



The phrase in this lesson explains which nationality you are eg “I am an American”. You can use the same structure, “Wǒ shì..”, to say you are anything eg “I am a student”; “I am a pilot”; “I am the general manager of XYZ Company”.

Dialogue



Nǐ shì nǎ guó rén?



Wǒ shì měiguó rén
(I'm American)

The Literal Translation

wǒ	=	I
shì	=	to be
měiguó	=	America
rén	=	person

Pronunciation

The letter 'r' is a tricky sound - your tongue is turned back to the same place as for sh-, zh- and ch-. If you find it difficult, simply use the English 'r'.

1st Tone	2nd Tone	3rd Tone	4th Tone	Neutral tone
—	/	∪	\	
a single, constant pitch, almost like you are singing	a rising tone	a dipping tone	an 'angry' tone, abruptly falling in pitch	Neutral tone words are said lightly and without emphasis
	rén, guó	wǒ, měi	shì	



Extension

You can also say:

- Wǒ cóng měiguó lái (Lit = I from America come)
I come from America