5. Key Grammar Elements

Character	Pinyin	Function	Usage
是	shì	to be	Links subject with identity/description
的	de	possessive marker	Shows ownership/relationship
叫	jiào	to be called/named	Used specifically for names

Family Relationships & Introductions

Chinese	Pinyin	Literal Meaning	English Usage
弟弟	dìdi	younger + younger	younger brother
哥哥	gēge	older + older	older brother
妈妈	māma	mother + mother	mom/mum
爸爸	bàba	father + father	dad
老婆	lǎopó	old + wife	wife
老公	lǎogōng	old + husband	husband

Basic Sentence Patterns with Literal Translations

Chinese	Pinyin	Literal Translation	English Usage
他是弟弟	tā shì dìdi	he + is + younger-brother	He is the younger brother
他是我的弟弟	tā shì wǒ de dìdi	he + is + I + possessive + younger-brother	He is my younger brother
我是他的哥哥	wǒ shì tā de gēge	I + is + he + possessive + older-brother	I am his older brother
她是我的妈妈	tā shì wǒ de māma	she + is + I + possessive + mother	She is my mum
他是我的爸爸	tā shì wǒ de bàba	he + is + I + possessive + father	He is my dad
她是我的老婆	tā shì wǒ de lǎopó	she + is + I + possessive + wife	She is my wife

Chinese	Pinyin	Literal Translation	English Usage
你是我的老婆	nǐ shì wǒ de lǎopó	you + is + I + possessive + wife	You are my wife
我是你的老公	wǒ shì nǐ de lǎogōng	I + is + you + possessive + husband	I am your husband

Name Introduction Patterns

Chinese	Pinyin	Literal Translation	English Usage
我叫 Jack	wǒ jiào Jack	I + called + Jack	My name is Jack
杰克	jiékè	Jack (Chinese form)	Chinese version of "Jack"
蔡艺英	cài yì yīng	Cai (surname) + Yi + Ying	Chinese name (surname: 蔡)

Sentence Structure Patterns

1. Basic Identity (是)

```
Subject + 是 + Noun
他是弟弟
tā shì dìdi
he + is + younger-brother
"He is the younger brother"
```

2. Possession with 的

```
Subject + 是 + [Person/Pronoun + 的] + Noun
他是我的弟弟
tā shì wǒ de dìdi
he + is + I + possessive + younger-brother
"He is my younger brother"
```

3. Name Introduction (叫)

```
Subject + 叫 + Name
我叫Jack
wǒ jiào Jack
I + called + Jack
"My name is Jack"
```

Important Grammar Rules

1. **是 (shì) Usage**
   - Used for identity and description
   - Cannot be used alone as "yes"
   - Must be followed by a noun or noun phrase
   - Pattern: Subject + 是 + [Noun/Description]
2. **的 (de) Placement**
   - Always comes after the possessor
   - Links possessor to the thing possessed
   - Pattern: Owner + 的 + Object
   - Example: 我的妈妈 (wǒ de māma) = I + possessive + mother = "my mother"
3. **叫 (jiào) vs 是 (shì)**
   - Use 叫 specifically for names
   - Use 是 for relationships and identities
   - Never mix: 是 叫 Jack (incorrect for names)
   - Correct: ✓ 叫 Jack (correct for names)

Advanced Pattern Examples

```
她是我的老婆

tā shì wǒ de lǎopó

she + is + I + possessive + wife

"She is my wife"


我是你的老公

wǒ shì nǐ de lǎogōng

I + is + you + possessive + husband

"I am your husband"
```

When to Use Each Structure

1. Use 是 (shì) when:
   - Stating someone's role/identity
   - Describing relationships
   - Making equivalence statements Example: 他是弟弟 (He is the younger brother)
2. Use 的 (de) when:
   - Showing possession
   - Indicating relationships
   - Pattern: Possessor + 的 + Thing possessed Example: 我的妈妈 (my mother)
3. Use 叫 (jiào) when:
   - Introducing names
   - Asking someone's name

- Telling your own name Example: 🗂 Jack (My name is Jack)