

CHINESE

Welcome to Living Languages's *Starting Out In Chinese*, an introductory course teaching the basics of the Chinese language. This all-audio course is designed to be used without any printed material, but should you decide you want to read along as you listen to the lessons, visit www.livinglanguage.com for a free downloadable transcript and other resources.



Lesson 1: Essential expressions

Dìyī kè: Jīběn yòngyǔ

Hello. Nǐ hǎo. In this lesson, you'll kick off your Chinese learning adventure by becoming familiar with the pronunciation and different tones used in Chinese, as well as some courtesy and survival expressions, such as *hello, thank you, I'm sorry, and goodbye.*

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Let's start out by learning some important courtesy words and common expressions. You will hear the English first, then the Chinese. Please repeat the Chinese every time you hear it.

<i>good, fine</i>	hǎo
<i>you</i>	nǐ
<i>Hello.</i>	Nǐ hǎo.
<i>How are you?</i>	Nǐ hǎo ma?
<i>I</i>	wǒ
<i>very well</i>	hěnhǎo
<i>I'm fine.</i>	Wǒ hěnhǎo.
<i>And you?</i>	Nǐ ne?
<i>Not bad.</i>	Bùcuò.

TAKE A BREAK 1

Let's pause for a brief note regarding **Nǐ hǎo!** and **Nǐ hǎo ma?** The exchange of **Nǐ hǎo!** is very brief, just like saying *Hi!* **Nǐ hǎo ma?** is a question and most likely will prompt the answer **Wǒ hěnhǎo** (*I'm fine*) or **Bù cuò** (*Not bad*), followed by **Nǐ ne?** (*And you?*).

Before we move on, you may have noticed that these phrases have a bit of a sing-song quality to them. This is because Mandarin Chinese is a tonal language, causing the ups and downs you hear on the vowels. There are five tones in Mandarin Chinese, and each word has its designated tone.

The first tone sounds like this: **mā**. This is a high pitched tone that remains on the same pitch. Again: **mā**.

The second tone is **má**. This is a rising tone, from medium pitched to high. Again: **má**.

Let's put first and second tones together: **mā, má**.

The third tone is **mǎ**. This is a scooping tone, from low pitch to medium. Again: **mǎ**.

Let's put first, second, and third tones together: **mā, má, mǎ**.

The fourth tone is **mà**. This is a falling tone, very much like the stress that people put on their *yes* and *no* when they really mean it. Again: **mà**.

Let's put the four tones together: **mā, má, mǎ, mà**.

Finally, we have a neutral tone: **ma**. This is very much a resigned tone. Medium pitched and laid back, it usually appears at the end of a phrase. Again: **ma**.

Let's listen to all five tones together: **mā, má, mǎ, mà, ma**.

Beautiful. You'll put all the tones in the right places after you learn some words. Just remember to listen for them; they're a very essential part of speaking and understanding Chinese!

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Now let's look at a few more courtesy expressions.

<i>Thanks.</i>	Xièxie.
<i>You're welcome.</i>	Búkèqì.
<i>Excuse me. I'm sorry.</i>	Duìbùqǐ.
<i>That's nothing.</i>	Méi shì.
<i>Goodbye.</i>	Zàijiàn.

TAKE A BREAK 2

When apologizing, you can use **duìbùqǐ** (*I am sorry*) for any occasion. After you get someone's attention, you can go on to explain exactly what you need if you have to with one of the following expressions.

<i>Let me go by.</i>	Qǐng ràng yī xià?
<i>May I trouble you?</i>	Dǎrǎo yī xià?
<i>May I ask you a question?</i>	Qǐngwèn yī xià?

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Let's practice saying hello and asking someone how they are. Listen and repeat after you hear the Chinese.

<i>Hello.</i>	Nǐ hǎo.
<i>How are you?</i>	Nǐ hǎo ma?
<i>I'm fine.</i>	Wǒ hěnhǎo.
<i>And you?</i>	Nǐ ne?
<i>Not bad.</i>	Bùcuò.

Thanks.

Xièxie.

You're welcome.

Búkèqì.

Excuse me. I'm sorry.

Duìbùqǐ.

That's nothing.

Méi shì.

Goodbye.

Zàijiàn.

You'll keep adding to these expressions to expand your ability to speak Chinese, but for now, these expressions are a great start. Note the similarity between *Hello*, **Nǐ hǎo**, and *How are you?* **Nǐ hǎo ma?** Keeping these expressions in the back of your mind will give you a great springboard from which to launch the rest of your Chinese.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Let's bring it all together in a few brief dialogues. First you'll hear the English, then the Chinese. Be sure to repeat the Chinese in the pauses provided.

A: *Hello!*
Nǐ hǎo.

B: *Hi!*
Nǐ hǎo.

A: *How are you?*
Nǐ hǎo ma?

B: *I'm fine, and you?*
Wǒ hěnhǎo, nǐ ne?

A: *Not bad.*
Bùcuò.

Now listen to this conversation again, this time without the English. Pay attention to the words you know, and to how the conversation flows together.

A: **Nǐ hǎo.**

B: **Nǐ hǎo.**

A: **Nǐ hǎo ma?**

B: **Wǒ hěnhǎo, nǐ ne?**

A: **Bù cuò.**

Let's listen to another brief exchange.

A: *I am sorry.*
Duìbùqǐ.

B: *That's nothing.*
Méi shì.

A: *Thanks.*
Xièxie.

B: *You're welcome.*
Búkèqì.

A: *Goodbye.*
Zàijiàn.

Now just the Chinese. See how much you can remember!

A: **Duìbùqǐ.**

B: **Méi shì.**

A: **Xièxie.**

B: **Búkèqì.**

A: **Zàijiàn.**

WORK OUT

Now's your chance to practice what you've learned in your first lesson with this brief exercise. You'll hear a phrase in Chinese; it's your job to translate it into English.

Nǐ hǎo ma? *How are you?*

Wǒ hěnhǎo, nǐ ne? *I'm fine, and you?*

Bùcuò. *Not bad.*

Méi shì. *That's nothing.*

Búkèqì. *Don't mention it. You're welcome.*

Great job! Now we'll make it a bit more challenging: we'll give you the English, and you translate it into Chinese.

Hello./Hi.

Nǐ hǎo.

Thanks.

Xièxie.

I'm sorry.

Duìbùqǐ.

Goodbye.

Zàijiàn.

How are you?

Nǐ hǎo ma?

Finally, you'll hear a Chinese sentence; answer with the most appropriate Chinese response. For example, if you hear **Nǐ hǎo ma?**, or *How are you?*, you'll answer with either **Wǒ hěnhǎo** (*I'm fine*) or **Bù cuò** (*Not bad*). Let's try it!

Nǐ hǎo.

Nǐ hǎo.

Nǐ hǎo ma?

Wǒ hěnhǎo. or Bùcuò.

Duìbùqǐ.

Méi shì.

Xièxie.

Búkèqì.

Zàijiàn.

Zàijiàn.

How did you do?

PARTING WORDS

Very nice. **Hěnhǎo**. It may seem like a lot of repetition, but think about how much you've learned in just one lesson! Here's one more word for you that might be appropriate after completing your first lesson: *Congratulations!* **Gōng xǐ nǐ!**



Lesson 2: People and family

Dìèr kè: Rén yǔ jiāting

Nǐ hǎo *Hello*. In this lesson you will learn how to talk about your family and other people. You will learn pronouns, sentence structures with the verbs *to be* (**shì**) and *to have* (**yǒu**), as well as how to ask questions using the question word **ma**. Let's start with some vocabulary.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

You will hear the English first, then the Chinese. Repeat the Chinese every time you hear it. Ready?

<i>to be</i>	shì
<i>I</i>	wǒ
<i>you</i>	nǐ
<i>he, she</i>	tā
<i>we, us</i>	wǒmen
<i>you (plural)</i>	nǐmen
<i>they, them</i>	tāmen
<i>person, people</i>	rén
<i>female</i>	nǚ
<i>woman</i>	nǚrén
<i>male</i>	nán
<i>man</i>	nánrén
<i>teacher</i>	lǎoshī
<i>student</i>	xuésheng

TAKE A BREAK 1

You just heard some pronouns, the little words used to indicate *I, you, he, she*, etc. Let's look at them once more, as they're an important piece of the puzzle.

<i>I</i>	wǒ
<i>you</i>	nǐ
<i>he, she</i>	tā
<i>we</i>	wǒmen
<i>you (plural)</i>	nǐmen
<i>they</i>	tāmen

Now let's use those pronouns to build some phrases. In Chinese there is only one way of saying *is, are, was, were*, and *will be*, and that's using the verb **shì**, which means *to be*. The same form of this verb is

used for every person, every thing, and for all times past, present, and future. The best news is that this rule applies to all Chinese verbs. No matter if you are talking about one person or five people, yourself or others, the past or the future, every verb has only one form, making it much easier to memorize. So, to say *I am, you are, he is, etc.*, simply use the appropriate pronoun followed by the verb **shì**.

<i>I am</i>	wǒ shì
<i>you are</i>	nǐ shì
<i>he is, she is</i>	tā shì
<i>we are</i>	wǒmen shì
<i>you (plural) are</i>	nǐmen shì
<i>they are</i>	tāmen shì

More good news: in Chinese, you don't have to use an article, such as *a, an, or the*, before a noun. Let's start to form some sentences using this pattern.

<i>She is a woman.</i>	Tā shì nǚrén.
<i>He is a man.</i>	Tā shì nánrén.
<i>The teacher is a woman.</i>	Lǎoshī shì nǚrén.
<i>The student is a man.</i>	Xuésheng shì nánrén.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

<i>to have</i>	yǒu
<i>question word</i>	ma
<i>Do you have . . . ?</i>	Nǐ yǒu . . . ma?
<i>older brother</i>	gēge
<i>younger brother</i>	dìdì
<i>older sister</i>	jiějie
<i>younger sister</i>	mèimei
<i>son</i>	érzi
<i>daughter</i>	nǚér
<i>father</i>	fùqin
<i>mother</i>	mǔqin

TAKE A BREAK 2

You've already learned how to say *to be* in Chinese—*to have* is just as easy.

<i>to have</i>	yǒu
<i>I have</i>	wǒ yǒu
<i>you have</i>	nǐ yǒu
<i>he has or she has</i>	tā yǒu
<i>we have</i>	wǒmen yǒu
<i>you (plural) have</i>	nǐmen yǒu
<i>they have</i>	tāmen yǒu

The sentence structure for *to have* is just the same as *to be*. Simply place the verb **yǒu** after the noun or pronoun, and follow it with whatever is being possessed.

<i>I have an older brother.</i>	Wǒ yǒu gēge.
<i>You have a younger brother.</i>	Nǐ yǒu dìdi.
<i>He has an older sister.</i>	Tā yǒu jiějie.
<i>She has a younger sister.</i>	Tā yǒu mèimei.

To turn these sentences into questions, simply place **ma** at the end of the sentence.

<i>you have</i>	nǐ yǒu
<i>Do you have . . . ?</i>	Nǐ yǒu . . . ma?
<i>You have a son.</i>	Nǐ yǒu érzi.
<i>Do you have a son?</i>	Nǐ yǒu érzi ma?
<i>She has a daughter.</i>	Tā yǒu nǚér.
<i>Does she have a daughter?</i>	Tā yǒu nǚér ma?

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Let's practice the verb *to be* one more time. Repeat the Chinese after you hear it.

<i>She is a woman.</i>	Tā shì nǚrén.
<i>He is a man.</i>	Tā shì nánrén.

The teacher is a woman.

Lǎoshī shì nǚrén.

The student is a man.

Xuésheng shì nánrén.

And now the verb *to have*.

I have an older brother.

Wǒ yǒu gēge.

You have a younger brother.

Nǐ yǒu dìdi.

He has an older sister.

Tā yǒu jiějie.

She has a younger sister.

Tā yǒu mèimei.

Finally, let's practice asking questions with **ma**.

Is the teacher a woman?

Lǎoshī shì nǚrén ma?

Does she have a daughter?

Tā yǒu nǚér ma?

Is the student a man?

Xuésheng shì nánrén ma?

Does he have a younger brother?

Tā yǒu dìdi ma?

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Are you a teacher?

Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma?

I am a teacher.

Wǒ shì lǎoshī.

Is she a student?

Tā shì xuésheng ma?

She is a student.

Tā shì xuésheng.

Is the student a woman?

Xuésheng shì nǚrén ma?

The student is a man.

Xuésheng shì nánrén.

Is he the father?

Tā shì fùqīn ma?

He is the older brother.

Tā shì gēge.

Are you the mother?

Nǐ shì mǔqīn ma?

I am the older sister.

Wǒ shì jiějie.

Very nice. **Hěnhǎo**. Now, we'll work on *to have* (yǒu).

Do you have a son?

I have a daughter.

Does the student have an older brother?

The student has a younger brother.

Does the father have an older sister?

The father has a younger sister.

Nǐ yǒu érzi ma?

Wǒ yǒu nǚér.

Xuésheng yǒu gēge ma?

Xuésheng yǒu dìdi.

Fùqin yǒu jiějie ma?

Fùqin yǒu mèimei.

Excellent. **Fēicháng hǎo.**

WORK OUT

Let's practice making sentences using **shì** and **yǒu**. We'll give you a pronoun and a noun in English and Chinese; it'll be your job to create a complete sentence using either **shì** or **yǒu**. Let's start with **shì**.

she, **tā**; mother, **mǔqīn**

Tā shì mǔqīn.

I, **wǒ**; student, **xuésheng**

Wǒ shì xuésheng.

he, **tā**; student, **xuésheng**

Tā shì xuésheng.

you (plural), **nǐmen**; teachers, **lǎoshī**

Nǐmen shì lǎoshī.

you (singular), **nǐ**; woman, **nǚrén**

Nǐ shì nǚrén.

Now try **yǒu**.

he, **tā**; male student, **nán xuésheng**

Tā yǒu nán xuésheng.

I, **wǒ**; younger sister, **mèimei**

Wǒ yǒu mèimei.

he, **tā**; student, **xuésheng**

Tā yǒu xuésheng.

we, **wǒmen**; daughter, **nǚér**

Wǒmen yǒu nǚér.

they, **tāmen**; older brother, **gēge**

Tāmen yǒu gēge.

PARTING WORDS

Well done! Before you go, here are a few more words you may use every day when talking about people you know and family members: *Mr.* and *husband* are both indicated with the same word: **Xiānsheng**. **Tàitai** means both *Mrs.* and *wife*. *Miss* or *young lady* is **Xiǎojiě**. *Boy* is **nánhái**, while *girl* is **nǚhái**.



Lesson 3: Numbers

Dìsān kè: Shùzì

Hello. Nǐ hǎo. In this lesson you will learn how to count in Chinese by discovering the numbers, as well as how to use measure words to refer to large quantities. In the end you'll be able to put all of this together into sentences to express yourself even better in Chinese.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Let's start with 0 to 10. You will hear the English first, then the Chinese. Please repeat the Chinese every time you hear it.

<i>zero</i>	líng
<i>one</i>	yī
<i>two</i>	èr
<i>three</i>	sān
<i>four</i>	sì
<i>five</i>	wǔ
<i>six</i>	liù
<i>seven</i>	qī
<i>eight</i>	bā
<i>nine</i>	jiǔ
<i>ten</i>	shí

Let's repeat them in order, like you're counting:

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5

líng yī èr sān sì wǔ

6, 7, 8, 9, 10

liù qī bā jiǔ shí

0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10

líng yī èr sān sì wǔ liù qī bā jiǔ shí

Now let's move on to the teens. From 11 to 19, you will say 10 first, then follow it by one through nine. *Eleven* will be “ten one”, *twelve* will be “ten two,” and so on.

<i>Eleven</i>	shíyī
<i>Twelve</i>	shíèr
<i>Thirteen</i>	shí sān
<i>Nineteen</i>	shíjiǔ

The tens are the reverse of the teens. You say the 2 through 9 first, and add “ten” to it. *Twenty* will be “two ten,” *thirty* will be “three ten,” and so on.

20	èrshí
30	sānshí
40	sìshí
90	jiǔshí

TAKE A BREAK 1

Let's pause for a moment to learn about how to deal with quantity. Chinese uses measure words, words that come between the numbers and the items, when talking about quantity. Measure words are similar to *pair* in *one pair of shoes* or *glass* in *five glasses of wine*, but every noun in Chinese requires a measure word when talking about its quantity. Let's learn the most general one first.

People, cities, groups, and nations	gè
<i>One woman</i>	yī gè nǚrén
<i>Ten students</i>	shí gè xuésheng
<i>12 teachers</i>	shíèr gè lǎoshī
<i>20 men</i>	èrshí gè nánrén

One note regarding the number *two*; when you use *two* as an amount, although the written word stays the same, the pronunciation changes to **liǎng**. This applies to the number *two*, but not to numbers that include *two*, such as 32, 42, 52, etc.

Two teachers

liǎng gè lǎoshī

Two women

liǎng gè nǚrén

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Very good. **Hěnhǎo**. Now let's go back to more numbers. From 21 to 99, you just add 1 to 9 after the tens.

21	èrshíyī
22	èrshíèr
23	èrshí sān
34	sānshí sì
45	sìshí wǔ
56	wǔshí liù
67	liùshí qī
78	qīshí bā
89	bāshí jiǔ
99	jiǔshí jiǔ

After *ninety-nine*, we have *hundred (bǎi)*, *thousand (qiān)*, *ten thousand (wàn)*, and so on.

One hundred	yībǎi
One thousand	yīqiān
Ten thousand	yīwàn
One million	yībǎiwàn

TAKE A BREAK 2

Here's some more good news: In Chinese, there is no plural form for either nouns or their measure words. That means when the quantity changes, the noun and its measure word stay the same.

one older brother	yī gè gēge
two older brothers	liǎng gè gēge
three younger brothers	sān gè dìdi

four younger brothers

five teachers

six teachers

seven teachers

eight students

nine students

sì gè dìdì

wǔ gè lǎoshī

liù gè lǎoshī

qī gè lǎoshī

bā gè xuésheng

jiǔ gè xuésheng

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Let's put the numbers and the measure word **gè** in sentences. Remember how to say *I have, you have, she has*? Let's use that as well. We'll just use the numbers 1 through 9 for now.

I have one older brother.

Wǒ yǒu yī gè gēge.

He has two older brothers.

Tā yǒu liǎng gè gēge.

You have three younger brothers.

Nǐ yǒu sān gè dìdì.

She has four younger brothers.

Tā yǒu sì gè dìdì.

I have five teachers.

Wǒ yǒu wǔ gè lǎoshī.

He has six teachers.

Tā yǒu liù gè lǎoshī.

You have seven teachers.

Nǐ yǒu qī gè lǎoshī.

She has eight students.

Tā yǒu bā gè xuésheng.

You have nine students.

Nǐ yǒu jiǔ gè xuésheng.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Now we'll bring it all together by listening to a short monologue. You'll hear it in English and Chinese first. Repeat after the Chinese.

I have four teachers.

Wǒ yǒu sì gè lǎoshī.

Two teachers are men.

Liǎng gè lǎoshī shì nánrén.

Two teachers are women.

Liǎng gè lǎoshī shì nǚrén.

Father has three older brothers.

Fùqin yǒu sān gè gēge.

One older brother is a teacher.

Yī gè gēge shì lǎoshī.

He has 80 students.

Tā yǒu bāshí gè xuésheng.

Twenty-five students are women.

Èrshíwǔ gè xuésheng shì nǚrén.

Now listen to it one more time, just the Chinese.

Wǒ yǒu sì gè lǎoshī. Liǎng gè lǎoshī shì nánrén. Liǎng gè lǎoshī shì nǚrén. Fùqīn yǒu sān gè gēge.
Yī gè gēge shì lǎoshī. Tā yǒu bāshí gè xuésheng. Èrshíwǔ gè xuésheng shì nǚrén.

WORK OUT

We'll give you a simple addition or subtraction problem in English, and you give us the answer in Chinese.

1 + 1

èr

3 + 3

liù

10 + 10

èrshí

100 - 50

wǔshí

6 + 6

shíèr

40 - 6

sānshísi

50 + 50

yībǎi

Now try using some measure words for people. We'll give you the English, and you translate into Chinese. Again, we'll stick to the numbers 1 through 9 for now.

I have one older brother.

Wǒ yǒu yī gè gēge.

He has two older sisters.

Tā yǒu liǎng gè jiějie.

You have three younger brothers.

Nǐ yǒu sān gè dìdi.

She has four younger sisters.

Tā yǒu sì gè mèimei.

We have five teachers.

Wǒmen yǒu wǔ gè lǎoshī.

They have six teachers.

Tāmen yǒu liù gè lǎoshī.

You (plural) have seven teachers.

Nǐmen yǒu qī gè lǎoshī.

She has eight students.

Tā yǒu bā gè xuésheng.

I have nine students.

Wǒ yǒu jiǔ gè xuésheng.

Good job!

PARTING WORDS

Let's run through the numbers 1 through 10 one more time. Please repeat: **yī, èr, sān, sì, wǔ, liù, qī, bā, jiǔ, shí.** Well done.



Lesson 4: Around the home

Dìsì kè: Jiā jù

Nǐ hǎo. In this lesson you will learn how to name different objects around the home, such as tables and chairs, along with their measure words. You will also learn to put these words together in sentences.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

Here are some items from around the home. You will hear the English first and then the Chinese. Please repeat the Chinese every time you hear it. Ready?

<i>table</i>	zhuōzi
<i>chair</i>	yǐzi
<i>television</i>	diànshì
<i>telephone</i>	diànhuà
<i>computer</i>	diànnǎo
<i>refrigerator</i>	bīngxiāng
<i>book</i>	shū
<i>car</i>	qìchē
<i>bicycle</i>	zìxíngchē

TAKE A BREAK 1

Let's learn one other new word before we move on.

<i>who, whom</i>	shéi
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The question word **shéi** can be used as the subject, *who*, or the object of a verb, *whom*, and can be used as singular or plural. Let's look at it as the subject for now. When using the question word **shéi**, you don't need to end the sentence with **ma**, and in the answer, the pronoun will replace **shéi**. Don't forget your pronouns: **wǒ, nǐ, tā, wǒmen, nǐmen, tāmen**.

Who has tables?

Shéi yǒu zhuōzi?

She has a table.

Tā yǒu yī zhāng zhuōzi.

Who has a telephone?

Shéi yǒu diànhuà?

You (plural) have a telephone.

Nǐmen yǒu diànhuà.

Who has a computer?

Shéi yǒu diànnǎo?

They have a computer.

Tāmen yǒu diànnǎo.

Who has a book?

Shéi yǒu běn shū?

He has a book.

Tā yǒu běn shū.

Who has a car?

Shéi yǒu qìchē?

We have a car.

Wǒmen yǒu qìchē.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

In the last lesson, you learned about measure words. Measure words come in groups, based on different qualities of the object being counted. Let's learn some more of these measure words, related to words you've learned so far in this lesson.

For books, photo albums, magazines

běn

For cars, taxis, bicycles

liàng

For machines

tái

For tables, desks, chairs

zhāng

TAKE A BREAK 2

Now let's take a closer look at these measure words in use. The measure word used for books, photo albums, or magazines is **běn**.

I have two books.

Wǒ yǒu liǎng běn shū.

Notice that in this phrase you are using the word for *two*, **liǎng**, the measure word, **běn**, followed by the word for *book*, **shū**.

The measure word for cars, taxis, and bicycles is **liàng**.

We have nine cars.

Wǒmen yǒu jiǔ liàng chē.

She has ten bicycles.

Tā yǒu shí liàng zìxíngchē.

The measure word for machines, such as sewing machines, televisions, or air conditioners, is **tái**.

You (plural) have four telephones.

Nǐmen yǒu sì tái diànhuà.

You (singular) have five televisions.

Nǐ yǒu wǔ tái diànshì.

I have six computers.

Wǒ yǒu liù tái diànnǎo.

They have seven refrigerators.

Tāmen yǒu qī tái bīngxiāng.

The measure word for tables, desks, and chairs is **zhāng**.

She has one table.

Tā yǒu yī zhāng zhuōzi.

We have two chairs.

Wǒmen yǒu liǎng zhāng yǐzi.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Before we go on, a very important note: the word **hé** (*and*) is rarely used in Chinese, especially when there are more than two items mentioned. Just imagine that you are simply reading a list.

You have three cars.

Nǐ yǒu sān liàng qìchē.

I have two cars.

Wǒ yǒu liǎng liàng qìchē.

We have five cars.

Wǒmen yǒu wǔ liàng qìchē.

Mother has one computer, five books.

Mǔqīn yǒu yī tái diànnǎo, wǔ běn shū.

The daughter has three computers, four books.

Nǚér yǒu sān tái diànnǎo, sì běn shū.

They have eight computers, nine books.

Tāmen yǒu bā tái diànnǎo, jiǔ běn shū.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Listen to the following dialogue that will bring together everything you've learned so far in this course. First listen in English and Chinese.

A: *Who has a television?*
Shéi yǒu diànshì?

- B: *Younger sister has one television.*
Mèimei yǒu yī tái diànshì.
- A: *Does she have tables and chairs?*
Tā yǒu zhuōzi, yǐzi ma?
- B: *She has three tables, six chairs.*
Tā yǒu sān zhāng zhuōzi, liù zhāng yǐzi.
- A: *Who has two refrigerators?*
Shéi yǒu liǎng tái bīngxiāng?
- B: *The teacher does.*
Lǎoshī yǒu.
- A: *Who is the teacher?*
Lǎoshī shì shéi?
- B: *I'm the teacher.*
Lǎoshī shì wǒ.

Now listen again to just the Chinese to see how much you understand.

- A: **Shéi yǒu diànshì?**
- B: **Mèimei yǒu yī tái diànshì.**
- A: **Tā yǒu zhuōzi, yǐzi ma?**
- B: **Tā yǒu sān zhāng zhuōzi, liù zhāng yǐzi.**
- A: **Shéi yǒu liǎng tái bīngxiāng?**
- B: **Lǎoshī yǒu.**
- A: **Lǎoshī shì shéi?**
- B: **Lǎoshī shì wǒ.**

WORK OUT

Now to help you memorize the measure words, you will hear an item in English, then in Chinese, along with a number in Chinese, either **yī** (one), **èr** (two), or **sān** (three). Try to put the number with the correct measure word before the item. Remember, if the number two is given, you will need to use the word **liǎng**. Listen to the example first.

Car, qìchē, sān

sān liàng qìchē

Now it's your turn! Be sure to repeat the answer after you hear it.

Bicycle, **zìxíngchē**, yī

yī liàng zìxíngchē

Book, **shū**, sān

sān běn shū

Computer, **diànnǎo**, èr

liǎng tái diànnǎo

Television, **diànshì**, sān

sān tái diànshì

Refrigerator, **bīngxiāng**, yī

yī tái bīngxiāng

Telephones, **diànhuà**, èr

liǎng tái diànhuà

Tables, **zhuōzi**, yī

yī zhāng zhuōzi

Chairs, **yǐzi**, èr

liǎng zhāng yǐzi

PARTING WORDS

Congratulations. **Gōng xǐ nǐ.** You did a great job with that lesson. You learned the question word for people, *who* or *whom* (**shéi**), as well as a group of new measure words. Here's a hint for remembering some of the vocabulary from this lesson: most of the items which need electricity start with the word **diàn** (*electricity*), such as **diànhuà** (*telephone*), **diànnǎo** (*computer*), **diànshì** (*television*), and **diànyǐng** (*movie*).



Lesson 5: Describing things

Dìwǔ kè: Miáoshù

Hello. **Nǐ hǎo.** In this lesson you'll learn the possessive pronouns and the possessive forms of nouns. You'll also learn some adjectives and colors, as well as some special functions of adjectives. By the end of this lesson, you should be able to use all this to make your Chinese even more colorful. Let's begin with some new vocabulary.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

doctor

yīshēng

nurse

hùshi

police officer

jǐngchá

<i>camera</i>	zhàoxiàngjī
<i>paper</i>	zhǐ
<i>pen</i>	bǐ
<i>hat</i>	màozi
<i>coat</i>	wàitào
<i>shoes</i>	xiézi

TAKE A BREAK 1

The particle **de** is placed after a pronoun or noun to change it into its possessive form. Let's see how it works first with nouns.

<i>the doctor</i>	yīshēng
<i>the doctor's</i>	yīshēng de
<i>the doctor's shoes</i>	yīshēng de xiézi
<i>the nurse</i>	hùshi
<i>the nurse's</i>	hùshi de
<i>the nurse's coat</i>	hùshi de wàitào
<i>the police officer</i>	jǐngchá
<i>the police officer's</i>	jǐngchá de
<i>the police officer's hat</i>	jǐngchá de màozi

The particle **de** works the same way with pronouns: **wǒ** (*I*) becomes **wǒ de** (*my, mine*), **nǐ** (*you*) becomes **nǐ de** (*your, yours*), etc.

<i>my, mine</i>	wǒ de
<i>our, ours</i>	wǒmen de
<i>your, yours</i>	nǐ de
<i>your, yours (plural)</i>	nǐmen de
<i>his</i>	tā de
<i>her, hers</i>	tā de
<i>their, theirs</i>	tāmén de

When acting as a possessive adjective, this is then followed by the object.

<i>our</i>	wǒmen de
<i>our camera</i>	wǒmen de zhàoxiàngjī
<i>your (plural)</i>	nǐmen de
<i>your (plural) paper</i>	nǐmen de zhǐ
<i>her</i>	tā de
<i>her hat</i>	tā de màozi
<i>their</i>	tāmén de
<i>their camera</i>	tāmén de zhàoxiàngjī

When acting as the possessive pronoun, it doesn't change form, but comes after the subject and verb.

<i>ours</i>	wǒmen de
<i>The camera is ours.</i>	Zhàoxiàngjī shì wǒmen de.
<i>yours (plural)</i>	nǐmen de
<i>The paper is yours.</i>	Zhǐ shì nǐmen de.
<i>hers</i>	tā de
<i>The hat is hers.</i>	Màozi shì tā de.
<i>theirs</i>	tāmén de
<i>The camera is theirs.</i>	Zhàoxiàngjī shì tāmén de.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Very nice. Now let's learn some words for describing things.

<i>new</i>	xīn
<i>old</i>	jiù
<i>large, big</i>	dà
<i>small</i>	xiǎo
<i>good, fine</i>	hǎo
<i>bad</i>	huài

blue	lán
red	hóng
yellow	huáng
green	lǜ
black	hēi
white	bái

TAKE A BREAK 2

Very good. **Hěnhǎo**. To modify a noun with an adjective, simply place the adjective before the noun it modifies.

new coat	xīn wàitào
old hat	jiù màozi
large hat	dà màozi
good camera	hǎo zhàoxiàngjī
blue pen	lán bǐ
yellow paper	huáng zhǐ
black shoes	hēi xiézi

The particle **de** also works for adjectives. You can place it after the adjective, especially when the noun being described or modified is not there. Let's practice this and compare the following pairs of sentences.

<i>My hat is a blue hat.</i>	Wǒ de màozi shì lán màozi.
<i>My hat is blue.</i>	Wǒ de màozi shì lán de.
<i>Your coat is a large coat.</i>	Nǐ de wàitào shì dà wàitào.
<i>Your coat is large.</i>	Nǐ de wàitào shì dà de.
<i>The nurse's camera is a new camera.</i>	Hùshi de zhàoxiàngjī shì xīn zhàoxiàngjī.
<i>The nurse's camera is new.</i>	Hùshi de zhàoxiàngjī shì xīn de.

Obviously using **de** makes the sentence shorter. But the main reason for substituting the particle for the noun is that in Chinese the adjectives are also used as verbs, such as the word **hǎo** (*good, fine*) in the sentences you know very well: **Nǐ hǎo** (*You are fine*) and **Wǒ hěnhǎo** (*I am very well*). Both are examples

of an adjective being used as a verb. Therefore, to indicate that the adjective is *not* used as a verb but used as a modifier, it's necessary to put **de** after it.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Let's review and expand your vocabulary.

My hat is new.

Wǒ de màozi shì xīn de.

My black hat is new.

Wǒ de hēi màozi shì xīn de.

Your coat is old.

Nǐ de wàitào shì jiù de.

Your green coat is old.

Nǐ de lǜ wàitào shì jiù de.

Her camera is good.

Tā de zhàoxiàngjī shì hǎo de.

Her large camera is good.

Tā de dà zhàoxiàngjī shì hǎo de.

The paper is yours.

Zhǐ shì nǐmen de.

The red paper is yours.

Hóng zhǐ shì nǐmen de.

The pens are ours.

Bǐ shì wǒmen de.

The black pens are ours.

Hēi bǐ shì wǒmen de.

The hats are theirs.

Màozi shì tāmen de.

The yellow hats are theirs.

Huáng màozi shì tāmen de.

Did you pay attention to the addition of a new adjective in every other sentence you just heard? To add an adjective to qualify a noun, just place it before the noun. If it follows a possessive adjective, place it in between **de** and the noun. Again:

The shoes are mine.

Xiézi shì wǒ de.

The white shoes are mine.

Bái xiézi shì wǒ de.

Our camera is bad.

Wǒmen de zhàoxiàngjī shì huài de.

Our small camera is bad.

Wǒmen de xiǎo zhàoxiàngjī shì huài de.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Let's keep going and bring it all together in one last group of sentences. You'll hear them first in English and Chinese.

His mother is a good nurse.

Tā de mǔqīn shì hǎo hùshi.

The nurse's shoes are white.

Hùshi de xiézi shì bái de.

His wife is a good police officer.

Tā de tàitai shì hǎo jǐngchá.

The police officer's coat is blue.

Jǐngchá de wàitào shì lán de.

Now listen to the Chinese again on its own to see how much you understand.

Tā de mǔqīn shì hǎo hùshi. Hùshi de xiézi shì bái de. Tā de tài tai shì hǎo jǐngchá. Jǐngchá de wàitào shì lán de.

WORK OUT

In this exercise, we'll give you two nouns and an adjective. Form a sentence with the possessive and **shì**. For example, if you hear **yīshēng** (*doctor*), **wàitào** (*coat*), and **xīn** (*new*), you'll answer with **Yīshēng de wàitào shì xīn de.** (*The doctor's coat is new.*) Ready? You try.

hùshi (*nurse*), **màozi** (*hat*), **bái** (*white*)

Hùshi de màozi shì bái de.

jǐngchá (*police officer*), **zhàoxiàngjī**
(*camera*), **hǎo** (*good*)

Jǐngchá de zhàoxiàngjī shì hǎo de.

yīshēng (*doctor*), **bǐ** (*pen*), **lán** (*blue*)

Yīshēng de bǐ shì lán de.

wǒ (*I*), **hēi màozi** (*black hat*), **jiù** (*old*)

Wǒ de hēi màozi shì jiù de.

Next, we'll give you a sentence using the possessive adjective; change it into a sentence using the possessive pronoun. For example, if you hear **Wǒ de màozi shì lán de**, or *My hat is blue*, you'll answer **Lán màozi shì wǒ de**, or *The blue hat is mine*. Ready? Let's try it.

Wǒmen de zhǐ shì bái de.

Bái zhǐ shì wǒmen de.

Nǐmen de bǐ shì lán de.

Lán bǐ shì nǐmen de.

Wǒ de màozi shì huáng de.

Huáng màozi shì wǒ de.

Tā de xiézi shì hóng de.

Hóng xiézi shì tā de.

Good job!

PARTING WORDS

Great work. **Hěnhǎo**. You're halfway there! In this lesson, you learned how the particle **de** works for both possessives and adjectives. You also learned more words for people and things. Before we move on, you may want to know a few more words to do with clothing. You've already learned the words for *hat*, *shoes*, and *coat*, but here are some other words for **yīfu** (clothes): **chènshān** (shirt), **qúnzi** (skirt), and **máoyī** (sweater). As you get dressed in the morning, try to name each of these items, and describe them if you can!



Lesson 6: Around town

Dìliù kè: Fāng xiàng

Hello. **Nǐ hǎo**. In this lesson you will learn to ask directions using the question word **nǎli** (where). You will also learn to use expressions of location such as *at the market* or *going to the post office*. Ready?

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

<i>to be at</i>	zài
<i>here</i>	zhèlǐ
<i>there</i>	nàli
<i>where</i>	nǎli
<i>At where? Where is . . . ?</i>	Zài nǎli?
<i>post office</i>	yóujú
<i>theater</i>	xìyuàn
<i>restaurant</i>	cānguǎn
<i>market</i>	shìchǎng
<i>next to</i>	pángbiān
<i>left</i>	zuǒ
<i>on the left</i>	zài zuǒbiān
<i>right</i>	yòu
<i>on the right</i>	zài yòubiān

TAKE A BREAK 1

When Chinese question words serve as the object or the receiver of an action, they appear after the verb, just like in a regular sentence.

Where is the post office?

Yóujú zài nǎli?

The post office is here.

Yóujú zài zhèlǐ.

Where is the market?

Shìchǎng zài nǎli?

The market is there.

Shìchǎng zài nàlǐ.

Where is the restaurant?

Cānguǎn zài nǎli?

The restaurant is on the left.

Cānguǎn zài zuǒbiān.

The restaurant is next to the market.

Cānguǎn zài shìchǎng pángbiān.

Where is the theater?

Xìyuàn zài nǎli?

The theater is on the right.

Xìyuàn zài yòubiān.

The theater is next to the post office.

Xìyuàn zài yóujú pángbiān.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Very good. **Hěnhǎo.** Let's learn some more words that will help you get around town.

east

dōng

west

xī

south

nán

north

běi

to go

qù

hotel

lǚguǎn

hospital

yīyuàn

restroom

cèsuǒ

police station

jǐngchá jú

bookstore

shūdiàn

school

xuéxiào

TAKE A BREAK 2

Zài (to be at) and **qù** (to go) are both verbs. Therefore their sentence structures are the same when using the question word **nǎli** (where) to ask where something is, or where someone is going.

Where are you going?

I am going to the hotel.

Where is the hotel?

The hotel is next to the post office.

Where is he going?

He is going to the hospital.

Where is the hospital?

The hospital is next to the school.

Where are we going?

We are going to the bookstore.

Where is the bookstore?

The bookstore is there.

Nǐ qù nǎli?

Wǒ qù lǚguǎn.

Lǚguǎn zài nǎli?

Lǚguǎn zài yóujú pángbiān.

Tā qù nǎli?

Tā qù yīyuàn.

Yīyuàn zài nǎli?

Yīyuàn zài xuéxiào páng biān.

Wǒmen qù nǎli?

Wǒmen qù shūdiàn.

Shūdiàn zài nǎli?

Shūdiàn zài nǎli.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Very good. Let's work at a few more sentences with directions.

Where is she going?

She is going to the police station.

Where is the police station?

The police station is on the east side of the school.

The police station is on the west side of the theater.

Where are they going?

They are going to the restroom.

Where is the restroom?

The restroom is next to the market.

Tā qù nǎli?

Tā qù jǐngchá jú.

Jǐngchá jú zài nǎli?

Jǐngchá jú zài xuéxiào dōng biān.

Jǐngchá jú zài xìyuàn xī biān.

Tāmen qù nǎli?

Tāmen qù cèsuǒ.

Cèsuǒ zài nǎli?

Cèsuǒ zài shìchǎng pángbiān.

The market is here.

Shìchǎng zài zhèlǐ.

The restroom is there.

Cèsuǒ zài nàlǐ.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Good job. Now listen to the following exchange.

A: *Where are you going?*
Nǐ qù nǎlǐ?

B: *I am going to the post office.*
Wǒ qù yóujú.

A: *Where is the post office?*
Yóujú zài nǎlǐ?

B: *The post office is north of the hospital.*
Yóujú zài yīyuàn běi biān.

A: *Where are we going?*
Wǒmen qù nǎlǐ?

B: *We are going to the restaurant.*
Wǒmen qù cānguǎn.

A: *Where is the restaurant?*
Cānguǎn zài nǎlǐ?

B: *The restaurant is on the east side of the hotel.*
Cānguǎn zài lǚguǎn dōng biān.

A: *Where is the large hospital?*
Dà yīyuàn zài nǎlǐ?

B: *The large hospital is to the west of the small police station.*
Dà yīyuàn zài xiǎo jǐngchá jú xī biān.

A: *Where is the police station?*
Jǐngchá jú zài nǎlǐ?

B: *The police station is here.*
Jǐngchá jú zài zhèlǐ.

Now let's listen once more, this time just in Chinese.

A: **Nǐ qù nǎlǐ?**

B: **Wǒ qù yóujú.**

- A: **Yóujú zài nǎli?**
 B: **Yóujú zài yīyuàn běi biān.**
 A: **Wǒmen qù nǎli?**
 B: **Wǒmen qù cānguǎn.**
 A: **Cānguǎn zài nǎli?**
 B: **Cānguǎn zài lǚguǎn dōng biān.**
 A: **Dà yīyuàn zài nǎli?**
 B: **Dà yīyuàn zài xiǎo jǐngchá jú xī biān.**
 A: **Jǐngchá jú zài nǎli?**
 B: **Jǐngchá jú zài zhèlǐ.**

WORK OUT

Let's practice what you've learned with an association exercise. Let's listen to an example first.

Where would you find a doctor? **yīyuàn** (*hospital*)

Now it's your turn. Ready?

Where would you find a postage stamp? **yóujú** (*post office*)

Where would you find a student? **xuéxiào** (*school*)

Where would you find a butcher? **shìchǎng** (*market*)

Where would you go to have dinner? **cānguǎn** (*restaurant*)

Where would you find a bellhop? **lǚguǎn** (*hotel*)

Where would you find a cookbook? **shūdiàn** (*bookstore*)

Where would you find a police officer? **jǐngchá jú** (*police station*)

Where would you find an actor? **xìyuàn** (*theater*)

Where would you find a toilet? **cèsuǒ** (*restroom*)

PARTING WORDS

Excellent. **Fēicháng hǎo.** Now you know how to use the question word **nǎli** (*where*) and the verbs **zài** (*to be somewhere*) and **qù** (*to go somewhere*). You also learned many words related to places and locations.

Here are a few more you can add to what you already know: **dà xué** (*university*), **yào fáng** (*pharmacy*), **bàn gōng shì** (*office*) and **shāng diàn** (*store*).



Lesson 7: At a restaurant

Dìqī kè: Cānguǎn

Hello. Nǐ hǎo. It's about time to grab something to eat. In this lesson you'll learn how to order in a restaurant, as well as the names of some traditional Chinese food items, such as *braised pork* or *Peking duck*. You'll also learn polite requests so that you can ask for whatever looks good to you on the menu.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

to invite or ask for a favor

qǐng

to ask

wèn

May I ask?

qǐngwèn

dish of food

cài

to order food

diǎn cài

what

shén me

What to order?

diǎn shén me cài

chicken

jī

roast

kǎo

roast chicken

kǎo jī

duck

yā

peking duck

běijīng kǎoyā

fish

yú

steamed

qīng zhēng

steamed fish

qīng zhēng yú

don't have

méi yǒu

Have or don't have?

Yǒu méi yǒu?

TAKE A BREAK 1

Yǒu méi yǒu literally means *have or don't have*. The word **méi** is the negative form of **yǒu**. This structure of putting positive and negative forms together is the most common way to ask questions without using any question words. Let's practice this with the polite expression **qǐngwèn** (*May I ask?*)

May I ask, do you have steamed fish?

Qǐngwèn, nǐmen yǒu méi yǒu qīng zhēng yú?

May I ask, do you have Peking duck?

Qǐngwèn, nǐmen yǒu méi yǒu běijīng yā?

May I ask, do you have roast chicken?

Qǐngwèn, nǐmen yǒu méi yǒu kǎo jī?

You already know how to say you have something. To say you don't have something, you can say **wǒ méi yǒu** followed by what you don't have, or simply say **méi yǒu**.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Let's learn some more new words for food.

braised

hóng shāo

pork

zhūròu

braised pork

hóng shāo zhūròu/hóng shāo ròu

spare ribs

pái gǔ

stir-fried

chǎo

beef

niúròu

vegetables

shū cài

sour

suān

spicy

là

soup

tāng

wine, alcohol

jiǔ

beer

pí jiǔ

tea

chá

ice cream

bīngjílíng

to bring, to give

gěi

please bring me, please give me

qǐng gěi wǒ

TAKE A BREAK 2

Very good. You learned a new expression: *please bring me . . .* You can use this expression with any pronoun, followed by whatever it is you want brought to you.

Please bring me . . .

Qǐng gěi wǒ . . .

Please bring her . . .

Qǐng gěi tā . . .

Please bring us . . .

Qǐng gěi wǒmen . . .

Please bring them . . .

Qǐng gěi tāmen . . .

Here are some measure words you'll need to know for ordering food.

bowl (for soup)

wǎn

two soups

liǎng wǎn tāng

cup (for water, coffee, tea, wine)

bēi

three teas

sān bēi chá

bottle (for bottled drinks)

píng

two beers

liǎng píng pí jiǔ

unit (for items of food)

gè

one chicken and one fish

yī gè jī, yī gè yú

for desserts

kè

four ice creams

sì kè bīngjílíng

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Let's use these measure words in complete sentences with the expression *please bring me . . .*

Please bring us three vegetable soups.

Qǐng gěi wǒmen sān wǎn shū cài tāng.

Please bring her one spicy beef.

Qǐng gěi tā yī gè là niúròu.

Please bring me one braised chicken, one roast duck.

Qǐng gěi wǒ yī gè hóng shāo jī, yī gè kǎoyā.

Please bring us two teas, three beers.

Qǐng gěi wǒmen liǎng bēi chá, sān píng pí jiǔ.

Please bring them two red wines.

Qǐng gěi tāmen liǎng bēi hóng jiǔ.

Please bring me one ice cream.

Qǐng gěi wǒ yī kè bīngjílíng.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Very good. Let's listen in on a conversation in a restaurant.

A: *Your tea is very good.*

Nǐmen de chá hěnhǎo.

B: *Thank you.*

Xièxie.

What would you like to order?

Nǐmen diǎn shén me cài?

A: *Do you have hot and sour soup?*

Nǐmen yǒu méi yǒu suān là tāng?

B: *We don't have hot and sour soup.*

Wǒmen méi yǒu suān là tāng.

We have chicken vegetable soup, spare ribs soup.

Yǒu shū cài jī tāng, pái gǔ tāng.

A: *Do you have spicy soup?*

Yǒu méi yǒu là de tāng?

B: *Spicy beef soup.*

Là de niúròu tāng.

A: *May I ask, what fish do you have?*

Qǐngwèn nǐmen yǒu shén me yú?

B: *Yellow fish is good.*

Huáng yú hěnhǎo.

We have steamed and braised.

Wǒmen yǒu qīng zhēng de, hóng shāo de.

A: *May I ask, do you have braised beef?*

Qǐngwèn yǒu méi yǒu hóng shāo niúròu?

B: *We don't.*
Méi yǒu.
We have braised pork.
Wǒmen yǒu hóng shāo zhūròu.

A: *And stir-fried beef?*
Chǎo niúròu ne?

B: *We do (have).*
Yǒu.

A: *Good.*
Hǎo.
Bring us stir-fried beef,
Gěi wǒmen yī gè chǎo niúròu,
a Peking Duck,
yī ge běijīng kǎoyā,
a steamed yellow fish,
yī ge qīng zhēng huáng yú,
three spicy beef soups,
sān wǎn là niúròu tāng,
one bottle of beer.
yī píng pí jiǔ.

Bring her steamed spare ribs and a glass of wine.
Gěi tā yī gè qīng zhēng pái gǔ, yī bēi hóng jiǔ.

Let's listen to the entire dialogue again, this time just in Chinese.

A: **Nǐmen de chá hěnhǎo.**

B: **Xiè xie. Nǐmen diǎn shén me cài?**

A: **Nǐmen yǒu méi yǒu suān là tāng?**

B: **Wǒmen méi yǒu suān là tāng. Yǒu shū cài jī tāng, pái gǔ tāng.**

A: **Yǒu méi yǒu là de tāng?**

B: **Là de niúròu tāng.**

A: **Qǐngwèn nǐmen yǒu shén me yú?**

B: **Huáng yú hěnhǎo. Wǒmen yǒu qīng zhēng de, hóng shāo de.**

- A: Qǐngwèn yǒu méi yǒu hóng shāo niúròu?
- B: Méi yǒu. Wǒmen yǒu hóng shāo zhūròu.
- A: Chǎo niúròu ne?
- B: Yǒu.
- A: Hǎo. Gěi wǒmen yī gè chǎo niúròu, yī ge běijīng kǎoyā, yī ge qīng zhèng huáng yú, sān wǎn là niúròu tāng, yī píng pí jiǔ. Gěi tā yī gè qīng zhèng pái gǔ, yī bēi hóng jiǔ.

WORK OUT

For this next exercise, we'll ask if you have or don't have something in English, then in Chinese. Answer in Chinese first by saying you have it, and then by saying you don't have it. Listen to the example first:

Do you have spicy soup?
 Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu là de tāng? Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu là de tāng.
 Méi yǒu. Wǒ méi yǒu là de tāng.

Now you try. We'll use some words from previous lessons as well.

Do you have red wine?
 Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu hóng de jiǔ? Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu hóng de jiǔ.
 Méi yǒu. Wǒ méi yǒu hóng de jiǔ

Do you have black shoes?
 Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu hēi xiézi? Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu hēi xiézi.
 Méi yǒu. Wǒ méi yǒu hēi xiézi.

Do you have a computer?
 Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu diànnǎo? Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu diànnǎo.
 Méi yǒu. Wǒ méi yǒu diànnǎo.

Do you have braised pork?
 Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu hóng shāo zhūròu? Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu hóng shāo zhūròu.
 Méi yǒu. Wǒ méi yǒu hóng shāo zhūròu.

Do you have Peking duck?
 Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu běijīng kǎoyā? Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu běijīng kǎoyā.
 Méi yǒu. Wǒ méi yǒu běijīng kǎoyā.

Well done!

PARTING WORDS

Great. Hěnhǎo. Now you know how to order in Chinese restaurants, some words for food, the measure words for food items, and the polite expression **qǐng**. Here are a few more words that might be useful as you explore the world of Chinese cuisine: **xián** (*salty*), **kǔ** (*bitter*), and **tián** (*sweet*). Have fun at the restaurant!



Lesson 8: Everyday life

Dìbā kè: Rì cháng shēng huó

Hello. **Nǐ hǎo.** In this lesson, you will learn how to ask the time and how to tell time. You will also learn some verbs for daily living, such as **chī** (to eat), **xué** (to learn), and **shuì** (to sleep). Let's get started.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

now	xiànzài
How many?	jǐ
o'clock, hour	diǎn/diǎn zhōng
What time is it now?	Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?/Xiànzài jǐ diǎn zhōng?
minutes	fēn
three thirty (3:30)	sān diǎn sānshí fēn
to do, to make	zuò
to eat	chī
breakfast	zǎocān
lunch	wǔcān
dinner	wǎncān
morning	zǎoshang
noon	zhōngwǔ
afternoon	xiàwǔ
evening, night	wǎnshang

TAKE A BREAK 1

Question words in Chinese have the same word order in a sentence as non-question words. They appear in the same place in the sentence where the answer to the questions would appear in a regular statement. Let's hear how this works.

What time does he eat breakfast?

Tā jǐ diǎn chī zǎocān?

He eats breakfast at eight.

Tā bā diǎn chī zǎocān.

What time is lunch?

Lunch is at 12 noon.

What time do you make lunch?

I make lunch at 10 in the morning.

What time do you eat dinner?

I eat dinner at seven in the evening.

Wǔcān shì jǐ diǎn?

Wǔcān shì zhōngwǔ shí èr diǎn.

Nǐ jǐ diǎn zuò wǔcān?

Wǒ zǎoshang shí diǎn zuò wǔcān.

Nǐ jǐ diǎn chī wǎncān?

Wǒ wǎnshang qī diǎn chī wǎncān.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Now let's learn more new words related to daily routine.

time

shíhòu/shí jiān

what time

shén me shíhòu

to teach

jiāo

to study, to learn

xué

Chinese

zhōngwén

English

yīngwén

to be at work

shàng bān

to be at school

shàng xué

to sleep

shuì/shuì jiào

TAKE A BREAK 2

When we ask about time, we can use either **jǐ diǎn zhōng** (*what hour, what time*) or **shén me shíhòu** (*when*). **Jǐ diǎn zhōng** is used to ask specifically about the hour and the minutes, while **shén me shíhòu** is more general: the answer can be months or years ago. Let's hear this difference in the following dialogue.

A: *What time is it?*
Xiànzài jǐ diǎn zhōng?

B: *Two twenty.*
Liáng diǎn èrshí.

A: *When do they study Chinese?*
Tāmen shén me shíhòu xué zhōngwén?

B: *They study Chinese in the evening.*
Tāmen wǎnshang xué zhōngwén.

A: *What time in the evening?*
Wǎnshang jǐ diǎn zhōng?

B: *Seven p.m.*
Wǎnshang qī diǎn.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Very nice. You may have noticed that when talking about time, the time of day (morning, afternoon, evening) comes before the hour and the minutes. And the time phrase comes before the verb phrase. Let's see how this works with some new verbs.

When do you all go to school?

We go to school in the afternoon.

What time in the afternoon?

Four p.m.

When does she teach English?

She teaches English in the morning.

What time in the morning?

Nine fifteen in the morning.

What time is breakfast?

Breakfast is at eight forty.

What time do you go to work?

I go to work at ten a.m.

What time do they make lunch?

They make lunch at 12 noon.

What time do you eat dinner?

I eat dinner at seven.

What time does he go to sleep?

He goes to sleep at 11 p.m.

Nǐmen shén me shíhòu shàng xué?

Wǒmen xiàwǔ shàng xué?

Xiàwǔ jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Xiàwǔ sì diǎn.

Tā shén me shíhòu jiāo yīngwén?

Tā zǎoshang jiāo yīngwén.

Zǎoshang jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Zǎoshang jiǔ diǎn shí wǔ fēn.

Zǎocān shì jǐ diǎn zhōng?

Zǎocān shì bā diǎn sì shí.

Nǐ jǐ diǎn zhōng shàng bān?

Wǒ zǎo shang shí diǎn shàng bān.

Tāmen jǐ diǎn zhōng zuò wǔcān?

Tāmen zhōngwǔ shíèr diǎn zuò wǔcān.

Nǐ jǐ diǎn zhōng chī wǎncān?

Wǒ qī diǎn chī wǎncān.

Tā jǐ diǎn zhōng shuì jiào?

Tā wǎnshang shíyī diǎn shuì jiào.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Well done. Let's listen to two people talking about their daily schedules.

- A: *When do you make lunch?*
Nǐmen shén me shíhòu zuò wǔcān?
- B: *We make lunch at noon.*
Wǒmen zhōngwǔ zuò wǔcān.
- A: *What time does your mother teach Chinese?*
Nǐ mǔqīn jǐ diǎn zhōng jiāo zhōngwén?
- B: *She teaches Chinese at 3 p.m.*
Tā xiàwǔ sān diǎn jiāo zhōngwén.
- A: *What time do you eat dinner?*
Nǐmen jǐ diǎn zhōng chī wǎncān?
- B: *We eat it now. Will you eat some?*
Wǒmen xiànzài chī. Nǐ chī ma?

Now listen once more, this time just to the Chinese.

- A: **Nǐmen shén me shíhòu zuò wǔcān?**
- B: **Wǒmen zhōngwǔ zuò wǔcān.**
- A: **Nǐ mǔqīn jǐ diǎn zhōng jiāo zhōngwén?**
- B: **Tā xiàwǔ sān diǎn jiāo zhōngwén?**
- A: **Nǐmen jǐ diǎn zhōng chī wǎncān?**
- B: **Wǒmen xiànzài chī. Nǐ chī ma?**

WORK OUT

Let's work it out with a translation exercise. We'll give you the English, you translate it into Chinese.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <i>My younger sister studies English at 8 a.m.</i> | Wǒ mèimei zǎoshàng bā diǎn zhōng xué yīngwén. |
| <i>Studies Chinese at 9:40.</i> | Jiǔ diǎn sìshí fēn xué zhōng wén. |
| <i>Goes to work in the afternoon.</i> | Xiàwǔ shàng bān. |
| <i>Goes to sleep at 12 at night.</i> | Wǎnshang shí èr diǎn shuì jiào. |
| <i>They go to bed at 10 p.m.</i> | Tāmen wǎnshang shí diǎn shuì jiào. |

Eat breakfast at 7:10 a.m.

Zǎoshang qī diǎn shí fēn chī zǎocān.

Go to school at seven thirty.

Qī diǎn sān shí fēn shàng xué.

PARTING WORDS

That was great. **Fēicháng hǎo**. The question word you just used: **shén me** (*what*), which you first learned when you learned about ordering food: **diǎn shén me cài** (*what dish to order?*), is the most general question word. The term **shén me rén** (*what person*) is used the same way as **shéi** (*who*). And **shén me dìfang** (*what place*) is used the same way as **nǎli** (*where*). You also learned the words **zhōngwén** (Chinese) and **yīngwén** (English). Here are some other languages you may or may not already speak as well: **yìdàliwén** (Italian), **fǎwén** (French), **déwén** (German), **xībānyáwén** (Spanish), **riwén** (Japanese), and **éwén** (Russian).



Lesson 9: At work

Dìjiǔ kè: Zhíyè

In this lesson you will learn the words for different professions, such as accounting and law, and how to respond to the question *what do you do?* You will also learn to say the days of the week so that you might be able to elaborate on your schedule. Let's get started.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

work, job, profession

gōngzuò

what kind of work

shén me gōngzuò

accounting

kuàijì

accountant

kuàijì shī

engineering

gōngchéng

engineer

gōngchéng shī

law

fǎlù

lawyer

lǜshī

laborer, worker

gōngrén

store clerk

shòu huò yuán

TAKE A BREAK 1

As we're now using it, the question phrase **shén me gōngzuò** (*what kind of work*) is the object of **zuò** (*to do, to make*), so the phrase will follow the verb **zuò**.

What work do you do?

Nǐ zuò shén me gōngzuò?

I do accounting.

Wǒ zuò kuàijì.

I am an accountant.

Wǒ shì kuàijì shī.

What does she do?

Tā zuò shén me gōngzuò?

She does engineering.

Tā zuò gōngchéng.

She is an engineer.

Tā shì gōngchéng shī.

What do you do? (plural)

Nǐmen zuò shén me gōngzuò?

She is a lawyer.

Tā shì lǜ shī.

They are store clerks.

Tāmen shì shòu huò yuán.

I am a laborer.

Wǒ shì gōngrén.

A brief note: the formal word for *profession* in Chinese is **zhí yè**. But the question **Nǐ de zhí yè shì shén me?** (*What is your profession?*) almost only ever appears in writing and on questionnaires.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

Let's learn the days of the week. You will be delighted to know that the days of the week are simply laid out by the number you already know, plus the word for *week*, **xīng qī**. Let's see how this works.

week

xīng qī

Monday

xīng qī yī

Tuesday

xīng qī èr

Wednesday

xīng qī sān

Thursday

xīng qī sì

Friday

xīng qī wǔ

Saturday

xīng qī liù

Sunday

xīng qī tiān

day

tiān

<i>which day</i>	nǎ tiān
<i>every day</i>	měi tiān
<i>quarter of an hour (15 minutes)</i>	kè
<i>quarter past eight</i>	bā diǎn yī kè
<i>half</i>	bàn
<i>half past four</i>	sì diǎn bàn

TAKE A BREAK 2

In Lesson 8, you learned that the time phrase comes before the verb in any statement or question. The full word order for the time phrase including days of the week is this: First, the day (such as Monday); then, period of the day (such as morning or evening); then the time (in the order of hour, minutes, and seconds). Let's work on this.

<i>Monday morning at 8.</i>	Xīng qī yī zǎoshang bā diǎn.
<i>Tuesday, 10 a.m.</i>	Xīng qī èr zǎoshang shí diǎn.
<i>Wednesday afternoon, quarter past one.</i>	Xīng qī sān xiàwǔ yī diǎn yī kè.
<i>3:20 p.m., Thursday.</i>	Xīng qī sì xiàwǔ sān diǎn èr shí.
<i>Friday, 5 p.m.</i>	Xīng qī wǔ xiàwǔ wǔ diǎn.
<i>Saturday evening, quarter past eight.</i>	Xīng qī liù wǎnshang bā diǎn yī kè.
<i>11:40 p.m. on Sunday.</i>	Xīng qī tiān wǎnshang shí yī diǎn sìshí.
<i>Every morning at half past nine.</i>	Měi tiān zǎoshang jiǔ diǎn bàn.

ONE MORE TIME . . .

Now let's use the verbs and ask some questions.

- A: *Which day do you work?*
Nǐ nǎ tiān shàng bān?
- B: *I work on Monday.*
Wǒ xīng qī yī shàng bān.
- A: *Which day does the accountant go to work?*
Kuàijì shī nǎ tiān shàng bān?
- B: *The accountant works every Wednesday.*
Kuàijì shī měi xīng qī sān shàng bān.

- A: *Which days do the lawyers go to work?*
Lùshī nǎ tiān shàng bān.
- B: *The lawyers work on Thursday and Friday.*
Lùshī xīng qī sì, xīng qī wǔ shàng bān.
- A: *When do they go to work?*
Tāmen shén me shí hòu shàng bān?
- B: *The laborers go to work every morning at 7.*
Gōngrén měi tiān zǎoshang qī diǎn shàng bān.
- A: *The store clerks work on Saturday and Sunday.*
Shòu huò yuán xīng qī liù, xīng qī tiān shàng bān.

Excellent.

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Let's listen to a brief dialogue.

- A: *What work do you do?*
Nǐ zuò shén me gōngzuò?
- B: *I am a store clerk. And you?*
Wǒ shì shòu huò yuán. Nǐ ne?
- A: *I work as an accountant on Fridays and Sundays.*
Wǒ xīng qī wǔ, xīng qī tiān zuò kuàijì.
- B: *What do you do on Saturdays?*
Nǐ xīng qī liù zuò shén me?
- A: *I go to school.*
Wǒ shàng xué.

Now listen again, this time just the Chinese.

- A: **Nǐ zuò shén me gōngzuò?**
- B: **Wǒ shì shòu huò yuán. Nǐ ne?**
- A: **Wǒ xīng qī wǔ, xīng qī tiān zuò kuàijì.**
- B: **Nǐ xīng qī liù zuò shén me?**
- A: **Wǒ shàng xué.**

WORK OUT

See if you can take part in a dialogue similar to the one you've just heard. Listen to the English prompts to help you answer the questions in Chinese.

When do your engineers get to work?

Nǐmen de gōngchéng shī shén me shíhòu shàng bān? (*Monday*)

Tāmén xīng qī yī shàng bān.

What time on Monday?

Xīng qī yī jǐ diǎn? (*2 p.m.*)

Xīng qī yī xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn.

May I ask, what do you do?

Qǐngwèn nǐ zuò shén me gōngzuò?
(*a laborer*)

Wǒ shì gōngrén.

Which day do you work?

Nǐ nǎ tiān gōngzuò? (*every day*)

Wǒ měi tiān gōngzuò.

Good job!

PARTING WORDS

Excellent. **Fēi cháng hǎo.** You did a lot of work just to learn about how to talk about work! You also learned five major question words and phrases: **shéi** (*who*), **nǎli** (*where*), **shén me** (*what*), **jǐ diǎn** (*what time, when*), and **nǎ tiān** (*which day*). When telling time, there is another unit: *seconds*, and the word for it is **miǎo**. So *ten seconds* would be **shí miǎo**, *twenty seconds* is **èrshí miǎo**, and *one minute and a half* is **yī fēn sānshí miǎo** or **yī fēn bàn**.



Lesson 10: Socializing

Dìshí kè: Shè jiāo

Hello. **Nǐ hǎo.** You made it to the last lesson! In this lesson, you'll get a bit of rest from the topic of work, and learn words for entertainment and sports. You'll learn how to express your likes and dislikes and how to use the very important negative word **bù** (*no*) to form statements and questions. Let's get started.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 1

<i>to like</i>	xǐhuan
<i>to watch, to read silently</i>	kàn
<i>movies</i>	diànyǐng
<i>newspaper</i>	bào zhǐ
<i>novel</i>	xiǎo shuō
<i>to listen</i>	tīng
<i>music</i>	yīnyuè
<i>to drink</i>	hē
<i>coffee</i>	kāfēi
<i>no, not</i>	bù
<i>do not like</i>	bù xǐhuan

TAKE A BREAK 1

Very good. The verb **xǐhuan** (*to like*) and its negative form **bù xǐ huān** (*to not like*) can be directly followed by a noun such as **kāfēi** (*coffee*) or a verb phrase such as **kàn diànyǐng** (*to watch movies*). No change in the nouns or verbs is necessary. Let's listen to some examples.

She likes music.

Tā xǐhuan yīn yuè.

She likes to listen to music.

Tā xǐhuan tīng yīn yuè.

She doesn't like to listen to music.

Tā bù xǐhuan tīng yīn yuè.

He drinks coffee.

Tā hē kāfēi.

He likes to drink coffee.

Tā xǐhuan hē kāfēi.

He doesn't like to drink coffee.

Tā bù xǐhuan hē kāfēi.

They like movies.

Tāmen xǐhuan diànyǐng.

They like to watch movies.

Tāmen xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng.

They don't like to watch movies.

Tāmen bù xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng.

Very good. Now that you've learned this structure, let's learn a few more words you can use with it.

VOCABULARY BUILDING 2

to stay

home

at home

sports

programs

to play ball games with hands, to hit

baseball

basketball

football

to swim

to ski

Like or don't like?

dāi

jiā

zài jiā

tǐ yù

jié mù

dǎ

bàng qiú

lán qiú

gǎn lǎn qiú

yóu yǒng

huá xuě

Xǐhuan bù xǐhuan?/Xǐ bù xǐhuan?

TAKE A BREAK 2

Very nice. To ask if someone likes something, Chinese uses a combined positive and negative: **Xǐhuan bù xǐhuan** (Like or don't like). This is often shortened to **Xǐ bù xǐhuan?**

Like or don't like?

Do you like novels?

I like novels.

Do you like to read novels?

I don't like to read novels.

Does he like to watch sports programs?

He doesn't like to watch sports programs.

Does she like to play basketball?

She likes to play basketball.

Do they like to swim?

They don't like to swim.

Xǐ bù xǐhuan?

Nǐ xǐ bù xǐhuan xiǎo shuō?

Wǒ xǐhuan xiǎo shuō.

Nǐ xǐ bù xǐhuan kàn xiǎo shuō?

Wǒ bù xǐhuan kàn xiǎo shuō.

Tā xǐ bù xǐhuan kàn tǐ yù jié mù?

Tā bù xǐhuan kàn tǐ yù jié mù.

Tā xǐ bù xǐhuan dǎ lán qiú?

Tā xǐhuan dǎ lán qiú.

Tāmen xǐ bù xǐhuan yóu yǒng?

Tāmen bù xǐhuan yóu yǒng.

Do you like to ski?

Nǐ xǐ bù xǐhuan huá xuě?

I like to ski.

Wǒ xǐhuan huá xuě.

You can also use this expression to say whether or not you like someone else.

I like her.

Wǒ xǐhuan tā.

She doesn't like me.

Tā bù xǐhuan wǒ.

ONE MORE TIME

Excellent. Of course, all questions can be asked simply by adding the question word **ma** to the end of a statement as we learned in Lesson 2. Let's practice the positive **xǐhuan** (*to like*) and the negative **bù xǐhuan** (*to not like*) in separate sentences and add **ma** at the end.

Do you like to drink coffee?

Nǐ xǐhuan hē kāfēi ma?

You don't like to read newspapers?

Nǐ bù xǐhuan kàn bào zhǐ ma?

Don't you people like to watch movies?

Nǐmen bù xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng ma?

Do you like to stay home?

Nǐ xǐhuan dāi zài jiā mā?

They don't like to play baseball?

Tāmen bù xǐhuan dǎ bàng qiú ma?

BRING IT ALL TOGETHER

Let's listen to some people talking about their likes and dislikes.

A: *Do you like to listen to music?*
Nǐ xǐhuan tīng yīn yuè ma?

B: *I don't.*
Wǒ bù xǐhuan.

I like to watch movies, and you?
Wǒ xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng, nǐ ne?

A: *I like to read novels.*
Wǒ xǐhuan kàn xiǎo shuō.

B: *I don't read novels. I read newspapers.*
Wǒ bù kàn xiǎo shuō. Wǒ kàn bào zhǐ.

A: *Do you like swimming?*
Nǐ xǐ bù xǐhuan yóu yǒng?

- B: *I don't. I like skiing.*
Wǒ bù xǐhuan. Wǒ xǐhuan huá xuě.
- A: *What does your younger brother like?*
Nǐ dìdi xǐhuan shén me?
- B: *He likes to stay home, watch TV, sleep.*
Tā xǐhuan dāi zài jiā, kàn diànshì, shuì jiào.

One more time, in Chinese only.

- A: **Nǐ xǐhuan tīng yīn yuè ma?**
- B: **Wǒ bù xǐhuan. Wǒ xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng, nǐ ne?**
- A: **Wǒ xǐhuan kàn xiǎo shuō.**
- B: **Wǒ bù kàn xiǎo shuō. Wǒ kàn bào zhǐ.**
- A: **Nǐ xǐ bù xǐhuan yóu yǒng?**
- B: **Wǒ bù xǐhuan. Wǒ xǐhuan huá xuě.**
- A: **Nǐ dìdi xǐhuan shén me?**
- B: **Tā xǐhuan dāi zài jiā, kàn diànshì, shuì jiào.**

WORK OUT

Let's use this last exercise to contrast the likes and dislikes of two people. We'll give you some information about the likes and dislikes of a woman named Li. Tell us that her older brother doesn't like what she likes in Chinese. Then you'll hear a prompt in English telling you what he does like; answer with a complete sentence saying what he likes in Chinese. Listen to the example first.

She likes to eat Chinese food.
Tā xǐhuan chī zhōng guó cài.

Tā de gēge bù xǐhuan chī zhōng guó cài.

he likes to drink tea

Tā xǐhuan hē chá.

Now it's your turn!

She likes to play basketball.
Tā xǐhuan dǎ lán qiú.

Tā de gēge bù xǐhuan dǎ lán qiú.

he likes to swim

Tā xǐhuan yóu yǒng.

She likes to read books.

Tā xǐhuan kàn shū.

he likes to watch football

Tā de gēge bù xǐhuan kàn shū.

Tā xǐhuan kàn gǎn lǎn qiú.

She likes to listen to music.

Tā xǐhuan tīng yīn yuè.

Tā dé gēge bù xǐhuan tīng yīn yuè.

he likes to sleep

Tā xǐhuan shuì jiào.

For extra practice, try talking about your likes and dislikes with other vocabulary from this course. What do you like to do? What don't you like to do? What foods do you like, what sports? Think of at least five things you like, and five things you don't like using the vocabulary you learned throughout the course. Good luck!

PARTING WORDS

Congratulations to you. Gōng xǐ nǐ. You learned so much in this final lesson! You learned to use the negative word **bù** to make statements and ask questions. There are many Chinese words for the word *to play*. The word **dǎ** (*to hit*) is used for playing basketball: **dǎ lán qiú**, playing bridge: **dǎ qiáo pái**, and playing drums: **dǎ gǔ**. Another word **tán** is used for playing the piano: **tán gāng qín**, and playing the guitar: **tán jí tā**. The general word for *playing* is **wán**, meaning *to have fun*.



Dialogues

Here's your chance to practice all the vocabulary and grammar you've mastered in ten lessons of Starting Out in Chinese with these five dialogues.

You'll hear the dialogue first in Chinese at a conversational pace. Listen carefully for meaning. Can you get the gist of the conversation? Next, you'll hear each sentence individually, first in Chinese and then in English. This should help fill in any gaps in understanding you had the first time. Then, you'll have a chance to listen to each sentence of the dialogue again and repeat it for practice. Finally, you'll do some role-play by taking part in the same conversation. You'll first hear the native speaker say a line from the dialogue, then you'll respond appropriately in the pause provided.

Have fun!

DIALOGUE 1: XUÉXIÀO WǎN HUÌ (A PARTY AT SCHOOL)

- A: **Duìbùqǐ. Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma?**
Excuse me. Are you a teacher?
- B: **Wǒ shì.**
I am.
- A: **Nǐ hǎo ma?**
How are you?
- B: **Hěnhǎo. Nǐ ne?**
Fine. And you?
- A: **Bùcuò. Xièxie nǐ.**
Not bad. Thank you.
- B: **Nǐ yǒu mèimei ma?**
Do you have younger sisters?
- A: **Wǒ yǒu gēge, yǒu dìdi. Nǐ ne?**
I have an older brother and a younger brother. And you?
- B: **Wǒ yǒu jiějie, yǒu mèimei.**
I have an older sister and a younger sister.
- A: **Wǒ gēge shì lǎoshī.**
My older brother is a teacher.
- B: **Tā yǒu nán xuésheng ma?**
Does he have male students?
- A: **Yǒu nán, yǒu nǚ.**
He has male and female students. (lit.: Has male, has female.)
- B: **Wǒ jiějie shì mǔqīn. Tā yǒu nǚér.**
My older sister is a mother. She has a daughter.
- A: **Nǐ yǒu nǚér ma?**
Do you have daughters?
- B: **Wǒ yǒu érzi.**
I have a son.
- A: **Tā hǎo ma?**
How is he?
- B: **Hěnhǎo. Xièxie nǐ.**
Very well. Thank you.

A: **Nǐ yǒu nǚxuéshēng ma?**
Do you have female students?

B: **Wǒ yǒu. Nǚxuéshēng shì nǐ.**
I do. The female student is you.

DIALOGUE 2: QÙ KĀI HUÌ (GOING TO A MEETING)

A: **Wǒmen yǒu jǐge bīngxiāng?**
How many refrigerators do we have?

B: **Wǒmen yǒu sì gè bīng xiāng.**
We have four refrigerators.

A: **Shéi yǒu diàn nǎo?**
Who has a computer?

B: **Shíwǔ gè rén yǒu diàn nǎo.**
Fifteen people have computers.

A: **Shíwǔ gè xuéshēng ma?**
Fifteen students?

B: **Sì gè lǎoshī, shíyī gè xuéshēng.**
Four teachers and eleven students.

A: **Zhuōzi yǐzi ne?**
How about tables and chairs?

B: **Wǒmen yǒu shí zhāng zhuōzi, liùshí zhāng yǐzi.**
We have ten tables and sixty chairs.

A: **Wǒmen yǒu èrshíwǔ gè xuéshēng, bā gè lǎoshī.**
We have twenty-five students and eight teachers.

B: **Sān shí sān ge rén.**
Thirty-three people.

A: **Shéi yǒu qìchē?**
Who has a car?

B: **Sān gè nǚ lǎoshī yǒu sì liàng qìchē.**
Three female teachers have four cars.

A: **Nán lǎoshī ne?**
And male teachers?

B: **Yīgè nán lǎoshī yǒu yī liàng.**
One male teacher has one.

A: **Wǔ gè rén yī liàng qìchē. Wǔ liàng qìchē, èrshíwǔ gè rén.**
Five people per car. Five cars, twenty-five people.

B: **Wǒ gēge yǒu yī liàng qìchē. Liù liàng qìchē, sānshí gè rén.**
My older brother has a car. Six cars, thirty people.

A: **Xuésheng yǒu zìxíngchē ma?**
Do any students have bicycles?

B: **Xuésheng yǒu shíqī liàng zìxíngchē.**
The students have seventeen bicycles.

A: **Hěnhǎo.**
Very good.

DIALOGUE 3: Nǐ DE JIŪ ZHÀOXIÀNGJǐ ZÀI NǎLI? (WHERE IS YOUR OLD CAMERA?)

A: **Nǐ qù nǎli?**
Where are you going?

B: **Wǒ qù shìchǎng.**
I am going to the market.

A: **Yóujú pángbiān de shìchǎng ma?**
The market next to the post office?

B: **Shì. Nǐ ne?**
Yes. And you?

A: **Wǒ qù xuéxiào de yīyuàn.**
I am going to the school's hospital.

B: **Xuéxiào de yīyuàn zài nǎli?**
Where is the school's hospital?

A: **Zài xuéxiào de nán biān.**
On the south side of the school.

B: **Wǒ de mèimei shì hùshi.**
My younger sister is a nurse.

A: **Tā de yīyuàn zài nǎli?**
Where is her hospital?

B: **Zài xìyuàn de běi biān.**
On the north side of the theater.

A: **Dà xìyuàn ma?**
The large theater?

- B: **Xiǎo xìyuàn. Zài jǐngchájú de yòubian.**
The small theater. On the right side of the police station.
- A: **Nǐ de zhàoxiàngjī shì xīn de ma?**
Is your camera new?
- B: **Shì xīn de.**
It's new.
- A: **Nǐ de jiù zhàoxiàngjī zài nǎlǐ?**
Where is your old camera?
- B: **Jiù zhàoxiàngjī zài wǒmen de cānguǎn. Jiù zhàoxiàngjī shì wǒ mǔqīn de.**
The old camera is at our restaurant. The old camera is my mother's.

DIALOGUE 4: WŌMEN SHÉN ME SHÍHÒU QÙ CĀNGUǎN? (WHEN ARE WE GOING TO THE RESTAURANT?)

- A: **Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?**
What time is it?
- B: **Sān diǎn sìshí fēn.**
Three forty.
- A: **Wǎncān shì qī diǎn zhōng. Wǒmen shén me shíhòu qù cānguǎn?**
Dinner is at seven. When do we go to the restaurant?
- B: **Liù diǎn sìshí wǔ.**
Six forty-five.
- A: **Nǐ de xuésheng ne? Wǒmen gěi tāmen diǎn shén me cài?**
What about your students? What do we order for them?
- B: **Qīng zhēng yú hěnhǎo.**
The steamed fish is very good.
- A: **Liǎng dà wǎn pái gǔ tāng. Wǒmen diǎn jiǔ ma?**
Two large bowls of spare rib soup. Do we order wine?
- B: **Gěi wǒmen diǎn yī píng hóng jiǔ. Gěi xuésheng diǎn píjiǔ.**
Order one bottle of red wine for us. Beer for the students.
- A: **Kǎo niǔròu ne?**
And roast beef?
- B: **Tāmen yǒu là niúròu ma?**
Do they have spicy beef?
- A: **Yǒu. Nǐ wǎnshang chī là de cài ma?**
They do. Do you eat spicy food in the evening?

B: **Wǒ chī. Wǒ zǎoshang liǎng diǎn zhōng shuǐjiào.**
I do. I go to sleep at two in the morning.

DIALOGUE 5: Nǐ xǐhuān zhōngguó cài ma? (DO YOU LIKE CHINESE FOOD?)

A: **Nǐ xǐhuān kàn diànyǐng ma?**
Do you like to see movies?

B: **Wǒ xǐhuān.**
I do.

A: **Wǒ xīngqīsān wǎnshang qù kàn diànyǐng. Nǐ qù ma?**
I am going to see a movie on Wednesday night. Would you go?

B: **Wǒ xīngqīsān wǎnshang shāngxué. Wǒ bā diǎn shí fēn xué zhōngwén, jiǔ diǎn shí fēn xué diànnǎo. Nǐ xué shén me?**
I go to school on Wednesday night. I study Chinese at 8:10, and computers at 9:10. What do you study?

A: **Wǒ xué kuàijì.**
I study accounting.

B: **Wǒde mùqīn shì kuàijì shī.**
My mother is an accountant.

A: **Nǐ de fùqīn ne?**
And your father?

B: **Tā shì lǚshī. Nǐ xīngqīliù zuò shén me?**
He's a lawyer. What do you do on Saturday?

A: **Wǒ xīngqīliù zuò shòuhuòyuán.**
I work as a store clerk on Saturday.

B: **Nǐ nǎ tiān bù gōngzuò?**
Which days don't you work?

A: **Xīngqīsān, xīngqīwǔ, xīngqītiān.**
Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday.

B: **Nǐ xīngqītiān bù xǐhuan tīng yīnyuè ma?**
Don't you like to listen to music on Sundays?

A: **Wǒ xǐhuan xīngqītiān dāi zài jiā kàn shū.**
I like to stay home and read on Sundays.

B: **Nǐ xǐhuān hē kāfēi ma?**
Do you like to drink coffee?

A: **Wǒ xǐhuān chī zhōngguó cài.**
I like to eat Chinese food.

B: **Wǒmen xiànzài qù chī.**
Let's go eat now.

A: **Hǎo.**
All right.