

闪 Shǎn

Lesson 七 Notes

These notes follow no particular order, since they follow the things as they come up in the lesson.

Writing Chinese

The little hooks in characters like 他, 她 and 也, also in 您, 想, 们, 吗, 弟, 朋友, 呢, 国, 谢, etc. are important to how the character is written. They are not arches, but hooks.

Numerals

零 / 〇	líng	zero
一	yī / yāo	one
二 (两)	èr (liǎng)	two
三	sān	three
四	sì	four
五	wǔ	five
六	liù	six
七	qī	seven
八	bā	eight
九	jiǔ	nine

十

shí

ten

一 and 七 seem very much alike, therefore 一 is sometimes pronounced as yāo.

二 also has a special usage: for indicating 'two pieces' the character 两 is used.

Numbers are always used with so called measure words. These depend on the noun. The grammatical construction is: *numeral - measure word - noun*

两个人

liǎng gè rén

two (pieces of) people

两本书

liǎng běn shū

two (the) books

There are close to five hundred measure words in Chinese.

Continue counting and more numerals

十一

shí yī

eleven

十二

shí èr

twelve

十三

shí sān

thirteen

十四

shí sì

fourteen

十五

shí wǔ

fifteen

二十

èr shí

twenty

九十九

jiǔ shí jiǔ

ninety nine

一百〇

yī bǎi líng

one hundred (see text)

一百〇一

yī bǎi líng yī

one hundred and one (see text)

一百一 (十)

yī bǎi yī (shí)

one hundred and ten (see text)

二百 / 两百

èr bǎi / liǎng bǎi

two hundred

九百九十九	jiǔ bǎi jiǔ shí jiǔ	nine hundred ninety nine
一千	yī qiān	one thousand
一千〇〇一	yī qiān líng líng yī	one thousand and one
一万	yī wàn	ten thousand (see text)
两万	liǎng wàn	twenty thousand
一亿	yī yì	a hundred million (see text)

Counting in Chinese is easier than in most other languages as the numbers follow a far more logical order than in other languages. The use of zero in numbers like one hundred, a hundred and one, a thousand and one, etc. comes from the use of a counting frame, where there were beads for each decimal. The zeros are called for the lack of any beads in those decimals.

In a hundred and ten, the ten is also omitted from the number for a similar reason; otherwise the zero would have been called to indicate the lack of decimal.

Chinese also has some different magnitudes, like 万 and 亿. These take the place of using millions and higher numbers.

Text from lesson four

可以进来吗? kěyǐ jìnlái ma? May I come in?

可以吗? can be used for making requests, for example:

买单, 可以吗? mǎidān, kěyǐ ma? the bill, can I have it?

来两个啤酒可以吗?

lái liǎng gè pìjiǔ kěyǐ ma?

Can I have two beer, please?

来两个听可口可乐可以吗?

lái liǎng tīng kě kǒu kě lè kěyǐ ma?

Can I have two cans of coca cola, please?

What is this?

这是什么？

zhè shì shénme?

这是我的书。

zhè shì wǒ de shū.

那是什么？

nà shì shénme?

那是矿泉水。

nà shì kuàng quán shuǐ.

听 (tīng) which sounds like 'thing', is used as a measure word for drinks in cans.

Words

听

tīng

listen

记者

jìzhě

reporter

姓

xìng

surname

from: 女 and 生 (shēng, to be born)

名字

míngzì

firstname (name, character)

认识

rènshi

to know (我认识你)

Introducing yourself

我姓陆，
陆，

wǒ xīng lù,

My family name is

我的名字叫雨平，
firstname is 雨平，

wǒ de míngzì jiào yǔpíng, my

叫 陆雨平。
雨平。

jiào lù yǔpíng.

I am called 陆

This is a standard 'formula' for introducing yourself.