

Lesson 4 – notes

We started with the following revision tasks:

What does this say? Match up Chinese and English

1. 你好吗？	a) Hello	
2. 我是中国人	b) The worker is very good	
3. 中文很好	c) Thank you	
4. 你是工人	d) China is very good	
5. 工人很好	e) I'm Chinese	
6. 你好	f) How are you?	
7. 中国很好	g) Chinese is very good	
8. 王很好	h) You are a worker	
9. 她是女人	i) The King is very good	
10. 谢谢	j) She is a woman	

Can you pronounce the Chinese?

We learnt the character: 文 (wén) which means language so now we can talk about 中文 and 英文 - (zhōngwén and yīngwén) Chinese and English (language)

On the subject of language we talked about **Simplified** and **Traditional** characters – simplified being the form mainly used in mainland China (and what you're learning with me).

I explained that characters can be divided into 3 types:

- 1) Ones which are made up of just one radical – which indicates the meaning – such as:

女 (woman nǚ) and 人 (person/people)

- 2) Then there are characters which are made of more than one component which together illustrate meaning, such as:

国 (country) (guó) made up of 'enclosure' and 'imperial jade'

Or 好 (hǎo) (made up of 'woman' and 'child')

- 3) Then finally there are characters where one component indicates meaning and another component indicates (or hints at) pronunciation. An example would be: 红 (red)

Here the first component means 'silk', giving a clue to meaning, and the second component is the 'phonetic' – 'gong' which hints at the pronunciation of the character which is: hóng

Another example would be the character 认 (rèn) which is found in the 'word' 认识 (rènshí) – meaning 'to know'. Here the first component indicates that it is something to do with speech or language, the second component hints at the pronunciation 'ren'

Next we looked at how to ask politely for items:

wǒ xiǎng yào = I would like

Wǒ xiǎng yào zhōngguó chá. Nǐ xiǎng yào yīngguó chá
I'd like Chinese tea. You'd like English tea

To be more direct you can miss out 'xiǎng' to say I want: Wǒ yào ...

I don't want: Wǒ bù yào (remember – here your voice would rise on the character 'bù' – despite the tone mark)

Tā yào zhōng guó chá ma?

她要中国茶吗？

Does she want Chinese tea?

Finally I taught you how to say: Happy New Year!

新年快乐 xīn (new) nián (year) kuài lè (happy)