

What is that? – Nà shì shénme?

You have learned so far two different way to ask questions:

- 1) with “ma” - Yes-or-No question
- 2) with “shíbúshì” structure

Questions are important and they are key to our daily conversation since not only you can obtain information from other person, you can also show your interest!

We are going to teach you another very useful way to ask questions using “**shénme**”. This episode is important, because the three new words we are going to learn appear frequently into any conversation.

VOCABULARY:

shénme	what
zhè	this
nà	that

SENTENCES:

1. Zhè shì shénme?

What is this?

Answer:

Zhè shì kāfēi.

This is coffee.

2. Zhè shì shénme?

What is this?

Answer:

Zhè shì diànnǎo.

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This is a computer

3. Zhè shì shénme?

What is this?

-Zhè shì shū.

This is a book.

4. Zhè shì shénme?

What is this?

-Zhè shì zhuōzi.

This is desk.

It's your turn to translate. Easy, isn't it? But can you understand it when you hear it? Can you find an opportunity to use it?

5. Nà shì shénme?

-Nà shì shū.

6. Nà shì shénme?

Nà shì yǐzi.

NOTE:

The difference between zhè and nà is comparable to the difference between this and that in English. When the object you refer to is very close to the speaker, zhè is used, if it's far away out of his reach, then nà will be used.

AN OPEN QUESTION:

Would you like to be a linguist who knows perfectly how a language(s) works but can't speak it or rather someone who doesn't know as much about grammar but speak perfectly the language? (Please paste your opinion online!)

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