LEARNING OBJECTIVES
In this lesson, you will learn to use Chinese to
• Employ basic kinship terms;
• Describe a family photo;
• Ask about someone’s profession;
• Say some common professions.

RELATE AND GET READY
In your own culture/community—
1. What is the typical family structure?
2. Does an adult consider his/her parents’ house his/her home?
3. Do adults live with their parents?
4. Do people mention their father or mother first when talking about family members?
5. Is it culturally appropriate to ask about people’s professions upon first meeting them?
Dialogue I: Looking at a Family Photo

(Wang Peng is in Gao Wenzhong’s room and points to a picture on the wall.)

高文中，那是你的照片吗？

(They both walk toward the picture and then stand in front of it.)

是。这是我爸爸，这是我妈妈。

这个男孩子是你弟弟吗？

 LANGUAGE NOTES

1 In colloquial Chinese, 这 can also be pronounced as zhè and 那 as nèi if followed by a measure word or a numeral and a measure word.
不是，他是我大哥的儿子。

你大哥有女儿吗？

他没有女儿。

(Wang Peng is in Gao Wenzhong’s room and points to a picture on the wall.)

Gāo Wénzhōng, nà shì nǐ de zhàopiàn ma?

(They both walk toward the picture and then stand in front of it.)

Shì. Zhè shì wǒ bāba, zhè shì wǒ māma.

Zhè ge nǚ háizi shì shéi?

Tā shì wǒ jiējie.

Zhè ge nán háizi shì nǐ didi ma?

Bú shì, tā shì wǒ dāgē de érzi.

Nǐ dāgē yǒu nǚ’ér ma?

Tā méiyǒu nǚ’ér.

VOCABULARY

1. 那 nà pr that
2. 的 de p (a possessive or descriptive particle) [See Grammar 1.]
3. 照片 zhàopiàn n picture; photo
4. 这 zhè pr this
5. 爸爸 bāba n father, dad
6. 妈妈 māma n mother, mom
7. 个 gè/ge m (measure word for many common everyday objects) [See Grammar 2.]
8. 女 nǚ adj female

“Son” in Chinese is 子 (érzi), and 儿子 (érzi, son) cannot be replaced by 男孩子 (nán háizi, boy). “Daughter” is 女儿 (nǚ’ér), and 女儿 (nǚ’ér) cannot be interchanged with 女孩子 (nǚ háizi, girl).
## VOCABULARY

| 9. 孩子 | háizi | n | child |
| 10. 谁 | shéi | qpr | who [See Grammar 3.] |
| 11. 她 | tā | pr | she; her |
| 12. 姐姐 | jiējie | n | older sister |
| 13. 男 | nán | adj | male |
| 14. 弟弟 | dìdi | n | younger brother |
| 15. 他 | tā | pr | he; him |
| 16. 大哥 | dàgē | n | eldest brother |
| 17. 儿子 | érzi | n | son |
| 18. 有 | yǒu | v | to have; to exist [See Grammar 4.] |
| 19. 女儿 | nǚ’ér | n | daughter |
| 20. 没 | méi | adv | not |

**Proper Noun**

| 21. 高文中 | Gāo Wénzhōng | (a personal name) |
| 22. 高 | gāo | (a surname) tall; high |

The picture on the wall in Gao Wenzhong's room.
Grammar

1. The Particle 的 (de) (I)

To indicate a possessive relationship, the particle 的 (de) appears between the “possessor” and the “possessed.” To that extent, it is equivalent to the “’s” structure in English. For example: 老师的名字 (lǎoshī de míngzi) = teacher’s name. The particle 的 (de) is often omitted in colloquial speech after a personal pronoun and before a kinship term. Therefore, we say “王朋的妈妈” (Wáng Péng de māma, Wang Peng’s mother) but “我妈妈” (wǒ māma, my mother). See also Grammar 3 in Lesson 3.

2. Measure Words (I)

In Chinese a numeral is usually not followed immediately by a noun. Rather, a measure word is inserted between the number and the noun, as in (1), (2), and (3) below. Similarly, a measure word is often inserted between a demonstrative pronoun and a noun, as in (4) and (5) below. There are over one hundred measure words in Chinese, but you may hear only two or three dozen in everyday speech. Many nouns are associated with special measure words, which often bear a relationship to the meaning of the given noun.

个 (gè /ge) is the single most common measure word in Chinese. It is also sometimes used as a substitute for other measure words.

1. 一个人  
yī ge rén  
(a person)

2. 一个学生  
yī ge xuésheng  
(a student)

3. 一个老师  
yī ge lǎoshī  
(a teacher)
3. Question Pronouns

Question pronouns include 谁 (shéi, who), 什么 (shénme, what), 哪 (nǎ/nēi, which) [See Lesson 6], 哪儿 (nǎr, where) [See Lesson 5], 几 (jǐ, how many), etc. In a question with a question pronoun, the word order is exactly the same as that in a declarative sentence. Therefore, when learning to form a question with a question pronoun, we can start with a declarative sentence and then replace the part in question with the appropriate question pronoun, e.g.:

(1) 那个女孩子是李友。
Nà ge nǚ háizi shì Lǐ Yōu.
(That girl is Li You.)

From (1), one can replace 那个女孩子 (Nà ge nǚ háizi) with 谁 (shéi) to form a question if he or she wishes to find out who Li You is:

(1a) 谁是李友？
Shéi shì Lǐ Yōu?
(Who is Li You?)

Here 谁 (shéi) functions as the subject of the sentence and occupies the same position as 那个女孩子 (Nà ge nǚ háizi) in the corresponding statement.

One can also replace 李友 (Lǐ Yōu) in (1) with 谁 (shéi) to form a question if he or she wishes to find out who that girl is:

(1b) 那个女孩子是谁？
Nà ge nǚ háizi shì shéi?
(Who is that girl?)

谁 (shéi) functions as the object of the sentence and occupies the same position as 李友 (Lǐ Yōu).
MORE EXAMPLES:

2 A: 谁是老师？
    Shéi shì lǎoshī?
    (Who is a teacher?)

   B: 李先生是老师。 
    Lǐ xiānshēng shì lǎoshī. 
    (Mr. Li is a teacher.)

3 A: 那个女孩子姓什么？
    Nà ge nǚ háizi xìng shénme?
    (What’s that girl’s family name?)

   B: 那个女孩子姓王。
    Nà ge nǚ háizi xìng Wáng. 
    (That girl’s family name is Wang.)

4 A: 谁有姐姐？
    Shéi yǒu jiějie?
    (Who has older sisters?)

   B: 高文中有姐姐。
    Gāo Wénzhōng yǒu jiějie. 
    (Gao Wenzhong has an older sister.)

4. 有 (yǒu) in the Sense of “to Have” or “to Possess”

   yǒu (yǒu) is always negated with 没 (méi) instead of 不 (bù).

   EXAMPLES:

1 A: 王先生有弟弟吗？
    Wáng xiānshēng yǒu dìdì ma?
    (Does Mr. Wang have a younger brother?)
B: 王先生没有弟弟。
Wáng xiānshēng méiyǒu dìdì.
(Mr. Wang doesn’t have any younger brothers.)

2 A: 我有三个姐姐，你呢？
Wǒ yǒu sān ge jǐjiē, nǐ ne?
(I have three older sisters. How about you?)

B: 我没有姐姐。
Wǒ méiyǒu jǐjiē.
(I don’t have any older sisters.)

Language Practice

A. 谁 (shéi, who)

Look at the pictures, and work with a partner to find out who they are.

EXAMPLE:

A: 这个人/男孩子是谁？
Zhè ge rén/nán háizi shì shéi?

B: 这个人/男孩子是王朋。
Zhè ge rén/nán háizi shì Wáng Péng.

B. 有/没有 (yǒu/méiyǒu, have/do not have)

Ask and answer the following questions based on the text of Lesson 2 and your own situation.

EXAMPLE:

高大哥哥 女儿
Gāo dàgē nǚ'ér
A: 高大哥有女儿吗？
B: 没有，他没有女儿。

1. 高文中姐
2. 高大哥子
3. 你姐
4. 你弟
5. 你老师女儿

C. “Who is this?”
Exchange family pictures and ask about the other person's family members.

A: 这是谁？
B: 这是我__________。

D. Family Picture
Show your family picture to the class and describe the people in the picture.

这是我爸爸，
这是我妈妈，...

Zhè shì wǒ bābā,
zhè shì wǒ māmā, ...
白英爱，你家有几口人？

我家有六口人。我爸爸、我妈妈、一个哥哥、两个妹妹和我。李友，你家有几口人？

我家有五口人。爸爸、妈妈、大姐、二姐和我。你爸爸妈妈做什么工作？

**LANGUAGE NOTES**

1. In Chinese, 家 (jiā) can refer to one's family as well as one's home. So one can point to his or her family picture and say “我家有四口人” (Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén; There are four people in my family), and one can also point to his or her house and say “这是我家” (Zhè shì wǒ jiā; This is my home).

2. 口 (kǒu) is the idiomatic measure word in northern China for the number of family members. In the south, people say 个 (gè/ge) instead. 

See next page.
The numeral 一 (yī, one) is pronounced in the first tone (yī) when it stands alone or comes at the end of a phrase or sentence. Otherwise, its pronunciation changes according to the following rules:

(a) Before a fourth-tone syllable, it becomes second tone: 一个 (yī gè).
(b) Before a first-, second- or third-tone syllable, it is pronounced in the fourth tone, e.g., 一张 (yì zhāng, a sheet), 一盘 (yì pán, one plate), 一本 (yì běn, one volume).

Unlike 和 (hé) cannot link two clauses or two sentences: 我爸爸是老师，*和我妈妈是医生 (Wǒ bāba shì lǐshī, *hé wǒ māma shì yīshēng).

The pause mark, or series comma, 、 is often used to link two, three or even more parallel words or phrases, e.g., 爸爸、妈妈、两个妹妹和我 (bàba, māma, liǎng ge mèimei hé wǒ; dad, mom, two younger sisters and I). For further discussion of this punctuation mark, see Language Note 1 for Dialogue I in Lesson 4.

**VOCABULARY**

1. 家 jiā n family; home
2. 几 jǐ n multiple; how many; some; a few
3. 口 kǒu m (measure word for number of family members)
4. 哥哥 gēge n older brother
5. 两 liǎng nu two; a couple of [See Grammar 6.]

**Grammar Note:** The numeral 一 (yī, one) is pronounced in the first tone (yī) when it stands alone or comes at the end of a phrase or sentence. Otherwise, its pronunciation changes according to the following rules:

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| 6. | 妹妹 | mèimei  
n younger sister |
| 7. | 和 | hé  
conj and |
| 8. | 大姐 | dàjiě  
n eldest sister |
| 9. | 二姐 | èrjiě  
n second oldest sister |
| 10. | 做 | zuò  
v to do |
| 11. | 工作 | gōngzuò  
n/v job; to work |
| 12. | 律师 | lǜshī  
n lawyer |
| 13. | 英文 | Yīngwén  
n English (language) |
| 14. | 都 | dōu  
adv both; all [See Grammar 7.] |
| 15. | 大学生 | dàxuéshēng  
n college student |
| 16. | 医生 | yīshēng  
n doctor; physician |

**Proper Noun**

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| 17. | 白英爱 | Bái Yīng'ài  
(a personal name) |
Grammar

5. 有 (yǒu) in the Sense of “to Exist”

EXAMPLES:

1. 我家有五个人。
   Wǒ jiā yǒu wǔ ge rén.
   (There are five people in my family.)

2. 小高家有两个大学生。
   Xiǎo Gāo jiā yǒu liǎng ge dàxuéshēng.
   (There are two college students in Little Gao’s family.)

6. The Usage of 二 (èr) and 两 (liǎng)

二 (èr) and 两 (liǎng) both mean “two,” but they differ in usage. 两 (liǎng) is used in front of common measure words to express a quantity, e.g., 两个人 (liǎng ge rén, two persons). In counting, one uses 二 (èr): “一, 二, 三, 四…” (yī, èr, sān, sì; one, two, three, four...). In compound numerals, 二 (èr) is always used for the 2 on the last two digits, e.g., 二十二 (èrshí’èr, 22); 一百二十五 (yībǎi èrshí’wǔ, 125). But 二百二十二 (èrbǎi èrshí’èr, 222) can also be said as 两百二十二 (liǎngbǎi èrshí’èr, 222).

7. The Adverb 都 (dōu, both; all)

The word 都 (dōu) indicates inclusiveness. As it always occurs in front of a verb, it is classified as an adverb. However, because it refers to something that has been mentioned earlier in the sentence, or in a preceding sentence, it also has a pronoun-like flavor and it must be used at the end of an enumeration.
EXAMPLES:

1. 王朋、李友和高文中都是学生。
   Wang Péng, Lǐ Yǒu hé Gāo Wénzhōng dōu shì xuésheng.
   (Wang Peng, Li You, and Gao Wenzhong are all students.)
   (lit. Wang Peng, Li You, and Gao Wenzhong all are students.)
   [都 (dōu) refers back to Wang Peng, Li You and Gao Wenzhong and therefore appears after they are mentioned.]

2. 王朋和李友都不是律师。
   Wáng Péng hé Lǐ Yǒu dōu bú shì lǜshī.
   (Neither Wang Peng nor Li You is a lawyer.)

3. 王朋和白英爱都有妹妹。
   Wáng Péng hé Bái Yīng’ài dōu yǒu mèimei.
   (Both Wang Peng and Bai Ying’ai have younger sisters.)
   (lit. Wang Peng and Bai Ying’ai both have younger sisters.)

4. 高文中和李友都没有弟弟。
   Gāo Wénzhōng hé Lǐ Yǒu dōu méi yǒu dìdi.
   (Neither Gao Wenzhong nor Li You has any younger brothers.)

没 (méi) is always used to negate 有 (yǒu). However, to say “not all of ... have,” we say 不都有 (bù dōu yǒu) rather than 没都有 (méi dōu yǒu). Whether the negative precedes or follows the word 都 (dōu) makes the difference between partial negation and complete negation.

COMPARE:

a. 他们不都是中国人。（他们：tāmen, they）
   (Tāmen bù dōu shì Zhōngguó rén.) (Not all of them are Chinese.)

b. 他们都不是中国人。
   (Tāmen dōu bú shì Zhōngguó rén.) (None of them are Chinese.)

c. 他们不都有弟弟。
   (Tāmen bù dōu yǒu dìdi.) (Not all of them have younger brothers.)

d. 他们都没有弟弟。
   (Tāmen dōu méi yǒu dìdi.) (None of them have any younger brothers.)
Language Practice

E. 有 (yǒu, there is/there are)

Take out your family pictures, ask three of your classmates how many family members they have, and report back to the class.

Example:

A: 请问，你家有几口人？
A: Qǐng wèn, nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?

B: 我家有四口人。
B: Wǒ jiā yǒu sì kǒu rén.

Classmate 1 (Chris)

Classmate 2 (Anne)

Classmate 3 (Joe)

F. Question Pronouns 谁 (shéi, who), 几 (jǐ, how many), 什么 (shénme, what)

Based on the texts of Lessons 1 and 2, formulate a question or a response for each of the sentences below using the appropriate question pronoun.

Example:

A: 这是谁？
A: Zhè shì shéi?

B: 这是王朋。
B: Zhè shì Wáng Péng.

1. A: _______有儿子？
1. A: _______yǒu érzi?

B: 高文中的大哥有儿子。
B: Gāo Wénzhōng de dàgē yǒu érzi.
2. A: 李友家有______口人?
   B: 李友家有五口人。

3. A: 白英爱有______个妹妹?
   B: 白英爱有______两个妹妹。

4. A: 李友的爸爸做______工作?
   B: 李友的爸爸是医生。

5. A: 白英爱的妈妈做______工作?
   B: 白英爱的妈妈是英文老师。

G. Find out Who or What They Are

It’s almost Halloween. Your friends put on costumes and props, and you want to know who or what they are. Therefore, you ask them the following questions to find out:

你是______人吗？ or Nǐ shì______rén ma?
你做什么工作？ Nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò?

Here are their costumes and props:

1. 2. 3. 4. 5.
H. 都 (dōu, both; all)

Based on the information given, rephrase the sentences with 都.

EXAMPLE: 王朋是学生，
李友也是学生。
→ 王朋和李友
都 是学生。

1. 白英爱的妈妈是老师，
李友的妈妈也是老师。
→
2. 李友有姐姐，
高文中也有姐姐。

3. 王朋不是纽约人，
高文中也不是纽约人。

4. 王朋没有哥哥，
李友也没有哥哥。
I. 都 (dōu, all; both) with 不 (bù, not) or 没有 (méiyǒu, not have)

The following chart is about Wang Peng, Li You, Gao Wenzhong, and Bai Ying'ai. It indicates what they do or do not do, and what they have and don’t have. Based on the information given, make statements about them using 都 (dōu, all; both) with 不 (bù, not) or 没有 (méiyǒu, not have) appropriately. Note, “✓” means “yes”, and “✗” means “no”. (他们: tāmen, they)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>学生</th>
<th>律师</th>
<th>弟弟</th>
<th>照片</th>
<th>姐姐</th>
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<tr>
<td>xuéshēng</td>
<td>lǜshī</td>
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</tbody>
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J. Pair activity

Ask about your partner’s family:

A: 你家有几口人？

B: 我家有_____口人。

A: 你爸爸/妈妈/哥哥/姐姐/弟弟/妹妹做什么工作？

B: ··· ○
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Switch roles.

Report your findings to the class:

Jennifer 家有______口人。
她爸爸/妈妈/哥哥/
姐姐/弟弟/妹妹是...

WHAT DOES EVERYONE IN YOUR FAMILY DO?

What does everyone in your family do?

E.g. 我爸爸是老师。 Wǒ bāba shì lǎoshī.

What do your family members do? Are they:

1. 商人 shāngrén merchant; businessperson
2. 军人 jūnrén soldier; military officer
3. 教授 jiàoshòu professor
4. 经理 jīnglǐ manager
5. 工人 gōngrén worker
6. 工程师 gōngchéngshī engineer
7. 农民 nónɡmín farmer; peasant
8. 护士 hùshī nurse

If the professions of your family members are not listed above, please ask your teacher and make a note here:

我爸爸/妈妈/哥哥/姐姐/弟弟/妹妹是__________。

Wǒ bāba/māma/gēge/jiējie/dìdì/mèimei shì_________.

HOW ABOUT YOU?

Jennifer 家有______口人。
她爸爸/妈妈/哥哥/
姐姐/弟弟/妹妹是…

Tā bàba/māma/gēge/
jiējie/dìdì/mèimei shì…
In pairing up kinship terms, the Chinese customarily say the term for the male before that for the female: 爸爸妈妈 (bàba māma, dad and mom), 哥哥姐姐 (gēge jiějie, older brothers and sisters), and 弟弟妹妹 (dìdì mèimei, younger brothers and sisters). People seldom say 妈妈爸爸 (māma bàba, mom and dad), 姐姐哥哥 (jiějie gēge, older sisters and brothers), 妹妹弟弟 (mèimei dìdì, younger sisters and brothers). In pairing up kinship terms for the same gender, the one with seniority is mentioned first: 哥哥弟弟 (gēge dìdì, older and younger brothers), 姐姐妹妹 (jiějie mèimei, older and younger sisters). People seldom say 弟弟哥哥 (dìdì gēge, younger and older brothers) or 妹妹姐姐 (mèimei jiějie, younger and older sisters).

Siblings are 兄弟姐妹 (xiōng dì jiě mèi). 你有兄弟姐妹吗? (Nǐ yǒu xiōng dì jiě mèi ma?) is the way to ask, “Do you have any siblings?” Eldest siblings are called 大哥 (dàgē, eldest brother) and 大姐 (dàjiě, eldest sister); the youngest are 小弟 (xiǎoidí, youngest brother) and 小妹 (xiǎomei, youngest sister). The rest are ranked according to their birth order using numerals, e.g., 二姐 (èrjiě, second eldest sister), 三弟 (sāndì, third oldest younger brother). Younger siblings generally do not refer to their elder brothers and sisters by their names but use the appropriate kinship terms instead.

一家八口人
yī jiā bā kǒu rén
On both sides of the Taiwan Strait, the school system is similar to that in the United States. A typical course of education consists of six years of elementary school (小学 xiàoxué), six years of middle school (中学 zhōngxué), and four years of university (大学 dàxué) or college (学院 xuéyuàn). Middle school is further divided into three years of junior high (初中 chūzhōng) and three years of senior high (高中 gāozhōng). Many children also attend kindergarten before they enter elementary school. Now that you have learned that a college student is called 大学生 (dàxuéshēng) in Chinese, can you guess the words for elementary school students, junior high school students, and senior high school students?

Can you figure out if this is the main gate of an elementary school, a middle school, or a university?
Pronunciation Exercises

1. **Initials:**
   1. zhè  chè  shè  rè
   2. zhāo  chāo  shāo  rāo
   3. zhēn  chēn  shēn  rèn
   4. zhāng  chāng  shāng  rāng

2. **The final “e”:**
   1. gē  dé  zhè  hé
   2. kē  tē  chē  shé
   3. zé  cē  sē  rè

3. **Compound Finals:**
   1. dōu  duō  tōu  tuó
   2. duǐ  diǔ  shuǐ  xué
   3. shùn  xùn  jiǔ  zhuǐ
   4. lūe  nüè  juè  què

4. **Tones:**
   1. chénggōng
   2. chángcháng
   3. rénkǒu
   4. xuéxiào
   5. Chángjiāng
   6. Chángchéng
   7. míngxiān
   8. chídào

5. **The neutral tone:**
   1. māma
   2. didi
   3. jiējie
   4. mèimei
   5. bàba
   6. gēge
   7. jī ge
   8. zhè ge
Lesson 2 • Family

English Text

Dialogue I
(Wang Peng is in Gao Wenzhong’s room and points to a picture on the wall.)

Wang Peng: Gao Wenzhong, is that picture yours?

(They both walk toward the picture and then stand in front of it.)

Gao Wenzhong: Yes. This is my dad. This is my mom.

Wang Peng: Who is this girl?

Gao Wenzhong: She is my older sister.

Wang Peng: Is this boy your younger brother?

Gao Wenzhong: No, he is my oldest brother’s son.

Wang Peng: Does your oldest brother have any daughters?

Gao Wenzhong: He doesn’t have any daughters.

Dialogue II

Li You: Bai Ying’ai, how many people are there in your family?

Bai Ying’ai: There are six people in my family: my dad, my mom, an older brother, two younger sisters and me. Li You, how many people are there in your family?

Li You: There are five people in my family: my dad, my mom, my oldest sister, my second oldest sister, and me. What do your dad and mom do?

Bai Ying’ai: My dad is a lawyer. My mom is an English teacher. My older brother and younger sisters are all college students.

Li You: My mom is also a teacher. My older sister and my mom are both teachers.

PROGRESS CHECKLIST

Before proceeding to Lesson 3, be sure that you can complete the following tasks in Chinese:

I am able to:

✓ Say and write the kinship terms for my family members;
✓ Identify different family members in a family photo;
✓ Ask someone how many family members he or she has;
✓ Ask someone if he or she has any siblings;
✓ Mention my family members’ professions and my own;
✓ Ask someone what he or she does as a profession;
✓ Say and write some common professions.

Please review the lesson if any of these tasks seem difficult.