# The 中 Rudiments 文 of Mandarin 常

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# **Preface**

This textbook integrates principles and elements of Y. R. Chao's *Mandarin Primer* (1948) and *Chinese Primer* (Ta-Tuan Ch'en et al., 1989), both of which we admire, as well as feedback from our international students studying Chinese at the University of Hong Kong. We believe that students can acquire Chinese as a foreign language more effectively if they can apply the target language to daily life through a carefully organized framework of tonal pronunciation, grammar points, and vocabulary. Additionally, the text encourages students to communicate with teachers, classmates, and friends in Chinese, inside and outside the classroom, stressing the unity of the four basic skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing—as well as the integration of language usage and context.

In order to help students internalize Chinese, the textbook begins by introducing the learner to the pinyin system and then provides realistic dialogs that contain a number of basic grammar points and key vocabulary. Chapter topics concerning student life on campus and in Hong Kong are drawn from student feedback on our courses and students' expressed wish to use a text with content that will help them communicate with Chinese people more efficiently. More specifically, students have indicated an interest in self-introduction, campus life, transportation, shopping, eating, and travel. Each chapter of this textbook consists of five sections: text, vocabulary, grammar, exercises, and culture notes. The introduction to pinyin and Chinese characters (in Appendix 1) is for beginning students. There are 130 basic but important grammar points and 400 common but simple vocabulary words in these ten chapters. Many of the commonly used terms concern Hong Kong society and culture. These sentence patterns and expressions are not intellectually difficult, and introducing them early allows students to quickly adapt to Mandarin as a living and natural language. There is a list of 300 Chinese characters from Chapters 1 to 10 in Appendix 2. Each character includes pinyin, its English meaning, and examples of common word usage. Students are encouraged to study these characters and the list of Chinese characters after they master the phonetic system and finish Chapter 1.

We have made every effort in this textbook to fill each lesson with cross-cultural communication experience of Chinese language learners. In addition, the textbook includes audio recordings of the text, vocabulary, and listening exercises. These will help students practice pronunciation and assimilate the dialogs. We also hope they will encourage students' engagement with the language in and out of class.

We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Professor Cuncun Wu; the project would not have been possible without her firm and constant support. We would like to sincerely thank Xiaoqian Cheng, Zhiyong Lu, Chen Chen, Xiaoyi Li, Li Hayden Hean Ting, and Mair Gareth James for their important assistance in the completion of the textbook. Their efforts have greatly enhanced the presentation of this text. We also appreciate the reviewers', Dr. Susie Han's, and Ms. Clara Ho's valuable suggestions and comments.

# **Abbreviations**

adj. = adjective

adv. = adverb

conj. = conjunction

inter. = interjection

lit. = literally

m.w. = measure word

n. = noun

neg. = negative

num. = number

obj. = object

part. = sentence particle

pl. = plural

prep. = preposition

pron. = pronoun

p.w. = place word

q.w. = question word

subj. = subject

t.w. = time word

v. = verb

v.p. = verb phrase

# **Introduction**

# Hànyǔ pīnyīn (simply pinyin), the Chinese Phonetic System

#### 1. Chinese syllables

A typical Chinese syllable includes three parts: initial letter(s), final letter(s), and a tone. For example:

Hè (贺, surname): "h" is the initial letter, "e" is the final letter, and "`" indicates the tone. Lǎoshī (老师, teacher): "l" and "sh" are the initial letters, "ao" and "i" are the final letters, " and " " are the tones,

#### 2. Chinese phonetic letters (hànyǔ pīnyīn letters)

声母 (shēng mǔ, initial letters)

b	p	m	f	d	t	n	1
g	k	h		j	q	X	
Z	c	S		zh	ch	sh	r
y	W						

The letters "y" and "w" are supplementary initial letters. They are used as initial letters but pronounced as single final letters, "i" and "u" respectively.

韵母 (yùn mǔ, final letters)

单韵母 (dān yùn mǔ, single final letters):

a o e ê i u	ü	u ü	i	ê	e	0	a
-------------	---	-----	---	---	---	---	---

复韵母 (fù yùn mǔ, compound final letters):

ai	ei (êi)	ao	ou	uo	ie (iê)	üe (üê)
iu (iou)	ui (uei)	ia	iao	ua	uai	er

Note: When "iou" and "uei" are used after the initial letter(s), they are written "iu" and "ui" respectively. For example: "qiu" is "qiou," and "cui" is "cuei."

鼻韵母 (bí yùn mǔ, nasal final letters):

-n:	an	en	in	ün			
-ng:	ang	eng	ing	ong			
	ian	iang	iong	uan	uang	un (uen)	üan

Note: When "uen" is a syllable, it is written "wen" (refer to the spelling rules). When "uen" is used after initial letter(s), it is written "un." For example: "s" + "uen" is written as "sun."

The important letters should be memorized:

a	0	e			i	u	ü		
b	p	m	f		d	t	n	1	
g	k	h			j	q	X		
Z	c	S			zh	ch	sh	r	
ai	ei	ie	üe	ao	iu	ui	uo	ou	er
an	en	in	un	ün	ang	eng	ing	ong	

#### 3. 声调 shēng diào (the tones)

There are five tones in modern Chinese. See details in the following table:

name	1st tone	2nd tone	3rd tone	4th tone	light tone
example	mā	má	mă	mà	ma

First tone (55) Second tone(35) Third tone (214) Fourth tone (51)

5 high

4 mid-high

3 middle

2 mid-low

1 low

- The level of the first tone is "55" and marked "-".
- The level of the second tone is "35" and marked "'.".
- The level of third tone is "214" and marked "`". It is normally pronounced in half tones, which are mostly the first half, "212," and sometimes the second half, "24."
- The level of the fourth tone is "51" and marked "`".
- The light tone (also called soft tone/neutral tone) is light and short and appears only after one of the four tones above. No tone mark is needed.

A syllable changes its meaning when it is pronounced in different tones. Different characters may be pronounced in the same syllable and the same tone. For example:

mā:妈(mom)、抹(wipe)...

má: 麻 (a general term for hemp, flax, jute, numb, coarse) . . .

```
mă: 马 (horse)、码 (code)...
mà: 骂 (curse, condemn) . . .
ma: 吗、嘛 (particle words)
```

(The same character may be pronounced in different syllables and/or different tones with different meanings.)

#### 4. The spelling rules

I. As mentioned above, a typical syllable = initial letter(s) + final letter(s) + a tone. However, a syllable may contain only a final letter or letters but never an initial letter or letters alone. For example: ài (爱, love), áng (昂, raise up head).

II. Some initial letters (j q x, z c s, zh ch sh r, y) are indeed pronounced as syllables but must be spelled with "i." For example: jī qī xī, zī cī sī, zhī chī shī rì, yī.

- III. Where is the tone marked?
- (a) The tone mark is always used above one of the six simple final letters, based on the rule "first come, first marked" in the order of "a o e i u ü." For example: hǎo, hái, zuò, zǒu, xièxie.
- (b) iu/ui: The tone mark always goes with the last letter. For example: huì, liú.
- (c) When the tone is marked above "i," the dot is omitted. For example: yì, qǐ.

IV. "i," "u," and "ü" can never be used alone or at the beginning of a syllable.

If "i" and "u" are syllables by themselves, they are spelled "vi" and "wu" respectively.

If "i" and "u" are the first letters of the syllables, they are replaced by "y" and "w" respectively. For example: "ie" is spelled "ye"; "uo" is spelled "wo."

If "ü" is a syllable by itself or at the beginning of a syllable, "y" is used before it and the two dots over it are omitted. For example, "ü" is spelled "yu"; "üe" is spelled "yue."

Here is a summary of the spelling rules of these three letters:

Final	Syllable	Final	Syllable	Final	Syllable
i	yi	ü	yu	u	wu
ia	ya	üe	yue	ua	wa
ie	ye	üan	yuan	uo	wo
ian	yan	ün	yun	uai	wai
iao	yao			uei	wei
iou	you			uan	wan
iang	yang			uen	wen
in	yin			uang	wang
ing	ying			ueng	weng
iong	yong				

V. When "ü" appears after "y, j, q, x," the two dots above "ü" are omitted. For example, "yü" "jü" "qü" and "xü" are spelled "yu" "ju" "qu" and "xu" respectively.

VI. When the second syllable of a word begins with "a, o, e," a partition mark should be used to separate the two syllables of the word.

For example: Xī'ān (to differentiate from "Xiān"); Tiān'é (as opposed to "tiā né")

VII. Tone changes (biàndiào / sandhi)

a. Third-tone change (sān shēng biàndiào / sandhi)

When two 3rd tones appear together, the first 3rd tone is changed to the 2nd tone in pronunciation, but the tone mark normally does not change. For example, "Hello!" is written "Nǐ hǎo!" but pronounced "ní hǎo!"

When three 3rd tones appear together, the second 3rd tone is changed to the 2nd tone when pronounced, or both the first and the second 3rd tones are changed to the 2nd tone. For example, "I am very well" is written "wǒ hěn hǎo" but pronounced either "wǒ hén hǎo" or "wó hén hǎo."

b. "yī" (one, "-") tone change ("yī" biàndiào / sandhi)

When "-" is followed by the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd tones, it is usually pronounced in the 4th. When "-" is followed by the 4th tone, it is pronounced in the 2nd tone. For example:

$$"-"(y\overline{\imath}) \left\{ \begin{aligned} &A \ day &: written "y\overline{\imath}ti\overline{a}n" \ but \ read "yì \ ti\overline{a}n" \\ &A \ year &: written "y\overline{\imath}nián" \ but \ read "yì \ nián" \\ &A \ second: \ written "y\overline{\imath}miǎo" \ but \ read "yìmiǎo" \\ &A \ quarter: \ written "y\overline{\imath}kè" \ but \ read "yíkè" \end{aligned} \right.$$

c. "bù" (not, "不") tone change ("bù" biàndiào / sandhi)

"不" is a 4th-tone syllable. When it is followed by another 4th-tone syllable, even if it is marked as 4th tone, it is pronounced as 2nd tone. For example, "is not" is written "bù shì" but pronounced "bú shì".

In our textbook, we indicate the actual pronunciation of "yī" and "bù" in order to make them perfectly clear.

VIII. The "er" suffix

"Er" ("儿") is sometimes attached to another syllable to form a retroflex syllable. For example, "哪儿" is read as one syllable, "năr," instead of two syllables, "nă ér," and means "where."

#### 5. The sounds of the modern Chinese language

	a	0	e	-i	er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	ang	eng	ong
b p m f	ba pa ma fa	bo po mo fo	me			bai pai mai fai	bei pei mei fei	bao pao mao	pou mou fou	ban pan man fan	ben pen men fen	bang pang mang fang	beng peng meng feng	
d t n l	da ta na la		de te ne le			dai tai nai lai	dei nei lei	dao tao nao lao	dou tou nou lou	dan tan nan lan	nen	dang tang nang lang	deng teng neng leng	dong tong nong long
g k h	ga ka ha		ge ke he			gai kai hai	gei kei hei	gao kao hao	gou kou hou	gan kan han	gen ken hen	gang kang hang	geng keng heng	gong kong hong
j q x														
Z	za		ze	zi		zai	zei	zao	zou	zan	zen	zang	zeng	zong
c s	ca sa		ce se	ci si		cai sai		cao sao	cou sou	can san	cen sen	cang	ceng	cong
zh ch sh	zha cha sha		zhe che she re	zhi chi shi ri		zhai chai shai	zhei shei	zhao chao shao rao	zhou chou shou rou	zhan chan shan ran	zhen chen shen ren	zhang chang shang	zheng cheng sheng reng	zhong chong
1	a	o	e	-i	er	ai	ei	ao	ou	an	en	rang	eng	ong

	i	ia	iao	ie	iou	ian	in	iang	ing	iong
b p m f	bi pi mi		biao piao miao	bie pie mie	miu	bian pian mian	bin pin min		bing ping ming	
d t n l	di ti ni li	lia	diao tiao niao liao	die tie nie lie	diu niu liu	dian tian nian lian	nin lin	niang liang	ding ting ning ling	
g k h										
j q x	ji qi xi	jia qia xia	jiao qiao xiao	jie qie xie	jiu qiu xiu	jian qian xian	jin qin xin	jiang qiang xiang	jing qing xing	jiong qiong xiong
z c s										
zh ch sh r										
	yi	ya	yao	ye	you	yan	yin	yang	ying	yong
	u	ua	uo	uai	uei	uan	uen	uang	ueng	
b p m f	bu pu mu fu									
d t n l	du tu nu lu		duo tuo nuo luo		dui tui	duan tuan nuan luan	dun tun lun			
g k h	gu ku hu	gua kua hua	guo kuo huo	guai kuai huai	gui kui hui	guan kuan huan	gun kun hun	guang kuang huang		
j q x										
z c s	zu cu su		zuo cuo suo		zui cui sui	zuan cuan suan	zun cun sun			
zh ch sh r	zhu chu shu ru	zhua chua shua rua	zhuo chuo shuo ruo	zhuai chuai shuai	zhui chui shui rui	zhuan chuan shuan ruan	zhun chun shun run	zhuang chuang shuang ruang		
	wu	wa	wo	wai	wei	wan	wen	wang	weng	

	ü	üe	üan	ün
b				
p				
m				
f				
d				
t				
n	nü	nüe		
1	lü	lüe		
g				
k				
h				
j	ju	jue	juan	jun
q	qu	que	quan	qun
X	xu	xue	xuan	xun
Z				
c				
S				
zh				
ch				
sh				
r				
	yu	yue	yuan	yun

# 1

nĭmen de

# It's nice to meet you

Teacher : Hello everyone! Students 1 and 2 : Hello teacher!

Teacher : My surname is Ding. I'm your Chinese teacher. What is your name?

Student 1 : My surname is also Ding. I am called Ding Yimei. I'm your student. I study law. Are you

your (phrase); yours

from China?

Teacher : Yes. Where are you from?

你们的

lăoshī teacher 老师 n. nĭmen 你们 pron. you (plural) hǎo 好 good; fine; well adj. 学生 xuésheng n. student 您 you (in a respectful way) nín pron. 我 wŏ pron. I; me 姓 n./v. surname; surname is . . . xìng a Chinese surname Dīng 丁 n. уī num. měi 美 adj. pretty; beautiful shì 是 to be; am; is; are V.

pron.

# Dì-yī kè

# Rènshi nimen hěn gāoxing

Lǎoshī : Nǐmen¹ hǎo!²

Xuésheng 1 and 2 : Nín hǎo!

guó

国

n.

Lǎoshī : Wǒ xìng³ Dīng. Wǒ shì⁴ nǐmen de⁵ Hànyǔ lǎoshī.⁶ Nǐ xìng shénme?⊓

Xuésheng 1 : Wǒ yě<sup>8</sup> xìng Dīng, jiào Dīng Yīměi. Wǒ shì nín de xuésheng. Wǒ xuéxí fǎlù zhuānyè.

Nín shì Zhōngguó rén ma?9

Lǎoshī : Shì de. 10 Nǐ shì nǎ 11 guó rén?

Hànyǔ 汉语 Chinese language n. shénme 什么 what pron. 也 also; too yě adv. jiào 띠 to be called V. xuéxí 学习 to study V. fălù 法律 law n. zhuānyè 专业 major n. Zhōngguó 中国 China; Chinese n. rén 人 person; people n. mα 吗 a sentence particle to indicate a question part. yes; you are right shì de 是的 哪 which nă pron.

country

Student 1: I'm from Britain. (Student 1 asks Student 2.) What's your name?

Student 2: My name is Wang Erming. I'm also a student of Teacher Ding.

Student 1: Are you British?

Student 2: No, I'm American.

Teacher : Do you also study law?

Student 2: No, I study economics.

Teacher : Is your major difficult?

Student 2: My major in economics is a bit challenging. (Student 2 asks Student 1.) How about your major?

Xuésheng 1 : Wŏ shì Yīngguó rén. (wèn xuésheng 2) Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?12

Xuésheng 2: Wǒ jiào Wáng Èrmíng, yĕ shì Dīng lǎoshī de xuésheng.

Xuésheng 1 : Nǐ shì Yīngguó rén ma? Xuésheng 2 : Bù,13 wǒ shì Měiguó rén. : Nǐ yě xuéxí fălù ma? Lǎoshī Xuésheng 2 : Bú shì, wŏ xuéxí jīngjì.

: Nǐ de zhuānyè nán ma? Lǎoshī

Xuésheng 2 : Wŏ de zhuānyè tǐng nán de.  $^{14}$  (wèn xuésheng 1) Nǐ de zhuānyè ne?  $^{15}$ 

Yīngguó	英国	n.	Britain
míngzi	名字	n.	whole name
Wáng	王	n.	a Chinese surname
èr	二	num.	two
míng	明	adj.	clean; bright
bù	不		no; not
Měiguó	美国	n.	USA
jīngjì	经济	n.	economics
nán	难	adj.	difficult
tĭng·····de	挺的		quite; fairly
ne	呢	part.	how about

Student 1 : I'm majoring in law, which is very challenging. Teacher Ding, do you like teaching?

Teacher : Yes, my job is very interesting. Nice to meet you.

Students 1 and 2: Nice to meet you too. Good-bye!

Teacher : Good-bye!

Xuésheng 1 : Wǒ de zhuānyè hěn $^{16}$  nán. Dīng lǎoshī, nín de gōngzuò yǒu yìsi ma?

Lǎoshī : Wǒ de gōngzuò fēicháng<sup>17</sup> yǒu yìsi. Rènshi nǐmen hěn gāoxìng.

Xuésheng 1 and 2 : Rènshi nín wŏmen yĕ hĕn gāoxìng. Zàijiàn. 18

: Zàijiàn. Lǎoshī

hěn	很	adv.	very
gōngzuò	工作	n./v.	job; to work
yŏu yìsi	有意思	adj.	interesting
fēicháng	非常	adv.	extraordinarily
rènshi	认识	n.	to know someone
gāoxìng	高兴	adj.	glad; happy
zàijiàn	再见		good-bye; see you

#### Grammar

#### 1. Personal pronouns

Singular forms:

```
nǐ: "you" (sing.); "nín" is a polite form of address for "you" in Chinese, especially in the northern part
     of China.
wŏ: "I, me"
tā: "he, him"; "she, her"
```

Plural forms:

```
nimen: "you" (pl.)
wŏmen: "we, us"
tamen: "they, them"
```

Note that "men" in Chinese is a suffix after personal pronouns indicating the plural form and is rarely used with other nouns. In the early stages of your study, use "men" only with personal pronouns.

#### 2. nímen háo/ní háo

"Hǎo" means "good, fine." Both "nǐmen hǎo" and "nǐ hǎo" are greetings meaning "hello," "how do you do?" The only difference between them is that the former is a plural form that is used to greet more than one person, whereas the latter is commonly used in singular form.

#### 3. xìng/jiào

"Xìng" in this chapter is used as a verb:

```
Wǒ xìng Dīng. (lit. = literally) I am surnamed Dīng.
```

"Jiào" here means "be called." One's full name, or one's given name, can be put after "jiào." The expression

```
Wǒ jiào Dīng Yīměi.
I am called Dīng Yīměi. (lit.)
```

#### 4. shì

The main function of "shi" is the "be-verb" in Chinese, similar to "am, are, is" in English.

#### 5. The possessive "de"

"De" after personal pronouns listed in note 1 or a specific person, place, or thing is used to express possession. For example:

```
Dīng lǎoshī de xuésheng = teacher Ding's students*
Wŏ de zhuānyè = my major
```

\* Don't use "men" after "xuésheng" at the current stage. See note 1.

Note that the possessive "de" always precedes what it possesses.

#### 6. lǎoshī

"Lǎoshī" means "teacher" and can stand alone or appear after a surname as a title.

#### 7. Question words

In Chinese sentences, the position of a question word and the answer to the question is the same. In other words, you ask as you would be answered. Below is the list of the question words we will learn in this chapter:

shénme	Nĭ	xìng		shénme?			
what	You	(are) su	ırnamed	What?	What?		
	Wŏ	xìng		Dīng.			
	I	(am) su	(am) surnamed		Dīng.		
nă	Nĭ	shì	nă	guó	rén?		
which	You	are	which	country	person?	(lit.)	
	Wŏ	shì	Zhōngguó		rén.		
	I	am	Chinese		person.	(lit.)	

Please remember the grammar rule for question words. We will learn more question words in later chapters.

#### 8. yě

"Ye" meaning "also" is a monosyllabic adverb that is usually placed directly after the subject and thus plays an important function in a sentence. It generally refers to the subject. For example:

Hànyǔ lǎoshī xìng Dīng. Wǒ yě xìng Dīng.

Chinese teacher is surnamed Dīng. I am surnamed Dīng too.

#### 9. ma

In addition to question words, general questions in Chinese can be formed by adding the particle "ma" to the statements. There is no change in the word order of the sentence. The answer to a "ma" question is likely "yes" or "no." This is usually expressed by repeating the verb or adjective used in the questions. For example:

Question:	Nín shì Zhōngguó rén ma?	Are you Chinese?
Answer:	Shì,* wŏ shì Zhōngguó rén.	Yes, I'm Chinese. (positive)
	Bú shì, wŏ shì Yīngguó rén.	No, I'm British. (negative)

<sup>\* &</sup>quot;Shì" is also used like "yes" in English.

Question: Do you study Chinese? Nǐ xuéxí Hànyǔ ma? Answer: Wŏ xuéxí Hànyŭ. I study Chinese. (positive)

> Wǒ bù xuéxí Hànyǔ. I don't study Chinese. (negative)

#### 10. shì de

Here, "de" has no meaning but softens the tone of a confirmation.

#### 11. nå meaning "which" (see note 7)

#### 12. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?

Here, "shénme" as a noun modifier is used to ask what kind of something is:

Ouestion: Nĭ jiào shénme míngzi?

> (are) called You what name? (lit.)

"Shénme míngzi" is the question part, so, "míngzi" must be omitted in the answer to this question.

Answer: Wǒ jiào Wáng Èrmíng.

#### 13. bù

"Bù," meaning "no, not," is placed before the word (a be-verb, adjective, adverb, and so on) negated. For example:

Question: Nǐ shì Yīngguó rén ma? Answer: Bú shì, wǒ shì Měiguó rén.

#### 14. ting·····de

The adverbs "ting.....de" (pretty, fairly), "hen" (when it is stressed, it means "very"), "feicháng" (extremely), and so on, are used to alter the strength of adjectives.

"Ting + adj. + de" can be regarded as a fixed pattern. The adjective is placed between "ting" and "de."

tǐng nán de pretty difficult tǐng hǎo de pretty good

hěn adj. → If "hěn" is stressed, it means "very."

Wŏ de zhuānyè hĕn nán.

My major is very difficult.

If "hen" is not stressed, it does not mean "very." The above sentence means "My major is difficult." "Hen" does not give emphasis to the strength of the adjective.

"fēicháng + adj." indicates a very high degree of the adjective.

extremely difficult feicháng nán fēicháng yǒu yìsi extremely interesting

Most commonly, there is NO "shi" between a subject and an adjective in Chinese. An adjective that is placed directly after a subject usually implies comparison with another thing.

Subject + adj.

For example:

Wŏ hǎo. I'm better (than you).

My major is more difficult (than yours). Wŏ de zhuānyè nán. Wŏ de gōngzuò yŏu yìsi. My job is more interesting (than yours). If you just want to say "I'm fine," "My major is difficult," or "My job is interesting," you must put an unstressed "hen" between the subject and the adjective.

Note that it is a big mistake to add the verb "to be" "shi" to these sentences.

If you want to express the different strength of the adjective, you can use "ting.....de" or "feicháng" or put stress on "hěn" before the adjective.

English:	Subject	be-verb	adjective.		
	My major	is	difficult.		
Chinese:	Subject	hěn (unstressed)	adjective.		
	Wŏ de zhuānyè	hěn	nán.		
English:	Subject	be-verb	adverb	adjective.	
1.	My major	is	pretty	difficult.	
2.	My major	is	very	difficult.	
3.	My major	Is	extremely	difficult.	
Chinese	Subject		adverb	adjective.	
1.	Wŏ de zhuānyè		tǐng	nán	de.
2.	Wŏ de zhuānyè		hěn	nán.	(stress hěn)
3.	Wŏ de zhuānyè		fēicháng	nán.	

#### 15. ....ne?

"....ne?" question always follows a statement or topic. It means "And what about . . . ?" or "How about ...?" For example,

Wǒ shì Yīngguó rén. Nǐ ne? I'm British. How about you?

Wǒ de zhuānyè tǐng nán de. Nǐ de zhuānyè ne?

My major is a bit challenging. How about yours?

#### 16. Subj. + hěn + adj.

See note 14.

#### 17. Subj. + fēicháng + adj.

See note 14.

#### 18. zàijiàn "good-bye"

"Zài" is an adverb meaning "again, one more time." "Jiàn" is a verb meaning "see." "Zàijiàn" literally means "see you again someday."

## **Exercises**

I.	Listen t	o the follo	wing dialo	og and do	the exercis	es.	
1.	(1) Whe A. M. (2) Whe A. M.	re is Wáng È Iĕiguó E t is Wáng Èr	Dīng from 3. Yīngguó Ermíng from 3. Yīngguó míng's majo	C. Zhō:  C. Zhō:  C. Zhō:			
2.	(1) Dīng	vhether the s	nì Xiānggăr	re true (T) ong rén. (	or false (F). ) í jīngjì zhuāny	vè. ( )	
II	. Choose	e the corre	ct words	and fill in	the blanks.		
xìı	ng jià	io shì	de yĕ	ma	bù tǐng		
1.	Nĭ shì Zl	hōngguó rén	?				
		Dīng lǎoshī _		neng.			
		vŏ W			Èrmíng.		
		ōngzuò					
5.	A: Nĭ _	Měiguo	ó rén ma?				
		_, Wŏ shì Y					
6.	A: Rèns	shi nĭ hĕn gā	oxìng.				
	B: Rèns	shi nĭ wŏ	hěn gāo	xìng.			
II	I. Rearr	ange the v	vords to fo	orm cohe	rent senten	ces.	
1.	nă	guó	nĭ	rén	shì		
2.	bù (bú)	wŏ	shì	rén	Zhōngguó		
3.	jiào	shénme	nĭ	míngzi			
4.	tĭng	zhuānyè	wŏ de	de	nán		
5.	nĭmen	wŏ	shì	de	lǎoshī	Hànyǔ	

TV	Comp	lete	the	follo	wina	dialog.
TA:	COILID	ICLC	LIIC	IUIIU	willu	ulalou.

1.	A:	Nǐhǎo, nǐ xìng shénme?
	B:	Wŏ xìng, jiào
2.	A:	Nǐ shì nă guó rén?
	B:	Wŏ shì rén.
3.	A:	Nĭ xuéxí shénme zhuānyè?
	B:	Wŏ xuéxí zhuānyè.
4.	A:	Rènshi nĭ hĕn gāoxìng.
	R٠	Rènshi ni

#### V. Introduce yourself.

This is your first Chinese class. Please introduce yourself to your classmates in Chinese with the words given in the table.

jiào yŏu yìsi nĭ hǎo xìng rén xuéxí tĭng·····de rènshi gāoxìng

#### **Culture Note**

#### The Chinese Language (Hanyu) and Chinese Names

The Chinese language (Hànyŭ), the major language of the Chinese people, with a history of more than 5,000 years, is one of the oldest languages in the world. Chinese belongs to the Sino-Tibetan language family. Of the 56 ethnic groups in China, the Han, Hui, and other ethnic groups, constituting 94% of the population of China, speak Chinese. Chinese includes variants from seven main dialect groups. Putonghua, literally "common speech," is based on the northern dialect, using the dialect of Beijing as the basis for its pronunciation and modern vernacular literature for grammatical structure.

The surnames of Chinese people appeared during matriarchal society, when clans were constituted with mothers at the center. Clans distinguished themselves from each other by using the name. In China, the surname comes first, followed by the given name. The latter has its own traditions and features. It can have one or two characters. Chinese names usually have a certain meaning, expressing some kind of wish. There are no exact statistics on how many surnames there are in China. Contemporary Chinese uses about 3,500 Chinese surnames. Of the 100 commonly used surnames, the three commonest are Li, Wang, and Zhang.

Ren Qiliang, ed., Chinese Common Knowledge Series: Culture (Hong Kong: Hong Kong China Tourism Press, 2005), 66-67.

Liu Xun, New Practical Chinese Reader I (Beijing: Beijing Language and Culture University Press), 14.

#### 第一课 认识你们很高兴

老师 : 你们好!

学生1 & 2: 您好!

: 我姓丁。我是你们的汉语老师。你姓什么? 老师

: 我也姓丁, 叫丁一美。我是您的学生。我学习法律专业。您是中国人吗? 学生1

老师 : 是的。你是哪国人?

学生1 : 我是英国人。 (问学生2) 你叫什么名字?

学生2 : 我叫王二明, 也是丁老师的学生。

学生1: 你是英国人吗?

学生2 : 不, 我是美国人。

老师 : 你也学习法律吗?

: 不是, 我学习经济。 学生2

: 你的专业难吗? 老师

学生2 : 我的专业挺难的。(问学生1) 你的专业呢?

: 我的专业很难。丁老师, 您的工作有意思吗? 学生1

: 我的工作非常有意思。认识你们很高兴。 老师

学生1 & 2:认识您我们也很高兴。再见。

老师 : 再见。

# 10

# May I ask how to get to the library?

Student 1: May I ask how to get to the library?

Student 2: (*Pointing at the campus map.*) This is the campus map. We're in front of the bank. So, walk straight ahead and turn left when you reach the supermarket, and then continue walking straight. Then turn right at Starbucks. The library is just behind Starbucks.

xiàoyuán	校园	n.	campus
dìtú	地图	n.	map
xiànzài	现在	n.	now; currently
yínháng	银行	n.	bank
yìzhí	一直	adv.	keep straight
zŏu	走	V.	to walk

## Dì-shí kè

# Qǐngwèn, zěnme qù túshūguǎn?

Xuésheng 1 : Qǐngwèn, zěnme qù túshūguǎn?

Xuésheng 2 : (*Zhǐ zhe xiàoyuán dìtú*) Zhè shì xiàoyuán dìtú. Wŏmen xiànzài zài yínháng de qiánbian. Nǐ yìzhí¹ zŏu, dàole² chāoshì wǎng³ zuŏ guǎi,⁴ ránhòu,⁵ yìzhí zŏu, dàole Xīngbākè wǎng yòu guǎi. Túshūguǎn jiù⁶ zài Xīngbākè hòubian.

chāoshì	超市	n.	supermarket
wăng	往	V.	toward
zuŏ	左	n.	left
zuŏ guǎi	左拐		turn left
yòu	右	n.	right
jiù	就	adv.	exactly
máfan	麻烦	adj.	annoyed

Student 1: I see. Also, how can I get to Central?

Student 2: You need to go to Central by bus, so keep walking straight and turn right when you reach the supermarket. Then go out of the university gate and cross the street. The bus stop is just on the opposite side of the university gate. You can take either a bus or a mini bus to get to Central. You can also take a taxi or the MTR. The taxi stop is just next to the bus stop.

Xuésheng 1 : Ò. Wŏ zĕnme qù Zhōnghuán ne?

Xuésheng 2 : Nǐ děi zuò<sup>7</sup> bāshì qù Zhōnghuán. Nǐ yìzhí zǒu, dàole chāoshì wǎng yòu guǎi. Chū<sup>8</sup> xiàomén, guờ mălù, bāshì zhàn jiù zài dàxué xiàomén duìmiàn. 10 Dàbā, xiǎobā dōu dào Zhōnghuán. Nǐ yẽ kẽyǐ zuò dīshì huòzhĕ dìtiĕ, dīshì zhàn jiù zài bāshì zhàn pángbiān.

Zhōnghuán	中环	n.	Central
chū	出	V.	to go out of
xiào	校	n.	school; university
mén	1,1	n.	gate; door
guò	过	V.	to cross
mălù	马路	n.	street; road
duìmiàn	对面	n.	the opposite side
dàbā	大巴	n.	bus
xiǎobā	小巴	n.	mini bus

Student 1: Got it. Thank you.

Student 2: You're welcome. Where are you going now?

Student 1: I'll go to the library first.

Student 2: I'm going there too. Let me take you there.

Student 1: Great! Thank you very much!

Student 2: You're welcome. Let's go!

#### [In the taxi.]

Driver : Hello. Where would you like to go?

Student : Hello. I want to go to Central Station. Thanks.

Driver : Sure, no problem.

#### [Ten minutes later.]

Driver : Here we are. Thirty-five dollars.

Student : Ok. Here it is.

Driver : You gave me fifty dollars, so that's fifteen dollars' change. Your Chinese is good!

Student : Oh, it's nothing. (I'm flattered.)

Xuésheng 1 : Míngbai le. Xièxie.

Xuésheng 2: Bú kèqi. Nǐ xiànzài dăsuan qù năr?

Xuésheng 1: Wǒ xiān qù túshūguǎn.

Xuésheng 2: Wǒ yě qù túshūguǎn. Wǒ dài nǐ qù ba.

Xuésheng 1 : Tài hảo le! Tài máfan<sup>11</sup> nǐ le!

Xuésheng 2 : Bú kèqi. Wŏmen zŏu ba.

#### [Zài dīshì shang]

Sījī : Nínhǎo, qǐngwèn nín qù nǎr?

Xuésheng : Nínhǎo, wǒ yào qù Zhōnghuán dìtiě zhàn, xièxie.

Sījī : Hǎo de; méi wèntí.

#### [Shí fēnzhōng hòu]

: Nín dào le. Yígòng sānshíwǔ kuài. Sījī

Xuésheng : Hǎo de, gĕi nín qián. 12

: Nín gĕi wǒ wǔshí kuài; wǒ zhǎo nín shíwǔ kuài. 13 Nín de Hànyǔ zhēn hǎo! Sījī

Xuésheng : Năli năli.14

tài máfan nǐ le (I) bother you too much. 太麻烦你了

This is another way to show gratitude.

wèntí 问题 problem; question n. zhǎo 找 to give change V. năli năli

Not at all. 哪里哪里

(A response to thanks or praise in a polite way.)

#### **Grammar**

#### 1. yìzhí

The adverb "yìzhí" can be used to indicate space, which means going continuously in one direction. For example:

yìzhí zŏu go straight

Nǐ yìzhí zǒu, dào chāoshì wăng zuǒ guǎi, ránhòu yìzhí zǒu.

"Yìzhí" can also be used to indicate time, which means an action, continues without any interruption or a state without any change within a period of time. For example:

Tā zuótiān yìzhí hěn máng.

He was busy for the whole day yesterday.

Tā zuìjìn yìzhí hěn máng.

He has been busy recently.

#### 2. dào

The verb "dào" means "to arrive"; it can be used before nouns. For example:

Nǐ yìzhí zǒu, dào chāoshì wǎng zuǒ guǎi.

Walk straight ahead and turn left when you arrive at the supermarket.

Dào Xīngbākè wǎng yòu guǎi.

Turn right when you arrive at Starbucks.

Wŏmen dào jiā le.

We've arrived home.

#### 3. wång "toward"

The preposition "wang" together with a noun that indicates place or direction is used to indicate the direction of the action.

wăng yòu guǎi "turn right" wăng zuŏ guăi "turn left"

#### 4. dàole chāoshì wăng zuŏ guăi

This is the grammar we learned in Chapter 9. The particle "le" can be used after a verb to indicate completion of an event or action. The second clause or phrase always indicates that a new event or action will start.

#### For example:

Nǐ dàole chāoshì wăng zuŏ guăi.

When you get to the supermarket, turn left.

Nǐ xiàle kè lái zhǎo wŏ.

After you've finished class, come see me.

Women chīle wănfàn qù kàn diànying.

After we've finished dinner, we'll go to see a movie.

#### 5. xiān....ránhòu

"Xiān v.p., "ránhòu v.p.,", "first v.p., and then v.p.," is the pattern indicating the sequence of events. For example:

Wŏmen xiān xué dì-shí kè de shēngcí, ránhòu xuéxí yǔfǎ.

We'll learn the new words in lesson 10 first and then learn the grammar.

Wǒ xiān qù túshūguǎn, ránhòu qù Xīngbākè.

I'll go to the library and then I'll go to Starbucks.

Nǐ dàole dīshì zhàn, ránhòu yìzhí zŏu.

After you get to the taxi stand, go straight.

#### 6. jiù (see note 9, Chapter 8)

"Jiù" can be used to emphasize or confirm a fact: "this is exactly what the fact is."

For example:

Bāshì zhàn jiù zài dàxué xiàomén duìmiàn.

The bus stop is exactly across the street from the university gate.

#### 7. zuò (see note 12, Chapter 3)

"Zuò" means "take" when it is used before a vehicle.

For example:

zuò dìtiě take the MTR zuò bāshì take the bus

#### 8. chū "to go through"

"Chū xiàomén" means "go through the university gate."

#### 9. guò (see note 5, Chapter 7)

In the previous chapter, we learned that "guò" means "to spend (time), to celebrate (a birthday, a festival)," as in "guò shǔjià" "spend the summer vacation." Here, "guò" means "to cross." For example:

guò mălù cross the street

#### 10. zài······duìmiàn (see note 19, Chapter 2)

Previously, we learned the structure "subject + zài + p.w. + localizer." A localizer can be attached to a noun or a pronoun to form a place word. We have learned some localizers, such as "shangbian" and "xiabian." "Duìmiàn" is also a localizer that means "at the opposite side of." For example:

Bāshì zhàn jiù zài dàxué xiàomén duìmiàn.

The bus stop is just across the street from the university gate.

#### 11. máfan (see note 5, Chapter 9)

In the previous chapter, we learned that "máfan" which means "troublesome, annoying" can be used as an adjective. For example:

Tāmen hěn máfan.

They are very annoying.

"Máfan" can also be used as a verb, meaning "to bother someone."

"Tài máfan nǐ le" means "I have bothered you so much." It is another way to show gratitude.

#### 12. gěi + somebody + something

The verb "gěi" meaning "give" is followed by two objects, an indirect object and a direct object.

For example:

Tā gěi wǒ yì běn shū.

He gives me a book.

Wǒ tóngwū gěi wǒ yì zhāng diànhuà kǎ.

My roommate gives me a phone card.

#### 13. zháo + ní + shíwů kuài

The verb "zhǎo," meaning "give change," can be also followed by two objects, an indirect object and a direct object.

For example:

Zhǎo nǐ shíwǔ kuài.

I'll give you \$15 change.

Zhǎo tā bāshí kuài.

You give him \$80 change.

#### 14. năli năli

"Năli năli" means "I am flattered."

#### For example:

A: Nǐ de Hànyǔ zhēn hǎo.

Your Chinese is really good.

B: Năli năli.

I am flattered.

A: Nǐ zuò de cài zhēn hǎo chī.

Your cooking is very good.

B: Năli năli.

I am flattered.

5. năr

nín

dăsuan

# **Exercises**

Ī.	Listen	to	the	dialog	and	choose	the	correct	answer.
40	LISCOII	LU	LIIC	ulalog	and	CHOOSE	LIIC	COLLECT	alisveci.

1.	Tāmen zài năr	?									
	A. zài dìtiě shang B. zài bāshì shang C. zài dīshì shang										
2.	Xiānggǎng Dà	ıxué zài năr?									
	A. zài yínháng hòubian B. zài yínháng pángbiān C. zài bāshì zhàn hòubian										
3.	Yígòng duōsho	ao qián?									
	A. liùshí kuài	B. wŭshí	yī kuài C. w	ŭshíjiŭ kuài							
II	. Choose the	correct wo	rds and fill in	the blanks.	Each word	can be us	ed only once.				
dà	o wǎng	chū gud	ò zuò jiù	gěi	zhǎo máfo	an ba					
2.	<ol> <li>Nǐ děi dìtiě qù Zhōnghuán.</li> <li>Xīngbākè zài túshūguǎn de hòubian.</li> <li>Wǒ dài nǐ qù</li> </ol>										
4.	Yígòng sānshí	qī kuài, nǐ _	wŏ sìshí k	uài, wŏ	nĭ sān kuài						
5.	Dàbā, xiǎobā	dōu 2	Zhōnghuán.								
6.	Tài nĭ	le!									
7.	xiàom	én, m	nălù, zuŏ	guǎi, zài yìz	hí zŏu.						
II	III. Rearrange the words to form coherent sentences.										
1.	zài	wŏmen	yínháng	xiànzài	qiánbian	de					
2.	chāoshì	zuŏ	dào	guǎi	wăng	le					
3.	bāshì zhàn	xiàomén	jiù	dàxué	duìmiàn	zài					
4.	bāshì	děi	zhōnghuán	nĭ	qù	zuò					

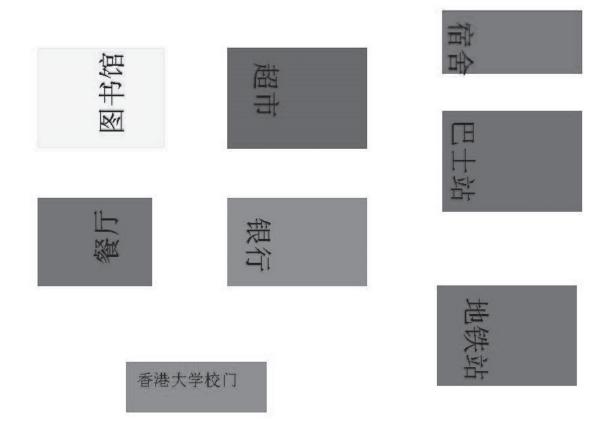
qĭng

qù

wèn

#### IV. Answer the questions according to the picture.

- 1. Qǐngwèn, zěnme cóng Xiānggǎng Dàxué xiàomén qù túshūguǎn?
- 2. Qǐngwèn, zěnme cóng túshūguǎn qù sùshè?
- 3. Qǐngwèn, zĕnme cóng Xiānggǎng Dàxué xiàomén qù bāshì zhàn?
- 4. Qǐngwèn, zĕnme cóng bāshì zhàn qù Xiānggǎng Dàxué xiàomén?



图书馆	túshūguǎn	library
超市	chāoshì	supermarket
餐厅	cāntīng	canteen
银行	yínháng	bank
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory
巴士站	bāshì zhàn	bus stop
地铁站	dìtiĕ zhàn	MTR station
香港大学校门	Xiānggăng Dàxué xiàomén	the gate of the University of Hong Kong

#### **Culture Note**

#### **Chinese Characters**

Chinese characters constitute one of humanity's oldest systems of writing and have the most users in the world. There are many Chinese characters, totaling about 60,000 with about 6,000 basic ones. Chinese characters originate from pictures for keeping records. From ancient to modern times, the form and structure of Chinese characters has changed a lot, evolving from *jiaguwen*, *jinwen* (ancient language used in inscriptions on ancient bronze objects), xiaozhuan (small seal character), lishu (official script), and kaishu (regular script). The current script of Chinese characters is *kaishu* (regular script).

There are mainly four word-formation methods as follows:

Pictography (象形) refers to the method of drawing the form of a thing.

Self-explanatory (指事) characters are made by adding self-explanatory symbols on pictographs or are totally made of symbols.

Associative compounds (会意) are combinations of two or more symbols to represent a new character of a new meaning.

The pictophonetic method (形声) is a word-formation method combining one element of a character indicating meaning and the other, sound, into a new word. The form element indicates the word's meaning and characteristic. The phonetic element indicates the pronunciation of the word.

Chinese characters have been borrowed by Korea, Japan, and Vietnam, thereby promoting international communication. (214 words)

Ren Qiliang, ed., Chinese Common Knowledge Series-Culture (Hong Kong: Hong Kong China Tourism Press, 2005), 132.

#### 第十课 请问, 怎么去图书馆?

学生1:请问,怎么去图书馆?

学生2: (指着校园地图) 这是校园地图。我们现在在银行的前边。你一直走, 到了超市往左 拐, 然后, 一直走。到了星巴克往右拐。图书馆就在星巴克的后边。

学生1: 哦。我怎么去中环呢?

学生2: 你得坐巴士去中环。你一直走,到了超市往右拐。出校门,过马路,巴士站就在大学 校门对面。大巴、小巴都到中环。你也可以坐的士或者地铁,的士站就在巴士站旁 边。

学生1:明白了。谢谢。

学生2: 不客气。你现在打算去哪儿?

学生1: 我先去图书馆。

学生2: 我也去图书馆。我带你去吧。

学生1:太好了!太麻烦你了!

学生2: 不客气。我们走吧。

#### 【在的士上】

司机: 您好, 请问您去哪儿?

学生: 您好, 我要去中环地铁站, 谢谢。

司机:好的,没问题。

#### 【十分钟后】

司机: 您到了。一共三十五块。

学生:好的,给您钱。

司机: 您给我五十块, 我找您十五块。您的汉语真好!

学生:哪里哪里。

# **Index**

The heading of an index entry in pinyin is followed by the Chinese character(s) and then chapter number.

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