

Lesson 4

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

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

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

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

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

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

Simplified:

点
diǎn
Dot

得
de
Adverb particle

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 .](#)