

第三课 自我介绍

Lesson 3 Self-introduction

Text

Nǐ hǎo!

A: 你 好!

Hello!

Nǐ hǎo!

B: 你 好!

Hello!

Wǒ jiào Xiǎo Míng. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

A: 我 叫 小 明。 你 叫 什 么 名 字?

My name is Xiao Ming. What's your name?

Wǒ jiào Lìlì.

B: 我 叫 丽丽。

My name is Lily.

Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén. Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?

A: 我 是 中国 人。 你 是 中国 人 吗?

I'm Chinese. Are you Chinese?

Wǒ bú shì Zhōngguó rén. Wǒ shì Měiguó rén.

B: 我 不 是 中国 人。 我 是 美国 人。

I'm not Chinese. I'm American.

Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ!

A: 很 高兴 认识 你!

Glad to know you!

Wǒ yě shì.

B: 我 也 是。

Me too.

Words

词语 Word/Phrase	拼音 Pinyin	词性 Part of Speech	词义 Meaning
我	wǒ	pron.	I ; me
叫	jiào	v.	to call ; to be called
什么	shénme	Pron.	what
名字	míngzì	n.	name
是	shì	v.	to be (am ,is, are)
中国	Zhōngguó	n.	China
人	rén	n.	person ; people
吗	ma	part.	used at the end of a question
很	hěn	adv.	very, quite
高兴	gāoxìng	adj.	happy, glad
认识	rènshi	v.	to know, to meet

Grammar

Wǒ jiào Xiǎo Míng.

1. 我 叫 小 明。 My name is Xiao Ming.

In Chinese, the basic sentence order is the same as that in English:

Subject + verb +object

For example:

Subject	Verb	Object
wǒ 我 I, me	jiào 叫 to be called	Lìli 丽丽 Lily
nǐ 你 you	shì 是 to be (am,is,are)	Měiguó rén 美国人 American
lǎoshī 老师 teacher	shì 是 to be (am,is,are)	Zhōngguó rén 中国人 Chinese

Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

2. 你 叫 什么 名字? What's your name?

"**什么**" means what. It's a common question word. In Chinese, it can be used as the subject or the object.

For example:

subject	verb	object
nǐ 你 you	jiào 叫 to be called	shénme (míngzì) 什么 (名字) what(name)
shénme 什么 what	shì 是 is	àiqíng 爱情 love

Note that the question sentence order in Chinese is different from that in English. In Chinese, the question words don't always go at the beginning of sentences. They stay in the position of what you're asking about when you change a statement into a question.

For example:

Nǐ jiào shénme?

A: 你 叫 什么?

What's your name?

Wǒ jiào Xiǎo Míng.

B: 我 叫 小 明。 My name is Xiao Ming.

Zhè shì shénme shū?

A: 这 是 什么 书? What book is this?

Zhè shì Hànyǔ shū.

B: 这 是 汉语 书。 This is a Chinese book.

Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén.

3. 我 是 中国 人。 I'm Chinese.

The verb “**是**” can be used to explain what someone or something is. We often use the structure “**Subject+是+Object**” to talk about a person's job or nationality.

For example:

subject	verb	object
wǒ 我 I, me		lǎoshī 老师 teacher
nǐ 你 you (singular)	shì 是 to be	xuésheng 学生 student
nǐmen 你们 you		Měiguó rén 美国人 American
lǎoshī 老师 teacher		Zhōngguó rén 中国人 Chinese

Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?

4. 你 是 中国 人 吗? Are you Chinese?

“吗” is the interrogative particle for yes-no questions in Chinese. It is used at the end of a statement and turns it into a question.

For example:

Nǐ hǎo!		Nǐ hǎo ma?
你 好! Hello!		你 好 吗? How are you?
Nǐ jiào Lìli.	ma	Nǐ jiào Lìli ma?
你 叫 丽丽。	吗	你 叫 丽丽 吗?
Your name is Lily.		Are you Lily?
Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén.		Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?
你 是 中国 人。		你 是 中国 人 吗?
You're Chinese.		Are you Chinese?

Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ!

5. 很 高兴 认识 你! Glad to know you!

The adverb “很” means very. It's usually used before an adjective or a psych verb that expresses a person's certain thought or feeling, such as “喜欢(like)” “爱(love)” “想(want, miss)”, etc.

For example:

Wǒ hěn gāoxìng.

-我 很 高兴。

(lit. I **very** happy)

I'm very happy.

Tā hěn gāo.

-他 很 高。

(lit. He **very** tall)

He is very tall.

Dàwèi hěn xǐhuan Zhōngguó.

-大卫 很 喜欢 中国。

David likes China very much.

(lit. David **very** like China)

Wǒ hěn xiǎng rènshí tā.

-我 很 想 认识 她。

I want to know her very much.

(lit. I **very** want know her)

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
我	--	uo	ˇ
叫	j	iao	ˋ
名	m	ing	ˊ
中	zh	ong	ˉ
国	g	uo	ˊ
人	r	en	ˊ
吗	m	a	
兴	x	ing	ˋ
认	r	en	ˊ

Pinyin chart

	a	iao	uo	ong	en	ing
j	-	jiao	-	-	-	jing
m	ma	miao	-	-	men	ming
zh	zha	-	zhuo	zhong	zhen	-
g	ga	-	guo	gong	gen	-
r	-	-	ruo	rong	ren	-
x	-	xiao	-	-	-	xing

 means it does not exist in Chinese.

2. Pinyin Syllables without Initials (1)

In our previous lesson, we've learned that a Pinyin syllable is usually made up of an initial, a final and a tone. However, some Pinyin syllables have no initials.

When **u** acts as a syllable by itself, **w** has to be added before it.

u ——》 wu

When other finals which begins with the letter **u** act as syllables by themselves, **u** should be changed to **w**.

ua	——>	wa
uo	——>	wo
uai	——>	wai
uei	——>	wei
uan	——>	wan
uen	——>	wen
uang	——>	wang
ueng	——>	weng

Practice:



wǔ

五 five



wā

蛙 frog



wò shǒu

握手 handshake



zuòwèi

座位 seat

短语

Phrase

Wǒ yě shì.

1. 我 也 是。 Me too.

“**我也是**” means “me too”. In China, we usually use it to show that our thought or situation is the same as someone else's.

For example:

(1)

Wǒ shì Měiguó rén.

A: 我 是 美国 人。 I'm American.

Wǒ yě shì.

B: 我 也 是。 Me too.

(2)

Xiǎo Míng shì lǎoshī.

A: 小 明 是 老师。 Xiao Ming is a teacher.

Wǒ yě shì.

B: 我 也 是。 Me too.

(3)

Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ!

A: 很 高兴 认识 你! Nice to meet you!

Wǒ yě shì.

B: 我 也 是。 Me too.

文化

Culture

Wéi xìn

1. 微信 WeChat



In fact, "很高兴认识你" is not often used when Chinese people meet someone for the first time. It's only used on some formal occasions. In China, WeChat is the most popular social APP. China has 1.4 billion people, including one billion WeChat users. If two Chinese people meet for the first time and want to stay connected, they will add each other as friends on WeChat.

Wǒmen jiā yíxià Wéi xìn ba.

-我们 加一下 微信 吧。 Let me add you on WeChat.