

## Lesson 2

### **Simplified:**

搭  
dā  
First tone (to join)

答  
dá  
Second tone (to answer)

打  
dǎ  
Third tone (to hit)

大  
dà  
Big

你好  
Nǐ hǎo  
Hello

你好吗?  
Nǐ hǎo ma?  
How are you?

我很好  
Wǒ hěn hǎo  
I'm good

谢谢  
xièxie  
Thanks

谢谢你  
Xièxie nǐ  
Thank you

### **Traditional:**

搭  
dā  
First tone (to join)

答  
dá  
Second tone (to answer)

打  
dǎ  
Third tone (to hit)

大  
dà  
Big

你好  
Nǐ hǎo  
Hello

你好嗎?  
Nǐ hǎo ma?  
How are you?

我很好  
Wǒ hěn hǎo  
I'm good

謝謝  
xièxie  
Thanks

謝謝你  
Xièxie nǐ  
Thank you

**Simplified:**

再见  
zàijiàn  
Goodbye

好吗?  
Hǎo ma?  
Ok?

你  
nǐ  
You

我  
wǒ  
I

他  
tā  
He

她  
tā  
She

好  
hǎo  
Good, ok

很  
hěn  
Very

吗  
ma  
Question particle

谢  
xiè  
To thank

**Traditional:**

再見  
Zàijiàn  
Goodbye

好嗎?  
Hǎo ma?  
Ok?

你  
nǐ  
You

我  
wǒ  
I

他  
tā  
He

她  
tā  
She

好  
hǎo  
Good, ok

很  
hěn  
Very

嗎  
ma  
Question particle

謝  
xiè  
To thank

**Simplified:**

再  
zài  
Again

见  
jiàn  
To meet

**Traditional:**

再  
zài  
Again

見  
jiàn  
To meet

**Lesson 2 Notes :**

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”.

Hǎo

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.”

Pronoun summary:

Nǐ  
Wǒ  
Tā

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).

Tā hǎo ma?

Tā hěn hǎo

Xièxie

Xièxie nǐ

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.