

Hello!

nǐ hǎo xièxiè zàijiàn
你好！ 谢谢！ 再见！

This is your very first Chinese lesson! Let's learn how to say hello, and say it cheerfully to your teacher and friends.

abc

Getting Started — The Sounds of Chinese

Chinese has **pinyin** (the way to read a word, written in the alphabet) and **the four tones** (4 heights of sound). Don't write it in katakana — let's learn it with pinyin.

m + **a** + **—** → **妈 mā**
consonant vowel tone mother

Tone 1

mā

妈

→ high & flat

mother

Tone 2

má

麻

↗ rising

hemp

Tone 3

mǎ

马

↘ ↗ down then up

horse

Tone 4

mà

骂

↘ falling

to scold



New Words

你

1

nǐ

you

好

2

hǎo

good · well

老师

3

lǎoshī

teacher

是

4

shì

to be (am/is/are)

谢谢

5

xièxie

thank you

不客气

6

bú kèqì

you're welcome

对不起

7

duìbuqǐ

I'm sorry

没关系

8

méi guānxi

it's okay

再见

9

zàijiàn

goodbye

Can You Say It?

1

nǐ hǎo
你好！

Hello!

2

lǎo shī hǎo
老师好！

Hello, teacher!

3

xiè xie
谢谢！

Thank you!

4

bú kè qì
不客气。

You're welcome.

5

duì bu qǐ
对不起。

I'm sorry.

méiguān xi

没关系。

6

It's okay.

zài jiàn

再见！

7

Goodbye!



Story



SCENE 1 — Morning, in the classroom



lǎoshī
老师

nǐ hǎo wǒ shì wáng lǎo shī
你好！我是王 老师。

= Hello! I'm Teacher Wang.



xiǎomíng
小明

lǎo shī hǎo
老师好！

= Hello, teacher!



xiǎohóng
小红

lǎo shī hǎo
老师好！

= Hello, teacher!



lǎoshī
老师

nǐ hǎo
你好！

= Hello!

SCENE 2 — Goodbye



xiǎomíng
小明

xiè xiè lǎo shī zài jiàn
谢谢老师！再见！

= Thank you, teacher! Goodbye!



lǎoshī
老师

bú kè qì zài jiàn
不客气！再见！

= You're welcome! Goodbye!



Word Rules

Greeting Words

When you meet a friend, say 你好^{nǐ hǎo}. To a teacher, say 老师好^{lǎo shī hǎo} (= "teacher + 好").
To say thanks, say 谢谢^{xiè xiè}, and when you part, say 再见^{zài jiàn}.

① 你好！ = Hello! (to a friend)

② 老师好！ = Hello, teacher! (to a teacher)

③ 谢谢！ → 不客气！ (Thank you → You're welcome)

④ 对不起。 → 没关系。 (I'm sorry → It's okay)

"A is B" = 是^{shì}

"A is B" follows the order A + 是^{shì} + B. 是^{shì} means "is / am / are".

① 我是小明。 = I am Xiaoming.

② 你是老师。 = You are a teacher.



Let's Try!

Greeting Role-Play

With a partner, split into A and B and say it out loud.

A: ^{nǐ hǎo} 你好！ → B: ^{nǐ hǎo} 你好！

A: ^{xiè xiè} 谢谢！ → B: ^{bú kè qì} 不客气！

A: ^{duì bu qǐ} 对不起。 → B: ^{méiguān xi} 没关系。

What Do You Say Here?

In the scenes below, what would you say in Chinese? Say it out loud!

① When you meet a friend in the morning → ^{nǐ hǎo} 你好！

② When you meet your teacher in the morning → ^{lǎo shī hǎo} 老师好！

③ When you get a present → ^{xiè xiè} 谢谢！

④ When you say goodbye to a friend → ^{zài jiàn} 再见！

⑤ When you apologize to a friend → ^{duì bu qǐ} 对不起。

⑥ When someone says "I'm sorry" to you → ^{méi guān xi} 没关系。