



RICHIWI

Ministry for Primary Industries
Manatū Ahu Matua



CONVERSATIONAL MANDARIN

- Chinese Culture and Language - Intermediate
Lesson 7

Lesson 7 Sìchuānrén xǐhuan chī là.

(四川人喜欢吃辣。Sichuan people like eating spicy food.)

New Words and Expressions

1. běifāngrén	北方人	northerner
2. nánfāngrén	南方人	southerner
3. hái shì	还是	or, a question word
4. Chéngdōu	成都	the capital of Sichuan province
5. zhīdao	知道	to know (something)
6. Sìchuān	四川	Sichuan province
7. shěng huì	省会	provincial capital
8. duì	对	right, correct
9. hái	还	also, in addition
10. là	辣	spicy
11. huǒguō	火锅	hot pot
12. tīngshuō	听说	to hear, to be told
13. zài	在	in, at, on
14. liúxíng	流行	popular
15. chuāncài	川菜	Sichuan cuisine
16. méicuò	没错	correct, exactly

Text

A: Nǐ shì běifāngrén háishì nánfāngrén ?

B: Wǒ shì nánfāngrén , wǒ shì Chéngdūrén .
Nǐ zhīdao Chéngdū ma ?

A: Wǒ zhīdao, Chéngdū shì Sìchuān de shěnghuì .

B: Duì .

A: Wǒ hái zhīdao Sìchuānrén xǐhuan chī là , xǐhuan chī huǒguō .
Wǒ tīngshuō zài Zhōngguó , hěn liúxíng chī huǒguō , chī chuāncài .

B: Méicuò .

A: 你是北方人还是南方人?

B: 我是南方人，我是成都人。你知道成都吗?

A: 我知道，成都是四川的省会。

B: 对。

A: 我还知道四川人喜欢吃辣，喜欢吃火锅。我听说在中国，很流行吃火锅，
吃川菜。

B: 没错。

Culture Tips

Diversification

Although the Chinese culture is an integrated whole, there lie great differences between the regional culture and the culture of various nationalities in China, owing to its broad territory and a great number of nationalities.

The Chinese people are usually divided into the southerners and northerners along the boundary of the Qinling Mountains and Huaihe River, and they are different in characters. The northerners are simple, honest and frank, valuing friendship, while the southerners are meticulous and gentle, good at doing business. If we divide the southerner and northerner into smaller groups according to their regions, we may find that they also have different characters. For instance, people from northeast China are unrestrained and frank; Shanghai people, smart; Beijing people, practical; Tianjinese, honest and tolerant; Shanxi people, hard-working and frugal, and are tolerant of hardships; and Cantonese, outgoing and value material gains.

Therefore, you should not always follow the same mode when dealing with the Chinese.