HSK 1 · LESSON 1

你好！

Nǐ hǎo!

Hello! — Your First Words in Chinese

Today We Will Learn…

目标 · Goals

LISTENING Hear the four tones and tell them apart.

SPEAKING Greet a friend — and a teacher — say sorry, and reply kindly.

READING Read 你好 and 您好 with pinyin support.

WRITING Write 你 and 好 stroke by stroke, in the right order.

Speaking and listening come first today — writing follows the voice.

Vocabulary

生词 · New Words

Word 1



你好

nǐhǎo

hello

Word 2



你

nǐ

you

Word 3



好

hǎo

good; well

Word 4



您

nín

you (polite)

Word 5



你们

nǐmen

you (plural)

Word 6



谢谢

xièxie

thank you

Listen and repeat. Watch the mouth shape for each sound.

Vocabulary

生词 · New Words

Word 7



对不起

duìbuqǐ

sorry; excuse me

Word 8



没关系

méiguānxi

that's all right

Word 9



不客气

búkèqi

you're welcome

Word 10



再见

zàijiàn

goodbye

Word 11



老师

lǎoshī

teacher

Word 12



学生

xuésheng

student

Listen and repeat. Watch the mouth shape for each sound.

Vocabulary

生词 · New Words

Word 13

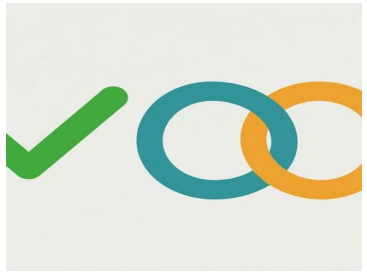


我

wǒ

I; me

Word 14



是

shì

to be

Word 15



叫

jiào

to be called

Put it together — say the whole line

老师好！	Lǎoshī hǎo! — Hello, teacher!
谢谢老师！	Xièxie lǎoshī! — Thank you, teacher!
我是学生。	Wǒ shì xuésheng. — I am a student.

Learn to Write

你

nǐ

you

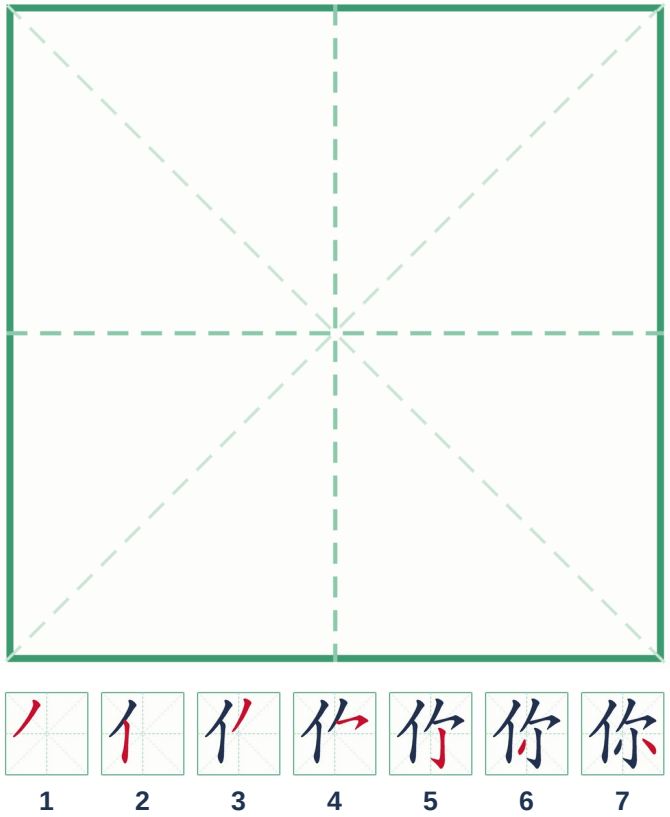
7 strokes

亻 (person) + 尔

How to write it

- The person radical 亻 stands on the left.
- Start with the short falling stroke.
- Build the right side from top to bottom.
- Keep the right side a little bigger.

Stroke order — watch!



Now trace it in your grid book.

Learn to Write

好

hǎo

good; well

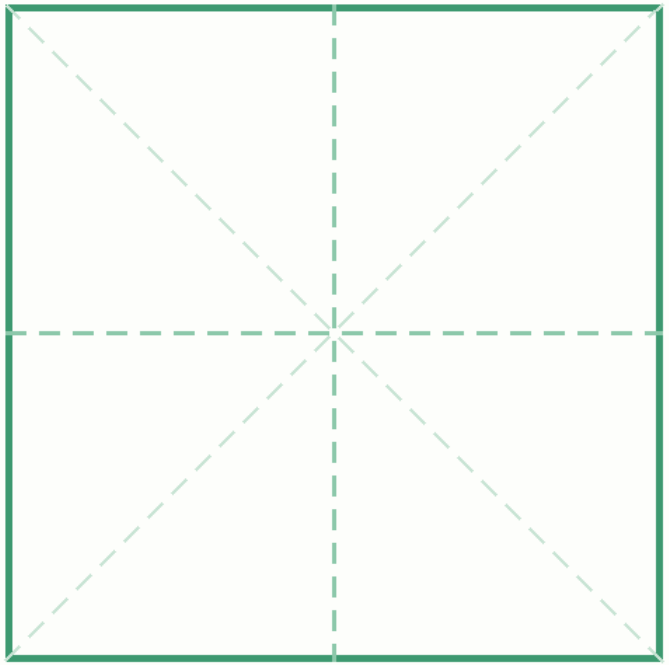
6 strokes

女 + 子 = 好

How to write it

- 女 (woman) + 子 (child) = good.
- Write the left part first.
- Then 子 on the right.
- Finish with the long horizontal stroke.

Stroke order — watch!





1 2 3 4 5 6

Now trace it in your grid book.

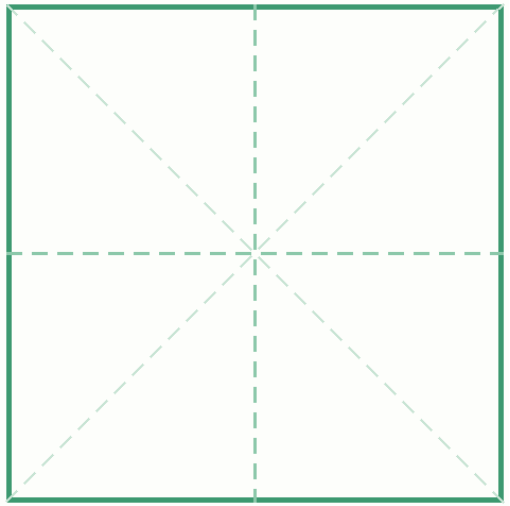
Two More Characters

您

nín

you (polite)

11 strokes



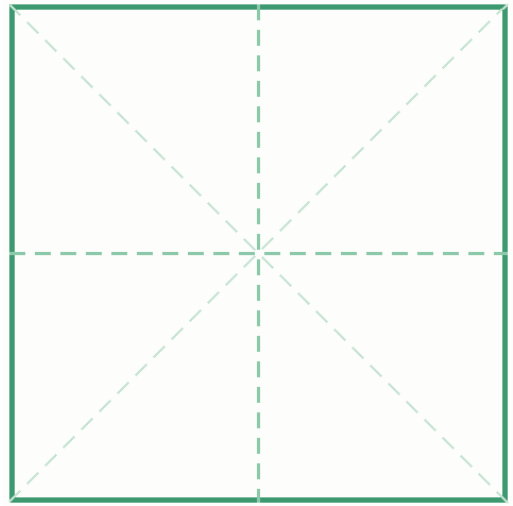
The respectful “you” — use it with teachers and elders. It is 你 with 心 (heart) below: speak from the heart.

们

men

(plural marker)

5 strokes



亻 (person) + 门 (door). Add 们 after 你 to greet a whole group: 你们 nǐmen — “you all”.

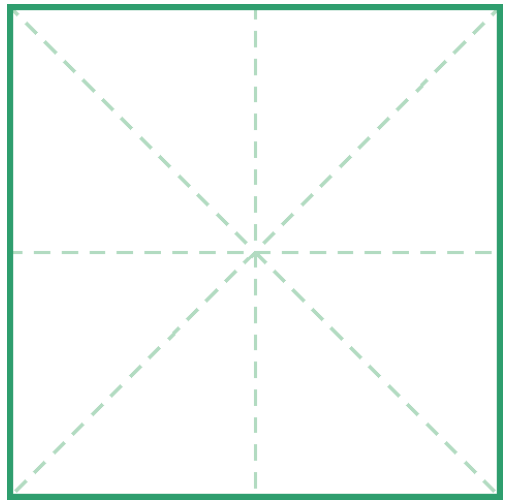
Learn to Write

谢

xiè

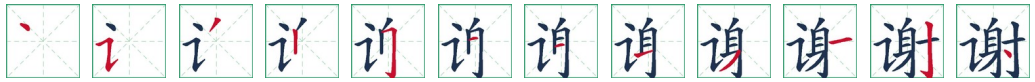
to thank

12 strokes



Made of 讠 (speech) + 身 (body) + 寸 (inch).

Thanks are spoken — the speech radical 讠 leads. Then 身, and 寸 tucks in at the lower right.

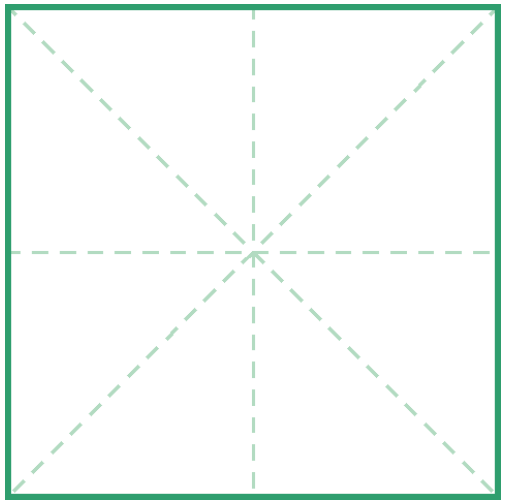


再

zài

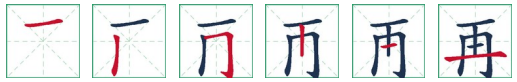
again

6 strokes



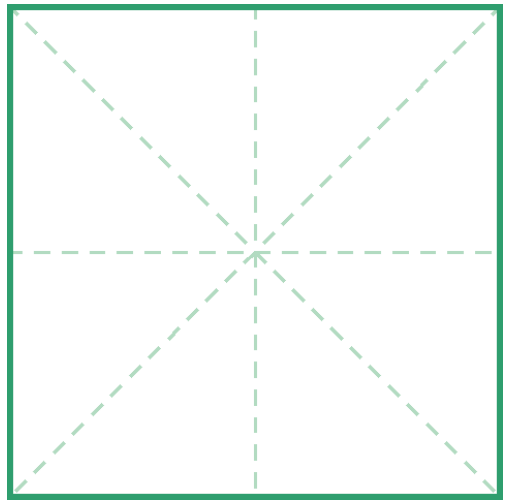
Made of 一 (top bar) + 冂 (frame) + 土 (earth).

再见 zàijiàn says “see again” — the Chinese way to say goodbye.



Learn to Write

师



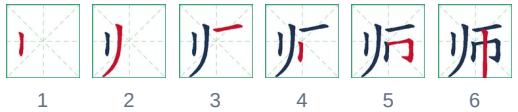
shī

teacher

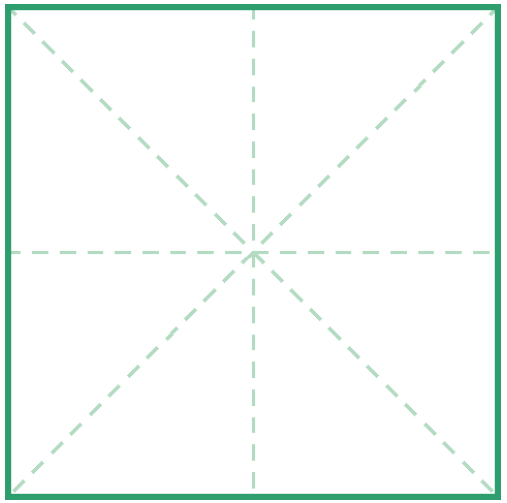
6 strokes

Made of 丿 (knife) + 巾 (cloth) with a bar on top.

The cloth 巾 wears a long top bar. This is your teacher's first character!



我



wǒ

I; me

7 strokes

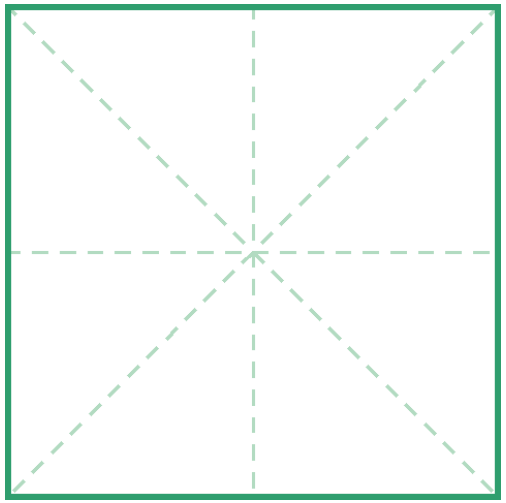
Made of 扌 (hand) + 戈 (spear).

A hand holding a spear — the classic "I". The long left-fall sweeps out near the end.



Learn to Write

是



shì

to be

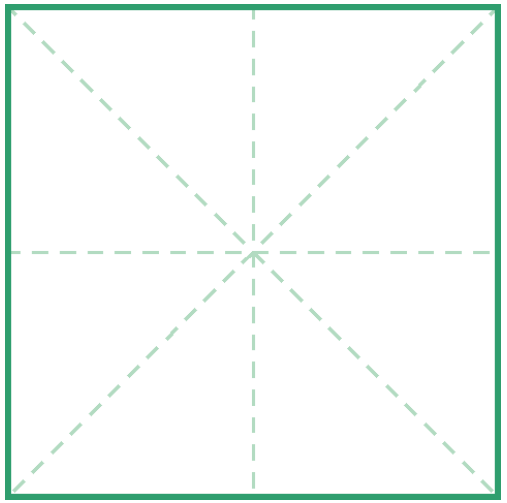
9 strokes

Made of 日 (sun) on top of 正 (straight).

The sun sits straight and true on top: “to be”. Plan the wide top first.



叫



jiào

to call; to be called

5 strokes

Made of 口 (mouth) + 丩 (a little twist).

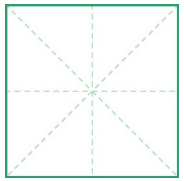
A mouth that calls out! The little 口 comes first, then the twist.



Building Blocks

老师

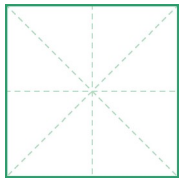
lǎoshī · teacher



老 lǎo

6 strokes





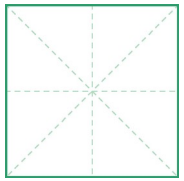
师 shī

6 strokes



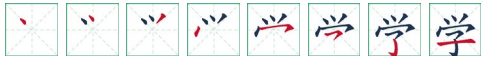
学生

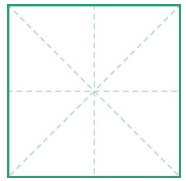
xuésheng · student



学 xué

8 strokes





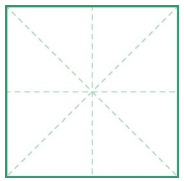
生 shēng

5 strokes



谢谢

xièxie · thank you (say it twice, lighter the second time)



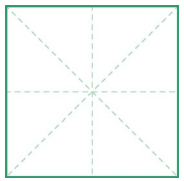
谢 xiè

12 strokes



再见

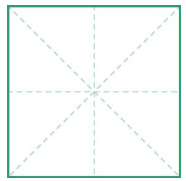
zàijiàn · goodbye (“see you again”)



再 zài

6 strokes





见 jiàn

4 strokes



Pronunciation

The four tones — same sound, four meanings

mā	má	mǎ	mà
1st tone	2nd tone	3rd tone	4th tone
high and flat	rising, like a question	dips down, then up	falling, short and strong



Tone change! **nǐ + hǎo** → we say **ní hǎo**

When two 3rd tones meet, the first one rises. Try it: ní hǎo!

你好!

Nǐ hǎo!

Say it with a smile.

Start sounds (initials): **b p m f d t n l g k h**

Watch the mouth shape in the video, copy it, then say the sound aloud.

Initials

Every syllable starts with one of these sounds. Tap an initial or an example to hear it.

Where in the mouth	Initials — tap!	Say it — tap!
Lips — both lips together	**bō** **pō** **mō**	*ba* *pa* *ma*
Lip and teeth	**fō**	*fa*
Lip rounding (like “woo”)	**wū**	*wa*
Tongue tip — front (teeth ridge)	**zī** **cī** **sī**	*za* *ca* *sa*
Tongue tip — middle	**dē** **tē** **nē** **lē**	*da* *ta* *na* *la*
Tongue tip — curled back	**zhī** **chī** **shī** **rī**	*zhe* *che* *she* *re*
Tongue surface — smile & hiss	**jī** **qī** **xī**	*ji* *qi* *xi*
Tongue root — back of mouth	**gē** **kē** **hē**	*ge* *ke* *he*

Finals — Read & Compare

Read across each row. Tap any syllable to hear it — then copy the sound.

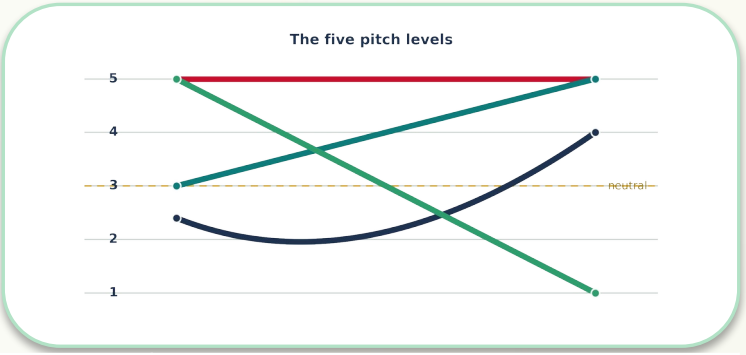
ba	bo	he	fo
pa	po	ne	mo
ma	mo	de	bo
fa	fo	ke	po
bai	bei	pao	pou
mai	mei	hao	hou
gai	gei	kao	kou
hai	hei	gao	gou

In every row only ONE sound changes. Hear the difference? Say it!

Tones

The four tones — tap a card

mā	má	mǎ	mà
1st — high & flat	2nd — rising	3rd — dip down	4th — falling



Read the rows — tap a syllable to hear it

yī	yí	yǐ	yì
wū	wú	wǔ	wù
bā	bá	bǎ	bà
dā	dá	dǎ	dà
bū	bú	bǔ	bù
nú	nǔ	nù	—

Which tone is it? Listen & point

bā	pà	dà	tā	hé	fá	gē	kè
bǐ	pí	dé	tè	hòu	fǒu	gū	kǔ
bù	pù	dì	tì	hēi	fēi	gǎi	kǎi
bái	pái	dú	tú	hù	fù	gěi	děi
běi	péi	dài	tài	hā	fā	gǒu	kǒu

Tone Change

变调 · 3rd-Tone Change

The rule

When two 3rd-tone syllables meet, say the FIRST one with a rising (2nd) tone: 3rd + 3rd → 2nd + 3rd. The written tone mark does not change — only the sound.

Word	You write	Say it like this	Meaning
你好	nǐ hǎo	ní hǎo	hello
美好	měi hǎo	méi hǎo	beautiful
可以	kě yǐ	ké yǐ	can; may
五百	wǔ bǎi	wú bǎi	five hundred

Back to the Conversation slide: 你好! sounds like ní hǎo!

Sound Mixer

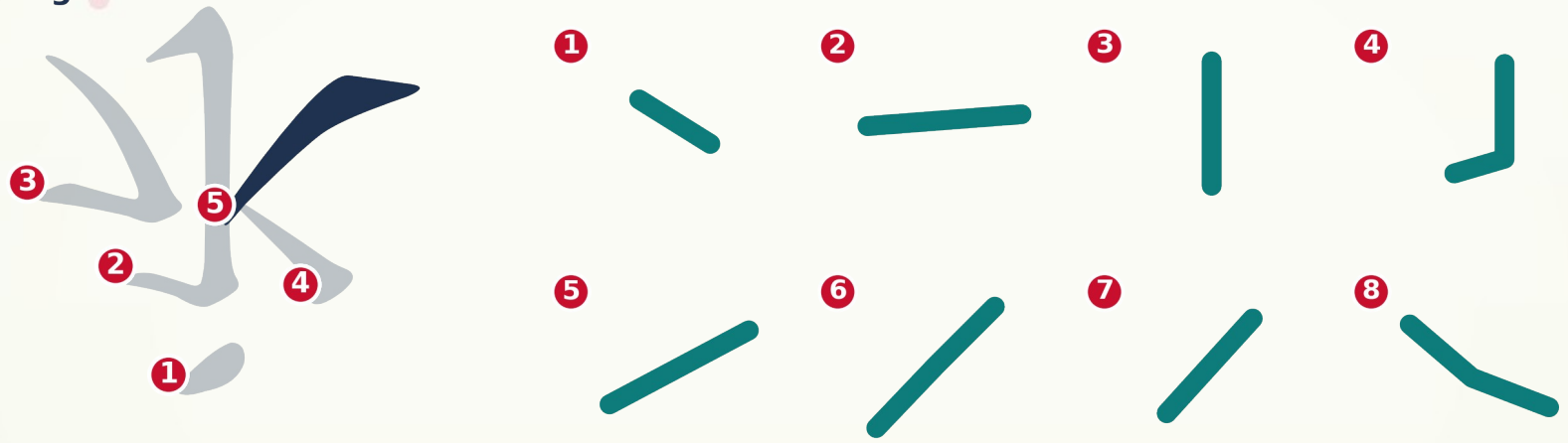
Tap any square to hear the syllable. A grey square means Chinese does not use that mix.

	a	o	e	i	u	ü	ai	ei	ao	ou
b	ba	bo	·	bi	bu	·	bai	bei	bao	·
p	pa	po	·	pi	pu	·	pai	pei	pao	pou
m	ma	mo	me	mi	mu	·	mai	mei	mao	mou
f	fa	fo	·	·	fu	·	·	fei	·	fou
d	da	·	de	di	du	·	dai	dei	dao	dou
t	ta	·	te	ti	tu	·	tai	·	tao	tou
n	na	·	ne	ni	nu	nü	nai	nei	nao	·
l	la	·	le	li	lu	lü	lai	lei	lao	lou
g	ga	·	ge	·	gu	·	gai	gei	gao	gou
k	ka	·	ke	·	ku	·	kai	·	kao	kou
h	ha	·	he	·	hu	·	hai	hei	hao	hou

Writing

The eight classic strokes

yǒng — written in 5 strokes



One character — 永 yǒng — holds all eight strokes. The red numbers show the writing order.

1 点 diǎn — dot
2 横 héng — across
3 竖 shù — down
4 钩 gōu — hook
5 提 tí — rising flick
6 撇 piě — left-fall
7 啄 zhuó — short fall
8 捺 nà — right-fall

Writing

Stroke order — eight rules

1. Top before bottom
2. Left before right
3. Horizontal before vertical
4. Left-fall before right-fall
5. Outside before inside
6. Close the frame last
7. Middle before the sides
8. Little dots come last

Say the rule out loud while you air-write. Slow is smooth — smooth is fast.

Your first characters — tap to hear

你	nǐ *you*	好	hǎo *good*
你好	nǐhǎo *hello*	一	yī *one*
五	wǔ *five*	八	bā *eight*
大	dà *big*	不	bù *not; no*
口	kǒu *mouth*	白	bái *white*
女	nǚ *female*	马	mǎ *horse*

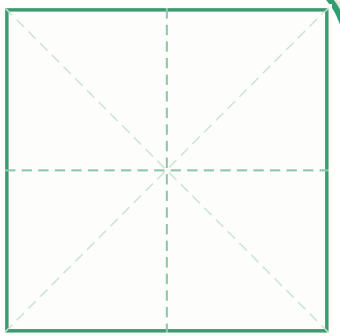
你

nǐ

“you” (friendly)

Made of 亻 (person) + 尔 ěr

7 strokes — watch it move!



Follow the red numbers 1–7 in the GIF, then copy 你 in your grid book.

Dialogue

对话 · Conversation

A 你好！

Nǐ hǎo! Hello!

B 您好！

Nín hǎo! Hello! (polite — to a teacher)

A 对不起。

Duìbuqǐ. I'm sorry.

B 没关系。

Méiguānxi. That's all right.



您好！ — the polite hello, for teachers and elders.

Listen → repeat line by line → act it out with a partner.

Dialogue 2

A 老师好！

Lǎoshī hǎo! Hello, teacher!

B 你好！请坐。

Nǐ hǎo! Qǐng zuò. Hello! Please sit down.

A 谢谢老师！

Xièxie lǎoshī! Thank you, teacher!

B 不客气。你们好！

Búkèqi. Nǐmen hǎo! You're welcome. Hello, class!





Listen → repeat line by line → act it out with a partner!

Practice Time

练习 · Practice

Practice!

Your turn — say it out loud!

1. **Greet your teacher, politely.**

Answer: 您好！ Nín hǎo!

2. **Your friend says 对不起 . What do you reply?**

Answer: 没关系。 Méiguānxi.

3. **Read together: 你好！你们好！**

“Hello! Hello, everyone!”

4. **Write it: copy 好 three times in your grid book.**

Check the stroke order — 女 first, then 子.

5. **Your teacher says 谢谢！ What do you reply?**

Answer: 不客气。 Búkèqi.

Speaking first!

Listen → repeat → say it to a friend.

Great work today!

你好！

You can now greet, say sorry, and reply — in Chinese.

See you in Lesson 2!