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你好！

Nǐ hǎo!

Hello!

● 你好！

Nǐ hǎo!

● 你好！

Nǐ hǎo!



● Hello!

● Hello!

好！

hǎo

您

nín

a respectful form of "you"

你们

nǐmen

you (a plural form)

大家

dàjiā

everybody

NOTES



"Nǐ hǎo" is a very popular greeting. When greeting two or more people, you may say "nǐmen hǎo". On formal occasions, you may use "nín hǎo".



您贵姓？

nín guì xìng?

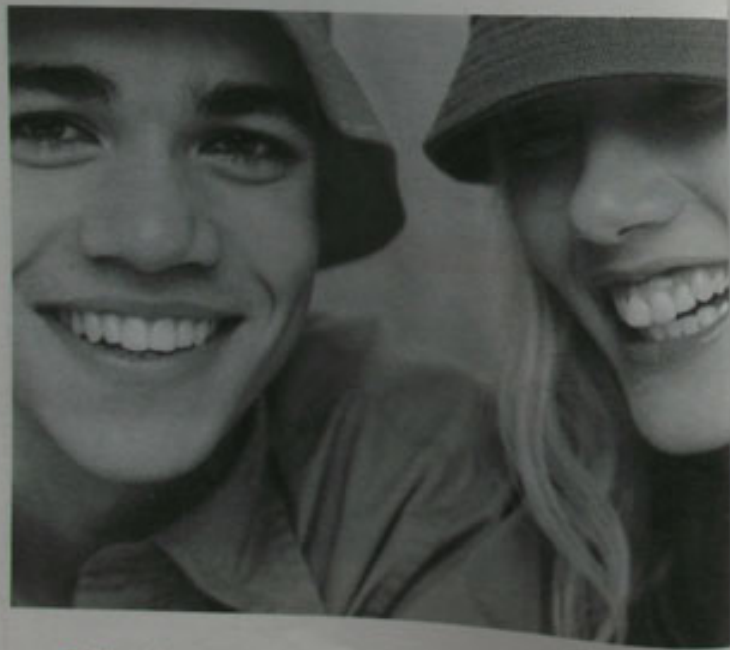
May I know your name?

● 您贵姓？

Nín guì xìng?

● 我姓宋，叫宋丽丽。

wǒ xìng sòng, jiào sòng lìlì.



● May I know your name?

● My surname is Song. I'm called Song Lili.

您贵姓？

Nín guì xìng?

我姓 _____, 叫 _____。

wǒ xìng

jiào

张华

Zhāng Huá

a Chinese name

王大伟

Wáng Dàwēi

a Chinese name

约翰·马丁

Yuēhǎn Mǎdīng

John Martin



The word "guì" in the sentence of "Nín guì xìng?" is a very polite way of speaking. It shows the inquirer's respect for the other person. When replying to this question, do not use "guì", but rather "wǒ xìng..."



他叫什么？

tā jiào shénme?

What's his name?

● 他叫什么？

tā jiào shénme?

● 他叫张华。

tā jiào Zhāng Huá.



● What's his name?

● His name is Zhang Hua.

叫什么？

jiào shénme

她

tā

she

你朋友

nǐ péngyou

your friend

他同事

tā tóngshì

his colleague



The words for "he" and "she" sound exactly the same in Chinese. They differ only in written characters. The pronouns "he" and "him" are both "tā" in Chinese, and "wǒ" serves both as "I" and "me".

你好吗？

Nǐ hǎo ma?

How are you?

● 你好吗？

Nǐ hǎo ma?

● 我很好。

Wǒ hěn hǎo.



● How are you?

● I'm fine.

好吗？

hǎo ma

你妈妈

nǐ māma

your mother

你爸爸

nǐ bàba

your father

你孩子

nǐ háizi

your child



“Ma” is a common question word. It appears at the end of a sentence to make the sentence interrogative. In Chinese, statement and question have the same word order.

我很好，你呢？

wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?

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I'm fine, and you?

你好吗？

nǐ hǎo ma?

我很好，你呢？

wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?

我也很好。

wǒ yě hěn hǎo.



- How are you?
- I'm fine, and you?
- I'm fine, too.

我很____，你呢？

wǒ hěn

nǐ ne

累

lèi

tired

忙

máng

busy

高兴

gāoxìng

happy



"Nǐ ne" is used to ask about the interlocutor.

When asking about a third party's situation, "nǐ" may be replaced by an appropriate word such as "nǐ māma" (your mother), "nǐ péngyou" (your friend). The corresponding phrase would thus be "nǐ māma ne" (how about your mother) or "nǐ péngyou ne" (how about your friend).



您是哪国人？

nín shì nǎ guó rén?

What's your nationality?

您是哪国人？

Nín shì nǎ guó rén?

我是美国人。

Wǒ shì Měiguó rén.



● What's your nationality?

● I'm American.

是哪国人？

shì nǎ guó rén

他们

tāmen

they

李先生

Lǐ xiānsheng

Mr. Li

王小姐

Wáng xiǎojiě

Miss Wang



"Nǎ guó rén" is a phrase used to ask one's nationality. When asking about another's hometown, you may use "nǎr de rén".

我是英国人。

wǒ shì Yīngguó rén

I'm British.

● 您是美国人吗？

Nín shì Měiguó rén ma?

● 不是，我是英国人。

Bù shì, wǒ shì Yīngguó rén.



● Are you American?

● No, I'm British.

我是 _____。

wǒ shì



美国人

Měiguó rén

American



日本人

Rìběn rén

Japanese



法国人

Fǎguó rén

French



A country name plus "rén" means one's nationality. For instance, "Yīngguó" (U.K.) is a country's name, adding "rén" turns it into a statement of nationality. The name of a place plus "rén" shows one's hometown, such as "Niūyuē rén" (New Yorker).