

## Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 11 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 11 of ChineseLearnOnline.com. My name is Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: You can find all our previous lessons starting from lesson One on our website. As well, you can take a look at the many notes and resources for each lesson that we have made available to premium subscribers to look at on your review day. As you listen to this lesson, try and repeat along with the lines as you hear them. We leave a pause after each line of the dialogue just for this purpose, which should help in your pronunciation.

Today we're going to talk about family. We'll first present a dialogue in its entirety to start the lesson. So listen along. We'll then break down the meaning for you line by line. It's a pretty short dialogue today but it does include lots of new words that we'll analyze and discuss in a moment. So let's get started.

Cindy: 你家裡有幾個人?

Yann: 我家裡有五個人.

Cindy: 是哪五個人?

Yann: 我家裡有我爸爸, 媽媽, 哥哥, 妹妹, 和我.

Adam: And that's it! I told you it was short. Let's listen to it again.

Kirin: 你家裡有幾個人?

Raphael: 我家裡有五個人.

Kirin: 是哪五個人?

Raphael: 我家裡有我爸爸, 媽媽, 哥哥, 妹妹, 和我.

Adam: Ok, so let's break this down for you line by line. Starting with the first line:

Kirin: 你家裡有幾個人?

Adam: Now, we've actually seen all these words before so let's see if we can figure out the meaning. We've got 你 which means "you," then we have 家. Now Kirin says that at the top of every lesson when she says 大家好. Now we know that means "Hello everyone" but do you remember the literal translation of 大家? It means "big house" or "big family" so 家 is "house" or in this case "family." That's followed by 裡, which we

saw in our last lesson in 那裡 and 這裡. The literal translation of 裡 is “inside.” So 那裡 actually means “that inside” or “there” while 這裡 means “this inside” or “here.” So 你家裡 means “inside your house.” We then have 有 which we learned in our last lesson. What does 有 mean? It means “to have.” We then have 幾個. We’ve seen “幾?” before from “你幾歲?”. That meant “How old are you?” so “幾?” means “How many?” The 個 is a measure word that we also learned in our last lesson so together with the 幾? means “How many of something?” The last word is 人. Do you remember what “人” means? It means “person” or “people.” So putting all of this together gives us “Your house has how many people?” or “How many people are in your home or family?”

Kirin: 你家裡有幾個人?

Adam: So let’s look at how he answers that question.

Kirin: 我家裡有五個人.

Adam: So hopefully you understand this. “My house has five people.”

Kirin: 我家裡有五個人.

Adam: Let’s continue with the next line.

Kirin: 是哪五個人?

Adam: So the first word there is 是. What does “是” mean? It’s the verb “to be.” That’s followed by a new character – 哪 which is a third tone. 哪 is a new question word meaning “which.” Don’t confuse that with 那, which is a fourth tone meaning “that.” So you can see why the tones are so important, as you can have words that sound similar but have very different meanings. We then have 五個人. What does “五個人” mean? It means... “5 people.” So putting that all together gives us “Is which five people?” or “Which five people are they?”

Kirin: 是哪五個人?

Adam: Alright, and the last line of the dialogue was:

Kirin: 我家裡有我爸爸，媽媽，哥哥，妹妹，和我.

Adam: Alright, so some new words here. You’ll notice that in many instances we’re able to get away with saying 我 rather than 我的– again obvious from context that we mean “my” and not “I.” So the first new word there is – 爸爸. Can you guess what that means?

It means “father.” It uses a fourth tone and neutral tone. Now many times in Chinese when we have two words repeating like we do here, the second word ends up adopting a neutral tone. This can vary from region to region – we saw that before with 謝謝. Now you’ll see that again with our next few words. So again father – 爸爸. We then have 媽媽. That uses a first tone and neutral tone and means... “mother.” 媽媽. The next word is 哥哥. 哥哥, that’s a first tone and neutral tone and means “older brother.” So here’s where it gets tricky. In Chinese you have two different words for “sister” and two different words for “brother” depending on whether they are older or younger than you. So here 哥哥 refers to your “older brother.” That’s followed by 妹妹, which is a fourth tone and means “younger sister.” 妹妹. The last two words are 和我. 和 is a second tone and means “and.” In this context it is used just like you would in English when you rattle off a long list and use an “and” before the last word. Now of course the last word 我 means I. So putting these all together gives us “In my house, there are my father, mother, older brother, younger sister and I.”

Kirin: 我家裡有我爸爸，媽媽，哥哥，妹妹，和我。

Adam: Now let’s take this time to look at two other relationships in the immediate family. We’ll start with 弟弟. That uses a fourth tone and refers to your younger brother. 弟弟. We also have 姐姐 which is a third tone meaning “older sister.” We saw 姐 before in 小姐. Do you remember what “小姐” means? It means “Miss” and we told you at the time that the literal translation is “small sister.” So here you can see where that comes from. 姐姐.

In the Premium lesson notes found on our website, we give you a bit of a background on Chinese family and why they have these special names to identify relationships. Let’s listen to these family members again one more time.

Kirin: 爸爸.

Adam: Father.

Kirin: 媽媽.

Adam: Mother.

Kirin: 哥哥.

Adam: Older brother.

Kirin: 弟弟.

Adam: Younger brother.

Kirin: 姐姐.

Adam: Older sister.

Kirin: 妹妹.

Adam: Younger sister.

Great, so why don't we read the lines of the dialogue again. Please try and repeat along with the speaker.

Cindy: 你家裡有幾個人?

Yann: 我家裡有五個人.

Cindy: 是哪五個人?

Yann: 我家裡有我爸爸，媽媽，哥哥，妹妹，和我.

Adam: Great, so hope you got something out of that. Please review this and previous podcasts from time to time to make sure you're up to date and don't forget to take a look at the extra notes and resources available to premium subscribers on our website ChineseLearnOnline.com. Thank you for listening and join us again next time for lesson 12.

Kirin: 再見.