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day 1 nice to meet you, again

Chinese HSK 2 in 22 days
unit 1 · people & likes

Introduce people politely, ask why and give a reason.

Every new friendship starts with names, and every good chat soon turns to “why?”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
介绍	jièshào	introduce	我来介绍一下，这是我妈妈。 Let me introduce you: this is my mum.
姓	xìng	surname; be surnamed	他姓李。 His surname is Li.
姓名	xìngmíng	full name	请写一下你的姓名。 Please write your full name.
名	míng	name; place (in a ranking)	他是第一名！ He came first!
位	wèi	(polite measure word for people)	这位是王|老师。 This is Teacher Wang.
自己	zìjǐ	oneself (myself, yourself…)	我自己做饭。 I cook for myself.
啊	a	ah; (particle of feeling)	好啊！ Sure, great!
不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	sorry; excuse me	不好意思，我来晚了。 Sorry I’m late.
为什么	wèishénme	why	你为什么不去? Why aren’t you going?
因为	yīnwèi	because	因为下雨，我不去了。 It’s raining, so I’m not going.
所以	suǒyǐ	so, therefore	我很忙，所以不能去。 I’m busy, so I can’t go.
外国	wàiguó	foreign country; foreign	他是外国人。 He’s a foreigner.
告诉	gàosu	tell	请告诉我你的名字。 Please tell me your name.

pattern 为什么? 因为……所以……

因为 reason 所以 result

Ask why with 为什么, before the verb: 你为什么不去？ Give the reason with 因为 (because) and the result with 所以 (so). In English “because… so…” sounds odd, but in Chinese using both is normal and clear.

你为什么不去？ **nǐ wèi shénme bú qù** Why aren’t you going?

因为我今天很忙，所以不去了。 **yīnwèi wǒ jīntiān hěn máng suǒyǐ bú qù le** I’m busy today, so I’m not going.

因为小明学习很好，所以他是第一名。 **yīnwèi Xiǎomíng xuéxí hěn hǎo suǒyǐ tā shì dì yī míng** Xiaoming is a great student, so he came first.

你能告诉我为什么吗？ **nǐ néng gàosu wǒ wèi shénme ma** Can you tell me why?

dialogue meeting grandma

anna 不好意思，我来晚了！
bù hǎoyìsi wǒ lái wǎn le · Sorry I’m late!

xiaoming 没关系！我来介绍一下，这位是我的朋友安娜。
méi guānxi wǒ lái jièshào yíxià zhè wèi shì wǒ de péngyou Ānnà · No problem! Let me introduce you: this is my friend Anna.

grandma 安娜，你好啊！
Ānnà nǐhǎo a · Hello, Anna!

anna 您好！我是英国人，在北京学习汉语。
nín hǎo wǒ shì Yīngguó rén zài Běijīng xuéxí Hànyǔ · Hello! I’m from the UK, and I’m studying Chinese in Beijing.

grandma 外国朋友啊！你为什么来中国学习？
wàiguó péngyou a nǐ wèi shénme lái Zhōngguó xuéxí · A friend from abroad! Why did you come to China to study?

anna 因为我很喜欢汉字，所以想在中国学汉语。
yīnwèi wǒ hěn xǐhuan Hànzì suǒyǐ xiǎng zài Zhōngguó xué Hànyǔ · I love Chinese characters, so I wanted to learn Chinese in China.

grandma 你的汉语很好啊！
nǐ de Hànyǔ hěn hǎo a · Your Chinese is really good!

anna 没有，没有，我还在学呢。
méiyǒu méiyǒu wǒ hái zài xué ne · Oh no, not really, I’m still learning.

grandma 你自己一个人在北京吗？
nǐ zìjǐ yí gè rén zài Běijīng ma · Are you in Beijing on your own?

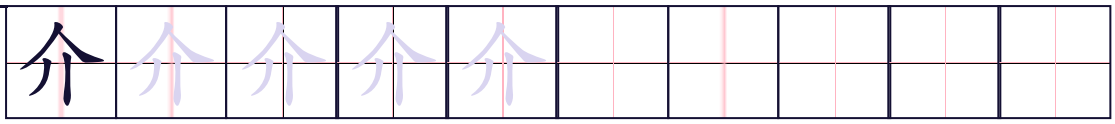
anna 对，所以我很喜欢来小明家吃饭！
duì suǒyǐ wǒ hěn xǐhuan lái Xiǎomíng jiā chī fàn · Yes, so I love coming to Xiaoming’s for dinner!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

为 wèi for



介
jiè
between



good to know · The surname comes first: 王老师 is Teacher Wang. Ask politely with 您贵姓？ and answer 我姓..., never 我贵姓. When someone praises your Chinese, a modest 没有，没有 (oh, not really) or 哪里，哪里 sounds more natural than “thank you”.

Now you can introduce people politely and explain why: two keys to every real conversation.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 2 taller than me

Describe people and compare them: taller, younger, the tallest.

Family photos come out at every Chinese dinner table, and everyone wants to know who's who.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爷爷	yéye	grandpa (dad's father)	我爷爷今年八十岁。 My grandpa is eighty this year.
奶奶	nǎinai	grandma (dad's mother)	奶奶很喜欢喝茶。 Grandma loves drinking tea.
丈夫	zhàngfu	husband	她丈夫是老师。 Her husband is a teacher.
妻子	qīzi	wife	他妻子在公司工作。 His wife works at a company.
男孩儿	nánháir	boy	那个男孩儿是我弟弟。 That boy is my younger brother.
女孩儿	nǚháir	girl	那个女孩儿是我同学。 That girl is my classmate.
小孩儿	xiǎoháir	child, kid	她有两个小孩儿。 She has two kids.
个子	gèzi	height, build (of a person)	他个子很高。 He's tall.
高	gāo	tall, high	小明很高。 Xiaoming is tall.
眼睛	yǎnjing	eye(s)	她眼睛很大。 She has big eyes.
比	bǐ	than; compare	我比你高。 I'm taller than you.
最	zuì	most, -est	我最喜欢中国菜。 Chinese food is my favourite.

pattern a 比 b + adjective

A **比** **B** **adjective**

To compare two things, say A 比 B + adjective: 我比你高, I'm taller than you. Don't put 很 before the adjective here. For "not as … as", say A 没有 B + adjective: 我没有你高.

哥哥比我高。 **gēge bǐ wǒ gāo** My older brother is taller than me.

今天比昨天冷。 **jīntiān bǐ zuótiān lěng** Today is colder than yesterday.

这个男孩儿比他爸爸高。 **zhège nánháir bǐ tā bàba gāo** This boy is taller than his dad.

我没有哥哥高。 **wǒ méiyǒu gēge gāo** I'm not as tall as my older brother.

dialogue anna's family photos

grandma 安娜，这是你的家人吗?
Ānnà zhè shì nǐ de jiārén ma · Anna, is this your family?

anna 是啊。这是我爷爷和奶奶，这是我哥哥和他妻子。
shì a zhè shì wǒ yéye hé nǎinai zhè shì wǒ gēge hé tā qīzi · Yes. This is my grandpa and grandma, and this is my older brother and his wife.

grandma 你哥哥个子真高啊!
nǐ gēge gèzi zhēn gāo a · Your brother is so tall!

anna 对，他比我爸爸高。我们家他最高。
duì tā bǐ wǒ bàba gāo wǒmen jiā tā zuì gāo · Yes, he's taller than my dad. He's the tallest in our family.

grandma 这个女孩儿是谁?
zhège nǚháir shì shéi · Who's this girl?

anna 是我哥哥的女儿，今年五岁。
shì wǒ gēge de nǚér jīnnián wǔ suì · That's my brother's daughter. She's five this year.

grandma 她眼睛真大，真漂亮!
tā yǎnjing zhēn dà zhēn piàoliang · Such big eyes, she's lovely!

anna 奶奶，您家谁最高?
nǎinai nín jiā shéi zuì gāo · Grandma, who's the tallest in your family?

grandma 小明最高！他比他爸爸还高。
Xiǎomíng zuì gāo tā bǐ tā bàba hái gāo · Xiaoming! He's even taller than his dad.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

比
bǐ
than; compare

爷
yé
grandfather

good to know · 他个子很高 has the shape "topic + comment": first who you're talking about, then what you say about them. It's everywhere: 她眼睛很大, 我们家我最小. To say "even more", add 还 after B: 他比他爸爸还高, he's even taller than his dad. Spot the part: 女 "woman" sits on the left of 她, 妈, 妹, 姐, 奶 and 姓. The exam's writing part asks you to fill in parts like this.

Now you can describe people and compare them: perfect for photos, friends and family chats.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 3 coffee or tea?

Offer a choice, order food and drinks, and invite someone along.

Tea or coffee, fish or meat: eating out in China is one choice after another, and it's the best part.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
咖啡	kāfēi	coffee	你喝咖啡吗? Do you drink coffee?
奶茶	nǎichá	milk tea	我想喝一杯奶茶。 I'd like a milk tea.
红茶	hóngchá	black tea	我喜欢喝红茶。 I like black tea.
绿茶	lǜchá	green tea	很多中国人喜欢喝绿茶。 Lots of Chinese people like green tea.
肉	ròu	meat	我不吃肉。 I don't eat meat.
鱼	yú	fish	这儿的鱼很好吃。 The fish here is delicious.
点	diǎn	order (food)	我们点{dian3-2}菜吧! Let's order!
还是	háishi	or (in questions); had better	你喝茶还是喝咖啡? Would you like tea or coffee?
一起	yīqǐ	together	我们一起去吧! Let's go together!
跟	gēn	with; and	我跟妈妈一起去超市。 I'm going to the supermarket with Mum.
但是	dànshì	but	我想去，但是我很忙。 I'd like to go, but I'm busy.
不错	bùcuò	pretty good, not bad	这个饭馆很不错。 This restaurant is really good.

pattern ……还是……? (a or b?)

choice A | 还是 | choice B | ?

To ask "A or B?", put 还是 between the two choices: 你喝咖啡还是喝茶? Don't add 吗: the choice is already the question. With 吧, 还是 means "we'd better…": 我们还是在家吧.

你喝红茶还是绿茶? **nǐ hē hóngchá háishi lǜchá** Do you want black tea or green tea?

我们今天去还是明天去? **wǒmen jīntiān qù háishi míngtiān qù** Shall we go today or tomorrow?

你是学生还是老师? **nǐ shì xuéshēng háishi lǎoshī** Are you a student or a teacher?

下雨了，我们还是在家吧。 **xià yǔ le wǒmen háishi zài jiā ba** It's raining. We'd better stay home.

dialogue fish or meat?

xiaoming 安娜，你喝咖啡还是喝茶？
Ānnà nǐ hē kāfēi háishi hē chá · Anna, would you like coffee or tea?

anna 我想喝奶茶。你呢？
wǒ xiǎng hē nǎichá nǐ ne · I'd like milk tea. And you?

xiaoming 我要一杯绿茶。
wǒ yào yì bēi lǜchá · I'll have a green tea.

xiaoming 这儿有饺子、包子、面条儿什么的，都不错。
zhèr yǒu jiǎozi bāozi miàntiáor shénme de dōu búcuò · They have dumplings, buns, noodles and so on here. It's all good.

anna 我们吃肉还是吃鱼？
wǒmen chī ròu háishi chī yú · Shall we have meat or fish?

xiaoming 鱼很好吃，但是有点儿贵。我们还是点肉吧。
yú hěn hǎochī dànshì yǒudiǎnr guì wǒmen háishi diǎn ròu ba · The fish is great, but a bit pricey. Let's get the meat.

anna 好啊！那我们再点一些饺子吧。
hǎo a nà wǒmen zài diǎn yìxiē jiǎozi ba · Sure! Then let's order some dumplings too.

xiaoming 这家店真不错，下个星期我们跟奶奶一起来吧！
zhè jiā diàn zhēn búcuò xià gè xīngqī wǒmen gēn nǎinai yìqǐ lái ba · This place is really good. Let's come with Grandma next week!

anna 好啊！奶奶最喜欢喝茶了！
hǎo a nǎinai zuì xǐhuan hē chá le · Great idea! Grandma loves tea more than anything!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

咖
kā
kā (sound)

啡
fēi
fēi (sound)

good to know · 跟 means "with" and comes before the verb, often with 一起: 我跟你一起去, I'll go with you. List a few things and end with 什么的 for "and so on": 饺子、包子什么的. The 、 is the Chinese list comma.

Now you can offer choices, order food and bring friends along. Your next meal out is ready.
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day 4 game on!

Talk about sports and hobbies, and say how well or how fast someone does something.

"What do you like doing?" is the question that turns a new acquaintance into a friend.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爱好	àihào	hobby; be fond of	我的爱好是看书。 My hobby is reading.
运动	yùndòng	sport, exercise	我很喜欢运动。 I really like doing sport.
跑步	pǎobù	run, go jogging	我早上|去跑步。 I go running in the morning.
跑	pǎo	run	大白跑得很快！ Dabai runs really fast!
游泳	yóuyǒng	swim	你会游泳吗？ Can you swim?
篮球	lánqiú	basketball	他喜欢打篮球。 He likes playing basketball.
足球	zúqiú	football (soccer)	我们去踢足球吧！ Let's go and play football!
踢	tī	kick	你踢足球吗？ Do you play football?
打	dǎ	hit; play (ball games)	我们去打篮球吧！ Let's go and play basketball!
跳舞	tiàowǔ	dance	奶奶很喜欢跳舞。 Grandma loves dancing.
得	de	(after a verb: how well, how fast)	你说得很好！ You speak really well!
快	kuài	fast, quick; soon	他跑得很快。 He runs fast.
慢	màn	slow	请说慢一点儿。 Please speak a bit more slowly.

pattern verb + 得 + how: 跑得很快

verb 得 how

To say how well or how fast someone does something, put 得 after the verb and then the description: 他跑得很快, he runs fast. Say no with 不 after 得: 跑得不快. If the verb has an object, say the verb again: 她跳舞跳得很好. To compare, add 比 after 得: 他跑得比我快 (or 他比我跑得快), he runs faster than me.

你说得很好！ **nǐ shuō de hěn hǎo** You speak really well!

大白跑得很快。 **Dàbái pǎo de hěn kuài** Dabai runs really fast.

他跑得比我快。 **tā pǎo de bǐ wǒ kuài** He runs faster than me.

他踢足球踢得不错。 **tā tī zúqiú tī de búcuò** He plays football pretty well.

dialogue what do you like doing?

anna 小明，你的爱好是什么？
Xiǎomíng nǐ de àihào shì shénme · Xiaoming, what are your hobbies?

xiaoming 我喜欢运动，打篮球、踢足球什么的。
wǒ xǐhuan yùndòng dǎ lánqiú tī zúqiú shénme de · I like sport: basketball, football, that kind of thing.

anna 你篮球打得怎么样？
nǐ lánqiú dǎ de zěnmeyàng · How good are you at basketball?

xiaoming 打得不错！你呢？你喜欢什么运动？
dǎ de búcuò nǐ ne nǐ xǐhuan shénme yùndòng · Pretty good! What about you? What sports do you like?

anna 我喜欢跑步和游泳。
wǒ xǐhuan pǎobù hé yóuyǒng · I like running and swimming.

xiaoming 你跑得快吗？
nǐ pǎo de kuài ma · Are you a fast runner?

anna 我跑得很慢，但是我很喜欢跑。
wǒ pǎo de hěn màn dànshì wǒ hěn xǐhuan pǎo · I run really slowly, but I love it.

xiaoming 我奶奶也很爱运动，她喜欢跳舞！
wǒ nǎinai yě hěn ài yùndòng tā xǐhuan tiàowǔ · My grandma loves exercise too. She likes dancing!

anna 真的？她跳得好吗？
zhēn de tā tiào de hǎo ma · Really? Is she a good dancer?

xiaoming 跳得非常好，比我好！
tiào de fēicháng hǎo bǐ wǒ hǎo · She dances really well, better than me!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

运 yùn move, carry

动 dòng move

good to know · Ball games take different verbs: 打篮球 (hit) for hand games, 踢足球 (kick) for football. Running for exercise is 跑步: 步 is a step. Three toneless de sound the same: 的 before a noun (我的书), 得 after a verb (跑得快), and 地, coming on day 19. Look at the left side of 踢, 跑 and 跳: that's 足 "foot", squeezed thin. Spotting parts like this helps in the exam's writing part.

Now you can talk about sport and hobbies and say how well people do things, starting with "you speak really well!"
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day 5 have you ever...?

Say what you have done before, how many times, and how often you do things.

"Have you ever...?" is how people find out what you share, from dumplings to trips.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
过	guo	(after a verb: have ever done)	我去过北京。 I've been to Beijing.
次	cì	time (how many times)	我去过两次。 I've been twice.
画	huà	draw, paint; picture	她画得很好。 She draws really well.
从小	cóngxiǎo	since childhood	我从小喜欢运动。 I've loved sport since I was little.
经常	jīngcháng	often	我经常去超市。 I often go to the supermarket.
有时	yǒushí	sometimes	我有时在家吃饭。 Sometimes I eat at home.
有意思	yǒuyìsi	interesting, fun	这个电影很有意思。 This film is really interesting.
没意思	méiyìsi	boring	这本书没意思。 This book is boring.
意思	yìsi	meaning	这个字是什么意思? What does this character mean?
球	qiú	ball; ball game	大白很喜欢玩球。 Dabai loves playing with a ball.
每	měi	every, each	我每天学汉语。 I study Chinese every day.

pattern verb + 过: have done before

who | verb | 过 | what

过 after a verb says you have done it at some time before: 我去过北京, I've been to Beijing. Say no with 没: 我没去过. Count the times with 次: 去过两次, been twice.

你吃过北京的包子吗? **nǐ chī guo Běijīng de bāozi ma** Have you ever had Beijing steamed buns?

我没去过上海。 **wǒ méi qù guo Shànghǎi** I've never been to Shanghai.

我学过一点儿汉语。 **wǒ xué guo yìdiǎnr Hànyǔ** I've studied a bit of Chinese.

他来过我家两次。 **tā lái guo wǒ jiā liǎng cì** He's been to my place twice.

dialogue a picture of dabai

anna 妹妹，你在做什么呢?
mèimei nǐ zài zuò shénme ne · What are you up to, little one?

little sister 我在画画！我从小喜欢画画。
wǒ zài huà huà wǒ cóngxiǎo xǐhuan huà huà · I'm drawing! I've loved drawing since I was little.

anna 画得真好！这是什么?
huà de zhēn hǎo zhè shì shénme · That's really good! What is it?

little sister 这是大白。它在玩球。
zhè shì Dàbái tā zài wán qiú · It's Dabai. He's playing with his ball.

anna 大白每天都玩球吗?
Dàbái měi tiān dōu wán qiú ma · Does Dabai play with his ball every day?

little sister 对！它经常跟我一起玩。
duì tā jīngcháng gēn wǒ yìqǐ wán · Yes! He often plays with me.

little sister 姐姐，你去过上海吗?
jiějie nǐ qù guo Shànghǎi ma · Anna, have you ever been to Shanghai?

anna 去过一次。上海很有意思！
qù guo yí cì Shànghǎi hěn yǒu yìsi · Once. Shanghai is really interesting!

little sister 我没去过。每天都在家，真没意思！
wǒ méi qù guo měi tiān dōu zài jiā zhēn méi yìsi · I've never been. Staying home every day is so boring!

anna 下次我们一起去吧！你想坐火车还是坐飞机?
xià cì wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba nǐ xiǎng zuò huǒchē háishi zuò fēijī · Next time, let's go together! Would you like to go by train or by plane?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

过
guò
pass, cross, go past

次
cì
time (how many times)

good to know · 过 is about experience: 我吃过 (I have eaten it, some time). 了 says it happened: 我吃了 (I ate). 有时 and 有时候 both mean "sometimes". 有时…有时… is "sometimes…, other times…": 我有时在家吃饭，有时去饭馆.

Now you can swap stories about what you've done and how often: the heart of every chat with a new friend.
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