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day 24 the weather

Chinese HSK 1 in 30 days
unit 5 · fun, school & talk

Ask about the weather, say it's hot, cold, raining or snowing, and ask questions three new ways.
Weather is the easiest small talk in any language, and in Beijing it changes a lot.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
天气	tiānqì	weather	天 sky, day + 气 air
冷	lěng	cold	Two icy drops on the left: lěng, so cold!
热	rè	hot	Four little flames ⺣ under everything: rè, it's hot!
下雨	xiàyǔ	to rain	下 down, fall + 雨 rain
雨	yǔ	rain	雨 is a picture: the sky on top, and raindrops falling inside it.
雪	xuě	snow	Weather from the sky 雨 that you sweep up with a broom: snow!
怎么样	zěnmeyàng	how is it?	怎 how + 么 (small word ending) + 样 shape, kind
怎么	zěnme	how; how come	怎 how + 么 (small word ending)
多	duō	many, much	Evening on evening on evening: so many nights!
少	shǎo	few, little	Small 小, then cut a bit more off: only a few left.

pattern question round-up: a不a, 多 + adjective, 怎么 / 怎么样

A不A | 多 + adjective | 怎么 + verb | ...怎么样

Say a verb or adjective, then 不, then the same word again: 冷不冷? "cold or not?" (no 吗 needed). 多 + adjective asks "how...?": 多大? "how old?" 怎么 + verb asks how to do it; 怎么样 at the end asks how something is.

今天冷不冷? **Jīntiān lěng bu lěng?** Is it cold today?

你明天去不去? **Nǐ míngtiān qù bu qù?** Are you going tomorrow or not?

你今年多大? **Nǐ jīnnián duō dà?** How old are you?

这个字怎么写? **Zhège zì zěnme xiě?** How do you write this character?

dialogue rain today, snow tomorrow

teacher wang 安娜，下雨了！你怎么回家？
Ānnà, xià yǔ le! Nǐ zěnme huí jiā? · Anna, it's started raining! How are you getting home?

anna 我坐出租车回家。老师，明天天气怎么样？
Wǒ zuò chūzūchē huí jiā. Lǎoshī, míngtiān tiānqì zěnmeyàng? · I'm taking a taxi home. Teacher, what will the weather be like tomorrow?

teacher wang 明天很冷，还要下雪。
Míngtiān hěn lěng, hái yào xià xuě. · Tomorrow will be cold, and it's going to snow too.

anna 下雪？我很喜欢雪！北京的雪是不是很大？
Xià xuě? Wǒ hěn xǐhuan xuě! Běijīng de xuě shì bu shì hěn dà? · Snow? I love snow! Is the snow in Beijing heavy?

teacher wang 不大。北京一月很冷，七月很热。
Bú dà. Běijīng yī yuè hěn lěng, qī yuè hěn rè. · Not really. Beijing is very cold in January and very hot in July.

anna 一月有多冷？
Yī yuè yǒu duō lěng? · How cold is it in January?

teacher wang 非常冷！明天也很冷，你要多穿衣服。
Fēicháng lěng! Míngtiān yě hěn lěng, nǐ yào duō chuān yīfu. · Really cold! And tomorrow will be cold too, so wear lots of layers.

anna 好，谢谢老师！老师再见！
Hǎo, xièxie lǎoshī! Lǎoshī zàijiàn! · OK, thank you! Goodbye, Teacher!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

冷
lěng
cold

热
rè
hot

good to know · Asking an age? 你今年多大？ is friendly for teens and adults. 你几岁？ is for small children. Beijing has four strong seasons: hot summers and freezing, dry winters. October is often called the best month.

Small talk unlocked: the weather is the easiest way to start a chat with anyone, anywhere.
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