

## 第五课 谈论家庭和年龄

### Lesson 5 Talking about One's Family and Age

#### Text

(1)

Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?

A: 你 家 有 几 口 人?

*How many people are there in your family?*

Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén, bàba, māma, mèimei hé wǒ.

B: 我 家 有 四 口 人, 爸爸、妈妈、妹妹 和 我。

*There are four people in my family: dad, mom, younger sister and me.*

Nǐ mèimei jǐ suì le?

A: 你 妹妹 几 岁 了?

*How old is your younger sister?*

Wǒ mèimei bā suì le.

B: 我 妹妹 八 岁 了。

*My younger sister is 8 years old.*

Nǐ jīn nián duō dà le?

A: 你 今 年 多 大 了?

*How old are you this year?*

Wǒ jīn nián èrshísān suì le.

B: 我 今 年 二 十 三 岁 了。

*I'm 23 years old.*

(2)

Xiǎo bái zuò māma le.

A: 小 白 做 妈妈 了。

*Xiaobai becomes a mother.*

Xiǎo bái shì nǐ de péngyou ma?

B: 小 白 是 你 的 朋 友 吗?

Is Xiaobai your friend?

Bú shì, Xiǎo bái shì wǒ de gǒu.

A: 不 是, 小 白 是 我 的 狗。

No, Xiaobai is my dog.

Nǐ de gǒu hěn piàoliang! Tā duō dà le?

B: 你 的 狗 很 漂 亮! 它 多 大 了?

Your dog is so cute! How old is she?

Tā sān suì le.

A: 它 三 岁 了。

She is three years old.

## Words

词语 Word/Phrase	拼音 Pinyin	词性 Part of Speech	词义 Meaning
家	jiā	n.	family, home
有	yǒu	v.	to have, there be
几	jǐ	pron.	how many
口	kǒu	m.	a measure word for family members
妹妹	mèimei	n.	younger sister
岁	sui	m.	year (of age)
了	le	part.	indicating a change or a new circumstance

今年	jīnnián	n.	this year
多	duō	adv.	indicating degree or extent
大	dà	adj.	(of age) old; big
漂亮	piàoliang	adj.	beautiful, pretty
做	zuò	v.	to make, to produce
朋友	péngyou	n.	friend
狗	gǒu	n.	dog
它	tā	pron.	it

其他补充词汇（数字）：

词 Word	拼音 Pinyin	词性 Part of Speech	词义 Meaning
一	yī	num.	one
二	èr	num.	two
三	sān	num.	three
四	sì	num.	four
五	wǔ	num.	five
六	liù	num.	six
七	qī	num.	seven
八	bā	num.	eight
九	jiǔ	num.	nine
十	shí	num.	ten

## Grammar

Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?

### 1. 你 家 有 几 口 人?

“**几**” is a question word which means how many or how much. It's usually used to ask a number smaller than ten.

For example:

(1)

Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?

A: 你 家 有 **几** 口 人?

How many people are there in your family?

Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén.

B: 我 家 有 四 口 人。

There are four people in my family.

(2)

Nǐ yǒu jǐ běn Hànyǔ shū?

A: 你 有 **几** 本 汉语 书?

How many Chinese books do you have?

Wǒ yǒu sān běn Hànyǔ shū.

B: 我 有 三 本 汉语 书。

I have three Chinese books.

Nǐ mèimei jǐ suì le?

### 2. 你 妹 妹 几 岁 了?

“**了**” is a particle which is often used at the end of a sentence to indicate a change or a new circumstance.

For example:

Wǒ jīn nián èrshísān suì. 我 今 年 二十 三 岁。 I'm twenty-three years	+	le <b>了</b> (indicating a change or a	=	Wǒ jīn nián èrshísān suì le. 我 今 年 二十 三 岁 <b>了</b> 。 I turned twenty-three years old this year.
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old this year.	new circumstance)	(before I was twenty-two)
Tā bù gāoxìng. 他 不 高兴。 He is not happy.		Tā bù gāoxìng le. 他 不 高兴 了。 He is unhappy now. (before he was happy)
Wǒ yǒu mèimei. 我 有 妹妹。 I have a younger sister.		Wǒ yǒu mèimei le. 我 有 妹妹 了。 I have a younger sister now. (before I didn't have a younger sister)

Nǐ jīn nián duō dà le?

3. 你 今 年 多 大 了?

**多** is an adverb to indicate degree or extent in Chinese. It can take an adjective to form a content question.

多+adj.

For example:

duō dà

(1) 多+大 how old, how big

(big, old)

Nǐ jīn nián duō dà?

- 你 今 年 多 大?

How old are you?

Nǐ de fángjiān duō dà?

- 你 的 房 间 多 大?

How big is your room?

duō gāo

(2) 多+高 how tall

(tall)

Nǐ dìdì duō gāo?

- 你 弟弟 多 高?

How tall is your brother?

duō jiǔ

(3) 多+久 how long

(long)

Nǐ lái Zhōngguó duō jiǔ le?

- 你 来 中国 多 久 了?

How long have you been in China?

Wǒ jīn nián èrshísān suì le.

4. 我 今 年 二 十 三 岁 了。 I am 23 years old this year.

	yī 一 1	èr 二 2	sān 三 3	sì 四 4	wǔ 五 5	liù 六 6	qī 七 7	bā 八 8	jiǔ 九 9
shí 十 10	shíyī 11								
èrshí 二十 20			èrshísān 23						
sānshí 三十 30									
sìshí 四十 40					sìshíwǔ 45				
wǔshí 五十 50									
liùshí 六十 60									
qīshí 七 70						qīshíliù 76			

bāshí 八十 80									
jiǔshí 九十 90									

If you know how to count 1-10 in Chinese, then you can count 11-99 in Chinese easily.

Look at this table, to say 11-99 in Chinese, you should read the tens-digits first, then read the ones-digits.

For example:

shíyī	shí	yī
11	=	10 + 1
èrshísān	èrshí	sān
23	=	20 + 3
sìshíwǔ	sìshí	wǔ
45	=	40 + 5
qīshíliù	qīshí	liù
76	=	70 + 6

Nǐ de gǒu hěn piàoliang!

5. 你的狗很漂亮! Your dog is so cute.

In Chinese, most adjectives can be used as the predicate directly without adding a verb, but they usually come after adverbs.

For example:

Subject	predicate	
nǐ de gǒu 你的狗 your dog	hěn 很 adv. very	piàoliang 漂亮 adj. beautiful, cute
wǒ 我 I, me	hěn 很 adv. very	gāo xìng 高兴 adj. happy
tā 他 He, him	bù 不 adv. not	gāo 高 adj. tall

## Expansion

### 语音 Pronunciation

#### 1. The initials and finals we've learned in today's lesson

汉字 character	声母 Initial	韵母 Final	声调 Tone
家	j	ia	-
有		iu(iou)	ˇ
四	s	i	ˋ
口	k	ou	ˇ
岁	s	ui	ˋ
漂	p	iao	ˋ
亮	l	iang	ˋ
朋	p	eng	ˊ
狗	g	ou	ˇ

#### Pinyin chart

	i	ia	iao	iang	eng	ou	iu	ui
p	pi	-	piao	-	peng	pou	-	-
l	li	lia	liao	liang	leng	lou	liu	-
j	ji	jia	jiao	jiang	-	-	jiu	-
g	-	-	-	-	geng	gou	-	gui
k	-	-	-	-	keng	kou	-	kui
s	si	-	-	-	seng	sou	-	sui

- means it does not exist in Chinese.



**Note:** In the syllables “**zi**” “**ci**” “**si**”, the “**i**” sound is different from other syllables, so you have to memorize them particularly.

## 2. Pinyin Syllables without Initials (2)

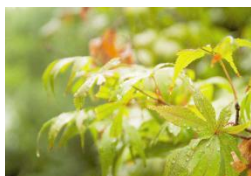
In our previous lesson, we’ve learned when **u** acts as a syllable by itself, **w** is added before it. Following the same rule, when **i**, **in** and **ing** act as syllables by themselves, **y** is added before them.

i ——》 yi

When other finals which begin with the letter **i** act as syllables by themselves, **i** should be changed to **y**.

ia	——>	ya
ie	——>	ye
iou(iu)	——>	you
ian	——>	yan
iao	——>	yao
iang	——>	yang
iong	——>	yong

### Practice:



shùyè  
树叶



yàoshi  
钥匙



yǎnjīng  
眼睛



yāzi  
鸭子

## 句子 Sentence

Nín duō dà niánjì le?

### 1. 您多大年纪了?

“您多大年纪了” also means “how old are you”. In Chinese, we use different ways to ask different people’s age. “你几岁了” is usually used to ask about children who is younger than 10 years old; “你今年多大了” is usually used to ask about young people or people of your age; “您多大年纪了” is usually used to ask an elderly people’s age.

For example:

Nǐ nǎinai duō dà niánjì le?

A: 你奶奶多大年纪了? How old is your grandmother?

Tā qīshíwǔ suì le.

B: 她七十五岁了。 She is 75 years old.

## 文化 Culture

### 1. 十二生肖

Chinese Zodiacs

shǔ	niú	hǔ	tù
鼠	牛	虎	兔
rat	ox	tiger	rabbit
lóng	shé	mǎ	yáng
龙	蛇	马	羊
dragon	snake	horse	sheep

hóu	jī	gǒu	zhū
猴	鸡	狗	猪
monkey	rooster	dog	pig

There is a zodiac system in Chinese culture. And everyone has their own zodiac sign and knows the zodiacs' order in China. If you don't want to ask someone's age directly, you can ask the question “你属什么?”. It means “what is your zodiac sign?”. When you get the answer, you can guess his or her age by yourself.

For example:

Lìlì, nǐ shǔ shénme?

A: 丽丽, 你属什么?

Lily, what is your zodiac sign?

Wǒ shǔ mǎ.

B: 我属马。

Horse.

Wǒ bǐ nǐ dà yí suì, wǒ shǔ shé.

A: 我比你大一岁, 我属蛇。 I'm a year older than you. My zodiac sign is snake.