Key sentences

1. 你好！
   Nǐ hǎo!

2. 你好吗?
   Nǐ hǎo mɑ?

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

Dialogues

(Saying hello to people)

A: Nǐ hǎo !
你好!

B: Nǐmen hǎo!
你们好!

A: Dàjiā hǎo!
大家好!

B: Lǎoshī hǎo !
老师好!

Hello!

Hello to all of you!

Hello everybody!

Hello teacher!
(Greeting a friend)

A: Nǐ hǎo ma?  
你 好 吗?  

B: Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?  
我 很 好。你 呢?  

A: Wǒ yě hěn hǎo.  
我 也 很 好。  

How are you?  
I’m very well. And you?  
I’m very well, too.

(Greeting a colleague)

A: Nǐ hǎo!  
你 好!  

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

A: Wǒ bù máng. Nǐ ne?  
我 不 忙。你 呢?  

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

Hello!  
Hello! Have you been busy lately?  
I’m not busy. How about you?  
I’m very busy, and tired too.

(Greeting informally)

A: Fāng Lán, nǐ hǎo! Nǐ zěnmeyàng?  
方 兰, 你 好! 你 怎么样?  

B: Wǒ búcùò. Nǐ ne?  
我 不 错。你 呢?  

A: Mǎmǎhūhū.  
马马虎虎。  

Hi, Fang Lan, how are things going?  
Pretty good, and you?  
So-so.
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:

(1) 你 好！
Nǐ hǎo！ Hello! (literally: You well)

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

(3) 他 高兴。
Tā gāoxìng. 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:
Lesson 1  Greetings

1) 你好 吗?
   Nǐ hǎo ma?  How are you?

2) 你 忙 吗?
   Nǐ máng ma?  Are you busy?

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

   Wǒ bù máng.  I am not busy.

(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?

(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?

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

Table 1. Chinese personal noun

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>a. 怎么样</th>
<th>b. 不</th>
<th>c. 也</th>
<th>d. 吗</th>
<th>e. 呢</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nǐ zuìjìn máng _______?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) 你最近忙______?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nǐ ______?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) 你______?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wǒ hěn máng, _______hěn lèi.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) 我很忙, _______很累。</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fānglán zuìjìn hěn máng, nǐ _______?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) 方兰最近很忙,你______?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lesson 1  Greetings
Wǒ ______ máng.
5) 我 ______ 忙。

3. Choose the correct answer for each conversation.

Nǐ hǎo !
1) A: 你 好！
   Wǒ hǎo.    Hěn hǎo.    Nǐ hǎo !    Nǐ ne ?
   B: a. 我 好。 b. 很 好。 c. 你 好！ d. 你 呢？

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 máng bù máng ?
3) A: 你 忙 不 忙?
   Yě máng.   Wǒ bù máng.   Wǒ hěn lèi.   Nǐ ne ?
   B: a. 也 忙。 b. 我 不 忙。 c. 我 很 累。 d. 你 呢？

Nǐ zěnmeyàng ?
4) A: 你 怎 么 样?
   Nǐ hǎo.    Mǎmǎhūhū.   Nǐ hǎo ma ?   Nǐ ne ?
   B: a. 你好。 b. 马 马虎虎。 c. 你 好 吗？ d. 你 呢？

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。

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.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>你</th>
<th>好</th>
<th>再</th>
<th>见</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 míngzì?
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. may I ask, excuse me
2. 请 qǐng v. please
3. 问 wèn v. ask
4. 您贵姓 nín guìxìng i.e. what’s your surname? (polite)
5. 您 nín pron. you (polite)
6. 贵 guì adj. honoured, noble, expensive
7. 姓 xìng v. be surnamed
8. 女士 nǚshì n. Ms
9. 先生 xiānsheng n. Mr, gentleman, husband
10. 认识 rènshi v. recognise, know
11. 高兴 gāoxìng adj. happy, glad
12. 叫 jiào  v  call, be called
13. 名字 míngzi  n  name
14. 她 tā  pron  she, her
15. 是 shì  v  to be
16. 谁 shuí  q.w  who
17. 的 de  pt  of, ~’s (possessive particle)
18. 都 dōu  adv  all, both
19. 朋友 péngyou  n  friend
20. 这 zhè  pron  this
21. 那 nà  pron  that
22. 马 Mǎ  p.n  a Chinese surname
23. 王 Wáng  p.n  a Chinese surname
24. 王小玉 Wáng Xiǎoyù  p.n  a Chinese name

Dialogues

(1)

(Asking for a name formally)

A: Qǐngwèn, nín guìxing?

Excuse me, may I know your surname?

B: Wǒ xìng Mǎ. Nín ne?

My surname is Ma. And you?

A: Wǒ xìng Wáng.

My surname is Wang.

B: Wáng nǚshì, nín hǎo !

How do you do, Ms Wang?

A: Nín hǎo. Mǎ xiānsheng !

How do you do, Mr Ma?

B: Rènshi nín hěn gāoxìng.

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 玉。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.