



Chinese Lessons with Serge Melnyk

Lesson 1

Greetings in Mandarin

Vocabulary

1. Nǐhǎo (你好) -hello, hi, how are you?

It's used to greet anyone, at any time of the day. You can greet people you already know or someone you meet for the first time.

Dialog:

A: Nǐhǎo (你好) -hello.

B: Nǐhǎo (你好) -hello.

The response to this greeting is also Nǐhǎo.

2. Nǐhǎo ma? (你好吗?) -is another way of saying hello in Mandarin.

It's basically same as Nǐhǎo, except for some occasions, when Nǐhǎo ma is used to greet someone you have not seen for a long time.

We can translate it into English like "Hey, long time no see, how are you doing"?

3. Ma (吗) -is a question particle. It's added to the end of a sentence when you want to make a question. E.g. Hǎo-good. Hǎo ma?-Good?

4. Hǎojiǔ bújiàn (好久不见) -Long time no see.

5. Hěn (很) -very

6. Hěnhǎo (很好) -very good.

7. Yě (也) -also

8. Nǐ ne? (你呢?) -and you?

9. Ne (呢) -a particle that is used in elliptical questions.

10. Hǎo (好) -good.

11. Nǐ (你) -You

12. Wǒ (我) -I, me.

13. Xièxiè (谢谢) -Thank you.

14. Zàijiàn (再见) -Good Bye

OK. That was enough, right? Now let me explain what the heck those numbers after each word are. (In this transcript, now we are using standard symbols for marking Chinese tones, not numbers-Chinese tones are explained in details in lesson 2)

Chinese is a very musical language. There is no

Situational Dialog 1

A: Nǐhǎo!
你好 !
Hello!

B: Nǐhǎo !
你好 !
Hello!

Situational Dialog 2

A: Hǎojiǔ bújiàn , Nǐ hǎo ma?
好久不见 , 你好吗?
Long time no see, how are you doing?

B: Hěnhǎo, Xièxiè, Nǐ ne?
很好 , 谢谢 , 你呢?
Very good, thank you, and you?

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When you feel comfortable with the vocabulary of this lesson, please proceed to lesson 2 to learn about musical tones in Mandarin Chinese.