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day 17 cats, dogs & likes

Chinese HSK 1 in 30 days
unit 4 · things & places

Say how big, small, fun or pricey something is, and count cats and dogs.

Pets are a favourite topic everywhere, and “so big!” or “a bit pricey” makes you sound like a local.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
猫	māo	cat	Chinese cats say “miāo”, and the cat itself is māo.
狗	gǒu	dog	A dog says “go!” and runs off: gǒu.
只	zhī	measure word for animals	One 只 per animal: one cat, two dogs, every tail counts.
玩	wán	to play; have fun	Picture a kid shouting “one more go!”: wán!
好玩儿	hǎowánr	fun	好 good + 玩 to play + 儿 child; the -r ending
觉得	juéde	to think; to feel	觉 to feel, to sense + 得 to get
非常	fēicháng	very; extremely	非 not + 常 usual, often
真	zhēn	really; truly; real	When you really mean it: “zhēn!”
有点儿	yǒudiǎnr	a bit; somewhat	有 to have + 点 dot, a little + 儿 child; the -r ending
一点儿	yīdiǎnr	a little; a bit	一 one + 点 dot, a little + 儿 child; the -r ending
大	dà	big; large	大 began as a person stretching their arms out wide: “this big!”
小	xiǎo	small; little	小 shows a few tiny grains: little things.

pattern how much? 很, 非常, 真, 太, 有点儿

thing · 很 · 非常 · 真 · 太 · 有点儿 · adjective

Put a degree word before an adjective, with no 是: 很 very, 非常 extremely, 真 really (for exclamations), 有点儿 a bit (usually for things you don’t love). 太 “too” usually ends with 了: 太大了!

大白真大！ **Dàbái zhēn dà!** Dabai is really big!

你的猫非常小。 **Nǐ de māo fēicháng xiǎo.** Your cat is very small.

这个手机有点儿大。 **Zhège shǒujī yǒudiǎnr dà.** This phone is a bit big.

这件衣服太小了！ **Zhè jiàn yīfu tài xiǎo le!** This top is too small!

dialogue hello again, dabai!

xiaoming 安娜，你来了！大白，安娜来了！
Ānnà, nǐ lái le! Dàbái, Ānnà lái le! · Anna, you're here! Dabai, Anna's here!

anna 大白，你好！你真大！
Dàbái, nǐhǎo! Nǐ zhēn dà! · Hi, Dabai! You're so big!

xiaoming 大白非常喜欢你。
Dàbái fēicháng xǐhuan nǐ. · Dabai really likes you.

anna 我也非常喜欢大白！我们玩吧！
Wǒ yě fēicháng xǐhuan Dàbái! Wǒmen wán ba! · I really like Dabai too! Let's play!

xiaoming 你觉得大白好玩儿吗？
Nǐ juéde Dàbái hǎowánr ma? · Do you think Dabai is fun?

anna 太好玩儿了！你家有猫吗？
Tài hǎowánr le! Nǐ jiā yǒu māo ma? · So much fun! Do you have a cat too?

xiaoming 没有。我妹妹想要一只小猫。
Méiyǒu. Wǒ mèimei xiǎng yào yì zhī xiǎo māo. · No. My little sister wants a kitten.

anna 一只小猫？真好！大白，你觉得呢？
Yì zhī xiǎo māo? Zhēn hǎo! Dàbái, nǐ juéde ne? · A kitten? How nice! Dabai, what do you think?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

非
fēi
not

常
cháng
usual, often

good to know · 有点儿 sounds a little unhappy: 有点儿贵 a bit too pricey. For good things, use 很 or 非常. Here 只 is read zhī and counts animals: 一只猫, 两只狗. 小猫 is a kitten, 小狗 a puppy.

You can tell a friend their dog is huge, their kitten is tiny and their dumplings are amazing. Friends are made of this.
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