

## Lesson 4

### Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:

我是美国人  
Wǒ shì Měiguórén  
I am American

你是中国人吗?  
Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?  
Are you Chinese?

是, 我是中国人  
Shì, wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén  
Yes, I am Chinese

你是加拿大人吗?  
Nǐ shì Jiānádà rén ma?  
Are you Canadian?

你是英国人吗?  
Nǐ shì Yīngguó rén ma?  
Are you British?

不  
bù  
Negation particle

不  
bú  
Negation particle

不是  
búshì  
Am not

不是, 我不是英国人  
Bú shì, wǒ bú shì Yīngguó rén  
No, I'm not British

### Vocabulary Summary: Traditional:

我是美國人  
Wǒ shì Měiguórén  
I am American

你是中國人嗎?  
Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma?  
Are you Chinese?

是, 我是中國人  
Shì, wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén  
Yes, I am Chinese

你是加拿大人嗎?  
Nǐ shì Jiānádà rén ma?  
Are you Canadian?

你是英國人嗎?  
Nǐ shì Yīngguó rén ma?  
Are you British?

不  
bù  
Negation particle

不  
bú  
Negation particle

不是  
búshì  
Am not

不是, 我不是英國人  
Bú shì, wǒ bú shì Yīngguó rén  
No, I'm not British

**Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:**

会  
huì  
To be able to

说  
shuō  
To speak

会说  
huì shuō  
To be able to speak

你会说中文吗?  
Nǐ huì shuō Zhōngwén ma?  
Can you speak Chinese?

会，我会说中文  
Huì, wǒ huì shuō Zhōngwén  
Yes, I can speak Chinese

不会，我不会说中文  
Bú huì, wǒ bú huì shuō Zhōngwén  
No, I can't speak Chinese

一点  
yīdiǎn  
A little

我会说一点  
Wǒ huì shuō yīdiǎn  
I can speak a little

你是澳洲人吗?  
Nǐ shì Àozhōurén ma?  
Are you Australian?

不是，我是美国人  
Bú shì, wǒ shì Měiguórén  
No, I am American

**Vocabulary Summary: Traditional:**

會  
huì  
To be able to

說  
shuō  
To speak

會說  
huì shuō  
To be able to speak

你會說中文嗎?  
Nǐ huì shuō Zhōngwén ma?  
Can you speak Chinese?

會，我會說中文  
Huì, wǒ huì shuō Zhōngwén  
Yes, I can speak Chinese

不會，我不會說中文  
Bú huì, wǒ bú huì shuō Zhōngwén  
No, I can't speak Chinese

一點  
yīdiǎn  
A little

我會說一點  
Wǒ huì shuō yīdiǎn  
I can speak a little

你是澳洲人嗎?  
Nǐ shì Àozhōurén ma?  
Are you Australian?

不是，我是美國人  
Bú shì, wǒ shì Měiguórén  
No, I am American

**Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:**

你会说法文吗?  
Nǐ huì shuō Fǎwén ma?  
Can you speak French?

不会, 我会说英文  
Bú huì, wǒ huì shuō Yīngwén  
No, I can speak English

的  
de  
Possessive particle

你的  
nǐde  
Your (singular)

你的中文说得很好  
Nǐde Zhōngwén shuō de hěn hǎo  
Your Chinese is very good

对不起  
duìbuqǐ  
I'm sorry / Excuse me

我的  
wǒde  
My

我的中文说得不好  
Wǒde Zhōngwén shuō de bù hǎo  
My Chinese isn't very good

他的  
tāde  
His

她的  
tāde  
Her

**Vocabulary Summary: Traditional:**

你會說法文嗎?  
Nǐ huì shuō Fǎwén ma?  
Can you speak French?

不會, 我會說英文  
Bú huì, wǒ huì shuō Yīngwén  
No, I can speak English

的  
de  
Possessive particle

你的  
nǐde  
Your (singular)

你的中文說得很好  
Nǐde Zhōngwén shuō de hěn hǎo  
Your Chinese is very good

對不起  
duìbuqǐ  
I'm sorry / Excuse me

我的  
wǒde  
My

我的中文說得不好  
Wǒde Zhōngwén shuō de bù hǎo  
My Chinese isn't very good

他的  
tāde  
His

她的  
tāde  
Her

**Vocabulary Summary: Simplified:**

点  
diǎn  
Dot

得  
de  
Adverb particle

**Vocabulary Summary: Traditional:**

點  
diǎn  
Dot

得  
de  
Adverb particle

**Lesson 4 Notes :**

You answer “yes” or “no” to questions by restating the verb used in the question.

E.g. *Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma? Shì, wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén .*

In many cases when it is obvious, the pronoun is dropped. So in the above example, we answer *shì* rather than *Wǒ shì* .

To reply “no” to such a question we negate the verb in question.

So in the example above:

Are you Chinese? Am not. I’m not Chinese.

*Nǐ shì Zhōngguó rén ma? Bú shì , wǒ bú shì Zhōngguó rén .*

*Bù* can change tone depending on the tone of the word that follows directly after it. If the word carries a falling tone, then *bù* is pronounced with a rising tone *bú* .

The *yī* in *yīdiǎn* literally means “one” (you will learn numbers in lesson 6). There is no translation for “a” in Chinese so they use “one” instead.

The possessive particle *de* is sometimes omitted, when multiple objects require it, so you may hear *Nǐ Zhōngwén shuō de hěn hǎo* or *Nǐde Zhōngwén shuō de hěn hǎo* .

Review Questions: Translate the following.

1. Are you American?

*Nǐ shì Měiguó rén ma ?*

2. No, I am British.

*Bú shì, wǒ shì Yīngguó rén .*

3. I can speak a little Chinese.

*Wǒ huì shuō yīdiǎn Zhōngwén .*

4. You speak English very well.

*Nǐ Yīngwén shuō de hěn hǎo .*

5. I’m sorry, I can’t speak Chinese very well.

*Duìbuqǐ, wǒ Zhōngwén shuō de bù hǎo .*