

Address someone and make a request

HSK 2

Use the examples with their context and limits. Recall a sentence before reading the model. Original teaching additions accompany examples adapted from Chinese Grammar Wiki (AllSet Learning, CC BY-NC-SA); see the course reference provenance.

Use a suitable title and ask permission politely.

Build the meaning

A surname normally comes before a role title: 王老师, Teacher Wang. Use a title suited to the person and situation.

可以 吗? asks permission; 请 introduces a polite request. 别 gives a negative instruction.

Useful words in context

- 老师 **lǎoshī** – teacher. 王老师。
- 可以 **kěyǐ** – may / can with permission. 我可以进来吗?
- 进来 **jìnlái** – come in. 请进来。
- 别 **bié** – do not, instruction. 别说话。
- 晚 **wǎn** – late. 我来晚了。

Read for meaning

林安来晚了。她说：“王老师，对不起。我可以进来吗？”王老师说：“可以，请进来。别说话。”

Lin An arrives late. She apologises to Teacher Wang and asks to come in. The teacher permits her and asks her not to talk.

Listen to a different passage

Ask a partner to read this with the script closed. Use the online practice for browser playback.

李老师，我可以坐这里吗？

Teacher Li, may I sit here?

Speak and write

Address Teacher Li, ask to come in, and respond when permission is given.

Write a polite request to sit here, using a surname and title.

One speaking model: A: 李老师，我可以进来吗？ B: 可以，请进来。 A: 谢谢。

One writing model: 王老师，我可以坐这里吗？

- Put the surname before 老师.
- Use 可以 and 吗.
- State the action requested.

Check the distinction: Do not translate English first-name classroom address automatically into every Chinese setting. Use the person's preferred form of address. Learn step by step · Practise and review.