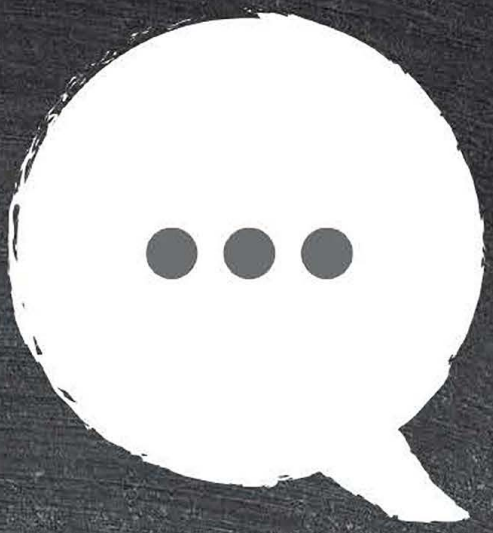
ChineseClass101.com



If you love the Chinese language, then you'll love this!

Get our Complete Chinese Learning Program at **ChineseClass101.com.**



- **Speak Chinese From Your First Lesson**
- **Access hundreds of Audio & Video Courses by Real Teachers**
- **Get FREE New Lessons Every Week**
- **Learn Anywhere, Anytime on Any Android Device or Computer**

Go to
ChineseClass101.com
and sign up for your

FREE

Lifetime Account!



ChineseClass101.com

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #1 Chinese Traffic Chaos

CONTENTS

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

1

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 往前走3个路口。
2. 左转还是右转?
3. 右转。
4. 到红绿灯吗?
5. 不不，到天桥。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 往前走3個路口。
2. 左轉還是右轉?
3. 右轉。
4. 到紅綠燈嗎?
5. 不不，到天橋。

PINYIN

1. Wǎng qián zǒu sān gè lùkǒu.
2. Zuǒzhuǎn háishì yòuzhuǎn?
3. Yòuzhuǎn.

CONT'D OVER

4. Dào hónglǜdēng ma?

5. Bù bù, dào tiānqiáo.

ENGLISH

1. A: Go straight for three intersections.

2. B: Turn left or turn right?

3. A: Turn right.

4. B: To the traffic light?

5. A: No, to the overpass.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
往后	往後	wǎnghòu	backward	adverb
左转	左轉	zuǒzhuǎn	to turn left	verb
往前	往前	wǎngqián	forward	adverb
右转	右轉	yòuzhuǎn	to turn right	verb
目的地	目的地	mùdìdì	destination	noun
路口	路口	lùkǒu	intersection	noun
红绿灯	紅綠燈	hónglǜdēng	traffic light	noun
天桥	天橋	tiānqiáo	overpass	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

往后走50米。 Wǎnghòu zǒu wǔshí mǐ. Walk 50 meters backward.	司机，路口左转。 Sījī, lùkǒu zuǒzhuǎn. Driver, turn left at the intersection.
往前走一个路口。 Wǎngqián zǒu yí gè lùkǒu. Go one intersection forward.	过了天桥右转。 Guòle tiānqiáo yòuzhuǎn. Turn right after the overpass.
目的地是公司。 Mùdìdì shì gōngsī. The destination is the company.	前面路口人很多。 Qiánmiàn lùkǒu rén hěn duō. The next intersection has a lot of people.
到红绿灯要小心。 Dào hónglǜdēng yào xiǎoxīn. Be careful when you arrive at a traffic light.	在这儿过天桥。 Zài zhèr guò tiānqiáo. Cross the bridge here.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the preposition 往 "towards"
往前走3个路口。
"Go straight for three intersections."

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the preposition 往 *wǎng*, which means "towards." The most common usage of this preposition is when giving someone directions and telling them in which direction they should go. Simply use it by putting 往 in front of any direction and then following this prepositional phrase (往 + direction) with a verb. For example, *往左走 wǎng zuǒ zǒu* ("towards the left to go") is the most native way to tell someone to "go left." In our dialogue, we hear this pattern in action when our guide says 往前走3个路口 *wǎngqiánzǒu sān gè lùkǒu* ("go straight for three crossings"). Here are some other examples:

1. 往他那儿走。
   Wǎng tā nàr zǒu.
   "Go towards him."

2. 往天桥走。
Wǎng tiānqiáo zǒu.
"Go towards the overpass."

3. 往路口走。
Wǎng lùkǒu zǒu.
"Go towards the intersection."

This is a very easy pattern to master, but there are two smaller points you should be sure to remember. The first is that there is a big difference between 往左 and 左. Remember that if you include 往 in your sentence, you need to follow your prespositional phrase by a verb. In contrast, if you are simply giving directions to a cab driver, there is nothing wrong with leaving off both the preposition and the verb!

The second important point is that when you are giving instructions about how far or how long to travel, that information should follow the verb. In our dialogue we saw this with the sentence 往前走3个路口, where the distance was specified at the end of the sentence. This placement also holds for periods of time, as with the sentence 往北走十分钟 *Wǎng běi zǒu shí fēn zhōng* ("Go north for ten minutes").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Pedestrians Beware!

Although in the Law of The People's Republic of China on Road Traffic Safety (中华人民共和国道路交通安全法) there is a regulation stipulating that cars should give way for pedestrians, in the nine years since the law has been passed nothing has changed about the reality of road life in China: it is extremely rare for a car to stop or even make the slightest concession for pedestrians. Instead, foot and vehicle traffic seem locked in a constant battle for the slightest edge when pushing their way past intersections.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #2 You'd Better Use a Chinese Dictionary

CONTENTS

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

2

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 这个字我不认识。
2. 查字典吧，知道拼音吗?
3. 不知道。
4. 那就查部首。
5. 什么是部首?
6. 你知道笔划吧?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 這個字我不認識。
2. 查字典吧，知道拼音嗎?
3. 不知道。
4. 那就查部首吧。
5. 甚麼是部首?
6. 你知道筆劃吧?

PINYIN

1. Zhègè zì wǒ bú rènshi.

CONT'D OVER

2. Chá zìdiǎn ba, zhīdào pīnyīn ma?

3. Bù zhīdào.

4. Nà jiù chá bùshǒu ba.

5. Shénme shì bùshǒu?

6. Nǐ zhīdào bǐhuà ba?

ENGLISH

1. A: I don't know this character.

2. B: Use a dictionary then, do you know the pinyin?

3. A: No.

4. B: Then check the radical.

5. A: What is a radical?

6. A: Do you know what a stroke is?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
字	字	zì	character	noun
词	詞	cí	word	noun
认识	認識	rènshi	to recognize	verb

查	查	chá	to look up	noun
字典	字典	zìdiǎn	dictionary	noun
拼音	拼音	pīnyīn	pinyin	noun
部首	部首	bùshǒu	radical	noun
笔划	筆劃	bǐhuà	stroke	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这是什么字?
Zhè shì shénme zì?

What's this character?

这个词有两个字。
Zhègè cí yǒu liǎng gè zì.

This word has two characters.

她不认识这个字。
Tā bú rènshi zhègè zì.

She doesn't recognize this character.

怎么查字典?
Zěnme chá zìdiǎn?

How do you look things up in a dictionary.

字典是最好的老师。
Zìdiǎn shì zuì hǎo de lǎoshī.

The dictionary is the best teacher.

我需要一本字典。
Wǒ xūyào yì běn zìdiǎn.

I need a character dictionary.

我不会读这个拼音。
Wǒ bú huì dú zhègè pīnyīn.

I can't read this pinyin.

这个字的部首是什么?
Zhègè zì de bùshǒu shì shénme?

What's this character's radical?

那个字笔划很少。
Nàgè zì bǐhuà hěn shǎo.

That character has very few strokes.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Conjunction 就

那就查字典。

"Then look it up in the dictionary."

Our focus in this lesson is the conjunction 就 (*jiù*). This has a number of meanings depending on its context, but its primary meaning is to signify a temporal and often causal relationship between two assertions or clauses. By adding this character between two sentences, we imply a relationship between the two actions described: the first action occurs and then the second one does in consequence. In our dialogue, we hear this in the line: *那就查字典 nà jiù chá zìdiǎn* ("then look it up in the dictionary"). It is implied in the context of the dialogue that the first action is the primary speaker not knowing the character. Adding 就 before the second action communicates that this is an action intended in response to this observation. Look it up in the dictionary because you do not understand it.

This can be a tricky point, since 就 is a complex character with a number of uses. For more examples of this main usage, however, consider the following sentences:

1. 他不认识这个字，就查字典了。
   Tā bú rènshi zhègè zì, jiù chá zìdiǎn le.
   "He didn't know the character, and so he looked it up in the dictionary."

2. 不知道拼音，就查笔划吧。
   Bù zhīdào pīnyīn, jiù chá bǐhuà ba.
   "If you don't know the pinyin, then check the number of strokes."

3. 那个不好，我就要这个。
   Nàgè bù hǎo, wǒ jiù yào zhègè.
   "That one's no good, and so I want this one."

Confused by a sentence with 就 and can't quite think through to how it might be connecting assertions? The second most common usage of the character is to place emphasis on the verb which follows it. This is a more colloquial usage which deviates from the meaning of the character in more formal grammatical constructions, but is particularly common in spoken as opposed to written Chinese. So keep your ears open!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Consulting the Chinese Dictionary

After the 20th century's vernacular movement in China, which saw the country shift away from a more classical and formal writing style in favor of one which reflected common speaking

practice. This change was reflected not only in the literature and writing style of contemporary Chinese literature, but also in the sorts of dictionary and reference materials which dominate the reference market.

The most frequently-used dictionary published in the mainland these days is the Contemporary Chinese Dictionary (现代汉语词典) and its Chinese-English Edition, which both were edited by Institute of Language, Chinese Academy of Social Science (中国社会科学院语言研究所). Foreign academics meanwhile rely heavily on the ABC Dictionary initially developed by famous Sinologist John DeFrancis, which was the first major dictionary to embrace pinyin as a content indexing system and mixes definitions of colloquial terms with more academic coverage of formal and—occasionally—classical Chinese.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #3
Last Minute Travel Panic in China

CONTENTS

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

3

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 哎，护照带了吗?
2. B: 在背包里。
3. A: 飞机票呢?
4. B: 飞机票在我这儿。
5. A: 钱呢?
6. B: 你没有吗?
7. A: 哦，在我兜里。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 哎，護照帶了嗎?
2. B: 在背包裡。
3. A: 飛機票呢?
4. B: 飛機票在我這兒。
5. A: 錢呢?
6. B: 你沒有嗎?
7. A: 哦，在我兜裡。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Ai, hùzhào dài le ma?
2. B: Zài bēibāo lǐ.
3. A: Fēijīpiào ne?
4. B: Fēijīpiào zài wǒ zhèr.
5. A: Qián ne?
6. B: Nǐ méiyǒu ma?
7. A: O, zài wǒ dōu lǐ.

ENGLISH

1. A: Hey, have you brought passports?
2. B: In the knapsack.
3. A: What about the flight tickets?
4. B: The flight tickets are here with me.
5. A: And the money?
6. B: Don't you have it?
7. A: Oh, it's in my pocket.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
背包	背包	bēibāo	knapsack	noun
钱	錢	qián	money	noun
信用卡	信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ	credit card	noun
兜	兜	dōu	pocket	noun
旅行	旅行	lǚxíng	trip	noun
旅行箱	旅行箱	lǚxíngxiāng	suitcase	noun
护照	護照	hùzhào	passport	noun
飞机票	飛機票	fēijīpiào	flight ticket	noun
签证	簽證	qiānzhèng	visa	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我的背包太重了。 Wǒ de bēibāo tài zhòng le. My knapsack is too heavy.	我没有带钱。 Wǒ méiyǒu dài qián. I didn't bring money.
信用卡很方便。 Xìnyòngkǎ hěn fāngbiàn. Credit cards are convenient.	他的兜空了。 Tā de dōu kōng le. His pocket is empty.
下次环球旅行我会去非洲。 xiàcì huánqiú lǚxíng wǒ huìqù Fēizhōu . I will visit Africa during my next trip around the world.	他们想去旅行。 Tāmen xiǎng qù lǚxíng. They want to have a trip.
我需要一个大旅行箱。 Wǒ xūyào yí gè dà lǚxíngxiāng. I need a big suitcase.	护照找不着了。 Hùzhào zhǎo bù zháo le. The passport is missing.

我买了两张飞机票。 Wǒ mǎi le liǎng zhāng fēijīpiào. I bought two flight tickets.	小王今天去办签证。 Xiǎo Wáng jīntiān qù bàn qiānzhèng. Xiao Wang is going to apply for the visa today.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Two Uses of the Character 在

在背包里。

"In the knapsack"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about how to use the character 在 (*zài*) with localizers like 里 and 上. As we have previously taught, the character 在 is sometimes a verb and sometimes a preposition (or coverb). In our dialogue, we hear the speaker says 在背包里 *zài bēibāo lǐ* ("in the knapsack"). In this instance 在 is the main verb in the sentence, and thus means "to be located at" or "to be found at." The character is placed before a location. Unless the location is particularly big (as with the name of a country), we often follow the location with something known as a directional complement. This is a character such as 里 which works together with 在 to tell us the specific location.

When forming sentences using 在 and directional complements like 上 and 里, the key thing to remember is to insert the object 背包 in the middle of this structure. A good example of how to use this pattern is the sentence 在桌子上 *zài zhuōzi shàng* ("on the table"). For other examples, consider the following sentences:

1. 护照在桌子上，钱在我兜里。
   Hùzhào zài zhuōzi shàng, qián zài wǒ dōu lǐ.
   "The passport is on the table, money is in my pocket."

2. 飞机票在背包里。
   Fēijīpiào zài bēibāo lǐ.
   "The flight ticket is in the bag."

3. 护照在我这儿，钱在你那儿。
   Hùzhào zài wǒ zhèr, qián zài nǐ nàr.
   "I've got the passport, you've got the money."

4. 飞机票在护照那儿。
Fēijīpiào zài hùzhào nàr.
"The flight tickets are by the passport."

Note that as in our third and fourth examples above, in addition to standard localizers like 里 and 上, we can also use 在 together with 这儿 ("here") and 那儿 ("there"). This is a very colloquial usage, and is similar to the way someone will say "over there" or "over here" in English.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

DIY Holidays

Are you still using a travel agent? While travel agencies have not completely disappeared in mainland China, most people on the mainland (and especially white-collar workers) these days will use online travel websites and ticket booking systems instead of dealing with a private agent. For people who are looking for packaged travel tours, one of the most popular websites is Tuniu.com (途牛网). Individuals planning their own trips from scratch can find inexpensive airfare, hotels and rental cars on Ctrip.com (携程网) and Qunar.com (去哪儿网). Finally, for those planning a trip and looking to see what experiences others have had with inexpensive, self-directed travel, a good place to visit is the Backpacker Forum (驴友论坛) on 8264.com (户外资料网).

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #4 Man vs. Printer in China

CONTENTS

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

4

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 打印机怎么不工作?
2. B: 电源，打开了吗?
3. A: 开了。
4. B: 还有纸吗？有墨吗?
5. A: 都有。
6. B: USB线也没问题?
7. A: 哦.....

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 打印機怎麼不工作?
2. B: 電源，打開了嗎?
3. A: 開了。
4. B: 還有紙嗎？有墨嗎?
5. A: 都有。
6. B: USB線也沒問題?
7. A: 哦.....

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Dǎyìnjī zěnme bù gōngzuò?

2. B: Diànyuán, dǎ kāi le ma?

3. A: Kāi le.

4. B: Háiyǒu zhǐ ma? Yǒu mò ma?

5. A: Dōu yǒu.

6. B: USB xiàn yě méi wèntí?

7. A: O...

ENGLISH

1. A: Why doesn't the printer work?

2. B: The power source, have you turned it on?

3. A: Yes, I have.

4. B: Is there paper? And ink?

5. A: Both are here.

6. B: And there's no problem with the USB cable?

7. A: Oh...

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
电源	電源	diànyuán	power source	noun
插	插	chā	to plug in	verb
打开	打開	dǎkāi	to turn on	verb
纸	紙	zhǐ	paper	noun
墨	墨	mò	ink	noun
USB线	USB線	USBxiàn	USB cable	noun
打印机	打印機	dǎyìnjī	printer	noun
工作	工作	gōngzuò	to work	noun, verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这里有电源吗? Zhèlǐ yǒu diànyuán ma? Do you have a power source here?	请插好电源。 Qǐng chā hǎo diànyuán. Please plug in the power source.
他打开了电脑。 Tā dǎ kāi le diànnǎo. He turned on the computer.	办公室今天买了纸。 Bàngōngshì jīntiān mǎi le zhǐ. The office bought paper today.
打印机没墨了。 Dǎyìnjī méi mò le. The printer is out of ink.	你没插USB线。 Nǐ méi chā USBxiàn. You didn't plug in the USB cable.
打印机坏了。 Dǎyìnjī huài le. The printer is broken.	啊，我很喜欢跟我的团队一块儿工作。 ā , Wǒ hěn xǐhuān gēn Wǒ de tuánduì yīkuàir gōngzuò . Oh, I like working with my team.
电脑不工作了。 Diànnǎo bù gōngzuò le. The computer doesn't work.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Answering Questions in Chinese

打开了吗？

"Is it on?"

In previous lessons, we taught you that in order to answer a question, you should repeat the main verb in either a positive or negative construction. For instance, if someone asks you 今天冷吗 *jīntiān lěng ma* ("is it cold today") you can answer 冷 or 不冷.

In our dialogue for this lesson, we see something a little different, because of the involvement of the change-of-state particle 了. Specifically, one of our speakers in the dialogue asks 电源，打开了吗 *diànyuán, dǎ kāi le ma* ("is the power on")? The addition of the change of state particle implies a question about whether this change has recently happened. And as a result, if the answer is affirmative, we need to keep the particle 了 and answer 开了, just like in the dialogue. In the case of a negative answer, it is not necessary to add the 了 particle, since nothing has changed!

This is a small but subtle point that even some more advanced students miss. For more examples of this pattern in action, consider the following sentences:

1. 你的笔记本插电源了吗？插了。
   Nǐ de bǐjìběn chā diànyuán le ma? Chāle.
   "Has your laptop been plugged in? It's been plugged in."

2. 你打印文件了吗？打印了。
   Nǐ dǎyìn wénjiàn le ma ? Dǎyìn le.
   "Have you printed the document? I have printed it."

On a final note, be aware that when answering these questions in the negative, not only do we omit 了, but we typically precede our verb with 没 (*méi*). For instance, to answer the question 你的笔记本插电源了吗 in the negative, we would answer 没插 or 没有插.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Which Printer is Best?

In China, the most widely-used three printer brands are HP (惠普), Canon (佳能) and Lenovo (联想). Depending on what exact printer you are buying and whether you are buying online or at a local electronics bazaar, it can be difficult to know if you are getting a good deal.

One easy way to check is to look for product information and reference pricing on zol.com.cn (ZOL产品报价) before you buy. This is a popular website for price checking with reference in particular to Chinese markets.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #5 Do you Have an Unreasonable Chinese Landlord?

CONTENTS

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

5

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 我想买房子。
2. B: 你买得起吗?
3. A: 现在租也快租不起了。
4. B: 房东又要涨房租?
5. A: 要涨500块。
6. B: 找个人合租吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 我想買房子。
2. B: 你買得起嗎?
3. A: 現在租也快租不起了。
4. B: 房東又要漲房租?
5. A: 要漲500塊。
6. B: 找個人合租吧。

PINYIN

1. A: Wǒ xiǎng mǎi fángzi.

CONT'D OVER

2. B: Nǐ mǎideqǐ ma?

3. A: Xiànzài zū yě kuài zūbùqǐ le.

4. B: Fángdōng yòu yào zhǎng fángzū?

5. A: Yào zhǎng wǔbǎi kuài.

6. B: Zhǎo gè rén hézū ba.

ENGLISH

1. A: I want to buy a house.

2. B: Can you afford it?

3. A: Right now, even renting is almost unaffordable.

4. B: The landlord wants to raise the rent again?

5. A: They want to rise it by 500 kuai.

6. B: Find someone to share the rent.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
房客	房客	fángkè	tenant	noun
涨	漲	zhǎng	to raise; on the rise	verb
合租	合租	hézū	to share the rent	verb

买得起	買得起	mǎideqǐ	to afford to buy	verb
房东	房東	fángdōng	landlord	noun
房租	房租	fángzū	rent	noun
租	租	zū	to rent	verb
房子	房子	fángzi	house	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我买不起房子，所以我是房客。 Wǒ mǎibùqǐ fángzi, suǒyǐ wǒ shì fángkè. I can't afford a house, so I'm a tenant.	房租又涨了。 Fángzū yòu zhǎng le. The rent has risen again.
他们合租一个房子。 Tāmen hézū yí gè fángzi. They rent an apartment.	小李买得起房子。 Xiǎo Lǐ mǎideqǐ fángzi. Xiao Li can afford to buy a house.
房东真讨厌。 Fángdōng zhēn tǎoyàn. The landlord is so annoying.	这个地方的房租太贵了。 Zhègè dìfāng de fángzū tài guì le. The rent here is too expensive.
我会租一辆小汽车。 Wǒ huì zū yí liàng xiǎo qìchē . I will rent a little car.	你想租个公寓住吗? Nǐ xiǎng zū ge gōngyù zhù ma? Do you want to rent an apartment?
这套房子多少钱? Zhè tào fángzi duō shǎo qián ? How much is this house worth?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is How to Say You Can or Can't Afford Something.

你买得起吗?

"Can you afford it?"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the phrase 买不起 *mǎibùqǐ* ("when you can't afford something") or 买得起 *mǎideqǐ* ("when you can afford something"). Both cases are explicit pairings of the verb 买 ("to buy") with a verb complement. In the positive sense, we see this with the particle 得 and then the character 起. On the contrary, if one cannot afford something, the 得 changes into the character 不.

This pattern can be used generally with other verbs that involve spending money, or handing over assets. In addition to buying things, for instance, you will also hear people say 租不起. The contrast between buying and renting is stressed in our dialogue, which includes both constructions. When one of the speakers asks 你买得起吗 *nǐ mǎi de qǐ ma* ("can you afford it"), the other speaker responds 現在租也快租不起了 *xiànzài zū yě kuài zū bù qǐle* ("right now, even renting is almost unaffordable"). For more examples of this pattern in action, look at the following sentences:

1. 房租很便宜，我租得起。
   Fángzū hěn piányì, wǒ zū de qǐ.
   "The rents are so low, I can afford to rent."

2. 对不起，我买不起房子。
   Duìbùqǐ, wǒ mǎibùqǐ fángzi.
   "I'm sorry, I can't buy a house."

3. 这个太贵了，我租不起。
   Zhège tài guì le, wǒ zūbùqǐ.
   "This is too expensive, I can't afford to rent it."

What does this pattern mean on a literal level? The character 起 here is a very abstract one, which can be translated different ways. The core meaning is to "to rise" or "to get up." It might be easiest to remember this by thinking about being able to "rise" to a challenge, such as the financial challenge of purchasing or renting something expensive. We also see it in other patterns such as 对不起 *duìbùqǐ*, which means literally that one is unable to face someone else and raise their face to meet them without shame, and is really a relatively formal way to apologize.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Real Estate Prices in China

After the Chinese government started to control real estate prices on the Chinese mainland in 2011, the prices for condominiums seemed to fall slightly, but rental prices began to soar. In just six months, the average rental price in Beijing increased almost ten percent from 3229 RMB from 3070 RMB. This trend has continued at a reduced rate, but the increasingly high rents are now causing an outflux of residents to surrounding areas and commuting communities like Tongzhou. Given the tendency of Chinese savers to treat real estate as fixed assets, it seems unlikely that this trend will abate untill the government imposes property taxes and makes real estate less of an attractive investment for the very rich.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #6 A Visit to the Chinese Emergency Room

CONTENTS

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

6

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 护士，护士!
2. B: 去挂号。
3. A: 没有时间了。他在流血!
4. B: 挂号，伤口不大。
5. A: 这个不大什么算大?
6. B: 这是急诊。还有比他厉害的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 護士，護士!
2. B: 去掛號。
3. A: 沒有時間了。他在流血!
4. B: 掛號，傷口不大。
5. A: 這個不大甚麼算大?
6. B: 這是急診。還有比他厲害的。

PINYIN

1. A: Hùshì, hùshì!

CONT'D OVER

2. B: Qù guàhào.

3. A: Méiyǒu shíjiān le. Tā zài liúxiě!

4. B: Guàhào, shāngkǒu bú dà.

5. A: Zhègè bú dà shénme suàn dà?

6. B: Zhè shì jízhěn. Háiyǒu bǐ tā lìhài de.

ENGLISH

1. A: Nurse, nurse!

2. B: Go take a number.

3. A: There is no time, he's bleeding.

4. B: Take a number, the wound is not big.

5. A: If this is not big, then what's big?

6. B: This is an emergency room. There are those worse off than him.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
看病	看病	kànbìng	to see a doctor	verb
流血	流血	liúxuě	to bleed	verb
伤口	傷口	shāngkǒu	wound	noun

算	算	suàn	to count as	verb
急诊	急診	jízhěn	emergency case	noun
挂号	掛號	guàhào	to take a number	verb
护士	護士	hùshì	nurse	noun
医院	醫院	yīyuàn	hospital	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他今天去看病。 Tā jīntiān qù kànbìng. He's going to see the doctor today.	他的伤口在流血。 Tā de shāngkǒu zài liúxuě. His wound is bleeding.
你的伤口不太严重。 Nǐ de shāngkǒu bú tài yánzhòng. Your wound is not too serious.	这个不严重，什么算严重? Zhègè bù yánzhòng, shénme suàn yánzhòng? If this isn't serious, then what's serious?
医生被叫去急诊了。 Yīshēng bèi jiào qù jízhěn le. The doctor has been called to the emergency case.	看病之前要挂号。 Kànbìng zhīqián yào guàhào. You need to take a number before you see the doctor.
那个护士在工作。 Nàgè hùshì zài gōngzuò. That nurse is working.	她生病了，快送医院。 Tā shēngbìng le, kuài sòng yīyuàn. She's sick, send her to the hospital quickly.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Expressing Surprise

这个不大什么算大?

"If this isn't big then what counts as big?"

Our grammar point in this lesson focuses on the structure 这个不 ... 什么 ..., where the

missing portion is a repeated adjective. In our dialogue, we run into this structure in the line 这个不大什么算大 ("if this isn't big, then what counts as big")? The verb 算 (*suàn*) we see in this sentence is expendable. It literally means "to count" and is understand as meaning something along the lines of "to count as" or "to treat as." The implication in the dialogue is that if the individual's wound is not large, then the speaker does not know what counts as large. The pattern itself is flexible however, and can be used with any adjective or adjectival-phrase. For more examples of this pattern in action, consider:

1. 这个房子不贵，什么贵。
   Zhègè fángzi bú guì, shénme guì.
   "If this apartment isn't expensive, then what's expensive?"

2. 这个不便宜，什么便宜。
   Zhègè bù piányì, shénme piányì.
   "If this isn't inexpensive, then what is inexpensive?"

One important thing to note about this pattern is that we cannot use it with explicitly negated adjectives, as that would create a double-negative which would be confusing to listeners. As in our first example sentence, the subject can also be explicitly stated at the start of the sentence if desired.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Visiting a Chinese Hospital

When visiting a hospital in China, you may encounter more problems than just dealing with the language barrier. Hospitals in second and third tier cities in China often lack the equipment that is common in larger cities, leading people with serious illnesses to come to larger cities and making the major hospitals in those centers extremely crowded. This can make it quite a common experience to stand in line and wait for hours to see a specialist. Some hospitals in China also run clinics intended for foreign customers who pay premium prices. If time is a major concern, you should look into paying for their services. The major benefit is the ability to see a doctor on short notice and schedule appointments very quickly.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #7

It's All About Impressing the Bartender in China

CONTENTS

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

7

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. A : 我去吧台。
2. B : 给我带点饮料。
3. A : 你想喝什么？啤酒？
4. B : 可乐。
5. A : 酒保会笑话我啊。
6. B : 那威士忌可乐吧.....少放威士忌。

ENGLISH

1. A : I'm going to the bar.
2. B : Bring me a drink.
3. A : What do you want to drink? Beer?
4. B : Cola.
5. A : The bartender's going to laugh at me.
6. B : Then a whiskey cola, with less whiskey.

PINYIN

1. A : Wǒ qù bātái.
2. B : Gěi wǒ dài diǎn yǐnliào.
3. A : Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme? Píjiǔ?
4. B : Kělè.
5. A : Jiǔbǎo huì xiàohuà wǒ a.
6. B : Nà wēishiji kělè ba..... shǎo fàng wēishiji.

TRADITIONAL

1. A : 我去吧台。
2. B : 給我帶點飲料。
3. A : 你想喝甚麼？啤酒？
4. B : 可樂。
5. A : 酒保會笑話我啊。
6. B : 那威士忌可樂吧.....少放威士忌。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
可乐	可樂	kělè	cola	noun
饮料	飲料	yǐnliào	beverage	noun
啤酒	啤酒	píjiǔ	beer	noun
威士忌	威士忌	wēishiji	whiskey	noun
吧台	吧臺	bātái	the counter in a bar	noun
红酒	紅酒	hóngjiǔ	red wine	noun
酒保	酒保	jiǔbǎo	bartender	noun
酒吧	酒吧	jiǔbā	bar	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我喝了可乐睡不着觉。 *Wǒ hē le kělè shuìbùzháojiào.* I can't sleep after drinking cola.	我最喜欢的饮料是酒。 *Wǒ zuì xǐhuān de yǐnliào shì jiǔ.* My favorite drink is alcohol.
冰啤酒 *bīngpíjiǔ* cold beer	一瓶啤酒 *yì píng píjiǔ* bottle of beer
一聽啤酒 *yì tīng píjiǔ* can of beer	一杯冰啤酒配批薩很好。 *Yì bēi bīngpíjiǔ pèi pīsà hěn hǎo.* A cold glass of beer goes great with pizza.

酒保在倒生啤。 *Jiǔbǎo zài dào shēngpí.* The bartender is pouring a draft beer.	我喜歡一邊喝一聽或者一瓶啤酒，一邊看電視裏的體育節目。 *Wǒ xǐhuān yìbiān hē yì tīng huòzhě yì píng píjiǔ, yìbiān kàn diànshì lǐ de tǐyù jiémù.* I enjoy a can or bottle of beer when watching sports on television.
我想来一杯啤酒。 *wǒ xiǎng lái yìbēi píjiǔ.* I'd like to have a beer.	他最喜欢德国啤酒。 *Tā zuì xǐhuān déguó píjiǔ.* He likes German beer the most.
喝了一杯威士忌之後要來點啤酒飲料。 *Hēle yì bēi wēishìjì zhīhòu yào lái diǎn píjiǔ yǐnliào .* A shot of whiskey needs a beer chaser.	一杯威士忌 *yì bēi wēishìjì* whiskey shot
威士忌是由穀物包括玉米和黑麥芽釀成的酒。 *Wēishìjì shì yóu gǔwù bāokuò yùmǐ hé hēimàiyá niàngchéng de jiǔ.* Whiskey is an alcohol made from grains, including corn and malted rye.	黑麥芽釀的威士忌 *hēimàiyá niàng de wēishìjì* malted rye whiskey
加冰塊的威士忌 *jiā bīngkuài de wēishìjì* whiskey on the rocks	威士忌加冰，谢谢。 *Wēishìjì jiā bīng, xièxiè.* Whiskey on the rocks, thanks.
他去吧台买饮料。 *Tā qù bātái mǎi yǐnliào.* He goes to the bar to buy a drink.	她喜欢90年份的红酒。 *Tā xǐhuān jiǔshí niánfèn de hóngjiǔ.* She likes wines made in the 1990s.
在一個酒吧喝酒 *zài yī gè jiǔbā hē jiǔ* drink at a bar	去酒吧喝酒怎么样？ *Qù jiǔbā hējiǔ zěnmeyàng?* How about going to the bar and drinking some alcohol?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Preposition 给 (*gěi*)
给我带点饮料。
"For me, bring a drink"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the preposition 给 (*gěi*) and how to incorporate this into more complex sentences. We see an instance of this preposition in our dialogue in the sentence 给我带点饮料 *gěi wǒ dài diǎn yǐnliào* ("bring me a drink").

In previous lessons, we've taught you that prepositions generally precede verbs in Chinese. While it thus shouldn't be a surprise to see 给 at the start of the sentence (the subject "you" is implied), it may surprise you that 给 is being translated as "for" rather than "to." This is because in Chinese the sense of giving something to someone is similar to the sense of doing an action for someone. Both instances are gifts of sort which use the preposition 给.

This is why 给 is typically paired with verbs like 带 ("to bring") or 买 ("to buy") in Chinese. Consider the following examples to see this in action:

1. 给我带点饮料。
   Gěi wǒ dài diǎn yǐnliào.
   "Bring me a drink."
2. 给她买瓶红酒。
   Gěi tā mǎi píng hóngjiǔ.
   "Buy her a bottle of wine."
3. 给猫买猫粮。
   Gěi māo mǎi māoliáng.
   "Buy some food for the cat."

Note that in all of these sentences, if there is a direct object in the sentence (the object which is bought or given) it is placed after the main verb in the sentence. The sentence pattern is thus subject + 给 + verb + object. While the structure in Chinese is not terribly difficult, the fact that it is radically different than the structure of sentences with similar meanings in English makes this point worth noting.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese Approach to Drinking

Chinese drinking culture has the notion of *ganbei* which is translated roughly as "finish your glass." If you are under the notion that China, as a fairly conservative country, is a place of conservative alcohol consumption, you are sadly mistaken. The Chinese are very enthusiastic about their country's *baijiu*, which is a very strong alcohol ranging from 40-120 proof. It is common for groups of friends or business gatherings to get quite drunk together in public restaurants, although in cases of particularly heavy drinking restaurants will often put patrons in a private room.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #8 A Convoluted Chinese Checkin Process

CONTENTS

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

8

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 登记要有身份证。
2. B: 护照可以吗?
3. A: 哦，您是外国人。
4. B: 对，是。
5. A: 那需要填这张表。
6. B: 好。
7. A: 也需要填这张表。
8. B: 啊，这么多。
9. A: 还有这些。
10. B: 我没带笔。
11. A: 没关系，我们有。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 登記要有身分證。
2. B: 護照可以嗎?
3. A: 哦，您是外國人。

CONT'D OVER

4. B: 對，是。

5. A: 那需要填這張表。

6. B: 好。

7. A: 也需要填這張表。

8. B: 啊，這麼多。

9. A: 還有這些。

10. B: 我沒帶筆。

11. A: 沒關係，我們有。

PINYIN

1. A: Dēngjì yàoyǒu shēnfènzhèng.

2. B: Hùzhào kěyǐ ma?

3. A: O, nín shì wàiguórén.

4. B: Duì, shì.

5. A: Nà xūyào tián zhè zhāng biǎo.

6. B: Hǎo.

7. A: Yě xūyào tián zhè zhāng biǎo.

CONT'D OVER

8. B: A, zhème duō.

9. A: Hái yǒu zhèxiē.

10. B: Wǒ méi dài bǐ.

11. A: Méiguānxì, wǒmen yǒu.

ENGLISH

1. A: You need an ID card to register.

2. B: Will a passport do?

3. A: Oh, you are a foreigner.

4. B: Yes.

5. A: Then you need to fill in this form.

6. B: Alright.

7. A: And you need to fill in this form too.

8. B: Ah? So many?

9. A: And also these.

10. B: I didn't bring a pen.

11. A: It doesn't matter, we have one.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
入住	入住	rùzhù	to check in	verb
笔	筆	bǐ	pen	noun
身份证	身分證	shēnfènzhèng	ID card	noun
填表	填表	tiánbiǎo	to fill in forms	verb
外国人	外國人	wàiguórén	foreigner	noun
护照	護照	hùzhào	passport	noun
登记	登記	dēngjì	to register	verb
需要	需要	xūyào	to need	verb
证件	證件	zhèngjiàn	prove of identity	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

先登记，再入住。 Xiān dēngjì, zài rùzhù. First you register, then you check in.	办公室里没有笔了。 Bàngōngshì lǐ méiyǒu bǐ le. There are no pens in the office.
出门要带身份证。 Chūmén yào dài shēnfènzhèng. Bring your ID card when going out.	请填这张表。 Qǐng tián zhè zhāng biǎo. Please fill in this form.
外国人要学好汉语声调很困难。 Wàiguórén yào xuéhǎo hànyǔ shēngdiào hěn kùnnán. It is difficult for a foreigner to learn Chinese tones well.	找不到护照怎么出国? Zhǎobúdào hùzhào zěnme chūguó? If you can't find your passport, how can you leave the country?

明天登记的时候别忘了带户口本和身份证。 Míngtiān dēngjì de shíhou bié wàng le dài hùkǒu běn hé shēnfènzhèng. When you register tomorrow don't forget to bring your residence book and identity card.	我需要改掉我的坏习惯。 wǒ xūyào gǎidiào wǒ de huàixíguàn . I need to get rid of my bad habits.
你需要我再提醒你一遍吗? Nǐ xūyào wǒ zài tíxǐng nǐ yíbiàn ma ? Do you need me to remind you again?	我需要你的帮助。 Wǒ xūyào nǐ de bāngzhù. I need your help.

工作人员要他出示证件。
Gōngzuò rényuán yào tā chūshì zhèngjiàn.

The worker is asking to show proof of identity.

GRAMMAR

Conjunctions in Chinese

也需要填这张表。

"And you need to fill in this form too."

Our grammar point in this lesson is about conjunctions. As you may know, in English conjunctions string together short sentences into longer ones, telling the listener about the relationship between various subclauses. In Chinese, conjunctions serve the same purpose. The most common conjunction is 也 *yě* ("also"), which we see in the sentence 他去，我也去 *Tā qù, wǒ yě qù.* ("He's going, and I'm also going.") or 他没有护照，也没有身份证 *Tā méiyǒu hùzhào, yě méiyǒu shēnfènzhèng.* ("He doesn't have a passport or an ID card.").

In this lesson's dialogue, we see two conjunctions which end up being used slightly differently. We find them in the sentences 也需要填这张表 *Yě xūyào tián zhè zhāng biǎo.* ("You also need to fill out this form.") and 还有这些 *háiyǒu zhèxiē* ("also these"). The two conjunctions here are 也 *yě* ("also") and 还有 *háiyǒu* ("also"), but there is no subject in these sentences. In English this is rare, but in Chinese it is quite common in situations where we already know what the subject is. In these sentences, the subject is "you". Therefore the

sentence really is 你也需要填这张表 *Nǐ yě xūyào tián zhè zhāng biǎo.*("You also need to fill out this form"). This is a typical speaking pattern:

1. 也带上你的护照。
   Yě dàishàng nǐ de hùzhào..
   Bring your passport too.

2. 还有她的行李。
   Hái yǒu tā de xínglǐ.
   There's also her luggage (to bring).

Conjunction-fronting sentences are actually a carry-over from classical Chinese, in which the subject is assumed not to change unless it is changed explicitly by the speaker or writer. As a result, Chinese speakers are much more comfortable not explicitly stating the subjects of their sentences as long as it is clear from context. Be aware of this when you're listening to people speak Mandarin — it can be confusing to have conjunctions start sentences, but it is also flexible and in some situations liberating to be able to express complex ideas with less hassle.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Running the Chinese Customs Gauntlet

When you travel to a foreign country the first interaction you will have with locals will most likely be with customs or some other bureaucratic office in which you will have to show identification. Chinese citizens are expected to show an identity card or 身份证, a document provided by their local police station which is central to life in China. For foreigners, the passport is the functional equivalent. Technically, foreigners are legally required to carry their passport on their persons at all times, but this law is rarely enforced.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #9 Seeking Treatment in China

CONTENTS

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

9

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 大夫,我感冒了。
2. B: 什么症状?
3. A: 嗓子疼，有痰，还咳嗽。
4. B: 不发烧流鼻涕吗?
5. A: 现在还不烧。
6. B: 头疼吗?
7. A: 要是咳嗽厉害了就疼。
8. B: 那你别咳嗽吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 大夫，我感冒了。
2. B: 甚麼症狀?
3. A: 嗓子疼，有痰，還咳嗽。
4. B: 不發燒流鼻涕嗎?
5. A: 現在還不燒。
6. B: 頭疼嗎?

CONT'D OVER

7. A: 要是咳嗽厲害了就疼。

8. B: 那你别咳嗽吧。

PINYIN

1. A: Dàifu, wǒ gǎnmào le.

2. B: Shénme zhèngzhuàng?

3. A: Sǎngzi téng, yǒu tán, hái késòu.

4. B: Bù fāshāo liúbítì ma?

5. A: Xiànzài hái bù shāo.

6. B: Tóuténg ma?

7. A: Yàoshì késòu lìhài le jiù téng.

8. B: Nà nǐ bié késòu ba.

ENGLISH

1. A: Doctor, I've got a cold.

2. B: What are the symptoms?

3. A: A sore throat, stuffed head and a cough.

CONT'D OVER

4. B: You don't have a fever or running nose?

5. A: No fever yet.

6. B: How about a headache?

7. A: If I cough badly, it hurts.

8. B: Then don't cough.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
有痰	有痰	yǒu tán	to be stuffed up	verb
咳嗽	咳嗽	késòu	cough	noun
发烧	發燒	fāshāo	to have a fever	verb
流鼻涕	流鼻涕	liúbítì	to have a runny nose	verb
头疼	頭疼	tóuténg	to have a headache	verb
嗓子	嗓子	sǎngzi	throat	
感冒	感冒	gǎnmào	to have a cold	verb
症状	症狀	zhèngzhuàng	symptom	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我嗓子里有痰。 Wǒ sǎngzi lǐ yǒután. My throat is stuffed up.	他感冒了，在咳嗽。 Tā gǎnmào le, zài késòu. He has got a cold, and he's coughing.

你不是发烧头疼吗? Nǐ búshì fāshāo tóuténg ma? Don't you have a fever and a headache?	这个小孩儿总流鼻涕。 Zhègè xiǎoháir zǒng liúbítì. This little kid always has a runny nose.
头疼应该吃什么药? Tóuténg yīnggāi chī shénme yào? What pill should you take when you have a headache?	她今天嗓子疼。 Tā jīntiān sǎngzi téng. She has a sore throat today.
这是我这个月第二次感冒了。 Zhè shì wǒ zhègè yuè dì èr cì gǎnmào le. This is the second time I've had a cold this month.	他感冒了。 Tā gǎnmào le. He caught a cold.
他的症状很厉害。 Tā de zhèngzhuàng hěn lìhài. His symptoms are very bad.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 不...吗 (*bù...ma*)
不发烧流鼻涕吗?
"Don't you have a fever and running nose?"

Our grammar point for this lesson focuses on the 不...吗 *bù...ma* ("isn't it...") sentence pattern. This pattern is used to ask questions where we believe strongly that the answer is yes and are simply looking for confirmation. In our dialogue we see this used in the sentence *不发烧流鼻涕吗? Bù fāshāo liúbítì ma ?*("Don't you have a fever or running nose ?").

There are two things to note about this pattern. The first is that the question is a yes/no question, as suggested by the question marker 吗 (*ma*) which closes the sentence. The second point is the more subtle observation that the expected answer is "yes." Also note that most Chinese speakers will omit the subject when asking questions using this pattern because it is contextually obvious.

For more examples of this sentence pattern in action, consider the following:

1. 不发烧头疼吗?
   Bù fāshāo tóuténg ma?"
   "Don't you have a fever and headache?

2. 不头疼咳嗽吗?
   Bù tóuténg késòu ma?
   "Don't you have a headache and cough?"

Remember that the 不 (*bù*) in this pattern is indicating the emotion of the person who is asking the question. It does not change the meaning of the sentence or make the expected answer negative—quite the opposite. As a result, the best way to translate these sentences into English is to use phrase like "didn't you say that..." or "isn't it true that...."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

How to Avoid Illness in China

The most common ailments people suffer when coming to China are digestive issues. In some cases this is a result of Chinese food quality issues and the widespread use of illegal additives. In other cases the cause is more innocuous unfamiliarity with traditional Chinese spices.

If you find yourself feeling chronically unwell while dining, one useful step you can take is avoiding stir-fried foods. Not only does this avoid potential issues with the food safety of oils, but it also helps regulate the diet and push it closer to Western norms of eating less oily foods. If you would still like to eat out while cutting back on oils, one useful strategy is looking for southern restaurants and particularly Cantonese restaurants. While the dishes in these restaurants are somewhat more exotic and often require a more adventurous spirit, they are less frequently stir-fried and contain less oil than their northern counterparts.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #10 Getting Nowhere Fast in China

CONTENTS

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

10

COPYRIGHT © 2013 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 我告诉过你坐地铁。
2. B: 出租车应该快来了。
3. A: 已经半个小时了。
4. B: 再等五分钟。
5. A: 根本没车，我们坐巴士吧!
6. B: 哎，那儿有一个……别人打了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 我告訴過你坐地鐵。
2. B: 出租車應該快來了。
3. A: 已經半個小時了。
4. B: 再等五分鐘。
5. A: 根本沒車，我們坐巴士吧!
6. B: 哎，那兒有一個……別人打了。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Wǒ gàosù guò nǐ zuò dìtiě.

2. B: Chūzūchē yīnggāi kuài lái le.

3. A: Yǐjīng bàn gè xiǎoshí le.

4. B: Zài děng wǔ fēnzhōng.

5. A: Gēnběn méi chē, wǒmen zuò bāshì ba!

6. B: Ai, nàr yǒu yí gè.....biérén dǎ le.

ENGLISH

1. A: I told you to take the subway.

2. B: There should be a cab soon.

3. A: It's already been half an hour.

4. B: Just wait another five minutes.

5. A: There are no cabs at all, let's take the bus!

6. B: Ah, there's one... someone else took it.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
别人	別人	biérén	somebody else

地铁	地鐵	dìtiě	subway
出租车	出租車	chūzūchē	cab
告诉	告訴	gàosù	to tell
巴士	巴士	bāshì	bus
打	打	dǎ	to flag down
根本	根本	gēnběn	at all
交通	交通	jiāotōng	transportation

SAMPLE SENTENCES

那是别人的事儿。 Nà shì biérén de shìr. That's someone else's business.	他每天坐地铁上班。 Tā měitiān zuò dìtiě shàngbān. He takes the subway to work everyday.
我们应该打出租车。 Wǒmen yīnggāi dǎ chūzūchē. We should take a cab.	我迫不及待地告诉了他这个好消息。 Wǒ pòbùjídài de gàosù le tā zhègè hǎo xiāoxi. I told him the news without delay.
她告诉了我一个秘密。 Tā gàosù le wǒ yí gè mìmì. She told me a secret.	早上，巴士很拥挤。 Zǎoshàng, bāshì hěn yōngjǐ. Buses are very crowded in the morning.
我打不到出租车。 Wǒ dǎ bú dào chūzūchē. I can't flag down a cab.	这儿根本没有人。 Zhèr gēnběn méiyǒurén. Nobody is here at all.

高峰时间，交通很堵。
Gāofēng shíjiān, jiāotōng hěn dǔ.

At peak times, the transportation grid is clogged.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Adverb 根本 (*gēnběn*)

根本没车，我们坐巴士吧?

"There are no cabs at all, let's take the bus."

In today's grammar point, we want to take a moment to introduce the adverb 根本 *gēnběn* ("fundamentally"). This is a very common word Chinese people will use to add emphasis to a sentence, such as the one in our dialogue: 根本没车，我们坐巴士吧。 *Gēnběn méi chē, wǒmen zuò bāshì ba.* ("There are no cabs at all, let's take the bus"). The visual emphasis of this word on the tree radical 本 is related to its meaning as the "core" or "trunk" of something. And we can use it just as we use "fundamentally" or "basically" in English, as with the following examples:

Here are some examples for you:

1. 这儿根本没有人。
   Zhèr gēnběn méi yǒu rén.
   There is no one around here at all.

2. 出租车根本不快。
   Chūzūchē gēnběn bú kuài.
   Cabs are really slow.

3. 我根本不懂你在说什么。
   Wǒ gēnběn bùdǒng nǐ zài shuō shénme.
   I really don't understand what you are saying.

4. 我根本没听见。
   Wǒ gēnběn méi tīngjiàn.
   I didn't hear it at all.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting around Chinese Cities

Transportation networks in China are becoming more and more advanced, especially in cities such as Beijing which has made a major investment in building public transit networks over the last decade. Subway systems see the bulk of new government investment, but there is also an extensive bus system. And due to China's growing middle class and discretionary income, the car has basically replaced the bicycle as the main mode of transportation. During rush hour, it can take longer to get from one end any given city to the other by car than by metro.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #11
Listen to your Chinese Personal Trainer

CONTENTS

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

#11

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 好，现在去跑步。
2. 我累了。可以休息吗？
3. 别停，跑步机在这儿。
4. 我都出汗了。
5. 你想减肥，就听我的。
6. 好……我们继续锻炼。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 好，現在去跑步。
2. 我累了。可以休息嗎？
3. 別停，跑步機在這兒。
4. 我都出汗了。
5. 你想減肥，就聽我的。
6. 好……我們繼續鍛鍊。

ENGLISH

1. A: OK, now go run.
2. B: I'm tired. Can I have a rest?
3. A: Don't stop, here is the treadmill.
4. B: I'm already sweating.
5. A: If you want to lose weight, listen to me.
6. B: OK, let's continue to exercise.

PINYIN

1. Hǎo, xiànzài qù pǎobù.
2. Wǒ lèi le. Kěyǐ xiūxi ma?
3. Bié tíng, pǎobùjī zài zhèr.
4. Wǒ dōu chūhàn le.
5. Nǐ xiǎng jiǎnféi, jiù tīng wǒ de.
6. Hǎo... wǒmen jìxù duànliàn.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
跑步机	跑步機	pǎobùjī	treadmill	noun
出汗	出汗	chūhàn	to sweat	verb
继续	繼續	jìxù	to continue	verb
跑步	跑步	pǎobù	to run	verb
休息	休息	xiūxi	to rest	verb
减肥	減肥	jiǎnféi	to lose weight	verb
累	累	lèi	tired	adjective
锻炼	鍛鍊	duànliàn	to exercise	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他家里有个跑步机。 *Tā jiā lǐ yǒu gè pǎobùjī.* He has a treadmill at home.	我现在正在出汗，因为这里真的很热。 *wǒ xiànzài zhèngzài chūhàn , yīnwèi zhèli zhēnde hěn rè .* I'm sweating right now, because it's really hot in here.
她不喜欢出汗。 *Tā bù xǐhuān chūhàn.* She doesn't like to sweat.	他们继续工作。 *Tāmen jìxù gōngzuò.* They continue to work.
他每天跑步。 *Tā měi tiān pǎobù.* He jogs everyday.	我不需要休息。 *Wǒ bù xūyào xiūxi.* I don't need to rest.

那个男人不想减肥。 *Nà gè nánrén bù xiǎng jiǎnféi.* That man doesn't want to lose weight.	我工作了一天，很累。 *Wǒ gōngzuò le yìtiān, hěn lèi.* I've worked for a whole day, and I'm tired.

老人们在锻炼身体。

Lǎorénmen zài duànliàn shēntǐ.

The old people are exercising.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is the Pattern 都 ... 了 (*dōu ... le*)
我都出汗了。
"I'm already sweating."

In our grammar point for this lesson, we want to focus on the common grammar pattern 都 ... 了 *dōu ... le* ("already"). As with the adverb 根本 *gēnběn* ("fundamentally") we taught you last lesson, the adverb 都 is also placed before verbs in Chinese. What makes this a pattern is the 了 which is added after the verb, as in the sentence in our dialogue 我都出汗了 W*ǒ dōu chūhàn le* ("I'm already sweating").

In previous lessons, we've learned that 都 means "all." In this case, the character adds extra emphasis, while the 了 implies that the verb has just happened. Because of this, Chinese speakers will use the pattern to communicate the idea of something "already" or "completely" happening. This makes the pattern functionally equivalent to the word 已经 *yǐjīng* ("already"). Look at these examples to see this in action:

1. 我已经跑了一个小时，我都累了。
   Wǒ yǐjīng pǎo le yí gè xiǎoshí, wǒ dōu lèi le.
   "I've already been running for an hour, I'm exhausted."
2. 已经十二点了，我都困了。
   Yǐjīng shíèr diǎn le, wǒ dōu kùn le.
   "It's already 12, I'm completely sleepy."

Note that we can use adjectives as well as verbs in this structure. The reason for this is that adjectives in Chinese are technically verbs and share many of the same characteristics. When used in this pattern, as with the examples above, the 都 ... 了 provides extra emphasis on the adjective while implying that the speaker has just reached the state described and is *newly* exhausted, hungry, sleepy, etc.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Exercising in China

Chinese and Western cultures diverge on the idea of what constitutes the best form of exercise. Traditional forms of Chinese exercises such as Qigong or Taiqi involve not so much cardio-intensive activities done for a short period of time, as exercise which promotes balance and stability for longer periods. Chinese exercises place a much heavier emphasis on martial arts and meditation. These practices are said to release Qi, which is understood as the energy of life. If you visit parks in China early in the morning or in the early evening, you will often find groups exercising in public practicing these techniques.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #12

The Case of the Missing Chinese Cellphone

CONTENTS

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

#12

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 我的手机呢？
2. 你放哪儿了？
3. 我不记得了。
4. 那我给你打个电话吧。
5. 我关静音了。
6. 应该有振动吧？
7. 哦，对。

ENGLISH

1.	A :	Where is my cellphone?
2.	B :	Where did you put it?
3.	A :	I don't remember.
4.	B :	Then I'll give you a telephone call.
5.	A :	I muted the sound.
6.	B :	It should have vibration, right?
7.	A :	Oh, right.

PINYIN

1. Wǒ de shǒujī ne?
2. Nǐ fàng nǎr le?
3. Wǒ bú jìde le.
4. Nà wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ gè diànhuà ba.
5. Wǒ guān jìngyīn le.
6. Yīnggāi yǒu zhèndòng ba?
7. O, duì.

TRADITIONAL

1. 我的手機呢？
2. 你放哪兒了？
3. 我不記得了。
4. 那我給你打個電話吧。
5. 我關靜音了。
6. 應該有震動吧？
7. 哦，對。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
静音	靜音	jìngyīn	to mute the sound	verb
应该	應該	yīnggāi	should	verb
振动	振動	zhèndòng	to vibrate	verb
关	關	guān	to turn off	verb
放	放	fàng	to put, to put in	verb
打电话	打電話	dǎ diànhuà	to make a telephone call	verb phrase
手机	手機	shǒujī	cellphone	noun
记得	記得	jìde	to remember	verb
丢	丟	diū	to lose	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我的手机静音了。 *Wǒ de shǒujī jìngyīn le.* My cellphone is muted.	你应该继续工作。 *Nǐ yīnggāi jìxù gōngzuò.* You should keep working.
我的手机在振动。 *Wǒ de shǒujī zài zhèndòng.* My cellphone is vibrating.	工作的时候要关手机。 *Gōngzuò de shíhòu yào guān shǒujī.* When working, you have to turn off your cellphone.

他调料放得太多已经没法吃了。 *Tā tiáoliào fàng de tài duō yǐjīng méifǎ chī le .* He put in too many spices and now it is not edible anymore.	别放书包里。 *Bié fàng shūbāo lǐ.* Don't put it in the bag.
我给你打电话。 *Wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà.* I'll give you a call.	我丢了我的手机。 *Wǒ diū le wǒ de shǒujī.* I lost my cellphone.
记得每天锻炼。 *Jìde měitiān duànliàn.* Remember to exercise everyday.	我的手表丢了。 *Wǒ de shǒubiǎo diūle.* I lost my watch.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Prepositions
你放在哪儿了？
"Where did you put it?"

Our grammar point today is all about prepositions. In previous lessons, we've taught you that prepositions are placed before verbs in Chinese. The preposition 在 *zài* ("at") is placed before the main verb in sentences like 我在北京工作。 *Wǒ zài Běijīng gōngzuò.* ("I work in Beijing.") for instance, while the preposition 给 *gěi* ("for" or "to") is used similarly in sentences like 我给你买的, *Wǒ gěi nǐ mǎi de.* ("I bought it for you.")

While this is easy rule to remember, it often confuses students to see certain prepositions, and especially the preposition 在, come after a verb. For an example of this consider the sentence 你放在哪儿了？ *Nǐ fàngzài nǎr le?* ("Where did you put it?") or 你丢在哪儿了？*Nǐ diūzài nǎr le?* ("where did you lose it?") In both of these cases, it seems as if the preposition is being placed after the verb rather than before it, which is something we have previously taught you is ungrammatical.

What is happening? In these cases, 在 is being treated as a verb complement rather than a preposition. This is a restricted usage which occurs with only a few verbs like 放 *fàng* ("to place"), 丢 *diū* ("to lose"), or 扔 *rēng* ("to throw"). Chinese speakers have decided through custom that it is possible to place 在 after these verbs, but this is not a general grammar pattern. You cannot do this with every single verb and - in fact - with most verbs trying this will make your sentence sound grammatically incorrect.

So don't be confused when you see 在 being used as a verb complement, appearing after verbs. It is not common, but it is possible and you will hear it on occasion, as in the following example sentences:

1. 手机丢在车里了。
   Shǒujī diūzài chē lǐ le.
   "The cellphone is lost in the car."
2. 笔记本放在桌子上。
   Bǐjìběn fàngzài zhuōzi shàng.
   "The laptop is on the table."

3. 我扔在垃圾箱里了。
   Wǒ rēngzài lājīxiāng lǐ le.
   "I threw it in the trash."

One final point about 在 when it appears as a verb complement -- often these same complements can be dropped in speech. If you look at those three sentences we gave you, for instance, you can simply drop the character 在 and they are still perfectly correct. Take a look:

1. 手机丢车里了。
   Shǒujī diū chē lǐ le.
   "The cellphone is lost in the car."
2. 笔记本放桌子上。
   Bǐjìběn fàng zhuōzi shàng.
   "The laptop is on the table."
3. 我扔垃圾箱里了。
   Wǒ rēng lājīxiāng lǐ le.
   "I threw it in the trash."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cellphones in China

Those coming to China from the United States are often surprised at how competitive the Chinese mobile industry is. Prices for talk-time as well as SMS messages are radically lower than in overseas markets, not only for users who signup for paid monthly plans, but also for those who use anonymous charge cards and pay in advance. And it is rare for users to purchase subsidized phones on monthly plans: most people will purchase a phone and then buy a separate mobile service.
Interestingly, the major reason for this extreme competitive pressure is not Chinese government policy, which has actually struggled to reduce competition by regulating which companies can operate in the mobile space and create a series of vertical monopolies in the landline, mobile, internet and satellite spaces (China Telecom, China Mobile, China Unicom and ChinaSat). The problem is that weak central policy has encouraged many of these companies to continue to compete outside their approved areas. This is most evident in China Telecom's entry into both the mobile and Internet markets, but also in the expansion of competition in broadband outside these four major players, to the point that even China's Ministry of Railroads became involved in providing Internet access in the early 2000s.
It is likely that these industries will centralize in the future. At least for the present though, the result of this market competition is lower prices for consumers, and cheaper access to telecom services. Enjoy them while you can!

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #13 How Much are you Willing to Pay for an iPhone in China?

CONTENTS

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

13

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我想买苹果手机。
2. 要什么颜色的?
3. 白色，多少钱?
4. 6500块。
5. 怎么还这么贵?
6. 过几天可能打折。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我想買蘋果手機。
2. 要甚麼顏色的?
3. 白色，多少錢?
4. 6500塊。
5. 怎麼還這麼貴?
6. 過幾天可能打折。

PINYIN

1. Wǒ xiǎng mǎi Píngguǒ shǒujī.

CONT'D OVER

2. Yào shénme yánsè de?

3. Báisè, duō shǎo qián?

4. Liùqiān wǔbǎi kuài.

5. Zěnme hái zhème guì?

6. Guò jǐ tiān kěnéng dǎzhé.

ENGLISH

1. A: I want to buy an iPhone.

2. B: What color do you want?

3. A: White, how much does it cost?

4. B: 6500 RMB.

5. A: How can it still be this expensive?

6. B: After a couple of days, there might be a discount.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
白色	白色	báisè	white	adjective
打折	打折	dǎzhé	to have a discount	verb
贵	貴	guì	expensive	adjective

这么	這麼	zhème	this much	adverb
黑色	黑色	hēisè	black	noun
买	買	mǎi	to buy	verb
过几天	過幾天	guò jǐ tiān	after a couple of days	phrase
颜色	顏色	yánsè	color	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

白色的家居很不经脏。 báisè de jiājū hěn bù jīng zāng . It is difficult to keep white furniture clean.	白色是我目前最喜欢的颜色。 Báisè shì wǒ mùqián zuì xǐhuān de yánsè . White is by far my favorite color.
我妹妹喜欢白色。 Wǒ mèimei xǐhuān báisè. My younger sister likes the color white.	他常买打折的衣服。 Tā cháng mǎi dǎzhéde yīfu. He often buys discounted clothes.
这个手机很贵。 Zhège shǒujī hěn guì. This cellphone is very expensive.	你怎么这么慢? Nǐ zěnme zhème màn? How can you be this slow?
那个出租车是黑色的。 Nà ge chūzūchē shì hēisè de. That cab is black.	我要买个手机。 Wǒ yào mǎi ge shǒujī. I want to buy a cellphone.
过几天我们去酒吧。 Guò jǐ tiān wǒmen qù jiǔbā. After a couple of days, let's go to a bar.	你喜欢什么颜色的? Nǐ xǐhuān shénme yánsè de? Which color do you want?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 的 (*de*)

要什么颜色的?

"What color do you want?"

Our grammar point in this lesson is on a particular kind of omission we see very frequently following the character 的. This appears in our dialogue in the line 要什么颜色的 *yào shénme yánsè de* ("what color do you want")? Take a look at the 的 which appears at the end of that sentence. It also surfaces in two sentences from our vocab section: 我要白色的 *wǒ yào báisè de* ("I want the white one") and 我要那个黑色的 *wǒ yào nàge hēisè de* ("I want that black one").

As our above translations suggest, there is a word missing from these sentences. If we add the obvious missing word 苹果手机 *píngguǒ shǒujī* ("iPhone") back into those sentences, we see the full and grammatically complete version of these sentences: 要什么颜色的苹果手机 *yào shénme yánsè de píngguǒ shǒujī* ("what color iPhone do you want"), 我要白色的苹果手机 *wǒ yào báisè de píngguǒ shǒujī* ("I want the white iPhone") and *我要那个黑色的苹果手机 wǒ yào nàge hēisè de píngguǒ shǒujī* ("I want that black iPhone").

The reason we can drop the noun after 的 is that the character is a "subordinating particle." This means that the noun 苹果手机 is considered part of an abstract category of goods which is known to be described by the adjective or phrase which precedes it. In English, this is something that we also do when we refer to objects as "the black one" or "the white one." As long as it is clear to the listener what object is being discussed, speaking about it in more abstract terms is perfectly clear. While our sentences above should have made this point clear, let's take a look at three more examples of this pattern in practice:

1. 我不要买便宜的，我要买贵的。
   Wǒ bùyào mǎi piányi de , wǒ yào mǎi guì de.
   "I don't want to buy a cheap one, I want to buy an expensive one."

2. 你要什么颜色的。
   Nǐ yào shénme yánsè de.
   "What color do you want?"

3. 给我那个打折的。
   Gěi wǒ nàge dǎzhé de.
   "Give me that discounted one."

It is most common for the word preceding the 的 to be an adjective or an adjectival phrase, however because of the flexibility of Chinese grammar you can also use a verb or a noun, or even a phrase. This makes Chinese much more descriptive in some ways than English, since

it is possible to create arbitrary categories to describe and subsume other nouns.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cheap Electronics in China

One of the perks of traveling to China is that most consumer goods are considerably cheaper than in Europe or the United States. This is certainly the case for most pieces of clothing and even brand-name apparel, but it is not the case when it comes to consumer electronics. In part due to protectionism and import tariffs, most consumer electronics are considerably more expensive in China than elsewhere. So if you're looking for a deal, skip buying Apple products and consider getting a tailor-made suit instead.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #14
Is it Too Late for Chinese Tea?

CONTENTS

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

14

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A: 这个茶馆真地道。
2. B: 对，比星巴克好多了。
3. A: 咱们来一壶龙井茶。
4. B: 太晚了，点菊花茶吧。
5. A: 才6点？你不能喝咖啡因吗?
6. B: 明天要早起。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A: 這個茶館真地道。
2. B: 對，比星巴克好多了。
3. A: 咱們來一壺龍井茶。
4. B: 太晚了，點菊花茶吧。
5. A: 才6點？你不能喝咖啡因嗎?
6. B: 明天要早起。

PINYIN

1. A: Zhège cháguǎn zhēn dìdao.

CONT'D OVER

2. B: Duì, bǐ Xīngbākè hǎoduōle.

3. A: Zánmen lái yī hú Lóngjǐng chá.

4. B: Tài wǎn le, diǎn júhuāchá ba.

5. A: Cái liù diǎn? Nǐ bùnéng hē kāfēiyīn ma?

6. B: Míngtiān yào zǎo qǐ.

ENGLISH

1. A: This tea house is really authentic.

2. B: Right, it's much better than Starbucks.

3. A: Let's order a pot of Longjing tea.

4. B: It's too late, let's order chrysanthemum tea.

5. A: At only six o'clock? Can't you drink caffeine?

6. B: I've got to get up early tomorrow.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
壶	壺	hú	pot	noun
龙井茶	龍井茶	Lóngjǐng chá	Longjing tea	noun
菊花茶	菊花茶	júhuā chá	chrysanthemum tea	noun

普洱茶	普洱茶	pǔěr chá	Puer tea	noun
才	才	cái	just	adverb
咖啡因	咖啡因	kāfēi yīn	caffeine	noun
早起	早起	zǎo qǐ	to get up early	verb
茶馆	茶館	cháguǎn	tea house	noun
地道	地道	dìdào	authentic	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

给我一壶绿茶。 Gěi wǒ yī hú lǜchá. Give me a pot of green tea.	龙井茶是一种绿茶。 Lóngjǐng chá shì yī zhǒng lǜchá. Longjing Tea is a kind of green tea.
菊花茶没有咖啡因吗? Júhuā chá méiyǒu kāfēi yīn ma? Does chrysanthemum have caffeine?	喝普洱茶能减肥。 Hē pǔ'ěr chá néng jiǎnféi. Drinking Pu'er Tea can help you lose weight.
现在才八点。 Xiànzài cái bā diǎn. It’s just 8.00 now.	我不能喝咖啡因。 Wǒ bùnéng hē kāfēi yīn. I can’t drink caffeine.
我从来早起都有困难。 Wǒ cónglái zǎoqǐ dōu yǒu kùnnan . I have had problems with getting up early my whole life.	他每天都要早起。 Tā měi tiān dū yào zǎoqǐ. He gets up early everyday.
他和老王去茶馆了。 Tā hé lǎo wáng qù cháguǎnle. He went to the tea house with Old Wang.	这儿的绿茶真地道。 Zhè'er de lǜchá zhēn dìdào. The green tea here is really authentic.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on A比B好 (*A bǐ B hǎo*)
对，比星巴克好多了。
"Yes, it's much better than Starbucks."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is on an easy way to make comparisons, using the pattern A 比 B 好 ... *A bǐ B hǎo* ("A is better than B"). A and B in this pattern are nouns or noun phrases. In our dialogue we saw this pattern in a shortened form in the line 对，比星巴克好多了 *duì, bǐ xīngbākè hǎoduōle* ("Yes, it's much better than Starbucks"). Omitted from the start of that sentence was the implied subject of 茶馆 *cháguǎn* ("tea house"). The full sentence is therefore 茶馆比星巴克好多了 *cháguǎn bǐ xīngbākè hǎoduōle* ("Tea houses are much better than Starbucks").

Note that this pattern can be used with any two objects as long as they are of similar types. While our dialogue compared Starbucks with Chinese tea houses, you can swap in any noun you would like, and even noun phrases as in 我的比你的好 *wǒ de bǐ nǐ de hǎo* ("Mine is better than yours"). 茶比咖啡好 *chá bǐ kāfēi hǎo* ("Tea is better than coffee"). As in our following examples, we can also swap in any adjective we choose, as in our sample sentences below:

1. 这壶茶比那壶茶地道。
   Zhè hú chá bǐ nà hú chá dìdao.
   "This tea is more authentic than that tea."

2. 我比他大。
   Wǒ bǐ tā dà.
   "I'm older than him."

Note that while we can use any adjective here, Chinese speakers will only use adjectives in the positive form. What we mean by this is that you cannot explicitly negate these adjectives while using this structure. Thus the sentence 我比他不大 (*wǒ bǐ tā bù dà*) is not grammatically correct, and one would have to reframe the sentence into 我不比他大 *wǒ bù bǐ tā dà* ("I'm not older than him") in order for the sentence to be proper Chinese. The reason for this is that our negation must take place before the main verb of the sentence, which is in this case 比 (*bǐ*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese tea houses serve as a meeting place much like cafes in America or Europe. Although

these shops have been steadily replaced by coffee shops in major urban centers like Beijing and Shanghai, you can still find a great many throughout the country, and they are used especially by older Chinese for business meetings and ceremonies. Perhaps not surprisingly then, one of the best Chinese plays of the twentieth century is the play Tea House by famous writer Lao She. This play describes the worsening fortunes of 19th and 20th century Chinese society through the prism of a Chinese teahouse and the social relations reflected by the community which visits it.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #15
Burning the Candle at Both Ends in China

CONTENTS

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

#15

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. A : 又加班？
2. B : 老板的要求。
3. A : 抗议, 抗议, 你得抗议。
4. B : 你开玩笑吗？
5. A : 中国是社会主义国家，工人第一！
6. B : 那也看情况，我们是外国公司。

ENGLISH

1. A : Working overtime again?
2. B : It's at the boss's request.
3. A : Protest, protest, you have to protest.
4. B : Are you kidding?
5. A : China is a socialist country, workers come first!
6. B : That also depends on the situation. We are a foreign company.

PINYIN

1. A : Yòu jiābān?
2. B : Lǎobǎn de yāoqiú.
3. A : Kàngyì, kàngyì, nǐ děi kàngyì.
4. B : Nǐ kāi wánxiào ma?
5. A : Zhōngguó shì shèhuìzhǔyì guójiā, gōngrén dì yī!
6. B : Nà yě kàn qíngkuàng, wǒmen shì wàiguógōngsī.

TRADITIONAL

1. A : 又加班？
2. B : 老闆的要求。
3. A : 抗議，抗議，你得抗議。
4. B : 你開玩笑嗎？
5. A : 中國是社會主義國家，工人第一！
6. B : 那也看情況，我們是外國公司。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
要求	要求	yāoqiú	requirement	noun
社会主义	社會主義	shèhuìzhǔyì	socialism	noun
加班	加班	jiābān	to work overtime	verb
开玩笑	開玩笑	kāiwánxiào	to joke around	verb
抗议	抗議	kàngyì	to protest	verb
公司	公司	gōngsī	company	noun
工人	工人	gōngrén	worker	noun
老板	老闆	lǎobǎn	boss	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这个人要求很多。 *Zhège rén yāoqiú hěnduō.* This man has a lot of requirements..	我们不答应不合理的要求。 *Wǒmen bù dāyìng bù hélǐ de yāoqiú.* We don't respond to unreasonable requests.
中国是社会主义国家。 *Zhōngguó shì shèhuì zhǔyì guójiā.* China is a socialist country.	如果不在六点前完成任务, 你就得加班了. *rúguǒ bú zài liù diǎn qián wánchéng rènwu , nǐ jiù děi jiābān le .* If you don’t finish your tasks before six, then you will have to work overtime.

最近，他经常加班到很晚。 *Zuìjìn, tā jīngcháng jiābān dào hěn wǎn.* Recently, he's often been working overtime late into the evening.	你在开玩笑吗？ *Nǐ zài kāiwánxiào ma?* Are you kidding?
工人们在抗议。 *Gōngrénmen zài kàngyì.* The workers are protesting.	我在一家生產襪子和內衣的公司上班。 *Wǒ zài yìjiā shēngchǎn wàzi hé nèiyī de gōngsī shàngbān.* I work for a company that makes socks and underwear.
小公司 *xiǎo gōngsī* small company	我邀请了我的父母参加我公司的圣诞聚会。 *wǒ yāoqǐng le wǒ de fùmǔ cānjiā wǒ gōngsī de shèngdàn jùhuì .* I invited my parents to my company Christmas party.
你在哪家公司上班？ *nǐ zài nǎ jiā gōngsī shàngbān ?* Which company are you working at?	你的公司在哪儿? *Nǐ de gōngsī zài nǎr?* Where is your company?
工人们工作很辛苦。 *Gōngrénmen gōngzuò hěn xīnkǔ.* The laborers are all working very hard.	他是这儿的老板。 *Tā shì zhè'er de lǎobǎn.* He’s the boss here.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on 看情况 (*kàn qíngkuàng*)
那也看情况，我们是外国公司。
"That depends on the situation, we are a foreign company."

Our grammar focus in this lesson is on how to give evasive answers in Chinese. By this level, we already know how to answer questions in the positive and negative form. For instance, if someone asked you the question 你抗议吗, *nǐ kàngyì ma* ("Do you object"), you could answer 抗议, *kàngyì* ("yes") in the affirmative or 不抗议, *bù kàngyì* ("no") in the negative. This is one of the most standard ways to answer questions in Chinese, simply repeating the main verb in either the affirmative or negative form.

In some situations the answer will not be clear and/or you will not wish to give a straightforward answer. And in these cases, the word 可能, *kěnéng* ("maybe") is your friend and ally. To quality your answer, simply add this word before the verb in question, giving us the answers 我可能抗议, *wǒ kěnéng kàngyì* ("I might protest") and 我可能不抗议, *bù kàngyì* ("I might not protest"). You can also say yes in a less committed way by using "can," as in 我可以抗议, *wǒ kěyǐ kàngyì* ("I can protest").

Our dialogue offers a third and even more evasive answer: 看情况, *kàn qíngkuàng* ("depending on the circumstance"). This is a set phrase that literally means, "looking at the situation." For a sense of how to use it, consider the following examples:

1. 你今天加班吗？看情况。
   Nǐ jīntiān jiābān ma? Kàn qíngkuàng.
   "Are you working overtime today? That depends on the situation."
2. 你这周末休息吗？看情况。
   Nǐ zhè zhōumò xiūxi ma? Kàn qíngkuàng.
   "Will you take a break this weekend? It depends on the situation."
3. 你的老板对你好不好？看情况。
   Nǐ de lǎobǎn duì nǐ hǎobùhǎo? Kàn qíngkuàng.
   "Is your boss good to you? It depends on the situation."
4. 你喜欢你的工作吗？看情况。
   Nǐ xǐhuān nǐ de gōngzuò ma? Kàn qíngkuàng.
   "Do you like your job? It depends on the situation."

While 看情况 is not really rude, it can be somewhat abrupt in situations where you are hoping to come across as very polite. In these situations, adding 那也 (*nà yě*) in front of 看情况 (*kàn qíngkuàng*) will make the entire phrase softer and more polite. The reason for this is that you are implying that you agree with the questioner, but still withholding judgment. This turns your 看情况 into something more agreeable, with 那也看情况 (*nà yě kàn qíngkuàng*) translating best as "I kind of agree with you, but I can't commit yet."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Work Units

The concept of a 单位, *dānwèi* ("work unit") is integral to Chinese society and to Chinese conceptions of proper behavior at work. Specifically, for Chinese people the *danwei* is not merely a group of coworkers but an integral social unit that consists of relationships which must be properly managed. It is considered important that a worker honors more senior staff and that their boss honors them with gifts and praise when appropriate. One reason for this is that Chinese society has historically been less individualistic, with such important things as housing and insurance provided primarily through the work unit rather than provided separately on the open market.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #16 Do You Have a Hidden Talent for Speaking Chinese?

CONTENTS

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

16

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 照片上是谁?
2. 我爷爷奶奶。
3. 这是巴黎吗?
4. 对，战争以前他们住在法国。
5. 哦? 他们会说法语?
6. 我也会，你不知道吗?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 照片上是誰?
2. 我爺爺奶奶。
3. 這是巴黎嗎?
4. 對，戰爭以前他們住在法國。
5. 哦? 他們會說法語?
6. 我也會，你不知道嗎?

PINYIN

1. Zhàopiàn shàng shì shéi?

CONT'D OVER

2. Wǒ yéye nǎinai.

3. Zhè shì Bālí ma?

4. Duì , zhànzhēng yǐqián tāmen zhù zài Fǎguó.

5. ò , tāmen huì shuō Fǎyǔ?

6. Wǒ yě huì, nǐ bù zhīdào ma?

ENGLISH

1. A: Who is in the photo?

2. B: My grandfather and grandmother.

3. A: Is this Paris?

4. B: Yes, before the war they lived in France.

5. A: Oh? They could speak French?

6. B: I can too. Didn't you know?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
首都	首都	shǒudū	capital	noun
法语	法語	Fǎyǔ	French	noun
以前	以前	yǐqián	before	noun

战争	戰爭	zhànzhēng	war	noun
法国	法國	Fǎguó	France	noun
照片	照片	zhàopiān	photo	noun
浪漫	浪漫	làngmàn	romantic	adjective
巴黎	巴黎	Bālí	Paris	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

东京是日本的首都。 Dōngjīng shì rìběn de shǒudū. Tokyo is the capital of Japan.	法国人说法语。 Fǎguó rén shuō fǎyǔ. French people speak French.
我以前是法语翻译。 Wǒ yǐqián shì fǎyǔ fānyì. I was a French translator before.	经过三天三夜的激战，他们终于取得了战争的胜利。 Jīngguò sān tiān sān yè de jīzhàn，tāmen zhōngyú qǔdé le zhànzhēng de shènglì。 After three days and three nights of ferocious fighting, they emerged victorious.
法国人说法语。 Fǎguó rén shuō fǎyǔ. French people speak French.	这是一张新复印机的照片。 Zhè shì yìzhāng xīn fùyìnjī de zhàopiān. Here's a photo of the new photocopier.
咱们一起拍张照片吧。 Zánmen yīqǐ pāi zhāng zhàopiānr ba. Let's take a photo together.	照片不好看。 Zhàopiàn bù hǎo kàn. This photograph doesn't look good.
去公园挺浪漫。 Qù gōngyuán tǐng làngmàn. Going to the park is really romantic.	话剧一上演，立即轰动了整个巴黎。 Huàjù yī shàngyǎn，lìjí hōngdòng le zhěnggè Bālí。 As soon as the play premiered, it took all of Paris by storm.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is Tense and Aspect

哦，他们会说法语。

"Huh, they could speak French?"

We have something that's very strange for you in this lesson, especially if you are a native English speaker accustomed to discussing tense. The reason for this is that the Chinese language does not exactly have tense. Instead, it has something called "aspect", which works differently. In our dialogue for today, we can see the difference in the line 他们会说法语 *tāmen huì shuō Fǎyǔ* ("They could speak French").

Note that while this line discusses events which occurred in the past, this sense could technically be translated into the past tense, the present tense, or even the future tense. It's the context and the line which follows that tells us the temporal positioning of the events described. Take a look at this second example as well: 我也会，你不知道吗, *wǒ yě huì, nǐ bù zhīdào ma* ("I can too, didn't you know"). Notice the way 我也会 ("I can too") is most sensibly treated in the present tense in English, while 你不知道吗 is translated into the past tense. We are going to explain what is happening in a moment, but first, take a look at the ambiguity in tense in the following sentences:

1. 我是法国人，你不知道吗？
   Wǒ shì Fǎguórén, nǐ bù zhīdào ma?
   'I'm French, you didn't know?

2. 这是我的爷爷奶奶，你不知道吗？
   Zhè shì wǒ de yéye nǎinai, nǐ bù zhīdào ma?
   These are my grandparents, you didn't know?

3. 巴黎是法国的首都，你不知道吗？
   Bālí shì Fǎguó de shǒudū, nǐ bù zhīdào ma?
   Paris is the capital of France, you didn't know?

What is happening is that in Chinese, verbs that describe thinking or feeling or being able to do things are always in the present. Even when describing events which took place in the in the past, Chinese speakers will avoid the use of 了 or 过. In our dialogue, we saw this in the sentence 他们会说法语 *tāmen huì shuō Fǎyǔ* ("They could speak French"). Another example would be talking of someone and saying 我知道他们住在巴黎 *wǒ zhīdào tāmen zhù zài Bālí* ("I knew they lived in Paris"). And note that this applies to negative sentences too! Note how in the last line, we hear a speaker ask 你不知道吗, *nǐ bù zhīdào ma* ("you didn't know"). Even though we are talking about the past, we still use 不 (*bù*) instead of 没 (*méi*) to

negate the question. Here are some more examples:

1. 我不知道。
   Wǒ bù zhīdào.
   'I didn't know.

2. 我不会说法语。
   Wǒ bù huì shuō Fǎyǔ.
   I couldn't speak French.

3. 我不感觉浪漫。
   Wǒ bù gǎnjué làngmàn.
   I didn't feel romantic.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Tragedy in War

World War II began for China as early as 1931, when Japan invaded the the northeastern part of the country in what became known as the Mukden Incident. This event involved a number of Japanese soldiers who sabotaged a Japanese-owned railroad south of Mukden (today, Shenyang). The incident was used by Japan to justify its seizure of parts of China and its establishment of a northern state of Manchukou. When the event was exposed later in the 1930s as a fraud, it triggered Japan's withdrawal from the League of Nations. In Chinese, these event is known as the "Liutiaohu Incident" (柳条湖事变).

By the time Japan invaded China more aggressively in the summer 1937, the country was already trapped in its own civil war. The two conflicting parties in this conflict were the Nationalist party led by Chaing Kai-shek, and Communist Party led by Mao Zedong. While the two parties technically reached an agreement to defend the country against Japan before continuing their own conflict, the reality was that the civil war proceded alongside the battle against Japan. Nonetheless, Chinese troops maintained military action against Japan throughout the war, playing an essential role in the conflict and tying up about a third of Japan's overall military resources in the country even as the Americans pushed forward with their Island Hopping campaign.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #17 How to Get Your Vegetables in China

CONTENTS

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

17

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 来一个宫爆鸡丁吧。
2. 我们已经点了鱼香肉丝。
3. 两个都好吃。
4. 都是酸甜的，我们来个蔬菜吧。
5. 宫爆鸡丁就算蔬菜，有大葱。
6. 拜托……

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 來一個宮爆雞丁吧。
2. 我們已經點了魚香肉絲。
3. 兩個都好吃。
4. 都是酸甜的，我們來個蔬菜吧。
5. 宮爆雞丁就算蔬菜，有大蔥。
6. 拜託……

PINYIN

1. Lái yīgè gōngbàojīdīng ba.

CONT'D OVER

2. Wǒmen yǐjīng diǎnle yúxiāngròusī.

3. Liǎng gè dōu hào chī.

4. Dōu shì suāntián de, wǒmen lái gè shūcài ba.

5. Gōngbàojīdīng jiùsuàn shūcài, yǒu dàcōng.

6. Bàituō.....

ENGLISH

1. A: Let's have a Gongbao Chicken.

2. B: We've already ordered fish-flavored shredded pork.

3. A: Both are delicious.

4. B: They are both sweet and sour, let's get a vegetable.

5. A: Gongbao Chicken is a vegetable, it's got onion in it.

6. B: Oh please...

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
酸甜	酸甜	suāntián	sweet and sour	adjective
道	道	dào	a measure word for dishes	measure word
好吃	好吃	hǎochī	delicious	adjective

大葱	大蔥	dàcōng	Chinese onion	noun
花生	花生	huāshēng	peanut	noun
鸡肉	雞肉	jīròu	chicken	noun
点	點	diǎn	to order	verb
鱼香肉丝	魚香肉絲	Yúxiāngròusī	shredded pork in chilli sauce	noun
宫爆鸡丁	宮爆雞丁	Gōngbàojīdīng	Gongbao Chicken	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

宫爆鸡丁是酸甜的。 Gōngbào jīdīng shì suāntián de. Gongbao Chicken is sweet and sour.	这道菜很好吃! Zhè dào cài hěn hǎo chī. This dish is very delicious!
巧克力蛋糕很好吃。 Qiǎokèlì dàngāo hěn hǎochī. Chocolate cake is pretty delicious.	这道菜很好吃! Zhè dào cài hěn hǎo chī. This dish is very delicious!
大葱也是蔬菜。 Dàcōng yěshì shūcài. The Chinese onion is also a vegetable.	我对花生过敏。 Wǒ duì huāshēng guòmǐn. I'm allergic to peanuts.
我特别喜欢鸡肉。 Wǒ tèbié xǐhuan jīròu。 I especially like chicken.	服务员，点菜。 Fúwùyuán, diǎncài . Waiter, we want to order food.
今天你来点菜吧。 Jīntiān nǐ lái diǎncài ba. Today you order the food.	我想吃鱼香肉丝。 Wǒ xiǎng chī yúxiāngròusī. I want to eat shredded pork in chilli sauce.
宫爆鸡丁很好吃。 Gōng bào jīdīng hěn hǎochī. Kungpao chicken is delicious.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 拜托 ("please")
拜托，大葱不是蔬菜。
"Oh please, the Chinese onion is not vegetable."

This lesson's grammar point is focusing on the word 拜托, *bàituō* ("please"). This is not your ordinary "please" though. It can be sometimes, for example, 拜托你帮我买饭, *Bàituō nǐ bāng wǒ mǎifàn* ("Excuse me, please help me buy some food."). Here, 拜托你 (*bàituō nǐ*) is "please you," or "I'm asking you." It's a bit stronger than please, but it has that meaning. There is a second meaning of 拜托, which is closer to English in the sense of, "for heaven sakes." To use this, you really want to express this word with furstration and exaggeration. You don't even need the rest of the sentence. That word it says all. It says, "what are you thinking?" Here are some other examples:

1. 拜托，大葱不是蔬菜。
   Bàituō, dàcōng bù shì shūcài。
   "Oh please, the Chinese onion is not vegetable."

2. 拜托，它们都是酸甜的。
   Bàituō, tāmen dōu shì suān tián de。
   "What are you doing, they are both sweet and sour."

Between friends in casual speech, it's nothing rude at all. However, you don't want to use this in a formal situation with your boss, and you don't want to use it with people who are much older than you, to whom you are suppose to give respect. That's not because the word itself is rude, but maybe the way of expressing it is maybe a bit disrespectful.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Chinese Balanced Diet

Chinese have a different style of eating than in the west. Besides the obvious custom of eating with chopsticks, it is important to understand the family style of eating. This consists of all members of the meal sharing a variety of dishes. The dishes are not all presented at once but are brought in when they are ready so that the diners can eat them while they are hot and

ready. It is important to Chinese that the meal is properly balanced with the right tastes and proper nutritional value.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #18 Partying in Old-school Beijing

CONTENTS

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

18

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 这个胡同派对真酷。
2. 是啊，老北京胡同太有特色了。
3. 我也想租一个四合院。
4. 嗯……冬天冷，还没有厕所。
5. 你不觉得很浪漫吗?
6. 呃，我还是喜欢我的楼房。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 這個衚衕派對真酷。
2. 是啊，老北京衚衕太有特色了。
3. 我也想租一個四合院。
4. 嗯，冬天冷，還沒有廁所。
5. 你不覺得很浪漫嗎?
6. 呃，我還是喜歡我的樓房。

PINYIN

1. Zhège hútòng pàiduì zhēn kù.

CONT'D OVER

2. Shì a, lǎo Běijīng hútòng tài yǒu tèsè le.

3. Wǒ yě xiǎng zū yī ge sìhéyuàn.

4. En, dōngtiān lěng, hái méiyǒu cèsuǒ.

5. Nǐ bù juéde hěn làngmàn ma?

6. E, wǒ hái shì xǐhuān wǒ de lóufáng.

ENGLISH

1. A: This Hutong party is really cool.

2. B: Yeah, old Beijing courtyards are really special.

3. A: I also want to rent one.

4. B: Hmm.. It's cold in the winter, and doesn't have a washroom.

5. A: Don't you think it's romantic?

6. B: Hmm.. I still prefer my building.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
楼房	樓房	lóufáng	building	noun
酷	酷	kù	cool	adjective
冷	冷	lěng	cold	adjective

浪漫	浪漫	làngmàn	romantic	adjective
平房	平房	píngfáng	single story house	noun
四合院	四合院	sìhéyuàn	traditional courtyard	noun
特色	特色	tèsè	characteristics	noun
胡同	胡同	hútòng	Hutong	noun
冬天	冬天	dōngtiān	winter	noun
派对	派對	pàiduì	party	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我住楼房。 Wǒ zhù lóufáng. I live in an apartment building.	他是谁？他真酷。 Tā shì shéi? Tā zhēn kù. Who is he? He is really cool.
今天很冷，你得多穿点衣服。 Jīntiān hěn lěng, nǐ de duō chuān diǎn yīfu. Today is cold; you should wear more clothes.	北京的冬天很冷。 Běijīng de dōngtiān hěn lěng. Beijing's winter is very cold.
去公园挺浪漫。 Qù gōngyuán tǐng làngmàn. Going to the park is really romantic.	她家住平房。 Tā jiā zhù píngfáng. Her family lives in a one story house.
北京有很多胡同。 Běijīng yǒu hěn duō hútòng. Beijing has many alleys.	今年冬天不太冷。 jīnnián dōngtiān bù tài lěng. This year's winter is not too cold.

圣诞夜我们有个派对。
Shèngdànyè wǒmen yǒu gè pàiduì.

On Christmas Eve, we are having a party.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Adverb 还

冬天冷，还没有厕所。

"The winter is cold, and there is also no toilet."

In previous lessons we taught you that Chinese adverbs coming in front of verbs and adjectives. In this lesson, we want to review this with reference to a single character adverb: 还, *hái* ("also or still"). In the dialogue, we saw this in the following line: 冬天冷，还没有厕所, *Dōngtiān lěng, hái méiyǒu cèsuǒ* ("The winter is cold, and there is also no toilet."). Here are some other examples:

1. 他还想住胡同。
   Tā hái xiǎng zhù hútòng。
   "He still wants to live in a Hutong."

2. 四合院很贵，他还想买。
   Sìhéyuàn hěn guì, tā hái xiǎng mǎi。
   "The courtyard is expensive, and he still wants to buy it."

This is different from another word we learned about also, 也 (*yě*). We use that adverb to say things like *他去，我也去*, *Tā qù, wǒ yě qù* ("He's going, and I'm going too") and *她饿了，我也饿了*, *Tā è le, wǒ yě è le* ("She's hungry, and I'm hungry too").

With 还, you are usually saying there is something bad about this, but still... For instance:

1. 这个四合院很贵，我还想租。
   Zhège sìhéyuàn hěn guì, wǒ hái xiǎng zū。
   "The courtyard is expensive, but I still want to rent it."

2. 这个有中国特色，我还不想买。
   Zhège yǒu Zhōngguó tèsè, wǒ huán bù xiǎng mǎi。
   "This has Chinese characteristics, but I still don't want to buy it."

It's this "but" sense that separate 还 from 也. Otherwise, both of them are adverbs and both come in front of verbs.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Traditional Beijing Communities

The Beijing Hutong fits very well with other aspects of Chinese life in it's regard to community. A Hutong is a single story rectangular building surrounded by walls; it is a small gated community that is characterized by a communal courtyard for the residents. It usually will house several families sharing the compound's facilities. Seeing a Hutong evokes a sense of traditional Beijing with the narrow alleys and communal living. Unfortunately, in recent years, many of these traditional domiciles are now being demolished to build large, several story apartments to meet the demand of an ever growing population in Beijing.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #19 Patience is a Virtue in China

CONTENTS

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

19

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 孩子们在哪儿?
2. 出去玩儿了，怎么了?
3. 玩儿? 还有20分钟就要上钢琴课了。
4. 我以为这学期已经结束了。
5. 我说快结束了，快。
6. 哦，那我去找他们吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 孩子們在哪兒?
2. 出去玩兒了，怎麼了?
3. 玩兒? 還有20分鐘就要上鋼琴課了。
4. 我以為這學期已經結束了。
5. 我說快結束了，快。
6. 哦，那我去找他們吧。

PINYIN

1. Háizimen zài nǎr?

CONT'D OVER

2. Chūqù wánr le, zěnme le?

3. Wánr? Háiyǒu èrshí fēnzhōng jiù yào shàng gāngqín kè le.

4. Wǒ yǐwéi zhè xuéqī yǐjīng jiéshù le.

5. Wǒ shuō kuài jiéshù le, kuài.

6. ò, nà wǒ qù zhǎo tāmen ba.

ENGLISH

1. A: Where are the children?

2. B: They've gone out to play, why?

3. A: Playing? They have piano class in twenty minutes.

4. B: I thought this semester was already over.

5. A: I said almost over, almost.

6. B: Oh, then I'll go find them.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
快	快	kuài	soon, almost	adverb
放假	放假	fàngjià	to go on break	verb
结束	結束	jiéshù	to finish	verb

已经	已經	yǐjīng	already	adverb
学期	學期	xuéqī	semester	noun
门	門	mén	measure word for an entire course	measure word
节	節	jié	measure word for a single class	measure word
钢琴	鋼琴	gāngqín	piano	noun
课	課	kè	class	noun
孩子	孩子	háizi	child	verb
玩儿	玩兒	wánr	to play	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我们快结婚了。 Wǒmen kuài jiéhūn le. We are getting married soon.	今天全国放假。 Jīntiān quánguó fàngjià. Today is a national holiday.
二战结束后，世界终于迎来了久违的和平。 èrzhàn jiéshù hòu, shìjiè zhōngyú yínglái le jiǔwéi de hépíng. After World War II ended, the world entered a long era of peace.	他们已经同居了两年。 tāmen yǐjīng tóngjū le liǎng nián. They've already been living together for two years.
一个学期有四个月。 Yīgè xuéqí yǒu sìgè yuè. A semester is four months.	这个学期我选了李教授的课。 Zhège xuéqī wǒ xuǎn le lǐ jiàoshòu de kè. I signed up for professor Li's class this semester.
我得选六门课才行。 Wǒ děi xuǎn liù mén kè cáixíng. I've got to sign up for 6 courses.	今天有两节课。 Jīntiān yǒu liǎngjié kè. There are two classes today.

我不会弹钢琴。 Wǒ bùhuì dàn gāngqín. I can't play the piano.	钢琴课快結束了。 Gāngqín kè kuài jiéshùle. Piano class is almost over.
孩子们很高兴。 Háizi men hěn gāoxìng. The children are very excited.	孩子們去玩儿了。 Háizimen qù wánr le. The children went to play.

星期五我们玩儿得很开心。
Xīngqīwǔ wǒmen wánr de hěn kāixīn.

On Friday we had a great time.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Adverb 快 ("almost").
我说快结束了，快。
"I said almost over, almost"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the adverb 快 (*kuài*), which means "almost." We have run into this in some earlier lessons, but we saw it as an adjective, meaning "fast" or "quickly," like 他说话很快, *tā shuōhuà hěn kuài* ("He is speaking very quickly"). In our dialogue, we hear it in a different context, with a different meaning: 我说快结束了，快 *Wǒ shuō kuài jiéshù le, kuài* ("I said almost over, almost"). In this case, it's not an adjective but an adverb. It comes in front of a verb, meaning something is going to happen soon. Here are some more examples:

1. 我们快放假了。
   Wǒmen kuài fàngjià le。
   "We'll be on vacation soon."

2. 他快来中国了。
   Tā kuài lái Zhōngguó le。
   "He's coming to China soon."

3. 钢琴课快要结束了。
Gāngqínkè kuàiyào jiéshù le。
"Piano class is almost over."

There are two interesting things to note: first is we emphasize that something is going to happen quickly by adding an extra verb here 要, *yào* ("will"). This is optional. The second point is all our sentences are ending with a 了, *le* ("past tense"). It's a modal partical of changing the state because this change is going to happen soon.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Strict Chinese Schooling

The Chinese primary schooling system is much stricter than those in western countries. With the college process becoming more and more competitive, high school students must take on more to maintain a competitive edge. The Chinese college entrance exam known as the GaoKao requires years of preparation. Senior year of high school is devoted strictly to reviewing for this test. It is not uncommon for city kids to take extracurricular preparatory courses at centers designated for this purpose. Seniors in high school are under a lot of pressure from their school, parents, and themselves to do well. The pressure is escalated by the fact that the test is only offered once a year.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #20

Don't Let the Cab Driver Take you for a Ride in China

CONTENTS

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

#20

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你不下车吗？
2. 你还没找钱呢。
3. 找钱？我已经找给你了。
4. 你就给了我30。
5. 对呀，你给我50。
6. 不，我给了你100。
7. 哦，对对对，我的错，不好意思。

ENGLISH

1.	Cab Driver :	Aren't you going to get out of the cab?
2.	Passenger :	You still haven't given me change.
3.	Cab Driver :	Change? I already gave you your change.
4.	Passenger :	You only gave me 30.
5.	Cab Driver :	That's right, you gave me 50.
6.	Passenger :	No, I gave you 100.
7.	Cab Driver :	Oh, you're right, it's my fault, I'm sorry.

PINYIN

1. Nǐ bù xiàchē ma?
2. Nǐ hái méi zhǎoqián ne.
3. Zhǎoqián? Wǒ yǐjīng zhǎo gěi nǐ le.
4. Nǐ jiù gěi le wǒ sānshí.
5. Duì ya, nǐ gěi wǒ wǔshí.
6. Bù, wǒ gěi le nǐ yībǎi.
7. Ò, duì duì duì, wǒ de cuò, bùhǎoyìsi.

TRADITIONAL

1. 你不下車嗎？
2. 你還沒找錢呢。
3. 找錢？我已經找給你了。
4. 你就給了我30。
5. 對呀，你給我50。
6. 不，我給了你100。
7. 哦，對對對，我的錯，不好意思。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
零钱	零錢	língqián	small change	noun
给	給	gěi	to give	verb
大钱	大錢	dàqián	old Chinese currency	noun
错	錯	cuò	fault	adjective
整钱	整錢	zhěngqián	large bills	noun
下车	下車	xiàchē	to get out of the car	verb
不好意思	不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	I'm sorry	expression
对	對	duì	right	adjective
找钱	找錢	zhǎoqián	to give change	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你有零钱吗？ *nǐ yǒu língqián ma?* Do you have any change?	给我两块巧克力。 *Gěi wǒ liǎngkuài qiǎokèlì.* Give me two pieces of chocolate.
大钱是清代的货币。 *Dàqián shì qīngdài de huòbì.* Daqian was the Qing dynasty currency.	不好意思，你打错了。 *Bùhǎoyìsi, nǐ dǎcuò le.* I am sorry, you dialed the wrong number.

他是个有钱人，只有整钱。 *Tā shìgè yǒuqiánrén, zhǐyǒu zhěngqián.* He is a rich person, and only has big bills.	我在路口下车。 *Wǒ zài lùkǒu xiàchē.* I'll get out at the intersection.
下车时要小心。 *Xiàchē shí yào xiǎoxīn.* Be careful when getting off.	真不好意思！ *Zhēn bùhǎoyìsi!* I am really sorry.
你说的对。 *Nǐ shuōdeduì.* You're right.	司机正在找钱。 *Sījī zhèngzài zhǎoqián.* The driver is giving change.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Repetition of 对 ("right"), 不 ("no"), 别 ("don't"), 好 ("good"), and 行 ("okay")
哦，对对对，我的错，不好意思。
"Oh, that's right. It's my fault. I'm sorry."

The grammar point in this lesson is something that's uniquely Chinese. It's really different in Chinese than it is in English. This is a way of communicating emotions. We hear it in the last line of our dialogue: 哦，对对对，我的错，不好意思 *Ò, duì duì duì, wǒ de cuò, bùhǎoyìsi* ("Oh, that's right. It's my fault. I'm sorry"). What's interesting here is we've got a repetition of three sounds: 对对对, *duì duì duì* ("that's right"). This is a Chinese way of speaking. In English, when we are emphasizing something, we may drown out. In Chinese, people will intend to repeat the word three times. We get this with 对, *duì* ("right"), and we also get this with 不, *bù* ("no"), like in 不不不, *bù bù bù* ("no"). That's the most common way of setting repetitions. However, we also here these words that are repeated six times: 对对对对对对 (*duì duì duì duì duì duì)* or 不不不不不不 (*bù bù bù).* For extra emphasis, sometimes Chinese people will even turn it into seven. What we want to emphasize in this lesson is these numbers are not arbitrary. You are not going to hear people give you two repetitions or four repetitions. They are going to be three, six, or seven. Here are some other examples:

1. 别别别。
   Bié bié bié。
   "Don't."
2. 好好好。
   Hǎo hǎo hǎo。
   "Good."
3. 行行行。
   Xíng xíng xíng。
   "Okay."

The key thing to take away from this lesson is when native speakers want to emphasize these words above, they repeat them in groups of three, six, or seven.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Swindling Chinese Cab Drivers

Chinese cab drivers can be notorious swindlers especially if their customers are obviously foreign. Due to confusion over exchange rates and limited Chinese ability, a relatively short ride can cost a customer hundreds of *Ren Min Bi* (Chinese currency). Two things to remember: the first is they are not necessarily bad people, and they are not all swindlers. Due to economic pressures, many drivers feel as though they need to squeeze an extra buck from a customer and foreigners are an easy target. A few pieces of advice: do not get into an unmarked cab (known in China as a 黑车, or "black cab") because this type of car will rip their customers off. And the best defense against getting ripped off in China is to improve your Chinese.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #21
An Awkward Situation in China

CONTENTS

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

#21

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 这张照片上是谁?
2. 那是我爸爸。
3. 我以为他住三藩市。
4. 这是我父母离婚前照的。
5. 哦，不好意思。
6. 没事，当时我还小，已经习惯了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 這張照片上是誰?
2. 那是我爸爸。
3. 我以為他住三藩市。
4. 這是我父母離婚前照的。
5. 哦，不好意思。
6. 沒事，當時我還小，已經習慣了。

PINYIN

1. Zhè zhāng zhàopiàn shàng shì shéi?

CONT'D OVER

2. Nà shì wǒ bàba.

3. Wǒ yǐwéi tā zhù Sānfānshì.

4. Zhè shì wǒ fùmǔ líhūn qián zhào de.

5. ò, bùhǎoyìsi .

6. Méishì, dāngshí wǒ hái xiǎo, yǐjīng xíguàn le.

ENGLISH

1. Who is in this photo?

2. That's my father.

3. I thought he lived in San Francisco.

4. This was shot before my parents divorced.

5. Oh, I'm sorry.

6. It's OK, at that time i was only a little kid, I'm already used to it.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
习惯	習慣	xíguàn	to get used to	verb
张	張	zhāng	measure word for photos	measure word
当时	當時	dāngshí	at that time	noun

父母	父母	fùmǔ	parents	noun
旧金山	舊金山	Jiùjīnshān	San Francisco	noun
三藩市	三藩市	sānfānshì	San Francisco	noun
照片	照片	zhàopiàn	photograph,picture	noun
离婚	離婚	líhūn	to divorce	verb
照	照	zhào	to photograph	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他已经习惯加班了。 Tā yǐjīng xíguàn jiābānle. He's already gotten used to working overtime.	这一张照片是谁照的? Zhè yīzhāng zhàopiàn shìshuí zhào de? Who took this photograph?
当时他们还是孩子。 Dāngshí tāmen háishì háizi. At that time, they were still children.	那个孩子的父母在工作。 Nàgè háizi de fùmǔ zài gōngzuò. That child's parents are working.
我以为你住在旧金山，其实你住三藩市。 Wǒ yǐwéi nǐ zhùzài jiùjīnshān, qíshí nǐ zhù sānfānshì. I thought you lived in San Francisco, but actually you live in San Fran.	三藩市在美国。 Sānfānshì zài měiguó. San Francisco is in the United States.
现在我电脑上应该有几百万张照片了。 xiànzài wǒ diànnǎo shàng yīnggāi yǒu jǐ bǎi wàn zhāng zhàopiàn le . I probably have millions of pictures on my computer right now.	照片不好看。 Zhàopiàn bù hǎo kàn. This photograph doesn't look good.

咱们一起拍张照片吧。 Zánmen yīqǐ pāi zhāng zhàopiānr ba. Let's take a photo together.	他的父母已经离婚了。 Tāde fùmǔ yǐjīng líhūnle. His parents have already divorced.

这一张照片是谁照的?
Zhè yīzhāng zhàopiàn shìshuí zhào de?

Who took this photograph?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 以为, 认为 and 想 "to think"
我以为他住三藩市。
"I thought he lived in San Francisco."

In our grammar section for this lesson, we want to review three verbs used for thinking: 以为 *yǐwéi* ("to think mistakenly"), 认为 *rènwéi* ("to consider") and 想 *xiǎng* ("to think"). All three verbs are technically used to mean "to think" but there are slight differences we want to discuss.

The first and easiest of these words is 想. Chinese speakers use this to communicate the idea of wishing or desiring for something, and thus also for thinking about or missing someone or something. You will often hear people ask for time to consider a problem by saying 让我想一下 *ràng wǒ xiǎng yīxià* ("let me think a bit"). In this sense 认为 and 想 are mostly interchangable, with the difference between the two being mostly about your degree of certainty: 想 is somewhat less certain than 认为.

In our dialogue we see a third verb used for the act of thinking, in the sentence 我以为他住三藩市 *Wǒ yǐwéi tā zhù Sānfānshì* ("I thought he lived in San Francisco"). Notice here that the meaning of this verb not only includes the act of thinking, but implies that someone has come to an erroneous conclusion. This is a verb we cannot swap for 认为 or 想 without changing the meaning of the sentence fundamentally, by losing the sense that the speaker is mistaken, because the meaning would be different. Here are some more examples:

1. 我以为你住北京，但是你其实住在上海。
Wǒ yǐwéi nǐ zhù Běijīng, dànshì nǐ qíshí zhùzài Shànghǎi。
"I thought you lived in Beijing, but actually you live in Shanghai."

2. 我以为老板下班了。
Wǒ yǐwéi lǎobǎn xiàbān le。
"I thought the boss had left."

This is a bit of a review point, but it's really important. When you hear Chinese people using 以为, there is a subtlety that is not present with 想 and 认为.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

There are many foreign place names in Chinese which have different transliterations depending on community and context. San Francisco is one of the better known examples of this. The city was originally named 旧金山 ("Old Gold Mountain") in the late 19th century by Chinese immigrants who arrived predominately from Southern China thanks to the Gold Rush and the job opportunities afforded by railroad construction. Because these speakers tended to come from Southern China, and American immigration later favored Taiwanese immigrants, this usage has remained common in southern China and non-mainland communities worldwide. In mainland China, most speakers these days will simply refer to the city by the phonetic loanword 三藩市 ("San Francisco"). Feel free to use whichever you prefer!

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #22 Don't Pester the Chinese Bus Driver!

CONTENTS

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

22

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 这车到西直门吗?
2. 到，上车吧。
3. 那动物园呢?
4. 一站地，快上车吧。
5. 清华大学也到吧?
6. 终点站，你去哪儿?
7. 哪儿也不去，就问问。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 這車到西直門嗎?
2. 到，上車吧。
3. 那動物園呢?
4. 一站地，快上車吧。
5. 清華大學也到吧?
6. 終點站，你去哪兒?
7. 哪兒也不去，就問問。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Zhè chē dào Xīzhímén ma?

2. Dào, shàngchē ba.

3. Nà dòngwùyuán ne?

4. Yī zhàndì, kuài shàngchē ba.

5. Qīnghuádàxué yě dào ba?

6. Zhōngdiǎnzhàn, nǐ qù nǎr?

7. Nǎr yě bù qù, jiù wènwen.

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Does this bus go to Xizhimen?
2.	B:	Yes it does, get on board.
3.	A:	Then, what about the Zoo?
4.	B:	It's one station. Quickly, get on.
5.	A:	It's also going to Qinghua University, right?
6.	B:	It's the terminal station. Where are you going?
7.	A:	Not going anywhere, just asking.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
终点站	終點站	zhōngdiǎnzhàn	terminal station	noun
动物园	動物園	dòngwùyuán	zoo	noun
大学	大學	dàxué	university	noun
一站地	一站地	yī zhàndì	one stop	noun
车站	車站	chēzhàn	bus stop	noun
上车	上車	shàngchē	to get on the bus	verb
问	問	wèn	to ask	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

终点站是苹果园。 Zhōngdiǎnzhàn shì Píngguǒyuán. The terminal stop is Apple Garden.	孩子们喜欢动物园。 Háizimen xǐhuān dòngwùyuán. The children like the zoo.
父母都希望孩子上大学。 Fùmǔ dōu xīwàng háizi shàng dàxué. All parents want their children to attend university.	还有一站地我就下车。 Hái yǒu yī zhàndì wǒ jiù xiàchē. After one more stop, I'll get off the bus.
我每天在这个车站等车。 Wǒ měitiān zài zhège chēzhàn děng chē. I wait for the bus at this stop every day.	她还没上车。 Tā hái méi shàngchē. She still hasn't got on the bus.
我只再问你一遍。 Wǒ zhǐ zài wèn nǐ yíbiàn. I will only ask you one more time.	你不知道，那就问问吧。 Nǐ bù zhīdào, nà jiù wènwen ba. If you don't know, just ask.
我想问一下，那个人是谁? Wǒ xiǎng wèn yíxià, nàgè rén shì shéi? I want to ask, who is that?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is 问问 "to ask."

哪儿也不去，就问问。

"I'm not going anywhere. I'm just asking."

In previous lessons, we taught you how to add emotional emphasis by repeating certain characters, as with 对对对 *duì duì duì* ("yes yes yes") or 别别别 *bié bié bié* ("don't don't don't"). We told you the repetition typically comes three, six or seven times. In this lesson we are talking about another kind of verb repetition, which we see in this sentence in the dialogue: 哪儿也不去，就问问 *Nǎr yě bù qù, jiù wènwen* ("I'm not going anywhere. I'm just asking"). This is a special form of repetition in Chinese: 问问 *wènwen* ("to ask"). We use it when repeating single-character verbs like 问 *wèn* ("to ask"), 看 *kàn* ("to look"), 听 *tīng* ("to listen"). This repetition communicates the idea that you are doing something for only a little bit of time, as with the following examples:

1. 能给我看看这个吗?
   Néng gěi Wǒ kànkan zhège ma ?
   "Can you give this to me to look for a bit?"

2. 听听这首歌。
   Tīngting zhè shǒu gē 。
   "Listen to this song."

The important thing is we can do this with pretty much any verbs that are one character long. For example, we can redupilcate 走 *zǒu* ("to walk") into the phrase 走走就到了 *zǒuzou jiù dàole* ("Go for a bit, and you'll get there"). Often, these repeated phrases are used so often that they are treated like two-character compounds, as with 试试 *shìshi* ("to try out") in the phrase 你也试试吧 *Nǐ yě shìshi ba* ("You try it too"). Many students think about these replicated verbs as if they stand alone, but they are really just this pattern in action!

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Public Transport in Beijing

The Beijing transportation system includes a well developed bus and subway system. Both are very accessible and provide transit to any place in the city. Both can be difficult to manage if one is not accustomed to them however. For although they are cheap and accessible, they

can be extremely crowded. During rush hour, most buses do not have empty seats and the subway system can be standing-room only. Making matters worse, passengers often crowd around doors rather than line up neatly, making daily commuting a frustrating experience at times. The best thing to do is just grin and bear it, or bike to work.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #23 Shopping For Real Estate in China

CONTENTS

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

23

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我最近在看房。
2. 你不是有个公寓吗?
3. 那房子太小，我想换别墅。
4. 你要结婚啦?
5. 不，我要离婚。
6. 啊?
7. 我老婆把我赶出来了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我最近在看房。
2. 你不是有個公寓嗎?
3. 那房子太小，我想換別墅。
4. 你要結婚啦?
5. 不，我要離婚。
6. 啊?
7. 我老婆把我趕出來了。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Wǒ zuìjìn zài kàn fáng.

2. Nǐ bùshì yǒu ge gōngyù ma?

3. Nà fángzi tài xiǎo, wǒ xiǎng huàn biéshù.

4. Nǐ yào jiéhūn la?

5. Bù, wǒ yào líhūn.

6. ā?

7. Wǒ lǎopo bǎ wǒ gǎn chūlái le.

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Lately I've been looking at real estate.
2.	B:	Don't you have an apartment?
3.	A:	That place is too small, I want to change to a villa.
4.	B:	You want to get married?
5.	A:	No, I want to get divorced.
6.	B:	Ah?
7.	A:	My wife drove me out.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
赶出来	趕出來	gǎn chūlái	to drive out	phrase
房子	房子	fángzi	house	noun
老婆	老婆	lǎopo	wife	noun
老公	老公	lǎogōng	husband	noun
结婚	結婚	jiéhūn	to get married	verb
别墅	別墅	biéshù	villa	noun
换	換	huàn	to change	verb
最近	最近	zuìjìn	recently	adverb
离婚	離婚	líhūn	to divorce	verb
公寓	公寓	gōngyù	apartment	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

她把老公赶出来了。 Tā bǎ lǎogōng gǎn chūlái le. She drove her husband out.	这套房子多少钱? Zhè tào fángzi duō shǎo qián ? How much is this house worth?
我老婆天天做饭。 Wǒ lǎopo tiāntiān zuòfàn. My wife cooks every day.	老公，你过来帮我搬这个。 Lǎogōng, nǐ guòlai bāng wǒ bān zhège. Darling, come over and help me carry this.
他想跟他女朋友结婚。 Tā xiǎng gēn tā nǚpéngyou jiéhūn. He wants to get married to his girlfriend.	他们结婚以后买了别墅。 Tāmen jiéhūn yǐhòu mǎi le biéshù. They bought a villa after getting married.
他换了地址。 Tā huàn le dìzhǐ. He changed the address.	你最近还好吗? nǐ zuìjìn hái hǎo ma? How have you been lately?

他最近只吃素食了。 Tā zuìjìn zhǐ chī sùshí le. Recently, he has only been eating vegetarian food.	越来越多人想离婚。 Yuèláiyuè duō rén xiǎng líhūn. More and more people want to divorce.
她在那个公寓里住了十二年了。 tā zài nà ge gōngyù lǐ zhùle shíèr nián le . She lived in that apartment for twelve years.	我今天打扫公寓了。 wǒ jīntiān dǎsǎo gōngyù le . I cleaned my apartment today.
我租不起城市中心的公寓。 Wǒ zū bù qǐ chéngshì zhōngxīn de gōngyù . I can't afford to rent an apartment in the city center.	如果我有够多的钱，我就在市中心买一套公寓。 rúguǒ wǒ yǒu gòu duō de qián, wǒ jiù zài shìzhōngxīn mǎi yī tào gōngyù . If I had enough money I would buy an apartment in the city center.
听说你搬到新公寓了。 Tīngshuō nǐ bān dào xīn gōngyù le. I hear you moved into a new apartment.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Structure 不是 ... 吗 ("Isn't it the case that")
你不是有个公寓吗？
"Don't you have an apartment?"

Our grammar point in this lesson is about a special kind of rhetorical question, 不是 ... 吗, *bùshì ... ma* ("isn't it the case that"). This is a split structure. First we have 不是 (*bùshì)*, which means "isn't it the case that," and then we have a statement that consists of usually a verb and an object, and we follow this with our yes/no question marker 吗 *(ma)*. In our dialgoue, we saw this in the following line, 你不是有个公寓吗？, *Nǐ bùshì yǒu ge gōngyù ma?* ("Don't you have an apartment?"). Two things to know here: one thing is the 吗 here is a yes or no question, but we are expecting the answer "yes." To make this more clear, we can change that rhetorical question to a more straight forward question: 你有公寓吗, *Nǐ yǒu gōngyù ma*

or 你有没有公寓, *Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu gōngyù* ("Do you have an apartment?"). In those cases, we don't know what the answers are going to be. The other thing to know about this structure is let us put two verbs together: like the 是, *shì* ("to be") and 有, *yǒu* ("to have") in our sample sentence. Here we have some more examples for you:

1. 你们不是结婚了吗?
   Nǐmen bù shì jiéhūn le ma?
   "Aren't you two married?"

2. 他不是离开中国了吗?
   Tā bù shì líkāi Zhōngguó le ma?
   "Hasn't he left China?

Notice here 是 is not the main verb in the sentence. The main verb comes after 是. The reason we can do this is in China, saying 不是 is sort of like saying "isn't it the case that" at the start of a sentence. It is outside the rule of how we put together a normal sentence. For example, 你不是喜欢这个别墅吗, *Nǐ bù shì xǐhuān zhège biéshù ma* ("Isn't it the case that you like the villa?"). This is the thing that makes this pattern special and makes it a rhetorical question.

In an earlier lesson, we taught you another structure, 不 ... 吗. In that sentence, we could have 是 as the main verb. For instance, 他不是中国人吗, *Tā bù shì Zhōngguórén ma* ("Isn't he Chinese?"). This earlier structure can be a rhetorical question but it doesn't have to be. However, 不是 ... 吗 is almost always going to be a rhetorical question. And the kicker is the main verb follows 不是.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Divorce

Divorce law in China has an interesting history. In traditional Chinese society, in laws that date back to the Tang dynasty, divorce was only a right given to men. There was of course a legal process to be followed as well as specific reasons given by the husband. This was then abolished by the communist party looking to gain the support of women during the Civil War years. When communists took over a village they would give women this right. This caused upheaval in rural areas of men who went as far as killing their wives to file for divorce, or women killing themselves. When the Peoples' Republic was established, they wrote in this type of law into their marriage laws, giving women more freedom, although divorce was still a fairly uncommon due to the fact that only men were provided with property from their work unit so women were much less likely to file for divorce. After the Opening and Reforming Era of the

1980s, this was again revised to provide equal rights for those seeking divorce.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #24 Filling up on Delicious Chinese Snacks

CONTENTS

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

#24

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 天津的小吃太好吃了!
2. 你怎么还想吃?
3. 这个麻花儿真不错。
4. 我们刚吃了狗不理包子。
5. 嗯，我听说天津的炸糕也不错。
6. 我已经饱了。
7. 那……我们去吃煎饼果子吧!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 天津的小吃太好吃了!
2. 你怎麼還想吃?
3. 這個麻花兒真不錯。
4. 我們剛吃了狗不理包子。
5. 嗯，我聽說天津的炸糕也不錯。
6. 我已經飽了。
7. 那……我們去吃煎餅果子吧!

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. Tiānjīn de xiǎochī tài hǎochī le!

2. Nǐ zěnme hái xiǎng chī?

3. Zhège máhuā zhēn bùcuò.

4. Wǒmen gāng chī le gǒubùlǐ bāozi.

5. ēn, wǒ tīngshuō Tiānjīn de zhágāo yě bùcuò.

6. Wǒ yǐjīng bǎo le.

7. Nà ...wǒmen qù chī jiānbǐng guǒzi ba!

ENGLISH

1.	A:	Tianjin snacks are so delicious!
2.	B:	How can you still want to eat?
3.	A:	This fried dough twist is really good.
4.	B:	We just ate Goubuli dumplings.
5.	A:	Hmm, I've heard that Tianjin fried rice cakes are also not bad.
6.	B:	I'm already full.
7.	A:	Then... let's go eat pancakes with fried sticks.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
包子	包子	bāozi	stuffed bun	noun
油条	油條	yóutiáo	fried dough stick	noun
饱	飽	bǎo	full	adjective
炸糕	炸糕	zhágāo	fried rice cake	noun
听说	聽說	tīngshuō	to hear said	verb
小吃	小吃	xiǎochī	snack	noun
煎饼果子	煎餅果子	jiānbǐng guǒzi	egg pancake with fried stick	noun
麻花儿	麻花兒	máhuār	fried dough twist	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我喜欢吃狗不理包子。 Wǒ xǐhuan chī gǒubùlǐ bāozi. I like to eat stuffed buns from Goubuli.	老北京人喜欢早上吃油条。 Lǎo Běijīng rén xǐhuān zǎoshang chī yóutiáo. Old Beijingers like eating deep-fried dough sticks in the morning.
我很饱。 Wǒ hěn bǎo. I'm very full.	吃饱了才能走。 Chībǎo le cáinéng zǒu. You can't leave until you are full.
这一个炸糕太甜了。 Zhè yīgè zhàgāo tài tiánle. This fried rice cake is too sweet.	听说，她和她老公离婚了。 Tīngshuō, tā hé tā lǎogōng líhūn le. I heard she and her husband divorced.
女人准备了小吃。 Nǚrén zhǔnbèile xiǎochī. The woman prepared a snack.	你想吃小吃吗? Nǐ xiǎng chī xiǎochī ma? Do you want some snacks?

她一天只吃了煎饼果子。 Tā yītiān zhǐ chīle jiānbing guǒzi. All she ate the entire day was an egg pancake with fried sticks.	麻花儿是天津的特色。 Máhuār shì tiānjīn de tèsè. Fried dough twists are Tianjin's specialty.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 刚 ("just")
我们刚吃了狗不理包子。
"We just ate Goubuli dumplings."

Our grammar point for this lesson is focusing on this adverb 刚, *gāng* ("just"). In our dialogue, we see this word in this sentence: 我们刚吃了狗不理包子, *Wǒmen gāng chī le gǒubùlǐ bāozi* ("We just ate Goubuli dumplings"). By adding 刚 in front of a verb, we are implying the action happened not long ago, as in 我刚吃过饭, *Wǒ gāng chīguò fàn* ("I just ate"). Sometimes Chinese speakers may double up on this adverb such as 刚刚, *gānggāng* ("just now"), like in the sentence: 我刚刚下班, *Wǒ gānggāng xiàbān* ("I just got off work"). 刚刚 and 刚 both mean "just now." However, 刚刚 means something has just happened and 刚 could be a while ago. Therefore, if something has really just, just happened, you can double up. Here are some other examples for you:

1. 我刚吃了饭。
   Wǒ gāng chīle fàn。
   "I just ate."

2. 我刚下班，让我休息一下。
   Wǒ gāng xiàbān, ràng wǒ xiūxi yīxià。
   "I just finished work. Let me rest."

3. 我刚刚进门，让我休息一下。
   Wǒ gānggāng jìnmén, ràng wǒ xiūxi yīxià。
   "I just got home. Let me rest."

Remember, because 刚 is an adverb, we put it in front of the main verb in our sentence, and

usually after the subject as well.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Street Food

Street food is a Chinese cuisine staple. Every city street in China offers a variety of delicious, and sometimes bizarre, street food, the most common being a "meat kabob" known as *chuanr*. These meats are cooked over an open flame and come in many varieties. There are meats, tofu, and vegetables offered at any given street vendor. A famous sight with a large variety of these delicacies is Beijing's Wangfujing night market where you can find a selection any sort of street food from sweet and savory favorites to things as strange as scorpions and an astonishing variety of animal testicles.

LESSON NOTES

Upper Beginner S1 #25 Culinary Confusion in China

CONTENTS

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

25

COPYRIGHT © 2018 INNOVATIVE LANGUAGE LEARNING. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 这个火锅店真地道。
2. 蒙古人特爱涮羊肉。
3. 恩？羊肉？我们吃的不是牛肉吗？
4. 呃，差不多。
5. 等等，你知不知道这是什么肉？
6. 呃，我给你夹点儿菠菜。
7. 这不是生菜吗？
8. 哦，蔬菜拼盘，蔬菜拼盘。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 這個火鍋店真地道。
2. 蒙古人特愛涮羊肉。
3. 恩？羊肉？我們吃的不是牛肉嗎？
4. 呃，差不多。
5. 等等，你知不知道這是甚麼肉？
6. 呃，我給你夾點兒菠菜。

CONT'D OVER

7. 這不是生菜嗎?

8. 哦，蔬菜拼盤，蔬菜拼盤。

PINYIN

1. Zhège huǒguōdiàn zhēn dìdào.

2. Měnggǔrén tè ài shuàn yángròu.

3. En? Yángròu? Wǒmen chīde bù shì niúròu ma?

4. E, chàbuduō.

5. Děngděng, nǐ zhī bù zhīdào zhè shì shénme ròu?

6. E, wǒ gěi nǐ jiā diǎnr bōcài.

7. Zhè bù shì shēngcài ma?

8. ò, shūcài pīnpán, shūcài pīnpán.

ENGLISH

1. A: This hot pot restaurant is really authentic.

2. B: Mongolian people really love lamb hot pot.

3. A: Huh? Lamb? What we are eating isn't beef?

CONT'D OVER

4. B: Eh...it's all sort of the same.

5. A: Hold on a second, do you know what meat this is?

6. B: Here...Let me pick out some spinach for you.

7. A: This isn't lettuce?

8. B: Oh, it's a vegetable platter, a vegetable platter.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
拼盘	拼盤	pīnpán	combination platters	noun
特	特	tè	particularly	adverb
菠菜	菠菜	bōcài	spinach	noun
牛肉	牛肉	niúròu	beef	noun
羊肉	羊肉	yángròu	lamb	noun
火锅	火鍋	huǒguō	hotpot	noun
生菜	生菜	shēngcài	lettuce	noun
蒙古	蒙古	Měnggǔ	Mongolia	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

点个蔬菜拼盘吧。 Diǎn ge shūcài pīnpán ba. Order a combination vegetable platter.	我特爱吃火锅。 Wǒ tè ài chī huǒguō. I particularly love to eat hotpot.

菠菜让身体健康。 Bōcài ràng shēntǐ jiànkāng. Spinach makes your body healthy.	我不喜欢吃羊肉，我喜欢牛肉。 Wǒ bù xǐhuān chī yángròu, wǒ xǐhuān niúròu. I don't like eating lamb. I like eating beef.
这儿的羊肉很嫩。 Zhèr de yángròu hěn nèn. The lamb here is very tender.	天这么热，别吃火锅了。 Tiān zhème rè, bié chī huǒguō le. The weather is so hot, don't eat hotpot.
她在减肥，只吃生菜。 Tā zài jiǎnféi, zhǐ chī shēngcài. She's on a diet, and only eating lettuce.	蒙古火锅很出名。 Měnggǔ huǒguō hěn chūmíng. Mongolian hotpot is very famous.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Adverb 特 ("especially")
蒙古人特爱涮羊肉。
"Mongolian people love boiled mutton so much."

Our grammar point in this lesson is about the adverb 特 (*tè*), which means "especially." In the previous lessons, we learned it as a noun 特色, *tèsè* ("speciality"), as in the word 天津特色, *Tiānjīn tèsè* ("Tianjin speciality"). We have also seen it as an adjective 特别, *tèbié* ("special"), as in the phrase 非常特别, *fēicháng tèbié* ("extremely special"). What's new in this lesson is we also can use this word 特别 as an adverb, like in 特别喜欢, *tèbié xǐhuān* ("especially like"). We put it in front of a verb and make it an adverb.

For Example:

1. 我特别爱吃火锅。
   Wǒ tèbié ài chī huǒguō。
   "I really love to eat hotpot."

2. 我爱吃火锅，我特别爱吃蒙古火锅。
   Wǒ ài chī huǒguō, wǒ tèbié ài chī Měnggǔ huǒguō。
   "I like to eat hotpot, and I really like to eat Mongolian hotpot."

The word 特别 is an incredibly flexible word. In our dialogue, we see it's been shortened in 蒙古人特爱涮羊肉, *Měnggǔrén tè ài shuàn yángròu* ("Mongolian people really love their hotpot."). In this case, the meaning of 特 is exactly the same as 特别. The only difference is 特 is more colloquial and more often used in the north. Here are some more examples:

1. *这儿的羊肉特好。*
   Zhèr de yángròu tè hǎo.
   "The lamb here is especially good."

2. *我特同意你的意见，我们吃火锅吧。*
   Wǒ tè tóngyì nǐ de yìjiàn, wǒmen chī huǒguō ba.
   "I especially agree with your suggestions, let's have hotpot."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Hot Pot

Chinese hot pot is a dish consisting of a platter of meats and vegetables that are meant to be placed in a boiling stew of water and seasoning. It is sort of a do-it-yourself meal that allows those at the table to decide what they want to eat. You place your selection in the stew until it is well cooked and then take it out and dip it in a special sauce. Hot pot is a very diverse meal and ranges in flavors and ingredients depending on where in China you are. Both ingredients offered vary from place to place, and how the broths in which the meat is cooked are seasoned.

ChineseClass101.com



	Intro
1	Chinese Traffic Chaos
2	You'd Better Use a Chinese Dictionary
3	Last Minute Travel Panic in China
4	Man vs. Printer in China
5	Do you Have an Unreasonable Chinese Landlord?
6	A Visit to the Chinese Emergency Room
7	It's All About Impressing the Bartender in China
8	A Convoluted Chinese Checkin Process
9	Seeking Treatment in China
10	Getting Nowhere Fast in China
11	Listen to Your Chinese Personal Trainer
12	The Case of the Missing Chinese Cellphone
13	How Much are you Willing to Pay for an iPhone in China?
14	Is it Too Late for Chinese Tea?
15	Burning the Candle at Both Ends in China
16	Do You Have a Hidden Talent for Speaking Chinese?
17	How to Get Your Vegetables in China
18	Partying in Old-school Beijing
19	Patience is a Virtue in China
20	Don't Let the Cab Driver Take you for a Ride in China
21	An Awkward Situation in China
22	Don't Pester the Chinese Bus Driver!
23	Shopping For Real Estate in China
24	Filling up on Delicious Chinese Snacks
25	Culinary Confusion in China

©2020 Innovative Language Learning, LLC (P)2020
Innovative Language Learning, LLC presented by ChineseClass101.com