

This learning material contains eight topics at elementary level including Greetings, Introduce Yourself, Family, Birthday, Hobbies, Treat Friends to a Drink, Order Drinks/Food, Getting around. Key grammar patterns and vocabulary are presented in Chinese and English in the Word documents. Audio recordings are available.

	Topics	Pinyin	English	Chinese	Notes
1	Greetings	Nǐ hǎo	Hello	你好!	
		Nín hǎo	How do you do?	您好!	您好 Nín hǎo is a honorific form
		Zàijiàn	Bye	再见。	
		Xièxie	Thanks!	谢谢!	
		Duìbuqǐ	Sorry	对不起。	
2	Introduce yourself	Nǐ jiào shénme	What's your name?	你叫什么?	The verb 叫 jiào means 'to be called' and can be followed by one's full name or given name.
		Wǒ jiào	My name is.../I'm called	我叫...。	我 wǒ I/me, 你 nǐ you, 他 tā he/him, 她 tā she/her
		Nǐ xìng shénme	What's your surname?	你姓什么?	
		Wǒ xìng Lǐ	My surname is Li.	我姓李。	The verb 姓 xìng is followed by one's surname.
		Nǐ ne	What about you/And you?	你呢?	呢 ne can be used to return a question that the speaker has just asked e.g. 我叫 Jonny. 你呢? nǐ ne My name is Jonny. What's yours?
	Nationality	Wǒ shì Yīngguó rén	I'm British.	我是英国人。	To speak about one's nationality, use Country + 人 rén e.g. 英国 Yīngguó Britain; 英国人 Yīngguó rén British (See Appendix 1)
		Tā bú shì Zhōngguó rén	He is not Chinese.	他不是中国人。	The negation word 不 bù is used before the verb 是 shì to be. Usually, 是 is not used before adjectives e.g. 我很好。Wǒ hěn hǎo I'm very well 我很忙。Wǒ hěn máng I'm very busy
		Tā shì Yīngguó rén ma	Is he British?	他是英国人吗?	吗 can be used at the end of a sentence to form a yes/no question.

3	Family	Wǒ yǒu	I have ...	我有	The verb 有 yǒu means 'to have' or 'to possess'
		Nǐ yǒu jiějie ma	Do you have an older sister?	你有姐姐吗?	See Appendix 2 for kinship terms
		Wǒ yǒu yí gè jiějie	I have an older sister.	我有一个姐姐。	个 gè is a measure word to indicate counting units e.g. 一个姐姐 yí gè jiějie an/one older sister; 两个姐姐 liǎng gè jiějie two older sisters; 三个姐姐 sān gè jiějie three older sisters. 两 liǎng instead of 二 èr is used before the measure word.
		Tā méi yǒu jiějie	She does not have any older sister.	她没有姐姐。	Unlike the verb 是 shì, 有 yǒu is always negated with 没 méi
		Wǒ jiā yǒu sān kǒu rén	There're three people in my family.	我家有三口人。	口 kǒu is a measure word, can be used after the number of family members.
		Wǒ gēge jiào...	My older brother's name is.../my older brother is called	我哥哥叫	
		Wǒ bàba shì lǎoshī	My dad is a teacher.	我爸爸是老师。	老师 lǎoshī teacher
		Wǒ jiějie yě shì lǎoshī	My older sister is also a teacher.	我姐姐也是老师。	The adverb 也 yě is used before the verb 是 shì and means 'also'
4	Birthday	Shēng rì kuài lè	Happy birthday!	生日快乐!	
		Jīntiān shì wǒ de shēngrì	It's my birthday today.	今天是我的生日。	
		Wǒ de shēngrì shì bā yuè wǔ hào	My birthday is on 5 <sup>th</sup> August.	我的生日是八月五号。	月 yuè the month; 号 hào the day of the month e.g. 一月一号 yī yuè yī hào 1 <sup>st</sup> January; 二月十四号 èr yuè shí sì hào 14 <sup>th</sup> February; 十二月八号 shí èr yuè bā hào 8 <sup>th</sup> December (See Appendix 3 Date and Time)
5	Hobbies	Wǒ xǐhuan	I like...	我喜欢	

		Wǒ mèimei xǐhuan tiàowǔ	My younger sister likes dancing.	我妹妹喜欢跳舞。	See Appendix 4 words for hobbies
		Nǐ xǐhuan tiàowǔ ma	Do you like dancing?	你喜欢跳舞吗？	
		Wǒ yě xǐhuan tiàowǔ	I like dancing too.	我也喜欢跳舞。	也 yě is used before the verb xǐhuan and means 'also'
		Wǒ bù xǐhuan dǎqiú	I don't like playing ball games.	我不喜欢打球。	The negation word 不 bù is used before the verb 喜欢 xǐhuan
6	Treating friends to a drink/a meal	Wǒ qǐngkè	My treat!	我请客。	
		Wǒ qǐng nǐ hē kāfēi	I treat you to a coffee.	我请你喝咖啡。	The verb 请 qǐng means to invite, to treat someone
		Wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn	I treat you to a meal.	我请你吃饭。	
		Zěnmeyàng	How about it?	怎么样？	
		Tài hǎo le	Great!	太好了！	Adjectives can be put between 太...了 to indicate an extreme degree e.g. 太贵了！ tài guì le too expensive 太忙了！ tài máng le too busy
	Rejecting an invite	Duìbuqǐ wǒ yǒu shìr	Sorry, I have something to do.	对不起，我有事儿。	
7	Ordering drinks/food	Nǐ xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme	What would you like to drink?	你想喝（点儿）什么？	
		Wǒ yào... ba	I want/I'd like	我要...（吧）。	吧 ba can be used at the end of a sentence to soften the tone.
		Wǒ yào yì bēi chá	I want a cup of tea.	我要一杯茶。	杯 bēi is a measure word e.g. 一杯茶 yì bēi chá a cup of tea; 一杯可乐 yì bēi kělè a glass of cola; 两杯水 liǎng bēi shuǐ two glasses of water
		Yǒu méi yǒu kělè	(Do you) have any cola?	有没有可乐？	
	Compliment	Hǎo hē	Nice to drink	好喝！	

		gān bēi	Cheers!	干杯!	
	Ordering food	Nǐ xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme	What would you like to eat?	你想吃(点儿)什么?	吃 chī to eat
		Wǒ chī sù	I'm vegetarian	我吃素。	
		Wǒ bù chī ròu	I don't eat meat	我不吃肉。	The negation word 不 bù is used before the verb 吃 chī to eat
		Wǒ yào yí gè chǎo fàn	I want one portion of fried rice	我要一个炒饭。	See Appendix 5 for ordering food/drinks
	Compliment	Hǎo chī	Nice to eat/Tasty	好吃!	
		Bù hǎo chī	Not tasty	不好吃!	
		Tài là le	Too spicy!	太辣了!	Adjectives can be put between 太...了 to indicate an extreme degree e.g. 太贵了! tài guì le too expensive 太忙了! tài máng le too busy
	Paying the bill	Duō shǎo qián	How much is it?	多少钱?	钱 qián money
		Mǎi dān	Bill please	买单。	
		Kěyǐ shuā kǎ ma	(Can I) pay by card?	可以刷卡吗?	
		Kěyǐ	Yes, you can.	可以。	
	Bargaining	Tài guì le	Too expensive!	太贵了!	
		Piányi yì diǎnr	(Can you) make it cheaper?	便宜(一)点儿。	便宜 piányi cheap
8	Getting around	Wǒ yào mǎi yì zhāng piào	I want to buy a ticket.	我要买一张票。	买 mǎi to buy, 票 piào ticket
		Wǒ yào qù jīchǎng	I want to go to the airport	我要去机场	机场 jīchǎng airport
		Dǎ chē	Take a taxi	打车	You can also say 打的 dǎdi to take a taxi
		Zuò dìtiě	Take the Metro	坐地铁	
		jǐ diǎn kāi	What time to depart/to leave?	几点开?	

		liǎng diǎn kāi	Departs at 2 o'clock	两点开。	两 liǎng instead of 二 èr is used before the measure word 点. 两点 liǎngdiǎn 2 o'clock. See Appendix 3
	Taking the Metro	Jǐ hào xiàn	Which line?	几号线?	
		Zuò jǐ hào xiàn	Which line to take?	坐几号 线?	
		Qù jīchǎng, zuò jǐ hào xiàn	Which line goes to the airport?	去机场, 坐几号 线?	
		Èr hào xiàn	Line 2	2 号线。	