

第₍₁₎一课

两₍₂₎张₍₃₎地图

甲₍₄₎: 这是什么₍₅₎?

乙: 这是地图₍₆₎。

甲: 这是什么₍₇₎地图?

乙: 这是中国₍₈₎地图。

甲: 那么₍₉₎, 那是₍₁₀₎什么地图呢?

乙: 那也₍₁₁₎是中国地图。

甲: 为什么₍₁₂₎这两张中国地图不一样呢₍₁₃₎?

乙: 因为一张是中华民国地图; 一张是中华人民共和国地图。

第		dì	<i>ordinal prefix</i>	-st, -nd, -rd, -th
课	課	kè	<i>n.</i>	lesson
两	兩	liǎng	<i>no.</i>	two (used with AN)
张	張	zhāng	<i>AN.</i>	AN. for flat things
地图	地圖	dìtú	<i>n.</i>	map
甲		jiǎ	<i>pron.</i>	person A; also the first of the ten Heavenly Stems
这	這	zhè	<i>det.</i>	this; these
是		shì	<i>v.</i>	is; am; are; fall into the category of
什么	什麼	shén.me	<i>qw.</i>	what

Dì yī kè
Liǎng zhāng dìtú

A: Zhè .shi shém.me?

B: Zhè .shi dìtú.

A: Zhè .shi shém.me dìtú?

B: Zhè .shi Zhōngguó dìtú.

A: .Nè.me, nà .shi shén.me dìtú .ne?

B: Nà yě .shi Zhōngguó dìtú.

A: Wèi. shém.me zhèi liǎngzhāng Zhōngguó dìtú bù yíyàng .ne?

B: Yīnwèi yìzhāng .shi Zhōnghuá Mínguó dìtú; yìzhāng .shi Zhōnghuá Rénmín
Gònghéguó dìtú.

乙		yǐ	<i>pron.</i>	person B; also the second of the ten Heavenly Stems
中国	中國	Zhōng.guo	<i>n.</i>	China
那么	那麼	nà.me/nè.me	<i>conj.</i>	well then; then
那		nà	<i>det.</i>	that; those
呢		.ne		particle for follow-up questions
也		yě	<i>adv.</i>	also; too
为什么	為什麼	wèishém.me	<i>qw.</i>	why
不		bù	<i>adv.</i>	no; not
一样	一樣	yíyàng	<i>adj.</i>	same
因为	因為	yīn.wei	<i>conj.</i>	because, since
中华	中華	Zhōnghuá	<i>n.</i>	China
民国	民國	mínguó	<i>n.</i>	republic
人民		rénmín	<i>n.</i>	the people
共和国	共和國	gònghéguó	<i>n.</i>	republic
的		.de		particle for modification

甲：中华民国的₍₁₄₎地图为什么比₍₁₅₎中华人民共和国的地图大₍₁₆₎
一点儿₍₁₇₎呢？

乙：因为中华民国地图是1949年₍₁₈₎以前₍₁₉₎的中国，那时的地
图还包括现在的蒙古国。

甲：噢，我懂了₍₂₀₎。中华民国的地图是历史上₍₂₁₎的中国，中
华人民共和国的地图是现在的中国。

乙：对了，对了。可是中华民国也不完全₍₂₂₎是历史上的中国，
他们₍₂₃₎1949年搬到台湾去₍₂₄₎了₍₂₅₎。

甲：噢，台湾就是₍₂₆₎中华民国；中华民国就是台湾。

比		bǐ	v.	compare
大		dà	adj.	big
一点儿	一點兒	yìdiǎnr		a little
年		nián	n.	year
以前		yǐqián	n./ time word	before
那时	那時	nàshí	n.	that time
还	還	hái	adv.	still; also
包括		bāokuò	v.	include
现在	現在	xiànzài	n./ time word	now
蒙古国	蒙古國	Měnggǔguó	n.	Mongolia
噢		ò	int.	oh; I see

A: Zhōnghuá Mínguó .de dìtú wèi.shém.me bǐ Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó .de dìtú dà.yì.dianr .ne?

B: Yīnwèi Zhōnghuá Mínguó .de dìtú .shì yījiǔsìjiǔ nián yǐqián .de Zhōngguó, nà shí .de dìtú hái bāokuò xiànzài .de Měnggǔguó.

A: Ò, wǒ dǒng.le. Zhōnghuá Mínguó .de dìtú .shì lìshǐ .shang .de Zhōngguó, Zhōnghuá Rénmín Gònghéguó .de dìtú .shì xiànzài .de Zhōngguó.

B: Duì.le, duì.le. Kě.shì Zhōnghuá Mínguó yě bùwánquán .shì lìshǐ .shang.de Zhōngguó, tā.men yījiǔsìjiǔ nián bāndào Táiwān .qu.le.

A: Ò, Táiwān jiù.shì Zhōnghuá Mínguó; Zhōnghuá Mínguó jiù.shì Táiwān.

我		wǒ	<i>pron.</i>	I; me
懂		dǒng	<i>v.</i>	understand
了		.le		particle for new situation
历史	歷史	lì.shǐ	<i>n.</i>	history
上		.shàng	<i>localizer</i>	in; on
现在	現在	xiànzài	<i>n. / time word</i>	now
对了	對了	duì.le		that's right
可是		kě.shì	<i>conj.</i>	however; but
完全		wánquán	<i>adv.</i>	completely, entirely
他们	他們	tā.men	<i>pron.</i>	they
搬		bān	<i>v.</i>	move
到...去		dào...qù	<i>v.</i>	go to...
台湾	台灣	Táiwān	<i>n.</i>	Taiwan
就是		jiù.shì	<i>v.</i>	be exactly

乙：中国和₍₂₇₎台湾的政府都₍₂₈₎说只有一个中国，而₍₂₉₎台湾是中国的一部分。

甲：可是…，中国和台湾是两个国家₍₃₀₎，对不对₍₃₁₎？

乙：这个₍₃₂₎…这个…很难₍₃₃₎说，很难说…。

B: Zhōngguó hé Táiwān .de zhèngfǔ dōu shuō zhǐ.you yí.ge Zhōngguó, ér Táiwān .shì Zhōngguó.de yí.bù.fen.

A: Kě.shì..., Zhōngguó hé Táiwān .shì liǎng.ge guójiā, duì.bu.duì?

B: Zhèi.ge... zhèi.ge...hěnnánshuō, hěnnánshuō....

和	hé	<i>conj.</i>	and
政府	zhèng.fǔ	<i>n.</i>	government
都	dōu	<i>adv.</i>	in all cases
说 說	shuō	<i>v.</i>	speak, say, talk
只有	zhǐyǒu		there's only
个 個	gè	<i>AN.</i>	general AN. used for nouns
而	ér	<i>conj.</i>	and; yet
部分	bù.fèn	<i>n.</i>	part
国家 國家	guójiā	<i>n.</i>	country
对不对 對不對	duì.bu.duì		Is it correct?
很难说 很難說	hěnnánshuō		It's hard to say.

◆ Grammar Notes

1. 第 *dì-* is a prefix that turns cardinal numbers (一 *yī*, 二 *èr*, 三 *sān*...) into ordinal numbers (第一 *dìyī*, 第二 *dì'èr*, 第三 *dìsān*...).
2. 两 *liǎng* and 二 *èr* both mean “two.” 二 *èr* is used (a) when there is no auxiliary noun (called an AN, see note 3), as in simple counting or reading off a number like a telephone number; (b) at the end of higher numbers that end in two (whether or not an AN is involved): 十二 *shí'èr* “twelve,” 四十二个人 *sì.shí'èr.gè rén* “forty-two people,” etc., and (c) whenever the ordinal prefix 第 *dì-* is used (with or without an AN): 第二 *dì'èr* “second,” 第二十三个人 *dì'èr.shí sān.gè rén* “the twenty-third person,” etc. 两 *liǎng* is used every time an AN is used, except as noted in (b) and (c) above: 两个人 *liǎng.gè rén* “two people,” 两张地图 *liǎng zhāng dìtú* “two maps,” etc. 两 *liǎng* and 二 *èr* can both be used before 百 *bǎi* “hundred”; 千 *qiān* “thousand,” and 万 *wàn* “ten thousand”: 二百 *èr bǎi* or 两百 *liǎng bǎi* “two hundred”; 二千 *èr qiān* “two thousand”; 两万 *liǎng wàn* “twenty thousand.”
3. Some nouns in English, such as water and sugar, are called “collective nouns.” In order to talk about certain amounts of water or sugar, you have to say a pail of water, a lump of sugar, or the like. In theory, all Chinese nouns are collective in this sense. In order to talk about an individual thing, you have to use a “measure word” (量词 *liàngcí*) such as 个 *ge* in 三个人 *sān.gè rén* “three people” or 张 *zhāng* in 两张地图 *liǎng zhāng dìtú* “two maps.” These measure words are called “Auxiliary Nouns,” or “ANs” for short.
Some nouns, by custom, take special ANs. For example, flat things, such as 地图 *dìtú* “map,” 纸 *zhǐ* “paper,” 桌子 *zhuō.zi* “table” (because the top is flat) and 凳子 *dèng.zi* “stool,” all take the AN 张 *zhāng*. You should use the customary ANs when you can. With nouns that have no customary AN, or if you can't remember the customary AN, use the default AN 个 *ge*. 两个地图 *liǎng.gè dìtú* is acceptable.
Some nouns serve as their own ANs. 课 *kè* in the phrase 第一课 *dì yī kè* is an example. 部分 *bù.fen* “part,” which appears later in this lesson, is another. In such cases you cannot “add” an AN even if you want to. 第一个课 *dìyī.gè kè* is wrong.
4. 甲 *jiǎ* is the first of the ten 天干 *tiāngān* “heavenly stems.” The others are 乙 *yǐ*, 丙 *bǐng*, 丁 *dīng*, 戊 *wù*, 己 *jǐ*, 庚 *gēng*, 辛 *xīn*, 壬 *rén*, and 癸 *guǐ*. You should learn at least the first four, which are used like A, B, C, D... in English.
5. 什么 *shém.me* is composed of two characters that singly are pronounced *shèn* and *má*, but in this combination there are tone and vowel changes. The *n* sound drops, producing *shém.me*. (In the official 汉语拼音 *hànyǔ pīnyīn* system, the *n* is kept even though it is not pronounced, and the word is spelled 什么 *shén.me*.) 什么

Shém.me is used as a question word, meaning that it can, by itself, make a whole sentence into a question. Other question words are 谁 *shéi* “who?” 哪儿 *nǎr* “where?” and 怎么 *zěm.me* “how?”

Note that in Chinese the word order is the same for both questions and answers. 这是什么 *Zhè.shi shém.me* and 这是地图 *zhè.shi dìtú* have exactly the same structure. This is not true of English, where we normally reverse the word order of statements (“This is a map”) in order to make a question (“What is this?”). We can, of course, say in English “This is a *what*?” but then the question takes on a special sense.

6. Chinese sentences of the form “Noun 1 是 *shì* Noun 2” can be used for two different concepts: (1) Noun 1 and Noun 2 are the same thing, and (2) Noun 1 falls into the category of Noun 2. The first use can be translated with the English “to be,” but the second often cannot. A soldier in China might say to you, “我是解放军 *wǒ .shi jiěfàngjūn* [People’s Liberation Army].” This does not mean “I am the People’s Liberation Army,” but “I am among (fall into the category of) the PLA.”
7. The question word 什么 *shém.me?* can be used as a noun, as it was two lines above, or as the modifier of a noun, as it is here: 什么地图 *Shém.me dìtú?* “What map?.”
8. In the phrase 中国地图 *Zhōng.guo dìtú*, it might appear that 中国 *Zhōng.guo* “China” is an adjective modifying 地图 *dìtú* “map,” but this is not the case. 中国 *Zhōng.guo* is a noun. It can modify another noun, like 地图 *dìtú*, using the particle 的 *.de* in a phrase like 中国的地图 *Zhōng.guo .de dìtú* (see note 14). But here the 的 *.de* drops out, leaving 中国地图 *Zhōng.guo dìtú*. This kind of dropping of 的 *.de* happens frequently.
9. 那么 *.ne.me*, pronounced in neutral tones at the beginning of a question, and paired with 呢 *.ne* at its end, operates something like “Well, then...” in English. It tells the listener that the question it envelops is related to the immediately preceding topic. 乙 *yǐ* has just referred to a map of China, and 甲 *jiǎ*, staying on the topic of maps, says, “Well then, what map is that?” 那么 *.ne.me* is not a question word as defined in note 5 because, although it accompanies a question, it does not make the sentence a question. The sentence here is a question because of the question word 什么 *shém.me*.
10. 那 *nà* “that, those” belongs to a group of words called **determinatives**. Other determinatives are 这 *zhè* “this, these” (as used in the previous four lines), 哪 *nǎ* “which?” and 每 *měi* “each.” 那 *nà*, 这 *zhè*, and 哪 *nǎ* have alternate pronunciations of 那 *nèi*, 这 *zhèi*, and 哪 *něi* (originally derived from 那 *nà*+一 *yī*, 这 *zhè*+一 *yī*, 哪 *nǎ*+一 *yī*). The following rules govern determinatives:

(a) They combine with ANs, with or without following nouns, to form noun phrases: 这个 *zhèi.ge* “this one”; 每个人 *měi.ge rén* “each person”; 那张地图 *nèi zhāng dìtú* “that map.”

(b) A number can be added after the determinative in such phrases: 这两张地图 *zhèi liǎng zhāng dìtú* “these two maps”; 那三个 *nèi sān.ge* “those three.”

(c) 这 *zhè* and 那 *nà* can be followed directly by a verb, which is often 是 *shì*: 这是什么 *Zhè.shì shém.me?* “What are these?”; 那是地图 *nà.shì dìtú* “That is a map.”

In pronunciation, most native speakers say 这 *zhèi*, 那 *nèi*, and 哪 *něi* for uses (a) and (b), and 这 *zhè* and 那 *nà* for (c).

Note that 哪 *nǎ (něi)* is both a determinative and a question word.

11. 也 *yě* “also” is an adverb. An adverb in Chinese comes right before the verb (unless another adverb intervenes). It cannot come before the subject, or at the end of a sentence, as adverbs can in English. In English we can say “I am a person, too”; in Chinese it would sound ridiculous to say 我是人也 *wǒ .shì rén yě*.
12. 为什么 *wèishém.me?* “why?” is called a movable modifier because it can come either before or after the subject. 甲 *jiǎ* could just as well have said 这两张地图为什么不一样呢 *zhèi liǎng zhāng dìtú wèishém.me bù yíyàng .ne?* Movable modifiers (such as 今天 *jīn.tian* “today”) sometimes seem like adverbs and can be translated using adverbs in English, but they are importantly different from true adverbs as defined in note 11.
13. The 呢 *.ne* here is the one that goes with 那么 *.ne.me* as described in note 9, but with the 那么 *.ne.me* omitted.
14. The particle 的 *.de* is used to modify nouns in the pattern:
[modifier] 的 *.de* Noun. The modifier can be:
 - (1) a noun or pronoun: 老师的桌子 *lǎoshī .de zhuō.zi* “the teacher’s desk,” 你的地图 *nǐ .de dìtú* “your map”;
 - (2) and adjective (as defined in note 16): 大的问题 *dà .de wèntí* “big problem” (usually shortened to 大问题 *dà wèntí*);
 - (3) a verb: 不懂的人 *bùdǒng de rén* “people who don’t understand”;
 - (4) a predicate: 不喜欢看地图的学生 *bùxǐhuān kàn dìtú .de xuéshēng* “students who don’t like to look at maps”;
 - (5) a whole clause (subject plus predicate): 老师不喜欢的人 *lǎoshī bù xǐhuān .de rén* “the people the teacher doesn’t like”;
 - (6) another 的 *.de* phrase: 我的老师的地图 *wǒ .de lǎoshī .de dìtú* “the map of the teacher of me—my teacher’s map.”

If you have studied French, note that *de* in French has exactly the reverse function of 的 *de* in Chinese. *La plume de ma tante* “my aunt’s pen,” using a Chinese 的 *de*, would be *ma tante .de plume*.

15. 比 *bǐ*, a verb meaning “compare,” is used to compare nouns in the pattern:

Noun1 比 *bǐ* Noun2 + Adjective

Examples:

这张桌子比那张高。

Zhèi zhāng zhuō.zi bǐ nài zhāng gāo.

This table is higher than that one.

今年的老师比去年的更奇怪。

Jīnnián .de lǎoshī bǐ qùnián .de gèng qíguài.

This year the teacher is even more strange than last.

In the second example 更 *gèng* carries the sense of “even (more).”

For the opposite meaning, that something is not as [Adjective] as something else, use: Noun 1 没有 *méi.you* Noun 2 (那么 *nè.m.me*) Adj. For example:

这张桌子没有那张（那么）高。

Zhèi zhāng zhuō.zi méi.you nài zhāng (nè.m.me) gāo.

This table is not as tall as that one.

16. 大 *dà* “big” looks like an English adjective, but grammatically it is a type of verb, because it can follow a subject directly to make a complete sentence. The sentences 地图大 *dìtú dà* “the map is big(ger)” and 桌子高 *zhuō.zi gāo* “the table is tall(er)” use 大 *dà* and 高 *gāo* as verbs. Some grammars call such words “stative verbs,” because of their grammatical properties, while others call them adjectives because of their semantic properties. In this book we call them adjectives, but you should remember that they include “verbness” within them.

You must note, as well, that whenever adjectives follow subjects directly, they imply comparison. 地图大 *dìtú dà*, strictly speaking, does not mean “the map is big,” but “the map is bigger (than something else).” The sentence 地图大 *dìtú dà* might be the answer to a question like 桌子大还是地图大 *zhuō.zi dà .hai.shì dìtú dà?* “Which is bigger, the table or the map?” The normal way to say the “the map is big,” without implying comparison, is to add an unstressed 很 *hěn* before the adjective: 地图很大 *dìtú .hen. dà* “the map is big.” If you stress the 很 *hěn*, then you have said “the map is very big.” (This rule does not apply if the adjective is negated. 地图不大 *dìtú bú.dà* means “the map is not big,” without implying comparison.)

17. The 比 *bǐ*-pattern introduced in note 15 tells the listener that one thing exceeds another, but doesn't say by how much. Adding 一点儿 *yìdiǎnr* (.yì.dianr) or 一点儿 *yìdiǎr* (.yì.diar) after the adjective says that the difference is small; adding 得多 *de duō* or 多了 *duō .le* says it is large:

这张桌子比那张高一点儿。
Zhè zhāng zhuō.zi bǐ nà zhāng
gāo yìdiǎr.

This table is a bit taller than that one.

今年的老师比去年的奇怪得多。
Jīnnián .de lǎoshī bǐ qùnián .de
qíguài .de duō.

This year's teacher is much stranger than last year's.

一点 *yìdiǎn*, 一点儿 *yìdiǎr*, 得多 *de duō*, and 多了 *duō .le* are frequently used without the 比 *bǐ*-pattern, when comparison is implied: 第三课难一点儿 *dìsān kè nán .yì.dǎr* "the third lesson is a bit harder"; 这张地图大得多 *zhè zhāng dìtú dà .de duō* "this map is much larger."

18. 1949-年 *nián* is formally a noun, but is also a time word. Other time words are 现在 *xiànzài* "now," 今天 *jīntiān* "today," and so on. Although time words often correspond to English adverbs in meaning, they are not adverbs in Chinese. They are "movable modifiers" (see note 12).
19. 以前 *yǐqián* "before" and its opposite 以后 *yǐhòu* "after" can attach to time words (as here) or to verbs: 看地图以前 *kàn dìtú yǐqián* "before looking at the map"; 买书以后 *mǎi shū yǐhòu* "after buying the books."
20. 了 *.le*, a particle with several functions, here signals that the speaker has taken note of a new situation. The sense is rather like the word "now" in the English sentence "Oh, now I get it." This use of *.le* is called the "new situation 了 *.le*," or sometimes the "sentence 了 *.le*," because this 了 *.le* normally comes at the end of a sentence.
21. Note that while English says "in history," in Chinese we say 历史上 *lìshǐ.shang*, literally "on history."
22. Note that here two adverbs, 也 *yě* "also" and 不完全 *bùwánquán* "not entirely," both precede the verb 是 *shì*; 也 *yě* usually comes first in such cases. Note, too, that the order of 不 *bù* and 完全 *wánquán* could be reversed, but that the meaning would then change: 我不完全懂 *wǒ bùwánquán dǒng* "I don't entirely understand"; 我完全不懂 *wǒ wánquán bùdǒng* "I don't understand at all."

23. 们 *.men* is a “pluralizing suffix” that usually attaches to pronouns: 我们 *wǒ.men* “we”; 你们 *nǐ.men* “you (pl.)”; 他们 *tā.men* “they.” It can also be used with regular nouns, but only a select few: 孩子们 *hái.zi.men* “children,” 老师们 *lǎoshī.men* “the teachers,” and certain others.

24. 到台湾去 *dào Táiwān qù* “go to Taiwan” illustrates the pattern:

Subject 到 *dào* place word 来 *lái* (or 去 *qù*).

Place words are a special group of words that include geographical proper names, like Taiwan. (For the definition of place words, see L.2, note 2). The use of 到 *dào* in this pattern requires that a place word follow. 来 *lái* “come” or 去 *qù* “go” at the end of the pattern indicates that the direction of action is toward (来 *lái*) or away from (去 *qù*) the speaker.

As used here, the whole phrase 到台湾去 *dào Táiwān qù* is called a complement. A complement is any verb (remember that “adjectives” are also verbs) or verbal phrase that comes right after a verb and tells something about its result:

Subject + Verb + Complement (tells result of verb)

Here, 到台湾去 *dào Táiwān qù* tells the result of the verb 搬 *bān* “move.”

There are a number of common single-syllable complements in Chinese, including:

见 *jiàn* “perceive”: 听见 *tīng.jian* “hear,” 看见 *kàn.jian* “see,” etc.

住 *zhù* “hold fast”: 拿住 *ná.zhù* “hold tight,” 记住 *jì.zhù* “commit to memory,” etc.

掉 *diào* “off, away”: 擦掉 *cā.diào* “wipe off,” 忘掉 *wàng.diào* “forget,” etc.

完 *wán* “finish”: 写完 *xiě.wán* “finish writing,” 整理完 *zhěnglǐ.wán* “finish tidying up,” etc.

到 *dào* “arrive”: 看到 *kàn.dào* “see,” 找到 *zhǎo.dào* “find,” etc.

开 *kāi* “open, away”: 打开 *dǎ.kāi* “open up,” 散开 *sàn.kai* “disperse,” etc.

着 *zháo* “take effect”: 找着 *zhǎo.zháo* “find,” 睡着 *shuì.zháo* “fall asleep,” etc.

English seldom uses this kind of construction, but phrases such as “tickled pink” (tickled with the result of turning pink) or “scared stiff” are logically similar.

Complements are very important in Chinese, and there are many different kinds of them.

The last example, 睡着 *shuì zháo* “fall asleep,” must be distinguished from 睡觉 *shuì-jào*, a verb-object compound (see L.5, note 10) meaning “sleep.” 睡觉 *shuì-jào* refers to the whole process of going to bed, waiting to fall asleep, sleeping, lolling in the bed after waking, and other bedtime activities (including the sexual). 睡着 *shuì zháo* is much more precise: it refers only to the instant in which one “falls” asleep.

25. Here 了 *le* indicates that the narrated event happened in the past. This is another kind of “sentence 了 *le*.” It must refer to a specific happening, not to a general condition. You cannot use it to say “I used to be a Yankee fan” or “the weather was lousy yesterday,” even though these sentences refer to the past.
26. 就是 *jiù.shi* “is none other than, is the very same as” is a more precise and emphatic way to say the first meaning of 是 *shi* as described in note 6 above.
27. 和 *hé* (often pronounced *hàn* in Taiwan) means “and” but is used only between nouns: 中国和台湾 *Zhōng.guó hé Táiwān* “China and Taiwan”; 你和我 *nǐ hé wǒ* “you and I.” Note that “and” in English can also connect verbs (“They ran and jumped and sang and screeched...”), but 和 *hé* cannot be used in this way. 跟 *gēn* “with, and” is a less formal alternative of 和 *hé*.
28. 都 *dōu* is an adverb meaning “in all cases.” It is by no means equivalent to the English word “all.” Both 都 *dōu* and “all” have many uses that the other cannot accommodate.
29. 而 *ér* “and” can be used to connect (a) whole clauses or (b) two predicates following a single subject.
30. 国家 *guójiā* can mean “country” as well as “state” in the sense of “governing state” and “state bureaucracy.”
31. 对不对 *duì.bu duì?* “true or not?—right?” is a “choice-type question,” which is one of the commonest ways of asking questions in Chinese. In these questions the speaker asks the listener to choose between the positive and negative alternatives of a verb: 你喜欢不喜欢中文 *nǐ xǐhuān .bu xǐhuān Zhōngwén?* “You like Chinese [or] not like Chinese?—Do you like Chinese?”; 你是不是美国人 *nǐ shì.bu.shì měi.guórén?* “Are you American?”; etc.

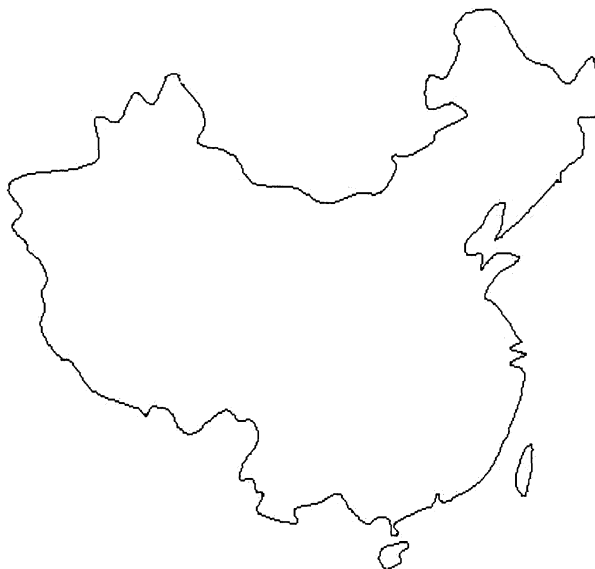
People sometimes ask, “How do you say ‘yes’ and ‘no’ in Chinese?” The question is hard to answer, because the commonest ways of saying “yes” and “no” are simply to choose the positive or negative alternatives in choice-type questions. The “yes” answer to the question “Do you like Chinese?” is 喜欢 *xǐhuān*; the

“yes” answer to “Do you understand Chinese?” is 懂 *dǒng*; and “yes” to “Are you Chinese?” is 是 *shì*. But if you say to people, “There are many, many words for ‘yes’ in Chinese,” people think that Chinese must be an extremely complex and mysterious language, which is not true.

32. 这个 *zhèi.ge* “this” and 那个 *nèi.ge* “that” can be used, and are often repeated, as “time filler” words, rather like “well...” and “mm...” in English. They are used when the speaker wants to say something, or feels obliged to, but has not yet figured out what it should be.
33. 难 *nán* “difficult” is an adjective (see note 16), and hence can operate as a verb in sentences like 第一课很难 *dìyī kè hěn nán* “lesson one is hard.” But 难 *nán* also has a special use in which it can combine with a following verb to make an adjective 难说 *nánshuō* “hard to say”; 难懂 *nándǒng* “hard to understand.” The opposite of 难 *nán* in this use is 好 *hǎo* “easy to”: 好说 *hǎoshuō* “easy to talk about”; 好懂 *hǎodǒng* “easy to understand.” For a small number of verbs, including 看 *kàn* “look at,” 听 *tīng* “listen to,” and 吃 *chī* “eat,” 难 *nán* means “bad-” and 好 *hǎo* means “good-”: 好看 *hǎokàn* “good-looking”; 难吃 *nánchī* “bad-tasting”; 好听 *hǎotīng* “pleasant-sounding.”

◆ 练习 (Exercises)

- 一. Using *pin yin* or characters trace and fill in the map with the names of cities or provinces you know.



二. Write the characters for the following words:

1. xiànzài _____ 2. lìshǐ _____ 3. zhèngfǔ _____
4. wèishém.me _____ 5. nándǒng _____ 6. liǎngzhāng dìtú _____

三. Translate the following into Chinese characters:

1. one part of China 2. two different countries
3. present-day Taiwan 4. exactly the same
5. China in history 6. a government that moved to Taiwan

四. Rearrange the following phrases to make coherent sentences:

1. 地图,呢,中华人民共和国的,比,一点儿,中华民国的,大,地图,为什么?
2. 一个,中国,不懂,台湾的,只有,中国,政府,和,为什么,我,都说。
3. 国家,不一样,现在的,中国,完全,历史上的,中国,两个,和,是,吗?

五. Answer the following questions with the given expressions:

1. A: 为什么这两张中国地图不一样呢?
B: (因为…)
2. A: 中国民国只是历史上的一个国家吗?
B: (…不完全…, 因为…)
3. A: 你说台湾是中国的一部分, 那中华民国呢?
B: (…就是…)
4. A: 为什么两个政府都说只有一个中国呢?
B: (…可是…)

六. Fill in the blanks with a word chosen from the given list, and then rewrite each sentence in *pinyin*:

就 了 到 都 而 和 比 只有

1. 历史上的中华民国政府_____是现在的台湾政府。
2. 一个国家_____一个政府是一样的吗?
3. 那五 (five) 个国家_____比中国大一点儿。
4. 我不懂为什么他们都说_____一个中国。
5. 这张地图是 1949 年以前的中国, _____那张是现在的中国。
6. 为什么以前的中国_____现在的中国大一点儿呢?
7. 他们为什么搬_____台湾去了呢?
8. 以前我不懂, 现在懂一点儿_____。

七. Write a short passage about each of the following:

- a) 中华人民共和国 b) 中华民国 c) 台湾政府 d) 中国地图

◆ 汉字表 (Character Table)

课	kè (n.) lesson 第一课 lesson one	张	zhāng AN for flat things 一张地图 a map
地	dì (n.) land 地图 map	国	guó (n.) country 国家 美国 Měiguó (n.) America
华	huá 中华 China	民	mín (n.) people 人民 <i>rénmín</i> , the people
比	bǐ (v.) compare 我比他高。 I am taller than him.	以	yǐ 以前; 1949 年以前
前	qián (prep.) before, ago 以前; 去中国以前	我	wǒ (pron.) I; me 我不是中国人。
懂	dǒng (v.) understand 不懂; 很难懂	历	lì (v.) pass 历史
搬	bān (v.) move 搬到台湾;	湾	wān (n.) a bay, a gulf 台湾

◆ 繁體字課文

第₍₁₎一課

兩₍₂₎張₍₃₎地圖

甲₍₄₎：這是什麼₍₅₎？

乙：這是地圖₍₆₎。

甲：這是什麼₍₇₎地圖？

乙：這是中國₍₈₎地圖。

甲：那麼₍₉₎，那是₍₁₀₎什麼地圖呢？

乙：那也₍₁₁₎是中國地圖。

甲：為什麼₍₁₂₎這兩張中國地圖不一樣呢？

乙：因為一張是中國畫民國地圖；一張是中國人民共和國地圖。

甲：中國民國的₍₁₄₎地圖為什麼比₍₁₅₎中華人民共和國的地圖大₍₁₆₎一點_儿₍₁₇₎呢？

乙：因為中華民國地圖是 1949 年₍₁₈₎以前₍₁₉₎的中國，那時的地圖還包括現在的蒙古國。

甲：噢，我懂了₍₂₀₎。中華民國的地圖是歷史上₍₂₁₎的中國，中國人民共和國的地圖是現在的中國。

乙：對了，對了。可是中華民國也不完全₍₂₂₎是歷史上的中國，他們₍₂₃₎1949 年搬到台灣去₍₂₄₎了₍₂₅₎。

甲：噢，台灣就是₍₂₆₎中華民國；中華民國就是台灣。

乙：中國和₍₂₇₎台灣政府都₍₂₈₎說只有一個中國，而₍₂₉₎台灣是中國的一部分。

甲：可是…，中國和台灣是兩個國家₍₃₀₎，對不對₍₃₁₎？

乙：這個₍₃₂₎…這個…很難₍₃₃₎說，很難說…。