

中文

MANDARIN FOR SOCIAL LIFE

# Flirting & Asking Out

中文 · 撩 · 暧昧 · 表白

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Graded compliments, playful teasing, and the warm courage to ask. Escalate **with consent** — charm is reading the room, not pushing it.

LESSON 2 OF 6

## 01 Graded Compliments 夸奖

Compliments are a dial, not a switch. Start light and specific, watch how she responds, and only warm up if she's warming up too. Specific beats generic — notice **her**, not just her looks.

Light → warmer (read the response) 由浅入深

CHINESE	PINYIN (TONES)	ENGLISH	NOTE
你笑起来很好看	<i>nǐ xiào qǐlái hěn hǎokàn</i>	You have a lovely smile	Light & genuine — a great first-level compliment
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 笑起来 <i>xiào qǐlái</i> when you smile 很 <i>hěn</i> very 好看 <i>hǎokàn</i> good-looking			
你真有气质	<i>nǐ zhēn yǒu qìzhì</i>	You have such a classy vibe	= poise/aura — admired, not just "pretty"
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 真 <i>zhēn</i> really 有 <i>yǒu</i> have 气质 <i>qìzhì</i> poise / aura			
你很有意思	<i>nǐ hěn yǒuyìsi</i>	You're really interesting	Compliments her mind — lands well
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 很 <i>hěn</i> very 有意思 <i>yǒuyìsi</i> interesting			
你真可爱	<i>nǐ zhēn kě'ài</i>	You're so cute	Warmer — playful and affectionate
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 真 <i>zhēn</i> really 可爱 <i>kě'ài</i> cute			
你很漂亮	<i>nǐ hěn piàoliang</i>	You're beautiful	Direct — save for when there's clear warmth
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 很 <i>hěn</i> very 漂亮 <i>piàoliang</i> beautiful			
跟你在一起很舒服	<i>gēn nǐ zài yìqǐ hěn shūfu</i>	I feel really comfortable with you	Intimate without pressure — very effective
跟 <i>gēn</i> with 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 在一起 <i>zài yìqǐ</i> together 很 <i>hěn</i> very 舒服 <i>shūfu</i> comfortable			

### TIP — COMPLIMENT THE CHOICE, NOT JUST THE GIFT

"You have great taste in music" lands deeper than "you're hot." Noticing something she **chose or did** tells her you're paying attention to the person, not just the surface. That's what makes flirting feel flattering rather than cheap.

## 02 Playful Teasing & Build-Up 撩 · 暧昧

The fun part of Chinese flirting has its own words: (liāo, to flirt/charm) and (àimèi, that ambiguous "talking stage" before anything's official). Tease warmly, never meanly — the goal is shared laughter and a little spark.

CHINESE	PINYIN (TONES)	ENGLISH	NOTE
你是不是在撩我?	<i>nǐ shì bú shì zài liāo wǒ?</i>	Are you flirting with me?	Playful accusation — flips the script charmingly
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 是不是 <i>shì bú shì</i> are you (or not) 在 <i>zài</i> (in the act of) 撩 <i>liāo</i> flirt with 我 <i>wǒ</i> me			
你这样我会当真的	<i>nǐ zhèyàng wǒ huì dàngzhēn de</i>	Keep that up and I'll take it seriously	Flirty warning — light and confident
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 这样 <i>zhèyàng</i> like this 我 <i>wǒ</i> I 会 <i>huì</i> will 当真 <i>dàngzhēn</i> take it seriously 的 <i>de</i> (particle)			
就你最调皮	<i>jiù nǐ zuì tiáopí</i>	You're such a troublemaker	Teasing = playful/naughty (in a cute way)
就 <i>jiù</i> only / of all 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 最 <i>zuì</i> most 调皮 <i>tiáopí</i> naughty / mischievous			
我们这算暧昧吗?	<i>wǒmen zhè suàn àimèi ma?</i>	Is this... a thing between us?	Names the spark with a smile
我们 <i>wǒmen</i> we 这 <i>zhè</i> this 算 <i>suàn</i> count as 暧昧 <i>àimèi</i> ambiguous romance 吗 <i>ma</i> (question)			
想你了	<i>xiǎng nǐ le</i>	I've been thinking about you	Soft, warm — for when there's clear mutual interest
想 <i>xiǎng</i> miss / think of 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 了 <i>le</i> (particle)			
跟你聊天会上瘾	<i>gēn nǐ liáotiān huì shàngyǐn</i>	Talking to you is addictive	Flattering build-up that invites more chat
跟 <i>gēn</i> with 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 聊天 <i>liáotiān</i> chatting 会 <i>huì</i> will / can 上瘾 <i>shàngyǐn</i> become addictive			

### CULTURAL NOTE — , THE TALKING STAGE

describes the deliciously undefined phase before a relationship is official. Mainland dating often moves with intention — many people are looking for something serious and are family-aware — so naming feelings sooner (rather than endless ambiguity) is often welcomed. Taiwan tends to be a touch more relaxed and casual.

## 03 Asking Out & The Confession 约 · 表白

Start with a small, specific outing — easy to say yes to. When real feelings build, China has a lovely ritual: the **biǎobái** (表白), an honest confession of how you feel, often paired with "will you be my girlfriend?"

### Asking her out 约会

CHINESE	PINYIN (TONES)	ENGLISH	NOTE
这周末有空吗?	<i>zhè zhōumò yǒu kòng ma?</i>	Are you free this weekend?	Specific time = easy to answer
这 <i>zhè</i> this 周末 <i>zhōumò</i> weekend 有空 <i>yǒu kòng</i> have free time 吗 <i>ma</i> (question)			
一起吃个饭吧?	<i>yìqǐ chī ge fàn ba?</i>	Let's grab a meal?	Low-key, classic first date
一起 <i>yìqǐ</i> together 吃 <i>chī</i> eat 个 <i>ge</i> (measure word) 饭 <i>fàn</i> meal 吧 <i>ba</i> (suggestion)			
我请你喝咖啡,怎么样?	<i>wǒ qǐng nǐ hē kāfēi, zěnmeyàng?</i>	Let me treat you to coffee — how about it?	= your treat (a warm gesture)
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 请 <i>qǐng</i> treat 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 喝 <i>hē</i> drink 咖啡 <i>kāfēi</i> coffee 怎么样 <i>zěnmeyàng</i> how about it			
我想多了解你一点	<i>wǒ xiǎng duō liǎojiě nǐ yìdiǎn</i>	I'd like to get to know you more	Honest about your intentions
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 想 <i>xiǎng</i> want 多 <i>duō</i> more 了解 <i>liǎojiě</i> understand / know 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 一点 <i>yìdiǎn</i> a bit			

### The confession — 表白

CHINESE	PINYIN (TONES)	ENGLISH	NOTE
我喜欢你	<i>wǒ xǐhuan nǐ</i>	I like you	The heart of any sincere — simple &
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 喜欢 <i>xǐhuan</i> like 你 <i>nǐ</i> you			
我对你有感觉	<i>wǒ duì nǐ yǒu gǎnjué</i>	I have feelings for you	A half-step before the full confession
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 对 <i>duì</i> toward 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 有 <i>yǒu</i> have 感觉 <i>gǎnjué</i> feelings			

CHINESE	PINYIN (TONES)	ENGLISH	NOTE
做我女朋友好吗?	<i>zuò wǒ nǚpéngyou hǎo ma?</i>	Will you be my girlfriend?	The classic "make it official" line
做 <i>zuò</i> be / become 我 <i>wǒ</i> my 女朋友 <i>nǚpéngyou</i> girlfriend 好吗 <i>hǎo ma</i> okay?			
我想跟你在一起	<i>wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ zài yìqǐ</i>	I want to be with you	= "together" = officially dating
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 想 <i>xiǎng</i> want 跟 <i>gēn</i> with 你 <i>nǐ</i> you 在一起 <i>zài yìqǐ</i> together			
我是认真的	<i>wǒ shì rènzhēn de</i>	I'm serious about this	Signals sincere, not casual, intent
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 是 <i>shì</i> am 认真 <i>rènzhēn</i> serious 的 <i>de</i> (particle)			

### YOU

我想跟你说件事…我喜欢你。

*wǒ xiǎng gēn nǐ shuō jiàn shì... wǒ xǐhuan nǐ.*

There's something I want to tell you... I like you.

### YOU

这段时间很开心。做我女朋友好吗?

*zhè duàn shíjiān hěn kāixīn. zuò wǒ nǚpéngyou hǎo ma?*

These past weeks have been wonderful. Will you be my girlfriend?

### HER

好啊。我也喜欢你。

*hǎo a. wǒ yě xǐhuan nǐ.*

Yes. I like you too.

### CULTURAL NOTE — IS A MILESTONE

A clear is genuinely valued — it shows courage and respect, and it lets her know exactly where you stand rather than leaving her guessing. If the answer isn't yes, accept it with grace and warmth; dignity in that moment is its own kind of attractive.


## 04 Escalation, Consent & Signals 尊重 · 同意

Physical and emotional escalation should always move **with** her, never ahead of her. Check in, watch the signals, and treat a hesitation as a stop. Reading consent well isn't a buzzkill — it's what makes you safe to say yes to.

### Checking in 确认

CHINESE	PINYIN (TONES)	ENGLISH	NOTE
这样可以吗?	<i>zhèyàng kěyǐ ma?</i>	Is this okay?	Simple, respectful check-in
这样 <i>zhèyàng</i> like this 可以 <i>kěyǐ</i> okay / allowed 吗 <i>ma</i> (question)			
我可以牵你的手吗?	<i>wǒ kěyǐ qiān nǐ de shǒu ma?</i>	Can I hold your hand?	Asking is charming, not awkward
我 <i>wǒ</i> I 可以 <i>kěyǐ</i> may / can 牵 <i>qiān</i> hold (by the hand) 你的 <i>nǐ de</i> your 手 <i>shǒu</i> hand 吗 <i>ma</i> (question)			
你舒服吗?	<i>nǐ shūfu ma?</i>	Are you comfortable?	Shows you're watching her experience
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 舒服 <i>shūfu</i> comfortable 吗 <i>ma</i> (question)			
不着急,慢慢来	<i>bù zháojí, màn màn lái</i>	No rush, let's take it slow	Reassuring — relieves any pressure
不 <i>bù</i> not 着急 <i>zháojí</i> in a hurry 慢慢 <i>màn màn</i> slowly 来 <i>lái</i> go / do it			
你想停就告诉我	<i>nǐ xiǎng tíng jiù gàosu wǒ</i>	Tell me if you want to stop	Hands her the brake — builds trust
你 <i>nǐ</i> you 想 <i>xiǎng</i> want 停 <i>tíng</i> stop 就 <i>jiù</i> then 告诉 <i>gàosu</i> tell 我 <i>wǒ</i> me			

### Reading the signals 信号

SIGNAL	WHAT YOU MIGHT HEAR	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT TO DO
 Green	· ·	"Yes!" · "Me too" · "Don't go"	Warm, leaning in, initiating — proceed, keep checking in

SIGNAL	WHAT YOU MIGHT HEAR	WHAT IT MEANS	WHAT TO DO
● Yellow	.	"We'll see" · "I'm a bit tired"	Hesitation or a soft deflection — slow down, ease off, change the subject
● Red	.	"No" · "I have to go" · "Don't"	Stop immediately, no negotiating. Be gracious and call her a ride

**WARN — CONSENT, ALWAYS**

In Chinese culture a "no" is often **indirect** — " (we'll see), " (I'm tired), or going quiet usually means no. Treat any of these as a stop, not a maybe. Only an enthusiastic, sober yes is a yes. Never pressure, never push past hesitation, and if anyone has been drinking, the kind move is to look after them, get them home safely, and try again another day. Respect is the most attractive thing you can offer.

Mandarin for Social Life · Lesson 2 — Flirting & Asking Out · Tease warmly, confess bravely, escalate only with an enthusiastic yes.