

You speak such good Chinese

You speak such good Chinese!

MP3 sound recording (link)

Sòng xīnshēng: Shmīs xīnshēng, n zhngwén shu de zhǎn hō!
Shmīs xīnshēng: Zhǎn de ma? W juéde hái yǒu hǎn dà de jìnbù kǎngjīn nē.
Sòng xīnshēng: Zhǎn de. W juéde n shu de tèbié liúli.
Shmīs xīnshēng: Hh, xièxiē n.
Sòng xīnshēng: N xué zhngwén du jǐle?
Shmīs xīnshēng: Dàgài sn nián le ba.
Sòng xīnshēng: Sn nián jiù néng shu zhème hōla, zhǎn bù róngyǐ.
Shmīs xīnshēng: Nà yào xièxiē w de Zhngguó péngyǒu.
Sòng xīnshēng: Nà n du shì zìxué de la?
Shmīs xīnshēng: Shì a, rúgu yùdào bù dǎng de, w jiù qù wèn Zhngguó péngyǒu. Tmēn du fīcháng yuànyì bng w.
Sòng xīnshēng: Nà n néng dú hé xǐ ma?
1000 Shmīs xīnshēng: Ky, búguò hái bú tài hō. W xiànzài zhǎn néng rèn dàgài yìqīn gē Hànzì.
Sòng xīnshēng: Nà bù shōla. Zhǎn lìhài.
Shmīs Xīnshēng : Nín guòjīngla.
Sòng xīnshēng: N hái huì bié de yǎn ma?
Shmīs xīnshēng: Hái yǒu rìy hé déy.
Sòng xīnshēng: Zhǎn de a?! Y gǎn zhngwén shu de yíyàng hō ma?
Shmīs xīnshēng: W juéde ynggǐ chàbudu ba.
Sòng xīnshēng: Tài niúle!

Vocab and notes

() N zhngwén shu de zhǎn hō! 'You speak Chinese really well!' Note how zhngwén comes before the verb and how you do it comes after, preceded by adverbial de.
() Zhǎn de ma? 'Really?'
()() W juéde hái yǒu hǎn dà de jìnbù kǎngjīn nē. 'I feel I still have a lot of room for improvement.' Sentences with hái 'still' often have nē at the end. tèbié liúli 'especially/really fluent'
hh (sound of laughter)
() N xué zhngwén du jǐle? 'How long have you been learning Chinese?' du jǐ 'how long' (Note how time duration comes after the verb.) The le at the end of this sentence implies that the action is continuing, cf. English 'have been ...ing'.
Dàgài sn nián le ba. Dàgài 'about'. The ba indicates uncertainty.
néng 'can'
Zhǎn bù róngyǐ. 'That's quite something.'
() N du shì zìxué de la? 'Have you done it all by self study?' De adds a matter-of-fact tone. La = le + a
... rúgu yùdào bù dǎng de, w jiù... 'if I meet something I don't understand, I (then)...'. Yùdào is a [Resultative complement](#).
() Tmēn du fīcháng yuànyì bng w. 'They're all very willing to help me.'
() Nà n néng dú hé xǐ ma? 'So you can read and write?'
() Ky, búguò hái bú tài hō. 'I can but I'm not very good yet.'
rèn 'recognize'
() Nà bù shōla. Zhǎn lìhài. 'That's quite (lit. 'not') a few. (Quite) amazing!
() N guòjīngla. 'You are exaggerating.'
() N hái huì bié de yǎn ma? 'Can you also speak other languages?' See [hui](#).
rìy 'Japanese language'
déy 'German language'
() Y gǎn Zhngwén shu de yíyàng hō ma? 'Do you also speak them as well as you speak Chinese?' ...() gǎn yíyàng 'as ... as'
() W juéde ynggǐ chàbudu ba. 'I think it must be roughly the same.'
niú 'ox; awesome'. In Taiwan, the expression can be replaced by qiáng or lìhài.

You speak such good Chinese!

Mr Song: Mr Smith, you speak such good Chinese!
Mr Smith: Really? I think I still have plenty of room for improvement.
Mr Song: I really mean it. I think you speak very fluently.
Mr Smith: Haha, thank you.
Mr Song: How long have you been learning Chinese?
Mr Smith: About three years.
Mr Song: Three years and you speak so well. That's quite something.
Mr Smith: I should thank my Chinese friends.
Mr Song: So, you studied all this by yourself?
Mr Smith: Yes. I ask my Chinese friends when I meet something that I don't understand. They are all very willing to help me.
Mr Song: Can you read and write?
Mr Smith: I can. But not very well. I can only read about 1,000 Hanzì.
Mr Song: That's quite a lot! Amazing!
Mr Smith: You are exaggerating.
Mr Song: Can you speak any other languages?
Mr Smith: Japanese and German.
Mr Song: Really?! Do you speak them as well as Chinese?
Mr Smith: I think it's probably about the same.
Mr Song: That's great!