Collins easy learning

Mandarin Chinese Audio Course

THE EASIEST WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE
Collins  easy learning

Mandarin Chinese Audio Course

SERIES EDITOR – Rosi McNab
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Welcome to Easy Learning Mandarin!

Mandarin is the official language of China. As well as being the mother tongue of the largest Chinese-speaking group, it is used on television, in schools and in other public organizations throughout China, so that even those whose native dialect is not Mandarin should be able to speak it.

Many Chinese characters evolved from pictograms. Like the symbols for a forest, a bridge or a castle on a map, they tell you what something is but not how to say the word. Most Chinese people can recognize between 2000 and 4000 symbols.

To make it easier to learn Mandarin a system of writing down the sounds was devised using the letters of the roman alphabet. This is the pīn yīn (Pinyin) system, which Chinese children learn along with their characters, and for which the foreign student is also very grateful!

出口 This is the sign you see on the motorway all the time. It means exit, but the word in Pinyin is chū kōu.

山 means mountain (Pinyin shān).

厕 所 means toilet (Pinyin cè suǒ).

Pinyin not only shows a way of spelling out sounds, but you will notice accents over some of the letters that show which tones you should use. See Unit 1, Track 2, below, for an explanation of the tones.

As in most languages, there can be many meanings for the same word or phrase. (Compare: Have you read the book? I am going to book the ticket.) The translations given in this audio course are those relevant to the context. For example, you will meet mǎ mǎ hú hú as ‘so-so’ in response to the conventional greeting, ‘How are you?’, whereas in a different context it means ‘careless’. But as a rule we have not listed alternative meanings.
THE PRONUNCIATION OF PINYIN

Some of the trickier sounds of Pinyin are listed below. Only a rough guide to its pronunciation can be given here; the best way to perfect your pronunciation is to listen carefully to the speakers on the audio files and imitate them.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pinyin</th>
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INTRODUCTION

Easy Learning Mandarin is a course specifically designed to help you to ask for the things you're most likely to need when visiting China and to give you the skills to cope with situations you might find yourself in. This course is different from other courses in that you also learn to understand the likely replies to your questions. You hear key words and phrases used in dialogues between native speakers, so you learn not only how to say them but also how they are used in conversation. To help you remember what you learn, the course makes use of all the latest techniques in memory building, backed up by regular revision. Unlike some other courses, Easy Learning Mandarin is not just a collection of useful phrases to learn by rote; it allows you to practise them, gives you listening tips to help you to recognize what you hear, and tells you what to say when you don’t understand and need help.

Your course consists of audio files and this accompanying guide. Unit 1 is an introduction to basic greetings. After Unit 1, all the other units begin with a section called ‘Tune in to Mandarin’, which gives you the opportunity to get used to the sound of Mandarin and revisit the phrases you’ve already met.

Next, you are introduced to your new key phrases. You can listen to them and repeat them as many times as you like. We will suggest connections and references that might help you to remember them.

Finally, you’ll hear the new language used in short conversations. First you hear each dialogue straight through. Then you hear it again line by line, with explanations of new words and phrases. After that, you listen to the whole dialogue again, before going on to take the part of one of the speakers. This step-by-step approach is designed to build up your confidence in understanding and speaking.
Revision of the key words and phrases is built into the course. As well as the ‘Tune into Mandarin’ track in each unit there is an *Encore* section which reintroduces the key words and phrases from each unit so that you can revise and check what you know and decide whether you need to go back and listen to any of it again.

In this guide you will find extracts from each unit, including the key phrases and selected conversations with translations and learning tips, for easy reference. *Language lab* boxes give brief and simple explanations of how Mandarin works.
UNIT 1  Greetings

Track 2

Tip

Tones
When speaking Mandarin, try to imitate the way the words are said. The same sound can have different meanings according to the way you say it. For instance:

- shì wet
- shí stone
- shì yes

Key phrase: Hello!  ·  Nǐ hǎo!

The first things you need to be able to say in any language are hello and goodbye.

- nǐ hǎo! hello
- nín hǎo! hello (polite form)
- xiān shèng Mr
- tài tài Mrs

Word bank

- nǐ you
- hǎo good or well
- xiān shèng first born – Mr
tài tài Mrs, wife

There are four ways of pronouncing a word in Mandarin. These different ways are called tones. There are four tones.

In addition, some sounds are toneless. There is no tone mark for a neutral tone.
Level tone: ā
You start at a high level and then keep it high. Imagine a doctor asking you to open your mouth and say ā ... ‘ah’.

Rising tone á
Imagine you are asking a question: á ... ‘what?’

Falling-rising tone: ě
Move your head down and up while saying it: ě ... ‘what???’

Falling tone: à
Start at a high level and go straight down to the lowest: à ... ‘what!!!’

In conversation, words that are not particularly emphasized may lose their tone, or even change from one tone to another. But don’t worry – just try to copy the pronunciation on the recording as closely as possible and you will soon get it right.

People’s names
In Chinese you say the name first, and then Mr or Mrs.

The surname comes before the ‘first’ name: in the name Lǐ Míng, Lǐ is the surname and Míng the first name. But abroad some Chinese people write their names the English way, so you may want to ask politely when you first meet a Chinese person in your own country: ‘Your honourable surname? Nín guì xìng?’ The reply will be in this form: Wǒ xìng Zhāng. – My surname is Zhang.

So if your name is John Smith, you will be addressed as ‘Smith John’, or ‘Smith Mr’ – or even just plain ‘Smith’!
Greetings

Listening and speaking

Shǐ mì sī, nǐ hǎo!
Smith, hello!

Zhāng xiān sheng, nǐ hǎo!
Zhang Mr, hello!

Shǐ mì sī, nǐ hǎo!
Smith, hello!

Lì li, nǐ hǎo!
Li li, hello!

Shǐ mì sī, nǐ hǎo!
Smith, hello!

Wáng xiān sheng, nǐ hǎo!
Wang Mr, hello!

Shǐ mì sī, nǐ hǎo!
Smith Mr, hello!

Zhāng tài tai, nǐ hǎo!
Zhang Mrs, hello!

Key phrase: Goodbye · Zài jiàn

Zài jiàn  goodbye

Word bank

zài  again
jiàn  see

Yáng xiān sheng, zài jiàn!
Yang Mr, goodbye!

Lì tài tai, zài jiàn!
Li Mrs, goodbye!

Shǐ mì sī, zài jiàn!
Smith, goodbye!

Yáng xiān sheng, zài jiàn!
Yang Mr, goodbye!
Greetings

Unit 1

Shǐ mi sì, zài jiàn!
Smith, goodbye!

Lǐ tài tai, zài jiàn!
Li Mrs, goodbye!

Wáng xiān sheng, zài jiàn!
Wang Mr, goodbye!

Féng tài tai, zài jiàn!
Feng Mrs, goodbye!

Meeting people

In China, when people meet each other for the first time, they usually shake hands, while saying nǐ hǎo or nín hǎo. Many people like to exchange business cards, especially on a formal occasion. It is polite to offer your card with two hands and make a slight bow at the same time. You should also take the other person’s business card with two hands and examine the card for a few seconds to show your respect.

Remember: in Chinese you say the surname first. It is a good idea to get some business cards printed with your name in Chinese script, with your surname first.

If you know where you are going to be staying, have someone write the address down in Chinese script. Then if you get lost you have something to show people when you are asking for help!

If you are being met at the airport, remember that someone may be looking for you as Mr John or Mrs Susan, and when they say your name it might not sound quite as you expect!
UNIT 2
Attracting attention

Track 7

Key phrase: Excuse me! · Qǐng wèn
The first thing you need to be able to say is: ‘Excuse me.’

Qǐng wèn  Beg ask – ‘Excuse me, please’

Word bank

qǐng  please  wèn  ask

Track 8

Tip

ma ‘?’
You can turn a statement into a question just by adding ma to the end. Think of ma at the end as a sort of spoken question mark: ma for ‘mark’.

Key phrase:  Do you speak English? · Nǐ shuō yīng yǔ ma?

Nǐ shuō yīng yǔ ma?  You speak English language?
Wǒ shuō yīng yǔ  I speak English language
Wǒ bù shuō yīng yǔ  I not speak English language
Dui bu qǐ  Sorry

Word bank

nǐ  you
shuō  speak
yīng  English
yǔ  language

ma ‘?’ – question mark
wǒ  I, me
bù  not, no

Track 9

Tip

Nǐ shuō … ma?
Do you speak …?

When someone asks you a question they often use most of the words you need for the reply. Listen and use what you hear!

Listening and speaking

Nǐ hào, qǐng wèn, nǐ shuō yīng yǔ ma?
Hello, excuse me, you speak English language?

Dui bu qǐ, wǒ bù shuō yīng yǔ. / Wǒ shuō yīng yǔ.
Sorry, I not speak English language. / I speak English language.

Nǐ hào, qǐng wèn, nǐ shuō zhōng wén ma?
Hello, excuse me, you speak Chinese language?

Dui bu qǐ, wǒ bù shuō zhōng wén.
Sorry, I not speak Chinese language.
Zhōng wén  Chinese language
China is an enormous country with many different languages, but the official language is Mandarin. In many areas people speak their own dialect as their first language and learn Mandarin as a second ‘universal’ or official language.

Zhōng means Chinese.
Zhōng wén means Chinese language, especially written but also spoken.
Yǔ is the usual word for the spoken language, as in yīng yǔ, ‘English language’.
You may also hear people say pǔ tōng huà, which means ‘common language’ (i.e. Mandarin).
Pinyin (pīn yīn) is the name given to a system of writing Chinese using the roman alphabet.

And if someone says: Nǐ zhōng wén shuō de hěn hǎo ... they are saying your Chinese is very good – but remember, Chinese people are very polite!

CULTURAL TIP

UNIT 3  Exchanging courtesies

Key phrase: How are you? · Nǐ hǎo ma?

In Unit 2 you learnt how to ask a question by adding a spoken question mark. Now you can use what you have learnt to turn nǐ hǎo – ‘you well’ into a question.

Nǐ hǎo ma?  You well? – How are you?
Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?  Hello, how are you?

So now you had better learn how to answer it.
Dialogue

How to say: ‘I’m very well, thank you.’

Word bank

wǒ  I, me
hěn  very
ne  a spoken question mark: ‘and ...?’
xiè xie  thank you

Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma? Hello, how are you?
    Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?  I very well, you also?
Hěn hǎo, xiè xie. Very well, thank you.
    Zài jiàn.  Goodbye.

Bái bái. Bye-bye.

Key phrase: Not so well, I’m a bit tired! ·
    Mǎ mǎ hu hu, wǒ yǒu diǎnr lèi!

How to say: ‘Not so well, I’m a bit tired.’

Bù tài hǎo  Not too well
Mǎ mǎ hu hu  So-so
Wǒ yǒu diǎnr lèi  I have a bit tiredness – I’m a bit tired
Wǒ yě shì  I also am
Wǒ hěn lèi  I very tired

Word bank

tài  too, very
yǒu  have
diǎnr  a little, a bit
yě  also
shì  am, is, are, (to) be
If someone asks you: Nǐ hǎo ma? when you’re feeling decidedly under the weather, the usual response is (Wǒ) bù tài hǎo, ‘not too well’. Tài is the same word as in tài tai (wife, or Mrs).

Here’s a handy way to remember it:
Tài tai bù tài hǎo – Missus not too well!

Mǎ mǎ hu hu, ‘so-so’, is easy to remember: it sounds as if Mama is crying, or saying ‘boo hoo’! But literally, mǎ means ‘horse’ and hǔ means ‘tiger’; hu hu sounds like the wind blowing. In some contexts mǎ mǎ hu hu means ‘careless’.

Listening and speaking

Zhāng xiān shèng, nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?
Mr Zhang, hello, how are you?
    Hěn hǎo, xiè xie, nǐ ne?
    Very well, thank you, and you?
Hěn hǎo.
Very well.
    Zài jiàn.
    Goodbye.
Zài jiàn.
Goodbye.

Lǐ tài tai, nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?
Mrs Li, hello, how are you?
    Wǒ yǒu diānr lèi, nǐ ne?
    I have a bit tired, and you?
Wǒ yě shì.
I also am.
UNIT 4  
Asking questions

Track 18

Key phrase: Do you understand? · Dǒng bu dǒng?

Dǒng bu dǒng? Understand not understand?
Wǒ dǒng I understand
Wǒ bù dǒng I not understand – I don’t understand
Bù dǒng! Not understand!
Dui bu qǐ, wǒ bù dǒng Sorry, I not understand
Dǒng ma? (Do you) understand?

Word bank

dǒng understand
A question of choice …

To ask someone in Chinese if they understand, you often use the choice-type question form. You give the person a choice: ‘Understand not understand’, ǒng bu ǒng, and they choose which one to answer: (Wǒ) ǒng, or (Wǒ) bu ǒng. (This is the commonest way of saying ‘Yes’ or ‘No’ in Chinese.)

Hē bu hē kā fēi? Drink not drink coffee?
Hǎo bu hǎo? Well not well?
Yào bu yào? Want not want?
Shuō bu shuō yīng yǔ? Speak not speak English?

Listening practice

Nǐ shuō bu shuō yīng yǔ? You speak not speak English?
Wǒ shuō yīng yǔ I speak English
Dui bu qǐ, bù shuō yīng yǔ Sorry, not speak English

Hē bu hē kā fēi? Drink not drink coffee?
Wǒ hē kā fēi I drink coffee
Wǒ bù hē kā fēi I not drink coffee
Wǒ hēn xǐ huān kā fēi I very-much like coffee

Word bank

shuō to speak
hē to drink
xǐ huān to like
yīng yǔ English language
kā fēi coffee

Speaking practice

Hē bu hē kā fēi?
Drink not drink coffee?

Wǒ hē kā fēi. / Wǒ bù hē kā fēi.
I drink coffee. / I not drink coffee.

Hǎo bu hǎo?
Well not well?
Asking questions

Wǒ hěn hǎo. / Bú tài hǎo.
I very well. / Not too well.

Shǐ mì sī tài hǎo bu hǎo?
Smith Mrs well not well?
Shǐ mì sī tài hěn hǎo. / Shǐ mì sī tài bù hǎo.
Smith Mrs very well. / Smith Mrs not well.

Dǒng bu dǒng?
Understand not understand?
Wǒ dǒng. / Wǒ bù dǒng.
I understand. / I not understand.

Nǐ shuō bu shuō yīng yǔ?
You speak not speak English language?
Wǒ shuō yīng yǔ.
I speak English language.

Shuō bu shuō zhōng wén?
Speak not speak Chinese?
Duí bu qí, bù shuō zhōng wén.
Sorry, not speak Chinese.

Asking and answering questions
There are two ways of asking a question. You can use a choice-type question and ask:
Speak not speak English?  Shuō bu shuō yīng yǔ?
Drink not drink coffee?  Hē bu hē kǎ fēi?

Or you can add the spoken question mark:
You like coffee?  Nǐ xǐ huān kǎ fēi ma?
You understand?  Nǐ dǒng ma?

Remember to answer by repeating the word you hear, with or without wǒ:
I speak / don’t speak  Wǒ shuō / bù shuō
I drink / don’t drink  Wǒ hē / bù hē
(Wǒ) bù yào – (I) not want – is a very useful way of stopping people trying to sell you things you don’t want.
UNIT 5  Where are you from?

Track 32

Tip

*yīng guó*  England, Britain

The Chinese like to give other countries complimentary names, and *yīng guó* can also be translated as ‘brave country’.

Tip

*měi guó*  America

*Měi* means ‘beautiful’, so *měi guó* is literally ‘beautiful country’.

Tip

*zhōng guó*  China

Zhōng means ‘middle’ or ‘centre’, and *zhōng guó* means ‘central country’ – what western writers called the ‘Middle Kingdom’.

Listening practice

Wǒ shì měi guó rén  I am American
Wǒ bù shì měi guó rén  I am not an American

Word bank

| wǒ  | I am |
| wǒ bù  | I am not |

Key phrase: Are you English?  ·

*Nǐ shì bu shì yīng guó rén?*  You are not are English-country person? – Are you English?

*Nǐ shì bu shì zhōng guó rén?*  Are you Chinese?

*Nǐ shì bu shì měi guó rén?*  Are you American?
Using what you know ...

You now know enough Chinese words to start using them as building blocks to say more things. You know the word for ‘I’ or ‘me’ is wǒ.
‘Speak’ is shuō, so ‘I speak’ is wǒ shuō.
‘I don’t speak’ is wǒ bù shuō.
‘I speak English language’ is wǒ shuō yīng yǔ.
And ‘I don’t speak Chinese language’ is wǒ bù shuō zhōng wén.
You can ring the changes yourself with nǐ (you) or ma (question mark).

And can you work out how to say: ‘Can you repeat it, please?’
It will be: ‘Please you again say,’ ‘Please’ – qǐng, ‘you’ – nǐ.
‘Please you again speak’ – Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.
UNIT 6
Going places

Track 38

Tip
Wǒ qù shàng hǎi
I go Shanghai

With qù you don’t need a word for ‘to’.

Key phrase: Where are you going? · Nǐ qù nǎr?

Nǐ qù nǎr? You go where? – Where are you going?
Wǒ qù shàng hǎi I go Shanghai – I’m going to Shanghai
Wǒ qù xī ān I’m going to Xi’an
Nǐ men qù nǎr? Where are you going?
Wǒ men qù běi jīng We’re going to Beijing
Wǒ men qù xiāng gǎng We’re going to Hong Kong

Shanghai is the second largest city in China by population – about 20 million. Shàng means ‘above’ and hǎi means ‘sea’. And Shanghai is in fact above the sea!

Xi’an is a famous historical city and was the capital of China for many dynasties. It is where the terracotta warriors were found. Xi’an has a population of more than 6 million people. Xī means ‘west’ and ān means ‘peace’, ‘peaceful’.

Beijing is the capital of China – běi is ‘north’ and jīng is ‘capital’. In English it used to be known as Peking. It has about 18 million inhabitants, or nearly a third of the population of the United Kingdom. The population of China is more than four times that of America: about 1.3 billion to America’s 300 million.

Hong Kong is a very important trading centre. It is in the area of China known as Canton, and the people mostly speak Cantonese, which is quite different from Mandarin. However, they all write the language in the same way, so a Cantonese speaker can read what a Mandarin speaker has written, and vice-versa, but they can’t talk to each other! Xiāng means ‘fragrant’ and gǎng means ‘port’. Hong Kong is a ‘fragrant port’! It isn’t very fragrant now because it is so built up, but it is still a very beautiful place.
Unit 6

Going places

Word bank

nǐ  you (referring to one person)
nǐ men  you (more than one person)
wǒ  I
wǒ men  we
qù  go
nár  where?

Listening practice

Ni qù bu qù shāng hǎi?  You go not go Shanghai? –
Are you going to Shanghai?
Qǐng nǐ zài shuō  Can you repeat it, please?
Nǐ men yě qù xī ān ma?  Are you also going to Xi’an?
Wǒ men qù yǐng guó  We are going to England
Nǐ men qù bu qù lún dūn?  Are you going to London?
Yí lù shùn fēng!  One journey favourable wind – have a
good journey!

Yī lù shùn fēng!  – ‘Whole way favourable wind!’ ‘Have a good
journey!’

Word bank

yě  also
yī  one
lù  way or journey
shùn  smooth
fēng  wind
Dialogue

Nǐ hǎo!
Hello!

Nǐ hǎo!
Hello!

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?
Where are you from?

Wǒ shì ào dà lì yà rén.
I’m Australian.

Nǐ qù nǎr?
You go where?

Dui bu qǐ, wǒ bù dǒng.
Sorry, I not understand.

Nǐ qù nǎr? ... Nǐ qù bèi jīng ma?
Where are you going? ... You go Beijing? – Are you going to Beijing?

Wǒ qù xī ān.
I go Xi’an – I’m going to Xi’an.

Nǐ qù nǎr?
You go where? – Where are you going?

Wǒ qù shàng hǎi.
I go Shanghai.

Zài jiàn.
Goodbye.

Zài jiàn, yí lù shùn fēng!
Goodbye, have a good journey!

Extras

Some things about Mandarin are very difficult to learn, but some things are easy. A lot of words are like building blocks. When you have enough building blocks you can start to build lots more sentences of your own.

You know how to say ‘I go to Shanghai’ – you say, ‘I go Shanghai.’
‘I’ is wǒ and ‘go’ is qù. ‘I go Shanghai’ is: Wǒ qù shàng hǎi.

You know bù is ‘not’, so you can say: ‘I am not going to Shanghai’ – ‘I not go Shanghai’: Wǒ bù qù shàng hǎi.

You can say ‘We go to Hong Kong’: Wǒ men qù xiāng gǎng.
‘We are not going to Hong Kong’: Wǒ men bù qù xiāng gǎng.
Do you want to know more about places in China? Go and visit any of these websites:

China National Tourism Administration: http://en.cnta.gov.cn/
China National Tourist Office: http://www.cto.org
China Today: http://www.chinatoday.com

And of course there is always Wikipedia: http://www.wikipedia.org

UNIT 7  Asking directions

Key phrase: Where? · Zài nàr?

Nàr  Where?
Zài nàr?  Is situated where? – where? where is ...?
Jiǔ bā zài nàr?  Bar is where? – where is the bar?

Word bank

jiǔ bā  bar
jiǔ   alcohol
bā   bar

Key phrase: Where is the tourist office? · Lǚ xíng shè zài nàr?

Lǚ xíng shè zài nàr?  Where is the tourist office?

Word bank

lǚ xíng shè  tourist office
lǚ   traveller, travelling, tourism
xíng   walking, travelling
shè   office

Most Chinese words have more than one meaning. In other contexts shè is often a ‘society’.
Key phrase: Where is the hotel? 
Lǚ diàn zài nár?

Lǚ diàn zài nár? Hotel at where? – where is the hotel?

Word bank

lǚ diàn  hotel (‘shop’ for travellers to stay in)
lǚ  traveller
diàn  shop
jiǔ diàn  alcohol shop – another word for hotel

Dialogue

Track 48

Tip

Zài nár  – is situated where?
Nár  is a falling-rising tone (it sounds more questioning).

Zài nár  – over there.
Nár  is a falling tone (giving information).

Zài nár  – Over there
Dui bu qí, wǒ bù zhī dào  Sorry, I don’t know

Shén me?  What? – Sorry, I didn’t hear

Shén me?  literally means ‘what?’
Here, it means ‘sorry’ or ‘pardon’.

Shén me?  What? – I didn’t hear.

Rén mín lǚ diàn zài nár?  Where is the Renmin Hotel?

Shén me?

What? – I didn’t hear.

Rén mín lǚ diàn zài nár?

Where is the Renmin Hotel?”

Ǒ, zài nár.

Oh, it is over there.

Xiè xie nǐ.

Thank you.
UNIT 8  Where can we eat?

Track 51

Key phrase: Where is the restaurant? ·  Fàn diàn zài nàr?

Qīng wèn, fàn diàn zài nàr?  Excuse me, restaurant at where?
Qīng wèn, lǚ diàn zài nàr?  Excuse me, hotel at where?
Ō, zài nàr  It’s over there
Shén me?  What? Pardon?
Dui bu qǐ, wǒ bù zhī dào  Sorry, I don’t know
Lǚ xíng shè zài nàr  (The) tourist office (is) over there

Word bank

fàn diàn  meal shop – restaurant
fàn  food or meal
diàn  shop

Track 52

Key phrase: Where is the toilet? ·  Cè suǒ zài nàr?

Cè suǒ zài nàr?  Toilet place at where?
Where can we eat?

Word bank

cè suǒ  toilet place
zài nār?  at where?
zài yòu biān  at right side
zài zuǒ biān  at left side
biān  side
yòu  right
zuǒ  left

Gents and Ladies toilets have the following symbols.

男 (male): the picture of farms or a field sits on top of the symbol of strength – manpower?
女 (female): this looks like a folding chair – it depicts a woman kneeling!

Dialogue

Qǐng wèn, xiǎo jie  Please, miss

Word bank

qǐng wèn  excuse me
xiǎo jie  little sister – Miss, young lady

Nǐ hǎo.
Hello.

Qǐng wèn ...
Excuse me ...
Xiǎo jie ...
Young lady ...

Track 54
Where can we eat?

**Suǒ fēi tè jiǔ diàn zài nǎr?**
Sofitel Hotel at where?

**Shén me?**
What?

**Wǒ bù dǒng.**
I don’t understand.

**Suǒ fēi tè jiǔ diàn zài nǎr?**
Sofitel Hotel at where?

**Wǒ bù zhī dào.**
I don’t know.

**Nǐ qù lǚ xíng shè.**
You go information office.

**Lǚ xíng shè zài nǎr?**
Information office at where?

**Lǚ xíng shè zài zuǒ biān.**
Information office at left side.

**Xiè xie nǐ.**
Thank you.

**Bú xiè.**
Don’t mention it – You’re welcome.

---

**Track 56**

**Tip**

Don’t worry, there will usually be arabic numbers in public places, such as on doors and lifts.

**Extras**

**Wǒ de fáng jiān zài nǎr?** My room at where?

**Nǐ de fáng jiān shì èr líng sān** Your room is 203

**Nǐ lèi ma?** You tired?

**Wǒ hěn lèi** I very tired

**Word bank**

- **wǒ** I, me
- **wǒ de** of me, my
- **fáng jiān** room
- **nǐ lèi ma?** you tired?
- **lèi** tired
- **wǒ hěn lèi** I very tired
- **wǒ you dianr lèi** I have a bit tiredness
Now imagine your drink and jet lag are catching up with you, so perhaps you’d better ask where your room is ...

Qǐng wèn, xiǎo jie, wǒ de fáng jiān zài nǎr?
Excuse me please young lady, where is my room?
  
 Nǐ lèi ma?
  You tired?
 Wǒ hěn lèi.
  I very tired.
   
 Nǐ de fáng jiān shì èr líng sān.
  Your room is 203.

And the receptionist kindly writes your room number down for you and points you in the direction of the lift.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>聽:</th>
<th>Here are the numbers zero to ten.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>零 lǐng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>一 yī</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>二 èr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>三 sān</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>四 sì</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>五 wǔ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you learn the numbers zero to ten, you can always give bigger numbers by saying them one digit at a time.
Tune in to Mandarin

Mr Smith is at the airport in Hong Kong when he recognizes someone he has seen at his hotel. He says hello ...

Nǐ hǎo!
Hello!

Nǐ hǎo! Nǐ hǎo ma?
Hello! How are you?

Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?
I very well, you also?

Mǎ mǎ hu hu.
So-so.

Wǒ yǒu diānr lèi.
I have a bit tired.

Nǐ qù nǎr?
You go where?

Wǒ qù shāng hǎi.
I go Shanghai.

Nǐ qù nǎr?
You go where?

Wǒ qù běi jīng.
I go Beijing.

Qǐng wèn, jiū bā zài nǎr?
Excuse me, bar situated where?

Zài zuò biān.
On left side.

Yī lǜ shùn fēng!
Safe journey.

Zài jiàn.
Goodbye.

Bái bái.
Bye-bye.
Key phrase: I want to go to …
Wǒ xiǎng qù …

Wǒ xiǎng qù … I want to go to …
Yuán bu yuán? Is it far?
Zuò dì tiě Take or sit (on) the underground
Zuò gōng chē Take or sit (on) a bus
Zuò huò chē Take or sit (on) a train
Zuò chū zū chē Take or sit (on) a taxi

zuò  sit
This is the word we use when talking about transport.
In Chinese it is actually to ‘sit’ the underground, bus or train.

chū zū chē taxi
Chū zū means ‘out hire’, that is ‘hire out’, so to ‘take a taxi’ in Chinese is literally to sit in a hired car.

Word bank

xiǎng  want
qù  go (to)
yuán  far, a long way
zuò dì tiě  take or sit (on) the underground
zuò  sit
dì  ground
tiě  iron
chē  car
gōng chē  bus
huò chē  a train
chū zū chē taxi
chū zū  rent out
Di tiě is the short form of di xià tiě lù, which means underground railway. Di means ‘ground’, xià means ‘under’ or ‘below’, and tiě lù means ‘railway’, literally ‘iron way’. In Chinese, ‘ground under’ means ‘under ground’. So ‘ground under rail way’ means ‘underground railway’, or, as we say, ‘the underground’.

**Listening and speaking**

Tìān ān mén guǎng chāng  Tian’anmen Square
Zuò gōng chē ba!  Take a bus!

**Word bank**

**ba** (indicates suggestion or request)

Ba at the end may mark a suggestion or request, or it may indicate approval. Do you remember ma, the spoken question mark? You might think of ba as a mild exclamation mark.
Dialogue

Word bank

hái shì or

A woman is asking for directions at the hotel reception desk.

Nǐ hǎo.
Hello.

Nǐ hǎo.
Hello.

Qǐng wèn, xiān shèng, wǒ xiǎng qù tiān ān mén guǎng chǎng.
Excuse me, sir, I want to go to Tian’anmen Square.

Zuò dì tī hái shì zuò chū zǔ chē?
Take underground or take taxi?

Gōng chē zài nàr?
Public bus at where?

Zài yòu biān.
At right side ~ On the right.

Xiě xie nǐ.
Thank you.

Bú xiè.
You’re welcome.

Extras

Here are some more places you might want to go to.

Great Wall  cháng chéng
Temple of Heaven  tiān tán
Summer Palace  yí hé yuán
Airport  jī chǎng
Train station  huò chē zhàn
Stadium  tǐ yù guǎn
Olympic Stadium  ào lín pǐ kē tǐ yù guǎn

For more information, see the short list of useful websites at the end of Unit 6.
UNIT 10 Ordering a drink

Track 72

Tune in to Mandarin

Understanding questions:

Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma? Hello, how are you?
Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? Where are you from?
Nǐ qù nǎr? Where are you going?
Huò chē zhàn zài nǎr? Hotel is where?

Track 73

Key phrase: What would you like to drink? · Nǐ xiǎng hē shén me?

Nǐ xiǎng hē shén me? You want drink what? – What would you like to drink?
Wǒ xiǎng hē … I would like to drink …

Word bank

nǐ you
xiǎng think, want, would like to
hē to drink
shén me what, something
wǒ I

Tip

Drinks

shuǐ water
chá tea
kā fēi coffee
jú zi zhī orange juice
kē kǒu kē lè Coca Cola
pí jiǔ beer
jǐu wine
hóng jiǔ red wine
hóng red
bái pú tao jiǔ white wine
bái white
pú tao grape

Track 74

Listening practice

Nǐ xiǎng hē shén me?
What do you want to drink?
I want tea.

Coffee.

I want beer.

I’d like red wine.

Want drink something?

Good idea!

Cha tea
Tea in its many varieties is perhaps the most popular drink in China. Favourites include liu cha (green tea), moli hu cha (jasmine tea), hong cha (red or black tea) and wulong cha (oolong tea). The tea ceremony varies geographically but also according to the kind of tea you are having. The Chinese do not usually take tea with milk or sugar, but – if you must! – milk is nai, cow’s milk is niu nai, and sugar is tang. Tea leaves are often used in preference to tea bags.

Kafei coffee
The names for different kinds of coffee usually sound quite similar to their English equivalents. For instance, ‘cappuccino’ is kabi qu nuo, and ‘mocha’ is mo kah. So if you are not sure how to order the kind of coffee you want, try to say its English name in a Chinese way!

Ke Kou Ke le Coca-Cola
This is a copy of the English sound, but ke kou in Chinese also means ‘tasty’, and ke le means ‘funny’. So in Chinese it sounds as if you are asking for something ‘tasty-funny’!

Bai Pu Tao jiu white wine
If you only say bai jiu, which literally is ‘white wine’, people might think you are asking for (the considerably stronger!) Chinese spirits, normally called bai jiu.
Listening and speaking

Dialogue

**Nǐ hǎo.**
Hello.

**Nǐ hǎo.**
Hello.

**Hē shēn me ma?**
Drink something?

**Hǎo.**
OK.

**Nǐ xiāng hē shēn me?**
You like drink what?

**Hē bu hē jiǔ?**
Drink not drink alcohol?

**Wǒ bù hē jiǔ.**
I not drink alcohol.

**Nǐ xiāng hē chá ma?**
You like drink tea?

Measure words

‘I want one beer.’ – Wǒ xiāng hē yī bēi pí jiǔ.
Yī is ‘one’. Bēi means ‘glass’. To say how many you want of something, in Chinese you need a measure word between the number and the thing. So you can’t say: ‘I want one beer’ – you have to say that you want ‘one GLASS of beer,’ which is yī bēi pí jiǔ.

‘I want two beers.’ – Wǒ xiāng hē liǎng bēi pí jiǔ.
Liǎng bēi pí jiǔ is ‘two glasses of beer’. When you ask for two beers you do not use the normal word for ‘two’, but you say ‘a couple’, which is liǎng. So you ask for liǎng bēi pí jiǔ.

‘I want two bottles of beer’ – Wǒ xiāng hē liǎng píng pí jiǔ.

Chinese doesn’t make any difference between ‘thing’ and ‘things’. The word for ‘glass’ stays the same whether you are having one glass or three!

To review the numbers zero to ten, see Unit 8 Extras.
UNIT 11 Asking for a room

Key phrase: Have you got a room, please? ·
Qǐng wèn, yǒu fánɡ jiān ma?

Qǐng wèn, xiǎo jie, yǒu fánɡ jiān ma? Excuse me, Miss, have you got a room?
Jǐ wèi? How many people?
Yī wèi One person
Liǎnɡ wèi ‘Couple people’ – two people
Liǎnɡ tiān ‘Couple days’ – two days

Word bank

qǐng wèn please
yǒu have
fánɡ jiān room
xiǎo jie Miss
tiān day

Listening practice

Word bank

méi yǒu not have
zhè shì here is
yào shì key
Asking for a room

Dialogue

_Qìng xiě xià lái_  Please write it down
_Nǐ jiào shén me?_  What is your name?
_Wǒ jiào ..._  I am called ...  

Word bank

gěi nǐ  for you
jiào  to be called

Nǐ hǎo!
Hello!

Nǐ hǎo!
Hello!

_Qìng wèn, xiān shēng, yǒu fáng jiān mà?_  
Excuse me, sir, have you got a room?

Jì wèi?
How many people?

_Liǎng wèi._
Two people.

Jì tiān?
How many days?

_Yī tiān._
One day.

Yǒu. Nǐ jiào shén me?
‘Have’ – I have a room. What is your name?

_Wǒ jiào Shí mì sǐ Mǎ lì._
I called Mary Smith.

Zhè shì yào shì ...
Here is the key ...

_Shí mì sǐ xiǎo jie._
Smith Miss.

Wǔ líng sān fāng jiān.
503 room.

_Wǒ bù dǒng._
I don’t understand.

_Qìng nǐ zài shuō._
Please you again say.

Wǔ líng sān fāng jiān.
503 room.

_Qìng xiě xià lái._
Please write it down.
Asking for a room

**Gěi nǐ.**
For you – Here you are.

**Xiè xie.**
Thank you.

**Bú xiè.**
No thank – Don’t mention it.

**Extras**

Wǒ de diàn huà shì yāo líng wǔ qǐ liù èr sān.
My telephone number is one zero five seven six two three.

---

**Tip**

Diàn huà is the word for telephone. Diàn is ‘electricity’ and huà is ‘words’ or ‘talk’. Literally, telephone is electric talk!

My telephone number is one zero five seven six two three.

---

**LANGUAGE LAB**

Wǒ de diàn huà shì ... My telephone number is ...
Wǒ de diàn huà means ‘my telephone’. You don’t have to say the word for ‘number’. Wǒ is ‘I’ and de means ‘of’, so wǒ de is ‘of me’, or ‘my’.

... yāo líng wǔ qǐ liù èr sān.
... one zero five seven six two three.

When you are saying telephone or room numbers, yī (one) is pronounced yāo to make it clearer.

And remember how to ask someone to write their number down:
Qǐng xiě xià lai. Please write it down.

---

**CULTURAL TIP**

The code for China is: 0086 líng líng bā liù.
The code for the UK is: 0044 líng líng sì sì.

Write down your phone numbers and learn them off by heart:

My phone number is ...: Wǒ de diàn huà shì ..................................
My mobile number is ...: Wǒ de shòu jī shì ..................................
UNIT 12  All about food!

Track 84

Tune in to Mandarin

In the hotel lobby.

Nǐ hǎo!
Hello!

Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?
Hello, how are you?

Hěn hǎo, xiě xie. Nǐ ne?
Very well, thank you, and you?

Wǒ yǒu diānr lèi.
I’m a bit tired.

Nǐ qù nǎr?
Where are you going?

Wǒ qù Shànghǎi.
I am going to Shanghai.

Nǐ men qù nǎr?
Where are you going?

Wōmen qù běijīng.
We are going to Beijing.

Qǐng wèn, cê suó zài nǎr?
Excuse me, where are the toilets?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù zhī dào.
Sorry, I don’t know.

Yī lǜ shùn fēng.
Have a good journey.

Nǐ yě shì. Bái bái.
You also. Bye-bye.

Track 85

Key phrase: I like to eat …  ·  Wǒ xǐ huān chī …

Wǒ xǐ huān chī …  I like eat ...
Wǒ bù xǐ huān chī …  I don’t like eat ...

Word bank

wǒ  I
xǐ huān  like
chī  eat
fàn  rice
bái fàn  steamed rice
chǎo fàn  stir-fried rice
Chinese people don’t eat much bread. A typical Chinese meal would be rice and vegetables with meat or fish. They also eat lots of noodles. But hotels, especially big hotels, serve a traditional western breakfast. ‘Breakfast’ in Chinese is zǎo fàn. Zǎo means ‘morning’. ‘Lunch’ is wǔ fàn – wǔ meaning ‘midday’. ‘Dinner’ is wǎn fàn – wǎn meaning ‘evening’.

Fàn, meaning ‘rice’, also means ‘meal’, as in the old days most meals were rice. It’s just like our word ‘meal’, which comes from the ground meal that was our staple diet, though we don’t think about it when we say it.

Dialogue

zhōng guó cài  Chinese food

Nǐ men chī shén me?  You eat what?

Wǒ men chī fàn.

We eat rice.

Bái fàn hǎi shì chǎo fàn?  Steamed or fried rice?

Chǎo fàn.

Fried rice.

Dà xiā chǎo fàn hǎi shì jī ròu chǎo fàn?  King prawn fried rice or chicken fried rice?

Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.

Please you again say.

Dà xiā chǎo fàn hǎi shì jī ròu chǎo fàn?  King prawn fried rice or chicken fried rice?

Jī ròu chǎo fàn ...

Chicken fried rice ...

... dà xiā chǎo fàn.

... king prawn fried rice.
Tip

Hǎo chī bu hǎo chī? – Good eat not good eat?

The question often supplies most of the words you need for the answer. In this case you know them all, and if you add the word hěn, ‘very’, you can make a proper Chinese response:

Hěn hǎo chī – ‘Very good eat.’

Hěn hǎo chī!
Very good eat!

Wǒ xǐ huān chī zhōng guó cài.
I like eat Chinese food.

Extras

Paying for your meal

Duō shao qián? How much is it?
Qǐng xiě xià lai. Please write it down.
Kě yī yòng kǎ ma? May use (credit) card?
Dāng rán kě yī. Of course may.
Duí bu qǐ, bù shōu Sorry not take.
Zhī shōu xiàn jīn. Only take cash.

Word bank

kě yī may, can
yòng use
kǎ card
shōu receive, take
bù shōu not take
xiàn jīn cash
dāng rán of course

So you had better find out where the nearest cash machine is ...

Qǐng wèn, qǔ kuān jí zài nǎr? Excuse me, cash machine at where?

You may not feel that you have learnt very many Mandarin words, but you have learnt a great deal about the way Mandarin works, and we hope this has given you confidence to come back and learn some more soon!

Zài jiàn! Goodbye!
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- Dialogues

*Unit 2*
- Key phrases
- Dialogues

*Unit 3*
- Key phrases
- Dialogues

*Unit 4*
- Key phrases
- Dialogues

---

### Introduction

### Unit 5 Where are you from?

*Tune in to Mandarin*
- Key phrase: ‘Are you English?’ · *Nǐ shì bu shì yīng guó rén?*
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- Key phrase: ‘Where is the tourist office?’ · *Lǚ xíng shè zài nǎr?*
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Unit 12 All about food!
Tune into Mandarin

Key phrase: ‘I like to eat …’ · Wǒ xǐ huān chī …

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