

9 Ways of Asking a Person's Age in Chinese

Interpretation

Nǐ jīn nián duō dà?

1. 你今年多大?

This is the most common and useful way, it's usually used to ask the age of a young person or someone of one's own age.

“Jīn nián(this year)” can be omitted, you can just say “nǐ duō dà?”

For example:

Lì lì , nǐ jīn nián duō dà?

A: 丽丽, 你今年多大?

Lili, how old are you this year?

Wǒ jīn nián èr shí sì suì.

B: 我今年二十四岁。

I'm twenty-four years old.

Xiǎo fāng, nǐ duō dà?

B: 小芳, 你多大?

Xiaofang, how old are you?

Wǒ èr shí wǔ suì.

A: 我二十五岁。

I'm twenty-five years old.

Note: “岁” means “year”. It's a measure word of age.

Nǐ jǐ suì le?

2. 你几岁了?

This way is used to ask a kid's age who is younger than 10 years old.

“Jǐ” means “how many”. It's used to ask for a smaller number, usually below 10.

For example:

Xiǎo péng you, nǐ jǐ suì le?

A:小朋友,你几岁了?

Kid, how old are you?

Wǒ wǔ suì le.

B:我五岁了。

I'm five years old.

Nín guì gēng?

3. 您贵庚?

This is a more polite way to ask a Chinese person's age, but it can't be used to ask kids and teenagers who is less than 20. It's often used to ask an elder's age and used in written Chinese.

“Nín” means “you”, it's a polite way to say you.

For example:

Wáng xiān sheng, nín guì gēng?

A:王先生,您贵庚?

Mr. Wang, may I know your age?

Wǒ sì shí wǔ suì le?

B:我四十五岁了。

I'm forty-five years old.

Nín duō dà nián jì?

4. 您多大年纪?

To ask the age of an elderly person, one should use this way to show more respect.

For example:

Zhāng lǎo shī, nín duō dà nián jì?

A: 张 老 师, 您 多 大 年 纪?

Teacher Zhang, how old are you?

Wǒ jīn nián sì shí suì le.

B: 我 今 年 四 十 岁 了。

I'm forty years old.

Nín jīn nián duō dà suì shù?

5. 您 今 年 多 大 岁 数?

This way can be used to ask people who are over 50 years old.

For example:

Yé ye, nín jīn nián duō dà suì shù?

A: 爷 爷, 您 今 年 多 大 岁 数?

Grandpa, how old are you?

Yé ye jīn nián liù shí wǔ suì.

B: 爷 爷 今 年 六 十 五 岁。

Grandpa is sixty-five years old.

Nín gāo shòu le?

6. 您 高 寿 了?

This is a more polite and respectful way to ask an old people's age.

For example:

Lǎo yé zi, nín gāo shòu le?

A: 老 爷 子, 您 高 寿 了?

Gramps, what's your age?

Wǒ bā shí liù le.

B:我八十六了。

I'm eighty-six years old.

Notes:

“老爷子(lǎo yé zi)” is a respectful term for old men.

If you are over 10 years old, you can just answer the number of your age without “岁”.

Nǐ shì nǎ yì nián chū shēng de?

7. 你是哪一年出生的？

“Chū shēng” means “to be born”. This is an indirect way to ask about one's age, as people can calculate the age by asking about the year of birth. In spoken Chinese, it can be shorten to “nǐ shì nǎ nián de?”

For example:

Dà wèi, nǐ shì nǎ yì nián chū shēng de?

A:大卫，你是哪一年出生的？

David, when were you born?

Wǒ shì yī jiǔ jiǔ sān nián chū shēng de.

B:我是一九九三年出生的。

I was born in 1993.

Lì lì, nǐ shì nǎ nián de?

A:丽丽，你是哪年的？

Lili, when were you born?

Wǒ shì jiǔ sì nián de.

C:我是九四年的。

I was born in 1994.

Notes:

To express the year in Chinese is very simple, you just need to read the numbers one by one, and then plus the word “年” which means “year”.

In spoken Chinese, the first two numbers are often omitted when people express the year.

Nín shì nǎ nián shēng rén?

8. 您是哪年生人?

This question is also about the year of birth. But it's more formal than last one.

For example:

Zhào jīng lǐ, nín shì nǎ nián shēng rén?

A: 赵经理, 您是哪年生人?

Manager Zhao, when were you born?

Yī jiǔ bā èr nián.

B: 一九八二年。

In 1982.

Nǐ shǔ shén me?

9. 你属什么?

In Chinese culture, we have twelve Chinese zodiac signs. This question is asking what the person's Chinese zodiac animal is, then you can calculate the age by yourself.

For example:

Xiǎo měi, nǐ shǔ shén me?

A: 小美, 你属什么?

Xiaomei, what is your Chinese zodiac animal?

Wǒ shǔ hóu.

B: 我属猴。

My Chinese zodiac animal is monkey.