

Unit 5: Where are you from?

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén.

I am a Chinese.

我是中国人。

Wǒ shì Běijīng rén.

I am a Beijinger.

我是北京人。

Wǒ shì cóng Shànghǎi lái de.

I came from Shanghai.

我是从上海来的。

Tā shì Měiguó rén.

(S)He is an American.

他(她)是美国人。

Tā shì Georgia rén.

(S)He is a Georgian.

他(她)是 Georgia 人。

Tā shì cóng New York lái de.

(S)He came from New York.

他(她)是从 New York 来的。

2.

A: Qǐngwèn, nǐ shì bu shì Měiguó rén?

A: May I ask if you are an American?

A: 请问，你是不是美国人？

B: Shìde. Wǒ shì Měiguó rén. Wǒ shì cóng San Francisco lái de.

B: Yes, I am an American. I came from San Francisco.

B: 是的。我是美国人。我是从 San Francisco 来的。

A: Nǐ shì Jiā Zhōu rén ma?

A: Are you Californian ?

A: 你是加州人吗？

B: Búshì, wǒ shì Bīn Zhōu rén.

B: No, I am a Pennsylvanian.

B: 不是，我是宾州人。

A: Nǐ tàitai yě shì Měiguó rén ba?

A: Your wife is also an American, (I guess)?

A: 你太太也是美国人吧？

B: Búshì, tā shì Fǎguó rén. Tā shì Bālí rén.

B: No, she is French. She is Parisian.

B: 不是，她是法国人。她是巴黎人。

3.

A: Xiè lǎoshī, nǐhǎo.

A: Hello, Prof. Xie.

A: 谢老师，你好。

B: John, nǐhǎo.

B: Hello, John.

B: John, 你好。

A: Xiè lǎoshī, nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?

A: Prof. Xie, where are you from?

A: 谢老师，你是哪里人？

B: Wǒ shì Shànghǎi rén. Wǒ shì cóng Shànghǎi lái de.

B: I am from Shanghai. I came from Shanghai.

B: 我是上海人。我是从上海来的。

A: Nǐ tàitai yě shì Shànghǎi rén ba?

A: Is your wife also Shanghai (I guess)?

A: 你太太也是上海人吧？

B: Shìde. Tā yě shì Shànghǎi rén. John, nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?

B: Yes, she is also Shanghai. John, where are you from?

B: 是的。她也是上海人。John, 你是哪里人？

A: Wǒ shì Jiā Zhōu rén. Wǒ shì zài Los Angeles chūshēng de.

A: I am Californian. I was born in Los Angeles.

A: 我是加州人。我是在 Los Angeles 出生的。

A: Xiè lǎoshī, xièxie nǐ.

A: Prof. Xie, thank you.

A: 谢老师，谢谢你。

B: Bú kèqi.

B: You're welcome.

B: 不客气。

4.

A: Wáng xiānsheng shì nǎlǐ rén?

A: Where is Mr. Wang from?

A: 王先生是哪里人？

B: Tā shì Nánjīng rén.

B: He is a Nanjingese.

B: 他是南京人。

A: Tā bàba māma, xiōng dì jiě mèi dōu zài Zhōngguó ma?

A: Are his parents and siblings all in China?

A: 他爸爸妈妈兄弟姐妹都在中国吗？

B: Tā bàba māma dōu zài Zhōngguó. Tā méiyǒu jiějie mèimei, yě méiyǒu gēge, zhǐ yǒu yíge dìdì. Tā dìdì shì gōngchéngshī, zài Guǎngzhōu gōngzuò.

B: His parents are both in China. He does not have sisters, and he doesn't have elder brothers either. He has only one younger brother. His brother is an engineer, working in Guangzhou.

B: 他爸爸妈妈都在中国。他没有姐姐妹妹，也没有哥哥。只有一个弟弟。他弟弟是工程师，在广州工作。

A: Tā bàba zuò shénme gōngzuò?

A: What does his father do?

A: 他爸爸作什么工作？

B: Tā tuìxiū le, zhù zài Nánjīng, tā māma shì lǎoshī.

B: He retired and lives in Nanjing. His mother is a teacher.

B: 他退休了，住在南京，他妈妈是老师。

A: Wáng xiānsheng jiéhūn le méiyǒu?

A: Is Mr. Wang married?

A: 王先生结婚了没有？

B: Jiéhūn le, yǒu yíge érzi, yíge nǚér.

B: Yes, he is married. He has a son and a daughter.

B: 结婚了，有一个儿子，一个女儿。

Part II: Utterances and Notes

- 'Zhōngguó rén' means that a person's nationality is Chinese. 'Shànghǎi rén' indicates where a person was born. 'Cóng Shànghǎi lái de' tells us that the person came to this place from Shanghai.
- 'shì bu shì' is another question form. This pattern is same as 'shì ...ma?' In general, we call this pattern 'V bu V' pattern. However, the verb 'yǒu' (to have) has a different form: 'yǒu méiyǒu', not 'yǒu bu yǒu'.
- 'Jiā Zhōu' is a short form for 'Jiālífúnyà Zhōu' - California State.
- 'Bīn Zhōu' is a short form for 'Pennsylvania'
- 'ba' is a question marker too, but it has a different meaning from 'ma'. 'ma' indicates a neutral question, whereas 'ba' denotes a suggestion, 'ba' implies that the speaker guesses or assumes.
- When 'nǎlǐ rén' is asked, it usually refers to which part of a country a person is from. This is similar to: 'zài ... chūshēng de (to be born in...)'.
- 'xiōng dì jiě mèi' refers to all siblings one has. Note that 'xiōng' is used instead of 'gē'. 'Xiōng' also means elder brother, but it is never used independently.

Part III: New Sentence Modules

1. Where are you from? I am from... I came from...

Nǐ	shì nǎlǐ rén?
Nǐ tàitai	
Tā	

Wǒ	shì	Shànghǎi Běijīng Jiā Zhōu	rén
Wǒ tàitai			
Tā			

Nǐ shì cóng nǎlǐ lái de?

Wǒ shì cóng	Zhōngguó Měiguó Fǎguó Yīngguó	lái de.
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2. Where were you born? I was born in...

Nǐ shì zài nǎlǐ chūshēng de?

Wǒ shì zài	Shànghǎi Běijīng Los Angeles San Francisco Bīn Zhōu Jiā Zhōu	chūshēng de.
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3. What job do you do? I am...

Nǐ	zuò shénme gōngzuò?
Nǐ bàba	
Nǐ māma	
Nǐ tàitai	
Tā	

Wǒ	shì	lǎoshī gōngchéngshī
Wǒ bàba		
Wǒ māma	bù gōngzuò tuìxiū le	
Wǒ tàitai		
Tā		

Part IV: Practice makes perfect

Answer the following questions based on your own situation. Please be sure to give real answers.

Nǐ shì bu shì Zhōngguó rén?
 Nǐ shì nǎlǐ rén?
 Nǐ shì zài nǎlǐ chūshēng de?
 Nǐ gēge shì zài nǎlǐ chūshēng de?
 Nǐ zhù zài nǎlǐ?
 Nǐ jiéhūn le méiyǒu?
 Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu xiōng dì jiě mèi?
 Tā(men) zài nǎlǐ?
 Tā(men) zǎi nǎlǐ gōngzuò?
 Tā(men) zuò shénme gōngzuò?
 Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu péngyou?
 Tā xìng shénme? Jiào shénme?
 Tā shì nǎlǐ rén? Shì zài nǎlǐ chūshēng de?
 Tā zuò shénme gōngzuò?
 Tā yǒu méiyǒu xiōng dì jiě mèi?

- ◆ If you need a word which you don't know how to say, please ask by saying: '... Zhōngwén zénme shuō?' For example: 'nurse' Zhōngwén zénme shuō?' The answer would be: 'nurse' Zhōngwén shì 'hùshi'.

Now try to say something about yourself.

Please tell what your name is. What is your nationality? Do you have siblings? Where were you born? Where were your siblings born? Do they work? Where? Are you married? If yes, do you have children? How many? etc.

Can you ask me some questions regarding my family?