

Chinese Learning Corner 妙妙中文教室

Class Three 第三課 Good Morning, Nice to meet you 早, 很高興認識你

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Grammar

3.1 Negation of verbs

不 (bu4) put bu4 in front of a verb to negate it. Form: 不 + V

不是 (bu2 shi4) Note that the tone change rule applies when 不bu4 is followed by a 4th tone syllable. 我 wo3 is a half — third tone syllable.

Positive statement

我是學生。(Wo3 shi4 xue2 sheng1.)
 我叫王文。(Wo3 jiao4 Wang2 Wen2.)
 對。(Dui4.) Correct.

Negative statement

我不是學生。(Wo3 bu2 shi4 xue2 sheng1.)
 我不叫王文。(Wo3 bu2 jiao4 Wang2 Wen2.)
 不對。(Bu2 dui4.) Incorrect.

3.2 Negation of the verb 有

While bu4 is used to negate most verbs, 沒 (mei2) is used to negate the verb 有 (you3) ‘to have.’ 我有 (wo2 you3) means ‘I have,’ while 我沒有 (wo3 mei2 you3) means ‘I don’t have.’

Examples:

Positive statement

我有。(Wo3 you3.) I have.
 你有。(Ni3 you3.) You have.
 他有。(Ta1 you3.) He has.

Negative statement

我沒有。(Wo3 mei2 you3.) I don’t have.
 你沒有。(Ni3 mei2 you3.) You don’t have.
 他沒有。(Ta1 mei2 you3.) He does not have.

Positive statements

孔子有美國學生。(Kong3 zi3 you3 Mei3 guo2 xue2 sheng1.)
 你有中文名字。(Ni3 you3 Zhong1 wen2 ming2 zi4.)
 中文學校有好老師。(Zhong1 wen2 xue2 xiao4 you3 hao3 lao3 shi1.)

Negative statements

孔子沒有美國學生。(Kong3 zi3 mei2 you3 Mei3 guo2 xue2 sheng1.)
 我沒有中文名字。(Wo3 mei2 you3 Zhong1 wen2 ming2 zi4.)
 中文學校沒有好老師。(Zhong1 wen2 xue2 xiao4 mei2 you3 hao3 lao3 shi1.)

3.3 A-not —A Question Form

Unlike English, in Chinese one never raises one’s intonation to indicate a question.

Instead, pair the positive form of the verb with the negative form.

Examples: 有 (positive) + 沒有 (negative) → 有沒有 (Question) you3 mei2 you2

姓不姓 (xing4 bu2 xing4) 是不是 (shi4 bu2 shi4) 叫不叫 (jiao4 bu2 jiao4)

她是不是美國人? Is she American?

你姓不姓李? Is your last name Li?

你叫不叫張三? Is your name Zhang San?

3.4. The Possessive Marker 的

The Possessive Marker 的 can be used with pronouns such as 你, 我, 他, 你們, 我們, 他們 or with a noun such as 老師 and 學生.

When used by itself, it can mean either ‘your’ or ‘yours’

我的 (wo3 de) my, mine, 你的 (ni3 de) yours (singular), 他的 (ta1 de) his

我們的 (wo3 men2 de) our, ours, 你們的 (ni3 men2 de) your (plural), 他們的 (ta1 men2 de) their, theirs

老師的 (lao3 shi1 de) the teacher’s 學生的 (xue2 sheng1 de) the student’s

我是你們的老師。(Wo3 shi4 ni3 men2 de lao3 shi1.) I am your teacher.

他是我們的學生。(Ta1 shi4 wo3 men2 de xue2 sheng1.) He is our student.

我們是你的學生。(Wo3 men2 shi4 ni3 de xue2 sheng1.) We are your students.