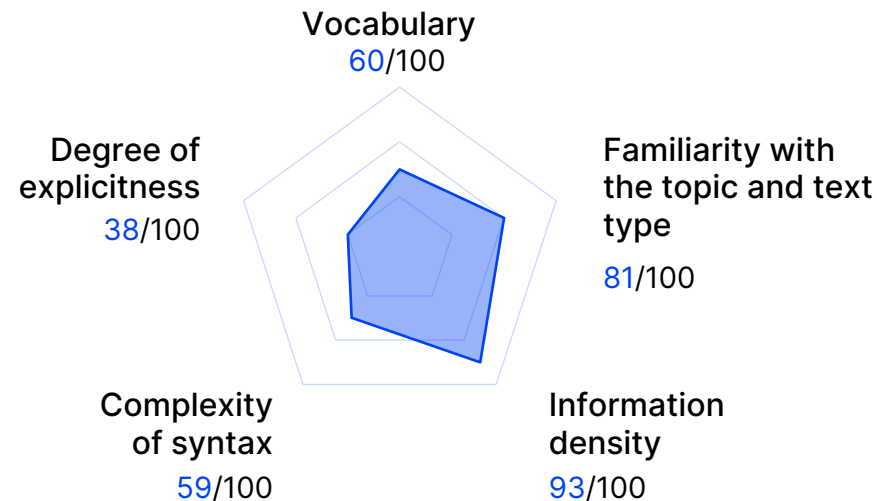


Personalized content difficulty score accounting for all relevant factors

Multifactorial nature of perceived quality

Currently we only look at the user's vocabulary (words & characters)
There is more to language and its perceived difficulty for an individual learner, e.g.:

- Familiarity with topic and text type
- Text length and structure
- Culture-specific concepts
- Style and symbolic content
-



Implementation of difficulty scores

Multifactorial difficulty score per article
Categorization into individual and universal factors
Assessment of each factor's score within an article
Estimation of average difficulty of read articles for aggregated score
Integration of personalized difficulty scores into recommendation algorithm



Benefits for learners

Improved recommendations

Enhanced guidance for selecting articles

Identification of development areas and automatic guidance



Personalized text simplification that preserves the authenticity of the original content

Current text simplification methods are not well-suited for language learning purposes

Existing methods, like ChatGPT, often oversimplify or fail to simplify enough because they lack awareness of the user's specific knowledge gaps.



User A

我们有责任团结起来、协作创新，共同**打造**气候韧性。

我们有责任团结起来、协作创新，共同**创建**气候韧性。



User B

我们有责任团结起来、**协作**创新，共同打造气候韧性。

我们有责任团结起来、**合作**创新，共同创建气候韧性。

Combining advances in AI with individual vocabulary data

Modern AI systems excel at paraphrasing while maintaining the original meaning. We are developing systems that selectively replace only words unfamiliar to the user

Minimally invasive approach preserves the authentic character of the content
Offers both full sentence rephrasing or targeted replacement of individual words with synonyms.



Benefits for learners

Expanded access to articles with challenging vocabulary

Simplified reading while still being exposed to new vocabulary



Automatic detection and explanation of grammar points

AI-detection of grammatical structure

Even well-known translation tools often struggle with complex grammatical structures, leading to misunderstandings that can hinder the learning process.

Our approach involves

- Classifying words by their function in a sentence (e.g. subject, verb, adjective).

- Identifying word types.

- Mapping grammatical structures.

- Analyzing and recognizing these elements for every word to enhance comprehension.

Example

我 觉得 这 里 的 菜 什 么 都 好 吃 。

i 什 么 都

(shénme... dōu)

is a pattern that is often used to express “all of something”. The direct translation of shénme is “what” and that of dōu is “everything”.



Benefits for learners

More opportunities for learners at lower proficiency levels

