

# Mandarin Chinese Beginners

Helen Day

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[noproblemchinese.com](http://noproblemchinese.com)

没问题

tā  
他  
he

tā  
她  
she

# Random Numbers!

1.  
America

2. He is  
Chinese.

7. China

8. I am  
Canadian

3. I am  
British

4. Canada

9. What is  
your  
nationality  
?

I am  
French.

5.  
France

6. I am  
Japanese.

11. Japan

12. She is  
American

## New characters

## 生字

- 生
- 名字
- 姓
- 月
- 朋友
- 李
- shēng, to produce, be born, a being
- míngzì a name, first name (lit. 'name character')
- xìng surname, to be surnamed
- yuè month, moon, flesh
- péng yǒu friend/s
- lǐ plum (also a common surname)



# My family 我一家

- 这是我一家。这是我妈妈，这是我爸爸，这是我哥哥，这是我儿子，这是我姥姥，这是我老公，这是我。
- Zhè shì wǒ yījiā. Zhè shì wǒ māmā, zhè shì wǒ bàba, zhè shì wǒ gēgē, zhè shì wǒ érzi, zhè shì wǒ lǎolao, zhè shì wǒ lǎogōng, zhè shì wǒ.
- This is my family (literally: 'I one family'). This is my mother, this is my dad, this is my older brother, this is my son, this is my maternal grandmother, this is my husband, this is me.

# Introductions

• 这是 = zhè shì = this  
is

• 谁? = shéi =  
who?

• 这是谁?



The highest-frequency  
Chinese character

- Although normally you add 'de' to show possession
- (**wǒ** = I but **wǒ de** = my or mine
- **mǎlì** = Mary but **mǎlì de** = Mary's )

when we're talking about family, friends or things close to you, the 'de' is usually dropped as the meaning is clear without it.

**wǒ māma wǒ bàba**



The main hall was the most northerly and usually reserved for the eldest of the family, such as the grandparents.



**Social housing**  
With several families living together, a strong community spirit is fostered, while the hutong outside becomes an extension of the home.

The open courtyard lets in both the sunlight and the wind and cold

The number of halls and courtyards determines the grandeur of the residence.

Walls were important to the Chinese psyche - even in the secure capital, they felt the need to retreat behind them.

Entrance is at the southeastern corner as prescribed by feng shui.



**Typical Beijing Hutong**  
You can take organized ricksaw tours of the hutong, sometimes with a visit to the Mansion of Prince Gong, but it can be more fun to explore them by yourself.

Layout of the traditional 四合院  
'4 harmony courtyard'

The BBC video on Chinese life and family living:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u58IZxeInCg&index=2&list=PLmUPH54UBk1RPmK\\_G0nyAsUdODVy724](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u58IZxeInCg&index=2&list=PLmUPH54UBk1RPmK_G0nyAsUdODVy724)



妈妈



爸爸



哥哥



妹妹



大



小



我家



谢谢



老师



弟弟



北京



姐姐

# Questions for answers

- |                |           |
|----------------|-----------|
| 1. 很好，谢谢。你呢？   | 你好吗？      |
| 2. 马玛丽         | 你叫什么（名字）？ |
| 3. 马           | 你姓什么？     |
| 4. 中国人         | 你是哪国人？    |
| 5. 不是。我妈妈是中国人。 | 你妈妈是日本人吗？ |
| 6. 这是我女儿       | 这是谁？      |
| 7. 她是五岁        | 她几岁？      |

# 作业 (homework)

- 1) Learn the vocab from this lesson
- 2) Do the back of the sheet that you got last week – the one with exercises 5, 6 and 7 on it.