

Lesson plan: introducing yourself

Upper primary

Aims:

To introduce the basics of tone and pronunciation in Mandarin Chinese in the context of everyday greetings.

Objectives:

- Students will demonstrate their understanding of the nature of greetings in the context of the different cultural backgrounds represented in their classroom.
- Students will demonstrate their ability to greet each other in Mandarin Chinese.

Resources:

Paper/card, pens and pencils



Lesson plan: introducing yourself

Time	Details
15 mins Whole class	<p>Introduction</p> <p>Explore with the class the nature of greetings: why do we use them? How many different greetings do we use in English? How many greetings in other languages do students in the class know? What do they mean?</p> <p>Explain that the basic greeting in Mandarin Chinese is nǐ hǎo, which literally means 'you good,' and that you are going to learn how to pronounce it correctly. Highlight the tone marks over the vowels and explain that in Mandarin the sound of a word includes, as part of it, the rise and/or fall of the voice, which is called the tone.</p> <p>Consider how we also use 'tone' in English, not as part of the sound of individual words, but across phrases and sentences to add emotional meaning. Take a sentence such as 'Chinese is very easy to learn' and ask the class to say it in different ways (angry, bored, surprised, doubtful, excited etc.) Ask them to listen to what the 'tone' of their voices is doing and write down their findings.</p> <p>Now look at the BBC languages pages here, and listen to the sounds: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/real_chinese/mini_guides/tones/</p>
10 mins In pairs or small groups	<p>Activity (40 mins)</p> <p>Listen again to the tone guide and then try the tone game here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/languages/chinese/games/tones.shtml</p> <p>Discuss as a whole class how hard or easy it was; were some tones easier to distinguish and others harder?</p>
15 mins Whole class	<p>Watch the 'Common Greetings' video here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/mandarin/all_about_me/videos/</p> <p>and then work through the vocabulary section here: http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primarylanguages/mandarin/all_about_me/greetings/</p>



Lesson plan: introducing yourself

Time	Details
15 mins Divide the class into small groups	<p>Assign each group one of the Chinese phrases: 'Hello'; 'Good morning'; 'How are you?'; 'I'm fine'; 'I'm not well'; 'And you?'; 'Goodbye'; 'See you tomorrow'; 'See you later'. Get them to write their phrases in English and Chinese (pinyin with tone marks not characters) on either side of pieces of paper/card, and to practice saying them. Bring the class back together, give each group a number in random order, then ask each in turn to hold up their card and say their phrase. Together with the students, work out the number sequence for a correct conversation.</p>
10 mins Whole class	<p>Plenary</p> <p>Collect all the groups' cards and lay them out on the floor or on a desk Chinese side upwards; ask individual students to come up in turn and pick the correct card and say the phrase to form a simple conversation using the elements you choose from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Hello'/'Good Morning' 'How are you?' 'I'm fine/not well' 'And you?' 'I'm fine/not well' 'Goodbye/see you tomorrow/see you later' <p>Differentiation</p> <p>More able pupils can use this site http://quizlet.com/6087501/mandarin-chinese-lesson-1-greetings-characters-flash-cards/ to research some more variations and create flashcards for them to add into the conversation.</p> <p>Extension</p> <p>Plan a class performance of a brief exchange of greetings to be included in a whole school Chinese New Year assembly.</p>

