

HSK 1 · Introductions, Identity and Polite Exchanges

Beginner first conversation; classroom examples, not official exam items.

Your first Chinese conversation

Say who you are, ask who someone is, and four polite words that open every exchange.

叫 introduces a name; 是 links identity

Two verbs, two jobs

我叫林安。(Wǒ jiào Lín Ān.) — My name is Lin An.

我是学生。(Wǒ shì xuésheng.) — I am a student.

吗: the question word

- 1 **Start with a statement** 我是老师 (wǒ shì lǎoshī) — I am a teacher.
- 2 **Add 吗** 你是老师吗 ? (Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma?) — Are you a teacher?
- 3 **What changed** Only 吗, at the end — nothing else moves.
- 4 **Try it** Turn 我是学生 into a question the same way.

Decision

Statement plus 吗 equals a yes/no question.

Question words never take 吗

Yes/no — takes 吗

你是老师吗？ — Are you a teacher?

Question word — no 吗

你叫什么名字？ (Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?) — What's your name?

The four polite words

Word	Pinyin	When
你好	nǐ hǎo	Greeting
谢谢	xièxie	Thanks
对不起	duìbuqǐ	Apology
再见	zàijiàn	Leaving

Watch out: characters and role-play

- Pinyin helps you hear the sounds; the test reads characters — learn both together.
- In role-play, invent a name and identity; never use real contact details.

Check yourself

Your turn

Which pair is right? (1) Which verb introduces a name? (2) Can 你叫什么名字? take 吗?

- A. 是; yes
- B. 叫; no
- C. 叫; yes
- D. 是; no