

Chapter 1

Names, Greetings, Goodbyes, Apologies, Asking Questions, Negation, Etc.

Names:

first name, given name = míngzi 名字

What is your name?

| | | | | |
|-----|-------|-----------|--------|--------------------|
| You | (are) | called by | what | <u>first name?</u> |
| Nǐ | | jiào | shénme | <u>míngzi?</u> |
| 你 | | 叫 | 什么 | 名字? |

(American and Chinese Cultural Differences: *In America when you ask for someone's name, he/she usually gives you his/her first name. To receive a last name you generally need to have a good reason for asking for it! But in China, the last name is often the name given to you before the first name ... First names are oftentimes reserved for friends.*)

full name of a person = xìngmíng 姓名

How do you write your full name?

| | | | |
|------|------------------|-------|----------|
| Your | <u>full name</u> | how | written? |
| Nǐde | <u>xìngmíng</u> | zěnmē | xiě? |
| 你的 | 姓名 | 怎么 | 写? |

name you are called by = jiào 叫

| | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| I | am | called | Michael. |
| I | (am) | <u>called</u> | Michael. |
| Wǒ | | <u>jiào</u> | Michael. |
| 我 | | 叫 | _____。 |

surname, last name, family name = xìng 姓

What is your last name?

| | | |
|------|------------------|---------|
| Your | <u>last name</u> | what? |
| Nín | <u>xìng</u> | shénme? |
| 您 | 姓 | 什么? |

Greetings & Introductions:

Good morning. = Zǎoshang hǎo. 早上好。

Good morning.

Good morning.

Zǎoshang hǎo.

早上好。

Good evening! = Wǎn'ān! 晚安！

Good evening!

Good evening!

Wǎn'ān!

晚安！

Hello, How are you doing? = Ní hǎo. 你好。

Hello.

Hello.

Ní hǎo.

你好。

hello / if you please = Wèi. 喂。

Hello.

Hello.

Wèi.

喂。

(**Chinese Usage Note:** “Wèi” has only one use! To say “hello” when starting a telephone conversation!)

How are you? = Nǐ zěnmē yàng? 你 怎 么 样 ?
(if you know each other)

How are you?

You how are you?

Nǐ zěnmē yàng?

你 怎 么 样 ?

Is it good? = Hǎo bù hǎo? 好 不 好 ?

Is everything good with you? (OR) Is everything alright with you?

Good / not good?

Hǎo bù hǎo?

好 不 好 ?

Long time no see. = Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn. 好 久 不 见 。

Very Long time no see.

Hǎo long time no see.

Hǎo jiǔ bù jiàn.

好 久 不 见 。

(Chinese Usage Note: Occasionally “hǎo” is used to mean “very”.)

welcome = huānyíng 欢 迎

Welcome to Taiwan.

Welcome you coming to Taiwan.

Huānyíng nǐ lái Táiwān.

欢 迎 你 来 台 湾 。

Goodbyes:

Good bye. = Zàijiàn. 再见。

Good bye.

Good bye.

Zàijiàn.

再见。

Please take good care of yourself. = Bǎozhòng. 保重。

Please take good care of yourself.

Please take good care of yourself.

Bǎozhòng.

保重。

see you off = sòng sòng 送送

Let me see you off.

I send off you.

Wǒ sòng sòng nǐ.

我 送送 你。

See you soon. = Huítóu jiàn. 回头见。

See you soon.

Return to visit.

Huítóu jiàn.

回 头 见。

See you tomorrow. = Míngtiān jiàn. 明天见。

See you tomorrow.

Tomorrow see.

Míngtiān jiàn.

明 天 见。

You come back. = Nǐ huílai ba. 你回来吧。

Come back!
 You come back!
 Nǐ huílai ba!
 你 回来 吧！

well-being and happiness = xìngfú 幸福

Be happy!
 Wishing you well being and happiness!
 Zhù nǐ xìngfú!
 祝 你 幸福！

。。。NEXT 2。。。。

Good luck! = Hǎo yùnqì! 好运气！

Good luck!
Good luck!
Hǎo yùnqì!
 好 运气！

Wishing you good luck! = Zhù nǐ hǎo yùn! 祝你好运！

Good luck!
Wishing you good luck!
Zhù nǐ hǎo yùn!
 祝 你 好 运！

。。。END OF 2。。。。

Thank You:

Thank you. = Xièxie nǐ. 谢谢你。

Thank you.
Thank you.
Xièxie nǐ.
 谢谢 你。

Thanks. = Xièxie. 谢谢。

Thanks.

Thanks.

Xièxie.

谢谢。

Thanks a lot. = Duōxiè. 多谢。

Thanks a lot.

Thanks a lot.

Duōxiè.

多谢。

Courtesies, Graciousness, Please, You Are Welcome:

Don't mention it. / = Bú kèqì. 不客气。

That's all right. / = ...

Don't mention it.

Don't mention it.

Bú kèqì.

不客气。

is that alright? = hǎo bu hǎo? 好不好？
This afternoon, **is that alright?**
 This afternoon, is that alright?
 Jīntiān xiàwǔ, hǎo bu hǎo?
 今天下午， 好 不 好？

No problem. That's all right. = Méiguānxi. 没关系。
 / Never mind.
No Problem.
No Problem. That's all right.
Méiguānxi.
 没关系。

Okay yes / no? = hǎo ma? 好吗？
Let's first eat okay?
 We first eat okay yes / no?
 Wǒmen xiān chī hǎo ma?
 我们 先 吃 好 吗？

Okay not okay? = Xíng bù xíng? 行不行？
Okay not okay?
Okay not okay?
Xíng bù xíng?
 行 不 行？

Okay. Thanks. = Xíng le. Xièxie. 行了。谢谢。
Okay. Thanks.
Okay. Thanks.
Xíng le. Xièxie.`
 行了。 谢谢。

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|-------|-----|
| Okay. That will do. / | = | Kěyǐ. | 可以。 |
| Yes, you can. / | = | ... | ... |
| can, may | = | ... | ... |

Okay. That will do.

Okay. That will do.

Kěyǐ.

可以。

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------|---|
| please / request, ask, beg | = | qǐng | 请 |
|----------------------------|---|------|---|

Please give me a call.

| | | | |
|---------------|----------|------|-----|
| <u>Please</u> | (a) call | give | me. |
|---------------|----------|------|-----|

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----|-----|
| <u>Qǐng</u> | dǎ diànhuà | gěi | wǒ. |
|-------------|------------|-----|-----|

| | | | |
|---|-----|---|----|
| 请 | 打电话 | 给 | 我。 |
|---|-----|---|----|

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|------|
| Please eat. (illustrating <i>ba</i>) | = | Qǐng chī ba. | 请吃吧。 |
|---------------------------------------|---|--------------|------|

Please eat.

Please eat.

| | | |
|------|-----|------------|
| Qǐng | chī | <u>ba.</u> |
|------|-----|------------|

| | | |
|---|---|----|
| 请 | 吃 | 吧。 |
|---|---|----|

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|----------|-----|
| Please have a seat. | = | Qǐngzuò. | 请坐。 |
|---------------------|---|----------|-----|

Please have a seat.

Please have a seat.

Qǐngzuò.

请坐。

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---|---------|----|
| Please may I ask you ... | = | Qǐngwèn | 请问 |
|--------------------------|---|---------|----|

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|-----|-----|
| Please tell me ..., | = | ... | ... |
|---------------------|---|-----|-----|

Please may I ask you, what is your last name?

| | | | | |
|------------------------------|------|-----------|------|---------|
| <u>Please may I ask you,</u> | your | last name | (is) | what? |
| <u>Qǐng wèn,</u> | nǐ | xìng | | shénme? |

| | | | |
|----|---|---|-----|
| 请问 | 你 | 姓 | 什么? |
|----|---|---|-----|

| | | | |
|---|---|---------------|---------|
| Please tell me ... ? | = | Qǐng gàosu wǒ | 请 告 诉 我 |
| Please tell me, if I have bad breath? | | | |
| <u>Please</u> <u>tell</u> <u>me,</u> if I have bad breath? | | | |
| <u>Qǐng</u> <u>gàosu</u> <u>wǒ.</u> shìfǒu wǒ yǒu kǒuchòu? | | | |
| 请 告 诉 我 , 是 否 我 有 口 臭 ? | | | |

Understanding, Communication:

| | | | |
|----------------------|---|---------|------|
| That's right. | = | Duì le. | 对 了。 |
| That's right. | | | |
| <u>That's right.</u> | | | |
| <u>Duì le.</u> | | | |
| 对 了。 | | | |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|------------|---------|
| This can't be right. | = | Zhè búduì. | 这 不 对 。 |
| This can't be right. | | | |
| <u>This</u> <u>can't be right.</u> | | | |
| <u>Zhè</u> <u>búduì.</u> | | | |
| 这 不 对 。 | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|----------|-------|
| Understand? | = | Dǒng ma? | 懂 吗 ? |
| Understand? | | | |
| <u>Understand</u> yes / no? | | | |
| <u>Dǒng</u> ma? | | | |
| 懂 吗 ? | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|------|---|
| understand (yes) | = | dǒng | 懂 |
| I understand. | | | |
| I <u>understand.</u> | | | |
| Wǒ <u>dǒng.</u> | | | |
| 我 懂 。 | | | |

don't understand = bù dǒng 不 懂

I don't understand.

I don't understand.

Wǒ bù dǒng.

我 不 懂 。

understand (yes) = míngbai 明 白

I understand.

I understand.

Wǒ míngbai.

我 明 白 。

don't understand = bù míngbai 不 明 白

I don't understand.

I don't understand.

Wǒ bù míngbai.

我 不 明 白 。

speak slowly = jiǎng màn 讲 慢

Please speak very slowly.

Please you speak slowly a little.

Qǐng nǐ jiǎng màn yīdiǎn(r).

请 你 讲 慢 一 点 儿 。

What do you mean? = Nǐ zhǐde shì shénme? 你 指 的 是 甚 么 ？

What do you mean?

Your meaning is what?

Nǐ zhǐde shì shénme?

你 指 的 是 什 么 ？

What does this word mean? = Zhègè cí shì shénme yìsi? 这个词是甚么意思?

What does this word mean?

| | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <u>This</u> | <u>word</u> | <u>is</u> | <u>what</u> | <u>meaning?</u> |
| <u>Zhègè</u> | <u>cí</u> | <u>shì</u> | <u>shénme</u> | <u>yìsi?</u> |
| 这个 | 词 | 是 | 甚么 | 意思? |

Apologies:

I am sorry. / = Duibuqǐ. 对不起。

Excuse me. =

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Sorry. | I | forgot. |
| <u>Sorry.</u> | <u>I</u> | <u>forgot.</u> |
| <u>Duibuqǐ.</u> | <u>Wǒ</u> | <u>wàng le.</u> |
| 对不起。 | 我 | 忘了。 |

Questions and Declarations:

。。。NEXT 2。。。

know (something) = zhīdao 知道

know (a person) = rènshi 认识

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------------|-----------|----------------|
| I | didn't | know | you | know | my | mother. |
| <u>I</u> | <u>didn't</u> | <u>know</u> | <u>you</u> | <u>know</u> | <u>my</u> | <u>mother.</u> |
| <u>Wǒ</u> | <u>bù</u> | <u>zhīdao</u> | <u>nǐ</u> | <u>rènshi</u> | <u>wǒ</u> | <u>mǔqīn.</u> |
| 我 | 不 | 知道 | 你 | 认识 | 我 | 母亲。 |

。。。END OF 2。。。

Hey! = Hēi! 嘿

Hey! Where you going?

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| <u>Hey!</u> | <u>You</u> | <u>go</u> | <u>where?</u> |
| <u>Hēi!</u> | <u>Nǐ</u> | <u>qù</u> | <u>nǎr?</u> |
| 嘿! | 你 | 去 | 哪儿? |

Oh my gosh! = Āiyā! 哎呀！
Oh my gosh! I forgot my daughter's birthday!
Oh my gosh! I forgot my daughter's birthday!
Āiyā! Wǒ wàng le wǒ nǚér de shēngrì!
 哎呀！ 我 忘 了 我 女 儿 的 生 日！

What? = Shénme? 什么？
What?
What?
Shénme?
 什 么 ？

What are you going to do? = Zěnmē bàn? 怎么办？
What are you going to do?
What are you going to do?
Zěnmē bàn?
 怎 么 办 ？

When? = Shénme shíhòu? 什么时候？
When?
When?
Shénme shíhòu?
 什 么 时 候 ？

Why? = Wèishénme? 为什么？
Why?
Why?
Wèishénme?
 为 什 么 ？

| | | | |
|------------------|--|---------------|-----------|
| Why not? | | Wèishénme bù? | 为 什 么 不 ？ |
| Why | | not? | |
| <u>Why</u> | | <u>not?</u> | |
| <u>Wèishénme</u> | | <u>bù?</u> | |
| 为 什 么 | | 不 ？ | |

Responses:

| | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--------|-----------------|
| And you? | = | Nǐ ne? | 你 呢 ？ |
| I'm good. And you? | | | |
| I (am) very | | fine. | <u>And you?</u> |
| Wǒ hěn | | hǎo. | <u>Nǐ ne?</u> |
| 我 很 | | 好 。 | 你 呢 ？ |

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|---------|-------|
| Fine. Good. All right. | = | Hǎo de. | 好 的 。 |
| Fine. | | | |
| <u>Fine.</u> | | | |
| <u>Hǎo de.</u> | | | |
| 好 的 。 | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--------------------|---------|
| It depends. | = | Kàn qíng kuàng. | 看 情 况 。 |
| It | | depends. | |
| <u>Consider</u> (the) | | <u>situation.</u> | |
| <u>Kàn</u> | | <u>qíng kuàng.</u> | |
| 看 | | 情 况 。 | |

| | | | |
|---------------|---|--------|-------|
| Sure. | = | Hǎo a. | 好 啊 。 |
| Sure. | | | |
| <u>Sure.</u> | | | |
| <u>Hǎo a.</u> | | | |
| 好 啊 。 | | | |

Too bad! = Zāo gāo! 糟糕!

Too bad!

Too bad!

Zāo gāo!

糟糕!

Yes / No – Negating:

yes / no ? (at end of sentence) = ma? 吗 ?

Have you eaten (yet)?

You (have) eaten yes / no?

Nǐ chī le ma?

你 吃了 吗 ?

have / there is = yǒu 有

I have money.

I have money.

Wǒ yǒu qián.

我 有 钱。

don't have / there is no = méiyǒu 没有

I don't have much money.

I don't have very much money.

Wǒ méiyǒu hěn duō qián.

我 没有 很 多 钱。

no, not = bú 不

I don't know.

I not know.

Wǒ bú zhīdao.

我 不 知道。

| | | | | |
|----------|---------------|------------|------------------|---|
| no, not | | = | méi | 没 |
| I | didn't | say | anything. | |
| I | <u>not</u> | say | anything. | |
| Wǒ | <u>méi</u> | shuō | shénme. | |
| 我 | 没 | 说 | 甚么。 | |

(**Chinese Grammar Note:** “Méi ” is always used with “yǒu” . . . “ méiyǒu ”.
 “ Méi ” is also used when things have not happened yet.)

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----------------|----------|----|
| no, not, have not, has not | | = | méiyǒu | 没有 |
| We haven't decided yet. | | | | |
| We | still | <u>have not</u> | decided. | |
| Wǒmen | hái | <u>méiyǒu</u> | juéding. | |
| 我 们 | 还 | 没有 | 决定。 | |

。。。 NEXT 2 。。。

| | | | | |
|---|-----------|-----------|--------------------|----|
| Yes. / right | | = | shìde | 是的 |
| (The question uses “shì” in it: “Tāde dìdì shì cáizhu ma?” - His brother is (a) millionaire yes / no?) | | | | |
| Yes. | He | is | a rich man! | |
| <u>Yes.</u> | He | is | (a) rich man! | |
| <u>Shìde.</u> | Tā | shì | kuòlǎo! | |
| 是的。 | 他 | 是 | 阔佬！ | |

(**Chinese Usage Note:** “Shìde” is used when “shì” was in the question. If “shì” was not in the question, the verb used in the question becomes the correct yes or no answer. If “huì” (会) was used then “huì” is used again. If “xiǎng” (想) was used then “xiǎng” is repeated.)

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|--------------|-------------|
| would like to | = | xiǎng | 想 |
| I would like to | | thank | you. |
| I <u>would like to</u> | | thank | you. |
| Wǒ <u>xiǎng</u> | | xièxie | nǐ. |
| 我 想 | | 谢 谢 | 你 。 |

。。。 END OF 2 。。。

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|-------|-------|
| Yes you may. , Yes you can. | = | Kěyǐ. | 可 以 。 |
| can, may / | | | |
| Okay. That will do. | | | |
| Yes you may. | | | |
| <u>Yes you may.</u> | | | |
| <u>Kěyǐ.</u> | | | |
| 可 以 。 | | | |