



Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng
你最近怎么样
How have you been lately



With the foundation of Chinese phonetics and Chinese characters, you can now study Lesson 1. After completing this lesson, you can greet Chinese people in Chinese. You can also ask someone's name in Chinese, and give a brief self-introduction. In addition, using simple sentences, you can ask how your friends have been doing lately, and also reply to the same questions that your friends ask you.

一、热身 WARM-UP

1 思考 Think

Think about the following questions:

- (1) In your country, how do friends greet each other?
- (2) When you meet someone for the first time, how do you ask the person's name?
- (3) In the culture of your country, do you put the surname first or last?

2 活动 Activity

The following names in Chinese are based on transliterations. Please read these names aloud quickly in Chinese and guess their corresponding names in English.

A

Male names

Āndōngní
安东尼
Kèlǐsī
克里斯
Màikè
麦克
Mǎxiū
马修
Dàwèi
大卫

B

Female names

Zhēnnífó
珍妮佛
Kǎisèlín
凯瑟琳
Sūshān
苏珊
Yīlìshābái
伊丽莎白
Líndá
琳达

二、课文 TEXT

(一)



(Ma Dawei meets Song Hua on campus for the first time.)

Mǎ Dàwéi: Nǐ hǎo! ①

马大为: 你好!

日常打招呼

Daily greetings

Sòng Huá: Nǐ hǎo!

宋华: 你好!

Mǎ Dàwéi: Wǒ jiào Mǎ Dàwéi. Qǐngwèn, ② nǐ jiào shénme míngzì? ③

马大为: 我叫马大为。请问, 你叫什么名字?

Sòng Huá: Wǒ xìng Sòng, jiào Sòng Huá.

宋华: 我姓宋, 叫宋华。

问名字

Asking about one's name

Mǎ Dàwéi: Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng. ④

马大为: 认识你很高兴。

Sòng Huá: Rènshi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.

宋华: 认识你我也很高兴。

生词 New Words



2-01-02



1. nǐ	你	Pr	you (<i>singular</i>)
2. hǎo	好	A	good; well; fine; OK 你好
3. wǒ	我	Pr	I; me
4. jiào	叫	V	to be called; to call
5. qǐngwèn	请问	V	may I ask; excuse me
qǐng	请	V	please; to request; to invite
wèn	问	V	to ask
6. shénme	什么	QPr	what
7. míngzi	名字	N	name 什么名字 叫什么名字
8. xìng	姓	V/N	one's surname is / surname 姓宋 姓马
9. rènshi	认识	V	to know 认识你 认识他 认识马大为
10. hěn	很	Adv	very 很好
11. gāoxìng	高兴	A	happy 很高兴
12. yě	也	Adv	also; too 也很高兴 也认识你
13. Mǎ Dàwéi	马大为	PN	Ma Dawei, name of an American student
14. Sòng Huá	宋华	PN	Song Hua, name of a Chinese student

注释 Notes

① Nǐ hǎo!

Hello!

“Nǐ hǎo! 你好!” (Hello) is a very common greeting in Chinese. Whether between strangers or acquaintances, whether in the morning, at noon, or in the evening, you can use it. The response is also “你好!”.

② Qǐngwèn……

May I ask... (Excuse me, ...)

This is a polite way to start asking someone a question.

③ Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?

What is your name?

This is a common way to ask someone's name, usually by a senior to a junior or between young people.

In Chinese, the surname comes first and the given name comes next. For example, in "Sòng Huá 宋华", "宋" is the surname and "华" is the given name. Most names have three characters, such as "Lù Yǔpíng 陆雨平", in which "陆" is the surname and "雨平" is the given name. When asked "Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? 你叫什么名字?" (What is your name?), the response is "Wǒ xìng 我姓……, jiào 叫……" (My surname is... and my given name is...) or "Wǒ jiào 我叫……" (My full name is...).

When one addresses a junior or someone around one's age and familiar, whose given name has two characters, one often calls the person by the given name without using the surname. For example, "Lù Yǔpíng 陆雨平" can be called "Yǔpíng 雨平".

④ Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.

Nice to meet you.

This is often used when meeting someone for the first time.

(二)



2-01-03



(Ding Libo talks with Lin Na in Lin Na's dorm room.)

Dīng Lìbō: Qǐngwèn, Lín Nà zài ma? ①

丁力波: 请问, 林娜在吗?

Lín Nà: Zài. Lìbō, qǐng jìn, ② qǐng zuò.
林娜: 在。力波, 请进, 请坐。

Dīng Lìbō: Xièxie. Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng? ③
丁力波: 谢谢。你最近 怎么样?



Lín Nà: Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne? ④
林娜: 我 很好。你呢?

Dīng Lìbō: Wǒ hěn máng. Nǐ máng ma?
丁力波: 我 很 忙。你 忙 吗?

Lín Nà: Wǒ bù tài máng. Dàwéi hǎo ma?
林娜: 我 不 太 忙。大 为 好 吗?



Dīng Lìbō: Tā yě hěn hǎo.
丁力波: 他 也 很 好。

生词 New Words



2-01-04



1. zài	在	V	to be (here, there); to be (in, on, at)
2. ma	吗	QPt	a modal particle used for a question expecting a yes-no answer 你忙吗 宋华在吗
3. jìn	进	V	to enter 请进
4. zuò	坐	V	to sit 请坐
5. xièxie	谢谢	V	to thank 谢谢你
6. zuìjìn	最近	Adv	lately; recently
7. zěnmeyàng	怎么样	QPr	how (is, are); how about 你怎么样 最近怎么样
8. ne	呢	QPt	a modal particle used for an elliptical question 你呢
9. máng	忙	A	busy 很忙
10. bù	不	Adv	not; no 不忙 不好 不高兴 不在
11. tài	太	Adv	too; extremely 不太忙 不太好
12. tā	他	Pr	he; him
13. Dīng Lìbō	丁力波	PN	Ding Libo, name of a Canadian student
14. Lín Nà	林娜	PN	Lin Na, name of a British student

注释 Notes

① Lín Nà zài ma?

Is Lin Na in?

② Qǐng jìn.

Come in, please.

“Qǐng 请 + verb” is a polite way to make a request.

③ Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?

How have you been lately?

“……zěnmeyàng 怎么样?” (How is/are...?) is often used to ask about the situation of someone or something. “Nǐ (zuìjìn) zěnmeyàng? 你 (最近) 怎么样?” (How have you been (lately)?) is a greeting used between acquaintances or friends. The response could be “hěn hǎo 很好” (very well), “hěn máng 很忙” (very busy), etc.

④ Nǐ ne?

And (how are) you?

三、语言点 LANGUAGE POINTS

1 核心句 Key Sentences



2-01-05



1. Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?

2. Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?

3. Nǐ máng ma?

4. Tā yě hěn hǎo.

5. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì?

6. Wǒ xìng Sòng, jiào Sòng Huá.



2 语法 Grammar

1. 用“吗”的是非问句 Yes-no questions with “ma 吗”

Adding the modal question particle “吗” at the end of a declarative sentence makes a simple yes-no question. The response is the affirmative or negative form of the declarative sentence without “吗”. For example,

Declarative Sentence	Interrogative Sentence
Tā máng. 他 忙。	→ Tā máng ma ? 他 忙 吗?
Wǒ jiào Mǎ Dàwéi. 我 叫 马 大为。	→ Nǐ jiào Mǎ Dàwéi ma ? 你 叫 马 大为 吗?
Lín Nà zài. 林 娜 在。	→ Lín Nà zài ma ? 林 娜 在 吗?

Exercise I Change the following sentences into questions and then in groups of two, ask each other questions and answer them.

- Wǒ hěn hǎo. Wǒ bù tài máng.
(1) 我 很 好。 → _____? (3) 我 不 太 忙。 → _____?
- Dīng Lìbō hěn gāoxìng. Lín Nà hěn máng.
(2) 丁 力 波 很 高 兴。 → _____? (4) 林 娜 很 忙。 → _____?

Exercise II Based on the pictures, complete the dialogues using proper words.



Nǐ hǎo ma?
(1) A: 你 好 吗?

Wǒ
B: 我 _____。



Nǐ _____ ma?
(2) A: 你 _____ 吗?

Wǒ hěn máng.
B: 我 很 忙。



Tā gāoxìng ma?
(3) A: 他 高 兴 吗?

Tā hěn
B: 他 很 _____。

2. 形容词谓语句 A sentence with an adjectival predicate

Subject	Predicate	
	Adverb	Adjective
Nǐ 你		hǎo. 好。
Wǒ 我	hěnn 很	hǎo. 好。
Dàwéi 大为	yě hěnn 也很	hǎo. 好。
Wǒ 我	bù 不	máng. 忙。

In Chinese an adjective by itself can serve as a predicate, which can be modified by adverbs like “hěnn” (very) and/or “yě 也” (also; too), etc. such as “Wǒ hěnn hǎo. 我很好。” (I am fine), “Dàwéi yě hěnn hǎo. 大为也很好。” (Dawei is also fine). The negative form is formed by putting the adverb “bù 不” (not) before the adjective, such as “Wǒ bù máng. 我不忙。” (I am not busy).

Notes:

- 1 The adverbs “很”, “也”, “不” and so on must be put before the adjective they modify.
- 2 If a sentence does not have another adverb (e.g., “不”, “也”, “tài 太”, etc.), the adverb “很” is often added. For example, to respond to “Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng? 你最近怎么样?” (How have you been recently?), the response is not “*Wǒ hǎo. 我好。” (I’m fine) or “*Wǒ máng. 我忙。” (I’m busy); usually it is “Wǒ hěnn hǎo. 我很好。” (I’m very well) or “Wǒ hěnn máng. 我很忙。” (I’m very busy). “很” in this context does not necessarily carry the literal meaning of “very”.
- 3 When a sentence with an adjectival predicate is changed to a question ending with “吗”, “很” is usually removed. For example, “我很好。” (I’m very well) → “Nǐ hǎo ma? 你好吗?” (How are you?). Do not ask “*Nǐ hěnn hǎo ma? 你很好吗?”.

Exercise I Complete the dialogues with the words/phrases on the right.

- Nǐ máng ma?
(1) A: 你 忙 吗?
- Wǒ máng. Nǐ ne?
B: 我 忙。你呢?
- Wǒ máng.
A: 我 忙。

hěnn
很
bù tài
不太
bù
不

Mǎ Dàwéi hǎo ma?
(2) A: 马大为 好吗?

Tā hěn hǎo. ne?
B: 他 很 好。 呢?

Tā yě hěn hǎo.
A: 他 也 很 好。

Sòng Huá
宋 华
Dīng Lìbō
丁 力波

Exercise II Following the example, put the words in order to form sentences.

Example hǎo tā hěn Tā hěn hǎo.
好 他 很 → 他 很 好。

wǒ máng hěn
(1) 我 忙 很 → _____

gāoxìng bù tài tā
(2) 高兴 不 太 他 → _____

hǎo nǐ ma
(3) 好 你 吗 → _____

3. 副词“也”的位置 The position of the adverb “yě 也” (also; too)

The adverb “也” must be put after the subject but before the predicate verb or adjective. For example, “Wǒ yě hěn hǎo. 我也很好。” (I’m also fine), but not “*Yě wǒ hěn hǎo. 也我很好。” or “*Wǒ hěn hǎo yě. 我很好也。” Besides, “也” cannot serve as the predicate on its own, for example, it’s not right to say “*wǒ yě 我也”.

也 + Verb/Adjective

Subject	Predicate	
	Adverb	Verb/Adjective
Tā 他	yě 也	xìng Sòng. 姓 宋。
Lín Nà 林 娜	yě hěn 也 很	gāoxìng. 高兴。

In a negative sentence, “也” must be put before “不”.

也 + 不 + Verb/Adjective

Subject	Predicate	
	Adverb	Verb/Adjective
Tā 他	yě bú 也不	xìng Sòng. 姓宋。
Lìbō 力波	yě bù 也不	máng. 忙。

Exercise I Complete the dialogues with the words on the right.

Dàwéi ma?
(1) A: 大为 _____ 吗?

Dàwéi hěn wǒ yě hěn
B: 大为 很 _____, 我也很 _____。

Lín Nà ma?
(2) A: 林娜 _____ 吗?

Lín Nà bú tài Lìbō yě bú tài
B: 林娜 不太 _____, 力波也不太 _____。

hǎo
好
máng
忙

máng
忙
gāoxìng
高兴

Exercise II Following the example, put the words in order to form sentences.

Example máng wǒ bù yě Wǒ yě bù máng.
忙 我 不 也 我也不忙。

wǒ hǎo yě hěn
(1) 我 好 也 很 → _____

tā bù yě zài
(2) 他 不 也 在 → _____

Dàwéi hǎo ma yě
(3) 大为 好 吗 也 → _____

4. 汉语的语序 Word order in Chinese

There are several main characteristics of Chinese grammar. There are no changes, strictly speaking, in terms of personal pronouns, verb tenses, gender, singular or plural case, etc. Grammatically, the word

order plays an extremely important role. The word order in Chinese, in general, has the subject at the beginning, which may also be called the topic to be described; the predicate, which describes the subject, follows. For example,

Subject (Topic)	Predicate (Statement)
Wǒ 我	hěn máng. 很 忙。
Tā 他	xìng Sòng. 姓 宋。

四、练习与运用 PRACTICE AND APPLICATION

补充词语 Supplementary Words



2-01-06



1. kùn	困	A	sleepy 很困 不困 不太困
2. kě	渴	A	thirsty 很渴 不渴 不太渴
3. è	饿	A	hungry 很饿 不饿 不太饿
4. lèi	累	A	tired 很累 不累 不太累
5. hái xíng	还行		not bad
6. mǎmǎhūhū	马马虎虎	A	so-so
7. tā	她	Pr	she; her

1 语音练习 Pronunciation Drills



2-01-07



Listen and read aloud: Add tone marks to the following words and sentences, and then read them aloud.

- ① laoshi ② hen ke ③ qingwen
- ④ hen mang ⑤ bu mang ⑥ bu e
- ⑦ bu ke ⑧ bu gaoxing ⑨ Wo bu tai mang.
- ⑩ Renshi ni hen gaoxing.

2 会话练习 Conversation Practice

Pair activity: Create dialogues based on the scenes and the requirements below.

1. Greetings

(1)



(2)



2. Meeting for the first time

(1)



(2)



Qǐngwèn, nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? / Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.
(请问, 你叫什么名字? / 认识你很高兴。)

3. Greetings

(1)



Nǐ hǎo ma?
(你好吗?)

(2)



Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?
(你最近怎么样?)

4. How is he/she?



3 听后复述 Listening and Repeating



2-01-08



Listen to the following dialogues and repeat what you hear.

Nǐ hǎo ma?
(1) A: 你好吗?

Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?
B: 我很好。你呢?

Wǒ yě hěn hǎo.
A: 我也很好。

Nǐ zuìjìn máng ma?
(2) A: 你最近忙吗?

Wǒ hěn máng. Nǐ ne?
B: 我很忙。你呢?

Hái xíng.
A: 还行。

Qǐngwèn, nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?
(3) A: 请问, 你叫什么名字?

Wǒ xìng Lín, jiào Lín Nà. Nǐ ne?
B: 我姓林, 叫林娜。你呢?

Wǒ jiào Sòng Huá. Rènshi nǐ hěn gāoxìng.
A: 我叫宋华。认识你很高兴。

Rènshi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng.
B: 认识你我也很高兴。

4 阅读理解 Reading Comprehension



Tā jiào Mǎ Dàwéi, tā jiào Dīng Lìbō, tā jiào Lín Nà.
他叫马大为, 他叫丁力波, 她叫林娜。

Dàwéi hěn hǎo, Dīng Lìbō hěn máng, Lín Nà bú tài máng, tā yě hěn hǎo.
大为很好, 丁力波很忙, 林娜不太忙, 她也很好。

Answer the following questions:

Mǎ Dàwéi hǎo ma?
(1) 马大为好吗?

Lín Nà zěnmeyàng?
(2) 林娜怎么样?

Dīng Lìbō máng ma?
(3) 丁力波忙吗?