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# Chinese

Beginner



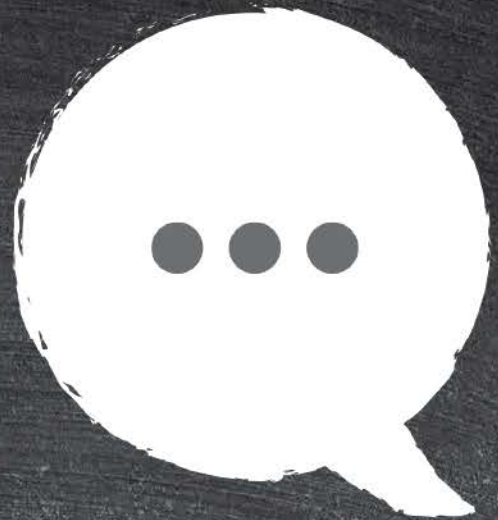
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## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #1

## Introductions

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

#1

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 你好。
2. 马丽: 你好。
3. 张飞: 我叫张飞。你呢?
4. 马丽: 我叫马丽。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 你好。
2. 馬麗: 你好。
3. 張飛: 我叫張飛。你呢?
4. 馬麗: 我叫馬麗。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Nǐhǎo.
2. Mǎ Lì: Nǐhǎo.
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wǒ jiào Zhāng Fēi. Nǐ ne?
4. Mǎ Lì: Wǒ jiào Mǎ Lì.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG FEI: Hello.
2. MA LI: Hello.
3. ZHANG FEI: My name is Zhang Fei. How about you?
4. MA LI: My name is Ma Li.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin    | English       | Class     |
|------------|-------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| 你好         | 你好          | nǐhǎo     | hello         | phrase    |
| 你呢         | 你呢          | nǐ ne     | how about you | phrase    |
| 叫          | 叫           | jiào      | to call for   | verb      |
| 好          | 好           | hǎo       | good          | adjective |
| 我          | 我           | wǒ        | I             | pronoun   |
| 你          | 你           | nǐ        | you           | pronoun   |
| 张飞         | 張飛          | Zhāng Fēi | Zhang Fei     | name      |
| 马丽         | 馬麗          | Mǎ Lì     | Ma Li         | name      |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                  |                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 你好大卫。<br>Nǐhǎo, Dàwèi.<br>Hello David.                           | 我叫张飞，你呢？<br>Wǒ jiào Zhāng Fēi, nǐ ne?<br>I am called Zhang Fei, how about you? |
| 快叫人来。<br>Kuài jiào rén lái .<br>Quick, call for someone to come. | Echo很好。<br>Echo hěn hǎo.<br>Echo is very good.                                 |

|                                                            |                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 我叫王林。<br>Wǒ jiào Wáng Lín.<br><br>I am called Wang Lin.    | 你叫Frank。<br>Nǐ jiào Frank.<br><br>You are called Frank. |
| 张飞很好。<br>Zhāng Fēi hěn hǎo.<br><br>Zhang Fei is very good. | 她叫马丽。<br>Tā jiào Mǎ Lì.<br><br>She is called Ma Li.     |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on introducing yourself**

我叫张飞。你呢？ *Wǒ jiào Zhāng Fēi, nǐ ne?*  
 "I am Zhang Fei, how about you?"

The critical verb in our lesson today is 叫 *jiào*. If you look at our sample sentence, you will see that it connects our pronoun 我 (*wǒ I, me*) with our name 张飞 (*Zhang Fei*) and translates as "to call" or "to be called". This is the most useful way to introduce yourself in Chinese, since this structure can be used in both casual and formal situations.

There are a number of other verbs that are useful for introducing yourself in other situations. In very informal situations, you can replace the verb 叫 *jiào* with the word 是 *shì*. 是 *shì* is a copula, a word that connects two nouns or noun phrases and asserts that they are the same -- think of it as an equals sign. The other way to introduce yourself is to use the verb 姓 *xìng*. You can use this to introduce your family name, but not your given name. 叫 *jiào* is the most common way of introducing yourself by your full name, given name, or nickname.

### Tone Sandhi - When Tones Change

You may have noticed that when we pronounce 你好 *nǐ hǎo*, we pronounce it as níhǎo - a second tone and a third tone - even though 你 *nǐ* on its own is pronounced with the third tone. The reason for this is a process called 'tone sandhi' -- the way tones change when they interact with each other. For some Chinese languages, the rules of tone sandhi are nightmarishly complex, but for Mandarin the rules are quite simple. The sound change that is

turning nǐhǎo into níhǎo happens whenever two third tones occur next to one another: the first word will change to a second tone, while the second word will stay the same.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese names are mostly two or three characters -- one character for the surname (like 张 Zhāng or 马 Mǎ), and then one or two characters for the personal name. At some point in your study of Chinese, you may decide to give yourself a Chinese name -- but for now, you can just insert your own name in place of Zhang Fei and Ma Li's in the sentence structures used in the dialogue.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #2

## How are you?

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## CONTENTS

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

#2

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞:                    嗨, 马丽。你好吗?
2. 马丽:                    我很好。你呢?
3. 张飞:                    我不好。我很忙。
4. 马丽:                    好的, 再见。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛:                    嗨, 馬麗。你好嗎?
2. 馬麗:                    我很好。你呢?
3. 張飛:                    我不好。我很忙。
4. 馬麗:                    好的, 再見。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI:            Hāi, Mǎ Lì. Nǐhǎo ma?
2. Mǎ Lì:                    Wǒ hěn hǎo. Nǐ ne?
3. ZHĀNG FĒI:            Wǒ bù hǎo. Wǒ hěn máng.
4. Mǎ Lì:                    Hǎo de, zàijiàn.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG FEI: Hi, Ma Li, how are you?
2. MA LI: Quite good. And you?
3. ZHANG FEI: I'm not fine. I'm very busy.
4. MA LI: Okay, bye then.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English           | Class             |
|------------|-------------|----------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 嗨          | 嗨           | hāi      | hello             | conjunction       |
| 你好吗        | 你好嗎         | nǐhǎo ma | how are you       | phrase            |
| 吗          | 嗎           | ma       | question particle | question particle |
| 很          | 很           | hěn      | very              | adverb            |
| 不          | 不           | bù       | no; not           | adverb            |
| 忙          | 忙           | máng     | busy              | adjective         |
| 好的         | 好的          | hǎo de   | okay              | phrase            |
| 再见         | 再見          | zàijiàn  | good bye          | phrase            |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                            |                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 嗨，你好！<br>Hāi, nǐ hǎo.<br>Hey, what's up!                   | Frank，你好吗？<br>Frank, nǐ hǎo ma?<br>How are you, Frank?         |
| 你最近好吗？<br>Nǐ zuìjìn hǎo ma?<br>How have you been recently? | 我很好，你呢？<br>Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?<br>I'm very well, how about you? |

|                                                |                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 他不忙。<br>Tā bù máng.<br><br>He is not busy.     | 你周六忙吗?<br>nǐ zhōuliù máng ma?<br><br>Are you busy on Saturday? |
| 好的，再见！<br>Hǎo de, zàijiàn.<br><br>OK, goodbye! | Echo，再见！<br>Echo, zàijiàn.<br><br>Goodbye Echo!                |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is the proper care and feeding of adjectives:**

In this lesson, we introduce adjectives (好 hǎo, 忙 máng) and ways of emphasizing them (很 hěn) or negating them (不 bù). In the sentences we dealt with in this lesson, the Chinese adjectives work much the same way English adjectives do, with one important exception: The English sentence "I am very busy" contains a verb, "am," while the Chinese version of the sentence - "我很忙" (Wǒ hěn máng) - is simply "I - very - busy." Adjectives in Chinese come with the verb built-in, so any sentence of this form will just be the subject plus the adjective -- that is, 我累 (Wǒ lèi), "I - tired," or 你饿 (nǐ è) "you - hungry," with no need for the "am" or "are" that the English versions of the sentences would require.

**More fun with adjectives:**

Once you have your subject and your adjective set up, you can either intensify or negate the adjective through the use of 很 hěn and 不 bù, respectively. Here, again, the word order is much like English: 我不饿 (Wǒ bú è, "I - not - hungry"), or 你很累 (Nǐ hěn lèi, "You - very - tired"). You can even combine the two to say things like 我根本不累 (Wǒ hěn bú lèi, "I - very - not - tired"). (Constructions like 我不很累 - Wǒ bù hěn lèi - however, are ungrammatical.)

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

In our dialogue for this lesson, our harried protagonist replies to a question with the line, "I'm not very good. I'm very busy." As in English, this reply to a well-meaning question is a bit unexpected and abrupt in Chinese. Zhang Fei is clearly under pressure.

In China, if someone literally tells you they are "not good" (不好 bù hǎo) it's a sign that they're in a bad mood. Even if people are feeling down, it's much more common for them to put a positive spin on things, and use positive phrases that are just a bit less glowing. When you end up taking a taxi around China, asking your driver how they're doing will likely get you the reply that they're "still good" (还好 - hái hǎo) or "still passable" (还可以 - hái kěyǐ). Zhang Fei's reply made it fairly clear he didn't expect this to be a lengthy conversation. Which is why it ended so quickly. He was just touching base.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #3

## Where is the Washroom

---

## CONTENTS

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

# #3

# DIALOGUE - CHINESE

## SIMPLIFIED

1. 张飞： 请问，洗手间在哪儿？
2. 马丽： 在那儿。
3. 张飞： 在哪儿？看不见！
4. 马丽： 在那儿。
5. 张飞： 哦，谢谢。
6. 马丽： 不客气。

## ENGLISH

1. Zhang Fei : Excuse me, where is the washroom?
2. Ma Li : It's over there.
3. Zhang Fei : Where is it? I can't see it.
4. Ma Li : It's over there.
5. Zhang Fei : Oh, thank you.
6. Ma Li : You are welcome.

## PINYIN

1. Zhāng Fēi : Qǐng wèn, xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr?
2. Mǎ Lì : Zài nàr.
3. Zhāng Fēi : Zài nǎr? Kànbujiàn!
4. Mǎ Lì : Zài nàr.
5. Zhāng Fēi : ò, xièxie.
6. Mǎ Lì : Bù kèqì.

## TRADITIONAL

1. 張飛：請問，洗手間在哪兒？
2. 馬麗：在那兒。
3. 張飛：在哪兒？看不見！
4. 馬麗：在那兒。
5. 張飛：哦，謝謝。
6. 馬麗：不客氣。

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin     | English             | Class            |
|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 请问         | 請問          | qǐng wèn   | may I ask           | phrase           |
| 洗手间        | 洗手間         | xǐshǒujiān | washroom            | noun             |
| 在          | 在           | zài        | (to be) at          | verb/preposition |
| 哪儿         | 哪兒          | nǎr        | where               | pronoun          |
| 那儿         | 那兒          | nàr        | there               | pronoun          |
| 看不见        | 看不見         | kànbujiàn  | to be unable to see | phrase           |
| 哦          | 哦           | ò          | oh                  | conjunction      |
| 谢谢         | 謝謝          | xièxie     | thank you           | verb             |
| 不客气        | 不客氣         | bù kèqi    | you are welcome     | phrase           |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                     |                                                                                  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 请问，他在哪儿？<br><i>Qǐng wèn, tā zài nǎr?</i><br>Excuse me, where is he? | 有洗手间吗？<br><i>Yǒu xǐshǒujiān ma?</i><br>Is there a washroom?                      |
| 我在饭馆儿里。<br><i>Wǒ zài fànguǎnr lǐ.</i><br>I'm in the restaurant.     | 我今天在家里休息。<br><i>Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā lǐ xiūxi.</i><br>I am relaxing at home today. |
| 你在哪儿？<br><i>Nǐ zài nǎr?</i><br>Where are you?                       | Echo在那儿。<br><i>Echo zài nàr.</i><br>Echo is there.                               |

|                                                       |                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 我看不见你。<br><i>Wǒ kànbujiàn nǐ.</i><br>I can't see you. | 哦，没有洗手间！<br><i>O, méiyǒu xǐshǒujiān.</i><br>Oh, there is no washroom!      |
| 谢谢你。<br><i>Xièxie nǐ.</i><br>Thank you.               | 没事，不客气。<br><i>Méishì, bú kèqì.</i><br>It's no problem, don't be so polite. |

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

请问 qǐngwèn behaves very much like English "excuse me." It's simply a polite way of leading into a question, and it always goes before the question. 洗手间 xǐshǒujiān is just one of many ways of referring to the washroom. 卫生间 wèishēngjiān ("hygiene room"), and 厕所 cèsuǒ ("toilet") are other common names for the room in question.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is locations with 在 zài:**

The verb 在 means "to be located at/in," and occurs between the subject and the location. These constructions always take the form of [THING OR PERSON] + 在 zài + [PLACE WHERE THING OR PERSON IS] -- that is, for example, 纽约在美国 (Niǚyuē zài Měiguó, "New York - at/in - America"), 我在办公室 (wǒ zài bàngōngshì; "I - at/in - office"), and of course 洗手间在那儿 (xǐshǒujiān zài nàr, "Bathroom - at/in - there").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ah, toilets in China. We wouldn't want to scare you off, but it's important that you know that toilet technology here is still catching up to the developed world. Toilets in upscale restaurants, hotels, and private apartments are generally on the Western model, and should be fine, but in cheaper restaurants and public toilets, be prepared to do battle with the traditional squatter toilets. You will almost inevitably have to supply your own toilet paper -- you can buy this in small, Kleenex-style plastic packets at most convenience stores -- and you might want to bring some hand sanitizer as well.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #4

## Taking a Taxi

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# #4

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 司机: 您好。您去哪儿?
2. 张飞: 请说慢一点儿。
3. 司机: 您想去哪儿?
4. 张飞: 我想去宾馆。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 司機: 您好。您去哪兒?
2. 張飛: 請說慢一點兒。
3. 司機: 您想去哪兒?
4. 張飛: 我想去賓館。

## PINYIN

1. Sī Jī: Nínǎo. Nín qù nǎr?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Qǐng shuō màn yīdiǎnr.
3. Sī Jī: Nín xiǎng qù nǎr?

CONT'D OVER

4. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wǒ xiǎng qù bīnguǎn.

## ENGLISH

1. DRIVER: Hello. Where are you going?
2. ZHANG FEI: Please speak more slowly.
3. DRIVER: Where do you want to go?
4. ZHANG FEI: I want to go to a hotel.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin  | English           | Class     |
|------------|-------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|
| 您好         | 您好          | nínhǎo  | hello             | phrase    |
| 机场         | 機場          | jīchǎng | airport           | noun      |
| 快          | 快           | kuài    | fast              | adjective |
| 一点儿        | 一點兒         | yìdiǎnr | a bit             | adverb    |
| 说          | 說           | shuō    | to say            | verb      |
| 宾馆         | 賓館          | bīnguǎn | hotel             | noun      |
| 想          | 想           | xiǎng   | to want; to think | verb      |
| 慢          | 慢           | màn     | slow              | adjective |
| 请          | 請           | qǐng    | please            | verb      |

|   |   |     |              |         |
|---|---|-----|--------------|---------|
| 去 | 去 | qù  | to go        | verb    |
| 您 | 您 | nín | you (formal) | pronoun |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                            |                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>老师，您好！<br/>Lǎoshī, nínǎo.</p> <p>Hello teacher!</p>                     | <p>她想去机场。<br/>Tā xiǎng qù jīchǎng.</p> <p>She wants to go to the airport.</p>         |
| <p>服务员，快一点儿。<br/>Fúwùyuán, kuài yīdiǎnr.</p> <p>Waiter, faster please.</p> | <p>慢一点儿，好吗？<br/>Màn yīdiǎnr, hǎo ma?</p> <p>A little slower, OK?</p>                  |
| <p>请说中文。<br/>Qǐng shuō zhōngwén.</p> <p>Please speak Chinese.</p>          | <p>这个宾馆很好。<br/>Zhè gè bīnguǎn hěn hǎo.</p> <p>This hotel is fine.</p>                 |
| <p>我想去中国。<br/>Wǒ xiǎng qù zhōngguó.</p> <p>I want to go to China.</p>      | <p>这辆车有一点儿慢。<br/>Zhè liàng chē yǒu yīdiǎnr màn.</p> <p>This car is a little slow.</p> |
| <p>你太慢了。<br/>Nǐ tài màn le.</p> <p>You are too slow.</p>                   | <p>请快一点儿，好吗？<br/>Qǐng kuài yīdiǎnr, hǎo ma?</p> <p>A little bit faster, please.</p>   |
| <p>我去宾馆。<br/>Wǒ qù bīnguǎn.</p> <p>I'm going to the hotel.</p>             | <p>请问您贵姓？<br/>Qǐngwèn nín guìxìng?</p> <p>May I ask your surname?</p>                 |

## GRAMMAR

## The focus of this lesson is 想 xiǎng and its multiple uses:

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The basic meaning of 想 (xiǎng) is "to think" or "to wish." it also frequently means "to wish to," and can combine with other verbs to mean "want to [do something]." In this dialogue, we hear the speaker say 想去宾馆 (xiǎng qù bīnguǎn), "want to go to the hotel;" one could also say, for example, 想 + 吃饭 (xiǎng + chīfàn, "eat"), "want to eat," or 想 + 看书 (xiǎng + kànshū, "read"), "want to read."

### Using 想 xiǎng to mean "to think":

---

When used in its basic sense of "to think," 想 xiǎng behaves the same way as it does when it means "to want." Where 我想去宾馆 (Wǒ xiǎng qù bīnguǎn) means "I - want to - go to - hotel," 我想你很累 (Wǒ xiǎng nǐ hěn lèi) means "I - think - you - very - tired." It will be clear from context which sense of 想 xiǎng is intended.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

In most Chinese cities, taxicabs are easily available and relatively cheap. Cab drivers can also make great conversation partners; many Beijing cab drivers are eager to have a chat, especially with a foreign visitor. Of course, cabbies' accents -- especially in Beijing -- may well necessitate a request to '请说慢一点儿' (Qǐng shuō màn yīdiǎnr) but as long as you're both willing to be a little patient, a nice chat can be a fun way to pass the time you spend in the cab. One cautionary note, though: simply saying "I want to go to a hotel" (我想去宾馆 - Wǒ xiǎng qù bīnguǎn) is probably not going to have the results you would hope: it's best to have the Chinese name and address of wherever you're staying, and if possible to have a phone number for the hotel in case you need directions.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #5

## Can you Speak Chinese

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

# 5

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 马丽: 你会说汉语吗?
2. 张飞: 我会说一点儿。
3. 马丽: 你的汉语不错。
4. 张飞: 我只会说一点儿。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 馬麗: 你會說漢語嗎?
2. 張飛: 我會說一點兒。
3. 馬麗: 你的漢語不錯。
4. 張飛: 我只會說一點兒。

## PINYIN

1. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ huì shuō hànǔ ma?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Wǒ huì shuō yīdiǎnr.
3. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ de hànǔ búcuò.
4. Zhāng Fēi: Wǒ zhǐ huì shuō yīdiǎnr.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. MA LI: Can you speak Chinese?
2. ZHANG FEI: I can speak a little.
3. MA LI: Your Chinese is not bad.
4. ZHANG FEI: I can only speak a little.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English          | Class     |
|------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-----------|
| 会          | 會           | huì      | can              | verb      |
| 汉语         | 漢語          | hànyǔ    | Chinese language | noun      |
| 饿          | 餓           | è        | hungry           | adjective |
| 只          | 只           | zhǐ      | only, merely     |           |
| 忙          | 忙           | máng     | busy             | adjective |
| 中文         | 中文          | zhōngwén | Chinese          | noun      |
| 不错         | 不錯          | búcuò    | not bad          | adjective |
| 你的         | 你的          | nǐ de    | your             |           |
| 累          | 累           | lèi      | tired            | adjective |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                             |                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| 你会说英语吗?<br>Nǐ huì shuō yīngyǔ ma?<br>Can you speak English? | 汉语不难。<br>Hànyǔ bù nán.<br>Chinese is not difficult. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                 |                                                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 我不饿。<br>Wǒ bú è<br><br>I'm not hungry.                                          | 他只会说一点儿。<br>Tā zhǐ huì shuō yìdiǎnr.<br><br>He can only speak a little. |
| 你周六忙吗?<br>nǐ zhōuliù máng ma?<br><br>Are you busy on Saturday?                  | 她的中文很好。<br>Tā de zhōngwén hěn hǎo.<br><br>Her Chinese is very good.     |
| 你的日语不错。<br>Nǐ de rìyǔ búcuò.<br><br>Your Japanese is pretty good.               | 那是你的狗吗?<br>Nà shì nǐ de gǒu ma?<br><br>Is that your dog?                |
| 你的中文非常好。<br>Nǐ de zhōngwén fēicháng hǎo.<br><br>Your Chinese is extremely good. | 我不累，谢谢。<br>Wǒ bú lèi, xièxie.<br><br>I'm not tired, thanks.             |

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

As mentioned in the lesson, 不 bù will change to a second tone if it comes before another fourth tone. Make sure that you remember, though: this rule **ONLY** applies to 不 bù; it does not apply to other fourth-tone words. 语 (yǔ) simply means "language," and occurs in words like 汉语 (Hànyǔ, "Chinese"), 英语 (Yīngyǔ, "English"), and 日语 (Rìyǔ, "Japanese"). For more on the difference between 语 yǔ and 文 (wén), see the cultural note below.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on using 的 (de) to indicate possession:**

Adding 的 (de) after a noun or pronoun indicates possession of whatever comes after it -- sort of like adding "-s" to a noun does in English. This works both with people -- 她的书 (tā de shū, "her book"), 你的中文 (nǐ de Zhōngwén, "your Chinese") -- and with inanimate objects, such as 美国的宾馆 (Měiguó de bīnguǎn, "America's hotels") and 中国的语言 (Zhōngguó de yǔyán, "China's language").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Originally, the 文 (wén) of the word 中文 (Zhōngwén) - one of the other words we learned for "Chinese" in this lesson - was a picture of a person with some kind of design, possibly a tattoo, on their upper body. From that, the word came to mean "marking" or "writing." On its own, 文 wén refers to the written word -- something the Chinese are understandably quite proud of -- but in words like 中文 Zhōngwén and 英文 Yīngwén, it can mean either the spoken or written language.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #6

## Where Are You From

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 6

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 马丽: 你是哪儿人?
2. 张飞: 我是英国人。你呢?
3. 马丽: 我是中国人, 北京人。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 馬麗: 你是哪兒人?
2. 張飛: 我是英國人。你呢?
3. 馬麗: 我是中國人, 北京人。

## PINYIN

1. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ shì nǎr rén?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Wǒ shì yīngguó rén. Nǐ ne?
3. Mǎ Lì: Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén, Běijīng rén.

## ENGLISH

1. MA LI: Where are you from?
2. ZHANG FEI: I'm English, and you?

CONT'D OVER

3. MA LI: I'm a Chinese person, a Beijinger.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English                        | Class  |
|------------|-------------|----------|--------------------------------|--------|
| 是          | 是           | shì      | to be                          | verb   |
| 澳大利亚       | 澳大利亞        | àodàliyà | Australia                      | noun   |
| 德国         | 德國          | Déguó    | Germany                        | noun   |
| 法国         | 法國          | Fǎguó    | France                         | noun   |
| 日本         | 日本          | Rìběn    | Japan                          | noun   |
| 加拿大        | 加拿大         | Jiā'nádà | Canada                         | noun   |
| 美国         | 美國          | Měiguó   | United States                  | noun   |
| 哪儿人        | 哪兒人         | nǎr rén  | a person from<br>which country | phrase |
| 北京         | 北京          | Běijīng  | Beijing                        | noun   |
| 中国         | 中國          | Zhōngguó | China                          | noun   |
| 英国         | 英國          | Yīngguó  | Britain                        | noun   |
| 人          | 人           | rén      | people                         | noun   |
| 意大利        | 意大利         | Yìdàlì   | Italy                          | noun   |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                     |                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 她是加拿大人。<br>Tā shì Jiā'nádà rén.<br>She is Canadian. | 澳大利亚人说英语。<br>àodàliyà rén shuō yīngyǔ.<br>Australian speak English. |
| 我不是德国人。<br>Wǒ bù shì Déguó rén.<br>I am not German. | 法国人说法语。<br>Fǎguó rén shuō fǎyǔ.<br>French people speak French.      |

|                                                                  |                                                                                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 他不是日本人。<br>Tā bù shì Rìběn rén.<br><br>He's not Japanese.        | 你是加拿大人吗？<br>Nǐ shì Jiā'nádà rén ma?<br><br>Are you Canadian?                       |
| 我是美国人。<br>Wǒ shì Měiguó rén.<br><br>I am American.               | 他是哪儿人？<br>Tā shì nǎr rén?<br><br>Where is he from?                                 |
| 她是北京人吗？<br>Tā shì Běijīng rén ma?<br><br>Is she Beijinger?       | 请问，你是中国人吗？<br>Qǐng wèn, nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?<br><br>Excuse me, are you Chinese? |
| 我想去英国。<br>Wǒ xiǎng qù Yīngguó.<br><br>I want to go to Britain.   | 我是北京人。<br>Wǒ shì Běijīng rén.<br><br>I'm a Beijinger.                              |
| 意大利很漂亮。<br>Yìdàlì hěn piàoliàng.<br><br>Italy is very beautiful. |                                                                                    |

## GRAMMAR

**The key focus of this lesson is the copula 是 shì**

Today's lesson introduced 是 shì, a volatile and potentially dangerous verb that is sometimes, misleadingly, translated as "to be."

We apologize for the drama, but we've seen too many young, fresh-faced students of Chinese caught in thrall to the siren song of 是 (shì) and subsequently end up producing badly ungrammatical sentences. 是 (shì) does not mean "to be," but it does some of the duties of the verb "to be" in English. However, 是 (shì) is more accurately described as a "copula" -- that is, an equals sign that draws an exact relationship between the thing before it and the thing after it.

It tends to be used for permanent qualities such as nationality (as in 我是美国人, Wǒ shì

měiguórén -- "I = American person"), and is never used for temporary qualities or position. For example, where the English sentences "He is a teacher" and "He is in the USA" both use the word "is," the Chinese sentences would be 他是老师 (Tā shì lǎoshī -- "He = teacher") and 他在美国 (Tā zài Měiguó -- "He - to be in/at - the USA").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Like any great old country, China is home to many strong regional identities, and there are certain traits that are associated with different regions. Beijingers (北京人 Běijīngrén) are considered by people from other places in China to be smooth talkers, cynical wits, and - sometimes - to be too arrogant and lazy to do any real work.

The Shanghainese (上海人 Shànghǎirén), their sworn enemies in the contest to be China's greatest city, are known for their finesse in business, their compulsive internationalism, and - the stereotype goes - their mercilessly fashion-obsessed women and uxorious bread-winners.

The Cantonese (广东人 Guǎngdōngrén) are most famous for their culinary exploration: the saying goes that they will eat anything with four legs but a table, anything that flies except an airplane, and anything in the ocean except a submarine.

In Southwestern China, the Sichuanese (四川人 Sìchuānrén) are known for their spicy food and quick tempers, but also for the slow, relaxing pace of life they enjoy. Northwestern China, particularly Shaanxi (陕西 Shǎnxī), is known for wheat noodles and coal mining. The Northeast (东北 Dōng-Běi), China's Rust Belt, is known for its hard-drinking, hard-loving, hard-fighting inhabitants. And so on and so forth.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #7

## Who is She?

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## CONTENTS

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

#7

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 她是谁?
2. 马丽: 你不知道吗?
3. 张飞: 我不知道。
4. 马丽: 她是我的朋友。她叫李芳。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 她是誰?
2. 馬麗: 你不知道嗎?
3. 張飛: 我不知道。
4. 馬麗: 她是我的朋友。她叫李芳。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Tā shì shéi?
2. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ bù zhīdào ma?
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wǒ bù zhīdào.
4. Mǎ Lì: Tā shì wǒ de péngyou. Tā jiào Lǐ Fāng.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG FEI: Who is she?
2. MA LI: You don't know?
3. ZHANG FEI: I don't know.
4. MA LI: She's my friend. She is called Li Fang.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English   | Class     |
|------------|-------------|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 谁          | 誰           | shéi     | who       | pronoun   |
| 她          | 她           | tā       | she       | pronoun   |
| 纽约         | 紐約          | Niǔyuē   | New York  | noun      |
| 美          | 美           | měi      | beautiful | adjective |
| 英文         | 英文          | yīngwén  | English   | noun      |
| 他          | 他           | tā       | he        | pronoun   |
| 它          | 它           | tā       | it        | pronoun   |
| 李芳         | 李芳          | Lǐ Fāng  | Li Fang   | name      |
| 朋友         | 朋友          | péngyou  | friend    | noun      |
| 知道         | 知道          | zhīdào   | to know   | verb      |
| 中文         | 中文          | zhōngwén | Chinese   | noun      |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                        |                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 我想知道她是谁。<br>Wǒ xiǎng zhīdào tā shì shéi.<br>I want to know who she is. | 她是我的朋友。<br>Tā shì wǒ de péngyou.<br>She is my friend. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                      |                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 纽约在美国吗?<br>Niǚyuē zài Měiguó ma?<br><br>Is New York in America?                      | 那个女孩真美。<br>Nàge nǚhái zhēn měi.<br><br>That girl is really beautiful.                |
| 他的英文不错。<br>Tā de yīngwén bùcuò.<br><br>His English is pretty good.                   | 他今天早上喂了鸡。<br>Tā jīntiān zǎoshàng wèi le jī.<br><br>He fed the chickens this morning. |
| 他今天早上喂了鸡。<br>Tā jīntiān zǎoshàng wèi le jī.<br><br>He fed the chickens this morning. | 他是谁?<br>Tā shì shéi?<br><br>Who is he?                                               |
| 它在中国。<br>Tā zài Zhōngguó.<br><br>It is in China.                                     | 它在哪儿?<br>Tā zài nǎr?<br><br>Where is it?                                             |
| 我的朋友叫李芳。<br>Wǒ de péngyou jiào Lǐ Fāng.<br><br>My friend is called Li Fang.          | 他是我的朋友。<br>Tā shì wǒ de péngyou.<br><br>He is my friend.                             |
| 我知道这件事。<br>Wǒ zhīdào zhè jiàn shì.<br><br>I know about this.                         | 她的中文很好。<br>Tā de zhōngwén hěn hǎo.<br><br>Her Chinese is very good.                  |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on using 谁 shéi to ask *who*:**

A slightly counterintuitive feature of Chinese is that its word-order for questions is different from English, even for fairly simple questions like 她是谁 (tā shì shéi "Who is she"). In questions like this, the subject of the question goes first, followed by the copula 是 shì, and then 谁 shéi. This word order doesn't vary; questions as simple as "who is she" and as complex as "Who is Batman when he isn't fighting crime" will always appear in the order of [SUBJECT] + 是 shì + [WHO] -- the opposite of what it would be in English.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

We've all forgotten somebody's name at some point or another, and we've all done our best to work around it by never actually placing ourselves in a situation where we'd have to address somebody by their given name. Chinese actually helps you out here: if you're in a work setting or any more formal setting, it's most common to address someone by their surname (in Li Fang's case, 李 Lǐ) plus their business title. You'd be surprised how far you can get by addressing someone you're pretty sure is middle management as "Manager Li" (李经理 Lǐ Jīnglǐ) until she's out of earshot -- at which point you can discreetly lean over to someone else and ask, hey -- 她是谁 tā shì shéi?

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #8

## The Flirt

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 8

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 你有男朋友吗?
2. 马丽: 没有。
3. 张飞: 太好了!
4. 马丽: 什么? 你说什么?
5. 张飞: 没说什么。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 你有男朋友嗎?
2. 馬麗: 沒有。
3. 張飛: 太好了!
4. 馬麗: 甚麼? 你說甚麼?
5. 張飛: 沒說甚麼。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Nǐ yǒu nán péngyou ma?
2. Mǎ Lì: Méiyǒu。
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Tài hǎo le!

CONT'D OVER

4. Mǎ Lì: Shénme? Nǐ shuō shénme?
5. Zhāng Fēi: Méi shuō shénme。

## ENGLISH

1. ZHANG FEI: Do you have a boyfriend?
2. MA LI: No.
3. ZHANG FEI: That's great!
4. MA LI: What did you say? Pardon me?
5. ZHANG FEI: I didn't say anything.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin      | English    | Class     |
|------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-----------|
| 有          | 有           | yǒu         | to have    | verb      |
| 渴          | 渴           | kě          | thirsty    | adjective |
| 辣          | 辣           | là          | hot, spicy | adjective |
| 热          | 熱           | rè          | hot        | adjective |
| 贵          | 貴           | guì         | expensive  | adjective |
| 女朋友        | 女朋友         | nǚ péngyou  | girlfriend | noun      |
| 男朋友        | 男朋友         | nán péngyou | boyfriend  | noun      |
| 女          | 女           | nǚ          | female     | adjective |
| 男          | 男           | nán         | male       | adjective |
| 什么         | 甚麼          | shénme      | what       | pronoun   |

|     |     |            |             |        |
|-----|-----|------------|-------------|--------|
| 太好了 | 太好了 | tài hǎo le | awesome     | phrase |
| 没有  | 沒有  | méiyǒu     | not to have | verb   |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                 |                                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 你有女朋友吗?<br>Nǐ yǒu nǚpéngyou ma?<br><br>Do you have a girlfriend?                | 我太渴了。<br>Wǒ tài kě le.<br><br>I am too thirsty.                                 |
| 要辣的吗?<br>Yào là de ma?<br><br>Do you want it hot?                               | 今天很热!<br>Jīntiān hěn rè.<br><br>Today is very hot.                              |
| 那个太贵了。<br>Nàge tài guì le.<br><br>That is too expensive.                        | 他的女朋友是日本人。<br>Tā de nǚpéngyou shì Riběn rén.<br><br>His girlfriend is Japanese. |
| 我的男朋友是美国人。<br>Wǒ de nánpéngyou shì Měiguó rén.<br><br>My boyfriend is American. | 那个人是个女的。<br>Nàge rén shì ge nǚde.<br><br>That person is a woman.                |
| 我是她的男朋友。<br>Wǒ shì tā de nánpéngyǒu.<br><br>I am her boyfriend.                 | 什么事儿?<br>Shénme shìr?<br><br>What's the matter?                                 |
| 今天的天气太好了。<br>Jīntiān de tiānqì tài hǎo le.<br><br>Today's weather is awesome!   | 他没有现金。<br>Tā méi yǒu xiànjīn。<br><br>He doesn't have any cash.                  |

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Chinese makes the words "boyfriend" (男朋友 nánpéngyou) and "girlfriend" (女朋友 nǚpéngyou) the same way English does: by adding 'male' (男 nán) or 'female' (女 nǚ) to 'friend' (朋友 péngyou).

The word for "what" (什么 shénme) can also mean "anything," as in the last line of this dialogue. Don't worry about this usage too much for now.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on claiming poverty and denying embarrassing mistakes with 没 méi**

Most verbs can be made into their opposite by putting 不 bù in front of the verb: 不 bù + 说 shuō means "to not speak;" 不 bù + 想 xiǎng means "to not think" or "to not wish," etc. The only exception to this is the verb 有 yǒu, "to have." Saying "不有" bù yǒu is ungrammatical, will make people look at you pityingly, and will absolutely destroy your chances with anyone you might be romantically interested in; the verb has to be negated with 没 méi -- as in today's dialogue, 没有男朋友 méi yǒu nán péng yǒu, "to not have a boyfriend."

**But wait, there's more!**

Another main function of 没 méi is to negate verbs in the past tense. If someone asks you (over the phone, we suppose, unless they're blind) whether or not you're eating, and you aren't eating at that moment, you can reply 我不吃饭 wǒ bù chī fàn, "I'm not eating." On the other hand, if somebody asks you if you have already eaten today, and you want to reply in the negative, you must say 我没吃饭 wǒ méi chī fàn, "I haven't eaten" or "I didn't eat." Or maybe, as in today's dialogue, you want to cover for your ill-advised slip of the tongue -- in which case you simply deny it with 我没什么 wǒ méi shuō shénme, "I didn't say anything."

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Never mind issues of western toilets versus squatters, or forks and knives versus chopsticks -- the real culture shock often hits when it comes time for the asking of awkward questions. It's not at all uncommon for people to ask point-blank how much you make a month, or what you pay for rent, or how much you spent on those shoes, or whether or not you agree that Chinese food is the best in the world, or -- sometimes -- whether or not you're taken, and if not, why not. You should feel free not to answer anything you consider too personal -- you can just say something like 不好说 bù hǎo shuō, "it's complicated," or 不想说 bù xiǎng shuō, "I don't want to say," and people will leave it at that. That said, though, sometimes it's best to be game for this sort of thing -- who knows; it could always lead to a higher-paying job, or a cheaper apartment, or maybe -- just maybe -- true love.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #9

## Which one do you want?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 9

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 你想要这个还是这个?
2. 马丽: 这个和这个!
3. 张飞: 但是一个是我的。
4. 马丽: 真的吗?
5. 张飞: 不是。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 你想要這個還是這個?
2. 馬麗: 這個和這個!
3. 張飛: 但是一個是我的。
4. 馬麗: 真的嗎?
5. 張飛: 不是。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Nǐ xiǎng yào zhège háishì zhège?
2. Mǎ Lì: Zhège hé zhège!
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Dànshì yī ge shì wǒ de.

CONT'D OVER

4. Mǎ Lì: Zhēn de ma?

5. Zhāng Fēi: Bù shì.

## ENGLISH

1. ZHANG FEI: Do you want this one or this one?

2. MA LI: This one and this one!

3. ZHANG FEI: But one is mine.

4. MA LI: Really?

5. ZHANG FEI: Nope.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English      | Class                       |
|------------|-------------|----------|--------------|-----------------------------|
| 要          | 要           | yào      | to want      | verb                        |
| 茶          | 茶           | chá      | tea          | noun                        |
| 那个         | 那個          | nàge     | that one     | phrase                      |
| 真的         | 真的          | zhēn de  | really       | phrase                      |
| 个          | 個           | gè       | measure word | measure word                |
| 一          | 一           | yī       | 1            | number                      |
| 但(是)       | 但(是)        | dàn(shì) | but          | conjunction                 |
| 和          | 和           | hé       | and, with    | conjunction,<br>preposition |
| 还是         | 還是          | háishì   | or           | conjunction                 |

|    |    |       |        |         |
|----|----|-------|--------|---------|
| 这个 | 這個 | zhège | this   | pronoun |
| 咖啡 | 咖啡 | kāfēi | coffee | noun    |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                             |                                                                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 要冰淇淋吗?<br>Yào bīngqílín ma?<br><br>Want ice cream?                                          | 你想喝茶吗?<br>Nǐ xiǎng hē chá ma?<br><br>Do you want to drink tea?                              |
| 我要一个那个。<br>Wǒ yào yīge nàge.<br><br>I want one of those.                                    | 你真的在北京吗?<br>Nǐ zhēn de zài Běijīng ma?<br><br>Are you really in Beijing?                    |
| 我只要一个。<br>Wǒ zhǐ yào yī ge.<br><br>I only want one.                                         | 我有一只狗。<br>Wǒ yǒu yī zhī gǒu.<br><br>I have a dog.                                           |
| 他想来, 但是太晚了。<br>Tā xiǎng lái, dànshì tài wǎn le.<br><br>He wants to come, but it's too late. | 你和我一起去看电影吗?<br>nǐ hé wǒ yìqǐ qù kàn diànyǐng ma ?<br><br>Will you go to the movies with me? |
| 我和你是朋友。<br>Wǒ hé nǐ shì péngyǒu.<br><br>You and I are friends.                              | 你是美国人还是加拿大人?<br>Nǐ shì Měiguó rén háishì Jiā'nádà rén?<br><br>Are you American or Canadian? |
| 这个是我的。<br>Zhège shì wǒ de.<br><br>This is mine.                                             | 我每天都要喝咖啡。<br>Wǒ měi tiān dōu yào hē kāfēi .<br><br>I have to drink coffee everyday.         |
| 我要喝咖啡。<br>Wǒ yào hē kāfēi.<br><br>I want to drink coffee.                                   |                                                                                             |

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

还是 means "or" in the sense of "coffee OR tea" -- it sets up a choice between alternatives.

## GRAMMAR

**The key focus of this lesson is on measure words:**

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Chinese uses measure words as a way of counting objects -- analogous to the way English has expressions like "a deck of cards," "a book of matches," "a murder of crows," and so on. These are fairly simple to deploy: the formula is [NUMBER] + [MEASURE WORD] + [PROPER NOUN]; for example, 三个人 sān ge rén, "three people," or 五个吸血鬼 wǔ ge xīxuèguǐ, "five vampires."

**More fun with measure words:**

---

Measure words are also used for the demonstrative pronouns 这 zhè and 那 nà, "this" and "that," and the formula is the same as the one given above, but with 这 zhè or 那 nà in place of the number: 这个人 zhè ge rén, "this person," and 那个吸血鬼 nà ge xīxuèguǐ, "that vampire." You can even daisy-chain the two constructions to get phrases like 这三个人 zhè sān ge rén, "these three people," and 那五个吸血鬼 nà wǔ ge xīxuèguǐ, "those five vampires."

There are a few common measure words in Chinese, and you'll learn more of them in the fullness of time. For now, 个 ge is the most general-purpose, and will be understood when used with most nouns even in cases where it may not be technically correct.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

It can be embarrassing at times to resort to ordering by pointing at things instead of asking for them -- but the good news is that this is exactly how Chinese people frequently order or ask for things, even though they may be perfectly able to read the menu in front of them. Much of the key vocabulary in today's dialogue -- "this one" and "no, that one" -- will stand you in good stead throughout your study of Chinese.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #10

## Getting the Digits

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 10

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 马丽: 这个多少钱?
2. 服务员: 三块。
3. 马丽: 给您十块。
4. 服务员: 找您七块。
5. 马丽: 谢谢, 再见。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 馬麗: 這個多少錢?
2. 服務員: 三塊。
3. 馬麗: 給您十塊。
4. 服務員: 找您七塊。
5. 馬麗: 謝謝, 再見。

## PINYIN

1. Mǎ Lì: Zhège duōshao qián?
2. FÚWÙYUÁN: Sān kuài.
3. Mǎ Lì: Gěi nín shí kuài.

CONT'D OVER

4. FÚWÙYUÁN: Zhǎo nín qī kuài.

5. Mǎ Lì: Xièxie, zàijiàn.

## ENGLISH

1. MA LI: How much is this?

2. WAITRESS: 3 yuan.

3. MA LI: Here is 10 yuan.

4. WAITRESS: Here is 7 yuan in change.

5. MA LI: Thank you. Goodbye.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin | English  | Class     |
|------------|-------------|--------|----------|-----------|
| 多          | 多           | duō    | many     | adjective |
| 十          | 十           | shí    | ten (10) | numeral   |
| 九          | 九           | jiǔ    | 9        | numeral   |
| 八          | 八           | bā     | 8        | numeral   |
| 七          | 七           | qī     | 7        | numeral   |
| 六          | 六           | liù    | 6        | numeral   |
| 五          | 五           | wǔ     | 5        | numeral   |
| 四          | 四           | sì     | 4        | numeral   |
| 三          | 三           | sān    | 3        | numeral   |
| 二          | 二           | èr     | 2        | numeral   |

|    |    |         |               |              |
|----|----|---------|---------------|--------------|
| 找  | 找  | zhǎo    | to search for | verb         |
| 给  | 給  | gěi     | to give       | verb         |
| 块  | 塊  | kuài    | kuai          | measure word |
| 钱  | 錢  | qián    | money         | noun         |
| 多少 | 多少 | duōshǎo | how much      | pronoun      |
| 少  | 少  | shǎo    | few           | adjective    |
| 一  | 一  | yī      | 1             | number       |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                               |                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>中国人很多。<br/>Zhōngguó rén hěn duō.</p> <p>There are many Chinese people.</p> | <p>十块钱。<br/>Shí kuài qián.</p> <p>Ten yuan.</p>                           |
| <p>九个意大利人。<br/>Jiǔge Yìdàlì rén.</p> <p>Nine Italians.</p>                    | <p>八号楼。<br/>Bā hào lóu.</p> <p>Building number eight.</p>                 |
| <p>七个东西。<br/>Qī ge dōngxi.</p> <p>Seven things.</p>                           | <p>六瓶水。<br/>Liù píng shuǐ.</p> <p>Six bottles of water.</p>               |
| <p>这个五块钱。<br/>Zhège wǔ kuài qián.</p> <p>Here is five yuan.</p>               | <p>那儿有四个人。<br/>Nàr yǒu sì ge rén.</p> <p>There are four people there.</p> |
| <p>我有三个苹果。<br/>Wǒ yǒu sān ge píngguǒ.</p> <p>I have three apples.</p>         | <p>一加一等于二。<br/>Yī jiā yī děngyú èr.</p> <p>One plus one is two.</p>       |
| <p>找你八块钱。<br/>Zhǎo nǐ bā kuài qián.</p> <p>Here is 8 yuan in change.</p>      | <p>给我十块钱。<br/>Gěi wǒ shí kuài qián.</p> <p>Give me 10 yuan.</p>           |

|                                                                          |                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 一瓶啤酒五块。<br>Yī píng píjiǔ wǔ kuài.<br>A bottle of beer is 5 yuan.         | 我的钱不多。<br>Wǒ de qián bù duō.<br>I don't have much money.           |
| 一瓶啤酒多少钱？<br>Yī píng píjiǔ duōshǎo qián?<br>How much is a bottle of beer? | 加拿大人很少。<br>Jiā'nádà rén hěn shǎo.<br>There are not many Canadians. |
| 我有一只狗。<br>Wǒ yǒu yī zhī gǒu.<br>I have a dog.                            |                                                                    |

## GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is on asking how much or how many with 多少

多少 duōshǎo, "how many" or "how much," is a compound of the words 多 duō and 少 shǎo, meaning "many" and "few" or "much" and "little," respectively. It can be used as a question on its own, as in this lesson -- 多少 duōshǎo? ("How much?") or 多少钱 duōshǎo qián? ("How much money?") -- or can be combined with measure words like 个, which we learned in the last lesson, to form questions like 多少个人 duōshǎo ge rén? ("How many + [MEASURE WORD] + people?" or just "How many people?")

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

While some restaurants and especially hotels catering mainly to western business travelers may be familiar with - or encourage - tipping, the majority of people are unaware of the practice. It's always good to be nice to people and to show one's appreciation, but we would recommend against tipping, as it is likely to cause more problems or misunderstandings than it does good. The last thing you want is for a cab driver who's just dropped you off somewhere to have to find a place to park and come chasing you down because he thinks you've given him too much.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #11

## At the Market #1

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 11

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 这个多少钱?
2. 服务员: 这个二十块。
3. 张飞: 十块怎么样?
4. 服务员: 不行, 十八块。
5. 张飞: 十五块。
6. 服务员: 好。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 這個多少錢?
2. 服務員: 這個二十塊。
3. 張飛: 十塊怎麼樣?
4. 服務員: 不行, 十八塊。
5. 張飛: 十五塊。
6. 服務員: 好。

## PINYIN

1. ZHANG FEI: Zhège duōshao qián?

CONT'D OVER

2. FÚWÙYUÁN: Zhège èrshí kuài.
3. Zhāng Fēi: Shí kuài zěnmeyàng?
4. FÚWÙYUÁN: Bùxíng, shíbā kuài.
5. Zhāng Fēi: Shíwǔ kuài.
6. FÚWÙYUÁN: Hǎo.

## ENGLISH

1. ZHANG FEI: How much is this?
2. WAITRESS: This one is 20 yuan.
3. ZHANG FEI: How about 10 yuan?
4. WAITRESS: No, 18 yuan.
5. ZHANG FEI: 15 yuan.
6. WAITRESS: Okay.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin | English      | Class   |
|------------|-------------|--------|--------------|---------|
| 五十         | 五十          | wǔshí  | 50           | numeral |
| 不行         | 不行          | bùxíng | not ok       | phrase  |
| 十五         | 十五          | shíwǔ  | fifteen (15) | numeral |

|     |     |           |             |            |
|-----|-----|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 怎么样 | 怎麼樣 | zěnmeyàng | how about   | phrase     |
| 十八  | 十八  | shíbā     | eighteen    | numeral    |
| 二十  | 二十  | èrshí     | twenty (20) | numeral    |
| 三十  | 三十  | sānshí    | 30          | numeral    |
| 四十  | 四十  | sìshí     | 40          | numeral    |
| 六十  | 六十  | liùshí    | 60          | numeral    |
| 十一  | 十一  | shíyī     | 11          | number     |
| 二十五 | 二十五 | èrshí wǔ  | 25          | numeral    |
| 四十六 | 四十六 | sìshí liù | 46          | numeral    |
| 行   | 行   | xíng      | okay, fine  | expression |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                             |                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>那个五十块钱。<br/>Nàge wǔshí kuài qián.</p> <p>That one is 50 kuai.</p>        | <p>这样不行。<br/>Zhèyàng bù xíng.</p> <p>This way is no good.</p>              |
| <p>十五块怎么样？<br/>Shíwǔ kuài zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>What about fifteen kuai?</p>    | <p>这个15块怎么样？<br/>Zhège shíwǔ kuài zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>How about 15 kuai?</p> |
| <p>十八怎么样？<br/>Shíbā zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>What about eighteen kuai?</p>         | <p>那个二十块钱。<br/>Nàge èrshí kuài qián.</p> <p>That one is twenty kuai.</p>   |
| <p>三十块钱不多。<br/>Sānshí kuài qián bù duō.</p> <p>30 kuai is not much.</p>     | <p>那个四十怎么样？<br/>Nàge sìshí zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>How about 40 kuai?</p>        |
| <p>六十块太贵了。<br/>Liùshí kuài tài guì le.</p> <p>60 kuai is too expensive.</p> | <p>十一块钱怎么样？<br/>Shí yī kuài qián zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>How about 11 RMB?</p>   |

二十五太贵了。  
èrshí wǔ tài guì le.

25 kuai is too expensive.

我只有四十六块钱。  
Wǒ zhǐ yǒu sìshí liù kuài qián.

I only have 46 kuai with me.

这样不行。  
Zhèyàng bù xíng.

This way is no good.

## GRAMMAR

How about we say the key focus of this lesson is on 怎么样?

怎么样 zěnmeyàng is an extremely flexible question. It literally means "how would it be" or "how about," but can be used in questions from 今天怎么样? (Jīntiān zěnmeyàng - "How are [you] today?") to 你给我十块钱怎么样? (Nǐ gěi wǒ shí kuài qián zěnmeyàng - "How about you give me ten dollars?"). In sentences like the latter, it's acting less as an actual question -- though that's what it literally means -- than as a way of making a suggestion.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bargaining, as depicted in this lesson, is one of the national sports of China, and sometimes it can be every bit as tiring as a more physical passtime like stickball or jai alai would be. One common tactic, employed here, is to start out with an offer of significantly less than what the seller is asking and then gradually work up to a midpoint between the asking price and the initial offer; in practice, it may be better to start out by offering a third or sometimes even less of the asking price, particularly if you're shopping in heavily touristed places.

Bargaining is just as much about attitude as it is about language skills. Come with a strategy, and even if you don't use any language more complicated than what's in this lesson, you're likely to walk away happy. One of the best bargainers we've ever seen decided to haggle entirely in Irish Gaelic and rely on auctioneer's hand signals to get his point across to the vendors -- but if you stick with Chinese, you'll have the chance to go beyond what's expected with the vendor and actually deal with them person to person.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #12

## What time is it?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 12

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 马丽: 几点了?
2. 李芳: 现在9点。
3. 马丽: 已经9点了?
4. 李芳: 对。
5. 马丽: 啊? 我迟到了!

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 馬麗: 幾點了?
2. 李芳: 現在9點。
3. 馬麗: 已經9點了?
4. 李芳: 對。
5. 馬麗: 啊? 我遲到了!

## PINYIN

1. Mǎ Lì: Jǐ diǎn le?
2. Lǐ Fāng: Xiànzài jiǔ diǎn.
3. Mǎ Lì: Yǐjīng jiǔ diǎn le?

CONT'D OVER

4. Lǚ Fāng: Duì.
5. Mǎ Lì: á? Wǒ chídào le!

## ENGLISH

1. MA LI: What time is it?
2. LI FANG: It's nine o'clock now.
3. MA LI: It's already nine?
4. LI FANG: Right.
5. MA LI: Ah! I'm late!

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin    | English         | Class        |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|--------------|
| 几          | 幾           | jǐ        | several         | pronoun      |
| 点          | 點           | diǎn      | o'clock         | measure word |
| 几点了        | 幾點了         | jǐdiǎn le | what time is it | phrase       |
| 现在         | 現在          | xiànzài   | now             | noun         |
| 已经         | 已經          | yǐjīng    | already         | adverb       |
| 对          | 對           | duì       | correct         | adjective    |
| 迟到         | 遲到          | chídào    | to arrive late  | verb         |
| 分          | 分           | fēn       | minute          | measure word |
| 半          | 半           | bàn       | half            | number       |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                    |                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 你们有几个人?<br>Nǐmen yǒu jǐ ge rén?                    | 现在三点。<br>Xiànzài sān diǎn.              |
| How many of there are you?                         | It is three o'clock now.                |
| 现在几点了?<br>Xiànzài jǐ diǎn le?                      | 现在6点。<br>Xiànzài liù diǎn.              |
| What time is it now?                               | It is now six o'clock.                  |
| 现在，我已经在中国了。<br>Xiànzài, wǒ yǐjīng zài Zhōngguó le. | 你说的对。<br>Nǐ shuōdeduì.                  |
| I am already in China now.                         | You spoke correctly.                    |
| 请不要迟到。<br>Qǐng bùyào chídào.                       | 现在三点二十分。<br>Xiànzài sān diǎn èrshí fēn. |
| Please don't be late.                              | It's three twenty now.                  |
| 我四点半去机场。<br>Wǒ sì diǎn bàn qù jīchǎng.             |                                         |
| I go to the airport at four thirty.                |                                         |

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

几 jǐ - This is a word similar to 多少 duōshǎo in that it means "how many" -- but with 几, the answer is generally expected to be less than ten or so.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on the time words 现在 xiànzài and 已经 yǐjīng:**

In Chinese, time words like 现在 (xiànzài, "now") and 已经 (yǐjīng, "already") tend to go towards the front of a sentence, between the subject and the predicate (the rest of the sentence). In English, by contrast, time expressions often want to be more towards the end of a sentence, so it may be a little counterintuitive to think in the Chinese order at first. The basic structure for time expressions is [SUBJECT] + [TIME EXPRESSION] + [PREDICATE] -- for example, 我已经知道 (wǒ yǐjīng zhīdao, "I - already - know") or

她现在很忙 (tā xiànzài hěn máng, "she - now - very - busy"). These expressions can even be daisy-chained together: one may say "It's 9 o'clock now" (现在九点了, xiànzài jiǔ diǎn le) or "It's 9 o'clock already" (已经九点了, yǐjīng jiǔ diǎn le), or add extra emphasis by saying "It's already 9 o'clock now" -- 现在已经九点了 (xiànzài yǐjīng jiǔ diǎn le).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ancient China had its own intricate system of timekeeping and horology. Some of the pre-mechanical clocks used were both ingenious and poetic: one device was set to let drops of water fall from one bronze container to another every fifteen minutes; another, the "incense-clock," measured out the hours in sticks of burning incense. China was also the first country to introduce decimal time: one old-fashioned unit of time, the *ke*, was defined as 1/100th of a day, or 14 minutes and 24 seconds. The unit of time is still in use, though now it's rounded up to 15 minutes, in expressions like 现在三点一刻 (xiànzài sān diǎn yī kè), "Now it is 3:15" or "a quarter past three." In all other respects, however, China has done away with the old system in favor of the standard 24-hour system familiar to us.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #13

## At the Market #2

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 13

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 马丽: 小姐, 我要这个。
2. 服务员: 好的。
3. 马丽: 还要一个这个。
4. 服务员: 好的。
5. 马丽: 两个那个。
6. 服务员: 好。
7. 马丽: 快点儿。好吗?

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 馬麗: 小姐, 我要這個。
2. 服務員: 好的。
3. 馬麗: 還要一個這個。
4. 服務員: 好的。
5. 馬麗: 兩個那個。
6. 服務員: 好。
7. 馬麗: 快點兒。好嗎?

## PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Mǎ Lì: Xiǎojiě, wǒ yào zhège.
2. FÚWÙYUÁN: Hǎo de.
3. Mǎ Lì: Hái yào yī ge zhège.
4. FÚWÙYUÁN: Hǎo de.
5. Mǎ Lì: Liǎng ge nàge.
6. FÚWÙYUÁN: Hǎo.
7. Mǎ Lì: Kuài diǎnr. Hǎo ma?

## ENGLISH

1. MA LI: Miss, I want this one.
2. WAITRESS: OK.
3. MA LI: I also want this one.
4. WAITRESS: Sure.
5. MA LI: Two of those.
6. WAITRESS: OK.
7. MA LI: A little more quickly, OK?

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin     | English               | Class     |
|------------|-------------|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| 便宜         | 便宜          | piányi     | cheap                 | adjective |
| 小姐         | 小姐          | xiǎojiě    | miss                  | address   |
| 还          | 還           | hái        | also                  | adverb    |
| 两          | 兩           | liǎng      | two                   | numeral   |
| 快点儿        | 快點兒         | kuài diǎnr | a little more quickly | phrase    |
| 好吗         | 好嗎          | hǎo ma     | is it ok?             | phrase    |
| 慢点儿        | 慢點兒         | màn diǎnr  | a little slower       | phrase    |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>50块钱不便宜。<br/>Wǔshí kuài qián bù piányi.</p> <p>Fifty yuan is not cheap.</p>                                                                   | <p>马小姐，请进。<br/>Mǎ xiǎojiě, qǐng jìn.</p> <p>Please come in, Miss Ma.</p>            |
| <p>我已经去了北京，还想去上海。<br/>Wǒ yǐjīng qù le Běijīng, hái xiǎng qù Shànghǎi.</p> <p>I've already been to Beijing, and still want to visit Shanghai.</p> | <p>两个苹果五块钱。<br/>Liǎng gè píngguǒ wǔ kuài qián.</p> <p>Two apples are five yuan.</p> |
| <p>请你快点儿，好吗？<br/>Qǐng nǐ kuàidiǎnr, hǎo ma?</p> <p>A little faster please, is that ok?</p>                                                       | <p>明天给我，好吗？<br/>Míngtiān gěi wǒ, hǎo ma?</p> <p>Give it to me tomorrow, OK?</p>     |
| <p>请走慢点儿。<br/>Qǐng zǒu màn diǎnr.</p> <p>Please walk a little more slowly.</p>                                                                   |                                                                                     |

## GRAMMAR

The key focus of this lesson is using 还 to mean "still" and "also"

还 hái can mean both "still" -- as in 我今天还没吃饭 (wǒ jīntiān hái méi chīfàn, "I still haven't eaten today") or 她还看书 (tā hái kànshū, "she still reads") -- and, by extension, "also," in sentences like 我要一个这个，还要三个那个 (wǒ yào yī ge zhè ge, hái yào sān ge nà ge, "I want one of these; also two of those") and 她会讲汉语、英语、还有日语 (tā huì shuō Hànyǔ, Yīngyǔ, hái yǒu Rìyǔ, "She speaks Chinese, English, and also Japanese"). It is important to note, however, that 还 (hái) can only mean "also" when it is paired with a verb, as in 还要 (hái yào), 还想 (hái xiǎng), 还会说 (hái huì shuō), etc.

In some cases this may seem ambiguous -- for example, should we understand 她还看书 (tā hái kàn shū) as "She still reads" or "She also reads?" -- but in practice context will make it clear which is meant.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

As Echo and Frank say in the lesson, there are things that would be unbelievably rude in English -- like telling a waitress to 快点儿 (kuài diǎnr, "make it snappy") -- that are completely innocent and unoffensive here. In general, people will be much more direct with requests, and it can be very off-putting at first. Just remember that different rules apply here, and that people really aren't being unpleasant or malicious -- they just want those noodles as soon as they can get them, and they're asking for them in what is, in Chinese, a completely ordinary and polite fashion. You can make similar requests -- like "a little slower" (màn diǎnr, 慢点儿), or "a little cheaper" (piányi diǎnr, 便宜点儿) by switching out 快 kuài for other adjectives.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #14

## What do you want to drink?

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 14

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 服务员: 您想喝什么?
2. 张飞: 有没有红茶?
3. 服务员: 有。
4. 张飞: 请给我一杯。
5. 服务员: 好。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 服務員: 您想喝甚麼?
2. 張飛: 有沒有紅茶?
3. 服務員: 有。
4. 張飛: 請給我一杯。
5. 服務員: 好。

## PINYIN

1. FÚWÙYUÁN: Nín xiǎng hē shénme?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Yǒu méiyǒu hóngchá?
3. FÚWÙYUÁN: Yǒu.

CONT'D OVER

4. ZHANG FĒI: Qǐng gěi wǒ yī bēi.
5. FÚWÙYUÁN: Hǎo.

## ENGLISH

1. WAITRESS: What do you want to drink?
2. ZHANG FEI: Do you have tea?
3. WAITRESS: Yes, we do.
4. ZHANG FEI: Please give me a glass.
5. WAITRESS: OK.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin      | English      | Class  |
|------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------|
| 喝          | 喝           | hē          | to drink     | verb   |
| 芬达         | 芬達          | fēndá       | fanta        | noun   |
| 水          | 水           | shuǐ        | water        | noun   |
| 橙汁         | 橙汁          | chéngzhī    | orange juice | noun   |
| 雪碧         | 雪碧          | xuěbì       | sprite       | noun   |
| 健怡可乐       | 健怡可樂        | jiànyí kělè | diet coke    | phrase |
| 可口可乐       | 可口可樂        | kěkǒu kělè  | coca cola    | phrase |
| 啤酒         | 啤酒          | píjiǔ       | beer         | noun   |
| 牛奶         | 牛奶          | niúnnǎi     | milk         | noun   |
| 绿茶         | 綠茶          | lǜchá       | green tea    | noun   |

|     |     |            |           |              |
|-----|-----|------------|-----------|--------------|
| 杯   | 杯   | bēi        | cup       | measure word |
| 红茶  | 紅茶  | hóngchá    | black tea | noun         |
| 有没有 | 有沒有 | yǒu méiyǒu | to have   | phrase       |
| 瓶   | 瓶   | píng       | bottle    | measure word |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>再喝点鸡汤, 对身体好。<br/>zài hē diǎn jītāng, duì shēntǐ hǎo.</p> <p>Have some more chicken soup; it's good for you.</p> | <p>我想喝一杯红茶。<br/>Wǒ xiǎng hē yī bēi hóngchá.</p> <p>I want to drink a cup of tea.</p>                       |
| <p>她不喝芬达。<br/>Tā bù hē fēndá.</p> <p>She doesn't want to drink fanta.</p>                                          | <p>我想喝水。<br/>Wǒ xiǎng hē shuǐ.</p> <p>I want to drink water.</p>                                           |
| <p>我只要一杯橙汁。<br/>Wǒ zhǐ yào yī bēi chéngzhī.</p> <p>I just want a glass of orange juice.</p>                        | <p>你喝雪碧吗?<br/>Nǐ hē xuěbì ma?</p> <p>Are you drinking sprite?</p>                                          |
| <p>我要喝健怡可乐。<br/>Wǒ yào hē jiànyí kělè.</p> <p>I want to drink diet coke.</p>                                       | <p>他不喝可口可乐。<br/>Tā bù hē kěkǒu kělè.</p> <p>He doesn't drink coke.</p>                                     |
| <p>喝一瓶啤酒怎么样?<br/>Hē yī píng pījiǔ zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>How about drinking a bottle of beer?</p>                       | <p>他每天都喝三瓶牛奶。<br/>tā měi tiān dōu hē sān píng niúǎi.</p> <p>He drinks three bottles of milk every day.</p> |
| <p>给我一杯牛奶。<br/>Gěi wǒ yī bēi niúǎi.</p> <p>Give me a glass of milk.</p>                                            | <p>我喜欢喝绿茶。<br/>Wǒ xǐhuān hē lǜchá.</p> <p>I like to drink green tea.</p>                                   |
| <p>我想喝一杯咖啡。<br/>Wǒ xiǎng hē yī bēi kāfēi.</p> <p>I want to drink a cup of coffee.</p>                              | <p>我不想喝红茶。<br/>Wǒ bù xiǎng hē hóngchá.</p> <p>I don't want to drink tea.</p>                               |

这儿有没有红茶?  
Zhèr yǒuméiyǒu hóngchá?

Do you have tea here?

我要三瓶啤酒。  
Wǒ yào sān píng píjiǔ.

I want three bottles of beer.

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Note the usage of the more polite form of the second-person pronoun, 您, instead of the more familiar (and much more common) 你. While this is usually only used in formal situations, it doesn't hurt to be familiar with it.

## GRAMMAR

**The key focus of this lesson is on asking questions by taking a verb and its negative together**

One very common way of asking questions in Chinese is by putting the positive form of the verb next to the negative form of the verb -- as in 有没有 (yǒu méiyǒu, have - not-have, or just "is there any" or "do you have"), 是不是 (shì bùshì, is - is-not, or "is it"), or 会不会 (know how to - not-know how to, or "do you know how to"). Be careful, though -- sometimes this can sound a little more impatient than other ways of asking the same question; 你说话吗 (nǐ shuōhuà ma, "Do you speak?") sounds much less angry than 你说不说 (nǐ shuō bù shuō), which sounds like something an interrogator might say to a recalcitrant suspect.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

What mental image the word "tea" calls to mind depends on where and when you grew up. The word that we translate here simply as "tea" in fact means "black tea" -- or, translating the Chinese more literally, "red tea." There are of course a great many varieties of tea in China -- black tea, green tea, oolong tea, and white tea, each with umpteen gazillion subcategories breaking the tea leaves down by region, methods of roasting and drying the leaves, and in some cases specific hillsides. Then there are "teas" that aren't really tea -- jasmine tea, chrysanthemum tea (very nice on a summer's day), and the hearty barley tea popular in Korea, Japan, and parts of northern China. Many people from the tea-growing region of Fujian are especially proud of the diversity of Chinese teas, and will quite happily provide you with a long lesson on the proper appreciation of teas whether you want one or not; our best advice in this case is simply to smile and nod, or (if you're feeling brave) try to stop them in

their tracks by saying you prefer Coke.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #15

## Getting the Bill

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 15

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 服务员!
2. 马丽: 她听不见。
3. 张飞: 服务员! 买单!
4. 马丽: 啊, 她来了。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 服務員!
2. 馬麗: 她聽不見。
3. 張飛: 服務員! 買單!
4. 馬麗: 啊, 她來了。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Fúwùyuán!
2. Mǎ Lì: Tā tīngbùjiàn.
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Fúwùyuán! Mǎidān!
4. Mǎ Lì: ā, tā lái le.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG FEI: Waitress!
2. MA LI: She can't hear you.
3. ZHANG FEI: Waitress! Bill please!
4. MA LI: Ahh, here she comes.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin        | English                    | Class    |
|------------|-------------|---------------|----------------------------|----------|
| 听不见        | 聽不見         | tīngbùjiàn    | not to hear                | phrase   |
| 香港         | 香港          | Xiānggǎng     | Hong Kong                  | noun     |
| 听不清楚       | 聽不清楚        | tīngbùqīngchu | not to hear clearly        | phrase   |
| 看不懂        | 看不懂         | kànbùdǒng     | to be unable to read       | phrase   |
| 听不懂        | 聽不懂         | tīngbùdǒng    | not to understand          | phrase   |
| 了          | 了           | le            | (change of state particle) | particle |
| 服务员        | 服務員         | fúwùyuán      | waiter                     | noun     |
| 买单         | 買單          | mǎidān        | to order the bill          | verb     |
| 来          | 來           | lái           | to come                    | verb     |
| 师傅         | 師傅          | shīfu         | master                     | noun     |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                       |                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>他听不见我的话。<br/>Tā tīngbùjiàn wǒ de huà.</p> <p>He didn't hear what I said.</p>                       | <p>我想去香港。<br/>Wǒ xiǎng qù Xiānggǎng.</p> <p>I want to go to Hong Kong.</p>                 |
| <p>我听不清楚他说的话。<br/>Wǒ tīngbùqīngchǔ tā shuō de huà.</p> <p>I can't hear clearly what he is saying.</p> | <p>我看不懂汉字。<br/>Wǒ kànbùdǒng hànzì.</p> <p>I don't understand Chinese characters.</p>       |
| <p>我听不懂德语。<br/>Wǒ tīngbùdǒng déyǔ.</p> <p>I don't understand German.</p>                              | <p>昨天下雨了。<br/>Zuótiān xià yǔ le.</p> <p>It rained yesterday.</p>                           |
| <p>服务员，买单！<br/>Fúwùyuán, mǎidān!</p> <p>Waiter, the bill!</p>                                         | <p>服务员，给我餐巾纸。<br/>Fúwùyuán, gěi wǒ cānjīnzhǐ.</p> <p>Waitress, can I get some napkins?</p> |
| <p>今天我买单。<br/>Jīntiān wǒ mǎidān.</p> <p>I got the bill today.</p>                                     | <p>他来北京了。<br/>Tā lái Běijīng le.</p> <p>He is coming to Beijing.</p>                       |
| <p>师傅，我要去机场。<br/>Shīfu, wǒ yào qù jīchǎng.</p> <p>Master, I want to go to the airport.</p>            |                                                                                            |

## GRAMMAR

**The key focus of this lesson is on 了 (le) as a change-of-state indicator:**

Earlier, we learned how to use 了 (le) to put sentences into the past tense, as in 我昨天吃饭了 (wǒ zuótiān chī fàn le, I ate yesterday). In this lesson, we see 了 (le) performing its other major duty -- signalling a change of state. When 了 (le) is used in this way, it indicates that whatever is said before it (for example 她来, tā lái, "she comes") was not happening before: a moment ago, she wasn't coming, but now she's coming.

**More on 了 le:**

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It can be tricky sometimes to tell whether 了 (le) is acting to put a phrase into the past tense or whether it's signalling a change of state. Fortunately, context usually comes to the rescue. Although the dialogue in this lesson is a little ambiguous as to whether the waitress "is coming" or "came," it would be obvious to the people speaking simply from the evidence of their own eyes. In addition, time words elsewhere in the sentence can help out a lot too: consider the difference between, say, 她昨天来了 (tā zuótiān lái le, "She came yesterday") and a sentence like "She didn't come here before, 但是现在来了" (dànshì xiànzài lái le, "...but now she comes"). Although 了 can be a bit confusing, practice and context will help you make sense of it.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

In today's lesson, the man addresses the waitress simply as 服务员 fúwùyuán, "waitress," rather than doing something that might be considered, more polite in an English-speaking context. This is quite common, and isn't limited to waitresses; it's also common to refer to people by their job titles, such as 王大夫 (Wáng Dàifu, Doctor Wang), 张老师 (Zhāng Lǎoshī, Teacher Zhang), 李律师 (Lǐ Lǜshī, Lawyer Li), and so on. One wouldn't ever say 王服务员 (Wáng Fúwùyuán, Waitress Wang), but for many other jobs, a reference to the position someone holds -- doctor, lawyer, teacher, manager -- will be used instead of something like "Mr." or "Ms." in English.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #16

## Apple Computers

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## CONTENTS

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

# # 16

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 服务员: 你想要什么?
2. 张飞: 这儿有苹果电脑吗?
3. 服务员: 有。
4. 张飞: 我可以看一看吗?
5. 服务员: 可以。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 服務員: 你想要甚麼?
2. 張飛: 這兒有蘋果電腦嗎?
3. 服務員: 有。
4. 張飛: 我可以看一看嗎?
5. 服務員: 可以。

## PINYIN

1. FÚWÙYUÁN: Nǐ xiǎng yào shénme?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Zhèr yǒu Píngguǒ diànnǎo ma?
3. FÚWÙYUÁN: Yǒu.

CONT'D OVER

4. ZHANG FEI: Wǒ kěyǐ kànyīkàn ma?
5. FÚWÙYUÁN: Kěyǐ.

## ENGLISH

1. STAFF: What do you want?
2. ZHANG FEI: Do you have Apple computers here?
3. STAFF: Yes we do.
4. ZHANG FEI: Can I take a look?
5. STAFF: Yes, you can.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin     | English              | Class   |
|------------|-------------|------------|----------------------|---------|
| 这儿         | 這兒          | zhèr       | here                 | pronoun |
| 苹果         | 蘋果          | píngguǒ    | Apple                | noun    |
| 电脑         | 電腦          | diànnǎo    | computer             | noun    |
| 可以         | 可以          | kěyǐ       | can                  | adverb  |
| 笔记本        | 筆記本         | bǐjìběn    | laptop               | noun    |
| 看一看        | 看一看         | kànyīkàn   | to take a quick look | phrase  |
| 等一等        | 等一等         | děngyīděng | to wait for a moment | phrase  |
| 走一走        | 走一走         | zǒuyīzǒu   | to take a short walk | phrase  |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>这儿有人吗?<br/>Zhèr yǒu rén ma?</p> <p>Is there anyone here?</p>                                                                                                    | <p>我吃了一个苹果。<br/>Wǒ chī le yī ge píngguǒ.</p> <p>I ate an apple.</p>                                                  |
| <p>我上周买了一台新的台式电脑，是苹果的。<br/>Wǒ shàngzhōu mǎile yī tái xīn de táishì diànnǎo, shì Píngguǒ de.</p> <p>I bought a new desktop computer last week. It was an Apple.</p> | <p>我可以走了吗?<br/>Wǒ kěyǐ zǒu le ma?</p> <p>Can I go?</p>                                                               |
| <p>他买了一个笔记本。<br/>Tā mǎi le yī ge bǐjìběn.</p> <p>He bought a notebook.</p>                                                                                         | <p>我想看一看你的电脑，可以吗?<br/>Wǒ xiǎng kànyīkàn nǐ de diànnǎo, kěyǐ ma?</p> <p>Can I take a quick look at your computer?</p> |
| <p>你可以等一等我吗?<br/>Nǐ kěyǐ děngyīděng wǒ ma?</p> <p>Can you wait a moment for me?</p>                                                                                | <p>我们出去走一走，怎么样?<br/>Wǒmen chūqù zǒuyīzǒu, zěnmeyàng?</p> <p>How about we go out for a walk?</p>                      |

## GRAMMAR

**The key focus of this lesson is verb reduplication:**

This lesson introduces a way of modifying verbs through what is called 'reduplication' -- repeating a verb, sometimes with 一 ("one") in between, as in 看一看 (kàn yī kàn; look - one - look, "Take a look"), 等一等 (děng yī děng; wait - one - wait, "Wait a minute"), or 走一走 (zǒu yī zǒu; walk - one - walk, "Take a walk"). This serves to soften the verb somewhat: consider the difference between 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu; we - walk, "Let's go") and 我们走一走 (wǒmen zǒu yī zǒu; "Let's go for a walk").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Fans of Apple computers used to have it pretty tough in China: the cheap'n'easy nature of Windows PCs - and the wealth of software and Chinese-language offerings available for Windows - made Microsoft the hands-down champ in China long ago, and Apple has only

recently started to make inroads. Fans of computing technology in general, however, will have a ball in China: pretty much every city has got at least one 电脑城 (diànnǎo chéng) -- literally, "Computer City" -- or a massive mall chockablock with stalls selling chips, boards, discs, and peripherals of every kind imaginable.

And then there are the big-shots: Baidu, the Chinese answer to Google; Tencent, makers of the QQ chat program, QQ Games, QQ discussion boards and blogs, and pretty much everything else having to do with online interaction; Sina and Sohu and Netease, sort of Chinese analogues for Yahoo, and then of course China Yahoo, the - well - Chinese Yahoo. Hardware makers too: Lenovo you may have heard of, but a myriad other Chinese computer makers compete for business too -- Founder, Great Wall, and Tsinghua Tongfang among the largest. Aigo makes everything from watches to MP3 players to digital cameras to animatronic children's toys. There's a whole computing ecosystem that most people outside China aren't aware of.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #17

## Are you hungry?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 17

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 你们饿了吗?
2. 马丽: 我不太饿。
3. 李芳: 我饿了。
4. 张飞: 我们一起吃饭吧。
5. 马丽、李芳: 好。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 你們餓了嗎?
2. 馬麗: 我不太餓。
3. 李芳: 我餓了。
4. 張飛: 我們一起吃飯吧。
5. 馬麗、李芳: 好。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Nǐmen è le ma?
2. Mǎ Lì: Wǒ bù tài è.
3. Lǐ Fāng: Wǒ è le.

CONT'D OVER

4. ZHANG FĒI: Wǒmen yīqǐ chī fàn ba.
5. Mǎ Lì, Lǐ Fāng: Hǎo.

## ENGLISH

1. ZHANG FEI: Are you hungry?
2. MA LI: Not very.
3. LI FANG: I am.
4. ZHANG FEI: Let's go eat.
5. MA LI, LI FANG: Great.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English               | Class    |
|------------|-------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|
| 一起         | 一起          | yīqǐ     | together              | adverb   |
| 学生         | 學生          | xuéshēng | student               | noun     |
| 孩子         | 孩子          | háizi    | child                 | verb     |
| 他们         | 他們          | tāmen    | they (male)           | pronoun  |
| 她们         | 她們          | tāmen    | they (female)         | pronoun  |
| 你们         | 你們          | nǐmen    | you                   | pronoun  |
| 我们         | 我們          | wǒmen    | we                    | pronoun  |
| 吧          | 吧           | ba       | (suggestive particle) | particle |
| 吃饭         | 吃飯          | chī fàn  | to eat                | phrase   |

|    |    |        |         |      |
|----|----|--------|---------|------|
| 老师 | 老師 | lǎoshī | teacher | noun |
|----|----|--------|---------|------|

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                          |                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 他们一起去吃饭了。<br>Tāmen yìqǐ qù chī fàn le.<br><br>They went to eat together. | 学生们在学习。<br>Xuéshēng men zài xuéxí.<br><br>The students are studying.   |
| 孩子们很高兴。<br>Háizi men hěn gāoxìng.<br><br>The children are very excited.  | 他们要去香港。<br>Tāmen yào qù Xiānggǎng.<br><br>They are going to Hong Kong. |
| 她们很漂亮。<br>Tāmen hěn piàoliang.<br><br>They are very beautiful.           | 你们想去哪儿?<br>Nǐmen xiǎng qù nǎr?<br><br>Where do you want to go?         |
| 我们走吧。<br>Wǒmen zǒu ba.<br><br>Let's go.                                  | 便宜点儿吧。<br>Piányì diǎnr ba.<br><br>Let's make it a bit cheaper.         |
| 快点儿吃饭吧。<br>Kuàidiǎnr chī fàn ba.<br><br>Eat a bit faster.                | 张老师很忙。<br>Zhāng lǎoshī hěn máng.<br><br>Teacher Zhang is very busy.    |

## GRAMMAR

**The key focus of this lesson is the 吧 particle and its uses:**

In the last lesson, we learned how to modify verbs with reduplication. In this lesson, we learn another way to change the tone of a verb -- by using the particle 吧, which goes at the end of a sentence and can sometimes serve as a way of softening a command, as in the difference between 你坐 (nǐ zuò, "Sit") and 你坐吧 (nǐ zuò ba, "Have a seat"). At other times, 吧 ba is used when making a suggestion, as in 我们去吃饭吧 (Wǒmen qù chīfàn ba, "Let's go eat"), or expressing uncertainty, as in 你是中国人吧 (Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ba, "You're

Chinese, right?").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

Eating is a centerpiece of social interaction in China -- whether it's meals with coworkers or family or 饭局 fànjú ("dinner engagement") -- social get-togethers, usually in the private rooms of a restaurant. And you'll be spoiled for choice, as Chinese food offers a rich range of regional styles: the subtle, more Southeast Asian flavors of Yunnan food; the heartier cuisine of the frigid Northeast; the slightly fussy epicureanism of Cantonese cuisine -- the list goes on and on.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #18

## What Shall We Eat

---

## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 18

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 我们吃什么?
2. 马丽: 中国菜?
3. 张飞: 火锅怎么样?
4. 马丽: 太贵了!
5. 张飞: 没关系, 我请客。
6. 马丽: 太好了!

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 我們吃甚麼?
2. 馬麗: 中國菜?
3. 張飛: 火鍋怎麼樣?
4. 馬麗: 太貴了!
5. 張飛: 沒關係, 我請客。
6. 馬麗: 太好了!

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wǒmen chī shénme?

CONT'D OVER

2. Mǎ Lì: Zhōngguó cài?
3. Zhāng Fēi: Huǒguō zěnmeyàng?
4. Mǎ Lì: Tài guì le!
5. Zhāng Fēi: Méi guānxi, wǒ qǐngkè.
6. Mǎ Lì: Tài hǎo le!

## ENGLISH

1. ZHANG FEI: What shall we eat?
2. MA LI: Chinese food?
3. ZHANG FEI: How about hot pot?
4. MA LI: It's too expensive!
5. ZHANG FEI: No worries, I'll treat.
6. MA LI: That's great!

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin       | English      | Class  |
|------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------|
| 吃          | 吃           | chī          | to eat       | verb   |
| 菜          | 菜           | cài          | dish         | noun   |
| 中国菜        | 中國菜         | zhōngguó cài | Chinese food | phrase |

|     |     |            |                  |           |
|-----|-----|------------|------------------|-----------|
| 火锅  | 火鍋  | huǒguō     | hot pot          | noun      |
| 没关系 | 沒關係 | méi guānxi | no problem       | phrase    |
| 请客  | 請客  | qǐngkè     | to treat someone | verb      |
| 泰国  | 泰國  | Tàiguó     | Thailand         | noun      |
| 四川  | 四川  | Sìchuān    | Sichuan          | noun      |
| 烤鸭  | 烤鴨  | kǎoyā      | roast duck       | noun      |
| 点心  | 點心  | diǎnxīn    | dimsum           | noun      |
| 广东  | 廣東  | Guǎngdōng  | Guangdong        | noun      |
| 贵   | 貴   | guì        | expensive        | adjective |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                     |                                                                                               |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 你想吃什么?<br>Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme?<br><br>What do you want to eat?      | 我妈妈做的菜最好吃。<br>wǒ māma zuò de cài zuì hǎo chī.<br><br>The dishes my mother makes are the best. |
| 这个菜很好吃。<br>Zhège cài hěn hǎochī.<br><br>This dish is delicious.     | 我想吃中国菜。<br>Wǒ xiǎng chī Zhōngguó cài.<br><br>I want to eat Chinese food.                      |
| 火锅很好吃。<br>Huǒguō hěn hǎochī.<br><br>Hot pot tastes great.           | 迟到一点儿没关系。<br>Chídào yīdiǎnr méi guānxi.<br><br>It doesn't matter if you're a bit late.        |
| 今天我请客。<br>Jīntiān wǒ qǐngkè.<br><br>I'm treating today.             | 我要吃泰国菜。<br>Wǒ yào chī Tàiguó cài.<br><br>I want to eat Thai food.                             |
| 四川菜太辣了。<br>Sìchuān cài tài là le.<br><br>Sichuan food is too spicy. | 北京烤鸭太贵了。<br>Běijīng kǎoyā tài guì le.<br><br>Beijing Duck is too expensive.                   |

你想吃点心吗?  
Nǐ xiǎng chī diǎnxīn ma?

Do you want to eat dimsum?

我不想吃广东菜。  
Wǒ bù xiǎng chī Guǎngdōng cài.

I don't want to eat Guangdong food.

这个手机很贵。  
Zhège shǒujī hěn guì.

This cellphone is very expensive.

## GRAMMAR

**This lesson is a review of older grammatical structures:**

As Frank mentioned, there's no new grammar in today's lesson. There are a couple of more complex sentences, though, and they're worth looking at and dissecting. One sentence in particular makes for a nice example of this: 张飞现在太忙了 (Zhāng Fēi xiànzài tài máng le).

This is a little more complicated than anything we've tried before, but a closer examination reveals that it's a 太 tài...了 le structure (太忙了 tài máng le, "too busy") wrapped inside a time-words construction (现在 xiànzài...). Chinese allows you to nest these structures one inside the other to create more complicated sentences. Now might be a good time to take a quick look back at previous lessons to see what structures you can pick up, and see what sentences you can make.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

The practice of 请客 qǐng kè -- treating friends or coworkers -- is the norm in China today. Although younger people are becoming increasingly used to the foreign notion of splitting up a check or paying only for their own food, this would traditionally have been considered an extremely rude thing to do, and much of the time people still are going out to eat or drink on someone else's tab -- often in celebration or thanks for something.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #19

## A Drunken Compliment

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# 19

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 美女, 你真漂亮。
2. 马丽: 真的吗?
3. 张飞: 真的, 非常漂亮。
4. 马丽: 你喝多了。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 美女, 你真漂亮。
2. 馬麗: 真的嗎?
3. 張飛: 真的, 非常漂亮。
4. 馬麗: 你喝多了。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Měinǚ, nǐ zhēn piàoliang.
2. Mǎ Lì: Zhēn de ma?
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Zhēn de, fēicháng piàoliang.
4. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ hē duō le.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG FEI: Beautiful lady, you're really pretty.
2. MA LI: Really?
3. ZHANG FEI: Really, you're extremely beautiful.
4. MA LI: You are drunk.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin    | English           | Class       |
|------------|-------------|-----------|-------------------|-------------|
| 美女         | 美女          | měinǚ     | beautiful woman   | noun        |
| 可爱         | 可愛          | kěài      | cute              | adjective   |
| 难看         | 難看          | nánkàn    | ugly              | adjective   |
| 帅哥         | 帥哥          | shuàigē   | handsome man      | noun        |
| 帅          | 帥           | shuài     | handsome          | adjective   |
| 好看         | 好看          | hǎokàn    | good-looking      | adjective   |
| 喝多了        | 喝多了         | hē duō le | to drink too much | verb phrase |
| 非常         | 非常          | fēicháng  | extremely         | adverb      |
| 漂亮         | 漂亮          | piàoliang | pretty            | adjective   |
| 真          | 真           | zhēn      | really            | adverb      |
| 美          | 美           | měi       | beautiful         | adjective   |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                     |                                                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 他的女朋友是个美女。<br>Tā de nǚpéngyou shì gè měinǚ.<br>His girlfriend is a beautiful woman. | 那个孩子非常可爱。<br>Nàge háizi fēicháng kěài.<br>This child is extremely cute. |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|

|                                                                                      |                                                                                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>这个人太难看了。<br/>Zhège rén tài nánkàn le.</p> <p>This person is too ugly.</p>         | <p>他真是个帅哥。<br/>Tā zhēn shì ge shuàigē.</p> <p>He really is a handsome man.</p>                    |
| <p>我的男朋友不帅。<br/>Wǒ de nán péngyou bù shuài.</p> <p>My boyfriend is not handsome.</p> | <p>花园里的花真好看。<br/>huāyuán lǐ de huā zhēn hǎokàn.</p> <p>The flowers in the garden are so nice.</p> |
| <p>我喜欢那些裤子。<br/>Wǒ xǐhuān nàxiē kùzi.</p> <p>I like those pants.</p>                 | <p>那个女孩真好看。<br/>Nàgè nǚhái zhēn hǎokàn.</p> <p>That girl is really good-looking.</p>              |
| <p>他今天喝多了。<br/>Tā jīntiān hē duō le.</p> <p>He drank too much today.</p>             | <p>他非常帅。<br/>Tā fēicháng shuài.</p> <p>He is very handsome.</p>                                   |
| <p>你真漂亮。<br/>Nǐ zhēn piàoliang.</p> <p>You're really beautiful.</p>                  | <p>我真饿。<br/>Wǒ zhēn è.</p> <p>I'm really hungry.</p>                                              |
| <p>那个女孩真美。<br/>Nàgè nǚhái zhēn měi.</p> <p>That girl is really beautiful.</p>        |                                                                                                   |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on the new adverbs of degree 真 (zhēn) and 非常 (fēicháng)**

You've already learned 很 ("very") and 太 ("too"), two of the most common adverbs of degree in Chinese. Today's lesson introduces two new adverbs of degree, 真 (zhēn, "really") and 非常 (fēicháng, "extremely"), which go between the subject and the adjective, just like 很 (hěn) and 不 (bù). In sentences like 今天很好 (Jīntiān hěn hǎo), 很 (hěn) can simply be swapped

out to yield 今天真好 (Jīntiān zhēn hǎo, "Today is really good") and 今天非常好 (Jīntiān fēicháng hǎo, "Today is extremely good"). Also like 很, 真 and 非常 can combine with 不 to intensify the negative -- so you can make sentences like 昨天很不好 (Zuótiān hěn bù hǎo), 昨天真不好 (Zuótiān zhēn bù hǎo), and 昨天非常不好 (Zuótiān fēicháng bù hǎo).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

It's not uncommon for people in China to use words like 美女 (měinǚ - "beautiful woman") or 帅哥 (shuàigē - "handsome older brother") the same way they might use words like 先生 (xiānsheng - "Mister") or 小姐 (xiǎojiě - "Miss") -- as terms of address. Sometimes people in restaurants will call over a waitress by shouting "美女!" (měinǚ) -- this is generally done by men, though women may do it too. It would be considered fairly weird, however, for a man to address a waiter as "帅哥" (shuàigē).

Once people form closer relationships, they will often use family terms to refer to one another, even if they're not actually related -- thus, two male friends might address one another as 兄弟 (xiōngdì, "brother"), and female friends might refer to their 好姐妹 (hǎo jiěmèi, literally "good sisters"). More generally, one can address a man from his father's generation (or thereabouts) as 叔叔 shūshu, "uncle," and to a woman from his mother's generation as 阿姨 āyí, "aunt."

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #20

## Call your mother

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Vocabulary Phrase Usage
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 20

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 爸爸: 给你的妈妈打电话吧。
2. 马丽: 为什么?
3. 爸爸: 她很想你。
4. 马丽: 好, 我会的。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 爸爸: 給你的媽媽打電話吧。
2. 馬麗: 為什麼?
3. 爸爸: 她很想你。
4. 馬麗: 好, 我會的。

## PINYIN

1. BÀBA: Gěi nǐ de māma dǎ diànhuà ba.
2. Mǎ Lì: Wèishénme?
3. BÀBA: Tā hěn xiǎng nǐ.
4. Mǎ Lì: Hǎo, wǒ huì de.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. FATHER: Give your mother a telephone call.
2. MA LI: Why?
3. FATHER: She really misses you.
4. MA LI: Ok. I will.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin     | English             | Class  |
|------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|--------|
| 给          | 給           | gěi        | to give             | verb   |
| 姐姐         | 姐姐          | jiějie     | older sister        | noun   |
| 弟弟         | 弟弟          | dìdi       | younger brother     | noun   |
| 哥哥         | 哥哥          | gēge       | older brother       | noun   |
| 女儿         | 女兒          | nǚér       | daughter            | noun   |
| 儿子         | 兒子          | érzi       | son                 | noun   |
| 爸爸         | 爸爸          | bàba       | father              | noun   |
| 我会的        | 我會的         | wǒ huì de  | I will              | phrase |
| 为什么        | 為什麼         | wèishénme  | why                 | phrase |
| 打电话        | 打電話         | dǎ diànhuà | to dial a telephone | phrase |
| 妈妈         | 媽媽          | māma       | mother              | noun   |
| 妹妹         | 妹妹          | mèimei     | younger sister      | noun   |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                   |                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 给我十块钱。<br>Gěi wǒ shí kuài qián.<br><br>Give me 10 yuan.                           | 我的姐姐非常漂亮。<br>Wǒ de jiějie fēicháng piàoliang.<br><br>My older sister is extremely pretty.       |
| 我的弟弟很帅。<br>Wǒ de dìdì hěn shuài.<br><br>My younger brother is very handsome.      | 我有一个哥哥，两个妹妹。<br>Wǒ yǒu yí gè gēge, liǎng gè mèimèi.<br><br>I have one brother, and two sisters. |
| 他有三个儿子。<br>Tā yǒu sān gè érzi.<br><br>He has three sons.                          | 我的爸爸在美国。<br>Wǒ de bàba zài Měiguó.<br><br>My father is in America.                              |
| 好的，我会的。<br>Hǎo de, wǒ huì de.<br><br>Ok, I will.                                  | 你为什么迟到？<br>Nǐ wèishénme chídào?<br><br>Why are you late?                                        |
| 我明天给你打电话。<br>Wǒ míngtiān gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà.<br><br>I'll give you a call tomorrow. | 我的妈妈很漂亮。<br>Wǒ de māma hěn piàoliang.<br><br>My mother is very pretty.                          |
| 你有妹妹吗？<br>Nǐ yǒu mèimei ma?<br><br>Do you have a younger sister?                  |                                                                                                 |

## VOCABULARY PHRASE USAGE

Notice a use of 想 *xiǎng* here that we haven't seen before: it can also mean "to miss." Whenever it has a noun or a noun phrase as its object, this is what it means.

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on asking *why* with 为什么 *wèishénme*:**

This lesson adds 为什么 (wèishénme), "why?," to our arsenal of question words. (You may notice that 为什么 wèishénme has our old friend 什么 shénme, "what?," inside it: 为什么 wèishénme is more literally "for what," similar to Romance language words for "why?")

One important thing to remember about 为什么 wèishénme is that it doesn't occupy the same sentence position as the other question words we've learned. 什么 shénme and 谁 shéi both go at the end of a sentence -- the opposite word order from English. 为什么 wèishénme goes *almost* at the front of the sentence, in the same way that "why" would in English, but it has to come after the subject -- as in, for example, sentences like 你为什么没给你的妈妈打电话? (Nǐ wèishénme méi gěi nǐ māma dǎ diànhuà -- "You - why - didn't - for - your - mom - call," or simply "Why didn't you call your mother?") or 火锅为什么好吃? (Huǒguō wèishénme hǎochī -- "Hot-pot - why - tasty," or "Why is hot-pot tasty?") This can be counterintuitive at first, but as long as you're aware of the rule, it should be easy enough to get the hang of this.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

There are all kinds of ways of getting in touch with people, of course: young Chinese people can be seen sending each other 短信 (duǎnxìn, "text messages"), chatting online with services like QQ (China's home-grown chat system) and MSN (more popular among young urban professionals), or sending each other notes, photos, and virtual pets over any of an increasing number of social-networking sites like Kaixin, 51.com, Sina, and Sohu. Older people are generally less familiar with the new technologies, however -- even less than they might be in the US -- so the phone is probably your best option. So call your mother -- she misses you.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #21

## The Phone Call

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 2 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 21

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 喂, 马丽在吗?
2. 李芳: 喂? 听不见。喂?
3. 张飞: 我说, 马丽在吗?
4. 李芳: 哦, 她在, 请稍等。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 喂, 馬麗在嗎?
2. 李芳: 喂? 聽不見。喂?
3. 張飛: 我說, 馬麗在嗎?
4. 李芳: 哦, 她在, 請稍等。

## PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wéi, Mǎ Lì zài ma?
2. Lǐ FĀNG: Wéi? Tīngbújiàn. Wèi?
3. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wǒ shuō, Mǎ Lì zài ma?
4. Lǐ FĀNG: O, tā zài, qǐng shāoděng.

## ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG FEI: Hello, is Ma Li there?
2. LI FANG: Hello? I can't hear you. Hello?
3. ZHANG FEI: I said, is Ma Li there?
4. LI FANG: Oh, she's here. Please wait.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin        | English                        | Class      |
|------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|------------|
| 手机         | 手機          | shǒujī        | mobile phone                   | noun       |
| 说          | 說           | shuō          | to say                         | verb       |
| 听不懂        | 聽不懂         | tīngbùdǒng    | not to understand              | verb       |
| 喂          | 喂           | wéi           | hello<br>(answering telephone) | expression |
| 听不清楚       | 聽不清楚        | tīngbùqīngchu | not to hear clearly            | phrase     |
| 是谁         | 是誰          | shì shéi      | who is that                    | phrase     |
| 充值卡        | 充值卡         | chōngzhí kǎ   | recharge card                  | noun       |
| 电话         | 電話          | diànhuà       | phone                          | noun       |
| 稍等         | 稍等          | shāoděng      | to wait a moment               | phrase     |
| 短信         | 短信          | duǎnxìn       | SMS                            | noun       |
| 听不见        | 聽不見         | tīngbùjiàn    | not to hear                    | verb       |
| 电话号码       | 電話號碼        | diànhuà hàomǎ | phone number                   | noun       |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                                |                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>你有手机吗?<br/>Nǐ yǒu shǒujī ma?</p> <p>Do you have a mobile phone?</p>                                         | <p>不好意思,我说错了.<br/>Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ shuō cuò le.</p> <p>Sorry, I said it wrong.</p>          |
| <p>你说的话我听不懂。<br/>Nǐ shuō de huà wǒ tīngbùdǒng.</p> <p>I don't understand what you are saying.</p>              | <p>喂! 你找谁?<br/>Wéi! Nǐ zhǎo shéi?</p> <p>Hello! Who are you looking for?</p>             |
| <p>我听不清楚他的话。<br/>Wǒ tīng bù qīngchǔ tā de huà.</p> <p>I can't hear you clearly.</p>                            | <p>请问, 是谁?<br/>Qǐng wèn, shì shéi?</p> <p>Excuse me, who is that?</p>                    |
| <p>我要一张50块钱的充值卡。<br/>Wǒ yào yì zhāng wǔshí kuài qián de chōngzhí kǎ.</p> <p>I want a 50 RMB recharge card.</p> | <p>你的电话号码是多少?<br/>Nǐ de diànhuà hàomǎ shì duōshǎo?</p> <p>What is your phone number?</p> |
| <p>请稍等一下。<br/>Qǐng shāo děng yí xià.</p> <p>Please wait a moment.</p>                                          | <p>我们短信联系吧。<br/>Wǒmen duǎnxìn liánxi ba.</p> <p>Let's text each other.</p>               |
| <p>你大声点儿, 我听不见。<br/>Nǐ dàshēng diǎnr, wǒ tīng bú jiàn.</p> <p>Speak a bit louder, I can't hear.</p>            | <p>你的电话号码是多少?<br/>Nǐ de diànhuà hàomǎ shì duōshǎo?</p> <p>What is your phone number?</p> |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is talking on the phone:**

In this lesson we focused on answering the phone using the exclamation 喂 wèi. This is used instead of hello on the telephone: it is the first thing you should say regardless of whether you are calling someone else or answering an incoming call. Simple enough? Just be careful of your pronunciation. While your dictionary (and possibly teacher) may insist this word is spoken in the fourth tone, that pronunciation is antiquated and not terribly common. Most people in China will pronounce it as 喂 wéi with the rising second tone. Hello? Can you hear me?

In this lesson we also reviewed our main ways of asking questions. These include why 为什么 (wèishénme), what 什么 (shénme), and who 谁 (shéi). The major difference in usage is that 为什么 (wèishénme) is placed after the subject as in the sentence 你为什么来了 (nǐ wèishénme lái le -- why did you come). The 什么 (shénme) and 谁 (shéi) are placed after our verb, as in the sentences 你想吃什么 (nǐ xiǎng chī shénme -- what would you like to eat) and 她是谁 (tā shì shéi - who is she). We also asked you a trick question, how to ask for someone's phone number. And the trick? In Chinese we ask this by saying 你的电话号码是多少 (nǐ de diànhuàhàomǎ shì duōshǎo -- how much is your phone number).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

China is a paradise for mobile phone lovers. Competition between wireless carriers has kept per-minute charges quite inexpensive, while you can purchase low end phones for under 300 RMB these days. The result is a society where mobile access is pervasive. And if you're sick of the bundled plans that mobile carriers offer out west, you'll breathe a sigh of relief too. Although most carriers offer packages with bundled talktime and SMS, most people use pre-paid cards and pay for just what they use. You can purchase a prepaid SIM card completely anonymously and recharge it by purchasing recharge cards at almost any convenience store nationwide.

One thing to be careful of though - while long distance domestic telephone calls are pretty cheap, international telephone calls are very expensive. Get around the high charges by looking for international IP telephone cards. These require you to dial a 5-digit number and enter a keycode before dialing your destination number, but will cut your per-minute charges to a fraction of a penny. Which makes calling Mom affordable again. And speaking of that, why haven't you called home yet?

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #22

## Asking for Help

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 22

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 马丽: 你有空吗?
2. 张飞: 什么事儿?
3. 马丽: 你可以帮我吗?
4. 张飞: 当然可以。
5. 马丽: 谢谢你。
6. 张飞: 不客气。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 馬麗: 你有空嗎?
2. 張飛: 甚麼事兒?
3. 馬麗: 你可以幫我嗎?
4. 張飛: 當然可以。
5. 馬麗: 謝謝你。
6. 張飛: 不客氣。

## PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ yǒu kòng ma?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Shénme shìr?
3. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ kěyǐ bāng wǒ ma?
4. Zhāng Fēi: Dāngrán kěyǐ.
5. Mǎ Lì: Xièxiè nǐ.
6. Zhāng Fēi: Bú kèqì.

## ENGLISH

1. MA LI: Do you have time?
2. ZHANG FEI: What's the matter?
3. MA LI: Can you help me?
4. ZHANG FEI: Sure.
5. MA LI: Thank you.
6. ZHANG FEI: My pleasure.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin | English | Class |
|------------|-------------|--------|---------|-------|
|------------|-------------|--------|---------|-------|

|     |     |           |                               |        |
|-----|-----|-----------|-------------------------------|--------|
| 有空  | 有空  | yǒu kòng  | to have free time, to be free | phrase |
| 事儿  | 事兒  | shìr      | matter; problem               | noun   |
| 派出所 | 派出所 | pàichūsuǒ | police station                | noun   |
| 警察  | 警察  | jǐngchá   | police                        | noun   |
| 救命  | 救命  | jiùmìng   | help                          | verb   |
| 医院  | 醫院  | yīyuàn    | hospital                      | noun   |
| 医生  | 醫生  | yīshēng   | doctor                        | noun   |
| 不客气 | 不客氣 | bùkèqi    | you are welcome               | phrase |
| 当然  | 當然  | dāngrán   | of course                     | adverb |
| 帮   | 幫   | bāng      | to help                       | verb   |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                    |                                                                                 |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 马克在上午都有空。<br>Mǎkè zài shàngwǔ dōu yǒukòng .<br>Mark is always free in the morning. | 你今天晚上有空吗？<br>Nǐ jīntiān wǎnshàng yǒu kòng ma?<br>Do you have time this evening? |
| 什么事儿？<br>Shénme shìr?<br>What's the matter?                                        | 我想去派出所。<br>Wǒ xiǎng qù pàichūsuǒ.<br>I want to go to the police station.        |
| 给警察打电话。<br>Gěi jǐngchá dǎ diànhuà.<br>Give the police a telephone call.            | 来人哪，救命！<br>Lái rén na, jiùmìng!<br>Please come, help!                           |

|                                                                                      |                                                                               |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>这里不是医院。<br/>Zhèlǐ bú shì yīyuàn.</p> <p>This is not a hospital.</p>               | <p>医生在吗？<br/>Yīshēng zài ma?</p> <p>Is the doctor in?</p>                     |
| <p>这没什么，不客气。<br/>Zhè méi shénme, bú kèqì.</p> <p>It's nothing, don't mention it.</p> | <p>我当然可以帮你。<br/>Wǒ dāngrán kěyǐ bāng nǐ.</p> <p>Of course I can help you.</p> |
| <p>你帮我一下儿，好吗？<br/>Nǐ bāng wǒ yí xiàr, hǎo ma?</p> <p>Help me for a bit, ok?</p>      |                                                                               |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is using 可以 kěyǐ**

This lesson introduces a new way to say "can" -- 可以 (kěyǐ). Unlike 会 (huì), which we learned earlier, 可以 (kěyǐ) is mainly used to ask for or grant permission to do something, whereas 会 (huì) refers to the knowledge of how to do something. Thus, one might ask 你可以给我打电话吗 (Nǐ kěyǐ gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà ma, "Can you call me?"), but not 你会给我打电话吗 (Nǐ huì gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà ma, "Do you know how to call me?").

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

While 什么事儿 (shénme shì'er) literally means "what's the matter," it just as frequently is used to mean "what's up," rather than "what's wrong." It may sound somewhat abrupt translated into English, but in Chinese it is a perfectly natural, polite way to ask a question.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #23

## A Concerned Friend

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 3 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 23

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 王林: 你怎么了?
2. 张飞: 没事儿, 没事儿。
3. 王林: 告诉我, 你怎么了。
4. 张飞: 真的没事儿。
5. 王林: 好, 算了。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 王林: 你怎麼了?
2. 張飛: 沒事兒, 沒事兒。
3. 王林: 告訴我, 你怎麼了。
4. 張飛: 真的沒事兒。
5. 王林: 好, 算了。

## PINYIN

1. WÁNG LÍN: Nǐ zěnmē le?
2. Zhāng Fēi: Méishìr, méishìr.
3. WÁNG LÍN: Gàosù wǒ, nǐ zěnmē le.

CONT'D OVER

4. ZHANG FĒI: Zhēn de méishìr.

5. WANG LÍN: Hǎo, suànle.

## ENGLISH

1. WANG LIN: What's the matter?

2. ZHANG FEI: There's nothing wrong.

3. WANG LIN: Tell me. What's wrong?

4. ZHANG FEI: There's really no problem.

5. WANG LIN: Ok, forget it.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin    | English      | Class  |
|------------|-------------|-----------|--------------|--------|
| 告诉         | 告訴          | gàosù     | to tell      | verb   |
| 非常         | 非常          | fēicháng  | extremely    | adverb |
| 知道         | 知道          | zhīdào    | to know      | verb   |
| 算了         | 算了          | suànle    | never mind   | phrase |
| 饭馆         | 飯館          | fànguǎn   | restaurant   | noun   |
| 最近         | 最近          | zuìjìn    | recently     | adverb |
| 怎么样        | 怎麼樣         | zěnmeyàng | what's up    | phrase |
| 怎么了        | 怎麼了         | zěngle    | what's wrong | phrase |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                       |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 她告诉了我一个秘密。<br>Tā gàosù le wǒ yíge mìmì.<br><br>She told me a secret.                  | 我已经告诉她了。<br>Wǒ yǐjīng gàosù tā le.<br><br>I already told her.                                      |
| 他非常帅。<br>Tā fēicháng shuài.<br><br>He is very handsome.                               | 我知道这件事。<br>Wǒ zhīdào zhè jiàn shì.<br><br>I know about this.                                       |
| 算了，我们下星期去吧。<br>Suàn le, wǒmen xià xīngqī qù ba.<br><br>Forget it, we'll go next week. | 我经常去那个饭馆吃饭。<br>Wǒ jīngcháng qù nàgè fànguǎn chīfàn.<br><br>I often go to that restaurant to eat.   |
| 你最近还好吗?<br>nǐ zuìjìn hái hǎo ma?<br><br>How have you been lately?                     | 他最近只吃素食了。<br>Tā zuìjìn zhǐ chī sùshí le.<br><br>Recently, he has only been eating vegetarian food. |
| 你最近怎么样?<br>Nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?<br><br>How have you been lately?                      | Frank，你怎么了?<br>Frank, nǐ zěnmē le?<br><br>Frank, what's wrong?                                     |

## GRAMMAR

**The focus of this lesson is on implied grammatical subjects:**

In Chinese, the subject of a sentence can be left out if it has already been made clear, allowing for exchanges like

A: 你喜欢看书吗? (Nǐ xǐhuān kàn shū ma - "Do you like reading books?")

B: 不喜欢。 (Bù xǐhuān - "[I] Don't like [reading books].")

In fact, the question can be made even shorter - 喜欢看书吗? (Xǐhuān kàn shū ma?) - if it's already clear that the conversation is about Person B. On the other hand, if the conversation has been about somebody else up to this point, then the shorter question 喜欢看书吗? (Xǐhuān kàn shū ma?) will be understood to be about that person instead:

A: 她很漂亮，是不是？ (Tā hěn piàoliang, shì bú shì? - She's very pretty, isn't she?)

B: 是的。 (Shì de. - Yes.)

A: 喜欢看书吗？ (Xǐhuan kàn shū ma? - Does [she] like reading books?)

B: 不知道。 (Bù zhīdao. - [I] don't know.)

A: 你呢？喜欢不喜欢看书？ (Nǐ ne? Xǐhuān kàn shū ma? - And you? Do [you] like reading books?)

B: 不喜歡。 (Bù xǐhuān. - [I] don't like [reading books].)

In normal speech, people will often not have an explicit subject for a sentence if it's already clear -- which makes it important to keep your ears peeled up so you don't miss a quick change of subjects.

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

The reaction you get to 怎么了 (zěnmē le) will be dictated by how you put it out there. As in English, its meaning can shift from "what's the matter?" to "what's your problem?" very quickly. Say it gently and you're expressing genuine concern. Say it with a bit more force and you're telling someone to back off!

And while we're on the subject of incredibly useful phrases, we have to call attention to 没事儿 (méishìr). The meaning of this phrase is a lot less ambiguous - if you use it you're telling people there's no problem at all. There are a lot of times in China when you might run into seemingly insurmountable obstacles that could be solved with a bit of initiative on either your part, or the part of the person you're speaking too. Try this out and see what happens.

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #24

## Here's your key

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 5 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 24

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 王林: 这是你的钥匙.
2. 张飞: 对不起, 我听不懂。
3. 王林: 它可以开门。
4. 张飞: 哦, a key。
5. 王林: 对。Key, 钥匙。
6. 张飞: 谢谢你。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 王林: 這是你的鑰匙。
2. 張飛: 對不起, 我聽不懂。
3. 王林: 它可以開門。
4. 張飛: 哦, a key。
5. 王林: 對。Key, 鑰匙。
6. 張飛: 謝謝你。

## PINYIN

1. WÁNG LÍN: Zhè shì nǐ de yàoshi.

CONT'D OVER

2. ZHĀNG FĒI: Duìbuqǐ, wǒ tīngbudǒng.
3. WÁNG LÍN: Tā kěyǐ kāi mén.
4. ZHĀNG FĒI: ò, a key.
5. WÁNG LÍN: Duì. Key, yàoshi.
6. ZHĀNG FĒI: Xièxie nǐ.

## ENGLISH

1. WANG LIN: This is your key.
2. ZHANG FEI: I'm sorry. I cannot understand.
3. WANG LIN: You can open the door with it.
4. ZHANG FEI: Oh! A key.
5. WANG LIN: Yes. Key, yàoshi.
6. ZHANG FEI: Thank you.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English          | Class |
|------------|-------------|----------|------------------|-------|
| 门卡         | 門卡          | ménkǎ    | door card        | noun  |
| 出租车        | 出租車         | chūzūchē | taxi             | noun  |
| 开门         | 開門          | kāi mén  | to open the door | verb  |

|      |      |            |                                            |                       |
|------|------|------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 把    | 把    | bǎ         | measure word<br>for things with<br>handles | measure word          |
| 对不起  | 對不起  | duìbuqǐ    | sorry                                      | phrase                |
| 灯    | 燈    | dēng       | light                                      | noun                  |
| 关门   | 關門   | guān mén   | to close a door                            | verb                  |
| 它    | 它    | tā         | it                                         | pronoun               |
| 不好意思 | 不好意思 | bùhǎo yìsi | excuse me                                  | phrase,<br>expression |
| 对    | 對    | duì        | right                                      | adjective             |
| 钥匙   | 鑰匙   | yàoshi     | key                                        | noun                  |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>这是您的门卡。<br/>Zhè shì nín de ménkǎ.</p> <p>This is your door card.</p>                                            | <p>出租车很方便。<br/>Chūzūchē hěn fāngbiàn.</p> <p>Taxis are convenient.</p>                           |
| <p>我们坐出租车吧。<br/>Wǒmen zuò chūzūchē ba.</p> <p>Let's take a taxi.</p>                                               | <p>请开门，我要进来。<br/>Qǐng kāimén, wǒ yào jìnlái.</p> <p>Please open the door. I want to come in.</p> |
| <p>我买了三把椅子。<br/>Wǒ mǎi le sān bǎ yǐzi.</p> <p>I bought three chairs.</p>                                           | <p>对不起，我错了。<br/>Duìbùqǐ, wǒ cuò le.</p> <p>I'm sorry. I made a mistake.</p>                      |
| <p>男人开了灯。<br/>nánrén kāile dēng.</p> <p>The man turned on the light.</p>                                           | <p>别关灯。<br/>Bié guāndēng.</p> <p>Don't turn off the light.</p>                                   |
| <p>已经十点了，请关灯。<br/>Yǐjīng shídiǎn le, qǐng guāndēng.</p> <p>It's already 10 o'clock. Please turn off the light.</p> | <p>我们11点关门。<br/>Wǒmen shíyī diǎn guānmén.</p> <p>We close at 11 o'clock.</p>                     |

|                                                                                                        |                                                                                            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 请关门，我很冷。<br>Qǐng guānmén, wǒ hěn lěng.<br>Please close the door. I'm cold.                             | 它在中国。<br>Tā zài Zhōngguó.<br>It is in China.                                               |
| 它在哪儿？<br>Tā zài nǎr?<br>Where is it?                                                                   | 不好意思，你见过我的狗吗？<br>Bùhǎoyìsi , nǐ jiànguò wǒ de gǒu ma ?<br>Excuse me, have you seen my dog? |
| 不好意思，请再说一遍，好吗？<br>Bùhǎoyìsi, qǐng zài shuō yī biàn, hǎo ma?<br>Excuse me, please say that again, okay? | 你说的对。<br>Nǐ shuōdeduì.<br>You're right.                                                    |
| 这是前门的钥匙。<br>zhè shì qiánmén de yàoshi .<br>This is the key to the front door.                          | 我的钥匙在哪儿？<br>Wǒ de yàoshi zài nǎr?<br>Where is my key?                                      |

## GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is 这 (zhè) and 那 (nà):

"This" 这 (zhè) and "that" 那 (nà) frequently have a measure word after them, and in constructions like "this [NOUN]," there is always a measure word between 这 zhè/那 nà and the noun. Therefore, one can say 这是我的猫 (Zhè shì wǒ de māo -- This is my cat), but would need a measure word for a wordier sentence like 这只猫是我的猫 (Zhè zhī māo shì wǒ de māo -- This cat is my cat) -- note the use of the measure word 只 here. The same pattern holds true for phrases like 那是我的朋友 (Nà shì wǒ de péngyou -- That is my friend) versus 那个人是我的朋友 (Nà ge rén shì wǒ de péngyou -- That person is my friend).

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

In some Chinese hotels, the door card that opens your door is also inserted into a slot in the wall when you enter to turn on the lights. Remove the card and you've got about 30 seconds before everything in the room shuts off. It's a great energy-saving technique to make sure you don't run up their electric bill while you're out of the building!

## LESSON NOTES

# Beginner S1 #25

## What's wrong?

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## CONTENTS

- 2 Simplified Chinese
- 2 Traditional Chinese
- 2 Pinyin
- 3 English
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Sample Sentences
- 4 Grammar
- 5 Cultural Insight

# # 25

## SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张飞: 你不高兴吗?
2. 马丽: 嗯, 我不高兴。
3. 张飞: 为什么?
4. 马丽: 你不爱我。
5. 张飞: 但是我很喜欢你。
6. 马丽: 但是你不爱我。

## TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張飛: 你不高興嗎?
2. 馬麗: 嗯, 我不高興。
3. 張飛: 為什麼?
4. 馬麗: 你不愛我。
5. 張飛: 但是我很喜歡你。
6. 馬麗: 但是你不愛我。

## PINYIN

1. ZHANG FĒI: Nǐ bù gāoxìng ma?

CONT'D OVER

2. Mǎ Lì: Ng, wǒ bù gāoxìng.
3. Zhāng Fēi: Wèishénme?
4. Mǎ Lì: Nǐ bù ài wǒ.
5. Zhāng Fēi: Dànshì wǒ hěn xǐhuan nǐ.
6. Mǎ Lì: Dànshì nǐ bù ài wǒ.

## ENGLISH

1. ZHANG FEI: Are you unhappy?
2. MA LI: Ng, I'm not happy.
3. ZHANG FEI: Why?
4. MA LI: You don't love me.
5. ZHANG FEI: But I like you very much.
6. MA LI: But you don't love me.

## VOCABULARY

| Simplified | Traditional | Pinyin   | English     | Class       |
|------------|-------------|----------|-------------|-------------|
| 但(是)       | 但(是)        | dàn(shì) | but         | conjunction |
| 韩国         | 韓國          | Hánguó   | South Korea | noun        |
| 可是         | 可是          | kěshì    | but         | conjunction |

|    |    |         |         |             |
|----|----|---------|---------|-------------|
| 不过 | 不過 | búguò   | but     | conjunction |
| 恨  | 恨  | hèn     | to hate | verb        |
| 喜欢 | 喜歡 | xǐhuan  | to like | verb        |
| 高兴 | 高興 | gāoxìng | happy   | adjective   |
| 爱  | 愛  | ài      | to love | verb        |

## SAMPLE SENTENCES

|                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>他想来，但是太晚了。<br/>Tā xiǎng lái, dànshì tài wǎn le.</p> <p>He wants to come, but it's too late.</p>                    | <p>你喜欢吃韩国菜吗?<br/>Nǐ xǐhuan chī Hánguó cài ma?</p> <p>Do you like Korean food?</p>                                                                                          |
| <p>我喜欢你，可是我不爱你。<br/>Wǒ xǐhuan nǐ, kěshì wǒ bù ài nǐ.</p> <p>I like you, but I don't love you.</p>                     | <p>我知道你很忙，不过你可以给我的<br/>律师打电话吗?<br/>Wǒ zhīdào nǐ hěn máng, búguò nǐ kěyǐ gěi wǒ de<br/>lǜshī dǎ diànhuà ma?</p> <p>I know you are busy. But can you call my<br/>lawyer?</p> |
| <p>我喜欢吃火锅，不过太贵了。<br/>Wǒ xǐhuān chī huǒguō, búguò tài guì le.</p> <p>I like to eat hotpot, but it's too expensive.</p> | <p>我恨你。<br/>Wǒ hèn nǐ.</p> <p>I hate you.</p>                                                                                                                              |
| <p>我喜欢看电影。<br/>wǒ xǐhuan kàn diànyǐng.</p> <p>I like to watch movies.</p>                                             | <p>我今天非常高兴。<br/>Wǒ jīntiān fēicháng gāoxìng.</p> <p>I'm extremely happy today.</p>                                                                                         |
| <p>我爱我的妈妈。<br/>Wǒ ài wǒ de māma.</p> <p>I love my mother.</p>                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                            |

## GRAMMAR

## The focus of this lesson is 但是 (dànshì):

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"But" (但是 dànshì) along with its siblings "and" (和 hé) and "or" (还是 háishi), is a conjunction -- that is, it lets you string together simpler thoughts into longer, more complex sentences. While the other two have certain subtle differences from their English counterparts, 但是 (dànshì) works exactly the same way as the English word "but." You can use it in sentences of the form "[Thing A] but [Thing B]," such as 我很想看电影, 但是我没有钱 (Wǒ hěn xiǎng kàn diànyǐng, dànshì wǒ méi qián -- "I'd really like to see a movie, but I don't have money"), or at the start of a response, as in the dialogue --

但是我很喜欢你。(Dànshì wǒ hěn xǐhuan nǐ -- "But I like you very much.")

但是你不爱我。(Dànshì nǐ bù ài wǒ -- "But you don't love me.")

With this and the other words you've learned so far, you're now moving past the "See Spot Run" stage and well on your way towards constructing rich, complex sentences. Congratulations!

## CULTURAL INSIGHT

As if interpersonal relationships weren't complicated enough, with the word 爱 (ài) being used more sparingly in China, some people use 喜欢 (xǐhuan) as though it were the same thing, reserving the big gun for much later in the courtship! Of course, consider yourself lucky that you're learning Mandarin. Some Chinese dialects don't have a word for love *at all*.



|    |                        |    |                            |
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