



Chinese Mandarin and Culture
(Beginners Term B)
中国普通话和文化
zhōngguó pǔtōnghuà hé wénhuà

Welcome to your Course

Tutor: David Ko

Email: david.ko@towerhamletslls.ac.uk

Course code: B0121

Term B: 10th January - 20th March 24

Half Term: 14th February 24 (no class)

Website: <https://wingsofdave.com/mandarin/>

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LESSON B.1 – PART 1

GREETINGS AND SELF-INTRODUCTION

问候和自我介绍

WÈNHÒU HÉ ZÌWŎ JIÈSHÀO



大家好!
dàjiā hǎo

Hello everyone!
(Lit. big family good)

欢迎大家!
huānyíng dàjiā!

Welcome you all!

我很高兴再次见到您们!
wǒ hěn gāoxìng zàicì jiàn dào nínmen

I'm happy to see you
all again!

祝大家新年快乐!
zhù dàjiā xīnnián kuàilè

I wish you all a happy new
year!



- **Myth:** Chinese people say “*nǐ hǎo*” in all occasions, just as one says “hello” to each other.
- **Reality:** Chinese people only say “*nǐ hǎo*” when they meet a new person. When they speak to somebody they already know, they rarely say “*nǐ hǎo*” to each other, but use other warmer greetings to acknowledge familiarity.
- **Culture:** English people usually start a conversation with a small talk about the weather. Often Chinese ask the other a simple question as greetings such as “have you eaten?” “吃了没有” (*chīle méiyǒu*).
- **Caring:** Some of the questions may sound intrusive to each other’s privacy, but in most of the cases, you will find the Chinese cares about each other’s welfare, which take a simple “hello” to another level.

ALTERNATIVE OF "NI HAO"



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- In most cases, you can skip saying "you" in a one on one dialogue.

吃饭了吗?

chīfànle ma

Have **you** eaten?

最近怎么样?

zuìjìn zěnmē yàng

How have **you** been recently?

忙什么呢?

máng shénme ne

What have **you** been up to?
(Lit. What are **you** busy doing?)

去哪儿啊?

qù nǎ'er a

Where are **you** going?



大家好, 我叫...
dàjiā hǎo, wǒ jiào

Hello everyone, my
name is...

请多指教!
qǐng duō zhǐjiào

I will resign myself to
your guidance!

我来自英国。
wǒ láizì yīngguó

I'm from UK.
(I come from UK)

我正在学习普通话。
wǒ zhèngzài xuéxí pǔtōnghuà

I am learning Mandarin.



我会说英语和一点普通话。

wǒ huì shuō yīngyǔ hé yīdiǎn pǔtōnghuà

I can speak English and
a little Mandarin.

我今年三十二岁。

wǒ jīnnián sānshí'èr suì

I am (this year) 32 years
old.

我有两个孩子。

wǒ yǒu liǎng gè hái'zi

I have two kids.

我喜欢看电影。

wǒ xǐhuān kàn diànyǐng

I like watching movie.



LESSON B.1 – PART 2

PINYIN REVISITED

拼音重温 PINYĪN CHÓNG WĒN

PINYIN TABLE



| Init Sound | | Init Sound | | Final Sound | | Semi Sound | | Semi Sound | |
|------------|-----|------------|------|-------------|------|--------------|-------|--------------|-------|
| b- | baw | j- | gee | -a | ah | -i | ee | -u | oo |
| p- | paw | q- | chee | -ai | i | -ia | ya | -ua | wah |
| m- | maw | x- | shee | -an | ahn | -ian | yan | -uai | why |
| f- | faw | z- | dzeh | -ang | ahng | -iang | yahng | -uan | wahn |
| d- | duh | c- | tseh | -ao | ow | -iao | yaow | -uang | wahng |
| t- | tuh | s- | seh | -e | uh | -ie | yeh | -ui | way |
| n- | nuh | zh- | jir | -ei | ay | -in | een | -un | wun |
| l- | luh | ch- | chir | -en | un | -ing | eeng | -uo | wow |
| g- | guh | sh- | shir | -eng | ung | -iong | yoong | -ü | yoo |
| k- | kuh | r- | rj | -er | ur | -iu | you | -üan | ywan |
| h- | huh | | | -o | aw | | | -üe | yueh |
| | | | | -ong | awng | | | -ün | yewn |
| | | | | -ou | oh | | | | |



Placing Tone Mark

- In general, a tone mark is placed above the first vowel:

Example: *bāo, báo, bǎo, bào*

- Exception is *i*, *u*, or *ü*, where the tone mark is placed above the second vowel.

Example: *jiǔ, guì, yuán*

Neutral Tone

- Neutral tone has no tone mark, and is unstressed.
- A neutral tone always follows a major-toned syllable and never comes at the beginning of a phrase.

Example: *wǒmen* as "we" 我们

Tone Change: 3+3 → 2+3

- If a 3rd tone is followed by another 3rd tone, the first 3rd tone is pronounced as a 2nd tone although the printed tone mark does not change:

Examples:

nǐ hǎo → *ní hǎo* "Hello! How do you do!"

hěn měi → *hén měi* "Very beautiful"

TONES

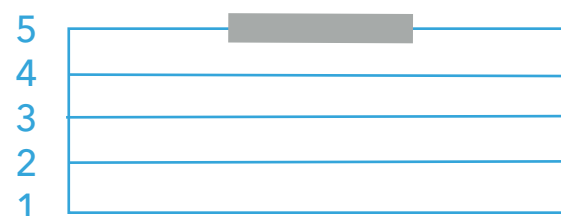


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- Mandarin Chinese has 4 tones 音 (yīn) and a neutral tone.
- The tone you use when pronouncing each one-syllable word determines the meaning.

1st tone

5-5

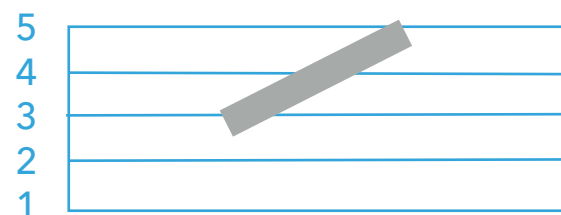


high pitch, hold flat

Aaah

2nd tone

3-5



rising from low to high

What?

3rd tone

2-1-4

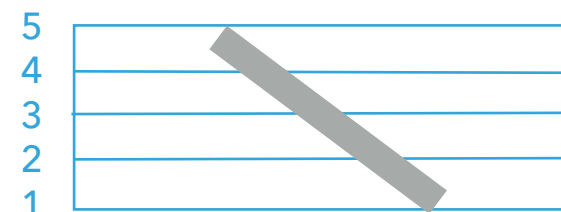


low - dipping - rising

Really?

4th tone

5-1



falls from high to low

No!



| | | |
|--|--|-------------------------|
| | | <i>rì</i> sun |
| | | <i>yuè</i> moon |
| | | <i>shān</i> mountain |
| | | <i>shuǐ</i> water |
| | | <i>niǎo</i> bird |
| | | <i>mǎ</i> horse |

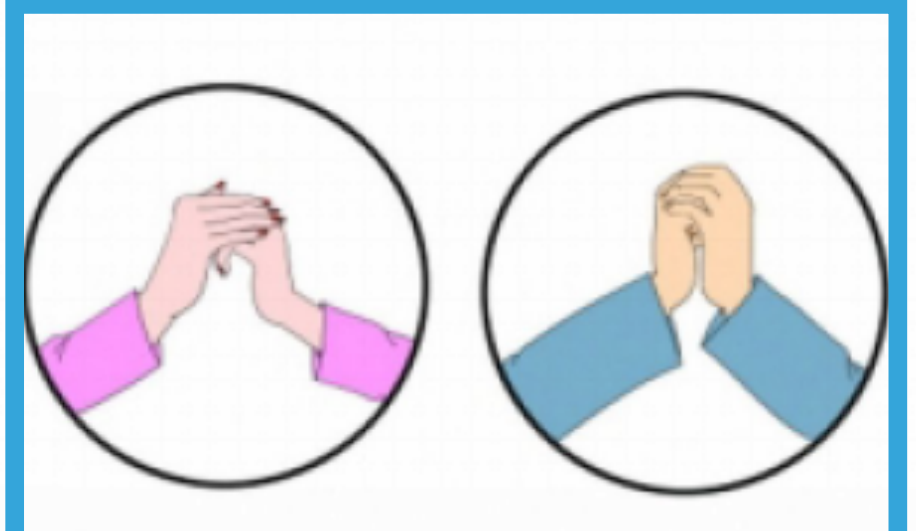
- There is no really easy way to learn characters.
- Each one needs to be memorised.
- However, you can try to picture it.
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CULTURE – FIST AND PALM SALUTE

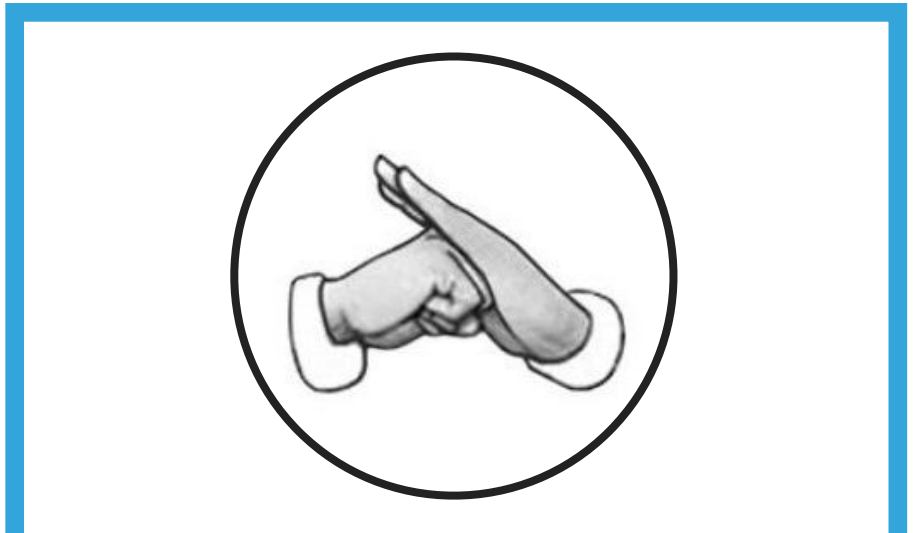


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- For centuries, China has prided itself on being a **State of Etiquette** 礼义之邦 (lǐ yì zhī bāng).
- Even in modern China, “**fist and palm salute**” 拱手礼 (gǒngshǒu lǐ) is frequently used on traditional occasions such as Spring Festival 春节 (*chūnjié*), wedding reception or funeral.
- Chinese people show their respect of others through **distance**, which is a contrast to the physical closeness as usually displayed in the West.
- Today, Chinese would usually **shake hands** when meeting friends and relatives.
- Do not mistake “fist and palm salute” with “**hold fist salute**” 抱拳礼 (bàoquán lǐ) which is used in kung fu.



FIST AND PALM SALUTE



HOLD FIST SALUTE

CLASSROOM EXERCISE B.1 – INTRODUCING A NEW FRIEND



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- Working with the person next to you, introduce him/her to the class.

name

名字
míngzì

What are you called?

你叫什么?
nǐ jiào shénme

He/She is called...

他/她叫.....
tā/tā jiào

age

年龄
niánlíng

How old are you (this year)?

你今年几岁了?
nǐ jīnnián jǐ suìle

He/She (this year)....

他/她今年.....
tā/tā jīnnián

nationality

国籍
guójí

Where do you come from?

你来自哪个国家?
nǐ láizì nǎge guójiā

He/She comes from...

他/她来自.....
tā/tā láizì

other

其它
qítā

What else?

还有什么?
hái yǒu shénme

He/She....

他/她.....
tā/tā