

Subject + Adj. + ma?

OR

Subject + Adj. + bù + Adj.?

Also, just like asking a verb question, adjectives with two morphemes you may ask a question using “ma” or like so:

Subject + M₁M₂ + bù + M₁M₂?

OR

Subject + M₁ + bù + M₁M₂?



Word Workshop

– The place you come to learn new words and phrases

3

(Go to  3-3 to hear:)

Adjectives

大
dà
(big)



小
xiǎo
(small)



中国很大。

Example: Zhōngguó hěn dà.
(China is big.)

高
gāo
(tall / high)



矮
ǎi
(short)



他很高。

Example: Tā hěn gāo.
(He is tall.)

美/漂亮
měi / piàoliang
(beautiful)



丑
chǒu
(ugly)



她很漂亮。

Example: Tā hěn piàoliang.
(She is beautiful.)

好看
hǎokàn
(good-looking)
(LIT: good, look)



难看
nánkàn
(unattractive)
(LIT: difficult, look)



他很好看。

Example: Tā hěn hǎokàn.
(He is good-looking.)

快乐
kuàilè
(happy)
(LIT: quick, happy)



难过
nánguò
(sad)
(LIT: difficult, pass)



我不难过。
Example: Wǒ bù nánguò.
(I am not sad.)

胖
pàng
(fat)



瘦
shòu
(thin)



你不胖。
Example: Nǐ bú pàng.
(You are not fat.)

难
nán
(difficult)



容易
róngyì
(easy)



中文不难。
Example: Zhōngwén bù nán.
(Chinese is not difficult.)

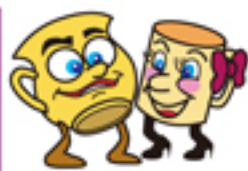
聪明
cōngmíng
(intelligent)



笨
bèn
(stupid)



你很聪明。
Example: Nǐ hěn cōngmíng.
(You are very intelligent.)



Chit-Chat Café

– The place you come to practice speaking

Module 3.1 - (3-4) / English translation on Page 54

Picture this: “Jack” is talking to his Chinese friend “Yuanyuan” about Kate Winslet.
For the sake of simplicity we will keep Kate Winslet’s name in English.

Yuanyuan: Kate Winslet shì
Měiguórén ma?

Yuanyuan: Kate Winslet是美国
人吗?

Jack: Bú shì.
Tā shì Yīngguórén.

Jack: 不是。她是英国
人。

Yuanyuan: Nǐ xǐhuan tā ma?

Yuanyuan: 你喜欢她吗?

Module 5.3 - (🌐 5-9) / English translation on **Page 99**

Picture this: “John” is studying Chinese in Shanghai; he is speaking with a new friend of his “Lian.”

Lian: Zhōngwén nán xué ma?	Lian: 中文难学吗?
John: Zhōngwén nán xué, kěshì wǒ xǐhuan xué. Zhōngwén hěn yǒu yìsi.	John: 中文难学, 可是我喜欢学。中文很有意思。
Lian: Nǐ bàba māma huì bú huì shuō Zhōngwén?	Lian: 你爸爸妈妈会不会说中文?
John: Tāmen bú huì.	John: 他们不会。
Lian: Nǐ yǒu xiōng-dì-jiě-mèi ma?	Lian: 你有兄弟姐妹吗?
John: Yǒu. Wǒ yǒu yí ge gēge, hái yǒu yí ge mèimei.	John: 有。我有一个哥哥, 还有一个妹妹。
Lian: Nǐ jiārén zhù zài nǎr?	Lian: 你家人住在哪儿?
John: Wǒ bàba, māma zhù zài Niǔyuē, wǒ gēge, mèimei zhù zài Zhījiāgē.	John: 我爸爸、妈妈住在纽约, 我哥哥、妹妹住在芝加哥。
Lian: Zhījiāgē hǎo bù hǎo?	Lian: 芝加哥好不好?
John: Zhījiāgē hěn hǎo, hěn yǒu yìsi. Nǐ jiārén zài nǎr?	John: 芝加哥很好, 很有意思。你家人在哪儿?
Lian: Wǒ jiārén dōu zài Shànghǎi.	Lian: 我家人都在上海。
John: Nǐ xǐhuan zhù zài Shànghǎi ma?	John: 你喜欢住在上海吗?
Lian: Wǒ xǐhuan, kěshì wǒ yào qù Měiguó xué Yīngwén.	Lian: 我喜欢, 可是我要去美国学英文。
John: Nǐ yào qù Měiguó nǎr xué?	John: 你要去美国哪儿学?
Lian: Wǒ yào qù Luòshānjī. Kěshì wǒ nǚpéngyou bú yào	Lian: 我要去洛杉矶。可是我女朋友不要去那儿。

<p>qù nàr. Tā shuō Luòshānjī bù hǎo. Tā shuō Jiùjīnshān bǐ Luòshānjī hǎo.</p>	<p>她说洛杉矶不好。她说 旧金山比洛杉矶好。</p>
<p>John: Jiùjīnshān hěn piàoliang, kěshì Jiùjīnshān bǐ Luòshānjī xiǎo. Luòshānjī bǐ Jiùjīnshān yǒu yìsì.</p>	<p>John: 旧金山很漂亮,可是旧 金山比洛杉矶小。洛杉 矶比旧金山有意思。</p>

Chit-Chat Practice 5.3

In-class: Separate students into pairs and have them ask and answer the below questions in Chinese. The questions are written in English as prompts and the students may refer to the prompts while they practice. However, they should ask and answer all questions in Chinese.

Self-study and outside class homework: Take the below questions and write out the question and answer in Chinese to each question as it pertains to you.

Note: This is to practice language. You do not have to give real answers in class about your age and whether you have a boyfriend / girlfriend or not. Although these questions may be asked of you in Chinese in real life, in the classroom you may answer with real or made-up answers.

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you live?
3. Where are you from?
4. Where are your parents from?
5. How old are you?
6. How old are your parents?
7. How many people are in your family?
8. How many brothers and sisters do you have?
9. What are their names?
10. How old are they?
11. Where do they live?
12. Do you have a boyfriend / girlfriend?

LESSON 6



Pronunciation Plaza

– The place you come to practice sounds and tones

(Go to  6-1 to hear:)

Chinese Tongue Twister

Now that you know your numbers, let's try a Chinese tongue twister involving numbers to help you practice sounds and tones. You know all the words in this tongue twister. So, let's see if you can understand the meaning before looking at the translation below:

<p>Sì shì sì, shí shì shí Shísì shì shísì, sìshí shì sìshí Shísì bú shì sìshí, sìshí bú shì shísì Sìshísì shì sìshísì Shì bú shì, lǎoshī?</p>	<p>四是四，十是十 十四是十四，四十是四十 十四不是四十，四十不是十四 四十四是四十四 是不是，老师？</p>
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Translation:

Four is four, ten is ten

Fourteen is fourteen, forty is forty

Fourteen is not forty, forty is not fourteen

Forty four is forty four

Right, teacher?

Tone Exception - (6-2)

This is the last important tone exception you should be aware of. The number one (yī) changes tone depending on the words following it. Here are the tone exception rules:

1: “Yī” becomes a 4th tone when followed by a character (morpheme) that is a 1st, 2nd or 3rd tone.

Examples:

yì bēi (one glass)	yì tiān (one day)	yì biān (one side)
yì píng (one bottle)	yìshí (temporary)	yì nián (one year)
yì wǎn (one bowl)	yìbǎi (one hundred)	yìdiǎnr (a little bit)

2: “Yī” becomes a second tone when followed by a character that is a 4th tone.

Examples:

yídìng (definitely)	yí jiàn (a piece [of clothing])	yí duì (a pair of)
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Note: “Yī” (for the word meaning “one” only) always changes tone, unless it is said alone or is followed by a neutral tone.

Pinyin Practice

Below is a chart covering the pronunciation focus for this lesson, with the initials highlighted in and the finals highlighted in :

	o			e			
	o	ong	ou	e	ei	en	eng
b	bo				bei	ben	beng
p	po		pou		pei	pen	peng
m	mo		mou		mei	men	meng
f	fo		fou		fei	fen	feng
d		dong	dou	de	dei	den	deng
t		tong	tou	te	tei		teng
n		nong	nou	ne	nei	nen	neng
l		long	lou	le	lei		leng

Do not bring anything that would be served that evening. It may be construed as saying you think your host is unable to provide the whole meal:

- NO food to be served with dinner, such as a side dish
- NO dessert of any kind to be consumed that night
- NO clocks* (on the unlikely chance you may do this) it is considered to
- wish death upon the person you give it to

* *The word for clock in Chinese sounds just like “the end.”*

Note: If you bring a present that is wrapped, do not expect your host to open it right there. Usually the gift receiver will open it after you have left.



Advice Alcove

– *The place you come to learn how to learn*

The Successful Language Learner

Learning languages is more comparable to learning to play a musical instrument than perhaps other academic pursuits. There is the knowledge of music theory, or the ability to read music, and then there is the ability to physically produce the music. Likewise, there can be the knowledge of how Mandarin works and then the actual ability to produce and understand the language. Like learning a musical instrument, you will not become a virtuoso overnight. You need to take lessons, study, and practice as much as you can. Think of an unscripted conversation with a native speaker as similar to an improvised musical jam session. To do that well you will need many hours of study and practice time behind you. So, who then successfully achieves this?

It is the disciplined and steady learner who keeps moving forward and does not stop. Like going to the gym several times a week to stay in shape. To learn a foreign language well, you must show up for class (or do lessons of some kind whether they are live or online); you must study and do your exercises; you must find opportunities to use the language; and, finally, you must continue to do the same thing to maintain that which you have gained. “Languages are a ‘thankless mistress’” is something I have said before. Mandarin is not going to thank you for achieving an intermediate level, or any level, you need to stick around or she will simply disappear. To keep the skills you gain, just like physical exercise, you have to keep practicing to keep in shape.

Here is what I see as the phases to learning. At first the student is excited and ready to go, but then there are the later phases where discipline is required to really see your studies through to fluency:

The dating phase – You’ve just met Mandarin and she is wonderful and fascinating. You show up for all your dates, you think about her all the time, and you are always ready to curl up with a book about her and study. You are saying words you never thought you would and you are on the happy course to learning Mandarin.

The commitment phase – You’ve now spent quite a bit of time with Mandarin and she seems to be requiring more and more of your time in order to get somewhere. She now wants a commitment which means sometimes you can’t go out partying with the boys or Sunday night you’ll need to stay at home studying her to keep her happy.

The engagement phase – You’ve done all the hard work to develop a solid knowledge of Mandarin but in order to get to the next phase of true, intimate knowledge of the language, you’ll need to make further commitment. This means truly welcoming her into your life. You’re now living with Mandarin.

The marital phase – You now know Mandarin extremely well and have done all the hard work to keep her. Nothing can rock your knowledge, but you do need to maintain what you’ve got and keep it from slipping away. No need for daily dates of wining and dining, just weekly attention to make sure she remembers you (and you her).



Grammar Grove

– The place you come to learn about structure

It's time to revisit a concept we introduced in an earlier lesson: measure words. You have learned the most popular one: “ge (个).” You'll remember that measure words are used much like we use classifiers in English, such as “a loaf of bread,” “a can of soda” or “a glass of milk.” Let's look at a few new ones as they relate to words introduced in this lesson:

盘

pán

(a dish, measure word for dishes of food)

一盘菜

yì pán cài

(a dish of food)

杯

bēi

(a glass, cup, measure word for beverages [those served in glasses or cups])

两杯茶

liǎng bēi chá

(two cups of tea)

瓶

píng

(a bottle, measure word for beverages [served in bottles])

三瓶啤酒

sān píng pǐjiǔ

(three bottles of beer)

碗

wǎn

(a bowl, measure word for things served in a bowl)

两碗饭

liǎng wǎn fàn

(two bowls of rice)

位

wèi

(polite measure word for people)

五位老师

wǔ wèi lǎoshī

(five teachers)

条

tiáo

(measure word for long thin things [e.g. rivers, snakes, roads, fish])

一条鱼

yì tiáo yú

(a fish, one fish)



Culture Corner

– The place you come to learn more than just language

Colors and their Cultural Meaning in China

There are a few colors with strong associations in Chinese culture, and here some you should be aware of:



White

The color white is associated with death and mourning. People generally dress in white for funerals. White does not connote “purity” or “cleanliness” as it does in the West.



Red

Red is considered a joyful and lucky color. It is the color associated with weddings. Traditionally the bride wears a red gown and the groom red pants. The reception room is usually decorated in red with red linens, lanterns and other red objects. It is the color of the envelope for lucky money given at Chinese New Year and given to the bride and groom at weddings.



Yellow

Purple is to traditional Western royalty as yellow is to imperial China. In ancient China the emperor was the only person allowed to wear yellow or to decorate his dwelling (the palace, as it were) in yellow. Now, yellow can be worn by all, but it still holds an imperial association. Yellow is also generally associated with money (gold) and is paired with red for extra good luck (as you will see on lucky money envelopes).