

Unit 6: I Am Learning Chinese

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Wǒ shì Xiè lǎoshī. Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén.

I am Prof. Xie. I am Chinese.

我是謝老師。我是中國人。

Wǒ huì shuō Yīngyǔ. Wǒ yě huì shuō Éyǔ.

I can speak English. I can speak Russian too.

我會說英語。我也會說俄語。

Wǒ bàba māma dōu bú huì shuō wàiyǔ.

Both my parents do not speak foreign languages.

我爸爸媽媽都不會說外語。

Tāmen zhǐ huì shuō Zhōngguó huà.

They only speak Chinese.

他們只會說中國話。

2.

Zhè shì wǒ didi.

This is my younger brother.

這是我弟弟。

Tā shì gōngchéngshī, zài Shànghǎi gōngzuò.

He is an engineer. He works in Shanghai.

他是工程師，在上海工作。

Tā bú huì shuō Yīngyǔ.

He cannot speak English.

他不會說英語。

Tā huì shuō Rìyǔ.

He can speak Japanese.

他會說日語。

Tā zài xué Yīngyǔ.
He is learning English.
他在學英語。

3.

Zhè shì Wáng Xiǎohuá.
This is Wang Xiaohua.
這是王小華。

Tā shì cóng Běijīng lái de.
He came from Beijing.
他是從北京來的。

Tā Yīngyǔ shuō de hěn hǎo.
He speaks English very well.
他英語說得很好。

Tā hái huì shuō Fǎyǔ hé Déyǔ.
He can also speak French and German.
他還會說法語和德語

Tā xiànzài zài xué Rìyǔ.
He is learning Japanese now.
他現在在學日語。

4.

A: John, nǐ Zhōngguó huà shuō de hěn hǎo.

B: John, you speak very good Chinese.

A: John, 你中國話說得很好。

B: Nǎlǐ nǎlǐ. Shuō de bù hǎo. Wǒ zhǐ huì shuō yìdiǎr Zhōngguó huà. Wǒ xiànzài zài xué Zhōngwén.

B: Oh, no, not that well. I can only speak a little Chinese. I am learning Chinese now.

B: 哪裡哪裡。說得不好。我只會說一點兒中國話。我現在在學中文。

A: Nǐ de lǎoshī shì Zhōngguó rén ma?

A: Is your teacher Chinese?

A: 你的老師是中國人嗎？

B: Shìde. Tā shì Zhōngguó rén, cóng Shànghǎi lái de.

B: Yes, he is Chinese and he came from Shanghai.

B: 是的。他是中國人，從上海來的。

A: Tā huì bu huì shuō Yīngyǔ?

A: Can he speak English?

A: 他會不會說英語？

B: Huì. Tā Yīngyǔ shuō de hěn hǎo.

B: Yes, he speaks English very well.

B: 會。他英語說得很好。

5.

A: Nǐ hái huì shuō shénme wàiyǔ?

A: What foreign languages do you also speak?

A: 你還會說什麼外語？

B: Wǒ zhǐ huì shuō Yīngyǔ. Xiànzài wǒ zài xué Zhōngwén.

A: I can only speak English. I am learning Chinese now.

A: 我只會說英語。現在我在學中文。

A: Nǐ Zhōngwén shuō de búcuò.

A: You speak Chinese very well.

A: 你中文說得不錯。

B: Nǎlǐ, shuō de bù hǎo.

B: No, not that well.

B: 哪裡，說得不好。

A: Nǐ huì bu huì xiě Zhōngguó zì?

A: Can you write Chinese characters?

A: 你會不會寫中國字？

B: Búhuì. Wǒ búhuì xiě Zhōngguó zì.

B: No, I cannot write characters.

B: 不會。我不揮寫中國字。

Part II: Utterances and Notes

- Here are some words for languages:

Déyǔ	German
Éyǔ	Russian
Fǎyǔ	French
Rìyǔ	Japanese
Yīngyǔ	English
Zhōngguó huà	Chinese
Zhōngwén	Chinese

'yǔ' means 'speech'. 'huà' is 'speech' too. 'wén' refers to a written language, but 'Zhōngguó huà' and 'Zhōngwén' can be use interchangeably.

- 'huì' means 'to be able to'. 'huì shuō...' means 'to be able to speak...'
- Pay attention to the position of 'dōu' which means 'all'. In the sentence 'Wǒ bàba māma dōu bú huì shuō...', the adverb 'dōu' is placed after 'bàba māma'. Never say: 'Dōu wǒ bàba māma...'
- Pay attention to the position of 'zhǐ' which is before the verb 'huì'. 'I can speak French only.' would be 'Wǒ zhǐ huì shuō Fǎyǔ.'
- 'zài' is a grammatical marker which indicates that an action is or was in progress. 'zài xué Yīngyǔ' means '...am, is learning English'
- Pay particular attention to the sentence:
 'Tā Yīngyǔ shuō de hěn hǎo.'
 He English speaks DE very well.
 This type of sentence is very much different from English. Remember: in Chinese you never say: Tā shuō Yīngyǔ hěn hǎo.
- 'nǎlǐ' or 'nǎlǐ nǎlǐ' is a polite way to respond to the compliment such as 'You speak Chinese very well.' Never respond to it saying: 'Xièxie.' Chinese people are modest and humble. They will not say 'xièxie' to respond to compliments. Also note that the actual pronunciation of 'nǎlǐ' is 'ánlǐ' because of tone change.
- 'búcuò' is synonymous with 'hěn hǎo'.

Part III: New Sentence Modules

1. You really speak English (Chinese) well. Not at all, I am learning it...

Nǐ	Yīngyǔ Zhōngguó huà Zhōngwén	shuō de	hěn hǎo búcuò
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Nǎlǐ nǎlǐ Shuō de bù hǎo Wǒ zhǐ huì shuō yìdìr Zhōngguó huà. Wǒ xiànzài zài xué...

2. Can you speak ... Can you write? Yes, I can... No, I can't

Nǐ Tā Nǐ bàba māma	huì bu huì	shuō	Yīngyǔ Rìyǔ Déyǔ
			xiě Zhōngguó zì

Huì, wǒ huì Tā bú huì	shuō	Yīngyǔ Rìyǔ Déyǔ
		xiě Zhōngguó zì

3. What other foreign languages can you speak? I can speak ... only. I can also speak...

Nǐ
Nǐ bàba
Tā

hái huì shuō shénme wàiyǔ?

Wǒ
Tā

zhǐ
hái

huì shuō

Dēyǔ
Fáyǔ
Rìyǔ
Yīngyǔ
Zhōngguó huà
Zhōngwén

Part IV: Practice makes perfect***How to say the following phrases? Please speak out.***

to speak Chinese, English, German, Japanese
 cannot speak Chinese, English, German, Japanese
 speak Chinese (English, German, Japanese) very well
 do not speak Chinese (English, German, Japanese) very well
 to write Chinese characters
 they all can speak, they all cannot speak
 he can only speak
 I am learning
 he also can speak

Answer the following questions based on your own situation. Please be sure to give real answers.***If you need a word, please send an email message to the instructor to ask for it.***

Nǐ huì bu huì shuō Yīngyǔ?
 Nǐ huì bu huì shuō Zhōngguó huà?
 Nǐ huì bu huì xiě Zhōngguó zì?
 Nǐ hái huì shuō shénme wàiyǔ?

Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu gēge (didi)?
 Tā huì bu huì shuō wàiyǔ?
 Tā huì shuō shénme wàiyǔ?
 Tā xiànzài zài xué wàiyǔ ma?
 Tā zài xué shénme wàiyǔ?

Now try to say something about yourself.

Now try to find a Chinese looking person and make a conversation with him.
 You come across a Chinese looking person. Greet him in Chinese. Can you identify where he is from? Is he from Beijing? Is he married? Does he have children? What does he do? Does he speak English? Compliment on his English. Tell him where you live. Give him your telephone number. Say good-bye.