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Chinese

Upper Beginner



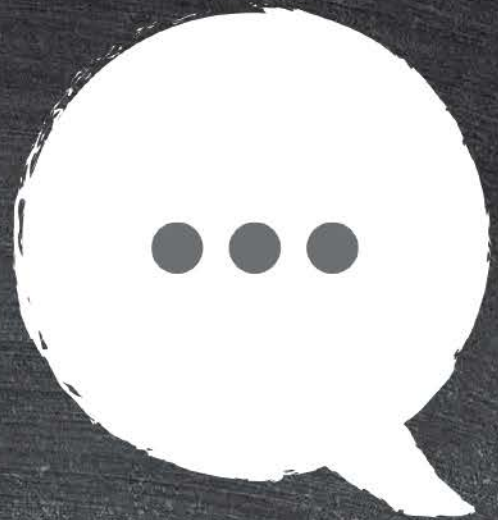
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LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #1

Enter the Traveller

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

#1

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我的护照。
2. 签证在哪儿?
3. 在这儿。
4. 谢谢!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我的護照。
2. 簽證在哪兒?
3. 在這兒。
4. 謝謝!

PINYIN

1. Wǒ de hùzhào.
2. Qiānzhèng zài nǎr?
3. Zài zhèr.
4. Xièxie!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. My passport.
2. Where is your visa?
3. Here.
4. Thank you.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
护照	護照	hùzhào	passport	noun
签证	簽證	qiānzhèng	visa	noun
海关	海關	hǎiguān	customs	noun
签字	簽字	qiānzì	signature	noun
哪儿	哪兒	nǎr	where	noun
这儿	這兒	zhèr	here	pronoun
那儿	那兒	nàr	there	noun
谢谢	謝謝	xièxiè	thanks	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你的护照在哪儿? Nǐ de hùzhào zài nǎr? Where is your passport?	你的签证在哪儿? Nǐ de qiānzhèng zài nǎr? Where is your visa?
海关在哪儿? Hǎiguān zài nǎr? Where is customs?	请签字。 Qǐng qiānzì. Please sign your signature.

签哪儿? Qiān nǎr? Where do I sign?	我的护照在这儿。 Wǒ de hùzhào zài zhèr. Here is my passport.
海关在那儿。 Hǎiguān zài nàr. Customs is there.	签这儿，谢谢。 Qiān zhèr, xièxie. Sign here, thanks.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is Here, There and Where

签证在哪儿? Qiānzhèng zài nǎr?

Where is your visa?

In Chinese there are two words with similar pronunciations but very different meanings. These words are 哪儿 *nǎr* ("where") and 那儿 *nàr* ("there"). The first is a question and is pronounced in the third tone. The sound of your voice first falls and then rises again when you say it. The second is a statement. It is pronounced in the fourth tone.

As with English, you can use these words in Chinese all by themselves. When you need to give someone directions in a hurry, just point and shout 那儿 ("there") to get your point across. In more complex sentences, this word is frequently preceded with the Chinese verb 在 *zài* ("to be at"). Let's take a look at two sample sentences that illustrated this usage: 海关在那儿 *Hǎiguān zài nàr* ("customs is there") and 你的护照在那儿 *Nǐ de hùzhào zài nàr* ("your passport is there"). Both of these sentences have the same structure. Our subject comes first followed by our main verb. Finally we close our sentence with the location, or the question word.

Our final word is 这儿 *zhèr* ("here"). This word is used in exactly the same way as 那儿. Consider the sample sentence 我的护照在这儿 *Wǒ de hùzhào zài zhèr* ("Here is my passport"). 这儿 is placed immediately following 在. The subject of the sentence is the noun phrase 我的护照 *wǒ de hùzhào* ("my passport").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

If you are traveling to China for leisure or to do business you will need a visa. There are multiple types of visas that can be issued depending on the purpose of your stay in China. It is relatively easy to acquire a tourist visa or "L" visa. You simply need proof of your airplane ticket purchase, and possibly the hotel reservation for where you are staying. You can usually apply in person at the nearest Chinese consulate or Embassy, and if the visa process seems a bit overwhelming you can turn over the paperwork to a visa service.

If you are coming to China on a business trip and need to stay for longer than 30 days, you should look for a business visa or "F" visa. This visa provides up to a year of stay in China. Most "F" visas are single-entry, meaning you can only enter the country once although multiple entrance visas are available. When applying for a visa, pay attention to the permitted duration of stay. In politically sensitive times, the Chinese government will often stop issuing F visas which are valid for more than 30 days, making the F visa of little more use than a tourist visa.

For students who are doing an extended study, an X visa will be issued. If you have an X visa you will need to register where you are staying with the Public Security Bureau within 30 days of your arrival. The Public Security bureau will then issue you a residence permit. The time you are allowed to stay in country is determined by the length of your residence permit. It is difficult to impossible to convert an X visa to another type of visa while in China, so if you are planning to stay in China for only a single year as a student, we recommend coming in on an F visa instead of the traditional student visa.

Finally, the only way to legally receive a paycheck as an employee in China is to have a Z visa or a work visa. To obtain a Z visa you must have the proper paperwork from the Chinese owned company or a wholly owned foreign enterprise and pass a health check. Additional paper work is needed from the company to explain why you are an integral part of the work team. Navigating the paperwork for a Z visa is quite tedious and frustrating if you need to do it yourself. Most companies which issue Z visas don't understand how to file the paperwork themselves, and more often than not hire a separate visa agency to do the work.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #2

Can You Eat Spicy Chinese Food?

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- 2 Simplified Chinese
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2

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我很饿。
2. 我也饿了。
3. 我们吃什么？
4. 吃四川菜吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我很餓。
2. 我也餓了。
3. 我們吃什麼？
4. 吃四川菜吧。

PINYIN

1. Wǒ hěn è.
2. Wǒ yě è le.
3. Wǒmen chī shénme?
4. Chī sìchuān cài ba.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. I'm very hungry.
2. I'm also hungry.
3. What shall we eat?
4. Let's have Sichuanese food.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
饿	餓	è	hungry	adjective
饱	飽	bǎo	full	adjective
食物	食物	shíwù	food	noun
饭店	飯店	fàndiàn	restaurant	noun
四川菜	四川菜	sìchuān cài	Sichuanese food	noun
新疆菜	新疆菜	xīnjiāng cài	Xinjiang food	noun
广东菜	廣東菜	guǎngdōng cài	Cantonese food	noun
东北菜	東北菜	dōngběi cài	Northeastern food	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他不饿。 Tā bú è. He's not hungry.	我很饱。 Wǒ hěn bǎo. I'm very full.
这家饭店的食物不错。 Zhè jiā fàndiàn de shíwù búcuò. The food in this restaurant is nice.	他每天都去饭店吃饭。 Tā měi tiān dōu qù fàndiàn chīfàn. He eats at the restaurant every day.

咱们吃四川菜吧。 Zánmen chī sìchuān cài ba. Let's eat Sichuanese Food.	他们爱吃新疆菜。 Tā men ài chī xīnjiāng cài 。 They love eating Xinjiang food.
你们去吃广东菜吧。 Nǐmen qù chī Guǎngdōng cài ba. You all go eat Cantonese food.	我们吃东北菜吧。 Wǒmen chī dōngběi cài ba. Let's eat Northeastern food.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Easiest Way to Make Simple Sentences in Chinese

我很饿 *Wǒ hěn è.*
 "I'm very hungry."

In today's grammar section, we are going to teach you the easiest way to make a sentence in Chinese. We learned this at the start of our first season, but we are reviewing it here because practicing it is the fastest and most useful way to start talking in Chinese. Don't take our word for it. Try it out the next time you're in a Chinese language environment!

In the dialogue, we heard this sentence: 我很饿, *Wǒ hěn è.* ("I'm very hungry.") Let's look closely at this sentence pattern. First comes our subject, the pronoun 我 ("I"). Next, we have the adverb 很 ("very"), and then the adjective 饿 ("hungry"). Technically, there is no verb in that sentence. The English translation of this sentence needs the verb "to be," but it is completely absent in Chinese. Instead, we make a grammatically correct Chinese sentence with just three components:

Subject + 很 + Adjective

Let's take a look at a few more sample sentences. See how simple Chinese grammar is? Stick with us and you'll be communicating in Chinese in no time.

1. 我很饱
Wǒ hěn bǎo
 "I am very full."
2. 他很冷
Tā hěn lěng
 "He is very cold."

3. 她很聪明
Tā hěn cōngmíng
"She is very smart."

4. 你们很好
Nǐmen hěn hǎo
"You are very nice."

The most important thing to remember with this pattern is that we don't need a verb. That makes this pattern one of the easiest and most useful ways to make a sentence in Chinese. Simply start learning nouns and adjectives, use 很 to link them together, and express what you think. You'll be expressing complex thoughts and ideas in no time.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Real Chinese Food

One of the best things about living in China is the fantastic food. While most people in the West may associate Chinese cuisine with rice and eggrolls, the types of food you'll find in China are incredibly diverse, in both taste and appearance. Food from southern China is very different from food in the northern or western parts of the country. In time, you'll become familiar with all of the regional cuisines. In the spirit of giving you a head start, you should know that food from Sichuan and Hunan (southwest and central China) is renowned for its spiciness. Rice-based dishes dominate southern cuisines, whereas in the north and west, people prefer noodles. *Dimsum* is popular in the southern coastal parts of the country where Cantonese predominates, and lamb and mutton dishes are very popular in the northern parts of the country, like Inner Mongolia where you'll find open grasslands and the Gobi Desert.

The general approach to dining in China is also different from in Western cultures. We eat most meals with family or friends. You will rarely find Chinese people eating individually prepared meals, instead preferring to share multiple dishes and taking portions onto their own plates as they wish. Meals can also take a good deal of time to both prepare and eat. But the food is so good, who can complain?

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #3

Let's Light this Chinese Firecracker

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3

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 那些是什么？
2. 我买的花。
3. 你又买了？
4. 对，还有一些鞭炮。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 那些是什麼？
2. 我買的花。
3. 你又買了？
4. 對，還有一些鞭炮。

PINYIN

1. Nàxiē shì shénme?
2. Wǒ mǎi de huā.
3. Nǐ yòu mǎi le?
4. Duì, hái yǒu yìxiē biānpào.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. What are those?
2. I bought fireworks.
3. You bought fireworks again?
4. Yes. And also some firecrackers.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
春节	春節	chūnjié	Chinese New Year	noun
除夕	除夕	chúxī	New Year's Eve	noun
电视	電視	diànshì	television	noun
花	花	huā	fireworks	noun
鞭炮	鞭炮	biānpào	firecrackers	noun
饺子	餃子	jiǎozi	dumplings	noun
家	家	jiā	family	noun
年夜饭	年夜飯	niányèfàn	New Year's dinner	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

春节到了。 Chūnjié dào le. Spring Festival has arrived.	除夕很冷。 Chúxī hěn lěng. It is very cold on New Year's Eve.
晚上我们看电视。 Wǎnshàng wǒmen kàn diànshì. We watch television in the evening.	我买了花。 Wǒ mǎi le huā. I bought fireworks.

鞭炮很吵。 Biānpào hěn chǎo. Firecrackers are very noisy.	我爱吃饺子。 Wǒ ài chī jiǎozi. I like eating dumplings.
我家不吃饺子。 Wǒ jiā bù chī jiǎozi. My family doesn't eat dumplings.	我们吃年夜饭吧。 Wǒmen chī niányèfàn ba. Let's have New Year's dinner.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson Is Revisiting "these and those"

那些是什么?

Nàxiē shì shénme?

"What are those?"

In earlier lessons, we taught you that 那 is the Chinese word meaning "that." Grammatically, this word is classified as a "determiner," a part of speech named after its role in "determining" which of the objects following one that someone is talking about. In Chinese grammar, we generally need to insert a measure word between a determiner and the noun it is modifying. The most common measure word is 个 (*ge*). We use this measure word for singular objects, which is why 那个 is usually translated as "that one." This results in phrases like 那个东西, *nà gè dōngxi* ("that thing") and 这个人, *zhè gè rén* ("this person").

In our dialogue, we heard something new. This was the sentence 那些是什么, *Nàxiē shì shénme?* ("What are those?") Do you understand what 些 is doing in this sentence? As you may have already guessed, 些 is the plural form of 个 (*gè*). We use this generic measure word to refer to a number of objects of the same type. 那些 (*nàxiē*) is thus translated as "those." And since this is a productive grammar pattern that extends across all determiners, we can use this measure word with 这 as well as with the phrase 这些人 ("these people").

In the future, you will also frequently run into the word 一些 (*yìxiē*). This translates as "some" and we use it in sentences like 他买了一些花儿, *Tā mǎi le yìxiē huār*. ("He bought some flowers.")

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese New Year, otherwise known as the Spring Festival, is steeped in myth. The traditional Chinese calendar is based on both the solar and lunar cycle, with the date of the Chinese New Year usually set one lunar cycle after the winter solstice. This means that the exact date of the holiday is different each year according to the Gregorian calendar.

The origin of the Chinese New Year tradition dates back millennia. According to traditional Chinese mythology, at the beginning of every year a monster would come and wreak havoc on villages. It would eat livestock, harm the land, and even hurt children. Rumors spread that this monster was afraid of small children wearing red, however. This is the reason China has adopted red as its favored color. These days, people hang red lanterns and red couplets on their front doors in order to secure good luck for the year ahead. Firecrackers are also red and viewed as an effective means to scare off the New Year's monster and ward off evil.

Chinese New Year lasts for fifteen days from the start of New Year's Eve to the end of the Lantern Festival. In mainland China, most people are given an entire week off to celebrate the holidays. Much as with Christmas in the west, at this time children are expected to return home to visit their parents. Because China has a large floating population of migrant workers, during the holiday season all forms of transportation are filled to capacity. The newspapers have taken to calling this period the Golden Week for transportation due to the sheer numbers of people who travel.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #4

What's Your Chinese Sign?

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4

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 新年快乐!
2. 你属什么?
3. 我属老虎。
4. 我们一样!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 新年快樂!
2. 你屬什麼?
3. 我屬老虎。
4. 我們一樣!

PINYIN

1. Xīnnián kuàilè!
2. Nǐ shǔ shénme?
3. Wǒ shǔ lǎohǔ.
4. Wǒmen yíyàng!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Happy New Year!
2. What sign are you?
3. I am a tiger.
4. We are the same!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
新年快乐	新年快樂	xīnnián kuàilè	Happy New Year	phrase
属	屬	shǔ	to be born into a year	noun
岁	歲	suì	year	measure word
兔	兔	tù	rabbit	noun
虎	虎	hǔ	tiger	noun
龙	龍	lóng	dragon	noun
蛇	蛇	shé	snake	noun
生日	生日	shēngrì	birthday	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你也新年快乐! Nǐ yě xīnnián kuàilè! Happy New Year to you too!	我属牛，你呢？ Wǒ shǔ niú, nǐ ne? I'm (born in the year of) a cow. What about you?
--	---

我想活到一百岁。 Wǒ xiǎng huó dào yì bǎi suì. I want to live to be one hundred years old.	我属兔。今年23岁了。 Wǒ shǔ tù. Jīnnián èrshísān suì le. I'm a rabbit. I'm twenty-three this year.
我属虎，今年24岁了。 Wǒ shǔ hǔ, jīnnián èrshísì suì le. I'm a tiger. I'm twenty-four this year.	我属龙。今年22岁了。 Wǒ shǔ lóng. Jīnnián èrshíèr suì le. I'm a dragon. I'm twenty-two this year.
我属蛇。今年21岁了。 Wǒ shǔ shé. Jīnnián èrshíyī suì le. I'm a snake. I'm twenty-one this year.	生日快乐！这是你的礼物！ Shēngrì kuàilè! Zhè shì nǐ de lǐwù! Happy Birthday. Here are your gifts.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Wishing Someone a Happy Holiday

新年快乐！

Xīnnián kuàilè!

"Happy New Year!"

Today's grammar focus is all about wishing someone a happy holiday. There is an extremely easy way to do this. All you have to do is add two characters to the end of practically any activity or holiday to make it extra special. 快乐 (*kuàilè*) is an adjective that means "happy," such as when you want to say 生日快乐! , *Shēngrì kuàilè* ("Happy birthday") or 圣诞快乐! ("Merry Christmas!") To add a more personal touch, simply add 祝你, *zhù nǐ* ("Wish you") to the front of the sentence. For example, 祝你情人节快乐! , *Zhù nǐ qíngrénjié kuàilè!* ("Wish you a happy Valentine's Day!")

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese Calendar

The Chinese calendar runs on a combination of both the movement of the sun and the moon.

This calendar is what comprises the Chinese Zodiac. The zodiac is split into twelve sections with each section given an animal. The zodiac revolves in a cycle that repeats itself every sixty years. The animal that you are given depends on the year that you were born. Besides being associated with an animal, a person is also aligned with one of five elements. The elements include wood, water, metal, fire, and earth. The year that you were born in is not the only way to classify a person with an animal. Animal signs are even assigned by month, day, and hours of the day. The combination of one's birth year, month, day, and hour are a part of the 'four pillars' of Chinese astrology that determine one's fate.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #5

The Tastiest Drink in China

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5

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你想喝什么?
2. 可乐。
3. 要冰吗?
4. 随便。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你想喝什麼?
2. 可樂。
3. 要冰嗎?
4. 隨便。

PINYIN

1. Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?
2. Kělè.
3. Yào bīng ma?
4. Suíbiàn.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. What do you want to drink?
2. Cola.
3. Do you want ice?
4. Whatever.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
喝	喝	hē	to drink	verb
冰	冰	bīng	ice	noun
果汁	果汁	guǒzhī	juice	noun
水	水	shuǐ	water	noun
茶	茶	chá	tea	noun
雪碧	雪碧	xuěbì	Sprite	noun
啤酒	啤酒	píjiǔ	beer	noun
咖啡	咖啡	kāfēi	coffee	noun
可乐	可樂	kělè	cola	noun
随便	隨便	suíbiàn	whatever	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他想喝什么? Tā xiǎng hē shénme? What does he want to drink?	可乐加冰。 Kělè jiā bīng. Cola with Ice.
--	---

她想喝果汁。 Tā xiǎng hē guǒzhī. She wants to drink juice.	多喝水。 Duō hē shuǐ. Drink more water.
我爱喝茶。 Wǒ ài hēchá. I love drinking tea.	你想喝雪碧吗? Nǐ xiǎng hē xuěbì ma ? Do you want to drink Sprite?
他们想喝啤酒。 Tāmen xiǎng hē píjiǔ. They want to drink beer.	你们想喝咖啡吗? Nǐmen xiǎng hē kāfēi ma? Do you want to drink coffee?
我想喝可乐。 Wǒ xiǎng hē kělè. I want to drink cola.	随便。 Suíbiàn. Whatever.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb "To Want"

你想喝什么?

"What do you want to drink?"

The focus of this grammar section is the verb 想. In the dialogue, we saw the verb 想 in this sentence 你想喝什么? *Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme?* ("What do you want to drink?") Most often, we use this verb to articulate that we want to do an activity. In most cases, a simple verb follows 想. Let's take a look at this sample sentence:

1. 我想吃。
Wǒ xiǎng chī.
"I want to eat."

The structure is S (我) + 想 + Simple Verb (去) + Object (公园).

Let's take one last look at another sample sentence to really cement this concept.

他们想看电影, *Tāmen xiǎng kàn diànyǐng*. ("They want to go to the movies.") Let us use our formula to see all the moving parts.

S (他们) + 想 + Simple Verb (看) + Object (电影).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Beverages

The landscape of drinking in China has changed dramatically over the years. Coca-Cola, along with Pepsi, are both household names in China. Coca-Cola was one of the first companies to enter into the Chinese market. Since that time, the beverage market has exploded, with many companies and flavors all vying for a foothold.

Most restaurants will come equipped with bottles or cans of soda, beer, and orange juice. Usually, they serve tea with a meal, and it is complimentary. Unfortunately, there are very few places that have soda fountains, and almost no restaurants offer free refills. Small convenience stores line the streets in China. They are quite prevalent, and most carry and sell anything from snacks to beverages to cell phone sim cards.

Another interesting note about beverages in China is that most Chinese prefer their drinks hot or room temperature. Do not be surprised to find that the Coke you just ordered on a hot smoldering summer day arrives in your hand just as hot. The reason behind this is that according to Chinese medicine, it is unhealthy and bad for the body to drink cold beverages. Unfortunately, hot Coca-Cola does not mix with a hot summer day.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #6

The Hunt for Wireless Internet in China

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6

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你们有wifi吗?
2. 有。
3. 密码多少?
4. 34567.

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你們有wifi嗎?
2. 有。
3. 密碼多少?
4. 34567。

PINYIN

1. Nǐmen yǒu wifi ma?
2. Yǒu.
3. Mìǎ duōshǎo?
4. Sān sì wǔ liù qī .

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Do you have Wi-Fi?
2. Yes.
3. What is the password?
4. It's 34567.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
网络	網絡	wǎngluò	Internet	noun
网吧	網吧	wǎngbā	net café	noun
密码	密碼	mìmǎ	password	noun
笔记本	筆記本	bǐjìběn	laptop	noun
电脑	電腦	diànnǎo	computer	noun
电子邮件	電子郵件	diànzǐ yóujiàn	e-mail	noun
传真机	傳真機	chuánzhēnjī	fax machine	noun
电话	電話	diànhuà	phone	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

网络很慢。 Wǎngluò hěn màn. The Internet is slow.	哪儿有网吧？ Nǎr yǒu wǎngbā? Where is an Internet bar?
请输入密码。 Qǐng shūrù mìmǎ. Please enter your password.	这个笔记本的性价比不高。 Zhè gè bǐjìběn de xìngjiàbǐ bùgāo. This laptop has a poor price-to-quality ratio.

我的笔记本是苹果的。 Wǒ de bǐjìběn shì Píngguǒ de. My laptop is an Apple.	你有电脑吗？ Nǐ yǒu diànnǎo ma? Do you have a computer?
你有电子邮件吗？ Nǐ yǒu diànzǐyóujiàn ma? Do you have an e-mail address?	你们有传真机吗？ Nǐmen yǒu chuánzhēnjī ma? Do you have a fax machine?
我家有电话。 Wǒ jiā yǒu diànhuà. I have a phone at home.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb "To Have"

你们有wifi吗？

Nǐmen yǒu wifi ma?

"Do you have wireless?"

In this lesson, we learn one of the most useful verbs in the Chinese language. The main usage of 有 (*yǒu*) is to show ownership or possession. In this sense, we use it just like the English verb "to have." Since proper word order in Chinese consists of the subject followed by the verb and then the object, our basic 有 sentence will consist of a subject (the person or thing that possesses something), the verb 有, and then the object that is owned or possessed.

Grammar Pattern:

Subject + 有 + Object

In the dialogue, we see the question 你们有wifi吗, *Nǐmen yǒu wifi ma?* ("Do you have wireless Internet?") Here we can see the subject is 你们 (the plural form of you) and the verb 有 follows it. Then the word Wi-Fi (the English loan word used to refer to wireless Internet in China) follows. As we've learned in previous lessons, adding the question particle 吗 at the end of the sentence changes this from a statement ("You have Wi-Fi.") to a question ("Do you have Wi-Fi?"). Another related example might involve telling someone you have a computer.

In Chinese, we say this using the sentence 我有电脑, *Wǒ yǒu diànnǎo*. ("I have a computer.") The subject is 我 and the object is 电脑.

Combining this grammar pattern with our ability to add the question particle 吗 to sentences gives us a powerful way to ask for things (or where they are). If you're in a restaurant or hotel, you can find out where the bathroom is by asking 你们有洗手间吗, *Nǐmen yǒu xǐshǒujiān ma?* ("Do you have a bathroom?") You can also use this while doing business in China, with the very useful sentences 你有电子邮件吗? *Nǐ yǒu diànzǐyóujiàn ma?* ("Do you have an email address?"), or 公司有传真机吗? *Gōngsī yǒu chuánzhēnjī ma?* ("Does the company have a fax machine?")

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Late Night Internet Cafe

In 2009, China surpassed the United States in terms of its number of online users. It is estimated that three hundred million people now use the Internet regularly in China. This demographic is heavily skewed to the younger segment of the population, as a large majority of households still do not have their own computer. While personal ownership of computers (and especially laptops for younger Chinese) is growing rapidly, the lack of widespread computer ownership has historically encouraged scores of Internet bars to pop up throughout the country. These Internet cafes offer email and web access, but are most popular with young Chinese as a social destination and place to play popular multiplayer Internet games including StarCraft and Counterstrike.

The prevalence of social gaming in Internet cafes has created fears that younger kids are at risk of suffering from Internet addiction. As a result, children under seventeen years old are not technically permitted inside Internet cafes. Random ID card checks are a common sight, although in smaller cities and towns in China, these rules are not always or regularly enforced. There is another reason for the popularity of these Internet cafes too. As universities generally impose curfews on students, spending the night at an Internet cafe is a cheap alternative to finding a hotel if students stay out late.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #7

The Elusive Chinese Toilet

CONTENTS

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

#7

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你们有洗手间吗?
2. 有。
3. 在哪儿?
4. 在二层。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你們有洗手間嗎?
2. 有。
3. 在哪兒?
4. 在二層。

PINYIN

1. Nǐmen yǒu xǐshǒujiān ma?
2. Yǒu.
3. Zài nǎr?
4. Zài èr céng.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Do you have a washroom?
2. Yes.
3. Where?
4. On the second floor.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
有	有	yǒu	to have	verb
洗手间	洗手間	xǐshǒujiān	toilet	noun
毛巾	毛巾	máojīn	towel	noun
层	層	céng	floor, level	noun
厕所	廁所	cèsuǒ	toilet	noun
打扫	打掃	dǎsǎo	to clean, cleaning	verb, noun
在	在	zài	(to be) at	verb/preposition
肥皂	肥皂	féizào	soap	noun
手纸	手紙	shǒuzhǐ	toilet paper	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这儿有洗手间 Zhèr yǒu xǐshǒujiān. There is a washroom here.	洗手间在哪儿? Xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr? Where is the washroom?
---	--

毛巾不干净。 máojīn bù gānjìng. The towel is not clean.	他给了我一条毛巾。 Tā gěi le wǒ yì tiáo máojīn. He gave me a towel.
我的家在三层。 Wǒ de jiā zài sān céng. My house is on the third floor.	厕所在哪儿? Cèsuǒ zài nǎr ? Where is the toilet?
听起来可能难以相信,但是我其实很喜欢打扫。 tīng qǐlai kěnéng nányǐ xiāngxìn , dànshì wǒ qíshí hěn xǐhuān dǎsǎo . I might be crazy, but I actually love cleaning.	你打扫了吗? nǐ dǎsǎo le ma? Did you clean?
我们一起打扫房间吧。 wǒmen yìqǐ dǎsǎo fángjiān ba. Let's clean the room together.	我在饭馆儿里。 Wǒ zài fànguǎnr lǐ. I'm in the restaurant.
我今天在家里休息。 Wǒ jīntiān zài jiā lǐ xiūxi. I am relaxing at home today.	有肥皂吗? yǒu féizào ma? Is there any soap?
没有手纸了。 méiyǒu shǒu zhǐ le. There's no more toilet paper.	我买了两卷手纸。 Wǒ mǎi le liǎng juǎn shǒuzhǐ. I bought two rolls of toilet paper.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb 有

你们有洗手间吗?
Nǐmen yǒu xǐshǒujiān ma?
"Do you have a bathroom?"

In previous lessons, we used the verb 有 to express ownership, as in the example 她有电视, *Tā yǒu diànshì*. ("She has a television.") In this lesson, however, we use 有 to express that something exists. For example, we say this usage in the dialogue with this sentence: 你们有洗手间, *Nǐmen yǒu xǐshǒujiān ma?* ("Do you have a bathroom?") The question is not "Do you own a toilet?" but rather "Does a toilet exist in this location?" Another example of this would be 这儿有汽车站, *Zhèr yǒu qìchēzhàn*. ("There is a bus stop here.") The point of this sentence is to express that a bus stop exists.

The next point is about answering questions. In the dialogue, the question that was initially asked, "Do you have a bathroom?" was answered by repeating the verb 有. To reply in the affirmative, all you have to do is repeat 有. For example, if someone asks 你有钱吗 ("Do you have money?"), you can respond simply with 有. Another example is 他有时吗 ("Does he have time?"), which you can simply answer with 有.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Wash Closet

While in the West, asking if a business establishment has a bathroom might be a no-brainer. But before you get ready to relieve yourself in China, you would be well advised to ask the proprietor if there is a bathroom in the vicinity. The size of many restaurants and businesses can be quite small, only occupying a small piece of commercial property. In this case, there is no room for a bathroom, and employees and patrons alike must resort to going to the nearest public bathroom. For residents in Beijing living in the historical hutong areas, public bathrooms are a way of life.

In many cases, you may hear Chinese people refer to the bathroom as the "WC." This is an abbreviation for "wash closet," as most public places in China have adopted the British terminology.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #8

Is That Your Boyfriend?

CONTENTS

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

8

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你有男朋友吗?
2. 没有。
3. 嗯，你想去看电影吗?
4. 嗯，好的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你有男朋友嗎?
2. 沒有。
3. 嗯，你想去看電影嗎?
4. 嗯，好的。

PINYIN

1. Nǐ yǒu nán péngyou ma?
2. Méiyǒu.
3. En, nǐ xiǎng qù kàn diànyǐng ma?
4. En, hǎo de.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Do you have a boyfriend?
2. No...I don't.
3. Want to see a movie?
4. Umm...yeah. I'd really like to.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
电影	電影	diànyǐng	movie	noun
买东西	買東西	mǎi dōngxi	to go shopping	phrase
喝咖啡	喝咖啡	hē kāfēi	to drink coffee	phrase
亲	親	qīn	to kiss	verb
自信	自信	zìxìn	confidence	noun
单身	單身	dānshēn	to be single	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

今天的电影很好看。 Jīntiān de diànyǐng hěn hǎokàn. Today's movie looked really good.	我不要这部电影。 Wǒ bú yào zhè bù diànyǐng. I don't want this movie.
你不喜欢看电影，我也是。 Nǐ bù xǐhuān kàn diànyǐng, wǒ yě shì. You don't like watching movies? I don't either.	我们去买东西吧。 Wǒmen qù mǎi dōngxi ba. How about we go shopping?

我请你喝咖啡。 Wǒ qǐng nǐ hē kāfēi. I'm going to treat you to a cup of coffee.	我能亲你吗？ Wǒ néng qīn nǐ ma? Can I kiss you?
他没有自信。 Tā méiyǒu zìxìn. He doesn't have confidence.	你是单身吗？ Nǐ shì dānshēn ma? Are you single ?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Negation of the Verb 有 ("to have")

没有。

Méiyǒu.

"No, I don't."

In previous lessons, we learned the verb 有 ("to have") follows the structure (subject) + 有 + (object); for example, in the sentence 他有钱, *Tā yǒu qián*. ("He has money.") To negate the verb 有 and say "not to have," we use 没 (*méi*). For example, if we want to say, "He does not have money," we will use the same structure as before, but add 没 in front of 有: 他没有钱 (*Tā méiyǒu qián*). Another example is 我们没有时间, *Wǒmen méiyǒu shíjiān*. ("We don't have time.") You can use 没有 to show that you do not have or possess an object or an idea.

For Example:

- 他们还没有接吻
Tāmen hái méiyǒu jiēwǔ.
"They still haven't kissed."

You can also use 没 to negate an action in the past tense. When we place 没 next to a verb, as opposed to an object, it moves the action into the past tense.

Sample Sentences

1. 她没吃。
Tā méi chī.
"She didn't eat."
2. 你没睡。
Nǐ méi shuì.
"You didn't sleep."
3. 他没告诉我。
Tā méi gàosù wǒ
"He didn't tell me"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Love Connection

A lot of the time, dating in China happens through intermediaries (mutual friends are expected to make introductions) rather than being actively initiated by the principals. The two most popular places for young people to take a date include the cinema and the local park. And don't expect a kiss on the first date, that might seem a little aggressive.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #9

A Trip to the Cinema

CONTENTS

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

9

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我们走吧。
2. 去哪儿?
3. 去看电影!
4. 哦, 对, 快走吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我們走吧。
2. 去哪兒?
3. 去看電影!
4. 哦, 對, 快走吧。

PINYIN

1. Wǒmen zǒu ba.
2. Qù nǎr?
3. Qù kàn diànyǐng!
4. O, duì, kuài zǒu ba.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Okay, let's go.
2. Where are we going?
3. We're going to see a movie!
4. Oh, right. Hurry up!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
按时	按時	ànshí	on time	adverb
去	去	qù	to go	verb
稍等	稍等	shāoděng	to wait a moment	verb
电影	電影	diànyǐng	movie	noun
一起	一起	yìqǐ	together	adverb
看	看	kàn	to watch	verb
哪儿	哪兒	nǎr	where	pronoun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

每天必须按时吃药。 měi tiān bīxū ànshí chī yào Take medicine on time every day.	下周末谁去海边？ xià zhōumò shéi qù hǎibiān ? Who is going to the beach next weekend?
我去了动物医院。 Wǒ qù le dòngwù yīyuàn. I went to the animal hospital.	我去公园。 Wǒ qù gōngyuán. I'm going to the park.

麻烦您稍等, 经理马上就开完会了。 máfan nín shāoděng, jīnglǐ mǎshàng jiù kāi wán huì le. Please wait a moment; the manager will be done with his meeting very soon.	请稍等。 Qǐng shāoděng. Please wait a moment.
他演了伍迪·艾伦的新电影。 Tā yǎnle Wǔdí Àilún de xīn diànyǐng. He's in the new Woody Allen movie.	你喜欢看电影吗? Nǐ xǐhuān kàn diànyǐng ma? Do you like watching movies?
我们要一起去参加聚会。 wǒmen yào yìqǐ qù cānjiā jùhuì . We want to go together to the party.	我们一起去吧。 Wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba. Let's go together.
我经常看这个电视节目。 wǒ jīngcháng kàn zhège diànshì jiémù . I always watch this TV show.	我平时不看体育比赛的, 不过昨晚我破例了。 Wǒ píngshí bú kàn tǐyù bǐsài de, búguò zuówǎn wǒ pòlì le . Usually, I don't watch any sports but I made an exception yesterday.
来酒吧看球。 Lái jiǔbā kàn qiú. Come to the bar and watch the game.	今天的电影很好看。 Jīntiān de diànyǐng hěn hǎokàn. Today's movie looked really good.
你们去哪儿? Nǐmen qù nǎr? Where are you going?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Making a Suggestion with 吧

快走吧。
Kuài zǒu ba.
"Hurry up."

吧 (*Ba*) is a modal particle with two main functions. The first is to make suggestions. This type of sentence will have 你, *nǐ* ("you") or 我们, *wǒmen* ("we") as the subject (the subject may be omitted). Here is an example of a simple suggestion: 进去吧, *Jìnqù ba*. ("Let's go inside.")

The formula for using 吧 is as follows:

(action verb) + 吧, *ba*

(sentence) + 吧, *ba*

For Example:

1. 你快走吧。
Nǐ kuài zǒu ba.
2. 快一点吧。
Kuài yìdiǎn ba.
3. 我们一起走吧。
Wǒmen yìqǐ zǒu ba.
4. 你先走吧。
Nǐ xiānzǒu ba.
5. 不行, 下次吧。
Bù xíng, xiàcì ba.

Normally, we cannot use 吧, *ba* at the end of questions.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Movie Madness

Going to the movies in China is a great way to enjoy a few hours outside the house. Ticket prices, however, may be a little steep compared to other activities. A matinee show will run around forty RMB, while an evening show may be upwards of eighty-five RMB depending on the location of the movie theater. This price is quite high relative to moviegoers salaries. An average Beijing resident makes around 4000 RMB per month. Recently, the release of

阿凡达, *ā fán dá* ("Avatar") in 3D had ticket prices hovering around 150 RMB. The small supply of Imax theaters in China, combined with overwhelming demand, created a space for ticket scalpers to turn a profit. In addition to being a little pricey, the selection of movies will be limited. China's film industry is still maturing and feature films are released at a much slower pace than in the US. Often times, the same movie will stay in theaters for several months.

Another obstacle to the movie industry in China involves piracy of films on the Internet. Popular video portals such as Tudou, and Youku will have an entire movie online by the release date. These websites will only show the video if you are signed onto a Chinese server. Other areas outside China are denied access.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #10

The Early Chinese Customer

CONTENTS

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

10

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A.你们什么时候开门?
2. B.九点。
3. A.现在几点?
4. B.八点。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A.你們甚麼時候開門?
2. B.九點。
3. A.現在幾點?
4. B.八點。

PINYIN

1. A.Nǐmen shénme shíhòu kāimén?
2. B.Jiǔ diǎn.
3. A.Xiànzài jǐ diǎn?
4. B.Bā diǎn.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A.When do you open?
2. B.Nine o'clock.
3. A.What time is it now?
4. B.Eight o'clock.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
几点	幾點	jǐdiǎn	(at) what time	phrase
什么时候	什麼時候	shénme shíhòu	when	phrase
现在	現在	xiànzài	right now	noun
关门	關門	guānmén	to close	verb
开门	開門	kāimén	to open	verb
小时	小時	xiǎoshí	hour	noun
分钟	分鐘	fēnzhōng	minute	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

现在几点? Xiànzài jǐ diǎn? What time is it right now?	你什么时候回来? Nǐ shénme shíhòu huílai? When will you come back?
现在不开门。 Xiànzài bù kāimén. It's not open right now.	我们11点关门。 Wǒmen shíyī diǎn guānmén. We close at 11 o'clock.

他们七点开门。
Tāmen qī diǎn kāimén.

They open at 7.

这部电影两个小时。
Zhè bù diànyǐng liǎng gè xiǎoshí.

This movie is two hours long.

我们聊了十分钟。
Wǒmen liáo le shí fēnzhōng.

We chatted for ten minutes.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is using (When)

你们什么时候开门? *Nǐmen shénme shíhòu kāimén?*

"When do you open?"

This lesson's grammar point focuses on the word 什么时候, *shénmeshíhòu* ("when"). This word is a combination of the words 什么 ("what") and 时候. ("time"). When we combine them together, we get "what time?" In the dialogue, we used this question in the future tense. In this tense, we put the question word 什么时候 in between the subject and the object phrase. In the dialogue, we saw the sentence 你们什么时候开门? *Nǐmen shénmeshíhòu kāimén?* ("When do you open?") In that sentence, we put 什么时候 directly in between the subject 你们 and the verb object phrase, 开门. When asking questions aimed at finding out what time something will happen in the future, use this formula. The future tense formula is:

(subject) + (什么时候) + (verb object)

Let's take a look at a few more examples where we use 什么时候 in the future and present tense.

1. 我们什么时候吃饭?
Wǒmen shénme shíhòu chīfàn?
"When are we going to eat?"
(Subject 我们) + 什么时候 + (Verb Object 吃饭)

2. 她什么时候下班?
Tā shénme shíhòu xiàbān?
"When do you get off work?"
(Subject 她) + 什么时候 + (Verb Object 下班)
3. 你什么时候毕业?
Nǐ shénme shíhòu bìyè?
"When will you graduate?"
(Subject 你) + 什么时候 + (Verb Object 毕业)
4. 电影什么时候开始?
Diànyǐng jǐ diǎn kāishǐ?
"When does the movie start?"
(Subject 电影) + 什么时候 + (Verb Object 开始)

When answering these questions, the only response needed is the specific time. It is not necessary to repeat the entire sentence in your answer. For example, when answering the question 他什么时候回来, *Tā shénme shíhòu huílai?* ("When will he return?"), the only response needed is the time, specific or nonspecific. One response could be 明天, *Míngtiān*. ("Tomorrow.") The rest of the sentence is implied in the response. What you are really saying is "He will return tomorrow."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Nap Time!

Since the Industrial Revolution in the West, the concept of time management in a traditional office setting has been taking shape. A rigid system of eight to five, with a lunch in between was the norm. While this style of labor has begun to instill itself in cities like Beijing and Shanghai, many parts of China still operate on a piecemeal schedule where work is done as orders come in. Many shops and stalls in China are self-run, and the employee and his/her family often sleep in the back of the store. Often times, you can find the storeowner passing the time by watching a television in the corner or by playing computer games.

Another addition to the Chinese style of working is the concept of an afternoon rest. This usually occurs during the summer months since the days are longer. A period of two to three hours is taken for lunch and a rest. In Universities and schools, they suspend class from 12:30 in the afternoon until 3:00. After the lunch rush, many restaurants will close up shop. After 1:30

p.m., cafeterias will shut down and students head off to the dormitories to enjoy an afternoon rest.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #11

Paying the Bill

CONTENTS

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

11

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 服务员，多少钱？
2. 50块。
3. 给你50。
4. 整好。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 服務員，多少錢？
2. 50塊。
3. 給你50。
4. 整好。

PINYIN

1. Fúwùyuán, duō shǎo qián ?
2. Wǔshí kuài.
3. Gěi nǐ wǔshí.
4. Zhěng hǎo.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Waiter, how much money?
2. Fifty kuai.
3. Here is fifty.
4. Perfect.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
钱	錢	qián	money	noun
多少	多少	duōshǎo	how much	pronoun
服务员	服務員	fúwùyuán	waiter	noun
整好	整好	zhěnghǎo	perfect amount	phrase
给	給	gěi	to give	verb
块	塊	kuài	measure word for money	measure word
毛	毛	máo	1/10 of one kuai	measure word

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我没钱了。 Wǒ méi qián le. I don't have any money.	一共多少钱？ Yíòng duōshǎo qián ? All together, how much money?
服务员，买单！ Fúwùyuán, mǎidān! Waiter, I want to pay the bill.	整好50块钱。 Zhěnghǎo wǔshí kuài qián. 50 yuan is the perfect amount.

给我一双筷子。 Gěi wǒ yì shuāng kuàizi. Give me one pair of chopsticks.	三块钱，好吗？ Sān kuài qián, hǎo ma? Is three kuai ok?
你有五毛吗？ Nǐ yǒu wǔ máo ma? Do you have five mao?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking "How Much"

服务员，多少钱？
Fúwùyuán, duō shǎo qián ?
"Waiter, how much money?"

多少, *duōshǎo* ("how many," or "how much") is a compound of the words 多 (*duō*) and 少 (*shǎo*), meaning "many" and "few," or "much" and "little," respectively. We can use it as a question on its own: 多少, *Duōshǎo?* ("How much?"); or as in our dialogue: 多少钱, *Duōshǎo qián?* ("How much money?")

For Example:

- 她有多少衣服?
Tā yǒu duōshǎo yīfu?
- 你家有多少房间?
Nǐ jiā yǒu duōshǎo fángjiān?

We can combine 多少 with measure words like 个, which we learned in the last lesson, to form questions like 多少个人 *Duōshǎo gè rén?* ("How many + [MEASURE WORD] + people?" or just "How many people?")

For Example:

- 你们一共多少个人?
Nǐmen yíòng duōshǎo gè rén?

2. 你读了多少本书?
Nǐ dú le duōshǎo běn shū?

Another way that we use 多少, is to place it after the subject.

For Example:

1. 人口多少?
Rénkǒu duōshǎo ?
2. 号码多少?
Hàomǎ duōshǎo?

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Money, Money, Money!

In the Chinese currency, the 100 RMB note is the highest denomination. The one problem that arises with these little pink notes is having ample change to pay for small ticket items. A cash register can be cleaned out of small bills relatively quickly with a quick succession of 100 RMB payments. Having small change available is crucial, especially when riding in taxis where they may not have change. You may find yourself stranded on the roadside with a disgruntled taxi driver counting on you to break change.

Paying the bill in restaurants has its own customs. The practice of 请客, *qǐng kè* ("treating friends or coworkers") is the norm in China today. Often times in restaurants, a scene plays out where two men argue over who gets to pay the bill. Both men do not want to lose face, and vie for the chance to pay the bill. Although younger people are becoming increasingly used to the foreign notion of splitting up a check or paying only for their own food, this would traditionally have been considered an extremely rude thing to do, and much of the time, people are still going out to eat or drink on someone else's tab-often in celebration or thanks for something.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #12

Patiently Waiting in China

CONTENTS

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

12

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 还有多长时间?
2. 半个小时。
3. 那么长?
4. 差不多半个小时。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 還有多長時間?
2. 半個小時。
3. 那麼長?
4. 差不多半個小時。

PINYIN

1. Hái yǒu duō cháng shíjiān?
2. Bàn gè xiǎoshí.
3. Nàme cháng?
4. Chàbùduō bàn gè xiǎoshí.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. How much longer?
2. Thirty minutes.
3. That long?
4. More or less thirty minutes.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
多长时间	多長	duōcháng	how long	phrase
半	半	bàn	half	noun
差不多	差不多	chàbùduō	more or less	phrase
等	等	děng	to wait	verb
排队	排隊	páiduì	to stand in line	verb
那么	那麼	nàme	so	adverb
时间	時間	shíjiān	time	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

多长时间能到？ Duō cháng shíjiān néng dào? How much longer until we arrive?	他学了两个半月。 Tā xué le liǎng gè bàn yuè. He studied for two and a half months.
两个小时差不多。 Liǎng gè xiǎoshí chàbùduō. Two hours more or less.	我们等了一个小时。 Wǒmen děng le yí gè xiǎoshí. We waited for an hour.

在那边儿排队。 Zài nàbiānr páiduì. Stand in line over there.	那么便宜! Nàme piányi! That's so cheap.
时间到了。 Shíjiān dào le. Time is up.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Asking "How Long"

还有多长时间?

Hái yǒu duō cháng shíjiān?

"How much longer?"

多长, *duō cháng* can refer to the length of time or space. When we use it to ask about the length of time, it's always followed by the word "time," 时间 (*shíjiān*). So together they are, "how long time" (多长时间.)

When asking about time, use this formula:

(subject) + verb + 多长时间?

For Example:

- 要等多长时间?

Yào děng duōcháng shíjiān?

"How long do I have to wait?"
- 多长时间能到?

Duōcháng shíjiān néng dào?

"How long can I get there?"

When we use it to ask about the length of space or an object, it shouldn't be followed by anything. When asking about an object, use this formula:

(subject) + verb + 多长?

For Example:

1. 她的头发有多长?
Tā de tóufà yǒu duōcháng
"How long is her hair?"
2. 六号线多长?
Liù hào xiàn duōcháng?
"How long is subway line six?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Many Friends, One Bill

Often times in the West, when going out to eat, it is a good idea to make a reservation, especially if it is a large party. In China, this logic also holds true. At popular restaurants, it is not uncommon to find a long line of patrons waiting outside to be seated. If you ask the receptionist how long until you are seated, the most common response is 马上, *mǎshàng* ("right away"). This response is deceiving, since it could mean almost anything. The most effective technique to faster seating is to be persistent with the hostess.

For large parties, often a separate room will be booked, and you can enjoy your evening in privacy with attentive staff. If you are going out to eat with friends, expect only one bill that you must divide among your friends. In Chinese, this is referred to as AA制, *AA zhì*. This translates as "two systems" and is the equivalent of "going Dutch." In China, splitting the bill is uncommon and seen as rude. More often than not, one person will insist on treating the others to a meal in the hopes that this will curry favor, and that the kind gesture will be returned in the future.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #13

My Mouth is on Fire

CONTENTS

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

13

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 服务员，我要一瓶水。
2. 我也要一瓶。
3. 串儿太辣了。
4. 也非常好吃。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 服務員，我要一瓶水。
2. 我也要一瓶。
3. 串兒太辣了。
4. 也非常好吃。

PINYIN

1. Fúwùyuán, wǒ yào yì píng shuǐ.
2. Wǒ yě yào yì píng.
3. Chuànr tài là le.
4. Yě fēicháng hǎochī.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: Waiter, I want a bottle of water.
2. B: I also want one.
3. A: This kebab is so spicy!
4. B: Also very tasty.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
串	串	chuàn	kebab	noun
水	水	shuǐ	water	noun
瓶	瓶	píng	bottle	measure word, noun
矿泉水	矿泉水	kuàngquánshuǐ	bottled water	noun
也	也	yě	also	adverb
辣	辣	là	hot, spicy	adjective
非常	非常	fēicháng	extremely	adverb
太	太	tài	too	adverb
好吃	好吃	hǎochī	tasty	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我爱吃串儿。 Wǒ ài chī chuànr. I love eating kebabs.	有水吗？凉的。 Yǒu shuǐ ma? Liáng de. Do you have water? Cold water?
--	---

他们一个晚上喝完了五十瓶啤酒。 tāmen yí ge wǎnshang hē wán le wǔshí píng píjiǔ . They finished fifty bottles of beer in one night.	来一瓶可乐。 Lái yì píng kělè. Bring me a bottle of cola.
我的矿泉水不凉。 Wǒ de kuàngquánshuǐ bù liáng. My bottled water isn't cold.	我们也要米饭。 Wǒmen yě yào mǐfàn. We also want rice.
要辣的吗? Yào là de ma? Do you want it hot?	这个菜非常好。 Zhègè cài fēicháng hǎo. This dish is extremely good.
他这周末的家庭作业太多了。 tā zhè zhōumò de jiā tíng zuò yè tài duō le . He has too much homework for this weekend.	夏天太热了。 Xià tiān tài rè le . The summer is too hot.
这道牛排很好吃。 Zhè dào niú pái hěn hǎo chī. "This steak tasted very good. "	羊肉串好吃。 Yáng ròu chuàn hǎo chī. Lamb kebabs are tasty.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is "太。。。了" ("To the greatest extent")

这个串儿太辣了!

Zhègè chuàn'r tài là le!

"This kebab is so spicy!"

We can use 太...了 (*tài ...le*) to modify adjectives, certain verbs, auxiliary verbs, and phrases, meaning "too" or "excessively."

For Example:

1. 东西太多了。
Dōngxi tài duō le.
"There are too many things."
2. 这个人太丑了。
Zhè gè rén tài chǒu le.
"This person is excessively ugly."

We can also use it to modify words or phrases with a laudatory sense, meaning "really" or "extremely."

For Example:

1. 你人太好了。
Nǐ rén tài hǎo le
"You are really nice."
2. 这个东西太珍贵了。
Zhègè dōngxi tài zhēnguì le.
"This thing is really precious."

noun or/and verb + 太 + adjective + 了

For Example:

1. 臭豆腐太臭了。
Chòu dòufu tài chòu le.
"The stinky tofu is too stinky."
2. 你人太好了。
Nǐ rén tài hǎo le.
"You're really nice."
3. 你妈妈太罗嗦了。
Nǐ māma tài luōsuo le.
"Your mom is too nagging."
4. 你太过分了。
Nǐ tài guòfèn le.
"You've gone too far."

Eating spicy food is a way of life for most Chinese. They hold the idea, "The spicier, the better." This may explain the reason that Sichuan-style restaurants flourish in every city in China. "Hot Pot" (火锅, *huǒguō*) is a favorite of many Chinese people who can handle an excessively spicy meal. Often times, two or more people will head out to the local Hot Pot restaurant and enjoy a boiling pot of broth based soup. Slices of meat and vegetable are then placed inside the boiling pot to be cooked. Another type of spicy cuisine that can be found on almost any corner is 麻辣烫, *mālàtàng* ("Spicy Soup"). This meal consists of a large vat of heated oil with skewers of vegetables and meat placed inside. You can buy the skewers à la carte.

The special ingredient in almost all spicy food in China is the 花椒, *huājiāo* ("Flower Pepper"). When consumed, the flavor is so intense that it creates a tingly numbing sensation in the mouth. This plant naturally grows in the Sichuan countryside. From 1968 to 2005, the US FDA banned the importation of Sichuan peppercorns because they were found to be capable of carrying citrus canker. This bacterial disease, which is very difficult to control, could potentially harm the foliage and fruit of citrus crops in the U.S. It was never an issue of harm in human consumption. In 2005, the USDA and the FDA lifted the ban.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #14

Hard of Hearing in the Living Room

CONTENTS

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

14

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 小声点儿。
2. 什么？
3. 我说。。。
4. 什么？我听不见！
5. 电视！小声点儿。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 小聲點兒。
2. 甚麼？
3. 我說。。。
4. 甚麼？我聽不見！
5. 電視！小聲點兒。

PINYIN

1. Xiǎoshēng diǎnr.

CONT'D OVER

2. Shénme?
3. Wǒ shuō...
4. Shénme? Wǒ tīng bú jiàn!
5. Diànshì! Xiǎoshēng diǎnr.

ENGLISH

1. Turn down the volume.
2. What?
3. I said...
4. What? I can't hear you.
5. Turn down the volume! The television!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
大声	大聲	dàshēng	loud	adverb
吵	吵	chǎo	noisy	adjective
电视	電視	diànshì	television	noun
看不见	看不見	kànbújiàn	not to be able to see	phrase

听不见	聽不見	tīngbújiàn	not to be able to hear	phrase
声音	聲音	shēngyīn	sound	noun
小声	小聲	xiǎoshēng	quiet	adverb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

请你大声点儿? Qǐng nǐ dàshēng diǎnr? Can you please speak a little bit louder?	别吵! Bié chǎo! Don't be noisy!
你喜欢看电视吗? Nǐ xǐhuān kàn diànshì ma? Do you like to watch television?	在哪儿, 我看不见。 Zài nǎr, wǒ kànbújiàn. Where? I can't see.
对不起, 我听不见。 Duìbùqǐ, wǒ tīngbújiàn. I'm sorry, I wasn't able to hear.	声音太大了。 Shēngyīn tài dà le. The volume is too high.
小声一点儿。 Xiǎoshēng yìdiǎnr. Lower the volume a bit.	小声一点儿, 他在睡觉 Xiǎoshēng yìdiǎnr, tā zài shuìjiào Can you be a little quieter. He is sleeping.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 听不见

什么? 我听不见。 Shénme? Wǒ tīng bú jiàn.

"What? I can't hear you."

听不见 (*tīng bú jiàn*) means "not to be able to hear." It is a phrase made up of two parts. The first part is **听**, *tīng* ("to listen"), and the second part is a complement, **不见**, *bú jiàn* ("not to see"). **不** means "not," and **见** means "to see," but here it means "to hear." So the phrase means "to listen to (something) without hearing it."

In order to understand this phrase better, we should also take a look at the phrase **看不见**, *kàn bú jiàn* ("cannot see"). **看** (*kàn*) means "to look at something," **不** (*bú*) means "not," and **见** (*jiàn*) is also a verb meaning "to see"; so **看不见** means "to look at something without seeing it." **见** tells us the result of **看**. It is a resultative complement.

Generally, a resultative complement is originally a verb; for instance, **看不见** or an adjective such as **听清楚**, *tīng qīngchǔ* ("to hear clearly"). **清楚** ("clear") is an adjective. We can also say **听不清楚**, *tīng bù qīngchǔ* ("to hear not clearly").

The phrase pattern should be:

Verb + (not) + verb/adjective

For Example:

1. 什么，我听不见。
Shénme, wǒ tīng bú jiàn.
"What? I cannot hear it."
2. 声音太小了，我听不见。
Shēngyīn tài xiǎo le, wǒ tīng bú jiàn.
"The volume is too low. I cannot hear it."
3. 对不起，我听不懂。
Duìbùqǐ, wǒ tīng bù dǒng.
"Sorry, I cannot understand."
4. 他听不懂中文。
Tā tīng bù dǒng zhōngwén.
"He cannot understand Chinese."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Experiencing the day-to-day life in China can be a very noisy ordeal. Rows of construction equipment line the streets in major metropolitan centers as roads are being built and buildings are rising higher and higher. Furthermore, the new fleet of Chinese cars packs thoroughfares with honking horns. Walking down a street, you may find vendors selling goods and food, calling out the name of their product in a distinct tune. While the noise may be abrasive, it is also lively and charming. You will often find a group of Chinese friends engaged in a heated discussion for all to hear or a local group of seniors participating in a singing group outside. After a while, the noise blends into the background and becomes a part of the landscape.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #15

Credit Cards in China

CONTENTS

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

15

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 可以刷卡吗?
2. 可以。是信用卡吗?
3. 对，国际信用卡。
4. 哦，不可以。国际信用卡不可以。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 可以刷卡嗎?
2. 可以。是信用卡嗎?
3. 對，國際信用卡。
4. 哦，不可以。國際信用卡不可以。

PINYIN

1. Kěyǐ shuākǎ ma?
2. Kěyǐ. Shì xìnyòngkǎ ma?
3. Duì, guójì xìnyòngkǎ.
4. O, bù kěyǐ. Guójì xìnyòngkǎ bù kěyǐ.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Can I swipe my card?
2. Yes, you can. Is it a credit card?
3. Yes, an international credit card.
4. Oh, I'm sorry. You can't swipe an international credit card.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
可以	可以	kěyǐ	to be able to	adverb
刷卡	刷卡	shuākǎ	to pay with credit card	verb
信用卡	信用卡	xìnyòngkǎ	credit card	noun
国际	國際	guójì	international	adjective
现金	現金	xiànjīn	cash	noun
密码	密碼	mìmǎ	password	noun
ATM机	ATM機	ATMjī	Automated Teller Machine, ATM	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我可以去吗? Wǒ kěyǐ qù ma? Can I go?	我想刷卡。 Wǒ xiǎng shuākǎ I feel like paying with my card.
我的信用卡没钱了。 Wǒ de xìnyòngkǎ méi qiánle. My credit card doesn't have any money.	你有国际信用卡吗? Nǐ yǒu guójì xìnyòngkǎ ma? Do you have an international credit card?

刷卡还是现金? Shuākǎháishì xiànjīn? Do you want to pay with card or cash?	有密码吗? Yǒu mìmǎ ma? Do you have a password?
ATM机在哪儿? ATMjī zài nǎr? Where is the ATM?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Usage of 可以 (kěyǐ)

可以刷卡吗?

Kěyǐ shuākǎ ma?

"Can I use my bankcard?"

可以, *kěyǐ* ("can") is an auxiliary verb that expresses permission or possibility. It's similar to the English auxiliary verb "may." Using 可以 in a question is a very common way to ask for permission. In our dialogue, we see this in the line 可以刷卡吗, *Kěyǐ shuākǎ ma?* ("Can I use my bankcard?") We also use this in the line 我可以休息吗? , *Wǒ kěyǐ xiūxi ma?* ("Can I have a rest?") In both of these questions, we see the 吗 particle being used. We can also reduplicate our auxiliary verb to ask the question as well. An example of this is the question 我可不可以去? , *Wǒ kěbùkěyǐ qù?* ("Can I go there or not?")

Because 可以 is an auxiliary verb, a verb should follow it. For example, look at the sentence 我可以去吗? , *Wǒ kěyǐ qù ma?* ("Can I go there?") The verb 去, *qù* ("to go") follows 可以. Another example is 这里不可以吸烟, *Zhèlǐ bù kěyǐ xīyān*. ("No smoking here.") Note also that our subject goes before 可以 (*kěyǐ*). In the sentence 你可以来, *Nǐ kěyǐ lái* ("You can come."), the subject is 你 (*nǐ*).

If there are prepositions in our sentence, we place 可以 before them, as in the sentence 我可以在这上网, *Wǒ kěyǐ zài zhèlǐ shàngwǎng*. ("I can use Internet here.") 在 (*zài*) in this sentence is a preposition, and 在这里, *zài zhèlǐ* ("at here") is a prepositional phrase we can see following 可以 but coming before our verb. We can also see this pattern in the sentence 我可以从网上买东西, *Wǒ kěyǐ cóng wǎngshàng mǎi dōngxi*. ("I can buy things through the Internet.")

Sentence Pattern:

(subject) + 可以 (kěyǐ) + (verb)

(subject) + 可以 (kěyǐ) + (preposition) + (verb)

Sample Sentences

1. 这里可以刷卡。

Zhèlǐ kěyǐ shuākǎ.

"You can use a bankcard here."

2. 我可以走了吗?

Wǒ kěyǐ zǒu le ma?

"Can I go now?"

3. 这里不可以吸烟。

Zhèlǐ bù kěyǐ xīyān.

"No smoking here."

4. 我可以在这儿休息一下吗?

Wǒ kěyǐ zài zhè xiūxi yíxià ma?

"Can I have a rest here?"

5. 你们不可以从房间里出来。

Nǐmen bù kěyǐ cóng fángjiān lǐ chūlái.

"You are not permitted to come out of the room."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Frugal Spending in China

Chinese people are afraid of spending all their money. They prefer to put their money, or a large part of it, in the bank. This habit arises from the need for stability in an unstable world. One day the family may want to buy an apartment or have a fallback in case they lose their jobs, or experience some unforeseen medical emergency that requires a large upfront fee. If a person always spends his money, he would be thought to squander his money through reckless living. Therefore, most old people have a bankbook at home. And some Chinese banks have products called fixed deposits. If people sign an agreement with the bank to put their money there for ten years, the interest will be much higher than the current deposit. The interest obtained from this long-term deposit, however, is not as high as the rate of inflation.

Young Chinese people prefer bankcards because it is much safer than carrying around a large amount of cash that can be stolen or lost. It is also more convenient to buy things in

department stores or over the Internet with a bankcard. But credit cards are not that popular in China. Chinese people think life without money is not safe, and once you over-drafted, you are in debt—and nobody likes to live in debt because it's not safe. However, university students like to use credit cards. Oftentimes, they use them to buy cell phones or computers and needn't worry they will become bankrupt one day because their parents will eventually bail them out. Teachers in school will tell their students about the risk of using credit cards, and those words may frighten some people away.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #16

The Most Expensive DVD in China

CONTENTS

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

16

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. DVD 多少钱?
2. 8块。
3. 8块? 太贵了!
4. 你想付多少?
5. 6块。
6. 7块怎么样?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. DVD 多少錢?
2. 8塊? 太貴了!
3. 你想付多少?
4. 6塊。
5. 7塊怎麼樣?

PINYIN

1. DVD duō shǎo qián?
2. Bā kuài.

CONT'D OVER

3. Bā kuài ? Tài guì le!
4. Nǐ xiǎng fù duōshǎo?
5. Liù kuài.
6. Qī kuài zěnmeyàng?

ENGLISH

1. How much for a DVD?
2. Eight kuai.
3. Eight kuai? That's really expensive.
4. How much do you want to pay?
5. Six kuai.
6. How about seven kuai?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
多少钱	多少錢	duō shǎo qián	how much money...	phrase
块	塊	kuài	measure word for money	noun
贵	貴	guì	expensive	adjective
便宜	便宜	piányi	cheap	adjective

想	想	xiǎng	to want	verb
付	付	fù	to pay	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这个多少钱? Zhègè duō shǎo qián ? How much money is this one?	十块钱 shí kuài qián ten kuai
五块不贵。 Wǔ kuài bú guì. Five kuai is not expensive.	DVD很便宜 DVD hěn piányi. The DVD is very cheap.
我想要两张。 Wǒ xiǎng yào liǎng zhāng. I want two copies.	你付过钱了? 下次我来。 nǐ fùguò qián le? xiàcì wǒ lái . You paid already? Next time I'll do it.
我付一半。 Wǒ fù yíban. I pay half.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Co-Verb 想 (xiǎng)

你想付多少?

Nǐ xiǎng fù duōshǎo?

"How much do you want to pay?"

想 (xiǎng) is a co-verb that means "to want to." You can only follow it by a verb. For instance, in the dialogue we have 你想付多少? , *Nǐ xiǎng fù duōshǎo?* ("How much do you want to pay?") 想 means "to want to." 付 (fù) is a verb meaning "to pay": 想付 ("to want to pay.")

For another example, we have 我想去, *Wǒ xiǎng qù* ("I want to go there"). 想 is a co-verb preceding the verb 去, *qù* ("to go"). 想去 means "to want to go."

Please note, the 想 with the meaning "to miss" is a verb. It can also be followed by nouns or pronouns. For instance, 我想你。 *Wǒ xiǎng nǐ.* ("I miss you.")

The phrase pattern of 想 ("to want to") is:

想 + verb + (objective).

Sample Sentences

1. 你想要多少?
Nǐ xiǎng yào duōshǎo?
"How much do you want?"
2. 他想吃什么?
Tā xiǎng chī shénme?
"What does he want to eat?"
3. 我想吃四川菜。
Wǒ xiǎng chī sìchuān cài.
"I want to eat Sichuan food."
4. 他们想看电影。
Tāmen xiǎng kàn diànyǐng.
"They want to watch a movie."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese DVDs – Pricey!

Rarely is the price on the price tag the price paid for an item in China. And this is true when buying DVDs from either a shop or a seller on the street. Haggling over prices is expected. The price range for bootleg DVDs ranges anywhere from five to ten kuai per DVD. Some shops offer entire television series, but expect to pay five kuai per disc in the set. If the DVD is genuine however, expect to pay a much higher price.

You can find a wide array of movies to choose from. Most shops sell a large selection of foreign and Chinese-made movies. Often times, the Chinese translations of English movies

are very different and interesting when translated literally. Other times, they are phonetically translated as is the case with *Avatar* with the Chinese translation being 阿凡达 (*ā fán dá*).

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #17

The Chinese Inconvenience Store

CONTENTS

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

17

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你们有烟吗?
2. 没有。
3. 你们有啤酒吗?
4. 没有。
5. 你们有什么?
6. 有方便面。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你們有煙嗎?
2. 沒有。
3. 你們有啤酒嗎?
4. 沒有。
5. 你們有甚麼?
6. 有方便麵。

PINYIN

1. Nǐmen yǒu yān ma?

CONT'D OVER

2. Méiyǒu.
3. Nǐmen yǒu píjiǔ ma?
4. Méiyǒu.
5. Nǐmen yǒu shénme?
6. Yǒu fāngbiànmiàn.

ENGLISH

1. Do you have cigarettes?
2. No.
3. Do you have beer?
4. No.
5. What do you have?
6. We have instant noodles.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
烟	煙	yān	cigarettes	noun
冰红茶	冰紅茶	bīnghóngchá	iced red tea	noun
可乐	可樂	kělè	cola	noun

牛奶	牛奶	niúnnǎi	milk	noun
方便面	方便麵	fāngbiànmìàn	instant noodles	noun
啤酒	啤酒	píjiǔ	beer	noun
土豆片	土豆片	tǔdòu piàn	potato chips	noun
果汁	果汁	guǒzhī	juice	noun
冰绿茶	冰綠茶	bīng lǜchá	iced green tea	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

来一包烟。 Lái yì bāo yān. Bring me a pack of cigarettes.	我想喝冰红茶。 Wǒ xiǎng hē bīng hóngchá. I want to drink iced red tea.
可乐多少钱？ Kělè duō shǎo qián ? How much is the cola?	我要两袋牛奶。 Wǒ yào liǎng dài niúnnǎi. I want two boxes of milk.
给我一包方便面。 Gěi wǒ yì bāo fāngbiànmìàn. Give me a pack of instant noodles.	还要两瓶啤酒。 Hái yào liǎng píng píjiǔ. I also want two bottles of beer.
土豆片好吃。 Tǔdòu piàn hǎochī. Potato chips are tasty.	果汁很好喝。 Guǒzhī hěn hǎohē. Juice tastes really good.
冰绿茶三块。 Bīng lǜchá sān kuài. Iced green tea is 3 kuai.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Verb 有 ("to have")

你们有烟吗?

Nǐmen yǒu yān ma?

"Do you have any cigarettes?"

Yǒu is a verb with multiple functions. We can use it like the English verb "to have" to show ownership or possession. A basic sentence with *yǒu* will consist of a subject (the one who possesses), the verb *yǒu*, and finally the object (the thing that is owned).

Unlike other verbs, *yǒu* is negated by *méi* not by *bù*.

Sample Sentences

1. 你们有烟吗?
Nǐmen yǒu yān ma?
2. 你们有啤酒吗?
Nǐmen yǒu píjiǔ ma?
3. 你们有方便面吗?
Nǐmen yǒu fāngbiànmiàn ma?
4. 这儿有牛奶吗?
Zhèr yǒu niúnnǎi ma?

Sentences where we omit the subject:

1. 有可乐吗?
Yǒu kělè ma?
2. 有冰红茶吗?
Yǒu bīnghóngchá ma?
3. 有冰绿茶吗?
Yǒu bīng lǜchá ma?

Sentences negated with 没有:

1. 我们没有果汁。
Wǒmen méiyǒu guǒzhī.
2. 这儿没有土豆片。
Zhèr méiyǒu tǔdòu piàn.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese 7-11

Located on most street corners in China stands the convenience store, or 小卖部 (*xiǎomàibù*). Inside here, you can find a large selection of beverages, snacks, and cigarettes. It is the Chinese version of the 7-11. While China has a fair number of chain convenience stores, most are still operated as a Mom-Pop joint venture. Many storeowners live in the back of the tiny shops, and raise a family there. Do not be surprised to find the store operator kicking back watching a Chinese soap opera while on the clock. Simply tell them what you want and they will be happy to help.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #18

The Cute Chinese Cat

CONTENTS

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

18

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你的猫真可爱，她叫什么？
2. 她叫咪咪。
3. 咪咪，过来。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你的貓真可愛，她叫甚麼？
2. 她叫咪咪。
3. 咪咪，過來。

PINYIN

1. Nǐ de māo zhēn kě'ài, tā jiào shénme?
2. Tā jiào Mīmi.
3. Mīmi, guòlái.

ENGLISH

1. Your cat is really cute. What is she called?
2. She is called Mimi.

CONT'D OVER

3. Mimi, come here.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
猫	貓	māo	cat	noun
狗	狗	gǒu	dog	noun
金鱼	金魚	jīnyú	koi fish	noun
小猫	小貓	xiǎomāo	kitten	noun
小狗	小狗	xiǎogǒu	puppy	noun
可爱	可愛	kěài	cute	adjective
淘气	淘氣	táoqì	naughty	adjective
乖	乖	guāi	to be well behaved	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我有一只猫。 Wǒ yǒu yì zhī māo. I have one cat	他们家的狗会咬人。 Tāmen jiā de gǒu huì yǎo rén. Their dog bites people.
我养狗。 Wǒ yǎng gǒu. I raise dogs.	他有四条金鱼。 Tā yǒu sì tiáo jīnyú. He has 4 koi fish.
你的小猫多大? Nǐ de xiǎomāo duō dà ? How old is your kitten?	我的小狗一岁。 Wǒ de xiǎogǒu yí suì. My puppy is one year old

它真可爱!

Tā zhēn kě'ài!

It is really cute.

它有点儿淘气。

Tā yǒu diǎnr táoqì.

It is a little naughty.

我的小猫很乖。

Wǒ de xiǎomāo hěn guāi.

My kitten is very well behaved.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 叫, jiào ("to be called")

她叫什么

Tā jiào shénme?

"What is her name?"

The verb 叫 connects our pronoun 我 with our name Mimi. This is the most useful way to introduce either yourself or someone else in Chinese. You can use this structure in both casual and formal situations.

For Example:

1. 她叫什么? 她叫咪咪
Tā jiào shénme? Tā jiào Mīmī
"What is her name? Her name is Mimi."
2. 你的狗叫什么? 她的狗叫汪汪
Nǐ de gǒu jiào shénme? Tā de gǒu jiào wāngwāng
"What is your dog's name? Her name is Wang Wang."
3. 他们的小猫叫西西。你们的小狗叫什么?
Tāmen de xiǎomāo jiào Xīxī. Nǐmen de xiǎogǒu jiào shénme?
"His kitten's name is Xixi. What is your puppy's name?"

Also, you can put "名字 name" in the sentence.

For Example:

1. 她叫什么名字? 她的名字叫小淘气。
Tā jiào shénme míngzì? Tā de míngzì jiào Xiǎotáoqì.
"What name do you call her? Her name is Little Rascal."
2. 你的鱼叫什么名字?
Nǐ de yú jiào shénme míngzì?
"What name do you call your fish?"
3. 我的鸟叫
Polly. Wǒ de niǎo jiào Polly.
"My bird's name is Polly."

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #19

Signing up For Chinese Classes

CONTENTS

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

19

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我要注册。
2. 好，在这儿签字。
3. 哪儿？
4. 这儿。
5. 好，现在呢？
6. 交费。500块钱。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我要註冊。
2. 好，在這兒簽字。
3. 哪兒？
4. 這兒。
5. 好，現在呢？
6. 交費。500塊錢。

PINYIN

1. Wǒ yào zhùcè.

CONT'D OVER

2. Hǎo, zài zhèr qiānzì.
3. Nǎr?
4. Zhèr.
5. Hǎo, xiànzài ne?
6. Jiāofèi. Wǔbǎi kuài qián.

ENGLISH

1. I want to register.
2. Okay, sign here.
3. Where?
4. Just here.
5. Okay. Now what?
6. Pay the fee. Five hundred RMB.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
这儿	這兒	zhèr	here	pronoun
现在	現在	xiànzài	now	adverb
签字	簽字	qiānzì	signature	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我的护照在这儿。 Wǒ de hùzhào zài zhèr. Here is my passport.	现在几点钟？ Xiànzài jǐ diǎnzhōng? What time is it now?
请签字。 Qǐng qiānzì. Please sign your signature.	他在那儿。 Tā zài nàr. He is over there.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Preposition 在 (zài)

在这儿签字

Zài zhèr qiānzì.

"Sign your name here."

In today's grammar point, we are reviewing prepositional phrases. The technical definition of a preposition is a word that we put before a noun or a pronoun to indicate time, place, and direction. In this case, 在 indicates the time or place of an action or situation. In this lesson, we look at five different prepositional phrases:

Chinese	Pinyin	"English"
在 + 这儿	<i>zài zhèr</i>	"at here"
在 + 那儿	<i>zài nàr</i>	"at there"
在 + 哪儿	<i>zài nǎr</i>	"at where"
在 + 上面	<i>zài shàngmiàn</i>	"to be on top"
在 + 下面	<i>zài xiàmiàn</i>	"to be underneath"

In English, we place the preposition at the end of the sentence. In Chinese, we place the prepositional phrase in the front.

For Example:

1. 在这儿写名字。
Zài zhèr xiě míngzì.
"Write your name here."
2. 在那儿填单子。
Zài nàr tián dānzi.
"Fill out the form there."
3. 在上面写英文。
Zài shàngmiàn xiě yīngwén.
"Write English at the top."
4. 在下面写中文。
Zài xiàmiàn xiě Zhōngwén.
"Write Chinese at the bottom."

When asking a question with a prepositional phrase, you can put the subject at the front of the sentence.

For Example:

1. 在哪儿交费?
Zài nǎr jiāofèi?
"Where do I pay the fee?"

Here we can add the pronoun 我们 (*wǒmen*) to the front of the sentence.

For Example:

1. 我们在哪儿交费?
Wǒmen zài nǎr jiāofèi?
2. 你在这儿写名字。
Nǐ zài zhèr xiě míngzì.
"You sign your name here."

3. 他在那儿填单子。
Tā zài nàr tián dānzi.
"She filled out the form there."
4. 我在上面写英文。
Wǒ zài shàngmiàn xiě yīngwén.
"I wrote English at the top."
5. 她在下面写中文。
Tā zài xiàmiàn xiě Zhōngwén.
"She wrote Chinese at the bottom."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Registration

Upon arrival in China, the law states that all foreigners must check in with their local public security bureau within twenty-four hours of arrival. If you are planning to stay in one place for a sustained amount of time, it is a good idea to go down and register at the police station as soon as possible. If you are, however, traveling from city to city for short amounts of time, then it is not exactly necessary to register.

If you are living or working in a Chinese city, you can bring your passport along with your apartment lease to the police station to be registered. Make sure that your visa dates are valid. Other than that, there should not be any problems registering.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #20

Chinese Lover's Quarrel

CONTENTS

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

#20

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 不好意思，我迟到了。
2. 没事。
3. 你带钥匙了吗？
4. 哦，我忘了！

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 不好意思，我遲到了。
2. 沒事。
3. 你帶鑰匙了嗎？
4. 哦，我忘了！

PINYIN

1. Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ chídào le.
2. Méishì.
3. Nǐ dài yàoshi le ma?
4. O, wǒ wàng le!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. I'm sorry, I'm late.
2. It's okay.
3. Do you have the key?
4. Oh, I forgot it.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
不好意思	不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	I'm sorry	expression
迟到	遲到	chídào	to be late	adjective
没事	沒事	méishì	no problem, it's ok	phrase
带	帶	dài	to bring	verb
钥匙	鑰匙	yàoshi	key	noun
忘	忘	wàng	to forget	verb
对不起	對不起	duìbùqǐ	I'm sorry	expression
没关系	沒關係	méiguānxi	It doesn't matter.	expression

SAMPLE SENTENCES

真不好意思！ Zhēn bùhǎoyìsi! I am really sorry.	你又迟到了。 Nǐ yòu chídào le. You're late again.
我没带钱。 Wǒ méi dài qián. I didn't bring any money	他的钥匙丢了。 Tā de yàoshi diūle. He lost his keys.

别忘了带信用卡。
Bié wàng le dài xìnyòngkǎ.

Don't forget to bring your credit card.

对不起，我错了。
Duìbùqǐ, wǒ cuò le.

I'm sorry, I was wrong.

没关系，我们走吧。
Méiguānxi, wǒmen zǒu ba.

It doesn't matter, let's go.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 了 (change of state)

我忘了

Wǒ wàng le

"I forgot."

To indicate a change of state or past tense, we use the aspect 了. We use 了 at the end of sentences to show the emergence of a new situation. We can use this for both adjectives and verbs, and verb object phrases.

For Example:

1. 我迟到了。
Wǒ chídào le.
"I am late."

Before he arrived, he was on his way. But now that he has arrived, there has been a change of state, and now he is officially late.

1. 他的手机坏了
Tā de shǒujī huài le
"His phone is broken."

The phone was working, but now it has changed and is broken.

1. 我的东西丢了
Wǒ de dōngxi diū le
"My thing is lost."

2. 今天冷了
Jīntiān lěng le.
"Today is cold."

So yesterday wasn't cold. And now today the weather has gotten chilly.

Using 了 with a change of state of a verb indicates that the movement has been completed.

For Example:

1. 我忘了
Wǒ wàng le
"I forgot."

I once knew, but now I can't remember

1. 她裤子买了。
Tā kùzi mǎi le.
"She bought the pants."

2. 我吃了。
Wǒ chī le.
"I've eaten."

3. 孩子睡了。
Háizi shuì le.
"The child is asleep."

Verb-Object Change of State Echo: Well, let's go over it right now:

1. 你带钥匙了吗?
"Did you bring the keys?"

2. 我带钱了。
"I brought money."

3. 北京下雪了。
"It is now snowing in Beijing."

It was snowing before, but now it has started to snow.

1. 他有女朋友了。
"He has a girlfriend. "

He was single before. Now he is in a relationship.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Chinese Apology

Depending on the occasion, there are a wide range of apologies and condolences given in the Chinese language. The standard way of saying "I'm sorry" is 对不起 (*duìbùqǐ*). A softer way of saying you are "sorry" or "embarrassed" is 不好意思 (*bùhǎoyìsi*). In responding to both of these apologies, you can say 没事 (*méishì*) or 没关系 (*méiguānxi*). Both of these sayings have the connotation of "No problem" or "It doesn't matter."

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #21

The Missing Boyfriend

CONTENTS

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

21

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 他在哪儿?
2. 谁?
3. 你男朋友。
4. 哦，他经常迟到，我们先点吧。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 他在哪兒?
2. 誰?
3. 你男朋友。
4. 哦，他經常遲到，我們先點吧。

PINYIN

1. Tā zài nǎr?
2. Shéi?
3. Nǐ nán péngyǒu.
4. O, tā jīngcháng chídào, wǒmen xiān diǎn ba.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Where is he?
2. Who?
3. Your boyfriend.
4. Oh. He's often late, we should order first.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
谁	誰	shéi	who	pronoun
点	點	diǎn	to order	verb
先	先	xiān	first	adverb
酷	酷	kù	cool	adjective
经常	經常	jīngcháng	often	adverb
浪漫	浪漫	làngmàn	romantic	adjective
帅	帥	shuài	handsome	adjective
女朋友	女朋友	nǚpéngyǒu	girlfriend	noun
男朋友	男朋友	nánpéngyǒu	boyfriend	noun
可爱	可愛	kěài	cute	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你在等谁? Nǐ zài děng shéi? Who are you waiting for?	可以点了吗? Kěyǐ diǎn le ma? Shall we order?
--	---

你先来。 Nǐ xiān lái. You go first.	他是谁？他真酷。 Tā shì shéi? Tā zhēn kù. Who is he? He is really cool.
他不经常买花。 Tā bù jīngcháng mǎi huā. He doesn't buy flowers often.	那个男人浪漫吗？ Nà gè nánrén làngmàn ma? Is that man romantic?
你的男朋友很帅。 Nǐ de nán péngyǒu hěn shuài. Your boyfriend is very handsome	这是我的女朋友。 Zhè shì wǒ de nǚ péngyǒu. This is my girlfriend.
你有男朋友吗？ Nǐ yǒu nán péngyǒu ma? Do you have a boyfriend?	我喜欢可爱的女孩儿。 Wǒ xǐhuān kě ài de nǚ háiér. I like cute girls.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Adverb 经常 ("Usually")

他经常迟到 *Tā jīngcháng chídào*

"He's usually late."

经常 (*jīngcháng*) is an adverb and it is usually used in the present tense if there's no time word. 经常 is used to mean something happens in a high frequency. 经常 is an adverb so we use it before a verb.

From the dialogue, we had this example: 他经常迟到, *Tā jīngcháng chídào*. ("He is usually late").

More examples include:

- 我经常来这儿。
Wǒ jīngcháng lái zhèr.
"I come here often."

2. 他经常去上海。
Tā jīngcháng qù Shànghǎi.
"He often goes to Shanghai."
3. 他们经常吃中国菜。
Tāmen jīngcháng chī zhōngguó cài.
"They eat Chinese food often."

We can also use it in the past tense and future tense if we include a time word. We place the time word before 经常.

For Example:

1. 我以前经常来这儿。
Wǒ yǐqián jīngcháng lái zhèr.
"Before, I would come here often."
2. 他去年经常去上海。
Tā qùnián jīngcháng qù Shànghǎi.
"Last year he often went to Shanghai."
3. 他们过去经常吃中国菜。
Tāmen guòqù jīngcháng chī zhōngguó cài.
"They often ate Chinese food in the past."

To show frequency in the future tense you will place 会, *huì* ("will") before 经常.

For Example:

1. 我会经常来的。
Wǒ huì jīngcháng lái de.
"I will often come."
2. 他明年会经常去上海的。
Tā míngnián huì jīngcháng qù Shànghǎi de.
"Next year, he will often go to Shanghai."
3. 他们以后会经常吃中国菜的。
Tāmen yǐhòu huì jīngcháng chī zhōngguó cài de.
"Afterwards, they will often eat Chinese food."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ordering at a restaurant can be quite simple provided that the menu has pictures. Often times, the waitress will not bother to bring a menu to a table. If the patrons are Chinese, they will already know what they want or will ask the waitress if the restaurant can make the dish especially for them. After the food is ordered, the dishes will come to the table as they are fully prepared. In the States, individuals order what they want and are given a plate specific to them. In China, food is ordered for the entire table and people can pick what they want from a rotating "Lazy Susan". This also means that if one person arrives late, it will not spoil the evening.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #22

The Chinese Professional

CONTENTS

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

22

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你做什么工作?
2. 我是老师
3. 你教什么?
4. 我教数学和体育。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你做甚麼工作?
2. 我是老師。
3. 你教甚麼?
4. 我教數學和體育。

PINYIN

1. Nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò?
2. Wǒ shì lǎoshī.
3. Nǐ jiāo shénme?
4. Wǒ jiāo shùxué hé tǐyù.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. What job do you do?
2. I am a teacher.
3. What do you teach?
4. I teach math and gym.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
做	做	zuò	to do	verb
工作	工作	gōngzuò	job	noun
老师	老師	lǎoshī	teacher	noun
教	教	jiāo	to teach	verb
数学	數學	shùxué	mathematics	noun
体育	體育	tǐyù	athletics	noun
工程师	工程師	gōngchéngshī	engineer	noun
经理	經理	jīnglǐ	manager	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你做什么工作? Nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò? What job do you do?	我明天起开始我的新工作。 Wǒ míngtiān qǐ kāishǐ wǒ de xīn gōngzuò . My new job starts tomorrow.
我的工作很忙。 Wǒ de gōngzuò hěn máng. My work is very busy.	我是英语老师。 Wǒ shì yīngyǔ lǎoshī. I'm an English teacher.

你教中文吗? Nǐ jiāo zhōngwén ma? Do you teach Chinese?	他是数学教授。 Tā shì shùxué jiàoshòu. He is a math professor.
我是体育老师。 Wǒ shì tǐyù lǎoshī. I am a gym teacher.	我的男朋友是工程师。 Wǒ de nán péngyǒu shì gōngchéngshī. My boyfriend is an engineer.
经理今天不来。 Jīnglǐ jīntiān bù lái. The manager isn't coming today.	他是我的经理。 Tā shì wǒ de jīnglǐ. He is my manager.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 什么, *Shénme* ("What?")

你教什么? *Nǐ jiāo shénme?*

"What do you teach?"

什么 (*Shénme*) is a pronoun used to ask a "what" question. The word order of a Chinese "what" question is very different from English. In English, the word "what" always comes at the beginning but in Chinese the word order of the question will be the same as the answer. We follow this pattern: verb + 什么 (*shénme*). So the question, "What do you teach?" is 你教什么? (*Nǐ jiāo shénme?*), which has the same word order as the answer: 我教数学 ("I teach math"). Note how in the answer 什么 (*shénme*) is replaced by the new information.

For Example:

- 你吃什么?
Nǐ chī shénme?
 "What do you eat?"
- 他要什么?
Tā yào shénme?
 "What does he want?"

3. 还等什么?
Hái děng shénme?
"What are we still waiting for?"
4. 你说什么?
Nǐ shuō shénme?
"What are you saying?"

If we want to put 什么 together with a verb phrase, we should put 什么 in between the verb and its object.: Verb + 什么 (*shénme*) + object.

For Example:

1. 你做什么工作?
Nǐ zuò shénme gōngzuò?
"What job do you do?"
2. 你听什么音乐?
Nǐ tīng shénme yīnyuè?
"What music do you listen to?"
3. 他看了什么电影?
Tā kàn le shénme diànyǐng?
"What movies did he watch?"
4. 中国人唱什么歌?
Zhōngguó rén chàng shénme gē?
"What songs do Chinese people sing?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Working or studying in China?

For many foreigners, one way into China is through educational exchange as a student studying abroad or as a teacher. Many colleges in the US have affiliations with Chinese universities. Along with students, the demand for qualified English teachers in China greatly outweighs the supply. Armed with either a college degree or a TOEFL certificate, it is fairly easy to find a rewarding teaching job. If you decide to come to China to teach or to study, do

your homework. Research online different organizations and programs. Compare costs and see what amenities are provided in the student dorms or teacher's living quarters. If you are coming over for a language exchange or study program you will either be given an F visa for a short-term stay of less than six months or an X visa for more than six months. The visas given out by schools depend on their own rules. Some schools however do not provide visas and ask that you acquire your own tourist L visa. While this works in some cases, it is not recommended. Some schools require you to have at least two years work experience and be aged twenty-five or older before they will issue you a visa. Teacher turnover is a big problem for English schools in China.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #23

The Cheapest way to travel in China

CONTENTS

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

23

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我们怎么去?
2. 坐出租车吧?
3. 出租车太贵了。
4. 地铁呢?
5. 好。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我們怎麼去?
2. 坐出租車吧?
3. 出租車太貴了。
4. 地鐵呢?
5. 好。

PINYIN

1. Wǒmen zěnmē qù?
2. Zuò chūzūchē ba?
3. Chūzūchē tài guì le.

CONT'D OVER

4. Dìtiě ne?

5. Hǎo.

ENGLISH

1. How should we go?

2. How about a taxi?

3. Taxi is too expensive.

4. How about the subway?

5. Okay. Sounds fine.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
自行车	自行車	zìxíngchē	bicycle	noun
坐	坐	zuò	to sit	verb
出租车	出租車	chūzūchē	taxi	noun
走路	走路	zǒulù	to go by foot	verb
地铁	地鐵	dìtiě	subway	noun
公交车	公交車	gōngjiāochē	city bus	noun
开车	開車	kāichē	to drive a car	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我喜欢骑自行车。 Wǒ xǐhuān qí zìxíngchē. I like to ride bikes.	我们坐车去吧。 Wǒmen zuòchē qù ba. How about let's take the bus.
你想坐出租车吗? Nǐ xiǎng zuò chūzūchē ma? Do you feel like taking a taxi?	那里很近，可以走路去。 Nàlǐ hěnjìn, kěyǐ zǒulù qù. The place is close, we can walk there.
地铁很方便。 Dìtiě hěn fāngbiàn. The subway is very convenient.	这儿有公交车吗? Zhèr yǒu gōngjiāochē ma ? Is there a bus here?
你开车来吗? Nǐ kāichē lái ma? Do you drive here?	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 怎么 + verb ("How to Carry Out an Action")
我们怎么去? Wǒmen zěnmē qù?
"How are we going to get there?"

The focus of today's grammar lesson is 怎么 + verb. We use this to ask about how an action took place. From the dialogue, 我们怎么去? Wǒmen zěnmē qù? ("How do we go?")

The present tense formula is 怎么 + verb.

For Example:

- 你怎么上班?
Nǐ zěnmē shàngbān?
"How do you get to work?"
- 他怎么过来?
Tā zěnmē guòlái?
"How does he get here?"

3. 他们怎么去英国?

Tāmen zěnmē qù Yīngguó?

"How are they going to England?"

If we want to use this structure in the past tense, instead of using 了, we use 的 after the verb.

For Example:

1. 他怎么过来的?

Tā zěnmē guòlái de?

"How did he get here?"

2. 他们怎么去英国的?

Tāmen zěnmē qù Yīngguó de?

"How did they go to England?" (What type of travel was used)

3. 这是怎么做的?

Zhè shì zěnmē zuò de?

"How did you cook this?"

4. 老板怎么说的?

Lǎobǎn zěnmē shuō de?

"How did the boss say it?"

5. 你的中文怎么学的?

Nǐ de Zhōngwén zěnmē xué de?

"How did you study Chinese?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Getting Around a Chinese City

In China, there are many options to getting around not only the city but the country itself. Due to the high volume of people, public transit is well-funded reaching every part of the city. You can ride a city bus for around 1 RMB. As of the beginning of 2010, Beijing has nine subway lines in operation servicing four million people every day. By 2015, the city hopes to have fifteen working lines. Another option to getting around town is a taxi. There are several taxi services that operate in most cities. It is wise to collect a receipt after every ride in case a valuable possession goes missing. While traveling in the countryside and in small second and third tier cities, cab drivers may not use their meters. Insist on the taxi drivers using the meters or else walk away.

To drive a car in China is relatively expensive. The car is only the smallest part of the financial equation. Tolls, parking fees, gasoline, and insurance quickly add up digging deep into your wallet. Traffic rules are scant and rule enforcement is lacking. In some cases, a parking spot for a home can cost more than the car itself.

One of the most effective and rewarding ways to getting around town is by bicycle. Many cities offer wide bike lanes for peddlers. These lanes however are often crowded with other cars and vehicles vying for position. It is wise to wear safety gear such as helmets and riding lights. The most important piece of equipment to have on your bicycle is a bell to alert riders of your position.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #24

The Chinese Currency Exchange

CONTENTS

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

#24

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. A.我能换钱吗？
2. B.你要换美元？
3. A.对。
4. B.换成人民币？
5. A.对。
6. B.换多少？
7. A.400美元。
8. B.没问题。

ENGLISH

1. A. Can I change money?
2. B. You want to change your U.S. Dollars?
3. A. Yes.
4. B. Change the money into Renminbi?
5. A. Yes.
6. B. How much do you want to change?
7. A. Four hundred U.S. dollars.
8. B. No problem.

PINYIN

1. A.Wǒ néng huàn qián ma?
2. B.Nǐ yào huàn měiyuán?
3. A.Duì.
4. B.Huàn chéng rénminbì?
5. A.Duì.
6. B.Huàn duōshǎo?
7. A.Sìbǎi měiyuán.
8. B.Méiwèntí.

TRADITIONAL

1. A.我能換錢嗎？
2. B.你要換美元？
3. A.對。
4. B.換成人民幣？
5. A.對。
6. B.換多少？
7. A.400美元。
8. B.沒問題。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
换钱	換錢	huàn qián	to change money	verb phrase
换	換	huàn	to change	verb
换成	換成	huàn chéng	to change into	verb
美元	美元	měiyuán	American money	noun
人民币	人民幣	rénmínbì	Chinese unit of currency	noun
存	存	cún	to save	verb
取	取	qǔ	to withdraw	verb
办	辦	bàn	to set up	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我想换钱。 <i>Wǒ xiǎng huàn qián.</i> I want to exchange money.	换二百欧元。 <i>Huàn èrbǎi ōuyuán.</i> Change 200 Euros.
都换成美元。 <i>Dōu huàn chéng měiyuán.</i> Change it all into American dollars.	一百美元换多少人民币？ <i>Yībǎi měiyuán huàn duōshǎo rénminbì?</i> One hundred American dollars changes into how much Renminbi?
在哪儿换人民币？ <i>Zài nǎr huàn rénminbì?</i> Where can I change Renminbi?	我想存钱。 <i>Wǒ xiǎng cúnqián.</i> I want to save money.
他取了一千块。 <i>Tā qǔ le yìqiān kuài.</i> He withdrew a thousand kuai.	我想办信用卡。 <i>Wǒ xiǎng bàn xìnyòngkǎ.</i> I want to set up a credit card.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 换成, *huàn chéng* ("To Change Into")

换成人民币？ *Huàn chéng rénminbì?*

"Change into Renminbi?"

换成 (*huàn chéng*) is a resultative verb complement that means, "to change one thing into another." For example, 我要换成美元。 *Wǒ yào huàn chéng měiyuán.* ("I want to change it into American dollars.") Here you want to change your original denomination of money into American money.

This works in the formula specifically for 换成 where is 换成 + object/ the object is what you get after 换.

The resultative verb complement 成 means, "to complete." It can be used after different verbs such as 完成, *wánchéng* ("to finish a task"), 吃成, *chī chéng* ("to finish eating"), 看成, *kàn chéng* ("To change in appearance"), or 改成, *gǎichéng* ("To change into").

The formula for using 成 is = verb + 成 + object.

Some examples using 换成:

1. 我想换成大号的。
Wǒ xiǎng huàn chéng dàhào de.
"I want to change to a bigger size."
2. 能换成绿色的吗？
Néng huàn chéng lǜsè de ma?
"Can I change it to a green color?"
3. 我要换成澳元。
Wǒ yào huàn chéng àoyuán.
"I want to change it into Australian dollars. "

You can use other verbs with 成.

For Example:

1. 请你改成对的。
Qǐng nǐ gǎichéng duì de.
"Please change it into the right one."
2. 这个改成中文。
Zhègè gǎichéng Zhōngwén.
1. 那里改成"一"。
Nàlǐ gǎichéng "yī."
"Change that into "one"."

You can always use 成 with 把.

For Example:

1. 我把它看成猫了。
Wǒ bǎ tā kàn chéng māo le.
"I thought that thing was a cat."
2. 他把那个人看成我了。
Tā bǎ nàgè rén kàn chéng wǒ le.
"He thought that person was me."
3. 我把这个字看成别的了。
Wǒ bǎ zhègè zì kàn chéng bié de le.
"I saw this character change into another one."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Currency

The national currency in China is the 人民币 (*rénmínbì*). The Chinese currency is printed by the 中国人民银行 (*Zhōngguó Rénmín Yínháng*), or "The People's Bank of China." The latest series of the notes began in 1999. The latest series predominantly features 毛泽东, *Máo Zédōng* ("Chairman Mao") on the cover of all denominations from ¥1 to ¥100. Before 2005, the RMB was pegged to the US dollar. On July 21, 2005, the peg was lifted. As of 2010, the exchange rate between the *renminbi* and the US dollar is 6.8 *renminbi* to one USD.

In China, counterfeit money is a national concern. When paying with fifty *yuan* or one hundred *yuan* notes, most vendors will check for tell-tale signs of fake currency. To test if the bill is real, rub the bill in between your fingers. If you notice any discoloration in the bill, you may have a fake.

LESSON NOTES

Beginner S2 #25

Caught Red Handed

CONTENTS

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

25

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. A.喂，Chris在吗？
2. B.您是？
3. A.我是他女朋友。
4. B.你打错了。
5. A.打错了？不可能！
6. B.这里只有我老公叫Chris。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. A.喂，Chris在嗎？
2. B.您是？
3. A.我是他女朋友。
4. B.你打錯了。
5. A.打錯了？不可能！
6. B.這裡只有我老公叫Chris。

PINYIN

1. A.Wéi, Chris zài ma?

CONT'D OVER

2. B.Nín shì?
3. A.Wǒ shì tā nǚpéngyǒu.
4. B.Nǐ dǎcuò le
5. A.Dǎcuò le ? Bù kěnéng!
6. B.Zhèlǐ zhǐyǒu wǒ lǎogōng jiào Chris.

ENGLISH

1. A. Hello, is Chris available?
2. B. And who are you?
3. A. I'm his girlfriend.
4. B. You dialed the wrong number.
5. A. Wrong number? Impossible!
6. B. The only person by the name of Chris is my husband!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
喂	喂	wéi	hello	modal particle
在	在	zài	to be at	proposition
找	找	zhǎo	to look for	verb

打错了	打錯了	dǎcuò le	to dial the wrong number	phrase
打不通	打不通	dǎ bù tōng	to ring unsuccessfully	phrase
没电了	沒電了	méidiàn le	to be out of power	phrase
信号	信號	xìn hào	reception	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

请问李先生在吗? Qǐngwèn Lǐ xiānsheng zài ma? Excuse me, is Mr. Li here?	我来找牛奶, 你去找面包, 我们在收银台会合。 wǒ lái zhǎo niú nǎi , nǐ qù zhǎo miànbāo , wǒmen zài shōuyíntái huìhé . I will look for the milk; you look for the bread, and meet me at the cash register.
我找李先生。 Wǒ zhǎo Lǐ xiānsheng. I am looking for Mr. Li.	不好意思, 你打错了。 Bùhǎoyìsi, nǐ dǎcuò le. I am sorry, you dialed the wrong number.
他的电话打不通。 Tā de diànhuà dǎ bù tōng. His phone rang and rang.	对不起, 我的手机没电了。 Duìbùqǐ, wǒ de shǒujī méidiàn le. I am sorry, but my phone is out of battery.
信号不好, 我听不见。 Xìn hào bù hǎo, wǒ tīngbújiàn. The reception is poor. I can't hear you.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 只有, zhǐyǒu ("Only to Have")

这里只有我老公叫 Chris, Zhèlǐ zhǐyǒu wǒ lǎogōng jiào Chris.

"The only person here by the name of Chris is my husband."

只有 is an adverb phrase. *zhǐyǒu* means "only," and you can look at it as 只+有. From the dialogue, 这里只有我老公叫Chris, *Zhèlǐ zhǐyǒu wǒ lǎogōng jiào Chris*. ("The only person here by the name of Chris is my husband.") Here we use 只有 as emphasis to point out that only HER husband's name is Chris.

For Example:

1. 这里只有我会中文。
Zhèlǐ zhǐyǒu wǒ huì Zhōngwén.
"I'm the only one who knows Chinese here."
2. 那家公司只有三个人。
Nà jiā gōngsī zhǐyǒu sān gè rén.
"That company only has three employees."
3. 便宜点儿吧, 我只有两块。
Piányì diǎnr ba, wǒ zhǐyǒu liǎng kuài.
"A little cheaper. I only have two kuai."

We never place verbs after 只有. Only nouns or noun phrases may follow 只有.

For Example:

1. 他只有一个女儿。
Tā zhǐyǒu yí gè nǚér.
"He only has one daughter."
2. 我只有一个问题。
Wǒ zhǐyǒu yí gè wèntí.
"I only have one question."
3. 菜单上只有中文。
Càidān shàng zhǐyǒu Zhōngwén.
"The menu only has Chinese."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The cell phone is the centerpiece of daily life for most people in China. The device is almost never far out of reach and is usually in the palm of the hand even when not in use. As of December 2009, there are over 747 million mobile phone users in China compared to only 275 million in the United States. This is an extraordinary number that has mobile device companies drooling.

The types and prices of cell phones available vary in price and quality. Most major brands are available in the Chinese market, from Nokia, to Samsung and Motorola. One issue in China today is the battle over intellectual property rights. An oft-pirated design in China is that of the iPhone. Many replicas are available in grey markets and you can sometimes find knock off brands in shop stalls at the electronics market. Cell phone minutes are based on credits. There are no contracts to sign and you can easily switch SIM cards from the three major telecommunication companies in China between phones. If you are coming to China for a short period of time, you will find it easy to get your hands on a cheap and reliable phone that will last you your trip or even a prolonged stay in the country.



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