

Have you ever wanted to say hello in Chinese to your friends? By the end of this lesson, you will be able to greet others and express your needs.

第二课 Lesson 2

Nǐ máng ma
你 忙 吗

一. 课文

Text

(一)

【问候别人】Greetings

Lín Nà: Lù Yǔpíng, nǐ hǎo ma?

林娜: 陆雨平, 你好吗?

Lù Yǔpíng: Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ bàba、māma hǎo ma? ①

陆雨平: 我很好。你爸爸、妈妈好吗?

Lín Nà: Tāmen dōu hěn hǎo. ② Nǐ máng ma?

林娜: 他们都很好。你忙吗?

Lù Yǔpíng: Wǒ bù máng. Nǐ nán péngyou ne?

陆雨平: 我不忙。你男朋友呢?

Lín Nà: Tā hěn máng.

林娜: 他很忙。



生词 New Words

1. máng	A	忙	busy
* 2. ma	QPt	吗	(a particle used for questions expecting a yes-no answer) ⁽¹⁾
3. bàba	N	爸爸	dad
4. māma	N	妈妈	mom
5. tāmen	Pr	他们	they; them
tā	Pr	他	he; him
men	Suf	们	(used after pronouns 我, 你, 他 or certain nouns to denote plural)
6. dōu	Adv	都	both; all
7. bù	Adv	不	not; no
8. nán	A	男	male
9. péngyou	N	朋友	friend
* 10. ne	MdPt	呢	(a modal particle used for elliptical questions)

(二)

Dīng Lìbō: Gēge, nǐ yào kāfēi ma? ③

丁力波: 哥哥, 你要咖啡吗?

Gēge: Wǒ yào kāfēi.

哥哥: 我要咖啡。

Dìdì: Wǒ yě yào kāfēi. ④

弟弟: 我也要咖啡。

Dīng Lìbō: Hǎo, wǒmen dōu hē kāfēi. ⑤

丁力波: 好, 我们都喝咖啡。

【问需要】 Asking

what someone wants



[1] Words marked by an asterisk have appeared in previous lessons.

生词 New Words

1. gēge	N	哥哥	elder brother
2. yào	V	要	to want
3. kāfēi	N	咖啡	coffee
4. dìdi	N	弟弟	younger brother
5. wǒmen	Pr	我们	we; us
6. hē	V	喝	to drink
7. Dīng	PN	丁	(a surname)

二. 注释

Notes

① Nǐ bàba, māma hǎo ma?

“How are your mom and dad? ”

nǐ bàba — your dad, nǐ māma — your mom,
nǐ nán péngyou — your boyfriend.

② Tāmen dōu hěn hǎo.

“They are both fine (literally, very good).”

③ Nǐ yào kāfēi ma?

“Do you want coffee? ”

“你要…吗?” (“Nǐ yào … ma? ”) is a sentence pattern commonly used when asking what others want, whereas “我要…” (“Wǒ yào …”) is used to express what “I want”.

④ Wǒ yě yào kāfēi.

“I want coffee, too.”

⑤ Wǒmen dōu hē kāfēi.

“We all drink coffee.”

三. 语音练习

Pronunciation Drills

声母 Initials: d t g k f

韵母 Finals: ei ou an ang eng iao iou(-iu)

1. 拼音 Spelling

dē	dōu	dān	dāng
tē	tōu	tān	tāng
gē	gōu	gān	gāng
kē	kōu	kān	kāng

bēi	bān	bēng	biāo
pēi	pān	pēng	piāo
fēi	fān	fēng	diū
hēi	hān	hēng	niū

2. 四声 The four tones

tā		tǎ	tà	
mēn	mén		mèn	tāmen
wō		wǒ	wò	wǒmen
nī	ní	nǐ	nì	nǐmen
nān	nán	nǎn	nàn	
pēng	péng	pěng	pèng	
yōu	yóu	yǒu	yòu	nán péngyou
bū	bú	bǔ	bù	
	máng	mǎng		bù máng
gē	gé	gě	gè	gēge
dī	dí	dǐ	dì	dìdì
hē	hé		hè	
kā		kǎ		
fēi	fēi	fěi	fèi	hē kāfēi

3. 辨音 Sound discrimination

dà — tà	kě — gě	kǒu — gǒu
(big)	(may)	(mouth) (dog)
dōu — duō	gēn — gēng	dīng — tīng
(all) (many)	(to follow)	(nail) (to listen)

4. 辨调 Tone discrimination

dāo — dào	tǔ — tù	yòu — yǒu
(knife)	(soil)	(again) (to have)
ní — nǐ	liù — liǔ	kàn — kǎn
(Buddhist nun)	(six)	(to see)

5. 轻声 Neutral tone

bàba	māma	gēge	dìdi
nǐmen	wǒmen	tāmen	
hǎo ma?	Nǐ ne?	Nǐ nán péngyou ne?	

6. 双音节连读 Practice on disyllabic words

yǐnliào (drinks)	yéye (grandpa)
kělè (coke)	mèimei (younger sister)
hànbǎo (hamburger)	fāyīn (pronunciation)
píngguǒ (apple)	hēibǎn (blackboard)

7. 朗读下列课堂用语 Read the following classroom expressions aloud

Tīng wǒ fāyīn. (Listen to my pronunciation.)
Kàn hēibǎn. (Look at the blackboard.)

四. 会话练习

Conversation Practice

KEY SENTENCES

1. Tāmen dōu hěn hǎo.
2. Nǐ máng ma?
3. Wǒ bù máng.
4. Nǐ yào kāfēi ma?
5. Wǒ yào kāfēi.
6. Wǒmen dōu hē kāfēi.

(一) 【问候别人 Greetings】

完成下列会话 Complete the following dialogues

(1) A: Dà Lín, nǐ máng ma?

B: _____. Nǐ ne?

A: _____.

(2) A: Nǐ bàba māma hǎo ma?

B: _____. Nǐ gēge ne?

A: _____.

(3) A: Nǐ dìdi hǎo ma?

B: _____. Nǐ _____ ne?

A: _____.

(二) 【问需要 Asking what someone wants】

1. 完成下列会话 Complete the following dialogues

(1) A: Nín yào kāfēi ma?

B: Wǒ yào kāfēi.

A: Nǐ ne?

C: _____.

(2) A: Nǐ yào _____ ma?

B: _____.

A: Nǐ ne?

C: _____.

2. 看图会话 Make a dialogue based on the picture

(1) A: _____?

B: _____.



(2) A: _____?

B: _____.



(三) 听述 Listen and repeat

你爸爸妈妈都好吗?

他们都很好。

五. 语音

Phonetics

1. 轻声 Neutral tone

In the common speech of modern Chinese, there are a number of syllables which are unstressed and are pronounced in a “weak” tone. This is known as the neutral tone and is indicated by the absence of a tone mark. For example:

吗 ma 呢 ne 们 men

2. 发音要领 Pronunciation key

Initials: f is pronounced similarly to its counterpart in the English language

d like “t” in “stay” (unaspirated)

t like “t” in “tag” (aspirated)

g a soft unaspirated “k” sound

k like “k” in “kangaroo” (aspirated)

Note: Particular attention should be paid to the pronunciation of the aspirated and unaspirated consonants: d-t, g-k.

Finals: ei like “ay” in “play” (light)

ou like “o” in “so”

an like “an” in “can” (without stressing the “n”)

3. 拼写规则 Spelling rules

The compound final “iou” is written as “-iu” when it comes after an initial and the tone mark is placed on “u”. For example: liù (six).

六. 语法

Grammar

1. 形容词谓语句 Sentences with an adjectival predicate

Subject	Predicate
你 Nǐ	好。 hǎo.
他 Tā	很 忙。 hěn máng.
我 Wǒ	不 忙。 bù máng.
他们 Tāmen	都 很 好。 dōu hěn hǎo.

Adjectives in Chinese can function directly as predicates. This kind of sentence is called a sentence with an adjectival predicate. Adjectives in this kind of sentence can be modified by adverbs such as “很”, “也”, and “都”. The negative form of sentences with an adjectival predicate is generated by placing the negative adverb “不” before the adjective that functions as the predicate. For example: “我不忙”.

Note: Adverbs such as “很”, “也”, and “都” must be placed before the adjective they modify.

2. 用“吗”的是非问句 “Yes-no” question with “吗”

A declarative sentence can be changed into a “yes-no” question by adding the question particle “吗” at the end of it.

Statement		Question
你好。 Nǐ hǎo.	——→	你好吗? Nǐ hǎo ma?
他爸爸、妈妈都好。 Tā bàba māma dōu hǎo.	——→	他爸爸、妈妈都好吗? Tā bàba māma dōu hǎo ma?
她忙。 Tā máng.	——→	她忙吗? Tā máng ma?
你要咖啡。 Nǐ yào kāfēi.	——→	你要咖啡吗? Nǐ yào kāfēi ma?

七. 汉字

Chinese Characters

1. 认写基本汉字 Learn and write basic Chinese characters

- (1) 丁 一丁
dīng nail 2 strokes



- (2) 刀 丁刀
dāo knife 2 strokes



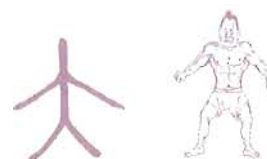
Note: “刀” is written as “刂” on the right side of a character.

- (3) 又 ㄋ又
yòu again 2 strokes



Note: “又” was originally a pictograph of “the right hand”.

- (4) 大 一人大
dà big 3 strokes



(5) 口 丨 凵 口
kǒu mouth 3 strokes

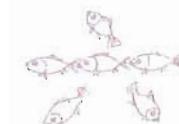


(6) 土 一 十 土
tǔ earth 3 strokes



Note: “土” is written as “扌” on the left side of a character.

(7) 六 丶 一 六 六
liù six 4 strokes



(8) 不 一 丿 丩 不
bù no, not 4 strokes



(9) 尼 ㇏ ㇏ 尸 尸 尼
ní Buddhist nun 5 strokes



(10) 可 一 丨 冂 冂 可
kě can, may 5 strokes

2. 认写课文中的汉字 Learn and write the Chinese characters appearing in the texts

(1) 吗 ma (嗎)

吗 → 口 + 马

(“口” denotes the meaning of speaking, “马” denotes the pronunciation)

(2) 呢 ne

呢 → 口 + 尼

(“口” denotes the meaning of speaking, “尼” denotes the pronunciation)

(3) 妈妈 māma (媽媽)

妈 → 女 + 马

(“女” denotes the meaning of woman, “马” denotes the pronunciation)

(4) 哥哥 gēge

哥 → 可 + 可

Chinese Characters and Simplified Script

The Chinese script is the only logographic writing system still in daily use in the world today. Unlike the alphabetic systems used by most languages, Chinese script is made up of characters, the majority of which are “pictophonetic”. Most consist of one component indicating the sound of the character, the phonetic, combined with one semantic component, the signific or radical, which shows the category of meaning to which the character belongs.

Chinese characters represent monosyllables, and generally each character represents a single morpheme. The total number of Chinese characters is estimated at over fifty thousand, of which only five to eight thousand are frequently used, while three thousand are normally adequate for everyday situations.

A considerable number of Chinese characters are composed of numerous strokes and are therefore complicated to write. With a view to facilitating writing, modern scholars have made continuous attempts to simplify the writing system. The object of these language reforms has been twofold: to reduce the number of characters by eliminating complex variants, and to reduce the number of strokes in certain characters. What are known as “simplified characters” refer to graphs that have been thus altered; traditional characters, on the other hand, are those that retain their earlier forms.

The use of simplified characters is now official policy in the People’s Republic of China, while traditional characters are restricted mainly to academic use or aesthetic purposes. Simplified characters have the advantages of being easier to learn, memorize, read and write. Here are two examples:

妈 mother (simplified)

门 door (simplified)

媽 mother (traditional)

門 door (traditional)

Simplified characters are used in this textbook, but traditional characters are also supplied for the convenience of the reader.

Now, would you like to use Chinese to learn more about the people you meet? This lesson will show you how to ask a person's occupation and nationality, as well as introduce friends, family and others. In addition, we will create compound words from basic words.

第三课 Lesson 3

Tā shì nǎ guó rén
她是哪国人

一. 课文

Text

(一)

Gēge: Lìbō, nà shì shéi?

哥哥: 力波, 那是谁?

【认指人】Identifying
people

Dīng Lìbō: Nà shì wǒmen lǎoshī.

丁力波: 那是我们老师。

Gēge: Tā shì nǎ guó rén? ①

哥哥: 她是哪国人?

【问国籍】Asking
someone's nationality

Dīng Lìbō: Tā shì Zhōngguó rén. ② Wǒmen lǎoshī dōu shì Zhōngguó rén.

丁力波: 她是中国 人。我们老师都是中国 人。



生词 New Words

1. tā	Pr	她	she; her
2. shì	V	是	to be
3. nǎ	QPr	哪	which
4. guó	N	国	country, nation
5. rén	N	人	people, person
6. nà	Pr	那	that
7. shéi	QPr	谁	who; whom
8. lǎoshī	N	老师	teacher
* 9. dōu	Adv	都	both; all
10. Zhōngguó	PN	中国	China

(二)

Dīng Lìbō: Chén lǎoshī, nín hǎo! ③ Zhè shì wǒ gēge, ④ tā shì wàiyǔ
丁 力波: 陈 老师, 您 好! 这 是 我 哥哥, 他 是 外语

lǎoshī.
老师。

Chén lǎoshī: Nǐ hǎo.
陈 老师: 你 好。

Dīng Lìbō: Zhè shì wǒ péngyou.
丁 力波: 这 是 我 朋友。

Chén lǎoshī: Nǐ hǎo! Nǐ yě shì lǎoshī ma?
陈 老师: 你 好! 你 也 是 老师 吗?

Péngyou: Nín hǎo! Wǒ bú shì lǎoshī, wǒ shì yīshēng.
朋友: 您 好! 我 不 是 老师, 我 是 医生。

Chén lǎoshī: Lìbō, zhè shì nǐ nǎinai ma?
陈 老师: 力波, 这 是 你 奶奶 吗?

Dīng Lìbō: Bú shì, tā shì wǒ wàipó. ⑤
丁 力波: 不 是, 她 是 我 外婆。

Chén lǎoshī: Wàipó, nín hǎo!
陈 老师: 外婆, 您 好!



生词 New Words

1. nín	Pr	您	you (polite form)
2. zhè	Pr	这	this
* 3. tā	Pr	她	she; her
4. wàiyǔ	N	外语	foreign language
* 5. nǐ	Pr	你	you
6. yīshēng	N	医生	doctor; physician
7. nǎinai	N	奶奶	grandmother on the father's side
8. wàipó	N	外婆	grandmother on the mother's side
9. Chén	PN	陈	(a surname)

二. 注释

Notes

① Tā shì nǚ guó rén?

“What’s her nationality?”

There are two Chinese characters for the third person singular “tā”: one is “他”, used for a male; the other “她”, refers to a female.

② Tā shì Zhōngguó rén.

“She is a Chinese.”

To indicate the nationality of an individual, the character “人”(rén) is usually placed after the name of his/her country of origin. For example:

中国(Zhōngguó)——中国人(Zhōngguó rén)

③ Chén lǎoshī, nín hǎo!

In China, a person’s position or occupation, such as the director of a factory, manager, section head, engineer, movie director, or teacher, is frequently used as a title to address him/her in preference to such expressions as Mr. or Miss. Surnames always precede the titles. It is considered impolite for a student to address a teacher directly by his/her personal name. “Surname + teacher” is the most proper form of address frequently used for a teacher, e.g., “Chén lǎoshī(陈老师)”.

“nín(您)” is the polite form of “你”, commonly used to refer to an elderly or a senior person during a conversation or to a person of the same generation when speaking on a formal occasion. People in Beijing are quite fond of using this form of address.

④ Zhè shì wǒ gēge.

“This is my elder brother.”

When introducing someone to a person, we often use the sentence pattern “这是…” (“zhè shì…”). “是”(shì) is pronounced as a weak syllable.

⑤ Lìbō, zhè shì nǐ nǎinai ma? — Bú shì, tā shì wǒ wàipó.

The Chinese language uses many words for referring to individuals in a family so that their specific relationship to other members of the family is made clear. Different words are used depending on whether a relative is on the mother’s or wife’s side or on the father’s or husband’s side. Some examples are “yéye” and “nǎinai” used by a child to address the parents of his/her father, differentiated from “wàigōng” and “wàipó” used to address his/her mother’s parents.

三. 语音练习

Pronunciation Drills

声母 Initials: zh ch sh r

韵母 Finals: -i [ɿ]
ai uai ong

1. 拼音 Spelling

zhā	chā	shā	
zhī	chī	shī	rī
zhē	chē	shē	rēng
zhāi	chāi	shāi	rāng
zhōu	chōu	shōu	
zhuō	chuō	shuō	
zhuāi	chuāi	shuāi	
zhōng	chōng		

2. 四声 The four tones

chā	chá	chǎ	chà	
	rú	rǔ	rù	
zhē	zhé	zhě	zhè	
shī	shí	shǐ	shì	zhè shì

lāo	láo	lǎo	lào	lǎoshī
chēn	chén	chěn	chèn	Chén lǎoshī
wāi		wǎi	wài	
yū	yú	yǔ	yù	wàiyǔ
yī	yí	yǐ	yì	
shēng	shéng	shěng	shèng	yīshēng
zhōng		zhǒng	zhòng	
guō	guó	guǒ	guò	Zhōngguó
	rén	rěn	rèn	Zhōngguó rén

3. 辨音 Sound discrimination

zhōng — chōng	shēng — shāng	rì — rè
(middle)	(to be born)	(sun) (hot)
bǐ — pǐ	dǒng — tǒng	ròu — ruò
(dagger)	(to understand)	(meat)

4. 辨调 Tone discrimination

shí — shǐ	zhě — zhè	rén — rèn
(ten) (arrow)	(person; thing) (this)	(person)
pái — pài	chéng — chēng	zhuǎi — zhuài
	(city)	

5. 半三声 Half third tone

lǎoshī	nǎinai	wǒmen	nǐmen
wǒ gēge	wǒ péngyou	wǒ nǎinai	
nǐ wàipó	nǐ bàba	nǎ guó rén	
hǎo ma	nǐ máng	hěn máng	
nǐ yào	wǒ yào	yě yào	kěle

6. 声调组合 Combination of tones

“一”+“一”	“一”+“ / ”	“一”+“ V ”	“一”+“ \ ”	“一”+“ ° ” ^[1]
kāfēi	Zhōngguó	hēibǎn	shēngdiào	tāmen
			(tone)	

[1] “°” here represents the neutral tone.

yīshēng	hē chá	shēntǐ	chīfàn	zhīdao
	(to drink tea)	(body)	(to eat a meal)	(to know)
“ / ” + “一”	“ / ” + “ / ”	“ / ” + “ ∨ ”	“ / ” + “ \ ”	“ / ” + “ 〇 ”
túshū	chángcháng	niúǎi	liúlì	péngyou
(books)	(often)	(milk)	(fluent)	
chénggōng	yínháng	píngguǒ	chídào	yéye
(success)	(bank)	(apple)	(late)	

7. 双音节连读 Practice on disyllabic words

gōngren (worker)	Yīngguó (England, UK)
shāngren (merchant)	Déguó (Germany)
lǜshī (lawyer)	Měiguó (America)
gànbu (cadre)	Fǎguó (France)
chǎngzhǎng (factory manager)	Éguó (Russia)
nóngmín (peasant)	Rìběn (Japan)

8. 朗读下列课堂用语 Read the following classroom expressions aloud

Dǎ kāi shū.	(Open the book.)
Gēn wǒ niàn.	(Read after me.)
Nǐmen niàn.	(Read out.)
Dǒng bu dǒng?	(Do you understand?)
Dǒng le.	(Yes, I/we understand.)
Bù dǒng.	(No, I/we don't understand.)

四. 会话练习

Conversation Practice

KEY SENTENCES

1. Nà shì shéi?
2. Nà shì wǒmen lǎoshī.
3. Tā shì nǎ guó rén?
4. Tā shì Zhōngguó rén.
5. Zhè shì wǒ péngyou.
6. Nǐ yě shì lǎoshī ma?
7. Wǒ bú shì lǎoshī, wǒ shì yīshēng.

(一) 【认指人 Identifying people】

看图会话 Make a dialogue based on the picture



(1) A: Nà shì shéi?

B: Nà shì _____.



(2) A: Tā shì shéi?

B: Tā shì _____.

(二) 【问国籍 Asking someone's nationality】

1. 完成下列会话 Complete the following dialogues

(1) A: Nín shì nǎ guó rén?

B: _____.

A: Tā ne?

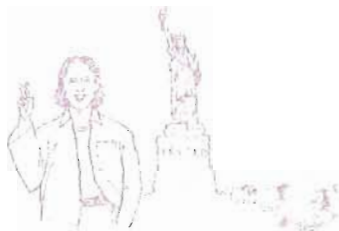
B: _____.

(2) A: Nín shì Yīngguó rén ma?

B: Bú shì, _____. Nín shì nǎ guó rén?

A: _____.

2. 看图会话 Make a dialogue based on the picture



A: Tā shì nǎ guó rén?

B: _____.

(三) 【介绍 Introducing people】

1. 完成下列会话 Complete the following dialogues

(1) A: Zhè shì Lín yīshēng. Zhè shì Chén lǎoshī.

B: _____.

C: Nín hǎo, Lín yīshēng.

(2) A: Zhè shì _____. Zhè shì _____.

B: _____.

C: _____.

2. 情景会话 Situational dialogue

Introduce your teacher and classmates.

(四) 听述 Listen and repeat

那是谁? 那是陈老师。她是中国。这是我朋友,他不是老师,他是医生。