

Greetings — Hello

问候 打招呼

01 Intro

Learn Chinese **greetings** and how to say "I / you" and other pronouns. The key point is **choosing the right greeting** depending on who you're talking to (a friend, a customer, a teacher). By the end, you'll also be able to **introduce yourself** with "I am ~."

02 Words

1 你 (pron.)

nǐ

you

2 您 (pron.)

nín

you (polite form of 你)

3 好 (adj.)

hǎo

good

4 我 (pron.)

wǒ

I, me

5 他 (pron.)

tā

he, him

6 是 (v.)

shì

to be, is/am/are

7 吗 (part.)
ma
question particle (more in
Lesson 9)

8 老师 (n.)
lǎoshī
teacher

9 谢谢 (v.)
xièxie
thank you

10 欢迎 (v.)
huānyíng
to welcome, welcome

03 Patterns

1 nǐ hǎo
你好！ | Hello.

2 nín hǎo
您好！ | Hello (to someone senior).

3 lǎoshī hǎo
老师好！ | Hello, teacher.

4 wǒ shì Tiánzhōng
我是田中。 | I am Tanaka.

5 nǐ shì Tiánzhōng ma
你是田中吗？ | Are you Tanaka?

04 Dialog

SCENE Nice to meet you

Tiánzhōng
田中

Tanaka

lǎoshī hǎo
老师好！

Wáng lǎoshī
王老师

Teacher Wang

nǐ hǎo nǐ shì Tiánzhōng ma
你好！你是田中吗？

Tiánzhōng
田中

Tanaka

shì wǒ shì Tiánzhōng
是，我是田中。

Wáng lǎoshī
王老师

Teacher Wang

huānyíng nǐ
欢迎你！

05 Grammar

Grammar Point

Choosing greetings by audience / "A 是 B (A is B)"

In Chinese, greetings basically change depending on who you're addressing. Start by learning these three ways to say "hello."

① Choosing the right greeting

你好 is for friends, peers, and first meetings. **您好** is the polite form for seniors and customers. To a teacher, **老师好** sounds the most natural.

① ^{nǐ hǎo}
你好！

To a friend or at a first meeting.

② ^{nín hǎo}
您好！

Politely, to a customer or someone older.

③ ^{lǎoshī hǎo}
老师好！

To a teacher. To a teacher, "老师好" is more natural than "你好."

Note: The standard greeting to a teacher is 老师好. "你好" works too, but "老师好" conveys more respect and sounds more natural.

② **Personal pronouns and "A 是 B"**

我 (I) / 你 (you) / 您 (you, polite) / 他 (he). The pattern "A 是 B" expresses "A is B."

① ^{wǒ shì Tiánzhōng}
我是田中。

I am Tanaka.

② ^{tā shì lǎoshī}
他是老师。

He is a teacher.

Service tip: With customers and older people, using ^{nín}您 instead of "你" is polite and makes a good impression.

06 Practice

1 Try giving the greeting that fits the person.

friend→你好 / *customer*→您好 / *teacher*→老师好

2 Introduce yourself by putting your own name into "我是^{wǒ shì}○○。"

3 In pairs, practice "^{nǐ shì}你是○○^{ma}吗?" / "^{shì}是, ^{wǒ shì}我是○○。"

07 Translation

Dialog — Reference Translation

Tanaka Hello, teacher.

Teacher Hello. Are you Tanaka?

Wang

Tanaka Yes, I am Tanaka.

Teacher Welcome!

Wang