

Greetings in Mandarin Chinese

Sample Transcript

Vocabulary

1. Nǐhǎo (你好)- hello, hi, how are you?

It's used to greet anyone, at any time of the day. You can greet people you already know or someone you meet for the first time.

Audio dialogue:

A: Nǐhǎo (你好) - hello

B: Nǐhǎo (你好) - hello

The response to this greeting is also Nǐhǎo (你好)

2. Nǐhǎo ma? (你好吗?) - is another way of saying hello in Mandarin Chinese.

It's basically the same as Nǐhǎo, except, for some occasions, Nǐhǎo ma? is used to greet someone you have not seen for a long time.

We can translate it into English like “Hey, long time no see, how are you doing”?

3. Ma (吗) -is a question particle. It's added to the end of a sentence when you want to make a question.

E.g. Hǎo - good. Hǎo ma? - Good?

4. Hǎojiǔ bújiàn! (好久不见!) - Long time no see!

5. Hěn (很) - very

6. Hěn hǎo (很好) - very good
 7. Yě (也) - also
 8. Nǐ ne? (你呢?) - and you? And what about you?
 9. Ne (呢) - a particle that is used in elliptical questions
 10. Hǎo (好) - good
 11. Nǐ (你) - You
 12. Wǒ (我) - I, me
 13. Xièxiè (谢谢) - Thank you
 14. Zàijiàn (再见) - Good Bye
- OK. That was enough, right?

Now let me explain what the heck those numbers after each word are. (In this transcript, we are now using standard symbols for marking Chinese tones, not numbers - Chinese tones are explained in details in lesson 2)

Chinese is a very musical language. There is no

Situational Dialogue 1

A: Nǐhǎo!
你好!
Hello!

B: Nǐhǎo !
你好 !
Hello!

Situational Dialogue 2

A: Hǎojiǔ bújiàn , nǐhǎo ma?
好久不见 , 你好吗?
Long time no see, how are you doing?

B: Hěn hǎo, Xièxiè, nǐ ne?
很好 , 谢谢 , 你呢?
Very good, thank you, and you?

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When you feel comfortable with the vocabulary of this lesson, please proceed to Lesson 2 to learn about musical tones in Mandarin Chinese.

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