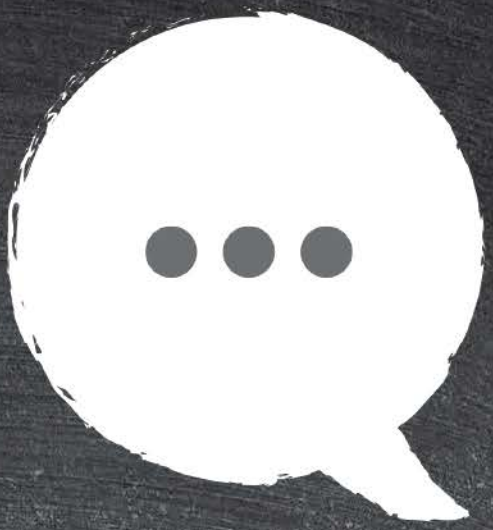
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LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #1
Catching Up With a Friend in China

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

1

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 好久不见！
2. 是呀，你最近怎么样？
3. 我挺好的，你呢？
4. 还是老样子。
5. 哪天我们聚聚？
6. 好，好好聊聊。

ENGLISH

1.	A :	Long time no see!
2.	B :	Yeah, how have you been lately?
3.	A :	I'm good. How about you?
4.	B :	I'm still the same as always.
5.	A :	How about we get together some day?
6.	B :	Ok, let's talk then.

PINYIN

1. Hǎojiǔ bújiàn!
2. Shì ya, nǐ zuìjìn zěnmeyàng?
3. Wǒ tǐng hǎo de, nǐ ne?
4. Hái shì lǎoyàngzi.
5. Nǎtiān wǒmen jùju?
6. Hǎo, hǎohǎo liáoliao.

TRADITIONAL

1. 好久不見！
2. 是呀，你最近怎麼樣？
3. 我挺好的，你呢？
4. 還是老樣子。
5. 哪天我們聚聚？
6. 好，好好聊聊。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
聊聊	聊聊	liáoliao	to chat	verb
好好儿	好好兒	hǎohāor	very well	adverb
聚聚	聚聚	jùju	to get together	verb
挺 ... 的	挺 ... 的	tǐng ... de	pretty/quite	adverb phrase
还	還	hái	still	adverb
怎么样	怎麼樣	zěnmeyàng	how is it	question word
最近	最近	zuìjìn	recently, lately	time word, adverb
哪天	哪天	nǎtiān	some day	noun
老样子	老樣子	lǎoyàngzi	same as always	noun
好久	好久	hǎojiǔ	long time	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我们需要聊聊。 *Wǒmen xūyào liáoliao 。* We need to chat.	你好好儿休息。 *Nǐ hǎohāor xiūxi 。* Have a good rest.
明天在酒吧聚聚。 *Míngtiān zài jiǔbā jùju 。* Let's meet tomorrow at the bar.	今天我起来得挺早的。 *jīntiān wǒ qǐlai de tǐng zǎo de .* I got up quite early today.

我最近挺累的。 *Wǒ zuìjìn tǐng lèi de 。* I've been quite tired lately.	他的车坏了，现在还在修。 *Tā de chē huài le, xiànzài hái zài xiū.* His car is broken and is still being repaired.
你还在中国吗？ *Nǐ hái zài Zhōngguó ma ?* You are still in China?	我还没吃饭。 *Wǒ hái méi chīfàn.* I still haven't eaten.
你的工作怎么样？ *Nǐ de gōngzuò zěnmeyàng ?* How is your work?	一起看电影怎么样？ *Yìqǐ kàn diànyǐng zěnmeyàng?* What do you think about us watching a movie together?
今天天气怎么样？ *Jīntiān tiānqì zěnmeyàng ?* How is the weather today?	我的宝宝最近睡不好觉。 *wǒ de bǎobao zuìjìn shuìbuhǎo jiào .* My baby hasn't been able to sleep well lately.
最近我很忙。 *Zuìjìn wǒ hěn máng.* Recently I've been very busy.	你最近好吗？ *Nǐ zuìjìn hǎo ma?* How have you been lately?
你的生日是哪天？ *Nǐ de shēngrì shì nǎ tiān?* Which day is your birthday?	我们哪天吃饭吧。 *Wǒmen nǎtiān chīfàn ba.* Let's eat some day.
哪天不下雨？ *Nǎ tiān bú xiàyǔ?* When is it not raining?	我一直是老样子。 *Wǒ yìzhí shì lǎoyàngzi 。* I've always been the same as always.
我来了好久。 *Wǒ láile hǎojiǔ.* I've been here a long time.	我好久没有联系他了。 *Wǒ hǎojiǔ méiyǒu liánxì tā le.* I haven't been in touch with him in a while.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Pattern 挺 ... 的 ("quite")
我挺好的，你呢？
"I'm pretty good. How about you?"

Our focus in this lesson is on the pattern 挺 ... 的. In our dialogue, we see this in the sentence 我挺好的 *wǒ tǐng hǎo de* ("I'm pretty good"). As that example shows, we use this pattern to modify the degree of the adjective which is placed in the middle. Grammatically, this kind of sentence pattern is known as a split construction.

In previous series when we've dealt with adjectives, we haven't used split constructions, but instead simple characters like 很 *hěn* ("very") as in 我很好 *wǒ hěn hǎo* ("I'm very good"); 我很忙, *wǒ hěn máng* ("I'm very busy"); or 我很累 *wǒ hěn lèi* ("I'm very tired"). We have also seen other examples where we replace 很 with something more intense, such as 非常 *fēicháng* ("extremely").

The pattern 挺...的 *tǐng ... de* ("quite") is different from these other patterns in that it wraps around the adjective rather than simply preceding it. It is also a bit different in usage, since it is very colloquial but rarely written down in formal speech. And its meaning is also more casual than 很. You can get a sense for how to use it from our following sample sentences:

1. 这个挺无聊的。
   Zhègè tǐng wúliáo de.
   "This is very boring."
2. 老师挺着急的。
   Lǎoshī tǐng zháojí de.
   "The teacher is really anxious."
3. 妈妈挺高兴的。
   Māma tǐng gāoxìng de.
   "Mother is pretty happy."

While this pattern is very easy to learn, it's important that when you use it you don't forget to include the closing 的. Although you will occasionally hear Chinese speakers drop this particle in extremely colloquial speech, there are only a few usages where people are accustomed to the omission. Yet if you include the 的 you are never wrong and will sound much more like a native speaker, so don't forget it!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Words in Other Languages

Did you know that the phrase "long time no see" is one of the few English phrases that comes from the Chinese language? The term passed into common usage in the United States in late 19th century, when it was brought into California by Chinese immigrants working on transcontinental railroad construction. Other English phrases with similar origins from the Chinese language include the terms "coolie" (苦力) and "typhoon" (台风).

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #2
Please Pass on my Chinese Regards

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你家小张好吗?
2. 老样子，还是很忙。
3. 听说他升经理了。
4. 哈哈，是。
5. 祝贺他。
6. 谢谢。
7. 帮我给他带好儿。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你家小張好嗎?
2. 老樣子，還是很忙。
3. 聽說他升經理了。
4. 哈哈，是。
5. 祝賀他。
6. 謝謝。
7. 幫我給他帶好兒。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Nǐjiā Xiǎo Zhāng hǎo ma?

2. Lǎoyàngzi, háishì hěn máng.

3. Tīngshuō tā shēng jīnglǐ le.

4. Haha, shì.

5. Zhùhè tā.

6. Xièxie.

7. Bāng wǒ gěi tā dàihǎor.

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Is Mr Zhang from your home OK?
2.	B:	He's the same as always, still very busy.
3.	A:	I heard he got promoted to manager.
4.	B:	Ha ha, yes he was.
5.	A:	Congratulations to him.
6.	B:	Thank you.
7.	A:	Please send my regards.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
你家	你家	nǐjiā	your home	noun
升	升	shēng	to get promoted	verb
祝贺	祝賀	zhùhè	to congratulate	verb
老张	老張	Lǎo Zhāng	Old Zhang	name
小张	小張	Xiǎo Zhāng	young Zhang	name
我家	我家	wǒjiā	my home	noun
带好儿	帶好兒	dàihǎor	to give regards	verb
忙	忙	máng	busy	adjective
听说	聽說	tīngshuō	to hear of	verb
经理	經理	jīnglǐ	manager	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你家小王在吗? Nǐjiā Xiǎo Wáng zài ma? Is young Wang at your home?	他一下子升了两级。 Tā yíxiàzi shēngle liǎngjí. He went up two ranks at a flash.
祝贺你，你真棒。 Zhùhè nǐ, nǐ zhēn bàng. Congratulations to you, you are really great.	老张是公司的老板。 Lǎo Zhāng shì gōngsī de lǎobǎn. Old Zhang is the boss of the company.
小张不在家。 Xiǎo Zhāng bú zàijiā. Young Zhang isn't at home.	我家大明最近很忙。 Wǒjiā Dà Míng zuìjìn hěn máng. Da Ming from my house has been very busy lately.
给你妈妈带好儿。 Gěi nǐ māma dàihǎor. Give my regards to your mother.	大家都挺忙的。 Dàjiā dōu tǐng máng de. Everyone is all quite busy.

听说他找到工作了。 Tīngshuō tā zhǎodào gōngzuò le. I hear he's found a job.	经理今天不来。 Jīnglǐ jīntiān bù lái. The manager isn't coming today.

他是我的经理。
Tā shì wǒ de jīnglǐ.

He is my manager.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Mysterious Missing 的!
你家小张好吗？
"How is Mr. Zhang?"

There's something really interesting and perhaps a bit strange in our lesson for this week. This occurs in the first sentence of our dialogue, when our first speaker asks the second 你家小张好吗 *Nǐ jiā Xiǎo Zhāng hǎo ma?*("How is Mr. Zhang"). And what is strange? Did you notice the missing 的 from that sentence? According to the rules of possession and subordination we've taught you in previous lessons, shouldn't we technically say 你的家 when talking about "your home"? Why is the particle 的 missing in what is clearly a possessive structure?

The answer to this question is that Chinese grammar is sometimes irregular and this is one of the main exceptions to the rule about when to make things possessive with the character 的. Specifically, you do not need to use 的 when speaking about home, school or work. So "my home" is thus 我家 while "their home" is 他们家. Similarly, you will hear Chinese speakers refer to 我学校 and 我们公司. These concepts of work, school and home are so intimate that people are accustomed to speaking of them without using a formal possessive structure.

1. 我家离你学校很近。
   Wǒ jiā lí nǐ xuéxiào hěn jìn.
   “My home is quite close to your school."

2. 听说他公司破产了。
   Tīngshuō tā gōngsī pòchǎn le.
   "I heard his company went bankrupt."

3. 你家在北京吗?
Nǐ jiā zài Běijīng ma?
"Is your home in Beijing?"

In addition to school, work and companies, there is one more category that can be put into the possessive without using the character 的. This is close blood relations, meaning the kind of family members with whom Chinese speakers will technically live. So do not be surprised to hear Chinese people refer to 我妈妈 or 你姐姐 or 他小孩儿. Again, because of the high degree of intimacy involved in these relationships, the obligation to include the subordinating/possessive 的 is dropped in even formal speech.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What Has Chinese New Year Got to do with the Job Market?

The working year in China is centered around Chinese New Year. The reason for this is not only that Chinese New Year marks the beginning of the next year for most Chinese people, but also because companies use the holiday to keep staff turnover lower than it might be otherwise. Specifically, many companies will often give annual bonuses worth approximately one month of wages during the holiday. Promotions are also often reserved until after the holiday in order to entice staff to stick around. Conversely, if you are looking for a new job, the best time on the market is immediately after Chinese New Year, as companies will also ramp up their hiring drives for the following year.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #3
Having a Happy Birthday in China

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#3

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 王姐，生日快乐！
2. 祝你生日快乐！
3. 谢谢你们。
4. 祝你新的一年身体健康。
5. 还有一切顺利！
6. 谢谢，我们切蛋糕吧。

ENGLISH

1.	A :	Happy Birthday Miss Wang!
2.	B :	Wishing you happy birthday!
3.	A :	Thank you.
4.	B :	Wishing you a year of good health.
5.	A :	And may everything go smoothly!
6.	B :	Thank you, let's cut the cake.

PINYIN

1. Wáng Jiě, shēngrì kuàilè!
2. Zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàilè!
3. Xièxiè nǐmen.
4. Zhù nǐ xīn de yì nián shēntǐ jiànkāng.
5. Hái yǒu yíqiè shùnlì!
6. Xièxie, wǒmen qiē dàngāo ba.

TRADITIONAL

1. 王姐，生日快樂！
2. 祝你生日快樂！
3. 謝謝你們。
4. 祝你新的一年身體健康。
5. 還有一切順利！
6. 謝謝，我們切蛋糕吧

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
祝	祝	zhù	to wish, to bless	verb
身体健康	身體健康	shēntǐ jiànkāng	good health	phrase
一年	一年	yì nián	one year	
切	切	qiē	to cut	verb
新的	新的	xīnde	new	adjective
王姐	王姐	Wáng Jiě	Sister Wang	noun
蛋糕	蛋糕	dàngāo	cake	noun
一切顺利	一切順利	yíqiè shùnlì	everything going smoothly	phrase
生日快乐	生日快樂	shēngrì kuàilè	happy birthday	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

祝你快乐！ *Zhù nǐ kuàilè !* Wishing you happiness.	祝您旅游愉快！ *Zhù nín lǚyóu yúkuài.* I wish you a pleasant trip.
菠菜让身体健康。 *Bōcài ràng shēntǐ jiànkāng.* Spinach makes your body healthy.	去年我忙了一年。 *Qùnián wǒ máng le yì nián.* Last year I was busy all year.
你来切吧。 *Nǐ lái qiē ba 。* Come on. Come over and cut it.	女人切了西柚。 *Nǚrén qiē le xīyòu.* The woman cut the grapefruit.

他新的朋友很多。 *Tā xīn de péngyǒu hěn duō.* He has a lot of new friends.	王姐今天过生日。 *Wáng Jiě jīntiān guò shēngrì.* Today Sister Wang is having her birthday.
这是你的生日蛋糕。 *Zhè shì nǐ de shēngrì dàngāo.* This is your birthday cake.	女人烤了一个蛋糕。 *Nǚrén kǎo le yígè dàngāo.* The woman baked a cake.
祝您一切顺利。 *Zhù nín yíqiè shùnlì.* I wish that everything goes smoothly for you.	小明，生日快乐！ *Xiǎo Míng, shēngrì kuàilè!* Happy birthday Xiao Ming!

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Offering Congratulations
祝你生日快乐！
"Wishing you a Happy Birthday!"

Our grammar point in this lesson is not complex, but it should be very useful, since we want to talk a bit about giving other people good wishes, such as wishing them a Happy Birthday or a Merry Christmas!

In Mandarin, we accomplish this using the verb 祝 *zhù* ("to wish"). This is the same 祝 we saw last lesson in the compound word 祝贺 *zhùhè* ("congratulations"). In this case we drop the second character and use it as the standalone word which opens our sentence, as we see in our dialogue in the common birthday greeting 祝你生日快乐 *Zhù nǐ shēngrì kuàilè* ("Wishing you a Happy Birthday"). Note that although the subject of this sentence is technically 我 ("I wish...") Chinese speakers will omit this by habit as it should be obvious from the context that you are the one passing on your regards. As always though, if you need to specify the subject you can do this by placing it at the beginning of the sentence, before the main verb.

Here are some of the most common expressions you will hear with this structure:

1. 祝你圣诞快乐。
   Zhù nǐ Shèngdàn kuàilè.
   "Wishing you Merry Christmas."
2. 祝你节日快乐。
   Zhù nǐ jiérì kuàilè.
   "Wishing you a happy holiday."
3. 祝你身体健康。
   Zhù nǐ shēntǐ jiànkāng.
   "Wishing you good health."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What's Your Chinese Age?

Although it's common for Chinese parents to count the age of their newborn babies in months and then years, somehow as children grow up it becomes more and more common for them to count their age as if they were a year old at birth. So don't be surprised if you run into this problem when in China, and have Chinese speakers disagree with you about your exact age. Rather than struggle with this problem, one easy way to get around this issue is to avoid telling someone your age when they ask. Instead, answer their question by telling them in what year you were born.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #4 Showing Your Appreciation in China

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2 Traditional Chinese
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4 Sample Sentences
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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 真是太谢谢您了。
2. 不用客气。
3. 应该的，您帮了我大忙。
4. 您太客气了。
5. 这是我的一点心意，请收下。
6. 不行不行。
7. 请您收下吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 真是太謝謝您了。
2. 不用客氣。
3. 應該的，您幫了我大忙。
4. 您太客氣了。
5. 這是我的一點心意，請收下。
6. 不行不行。
7. 請您收下吧。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Zhēnshì tài xièxiè nín le.

2. Búyòng kèqì.

3. Yīnggāi de, nín bāng le wǒ dà máng.

4. Nín tài kèqì le.

5. Zhè shì wǒ de yì diǎn xīnyì, qǐng shōuxià.

6. Bù xíng bù xíng.

7. Qǐng nín shōuxià ba.

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Really, thank you so much.
2.	B:	Don't be (too) polite.
3.	A:	I should. You were such a great help.
4.	B:	You're being too polite.
5.	A:	This is a little gift for you, please take it.
6.	B:	No, no.
7.	A:	Please take it.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
不行	不行	bùxíng	not ok	phrase
心意	心意	xīnyì	intent	noun
收下	收下	shōuxià	to accept	verb
应该的	應該的	yīnggāi de	it's the way it should be	phrase
不用客气	不用客氣	búyòng kèqì	Don't be polite	phrase
太 ...了	太 ...了	tài ... le	excessively	pattern
真	真	zhēn	really	adverb
帮了大忙	幫了大忙	bāng le dà máng	to have been a big help	phrase
请	請	qǐng	please	other

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这样不行。 Zhèyàng bù xíng. This way is no good.	这是小李的心意。 Zhè shì Xiǎo Lǐ de xīnyì. This is a gift from Xiao Li's heart.
收下吧，没关系的。 Shōuxià ba, méi guānxì de. Just take it, it's not a big deal.	这是应该的，别客气。 Zhè shì yīnggāi de, bié kèqì. No problem, this is only what I should do.
不用客气，拿着吧。 Búyòng kèqì, názhe ba. Don't be polite, take it.	你太好了。 Nǐ tài hǎole. You're fantastic.
我真饿。 Wǒ zhēn è. I'm really hungry.	这次你帮了大忙。 Zhè cì nǐ bāng le dà máng. You were a great help this time.

请看一下这个。
Qǐng kànyíxià zhègè.

Please take a look at this.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Ways to Say "Helping Out"
应该的，您帮了我大忙。
"You really helped me a lot."

Our grammar point in this lesson is the useful word 帮忙 *bāngmáng* ("to help out"). And the reason we wanted to highlight this word is that it is often confusing to native English speakers. The reason for this is that the character 忙 in this word does not have the sense of an adjective meaning "busy" as you might imagine. Instead, it is serving as a noun carrying the meaning of a "favor" or "assistance." So technically, this word is a verb + object compound. And because of this, it's possible to do interesting things with it that we are not used to doing in English, particularly with regards to splitting the verb and object components apart in order to change the meaning or stress of our sentence.

Here are some of the examples of this we discussed in this lesson:

1. 你有时间吗？帮个忙。
   Nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma? Bāng gè máng.
   "Do you have time? Help me out."

2. 帮一下忙。
   Bāng yíxià máng.
   "Help me our a little bit."

3. 帮我个忙。
   Bāng wǒ gè máng.
   "Help me out with something."

4. 你帮了我大忙。
   "You really did me a big favor.|

There are no simple rules for understanding how you can transform the verb + object

compound in this construction and create new phrases. But as you listen to further lessons in our series, we will cover all of these transformations one by one and explain exactly what is happening in each case.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How to Give Gifts in China

The golden rule of gift-giving in China is to make sure to insist several times if you are giving someone a gift and they seem reticent about accepting it. The reason for this is that in order not to seem grasping, people usually refuse gifts several times before only relunctantly accepting. This applies not only to explicit gifts but also things like splitting the bill at a restaurant. Even if someone is not expecting to have to pay, they will often offer out of politeness. So be polite and don't take refusals at face value. Or make sure that you insist several times and give your recipient a chance to save face and do you a favor by accepting out of courtesy rather than need or desire.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #5
A Chinese Apology

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2 Traditional Chinese
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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 真对不起!
2. 知道你错了?
3. 都是我的错。
4. 哼。
5. 你别生气了，我跟你道歉。
6. 算了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 真對不起!
2. 知道你錯了?
3. 都是我的錯。
4. 哼。
5. 你別生氣了，我跟你道歉。
6. 算了。

PINYIN

1. Zhēn duìbùqǐ!

CONT'D OVER

2. Zhīdào nǐ cuò le?

3. Dōu shì wǒ de cuò.

4. Heng.

5. Nǐ bié shēngqì le, wǒ gēn nǐ dàoqiàn.

6. Suàn le.

ENGLISH

1. A: I'm so sorry!

2. B: You know you were wrong now?

3. A: It's all my fault.

4. B: Hmm.

5. A: Please don't be angry, I apologize.

6. B: Forget it.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
算了	算了	suànle	forget it	others
生气	生氣	shēngqì	to be angry	verb
道歉	道歉	dàoqiàn	to apologize	verb

都	都	dōu	all, both	adverb,adjective
知道	知道	zhīdào	to know, know	verb
错	錯	cuò	to be mistaken	verb
对不起	對不起	duìbùqǐ	sorry	phrase
别	别	bié	don't	adverb
跟	跟	gēn	with	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

算了，就这样吧。 Suànle, jiù zhèyàng ba. Forget it. Leave it like this.	我让你生气了，对不起。 Wǒ ràng nǐ shēngqì le , duìbùqǐ. I made you angry. I'm sorry.
错了就道歉。 Cuò le jiù dàoqiàn. If you are wrong, apologize.	两本书都在打折。 liǎng běn shū dōu zài dǎzhé. Both books are on sale.
我们都喜欢秋天。 Wǒ men dōu xǐhuān qiūtiān. We all like autumn.	我们都喜欢他. Wǒmen dōu xǐhuān tā. We all like him.
你知道她的名字吗? Nǐ zhīdào tā de míngzì ma? Do you know her name?	也许我们永远不会知道这个习惯是来源于哪里。 yěxǔ wǒmen yǒngyuǎn búhuì zhīdào zhège xíguàn shì láiyuán yú nǎlǐ . We will probably never know the origins of this habit.
我知道问题的答案。 Wǒ zhīdào wèntí de dáàn . I know the answer to the question.	你知道他是谁吗? Nǐ zhīdào tā shì shéi ma? Do you know who he is?

我错了。 Wǒ cuò le. I was wrong.	对不起，是我不好。 Duìbùqǐ , shì wǒ bù hǎo. I'm sorry. It was me who was wrong.
安静，别说话。 Ānjìng, bié shuōhuà. Quiet, don't speak.	你快跟我来！ Nǐ kuài gēn wǒ lái! Quickly, come with me!

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Chinese Adverbs of Degree

真对不起！

"I'm really sorry!"

Our focus in this lesson is on reviewing the most common Chinese adverbs of degree, like 很 *hěn* ("very"), 真 *zhēn* ("truly") and and 非常 *fēicháng* ("extremely"). We also focus on adverbial structures we have encountered in the past like 太 ... 了 *tài ... le* ("excessively") and 挺 ... 的 *tǐng ... de* ("quite"). You should already know these words and structures by now from our previous lessons: they are all used to modify the degree of intensity in adjectives and verbs when making Chinese sentences.

Since we have already covered these words individually, in this lesson we simply want to step back and review these words with a focus on comparing their degrees of emotional intensity. And what better a way to do that then look at some examples? Look at the following sentences and note how our adverbs of degree escalate in intensity:

1. 我有一点儿生气。
   Wǒ yǒu yì diǎnr shēngqì.
   "I'm a little angry."

2. 你去道歉吧，他挺生气的。
   Nǐ qù dàoqiàn ba, tā tǐng shēngqì de.
   "Go and apologize, he's pretty angry."

3. 你快去道歉，他很生气。
   Nǐ kuài qù dàoqiàn, tā hěn shēngqì.
   "Go apologize quickly, he's really angry."

4. 他真生气，我看着很害怕。
Tā zhēn shēngqì, wǒ kàn zhe hěn hàipà.
"He is very angry, I'm scared just looking at him."

5. 他非常生气，你快走吧。
Tā fēicháng shēngqì, nǐ kuài zǒu ba.
"He's extremely angry, you'd better go."

6. 他太生气了，把桌子都砸坏了。
Tā tài shēngqì le, bǎ zhuōzi dōu zá huài le.
"He is so angry he smashed up the table."

Most beginner students in Chinese simply using 很 indiscriminately regardless of the degree of emotion that are communicating. Set yourself apart from the crowd by making a point of experimenting with these different adverbs of degree in your day-to-day life in China.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cultural Differences in China

One of the most important differences between Chinese and Western culture is that some behaviors which may come across as nagging or infantilizing in the West are considered loving and caring in China. In previous lessons, we've mentioned some ways in which this can cause conflict, such as citing the example of relatives who may unconsciously load food onto your plate without asking for permission. Another common example that often leads to fights is when one person constantly nags the other about their behavior or clothing.

While many Chinese people are not bothered by these behaviors since they have adjusted to them from youth onwards, many people who have grown up in the West find these tendencies grating. Dealing with them usually requires that one is perfectly straightforward about what behaviors one considers acceptable and non-acceptable, and realizing that in many cases you will not have control over the behavior of distant friends and family. That said, if you are hoping to avoid having to apologize for causing social problems, as in our dialogue, it is best if you are aware of this very significant cultural difference.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #6 What Should You Do About a Broken Cellphone in China?

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 怎么办，我新买的手机坏了。
2. 您别急，我们保修。
3. 在哪儿可以修?
4. 苹果的专卖店都可以。
5. 好，我明天就去。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 怎麼辦，我新買的手機壞了。
2. 您別急，我們保修。
3. 在哪兒可以修?
4. 蘋果的專賣店都可以。
5. 好，我明天就去。

PINYIN

1. Zěnme bàn, wǒ xīn mǎi de shǒujī huài le.
2. Nín bié jí, wǒmen bǎoxiū.
3. Zài nǎr kěyǐ xiū ?

CONT'D OVER

4. Píngguǒ de zhuānmàidiàn dōu kěyǐ.

5. Hǎo , wǒ míngtiān jiù qù .

ENGLISH

1. A: What can I do? My new cellphone is broken.

2. B: Don't get anxious. We will repair it under warranty.

3. A: Where can I get it repaired?

4. B: Any authorized Apple retailer can do it.

5. A: Okay, I will go tomorrow.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
明天	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow	time word
保修	保修	bǎoxiū	to repair under warranty	verb
专卖店	專賣店	zhuānmàidiàn	specialty shop	noun
坏	壞	huài	to break	verb
新	新	xīn	new	adjective
手机	手機	shǒujī	cellphone	noun
怎么办	怎麼辦	zěnme bàn	what can be done	phrase
别急	别急	bié jí	don't be anxious	phrase

苹果	蘋果	Píngguǒ	Apple	name

SAMPLE SENTENCES

明天我去公园。 Míngtiān wǒ qù gōngyuán. Tomorrow, I'm going to the park.	你们保修吗? Nǐmen bǎoxiū ma ? Do you repair under warranty?
这里有一家专卖店。 Zhèlǐ yǒu yì jiā zhuānmàidiàn. There is a specialty reseller here.	我的电脑坏了。 Wǒ de diànnǎo huài le . My computer is broken.
一直有新的创意不容易。 yīzhí yǒu xīn de chuàngyì bù róngyì. It's not so easy to keep creating new ideas.	这条裙子是新的吗? Zhè tiáo qúnzi shì xīn de ma? Is this skirt new?
我的手机很贵。 Wǒ de shǒujī hěn guì . My cellphone is very expensive.	这个怎么办? Zhègè zěnme bàn ? What can be done about this?
别急，我等你。 Bié jí, wǒ děng nǐ. Don't be anxious. I'll wait for you.	苹果的手机很好用。 Píngguǒ de shǒujī hěn hǎoyòng . Apple cellphones are very easy to use.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 新

我新买的手机坏了。

"My newly bought phone is broken."

Our grammar point is new and exciting! It is the word 新 *xīn* ("new"). And we see it used in a new and really useful way. In previous lessons, we've taught that this word is an adjective and we put it in front of a noun. But we see something different in this lesson. In the dialog, we

heard 我新买的手机坏了, *Wǒ xīn mǎi de shǒujī huài le.* ("My newly bought phone is broken"). First, we have the character 新 and it's is not functioning as an adjective; it's functioning as adverb and we put it specifically in front of one-character verbs. Then we follow it either with 的 or 了. Both are fine. What it's doing is forming a compound adjectival verb phrase. When 新＋verb is followed by 了, it is a modified verb clause. This shows how flexible Chinese is. So, to form a one-character verb, just remember to put 新 before verbs and then add 的 or 了.

Here are a few examples in this structure:

1. 新来的同事很漂亮。
   Xīnlái de tóngshì hěn piàoliàng.
   "The newly arrived colleague is very pretty."

2. 他新交了女朋友。
   Tā xīn jiāole nǚpéngyǒu.
   "He just made a new girlfriend."

3. 我新学的中文，还不太好。
   Wǒ xīn xué de zhōngwén, hái bú tài hǎo.
   "My Chinese is not very good. I learned it just recently."

4. 我新换的电脑，很好用。
   Wǒ xīn huàn de diànnǎo, hěn hǎoyòng.
   "I just bought a new computer. It works really well."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cellphone Repair in China

Apple does have very good warranty service. You can get your cellphones or computers fixed or even give back the broken product and get a new one under the warranty. However, here is a tip we'd like to share with you guys: if you bought your iPhone outside China (excluding Hong Kong and Macao), your iPhone can not be repaired in the Apple stores here. It's related to Chinese security laws. Of course, you can find tons of small repair shops like those in 百脑汇 (if you are in Beijing), and get them to repair your iPhone for a decent price though.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #7 What's the Obvious Solution in China?

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 哎呀，电脑打不开了！
2. 你试试重启？
3. 也不行。
4. 要不就是没电了？
5. 对呀，我怎么没想到呢！

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 哎呀，電腦打不開了！
2. 你試試重啟？
3. 也不行。
4. 要不就是沒電了？
5. 對呀，我怎麼沒想到呢！

PINYIN

1. Āiya , diànnǎo dǎ bù kāi le !
2. Nǐ shìshi chóngqǐ ?

CONT'D OVER

3. Yě bù xíng .

4. Yàobù jiùshì méidiàn le ?

5. Duì ya , wǒ zěnme méi xiǎngdào ne !

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Oh my! The computer won't start!
2.	B:	Try to restart it?
3.	A:	That also doesn't work.
4.	B:	Can it be that there is no power?
5.	A:	Right! Why didn't I think of that?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
哎呀	哎呀	āiya	Goodness gracious!
想到	想到	xiǎng dào	to think of
要不	要不	yàobù	otherwise, why not
打开	打開	dǎkāi	to turn on
死机	死機	sǐjī	for machine to be dead
电脑	電腦	diànnǎo	computer

试试	試試	shìshi	to try
重启	重啓	chóngqǐ	to reboot
没电	沒電	méidiàn	to have no power, to be out of batteries

SAMPLE SENTENCES

哎呀，我忘了！ Āiya, wǒ wàng le! Oh goodness, I forgot!	谁能想到这个呢? Shéi néng xiǎngdào zhège ne ? Who could have thought of this?
要不我带她去医院吧? Yàobù wǒ dài tā qù yīyuàn ba ? Why don't I take her to the hospital?	打开电脑，我要上网。 Dǎkāi diànnǎo, wǒ yào shàngwǎng. Turn on the computer; I want to go online.
我的电脑坏了。 Wǒ de diànnǎo huài le. My computer is broken.	赶快来试试一对一的中文课程吧! Gǎnkuài lái shìshi yīduìyī de zhōngwén kèchéng ba! Come try out the one-on-one Chinese learning program!
我重启一下电脑。 Wǒ chóngqǐ yíxià diànnǎo. I'm rebooting the computer.	我的手机没电了。 Wǒ de shǒujī méidiàn le. My mobile phone is out of batteries.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is A Different Way of Expressing "How Come," 怎么

我怎么没想到呢?

"How come I never thought of that!"

In a previous lesson, we've taught that 怎么 *zěnme* ("how", "why") means "how." But in this dialogue, we hear it in this sentence: 我怎么没想到呢！ *Wǒ zěnme méi xiǎngdào ne!* ("How come I never thought of that?") and it's been used as "why" not "how." In Chinese, there are a lot of those "why" questions and people will use 怎么 to ask.

Here are some examples:

1. 你今天怎么来了?
   Nǐ jīntiān zěnme láile ?
   "Why did you come today?"

2. 电脑怎么死机了?
   Diànnǎo zěnme sǐjī le ?
   "Why is the computer not working?"

3. 你怎么不试试?
   Nǐ zěnme bú shìshi ?
   "Why don't you try?"

4. 怎么没电了?
   Zěnme méidiàn le ?
   "Why is the power off?"

This is a quick grammar point. It's a pretty easy one and it's just a heads up because there are so many people have learned 为什么 *wèishénme* ("why") in the classroom, but when Chinese people speak they are much more likely to say 怎么. So keep your ears on.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Your Computer Fixed in China

If you Google "computer repair in Beijing" you might find tons of computer repair services in the results. You might surprisingly find out that there are many service companies that offer professional, fast and efficient service in fluent English. But you might not want to miss the electronic carnival in the local electronic markets. Bai Nao ui, one of the city's most

well-known computer market, is the place to go for a variety of computer repair needs, both Apple and PC. A trip to the computer hospital on the fourth floor requires patience and proficient Mandarin skills. It can take anywhere from up to a few hours to a day or two to remove viruses, with costs ranging between RMB 150-200 depending on how well you bargain.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #8 How Much do you Love Chinese Cuisine?

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我们去吃四川菜怎么样?
2. 行啊，四川菜不错。
3. 我最喜欢四川菜。又香又辣。
4. 看着就有食欲。
5. 走吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我們去吃四川菜怎麼樣?
2. 行啊，四川菜不錯。
3. 我最喜歡四川菜。又香又辣。
4. 看著就有食欲。
5. 走吧。

PINYIN

1. Wǒmen qù chī Sìchuāncài zěnmeyàng ?
2. Xíng a , Sìchuāncài búcuò.
3. Wǒ zuì xǐhuān Sìchuāncài. Yòu xiāng yòu là.

CONT'D OVER

4. Kànzhe jiù yǒu shíyù.

5. Zǒu ba.

ENGLISH

1. A: How about we go eat Sichuan cuisine?

2. B: Okay, Sichuan food is not bad.

3. A: Sichuanese food is my favorite. It's both fragrant and spicy.

4. B: Just looking at it gives you an appetite.

5. A: Let's go.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
胃口	胃口	wèikǒu	appetite	noun
辣	辣	là	hot, spicy	adjective
又...又	又	yòu	both...and	conj
喜欢	喜歡	xǐhuān	to like	verb
不错	不錯	búcuò	pretty good	adjective
最	最	zuì	most	adverb
四川菜	四川菜	sìchuān cài	Sichuanese food	noun
香	香	xiāng	fragrant	adjective
食欲	食欲	shíyù	appetite	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

要辣的吗? Yào là de ma? Do you want it hot?	这个饭馆又干净又温暖。 Zhègè fànguǎn yòu gānjìng yòu wēnnuǎn. This restaurant is both clean and warm.
我喜欢中国菜. Wǒ xǐhuān Zhōngguócài. I like Chinese food.	这本书不错。 Zhè běn shū búcuò. This book is pretty good.
这是我最喜欢的电影。 Zhè shì wǒ zuì xǐhuān de diànyǐng. This is my favorite movie.	咱们吃四川菜吧。 Zánmen chī sìchuān cài ba. Let's eat Sichuanese Food.
今天的晚饭太香了。 Jīntiān de wǎnfàn tài xiāng le. Tonight's dinner smells really good.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Ways to Say "Both...and..."

四川菜又香又辣。

"Sichuan cuisine is so spicy and delicious."

Our grammar point in this lesson is the pattern 又 *yòu*...又 *yòu*...("both...and..."). We've got the subject that comes first, then it's followed by a compound phrase, which in this case has adjectives. For instance, we would say *北京烤鸭又香又脆 Běijīng kǎoyā yòu xiāng yòu cuì.* （"Beijing Duck is both fragrant and crispy."*)* We want to make sure that the two words we use in this pattern are conceptually related. They can be both adjectives or verbs.

Here are some of the examples of this we discussed in this lesson:

1. 饺子又好吃又好看。
   Jiǎozi yòu hǎochī yòu hǎokàn.
   "Dumplings look nice and taste delicious."

2. 我又想吃又不敢吃四川菜。
Wǒ yòu xiǎng chī yòu bù gǎn chī Sìchuāncài.
"I both want to have Sichuan food but I don't dare eat it."

3. 听到这个消息，他高兴地又叫又跳。
Tīngdào zhègè xiāoxi , tā gāoxìng de yòu jiào yòu tiào.
"When he heard the news he was so excited that he both cried and jumped."

So, it is a really simple grammar pattern and it means both A and B. You have to logically related adjectives or verbs, but don't mix them up.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

What is Sichuan Cuisine?

People immediately think of Sichuan food or *Chuan cai* as being hot, sour, sweet, salty or having the strange taste of some strong seasonings. Sichuan food is famous for its many flavors and almost every dish has its own unique taste. This is because may flavorings and seasonings are produced in Sichuan Province. From popular Chinese hot pots to exclusive Sichuan chilies, if you think the winter in Beijing is too cold for you, try these scrumptious Sichuan restaurants in town to spice up your life.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #9

How Much do you Hate Bitter Chinese Coffee?

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#9

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你怎么放那么多糖？
2. 太苦了。
3. 黑咖啡才香呢。
4. 我实在受不了那个味道。
5. 那下次点摩卡吧。

ENGLISH

1.	A :	How come you put so much sugar?
2.	B :	It's too bitter.
3.	A :	Dark coffee is best.
4.	B :	I can't stand that bitterness.
5.	A :	Then order a mocha next time.

PINYIN

1. Nǐ zěnme fàng nàme duō táng ?
2. Tài kǔ le.
3. Hēi kāfēi cái xiāng ne.
4. Wǒ shízài shòubùliǎo nà gè wèidào.
5. Nà xiàcì diǎn mókǎ ba.

TRADITIONAL

1. 你怎麼放那麼多糖？
2. 太苦了。
3. 黑咖啡才香呢。
4. 我實在受不了那個味道。
5. 那下次點摩卡吧。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
实在	實在	shízài	actually	adverb
点	點	diǎn	to order	verb
糖	糖	táng	sugar	noun
味道	味道	wèidào	flavor, taste	
放	放	fàng	to put, to put in	verb
黑咖啡	黑咖啡	hēi kāfēi	black coffee	noun
苦	苦	kǔ	bitter	adj
受不了	受不了	shòu bù liǎo	to be unable to bear	
下次	下次	xiàcì	next time	conjunction

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我实在讨厌做家务。 *Wǒ shízài tǎoyàn zuò jiāwù.* I actually hate doing housework.	你多点几个菜。 *Nǐ duōdiǎn jǐ gè cài.* Order several more dishes.
一勺糖 *yì sháo táng* tablespoon of sugar	冰糖 *bīngtáng* sugar candy
冰茶總是加糖之後嘗起來更好。 *Bīngchá zǒngshì jiā táng zhī hòu chángqǐlai gèng hǎo.* Iced tea always tastes better after adding sugar.	大部分糖是自然甜料，多來自蔗糖和甜菜。 *Dàbùfēn táng shì zìrán tiánliào , duō lái zì zhètáng hé tiáncài .* Most sugar comes from sugar cane or beets and is a natural sweetener.
純蔗糖 *chún zhètáng* pure cane sugar	方糖 *fāngtáng* cubes of sugar
蘇打水含有很多糖分。 *Sūdǎshuǐ hányǒu hěnduō tángfèn.* Soda contains a lot of sugar.	你的咖啡要加糖吗？ *Nǐ de kāfēi yào jiā táng ma ?* Do you put sugar in your coffee?

放糖之后再放盐。 *Fàng táng zhīhòu zài fàng yán.* Put in the salt after you put in the sugar.	我不喜欢洋葱的味道。 *Wǒ bù xǐhuān yángcōng de wèidào.* I don't like the way onions taste.
他调料放得太多已经没法吃了。 *Tā tiáoliào fàng de tài duō yǐjīng méifǎ chī le .* He put in too many spices and now it is not edible anymore.	别放书包里。 *Bié fàng shūbāo lǐ.* Don't put it in the bag.
黑咖啡有一种特别的香味儿。 *Hēi kāfēi yǒu yì zhǒng tèbié de xiāngwèir.* Black coffee has a unique fragrant taste.	苦味 *kǔwèi* bitter taste
不加糖的咖啡喝起來有點苦。 *Bù jiā táng de kāfēi hēqǐlai yǒudiǎn kǔ.* Unsweetened coffee has a bitter taste.	苦澀的咖啡 *kǔsè de kāfēi* bitter coffee
一些深綠色多葉蔬菜，如菠菜，對我來說太苦了。 *Yìxiē shēnlǜsè duōyè shūcài, rú bōcài, duì wǒ láishuō tài kǔ le.* Some dark leafy greens like spinach are too bitter for my taste.	這個女孩正在吃一些苦的東西。 *Zhège nǚhái zhèngzài chī yìxiē kǔ de dōngxi.* The girl is eating something bitter.
一點苦的綠色蔬菜 *yì diǎn kǔ de lǜsè shūcài* a bitter green vegetable	中药很苦. *zhōngyào hěn kǔ .* Chinese herbal medicine is bitter.
他最不喜欢吃苦的东西。 *Tā zuì bù xǐhuān chīkǔ de dōngxi.* Most of all, he hates eating bitter things.	太冷了, 我受不了. *Tài lěng le, wǒ shòu bù liǎo.* It's too cold; I can't take it.
下次我一定给你礼物。 *Xiàcì wǒ yídìng gěi nǐ lǐwù.* Next time I will certainly give you a gift.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Chinese Adverbs for "Unexpected" or "Suprisingly"
黑咖啡才香呢！
"Dark coffee is the best!"

In this lesson, we are going to talk about the word 才 *cái* ("unexpected," "suprisingly"). In earlier lessons we ran into it when we were talking about time. For instance if someone was late we night say 你现在才来 *nǐ xiànzài cái lái* ("you just arrived now"). The character 才 is an adverb which is put in front of verbs and it makes the verbs sound like they are happening late. In this lesson we want to talk about another tone that this word brings to a sentence. It's not always about time. In this case we are using it because something unexpected happened. You are telling the other person something that he or she wouldn't necessary think, but you insist on it.

Look at the following sentences and note how the adverb 才 emphasizes tone and emotion:

1. 中国菜才好吃呢。
   Zhōngguó cài cái hǎochī ne.
   "Chinese cuisine is the best!"
2. 我才不喜欢吃糖呢，我喜欢带点儿苦味的。
   Wǒ cái bù xǐhuān chī táng ne, wǒ xǐhuān dài diǎnr kǔwèi de.
   "I really don't like eating sweet things; I like bitter things."
3. 摩卡才好喝呢，黑咖啡太苦了。
   Mókǎ cái hǎohē ne, hēi kāfēi tài kǔ le.
   "It's mochas which tastes good. Black coffee is too bitter."
4. 这个味道才特别呢。
   Zhègè wèidào cái tèbié ne.
   "It's this one that tastes special."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Coffee in China

Unlike pizza and hoagies, coffee's history in China goes back to the 19th century, when Western missonaires and businessmen brought it in with them to treaty ports. Are Chinese people drinking coffee? Yes. But probaly not as much as the many Westerners crowing about the ever-increasing number of Starbucks locations. With Chinese consumers becoming more sophisticated and embracing the taste of freshly brewed coffee, coffee shops like Starbucks, Costa Coffee, Chinese chains and independent cafes have seen significant growth in recent years.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #10 Getting Excited About Your Birthday in China

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
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3 English
4 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我快过生日了。
2. 什么时候?
3. 11月5号。
4. 哦，知道了。
5. 没有别的了?
6. 别的什么?
7. 什么时候送我礼物?
8. 礼物？现在才2月!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我快過生日了。
2. 甚麼时候?
3. 11月5號。
4. 哦，知道了。
5. 沒有别的了?
6. 别的甚麼?

CONT'D OVER

7. 甚麼时候送我禮物?

8. 禮物? 現在才2月!

PINYIN

1. Wǒ kuài guò shēngrì le.

2. Shénme shíhòu ?

3. Shíyī yuè wǔ hào .

4. O, zhīdao le .

5. Méiyǒu biéde le ?

6. Biéde shénme ?

7. Shénme shíhòu sòng wǒ lǐwù ?

8. Lǐwù ? Xiànzài cái èr yuè !

ENGLISH

1. A: It's going to be my birthday soon.

2. B: When is it?

3. A: November 5th.

CONT'D OVER

4. B: Okay.

5. A: That's it?

6. B: What do you mean?

7. A: When will you give me a birthday present?

8. B: Present? It's only February!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
礼物	礼物	lǐwù	gift, present	noun
才	才	cái	only now	adv
别的	别的	biéde	something else	noun
过生日	過生日	guò shēngrì	to have a birthday	noun
时候	時候	shíhòu	time	noun
快	快	kuài	soon, almost	adverb
送	送	sòng	to send, to give	verb
现在	現在	xiànzài	now	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

谢谢你的礼物。 Xièxiè nǐde lǐwù. Thanks for your gift.	今天才星期二。 Jīntiān cái xīngqī èr. It's only Tuesday now.

你还要别的吗? Nǐ hái yào biéde ma? Do you want something else?	过生日的时候我会买一个蛋糕。 Guò shēngrì de shíhòu wǒ huì mǎi yí gè dàngāo. When I have a birthday, I will buy a cake.
你什么时候过生日? Nǐ shénme shíhòu guò shēngrì? When are you having a birthday?	我们快结婚了。 Wǒmen kuài jiéhūn le. We are getting married soon.
请送到这个地址。 Qǐng sòngdào zhè gè dìzhǐ. Please send to this address.	现在几点钟? Xiànzài jǐ diǎnzhōng? What time is it now?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Another Way of Using the Adverb 才 *cai*

现在才二月!

"It's only February!"

In this lesson we want to continue to talk about 才 *cái* ("unexpectedly") with a usage that doesn't make any sense, but does exist. In our last lesson, we talked about how 才 is used to communicate the idea that something is happening late. For instance 你怎么现在才来 *nǐ zěnme xiànzài cái lá* ("why are you showing up now?"). We've also taught you that 才 could mean "unexpectedly" or "surprisingly" to the listener. They don't think so, but you are insisting on it. In this lesson, something new and unexpected happens too. In our dialogue we hear *现在才2月! Xiànzài cái èr yuè!* ("It's only February"). 才 is used to describe something happening much sooner than expected. It's the opposite of what we've taught and it's a very special usage. We only run into this when we have a time, and immediately after 才. So, it doesn't come in front of a verb; it comes in front of a time.

We've got some examples here:

1. 现在才六点，你再睡会儿。
   Xiànzài cái liù diǎn, nǐ zài shuì huìr.
   "It's only six o'clock. Sleep for a little bit more."

2. 我们来得太早了，才七点。
Wǒmen láiděitài zǎo le, cái qī diǎn.
"We showed up too early. It's only 7 o' clock."

3. *今天才星期一，离周末还有很久。*
Jīntiān cái xīng qī yī, lí zhōumò hái yǒu hěn jiǔ.
"It's only Monday. We've got a long way to go until the weekend."

So, this is counter-intuitive, and the thing to notice is that we are not putting it in front of a verb; it's coming in front of a noun. And the noun is a time phrase.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Birthdays in China

Family is very important in Chinese society, especially newborns and the elderly as they represent the continuation of the family. One-month-old babies are given traditional gifts of eggs that have been dyed red, which represent happiness and life. Traditionally, Chinese people don't attach much attention to their birthdays until they reach a certain age. However, birthday celebrations among young people are more prevalent nowadays, although the celebrations for newborns and the elderly are still elaborate.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #11
What's Your Chinese Sign?

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Simplified Chinese
Traditional Chinese
English
Pinyin
Vocabulary
Sample sentences
Grammar
Cultural insight

#11

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你应该做我女朋友。
2. 为什么？
3. 因为你属兔。
4. 什么意思？
5. 我属蛇，我们在一起很合适。
6. 蛇？不行不行，我最讨厌蛇了。
7. 呃……
8. 想到蛇就恶心。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你應該做我女朋友。
2. 為甚麼？
3. 因為你屬兔。
4. 甚麼意思？
5. 我屬蛇，我們在一起很合適。
6. 蛇？不行不行，我最討厭蛇了。
7. 呃……
8. 想到蛇就惡心。

ENGLISH

1. A: You should be my girlfriend.
2. B: Why?
3. A: Because you were born in the year of the rabbit.
4. B: What do you mean?
5. A: I was born in the year of the snake, so we'll go well together.
6. B: Snake? Oh no, no, no. I hate snakes the most.
7. A: Uh....
8. B: As soon as I think of snakes, I get nauseous.

PINYIN

1. Nǐ yīnggāi zuò wǒ nǚpéngyǒu.
2. Wèishénme ?
3. Yīnwèi nǐ shǔ tù.
4. Shénme yìsi ?
5. Wǒ shǔ shé, wǒmen zài yìqǐ hěn héshì.
6. Shé ? Bùxíng bùxíng, wǒ zuì tǎoyàn shé le.
7. E.....
8. Xiǎngdào shé jiù ěxīn.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
因为	因為	yīnwèi	because	conjunction
女朋友	女朋友	nǚpéngyǒu	girlfriend	noun
合适	合適	héshì	suitable	adjective
应该	應該	yīnggāi	should	verb
做	做	zuò	to do	verb
恶心	噁心	ěxīn	disgusting	adjective
男朋友	男朋友	nánpéngyǒu	boyfriend	noun
属	屬	shǔ	to belong to	verb
讨厌	討厭	tǎoyàn	to detest	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我不喜欢猫，因为我属鼠。 *Wǒ bù xǐhuān māo , yīnwèi wǒ shǔ shǔ .* I don't like cats, because I'm a rat.	这是我的女朋友. *Zhè shì wǒ de nǚpéngyǒu.* This is my girlfriend.
属虎的人和属猪的人很合适。 *Shǔ hǔ de rén hé shǔ zhū de rén hěn héshì .* People who are pigs and tigers go well together.	我们明天应该休息。 *Wǒmen míngtiān yīnggāi xiūxi.* We should rest tomorrow.
你在做什么? *Nǐ zài zuò shénme?* What are you doing?	这个男的正在吃一份恶心的点心。 *Zhègè nánde zhèngzài chī yí fèn ěxīn de diǎnxīn.* The man is eating a disgusting snack.
我是她的男朋友. *Wǒ shì tā de nánpéngyǒu.* I am her boyfriend.	我想知道你属什么。 *Wǒ xiǎng zhīdào nǐ shǔ shénme .* I want to know which zodiac sign you belong to.
他讨厌别人告诉他做什么。 *Tā tǎoyàn biérén gàosù tā zuò shénme.* He hates it when other people tell him what to do.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 一 ... 就
想到蛇，就恶心。
"As soon as I think of snakes, then I get disgusted."

In the previous lessons, we've taught you the 一 ... 就 *yī ... jiù* structure, which means, "as soon as *sth* happens, then *sth* else happened." For instance, 我一来，他就走了 *Wǒ yì lái, tā jiù zǒu le.* ("As soon as I showed up, he left"). We see *sth* fun in our dialogue for this lesson, though: 想到蛇，就恶心 *Xiǎngdào shé, jiù ěxīn.* ("As soon as I think of snakes, then I get disgusted"). So we are missing the subject, which is me, but we are also missing 一. We only have 就 there. It's the same pattern, but we dropped 一 because we don't need it. And people will also translate this as "when." "When I think of snakes, then I get disgusted." In this case, it's useful to know it's a colloquial omission of the 一, but it's the same pattern.

For Example:

1. 看到属蛇的人，她就高兴。
   Kàndào shǔ shé de rén, tā jiù gāoxìng.
   "When she sees someone borned in the year of snake, she's excited."
2. 她的朋友拿了钱，就走了。
   Tā de péngyǒu ná le qián, jiù zǒu le.
   "Her friend took the money, then left."
3. 孩子睡着觉，就安静了。
   Háizi shuìzháo jiào, jiù ānjìng le.
   "As soon as the child fell asleep, it was quiet."

This is a very simple pattern: 一 ... 就. Just remember, in colloquial Chinese, people may drop the 一, and it means exactly the same thing.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Meaning of Chinese Signs

Fewer and fewer young Chinese people believe in Chinese Signs anymore. However, when it comes to their years, most people would still follow the traditional customs. People believe that in their years, they will either be really lucky or extremely unlucky. Therefore, people need to wear something red on New Year's Eve. Usually people will wear a red belt or red underwear. Sometimes people like to wear some red socks, too. At the bottom of those socks, it usually has a pattern of 小人, which means "schemers." Wearing those kinds of socks in the New Year means you step on those schemers so that you will not get schemed in this year.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #12
Are the Stars Aligning in China?

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2 Traditional Chinese
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4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我认识了一个不错的男人。
2. 什么星座的?
3. 星座？不知道。干嘛?
4. 这个最重要了！看你们合不合适呀。
5. 你太迷信了。
6. 千万别找天蝎座的啊，你们不合适!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我認識了一個不錯的男人。
2. 甚麼星座的?
3. 星座？不知道。幹嘛?
4. 這個最重要了！看你們合不合適呀。
5. 你太迷信了。
6. 千萬別找天蝎座的啊，你們不合適!

PINYIN

1. Wǒ rènshi le yí gè búcuò de nánrén.

CONT'D OVER

2. Shénme xīngzuò de ?

3. Xīngzuò ? Bù zhīdào. Gànmá ?

4. Zhègè zuì zhòngyào le! Kàn nǐmen hé bù héshì ya.

5. Nǐ tài míxìn le .

6. Qiānwàn bié zhǎo tiānxiēzuò de a, nǐmen bù héshì!

ENGLISH

1. A: I met a pretty good guy.

2. B: What sign is he?

3. A: Zodiac sign? I don't know. Why?

4. B: This is the most important thing! To see if you two get along.

5. A: You're too superstitious.

6. B: Whatever you do, don't go out with a Scorpio. You won't get along.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
千万	千萬	qiānwàn	whatever you do	conjunction
合适	合適	héshì	suitable	adjective
重要	重要	zhòngyào	important	adjective

星座	星座	xīngzuò	zodiac sign	noun
干嘛	幹嘛	gànmá	why	question
不错	不錯	búcuò	pretty good	adjective
认识	認識	rènshi	to meet	verb
迷信	迷信	míxìn	superstitious	adjective
天蝎座	天蝎座	tiānxiēzuò	Scorpio	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

慢点儿，千万别出事。
Màn diǎnr, qiānwàn bié chūshì.

Slow down, whatever you do, don't cause a problem.

属虎的人和属猪的人很合适。
Shǔ hǔ de rén hé shǔ zhū de rén hěn héshì .

People who are pigs and tigers go well together.

带好重要物品。
Dàihǎo zhòngyào wùpǐn.

Take all the important things.

很多年轻人相信星座。
Hěn duō niánqīngrén xiāngxìn xīngzuò .

Very many young people believe in zodiac signs.

你干嘛问这个?
Nǐ gànmá wèn zhègè?

Why are you asking this?

这本书不错。
Zhè běn shū búcuò.

This book is pretty good.

很高兴认识你。
Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ.

Nice to meet you.

老人一般都比较迷信。
Lǎorén yìbān dōu bǐjiào míxìn.

Old people are all relatively superstitious.

天蝎座的人很性感。
Tiānxiēzuò de rén hěn xìnggǎn .

Scorpios are very sexy.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 合不合适

看你们合不合适呀！

"To see if you two get along."

Our grammar point in this lesson is kind of interesting because we will blow up a grammatical idea that we've used to teach you to date. It's the difference between adjectives and verbs. Because in classical Chinese, there wasn't really much of a difference. So in this lesson we have words that are adjectives, and we have words that are verbs, but in lots of cases, they want to behave the same way. We see that in the question we get to ask in this lesson. 看你们合不合适呀! *Kàn nǐmen hé bù héshì ya* ! ("I want to see if you guys are suitable enough!"). We've already talked about verb replication; in this case though, it's happening with an adjective 合适 *hé shì* ("suitable"), which we introduced in our last lesson, meaning "to be suitable." Because it is a two-character adjective, we only use the first character at the beginning of the negating pattern 合不合适 *hé bù héshì* ("suitable or not") instead of saying 合适不合适 *héshì bù héshì* 。This is a general pattern to use with most two-character adjectives.

For Example:

1. 在这儿开会合不合适?
   Zài zhèr kāihuì hé bù héshì?
   "Is this a suitable place to have a meeting?"

2. 这个文件重不重要?
   Zhègè wénjiàn zhòng bú zhòngyào ?
   "Is this document important?"

3. 他女朋友漂不漂亮?
   Tā nǚpéngyǒu piào bú piàoliàng ?
   "Is his girlfriend pretty?"

So remember, we've already done this kind of question with "is it" or "isn't it" + verbs. The thing to know in this case is that we are doing it with adjectives too. And the secret reason for this is that it's dating back to classical Chinese where adjectives in Chinese want to be verbs.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese Zodiac

The 12 signs of the Chinese zodiac are symbolized by 12 animals. It is believed that a person takes the characteristics of the animal in whose year they were born. When Chinese people inquire about other people's age, they usually do not say, "When were you born?" Instead, they say, "What is your zodiac sign?" When the Spring Festival is approaching, people greet each other by saying, "Good luck in the year of the snake" instead of, "Good luck in 2013." In China, zodiac signs are used as a method to calculate age and time.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #13
A Chinese Invitation

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2 Traditional Chinese
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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我想请你吃晚饭。
2. 好呀，什么时间?
3. 你什么时候方便?
4. 这周末?
5. 星期六晚上行吗?
6. 没问题。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我想請你吃晚飯。
2. 好呀，什麼時間?
3. 你什麼時候方便?
4. 這週末?
5. 星期六晚上行嗎?
6. 沒問題。

PINYIN

1. Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎnfàn.

CONT'D OVER

2. Hǎo ya, shénme shíjiān?

3. Nǐ shénme shíhòu fāngbiàn?

4. Zhè zhōumò?

5. Xīngqīliù wǎnshàng xíng ma?

6. Méi wèntí.

ENGLISH

1. I want to treat you to dinner.

2. Sure, when?

3. When will you be free?

4. This weekend?

5. How about Saturday night?

6. No problem.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
没问题	沒問題	méiwèntí	no problem	phrase
星期六	星期六	xīngqíliù	Saturday	noun
方便	方便	fāngbiàn	convenient	adjective

周末	週末	zhōumò	weekend	noun
时间	時間	shíjiān	time	noun
午饭	午飯	wǔfàn	lunch	noun
晚上	晚上	wǎnshàng	evening	noun
晚饭	晚飯	wǎnfàn	dinner	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你放心吧，没问题。 Nǐ fàngxīn ba, méi wèntí. You should relax. No problem.	昨天是星期六。 Zuótiān shì xīngqíliù. Yesterday was Saturday.
出租车很方便。 Chūzūchē hěn fāngbiàn. Taxis are convenient.	这个周末你有时间吗? Zhè gè zhōumò nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma? Do you have time this weekend?
你早上几点起床? Nǐ zǎoshàng jǐdiǎn qǐchuáng? What time do you get up in the morning?	时间到了。 Shíjiān dào le. Time is up.
他浪费了所有的时间。 Tā làngfèi le suǒyǒu de shíjiān. He wasted all of the time.	我请你吃午饭。 Wǒ qǐng nǐ chī wǔfàn. I'll treat you to lunch.
我们经常在夏日温暖的晚上打牌。 Wǒmen jīngcháng zài xiàrì wēnnuǎn de wǎnshàng dǎpái . We often play cards on a warm summer evening.	网球场晚上也开。 Wǎngqiúcháng wǎnshàng yě kāi. The tennis court is open in the evening, too.
我们今天晚上去看电影。 Wǒmen jīntiān wǎnshàng qù kān diànyǐng. Tonight we are going to see a movie.	今天晚饭我们吃什么? Jīntiān wǎnfàn wǒmen chī shénme? What are we eating for dinner tonight?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 请

我想请你吃晚饭。

"I want to treat you to dinner."

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the subtleties of asking for things, which is 请 "to invite." We've seen this before to mean "please": 请让一下 *Qǐng ràng yíxià* ("Please let me pass"). In this situation though, it doesn't mean "please." It's a verb here, and it means "to invite." One of the more subtle points is if you invite someone to a dinner, a movie, or for coffee, always remember that you are paying for these things. Sometimes, you can just say 我请你 *Wǒ qǐng nǐ* ("I'm treating you"). You don't need to specify and you may have to insist several times when you are doing that in China.

For Examples

1. 我想请你喝咖啡。

   Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ hē kāfēi.
   "I want to invite you for coffee."

2. 我想请你看电影。
   Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ kàn diànyǐng.
   "I want to invite you for a movie."

3. 我请你。

   Wǒ qǐng nǐ.
   "I'm treating you."

To insist on inviting someone for dinner or coffee, three times would be standard. It's a little bit rude to keep on insisting if someone declines the offer more than three times.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dating in China

If you want to ask a Chinese girl out either in your own country or in mainland China, there is probably something you should know first: Many Chinese women whose native language is actually Mandarin, don't really translate the word "dating" from English into Chinese. You

might think a girl agreeing to go on a date with you shows at least some kind of tentative commitment to perhaps beginning a relationship, but in mainland China it might not mean the same thing. The Chinese culture and way of thinking is so different from most non-Chinese people, that it can cause serious problems between their expectations and yours.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #14
Going on a Date in China

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#14

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你哪天有时间？
2. 最近都有时间，怎么了？
3. 我想约你一起看电影。
4. 明天晚上？
5. 明天我需要加班。
6. 那后天吧？
7. 太好了，我去接你。

ENGLISH

1.	A :	When will you be free?
2.	B :	I'm pretty free lately. What's up?
3.	A :	I want to go watch a movie with you.
4.	B :	How about tomorrow night?
5.	A :	Tomorrow I need to work overtime.
6.	B :	Then the day after tomorrow?
7.	A :	Great, I'll come pick you up.

PINYIN

1. Nǐ nǎtiān yǒu shíjiān ?
2. Zuìjìn dōu yǒu shíjiān, zěnmele ?
3. Wǒ xiǎng yuē nǐ yìqǐ kàn diànyǐng .
4. Míngtiān wǎnshàng ?
5. Míngtiān wǒ xūyào jiābān .
6. Nà hòutiān ba ?
7. Tài hǎo le, wǒ qù jiē nǐ .

TRADITIONAL

1. 你哪天有時間？
2. 最近都有時間，怎麼了？
3. 我想約你一起看電影。
4. 明天晚上？
5. 明天我需要加班。
6. 那後天吧？
7. 太好了，我去接你

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
约	約	yuē	to arrange	verb
接	接	jiē	to pick up	phrasal verb, verb
需要	需要	xūyào	to need	verb
一起	一起	yìqǐ	together	adverb
明天	明天	míngtiān	tomorrow	time word
最近	最近	zuìjìn	recently, lately	time word, adverb
后天	後天	hòutiān	the day after tomorrow	noun
加班	加班	jiābān	to work overtime	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我约了小王一起吃饭。 *Wǒ yuēle xiǎo wáng yīqǐ chīfàn.* I arranged to eat with Little Wang.	你能去帮我接一下孩子吗？ *nǐ néng qù bāng wǒ jiē yíxià háizi ma ?* Can you go pick up the kids for me?
我去公司接你吧。 *Wǒ qù gōngsī jiē nǐ ba.* I will go to the company to pick you up.	我需要改掉我的坏习惯。 *wǒ xūyào gǎidiào wǒ de huàixíguàn .* I need to get rid of my bad habits.
你需要我再提醒你一遍吗? *Nǐ xūyào wǒ zài tíxǐng nǐ yíbiàn ma ?* Do you need me to remind you again?	我需要你的帮助。 *Wǒ xūyào nǐ de bāngzhù.* I need your help.

我们要一起去参加聚会。 *wǒmen yào yìqǐ qù cānjiā jùhuì .* We want to go together to the party.	我们一起去吧. *Wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba.* Let's go together.
明天是我的生日。 *Míngtiān shì wǒ de shēngrì.* Tomorrow is my birthday.	明天下午 *míngtiān xiàwǔ* tomorrow afternoon
明天天氣會很晴朗。 *Míngtiān tiānqì huì hěn qínglǎng.* It will be sunny tomorrow.	明天晚上 *míngtiān wǎnshang* tomorrow night
明天見！ *Míngtiān jiàn!* See you tomorrow!	明天10：10 *míngtiān shí diǎn shí fēn* tomorrow at 10:10
明天我去公园。 *Míngtiān wǒ qù gōngyuán.* Tomorrow, I'm going to the park.	我的宝宝最近睡不好觉。 *wǒ de bǎobao zuìjìn shuìbuhǎo jiào .* My baby hasn't been able to sleep well lately.
最近我很忙。 *Zuìjìn wǒ hěn máng.* Recently I've been very busy.	你最近好吗？ *Nǐ zuìjìn hǎo ma?* How have you been lately?
明天是星期三，后天是星期四。 *Míngtiān shì xīngqī sān, hòutiān shì xīngqī sì.* Tomorrow is Wednesday, and the day after tomorrow is Thursday.	如果不在六点前完成任务, 你就得加班了. *rúguǒ bú zài liù diǎn qián wánchéng rènwu , nǐ jiù děi jiābān le .* If you don’t finish your tasks before six, then you will have to work overtime.
最近，他经常加班到很晚。 *Zuìjìn, tā jīngcháng jiābān dào hěn wǎn.* Recently, he's often been working overtime late into the evening.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is our Old Friend 那
那后天吧？
"Then the day after tomorrow?"

This is an exciting and sometimes confusing grammar point. It's an old friend that we've all learned about before: 那 *nà* ("then"). It's one of the simple words in Chinese that's resurfacing to cause problems because here it means something different. In this lesson we hear it in this line 那后天吧, *Nà hòutiān ba* ("So, what about the day after tomorrow?"), which means, "in this case." It's tricky because if you hear the tone wrong and think it's a question, you will misunderstand it as 哪天 *nǎtiān* ("which day"). This is really colloquial, so it hasn't been taught in a lot of textbooks. But everyone uses it to string sentences together. Remember, you need to look at the context, otherwise 那 doesn't make sense.

Examples from this dialogue:

1. 那我下次再来。
   Nà wǒ xiàcì zàilái.
   "You are not free today; in that case, I will come again next time. "
2. 那你和我一起去吧。
   Nà nǐ hé wǒ yìqǐ qù ba.
   "In that case, why don't we go together?"
3. 那我们先吃饭吧。
   Nà wǒmen xiān chīfàn ba.
   "How about we eat first?"
4. 那我去接你吧。
   Nà wǒ qù jiē nǐ ba.
   "In that case, I will go and pick you up. "

Language Tip

Usually the word 那 is used at the beginning of a sentence. Just remember that it doesn't mean "that." It means "then" or "in that case."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dating in China

In China, as in many other countries, there are different ways to ask a girl out. However, it's a little different to ask a girl to the movies than it is to go to a dinner date. You might want to ask the girl what kinds of movies she's seen, which are her favorites, or about the last movie she saw. This is a good conversation starter that can end with your asking her to see a movie with you. You also need to know the genres of movies that girls usually appreciate. Remain a gentleman, and she might be likely to give you a second date or accept your offer to go for a drink after the movie.

[Correction Note]
In the lesson's main audio at min 01:01 1:31 the instructor says 明天我要加班, but should have said 明天我需要加班.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #15
Are You Too Busy for Love in China?

CONTENTS

2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

#15

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你什么时候有空?
2. 有事吗?
3. 我想请你吃晚饭。
4. 不好意思，我最近特别忙。
5. 能不能抽点儿时间给我呢。
6. 真不好意思，改天再说吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你什麼時候有空?
2. 有事嗎?
3. 我想請你吃晚飯。
4. 不好意思，我最近特別忙。
5. 能不能抽點兒時間給我呢。
6. 真不好意思，改天再說吧。

PINYIN

1. Nǐ shénme shíhòu yǒu kòng?

CONT'D OVER

2. Yǒushì ma?

3. Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎnfàn.

4. Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ zuìjìn tèbié máng.

5. Néng bùnéng chōu diǎnr shíjiān gěi wǒ ne.

6. Zhēn bùhǎoyìsi, gǎitiān zàishuō ba.

ENGLISH

1. A: When are you free?

2. B: What's wrong?

3. A: I want to invite you to dinner.

4. B: I'm sorry, lately I've been really busy.

5. A: Can't you squeeze out a little time for me?

6. B: I'm really sorry. Let's talk about it some other time.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
抽时间	抽時間	chōu shíjiān	to find time	verb
有事	有事	yǒushì	to have something	verb phrase
忙	忙	máng	busy	adjective

不好意思	不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	I'm sorry	
特别	特别	tèbié	especially	adverb
有空	有空	yǒu kòng	to have free time,to be free	phrase
改天	改天	gǎitiān	to change days	verb
改天再说	改天再說	gǎitiān zàishuō	let's talk about it later	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我们抽时间谈一谈。 Wǒmen chōu shíjiān tán yì tán. Let's find time to talk.	我下星期有事。 Wǒ xiàxīngqīyǒushì. I am busy next week.
今天晚上七点钟我有事。 Jīntiān wǎnshàng qī diǎnzhōng wǒ yǒu shì. I have something tonight at seven o'clock.	你周六忙吗? nǐ zhōuliù máng ma? Are you busy on Saturday?
不好意思我迟到了。 Bù hǎo yìsi wǒ chídào le. I am sorry I am late.	哦，不好意思，请坐。 O, bùhǎoyìsi, qǐngzuò. Oh, sorry! Please sit.
我特别不喜欢香菜。 Wǒ tèbié bù xǐhuān xiāngcāi. I especially don't like cilantro.	马克在上午都有空。 Mǎkè zài shàngwǔ dōu yǒukòng . Mark is always free in the morning.
你今天晚上有空吗? Nǐ jīntiān wǎnshàng yǒu kòng ma? Do you have time this evening?	我们改天一起吃饭吧。 Wǒmen gǎitiān yìqǐ chīfàn ba. Let's eat together at another time.
我今天很忙，改天再说。 Wǒ jīntiān hěn máng, gǎitiān zàishuō. I'm really busy today. Let's talk about this later.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Our Old Friend 再

真不好意思，改天再说吧。

"I'm really sorry, let's talk about it some other day."

Today we are going to talk about an old friend 再 *zài* ("again"). We see it in our dialogue in this wonderful phrase. 改天再说, *Gǎitiān zàishuō*. ("Let's talk about it another day.") Here we've got the word 改天 *(gǎitiān)*, which is a set word phrase, and it means, "change the day." Technically this word 再 is an adverb. We put it in front of verbs and it's really common. An implicit part of this usage is the idea you are continuing something you've done before. So, it's not doing something for the first time. It's usually continuing the activity you are doing right then.

Examples from this dialogue:

1. 明天再联系。

   Míngtiān zài liánxì.
   "I will be in touch again tomorrow."

2. 下次再约时间。

   Xiàcì zài yuē shíjiān.
   "We will set the time next time."

3. 我现在没时间，明天再看。

   Wǒ xiànzài méi shíjiān, míngtiān zài kàn.
   "I don't have time now. Let's take a look tomorrow.

4. 太晚了，明天再做吧。

   Tài wǎnle, míngtiān zài zuò ba.

   "It's too late. Let's do it tomorrow."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Dating in China

If you are not Chinese you probably know little about China and would find the girls there even more alluring since their ways seem quite distinct from girls from other parts of the world. This is not to say that they are a different species altogether, but their rich cultural heritage makes them quite distinct in their way of life or behavior. A relaxing and less conventional meeting would be a good idea. Something like just meeting for coffee with no big set up or preparations.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #16
Thanks for a Great Chinese Party!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#16

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 谢谢你邀请我们来。
2. 真高兴你们能过来！
3. 今天的晚饭太好吃了。
4. 你们喜欢就好。
5. 下次来我们家做客。
6. 好的，一定。

ENGLISH

1. Thank you for inviting us.
2. We are really happy you came!
3. The dinner was delicious.
4. Great that you liked it.
5. Next time, come to our place as guests.
6. Sure, absolutely.

PINYIN

1. Xièxiè nǐ yāoqǐng wǒmen lái.
2. Zhēn gāoxìng nǐmen néng guòlái!
3. Jīntiān de wǎnfàn tài hàochī le.
4. Nǐmen xǐhuān jiù hǎo.
5. Xià cì lái wǒmen jiā zuòkè.
6. Hǎo de, yídìng.

TRADITIONAL

1. 謝謝你邀請我們來。
2. 真高興你們能過來！
3. 今天的晚飯太好吃了。
4. 你們喜歡就好。
5. 下次來我們家做客。
6. 好的，一定。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
一定	一定	yídìng	definitely, certainly	adverb
好吃	好吃	hǎochī	delicious	adjective
喜欢	喜歡	xǐhuān	to like	verb
过来	過來	guòlái	to come over	verb
高兴	高興	gāoxìng	happy	adjective
下次	下次	xiàcì	next time	conjunction
邀请	邀請	yāoqǐng	to invite	verb
做客	做客	zuòkè	to be a guest	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我一定会去。 *Wǒ yídìng huì qù.* I will definitely go.	這個女的正在享受好吃的披薩。 *Zhège nǚ de zhèngzài xiǎngshòu hǎochī de pīsà.* The woman is enjoying delicious pizza.
這個披薩看起來很好吃。 *Zhège pīsà kànqǐlái hěn hǎochī.* The pizza looks delicious.	好吃的披薩 *hǎochī de pīsà* delicious pizza
這牛肉非常好吃。 *Zhè niúròu fēicháng hǎochī.* This beef is very delicious.	巧克力蛋糕很好吃。 *Qiǎokèlì dàngāo hěn hǎochī.* Chocolate cake is pretty delicious.

这道菜很好吃！ *Zhè dào cài hěn hǎo chī.* This dish is very delicious!	我喜欢中国菜. *Wǒ xǐhuān Zhōngguócài.* I like Chinese food.
吃完饭你能过来一下吗？ *Chī wán fàn nǐ néng guòlái yíxià ma ?* When you are done eating, can you come over for a moment?	他回来我太高兴了。 *Tā huílái wǒ tài gāoxìng le.* His coming back made me really excited.
下次我一定给你礼物。 *Xiàcì wǒ yídìng gěi nǐ lǐwù.* Next time I will certainly give you a gift.	我想邀请你参加我们的聚会。 *Wǒ xiǎng yāoqǐng nǐ cānjiā wǒmen de jùhuì.* We would like to invite you to our party.
他没邀请我一起吃晚饭。 *Tā méi yāoqǐng wǒ yìqǐ chī wǎnfàn.* He didn't invite me to eat together with him.	我喜欢朋友来我家做客。 *Wǒ xǐhuān péngyǒu lái wǒjiā zuòkè.* I like inviting friends over as guests.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 就
你们喜欢就好。
"Great that you liked it."

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the charcter 就 *jiù* ("then"). This is an adverb, and it means "then." In the dialogue, we hear this word here: 你们喜欢就好 *Nǐmen xǐhuan jiù hǎo* ("If you like it, then that's what matters.") We hear a lot used in this way, where it's used especially before a single character adjective at the end of a sentence. You will hear this again and again; this pattern is a simple one but we run into it so often. We can also use it in negative, but we can't put 不 *bù* ("not") before or after 就. We actually have to negate the main verb of the sentence.

More Examples:

1. 好，你知道就好。
   Hǎo, nǐ zhīdào jiù hǎo.
   "Your knowing is what matters."
2. 你们来就行，别带什么东西。
   Nǐmen lái jiù xíng, bié dài shénme dōngxi.
   "If you come that's enough, don't bring anything.“
3. 你不知道就好。
   Nǐ bù zhīdào jiù hǎo.
   "If you don't know, then that's what it matters."

Language Tip

Just remember that the character 就 can be placed in some ajectives and verbs at the end of the sentence, as in the examples 就好 (*jiù hǎo*). 就行 (*jiù xíng*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Hospitality

In China, the guests are treated with great kindness and respect by the host. Chinese hospitality consists of keeping the guest occupied. Visitors are usually shown a lot of sites, taken out to a lot of meals, and offered a lot of food and drinks. Independence is a foreign thing here and the host will feel obliged to give the guest a full program of activities. It's customary in China to see the guests off. This goes far beyond the front door. Guests will often not only be accompanied to down stairs, but also to the street until the guests' transportation arrives. This may be awkward for Westerners who are accustomed to saying goodbye at the door.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #17
Asking for Help in Chinese

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#17

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 可以帮我个忙吗？
2. 没问题，做什么？
3. 帮我扶一下，我要换灯泡。
4. 这样行吗？
5. 就这样，谢谢。
6. 没事。

ENGLISH

1. A : Can you lend me a hand?
2. B : No problem, what do you want me to do?
3. A : Hold this for me. I need to change the light bulb.
4. B : Like this?
5. A : Yes, thank you.
6. B : You're welcome.

PINYIN

1. Kěyǐ bāng wǒ gè máng ma?
2. Méi wèntí, zuò shénme?
3. Bāng wǒ fú yíxià, wǒ yào huàn dēngpào.
4. Zhèyàng xíng ma?
5. Jiù zhèyàng, xièxiè.
6. Méishì.

TRADITIONAL

1. 可以幫我個忙嗎？
2. 沒問題，做什麼？
3. 幫我扶一下，我要換燈泡。
4. 這樣行嗎？
5. 就這樣，謝謝。
6. 沒事。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
灯泡	燈泡	dēngpào	light bulb	noun
帮	幫	bāng	help	verb
换	換	huàn	to change	verb
扶	扶	fú	to hold	verb
可以	可以	kěyǐ	can	verb
一下	一下	yí xià	a while	adverb
没事	沒事	méishì	you're welcome	expression
这样	這樣	zhèyàng	this way	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

燈泡壞了變黑的時候把它換掉。 *Dēngpào huàile biànhēi de shíhou bǎ tā huàndiào.* Change the lightbulb when it burns out and goes dark.	白熾燈泡 *báichì dēngpào* incandescent light bulb
男人在决定一个灯泡。 *Nánrén zài juédìng yígè dēngpào.* The man is deciding on a light bulb.	你可以帮我吗？ *Nǐ kěyǐ bāng wǒ ma?* Can you help me?
换二百欧元。 *Huàn èrbǎi ōuyuán.* Change 200 Euros.	你可以扶着这个吗？ *Nǐ kěyǐ fúzhe zhègè ma ?* Can you hold this up?

你可以叫我丽丽。 *Nǐ kěyǐ jiào wǒ Lìli.* You can call me Lili.	请稍等一下。 *Qǐng shāo děng yí xià.* Please wait a moment.
没事，不客气。 *Méishì, bú kèqì.* It's no problem, don't be so polite.	这样不行，你试试那个。 *Zhèyàng bùxíng, nǐ shì shì nàgè.* This way isn't any good. Try that.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Reviewing 没
没问题，做什么？
"Sure, what do you want me to do?"

In our grammar section for this lesson, we will review some of the common words and phrases that start with the character 没 *méi* ("none"). In the dialog, we ran into two of these. The first one is 没问题 *méi wèntí* ("no problem"), and the second one is 没事儿 *méishìr* ("no problem" or "you are welcome"). There are a couple of other really common ones, for instance, 没关系 *méiguānxi* ("it's no big deal"). These phases can be used interchangeably in a lot of situations. Next we have 没什么 *méishénme* ("it's nothing"). All of these phrases are very casual but useful.

More Examples:

1. 没问题。
   Méi wèntí
   "No problem."
2. 没事儿。
   Méishì er
   "No problem."
3. 没关系。
   Méi guānxi
   "It's no big deal."
4. 没什么。
   Méi shénme.
   "It's nothing."

Language Tip

Notice the special *er hua yin* in the sentence 没事儿. You have to have the *er.* It might make you sound a bit weird if it's left out.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Asking for Help

There will always be a point in our lives where we will need to ask for help and also when we are given the opportunity to lend a helping hand. Some might find the Chinese people to be some of the most friendly and enthusiastic people they have ever met. Most visitors in China would discover that Chinese people are often warm and curious; they are tolerant, but not always polite. However, it is not a difficult thing to establish friendships in China.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #18 Offering Help in Chinese

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
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4 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 用我帮忙吗?
2. 会不会太麻烦你了?
3. 不麻烦，别客气。
4. 那就谢谢了。
5. 我该怎么做?
6. 拿着这儿就行。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 用我幫忙嗎?
2. 會不會太麻煩你了?
3. 不麻煩，別客氣。
4. 那就謝謝了。
5. 我該怎麼做?
6. 拿著這兒就行。

PINYIN

1. Yòng wǒ bāngmáng ma?

CONT'D OVER

2. Huì bú huì tài máfán nǐ le?

3. Bù máfán, bié kèqì.

4. Nà jiù xièxiè le.

5. Wǒ gāi zěnme zuò?

6. Názhe zhèr jiù xíng.

ENGLISH

1. Do you need my help?

2. Would it be any trouble?

3. No trouble at all. Don't worry.

4. Then thanks.

5. What should I do?

6. Just hold it here.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
该	該	gāi	should	verb
用	用	yòng	to need	verb
别客气	别客气	bié kèqì	Don't worry.	noun

拿	拿	ná	to hold	verb
那	那	nà	then	conjunction, expression
麻烦	麻煩	máfán	trouble	verb;noun
太 ...了	太 ...了	tài ... le	excessively	pattern
会不会	會不會	huìbúhuì	can or can not	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

明天我们该早点起床。 Míngtiān wǒmen gāi zǎodiǎn qǐchuáng. We should get up early tomorrow.	用我换灯泡吗? Yòng wǒ huàn dēngpào ma? Do you need me to change the light bulb?
别客气，这是我应该做的。 Bié kèqì, zhèshì wǒ yīnggāi zuò de. Don't worry. This is what I should be doing anyway.	女人拿了地球仪。 Nǚrén nále dìqiúyí. The woman held the globe.
好的，那下星期见。 hǎo de, nà xiàxīngqī jiàn . Ok, then, I'll see you next week.	那我也去。 Nà wǒ yě qù. Then I'll go too.
麻烦你了。 Máfán nǐ le. I've troubled you.	你太好了。 Nǐ tài hǎole. You're fantastic.

你会不会做饭?
Nǐ huìbúhuì zuòfàn?

Do you know how to cook food?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 用.

用我帮忙吗?
"Do you need my help?"

We've mentioned the grammar point in the vocab section. It's the word 用 *yòng* ("to use"). You may have seen this used elsewhere. Sometimes 用 means "to use," for example, 用钥匙开门, *yòng yàoshi kāimén* ("to use a key to open the door"), or 用我的车吧 *yòng wǒ de chē ba* ("use my car"). But in those cases, what you are "用ing" is a noun. In this sentence *用我帮忙吗? Yòng wǒ bāngmáng ma?* ("Do you need my help?"), 用 can't be translated into "to use." Instead, it means "to need." The rule of thumb is that if 用 is coming before a tool or an object, then it means to use; but if it's coming before a verb or a verb phrase, then it means "to need." And you can always replace 用 with 需要 *xūyào*, ("to need"), which more literally means to need or to require. People tend to use 用 more in speech, and use 需要 more in either formal context or in writing.

More Examples:

1. 你不用这么客气。

   Nǐ búyòng zhème kèqì.
   "You don't have to be so polite."

2. 用我换灯泡吗?
   Yòng wǒ huàn dēngpào ma?
   "Do you need me to change the light bulb?"

3. 用我们过来帮忙吗?
   Yòng wǒmen guòlái bāngmáng ma?
   "Do you need us to come over and help?"

4. 用我告诉她吗?
   Yòng wǒ gàosù tā ma?
   "Do you need me to tell her?"

5. 不用过来了，我自己能行。
   Búyòng guòlái le, wǒ zìjǐ néng xíng.
   "You don't have to come over; I can do it myself."

6. 我们用不用叫外卖?
Wǒmen yòng bú yòng jiào wàimài?
"Do we need to order delivery?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Helping Others

Helping others has always been a virtue in the traditional Chinese culture. But there is no denying that a lot of Chinese people are becoming more risk-conscious and are more wary of traps and deceits. They are scared that if they help, something horrible will happen to them. Nevertheless, these could be just easy excuses to not do anything. Just as "love thy neighbor" is regarded as a virtue in China, being selfish and neglectful could be criticized in China. However, some of the Chinese people seem genuinely scared to stand up to anything.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #19
Feeling Under the Weather in China

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 真不好意思，我有点儿难受。
2. 怎么了，要去医院吗?
3. 没事，就是有点儿头疼。
4. 那你先回去休息吧。
5. 好，我先走了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 真不好意思，我有點兒難受。
2. 怎麼了，要去醫院嗎?
3. 沒事，就是有點兒頭疼。
4. 那你先回去休息吧。
5. 好，我先走了。

PINYIN

1. Zhēn bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ yǒudiǎnr nánshòu.
2. Zěnmele, yào qù yīyuàn ma?
3. Méishì, jiùshì yǒudiǎnr tóuténg.

CONT'D OVER

4. Nà nǐ xiān huíqù xiūxi ba.

5. Hǎo, wǒ xiān zǒu le.

ENGLISH

1. Sorry, I'm not feeling well.

2. What happened? Do you need to go to the hospital?

3. No worries. I just have a bit of a headache.

4. Then please go home to rest.

5. Okay, I'll go now.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
就是	就是	jiùshì	just	adverb
先	先	xiān	first	adverb
头疼	頭疼	tóuténg	headache	noun
难受	難受	nánshòu	troubled	adjective
医院	醫院	yīyuàn	hospital	noun
有点儿	有點兒	yǒu diǎnr	to be a little	verb
休息	休息	xiūxi	to rest	verb
回去	回去	huíqù	to return, to go back	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我就是有点儿感冒。 Wǒ jiùshì yǒudiǎn er gǎnmào. I've just got a little cold.	先看文字，再回答问题。 xiān kàn wénzì , zài huídá wèntí . Read the text first and then answer the questions.
你先去那里等我。 Nǐ xiān qù nàlǐ děng wǒ. Go there and wait for me first.	我头疼。 Wǒ tóuténg. I have a headache.
我的肚子很难受。 Wǒ de dùzi hěn nánshòu. My stomach is really troubled.	他家在医院后面。 Tā jiā zài yīyuàn hòumiàn. His house is behind the hospital.
今天有点儿热。 Jīn tiān yǒu diǎnr rè 。 Today is a little hot.	我不需要休息。 Wǒ bù xūyào xiūxi. I don't need to rest.
我现在就要回去！ wǒ xiànzài jiù yào huíqu ! I have to go back now!	你回去好好休息。 Nǐ huíqù hǎohǎo xiūxi. Go back and have a good rest.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 先

好，我先走了。
"Okay, I'll go now."

Our grammar point in this lesson is about a very special adverb 先 *xiān* ("first"). Now, let's step back to the dialogue and look at the line where we hear this *我先走了, Wǒ xiān zǒu le* ("Okay, I will go now.") That's how Chinese people use it most of the time. Literally, it means, "I will go first," but it's more polite to say than, "I'm going now." So we put this in front of verbs, for instance, 你先去，然后我也去, *Nǐ xiān qù, ránhòu wǒ yě qù* ("You go first, and then I will go too."). So maybe you are with a friend and you are looking for two different cabs. One cab pulls up, and you say to him, "You take this one, and I will take the next one." People doing activities can be the same person, or they can be different people. You can use

先 when the subject doesn't change and when you are describing two things you are going to do.

More Examples:

1. 他先吃，你再吃。

   Tā xiān chī, nǐ zài chī
   "He will eat now, then you can eat."

2. 让老人先看病。

   Ràng lǎorén xiān kànbìng

   "Let the elderly people see the doctors first."

3. 我先休息一下，再工作。

   Wǒ xiān xiūxi yíxià, zài gōngzuò.
   "I will rest a bit first and then work."

Language Tip

So remember, the adverb 先 literally means, "first," but it is used colloquially in Chinese in the sense of "now."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Medical Care in China

Big cities in China like Beijing and Shanghai have hospitals, clinics, and dentists established for foreigners. Many of them are a part of local hospitals. Some can offer a full range of medical services, such as operations, check-ups, and in-patient facilities, while other smaller clinics may simply be able to diagnose the symptoms of minor ailments. If you wish to see a doctor, you can do that by making an appointment by telephone or through an appropriate website.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #20 Making Sure Your Chinese Friend is Okay

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2 Traditional Chinese
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4 Sample Sentences
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#20

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你不舒服吗?
2. 怎么这么问?
3. 你一直在打喷嚏。
4. 哦，这两天有点儿过敏。
5. 啊，多注意身体。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你不舒服嗎?
2. 怎麼這麼問?
3. 你一直在打噴嚏。
4. 哦，這兩天有點兒過敏。
5. 啊，多注意身體。

PINYIN

1. Nǐ bù shūfu ma?
2. Zěnme zhème wèn?
3. Nǐ yìzhí zài dǎ pēntì.

CONT'D OVER

4. O, zhè liǎng tiān yǒudiǎnr guòmǐn.

5. A, duō zhùyì shēntǐ.

ENGLISH

1. You're not feeling well?

2. Why do you ask?

3. You keep sneezing.

4. My allergy has been acting up for the last couple days.

5. Ah, take care of yourself.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
多	多	duō	more	adjective
这么	這麼	zhème	so	adverb
这两天	這兩天	zhè liǎng tiān	the last couple of days	noun
注意	注意	zhùyì	to pay attention	verb
一直	一直	yìzhí	continuously	adverb
过敏	過敏	guòmǐn	allergy	adjective
打喷嚏	打噴嚏	dǎ pēntì	to sneeze	verb
问	問	wèn	to ask	verb
身体	身體	shēntǐ	body	noun

不舒服	不舒服	bù shūfu	uncomfortable	adj

SAMPLE SENTENCES

多喝水。
Duō hē shuǐ.

Drink more water.

这个房间怎么这么小?
Zhègè fángjiān zěnme zhème xiǎo?

How is this room so small?

我的爱犬这两天不太舒服，我要在家照顾照顾它。
Wǒ de àiquǎn zhè liǎng tiān bútài shūfu, wǒ yào zàijiā zhàogù zhàogù tā.

My dog hasn't been feeling well recently and I need to stay at home to care for it.

他越来越不注意身体了。
Tā yuèláiyuè bú zhùyì shēntǐ le.

He's paying less and less attention to his body.

我一直相信他。
Wǒ yìzhí xiāngxìn tā.

I continuously believed him.

我对花生过敏。
Wǒ duì huāshēng guòmǐn.

I'm allergic to peanuts.

别对着我打喷嚏。
Bié duìzhe wǒ dǎ pēntì.

Don't sneeze at me.

大学生问了教授一个问题。
Dàxuéshēng wèn le jiàoshòu yígè wèntí.

The university student asked the professor a question.

去问问那位大妈。
Qù wènwèn nà wèi dàmā.

Go and ask that old lady.

劳驾，我问个路。
Láojià, wǒ wèn gè lù.

Excuse me, I need to ask for directions.

我想问一下，那个人是谁?
Wǒ xiǎng wèn yíxià, nàgè rén shì shéi?

I want to ask, who is that?

他的身体很差，经常生病。
Tā de shēntǐ hěn chà, jīngcháng shēngbìng.

His body is in poor shape, he's constantly getting sick.

别提了，我现在很不舒服。
Biétíle, wǒ xiànzài hěn bù shūfu.

Don't mention it; I'm not comfortable right now.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 这么 and 那么

怎么这么问?

"Why do you ask?"

In the vocab, we'd find 这么 *zhème* as "so," but we saw it in the sentence 怎么这么问 *zěnme zhème wèn* ("Why do you ask"). We know 怎么 (*zěnme*) means "how" or "why," so here the whole sentence means, "Why do you ask this way?" So, you can put 这么 in front of verbs, which means "to do something like that." It can also be put in front of the adjectives, which means "so" (adjective). We also want to introduce a sister of the word 这么 (*zhème*), that is 那么 (*nàme*). If 这么 means "this way," then 那么 basically means "that way." The interesting thing in English is that 这么 and 那么 both tend to turn into "so." Therefore, you can use both 这么 and 那么 to emphasize the tone of voice, and they can be used interchangeably. And if you want to emphasize even more, you can add 怎么 in front of 这么 plus adjective or 那么 plus adjective , which is not just "so X," but, "how is it so X?" "It's impossible to believe." For example, 你怎么这么傻, *Nǐ zěnme zhème shǎ?* ("How can you possibly be so dumb?") or 她怎么那么烦, *Tā zěnme nàme fán*? ("Why is she so annoying?").

Examples from this dialog:

1. 你可以这么走。
   Nǐ kěyǐ zhème zǒu.
   "You can walk this way."

2. 你怎么这么慢?
   Nǐ zěnme zhème màn?
   "Why are you so slow?"

3. 我那么累，你让我休息一下。
   Wǒ nàme lèi, nǐ ràng wǒ xiūxi yíxià.
   "I'm so tired, let me rest a bit."

4. 今天那么冷，你怎么穿这么少?
   Jīntiān nàme lěng, nǐ zěnme chuān zhème shǎo?
   "It's so cold today, why are you wearing so little?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Being Sick in China

Perhaps being sick while you are in China is somewhat scary, regardless of whether it is a bad case of food allergy or something far more severe. In general, you will be able to find all ranges of care while in China, and obviously the closer you are to Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, or Hong Kong, the better for things that are more severe. Take some time to work out a few details and make sure you have the information needed. There are good care providers here, and through a few phone calls, they can be identified.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #21
An Unseasonably Hot Day in China

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#21

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 今天可真热。
2. 是啊，凉快了两天，又热了。
3. 这都秋天了。
4. 听说明天有雨。
5. 希望能凉快点儿。

ENGLISH

1. It's so hot today.
2. Yes, it got cool for two days, and then hot again.
3. It should be autumn already.
4. I heard it will rain tomorrow.
5. I hope it will be a bit cooler.

PINYIN

1. Jīntiān kě zhēn rè.
2. Shì a, liángkuài le liǎng tiān, yòu rè le.
3. Zhè dōu qiūtiān le.
4. Tīngshuō míngtiān yǒu yǔ.
5. Xīwàng néng liángkuài diǎnr.

TRADITIONAL

1. 今天可真熱。
2. 是啊，涼快了兩天，又熱了。
3. 這都秋天了。
4. 聽說明天有雨。
5. 希望能涼快點兒。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
雨	雨	yǔ	rain	noun
凉快	涼快	liángkuài	cool	adjective
秋天	秋天	qiūtiān	autumn	noun
可	可	kě	adds emphasis	adverb
今天	今天	jīntiān	today	time word
热	熱	rè	hot	adjective
听说	聽說	tīngshuō	to hear said	verb
希望	希望	xīwàng	to hope, to wish	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

雨落到地上。 *Yǔ luòdào dìshàng.* The rain is falling on the street.	秋天凉快的風 *qiūtiān liángkuài de fēng* cool autumn breeze
白天很熱，但是晚上很凉快。 *Báitiān hěn rè, dànshì wǎnshàng hěn liángkuài.* It's hot during the day, but cool at night.	凉快兒的天氣 *liángkuàir de tiānqì* cool day
秋天很凉快。 *Qiūtiān hěn liángkuài.* Autumn is very cool.	秋天是个美丽的季节。 *Qiūtiān shì ge měilì de jìjié.* Autumn is a beautiful season.
这里的秋天很短。 *Zhèlǐ de qiūtiān hěn duǎn.* Autumn is very short here.	别问我，我可不知道。 *Bié wèn wǒ, wǒ kěbù zhīdào.* Don't ask me. I don't know.
今天我有很多事情要做。 *Jīntiān wǒ yǒu hěn duō shìqíng yào zuò.* I have a lot to do today.	今天6：15 *jīntiān liù diǎn shíwǔ fēn* today at 6:15
今天的作業 *jīntiān de zuòyè* today's homework	她今天看起來很悲傷。 *Tā jīntiān kànqǐlái hěn bēishāng.* She looks really sad today.

今天特别热。 *Jīntiān tèbié rè .* It is especially hot today.	今天是星期四。 *Jīntiān shì xīngqīsì.* Today is Thursday.
八月通常很熱，但今天實在太熱了。 *Bā yuè tōngcháng hěn rè, dàn jīntiān shízài tàirè le.* It's usually hot in August, but today it's really hot.	今天很熱。 *Jīntiān hěn rè.* It's a hot day.
天氣熱 *tiānqì rè* hot day	太陽烤著沙漠。 *Tàiyáng kǎozhe shāmò.* The sun is heating the hot desert.
今天太热了。 *Jīntiān tài rè le.* Today is too hot.	听说，她和她老公离婚了。 *Tīngshuō, tā hé tā lǎogōng líhūn le.* I heard she and her husband divorced.
我没有未来的希望。 *Wǒ méiyǒu wèilái de xīwàng.* I don't have any hope for the future.	我渴望有一天，我出国留学的愿望能够实现。 *Wǒ kěwàng yǒu yì tiān, wǒ chūguó liúxué de yuànwàng nénggòu shíxiàn.* I hope that one day my dream of going abroad to study will come true.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Phrase "可"
今天可真热。
"It's so hot today."

Today's grammar point is fun because textbooks do not teach this, and it's so useful. It's this character 可 (*kě*) . It is used in our dialogue 今天可真热 *Jīntiān kě zhēn rè* ("Wow, it's so hot today.") What confuses people is that when people are studying Chinese, they know that sometimes this character means "but." For instance, 你想去，可我不想去, *Nǐ xiǎng qù, kě wǒ bù xiǎng qù*, ("You want to go, but I don't want to go.") It is confusing because here, 可 is a contracted form of 可是 *kěshì* ("but"). In this situation, it's not though. This is a really conversational way of speaking; it's just adding emphasis and can be removed completely. The sentence in the dialogue can also be 今天真热 *Jīntiān zhēn rè* ("It's so hot today."), but by adding 可, you are adding this emotional emphasis.

More Examples:

1. 你的女朋友可真漂亮。
   Nǐ de nǚpéngyǒu kě zhēn piàoliàng.
   "Wow, your girlfriend is really pretty. "
2. 别问我，我可不能说。
   Bié wèn wǒ, wǒ kě bùnéng shuō.

"Don't ask me. I really can't tell you."

3. 他可不喜欢麦当劳。
   Tā kě bù xǐhuān Màidāngláo.
   "He doesn't like McDonald's."

Language Tip

The word is not taught so much in the textbooks because it doesn't translate into anything except for a strong feeling toward the objectives. When you are speaking with the Chinese people, you will hear this a lot, but not so much in written Chinese because it's sort of an oral emphasis. If you start using it, your Chinese will sound more native for sure.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Autumn in Beijing

Beijing's autumn is known to be the most wonderful period. It is the best season to travel to Beijing, not only because it has tender, warm sunshine and a brilliant blue sky, but also because of the gorgeous scenery in the suburb area. Without the disturbance of summer heat and winter chill, people can always enjoy a comfortable autumn to breath the fresh air, look at the clear sky, and enjoy all kinds of outdoor activities.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #22 What Do You Do in Your Spare Time in China?

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你周末喜欢做什么?
2. 在家看电影，或者出去跑步。
3. 我跟你差不多。
4. 我还喜欢做饭。
5. 我们太默契了。
6. 你也喜欢做饭?
7. 不，我喜欢吃饭。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你周末喜歡做什麼?
2. 在家看電影，或者出去跑步。
3. 我跟你差不多。
4. 我還喜歡做飯。
5. 我們太默契了。
6. 你也喜歡做飯?
7. 不，我喜歡吃飯。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Nǐ zhōumò xǐhuān zuò shénme?

2. Zàijiā kàn diànyǐng, huòzhě chūqù pǎobù.

3. Wǒ gēn nǐ chàbùduō.

4. Wǒ hái xǐhuān zuòfàn.

5. Wǒmen tài mòqì le.

6. Nǐ yě xǐhuān zuòfàn?

7. Bù, wǒ xǐhuān chīfàn.

ENGLISH

1. What do you like to do on the weekends?

2. Watch a movie at home, or go running outside.

3. I'm basically the same as you.

4. I also like to cook.

5. We're perfect for each other.

6. You like cooking as well?

7. No, I like to eat.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
默契	默契	mòqì	complementary	noun
周末	週末	zhōumò	weekend	noun
做饭	做飯	zuòfàn	to cook food	verb
或者	或者	huòzhě	or	conjugation
在家	在家	zàijiā	at home	verb
差不多	差不多	chàbùduō	more or less	phrase
跑步	跑步	pǎobù	to run	verb
出去	出去	chūqù	to get out	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他们两口子很有默契。 Tāmen liǎng kǒuzi hěn yǒu mòqì. The two of the couple are really good together.	这个周末你有时间吗? Zhè gè zhōumò nǐ yǒu shíjiān ma? Do you have time this weekend?
你会做饭吗? Nǐ huì zuòfàn ma? Can you cook food?	吃饭或者看电影都可以。 Chīfàn huòzhě kàn diànyǐng dōu kěyǐ. Eating or watching a movie, both are fine.
我今天在家里休息。 Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā lǐ xiūxi. I am relaxing at home today.	我的工作差不多完成了。 Wǒ de gōngzuò chàbùduō wánchéng le. My work is more or less finished.
他每天跑步。 Tā měi tiān pǎobù. He jogs everyday.	他出去了一会儿,应该马上就会回来. tā chūqu le yìhuìr, yīnggāi mǎshàng jiù huì huílai. He went out for a bit, (and) should be back soon.

我们出去走一走吧。
Wǒmen chūqù zǒu yì zǒu ba.

Let's go outside and walk around.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is "or."
在家看电影，或者出去跑步。
"Watch a movie at home, or go jogging outside."

There are a few ways of saying "or" in Chinese; 或者 *huòzhě* and 还是 *háishì* are two big ones. The big difference between the two is that 或者 (*huòzhě*) is nonexclusive, so we don't hear this as much. Most of the time, if someone is going to use this asking a question, they are offering you an exclusive choice. For instance, the classic example is, "Would you like tea or coffee?" 你要茶还是咖啡, *Nǐ yào chá háishì kāfēi*, ("Do you want tea or coffee?") or 你想吃泰国菜还是中国菜, *Nǐ xiǎng chī tàiguócài háishì zhōngguócài*, ("Do you want to eat Thai food or Chinese food?"). So, we are implying that you can't do both or that it's unreasonable to have Thai food and go out immediately again to a Chinese restaurant. Therefore, most of the time people use 还是 in the question. Sometimes however, we will run into this second way of saying "or": 或者. We have one example in our dialogue 在家看电影或者出去跑步, *Zài jiā kàn diànyǐng huòzhě chūqù pǎobù*, ("At home watching a movie or going out running"). It could be any two activities, but the important thing is that it's not exclusive. You are not choosing between one or the other. You can do both of them.

Now we have a super advanced useful grammar point. When you negate these questions, we don't use either of these. So in Chinese, you don't say, "I don't want coffee 还是/或者 tea." You will change both of those words into our old friend 也 *yě* ("also").

More Examples:

1. 我喝茶或者咖啡都行。

   Wǒ hē chá huòzhě kāfēi dōu xíng.
   "Coffee or tea, both are OK."

2. 我不要看电影，也不要出去跑步。
Wǒ búyào kàn diànyǐng , yě bú yào chūqù pǎobù.
"I don't want to watch a movie or go out running."

3. 我不要咖啡也不要茶。

Wǒ búyào kāfēi yě búyào chá.
"I don't want coffee, nor tea."

Language Tip

So, the grammar point here is simple and tricky at the same time. Just to remember that 或者 is the nonexclusive "or" and 还是 is giving you a choice of only one of the two. And finally, when we are negating this, we say 也.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Eating Out in China

Eating out at restaurants is one of life's great pleasures. In China, it costs a mere fraction of the amount it costs in other countries to embrace the wonderful Chinese concept of hot food and noisy surroundings, gather a group of friends, order way too much food, and enjoy a raucous meal. And when you're done, there are no dishes! And although going out to eat seems so much easier because it's cheap, tasty, and sociable, after living in China a while, a lot of foreigners find it an enjoyable experience to be creative and learn some new Chinese dishes and to cook at home.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #23 What a Cute Chinese Child!

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
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3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

#23

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 您的女儿真可爱。
2. 哈哈，谢谢。她可淘气了。
3. 她多大了?
4. 下个月2岁。
5. 长得真像妈妈。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 您的女兒真可愛。
2. 哈哈，謝謝。她可淘氣了。
3. 她多大了?
4. 下個月2歲。
5. 長得真像媽媽。

PINYIN

1. Nín de nǚér zhēn kěài.
2. Hāhā, xièxiè.
3. Tā kě táoqì le.

CONT'D OVER

4. Tā duōdà le?

5. Xià gè yuè liǎng suì.

6. Zhǎngde zhēn xiàng māma.

ENGLISH

1. You daughter is so cute.

2. Thanks, she can be very naughty too.

3. How old is she?

4. She'll be two next month.

5. She looks a lot like her mother.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
长得	長得	zhǎng de	to look	verb
像	像	xiàng	like, to resemble	verb
下个月	下個月	xià gè yuè	next month	noun
可爱	可愛	kěài	cute	adjective
淘气	淘氣	táoqì	naughty	adjective
女儿	女兒	nǚér	daughter	noun
您	您	nín	you (formal)	pronoun
岁	歲	suì	age	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他长得很帅。 Tā zhǎng de hěn shuài. He looks really handsome.	有时候狗和主人很像。 yǒu shíhou gǒu hé zhǔrén hěn xiàng . Dogs sometimes resemble their owners.
你看我们像不像? Nǐ kàn wǒmen xiàng bú xiàng? What do you think, do we look alike?	他下个月出差。 Tā xià gè yuè chūchāi. He is going on a business trip next month.
那个孩子非常可爱。 Nàge háizi fēicháng kěài. This child is extremely cute.	它有点儿淘气。 Tā yǒu diǎnr táoqì. It is a little naughty.
请问您贵姓? Qǐngwèn nín guìxìng? May I ask your surname?	我今年二十岁。 Wǒ jīn nián èr shí suì. I am twenty years old this year.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Phrase 长得 and 看起来

长得真像妈妈。

"She looks a lot like her mother."

Our grammar point in this lesson is something that's easy to get wrong. It's about this word 长得 (*zhǎngde*), which means "to grow up in a way that results in..." In our dialogue, we run into this in the following line: 长得真像妈妈 *zhǎngde zhēn xiàng māma* ("to look like one's mother"). So, what it means in the way we translate it is a little different. The key thing here is that when we say something looks like something else, it is used exclusively for people or animals. For example, if you are saying to someone, 你长得真帅 *Nǐ zhǎngde zhēn shuài* ("Wow, you are really handsome") or 你长得真漂亮 *Nǐ zhǎngde zhēn piàoliàng* ("Wow, you are really pretty"). That's how we do it in Chinese. 长得 is always about the appearance. So it's how you look, and it's also about aging and growing into a way of resembling something. This is different than the other ways we have in Chinese of saying "look like": 看起来 kàn qǐlái ("to seem"). In a lot of cases, you can use 看起来 when you want to use 长得. But they have still different connotations in different contexts. For instance, 你看起来很累 *Nǐ kàn qǐlái*

hěn lèi ("You seem really tired."), 你看起来好像病了 *Nǐ kàn qǐlái hǎoxiàng bìng le* ("You look like you are a little bit sick."). It's transitory; it's not something that staying with you forever and it's describing your appearance. It's describing something that passes. The other thing to remember is that 看起来 is often used for situations and objects. Especially with situations, you can say 这个看起来比我想象的更难 *Zhègè kàn qǐlái bǐ wǒ xiǎngxiàngde gèng nán* ("It seems this is more difficult than I thought.") or 看起来今天要下雨 *Kàn qǐlái jīntiān yào xiàyǔ* ("It seems it's going to rain today."). We would never use 长得.

More Examples:

1. 这张桌子看起来不错。
   Zhè zhāng zhuōzi kàn qǐlái bú cuò.
   "The table looks good."

2. 你长得很帅。
   Nǐ zhǎngde hěn shuài.
   "You look really handsome. "

3. 你长得很漂亮。
   Nǐ zhǎngde hěn piàoliàng.
   "You look really pretty."

4. 你长得像你妈妈。
   Nǐ zhǎngde xiàng nǐ māma.
   "You look like your mother."

Language Tip

Two key ways of saying things look some way: 长得 and 看起来. The first one is used for people's appearances; the other is used for transitory states and situations.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Compliments

Chinese people enjoy and welcome compliments just as much as the next person, and they lavish them on each other. However, they do have different ways of accepting it. If you do ever compliment a Chinese friend, don't be taken aback if they contradict you, and don't overdo it. One token repeat after their first protest might be nice, just to really flatter them, but if you keep insisting on praising them, you are simply embarrassing them and forcing them to keep coming up with more and more excuses to deflect your praise.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #24
What a Good Chinese Dog!

CONTENTS

- Dialogue - Chinese
  - Simplified
  - English
  - Pinyin
  - Traditional
- Vocabulary
- Sample sentences
- Grammar
- Cultural insight

#24

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 这是您的狗吗？
2. 是我家多多。
3. 是母狗吗？什么品种？
4. 公的，拉布拉多。
5. 哦，真听话。

ENGLISH

1. Is this your dog?
2. Yes, its name is Duo-Duo.
3. Is it a female? What breed is that?
4. It's male, and a Labrador.
5. Oh, it's really obedient.

PINYIN

1. Zhè shì nín de gǒu ma?
2. Shì wǒjiā Duōduo.
3. Shì mǔgǒu ma? Shénme pǐnzhǒng?
4. Gōng de, Lābùlāduō.
5. O, zhēn tīnghuà.

TRADITIONAL

1. 這是您的狗嗎？
2. 是我家多多。
3. 是母狗嗎？什麼品種？
4. 公的，拉布拉多。
5. 哦，真聽話。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
母狗	母狗	mǔgǒu	female dogs	noun
公狗	公狗	gōnggǒu	male dogs	noun
母的	母的	mǔ de	female	adjective
公的	公的	gōng de	male	adjective
品种	品種	pǐnzhǒng	breed	noun
拉布拉多	拉布拉多	Lābùlāduō	Labrador	noun
我家	我家	wǒjiā	my home	noun
听话	聽話	tīnghuà	obedient	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

母狗更喜欢人。 *Mǔgǒu gèng xǐhuān rén.* Female dogs like people more.	这只小公狗三岁了。 *Zhè zhī xiǎo gōnggǒu sān suì le .* This young male dog is three-year old.
我想买只母的。 *Wǒ xiǎng mǎi zhǐ mǔ de.* I want to buy a female animal.	公的很听话。 *Gōng de hěn tīnghuà.* Male animals are very obedient.
这些鱼是什么品种? *Zhèxiē yú shì shénme pǐnzhǒng?* What species are these fish?	很多家庭喜欢养拉布拉多。 *Hěnduō jiātíng xǐhuān yǎng Lābùlāduō.* Many households like to raise Labradors.
我家大明最近很忙。 *Wǒjiā Dà Míng zuìjìn hěn máng.* Da Ming from my house has been very busy lately.	她的孩子非常听话。 *Tā de háizi fēicháng tīnghuà.* Her child is extremely obedient.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Animals
是母狗吗?什么品种？
"Is it a she? What kind of breed?"

Our grammar section is not technically about grammar. Here we want to spend a bit more time talking about animals in general. The most important thing to know is that with animals, you should always use 公的 *gōngde* ("male"), 母的 *mǔde* ("female") instead of 男的 *nánde* ("male"), 女的 *nǚde* ("female") to describe gender. So, if you see someone with a dog, you can ask them 是公的还是母的 *Shì gōngde háishì mǔde,* ("Is it a he or she?"); if you see a parent with a newborn baby, you should ask 是男的还是女的 *Shì nánde háishì nǚde*, ("Is it a boy or a girl?"). Don't get those mixed up. Moving on, we want to talk about some of the common names of dogs in China. In the dialogue we heard this: 是我家多多 *Shì wǒjiā Duōduo*, ("It's Duoduo from my home."). So dog names and pets' names are usually reduplicated single characters. With cats we often hear cats called Mimi, Qiuqiu, or Maomao. With dogs it's common to hear Gougou, Benbenr, Niuniu, or Baobao. Note that when we are reduplicating these characters, the second character is in the neutral tone.

More Examples:

1. 咪咪
   Mīmi
   "Mimi."
2. 球球
   Qiúqiu
   "Qiuqiu."
3. 猫猫
   Māomao
   "Maomao."
4. 狗狗
   Gǒugou
   "Gougou."
5. 奔奔儿
   Bēnbenr
   "Benbenr."
6. 牛牛
   Niúniu
   "Niuniu."

Language Tip

If you are learning Chinese and you are living an apartment complex in China, do check out dog time in the evenings. You will find that adults play together, dogs play together, and kids play together. It's a good way of meeting people and a good way to practice your Chinese.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Owning Pets in China

In the past ten years, it has become more common for Chinese people to own pets, especially in the cities where a surprisingly number of people live alone and find it comforting to have a pet at home. Although you may find that some Chinese restaurants serve dog meat, dogs are the most popular pets to keep in China. The owners have designer clothing for their dogs, and they pay for spa treatments for their dogs and dye their fur unnatural colors.

LESSON NOTES

Lower Beginner S1 #25 Have You Heard of my Chinese Band?

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
3 English
3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
5 Cultural Insight

#25

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你喜欢爵士乐吗?
2. 还可以，不过我更喜欢快一点儿的。
3. 摇滚?
4. 没错。
5. 我以前是摇滚乐队的吉他手。
6. 哇，真的，你太厉害了!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你喜欢爵士乐吗?
2. 还可以，不过我更喜欢快一点儿的。
3. 摇滚?
4. 没错。
5. 我以前是摇滚乐队的吉他手。
6. 哇，真的，你太厉害了!

PINYIN

1. Nǐ xǐhuān juéshìyuè ma?

CONT'D OVER

2. Hái kěyǐ, búguò wǒ gèng xǐhuān kuài yìdiǎnr de.

3. Yáogǔn?

4. Méi cuò.

5. Wǒ yǐqián shì yáogǔn yuèduì de jítāshǒu.

6. Wa, zhēnde, nǐ tài lìhài le!

ENGLISH

1. Do you like jazz music?

2. It's okay, but I like something a bit faster.

3. Rock 'n' roll?

4. That's right.

5. I used to be a guitarist for a rock 'n' roll band.

6. Wow! Really? You're so cool!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
吉他手	吉他手	jítāshǒu	guitarist	noun
爵士乐	爵士樂	juéshìyuè	jazz music	noun
乐队	樂隊	yuèduì	band	noun

以前	以前	yǐqián	before	noun
不过	不過	búguò	but	conjunction
还可以	還可以	hái kěyǐ	not bad, passable	
摇滚	搖滾	yáogǔn	rock 'n' roll	noun
厉害	厲害	lìhài	extreme	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

好的吉他手在乐队里是不可缺少的。
Hǎo de jítāshǒu zài yuèduì lǐ shì bù kě quēshǎo de.

A good guitarist is indispensable to a band.

听爵士乐让人很放松。
Tīng juéshìyuè ràng rén hěn fàngsōng

Listening to Jazz music makes people relaxed.

这个乐队真棒!
Zhègè yuèduì zhēn bàng!

This band is amazing.

我以前是法语翻译。
Wǒ yǐqián shì fǎyǔ fānyì.

I was a French translator before.

我知道你很忙，不过你可以给我的律师打电话吗?
Wǒ zhīdào nǐ hěn máng, búguò nǐ kěyǐ gěi wǒ de lǜshī dǎ diànhuà ma?

I know you are busy. But can you call my lawyer?

我喜欢吃火锅，不过太贵了。
Wǒ xǐhuān chī huǒguō, búguò tài guì le.

I like to eat hotpot, but it's too expensive.

今天的天气还可以。
Jīntiān de tiānqì hái kěyǐ.

Today's weather isn't bad.

很多年轻人喜欢听摇滚。
Hěnduō niánqīng rén xǐhuān tīng yáogǔn.

A lot of young people like to listen to rock n roll.

他打鼓最厉害。
Tā dǎgǔ zuì lìhài.

He's the most awesome drummer.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Lukewarm Emotions

还可以，不过我更喜欢快一点儿的。

"It's okay, I like something faster."

In our grammar section, we are going to talk about ways of expressing lukewarm emotions. There are words like 还可以 (*hái kěyǐ*), which means "yes, it's ok" but not great. The words we are going to review today are not at all enthusiastic, either in a positive or negative sound. So if someone asks you, 你觉得我的乐队怎么样 *Nǐ juéde wǒ de yuèduì zěnmeyàng*, ("What do you think of my band?"), you can answer as the person in the dialogue answered, 还可以 (*hái kěyǐ*), and it's not a negative answer. Maybe you don't love it, but it's pretty good. Another way of saying it is 一般 *yìbān* ("average"), but this is considered a bit negative. So, 一般 is less good than 还可以. If you are actually positive about something, you can be a bit more enthusiastic by saying 不错 *búcuò* ("not bad"). For example, 你的乐队不错 *Nǐ de yuèduì búcuò* ("Your band is not bad."), and that means it's pretty good. The last one we want to highlight here is the most positive word among these lukewarm words 挺好的 *tǐng hǎo de* ("pretty good "). So here are the four words from the most negative to the most positive: 一般, 还可以, 不错, 挺好的. And if you really love something, you can take it to the extreme and say 你的乐队太厉害了 *Nǐ de yuèduì tài lìhài le* ("Your band is really awesome!").

More Examples:

1. 你的乐队不错。

   Nǐ de yuèduì búcuò.
   "Your band is not bad."

2. 这场音乐会一般。

   Zhè chǎng yīnyuèhuì yìbān.
   "The concert is just average."

3. 这个吉他手太厉害了，能给我他的电话吗？

   Zhègè jítāshǒu tài lìhài le, néng gěi wǒ tā de diànhuà ma?
   "This guitarist is really awesome. Can I have his number?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Music

Though many aspects of modern Chinese music are similar to those of Western music, many traditional facets remain in Chinese music. Many traditional Chinese instruments are used in conjunction with popular instruments of Western cultures. The mixing of traditional instruments with other instruments creates a wide variety of euphonious sounds and rhythms. In addition, the mixing of traditional instruments with Western styles of singing creates unique Chinese sounds and creates an endless scope of expression in modern Chinese music.

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2 Please Pass on my Chinese Regards
3 Having a Happy Birthday in China
4 Showing Your Appreciation in China
5 A Chinese Apology
6 What Should You Do About a Broken Cellphone in China?
7 What's the Obvious Solution in China?
8 How Much do you Love Chinese Cuisine?
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22 What Do You Do in Your Spare Time in China?
23 What a Cute Chinese Child!
24 What a Good Chinese Dog!
25 Have You Heard of my Chinese Band?

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