

# Mandarin Chinese

## Beginners – Spring Term

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没问题

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

A different way to ask 'yes/no' questions – without using 'ma' at the end:

NOTE

nà shì nǐ jiě jie ma  
1. 那是你姐姐吗?

Is that your elder sister?

You can also ask by saying:

nà shì bú shì nǐ jiě jie  
那是不是你姐姐?

nǐ yǒu dì di ma  
2. 你有弟弟吗?

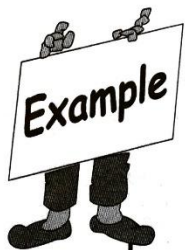
Do you have any younger brothers?

You can also ask by saying:

nǐ yǒu méi yǒu dì di  
你有没有弟弟?

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Change the following sentences into “吗” questions.



tā shì wǒ mèi mei  
她是我妹妹。

→ 她是你妹妹吗？

zhè shì wǒ bà ba  
(1) 这是我爸爸。

wǒ zhù zài yīng guó  
(2) 我住在英国。

wǒ de péngyou shì rì běn rén  
(3) 我的朋友是日本人。

tā jiào lǐ shān  
(4) 他叫李山。

wǒ yǒu gē ge  
(5) 我有哥哥。

- To make these ‘reverse’ questions, all you need to do is to state the verb twice, with ‘bu’ (not) in the middle:
- Zhè ge rén shì bù shì nǐ de péngyǒu?
- Is this person your friend?  
Tā shuō bu shuō zhōngwén?
- Can s/he speak Chinese?
- If the verb is ‘to have’ then of course you use *méi* instead of *bù*  
Tāmen yǒu méi yǒu dìdì?
- Do they have (a) younger brother(s)

# Measure words

- One aspect of Chinese that's a bit different from English is the abundant use of what are called 'measure words' or 'unit words'. When you refer to a number of an item, or ask about the quantity or use 'this' or 'that' then you always need to use a measure word.
- For example, you don't say: I have one brother. You say: I have one **unit of** brother. I want that **unit of** table. How many **units of** book are there?

# Measure words, continued

- The right measure word for the right situation is something you'll learn with time, but for now you can always use the basic measure word 'ge' 个
- Yī gè rén                      One person  
liǎng gè gēgē                two older brothers  
nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ gè rén?        How many people  
   are in your family?  
Nà gè jiějie                    That older sister

- *Can you speak Chinese?*
- 你会说中文吗？
- Ni3 hui4 shuo1 zhong1 wen2 ma?
- 你会说汉语 (han4yu3)吗？
- Take care with the tones here. Better to exaggerate than understate

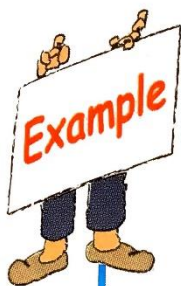
# 一点

- 一点
- 一点儿
- 我会说一点汉语
- Yī diǎn = a little  
yī diǎn r = Another pronunciation you'll hear and need to get used to.  
wǒ huì shuō yī diǎn hànǔ = I can speak a little Chinese



# 作业

- The first exercise on the handout (given out in the lesson). If you don't have the handout, the exercise is on the next page:



tā shì nǐ gē ge ma  
他是你哥哥吗?

» tā shì bú shì nǐ gē ge  
他是不是你哥哥?

zhè shì nǐ dì di ma

(1) 这是你弟弟吗?

nà shì nǐ de péngyou ma

(2) 那是你的朋友吗?

nǐ shì yīng guó rén ma

(3) 你是英国人吗?

nǐ yǒu gē ge ma

(4) 你有哥哥吗?

nǐ yǒuxiōng dì jiě mèi ma

(5) 你有兄弟姐妹吗?

nǐ yǒu jiě jie ma

(6) 你有姐姐吗?