



Learn Chinese

with Mulan

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Dì Yī Kè Wǒ jiào Xú WénCháng

Wǒ jiào Xú WénCháng。

Wǒ shì ZhōngGuó rén。

Wǒ huì jiǎng gùshì。

Wǒ huì jiǎng Huā MùLán de gùshì。




My name is *XU WenChang*.










I am from China.



I am good at story-telling.

I can tell [you] stories about *HUA MuLan*.

Text	Dì Yī Kè Wǒ jiào Xú WénCháng 第一课 我叫徐文长	
	<p>Wǒ jiào <u>Xú WénCháng</u> 我叫<u>徐文长</u>。</p> <p>Wǒ shì <u>ZhōngGuó</u> rén 我是<u>中国人</u>。</p> <p>Wǒ huì jiǎng gùshì 我会<u>讲故事</u>。</p> <p>Wǒ huì jiǎng <u>Huā MùLán</u> de gùshì 我会讲<u>花木兰</u>的故事。</p>	

Anatomy of Scripts	说文解字(Shuō Wén Jiě Zì)		
<p>我 I or me.</p> <p>找 with 扌 meaning weapon to the right. Think about don't kill ME!</p>		<p>叫 [To be] called.</p> <p>Radical to the left is 口 (mouth), meaning mouth, which is certainly needed when you call somebody. The right part provides the sound.</p>	<p>文 Symbol formed with crossing strokes  to be used as (building blocks of) scripts.</p>
<p>是 Verb to be. Since there is no form change in Chinese, it can mean am, is, are, or even was, were.</p> <p>With the sun radical 日 (☉) right on top.</p>	<p>中 Central or middle.</p> <p> is indicative: the vertical stroke (shù) goes right in the middle of the circle.</p>	<p>国 Country.</p> <p>With radicals 口 (wéi, meaning boundary) and 玉 (yù, meaning jade). The latter shows 王 (wáng, meaning king) + 丶 (diǎn, dot). Think about a country has a king with some money in his pocket.</p>	

<p>人 Person, man The ancient form  shows a humble human figure.</p> 	<p>会 Can, be able to With 人 on top of 云 (yún, cloud), think about this person CAN do it!</p> 	<p>讲 Tell (a story), explain The 讠 (simplified 言  yán) radical, with the mouth radical at the bottom, shows the meaning: speech, words. Radical 井 ( jǐng, well) gives the sound.</p> 
<p>花 Surname. Also means flower. 艹 means grass and the like (). 化 brings in the sound (huà).</p>	<p>木 Tree, wood  resembles a tree, with roots, trunk, and branches.</p>	<p>兰 Orchid; elegant Simplified from 蘭  , with the grass radical on top. 木兰 means magnolia.</p>

Pattern Drills	句型练习(Jùxíng Liànxí)
<p>我叫花木兰。</p> <p>我叫_____。(Say your name...)</p> <p>我是明朝¹人。我是浙江人。</p> <p>我是美国人。</p> <p>我是_____人。</p> <p>我会讲美国故事。</p> <p>我会讲华盛顿²的故事。</p> <p>我会讲_____的故事。</p>	
	<p>明  =  +  Bright sun moon</p> <p>美  =  +  Beautiful lamb big</p>

¹ The Ming Dynasty (AD1368—1644). XU was born in 1521 in nowadays Zhejiang Province, and died in 1593.

² George Washington, first President of the USA.

Write the Scripts

书写练习(Shūxiě Liànxí)

我	一	二	千	手	我	我	我	我	我	我	我
叫	一	口	口	叫	叫	叫	叫	叫	叫	叫	叫
是	一	口	口	是	是	是	是	是	是	是	是
中	一	口	口	中	中	文	一	一	文	文	文
国	一	口	口	国	国	国	人	人	人	人	人
会	一	人	人	会	会	会	会	会	会	会	会
讲	一	讠	讠	讲	讲	讲	讲	讲	讲	讲	讲
花	一	艹	艹	花	花	花	花	花	花	花	花
木	一	十	才	木	木	兰	一	一	兰	兰	兰

Historical Background

About Xu WenChang

Xu Wei ([Chinese](#): 徐渭; [pinyin](#): Xú Wèi; [Wade-Giles](#): *Hsü Wei*, 1521–1593)

was a [Ming dynasty Chinese painter](#), poet, writer and dramatist famed for his artistic expressiveness.^[1]

Revolutionary for its time, his painting style influenced and inspired countless subsequent painters, such as [Bada Shanren](#), the [Eight Eccentrics of Yangzhou](#), and the modern masters [Wu Changshuo](#) and [Qi Baishi](#).^[2] Qi once exclaimed in





a poem that "How I wish to be born 300 years earlier so I could grind ink and prepare paper for Green Vine (A Xu Wei pen name)" (恨不生三百年前，為青藤磨墨理紙). Xu Wei can be considered as the founder of modern painting in China. His influence continues to exert itself. Despite his posthumous recognition, Xu was manifestly mentally ill^[1] and unsuccessful in life, ending his life in poverty after the murder of his third wife and several attempts at suicide.

Relating to this Text

Xu's courtesy names were Wenqing (文清) and then later Wenchang (文長).

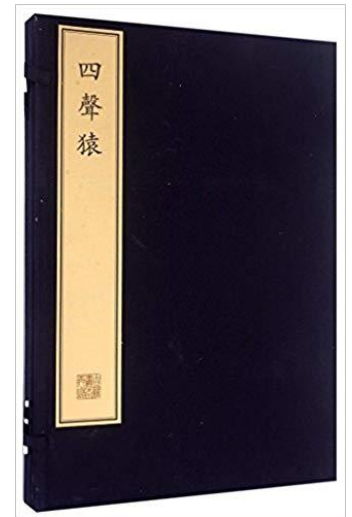
Xu was a playwright who wrote the following four plays, including *The Heroine Mulan Goes to War in Her Father's Place* (雌木蘭 *Ci Mulan*), in which he retold Mulan's stories. He makes up her surname as Hua, and names of other members in her family.

About HuangMuLan

Hua Mulan (Chinese: 花木蘭) is a legendary Chinese woman warrior from the Northern and Southern dynasties period (420–589) of Chinese history, originally described in the *Ballad of*

Mulan (Chinese: 木蘭辭; pinyin: Mùlán cí). In the ballad, Hua Mulan takes her aged father's place in the army. Mulan fought for twelve years and gained high merit, but she refused any reward and retired to her hometown.

The historic setting of Hua Mulan is in the Northern Wei (386–536). Over a thousand years later, Xu Wei's play from the Ming dynasty places her in the Northern Wei, whereas the Qing dynasty *Sui Tang Romance* has her active around the founding of the Tang c. 620. In 621, the founder of the Tang dynasty was victorious over Wang Shichong and Dou Jiande, the latter was the father of Dou Xianniang, another female warrior who became Mulan's laotong in the *Sui Tang Romance*.^[1]



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Text	Dì Èr Kè Zhè shì Huā MùLán 第二课 这是 <u>花木兰</u>	
 	Zhè shì <u>Huā MùLán</u> 这是 <u>花木兰</u> 。 <u>MùLán</u> shì yí gè nǚ hái zi <u>木兰</u> 是一个女孩子。 Tā jīn nián shí qī suì 她今年十七岁。 Tā huì zhī bù tā huì xiě zì 她会织布，她会写字， tā yě huì wǔ shù 她也会武术。	