

1 嗨! Hāi! Hi!

1 一二三 Yī èr sān One, two, three

Counting up to 99 and learning simple characters

LISTENING 1 Listen and repeat the numbers from 1–10.

一	1	六	6
二	2	七	7
三	3	八	8
四	4	九	9
五	5	十	10



Language

Chinese characters

As you can see, Chinese looks very different to English or other languages you may already be studying. Chinese is written in characters rather than letters.

- One character may be one word, such as 六 which means 'six'.
- Characters might be put together in a sequence of two or three to make a word, such as 电脑 which means 'computer'.
- Characters in a sentence are always spaced equally, not grouped in words, such as 我是中国人。 This means 'I am Chinese'. You can see that full stops are a bit different too.

SPEAKING 2 In pairs, one person says a number in Chinese, the other says the English. Then swap roles.

A: 三 B: three

READING 3 Note down the English for the following numbers.

a 四

b 二

c 五

d 一

e 八

f 九

g 十

h 六

LISTENING 4 Listen and write down the letter that matches the number you hear. (1–8)

Example: 1c

a 八

b 五

c 三

d 四

e 七

f 一

g 十

h 二

Language

Strokes and stroke order

Strokes are a series of lines that make up a character. There are a limited number of strokes. Each type of stroke is always written in the same direction, such as from left to right for a horizontal stroke.

The first two strokes you'll learn are:

Stroke	Rule to write the stroke	Example character
—	From left to right	二 (the top stroke is written first)
	From top to bottom	十 (the horizontal is written first)

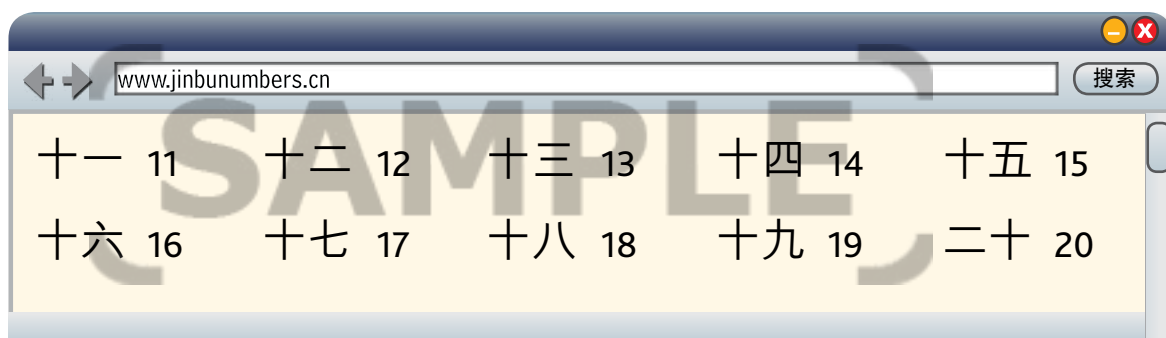
WRITING 5

Practise writing the characters using what you have learned about strokes and stroke order.



LISTENING 6

Listen and repeat the numbers from 11 to 20.



READING 7

Complete the sequences. Find the correct number for each gap from the list. You can use the same numbers more than once.

Example: 1c

a 十 b 四 c 一 d 三 e 五 f 十四
g 十三 h 十八 i 六 j 八 k 七 l 十六

1 二 2 四

三 3 4 5 七

二 四 6 7 十

一 三 8 9 九

10 十一 十二 11 12 十五

十二 十四 13 14 二十

Grammar

Numbers

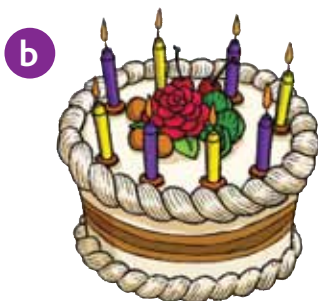
Learning numbers in Chinese is really easy! Numbers above 10 are simple to remember, you just say '10 1', '10 2', etc. For example, 十一 (11), 十二 (12). For higher numbers, you say '2 10', '3 10', etc. – that is, 二十 (20), 三十 (30), so '4 10 2' 四十二 would be 42.

2 你多大? Nǐ duō dà? How old are you?

Talking about your age

LISTENING 1 Listen and note down the letter of the correct picture. (1-6)

Example: 1 a



READING 2 Copy and complete the grid with the correct age.

- 1 Jake 十二岁
- 2 Louisa 十一岁
- 3 Shabaz 八岁
- 4 Elly 十六岁
- 5 Lily 七岁
- 6 Jason 九岁

Name	Age
Jake	12

LISTENING 3 Listen to the conversations. Note down the ages in English. (1-5)

你多大? Nǐ duō dà? How old are you?

我 ... 岁。 Wǒ ... suì. I am ... years old.

Asking about age

To ask someone's age, you just use the question word and the pronoun or name (you, he, she, Jade, etc.). So in English, we say 'How old are you?' This becomes 你多大? Nǐ duō dà? literally 'You how big?', in Chinese.

Grammar

Talking about age

In English, when you talk about someone's age, you say: *person + verb to be (am/is/are) + age*, such as 'I am 11 years old'. In Chinese there is no need for a verb; you just need to say: *person + age + 岁 suì*, for example 我八岁。 Wǒ bā suì. 'I am eight years old'.

READING 4 Read the conversations and match them to the correct picture.

- 1 你多大? 我六岁。
- 2 你多大? 我十七岁。
- 3 你多大? 我二十岁。
- 4 你多大? 我五岁。
- 5 你多大? 我十四岁。



我 wǒ I
你 nǐ you

SPEAKING 5 In pairs, ask and answer about ages.

A: 你多大?

B: 我 ... 岁。

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1 10 years old | 4 15 years old |
| 2 9 years old | 5 12 years old |
| 3 13 years old | |

Tones

To pronounce Chinese properly, you need to understand tones. Lots of characters have the same sound in Chinese; using the correct tones will help make sure that the person listening to you knows what you are talking about. There are four main tones in Mandarin Chinese:

- 1st tone: High and flat, for example sān 三
- 2nd tone: Going up, for example shí 十
- 3rd tone: Down and up, for example wǔ 五
- 4th tone: Going down, for example liù 六

Language

LISTENING 6 First listen and repeat the sounds which have different tones. Then listen and note down the tone for each sound. (1-4)

SPEAKING 7 Copy and complete the grid with the correct sounds, marking the tones over the vowel on each one and then practise pronouncing them.

	1st tone	2nd tone	3rd tone	4th tone
1 yi	yī	yí	yǐ	yì
2				

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1 yi | 4 da |
| 2 ni | 5 san |
| 3 ba | |

3 你好 Nǐ hǎo Hello

Learning some basic greetings

LISTENING 1 Look at the pictures. Listen and repeat the greetings. (1-6)



你好 nǐ hǎo hello (to one person)

早上好 zǎoshang hǎo good morning

再见 zài jiàn good-bye

老师好! lǎoshī hǎo! Hello teacher!

忙不忙? máng bu máng? Are you busy?

很忙 hěn máng very busy

Culture

Greetings

忙不忙? Máng bu máng? is a common phrase used to greet people. It is a question literally meaning 'Busy or not busy?' You could reply 很忙 hěn máng, 'very busy' or 不忙 bù máng, 'not busy'.

SPEAKING 2 In pairs, practise the greetings from Activity 1.

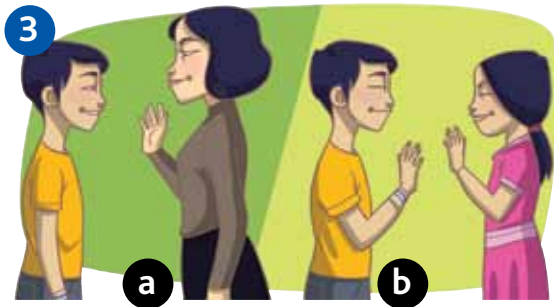
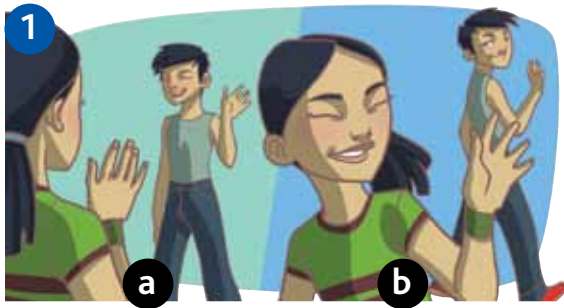
A: 早上好!

B: 你好!

LISTENING 3

Listen to the conversations and choose the letter of the correct picture for each one. (1-4)

Example: 1 a



READING 4

Match the greetings and the responses.

- | | |
|---------|--------|
| 1 早上好! | a 再见! |
| 2 你好! | b 不忙。 |
| 3 忙不忙? | c 你好! |
| 4 老师再见! | d 早上好! |

Pinyin

It can be difficult to remember how to say Chinese characters so learners usually use pinyin to help them. Pinyin is a form of writing Chinese sounds in roman letters with the tone markers.

- In this book, it usually appears alongside a character, such as 六 liù.
- Apart from when they first start school, native speakers of Chinese don't use pinyin, so it's important to try to remember how to say the characters and not rely on pinyin.

SPEAKING 5

In pairs, one person says a greeting phrase in Chinese and the other gives the correct English, then swap roles. Use Activity 1 to help you.

LISTENING 6

Put the phrases in the order you hear them. (1-6)

Example: 1 d

a Good-bye.
b Good morning.
c Hello teacher.
d Hello.
e Are you busy?
f Very busy.

WRITING 7

Practise writing the following key character for this unit. Remember: left to right and top to bottom.

