

# Beginner Conversational Chinese 1

## 初级汉语会话 1

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### Lesson 1 Greeting

#### Introduction of Hanyu Pinyin

Hanyu pinyin is a romanised alphabetical system to indicate the pronunciation of Chinese characters. A character is usually represented by a syllable. Most of the syllables are composed of an initial, a final, and a tone, though some may not have initials.

#### Initials (consonants)

All consonants except two (-n and -ng) occur at the beginning of a syllable. The following is the complete list of 21 initial consonants:

b	p	m	f	d	t	n
l	g	k	h	j	q	x
z	c	s	zh	ch	sh	r

#### Finals (all are vowels except those ending with -n and -ng)

A final is a simple or compound vowel or a vowel plus a nasal consonant. A few syllables may have no initial consonant but every one has to have a vowel. The following table is the complete list of final vowels or compound vowels:

	i	u	ü
a	ia	ua	
o		uo	
e	ie		üe
er			
ai		uai	
ei		uei (ui)	
ao	iao		
ou	iou (iu)		
an	ian	uan	üan
en	in	uen (un)	ün
ang	iang	uang	
eng	ing	ueng	
ong	iong		

#### Tones

Putonghua is a tonal language with four tones; they are: 1st tone, 2nd tone, 3rd tone, 4th tone. They are also known respectively as the high level tone, high rising tone, low falling rising tone and falling tone. There are some syllables that do not have any tonal marks (for example some particle words), and they are called neutral tones.

### 一 New Words and Expressions

你 nǐ	you	再见 zàijiàn	see you; goodbye;bye
好 hǎo	good;well	谢谢 xièxie	thanks
您 nín	you(formal;polite)	不 bù	no; not; never
吗 ma	a question particle	客气 kèqi	polite

### 二 Dialogue

Nǐ hǎo	Nǐ hǎo
A: 你好!	B: 你好!
Hello!	Hello!

Nín hǎo	Nín hǎo
A: 您好!	B: 您好!
How do you do!	How do you do!

Nǐ hǎo ma	Wǒ hěn hǎo
A: 你好吗?	B: 我很好。
How are you?	I am very fine.

Xièxie	Bú kèqi
A: 谢谢。	B: 不客气。
Thanks.	You're welcome.

Zàijiàn	Zàijiàn
A: 再见!	B: 再见!
Goodbye!	Goodbye!

### 三 Language Notes

1. “Nǐ hǎo(你好: hello)”is commonly used for greetings at any time.
2. “Nín hǎo(您好: how do you do)”is the formal form of “nǐ hǎo(你好:hello)” which is commonly used to meet somebody for the first time.

3. Nǐ hǎo ma(你好吗? How are you?): This is also a form of greeting, often used after you have not seen someone for some time, and the response is usually Wǒ hěn hǎo(我很好 I am very fine.)

3. “Zàijiàn(再见: see you again; goodbye)”is commonly used for saying farewell to people at any time.

#### 四 Supplement

早上好 zǎoshang hǎo good morning

下午好 xiàwǔ hǎo good afternoon

晚上好 wǎnshang hǎo good evening

大家好 dàjiā hǎo hello (everyone)

老师好 lǎoshī hǎo hello,teacher

对不起 duì bu qǐ I'm sorry!/Excuse me!

你们好 nǐmen hǎo hello (everyone)

没关系 méi guānxi It doesn't matter.

