

Lesson 3

Courtesy words

谢谢 xièxiè = thank you

How to reply to 谢谢 xièxiè?

Say: 不客气 bù kèqì

请 qǐng = please (or 'invite')

不 bù is the normal way to make a verb negative.

我是英国人。我不是中国人。

Wǒ shì yīngguó rén. Wǒ bù shì zhōngguó rén.

I'm British. I'm not Chinese.

你呢? Nǐ ne? And you?

你是中国人吗? Nǐ shì zhōngguó rén ma? Are you Chinese?

不是。我不是中国人。我是美国人。 Bù shì. Wǒ bù shì zhōngguó rén. Wǒ shì měiguó rén. (No) I'm not. I'm not Chinese. I'm American.

There's no real equivalent to 'yes' or 'no' in Chinese. Normally you would repeat the verb to say yes, and make the verb negative to say 'no', as in: 不是

We learnt how to write the characters: 中 (middle) 国 (country or land) and 人 (person or people). China is the 'middle country'. So a Chinese person (male or female) is 中国人 (Chinese).

Our word for China comes from the first imperial dynasty: the Qin.

'Q' in pinyin is pronounced like 'ch' in English (as in 'CHeese')

So the word for 'please': qǐng sounds like 'ching'