

Lesson 1

Greetings

Wèn hòu
问候

Key sentences



- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 你好! | Nǐ hǎo! |
| 2. 你好吗? | Nǐ hǎo ma? |
| 3. 你最近忙不忙? | Nǐ zuìjìn máng bù máng? |
| 4. 你怎么样? | Nǐ zěnmeyàng? |
| 5. 我很忙, 你呢? | Wǒ hěn máng, nǐ ne? |

New words



- | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 1. 你好 | nǐ hǎo | i.e | hello |
| 2. 你 | nǐ | pron | you |
| 3. 好 | hǎo | adj | good, well |
| 4. 们 | men | affix | a plural form |
| 5. 大家 | dàjiā | pron | everybody |
| 6. 老师 | lǎoshī | n | teacher |
| 7. 吗 | ma | pt | a question marker |
| 8. 我 | wǒ | pron | I, me |
| 9. 很 | hěn | adv | very |
| 10. 呢 | ne | pt | a particle for follow-up questions |
| 11. 也 | yě | adv | also, too, either |

12. 最近	zuìjìn	adv	<i>recently, lately</i>
13. 忙	máng	adj	<i>busy</i>
14. 不	bù	adv	<i>no, not</i>
15. 累	lèi	adj	<i>tired</i>
16. 怎么样	zěnmeyàng	q.w	<i>how are things?</i>
17. 不错	búcuò	adj	<i>not bad, pretty good</i>
18. 马马虎虎	mǎmǎhūhū	adj	<i>so-so</i>
19. 他	tā	pron	<i>he, him</i>
20. 再见	zàijiàn	i.e	<i>goodbye, see you again</i>
21. 再	zài	adv	<i>again</i>
22. 见	jiàn	v	<i>meet, see</i>
23. 方兰	Fāng Lán	p.n	<i>a Chinese name</i>
24. 高朋	Gāo Péng	p.n	<i>a Chinese name</i>

Dialogues



(1)

(Saying hello to people)

A: Nǐ hǎo!
你 好!

Hello!

B: Nǐmen hǎo!
你 们 好!

Hello to all of you!

A: Dàjiā hǎo!
大 家 好!

Hello everybody!

B: Lǎoshī hǎo!
老 师 好!

Hello teacher!

(2)

(Greeting a friend)

A: Nǐ hǎo ma?
你 好 吗?

How are you?

B: Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?
我 很 好。你 呢?

I'm very well. And you?

A: Wǒ yě hěn hǎo.
我 也 很 好。

I'm very well, too.

(3)

(Greeting a colleague)

A: Nǐ hǎo!
你 好!

Hello!

B: Nǐ hǎo! Nǐ zuìjìn máng bù máng?
你 好! 你 最 近 忙 不 忙?

Hello! Have you been busy lately?

A: Wǒ bù máng. Nǐ ne?
我 不 忙。你 呢?

I'm not busy. How about you?

B: Wǒ hěn máng, yě hěn lèi.
我 很 忙，也 很 累。

I'm very busy, and tired too.

(4)

(Greeting informally)

A: Fāng Lán, nǐ hǎo! Nǐ zěnmeyàng?
方 兰，你 好! 你 怎 么 样?

Hi, Fang Lan, how are things going?

B: Wǒ búcuò. Nǐ ne?
我 不 错。你 呢?

Pretty good, and you?

A: Mǎmǎhūhū.
马 马 虎 虎。

So-so.

B: Gāo Péng ne? Tā zěnmeyàng?
高朋呢?他怎么样?

How about Gao Peng? How is he?

A: Tā búcuò, tā hěn máng.
他不错,他很忙。

He is not so bad, but busy.

B: Zàijiàn!
再见!

Goodbye!

A: Zàijiàn!
再见!

Goodbye!



Language Points

1. Simple sentence pattern (1) — Subject + Adjective

In Chinese some adjectives are similar to verbs in function, especially adjectives used to describe feelings, emotions, mood and status; they can be used directly as predicates without the copulative verb ‘to be’. For example:

Nǐ hǎo!
(1) 你好!
Hello! (literally: You well)

Wǒ máng.
(2) 我忙。
I am busy. (literally: I busy)

Tā gāoxìng.
(3) 他高兴。
He is happy. (literally: He happy)

2. Question forms

(1) 吗 *ma* question:

Simply put 吗 *ma* at the end of a statement sentence without changing the word order to make it a question. For example:

Nǐ hǎo ma? *How are you?*
1) 你好吗?

Nǐ máng ma? *Are you busy?*
2) 你忙吗?

To answer this type of question, if positive, just repeat the verb or adjective. If negative, put 不 before the verb or adjective. For example:

Wǒ bù máng. *I am not busy.*
我不忙。

(2) Choice type question:

This is also called a YES/NO question. The construction is:

Verb/Adjective + 不 bù + Verb/Adjective

For example:

Nǐ máng bù máng? *Are you busy?*
1) 你忙不忙?

Tā lèi bú lèi? *Is he tired?*
2) 他累不累?

(3) 呢 ne question:

Used in a follow-up question with a known context without the need to repeat the whole question. It resembles ‘And...?’ or ‘what about...’ in English. For example:

Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne? *I am very well. How about you?*
我很好。你呢?

(4) 怎么样 zěnmeyàng question:

Used as a greeting among colleagues, friends, and people who are familiar with each other. For example:

Nǐ zěnmeyàng? *How are you? / How are things going?*
你怎么样?

3. Adverbs

Chinese adverbs never go before nouns, pronouns or at the end of sentences. For example:

Wǒ hěn hǎo. *I'm very well.*
1) 我很好。

Wǒ yě hěn hǎo. *I am also very well.*
2) 我也很好。

Here both 很 *hěn* and 也 *yě* are adverbs. 很 *hěn* is expressing degree while 也 *yě* is expressing repetition.

4. The expression of plural forms

Nouns do not have plural form, and verbs have no single forms in Chinese. However, personal pronouns do have plural forms. Simply add 们 *men* after the pronoun to change it into a plural. See the table below:

Table 1. Chinese personal noun

	Singular		Plural	
1st person	我 <i>wǒ</i>	<i>I, me</i>	我们 <i>wǒmen</i>	<i>we, us</i>
2nd person	你 <i>nǐ</i>	<i>you</i>	你们 <i>nǐmen</i>	<i>you (plural)</i>
3rd person	他 <i>tā</i>	<i>he, him</i>	他们 <i>tāmen</i>	<i>they, them</i>
	她 <i>tā</i>	<i>she, her</i>	她们 <i>tāmen</i>	<i>they, them (for females)</i>

Exercises

1. Say the following words or phrases in Chinese.

- | | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------------|---------------|
| 1) hello | 2) goodbye | 3) thanks | 4) not so bad |
| 5) very good | 6) good | 7) everybody | 8) recently |
| 9) very tired | 10) so-so | | |

2. Fill in the blanks with the words given; each word can only be used once.

a. 怎么样 *zěnmeyàng* b. 不 *bù* c. 也 *yě* d. 吗 *ma* e. 呢 *ne*

- Nǐ zuìjìn máng _____ ?
- 1) 你最近忙 _____ ?
- Nǐ _____ ?
- 2) 你 _____ ?
- Wǒ hěn máng, _____ hěn lèi.
- 3) 我很忙, _____ 很累。
- Fānglán zuìjìn hěn máng, nǐ _____ ?
- 4) 方兰最近很忙, 你 _____ ?

5) Wǒ _____ máng.
我 _____ 忙。

3. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

- Nǐ hǎo !
- 1) A: 你好!
- B: a. 我好。 b. 很好。 c. 你好! d. 你呢?
- Wǒ hǎo. Hěn hǎo. Nǐ hǎo ! Nǐ ne ?
- Nǐ hǎo ma ?
- 2) A: 你好吗?
- B: a. 你好! b. 我也很好。 c. 你呢? d. 我很好。
- Nǐ hǎo ! Wǒ yě hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne? Wǒ hěn hǎo.
- Nǐ máng bù máng ?
- 3) A: 你忙不忙?
- B: a. 也忙。 b. 我不忙。 c. 我很累。 d. 你呢?
- Yě máng. Wǒ bù máng. Wǒ hěn lèi. Nǐ ne ?
- Nǐ zěnmeyàng ?
- 4) A: 你怎么样?
- B: a. 你好。 b. 马马虎虎。 c. 你好吗? d. 你呢?
- Nǐ hǎo. Mǎmǎhūhū. Nǐ hǎo ma ? Nǐ ne ?
- Wǒ hěn lèi, nǐ ne ?
- 5) A: 我很累, 你呢?
- B: a. 也很累。 b. 你累吗? c. 我很好。 d. 很忙。
- Yě hěn lèi. Nǐ lèi ma ? Wǒ hěn hǎo. Hěn máng.

4. Translate the following dialogues into Chinese.

- 1) A: Hello, Mark!
B: Hello, Helen!
A: How are you?
B: I'm very well. How about you?
A: I'm very well, too. Thanks!
- 2) A: Jack, how are you?
B: Just so-so. And you?
A: I'm so-so, too.
- 3) A: Anna, how are things going?
B: Not so bad. What about you?
A: Not so bad, either.
- 4) A: David, have you been busy recently?

B: No. And you?

A: I've been very busy.

5) A: Lucy, are you tired?

B: Yes. I am so tired. How about you?

A: I am tired, too.

5. Listening Comprehension

Circle the correct answer according to the phrases you hear.

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------------|
| 1) a. How are you? | b. Hello! | c. How are things? |
| 2) a. How are you? | b. Goodbye! | c. Hello! |
| 3) a. I am very well. | b. Hello! | c. How are things? |
| 4) a. I am very well. | b. So-so. | c. Not bad. |
| 5) a. So-so. | b. Not bad. | c. Goodbye! |
| 6) a. I am very well. | b. Not bad. | c. So-so. |
| 7) a. Hello! | b. Goodbye! | c. See you tomorrow. |
| 8) a. See you tomorrow. | b. Goodbye! | c. How are things? |

6. Classroom Activities

Greet your classmates and reply to each other in different ways.

7. Learning Chinese Characters

你									
好									
再									
见									

Lesson 2

Introductions

Jièshào 介绍

Key sentences



- | | |
|------------|------------------------|
| 1. 请问，您贵姓？ | Qǐngwèn, nín guìxìng? |
| 2. 你姓什么？ | Nǐ xìng shénme? |
| 3. 你叫什么名字？ | Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? |
| 4. 她是谁？ | Tā shì shuí? |
| 5. 她是我的老师。 | Tā shì wǒ de lǎoshī. |

New words



- | | | | |
|--------|-------------|------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 请问 | qǐngwèn | i.e | <i>may I ask, excuse me</i> |
| 2. 请 | qǐng | v | <i>please</i> |
| 3. 问 | wèn | v | <i>ask</i> |
| 4. 您贵姓 | nín guìxìng | i.e | <i>what's your surname? (polite)</i> |
| 5. 您 | nín | pron | <i>you (polite)</i> |
| 6. 贵 | guì | adj | <i>honoured, noble, expensive</i> |
| 7. 姓 | xìng | v | <i>be surnamed</i> |
| 8. 女士 | nǚshì | n | <i>Ms</i> |
| 9. 先生 | xiānsheng | n | <i>Mr, gentleman, husband</i> |
| 10. 认识 | rènshi | v | <i>recognise, know</i> |
| 11. 高兴 | gāoxìng | adj | <i>happy, glad</i> |

12. 叫	jiào	v	<i>call, be called</i>
13. 名字	míngzi	n	<i>name</i>
14. 她	tā	pron	<i>she, her</i>
15. 是	shì	v	<i>to be</i>
16. 谁	shuí	q.w	<i>who</i>
17. 的	de	pt	<i>of, ~'s (possessive particle)</i>
18. 都	dōu	adv	<i>all, both</i>
19. 朋友	péngyou	n	<i>friend</i>
20. 这	zhè	pron	<i>this</i>
21. 那	nà	pron	<i>that</i>
22. 马	Mǎ	p.n	<i>a Chinese surname</i>
23. 王	Wáng	p.n	<i>a Chinese surname</i>
24. 王小玉	Wáng Xiǎoyù	p.n	<i>a Chinese name</i>

Dialogues



(1)

(Asking for a name formally)

- A: Qǐngwèn, nín guìxìng?
请 问, 您 贵姓?
Excuse me, may I know your surname?
- B: Wǒ xìng Mǎ. Nín ne?
我 姓 马。您 呢?
My surname is Ma. And you?
- A: Wǒ xìng Wáng.
我 姓 王。
My surname is Wang.
- B: Wáng nǚshì, nín hǎo!
王 女士, 您 好!
How do you do, Ms Wang?
- A: Nín hǎo, Mǎ xiānsheng!
您 好, 马 先 生!
How do you do, Mr Ma?
- B: Rènshi nín hěn gāoxìng.
认 识 您 很 高 兴。
Happy to meet you.

A: Wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.
我也很高兴。

Happy to meet you, too.

(2)

(Asking for a name informally)

A: Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?
你叫什么名字?

What is your name?

B: Wǒ jiào Wáng Xiǎoyù. Nǐ ne?
我叫王小雨。你呢?

My name is Wang Xiaoyu. And you?

A: Wǒ jiào Fāng Lán.
我叫方兰。

My name is Fang Lan.

B: Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.
很高兴认识你。

Happy to meet you.

A: Wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.
我也很高兴。

Happy to meet you, too.



(3)

(Asking for somebody's name)

A: Qǐngwèn, tā shì shuí?
请问，她是谁?

Can I ask who she is?

B: Tā shì wǒ de lǎoshī.
她是我的老师。

She is my teacher.