

第一课  
LESSON

# 1

## 问候 Greetings



An employee at the Jin Mao Tower in Shanghai greets guests by saying 你好 [Nǐhǎo] (Hello!).

### CONNECTIONS AND COMMUNITIES PREVIEW

Discuss the following questions with a partner or your class. What similarities and differences do you think there might be between Chinese culture and your own culture?

1. How do you greet someone verbally in your culture? Are certain phrases or expressions used?
2. What are some common gestures used as greetings in your culture?

### 教学目标 OBJECTIVES

- Greet people in Chinese
- Ask and answer simple yes/no questions

1-9 With a partner, use 吗 or 呢 to complete and practice the following dialogue.

1. A: 你好! 你是学生 \_\_\_\_ ?  
Nǐhǎo! Nǐ shì xuésheng \_\_\_\_ ?
2. B: 是, 你 \_\_\_\_ ? 你也是学生 \_\_\_\_ ?  
Shì, nǐ \_\_\_\_ ? Nǐ yě shì xuésheng \_\_\_\_ ?  
A: 不, 我不是学生。我是老师。  
Bù, wǒ bú shì xuésheng. Wǒ shì lǎoshī.
3. B: 他也是老师 \_\_\_\_ ?  
Tā yě shì lǎoshī \_\_\_\_ ?  
A: 不, 他是学生。  
Bù, tā shì xuésheng.

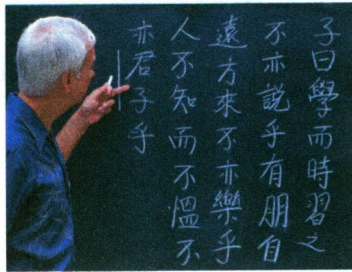
#### IV. Communicative Activities

1-10 Write either 学生 or 老师 on a small piece of paper. Your teacher will collect the pieces of paper and redistribute them to everyone in the class. With your new piece of paper, walk around the room and use what you have learned in this lesson to ask your classmates if they are a student or if they are a teacher. Try to remember who is a 学生 and who is a 老师. After one minute, your teacher will call a classmate's name. Everyone will vote whether they think that person is a 学生 or a 老师.

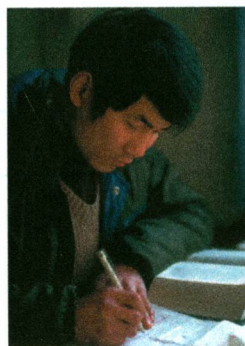
1-11 With a partner, choose two of the people below and create a dialogue between them. Try to act out the dialogue.



Lǐ Xiǎowén  
(student)



Wú Hànzōng  
(teacher)



Wáng Xuéwén  
(student)



Dīng Wényīng  
(professor)



# 文化知识 Culture Link

## 文化点滴 CULTURE NOTES

### 问候语 Basic Chinese Greetings

Chinese greetings can be classified into three types: (1) exchanged greetings, (2) question-and-answer greetings, and (3) stating the obvious as a greeting.

#### Do you know...

- how to respond to the morning greeting 早! [zǎo] (Morning!)?
- how to respond if someone greets you with 你好吗? [Nǐ hǎo ma] (How are you?)?
- what the three types of Chinese greetings are and how they differ?

Read and find out!

#### 1. Exchanged Greetings

Both parties say the same words or phrases almost at the same time. The most common ones are 你好! [Nǐ hǎo!], 早! [Zǎo!], and 嗨! [Hāi!].

Exchanged greetings	Features
你好 [Nǐhǎo!] (Hello!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Usually used for the first meeting</li><li>• Often used by receptionists when taking an incoming phone call or greeting visitors</li></ul>
早 [Zǎo!] (Morning!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Used in the early and late morning</li></ul>
嗨 [Hāi!] (Hi!)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Taken from English "Hi!"</li></ul>



## 2. Question-and-Answer Greetings

Like the English “How are you?” and its answer, “Fine,” these simple questions and answers are often fixed expressions. They should not be taken literally as questions and answers. The common greetings are 你好吗? [Nǐ hǎo ma?], 怎么样? [Zěnmeyàng?], and (你) 吃了吗? [(Nǐ) chī le ma?].

Question	Common answer	Feature
你好吗? [Nǐ hǎo ma?] 好吗? [Hǎo ma?] How are you?	很好 [Hěnhǎo] <i>Fine.</i> 还好 [Háihǎo] <i>All right.</i> 不错 [Búcuò] <i>Not bad.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Frequently used when you haven't seen someone for a while</li> </ul>
怎么样? [Zěnmeyàng?] What's up? What's new?	很好 [Hěnhǎo] <i>Fine.</i> 还好 [Háihǎo] <i>All right.</i> 不错 [Búcuò] <i>Not bad.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Can also be taken as an invitation to start a conversation</li> </ul>
(你) 吃了吗? [(Nǐ) chī le ma?] 吃了没? [chī le méi?] Have you eaten yet?	吃了 [Chī le] <i>I have.</i> 还没 [Háiméi] <i>I haven't yet.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Used close to meal times</li> <li>Not really asking whether you have eaten or not</li> </ul>



### 3. Stating the Obvious as a Greeting

Another interesting aspect of Chinese greetings is that they often consist of stating the obvious. For example, when running into an acquaintance while grocery shopping, a Chinese person might say:

A: 买菜啊? [Mǎi cài a?] (So you're) grocery shopping, eh?

B: 嗯, 买菜。 [En, mǎi cài.] Yes, (I'm) grocery shopping.

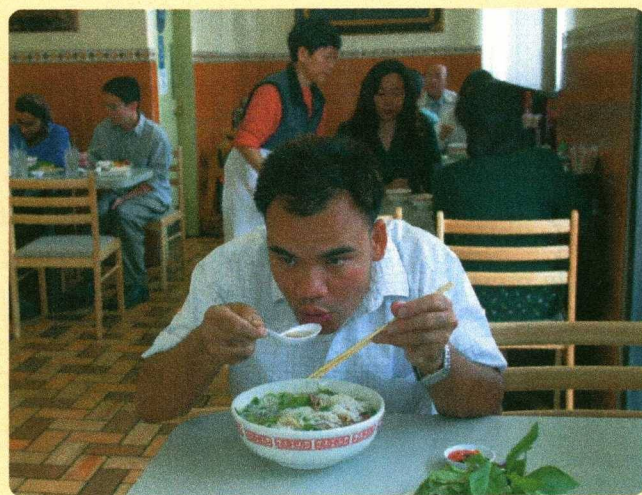
Other examples include:

看电视啊? [Kàn diàn shì a?] (So you're) watching TV, eh?

做功课啊? [Zuò gōng kè a?] (So you're) doing homework, eh?



李太太 [Lǐ tàitai] (Mrs. Li) and 王太太 [Wáng tàitai] (Mrs. Wang) run into each other at the Chinese market. What are some different ways that they could greet each other in Chinese?



At lunchtime you run into 林先生 [Lín xiānsheng] (Mr. Lin), who is eating his lunch. How would you greet him in Chinese?

**Discuss the following with a group or your class.**

1. What greeting would you use with your classmates when you come to class? What greeting would you use if you ran into your Chinese friends in a Chinese restaurant?
2. Can you think of any similar greetings in English (or other languages) that use questions as greetings? What are they?