HSK 1 · Introductions, Identity and Polite Exchanges

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

Your first Chinese conversation

Greet, give your name, ask a yes-or-no question with 吗, and use 的, 也, 都 and 呢.

- **One** tiny word, 吗, turns a statement into a question.
- **Four** polite words open and close 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

的: whose is it?

Chinese	English
我的书	my **book**
老师的名字	the teacher's name
我妈妈	my mum (close family: 的 often dropped)

也, 都 and 呢

Small words, big jobs

我是学生，他也是学生。— I'm a student, and he is too.

我们都是学生。— We are all students.

我叫林安，你呢？— I'm Lin An. And you?

我的书呢？— Where's my book?

Notice

也 and 都 go after the subject, before the verb. When both appear: 我们也都是学生.

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.

Quick check

Your turn

Which verb introduces a name?

A. 是
B. 叫

Check yourself

Your turn

Does 你叫什么名字 ? need 吗 at the end?

A. yes

B. no