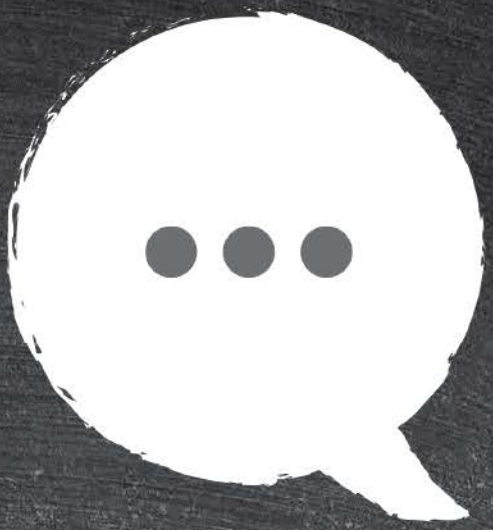
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LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #1
Chinese Study Abroad

CONTENTS

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

1

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 秦: 妈妈，毕业了我想出国留学。
2. 小樱: 什么？你应该马上工作。
3. 秦: 我觉得机会难得，我应该出国深造。
4. 小樱: 你已经很优秀了，而且，我们也没有那么多钱呀！
5. 秦: 你同意也好，不同意也好，我已经报名参加托福考试了，我会争取拿到全额奖学金的！

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 秦: 媽媽，畢業了我想出國留學。
2. 小櫻: 什麼？你應該馬上工作。
3. 秦: 我覺得機會難得，我應該出國深造。
4. 小櫻: 你已經很優秀了，而且，我們也沒有那麼多錢呀！
5. 秦: 你同意也好，不同意也好，我已經報名參加托福考試了，我會爭取拿到全額獎學金的！

PINYIN

1. QÍN: Māma, bìyè le wǒ xiǎng chūguó liúxué.
2. XIǍO YĪNG: Shénme? Nǐ yīnggāi mǎshàng gōngzuò.

CONT'D OVER

3. QÍN: Wǒ juéde jīhuì nándé, wǒ yīnggāi chūguó shēnzào.

4. XIǍO YĪNG: Nǐ yǐjīng hěn yōuxiù le, érqiě, wǒmen yě méiyǒu nàme duō qián ya!

5. QÍN: Nǐ tóngyì yě hǎo, bù tóngyì yě hǎo, wǒ yǐjīng bàomíng cānjiā tuōfú kǎoshì le, wǒ huì zhēngqǔ nádào quánéjiǎngxuéjīn de!

ENGLISH

1. QIN: Mother, now that I've graduated I want to study abroad.

2. XIAO YING: What? You should start working right away.

3. QIN: I think opportunities will be hard to come by. I should go abroad to deepen my education.

4. XIAO YING: You're already quite exceptional, and we don't have that much money either.

5. QIN: Whether you agree or not doesn't matter. I've already registered to take the TOEFL exam. I'll try my best to get the full scholarship.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
毕业	畢業	bìyè	to graduate	verb
优秀	優秀	yōuxiù	outstanding	adjective
奖学金	獎學金	jiǎngxuéjīn	scholarship	noun
全额	全額	quáné	total amount	adjective
参加	參加	cānjiā	to participate	verb

报名	報名	bàomíng	to register, to sign up	verb
深造	深造	shēnzào	to deepen one's knowledge	verb
留学	留學	liúxué	to study abroad	verb
出国	出國	chūguó	to leave the country	verb
争取	爭取	zhēngqǔ	to struggle (to do something)	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他毕业以后出国留学了。 Tā bìyè yǐhòu chūguó liúxué le. After graduation, he left the country to study abroad.	我的毕业论文是优秀。 Wǒ de bìyè lùnwén shì yōuxiù. My graduation dissertation was outstanding.
到现在我还没有拿到过奖学金。 Dào xiànzài wǒ hái méiyǒu nádào guò jiǎngxuéjīn. Up to this day, I still haven't received a scholarship.	他拿到了名校的全额奖学金。 Tā ná dào le míngxiào de quáné jiǎngxuéjīn. He received a full scholarship from a famous university.
我上个周末参加了研究生考试。 Wǒ shànggè zhōumò cānjiā le yánjiūshēng kǎoshì. Last weekend, I participated in the graduate student exam.	你报名参加研究生考试了吗? Nǐ bàomíng cānjiā yánjiūshēng kǎoshì le ma? Have you registered to take the graduate student exam?
我最近在找机会出去深造。 Wǒ zuìjìn zài zhǎo jīhuì chūqù shēnzào. Lately, I've been looking for opportunities to deepen my knowledge abroad.	对于中国学生来说，出国留学是个不错的想法。 Duìyú zhōngguó xuésheng láishuō, chūguó liúxué shì ge bùcuò de xiǎngfǎ. For Chinese students, studying abroad is a good idea.

他在外企工作，所以经常出国。 Tā zài wàiqǐ gōngzuò, suǒyǐ jīngcháng chūguó. He works at an international company, so he often leaves the country.	我争取快点儿写完这篇论文。 Wǒ zhēngqǔ kuài diǎnr xiěwán zhè piān lùnwén. I struggled to write my dissertation faster.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Multiple Options (they're good!)
你同意也好，不同意也好，我已经报名参加托福考试了。
"You can agree or not, I've already enrolled to take the TOEFL exam"

Our grammar point for this lesson introduces the **...也好...也好** pattern. In our dialogue, we see this in the following sentence:

你同意也好，不同意也好，我已经报名参加托福考试了.
Nǐ tóngyì yě hǎo, bù tóngyì yě hǎo, wǒ yǐjīng bàomíng cānjiā tuōfú kǎoshì le.
"Whether you agree or not, I've already enrolled to take the TOEFL exam."

What the speaker is literally saying is that each of the two options presented is fine before making a statement about the choice itself.

Grammar Pattern:

Verb Phrase + 也好 + Verb Phrase + 也好,
Noun Phrase + 也好 + Noun Phrase + 也好,
Adjective Phrase + 也好 + Adjective Phrase + 也好.

There are two useful things to note about this grammar pattern. The first is the extreme flexibility of this grammar pattern. As you can see from the section above, the two options we present using this pattern can be courses of action (verbs), objects (nouns), or descriptions of implied people or objects. As long as both phrases use the same part of speech, our sentence will be grammatically correct.

The second and more subtle thing to note about this pattern is that we are not presenting two options so much as commenting on the situation that surrounds them. Consider the following sentence, which might be given by an employer seeking to hire a recent graduate:

研究生也好，本科生也好，无所谓.
Yánjiūshēng yě hǎo, běnkēshēng yě hǎo, wúsuǒwèi.

"A graduate student is fine, an undergraduate is fine too. I don't really care."

Or consider again the sentence:

出国也好，留在国内也好，我听你的.
Chūguó yě hǎo, liú zài guónèi yě hǎo, wǒ tīng nǐ de.
"I can either study abroad or stay at home, it's up to you."

In both of these cases, as with the sentence in our dialogue, this critical final clause colors our interpretation of the two choices and influences how we should understand them.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Studying Abroad for Chinese

For most Chinese students, being able to study abroad is a dream. Starting as soon as preschool, students engage in rigorous English studies in the hope that one day they will be able to study higher education abroad, and in return, find a high-paying job. One of the biggest determinants in being able to study abroad is an English proficiency exam. There are a couple of different exams that are given depending on where and what you want to study. One such test is the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). This serves as an admissions requirement for many English-speaking universities. Another common proficiency test is IELTS (International English Language Testing System). Britain, Australia, and Canada sponsor this test. For most of these standardized tests, reading, writing, listening comprehension, and spoken modules are given. While students have ample experience in reading and writing, they still lag behind in oral and listening. This is largely due to the fact that there are few chances for students to practice spoken English with native English speakers. In most elementary and high schools, a non-native English speaker teaches English.

Comparing both the IELTS and TOEFL, some sources say that IELTS is relatively easier. The spoken portion of the IELTS test is given face to face with a real person, whereas the TOEFL test is proctored using a machine.

In China, many companies have set their business model to cater solely to the standardized English testing market. Companies such as New Oriental and Wall Street English are well-known for having well-developed English training methods. Along with large corporations, small start-up businesses have flooded the market. The demand for English testing education is extremely high in China. On average, students who want to study abroad will begin preparing for the exams one to two years beforehand.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #2
I May Just Be Anorexic

CONTENTS

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

#2

SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你中午想吃什么？
2. 不吃。我只吃早餐。
3. 为什么？
4. 我最近在节食减肥。
5. 你还要减肥？你明明就瘦得不得了。
6. 不！我胖得不得了！
7. 哪里？
8. 哪里都是。
9. 你有40公斤吗？
10. 39。但我的目标是30公斤！

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你中午想吃甚麼？
2. 不吃。我只吃早餐。
3. 為甚麼？
4. 我最近在節食減肥。
5. 你還要減肥？你明明就瘦得不得了。
6. 不！我胖得不得了！
7. 哪裡？
8. 哪裡都是。
9. 你有40公斤嗎？
10. 39。但我的目標是30公斤！

ENGLISH

1. What are you having for lunch?
2. I'm not eating. I just eat breakfast.
3. Why?
4. Lately, I've been on a diet.
5. You're still dieting? You're really pretty thin.
6. No! I'm really very fat!
7. Where?
8. Everywhere!
9. Are you even forty kilgrams?
10. I'm thirty-nine. But my goal is to be thirty kilograms!

PINYIN

1. nǐ zhōngwǔ xiǎng chī shénme?
2. bù chī. wǒ zhǐ chī zǎocān.
3. wèishénme?
4. wǒ zuìjìn zài jiéshí jiǎnféi.
5. nǐ hái yào jiǎnféi? nǐ míngmíng jiù shòu de bùdeliǎo.
6. bù! wǒ pàng de bùdeliǎo!
7. nǎlǐ?
8. nǎlǐ dōu shì.
9. nǐ yǒu sìshí gōngjīn ma?
10. sānshíjiǔ. dàn wǒ de mùbiāo shì sānshí gōngjīn!

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
减肥	減肥	jiǎnféi	to lose weight	verb
不得了	不得了	bùdéliǎo	really	adverb
健身房	健身房	jiànshēnfáng	gym	noun
瘦	瘦	shòu	thin	adjective
胖	胖	pàng	fat	adjective
狂吃	狂吃	kuáng chī	to eat a lot	verb
过胖	過胖	guò pàng	overweight	adjective
骨感	骨感	gǔ gǎn	bony	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

喝普洱茶能减肥。 *Hē pǔ'ěr chá néng jiǎnféi.* Drinking Pu'er Tea can help you lose weight.	我不吃减肥药。 *wǒ bù chī jiǎnféi yào.* I don't eat weight loss pills.
我太胖了，我要减肥。 *Wǒ tài pàng le, wǒ yào jiǎnféi.* I'm too fat. I want to lose weight.	他最近忙得不得了。 *tā zuìjìn máng de bùdeliǎo.* He's been really busy lately.
我胖了，所以我要去健身房锻炼。 *wǒ pàng le, suǒyǐ wǒ yào qù jiànshēnfáng duànliàn.* I've gained weight, so I need to go to the gym to work out.	她真瘦。 *Tā zhēn shòu.* She's really thin.
我两个星期长胖了六斤! *wǒ liǎng ge xīngqī zhǎng pàng le liù jīn !* I gain 3 kilograms in the last two weeks.	他一直狂吃。 *tā yīzhí kuáng chī.* He's been eating like a mad man.
过胖对身体不好。 *guò pàng duì shēntǐ bù hǎo.* Being overweight is bad for your health.	现在流行骨感女孩。 *xiànzài liúxíng gǔ gǎn nǚhái.* Nowadays bony girls are popular.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 不得了
你还要减肥？你明明就瘦得不得了。
"You want to lose more weight? You're already really, really thin."

We use 不得了 (*bùdeliǎo*) to add emphasis to the adjective which precedes it. It is a curious beast. Consider the sentence 他高兴得不得了, *tā gāoxìng de bùdeliǎo.* ("He is very excited.") Grammatically, we use 不得了as a complement for the adjective 高兴. Literally, our subject is excited to the extent of being不得了 ("really"). This is a very colloquial grammar pattern. For another example, consider the common complaint that 我的工作多得不得了, *wǒ de gōngzuò duō de bùdéliǎo.* ("I've got a ton of work.") Literally, my work is so much that it is 不得了 ("really").

If you've come up through our progressive lesson series, this sentence structure will strike you as strange. For one, note the absence of any Chinese adverb of degree like 很 ("very") or 太 ("too") preceding our adjective. Instead, 不得了 seems to be playing the role of a verb complement, while our adjective has somehow morphed into a verb. But aren't verbs the only parts of speech that can take complements? In fact, in Chinese, all adjectives are technically verbs at heart. Depending on the textbook you use, you may have even run into them referred to by the term "stative verb." This insight gives us the key to understanding how to use 不得了.

Grammar Pattern:

Subject + Adjective + 得 + 不得了
Subject + Verb + 得 + 不得了

On a closing note, do not confuse the 不得了 grammar pattern we discussed above with the phrase 不得了了, *bùdéliǎo le* ("really awful"). You'll hear this expression from people when they're bemoaning something awful that has happened suddenly and unexpectedly. It is something you might hear people say, for instance, if they arrive home and find their house on fire. We can also use the term as a standalone verb, as with the sentence 他现在可不得了了, *tā xiànzài kě bùdéliǎo le.* ("He's really impressive.") In this sentence, our speaker is expressing disapproval of the subject, while also admitting that they have succeeded at something challenging. You could use this may to describe a corrupt official, for instance.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Thinking of Shedding Some Pounds in China?

Planning to lose weight in China? In an effort to help out, we conducted a casual survey of everyone in our office in order to find out the real Chinese dieting secrets you need to know to shed those last few pounds.

When we asked Nicole for her advice on how to lose weight, she suggested working while standing up. "If you sit at your keyboard all day," she mentioned, "you're not spending as much energy as if you're up and moving around." Nicole has put this dieting philosophy into practice, and is also the only person we know who recommends simply not eating. "You have to drink lots of water," she says, "but this isn't that unhealthy if you only do it for a week or so." On seeing the looks of horror on the faces of her colleagues, Nicole insists that dieting "is all about self-discipline!" If your diet isn't working, she recommends you just diet harder.

In contrast, Gail takes a more conventional approach, recommending everyone pick up an exercise routine. "Exercise is the most effective way to lose weight," she says, "and happens to be the healthiest too. And when you've finished dieting, exercise is the only way to keep the pounds off." Although she is particularly fond of Yoga, Gail also recommends swimming to fellow dieters. She adds that acupuncture sometimes works, but unreliably. And she disagrees strongly with Nicole's recommendation to simply not eat. "Don't do that," she insists. "Maybe you can get away with it for a day or two, but anything longer than that is harmful."

The rest our office was less helpful. Brendan did report hearing rumors of success for drinkers of dieting tea, known in China as 减肥茶, *jiǎnféi chá* ("weight-loss tea"). "This tastes awful," he claims, "but my girlfriend swears by it." Gail mentioned that she'd heard of the stuff, but was skeptical of its usefulness. "It takes off weight in all the wrong places," she points out. "If you're a woman, you'll lose weight everywhere you don't want to and keep it on everywhere else." We've yet to hear of anyone succeeding through the skillful application of dieting tea, but if you're curious, you can always try asking for it by name.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #3 Questions of Marriage

CONTENTS

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

3

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 女儿: 爸爸，你觉得我男朋友怎么样啊?
2. 爸爸: 这个问题很复杂…
3. 女儿: 有多复杂?
4. 爸爸: 一方面，他很有礼貌，很有风度，也很有钱。起码比你爸我有钱多了。
5. 女儿: 另一方面呢?
6. 爸爸: 另一方面，他…也比你爸我老多了…
7. 女儿: 所以…?
8. 爸爸: 所以赶紧结婚吧!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 女兒: 爸爸，你覺得我男朋友怎麼樣啊?
2. 爸爸: 這個問題很複雜…
3. 女兒: 有多複雜?
4. 爸爸: 一方面，他很有禮貌，很有風度，也很有錢。起碼比你爸我有錢多了。
5. 女兒: 另一方面呢?

CONT'D OVER

6. 爸爸: 另一方面，他...也比你爸我老多了...

7. 女兒: 所以.....?

8. 爸爸: 所以趕緊結婚吧!

PINYIN

1. NǙÉR: bàba, nǐ juéde wǒ nánpéngyou zěnmeyàng a?

2. BÀBA: zhège wèntí hěn fùzá...

3. NǙÉR: yǒu duō fùzá?

4. BÀBA: yī fāngmiàn, tā hěn yǒu lǐmào, hěn yǒu fēngdù, yě hěn yǒu qián. qǐmǎ bǐ nǐ bà wǒ yǒu qián duō le.

5. NǙÉR: lìng yī fāngmiàn ne?

6. BÀBA: lìng yī fāngmiàn, tā ...yě bǐ nǐ bà wǒ lǎo duō le ...

7. NǙÉR: suǒyǐ ...?

8. BÀBA: suǒyǐ gǎnjǐn jiéhūn ba!

ENGLISH

1. DAUGHTER: Daddy, what do you think of my boyfriend?

2. FATHER: This is a complex question....

CONT'D OVER

3. DAUGHTER: What's complex about it?

4. FATHER: On the one side, he's polite, cultured, and rich. Much richer than me, in fact.

5. DAUGHTER: And on the other?

6. FATHER: On the other side, he...he's a lot older than me too.

7. DAUGHTER: So?

8. FATHER: So you should marry him A.S.A.P.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
觉得	覺得	juéde	to feel	verb
复杂	複雜	fùzá	complex	adjective
方面	方面	fāngmiàn	side	noun
礼貌	禮貌	lǐmào	polite	adjective
风度	風度	fēngdù	cultured, a graceful bearing	noun
有钱	有錢	yǒu qián	to be rich	adjective
孝顺	孝順	xiàoshùn	filial	adjective
结婚	結婚	jiéhūn	to marry	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我觉得她长得很漂亮。 wǒ juéde tā zhǎng de hěn piàoliang. I think she's very beautiful.	这件事情很复杂。 Zhè jiàn shìqing hěn fù zá 。 This matter is very complex.
一方面我不想做這個工作，但另一方面我又沒能力做別的工作。 yīfāngmiàn wǒ bù xiǎng zuò zhège gōngzuò, dàn lìngyīfāngmiàn wǒ yòu méi nénglì zuò biéde gōngzuò. I don't want to do this work, but I don't have the ability to do anything else.	他对人很有礼貌，但是不够诚实。 tā duì rén hěnyǒu lǐmào, dànshì bù gòu chéngshí. He is very polite to others, but not sincere enough.
那位男士很有风度，我们都很欣赏他。 nà wèi nánshì hěnyǒu fēngdù, wǒmen dōu hěn xīnshǎng tā. That gentleman has a graceful bearing. We all really appreciate him.	等我有钱了就买一套大房子。 děng wǒ yǒu qián le jiù mǎi yī tào dà fángzǐ. I'll buy a big house when I'm rich.
他是个很孝顺的孩子。 tā shì ge hěn xiàoshùn de háizi. He is a very filial son.	你们什么时候结婚? nǐmen shénme shíhòu jiéhūn? When are you two getting married?

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is on Being Even-Handed

一方面，他很有礼貌. 另一方面....

"On the one hand, he's very polite. On the other hand...."

一方面...另**一方面**, ... *yī fāngmiàn... lìng yī fāngmiàn* ("on the one hand...on the other...") is a sentence pattern we use to connect two potentially unrelated observations and link them together in support of some observation, or even when equivocating between two choices. The basic pattern consists of *一方面* followed by the first clause (or point to be discussed), and then *另一方面* followed by the second clause (or point to be discussed). It's typical to omit the subject of the second clause, in which case it is understood to be the same as that of the first clause.

It is easiest to translate this into English literally using the phrase "on the one side...on the other." The only problem with this approach is that the Chinese pattern is slightly more flexible than its English counterpart would suggest. As you can see from the example sentences below, the two points we raise do not actually need to suggest alternating conclusions. Nor does use of this pattern suggest that someone is torn between two options. Our two points (or sides) can support the same conclusion! For example, "On the one side, he's rich; on the other, I love him. So let's get married!"

Sentence Pattern:

一方面 + (clause one) + 另一方面 + (clause two)

Sample Sentences

---

1. 一方面我不想去，另一方面我也没有时间
   yīfāngmiàn wǒ bù xiǎng qù, lìngyīfāngmiàn wǒ yě méiyǒu shíjiān
   "On the one hand, I don't want to go; on the other, I don't have the time either."

2. 一方面他很想去，另一方面他又没有时间
   yīfāngmiàn tā hěn xiǎng qù, lìngyīfāngmiàn tā yòu méiyǒu shíjiān
   "On the one hand, he wants to go; but on the other, he doesn't have the time."

3. 这个问题一方面不好解决，另一方面解决了也没什么用
   zhège wèntí yī fāngmiàn bù hǎo jiějué, lìng yī fāngmiàn jiějué le yě méi shénme yòng
   "This question is not only difficult to resolve, but solving it isn't any use."

4. 这套衣服一方面不太好看，另一方面也太贵了
   zhè tào yīfu yīfāngmiàn bù tài hǎokàn, lìng yī fāngmiàn yě tài guì le
   "This suit of clothing is not very good looking, and also very expensive."

5. 他一方面不满意现在的生活，另一方面又不肯努力工作
   tā yī fāngmiàn bù mǎnyì xiànzài de shēnghuó, lìng yī fāngmiàn yòu bù kěn nǔlì gōngzuò
   "On the one hand, he isn't content with his current life, but then he's not willing to work hard either."

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #4
The Life Aquatic

CONTENTS

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

#4

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 师父 : 就是现在！砍下去！
2. 徒弟 : ...等等！如果它死了怎么办？
3. 师父 : 那我们的任务就完成了。快！
4. 徒弟 : 那它会不会很痛苦？
5. 师父 : 所以你下手要快狠准！
6. 徒弟 : 要是它死了之后回来要我的命怎么办？
7. 师父 : 你要是再不下手，我现在就要你的命！
8. 徒弟 : 那如果...
9. 师父 : 快！只不过是条小鱼！

ENGLISH

1. Master : Now! Cut!
2. Student : ...Hold on! What if he dies?
3. Master : Then our mission will be complete. Quick!
4. Student : Will he be in serious pain?
5. Master : That's why it needs to be quick, ruthless, and accurate.
6. Student : What if he dies and comes back for my life?
7. Master : If you don't take his life now, I will take your life.
8. Student : Then what if...
9. Master : Quick! It's just a small fish!

PINYIN

1. shīfu : jiùshì xiànzài! kǎn xiàqu !
2. túdì : ...děngdeng! rúguǒ tā sǐ le zěnmebàn?
3. shīfu : nà wǒmen de rènwu jiù wánchéng le. kuài!
4. túdi : nà tā huìbuhuì hěn tòngkǔ?
5. shīfu : suǒyǐ nǐ xiàshǒu yào kuài hěn zhǔn!
6. túdi : yàoshi tā sǐ le zhīhòu huílai yào wǒ de mìng zěnmebàn?
7. shīfu : nǐ yàoshi zài bù xiàshǒu, wǒ xiànzài jiù yào nǐ de mìng!
8. túdi : nà rúguǒ ...
9. shīfu : kuài! zhǐ bùguò shì tiáo xiǎoyú!

TRADITIONAL

1. 師父 : 就是現在！砍下去！
2. 徒弟 : ...等等！如果它死了怎麼辦？
3. 師父 : 那我們的任務就完成了。快！
4. 徒弟 : 那它會不會很痛苦？
5. 師父 : 所以你下手要快狠准！
6. 徒弟 : 要是它死了之後回來要我的命怎麼辦？
7. 師父 : 你要是再不下手，我現在就要你的命！
8. 徒弟 : 那如果...
9. 師父 : 快！只不過是條小魚！

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
砍	砍	kǎn	to cut down	verb
任务	任務	rènwù	duty	noun
完成	完成	wánchéng	to finish	verb
痛苦	痛苦	tòngkǔ	pain	noun
狠	狠	hěn	ruthless	adjective
准	準	zhǔn	accurate	adjective
要命	要命	yàomìng	to take someone's life	phrase
只不过	只不過	zhǐbùguò	it's only that...	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他被疯子砍了两刀。 *tā bèi fēngzi kǎn le liǎng dāo.* He was stabbed twice by the madman.	如果完不成任务，我就不下班。 *rúguǒ wánbùchéng rènwu, wǒ jiù bù xiàbān.* If I can't finish my task, I won't leave the office.
今天的工作很轻松，很快就完成了。 *jīntiān de gōngzuò hěn qīngsōng, hěn kuài jiù wánchéng le.* Today's work was very easy, and I completed it quickly.	她刚刚分手，觉得很痛苦。 *tā gānggāng fēnshǒu, juéde hěn tòngkǔ.* She just broke up and feels pain.
他切菜切得快狠准。 *tā qiēcài qiē de kuài hěn zhǔn.* He cuts food fast, ruthlessly, and accurately.	他切菜切得快很准。 *tā qiē cài qiē de kuài hěn zhǔn 。* He cuts food fast ,ruthlessly and accurately.
如果我不好好学习，老师会要了我的命的。 *rúguǒ wǒ bù hǎohāo xuéxí, lǎoshī huì yào le wǒ de mìng de.* If I don't study hard, the teacher will kill me.	怕什么，只不过是只熊。 *pà shénme, zhǐbùguò shì zhī xióng.* What are you afraid of? It's only a bear.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is On Ways to Say, "If"
要是它死了之后回来要我的命怎么办？
"What if it comes back to kill me after it's dead?"

The focus of our lesson today is reviewing a number of different ways to say "if." We've covered some of these in previous lessons, but have never brought them together into one place. So today, we do exactly that. As you may remember from previous lessons, the easiest and most intuitive way to structure an "if" sentence is by using the 如果...就..., *rúguǒ.. jiù...* ("if...then...") pattern. This sentence pattern is quite close to its English counterpart. We begin our first clause with 如果 ("if"), and begin our second clause with 就 ("then").

In our dialogue, we see an abbreviated form of this pattern: two sentences that include如果 but omit the 就. The first case of this is in the line 如果它死了怎么办, *rúguǒ tā sǐ le zěnme bàn* ("What will we do if it dies?"). Another longer example might be 如果我能回答你的问题，我一定会回答的, *rúguǒ wǒ néng huídá nǐ de wèntí, wǒ yīdìng huì huídá de.* ("If I can answer your question, I will definitely answer.") Note the way the conditional nature of the second clause is implied rather than stated outright. Another variant of this pattern that is quite common is including 的话 (*de huà*) at the end of the first conditional statement. An example is the sentence 如果你想解决问题的话，去找他道歉, *rúguǒ nǐ xiǎng jiějué wèntí dehuà, qù zhǎo tā dàoqiàn.* ("If you want to solve the problem, go and apologize to him.")

Note: the subject for the second clause we assume to be the same as for the first clause unless we explicitly provide it.

The second most common way to structure an "if" sentence is with the word 要是 ("if"). We see this in the dialogue in the following line: 要是它死了之后回来要我的命怎么办, *yàoshi tā sǐ le zhīhòu huílai yào wǒ de mìng zěnme bàn* ("What if it comes to kill me after it's dead?") 要是 can always replace 如果.

Sentence Pattern:

(subject) + 如果 + (clause one) + [的话] + [subject] + [就] + (clause two)
如果 + (subject) + (clause one) + [的话] + [subject] + [就] + (clause two)

(subject) + 要是 + (clause one) + [的话] + [subject] + [就] + (clause two)
要是 + (subject) + (clause one) + [的话] + [subject] + [就] + (clause two)

CULTURAL INSIGHT

A Fishy Experience in China

In China, it's common for restaurants to serve fish fresh. And we mean extremely fresh. Most restaurants in major cities that serve seafood will keep large tanks of fish inside lined up against one of the walls. This serves not only as decoration (and good luck, since fish are associated with money), but also serves to reassure patrons that their food is actually fresh.

Eating fish is very much a hands-on activity. If you order fish in a Chinese restaurant, don't be surprised if the waiter shows up with an actual live fish at your table shortly after you order. This serves two purposes. It lets you check the fish and reassures you that you're getting exactly what you've ordered. More importantly from the restaurant's perspective, it gives you the ability to confirm that you're happy ordering a fish that large. This is important since in most restaurants fish are priced by the kilogram. When the waiter comes to the table, just tell him 行, *xíng* ("it's okay"). And then sit back, and wait for your meal to arrive. And be careful to watch for the bones too.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #5 Divorce in China

CONTENTS

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

5

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 我要和我老公离婚!
2. 乙: 为什么?
3. 甲: 结婚之前他总是带我去吃烛光晚餐，去看电影，还给我做饭洗碗。
4. 乙: 现在呢?
5. 甲: 现在他什么都不给我买，也不做家务！还搞外遇!
6. 乙: 这么糟?
7. 甲: 这些都无所谓。还有更糟的。
8. 乙: 他和外遇有孩子了?
9. 甲: 不！他不让我搞外遇。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 我要和我老公離婚!
2. 乙: 為甚麼?
3. 甲: 結婚之前他總是帶我去吃燭光晚餐，去看電影，還給我做飯洗碗。
4. 乙: 現在呢?

CONT'D OVER

5. 甲: 現在他甚麼都不給我買，也不做家務！還搞外遇！

6. 乙: 這麼糟?

7. 甲: 這些都無所謂。還有更糟的。

8. 乙: 他和外遇有孩子了?

9. 甲: 不！他不讓我搞外遇。

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: wǒ yào hé wǒ lǎogōng líhūn!

2. YǏ: wèi shénme?

3. JIǍ: jiéhūn zhīqián tā zǒngshì dài wǒ qù chī zhúguāng wǎncān, qù kàn diànyǐng, háigěi wǒ zuòfàn xǐwǎn.

4. YǏ: xiànzài ne?

5. JIǍ: xiànzài tā shénme dōu bù gěi wǒ mǎi, yě bù zuò jiāwù! hái gǎo wàiyù!

6. YǏ: zhème zāo?

7. JIǍ: zhèxiē dōu wúsuǒwèi. hái yǒu gèng zāo de.

8. YǏ: tā hé wàiyù yǒu háizi le?

9. JIǍ: bù! tā bù ràng wǒ gǎo wàiyù.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. A: I want to divorce my husband.

2. B: Why?

3. A: Before we married, he would always take me out for candlelight dinners, then out to watch a movie, cook me food, and clean the dishes.

4. B: And now?

5. A: Now, he doesn't buy me anything, won't do anything around the house, and he's having an affair.

6. B: It's that bad?

7. A: All these things don't really matter. There's something worse.

8. B: He had a child with his mistress?

9. A: No, he won't let me have an affair.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
老公	老公	lǎogōng	husband
老婆	老婆	lǎopo	wife
离婚	離婚	líhūn	to divorce
烛光晚餐	燭光晚餐	zhúguāng wǎncān	candlelight dinner
家务	家務	jiāwù	housework

搞	搞	gǎo	to engage in
外遇	外遇	wàiyù	extramarital affair
糟	糟	zāo	rotten

SAMPLE SENTENCES

听说，她和她老公离婚了。 tīngshuō, tā hé tā lǎogōng líhūn le. I heard she and her husband divorced.	他老婆和他吵架了，然后就和他离婚了。 tā lǎopo hé tā chǎojià le, ránhòu jiù hé tā líhūn le. His wife fought with him and then divorced him.
离婚以后，他一直一个人生活。 líhūn yǐhòu, tā yīzhí yī gè rén shēnghuó. After getting divorced, he lived alone.	昨天我和男朋友一起吃了烛光晚餐。 zuótiān wǒ hé nánpéngyou yīqǐ chī le zhúguāng wǎncān. Yesterday I had a candlelight dinner with my boyfriend.
男人和女人都应该做家务。 nánrén hé nǚrén dōu yīnggāi zuò jiāwù. Men and women should both do housework.	她的老公在外面搞外遇，你不知道吗? tā de lǎogōng zài wàimiàn gǎo wàiyù, nǐ bù zhīdào ma? Her husband had an affair, didn't you know?
他和他的外遇分手了。 tā hé tā de wàiyù fēnshǒu le. He split up with his mistress.	更糟的是我没有准备。 gèng zāo de shì wǒ méiyǒu zhǔnbèi. What's even worse is that I hadn't prepared.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Distance Past

结婚之前他总是带我去吃烛光晚餐...

"Before we got married, he'd always take me out for candlelight dinners...."

In Chinese, we often refer to the notion of tense as the "aspect" of a sentence. This is why we refer to the particles 了 (*le*), 过 (*guo*), and 着 (*zhe*) as "aspectual particles": they change our sense of when the events described took place. As we've learned in previous lessons, it's possible to change the aspect of a sentence without using aspectual particles however. In today's lesson, we're going to learn how to do this using the phrase 之前, *zhīqián* ("previously").

In our dialogue, we see this in the sentence 结婚之前他总是带我去吃烛光晚餐, *jiéhūn zhīqián tā zǒngshì dài wǒ qù chī zhúguāng wǎncān.* ("He always took me out for candlelight dinners before we got married.") This sentence follows typical Chinese word order. Our clause indicating time is **结婚之**前, *jiéhūn zhīqián* ("before marriage"). We place this at the beginning of our sentence either preceding or following the subject. Note that we can swap out this time phrase and insert another and our sentence will still make sense. Consider, for example, the sentence 1982 年他总是带我去吃烛光晚餐, *yījiǔbāèr nián tā zǒngshì dài wǒ qù chī zhúguāng wǎncān.* ("He often took me out to candlelight dinners in 1982.")

Now that we understand exactly what is happening, let us take a closer look at 之前 ("before"). As you may already know, 之 (*zhī*) is a classical character that carries the same meaning as 它 (*it*). And as you should already know, 前 (*qián*) means "before." So, 之前 is a noun phrase which means "the time before it." "It," in this case, refers to the verb action, which immediately precedes it. This is a relatively formal way of expressing yourself. In spoken Chinese, people will often prefer to use 以前 (*yǐqián*) instead.

Sample Sentences

---

1. 来中国之前，我说汉语有困难。
   lái zhōngguó zhīqián, wǒ shuō hànyǔ yǒu kùnnan.
   "Before I went to China, I had trouble speaking Chinese."

2. 离婚之后，他不再出去见朋友了。
líhūn zhīhòu, tā bùzài chūqù jiàn péngyou le.
"After he got divorced, he stopped going out and seeing friends."

3. 告诉他重要的事情之前，一定要让他签保密合同。
gàosu tā zhòngyào de shìqing zhīqián, yīdìng yào ràng tā qiān bǎomì hétong.
"Before you tell him anything important, be sure to get him to sign a non-disclosure agreement."

4. 大学毕业之后，他过了好几年才找到一份好工作。
dàxué bìyè zhīhòu, tā guò le hǎo jǐ nián cái zhǎodào yī fèn hǎo gōngzuò.
"After graduating from college, he drifted around for a few years before finding a good job."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

The Chinese Divorce Rate Skyrockets!

Although divorce hasn't been common in China in the past, statistics show that the phenomenon is catching on. In 2009, the divorce rate in China was three times its rate in 2001. Beijing leads all other major Chinese cities with a divorce rate of thirty-nine percent, with Shanghai, Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Xiamen, and Dalian trailing not far behind with divorce rates of over thirty-one percent. These figures, which come from the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs, show that divorce is now five times more prevalent in China than it was at the beginning of the reform and opening up movement in the late 1970s, and three times more prevalent than it was at the beginning of the decade.

Why the change? From the outside, it's hard to tell if the increasing divorce rate is a temporary or permanent trend. Skeptics suggest the rise may be temporary as embittered older couples finally take advantage of their ability to divorce do so. And it is true that as China has modernized, the social stigma attached to divorce has lessened. But pressures forcing many younger Chinese into quick marriages have not lessened, suggesting the rise in divorce rates won't abate anytime soon. Parents and older relatives continue to place enormous pressure on young couples to find partners and marry at a relatively young age. University graduates

will often marry in their early twenties, and very often to school sweethearts.

All that being said, divorce rates in China are still significantly less than those in North America and Europe. So if you're planning to tie the knot in China, don't let us dissuade you.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #6
The Non-Existent Chinese Can Opener

CONTENTS

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

6

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 什么时候放盐来着?
2. 乙: 在你放糖之后。
3. 甲: 那我什么时候放糖?
4. 乙: 放了醋之后。
5. 甲: 醋?
6. 乙: 对，就是在你加了番茄酱之后。
7. 甲: 番茄酱? 我们不是做宫保鸡丁吗?
8. 乙: 对，没有番茄酱怎么做宫保鸡丁?

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 甚麼时候放鹽來著?
2. 乙: 在你放糖之後。
3. 甲: 那我甚麼时候放糖?
4. 乙: 放了醋之後。
5. 甲: 醋?
6. 乙: 對，就是在你加了番茄醬之後。

CONT'D OVER

7. 甲: 番茄醬？我們不是做宮保雞丁嗎?

8. 乙: 對，沒有番茄醬怎麼做宮保雞丁?

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: shénme shíhòu fàng yán láizhe?

2. YǏ: zài nǐ fàng táng zhīhòu.

3. JIǍ: nà wǒ shénme shíhòu fàng táng?

4. YǏ: fàng le cù zhīhòu.

5. JIǍ: cù?

6. YǏ: duì, jiùshì zài nǐ jiā le fānqiéjiàng zhīhòu.

7. JIǍ: fānqiéjiàng? wǒmen bù shì zuò gōngbǎojīdīng ma?

8. YǏ: duì, méiyǒu fānqiéjiàng zěnme zuò gōngbǎojīdīng?

ENGLISH

1. A: When do I put the salt in again?

2. B: After you add the sugar.

3. A: So when do I add the sugar?

CONT'D OVER

4. B: After you add the vinegar.

5. A: Vinegar?

6. B: Yup. Just after you add the tomato sauce.

7. A: Tomato sauce? Aren't we making kungpao chicken?

8. B: Exactly. How do you make kungpao chicken without tomato sauce?

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
来着	來著	láizhe	just now
盐	鹽	yán	salt
糖	糖	táng	sugar
之后	之後	zhīhòu	afterwards
醋	醋	cù	vinegar
番茄酱	番茄醬	fānqiéjiàng	tomato paste
宫保鸡丁	宮保雞丁	gōng bǎo jīdīng	kung pao chicken
放	放	fàng	to put
加	加	jiā	to add

SAMPLE SENTENCES

他刚才说什么来着? tā gāngcái shuō shénme láizhe? What did he say just now?	我刚才去买盐来着。 wǒ gāngcái qù mǎi yán láizhe. I just went to buy some salt.

放糖之后再放盐。 fàng táng zhīhòu zài fàng yán. Put in the salt after you put in the sugar.	结婚之后，我一直很幸福。 jiéhūn zhīhòu, wǒ yīzhí hěn xìngfú. After getting married, I was always really fortunate.
什么时候放醋来着? shénme shíhòu fàng cù láizhe? Tell me when to add vinegar again?	我最喜欢番茄酱的味道。 wǒ zuì xǐhuān fānqiéjiàng de wèidao. I enjoy the taste of ketchup most of all.
这个餐厅的宫保鸡丁不好吃。 zhège cāntīng de gōngbǎo jīdīng bù hǎochī. This restaurant's kungpao chicken is not tasty.	我做菜的时候忘了放盐。 wǒ zuò cài de shíhòu wàng le fàng yán. I forgot to add salt when I was cooking.
我在水里加了点儿糖。 wǒ zài shuǐlǐ jiā le diǎnr táng. I added a bit of sugar to the water.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is *zhihou* ("after" or "afterwards")

就是在你加了番茄酱之后

"Just after you add the tomato sauce"

In our last lesson, we learned how to use 前 (*qián*) and 之前 (*zhīqián*) to put our sentences in the past tense without using the aspectual particles 了 (le), 着 (zhe) or 过 (guo). We did this by placing 之前 at the beginning of our sentence immediately after a headless verb phrase. This pattern suggests that the rest of our action happened before the verb phrase. An example was the sentence 结婚之前他总是带我去吃烛光晚餐 *jiéhūn zhīqián tā zǒngshì dài wǒ qù chī zhúguāng wǎncān* ("Before getting married, he always took me out for candlelight dinners").

In today's lesson we focus on the similar phrase 之后 ("afterwards"). As you should remember from our previous lesson, 之 (*zhī*) is a classical character that carries the same meaning as 它 (*it*). 之后 is therefore a noun phrase which means "the time after it." And our usage of 之后 is identical to the way we use 之前. The keen student may have noticed something different about the example sentences in our dialogues from this week. Specifically, all them precede their verb headphrase with the character 在 *zai* ("to be at").

Why does 在 appear in our sentences for this week but not in the ones we gave you last week? The answer is actually a matter of choice. In colloquial Chinese it is common to omit the 在. You may choose to use it or not depending on your preferences.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Grocery Stores

Sugar, salt, and vinegar? Count your blessings that we keep it simple. If you've ever been in a grocery store in China, you'll have seen row after row of powders, spices, and sauces: the names of which leave the tongues of even the most fluent Sinologists in a state of perpetual shock. When set against such exotic condiments as oyster-flavored sesame oil or the profusion of soy sauces on the market, the Western preference for vinegar, sugar, and tomato sauce seems simple in comparison.

Why do Chinese cooks rely on such an exotic variety of spices and sauces, and why haven't more traditional Western foods caught on? Two simple explanations spring to mind. The first is that unlike in the United States, most grocery stores in China don't have extensive freezer sections, and what space they do have for frozen goods is often reserved for food items like frozen dumplings and other Chinese staples. So families are much more used to cooking from scratch and actually use these exotic spices. The second reason is that canned goods are also surprisingly rare. It's a mystery to us as to why these aren't more popular, but many Chinese shoppers have never seen (let alone used) can openers. The tops to most canned goods in China come with peel-off lids.

For lovers of spices and non-perishable sauces, a Chinese supermarket is a thing of beauty. So take a walk down the aisles the next time you're in one and see what you can find!

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #7
Getting Married in China

CONTENTS

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

7

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 甲： 亲爱的，根据中国传统，娶我得送彩礼。
2. 乙： 没问题。送什么？
3. 甲： 根据我们老家的传统，得先送一辆摩托车。
4. 乙： 没问题。
5. 甲： 根据我们村子里的传统，还得送一辆汽车。
6. 乙： 嗯...好吧。
7. 甲： 根据我们家的传统，还得送一套房子。
8. 乙： 我们分手吧。

ENGLISH

1. A : Honey, according to Chinese traditions, you have to give me a present when you marry me.
2. B : No problem. What?
3. A : According to the tradition in this part of the country, you have to give me a motorcycle first.
4. B : No problem.
5. A : According to our village traditions, you also have to give me a car.
6. B : Uh...okay.
7. A : And according to our family traditions, you also have to give me a house.
8. B : Let's break up.

PINYIN

1. jiǎ : qīn'ài de, gēnjù Zhōngguó chuántǒng, qǔ wǒ děi sòng cǎilǐ.
2. yǐ : méi wèntí. sòng shénme?
3. jiǎ : gēnjù wǒmen lǎojiā de chuántǒng, děi xiān sòng yī liàng mótuōchē.
4. yǐ : méi wèntí.
5. jiǎ : gēnjù wǒmen cūnzi lǐ de chuántǒng, hái děi sòng yī liàng qìchē.
6. yǐ : en ...hǎo ba.
7. jiǎ : gēnjù wǒmen jiā de chuántǒng, hái děi sòng yī tào fángzi.
8. yǐ : wǒmen fēnshǒu ba.

TRADITIONAL

1. 甲 : 親愛的，根據中國傳統，娶我得送彩禮。
2. 乙 : 沒問題。送甚麼？
3. 甲 : 根據我們老家的傳統，得先送一輛摩托車。
4. 乙 : 沒問題。
5. 甲 : 根據我們村子裏的傳統，還得送一輛汽車。
6. 乙 : 嗯...好吧。
7. 甲 : 根據我們家的傳統，還得送一套房子。
8. 乙 : 我們分手吧。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
根据	根據	gēnjù	according to	preposition
传统	傳統	chuántǒng	tradition	noun
得	得	děi	must	coverb
娶	娶	qǔ	to marry	verb
嫁	嫁	jià	to wed	verb
彩礼	彩禮	cǎilǐ	marriage gift from men	noun
嫁妆	嫁妝	jiàzhuang	marriage gift from women	noun
老家	老家	lǎojiā	homeland	noun
村子	村子	cūnzi	village	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

根据他们的传统，结婚之后才是成年人。 *gēnjù tāmen de chuántǒng, jiéhūn zhīhòu cái shì chéngniánren.* According to their traditions, you only become an adult after marriage.	春节是中国的传统节日。 *Chūn Jié shì Zhōngguó de chuántǒng jiérì.* Spring Festival is a traditional Chinese holiday.
现在太晚了，我得走了。 *xiànzài tài wǎn le, wǒ děi zǒu le.* It's too late now; I have to go.	他娶了一个比他小二十岁的女孩。 *tā qǔ le yī gè bǐ tā xiǎo èrshí suì de nǚhái.* He married a girl twenty years younger than him.
她嫁了一个比他老三十岁的老头。 *tā jià le yī gè bǐ tā lǎo sānshí suì de lǎotóu.* She married an old man thirty years her senior.	女人结婚的时候要有嫁妆。 *nǚrén jiéhūn de shíhòu yào yǒu jiàzhuang.* When women get married, they must buy things for the home.
我的老家环境很好。 *wǒ de lǎojiā huánjìng hěn hǎo.* The environment in my home town is very good.	这个村子里只有60个人。 *zhège cūnzi lǐ zhǐ yǒu liùshí gè ren.* This village only has sixty people.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is On Passing the Buck....
根据我们村子里的传统，还得 送一辆汽车。
"According to our village traditions, you also need to give a car."

Our grammar section today focuses on how to attribute statements or beliefs to third parties, or explain your grounds for holding certain opinions. In Chinese, this is most commonly done using the word 根据 (*gēnjù*). This is a very common word you'll see again and again especially in Chinese newspapers. There are several points about its usage that are worth mention.

In our podcast, we run into 根据 in its most common form as a preposition or co-verb. In particular, this preposition is used most frequently as a prepositional clause that opens a sentence. If you're unfamiliar with these clauses, you can see how they front-end sentences as in our dialogue with the sentence **根据我们村子里的传统，还得 送一辆汽车** *gēnjù wǒmen cūnzi lǐ de chuántǒng, hái dé sòng yī liàng qìchē* ("According to our village traditions, you also need to give me a car"). To see how this is actually a preposition, note that we could re-write this sentence more explicitly as 娶我的时候，你根据中国传统得送彩礼. ("When you marry me you must give me a gift according to Chinese tradition"). Front-ending prepositional clauses is common in Chinese, and this is the dominant way you will see **根据** used. For another example, consider the sentence we offered in our podcast: 根据气象台最新消息，今天晚上最低气温为2摄氏度 *gēnjù qìxiàngtái zuì xīn xiāoxī, jīntiān wǎnshang zuì dī qìwēn wéi èr shèshìdù* ("According to the latest information from the weather station, the temperature tonight will drop to 2 degrees Celcius").

Moving on, while the dominant usage of 根据 is as a preposition, you will sometimes see this word being used as a noun. In this case it refers to the basis of the belief, or the grounds for holding an opinion. Two examples of this are the sentence 说话要有根据 *shuōhuà yàoyǒu gēnjù* ("When you say something, you should have a basis for saying it."), and 你的根据是什么 *nǐ de gēnjù shì shénme* ("What are your grounds?"). You will also see 根据 used as a verb on occasion, as with the sentences 买东西要根据需要 *mǎi dōngxi yào gēnjù xūyào* ("You should buy according to your needs."), and 娶我必须根据中国的传统 *qǔ wǒ bìxū gēnjù Zhōngguó de chuántǒng* ("You must marry me according to Chinese traditions"), the part of speech of this word in Chinese is quite different from the way you would usually translate it into English.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Wedding Traditions

In the past, arranged marriages were typical in China, and the day of their marriage would often be the first day the bride and groom would meet each other. While young couples are of course much more free to choose their own partners today, and this has simplified marriage rituals significantly, there are still some customs that are common in China that involve gift-giving and marriage.

Although this is not common in much of urban China, in rural parts of the country it is still common for the parents of both bride and groom to meet before the ceremony to agree to the marriage. In this ritual, the parents of the groom are expected to visit the bride's house and present her parents with the gift of a rooster and hen, each of which should be bright red. The acceptance of the gift signifies the acceptance of the family bond, and the marriage date is set. In some parts of China, it has also been traditional for the groom to present the bride's parents with a large sum of money as a dowry. This is less common these days, although many parents will expect their daughter's suitors to be able to provide a house after the couple gets married.

Exchanges of money and other gifts are still a major part of most weddings though. One of the most interesting customs surrounding a Chinese wedding is the red envelope. Two days before the wedding, most couples will need to head to the bank and get a lot of small change. They will typically convert ten, one hundred RMB notes into one thousand, one RMB notes, or five hundred RMB in bills into one thousand 0.5 RMB notes or five thousand 0.1 RMB notes. These small paper bills are then painstakingly stuffed into red envelopes, which are then distributed to guests at the wedding ceremony. Just this bill-stuffing work can take hours to prepare.

Typically, this money (and much more) will flow back to the couple at their wedding banquet following the ceremony. If you are invited to a wedding banquet, you will be expected to give a gift of cash to the new couple. In most cases, a gift of several hundred renminbi will be sufficient. The obligation to give more of course depends on how close you are to the couple. Giving too much is as potentially embarrassing as giving too little. If you're uncertain how much is suitable, your best guide is asking a third party.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #8
Investing in the Chinese Stock Market

CONTENTS

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

#8

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 甲 : 今年经济不景气，我该怎么投资啊？
2. 乙 : 你可以投资股票啊。
3. 甲 : 股市现在大跌吧。
4. 乙 : 那投资国家债券吧。
5. 甲 : 可是利息抵不过通货膨胀呀。
6. 乙 : 随便吧。股票也好，债券也罢，反正都是要亏钱的。

ENGLISH

1. A : The economy isn't doing so well this year, how should I invest?
2. B : You can invest in stocks.
3. A : (It's a bear market) now stocks are all falling.
4. B : Then buy national bonds.
5. A : But the interest rate is less than inflation.
6. B : Do whatever then. Stocks are okay and bonds are okay too. You're going to lose money anyway.

PINYIN

1. jiǎ : jīnnián jīngjì bù jǐngqì, wǒ gāi zěnme tóuzī a?
2. yǐ : nǐ kěyǐ tóuzī gǔpiào a.
3. jiǎ : gǔshì xiànzài dà diē ba.
4. yǐ : nà tóuzī guójiā zhàiquàn ba.
5. jiǎ : kěshì lìxi dǐbùguò tōnghuò péngzhàng ya.
6. yǐ : suíbiàn ba. gǔpiào yě hǎo, zhàiquàn yě bà, fǎnzhèng dōu shì yào kuī qián de.

TRADITIONAL

1. 甲： 今年經濟不景氣，我該怎麼投資啊？
2. 乙： 你可以投資股票啊。
3. 甲： 股市現在大跌吧。
4. 乙： 那投資國家債券吧。
5. 甲： 可是利息抵不過通貨膨脹呀。
6. 乙： 隨便吧。股票也好，債券也罷，反正都是要虧錢的。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
景气	景氣	jǐngqì	thriving	adjective
投资	投資	tóuzī	to invest	verb
股票	股票	gǔpiào	stocks	noun
债券	債券	zhàiquàn	bonds	noun
熊市	熊市	xióngshì	bear market	noun
牛市	牛市	niúshì	bull market	noun
利息	利息	lìxi	interest	noun
通货膨胀	通貨膨脹	tōnghuòpéngzhàng	inflation	noun
亏钱	虧錢	kuīqián	to lose money	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

最近两年，市场不太景气。 *zuìjìn liǎng nián, shìchǎng bùtài jǐngqì.* In the last two years, the market hasn't been very thriving.	大家有的投资股票，有的投资基金。 *dàjiā yǒude tóuzī gǔpiào, yǒude tóuzī jījīn.* Every person has invested in stocks, others in investment funds.
我昨天卖了我所有的股票。 *wǒ zuótiān mài le wǒ suǒyǒu de gǔpiào.* Yesterday I sold all of my stocks.	投资债券真的能挣钱吗？ *tóuzī zhàiquàn zhēnde néng zhèng qián ma?* Can investing in bonds really make money?

现在是熊市，大家都在卖股票。 *xiànzài shì xióngshì, dàjiā dōu zài mài gǔpiào.* It's a bear market right now, everyone is selling stocks.	现在是牛市，你的股票卖了吗？ *xiànzài shì niúshì, nǐ de gǔpiào mài le ma?* Right now it's a bull market, did you sell your stocks?
银行的利息太低了。 *yínháng de lìxi tài dī le.* The interest at banks is too low.	因为通货膨胀，市场价格越来越贵。 *yīnwèi tōnghuòpéngzhàng, shìchǎngjiàgé yuèláiyuè guì.* Because of general inflation, the prices in the markets have become more and more expensive.
我买股票亏钱了。 *wǒ mǎi gǔpiào kuī qián le.* I lost money buying stocks.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is on the 也好。。。也罢 Construction
股票也好，债券也罢，反正都 是要亏钱的。
"Stocks are okay and bonds are okay too. You're going to lose money anyway."

Have you ever been faced with a choice and been indifferent to your options? In today's intermediate lesson, we learn how to communicate this type of indifference in Chinese by using the 也好... 也罢... (*yě hǎo... yě bà...*) structure. We use this grammar pattern to suggest that either of two choices is acceptable. In the dialogue, we saw this in the sentence 股票也好，债券也罢，反正都是要亏钱的. ("Stocks are fine and bonds are fine too; you'll lose money either way.")

We use the 也好... 也罢... construction only when the speaker is genuinely indifferent between the two choices. It also suggests that the speaker doesn't consider either of the options particularly attractive, so if you are torn between two great options, this is not the pattern to use. Chinese speakers will typically add closing commentary to this structure as in the dialogue, tagging on a final remark that reinforces their indifference like 我管不着, *wǒ guǎn bù zháo* ("I don't care."), or 它们都可以, *tāmen dōu kěyǐ.* ("They're both okay.")

Grammar Structure:

(Option #1) + 也好 + (Option #2) + 也罢 + (Optional Closing Phrase)

Sample Sentences

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1. 挣钱也好，亏钱也罢，他都不关心。
   Zhèng qián yě hǎo, kuī qián yě bà, tā dōu bù guānxīn.

"He doesn't care whether he makes money or loses it."

2. 你去也好，不去也罢，我管不着。
   Nǐ qù yě hǎo, bù qù yě bà, wǒ guǎn bù zháo.
   "It's none of my business if you go or not."

3. 这些钱你买衣服也好，买吃的也罢，都随你的便。
   Zhè xiē qián nǐ mǎi yīfu yě hǎo, mǎi chīdeyě bà, dōu suí nǐ de biàn.
   "Do whatever you want with this money, buy clothes or food."

Language Tip

A common variant on this pattern is the 也好... 也好... structure. We use this exactly the same way, but it doesn't carry the same negative emotional tone. Use it when you are pleased with both of the options but still indifferent between them.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Investors and Investments

Investors who look at China from abroad are often astonished at the state of Chinese markets. While the economy here has continued to grow quite steadily, the behavior of investors in both the stock and real estate markets seems positively foolish when considered through the lens of historic bubbles and crashes. It isn't hard to see the prevalence of irrational expectations of growth and highly volatile behavior.

While there are a few explanations offered for this, the most convincing one is that without the ability to freely convert renminbi into foreign assets, domestic investors have few options for investments other than real estate and stocks. Speculation is rampant, and the fact that publicly traded companies tend to own both real estate and holdings in each other feeds into virtuous and vicious cycles. When the price of housing rises, the capitalization of publicly traded companies rises as the value of their assets increases-further boosting stock prices. The system is highly leveraged, which is why small panics abroad often spark much larger drops in the value of Chinese markets.
Not surprisingly, the Chinese government is often quick to step in to shore up unsustainable values. Somewhat perversely, policies justified as fighting speculation in both markets often do nothing more than reduce the supply of assets available. And so, it isn't surprising that many families in this environment invest their money in human capital instead: educating their children at a good university or sending them abroad to master a foreign language.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #9
The Housing Market in China

CONTENTS

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

9

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 甲: 你肯定这是地段最好的?
2. 乙: 二环内，离地铁站公车站不到两百米。
3. 甲: 只有七十平会不会太小了?
4. 乙: 一家三口绝对够用。
5. 甲: 首付还可以优惠点儿不?
6. 乙: 人家还抢着一次付清呢。
7. 甲: 但这个二手房如果出了什么问题怎么办?
8. 乙: 自己办呗。
9. 甲: 什么？你这不是不负责任么?
10. 乙: 你爱买不买，现在买房的人多了!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 甲: 你肯定這是地段最好的?
2. 乙: 二環内，離地鐵站公車公車站不到兩百米。

CONT'D OVER

3. 甲: 只有七十平會不會太小了?

4. 乙: 一家三口絕對夠用。

5. 甲: 首付還可以優惠點兒不?

6. 乙: 人家還搶著一次付清呢。

7. 甲: 但這個二手房如果出了甚麼問題怎麼辦?

8. 乙: 自己辦唄。

9. 甲: 甚麼?你這不是不負責任麼?

10. 乙: 你愛買不買,現在買房的人多了!

PINYIN

1. JIǍ: nǐ kěndìng zhè shì dìduàn zuì hǎo de?

2. YǏ: èr huán nèi, lí dìtiě zhàn gōngchē zhàn bù dào liǎngbǎi mǐ.

3. JIǍ: zhǐyǒu qīshí píng huìbuhuì tài xiǎo le?

4. YǏ: yī jiā sān kǒu juéduì gòu yòng.

5. JIǍ: shǒufù hái kěyǐ yōuhuì diǎnr bu?

6. YǏ: rénjiā hái qiǎng zhe yī cì fùqīng ne.

CONT'D OVER

7. JIĂ: dàn zhège èrshǒufáng rúguǒ chū le shénme wèntí zěnme bàn?

8. YǏ: zìjǐ bàn bei.

9. JIĂ: shénme? nǐ zhè bù shì bù fù zérèn me?

10. YǏ: nǐ ài măibùmăi, xiànzài măi fáng de rén duō le!

ENGLISH

1. A: You’ re sure this is the one with the best location?

2. B: It’ s inside the secondary road, and less than 200m from the subway and bus stations.

3. A: But it’ s only 70 square meters, isn’ t that too small?

4. B: It’ s definitely large enough for a family of three.

5. A: Can we get a break on the down payment?

6. B: Other people are fighting to buy this with a single payment.

7. A: But what do we do if this has any problems? It’ s a second-hand house.

8. B: Fix it yourself.

9. A: What? You won’ t be the one responsible?

CONT'D OVER

10. B: Buy it if you want, or don’ t. Right now there’ s a lot of people buying houses.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
肯定	肯定	kěndìng	certainly	adverb
地段	地段	dìduàn	location	noun
平	平	píng	square (meters)	noun
一家三口	一家三口	yījiāsānkǒu	family of three	phrase
够用	夠用	gòuyòng	enough	adjective
优惠	優惠	yōuhuì	preference; discount	noun
付清	付清	fùqīng	to pay off	verb
二手房	二手房	èrshǒufáng	second-hand house	noun
责任	責任	zérèn	responsibility	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这里肯定有问题。 zhèlǐ kěndìng yǒu wèntí. There is certainly a problem here.	这里地段很好，就是房子太贵。 zhèli dìduàn hěn hǎo, jiùshì fángzi tài guì. The location here is good, but the houses are too expensive.

我的房子才40平。 wǒ de fángzi cái sìshí píng. My house is only forty square meters.	他们一家三口生活在一起，很幸福。 tāmen yī jiā sān kǒu shēnghuó zài yīqǐ, hěn xìngfú. Their family of three is very fortunate in being able to live together.
这么点钱怎么够用? zhème diǎn qián zěnme gòu yòng? How can this little money be enough?	请问，可以优惠一点儿吗? qǐngwèn, kěyǐ yōuhuì yī diǎnr ma? Excuse me, can you give me a bit of a discount?
现在，我还没有付清贷款。 xiànzài, wǒ hái méiyǒu fù qīng dàikuǎn. Right now, I still haven't paid off the mortgage.	我不想买二手房。 wǒ bù xiǎng mǎi èrshǒufáng. I don't want to buy a second-hand house.
我会对你们负责任的。 wǒ huì duì nǐmen fù zérèn de. I will be responsible for you.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is a New Way to Ask Questions

首付还可以优惠点儿不?

"Can we get a break on the down payment?"

In our Absolute Beginner and Elementary series, we taught you three basic techniques for asking questions:

1. Use question words like 什么, *shénme* ("what") or 谁, *shéi* ("who")

2. Add the 吗 (*ma*) particle to the end of any statement

3. Reduplicate our main verb in both the positive and negative form as with 是不是, *shì bu shì* ("to be or not") or 有没有, *yǒu méiyǒu* ("to have or not")

All of these ways of asking questions are relatively straightforward. You can use them in formal Chinese writing or casual Chinese speech. In today's lesson, we're going to focus on a very colloquial way to ask questions and talk a bit about the emotional undertones we see in this new method of asking questions. Let's start by looking at the following sentences:

1. 你想出去吃饭不?
   Nǐ xiǎng chūqù chīfàn bù?
   "You want to go out and eat, right?"

2. 明天他有时间不?
   Míngtiān tā yǒu shíjiān bù?
   "He has some free time tomorrow, right?"

3. 放款需要一次付清不?
   Fàngkuǎn xūyào yī cì fùqīng bù?
   "This loan needs to be paid off in one sum, is that right?"

Grammatically, what we have is a standard question, which would otherwise end with 吗, but ends with 不 instead. This is a very casual way of asking a question, the meaning of which is almost identical to what happens when we end an English sentence with "right" or "is that right?" This is an emotional way to express a kind of hope or (sometimes resigned) expectation that the answer to your question will be "yes." Pretty easy to understand, right? Good. Then we can take a look at how this structure works in the past tense now.

For Example:

1. 他的工作完成了没?
   Tā de gōngzuò wánchéng le méi?
   "His work is finished, right?"

2. 你的贷款还完了没?
   Nǐ de dàikuǎn hái wán le méi?
   "You've fully paid off your mortgage, right?"

3. 事情做好了没?
   Shìqing zuò hǎo le méi?
   "The matter has been attended to successfully, correct?"

All we are doing is swapping out 吗 and swapping in 没. Pay attention to the way these sentences do not eliminate the penultimate 了 particle. When native Chinese speakers are speaking extremely casually though, they'll often drop this closing (*le*). We recommend you get in the habit of leaving the 了 particle in, but if you ever want to impress, try dropping the 了 when speaking with a close friend in an informal situation. They'll be impressed.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Property Bubble in China?

In cities across China such as Beijing, Shanghai, Guangzhou, and Shenzhen, the housing market can be described as "Red Hot." Due to China's economic success, many people, and the Chinese government, are flush with cash. But for most investors, the available financial investment options are still limited to the stock market and securities, which come with a high level of risk. The safest place for most Chinese to invest their money is in property. Currently, the housing industry accounts for ten percent of China's economy.

Since the enactment of the stimulus package in China, banks have been flush with cash, offering low interest rates on loans. Bank loans in China went from 422.3 billion yuan in 2008 to 2.46 trillion yuan in 2009. This easy money has resulted in a buying frenzy where

potential home investors will purchase multiple units at one time. For many new projects, most of the apartments still lay empty. The occupancy rate is shockingly low.

To restrict overheating in the housing market, the government has instituted new rules preventing a catastrophic bubble implosion. New rules such as higher down payments for second-hand homes and interest discounts for first time-home buyers have also been abolished. These policies along with others may be enough to put the housing market on stable footing, but the jury is still out.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #10
The Face of an Angel

CONTENTS

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

#10

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你家宝宝真可爱。
2. 对啊，所有人都说她长得很精致。
3. 可不是吗？除了眼睛小点儿...
4. 眼睛是不算大...
5. 鼻子塌点儿。
6. 鼻子是不算挺...
7. 嘴巴大点儿...
8. 够了...
9. 还有皮肤黑点儿...
10. 宝宝我们走。
11. 哎哎我还没说完呢！

ENGLISH

1. Your baby is really cute.
2. Yeah, everyone says she's pretty beautiful.
3. Isn't that the truth. Except that her eyes are a bit small...
4. They don't count as big.
5. And her nose is a bit flat.
6. Yes, it isn't really that prominent.
7. And her mouth is a bit large...
8. That's enough...
9. And her skin's a shade dark...
10. Baby, let's go.
11. Hey, I'm not done.

PINYIN

1. nǐ jiā bǎobao zhēn kěài.
2. duì a, suǒyǒu rén dōu shuō tā zhǎng de hěn jīngzhì.
3. kěbushì ma? chúle yǎnjīng xiǎo diǎnr ...
4. yǎnjīng shì bù suàn dà ...
5. bízi tā diǎnr...
6. bízi shì bù suàn tǐng ...
7. zuǐbā dà diǎnr ...
8. gòu le ...
9. hái yǒu pífū hēi diǎnr ...
10. bǎobao wǒmen zǒu.
11. āi āi wǒ hái méi shuō wán ne!

TRADITIONAL

1. 你家寶寶真可愛。
2. 對啊，所有人都說她長得很精緻。
3. 可不是嗎？除了眼睛小點兒...
4. 眼睛是不算大...
5. 鼻子塌點兒。
6. 鼻子是不算挺...
7. 嘴巴大點兒...
8. 夠了...
9. 還有皮膚黑點兒...
10. 寶寶我們走。
11. 哎哎我還沒說完呢！

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
宝宝	寶寶	bǎobao	baby	noun
可爱	可愛	kě'ài	cute	adjective
所有	所有	suǒyǒu	all	adjective
可不是	可不是	kěbùshì	that's it	phrase
一切	一切	yīqiè	everything	pronoun
完美	完美	wánměi	perfect	adjective
塌鼻子	塌鼻子	tābízi	flat nose	noun
皮肤	皮膚	pífū	skin	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我同学刚生了一个小宝宝。 *wǒ tóngxué gāng shēng le yī gè xiǎo bǎobao.* My classmate just gave birth to a small baby.	这个小孩真可爱。 *zhège xiǎohái zhēn kěài.* This child is very cute.
我把所有的钱都给他了。 *wǒ bǎ suǒyǒu de qián dōu gěi tā le.* I gave him all of the money.	可不是吗？我完全同意。 *kěbùshì ma? wǒ wánquán tóngyì.* Isn't that right? I totally agree.
一切都过去了。 *yīqiè dōu guòqù le.* Everything has already passed.	世界上没有完美的人。 *shìjiè shàng méiyǒu wánměi de rén.* In the entire world, nobody is perfect.
我最讨厌我的塌鼻子。 *wǒ zuì tǎoyàn wǒ de tā bízi.* I hate my flat nose.	幹皮膚 *gānpífū* dry skin
皮膚是身體最大的器官。 *Pífū shì shēntǐ zuìdà de qìguān.* Skin is the largest organ in the body.	我的皮膚有點兒癢。 *Wǒ de pífū yǒu diǎnr yǎng .* My skin itches.
你的皮肤真不错！ *nǐ de pífū zhēn bùcuò!* Your skin is pretty good!	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 'Everything'
对啊，所 有人都说她长得很 精致。
"That's right. Everyone says she's becoming very beautiful."

Today we want to focus on a small but tricky word in Chinese: 所有 (suǒyǒu). Before we break into the usage of this word, let's spend a moment looking into its etymology. In traditional Chinese, the character 所 is often used to refer to a place or location. We still see this usage today in words like 派出所 *pàichūsuǒ* ("police station") and 厕所 *cèsuǒ* ("toilet"). The meaning of 有 is, of course, "to have," which is where the original meaning of this compound comes from. We use it to refer to "everything" in the sense of "all that is there."

In our dialogue, we heard 所有人 ("everyone"). In this case, we can see 所有 functioning as an adjective. Simply place it before any noun, as with 所有东西 ("all of the things"), or in front of nominalized verb phrases as in the example 所有能做的 ("everything that can be done"). These compound phrases can be used anywhere in a sentence that a regular noun can go.

The tricky thing about this to many intermediate students is that it is easy to confuse 所有 with 所有的. There is a difference though. When used as an adjective, 所有的 and 所有 are completely interchangeable. You will therefore hear people refer to 所有人 as well as 所有的人. In a few cases, 所有 can function as a noun. And in this situation it cannot be replaced by 所有的. Examples of this second usage in the podcast included the sentence 一夜之间，他就失去了所有 *yī yè zhījiān, tā jiù shīqù le suǒyǒu* ("He lost it all in a single evening").

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Prejudices in China

Chinese people are often uncommonly direct in sharing their opinions and prejudices, especially when commenting on the personal appearance or habits of foreigners. Once you're in China, don't be surprised to receive comments that are uninvited, occasionally unflattering, and even simply bizarre. This behavior is especially common once you get out of the major cities and into parts of China where foreigners seldom tread.

One of the causes of this behavior is that Chinese people often share somewhat prejudicial opinions on what constitutes an attractive weight or skin tone, and even have preferences for very minor features such as whether people have double- or single-lipped eyelids (double-lipped are strongly preferred - cosmetic surgery is a booming business). These opinions are often reinforced by a media that sells everything from cosmetic surgery to skin whitening (read: bleaching) creams. So prepare to be offended. There are few reservations or topics that are off limits so don't be surprised if your taxi driver asks you how much you make a month, or if the auntie next door evaluates your recent haircut out loud to the whole neighborhood. Just remember that patience is a virtue.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #11
How to Get Rich Quick in China

CONTENTS

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

11

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 经济萧条，你说做什么可以又轻松又赚钱呢?
2. 天下哪儿有免费的午餐啊?
3. 投资呗。
4. 风险和回报是成正比的。股票债券，都是高回报，高风险。
5. 那都过时了。现在流行炒房地产。
6. 买房子?
7. 可不是吗，我舅舅上个月花一百万买了一栋房子，这个月就涨了一倍!
8. 那你也准备买房去?
9. 当然了！到时候，房价翻倍再翻倍，我很快就成比尔盖茨啦!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 經濟蕭條，你說做甚麼可以又輕鬆又賺錢呢?
2. 天下哪兒有免費的午餐啊?
3. 投資唄。
4. 風險和回報是成正比的。股票債券，都是高回報，高風險。
5. 那都過時了。現在流行炒房地產。

CONT'D OVER

6. 買房子?

7. 可不是嗎，我舅舅上個月花一百萬買了一棟房子，這個月就漲了一倍!

8. 那你也準備買房去?

9. 當然了！到時候，房價翻倍再翻倍，我很快就成比爾蓋茨啦!

PINYIN

1. jīngjì xiāotiáo, nǐ shuō zuò shénme kěyǐ yòu qīngsōng yòu zhuànqián ne?

2. tiānxià nǎr yǒu miǎnfèi de wǔcān a?

3. tóuzī bei.

4. fēngxiǎn hé huíbào shì chéng zhèngbǐ de. gǔpiàozhàiquàn, dōu shì gāo huíbào, gāo fēngxiǎn.

5. Nà dōu guòshí le. xiànzài liúxíng chǎo fángdìchǎn.

6. mǎifáng zǐ?

7. kěbushì ma, wǒ jiùjiu shàng ge yuè huā yībǎiwàn mǎi le yī dòng fángzi, zhègè yuè jiù zhǎng le yī bèi!

8. nà nǐ yě zhǔnbèi mǎi fáng qù ?

9. dāngrán le! dào shíhou, fángjià fānbèi zài fānbèi, wǒ hěn kuài jiù chéng Bǐ'ěr Gàicí la!

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. With the economy like this, you know what you can do that's profitable and not too taxing?

2. There's no such thing as a free lunch.

3. Invest!

4. Risk and return are related. Stocks and bonds are both high-risk, high return investments.

5. That's old-fashioned. Speculating with real estate is what's popular now.

6. Isn't that the truth. My uncle spent a million last month buying a house. It's already doubled in value this month.

7. So you're getting ready to buy housing?

8. Of course! After the price doubles a few times, I'll quickly get richer than Bill Gates.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
经济	經濟	jīngjì	economy	noun
萧条	蕭條	xiāotiáo	recession	noun
投资	投資	tóuzī	to invest	verb
风险	風險	fēngxiǎn	risk	noun
回报	回報	huíbào	return (on investment)	noun
炒	炒	chǎo	to speculate	verb
房地产	房地產	fángdìchǎn	real estate	noun
涨	漲	zhǎng	to appreciate	verb
翻倍	翻倍	fānbèi	to double	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

今年国内的经济很好。 jīnnián guónèi de jīngjì hěn hǎo. The domestic economy is very good this year.	经济萧条的时候，工作很难找。 jīngjì xiāotiáo de shíhòu, gōngzuò hěn nán zhǎo. It's hard to find work in an economic recession.
投资股票风险太大。 tóuzī gǔpiào fēngxiǎn tài dà. There's too much risk investing in stocks.	我觉得投资基金风险比较小。 wǒ juéde tóuzī jījīn fēngxiǎn bǐjiào xiǎo. I feel there is comparatively little risk investing in market funds.
只有高风险，才有高回报。 zhǐyǒu gāo fēngxiǎn, cái yǒu gāo huíbào. You can only get a high return with high risk.	我已经炒了三年股了。 wǒ yǐjīng chǎo le sānnián gǔ le. I've speculated in the stock market for three years.
搞房地产利润很高。 gǎo fángdìchǎn lìrùn hěn gāo. The profit in the real estate business is very high.	房子又涨价了。 fángzi yòu zhǎngjià le. The price of houses has appreciated again.
今年我们公司的收入翻倍了。 jīnnián wǒmen gōngsī de shōurù fānbèi le. Our company revenues doubled this year.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is on Doubles and Multiples

我舅舅上个月花一百万买了一栋房子，这个月就涨了一倍！

"My uncle spent a million last month buying a house. It's already doubled in value this month."

Our grammar focus today is about doubles and multiples. In our dialogue, we see an example of this in the following sentence:

我舅舅上个月花一百万买了一栋房子，这个月就涨了一倍

Wǒ jiùjiu shàng ge yuè huā yībǎiwàn mǎi le yī dòng fángzi, zhèigè yuè jiù zhǎng le yī bèi "My uncle spent a million last month buying a house. It's already doubled in value."

Our key section here is the passage 涨了一倍 (*zhǎng le yī bèi*), which literally translates as, "to increase by the original amount." This is the most common way to express the idea of increasing a numbers by multiples of itself. And although 一倍 is most common, you will also see reference to other multiples, such as 两倍 (*liǎng bèi*), 三倍 (*sān bèi*), or 几倍 (*jǐ bèi*). These are commonly combined with the verbs 涨, *zhǎng* ("to increase"), 加, *jiā* ("to add"), and 翻, *fān* ("to flip over"). The meaning of most of these combinations is fairly obvious. 涨一倍 means "to double," or "to increase the total amount by an amount equal to the original." Likewise, 加了三倍 means "to add on three extra amounts equal to the original amount," or "quadruple the original amount."

Chinese is ambiguous when it comes to the verb 翻, however. The reason for this is that this verb can, but does not necessarily carry the connotation of compound growth. This makes it unclear in practice whether 翻了两倍 means "to double," or "to triple," or "to quadruple." So use this verb with caution when you need to be precise with your figures and don't be afraid to ask for clarification if someone else uses the phrase.

Sample Sentences

---

1. 从1990年到现在，北京的房价翻了几倍。
   Cóng yīqiān jiǔbǎi jiǔshí nián dào xiànzài, Běijīng de fángjià fān le jǐ bèi.
   "From 1990 to the present, the price of housing in Beijing has increased several fold."

2. 我的同事生病了，结果我的工作量增加了一倍.
   Wǒ de tóngshì shēngbìng le, jiéguǒ wǒ de gōngzuòliàng zēngjiā le yī bèi .
   "My workload doubled when my colleague fell sick."

3. 能源短缺使石油价格又翻了几倍。
   Néngyuán duǎnquē shǐ shíyóu jiàgé yòu fān le jǐ bèi.
   "The energy shortage caused the price of oil to double several times."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Real Estate

Property values are rising rapidly in many developed Chinese cities, citing many observers to speculate that China is in the middle of a massive real estate bubble. While it is unclear how much of the recent increase in house prices is sustainable, there have been several factors driving the massive increases over the past few years. One of the most important is the lack of any property tax, which makes real estate one of the more stable investments available to wealthy individuals and businesses in Asia. While the Chinese government is considering adopting a property tax, it is likely to look something like a tax on real estate transactions rather than an annual tax on assets under ownership.

Other critical factors include the government dependence on land sales for local revenues. This not only encourages governments to promote development, but also encourages a raft of soft policies designed to prop up the price of housing and the real estate market. Among these are policies that promote real estate development. These include low-interest loans to developers, compulsory funds-matching programs for businesses employing staff, and more. As a result, while it is not clear how much more prices can reasonably increase, it seems unlikely that the Chinese real estate market will face a serious crash.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #12
Chinese Airport Security

CONTENTS

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

#12

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 先生，打火机不能带上飞机。
2. 为什么？不过是个打火机罢了。
3. 这个也不行。
4. 菜刀也不行?
5. 还有这是什么？菠萝吗?
6. 土制炸弹罢了。
7. 看来我们需要到警察局一趟。
8. 我不要去!
9. 怕什么？不过是聊聊罢了。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 先生，打火機不能帶上飛機。
2. 為甚麼？不過是個打火機罷了。
3. 這個也不行。
4. 菜刀也不行?
5. 還有這是甚麼？菠蘿嗎?

CONT'D OVER

6. 土製炸彈罷了。

7. 看來我們需要到警察局一趟。

8. 我不要去!

9. 怕甚麼? 不過是聊聊罷了。

PINYIN

1. xiānsheng, dǎhuǒjī bù néng dài shàng fēijī.

2. wèishénme? bùguò shì ge dǎhuǒjī bà le.

3. zhège yě bù xíng.

4. càidāo yě bù xíng?

5. hái yǒu zhè shì shénme? bōluó ma?

6. tǔzhì zhàdàn bà le.

7. kànlái wǒmen xūyào dào jǐngchájú yī tàng.

8. wǒ bù yào qù!

9. pà shénme? bùguò shì liáoliao bà le.

ENGLISH

CONT'D OVER

1. Sir, you can't take lighters onto the plane.

2. Why? It's only a lighter.

3. This is also unacceptable.

4. Kitchen knives aren't okay?

5. And what's this? A pineapple?

6. Just a homemade bomb.

7. It seems we need to go see the police.

8. I don't want to go!

9. What are you afraid of? It's just a chat, that's all.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
安检	安檢	ānjiǎn	security check	noun
带	帶	dài	to carry	verb
不过	不過	bùguò	only	conjunction
罢了	罷了	bàle	that's all	particle
土制	土製	tǔzhì	locally made	adjective
炸弹	炸彈	zhàdàn	bomb	noun
看来	看來	kànlái	it seems	phrase
趟	趟	tàng	(measure word for round trips)	measure word

SAMPLE SENTENCES

北京的地铁里有安检。 běijīng de dìtiě lǐ yǒu ānjiǎn. The Beijing subway has security checks.	我带着狗上了火车。 wǒ dài zhe gǒu shàng le huǒchē. He carried a dog onto the train.
这不过是一件小事儿罢了。 zhè bùguò shì yījiàn xiǎoshìr bàle. This is only something small, that's all.	我只不过迟到了一会儿罢了。 wǒ zhǐbùguò chídào le yīhuìr bàle. I was only a bit late, that's all.
这些土制的药方都不科学。 zhèxiē tǔzhì de yàofāng dōu bù kēxué. These local prescriptions are not scientific.	附近发现了一些炸弹。 fùjìn fāxiàn le yīxiē zhàdàn. A few bombs were found in the vicinity.
看来这里一定出事了。 kànlái zhèlǐ yīdìng chūshì le. It looks like there was definitely an accident here.	我昨天去了三趟医院。 wǒ zuótiān qù le sān tàng yīyuàn. I went to the hospital three times yesterday.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is De-emphasizing Something in Chinese

为什么？不过是个打 火机罢 了。

"Why? It's only a lighter, that's all."

Today we want to emphasize a common way of downplaying something. This is the 不过...罢了 (*bùguò ... bà le*) pattern: a light, dismissive way to state that something is not important. The pattern literally translates as "merely... that's all," and we run into it two or three times in our dialogue, depending on how you count.

For Example:

1. 为什么？不过是个打火机罢了。
   Wèishénme? Bùguò shì ge dǎhuǒjī bà le.
   "Why? It's only a lighter, that's all."

2. 怕什么？不过是聊聊罢了。
Pà shénme? Bùguò shì liáoliao bà le.
"What are you afraid of? It's only a little chat, that's all."

3. 土制炸弹罢了。
Tǔzhì zhàdàn bà le.
"Just a homemade bomb."

As you can see, the pattern itself is extremely simple. Start your sentence with the conjunction 不过 (*bùguò*) and then add 罢了 (*bà le*) at the end of the sentence. You'll hear this most frequently paired with the verb 是 ("to be"), but we can in fact use it with any verb. As our last sample sentence shows, however, you can selectively omit 不过 and even the leading verb. In this case, we imply the verb 是, as with our example 土制炸弹罢了, *Tǔzhì zhàdàn bà le.* ("It's just a homemade bomb").

On a final note, be aware that you can also omit 罢了, as with the sentence 他不过是个小孩儿 *tā búguò shì ge xiǎoháir.* ("He's only a small child.") The meaning of this sentence is identical to what it would be if it ended with 罢了. This version is somewhat less colloquial though, and not nearly as dismissive.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Not So Funny Security Checks

Don't joke around with airport security staff—even in a second language. That said, passing through airport security in China is not usually as tiresome as it can be in the United States. In major cities like Beijing and Shanghai, security checks are still relatively strict, although we've yet to have to take off our shoes. If you are hoping to avoid security checks by taking the train, you'll be disappointed. In both Shanghai and Beijing, the major train stations now scan all luggage. And subway stations are starting the practice as well.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #13
What's My Password, Honey?

CONTENTS

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

13

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 老婆，我的电子邮箱被盗了！
2. 那你快改密码呀！
3. 但是我忘了提示问题的答案了。
4. 你的提示问题是什么？
5. 我最爱的人是谁。
6. 是我呀！
7. 对呀！但是我输入了很多遍你的名字，系统都说有误。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 老婆，我的電子郵箱被盜了！
2. 那你快改密碼呀！
3. 但是我忘了提示問題的答案了。
4. 你的提示問題是甚麼？
5. 我最愛的人是誰。
6. 是我呀！
7. 對呀！但是我輸入了很多遍你的名字，系統都說有誤。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. lǎopo, wǒ de diànzǐ yóuxiāng bèi dào le!

2. nà nǐ kuài gǎi mìmǎ ya!

3. dànshì wǒ wàng le tíshì wèntí de dáàn le.

4. nǐ de tíshì wèntí shì shénme?

5. wǒ zuì ài de rén shì shéi.

6. shì wǒ ya!

7. duì ya! dànshì wǒ shūrù le hěn duō biàn nǐ de míngzi, xìtǒng dōu shuō yǒuwù.

ENGLISH

1. Honey, my e-mail account has been hacked!

2. Then change the password quickly!

3. But I forgot the answer to my security question.

4. What was your security question?

5. Who is the person I love the most.

6. It's me!

7. Yeah. But I've put in your name a bunch of times and the system says it's wrong.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
电子邮箱	電子郵箱	diànzǐ yóuxiāng	e-mail box	noun
被盗	被盜	bèidào	to be broken into	phrase
改	改	gǎi	to change	verb
提示	提示	tíshì	to suggest	verb
输入	輸入	shūrù	to enter	verb
系统	系統	xìtǒng	system	noun
有误	有誤	yǒuwù	to have an error	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我的电子邮箱被盗了。 wǒ de diànzǐ yóuxiāng bèi dào le. My e-mail box was broken into.	如果你的银行账户被盗了，你该怎么办? rúguǒ nǐ de yínháng zhànghù bèi dào le, nǐ gāi zěnme bàn? What should you do if your bank account is broken into?
我刚刚改了自己的银行密码。 wǒ gānggāng gǎi le zìjǐ de yínháng mìmǎ. I just changed my bank password.	我的提示问题是：你的宠物叫什么名字? wǒ de tíshì wèntí shì: nǐ de chǒngwù jiào shénme míngzi? My security question is "What is the name of your pet?"
我输入了三遍密码，都不对。 wǒ shūrù le sān biàn mìmǎ, dōu bù duì. I entered the password three times; none were right.	这不是我的问题，是系统的问题。 zhè bù shì wǒ de wèntí, shì xìtǒng de wèntí. This isn't my problem; it's a system problem.

因为你的判断有误，我损失了很多钱。
yīnwèi nǐ depànduàn yǒu wù, wǒ sǔnshī le hěn duō qián.

I lost a lot of money because of your error in judgment.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Passive Voice

老婆，我的电子邮箱被盗了！

lǎopo, wǒ de diànzǐ yóuxiāng bèi dào le!

"Honey, my e-mail account was hacked!"

As we have learned in previous lessons, the passive voice is a type of sentence that makes the object (the receiver of the action) the subject of the sentence. For example, the English sentence "He hurt me" in passive voice would be "I was hurt by him." A simple Chinese sentence of this sort would be the sentence 我被他打了, *wǒ bèi tā dǎ le.* ("I was hit by him.") Note that the word order in this sentence is different from English. A literal translation would read "I by him to be hit."

While we have covered simple passive sentences in previous lessons, in this lesson we see two that are more complex. The first is the use of a more complex noun phrase in place of a pronoun or person. These types of complex sentences are very typical. The second interesting thing about our passive sentences in this lesson is that they omit the agent completely. In our dialogue, we hear that 我的电子邮箱被盗了, *wǒ de diànzǐ yóuxiāng bèi dào le.* ("My e-mail box has been hacked.") As in English, this sentence omits the doer of the action. In Chinese, we accomplish this by following 被 (*bèi*) directly with the main verb of the sentence.

This form of the passive is heavily contextual. Its meaning is understood largely through context or through common sense. For example, the sentence 包裹已经寄了 (*bāoguǒ yǐjīng jì le*) should be interpreted as "The package has already been sent" and not as "The package already sent [itself]" since the latter interpretation is nonsensical. In some situations, you will run into sentences with multiple possible interpretations and will need to rely on the context to decide if the voice of the sentence is passive or active.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Security in China

China may seem like a police state at first glance, but it really isn't when you look closer. Because many residential compounds and companies have to rely on themselves to ensure security, many compounds will post security guards at their gates. These security guards all dress alike with wide-brimmed military hats, gray slacks, and short-sleeved button-up shirts in the summer. They usually wear simple shoes stitched together with thin padding entirely made from cloth. It is not uncommon for security guards to drill in unison, marching up and down the street like soldiers on parade. But do not be fooled. These guards are not affiliated

with the military or the police. They cannot arrest you.

Although many guards range in age from around eighteen years old to well past fifty years old, the majority are young men from the countryside. They aren't usually very busy and make for good conversation partners. We know of several quite fluent foreigners who have reported using them as conversation partners on arrival in China. One way to make a good impression is to offer a cigarette, and start a bit of small talk the next time you see them. Given that these sentries control the entryways to places you're likely to be, you'll be surprised at how effective this is at getting better service and preventing your visitors from being harassed on their way in.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #14
Tough Career Choices

CONTENTS

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

14

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 我们来规划一下你的职业吧。
2. 我不知道我要做什么。我很迷茫。
3. 你爱好是什么?
4. 集邮。
5. 你体力如何?
6. 我跑得很快，视力五点零。
7. 那你最擅长的事情是什么?
8. 不要面子，脸皮厚。
9. 综合来说，最适合你的职业是捡破烂。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 我們來規劃一下你的職業吧。
2. 我不知道我要做甚麼。我很迷茫。
3. 你愛好是甚麼?
4. 集郵。
5. 你體力如何? 我跑得很快，視力五點零。

CONT'D OVER

6. 那你最擅長的事情是甚麼?

7. 不要面子，臉皮厚。

8. 綜合來說，最適合你的職業是撿破爛。

PINYIN

1. wǒmen lái guīhuà yīxià nǐ de zhíyè ba.

2. wǒ bù zhīdào wǒ yào zuò shénme. wǒ hěn mímáng.

3. nǐ àihào shì shénme?

4. jíyóu.

5. nǐ tǐlì rúhé?

6. wǒ pǎo de hěn kuài, shìlì wǔ diǎn líng.

7. nà nǐ zuì shàncháng de shìqing shì shénme?

8. bù yào miànzi, liǎnpí hòu.

9. zōnghé láishuō, zuì shìhé nǐ de zhíyè shì jiǎn pòlàn.

ENGLISH

1. Let's spend a bit of time planning your career.

CONT'D OVER

2. I don't know what I want to do. I feel so confused.

3. What do you like doing?

4. Collecting stamps.

5. How's your physical condition?

6. I can run quickly and have 20/20 eyesight.

7. So what are you best at doing?

8. I don't worry about face much and have thick skin.

9. Then...your most suitable job is picking up the trash.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
规划	規劃	guīhuà	plan	noun, verb
综合	綜合	zōnghé	general	adjective
面子	面子	miànzi	face	noun
擅长	擅長	shàncháng	to excel at	verb
视力	視力	shìlì	eyesight	noun
体力	體力	tǐlì	physical condition	noun
集邮	集郵	jíyóu	stamp collecting	verb
迷茫	迷茫	mímáng	bewildered	adjective
职业	職業	zhíyè	occupation	noun
捡破烂	撿破爛	jiǎnpòlàn	to pick up the trash	phrase

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你需要对自己的人生有一个规划。 Nǐ xūyào duì zìjǐ de rénshēng yǒu yīgè guīhuà. You need to have a plan for your own life.	一个人的综合素质表现在很多方面。 Yīgè rén de zònghé sùzhì biǎoxiàn zài hěnduō fāngmiàn. A person's general character shows itself in many places.
中国人很讲究面子。 Zhōngguó rén hěn jiǎngjiù miànzi. Chinese people are very particular about face.	我最擅长的是玩儿游戏。 Wǒ zuì shàncháng de shì wán yóuxì. I excel at playing video games.
检查视力的时候，发现他的孩子是近视。 Jiǎnchá shìlì de shíhou, fāxiàn tā de háizi shì jìnshì. His discovered his child is near-sighted, when checking his eyesight.	他体力很好，一口气跑了十公里。 tā tǐlì hěn hǎo, yī kǒu qì pǎo le shí gōnglǐ. His body is in good condition: he can run ten miles in a heartbeat.
集邮需要花费你很长的时间。 Jíyóu xūyào huāfèi nǐ hěn zhǎng de shíjiān. Stamp collecting takes up a lot of your time.	他刚掉了工作，很迷茫。 Tā gāng diàole gōngzuò, hěn mímáng. He just lost his job, and feels bewildered.
我最喜欢的职业是演员。 Wǒ zuì xǐhuan de zhíyè shì yǎnyuán. My favorite profession is being an actor.	捡破烂不被认为是个有体面的职业。 Jiǎn pòlàn bù bèi rènwéi shìgè yǒu tǐmiàn de zhíyè. Trash collecting is not considered a very honorable profession.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Advanced Ways of Asking Questions

你 体力如何？

"How is your physical condition?"

Our focus in today's grammar point is the question word 如何, *rúhé* ("How is it?") This is a relatively advanced way of asking a question in Chinese. We use it to ask "How about…(a noun or verb phrase which precedes it)." We encountered it in our dialogue when the guidance counselor asked the student 你体力如何, *nǐ tǐlì rúhé?* ("How is your physical condition?")

Consider the following sample sentences as well:

1. 你打球的技术如何？
   Nǐ dǎqiú de jìshù rúhé?
   "How are you at playing this game?"

2. 你的体力如何？爬这么高的山没有问题吧！
   Nǐ de tǐlì rúhé? Pá zhème gāo de shān méiyǒu wèntí ba!
   "How is your health? Climbing this mountain isn't a problem, right?"

3. 你觉得她的英语如何？
   Nǐ juéde tā de yīngyǔ rúhé?
   "What do you think of her English?"

There are a few interesting things to note in these sentences. The first is the word order, with placing 如何 last. This makes 如何 the grammatical equivalent of 怎么样, *zěnmeyàng?* ("How about it?") The difference between the two phrases is basically one of formality: 如何 is somewhat formal while 怎么样 is very casual. Our guidance counselor uses the formal expression here because it is her job. So be aware that if you use this phrase in relatively colloquial and informal settings with closer friends, it may come off as somewhat awkward. Conversely, used properly, this question word will mark you as an expert Mandarin-speaker.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Landing a Job in China

For recent college graduates the current job market is tough. Many college students secure internships at the end of their third year in college. Their fourth year is spent mostly out of the classroom and in the office of whichever company hires them. This is not usually a terribly formalized process, but it is the norm in many universities, especially for non-technical majors. As a result, finding a secure job puts a lot of stress on the backs of most college

students and especially those without the connections or money to find positions in the private sector.

In 1995, the Chinese government instituted what it called Project 211. This was an initiative to build one hundred and six key universities, aiming to cultivate a high-level elite for national economic and social development. One consequence of this has been a windfall in university funding, along with skyrocketing rates of student enrollment, and the expansion of higher education nationwide. While more students are receiving tertiary education, the job market has not kept pace for graduates with post-secondary experience.

This had led to a crisis of sorts for recent graduates. Many graduates coming from midlevel universities are finding themselves having to settle for more menial and lower-paying jobs. Some parents are even taking active roles in helping their children find employment. It has been reported that some overbearing parents have taken to accompanying their children to job fairs. This has had the obvious effect of deterring potential employers.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #15
A Tall, Tall, Chinese Tale

CONTENTS

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

#15

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 咱们历史老师真是疯子!
2. 为什么?
3. 他讲的都是自己编造的历史。
4. 比如说呢?
5. 恐龙不是史前灭绝的，而是在德国赢了二战之后。
6. 不是吧? 这太夸张了。
7. 你也觉得疯狂吧?
8. 恐龙明明是30年前圣诞老人当总统的时候灭绝的。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 咱們歷史老師真是瘋子!
2. 為甚麼?
3. 他講的都是自己編造的歷史。
4. 比如說呢?
5. 恐龍不是史前滅絕的，而是在德國贏了二戰之後。
6. 不是吧? 這太誇張了。

CONT'D OVER

7. 你也覺得瘋狂吧?

8. 恐龍明明是30年前聖誕老人當總統的時候滅絕的。

PINYIN

1. zánmen lìshǐ lǎoshī zhēnshì fēngzi!

2. wèishénme?

3. tā jiǎng de dōu shì zìjǐ biānzào de lìshǐ.

4. bǐrú shuō ne?

5. kǒnglóng bù shì shǐqián mièjué de, érshì zài déguó yíng le èrzhàn zhīhòu.

6. bù shì ba? zhè tài kuāzhāng le.

7. nǐ yě juéde fēngkuáng ba?

8. kǒnglóng míngmíng shì sānshí nián qián shèngdànlǎorén dāng zǒngtǒng de shíhou mièjué de.

ENGLISH

1. Our history teacher is crazy.

2. Why?

CONT'D OVER

3. He just makes history up in lectures.

4. What's an example?

5. Dinosaurs didn't go extinct ages ago, but after the Germans won WWII.

6. You kidding? That's totally stretching it.

7. Yeah, you think it's crazy too, eh?

8. Dinosaurs clearly went extinct thirty years ago when Santa Claus was president.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English
咱们	咱們	zánmen	we; us
二战	二戰	èrzhàn	World War II
夸张	誇張	kuāzhāng	to exaggerate
疯狂	瘋狂	fēngkuáng	crazy
明明	明明	míngmíng	clearly, evidently
恐龙	恐龍	kǒnglóng	dinosaur
疯子	瘋子	fēngzi	madman
编造	编造	biānzào	to make up
比如	比如	bǐrú	for instance
历史	歷史	lìshǐ	history
灭绝	滅絕	mièjué	to go extinct

SAMPLE SENTENCES

咱们的老师不懂历史，他其实是个疯子。
Zánmen de lǎoshī bù dǒng lìshǐ, tā qíshí shì ge fēngzi.

Our teacher doesn't understand history; he's actually crazy.

二战结束后，世界终于迎来了久违的和平。
èrzhàn jiéshù hòu, shìjiè zhōngyú yínglái le jiǔwéi de hépíng.

After World War II ended, the world entered a long era of peace.

这个人的演技太夸张了，脱离了真实。
Zhè ge rén de yǎnjìtài kuāzhāng le, tuōlí le zhēnshí.

This person's acting skills are too exaggerated and not realistic.

他是一个疯狂的历史学家，对古代世界史尤为着迷。
Tā shì yī ge fēngkuáng de lìshǐ xuéjiā, duì gǔdài shìjiè shǐ yóu wéizháomí .

He is a crazy historian and is particularly entranced by the ancient world.

他明明是个疯子，却非说自己很正常。
Tā míngmíng shì ge fēng zǐ, què fēi shuō zìjǐ hěn zhèngcháng.

He is clearly a madman, although he says he is quite normal.

恐龙是曾经在亿万年前统治地球的生物。
Kǒnglóng shì céngjīng zài yìwàn nián qián tǒngzhì dìqiú de shēngwù.

Dinosaurs are creatures who once ruled the Earth many years ago.

他们学校雇了一个疯子来讲历史。
Tāmen xuéxiào gù le yī ge fēngzi lái jiǎng lìshǐ.

Their school hired a madman to teach history.

历史是真实记录发生的事实的，是不容编造的。
Lìshǐ shì zhēnshí jìlù fāshēng de shìshí de, shì bù róng biānzào de.

History is a documentary record of what really happened and can't just be made-up.

历史上有几次毁灭性的全球大范围战争，比如第一次世界大战和第二次世界大战。
Lìshǐ shàng yǒu jǐ cì huǐmièxìng de quánqiú dà fànwéi zhànzhēng, bǐrú dìyīcìshìjièdàzhàn hé dìèrcìshìjièdàzhàn.

History has had several disastrous global wars, such as the First World War and the Second World War.

我们要学习真实的历史，不是虚假的历史。
Wǒmen yào xuéxí zhēnshí de lìshǐ, bù shì xūjiǎ de lìshǐ.

We want to study real history, not made-up history.

随着气候的变化，这些珍稀物种都濒临灭绝了。
Suízhe qìhòu de biànhuà, zhè xiē zhēnxī wùzhǒng dōu bīnlín mièjué le.

As the climate changes, these precious creatures will all go extinct.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is on the 不是...而是... Pattern
恐龙不是史前灭绝的，而是在德国赢了二战之后
kǒnglóng bù shì shǐqián mièjué de, érshì zài déguó yíng le èrzhàn zhīhòu.
"Dinosaurs didn't go extinct ages ago, but after the Germans won WWII."

不是...而是...(*bù shì… érshì...)* is a pattern that emphasizes the contrast between two words, phrases, or clauses. We can translate it into English as "not... but...," or "not... rather...." This is a relatively formal way of communicating, but we can still use it in common speech. There are two things to notice about it. The first is that our twin clauses must be balanced: they must consist of the same part of speech and be interchangeable. The simplest sentences of this sort work with two nouns, in which case, 是 functions as our main verb. As the examples below make clear, we can use this pattern in more complex sentences with contrasted verb clauses.

Formation

不是 + (Sentence) + 而是 + (Sentence)
(Subject) + 不是 + (Noun) + 而是 + (Noun)
(Subject) + 不是 + (Verb Phrase) + 而是 + (Verb Phrase)
For Example:

1. 我们学的不是西班牙语，而是中文。
   Wǒmen xué de bù shì Xībānyáyǔ, érshì Zhōngwén.
   "What we're studying isn't Spanish, but Chinese."

2. 我不是不愿意帮你的忙，而是没有钱。
   Wǒ bù shì bùyuànyì bāng nǐ de máng, érshì méiyǒu qián.
   "It's not that I don't want to help you, it's that I don't have the money."

3. 恐龙不是史前灭绝的，而是在德国赢了二战之后
   Kǒnglóng bù shì shǐqián mièjué de, érshì zài déguó yíng le èrzhàn zhīhòu
   "Dinosaurs didn't go extinct ages ago, but after the Germans won WWII."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Recent History Lesson

Despite the frequent complaints you'll read in the Chinese media about the selectivity of Japanese history textbooks, it is hard not to feel that the pot is calling the kettle black on that count. Chinese students are typically brought up with a very nationalist view of modern history. Chinese history prior to 1949 is typically taught through an explicit Leninist perspective that is sharply critical of all foreign activities in China. Historical coverage of post-revolution China also tends to adhere quite closely to party doctrine.

That said, in recent years there has been a clear loosening of control over history. In part, this has happened because education is delegated to provincial ministries, which hand off responsibility for local schools to municipalities. This gives teachers significant leeway to craft their own lessons, which can be surprisingly critical of mainstream CCP doctrine. Consider the case of Yuan Tengfei, a middle-school teacher in Beijing who became famous when a series of video recordings of his lectures were posted to the Internet. Teng's acrid comments

about Mao Zedong and the Cultural Revolution made the teacher a minor celebrity. And as his online popularity grew, Teng was invited to appear on CCTV's Lecture Room, a television program usually reserved for prominent professors and established scholars. He also got a book deal.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #16
Presidential Aspirations

CONTENTS

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

#16

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你为什么又撒谎？我真是白养你了。
2. 爸爸，对不起...
3. 三字经都白背了，书都白念了。
4. 我知道错了...
5. 你知不知道林肯在你这岁数有多诚实？啊？
6. 不知道...我只知道林肯在您这岁数，都已经当总统了。

ENGLISH

1. Why are you lying again? I really raised you for nothing.
2. Father, I'm sorry.
3. It's all been wasted, memorizing the classics and reading all those books.
4. I know I've been wrong.
5. Do you know how honest Lincoln was at your age?
6. No…I only know that he was president at yours.

PINYIN

1. nǐ wèishénme yòu sāhuǎng? wǒ zhēnshì bái yǎng nǐ le.
2. bàba, duìbuqǐ ...
3. Sān zì jīng dōu bái bèi le, shū dōu bái niànle.
4. wǒ zhīdào cuò le ...
5. nǐ zhībùzhīdào Línkěn zài nǐ zhè suìshu yǒu duō chéngshí? á?
6. bù zhīdào ...wǒ zhǐ zhīdào Línkěn zài nín zhè suìshu, dōu yǐjīng dāng zǒngtǒng le.

TRADITIONAL

1. 你為甚麼又撒謊？我真是白養你了。
2. 爸爸，對不起...
3. 三字經都白背了，書都白念了。
4. 我知道錯了...
5. 你知不知道林肯在你這歲數有多誠實？啊？
6. 不知道... 我只知道林肯在您這歲數，都已經當總統了。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
撒谎	撒謊	sāhuǎng	to lie	verb
当	當	dāng	to hold a position	verb
诚实	誠實	chéngshí	honest	adjective
念	念	niàn	to recite	verb
背	背	bèi	to memorize	verb
岁数	歲數	suìshu	age in years	noun
养	養	yǎng	to raise	verb
三字经	三字經	sān zì jīng	Three Character Classic	noun
白	白	bái	in vain	adverb
总统	總統	zǒngtǒng	president	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

很多家长都不知道如何解决孩子撒谎的问题。 *hěn duō jiāzhǎng dōu bù zhīdào rúhé jiějué háizi sāhuǎng de wèntí.* Many parents don't know how to solve the problem of lying children.	他当总统的时候，国家的经济发展得很好。 *tā dāng zǒngtǒng de shíhou, guójiā de jīngjì fāzhǎn děi hěn hǎo.* When he was president, the economy developed very well.
诚实是一个人应该具备的重要品质。 *chéngshí shì yī ge rén yīnggāi jùbèi de zhòngyào pǐnzhì.* Honesty is an important quality a person needs to have.	你能念一下这行字吗，我看不清楚 *nǐ néng niàn yīxià zhè xíng zì ma, wǒ kàn bu qīng chǔ* Can you recite this line of text? I can't see it clearly.

背完生词以后还需要反复练习和复习。 *bèiwán shēngcí yǐhòu hái xūyào fǎnfù liànxí hé fùxí.* After you memorize new words, you still need to practice and review repeatedly.	您老多大岁数了？ *nín lǎo duō dà suìshu le?* How old are you?
北京城区内不能养大型犬。 *Běijīng chéng qū nèi bù néng yǎng dàxíng quǎn.* You can't raise large dogs inside the Beijing city area.	我很小的时候，妈妈让我背三字经。 *wǒ hěn xiǎo de shíhou, māma ràng wǒ bēi sān zì jīng.* When I was very little, my mother made me memorize the *Three Character Classic.*
你白上了四年大学，这点儿道理都不懂。 *nǐ bái shàng le sì nián dàxué, zhè diǎnr dàolǐ dōu bù dǒng.* You went to university in vain if you don't understand such a simple matter.	

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is the Adverb 白
三字经都白背了，书都白念了。
Sān zì jīng dōu bái bèi le, shū dōu bái niànle.
"It's all been wasted, memorizing the classics and reading all those books."

Our grammar focus today is how to say that something is "done in vain." In Chinese, we accomplish this with the adverb 白 ("in vain"). This is the same 白 as in the color white. You can see its use as an adverb in our dialogue for this lesson when our Chinese parent says 三字经都白背了，书都白念了. ("It's all been wasted, memorizing the classics and reading all those books.")

For Example:

1. 我都白去了，谈判没有成功。
   Wǒ dōu bái qùle, tánpàn méiyǒu chénggōng.
   "I went for nothing: the talks didn't succeed."
2. 白说了，我说服不了了。
   Bái shuōle, wǒ shuōfú bùliǎo le.
   "It's no use: I can't convince him."

We can place 白 before any verb, although we most commonly pair it with common, single-character verbs. You will hear people say they do not want to 白去 ("to go in vain") or 白来 ("to come in vain"). If you are unable to convince someone of something, you can also refer to that as 白说 ("to speak in vain"). And for extra emphasis, be sure to add the adverb 都 prior to the adverb 白. This reinforces suggestions that the activity was "entirely" or "totally" a failure.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese One-Child Policy

The one-child policy was established in China under Deng Xiaoping in 1979 to keep population growth to a sustainable level. Although originally designated as a "temporary measure," the policy has continued unabated since its creation. Although unevenly enforced in rural parts of the country, the one-child policy has also been successful in its aims of curtailing population growth. There are no plans to rescind it: the Director of China's National Family Planning and Population Commission has recently stated the policy will remain in force at least through 2015 and likely longer.

Since Chinese families have traditionally been quite large, the one-child policy has also ushered in a significant change in family dynamics. Although China has always been a Confucian society that has placed a great value on filial piety, it is difficult for many children to conform to and fulfill the heightened parental expectations that come with being an only child. At the same time, without the financial burden of raising multiple children, many Chinese parents are placing higher expectations on their single child. This has driven enormous growth in the Chinese education industry started in the 1990s and created a rapid increase in the number of Chinese students sent abroad.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #17
The Secret to a Spotless House

CONTENTS

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

17

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 你家里怎么总是那么干净啊?
2. 那是！我追求的是一尘不染的整洁。
3. 你该不是有病吧?
4. 你才有病。
5. 我是说洁癖。
6. 我没有洁癖，我只是请了个阿姨来打扫。
7. 哦，家有阿姨，如有洁癖。

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 你家裡怎麼總是那麼乾淨啊?
2. 那是！我追求的是一塵不染的整潔。
3. 你該不是有病吧?
4. 你才有病。
5. 我是說潔癖。
6. 我沒有潔癖，我只是請了個阿姨來打掃。
7. 哦，家有阿姨，如有潔癖。

PINYIN

CONT'D OVER

1. nǐ jiā lǐ zěnme zǒngshì nàme gānjìng a?

2. nà shì! wǒ zhuīqiú de shì yīchénbùrǎn de zhěngjié.

3. nǐ gāi bù shì yǒubìng ba?

4. nǐ cái yǒubìng.

5. wǒ shì shuō jiépǐ.

6. wǒ méiyǒu jiépǐ, wǒ zhǐ shì qǐng le ge āyí lái dǎsǎo.

7. ò, jiā yǒu āyí, rú yǒu jiépǐ.

ENGLISH

1. How is your home so clean?

2. Isn't it! I demand absolute spotlessness.

3. You don't have a disease?

4. You're the sick one.

5. I'm talking about an obsessive disorder.

6. I'm not obsessive, I just ask a maid to clean.

7. Oh, having a maid is about the same.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
干净	乾淨	gānjìng	clean	adjective
追求	追求	zhuīqiú	to pursue	verb
整洁	整潔	zhěngjié	tidy	adjective
有病	有病	yǒubìng	to have a disease	verb
洁癖	潔癖	jiépǐ	obsessive cleanliness disorder	noun
阿姨	阿姨	āyí	maid	noun
打扫	打掃	dǎsǎo	to clean up	verb
如	如	rú	like	conjunction

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你的家干净极了 nǐ de jiā gānjìng jí le Your house is extremely clean.	她一直说不，但他还是追求她。 tā yīzhí shuō bù, dàn tā hái shì zhuīqiú tā. She keeps saying no, but he keeps pursuing her.
我追求的是一尘不染的整洁。 wǒ zhuīqiú de shì yī chén bù rǎn de zhěngjié. I demand perfect spotlessness.	你有病吗? nǐ yǒubìng ma ? Are you sick?
我没法和有洁癖的人生活在一起。 wǒ méifǎ hé yǒu jiépǐde rén shēnghuó zài yīqǐ. There's no way I can live with someone with obsessive cleanliness disorder.	在中国雇一个阿姨很便宜。 zài Zhōngguó gù yī ge āyí hěn piányi. It's very inexpensive to hire a maid in China.
我一周打扫一次家里的卫生。 wǒ yīzhōudǎsǎo yī cì jiā lǐ de wèishēng. I clean the house once every week.	朴树的最新专辑叫做"生如夏花"。 pǔshùde zuì xīn zhuānjí jiàozuò "shēng rú xià huā ". Pu Shu's latest album is called "Life Like Summer Flowers".

GRAMMAR

The Focus of this Lesson is a Classical Turn of Phrase

家有阿姨，如有洁癖。

jiā yǒu āyí, rú yǒu jiépǐ.

"Having a maid is about the same."

In previous lessons we encountered the character 如 as part of the conjunction 如果 *rúguǒ* ("if"). In that situation the character meant "if" as in the sentence 如果有问题，随时给我打电话 *rúguǒ yǒu wèntí, suíshí gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà* ("If there's a problem, give me a call anytime."). In our dialogue however, we see this character used in a different and much more difficult way in the sentence 家有阿姨，如有洁癖 *jiā yǒu āyí, rú yǒu jiépǐ* ("Having a maid is the same as being obsessive about cleanliness").

This second type of usage is confusing for many students for two reasons. The first is that the character 如 is quite close to its usage in classical Chinese. The meaning of the character 如 is not technically "if" but rather "much like". It means almost exactly the same thing as 好像 and can usually be replaced by that word. The second reason for the confusion is that 如 is a more formal expression and tends to appear in more challenging sentences which depend on symmetry and structure to communicate meaning. Consider the following examples:

1. 朴树的最新专辑叫做“生如夏花”
   Pǔ Shù de zuì xīn zhuānjí jiàozuò "shēng rú xià huā"
   Pu Shu's latest album is called "Life like Summer Flowers"

2. 生活如六月的天气一样不可预测
   Shēnghuó rú liù yuè de tiānqì yīyàng bùkěyùcè.
   Life is like the weather in June - impossible to forecast.

How should you use the character 如? In most conversations 好像 is probably a better choice. Because 如 is a more classical character however, you will run into it fairly commonly in formal situations, or situations where your speaking partner wishes to come across as more educated. You will also run into it fairly frequently in written Chinese, so it pays to be aware of this meaning.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Ayis in China

The 阿姨 *āyí* is a cultural institution in China. In most major cities, the women (and it is almost always women) who work in the household service sector are drawn in from surrounding rural areas. In Shanghai, workers from Anhui and Fujian predominate, while in Beijing workers come mostly from Hebei and northeastern China.

Cleaning staff typically work odd hours and get paid hourly. In most cases, a maid may arrange to come over once or twice a week to help with everything from cleaning to cooking. Richer households will often hire a full-time maid who acts as something more akin to a nanny, and whose duties extend to cooking, running errands and taking care of the children. As the economy has grown, wages for workers in this sector have grown as well, and competition has driven up wages especially for workers who speak foreign languages like Korean.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #18
Riding bicycles in China

CONTENTS

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

#18

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你不觉得骑自行车不戴头盔很危险吗？
2. 什么？你在说什么？
3. 没有头盔，你可能会出事儿。
4. 不好意思，我不明白你在说什么。
5. 我是说，你应该戴头盔。万一你被汽车或摩托车撞了，怎么办？
6. 头盔...是什么？

ENGLISH

1. Don't you think it's really dangerous to ride a bicycle without a helmet?
2. What? What are you saying?
3. If you don't have a helmet, maybe you'll have an accident.
4. I am sorry, I don't understand what you are saying.
5. I am saying you should wear a helmet. On the off case you are hit by a motorcycle, what would you do?
6. Helmet? What's that?

PINYIN

1. Nǐ bù juéde qí zìxíngchē bù dàitóukuī hěn wēixiǎn ma?
2. Shénme? Nǐ zài shuō shénme?
3. Méiyǒu tóukuī, nǐ kěnéng huì chū shìr.
4. Bùhǎoyìsi, wǒ bù míngbai nǐ zài shuō shénme.
5. Wǒ shì shuō, nǐ yīnggāi dàitóukuī. Wànyī nǐ bèi qìchē huò mótuōchē zhuàngle, zěnme bàn?
6. Tóukuī ... shì Shénme?

TRADITIONAL

1. 你不覺得騎自行車不戴頭盔很危險嗎？
2. 甚麼？你在說甚麼？
3. 沒有頭盔，你可能會出事兒。
4. 不好意思，我不明白你在說甚麼。
5. 我是說，你應該戴頭盔。萬一你被汽車或摩托車撞了，怎麼辦？
6. 頭盔...是什麼？

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
骑	騎	qí	to ride	verb
撞	撞	zhuàng	to collide	verb
千万	千萬	qiānwàn	whatever you do	conjunction
万一	萬一	wànyī	on the off chance	conjunction
出事	出事	chūshì	to have an accident	verb
危险	危險	wēixiǎn	dangerous	adjective
头盔	頭盔	tóukuī	helmet	noun
戴	戴	dài	to wear	verb
自行车	自行車	zìxíngchē	bicycle	noun
交通	交通	jiāotōng	transportation	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你骑车的时候要注意安全。 *Nǐ qíchē de shíhou yào zhùyì ānquán.* When you ride a bike, you've got to pay attention to safety.	他不会骑摩托车，撞到了树上。 *Tā búhuì qí mótuōchē, zhuàngdào le shù shàng.* He couldn't drive a motor bike and hit a tree.
慢点儿，千万别出事。 *Màn diǎnr, qiānwàn bié chūshì.* Slow down, whatever you do, don't cause a problem.	别太快了，万一撞车了怎么办？ *Bié tài kuài le, wànyī zhuàngchē le zěnme bàn?* Not too quickly, in the unlikely event you crash the car, what would you do?

他骑自行车很小心，从不出事儿。 *Tā qí zìxíngchē hěn xiǎoxīn, cóngbù chū shìr.* He is very careful riding his bike and never has any accidents.	超速开车太危险了。 *Chāosù kāichē tài wēi xiǎn le.* Driving too fast is too dangerous.
我经常忘记拿头盔。 *Wǒ jīngcháng wàngjì ná tóukuī.* I often forget to take my helmet.	你头上戴的是什么？ *Nǐ tóu shàng dài de shì shénme?* What's that you've got on your head?
我的自行车被偷了。 *Wǒ de zìxíngchē bèi tōu le.* My bicycle has been stolen.	高峰时间，交通很堵。 *Gāofēng shíjiān, jiāotōng hěn dǔ.* At peak times, the transportation grid is clogged.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is 万一 and 千万
万一你被汽车或摩托车撞了，怎么办？
"On the off case you are hit by a motorcycle, what would you do?"

In this lesson we talk about the difference between “万一(wànyī)” and “千万(qiānwàn)”. Although may look similar to many learners, they are in fact quite different in meaning. Both phrases are adverbs. While *wanyi* is usually used to start a sentence, *qianwan* usually follows the subject of the sentence.

万一(wànyī) which means "in case of" or "in the unlikely event of," is usually combined with 怎么办(zěnme bàn) at the end of the sentence to form a common sentence pattern. In most cases, it can be replaced with 如果(rúguǒ) to express the speaker's concern over the consequence of something unlikely happening. Examples are:

1. 万一他不记得你，你怎么办？

Wànyī tā bù jìde nǐ, nǐ zěnme bàn?

In the rare case he doesn't remember you, what would you do?

2. 万一你出事了怎么办？

Wànyī nǐ chūshì le zěnme bàn?

In case there is an accident, what would you do?

3. 万一你的摩托车被偷了怎么办？

Wànyī nǐ de mótuōchē bèi tōu le zěnme bàn?

What would you do if your motor bike is stolen?

千万(qiānwàn), which means "whatever you do," is often used to stress something important or to give someone an order or suggestion. Consider the following examples:

1. 你千万别去。

Nǐ qiānwàn biéqù.

Whatever you do, don't go.

2. 骑车千万要注意安全。

Qíchē qiānwàn yào zhùyì ānquán.

When you ride in a bike, you should really pay attention to the safety.

3. 你千万别再忘戴头盔了。

Nǐ qiānwàn bié zài wàng dàitóukuī le.

Whatever you do, don't forget to wear a helmet again.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

China is well know for being the "kingdom of bicycles". However, in the last decade, strong economic development has enabled more and more Chinese people to replace the two-wheeled bicycles with the four-wheeled cars. Consequently, the roads in China are getting more and more crowded with cars, buses, motorbikes and bicycles all jammed up together -- which has naturally made riding bicycles in China one of the most dangerous experiences. In spite of these facts, you would find Chinese bicycle riders are amaingly skillful and brave, as nearly none of them rides with a helmet. Not only that, you can hardly find a bike shop that also sells helmets. When I was asking one of the shop assistants one day in Beijing, the answer was, "Hmm... Wait untill it gets cold, maybe you'll find somewhere you can buy a helmet."
When it comes to the road safety in China, Chinese people are unusually brave. It's just like 90% of the Chinese drivers drive without the seat belts on. Literally none of the motorbike or bicycle riders wears helmets and the majority of pedestrians just cross the road anywhere they like and whenever they like. It all seems crazy when you first arrive in China. Then again, it only takes a couple of days before you get used to it and become just like the Chinese who live there.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #19
The Chinese Eunuch

CONTENTS

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

#19

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 明天我家猫咪就要去做绝育手术了。
2. 天啊，太可怜了！
3. 没办法，这也是为它好呀。
4. 要不，你们今天晚上给它找只小母猫吧。
5. 什么？
6. 它明天就要成猫太监了，今天还不能。。。
7. 我。。。无语了。

ENGLISH

1. Tomorrow my cat is going to get spayed.
2. Heavens, how pitiable!
3. There's nothing to be done. This is better for it too.
4. Why don't you look for a female cat for it tonight?
5. What?
6. It's going to be a cat eunuch tomorrow, tonight it might as well...
7. I.. am speechless.

PINYIN

1. Míngtiān wǒ jiā māomī jiù yào qù zuò juéyù shǒushù le.
2. Tiānā, tài kělián le!
3. Méi bànfǎ, zhèyě shì wéi tā hǎo yā.
4. Yàobu, nǐmen jīntiān wǎnshang gěi tā zhǎo zhǐ xiǎo mǔ māo ba.
5. Shénme?
6. Tā míngtiān jiù yào chéng māo tàijiān le, jīntiān hái bù néng...
7. Wǒ... wú yǔ le.

TRADITIONAL

1. 明天我家貓咪就要去做絕育手術了。
2. 天啊，太可憐了！
3. 沒辦法，這也是為它好呀。
4. 要不，你們今天晚上給它找只小母貓吧。
5. 甚麼？
6. 它明天就要成貓太監了，今天還不能。。。
7. 我。。。無語了。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
猫咪	貓咪	māomī	kitty	noun
绝育	絕育	juéyù	sterilization	noun
手术	手術	shǒushù	surgery	noun
太监	太監	tàijiān	eunuch	noun
无语	無語	wú yǔ	speechless	verb phrase
要不	要不	yàobù	otherwise, why not	conjunction
要么	要麼	yàome	either	conjunction

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你的猫咪也太凶了，老咬人！ *Nǐ de māomī yě tài xiōng le, lǎo yǎo rén!* Your cat is too fierce, it's always biting people.	给宠物做绝育手术是很平常的事。 *Gěi chǒngwù zuò juéyù shǒushù shì hěn píngcháng de shì.* It's really common to spay or neuter a pet.
这只是个小手术，没问题的！ *Zhè zhǐ shì ge xiǎoshǒushù, méiwèntí de!* This is only a small operation, there's no problem!	中国古代时有很多太监。 *Zhōngguó gǔdài shíyǒuhěn duō tàijiān.* In ancient times China had many eunuchs.
我无语了，你怎么能这么说呢。 *Wǒ wú yǔ le, nǐ zěnme néng zhème shuō ne.* I'm speechless, how could you say that?	要不我带她去医院吧? *Yàobù wǒ dài tā qù yīyuàn ba ?* Why don't I take her to the hospital?

你要么呆在家里，要么去上学。

Nǐ yàome dāi zài jiā lǐ, yàome qù shàngxué.

You either stay at home or go to school.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is "要不...吧"(yàobu... ba) 要不，你们今天晚上给它找只小母猫吧。
"Why don't you look for a female cat for it tonight?"

Today we are introduce the word 要不 *yàobu* (why not). This is a very colloquial way to make a suggestion. Place it at the start of your sentence. Because we are using this to make a suggestion, it is very natural to end our sentence with the auxiliary particle 吧 (ba) to form the grammar pattern 要不...吧 (yàobu... ba). This can be roughly translated as "how about" or "why not" in English. Notice the way that 要不 (yàobu) sentences have a soft connotation, almost as if the speaker is seeking agreement and approval from the listener. Here are two examples:

1. 要不你就待在家里，别去上班了吧？
   Yàobu nǐ jiù dāi zài jiā lǐ, bié qù shàngbān le ba?
   How about instead going to work, you stay at home?
2. 要不开我的车去吧？
   Yàobu kāi wǒ de chē qù ba?
   How about drive my car to go there ?

Many people get the 要不 construction confused with the 要么 *yàome* ("either") construction. These two words sound similar, but have radically different meanings in fact. Unlike 要不, 要么 is used in pairs to give the meaning "either…or…". It is also unlike 要不 in that it is extremely forceful. Rather than seeking consensus, 要么 forces the listener to make a choice between one of the two options presented. Considering the following examples:

1. 你要么待在家里，要么去上学。
   Nǐ yàome dāi zài jiā lǐ, yàome qù shàngxué.
   You can either stay at home, or go to school.
2. 你要么现在跟我回家，要么就永远也别回去了。
   Nǐ yàome xiànzài gēn wǒ huíjiā, yàome jiù yǒngyuǎn yě bié huíqu le.
   You are either going home with me right no, or not going back forever.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese people love pets. At least in the last 10 years, the number of families that keeps pets (mainly dogs) has increased dramatically. While in the past the most common pets in Beijing were cats and birds, the popularity of dogs has increased radically lately. Another popular new pet in China is the turtle.

As pets have become more common, the number of veterinary clincs in China is on the increase too. Interestingly, if you walk into some of pet hospitals, you will find all sorts of pet-related services. These not only include medical services such as treating animal diseases, but also more cosmetic services like washing pets, clipping their nails and dressing them up. Some pet stores will even dye animals. Our staff have seen people walking dogs with fur dyed to make them resemble pandas.

The downside of this new trend is that the number of stray cats and dogs in Beijing has increased dramatically in recent years as well. Many of these pets are clearly formerly domesticated animals whose owners tired of the novelty and responsibility of caring for an animal and who let the pets loose in the city. Some also belonged to people who moved to new apartments where pets were not allowed. Around many apartment complexes you will find a number of stray cats who are cared for communally by the residents within. It is common to find food and water bowls in the bicycle yards provided for the neighborhood strays by well-meaning residents.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #20
Shopping Forever in China

CONTENTS

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

#20

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 你把我拖到这儿，逛起来没完没了了。
2. 你觉得这件紫色的怎么样？
3. 紫色的看起来太老气了，哎呀，你随便吧，随便吧
4. 那粉红色的呢？
5. 我半个小时以前就说了，你爱买哪件买哪件
6. 但是，我每件都喜欢。你给我参谋参谋。
7. 你要是问我的意见——我每件都不喜欢！

ENGLISH

1. You've dragged me here and haven't stopped shopping.
2. What do you think about this purple piece?
3. The purple one looks too old fashioned. Or whatever. Buy whichever you want to buy.
4. Then the pink one?
5. I told you half an hour ago, if you like it buy it.
6. But I like all of them. Give me some advice.
7. If you're asking for my opinion -- I don't like any of them.

PINYIN

1. Nǐ bǎ wǒ tuō dào zhèr, guàng qǐlai méiwánméiliǎo le.
2. Nǐ juéde zhè jiàn zǐsè de zěnmeyàng?
3. Zǐsè de kàn qǐlái tài lǎoqì le, āiya, nǐ suíbiàn ba, suíbiàn ba
4. Nà fěnhóngsè de ne?
5. Wǒ bàn ge xiǎoshí yǐqián jiù shuōle, nǐ ài mǎi nǎ jiàn mǎi nǎ jiàn
6. Dànshì, wǒ měi jiàn dū xǐhuān. Nǐ gěi wǒ cānmóucānmóu.
7. Nǐ yàoshi wèn wǒ de yìjiàn ----wǒ měi jiàn dū bù xǐhuān!

TRADITIONAL

1. 你把我拖到這兒，逛起來沒完沒了了。
2. 你覺得這件紫色的怎麼樣？
3. 紫色的看起來太老氣了，哎呀，你隨便吧，隨便吧
4. 那粉紅色的呢？
5. 我半個小時以前就說了，你愛買哪件買哪件
6. 但是，我每件都喜歡。你給我參謀參謀。
7. 你要是問我的意見----我每件都不喜歡！

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
拖	拖	tuō	to drag	verb
没完没了	沒完沒了	méiwánméiliǎo	never ending	adjective
紫色	紫色	zǐsè	purple	noun
老气	老氣	lǎoqì	old fashioned	adjective
随便	隨便	suíbiàn	as you like	pronoun
意见	意見	yìjiàn	opinion	noun
参谋	參謀	cānmóu	to give suggestions	verb
粉红色	粉紅色	fěnhóngsè	pink	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

我女朋友拖着我逛了一整天的商场。 *Wǒ nǚpéngyou tuōzhe wǒ guàng le yī zhěng tiān de shāngchǎng.* My girlfriend dragged me out shopping for a whole day.	她一逛商场就没完没了。 *Tā yī guàng shāngchǎng jiù méiwánméiliǎo.* As soon as she goes shopping, she never stops.
紫色比绿色好看。 *zǐsè bǐ lǜsèhǎokàn.* Purple is prettier than green.	她穿那件旗袍看起来太老气了。 *Tā chuān nà jiàn qípáo kàn qǐlái tài lǎoqì le.* The qipao she is wearing looks too old fashioned.

我们就在外面随便吃点儿吧。 *Wǒmen jiù zài wàimian suíbiàn chī diǎnr ba.* Let's just go and eat something outside.	他一提起意见来就没完没了。 *Tā yī tíqǐ yìjiàn lái jiù méiwánméiliǎo.* As soon as he starts giving his opinion, he never stops.
她让我给她参谋参谋该买哪个牌子。 *Tā ràng wǒ gěi tā cānmóu cānmóu gāi mǎi nǎ ge páizi.* She asked me to give her some suggestions on which brand to buy.	粉红色是我最不喜欢的颜色。 *Fěnhóngsè shì wǒ zuì bù xǐhuān de yánsè.* Pink is my least favorite color.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is "爱...(就)..."ài ...(jiù)...
你爱买哪件买哪件。
Nǐ ài mǎi nǎ jiàn mǎi nǎ jiàn.
" Buy whichever you want."

Today we introduce a very colloquial pattern that will make you sound more native than native. As you know by now, 爱 (ài) literally means "to love". In this pattern we see it followed by a verb phrase which is repeated twice. In our dialogue, consider the sentence 你爱买哪件买哪件 *nǐ ài mǎi nǎ jiàn mǎi nǎ jiàn* ("But whichever one you like"). Our verb phrase here is the verb 买 (mǎi) followed by the question phrase 哪件 (nǎ jiàn). The whole sentence can be literally translated as "you love to buy whichever, buy whichever." Let's quickly consider some more examples:

1. 他爱干什么干什么，和我没关系。
   Tā ài gàn shénmegàn shénme, hé wǒ méiguānxi.
   He can do whatever he wants to do, it doesn't concern me.
2. 我爱吃什么吃什么，你别管。
   Wǒ ài chī shénme chī shénme, nǐ biéguǎn.
   I eat whatever I want to eat, it's none of your business.

If you use this pattern, be aware that you're signalling a degree of contempt or disregard for the matter at hand. This is not always rude, but be careful when you use this in formal situations. But if you really want to emphasize your disregard, you should feel free to place an extra 就 between your reduplicated action phrases, as with the following sentence:

1. 他爱说什么就说什么，别理他们。
   Tā ài shuō shénme jiù shuō shénme, bié lǐ tāmen.
   He can say whatever he wants to say, let's not be bothered.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Although this is rapidly changing in major urban cities like Beijing and Shanghai, most Chinese people don't purchasing clothing from large clothing stores with independent fitting rooms. Much more common are bazaar-style markets packed with hundreds of small shops, each of which sells into a particular niche. You can go to one small store to purchase jeans and pants, another for shoes and yet another for jackets and exterior wear. And because most of these stores are quite small, they almost never have fitting rooms. Instead, when you find an article of clothing you like, the salesperson will create a makeshift changing room by stringing up a cloth covering in a corner of their shop. This gives you the privacy to change, but not the privacy to take all day doing so.

While you might like to stick the to more expensive Westernized shops, remember that you might be missiing out: it's possible to find some incredible bargains at traditional Chinese markets. In more than a few cases, factories contracted to product expensive clothing for export will produce more than their quota and then sell the remainder into mainland distribution channels at a significant markdown, but still a significant profit. That expensive sweater that cost more than three hundred dollars back home? Don't be surprised if you can find it for a tenth of the price in China. Still expensive compared to some of the other pieces of clothing on sale, but a bargain nonetheless.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #21
The most luxurious hotel in China

CONTENTS

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

#21

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SIMPLIFIED CHINESE

1. 这个房间可真大呀!
2. 那是，总统套房。
3. 这张床真软!
4. 当然，五星级，都是进口的。
5. 这厕所真高级！哎？怎么没有热水?
6. 哦？又停电了。
7. 又。。。？
8. 忘了告诉你，这里隔三差五就会停会儿电。节约用电嘛!

TRADITIONAL CHINESE

1. 這個房間可真大呀!
2. 那是，總統套房。
3. 這張床真軟!
4. 當然，五星級，都是進口的。
5. 這廁所真高級！哎？怎麼沒有熱水?
6. 哦？又停電了。

CONT'D OVER

7. 又。。。？

8. 忘了告訴你，這裡隔三差五就會停會兒電。節約用電嘛！

PINYIN

1. Zhège fángjiān kě zhēn dà yā!

2. Nà shì, zǒngtǒng tàofáng.

3. Zhè Zhāng Chuángzhēn ruǎn!

4. Dāngrán, wǔ xīng jí, dōu shì jìnkǒu de.

5. Zhè cèsuǒ zhēn gāojí! āi? zěnme méiyǒu rèshuǐ?

6. ò? Yòu tíngdiànle.

7. Yòu... ?

8. Wàng le gàosu nǐ, zhèli gésānchàwǔ jiù huì tíng huì ér diàn. Jiéyuē yòngdiàn ma!

ENGLISH

1. This room is really big!

2. Of course, it's the presidential suite.

3. This bed is so soft.

CONT'D OVER

4. Of course, it's five stars and is an import.

5. The washroom is so high-class! Hey, why isn't there hot water?

6. Oh, must be another blackout.

7. Another...?

8. I forgot to tell you, there are occasional powerouts here. It saves energy.You

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
总统套房	總統套房	zǒngtǒng tàofáng	presidential suite	noun
五星级	五星級	wǔ xīng jí	five-star	adjective
进口	進口	jìnkǒu	to import	verb
高级	高級	gāojí	high-level	adjective
隔三差五	隔三差五	gésānchàwǔ	once in a while	adverb
节约用电	節約用電	jiéyuē yòngdiàn	to conserve power	verb phrase
停电	停電	tíngdiàn	to have a blackout	verb

SAMPLE SENTENCES

总统套房的价格太贵了。 Zǒngtǒng tàofáng de jiàgé tài guì le. The price for the presidental suite is too expensive.	五星级的酒店就要提供五星级的服务。 Wǔ xīng jí de jiǔdiàn jiù yào tígōng wǔ xīng jí de fúwù. A five-star hotel should provide five-star service.

我们的设备都是日本进口的。 Wǒmen de shèbèi dōu shì rìběn jìnkǒu de. All of our equipment is imported from Japan.	这个德国进口的洗衣机真高级。 Zhège déguó jìnkǒu de xǐyījī zhēn gāojí. This German-made washing machine is really high-level.
他隔三差五的就来医院看我。 Tā gésānchàwǔ de jiù lái yīyuàn kàn wǒ. He comes to visit me in the hospital once in a while.	我们大家都应该节约用电。 Wǒmendàjiā dōu yīnggāi jiéyuē yòngdiàn. Everyone should conserve power.

昨天停电了。
Zuó tiān tíng diàn le.

There was a blackout yesterday.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is the use of "那是" nà shì

那是，总统套房。
Nà shì, zǒngtǒng tàofáng.
"Of course, it's the presidential suite."

In this lesson we introduce a very useful phrase that is often used in spoken language. Most of you are already familiar with "当然" meaning "of course" as in the dialogue "当然，五星级，都是进口的。"Dāngrán, wǔ xīng jí, dōu shì jìnkǒu de. There is another phrase "那是" sharing more or less the same meaning as "当然"。 In spoken language, "那是" perhaps sounds a bit more casually than "当然" with a higher degree of emphasis and a sense of being proud of what is going to be said. As in the dialogue "那是，总统套房。" Note that the emphasis should be on "那" when you speak in order to stress the reason why the room is so big is because it is a presidential suite.

1 你的女朋友长得真漂亮。
那是！当模特的。
Nǐ de nǚpéngyou zhǎng de zhēn piàoliang.
Nà shì! Dàng mótè de.
Your girlfriend is really pretty.

Of course, (she is) a model.

2 你这电脑挺好用的。
那是！进口的。
Nǐ zhè diànnǎo tǐng hǎo yòng de.
Nà shì! jìnkǒu de.
Your computer is pretty easy to use.
Of course, it's imported.

Another way of saying "那是" with no obivious emaphasis on the first character "那" shows that the speaker is in agreement with the other person who is possibly in a superior position. Sometimes it can be repeated twice "那是那是" which can roughly translated as "that's right...". Such as the examples below:

1 那是那是，顾客就是我们的上帝。
Nà shì nà shì, gùkè jiùshì wǒmen de shàngdì.
That's right, the customers are god to us.

2 那是那是，老婆是最聪明的。
nà shì nà shì, lǎopo shì zuì cōngming de.
That's right, wife is the cleverest one.

There is one last scenario where sometimes "那是" leading a whole sentence. In these cases, of course "那是" doesn't carry the meaning "of course". It usually can be translated as its literal meaning "that is ...".

1 那是去年的事儿了。
Nà shì qùnián de shìr le.
That is something happened last year.

2 那是因为你还不习惯这儿的天气。
Nà shì yīnwèi nǐ huán bù xíguàn zhèr de tiānqì.
That is because you are yet to get used to the weather here.

CULTURAL INSIGHT

China is a country filled with contradictions: the communist country that is filled with capitalists, more billionaires than anywhere else in the world and yet poverty abounds and the immense pride in 5000 years of culture where the past is being pulled down everyday.

Appearances can be deceiving. I recently attended my friend’s wedding in the up and coming provincial capital Hohhot in Inner Mongolia. On the journey from the airport, I was amazed by array of towering buildings and bright lights. We stayed in a new development area filled with

brand new luxurious apartments. Our hotel room looked amazing as we entered it with plush carpets, a huge flat screen TV, a full leather luxury suite.

However, upon closer inspection, I noticed that there was no toilet paper, no room service, the TV wasn't working, the power cut out intermittently and the electric wires were hanging from the walls in places.

This often seems to be the case in modern China. In the rush to develop and build hugely impressive edifices, corners are often cut and small details are ignored. The new Hohhot ring road our taxi drove down was as modern as any first world country. However, bicycles on the cycle lane were dodging an open sewer hole with no 'Danger' sign or warning to passing cyclists or pedestrians. All to often this is the case in China so be warned not to spend all your time looking up at the soaring buildings in case you end up falling into a hole.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #22
Chinese Subway Battle

CONTENTS

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

#22

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 这是谁的包？
2. 我的。我朋友马上就过来。
3. 真新鲜！这年头儿没听说还有占座的。
4. 哎，你干吗，坐到我包上了。你讲不讲理？
5. 你讲不讲理，这座位上又没写着你的名字。
6. 你有没有素质？
7. 你推我？你敢动手？
8. 谁推你了。是你挡着我的手了。
9. 报警！我要报警！

ENGLISH

1. Whose bag is this?
2. It's mine. My friend will be over in a second.
3. That's really fresh. I didn't know you could seize seats these days.
4. Hey, what are you doing sitting on my bag? Can't you be reasonable?
5. You be reasonable. There's no-one's name written on this seat.
6. Can't you be civilized?
7. Did you push me? You dare hit me?
8. No-one hit you. You bumped into my arm.
9. Police! I want to call the police!

PINYIN

1. Zhè shì shéi de bāo?
2. Wǒ de. Wǒ péngyou mǎshàng jiù guòlái.
3. Zhēn xīnxiān! Zhè niántóu ér méi tīngshuō hái yǒu zhàn zuò de.
4. āi, nǐ gànmá, zuò dào wǒ bāo shàng le. Nǐ jiǎng bù jiǎnglǐ?
5. Nǐ jiǎng bù jiǎnglǐ, zhè zuòwèi shàng yòu méi xiězhe nǐ de míngzi.
6. Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu sùzhì?
7. Nǐ tuī wǒ? Nǐ gǎn dòngshǒu?
8. Shéi tuī nǐ le. Shì nǐ dǎngzhe wǒ de shǒu le.
9. Bàojǐng! Wǒ yào bàojǐng!

TRADITIONAL

1. 這是誰的包？
2. 我的。我朋友馬上就過來。
3. 真新鮮！這年頭兒沒聽說還有占座的。
4. 哎，你幹嗎，坐到我包上了。你講不講理？
5. 你講不講理，這座位上又沒寫著你的名字。
6. 你有沒有素質？
7. 你推我？你敢動手？
8. 誰推你了。是你擋著我的手了。
9. 報警！我要報警！

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
新鲜	新鮮	xīnxiān	fresh	adjective
占座	占座	zhàn zuò	to occupy a seat	verb
讲理	講理	jiǎnglǐ	to reason with someone	verb phrase
素质	素質	sùzhì	quality	noun
动手	動手	dòngshǒu	(to do something) proactively	verb
挡	擋	dǎng	to block	verb
报警	報警	bàojǐng	to report to the police	verb phrase
暴力	暴力	bàolì	violence	adjective

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这么新鲜的事儿我还是头一回听说。 *Zhème xīnxiān de shìr wǒ hái shì tóu yī huí tīngshuō.* This is the first time I heard something fresh like this.	给我占个座。 *Gěi wǒ zhàn ge zuò.* Take a seat for me.
别理他，他这人特不讲理。 *Bié lǐ tā, tā zhè rén tè bù jiǎnglǐ.* Leave him alone, you can't reason with him.	一个人的素质教育很重要。 *Yī ge rén de sùzhìjiāoyù hěn zhòngyào.* A person's moral education is very important.
她做得再不对，你也不能动手打她。 *Tā zuò děi zài bù duì, nǐ yě bù néng dòngshǒudǎ tā.* Even though she did something wrong, you can't hit her.	请让让，你挡住我了。 *Qǐng ràngrang, nǐ dǎngzhù wǒ le.* Excuse me, you are blocking my way.
咱们是不是应该赶快报警呀？ *Zánmen shì bù shì yīnggāi gǎnkuài bàojǐng yā?* Shouldn't we hurry up and report this to the police?	不讲理的人才会用暴力解决问题。 *Bù jiǎnglǐ de réncái huì yòng bàolì jiějué wèntí.* Only those who can't be reasoned with resolve to using violence.

GRAMMAR

Our focus in this lesson is the particle "的 " .
这年头儿没听说还有占座的。
Zhè niántóu ér méi tīngshuō hái yǒu zhàn zuò de.
"I didn't know that you could seize seats these days."

This being the intermediate level, we're sure you're already somewhat familiar with the particle 的 (de). As we've taught in previous levels, the most common function of 的 is to signal a subordinate relationship between two nouns or phrases, to signal that the latter is subordinate to the former. This is can be used to signal possessive relations or to suggest than an object belongs to a certain (and often abstract) class of items.

One of the more confusing uses of 的 occurs when it shows up at the end of a sentence. Even advanced students often find themselves confused in this case. Which is why we focus on two common usages of 的 which tend to exhibit this behavior. The first usage is the emphatic 是... 的 pattern that we have covered before. The second common pattern occurs in our dialogue for today. Together with 占座, this forms a noun phrase which is the object of the sentence. The character 的 is still being used as a subordinating particle. In this case the object which is subordinated to the action has been omitted. In this case the ommitted noun is 人 or person. Take a look at the following examples:

1. 教法语的是个新来的老师。

Jiāo fǎyǔ de shì ge xīnláide lǎoshī.

"The one who teaches French is a new teacher."

2. 今晚酒吧里来了好多学跳舞的。

Jīnwǎn jiǔbā lǐ lái le hǎo duō xué tiàowǔ de.

"There are many people who came to the bar to learn dancing tonight."

3. 这儿有没有会开车的？

Zhèr yǒu méiyǒu huì kāichē de?

"Is there anyone here who can drive?"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Subway battles aren't common, but this dialogue was actually inspired by something our team witnessed a few days ago on the Beijing subway. The leading roles in that case were played by two seemingly civilized young ladies. As with our dialogue, the fight was over whether it was proper to save a seat for a friend in a crowded subway.

Speaking of subways, be sure to check out the Beijing transit system the next time you're in town. Only eight years ago there were a mere two lines in service. At time of writing, this has expanded to nine lines, with more under construction. Considered in terms of length, there are now more than two hundred kilometers of track in Beijing sprawled out across the nine city lines. Although much of the heavy development occured in the years before the Beijing Olympics, development continues rapidly. According the Beijing city planning office, Beijing will more than double its total amount of subway lines by 2015.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #23
Cramming it in China

CONTENTS

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

#23

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 我要给我们家孩子报名学日语。
2. 他！年龄这么小，我们一般是不收的。
3. 不收？我有的是钱！
4. 嗯。。。这个我们看看能不能安排。
5. 我要给他报你们这儿最高级的班，要一对一，全外教授课的。
6. 他周末可以上课吗？
7. 周末不行。周末要补课。
8. 时间排的这么满？
9. 周一篮球，周二芭蕾舞，周三。。。我看就周三晚上吧。

ENGLISH

1. A : I want to enroll my child to study Japanese.
2. B : Him! He's so young, we don't normally take kids this young.
3. A : You won't take him? I have plenty of money!
4. B : Uh...let's see if we can arrange something.
5. A : I want him in your highest class. One on one, with only foreign teachers.
6. B : Can he come on the weekend?
7. A : Absolute not. He's in cram school on weekends.
8. B : His time is so full?
9. A : Basketball on Monday, ballet on Tuesdays, Wednesdays...I think Wednesday evening is okay.

PINYIN

1. Wǒ yào gěi wǒmen jiā háizi bàomíng xué rìyǔ.
2. Tā! Niánlíng zhème xiǎo, wǒmen yībānshì bùshōu de.
3. Bùshōu? Wǒ yǒudeshì qián!
4. En... zhège wǒmen kànkan néngbùnéng ānpái.
5. Wǒ yào gěi tā bào nǐmen zhèr zuì gāo jí de bān, yào yīduìyī, quán wàijiào shòukè de.
6. Tā zhōumò kěyǐ shàngkè ma?
7. Zhōumò bù xíng. Zhōumò yào bǔkè.
8. Shíjiān pái de zhème mǎn?
9. Zhōuyī lánqiú, zhōuèrbālěiwǔ, zhōusān... wǒ kàn jiù zhōusān wǎnshang ba.

TRADITIONAL

1. 我要給我們家孩子報名學日語。
2. 他！年齡這麼小，我們一般是不收的。
3. 不收？我有的是錢！
4. 嗯。。。這個我們看看能不能安排。
5. 我要給他報你們這兒最高級的班，要一對一，全外教授課的。
6. 他周末可以上課嗎？
7. 周末不行。周末要補課。
8. 時間排的這麼滿？
9. 周一籃球，周二芭蕾舞，周三。。。我看就周三晚上吧。

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
报名	報名	bàomíng	to register	verb
一般	一般	yībān	normally	adverb
安排	安排	ānpái	to prepare	verb
一对一	一對一	yīduìyī	one-on-one	noun
外教	外教	wàijiào	foreign teachers	noun
授课	授課	shòukè	to give lessons	verb
补课	補課	bǔkè	to go to cram school	verb
芭蕾舞	芭蕾舞	bāléiwǔ	ballet	noun
补习班	補習班	bǔxíbān	cram school	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

你最好早点儿报名。 *Nǐ zuì hǎo zǎo diǎnr bàomíng.* You'd better go and register early.	一般情况下，这是不行的。 *Yībān qíngkuàng xià, zhè shì bù xíng de.* Normally this is not allowed.
你周末有什么安排吗？ *Nǐ zhōumò yǒu shénme ānpái ma?* This weekend do you have any plans?	赶快来试试一对一的中文课程吧！ *Gǎnkuài lái shìshi yīduìyī de zhōngwén kèchéng ba!* Come try out the one-on-one Chinese learning program!
我们这儿的老师都是外教。 *Wǒmen zhèr de lǎoshī dōu shì wàijiào.* Our teachers are all foreign teachers.	一对一的外教授课对语言学习很有帮助。 *Yīduìyī de wàijiào shòukè duì yǔyánxué xí hěn yǒu bāngzhù.* Getting one-on-one classes from foreign teachers is very helpful for learning languages.
我的中文需要补补课。 *Wǒ de Zhōngwén xūyào bǔ bǔkè.* I need to go to cram school for Chinese.	你看过芭蕾舞的“天鹅湖”吗？ *Nǐ kàn guo bāléiwǔ de "tiān é hú" ma?* Have you seen the ballet Swan Lake?

有外教授课的补习班儿都满了。

Yǒu wàijiào shòukè de bǔxíbān ér dōu mǎnle.

The cram classes with native teachers are all full.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is 有的是 (*yǒudeshì*)
我有的是钱！*wǒyǒudeshì qián!*
"I have plenty of money!"

For today's grammar point, we introduce how to say, "having a lot of something," in a rather colloquial way. So far, you should familiar with 很多，许多, and 好多, all of which mean "a lot of/plenty of." Here, taking the sentence from the dialogue, 我有的是钱！(*Wǒ yǒudeshì qián!*) is the same meaning as 我有很多钱 (*wǒ yǒu hěn duō qián*). Therefore, 有的是 here has nothing to do with the literal meaning of the three characters. As mentioned before, this is a rather casual way of saying, "I have plenty of money." Note when someone says it, the emphasis would be on the character 是 and it shows that the speaker is rather boasting about the fact that someone has got a lot of something.

For Example:

1. 他有的是力气。
   Tā yǒudeshì lìqi.
   "He has plenty of strength."
2. 房价这么贵，买不起房子的人有的是。
   Fángjià zhème guì, mǎibùqǐ fángzi de rén yǒudeshì.
   "The housing price is so expensive, (no wonder) there are plenty of people who can't afford to buy a house."
3. 他工作很久了，有的是经验。
   Tā gōngzuò hěn jiǔ le, yǒudeshì jīngyàn.
   "He's worked for a long time and has a lot of experience."
4. 这儿还有的是复印纸，随便用吧。
   Zhèr hái yǒudeshì fùyìn zhǐ, suíbiàn yòng ba.
   "There are still plenty of printing paper, help yourself!"

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Cramming for a Full Life

I went to visit an old friend at her house last year. As soon as I got into the door, my friend urged their nine-year-old boy to greet me in English. "He needs more practice. We've been taking him to this oral English class ran by an American guy since he was six years old. We think he is getting better and better." After I sat down, the parents asked the quiet boy, "Why don't you show Aunty your new toy?" Near where they were pointing, I spotted a shiny drum kit. The parents proudly told me that this was his birthday present from last year and he's been studying to play the drums. "He really likes it!" they added as they both turned to the boy eagerly. The boy gave a shy smile. A couple of days later, I ran into my friend again downstairs in a shopping mall on a Saturday afternoon. I was surprised to see that she had finally got some time on her own when she started to complain to me, "I have to wait for five hours-the whole afternoon-for my son while he is going to the math cram school. It's so boring here and I am so tired." I don't know whether I should have had more sympathy for the young mum waiting hand on foot for her child or the nine-year-old little boy with extra classes taking up all his free time.

Unfortunately, I have many friends whose families are more or less like this. The parents' spare time completely revolves around the only child's busy life and learning schedule.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #24
You Can't Leave China

CONTENTS

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

#24

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 乘客您好...乘客您好...
2. 真倒霉，就没有一次不晚点的！
3. 您乘坐的国航CA9507次飞往阿拉斯加的航班因飞机故障要延迟起飞。
4. 我就知道会这样。上次是大雾，这次又是飞机故障。
5. 请您在候机大厅休息，等候通知。
6. 我以后再也不坐国航了！

ENGLISH

1. A : Attention passengers...attention passengers...
2. B : Oh, how unlucky! There is not a single time it's not late.
3. A : Your flight CA9507 to Alaska will be delayed because of the mechanical difficulties.
4. B : I knew it would be like this. Last time it was fog. This time it's a mechanical problems again.
5. A : Please rest at the airport departure lounge and wait for further notice.
6. B : This is the last time I am flying Air China.

PINYIN

1. Chéngkè nínhǎo ...chéngkè nínhǎo ...
2. Zhēn dǎoméi, jiù méiyǒu yī cì bù wǎndiǎn de!
3. Nín chéngzuò de guóháng CAjiǔqiān wǔbǎi qī cì fēiwǎng ālāsījiā de hángbān yīn fēijī gùzhàng yào yánchí qǐfēi.
4. Wǒ jiù zhīdào huì zhèyàng. Shàng cì shì dàwù, zhècì yòu shì fēijīgùzhàng.
5. Qǐng nín zài hòu jī dàtīng xiūxi, děnghòu tōngzhī.
6. Wǒ yǐhòu zài yě bù zuò guóháng le!

TRADITIONAL

1. 乘客您好...乘客您好...
2. 真倒霉，就沒有一次不晚點的！
3. 您乘坐的國航CA9507次飛往阿拉斯加的航班因飛機故障要延遲起飛。
4. 我就知道會這樣。上次是大霧，這次又是飛機故障。
5. 請您在候機大廳休息，等候通知。
6. 我以後再也不坐國航了！

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
乘客	乘客	chéngkè	passenger	noun
故障	故障	gùzhàng	breakdown	noun
延迟	延遲	yánchí	to delay	verb
候机大厅	候機大廳	hòu jī dàtīng	departure lounge	noun
倒霉	倒霉	dǎoméi	unlucky	adjective
大雾	大霧	dàwù	fog	noun
国航	國航	guóháng	domestic airline	noun
通知	通知	tōngzhī	announcement	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

这架飞机的乘客已经全满了。 *Zhè jià fēijī de chéngkè yǐjīng quán mǎnle.* This flight is full of passengers.	由于故障问题，飞机无法起飞。 *Yóuyú gùzhàng wèntí, fēijī wúfǎ qǐfēi.* The plane can not take off because of a technical malfunction.
通知说会议将会延迟举行。 *Tōngzhī shuō huìyì jiāng huì yánchí jǔxíng.* The announcement said the conference will be postponed.	候机大厅里的乘客越来越多。 *Hòu jī dàtīng lǐ de chéngkè yuèláiyuèduō.* There are more and more passengers in the departure lounge.

为什么倒霉的总是我？ *Wèishénme dǎoméi de zǒngshì wǒ?* Why is it always me who is the unlucky one?	飞机因为天气大雾暂时不能起飞。 *Fēijī yīnwèi tiānqì dàwù zànshí bù néng qǐfēi.* The plane can't take off at the moment because of the fog.
国航的飞机一般都会准时起飞。 *Guóháng de fēijī yībān dōuhuì zhǔnshí qǐfēi.* The national airline airplanes generally take off on time.	我会发邮件通知你的. *wǒ huì fā yóujiàn tōngzhī nǐ de* I'll notify you by sending an email.

这趟航班被延迟起飞了，具体起飞时间要听通知。

Zhè tàng hángbān bèi yánchí qǐfēi le, jùtǐ qǐfēishíjiān yào tīng tōngzhī.

This flight's been postponed, for exact departure times, listen to the announcement.

GRAMMAR

The Focus of This Lesson is Airport and On Flight Annoucements
您 乘坐的国航CA9507次飞往阿拉斯加的航班因飞机故障要延迟起 飞。
Nín chéngzuò de guóháng CAjiǔqiān wǔbǎi qī cì fēiwǎng ālāsījiā de hángbān yīn fēijī gùzhàng yào yánchí qǐfēi.
"Your flight CA9507 to Alaska will be delayed because of the mechanical difficulties."

We devote today's grammar point to a collection of airport and on flight announcements you would often hear in China. In fact, it is not very difficult to understand the announcements once you became familiar with the airport vocabulary since the grammar involved is fairly simple and straight-forward. There are a few of them you would hear at the airport and on the plane.

For Example:

1. 乘客您好，您乘坐的国航CA9507次飞往Alaska的航班因大雾要延迟起飞。
Chéngkènínhǎo, nín chéngzuò de guóháng CA9507cì fēiwǎng Alaska de hángbān yīn dà wù yào yánchí qǐfēi.
"Attention passengers, your flight CA9507 to Alaska will be delayed because of the fog."

2. 乘客您好，您乘坐的国航CA9507次飞往Alaska的航班已经开始登机了。请您前往xx号登机口办理登机。
Chéngkènínhǎo, nín chéngzuò de guóháng CA9507cì fēiwǎng Alaskade hángbān yǐjīng kāishǐ dēngjī le. Qǐng nín qiánwǎng xxhào dēngjī kǒu bànlǐ dēngjī.
"Attention passengers, your flight CA9607 to Alaska has now started boarding. Please proceed to the boarding gate No. xx for boarding."

3. 本次航班就要起飞了，请你系好安全带，收起小桌板，将座椅调直。
Běncì hángbān jiù yào qǐfēi le, qǐng nǐ jì hǎo ānquándài, shōuqǐxiǎozhuōbǎn, jiāng zuòyǐ tiáozhí.
"The flight is about to take off soon. Please fasten your seat belt, put away your tray table, and adjust your seat to upright position."

4. 飞机现在遇到气流，会有些颠簸。请您在座位上系好安全带。
Fēijī xiànzài yù dào qìliú, huì yǒuxiē diānbǒ. Qǐng nín zài zuòwèi shàng jì hǎo ānquándài.
"We are experiencing some turbulence. Please remain in your seat and fasten your seat belt."

5. 本次航班将会于十分钟后到达北京首都国际机场，请您关闭所有电子设备。
Běncì hángbān jiāng huì yú shí fēnzhōng hòu dàodá Běijīng shǒudūguójìjīchǎng, qǐng nín guānbì suǒyǒu diànzǐ shèbèi.
"We're going to land at the Beijing international airport in ten minutes, please switch off all your electronic devices."

CULTURAL INSIGHT

Chinese Airport Woes

Before the grand new Beijing airport terminal three was formally opened in 2008 the Beijing airport was on the list of the ten most hated places in Beijing (well my list at least), especially when it came to domestic flights. In recent years, the competition for the domestic airline market has been getting more and more fierce. The number of airline companies has increased from the original three or four dominating ones to twenty or so offering discounted tickets cheaper than the same destination bound train tickets. However, along with the cheaper airline tickets comes the low reliability of the airlines with planes frequently being delayed or even cancelled. An extreme case happened to a friend of mine who had to wait for plane to take off by sitting on the plane for almost ten hours before being asked to get off and come back the next day for a domestic flight. This situation has more or less changed for the better in the last couple of years. Nevertheless, for those of you who are going to brave the domestic Chinese airlines someday, please allow yourself plenty of spare time for traveling.
Another interesting thing about airports in China is the restaurants at the airport. During a national holiday I flew to Hohhot, the capital city of inner Mongolia. While waiting for boarding, I wandered into the only café-style restaurant after receiving the warmest greeting from the girls at the door. Upon realizing a simple Latte coffee would cost 68rmb (about ten dollars), I politely backed my way out. So another piece of advice for you, please check the price for any service at the airport in China before ordering.

LESSON NOTES

Intermediate S1 #25
Airport adventure in China

CONTENTS

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

#25

DIALOGUE - CHINESE

SIMPLIFIED

1. 请把包过安检。
2. 还需要过安检？
3. 把兜里的手机，钥匙，打火机之类的全掏出来。
4. 好吧，没办法。
5. 请把腰带解了再过一次。
6. 但是。。。
7. 请你配合一下，不然您是登不了机的。
8. 我。。。好吧。
9. 你腰上怎么放了这么多钱？
10. 我。。。我就是不想报关才。。。唉！

ENGLISH

1. A : Please put your bag through the security check.
2. B : Do I need to?
3. A : Take your cell phone, keys and other things out of your pocket.
4. B : Okay. If I have to.
5. A : Take your belt off and try again.
6. B : But...
7. A : Please cooperate. Otherwise you can't board the plane.
8. B : I...ok.
9. A : Why do you have so much money around your waist?
10. B : I...I just didn't want to report it at customs...

PINYIN

1. Qǐng bǎ bāoguò ānjiǎn.
2. Hái xūyào guò ānjiǎn?
3. Bǎ dōu lǐ de shǒujī, yàoshi, dǎhuǒjī zhīlèi de quán tāo chūlái.
4. Hǎo ba, méi bànfǎ.
5. Qǐng bǎ yāodài jiě le zài guò yī cì.
6. Dànshì...
7. Qǐng nǐ pèihéyīxià, bùrán nín shì dēng bù liǎo jī de.
8. Wǒ... hǎo ba.
9. Nǐ yāo shàng zěnme fàng le zhème duō qián?
10. Wǒ... Wǒ jiùshì bù xiǎng bàoguān cái... āi!

TRADITIONAL

1. 請把包過安檢。
2. 還需要過安檢？
3. 把兜裏的手機，鑰匙，打火機之類的全掏出來。
4. 好吧，沒辦法。
5. 請把腰帶解了再過一次。
6. 但是。。。
7. 請你配合一下，不然您是登不了機的。
8. 我。。。好吧。你腰上怎麼放了這麼多錢？
9. 我。。。我就是不想報關才。。。唉！
10.

VOCABULARY

Simplified	Traditional	Pinyin	English	Class
安检	安檢	ānjiǎn	security check	noun
掏	掏	tāo	to fish out	verb
解	解	jiě	to untie	verb
配合	配合	pèihé	to coordinate with	verb
登机	登機	dēngjī	to board a plane	verb
报关	報關	bàoguān	to declare	verb
兜儿	兜兒	dōuer	pocket	noun
腰带	腰帶	yāodài	belt	noun

SAMPLE SENTENCES

上飞机前，乘客们都要安检。 *Shàng fēijī qián, chéng kèmen dōu yào ānjiǎn.* Before boarding the plane, the passengers all need to pass the security check.	她从兜里掏出一枚硬币。 *Tā cóng dōu lǐ tāochūyī méi yìngbì.* She fished out a coin from her pocket.
请您把腰带解下来。 *Qǐng nín bǎ yāodài jiěxià lái.* Please untie your belt.	请你配合机场人员工作。 *Qǐng nǐ pèihé jīchǎng rényuán gōngzuò.* Please comply with the work requirements of airport staff.
通过安检以后，乘客可以去登机口登机。 *Tōngguò ānjiǎnyǐhòu, chéngkè kěyǐ qù dēngjī kǒu dēngjī.* After passing the security check, passengers can go to the boarding gate to board the plane.	携带贵重物品需要提前报关。 *Xiédài guìzhòngwùpǐn xūyào tíqián bàoguān.* If you are carrying valuable goods, you must first declare them at customs.
我的兜儿是空的。 *Wǒ de dōuer shì kōng de.* My pocket's empty.	金属腰带过安检的时候会响。 *Jīnshǔ yāodài guò ānjiǎnde shíhou huì xiǎng.* A metal belt will set off the security check.

GRAMMAR

The focus of this lesson is ...不然...(...*bùrán*...)
请你配合一下，不然您是登不了机 的。
Qǐng nǐ pèihéyīxià, bùrán nín shì dēng bù liǎo jī de.
"Please ooperate, otherwise you can't board the plane."

Today we are introducing a very useful and important sentence pattern ...不然...(...*bùrán ...*), which can be roughly translated as "...otherwise..." 不然 (*bùrán*) is used as a transitional conjunction word to combine two separate sentences. If what has been said in the first sentence does not happen, the result will be followed in the second sentence. As the sentence from our dialogue, if the passenger does not comply with the security check officer, she will not be able to get onboard. Sometimes 要不然 (*yàoburán*) or 要不 (*yàobu*) can replace 不然 (*bùrán*) in the middle of the sentence with the same function.

For Example:

1. 你最好快点儿走，不然你会迟到 的。
Nǐ zuì hǎo kuài diǎnr zǒu, bùrán nǐ huì chídào de.
"You'd better hurry up, otherwise you will be late."

2. 明天我还有别的事儿，要不然我肯定陪你 去。
Míngtiān wǒ hái yǒubiéde shìr, yàoburán wǒ kěndìng péi nǐ qù.
"I've got something else to do tomorrow, otherwise I will go with you for sure."

3. 我实在没钱了，要不我还能不给你买。
Wǒ shízài méi qiánle, yàobu wǒ zhǔn gěi nǐ mǎi.
"I am really out of money, otherwise for sure I will buy it for you."

Same with 要不然 (*yàoburán*) and 要不 (*yàobu*), if you remember when 不然 (*bùrán*) is used at the beginning of a sentence, it usually means the speaker is trying to give some sort of suggestions or asking for other's opinions meaning, "how about...".

For Example:

1. 不然我去 吧。
Burán wǒ qù ba.
"How about let me go."

2. 要不我给你买 吧。
Yàobu wǒ gěi nǐ mǎi ba.
"How about let me buy it for you."

不然 (*burán*) has another meaning when it is not used as a transitional conjunction word. For example, 他觉得他做对了，其实不然。(*Tā juéde tā zuò duìle, qíshí bùrán*). Here 不然 (*burán*) means, 不是这样的 (*bù shì zhè yàng de*).

CULTURAL INSIGHT

One of the more unusual features in Chinese airports is the "instant feedback" button usually found just below the counter at the immigration desk and other parts of the airports. While the immigration officer is busy scrutinizing your fuzzy old passport picture, you can choose to evaluate their efficiency by pressing either the 'very satisfied', 'satisfied' or 'unsatisfied' buttons which will begin to flash as soon as you get there. While the proximity of the officer might make it a bit uncomfortable to be too critical, it is hard to know how they use they data they collect. Do they get a bonus for lots of satisfied? Do they get extra training for an unsatisfied? Or is the pressing of the button the end of the process? I would love to know.

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	Intro
1	Chinese Study Abroad
2	I May Just Be Anorexic
3	Questions of Marriage
4	The Life Aquatic
5	Divorce in China
6	The Non-Existent Chinese Can Opener
7	Getting Married in China
8	Investing in the Chinese Stock Market
9	The Housing Market in China
10	The Face of an Angel
11	How to Get Rich Quick in China
12	Chinese Airport Security
13	What's My Password, Honey?
14	Tough Career Choices
15	A Tall, Tall, Chinese Tale
16	Presidential Aspirations
17	The Secret to a Spotless House
18	Riding bicycles in China
19	The Chinese Eunuch
20	Shopping Forever in China
21	The most luxurious hotel in China
22	Chinese Subway Battle
23	Cramming it in China
24	You Can't Leave China
25	Airport adventure in China

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