













Structures	Names	Example Characters
	Whole	口、大、水、山、月
	Left-right	你、好、们、姐、时
	Top-bottom	爸、美、家、思
	Left-center-right	哪、搬、掰
	Top-middle-bottom	喜、萝
	Up-right surrounded	可、句、司
	Left-up surrounded	厅、厕、病
	Left-down surrounded	这、进、建
	Left-up-right surrounded	同、问、间
	Left-right-down surrounded	凶、幽
	Top-left-bottom surrounded	巨、区
	Overall surrounded	回、国、围

Radicals:

Radicals are the essential components of Chinese characters. For example, in the Chinese character 你 (meaning “you”), the left part 亻 is a radical that evolved from the earliest visual representation of a person. Radicals are often used to illustrate meanings. In the example of the character 你, the radical 亻 indicates “person”.

Eighty-four percent of the Chinese characters contain radicals, which will help you decode and comprehend the Chinese easily.

[Here is a table that lists commonly used radicals](#)

Basic Strokes:

When learning to write Chinese characters, a good first step in making the task less intimidating is identifying strokes. A basic stroke is a single calligraphic mark moving in one direction across a writing surface. Here are some basic strokes.

Strokes	Pinyin Names	English	Example Characters
	diǎn	dot	冰
	héng	horizontal	王
	shù	vertical	干
	xià	Downward left	八
	xià	Downward right	人
	tí	Upward	冰
	shù gōu	Vertical hook	水
	wān gōu	Slanted hook	代
	héng gōu	Horizontal hook	头
	héng zhé	Horizontal bend	口
	shù zhé	Vertical bend	凶

Stroke Order:

Following the stroke order rules will make it easier for you to write Chinese characters. Your handwriting will also look better if you write characters in the correct stroke order.

There are seven basic stroke order rules to follow. Please check them out at [7 Basic Rules To Chinese Stroke Order](#)

Basic Expressions Used in Class:

上课！shàng kè ！（Class begins）
下课！xià kè ！（Class is over）
老师好！lǎo shī hǎo ！（Hello, teacher）
同学们好！tóng xué mén hǎo ！（Hello, classmates）
大家好！dà jiā hǎo ！（Hello, everybody）
你们好！nǐ mén hǎo ！（Hello）
早！zǎo ！（Morning）
老师早！lǎo shī zǎo ！（Morning, teacher）
请听我说。qǐng tīng wǒ shuō 。（Please listen to me）
请跟我读。qǐng gēn wǒ shuō 。（Please read after me）
你说。nǐ shuō 。（Please speak）
请再说一遍。qǐng zài shuō yī biàn 。（Please say it again）
再见！zài jiàn ！（Goodbye）
老师再见！lǎo shī zài jiàn ！（Bye, teacher）
懂了吗？dǒng le má ？（Understand?）
懂了。dǒng le 。（I understood.）
没懂。méi dǒng 。（I didn't understand.）
对不对？duì bú duì ？（Is it correct?）
对。duì 。（Correct）
不对。bú duì 。（Incorrect）
我不知道。wǒ bù zhī dào 。（I don't know.）
有问题吗？yǒu wèn tí má ？（Any questions?）

没有。méi yǒu。(I don't have any [questions]).

我有一个问题。wǒ yǒu yī gè wèn tí。(I have a question.)

谢谢！xiè xie！(Thanks!)

对不起！duì bù qǐ！(Sorry.)

没关系！méi guān xi！(That's all right.)

PART II

LESSON 1: FIRST CONTACT

Learning Objectives:

After learning this lesson, you will be able to use Chinese to:

- greet strangers and friends in Chinese and respond to their greetings.
- inquire about strangers' names and reply to questions about names.
- ask about professions and answer questions.
- ask about nationalities and origins.

5. Lesson 1 Dialogue 1: Meeting People for the First Time

Dialogue:

(Li Xiaopeng is a freshman at a Chinese university. Today is her first day at school. She meets Wang Gui on campus.)

Simplified Chinese

Li Xiaopeng: 您好！我姓李，请问您贵姓？

Wang Gui: 你好！我姓王。

Li Xiaopeng: 王先生，您叫什么？

Wang Gui: 我叫王贵。李小姐，你呢？

Li Xiaopeng: 我叫李小明。很高兴认识您！

Wang Gui: 很高兴认识你！

See Traditional Chinese

Simplified Chinese	Traditional Chinese
Li Xiaopeng: 您好！我姓李，请问您贵姓？	Li Xiaopeng: 您好！我姓李，請問您貴姓？
Wang Gui: 你好！我姓王。	Wang Gui: 你好！我姓王。
Li Xiaopeng: 王先生，您叫什么？	Li Xiaopeng: 王先生，您叫什麼？
Wang Gui: 我叫王贵。李小姐，你呢？	Wang Gui: 我叫王貴。李小姐，你呢？
Li Xiaopeng: 我叫李小朋。很高兴认识您！	Li Xiaopeng: 我叫李小朋。很高興認識您！
Wang Gui: 很高兴认识你！	Wang Gui: 很高興認識你！



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Vocabulary:

Chinese	Pinyin	English
你	nǐ	pron., you
好	hǎo	adj., good, nice, kind
你好	nǐ hǎo	hello
您	nín	pron., a respectful way to say "you"
请/請	qǐng	v., to please
问/問	wèn	v., to ask
请问/請問	qǐng wèn	a polite way to start a question, meaning "May I ask..."
贵/貴	guì	adj., honorable, expensive
姓	xìng	v./n., to be surnamed; surname
贵姓	guì xìng	a polite way to ask for people's surname
我	wǒ	pron., I/me
王	Wáng	Chinese surname
先生	xiān sheng	n., Mr.; gentleman; husband
王先生	Wáng xiān sheng	Mr. Wang
李	Lǐ	Chinese surname
小姐	xiǎo jiě	n., Miss, Madam
李小姐	Lǐ xiǎo jiě	Miss Li
叫	jiào	verb, to call or to be called
什么/什麼	shén me	question word, what
叫什么/叫什麼	jiào shén me	to be called what
小	xiǎo	adj., little, small
朋	péng	noun, friend as in 朋友
呢	ne	question particle, used after a noun or a pronoun to form a question

Chinese	Pinyin	English
很	hěn	adv., very, very much
高兴/高興	gāo xìng	adj., happy, glad, pleased
认识/認識	rèn shi	verb, to know
很高兴认识你/很高興認識你	hěn gāo xìng rèn shí nǐ	It's a pleasure to meet you.



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Grammar Notes:

1. Greeting with 你好 (nǐ hǎo, hello, literally “you good/well”):
This expression is often used to greet people whom you meet for the first time. 您好 “nín hǎo” is the respectful form of “nǐ hǎo”—it’s used to express special respect for the addressee. It is typically used when meeting people more senior in age or status or when greeting customers. In such situations the reply is often simply 你好 or 您好.
2. The verb 姓 (xìng, to be called):
This verb is **used with the surname only, never with the first**

name or the first plus surname together. For example, 我姓李 literally “I am called Li by last name”, meaning “My last name is Li”.

3. How to use 贵姓 (guì xìng):

贵姓 literally is “honorable surname”. 你/您贵姓 is a formal way to **ask for somebody’s surname**. Note: when answering such a question, just reply with “我姓 + surname”. For example, “您贵姓?” “我姓王。” Note: Do not repeat “贵姓” in your reply.

4. Requesting politely with 请问 (qǐng wèn):

In Chinese, the character 请 (similar to “please” in English) is used before verbs to indicate “politeness”. The structure is “请 + verb”. For example, 请听。(Please listen.) 请跟我说。(Please read after me.)

In this dialogue, the phrase 请问 (qǐng wèn) is a set expression meaning not “please ask”, but “may I ask”. It often occurs before a question to make polite requests for information. For instance, 请问您贵姓? (May I ask what your surname is?) In this sentence, 您贵姓 is the question that asks for surname, and 请问 is put before it to indicate that the speaker is being polite.

5. Chinese pronouns:

The basic personal pronouns are:

我(wǒ): I, me

你(nǐ): you

他, 她, 它(tā): he/him, she/her, it

们 is added to the singular to form the equivalent plural pronoun:

我们(wǒ men): we/us

你们(nǐ men): you (plural)

他们, 她们, 它们(tā men): they/them

6. The verb 叫(jiào, to be called, to call):

This verb can be followed by a given name or a full name. The structure is “**subject + 叫 + bi-syllable given name or full name**”. For example, 我叫王小名, literally “I am called Wang Xiaoming”.

The verb can also be used to mean “to call”. For example, 我叫

他李贵。(I call him Li Gui.)

7. Questions with 什么 (shén me, what):

The question word 什么 can be used either as a modifier as in 什么名字 (shénme míngzi, what name) or as a pronoun as in 你叫什么, literally “you are called what?”, meaning “what is your name?”.

8. Questions with 呢 (ne):

呢 is a question particle used to ask if a previous statement applies to the current situation too. For example: When somebody states 我姓王 (wǒ xìng wǎng, My last name is Wang), he/she may then continues with 你呢 (nǐ ne), meaning “**what about** you?”.

9. The sentence 很高兴认识你 (hěn gāo xìng rèn shí nǐ):

It means “(I’m) glad to know you”. To respond to the statement, you can repeat 很高兴认识你 or 认识你很高兴 [literally: to know you (I’m) happy].

10. Word order of the Chinese question:

Unlike the word order of the English question, the word order of the Chinese question is to keep the word order of the statement and then change the “asked part” to the corresponding question word (see the example below).

Subject	verb	object
我	叫	Joyce.
wǒ	jiào	Joyce.
I	am called	Joyce.
change to the second person	unchanged	change to the question word
↓	↓	↓
你	叫	什么名字?
nǐ	jiào	shén me míng zi?
You	are called	what name?

Culture Notes:

1. 您贵姓 is normally **used in formal or business situations to show courtesy and respect**. When responding to it, Chinese people normally respond with 免贵，姓... (miǎn guì xìng...), meaning “no need for the ‘honorable,’ my last name is...”
2. Chinese surnames:
王 and 李 are commonly used Chinese surnames. In this dialogue, 李小明 is a typical Chinese name, with 李 being the surname preceding 小明 the given name. Many Chinese surnames contain a single syllable/character. First names often have two syllables. There is a small number of very common surnames, including: 王 (wáng), 李 (lǐ), 张 (zhāng), 刘 (liú), 陈 (chén), 杨 (yáng), 黄 (huáng), 赵 (zhào), 吴 (wú), 周 (zhōu). [Learn about most frequently used Chinese surnames here.](#)
3. surname + 先生/小姐:
When addressing someone in Chinese, it is polite to use personal titles like Mr., Mrs., Dr., etc. **after the surname**. So instead of saying Mr. Wang and Miss Li, Chinese people say 王先生 [wáng xiān sheng] and 李小姐 [lǐ xiǎo jiě]. To show respect, friends might use the terms “老 lǎo” (old) and “小 xiǎo” (young) before surnames to replace titles. For example, I might call a colleague who is older than me 老李. I might also call a friend who is younger than me 小王.
4. When you meet people of your parents’ age, it is polite to address them by using 叔叔 (shū shu, lit. uncle) and 阿姨 (ā yí, lit. aunt). If you know their surname, add it to the front. The pattern is: **Surname + 叔叔/阿姨**.
5. Greeting people in China:
你好 is the phrase often used when people meet for the FIRST time. When the Chinese greet people they already know, they use many different expressions or sentences under different circumstances. For instance, when meeting in the morning,

they would say “早上好”(zǎo shàng hǎo) or simply say “早”(zǎo), which means good morning. “下午好”(xià wǔ hǎo, good afternoon) and “晚上好”(wǎn shàng hǎo, good evening) are not used as common as the morning one. When meeting around the mealtime, people would simply say “吃了吗?” (chī le ma, “Have you eaten yet?”) to show their care. The younger generation tend to use “嗨” (hāi) or 哈喽 (hā lóu) almost anytime or any occasion they meet, which has the same sound and meaning as the English word “Hi” or “Hello”.

When Chinese people greet each other, they normally smile and nod their heads politely or bow slightly. The bow is from the shoulders and should be greater if the person you are greeting has a higher status. Influenced by the West, the Chinese also shake hands in formal situations, but the handshake tends to be lighter and longer than the Western handshake. Traditionally, Chinese people do not greet with hugs or kisses. Many young people nowadays, however, are fine hugging new or old friends. Note: In China, always greet those who are older than you first. When you are introduced to a Chinese person, if you are seated, stand up from your seat to show your respect.

6. Lesson 1 Dialogue 2: Where are you from?

Dialogue:

(Teacher Wang meets Jenny and 王贵 in the dining hall. She starts the conversation.)

Simplified Chinese

王老师：你们好！你们是老师吗？

王贵：我不是老师，是学生。她也是学生。
您呢？

王老师：我是老师。我姓王。

王贵：王老师好！您是中文老师吗？

王老师：是。你是哪儿人？

王贵：我是北京人。

王老师：她也是北京人吗？

王贵：不是。她不是中国人。

王老师：那她是哪国人？

王贵：她是美国人。

王老师：她说中文吗？

王贵：不说，她说英文。

王老师：她想学中文吗？

王贵：想。

王老师：好，我教她。

See Traditional Chinese

Simplified Chinese	Traditional Chinese
王老师：你们好！你们是老师吗？	王老師：你們好！你們是老師嗎？
王贵：我不是老师，是学生。她也是学生。您呢？	王貴：我不是老師，是學生。她也是學生。您呢？
王老师：我是老师。我姓王。	王老師：我是老師。我姓王。
王贵：王老师好！您是中文老师吗？	王貴：王老師好！您是中文老師嗎？
王老师：是。你是哪儿人？	王老師：是。你是哪兒人？
王贵：我是北京人。	王貴：我是北京人。
王老师：她也是北京人吗？	王老師：她也是北京人嗎？
王贵：不是。她不是中国人。	王貴：不是。她不是中國人。
王老师：那她是哪国人？	王老師：那她是哪國人？
王贵：她是美国人。	王貴：她是美國人。
王老师：她说中文吗？	王老師：她說中文嗎？
王贵：不说，她说英文。	王貴：不說，她說英文。