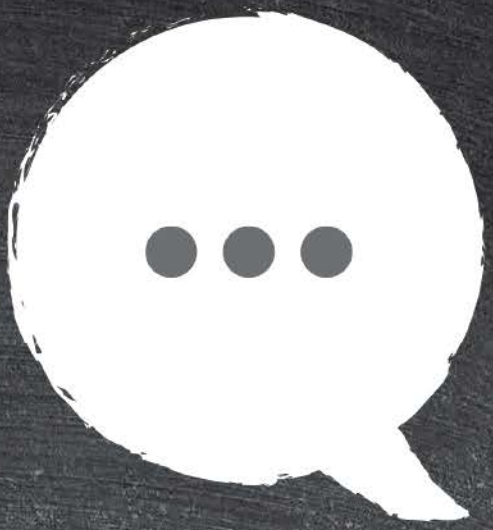
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LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #26
No cilantro, please!

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2 Pinyin
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3 Vocabulary
4 Sample Sentences
5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

#26

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张颖: 这个菜里有香菜吗?
2. 刘泰斗: 有。
3. 张颖: 我不要香菜。
4. 刘泰斗: 好的。
5. 张颖: 还有，别太辣，好吗?
6. 刘泰斗: 好。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張穎: 這個菜裏有香菜嗎?
2. 劉泰斗: 有。
3. 張穎: 我不要香菜。
4. 劉泰斗: 好的。
5. 張穎: 還有，別太辣，好嗎?
6. 劉泰斗: 好。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Zhège cài lǐ yǒu xiāngcài ma?
2. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Yǒu.
3. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Wǒ bùyào xiāngcài.
4. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Hǎo de.
5. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Hái yǒu, bié tài là, hǎo ma?
6. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Hǎo.

ENGLISH

1. ZHANG YING: Does this dish have cilantro in it?
2. LIU TAIDOU: Yes, it has.
3. ZHANG YING: I don't want cilantro.
4. LIU TAIDOU: Okay.
5. ZHANG YING: Also, don't make it too spicy, okay?
6. LIU TAIDOU: Okay.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
菜	菜	cài	dish	noun

甜心	甜心	tiánxīn	sweetheart	noun
甜	甜	tián	sweet	
醋	醋	cù	vinegar	noun
酱油	醬油	jiàngyóu	soy sauce	noun
番茄酱	番茄醬	fānqiéjiàng	ketchup	noun
辣	辣	là	hot, spicy	adjective
别	别	bié	don't	adverb
还有	還有	hái yǒu	also	phrase
香菜	香菜	xiāngcài	cilantro	noun
里	裏	lǐ	in	noun
咸	鹹	xián	salty	ajective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我妈妈做的菜最好吃. wǒ māma zuò de cài zuì hǎo chī. The dishes my mother makes are the best.	这个菜很好吃。 Zhège cài hěn hǎochī. This dish is delicious.
你是我的小甜心。 Nǐ shì wǒ de xiǎo tiánxīn. You are my little sweetheart.	我喜欢吃西瓜，因为西瓜很甜. wǒ xǐhuān chī xīguā , yīnwèi xīguā hěn tián . I like watermelons because watermelons are sweet.

别太甜。 Bié tài tián. Don't make it too sweet.	我不喜欢醋。 Wǒ bù xǐhuān cù. I don't like vinegar.
有酱油吗? Yǒu jiàngyóu ma? Do you have soy sauce?	有番茄酱吗? Yǒu fānqiéjiàng ma? Do you have ketchup?
要辣的吗? Yào là de ma? Do you want it hot?	别担心。 Bié dānxīn. Don't worry.
还有，给我一瓶水，好吗? Hái yǒu, gěi wǒ yī píng shuǐ, hǎo ma? Also, give me a bottle of water, okay?	我不喜欢香菜。 Wǒ bù xǐhuān xiāngcài. I don't like cilantro.
我今天在家里休息。 Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā lǐ xiūxi. I am relaxing at home today.	这个菜太咸了。 Zhège cài tài xián le. This dish is too salty.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is on saying "there is" or "there are"....

There are times in English when we want to talk about the existence or presence of something, and start a sentence by saying "there is" or "there are." For examples of this, we might tell a co-worker that "there is a problem" or ask a waiter "is there a table?"

In Chinese, we express this idea using the verb 有 (yǒu – "to have") rather than using the verb

是 (shì – "to be"). This is one of the areas in which the verb 是 really differs from the verb "to be" in English. To be as specific as possible, 是 establishes a relationship of equality between two noun phrases but does not convey any sense of existence or availability. In more technical terms, 是 is known grammatically as a copula.

This is why in Chinese we translate these kinds of sentences using the verb 有. To translate a sentence that starts with "there is" in English, simply start your sentence with the verb 有 and follow it with the object that you allege exists or that you are asking about. To tell someone that there is a problem you would tell them 有问题 (yǒu wèntí - "There is a problem"). To ask a question either use verb reduplication 有没有桌子 (yǒu méiyǒu zhuōzi - "Is there a table") or follow your statement with the 吗 (ma) particle as in 有香菜吗 (yǒu xiāngcài ma - "Is there cilantro").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The degree of spice and style of cooking that you'll encounter in China varies from region to region. Sichuan, for example (usually written as Szechuan on Chinese menus in the West) loads on the spice and takes no prisoners. If you're into soups, head on over to the Zhejiang province. Like things a little sweeter? Take a trip to Suzhou! The northwestern parts of China are known for their pasta and lamb dishes. And of course, if you're ever in Beijing, come visit the team at ChineseClass101 and we'll take you out for roast duck.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #27
Do You Like Dumplings?

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

#27

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 秦溯: 你喜欢吃饺子吗?
2. 张颖: 特别喜欢。
3. 秦溯: 你想吃什么馅儿的?
4. 张颖: 我想吃猪肉白菜的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 秦溯: 你喜歡吃餃子嗎?
2. 張穎: 特別喜歡。
3. 秦溯: 你想吃甚麼餡兒的?
4. 張穎: 我想吃豬肉白菜的。

PINYIN

1. QÍN SÙ: Nǐ xǐhuan chī jiǎozi ma?
2. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Tèbié xǐhuan.
3. QÍN SÙ: Nǐ xiǎng chī shénme xiànr de?
4. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Wǒ xiǎng chī zhūròu báicài de.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. QIN SU: Do you like jiaozi?

2. ZHANG YING: I especially like them.

3. QIN SU: What filling do you want to eat?

4. ZHANG YING: I want to eat pork and Chinese cabbage dumplings.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
馅儿	餡兒	xiànr	stuffing	noun
白菜	白菜	báicài	Chinese cabbage	noun
特别	特別	tèbié	especially	adverb
串	串	chuàn	kebab	noun
鸡肉	雞肉	jīròu	chicken	noun
羊肉	羊肉	yángròu	lamb	noun
猪肉	豬肉	zhūròu	pork	noun
牛肉	牛肉	niúròu	beef	noun
饺子	餃子	jiǎozi	dumpling	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你喜欢什么馅儿的饺子? Nǐ xǐhuan shénme xiànr de jiǎozi? What stuffing do you like in your dumplings?	北京的白菜很便宜。 Běijīng de báicài hěn piányi。 Chinese cabbage in Beijing is very inexpensive.

我特别不喜欢香菜。 Wǒ tèbié bù xǐhuān xiāngcāi. I especially don't like cilantro.	我爱吃串儿。 Wǒ ài chī chuànr. I love eating kebabs.
我特别喜欢鸡肉。 Wǒ tèbié xǐhuan jīròu。 I especially like chicken.	新疆的羊肉很美味. Xīnjiāng de yángròu hěn měiwèi. Xinjiang lamb is very delicious.
羊肉非常好吃。 Yángròu fēicháng hǎochī。 Lamb is extremely delicious.	他不吃猪肉。 Tā bù chī zhūròu. He doesn't eat pork.
牛肉有营养,味道好,所以很多人都爱吃. niúròu yǒu yíngyǎng, wèidao hǎo, suǒyǐ hěn duō rén dōu ài chī. Beef is nutritious and delicious; that's why so many people like it.	你喜欢吃牛肉吗? Nǐ xǐhuan chī niúròu ma? Do you like to eat beef?
我很喜欢吃饺子。 Wǒ hěn xǐhuan chī jiǎozi. I like to eat dumplings.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Learn How to Ask and Answer "Do You Like..." and "Do You Have..." and to Learn How to Show Possession Using De

你喜欢吃饺子吗?
"Do you like *jiaozi*?"

Here we look at asking the simple question, "Do you like....?" The question pattern for this is 喜欢....吗 (*xǐhuan....ma*?). To answer this question, you do not need to include the subject or the object. All you need to say is 喜欢 or 不喜欢 (*xǐhuan* or *bùxǐhuan*, "like" or "don't like"). Similarly, if someone asks 你有没有水? (*Nǐ yǒu méi yǒu shuǐ?* or "Do you have any water?"), all you need to respond is 有(*yǒu*, "have") or 没有(*méi yǒu*, "don't have").

We also encountered the adverb 特别(*tèbié*, "especially"). This goes in front of a verb such as 我特别累（(*Wǒ tèbié lèi,* "I'm especially tired").

To show possession, you simply add a 的 (*de*) to the subject. 我的（(*Wǒ de*, "mine"). This also serves to disambiguate objects. For example, if you're in a crowd of people and you want to point out a certain person, you would say 那个胖的 (*nàgè pàng de,* "that fat guy").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Order Chinese Dumplings without the Stress!

Dumpling restaurants run rampant here in China no matter what city you happen to be staying in. From east to west, dumplings are as Chinese as apple pie is American. We cut open a turkey for Thanksgiving; in China, they make a batch of dumplings to celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year.

There are two sticky points, however, that we should mention. Point one, the verb to make dumplings is 包 *bāo*. So you would say 包饺子 *bāo jiǎozi*. This is distinct from cooking food, where you would use the word 做饭 *zuòfàn*. Point two involves the menu at a Chinese restaurant. You can order dumplings using the measure word 两 *liǎng*. This can be confusing because 两 *liǎng* is how to say "a pair." In this context, however, 两 *liǎng* refers to five dumplings or fifty grams. If you try to muscle your way through ordering by just using 个 to describe how many dumplings you want, you will get a coarse look from the waitress. Apparently, they can't put two and two together. So be a hero, and accurately and effectively order your dumplings from here on out, thanks to ChineseClass101.com's expert advice.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #28
Allergic to Chocolate!

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2 Simplified Chinese
2 Traditional Chinese
2 Pinyin
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5 Cultural Insight

#28

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 秦溯: 我们还有冰淇淋吗?
2. 张颖: 有，有巧克力的。
3. 秦溯: 但是我对巧克力过敏。
4. 张颖: 哦。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 秦溯: 我們還有冰淇淋嗎?
2. 張穎: 有，有巧克力的。
3. 秦溯: 但是我對巧克力過敏。
4. 張穎: 哦。

PINYIN

1. QÍN SÙ: Wǒmen hái yǒu bīngqílín ma?
2. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Yǒu, yǒu qiǎokèlì de.
3. QÍN SÙ: Dànshì wǒ duì qiǎokèlì guòmǐn.
4. ZHĀNG YǏNG: ò.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. QIN SU: Do we still have ice cream?

2. ZHANG YING: Yes, we do. We have chocolate.

3. QIN SU: But I'm allergic to chocolate.

4. ZHANG YING: Oh.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
蒜	蒜	suàn	garlic	noun
过敏	過敏	guòmǐn	to be allergic	verb
香草	香草	xiāngcǎo	vanilla	noun
草莓	草莓	cǎoméi	strawberry	noun
冰淇淋	冰淇淋	bīngqílín	ice cream	noun
巧克力	巧克力	qiǎokelì	chocolate	noun
红豆	紅豆	hóngdòu	red bean	noun
花生	花生	huāshēng	peanut	noun
虾	蝦	xiā	shrimp	noun
对	對	duì	towards	preposition

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我很喜欢吃蒜。 Wǒ hěn xǐhuān chī suàn . I like eating garlic very much.	她对蒜过敏。 Tā duì suàn guòmǐn. She is allergic to garlic.

你对什么过敏? Nǐ duì shénme guòmǐn? What are you allergic to?	他不爱吃香草冰淇淋。 Tā bù ài chī xiāng cǎo bīngqílín. He doesn't like to eat vanilla ice cream.
给我一个香草冰淇淋。 Gěi wǒ yīgè xiāngcǎo bīngqílín. Give me a vanilla ice cream.	我喜欢吃草莓。 Wǒ xǐhuān chī cǎoméi. I like to eat strawberries.
他一口就把冰淇淋都吃了。 Tā yī kǒu jiù bǎ bīngqílín dōu chī le. He ate all the ice cream in one mouthful.	我还要一个冰淇淋。 Wǒ hái yào yī ge bīngqílín. I want another ice cream.
孩子们喜欢吃巧克力。 Háizǐmen xǐhuan chī qiǎokèlì. Children like to eat chocolate.	给我巧克力。 Gěi wǒ qiǎokelì. Give me chocolate.
我不喜欢红豆冰淇淋。 Wǒ bù xǐhuān hóngdòu bīngqílín. I don't like red bean ice cream.	我对花生过敏。 Wǒ duì huāshēng guòmǐn. I'm allergic to peanuts.
我对虾过敏。 Wǒ duì xiā guòmǐn. I'm allergic to shrimp.	你对牛奶过敏吗? Nǐ duì niúnǎi guòmǐn ma? Are you allergic to milk?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Allergies and How to Use Prepositions While Talking About Allergies

秦溯：但是我对巧克力过敏。
"But I'm allergic to chocolate."

When talking about allergies in China, we use a very particular sentence pattern. This sentence pattern is the 对...过敏 construction (*duì...guòmǐn*). These two words literally translate as "towards...allergic." To talk about an allergy, we place the subject at the start of the

sentence and the substance they are allergic to between 对 and 过敏. This gives us sentences like 我对巧克力过敏 (*Wǒ duì qiǎokèlì guòmǐn*, "I am allergic to chocolate").

We highlight this sentence pattern because the structure is counterintuitive to most native English speakers. This is because in English, prepositions follow the main verb. We talk about our allergies in English by saying "I am allergic **to chocolate.**" If we translate our Chinese sentence into English with a more literal word-by-word translation though, we end up with something like "I **towards chocolate** am allergic." It's counterintuitive to most English speakers, but grammatically correct in Chinese. We'll learn a bit more about this sentence pattern in a future lesson. In the meantime, just watch out for it!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

When in China, All Scream for Ice Cream!

You can be allergic to almost anything under the sun. The best thing to be allergic to in China, depending on your preferences, is *baijiu*. *Baijiu* is a tremendously strong and completely transparent liquor which comes in various shades of extreme potency. Even if you aren't really allergic to *baijiu*, an invented allergy to the substance can be useful on occasion. And you may not even be lying. After you've had *baijiu* once or twice, you may develop an extreme reaction to contact with the substance.

What is just as prevalent as *baijiu* in China? As we point out in this lesson, ice cream is one of the most readily available foodstuffs in China. You'll find it in most corner shops in this great country, and people consume it by the cartful. In some less-developed areas, eating ice cream is a substitute for air conditioning. And while we described a few exotic flavors of ice cream for you in today's lesson, most people tend to prefer the usual suspects: chocolate and vanilla. And when you get a craving for ice cream, we recommend trying the local Chinese brands. Foreign imported ice cream such as Häagen-Dazs can easily break the bank, leaving you less than satisfied with a small cup costing upwards of 40 元. China offers some pretty tasty and much cheaper alternatives, so enjoy!

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #29 Mystery of the Missing Chair

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5 Cultural Insight

#29

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 秦溯: 欢迎你到公司来。

2. 刘泰斗: 谢谢你。

3. 秦溯: 这是你的坐位。

4. 刘泰斗: 哎？椅子呢？

5. 秦溯: 对不起，椅子还没送来。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 秦溯: 歡迎你到公司來。

2. 劉泰斗: 謝謝你。

3. 秦溯: 這是你的坐位。

4. 劉泰斗: 哎？椅子呢？

5. 秦溯: 對不起，椅子還沒送來。

PINYIN

1. QÍN SÙ: Huānyíng nǐ dào gōngsī lái.

CONT'D OVER

2. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Xièxie nǐ.

3. QÍN SÙ: Zhè shì nǐ de zuòwèi.

4. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: āi? Yǐzi ne?

5. QÍN SÙ: Duìbuqǐ, yǐzi hái méi sòng lai.

ENGLISH

1. QIN: Welcome to the company.

2. LIU: Thank you.

3. QIN: This is your seat.

4. LIU: Hey, what about my chair?

5. QIN: Sorry. It hasn't arrived yet.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
到	到	dào	to	preposition
慢走	慢走	mànzǒu	take care	phrase
欢迎光临	歡迎光臨	huānyíng guānglín	welcome honored guest	phrase
送来	送來	sòng lai	to be sent over	verb phrase

没	沒	méi	not	adverb
椅子	椅子	yǐzi	chair	noun
坐位	坐位	zuòwèi	seat	noun
公司	公司	gōngsī	company	noun
欢迎	歡迎	huānyíng	to welcome	verb
位子	位子	wèizi	place	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我要到北京去。 Wǒ yào dào Běijīng qù. I want to go to Beijing.	再见，请慢走。 Zàijiàn, qǐng mànzǒu。 Good bye, and take care.
欢迎光临，请问您几位? Huānyíng guānglín, qǐngwèn nín jǐwèi? Welcome honored guest, how many of there are you?	我的饭还没送来。 Wǒ de fàn hái méi sòng lai。 My food has still not been delivered.
她也没去。 Tā yě méi qù. She didn't go, either.	我的椅子坏了。 Wǒ de yǐzi huài le. My chair is broken.
我的坐位在哪儿? Wǒ de zuòwèi zài nǎr? Where is my seat?	他在一家小公司做销售。 Tā zài yī jiā xiǎo gōngsī zuò xiāoshòu. He does sales for a small company.

欢迎你回来。 Huānyíng nǐ huílai. Welcome back.	这儿还有位子吗? Zhèr hái yǒu wèizi ma? Do you still have places left?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Getting a Seat at a Restaurant

这是你的坐位。

"This is your seat."

In our dialogue for this lesson, we heard the word 坐位 (*zuòwèi*, "seat") being used in reference to a seat. We actually use it to refer to a location in which one might sit. The word for a physical chair is, as we also covered 椅子 (*yǐzi*, "chair"). On a related note, we also learned in this podcast that when you show up at a restaurant, the staff will ask 几位 (*jǐ wèi*, "how many people") to inquire how many people are in your party.

We already know that 几 (*jǐ*) means "several" or "how many." Putting two and two together, we can now intuit that 位 (*wèi*) is a measure word that we use to refer to people or places. 坐位 (*zuòwèi*) is thus technically a reference to the place where a person might sit, and the restaurant staff asking you 几位 (*jǐwèi*) are being respectful by referring to you using the measure word 位 (*wèi.)* Since this character contains the sense of place and status, it is a more respectful way to refer to a person than the generic measure word we have already learned: 个 (*gè.*) This is why you can tell them how many members are in your party by preceding 位 with a simple number. 三位 (*sānwèi)* is thus "three people," 五位 (*wǔwèi)* is "five people," and so on.

Our grammar section also contained a further discourse on the use of Chinese prepositions, or coverbs. We re-emphasized this point largely in review. Just remember to put your prepositions before the main verb and after the subject, and you'll do fine.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Sit, Stand, or Squat-Ways to Repose in China

Sitting is definitely preferred to standing in China, especially when it comes to long hours on a train during a national holiday. The majority of sitting in China, however, occurs closer to the ground than many people are accustomed to. Many Chinese are very comfortable squatting, and this is sometimes reflected in their seating style, with chairs often as low as six inches off the ground. It might be uncomfortable sitting this low to the ground at first, but we think you'll get used to it-assuming you actually have a chair, that is. If not, we generally recommend standing.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #30 Office Sabotage

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 刘泰斗: 不好意思，打扰一下。
2. 秦溯: 怎么了?
3. 刘泰斗: 我的鼠标坏了。
4. 秦溯: 键盘呢?
5. 刘泰斗: 键盘没坏，但是鼠标坏了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 劉泰斗: 不好意思，打擾一下。
2. 秦溯: 怎麼了?
3. 劉泰斗: 我的鼠標壞了。
4. 秦溯: 鍵盤呢?
5. 劉泰斗: 鍵盤沒壞，但是鼠標壞了。

PINYIN

1. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Bùhǎo yìsi, dǎrǎo yíxià.
2. QÍN SÙ: Zěnmele?
3. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Wǒ de shǔbiāo huài le.

CONT'D OVER

4. QÍN SÙ: Jiànpán ne?

5. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Jiànpán méi huài, dànshì shǔbiāo huài le.

ENGLISH

1. LIU: Excuse me, sorry to bother you.

2. QIN: What's the matter?

3. LIU: My mouse is broken.

4. QIN: And what about the keyboard?

5. LIU: The keyboard is fine, but the mouse won't work.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
不好意思	不好意思	bùhǎo yìsi	excuse me	phrase, expression
好看	好看	hǎokàn	good-looking	adjective
U盘	U盤	U pán	USB	noun
屏幕	屏幕	píngmù	monitor	noun
打印机	打印機	dǎyìnjī	printer	noun
坏	壞	huài	to be broken	verb
键盘	鍵盤	jiànpán	keyboard	noun
鼠标	鼠標	shǔbiāo	mouse	noun
怎么了	怎麼了	zěnmele	what's wrong	phrase

一下	一下	yīxià	a little	complement
打扰	打擾	dǎrǎo	to disturb	verb
好听	好聽	hǎotīng	pleasant to the ear	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

不好意思，你见过我的狗吗? Bùhǎoyìsi , nǐ jiànguò wǒ de gǒu ma ? Excuse me, have you seen my dog?	不好意思，请再说一遍，好吗? Bùhǎoyìsi, qǐng zài shuō yī biàn, hǎo ma? Excuse me, please say that again, okay?
花园里的花真好看. huāyuán lǐ de huā zhēn hǎokàn. The flowers in the garden are so nice.	我喜欢那些裤子。 Wǒ xǐhuān nàxiē kùzi. I like those pants.
那个女孩真好看。 Nàgè nǚhái zhēn hǎokàn. That girl is really good-looking.	你的U盘多大? Nǐ de U pán duō dà? How large is your USB drive?
什么大衣都可以。 shénme dàyī dōu kěyǐ. Any coat will do.	这台电脑的屏幕坏了。 Zhè tái diànnǎo de píngmù huài le. This computer screen is broken.
我没有打印机。 Wǒ méiyǒu dǎyìnjī. I do not have a printer.	我的电脑没坏。 Wǒ de diànnǎo méi huài. My computer works fine.
我的键盘坏了。 Wǒ de jiànpán huài le. My keyboard is broken.	这个鼠标太贵了。 Zhègè shǔbiāo tài guì le. This mouse is way too expensive.
你怎么了? Nǐ zěnme le? What's the matter?	我的女朋友不喜欢穿运动鞋。 wǒ de nǚpéngyǒu bù xǐhuān chuān yùndòngxié. My girlfriend doesn't like wearing athletic shoes.

稍等，我出去一下。 Shāoděng, wǒ chūqù yīxià. Hold on, I'm stepping outside for a minute.	对不起，打扰一下。 Duìbuqǐ, dǎrǎo yīxià. Excuse me, sorry to bother you.

这个音乐不好听。
Zhègè yīnyuè bù hǎotīng.

This music sounds bad.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Chinese Adjectives
我的鼠标坏了。
"My mouse is broken."

As we're sure you're aware, in English we can combine adjectives with nouns to create new compound nouns. If more proof was needed that Chinese is as easy as putting Legos together, you'll be pleased to hear we can do exactly the same thing in Mandarin. Almost the same thing, at least. For simple one-character adjectives like 好 or 坏, simply position your adjective immediately before the noun you wish to modify. This allows you to express ideas like 好人 *hǎorén* ("a good person") or 坏东西 *huài dōngxi* ("an evil thing").

In the case where you have adjectives consisting of multiple characters, especially bigrams, Chinese people are accustomed to putting the subordinating 的 particle between the adjective and the noun it is modifying, as in the phrase 聪明的小孩儿 *cōngming de xiǎoháir* ("a clever child").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Keep Your Cool: Tips to Protect your PC in China

While buying electronics at a fraction of the price here in China is absolute loads of fun at the checkout counter, things often take a turn for the worst down the road. Your pirated copy of Microsoft Office has just burned a hole through your hard drive, and the twenty-pack of Chinese batteries you bought for ten *kuai* have just melted into your camera. AI-YOU!!! Some

lessons are learned the hard way, and resisting the temptation to buy rock bottom priced goods is something that comes with time, patience, and a little bit of good ol' firsthand experience.

Most computers here in China are PCs, and beyond that, most desktops used in businesses and in school are Lenovo. They are a quality product built for utility and not for beauty. While the machines may be good quality, Internet usage in China remains perilous. Adware, spyware, and popups are all vying for space on your desktop. So we recommend keeping online downloads to a minimum,,and don't overload your computer with Youku.com movies. Okay, okay, we are only human; a few Youku.com videos are cool.

So instead of flipping out when your computer goes haywire, it is good to keep your cool in tense situations. That computer you are about to throw out the window might hit someone's unsuspecting head outside on the sidewalk. These helpful tips on expressing your unfortunate state of technology will provide you with quick and instant relief from near insanity.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #31
The Pen Thief

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

#31

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 刘泰斗: 有人看见我的笔了吗?
2. 秦溯: 没有，怎么了?
3. 刘泰斗: 我的笔丢了。
4. 秦溯: 用我的吧，给你。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 劉泰斗: 有人看見我的筆了嗎?
2. 秦溯: 沒有，怎麼了?
3. 劉泰斗: 我的筆丟了。
4. 秦溯: 用我的吧，給你。

PINYIN

1. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Yǒu rén kànjiàn wǒ de bǐ le ma?
2. QÍN SÙ: Méiyǒu, zěnmele?
3. LIÚ TÀIDǑU: Wǒ de bǐ diū le.
4. QÍN SÙ: Yòng wǒ de ba, gěi nǐ.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. LIU: Has anybody seen my pen?

2. QIN: No, what's the matter?

3. LIU: My pen is missing.

4. QIN: Use mine. Here you go.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
有人	有人	yǒu rén	anybody	phrase
看见	看見	kànjiàn	to see	verb
笔	筆	bǐ	pen	noun
丢	丟	diū	to lose	verb
用	用	yòng	to use	verb
给	給	gěi	to give	verb
饭馆	飯館	fànguǎn	restaurant	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

有人在家吗? Yǒu rén zài jiā ma? Is anyone at home?	你看见他了吗? Nǐ kànjiàn tā le ma? Have you seen him?
给我一支笔。 Gěi wǒ yì zhī bǐ. Give me a pen.	我的钥匙丢了。 Wǒ de yàoshi diū le. My key is lost.

别用我的钱！ Bié yòng wǒ de qián! Don't use my money.	给我两块巧克力。 Gěi wǒ liǎng kuài qiǎokèlì. Give me two pieces of chocolate.

这个饭馆的饺子很好吃。
Zhège fànguanr de jiǎozi hěn hǎochī.

This restaurant's dumplings are really tasty.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is to Review Some Useful Vocabulary

我的笔丢了。
"My pen is missing."

This week, we're giving you a bit of a breather with a review lesson that focuses mostly on reviewing some of the useful vocabulary you've learned in previous lessons.

And while we don't introduce any major new grammar points, we do want to take this chance to remind you about the particle 的 (*de*). A subordinating particle, we use 的 to suggest that the object which follows it is subordinate to, possessed by, or belongs to the general category of the word which precedes it. In an earlier lesson, we introduced this particle using phrases like 红色的汽车 (*hóngsè de qìchē* - "the red car"). In that sentence, the car is identified as belonging to the category of things that are red.

Practically, don't forget that this is the proper way to express possessive relationships in Chinese. Using the 的 particle is how we get sentences like Echo的巧克力 (*Echo de qiǎokèlì* - "Echo's chocolate") or 公司的电脑 (*gōngsī de diànnǎo* - "the company's computer").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

No thank you, I'm Stuffed! How Not to Overeat at Your Chinese Host's Party

---

Chinese people are not generally as possessive about food as Echo comes across in this

podcast. In fact, if you visit Chinese friends or relatives on any remotely special occasion, you're likely to experience exactly the opposite: attempts to foist as much food on you as is humanly possible, coupled with refusals to listen when you insist that you simply couldn't eat anything else.

This excessive courtesy can sometimes come across as aggravating or infantilizing. If you find yourself feeling irritated, try to remember that your hosts are simply being polite, and that guests are expected to refuse several times out of courtesy, even if they really would like an extra helping or six of roast duck. Your host would be remiss in taking no for an answer. So if you really don't want any more, be prepared to refuse the offer again and again. And then refuse it again. Politely. After about three refusals, you should be in the clear.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #32
Late to Work

CONTENTS

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

#32

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 老板: 张飞，你又迟到了。
2. 张飞: 对不起，对不起。
3. 老板: 你为什么迟到啊?
4. 张飞: 我迷路了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 老闆: 張飛，你又遲到了。
2. 張飛: 對不起，對不起。
3. 老闆: 你為甚麼遲到啊?
4. 張飛: 我迷路了。

PINYIN

1. LǍOBǍN: Zhāng Fēi, nǐ yòu chídào le.
2. ZHĀNG FĒI: Duìbùqǐ, duìbùqǐ.
3. LǍOBǍN: Nǐ wèishénme chídào a?
4. ZHĀNG FĒI: Wǒ mílù le.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BOSS: Zhang Fei, you are late again.

2. ZHANG FEI: Sorry. I'm sorry.

3. BOSS: Why were you late?

4. ZHANG FEI: I got lost.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
又	又	yòu	again	adverb
为什么	為甚麼	wèishénme	why	phrase
迷路	迷路	mílù	to get lost	verb
丢	丟	diū	to lose	verb
迟到	遲到	chídào	to be late	verb
对不起	對不起	duìbùqǐ	I'm sorry	expression
再	再	zài	again (in the future)	adverb
老板	老闆	lǎobǎn	boss	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他又没赶上公交车。 tā yòu méi gǎnshàng gōngjiāochē . He missed the bus again.	你又迟到了。 Nǐ yòu chídào le. You're late again.
他为什么不高兴? Tā wèishénme bù gāoxìng. Why is he unhappy?	我们迷路了。 Wǒmen mílù le. We're lost.

我的钥匙丢了。 Wǒ de yàoshi diū le. My key is lost.	我今天迟到了。 Wǒ jīntiān chídào le. I arrived late today.
对不起，我错了。 Duìbùqǐ, wǒ cuò le. I'm sorry. I made a mistake.	我们明天再去。 Wǒmen míngtiān zài qù. We'll go again tomorrow.
他是我的老板。 Tā shì wǒ de lǎobǎn. He is my boss.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Use of 又

老板：张飞，你又迟到了。

"Zhang Fei, you are late again."

In this lesson, we return to adverbs with a focus on the common adverb 又 (*yòu* - "again"). Like other Chinese adverbs, using 又 properly requires us to place it before the verb it modifies. This is how we get sentences like 你又迟到了 (*Nǐ yòu chídào le* - "You're late again") and 他又来了 (*Tā yòu lái le* - "He's come again").

Do you see the way we pair 又 with 了 (*le*) in both of these sentences? This happens because we use the adverb 又 only with actions which have already happened. You can use it to describe actions that have repeatedly occurred, but cannot use it to describe actions that will happen in the future. The proper adverb to use in that situation is 再 (*zài* - "again"). You are probably more familiar with that character as part of the common phrase 再见 (*zàijiàn* - "good-bye"), which literally translates as "see you again in the future."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Taxi, Taxi! Tips on Finding a Ride and Avoiding Traffic in Shanghai and Beijing

When it comes to rushing across town in the middle of the day, every city in China is different. One of Shanghai's dirty secrets is the extreme difficulty of finding an empty taxi on most working days if you happen to be downtown. If you're in the Pearl of the Orient and need to get somewhere in a hurry, you may be best off taking the subway.

To the contrary, taxis in Beijing are usually available at almost all hours, but certain key roads in the city are all-but-guaranteed to be horribly congested. Avoid the second ring road as much as you can, and be warned that driving down 长安街 (*Cháng'ānjiē* - "Long Peace Street"), the major east-west artery in the city which passes through Tiananmen Square, is a recipe for adding an extra half hour to your regular commute.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #33
The Revelation

CONTENTS

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

#33

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 老板: 张飞，这是马经理。
2. 张飞: 嗯？马丽！
3. 老板: 你们认识吗?
4. 张飞: 对，我们是好朋友。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 老闆: 張飛，這是馬經理。
2. 張飛: 嗯？馬麗！
3. 老闆: 你們認識嗎?
4. 張飛: 對，我們是好朋友。

PINYIN

1. LǍOBǍN: Zhāng Fēi, zhè shì Mǎ jīnglǐ.
2. ZHĀNG FĒI: én? Mǎ Lì!
3. LǍOBǍN: Nǐmen rènshi ma?
4. ZHĀNG FĒI: Duì, wǒmen shì hǎo péngyǒu.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. BOSS: Zhang Fei, this is Manager Ma.

2. ZHANG FEI: Huh? Ma Li!

3. BOSS: You two know each other?

4. ZHANG FEI: Yes, we're good friends.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
好朋友	好朋友	hǎo péngyǒu	good friend	phrase
小姐	小姐	xiǎojiě	miss	address
师傅	師傅	shīfu	master (service provider)	address
老师	老師	lǎoshī	teacher	address
对	對	duì	correct	adjective
认识	認識	rènshi	to recognize	verb
知道	知道	zhīdào	to know	verb
先生	先生	xiānsheng	mister	address
经理	經理	jīnglǐ	manager	address
师父	師父	shīfu	master (of kung fu)	address

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他们是好朋友。 Tāmen shì hǎo péngǒu. They are good friends.	马小姐，请进。 Mǎ xiǎojiě, qǐng jìn. Please come in, Miss Ma.

张师傅是个司机。 Zhāng shīfu shì gè sījī. Master Zhang is a chauffeur.	我喜欢李老师。 Wǒ xǐhuān Lǐ lǎoshī. I like Teacher Li.
他说得对。 Tā shuō de duì . What he said is right.	我不认识他。 Wǒ bú rènshi tā. I don't know him.
我知道这件事。 Wǒ zhīdào zhè jiàn shì. I know about this.	这是张先生。 Zhè shì Zhāng xiānsheng. This is Mister Zhang.
经理生气了。 Jīnglǐ shēngqì le. The manager got angry.	李师父会功夫。 Lǐ shīfu huì gōngfu. Master Li knows kung fu.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Different Ways "to Know"

老板：你们认识吗？

"You two know each other?"

Our grammar section in this lesson reviews three important verbs that we often translate as the verb "to know" in English. We've run into these verbs separately in previous lessons, but as they are so easy to confuse, we're making a special point of reviewing them together in this lesson. The three verbs are 认识 (*rènshi*) "to know," 知道 (*zhīdào*) "to know," and 会 (*huì*) "to know."

Confused? Don't be! Use 认识 to describe personal familiarity with something, such as when two people have already met each other. 知道 is your verb of choice for describing knowledge of facts or events. Use 会 to describe skills acquired through study or personal experience, such as the mastery of a foreign language or a job skill. This gives us sentences such as 我不认识他 (*Wǒ bù rènshi tā*) "I don't recognize him," 他知道我是谁 (*Tā zhīdào wǒ shì shéi*) "He knows who I am," and 李师父会功夫 (*Lǐ shīfu huì gōngfu*) "Master Li knows kung fu."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

In Chinese, it is generally more polite to refer to someone using an address. This has led to a proliferation of nouns you can stick after someone's surname to signal your respect for them, while also identifying your relationship with them. Some of the examples we had in our podcast included 王经理 (*Wáng jīnglǐ*) "Manager Wang," Echo老师 (*Echo lǎoshī*) "Teacher Echo," and kung fu master 李师父 (*Lǐ shīfu*) "Master Li."

In our podcast, we taught you to use 师父 (*shīfu*) "master" for both kung fu titans like Bruce Li as well as general service providers such as restaurant staff and taxi cab drivers. Technically though, we use a different set of characters for martial arts experts and workers who provide other services. While we pronounce these honorifics exactly the same, we technically write them using different characters. 师傅 (*shīfu*) "master" is technically the correct way to refer to service workers. Note the slightly different second character, but don't be too concerned if you have trouble keeping them straight. Chinese people frequently mix up these honorifics too.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #34
Feel the Sunshine

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

#34

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张颖: 今天天气真好。
2. BUNNY: 阳光不错，也很暖和。
3. 张颖: 打开窗户吧。
4. BUNNY: 好。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張穎: 今天天氣真好。
2. BUNNY: 陽光不錯，也很暖和。
3. 張穎: 打開窗戶吧。
4. BUNNY: 好。

PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Jīntiān tiānqì zhēn hǎo.
2. BUNNY: Yángguāng búcuò, yě hěn nuǎnhuo.
3. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Dǎkāi chuānghù ba.
4. BUNNY: Hǎo.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG YING: The weather today is really good.

2. BUNNY: It's sunny, and also warm.

3. ZHANG YING: Open the window.

4. BUNNY: Okay.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
天气	天氣	tiānqì	weather	noun
凉	涼	liáng	cool	adjective
热	熱	rè	hot	adjective
冷	冷	lěng	cold	adjective
差	差	chà	bad	adjective
窗户	窗戶	chuānghù	window	noun
打开	打開	dǎkāi	to turn on	verb
暖和	暖和	nuǎnhuo	warm	adjective
阳光	陽光	yángguāng	sunshine	noun
吧	吧	ba	(suggestive particle)	particle

SAMPLE SENTENCES

昨天天气不好。 Zuótiān tiānqì bù hǎo. Yesterday, the weather was not good.	天气转凉了，秋天到了。 Tiānqì zhuǎn liáng le, qiūtiān dàole . The weather is getting cooler. Autumn is here.

晚上有点儿凉。 Wǎnshàng yǒu diǎnr liáng. It's a bit chilly in the evening.	现在北京很热。 Xiànzài Běijīng hěn rè. Beijing is very hot right now.
冬天太冷了。 Dōngtiān tài lěng le. Winter is too cold.	今天天气太差了。 Jīntiān tiānqì tài chà le. Today, the weather is really bad.
关上窗户吧。 Guān shàng chuānghù ba. Let's close the window.	打开电脑，我要上网。 Dǎkāi diànnǎo, wǒ yào shàngwǎng. Turn on the computer; I want to go online.
屋子里比屋子外面暖和。 wūzi lǐ bǐ wūzi wàimian nuǎnhuo . It is warmer inside than outside.	今天真暖和。 Jīntiān zhēn nuǎnhuo. Today is truly warm.
这儿的阳光很好。 Zhèr de yángguāng hěn hǎo. The sunshine is good here.	便宜点儿吧。 Piányì diǎnr ba. Let's make it a bit cheaper.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Making Suggestions

打开窗户吧.

"Let's open the window."

We use the particle 吧 (*ba*) to make suggestions in Chinese. We pronounce it in the light, neutral tone. Just add 吧 (*ba*) to the end of any sentence to soften the tone of that sentence, and transform a simple statement into a suggestion that everyone do something. You'll find a good example in our dialogue: 打开窗户吧 (*dǎkāi chuānghu ba*) "Open the window."

Some of the simplest sentences using 吧 simply position the particle after a verb. The subject (usually "we") is implied. In the podcast, we reviewed some of these, such as 走吧 (*zǒu ba*) "Let's go," 去吧 (*qù ba*) "Let's go," and 吃吧 (*chī ba*) "Let's eat." This is a very powerful way to

make a suggestion or toss out an idea, as it is both casual and upbeat. It also has two very powerful advantages over asking a direct question. The first is that it casually communicates that you expect the answer yes. Second, it implies that you are involved in the action too. If you're haggling and you suggest to a salesperson 我们便宜一点吧 (*wǒmen piányì yìdiǎn ba*) "Let's make it a bit cheaper," you are setting a very congenial attitude, suggesting that you are on the same side as the seller in working to close the deal.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bars and Internet Cafes

While we're talking about the character 吧, let's bring up one thing we didn't have time to cover in our podcast. Because this character sounds similar to the English word "bar" (who needs the closing consonant?), Chinese people have appropriated it with exactly this meaning. If you want to go to an Internet cafe, you'll end up asking for a 网吧 (*wǎngbā*) "Internet café." A bar with liquor is literally a 酒吧 (*jiǔbā*) "bar." If you're interested in checking out the nightlife in any decent-sized city in China, the easiest way to find it is to get in a cab and ask to visit the 酒吧街 (*jiǔbā jiē*) "bar street." There are lots of other plays on words involving this character, so keep your eye open for it when walking around!

Turning away merchants is-for better or worse-one of the things we all have to do while living in China. So it's worth your time to learn all of the different nuances in how to say no. And that is what we're going to cover in this Cultural Insight. Do you know the difference between 不要 (*bú yào*) and 不要了 (*bú yào le*)? If you've been paying attention in our grammar section, you should!

不要 is the simplest way to say "I don't want it." This is a flat rejection. 不要了 is a bit more complex. By adding the particle 了 we invoke the sense of a change in state. This tells the listener that while you might have been interested in it before, you have-for whatever reason-changed your mind. We can translate 不要了 as "I don't want it now," or "I've changed my mind." This is a small difference, but it's useful to know. If you really are interested in buying something but won't commit at the price offered, you can try adding the final 了 while closing off your haggling session. The extra 了 might just encourage the salesperson to cut the price enough to make the sale, while convincing them you know exactly what you're doing.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #35 Storm Clouds Ahead

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

#35

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. BUNNY: 下雨了！

2. 张颖: 你没带伞吗？

3. BUNNY: 没有，我忘带了。

4. 张颖: 没关系，你可以用我的。给。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. BUNNY: 下雨了！

2. 張穎: 你沒帶傘嗎？

3. BUNNY: 沒有，我忘帶了。

4. 張穎: 沒關係，你可以用我的。給。

PINYIN

1. BUNNY: Xiàyǔ le!

2. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Nǐ méi dài sǎn ma?

3. BUNNY: Méiyǒu, wǒ wàng dài le.

CONT'D OVER

4. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Méiguānxi, nǐ kěyǐ yòng wǒ de. Gěi 。

ENGLISH

1. BUNNY: It's raining.

2. ZHANG YING: You didn't bring an umbrella?

3. BUNNY: No, I forgot to bring it.

4. ZHANG YING: No worries. You can use mine. Here.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
下雨	下雨	xiàyǔ	to rain	verb
刮风	刮風	guāfēng	to blow (the wind)	verb
下雪	下雪	xiàxuě	to snow	verb
干	乾	gān	dry	adjective
闷	悶	mēn	muggy	adjective
用	用	yòng	to use	verb
忘	忘	wàng	to forget	verb
伞	傘	sǎn	umbrella	noun
带	帶	dài	to carry	verb

打雷	打雷	dǎléi	to thunder	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

下雨了，我不去了。 Xiàyǔ le, wǒ bú qù le. It's raining; I won't go.	刮风了，我们回家吧。 Guāfēng le, wǒmen huí jiā ba. The wind is blowing; let's head home.
看，下雪了！ Kàn, xiàxuě le! Look, it's snowing!	冬天，北京很干。 Dōngtiān, Běijīng hěn gān. In the winter, Beijing is very dry.
今天非常闷。 Jīntiān fēicháng mēn. Today is very muggy.	别用我的钱！ Bié yòng wǒ de qián! Don't use my money.
我忘带伞了。 Wǒ wàng dài sǎn le. I forgot to bring an umbrella.	我买了一把伞。 Wǒ mǎi le yì bǎ sǎn. I bought an umbrella.
我没带钱。 Wǒ méi dài qián. I didn't bring money.	打雷了，快走。 Dǎléi le, kuài zǒu. It's started to storm; go quickly.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Chinese Particle 了

下雨了。我忘带了.

"It's raining. I forgot to bring it."

The particle 了 is one of the most common characters you'll run into in Chinese. When you see it in a sentence, it usually has one of two meanings. The first is suggestive of a change of state. We see this in our dialogue with the sentence 下雨了 (*xiàyǔ le*) "It's raining." This tells us that it has started raining - there has been a change in the weather. Another good example of this is 天黑了 (*tiān hēi le*) "The sun has gone down," or perhaps more literally, "the sky has gone dark." We often position 了 at the end of a sentence when it has this meaning.

Our second usage of 了 is for putting sentences in the past tense. The example we have in our dialogue of this is the sentence 我忘带了 (*wǒ wàng dài le*) "I forgot to bring it." In these cases, 了 is almost always positioned immediately after the verb it modifies, although it will also sometimes surface at the end of a sentence as well. Another example is the sentence 我去了 (*wǒ qù le*) "I went."

One of the most interesting things about Chinese is that communicated notions of tense and time are more fluid than in English; you do not always need to add aspectual particles such as 了 to place a sentence into the past tense if the context of the sentence is already very clear. This means there are few hard and fast rules about exactly where and how to use it. And in some rare cases, you may even run into sentences with multiple instances of the character, such as 我刚吃了饭了 (*wǒ gāng chī le fàn le*) "I had just eaten food."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Changing Your Mind: A Useful Shopping Trick

Turning away merchants is - for better or worse - one of the things we all have to do while living in China. So it's worth your time to learn all of the different nuances that exist in how to say no. And that is what we're going to cover in this grammar point. Do you know the difference between 不要 (*bú yào*) and 不要了 (*bú yào le*)? If you've been paying attention in our grammar section, you should!

不要 is the simplest way to say "I don't want it." This is a flat rejection. 不要了 is a bit more complex. By adding the particle 了 we invoke the sense of a change in state. This tells the listener that while you might have been interested in it before, you have - for whatever reason - changed your mind. We can translate 不要了 as "I don't want it now," or "I've changed my mind." This is a small difference, but it's useful to know. If you really are interested in buying something but won't commit at the price offered, a subtle touch is to try adding the final 了 while closing off your session. The extra 了 might just encourage the salesperson to cut the price enough to make the sale, while convincing them you know exactly what you're doing. In our experience sighing for extra effect also tends to work.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #36
Turn on the Air Conditioner

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

#36

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 张颖: 这儿太热了。
2. BUNNY: 要开空调吗?
3. 张颖: 太好了，谢谢你。
4. BUNNY: 好的，马上。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 張穎: 這兒太熱了。
2. BUNNY: 要開空調嗎?
3. 張穎: 太好了，謝謝你。
4. BUNNY: 好的，馬上。

PINYIN

1. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Zhèr tài rè le.
2. BUNNY: Yào kāi kōngtiáo ma?
3. ZHĀNG YǏNG: Tài hǎo le, xièxie nǐ.
4. BUNNY: Hǎo de, mǎshàng.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. ZHANG YING: It's really hot here.

2. BUNNY: Want to turn on the air conditioning?

3. ZHANG YING: Awesome, thanks.

4. BUNNY: Okay, right away.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
热	熱	rè	hot	adjective
电扇	電扇	diànshàn	fan	noun
手机	手機	shǒujī	cell phone	noun
灯	燈	dēng	light	noun
马上	馬上	mǎshàng	at once	adverb
空调	空調	kōngtiáo	air conditioner	noun
关	關	guān	to turn off	verb
开	開	kāi	to turn on	verb
要	要	yào	to want	verb
电视	電視	diànshì	TV	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

今天真热。 Jīntiān zhēn rè. It's really hot today.	电扇开着。 Diànshàn kāi zhe. The fan is on.

请不要开手机。 Qǐng búyào kāi shǒujī. Please don't turn on your cell phone.	请关灯。 Qǐng guān dēng. Please shut off the lights.
我马上去。 Wǒ mǎshàng qù. I'll go at once.	今天需要开空调。 Jīntiān xūyào kāi kōngtiáo. The air conditioning needs to be turned on today.
关上空调。 Guānshang kōngtiáo. Turn off the air conditioning.	餐厅开了吗? Cāntīng kāi le ma? Is the restaurant open?
要冰淇淋吗? Yào bīngqílín ma? Want ice cream?	请打开电视。 Qǐng dǎkāi diànshì. Please turn on the television.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Asking Questions
要开空调吗?
"Do you want to turn on the air conditioning?"

Our grammar point for today is about asking questions. One of the most powerful and flexible ways to do this in Chinese is with the 要...吗 (*yào...ma*) construct. Simply place the action you're asking about in the middle of our sentence, as in our dialogue sentence 要开空调吗 (*Yào kāi kōngtiáo ma*) "Do you want to turn on the air conditioning?" The verb phrase here is 开空调 (*kāi kōngtiáo*) "turn on the air conditioning." Swap it out and replace it with anything you would like to ask. To ask someone to a movie, for instance, you can say 要去看电影吗 (*Yào qù kān diànyǐng ma*) "Do you want to go see a movie?" The possibilities are limitless.

There are two additional points worth remembering. The first is that because this is a question, you can answer simply by echoing the main verb in the positive or negative. Since our main verb in these sentences is 要 (*yào*) "to want," you can answer either with 要 (*yào*) "to want" or 不要 (*bù yào*) "not to want." Also, bear in mind that we often omit the subject from the

start of our question when it is clear who is being asked.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Tips for Dealing with Chinese Indoor Climate Control-Or Lack Thereof!

In China, many commercial and residential complexes lack central air and heating. You may notice that many of these buildings have individual air conditioning units fastened outside the windows of almost every room. Air conditioners in China come in a few models, but the dominant two kinds are window-fitting models, and larger and more powerful stand-alone models that look like skinny refrigerators. You will find the latter in large conference rooms, restaurants, and often, in private living rooms. So if you find the summer heat getting to you, make sure you sit near the air conditioning units when possible, and ask for your drinks ice cold!

One other note on the heating front. The government runs many larger organizations and they are subject to state laws governing the times when they may use central heating and air conditioning. These state laws set standards for the entire country, so it's not uncommon for buildings to go without central heating until the middle of November. Indoor heating is also uncommon south of the Yangtze River in the winter, so bring a sweater when you come.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #37
Colorful Days

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Simplified Chinese
Traditional Chinese
English
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Cultural insight

#37

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. Bunny: 什么颜色好呢？
2. 张颖: 红色怎么样？
3. Bunny: 不怎么样。
4. 张颖: 那你想要什么颜色？
5. Bunny: 我想要蓝色。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. Bunny: 甚麼顏色好呢？
2. 張穎: 紅色怎麼樣？
3. Bunny: 不怎麼樣。
4. 張穎: 那你想要甚麼顏色？
5. Bunny: 我想要藍色。

ENGLISH

1. Bunny: What color is good?
2. Zhang Ying: How about red?
3. Bunny: Not so great.
4. Zhang Ying: Then what color do you want?
5. Bunny: I want blue.

PINYIN

1. Bunny: Shénme yánsè hǎo ne?
2. Zhāng Yǐng: Hóngsè zěnmeyàng?
3. Bunny: Bù zěnmeyàng.
4. Zhāng Yǐng: Nà nǐ xiǎng yào shénme yánsè?
5. Bunny: Wǒ xiǎng yào lánsè.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
颜色	顏色	yánsè	color	noun
红绿灯	紅綠燈	hónglǜdēng	traffic light	noun
黑	黑	hēi	black	adjective
红	紅	hóng	red	adjective
黄	黃	huáng	yellow	adjective
想要	想要	xiǎng yào	to want	verb
那	那	nà	then	conjunction, expression
不怎么样	不怎麼樣	bù zěnmeyàng	not that good	phrase
红色	紅色	hóngsè	the color red	noun
蓝色	藍色	lánsè	the color blue	noun
绿茶	綠茶	lǜchá	green tea	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

粉红色是我最不喜欢的颜色。 *Fěnhóngsè shì wǒ zuì bù xǐhuān de yánsè.* Pink is my least favorite color.	请注意红绿灯。 *Qǐng zhùyì hónglǜdēng.* Please pay attention to the traffic lights.
那是一条黑裤子。 *Nà shì yì tiáo hēi kùzi.* That's a pair of black pants.	红花很红。 *Hóng huā hěn hóng.* The red flowers are very red.
这是一双黄袜子。 *Zhè shì yì shuāng huáng wàzi.* That is a pair of yellow socks.	我想要两个。 *Wǒ xiǎng yào liǎng ge.* I want two.
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.
你的办法不怎么样。 *Nǐ de bànfǎ bù zěnmeyàng.* Your idea isn't very good.	我不喜欢红色。 *Wǒ bù xǐhuān hóngsè.* I don't like the color red.

蓝色很漂亮。	我喜欢绿茶。
Lánsè hěn piàoliang.	*Wǒ xǐhuān lǜchá.*
Blue is very pretty.	I like green tea.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Drawing Conclusions
那你想要什么颜色？
"Then what color do you want?"

You've really come a long way from our first lesson. Which is why we're feeling comfortable enough to tackle a more logically complex topic today: *if...then* sentences expressed using the character 那 *nà* ("then") as a conjunction. We saw this in our dialogue with the sentence 那你想要什么颜色 *Nà nǐ xiǎng yào shénme yánsè* ("Then what color do you want?") ?

Using 那 as a conjunction is a very common way of linking together an initial situation with a subsequent action. In our dialogue, the man expresses his dislike of the color red, causing the woman to ask, "Then what color do you like?" This sentence only makes sense because the woman is directly addressing what the man just said.

There are more formal ways of expressing logical *if...then* relationships. One of the most common is the 如果... 就 *rúguǒ ... jiù* ("if...then") construction. You can read more about this in our grammar bank if you are interested. While it is a more formal way to express the same idea, it is not as colloquial and easy to use as 那. So stick this at the start of your sentences whenever you wish to say "then" or "in that case." To give two examples, if someone tells you that they are going to a party, you might say 那我也去 *Nà wǒ yě qù* ("Then I'll go too"). If someone tells you they are hungry, you might suggest 那吃吧 *Nà chī ba* ("Then let's eat!). Isn't Chinese easy?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Let's Go Shopping! Chinese Fashion Trends

Buying clothes in China can be a fun and rewarding experience. It can be even more fun when you've haggled your way to a good price and know for sure that you're getting quality merchandise at a great price. And this is somewhat new. Chinese clothing used to be synonymous with poor quality, but that has really been changing recently. More and more quality and stylish clothing is available everywhere from tourist markets to small boutique shops. Most people have traded in their blue Mao suits for stylish shorts and shirts, some of which are even emblazoned with English phrases of varying degrees of grammatical correctness.

Young people in China are setting new fashion trends. Converse shoes are extremely popular, and brands such as Nike and Adidas are considered "top brands." Walk into any commercial district, and you will instantly find dozens of stores providing every style of shoe imaginable, with both foreign and domestic merchandise on offer. Chinese brands are slowly shifting upmarket, with domestic brands such as Joe-One, Semir, and K-Boxing making inroads in men's fashion.
Rest assured though, traditional Chinese wear is still available if you know where to look. Want a *Qipao*? Like a Ming Dynasty robe? Most "Old Towns" in China offer these garments at relatively low prices. You're best off finding a tailor and getting your clothing custom made to fit. If you know where to go, custom-made clothing can be cheaper than anything you'll purchase off the rack, and of much higher quality too: in larger stores of this sort buyers are encouraged to purchase their cloth or silk separately and provide them to the tailor when making an order.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #38
I Demand English Subtitles

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2 Pinyin
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4 Sample Sentences
5 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

#38

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 先生，这部电影怎么样?
2. 乙: 有英文字幕吗?
3. 甲: 有。
4. 乙: 好吧，我就买这个。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 先生，這部電影怎麼樣?
2. 乙: 有英文字幕嗎?
3. 甲: 有。
4. 乙: 好吧，我就買這個。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Xiānsheng, zhè bù diànyǐng zěnmeyàng?
2. YǏ: Yǒu yīngwén zìmù ma?
3. JIǍ: Yǒu.
4. YǏ: Hǎoba, wǒ jiù mǎi zhège.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Sir, how about this movie?

2. B: Does it have English subtitles?

3. A: It does.

4. B: Okay, I'll just buy this one.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
电影票	電影票	diànyǐngpiào	movie ticket	noun
先生	先生	xiānsheng	mister	noun
部	部	bù	measure word for movies	measure word
电影	電影	diànyǐng	movie	noun
字幕	字幕	zìmù	subtitles	noun
就	就	jiù	just	adverb
买	買	mǎi	to buy	verb
张	張	zhāng	measure word for large, flat objects	measure word
电影院	電影院	diànyǐngyuàn	movie theater	noun
开始	開始	kāishǐ	to begin	verb
小	小	xiǎo	small	adjective, expression
中	中	zhōng	medium	adjective
大	大	dà	big	adjective
爆米花	爆米花	bàomǐhuā	popcorn	noun
坐位	坐位	zuòwèi	seat	noun

把	把	bǎ	measure word for things with handles	measure word

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我要两张电影票。 Wǒ yào liǎng zhāng diànyǐngpiào. I want two movie tickets.	先生，我要买票。 Xiānsheng, wǒ yào mǎi piào. Hello sir, I'd like to buy a ticket.
我不要这部电影。 Wǒ bú yào zhè bù diànyǐng. I don't want this movie.	他演了伍迪·艾伦的新电影。 Tā yǎnle Wǔdí Àilún de xīn diànyǐng. He's in the new Woody Allen movie.
你喜欢看电影吗? Nǐ xǐhuān kàn diànyǐng ma? Do you like watching movies?	我需要英文字幕。 Wǒ xūyào yīngwén zìmù. I need English subtitles.
我就去那儿吧。 Wǒ jiù qù nàr ba. I'll just go there.	我买了一本书。 Wǒ mǎi le yì běn shū. I bought a book.
这张桌子太大了。 Zhè zhāng zhuōzi tài dà le. This table is too large.	我们电影院见吧。 Wǒmen diànyǐngyuàn jiàn ba. Let's meet at the movie theater.
电影几点开始? Diànyǐng jǐ diǎn kāishǐ? What time does the movie begin?	太大了总比太小了好。 tài dà le zǒng bǐ tài xiǎo le hǎo . Too big is better than too small.
给我一个小橙汁。 Gěi wǒ yí gè xiǎo chéngzhī. Give me a small orange juice.	两杯中可乐。 Liǎng bēi zhōng kělè. Two medium glasses of Coke.

对这间小办公室来说，那张桌子太大了。 duì zhè jiān xiǎo bàngōngshì láishuō , nà zhāng zhuōzi tài dà le . That desk is too big for this small office.	那个椅子对一个小女孩来说太大了。 nà ge yǐzi duì yí ge xiǎonǚhái lái shuō tài dà le . That chair is too big for a little girl.
给我一个大爆米花。 Gěi wǒ yí gè dà bàomǐhuā. Give me a large popcorn.	给我一个爆米花。 Gěi wǒ yí gè bàomǐhuā. Give me a (bag of) popcorn.
要中间的坐位。 Yào zhōngjiān de zuò wèi. I want a seat in the middle.	我买了三把椅子。 Wǒ mǎi le sān bǎ yǐzi. I bought three chairs.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on Measure Words

这部电影怎么样?

"What is this movie like?"

In previous lessons, we introduced you to Chinese measure words with the simple examples of 个 in 一个人 *yí gè rén* ("one person"), 瓶 in 两瓶啤酒 *liǎng píng píjiǔ* ("two bottles of beer"), and 杯 in 一杯水 *yì bēi shuǐ* ("one cup of water"). We learned to put measure words between nouns and the numbers used to count them, in a way similar to how English handles the phrases "one bottle of beer" or "two decks of cards."

After reviewing a few measure words we already know, in this lesson, we teach you a few additional ones. And we also learn that measure words are not totally arbitrary creatures. The Chinese language uses them to divide words into conceptual categories according to the understood properties of the object in question. Thus, we see 张 paired with objects that are broad and flat, as in 一张DVD *yì zhāng DVD* ("a DVD disc") or 一张桌子 *yì zhāng zhuōzi* ("a table"). We use 把 *bà* to describe objects with handles, such as spoons and forks, while we use 部 *bù* for things that we can naturally divide into segments, such as films, novels, or Korean soap operas.

Finally, we taught you that not only should you use measure words after numbers, but also

after determiners such as 这 *zhè* ("this") and 那 *nà* ("that"). Think of determiners as giant rhetorical fingers pointing to the object you are talking about. Although you may occasionally hear Chinese speakers leave out their measure words, in this situation when speaking very informally and colloquially, it's best and most standard to leave them in all the time.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Pirates of the Caribbean...and China?

Watching films in China can be a bit like attending film school. If your mouth just dropped open in shock at that statement, bear with us for a moment while we draw the connection.

In part because anything seems fair game for piracy in China, and in part because Chinese filmgoers are already accustomed to watching subtitled films and television, Chinese video stores tend to be relatively undiscriminating when it comes to showcasing the latest in international cinema. If you visit a larger video store in a first-tier city, expect to find Jean Cocteau's *Beauty and the Beast* on display alongside its classic Disney counterpart. The works of Tarkovsky and other Russian directors are also readily available for those on the hunt for them. The only major film genre we haven't seen popping up repeatedly has been films from Bollywood, and we're willing to chalk that up to the China-India rivalry.

It all makes being a film connoisseur in China interesting. While you might not be able to find everything you want, you may be surprised at some of the things you discover. And isn't adventure at least part of the reason you're here?

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #39
This Sounds Familiar

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#39

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 哎，你听过这首歌吗?
2. 乙: 当然听过。
3. 甲: 这个歌手是谁?
4. 乙: 不知道。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 哎，你聽過這首歌嗎?
2. 乙: 當然聽過。
3. 甲: 這個歌手是誰?
4. 乙: 不知道。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Ai, nǐ tīng guò zhè shǒu gē ma?
2. YǏ: Dāngrán tīng guò.
3. JIǍ: Zhège gēshǒu shì shéi?
4. YǏ: Bù zhīdào.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Have you heard this song before?

2. B: Of course, I've heard this before.

3. A: Who is the singer?

4. B: I don't know.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
听	聽	tīng	to listen	verb
过	過	guò	ever	spectual particle
首	首	shǒu	measure word for songs	measure word
歌	歌	gē	song	noun
当然	當然	dāngrán	of course	adverb
歌手	歌手	gēshǒu	singer	noun
谁	誰	shéi	who	pronoun
好听	好聽	hǎotīng	to sound good	adjective
小声	小聲	xiǎoshēng	to lower the volume	phrase
大声	大聲	dàshēng	high volume	phrase
跳舞	跳舞	tiàowǔ	to dance	verb
麦克风	麥克風	màikèfēng	microphone	noun
歌词	歌詞	gēcí	lyrics	noun
中国歌	中國歌	zhong1guo2 ge1	Chinese song	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我听过这首歌。 Wǒ tīng guò zhè shǒu gē. I've heard this song before.	我看过那部电影。 Wǒ kàn guò nà bù diànyǐng. I've seen that movie before.
我没听过这首歌。 Wǒ méi tīng guo zhè shǒu gē. I've never heard this song.	我喜欢这首歌。 Wǒ xǐhuān zhè shǒu gē. I like this song.
他当然高兴。 Tā dāngrán gāoxìng. Of course he's glad.	我不知道这个歌手。 Wǒ bù zhīdào zhègè gēshǒu. I don't know the singer.
谁来过? Shéi lái guo? Who's come over?	这首歌很好听。 Zhè shǒu gē hěn hǎotīng. This song sounds good.
小声一点儿。 Xiǎoshēng yìdiǎnr. Lower the volume a bit.	大声一点儿。 Dàshēng yìdiǎnr. Increase the volume a bit.
你想跳舞吗? Nǐ xiǎng tiàowǔ ma? Do you want to dance?	给我麦克风。 Gěi wǒ màikèfēng. Give me the microphone.
我不知道歌词。 Wǒ bù zhīdào gēcí. I don't know the lyrics.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the Perfect Tense

你听过这首歌吗?

"Have you heard this song before?"

过 *guò* is an aspectual particle we use in the perfect tense in Chinese. We place it immediately after a verb to communicate that the verb has happened in the past. Think of this in English as meaning "to have [verb]-ed before." We can only use *guò* with certain types of verbs-verbs which describe an action, where the action is repeatable. Because our verb action takes place in the past, we must negate these verbs with 没有 *méiyǒu* or 没 *méi* rather than 不 *bù*.

Guò is similar but not identical to the particle *le*. In fact, we can add *le* after *guò* to emphasize that the action has already taken place. You should also be aware that objects can follow both *guò* and *le*. In the case of verbs which consist of bundled verbs with their objects, such as 吃饭, we must split the verb from its object and insert *guò* or *le* into the middle, as with the sentence 你吃过饭吗 *nǐ chī guò fàn ma* ("Have you eaten [food]?").

Formation:

(verb) + *guò*

méi yǒu + (verb) + *guò*

Example Sentences:

Chinese	*Pinyin*	"English"
你去过台湾吗?	*Nǐ qù guò Táiwān ma?*	"Have you been to Taiwan before?"
我从来没吃过墨西哥菜。	*Wǒ cónglái méi chī guò mòxīgē cài.*	"I have never eaten Mexican food before."
今年日本有没有过大地震?	*Jīnnián rìběn yǒu méiyǒu guò dàdìzhèn?*	"Has Japan had any major earthquakes this year?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Come to China for some Karaoke and Mandopop!

Chinese music, just like the country, is a diverse mix with many different genres and sounds. One sound that gets a lot of airtime on the radio, however, can be described as "Mandopop." It

is a mix of upbeat and catchy tunes resembling the days of the boy bands and female soloists, such as Britney Spears and Jessica Simpson. Taiwan in particular produces a good number of Mandopop singers who gain popularity on the mainland-Jay Chow is one of them. Karaoke is also a popular social event. Rather than in the West where people line up to sing in front of strangers at the local watering hole, the KTVs in the East are a more private affair. People usually book rooms with their close friends, co-workers, or family for as little as an hour, or for the entire night.

MP3 players are quite popular, and you can find most of the youth either listening to music on their MP3 players with headphones or aloud on their cell phones for the entire world to enjoy. It is not uncommon to find stereo speakers strapped on to the back of mopeds blasting out the driver's favorite songs.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #40
Sweet Free Internet

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 这儿有无线网吗?
2. 乙: 对不起，你说什么?
3. 甲: 我说，我可以上网吗?
4. 乙: 啊，可以。
5. 甲: 多少钱?
6. 乙: 不要钱，是免费的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 這兒有無線網嗎?
2. 乙: 對不起，你說什麼?
3. 甲: 我說，我可以上網嗎?
4. 乙: 啊，可以。
5. 甲: 多少錢?
6. 乙: 不要錢，是免費的。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Zhèr yǒu wúxiàn wǎng ma?

CONT'D OVER

2. YǏ: Duìbuqǐ, nǐ shuō shénme?

3. JIĂ: wǒ shuō, wǒ kěyǐ shàngwăng ma?

4. YǏ: A, kěyǐ.

5. JIĂ: Duōshăo qián?

6. YǏ: Bù yào qián, shì miănfèi de.

ENGLISH

1. A: Is there WiFi here?

2. B: I'm sorry, what did you say?

3. A: I said, can I get online?

4. B: Ah, yes.

5. A: How much?

6. B: I don't want money. It's free.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
无线网	無線網	wúxiànwăng	wireless Internet	noun
上网	上網	shàngwăng	to go on the Internet	verb
多少钱	多少錢	duōshăo qián	how much	phrase

不要钱	不要錢	bú yào qián	for free	phrase
免费	免費	miǎnfèi	free	adjective
网吧	網吧	wǎngbā	Internet cafe	noun
电脑	電腦	diànnǎo	computer	noun
网络	網絡	wǎngluò	Internet connection	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

哪儿有无线网? Nǎr yǒu wúxiànwǎng ? Where is there wireless?	我可以上网。 Wǒ kěyǐ shàngwǎng. I can go on the Internet.
这个多少钱? Zhège duōshǎo qián? How much is this one?	这个不要钱。 Zhègè bú yào qián. Money is not needed for this one.
这个免费吗? Zhègè miǎnfèi ma? Is this one free?	他常常去网吧。 Tā chángcháng qù wǎngbā. He often goes to the Internet café.
我的电脑坏了。 Wǒ de diànnǎo huài le. My computer is broken.	现在网络不好。 Xiànzài wǎngluò bù hǎo. Right now, the Internet connection is not good.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is the "Is There + Noun + Here" Sentence Pattern

这儿有无线网吗?

"Is there wireless Internet here?"

In our grammar focus for today, we practice a simple but powerful sentence pattern. This pattern is 这儿 + 有 + Noun + 吗. This is the simplest way to translate the English pattern "Is there + Noun + here," and it is a pattern we see in our dialogue in the sentence 这儿有无线网吗, *Zhèr yǒu wúxiànwǎng ma* ("Is there wireless Internet here?"). Other examples we raise in this lesson include 这儿有网吧吗, *Zhèr yǒu wǎngbā ma* ("Is there an Internet cafe here?") and 这儿有WiFi吗, *Zhèr yǒu WiFi ma* ("Is there WiFi here?").

Sticking with our metaphor of the Chinese language as a collection of Lego bricks, what happens when we play around with this pattern further and swap out 有, *yǒu* ("to have") for another verb? Since our question is technically formed by adding the question particle 吗 (*ma*) to the end of our statement, there is no reason we can't insert any verb that makes contextual sense. This opens up new possibilities ranging from 这儿可以上网吗, *Zhèr kěyǐ shàngwǎng ma* ("Can one get online here?") to-on a totally different subject- 这儿卖冰淇淋吗, *Zhèr mài bīngqílín ma* ("Is ice cream sold here?").

Wrapping up our podcast, we closed by replacing 这儿 ("here") with 那儿 ("there") and asking about the availability of services at a specific location, such as a hotel you're interested in booking. It is very natural to ask 那儿有无线网吗, *Nàr yǒu wúxiàn wǎng ma* ("Is there wireless Internet there?") or 那儿可以上网吗, *Nàr kěyǐ shàngwǎng ma?* ("Can one get online there?") If you're talking to someone over the phone and asking about things on their end, you can be extra specific by adding 你, *nǐ* ("you") to the beginning of your question. 你那儿 (*nǐ nàr*) means "there (where you are)" and is very colloquial Mandarin.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Spend the Night at a Chinese Internet Bar!

Chinese Internet bars are a major social element in contemporary Chinese youth culture. Instead of staying home to play games on their own consoles, university students will generally hit Internet cafes where they pay by the hour to surf the Internet and socialize with friends. Walk into any Internet bar in China and you'll notice the majority of patrons are young males, some of whom seem to spend a considerable amount of time there. This isn't just because they're checking email. At most universities, strict curfews in the dorms mean that students out past 11 P.M. can't return to their rooms until the following morning. Since Internet bars stay open twenty-four hours, many people opt to stay overnight at them (and even sleep there) instead of returning to campus to a locked gate. This is so prevalent that there is even special discount 通宵, *tōngxiāo* ("through the night") pricing. If you're planning to spend a few hours online in the late evening or early morning, be sure to ask about it.

With hourly pricing as low as a fraction of a *kuai* per hour (in smaller and poorer townships), Internet cafes generally don't make their money from selling raw Internet access. Hourly fees generally help them cover costs and that's about it. Much like movie theaters, Internet bars make their real money from operating concessions where patrons buy snacks and drinks. They are also starting to earn money by taking payments from online gaming companies for promoting certain games with preferential placement on cafe computers.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #41
A First Date

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#41

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 你喜欢什么电影?
2. 乙: 我喜欢动作片儿。
3. 甲: 我也是。我还喜欢喜剧片儿。
4. 乙: 我还喜欢看纪录片儿。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 你喜歡甚麼電影?
2. 乙: 我喜歡動作片兒。
3. 甲: 我也是。我還喜歡喜劇片兒。
4. 乙: 我還喜歡看紀錄片兒。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Nǐ xǐhuān shénme diànyǐng?
2. YǏ: Wǒ xǐhuān dòngzuòpiānr.
3. JIǍ: Wǒ yě shì. Wǒ hái xǐhuān xǐjùpiānr.
4. YǏ: Wǒ hái xǐhuān kàn jìlùpiānr.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: What movies do you like?

2. B: I like action films.

3. A: Me, too. I also like comedies.

4. B: I also like watching documentaries.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
喜欢	喜歡	xǐhuān	to like	verb
电影	電影	diànyǐng	movie	noun
动作片	動作片	dòngzuòpiānr	action movie	noun
喜剧片	喜劇片	xǐjùpiānr	comedy	noun
纪录片	紀錄片	jìlùpiānr	documentary film	noun
爱情片	愛情片	àiqíngpiānr	romantic film	noun
我也是	我也是	wǒ yě shì	me too	phrase
还	還	hái	also	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我不喜欢成龙的电影。 Wǒ bù xǐhuān Chénglóng de diànyǐng. I don't like Jackie Chan movies.	我们去看电影吧。 Wǒmen qù kàn diànyǐng ba. Let's go see a movie.
我喜欢动作片。 Wǒ xǐhuān dòngzuò piānr. I like action movies.	我爱看喜剧片。 Wǒ ài kàn xǐjùpiānr. I love to watch comedies.

那个纪录片不错。 Nà gè jìlùpiānr búcuò. That documentary isn't bad.	你不喜欢爱情片吗? Nǐ bù xǐhuān àiqíng piānr ma? You don't like romantic films?
你不喜欢看电影，我也是。 Nǐ bù xǐhuān kàn diànyǐng, wǒ yě shì. You don't like watching movies? I don't either.	他喜欢喜剧片，还喜欢动作片。 Tā xǐhuān xǐjùpiānr, hái xǐhuān dòngzuòpiānr. He likes comedies and action films.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on the Proper Use of 也 and 还

我也是。我还喜欢喜剧片儿。

"Me, too. I also like comedies."

Our grammar point for today is all about the difference between 也, *yě* ("also") and 还, *hái* ("also"). These characters are both adverbs in Chinese, and we can translate each as "also" or "too," depending on the context. In our dialogue, we hear both in the sentences 我也是。我还喜欢喜剧片儿, *Wǒ yě shì. Wǒ hái xǐhuan xǐjùpiānr* ("Me too. I also like comedies"). So what exactly is the difference between the two? When do we use one, and when do we use the other?

Here, the most important thing to remember is that 也 is more flexible, so if you're ever unsure of which one to use, use it. The key to understanding the difference between the two is noticing that we can use 也 to link sentences with multiple and different subjects. So the sentence 我喜欢她。他也喜欢她, *Wǒ xǐhuan tā; tā yě xǐhuan tā* ("I like her; he also likes her") is good Chinese, but we cannot replace 也 with 还 in that sentence, since the subject for our second clause is different from the subject in our first clause. Put more simply, we can only use 还 when our subject does not change. We can find a good example of this in our dialogue in the statement 我喜欢动作片儿，还喜欢纪录片儿, *Wǒ xǐhuan dòngzuò piànr, hái xǐhuan jìlùpiānr* ("I like action films, and documentaries too").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese Movie Market-from Kung Fu to Batman

Many people's experience with Chinese cinema may be limited to watching old kung fu movies. While Hong Kong has traditionally had a lock on East Asian action cinema, mainland China is making progress putting together quality movies. Recent films such as *Red Cliff* and *IP Man* have raised the bar in terms of what global and Chinese audiences expect from domestic cinema in terms of action, as well as acting and plot.

If you are planning to watch foreign movies in China, it is often best to head to a small DVD shop where you can find the latest titles. The Chinese government only allows twenty foreign films to be shown in Chinese movie theaters each year. Since these films are picked far in advance, usually the larger and more commercial blockbusters that are approved for release. This has led to friction between the film bureau and Hollywood production companies over which films will find release. Relations hit a low point in 2008 when *Batman: The Dark Knight* was denied distribution. Ironically, the unexpected success of the film left the Chinese film industry scrambling to import the film and screen a legal Chinese version.

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Checking into Hotel China

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 请问，这儿一天多少钱?
2. 乙: 您几位?
3. 甲: 就我自己。
4. 乙: 您想要单人间还是标准间?
5. 甲: 我要标准间。
6. 乙: 标准间250元一天。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 請問，這兒一天多少錢?
2. 乙: 您幾位?
3. 甲: 就我自己。
4. 乙: 您想要單人間還是標準間?
5. 甲: 我要標準間。
6. 乙: 標準間250元一天。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Qǐngwèn, zhèr yī tiān duōshǎo qián?

CONT'D OVER

2. YǏ: Nín jǐ wèi?

3. JIĂ: Jiù wǒ zìjǐ.

4. YǏ: Nín xiǎng yào dānrén jiān hái shì biāozhǔn jiān?

5. JIĂ: Wǒ yào biāozhǔn jiān.

6. YǏ: Biāozhǔn jiān èrbǎi wǔshí yuán yì tiān.

ENGLISH

1. A: Excuse me, how much for one day?

2. B: How many people?

3. A: Just myself.

4. B: Do you want a single or standard room?

5. A: I want a standard room.

6. B: The standard room is 250 RMB per day.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
您几位	您幾位	nín jǐ wèi	How many people?	phrase
一天	一天	yìtiān	one day	phrase
请问	請問	qǐngwèn	excuse me	phrase

就	就	jiù	just	adverb
自己	自己	zìjǐ	oneself	pronoun
单人间	單人間	dānrénjiān	single room	noun
标准间	標準間	biāozhǔnjiān	standard room	noun
还是	還是	háishì	or	conjunction
元	元	yuán	yuan	measure word

SAMPLE SENTENCES

请问，您几位? Qǐngwèn, nín jǐ wèi? Excuse me，how many people?	这个宾馆一天200元。 Zhègè bīnguǎn yì tiān èrbǎi yuán. This room costs 200 yuan a day.
请问，这个多少钱? Qǐngwèn, zhègè duōshǎo qián ? Excuse me. How much is this one?	昨天就我一个人来了。 Zuótiān jiù wǒ yí gè rén lái le. I just came by myself yesterday.
大家介绍一下自己吧. dàjiā jièshào yíxià zìjǐ ba . Everybody, let's introduce ourselves.	我自己来。 Wǒ zìjǐ lái。 Let me do it myself.
我要一个单人间。 Wǒ yào yí gè dānrénjiān. I want a single room.	我要一个标准间。 Wǒ yào yí gè biāozhǔnjiān. I want a standard room.
你今天来还是明天来? Nǐ jīntiān lái háishì míngtiān lái? Are you coming today or tomorrow?	这件衣服300元。 Zhè jiàn yīfu sānbǎi yuán. This piece of clothing costs 300 yuan.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is on 还是

您想要单人间还是标准间？
"Do you want a single room or a standard room?"

还是, *háishì* ("or") is a conjunction used to offer a choice between two alternatives. We see it in our dialogue in the question asked by the concierge: *您想要单人间还是标准间*, *nín xiǎng yào dānrénjiān háishì biāozhǔnjiān* ("Do you want a single room or a standard room?"). For most practical purposes, 还是 is identical to the English conjunction "or." We use it to connect both verb phrases and noun phrases, and we also use it to frame a question without needing to add a separate question word.

The major difference between 还是 in Chinese and "or" in English is that 还是 offers an exclusive choice. In our podcast, we gave you three sample sentences to illustrate this point. These were 您想要咖啡还是茶, *nín xiǎng yào kāfēi háishì chá* ("Do you want coffee or tea?"), 您是美国人还是英国人, *nín shì měiguórén háishì yīngguórén* ("Are you American or British?"), and 你要贵的还是便宜的, *nǐ yào guì de hái shì piányi de* ("Do you want the expensive one or the cheap one?"). In all of these questions, the questioner is presenting an exclusive set of options. He or she does not expect the answer "I want both" or "I am both."

If you're interested in reading up on the non-exclusive way to frame a choice between multiple options, consult our grammar guide for the entry on 或者 (*huòzhě*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Bargain Your Way to a Good Deal on a Chinese Hotel Room

You will find hotels anywhere and everywhere in China. One thing to keep in mind if you end up staying in one is that prices in China are generally negotiable, even in hotels. Although most hotels will have a board displaying their standard prices right above the check-in desk, it is almost expected for you to bargain with the clerk at the front desk. The best way to do this is to disregard the board and ask them what their price is. You should find yourself being offered a discount of about twenty percent off the posted price. Most hotels can arrange for ticket purchasing, and most have a decent concierge service. Upon check-in, hotels will require a passport to register non-Chinese guests, and many will ask for a deposit. Reservations are not usually necessary.

"Youth hostels" are another option for travelers on a budget. While you don't need to be in the spring of life to stay there, the atmosphere will put you in a great mood. The facilities are generally clean, and hostels provide great opportunities to meet other travelers intent on having a good time on a budget. Individual rooms are available, but the majority of rooms

have between four to six beds each. A locker is provided to keep your belonging safe, and, depending on the quality and city, an evening's stay can range anywhere from twenty to sixty RMB per night.

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Room Service in China

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 你好，前台。
2. 乙: 你好，再给我一床被子，好吗?
3. 甲: 您在几号房间?
4. 乙: 1217号。
5. 甲: 好的。请稍等。我们马上送过去。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 你好，前臺。
2. 乙: 你好，再給我一床被子，好嗎?
3. 甲: 您在幾號房間?
4. 乙: 1217號。
5. 甲: 好的。請稍等。我們馬上送過去。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Nǐhǎo, qiántái.
2. YǏ: Nǐhǎo, zài gěi wǒ yī chuáng bèizi, hǎo ma?
3. JIǍ: Nín zài jǐ hào fángjiān?

CONT'D OVER

4. YǏ: Yāo èr yāo qī hào.

5. JIĂ: Hăo de. Qĭng shāoděng. Wŏmen măshàng sòng guòqù.

ENGLISH

1. A: Hello. Front desk?

2. B: Hello. Can I have another blanket please?

3. A: Which room are you in?

4. B: Number 1217.

5. A: Okay. Please wait. I'll send it over at once.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
前台	前臺	qiántái	front desk	noun
枕头	枕頭	zhěntóu	pillow	noun
毛巾	毛巾	máojīn	towel	noun
洗发水	洗發水	xǐfàshuǐ	shampoo	noun
热水	熱水	rèshuǐ	hot water	noun
香皂	香皂	xiāngzào	soap	noun
送	送	sòng	to deliver	verb
马上	馬上	mă shàng	right away	adverb
被子	被子	bèizi	blanket	noun

床	床	chuáng	measure word for blankets	measure word
再给我	再給我	zàigěiwǒ	give me another	phrase
杯子	杯子	bēizi	glass	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

前台的小姐很漂亮。 Qiántái de xiǎojiě hěn piàoliàng. The girl at the front desk is very pretty.	给我一床被子和一个枕头。 Gěi wǒ yì chuáng bèizi hé yí gè zhěntóu. Give me a blanket and a pillow.
毛巾不干净。 máojīn bù gānjìng. The towel is not clean.	他给了我一条毛巾。 Tā gěi le wǒ yì tiáo máojīn. He gave me a towel.
再给我一点儿洗发水，好吗? Zài gěi wǒ yìdiǎnr xǐfàshuǐ, hǎo ma? Can I have a bit more shampoo, please?	这儿有热水吗? Zhèr yǒu rèshuǐ ma? Do you have hot water here?
我要香皂。 Wǒ yào xiāngzào. I want soap.	非常抱歉，我们不能按原定的日期给你运送冰箱。 fēicháng bàoqiàn , wǒmen bù néng àn yuándìng de rìqī gěi nǐ yùn sòng bīngxiāng . We are terribly sorry, but we are not able to deliver the refrigerator by the scheduled date.
我马上送过去。 Wǒ mǎshàng sòng guòqù. I'll send it over at once.	我马上就来。 Wǒ mǎ shàng jiù lái. I'll be there right away.
被子脏了。 Bèizi zāng le. The blanket is dirty.	给我一床被子。 Gěi wǒ yì chuáng bèizi. Give me a blanket.

再给我一点儿热水。 Zài gěi wǒ yīdiǎnr rèshuǐ. Give me a bit more hot water.	我也要一个杯子。 Wǒ yě yào yí gè bēizi. I also want a glass.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking for Things

再给我一床被子，好吗？

"Can I have another blanket, please?"

Our grammar point for this lesson focuses on how to ask for things. To start, we reviewed two common expressions we've run into in the past. The first is 我要 (*wǒ yào*) which means "I want." You can soften this slightly by using the alternate form 我想要 (*wǒ xiǎng yào*), which might translate better as "I would like." We also reviewed the expression 给我 (gěi wǒ), which is the most straightforward way to say "give me" in Mandarin. We've covered this material in previous lessons so you should understand how to use these.

In this lesson, we talk a bit about the difference between two more advanced ways to ask for things. The first is 再给我 (*zài gěi wǒ*), which means "give me another." Here, we add the adverb 再 ("again") in front of our verb phrase. This is relatively generic, if somewhat strong. You should use this phrase when you are not speaking to someone face-to-face. The second expression we covered was 再来 (*zài lái*). We hear this most often in restaurants and other environments where customers have face-to-face encounters with serving staff. The phrase literally translates as "bring me another...." Complete it by adding the appropriate number, measure word, and noun you wish to use, as in the sentence 再来一瓶水, *zài lái yī píng shuǐ*. ("Bring me another bottle of water.") This is a relatively polite, if casual way of speaking.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting the Fastest Food in China!

The word 马上, *mǎshàng* ("right away") is something that you will hear quite often. One of the most common places you'll run into it is in restaurants. No matter how fast the kitchen might be preparing your food, if you press your waiter or waitress using the fairly standard

快一点儿, *kuài yīdiǎnr* ("a bit faster"), they will almost invariably reply 马上. Sadly, your serving staff is probably not using this word in its literal sense. This is one of the very common 客套话, *kètàohuà* ("set phrases") you will hear that doesn't really mean very much, especially since admitting there is going to be a serious delay could cause a loss of face or loss of business. In the case of a restaurant or hotel, the best approach if you're in a hurry is simply to ask for delivery and order by phone. Most restaurants will deliver at no charge if your home or office is within reasonable walking distance, which cuts out the waiting completely.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #44
Code Red in China

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

44

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 您好，您有什么需要?
2. 乙: 我这儿没有手纸了。
3. 甲: 对不起，我们马上送过来。
4. 乙: 快一点儿，好吗?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 您好，您有什麼需要?
2. 乙: 我這兒沒有手紙了。
3. 甲: 對不起，我們馬上送過來。
4. 乙: 快一點兒，好嗎?

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Nínhǎo, nín yǒu shénme xūyào?
2. YǏ: Wǒ zhèr méiyǒu shǒu zhǐ le.
3. JIǍ: Duìbuqǐ, wǒmen mǎshàng sòng guòlai.
4. YǏ: Kuài yīdiǎnr, hǎo ma?

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. JIA: Hello, how can I help you?

2. YI: I don't have any toilet paper in here.

3. JIA: I'm sorry. We will get you some very quickly.

4. YI: Hurry up, okay?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
慢	慢	màn	slow	adjective
需要	需要	xūyào	to need	verb
手纸	手紙	shǒuzhǐ	toilet paper	noun
餐巾纸	餐巾紙	cānjīnzhǐ	napkin	noun
牙刷	牙刷	yáshuā	toothbrush	noun
牙膏	牙膏	yágāo	toothpaste	noun
报纸	報紙	bàozhǐ	newspaper	noun
快	快	kuài	quickly; fast	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这辆车有一点儿慢。 Zhè liàng chē yǒu yìdiǎnr màn. This car is a little slow.	你太慢了。 Nǐ tài màn le. You are too slow.
他需要休息。 Tā xūyào xiūxi. He needs to rest.	我买了两卷手纸。 Wǒ mǎi le liǎng juǎn shǒuzhǐ. I bought two rolls of toilet paper.

服务员，给我餐巾纸。 Fúwùyuán, gěi wǒ cānjīnzhǐ. Waitress, can I get some napkins?	我需要一把牙刷。 Wǒ xūyào yì bǎ yáshuā. I need a toothbrush.
牙膏没了。 Yágāo méi le. We're out of toothpaste.	我每天早晨看报纸。 Wǒ měitiān zǎochén kàn bàozhǐ. I read the newspaper every morning.
快叫人来。 Kuài jiào rén lái . Quick, call for someone to come.	我快到了。 Wǒ kuài dào le 。 I'm almost there.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Slowing Down and Speeding Up

快一点儿，好吗？

"Hurry up, ok?"

Our grammar point today is a quick review of a very common structure we can use to tell others to speed things up or slow things down. In the dialogue, our harried hotel guest admonishes hotel reception to hurry up by asking the worker on call to **快一点儿，好吗**, *kuài yīdiǎnr, hǎo ma* ("Hurry up, okay?") The second part of that sentence is just a polite way to soften a demand. Let's take a closer look at the first half.

Our grammar structure here is combining an adjective of degree with the phrase **一点儿**, *yīdiǎnr* ("a little bit"). Common adjectives of degree are words such as:

1. 快, *kuài* ("fast")
2. 慢, *màn* ("slow")
3. 贵, *guì* ("expensive")
4. 便宜, *piányi* ("cheap")

For an example of an adjective that is not an adjective of degree, consider the word 累, *lèi* ("tired"). While it takes some time to pick up which adjectives you can use (by listening), one thing you can focus on from the start is mastering the erhuaization ("r-sound") you can hear on the end of this phrase. Missing this will make your Chinese noticeably less proficient to native speakers, so don't forget it!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Try Out the New Choices in China!

Choice is a wonderful thing to have. For a long period during the early years of the Communist Party, centralized production resulted in a major limitation in the amount of products available on the market. Even into the early 1990s, shopping in China was somewhat reminiscent of Henry Ford's famous statement that his customers "Can have any color [they want], as long as it is black." And while this sentiment is rapidly becoming something of the past, you are still likely to run into a phrase that will dumbfound you on occasion when shopping or out at a restaurant. This phrase is 没有 (*méiyǒu*) and it literally means to "not to have."

Fortunately, just as Newton's third law of motion states that "for every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction," for every 没有 (*méiyǒu*) there is an equal and opposite 有 (*yǒu*). So while you may not be able to get your hands on all Western products in China, try out the local Chinese alternatives. Sometimes they're surprisingly good!

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #45
Checking out of Hotel China

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

#45

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 这是您的钥匙。
2. 乙: 谢谢。对了，这儿什么时候退房?
3. 甲: 中午12点以前。
4. 乙: 好的。谢谢你。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 這是您的鑰匙。
2. 乙: 謝謝。對了，這兒什麼時候退房?
3. 甲: 中午12點以前。
4. 乙: 好的。謝謝你。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Zhè shì nín de yàoshi.
2. YǏ: Xièxie. Duìle, zhèr shénme shíhòu tuìfáng?
3. JIǍ: zhōngwǔ shíèr diǎn yǐqián.
4. YǏ: Hǎo de. Xièxie nǐ.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. JIA: This is your key.

2. YI: Thank you. That's right, when is checkout here?

3. JIA: Before twelve noon.

4. YI: Okay. Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
钥匙	鑰匙	yàoshi	key	noun
门卡	門卡	ménkǎ	door card	noun
对了	對了	duìle	oh, right	phrase
什么时候	甚麼時候	shénme shíhòu	at what time	phrase
退房	退房	tuìfáng	to check out	verb
中午	中午	zhōngwǔ	noon	noun
以前	以前	yǐqián	before	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这不是我的钥匙。 Zhè bú shì wǒ de yàoshi. This is not my key.	这是您的门卡。 Zhè shì nín de ménkǎ. This is your door card.
对了，你什么时候有时间? Duì le, nǐ shénme shíhòu yǒu shíjiān? Oh right, when do you have time?	他什么时候来? Tā shénme shíhòu lái? When will he come?

我上午退房了。 Wǒ shàngwǔ tuìfáng le. I checked out this morning.	我中午十二点吃饭。 Wǒ zhōngwǔ shí'èr diǎn chīfàn. I eat at twelve o'clock noon.

我以前是法语翻译。
Wǒ yǐqián shì fǎyǔ fānyì.

I was a French translator before.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Times of the Day
中午12点以前。
"Before twelve o'clock noon."

In our previous lesson on dates, we learned that word order in Chinese is significantly different from word order in English when one is talking about the days of the week or the months of the year. In this lesson, our grammar focus is on the times of the day. So it shouldn't come as any surprise to learn that this is also an area where our Chinese word order is significantly different from what you'd expect in English.

In English, we typically put our hour before the estimated time-period in phrases like "eight in the morning" or "seven in the evening." In Chinese, this word order is reversed and our approximate time-period precedes our precise hour. This gives us time phrases like 早上八点, *zǎoshàng bā diǎn* ("eight in the morning") and 晚上九点, *wǎnshàng jiǔ diǎn* ("nine in the evening"). We can only actually use a certain number of time words in these constructions. The list below includes the major ones:

1. 凌晨, *língchén* ("early morning")
2. 早上, *zǎoshàng* ("morning")
3. 上午, *shàngwǔ* ("before noon")
4. 中午, *zhōngwǔ* ("noon")
5. 下午, *xiàwǔ* ("afternoon")

6. 晚上, *wǎnshàng* ("evening")

7. 夜里, *yèli* ("night")

In our dialogue, we run into this construction in the line 中午12点以前, *zhōngwǔ shíèr diǎn yǐqián* ("before twelve noon"). This raises our final grammar point for the lesson. When using the time modifiers 以前, *yǐqián* ("before") or 以后, *yǐhòu* ("after"), we place these words after our time phrase, rather than before it as in English.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Do You Have the Key to Everything in China?

When checking into a hotel room, one of the first things you will probably notice is the critical importance of the door card. You will use it for more than just opening the lock to your room. In fact, if you were hoping to use any electricity at all, your keycard is your new best friend. In all but the smaller family-run hotels in smaller cities, before the electricity in the room will power on, you will need to insert your keycard into a tiny slot in the wall next to the door. This makes a lot of sense from an energy-saving perspective, as it means a patron cannot leave the room with appliances and lights left on. This saves the hotel money on energy bills. But on a hot summer day, it can be a real problem if you're stepping out and would like to leave the air conditioning on while you are out. In this case, an astute observer may note that the keycard to your room is exactly the same size as an ATM or credit card.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #46
Lost in China

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3 Sample Sentences
4 Grammar
6 Cultural Insight

#46

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 您去哪儿?
2. 乙: 去我住的宾馆。
3. 甲: 您有地址吗?
4. 乙: 哦，如家宾馆。东城区平安大街19号。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 您去哪兒?
2. 乙: 去我住的賓館。
3. 甲: 您有地址嗎?
4. 乙: 哦，如家賓館。東城區平安大街19號。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Nín qù nǎr?
2. YǏ: Qù wǒ zhù de bīnguǎn.
3. JIǍ: Nín yǒu dìzhǐ ma?
4. YǏ: O, Rújiā Bīnguǎn. Dōngchéngqū Pín'gān Dàjiē shíjiǔ hào.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Where are you going?

2. B: I'm going to my hotel.

3. A: Do you have the address?

4. B: Oh, "Home Inns," Number 19 on Ping'an Street in Dongcheng district.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
您	您	nín	you	pronoun
楼	樓	lóu	building	noun
小区	小區	xiǎoqū	community	noun
市	市	shì	city	noun
号	號	hào	number	noun
路	路	lù	road	noun
大街	大街	dàjiē	street	noun
区	區	qū	district	noun
地址	地址	dìzhǐ	address	noun
宾馆	賓館	bīnguǎn	hotel	noun
住	住	zhù	to live	verb
哪儿	哪兒	nǎr	where	pronoun
单元	單元	dānyuán	entry	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

您身体好吗? Nín shēntǐ hǎo ma? How is your health?	我们的办公室在八号楼。 Wǒmen de bàngōngshì zài bā hào lóu. Our office is in building #8.
这个小区很安静。 Zhègè xiǎoqū hěn ānjìng. This community is very peaceful.	我家不在北京市。 Wǒ jiā bú zài Běijīng shì. My home is not in Beijing.
我的学校地址是学院路15号。 Wǒ de xuéxiào dìzhǐ shì Xuéyuàn lù shíwǔ hào. My school's address is #15 Academy Road.	学院路有很多大学。 Xuéyuàn lù yǒu hěn duō dàxué. Academy Road has many universities.
我家的地址是平安大街17号。 Wǒ jiā de dìzhǐ shì Píng'ān dàjiē shíqī hào. My home address is #17 Ping'an Street.	他家在朝阳区。 Tā jiā zài Cháoyáng qū. His home is in Chaoyang district.
你家的地址是什么? Nǐjiā de dìzhǐ shì shénme? What is your home address?	这个宾馆不错。 Zhègè bīnguǎn búcuò. This hotel is not bad.
从明年开始我就住在伊朗。 cóng míngnián kāishǐ wǒ jiù zhù zài Yīlǎng . I will be living in Iran from next year.	我住在宾馆。 Wǒ zhù zài bīnguǎn. I live in a hotel.
你去哪儿? Nǐ qù nǎr? Where are you going?	这座楼有八个单元。 Zhè zuò lóu yǒu bā gè dānyuán . This building has eight entrances.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Chinese Addresses

如家宾馆。东城区平安大街19号。

"Home Inns, Number 19 Ping'an Street, Dongcheng district"

As David mentioned in today's podcast, the secret to understanding Chinese addresses is realizing that they're completely backwards from an English perspective. While Western addresses start by providing the most detailed information and move on from there, in Chinese name cards, envelopes, and forms, you'll find addresses written completely differently. See if you can make sense of the following two addresses:

1. 北京宣武门西大街57号
2. 北京市东城区平安大街75号，8号楼，8单元，102号

Translated into English, our first address above is literally "Beijing, Xuanwumen Road West, Number 57." The second address is more detailed and translates into "Beijing city, Dongcheng district, Ping'an Street, Number 75, Building 8, Entrance 8, Suite 102." In both cases, pay attention to the logic of the order. Chinese writers put the most general information first and proceed to list more detailed information afterwards. The exact room number comes last.

The fact that the most detailed (important?) information is communicated last makes picking up addresses particularly challenging for non-native Chinese speakers. If you lose your train of concentration while hearing an address, you're likely to miss out on the most important information. This is a real challenge, especially since addresses often contain very low frequency words such as street and building names which will be unfamiliar at first. In time, you'll become able to process addresses with unfamiliar words. A good step in that direction is internalizing the following key vocabulary.

1. 市 - *shì* ("city")
2. 区 - *qū* ("district")
3. 大街 - *dàjiē* ("street")
4. 楼 - *lóu* ("building")
5. 单元 - *dānyuán* ("entrance")
6. 号 - *hào* ("number")

One additional thing to note if you live or work in a building with floors, is that in standard mandarin, the word for "floor" is 层 (*céng*). In southern China and Shanghai especially, locals will often refer to both the building and the floor within the building using the character 楼. This can be quite confusing. The two effective ways to distinguish between the two is realizing first and foremost that the building number will precede the floor number. The second is to

remember that buildings are often identified by their number (as in, 8号楼), while floors will typically omit the 号. In any event, if you live in Shanghai, good luck!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Finding Your Way in China

Navigating Chinese maps can be a challenge. Not only do many neighborhoods snake around without much regard for consistency, but often the names of the roads themselves will change depending on your exact location in the city. One minute you'll be traveling down 人民路 (*rénmín lù*) "People's Road" and then the next minute you'll find yourself on 学院路 (*xuéyuàn lù*) "College Street." How exactly did that happen? Add to this confusion the disordered street traffic and constant bustle of a densely populated city, and traveling around can be confusing.

Consequently, trying to find your way to a desired destination or to an intended address can best even the most fluent of us. Don't be surprised if your taxi driver relies on his mobile phone to get directions. And don't be afraid to ask for directions yourself. One thing that definitely helps is positioning yourself in regards to landmarks, especially subway stations or famous scenic locations. The former are easy to find while the latter can be spotted from a distance, even if you're lost in a maze of smaller streets.

Many first and second tier cities are laid out in a similar fashion, following the model established in Beijing. Industrial plants are often pushed out towards the west, the business district is positioned in the east, and there is a definable city center with a commercial district. Another common feature in many cities are concentric circles called "Ring Roads" 环路 (*huánlù*), which grow larger the further you get from the city center. Depending on the size of the city, you can have anywhere from two to five ring roads. Beijing has five. For fun, try asking a local where you can find the first ring road.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #47
Hitting the Telephone in China

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 你知道后海在哪儿吗?
2. 乙: 不太清楚。
3. 甲: 等会儿，我打个电话。
4. 乙: 好的。
5. 甲: 给你，他会告诉你的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 你知道後海在哪兒嗎?
2. 乙: 不太清楚。
3. 甲: 等會兒，我打個電話。
4. 乙: 好的。
5. 甲: 給你，他會告訴你的。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Nǐ zhīdào Hòuhǎi zài nǎr ma?
2. YǏ: Bù tài qīngchǔ.
3. JIǍ: Děng huìr, wǒ dǎ ge diànhuà.

CONT'D OVER

4. YǏ: Hǎo de.

5. JIǍ: Gěi nǐ, tā huì gàosù nǐ de.

ENGLISH

1. A: Do you know how to get to Houhai?

2. B: I'm not too clear.

3. A: Wait a bit. I'll make a call.

4. B: Okay.

5. A: Here, he'll tell you.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
知道	知道	zhīdào	to know	verb
明白	明白	míngbai	to get it	verb
懂	懂	dǒng	to understand	verb
告诉	告訴	gàosù	to tell	verb
会……的	會……的	huì...de	will	phrase
给	給	gěi	to give	verb
打电话	打電話	dǎ diànhuà	to dial the telephone	phrase
等会儿	等會兒	děng huǐr	to wait a while	phrase
清楚	清楚	qīngchǔ	clear	adjective

认识	認識	rènshi	to recognize	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我知道北京在哪儿。 Wǒ zhīdào Běijīng zài nǎr. I know where Beijing is.	我不明白你的意思。 Wǒ bù míngbai nǐ de yìsi. I don't get your meaning.
我懂中文。 Wǒ dǒng zhōngwén. I understand Chinese.	我会告诉你们的。 Wǒ huì gàosù nǐmen de. I will tell you.
他会来的。 Tā huì lái de. He will come.	给我一瓶水，好吗? Gěi wǒ yì píng shuǐ, hǎo ma? Give me a bottle of water, okay?
今天晚上我给你打电话。 Jīntiān wǎnshàng wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà. I'll give you a telephone call tonight.	等会儿，我马上就来。 Děng huǐr, wǒ mǎshàng jiù lái. Wait a while. I'll come up right away.
我不清楚。 Wǒ bù qīngchǔ. I'm not clear about that.	你不认识他吗? Nǐ bú rènshi tā ma? You don't recognize him?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Future Tense

给你，他会告诉你的。

"Here, he'll tell you."

As we've learned in previous lessons, tense is highly-contextual in Chinese. You'll often hear people imply that something happened in the past (or will happen in the future) using nothing more than context. While this can make understanding exactly what someone says tricky at times, there are nonetheless a few standard patterns we can use to make it explicit that

something took place in the past or will take place in the future. In this lesson, we look at two standard patterns for speaking in the future tense.

Sentence Patterns

1. (subject) + 要, *yào* + (verb) + 了, *le*
2. (subject) + 会, *huì* + (verb) + 的, *de*

Our first pattern is the simplest, and one we've seen before. It gives us sentences like 他要来了, *tā yào lái le* ("He will come.") or 我要给他打电话了, *wǒ yào gěi tā dǎdiànhuà le.* ("I will give him a telephone call.") It is important that you remember to add the closing 了 in these sentences. Without it, people will generally understand 要 to be the verb meaning "to want" rather than a marker of the future tense. Consider the sentences 他要来, *tā yào lái* ("He wants to come.") and 我要给他打电话, *wǒ yào gěi tā dǎdiànhuà.* ("I want to give him a telephone call.")

Our second pattern is new in this lesson. To use it, we replace 要...了 with 会...的. Using the same example sentences we provided above, this gives us the examples 他会来的, *tā huì lái de* ("He will come.") and 我会给你打电话的, *wǒ huì gěi nǐ dǎdiànhuà de.* ("I will give you a telephone call.") As with our 要...了 construction, it is crucial that you remember to include the closing 的. Without it, listeners will interpret 会 as the verb meaning "to be able," and your sentences will sound like 我会给你打电话, *wǒ huì gěi nǐ dǎdiànhuà.* ("I am able to give you a telephone call.") There is one exception to this that we did not cover in the podcast. In very short sentences such as 他会来, *tā huì lái* ("He will come."), Chinese speakers will often drop the final 的. In these situations, it should be contextually clear that they are speaking in the future tense. We recommend you get into the habit of keeping the final 的 in order to internalize the pattern.

Sample Sentences

1. 他会给你打电话的。
   Tā huìgěinǐ dǎdiànhuà de.
   "He will give you a telephone call."

2. 我不会把这个秘密告所别人的。
Wǒ bú huì bǎ zhège mìmì gàosù biérén de.
"I won't tell this secret to anyone."

3. 她会去加拿大的。
Tā huì qù Jiānádà de
"She will go to Canada."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Taxi Drivers: An Untapped Language Resource

Getting in the habit of striking up conversations with taxi drivers can do wonders for your Chinese. Taxi drivers meet the holy trinity of requirements for good conversation partners: they are easy to talk with, usually interested in chatting, and forced by circumstances to listen to whatever you have to say. If you think of every taxi ride as a mini-lesson, you'll make much faster progress and save money on tuition as well.

That said, even the best of us are too tired to talk at times, especially after a busy day at work. And if you take cabs a lot, you will occasionally be forced to give your driver instructions of such tremendous complexity and ambiguity that even a native speaker will simply throw their hands up in the air and hand off the phone to someone more familiar with the neighborhood. Bearing in mind that many drivers will be unfamiliar with every part of the city as well, we recommend that if you're traveling anywhere on a tight schedule you ask your host to send you their address by SMS in advance. That will give you a written record on your cell phone that you can show to the driver, as well as a record of their number you can use to call them up if you get lost.

On a final note, if you're going to be in China for any length of time it is going to be inevitable that you will get lost. It is actually quite rare for foreigners to be cheated by regular taxi cab drivers (although we recommend staying away from the illegal cabs unless you know the going rate for your trip). Some drivers may not be sure of your exact destination but reluctant to admit this in order not to lose your fare. So if you think you're heading in the wrong direction or your driver seems especially agitated, don't be afraid to give someone a telephone call. Our worst-case scenario involved a driver from Tianjin who found herself in Beijing and ended up driving friends towards the airport instead of following us to local restaurant. In the end, a simple phone call corrected everything without loss of face on anyone's part.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #48
Driver, Stop the Car!

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#48

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 现在怎么走?
2. 乙: 直走就行了。
3. 甲: 还有多远?
4. 乙: 过两个红绿灯。
5. 甲: 好。
6. 乙: 到了。谢谢。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 現在怎麼走?
2. 乙: 直走就行了。
3. 甲: 還有多遠?
4. 乙: 過兩個紅綠燈。
5. 甲: 好。
6. 乙: 到了。謝謝。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Xiànzài zěnme zǒu?

CONT'D OVER

2. YǏ: Zhí zǒu jiù xíng le.

3. JIĂ: Hái yǒu duō yuǎn?

4. YǏ: Guò liǎng ge hónglǜdēng.

5. JIĂ: Hǎo.

6. YǏ: Dào le. Xièxie.

ENGLISH

1. A: Where do we go now?

2. B: Just go straight ahead.

3. A: How far away is it?

4. B: Pass two stoplights.

5. A: Okay.

6. B: We're here. Thanks.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
怎么走	怎麼走	zěnme zǒu	how to get there	phrase
近	近	jìn	close	adjective
远	遠	yuǎn	far	adjective

直走	直走	zhízǒu	to keep on going	phrase
左转	左轉	zuǒzhuǎn	to turn left	verb
右转	右轉	yòuzhuǎn	to turn right	verb
路口	路口	lùkǒu	intersection	noun
停车	停車	tíngchē	to park the car	verb
红绿灯	紅綠燈	hónglǜdēng	traffic light	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

去后海怎么走? Qù Hòuhǎi zěnme zǒu? How do I get to Houhai?	医院很近。 Yīyuàn hěn jìn. The hospital is very close.
他的公司太远了。 Tā de gōngsī tài yuǎn le. His company is very far.	直走300米就到了。 Zhízǒu sān bǎi mǐ jiù dào le. To get there, go straight for 300 meters.
在这里左转。 Zài zhèlǐ zuǒzhuǎn. Take a left here.	不要右转。 Bú yào yòu zhuǎn. Don't turn right.
我就在路口等你. wǒ jiù zài lùkǒuděng nǐ. I'll wait right at the intersection.	还有两个路口就到了。 Hái yǒu liǎnggè lùkǒu jiù dào le. There are still two more stops until we arrive.
在这儿停车吧。 Zài zher tíngchē ba. How about you park here?	在红绿灯要右拐。 Zài hónglǜdēng yào yòu guǎi. Turn right at the traffic light.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Telling Directions in Chinese

现在怎么走？

"How do we go now?"

Our lesson today is all about giving and asking for directions. Our dialogue and podcast was filled with key vocabulary you can use both to ask for directions and to provide directions to others. Let's review this vocabulary now, some details on how to use each grammatically, and some useful alternatives.

Key Points for Giving Directions

---

1. 怎么走 - *zěnme zǒu* - "how to go": We use this phrase directly as a question. If you are asking for directions to a specific location, bear in mind that your destination should be the first word in the sentence, as in 王府井怎么走, *Wángfǔjǐng zěnme zǒu* ("How do I get to Wangfujing?"). Our question word should float to the end of your sentence. This is quite different from English word order.

2. 直走 - *zhízǒu* - "go straight": This phrase combines an adverb ("in a straight direction") with the verb ("to go"). It is simple to use as it works as a standalone verb or phrase.

3. 左转 and 右转 - *zuǒzhuǎn* and *yòuzhuǎn* - "turn left" and "turn right": If you find these two confusing, you aren't alone, and it isn't just non-native speakers who mix them up. Chinese people will also get them mistaken on occasion. So if you're in a car and giving directions, especially down south, you may find it easier to think of 大拐弯, *dà guǎiwān* ("big turn left") and 小拐弯, *xiǎo guǎiwān* ("little turn right"). These are somewhat easier to remember as turning left in China involves passing through lanes of oncoming traffic. It is a much larger turn than turning right.

4. 停车 - *tíngchē* - "stop the car": Once again, a verb phrase consisting of a verb. There is nothing particularly grammatically difficult about this phrase since it works as a standalone verb as well. One thing to note is the Chinese preference for bundling common single character verbs and nouns together into two-character verb phrases. Learning to break words down into characters will help you make faster progress since you will see these characters again and again.

On a final point, if you are stringing directions together and giving them to someone else, use the adverb 再, *zài* ("again") in between instructions. This communicates that you take the next

step only **after** the first has been completed.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Who Has the Right of Way on Chinese Sidewalks?

With the very noticeable exception of Shanghai, most first and second tier cities in China are laid out in a similar fashion, in the form of a grid that extends from the city center. Because of this, it shouldn't take too long to familiarize yourself with a strange city, and traveling by foot can be a rewarding and stimulating experience in which it is difficult to get really lost. If you hit the streets on foot, you should bear in mind that sidewalks in China aren't just for walking. Sidewalks are seen as public spaces, so cars will park and even drive on sidewalks. Restaurants will often treat sidewalks as their own private patios by arranging outdoor seating for patrons. This can create a hectic atmosphere, but also one that it is fun to immerse yourself in. When you're walking around the city, and especially when crossing the road, the best thing to do is to follow the crowd. If you wait for the perfect opportunity, you might just be waiting all day.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #49 Driver! We're lost!

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 师傅，你走错了。
2. 乙: 什么?
3. 甲: 刚才我们应该左转。
4. 乙: 哪儿?
5. 甲: 那儿！我们得掉头。
6. 乙: 对不起，我刚才没看见。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 師傅，你走錯了。
2. 乙: 什麼?
3. 甲: 剛才我們應該左轉。
4. 乙: 哪兒?
5. 甲: 那兒！我們得掉頭。
6. 乙: 對不起，我剛才沒看見。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Shīfu, nǐ zǒucuò le.

CONT'D OVER

2. YǏ: Shénme?

3. JIĂ: Gāngcái wǒmen yīnggāi zuǒ zhuǎn.

4. YǏ: Nǎr?

5. JIĂ: Nàr! Wǒmen děi diàotóu.

6. YǏ: Duìbùqǐ, wǒ gāngcái méi kànjiàn.

ENGLISH

1. JIA: Driver, You went the wrong way.

2. YI: What?

3. JIA: Just now, we should have taken a left turn.

4. YI: Where?

5. JIA: We need to turn around.

6. YI: I'm sorry. Just now, I didn't see it.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
师傅	師傅	shīfu	driver	noun
走错了	走錯了	zǒucuò le	to go the wrong way	phrase
左转	左轉	zuǒzhuǎn	to turn left	verb

右转	右轉	yòuzhuǎn	to turn right	verb
掉头	掉頭	diàotóu	to turn around	verb
迷路	迷路	mílù	to get lost	verb
看见	看見	kànjiàn	to see	verb
指路	指路	zhǐlù	to point out the way	verb
过了	過了	guòle	to have passed	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

师傅，我去王府井饭店。 Shīfu, wǒ qù Wángfǔjǐng Fàndiàn. Driver, I want to go to the Wangfujing Hotel.	对不起，我走错了。 Duìbùqǐ, wǒ zǒu cuò le. I'm sorry; I went the wrong way.
师傅，前面左转。 Shīfu, qiánmiàn zuǒ zhuǎn. Driver, turn left up ahead.	前面左转，然后右转。 Qiánmiàn zuǒ zhuǎn, ránhòu yòu zhuǎn. Turn left up ahead, and then turn right.
那辆车掉头了。 Nà liàng chē diàotóu le. That car turned around.	我迷路了。 Wǒ mílù le. I'm lost.
你看见她了吗? Nǐ kànjiàn tā le ma? Did you see her?	我开车，你指路。 Wǒ kāichē, nǐ zhǐlù. I'll drive; you navigate.
我们过了，回去吧。 Wǒmen guò le, huíqù ba. We passed it; let's go back.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Resultative Verb Complements

我刚才没看见
Wǒ gāngcái méi kànjiàn.
"Just now, I didn't see it."

The focus of our grammar section in today's lesson is on resultative verb complements. Don't let their somewhat convoluted proper name intimidate you. Resultative verb complements are simply a way of talking about a new type of ending we can add to our verbs. These are complements that indicate the result of the action being taken. Most simply then, resultative verb complements let us give more details about the action we are describing. In the sentence 我看见他了, *Wǒ kànjiàn tā le* ("I saw him."), our main verb is 看 ("to see"), and our resultative verb complement is 见 ("to perceive"). The combination of these two lets us know that the action was a success. The speaker looked for someone and was able to see him or her.

There are a great number of resultative verb complements, so it is difficult to create an exhaustive list. We did provide some very common examples in our podcast however. The second resultative verb complement we covered was 错, *cuò* ("to be wrong"). We use this to suggest that the action happened incorrectly or mistakenly. In the sentence 你走错了, *Nǐ zǒucuò le* ("You went the wrong way."), for example, it tells us that someone went somewhere, but ended up being wrong. Other examples covered include 做完, *zuò wán* ("to finish doing something") and 听懂, *tīngdǒng* ("to listen and understand").

Structure

(Subject) + (Verb) + (Resultative Verb Complement) + (Object)

Additional Notes

Resultative verb complements often have opposites. The opposite of 错 is naturally 对. In many cases, changing the complement changes the meaning of the phrase considerably. This means that the safest way to express a negative is to negate the main verb and not change the complement itself. To communicate the opposite of 走错了, *zǒucuò le* ("to have gone the wrong way"), for instance, you should say 没走错, *méi zǒucuò* ("not to have gone the wrong way"). The opposite of 看见了, *kànjiàn le* ("to have seen") is likewise 没看见, *méi kànjiàn* ("not to have seen").

On a final note, you may remember our constructions 听不懂 (*tīng bu dǒng*) and 听得懂 (*tīng de dǒng*) from our earlier lessons. You can now understand the logic behind these phrases. In these cases, we insert 不 or 得 between our verb and its resultative complement to communicate whether it is possible for the result to be achieved. The difference between 听不懂 and 没听懂 is exactly the same as the difference between "I can't understand" and "I didn't understand."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Taking a Taxi in China

Taking taxis is a necessity of life in China. Not only are they incredibly convenient, but they're also quite inexpensive when compared to owning your own car or renting one. Depending on where you live, taxis can have a starting fare as low as four *kuai* for the first three kilometers, although this increases to ten *kuai* in bigger cities including Beijing and Shanghai. The fare will usually tick upwards at around one *kuai* per kilometer after that. In many cities, starting fares will also be. And there is a setting on most meters for "round trip" rates, which increases the fare at a slightly slower rate. If you are going somewhere and coming back, be sure to tell the driver in advance.

Although taxis are very convenient, some cities are renowned however for having too few taxis given their population. Chengdu and Shanghai are known for this, although the efforts are somewhat intentional in order to promote public transportation. In these cities, and especially in inclement weather, it can be almost impossible to hail a cab. Be prepared to walk or catch the bus or subway.

While looking for a cab, you can tell if a taxi is vacant or not by looking for a red light located on the drivers rearview mirror. If there is no light inside, the cab already has a passenger. In some cities, drivers have a strong incentive to drive off-meter, as they pay a portion of their fares in tax and fees. And while some drivers will suggest driving off-meter, if the charge is going to be higher than the starting fare, we suggest you always use the meter to avoid problems. In general though, taxi drivers in China are very accommodating and friendly, and offer a great conversation partner should you wish to practice your Chinese.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S1 #50
Take Me to Tiananmen Square

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#50

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 您好，去哪儿?
2. 乙: 去天安门广场。
3. 甲: 您想走哪条路？大路，还是小路?
4. 乙: 走最快的那条。
5. 甲: 没问题。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 您好，去哪兒?
2. 乙: 去天安門廣場。
3. 甲: 您想走哪條路？大路，還是小路?
4. 乙: 走最快的那條。
5. 甲: 沒問題。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: Nínhǎo, qù nǎr?

CONT'D OVER

2. YǏ: Qù Tiān'ānmén Guǎngchǎng.

3. JIǍ: Nín xiǎng zǒu nǎ tiáo lù? Dàlù, hái shì xiǎolù?

4. YǏ: Zǒu zuì kuài de nà tiáo.

5. JIǍ: Méi wèntí.

ENGLISH

1. JIA: Hello. Where do you want to go?

2. YI: Take me to Tian'anmen Square

3. JIA: Which road do you want to take, the big road or the small road?

4. YI: Take whatever way is fastest.

5. JIA: No problem.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
大路	大路	dàlù	highway	noun
酒吧	酒吧	jiǔbā	bar	noun
咖啡厅	咖啡廳	kāfēitīng	coffee bar	noun
饭店	飯店	fàndiàn	hotel	noun

饭馆	飯館	fànguǎnr	restaurant	noun
商场	商場	shāngchǎng	shopping center	noun
广场	廣場	guǎngchǎng	square	noun
没问题	沒問題	méiwèntí	no problem	phrase
小路	小路	xiǎolù	alley	noun
公园	公園	gōngyuánr	park	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我们走大路还是小路? Wǒmen zǒu dàlù háishì xiǎolù? Are we going on the highway or the alley?	去酒吧喝酒怎么样? Qù jiǔbā hējiǔ zěnmeyàng? How about going to the bar and drinking some alcohol?
这个咖啡厅不贵。 Zhègè kāfēitīng bú guì. This coffee bar isn't expensive.	我在饭店住。 Wǒ zài fàndiàn zhù. I live in a hotel.
我们去饭馆儿吃饭吧。 Wǒmen qù fànguǎnr chīfàn ba. Let's go to the restaurant to eat food.	我们去商场买东西吧。 Wǒmen qù shāngchǎng mǎi dōngxi ba. Let's go to the mall to buy stuff.
这个广场真大! Zhègè guǎngchǎng zhēn dà! This square is really big.	你放心吧，没问题。 Nǐ fàngxīn ba, méi wèntí. You should relax. No problem.

走大路比走小路慢。 Zǒu dàlù bǐ zǒu xiǎolù màn. Using the highway is slower than using the alley.	公园里很安静。 Gōngyuán lǐ hěn ānjìng. Inside the park is very quiet.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Tone Sandhi

您想走哪条路?
Nín xiǎng zǒu nǎ tiáo lù?
"What road do you want to take?"

Today's grammar point focuses on tone sandhi. This is the word we use to describe changes in the way we pronounce tones when their context changes, such as when two different tones are placed next to each other. And our focus this lesson is on one of the most common cases of tone sandhi: when two third tone characters are placed next to each other. In this situation, we pronounce our first tone more like the rising second tone.

In our dialogue, we can hear this happening in the phrase 想走, *xiǎng zǒu* ("to wish to go"). When pronouncing the first character in this phrase, the 想 is technically third tone, but we pronounce it closer to a second tone. Another very common place we see this exact same change is in one of the simplest words in the Chinese language: 你好, *nǐhǎo* ("hello"). Although both 你 and 好 are technically third tone, the pronunciation of 你 changes into the second tone.

On a closing note regarding this case, you should also note that sometimes there are tone changes when you run into three third tone characters together. In this case, we typically change the first two characters to third tone. Usually, we only pronounce the last character with a full third tone. Although this practice may sound difficult, it is in fact very easy to internalize. If you're having trouble just remember that the reason this has developed is that it actually makes the ups-and-downs of the language easier to speak. Although you do not need to use tone sandhi to be understood when speaking, you will

want to use it if you expect to be understood when speaking more complex sentences at native-level speeds.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Don't Let Traffic in Beijing Get You in a Jam!

There is always more than one way to get around Beijing. As a city, Beijing was built on over five hundred years of pre-existing roads, to which it has added a sizeable number of twelve-lane mega-highways. Despite the sheer size of the road network though, traffic is a growing concern. At present, there are more than three million cars in Beijing. The downtown core-and especially the Second Ring Road-is essentially inaccessible during most daylight hours. Considering that, one of Beijing's main thoroughfares runs directly through Tiananmen Square, with the Monument to the People's Heroes to the South and the gates to the Forbidden City to the North. It is typically quite jammed though. So if you need to travel downtown, we recommend taking the subway. Getting to the Forbidden City is actually quite easy by subway. Both Line 2 and Line 1 can drop you off within walking distance of the main square.

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