



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 LǎO PÉNGYŌU



小李，好久不见了！

xiǎo lǐ, hǎojiǔ bùjiànle

Matey Lee, long
time no see!

对呀，你气色不错！

duì ya, nǐ qì sè bú cuò

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

谢谢，你看起来瘦了。

xièxiè, 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

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

三个月前我开始自己创业了。

sān gè yuè qián wǒ kāishǐ zìjǐ chuàngyèle

I have
started my own business 3
months ago.

恭喜！让我听听。

gōngxǐ! ràng wǒ tīng tīng.

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

我开了一家蛋糕店。

wǒ kāile yījiā dàngāo diàn

I opened a cake
shop.



太棒了！生意怎么样？

tài bàng! shēngyì zěnmē 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 xiǎng lái nǐ de dàn gāo 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



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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 dànqāo diàn

We will come to your cake shop.

酷！慢走。
kù, màn zǒu

Cool! Take care. (*literally walk slow*)



LESSON C.1 - PART 2

PINYIN REVISITED

拼音重温 PINYĪN CHÓNG WÈN

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

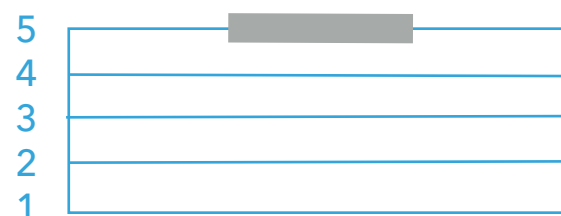


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- Mandarin Chinese has 4 tones 音 (yīn) and a neutral tone.
- The tone you use when pronouncing each one-syllable word determines the meaning.

1st tone

5-5

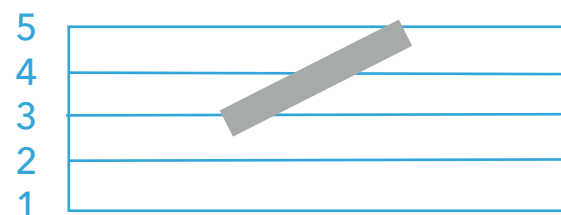


high pitch, hold flat

Aaah

2nd tone

3-5



rising from low to high

What?

3rd tone

2-1-4

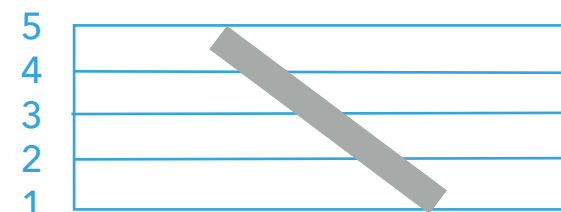


low - dipping - rising

Really?

4th tone

5-1



falls from high to low

No!



很高兴再次见到你！
hěn gāoxìng zàicì jiàn dào nǐ

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

你最近怎么样？
nǐ zuìjìn zěnmē 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.)*



家人都好吧?

jiārén dōu hǎo ba

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

我的双胞胎长得很快, 他们读书了。

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

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

听起来太棒了! 我想听更多, 一起喝咖啡吧。

*tīng qǐlái tài bàng!le!
wǒ xiǎng tīng gèng duō, yìqǐ yǐn kāfēi ba*

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

我们一起吃晚饭, 聊聊近况吧。

wǒmen yìqǐ chī wǎnfàn, liáo liáo jìnkàng ba

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

CLASSROOM EXERCISE C.1 – GREETINGS



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

Person A	Person B
小李，你气色不错！ <i>xiǎo lǐ, nǐ qì sè bú cuò</i>	生意不错。 <i>shēngyì bùcuò</i>
你最近忙些什么呀？ <i>nǐ zuìjìn máng xiē shénme ya</i>	谢谢，你也不错！ <i>xièxiè, nǐ yě bùcuò</i>
你看起来胖了。 <i>nǐ kàn qǐlái pàngle</i>	我将快生孩子了。 <i>wǒ jiāng kuài shēng háizile</i>
这是我的老朋友。 <i>Zhè shì wǒ de lǎo péngyǒu</i>	我会来尝尝你的蛋糕。 <i>wǒ huì lái cháng cháng nǐ de dànɡāo</i>
生意怎么样？ <i>shēngyì zěnmeyàng</i>	很高兴认识你。 <i>hěngāoxìng rènshì nǐ</i>
我开了一家蛋糕店。 <i>wǒ kāile yījiā dànɡāo diàn</i>	我最近有很多事情要做。 <i>wǒ zuìjìn yǒu hěnduō shìqíng yào zuò</i>