

## 第二课 问姓名 - Lesson 2 Asking about names

[https://youtu.be/ze\\_YFJmyoNo](https://youtu.be/ze_YFJmyoNo)

### Part 1

#### DO NOT SAY “你叫什么名字?”

“你叫什么名字?” is textbook language, and we don't use it in most situations. In Chinese, just like in other languages, it is often more polite to be a little indirect. If you meet someone for the first time and don't know their name, the easiest way is just telling them your name, and the other person will tell you his or her name.

For example:

Nǐ hǎo, wǒ jiào Chén Píng.

A: 你好，我叫陈平。

Hello, I'm Chen Ping.

Nǐ hǎo, wǒ jiào Lǐ Jìng.

B: 你好，我叫李静。

Hello, I'm Li Jing.

If the other person didn't tell you their name, and you really want to know, then you can ask like below. It would be softer than “你叫什么名字?”

Nǐ jiào shénme ne?

- 你叫什么呢?

And you?

Qǐngwèn nǐ jiào shénme?

- 请问你叫什么?

May I have your name?

## Part 2

### Ask someone's name according to their age

#### ► If someone is around the same age as you

#### Example Dialogues

1.

Nǐ hǎo, wǒ shì Chén Píng.

A: 你好，我是 陈 平。

Hello, I'm Chen Ping.

Nǐ hǎo, (wǒ shì) Zhāng Lì.

B: 你好，（我是）张 丽。

Hello, (I'm) Zhang Li.

2.

Nǐ hǎo, zěnmē chēnghū?

A: 你好，怎么 称呼？

Hello, can I have your name?

Wǒ jiào Wáng Fāng.

B: 我 叫 王 芳。

I'm Wang Fang.

#### Tip: 我叫 VS 我是

We use “**我叫**.....” only when saying our own names, while use “**我是**.....” to say our names, job titles, or who we are, etc.

#### For example:

Wǒ jiào Chén Píng. = Wǒ shì Chén Píng.

我 叫 陈 平。 = 我 是 陈 平。

I'm Chen Ping.

Wǒ shì lǎoshī.

我 是 老师。

I'm a teacher.

Wǒ shì Kūnkun de māma.

我是 坤坤 的 妈妈。

I'm Kunkun's mom.

► If someone is your client or older than you

Example Dialogues

1.

Nín guì xìng?

A: 您 贵 姓?

May I have your last name?

Miǎn guì, xìng Zhào.

B: 免 贵, 姓 赵。

My last name is Zhao.

2.

Qǐngwèn, nín zěnmē chēnghū?

A: 请问, 您 怎么 称呼?

May I have your name?

Wǒ xìng Wáng.

B: 我 姓 王。

My last name is Wang.

Wáng xiānsheng, nín hǎo.

A: 王 先生, 您 好。

Hello, Mr. Wang.

3.

Zěnmē chēnghū nín?

A: 怎么 称呼 您?

May I have your name?

Wǒ xìng Lǐ.

B: 我 姓 李。

My last name is Li.

Nín hǎo, Lǐ gē.

A: 您 好, 李 哥。

Hello, brother Li.

➤ **If someone is younger than you**

1.

Zěnme chēnghū?

A: 怎么 称呼?

Can I have your name?

Lǐ Juān. Jiào wǒ Xiǎo Lǐ jiù kěyǐ.

B: 李娟。 叫 我 小 李 就 可 以。

Li Juan. Just call me Xiao Li.

2.

Nǐ jiào.....?

A: 你 叫.....?

You are...?

Wáng Mǐn.

B: 王 敏。

Wang Min.

**Part 3**

## You have forgotten someone's name

If you've already met a person before, but you have forgotten his/her name, in this situation, you can ask like this:

Nǐ jiào shénme lái? / Nǐ jiào shénme lái zhe?

- 你 叫 什么 来着?

What was your name again?

or lengthen the last word:

Nǐ jiào.....?

- 你 叫.....?

You are...?

## Example Dialogues

1.

Āyí, nín hǎo.

A: 阿姨，您好。

*Hello, Auntie.*

Nǐ hǎo. Nǐ jiào shénme lái zhe?

B: 你好。你叫什么来着？

*Hello, what was your name again?*

Lǐ Wěi.

A: 李伟。

*Li Wei.*

Duì duì duì, qiáo wǒ zhè jìxìng.

B: 对对对，瞧我这记性。

*Right. Forgive my bad memory.*

2.

Āiya, wǒ wàng le, nǐ jiào.....?

A: 哎呀，我忘了，你叫.....？

*I'm sorry. You are...?*

Lǐ Yǒng.

B: 李勇。

*Li Yong.*

Duì duì duì, xiǎng qǐlai le.

A: 对对对，想起来了。

*Right. I remember it now.*

**Tip:** 来着

“来着” is a particle, indicating something has happened before.

**For example:**

Nǐ gāngcái shuō shénme lái zhe?

- 你刚才说什么来着？

*What were you saying just now?*

**Another example:**

Tā shàng ge xīngqī hái huí jiā lái zhe.

- 他 上 个 星期 还 回 家 来 着。

He was home only last week.