

Question: Nǐ zài nǎr kàn Zhōngwén shū?

你在哪儿看中文书?

Where do you read Chinese books?

(Incorrect: 哪儿你在看中文书? or 你在哪儿看中文书吗?)

Answer: Wǒ zài jiā kàn Zhōngwén shū.

我在家看中文书。

I read Chinese books at home.

Question: Tā rènshí duōshǎo Hànzì?

他认识多少汉字?

How many Chinese characters does he know?

(Incorrect: 多少汉字他认识? or 他认识多少汉字吗?)

Answer: Tā rènshí jiǔbǎi gè Hànzì.

他认识九百个汉字。

He knows 900 Chinese characters.

Question: Nǐ bā diǎn kāishǐ xué shénme?

你八点开始学什么?

What will you begin to study at eight o'clock?

(Incorrect: 什么你八点开始学? or 你八点开始学什么吗?)

Answer: Wǒ bā diǎn kāishǐ xué pīnyīn.

我八点开始学拼音。

I'll begin studying pinyin at eight o'clock.

► II. Topic-Comment Sentences

(See Textbook I, Lesson 8)

Selected example from the textbook:

每份信件邮局都要登记，收件人要签字。(Lesson 8)

A topic-comment sentence is made by putting a topic at the beginning of a sentence and then commenting on it. Topic-comment sentences are different from the subject-predicate sentences introduced earlier in this book. A subject is usually an agent or doer of the action. But in a topic-comment sentence, the topic shows the focus of the sentence, not necessarily the subject of the sentence.