

UNIT

1

# “We’re all one family”

四海一家

Sì hǎi yì jiā

Introducing yourself by nationality and background



In this unit, you will learn how to:

- Greet someone.
- Introduce yourself.
- Say goodbye.
- Understand formal and informal speech.
- Say where you come from.
- Ask for and give telephone numbers.
- Express your thanks.
- Apologize to someone.
- Ask for repetition and clarification.
- Understand simplified versus traditional characters.

For additional materials to support this unit, go to the *Encounters* website at [www.EncountersChinese.com.cn](http://www.EncountersChinese.com.cn).

## Encounter 1 Greeting people and introducing yourself

### Greeting people



**1.1** View Episode 1 of the dramatic series. Don't worry if you don't fully understand everything that is being said; just listen and enjoy!

**1.2** What might you say in English when you greet someone? Make a list below.

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**1.3** Watch and listen to the video segment. Then check the greetings you hear.



- ☐ Nǐ hǎo!
- ☐ Nín hǎo!
- ☐ Xiǎo Wáng!
- ☐ Zǒnmeyàng?
- ☐ Hǎo, hǎo.
- ☐ Hǎo hǎo.

Compare your answers with those of your classmates and teacher.



**1.4** Watch and listen to the video segment. Can you understand the meanings of the individual expressions below? Match the appropriate terms.

- |               |                            |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| a. Nǐ hǎo!    | 1. Hello. (formal; polite) |
| b. Nín hǎo!   | 2. Hello. (informal)       |
| c. Hǎo.       | 3. How about you?          |
| d. Nǐ ne?     | 4. Fine.                   |
| e. Wǒ yě hǎo. | 5. I'm fine too.           |

Compare your answers with those of your classmates and teacher.

## FYI 供你参考

## Greetings in Chinese

In Chinese culture, as in Western cultures, there are generally two types of word-based greetings—those that are exchanged with little or no further conversation, such as “Hi!” and “Hello!” (*Nǐ hǎo!* in Chinese), and those that follow a question-and-answer pattern, such as “How are you?” and “How have you been?” (*Nǐ hǎo ma?* in Chinese). Both are considered friendly and informal. As a beginning student of Chinese, you can safely use *Nǐ hǎo* as a common, informal greeting regardless of either the time of day or person addressed. As you will learn in this unit, the response to *Nǐ hǎo* is usually a *Nǐ hǎo* in return.

However, in Chinese culture (as in all cultures), context determines which greeting you will use and when. When you greet a person of a higher status, such as your teacher, you should use the more formal and polite *Nín hǎo* or *Nín hǎo ma?* *Nín* is roughly equivalent to the French “vous” or the Spanish “usted.” It is also a good idea to use the polite form when greeting someone at a formal business or social occasion or someone who is significantly senior to you. Remember: when in doubt, use *nín*. It shows courtesy and respect—two highly valued characteristics in Chinese culture—and it presents you as a cultured and sophisticated individual.

In addition to *Nín (Nǐ) hǎo!* or *Nín (Nǐ) hǎo ma?*, another conventional greeting is simply to say the person’s last name, followed by a respectful title, such as “Mr.,” “Ms.,” or “Professor.” For example, *Yáng xī`nsheng* (Mr. Yang); *Zh`ng n)shì* (Ms. Zhang); and *Lǐ lǎoshī* (Professor Li, literally: Teacher Li). You can also combine last name, title, and a respectful greeting, such as in this formula: *Zh`ng lǎoshī, nín hǎo!* (with a slight nod of the head).

**1.5 Mingling:** Turn to a nearby classmate and greet him or her in Chinese. Then repeat the exchange with a different classmate. If you know your classmate’s name (Chinese or English), say it before the greeting. If you are interacting with your teacher, remember to use the polite form and/or a respectful title (e.g., *Lǐ lǎoshī, nín hǎo*).

## FYI 供你参考

## Other common greetings

Here are some other common ways to greet friends:

*Zǎo!* (early morning, until around 9:00 or 10:00 A.M.)

*Zǎoshang hǎo!* (similar to *zǎo* with the same time restrictions, but much more formal)

Keep in mind that *nǐ hǎo* can be used at any time of day. If you already know the person you are greeting, you don’t actually need to say anything. You could just smile, nod, and say the person’s name or name and title.



## Introducing yourself



**1.6** Watch and listen to the video segment. What do you think they are saying to each other? Fill in the blanks in English.



Lynn: Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ jiào Lynn.  
Hello. \_\_\_\_\_ Lynn.  
Lǐ Wén: Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ jiào Lǐ Wén.  
Hello. \_\_\_\_\_ Li Wen.



Chén Fēng: Nín hǎo, Zhōu lǎoshī.  
Wǒ jiào Chén Fēng.  
Hello, Professor Zhou.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chen Feng.



Máo Zhìpéng: Wǒ jiào Máo Zhìpéng.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mao Zhipeng.

**1.7** Write your name in Chinese (pinyin with tones) or English to complete the sentence below. Use your first name or your full name, as you prefer. Practice saying the two sentences below quickly and smoothly, five to ten times.

Nǐ hǎo! Wǒ jiào \_\_\_\_\_.

### FYI 供你参考

#### Introductions

Have you noticed that Chinese people tend to introduce themselves using full names, whereas Westerners often do so with just first names? Take a moment to consider what this might indicate about Chinese and Western values related to one's identity. How do you generally like to introduce yourself?

In Chinese culture, it is more important to identify the group you belong to first—for example, your family, your workplace—before moving on to other details when introducing yourself. In Chinese, the last name comes first and is generally included as part of the introduction.



**1.8** Watch and listen to the video segment. Fill in the blanks with pinyin.



a.  
Lynn: Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ jiào Lynn. Hòu gè xìng  
rènshi nǐ.

Lǐ Wén: Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ jiào Lǐ Wén. Rènshi nǐ  
wǒ yào hǎo \_\_\_\_\_.





b.  
Nín h2o, Zh4u l2osh-. W6 jiào Chén F8ng.  
H0n g`oxìng rěnshi \_\_\_\_\_.



c.  
Zhào Y6ngg`ng: H0n g`oxìng rěnshi n8men.  
Alejandro: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

d. What do you think is the meaning of *H0n g`oxìng rěnshi n8*? Write the English below:

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.9 Mingling:** Turn to two or three classmates and say your name in Chinese, using the sentences you have just practiced. Use your English name if you do not have a Chinese name. Listen carefully to their responses and take notes.

## Grammar: Personal pronouns

**1.10** As a class, name these famous people. Then complete each blank below with an appropriate English name. Note that *t`* means “he/she” and *míngzi* means “name.”

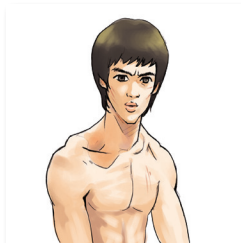
T` jiào shénme? OR T` jiào shénme míngzi?



a.

a. T` jiào \_\_\_\_\_.

b. T` jiào \_\_\_\_\_.



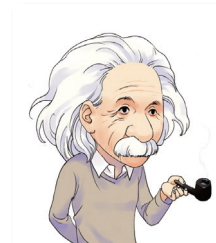
b.



c.

c. T` jiào \_\_\_\_\_.

d. T` jiào \_\_\_\_\_.



d.

**1.11** Match the Chinese personal pronouns on the left with the appropriate English on the right. The suffix *-men* forms plural pronouns when it is added to singular pronouns.

- |          |                          |
|----------|--------------------------|
| a. w6    | 1. <i>he/she</i>         |
| b. n6    | 2. <i>I</i>              |
| c. t`    | 3. <i>you</i> (singular) |
| d. w6men | 4. <i>you</i> (plural)   |
| e. n6men | 5. <i>they</i>           |
| f. t`men | 6. <i>we</i>             |

## Encounter 2 Leave-taking and more introductions

### Saying goodbye



**1.12** Watch and listen to the video segment. What do you think they are saying to each other? Fill in the blanks in English.



L6 W6n: Zàijiàn, Lynn!

Lynn: L6 W6n, zàijiàn!

**1.13 Mingling:** Say goodbye to your classmates, using their English or Chinese names.

### FYI 供你参考

#### Saying goodbye

Most cultures and languages have several ways to say goodbye. The most common way in Chinese is *zàijiàn* (*again + see = see you again/soon*).

Try to develop the habit of saying goodbye to your friends by saying their name (and title, if you know it) before *zàijiàn*; it's more polite and authentic. For example: *M2lì* (Mary), *zàijiàn*. OR *Yáng l2osh-*, *zàijiàn*. Do remember to say goodbye; don't just walk out of class when it ends without saying goodbye to your teacher.

Just as with greetings, there are also many conventional ways to say goodbye in Chinese culture. Try some of the following examples in an appropriate context. Pay particular attention to how English has influenced Chinese in one of the examples below.

Míngti`n jiàn (*tomorrow + see*): See you tomorrow.

Y!hu#r jiàn (*little while + see*): See you in a little while/in a few moments.

B3ib3i: sound loan from English "bye-bye" that is often added to another form; thus, *Zàijiàn, b3ib3i!*

When saying goodbye to your teacher, remember that it's best to use his or her last name plus the term for "teacher" (*l2osh-*); thus, *Wáng l2osh-, zàijiàn!*

## Grammar: The verbs *shì*, *jiào*, *xìng*



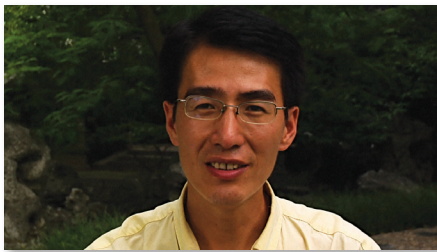
**1.14** Watch and listen to the video segment. Then fill in the blanks below.



- a. Chén Fēng, zhèi wèi \_\_\_\_\_ Yáng jiàoshòu.  
*Chen Feng, this is Professor Yang.*



- b. Wǒ \_\_\_\_\_ Mèng, \_\_\_\_\_ Mèng Dérú.  
*My last name is Meng; my name is Meng Deru.*



- c. \_\_\_\_\_ Zhāng, \_\_\_\_\_ Zhāng Fúxīng.  
*My last name is Zhang; my name is Zhang Fuxing.*

**1.15** Match the Chinese on the left with the appropriate English on the right.

- |         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| a. shì  | 1. be called, have the first name X |
| b. jiào | 2. have the last name X             |
| c. xìng | 3. be                               |

**1.16** Complete the following self-introduction by a man named Manuel García. He is saying, “My last name is García; my name is Manuel García.”

Wǒ \_\_\_\_\_  
García, \_\_\_\_\_  
Manuel García.





**1.17** Write the same self-introduction for yourself in pinyin, using your English or Chinese name. Try to write the pinyin with tone marks.

Repeat this self-introduction aloud until you are comfortable with the words and can say the sentences quickly and accurately.

**1.18 Mingling:** With a partner, practice saying hello, introducing yourself, and saying goodbye. After you both have had an opportunity to share, move to a new partner and repeat the process. Continue to circulate around the room to interact with new partners.

## Grammar Bits 语法点滴



### Stative verbs

In Chinese, words that describe the subject—that say how it is or is not—are called “stative verbs” (some people call them “adjectives”).

*h2o* (be good, fine, OK)

*g`oxing* (be happy, delighted, glad)

Stative verbs (SV) can be preceded by adverbs, such as *h0n* (a light sense of “very”). It is a good idea to always precede a stative verb used by itself with *h0n* (except in greetings).

W6 *h0n h2o*. (I’m fine)

W6 *h0n g`oxing*. (I’m happy.)

### Equative verbs

Chinese also has “equative verbs” that are like an “equal” sign (thus: subject = noun). You already know three:

*jiào* (be called/named)

W6 *jiào* Mike.

T` *jiào* Mark, Mark Phelps.

N0 *jiào* shénme míngzi?

*xìng* (be surnamed, have the last name X)

W6 *xìng* Wáng.

L2osh- *xìng* Chén.

*Jiào* may introduce either the full name (surname + given name) or just the given name, but NEVER just the surname; that’s the function of *xìng*.

*shì* (be)

W6 *shì* l2osh-.

T` *shì* G`o l2osh-.

Note that although there is a tone mark on the linking verb *shì*, it is usually not stressed in connected speech.

Also note that Chinese verbs do not change form to match the subject. In English, the verb “to be” must be conjugated to form “I am,” “you are,” “he/she is,” etc.; in Chinese, the verb *shì* remains *shì*, regardless of the subject.

Remember that *shì* is NOT used to link subjects or pronouns with stative verbs (adjectives). The English “I am well/fine/OK” does NOT become ~~W6 shì h2o~~ in Chinese, but instead becomes *W6 h0n h2o*.

## Grammar: Negation



**1.19** Watch and listen to the video segment, and then answer the following questions.

- How much did the bicyclist think the bottle of water cost? \_\_\_\_\_ kuài (¥)
- How much was it really? \_\_\_\_\_ kuài (¥)
- Based on what you hear, what does *bù* mean? *bù* = \_\_\_\_\_



**1.20** Watch and listen to the video again. Write the missing tones on the following sentences.

- Bù dong, bù dong. (*I don't understand.*)
- Bú shì shuǐ, shì shuǐ. (*It's not "sleep"; it's "water."*)
- Yí kuài wu, bú shì wu kuài. (*It's ¥1.5, not ¥5.*)

**1.21** Indicate with a  $\wedge$  where *bù* belongs in each of the following sentences. Note: Grammatically, *bù* should precede the verb.

- W6 shì Mary Smith.
- W6 jiào Mary.
- W6 xìng Smith.
- W6 shì M0iguórén. (*I am American.*)
- W6 shì Zh4ngguórén. (*I am Chinese.*)

**1.22** Write a complete sentence in pinyin about one thing you are *NOT*.

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### FYI 供你参考

#### More on tone sandhi: The negative adverb *bù*

Tone sandhi, you'll remember, occurs when certain words change tones in certain environments. *Y-* (number one) is an example that you learned about in the Introductory Unit. *Bù* is another. Before the fourth tone, *bù* changes to the second tone: *bú*.

Bú xìng Zh4u. ([I'm] not surnamed Zhou.)  
Bú shì w6. (It's not me.)

Recognizing when these words change tones will become automatic with practice.

Practice: How would you pronounce *bù* if you added it to each of these words?

g`o ( <i>tall</i> )	máng ( <i>busy</i> )	h2o ( <i>good</i> )	lèi ( <i>tired</i> )
ji`o ( <i>teach</i> )	xué ( <i>learn</i> )	xi0 ( <i>write</i> )	bèi ( <i>memorize</i> )

## Formal and informal speech



**1.23** Watch and listen to the video segment. Match the Chinese sentences with their correct English equivalents. Note: *Qǐngwèn* means “May I ask . . .” and always precedes the inquiry.

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| a. Tā xìng shénme?       | 1. My last name is Fan.                  |
| b. Wǒ xìng Fàn.          | 2. May I ask your (honorable) last name? |
| c. Qǐngwèn, nín guìxìng? | 3. What's his last name?                 |

**1.24** Based on what you have learned so far, fill in the following blanks with the correct pinyin.

- you (formal): \_\_\_\_\_
- you (informal): \_\_\_\_\_
- Hello (informal): Nǐ hǎo.
- Hello (formal): \_\_\_\_\_.
- What's your last name (formal): Nín guìxìng ?
- What's his last name (informal): \_\_\_\_\_?

### FYI 供你参考

#### Levels of formality

Although *Nǐ xìng shénme?* is grammatically correct and often used in casual conversation, many Chinese would consider it too informal and abrupt if used when first meeting someone. When directly addressing someone older or of a higher social status than yourself (for example, your teacher or a client), it is more culturally appropriate to use *Nín guìxìng?* The response will generally then include *Mǐn guì*, meaning “Please dispense with the word *honorable*.” Therefore, *Mǐn guì xìng Fàn* means “My last name is Fan, please dispense with the word *honorable*.” The expression *Tā xìng shénme?* is always accepted when referring to a third party.

**1.25 Mingling:** Circulate around the room, greeting classmates and asking their last names. Use informal speech with your classmates and formal speech with your teacher.



## Encounter 3 Talking about where you come from



**1.26** Watch and listen to the video segment. Then read the following fragments and circle the choice that correctly completes each sentence.



- a. Lynn is \_\_\_\_\_.  
• Chinese      • American
- b. Lynn is from \_\_\_\_\_.  
• Los Angeles      • New York
- c. Li Wen is from \_\_\_\_\_.  
• Guilin      • Shanghai

**1.27** Match the corresponding Chinese and English below.

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| a. I am American.      | 1. W6 shì Shànghǎi rén. |
| b. I'm from Shanghai.  | 2. Nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?     |
| c. Where are you from? | 3. W6 shì Měiguó rén.   |

**1.28** Based on the exchange you watched in the video segment above, answer the following questions.

- a. What do you think Měiguó nǎr means? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What is the meaning of nǎr by itself? \_\_\_\_\_

**1.29** Read the exchange below and write the corresponding English equivalents where they are missing.

- A: W6 shì Měiguó rén. (I am an American.)  
W6 jì zài Měiguó. (My home is in America.)
- B: Měiguó nǎr? (\_\_\_\_\_)
- A: W6 jì zài Nīnyu8 (New York); w6 shì Nīnyu8 rén.  
(\_\_\_\_\_)

**1.30** Complete the following conversation with your own information. If you are not Chinese or American, you can visit a website like [www.zhongguolu.com/phrasebook/countries.html](http://www.zhongguolu.com/phrasebook/countries.html) to learn the name of your country in pinyin. Write that name in the first blank below. This is how you would say, "I am a person from \_\_\_\_\_." On the second blank, write the name of your state, province, or city in English. This is how you would say, "My home is in \_\_\_\_\_."

- A: Nǐ shì nǎr de rén?
- B: W6 shì \_\_\_\_\_ rén. (name of country)
- A: Nǐ jì zài nǎr?
- B: W6 jì zài \_\_\_\_\_. (name of state, province, or city)

Practice the above conversation with a partner until you are comfortable and can pronounce the sentences smoothly and accurately.

**1.31 Mingling:** Turn to a partner and have the following guided dialogue. First, greet your partner by name, and then:

A: Ask where he/she is from.

B: Respond with the name of a country.

A: Ask where in this country he/she is from.

B: Respond with the name of a state/province/city in Chinese or English.

Reverse roles and practice the dialogue again.

## Grammar Bits 语法点滴



### The particle *ma*

There are many ways to form questions in Chinese. One of the simplest is to add the question particle *ma* at the end of a statement. You don't need to change the word order, but your intonation should rise slightly at the end, as in English.

T` shì M0iguórén. —————> T` shì M0iguórén *ma*?

## Recognizing tones



**1.32** Watch and listen to the video segment. Mark the correct tone (for example: ˊ, á, 2, or à) over each of the boldfaced letters.

Dajia hao. (Hi, everybody.)

Ni hao. (Hi.)

Wo jiao Mao Zhipeng. (My name is Mao Zhipeng.)

Wo jia zai Beijing. (I live in Beijing.)

Wo shì Beijingren. (I am a Beijinger.)

Ta jiao Chen Feng. (His name is Chen Feng.)

Ta bu zai zheli. (He's not here.)

Ta zai Beijing. (He's in Beijing.)

Zhang xiaozhang, nin hao. (Hi, Principal Zhang.)

Ni hao, Li Wen. (Hi, Li Wen.)

Zhang xiaozhang, nin mang ma? (Principal Zhang, are you busy?)

Bu mang, bu mang. You shì ma? (Not busy, not busy. What's up?)

## Grammar: Question words *nǎr, shénme, shéi*

**1.33** Review the second exchange from the previous activity and write the appropriate English equivalent in the blank below.

Q: T` shì shéi?

A: T` shì Máo Zhìpéng. T` shì B0ij-ng rén.

shéi = \_\_\_\_\_

**1.34** Match the appropriate Chinese and English question words.

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| a. n2r    | 1. <i>who</i>   |
| b. shénme | 2. <i>where</i> |
| c. shéi   | 3. <i>what</i>  |

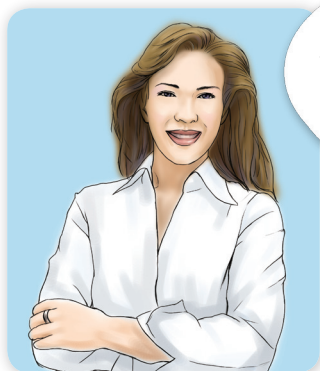
## Encounter 4 Asking for and giving phone numbers



**1.35** Watch and listen to the video segment. Then fill in the blanks below.

- What's your telephone number? Fill in the blank: *Nǐ de diànhuà hàom2 shì* \_\_\_\_\_?
- Write the pinyin for the term that means "telephone **number**": *diànhuà* \_\_\_\_\_
- Write the pinyin for the word that marks possession: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: *nǐ de diànhuà hàom2 = your telephone number*)
- Write the pinyin for "My telephone number is":  
\_\_\_\_\_
- Write the pinyin for the term that indicates "and yours?": \_\_\_\_\_  
(Hint: Listen to what Lynn says after she tells Li Wen her telephone number.)
- Write the English meaning of *sh6uj-*: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.36** Complete the following sentences about yourself. Use the statements below for Mary Smith as a guide.



I am Mary Smith. I am American. My home is in Boston. My home phone (or cell phone) number is 617-635-4500.

W6 jiào \_\_\_\_\_.

W6 shì \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Write the pinyin of your country + rén.)

W6 jì` zài \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Write the name of your state or city in English.)

W6 de \_\_\_\_\_ shì \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Write your home or cell phone number.)





**1.37** Watch and listen to the video segment. What is each person asking? Fill in each blank with the corresponding word or phrase from the box.

cell phone number / where someone lives / nationality  
name / home phone number

a. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Nǐ jì zhù nǎr?

\_\_\_\_\_

d. Nǐ jì lǐ de diànhuà hàomǎ shì duōshǎo?

\_\_\_\_\_

e. Nǐ de shǒujī hàomǎ shì duōshǎo?

\_\_\_\_\_

**1.38 Mingling:** Turn to a classmate and ask the questions above. Note his or her responses below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Hometown: \_\_\_\_\_

## Grammar Bits 语法点滴



### Review of question words

Question words are, obviously, words that ask for information or denote interrogative sentences. If you use a question word, then your sentence does not need the particle *ma*. Carefully note the position of Chinese question words. How is it different from English? The examples below illustrate various uses of *shénme*, *shéi/shuí*, *nǎr*, *nǎ/nǎlǐ*, and *duōshǎo*. In all of these examples, the answer to the question replaces the question word. Can you provide an answer to each question about the fictitious people below?

Tā jiào shénme? (What is her name?)

Tā jiào Wáng shénme? (He is called Wang what?) [Answer with Wang's FULL name.]

Tā xìng shénme? (What is her [sur]name?)

Tā shì shéi/shuí? (Who is he/she?)

Shéi/shuí shì Wáng lǎoshī? (Who is Professor Wang?) [You would point him out.]

Nǐ zài nǎr? (Where are you?)

Zhāng lǎoshī shì nǎr de rén? (Where is Professor Zhang from?)

Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén? (What's your nationality?)

Tā de diànhuà hàomǎ shì duōshǎo? (What is his/her telephone number?)

## Encounter 5 Expressing thanks, apologizing, and asking for clarification

### Thanking and apologizing



**1.39** Watch and listen to the video segment. Then match each Chinese expression with the appropriate English equivalent.

- |                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| a. Qíng.             | 1. You're welcome.                            |
| b. Xièxie.           | 2. I'm sorry.                                 |
| c. Duìbuqǐ.          | 3. Please go ahead.                           |
| d. Bú yòng xiè.      | 4. Thank you.                                 |
| e. Méi gu`nxi. _____ | 5. That's all right. / No problem.            |
| f. Bú kèqi. _____    | 6. No need to be so polite. (You're welcome.) |

**1.40 Mingling:** Turn to a partner and practice saying “thank you” (followed by “you’re welcome”) and “I’m sorry” (followed by “that’s all right”). Continue until you both feel confident with the exchanges.

**1.41 Pair work:** Complete the “red/white” activity with a partner, following these directions.

- Hold a red chip in one hand and a white chip in the other. Do not let your partner know which chip is in each hand.
- Invite your partner (say *Qíng* . . . ) to choose one of your hands. Reveal the selected chip and share it with your partner.
- If your partner selects the red chip, he or she should say *Xièxie*, since you have shared something good (red is a lucky color in Chinese culture). You should respond with *Bú yòng xiè*.
- If your partner selects the white chip, you should say *Duìbuqǐ* since you have shared something sad (white is linked to mourning in Chinese culture). He or she should respond with *Méi gu`nxi*.
- Reverse roles, and then continue with a different partner.

### Asking for clarification



**1.42** Watch and listen to the video segment. The following sentences are useful to keep in mind if you have trouble understanding what someone says. Read them carefully and then match the corresponding English and Chinese phrases.

- |                                 |                           |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| a. Sorry. I don't understand.   | 1. Qíng shu4 màn yìdì2nr. |
| b. Please say it again.         | 2. Qíng zài shu4 yí biàn. |
| c. Please speak slower.         | 3. W6 d6ng le, xièxie.    |
| d. I understand now. Thank you. | 4. Duìbuqǐ, w6 bù d6ng.   |

**1.43** Fill in the blanks using the correct pinyin equivalents.

a. understand: \_\_\_\_\_

d. slow: \_\_\_\_\_

b. speak or say: \_\_\_\_\_

e. slower: \_\_\_\_\_

c. say it again: \_\_\_\_\_

**1.44** Write answers to the following questions in pinyin.

What would you say if . . .



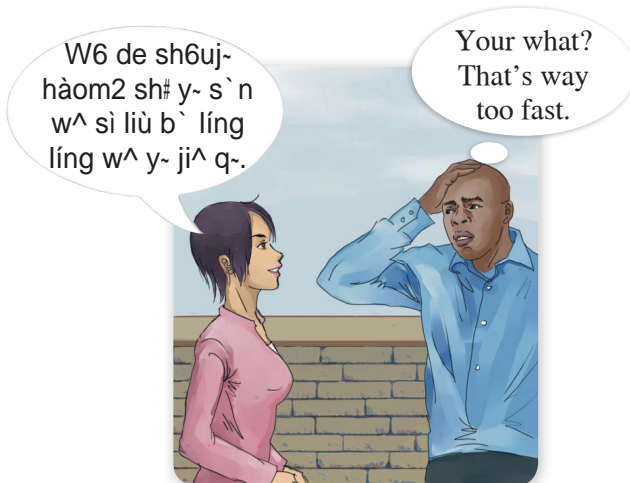
a. someone spoke to you in Chinese using words you don't yet know?

\_\_\_\_\_



b. someone mumbled or did not speak clearly?

\_\_\_\_\_



c. someone spoke too quickly for you to understand?

\_\_\_\_\_



d. you finally understand what someone has been trying to tell you?

\_\_\_\_\_

## Putting it all together

**1.45 Mingling:** Circulate around the room, interview six people, and complete the chart below. Remember to ask for clarification, if necessary, and use polite language if you interview your teacher. Begin each exchange with a greeting and finish by saying goodbye. Remember to also express thanks and apologies, when necessary, at the appropriate time.

Name	Nationality	Hometown	Home phone #	Cell phone #

**1.46 Conversation:** If possible, have a conversation with a native Chinese speaker. Provide the following information about yourself: name, nationality, telephone number. Ask for the same information from the other person. Remember to greet, thank, apologize, ask for clarification as necessary, and say goodbye. Share and discuss this dialogue with your teacher and classmates.



## Unit Rap

Go to the **Encounters** website at [www.EncountersChinese.com.cn](http://www.EncountersChinese.com.cn) and listen to the song to review key expressions from Unit 1. Listen again and sing along!

## Encounter 6 Reading and writing

### Recognizing traditional vs. simplified characters

**1.47** Read the following terms aloud.

我 (I, me)

我們 (we)

你好! (Hello!)

謝謝! (Thank you!)

謝謝您! (Thank you! [polite])

你 (you)

你們 (you [plural])

你好嗎? (How are you?)

謝謝你! (Thank you!)

再見! (Goodbye!)

他 (he)

他們 (they)

請 (please, please go ahead)

對不起 (I'm sorry.)

## FYI 供你参考

## Development of simplified characters

The characters in the previous activity are written in a form usually called “traditional” characters. Their forms are identical to the forms that have been used in China for centuries. In 1956, and again in 1964, the government of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) published lists of “simplified” characters. Some of the traditionally used characters were simplified by reducing the number of total strokes needed to write them. For example, the character 見, traditionally written with seven strokes, was simplified to 见, written with four strokes. Only about a quarter to one-third of all characters in use were simplified; the rest were not. The hope was that if the characters were easier to write, they would be easier to learn. Taiwan, Hong Kong, and many overseas Chinese communities, however, continue to use only the traditional forms. The research community is divided on whether simplified or traditional characters are easier to learn, but in all Chinese-speaking communities, whether they use simplified or traditional forms, in the past decades the literacy rate has gone from one of the lowest in the world to one of the highest—currently just over 90 percent.

A “divided language” situation currently exists for the written Chinese language, unfortunately complicating your learning efforts. Will there be a unification of China’s written language in the future? Stay tuned!

**1.48** In each group, match the simplified characters in the left column with their traditional equivalents in the right column. Keep in mind that only about a quarter to one-third of all characters have been simplified.

a. 我	1. 你好嗎	l. 再见	12. 叫
b. 你	2. 你請	m. 是	13. 再見
c. 他	3. 謝謝您	n. 姓	14. 麼
d. 他们	4. 謝謝	o. 叫	15. 字
e. 你好	5. 謝謝你	p. 什	16. 姓
f. 你好吗	6. 我	q. 么	17. 對
g. 请	7. 他們	r. 名	18. 起
h. 你请	8. 他	s. 字	19. 不
i. 谢谢	9. 你	t. 对	20. 名
j. 谢谢你	10. 請	u. 不	21. 是
k. 谢谢您	11. 你好	v. 起	22. 甚



## Recognizing radicals

**1.49** Review the radicals in the introductory unit, pages 12–13. Look for any occurrences of those radicals in both lists above. Try to link the meaning of the radical with the meaning of the character. Keep in mind that when radicals are part of multicomponent characters, their forms often change. Notice how some radicals have been simplified and are now written with fewer strokes. Share your conclusions with your classmates.

## Reading real-life texts

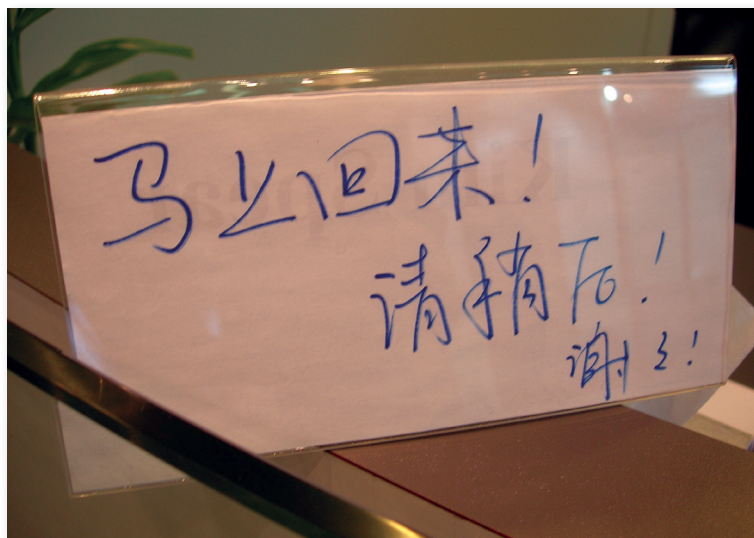
**1.50** This sign is on the campus of the university that Chen Feng, Li Wen, and Xiao Mao once attended. It says, “[Making our environment] green, beautiful, and clean / depends on you, on me, and on him (others).” Circle and label the terms “me,” “you,” “him.”



**1.51** On the same campus is this plaque. 的 is a particle that marks possession. Circle the term for “we.” “We” + de = “our.”



**1.52** This handwritten sign on the desk of a receptionist says, "I'll be right back. Please wait just a bit! Thank you!" Circle the terms "please" and "thank you." Note that the second xiè in xièxie is here represented with a mark meaning "ditto, repeat the previous character."



**1.53** This is a handwritten note that someone has passed to you in class. If you wanted to be friendly and polite, what would you write back? For now, write in English.

你好! 我叫王小明。请问,  
你姓什么? 叫什么名字?  
谢谢你告诉我。

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## Learning to write characters

**1.54** For stroke order and other useful information about each of the following characters from this unit, go to the Character Writing Workbook. Practice writing them until you can reproduce them on demand.

我，你，他，们／們，好，吗／嗎，是，姓，叫，什／甚，  
么／麼，名，字，请／請，谢／謝，再，见／見，对／對，  
不，起

## Writing a note

**1.55** Write a brief note to a classmate, telling him or her your name and asking for your classmate's name. Use characters as much as possible; substitute with pinyin or English as necessary. Use courtesy terms (for example, "thank you") whenever possible.



### Cultural Bits 文化点滴



#### Introductions, greetings, and goodbyes

View the video segment "Introductions, greetings, and goodbyes" and then discuss the following questions with your classmates.

- What role do introductions by friends play in getting to know people in Chinese society?
- What elements determine your status in regard to someone else? List some.
- What are some greetings other than *Nǐ hǎo* that Chinese often use with each other?
- What are some ways you can take leave of a person?
- What is the significance of the leave-taking statement *Wǒ bú sòng le, a?*

## Recap

### Grammar

#### Stative verbs

Stative verbs, which describe the subject, can be preceded by adverbs such as *h0n* or negated with *bù*. Do not use *shì* with stative verbs.

*h2o* (*be good, be fine, be OK*)

W6 *h0n h2o*. (NOT: ~~W6 shì h2o~~.)  
T` *men bù h2o*.

*g`oxìng* (*be happy, be delighted, be glad*)

*h0n g`oxìng*  
*bù g`oxìng*  
T` *bù g`oxìng*.

#### Equative verbs

Equative verbs link the subject with a noun that states what it is.

*jiào* (*be called*)

W6 *jiào Alejandro*.

*xìng* (*have the surname*)

W6 *xìng Lì, jiào Lì Wén*.

*shì* (*be*)

W6 *shì Zh4ngguórénn, bú shì M0iguórénn*.

#### Question words

Question words ask for information or denote interrogative sentences. The particle *ma* is not needed when a question word is used.

*shéi/shu!* (*who?*)

T` *shì shéi/shu!*? T` *shì Lì Wén*.

*shénme* (*what?*)

Nì *jiào shénme?* W6 *jiào Wáng Lì*.

*n2r* (*where?*)

Nì *jì` zài n2r?* W6 *jì` zài B0ij-ng*.

*du4shao* (*what number?*)

Nì *de diànhuà h3om2 shì du4shao?*

#### Plurals

The suffix *-men* is added to the pronouns *w6*, *nì*, and *t`* to create the plural forms *w6men*, *nìmen*, and *t`men*.

#### Particles *ma* and *ne*

The particle *ma* is used at the end of a statement to form a question.

T` *shì M0iguórénn*. ⇒ T` *shì M0iguórénn ma?*

The particle *ne* after X means “And what about X?”

W6 *h0n h2o*. Nì *ne?*  
Lì *Wén shì Guílínrénn*. Chén *xiàozh2ng ne?*

#### Adverbs

Adverbs should precede verbs in a sentence.

The word *h0n* means “very,” but when it precedes a stative verb, it often has little meaning.

W6 *h0n h2o*.

The word *y0* means “also.” It can precede a verb or another adverb.

W6 *y0 shì M0iguórénn*.  
W6 *y0 bú xìng Yáng*.  
W6 *y0 h0n h2o*.

#### Possessive marker *de*

The word *de*, used after an appropriate noun or pronoun, marks possession.

Nì *de diànhuà hàom2 shì du4shao?*  
Jì` *li de diànhuà hàom2 shì du4shao?*

#### Negation with *bù*

The word *bù* is used immediately before a verb or adverb to create a negative statement. It cannot be used to modify nouns.

W6 *bú shì Shàngh2irén*.  
(NOT: ~~W6 bù Shàngh2irén~~.)

## Vocabulary

Beginning in Unit 2, vocabulary lists will include Chinese characters as well as English and pinyin. For now, concentrate on learning the sounds and meanings of the words.

### Numbers

líng zero  
yī one  
èr two  
sān three  
sì four  
wǔ five  
liù six  
qī seven  
bā eight  
jiǔ nine  
shí ten

### Pronouns

nǐ you  
nǐmen you (plural)  
nín you (formal)  
tā he, she, it  
tāmen they, them  
wǒ I, me  
wǒmen we, us

### Place names

Běijīng Beijing  
Déguó Germany  
Guǐlín Guilin  
Jiāzhōu California  
Luòshānjī Los Angeles  
Měiguó United States  
Niǚyuē New York  
Shànghǎi Shanghai  
Sūzhōu Suzhou  
Zhōngguó China

### Nouns/noun phrases

Déguórén German (person)  
diànhuà hàomǎ telephone number  
jiā home  
jiā li de diànhuà hàomǎ home  
telephone number  
Měiguórén American (person)  
míngzì full name, first name

Niǚyuērén New Yorker  
shǒujī hàomǎ cell phone number  
Zhōngguórén Chinese (person)

### Titles

lǎoshī teacher  
xiàozhǎng principal

### Stative verbs

duì be right  
gāo be tall  
gàoxìng be happy  
hǎo be good  
lèi be tired  
máng be busy

### Equative verbs

jiào be called, have the first  
name X  
shì be  
xìng be surnamed, have the last  
name X

### Adverbs

hěn very  
yě also, too

### Question particles/ words/phrases

duōshao what (number)  
ma (question particle)  
nǎr where  
ne and what about X?  
shéi/shuí who  
shénme what  
zěnmeyàng how's it going

### Greetings

hài hi  
Nǐ hǎo ma? How are you?  
Nǐ hǎo. Hello, good day.  
Nǐ zǎo. Good morning to you.

Nín hǎo. Hello. (formal)  
Zǎo. Good morning.  
Zǎoshang hǎo. Good morning.

### Goodbyes

bàibai bye-bye  
Míngtiān jiàn. See you tomorrow.  
Yíhuìr jiàn. See you in a little  
while.  
Zàijiàn. Goodbye.

### Thanks and response

Bú yòng xiè. You're welcome.  
Xièxie. Thank you.

### Apology and response

Duìbuqǐ. I'm sorry.  
Méi guānxi. That's all right. / No  
problem.

### Invitation/request

qǐng please (used in polite  
requests)  
qǐngwèn may I ask . . .

### Idiomatic or combinational usages

guìxìng (what's your) surname  
Nǐ shì nǎr de rén / nǎlǐ rén?  
Where are you from?  
Nǐ shì nǎ/něi guó rén? What  
country are you from?  
Nín guìxìng? What's your name?  
(formal)  
Qǐng shuō màn yìdiǎnr. Please  
speak a little slower.  
Qǐng zài shuō yí biàn. Please say  
it again.  
Wǒ bù dǒng. I don't understand.  
Wǒ dǒng le. I understand.  
Wǒ jiā zài Běijīng. My home is in  
Beijing.



## Checklist of “can do” statements

After completing this unit, you should be able to perform each of the following tasks:

### Listening and speaking

- ☐ Greet a friend by name.
- ☐ Greet your teacher by name and title.
- ☐ Say goodbye to your friend.
- ☐ Say goodbye to your teacher.
- ☐ Greet a new friend and provide your name.
- ☐ Ask the name of a new friend.
- ☐ Say where you are from.
- ☐ Ask a new friend where he or she is from.
- ☐ Give someone your telephone number.
- ☐ Ask for your friend's telephone number.
- ☐ Thank a friend.
- ☐ Thank your teacher.
- ☐ Respond to a thank-you from a friend.
- ☐ Apologize to someone.
- ☐ Respond to someone's apology.
- ☐ Say you do not understand.
- ☐ Ask someone to repeat a statement.

### Reading and writing

- ☐ Recognize and write some common characters related to introductions.
- ☐ Read and write common phrases related to introductions.
- ☐ Read and write common courtesy phrases.

### Understanding culture

- ☐ Name three cities in China.
- ☐ Name three Chinese surnames.
- ☐ Make an accurate statement in English describing Chinese tones.
- ☐ Make an accurate statement in English regarding the use of formal and informal terms for “you” in Chinese.
- ☐ Make an accurate statement about greeting formulas, both Chinese and Western.