

# Lesson 1 Greetings

dì yī kè

第一课

wèn hǎo

问好

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# Online Pinyin Table

- As English and Chinese have very different phonetic systems, WYSIWYG (what you see is not what you get). When you are not sure how to pronounce certain combinations, the following website and app may help you (with the choice of four tones):
- Website: <https://chinese.yabla.com/chinese-pinyin-chart.php>
- Mobile App: Pleco, Pinyin Coach

# Numbers (p. 20)

líng	yī	èr	sān	sì	wǔ	liù	qī	bā	jǐu	shí
〇	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

# Common Expressions

(Also see Textbook pp. 19-20)

nǐ hǎo

■ Hello - 你好

xìè xiè

■ Thanks - 谢谢

bù hǎo yì sī duì bù qǐ

■ Excuse me / sorry - 不好意思 / 对不起

zài jiàn

■ Bye - 再见, colloquially, just say Bye~bye (similar to English)

yǒu méiyǒu wèntí

■ Any questions? - 有 没 有 问 题 Yǒu méiyǒu wèntí

# **Dialogue 1**

## **Exchanging Greetings**

nǐ

你

■ you (single)



■ I; me

wǒ  
我



hǎo

好

■ minimal acknowledgement, like YES, or Okay

nǐ hǎo

■ good, fine, as in 你好



qǐng  
请

■ Please…, May I…, Would you please…

■ 【Other Meanings】 See Lesson 3 p.81

Treat and/or invite:

wǒ qǐng nǐ

e.g. 我请你 + activity (e.g. having a dinner, coffee, or watching movies, etc.)

wèn

# 问

ask

【Combination】

qǐng wèn

请 问……

May I ask……

qǐng wèn

【Cultural Note】 请问 is used to politely start a question, especially to strangers.

【Combination】

wèn hǎo

问 好： give one's regards to, greetings (as we see the title of Lesson 1)

jiào  
叫

■ to be called; to call

■ 【Example】

wǒ jiào

我 叫 William

wǒ jiào wáng péng

我 叫 王 朋



shén m e

# 什 么

■ what?

■ WHAT!!



YOU...  
WHAT DID  
YOU SAY?

■ 【Note】 什么 is a WH-question word meaning “what.” It is very important and heard often in daily conversations.

míng zì  
名 字

■ Name

■ 【Core Meaning】

míng

名: name, particularly given name

zì

字: a Chinese character

■ 【Example】 (Memorise it!!)

nǐ jiào shénme míngzì

你 叫 什 么 名 字 ?

What is your name?

# Asking for someone's name

nǐ hǎo

A: 你 好。 (Hello)

You good.

nǐ hǎo

B: 你 好。 (Hello)

You good.

nǐ jiào shénme míngzì

A: 你 叫 什么名字? (What is your name?)

You (are) called what name?

wǒ jiào

B: 我 叫 (your given name) 。 (My name is \_\_\_\_.)

I (am) called \_\_\_\_\_.

g u ì  
貴

■ honourable

■ 【Cultural Note】

- 貴 means “honourable” or “precious” and is mostly used in formal or polite situations when referring to other people, especially to show respect.

- In daily life, 貴 means **expensive** 💰💰💰💰💰 (see Lesson 9)

xìng

# 姓

【Core Meaning】 surname, family name

(one's) surname is...

to be surnamed

【Example】

nǐ xìng shénme

wǒ xìng zhāng

Q: 你姓什么? A: 我姓张

Q: What is your surname? A: My surname is Zhāng.

(Literally: Q: You are surnamed what? A: I am surnamed Zhāng)

【Example】 (Fixed usage, memorise it!!)

nǐ guì xìng

你贵姓?

xìng míng

【Combination】 姓名: full name

nǐ guì xìng  
你 贵 姓 ?

■ What is your honourable surname?

■ 【Example】

nǐ guì xìng

A: 你 贵 姓 ?

wǒ xìng wáng jiào wáng zhèngwēi

B: 我 姓 王 , 叫 王 正 威 。

■ 【Cultural Note】

This is a polite and formal way to ask someone's name, often used when meeting someone for the first time. While it literally asks for the surname, in many contexts it can be **broadly understood as** the speech act “**What is your name?**”, especially when the speaker wants to be respectful.

nǐ guì xìng

■ “你 贵 姓 ? ” is also often used in customer service.

ne/nē

呢

■ Question particle, usually for an open question, e.g.

n i n e

你 呢? How about you?

■ 【Note】

For Yes-No questions, usually use 吗 (see Dialogue II)

wáng

lǐ

王 & 李

■ two vary common family names

■ 【Core Meaning】

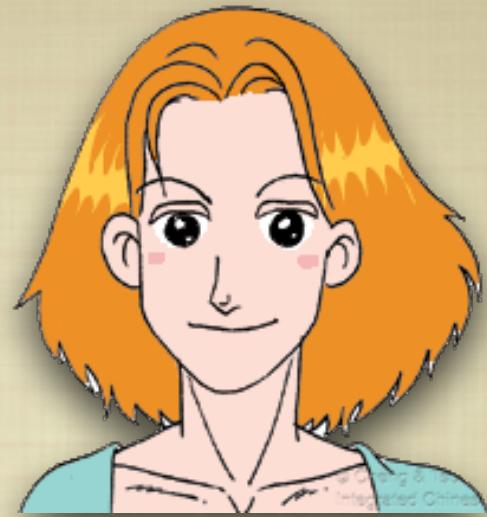
wáng

王: king

lǐ

李: plum

xiǎo jiě  
小 姐



■ Miss/Ms; young lady

xiǎo jiě

■ 【Pattern】 Family Name + 小姐

wáng xiǎo jiě

Ms Wang = 王 小姐

■ 【Example】

lǐ xiǎo jiě

李 小姐, 你好。

■ 【Core Meaning】

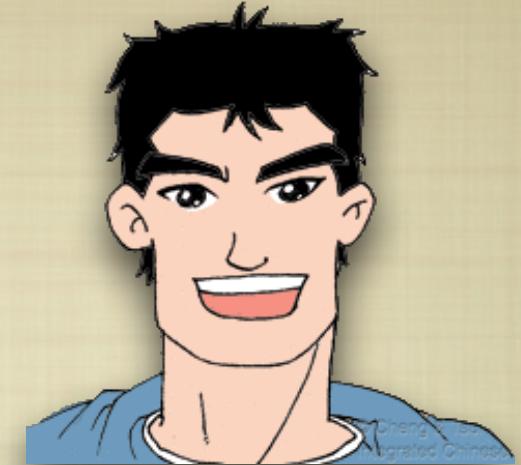
xiǎo

小: small

jiě

姐: older sister

xiān sheng/shēng  
先 生



■ Mr.; husband; teacher (old way)

xiānshēng

■ 【Pattern】 Family name + 先生

wáng xiānshēng

Mr Wang = 王先生

■ 【Example】

wáng xiānshēng

王先生，你叫什么名字？

■ 【Core Meaning】

xiān

先: ahead, before, earlier, first, or in advance

shēng

生: birth



Wáng Péng

王朋

Lǐ Yǒu

李友



■ 2 main characters in Integrated Chinese 1 & 2

■ 【Combination】

péng yǒu

朋 友: friend, for example:

hǎo péngyǒu

好 朋友: good friend

xiǎo péngyǒu

小 朋友: small friend → child, children, kids

# Dialogue 1

## Exchanging Greetings

nǐ hǎo



你好！

nǐ hǎo



你好！

qǐng wèn nǐ guì xìng



请问，你贵姓？

wǒ xìng Lǐ nǐ ne



我姓李。你呢？

wǒ xìng Wáng Lǐ xiǎojiě nǐ jiào shénme míngzì



我姓王。李小姐，你叫什么名字？

wǒ jiào Lǐ Yǒu Wáng xiānsheng nǐ jiào shénme míngzì



我叫李友。王先生，你叫什么名字？

wǒ jiào WángPéng



我叫王朋。

# Note of Chinese Greetings

- In most cases, when Chinese speakers introduce themselves, they usually tell you their name first rather than ask for yours directly. A common pattern is:

你好，我姓Family Name，叫Full Name。（你呢？）

- 【How to reply??】 2 choices

1. 你好，我叫First Name in English。

This is fine for most situations or if you don't have a Chinese name.

2. 你好，我叫Full Name in Chinese。

This is more formal or if you're using a Chinese name.

- If you want to add your surname in Chinese clearly, you can use the textbook pattern:

我姓Family Name，叫Full Name。