

Mandarin Chinese Beginners

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2018

noproblemchinese.com

没问题

- 你好
- 你好
- 你好吗?
- 我很好, 谢谢你。你好吗?
- 我很好, 谢谢。

一

二

三

四

五

六

七

八

九

十

我是中国人

Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén

我是英国人

Wǒ shì yīng guó rén

不

bù

我 不 是 中 国 人

wǒ bù shì zhōngguó rén

Two new rules:

1) When **bú** (the character which means 'not') comes next to another falling tone, it adopts a rising tone.

So we say **bú shì** rather than **bù shì**

2) When a third tone comes next to another third tone, the first of the two adopts a second tone.

So we say **ní hǎo** rather than **nǐ hǎo**

(I know all this sounds a bit fiddly, but that's pretty well an end to the 'extra' rules about tones. After that it's all pretty simple).

哪 nǎ means 'which'

To ask about someone's nationality we ask:

You	are	which	country	person?
你	是	哪	国	人？

Nǐ	shì	nǎ	guó	rén?
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- 你好吗?
- 我很好, 谢谢。 你呢?
- 我也很好。 你是哪国人?
- 我是英国人。 再见。
- 再见

Nǐ hǎo ma?

Wǒ hěn hǎo, xièxiè. Nǐ ne?

Wǒ yě hěn hǎo. Nǐ shì nǎ
guó rén?

Wǒ shì yīngguó rén. Zài jiàn.
Zài jiàn




Person pronouns

• I	• We
• You	• You (plural)
• He	• They
• She	• They

我	我们
你	你们 (plural)
他	他们
她	她们

女

nǚ
woman;
girl;
daughter

The original pictograph for woman depicted her in a bowing position . Apparently, for ease in writing, man reduced this to a humbler form — a woman kneeling down  — but not for long. The modern version  graphically portrays the big stride woman has taken to keep up with man.



𡚦



𡚧



女



PENG

𡚦 𡚧 女

子

zǐ

infant;
child;
son

This character for child originated from a representation of an infant with outstretched arms and legs. Eventually it was modified to one with legs swaddled in cloth bands. Evidently, to the Chinese parent, the secret of infant care lies in keeping one end wet and the other end dry.



PENAL

了子

好

Hǎo

good;
right;
excellent

Man combined 女 (girl or daughter) with 子 (child or son) to form a character for goodness and excellence. From experience he must have found his greatest good in the possession of a wife and a child or a son and a daughter. It is also good that his wife sticks to his child.



PEN

人 女 女 如 好 好

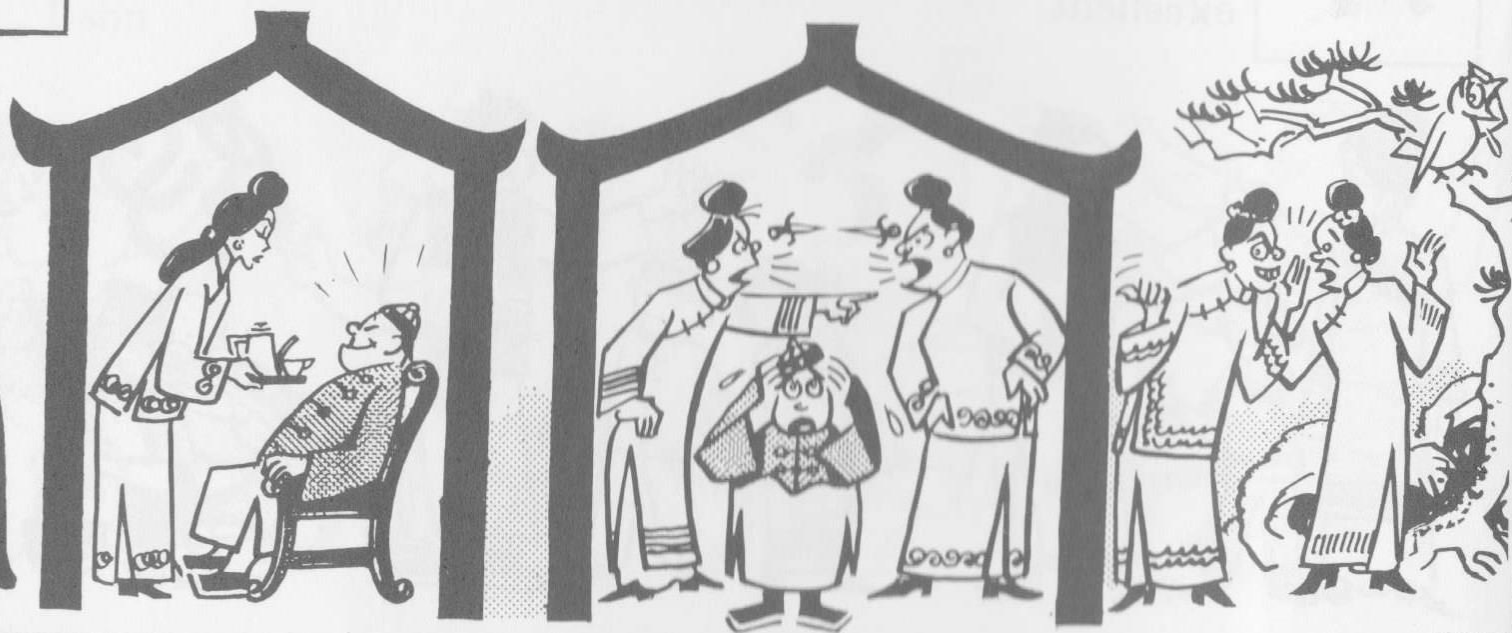
安

ĀN

peace;
contentment

The character for peace and contentment is made up of woman (女) and roof (宀). Man conceived the idea that to attain peace he should have only one woman under the roof or confine her within the house.

女



PENG

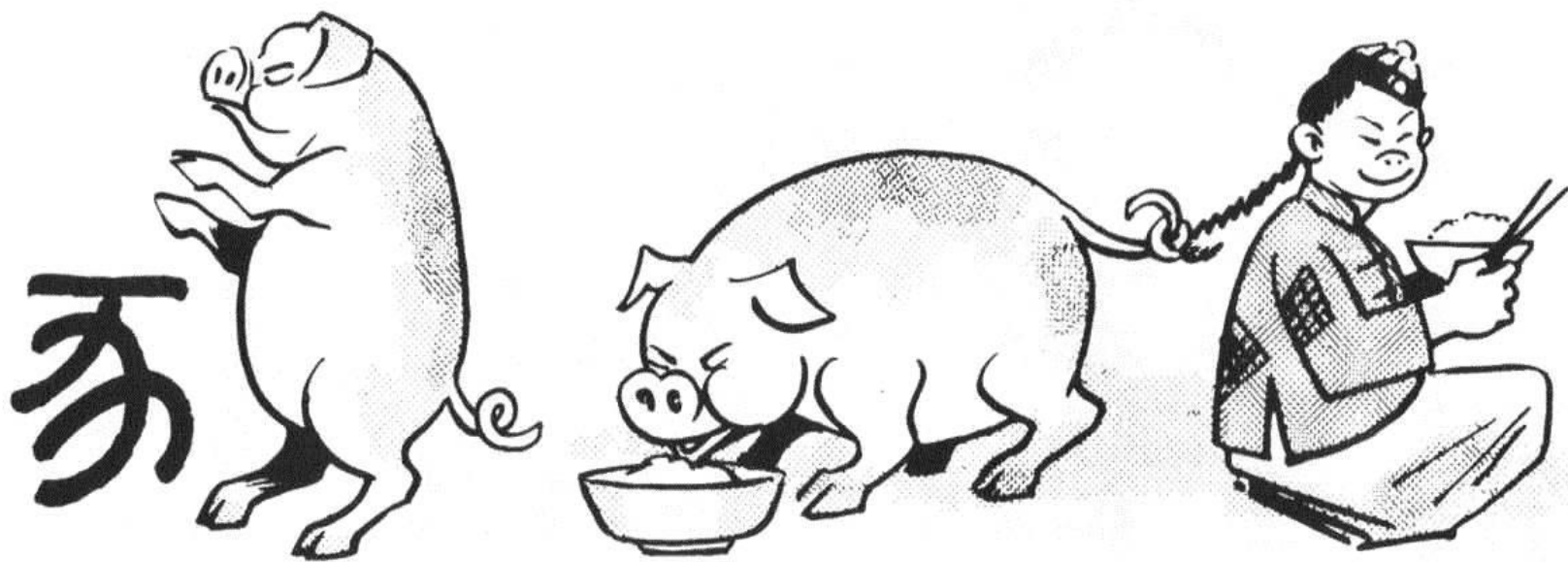
' ' 宀 女 安 安

豕

shǐ

pig

In this pictograph of pig the head is replaced by a line (一). On the left is the belly and paws (彡) and on the right the back and tail (乚). The domestic pig might well symbolise prosperity to man, so closely knit and tied together were their lives. This interdependence probably gave rise to the proverbial saying: "The schoolmaster should not leave his books, nor the poor man his pig."



一 丿 ㇏ ㇏ ㇏ ㇏ 豕

家

house;
family

A pig (豕) under the roof (宀) gave man his concept of home (家). Domesticated, the pig brought man no domestic trouble and was allowed freedom to wander about in the house.



、 八 山 出 宀 宀 宀 宀 家 家 家

Vocabulary extension – building on what you know

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----|------------|
| • Big | 大 | |
| • Too much | 太 | too much |
| • Wife | 太太 | wife |
| • Heaven | 天 | tiān |
| • Peace | 安 | Ān |
| • Home, family | 家 | jiā |
| • Family members | 家人 | jiā rén |
| • Country | 国家 | guójiā |
| • Door, gate | 门 | mén |
| • The gate of heaven's peace | 天安门 | Tiān'ānmén |

你好吗？

我是中国人

中文很好

你是工人

工人很好

你好

中国很好

王很好

她是中国人

谢谢

Homework:

Go through the notes carefully –
there's a lot of new stuff.

Try to translate these sentences.

Could you write them in pinyin?