



# Mandarin Chinese Guaranteed

**Audioscript**

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# **Berlitz**® **Mandarin Chinese Guaranteed**

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## [CD 1]

Welcome to Berlitz Chinese Guaranteed. This all audio program will teach you the basics of Mandarin Chinese, without a book. Everything you hear will be available in an audioscript, which you can download from our website at [www.berlitzpublishing.com](http://www.berlitzpublishing.com). So, are you ready to learn some Mandarin Chinese? Then let's begin.

Learning pronunciation is the first step of learning any foreign language. Because learners' approaches may vary, you may want to read along with the following pronunciation section in the audioscript. You'll also find an even more detailed explanation of Pinyin and Chinese pronunciation on our website, if you want to learn even more.

Over the years, there have been many different phonetic writing systems used for Chinese pronunciation. Today, the official system is called Hanyu Pinyin, or simply Pinyin. Pinyin uses all of the letters of the English alphabet, except "V".

Like English words, Chinese syllables are made up of consonants (called initials) and vowels (called finals). Pinyin has 21 initials, 2 semi finals and 24 finals. Every Pinyin syllable also has a tone mark, which indicates the pitch of the sound.

First, let's hear the initials, or consonants.

As you might have guessed from the name, initials come at the beginning of a syllable. Listen carefully for the pronunciation of the initials, which are sorted into 7 groups. You'll hear a lot of familiar sounds, because many letters are pronounced the same in both Chinese and English. Try to repeat the sound after you hear it.

Group 1.

**b p m f**

Group 2.

**d t n l**

Group 3.

**g k h**

Group 4.

**j q x**

Group 5.

**zh ch sh r**

Group 6.

**z c s**

The next two letters are called "semi-finals", because they can function as either finals or initials. Listen to the pronunciation.

Group 7.

**y w**

Let's practice some of the unfamiliar sounds from the initials.

The 4th group,

**j q x,**

are called palatal sounds.

**j**

is written with the letter J. It is pronounced like the first sound in "genius" or "jeep", but with the tongue lower in the mouth and the lips flat. Repeat the sound:

**j j j**

The sound

**q**

is written with the letter Q. It is pronounced like the "ch" in "chip" but again with the tongue lower in the mouth and lips flat. Repeat the sound:

**q q q**

The third sound in the group is

**x**

This sound is written as an X. It sounds like "see" but with the tongue lower in the mouth and the corners of the lips drawn back. Repeat:

**x x x**

Now try the whole group:

**j q x**

Once again:

**j q x**

In group 5, the sounds

**zh ch sh r**

are called retroflex sounds. For these sounds, you need to touch the tip of your tongue to the front part of the roof of the mouth. Repeat:

**zh zh zh**

Now, repeat the second sound in group 5:

**ch ch ch**

The next sound is spelled "SH" and pronounced

**"sh"**

Remember, for all the sounds in this group, your tongue should be curled up to touch the roof of your mouth. Repeat:

**sh sh sh**

Now listen and repeat the last sound in group 5:

**r r r**

Now repeat the whole group:

**zh ch sh r**

Once again:

**zh ch sh r**

The sounds in group 6 are

**z c s**

You'll notice buzzing sounds in these letters, since the tongue vibrates against the teeth.

Repeat the following sounds:

**z z z**

Repeat the next sound:

**c c c**

And the third. Repeat:

**s s s**

Now listen to the whole group and repeat the sounds:

**z c s**

Once again:

**z c s**

The two sounds in group 7 are

**y w**

These sounds are called semi finals, because they are sometimes used as initials and sometimes as finals. Repeat:

**ya ya ya**  
**wa wa wa**

Now let's move on to the finals, or vowels.

The Simple Finals, made up of just one letter, are:

**a o e i u ü**

Some of these sounds are probably familiar to you. The first sound is written with the letter A. Repeat:

**a a**

The next final is written with the letter O. Repeat:

**o o**

The next sound is written with the letter E, but it's not pronounced like the English. Listen first:

**e e**

To pronounce this, raise the back of your tongue, and keep your lips flat, not round.

Repeat:

**e e e**

The next sound is spelled with the letter I. Repeat:

**i i**

Here's another one that will probably be easy for you, because it is very similar to the English pronunciation. Repeat:

**u u**

The last sound in this group is

**ü**

This is written as the letter U, with two dots above it, like the German umlaut. To pronounce this, your tongue should be high, and your mouth rounded. Repeat:

**ü ü ü**

Now let's listen to all the sounds together. Repeat in the pauses:

**a o e**  
**i u ü**

Once more:

**a o e**  
**i u ü**

Some finals are called "compound finals", because they are a combination of several letters. Many of them sound just like the English. Listen to the sounds and repeat:

**ai ei uei (ui)**  
**ao ou iou (iu)**  
**ie üe er**

Here are some more compound finals that include nasal sounds

**an en in un (uen)**  
**ün ang eng ing ong**

In these sounds, the stress is on the vowel, never on the "n" or "ng" sounds. Please repeat after each sound:

**an en in un (uen)**  
**ün ang eng ing ong**

The third component of a syllable in Chinese is the tone. Mandarin Chinese is a language with four tones, representing 5 different levels of pitch. A change of tone can completely change the meaning of a word or syllable. The tones are called first tone, second tone, third tone and fourth tone, and there is also a neutral tone. Chinese tones are represented by different marks, called tone-graphs, above the finals. The word "ma" is an example of a Chinese word that can have five different meanings depending on the tone. Listen:

1<sup>st</sup> tone:

**mā**

mother. The first tone is the highest pitched, with a steady sound. Repeat:

**mā mā**

2<sup>nd</sup> tone:

**má**

hemp. The 2nd tone starts in the middle, at level 3, but glides to the highest pitch at the end. Repeat:

**má má**

3<sup>rd</sup> tone:

**mǎ**

horse. The third tone starts at a lower pitch, level 2, then the tone goes down to the lowest, and comes back up to level 4. Repeat:

**mǎ mǎ**

4<sup>th</sup> tone:

**mà**

curse. The fourth tone starts at the highest pitch and ends at the lowest. Repeat:

**mà mà**

Neutral tone:

**ma**

The neutral tone does not change pitch at all. Repeat:

**ma ma**

Listen carefully to the tongue twister. Try to hear the different tones and focus on the pronunciation:

**Māma qí mǎ, mǎ màn, māma mà mǎ.**

Let's listen to this tongue twister one more time and try to repeat:

**Māma qí mǎ, mǎ màn māma mà mǎ.**

Repeat once more, slowly:

**Māma qí mǎ, mǎ màn, māma mà mǎ.**

The beginning syllable

**mā**

is in the first tone, and means mother. The second syllable

**ma**

is neutral tone, and it is just a duplication of the previous syllable. These two together still mean "mother". Let's repeat:

**māma**

**māma**

Next we hear

**mǎ.**

Can you tell what tone that is? Listen again:

**mǎ**

That is the third tone, so it means horse. Repeat:

**mǎ**

**mǎ**

The next sound is

**mà**

What tone is that? Listen:

**mà**

That's the fourth tone, and it means to curse. Let's repeat:

**mà**

**mà**

The meaning of the tongue twister we just heard is: "Mother is riding a horse. The horse is slow. Mother is cursing the horse." Listen again, and see if you can distinguish the four tones.

**Māma qí mǎ, mǎ màn, māma mà mǎ.**

Let's repeat the whole tongue twister.

**Māma qí mǎ, mǎ màn, māma mà mǎ.**

Learning to pronounce the four tones correctly may seem to take forever. But once you master the tones, you are well on your way to speaking Chinese. The key to successful learning is:

**Shú néng shēng qiǎo!**

Practice makes perfect!

Now, let's put the initials, finals and tones all together, and start learning some Chinese numbers. Once you have learned the numbers in Chinese, you will be able to do much more than just count. In Chinese, with just the numbers 1 to 12, you will be able to say most of the days of the week, the date, and the months of the year. First let's listen to the numbers 1-10 in Chinese:

**yī èr sān sì wǔ liù qī bā jiǔ shí**

Please repeat:

**yī èr sān sì wǔ  
liù qī bā jiǔ shí**

Once again:

**yī èr sān sì wǔ  
liù qī bā jiǔ shí**

Let's practice that a little more. What's the number 1?

**yī**

The number 2 is?

**èr**

What about 3?

**sān**

4?

**sì**

And 5 is?

**wǔ**

Good! Let's listen to the numbers 1 to 5, all together. Repeat:

**yī èr sān sì wǔ**

Now repeat 6 to 10:

**liù qī bā jiǔ shí**

So, what's the number 6?

**liù**

7?

**qī**

8?

**bā**

9?

**jiǔ**

And 10?

**shí**

Good news! You don't need to learn any new words for the numbers 11 to 19! Eleven is basically "ten" and "one", twelve is "ten" and "two", etc. Repeat eleven:

**shíyī shíyī**

twelve

**shíèr shíèr**

So, what would thirteen be?

**shísān shísān**

Now let's count from 11 to 19. Repeat:

**shíyī shíèr shísān shísì**

**shíwǔ shíliù shíqī shíbā shíjiǔ**

Are you curious about how to say numbers beyond 19? The number 20 is simply 2, 10. So it is

**èrshí èrshí**

You can use the same pattern to form all the numbers up to 99!

Now can you count from one to twenty by yourself? Try, and check your answers after the pause. Let's do 1 to 10 first:

**yī èr sān sì wǔ liù qī bā jiǔ shí**

And 11 to 20?

**shíyī shíèr shísān shísì shíwǔ shíliù shíqī shíbā shíjiǔ**

**èrshí**

Excellent! Throughout the program, remember to pay attention to your pronunciation. Listen to the native speakers on the recording, and try to model your pronunciation after theirs. Repeating the words and phrases out loud in the pauses provided will help you remember the vocabulary more easily, and perfect your pronunciation. Most importantly of all, enjoy the program, and have fun learning Mandarin Chinese!

## Lesson One

In this lesson, you will learn how to greet people and introduce yourself. First, let's practice the new vocabulary from this chapter.

Repeat after each word.

hello; how do you do

**nǐ hǎo**

**nǐ hǎo**

you

**nǐ**

**nǐ**

good

**hǎo**

**hǎo**

mister

**xiān sheng**

**xiān sheng**

excuse me

**qǐng wèn**

**qǐng wèn**

last name

**xìng**

**xìng**

what

**shén me**

**shén me**

I; me

**wǒ**

**wǒ**

Wang: a common last name in Chinese

**Wáng**

**Wáng**

miss; young lady

**xiǎo jie**

**xiǎo jie**

an ending, or particle, expressing a question

**ne**

**ne**

Li: another common last name

**Lǐ**

**Lǐ**

to be called

**jiào**

**jiào**

language; culture

**wén**

**wén**

middle

**zhōng**

**zhōng**

know

**rèn shi**

**rèn shi**

very

**hěn**

**hěn**

happy

**gāo xìng**

**gāo xìng**

also

**yě**

**yě**

Listen to the following dialogue.

Mr. Wang and Miss Li are meeting for the first time.

**Nǐ hǎo! Xiān sheng, qǐng wèn nǐ xìng shén me?**

**Wǒ xìng Wáng. Xiǎo jiě, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén. Nǐ jiào shénme?**

**Wǒ jiào Wáng Zhōng. Lǐ xiǎo jiě, rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

**Wáng xiān sheng, rèn shi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**

Let's listen to what Miss Li said first. She said "Hello Sir., May I ask what your name is?"

Repeat the Chinese, paying special attention to the pronunciation and tones:

**Nǐ hǎo**

**xiān sheng**

**qǐng wèn**

**Nǐ xìng shén me ?**

Did you hear how to say "hello"? Repeat after Miss Li.

**Nǐ hǎo!**

**Nǐ hǎo!**

Did you hear how to say "sir, or mister"? Repeat:

**xiān sheng**

**xiān sheng**

And what about "May I ask?" Repeat:

**qǐng wèn**

**qǐng wèn**

How about "What is your last name"? Repeat after Miss Li

**Nǐ xìng shén me ?**

**Nǐ xìng shén me ?**

Now repeat the whole sentence. "Hello Sir, may I ask what your name is?"

**Nǐ hǎo! Xiān sheng, qǐng wèn nǐ xìng shén me?**

**Nǐ hǎo! Xiān sheng, qǐng wèn nǐ xìng shén me?**

Socializing in Chinese society is still on a more formal, last name basis. So, when Miss Li asked for Mr. Wang's name, she was specifically asking for his last name, or family name. Let's listen to how Mr. Wang replied to Miss. Li's question. He said: "My name is Wang, Miss, what's yours?"

**Wǒ xìng Wáng. Xiǎo jiě, nǐ ne?**

Let's hear the first thing the man said. Repeat:

**Wǒ xìng Wáng.**

**Wǒ xìng Wáng.**

Did you hear what the man's family name is? It is

**Wáng**

**Wáng**

And how did he ask about Miss Li? He said

**Xiǎo jiě, nǐ ne ?**

The man addressed the woman as "Miss". Repeat:

**xiǎo jiě**

**xiǎo jiě**

Next, he said "What about you?" Repeat:

**nǐ ne?**

**nǐ ne?**

Let's repeat the whole sentence. "My name is Wang, Miss, what about you?"

**Wǒ xìng Wáng. Xiǎo jiě, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ xìng Wáng. Xiǎo jiě, nǐ ne?**

The woman answered the question by giving the man her name.

She said "My name is Li. My full name is Wen Li". Repeat after Miss Li.

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén.**

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén.**

Repeat the woman's last name, paying special attention to the tone. It is

**Lǐ**

**Lǐ**

The last names "Wang" and "Li" are among the most common family names in China.

Next, how did the woman give her full name? That was

**(Wǒ) jiào Lǐ Wén.**

The word

**jiào**

is used in Chinese to give a person's first name or full name. Note that the last name comes first. Let's try the whole sentence again.

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén.**

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén.**

After Miss Li told Mr. Wang her first and last name, she asked about Mr. Wang's full name by saying: "What is your name?" Repeat:

**Nǐ jiào shénme?**

**Nǐ jiào shénme?**

And Mr. Wang's answer was:

**Wǒ jiào Wáng Zhōng.**

Now we have learned that to give your last name, you should say:

**Wǒ xìng...**

And to give your first name or full name:

**Wǒ jiào...**

Now you try! Introduce yourself in Chinese using your own name:

**Wǒ xìng...**

Did you remember? That's just for your last name. Try once more.

**Wǒ xìng...**

Now give your full name with:

**Wǒ jiào... Wǒ jiào...**

Next we hear how the two speakers ended their conversation. Mr. Wang said: "Miss Li, I'm glad to have met you." Repeat:

**Lǐ xiǎo jiě, rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

**Lǐ xiǎo jiě, rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

Did you notice the word order of "Miss Li" in Chinese? It's "Li Miss": with the last name before the title.

**Lǐ xiǎo jiě**

Then he said "I am glad." Repeat:

**Wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

**Wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

What about "to have met you"? Repeat:

**rèn shi nǐ**

**rèn shi nǐ**

Let's try to repeat the whole sentence.

"Miss. Li, I'm very glad to have met you."

**Lǐ xiǎo jiě, rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

**Lǐ xiǎo jiě, rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

And what did the woman say in response?

"Mr. Wang, I'm very glad to have met you, too." Listen first:

**Wáng xiān sheng, rèn shi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**

How did the woman address the man? Once again, it's "Wang Mr.", with family name first. Repeat:

**Wáng xiān sheng**

**Wáng xiān sheng**

Listen to what the woman said again, and see if you can spot the extra word she used in her answer.

**Wáng xiān sheng, rèn shi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**

**Wáng xiān sheng, rèn shi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**

She said "also", to mean "I'm also glad". That word in Chinese is:

**yě**

**yě**

Now listen to the whole dialogue again, and see if you can recognize the last names of the man and the woman, and how they address each other at their first meeting.

**Nǐ hǎo! Xiān sheng, qǐng wèn nǐ xìng shén me?**

**Wǒ xìng Wáng. Xiǎo jie, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén. Nǐ jiào shénme?**

**Wǒ jiào Wáng Zhōng. Lǐ xiǎo jie, rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

**Wáng xiān sheng, rèn shi nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**

So, to review, the man's last name is

**Wáng**

And how do you say "Mr. Wang" in Chinese?

**Wáng xiān sheng**

**Wáng xiān sheng**

The woman's last name is

**Lǐ**

And what do we call "Miss Li" in Chinese?

**Lǐ xiǎo jie**

**Lǐ xiǎo jie**

Now it's your turn! Imagine this is the first time you meet Mr. Wang. First say: "Hello Sir. What is your last name?"

**Nǐ hǎo! Xiān sheng, qǐng wèn nǐ xìng shén me?**

Good, let's hear the woman's answer.

**Nǐ hǎo! Xiān shēng, qǐng wèn nǐ xìng shén me?**

She asked your name. Give her your last name, then ask, "What about you Miss?"

**Wǒ xìng. Xiǎo jie, nǐ ne?**

Now, listen to Ms. Li's answer.

**Wǒ xìng Lǐ, jiào Lǐ Wén.**

So, what did she say?

She said, "My last name is Li, my full name is Wen Li."

Now you are talking to Mr. Wang. Ask him his full name.

Say "Mr. Wang, what's your full name?"

**Wáng xiān shēng, Nǐ jiào shénme?**

Remember how the conversation ended?

Mr. Wang said, "It's nice to have met you". Repeat:

**Rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

**Rèn shi nǐ wǒ hěn gāo xìng.**

Now it is your turn to say "Mr. Wang, Nice to meet you, too"

**Rèn shì nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**  
**Rèn shì nǐ wǒ yě hěn gāo xìng.**

## Lesson Two

In this dialogue, you will hear how to greet friends. Here are the words and expressions you will learn in this chapter:

good

**hǎo**

**hǎo**

no; not

**bù/bú**

**bù/bú**

see

**jiàn**

**jiàn**

particle expressing general interrogative

**ma**

**ma**

middle

**zhōng**

**zhōng**

wrong; bad

**cuò**

**cuò**

dad

**bà ba**

**bà ba**

mom

**mā ma**

**mā ma**

all; both

**dōu**

**dōu**

they

**tā men**

**tā men**

thanks

**xiè xie**

**xiè xie**

goodbye

**zài jiàn**

**zài jiàn**

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. Mr. Wang and Miss Li are now good friends, who haven't seen each other for some time.

**Lǐ wén, hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, Wáng Zhōng, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ yě bú cuò, nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo, xiè xie, zài jiàn!**

**Zài jiàn!**

Let's listen to see how Mr. Wang began the conversation.

He said: "Wen Li, long time no see. How are you?" Listen first:

**Lǐ wén, hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

First he said her name. Repeat:

**Lǐ wén**

**Lǐ wén**

Did you notice the word order in the name again? As we learned in the last lesson, the last name is said first. So in Chinese, Miss Li's name is said "Li Wen".

Try to say it once more on your own.

**Lǐ wén**

Good! Did you hear how Mr. Wang greeted Miss Li? Repeat:

**Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

The structure of this Chinese expression

**Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn**

is actually very similar to its English translation: "long time no see". "Long time" is

**hǎo jiǔ**

**hǎo jiǔ**

and "no see" is

**bú jiàn**

**bú jiàn**

Let's repeat the whole phrase: "long time no see"

**hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn**

**hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn**

Then he said: "How are you?" That was

**Nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Nǐ hǎo ma?**

Do you remember how to say "hello" from the previous dialogue?

**Nǐ hǎo!**

**Nǐ hǎo!**

This is a general Chinese greeting that means "hello" and "How do you do?" When you add

**ma**

at the end of the phrase, you get:

**Nǐ hǎo ma?**

which means "How are you?" Now try to repeat the whole sentence. "Wen Li, long time no see. How are you?"

**Lǐ wén hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Lǐ wén hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

In Chinese society, calling people by first name is still not a norm. People address each other by last name or by last name and first name together. This way of addressing people is very common between friends and among young classmates. Remember how Mr. Wang addressed Miss Li? That was

**Lǐ wén**

Back to the dialogue: Ms. Li's response to the greeting was: "I'm very well, Zhong Wang, how about you?" Repeat after Miss Li:

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, Wáng Zhōng, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, Wáng Zhōng, nǐ ne?**

How did she say "I'm very well" in Chinese? Repeat:

**Wǒ hěn hǎo.**

**Wǒ hěn hǎo.**

Did you hear how the woman addressed the man?

Again, she used his last name, then his first name:

**Wáng Zhōng**

And the last thing the woman said was:

**nǐ ne?**

**nǐ ne?**

Do you remember this expression from the last dialogue? Mr. Wang said

**nǐ ne?**

to Ms. Li in order to ask her name. It can simply mean "And you?"

Let's repeat the whole sentence. "I'm very well. Zhong Wang, and you?"

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, Wáng Zhōng, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, Wáng Zhōng, nǐ ne?**

Good! Let's hear Mr. Wang's response. He said: "I'm not bad, either.

How are your father and mother?" Repeat after Mr. Wang:

**Wǒ yě bú cuò. Nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

**Wǒ yě bú cuò. Nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

How did he say: "not bad"? Repeat:

**bú cuò**

**bú cuò**

The whole sentence "I'm not bad either" is

**Wǒ yě bú cuò.**

Now try it yourself!

**Wǒ yě bú cuò.**

**Wǒ yě bú cuò.**

As a good friend of Miss Li, Mr. Wang asks about her family, using the phrase:

**bà ba mā ma?**

Father is

**bà ba**

**bà ba**

And mother?

**mā ma**

**mā ma**

Let's try "your father and mother".

**nǐ bà ba mā ma**

**nǐ bà ba mā ma**

Please note, pronouns, like "my" and "your" can be put right before the nouns to indicate possession, if the following noun is a person, like father or mother.

Please say again: "your father and mother".

**nǐ bà ba mā ma**

**nǐ bà ba mā ma**

Did you remember how to say "How are you?"

**Nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Nǐ hǎo ma?**

Let's try "How are your father and mother?"

**Nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

**Nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

Let's listen to how Wen Li answered this question.

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo.**

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo.**

The word "men" functions as a suffix. It attaches to pronouns and nouns that indicate people, and it creates the plural. So,

**Tā men**

refers to Wen Li's two parents. Listen again to see if there are any other new words in this sentence.

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo.**

Did you hear the word

**dōu**

in that phrase?

**dōu**

means "both". Repeat:

**dōu hěn hǎo**

**dōu hěn hǎo**

Let's put the whole sentence together. "They are both very well."

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo.**

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo.**

Let's see how the conversation ends. Miss Li said "thank you" and then "good bye".

Listen first:

**xiè xie. Zài jiàn!**

**xiè xie. Zài jiàn!**

The first thing she says is "thank you". Repeat:

**xiè xie**

**xiè xie**

Did you hear how to say "goodbye"? Try it:

**Zài jiàn!**

**Zài jiàn!**

Now let's repeat the whole sentence. "They are both very well, thank you. Goodbye!"

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo, xiè xie. Zài jiàn!**

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo, xiè xie. Zài jiàn!**

And Mr. Wang replies with "goodbye" as well.

**Zài jiàn!**

**Zài jiàn!**

Now let's listen to the whole dialogue again.

Try your best to follow along.

**Lǐ wén, hǎo jiǔ bù jiàn, nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, Wáng Zhōng, nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ yě bú cuò, nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo, xiè xie. Zài jiàn!**

**Zài jiàn!**

Now it's your turn. Imagine you haven't seen your good friend Miss Li for some time, and you meet her before a class. Say, "Wen Li, how are you?"

**Lǐ wén, nǐ hǎo ma?**

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?**

What did she ask you?

She said, "I'm not bad, how are you?" Listen again:

**Wǒ hěn hǎo, nǐ ne?**

Answer this question with "I'm not bad either"

**Wǒ yě bú cuò,**

Now ask: "how are your mother and father?"

**nǐ bà ba mā ma hǎo ma?**

**Tā men dōu hěn hǎo, xiè xie. Zài jiàn!**

How do you answer that? By saying goodbye, too:

**Zài jiàn!**

Now, let's review some vocabulary.

hello; how do you do

**nǐ hǎo**

**nǐ hǎo**

you

**nǐ**

**nǐ**

good

**hǎo**

**hǎo**

mister

**xiān sheng**

**xiān sheng**

excuse me

**qǐng wèn**

**qǐng wèn**

last name

**xìng**

**xìng**

what

**shén me**

**shén me**

I; me

**wǒ**

**wǒ**

Wang: a common last name in Chinese

**Wáng**

**Wáng**

miss; young lady

**xiǎo jie**

**xiǎo jie**

an ending, or particle, expressing a question

**ne**

**ne**

Li: another common last name

**Lǐ**

**Lǐ**

to be called

**jiào**

**jiào**

language; culture

**wén**

**wén**

middle

**zhōng**

**zhōng**

know

**rèn shi**

**rèn shi**

very

**hěn**

**hěn**

happy

**gāo xìng**

**gāo xìng**

also

**yě**

**yě**

good

**hǎo**

**hǎo**

no; not

**bù/bú**

**bù/bú**

see

**jiàn**

**jiàn**

particle expressing general interrogative

**ma**

**ma**

middle

**zhōng**

**zhōng**

wrong; bad

**cuò**

**cuò**

dad

**bà ba**

**bà ba**

mom

**mā ma**

**mā ma**

all; both

**dōu**

**dōu**

they

**tā men**

**tā men**

thanks

**xiè xie**

**xiè xie**

goodbye

**zài jiàn**

**zài jiàn**

[CD 2]

**Lesson Three**

In this lesson you will learn how to talk about your nationality and occupation. First, let's practice the new vocabulary:

Chinese

**zhōng guó rén**

**zhōng guó rén**

China

**zhōng guó**

**zhōng guó**

person, people

**rén**

**rén**

American

**měi guó rén**

**měi guó rén**

the United States of America

**měi guó**

**měi guó**

to do

**zuò**

**zuò**

particle, used after an attribute

**de**

**de**

teacher

**lǎo shī**

**lǎo shī**

doctor

**yī shēng**

**yī shēng**

to understand

**dǒng**

**dǒng**

English language

**yīng wén**

**yīng wén**

Chinese language

**zhōng wén**

**zhōng wén**

a little

**yí diǎn**

**yí diǎn**

to exist, to be at,

**zài**

**zài**

where

**nǎ lǐ**

**nǎ lǐ**

work, job

**gōng zuò**

**gōng zuò**

Now listen carefully to the dialogue. See if you can understand what the man's occupation is.

**Nǐ hǎo!**

**Nǐ hǎo!**

**Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén. Nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ shì měi guó rén.**

**Nǐ shì zuò shén me de?**

**Wǒ shì lǎo shī. Nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ shì yī shēng.**

So were you able to figure out his occupation?

That's right, he is a teacher. Now let's listen to what else they said. The woman started by saying her nationality:

**Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén.**

"I am Chinese." Remember,

**wǒ shì**

means "I am". "Chinese" is

**zhōng guó rén**

Try to repeat the whole sentence:

**Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén.**

**Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén.**

Did you recognize the question that the woman asked next? She said:

**Nǐ ne?**

That means: What about you? Repeat:

**Nǐ ne?**

**Nǐ ne?**

Did the gentleman's answer sound familiar?

**Wǒ shì měi guó rén.**

He used the same phrase to say "I am". Repeat:

**Wǒ shì**

**Wǒ shì**

Then he added "American".

**měi guó rén**

Repeat:

**Wǒ shì měi guó rén.**

**Wǒ shì měi guó rén.**

Next, the woman asked another question: What is your occupation?

Repeat:

**Nǐ shì zuò shén me de?**

**Nǐ shì zuò shén me de?**

Try the whole sentence once more:

**Nǐ shì zuò shén me de?**

**Nǐ shì zuò shén me de?**

The answer to this question is simple. Just say "I am":

**wǒ shì**

Then the occupation. The man's reply was:

**Wǒ shì lǎo shī.**

which means, "I am a teacher". Repeat:

**Wǒ shì lǎo shī.**

**Wǒ shì lǎo shī.**

Did you notice that the verb

**shì**

remains unchanged regardless of the subject? Chinese verb forms don't change at all to reflect the gender or number of a subject. Next, the man asked "What about you?" Do you remember the Chinese for this expression?

**Nǐ ne?**

**Nǐ ne?**

The woman replied, "I am a doctor." Repeat:

**Wǒ shì yī shēng.**

**Wǒ shì yī shēng.**

Very good!

To say a nationality, mention the name of a country, then add the word

**rén**

For example, "China" is

**zhōng guó**

so "Chinese" is

**zhōng guó rén**

Let's listen to the dialogue again.

**Nǐ hǎo!**

**Nǐ hǎo!**

**Wǒ shì zhōng guó rén. Nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ shì měi guó rén.**

**Nǐ shì zuò shén me de?**

**Wǒ shì lǎo shī. Nǐ ne?**

**Wǒ shì yī shēng.**

### Dialogue Two

Listen to the following dialogue. Try to answer these questions: does the gentleman understand English? What about Chinese?

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

**Wǒ dǒng yīng wén.**

**Nǐ yě dǒng zhōng wén ma?**

**Wǒ dǒng yí diǎn zhōng wén.**

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

**Wǒ zài zhōng guó gōng zuò.**

So were you able to get the answers? The gentleman said that he understands English, and also a little Chinese.

Now let's see what else they said. First the woman asked:

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

“Do you understand English, please?”

**Qǐng wèn**

means “May I ask”. Repeat:

**Qǐng wèn**

**Qǐng wèn**

**nǐ dǒng**

means “you understand” and

**yīng wén**

means “English”, so

**nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

means “Do you understand English?” Repeat:

**nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

**nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

Now try the whole sentence:

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

The gentleman replied:

**Wǒ dǒng yīng wén.**

“I understand English.” Repeat:

**Wǒ dǒng yīng wén.**

**Wǒ dǒng yīng wén.**

The woman's second question was: “Do you also understand Chinese?”

**Nǐ yě dǒng zhōng wén ma?**

The structure of this sentence is almost the same as that of her first question. But the woman changed

**yīng wén**

“English” to

**zhōng wén**

“Chinese”, and she added in the word

**yě**

which means “also”. So the sentence means “Do you also understand Chinese?”

Repeat:

**Nǐ yě dǒng zhōng wén ma?**

**Nǐ yě dǒng zhōng wén ma?**

The gentleman answered:

**Wǒ dǒng yí diǎn zhōng wén.**

I understand a little Chinese.

**yí diǎn**

means “a little”. Repeat:

**yí diǎn**

**yí diǎn**

Now, repeat the whole phrase:

**Wǒ dǒng yí diǎn zhōng wén.**

**Wǒ dǒng yí diǎn zhōng wén.**

If you want to say “I understand Chinese”, what would you say?

**Wǒ dǒng zhōng wén.**

**Wǒ dǒng zhōng wén.**

Finally the woman asked:

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

“Where do you work?”

**zài nǎ lǐ**

means “at what place” and

**gōng zuò**

means “work”. Repeat the whole sentence:

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

Did you notice the word order of this question? When you are saying where an action takes place, unlike in English, the prepositional phrase describing the place precedes the action verb. The man’s answer was:

**Wǒ zài zhōng guó gōng zuò.**

“I work in China.” Repeat:

**Wǒ zài zhōng guó gōng zuò.**

**Wǒ zài zhōng guó gōng zuò.**

Excellent! Did you notice that when the woman asked

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

She didn’t use

**ma**

at the end? That’s because when

**nǎ lǐ**

“where” is used in a question, the question word **ma** is not needed.

**nǎ lǐ**

should be put in the part of the sentence where the questioner expects the answer. Compare the question and answer and note that the answer, "China" goes in the same place in the sentence as the question word "where".

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

**Wǒ zài zhōng guó gōng zuò.**

Let's listen to the dialogue again.

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

**Wǒ dǒng yīng wén.**

**Nǐ yě dǒng zhōng wén ma?**

**Wǒ dǒng yī diǎn zhōng wén.**

**Nǐ zài nǎ lǐ gōng zuò?**

**Wǒ zài zhōng guó gōng zuò.**

Now it's your turn. Suppose you are talking to the gentleman from the dialogue. Fill in the blanks in the conversation:

Ask the man if he understands English:

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng...?**

**Wǒ dǒng.**

Now ask if he also understands Chinese:

**Nǐ yě dǒng...?**

Listen to check your answers:

**Qǐng wèn, nǐ dǒng yīng wén ma?**

**Wǒ dǒng.**

**Nǐ yě dǒng zhōng wén ma?**

## Lesson Four

In this lesson you will learn how to introduce your family.  
First, let's review the new vocabulary.

this

**zhè**

**zhè**

to be

**shì**

**shì**

who, whom

**shéi**

**shéi**

wife, Mrs.

**tài tai**

**tài tai**

daughter

**nǚ ér**

**nǚ ér**

son

**ér zi**

**ér zi**

to have

**yǒu**

**yǒu**

and

**hé**

**hé**

younger brother

**dì dì**

**dì dì**

younger sister

**mèi mei**

**mèi mei**

older brother

**gē ge**

**gē ge**

older sister

**jiě jie**

**jiě jie**

have not

**méi yǒu**

**méi yǒu**

### Dialogue One

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. Wen Li is visiting Zhong Wang's house. Zhong Wang's father, Mr. Wang, will show Miss Li a photo and tell her about his family. Try to figure out whom Mr. Wang will introduce first.

**Wáng xiān shēng, zhè shì shéi?**

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

**Zhè shì shéi?**

**Zhè shì wǒ nǚ ér.**

**Zhè shì nǚ ér zi ma?**

**Shì, zhè shì wǒ ér zi Wáng Zhōng.**

Were you able to figure out whom Mr. Wang introduced first?

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

Yes, it was his wife. Now let's hear what else Mr. Wang and Miss Li talked about. Miss Li first pointed at the picture and asked:

**Wáng xiān shēng, zhè shì shéi?**

Do you remember what

**Wáng xiān shēng**

means?

It means Mr. Wang. Repeat:

**Wáng xiān shēng**

**Wáng xiān shēng**

After saying "Mr. Wang", Ms. Li said:

**zhè shì shéi?**

This means "Who is this?" Repeat:

**zhè shì shéi?**

**zhè shì shéi?**

Try to say the whole sentence together. Repeat:

**Wáng xiān shēng, zhè shì shéi?**

**Wáng xiān shēng, zhè shì shéi?**

Good!

**zhè shì**

is used frequently for introducing or asking about somebody. You try it:

**zhè shì**

**zhè shì**

Mr. Wang answered:

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

**wǒ**

means “my” here, and

**tài tai**

means “wife”. So

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

means “This is my wife.” Repeat:

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

Then Miss Li asked the same question again, but pointed to someone else in the picture:

**Zhè shì shéi?**

Who is this? Try this question on your own

**Zhè shì shéi?**

Mr. Wang replied:

**Zhè shì wǒ nǚ ér.**

You already know that

**zhè shì**

means “this is” and

**wǒ**

means “my”. So

**wǒ nǚ ér**

means “my daughter”. The whole phrase means

This is my daughter. Repeat:

**Zhè shì wǒ nǚ ér.**

**Zhè shì wǒ nǚ ér.**

Finally Miss Li asked about the young man in the picture:

**Zhè shì nǐ ér zi ma?**

Did

**nǐ**

sound familiar to you?

It means "you" or "your".

**ér zi**

means "son". So

**Zhè shì nǐ ér zi ma?**

means "Is this your son?" Repeat:

**Zhè shì nǐ ér zi ma?**

**Zhè shì nǐ ér zi ma?**

And Mr. Wang's answer was: "Yes, this is my son Zhong Wang."

**Shì, zhè shì wǒ ér zi Wáng Zhōng.**

Did you notice the word for "yes"? It's

**Shì**

Repeat the whole sentence:

**Shì, zhè shì wǒ ér zi Wáng Zhōng.**

**Shì, zhè shì wǒ ér zi Wáng Zhōng.**

Very good! You might have noticed that

**shéi**

is roughly equivalent to the English "who" when used to ask questions.

Remember, just like

**nǎ lǐ**

which you learned in the last chapter, you should not use

**shéi**

with the question word

**ma**

Also, like

**nǎ lǐ**

you need to put

**shéi**

in the part of the sentence where you expect the answer.

Compare the following question and answer:

**Zhè shì shéi?**

**Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.**

Let's listen to the whole dialogue again.

Wáng xiān shēng, zhè shì shéi?  
Zhè shì wǒ tài tai.  
Zhè shì shéi?  
Zhè shì wǒ nǚ ér.  
Zhè shì nǐ ér zi ma?  
Shì, zhè shì wǒ ér zi Wáng Zhōng.

### Dialogue Two

Listen closely to the following dialogue and try to answer this question:

Does Miss Li have any younger brothers and younger sisters?

Wǒ yǒu bà ba hé mā ma.  
Nǐ yǒu dì di, mèi mei ma?  
Wǒ yǒu dì di, yě yǒu mèi mei.  
Nǐ yǒu gē ge, jiě jie ma?  
Wǒ méi yǒu gē ge, yě méi yǒu jiě jie.

Did you get that?

Wǒ yǒu dì di, yě yǒu mèi mei.

Yes, Miss Li has both younger brothers and younger sisters. First Miss Li said:

Wǒ yǒu bà ba hé mā ma.

I have a father and a mother.

yǒu

is a verb, meaning “have”. Did you remember what

bà ba

and

mā ma

mean?

bà ba

means “father” and

mā ma

means “mother”.

hé

is a conjunction, meaning “and”, so

bà ba hé mā ma

means “father and mother”. Say the whole sentence after Miss Li:

“I have a father and a mother.”

Wǒ yǒu bà ba hé mā ma.

**Wǒ yǒu bà ba hé mā ma.**

Then Mr. Wang asked:

**Nǐ yǒu dì dì, mèi mei ma?**

“younger brother” is:

**dì dì**

**dì dì**

and

**mèi mei**

means “younger sister”. Repeat:

**mèi mei**

**mèi mei**

So,

**Nǐ yǒu dì dì, mèi mei ma?**

means “Do you have any younger brothers or younger sisters?”

Try to repeat the whole sentence:

**Nǐ yǒu dì dì, mèi mei ma?**

**Nǐ yǒu dì dì, mèi mei ma?**

See if you can understand what Miss Li answered.

**Wǒ yǒu dì dì, yě yǒu mèi mei.**

Did you get it? She said: “I have a younger brother, and

I also have a younger sister.”

Did you recognize the word

**yě**

It means “also” in this sentence.

Let’s listen to that again. Repeat in the pauses:

**Wǒ yǒu dì dì,**

**yě yǒu mèi mei.**

Did you notice that, just like the verb

**shì**

the verb

**yǒu**

also remains unchanged no matter what the subject is? Remember, Chinese verb forms don’t change. Mr.

Wang’s last question was:

**Nǐ yǒu gē ge, jiě jie ma?**

“Do you have any older brothers or older sisters?”

**gē ge**

means “older brother”. Repeat:

**gē ge**

**gē ge**

And

**jiě jie**

means “older sister”. Repeat:

**jiě jie**

**jiě jie**

Now try the whole sentence:

**Nǐ yǒu gē ge, jiě jie ma?**

**Nǐ yǒu gē ge, jiě jie ma?**

Miss Li’s answer was:

**Wǒ méi yǒu gē ge, yě méi yǒu jiě jie.**

“I don’t have older brothers or older sisters.”

Let’s listen to that once again. Repeat in the pauses:

**Wǒ méi yǒu gē ge**

**yě méi yǒu jiě jie**

Good! Remember, to say the negative of the verb

**yǒu**

you should always use

**méi yǒu**

which literally means “not have”. Repeat:

**méi yǒu**

**méi yǒu**

Also, did you notice that

**yě**

is used in both affirmative and negative sentences? It can mean “also” or “neither”.

Compare the following two sentences:

**Wǒ yě yǒu mèi mei.**

means: “I also have a younger sister.”

**Wǒ yě méi yǒu jiě jie.**

means: “I don’t have an older sister, either.”

In China, the social status of men used to be higher than that of women. This tradition was also reflected in Chinese language.

As you can see from this dialogue:

**bà ba**

is put before

**mā ma**

and

**gē ge**

and

**dì di**

are placed before

**jiě jie**

and

**mèi mei.**

Let's listen to the dialogue again.

**Wǒ yǒu bà ba hé mā ma.**

**Nǐ yǒu dì di, mèi mei ma?**

**Wǒ yǒu dì di, yě yǒu mèi mei.**

**Nǐ yǒu gē ge, jiě jie ma?**

**Wǒ méi yǒu gē ge, yě méi yǒu jiě jie.**

Now suppose Ms. Li is showing you a photo of her family and you'd like to ask her some questions. First, ask Ms Li: "who is this?"

**Zhè shì shéi?**

**Zhè shì wǒ mèi mei.**

Now fill in the blanks in the following phrase to ask: "is this your father?"

Listen for the correct answer after the pause:

**Zhè shì ...?**

**Zhè shì nǐ bà ba ma?**

**Zhè shì wǒ bà ba.**

Now ask if she has older brothers and sisters.

**Nǐ yǒu gē ge, jiě jie ma?**

Excellent! Now you are talking to Mr. Wang. First ask him "Who is this?"

**Zhè shì shéi?**

**Zhè shì wǒ ér zi.**

Now ask him "Is this your daughter?"

**Zhè shì nǐ nǚ ér.**

**Zhè shì wǒ nǚ er.**

Now ask Mr. Wang: “Do you have any older sisters or older brothers?”

**Nǐ yǒu jiě jie, gē ge ma?**

**Wǒ yǒu jiě jie, méi yǒu gē ge.**

Did you understand Mr. Wang’s response?

Does he have older sisters or brothers?

That’s right, he said he has an older sister, but not an older brother.

## Lesson Five

In this dialogue, you will learn how to talk about your hobbies. First, let's hear the new vocabulary for this chapter.

weekend

**zhōu mò**

**zhōu mò**

like; love

**xǐ huān**

**xǐ huān**

do

**zuò**

**zuò**

see; watch; read

**kàn**

**kàn**

book

**shū**

**shū**

listen

**tīng**

**tīng**

music

**yīn yuè**

**yīn yuè**

movie

**diàn yǐng**

**diàn yǐng**

but

**kě shì**

**kě shì**

Really?

**shì ma**

**shì ma**

we; us

**wǒ men**

**wǒ men**

can

**kě yǐ**

**kě yǐ**

together

**yí qǐ**

**yí qǐ**

go

**qù**

**qù**

an interjection to show happiness

**a**

**a**

this

**zhè gè** or **zhè ge**

**zhè gè** or **zhè ge**

right away

**jiù**

**jiù**

a particle to soften the tone

**ba**

**ba**

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. Zhong Wang and Wen Li are talking about what they like to do on the weekend.

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

**Wǒ xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Nǐ ne, Wáng Zhōng?**

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng, kě shì bù xǐ huān kàn shū,  
tīng yīn yuè.**

**Shì ma? Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Hǎo a! Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

**Hǎo!**

Let's listen to the dialogue sentence by sentence. Mr. Wang began with:

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

Can you recognize the woman's name in this phrase? It is

**Lǐ Wén**

Do you remember the man's full name?

**Wáng Zhōng**

Good! Now Zhong Wang is asking Wen Li what she likes to do on weekends. Listen and repeat:

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

Did you recognize the word for "weekend"? Repeat:

**zhōu mò**

**zhōu mò**

And the verb "to like". Repeat:

**xǐ huān**

**xǐ huān**

You've already learned how to ask "what?" in an earlier chapter. Did you remember it in the phrase?

**shén me**

**shén me**

Now we can put the question together.

**Nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

In this sentence,

**zhōu mò**

weekend, actually serves as an adverb, so in Chinese it has to come before the verb.

Let's hear the whole sentence again. Repeat:

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

And what is Wen Li's answer? She likes to read, listen to music, and watch movies.

**Wǒ xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

Let's break this long sentence down into smaller parts.

First, let's say "read books".

**kàn shū**

**kàn shū**

Next, "listen to music"

**tīng yīn yuè**

**tīng yīn yuè**

And "watch movies"

**kàn diàn yǐng.**

**kàn diàn yǐng.**

Have you noticed that Chinese uses the same verb,

**kàn**

in both "read books" and "watch movies"? Yes, in the Chinese way of thinking, if you read a book silently, you are actually "watching" the book with your eyes, so the verb

**kàn**

is used. Let's try to repeat Wen Li's three hobbies again:

**kàn shū**

**tīng yīn yuè**

**kàn diàn yǐng**

Now repeat all three activities together:

**kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, kàn diàn yǐng**

**kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, kàn diàn yǐng**

Good! Now listen to the whole sentence, and repeat after Miss Li.

**Wǒ xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Wǒ xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

Which of these things do you like to do? Say it in Chinese!

How did Wen Li ask Zhong Wang about his hobbies? She said a phrase that I hope you remember:

**Nǐ ne, Wáng Zhōng?**

Did you remember it? It means "What about you, Zhong Wang?"

**Nǐ ne, Wáng Zhōng?**

What is Zhong Wang's answer? He said "I like to see movies on weekends too, but I don't like to read and listen to music." That is

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng, kě shì bù xǐ huān kàn shū,  
tīng yīn yuè.**

This is quite a long sentence! Let's break this down into several short phrases. First, Zhong Wang said he also likes watching movies on weekends.

Please repeat:

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

But he doesn't like either reading or listening to music. Please repeat:

**Wǒ bù xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè.**

**Wǒ bù xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè.**

You might have noticed that there is a conjunction joining together the two short sentences.

**kě shì**

**kě shì**

This means "but". Repeat:

**kě shì**

**kě shì**

Also, did you notice that, in the second sentence, the subject

**wǒ**

was left out? In Chinese, whenever the subject is clear from the context, you don't need to say it again. Let's listen and repeat.

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng,  
kě shì bù xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè.**

Now listen to the whole sentence. Try to recognize each word, and then repeat in the pause.

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng, kě shì bù xǐ huān kàn shū,  
tīng yīn yuè.**

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng, kě shì bù xǐ huān kàn shū,  
tīng yīn yuè.**

What is Wen Li's response? She said: "Really?" and then she suggested that they go to movies on the weekend. Let's listen:

**Shì ma? Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

Did you hear how to say "really"? Repeat:

**Shì ma?**

**Shì ma?**

Then, Wen Li suggested that they go to the movies together:

**Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

In this sentence, there are three new expressions clustered together as a verb phrase.

**kě yǐ**

means "can";

**yí qǐ**

means "together" and

**qù**

means "go". So when all these words are combined, it means "can go together". Let's repeat:

**kě yǐ yí qǐ qù**

**kě yǐ yí qǐ qù**

So where are they going to go together? You need to add in the word “movie”, which makes the phrase:

**kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng**

**kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng**

Good! Now let's put the whole sentence together. She said: "Really? We can go to see movies together on the weekend."

**Shì ma? Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Shì ma? Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

What's Zhong Wang's reaction to Wen Li's suggestion? Well, he was pretty happy. He asked Wen Li right away to go see a movie that coming weekend.

He said:

**Hǎo a! Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

The first thing he said:

**Hǎo a!**

means "Good!" This expression can be used to agree when someone suggests that you do something. Listen again and repeat:

**Hǎo a!**

**Hǎo a!**

Not only did Zhong Wang think it was a good idea, he wanted to go right away. He suggested that they go this weekend:

**Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

**Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

The word

**jiù**

in front of the verb

**qù**

means "as early as", and shows that he is really eager to schedule this date.

Let's repeat the whole sentence:

**Hǎo a! Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

**Hǎo a! Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

The word

**ba**

with a neutral tone at the end of a sentence is used to make the tone of the request milder. What do you think happened next? Do you think Wen Li and Zhong Wang made a date to see a movie? Well, Wen Li says

**Hǎo!**

Do you know what that means?

She says “yes”, she will go to the movies with him. Let's listen to the whole conversation again.

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

**Wǒ xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè,**

**yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng,**

**nǐ ne, Wáng Zhōng?**

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng,**

**kě shì bù xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè.**

**Shì ma? Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Hǎo a!**

**Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

**Hǎo!**

Now it's your turn! Play the role of Zhong Wang in the dialogue.

Say: Wen Li, what do you like to do on weekends?

**Lǐ Wén, nǐ zhōu mò xǐ huān zuò shén me?**

**Wǒ xǐ huān kàn shū, tīng yīn yuè, yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng, nǐ ne,**

**Wáng Zhōng?**

Tell Wen Li that you also like watching movies:

**Wǒ zhōu mò yě xǐ huān kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Shì ma? Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yí qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

Try to respond to Wen Li's suggestion in a positive way.

**Hǎo a!**

Now say, " Let's go to see a movie this weekend."

**Zhè gè zhōu mò jiù qù ba.**

Do you still remember the numbers from 1 to 10? Listen first:

<b>yī</b>	<b>èr</b>	<b>sān</b>	<b>sì</b>	<b>wǔ</b>
<b>liù</b>	<b>qī</b>	<b>bā</b>	<b>jiǔ</b>	<b>shí</b>

Now repeat:

<b>yī</b>	<b>èr</b>	<b>sān</b>	<b>sì</b>	<b>wǔ</b>
<b>liù</b>	<b>qī</b>	<b>bā</b>	<b>jiǔ</b>	<b>shí</b>

Once again:

<b>yī</b>	<b>èr</b>	<b>sān</b>	<b>sì</b>	<b>wǔ</b>
<b>liù</b>	<b>qī</b>	<b>bā</b>	<b>jiǔ</b>	<b>shí</b>

Ok, are you ready for a test on Chinese numbers?

What's the number one?

**yī**

What is the number "four"?

**sì**

What about "seven"?

**qī**

Two?

**èr**

Nine?

**jiǔ**

Five?

**wǔ**

Eight?

**bā**

Three?

**sān**

Six?

**liù**

And finally, "ten"?

**shí**

Good! Learning how to say numbers is very important, and it's also practical. Now that you've learned the numbers, you will be able to do more than just counting or telling time. In Chinese, you will be able to tell the days of the week (except for Sunday) and the 12 months of the year by using the numbers 1 to 12.

The Chinese week goes from Monday to Sunday. For the days Monday through Saturday, we can simply put the numbers from 1 to 6 after the word

**xīng qī**

which means "weekday". So Monday, which is the first day of the week, is:

**xīng qī yī**

**xīng qī yī**

Tuesday

**xīng qī èr**

**xīng qī èr**

Wednesday

**xīng qī sān**

**xīng qī sān**

Thursday

**xīng qī sì**

**xīng qī sì**

Friday

**xīng qī wǔ**

**xīng qī wǔ**

Saturday

**xīng qī liù**

**xīng qī liù**

But Sunday, the seventh day of the week, is not formed by using number 7. It is

**xīng qī tiān**

**xīng qī tiān**

or

**xīng qī rì**

**xīng qī rì**

These have the same meaning, but

**xīng qī rì**

is more formal.

In order to tell the 12 months in a year, we need to know how to form the numbers 11 and 12. Do you remember them?

Eleven is literally "ten, one". Repeat:

**shíyī**

**shíyī**

So, what do you think twelve is?

**shí'èr**

**shí'èr**

All of the numbers up to 19 are formed this way, combining ten

**shí**

with the single digit number 1 to 9. Let's count from 11 to 19:

**shíyī**

**shí'èr**

**shísān**

**shísì**

**shíwǔ**

**shíliù**

**shíqī**

**shíbā**

**shíjiǔ**

Let's review the numbers from 1 to 12 once more. Listen and repeat:

**yī**

**èr**

**sān**

**sì**

**wǔ**

**liù**

**qī**

**bā**

**jiǔ**

**shí**

**shíyī**

**shí'èr**

Can you count from 1 to 12 by yourself? Try it, then listen to check your answer.

**yī**

**èr**

**sān**

**sì**

**wǔ**

**liù**

**qī**

**bā**

**jiǔ**

**shí**

**shíyī**

**shí'èr**

Good! Now equipped with the numbers from 1 to 12, we can tell the 12 months in a year by attaching the word

**yuè**

to the twelve numbers. The word

**yuè**

means "moon". It also means "month" in Chinese, because traditionally the Chinese use the Lunar Calendar. Let's say January, or "one month"

**yī yuè**

**yī yuè**

February

**èr yuè**

**èr yuè**

March

**sān yuè**

**sān yuè**

April

**sì yuè**

**sì yuè**

May

**wǔ yuè**

**wǔ yuè**

June

**liù yuè**  
**liù yuè**

July

**qī yuè**  
**qī yuè**

August

**bā yuè**  
**bā yuè**

September

**jiǔ yuè**  
**jiǔ yuè**

October

**shí yuè**  
**shí yuè**

November

**shíyī yuè**  
**shíyī yuè**

and December

**shí'èr yuè**  
**shí'èr yuè**

To talk about the dates within a month, we need to learn one new word:

**hào**

You can simply put the word

**hào**

right after a number to say “the first, the second, the third”, etc.

Repeat the first twelve days of the month.

<b>yīhào</b>	<b>èrhào</b>	<b>sānhào</b>	<b>sìhào</b>
<b>wǔhào</b>	<b>liùhào</b>	<b>qīhào</b>	<b>bāhào</b>
<b>jiǔhào</b>	<b>shíhào</b>	<b>shíyīhào</b>	<b>shí'èrhào</b>

Keep in mind that in Chinese, dates are given as month-date-day of the week. For instance, “Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup>” is actually “July, second, Saturday”:

**qī yuè èr hào, xīng qī liù**

“Sunday, July the 3<sup>rd</sup>” is

**qī yuè sān hào, xīng qī tiān**

So, what would "Monday, July the 4<sup>th</sup>" be?

**qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī**

In order to tell time, we need the numbers 1-12, plus the word

**diǎn zhōng**

which means "o'clock". For instance: 6 o'clock is

**liù diǎn zhōng**

"7 o'clock" is

**qī diǎn zhōng**

To talk about halves or quarters of hours, just leave out the syllable

**zhōng**

For instance, 15 is

**shí wǔ**

So 6:15 is

**liù diǎn shí wǔ**

6:20 is

**liù diǎn èrshí**

Rather than the number thirty, the word

**bàn**

is used when we talk about "half an hour". For instance, 6:30 is

**liù diǎn bàn**

Now, let's review some vocabulary.

Chinese

**zhōng guó rén**

**zhōng guó rén**

China

**zhōng guó**

**zhōng guó**

person, people

**rén**

**rén**

American

**měi guó rén**

**měi guó rén**

the United States of America

**měi guó**

**měi guó**

to do

**zuò**

**zuò**

particle, used after an attribute

**de**

**de**

teacher

**lǎo shī**

**lǎo shī**

doctor

**yī shēng**

**yī shēng**

to understand

**dǒng**

**dǒng**

English language

**yīng wén**

**yīng wén**

Chinese language

**zhōng wén**

**zhōng wén**

a little

**yí diǎn**

**yí diǎn**

to exist, to be at,

**zài**

**zài**

where

**nǎ lǐ**

**nǎ lǐ**

work, job

**gōng zuò**

**gōng zuò**

this

**zhè**

**zhè**

to be

**shì**

**shì**

who, whom

**shéi**

**shéi**

wife, Mrs.

**tài tai**

**tài tai**

daughter

**nǚ ér**

**nǚ ér**

son

**ér zi**

**ér zi**

to have

**yǒu**

**yǒu**

and

**hé**

**hé**

younger brother

**dì dì**

**dì dì**

younger sister

**mèi mei**

**mèi mei**

older brother

**gē ge**

**gē ge**

older sister

**jiě jie**

**jiě jie**

have not

**méi yǒu**

**méi yǒu**

weekend

**zhōu mò**

**zhōu mò**

like; love

**xǐ huān**

**xǐ huān**

do

**zuò**

**zuò**

see; watch; read

**kàn**

**kàn**

book

**shū**

**shū**

listen

**tīng**

**tīng**

music

**yīn yuè**

**yīn yuè**

movie

**diànyǐng**

**diànyǐng**

but

**kě shì**

**kě shì**

Really?

**shì ma**

**shì ma**

we; us

**wǒ men**

**wǒ men**

can

**kě yǐ**

**kě yǐ**

together

**yì qǐ**

**yì qǐ**

go

**qù**

**qù**

an interjection to show happiness

**a**

**a**

this

**zhè gè** or **zhè ge**

**zhè gè** or **zhè ge**

right away

**jiù**

**jiù**

a particle to soften the tone

**ba**

**ba**

[CD 3]

**Lesson Six**

In this dialogue, you will hear people talking about dates and schedules.

Let's practice the words and expressions you will learn in this chapter:

tomorrow

**míng tiān**

**míng tiān**

date; order

**hào**

**hào**

again

**yòu**

**yòu**

long; of long duration

**cháng**

**cháng**

correct

**duì**

**duì**

an interjection: ah; oh

**yā**

**yā**

Independence Day

**dú lì jié**

**dú lì jié**

birthday

**shēng rì**

**shēng rì**

in that case

**nà**

**nà**

to treat

**qǐng kè**

**qǐng kè**

o'clock

**diǎn zhōng**  
**diǎn zhōng**

half

**bàn**  
**bàn**

How does that sound?

**zěn me yàng**  
**zěn me yàng**

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. Zhong Wang and Wen Li are talking about time and date. They end up planning to see another movie together on Independence Day.

**Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?**  
**Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.**  
**Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.**  
**Duì yā! Míng tiān shì dú lì jié, yě shì wǒ de shēng rì.**  
**Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba. Wǒ qǐngkè.**  
**Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**  
**Liù diǎn bàn, zěn me yàng?**  
**Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn, bú jiàn bú sǎn.**  
**Bú jiàn bú sǎn.**

Mr. Wang began the dialogue by asking Ms. Li what the date was the next day, using the word for "tomorrow". Repeat:

**míng tiān**  
**míng tiān**

The word

**jǐ**

is used before a noun or a measure word to ask about an unknown quantity. In this question

**jǐ yuè jǐ hào**

means "what month, what date". Literally, the man asked: "Tomorrow is what month, what date?" Repeat:

**Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?**  
**Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?**

The woman answered: "It is Monday, July the 4th." In Chinese, there is no word meaning "it" to indicate time. So the woman used

**míng tiān**

meaning "tomorrow" in her answer. She said

**Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.**

Remember the word order for saying the date in Chinese?

It is "month, date, day of the week". Let's repeat:

**Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.**

**Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.**

Mr. Wang realizes that Monday, July the 4th is a holiday, so they will have a long weekend. Did you hear how to say "a long weekend" in Chinese?

It was

**yí gè cháng zhōu mò**

**yí gè cháng zhōu mò**

What about "again"? That was

**yòu shì**

**yòu shì**

Now let's put the sentence together: "a long weekend again".

**Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.**

**Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.**

And what about Ms. Li? She was quite happy that the holiday was coming up, and besides, she said, it was her birthday! Let's listen to what she said:

**Duì yā! Míng tiān shì dú lì jié, yě shì wǒ de shēng rì.**

First, Miss Li responded with excitement. She said:

**Duì yā!**

Which means: "That's right!" Listen:

**Duì yā!**

Then she added: "Tomorrow is Independence Day."

To say "Independence Day" in Chinese, it's

**Dú lì jié**

Let's say "Tomorrow is Independence Day." Repeat:

**Míng tiān shì dú lì jié.**

**Míng tiān shì dú lì jié.**

Good! Ms. Li said it is also her birthday. "Birthday" is

**shēng rì**

Now let's say "my birthday".

**wǒ de shēng rì**

Please repeat: "It is also my birthday."

**yě shì wǒ de shēng rì**

**yě shì wǒ de shēng rì**

Then Mr. Wang suggested that they go to a movie together, to celebrate.

Repeat:

**Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.**

**Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.**

Do you remember earlier when Wen Li suggested that they could go see movies together? She said: "We can go to see movies together on weekends." That was:

**Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yì qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

Let's compare it with the sentence in this chapter:

**Wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.**

Did you notice the difference in front of the noun "**diàn yǐng**"?

Listen once more:

**Wǒ men zhōu mò kě yǐ yì qǐ qù kàn diàn yǐng.**

**Wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.**

Yes, there is an extra word in the second sentence.

**gè**

It is the shortened form of

**yí gè**

It is the measure word or counter of the noun that follows, in this case

**diàn yǐng**

which means "movie". The first sentence, without the word

**gè**

can mean either one or more movies. The second sentence, with the word

**yī**

means "a movie". Now let's repeat what Mr. Wang said next:

**Wǒ qǐng kè.**

**Wǒ qǐng kè.**

Literally the sentence means: "I'm inviting guest", which in English would be "My treat."

Ms. Li accepted by saying: "Okay, what time?" That was:

**Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

Again the question word

**jǐ**

is used to ask about an unknown number: "What time?" Let's repeat:

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

And the answer is "6:30. Is that alright?"

**Liù diǎn bàn, zěn me yàng?**

**Zěn me yàng?**

is a very common expression used to confirm a request. Repeat:

**Zěn me yàng?**

**Zěn me yàng?**

Ms. Li quickly agreed by saying: "See you at 6:30, tomorrow." That was:

**Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn.**

Do you remember where time words go in Chinese sentences? Yes, they go before the verb. And the bigger unit always goes first. So the word order of this sentence actually is: "Tomorrow, 6:30, see you".

Let's try that again. Repeat:

**Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn.**

**Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn.**

How did Mr. Wang and Miss Li end their conversation? They have set a time and date to meet, and finally Ms. Li said: "Don't leave until we meet." That was:

**Bú jiàn bú sà.**

**Bú jiàn bú sà.**

This is a very common expression in Chinese that is used after people have made plans. Chinese is a language rich in four-character expressions such as this one. In Chapter 3, you learned another one of these. Do you remember how Zhong Wang greeted Wen Li? He said: "Long time no see!"

**Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn.**

Let's repeat the expressions one more time.

**Hǎo jiǔ bú jiàn .**

**Bú jiàn bú sà.**

At the end of the conversation, Mr. Wang responded to Ms. Li's suggestion by repeating what she had said: "Don't leave until we meet."

**Bú jiàn bú sà.**

Now listen to the whole conversation again, and try to follow along.

**Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?**

**Míng tiān shì qī yuè sì hào, xīng qī yī.**

**Yòu shì yí gè cháng zhōu mò.**

**Duì yā! Míng tiān shì dú lì jié, yě shì wǒ de shēng rì.  
Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba. Wǒ qǐngkè.  
Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?  
Liù diǎn bàn, zěn me yàng?  
Míng tiān liù diǎn bàn jiàn, bú jiàn bú sà.  
Bú jiàn bú sà.**

Now, play the role of Mr. Wang in the conversation by filling in the blanks.

First ask "What's tomorrow's date?"

**Míng tiān shì jǐ yuè jǐ hào?**

**Míng tiān shì qī yuè èr hào, xīng qī liù.**

Did you understand what date she said? Listen again:

**Míng tiān shì qī yuè èr hào, xīng qī liù.**

She said, tomorrow is July the second, Saturday.

Ask her if she wants to go to a movie with you.

**Nà wǒ men yì qǐ qù kàn gè diàn yǐng ba.**

**Hǎo a! Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

She said yes! Suggest a time to meet. Say "Is eight o'clock alright?"

**Bā diǎn zhōng, zěn me yàng?**

**Míng tiān bā diǎn zhōng jiàn, bú jiàn bú sà.**

Repeat what the woman said as an agreement: "Don't leave until we meet."

**Bú jiàn bú sà.**

## Lesson Seven

In this chapter you are going to learn how to bargain in the Chinese markets. First, let's practice the new vocabulary you will learn in this chapter

a measure word for flat surface

**zhāng**

**zhāng**

small plate; a colloquial word for CD

**dié**

**dié**

How much?

**duō shǎo**

**duō shǎo**

money

**qián**

**qián**

informal for “**yuán**”, the basic unit of money in China

**kuài**

**kuài**

extremely

**tài**

**tài**

a particle

**le**

**le**

expensive

**guì**

**guì**

cheap

**pián yi**

**pián yi**

buy

**mǎi**

**mǎi**

the number two, used before a measure word

**liǎng**

sell            **liǎng**

**mài**

**mài**

want

**yào**

**yào**

cash

**xiàn jīn**

**xiàn jīn**

over there

**nà biān**

**nà biān**

credit card

**xìn yòng kǎ**

**xìn yòng kǎ**

only

**zhǐ**

**zhǐ**

### Dialogue One

In this dialogue, you will hear how people ask for and negotiate prices in a market. Ms. Li is a very smart shopper. Listen carefully to the whole dialogue first and see how much you can understand.

**Xiān sheng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

**Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.**

**Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.**

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.**

**Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

**Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.**

So, could you figure out how much money she saved on the CD?

She saved two fifty. Let's hear how Miss Li asked for the price. She started by asking the vendor: "Sir, how much is this CD?" Repeat:

"Sir" is

**xiān sheng**

**xiān sheng**

How did she say "this CD"?

**zhè zhāng dié**

**zhè zhāng dié**

The word

**dié**

which means CD, is actually the same as the word for "plate" or "dish", since they have the same shape. Young people will also recognize the English word CD. The word

**zhāng**

is a measure word or counter, that goes before a noun indicating a flat surface. Did you notice how she asked "How much?" Repeat:

**Duō shǎo qián?**

**Duō shǎo qián?**

This is the most common way to ask for a price in Chinese. Ms Li said

**zhè**

"this", followed by the measure word

**zhāng**

Depending on the object, she might have needed a different measure word, like

**gè**

Next, she said the name of the object,

**dié**

followed by

**duō shǎo qián?**

Now, try to repeat the whole sentence: "Sir, how much is this CD?"

**Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

**Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

The man said: "Twelve kuai fifty each, Miss." That was

**Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.**

**Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.**

Did you hear how to say "twelve kuai fifty"? Repeat:

**shí'èr kuài wǔ**

**shí'èr kuài wǔ**

The word

**kuài**

is the colloquial word for the basic Chinese unit of money,

**yuán**

**wǔ**

in the phrase means five dimes, or 50 cents. In Chinese currency, there is one more unit:

**jiǎo**

which in spoken Chinese is also

**máo**

Please note, the last unit is usually dropped when it appears at the end of the phrase, so in this case it's just

**shí'èr kuài wǔ**

not

**shí'èr kuài wǔ máo**

Let's repeat the whole sentence one more time. "Twelve kuai fifty each, Miss."

**Shí'èr kuài wǔ yī zhāng, xiǎo jie.**

**Shí'èr kuài wǔ yī zhāng, xiǎo jie.**

Does Miss Li like the price?

No she didn't.

She said: "Twelve kuai fifty for one CD? That's too expensive." Repeat:

**Yī zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le.**

**Yī zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le.**

You probably understood the first part: she just repeated the price with a rising tone to show disagreement. Listen once more:

**Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ?**

**Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ?**

Next, she said

**Tài guì le.**

"Too expensive." This expression is very useful for the street market in China.

In order to get a good deal, say "That's too expensive". Repeat:

**Tài guì le.**

**Tài guì le.**

followed by

**pián yi yi diǎn ba**

which means "Cut down the price a little". Let's repeat:

**pián yi yi diǎn ba**

**pián yi yi diǎn ba**

Let's repeat the whole sentence one more time:

**Tài guì le, pián yi yi diǎn ba.**

**Tài guì le, pián yi yi diǎn ba.**

Most vendors in China are willing to reduce their price in order to make a sale, but they may try to bargain a little more. In this dialogue, the vendor offered: "Twenty for two". That was

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.**

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.**

In this sentence, the phrase "for two items" comes first. Repeat:

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng**

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng**

Then, the vendor says "twenty kuai". How would you say that in Chinese?

**èr shí kuài**

**èr shí kuài**

Good! Now let's try the whole phrase: "Twenty kuai for two."

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.**

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.**

Miss Li didn't want to buy two CDs, so she responded: "I only need to buy one CD. Sell me one for 10 kuai." Let's listen to the whole sentence:

**Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

How did she say "I only want to buy one"? Repeat:

**zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng**

**zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng**

The word

**zhǐ**

is similar to "only" in English. It comes before the verb, which in this sentence is

**mǎi**

meaning "to buy". So,

**zhǐ mǎi**

means "only to buy". So Miss Li continued negotiating. She said: "Sell me one for 10 kuai, will you?" Repeat:

**Mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

**Mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

Was Miss Li successful? Yes, the vendor let her buy one for 10 kuai, but asked for cash. Let's repeat: "Okay, I want cash."

**Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.**

**Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.**

Remember how Miss Li accepted when Mr. Wang invited her to see a movie in the previous chapter? She said "okay!" That was

**Hǎo a!**

**Hǎo a!**

This is a phrase used to show an agreement. Here in this sentence, the vendor says

**Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.**

In this phrase he uses

**ba**

instead of

**a**

to also indicate agreement. Let's repeat

**Hǎo ba!**

**Hǎo ba!**

When you travel in China, make sure you have enough cash to make purchases in the markets. Credit cards are accepted mostly in large department stores and hotels. So a phrase you may hear a lot in China is:

**Yào xiàn jīn.**

Cash please.

Let's listen to the dialogue once more.

**Xiān sheng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

**Shí'èr kuài wǔ yì zhāng, xiǎo jie.**

**Yì zhāng dié shí'èr kuài wǔ? Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.**

**Mǎi liǎng zhāng èr shí kuài.**

**Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

**Hǎo ba, yào xiàn jīn.**

Now play the role of Miss Li, and bargain with the vendor. Start with "Sir, how much is this CD?"

**Zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

**Zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

What would you say if the vendor gives you a price that you think is too high?

**Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.**

**Tài guì le, pián yi yì diǎn ba.**

The vendor gives you a lower price but wants you to buy more. Say that you only want one, and ask him to sell you one for ten kuai.

**Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

**Wǒ zhǐ mǎi yì zhāng, mài wǒ shí kuài yì zhāng ba.**

Good! Now you are on your way to negotiating in Chinese markets.

Let's practice bargaining in a market. You want to buy a CD. Start by asking the vendor how much for one:

**Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

**Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.**

Did you understand how much that is?

Right, that was fifteen kuai each.

**Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.**

**Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.**

Repeat the price, and tell him that is too expensive

**Yì zhāng shí wǔ kuài, tài guì le!**

Ask, "Can you lower the price a little?"

**Pián yì yì diǎn hǎo ma?**

Let's listen to the dialogue once more:

**Xiān shēng, zhè zhāng dié duō shǎo qián?**

**Shí wǔ kuài yì zhāng.**

**Yì zhāng shí wǔ kuài? Tài guì le, pián yì yì diǎn ba.**

Good! Let's try another one. This time you want to buy a book. Do you remember the Chinese word for "book"?

**shū**

The counter, or measure word, that you use with "book" is

**běn**

**běn**

Ask "Sir, how much is this book?"

**Xiān shēng, zhè běn shū duō shǎo qián?**

**Èr shí kuài yì běn, xiǎo jie.**

Did you understand how much it is? Listen to just the price:

**Èr shí kuài**

**Èr shí kuài**

Twenty kuai each. Repeat the price, then tell him "That's too expensive."

**Yì běn shū èr shí kuài? Tài guì le.**

Ask, "Could you cut the price a little?"

**Pián yì yì diǎn ba?**

Listen to the man's response, and see if you can tell what price he's offering you:

**Hǎo ba, shí wǔ kuài.**

So, how much did he offer you? Listen to the price once more:

**shí wǔ kuài**

**shí wǔ kuài**

He offered you a price of fifteen kuai. So, how much money did you save? Say it in Chinese!

**wǔ kuài**

Five kuai.

Let's listen to the dialogue once more:

**Xiān shēng, zhè běn shū duō shǎo qián?**

**Èr shí kuài yī běn, xiǎo jie.**

**Yì běn shū èr shí kuài? Tài guì le. Pián yi yì diǎn ba?**

**Hǎo ba, shí wǔ kuài.**

## Lesson Eight

In this lesson, you will learn how to reserve a room and seat.

The new words you will learn in this lesson are as follows:

Hotel, or, restaurant

**fàn diàn**

**fàn diàn**

to help

**bāng zhù**

**bāng zhù**

to reserve (a seat, ticket, etc.)

**dìng**

**dìng**

measure word

**gè**

**gè**

room

**fáng jiān**

**fáng jiān**

single room

**dān rén jiān**

**dān rén jiān**

double room

**shuāng rén jiān**

**shuāng rén jiān**

how much?

**duō shǎo**

**duō shǎo**

day

**tiān**

**tiān**

Chinese currency

**Rén mín bì**

**Rén mín bì**

hundred

**bǎi**

**bǎi**

seat

**wèi zi**

**wèi zi**

time

**shí jiān**

**shí jiān**

to smoke (a cigarette)

**chōu yān**

**chōu yān**

Listen carefully to the dialogue. Mr. Wang calls a hotel to book a room. See if you can understand whether he books a single or a double room.

**Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?**

**Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

**Wǒ xiǎng dīng yí gè fáng jiān.**

**Shì dān rén jiān ma?**

**Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān. Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?**

**Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.**

**Hǎo. Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?**

**Shōu.**

So were you able to understand what kind of room he wants?

Mr. Wang wanted to book a double room. Now let's see what else they said. Mr.

Wang started by asking

**Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?**

“Is this Beijing Hotel, please?”

Did the first phrase sound familiar? Listen again:

**qǐng wèn**

What does it mean?

Yes, it means “May I ask?”

**fàn diàn**

means “hotel” here, and

**Běijīng Fàn Diàn**

is the name of a hotel. So,

**shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?**

means “Is this Beijing Hotel?” Repeat the whole sentence:

**Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?**

**Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?**

The woman replied:

**shì**

which means “yes.” Then she asked:

**wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

Did

**kě yǐ**

sound familiar?

That’s right, it means “may” or “can” and

**bāng zhù**

means “help”. So

**wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

means “Can I help you?”

Now put everything together and repeat the sentence:

**Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

**Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

Next, Mr. Wang said

**Wǒ xiǎng dìng yí gè fáng jiān.**

Did

**xiǎng**

sound familiar? Do you remember what it means?

It means “want” or “would like to”.

**dìng**

means “to reserve”, and

**fáng jiān**

means “room.” So,

**dìng fáng jiān**

means “to reserve room”. Repeat:

**dìng fáng jiān**

**dìng fáng jiān**

Did you notice that Mr. Wang also used

**gè**

before the number

**yí**

“one”? That’s because in Chinese, a number cannot modify a noun directly. Instead, a measure word is needed between a numeral and a noun. Different nouns are modified by different measure words, but

**gè**

is one of the most frequently used. This serves the same function as the measure word

**zhāng**

for CDs and flat surfaces, which we learned in the last chapter.

Now repeat the whole sentence again:

**Wǒ xiǎng dīng yí gè fáng jiān.**

**Wǒ xiǎng dīng yí gè fáng jiān.**

Next, the woman asked:

**Shì dān rén jiān ma?**

Is it single room?

**dān rén jiān**

means “single room”. Repeat:

**dān rén jiān**

Say the whole sentence one more time:

**Shì dān rén jiān ma?**

**Shì dān rén jiān ma?**

Mr. Wang replied:

**Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān.**

No, it’s a double room.

**shuāng rén jiān**

means “double room.” Repeat that sentence again:

**Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān.**

**Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān.**

Then he asked something else. See if you can recognize the question:

**Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?**

Did the phrase

**duō shǎo**

sound familiar?

It means “How much?” Mr. Wang's question was, "How much is it per day?"

**qián**

means “money”, and

**tiān**

means “day”, so

**yi tiān**

here means “per day”. Did you notice that Mr. Wang didn’t use

**ma**

in the end of that sentence? Can you figure out why?

It’s just like the words “where” and “who”

**nǎ lǐ**

**shéi**

When

**duō shǎo**

is used in a question, the word

**ma**

is not needed. Repeat the whole sentence:

**Duō shǎo qián yi tiān?**

**Duō shǎo qián yi tiān?**

The woman told hi

**Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.**

Three hundred Chinese dollars.

**rén mǐn bì**

means “Chinese currency”. For the numbers, remember that

**sān**

means “three”, and

**bǎi**

means “hundred. So

**sān bǎi**

means “three hundred”.

**kuài**

means “dollar”, so putting it all together

**sān bǎi kuài**

means “three hundred dollars.” Repeat:

**sān bǎi kuài**

Now repeat the whole sentence:

**Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.**

**Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.**

Mr. Wang said:

**Hǎo. Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?**

“Good. Do you accept credit cards?” Do you remember the word

**shōu**

That’s right, it means “to accept”. What about

**xìn yòng kǎ**

Yes, you also learned that before. It means “credit card.”

Repeat the whole sentence:

**Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?**

**Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?**

And the woman’s reply was very simple. See if you can recognize what she said:

**Shōu.**

She said “yes”.

Let’s listen to the dialogue again.

**Qǐng wèn, shì Běijīng Fàn Diàn ma?**

**Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

**Wǒ xiǎng dìng yí gè fáng jiān.**

**Shì dān rén jiān ma?**

**Bù, shì shuāng rén jiān. Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?**

**Rén mǐn bì sān bǎi kuài.**

**Hǎo. Shōu xìn yòng kǎ ma?**

**Shōu.**

Now it’s your turn.

Suppose you call a hotel to reserve a room. The receptionist answers the phone, and says:

**Shì. Wǒ kě yǐ bāng zhù nǐ ma?**

Say “I’d like to reserve a single room.”

**Wǒ xiǎng dìng yí gè dān rén jiān.**

**Hǎo.**

Ask how much it is per day.

**Duō shǎo qián yì tiān?**

**Rén mǐn bì èr bǎi kuài.**

So, how much is the hotel per day? Listen to the price once more:

**Rén mǐn bì èr bǎi kuài.**

It's two hundred kuai per day.

## Dialogue Two

Listen carefully to this dialogue. Mr. Wang will talk with a woman over the phone to reserve some seats at a restaurant. See if you can understand how many seats he books.

**Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.**

**Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.**

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

**Chōu yān ma?**

**Bù chōu.**

So were you able to figure out how many seats Mr. Wang wants?  
He wanted to reserve five seats. Now let's see what else they said.  
The woman began by saying

**Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.**

“Hello, this is China Restaurant.”

**wéi**

is always used in the beginning of a phone conversation.

**fàn diàn**

means “restaurant” here, and

**Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn**

is the name of a specific restaurant. Repeat the whole sentence one more time.

“Hello, this is China Restaurant”:

**Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.**

**Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.**

Mr. Wang replied:

**Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.**

“Hello. I'd like to reserve five seats.” You already know how to say “five”. That's

**wǔ**

**wèi zi**

means “seat”. And you already know why the measure word

**gè**

is used between the number

**wǔ**

and the noun

**wèi zi**

Putting the whole sentence together,

**dìng wǔ gè wèi zi**

means “reserve five seats”. Repeat the whole sentence once more:

**Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.**

**Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.**

The woman replied:

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

“When are you coming?” Did

**shén me**

sound familiar? What does it mean?

That’s right, it means “what”.

**shí jiān**

means “time”. So

**shén me shí jiān**

means “what time”. Repeat:

**shén me shí jiān**

**shén me shí jiān**

Did the word

**lái**

sound familiar also? It means “to come”. Repeat the whole sentence:

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

See if you can recognize the time in Mr. Wang’s response. He says:

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

Listen once more:

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

He said “7:00 PM today.” Do you remember the word

**jīn tiān**

That’s right, it means “today.”

**wǎn shàng**

means “evening”. And what’s the meaning of

**qī diǎn**

Yes, it means “7:00”. Did you notice that Mr. Wang mentioned

**qī diǎn**

“7:00” last in the sentence? That’s because there are several units of time here, so you need to mention the largest one first, and the smallest one last. In this case, it

was first “today” then “evening” then finally “seven o’clock”. Try the whole sentence again:

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

Then the woman asked another question:

**Chōu yān ma?**

Do you smoke?

**chōu yān**

means “to smoke”. Repeat:

**Chōu yān ma?**

**Chōu yān ma?**

And Mr. Wang’s answer was very simple. Did he say “yes” or “no”?

**Bù chōu.**

**Bù chōu.**

He said “no”.

Very good. Let’s listen to the dialogue again.

**Wéi, nǐ hǎo, Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn.**

**Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng wǔ gè wèi zi.**

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

**Chōu yān ma?**

**Bù chōu.**

Now suppose you want to reserve some seats in a restaurant. Talk to the waitress in the following dialogue. First, say “Hello, I’d like to reserve three seats”.

**Nǐ hǎo. Wǒ xiǎng dìng sān gè wèi zi.**

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

Did you understand what she asked you?

**Nǐ shén me shí jiān lái?**

That was “when are you coming?” Tell the waitress “6:00 p.m. today.”

**Jīn tiān wǎn shàng liù diǎn.**

Very good!

Now, let's review some vocabulary.

tomorrow

**míng tiān**

**míng tiān**

date; order

**hào**

**hào**

again

**yòu**

**yòu**

long; of long duration

**cháng**

**cháng**

correct

**duì**

**duì**

an interjection: ah; oh

**yā**

**yā**

Independence Day

**dú lì jié**

**dú lì jié**

birthday

**shēng rì**

**shēng rì**

in that case

**nà**

**nà**

to treat

**qǐng kè**

**qǐng kè**

o'clock

**diǎn zhōng**

**diǎn zhōng**

half

**bàn**

**bàn**

How does that sound?

**zěn me yàng**

**zěn me yàng**

a measure word for flat surface

**zhāng**

**zhāng**

small plate; a colloquial word for CD

**dié**

**dié**

How much?

**duō shǎo**

**duō shǎo**

money

**qián**

**qián**

informal for “**yuán**”, the basic unit of money in China

**kuài**

**kuài**

extremely

**tài**

**tài**

a particle

**le**

**le**

expensive

**guì**

**guì**

cheap

**pián yi**

**pián yi**

buy

**mǎi**

**mǎi**

the number two, used before a measure word

**liǎng**

**liǎng**

sell

**mài**

**mài**

want

**yào**

**yào**

cash

**xiàn jīn**

**xiàn jīn**

over there

**nà biān**

**nà biān**

credit card

**xìn yòng kǎ**

**xìn yòng kǎ**

only

**zhǐ**

**zhǐ**

[CD 4]

**Lesson Nine**

In this lesson, you will learn how to book train and airplane tickets.

The new words you will learn in this lesson include:

train ticket

**huǒ chē piào**

**huǒ chē piào**

to want

**yào**

**yào**

time

**shí jiān**

**shí jiān**

morning

**shàng wǔ**

**shàng wǔ**

hard seat

**yìng xí**

**yìng xí**

soft seat

**ruǎn xí**

**ruǎn xí**

hard sleeper seat

**yìng wò**

**yìng wò**

soft sleeper seat

**ruǎn wò**

**ruǎn wò**

airplane ticket

**fēi jī piào**

**fēi jī piào**

economy class

**jīng jì cāng**

**jīng jì cāng**

business class

**shāng wù cāng**

**shāng wù cāng**

Dialogue One

Listen to the following dialogue. Mr. Wang is at a ticket office. See if you can understand what kind of ticket he will purchase.

**Qǐng wèn, yǒu qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào ma?**

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**

**Yīng xí hái shì ruǎn xí?**

**Dōu bú yào. Yǒu yìng wò de ma?**

**Méi yǒu le, zhǐ yǒu ruǎn wò de.**

**Nà wǒ yào sān zhāng ruǎn wò piào.**

So did you get that? That's right, he purchased three soft sleeper tickets.

Now let's see what else they said. Mr. Wang started by asking:

**Qǐng wèn, yǒu qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào ma?**

Do you have any train tickets to Beijing, please?

Did

**yǒu**

sound familiar?

Yes, it means "have".

**qù Běi jīng**

means "going to Beijing".

**de**

shows possession and

**huǒ chē piào**

means "train ticket". So that phrase

**qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào**

literally means "Beijing's train ticket" or a train ticket to Beijing.

Now repeat the whole sentence: "Do you have a train ticket to Beijing?"

**Yǒu qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào ma?**

**Yǒu qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào ma?**

The woman replied by asking:

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

What time do you want it for?

**nín yào**

means “you want”, and you already know that:

**shén me shí jiān**

means “what time”. Now try to repeat the whole sentence:

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

Did you notice that the function of

**de**

here is different from the last sentence? It is not used for possession in this sentence.

Instead, it means “it”. The woman didn't say “train ticket” again, but she said

**de**

instead, to refer to it. Repeat the whole sentence again:

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

The man answered:

**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**

Did

**míng tiān**

sound familiar?

Yes, it means “tomorrow”.

**shàng wǔ**

means “morning”. So

**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**

means “For tomorrow morning.” Try to repeat that once more.

**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**

**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**

Next, the woman offered two different kinds of tickets:

**Yìng xí hái shì ruǎn xí?**

“Hard seat or soft seat?”

**yìng xí**

means “hard seat”, repeat:

**yìng xí**

**yìng xí**

and “soft seat” is:

**ruǎn xí**

**ruǎn xí**

Did you notice that when the woman asked:

**Yìng xí hái shì ruǎn xí?**

She didn't use

**ma**

at the end? That's because when

**hái shì**

which means "or", is used in a question

**ma**

is not needed. Repeat the whole sentence again:

**Yīng xī hái shì ruǎn xī?**

The man didn't like the tickets the woman offered, so he said:

**Dōu bú yào.**

"Neither."

**dōu**

means "none" here, and

**bú yào**

means "don't want". So putting them together

**Dōu bú yào.**

means "Neither". Say that sentence again:

**Dōu bú yào.**

**Dōu bú yào.**

Then the man asked another question:

**Yǒu yìng wò de ma?**

"Do you have hard sleeper tickets?"

**yìng wò**

means "hard sleeper". Repeat:

**yìng wò**

**yìng wò**

In this case

**de**

means "it" again, standing for the word "ticket".

Repeat the phrase once more:

**Yǒu yìng wò de ma?**

The woman replied:

**méi yǒu le**

"Not any more." Did you notice the function of the word

**le**

It is used here to suggest a change of situation or status. It means that hard sleeper tickets were available before, but have been sold out now. Repeat that phrase again:

**méi yǒu le**

**méi yǒu le**

Then the woman told the man:

**zhǐ yǒu ruǎn wò de.**

Can you figure out what this might mean?

**zhǐ yǒu**

means “only have”, and

**ruǎn wò**

means “soft sleeper”. So

**zhǐ yǒu ruǎn wò de**

means “We only have soft sleepers.” Try repeating that once more:

**zhǐ yǒu ruǎn wò de**

**zhǐ yǒu ruǎn wò de**

So what did the man do? He replied:

**Nà wǒ yào sān zhāng ruǎn wò piào.**

“In that case, I want three soft sleeper tickets.” Did

**nà**

sound familiar to you?

Yes, it means “In that case”. You may also remember that

**wǒ yào**

means “I want”. Do you recognize any words from the phrase

**sān zhāng ruǎn wò piào**

Hopefully you remember that

**sān**

means “three”, and that

**zhāng**

is the measure word for counting thin and flat items, and of course

**ruǎn wò piào**

means “soft sleeper tickets.” Listen once more, and repeat:

**Nà wǒ yào sān zhāng ruǎn wò piào.**

**Nà wǒ yào sān zhāng ruǎn wò piào.**

Very good! Now let’s listen to the dialogue again.

**Qǐng wèn, yǒu qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào ma?**

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**  
**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**  
**Yīng xī hái shì ruǎn xī?**  
**Dōu bú yào. Yǒu yìng wò de ma?**  
**Méi yǒu le, zhǐ yǒu ruǎn wò de.**  
**Nà wǒ yào sān zhāng ruǎn wò piào.**

Now it's your turn! Suppose you'd like to purchase a train ticket to Beijing.  
First, ask if they have any train tickets to Beijing.

**Qǐng wèn, yǒu qù Běi jīng de huǒ chē piào ma?**  
**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

Did you understand what she asked you?  
She asked you what time you want the ticket for.  
Tell her you want a ticket for tomorrow morning.

**Míng tiān shàng wǔ de.**

### Dialogue Two

Listen carefully to the following dialogue. See if you can understand what kind of ticket the man would like to buy this time.

**Yǒu qù Shàng hǎi de fēi jī piào ma?**  
**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**  
**Wǔ yuè shí hào xià wǔ de.**  
**Jīng jì cāng hái shì shāng wù cāng?**  
**Jīng jì cāng.**

So were you able to get that? The man wanted to purchase an economy-class airplane ticket. Let's see what else they said.

The man began by asking:

**Yǒu qù Shàng hǎi de fēi jī piào ma?**

“Do you have any airplane tickets to Shanghai?” Have you ever heard of

**Shàng hǎi**  
**Shàng hǎi**

is the biggest city in China.

**qù Shàng hǎi**

means “to go to Shanghai” and

**fēi jī piào**

means “plane ticket”. Repeat:

**fēi jī piào**  
**fēi jī piào**

Do you remember that the word

**de**

can mean different things depending on the context?

What do you think it means here?

In this case, it shows possession, so the phrase literally means “Shanghai’s plane ticket.” Repeat the sentence again:

**Yǒu qù Shàng hǎi de fēi jī piào ma?**

**Yǒu qù Shàng hǎi de fēi jī piào ma?**

The woman needed more information, so she asked:

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

For what time?

In this case, is

**de**

a possessive, or does it mean “it”, and take the place of a noun?

It means “it”, standing in for the word “airplane ticket” which is omitted.

Let’s repeat the whole sentence again:

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

The man answered:

**Wǔ yuè shí hào xià wǔ de.**

Do you remember

**yuè**

and

**hào**

**yuè**

means “month”, and

**hào**

means “date”. Remember, the months are formed with the numbers one to twelve.

So, can you figure out which month

**wǔ yuè**

is?

It's the fifth month, so it means “May”. And what day in May?

**shí hào**

means “the 10<sup>th</sup>”.

**xià wǔ**

means “afternoon”. So

**Wǔ yuè shí hào xià wǔ de.**

means “May 10<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon”. Repeat:

**Wǔ yuè shí hào xià wǔ de.**

**Wǔ yuè shí hào xià wǔ de.**

See if you can recognize any of the words from her last question:

**Jīng jì cāng hái shì shāng wù cāng?**

**jīng jì cāng**

means “economy class”, and

**shāng wù cāng**

means “business class”. Repeat those again:

**jīng jì cāng**

**jīng jì cāng**

**shāng wù cāng**

**shāng wù cāng**

Do you remember the meaning of

**hái shì**

It means “or”. Now repeat the whole phrase again:

**Jīng jì cāng hái shì shāng wù cāng?**

**Jīng jì cāng hái shì shāng wù cāng?**

So, which did the man choose? Listen to his answer:

**Jīng jì cāng.**

**Jīng jì cāng.**

**Jīng jì cāng.**

He chose economy class. Now let’s listen to the dialogue one more time.

**Yǒu qù Shàng hǎi de fēi jī piào ma?**

**Nín yào shén me shí jiān de?**

**Wǔ yuè shí hào xià wǔ de.**

**Jīng jì cāng hái shì shāng wù cāng?**

**Jīng jì cāng.**

## Lesson Ten

In this lesson, you will learn how to ask for directions.  
Here are the new words you will learn in this lesson.

train station

**huǒ chē zhàn**

**huǒ chē zhàn**

station; bus, subway or train stop

**zhàn**

**zhàn**

to get to, to walk

**zǒu**

**zǒu**

to take

**zuò**

**zuò**

bus line, route

**lù**

**lù**

bus

**gōng gòng qì chē**

**gōng gòng qì chē**

public

**gōng gong**

**gōng gong**

vehicle

**qì chē**

**qì chē**

prefix for an ordinal number

**dì**

**dì**

to get off a bus, taxi, subway or train

**xià chē**

**xià chē**

subway line

**xiàn**

**xiàn**

subway

**dì tiě**

**dì tiě**

a famous shopping district in Beijing

**Wáng Fǔ Jǐng**

**Wáng Fǔ Jǐng**

taxi

**chū zū qì chē**

**chū zū qì chē**

convenient

**fāng biàn**

**fāng biàn**

### Dialogue One

Listen carefully to this dialogue. Mr. Wang will ask a woman how to get to the train station. Listen for what mode of transportation he needs to take to get there:

**Qǐng wèn, huǒ chē zhàn zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò shí lù gōng gòng qì chē, zài dì bā zhàn xià chē.**

**Kě yǐ zuò dì tiě ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ. Zuò yī xiàn dì tiě.**

So were you able to understand that? He can get to the train station both by bus and by subway. Now let's hear what else they said.

Mr. Wang started by asking:

**Qǐng wèn, huǒ chē zhàn zěn me zǒu?**

“How can I get to the train station, please?”

**zěn me zǒu**

means “how to get there?” To ask directions to anywhere, first mention your destination, then say

**zěn me zǒu**

Try saying that yourself.

**zěn me zǒu**

In this case, Mr. Wang started with a phrase that you already know. Listen, and see if you can remember what it means:

**qǐng wèn**

This means “may I ask”. He added his destination

**huǒ chē zhàn**

“train station”. Now try to repeat the whole sentence:

**Qǐng wèn, huǒ chē zhàn zěn me zǒu?**

**Qǐng wèn, huǒ chē zhàn zěn me zǒu?**

The woman replied:

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò shí lù gōng gòng qì chē.**

“You may take No.10 bus.” Did you recognize the phrase

**kě yǐ**

Yes, you learned it before. It means “may”.

**zuò**

means “to take”. Do you remember what

**shí**

means?

It’s the number “ten”.

**lù**

means “line” or “route”. So

**shí lù**

means “No. 10 line”.

**gōng gòng qì chē**

means “bus”. So can you figure out what it means when we combine these two phrases? Listen again:

**shí lù gōng gòng qì chē?**

It means “No.10 bus”. Now put everything together and repeat:

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò shí lù gōng gòng qì chē.**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò shí lù gōng gòng qì chē.**

Very good! The woman continued by saying:

**Zài dì bā zhàn xià chē.**

“Get off at the eighth stop.” Did you recognize the word

**zài**

You learned it at the beginning of the program. It means “at”.

Another word you already learned is

**bā**

This is a number: do you remember which one?

It means “eight”.

**zhàn**

means “stop”, and

**xià chē**

means “to get off”. Did you notice that the woman used the word

**dì**

before the number eight

**bā**

That’s because she needed to say the ordinal number “eighth” instead of just “eight”.

By putting

**dì**

before

**bā**

she changed “eight” into “the eighth”. So

**dì bā zhàn**

means “the eighth stop”. Now repeat the whole phrase one more time:

**Zài dì bā zhàn xià chē.**

**Zài dì bā zhàn xià chē.**

Very good! Next, Mr. Wang asked another question.

See which words you can recognize:

**Kě yǐ zuò dì tiě ma?**

**dì tiě**

means “subway”, and

**zuò dì tiě**

means “to take subway”. So what does the whole phrase mean?

Listen again:

**Kě yǐ zuò dì tiě ma?**

**Kě yǐ zuò dì tiě ma?**

**Kě yǐ zuò dì tiě ma?**

It means “Can I take the subway?” The woman replied:

**Yě kě yǐ.**

You can as well. Did

**yě**

sound familiar?

Yes, it means “also”. Repeat:

**Yě kě yǐ.**

**Yě kě yǐ.**

**Yě kě yǐ.**

Then the woman gave Mr. Wang more information:

**Zuò yī xiàn dì tiě.**

Do you remember what

**yī**

means?

It's the number "one".

**xiàn**

means "subway line". So

**yī xiàn dì tiě**

means "No.1 subway line." Repeat the whole sentence:

"Take No.1 subway line."

**Zuò yī xiàn dì tiě.**

**Zuò yī xiàn dì tiě.**

Very good! Now let's listen to the dialogue again.

**Qǐng wèn, huǒ chē zhàn zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò shí lù gōng gòng qì chē, zài dì bā zhàn xià chē.**

**Kě yǐ zuò dì tiě ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ. Zuò yī xiàn dì tiě.**

### Dialogue Two

Listen carefully to this dialogue. Try to answer this question:

Can Miss Li take a bus?

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ. Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

So were you able to figure that out? Listen again:

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ. Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

"Yes," the man says. Miss Li can take the bus.

Now let's see what else they said.

Miss Li started by asking a question that you probably recognize:

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

"How can I get to Wang Fu Jing, please?"

**Wáng Fǔ Jǐng**

is the name of the famous shopping district in Beijing.

You already know

**zěn me zǒu**

means "how to get there". Try the whole sentence again:

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

The man replied:

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

“You can take a taxi.”

**chū zū qì chē**

means “taxi”. Repeat:

**chū zū qì chē**

**chū zū qì chē**

“to take a taxi” is

**zuò chū zū qì chē**

Repeat the whole sentence:

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

Miss Li asked another question:

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

“What about taking a bus?” Repeat the sentence:

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

Listen to the man’s reply and see if you can understand:

**Yě kě yǐ. Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

So, can she take a bus?

Yes, the man says

**Yě kě yǐ.**

Which means, “You can as well.”

What bus line does he say she can take? Listen again:

**Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

**Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

**Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

She can take the number two bus. Excellent!

Now let’s listen to the dialogue again.

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ. Zuò èr xiàn gōng gòng qì chē.**

Now you try! Suppose you are asking for directions to the train station.

First, ask “How can I get to the train station?”

**Qǐng wèn, huǒ chē zhàn zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò dì tiě.**

Did you understand her answer? Listen again:

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò dì tiě.**

She said: “You can take the subway.” Suppose you prefer to go by bus.

Ask the woman: “Can I take a bus?”

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ.**

So can you go by bus?

Let’s listen to the dialogue once more.

**Qǐng wèn, Wáng Fǔ Jǐng zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

**Kě yǐ zuò gōng gòng qì chē ma?**

**Yě kě yǐ.**

Listen once more:

**Yě kě yǐ.**

She said “Yes, you may also go by bus.”

Very good. Now suppose you are talking to a gentleman regarding how to get to

**Tiān ān mén**

Tiananmen Square in Beijing. First, ask him how to get to Tiananmen.

**Qǐng wèn, Tiān ān mén zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

What did he say?

He said: You can take a taxi.

Let’s listen to the dialogue once more.

**Qǐng wèn, Tiān ān mén zěn me zǒu?**

**Nǐ kě yǐ zuò chū zū qì chē.**

## Lesson Eleven

In this lesson, you will learn how to make an appointment.

First, let's hear the new vocabulary:

to invite, or treat

**qǐng**

**qǐng**

to eat

**chī**

**chī**

dinner

**wǎn fàn**

**wǎn fàn**

busy

**máng**

**máng**

evening

**wǎn shàng**

**wǎn shàng**

restaurant

**fàn guǎn**

**fàn guǎn**

afternoon

**xià wǔ**

**xià wǔ**

free, not busy

**yǒu kòng**

**yǒu kòng**

Listen to the dialogue carefully. Mr. Wang would like to make an appointment with Miss Li. See if you can understand when and where they are going to meet.

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu shí jiān ma? Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

**Xiè xie! Kě shì míng tiān wǒ hěn máng.**

**Nà xīng qī tiān, zěn me yàng?**

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng? Zài nǎ lǐ?**

**Wǎn shàng qī diǎn, zài Běijīng Fàn Guǎn.**

**Hǎo. Xīng qī tiān jiàn.**

So were you able to figure out when and where they are going to meet? Listen again:

**Wǎn shàng qī diǎn, zài Běijīng Fàn Guǎn.**

**Hǎo. Xīng qī tiān jiàn.**

That's right, they'll meet at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday at Beijing Restaurant.

Now let's see what else they said. Mr. Wang started by asking:

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu shí jiān ma?**

You already know

**míng tiān**

means "tomorrow". Repeat:

**míng tiān**

**míng tiān**

**yǒu shí jiān**

means "have time". Repeat:

**yǒu shí jiān**

**yǒu shí jiān**

So

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu shí jiān ma?**

means "Do you have time tomorrow?" Repeat the phrase:

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu shí jiān ma?**

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu shí jiān ma?**

Next, he said:

**Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

**xiǎng**

means "want" or "would like to" and

**qǐng**

means "invite" or "treat". So

**wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ**

here means "I'd like to treat you". Repeat:

**wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ**

**wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ**

**chī**

means "to eat", and

**wǎn fàn**

means "dinner". So

**chī wǎn fàn**

means “to eat dinner.” Repeat:

**chī wǎn fàn**

**chī wǎn fàn**

Now repeat the whole sentence again: “I’d like to treat you to dinner.”

**Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

**Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

Miss Li was happy about this invitation, so she first said “Thanks!”

**Xiè xie!**

Try that phrase on your own:

**Xiè xie!**

**Xiè xie!**

But she told him that tomorrow is not good:

**Kě shì míng tiān wǒ hěn máng.**

Did

**kě shì**

sound familiar?

It means “but”.

**hěn**

means “very”, and

**máng**

means “busy”. Why didn’t she use the verb

**shì**

Because, just like

**fāng biàn**

“convenient”, the adjective

**máng**

also functions as a verb, which means that

**shì**

is not needed. So,

**Kě shì míng tiān wǒ hěn máng.**

means “But I’ll be very busy tomorrow.” Repeat the whole phrase:

**Kě shì míng tiān wǒ hěn máng.**

**Kě shì míng tiān wǒ hěn máng.**

Then Mr. Wang asked about another day. Listen and see if you can recognize which day he suggests:

**Nà xīng qī tiān, zěn me yàng?**

Listen to just the day again:

**xīng qī tiān**

It means Sunday. You may also remember that

**zěn me yàng**

means “how about”. So

**Nà xīng qī tiān, zěn me yàng?**

means “Then, how about Sunday?” Repeat:

**Nà xīng qī tiān, zěn me yàng?**

**Nà xīng qī tiān, zěn me yàng?**

Miss Li asked two short questions. The first one was:

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

“At what time?” Repeat:

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

And the second one was

**Zài nǎ lǐ?**

**nǎ lǐ**

means “where”, and

**Zài nǎ lǐ?**

also means “where” or “at what place”? Repeat:

**Zài nǎ lǐ?**

**Zài nǎ lǐ?**

Listen to Mr. Wang's reply and see if you can tell what time he suggests:

**Wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

He said: “At 7:00 p.m.” Did you notice his word order? He put

**wǎn shàng**

“evening” before

**qī diǎn**

“seven o'clock” because the largest unit of time has to come first. Here,

**wǎn shàng**

“evening” is larger than

**qī diǎn**

“seven o'clock.” Repeat again:

**Wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

**Wǎn shàng qī diǎn.**

He also told her the location:

**Zài Běijīng Fàn Guǎn.**

**fàn guǎn**

means “restaurant”, but

**Běijīng Fàn Guǎn**

here is the name of the restaurant. Repeat the whole phrase again:

“At Beijing Restaurant.”

**Zài Běijīng Fàn Guǎn.**

**Zài Běijīng Fàn Guǎn.**

Finally, Miss Li agreed and said:

**Hǎo. Xīng qī tiān jiàn.**

Did

**jiàn**

sound familiar?

It means “see”. So

**Hǎo. Xīng qī tiān jiàn.**

means “Good. See you on Sunday.” Repeat:

**Hǎo. Xīng qī tiān jiàn.**

Excellent. Now let’s listen to the dialogue again.

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu shí jiān ma? Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

**Xiè xie! Kě shì míng tiān wǒ hěn máng.**

**Nà xīng qī tiān, zěn me yàng?**

**Jǐ diǎn zhōng? Zài nǎ lǐ?**

**Wǎn shàng qī diǎn, zài Běijīng Fàn Guǎn.**

**Hǎo. Xīng qī tiān jiàn.**

Now it’s your turn. Try inviting your friend out for dinner. Listen for the response. First, ask “Do you have free time tomorrow?”

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu kòng ma?**

**Yǒu.**

So, is he free? Yes, he is. Now say: “I’d like to invite you to dinner.”

**Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

**Zài nǎ lǐ? Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

What did he ask you?

He asked you where and when. Answer by saying, “China restaurant, 7:00 p.m.”

**Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn. Wǎng shàng qī diǎn.**

**Hǎo.**

So did he like your suggestion?

Yes, he did.

Let's listen to the dialogue once more.

**Míng tiān nǐ yǒu kòng ma?**

**Yǒu.**

**Wǒ xiǎng qǐng nǐ chī wǎn fàn.**

**Zài nǎ lǐ? Jǐ diǎn zhōng?**

**Zhōng Guó Fàn Diàn. Wǎng shàng qī diǎn.**

**Hǎo.**

Now, let's review some vocabulary.

train ticket

**huǒ chē piào**

**huǒ chē piào**

to want

**yào**

**yào**

time

**shí jiān**

**shí jiān**

morning

**shàng wǔ**

**shàng wǔ**

hard seat

**yìng xí**

**yìng xí**

soft seat

**ruǎn xí**

**ruǎn xí**

hard sleeper seat

**yìng wò**

**yìng wò**

soft sleeper seat

**ruǎn wò**

**ruǎn wò**

airplane ticket

**fēi jī piào**

**fēi jī piào**

economy class

**jīng jì cāng**

**jīng jì cāng**

business class

**shāng wù cāng**

**shāng wù cāng**

train station

**huǒ chē zhàn**

**huǒ chē zhàn**

station; bus, subway or train stop

**zhàn**

**zhàn**

to get to, to walk

**zǒu**

**zǒu**

to take

**zuò**

**zuò**

bus line, route

**lù**

**lù**

bus

**gōng gòng qì chē**

**gōng gòng qì chē**

public

**gōng gong**

**gōng gong**

vehicle

**qì chē**

**qì chē**

prefix for an ordinal number

**dì**

**dì**

to get off a bus, taxi, subway or train

**xià chē**

**xià chē**

subway line

**xiàn**

**xiàn**

subway

**dì tiě**

**dì tiě**

a famous shopping district in Beijing

**Wáng Fǔ Jǐng**  
**Wáng Fǔ Jǐng**

taxi

**chū zū qì chē**  
**chū zū qì chē**

convenient

**fāng biàn**  
**fāng biàn**

to invite, or treat

**qǐng**  
**qǐng**

to eat

**chī**  
**chī**

dinner

**wǎn fàn**  
**wǎn fàn**

busy

**máng**  
**máng**

evening

**wǎn shàng**  
**wǎn shàng**

restaurant

**fàn guǎn**  
**fàn guǎn**

afternoon

**xià wǔ**  
**xià wǔ**

free, not busy

**yǒu kòng**  
**yǒu kòng**

And that's the end of our Berlitz Mandarin Chinese Guaranteed program. We hope you've enjoyed learning Chinese with Berlitz. Thank you, and goodbye.

**Zài jiàn!**