

## Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 13 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello and welcome to Lesson 13 of ChineseLearnOnline.com. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: In today's lesson we'll discuss more about introductions. When you're out meeting Chinese people, they might ask if you can speak Chinese, or you might want to ask if they can speak English, or they just might want to know where you're from. So we'll go over all of this in today's lesson. Let's begin with the word for the Chinese language. We learned the word 中文 before, which is a generic word used for the language. In Mainland China, however, they use a different word.

Kirin: 普通話.

Adam: Now there are three characters there with three different tones. Do you know what they are?

Kirin: 普通話.

Adam: The first was a third tone 普. The second is a first tone 通 and the last is a fourth tone 話. 普通話 now this refers to the official language of mainland China – Mandarin Chinese. The literal translation is “common speech.” 普通 means “common or ordinary” while 話 refers to “speech.” So when you travel to Mainland China you may hear references to that.

If someone asks you...

Kirin: “你會說普通話嗎?”

Adam: Would you know what that means? Hopefully you do, since we've taught it before – “Can you speak Chinese?” Now what if you want to ask someone if they can speak English, how would you do that?

Kirin: 你會說英文嗎?

Adam: Great. And how would you reply: “I can speak a little.”

Kirin: 我會說一點.

Adam: Great! Next we'll learn the question "Where are you from?"

Kirin: 你從哪裡來?

Adam: Ok, so you should know the first character for "you" followed by a few new characters after that. Let's look at them separately.

Kirin: 你從哪裡來?

Adam: The second character there is a second tone 從. 從 means "from." So that gives us "you from." The next word is made up for two characters 哪裡, which are two third tones. 哪裡. We've actually seen both of these before. Do you remember what "哪" means?

Kirin, where did we see that before?

Kirin: 是哪五個人?

Adam: Ah yes, so what did 哪 mean there? It meant "which" – as in "which 5 people are in your family?" We then have 裡, which we've also seen in 那裡 and 這裡 meaning "there" and "here." So 裡 on its own means "inside." So what do you think "which inside" means? It actually means "where." You have to keep a very open mind when we give you these literal definitions since the characters in Chinese have very broad meanings and thus are very context sensitive. So as you can see we have learned another question word here. We earlier learned 什麼 which means "what." Then we learned 幾? which means "how many." We then learned 哪, meaning "which" and now we are learning 哪裡 which means "where." So getting back to our original question:

Kirin: 你從哪裡來?

Adam: We so far have "you from where." Which leads us to our last character, a second tone 來 which is the verb "to come." So that gives us "you from where come?" I think that's easy to figure out as "Where do you come from?"

Kirin: 你從哪裡來?

Adam: We can now make use of the countries we learned in lesson three to answer that question.

Kirin: 我從美國來.

Adam: I come from America.

Kirin: 我從澳洲來.

Adam: I come from Australia. And so on.

Now every lesson we're teaching a few new characters, but I want to make sure that you don't forget what you've learned so far. So there are review questions in the Premium notes link for this lesson on our website, that should hopefully help you out well with this. These are important because in these podcast lessons we're teaching everything to you through audio of course, which works well for some people. But other people like to see things visually – so visit the website and associated pages with for each lesson and see the character representations of everything we're talking about here.

Now let's take this time to review some of the material from previous lessons. Try to answer these questions yourself before listening to Kirin's answer. We'll start with meeting people. How do we ask someone what their last name or what their family name is?

Kirin: 您貴姓?

Adam: Ok, and how do you ask someone what their first name or their given name is?

Kirin: 你叫什麼名字?

Adam: How about “How old are you?”

Kirin: 你幾歲?

Adam: Hm, let's try. I like America very much.

Kirin: 我很喜歡美國.

Adam: How about “I can speak a little Chinese?”

Kirin: 我會說一點中文.

Adam: Alright. Next one is “My Chinese isn't very good.”

Kirin: 我的中文說得不好.

Adam: Ok. And how about “Nice to meet you”?

Kirin: 很高興認識你.

Adam: Great. So hope you're doing well there. Now let's now listen to a short conversation between two Chinese speakers.

Yann: 你好.

Cindy: 你好.

Yann: 你好嗎?

Cindy: 我很好. 你呢?

Yann: 我也很好.

Adam: You'll notice in the end that he used the character 也 which we learned recently. What does “也” mean? It means “also.” So he just told her that “He is also good.” Useful to know.

Let's switch to some other review questions. How do you ask: “How much is this?”

Kirin: 這個多少錢?

Adam: Alright, and how about “I am 39 years old”?

Kirin: 我三十九歲.

Adam: Ok, hope you're keeping up. We'll be building upon this in future lessons, so make sure you're using all the review tools on our website, then join us again for lesson 14.

Kirin: 再見.