

## 1. Introduction to Interrogative Pronouns

Today we shall learn some common interrogative pronouns.

**What are interrogative pronouns?**

- Interrogative pronouns are words used to ask questions.
- In Chinese, they are essential for daily communication.

## 2. Explanation of some interrogative pronouns

Now, we shall explain the interrogative pronouns: “什么 (shénme)、谁、哪、几、多大、怎么、多少、哪儿、怎么样”。

### (1) 什么 (shénme) – what

- It is usually used to ask about things or objects.
- **Structure:** [Subject] + [Verb] + 什么?
- **Example:** 你吃什么? Nǐ chī shénme? – What are you eating?

### (2) 谁 (shéi/shuí) – who

- It is usually used to ask about someone or people.
- **Structure:** 谁 + [Verb] + [Object]? or [Subject] + [Verb] + 谁?
- **Example:**

谁是张老师? (Shéi/Shuí shì Zhānglǎoshī?) – Who is Teacher Zhang?

张老师是谁? (Zhānglǎoshī shì shéi/shuí?) – Who is Teacher Zhang?

### (3) 哪 (nǎ) – which

- It is generally used to ask about a specific one among many.
- **Structure:** 哪 + [Measure Word] + [Noun]?
- **Example:** 你是哪国人? (Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?) – Which country are you from? / What is your nationality?

### (4) 几 (jǐ) – how many (for small numbers, usually <10)

- It is generally used to ask about a small quantity.
- **Structure:** 几 + [Measure Word] + [Noun]?
- **Example:** 你有几个苹果? (Nǐ yǒu jǐ gè píngguǒ?) – How many apples do you have?

### (5) 多大 (duōdà) – how old (for children or inquiring about size/age)

- It is usually used to ask about the age (for children) or size.
- **Structure:** [Subject] + 多大?
- **Example:** 你多大? (Nǐ duōdà?) – How old are you?

### (6) 怎么 (zěnmē) – how (method or way)

- It is generally used to ask about the way or method.
- **Structure:** [Subject] + 怎么 + [Verb]?
- **Example:** 你怎么去学校? (Nǐ zěnmē qù xuéxiào?) – How do you go to school?

**(7) 多少 (duōshǎo) – how many/how much (for large numbers, price, etc.)**

- It is usually used to ask about quantity or price.
- **Structure:** 多少 + [Measure Word] + [Noun]?
- **Example:** 这个多少钱? (Zhège duōshǎo qián?) – How much is this?

**(8) 哪儿 (nǎr) – where**

- It is generally used to ask about location.
- **Structure:** [Subject] + 在哪儿?
- **Example:** 你在哪儿? (Nǐ zài nǎr?) – Where are you?

**(9) 怎么样 (zěnmeyàng) – how is it? (Asking for opinion or condition)**

- It is usually used to ask for opinions or about the state of something.
- **Structure:** [Subject] + 怎么样?
- **Example:** 这个菜怎么样? (Zhège cài zěnmeyàng?) – How is this dish?

### 3. Exercises

#### A. Match the question to the answer.

| Question                                     | Answer                               |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. 你叫什么名字?<br>Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi?         | a. 我有两个。<br>Wǒ yǒu liǎng gè.         |
| 2. 你有几个兄弟姐妹?<br>Nǐ yǒu jǐ gè xiōngdì jiěmèi? | b. 我骑自行车去。<br>Wǒ qí zìxíngchē qù.    |
| 3. 你怎么去学校?<br>Nǐ zěnmē qù xuéxiào?           | c. 这是一本书。<br>Zhè shì yī běn shū.     |
| 4. 你在哪儿工作?<br>Nǐ zài nǎr gōngzuò?            | d. 我在医院工作。<br>Wǒ zài yīyuàn gōngzuò. |
| 5. 这是什么?<br>Zhè shì shénme?                  | e. 他是我的朋友。<br>Tā shì wǒ de péngyou.  |
| 6. 这个多少钱?<br>Zhège duōshǎo qián?             | f. 我二十岁。<br>Wǒ èrshí suì.            |
| 7. 谁是你的朋友?<br>Shéi shì nǐ de péngyou?        | g. 很好。<br>Hěn hǎo.                   |
| 8. 你多大?<br>Nǐ duōdà?                         | h. 王丽。<br>Wáng Lì.                   |
| 9. 你的家怎么样?<br>Nǐ de jiā zěnmeyàng?           | i. 五十块。<br>Wǔshí kuài.               |

## B. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate interrogative pronoun.

你喜欢\_\_\_\_\_颜色? Nǐ xǐhuan shénme yánsè?

你家有\_\_\_\_\_人? Nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén?

你\_\_\_\_\_去超市? Nǐ zěnmē qù chāoshì?

你\_\_\_\_\_? (asking "how old are you?") Nǐ duōdà?

你\_\_\_\_\_? (asking "where are you?") Nǐ zài nǎr?

这个\_\_\_\_\_? (asking "how much is this?") Zhège duōshǎo qián?

你觉得这个电影\_\_\_\_\_? Nǐ juéde zhège diànyǐng zěnmeyàng?

你是\_\_\_\_\_老师? Nǐ shì shénme lǎoshī?

你吃\_\_\_\_\_? Nǐ chī shénme?

## C. Make Your Own Questions

Group yourself in pairs and ask your pair questions using each interrogative pronoun and your pair answer the questions. Repeat the same exercise by interchanging roles.

For example:

- Use “什么” to make an interrogative sentence: 你喜欢喝什么?  
么?
- Use “谁” to make an interrogative sentence: 谁是你的姐姐?  
姐? / 你姐姐是谁?

## 4. Recap

| Pronoun | Pinyin    | Meaning         | Example                                                                      |
|---------|-----------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 什么      | shénme    | what            | 你吃什么? Nǐ chī shénme?                                                         |
| 谁       | shéi/shuí | who             | 谁是张老师? / 张老师是谁?<br>Shéi/Shuí shì Zhāng lǎoshī?<br>Zhānglǎoshī shì shéi/shuí? |
| 哪       | nǎ        | which           | 你是哪国人? Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?                                                    |
| 几       | jǐ        | how many (<10)  | 你有几个苹果? Nǐ yǒu jǐ gè píngguǒ?                                                |
| 多大      | duōdà     | how old/how big | 你多大? Nǐ duōdà?                                                               |
| 怎么      | zěnmē     | how (method)    | 你怎么去学校? Nǐ zěnmē qù xuéxiào?                                                 |
| 多少      | duōshǎo   | how many/much   | 这个多少钱? Zhège duōshǎo qián?                                                   |
| 哪儿      | nǎr       | where           | 你在哪儿? Nǐ zài nǎr?                                                            |
| 怎么样     | zěnmeyàng | how is it       | 这个菜怎么样? Zhège cài zěnmeyàng?                                                 |