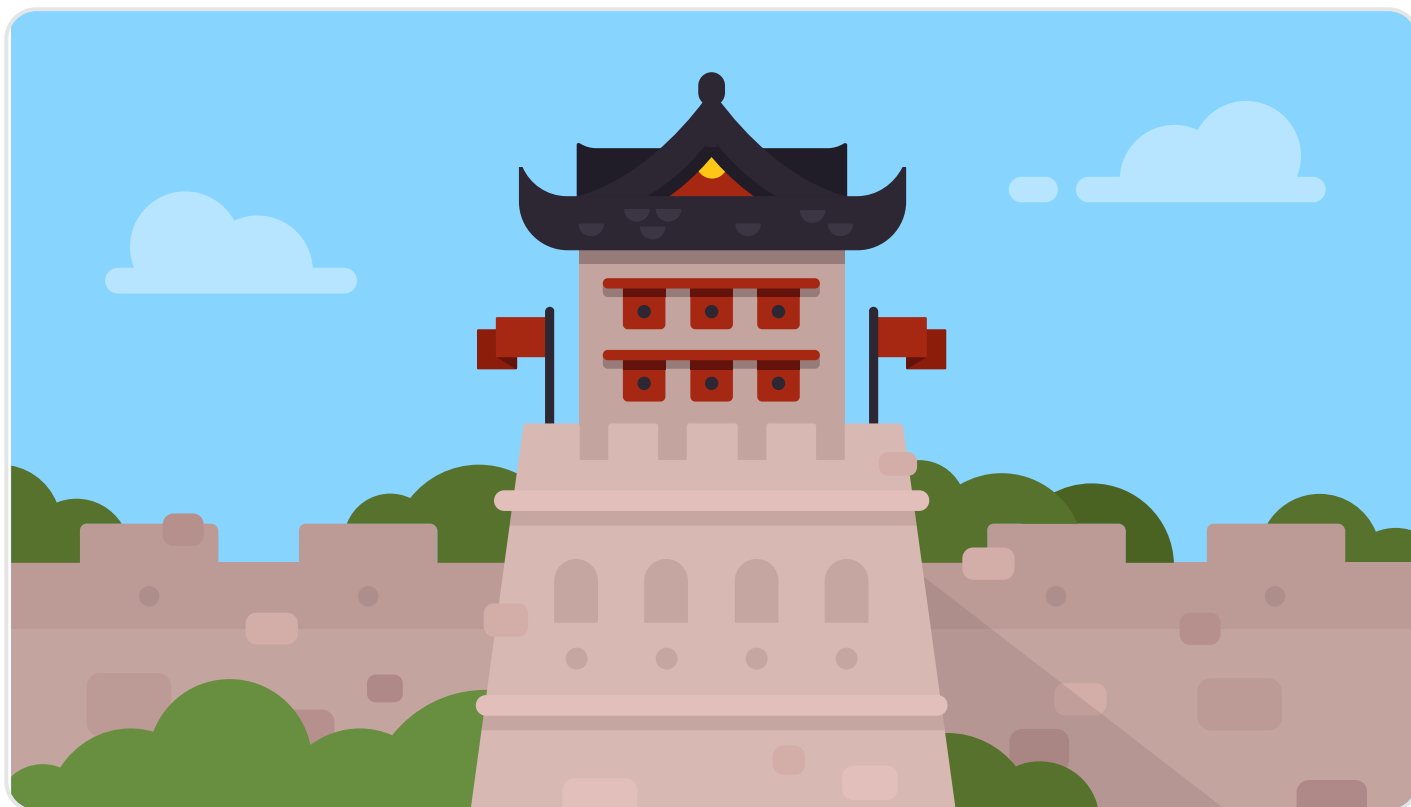


Greeting 1



Mandarin Chinese is spoken by over a billion people worldwide!

Learning Chinese

Chinese is not as difficult as you think! While the sounds and characters may be intimidating at first, Chinese grammar is actually easier than many other languages.

What is pinyin?

Chinese doesn't have an alphabet like English. Instead of using letters to represent sounds, Chinese characters (like 好, which means **good**) represent entire words. A word can also have more than one character (for example 高兴, which means **happy**).

To make things easier, pinyin represents the sounds of Mandarin Chinese using the

Greeting 1



你好！

Nǐ hǎo!

Tones

A big difference between Chinese and English is the use of tones. In Chinese, the inflection you use to pronounce a syllable can create a new word entirely.

In English, you might be shouting (**Mom!**), asking a question (**Mom?**), or complaining (**Mah-ummm!**), but the meaning of **Mom** never changes.

This is not the case for Chinese! The basic sounds that make up the word for **mother** can easily mean **horse**... if you pronounce them with a different tone!

Greeting 1

má

麻
hemp

mǎ

马
horse

mà

骂
to scold