

In this session, you will be learning another way to ask yes-or-no questions; it's not as straightforward as the question formed with a "ma" ending (learned in the previous episode). But you can surely master it by following the instructor closely when you are listening to the sound file. Make sure you can say out the sentences loudly along with the recording.

VOCABULARY:

shū	book
kāfēi	coffee
shì	to be
búshì	not to be
shìbúshì	to be (or) not to be
zhè shìbúshì...?	This is (or) isn't...?

SENTENCES:

1. Zhè shìbúshì shū?
Is this a book?

Positive answer : Yes, this is a book.
Shì, zhè shì shū.

Negative answer: No, this isn't a book.
Bù, zhè búshì shū.

2. Zhè shìbúshì kāfēi?
Is this a coffee?

Positive answer : Yes, this is a coffee.
Shì, zhèshì kāfēi

Negative answer: No, this isn't a coffee.
Bù, zhè búshì kāfēi.

Download more lessons and the accompanying sound file for free at: learnchinese.com. 1

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3. Zhè shìbúshì bǐ?
Is this a pen?

Positive answer : Yes, this is a pen.
Shì, zhè shì bǐ.

Negative answer: No, this isn't a pen.
Bù, zhè búshì bǐ.

4. Zhè shìbúshì diànnǎo?
Is this a computer?

Positive answer : Yes, this is a computer
Shì, zhè shì diànnǎo.

Negative answer:
Bù, zhè búshì diànnǎo.

Now, try to see if you can answer the question number 5 and 6.

5. Wǒ shìbúshì Yǎo?
Am I Yao?

Positive answer :

Negative answer:

6. Nǐ shìbúshì Kevan?

Positive answer :

Negative answer:

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Have fun learning Chinese!

Shì can mean two different things in Chinese. It could mean Yes, it could also mean “to be”.

So when you say “Zhè shìbúshi bǐ?”, you are literally asking “This is (or) isn’t a pen?” I put “or” in the parenthesis since we didn’t it in this Chinese sentence since it’s implied.

I noticed people get confused at this point very easily. In fact once you understand the logic, it’s rather simple!

nǐ	you
wǒ	I

TAKE MY ADVICE:

After you getting familiar with the “shìbúshi” structure, I invite you to listen back to the recording, how was “shìbúshi” pronounced by the instructor? Yes, these three syllables stick together!! It’s important that you don’t break them apart!

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