

Chinese for Beginners

Practical Learning with SynapseLingo

Tobias Hartmann

January 2, 2026

Copyright

© 2026 Innov-AI-tive GmbH. All rights reserved.

Author: Tobias Hartmann

Contributor: Synapse Lingo AI Tools (human-supervised)

ISBN Print: 978-3-69263-169-1

ISBN eBook: 978-3-69263-168-4

ISBN Audiobook: 978-3-69263-170-7

This book is for informational purposes only and does not replace professional advice.

AI Development Notice: This e-book was developed with AI-assisted tools and subsequently editorially reviewed to ensure the highest learning quality.

Additional Training Materials

Enhance your learning experience with our interactive on-line training materials and audio resources.

Access your interactive language trainer:

http://app.synapse-lingo.de/language-trainer/en_zh/index.html



Scan the QR code or click the link to go directly to your interactive trainer.

This interactive trainer includes:

- Full audio version of this book
- Audio pronunciation guides
- Interactive exercises
- Additional vocabulary practice
- Progress tracking

Simply click the link or enter the URL in your web browser to access these supplementary materials.

Contents

Additional Training Materials	3
1 Lesson 1: Learn English → Chinese: have = 有 (yǒu)	8
2 Lesson 2: To Be in Chinese: 是 (shì) Essentials	12
3 Lesson 3: Go in Chinese: go = 去 (qù) – Real-Life Forms	17
4 Lesson 4: Can in Chinese: 能 (néng) – You can say it!	22
5 Lesson 5: Make in Chinese: 做 (zuò) Made Easy	28
6 Lesson 6: I had = 我有过 (wǒ yǒu guò): Learn Chinese 'Had' Forms	33
7 Lesson 7: Chinese Past 'to be' : I was 我曾是 (wǒ céng shì), you were 你是 (nǐ shì)	39
8 Lesson 8: English – Chinese: I went 我去了 (wǒ qù le) – Master “go” fast	44
9 Lesson 9: English – Chinese: I made 我做了 (wǒ zuò le), make 做 (zuò)	48

10 Lesson 10: Learn Chinese ‘will have’ : I will have – 我将会有 (wǒ jiāng huì yǒu)	53
11 Lesson 11: English – Chinese: Will Be = 会是 (huì shì)	59
12 Lesson 12: I will go – 我会去 (wǒ huì qù): Speak Chinese Future Fast	64
13 Lesson 13: Chinese Future Made Easy: I will do – 我会做 (wǒ huì zuò)	69
14 Lesson 14: Survival Chinese: Is there ...? 有……吗? (yǒu ... ma?) + How much does ... cost? ... 多少钱? (... duō shǎo qián?)	74
15 Lesson 15: Is there ...? in Chinese: 有... 吗? (yǒu ... ma?) English – Chinese Travel	80
16 Lesson 16: May I ...? in Chinese: 我可以……吗? (wǒ kěyǐ ... ma?)	85
17 Lesson 17: English to Chinese: “I need ...” = 我需要... (wǒ xūyào ...)	90
18 Lesson 18: English – Chinese: “Where is ...?” = ... 在哪里? (... zài nǎlǐ?)	94
19 Lesson 19: What is ...? in Chinese: 什么是...? (shénme shì ...?)	99
20 Lesson 20: English – Chinese Shopping Phrase: How much is ...? 多少钱? (duō shǎo qián?)	103
21 Lesson 21: English – Chinese: I would like ... = 我想要...(wǒ xiǎng yào...)	108

22 Lesson 22: Can you ... ? in Chinese: Master 你能……吗? (nǐ néng ... ma?)	113
23 Lesson 23: Can you ... ? in Chinese: 您能……吗? (nín néngma?)	118
About the Author	123
Stay in Touch	124

Lesson 1: Learn English → Chinese: have = 有 (yǒu)

Brought to you by SynapseLingo, this fun English – Chinese Mandarin lesson helps you master the verb “have” and the meaning of 有 (yǒu). We practice everyday phrases like 我有 (wǒ yǒu), 你有 (nǐ yǒu), 他有 (tā yǒu), 她有 (tā yǒu), 它有 (tā yǒu), 我们有 (wǒmen yǒu), 你们有 (nǐmen yǒu), and 他们有 (tāmen yǒu). Through dialogues, drills, and a quick quiz, you’ ll learn how to say “I have,” “you have,” and more in natural contexts. Visit www.synapse-lingo.com for more resources and Chinese learning tips.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey du, ready to have some fun with Mandarin? This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo – grab more goodies at www.synapse-lingo.com.

Today your mission is simple: connect English “have” to Chinese 有 (yǒu) and use it confidently with every person. Let’ s make grammar feel like a snack – crunchy, sweet, and gone before you know it.

Your goal today

Say these out loud with me – short, sharp, confident.

-
- have = 有 (yǒu)
 - I have = 我有 (wǒ yǒu)
 - you have (sing.) = 你有 (nǐ yǒu)
 - he has = 他有 (tā yǒu)
 - she has = 她有 (tā yǒu)
 - it has = 它有 (tā yǒu)
 - we have = 我们有 (wǒmen yǒu)
 - you have (pl.) = 你们有 (nǐmen yǒu)
 - they have = 他们有 (tāmen yǒu)

Mini-dialog: Tickets, snacks, and secret pockets

Listen, smile, and repeat after each line.

- A: Do you (plural) have the tickets? → 你们有票吗? (Nǐmen yǒu piào ma?)
- B: Yes, we have three tickets. → 我们有三张票。(Wǒmen yǒu sān zhāng piào.)
- A: Great, I have snacks. → 我有零食。(Wǒ yǒu língshí.)
- A (points to the backpack): It has a secret pocket! → 它有一个秘密口袋! (Tā yǒu yí gè mìmì kǒudài!)
- C: He has the map. → 他有地图。(Tā yǒu dìtú.) She has water. → 她有水。(Tā yǒu shuǐ.)

- A (to one friend): You (sing.) have the key. → 你有钥匙。(Nǐ yǒu yàoshi.)
- All: They have umbrellas – no one gets wet! → 他们有雨伞! (Tāmen yǒu yǔsǎn!)

Speed drills: You speak, I cheer

Say it in Chinese; I' ll reveal the answer after a beat.

- Say: I have a cat. Answer → 我有一只猫。(Wǒ yǒu yì zhī māo.)
- Say: Do you (sing.) have time? Answer → 你有时间吗? (Nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma?)
- Say: We have three tickets. Answer → 我们有三张票。(Wǒmen yǒu sān zhāng piào.)
- Say: It has two doors. Answer → 它有两扇门。(Tā yǒu liǎng shàn mén.)
- Say: You (plural) have water. Answer → 你们有水。(Nǐmen yǒu shuǐ.)
- Say: They have many questions. Answer → 他们有很多问题。(Tāmen yǒu hěn duō wèntí.)

Culture tip: 有 (yǒu) beyond possession

Quick superpower upgrade for your Mandarin.

Chinese 有 (yǒu) also marks existence, like “there is/are.” Example: “There is water here” → 这里有水。(Zhèlǐ yǒu shuǐ.) The negative is 没有 (méiyǒu): “I don’ t have money” → 我没有钱。(Wǒ méiyǒu qián.) Handy, right?

Quiz time

Answer out loud; I' ll wait. No pressure – only points and glory.

- 1) Chinese for “have” ? → 有 (yǒu)
- 2) Say “She has a good idea.” → 她有一个好主意。(Tā yǒu yí gè hǎo zhǔyì.)
- 3) Turn into a question: “你有票。” → 你有票吗? (Nǐ yǒu piào ma?)
- 4) Fix this English-logic mistake: “他是车。” What should it be? → Use 有: 他有车。(Tā yǒu chē.)

Challenge and outro

Can you chain all forms in one breath? Let' s try!

- Example chain: 我有水，你有零食，他有地图，她有计划，它有一个秘密口袋，我们有票，你们有精力，他们有雨伞。(Wǒ yǒu shuǐ, nǐ yǒu língshí, tā yǒu dìtú, tā yǒu jìhuà, tā yǒu yí gè mìmi kǒudài, wǒmen yǒu piào, nǐmen yǒu jīnglì, tāmen yǒu yǔsǎn.)
- Nice work! This episode was brought to you by SynapseLingo – thanks for listening. Keep practicing a little every day, and when in doubt, remember English “have” = Chinese 有 (yǒu). For more lessons, exercises, and freebies, visit www.synapse-lingo.com. See you next time!

Lesson 2: To Be in Chinese: 是 (shì) Essentials

Master English-to-Chinese 'to be' with the Mandarin copula 是 (shì). Practice I am 我是 (wǒ shì), you are 你是 (nǐ shì), he is 他是 (tā shì), she is 她是 (tā shì), it is 它是 (tā shì), we are 我们是 (wǒmen shì), you (plural) are 你们是 (nǐmen shì), they are 他们是 (tāmen shì). This fun, beginner-friendly episode blends English and Chinese with dialogues, drills, and a quick quiz to build confidence fast. Perfect for learners searching 'learn Mandarin Chinese', 'English Chinese to be', and HSK basics.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Great to have you here – let us make Mandarin click with a smile.

This podcast is brought to you by SynapseLingo. For more resources, study sheets, and games, visit www.synapse-lingo.com. Today your mission is simple: nail the Chinese 'to be' – 是 (shì) – in all the most useful forms.

Your goal today

By the end, you will introduce yourself and others like a pro.

-
- to be = 是 (shì)
 - I am = 我是 (wǒ shì)
 - you are (sing.) = 你是 (nǐ shì)
 - he is = 他是 (tā shì)
 - she is = 她是 (tā shì)
 - it is = 它是 (tā shì)
 - we are = 我们是 (wǒmen shì)
 - you are (plural) = 你们是 (nǐmen shì)
 - they are = 他们是 (tāmen shì)

Beat the forms

Clap the rhythm and echo me – short, punchy, and fun.

- I am 我是 (wǒ shì). You are 你是 (nǐ shì).
- He is 他是 (tā shì). She is 她是 (tā shì).
- It is 它是 (tā shì). We are 我们是 (wǒmen shì).
- You (plural) are 你们是 (nǐmen shì). They are 他们是 (tāmen shì).
- to be = 是 (shì) – the identity link. Nice!

Mini comedy: The Name Tag Mix-up

Listen in, smile, and repeat the key lines after the pauses.

- A: Welcome! I am 我是 (wǒ shì) Jamie.

- B: Nice! You are 你是 (nǐ shì) the host? A: Yup – 我是 (wǒ shì) the host.
- A: He is 他是 (tā shì) the DJ; she is 她是 (tā shì) the manager.
- B: And this playlist? A: It is 它是 (tā shì) pure fire.
- Crowd: We are 我们是 (wǒmen shì) ready! You guys are 你们是 (nǐmen shì) amazing! They are 他们是 (tāmen shì) the judges – act cool!
- Announcer: To be sure...yes – 是 (shì) the party!

Quick ID drill

Say it in Chinese, then check the answer after the pause.

- I am a student. Answer: 我是学生。(wǒ shì xuéshēng.)
- You are my friend. Answer: 你是我的朋友。(nǐ shì wǒ de péngyou.)
- He is the driver. Answer: 他是司机。(tā shì sījī.)
- It is a book. Answer: 它是一本书。(tā shì yì běn shū.)
- We are friends. Answer: 我们是朋友。(wǒmen shì péngyou.)
- You (plural) are champions! Answer: 你们是冠军! (nǐmen shì guànjūn!)
- They are teachers. Answer: 他们是老师。(tāmen shì lǎoshī.)

Culture tip: when not to use 是 (shì)

Here is a power tip that saves you from classic mistakes.

In Chinese, skip 是 (shì) before adjectives: say 他很高 (tā hěn gāo) for 'he is tall', not 他是高 (tā shì gāo). For location, use 在 (zài): 'we are at home' is 我们在家 (wǒmen zài jiā). Use 是 (shì) mainly for identity: A = B, like 这是我的书 (zhè shì wǒ de shū). Nailed it!

Pop quiz

Answer out loud; then I reveal the solution.

- Fill the blank: ' - - - 老师' = she is a teacher. Answer: 她是 (tā shì) 老师.
- Translate: We are a team. Answer: 我们是一个团队。(wǒmen shì yí gè tuánduì.)
- What is the Chinese copula for 'to be' (identity)? Answer: 是 (shì).
- Translate: They are right. Answer: 他们是对的。(tāmen shì duì de.)

10-second challenge

Deep breath, you got this.

Say all nine forms in one go! Model: 是 (shì), 我是 (wǒ shì), 你是 (nǐ shì), 他是 (tā shì), 她是 (tā shì), 它是 (tā shì), 我们是 (wǒmen shì), 你们是 (nǐmen shì), 他们是 (tāmen shì). Now your turn – repeat it faster with a smile!

Thanks from SynapseLingo

You did fantastic today – high five!

Thanks for listening! Keep practicing 是 (shì) with 我是 (wǒ shì), 你是 (nǐ shì), 我们是 (wǒmen shì), and friends every day. For more lessons, games, and transcripts, visit www.synapse-lingo.com. Brought to you by SynapseLingo – see you next time!

Lesson 3: Go in Chinese: go = 去 (qù) – Real-Life Forms

Learn how to say 'go' in Mandarin with clear Pinyin and practical examples. This mini-lesson covers everyday forms like 去 (qù), 你去 (nǐ qù), 他走/她走 (tā zǒu), 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu), 你们去 (nǐmen qù), 他们去 (tāmen qù), and the mood word 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ). You'll get quick tips on when to use 去 vs 走, plus short drills and a playful dialogue to build confidence.

Welcome to SynapseLingo

Hey explorer, this show is brought to you by SynapseLingo – your smart path to languages. Visit www.synapse-lingo.com for extra drills and downloads.

Today you and I will master the English verb "go" in Chinese: 去 (qù), plus everyday forms like 你去 (nǐ qù), 他走 (tā zǒu), 她走 (tā zǒu), 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu), 你们去 (nǐmen qù), 他们去 (tāmen qù) – and even the mood word "so-so" : 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ).

Your goal today

You'll speak fast and natural – no textbook robot here.

By the end, you can point, step, and say 去 (qù) in real

mini-scenes, and you’ ll know when to use 走 (zǒu) vs 去 (qù).

Forms you’ ll use

Repeat after me and smile – yes, smiling boosts memory!

- Base: go → 去 (qù).
- I go: 我去 (wǒ qù). You go: 你去 (nǐ qù).
- He goes: 他走 (tā zǒu). She goes: 她走 (tā zǒu).
- We go / we’ re leaving: 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu).
- You (plural) go: 你们去 (nǐmen qù). They go: 他们去 (tāmen qù).
- Feeling meh? Say “so-so”: 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ).

Tiny comedy dialogue

Listen, then echo the Chinese parts out loud.

- A: Ready? We go now – 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu)!
- B: Wait, where do they go? – 他们去 (tāmen qù) the cafe?
- A: Yup, and you (plural) go grab seats – 你们去 (nǐmen qù) 窗边 (chuāngbiān) (by the window).
- C: He goes like a ninja – 他走 (tā zǒu) so quietly.
- D: She goes – 她走 (tā zǒu) – but leaves snacks. Hero!

-
- All: How' s the coffee? So-so – 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ).
 - Guide: You (singular), you go pay – 你去 (nǐ qù); we follow.

Call-and-response drill

You speak first, I' ll confirm – own the rhythm.

- Say go: 去 (qù).
- Say you go: 你去 (nǐ qù).
- Say he goes: 他走 (tā zǒu).
- Say she goes: 她走 (tā zǒu).
- Say we go: 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu).
- Say you (plural) go: 你们去 (nǐmen qù).
- Say they go: 他们去 (tāmen qù).
- Rate the snack: 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ).

Culture tip: go vs go

Tiny but mighty distinction incoming.

Use 去 (qù) to go to a place: “We go to the park” → 我们去公园 (wǒmen qù gōngyuán). Use 走 (zǒu) to leave or to go on foot: “Time to go” → 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu). A friendly “Let' s go!” is 走吧 (zǒu ba). On signs you may see 去往 (qùwǎng) meaning “to (destination)” .

Speed quiz

Quick-fire – answer before I reveal it!

- Q1: English to Chinese: they go. A: 他们去 (tāmen qù).
- Q2: What' s “so-so” in Chinese? A: 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ).
- Q3: Fill the blank: You (plural) go to class → 你们去 (nǐmen qù) 上课 (shàngkè).
- Q4: Say “we go” in Chinese. A: 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu).

Movement challenge

Stand up – your body remembers words.

- Step forward and point: say 去 (qù).
- Wave a group ahead: say 你们去 (nǐmen qù).
- Clap and start walking: say 我们走 (wǒmen zǒu).
- Mutter like a spy leaving: 他走 (tā zǒu)…她走 (tā zǒu) ...
- Rate your form with a grin: 马马虎虎 (mǎmǎ hǔhǔ)?
Then try again!

Wrap-up

Nice work – you moved minds and feet today.

Thanks for learning with SynapseLingo! Keep practicing 去 (qù), 你去 (nǐ qù), 他走 (tā zǒu), 她走 (tā zǒu), 我们