

Complete Lesson Transcript – Lesson 28 [Traditional]

Hosts: Adam Menon / Kirin Yang

Adam: Hello everyone and welcome to Lesson 28 of the ChineseLearnOnline.com podcast series teaching Mandarin Chinese. I'm your host, Adam.

Kirin: 大家好. 我是 Kirin.

Adam: In today's lesson, we are going to listen to a dialogue that uses vocabulary that we have taught you in previous lessons, while adding some new words for you along the way. Premium subscribers can follow along with the transcripts on your MP3 player screen or from our website.

Cindy: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Yann: 我不知道. 她是誰?

Cindy: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: Hmmn... interesting. Kirin will now read each line for us – please repeat after her.

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

我不知道. 她是誰?

她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: Alright, so let's start with the first line:

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Adam: So we have a couple of new words here. The first word is the verb 知道. That's a first tone and a fourth tone and is the verb “to know.” Very useful word to know. So here we have:

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Adam: What does 他 / 她 mean? 他 / 她 can mean “he” or “she.” Now usually when you refer to a “he” or a “she,” there is some context involved – either someone you were previously talking about, or someone you are pointing to perhaps. So in this dialogue, she is pointing at a woman, so 她 here is a woman. We then have the verb “to be” 是 followed by a new character 誰. That's a second tone and is a new question word meaning “who.” We know this is a question by the 嗎 at the end. So putting it all together gives us “Do you know she is who?”

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Adam: Or “Do you know who she is?”

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?

Adam: The man then replies:

Kirin: 我不知道. 她是誰?

Adam: So what do you think 我不知道 means? It, of course, means “I don’t know.” He then asks:

Kirin: 她是誰?

Adam: That’s a question since 誰 is a question word asking “who.” So in this case – “Who is she?”

Kirin: 她是誰?

Adam: Now in this case, we know he is asking a question by his intonation. However, he could also have replied like this.

Kirin: 我不知道她是誰.

Adam: Here, he’s just saying “I don’t know who she is.” In this case, he’s not asking who the person is. The woman then replies:

Kirin: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: Alright, let’s see if we can figure this one out. We’ve actually seen all these words before. 她在這裡 – what does “在這裡” mean? It means “to be located here.” We then have 是個很有名的人. What does 很 mean? It means “very.”

That’s followed by 個. This is the short form for 是一個. We then have 有名的. What does the verb “有” mean? It means “to have.” We’ve seen 名 before in the word 名字. What does “名字” mean? It means “name.”

And lastly what does “人” mean? It means “person.” So can you guess what a 有名的人 or “has name person” is? That means “a famous person.” 有名的人. As in someone who

has made a name for themselves. So that gives us a literal translation of “She located here is a very famous person.”

Kirin: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: Or “She’s a very famous person here.”

Kirin: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: The Premium notes for this lesson show you some other adjectives and words that can be constructed using vocabulary we have already learned giving you a grander picture of how this language works, so be sure to check them out when you have a chance. We’ll listen to the part 2 of this dialogue in our next lesson. For now though, let’s get Kirin to repeat each line for us again. Please repeat after her:

Kirin: 你知道她是誰嗎?
我不知道. 她是誰?
她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: Great, and we’ll wrap up by listening to the dialogue again at normal speed.

Cindy: 你知道她是誰嗎?
Yann: 我不知道. 她是誰?
Cindy: 她在這裡是個很有名的人.

Adam: Great! Thank you. As always, please review the material available to premium subscribers on our website, ChineseLearnOnline.com as we will be reusing it in later lessons. Then join us again next time for our next lesson.

Kirin: 謝謝大家. 再見.