

## Lesson 4

### 问年龄

# Asking Someone's Age

#### Intro

Dàjiā hǎo, wǒ shì Tiāntiān Hànyǔ de Chén lǎoshī.

大家好，我是天天汉语的陈老师。

Hello everyone. I'm Teacher Chen from Everyday Chinese.

Jīntiān shì rìcháng Hànyǔ de dì sì kè.

今天是日常汉语的第四课。

Today is our spoken Chinese Lesson 4.

Shàng jié kè, wǒmen xuéle zěnmē wèn biérén de diànhuà.nǐ hái jìde zěnmē shuō ma?

上节课，我们学了怎么问别人的电话，你还记得怎么说吗？

In the previous class, we learned how to ask for someone's phone number. Do you remember how to say it?

Duì le.

对了。

Right.

Nǐ diànhuà shì duōshao?

你电话是多少？

Zhè jié kè, wǒmen lái xuéxí zěnmē wèn biérén de niánlíng,

这节课，我们来学习怎么问别人的年龄，

In this class, let's learn how to ask someone's age,

xīwàng nǐ néng xué dào yìxiē shíyòng de kǒuyǔ biǎodá.

希望你能学到一些实用的口语表达。

I hope you can learn some useful oral expressions.

Hǎo le, wǒmen xiànzài jiù kāishǐ jīntiān de xuéxí ba!

好了，我们现在就开始今天的学习吧！

All right, let's get started with today's lesson!

## Part 1

### 问同龄人

Zài liáotiān de shíhou, Zhōngguó rén xíguàn wèn biérén de niánlíng.

在聊天的时候，中国人习惯问别人的年龄。

When starting a conversation, Chinese people like to talk about their age.

Zhè yìbān bú huì ràng rén juéde bù lǐmào,

这一般不会让人觉得不礼貌，

We don't think it's rude

yīnwèi wǒmen rènwéi zhè shì zài zēngjiā duì bǐcǐ de liǎojiě.

因为我们认为这是在增加对彼此的了解。

as it's considered to be a good way to get to know each other better.

Wèn tónglíng rén niánlíng de shíhou, wǒmen yìbān huì shuō:

问同龄人年龄的时候，我们一般会说：

When we ask our peers, we normally say:

"Nǐ duō dà?" huòzhě "Nǐ shì nǎ nián de?"

“你多大？”或者“你是哪年的？”

“How old are you?” or “Which year were you born?”

Yǒu shíhòu, wǒmen yě huì zhíjiē shuōchū zìjǐ de cāicè, bǐrú:

有时候，我们也会直接说出自己的猜测，比如：

Sometimes, we also guess their age by saying, for example,

"Nǐ shì bā jǐ nián de ba?", "Nǐ shì jiǔlíng hòu ba?"

“你是八几年的吧？”，你是 90 后吧？”

“Were you born in the 80s?”, or “Are you a post-'90s?”

Tīng duìhuà.

听对话。

Let's listen to these dialogues.

### Example Dialogues

1.

Xiǎoměi, nǐ jīnnián duō dà?

A: 小美，你今年多大？

Xiaomei, how old are you?

Èrshíliù le. Nǐ ne?

B: 二十六了。你呢？

I'm 26. What about you?

Zán liǎ chàbùduō, wǒ èrshíwǔ.

A: 咱俩差不多，我二十五。

We are around the same age. I'm 25.

2.

Nǐ shì jiǔlíng hòu ba?

A: 你是 90 后吧？

Are you a post-'90s?

Wǒ shì bā líng hòu.

B: 我是 80 后。

I'm a post-'80s.

Nǐ shì bā jǐ nián de?

A: 你是八几年的?

Which year were you born?

Bā qī nián de.

B: 八七年的。

In 1987.

**Tip:**

Zài Zhōngguó, wǒmen xíguàn ànzhào shí nián lái huàfēn yí ge niánlíng duàn. Bǐrú,  
在中国，我们习惯按照十年来划分一个年龄段。比如，

In China, we often use a decade to define a generation. For example,

1980-1989 nián chūshēng de rén, wǒmen chēng tāmen wéi "80hòu",

1980-1989 年出生的人，我们称他们为“80 后”，

people who were born between 1980 and 1989,

yìsì shì 80 nián yǐhòu chūshēng de rén.

意思是 80 年以后出生的人；

we call them "post-80's".

1990-1999 nián chūshēng de rén, wǒmen chēng tāmen wéi "90hòu",

1990-1999 年出生的人，我们称他们为“90 后”，

People who were born between 1990 and 1999,

yìsì shì 90 nián yǐhòu chūshēng de rén.

意思是 90 年以后出生的人。

we call them "post-90's".

Lèisi de háiyǒu liùlíng hòu, qīlíng hòu, niánqīng de háiyǒu línglíng hòu hé yīlíng hòu.

类似的还有 60 后、70 后，年轻的还有 00 后和 10 后。

Similarly, we have “post-60’s” and “post-70’s”. For children and teenagers, we call them “post-00’s” and “post-10’s”.

Zài zhèlǐ, wǒ xiǎng wèn yíxià, nǐ shì nǎ nián chūshēng de ne? Nǐ shì jǐ líng hòu ne?

在这里，我想问一下，你是哪年出生的呢？你是几零后呢？

When were you born? What generation are you?

Huānyíng zài pínglùn li gàosu wǒ.

欢迎在评论里告诉我。

Let me know in the comments section.

## Part 2

### 问孩子

Zài shēnghuó zhōng, wǒmen jīngcháng huì wèn hái zi de niánlíng.

在生活中，我们会经常问孩子的年龄。

In day-to-day life, we also like to ask a kid’s age.

Rúguǒ hái zi niánlíng bú dà, wǒmen kěyǐ wèn: “Nǐ jǐ suì le?”

如果孩子年龄不大，我们可以问：“你几岁了？”

For a child, we can say: “How old are you?”

Wǒmen yìbān yòng “jǐ” lái xúnwèn 10 yǐxià de shùzì.

我们一般用“几”来询问 10 以下的数字。

We usually use “几” to ask a number less than 10.

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Shàng xiǎoxué de háizi, wǒmen hái kěyǐ wèn: Nǐ shàng jǐ niánjí le?

上小学的孩子，我们还可以问：你上几年级了？

You can also ask a kid who is in elementary school by saying: “Which grade are you?”

Wǒmen tōngguò háizi de niánjí lái cāicè háizi de niánlíng.

我们通过孩子的年级来猜测孩子的年龄。

We can guess their age according to their grade.

Zài Zhōngguó, wǒmen yìbān 6 suì shàng xiǎoxué,

在中国，我们一般 6 岁上小学，

In China, children often start elementary school at 6.

shàng wán 6 nián de xiǎoxué hòu, zài shàng 3 nián de chūzhōng hé 3 nián de gāozhōng,

上完 6 年的小学后，再上 3 年的初中和 3 年的高中，

After 6 years' education, they will attend 3-year middle school and 3-year high school,

ránhòu zài 18 suì zuǒyòu kǎo dàxué.

然后在 18 岁左右考大学。

and then will apply for college at 18 also.

Rúguǒ yí ge háizi kàn qǐlai xiàng ge zhōngxuéshēng, wǒmen kěyǐ wèn: “Nǐ duō dà le?”

如果一个孩子看起来像个中学生，我们可以问：“你多大了？”

For a teenager, we can ask: “How old are you?”

huòzhě “Shàng chūzhōng le ba? “Shàng gāozhōng le ba?”

或者“上初中了吧？”“上高中了吧？”

or “Are you a middle school student?”, “Are you a high school student?”

Tīng duìhuà.

听对话。

Listen to these dialogues.

## Example Dialogues

1.

Nǐ érzi zhēn kě'ài, tā jǐ suì ya?

A: 你儿子真可爱, 他几岁呀?

Your son is so cute. How old is he?

Kuài 5 suì le.

B: 快5岁了。

He's almost 5.

2.

Āyí hǎo.

A: 阿姨好。

Hello, auntie.

Hǎo hǎo hǎo, Xiǎonà zhēn dǒngshì. Jīnnián shàng chūzhōng le ba?

B: 好好好, 小娜真懂事。今年上初中了吧?

Hello, Xiao Na. Good girl. Are you in middle school?

Èng, wǒ shàng chūèr le.

A: 嗯, 我上初二了。

I am in my second year of middle school.

3.

Zhè háizi duō dà le? Shǔ shénme de?

A: 这孩子多大了? 属什么的?

How old is this boy? What's his zodiac sign?

Shǔ Lóng de, jīnnián 16 le.

B: 属龙的, 今年16了。

His zodiac sign's Dragon. He is 16.

Tip:

Yǒu shíhòu, wǒmen hái xǐhuan wèn: "Nǐ shǔ shénme de?"

有时候，我们还喜欢问：“你属什么的？”

Sometimes, we like to ask: "What's your zodiac sign?",

Zhè shì yīnwèi Zhōngguó yǒu shí'èr shēngxiào.

这是因为中国有十二生肖。

That's because we have 12 Chinese zodiac signs

Shí'èr shēngxiào yǐ shí'èr zhǒng dòngwù wéi dàibiǎo.

十二生肖以十二种动物为代表。

that feature 12 animals.

Zhè shí'èr zhǒng dòngwù ànzhào shùnxù shì:

这十二种动物按照顺序是：

The order of these 12 animals is:

Shǔ, Niú, Hǔ, Tù, Lóng, Shé, Mǎ, Yáng, Hóu, Jī, Gǒu, Zhū.

鼠，牛，虎，兔，龙，蛇，马，羊，猴，鸡，狗，猪。

Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig.

Nǐ shì nǎ nián chūshēng de, nǐ jiù shǔ nǎ nián de shēngxiào.

你是哪年出生的，你就属哪年的生肖。

People's birth years determine their Chinese zodiac signs.

Wǒmen kěyǐ wèn shēngxiào lái pànduàn yí ge rén de niánlíng.

我们可以问生肖来判断一个人的年龄。

We can guess someone's age based on their zodiac sign.



## 问长辈

Rúguǒ duìfāng de niánlíng bǐ wǒmen dà, zhè shíhòu, yíding yào yòng “nín”.

如果对方的年龄比我们大，这时候，一定要用“您”。

If someone's older than you, you should use “您” to show your respect.

Bǐ rú “Nín duō dà?”, “Nín shì nǎ nián de?”, “Nín shǔ shénme de?”

比如“您多大？”，“您是哪年的？”，“您属什么的？”

For example, “How old are you?”, “When were you born?”, “What's your zodiac sign?”.

Wèn lǎorén niánlíng de shíhòu, wǒmen hái kěyǐ wèn:

问老人年龄的时候，我们还可以问：

To ask a senior, we usually say :

“Nín duō dà suìshù le?” huòzhě “Nín duō dà niánjì le?”

“您多大岁数了？” 或者 “您多大年纪了？”

“May I know how old you are?”

Yǒu de rén huì wènde bǐjiào zhèngshì, bǐrú: “Nín guì gēng?” huòzhě “Nín gāo shòu?”

有的人会问得比较正式，比如：“您贵庚？”或者“您高寿？”

Some people might ask in a formal way, for example: “Could I know how old you are?”

“Guì ” zài zhèlǐ biǎoshì nǐ duì duìfāng de zūnjìng, “gēng” de yìsi shì niánlíng.

“贵”在这里表示你对对方的尊敬，“庚”的意思是年龄。

Saying “贵” shows your respect. “庚” means age.

“Gāo shòu ” yìbān yòng lái wèn niánlíng bǐjiào dà de rén, bǐrú bā jiǔ shí suì de lǎorén.

“高寿”一般用来问年龄比较大的人，比如八九十岁的老人。

We usually use “高寿” with an elderly person who is in their 80's or 90's.

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“shòu” zài zhèlǐ jì yǒu niánlíng de yìsi, yě yǒu zhùfú de yìsi.

“寿”在这里既有年龄的意思，也有祝福的意思。

“寿” means age, also indicating a good wish.

### Example Dialogues

1.

Zhào jiě, nín shì nǎ nián de?

A: 赵姐，您是哪年的？

Sister Zhao, when were you born?

Wǒ shì qī liù nián de.

B: 我是七六年的。

I was born in 1976.

2.

Shūshu, nín guì gēng a?

A: 叔叔，您贵庚啊？

Uncle, may I know how old you are?

Wūshíbā le.

B: 五十八了。

I'm 58.

3.

Dàye, nín duō dà suìshù le?

A: 大爷，您多大岁数了？

Uncle, may I know how old you are?

Wǒ liùshíliù le!

B: 我六十六了！

I've turned 66 .

4.

Dàmā, nín shǔ shénme de?

A: 大妈, 您属什么的?

Auntie, what's your zodiac sign?

Wǒ shǔ Hǔ de.

B: 我属虎的。

My zodiac sign is Tiger.

Qīshíèr le?

A: 七十二了?

Are you 72?

Nǎr a, bāshísì le!

B: 哪儿啊, 八十四了!

No, I've turned 84!

Nín xiàng qīshí duō suì de!

A: 您像七十多岁的!

You just look like you're in your 70's!

**Tip:**

Dāng nǐ wèn biérén niánlíng de shíhou, rúguǒ duìfāng shuō "Nǐ cāi " huòzhě "Nǐ juéde ne?"

当你问别人年龄的时候, 如果对方说“你猜?”或者“你觉得呢?”

When we ask someone's age, if they say: "Take a guess."

Zhège shíhou, nǐ kěyǐ bǎ tā de niánlíng shuōde xiǎo yìxiē.

这个时候, 你可以把他的年龄说得小一些。

In this case, you can say a younger age.

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Bǐrú, rúguǒ nǐ juéde tā chà bu duō yǒu 40 suì, nǐ kěyǐ shuō 35 suì,

比如，如果你觉得他差不多有 40 岁，你可以说 35 岁，

For example, if you think they are in their 40's, you can say 35.

zhèyàng duìfāng tīngdào huì hěn gāoxìng.

这样对方听到会很高兴。

They would be happy when they hear that.

Wǒmen zài lái tīng yí biàn jīntiān de duìhuà.

我们再来听一遍今天的对话。

Let's listen to today's dialogues one more time.

## Outro

Hǎo le, jīntiān de kè jiù shì zhè xiē.

好了，今天的课就是这些。

All right, that's all for today's lesson.

Xià jié kè, wǒmen jiǎng zěnmē wèn biérén de gōngzuò.

下节课，我们讲怎么问别人的工作。

In the next class, let's learn how to ask about someone's job.

Wǒmen xià jié kè jiàn!

我们下节课见！

See you next time!