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Introduction

Welcome to 进步 (Jìn bù)!

This is the first of two books designed to help you get started with Mandarin Chinese at Key Stage 3. We hope you'll enjoy the books as well as learning a lot from them.

This book has five chapters covering different topics. Each chapter is divided into different sections:

Core units

These include activities in all four skills – listening, reading, speaking and writing – to get you using Chinese straightaway. You'll find help with grammar and pronunciation as well.

Culture

Each chapter has one unit which gives you information about China and about how young people live. You'll have the chance to do research activities to find out more about everyday life.

Investigating characters

These pages will help you understand more about Chinese characters: how they developed over time and how they are constructed.

Key language

At the end of each chapter, you'll find a list of the key language you've been studying in that chapter, as well as grids showing you how the Chinese characters are written.

Grammar and Glossary

At the back of the book there is a grammar section where you can find explanations of all the grammar you'll be covering in the book, as well as some activities to practise it. There is also an English-Chinese wordlist for reference.

Good luck!

祝你学习进步!

1 嗨 hāi Hi!

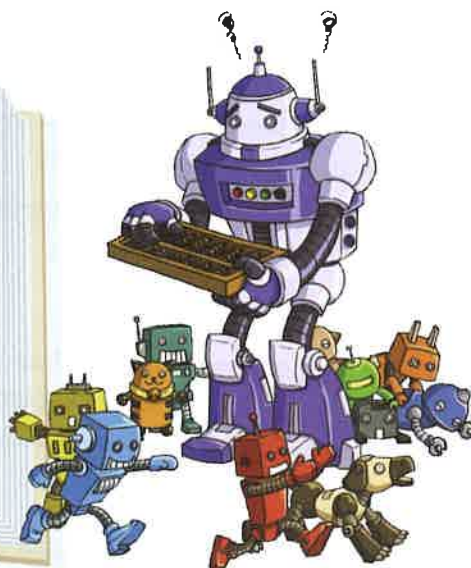
① 一二三 yī èr sān

One, two, three, ...

Counting up to 99 and learning simple characters

LISTENING 1 Listen and repeat the numbers from 1-10.

一	1	六	6
二	2	七	7
三	3	八	8
四	4	九	9
五	5	十	10



Chinese characters

As you can see, Chinese looks very different to English or other languages you may already be studying. Chinese is written in characters rather than letters.

- One character may be one word, such as 六 which means 'six'.
- Characters might be put together in a sequence of two or three to make a word, such as 电脑 which means 'computer'.
- Characters in a sentence are always spaced equally, not grouped in words, such as 我是中国人。 This means 'I am Chinese'. You can see that full stops are a bit different too.

Language

SPEAKING 2 In pairs, one person says a number in Chinese, the other says the English. Then swap roles.

A: 三

B: three

READING 3 Note down the English for the following numbers.

a 四

b 二

c 五

d 一

e 八

f 九

g 十

h 六

LISTENING 4 Listen and write down the letter that matches the number you hear. (1-8)

Example: 1c

a 八

b 五

c 三

d 四

e 七

f 一

g 十

h 二

Language

Strokes and stroke order

Strokes are a series of lines that make up a character. There are a limited number of strokes. Each type of stroke is always written in the same direction, such as from left to right for a horizontal stroke.

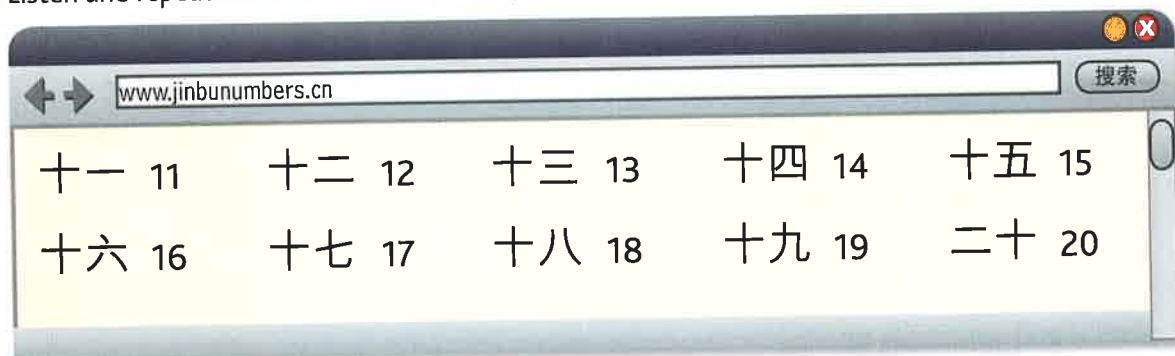
The first two strokes you'll learn are:

Stroke	Rule to write the stroke	Example character
—	From left to right	二 (the top stroke is written first)
	From top to bottom	十 (the horizontal is written first)

5 Practise writing the characters using what you have learned about strokes and stroke order.



6 Listen and repeat the numbers from 11–20.



7 Complete the sequences. Find the correct number for each gap from the list. You can use the same numbers more than once.

Example: 1c

a 十 b 四 c 一 d 三 e 五 f 十四
g 十三 h 十八 i 六 j 八 k 七 l 十六

1 二 2 四
三 3 4 5 七
二 四 6 7 十
一 三 8 9 九
10 十一 十二 11 12 十五
十二 十四 13 14 二十

Grammar

Numbers

Learning numbers in Chinese is really easy! Numbers above 10 are simple to remember, you just say '10 1', '10 2', etc. for 十一 (11), 十二 (12). For higher numbers, you say '2 10', '3 10', etc. – that is, 二十 (20), 三十 (30), so '4 10 2' 四十二 would be 42.

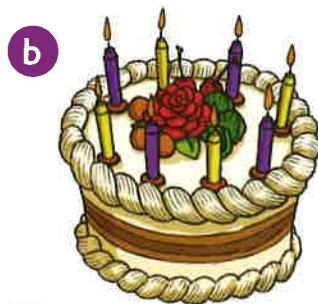
② 你多大? nǐ duō dà How old are you?

Talking about your age

LISTENING 1

Listen and note down the letter of the correct picture. (1-6)

Example: 1 a



READING 2

Copy and complete the grid with the correct age.

- 1 Jake 十二岁
- 2 Louisa 十一岁
- 3 Shabaz 八岁
- 4 Elly 十六岁
- 5 Lily 七岁
- 6 Jason 九岁

Name	Age
Jake	12

Grammar

Talking about age

In English, when you talk about someone's age, you say: *person + verb to be (am/is/are) + age*, such as 'I am 11 years old'. In Chinese there is no need for a verb; you just need to say: *person + age + 岁 suì*, for example 我八岁。 wǒ bā suì 'I am eight years old'.

LISTENING 3

Listen to the conversations. Note down the ages in English. (1-5)

你多大? nǐ duō dà How old are you?
我 ... 岁。 wǒ ... suì I am ... years old.

Grammar

Asking about age

To ask someone's age, you just use the question word and the pronoun or name (you, he, she, Jade, etc.). So in English, we say 'How old are you?' This becomes 你多大? nǐ duō dà, literally 'You how big?', in Chinese.

READING 4 Read the conversations and match them to the correct picture.

- 1 你多大? 我六岁。
- 2 你多大? 我十七岁。
- 3 你多大? 我二十岁。
- 4 你多大? 我五岁。
- 5 你多大? 我十四岁。



我 wǒ I
你 nǐ you

SPEAKING 5 In pairs, ask and answer about ages.

A: 你多大?

B: 我 ... 岁。

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 10 years old | 4 15 years old |
| 2 9 years old | 5 12 years old |
| 3 13 years old | |

Language

Tones

To pronounce Chinese properly, you need to understand tones. Lots of characters have the same sound in Chinese; using the correct tones will help make sure that the person listening to you knows what you are talking about. There are four main tones in Mandarin Chinese:

- 1st tone: High and flat, for example sān 三
- 2nd tone: Going up, for example shí 十
- 3rd tone: Down and up, for example wǔ 五
- 4th tone: Going down, for example liù 六

LISTENING 6 First listen and repeat the sounds which have different tones. Then listen and note down the tone for each sound. (1-4)

SPEAKING 7 Copy and complete the grid with the correct sounds, marking the tones over the vowel on each one and then practise pronouncing them.

	1st tone	2nd tone	3rd tone	4th tone
1 yi	yī	yí	yǐ	yì
2				

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1 yi | 4 da |
| 2 ni | 5 san |
| 3 ba | |

3 你好 nǐ hǎo Hello

Learning some basic greetings

LISTENING 1 Look at the pictures. Listen and repeat the greetings. (1–6)



你好 nǐ hǎo hello (to one person)

早上好 zǎo shang hǎo good morning

再见 zài jiàn good-bye

老师好 lǎo shī hǎo hello teacher

忙不忙? máng bu máng are you busy?

很忙 hěn máng very busy

Greetings

忙不忙? máng bu máng is a common phrase used to greet people. It is a question literally meaning 'Busy or not busy?' You could reply 很忙 hěn máng, 'very busy' or 不忙 bù máng, 'not busy'.

Culture

SPEAKING 2 In pairs, practise the greetings from Activity 1.

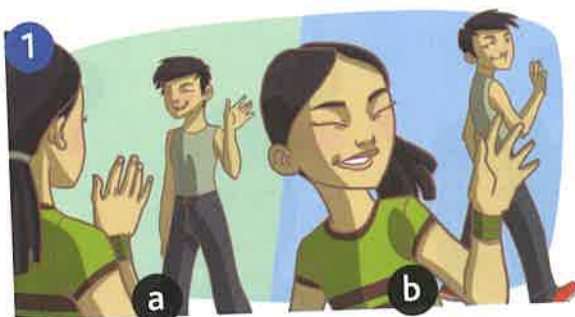
A: 早上好!

B: 你好!

LISTENING 3

Listen to the conversations and choose the letter of the correct picture for each one. (1–4)

Example: 1 a



READING 4

Match the greetings and the responses.

1 早上好!

2 你好!

3 忙不忙?

4 老师再见!

a 再见!

b 不忙。

c 你好!

d 早上好!

Pinyin

It can be difficult to remember how to say Chinese characters so learners usually use pinyin to help them. Pinyin is a form of writing Chinese sounds in roman letters with the tone markers.

- In this book, it usually appears alongside a character, such as 六 liù.
- Apart from when they first start school, native speakers of Chinese don't use pinyin, so it's important to try to remember how to say the characters and not rely on pinyin.

SPEAKING 5

In pairs, one person says a greeting phrase in Chinese and the other gives the correct English, then swap roles. Use Activity 1 to help you.

LISTENING 6

Put the phrases in the order you hear them. (1–6)

Example: 1 d

d Hello.

c Hello teacher.

e Are you busy?

a Good-bye.

b Good morning.

f Very busy.

WRITING 7

Practise writing the following key character for this unit. Remember: left to right and top to bottom.



4 我叫 ... wǒ jiào ... My name is ...

Introducing yourself and others

LISTENING 1

Who is speaking? Put the pictures in the order you hear them. (1-5)

1



zhōu jìng
我叫周静。

2



dèng wēi
我叫邓薇。

3



wáng xiǎo jīn
我叫王小瑾。

4



guō fēi fēi
我叫郭飞飞。

5



lǐ léi
我叫李雷。

Verbs

Verbs in Chinese are simple! Unlike other foreign languages you may have studied, in Chinese the form of the verb stays the same whatever the subject (he, she, you, etc.).

My name is Tom. (I am called Tom.) 我叫 Tom。

Your name is Grace. (You are called Grace.) 你叫 Grace。

In both sentences the verb 叫 jiào stays the same.

Grammar

SPEAKING 2

In pairs, practise asking each other's name.

A: 你叫什么?

B: 我叫...

你叫什么? nǐ jiào shén me
What is your name?

Asking someone's name

When asking about names, the question word goes at the end of the sentence:

'What is your name?' 你叫什么? nǐ jiào shén me literally 'You are called what?'

Grammar

LISTENING 3

Listen to Lin Fang telling you about some famous Chinese people. You could use the Internet to find out more about them. (1-5)



1 杨澜 yáng lán, 42



2 成龙 chéng lóng, 56



3 李宁 lǐ níng, 46



4 刘翔 liú xiáng, 26



5 邓亚萍 dèng yà píng, 37

Language

He/She

In Chinese the words for 'he' and 'she' have different characters:

he 他

she 她

but they are pronounced the same: tā

The context will usually make it clear which one is being used.

READING 4

Copy and complete the grid.

Name	Age
1 dà míng	

1 你好! 我叫大明 dà míng, 我十二岁。

2 你好! 我叫丽丽 lì lì, 我十五岁。你多大?

3 你好! 我叫张一天 zhāng yī tiān, 我十三岁。你叫什么? 你多大?

LISTENING 5

Listen and choose the correct answer (1-4).

Example: 1 b

- 1 a You are b I am c She is called Lanlan.
 2 a You are b I am c She is called Carol.
 3 a You are b I am c He is called Naveed.
 4 a I am b She is c The teacher is called Li Dawen.

SPEAKING 6

Use the pictures in Activity 3 and take it in turns to ask and answer questions about them. Use the sample dialogue on the right to help you.

A: 她叫什么?
 B: 她叫杨澜。
 A: 她多大?
 B: 她四十二岁。

WRITING 7

Practise writing the following key character for this unit. Remember: left to right and top to bottom.



5

中国 zhōng guó China

Discovering China



About China

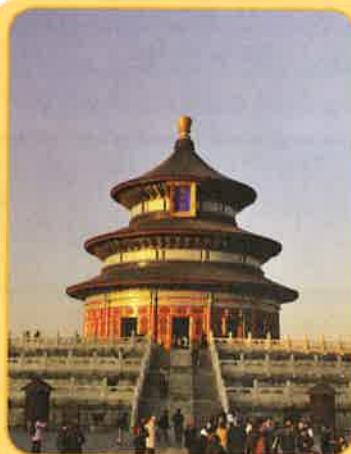
Population: 1.3 billion

Size: 9.6 million square km

Ethnic groups: 56

Famous landmark: The Great Wall

Famous rivers: Yangtze River and Yellow River



北京 Beijing

Beijing is the capital of China with a population of 17 million people; its name literally means 'north capital'. It is a thriving, modern city, but you can still see some of the alleyways and single-storey courtyard houses which were the main feature of the city right up until the 1980s. There is a lot of traffic, but many cyclists too. It is very cold in the winter and you can skate on the lakes in parks all over Beijing; in the summer, these lakes all have rowing boats for Beijingers to hire. Beijing held the 2008 Olympic Games. Tourists from all over the world visit Beijing to see the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, the Temple of Heaven and maybe even to fly a kite on Tiananmen Square. Mandarin Chinese, which you are learning, is based on the Beijing dialect.

上海 Shanghai

Located on China's eastern coast at the mouth of the Yangtze River, Shanghai is the largest city in China with over 20 million people; its name literally means 'on sea'. It is a large centre of commerce and finance. The city is known for its historical landmarks such as the Bund (the buildings on the waterfront are similar to the waterfront of one of its sister cities, Liverpool) and the Yuyuan Garden. Shanghai is also known for its modern skyline including the Oriental Pearl Tower, confirming its traditional name as the 'Pearl of the Orient' and its long-held reputation – at least in the eyes of its own residents – as the country's centre of culture and fashion. Shanghai residents speak Shanghaiese but nearly all will be able to speak Mandarin too.





西安 Xi'an

Xi'an literally means 'west peace', and is one of the oldest cities in China. The city served as the imperial capital of China during the reign of many Chinese emperors. The famous Silk Road started from here, a caravan route which played an important part in the exchange of trade and thought between China and the West. The First Emperor Qin Shi Huang had his underground army built here over 2,000 years ago, which is now the world famous Terracotta Army attracting visitors from all over the world to look at the warriors and marvel at how no two warriors are exactly alike. Xi'an is also full of other historical places of interest including the Big Wild Goose Pagoda, the Bell Tower and the City Wall.

香港 Hong Kong

Situated on China's south coast, with its name literally meaning 'fragrant harbour', Hong Kong is made up of a peninsula and 236 islands. Hong Kong is mountainous with a bustling and beautiful harbour; it is one of the world's top financial centres, but also a centre for shopping, food, music and cinema. No visit is complete without a ride on the Star Ferry and a visit to the Po Lin monastery to see Hong Kong's 34 metre high Buddha. People from all over the world live and work here, making it a truly international city. The locals in Hong Kong speak Cantonese, but also Mandarin.



READING 1

Match the numbers and the letters to make four correct place names. Then give the meanings in English of the characters in each place name.

- | | |
|-----|-----|
| 1 西 | a 海 |
| 2 香 | b 安 |
| 3 北 | c 港 |
| 4 上 | d 京 |

READING 2

Read about these places in China. Then, in small groups, do some research on Kunming. Put together a short presentation. Use the following questions to help you decide what to include.

- What is the population?
- Which languages are spoken there?
- What kind of costumes do some of the ethnic groups traditionally wear?
- Which places do most visitors to Kunming and the area around it go to see?

You could use characters and pictures to illustrate your presentation.

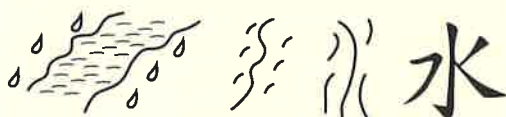


汉字 hàn zì Investigating characters

Learning more about Chinese characters

Chinese characters were originally pictures of many things. But over the centuries, the written characters have changed a lot and the majority of them no longer look like the things they represent.

水 water



马 horse

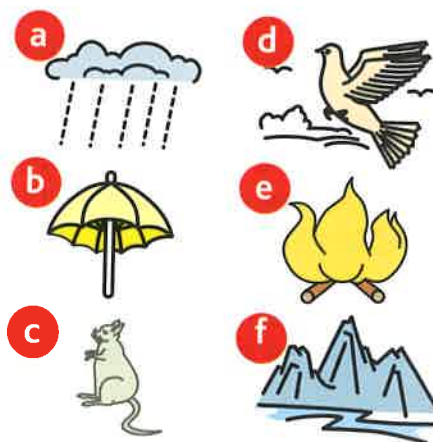


休 rest



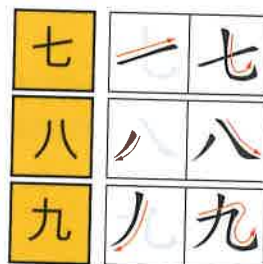
READING 1

Can you match the modern characters and their original pictures? Then say in English what they are.



WRITING 2

Practise writing the following characters. Remember: left to right and top to bottom.



Stroke	English name	Example character
丶	The dot	六
丿	The sweeping left stroke	九 八
㇏	The sweeping right stroke	八
乚	Turning stroke	四 五 早 叫

READING 3

Count the strokes of the following characters.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 七 | 2 九 | 3 你 | 4 五 |
| 5 四 | 6 叫 | 7 早 | 8 不 |

部首 bù shǒu Radicals

Radicals are parts of Chinese characters which can give you clues about the meaning of the character.

For example, 女 is a Chinese character that means 'female'. It often appears as part of other characters. You've already seen the character 她 which means 'she'.

As you learn Chinese, you'll be introduced to radicals which can help you remember characters more easily and know something about the meanings of characters you haven't seen before.

口 is a radical meaning 'mouth'. Can you work out why the character 叫 has this radical?

READING 4

Can you find these radicals in the following characters? Then match the characters to their meaning with the help of the radicals.

Example: a 4 – to talk

- a 讠 = speech
- b 饣 = food
- c 艹 = plant/grass
- d 手 = hand
- e 父 = father
- f 鸟 = bird
- g 雨 = rain

- 1 鸭
- 2 雪
- 3 拳
- 4 说
- 5 饭
- 6 爸
- 7 茶

- meal
- tea
- fist
- duck
- snow
- dad
- to talk



Extension

LISTENING 1

Listen and say whether the statements are true or false. (1-8)

- 1 The conversation is between two friends.
- 2 The conversation is taking place in the morning.
- 3 This person is introducing himself.
- 4 This person is introducing herself.
- 5 This is a teenager introducing himself.
- 6 This is a teenager introducing herself.
- 7 This person is asking for someone's name.
- 8 This person is greeting someone.

SPEAKING 2

Introduce the following people with their name and age.



大伟 dà wěi
age 11



Maya
age 14

SPEAKING 3

Make up a dialogue asking and answering about name and age. Do it with at least three partners. You could make up your name and age for different partners.

A: 你叫什么?

B: 我叫 Anya。

A: 你多大?

B: 我十一岁。

WRITING 4

Count the strokes of the characters and note down the total. Then write the number of the strokes in Chinese.

Example: a 2 二

a 八

b 九

c 四

d 五

e 岁

f 叫

g 早

h 你

5

Read the sentences and choose **the** correct English translation.

Example: 1 b

- 1 我十岁。
a I am 11 years old. b I am 10 years old.
- 2 他十九岁。
a He is 19 years old. b He is 17 years old.
- 3 我叫 Robert。他叫 John。
a He is called John and I am called Robert. b I am called John and he is called Robert.
- 4 你十八岁，我十六岁。
a You are 18 years old and I am 16. b I am 18 years old and you are 16.
- 5 他五岁，他叫 Simon。
a I am 5 years old and I am called Simon. b He is 5 years old and he is called Simon.
- 6 她十二岁，他二十岁。
a She is 12 years old and he is 20. b She is 20 years old and he is 12.

6

Write the Chinese for the following numbers.

25

7

Complete the following phrase/sentences with the appropriate characters.
Then write the phrases/sentences in English.

Example: 我十四 (14) 岁。 I am 14 years old.

- 1 上好。
- 我 2 Robert。
- 他 3 Scott, 他 4 (12) 岁。
- 她 5 Alice, 她三岁。
- 6 上好, 他 7 Anthony, 他 8 (26) 岁。

Review

I can:

1

- count up to 99

一 yī, 二 èr, 三 sān, 四 sì, 五 wǔ
二十 èr shí, 三十 sān shí, 四十 sì shí, 五十 wǔ shí...

- write numbers 1–3

一、二、三

- understand basic strokes

horizontal stroke, vertical stroke, etc.

2

- say how old I am
- ask people's age
- understand simple written sentences about age
- understand the four tones

我十一岁。 wǒ shí yī suì

你多大? nǐ duō dà

你多大? 我十四岁。

yī yí yǐ yì

3

- say and respond to basic greetings
- recognise written greetings
- understand pinyin

你好 nǐ hǎo, 早上好 zǎo shang hǎo, 老师好 lǎo shī hǎo,
忙不忙 máng bu máng, 再见 zài jiàn

你好、早上好、老师好、忙不忙、再见

nǐ hǎo, zài jiàn

4

- say what my name is
- say what other people's names are
- ask people's names

我叫 wǒ jiào...

他叫 tā jiào..., 她叫 tā jiào...

你叫什么? nǐ jiào shén me

Investigating characters

- Write the numbers up to 20
- Write the key characters for the chapter
- Recognise simple radicals

十四、十五、十六、十七、十八...

早、叫

女、口

Test

LISTENING 1 Listen and say whether the information is true or false (1-4).

- 1 Lanlan 13 years old
- 2 Scott 9 years old
- 3 Mei Fang 14 years old
- 4 Mark 11 years old

SPEAKING 2 Pretend you are the highlighted person in the group. Introduce yourself and other members in the group with their names and ages.

Example: 1 我叫 Liz, 我十三岁。他叫 Ming, 他十五岁。
她叫 Marie, 她十四岁。



READING 3 Match the Chinese to the English.

Example: 1c

- | | | | |
|------|-------|------|------|
| 1 你好 | 2 早上好 | 3 他 | 4 她 |
| 5 十 | 6 十九 | 7 二十 | 8 十七 |

a 17 b he c hello d good morning e she f 19 g 10 h 20

WRITING 4 Choose the correct characters and write them down to fill in the gaps.

1 上好。

a 好 b 早

我十 2 岁

a 五 b 十

他 3 三岁。

a 十 b 五

我 4 Dominic。

a 早 b 叫

Key language

Numbers and age

一	yī	one	十五	shí wǔ	fifteen
二	èr	two	十六	shí liù	sixteen
三	sān	three	十七	shí qī	seventeen
四	sì	four	十八	shí bā	eighteen
五	wǔ	five	十九	shí jiǔ	nineteen
六	liù	six	二十	èr shí	twenty
七	qī	seven	三十	sān shí	thirty
八	bā	eight	四十	sì shí	forty
九	jiǔ	nine	五十	wǔ shí	fifty
十	shí	ten	岁	sui	years old
十一	shí yī	eleven	你多大?	nǐ duō dà	How old are you?
十二	shí èr	twelve	你	nǐ	you
十三	shí sān	thirteen	我 ... 岁	wǒ ... sui	I am ... years old.
十四	shí sì	fourteen	我	wǒ	I

Greetings

你好	nǐ hǎo	hello	忙不忙?	máng bu máng	(Are you) busy?
早上好	zǎo shang hǎo	good morning	很忙	hěn máng	very busy
老师好	lǎo shī hǎo	hello teacher	不忙	bù máng	not busy
再见	zài jiàn	good-bye			

Introductions

叫	jiào	to be called	你叫什么?	nǐ jiào shén me	What is your name?
他	tā	he	什么?	shén me	What?
她	tā	she	我叫...	wǒ jiào...	My name is...

Stroke order

一	一				
二	二	二			
三	三	三	三		
四	四	四	四	四	四
五	五	五	五	五	
六	六	六	六	六	
七	七	七			
八	八	八			
九	九	九			
十	十	十			
早	早	早	早	早	早
叫	叫	叫	叫	叫	叫

2 家 jiā Family and home

① 我的家人 wǒ de jiā rén My family

Talking about family using measure words

LISTENING 1

Listen and note down the names and ages of the family members. (1-6)



Example: 1 Julia 49

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1 mum | 4 older sister |
| 2 dad | 5 younger brother |
| 3 older brother | 6 younger sister |

SPEAKING 2

In pairs, take it in turns to ask and answer questions about the people in Activity 1.

A: 妈妈叫什么? mā ma jiào shén me

B: 妈妈叫 Julia。 mā ma jiào Julia

A: 妈妈多大? mā ma duō dà

B: 妈妈四十九岁。 mā ma sì shí jiǔ suì

Grammar

The use of 和 hé

和 hé, which means 'and', is only used between nouns. It is not used to connect clauses or sentences in Chinese. Notice the difference:

爸爸和妈妈 = dad and mum

爸爸叫 Robert, 妈妈叫 Selina。 =

Dad is called Robert, (and) mum is called Selina.

有 yǒu to have

没有 méi yǒu not to have

Grammar

Measure words

Measure words are also used in English, for example, one **cup** of tea or three **pieces** of paper. In Chinese, you must always put a measure word between a number and a noun:

number + measure word + noun.

The most commonly used measure word is 个 ge:

一个姐姐 yí ge jiě jie

one older sister

三个弟弟 sān ge dì di

three younger brothers

LISTENING 3

Listen to these people talking about their families. Choose the correct option. (1-4)

- 1 Daming has a younger brother/sister.
- 2 Fatima has a younger/older brother and a younger/older sister.
- 3 Dongdong is 13/14 years old and has an older sister/brother.
- 4 Xiaolan is 7/8 years old and has an older/younger sister.