

Collins easy learning

Mandarin Chinese Audio Course

THE EASIEST WAY TO LEARN A LANGUAGE



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WELCOME TO MANDARIN

.....

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 kǒu**.

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 hu hu** 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.

Pinyin	Sound	(as in) English
c	ts	cats
chi	chur	char
ci	tsur	white surf
e	er	there's
ei	ay	may
ie	yeh	yellow
iu	yo	yoyo
o	or	or
ou	oh	oh
q	ch	cheat
ri	rur	rural , children
shi	shur	shirt
si	sur	absurd
ui	way	way
uo	war	war
x	sh	who's she
z	dz	adze
zh	j	jar
zhi	jur	in jury
zi	dzur	odds are

INTRODUCTION

.....

Track 1

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

Key phrase: Hello! · Nǐ hǎo!

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:

shǐ wet
shí stone
shì yes

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 sheng Mr
tài tai Mrs

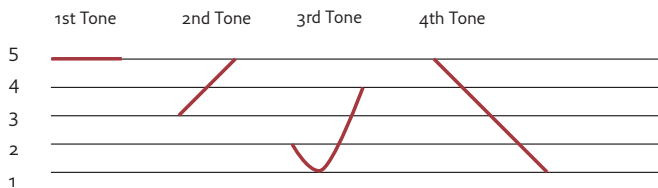
Word bank

nǐ you
hǎo good or well
xiān sheng first born – Mr
tài tai Mrs, wife



LANGUAGE LAB

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.



LANGUAGE LAB

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: ǎ

Move your head down and up while saying it: ǎ ... '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.



CULTURAL TIP

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'!

Track 3

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!

Lǐ lì, 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!*

Track 4

Key phrase: Goodbye · Zài jiàn

Zài jiàn goodbye

Word bank

zài again**jiàn** see**Yáng xiān sheng, zài jiàn!**

Yang Mr, goodbye!

Lǐ tài tai, zài jiàn!*Li Mrs, goodbye!***Shǐ mì sī, zài jiàn!**

Smith, goodbye!

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

Shǐ mì sī, zài jiàn!

Smith, goodbye!

Lǐ tài tai, zài jiàn!

Li Mrs, goodbye!

Shǐ mì sī, zài jiàn!

Smith, goodbye!

Wáng xiān sheng, zài jiàn!

Wang Mr, goodbye!

Shǐ mì sī, zài jiàn!

Smith Mr, goodbye!

Féng tài tai, zài jiàn!

Feng Mrs, goodbye!



CULTURAL TIP

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

Duì 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 hǎo, qǐng wèn, nǐ shuō yīng yǔ ma?

Hello, excuse me, you speak English language?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù shuō yīng yǔ. / Wǒ shuō yīng yǔ.

Sorry, I not speak English language. / I speak English language.

Nǐ hǎo, qǐng wèn, nǐ shuō zhōng wén ma?

Hello, excuse me, you speak Chinese language?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù shuō zhōng wén.

Sorry, I not speak Chinese language.



CULTURAL TIP

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!

UNIT 3 Exchanging courtesies

Track 12

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.

Track 13

Dialogue

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

Word bank

wǒ I, me

hěn very

ne a spoken question mark: 'and ...?'

xiè xiè thank you

Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?

Hello, how are you?

Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?

I very well, you also?

Hěn hǎo, xiè xiè.

Very well, thank you.

Zài jiàn.

Goodbye.

Track 14

Bái bai.

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



LANGUAGE LAB

bù tài hǎo not too well

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!



LANGUAGE LAB

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'.

Track 15

Listening and speaking

Zhāng xiān sheng, 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 diǎnr lèi, nǐ ne?

I have a bit tired, and you?

Wǒ yě shì.

I also am.

Bái bai.*Bye-bye.***Bái bai.***Bye-bye.***Zhāng xiān sheng, nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?***Mr Zhang, hello, how are you?***Hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?***Very well, and you?***Mǎ mǎ hu hu.***So-so.***Zài jiàn.***Goodbye.***Zài jiàn.***Goodbye.***Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?***Hello, how are you?***Hěn hǎo, xiè xie. / Mǎ mǎ hu hu, nǐ ne?***Fine, thanks. / So-so, and you?***Nǐ hǎo, nǐ hǎo ma?***Hello, how are you?***Bú tài hǎo, wǒ yǒu diǎnr lèi / Wǒ hěn lèi.***Not too well, I have a bit tired / I very tired.*

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!**Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù dǒng** Sorry, I not understand**Dǒng ma?** (Do you) understand?**Word bank****dǒng** understand



LANGUAGE LAB

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', **Dǒng bu dǒng**, and they choose which one to answer: **(Wǒ) dǒng**, or **(Wǒ) bu dǒng**. (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?

Track 19

Listening practice

Nǐ shuō bu shuō yīng yǔ? You speak not speak English?

Wǒ shuō yīng yǔ I speak English

Duì 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 hěn 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

Track 20

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?

Wǒ hěn hǎo. / Bù tài hǎo.

I very well. / Not too well.

Shǐ mì sī tài tai hǎo bu hǎo?

Smith Mrs well not well?

Shǐ mì sī tài tai hěn hǎo. /

Shǐ mì sī tài tai 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?

Duì bu qǐ, 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 kā fēi?**

Or you can add the spoken question mark:

You like coffee? **Nǐ xǐ huān kā 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) bú 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'.

Track 33

Key phrase: Are you English? ·

Nǐ shì bu shì yīng guó rén?

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? You are which-country person? –
Where are you from?

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

Wǒ bú shì yīng guó rén I not am English-country person –
I am not English

Nǐ shì bu shì měi guó rén? Are you American?

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

Wǒ bú shì zhōng guó rén I am not Chinese

Word bank

nǐ you

shì to be, am, is, are

nǎ which

guó country

rén person

yīng English, British

yīng guó English country – England, Britain

yīng guó rén English- or British-country person

měi American

měi guó American country – America

měi guó rén American-country person

zhōng Chinese, central

zhōng guó central country – China

zhōng guó rén Chinese-country person

Listening practice

Wǒ shì měi guó rén I am American

Wǒ bú shì měi guó rén I am not an American

Word bank

wǒ shì I am

wǒ bú shì I am not

Track 34

Dialogue

Tip

yīng guó rén

English

Chinese people are unlikely to distinguish between English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish, so if you don't think of yourself as English you may prefer to think of **yīng guó rén** as British.

Nǐ hǎo!

Hello!

Nǐ hǎo!

Hello!

Qǐng wèn, nǐ shuō yīng yǔ ma?

Excuse me, do you speak English?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù shuō yīng yǔ.

Sorry, I don't speak English.

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?

Where are you from?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù dǒng.

Sorry, I don't understand.

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?

Where are you from?

Wǒ shì yīng guó rén. / Wǒ shì měi guó rén.

I am English. / I am American.

Zài jiàn.

Goodbye.

Zài jiàn.

Goodbye.

Track 36

Extras



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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**.

'Again' – you came across this in the word for 'goodbye' – **zài jiàn**, meaning 'again see'. So: again – **zài**, speak – **shuō**.

'Please you again speak' – **Qǐng nǐ zài shuō**.

UNIT 6

Going places

Track 38

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

Tip

Wǒ qù shàng hǎi
I go Shanghai

With **qù** you don't
need a word for 'to'.

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



CULTURAL TIP

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.

Word bank

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

Track 39

Listening practice

Ni qù bu qù shàng 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 yīng 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!

LANGUAGE LAB

Yī means 'one', **lù** means 'way' or 'journey', so **yí lù** means 'one journey' or 'whole journey'; **shùn** means 'smooth' or 'follow', and **fēng** means wind. A **shùn fēng** is a following wind – a favourable wind.

Yí 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

Track 40

Dialogue

Tip

Wǒ shì ào dà lì yà rén

I'm Australian

There is no **guó** (country) in the word for 'Australia'. And Canada: **Jiā ná dà.**

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?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù dǒng.

Sorry, I not understand.

Nǐ qù nǎr? ... Nǐ qù běi 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!

Track 42

Extras



LANGUAGE LAB

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 bú 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 bú qù xiāng gǎng.**



Do you want to know more about places in China? Go and visit any of these websites:

CULTURAL TIP

China National Tourism Administration: <http://en.cnta.gov.cn/>

China National Tourist Office: <http://www.cnto.org>

China Today: <http://www.chinatoday.com>

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

UNIT 7 Asking directions

Track 44

Key phrase: Where? · Zài nǎ?

Nǎ Where?

Zài nǎ? Is situated where? – where? where is ...?

Jiǔ bā zài nǎ? Bar is where? – where is the bar?

Word bank

jiǔ bā bar

jiǔ alcohol

bā bar

Track 45

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

Tip

shè office

Most Chinese words have more than one meaning. In other contexts **shè** is often a 'society'.

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

Word bank

lǚ xíng shè tourist office

lǚ traveller, travelling, tourism

xíng walking, travelling

shè office

Track 46

Key phrase: Where is the hotel? ·
Lǚ diàn zài nǎr?

Tip

Zài nǎr – is situated where? **Nǎr** is a falling-rising tone (it sounds more questioning).

Zài nàr – over there. **Nàr** is a falling tone (giving information).

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

Word bank

lǚ diàn hotel ('shop' for travellers to stay in)

lǚ traveller

diàn shop

jǐu diàn alcohol shop – another word for hotel



LANGUAGE LAB

Lǚ diàn hotel

Lǚ, travel(ler), is also in **lǚ xíng shè**, which means the tourist office.

Track 48

Dialogue**Tip**

Shén me?

What? – Sorry, I didn't hear

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

Zài nàr Over there

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

Xiān sheng, qǐng wèn, rén mín lǚ diàn zài nǎr?

Excuse me, sir, Renmin Hotel at where?

Shén me?

What? – I didn't hear.

Rén mín lǚ diàn zài nǎr?

Where is the Renmin Hotel?

Ò, zài nàr.

Oh, it is over there.

Xiè xie nǐ.

Thank you.

Track 49

Tip

Other hotels are:
wáng bǎo hé dà jiǔ diàn (Central Hotel)
 and **suǒ fēi tè jiǔ diàn** (Sofitel).

Tip

Xiè xie nǐ Thank you

You can say: **xiè xie**
 ('thanks') with or
 without **nǐ** ('you').

Review

Qǐng wèn, rén mín lǚ diàn zài nǎr?

Excuse me, where is the Renmin Hotel?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù zhī dào.

Sorry, I don't know.

Qǐng wèn, lǚ xíng shè zài nǎr?

Please, where is the Information office?

Ò, zài nàr.

Over there.

Xiè xie nǐ.

Thank you.

Zài jiàn.

Goodbye.

UNIT 8

Where can we eat?

Track 51

Key phrase: Where is the restaurant? ·

Fàn diàn zài nǎr?

Qǐng wèn, fàn diàn zài nǎr? Excuse me, restaurant at where?

Qǐng wèn, lǚ diàn zài nǎr? Excuse me, hotel at where?

Ò, zài nàr It's over there

Shén me? What? Pardon?

Duì 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 nǎr?

Cè suǒ zài nǎr? Toilet place at where?

Word bank

cè suǒ toilet place
zài nǎr? 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.

CULTURAL TIP

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!

Track 54

Dialogue

Qǐng wèn, xiǎo jie Please, miss

Word bank

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

Nǐ hǎo.

Hello.

Nǐ hǎo.

Hello.

Qǐng wèn ...

Excuse me ...

Xiǎo jie ...

Young lady ...

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 yǒu diǎnr 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 jiě, 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.



LANGUAGE LAB

Here are the numbers zero to ten.

0 零 líng

1 一 yī

2 二 èr

3 三 sān

4 四 sì

5 五 wǔ

6 六 liù

7 七 qī

8 八 bā

9 九 jiǔ

10 十 shí

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

UNIT 9

Getting transport

Track 66

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 diǎnr lèi.

I have a bit tired.

Nǐ qù nǎr?

You go where?

Wǒ qù shàng hǎi.

I go Shanghai.

Nǐ qù nǎr?

You go where?

Wǒ qù běi jīng.

I go Beijing.

Qǐng wèn, jiǔ bā zài nǎr?

Excuse me, bar situated where?

Zài zuǒ biān.

On left side.

Yí lù shùn fēng!

Safe journey.

Zài jiàn.

Goodbye.

Bái bai.

Bye-bye.

Track 67

Key phrase: I want to go to ... Wǒ xiǎng qù ...

Wǒ xiǎng qù ... I want to go to ...

Yuǎn bu yuǎn? Is it far?

Zuò dì tiě Take or sit (on) the underground

Zuò gōng chē Take or sit (on) a bus

Zuò huǒ chē Take or sit (on) a train

Zuò chū zū chē Take or sit (on) a taxi



LANGUAGE LAB

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)

yuǎn far, a long way

zuò dì tiě take or sit (on) the underground

zuò sit

dì ground

tiě iron

chē car

gōng chē bus

huǒ chē a train

chū zū chē taxi

chū zū rent out



LANGUAGE LAB

Dì tiě is the short form of **dì xià tiě lù**, which means underground railway. **Dì** 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'.

Track 68

Listening and speaking

Tip

Tiān ān mén guǎng chǎng

Tian'anmen Square

Named after the Gate of Heavenly Peace which stands between it and the imperial palace known as the Forbidden City, this is the largest urban square in the world.

Tiān ān mén guǎng chǎng Tian'anmen Square

Zuò gōng chē ba! Take a bus!

Word bank

ba (indicates suggestion or request)



LANGUAGE LAB

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.

Track 69

Dialogue

Word bank

hái shì or**Tip****Qǐng xiě xià lai!**

Please write it down!

It is good to have the name of your destination written down in Chinese script to show to the taxi driver or anyone else you are asking for help. To get someone to write it down you can say **qǐng xiě xià lai**, or, failing that, you can always say 'please' and mime writing. Alternatively, for a famous place, show a photograph or postcard.

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

Nǐ hǎo.

Hello.

Nǐ hǎo.

Hello.

Qǐng wèn, xiān sheng, wǒ xiǎng qù tiān ān mén guǎng chǎng.

Excuse me, sir, I want to go to Tian'anmen Square.

Zuò dì tiě hái shì zuò chū zū chē?

Take underground or take taxi?

Gōng chē zài nǎr?

Public bus at where?

Zài yòu biān.

At right side – On the right.

Xiè xie nǐ.

Thank you.

Bú xiè.

You're welcome.

Track 71

Extras

Tip

Beijing International Airport is called **běi jīng shǒu dū guó jì jī chǎng**. **Shǒu dū** is capital and **guó jì** means international. So literally, it is 'Beijing capital international airport'.

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 **huǒ chē zhàn**Stadium **tǐ yù guǎn**Olympic Stadium **ào lín pǐ kè 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?**Huǒ 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

kā fēi coffeeCoffee with milk/
sugar is **kā fēi jiǎ nǎi/táng**

Drinks

shuǐ water**chá** tea**kā fēi** coffee**jú zǐ zhī** orange juice**kě kǒu kě lè** Coca Cola**pí jiǔ** beer**jiǔ** 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?

Wǒ hē chá.

I want tea.

Kā fēi.

Coffee.

Wǒ hē pí jiǔ.

I want beer.

Wǒ xiǎng hē hóng jiǔ.

I'd like red wine.

Xiǎng hē shén me ma?

Want drink something?

Hǎo zhǔ yì!

Good idea!



CULTURAL TIP

chá tea

Tea in its many varieties is perhaps the most popular drink in China. Favourites include **lǜ chá** (green tea), **mò lì huā chá** (jasmine tea), **hóng chá** (red or black tea) and **wū lóng chá** (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 **nǎi**, cow's milk is **niú nǎi**, and sugar is **táng**. Tea leaves are often used in preference to tea bags.

kā fēi coffee

The names for different kinds of coffee usually sound quite similar to their English equivalents. For instance, 'cappuccino' is **kǎ bù qí nuò**, and 'mocha' is **mó kǎ**. 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!

kě kǒu kě lè Coca-Cola

This is a copy of the English sound, but **kě kǒu** in Chinese also means 'tasty', and **kě lè** means 'funny'. So in Chinese it sounds as if you are asking for something 'tasty-funny'!

bái pú tao jiǔ white wine

If you only say **bái jiǔ**, which literally is 'white wine', people might think you are asking for (the considerably stronger!) Chinese spirits, normally called **bái jiǔ**.

Track 75

Listening and speaking



LANGUAGE LAB

Measure words

'I want one beer.' – **Wǒ xiǎng 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 xiǎng 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 xiǎng 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.

Track 76

Dialogue

Nǐ hǎo.

Hello.

Nǐ hǎo.

Hello.

Hē shén me ma?

Drink something?

Hǎo.

OK.

Nǐ xiǎng hē shén me?

You like drink what?

Hē bu hē jiǔ?

Drink not drink alcohol?

Wǒ bù hē jiǔ.

I not drink alcohol.

Nǐ xiǎng hē chá ma?

You like drink tea?

Tip

Ba, here indicating approval, is one of those little words that help a conversation along.

Hǎo, hē yì bēi chá ba.

OK, drink one cup tea then.

Lǜ chá hái shì mò lì huā chá?

Green tea or jasmine tea?

Mò lì huā chá.

Jasmine tea.

(Tea is served.)

Hǎo bu hǎo?

Good not good?

Hěn hǎo.

Very good.

Xiè xie.

Thank you.

UNIT 11 Asking for a room

Track 79

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

Qǐng wèn, xiǎo jie, yǒu fáng jiān ma? Excuse me, Miss, have you got a room?

Jǐ wèi? How many people?

Yí wèi One person

Liǎng wèi 'Couple people' – two people

Liǎng tiān 'Couple days' – two days

Word bank

qǐng wèn please

yǒu have

fáng jiān room

xiǎo jie Miss

tiān day

Track 80

Listening practice

Word bank

méi yǒu not have

zhè shì here is

yào shì key

Track 81

Tip

Remember: when you are talking about a couple or a pair of something you use **liǎng** instead of **èr**.

Dialogue

Qǐng xiě xià lai 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!

Qǐng wèn, xiān sheng, yǒu fáng jiān ma?

Excuse me, sir, have you got a room?

Jǐ wèi?

How many people?

Liǎng wèi.

Two people.

Jǐ tiān?

How many days?

Yì tiān.

One day.

Yǒu. Nǐ jiào shén me?

'Have' – I have a room. What is your name?

Wǒ jiào Shǐ mì sī Mǎ lì.

I called Mary Smith.

Zhè shì yào shi ...

Here is the key ...

Shǐ mì sī xiǎo jie.

Smith Miss.

Wǔ líng sān fáng jiān.

503 room.

Wǒ bù dǒng.

I don't understand.

Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.

Please you again say.

Wǔ líng sān fáng jiān.

503 room.

Qǐng xiě xià lai.

Please write it down.

Gěi nǐ.

For you – Here you are.

Xiè xie.

Thank you.

Bú xiè.

No thank – Don't mention it.

Track 83

Extras

Tip

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

Wǒ de diàn huà shì yāo líng wǔ qī liù èr sān.

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 qī 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 shǒu 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, xiè xie. Nǐ ne?

Very well, thank you, and you?

Wǒ yǒu diǎnr lèi.

I'm a bit tired.

Nǐ qù nǎr?

Where are you going?

Wǒ qù Shàng hǎi.

I am going to Shanghai.

Nǐ men qù nǎr?

Where are you going?

Wǒmen qù běi jīng.

We are going to Beijing.

Qǐng wèn, cè suǒ zài nǎr?

Excuse me, where are the toilets?

Duì bu qǐ, wǒ bù zhī dào.

Sorry, I don't know.

Yí lù shùn fēng.

Have a good journey.

Nǐ yě shì. Bái bai.

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

miàn noodles**tāng** soup**xiā** prawns**dà xiā** big prawns – king prawns**jī** chicken**běi jīng kǎo yā** Beijing roast duck**cài** vegetables**yú** fish**ròu** meat**zhū ròu** pork**niú ròu** beef

CULTURAL TIP

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.

Track 87

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 hái shì jī ròu chǎo fàn?

King prawn fried rice or chicken fried rice?

Qǐng nǐ zài shuō.

Please say again.

Dà xiā chǎo fàn hái 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.'

Track 8g

Tip

Don't try to think in English and translate – use what you hear!

Hē shén me ma?

Drink something?

Yì bēi pí jiǔ, yì bēi chá.
One glass beer, one cup tea.

Now the waitress asks if you have enjoyed your meal:

Hǎo chī bu hǎo chī?

Good eat not 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 yǐ yòng kǎ ma? May use (credit) card?
Dāng rán kě yǐ. Of course may.
Duì bu qǐ, bù shōu Sorry not take.
Zhǐ shōu xiànjīn. Only take cash.

Word bank

kě yǐ may, can	shōu receive, take
yòng use	bù shōu not take
kǎ card	xiànjīn cash
dāng rán of course	

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

Qǐng wèn, qǐ kuǎn jī 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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