



**Chinese Mandarin and Culture
(Beginners Term C)**

中国普通话和文化

zhōngguó pǔtōnghuà hé wénhuà

Welcome to your Course

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LESSON C.1 - PART 1

GREETING AN OLD FRIEND

问候老朋友 WÈNHÒU LĀO PÉNGYŌU



小李，好久不见了！

xiǎo lǐ, hǎo jiǔ bù jiànle

Matey Lee, long time no see!

对呀，你气色不错！

duì ya, nǐ qì sè bù cuò

Absolutely, you look very well! (Lit. Your energy colour is not bad)

谢谢，你看起来瘦了。

xièxìè, nǐ kàn qǐlái shòule

Thanks, you seem to have lost weight.

对，我有很多事情要做。

duì, wǒ yǒu hěnduō shìqíng yào zuò

Right, I have so much going on.
(Lit. I have many things to do)

Note: for 不 (bù), change the tone to 2nd tone when preceding 4th tone.

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真的吗？你最近忙些什么呀？

zhēn de ma? nǐ zuìjìn máng xiē shénme ya

三个月前我开始自己创业了。

sān gè yuè qián wǒ kāishǐ zìjǐ chuàngyè

恭喜！让我听听。

gōngxǐ! ràng wǒ tīng tīng.

我开了一家蛋糕店。

wǒ kāile yījiā dànghāo diàn

Really? What have
you been up to?
(Lit. you recently busy what?)

I have
started my own business 3
months ago.

Congratulations! Tell me
more. (Lit. Let me hear hear)

I opened a cake
shop.



太棒了！生意怎么样？

tài bàngle! shēngyì zěnme yàng

Awesome! How's business?

不错，但很多工作。

bùcuò, dàn hěnduō gōngzuò

Not bad. But hard work. (Lit. lots of work)

那当然，我想来你的蛋糕店。

nà dāngrán, wǒ xiǎnglái nǐ de dàngāo diàn

I bet (lit. that of course). I want to come to your cake shop.

那太好了！

nà tài hǎole!

That would be great.

INTRODUCING A NEW FRIEND



这是我的朋友。

zhè shì wǒ de péngyǒu

This is my friend.

很高兴认识你。

hěn gāoxìng rènshì nǐ

Nice to meet you. (Lit. very happy to know you)

我们会来你的蛋糕店。

wǒmen huì lái nǐ de dànghāo diàn

We will come to your cake shop.

酷！慢走。

kù, mǎn zǒu

Cool! Take care. (literally walk slow)



LESSON C.1 - PART 2

PINYIN REVISITED

拼音重温 PÍNYĪN 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	yewng
				-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

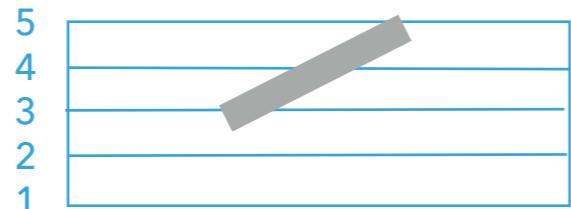


high pitch, hold flat

Aaah

2nd tone

3-5



rising from low to high

What?

3rd tone

2-1-4

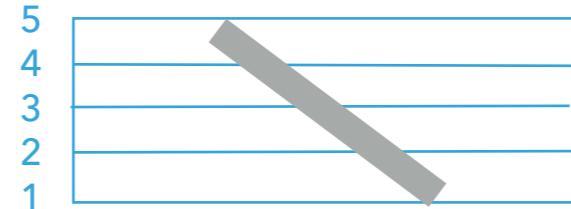


low - dipping - rising

Really?

4th tone

5-1



falls from high to low

No!



很高兴再次见到你!

hěn gāoxìng zài cì jiàn dào nǐ

It's good to see you again!
(Lit. very happy again see you)

你最近怎么样?

nǐ zuìjìn zěnme yàng

How have you been? (Lit. You lately how's it like)

我还好

wǒ hái hǎo

I have been well.

让我们找时间一起吃午餐聚聚。

ràng wǒmen zhǎo shíjiān yīqǐ chī wǔcān jù jù.

Let's catch up for lunch sometime. (lit. Let's find time to have lunch and get together.)

ADVANCED - ASK AFTER FAMILY



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家人都好吧?

jiārén dōu haō ba

我的双胞胎长得很快，他们读书了。

*wǒ de shuāngbāotāi zhǎng dé hěn kuài,
tāmen dúshūle*

听起来太棒了！我想听更多,一起饮咖啡吧。

*tīng qǐlái tài bàngle!
wǒ xiǎng tīng gèng duō, yīqǐ yǐn kāfēi ba*

我们一起吃晚饭，聊聊近况吧。

wǒmen yīqǐ chī wǎnfàn, liáo liáo jìngkuàng ba

How's family? (Lit. Family all good?)

My twins are growing up fast. They are in school now.

Sounds wonderful! I'd love to hear more about it over a coffee.

Let's catch up over dinner instead. (Lit. Let's have dinner & chat about the latest)

CLASSROOM EXERCISE C.1 - GREETINGS

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- Work as a pair, match the best dialogue between Person A and Person B. Practise the below greetings.



Person A

小李，你气色不错！

xiǎo lǐ, nǐ qì sè bù cuò

你最近忙些什么呀？

nǐ zuìjìn máng xiē shénme ya

你看起来胖了。

nǐ kàn qǐlái pàngle

这是我的老朋友。

Zhè shì wǒ de lǎo péngyǒu

生意怎么样？

shēngyì zěnme yàng

我开了一家蛋糕店。

wǒ kāile yījiā dàngāo diàn

Person B

生意不错。

shēngyì bùcuò

谢谢，你也不错！

xièxìe, nǐ yě bùcuò

我将快生孩子了。

wǒ jiāng kuài shēng háizile

我会来尝尝你的蛋糕。

wǒ huì lái cháng cháng nǐ de
dàngāo

很高兴认识你。

hěn gāoxìng rènshì nǐ

我最近有很多事情要做。

wǒ zuìjìn yǒu hěnduō shìqíng
yào zuò