

2

谢谢!

Thanks!

Chinese people are very accommodating and will often go out of their way to make you feel comfortable, and provide assistance. Let's get you prepared for showing your appreciation and gratitude! By using the basic magic words and expressions, you will warm the hearts of those that have done you a favor.



xiè xiè nǐ
谢谢你。

duì bù qǐ
对不起。

bié kè qì
别客气。

méi guān xi
没关系。



lǎo shī lǎo shī xiè xiè nǐ
老师，老师，谢谢你!

bié kè qì bié kè qì bié kè qì
别客气。别客气。别客气。

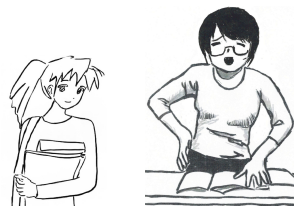


lǎo shī lǎo shī duì bù qǐ
老师，老师，对不起。

méi guān xi méi guān xi méi guān xi
没关系。没关系。没关系。

lǎo shī lǎo shī xiè xiè nǐ
老师，老师，谢谢你。

qǐng nǐ bú yào tài kè qì
请你不要太客气。



Key words

| | | | |
|----|------|------------|---|
| 1 | 谢谢 | xièxie | Thanks! |
| 2 | 别 | bié | do not |
| 3 | 客气 | kèqì | polite |
| 4 | 别客气。 | bié kèqì | Don't mention it. You're welcome. |
| 5 | 对不起。 | duìbùqǐ | I am sorry. Sorry. |
| 6 | 没 | méi | no |
| 7 | 关系 | guānxi | matter; relation; connection |
| 8 | 没关系。 | méi guānxi | It doesn't matter. Not a problem. |
| 9 | 老师 | lǎoshī | teacher |
| 10 | 请 | qǐng | please |
| 11 | 不 | bù or bú | not |
| 12 | 要 | yào | to want; should; must |
| 13 | 太 | tài | too |
| 14 | 哪里。 | nǎli. | Well, It is nothing. (polite way to reply to any complimentary remarks) |



Traditionally, Chinese people are always modest about their achievements. When you praise a Chinese person, he/she may humbly tell you how deficient he/she is. Therefore, the reply is “哪里，哪里。(nǎli, nǎli)” to any complimentary remarks, instead of “谢谢”. Nowadays some people, especially young and educated Chinese, like to follow the Western way and thank you for their compliments.

Language Focus

2.1 Vocabulary review.

Read it aloud. Translate it into English.

Write it in Chinese characters, and say it aloud as you write.

| | English | Chinese |
|-----------|---------|---------|
| 1. 客气 | _____ | _____ |
| 2. 别 | _____ | _____ |
| 3. 关系 | _____ | _____ |
| 4. 别客气。 | _____ | _____ |
| 5. 没 | _____ | _____ |
| 6. 没关系。 | _____ | _____ |
| 7. 对不起。 | _____ | _____ |
| 8. 不 | _____ | _____ |
| 9. 请 | _____ | _____ |
| 10. 不要 | _____ | _____ |
| 11. 太好了! | _____ | _____ |
| 12. 不要客气。 | _____ | _____ |
| 13. 谢谢大家。 | _____ | _____ |



The Chinese words for teacher or professor is 老师, which literally means elder expert. September the tenth is dedicated to teachers in China - The Teachers' Day.

2.2 The negative markers: 别, 不, 没

别 bié is the negative imperative marker. Just like English, an imperative sentence in Chinese is often “subject-less.”

别客气!

Don't be polite!

不 bù is a negative marker for all verbs and adjectives, except the verb “to have”.

不好!

Not good!

我不要!

I don't want!

没 méi is a negative marker for nouns and the verb 有 yǒu (to have).

我没有老师。 I don't have a teacher.

Fill in the blanks with 别, 不, 没

不

A negative marker for all verbs and adjectives

别

The negative imperative marker.







没

The negative marker for nouns and the verb 有

1. 请_____客气。
2. 你_____是老师。
3. _____太好。
4. 我_____要拍手。
5. 我_____有同学。
6. _____关系。

Originally, Chinese characters were drawings of ideas.

Over time, the drawings were simplified.

| | Sun | Moon | Mountain | Rain | Water | Horse |
|------|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Then |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Now | 日 | 月 | 山 | 雨 | 水 | 马 |



Use your imagination.

Visual images can help you remember Chinese characters.

2.3 请 – Please be polite

- * Please always use the magic word 请, when making a request.
- * As in English, the subject 你 or 你们 is often left out in an imperative sentence.
- * Please remember that in Chinese 请 is always placed at the beginning of an imperative sentence.

1. Please don't come. _____
2. Please, don't look for me. _____
3. Please clap your hands. _____
4. No need to be too polite. _____
5. Please nod your head. _____
6. Please don't thank me. _____

2.4 The most useful word 要 yào

要 wears many hats: must, should, have to, to want, which are a few definitions that you need remember. When you see 要 in a sentence, pay attention to the content.

1. Everyone wants to come. _____
2. Everyone should shake hands. _____
3. I want to thank everyone. _____
4. I don't want you. _____
5. You should be polite. _____
6. You don't want a teacher. _____

2.5 Reading & Speaking

1



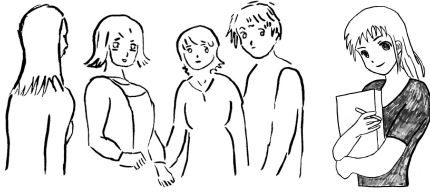
Amy 是学生。
Amy 是好学生。
Amy 很客气。

2



早上，Amy 见到老师。
Amy 说：老师早！
老师说：早，Amy。

3



早上，Amy 见到同学。
Amy 说：对不起，我来晚了！
同学们说：没关系！

4



早上，Amy 见到好朋友。
Amy 说：对不起，我来晚了！
好朋友说：没关系！

5



Amy 说：再见。
朋友说：再见。

6



Amy 说：同学们再见。
同学们说：Amy 再见。

Culture Focus

Each country has its own rules for being polite. How is politeness being practiced in China? And how is it different from your country?
