

Unit 13: Do You Like to Eat Chinese Food?

Part I: Listen and Learn

1.

Wǒ shì Zhōngguó rén, xǐhuān chī Zhōngguó cài.

I am a Chinese. I like to eat Chinese food.

我是中国人，喜欢吃中国菜。

Zhōngguó cài hěn hǎo chī.

Chinese food is very delicious.

中国菜很好吃。

Wǒ xǐhuān chī ròu

I like to eat meat.

我喜欢吃肉。

Niúròu, zhūròu, jī, yā, wǒ dōu xǐhuān.

Beef, pork, chicken, duck, I like them all.

牛肉、猪肉、鸡、鸭，我都喜欢。

Kěshì wǒ bú tài xǐhuān chī yú hé xiā.

But I don't like to eat fish and shrimp very much.

可是我不太喜欢吃鱼和虾。

Wǒ měitiān chī hěn duō shūcài.

I eat a lot of vegetables every day.

我每天吃很多蔬菜。

Shūcài lǐ yǒu gè zhǒng wéishēngsù, duì shēntǐ yǒu hǎochù.

Vegetables have various types of vitamins, they are good for the health.

蔬菜里有各种维生素，对身体有好处。

2.

Wǒ shì Měi guó rén, yě hěn xǐhuān chī Zhōngguó cài.
I am an American. I also very much like to eat Chinese food.
我是美国人，也很喜欢吃中国菜。

Yīnwèi Zhōngguó cài hěn hǎochī, bú tài yóunì, hěn yǒu yíngyǎng.
Because Chinese food is very delicious, not very greasy, very nutritious.
因为中国菜很好吃，不太油腻，很有营养。

Wǒ tèbié xǐhuān chī Sìchuān cài, yīnwèi Sìchuān cài bǐjiào là.
I particularly like to eat Sichuan food, because Sichuan food is fairly spicy.
我特别喜欢吃四川菜，因为四川菜比较辣。

Búguò, wǒ yě chángcháng chī xīcài.
Nevertheless, I also often eat western food.
不过，我也常常吃西菜。

Hànǎobāo, bǐsàbǐng, wǒ dōu xǐhuān.
Hamburger, pizza, I like them all.
汉堡包、比萨饼，我都喜欢。

Wó měitiān hē niúǎi, yīnwèi niúǎi hěn yǒu yíngyǎng, duì shēntǐ yǒu hǎochù.
I drink milk every day, because milk is very nutritious, it is good for the health.
我每天喝牛奶，因牛奶很有营养，对身体有好处。

3.

A: Lǐ xiānsheng, nǐ xǐhuān bù xǐhuān chī Měiguó cài?
A: Mr. Li, do you like to eat American food?
A: 李先生，你喜欢不喜欢吃美国菜？

B: Hái kěyǐ. Hànǎobāo, bǐsàbǐng, wǒ dōu chī.
B: It's OK. I eat hamburger and pizza.
B: 还可以。汉堡包、比萨饼，我都吃。

A: Nǐ chī de guàn ma?
A: Are you used to eating them?
A: 你吃得惯吗？

B: Kāishǐ chī bu guàn, xiànzài xíguàn le.
 B: At the beginning, I was not. I am used to it now.
 B: 开始吃不惯，现在习惯了。

A: Nǐ píngcháng chī Zhōngguó cài háishì Měiguó cài?
 A: Do you usually eat Chinese food or American food?
 A: 你平常吃中国菜还是美国菜？

B: Wǒ yībān chī Zhōngguó cài. Wǒ zìjǐ zuò. Yǒude shíhòu dào wàimiàn chī yìdiǎr Měiguó cài.
 B: I usually eat Chinese food. I cook by myself. Sometimes yūlyú go outside to eat some American food.
 B: 我一般吃中国菜。我自己做。有的时候到外面吃一点儿美国菜。

A: Nǐ huì zuò cài? Tài hǎo le! Nǐ yíding zuò de hěn hǎo.
 A: You can cook? That's terrific! You must cook very well.
 A: 你会做菜？太好了！你一定做得很好。

B: Nálǐ, bùxíng. Yǒude shíhòu zuòde cài tài xián, yǒude shíhòu tài dàn.
 B: No, not that well. Sometime the food I cooked is too salty, sometimes too tasteless.
 B: 哪里，不行。有的时候做的菜太咸，有的时候太淡。

4.

A: John, nǐ chī guò Zhōngguó cài méiyǒu?
 A: John, did you eat Chinese food?
 A: John, 你吃过中国菜没有？

B: Chī guò. Zhēn hǎo chī.
 B: I did. Really very delicious.
 B: 吃过。真好吃。

A: Nǐ xǐhuān chī shénme? Yú háishì ròu?
 A: What do you like to eat? Fish or meat?
 A: 你喜欢吃什么？鱼还是肉？

B: Wǒ xǐhuān chī jī, yīnwèi jī bǐjiào nèn, bú tài yóu. Dǎngùchún yě bù gāo.
 B: I like to eat chicken, because chicken is tender, not very greasy. Cholesterol is not high.
 B: 我喜欢吃鸡，因为鸡比较嫩，不太油。胆固醇也不高。

A: Shìde. Nǐ xǐhuān chī shénme cài, Sìchuān cài háishì Guǎngdōng cài?
 A: Yes. What dish do you like to eat, Sichuan food or Guangdong food?
 A: 是的。你喜欢吃什么菜，四川菜还是广东菜？

B: Wǒ bǐjiào xǐhuān chī Sìchuān cài, bǐjiào là.

B: I rather like to eat Sichuan food. It is fairly spicy.

B: 我比较喜欢吃四川菜，比较辣。

A: Nǐ zuì xǐhuān shénme cài?

A: What dish do you like best?

A: 你最喜欢什么菜？

B: Wǒ zuì xǐhuān gōngbǎo jī.

B: I like Kong Pao chicken best.

B: 我最喜欢宫保鸡。

A: Nǐ chángcháng qù chī Zhōngguó cài ma?

A: Do you often go to eat Chinese food?

A: 你常常去吃中国菜吗？

B: Wǒ gēn tàitai měi xīngqī qù chī yíci Zhōngguó cài. Wǒmen jiā fùjìn jiù yǒu yíge Zhōngguó cānguǎn.

B: I go to eat Chinese food once every week with my wife. There is a Chinese restaurant near our home.

B: 我跟太太每星期去吃一次中国菜。我们家附近就有一个中国餐馆。

A: Búcuò. Xiàci wǒ qǐng kè. Qǐng nǐ gēn nǐ tàitai yìqǐ qù chī.

A: Not bad. Next time it is my treat. I would like to invite you and your wife to go and eat with me.

A: 不错。下次我请客。请你跟你太太一起去吃。

B: Bù hǎo yìsi. Duōxiè le.

B: Thank you so much.

B: 不好意思。多谢了。

5.

More useful words related to food and taste:

tiánde sweet 甜的	miàn noodle 面	Běijīng yā Beijing duck 北京鸭
suānde sour 酸的	dòujiāng soy milk 豆浆	tiánsuān ròu sweet and sour pork 甜酸肉
fàn rice 饭	tāng soup 汤	qīngjiāo niúròu beef with green peppers 青椒牛肉
báifàn steamed rice 白饭	suānlà tāng hot and sour soup 酸辣汤	gōngbǎo xiā Kong Pao shrimp 宫保虾
chǎofàn stirfried rice 炒饭	gālí jī curry chicken 咖喱鸡	

Part II: Utterances and Notes

- 'cài' literally means 'dish, vegetable'. 'Zhōngguó cài' means 'Chinese food, Chinese dish'. The actual meaning depends on the context. For example, 'nǐ xǐhuān chī shénme cài' may mean 'what kind of food, what nationality's cuisine do you like?' or 'what specific dish do you like?'
- 'hǎo chī' literally means 'good to eat'. Many adjectives in Chinese are formed in this way. 'hǎo kàn' means 'good to look, beautiful'. The opposite is 'bù hǎo chī' and 'bù hǎo kàn'.
- 'lǐ' in 'shūcài lǐ yǒu gè zhǒng wēishēngsù' is a preposition like English 'in'. This sentence literally can be translated as 'In vegetable there are various types of vitamins.'
- 'yóuni' or 'yóu' means 'greasy, oily'
- Nutritious is an adjective in English, but in Chinese the same idea should be expressed by a combination of a verb and a noun 'yǒu yíngyǎng' [to have nutrition]. You can't say 'hěn yíngyǎng.'
- 'là' is an adjective. It means 'hot and spicy' It is used as a verb without 'shì'. When you want to use it as an adjective, you should add 'DE'. For example, you can say the following:

Zhè ge cài hěn là.

Zhè ge cài shì làde.

Zhè shì làDE cài.

You can't say:

*Zhè ge cài shì hěn là.

*Zhè ge cài shì là.

*Zhè shì là cài.

- Pay attention to 'Hànǎobāo, bǐsàbǐng, wǒ dōu xǐhuān'. This is the only way to say that you like them all. You can't say: 'Wǒ dōu xǐhuān hànǎobāo, bǐsàbǐng.'
- 'chī DE guàn' or 'chī BU guàn' mean 'to be or not to be used to eating...'
- 'zìjǐ' means 'self': wǒ zìjǐ, nǐ zìjǐ, tā zìjǐ, wǒmen zìjǐ, nǐmen zìjǐ, tāmen zìjǐ.
- 'zuòde cài' means 'the dish cooked'. In English, modifying clauses are attached to the right of a noun, while in Chinese they are attached to the left of a noun with an additional DE attached to the verb. Here are some more examples:

'wǒ mǎide shū'	the book I bought
'tā xiěde zì'	the words he wrote

- 'nǐ chī guò Zhōngguó cài méiyǒu?' is another question form. This question can be formed in several ways:

Nǐ chī guò Zhōngguó cài MA?
Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu chī guò Zhōngguó cài?
Nǐ chī guò Zhōngguó cài méiyǒu.

They are equally good questions.

- 'qǐng kè' literally means 'invite a guest'. That implies that speaker will pay for anything he/she offers.
- 'Bù hǎo yìsi' has no equivalent expression in English. Chinese people do not accept offers directly. Usually they will reject for the first time. Or they say 'bù hǎo yìsi' to accept it. It literally can be translated as 'I am really embarrassed...'

Part III: New Sentence Modules

1. What cuisine do you like (to eat the best)? I like to eat ... (the best), because ...

	zuì tèbié	xǐhuān (chī) shénme (cài)?	
Wǒ	zuì tèbié	xǐhuān (chī)	Zhōngguó cài Sìchuān cài Guǎngdōng cài Shànghǎi cài Měiguó cài jī ròu yā shūcài

, yīnwèi

Zhōngguó cài Sìchuān cài Guǎngdōng cài Shànghǎi cài Měiguó cài jī ròu yā shūcài	hén hǎo chī yǒu yíngyǎng bǐjiào là bǐjiào dàn bú tài xián bú tài yóuni hěn nèn dǎngùchún bù gāo duì shēntǐ yóu hǎochù (lǐ) yǒu gèzhǒng wéishēngsù
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2. Is ... delicious?

... hǎochī bu hǎochī?

hén fēicháng zhēn bù yìdiǎr dōu bù	hǎochī
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3. Did you eat ...? Yes, I ate.... No, I didn't eat...

Nǐ chīguò

Zhōngguó cài
Měiguó cài
Sìchuān cài
Guǎngdōng cài
hànbǎobāo
bǐsàbǐng

méiyou?
ma?

Wǒ

chīguò
méiyou chīguò

Zhōngguó cài
Měiguó cài
Sìchuān cài
Guǎngdōng cài
hànbǎobāo
bǐsàbǐng

4. Do you usually eat ... or ...?

Nǐ

píngcháng yībān

chī

Zhōngguó cài
Měiguó cài
Shànghǎi cài
hànbǎobāo

háishi

Měiguó cài
Zhōngguó cài
Guǎngdōng cài
bǐsàbǐng

Wǒ

píngcháng yībān
chángcháng
bù cháng

chī

Zhōngguó cài
Měiguó cài
Shànghǎi cài
hànbǎobāo

5. Do you often go to eat ...?

Nǐ

měitiān dōu
měi xīngqī dōu
chángcháng

qù chī Zhōngguó cài ma?

Bù cháng qù chī
chángcháng qù chī
yíge xīngqī qù chī yí cì
yíge yuè qù chī yí cì

Zhōngguó cài

6. Can you cook Chinese food?

Nǐ huì bu huì zuò Zhōngguó cài?

Wǒ

huì
bú huì
bú tài huì

zuò Zhōngguó cài

7. What can you cook?

Nǐ huì zuò shénme cài?

Wǒ huì zuò

gōngbǎo jī
qīngjiāo niú
tiánsuān ròu
Běijīng yā

8. Do you cook well? I cook well... The food I cook is ...

Nǐ Zhōngguó cài zuò DE hǎo bu hǎo?

Wǒ zuò DE

hén hǎo
bú tài hǎo
bù hǎo
mámahūhū

Wǒ zuò DE cài

hén hǎo chī
bú tài hǎo chī
yóude shíhou tài dàn
yóude shíhou tài xián

Part IV: Practice Makes Perfect

Tell the following expressions in Chinese:

Chinese food, Western food, Sichuan food, Guangdong food
 delicious, sweet, spicy, sour, salty, tasteless, greasy (oily), tender
 pork, beef, chicken, shrimp, fish, vegetables, hamburger, pizza, milk
 nutritious, good to health, cholesterol is not high, to have various types of vitamins
 to be used to, to be used to eating, got used to
 to be able to cook, to cook well
 once a week, once a month, once a year, twice a week

How do you say the following sentences in Chinese?

I like Chinese food, because it is very delicious.
 I like Chinese food, nevertheless I also like western food.
 I drink milk every day, because it is very nutritious.
 I drink milk, nevertheless I also drink soy bean milk.
 I fairly like to eat Sichuan dish.
 I like to eat Sichuan dish the best.

Answer the following questions in Chinese:

Nǐ yībān chī shénme cài, Zhōngguó cài háishi Měiguó cài?
 Nǐ chī guò Zhōngguó cài méiyǒu?
 Zhōngguó cài hǎochī bu hǎochī?
 Nǐ xǐhuān chī Sìchuān cài ma?
 Nǐ xǐhuān bu xǐhuān Guǎngdōng cài?
 Sìchuān cài là bu là?
 Nǐ xǐhuān chī làde ma?
 Nǐ měitiān hē niúǎi ma?
 Nǐ wèishénme [why] měitiān hē niúǎi?
 Nǐ chángcháng qù chī Zhōngguó cài ma?
 Zhōngguó cài nǐ chī de guàn ma?
 Nǐ huì bu huì zuò cài?
 Nǐ huì zuò shénme cài?

What are you supposed to say in the following situations?

You want to invite your friend to a dinner.
 You are invited to a dinner. Do you say 'thank you' immediately?
 Somebody is complimenting on your good cooking.
 Tell three reasons explaining why you like to eat chicken.
 Explain why you drink milk.

Try to say the following paragraph in Chinese.

I am American. I like to eat American food, nevertheless I also like to eat Chinese food very much, because Chinese food is very delicious. I particularly like Sichuan food, because it is very spicy. I like spicy food. But my wife doesn't like spicy food. She likes to eat sweet. We often go to Chinese restaurants to eat Chinese food. There is a Chinese restaurant near our home. We go there once a month. But our daughters don't like Chinese food. They are not used to eating Chinese food. They say that Chinese food is too oily, not nutritious. They like to eat American food. They particularly like to eat pizza and hamburger.