Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Nǐ hǎo
Hello.
你好。

Wǒ xìng Xiè. Wǒ jiào Xiè Dàzhōng.
My last name is Xie. My name is Xie Dazhong.
我姓谢。我叫谢大中。

Wǒ shì lǎoshī.
I am a teacher.
我是老师。

Zàijiàn.
Goodbye.
再见。

2.

Nǐ hǎo.
Hello.
你好。

Tā xìng Wáng. Tā jiào Wáng Xiāohuá.
His last name is Wang. His name is Wang Xiaohua.
他姓王。他叫王小华。

Tā shì xuéshēng.
He is a student.
他是学生。

Zàijiàn.
Goodbye.
再见。
3.

A: Nǐ xìng shénme?
B: Wǒ xìng Xiè.
A: What is your last name?
B: My last name is Xie
B: 我姓谢。

A: Nǐ jiào shénme?
B: Wǒ jiào Xiè Dàzhōng. Wǒ shì lǎoshī.
A: What is your (full) name?
B: My (full) name is Xie Dazhong. I am a teacher.
B: 我叫谢大中。我是老师。

A: Xièxiè.
A: Thank you.
A: 谢谢。

4.

A: Tā xìng shénme?
B: Tā xìng Wáng.
A: What's his last name?
B: His last name is Wang.
B: 他姓王。

A: Tā jiào shénme?
B: Tā jiào Wáng Xiǎohuá. Tā shì xuéshēng.
A: What is his name?
B: His name is Wang Xiaohua. He is a student.
B: 他叫王小华。他是学生。

A: Thank you. Goodbye.
A: 谢谢。再见。
Part II: Utterances and notes

Please study the following notes by yourself. Make sure that you understand everything. If you have any questions, please send an email message to your instructor.

About the sentences in this unit

xing in 'Wǒ xìng...' means 'to be surnamed'. It serves as a verb in Chinese while there is no such usage in English. Please pay attention to this. How to say: 'My last name is Smith' in Chinese? It would be: Wǒ xìng Smith.

jiào in 'Wǒ jiào...' means 'to be called'. It also serves as a verb. So 'My name is John.' would be: 'Wǒ jiào John.'

'shénme' means 'what' or 'which'. The literal translation of 'Nǐ xìng shénme?' is: 'What are you surnamed?'

'Wǒ shì...' is similar to English 'I am..'.

'I am a student.' Wǒ shì xuésheng.
'You are a teacher.' Nǐ shì lǎoshī.

Please note:

a. 'shì' in Chinese never changes its form.
b. There is no article before the noun in Chinese. So 'a student' is just 'xuésheng', 'a teacher' is 'lǎoshī'.

About the Chinese Pinyin

Chinese Pīnyīn (a Romanized spelling system to represent Chinese sounds) uses the same alphabet as in English with four additional tone markers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st tone</th>
<th>2nd tone</th>
<th>3rd tone</th>
<th>4th tone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>má</td>
<td>mà</td>
<td>mā</td>
<td>mà</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>mother</td>
<td>hemp</td>
<td>horse</td>
<td>to scold</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are four tones in Chinese. Pay particular attention to tone differences when you listen to recording. Tones make difference in meaning. For example:

The pitch of the first tone is high and long.
The pitch of the second tone is rising and long.
The pitch of the third tone is low and short.
The pitch of the fourth tone is falling and short. See the table below for illustration.
1 high and long  mā  2 rising and long  má  
3 low and short  mǎ  4 falling and short  mà  

Tones change in connected speech. The actual sound you hear in 'nǐhǎo' is 'níhāo'. This often happens when a third tone syllable follows another.

Most sounds (consonants and vowels) are similar to English sounds, but not exactly identical. Please pay close attention to each sound when you learn. The following sounds need particular attention:

j  a consonant, as in 'j' in jeep but not aspirated
q  a consonant, as 'ch' in cheek
x  a consonant, as 'sh' in she
zh a consonant, as 'j' in jump with retroflexed tongue
ch a consonant, as 'ch' in church, strongly aspirated and retroflexed
sh a consonant, as 'sh' in shore, retroflexed
z  a consonant, as 'ts' but not aspirated
c  a consonant, as 'ts' strongly aspirated
e  a vowel, as 'ir' in shirt, or 'ur' in 'turn', not English 'e'

You don't have to learn these individual sounds now. Listen to the recording carefully and pay attention to these sounds. Sounds are best learned in a connected speech.
Part III: New Sentence Modules

1. What's your last name?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nǐ</th>
<th>xìng shénme?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tā</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wǒ</th>
<th>xìng</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tā</td>
<td>Xiè</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wáng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. What's your full name?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nǐ</th>
<th>jiào shénme?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tā</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wǒ</th>
<th>jiào</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tā</td>
<td>Xiè Dàzhōng</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wáng Xiáohuá</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. I am ... , He is ...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wǒ</th>
<th>shì</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tā</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lǎoshī</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>xuésheng</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Part IV: Practice makes perfect

Can you say the following words in Chinese after learning this unit?

I, you, he, thank you, good-bye, surnamed, called, teacher, student

Please answer the following questions in Chinese. Please speak out. For question c. and e., please tell that you are a student and I am a teacher after you have specified your name and my name.

a. Nǐhǎo.
b. Nǐ xìng shénme?
c. Nǐ jiào shénme?
d. Wǒ xìng shénme?
e. Wǒ jiào shénme?
f. Zàijiàn.

What would you say in the following situations?

Greet a person in Chinese.
Ask what a person's last name is.
Ask what a person's first name (or full name) is.
Say good-bye.