

**Starting Out in Chinese:**  
Elementary Listening, Speaking,  
Reading and Writing

**Wu Wang**

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*Starting Out in Chinese: Elementary Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing*

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## Lesson 1 - 你好吗? (How are you?)

A. 你好!

Nǐ hǎo!

B. 你好! 我是汉斯, 你叫什么名字?

Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ shì Hànsī, nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

A. 我叫露西。认识你很高兴!

Wǒ jiào Lùxī. Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.

B. 认识你我也很高兴!

Rènshi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.

A. 你好! 你是新学生吗?

Nǐ hǎo! Nǐ shì xīn xuéshēng ma?

B. 是。我叫安迪。

Shì. Wǒ jiào Āndí.

A. 安迪, 你好! 我姓陈, 是你的汉语老师。

Āndí, Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ xìng Chén, shì nǐde hànyǔ lǎoshī.

B. 陈老师, 您好!

Chén lǎoshī, nín hǎo!

A. 早上好!

Zǎoshàng hǎo!

B. 早上好!

Zǎoshàng hǎo!

A. 怎么样, 好吗?

Zěnmeyàng, hǎo ma?

B. (我) 很好, 你呢?

(Wǒ) hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?

A. 我也很好。谢谢。

Wǒ yě hěn hǎo. Xièxiè.

B. 再见!

Zàijiàn!

A. 再见!

Zàijiàn!

Hello! (or: Hi! )

你: you; 好: good

你好! You (are) good; (Wish) you (are) good => greeting

Hello! I'm Hens, what's your name?

我: I; me; 是: to be; 叫: to call (a name); 什么: what; 名字: name  
你叫什么名字? You call what name? => What's your name?

My name is Lucie. Glad to meet you!

我叫露西: I call Lucie => My name is Lucie.

认识: to know (somebody); 很: very; 高兴: glad

Glad to meet you, too!

Hi! Are you a new student?

吗: question particle, used at the end of a sentence to form a Yes or No question. 你是新学生吗? You are a new student?

Yes, I am. My name is Andi.

是: yes (to affirm the verb 'to be' used in the question).

Hi, Andi. I am Chen, your Chinese language teacher.

姓: have a family name of; 陈: Chen - a family name; 你的: your;  
汉语: Chinese language; 老师: teacher

How do you do? Teacher Chen!

您: you (polite expression). To address somebody in Chinese, the family name always goes first, then the first name or the title.

Good morning!

早上: early morning (before breakfast or starting work)

Good morning!

How's everything going on? Good?

怎么样: How is everything? How about everything?

(I'm) very good. And you?

呢: question particle, used at the end of a sentence to form a short term of repeating the same question back to the asker.

你呢? How about yourself (= how are you then)?

I am fine, too. Thanks.

也: also, too; 谢: to thank; 谢谢: thanks

我也很好: I (am) also fine <=> I'm fine, too.

Good-bye!

再见: see (you) again!

Good-bye!

Group words:

我	wǒ	I; me
你	nǐ	you
他	tā	he; him
她	tā	she; her
它	tā	it
我们	wǒmen	we; us
你们	nǐmen	you
他们	tāmen	they; them
她们	tāmen	they; them
它们	tāmen	they; them

我的	wǒde	my; mine
你的	nǐde	your; yours
他的	tāde	his
她的	tāde	her; hers
它的	tāde	its
我们的	wǒmende	our; ours
你们的	nǐmende	your; yours
他们的	tāmende	their; theirs
她们的	tāmende	their; theirs
它们的	tāmende	their; theirs

Comparable or relevant words:

好——很好——不好  
hǎo ---- hěnhǎo ---- bùhǎo

good; fine; well ---- very good ----not good

高兴——不高兴  
gāoxìng ---- bù gāoxìng

be glad---- be unglad

是——不是  
shì ---- búshì

to be ---- be not

认识——不认识  
rènshi ---- bù rènshi

to know; to recognize ---- do not know; do not recognize

叫——姓  
jiào ---- xìng

to call (a name) ---- have a family name of

叫 is used for either the first name or the whole name; while 姓 is used to give only the surname or last name

什么——谁  
shénme ---- shuí / shéi

what ---- who

吗——呢  
ma ---- ne

for Yes/No question ---- for rhetorical question

they are both question particles and toneless

你——您  
nǐ ---- nín

you ---- you (polite expression)

您 is used to the people who you meet at the first time or who are older and/or at a higher position than you.

学生——老师  
xuéshēng ---- lǎoshī

student ---- teacher

汉语——英语  
hànyǔ ---- yīngyǔ

Chinese language ----English language

谢谢——不谢  
xièxiè ---- búxiè

thanks ---- don't mention it.

早上——晚上  
zǎoshàng ---- wǎnshàng

early morning ---- evening

### Questions:

**Yes or No question:** In Chinese, a Yes/No question is formed in the same structure (or word order) as a statement, only add the question particle 吗 and a question mark at the end of the sentence to make up to a question.

你好! (You're good!)	Hello! Hi!	=>	你好吗? (You're good ?)	How are you?
他是学生。(He is student.)	He is student.	=>	他是学生吗? (He is student ?)	Is he student?
我认识你。(I know you.)	I know you.	=>	我认识你吗? (I know you ?)	Do I know you?

**Information question:** Similarly, you make an information question the same way as a statement, only put the question word where the corresponding information word should be in a statement or answer.

这是什么? (This is <u>what</u> ?)	What is this?	=>	这是一本书。	This is <u>a book</u> .
她是谁? (She is <u>who</u> ?)	Who is she?	=>	她是 <u>你的</u> 老师。	She is <u>your</u> teacher.
你去 <u>哪儿</u> ? (You go <u>where</u> ?)	Where do you go?	=>	我去 <u>学校</u> 。	I go to <u>school</u> .

### Activities and Exercises:

1. *Make flash cards for the new words and phrases of the lesson ---- write the character(s) on one side, pinyin and English meaning on the other side.*
2. *Repeat the text dialogues after your teacher, pay attention to liaison and pause in the sentences, then practice with your peers at school or by yourself at home until you memorize the sentences and are able to say any of them whenever a similar situation applies to you.*
3. *Search the characters or words by radical indexes in your Chinese dictionary:*

#### radical index

(for character category)

一 (1 strokes)

丿 (1 strokes)

冂 (1 strokes)

亠 (2 strokes)

讠 (2 strokes)

亻 (2 strokes)

阝 (left) (2 strokes)

讠 (3 strokes)

#### character index

(for pinyin or page # where characters & their meanings can be found)

不 (3 strokes except 一)

再 (5 strokes except 一)

我 (6 strokes except the first stroke 丿)

也 (2 strokes except 冂)

高 (8 strokes except 亠)

认 (2 strokes except 讠)

谁 (8 strokes except 讠)

谢 (10 strokes except 讠)

你 (5 strokes except 亻)

什 (2 strokes)

他 (3 strokes)

陈 (5 strokes except 阝)

汉 (2 strokes except 讠)

#### word

(for the characters' and words' meanings)

不

再、再见

我、我们

也

高、高兴

认、认识

谁

谢、谢谢

你、你们

什、什么

他、他们

陈 (a family name)

汉、汉语、汉语拼音

口 (3 strokes)	名 (3 strokes except 口)	名、名字
	叫 (2 strokes)	叫
	吗 (3 strokes)	吗
	呢 (5 strokes)	呢
亻 (3 strokes)	很 (6 strokes except 亻)	很
女 (3 strokes)	好 (3 strokes except 女)	好
	姓 (5 strokes)	姓、姓名
	她 (3 strokes)	她、她们
子 (3 strokes)	学 (5 strokes except 子)	学、学生
心 (4 strokes)	您 (7 strokes except 心)	您
	怎 (5 strokes)	怎、怎么、怎么样
日 (4 strokes)	是 (5 strokes except 日)	是
	早 (2 strokes except 日)	早、早上
	晚 (7 strokes except 日)	晚、晚上
斤 (4 strokes)	新 (9 strokes except 斤)	新
白 (5 strokes)	的 (3 strokes except 白)	的
老 (6 strokes)	老 (should be the first word in the list)	老、老师

4. Read the following Chinese words, phrases, and sentences:

我 I	他 he
我的 my	是 to be
我的名字 my name	学 to study; to learn
我的新名字 my new name	他是学生。 He is a student.
我的汉语名字 my Chinese name	他是新学生。 He is a new student.
我的老师 my teacher	他是汉语学生。 He is a Chinese student.
我的新老师 my new teacher	他是学汉语的学生。 He is a student learning Chinese.
我的汉语老师 my Chinese teacher	他是学汉语的新学生。 He is a new student learning Chinese.

5. Fill in the blanks with the missing words (underscored in English), then read them aloud:

你叫_____名字? <u>What</u> is your name?	我_____刘。 My <u>family name</u> is Liu.
你姓_____? <u>What</u> is your family name?	认识您很_____。 Very <u>glad</u> to meet you.



你是\_\_\_\_\_吗?  
Are you a student?

她是\_\_\_\_\_学生。  
She is a good student.

您是汉语\_\_\_\_\_吗?  
Are you a Chinese teacher?

你\_\_\_\_\_是好学生。  
You are also a good student.

您\_\_\_\_\_我吗?  
Do you know me?

她是\_\_\_\_\_好的学生。  
She is a very good student.

她是\_\_\_\_\_?  
Who is she?

他是我们的\_\_\_\_\_老师。  
He is our new teacher.

6. *Translate the following phrases and sentences into Chinese:*

their teacher	_____
your student	_____
English name	_____
Chinese name	_____
Thanks!	_____
How's everything going on?	_____
Does Hans know you?	_____
Are you learning Chinese (language)?	_____
How is she?	_____
Who is he?	_____
Is he glad?	_____
What is Lucie's family name?	_____
I'm fine. How about you?	_____
Aren't you a teacher?	_____
Her family name is Chen.	_____

7. *Translate the following sentences into English:*

我不认识你的老师。	_____
她很不高兴。	_____
他是新学生，你不是。	_____
我的名字叫露西。	_____
他姓陈，叫汉斯；陈汉斯。	_____
你们好吗？	_____
您也是学生吗？	_____
您学英语吗？	_____
谢谢老师！	_____
安迪，晚上好！	_____
怎么样，她好吗？	_____
你认识我的英语老师吗？	_____

8. *Read to the others your translated sentences from Exercise 6 (above) and see a) if they understand you; and b) if they agree with your translation. Be careful of your pronunciation and tones when you read in Chinese.*

9. *Work in small groups and spread all your flash cards in front of you. Try to make as many sentences as you can with the words you have learned so far, then exchange with the other groups. For the sentence(s) incorrect, you should try to point out where and why they are mistake(s) and how you should change it/them. Copy your final sentences below:*

10. *Read the following new words that are used in the notes or exercises above:*

哪儿 nǎ'r where  
去 qù to go

学校 xuéxiào school  
学 xué to study; to learn

***Proverb of the Lesson:***

万事开头难。<sup>[1]</sup>  
The first step is always hard.

## Lesson 2 - 这是谁的书? (Whose book is this?)

A. 这是一本书。它是我的。

Zhè shì yīběn shū. Tā shì wǒde.

This is a book. It's mine.

这: this; 一: one; 本: measure word for book-like objects, e.g. book, dictionary, etc.; 书: book; 一本书: one book

B. 那是一支笔。它是你的。

Nà shì yīzhī bǐ. Tā shì nǐde.

That is a pen. It's yours.

那: that; 支: measure word for 笔; 笔: general name for pen, pencil and all other kinds of writing tool; 一支笔: one pen (or pencil)

A. 他是我的朋友汉斯。

Tā shì wǒde péngyǒu Hànsi.

He is my friend, Hans.

朋友: friend

B. 她是我的同学露西。

Tā shì wǒde tóngxué Lùxī.

She is my classmate, Lucie.

同学: classmate; schoolmate

A. 你在哪儿?

Nǐ zài nǎ'r?

Where are you?

在: be at/in/on; 哪儿: where; 你在哪儿? you are where?

B. 我在这儿。

Wǒ zài zhè'r.

I'm here.

这儿: here

A. 这是你的笔吗?

Zhè shì nǐde bǐ ma?

Is this your pen (or pencil)?

B. 不是，我的笔在我的书包里。

Búshì, wǒde bǐ zài wǒde shūbāo lǐ.

No, my pen is in my school bag.

包: bag; 书包: book bag => school bag; 在...里: in; inside

A. 它也不是我的笔。我的笔呢?

Tā yě búshì wǒde bǐ. Wǒde bǐ ne?

It is not my pen either. Where is my pen?

B. 那边那支是你的吧?

Nàbiān nàzhī shì nǐde ba?

Is that one over there yours?

那边: that side; over there; 那支: that one; 吧: particle; used at the end of a question to indicate guessing, conjecturing; doubt.

A. 你在哪个学校上学?

Nǐ zài nǎgè xuéxiào shàngxué?

Which school do you go to (for study)?

哪: which; 个: measure word for anything that has no specific measure word; 学校: school; 上学: go to school (for study)

B. 我在 Lower River College 上学。你呢? I am at Lower River College. And you?

Wǒ zài Lower River College shàngxué. Nǐ ne?

A. 我在 Upper Hill Academy 上学。

Wǒ zài Upper Hill Academy shàngxué.

I am at Upper Hill Academy.

B. 你的学校好吗?

Nǐde xuéxiào hǎo ma?

Is your school good?

A. 好! 我很喜欢。我在那儿学汉语。

Hǎo! Wǒ hěn xǐhuān. Wǒ zài nà'r xué hànyǔ.

Yes, I like it very much. I learn Chinese there.

喜欢: to like

B. 是吗? !

Shì ma!

Do you?!

是吗: Is it?! or: Do you?!

Group words:

书	shū	book	笔	bǐ	all kinds of writing tool
汉语书	hànyǔshū	Chinese book	铅笔	qiānbǐ	pencil
英语书	yīngyǔshū	English book	钢笔	gāngbǐ	(fountain) pen
教科书	jiàokēshū	textbook	圆珠笔	yuánzhūbǐ	ball-point pen
故事书	gùshìshū	story book	蜡笔	làbǐ	wax crayon
科幻书	kēhuànshū	fiction book	毛笔	máobǐ	writing brush
图画书	túhuàshū	drawing book	粉笔	fěnbǐ	chalk
小人	xiǎorénshuō	children's picture book	标示笔	biāoshìbǐ	marker
精装书	jīngzhuāngshū	hard-cover book	电子笔	diànzǐbǐ	electronic pen
简装书	jiǎnzhuāngshū	paper-back book	眉笔	méigbǐ	eyebrow pen

Comparable or relevant words:

是——在 shì ---- zài	be (something; somebody) ---- be (somewhere) these two words can not be used together. 他在学校: He is at school. 他是学生: He is a student.
这——那——哪 zhè ---- nà ---- nǎ	this ---- that ---- which
这儿——那儿——哪儿 zhè'r ---- nà'r ---- nǎ'r	here ---- there ---- where this place ---- that place ---- which place
在这儿——在那儿——在哪儿 zài zhè'r ---- zài nà'r ---- zài nǎ'r	be here ---- be there ---- be where be this place ---- be that place ---- be which place
这边——那边——哪边 zhèbiān ---- nàbiān ---- nǎbiān	here; this side; ---- there; that side ---- where; which side
书包——笔盒 shūbāo ---- bǐhé	book bag; school bag ---- pen-case; pen-box
同学——学生——朋友 tóngxué ---- xuéshēng ---- péngyǒu	classmate; schoolmate ---- student ---- friend
学校——学——上学 xuéxiào ---- xué ---- shàngxué	school ---- to study ---- go to school (for study)
喜欢——不喜欢 xǐhuān ---- bù xǐhuān	to like ---- do not like

Measure words:

When you say 'a piece of chocolate' or 'two cups of coffee', the words 'piece' and 'cup' here are kinds of measure words to size the unit or to quantify the amount that you want or have. In Chinese, many measure words are used in between a number (or: this, that, etc.) and a noun to determine the category, the size or the quantity of the related noun:

本 used word for account of book-like objects, e.g. books, dictionaries, notebooks, etc.

支 used word for account of writing tools such as pens, pencils, markers, brushes, etc.

个 used word for account of things that do not have specific measure word, e.g. school.

Activities and Exercises

1. *Make flash cards for the new words and phrases of the lesson ---- write the character(s) on one side, pinyin and English meaning on the other side.*
2. *Repeat the text dialogues after your teacher, pay attention to liaison and pause in the sentences, then practice with your peers at school or by yourself at home until you memorize the sentences and are able to say any of them whenever a similar situation applies to you.*
3. *Search the characters or words by radical indexes in your Chinese dictionary:*

radical index

(for character category)

一 (1 strokes)

冂 or 凵 (1 strokes)

十 (2 strokes)

阝 (right) (2 strokes)

冂 (2 strokes)

人 (2 strokes)

辶 (3 strokes)

士 (3 strokes)

土 (3 strokes)

艹 (3 strokes)

小 (3 strokes)

口 (3 strokes)

口 (3 strokes)

子 (3 strokes)

木 (4 strokes)

毛 (4 strokes)

攴 (4 strokes)

目 (5 strokes)

钅 (5 strokes)

禾 (5 strokes)

米 (6 strokes)

虫 (6 strokes)

(6 strokes)

character index

(for pinyin or page # where characters & their meanings can be found)

上 (2 strokes except 一)

书 (3 strokes except 冂)

电 (4 strokes except 凵)

支 (2 strokes except 十)

那 (4 strokes except 阝)

同 (4 strokes except 冂)

盒 (9 strokes except 人)

边 (2 strokes except 辶)

这 (4 strokes except 辶)

喜 (9 strokes except 士)

在 (3 strokes except 土)

英 (5 strokes except 艹)

小

吧 (4 strokes except 口)

哪 (6 strokes except 口)

图 (5 strokes except 口)

圆 (7 strokes except 口)

学 (5 strokes except 子)

本 (1 strokes except 木)

标 (5 strokes except 木)

毛

故 (5 strokes except 攴)

教 (7 strokes except 攴)

眉 (4 strokes except 目)

钢 (4 strokes except 钅)

铅 (5 strokes except 钅)

科 (4 strokes except 禾)

精 (8 strokes except 米)

蜡 (8 strokes except 虫)

笔 (4 strokes except 冫)

简 (7 strokes except 冫)

word

(for the characters' and words' meanings)

上、上学

书、书包

电、电子

支

那、那儿

同、同学

盒

边

这、这儿

喜、喜欢

在

英语

小、小人书

吧

哪、哪儿

图、图书、图画

圆、圆珠笔

学、学校

本

标、标示

毛

故、故事

教、教师、教科书

眉、眉毛、眉笔

刚、钢笔

铅、铅笔

科学、科幻

精、精装

蜡、蜡笔

笔

简、简装

4. Read the following Chinese words, phrases and sentences:

一本故事书  
one story books

一支铅笔  
one pencil

他的书包  
his school bag

你的笔盒  
your pen-case

汉斯的同学  
Hans's classmate

我们的学校  
our school

陈老师的学生  
teacher Chen's student

我(的)朋友的书  
my friend's book

谁的书  
whose (= who's) book

哪个学校  
which school

A 这是一本故事书。  
This is a story book.

B 这本书是他的。  
This book is his.

A 那是一盒铅笔。  
That is a box of pencils.

B 那盒铅笔是我的。  
That box of pencils is mine.

A 哪个书包是汉斯的?  
Which school bag is Hans's?

B 这个书包是汉斯的。  
This school bag is Hans's.

A 你的同学在哪儿?  
Where is your classmate?

B 她 (= 我的同学) 在学校。  
She (= my classmate) is at school.

A 学校的书在你那儿吗?  
Do you have the school's book?

B 不在, 在露西那儿。  
No, Lucie has it (= it's at Lucie's place).

5. Fill in the blanks with the missing words (underscored in English), then read them aloud:

你\_\_\_\_\_哪儿?  
Where are you?

你的学校在\_\_\_\_\_?  
Where is your school?

哪个\_\_\_\_\_是你的?  
Which school bag is yours?

\_\_\_\_\_支笔是她的?  
Which pen is hers?

这是什么\_\_\_\_\_?  
What (kind of) book is this?

那是\_\_\_\_\_?  
What is that?

你在哪个\_\_\_\_\_上学?  
Which school do you go to (= At which school do you study)?

你\_\_\_\_\_学校吗?  
Don't you like the school?

学校\_\_\_\_\_。  
The school is here.

书包\_\_\_\_\_那儿。  
The school bag is not there.

这是\_\_\_\_\_。  
This is mine.

那是\_\_\_\_\_。  
That is yours.

他学\_\_\_\_\_。  
He learns Chinese.

我们\_\_\_\_\_。  
We go to school.

我的学校\_\_\_\_\_。  
My school is very good.

他\_\_\_\_\_你们的老师。  
He knows your teacher.

那不是\_\_\_\_\_吗?  
Isn't that him?

他不是我的\_\_\_\_\_, 是我的朋友。  
He is not my classmate, he is my friend.

他不在\_\_\_\_\_吗?  
Isn't he here?

我们\_\_\_\_\_我们的老师。  
We like our teacher.

她的名字不叫\_\_\_\_\_吗?  
Isn't her name Andi?

你们学校的\_\_\_\_\_在那边。  
Your school's students are over there.

\_\_\_\_\_不喜欢上学?  
Who doesn't like to go to school?

那本图画书是\_\_\_\_\_。  
That picture book is mine.

6. Translate the following phrases and sentences into Chinese:

your new book	_____
my good friend	_____
good bye	_____
Where is our teacher?	_____
Isn't this his pen?	_____
She doesn't like me.	_____
He is not at school.	_____
What is the name of his classmate?	_____
Where do you learn Chinese?	_____
Is your book good?	_____
Her pencil is that one.	_____
I am here, he is not.	_____
My school is there, over there.	_____
This book is not mine, it's hers.	_____
What is his friend's family name?	_____

7. Translate the following sentences into English:

怎么样, 同学们好吗?	_____
我的朋友们在那边。	_____
谁是你的同学?	_____
汉语老师姓刘 (Liu), 是吗?	_____
那个学生不叫露西, 叫安娜 (Anna)。	_____
这本书是谁的?	_____
我很喜欢那支笔。	_____
他们不在学校。	_____
早上好, 你去上学吗?	_____
这是我的英语老师。	_____
你的学校在哪儿?	_____

8. Read to the others your translated sentences from Exercise 6 (above) and see a) if they understand you; and b) if they agree with your translation. Be careful of your pronunciation and tones when you read in Chinese.

9. *Work in small groups and spread all your flash cards in front of you. Try to make as many sentences as you can with the words you have learned so far, then exchange with the other groups. For the sentence(s) incorrect, you should try to point out where and why there is/are mistake(s) and how you should change it/them. Copy your final sentences below:*

10. *Read the following new words that are used in the exercises above:*

安娜 ānnà Anne

刘 liú a family name

***Proverb of the Lesson:***

欲求收获，必先耕耘。<sup>[1]</sup>

One must sow for harvest.



### Lesson 3 - 你多大了? (How old are you?)

A. 你多大了?

Nǐ duōdà le?

How old are you?

大: big, large (for anything that could be expressed with number such as quantity, strength, age,...); 多大: how big (in age #); 了: particle that indicates accomplishment of an action or change of a situation.

B. 我十八岁了。你呢?

Wǒ shíbā suì le. Nǐ ne?

I'm eighteen years old. And you?

岁: age; year of age

A. 我二十岁了。

Wǒ èrshí suì le.

I'm twenty.

B. 那你比我大两岁。

Nà nǐ bǐ wǒ dà liǎngsuì.

So you are two years older than me.

那: conj., then; in that case; 比: to compare; compared with; 两: two, used when with a measure word; 你比我大两岁: you, comparing with me, is bigger (for) 2 years

A. 你家有几口人?

Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐkǒu rén?

How many people do you have in your family?

家: family; home; house; 有: to have; 几: how many/much for asking a small number; 口: measure word for family members; 人: people

B. 四口。爸爸、妈妈、姐姐和我。

Sìkǒu. Bàba, māma, jiějie hé wǒ.

Four. My dad, mom, elder sister and me.

四: four; 爸爸: dad; 妈妈: mom; 姐姐: elder sister; 和: and

A. 你的爷爷、奶奶住在哪里?

Nǐde yéye, nǎinai zhù zài nǎlǐ?

Where do your grandpa and grandma live?

爷爷: grandpa on dad's side; 奶奶: grandma on dad's side; 住在: live at/in; 哪里 = 哪儿: where

B. 他们住在佛罗里达。

Tāmen zhù zài Fúluólídá.

They live in Florida.

佛罗里达: Florida

A. 你有兄弟姐妹吗?

Nǐ yǒu xiōngdìjiěmèi ma?

Do you have any siblings?

兄 = 哥: elder brother; 弟: younger brother; 姐: elder sister; 妹: younger sister; 兄弟姐妹: siblings

B. 有。我有一个哥哥和两个姐姐。

Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu yīgè gēge hé liǎnggè jiějie.

I have an elder brother and two elder sisters.

一: one; a; 个: measure word for people; 哥哥: elder brother

A. 我只有一个妹妹，比我小四岁。

Wǒ zhǐyǒu yīgè mèimei, bǐ wǒ xiǎo sìsuì.

I have only a sister, 4 years younger than me.

只有: only have; 小: small (opposite to 大); 她比我小4岁: She, comparing with me, is smaller (for) 4 years.

B. 她叫什么名字?

Tā jiào shénme míngzi?

What is her name?

A. 安。

Ān.

Ann.

B. 嘿，我姐姐的朋友也叫安。

Hēi, wǒ jiějie de péngyǒu yě jiào Ān.

Hey, my (elder) sister's friend calls Ann, too.

嘿: hey

A. 叫安的人很多。

jiào Ān de rén hěnduō.

A lot of people call Ann.

人: people; person

Group words:

零	líng	zero	爷爷	yéye	grandpa on dad's side
一	yī	one	奶奶	nǎinai	grandma on dad's side
二	èr	two	姥爷	lǎoye	grandpa on mom's side
三	sān	three	姥姥	lǎolao	grandma on mom's side
四	sì	four	爸爸	bàba	dad
五	wǔ	five	妈妈	māma	mom
六	liù	six	哥哥	gēge	elder brother
七	qī	seven	姐姐	jiějie	elder sister
八	bā	eight	弟弟	dìdi	younger brother
九	jiǔ	nine	妹妹	mèimei	younger sister
十	shí	ten			
百	bǎi	hundred			
千	qiān	thousand	万	wàn	ten thousand

Comparable or relevant words:

大——小 dà ---- xiǎo	big; large ---- small; little
多——少 duō ---- shǎo	much; many; more ---- few; little; less
多大——多小——多少 duōdà ---- duōxiǎo ---- duōshǎo	how big ---- how small ---- how few (= how much/many in English) in a question, 多 functions as adverb and indicates or asks for degree or extent
住在——不住在 zhùzài ---- búzhùzài	to live at/in/on ---- do not live at/in/on
有——只有——没有 yǒu ---- zhǐyǒu ---- méiyǒu	to have ---- only have ---- do not have
这里——这儿 zhèlǐ ---- zhè'r	here ---- here (more used in spoken language)
那里——那儿 nàlǐ ---- nà'r	there ---- there (more used in spoken language)
哪里——哪儿 nǎlǐ ---- nǎ'r	where ---- where (more used in spoken language)
二——两 èr ---- liǎng	two (= 2) ---- two (= 2) (when 2 is used with a measure word) 两 is also used with number units when they are bigger than thousand: 2000 = liǎng qiān

Comparison:

A 比 B 大两岁。(A, comparing with B, is bigger for two years.) A is 2 years older than B.  
B 比 A 小两岁。(B, comparing with A, is smaller for two years.) B is 2 years younger than A.  
我比他多两个弟弟。(I, comparing with him, have 2 more ... ..) I have 2 younger brothers more than him.

### 几 and 多大:

Generally, 几, 多大 and 多少 are similar in a sense to ask for a number related answer. 几 is used for small numbers such as ages of children, months of a year, dates of a month as well as the number of things or objects for which the number is usually smaller than 10.

你几岁了? and 你多大了? have the same meaning. The only difference between them is that 你几岁了? is used to ask young kids for their ages, while 你多大了? could be used to ask people of any ages. The answer of these two questions is the same: 我 number 岁了。

### Measure words

- 个 used for account of people and many other things that don't have specific measure words such as school, week, etc.
- 口 used for account of members in a family.

### 的 means 's or of:

1. 学校的名字: school's name; 妈妈的朋友: mom's friend; 同学的书: classmate's book
2. 我们的老师的妈妈: the mom of our teacher; 三年级的两个学生: two students of Grade 3

### 的 may be omitted in some cases:

1. when used with family members: 我的姐姐 = 我姐姐: my elder sister;  
我的奶奶 = 我奶奶: my grandma (on dad's side)
2. when there are more than one noun or pronoun with 的 to modify the main noun, the previous 的 could be omitted:  
我的朋友哥哥 = 我朋友的哥哥: my friend's brother;  
我们的学校的语文老师 = 我们学校的语文老师: our school's Chinese teacher

### Activities and Exercises

1. Make flash cards for the new words and phrases of the lesson ---- write the character(s) on one side, pinyin and English meaning on the other side.
2. Search the characters or words by radical indexes in your Chinese dictionary:

#### radical index

(for character category)

一 (1 strokes)

丿

→ or 丨

#### character index

(for pinyin or page # where characters & their meanings can be found)

七、三、万、百、两、哥

九、千

了

#### word

(for the characters' and words' meanings)

七、三、万、百、两、哥哥

九、千

了

六 (2 strokes)	六	六
二	二、五	二、五
十	十	十
八 (ㄨ)	八、只、弟	八、只、弟弟
人	人、个	人、个
住	住	住
几	几	几
没 (3 strokes)	没	没、没有
安	安、家	安、家
大	大	大
小	小	小
口	口、只、兄、嘿	口、只、兄弟、嘿
四	四	四
山	岁	岁
夕	多	多、多少
女	奶、妈、姐、妹、姥	妈妈、奶奶、姐姐、妹妹、姥姥
比 (4 strokes)	比	比
父	爷、爸	爷爷、爸爸
月	有	有
禾 (5 strokes)	和	和
雨 (8 strokes)	零	零

3. Repeat the text dialogues after your teacher, pay attention to liaison and pause in the sentences, then practice with your peers at school or by yourself at home until you memorize the sentences and are able to say any of them whenever a similar situation applies to you.

4. Read the following Chinese numbers:

零	0	一百零七	107
十一	11	四百一十二	412
十四	14	八百零三	803
二十二	22	九百九十九	999
三十三	33	一千零七	1,007
四十四	44	两千零一 (两 is used when the unit is bigger than thousand)	2,001
五十五	55	三千零六十	3,060
六十六	66	四千零七十五	4,075
七十七	77	五千四百 = 五千四 (the last unit could be omitted)	5,400
八十八	88	七千二百零一	7,201
九十九	99	九千六百零六	9,606
一百	100	三千八百六十九	3,869
一千	1,000	两万四千六百八十一	24,681
一万	10,000	五万零九	50,009
十万	100,000	七万三千零二十	73,020
百万	1,000,000	九万零四百零九	90,409

5. Do you know what the sentences below mean?

你家住在哪里? \_\_\_\_\_  
他不在家,你也不在家。 \_\_\_\_\_  
她的奶奶不住在她家。 \_\_\_\_\_  
我只有三支铅笔。 \_\_\_\_\_  
这儿有什么好书? \_\_\_\_\_  
我没有兄弟姐妹。 \_\_\_\_\_  
她有两个好哥哥。 \_\_\_\_\_  
他们学校有好几个 (several) 叫 Alex 的学生。 \_\_\_\_\_  
我同学家只有三口人,比我家少一口。 \_\_\_\_\_  
你比我多一个妹妹。 \_\_\_\_\_  
我姥姥比我妈妈大 30 岁,我妈妈比我大 30 岁。 \_\_\_\_\_  
他(的)爷爷八十多岁了。 \_\_\_\_\_  
他不是我的哥哥,是我的朋友。 \_\_\_\_\_  
我爸爸不是这个学校的老师。 \_\_\_\_\_  
她喜欢她姥爷的名字,也喜欢她姥爷这个人。 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Answer the questions in Chinese by following the given example:

Example: 你家有几口人?  
我家有三口人。

你 <u>几</u> 岁了? _____。	你有 <u>几个</u> 兄弟姐妹? _____。
你有 <u>几</u> 本书? _____。	他有 <u>几个</u> 朋友? _____。
那儿有 <u>几</u> 个人? _____。	你有 <u>多少</u> 个同学? _____。
一百零 <u>几</u> ? _____。	三万 <u>几</u> 千? _____。
你的学校有 <u>多少</u> 学生? _____。	你爸爸比你大 <u>多少</u> 岁? _____。
你弟弟 <u>多大</u> 了? _____。	你们学校 <u>多大</u> ? _____。
你的朋友住在 <u>哪里</u> ? _____。	她在 <u>哪个</u> 学校上学? _____。
她是 <u>谁</u> 的朋友? _____。	你的同学叫 <u>什么</u> 名字? _____。

7. Practice a tongue twister with the given pinyin and tones below (from <http://joy.ayinfo.ha.cn/qitaxiaohua/raokouling/rkl.htm>):

chē shàng yǒu gè pén,  
pén lǐ yǒu gè píng,  
pīng pīng pīng, pāng pāng pāng,  
bù zhī shì píng pèng pén,  
hái shì pén pèng píng.

there is a pot in the car,  
there is a bottle in the pot,  
(onomatopoetic words)  
(I) don't know if the bottle bumps the pot,  
or the pot bumps the bottle.

8. Play a number game: all students sit in a circle. The youngest student starts the game by saying number 1, next in turn of clockwise direction says 2, and so on. Anyone who comes a number with 7 or a multiple of 7 must clap instead of saying it. Three or five mistakes will drive the person out of the game, but the others continue until 100. Try to say numbers as quick as possible [2].

9. Discuss with your classmates and try to make as many sentences as you can by using:

比: \_\_\_\_\_  
多大: \_\_\_\_\_  
多少: \_\_\_\_\_  
有: \_\_\_\_\_  
没有: \_\_\_\_\_  
只有: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Put the following phrases and sentences into English:

那个学校有 980 个学生。 \_\_\_\_\_  
学生比老师多八百。 \_\_\_\_\_  
他的书比我的书少。 \_\_\_\_\_  
我的笔比你的笔多。 \_\_\_\_\_  
你哥哥的同学是我的朋友。 \_\_\_\_\_  
他不认识她的同学。 \_\_\_\_\_  
刘老师不喜欢学生叫她的名字。 \_\_\_\_\_  
我爷爷也叫这个名字。 \_\_\_\_\_  
你家五口人，我家六口人。谁家人多？ \_\_\_\_\_  
我妈妈有十多个好朋友。 \_\_\_\_\_

11. Read the following new words that are used in the exercises above:

好几个 hǎojǐgè several

**Proverb of the Lesson:**

种瓜得瓜，种豆得豆。<sup>[1]</sup>  
Man reaps what he has sown.

## Lesson 4 - 今天星期几? (What day is it today?)

A. 今天星期几?

Jīntiān xīngqī jǐ?

B. 星期一。

Xīngqīyī.

A. 你有什么课?

Nǐ yǒu shénme kè?

B. 英语、数学、美术和体育。

Yīngyǔ, shùxué, měishù hé tǐyù.

A. 这个月有多少天?

Zhègè yuè yǒu duōshǎo tiān?

B. 这个月是五月， 所以有 31 天。

Zhègè yuè shì wǔyuè, suǒyǐ yǒu sānshíyī tiān.

A. 你的生日是哪一天?

Nǐde shēngrì shì nǎ yītiān?

B. 六月十九日。

Liùyuè shíjiǔ rì.

A. 你是哪一年出生的?

Nǐ shì nǎ yīnián chūshēng de?

B. 一九九零年。

Yījiǔjiǔlíng nián.

A. 我是 1986 年出生的。

Wǒ shì yījiǔbāliù nián chūshēng de.

B. 那你比我大四岁。

Nà nǐ bǐ wǒ dà sìsuì.

A. 我每个星期三有音乐课。

Wǒ měigè xīngqīsān yǒu yīnyuèkè.

B. 我每天有数学课。

Wǒ měitiān yǒu shùxuékè.

A. 我每年去一次中国。

Wǒ měinián qù yīcì zhōngguó.

B. 因为你是中国人!

Yīnwèi nǐ shì zhōngguórén!

What day is it today?

今天: today; 星期: week; 今天星期几? Today (is) which day (of the week)?

Monday.

Replace 几 with the number one 一 to make Monday as 星期一 (see next page in group words)

What classes do you have?

课: class; subject; course; lesson;

你有什么课? You have what class / subject / course?

English, math, art and PE (physical education).

英语: English (language); 数学: math; 美术: art; 体育: physical education

How many days are there in this month?

月: month; 天: day; sky

It (or this month) is May, so there are 31 days.

五月: May; 所以: so, therefore; as a result

When (or which day) is your birthday?

生日: birthday; 你的生日是哪一天? Your birthday is which day?

June nineteen.

六月: June; 十九: nineteen; 日: day (for date)

In which year were you born?

年: year; 出生: born; 是...的: to indicate category, characteristic, etc. 你是哪一年出生的? You were born in which year?

(The year of) 1990.

to tell a year in Chinese, just say every individual number in order, then plus the word 'year'

I was born in 1986.

So you are 4 years older than me.

那: in that case; then

I have music class every Wednesday.

每: every; 个: measure word for week and weekday; 音乐: music; 我每个星期三有音乐课: I every Wednesday have music class.

I have math class every day.

数学: math; 我每天有数学课: I every day have math class.

I go to China once every year.

次: measure word for repeated or possible repeat times; 中国: China; 我每年去一次中国: I every year go once to China.

Because you are Chinese!

因为: because; 人: people; person; 中国人: Chinese (people)

Group words:

月	yuè	month	星期	xīngqī	week
一月	yīyuè	January	星期一	xīngqīyī	Monday
二月	èryuè	February	星期二	xīngqī'èr	Tuesday
三月	sānyuè	March	星期三	xīngqīsān	Wednesday
四月	sìyuè	April	星期四	xīngqīsì	Thursday
五月	wūyuè	May	星期五	xīngqīwǔ	Friday
六月	liùyuè	June	星期六	xīngqīliù	Saturday
七月	qīyuè	July	星期天	xīngqītiān	Sunday
八月	bāyuè	August	音乐课	yīnyuè kè	music class/course/lesson
九月	jiǔyuè	September	数学课	shùxué kè	math class/course/lesson
十月	shíyuè	October	体育课	tīyù kè	PE class/course/lesson
十一月	shíyīyuè	November	美术课	měishù kè	art class/course/lesson
十二月	shí'èryuè	December			

Comparable or relevant words:

昨天——今天——明天 zuótiān ---- jīntiān ---- míngtiān	yesterday ---- today ---- tomorrow
去年——今年——明年 qùnián ---- jīnnián ---- míngnián	last year ---- this year ---- next year
上(个)星期——这(个)星期——下(个)星期 shàng (gè) xīngqī ---- zhè (gè) xīngqī ---- xià (gè) xīngqī	last week ---- this week ---- next week
上个月——这个月——下个月 shànggè yuè ---- zhègè yuè ---- xiàgè yuè	last month ---- this month ---- next month
哪(一)天——哪(一)年 nǎ yītiān ---- nǎ yīnián	which day ---- which year
哪个星期——哪个月 nǎgè xīngqī ---- nǎgè yuè	which week ---- which month
每(一)天——每(一)年 měi (yī) tiān ---- měi (yī) nián	every day ---- every year
每(个)星期——每(个)月 měi (gè) xīngqī ---- měi (gè) yuè	every week ---- every month
天——日——号 tiān ---- rì ---- hào	day ---- day (for date) ---- num (for date) 号 is used more in the spoken language
出生——生日 chūshēng ---- shēngrì	be born ---- birthday
中国——中国人 zhōngguó ---- zhōngguórén	China ---- Chinese (people)
因为——所以 yīnwèi ---- suǒyǐ	because ---- so; therefore
去——来 qù ---- lái	to go ---- to come



Answer a question with 几:

To answer a question with '几', you simply replace it with a number:

星期 <u>几</u> ?	Which day (of the week)?	星期 <u>三</u> /星期 <u>天</u> 。	Wednesday/Sunday.
<u>几</u> 天?	How many days?	<u>五</u> 天。	Five days.
<u>几</u> 年?	How many years?	<u>两</u> 年。	Two years.
<u>几个</u> 星期?	How many weeks?	<u>六</u> 个星期。	Six weeks.
<u>几个</u> 月?	How many months?	<u>四</u> 个月。	Four months.
<u>几</u> 月?	Which month? (no measure word)	<u>八</u> 月。	August.
<u>几</u> 号/ <u>几</u> 日?	Which day? (= what date?)	<u>三十</u> 号/ <u>三十</u> 日。	30 <sup>th</sup> .
三月 <u>几</u> 号?	Which day in March?	三月 <u>二十</u> 二号。	March 22 <sup>nd</sup> .
九月 <u>几</u> 日?	Which day in September?	九月 <u>十</u> 六日。	September 16.

Time adverbial:

In a sentence, a time adverbial is usually put before the verb to directly modify the verb, for at that time or that time period the subject makes that action:

我 <u>每天</u> 有数学课。(I <u>every day</u> has math class.)	I <u>have</u> math class <u>every day</u> .
妈妈 <u>每个星期天</u> 去教堂*。(Mom <u>every Sunday</u> goes to Church.)	Mom <u>goes</u> to Church <u>every Sunday</u> .
他 <u>六月七号</u> 去中国。(He <u>on June 7<sup>th</sup></u> goes to China.)	He <u>goes</u> to China <u>on June 7<sup>th</sup></u> .
我们 <u>下个星期</u> 没有学校。(we <u>next week</u> do not have school.)	We <u>do not have</u> school <u>next week</u> .

A time adverbial could be also put at the beginning of a sentence for the purpose of emphasis:

1. 明天你几点上学? Tomorrow, at what time do you go to school?  
你明天几点上学? At what time do you go to school tomorrow?
2. 一个星期你有几节\*数学课? In one week, how many periods of math do you have?  
你一个星期有几节数学课? How many periods of math do you have in one week?

\*: 教堂: church; 节: measure word for account of class periods

Measure words:

次 used for account of times that something happens or could repeat.

是...的: to indicate category and characteristic, etc.

1. 我 1975 年出生。I was born in 1975. (to tell a simple fact.)  
我是 1975 年出生的。I was born in 1975. (to differ from people who were born in other years.)
2. 我学科学。I study science. (to tell a simple fact in which science could be or not a major subject.)  
我是学科学的。(= 我主修科学。) I major in science.
3. 他昨天来了。He came yesterday.  
他是昨天来的。It was yesterday when he came.