

Lesson 2

Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:

你好
Nǐ hǎo
Hello

你好吗?
Nǐ hǎo ma?
How are you?

很
Hěn
Very

好
Hǎo
Good, ok

我很好
Wǒ hěn hǎo
I'm good

谢谢
Xièxie
Thanks

再见
Zàijiàn
Goodbye

谢谢你
Xièxie nǐ
Thank you

Vocabulary Summary: Traditional:

你好
Nǐ hǎo
Hello

你好嗎?
Nǐ hǎo ma?
How are you?

很
Hěn
Very

好
Hǎo
Good, ok

我很好
Wǒ hěn hǎo
I'm good

謝謝
Xièxie
Thanks

再見
Zàijiàn
Goodbye

謝謝你
Xièxie nǐ
Thank you

Pronouns:

你	我	他 / 她
Nǐ	Wǒ	Tā
You	I	He / she

Note: while the pronunciation of [tā](#) for he and she is the same, when written there are separate characters for he (他) and she(她).

Greetings:

[Nǐ hǎo](#)

The literal translation is “you good”. Many adjectives in Chinese also function as verbs. So here, “good” also functions as “to be good”.

[Nǐ hǎo ma?](#)

This is asked more seriously than in English, where we casually ask “how are you?” It is usually asked of people you haven’t seen for a long time.

[Wǒ hěn hǎo](#)

The [hěn](#) has a lighter meaning than “very” in English, so here, [hěn hǎo](#) could mean “pretty good.”

[Xièxie](#)

Note: When the same character is repeated as in the above example, the second one frequently adopts a neutral tone

[Zàijiàn](#)

The literal meaning is “again meet” or see you again (later)

Culture Note: When greeting someone in China, it is common to bow your head. For formal occasions, they will also shake hands as in the West. When businessmen meet it is obligatory to exchange business cards.