day 1 hello!

Say hello, thank you, sorry and goodbye, and hear the four tones.

Polite little words are the fastest way to get a smile in China.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
你	nǐ	you	Point at a friend's knee: "Knee!" 你 (nǐ) is you.
好	hǎo	good, well	A mum hugging her child: how (hǎo) good is that!
你好	nǐhǎo	hello	你 you + 好 good, well
您	nín	you (polite)	你 with a heart 心 underneath: you, from the heart.
我	wǒ	I, me	"Whoa (wǒ), that's me!"
谢谢	xièxie	thank you	谢 to thank + 谢 to thank
不客气	bùkèqi	you're welcome	不 not + 客 guest + 气 air, manner
再见	zàijiàn	goodbye	再 again + 见 to see
对不起	duìbuqǐ	sorry	对 to face; right + 不 not + 起 to rise, up
没关系	méiguānxi	it doesn't matter	没 not have + 关 to close; connect + 系 to tie

pattern the four tones

ā á ǎ à

Every syllable has a melody: 1 high and flat, 2 rising like a question, 3 dipping low, 4 falling fast like "No!". Same sound, new tone, new word. Polite phrases like 谢谢 and 对不起 you learn whole, like a little song.

你好！ **Nǐhǎo!** Hello! (tones 3 + 3, said ní hǎo)

谢谢！ **Xièxie!** Thank you! (tone 4 + a light neutral tone)

再见！ **Zàijiàn!** Goodbye! (two falling tones)

没关系。 **Méi guānxi.** It doesn't matter. (tones 2 + 1 + neutral)

dialogue anna lands in beijing

anna 对不起！
Duìbuqǐ! · Oops, sorry! (her suitcase bumps into someone)

xiaoming 没关系！……安娜？
Méi guānxi! Ānnà? · No problem! … Anna?

anna 我？……你好，小明！
Wǒ? Nǐhǎo, Xiǎomíng! · Me? … Oh, hi, Xiaoming!

xiaoming 你好，安娜！
Nǐhǎo, Ānnà! · Hi, Anna!

anna 谢谢你，小明！
Xièxie nǐ, Xiǎomíng! · Thank you, Xiaoming! (he takes her big suitcase)

xiaoming 不客气！
Búkèqi! · You're welcome!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

不
bù
not, no

对
duì
right; to, towards

好
hǎo
good, well

没
méi
not have

good to know · 你好 is two 3rd tones. When two 3rd tones meet, the first one rises, so you say ní hǎo. The pages write nǐ hǎo, like dictionaries do. Use 您 for teachers, older people and anyone you want to honour. With friends, 你 is perfect.

Hello, thank you, sorry, bye: four little phrases that open doors from the airport to the noodle shop. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**