



Beyond the Panda

熊猫后续



# Lesson 2

## Greetings

*(For pdf version – download separate sound files. There will be a corresponding sound file where you see the sound icon.)*



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# What does 你好 mean?

你好 nǐhǎo 'hello' is one of the basic greetings in Chinese.

➤ 你 nǐ means 'you'.

➤ 好 hǎo means 'good'.

Therefore, the literal meaning of 你好 is 'you good', which expresses the sincere wishes in the greeting.

nǐ

hǎo

nǐ hǎo

你 + 好 = 你好 

you

good

hello

# Good Morning/Afternoon/Evening

Unlike English, Chinese has *morning* (早上), *afternoon* (下午) and *evening* (晚上) **before** *good* (好).

English	Characters	Pinyin
Good morning	早上好 	zǎoshàng hǎo
Good afternoon	下午好 	xiàwǔ hǎo
Good evening	晚上好 	wǎnshàng hǎo

# What is the meaning of 吗?

吗 ma acts like a question mark.

- Any sentence can be changed into a question by adding 吗 to the end.
- The literal meaning of 你好吗 is 'you good?', which is used to ask 'how are you?'

吗?

How are you? (you good?)

nǐ

hǎo

ma



你好吗？

## How to answer 你好吗?

The answer is 我很好 wǒ hěn hǎo - 'I'm good'.

- In English, the verb to be is used to connect subjects and adjectives. However, Chinese people often use 很 hěn preceding adjectives instead of the verb to be.
- 很 means **very**, but here it's just a way to connect a noun and an adjective without any actual meaning.

I'm Good (I very good)

wǒ

hěn

hǎo



我 很 好



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In Lesson 3, there are some useful phrases.



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