

Lesson 3

For homework: Read through all the notes, practise writing number characters and, if you have time, try the Quizlet set.

In today's lesson we looked again at the character: 也 Which means: 'Also ,too' (The 'e' in pinyin sounds like 'er' in the word 'her')

In the dialogue 我也很好 wǒ yě hěn hǎo 'I'm fine too' [I also very good]

Remember the character: 呢 You can 'bounce a question back simply using the particle 'ne'呢

“你呢? ” And you? [Same question to you]

We also learnt to recognise the character that means 'work' 工 (gong1) and one which means 'king':王 Wáng (one of the most common surnames in China). Giving 'King' his precious stone makes the character for Jade: 玉 yù

Put the imperial jade in the centre of four borders and you have the character for country: 国 guó

The Chinese represent the word 'middle' with this character:

中 zhōng

The Chinese call their country: 'middle country' or: 中国 Zhōng guó

英国 = England (in China, generally used to mean 'Britain')

Add 人 rén to the name of the country and you get the nationality:

yīng guó rén 英国人 = British

不 (bù) before the verb makes a negative. Eg: 我不是中国人。我是英国人。你呢?

Wǒ bù shì zhōng guó rén. Wǒ shì yīng guó rén. Nǐ ne? I'm not Chinese. I'm British. How about you?

Many countries end with the character 国 (which is like the name of a country ending with '-land' in English).

This is true, for example of, 德国 Déguó Germany

But some countries are formed by finding characters to copy their sound. For example 意大利 Yìdàlì which means 'Italy'.

我是中国人 Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén

我是英国人 Wǒ shì yīng guó rén

不 bù put before any verb (except one – the verb 'to have') makes it negative. Like 'not'

Wǒ bù shì zhōngguó rén 我不是中国人

Two new rules:

1) When bù (the character which means 'not') comes next to another falling tone, it adopts a rising tone. So we say bú shì rather than bù shì

2) When a third tone comes next to another third tone, the first of the two adopts a second tone. So we say ní hǎo rather than nǐ hǎo (I know all this sounds a bit fiddly, but that's pretty well an end to the 'extra' rules about tones. After that it's all pretty simple).

Personal pronouns (both subject and object)

(There's also an 'it' – but we'll look at it another time).

• I	• We
• You	• You (plural)
• He	• They
• She	• They

我	我们
你	你们 (plural)
他	他们
她	她们

