This learning material contains eight topics at elementary level including Greetings, Introduce Yourself, Family, Birthday, Hobbies, Treat Friends to a Drink, Order Drinks/Food, Getting around. Key grammar patterns and vocabulary are presented in Chinese and English in the Word documents. Audio recordings are available.

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|  | Topics  | Pinyin  | English  | Chinese  | Notes  |
| **1** |  Greetings  | Nǐ hǎo | Hello  | 你好！ |  |
|  |  | Nín hǎo  | How do you do?  | 您好！ | 您好Nín hǎo is a honorific form |
|  |  | Zàijiàn  | Bye  | 再见。 |  |
|  |  | Xièxie  | Thanks!  | 谢谢！ |  |
|  |  | Duìbuqǐ | Sorry  | 对不起。 |  |
| **2** | Introduce yourself | Nǐ jiào shénme | What’s your name?  | 你叫什么？ | The verb 叫 jiào means ‘to be called’ and can be followed by one’s full name or given name. |
|  |  | Wǒ jiào | My name is…/I’m called | 我叫…。 | 我 wŏ I/me，你nǐ you，他tā he/him，她tā she/her |
|  |  | Nǐ xìng shénme | What’s your surname? | 你姓什么？ |  |
|  |  | Wǒ xìng Lǐ | My surname is Li.  | 我姓李。 | The verb 姓xìng is followed by one’s surname.  |
|  |  | Nǐ ne | What about you/And you?  | 你呢？ | 呢ne can be used to return a question that the speak has just asked e.g. 我叫Jonny。你呢？nǐ ne My name is Jonny. What’s yours?  |
|  | Nationality  | Wǒ shì Yīngguó rén | I’m British. | 我是英国人。 | To speak about one’s nationality, use Country + 人rén e.g. 英国Yīngguó Britain；英国人Yīngguó rén British (See Appendix 1) |
|  |  | Tā bú shì Zhōngguó rén | He is not Chinese. | 他不是中国人。 | The negation word 不bù is used before the verb 是shì to be. Usually, 是is not used before adjectives e.g. 我很好。Wŏ hěn hǎo I’m very well我很忙。Wŏ hěn máng I’m very busy |
|  |  | Tā shì Yīngguó rén ma | Is he British? | 他是英国人吗？ | 吗can be used at the end of a sentence to form a yes/no question. |
| **3** | Family  | Wǒ yǒu | I have … | 我有 | The verb 有yǒu means ‘to have’ or ‘to possess’  |
|  |  | Nǐ yǒu jiějie ma  | Do you have an older sister?  | 你有姐姐吗？ | See Appendix 2 for kinship terms  |
|  |  | Wǒ yǒu yí gè jiějie | I have an older sister. | 我有一个姐姐。 | 个gè is a measure word to indicate counting units e.g. 一个姐姐yí gè jiějie an/one older sister；两个姐姐liǎng gè jiějie two older sisters；三个姐姐sān gè jiějie three older sisters. 两liǎng instead of二èr is used before the measure word. |
|  |  | Tā méi yǒu jiějie | She does not have any older sister. | 她没有姐姐。 | Unlike the verb 是shì, 有yǒu is always negated with 没méi |
|  |  | Wǒ jiā yǒu sān kǒu rén | There’re three people in my family. | 我家有三口人。 | 口kǒu is a measure word, can be used after the number of family members.  |
|  |  | Wǒ gēge jiào… | My older brother’s name is…/my older brother is called | 我哥哥叫 |  |
|  |  | Wǒ bàba shì lǎoshī | My dad is a teacher. | 我爸爸是老师。 | 老师lǎoshī teacher  |
|  |  | Wǒ jiějie yě shì lǎoshī | My older sister is also a teacher.  | 我姐姐也是老师。 | The adverb也yě is used before the verb 是shì and means ‘also’  |
| **4** | Birthday  | Shēng rì kuài lè | Happy birthday! | 生日快乐！ |  |
|  |  | Jīntiān shì wǒ de shēngrì | It’s my birthday today. | 今天是我的生日。 |  |
|  |  | Wǒ de shēngrì shì bā yuè wǔ hào | My birthday is on 5th August.  | 我的生日是八月五号。 | 月yuè the month; 号hào the day of the month e.g. 一月一号yī yuè yī hào 1st January；二月十四号èr yuè shí sì hào 14th February；十二月八号shí èr yuè bā hào 8th December (See Appendix 3 Date and Time) |
| **5** | Hobbies  | Wǒ xǐhuan | I like… | 我喜欢 |  |
|  |  | Wǒ mèimei xǐhuan tiàowǔ | My younger sister likes dancing.  | 我妹妹喜欢跳舞。 | See Appendix 4 words for hobbies |
|  |  | Nǐ xǐhuan tiàowǔ ma | Do you like dancing? | 你喜欢跳舞吗？ |  |
|  |  | Wǒ yě xǐhuan tiàowǔ | I like dancing too. | 我也喜欢跳舞。 | 也yě is used before the verb xǐhuan and means ‘also’ |
|  |  | Wŏ bù xǐhuan dǎqiú | I don’t like playing ball games. | 我不喜欢打球。 | The negation word 不bù is used before the verb 喜欢xǐhuan |
| **6** | Treating friends to a drink/a meal | Wǒ qǐngkè | My treat! | 我请客。 |  |
|  |  | Wǒ qǐng nǐ hē kāfēi | I treat you to a coffee. | 我请你喝咖啡。 | The verb请qǐng means to invite, to treat someone  |
|  |  | Wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn | I treat you to a meal. | 我请你吃饭。 |  |
|  |  | Zěnmeyàng | How about it? | 怎么样？ |  |
|  |  | Tài hǎo le | Great! | 太好了！ | Adjectives can be put between 太…了to indicate an extreme degree e.g. 太贵了！tài guì le too expensive太忙了！tài máng le too busy  |
|  | Rejecting an invite | Duìbuqǐ wǒ yǒu shìr  | Sorry, I have something to do. | 对不起，我有事儿。 |  |
| **7** | Ordering drinks/food | Nǐ xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme | What would you like to drink? | 你想喝（点儿）什么？ |  |
|  |  | Wŏ yào… ba | I want/I’d like  | 我要…（吧）。 | 吧ba can be used at the end of a sentence to soften the tone.  |
|  |  | Wŏ yào yì bēi chá | I want a cup of tea. | 我要一杯茶。 | 杯bēi is a measure word e.g. 一杯茶yì bēi chá a cup of tea；一杯可乐yì bēi kělè a glass of cola；两杯水liǎng bēi shuǐ two glasses of water  |
|  |  | Yŏu méi yŏu kělè | (Do you) have any cola? | 有没有可乐？ |  |
|  | Compliment  | Hǎo hē | Nice to drink  | 好喝！ |  |
|  |  | gān bēi  | Cheers! | 干杯！ |  |
|  | Ordering food | Nǐ xiǎng hē diǎnr shénme | What would you like to eat? | 你想吃（点儿）什么？ | 吃chī to eat  |
|  |  | Wǒ chī sù  | I’m vegetarian  | 我吃素。  |  |
|  |  | Wǒ bù chī ròu  | I don’t eat meat | 我不吃肉。  | The negation word 不bù is used before the verb吃chī to eat |
|  |  | Wŏ yào yí gè chǎo fàn | I want one portion of fried rice  | 我要一个炒饭。 | See Appendix 5 for ordering food/drinks |
|  | Compliment | Hǎo chī | Nice to eat/Tasty  | 好吃！ |  |
|  |  | Bù hǎo chī | Not tasty  | 不好吃！ |  |
|  |  | Tài là le | Too spicy! | 太辣了！ | Adjectives can be put between 太…了to indicate an extreme degree e.g. 太贵了！tài guì le too expensive太忙了！tài máng le too busy |
|  | Paying the bill | Duō shǎo qián | How much is it? | 多少钱？ | 钱qián money |
|  |  | Mǎi dān | Bill please | 买单。 |  |
|  |  | Kěyǐ shuākǎ ma | (Can I) pay by card? | 可以刷卡吗？  |  |
|  |  | Kěyǐ | Yes, you can.  | 可以。 |  |
|  | Bargaining  | Tài guì le | Too expensive!  | 太贵了！ |  |
|  |  | Piányi yì diǎnr | (Can you) make it cheaper?  | 便宜（一）点儿。 | 便宜piányi cheap  |
| **8** | Getting around | Wŏ yào mǎi yì zhāng piào | I want to buy a ticket.  | 我要买一张票。 | 买maǐ to buy，票piào ticket  |
|  |  | Wǒ yào qù jīchǎng  | I want to go to the airport | 我要去机场 | 机场jīchǎng airport |
|  |  | Dǎ chē | Take a taxi | 打车 | You can also say打的dǎdi to take a taxi |
|  |  | Zuò dìtiě  | Take the Metro  | 坐地铁 |  |
|  |  | jǐ diǎn kāi  | What time to depart/to leave? | 几点开？ |  |
|  |  | liǎng diǎn kāi  | Departs at 2 o’clock  | 两点开。 | 两liǎng instead of二èr is used before the measure word点. 两点liǎngdiǎn 2 o’clock. See Appendix 3 |
|  | Taking the Metro | Jǐ hào xiàn | Which line? | 几号线？ |  |
|  |  | Zuò jǐ hào xiàn | Which line to take? | 坐几号线？ |  |
|  |  | Qù jīchǎng, zuò jǐ hào xiàn  | Which line goes to the airport?  | 去机场，坐几号线？  |  |
|  |  | Èr hào xiàn  | Line 2  | 2号线。 |  |