

## Sentence patterns

**Class Objective:** to be able to understand and learn all the sentence patterns.

### Concept A: Subject + Verb Sentence

You can form very simple sentences with just two words, a subject + verb.

**For example:**

我忙 (wǒ máng): I'm busy.

我 (wǒ) means "I" (or in some cases "me"). 忙 (máng) means "busy".

- 我累 (wǒ lèi): I'm tired.
- 我要 (wǒ yào): I want.
- 你吃 (nǐ chī): You eat.

### Concept B: Subject + Verb + Object

The next basic sentence structure of Mandarin Chinese is the same as in English: subject + verb + object.

**For Example:**

- 我爱你 (wǒ ài nǐ): I love you.
- 我吃苹果 (wǒ chī píngguǒ): I eat apples.
- 我们喜欢汉语 (wǒmen xǐhuān hànyǔ): We like Chinese.

### Concept C: The 是 (shì) Sentence

This is a sentence in which the main verb is "shì" (是), which is translated as the verb "to be" or "is".

The sentence structure : subject + 是 (shì) + object.

**For example:**

- 我是老师 (wǒ shì lǎoshī): I am a teacher.
- 她是演员 (tā shì yǎnyuán): She is an actor.
- 这是电脑 (zhè shì diànnǎo): This is a computer.
- 那是手机 (nà shì shǒujī): That is a phone.

### Concept D: The 吗 (ma) Question?

Asking a 吗 (ma) question is similar to asking a yes or no question in English.

To make a 吗 question, we simply add the particle 吗 at the end of the statement. This means that any statement can be turned into a question.

**For example:** 你喜欢咖啡 (nǐ xǐhuān kāfēi): You like coffee.

**We simply turn it into a question by adding the particle 吗 (ma) at the end of the sentence.**

你喜欢咖啡吗? Nǐ xǐhuān kāfēi ma? Do you like coffee?

Statement

- 你在看书.  
nǐ zài kànshū

The 吗 Question

你看书吗?  
nǐ zài kànshū ma?

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