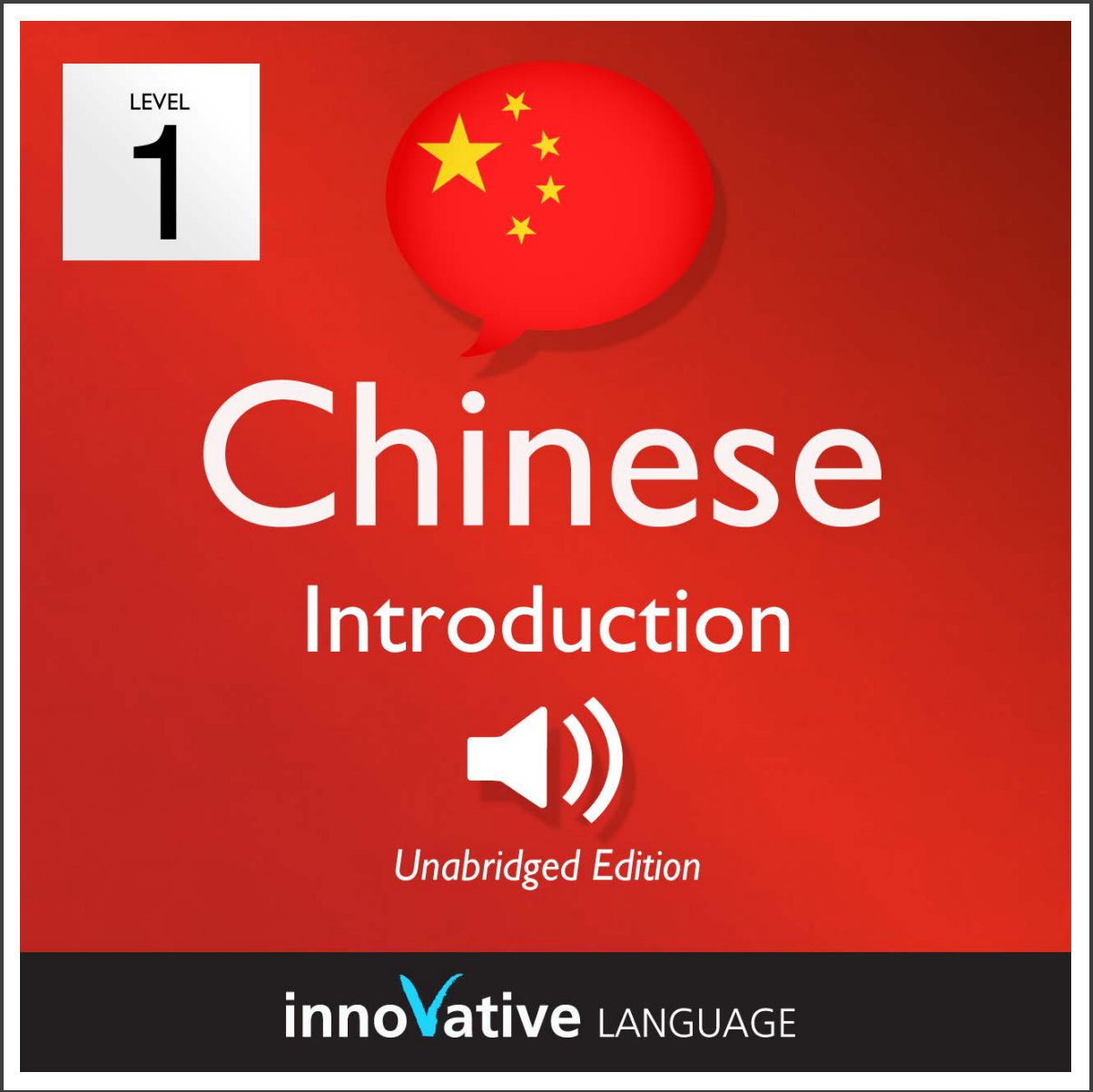
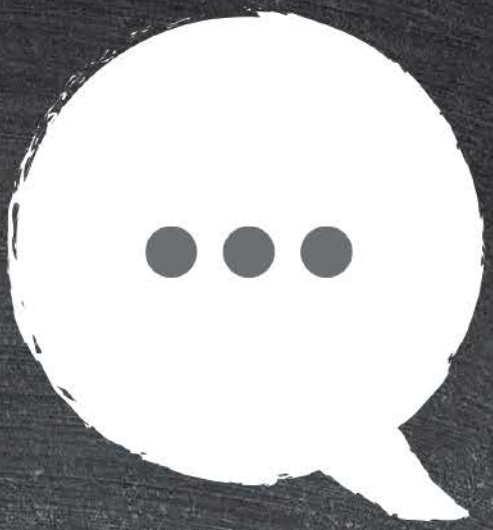
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LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp S1 #1 Chinese Self-Introduction

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
2 English
3 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
4 Grammar

1

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你好，我叫王国易。

2. 我叫李珍。很高兴认识你。

3. 我也是。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你好，我叫王國易。

2. 我叫李珍。很高興認識你。

3. 我也是。

PINYIN

1. Nǐhǎo, wǒ jiào Wáng Guóyì.

2. Wǒ jiào Lǐ Zhēn. Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.

3. Wǒ yě shì.

ENGLISH

1. Hello, I'm Wang Guoyi.

2. I'm Li Zhen. Nice to meet you.

CONT'D OVER

3. You too.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
你好	你好	nǐhǎo	hello	phrase
我	我	wǒ	I, me	pronoun
叫	叫	jiào	to call	verb
很	很	hěn	very, very much	adverb
高兴	高興	gāoxìng	happy	adjective
认识	認識	rènshi	to know	verb
也	也	yě	also, too	adverb
是	是	shì	to be	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你好，我想找安娜。 Nǐhǎo, wǒ xiǎng zhǎo Ānnà. Hello, can I speak to Anna?	你好，我叫王国易。 Nǐhǎo, wǒ jiào Wáng Guóyì. Hello, I'm Wang Guoyi.
我的朋友很帅。 Wǒ de péngyǒu hěn shuài. My friend is really handsome.	我叫子安。 Wǒ jiào Zǐ ān. My name is Zi an.
你叫什么名字? Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì? What is your name?	今年，我妹妹又出了一张专辑，叫《月光》。 Jīnnián, wǒ mèimèi yòu chū le yìzhāng zhuānjí, jiào Yuèguāng. My sister put out another album this year called "Moonlight."

今天玩得很开心。 Jīntiān wán de hěn kāixīn. Today was great fun.	很高兴认识你。 Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ. Nice to meet you.
你认识他吗? Nǐ rènshí tā ma? Do you know him?	咖啡也好。 Kāfēi yě hǎo. Coffee is good too.
他也是澳大利亚人。 Tā yě shì Àodàlìyà rén. He is also Australian.	我是大学生。 Wǒ shì dà xué sheng. I am a college student.
你是我最喜欢的作家! Nǐ shì wǒ zuì xǐhuan de zuòjiā! You are my favorite author!	是你吗? Shì nǐ ma? Is it you?

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

A Good Way to Start a Conversation

你好 (*nǐhǎo*) is the universal word for "hello" in Chinese. If you are speaking to an older person, or in a formal setting, you can use the more formal version: 您好 (*nínhǎo*). 认识 (*rènshi*) means "to know" or "to be familiar with." However in some contexts, as in this lesson's dialogue, 认识 (*rènshi*) also can be used for a first meeting, to say that you are happy to "meet" or "know" a person.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Chinese Self-Introductions

你好，我叫王国易。
Nǐhǎo, wǒ jiào Wáng Guóyì.
"Hello, I'm Wang Guoyi."

你好

(*nǐhǎo*)
"Hello" in Chinese is made up of two words: 你, meaning "you" and '好', meaning "good." On very formal meetings, you can replace the 你(*nǐ*) with the formal term for "you," which is 您 (*nín)*.

叫

(*jiào*)
The verb 叫 (*jiào*) means "to call". So to introduce yourself, you are simply saying, "I'm called _____."

If you would like to ask someone their name, you can say:

你叫什么名字?
Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?
"What is your name?"

The response:

我叫李珍，很高兴认识你。
Wǒ jiào Lǐ Zhēn, hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.
"I'm Li Zhen, nice to meet you."

我也是。
Wǒ yě shì.
"Likewise."

认识
(*rènshi*)
The verb 认识 (*rènshi*) means "to know" or "to be familiar with," however, in the context of the phrase 很高兴认识你。(*Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.*) the implication is that of "to meet," since this meeting signifies a making of one's acquaintance, and thus, thereafter, they will "know" each other.

我也是。
Wǒ yě shì.

This phrase literally means "I also am." In this dialogue, it is said in response to the statement "Nice to meet you" to express a corresponding feeling.

Names in Chinese

Names in Chinese are generally made up of either two or three characters. The surname is one character, and is given first, followed by the given name or names. For example:

王国易
Wáng Guóyì

李珍
Lǐ Zhēn

Sometimes, in more formal settings, a person will simply ask for a person's surname. They will do this by asking:

您贵姓?
Nǐn guì xìng?
"Your surname is?"

To which one would respond:

我姓_____.
Wǒ xìng _____.
"My surname is _____."

Language Expansion

There are other ways to say "Nice to meet you" in Chinese. Both of these phrases are acceptable as well:

幸会
(xìnghuì)

久仰
(jiǔyǎng)

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp S1 #2 Talking Nationality in Chinese

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar

2

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你好。 我叫宁健超。 我是中国人。

2. 你好。 我叫子安。 我是加拿大人。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你好。 我叫寧健超。 我是中國人。

2. 你好。 我叫子安。 我是加拿大人。

PINYIN

1. Nǐhǎo. Wǒ jiào Nìng Jiànchāo. Wǒ shì Zhōngguórén.

2. Nǐhǎo. Wǒ jiào Zǐ ān. Wǒ shì Jiānádàrén.

ENGLISH

1. Hello. I'm Ning Jianchao. I am Chinese.

2. Hello. I'm Zi an. I am Canadian.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class

你好	你好	nǐhǎo	hello	phrase
我	我	wǒ	I, me	pronoun
叫	叫	jiào	to call	verb
是	是	shì	to be	verb
中国人	中國人	Zhōngguórén	Chinese (person)	noun
加拿大人	加拿大人	Jiā'nádàrén	Canadian (person)	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你好，我想找安娜。 Nǐhǎo, wǒ xiǎng zhǎo Ānnà. Hello, can I speak to Anna?	你好，我叫王国易。 Nǐhǎo, wǒ jiào Wáng Guóyì. Hello, I'm Wang Guoyi.
我的朋友很帅。 Wǒ de péngyǒu hěn shuài. My friend is really handsome.	我叫子安。 Wǒ jiào Zǐ ān. My name is Zi an.
你叫什么名字? Nǐ jiào shénme míngzì? What is your name?	今年，我妹妹又出了一张专辑，叫《月光》。 Jīnnián, wǒ mèimèi yòu chū le yìzhāng zhuānjí, jiào Yuèguāng. My sister put out another album this year called "Moonlight."
他是我哥哥。 Tā shì wǒ gēge. He is my older brother.	我是中国人。 Wǒ shì Zhōngguórén. I am Chinese.

我是加拿大人。
Wǒ shì Jiānádàrén.

I am Canadian.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Talking About Ethnicity

你好。我叫宁健超。我是中国人。
Nǐhǎo. Wǒ jiào Nìng Jiànchāo. Wǒ shì Zhōngguórén.
"Hello. I'm Ning Jianchao. I am Chinese."

你好。我教子安。我是加拿大人。
Nǐhǎo. Wǒ jiào Zǐ ān. Wǒ shì Jiānádàrén.
"Hello. I'm Zi an. I am Canadian."

Other Countries and Ethnicities

美国
Měiguǒ
"America"

美国人
Měiguǒrén
"American"

日本
Rìběn
"Japan"

日本人
Rìběnrén

"Japanese"

Expressing Ethnicities

我们是美国人。
Wǒmen shì Měiguǒrén
"We are American"

你是美国人。
Nǐ shì Měiguǒrén
"You are American"

他们是美国人。
Tāmen shì Měiguǒrén
"They are American"

Word Order in Simple Chinese Sentences

The above sentences demonstrate the basic word order of a Chinese sentence:

Subject + Verb + Object

In many cases, English takes the same word order for its basic sentences.

我喝茶。
Wǒ hē chá.
"I drink tea."

他教中文。
Tā jiāo zhōngwén.
"He teaches Chinese."

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp S1 #3 Useful Phrases in the Chinese Classroom

CONTENTS

2 Dialogue - Chinese
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
6 Grammar

3

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DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 老师，“tree” 用中文怎么说?
2. 树。
3. 慢一点儿，好吗?
4. 树。
5. 请帮我写一下，好吗?

ENGLISH

1. Teacher, how do you say "tree" in Chinese?
2. "tree"
3. Slowly, please.
4. "tree"
5. Please write it down for me, OK?

PINYIN

1. Lǎoshī, “tree” yòng zhōngwén zěnme shuō?

CONT'D OVER

2. “Shù.”

3. Màn yīdiǎnr, hǎo ma?

4. “Shù.”

5. Qǐng bāng wǒ xiě yīxià, hǎo ma?

TRADITIONAL

1. 老師，“tree” 用中文怎麼說?

2. “樹。”

3. 慢一點兒，好嗎?

4. “樹。”

5. 請幫我寫一下，好嗎?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
老师	老師	lǎoshī	teacher	noun
写	寫	xiě	to write	verb
我	我	wǒ	I, me	pronoun

帮	幫	bāng	to help	verb
好吗	好嗎	hǎo ma	is it ok?	phrase
一点儿	一點兒	yìdiǎnr	a bit	adverb
慢	慢	màn	slowly, slow	adverb, adjective
遍	遍	biàn	measure word for actions that are the same when repeated, times	measure word
一	一	yī	one	number
再	再	zài	again	adverb
请	請	qǐng	please	verb
说	說	shuō	to say, to speak	verb
怎么	怎麼	zěnme	how	question pronoun
中文	中文	Zhōngwén	Chinese (language)	noun
用	用	yòng	to use	verb
一下	一下	yí xià	a while	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

张老师很忙。 Zhāng lǎoshī hěn máng. Teacher Zhang is very busy.	你写字很漂亮。 Nǐ xiězì hěn piàoliàng. You write so beautifully.

我的朋友很帅。 Wǒ de péngyǒu hěn shuài. My friend is really handsome.	你可以帮我做吗? Nǐ kěyǐ bāng wǒ zuò ma? Can you help me do it?
明天给我，好吗? Míngtiān gěi wǒ, hǎo ma? Give it to me tomorrow, OK?	慢一点儿，好吗? Màn yìdiǎnr, hǎo ma? A little slower, OK?
你可以说得慢一点吗? Nǐ kěyǐ shuō de màn yìdiǎn ma? Can you speak a little slower?	我做了好几遍了。 Wǒ zuò le hǎojǐ biàn le. I did it quite a few times.
他给我一本书。 Tā gěi wǒ yī běn shū. He gave me a book.	你能再说一遍吗? nǐ néng zài shuō yí biàn ma ? Could you say that again?
再做一遍吧。 Zài zuò yí biàn ba. Do it again.	请帮我拿一下这个东西。 Qǐng bāng wǒ ná yíxià zhè gè dōngxi. Please hold this for me for a moment.
你说什么? Nǐ shuō shénme? What did you say?	请再说一遍。 Qǐng zài shuō yí biàn. Please, say it again.
他怎么这么凶? Tā zěnme zhème xiōng? How come he's so angry?	我不学中文。 Wǒ bù xué Zhōngwén. I don't study Chinese.
你要用这个方法。 Nǐ yào yòng zhè gè fāngfǎ. You need to use this method.	请稍等一下。 Qǐng shāo děng yí xià. Please wait a moment.

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

一下 (*yīxià*) Literally, 一下 (*yīxià*) means "a while" or "for a moment," however when placed after a verb, it doesn't necessarily have this meaning. It is used to soften the tone of the request. 好吗 (*hǎo ma*) literally means "good?" It is often used as a tag after a request and is the equivalent of the English "is it OK?" or "alright?"

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Chinese Phrases that are Useful in the Classroom.

老师，"_____" 用中文怎么说?
Lǎoshī, "_____" yòng zhōngwén zěnme shuō?
"Teacher, how do you say '_____' in Chinese?"

老师
lǎoshī
"teacher"

In China, teaching has been an honored and respected profession since the time of Confucius, the great philosopher and educator who was honored as "teacher of all teachers." Today too, teachers in China are treated with esteem and addressed by their title, '老师' (*lǎoshī*). This form of address can be used on its own when speaking to the teacher, but is most polite when the title is used in conjunction with their last name, i.e:

李老师
Lǐ Lǎoshī

In Chinese, the last name comes before the title.

Adjective + 一点儿

慢一点儿，好吗?
Màn yīdiǎnr, hǎo ma?
"A little more slowly, please."

Adding the term '一点儿' (*yīdiǎnr*) after an adjective literally means "a little." It is often used when making a command; it softens the command somewhat:

慢
màn
"slow"

慢一点儿
màn yīdiǎnr
"a little slower"

The character 儿 (*r*) you see added to the end of '一点' (*yīdiǎn*) is a phonetic character that has no meaning on its own. Speakers of Mandarin Chinese from Northern China frequently add this sound onto the end of certain words.

More examples:

快一点儿
kuài yīdiǎnr
"a little faster"

大一点儿
dà yīdiǎnr
"a little bigger"

小一点儿
xiǎo yīdiǎnr
"a little smaller"

再 + verb + (number) 遍

请再说一遍。
Qǐng zài shuō yī biàn.
"Please say it again"

To express repetition of an action in Chinese, you can use this sentence pattern. Put the

再 (*zài*) in front of the verb, and it means "again." Then, to be specific about the number of times, you then add the number + 遍 ("number" + *biàn "time(s)"*). Put it all together, and it means "say it one more time," i.e:

再说一遍
zài shuō yī biàn
"say it one more time"

More examples:

再说三遍
zài shuō sān biàn
"repeat it again three times"

请帮我 + verb

请帮我写一下，好吗?
Qǐng bāng wǒ xiě yīxià, hǎo ma?
"Please write it down for me, OK?"

This sentence structure is commonly used in Chinese to ask a favor of someone. '帮' literally means "to help." To request someone's assistance, or a favor, use this phrase as we heard in the dialogue:

请帮我写.
Qǐng bāng wǒ xiě.
"Please write (it) for me." (literally "Please help me write.")

More examples:

请帮我拿。
Qǐng bāng wǒ ná.
"Please hold (it) for me." (literally "Please help me hold.")

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp S1 #4
Numbers 1 to 100 in Chinese

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#4

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 一，二，三，四，五，六，七，八，九，十
2. 二十，三十，四十，五十，六十，七十，八十，九十，一百

ENGLISH

1. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10
2. 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 70, 80, 90, 100

PINYIN

1. yī, èr, sān, sì, wǔ, liù, qī, bā, jiǔ, shí
2. èrshí, sānshí, sìshí, wǔshí, liùshí, qīshí, bāshí, jiǔshí, yī bǎi

TRADITIONAL

1. 一，二，三，四，五，六，七，八，九，十
2. 二十，三十，四十，五十，六十，七十，八十，九十，一百

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
一	一	yī	one	number
九十	九十	jiǔshí	ninety	number
八十	八十	bāshí	eighty	number
七十	七十	qīshí	seventy	number
六十	六十	liùshí	sixty	number
五十	五十	wǔshí	fifty	number
四十	四十	sìshí	forty	number
三十	三十	sānshí	thirty	number
二十	二十	èrshí	twenty	number
十	十	shí	ten	number
九	九	jiǔ	nine	numeral
八	八	bā	eight	numeral
七	七	qī	seven	numeral
六	六	liù	six	numeral
五	五	wǔ	five	number
四	四	sì	four	number
三	三	sān	three	number
二	二	èr	two	number
一百	一百	yī bǎi	100	number

SAMPLE SENTENCES

一個東西 *yí gè dōngxi* one thing	一天有二十四個小時。 *Yì tiān yǒu èrshísì ge xiǎoshí.* There are twenty-four hours in one day.
請給我一個那個。 *Qǐng gěi wǒ yí gè nà gè.* One of that, please.	第一 *dì-yī* number one
我上了一個小時網。 *Wǒ shàngle yígè xiǎoshí wǎng.* I surfed the Internet for an hour.	一號 *yī hào* first of the month

一度 *yí dù* one degree	他给我一本书。 *Tā gěi wǒ yī běn shū.* He gave me a book.
那个老爷爷九十岁。 *Nàgè lǎo yéye jiùshí suì.* That old grandpa is 90 years old.	八十块可以吗? *Bāshí kuài kěyǐ má?* Is eighty RMB OK?
外面七十度。 *Wàimian qīshí dù.* It's 70 degrees outside.	借给我六十块,可以吗? *Jiè gěi wǒ liù shí kuài, kěyǐ ma?* Could you lend me sixty RMB?
我妈妈五十岁。 *Wǒ māma wǔshí suì.* My mom is fifty years old.	我們班有四十個學生. *wǒmen bān yǒu sìshí ge xuésheng .* Our class has forty students.
四十盎司 *sìshí àngsī* forty ounces	數字四十 *shùzì sìshí* number forty
四是四，十是十。十四是十四，四十是四十。 *Sì shì sì, shí shì shí. Shísì shì shísì, sìshí shì sìshí.* Four is four, ten is ten. Fourteen is fourteen, forty is forty.	我们班有四十个学生。 *Wǒmen bān yǒu sìshí ge xuésheng.* Our class has forty students.
我需要三十秒。 *Wǒ xūyào sānshí miǎo.* I need 30 seconds.	二十世纪 *èrshí shìjì* Twentieth Century
牆上寫著數字二十。 *Qiáng shàng xiězhe shùzì èrshí.* The number twenty is painted on the wall.	二十號 *èrshí hào* number twenty
二十 *èrshí* 20	我们班只有二十个学生。 *Wǒmen bān zhǐyǒu èrshí ge xuésheng.* Our class has only twenty students.
我能用漢語從一數到十。 *Wǒ néng yòng hànyǔ cóng yī shǔdào shí.* I can count from one to ten in Chinese.	十號 *shí hào* number ten

這座樓有十層。 *Zhè zuò lóu yǒu shí céng.* This building has ten floors.	十件東西 *shí jiàn dōngxi* ten things
十個等級 *shí ge děngjí* ten degrees	我的兒子十歲了。 *Wǒ de érzi shí suì le.* My son is ten years old.
這是10件300日元。 *Zhè shì shí jiàn sānbǎi rìyuán.* This is 300 yen for ten pieces.	十個 *shí gè* ten pieces
现在十点钟。 *Xiànzài shí diǎn zhōng.* It's ten o'clock now.	九層樓 *jiǔ céng lóu* nine floors
九號 *jiǔ hào* number nine	場上有九個隊員。 *Chǎng shàng yǒu jiǔ ge duìyuán.* There are nine players on the field.
九件東西 *jiǔ jiàn dōngxi* nine things	外面的溫度是九度。 *Wàimiàn de wēndù shì jiǔ dù.* The temperature outside is nine degrees.
九個等級 *jiǔ ge děngjí* nine degrees	他爸爸一九八九年来美国。 *Tā bàba yī jiǔ bā jiǔ nián lái Měiguó.* His dad came to America in 1989.
每個晚上你應該至少睡8個小時。 *Měige wǎnshàng nǐ yīnggāi zhìshǎo shuì bā ge xiǎoshí.* You should sleep at least eight hours every night.	八是一個幸運數字。 *Bā shì yí gè xìngyùn shùzì.* Eight is a lucky number.
八次 *bā cì* eight times	八號 *bā hào* number eight
一只蜘蛛有八條腿。 *Yì zhī zhīzhū yǒu bā tiáo tuǐ.* A spider has eight legs.	我有一個八歲的女兒。 *Wó yǒu yígè bā suì de nǚ'ér.* I have an eight-year-old daughter.

八個等級 *bā ge děngjí* eight degrees	八件東西 *bā jiàn dōngxi* eight things
我的妈妈给了我一个八百块钱的红包。 *Wǒ de māma gěi le Wǒ yí ge bābǎi kuài de hóngbāo .* My mom gave me a red envelope with 800 kuai in it.	他住在八楼。 *Tā zhùzài bā lóu.* He lives on the eighth floor.
七個小矮人 *qī gè xiǎoǎirén* seven dwarfs	七號 *qī hào* number seven
一個星期有七天。 *Yí gè xīngqī yǒu qī tiān.* One week has seven days.	七個等級 *qī ge děngjí* seven degrees
我說好和我的朋友下午7點見面。 *Wǒ shuō hǎo hé wǒ de péngyou xiàwǔ qī diǎn jiànmiàn.* I'm going to meet my friend at 7 p.m.	七件東西 *qī jiàn dōngxi* seven things
一周七天 *yì zhōu qī tiān* seven days a week	我们的公司有七个人。 *Wǒmen de gōngsī yǒu qī gè rén.* There are seven people in our company.
六個人 *liù ge rén* six people	下個月我們有個六天的假期。 *Xià ge yuè wǒmen yǒuge liù tiān de jiàqī.* We have a six day vacation next month.
六號 *liù hào* number six	六英寸 *liù yīngcùn* six inches
六個等級 *liù ge děngjí* six degrees	六件東西 *liù jiàn dōngxi* six things
我女儿六岁。 *Wǒ nǚ'ér liù suì.* My daughter is six years old.	五個蘋果 *wǔ ge píngguǒ* five apples

五號 *wǔ hào* number five	海星有五條腿。 *Hǎixīng yǒu wǔ tiáo tuǐ.* The starfish has five legs.
五個等級 *wǔ ge děngjí* five degrees	鬧鍾設在早上五點鍾。 *Nàozhōng shè zài zǎoshang wú diǎn zhōng.* The alarm clock is set for five a.m.
给我五块钱就好。 *Gěi wǒ wǔ kuài jiù hǎo.* Give me five RMB, that's fine.	這場比賽包括四個1/4場。 *Zhè chǎng bǐsài bāokuò sì ge sì fēn zhī yī chǎng.* There are 4 quarters in the game.
四號 *sì hào* number four	四個車道的公路 *sì ge chēdào de gōnglù* four-lane motorway
四個等級 *sì ge děngjí* four degrees	十一月有三十天，是四個小月之一。 *Shíyī yuè yǒu sānshí tiān, shì sì ge xiǎoyuè zhī yī.* November is one of four months with thirty days.
我今年四十了。 *Wǒ jīnnián sìshí le .* I'm 40 years old this year.	我有四个孩子。 *Wǒ yǒu sì gè háizi.* I have four children.
三瓶啤酒 *sān píng píjiǔ* three bottles of beer	三號 *sān hào* number three
我家有三口人。 *Wǒ jiā yǒu sān kǒu rén.* There are three members in my family.	現在三點。 *Xiànzài sān diǎn.* It is three o'clock now.
三個等級 *sān ge děngjí* three degrees	你有三個選項。 *Ní yǒu sān gè xuǎnxiàng.* You have three options
三個選項 *sān gè xuǎnxiàng* three options	他有三个孩子。 *Tā yǒu sān ge háizi.* He has three children.

二號 *èr hào* number two	二是我最喜歡的數字。 *èr shì wǒ zuì xǐhuān de shùzì.* The number two is my favorite number.
我家在二楼。 *Wǒ jiā zài èrlóu.* My home is on the second floor.	这个大楼有一百年的历史。 *Zhègè dàlóu yǒu yībǎi nián de lìshǐ.* This building has 100 years of history.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Numbers 1 to 100 in Chinese.

1 *yī* 一	2 *èr* 二	3 *sān* 三	4 *sì* 四	5 *wǔ* 五	6 *liù* 六	7 *qī* 七	8 *bā* 八	9 *jiǔ* 九	10 *shí* 十
10 *shí* 十	20 *èrshí* 二十	30 *sānshí* 三十	40 *sìshí* 四十	50 *wǔshí* 五十	60 *liùshí* 六十	70 *qīshí* 七十	80 *bāshí* 八十	90 *jiǔshí* 九十	100 *yī bǎi* 一百

Some More Numbers Discussed in the Lesson

21
èr shí yī
二十一

23
èr shí sān
二十三

65
liù shí wǔ
六十五

88
bā shí bā
八十八

39
sān shí jiǔ
三十九

44
sì shí sì
四十四

19
shí jiǔ
十九

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding Meaning in Numbers

The Chinese are quite superstitious about numbers, believing some to be auspicious, and others to be avoided as very unlucky. This originates from the fact that a lot of Chinese words are homophones. Some numbers have pronunciations that are similar to other words with different meanings-words that have either good or bad connotations.

For example, the number 4 is believed to be very unlucky and avoided whenever possible. The reason is that the pronunciation of the number 4 (四 'sì') in Chinese is very similar in sound to the word for "death" (死 'sǐ'). The words are phonetically identical; they only differ in tone.

On the other hand, the word for 8 (八 'bā') sounds very similar to the word for "prosper" or "wealth" (发 'fā'), and therefore is considered very lucky. This is evidenced by the date the Chinese chose for the Opening Ceremony of the Olympic Games: 2008-08-08.

Because of the supposed auspiciousness of certain numbers, some Chinese people will even pay large sums of money for phone numbers, street addresses, vehicle license plate numbers, or bank account numbers that they feel are lucky.

LESSON NOTES

Basic Bootcamp S1 #5 Numbers 100 to 10,000 in Chinese

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
2 English
2 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 一百, 二百/ 两百, 四百七十, 六百七十一, 一千, 三千五百九十, 七千八百八十, 一万

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 一百, 二百/ 兩百, 四百七十, 六百七十一, 一千, 三千五百九十, 七千八百八十, 一萬

PINYIN

1. yī bǎi, èr bǎi / liǎng bǎi, sì bǎi qīshí, liù bǎi qīshí yī, yī qiān, sān qiān wǔ bǎi jiǔshí, qī qiān bā bǎi bāshí, yī wàn

ENGLISH

1. 100, 200, 470, 671, 1000, 3590, 7880, 10000

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
一百	一百	yī bǎi	100
二百	二百	èr bǎi	200
两百	兩百	liǎng bǎi	200
四百七十	四百七十	sì bǎi qīshí	470
六百七十一	六百七十一	liù bǎi qīshí yī	671

一千	一千	yī qiān	1000
三千五百九十	三千五百九十	sān qiān wǔ bǎi jiǔshí	3590
七千八百八十	七千八百八十	qī qiān bā bǎi bāshí	7880
一万	一萬	yī wàn	10000

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这个大楼有一百年的历史。 Zhègè dàlóu yǒu yībǎi nián de lìshǐ. This building has 100 years of history.	到机场要二百块。 Dào jī chǎng yào èr bǎi kuài. It's 200 RMB to go to the airport.
我们这里有两百多本书。 Wǒmen zhèlǐ yǒu liǎngbǎi duō běn shū. We have over two hundred books here.	这条裙子四百七十块钱。 Zhè tiáo qúnzi sì bǎi qīshí kuài qián. This skirt is 470 RMB.
这些东西一共是六百七十一块钱。 Zhèxiē dōngxi yīgòng shì liù bǎi qīshí yī kuài qián. These things all together are six hundred and seventy-one RMB.	我的房租一个月一千块钱。 Wǒ de fángzū yī gè yuè yī qiān kuài qián. My rent is 1,000 RMB a month.
我们公司有三千五百九十个员工。 Wǒmen gōngsī yǒu sānqiānwǔbǎijiǔshí gè yuángōng。 Our company has 3590 employees.	七千八百八十个人参加了。 Qīqiān bābǎi bāshí ge rén cānjiā le. 7880 people attended.
买一辆车至少要一萬块钱。 Mǎi yī liàng chē zhìshǎo yào yīwàn kuài qián. It costs at least 10,000 RMB to buy a car.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Numbers Larger than 100 in Chinese

---

一百
yī bǎi
"100"
一千
yī qiān
"1,000"
一万
yī wàn
"10,000"

Some More Numbers Discussed in the Lesson

二百
èr bǎi
"200"
两百
liǎng bǎi
"200"

四百七十
sì bǎi qī shí
"470"
六百二十一
liù bǎi èr shí yī
"621"
一千
yī qiān
"1,000"
三千五百九十
sān qiān wǔ bǎi jiǔ shí
"3,590"

七千八百八十

jǐqiān bā bǎi bā shí

"7,880"

一万

yīwàn

"10,000"

一百一十一

yībǎi yī shíyī

"111"

四千

sìqiān

"4,000"

一千五百九十

yīqiān wǔbǎi jiǔ shí

"1,590"

两千四百六十三

liǎng qiān sì bǎi liùshí sān

"2,463"

零

líng

"zero"

二千零九十三

liǎng qiān líng jiǔ shí sān

"2,093"

八千八百八十八

bāqiān bā bǎi bāshí bā

"8,888"

Dates in Chinese

When reading out years, the numbers are simply read as single digits. For example, 2009 is read digit by digit, i.e:

二零零九年

èr líng líng jiǔ nián

(year) "2009"

Language Tip

In Mandarin Chinese, the multiplier 两 (*liǎng*) is used rather than 二 (*èr*) for all numbers greater than 200 with the "2" numeral. For the number 200, 二百 (*èr bǎi*) and 两百 (*liǎng bǎi*) are both acceptable.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #1 Introduction to Chinese

CONTENTS

2 Vocabulary
2 Grammar

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VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
中国	中國	Zhōngguó	China

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top Five Reasons to Learn Chinese

---

Background of the Chinese Language

Chinese is its own language family—about one-fifth of the world's population, or over one billion people, speak some form of Chinese as their native language. Approximately 1.176 billion speakers make for a lot of good conversation.

Chinese is unique also in that it's literally everywhere. Chinese immigrants are interspersed with the population in much of the world. It's a language you don't even need to travel to use.

China is the only country in the world whose literature has been written in one language for more than three thousand consecutive years. The earliest examples of Chinese writing date back to 1200 B.C.

Chinese is its own language family, and there are estimated to be eight thousand dialects of Chinese. Some of the more common of these include Cantonese, Taiwanese, Shanghainese—the list goes on. Anyone who has ever heard some of these dialects spoken can attest to the fact that they are very different from Mandarin; many of them unintelligible to Mandarin speakers.

Though there are tens of thousands of characters, Mandarin Chinese has only four hundred syllables, or individual word sounds. As a result, a single sound can represent more than one hundred different written characters. Tones and the use of compound syllables multiply the number of available word sounds. Most words are made up of two characters, and are therefore two syllables.

About China

China, and Chinese, has thousands of years of history, but due to emigration, Chinese can be found in most places in the world. The Chinese word for China (中国) (*zhong1 guo3*) means, literally, "Center Kingdom." This gives us insight into the reason for the nationalism of the Chinese people, as well as their strong cultural ties.

Where is Chinese Spoken?

Mandarin Chinese is mainly spoken in mainland China and Taiwan, but there are large communities of Mandarin speakers in Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Macau, the Philippines, Australia, Indonesia, Peru, Canada, the United States of America, and many other regions.

Mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau and Singapore list Mandarin Chinese as one of their official languages.

Some of the Chinese communities in other countries are made up of second-, third- or even fourth-generation immigrants. The Chinese have an uncanny ability to preserve their traditions and keep their communities strong, even abroad. However, over time, language evolves and the Chinese spoken in Malaysia, for example, can be quite different in pronunciation and grammar than that spoken in the mainland.

Pronunciation amongst native Chinese speakers in China can vary a lot as well. Accents and pronunciation of the "sh", "zh" and *pinyin* initials can vary quite a bit. Northern speakers of Chinese curl their tongue a lot more, so the sound is thicker and more resonant. The southern people speak a lot more lightly and with less of the retroflexive sound.

Mandarin in Taiwan is somewhat affected by the Taiwanese dialect; speakers very often mix in Taiwanese dialect expressions and pronunciation with their Mandarin.

There are two different forms of Chinese writing as well. In Taiwan, the traditional form of written Chinese characters is used, as opposed to the simplified form adopted in mainland China. There are more than just a few vocabulary terms that are different than on the mainland, too. In addition, many modern words related to computers, the Internet, and technology are different in Taiwan and the mainland, as these types of words have only been invented in the past decade or so.

Why is it Important?

So why should you learn Chinese? Here are some top reasons...

1. Chinese is the language of nearly one-quarter of the world's population

Speakers of Chinese are spread throughout the globe. Chinese people today have been playing increasingly important roles worldwide.

2. Unlike most languages, Chinese has a unique writing system

This system provides visual comprehensibility and is considered by some to be an art form.

3. Chinese grammar is easy!

4. When you learn Chinese, you also learn how the Chinese think

The structure of Chinese is not only logical, but also pragmatic, and very related to the particular way of Chinese thinking. Learning Chinese opens up the culture of one of the world's oldest civilizations. You are learning much more than just a language. Traditional Chinese culture is interesting and very different from Western culture; from Confucianism and Chan Buddhism to martial arts and Chinese cuisine.

5. China currently boasts the fastest growing economy in the world

China is widely regarded as the potentially biggest global market in the twenty-first century. Proficient speakers of Mandarin Chinese will find jobs in various fields such as business, government, international relations, information technology, tourism, education, translation, and much, much more.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #2 Chinese Writing System

CONTENTS

2 Vocabulary
2 Grammar

2

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VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
汉字	漢字	hànzi	Chinese character

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Chinese Writing System

Chinese Uses Written Characters That are Known as 漢字 [汉字] (*hànzi*)

While Chinese characters are often thought of as extremely complex, in fact they are all derived from a couple hundred simple pictographs and ideographs that are assembled in different combinations. Once you get the hang of them, they aren't as difficult to remember as you may think.

All characters are made up of smaller picture elements within the character. Some of these smaller pictures within the character give a hint as to meaning and pronunciation (though not always). The first Chinese characters were simple objects like "human", "hand", "foot", "mountain", "sun", "moon", and "tree". Then, logical combinations of the simple characters followed. Some of these simple characters and logical combinations within the character still remain clear enough to see what they depict. These simple characters also sometimes serve as the root of a more complex character, and are called "radicals."

Most linguists believe that writing was invented in China during the latter half of the second millennium B.C. The earliest recognizable examples of written Chinese date from 1500-950 B.C. (Shang dynasty). Characters were inscribed on bones and shells that were used for divination.

The traditional form of Chinese characters was widely used up until the mid-twentieth century. Most of the simplified Chinese characters in use today were the result of simplifications made by the government of China in the 1950s and 60s. The simplified characters have a lot fewer strokes and certain parts of some characters were completely eliminated. The simplified characters are also used in Singapore, but in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macau, and Malaysia the traditional characters are still used.

Chinese is famed for its huge number of characters, and some dictionaries contain more than 50,000 words as entries. But the good news is that a large number of those are rarely-used variants, accumulated throughout history. This means that workable literacy in the Chinese language only requires knowledge of between three to four thousand characters.

Elements That Make Up a Chinese Word

Chinese verbs and adjectives generally consist of one character (syllable) but nouns often consist of two, three, or more characters (syllables).

When written on the page, each character is given exactly the same amount of space, no matter how complex it is or how many strokes it contains. There are no spaces between characters and the characters that make up compound words are not grouped together, so when reading Chinese, you have to figure out what the characters mean and how to pronounce them, and also which characters belong together.

Pronunciation

Pinyin is a phonetic system used to teach standard pronunciation of Mandarin Chinese, to spell Chinese names in foreign publications, and to enter Chinese characters on computers.

Unlike in European languages, initials and finals—not consonants and vowels—are the elements that make up a word in *pinyin*. Nearly every Chinese syllable is spelled with one initial sound followed by one final sound.

Though *pinyin* uses the Roman alphabet, and some of the sounds are similar to their English counterparts, some of the letters and combinations of letters have pronunciations quite different from English. *Pinyin* cannot be read like English, even though it uses the Roman alphabet.

There are only about four hundred different combinations of initials and finals in Chinese; therefore there are many homophones. Of course, each Chinese character can also have four possible tones, so that adds to the amount of individual sounds. For all the possible combinations of sounds, you can visit the *pinyin* chart at ChineseClass101.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #3 Chinese Grammar

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
3 Pinyin
4 English
5 Vocabulary
6 Sample Sentences
7 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
7 Grammar

3

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我学中文。
2. 我喝茶.
3. 我教中文。
4. 我不学中文。
5. 我去公园。
6. 明天我去公园。
7. 现在我去公园。
8. 昨天我去公园了。
9. 一本书
10. 四个朋友
11. 那(一)张纸

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我學中文。
2. 我喝茶。
3. 我教中文。

CONT'D OVER

4. 我不學中文。

5. 我去公園。

6. 明天我去公園。

7. 現在我去公園。

8. 昨天我去公園了。

9. 一本書

10. 四個朋友

11. 那(一)張紙

PINYIN

1. Wǒ xué Zhōngwén.

2. Wǒ hē chá.

3. Wǒ jiāo Zhōngwén.

4. Wǒ bù xué Zhōngwén.

5. Wǒ qù gōngyuán.

6. Míngtiān wǒ qù gōngyuán.

7. Xiànzài wǒ qù gōngyuán.

CONT'D OVER

8. Zuótiān wǒ qù gōngyuán le.

9. yī běn shū

10. sì ge péngyou

11. nà (yī) zhāng zhǐ

ENGLISH

1. I study Chinese.

2. I drink tea.

3. I teach Chinese.

4. I don't study Chinese.

5. I'm going to the park.

6. Tomorrow I'm going to the park.

7. Now I'm going to the park.

8. Yesterday I went to the park.

9. one book

10. four friends

CONT'D OVER

11. that piece of paper

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
我	我	wǒ	I, me
一	一	yī	one
本	本	běn	(measure word)
书	書	shū	book
四	四	sì	four
个	個	ge	(measure word)
朋友	朋友	péngyou	friend
那	那	nà	that
张	張	zhāng	(measure word for paper like objects)
昨天	昨天	zuótiān	yesterday
现在	現在	xiànzài	now
明天	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow
学	學	xué	to study, to learn
中文	中文	Zhōngwén	Chinese (language)
喝	喝	hē	to drink
茶	茶	chá	tea
教	教	jiāo	to teach
不	不	bù	(negative prefix)
去	去	qù	to go

公园	公園	gōngyuán	park
纸	紙	zhǐ	paper

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我的朋友很帅。 Wǒ de péngyǒu hěn shuài. My friend is really handsome.	他给我一本书。 Tā gěi wǒ yī běn shū. He gave me a book.
意大利很漂亮。 Yìdàlì hěn piàoliang. Italy is very beautiful.	我喜欢看书。 Wǒ xǐhuān kàn shū. I like to read books.
我有四个孩子。 Wǒ yǒu sì gè háizi. I have four children.	我有四个孩子。 Wǒ yǒu sì gè háizi. I have four children.
他是我的朋友。 Tā shì wǒ de péngyǒu. He is my friend.	那是什么? Nà shì shénme? What is that?
一张票多少钱? Yī zhāng piào duō shǎo qián ? How much is one ticket?	昨天我去公园了。 Zuótiān wǒ qù gōngyuán le. Yesterday I went to the park.
现在我去公园。 Xiànzài wǒ qù gōngyuán. I'm going to the park now.	明天我去公园。 Míngtiān wǒ qù gōngyuán. Tomorrow, I'm going to the park.
我学中文。 Wǒ xué Zhōngwén. I study Chinese.	我不学中文。 Wǒ bù xué Zhōngwén. I don't study Chinese.

女人喝了水。 nǚrén hē le shuǐ. The woman drank water.	我喝茶。 Wǒ hē chá. I drink tea.
我教中文。 Wǒ jiāo Zhōngwén. I teach Chinese.	我不认识他。 Wǒ bù rènshi tā. I don't know him.
我去公园。 Wǒ qù gōngyuán. I'm going to the park.	昨天我去公园了。 Zuótiān wǒ qù gōngyuán le. Yesterday I went to the park.
给我一张纸。 Gěi wǒ yī zhāng zhǐ. Give me a piece of paper.	

VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

中文 (*Zhōngwén*) "Chinese" (language). There are a few terms for the Chinese language used in Chinese. One is 中文 (*Zhōngwén*) as spoken of in this lesson. Other terms include: 普通话 (*Pǔtōnghuà*) 国语 (*Guóyǔ*) 汉语 (Hànyǔ)

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Basic Chinese Grammar

Grammar Pep Talk

When learning a language, grammar can be pretty overwhelming. Well the good thing is, compared to learning about Chinese characters, we have good news for you...Chinese

grammar is a lot simpler than that of many other languages. If you hate conjugating verbs, or trying to wrap your head around the idea that words have genders, or can't roll your "r's," Chinese is the language for you.

Here is your head start to Chinese grammar. No long, drawn-out, technical explanations of grammar that aren't going to help you speak Chinese any faster anyway. We're about to tell you what you need to know right off the bat to give you a head start on Chinese.

Now, first of all, don't believe the rumor circulating that Chinese has no grammar. Let's just call that an urban legend. Come on, nothing can be that easy. However, the gods of language were kind to Chinese, knowing all it had to contend with (tones, characters, etc.). It's definitely got grammar, but not the kind you have to dread.

Chinese Verbs

Maybe one of the best things about Chinese grammar is that Chinese verbs are not inflected, meaning that they don't change form. Only one form of each verb exists; there is no conjugation. It doesn't matter who is talking, when they are talking about, or who they are talking to, the verb is the same. Now that is a breath of fresh air for language students!

Word Order

Since there is no conjugation of verbs in Chinese, it means that other things will tell us the things that verb conjugation normally tells us. In Chinese this is something that is very important: word order. It's a pretty big deal, as word order is often your only clue to figuring out who is doing what.

In normal Chinese declarative sentences, word order is the same as that used in normal English declarative sentences, being:

subject - verb - object

For Example:

1. 我学中文。
   Wǒ xué Zhōngwén.
   "I study Chinese."

Negation of Verbs

Negation occurs before the verb and any prepositional phrase. So, for the above example, to make the sentence negative, you just add a negation word, 不 (*bu4)*, in front of the verb.

For Example:

1. 我不学中文。
   Wǒ bù xué Zhōngwén.
   "I don't study Chinese."

Expressing Tense

Now, don't get tense. Usually the thought of verb tenses is enough to warrant an immediate trip to the Chinese masseuse to calm us down. Relax! Chinese verbs don't change tense. Rather, we use time words to indicate whether something will happen tomorrow, is happening now, or happened yesterday. The Chinese language relies heavily on the use of adverbs to communicate what English and many other languages do with different verb tenses.

Let's take the words **"**to go**"** for example. In Chinese, this is 去 (*qu4*). Rather than messing around with the verb itself, Chinese will just add adverbs to let you know when an action was, is, or is going to take place.

For Example:

1. 我去公园。
   Wǒ qù gōngyuán.
   "I go park." (literally)

Now we get the essence of what is going on here, right? I...go...park. Context will tell us a lot about the time factor. In Chinese, it's really easy to make it clear that it's future...just add a time word. Maybe you will go tomorrow? Then you simply add **"**tomorrow.**"**

For Example:

1. 明天我去公园。
   Míngtiān wǒ qù gōngyuán.
   "Tomorrow I go park."

To emphasize that this is happening now? I just add **"now."**

1. 现在我去公园。
   Xiànzài wǒ qù gōngyuán
   "Now I go park."

And if I went yesterday?

1. 昨天我去公园了。
   Zuótiān wǒ qù gōngyuán le.
   "Yesterday I went to the park."

Now of course life gets more complicated than this, and there are other ways of expressing tense in Chinese, such as expressing past experience, and such things. These will come later, but we promise they're not much harder than this!

Measure Words / Classifiers

Now, after all that easiness, you can't hold measure words against the Chinese. In fact, in English, we sometimes count in units, as well—we just don't notice.

1. a pair of socks
2. two loaves of bread
3. three cases of beer

In Chinese, however, these measure or "counting" words must be used when objects are enumerated, whether it's just one person or 1.3 billion people.

1. 一本书
   (yī běn shū)
   "one book/a book"
2. 四个朋友
   (sì gè péngyou)
   "four friends"

3. **那(一)张纸**
   nà yī zhāng zhǐ
   "that (one) piece of paper"

Generally the format is number + measure word + object. When the number is "1", however, it's OK to omit the number.

Note that if you just say 一书 **(*yī shū*)** or 四朋友 **(*sì péngyou*)** it's incorrect.

The challenge with measure words is that there are a lot of them, and certain ones go with certain nouns. Sometimes they follow a rhyme or reason, like the measure word we learned here 张 (***zhāng***); it is frequently paired with flat objects. But don't stress—in time, you will get used to the more commonly heard measure words.

And here's a little measure word bonus: there is one measure word used way more than the others. It is 个 (*ge*). It can be your little measure word crutch to use until you know the more specific measure words for things. 个 (*ge*) is kind of the fall-back-on measure word. It's better to use *ge* than nothing at all, so when you're at a loss for a measure word, 个 (*ge*) will often do the trick.

Pronouns

Pronouns are that small class of words found in many languages that are used as replacements or substitutes for nouns and noun phrases. Things like: I, you, he, this, etc.

Chinese has first, second, and third person pronouns. They have singular (I, you, he, she, and it) and plural forms (we, you, and they). The same pronouns are used for subject, object, possession, etc. So the word for 我 (*wǒ*) doesn't change, but it can mean either "I" or "me" depending on its position in the sentence or context.

To make a pronoun plural, you simply add the suffix 们 (*men*) to the pronoun.

Gender isn't reflected in the spoken language. However, the written form of the word has a slight difference that tells you if the person referred to is male or female. Here are some of the pronouns in Chinese:

我 (*wǒ*) "I"
我们 (*wǒmen*) "we", "us"
你 (*nǐ*) "you"

你们 (***nǐmen***) **"you" (plural)**
他/她/它 (***tā / tā / tā***) **"he"/"she"/"it"**
他们/她们/它们 (***tāmen / tāmen / tāmen***) **"they"**

Pluralizing Nouns

In the vast majority of situations, nouns in Chinese don't change when they are plural.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #4 Chinese Pronunciation

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2 Grammar
4 Cultural Insight

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Chinese Pronunciation

Introduction to Chinese Pronunciation

Each Chinese character can be said to be a syllable. These syllables can be a stand-alone word, or they can be grouped together to make compound words. Each syllable, or character, in Chinese is made up of an initial and a final sound. These initials and finals can be combined to make up over four hundred unique word sounds in Chinese. Since there are only four hundred or so individual possible word sounds in Chinese, there are a lot of homophones—the context or the written character can tell you which word is being used.

Chinese uses a phonetic system called *pinyin* to aid learners of Chinese in pronunciation. This *pinyin* uses Romanized letters to represent the sounds of Chinese.

There are twenty-one initials in Chinese. This is the sound the word starts with. There are about thirty-eight combinations of final sounds.

Some of the More Challenging Sounds of Chinese

Some of the letters used to represent the sounds of Chinese are similar in pronunciation to their English counterparts. However, there are some that are different. The ones that give some people trouble sometimes are as follows:

Z: the difference with the English "z" is that this sound is made with your tongue touching the back of your upper teeth. This results in a more "dz" sound.

C: sometimes confused with the "z" sound, the "c" is aspirated whereas the "z" is not. Aspirated means that you let air out when producing this sound. The tongue touches the back of the upper teeth here too.

Zh: to make this sound, the tip of the tongue is raised against the back of the gum ridge. It has a similar sound to the English "j", but the retroflexive nature makes it much thicker, as you can hear.

CH: is similar to the English "Ch", however the tip of the tongue is raised against the back of the gum ridge, as it is in the "zh".

SH: is similar to the English "sh" however the tip of the tongue is raised against the back of the gum ridge, as it is in the "zh" and "ch".

X: it also seems similar to the English "sh" but it is in fact produced quite differently. You raise your tongue up and let the air squeeze out.

Q: it is in the range of the English "ch" but different in that it is also produced in the same way as the x. You raise your tongue and let the air squeeze out.

R: this one is tough. Nothing like the English "r", so don't be fooled by the use of the letter "r". Again, curled tongue, a "zee-ish" phenomenon.

There are only six vowels used in *pinyin*, but they are combined to produce a lot of different sounds. You can listen to all of them by visiting ChineseClass101.com, where we have a *pinyin* chart with clickable MP3 records of each of the sounds, to aid you in perfecting the pronunciation.

U: one of the sounds that is a little more challenging for English speakers is the "u" sound. This "u" sound is quite a nasal sound. It is said to be similar to the French "u" and is made by pronouncing an "i", then rounding the mouth.

The Tones

The first tone is high and steady: *mā*

The second tone is a rising tone: *má* and has intonation similar to that used in English to indicate a question, i.e. "huh?"

The third tone dips down slightly in the middle: *mǎ*. You can feel a slight vibration at the base of your throat when you are doing it correctly.

The fourth tone is falling, and falling fast. Sounds slightly angrier than the rest. *mà*.

And then we have the Switzerland of tones, being **the neutral tone**. Which is a relief. Because it's just, well, neutral. No tone. *ma*.

The tone change rules:

Tone changes for third tone:

There are some special circumstances that occur with certain combinations of tones that are

together in a compound word or sentence.

When two or more third-tone characters occur in a row, the last of these remains a third tone, while the one(s) before it change to the second tone. If there are more than two third tones in a row, the final third tone in each series remains a third tone, while the rest become second tone.

Tone changes for 不 bù:

The character 不 (*bù*), which a negator, or means "no" or "not", is normally a fourth tone character, but when it comes before another fourth tone character, it changes to the second tone.

Therefore, instead of saying *bù shì* and *bù yaò*, you would say *bú shì* and *bú yaò*.

Tone changes for 一 yī:

The word "*yi*" is 1st tone when used as part of a number: 一二三, 十一 (*yī, èr, sǎn; shíyī*)
The word "yi" is 4th tone when preceding 1st, 2nd, or 3rd tones: 一起 (yìqǐ)
The word "*yí*" is 2nd tone when preceding a 4th tone: 一共 (*yígòng*)

One of the best ways to get Chinese pronunciation down pat is to listen and repeat, listen and repeat. Which is something you can do on at ChineseClass101.com. We have audio files of native speakers, and even a voice recorder for you to see how you sound in comparison.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

China is a vast country, even linguistically, therefore there is a large diversity in accents.

One difference is that Taiwan doesn't use the neutral tone, therefore the intonation of the Chinese spoken there is a little different.

Further, certain words are pronounced in different tones, depending on the region. Due to the influence of local dialects, there is also some variation in the pronunciation of the inital and final sounds of Chinese, however your ear will quickly become accustomed to the variations with exposure to them.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #5 Top 5 Phrases

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2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 谢谢
2. 听不懂
3. 你好
4. 不知道
5. 不好意思
6. 让一下

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 謝謝
2. 聽不懂
3. 你好
4. 不知道
5. 不好意思
6. 讓一下

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. xièxie
2. tīng bù dǒng
3. nǐhǎo
4. bù zhīdào
5. bùhǎoyìsi
6. ràng yīxià

ENGLISH

1. thanks
2. to not understand
3. hello
4. don't know
5. sorry
6. let (me) through

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
谢谢	謝謝	xièxie	thanks

听不懂	聽不懂	tīng bù dǒng	to not understand
你好	你好	nǐhǎo	hello
不知道	不知道	bù zhīdào	to not know
不好意思	不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	I'm sorry
让一下	讓一下	ràng yīxià	let (me) through

SAMPLE SENTENCES

谢谢你帮我那么多忙。 Xièxiè nǐ bāng wǒ nàme duō máng. Thank you for helping me with so many things.	你说的话我听不懂。 Nǐ shuō de huà wǒ tīngbùdǒng. I don't understand what you are saying.
你好，我叫王国易。 Nǐhǎo, wǒ jiào Wáng Guóyì. Hello, I'm Wang Guoyi.	我不知道这个地方的名字。 Wǒ bù zhīdào zhè ge dìfang de míngzi. I don't know the name of this place.
哦，不好意思，请坐。 ō, bùhǎoyìsi, qǐngzuò. Oh, sorry! Please sit.	不好意思，让一下。 Bùhǎoyìsi, ràng yīxià. Sorry, can you let me through?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Five Must-Know Chinese Phrases

---

The following are five essential phrases guaranteed to be the best thing you ever learned in Chinese:

1. 谢谢 (*xièxie*) "Thanks." The Chinese aren't big on "please," but they love thank you so much that they'll often hit you with a barrage of it, "*xiexiexiexiexiexiexiexie*." True, sometimes

it's in a way to get rid of you...sometimes it's in genuine thanks, and sometimes it's because they don't know what the heck you are talking about. But nonetheless, it's the universal word that means gratitude. We'll leave the cultural lesson of discerning what they are actually showing gratitude for, up to you.

2. 听不懂 (*tīngbùdǒng*) "I don't understand what you are saying." This phrase is going to be your best friend, go-to and solace. When the barrage of Chinese follows your perfectly accented "ni hao," this phrase, immediately upon being uttered, will instantly replace any looks of irritation, impatience, or xenophobia with something else: ill-concealed laughter, perhaps countenances of compassion, and an immediate switch to the language that transcends all national, political and cultural boundaries…*Charades*.

3. 你好 (*nǐhǎo*) If you don't know it yet, we don't know where you've been. But we would be remiss if we didn't teach you hello. *Ni hao* literally means "you good." Not a bad way to greet someone.

4. 不知道 (*bù zhīdào*) "I don't know." You may hear this phrase more than use it, however learn from the Chinese how to *bu zhidao* every situation you wish to evade, play dumb about, or avoid.

5. 不好意思 (*bùhǎoyìsi*) "Sorry." You're likely going to be needing to apologize a lot, what with tone errors that change your intended meaning from a polite query of "May I ask" into "Please, kiss me." We're equipping you well to ward off face slaps. In fact, you can just throw this word out at random, just to be on the safe side of etiquette. *Buhaoyisi* literally means "bad feeling", and can be used to apologize to all the dainty toes your oversized foreign feet will step on in the crowded subway, to repent over some cultural faux pas you likely don't know you've committed, or to just curry favor, in general.

让一下 (*ràng yīxià*) "Let me through." Buhaoyisi's slightly stronger cousin. Use this when you're trapped in a subway car and can't get out, or stymied in your efforts to crowd-worm through a city of 18 million people. 让一下 (*ràng yīxià*) is guaranteed to have people jumping out of the way, parting the Red Sea, or doing whatever it takes to let the foreign devil through!

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #6
Test Your China Knowledge

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2 Grammar
3 Cultural Insight

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Testing Your Knowledge About China

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This lesson will build your basic knowledge of China by quizzing you on 5 areas of knowledge: Geography, Pop Culture, Travel, Economics and Myth Busting

1) What percentage of China's 1.3 billion people live in urban areas?

A) 10 percent B) 40 percent C) 50 percent D) 90 percent

Answer: B) 40 percent. It is estimated that by 2010 it will exceed 50 percent. The population of Shanghai alone is roughly equivalent to the entire population of Portugal and Switzerland combined. China's population accounts for around a fifth of the world's population, but has less than one tenth of the world's arable land. Furthermore, almost the entire population lives in the well-watered eastern half of the country, where virtually every square centimeter of farmland has been developed.

2) China has the following number of provinces:

A) 22 B) 23 C) 34

Answer: Actually, depending on who you ask, all three are correct: 22 if your politics say not to include Taiwan, 23 if you include Taiwan, and 34 if you include Taiwan, the 5 autonomous regions, 2 special districts and 4 municipalities.

3) Following are three famous Chinese people. One is a famous singer, one a politician, and one a sports star. Match the person with their profession:

王菲 (Wáng Fēi) *(singer)*

刘翔 (Liú Xiáng) *(athlete)*

胡锦涛 (Hú Jǐntāo) *(politician)*

4) Rank in correct order the most popular travel destinations in China.

1) Beijing 2) Xi'an 3) Shanghai

5) What year did the economic reforms that transformed China's economy into a market-oriented economy take place in?

1978

6) Debunking a myth about China.

Fortune cookies originated in China. True or False?

Answer: False! They were actually an American invention. Makoto Hagiwara of the Japanese Tea Garden in San Francisco is reported to have been the first person in America to have served the American version of the cookie when he did so at the tea garden in 1890s or early 1900s. The cookie was in fact modeled after a Japanese cracker that contained a slip of paper.

In fact, one Brooklyn-based fortune cookie manufacturer tried to introduce fortune cookies to the Chinese market, even building the first fortune cookie factory in China; however, they didn't really take off there. The owner stated that it seemed like a good idea at the time, but that fortune cookies turned out to be 'too American'. To this day, you will never find a fortune cookie at the end of your meal in China.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

More on Geography: Being the country with the third largest land area in the world, China has a diverse eco-system ranging from sea level in the east right up to the peak of Mount Everest on the border with Nepal.

Climate: The climate is also extremely varied. Ranging from subarctic temperatures in the most northern provinces, to monsoons and subtropical regions in the south, China even has a tropical island.

The Economy: Did you know? Over the past seventeen years, China's economy has grown, on average, by more than 10 percent per year.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #7 Chinese Cuisine

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 小笼包
2. 醋
3. 油条
4. 豆浆
5. 羊肉串
6. 拉面
7. 点心

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 小籠包
2. 醋
3. 油條
4. 豆漿
5. 羊肉串
6. 拉麵
7. 點心

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. xiǎolóngbāo
2. cù
3. yóutiáo
4. dòujiāng
5. yángròu chuàn
6. lāmiàn
7. diǎnxīn

ENGLISH

1. steamed soup dumplings
2. vinegar
3. fried dough stick
4. soy milk
5. lamb kebab
6. fresh handmade noodle
7. dimsum

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
小笼包	小籠包	xiǎolóngbāo	steamed soup dumplings
醋	醋	cù	vinegar
油条	油條	yóutiáo	fried dough stick
豆浆	豆漿	dòujiāng	soy milk
羊肉串儿	羊肉串兒	yángròu chuànr	lamb kebab
拉面	拉麵	lāmiàn	fresh handmade noodle
点心	點心	diǎnxīn	dimsum

SAMPLE SENTENCES

小笼包是这边的特菜.
Xiǎolóngbāo shì zhèbiān de tècài.

Soup dumplings are the specialty here.

你要加醋.
Nǐ yào jiā cù.

You have to add vinegar.

油条是早上吃的.
Yóutiáo shì zǎoshang chī de.

You eat fried dough sticks in the morning.

豆浆很营养.
Dōujiāng hěn yíngyǎng.

Soy milk is very nutritious.

他做的羊肉串儿很好吃。
Tā zuò de yángròuchuànr hěn hǎochī.

His lamb kebabs are very delicious.

拉面你吃过吗?
Lāmiàn nǐ chī guò ma?

Have you eaten hand-pulled noodles before?

香港的點心很好吃.
Xiānggǎng de diǎnxīn hěn hǎochī.

Dimsum in Hong Kong is very delicious.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Chinese Cuisine

Basics of Chinese Cuisine

Many people are surprised on their arrival in China to find that what they thought was Chinese food is nowhere to be found. If you're looking for General Tso's chicken, Chop Suey, or fortune cookies...give up.

Another challenge is that the names of Chinese dishes, even in Chinese, can be very cryptic, making ordering a challenge, even if you find a menu with English translations. Chinese dish names are generally completely irrelevant to the ingredients. Cooks tend to try to come up with short, poetic names for their dishes; some with historical, geographical and political references, some with origins from Chinese fairy tales and folk tales.

For example, knowing what one does about the Chinese affinity for 'alternative' meats, what impression does a menu item called Lion's Head leave you with? Is it really...lion's head? No. It is big meat ball. Are the Chinese into insects? Ants Climbing Trees is another popular dish in China. But have no fear—is just sautéed vermicelli with spicy minced pork.

Rice is generally a staple of the south, with noodles featuring in as well. Northern China features dishes made with wheat flour, such as noodles, dumplings, steamed buns, and thin pancakes.

Where meat is often the focal point of many western meals, it is the starch—rice or noodle—that is the starting point and palette for Chinese meals.

Regional Cuisines

There are eight main regional cuisines in China; the flavors vary from hot and spicy, to sweet and oily, even pungent and sour. The main cooking methods employed are stir-frying, deep-frying, steaming and stewing. Chinese kitchens rarely have an oven, though there are various specialties that are roasted, like Peking Duck.

Chinese cooks place a lot of emphasis on the presentation of their final product. The dish should have a pleasing appearance with an appealing balance of colors, textures and tastes.

Famous Seasonal Dishes

The famed Hairy Crab of Shanghai comes into season in October to early November. A local

delicacy that is exported around the country and beyond, it is actually a fresh-water crab. One of the most savored parts of the hairy crab are the sperm in the males, and the eggs in the females.

Hot pot is a warming food that is popular in the winter. A large pot of broth is set to boil, and the diners cook their own meats, vegetables and seafood by boiling them in the soup.

The many festivals of China have specific foods that go along with them. In mid-to-late September, the mid-autumn festival is celebrated. Mooncakes are ubiquitous at this time of year, and are gifted and re-gifted amongst friends, relatives and from employers to employees. Mooncakes are round, like the moon, and have a pastry-like crust with a flavored filling; from lotus paste to sweet red bean; even salty egg yolks.

Furthermore, all Chinese festivals, and there are many, have a variety of foods associated with them, and these will vary from region to region.

Table Etiquette

Chinese food is generally prepared in bite-sized pieces that can easily be picked up with chopsticks. A knife at the table is considered barbaric.

It is a demonstration of utmost hospitality and respect for the host to dish food onto his guest's plate. Often, this will be done repeatedly, despite futile pleads on the eater's part about being full. It is fine to leave some food in one's plate, because if one cleans the plate, it is a signal to the host to put more food onto it!

In China, dishes are served communally, and there are no serving spoons. The diners all use their own chopsticks to dip into the dishes. Never stab your chopsticks into your rice bowl and leave them there. This is the worst of all Chinese dining faux pas, as it is related to a funeral tradition.

If a Chinese person invites you to dinner at a restaurant, it generally means that they are treating. Therefore, if you invite a Chinese person out to eat in a restaurant, it may be expected that you are getting the bill.

Food as Medicine

From bird's nest soup to deer antlers, Chinese food therapy dates back as early as 2000 B.C. The Chinese believe that there are foods that increase body heat (yang), and those that cool the body, and that for good health, a balance of these elements must be achieved through diet.

Top 5 Chinese Foods to Try

小籠包 (xiǎolóngbāo) - Probably the most famous Shanghai dish: these small steamed dumplings are steamed in a basket and stuffed with meat and a tasty broth inside. The connoisseur bites a little hole into them first, sips the broth, then dips them in dark vinegar (醋 cu) to season the meat inside.

油条 (yóutiáo) lit. oil stick - Long, deep-fried donut. A very popular breakfast in China. Typically consumed in the morning with soy milk (dou jiang 豆浆), the youtiao is a long, deep-fried stick of dough.

羊肉串 (yángròu chuàn) Barbecued meat skewers (Typically from street vendors) - Generally made from lamb, these Xinjiang-style meat kebabs are delicious.

拉面 (lāmiàn) Lanzhou-style lamian - Fresh hand-pulled noodles; look for a tiny restaurants with staff in Muslim dress, white fez-like hats on the men and head scarves on the women. These fresh noodles have a flavor very atypical of most noodle dishes you will find in China.

点心 (diǎnxīn) Cantonese / Guangzhou / Hong Kong-style Dim Sum - The small snacks usually eaten for lunch/breakfast in these southern regions of China and in Hong Kong are a highlight.

Top 5 Chinese Foods for the Brave

Stinky Tofu - Locals will forever be asking you if you've tried this fermented tofu specialty, so you might as well cave and do the deed. Think 'french cheese' rather than 'smelly socks' and you just might enjoy it.

Century Eggs - They're not really a century old, though they do look it. Black, gelatinous, strong salty flavor...these delicacies are preserved in salt and ash for 100 days.

Drunken shrimp - Shrimp marinated live, and served live. Watch out for the splashing wine. You eat them after they drown.

Seahorse - Though it feels somehow wrong on many levels to eat cute animals that feature in Disney cartoons, at least you'll have something to write home about.

Bird's Nest Soup - Don't let the saliva base of this broth turn you off from this healthful aphrodisiac.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #8 Chinese Society

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2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Chinese Society and the Way People Live in China

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Major Cities and How they Work

Shanghai

Shanghai is a city full of contrasts and very representative of the ‘New China’. It is the largest city in China in terms of population, and one of the largest metropolitan areas in the world, with over twenty million people. Located on China's central eastern coast at the mouth of the Yangtze River, Shanghai is the largest center of commerce and finance in mainland China, and has been described as the "showpiece" of the world's fastest-growing economy. The city’s population is diverse, being made up of native Shanghainese people, millions of migrant workers from other provinces of China, and a large expat community.

Shanghai offers the tourist a unique mix of old colonialism and cutting edge Chinese modernism. There is the paradox of the Bund: stoic European-built bank buildings quietly face the spectacle of the new Shanghai: the flashing and lit-up Pudong on the other side of the river. There are glimpses of old Shanghai still thriving in some of the more historical neighborhoods, however development is causing displacement for many who lived in humble housing in inner city locales.

Beijing

Beijing is also a city of contrasts. The political, educational and cultural center of China, the history of Beijing can be traced back over 3,000 years. With such historical relics as the Forbidden City, the Ming Tombs, and the Great Wall in close proximity, Beijing is a place one can get in touch with the China of old. However, with the recent economic progress and the frenzy of new construction and infrastructure for the 2008 Olympics, Beijing is now a changed city. Many of the old hutong areas have been demolished to make way for progress.

With that said…the number one thing most big cities in China have in common is that they are generally crowded, polluted and hectic. The weather is often hazy, due to pollution; blue skies are a rare sight. The Chinese have a word that means ‘noisy, crowded and lively’, and this is how they like their city environment. Any time of day you can get food and find people out and about. However with crowds can also come conflict, so be aware that you may encounter noisy street arguments, jostling crowds and dirty streets. Soak it all up as part of the culture of

a Chinese city.

In general, the big cities of China are very safe, except for the menace of the occasional pickpocket.

Family Life

Families in China are generally still quite traditional, and the family is a focal point of life. Most holidays center around family gatherings and meals, and filial piety is an important and still is a very valid part of Chinese society. In many cases, adult Chinese children will live with their parents (if their parents live in the same city), with the parents aiding them with household duties such as cooking and parenting. Thus, though China is modernizing very quickly, traditional family values are still very strong.

Nowadays in China, as a result of the one-child policy, most families only have one child. Therefore, many Chinese will be quite close with their extended families; often they refer to their cousins as their brothers or sisters. Divorce is becoming more common amongst the younger generation, but it is still looked upon with disfavor. Many of the one-child children are of marrying age now, and many blame rising divorce rates on this, feeling that children raised as only children often turn out to be more selfish and intolerant as adults.

Dating culture is not that developed in China; many Chinese people will still find a suitable mate through matchmakers, or through formal introductions to potential partners through relatives and friends. Generally, the marrying age in cities is older, however there is still a lot of pressure placed upon young people by their parents to marry and start having children by the time they are thirty years old.

Work Culture and Economy

China's economy is ranked number three in the world and is strong in manufacturing, being called by some 'the world's workshop'. Almost every major multinational company not only has an office in China; they deem China as vital to their global corporate strategies. Though foreign companies account for a lot of business in China, the State-owned companies continued to dominate the list of the biggest companies in China, taking the top ten spots. Some well-known multinational companies in China are Boeing, Volkswagon, Microsoft and Nokia.

In Chinese cities, there are different types of work culture. Those working in large companies find their careers revolve around corporate culture, and most people feel that working for a multinational company carries with it some kind of status, whereas in reality it often means

long hours, politics, and tedious climbing of the corporate ladder. In a multinational environment, the corporate culture will tend to be influenced somewhat by that of where the company is based.

Working for a state-owned enterprise or a joint-venture company can be quite different, with some companies having a corporate culture with influences left over from the pre-reform days. In these environments, communication can be difficult and the 'boss' is all-powerful, no one will dare to criticize or make suggestions. At times employees are at the beck and call of their bosses; no matter if it's the weekend or evenings, an employee must be ready to serve his '*laoban*' at all times.

On the other hand, many Chinese have an affinity for doing business, and are entrepreneurs. In Chinese business, relationships are everything...relatives, friends, former classmates...all will cooperate with people they know. The Chinese have a word for this, '*guanxi'*, which means 'relationships' or 'who you know'. In China, the success of your business can be dependant to a large degree on the power or scope of your '*guanxi*'. Most business transactions are finalized very differently than in the west. A deal is made only after much eating, drinking, and camaraderie, rather than in a boardroom.

Politics

China is formally known as a single-party socialist republic. The leadership of the Communist Party is elected in the Constitution of the People's Republic of China. State power within the People's Republic of China (PRC) is exercised through the Communist Party of China, the Central People's Government and their provincial and local counterparts.

The president of China is Xi Jin Ping (习近平)

It was only thirty years ago that China started on the road that has made into a powerful economic force on a world scale. Deng Ziaoping took China in a very different direction than the one it had been taking. Thirty years later the country is almost completely transformed, politically and especially economically. China, along with its politics, is changing rapidly.

Generational Trends

China's society has gone through great changes and upheavals in the past generation alone. Therefore, some generational gap is inevitable. The parents of the current generation of young adults grew up under Mao; they experienced famine and political instability. Some missed out on education because of the policies of the Cultural Revolution. In contrast,

China's young people today live in an environment of tremendous economic growth and social change, high technology, and rigorous education requirements.

Communication is a factor as well. The older generation of Chinese parents pay a lot of attention to matters such as nutrition, clothes, and performance at school, however there is somewhat of a gap between children and parents in Chinese society when it comes to communication about more intimate or personal matters.

A clash between tradition and modern influences is also noticeable in purchasing habits, career pursuits, and daily interaction between child and elders. Young people prefer to spend their money on name brand clothing and accessories, travel and entertainment, whereas the older generation believes in saving at a good portion of one's income. This can lead to conflict, as parents will often be quite opinionated and interfering about these matters, even when their child is working and married themselves.

Generally, the older generation grew up in difficult times, whereas the new younger generation are mostly only children who have been treated somewhat like 'little emperors', and tend to be somewhat spoiled and pampered by their parents.

In spite of this, cultural roots still run strong in China, and filial piety is still important and generally young people are still spend time with their families. Many children will live with their parents till they get married, and after getting married, the parents will often move in or spend a lot of time helping when the grandchildren come along.

Modern Societal Trends

Traditionally, women over the age of twenty-three and men over twenty-five have been regarded as "behind schedule" in marriage. However, nowadays, the average age of marriage is getting later and later, and more people are remaining single into their thirties, even when faced with parental pressure. The view of young people towards marriage has changed much in recent times in China; it is no longer viewed as a purely financial arrangement or social task. As a result, more and more young people are choosing who and when they will marry.

- At present there are 130 million people aged sixty or over in China. They account for about 10 percent of the total population. At the current time, only 25 per cent of the labor force in China enjoy pension insurance of some kind. The scale of families is getting smaller, and at times this poses a great test to the traditional Chinese value of families supporting the elderly.

- The old-generation habit of living frugally has been given way to the popular credit consumption pursued by the new generation, pushing forward the quiet advent of credit consumption age.

- The famous one-child policy is still in effect in China, however due to declining birth rates in urban areas and an aging work force, couples in certain urban areas that satisfy the criteria are now allowed to have two children. (i.e. both parents to be are natives of Shanghai, and are only children themselves).

- The sex ratio trend in China is giving rise to a generation of restless young men who will not find mates. History, biology, and sociology all suggest that these “surplus males” may generate high levels of crime and social disorder. In 1993 and 1994, more than 121 boys were born in China for every 100 baby girls. The normal ratio at birth is around 105. China’s gender ratio for newborn babies in 2005 was 118 boys for 100 girls. In some regions, the figure has reached 130 newborn boys for every 100 girls. Several studies have hypothesized female infanticide, sex-selective abortion, the under-reporting of female births, or female adoption as plausible immediate causes for the rise in the sex ratio at birth in China.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #9 Important Holidays

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 春节
2. 恭喜发财
3. 新年快乐
4. 中秋节
5. 国庆节
6. 端午节

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 春節
2. 恭喜發財
3. 新年快樂
4. 中秋節
5. 國慶節
6. 端午節

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Chūnjié
2. gōngxǐfācái
3. xīnnián kuàilè
4. Zhōngqiūjié
5. Guóqìngjié
6. Duānwǔjié

ENGLISH

1. Spring Festival
2. congratulations
3. happy new year
4. Mid-Autumn Festival
5. National Day
6. Dragon Boat Festival

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
春节	春節	Chūnjié	Spring Festival

恭喜发财	恭喜發財	gōngxǐfācái	Wishing you riches! (New Year's greeting)
新年快乐	新年快樂	xīnnián kuàilè	happy new year
国庆节	國慶節	Guóqìngjié	National Day
端午节	端午節	Duānwǔjié	Dragon Boat Festival
中秋节	中秋節	Zhōngqiūjié	Mid-Autumn Festival

SAMPLE SENTENCES

春节很热闹. Chūnjié hěn rènào. Spring Festival is really exciting.	恭喜发财! Gōngxǐfācái! Wishing you riches! (New Year's greeting)
祝大家新年快乐! Zhù dàjiā Xīnnián kuàilè! Wish everyone a happy New Year!	国庆节的时候广场上人乌泱乌泱的。 Guóqìngjié de shíhou guǎngchǎng shàng rén wū yāng wū yāng de. During the national holidays, there were a lot of people in the square.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 5 Important Holidays in China

春节 (Chūnjié): Spring Festival / Chinese New Year

The most important holiday for Chinese people, in the past and right up to today, is the Spring Festival, also known as Chinese New Year. If a festival's importance could be measured by the decibels of noise it produces, the Spring Festival would be a shoe-in as winner. The new

year is welcomed in with food, family gatherings, and lots and lots of fireworks...unceasing fireworks for days on end, in fact.

Chinese New Year falls on different dates each year, usually a date between January 21 and February 20. In the Chinese calendar, the winter solstice occurs in the eleventh month; this means that Chinese New Year always falls on the second new moon after the midnight following winter solstice.

The origins of Chinese New Year go too far back to be certain what gave rise to the many associated traditions. There are numerous legends that offer explanations; many center around a mythical beast that would terrorize villagers, in addition to devouring crops and livestock. Red lanterns, red scrolls and firecrackers were all said to aid in scaring him away.

Chinese New Year is observed as a public holiday in a number of countries where a sizable Chinese population resides. Generally in China people will get a three to five day holiday off work to celebrate.

Chinese New Year in the past, as well as today, centered around family. Nowadays, families will travel across the country, and even from abroad, to reunite and spend this holiday together.

Traditions and Rituals

The Eve of the New Year is the most strictly observed part of the holiday. It starts out with a reunion dinner, where members of the family, from near and far away, get together for the celebration. The venue will usually be in or near the home of the most senior member of the family. The New Year's Eve dinner is very sumptuous and traditionally includes chicken and fish. Each day of the festival has traditional foods, but these will vary from region to region and family to family. Several of the dishes eaten on these days have names that are homophones for words with positive or lucky connotations. Ancestors are honored and in some homes offerings of food and incense are made to the gods.

At the stroke of midnight, the celebrating really begins. The sky is filled with fireworks and the streets are filled with people wishing each other a happy new year.

The next morning, gifts are exchanged among family members and friends. Red envelopes containing money will be given to the younger members of the family by the more senior members of the family. During the remaining days of the celebration, time is spent visiting friends and wishing them luck in the new year. New Years Eve and the first three days of the new year are officially observed as a holiday. During this time the majority of businesses shut

down for the celebrating.

At Chinese New Year you will hear greetings of 恭喜发财 (*gōng xǐ fā cái*), a phrase which offers congratulations and wishes of prosperity to the recipient. Another common greeting is simply '新年快乐' (*xīn nián kuài lè*), which means 'Happy New Year".

Though there is no traditional garb worn for Chinese New Year, new clothes are usually worn to signify a new year. The color red is liberally used in all decorations.

中秋节 (*Zhōngqiūjié*): Mid-Autumn Festival / Moon Festival

This festival is a popular harvest festival celebrated by Chinese people. It dates back over 3,000 years, and originates from Moon worship in the Shang Dynasty.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is held on the fifteenth day of the eighth month in the Chinese calendar, which is usually around mid or late September. It is a date that parallels the autumn and spring Equinoxes of the solar calendar, when the moon is supposedly at its fullest and roundest.

The roots of the holiday lie in the story of the 'woman on the moon'. The legend, which has many versions today, tells the story of the fateful night when Chang'e was lifted up to the moon. The story is a favorite subject of Chinese poets.

Farmers celebrate the end of the summer harvesting season on this date. Traditionally, on this day, Chinese family members and friends will gather to admire the bright mid-autumn harvest moon, and eat moon cakes and pomeloes together.

Nowadays this holiday is celebrated with visits to friends and families, and gift-giving of the traditional food of the holiday, mooncakes. Most mooncakes consist of a thin tender pastry enveloping a sweet, dense filling. The mooncake may contain one or more whole salted egg yolks in its center to symbolize the full moon. Mooncakes are considered a delicacy; production is labor-intensive and few people make them at home. The price of a mooncake can range from $10 to $50 although cheaper and more expensive mooncakes can also be found. Traditional mooncakes have an imprint on top often consisting of the Chinese characters for "longevity" or "harmony" as well as the name of the bakery and/or the filling in the moon cake.

清明 (Qīngmíng) Festival: Tomb-Sweeping Day

Another important day in China is Qingming Festival, also known as 'Tomb Sweeping Day.'

A traditional Chinese festival on the 104th day after the winter solstice, usually occurring around April 5.

For the Chinese, it is a day to remember and honor one's ancestors at their grave sites. Young and old pray before the ancestors, clean up the tombs and offer food, tea, or wine to the ancestors. The rites are very important to most Chinese and especially farmers. Some people carry willow branches with them on Qingming, or put willow branches on their gates and/or front doors. They think that willow branches help ward off the evil ghosts that wander on Qingming.

国庆节 (Guóqìngjié): National Day

Another important day in China is National Day. October 1 is National Day in China.

The People's Republic of China was founded on October 1, 1949 with a ceremony at Tiananmen Square. The Central People's Government passed the Resolution on the National Day of the People's Republic of China on December 2, 1949 and declared October 1 as National Day.

National Day is celebrated throughout mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau with a variety of government-organized festivities, including fireworks and concerts. Public places like Tiananmen Square are decorated in a festive theme. Portraits of revered leaders, such as Sun Yat-Sen, are publicly displayed, and the Chinese flag is waved everywhere from pedestrians on the streets to outside taxi windows.

端午节 (Duānwǔjié): Dragon Boat Festival

The Duanwu Festival occurs on the fifth day of the fifth month of the Chinese calendar. It generally falls sometime in June.

The Duanwu Festival is believed to have originated in ancient China. There are a number folk traditions, beliefs and explanatory myths connected to the observance. The best-known traditional story holds that the festival commemorates the death of poet Qu Yuan (c. 340 B.C. - 278 B.C.) from the Warring States Period of the Zhou Dynasty.

Three of the most widespread activities for the Duanwu Festival are eating 粽子 (*zòngzi*), a glutinous rice ball wrapped in reed or bamboo leaves, drinking traditional spirits, and racing dragon boats.

The festival has long been a cultural holiday in China. However, the Chinese government

long excluded traditional holidays such as the Dragon Boat Festival from its list of public holidays. In 2008, the Dragon Boat Festival was celebrated in mainland China as an official public holiday for the first time.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #10 Pop Culture

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Pop Culture in China

Music

Chinese pop music has historically been dominated by artists from Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore, and American-born Chinese singers. Chinese have a thing for ballads, though the hiphop scene and punk scene have been growing in popularity in recent times as well.
One popular pop singer in recent years is Jay Chou, a Taiwanese hiphop star. Famed for his poorly enunciated rap, Jay Chou composes his own music and has sold millions of albums. Jay Chou has been spokesperson for pepsi, Panasonic and more. He led a Macdonalds ad campaign with the theme song from the commerical even featuring on his album. Whereas in the West, endorsements are viewed as an artist 'selling out', in Asia, acquiring endorsement contracts with major brands are a testament to one's star-status.

Alexander Lee-Hom Wang is another popular singer. His style mixes traditional Chinese music elements with pop elements, creating a unique mix of Western and Chinese styles

Movies

The Chinese are going to the movies in numbers never seen before. Box office revenues are on the rise, and five of the top ten films shown in 2006 were Chinese, not from Hollywood. Only twenty foreign movies are allowed in Chinese theaters per year.

After 1949 and until recent times, the cinema of mainland China operated under restrictions imposed by the Communist Party. Some films with political overtones are still censored or banned in China.
A number of Chinese films have enjoyed box office success abroad. Films such as Farewell My Concubine, 2046, Hero, The Road Home and House of Flying Daggers have been critically acclaimed around the world.

Television

The popularity of American television programs is having a profound effect on China's entertainment industry. While actual American shows have yet to hit Chinese airwaves (the government considers them to violent or sexual for the Chinese audience), illegal internet download sites and file-sharing programs have created a sizable fan base for American

programs in China. Pirated DVDs have also played a critical role in establishing audiences.

Television stations have also chosen to adapt some of the U.S.'s most iconic series and make Chinese versions. For example, one series called 'Wanting to Fall in Love,' is modeled after 'Sex and the City'. Another wildly popular TV show was the mainland Chinese version of American Idol. It was one of the most popular entertainment shows in the country from 2004 to 2006. Despite 'Super Girl's' major popularity and success, the show was heavily criticised by some members of the government. It was declared 'poison for the youth', and later cancelled.

However, some of the most popular shows on Chinese television are not mere copies of American-style programming. Period dramas and stories that relate specifically to Chinese history, politics and lifestyle garner huge audiences.

Foreign Stars

China has an awkward love-hate relationship with all things foreign. On the one hand, the Chinese are fascinated by foreigners. English signs on shops and restaurants are fashionable and prestigious. American-style housing suburbs are all the rage, and Western sports stars and Hollywood celebrities have massive fan followings in China.
At the same time, the Chinese can instantly turn hostile to foreigners at any perceived slight. Huge national scandals have surfaced when a foreigner is perceived to have disrespected China or its people, even in relatively small matters.

Sports

Basketball was introduced to China in the late 1800s at the YMCA, and has grown in popularity ever since. Despite Chinese athletic prowess in table tennis, its enthusiasm for soccer, and its strengths in many other sports, basketball is arguably becoming a "national sport" in China. NBA marketing efforts, Olympic basketball and the Chinese government's promotion have contributed to the game's growth in popularity in China. But the true secret weapon is Yao Ming. Yao Ming is the key factor in building fan support; the masses love him.
Yao Ming - ever since Yao Ming's appearance on the NBA basketball scene, Chinese have taken an ever increasing interest in basketball. Many Chinese view Yao Ming as a national hero. Basketball has risen in popularity in the last few years, and more and more talented players are coming out of China. The Chinese Basketball league is growing and gaining popularity now, country wide.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #11
Top 5 Tools for Learning Chinese

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is to give some suggestions for the Top 5 Useful Tools for Learning Chinese

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Some great tools to aid you in your Chinese studies are...

1. A Chinese Dictionary

Pleco for Palm Pilot / Wenlin for computer

Supplementary dictionary: ABC Dictionary by John DeFrancis; a phonetic pinyin dictionary with great definitions and easy lookup system

2. Adsotrans

A great online super-dictionary, found at www.adsotrans.com. Just paste in any Chinese text and let Adso analyze it. Mouse over the results to see what the words mean in English, and how to pronounce them. You can also use Adso to translate text directly from Chinese to English and to write pinyin with tones. With lots of definitions missing from other dictionaries, Adso can also give you a basic understand of Chinese grammar. Adso will get you in the rhythm of reading Chinese better than anything else.

www.adsotrans.com

3. Chinese Pera-kun

Enables you to read Chinese websites by providing mouseover translation of text. Download the Firefox plug-in at:

https://addons.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/addon/3349

4. Flashcards

Try our flashcards on the site, chineseclass101.com. Simply add words from any of our lessons to your word bank, then go to the flashcards tab and they will be automatically populated for you.

5. Google's Character Writing Software

Use *pinyin* to input Chinese characters. Google's intuitive software will predict what words you want to use, and will allow you to string along sentences. It's a great help for the Chinese learner who wants to communicate in writing in Chinese. It can be downloaded from:

http://www.google.com/ime/pinyin/

6. Pinyin Chart

Come to http://www.chineseclass101.com/learningcenter/reference/pinyin_chart and use our *pinyin* chart with audio for each of the sounds of Chinese to familiarize yourself with the pronunciation of *pinyin* as well as to perfect you own pronunciation.

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #12
Top 5 Mistakes to Avoid

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
3 Pinyin
3 English
4 Vocabulary
5 Sample Sentences
6 Grammar

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我的书在哪儿?
2. 她是谁?
3. 你在吃什么?
4. 我去了。
5. 我去过。
6. 我不吃。
7. 我没吃。
8. 我不唱。
9. 我没唱。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我的書在哪兒?
2. 她是誰?
3. 你在吃什麼?
4. 我去了。
5. 我去過。

CONT'D OVER

6. 我不吃。

7. 我沒吃。

8. 我不唱。

9. 我沒唱。

PINYIN

1. Wǒ de shū zài nǎr?

2. Tā shì shéi?

3. Nǐ zài chī shénme?

4. Wǒ qù le.

5. Wǒ qù guo.

6. Wǒ bù chī.

7. Wǒ méi chī.

8. Wǒ bù chàng.

9. Wǒ méi chàng.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Where is my book?
2. Who is she?
3. What are you eating?
4. I went.
5. I have been before.
6. I don't eat.
7. I didn't eat.
8. I don't sing.
9. I didn't sing.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
我	我	wǒ	I, me
不	不	bù	(negative prefix)
没	沒	méi	(negative prefix)
去	去	qù	to go
什么	什麼	shénme	what
吃	吃	chī	to eat
谁	誰	shéi	who
是	是	shì	to be

她	她	tā	she, her
哪儿	哪兒	nǎr	where
在	在	zài	at
书	書	shū	book
唱	唱	chàng	to sing

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我的朋友很帅。 Wǒ de péngyǒu hěn shuài. My friend is really handsome.	我不认识他。 Wǒ bù rènshi tā. I don't know him.
世界上没有完美的人。 shìjiè shàng méiyǒu wánměi de rén. In the entire world, nobody is perfect.	这里的风景很普通。 Zhèlǐ de fēngjǐng hěn pǔtōng. The scenery here is pretty common.
我去公园。 Wǒ qù gōngyuán. I'm going to the park.	你在吃什么? Nǐ zài chī shénme? What are you eating?
要吃什么? Yào chī shénme? What do you want to eat?	她是谁? Tā shì shéi? Who is she?
他是我哥哥。 Tā shì wǒ gēgē. He is my older brother.	她是谁? Tā shì shéi? Who is she?
您住在哪儿? Nín zhù zài nǎr? Where are you staying?	他在后面。 Tā zài hòumiàn. He is in the back.

他在一家小公司做销售。 Tā zài yī jiā xiǎo gōngsī zuò xiāoshòu. He does sales for a small company.	我沒唱. Wǒ méi chàng. I didn't sing.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Avoiding Common Errors That Learners of Chinese Make

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Common Error #1:

Incorrrect word order when forming questions: English speakers tend to use English word order when forming questions with question words like what, where, who, etc. In English, the question word comes at the beginning of the sentence. Chinese is different. The question word comes at the end of the sentence.

Correct:
我的书在哪儿？
Wǒ de shū zài nǎr?
"Where is my book?" (literally: "My book at where?")

Incorrect:
在哪儿我的书？
Zài nǎr wǒ de shū?
"Where is my book?" (literally: "At where my book?")

More examples:

1. **她是谁？**
   Tā shì shéi ?
   "Who is she?" (literally: She is who?)

2. **你在吃什么？**
   Nǐ zài chī shénme?
   "What are you eating?" (literally: You eating what?)

Common Error #2:

Making verbs past tense: getting the particles 了 and 过 mixed up. Put in a simple way, 了 is used for a completed action. 过 is used to indicate previous experience.

我去了.
Wǒ qù le.
"I went."

我去过.
Wǒ qù guo.
"I have been before."

Common Error #3:

Negating verbs: getting the 不 and the 没 mixed up. Put in a simple way, the 不 is used to negate action verbs in present, future, or when speaking about habitual actions. 没 is used when the action either did not happen (so past tense), or isn't complete yet.

我不吃.
Wǒ bù chī .
"I don't eat."

我没吃
Wǒ méi chī
"I didn't eat."

More examples:

1. 我不唱.
   Wǒ bù chàng.
   "I don't sing."

2. 我没唱.
   Wǒ méi chàng.
   "I didn't sing."

Common Error #4:

In an attempt to be polite, using too many words. A lot of Chinese learners, in an attempt to

translate what is polite in their own language end up confusing their Chinese listener with too many words. The Chinese are very direct in speech, and it is not considered rude to just state something plainly. There is not a lot of need for extra 'pleases' and flowery sort of softening words. Listen to how a Chinese person who is learning English tends to speak English, and aim to follow that pattern in Chinese. Then you will sound more 'Chinese'.

Common Error #5:

Being so afraid about having a standard accent or the correct tones that you are too afraid to speak. The best remedy for a bad accent or bad tones is more practice. So don't be afraid, just keep talking. You will improve!

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #13
Phrases You Won't Learn in Class

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
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4 Grammar

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 哎哟
2. 神经病
3. 很棒
4. 便宜一点儿，可以吗?
5. 受不了

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 哎喲
2. 神經病
3. 很棒
4. 便宜一點兒，可以嗎?
5. 受不了

PINYIN

1. āiyōu
2. shénjīngbìng

CONT'D OVER

3. hěn bàng

4. Piányi yīdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma?

5. shòu bù liǎo

ENGLISH

1. yikes

2. mental illness

3. awesome

4. Can you make it a little cheaper?

5. to be unable to bear

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
哎哟	哎喲	āiyōu	yikes
神经病	神經病	shénjīngbìng	mental illness
棒	棒	bàng	awesome
便宜	便宜	piányi	inexpensive; cheap
一点儿	一點兒	yīdiǎnr	a little
可以	可以	kěyǐ	can
受不了	受不了	shòu bù liǎo	to be unable to bear

吗	嗎	ma	question particle

SAMPLE SENTENCES

哎哟，你怎么这么慢！ Aiyōu, nǐ zěnme zhème màn! Jeesh! How can you be so slow?	干嘛！神经病！ Gàn má! shénjīngbìng! What are (you) doing! (You're) crazy!
你的中文很棒！ Nǐ de Zhōngwén hěn bàng! Your Chinese is really awesome!	便宜一点儿，可以吗？ Piányi yìdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma? Can (you) make it a little cheaper?
他只会说一点儿。 Tā zhǐ huì shuō yīdiǎnr. He can only speak a little.	你可以叫我丽丽。 Nǐ kěyǐ jiào wǒ Lìli. You can call me Lili.
太冷了，我受不了. Tài lěng le, wǒ shòu bù liǎo. It's too cold; I can't take it.	你最近好吗？ Nǐ zuìjìn hǎo ma? How have you been recently?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Top 5 Phrases Your Teacher Will Never Teach You

---

Here are some very common Chinese expressions that you might not learn from a Chinese teacher.

哎哟
āiyōu
"yikes"

神经病

shénjīngbìng
"mental Illness"

很棒!
hěn bàng!
"Awesome!"

便宜一点儿，可以吗？
piányi yīdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma?
"Can you make it a little cheaper?"

受不了
shòu bù liǎo
"to be unable to bear"

These are high frequency Chinese phrases and expressions that you can use all the time.

哎哟 (*āiyōu*) is used as an interjection. Depending on the circumstance and tone of voice, 哎哟 (āiyōu) can mean express anything from irritation, to surprise, to disapproval. It is generally used for matters that have a more negative slant, though depending on the context and tone of voice, it can also be an expression of pleasure.

神经病 (*shénjīngbìng*) literally means "mental Illness". When a person is displeased with another's actions or words, 神经病 (shénjīngbìng) is a cutting retort; similar to the English 'you're crazy!' It is usually uttered on its own and directed at someone as an insult.

很棒! (*hěn bàng*!) means 'awesome' or 'great'. It can be used to describe people, places, things, etc. Anything that one feels is great will often give occasion to let out a 很棒! (hěn bàng!).

便宜一点儿，可以吗？ (*Piányi yīdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma*?) means "Can you make it a little cheaper?" This phrase is a must for any shopper. Often in China just uttering this simple phrase will give you an immediate discount of at least 10 percent off the quoted price.

受不了 (*shòu bù liǎo*) can be used as a complaint when you just can't take it anymore. It literally means "to be unable to bear", and can be used to vent one's frustration with a person or situation. It can also be used when one cannot physically bear something as well; you could use it to tell a masseuse that they are using too much force and you can't take it.

Examples:

1. 哎哟，你怎么这么慢！
   āiyōu, nǐ zěnme zhème màn!
   "Jeesh! How can you be so slow?"

2. 神经病！
   shénjīngbìng!
   "(You're) crazy!"

3. 你的中文很棒！
   Nǐ de Zhōngwén hěn bàng!
   "Your Chinese is awesome!"

4. 便宜一点儿，可以吗？
   Piányi yīdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma?
   "Can (you) make it a little cheaper?"

5. 太冷了，我受不了。
   Tài lěng le, wǒ shòu bù liǎo.
   "It's too cold, I can't stand it."

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #14 Top 5 Classroom Phrases

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 请再说一次。

2. .....中文怎么说?

3. 请问...

4. 我听不懂.

5. 你可以说得慢一点儿吗?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 再說一次。

2. .....中文怎麼說?

3. 請問...

4. 我聽不懂.

5. 你可以說得慢一點兒嗎?

PINYIN

1. Qǐng zài shuō yī cì.

CONT'D OVER

2. Zhōngwén zěnme shuō ?

3. Qǐng wèn ...

4. Wǒ tīngbùdǒng.

5. Nǐ kěyǐ shuō de màn yīdiǎnr ma ?

ENGLISH

1. Please repeat that.

2. How do you say ... in Chinese?

3. May I ask...

4. I don't understand.

5. Can you speak a little slower?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
请	請	qǐng	please	
慢	慢	màn	slowly, slow	adverb, adjective
可以	可以	kěyǐ	can	verb
你	你	nǐ	you	pronoun

听不懂	聽不懂	tīngbùdǒng	to not understand	
请问	請問	qǐng wèn	may I ask	
怎么	怎麼	zěnme	how	adverb
中文	中文	Zhōngwén	Chinese (language)	noun
一次	一次	yī cì	one time, at a time	adverb, phrase
说	說	shuō	to speak	verb
再	再	zài	again	
一点儿	一點兒	yīdiǎnr	a little	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

请再说一次。 Qǐng zài shuō yī cì. Please repeat that.	你可以说得慢一点吗? Nǐ kěyǐ shuō de màn yìdiǎn ma? Can you speak a little slower?
你可以叫我丽丽。 Nǐ kěyǐ jiào wǒ Lìli. You can call me Lili.	是你吗? Shì nǐ ma? Is it you?
那句话我听不懂。 Nà jù huà wǒ tīngbùdǒng. I don't understand that sentence.	请问，你是不是王先生? Qǐngwèn nǐ shìbúshì Wáng Xiānshēng? May I ask, are you Mr. Wang?

请问您贵姓? Qǐngwèn nín guì xìng? May I ask your name?	告诉我怎么用遥控器。 Gàosù wǒ zěnme yòng yáokòngqì. Tell me how to use the remote control.
怎么会这样? Zěnme huì zhèyàng? How can it be?	我不学中文。 Wǒ bù xué Zhōngwén. I don't study Chinese.
当我的朋友还年轻的时候，他可以一次完成许多件事。 dàng wǒ de péngyou hái niánqīng de shíhou , tā kěyǐ yí cì wánchéng xǔduō jiàn shì . When my friend was younger, he was able to accomplish many things at a time.	请再说一次。 Qǐng zài shuō yī cì. Please say it again.
南方人说的普通话不太标准。 Nánfāng rén shuō de pǔtōnghuà bù tài biāozhǔn. The mandarin of Southerners is not terribly standard.	我以前是法语翻译。 Wǒ yǐqián shì fǎyǔ fānyì. I was a French translator before.
便宜一点儿，可以吗? Piányi yìdiǎnr, kěyǐ ma? Can (you) make it a little cheaper?	你可以说得慢一点吗? Nǐ kěyǐ shuō de màn yìdiǎn ma? Can you speak a little slower?

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is to learn some useful phrases for the classroom, in Chinese.

Here are the phrases from the lesson:

请再说一次。

(Qǐng zài shuō yī cì.)
"Please repeat that."

.....中文怎么说?
(Zhōngwén zěnme shuō ?)
"How do you say ..... in Chinese?"

请问...
(Qǐng wèn...)
"May I ask..."

我听不懂.
(Wǒ tīngbùdǒng.)
"I don't understand."

你可以说得慢一点吗?
(Nǐ kěyǐ shuō de màn yīdiǎn ma?)
"Can you speak a little slower?"

LESSON NOTES

All About S1 #15 Our Pet Phrases

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2 Traditional Chinese
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4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 麻烦你了。
2. 没事。
3. 还可以
4. 怎么这么。。。
5. 真的吗?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 麻煩你了。
2. 沒事
3. 還可以
4. 怎麼這麼。。。
5. 真的嗎?

PINYIN

1. Máfan nǐ le.
2. méi shì

CONT'D OVER

3. hái kěyǐ

4. zěnme zhème...

5. Zhēn de ma?

ENGLISH

1. I've troubled you.

2. it's nothing

3. passable, not bad

4. how can (it) be so...

5. Really?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
麻烦	麻煩	máfan	trouble
你	你	nǐ	you
没事	沒事	méi shì	it's nothing
还可以	還可以	hái kěyǐ	not bad, passable
怎么	怎麼	zěnme	how
这么	這麼	zhème	so, such
真的	真的	zhēn de	really

凶	凶	xiōng	fierce
胖	胖	pàng	fat

SAMPLE SENTENCES

麻烦你了。 Máfan nǐ le. I've troubled you.	是你吗? Shì nǐ ma? Is it you?
没事儿，没事儿。 méi shìr, méi shìr. It's nothing, it's nothing.	今天的天气还可以。 Jīntiān de tiānqì hái kěyǐ. Today's weather isn't bad.
中文怎么说? Zhōngwén zěnme shuō? How do you say it in Chinese?	别这么吝啬。 Bié zhè me lìn sè. Don't be so mean.
你真的喜欢她吗? Nǐ zhēn de xǐhuan tā ma? You really like her?	怎么这么凶! Zěnme zhème xiōng! How can you be so mad?
我很怕胖! Wǒ hěn pà pàng! I'm really afraid of getting fat.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is ChineseClass101's Favorite Pet Phrases in Chinese

---

Pet Phrase #1:

麻烦你了。
Máfan nǐ le.
"I've troubled you."

Often used when asking a favor of someone, following a request with this phrase is a way to show appreciation to the person. It is a way to add politeness when making a request.

Pet Phrase #2:

没事。
Méi shì
"It's nothing."

You will hear this phrase all day long in China. It's a generic catch-all to mean 'no problem', 'don't worry about it', 'it doesn't matter', etc.

Pet Phrase #3:

还可以。
hái kěyǐ
"passable; not bad"

Often used in response to a query about how things are going. It can also be used to describe a movie, a person, really any situation that is neither good nor bad.

Pet Phrase #4:

怎么这么。。。
Zenme zheme…
"How can (it) be so…"

Often used as an exclamation. As in:

1. 怎么这么凶！
   Zěnme zhème xiōng!
   "What's (he) so mad about?"

2. 怎么这么胖！
   Zěnme zhème pàng !
   "How can (he) be so fat?"

Pet Phrase #5:

真的吗？

Zhēn de ma? **“Really?”**

Just like the English ‘Really?’, this phrase is used to express surprise or disbelief. It is a very good way to acknowledge something interesting your conversation partner has said.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #1
What Makes a Chinese Word

CONTENTS

2 Grammar

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Make-Up of a Chinese Word

There are only approximately four hundred unique sounds in the Chinese language. These unique sounds have been categorized into a Romanized phonetic system to aid Chinese learners in learning the pronunciation of the Chinese characters. Further, each character has its own tone and the tone is indicated in the pinyin phonetic system by a symbol placed over the Romanized word.

Individual Chinese words are made up of an initial sound and a final sound. You can refer to them on the website's pinyin chart, which has clickable audio to help you hear the different combinations of sounds in the Chinese language. Each Chinese character is one syllable. These characters, or syllables, can also be combined in groups of two or more to make compound words.

Pinyin Sounds Mentioned in the Lesson

The following is a list of the Romanized pinyin pronunciations we go over in this lesson:

1. [*hen*]
2. [*bang*]
3. [*shang*]
4. [*deng*]
5. [*bǐ*]
6. [*pie*]
7. [*wang*]
8. [*quan*]
9. [*yuan*]

Some comparisons of pinyin sounds:

1. [*mo*] / [*mou*]
2. [*se*] / [*sī*]
3. [*ze*] / [*zī*]
4. [*ce*] / [*cī*]
5. [*re*] / [*rī*]
6. [*she*] / [*shī*]
7. [*zhe*] / [*zhī*]
8. [*che*] / [*chī*]
9. [*lu*] / [*lü*]
10. [*nu*] / [*nü*]

The four tones are indicated by the following symbols in pinyin:

1. 1st tone: [*mā*]
2. 2nd tone: [*má*]
3. 3rd tone: [*mǎ*]
4. 4th tone: [*mà*]

Neutral tone is written with no tone mark, [*ma*].

Pronunciation Tip

Coming soon! To get a grasp on all the different sound combinations in the Chinese language, make sure to go to the Pinyin Chart at ChineseClass101.com. There you will find a listing of all the possible sounds in Mandarin Chinese with audio files you can listen to and

repeat after, to help you to perfect your pronunciation.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #2
The Four Chinese Tones

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2 Grammar
3 Cultural Insight

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Pronunciation of the Four Tones of Chinese

---

Overview of the Chinese Tones and their Pronunciation

1st Tone

In pinyin, the 1st tone is indicated by a straight line above the vowel, i.e.,
[*mā*]
The 1st tone is pronounced high and steady. The pitch should be kept to the highest range that is comfortable for you.

2nd Tone

In pinyin, the 2nd tone is indicated by an angled slash above the vowel, i.e.,

[*má*]

The 2nd tone has a rising intonation. It is similar to the sound we make in English to indicate that we are asking a question. It starts at the mid-range of your pitch and rises from there. The tone is similar to that of an English speaker uses when he/she questioningly says, "Huh?"

3rd Tone

In pinyin, the 3rd tone is indicated by a small "-v" shape above the vowel, i.e.,

[*mǎ*]

The 3rd tone starts around mid-range as well, however, it dips down and at its lowest point you can feel the sound in the base of your throat before it slightly rises back up to a higher pitch.

4th Tone

In pinyin, the 4th tone is indicated by a backslash over the vowel, i.e.,

[*mà*]

In pinyin, the 4th tone is a sharp, falling tone. It falls quickly and can be likened to a sharp, slightly "angry" sounding tone.

Neutral Tone

The neutral tone has no mark over it in pinyin. It is pronounced flat and without emphasis.

Pronunciation Tip

There is no better way to get the hang of the tones in Chinese than by listening and practicing them yourself. If you have access to a native speaker of Chinese, it is great practice to have them say words and have you repeat after them with the native speaker correcting you where necessary. Gradually the tune of the tones will stick in your head.

You can also use the materials at ChineseClass101.com to listen to native speakers' pronunciation in the MP3 recordings of the vocabulary, and repeat, repeat, repeat. Also, the voice recorder on the website allows you to hear and compare your pronunciation with a the native speakers'.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Just Keep Speaking!

Don't worry if you are having trouble with the tones at first. There are a lot of tone variations even amongst different regions in China, and most often if you have some context, even if your tones are not perfect, you can be understood. Just keep speaking and they will improve naturally over time.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #3
Tone Change Rules

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2 Vocabulary
2 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar

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VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
一般	一般	yībān	average
不	不	bù	(negative prefix)
要	要	yào	to want
你	你	nǐ	you
好	好	hǎo	good
一	一	yī	one
十一	十一	shíyī	11
人	人	rén	person
个	個	ge	universal measure word
碗	碗	wǎn	bowl
一共	一共	yīgòng	all together
一定	一定	yīdìng	definitely, certainly
很	很	hěn	very

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他的表演很一般。 Tā de biǎoyǎn hěn yībān. His performance was average.	我不认识他。 Wǒ bù rènshi tā. I don't know him.
他要一张纸。 Tā yào yī zhāng zhǐ. He wants a piece of paper.	是你吗? Shì nǐ ma? Is it you?

加州很好。 Jiāzhōu hěn hǎo. California is very nice.	他给我一本书。 Tā gěi wǒ yī běn shū. He gave me a book.
十一块钱怎么样? Shì yī kuài qián zěnmeyàng? How about 11 RMB?	中国人很多。 Zhōngguó rén hěnduō. There are many Chinese people.
这个菜太辣了。 This dish is too spicy.	这个多少钱? Zhège duōshǎo qián? How much is this?
尝尝这个。 Chángchang zhège. Have a taste of this.	他是一个间谍。 Tā shì yí ge jiàndié. He is a spy.
我要一碗米饭。 Wǒ yào yī wǎn mǐfàn. I want one bowl of rice.	这些东西一共十块钱。 Zhèxiē dōngxi yīgòng shí kuài qián. All together these things cost 10 RMB.
我一定会去。 Wǒ yīdìng huì qù. I will definitely go.	今天玩得很开心。 Jīntiān wán de hěn kāixīn. Today was great fun.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is an Overview of the Tone Change Rules in Spoken Chinese

---

Tone Change Rules

The Third Tone Rule

When two or more third tone characters occur in a row, the last of these remains a third tone while the one(s) before it shift to the second tone.

For Example:

1. *hěn hǎo* is pronounced [hén hǎo]
2. *nǐ hěn hǎo* is pronounced [ní hén hǎo]

The Tone Changes for 不 (*bù*)

不 (*bù*) means "not" or "no," and is fourth tone. However, when it comes before another fourth tone character, it shifts to the second tone.

For Example:

1. *bù yào* is pronounced [bú yào]

The Tone Changes for 一 (*yī*)

The word for the number 1 in Chinese, *yī*, is pronounced as first tone when used as a numeral; whether on its own as in 一, 二, 三 (*yī, èr, sǎn*), or in combination with another number.

For Example:

1. 十一 (*shíyī*)

一 (*yi*), normally first tone, becomes fourth tone when preceding a word that is first, second, or third tone, or neutral tone.

For Example:

1. *yī ge rén* is pronounced [yì ge rén]

Anything but a fourth tone word after an 一 (*yī*) makes the *yī* change to become fourth tone.

For Example:

1. *yī wǎn* is pronounced [yì wǎn]

If the word after the *yī* is fourth tone, the *yī* will become second tone.

For Example:

1. *yīgòng* is pronounced [yígòng]

Pronunciation Tip

The tone changes are reflected in the oral pronunciation of the tones only. The written pinyin form still reflects the original tone of the character, so don't get confused!

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #4
Tones in Combination

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2 Vocabulary
2 Sample Sentences
3 Grammar

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VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
再见	再見	zàijiàn	goodbye
阴暗	陰暗	yīn'àn	dim, dark
搭配	搭配	dāpèi	to match, to pair up
冰水	冰水	bīngshuǐ	ice water
美国	美國	Měiguó	United States of America
可以	可以	kěyǐ	can
十四	十四	shísì	fourteen
知道	知道	zhīdào	to know
书店	書店	shūdiàn	bookstore
加油	加油	jiāyóu	go for it, keep it up
人民	人民	rénmín	people
好玩	好玩	hǎowán	fun
弟弟	弟弟	dìdi	younger brother
妈妈	媽媽	māma	mother
没有	沒有	méiyǒu	to not have

SAMPLE SENTENCES

再见，我会想你。 Zàijiàn, wǒ huì xiǎng nǐ. Goodbye, I'll miss you.	外面有一点儿阴暗。 Wàimian yǒu yī diǎnr yīn'àn. It's a little dark out there.

这些衣服很大佩。 Zhèxiē yīfu hěn dàpèi. These clothes go together well.	我喜欢喝冰水。 Wǒ xǐhuan hē bīngshuǐ. I like to drink ice water.
我来自美国。 Wǒ láizì Měiguó. I come from America.	你可以叫我丽丽。 Nǐ kěyǐ jiào wǒ Lìli. You can call me Lili.
我女儿十四岁。 Wǒ nǚér shísì suì. My daughter is fourteen years old.	你知道他是谁吗? Nǐ zhīdào tā shì shéi ma? Do you know who he is?
那家书店有很多书。 Nā jiā shūdiàn yǒu hěn duō shū. That bookstore has a lot of books.	加油！加油！别放弃！ Jiāyóu! Jiāyóu! Bié fàngqì! Go for it! Keep it up! Don't give up!
我要去人民广场。 Wǒ yào qù Rénmín Guǎngchǎng. I want to go to People's Square.	我们去那里很好玩。 Wǒmen qù nàli hěn hǎowán. Going there was really fun.
你弟弟好可爱哦! Nǐ dìdi hǎo kě'ài o! Your little brother is so cute!	做妈妈很累。 Zuò māma hěn lèi. Being a mom is really tiring.
我没有钱。 Wǒ méiyǒu qián. I don't have money.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is to Understand How Tones Sound Relative to the Other Tones They are Combined With 加油

加油

jiāyóu
"Go for it."

Tones in Combination

In this lesson, we heard how the following tones sounded when combined together in the following words.

For Example:

1. 加油
   jiāyóu
   "go for it"

2. 书店
   shūdiàn "bookstore"

3. 搭配
   dāpèi
   "to match, to pair up"

4. 冰水
   bīngshuǐ
   "cold water"

5. 阴暗
   yīn'àn
   "dim, dark"

6. 知道
   zhīdào
   "to know"

7. 十四
   shí sì "fourteen"

8. 可以
   kěyǐ "can"

9. 没有
   méiyǒu
   "to not have"

10. 中文
    Zhōngwén
    "Chinese (language)"

11. 人民
    rénmín
    "the people"

12. 美国
    Měiguó "America"

13. 好玩
    hǎowán "fun"

14. 弟弟
    dìdi
    "younger brother"

15. 妈妈
    māma "Mom"

16. 再见
    zàijiàn "goodbye"

Pronunciation Tip

When wrapping your mind around Chinese words and their tones, try to hear the word as a whole, rather than attempting to pronounce each syllable in its separate tone. If you listen to an entire word and try to mimic the overall sound of the combined word, the tones will start to

come a lot easier. Over-exaggerating each tone, syllable by syllable, makes it hard to speak naturally.

LESSON NOTES

Pronunciation S1 #5 Challenging Sounds in Pinyin

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2 Grammar

5

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GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is to Master the Challenging Sounds of *Pinyin*

Mouth position commentary on the more difficult sounds to pronounce in Chinese:

Tricky Consonant Sounds

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1. "-z" - the difference of the *pinyin* "-z" with the English "-z" is that the Chinese sound is made with your tongue touching the back of your upper teeth. This results in a more "-dz" sound.

2. "-c" – sometimes mixed up with the "-z" sound, the "-c" is aspirated whereas the "-z" is not. Aspirated means that you let air out when producing this sound.

3. "-zh" – to make this sound the tip of the tongue is raised against the back of the gum ridge. It has a similar sound to the English "-j," but the retroflexive nature makes it much thicker.

4. "-ch" – this is similar to the English "-ch," as in "chocolate," however, the tip of the tongue is raised against the back of the gum ridge, as it is in the "-zh."

5. "-sh" - this is similar to the English "-sh," however, the tip of the tongue is raised against the back of the gum ridge as it is in the "-zh" and "-ch."

6. "-x" - to make this sound, raise your tongue up and let the air squeeze out.

7. "-q" – it is in the range of the English "-ch" but different in that it is also produced in the same way as the "-x." You raise your tongue and let the air squeeze out.

8. "-r" – nothing like the English "-r;" here we have the curled tongue touching the gum ridge, with a "-z" sound slightly mixed in.

Tricky Vowel

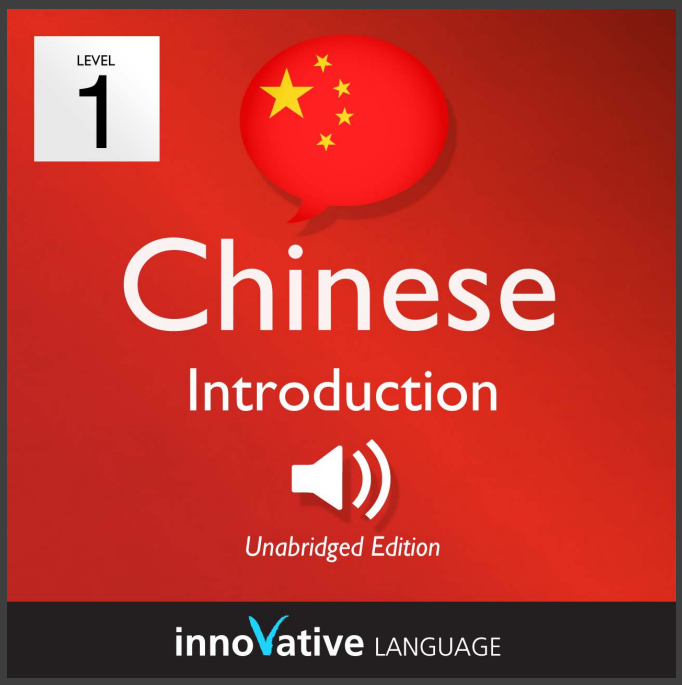
Sound

The "-ü" sound is quite a nasal sound. It is made by pronouncing an "-i," then rounding the mouth.

Pronunciation Tip

You can listen to all the sounds of Chinese and see their corresponding *pinyin* Romanization at www.chineseclass101.com. There is a *pinyin* chart with clickable MP3 recordings of each of the sounds to aid you in perfecting the pronunciations.

ChineseClass101.com



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