

# Tell Me About Yourself

CHAPTER

3

第 dì

三 sān

课 kè

Isabella, Martin, and Daming are gathered in the Lopezes' dining room. The conversation turns to Daming's family in China.

**Isabella:** Your family must miss you when you're here in the U.S.

**Daming:** Yes, and I miss them, too, sometimes.

**Martin:** Do you have any brothers or sisters?

**Daming:** I'll tell you more, but we need to stick to speaking in Chinese!



## Can-Do Goals

In this chapter, you will learn to:

- Understand simple descriptions of families
- Ask and answer questions about family members
- Express how many siblings and pets you have
- Understand when others talk about their likes and dislikes
- Talk about likes and dislikes
- Use different measure words to talk about people and animals



jiātíng  
**家庭**

**Family**

The saying 三代同堂 (sān dài tóng táng), which means “three generations under one roof,” gives an impression of traditional family life in China. Imagine children, parents, and grandparents living together and caring for each other. Families in China are changing, but many values, such as a close relationship between generations, are still important.

**A Passion for Pets**

Many Chinese people embrace their pets as part of their families. Dogs are the most popular choice of pet in China, followed by cats. This woman in Beijing dyed her dog’s fur. Other owners might dress their pets up or even refer to them as 宝贝 (bǎobèi), which means “treasure” or “baby.”

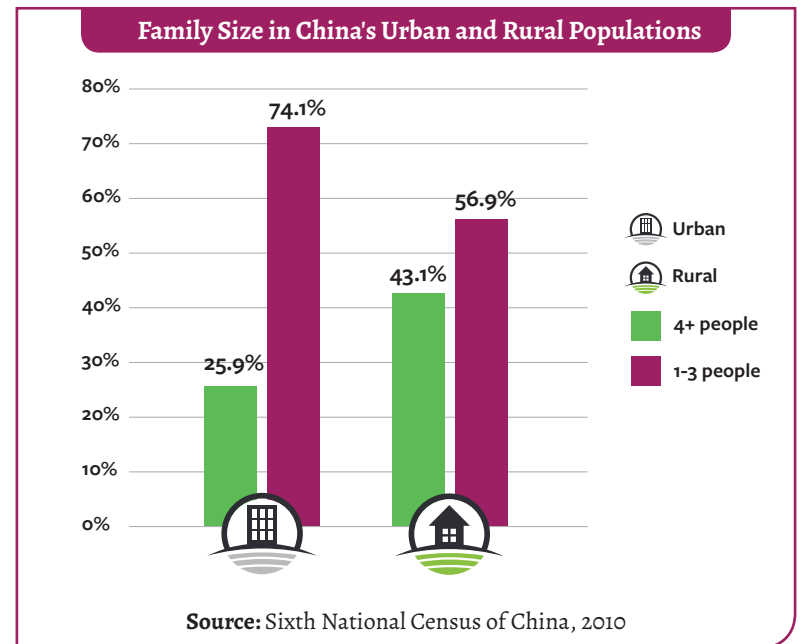
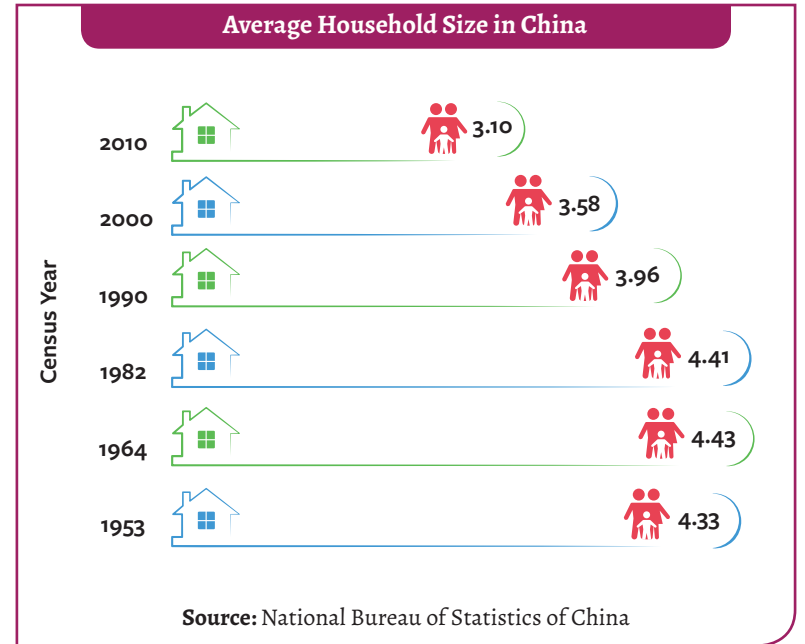


**Respect Your Elders**

In Chinese culture, it is important to show respect for those who are older than you, even among siblings. Older brothers are called 哥哥 (gēge); older sisters are called 姐姐 (jiějie); younger brothers are 弟弟 (dìdì); and younger sisters are 妹妹 (mèimei). Younger siblings often call their older siblings 哥哥 or 姐姐 rather than just using their names. Even between twins, the older child is 哥哥 or 姐姐, and the younger one is 弟弟 or 妹妹!

**By the Numbers**

For several decades, the average size of Chinese households has been shrinking. The number of 三代同堂 households has decreased, and the Chinese government has worked to limit the country’s population growth. The One-Child Policy, in effect from 1979 to 2015, was a part of the government effort to discourage couples from having many children. Now, small families of three or fewer people are common, especially in cities.



**REFLECT ON THE ESSENTIAL QUESTION**

**How do we form first impressions?**

- 1 What impression do you have of family life in China? How do you think it is similar to or different from family life in your culture?
- 2 When you know someone is an older or a younger sibling, does it influence your impression of that person?
- 3 Would you count pets as family members? Why or why not?

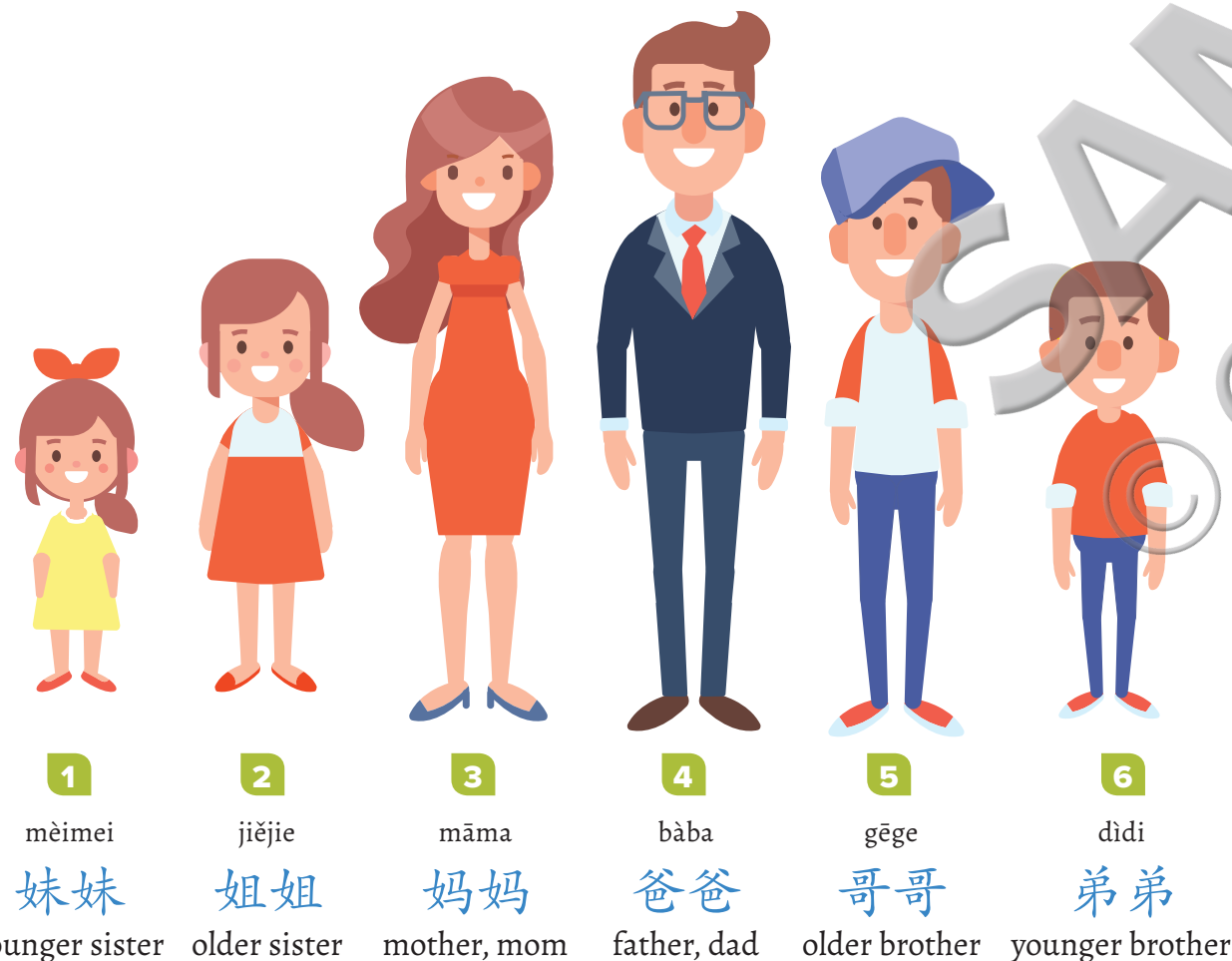
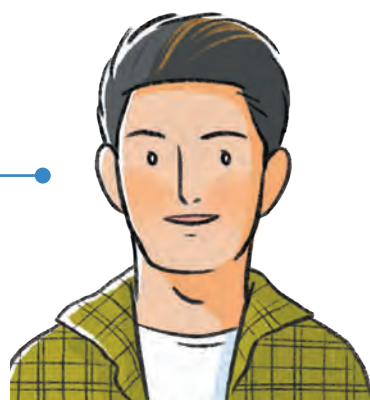
# Talking about siblings

## 1a Language Model TARGET LANGUAGE INPUT

Your teacher will lead a discussion about the family below. Try to participate as much as you can. If there is anything you don't understand, let your teacher know.

Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu gēge?  
你 有 没有 哥哥?

Do you have an older brother?



- |                |              |             |             |               |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 1              | 2            | 3           | 4           | 5             | 6               |
| mèimei         | jiějie       | māma        | bàba        | gēge          | didi            |
| 妹妹             | 姐姐           | 妈妈          | 爸爸          | 哥哥            | 弟弟              |
| younger sister | older sister | mother, mom | father, dad | older brother | younger brother |

## 1b New Words in Conversation INTERPRETIVE

Listen to the audio and try to understand as much as you can. Then read the dialogue, using the pinyin text and vocabulary list to figure out unfamiliar words.

- |  |             |  |
|--|-------------|--|
|  | 你有没有哥哥?     | Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu <b>gēge</b> ?                    |
|  | 我没有哥哥。我有姐姐。 | Wǒ méiyǒu <b>gēge</b> . Wǒ yǒu <b>jiějie</b> . |
|  | 你有几个姐姐?     | Nǐ yǒu <b>jǐ gè jiějie</b> ?                   |
|  | 我有一个姐姐。     | Wǒ yǒu yí <b>gè jiějie</b> .                   |

### Comprehension Check

- |   |                       |                       |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
|   | <b>T</b>              | <b>F</b>              |
| 1 Ellen has an older brother and an older sister. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2 Owen asks Ellen how many older sisters she has. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

### Vocabulary

	Word	Pinyin	Meaning
1	哥哥	gēge	older brother
2	姐姐	jiějie	older sister
3	几	jǐ	how many
4	个	gè	(measure word for people and many everyday objects)
5	弟弟	didi	younger brother
6	妹妹	mèimei	younger sister
7	爸爸	bàba	father, dad
8	妈妈	māma	mother, mom

1c Puzzle It Out **PROGRESS CHECK**

Complete the exercises below to check your understanding of what you learned in Section 1. If you have questions, consult the Language Reference section.

**Exercise 1** Use the words in the list to complete the translation of the dialogue.

姐姐  
妹妹  
有  
没有  
我

A: 你有 \_\_\_\_\_ 姐姐?

Do you have an older sister?

B: 我 \_\_\_\_\_。 \_\_\_\_\_ 也有 \_\_\_\_\_。

I have an older sister. I also have a younger sister.

**Exercise 2** Should 个 be added to the following sentences? Choose Yes or No.

- |                    | Yes                   | No                    |
|--------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 我有三 _____ 弟弟。    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2 她是马丁的 _____ 妹妹吗? | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3 你有几 _____ 姐姐?    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4 我没有 _____ 哥哥。    | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

Language Reference

1 Using measure words (个)

When counting things in Chinese, a measure word is placed between the number and the thing being counted. English has similar words for describing the amount of something. For example, one can ask for “three *slices* of bread” or “ten *pieces* of paper.”

However, in Chinese, there is a measure word for everything! The measure word 个 (gè) is used to count many kinds of things, including people.

1 我有一个 <sup>gè</sup> 妹妹。 <sup>mèimei</sup>  
I have one younger sister.

2 老师有十 <sup>gè</sup> 学生。  
The teacher has ten students.

3 五 <sup>gè</sup> 同学没有中文名字。  
Five classmates don't have Chinese names.

! TAKE NOTE

There is a special number word used when counting two of something: 两 (liǎng).

他 <sup>liǎng gè</sup> 有两个 <sup>gēge</sup> 哥哥。 He has two older brothers.

2 Asking questions using the A不A pattern

Use the A不A pattern to ask yes/no questions. When you use the A不A question pattern, you don't need to use 吗. If the verb is 有, then 没 is used rather than 不.

	A不A	Meaning
Q1 你	是不是 学生?	Are you a student?
Q2 你	有没有 <sup>jiějie</sup> 姐姐?	Do you have an older sister?

Answer an A不A question the same way you answer a 吗 question.

A1 (是,) 我是学生。 (Yes,) I am a student.

A2 (没有,) 我没有 <sup>jiějie</sup> 姐姐。 (No,) I don't have an older sister.

# Expressing likes and dislikes

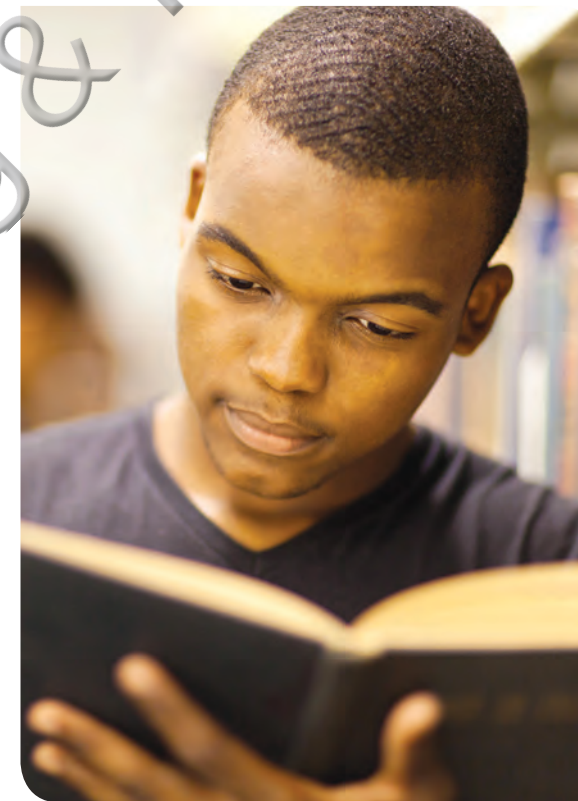
## 2a Language Model TARGET LANGUAGE INPUT

Your teacher will lead a discussion about the images below. Try to participate as much as you can. If there is anything you don't understand, let your teacher know.



Nǐ xǐhuan kàn shū ma?  
你 喜欢 看 书 吗?

Do you like to read books?



1

kàn shū  
看书  
to read a book



2

kàn diànshì  
看电视  
to watch TV

## 1d Using the Language INTERPERSONAL

**Activity 1** Ask your classmates about their siblings. Use the questions below as a starting point. Does anyone have all four kinds of sibling?



- 你有哥哥吗?
- 你有没有弟弟?



- 你是姐姐吗?
- 你是不是妹妹?

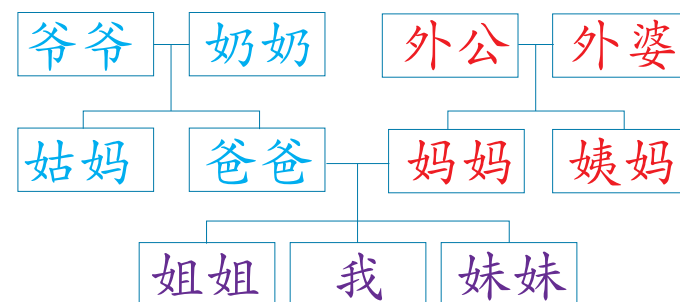
**Activity 2** Now that you know who has brothers and sisters, you can find out who has the most brothers and sisters! Ask your classmates how many of each kind of sibling they have.

- A: 你有几个妹妹?  
B: 我有两个妹妹。

**What a Character!** 女

As a character, 女 (nǚ) means “female.” When the 女 component appears in a character, the meaning is often related to women.

Daming's friend from Shanghai shared his family tree with Daming. How many female family members does he have?





## 2b New Words in Conversation INTERPRETIVE

Listen to the audio and try to understand as much as you can. Then read the dialogue, using the pinyin text and vocabulary list to figure out unfamiliar words.



你们喜欢看书吗?

Nǐmen xǐhuan kàn shū ma?



我喜欢看书。我也很喜欢看电视。

Wǒ xǐhuan kàn shū. Wǒ yě hěn xǐhuan kàn diànshì.



我不太喜欢看书，可是我很喜欢看电视。

Wǒ bú tài xǐhuan kàn shū, kěshì wǒ hěn xǐhuan kàn diànshì.

### Comprehension Check



	Yes	No	Don't know
1 Does Sanjay like to read?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2 Does Maya like to watch TV?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3 Does Leo like to read?	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>



### Vocabulary

	Word	Pinyin	Meaning
9	喜欢	xǐhuan	to like
10	看	kàn	to look at, to watch, to read, to see
11	书	shū	book
12	很	hěn	very, really
13	电视	diànshì	television
14	不太	bú tài	not really, not very
15	可是	kěshì	but

## 2c Puzzle It Out PROGRESS CHECK

Complete the exercise below to check your understanding of what you learned in Section 2. If you have questions, consult the Language Reference section.

Make correct sentences by rearranging the words in each row.

- 吗? | 看 | 书 | 你 | 喜欢
- 看 | 书。 | 我 | 喜欢 | 很
- 不太 | 书。 | 看 | 喜欢 | 我

### Language Reference

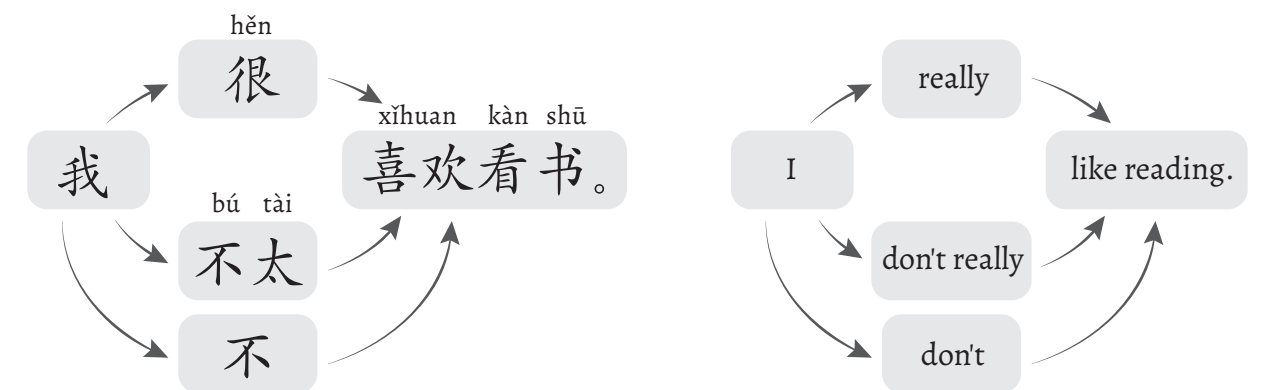
#### 3 Action word + action word

In Chinese, verbs can be placed together directly. There is no need to add an ending, like “-ing,” to the verb. Also, there is no need to add another word, like “to,” between the verbs.

	Verb 1	Verb 2	Meaning	
1 我	xǐhuan 喜欢	kàn 看	shū 书。	I like to read.
2 你们	xǐhuan 喜欢	kàn 看	diànshì 电视吗?	Do you like watching TV?

#### 4 Saying how much you like a thing or activity

Use the words 很 (hěn), 不太 (bú tài), and 不 to talk about how much you like or don't like something.



2d Using the Language INTERPERSONAL

Everyone in your class has been assigned one of four secret identities! Carefully read the profiles for the secret identities. Your teacher will let you know which one now belongs to you. Ask your classmates questions like the ones listed below to figure out their secret identities.

- 你有姐姐吗?
- 你喜欢看书吗?

**Secret Identity #1**  
 Brothers: 一个哥哥  
 Sisters: 两个妹妹  
 Watching TV: 不太喜欢  
 Reading: 很喜欢

**Secret Identity #2**  
 Brothers: 没有  
 Sisters: 两个妹妹  
 Watching TV: 很喜欢  
 Reading: 很喜欢

**Secret Identity #3**  
 Brothers: 没有  
 Sisters: 三个妹妹  
 Watching TV: 不太喜欢  
 Reading: 很喜欢

**Secret Identity #4**  
 Brothers: 两个哥哥  
 Sisters: 两个妹妹  
 Watching TV: 很喜欢  
 Reading: 很喜欢

**5Cs CONNECTIONS**  
 COMMUNITIES  
 COMMUNICATION  
 CULTURES  
 COMPARISONS

When a new technology is invented, a word to describe it must also be invented! In Chinese, new words can be created by combining characters that describe the new technology. In the word 电视, the character 电 means “electricity” or “electric” and the character 视 means “vision.” Put them together, and you have “electric vision” or television!

Can you guess what these words mean?

电脑 diàn nǎo = electric brain = ?

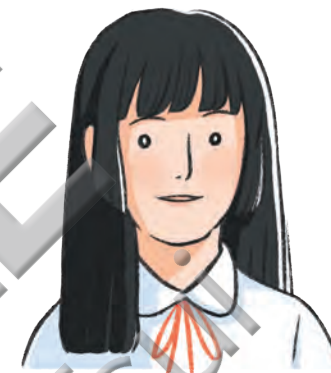
电话 diàn huà = electric speech = ?

电影 diàn yǐng = electric shadow = ?

Talking about pets

3a Language Model TARGET LANGUAGE INPUT

Your teacher will lead a discussion about the image below. Try to participate as much as you can. If there is anything you don't understand, let your teacher know.



Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu chǒngwù?  
 你 有 没有 宠物?

Do you have a pet?



A pet store in the city of Hong Kong



### 3b New Words in Conversation INTERPRETIVE

Listen to the audio and try to understand as much as you can. Then read the dialogue, using the pinyin text and vocabulary list to figure out unfamiliar words.



小明是你的朋友吗?

**Xiǎomíng** shì nǐ de péngyou ma?



他是我的好朋友。

Tā shì wǒ de hǎo péngyou.



他有没有宠物?

Tā yǒu méiyǒu **chǒngwù**?



他没有宠物,可是我有宠物。

Tā méiyǒu **chǒngwù**, kěshì wǒ yǒu **chǒngwù**.



你有几只宠物?

Nǐ yǒu jǐ **zhī chǒngwù**?



我有两只宠物。

Wǒ yǒu liǎng **zhī chǒngwù**.



我有一只宠物! 它是一只猫。

Wǒ yǒu yì **zhī chǒngwù**! Tā shì yì zhī **māo**.

#### Comprehension Check



- Xiaoming is Owen's friend.
- Xiaoming has two pets.
- Owen has two pets.
- Miko has one pet.

	<b>T</b>	<b>F</b>
1	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

### Vocabulary

	Word	Pinyin	Meaning
16	宠物	chǒngwù	pet (animal)
17	只	zhī	(measure word for some animals)
18	它	tā	it (used for animals and things)
19	猫	māo	cat
20	狗	gǒu	dog
	小明	Xiǎomíng	(a name)

### 3c Puzzle It Out

PROGRESS CHECK

Complete the exercise below to check your understanding of what you learned in Section 3. If you have questions, consult the Language Reference section.

Make correct sentences by rearranging the words in each row.

- 有 | 她 | 宠物。 | 三只
- 几只 | 宠物? | 有 | 你
- 我 | 一只 | 有 | 宠物。

### LANGUAGE CHALLENGE

Some common pets, like dogs and snakes, are part of the Chinese zodiac. Find out what animal represents the year you were born and report to the class! Can you learn to say all the zodiac animals in Chinese?





5 Measure words for animals

The measure word 个 can be used for people and many other objects. 只 (zhī) is the measure word used for many, but not all, pets.

1 我有两只宠物。 I have two pets.

2 你有几只宠物? How many pets do you have?

3 我有九只! I have nine!

Here are some common pets and the measure words used to count them.

zhī 只			tiáo 条		pǐ 匹
gǒu 狗 dog	māo 猫 cat	tùzi 兔子 rabbit	yú 鱼 fish	shé 蛇 snake	mǎ 马 horse

3d Using the Language

INTERPERSONAL

Are you a cat person or a dog person? What about your classmates? Ask your classmates how much they like dogs and cats, and whether or not they have cats or dogs as pets. Use the questions below as a guide.



- 你喜欢狗吗?
- 你喜欢猫吗?
- 你有几只狗?
- 你有几只猫?

A Reading and Listening

INTERPRETIVE



Audio

Passage 1  
ISABELLA AND MARTIN ARE CURIOUS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT DAMING'S FAMILY. IT TURNS OUT HE HAS A VERY PUZZLING YOUNGER BROTHER!





Comprehension Check

- |  | T                     | F                     |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Daming's younger brother is a student.         | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2 Daming's younger brother has a younger sister. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3 Daming's younger brother likes to read.        | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4 Xiaoming is Daming's pet.                      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Passage 2** Today is the first day of Chinese class, and these students are getting to know their new teacher. Read the dialogue below. Are the statements that follow true (T) or false (F)?

**Teacher:** 同学们好!

**Students:** 老师好!

**Student A:** 老师, 你有宠物吗?

**Teacher:** 我有一只猫。你喜欢宠物吗?

**Student A:** 喜欢!

**Student B:** 老师, 你有哥哥吗?

**Teacher:** 我没有哥哥, 可是我有一个弟弟。

**Student C:** 老师, 你是妹妹吗?

**Teacher:** 我不是妹妹! 我是姐姐。

- |                                      | T                     | F                     |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 The teacher has one cat.           | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2 Student A doesn't like pets.       | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3 The teacher has a younger brother. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 4 The teacher is a younger sister.   | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**Passage 3** Your mom just bought these outfits for her friend, who has two new babies. Are the babies girls or boys?



**Passage 4** Listen to the personal introduction and answer the following questions.

- Does the speaker have older siblings?
  - Yes, the speaker has an older brother and an older sister.
  - Yes, the speaker has an older brother and two older sisters.
  - Yes, the speaker has an older brother but no older sister.
- Does the speaker have younger siblings?
  - No, the speaker does not have younger siblings.
  - Yes, the speaker has a younger brother.
  - Yes, the speaker has a younger sister.
- Who likes watching TV?
  - The speaker likes watching TV.
  - The speaker's older brother likes watching TV.
  - The speaker's pet likes watching TV.



Audio



**Passage 5** Listen as the speaker describes her friend's family. Are the following questions true (T) or false (F)?



- |   | T                     | F                     |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 The speaker is friends with the boy in the picture. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 2 The girl in the picture is named Chunchun.          | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 3 Everyone in the family really likes their pet.      | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

**B Speaking** INTERPERSONAL

On a separate piece of paper, write four sentences describing your own likes and dislikes. Then share your sentences with your group and ask your group members about what they like and dislike. Who are you most similar to in your group?

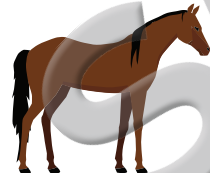
**WORD BANK**



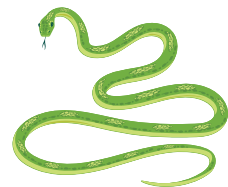
1 jīnyú  
金鱼  
goldfish



2 tùzi  
兔子  
rabbit



3 mǎ  
马  
horse



4 shé  
蛇  
snake



5 huà huà  
画画  
painting



6 kàn diànyǐng  
看电影  
watching movies

**C Final Project** PRESENTATIONAL

**The Animal Party**

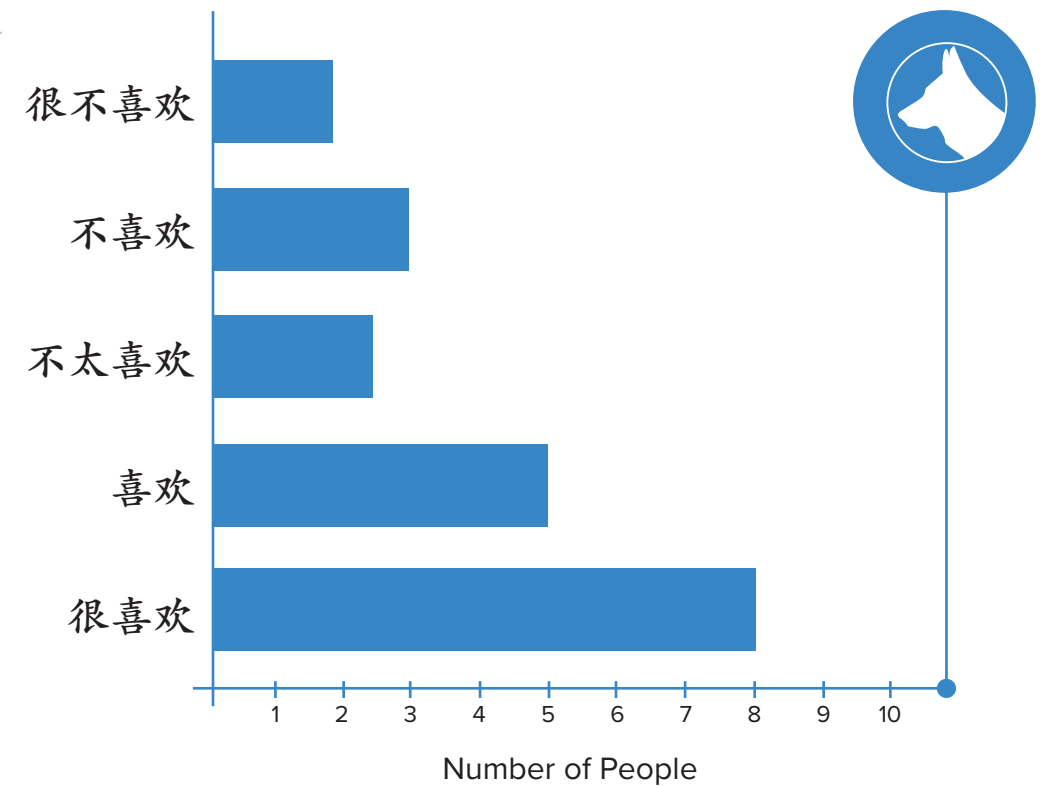
You and your classmates are planning a pet-themed party. All your classmates and their siblings are invited. To plan the party, you need to find out what pets everyone likes.

**Step 1:** Discuss which pets you like and dislike with the classmates in your group. Then pick at least three pets that you all like.

**Step 2:** Interview your classmates to find out if they and their siblings like the pets that your group chose in Step 1. Keep a tally of how many people like each type of pet.

**Step 3:** Create charts like the sample below to show how many people like and dislike each type of pet. Pick the most popular animal for the theme of your party.

**Number of People Who Like or Dislike Dogs**





## Can-Do Goals

**Talk with your teacher if you have questions or if you are not certain you can do the following tasks:**

- Understand simple descriptions of families
- Ask and answer questions about family members
- Express how many siblings and pets you have
- Understand when others talk about their likes and dislikes
- Talk about likes and dislikes
- Use different measure words to talk about people and animals

### Cultural Knowledge

What are some ways that family life in China is changing?



*A family in the city of Shanghai looks at a photo on a cell phone during the Chinese New Year holiday.*