wishyou.today learning

chinese hsk 1 in 30 days

The whole course on paper: all 306 words of HSK 1 with pinyin and meanings, every grammar pattern, every dialogue, and writing grids for the characters on the new HSK handwriting list.

Free, with audio, games and progress tracking, at wishyou.today/learning

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Days 29 and 30 are two practice exams in the HSK 1 layout. They need sound, so they live online: wishyou.today/learning/language/chinese/hsk-1/exam.html

day 1 hello!

Say hello, thank you, sorry and goodbye, and hear the four tones.

Polite little words are the fastest way to get a smile in China.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
你	nǐ	you	Point at a friend's knee: "Knee!" 你 (nǐ) is you.
好	hǎo	good, well	A mum hugging her child: how (hǎo) good is that!
你好	nǐhǎo	hello	你 you + 好 good, well
您	nín	you (polite)	你 with a heart 心 underneath: you, from the heart.
我	wǒ	I, me	"Whoa (wǒ), that's me!"
谢谢	xièxie	thank you	谢 to thank + 谢 to thank
不客气	bùkèqi	you're welcome	不 not + 客 guest + 气 air, manner
再见	zàijiàn	goodbye	再 again + 见 to see
对不起	duìbuqǐ	sorry	对 to face; right + 不 not + 起 to rise, up
没关系	méiguānxi	it doesn't matter	没 not have + 关 to close; connect + 系 to tie

pattern the four tones

ā á ǎ à

Every syllable has a melody: 1 high and flat, 2 rising like a question, 3 dipping low, 4 falling fast like "No!". Same sound, new tone, new word. Polite phrases like 谢谢 and 对不起 you learn whole, like a little song.

你好！ **Nǐhǎo!** Hello! (tones 3 + 3, said ní hǎo)

谢谢！ **Xièxie!** Thank you! (tone 4 + a light neutral tone)

再见！ **Zàijiàn!** Goodbye! (two falling tones)

没关系。 **Méi guānxi.** It doesn't matter. (tones 2 + 1 + neutral)

dialogue anna lands in beijing

anna 对不起！
Duìbuqǐ! · Oops, sorry! (her suitcase bumps into someone)

xiaoming 没关系！……安娜？
Méi guānxi! Ānnà? · No problem! … Anna?

anna 我？……你好，小明！
Wǒ? Nǐhǎo, Xiǎomíng! · Me? … Oh, hi, Xiaoming!

xiaoming 你好，安娜！
Nǐhǎo, Ānnà! · Hi, Anna!

anna 谢谢你，小明！
Xièxie nǐ, Xiǎomíng! · Thank you, Xiaoming! (he takes her big suitcase)

xiaoming 不客气！
Búkèqi! · You're welcome!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

不
bù
not, no

对
duì
right; to, towards

好
hǎo
good, well

没
méi
not have

good to know · 你好 is two 3rd tones. When two 3rd tones meet, the first one rises, so you say ní hǎo. The pages write nǐ hǎo, like dictionaries do. Use 您 for teachers, older people and anyone you want to honour. With friends, 你 is perfect.

Hello, thank you, sorry, bye: four little phrases that open doors from the airport to the noodle shop. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 2 who's who

Say who someone is (and isn't), and talk about 'we' and 'they'.

Who's who is the first puzzle in any new city.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
是	shì	am, is, are	"Sure (shì) it is!" 是 says who is who.
不	bù	not, no	"Boo!" No, not that!
他	tā	he, him	A person 亻 standing over there: him.
她	tā	she, her	Spot the 女 (woman) on the left: she.
它	tā	it	A roof 宀 with something curled underneath: what is it?
们	men	plural ending	People 亻 crowding through a door 门: a whole group!
我们	wǒmen	we, us	我 I, me + 们 plural ending
你们	nǐmen	you (plural)	你 you + 们 plural ending
他们	tāmen	they (men, mixed)	他 he + 们 plural ending
她们	tāmen	they (women)	她 she + 们 plural ending
它们	tāmen	they (animals, things)	它 it + 们 plural ending
人	rén	person, people	Two legs striding along: a person.

pattern 是 for am, is, are, and 不是 for not

who | (不) | 是 | who / what

是 links two nouns: 我是安娜 (I = Anna). Put 不 in front to say 'not': 不是. Add 们 to a person word for more than one: 我 → 我们 (we).

他是小明。 **Tā shì Xiǎomíng.** He's Xiaoming.

我不是美国人。 **Wǒ bú shì Měiguó rén.** I'm not American.

她们是英国人。 **Tāmen shì Yīngguó rén.** They're British. (all women)

它们不是美国人！ **Tāmen bú shì Měiguó rén!** They're not American! (the dogs)

dialogue anna meets dabai

xiaoming 安娜，你好！
Ānnà, nǐhǎo! · Hi, Anna!

anna 你们好！
Nǐmen hǎo! · Hi, you two! (Xiaoming has a big white dog with him)

xiaoming 它是大白。
Tā shì Dàbái. · This is Dabai.

anna 大白，你好！
Dàbái, nǐhǎo! · Hello, Dabai!

xiaoming 大白，她是安娜。她是美国人。
Dàbái, tā shì Ānnà. Tā shì Měiguó rén. · Dabai, this is Anna. She's American.

anna 不是，不是！我不是美国人，我是英国人。
Bú shì, bú shì! Wǒ bú shì Měiguó rén, wǒ shì Yīngguó rén. · No, no! I'm not American, I'm British.

xiaoming 对不起！大白，她是英国人！
Duìbuqǐ! Dàbái, tā shì Yīngguó rén! · Sorry! Dabai, she's British!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

们
men
plural
ending

人
rén
person,
people

是
shì
am, is, are

他
tā
he, him

good to know · 他 (he), 她 (she) and 它 (it) all sound exactly the same: tā. Only the writing tells them apart. 不 is usually bù, but before a 4th tone it becomes bú: 不是 is bú shì. The pages mark it for you.

You can say who you are and where you're from: the first thing everyone asks a new face in China. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 3 nice to meet you

Ask someone's name, give yours, and say you're glad to meet them.

Names are where every friendship starts, and asking is easier than you think.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
叫	jiào	to be called	Open your mouth 口 and call out: "Jow!"
名字	míngzi	name	名 name + 字 character
什么	shénme	what	什 assorted + 么 (word ending)
吗	ma	(yes/no question)	A horse 马 with a mouth 口 asks: "…ma?"
呢	ne	and you? (particle)	Shrug and smile: "…nuh?" What about you?
谁	shéi	who	A bird hears a voice: "Shay, who's there?"
很	hěn	very	A proud hen (hěn): very, very happy.
高兴	gāoxìng	happy, glad	高 tall, high + 兴 excitement, to rise
认识	rènshi	to know (someone)	认 to recognise + 识 to know
老师	lǎoshī	teacher	老 old + 师 master, teacher
学生	xuéshēng	student	学 to study + 生 to be born; life
朋友	péngyou	friend	朋 friend + 友 friend
也	yě	also, too	Yě, yeah, me too!

pattern questions with 吗, 呢, 什么 and 谁

statement | **吗** | **?**

Put 吗 at the end of any statement to ask yes or no. Use 呢 to bounce a question back: 'and you?'. Question words like 什么 (what) and 谁 (who) stay right where the answer goes.

你是老师吗? **Nǐ shì lǎoshī ma?** Are you a teacher?

我是学生，你呢? **Wǒ shì xuéshēng, nǐ ne?** I'm a student. And you?

你叫什么? **Nǐ jiào shénme?** What's your name? (casual)

他是谁? **Tā shì shéi?** Who is he?

dialogue meeting teacher wang

anna 您好！您是王老师吗？
Nín hǎo! Nín shì Wáng lǎoshī ma? · Hello! Are you Teacher Wang?

teacher wang 是，我是王老师。你叫什么名字？
Shì, wǒ shì Wáng lǎoshī. Nǐ jiào shénme míngzi? · Yes, I am. What's your name?

anna 我叫安娜。很高兴认识您！
Wǒ jiào Ānnà. Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nín! · I'm Anna. Very nice to meet you!

teacher wang 我也很高兴认识你！他是谁？
Wǒ yě hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ! Tā shì shéi? · Nice to meet you too! And who is he?

xiaoming 王老师好！我叫小明。
Wáng lǎoshī hǎo! Wǒ jiào Xiǎomíng. · Hello, Teacher Wang! I'm Xiaoming.

anna 他是我朋友！
Tā shì wǒ péngyou! · He's my friend!

teacher wang 小明，你也是学生吗？
Xiǎomíng, nǐ yě shì xuéshēng ma? · Xiaoming, are you a student too?

xiaoming 是，我也是学生！
Shì, wǒ yě shì xuéshēng! · Yes, I'm a student too!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

很
hěn
very

叫
jiào
to be called

吗
ma
(yes/no question)

名
míng
name

good to know · 很 links a person to an adjective: 我很高兴 means 'I'm happy'. It doesn't always mean 'very', and you never add 是. 也 means 'too, also' and goes before the verb or 很: 我也是学生, 我也很高兴. 'Me too!' is 我也是！ Never put 也 at the end like English 'too'.

你叫什么名字? is the question that turns a stranger into a friend. Now you can ask it.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 4 speaking chinese

Say that you're learning Chinese and ask if someone can speak it.

'Can you speak Chinese?' is a question you'll hear on day one in Beijing.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
中国	Zhōngguó	China	中 middle + 国 country
国	guó	country	A treasure inside the borders: a country.
北京	Běijīng	Beijing	北 north + 京 capital
汉语	Hànyǔ	Chinese (language)	汉 Han (Chinese) + 语 language
中文	Zhōngwén	Chinese (language)	中 middle (China) + 文 writing, language
汉字	Hànzì	Chinese character	汉 Han (Chinese) + 字 character
字	zì	character, word	A child under the roof, practising characters.
说	shuō	to speak, say	Shout it, "shwo": say it out loud!
会	huì	can (know how to)	Hooray (huì), I learned how!
学	xué	to learn, study	A child under a roof, ideas sparking on top: learning!
学习	xuéxí	to study, learn	学 to learn + 习 to practise
大家	dàjiā	everyone	大 big + 家 family, home
同学	tóngxué	classmate	同 same + 学 to study

pattern 会 + verb: a skill you learned

who | 会 | verb | what

Put 会 before a verb to say you know how to do it, because you learned it: 我会说汉语. Say 不会 for 'can't', and add 吗 to ask.

我会说汉语。 **Wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ.** I can speak Chinese.

你会说中文吗？ **Nǐ huì shuō Zhōngwén ma?** Can you speak Chinese?

大白不会说汉语。 **Dàbái bú huì shuō Hànyǔ.** Dabai can't speak Chinese.

小明是中国人。 **Xiǎomíng shì Zhōngguó rén.** Xiaoming is Chinese.

dialogue what can anna say?

teacher wang 同学们好！
Tóngxuémen hǎo! · Hello, class! (literally ‘classmates’)

anna 王老师好！
Wáng lǎoshī hǎo! · Hello, Teacher Wang! (the whole class answers)

teacher wang 安娜，你会说汉语吗？
Ānnà, nǐ huì shuō Hànyǔ ma? · Anna, can you speak Chinese?

anna 我会说“你好”“谢谢”“再见”！
Wǒ huì shuō nǐhǎo xièxie zàijiàn! · I can say “hello”, “thank you” and “goodbye”!

teacher wang 很好！你认识汉字吗？
Hěn hǎo! Nǐ rènshi Hànzì ma? · Very good! Do you know any characters?

anna 我认识“中国”“北京”！
Wǒ rènshi Zhōngguó Běijīng! · I know “China” and “Beijing”!

teacher wang 很好！我们学习汉字。
Hěn hǎo! Wǒmen xuéxí Hànzì. · Great! Now we’ll study characters.

anna 汉字……很高兴认识你们！
Hànzì hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐmen! · Characters… very nice to meet you!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

大
dà
big; large

家
jiā
home; family

国
guó
country

汉
Hàn
Han (Chinese)

good to know · 汉语 and 中文 both mean ‘Chinese’ and both work in speech. Textbooks and HSK love 汉语; signs, menus and apps usually say 中文. Answer a 会 question with just the verb: 会 (yes, I can) or 不会 (no, I can’t). Class starts with 同学们好！ and everyone answers 老师好！

‘我会说汉语’: you can say it today, and every new word makes it a little more true.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 5 count to ten

Count from 0 to 99 and build any number in between.

Numbers are everywhere: prices, buses, rooms and phone numbers.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
一	yī	one	One line, one finger: 一.
二	èr	two	Two lines, like an equals sign: "are" two equal?
三	sān	three	Three lines stacked like pancakes: sān.
四	sì	four	A box with four sides: "sss!"
五	wǔ	five	High five: "Woo!"
六	liù	six	Leo the lion has six whiskers: liù.
七	qī	seven	Seven cheeses: "chee!"
八	bā	eight	"Ba!" Eight is the lucky one.
九	jiǔ	nine	Cats have nine lives, says Joe (jiǔ).
十	shí	ten	A cross, like the Roman X: ten.
零	líng	zero	The last drop of rain, then nothing left: zero.

pattern build any number up to 99

tens + ones

Chinese numbers are simple maths: 十一 is ten-one (11), 二十 is two-ten (20) and 九十九 is nine-ten-nine (99). Learn 一 to 十 and you can build every number up to 99.

十一 **Shíyī** 11 (ten + one)

二十 **Èrshí** 20 (two tens)

三十八 **Sānshíbā** 38 (three tens + eight)

九十九 **Jiǔshíjiǔ** 99 (nine tens + nine)

dialogue the counting test

xiaoming 安娜，一、二、三……你会吗?
Ānnà, yī, èr, sān nǐ huì ma? · Anna, one, two, three… can you do it?

anna 会！一、二、三、四、五、六、七、八、九、十！
Huì! Yī, èr, sān, sì, wǔ, liù, qī, bā, jiǔ, shí! · Yes! One, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten!

xiaoming 很好！二十呢?
Hěn hǎo! Èrshí ne? · Very good! And twenty?

anna 二十！
Èrshí! · Twenty!

xiaoming 九十九呢?
Jiǔshíjiǔ ne? · And ninety-nine?

anna 九十九！我会说汉语！
Jiǔshíjiǔ! Wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ! · Ninety-nine! I can speak Chinese!

xiaoming 很好！大白，你会吗?
Hěn hǎo! Dàbái, nǐ huì ma? · Great! Dabai, can you?

anna 大白不会说汉语！
Dàbái bú huì shuō Hànyǔ! · Dabai can't speak Chinese!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

八
bā
eight

二
èr
two

九
jiǔ
nine

六
liù
six

good to know · Chinese counts 1–10 on one hand: 6 is thumb and little finger out, 8 is thumb and index finger like an L, 10 is a fist or crossed index fingers. Count with 二 (一、二、三) and use it inside numbers (十二, 二十). Tomorrow you'll meet 两, the 'two' for two of something.

Prices, ages, bus numbers, rooms: you can now count to 99, and that's a lot of Beijing.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 6 this, that, how many

Point at people and things, ask “how many?”, say “two of” something and say how old you are.

Pointing and counting get you through shops, menus and every new friend’s first questions.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
这	zhè	this	Point at your feet and say zhè: this one, right here.
那	nà	that	Nà, with a falling tone, like your finger dropping to point far away: that one.
哪	nǎ	which	哪 is 那 with a mouth on the side: “that” turns into the question “which?”
这个	zhège	this one; this	这 this + 个 general measure word
那个	nàge	that one; that	那 that + 个 general measure word
哪个	nǎge	which one; which	哪 which + 个 general measure word
个	gè	(general measure word)	Picture 个 as a little figure with arms spread: one 个 for each thing you count.
几	jǐ	how many; a few	几 looks like a little low table: how many cups fit on it? Just a few.
多少	duōshao	how many; how much	多 many + 少 few
岁	suì	years old	岁 wears a mountain on top: every birthday you climb a little higher.
百	bǎi	hundred	一 on top of 白: a hundred blank pages waiting for your characters.
千	qiān	thousand	千 looks like 十 (ten) wearing a little hat: ten, all grown up into a thousand.
两	liǎng	two (of something)	A pair of lions: “liang”, two of them.

pattern 这 this, 那 that, 哪 which + 个

这 / 两 + 个 + person or thing

Swap the pink block: 这 this, 那 that, 哪 which, or a number. Before a noun, add a measure word: a little word between “this” (or a number) and the thing. 个 is the everyday one: 这个人, 两个人.

这个人是我同学。 **Zhège rén shì wǒ tóngxué.** This person is my classmate.

那个是王老师。 **Nàge shì Wáng lǎoshī.** That one is Teacher Wang.

哪个是你朋友? **Nǎge shì nǐ péngyou?** Which one is your friend?

我认识两个中国人。 **Wǒ rènshi liǎng gè Zhōngguó rén.** I know two Chinese people.

dialogue a hundred or a few thousand?

teacher wang 安娜，那个人是谁?
Ānnà, nàge rén shì shéi? · Anna, who's that?

anna 那是我朋友小明。
Nà shì wǒ péngyou Xiǎomíng. · That's my friend Xiaoming.

xiaoming 王老师好！
Wáng lǎoshī hǎo! · Hello, Teacher Wang!

xiaoming 安娜，你认识多少汉字?
Ānnà, nǐ rènshi duōshao Hànzì? · Anna, how many characters do you know?

anna 一百个！你呢?
Yìbǎi gè! Nǐ ne? · A hundred! And you?

xiaoming 几千个。
Jǐ qiān gè. · A few thousand.

anna 几千个？！
Jǐ qiān gè?! · A few THOUSAND?!

teacher wang 安娜，一百个也很好！
Ānnà, yìbǎi gè yě hěn hǎo! · Anna, a hundred is great too!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

百
bǎi
hundred

多
duō
many, much

少
shǎo
few, little

个
gè
(general measure word)

good to know · Count with 二 (一、二、三) and use it inside numbers (十二, 二十). For two of something, say 两 + measure word: 两个人. 你几岁？ is how you ask a child their age. With grown-ups it can sound cheeky; on day 24 you'll learn the friendlier 多大.

Now you can point at anything, ask “which one?”, count into the thousands and tell people your age.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 7 my family

Say who is in your family and how many people it has.

Family is the first thing people ask about when you make friends in China.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
有	yǒu	to have; there is	有 sounds like "yo!": Yo, I have a little sister!
没有	méiyǒu	not have; there isn't	没 not; without + 有 to have
家	jiā	home; family	No pig, no home: 家 keeps a pig safe under its roof.
口	kǒu	mouth; (for household members)	口 is a picture of a wide-open mouth. Count the mouths at the family table!
家人	jiārén	family members	家 home; family + 人 person
爸爸	bàba	dad	爸 dad + 爸 dad
妈妈	māma	mum	妈 mum + 妈 mum
哥哥	gēge	older brother	哥 older brother + 哥 older brother
姐姐	jiějie	older sister	姐 older sister + 姐 older sister
弟弟	dìdi	younger brother	弟 younger brother + 弟 younger brother
妹妹	mèimei	younger sister	妹 younger sister + 妹 younger sister
的	de	's; of	的 is the Chinese 's: 我的 mine, 你的 yours, 小明的 Xiaoming's.
和	hé	and; with	Hé: hand in hand, "and" joins two friends.

pattern 有 to have, and 的 for 's

who 有 what

有 means "have" or "there is". Its "no" is always 没有, never 不有. Put 的 after an owner for 's (小明的家), but drop it for close family and home: 我妈妈, 我家.

我有一个姐姐。 **Wǒ yǒu yí gè jiějie.** I have an older sister.

小明没有弟弟。 **Xiǎomíng méiyǒu dìdi.** Xiaoming doesn't have a younger brother.

这是王老师的家。 **Zhè shì Wáng lǎoshī de jiā.** This is Teacher Wang's home.

这是我的家人。 **Zhè shì wǒ de jiārén.** This is my family.

dialogue welcome to xiaoming's home

xiaoming 安娜，这是我家！
Ānnà, zhè shì wǒ jiā! · Anna, this is my home!

anna 大白，你好！
Dàbái, nǐhǎo! · Hello again, Dabai! (Dabai runs up, tail wagging)

anna 小明，你家有几口人？
Xiǎomíng, nǐ jiā yǒu jǐ kǒu rén? · Xiaoming, how many people are in your family?

xiaoming 四口人：爸爸、妈妈、妹妹和我。
Sì kǒu rén: bàba, māma, mèimei hé wǒ. · Four: my dad, my mum, my younger sister and me.

anna 你有没有哥哥？
Nǐ yǒu méiyǒu gēge? · Do you have an older brother?

xiaoming 没有。我没有哥哥。
Méiyǒu. Wǒ méiyǒu gēge. · No. I don't have an older brother.

xiaoming 大白是我家的“弟弟”！
Dàbái shì wǒ jiā de dìdi! · Dabai is our family's "little brother"!

anna 大白也是你的家人！
Dàbái yě shì nǐ de jiārén! · So Dabai is family too!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

爸
bà
dad

的
de
's; of

哥
gē
older brother

和
hé
and; with

good to know · Chinese has no plain "brother" or "sister": it's always older (哥哥, 姐姐) or younger (弟弟, 妹妹). 和 joins nouns: 爸爸和妈妈, 你和我. It doesn't join sentences; two actions in a row just sit side by side.

Now you can talk about your family, the very first thing new friends in China will ask you about.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 8 boys, girls & friends

Talk about sons, daughters, kids and couples, and say what you like, “me too” and “we all do”.

Likes and family fill every first chat in China, and 也 and 都 let you join in: “me too!”, “we all do!”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
儿子	érzi	son	儿 child; son + 子 child; son
女儿	nǚ'ér	daughter	女 woman; female + 儿 child; son
孩子	háizi	child; kid	孩 child + 子 child; son
男	nán	male	Muscle in the rice field: 男.
女	nǚ	female	女 began as a picture of a woman kneeling with her arms crossed.
小朋友	xiǎopéngyǒu	child; little one	小 small; little + 朋 friend + 友 friend
男朋友	nánpéngyou	boyfriend	男 male + 朋 friend + 友 friend
女朋友	nǚpéngyou	girlfriend	女 female + 朋 friend + 友 friend
爱	ài	to love	Look inside 爱 and you find 友, friend. Love with a friend at its heart.
先生	xiānsheng	Mr; husband	先 first; before + 生 to be born; life
女士	nǚshì	Ms; madam	女 woman; female + 士 scholar; gentleman
都	dōu	all, both	Dōu: “do all of us…?” Yes, all of us!
喜欢	xǐhuan	to like	喜 happy, joy + 欢 joyful

pattern 也 and 都 go before the verb

who | **也 / 都** | **verb** | **what**

也 (also) and 都 (all, both) sit before the verb, and before 很 or 不: 我也喜欢, 我们都喜欢, 我也很高兴. Never at the end like English “too”. 都 sums up the people before it, so the group comes first.

我也喜欢大白。 **Wǒ yě xǐhuan Dàbái.** I like Dabai too.

我们都爱大白。 **Wǒmen dōu ài Dàbái.** We all love Dabai.

小明和妹妹都是学生。 **Xiǎomíng hé mèimei dōu shì xuéshēng.** Xiaoming and his sister are both students.

他们也都是我朋友。 **Tāmen yě dōu shì wǒ péngyou.** They’re all my friends too. (也 first, then 都)

dialogue meet xiaoming’s parents

xiaoming 爸爸，妈妈，这是我朋友安娜。
Bàba, māma, zhè shì wǒ péngyou Ānnà. · Dad, Mum, this is my friend Anna.

anna 你们好！很高兴认识你们！
Nǐmen hǎo! Hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐmen! · Hello! Very nice to meet you both!

ms zhang 你好，安娜！我们也很高兴认识你。
Nǐhǎo, Ānnà! Wǒmen yě hěn gāoxìng rènshi nǐ. · Hello, Anna! We’re very pleased to meet you too.

mr li (dr li) 这是我们的女儿。我们有两个孩子：一个儿子，一个女儿。
Zhè shì wǒmen de nǚ'ér. Wǒmen yǒu liǎng gè háizi: yí gè érzi, yí gè nǚ'ér. · This is our daughter. We have two children: a son and a daughter.

little sister 安娜，你有男朋友吗？
Ānnà, nǐ yǒu nánpéngyou ma? · Anna, do you have a boyfriend?

anna 没有！小明有女朋友吗？
Méiyǒu! Xiǎomíng yǒu nǚpéngyou ma? · No! Does Xiaoming have a girlfriend?

little sister 哥哥没有女朋友。哥哥喜欢大白！
Gēge méiyǒu nǚpéngyou. Gēge xǐhuan Dàbái! · My brother doesn’t have a girlfriend. He likes Dabai!

anna 我也喜欢大白！我们都爱大白！
Wǒ yě xǐhuan Dàbái! Wǒmen dōu ài Dàbái! · I like Dabai too! We all love Dabai!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

爱 愛 愛 愛 愛 愛 愛 愛 愛 愛

爱
ài
to love

儿 儿

儿
ér
child; son

子 子 子

子
zi
child; son



男 nán male										

good to know · Titles go after the surname: 李先生 Mr Li, 张女士 Ms Zhang, 王老师 Teacher Wang. 先生 also means “husband”: 她先生, her husband. Chinese women keep their own surname when they marry: Xiaoming’s dad is 李先生, his mum is 张女士. With a friend’s parents, people often say shūshu (uncle) and āyí (auntie), warmer than 先生 and 女士.

Now you can say “me too!” and “we all do!”, talk about kids and couples, and tell your family you love them.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 9 work & school

Say where people work, study and go, and ask “what do you do?”

“What do you do?” comes right after “how many in your family?” in almost every first chat in China.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
医生	yīshēng	doctor	医 medicine; to heal + 生 to be born; life
工作	gōngzuò	to work; job	工 work; labour + 作 to do; to make
公司	gōngsī	company	公 public + 司 to manage; to run
做	zuò	to do; to make	做 starts with a person: people are the ones who do things.
在	zài	at; to be at	在 zài: “I’m right here!”
医院	yīyuàn	hospital	医 medicine; to heal + 院 courtyard; institution
学校	xuéxiào	school	学 to study + 校 school
大学	dàxué	university	大 big + 学 to study; learning
大学生	dàxuéshēng	university student	大 big + 学 to study; learning + 生 to be born; student
中学	zhōngxué	secondary school	中 middle + 学 to study; learning
中学生	zhōngxuéshēng	secondary school student	中 middle + 学 to study; learning + 生 to be born; student
小学	xiǎoxué	primary school	小 small + 学 to study; learning
小学生	xiǎoxuéshēng	primary school pupil	小 small + 学 to study; learning + 生 to be born; student
去	qù	to go	“Chew” your snack and go!

pattern 在 + place: where you are, where you do things

who | 在 | place | action

在 + place says where someone is: 小明在家. Add an action after the place to say where you do it: 我在家学习. For most actions the place comes before the verb, not at the end like English.

小明在大学学习。 **Xiǎomíng zài dàxué xuéxí.** Xiaoming studies at university.

李先生在医院工作。 **Lǐ xiānsheng zài yīyuàn gōngzuò.** Mr Li works at a hospital.

她在小学工作。 **Tā zài xiǎoxué gōngzuò.** She works at a primary school.

我在家学习汉语。 **Wǒ zài jiā xuéxí Hànyǔ.** I study Chinese at home.

dialogue who does what?

anna 李先生，您做什么工作?
Lǐ xiānsheng, nín zuò shénme gōngzuò? · Mr Li, what do you do?

mr li (dr li) 我是医生，在医院工作。
Wǒ shì yīshēng, zài yīyuàn gōngzuò. · I'm a doctor. I work at a hospital.

anna 张女士，您呢?
Zhāng nǚshì, nín ne? · And you, Ms Zhang?

ms zhang 我不是医生。我在公司工作。
Wǒ bú shì yīshēng. Wǒ zài gōngsī gōngzuò. · I'm not a doctor. I work at a company.

anna 妹妹，你是小学生吗?
Mèimei, nǐ shì xiǎoxuéshēng ma? · And you, little one, are you at primary school?

little sister 我不是小学生！我是中学生！
Wǒ bú shì xiǎoxuéshēng! Wǒ shì zhōngxuéshēng! · I'm not at primary school! I'm at secondary school!

mr li (dr li) 安娜，你在中国做什么?
Ānnà, nǐ zài Zhōngguó zuò shénme? · Anna, what do you do in China?

anna 我是学生！我去学校学习汉语。
Wǒ shì xuéshēng! Wǒ qù xuéxiào xuéxí Hànyǔ. · I'm a student! I go to school to study Chinese.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

工
gōng
work; labour

作
zuò
to do; to make

去
qù
to go



在 zài at; to be at	在	在	在	在	在					

good to know · 去 + place + action says why you go: 我去学校学习汉语, I go to school to study Chinese. Go first, then the reason, in the order it happens. In China, 小学 is roughly ages 6 to 12 and 中学 roughly 12 to 18. Add 生, student: 小学生, 中学生, 大学生.

Now you can ask “what do you do?”, answer it, and say where you study: the heart of every first chat. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 10 dates

Say and read dates, and talk about yesterday, today, tomorrow and this year.

Dates are everywhere: tickets, birthdays, appointments and every calendar you'll see in China.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
今天	jīntiān	today	今 now; present + 天 day; sky
明天	míngtiān	tomorrow	明 bright; next + 天 day; sky
昨天	zuótiān	yesterday	昨 yesterday + 天 day; sky
天	tiān	day; sky	A person stretching up, and the sky right above: 天. Each new sky is a new day.
年	nián	year	年 began as a person carrying grain on their back: the harvest that rounds off each year.
今年	jīnnián	this year	今 now; present + 年 year
明年	míngnián	next year	明 bright; next + 年 year
去年	qùnián	last year	去 to go; gone + 年 year
月	yuè	month; moon	月 began as a crescent moon, and the moon's cycle gave us the month.
日	rì	day of month; sun	日 began as a picture of the sun: a circle with a dot in the middle, later squared off.
号	hào	date; number	号 has a 口 mouth on top: the date you say out loud.
星期	xīngqī	week	星 star + 期 period of time

pattern dates go big to small

year 年 month 月 day 号

Dates run from big to small: year, month, day, then the weekday. Months and weekdays are numbers: 十月 is October, 星期一 is Monday. Say 号 for the day; 日 is the written style.

二零二六年十月二十三日，星期五。 **Èrlíng'èrliù nián shí yuè èrshísān rì, xīngqīwǔ.** Friday, 23 October 2026 (written style).

明天星期几？ **Míngtiān xīngqī jǐ?** What day is it tomorrow?

一个星期有七天。 **Yí gè xīngqī yǒu qī tiān.** A week has seven days.

dialogue a year of chinese

anna 小明，今天几号？
Xiǎomíng, jīntiān jǐ hào? · Xiaoming, what's the date today?

xiaoming 十月二十三号，星期五。
Shí yuè èrshísān hào, xīngqīwǔ. · The 23rd of October. A Friday.

anna 去年十月二十三号，我不会说汉语！
Qùnián shí yuè èrshísān hào, wǒ bú huì shuō Hànyǔ! · On 23 October last year, I couldn't speak any Chinese!

xiaoming 今年呢？
Jīnnián ne? · And this year?

anna 今年我会说汉语！我认识一百个汉字。
Jīnnián wǒ huì shuō Hànyǔ! Wǒ rènshi yìbǎi gè Hànzì. · This year I can! I know a hundred characters.

xiaoming 明年呢？
Míngnián ne? · And next year?

anna 明年？一千个汉字！
Míngnián? Yìqiān gè Hànzì! · Next year? A thousand characters!

xiaoming 一千个？很好！
Yìqiān gè? Hěn hǎo! · A thousand? Brilliant!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

今
jīn
now; present

年
nián
year

天
tiān
day; sky

日
rì
day of month; sun

good to know · Weekdays are numbers: 星期一 Monday, 星期二 Tuesday … 星期六 Saturday. Sunday is the odd one out; you'll meet it on day 11. Years are read digit by digit: 二零二六年 for 2026. In print, the zero in a year is often written 〇.

Now you can read a Chinese date, make plans for tomorrow and say how far you've come since last year.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 11 what time is it?

Ask what time it is, and say the time: three o'clock, half past, ten past eight.

Meeting a friend, catching a train, booking lunch: it all starts with "what time?"

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
星期日	xīngqīrì	Sunday	星 star + 期 period of time + 日 sun, day
星期天	xīngqītiān	Sunday	星 star + 期 period of time + 天 sky, day
现在	xiànzài	now	现 to appear, present + 在 to be at
点	diǎn	o'clock; dot	点 also means "dot", so on wishyou.today every hour is a dot to connect!
分	fēn	minute; to divide	A knife cuts the hour into little pieces: minutes.
分钟	fēnzhōng	minute (how long)	分 to divide, minute + 钟 clock, bell
小时	xiǎoshí	hour	小 small + 时 time, hour
半	bàn	half; half past	Look at 半: one line runs straight down the middle, cutting it in half.
一半	yībàn	half (of something)	一 one + 半 half
时间	shíjiān	time	时 time, hour + 间 between, space
时候	shíhou	time; moment	时 time, hour + 候 to wait; season
上午	shàngwǔ	morning (before noon)	上 up, above; first + 午 noon
下午	xiàwǔ	afternoon	下 down, below; next + 午 noon

pattern clock time: 点, 分 and 半

hour 点 **minutes** 分

Say the hour, then 点, then the minutes and 分: 八点十分 is 8:10. Half past is just 半: 三点半. Careful: 点 and 分 are times on the clock, while 小时 and 分钟 say how long.

现在七点十五分。 **Xiànzài qī diǎn shíwǔ fēn.** It's 7:15. (点 and 分: a time on the clock)

我学习四十分钟。 **Wǒ xuéxí sìshí fēnzhōng.** I study for forty minutes. (分钟 and 小时: how long)

你什么时候有时间? **Nǐ shénme shíhou yǒu shíjiān?** When are you free? (什么时候 asks "when?"; 时间 is time you have)

我们下午四点半学习汉语。 **Wǒmen xiàwǔ sì diǎn bàn xuéxí Hànyǔ.** We study Chinese at half past four in the afternoon.

dialogue when are you free?

xiaoming 安娜，你什么时候有时间?
Ānnà, nǐ shénme shíhou yǒu shíjiān? · Anna, when are you free?

anna 星期天下午。上午没有时间。
Xīngqītiān xiàwǔ. Shàngwǔ méiyǒu shíjiān. · Sunday afternoon. I'm busy in the morning.

xiaoming 下午两点，好吗?
Xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn, hǎo ma? · Two in the afternoon, OK?

anna 好！小明，现在几点?
Hǎo! Xiǎomíng, xiànzài jǐ diǎn? · Great! Xiaoming, what time is it now?

xiaoming 现在十点半。
Xiànzài shí diǎn bàn. · It's half past ten.

anna 十点半? 我十一点学习汉语！
Shí diǎn bàn? Wǒ shíyī diǎn xuéxí Hànyǔ! · Half past ten? I study Chinese at eleven!

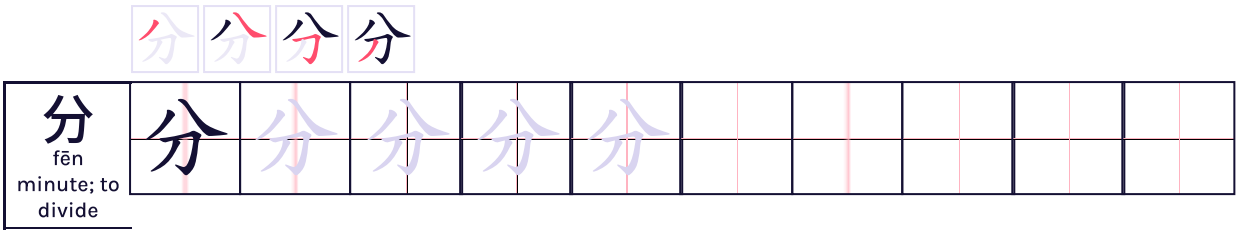
xiaoming 没关系，你有半个小时。
Méi guānxi, nǐ yǒu bàn gè xiǎoshí. · Don't worry, you've got half an hour.

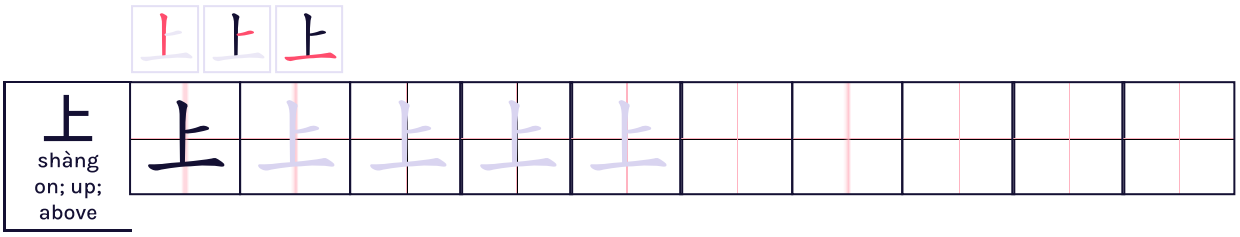
anna 好！星期天下午两点，再见！
Hǎo! Xīngqītiān xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn, zàijiàn! · OK! Sunday, two o'clock. Bye!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

半
bàn
half; half past

点
diǎn
o'clock; dot





good to know · Two o’clock is 两点, never 二点: 两 is the “two” for counting things, and hours count. Clock or how long? 三点 3:00, but 三个小时 3 hours. 八点十分 8:10, but 十分钟 10 minutes. 时间 is time you have; 什么时候 asks “when?”

You can set a time to meet a friend in Chinese now. Sunday, two o’clock: done!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 12 my day

Describe your day: when you get up, go to work, rest and go to bed.

"What's your day like?" is classic small talk, and today's word order unlocks hundreds of sentences.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
早上	zǎoshang	early morning	早 early + 上 up, above
中午	zhōngwǔ	noon, midday	中 middle + 午 noon
晚上	wǎnshang	evening, night	晚 late; evening + 上 up, above
早	zǎo	early; morning!	The sun 日 is only just up: it's early!
晚	wǎn	late; evening	The sun has escaped. Late again!
白天	báitiān	daytime	白 white + 天 sky, day
起床	qǐchuáng	to get up	起 to rise + 床 bed
睡	shuì	to sleep	Heavy eyes 目 drooping 垂: you're falling asleep.
睡觉	shuìjiào	to sleep; go to bed	睡 to sleep + 觉 a sleep
休息	xiūxi	to rest; to have time off	休 to rest + 息 breath
上班	shàngbān	to go to work	上 up, on + 班 shift, class
下班	xiàbān	to finish work	下 down, off + 班 shift, class

pattern who + when + where + do what

who | when | where | do what

The time goes right after the person (or at the very start), and the action comes last. A place with 在 sits between the time and the action. So it's "I afternoon at school study", never "I study at school in the afternoon".

我早上六点起床。 **Wǒ zǎoshang liù diǎn qǐchuáng.** I get up at six in the morning.

我下午在学校学习汉语。 **Wǒ xiàwǔ zài xuéxiào xuéxí Hànyǔ.** I study Chinese at school in the afternoon.

晚上我在家休息。 **Wǎnshang wǒ zài jiā xiūxi.** In the evening I rest at home.

dialogue anna's day

teacher wang 安娜，你早上几点起床?
Ānnà, nǐ zǎoshang jǐ diǎn qǐchuáng? · Anna, what time do you get up in the morning?

anna 我早上六点起床。
Wǒ zǎoshang liù diǎn qǐchuáng. · I get up at six.

teacher wang 六点？很早！
Liù diǎn? Hěn zǎo! · Six? That's early!

anna 是，我七点在家学习汉语，八点去学校。
Shì, wǒ qī diǎn zài jiā xuéxí Hànyǔ, bā diǎn qù xuéxiào. · Yes. At seven I study Chinese at home, and at eight I go to school.

teacher wang 你中午休息吗?
Nǐ zhōngwǔ xiūxi ma? · Do you rest at noon?

anna 休息。中午我睡一个小时！
Xiūxi. Zhōngwǔ wǒ shuì yí gè xiǎoshí! · I do. At noon I sleep for an hour!

teacher wang 晚上呢？你几点睡觉?
Wǎnshang ne? Nǐ jǐ diǎn shuìjiào? · And at night? What time do you go to bed?

anna 晚上十点。不晚！
Wǎnshang shí diǎn. Bù wǎn! · Ten o'clock. Not late!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

白
bái
white

床
chuáng
bed

good to know · A short nap after lunch is normal in China. Many schools and offices have a quiet noon rest. 早！ on its own is a quick "morning!" for neighbours and classmates. For your teacher, put the title first: 王老师早!

You can tell anyone how your day goes, from getting up to going to bed. That's a real conversation! Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 13 hungry!

Say what you'd like to eat and drink, and order it.

Food is the heart of life in China, and "I'd like…" gets you fed anywhere.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
吃	chī	to eat	A hungry mouth 口 asking for food: "Chee! Feed me!"
喝	hē	to drink	Huh! After a long walk, your mouth 口 just wants a drink.
想	xiǎng	would like to; to think; to miss	The heart 心 is at the bottom: wishes come from the heart.
要	yào	to want; I'll have	Yow! 要 is how you point at the menu and get what you want.
饭	fàn	meal; cooked rice	In China rice is so central that "rice" and "meal" are the same word.
米饭	mǐfàn	cooked rice	米 rice (grain) + 饭 meal, cooked rice
菜	cài	dish; vegetables	Pick the greens 艹 and cook them: a dish!
面条儿	miàntiáor	noodles	面 face; flour + 条 strip + 儿 child
包子	bāozi	steamed bun	包 to wrap; bag + 子 child
饺子	jiǎozi	dumpling	饺 dumpling + 子 child
鸡蛋	jīdàn	(hen's) egg	鸡 chicken + 蛋 egg
面包	miànbāo	bread	面 face; flour + 包 to wrap; bag
好吃	hǎochī	tasty; delicious	好 good + 吃 to eat

pattern 想 and 要: i'd like, i want

who | 想 / 要 | do what / what

想 + verb is a soft "would like to": 我想吃饺子. 要 + a thing is how you order: 我要米饭, "I'll have rice." 要 + verb is a firmer "want to".

我想吃面条儿。 **Wǒ xiǎng chī miàntiáor.** I'd like to eat noodles.

我要一个鸡蛋。 **Wǒ yào yí gè jīdàn.** I'll have an egg.

小明要吃饺子。 **Xiǎomíng yào chī jiǎozi.** Xiaoming wants to eat dumplings.

dialogue dumplings for lunch

xiaoming 安娜，现在十二点。你想吃饭吗？
Ānnà, xiànzài shí'èr diǎn. Nǐ xiǎng chī fàn ma? · Anna, it's twelve. Do you want to eat?

anna 想！我想吃饺子。你呢？
Xiǎng! Wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎozi. Nǐ ne? · Yes! I'd like dumplings. You?

xiaoming 我想吃面条儿。你要几个饺子？
Wǒ xiǎng chī miàntiáor. Nǐ yào jǐ gè jiǎozi? · I'd like noodles. How many dumplings do you want?

anna 二十个！
Èrshí gè! · Twenty!

xiaoming 二十个？你吃二十个？
Èrshí gè? Nǐ chī èrshí gè? · Twenty? You'll eat twenty?

anna 我爱吃饺子！你想喝什么？
Wǒ ài chī jiǎozi! Nǐ xiǎng hē shénme? · I love dumplings! What would you like to drink?

xiaoming 我不想喝。饺子很好吃，我也想吃！
Wǒ bù xiǎng hē. Jiǎozi hěn hǎochī, wǒ yě xiǎng chī! · Nothing for me. Dumplings are delicious, I want some too!

anna 好，一半是你的！
Hǎo, yíbàn shì nǐ de! · OK, half are yours!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

要
yào
to want; I'll have

包
bāo
to wrap; bag

good to know · To say yes, repeat the verb: 你想吃饭吗？ 想！ Often the best "yes" in Chinese is the verb itself. 想 + a person means "to miss": 我想妈妈 is "I miss Mum", not "I want Mum".

You can order dumplings in Chinese. That works in Chinese restaurants all over the world!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 14 tea time

Offer food and drink politely and make suggestions: “please have some tea”, “let’s eat”.

Being offered tea is the first thing that happens in a Chinese home. Now you can answer, and offer back.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
水	shuǐ	water	水 is a real picture of a stream: water down the middle, splashes at the sides.
茶	chá	tea	Leaves on top, a person in the middle, a tree below: tea time.
牛奶	niúnǎi	milk	牛 cow, ox + 奶 milk
杯子	bēizi	cup, glass	杯 cup + 子 child
早饭	zǎofàn	breakfast	早 early + 饭 meal, cooked rice
午饭	wǔfàn	lunch	午 noon + 饭 meal, cooked rice
晚饭	wǎnfàn	dinner, supper	晚 late; evening + 饭 meal, cooked rice
水果	shuǐguǒ	fruit	水 water + 果 fruit
苹果	píngguǒ	apple	苹 apple (plant) + 果 fruit
做饭	zuòfàn	to cook	做 to do, make + 饭 meal, cooked rice
请	qǐng	please; to invite	Ching! A polite little bell before you offer something.
吧	ba	let’s; OK? (suggestion)	吧 turns an order into an idea: “let’s… OK?”
来	lái	to come	“Lie” on my sofa: come over!

pattern 请 “please…” and 吧 “let’s…”

who | do what | 吧

Put 吧 at the end to suggest something: 我们喝茶吧, “let’s have tea”. Put 请 in front of a verb to offer or ask politely: 请喝茶, “please have some tea”. They make you sound warm, not bossy.

我们吃水果吧！ **Wǒmen chī shuǐguǒ ba!** Let’s have some fruit!

请喝水。 **Qǐng hē shuǐ.** Please have some water.

你休息吧。 **Nǐ xiūxi ba.** Go on, have a rest.

来，喝一杯茶吧！ **Lái, hē yì bēi chá ba!** Come on, have a cup of tea!

dialogue tea at xiaoming's home

ms zhang 安娜，来，请喝茶。
Ānnà, lái, qǐng hē chá. · Anna, come, have some tea.

anna 谢谢您！
Xièxie nín! · Thank you!

xiaoming 妈妈，我不想喝茶。我要一杯牛奶。
Māma, wǒ bù xiǎng hē chá. Wǒ yào yì bēi niúnǎi. · Mum, I don't want tea. I'd like a glass of milk.

ms zhang 好。安娜，请吃苹果。
Hǎo. Ānnà, qǐng chī píngguǒ. · OK. Anna, please have an apple.

anna 谢谢！我很喜欢吃水果。
Xièxie! Wǒ hěn xǐhuan chī shuǐguǒ. · Thanks! I really like fruit.

ms zhang 今天晚上在我们家吃晚饭吧！
Jīntiān wǎnshang zài wǒmen jiā chī wǎnfàn ba! · Stay and have dinner with us tonight!

anna 好！我会做饺子。我做饭吧！
Hǎo! Wǒ huì zuò jiǎozi. Wǒ zuòfàn ba! · Great! I can make dumplings. Let me cook!

xiaoming 好！晚饭吃饺子！
Hǎo! Wǎnfàn chī jiǎozi! · Yes! Dumplings for dinner!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

茶
chá
tea

来
lái
to come

good to know · When someone pours your tea, a light tap of two fingers on the table is a quiet "thank you", especially in southern China. 吧 softens things: 你休息吧 sounds caring, "go on, rest", not like an order.

Next time someone says 请喝茶, you'll understand, and you can offer tea right back.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 15 how much is it?

Chinese HSK 1 in 30 days
unit 3 · time, meals & money

Ask how much something costs, understand the price, say “too expensive!” and buy it.

Markets, supermarkets, street food: prices are everywhere, and now you can ask, react and answer.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
买	mǎi	to buy	Buy is mǎi (dips low, like your wallet). Sell is mài.
卖	mài	to sell	Extra 十 on top of “buy”? Then you sell!
钱	qián	money	Little pieces of metal 钅 : coins, money!
块	kuài	yuan (spoken); piece	Kwhy? Because everyone says 块 for money, not 元.
元	yuán	yuan (written)	元 is the price tag word. 块 is what you say at the till.
贵	guì	expensive	贝, a shell, sits at the bottom: shells were early money, so 贵 is about value.
便宜	piányi	cheap	便 convenient + 宜 suitable
商店	shāngdiàn	shop, store	商 trade, business + 店 shop
店	diàn	shop, store	A roof 广 and a spot under it: your little shop.
超市	chāoshì	supermarket	超 to exceed, super + 市 market, city
东西	dōngxi	thing, stuff	东 east + 西 west
太	tài	too; very	Big 大 plus a dot: bigger than big. Too much!
了	le	(done; now changed)	了 looks like a little hook: hang your finished job on it. Done!

pattern 多少钱? and 太...了!

thing | 多少钱? | 太 | adjective | 了!

Ask 多少钱? and answer with a number + 块: 十块钱, ten yuan. React with 太 + adjective + 了: 太贵了! “too expensive!” And 了 straight after a verb means it’s done: 我买了, “I bought it”.

苹果多少钱? **Píngguǒ duōshao qián?** How much are the apples?

面包八块五。 **Miànbāo bā kuài wǔ.** The bread is 8.50 yuan.

这个太贵了! **Zhège tài guì le!** This is far too expensive!

我买了一个面包。 **Wǒ mǎi le yí gè miànbāo.** I bought a bread roll.

dialogue shopping at the supermarket

xiaoming 安娜，你想买什么东西?
Ānnà, nǐ xiǎng mǎi shénme dōngxi? · Anna, what do you want to buy?

anna 我想买水果。苹果多少钱?
Wǒ xiǎng mǎi shuǐguǒ. Píngguǒ duōshao qián? · I'd like some fruit. How much are the apples?

xiaoming 三块钱一个。
Sān kuài qián yí gè. · Three yuan each.

anna 三块？很便宜！那个商店的苹果太贵了。我要五个。
Sān kuài? Hěn piányi! Nàge shāngdiàn de píngguǒ tài guì le. Wǒ yào wǔ gè. · Three? That's cheap! The apples in that shop are far too expensive. I'll take five.

xiaoming 你要牛奶吗？这个牛奶十二块。
Nǐ yào niúnǎi ma? Zhège niúnǎi shí'èr kuài. · Do you want milk? This milk is twelve yuan.

anna 十二块？不太贵。我要！
Shí'èr kuài? Bú tài guì. Wǒ yào! · Twelve? Not too expensive. I'll take it!

xiaoming 苹果十五块，牛奶十二块，多少钱?
Píngguǒ shíwǔ kuài, niúnǎi shí'èr kuài, duōshao qián? · Apples fifteen, milk twelve. How much is that?

anna 二十七块！我的汉语很好吧?
Èrshíqī kuài! Wǒ de Hànyǔ hěn hǎo ba? · Twenty-seven yuan! My Chinese is pretty good, right?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

了
le
(done; now changed)

超
chāo
to exceed, super

good to know · "Too expensive!" is 太贵了: 太 + adjective + 了. Without 了 it sounds cut off. 不太贵 means "not too expensive". Prices drop the last word: 八块五 is 8.50 yuan, "eight yuan five". Most people in China pay by scanning a code with their phone.

Read a price, ask 多少钱, say 太贵了 and pay: you can shop in a Chinese market today.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 16 clothes & things

Shop for clothes, books and gadgets, and count them with the right measure word.

Every shop trip needs “this one” and “two of those”, and measure words make that work.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it’s built
衣服	yīfu	clothes	衣 clothing + 服 clothes; to serve
穿	chuān	to wear; put on	“Chwan” your arms through the sleeves and you’re dressed.
件	jiàn	measure word: clothes, items	Hang each top on its own peg: one 件, two 件, three 件.
本	běn	measure word for books	A book is made from a tree, and 本 is a tree with its roots marked.
书	shū	book	“Shoo!” says the librarian, but the book stays open.
手机	shǒujī	mobile phone	手 hand + 机 machine
电脑	diànnǎo	computer	电 electricity + 脑 brain
新	xīn	new	Fresh-cut wood smells new. Chop, chop: xīn!
漂亮	piàoliang	pretty; beautiful	漂 to rinse; to bleach + 亮 bright
好看	hǎokàn	good-looking; nice	好 good + 看 to look, to see
些	xiē	some; a few	Not one, not lots: just some. 些 is a handful.
一些	yīxiē	some; a few	一 one + 些 some, a few

pattern measure words: 一本书, 这件衣服

number / 这 / 那 | measure word | thing

A measure word is a little word between a number (or 这, 那) and a thing. 件 is for clothes, 本 for books, and 个 is the all-rounder (if you forget the right one, 个 often works). For “some”, 一些 does the whole job: 一些书.

我要买两件衣服。 **Wǒ yào mǎi liǎng jiàn yīfu.** I want to buy two tops.

这本书很好看。 **Zhè běn shū hěn hǎokàn.** This book is a good read.

这个手机太贵了。 **Zhège shǒujī tài guì le.** This phone is too expensive.

我想买一些衣服。 **Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yìxiē yīfu.** I want to buy some clothes.

dialogue anna finds a top

xiaoming 安娜，你想买什么?
Ānnà, nǐ xiǎng mǎi shénme? · Anna, what do you want to buy?

anna 我想买一件衣服。
Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yí jiàn yīfu. · I'd like to buy a top.

xiaoming 这件很漂亮!
Zhè jiàn hěn piàoliang! · This one's pretty!

anna 很好看！多少钱?
Hěn hǎokàn! Duōshao qián? · It looks great! How much is it?

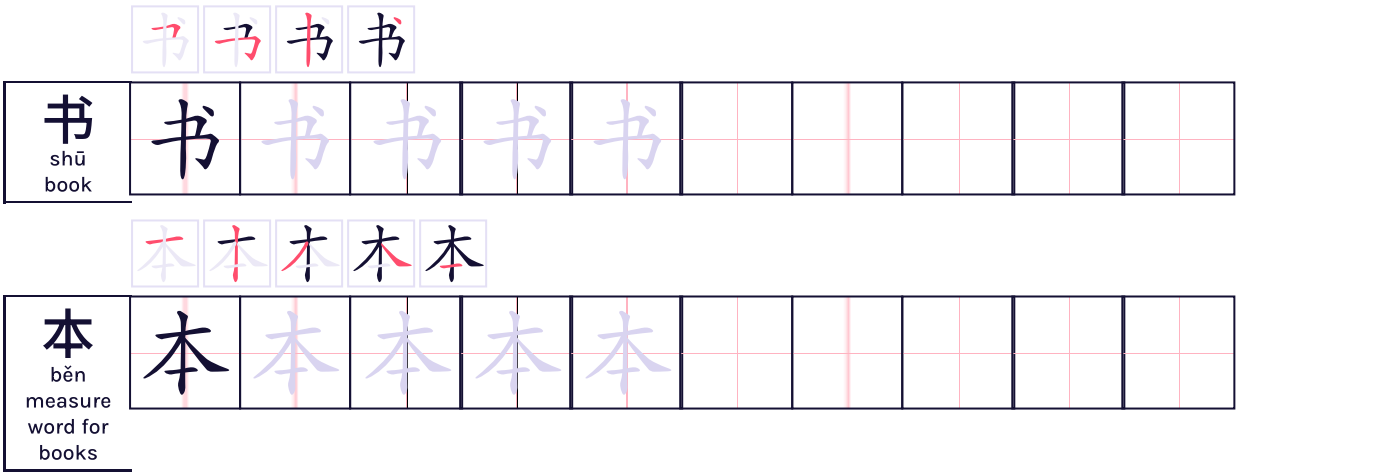
xiaoming 一百二十块。
Yìbǎi'èrshí kuài. · (reading the tag) 120 kuai.

anna 太贵了！那件呢?
Tài guì le! Nà jiàn ne? · Too expensive! What about that one?

xiaoming 那件八十块。
Nà jiàn bāshí kuài. · That one is 80 kuai.

anna 好，我买那件!
Hǎo, wǒ mǎi nà jiàn! · OK, I'll take that one!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



good to know · In shops people drop the thing once it's clear: 这件 "this one" (a top), 那本 "that one" (a book). 好看 is good-looking for clothes and people, and a good read or watch for books and shows.

Now you can point at exactly the one you want, and ask what it costs. Shopping unlocked!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 17 cats, dogs & likes

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.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 18 on, under, in front

Say where things are: on, under, in, outside, in front and behind.

Lost phones, hidden keys, the shop across the road: position words help you find everything.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
上	shàng	on; up; above	A short line sitting on top of a long one: up!
下	xià	under; down; below	上 points up, 下 hangs down. They're mirror twins.
里	lǐ	in; inside	Lǐ: put it in, like a letter into an envelope.
外	wài	outside; out	"Why?" asks the dog at the door. Because it wants to go outside: wài!
前	qián	front; before	Front of the queue, first in line: qián.
后	hòu	back; behind; after	"Ho!" you shout from the back of the room.
边	biān	side; edge	Pick a side, any side: biān.
前面	qiánmiàn	in front; ahead	前 front + 面 face, side
后面	hòumiàn	behind; at the back	后 back, behind + 面 face, side
外边	wàibian	outside	外 outside + 边 side
这边	zhèbiān	this side; over here	这 this + 边 side
那边	nàbiān	that side; over there	那 that + 边 side

pattern position words go after the place

thing | 在 | place | 上 · 下 · 里 · 前面 · 后面

In English "on" comes first: on the book. In Chinese it comes after: 书上, book-on. Put it with 在 to say where something is: 手机在书上.

猫在电脑上。 **Māo zài diànnǎo shàng.** The cat is on the computer.

我的手机在衣服下。 **Wǒ de shǒujī zài yīfu xià.** My phone is under the clothes.

我妈妈在超市里。 **Wǒ māma zài chāoshì lǐ.** My mum is in the supermarket.

大白在商店外边。 **Dàbái zài shāngdiàn wàibian.** Dabai is outside the shop.

dialogue where's my phone?

anna 小明，我的手机呢?
Xiǎomíng, wǒ de shǒujī ne? · Xiaoming, where's my phone?

xiaoming 在电脑前面吗?
Zài diànnǎo qiánmiàn ma? · Is it in front of the computer?

anna 不在。
Bú zài. · No, it isn't.

xiaoming 在杯子后面吗?
Zài bēizi hòumiàn ma? · Behind the cup?

anna 也不在。
Yě bú zài. · Not there either.

xiaoming 大白在外边玩你的手机!
Dàbái zài wàibian wán nǐ de shǒujī! · Dabai's outside, playing with your phone!

anna 大白！我的手机!
Dàbái! Wǒ de shǒujī! · Dabai! My phone!

xiaoming 大白真喜欢玩手机!
Dàbái zhēn xǐhuan wán shǒujī! · Dabai really loves playing with phones!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

边
biān
side; edge

后
hòu
back; behind; after

good to know · 前 and 后 also work for time: 睡觉前 before bed, 下班后 after work. Same rule: they come after. "Where's my...?" can be as short as 我的手机呢? Just add 呢 to the thing you're missing.

Now you can find the shop across the road, and tell a friend their phone is under the clothes.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 19 where is it?

Ask where something is, say where you live, and say what's in a room.

"Excuse me, where is…?" is the most useful question a traveller can ask.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
请问	qǐngwèn	excuse me (to ask)	请 please + 问 to ask
这里	zhèlǐ	here	这 this + 里 inside, place
那里	nàlǐ	there	那 that + 里 inside, place
哪里	nǎlǐ	where	哪 which + 里 inside, place
这儿	zhèr	here	这 this + 儿 child; the -r ending
那儿	nàr	there	那 that + 儿 child; the -r ending
哪儿	nǎr	where	哪 which + 儿 child; the -r ending
住	zhù	to live; to stay	"Zoo?" No, I live in a flat: zhù.
房间	fángjiān	room	房 house + 间 space between; room
桌子	zhuōzi	table; desk	桌 table + 子 child; noun ending
椅子	yǐzi	chair	椅 chair + 子 child; noun ending

pattern what's there (有, 是) and where it is (在)

place | 有 · 是 | thing

Place first, then 有, says what's there (房间里有电脑); thing first, then 在, says where it is (电脑在房间里). 是 after a place names what fills that spot: 学校后面是超市. To ask, say 请问，…在哪儿?

学校前面有一个商店。 **Xuéxiào qiánmiàn yǒu yí gè shāngdiàn.** There's a shop in front of the school.

商店在学校前面。 **Shāngdiàn zài xuéxiào qiánmiàn.** The shop is in front of the school.

学校后面是超市。 **Xuéxiào hòumiàn shì chāoshì.** Behind the school is the supermarket.

请问，医院在哪里? **Qǐngwèn, yīyuàn zài nǎlǐ?** Excuse me, where's the hospital?

dialogue is there a supermarket?

anna 王老师，请问，这儿有超市吗？
Wáng lǎoshī, qǐngwèn, zhèr yǒu chāoshì ma? · Teacher Wang, excuse me, is there a supermarket around here?

teacher wang 有。超市在学校后面。
Yǒu. Chāoshì zài xuéxiào hòumiàn. · Yes. The supermarket is behind the school.

anna 学校后面？在那边吗？
Xuéxiào hòumiàn? Zài nàbiān ma? · Behind the school? Over there?

teacher wang 是，在那儿。你住在哪里？
Shì, zài nàr. Nǐ zhù zài nǎlǐ? · Yes, right there. Where do you live?

anna 我住在医院前面。
Wǒ zhù zài yīyuàn qiánmiàn. · I live in front of the hospital.

teacher wang 医院那边有一个商店，东西很便宜。
Yīyuàn nàbiān yǒu yí gè shāngdiàn, dōngxi hěn piányi. · There's a shop over by the hospital. Things there are cheap.

anna 真的吗？谢谢您！
Zhēn de ma? Xièxie nín! · Really? Thank you!

teacher wang 不客气！
Búkèqi! · You're welcome!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

房
fáng
house

问
wèn
ask

good to know · 这儿, 那儿, 哪儿 are the Beijing-style twins of 这里, 那里, 哪里. Same meaning; the -r is more northern. Listen for the tone: nǎr (dipping) asks "where?", nàr (falling) answers "there".

With **请问** and **在哪儿**, any street in China can help you find your way.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 20 getting around

Say how you get somewhere: by taxi, train, car or plane, and when you arrive.

Taxis, trains and planes are how you see China, and now you can talk about every trip.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
车	chē	vehicle; car	"Chuh-chuh": the sound of an old engine starting.
开	kāi	to open; to drive	Open the door and drive away: kāi!
开车	kāichē	to drive (a car)	开 to open, to operate + 车 vehicle
火车	huǒchē	train	火 fire + 车 vehicle
火车站	huǒchēzhàn	train station	火 fire + 车 vehicle + 站 to stand; station
出租车	chūzūchē	taxi	出 to go out + 租 to rent + 车 vehicle
飞机	fēijī	plane	飞 to fly + 机 machine
坐	zuò	to sit; travel by	Two friends sitting on the ground: have a seat!
回	huí	to return; go back	A small box inside a big one: you always come back inside.
到	dào	to arrive; to reach	"Dow!" The doors open: you've arrived.

pattern how you go, then where: 坐飞机去北京

who | 坐 / 开 | vehicle | 去 · 来 · 回 | place

Chinese lines actions up in the order they happen: first get on the plane, then go to Beijing. 坐 is for riding (taxi, train, plane), 开 for driving. Then 去 go, 来 come (towards you) or 回 go back.

我坐飞机去北京。 **Wǒ zuò fēijī qù Běijīng.** I'm flying to Beijing.

李先生开车去医院。 **Lǐ xiānsheng kāichē qù yīyuàn.** Mr Li drives to the hospital.

我坐出租车回家。 **Wǒ zuò chūzūchē huí jiā.** I'm taking a taxi home.

dialogue a day out by train

xiaoming 安娜，明天我们坐火车去玩吧！
Ānnà, míngtiān wǒmen zuò huǒchē qù wán ba! · Anna, let's take the train for a day out tomorrow!

anna 好！我们几点去火车站？
Hǎo! Wǒmen jǐ diǎn qù huǒchēzhàn? · Great! What time do we go to the station?

xiaoming 早上八点。我们坐出租车去吧。
Zǎoshang bā diǎn. Wǒmen zuò chūzūchē qù ba. · Eight in the morning. Let's take a taxi there.

anna 好。火车几点开？
Hǎo. Huǒchē jǐ diǎn kāi? · OK. What time does the train leave?

xiaoming 九点半开。
Jiǔ diǎn bàn kāi. · It leaves at half past nine.

anna 我们几点回北京？
Wǒmen jǐ diǎn huí Běijīng? · What time do we head back to Beijing?

xiaoming 下午五点回，晚上七点到北京。
Xiàwǔ wǔ diǎn huí, wǎnshang qī diǎn dào Běijīng. · We head back at five and get to Beijing at seven in the evening.

anna 好！我非常想坐火车！
Hǎo! Wǒ fēicháng xiǎng zuò huǒchē! · Great! I really want to ride the train!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

车
chē
vehicle; car

出
chū
to go out

good to know · Use 开 for trains and buses leaving: 火车几点开？ What time does the train leave? In China you "sit" on transport: 坐出租车, 坐火车, 坐飞机. You only 开 what you drive yourself.

Taxi, train or plane: you can now plan a trip, ask when it leaves and say when you'll be back.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 21 a night out

Plan a night out: a film, a song and a meal, and say what someone is doing right now.

Films, songs and restaurants are how friends in China spend an evening together.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
电影	diànyǐng	film, movie	电 electricity + 影 shadow, image
电影院	diànyǐngyuàn	cinema	电 electricity + 影 shadow, image + 院 courtyard, institution
电视	diànshì	TV, television	电 electricity + 视 look at, view
看	kàn	look, watch, read	Hold your hand over your eyes like a sailor: kàn, look over there!
见	jiàn	see, meet	The old form of 见 was a big eye on two legs: someone who sees.
看见	kànjiàn	see, catch sight of	看 look + 见 see, perceive
听	tīng	listen	Tīng! Like a tiny bell ringing: are you listening?
听见	tīngjiàn	hear	听 listen + 见 see, perceive
歌	gē	song	Big brother 哥 opens his mouth 欠 wide: here comes a song!
唱	chàng	sing	A mouth 口 beside 昌 chāng: open up and sing, chàng!
好听	hǎotīng	nice-sounding, lovely	好 good + 听 listen
饭店	fàndiàn	restaurant; hotel	饭 meal, cooked rice + 店 shop
饭馆	fànguǎn	restaurant	饭 meal, cooked rice + 馆 house, hall

pattern 在 + verb (...呢): what's happening now

who | 在 | verb + what | (呢)

You know 在 as "at" a place. Put it right before a verb and it means "in the middle of doing": 爸爸在看电视 "Dad is watching TV". A 呢 at the end makes it sound chatty and natural.

爸爸在看电视呢。 **Bàba zài kàn diànshì ne.** Dad's watching TV.

我在听歌。 **Wǒ zài tīng gē.** I'm listening to a song.

你在做什么呢? **Nǐ zài zuò shénme ne?** What are you doing?

她在唱歌呢。 **Tā zài chàng gē ne.** She's singing.

dialogue film night

xiaoming 安娜，你在做什么呢？
Ānnà, nǐ zài zuò shénme ne? · Anna, what are you up to?

anna 我在家看电视呢。今天晚上我们去看电影吧！
Wǒ zài jiā kàn diànshì ne. Jīntiān wǎnshang wǒmen qù kàn diànyǐng ba! · I'm at home watching TV. Let's go and see a film tonight!

xiaoming 好！我们七点去饭馆吃饭，八点看电影。
Hǎo! Wǒmen qī diǎn qù fànguǎn chī fàn, bā diǎn kàn diànyǐng. · OK! We'll eat at a restaurant at seven and see the film at eight.

anna 小明，这个电影里的歌很好听！
Xiǎomíng, zhège diànyǐng lǐ de gē hěn hǎotīng! · Xiaoming, the songs in this film are lovely!

xiaoming 什么？我没听见。
Shénme? Wǒ méi tīngjiàn. · What? I didn't hear you.

anna 我说，电影里的歌很好听！
Wǒ shuō, diànyǐng lǐ de gē hěn hǎotīng! · I said, the songs in the film are lovely!

xiaoming 安娜，你看见我的手机了吗？
Ānnà, nǐ kànjiàn wǒ de shǒujī le ma? · Anna, have you seen my phone?

anna 在那儿，椅子上！
Zài nàr, yǐzi shàng! · Over there, on the seat!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

唱
chàng
sing

视
shì
look at, view

good to know · 看 and 听 are the action; add 见 for the result: 看见 see, 听见 hear. So you can 看 and still not 看见! And say 在看, never 在看见. Karaoke (KTV) is a classic night out in China. If a friend says you sing 很好听, take the mic!

Tonight you could pick a film, choose a restaurant and tell a friend their singing is **很好听**.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 22 at school

Talk about your classes, ask a question in class and count in order: first, second, third.

Whether you study Chinese or chat with students, school words come up all the time.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
上课	shàngkè	have class, start class	上 up, go to + 课 class
下课	xiàkè	finish class	下 down, get off + 课 class
课	kè	class, lesson	A good lesson: words 讠 that grow into fruit 果 in your head.
上学	shàngxué	go to school	上 up, go to + 学 study, learn
读	dú	read (aloud), study	Dú! Say the words out loud, like the class reading together.
读书	dúshū	read; study (at school)	读 read + 书 book
写	xiě	write	Xiě sounds like "sh, yeah": shh, I'm writing!
问	wèn	ask	A mouth at the door: knock knock, can I ask something?
问题	wèntí	question, problem	问 ask + 题 topic, question
知道	zhīdào	know	知 know + 道 way, road
第	dì	-th (first, second…)	Bamboo strips lined up one after another: first, second, third.
书店	shūdiàn	bookshop	书 book + 店 shop

pattern 第 + number: first, second, third

第 | number | measure word or thing

Put 第 before a number to count in order: 第一 first, 第二 second. Then add the thing: 第五课 lesson five, 第一天 the first day, 第一个问题 the first question.

今天是第一天。 **Jīntiān shì dì yī tiān.** Today is the first day.

我们今天学第五课。 **Wǒmen jīntiān xué dì wǔ kè.** Today we're doing lesson five.

这是我的第一个问题。 **Zhè shì wǒ de dì yī gè wèntí.** This is my first question.

dialogue anna's chinese class

teacher wang 大家好！现在上课。今天我们学第五课。
Dàjiā hǎo! Xiànzài shàngkè. Jīntiān wǒmen xué dì wǔ kè. · Hello, everyone! Class begins. Today we're doing lesson five.

teacher wang 安娜，请你读第一个字。
Ānnà, qǐng nǐ dú dì yī gè zì. · Anna, please read the first character.

anna 老师，这个字我不会读。
Lǎoshī, zhège zì wǒ bú huì dú. · Teacher, I don't know how to read this one.

teacher wang 没关系。这个字是书，读书的书。
Méi guānxi. Zhège zì shì shū, dúshū de shū. · That's OK. This character is shū, as in dúshū, "to read".

anna 老师，我想问一个问题。
Lǎoshī, wǒ xiǎng wèn yí gè wèntí. · Teacher, I'd like to ask a question.

teacher wang 好，请说。
Hǎo, qǐng shuō. · Sure, go ahead.

anna 您知道哪儿有书店吗？我想买汉语书。
Nín zhīdào nǎr yǒu shūdiàn ma? Wǒ xiǎng mǎi Hànyǔ shū. · Do you know where there's a bookshop? I'd like to buy Chinese books.

teacher wang 学校前面有一个书店。好，下课！
Xuéxiào qiánmiàn yǒu yí gè shūdiàn. Hǎo, xiàkè! · There's one in front of the school. Right, class is over!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

写
xiě
write

第
dì
-th (first, second…)

good to know · 上课 and 下课 already carry their object 课. To name the class, put it inside: 上汉语课 "have Chinese class". Chinese teachers often start with 上课！ and finish with 下课！ Some classes even stand up and say 老师好!

You can now ask a teacher a question in Chinese. Curious people learn fastest!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 23 on the phone

Answer the phone, ask for someone, and say who you give things to, do things for and talk to.

A phone call is the bravest Chinese test there is: no pictures, no pointing, just words.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
电话	diànhuà	phone, phone call	电 electricity + 话 speech, words
打电话	dǎdiànhuà	make a phone call	打 hit, strike + 电 electricity + 话 speech, words
喂	wèi	hello (on the phone)	Pick up the phone and ask: "Wéi? Who's there?"
说话	shuōhuà	speak, talk	说 speak, say + 话 speech, words
找	zhǎo	look for, find	Your hand 扌 searching everywhere for your spear 戈: where is it?
给	gěi	give; for, to	Hold out your hand and say 给你! "Here you go!"
对	duì	right; to, towards	Duì! Nod hard: you're right.
还	hái	also, still	Hái, and one more thing!
小姐	xiǎojiě	Miss; young lady	小 small; young + 姐 older sister

pattern 给 + person + thing · 给 / 对 + person + verb

who | 给 · 对 | person | thing, or verb / adjective

给 + person + thing is "give someone something": 我给你一本书. Put 给 or 对 + person before a verb or adjective to aim it at them: 给妈妈打电话 "call Mum", 老师对我说 "the teacher said to me", 他对我很好 "he's good to me". Either way, the person comes right after 给 or 对.

我给你一本书。 **Wǒ gěi nǐ yì běn shū.** I'll give you a book.

他对我很好。 **Tā duì wǒ hěn hǎo.** He's very good to me.

老师对我说："你的汉字很漂亮！" **Lǎoshī duì wǒ shuō: nǐ de Hànzì hěn piàoliang!** The teacher said to me: "Your characters are beautiful!"

我想吃饺子，还想吃包子。 **Wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎozi, hái xiǎng chī bāozi.** I want dumplings, and baozi as well.

dialogue ring ring!

ms zhang 喂，你好！
Wèi, nǐhǎo! · Hello?

anna 您好！我是安娜，我找小明。
Nín hǎo! Wǒ shì Ānnà, wǒ zhǎo Xiǎomíng. · Hello! This is Anna. May I speak to Xiaoming?

ms zhang 小明和他妹妹在超市买东西。晚上他给你打电话，好吗？
Xiǎomíng hé tā mèimei zài chāoshì mǎi dōngxi. Wǎnshang tā gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà, hǎo ma? · Xiaoming is at the supermarket with his sister. He'll call you this evening, OK?

anna 好，谢谢您！
Hǎo, xièxie nín! · OK, thank you!

xiaoming 喂，安娜，我是小明。你找我？
Wèi, Ānnà, wǒ shì Xiǎomíng. Nǐ zhǎo wǒ? · Hello, Anna, it's Xiaoming. You were looking for me?

anna 对！星期六我们去饭馆吃饭，好吗？王老师也去。
Duì! Xīngqīliù wǒmen qù fànguǎn chī fàn, hǎo ma? Wáng lǎoshī yě qù. · Yes! Shall we eat out on Saturday? Teacher Wang is coming too.

xiaoming 好！我和妹妹也都想去。
Hǎo! Wǒ hé mèimei yě dōu xiǎng qù. · Great! My sister and I would both love to come too.

anna 好！我想吃饺子，还想吃包子！
Hǎo! Wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎozi, hái xiǎng chī bāozi! · Great! I want dumplings, and baozi as well!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

打
dǎ
hit, strike

还
hái
also, still

good to know · The word list writes 喂 as wèi, but on the phone people usually say wéi, rising like a question: "Wéi?" Asking for someone on the phone? 请问王小姐在吗？ is polite and safe. Say 小姐 with a surname, not on its own.

You can now pick up a phone in China, ask for a friend and promise to call back. That's real confidence!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 24 the weather

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.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 25 feeling ill

Say you're ill, see a doctor, and ask what you can and may do.

Feeling ill far from home is scary; a few words make it much easier.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
病	bìng	illness; be ill	A person on a sickbed 疒: bìng, poor thing.
生病	shēngbìng	fall ill, be sick	生 be born, grow + 病 illness
看病	kànbìng	see a doctor	看 look + 病 illness
能	néng	can, be able to	能 began as a picture of a bear: strong enough to do anything.
可以	kěyǐ	can, may	可 may, can + 以 use, by means of
不要	bùyào	don't	不 not + 要 want
忙	máng	busy	So much to do you lose your heart: máng, busy busy!
没事	méishì	it's nothing, I'm OK	没 not have + 事 matter, thing
事	shì	thing, matter	Shì: all the little things on your to-do list.
一下	yīxià	a bit, briefly	一 one + 下 down, (one) time
再	zài	again; then (later)	You already know it from 再见, "see you again"!

pattern 能 can, 可以 may, 不要 don't · verb + 一下

who | 能 · 可以 · 不要 | verb | 一下

能 is "can" (able to: health, time), 可以 is "may" (allowed). 不要 + verb means "don't!". Add 一下 after a verb to make it short and friendly: 看一下 "take a quick look".

我今天不能去上课。 **Wǒ jīntiān bù néng qù shàngkè.** I can't go to class today.

我可以看一下吗？ **Wǒ kěyǐ kàn yíxià ma?** May I take a quick look?

不要喝茶，多喝水！ **Búyào hē chá, duō hē shuǐ!** Don't drink tea, drink more water!

你能来一下吗？ **Nǐ néng lái yíxià ma?** Could you come here a moment?

dialogue anna sees a doctor

xiaoming 爸爸，安娜生病了，她来看病。
Bàba, Ānnà shēngbìng le, tā lái kànbìng. · Dad, Anna's ill. She's come to see a doctor.

mr li (dr li) 你好，安娜！请坐。你觉得怎么样？
Nǐhǎo, Ānnà! Qǐng zuò. Nǐ juéde zěnmeyàng? · Hello, Anna! Please sit down. How are you feeling?

anna 李医生，我很冷，也不想吃饭。
Lǐ yīshēng, wǒ hěn lěng, yě bù xiǎng chī fàn. · Dr Li, I feel cold, and I don't want to eat.

mr li (dr li) 我看一下。没事，是小病。你要多喝水，多休息。
Wǒ kàn yíxià. Méishì, shì xiǎo bìng. Nǐ yào duō hē shuǐ, duō xiūxi. · Let me have a look. It's nothing serious, just a little bug. You need to drink lots of water and rest.

anna 我明天能去上课吗？我很忙！
Wǒ míngtiān néng qù shàngkè ma? Wǒ hěn máng! · Can I go to class tomorrow? I'm really busy!

mr li (dr li) 不能。你要在家休息，不要去上课。星期五再去吧。
Bù néng. Nǐ yào zài jiā xiūxi, búyào qù shàngkè. Xīngqīwǔ zài qù ba. · No. You need to rest at home, so don't go to class. Go back on Friday.

anna 好吧。我可以看电视吗？
Hǎo ba. Wǒ kěyǐ kàn diànshì ma? · OK. May I watch TV?

mr li (dr li) 可以！看电视，多喝水，多睡觉！
Kěyǐ! Kàn diànshì, duō hē shuǐ, duō shuìjiào! · You may! Watch TV, drink lots of water and sleep lots!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

可
kě
may, can

以
yǐ
use, by
means of

good to know · 要 has three jobs: 我要茶 "I want tea", 你要多喝水 "you need to drink more water", and 不要看！ "don't look!" 再 is for next time: 星期五再去 "go back on Friday". 还 is for still or also: 他还在睡觉 "he's still asleep".

If you fall ill in China, you can now tell people you can't come, see a doctor and answer friends with a brave 没事!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 26 done & doing

Say what's done, what didn't happen and what's happening right now.

了 is one of the most used characters in Chinese: you'll hear it in almost every chat.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	how it's built
正在	zhèngzài	in the middle of (doing)	正 just, right; straight + 在 at, in
这些	zhèxiē	these	这 this + 些 some, a few
那些	nàxiē	those	那 that + 些 some, a few
哪些	nǎxiē	which (ones)	哪 which + 些 some, a few
有的	yǒude	some (of them)	有 have, there is + 的 of; 's
有些	yǒuxiē	some; somewhat	有 have, there is + 些 some, a few

pattern 了 again: done vs changed vs 没

买了 没买 不买

After a verb, 了 says "done" (我买了 I bought it); at the end of a sentence it says "now it's different" (下雨了). For "didn't", use 没 and drop 了 (我没买); 不 is "don't" or "won't" (我不买 I'm not buying it). 正在 before a verb is the strong "right now".

我买了这些苹果。 **Wǒ mǎi le zhèxiē píngguǒ.** I bought these apples.

天气冷了。 **Tiānqì lěng le.** It's got cold.

有的衣服很贵，我没买。 **Yǒude yīfu hěn guì, wǒ méi mǎi.** Some of the clothes were expensive, so I didn't buy them.

他正在打电话呢。 **Tā zhèngzài dǎ diànhuà ne.** He's on the phone right now.

dialogue anna calls xiaoming

anna 喂，小明！你在家吗？
Wèi, Xiǎomíng! Nǐ zài jiā ma? · Hi, Xiaoming! Are you at home?

xiaoming 在。我在看电视，妈妈正在做饭呢。
Zài. Wǒ zài kàn diànshì, māma zhèngzài zuòfàn ne. · Yes. I'm watching TV, and Mum's cooking right now.

anna 我在超市，我买了一些水果。
Wǒ zài chāoshì, wǒ mǎi le yìxiē shuǐguǒ. · I'm at the supermarket. I bought some fruit.

xiaoming 你买了哪些水果？
Nǐ mǎi le nǎxiē shuǐguǒ? · Which fruit did you buy?

anna 苹果！有的很大，有的很小。
Píngguǒ! Yǒude hěn dà, yǒude hěn xiǎo. · Apples! Some are big, some are small.

xiaoming 你买牛奶了吗？
Nǐ mǎi niúnǎi le ma? · Did you buy milk?

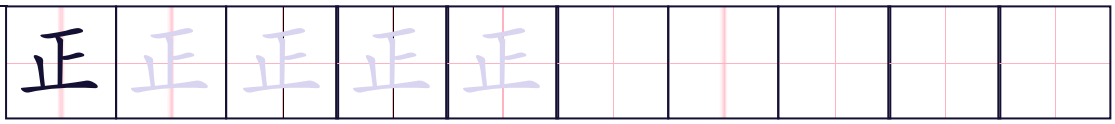
anna 没买。今天的牛奶太贵了，我不买！
Méi mǎi. Jīntiān de niúnǎi tài guì le, wǒ bù mǎi! · No, I didn't. The milk's too expensive today, so I'm not buying it!

xiaoming 下雨了！你坐出租车回家吧。
Xià yǔ le! Nǐ zuò chūzūchē huí jiā ba. · It's started raining! Take a taxi home.

write it trace the grey, then write your own



正
zhèng
just, right; straight



good to know · 了 isn't a past tense. 昨天我很忙 (I was busy yesterday) needs no 了, and 下雨了 is about now: it has started raining. 没 or 不? 没 is for what didn't happen (我没买 I didn't buy it). 不 is for what you don't or won't do (我不买 I'm not buying it).

Now you can tell a friend what you've done, what you didn't do and what you're doing right now: that's real conversation.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 27 mission: a day in beijing

Follow a whole day in Beijing in Chinese, from morning class to dinner with friends.

Missions join the dots: greetings, numbers, family, jobs, time and food, all in one story.

chapter 1 7:50 a.m. · chinese class

teacher wang	安娜，早上好！ **Ānnà, zǎoshang hǎo!** · Good morning, Anna!
anna	王老师，早上好！ **Wáng lǎoshī, zǎoshang hǎo!** · Good morning, Teacher Wang!
teacher wang	你真早！现在七点五十分。你是第一个！ **Nǐ zhēn zǎo! Xiànzài qī diǎn wǔshí fēn. Nǐ shì dì yī gè!** · You're so early! It's 7:50. You're the first one here!
anna	我今天六点起床了。 **Wǒ jīntiān liù diǎn qǐchuáng le.** · I got up at six today.
teacher wang	很好！你吃饭了吗？ **Hěn hǎo! Nǐ chī fàn le ma?** · Great! Have you eaten?
anna	吃了！我吃了两个包子和一个鸡蛋。 **Chī le! Wǒ chī le liǎng gè bāozi hé yí gè jīdàn.** · Yes! I had two baozi and an egg.
teacher wang	好。八点我们学写汉字。 **Hǎo. Bā diǎn wǒmen xué xiě Hànzì.** · Good. At eight we're learning to write characters.
anna	太好了！ **Tài hǎo le!** · Great!

chapter 2 12:00 · lunch with xiaoming

xiaoming 安娜，你想吃什么？
Ānnà, nǐ xiǎng chī shénme? · Anna, what would you like to eat?

anna 我想吃饺子。你呢？
Wǒ xiǎng chī jiǎozi. Nǐ ne? · I'd like dumplings. And you?

xiaoming 我要面条儿。
Wǒ yào miàntiáor. · I'll have noodles.

anna 你下午做什么？
Nǐ xiàwǔ zuò shénme? · What are you doing this afternoon?

xiaoming 下午我在大学学习。晚上你想来我家吃饭吗？
Xiàwǔ wǒ zài dàxué xuéxí. Wǎnshang nǐ xiǎng lái wǒ jiā chī fàn ma? · In the afternoon I'm studying at uni. Would you like to come to my place for dinner tonight?

anna 想！晚上几个人吃饭？
Xiǎng! Wǎnshang jǐ gè rén chī fàn? · Yes, please! How many of us will there be at dinner?

xiaoming 我家四口人，还有你：五个人！
Wǒ jiā sì kǒu rén, hái yǒu nǐ: wǔ gè rén! · The four of us, plus you: five!

anna 大白呢？大白好吗？
Dàbái ne? Dàbái hǎo ma? · And Dabai? How's Dabai?

xiaoming 大白很好！它也想见你。
Dàbái hěn hǎo! Tā yě xiǎng jiàn nǐ. · He's great! He wants to see you too.

chapter 3 6:30 p.m. · dinner with the li family

anna 李先生、张女士，你们好！这些苹果是给你们的。
Lǐ xiānsheng, Zhāng nǚshì, nǐmen hǎo! Zhèxiē píngguǒ shì gěi nǐmen de. · Hello, Mr Li, Ms Zhang! These apples are for you.

ms zhang 谢谢你，安娜！
Xièxie nǐ, Ānnà! · Thank you, Anna!

anna 我可以坐这儿吗？
Wǒ kěyǐ zuò zhèr ma? · May I sit here?

mr li (dr li) 可以，请坐！安娜，你的汉语很好！
Kěyǐ, qǐng zuò! Ānnà, nǐ de Hànyǔ hěn hǎo! · Of course, please sit down! Anna, your Chinese is very good!

anna 哪里哪里！王老师是很好的老师。
Nǎlǐ nǎlǐ! Wáng lǎoshī shì hěn hǎo de lǎoshī. · Oh, not really! Teacher Wang is a very good teacher.

little sister 安娜，你会写汉字吗？
Ānnà, nǐ huì xiě Hànzì ma? · Anna, can you write characters?

anna 会一点儿！今天我学了十个汉字。
Huì yìdiǎnr! Jīntiān wǒ xué le shí gè Hànzì. · A little! I learned ten characters today.

ms zhang 来，我们吃饭吧！今天吃饺子。
Lái, wǒmen chī fàn ba! Jīntiān chī jiǎozi. · Come on, let's eat! It's dumplings tonight.

anna 饺子？太好了！我爱吃饺子！
Jiǎozi? Tài hǎo le! Wǒ ài chī jiǎozi! · Dumplings? Great! I love dumplings!

chapter 4 10:00 p.m. · see you saturday

anna 小明，现在几点？
Xiǎomíng, xiànzài jǐ diǎn? · Xiaoming, what time is it?

xiaoming 十点了。
Shí diǎn le. · It's ten already.

anna 很晚了！我要回家睡觉了。明天早上我八点上课。
Hěn wǎn le! Wǒ yào huí jiā shuìjiào le. Míngtiān zǎoshang wǒ bā diǎn shàngkè. · It's late! I need to go home and sleep. I have class at eight tomorrow morning.

mr li (dr li) 好。星期六你能来我家玩吗？
Hǎo. Xīngqīliù nǐ néng lái wǒ jiā wán ma? · OK. Can you come over on Saturday?

anna 能！谢谢您！
Néng! Xièxie nín! · Yes, I can! Thank you!

xiaoming 太好了！星期六见！
Tài hǎo le! Xīngqīliù jiàn! · Great! See you Saturday!

anna 好，再见！
Hǎo, zàijiàn! · OK, bye!

xiaoming 你看，大白也想说“再见”！
Nǐ kàn, Dàbái yě xiǎng shuō zàijiàn! · Look, Dabai wants to say “bye” too!

You just followed a whole day in Chinese, start to finish. Your first dots are now a story you understand.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 28 mission: weekend plans

Follow a whole weekend in Chinese: plans, shopping, a film and a doctor's advice.

Phones, shops, taxis, films and weather: days 14–26 all meet in one Saturday.

chapter 1 friday night · a phone call

xiaoming 喂，安娜！你在做什么呢?
Wèi, Ānnà! Nǐ zài zuò shénme ne? · Hi, Anna! What are you up to?

anna 我正在写汉字呢。
Wǒ zhèngzài xiě Hànzì ne. · I'm writing characters.

xiaoming 明天星期六，你想去看电影吗?
Míngtiān xīngqīliù, nǐ xiǎng qù kàn diànyǐng ma? · Tomorrow's Saturday. Do you want to go and see a film?

anna 想！我们几点去?
Xiǎng! Wǒmen jǐ diǎn qù? · Yes! What time shall we go?

xiaoming 下午三点的电影。上午你想做什么?
Xiàwǔ sān diǎn de diànyǐng. Shàngwǔ nǐ xiǎng zuò shénme? · The film's at three in the afternoon. What do you want to do in the morning?

anna 我想买一件新衣服。
Wǒ xiǎng mǎi yí jiàn xīn yīfu. · I want to buy something new to wear.

xiaoming 好！明天天气怎么样?
Hǎo! Míngtiān tiānqì zěnmeyàng? · OK! What's the weather like tomorrow?

anna 我看一下手机……明天下午有雨。我们还能去吗?
Wǒ kàn yíxià shǒujī míngtiān xiàwǔ yǒu yǔ. Wǒmen hái néng qù ma? · Let me check my phone… Rain tomorrow afternoon. Can we still go?

xiaoming 能！电影院里不下雨！
Néng! Diànyǐngyuàn lǐ bú xià yǔ! · Sure! It doesn't rain inside the cinema!

anna 对！明天见！
Duì! Míngtiān jiàn! · True! See you tomorrow!

chapter 2 saturday midday · shopping

anna 小明，你看，这件衣服真漂亮！
Xiǎomíng, nǐ kàn, zhè jiàn yīfu zhēn piàoliang! · Xiaoming, look, this top is so pretty!

xiaoming 很好看！多少钱？
Hěn hǎokàn! Duōshao qián? · It looks great! How much is it?

anna 我看一下……三百块！太贵了！
Wǒ kàn yíxià sānbǎi kuài! Tài guì le! · Let me look… 300 kuai! Way too expensive!

xiaoming 那边的衣服很便宜。
Nàbiān de yīfu hěn piányi. · The clothes over there are cheap.

anna 有的很好看，有的不好看。
Yǒude hěn hǎokàn, yǒude bù hǎokàn. · Some are nice, some aren't.

anna 你看，这件衣服上有一只猫！八十块。
Nǐ kàn, zhè jiàn yīfu shàng yǒu yì zhī māo! Bāshí kuài. · Look, this top has a cat on it! 80 kuai.

xiaoming 我妹妹非常喜欢猫！
Wǒ mèimei fēicháng xǐhuan māo! · My little sister loves cats!

anna 那我要两件：一件给我，一件给你妹妹！
Nà wǒ yào liǎng jiàn: yí jiàn gěi wǒ, yí jiàn gěi nǐ mèimei! · Then I'll take two: one for me and one for your sister!

xiaoming 太好了！两点半了，我们去电影院吧！
Tài hǎo le! Liǎng diǎn bàn le, wǒmen qù diànyǐngyuàn ba! · Great! It's half past two already. Let's go to the cinema!

chapter 3 2:30 p.m. · to the cinema

xiaoming 下雨了！
Xià yǔ le! · It's started raining!

anna 电影院在哪儿？
Diànyǐngyuàn zài nǎr? · Where's the cinema?

xiaoming 在火车站后面。我们坐出租车去吧。
Zài huǒchēzhàn hòumiàn. Wǒmen zuò chūzūchē qù ba. · Behind the train station. Let's take a taxi.

anna 好！那边有出租车！
Hǎo! Nàbiān yǒu chūzūchē! · OK! There's a taxi over there!

xiaoming 到了！电影院在前面。
Dào le! Diànyǐngyuàn zài qiánmiàn. · We're here! The cinema's just ahead.

anna 人真多！
Rén zhēn duō! · So many people!

xiaoming 星期六看电影的人很多。
Xīngqīliù kàn diànyǐng de rén hěn duō. · Lots of people go to the cinema on Saturdays.

anna 这是我们看的第二个电影，真好看！
Zhè shì wǒmen kàn de dì èr gè diànyǐng, zhēn hǎokàn! · (After the film) That's the second film we've seen together, and it was great!

xiaoming 我也觉得很好看。安娜，你怎么了？
Wǒ yě juéde hěn hǎokàn. Ānnà, nǐ zěnme le? · I thought so too. Anna, what's wrong?

anna 我有点儿冷……
Wǒ yǒudiǎnr lěng · I feel a bit cold…

chapter 4 evening · dr li to the rescue

xiaoming 爸爸，安娜生病了。
Bàba, Ānnà shēngbìng le. · Dad, Anna isn't well.

mr li (dr li) 安娜，来，坐这儿。你冷吗?
Ānnà, lái, zuò zhèr. Nǐ lěng ma? · Anna, come and sit here. Are you cold?

anna 有点儿冷。我要去医院吗?
Yǒudiǎnr lěng. Wǒ yào qù yīyuàn ma? · A bit cold. Do I need to go to the hospital?

mr li (dr li) 没事，没事。你喝一点儿热水，休息一下。
Méishì, méishì. Nǐ hē yìdiǎnr rè shuǐ, xiūxi yíxià. · It's nothing, don't worry. Drink some hot water and have a little rest.

ms zhang 我正在给你做面条儿呢!
Wǒ zhèngzài gěi nǐ zuò miàntiáor ne! · I'm making you some noodles right now!

anna 谢谢您!
Xièxie nín! · Thank you!

anna 我不冷了！妹妹，这件衣服是给你的。
Wǒ bù lěng le! Mèimei, zhè jiàn yīfu shì gěi nǐ de. · (Later) I'm not cold any more! This top is for you, little sister.

little sister 一只猫！太漂亮了！谢谢安娜!
Yì zhī māo! Tài piàoliang le! Xièxie Ānnà! · A cat! It's so pretty! Thank you, Anna!

xiaoming 你看，大白也想要一件!
Nǐ kàn, Dàbái yě xiǎng yào yí jiàn! · Look, Dabai wants one too!

mr li (dr li) 明天是星期天，你在家休息吧。
Míngtiān shì xīngqītiān, nǐ zài jiā xiūxi ba. · Tomorrow's Sunday: have a rest at home.

Plans, shops, taxis, a film and a doctor: you can follow a whole weekend in Chinese now. Look how far your dots go!
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