Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Wǒ shì Xìè làoshī. Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén.
I am Prof. Xie. I am Chinese.

Wǒ huì shuō Yīngyǔ. Wǒ yě huì shuō Éyǔ.
I can speak English. I can speak Russian too.

Wǒ bābà māmā dōu bù huì shuō wài yǔ.
Both my parents do not speak foreign languages.

Tāmen zhǐ huì shuō Zhōngguó huà.
They only speak Chinese.

2.

Zhè shì wǒ dìdi.
This is my younger brother.

Tā shì gōngchéngshī, zài Shànghǎi gōngzuò.
He is an engineer. He works in Shanghai.

Tā bú huì shuō Yīngyǔ.
He cannot speak English.

Tā huì shuō Riyǔ.
He can speak Japanese.
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: 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: Shì de. 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: Hui. 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 wài yǔ?
A: What foreign languages do you also speak?
A: 你還會說什麼外語？

B: Wǒ zhī huì shuō Yīngyǔ. Xiànzài wǒ zài xué Zhōngwén.
B: I can only speak English. I am learning Chinese now.
B: 我只會說英語。現在我在學中文。

A: Nǐ Zhōngwén shuō de bú cuò.
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 bú huì 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  
  Éyǔ  
  Fāyǔ  
  Riyǔ  
  Yīngyǔ  
  Zhōngguó huà  
  Zhōngwén

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

- 'hui' means 'to be able to'. 'hui shuo...' means 'to be able to speak...'

- Pay attention to the position of 'dōu' which means 'all'. In the sentence 'Wǒ bāba māma dōu hui shuo...', the adverb 'dōu' is placed after 'bāba māma'. Never say: 'Dōu wǒ bāba māma...'

- Pay attention to the position of 'zhǐ' which is before the verb 'hui'. 'I can speak French only.' would be 'Wǒ zhǐ hui shuo Fāyǔ.'

- 'zài' is a grammatical marker which indicates that an action is or was in progress. 'zài xue Yīngyǔ' means '...am, is learning English'

- Pay particular attention to the sentence:
  'Tā Yīngyǔ shuo de hên hǎo.'  
  He English speaks very well.  
  This type of sentence is very much different from English. Remember: in Chinese you never say: Tā shuo Yīngyǔ hên hǎo.

- 'nǎlǐ' or 'nàlǐ nàlǐ' is a polite way to respond to the compliment such as 'You speak Chinese very well.' Never respond to it saying: 'Xièxiè.' Chinese people are modest and humble. They will not say 'xièxiè' to respond to compliments. Also note that the actual pronunciation of 'ǎnli' is 'ánli' because of tone change.

- 'búcuò' is synonymous with 'hên hǎo'.
Part III: New Sentence Modules

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

Not at all, I am learning it...

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

Yes, I can... No, I can't
3. What other foreign languages can you speak? I can speak ... only. I can also speak...

Nǐ bāba hái huì shuō shénme wài yǔ?

Wǒ Tā hui shuō
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 wài yǔ?

Nǐ yǒu méiyou gēge (dìdì)?
Tā huì bu huì shuō wài yǔ?
Tā huì shuō shénme wài yǔ?
Tā xiànzài zài xué wài yǔ ma?
Tā zài xué shénme wài yǔ?

Now try to say something about yourself.

Now try to find a Chinese looking person and make a conversation with him.