# day 4 speaking chinese



**Say that you're learning Chinese and ask if someone can speak it.**

'Can you speak Chinese?' is a question you'll hear on day one in Beijing.

## words

| word | pinyin | meaning | how it's built |
|---|---|---|---|
| 中国 | Zhōngguó | China | 中 middle + 国 country |
| 国 | guó | country | A treasure inside the borders: a country. |
| 北京 | Běijīng | Beijing | 北 north + 京 capital |
| 汉语 | Hànyǔ | Chinese (language) | 汉 Han (Chinese) + 语 language |
| 中文 | Zhōngwén | Chinese (language) | 中 middle (China) + 文 writing, language |
| 汉字 | Hànzì | Chinese character | 汉 Han (Chinese) + 字 character |
| 字 | zì | character, word | A child under the roof, practising characters. |
| 说 | shuō | to speak, say | Shout it, "shwo": say it out loud! |
| 会 | huì | can (know how to) | Hooray (huì), I learned how! |
| 学 | xué | to learn, study | A child under a roof, ideas sparking on top: learning! |
| 学习 | xuéxí | to study, learn | 学 to learn + 习 to practise |
| 大家 | dàjiā | everyone | 大 big + 家 family, home |
| 同学 | tóngxué | classmate | 同 same + 学 to study |

## pattern 会 + verb: a skill you learned

who | 会 | verb | what

Put 会 before a verb to say you know how to do it, because you learned it: 我会说汉语. Say 不会 for 'can't', and add 吗 to ask.

我会说汉语。 **Wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ.** I can speak Chinese.

你会说中文吗？ **Nǐ huì shuō Zhōngwén ma?** Can you speak Chinese?

大白不会说汉语。 **Dàbái bú huì shuō Hànyǔ.** Dabai can't speak Chinese.

小明是中国人。 **Xiǎomíng shì Zhōngguó rén.** Xiaoming is Chinese.

## dialogue what can anna say?

**teacher wang** 同学们好！
**Tóngxuémen hǎo!** · Hello, class! (literally ‘classmates’)

**anna** 王老师好！
**Wáng lǎoshī hǎo!** · Hello, Teacher Wang! (the whole class answers)

**teacher wang** 安娜，你会说汉语吗？
**Ānnà, nǐ huì shuō Hànyǔ ma?** · Anna, can you speak Chinese?

**anna** 我会说“你好”“谢谢”“再见”！
**Wǒ huì shuō nǐhǎo xièxie zàijiàn!** · I can say “hello”, “thank you” and “goodbye”!

**teacher wang** 很好！你认识汉字吗？
**Hěn hǎo! Nǐ rènshi Hànzì ma?** · Very good! Do you know any characters?

**anna** 我认识“中国”“北京”！
**Wǒ rènshi Zhōngguó Běijīng!** · I know “China” and “Beijing”!

**teacher wang** 很好！我们学习汉字。
**Hěn hǎo! Wǒmen xuéxí Hànzì.** · Great! Now we’ll study characters.

**anna** 汉字……很高兴认识你们！
**Hànzì hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐmen!** · Characters… very nice to meet you!

## write it trace the grey, then write your own

大
dà
big; large

家
jiā
home; family

国
guó
country

汉
Hàn
Han (Chinese)

**good to know** · 汉语 and 中文 both mean ‘Chinese’ and both work in speech. Textbooks and HSK love 汉语; signs, menus and apps usually say 中文. Answer a 会 question with just the verb: 会 (yes, I can) or 不会 (no, I can’t). Class starts with 同学们好！ and everyone answers 老师好！

**‘我会说汉语’: you can say it today, and every new word makes it a little more true.**
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**