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chinese hsk 2 in 22 days

The whole course on paper: all 197 new words with their meanings and examples, every grammar pattern and every dialogue.

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The practice exams need sound, so they live online: wishyou.today/learning/language/chinese/hsk-2/exam.html

day 1 nice to meet you, again

Introduce people politely, ask why and give a reason.

Every new friendship starts with names, and every good chat soon turns to “why?”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
介绍	jièshào	introduce	我来介绍一下，这是我妈妈。 Let me introduce you: this is my mum.
姓	xìng	surname; be surnamed	他姓李。 His surname is Li.
姓名	xìngmíng	full name	请写一下你的姓名。 Please write your full name.
名	míng	name; place (in a ranking)	他是第一名！ He came first!
位	wèi	(polite measure word for people)	这位是王|老师。 This is Teacher Wang.
自己	zìjǐ	oneself (myself, yourself…)	我自己做饭。 I cook for myself.
啊	a	ah; (particle of feeling)	好啊！ Sure, great!
不好意思	bùhǎoyìsi	sorry; excuse me	不好意思，我来晚了。 Sorry I’m late.
为什么	wèishénme	why	你为什么不去? Why aren’t you going?
因为	yīnwèi	because	因为下雨，我不去了。 It’s raining, so I’m not going.
所以	suǒyǐ	so, therefore	我很忙，所以不能去。 I’m busy, so I can’t go.
外国	wàiguó	foreign country; foreign	他是外国人。 He’s a foreigner.
告诉	gàosu	tell	请告诉我你的名字。 Please tell me your name.

pattern 为什么? 因为……所以……

因为 reason 所以 result

Ask why with 为什么, before the verb: 你为什么不去？ Give the reason with 因为 (because) and the result with 所以 (so). In English “because… so…” sounds odd, but in Chinese using both is normal and clear.

你为什么不去？ **nǐ wèi shénme bú qù** Why aren’t you going?

因为我今天很忙，所以不去了。 **yīnwèi wǒ jīntiān hěn máng suǒyǐ bú qù le** I’m busy today, so I’m not going.

因为小明学习很好，所以他是第一名。 **yīnwèi Xiǎomíng xuéxí hěn hǎo suǒyǐ tā shì dì yī míng** Xiaoming is a great student, so he came first.

你能告诉我为什么吗？ **nǐ néng gàosu wǒ wèi shénme ma** Can you tell me why?

dialogue meeting grandma

anna 不好意思，我来晚了！
bù hǎoyìsi wǒ lái wǎn le · Sorry I’m late!

xiaoming 没关系！我来介绍一下，这位是我的朋友安娜。
méi guānxi wǒ lái jièshào yíxià zhè wèi shì wǒ de péngyou Ānnà · No problem! Let me introduce you: this is my friend Anna.

grandma 安娜，你好啊！
Ānnà nǐhǎo a · Hello, Anna!

anna 您好！我是英国人，在北京学习汉语。
nín hǎo wǒ shì Yīngguó rén zài Běijīng xuéxí Hànyǔ · Hello! I’m from the UK, and I’m studying Chinese in Beijing.

grandma 外国朋友啊！你为什么来中国学习？
wàiguó péngyou a nǐ wèi shénme lái Zhōngguó xuéxí · A friend from abroad! Why did you come to China to study?

anna 因为我很喜欢汉字，所以想在中国学汉语。
yīnwèi wǒ hěn xǐhuan Hànzì suǒyǐ xiǎng zài Zhōngguó xué Hànyǔ · I love Chinese characters, so I wanted to learn Chinese in China.

grandma 你的汉语很好啊！
nǐ de Hànyǔ hěn hǎo a · Your Chinese is really good!

anna 没有，没有，我还在学呢。
méiyǒu méiyǒu wǒ hái zài xué ne · Oh no, not really, I’m still learning.

grandma 你自己一个人在北京吗？
nǐ zìjǐ yí gè rén zài Běijīng ma · Are you in Beijing on your own?

anna 对，所以我很喜欢来小明家吃饭！
duì suǒyǐ wǒ hěn xǐhuan lái Xiǎomíng jiā chī fàn · Yes, so I love coming to Xiaoming’s for dinner!

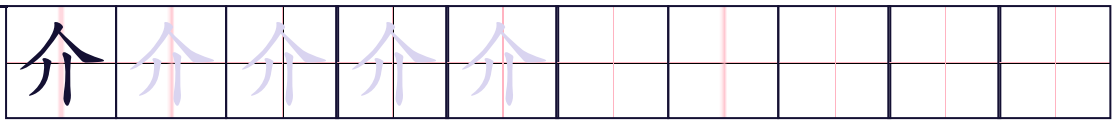
write it trace the grey, then write your own

为

为 wèi for



介
jiè
between



good to know · The surname comes first: 王老师 is Teacher Wang. Ask politely with 您贵姓？ and answer 我姓..., never 我贵姓. When someone praises your Chinese, a modest 没有，没有 (oh, not really) or 哪里，哪里 sounds more natural than “thank you”.

Now you can introduce people politely and explain why: two keys to every real conversation.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 2 taller than me

Describe people and compare them: taller, younger, the tallest.

Family photos come out at every Chinese dinner table, and everyone wants to know who's who.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爷爷	yéye	grandpa (dad's father)	我爷爷今年八十岁。 My grandpa is eighty this year.
奶奶	nǎinai	grandma (dad's mother)	奶奶很喜欢喝茶。 Grandma loves drinking tea.
丈夫	zhàngfu	husband	她丈夫是老师。 Her husband is a teacher.
妻子	qīzi	wife	他妻子在公司工作。 His wife works at a company.
男孩儿	nánháir	boy	那个男孩儿是我弟弟。 That boy is my younger brother.
女孩儿	nǚháir	girl	那个女孩儿是我同学。 That girl is my classmate.
小孩儿	xiǎoháir	child, kid	她有两个小孩儿。 She has two kids.
个子	gèzi	height, build (of a person)	他个子很高。 He's tall.
高	gāo	tall, high	小明很高。 Xiaoming is tall.
眼睛	yǎnjing	eye(s)	她眼睛很大。 She has big eyes.
比	bǐ	than; compare	我比你高。 I'm taller than you.
最	zuì	most, -est	我最喜欢中国菜。 Chinese food is my favourite.

pattern a 比 b + adjective

A 比 B adjective

To compare two things, say A 比 B + adjective: 我比你高, I'm taller than you. Don't put 很 before the adjective here. For "not as … as", say A 没有 B + adjective: 我没有你高.

哥哥比我高。 **gēge bǐ wǒ gāo** My older brother is taller than me.

今天比昨天冷。 **jīntiān bǐ zuótiān lěng** Today is colder than yesterday.

这个男孩儿比他爸爸高。 **zhège nánháir bǐ tā bàba gāo** This boy is taller than his dad.

我没有哥哥高。 **wǒ méiyǒu gēge gāo** I'm not as tall as my older brother.

dialogue anna's family photos

grandma 安娜，这是你的家人吗?
Ānnà zhè shì nǐ de jiārén ma · Anna, is this your family?

anna 是啊。这是我爷爷和奶奶，这是我哥哥和他妻子。
shì a zhè shì wǒ yéye hé nǎinai zhè shì wǒ gēge hé tā qīzi · Yes. This is my grandpa and grandma, and this is my older brother and his wife.

grandma 你哥哥个子真高啊!
nǐ gēge gèzi zhēn gāo a · Your brother is so tall!

anna 对，他比我爸爸高。我们家他最高。
duì tā bǐ wǒ bàba gāo wǒmen jiā tā zuì gāo · Yes, he's taller than my dad. He's the tallest in our family.

grandma 这个女孩儿是谁?
zhège nǚháir shì shéi · Who's this girl?

anna 是我哥哥的女儿，今年五岁。
shì wǒ gēge de nǚér jīnnián wǔ suì · That's my brother's daughter. She's five this year.

grandma 她眼睛真大，真漂亮!
tā yǎnjing zhēn dà zhēn piàoliang · Such big eyes, she's lovely!

anna 奶奶，您家谁最高?
nǎinai nín jiā shéi zuì gāo · Grandma, who's the tallest in your family?

grandma 小明最高！他比他爸爸还高。
Xiǎomíng zuì gāo tā bǐ tā bàba hái gāo · Xiaoming! He's even taller than his dad.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

比
bǐ
than; compare

爷
yé
grandfather

good to know · 他个子很高 has the shape "topic + comment": first who you're talking about, then what you say about them. It's everywhere: 她眼睛很大, 我们家我最小. To say "even more", add 还 after B: 他比他爸爸还高, he's even taller than his dad. Spot the part: 女 "woman" sits on the left of 她, 妈, 妹, 姐, 奶 and 姓. The exam's writing part asks you to fill in parts like this.

Now you can describe people and compare them: perfect for photos, friends and family chats.
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day 3 coffee or tea?

Offer a choice, order food and drinks, and invite someone along.

Tea or coffee, fish or meat: eating out in China is one choice after another, and it's the best part.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
咖啡	kāfēi	coffee	你喝咖啡吗? Do you drink coffee?
奶茶	nǎichá	milk tea	我想喝一杯奶茶。 I'd like a milk tea.
红茶	hóngchá	black tea	我喜欢喝红茶。 I like black tea.
绿茶	lǜchá	green tea	很多中国人喜欢喝绿茶。 Lots of Chinese people like green tea.
肉	ròu	meat	我不吃肉。 I don't eat meat.
鱼	yú	fish	这儿的鱼很好吃。 The fish here is delicious.
点	diǎn	order (food)	我们点{dian3-2}菜吧! Let's order!
还是	háishi	or (in questions); had better	你喝茶还是喝咖啡? Would you like tea or coffee?
一起	yīqǐ	together	我们一起去吧! Let's go together!
跟	gēn	with; and	我跟妈妈一起去超市。 I'm going to the supermarket with Mum.
但是	dànshì	but	我想去，但是我很忙。 I'd like to go, but I'm busy.
不错	bùcuò	pretty good, not bad	这个饭馆很不错。 This restaurant is really good.

pattern ……还是……? (a or b?)

choice A | 还是 | choice B | ?

To ask "A or B?", put 还是 between the two choices: 你喝咖啡还是喝茶? Don't add 吗: the choice is already the question. With 吧, 还是 means "we'd better…": 我们还是在家吧.

你喝红茶还是绿茶? **nǐ hē hóngchá háishi lǜchá** Do you want black tea or green tea?

我们今天去还是明天去? **wǒmen jīntiān qù háishi míngtiān qù** Shall we go today or tomorrow?

你是学生还是老师? **nǐ shì xuéshēng háishi lǎoshī** Are you a student or a teacher?

下雨了，我们还是在家吧。 **xià yǔ le wǒmen háishi zài jiā ba** It's raining. We'd better stay home.

dialogue fish or meat?

xiaoming 安娜，你喝咖啡还是喝茶？
Ānnà nǐ hē kāfēi háishi hē chá · Anna, would you like coffee or tea?

anna 我想喝奶茶。你呢？
wǒ xiǎng hē nǎichá nǐ ne · I'd like milk tea. And you?

xiaoming 我要一杯绿茶。
wǒ yào yì bēi lǜchá · I'll have a green tea.

xiaoming 这儿有饺子、包子、面条儿什么的，都不错。
zhèr yǒu jiǎozi bāozi miàntiáor shénme de dōu búcuò · They have dumplings, buns, noodles and so on here. It's all good.

anna 我们吃肉还是吃鱼？
wǒmen chī ròu háishi chī yú · Shall we have meat or fish?

xiaoming 鱼很好吃，但是有点儿贵。我们还是点肉吧。
yú hěn hǎochī dànshì yǒudiǎnr guì wǒmen háishi diǎn ròu ba · The fish is great, but a bit pricey. Let's get the meat.

anna 好啊！那我们再点一些饺子吧。
hǎo a nà wǒmen zài diǎn yìxiē jiǎozi ba · Sure! Then let's order some dumplings too.

xiaoming 这家店真不错，下个星期我们跟奶奶一起来吧！
zhè jiā diàn zhēn búcuò xià gè xīngqī wǒmen gēn nǎinai yìqǐ lái ba · This place is really good. Let's come with Grandma next week!

anna 好啊！奶奶最喜欢喝茶了！
hǎo a nǎinai zuì xǐhuan hē chá le · Great idea! Grandma loves tea more than anything!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

咖
kā
kā (sound)

啡
fēi
fēi (sound)

good to know · 跟 means "with" and comes before the verb, often with 一起: 我跟你一起去, I'll go with you. List a few things and end with 什么的 for "and so on": 饺子、包子什么的. The 、 is the Chinese list comma.

Now you can offer choices, order food and bring friends along. Your next meal out is ready.
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day 4 game on!

Talk about sports and hobbies, and say how well or how fast someone does something.

"What do you like doing?" is the question that turns a new acquaintance into a friend.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爱好	àihào	hobby; be fond of	我的爱好是看书。 My hobby is reading.
运动	yùndòng	sport, exercise	我很喜欢运动。 I really like doing sport.
跑步	pǎobù	run, go jogging	我早上|去跑步。 I go running in the morning.
跑	pǎo	run	大白跑得很快！ Dabai runs really fast!
游泳	yóuyǒng	swim	你会游泳吗？ Can you swim?
篮球	lánqiú	basketball	他喜欢打篮球。 He likes playing basketball.
足球	zúqiú	football (soccer)	我们去踢足球吧！ Let's go and play football!
踢	tī	kick	你踢足球吗？ Do you play football?
打	dǎ	hit; play (ball games)	我们去打篮球吧！ Let's go and play basketball!
跳舞	tiàowǔ	dance	奶奶很喜欢跳舞。 Grandma loves dancing.
得	de	(after a verb: how well, how fast)	你说得很好！ You speak really well!
快	kuài	fast, quick; soon	他跑得很快。 He runs fast.
慢	màn	slow	请说慢一点儿。 Please speak a bit more slowly.

pattern verb + 得 + how: 跑得很快

verb 得 how

To say how well or how fast someone does something, put 得 after the verb and then the description: 他跑得很快, he runs fast. Say no with 不 after 得: 跑得不快. If the verb has an object, say the verb again: 她跳舞跳得很好. To compare, add 比 after 得: 他跑得比我快 (or 他比我跑得快), he runs faster than me.

你说得很好！ **nǐ shuō de hěn hǎo** You speak really well!

大白跑得很快。 **Dàbái pǎo de hěn kuài** Dabai runs really fast.

他跑得比我快。 **tā pǎo de bǐ wǒ kuài** He runs faster than me.

他踢足球踢得不错。 **tā tī zúqiú tī de búcuò** He plays football pretty well.

dialogue what do you like doing?

anna 小明，你的爱好是什么？
Xiǎomíng nǐ de àihào shì shénme · Xiaoming, what are your hobbies?

xiaoming 我喜欢运动，打篮球、踢足球什么的。
wǒ xǐhuan yùndòng dǎ lánqiú tī zúqiú shénme de · I like sport: basketball, football, that kind of thing.

anna 你篮球打得怎么样？
nǐ lánqiú dǎ de zěnmeyàng · How good are you at basketball?

xiaoming 打得不错！你呢？你喜欢什么运动？
dǎ de búcuò nǐ ne nǐ xǐhuan shénme yùndòng · Pretty good! What about you? What sports do you like?

anna 我喜欢跑步和游泳。
wǒ xǐhuan pǎobù hé yóuyǒng · I like running and swimming.

xiaoming 你跑得快吗？
nǐ pǎo de kuài ma · Are you a fast runner?

anna 我跑得很慢，但是我很喜欢跑。
wǒ pǎo de hěn màn dànshì wǒ hěn xǐhuan pǎo · I run really slowly, but I love it.

xiaoming 我奶奶也很爱运动，她喜欢跳舞！
wǒ nǎinai yě hěn ài yùndòng tā xǐhuan tiàowǔ · My grandma loves exercise too. She likes dancing!

anna 真的？她跳得好吗？
zhēn de tā tiào de hǎo ma · Really? Is she a good dancer?

xiaoming 跳得非常好，比我好！
tiào de fēicháng hǎo bǐ wǒ hǎo · She dances really well, better than me!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

运 yùn move, carry

动 dòng move

good to know · Ball games take different verbs: 打篮球 (hit) for hand games, 踢足球 (kick) for football. Running for exercise is 跑步: 步 is a step. Three toneless de sound the same: 的 before a noun (我的书), 得 after a verb (跑得快), and 地, coming on day 19. Look at the left side of 踢, 跑 and 跳: that's 足 "foot", squeezed thin. Spotting parts like this helps in the exam's writing part.

Now you can talk about sport and hobbies and say how well people do things, starting with "you speak really well!"
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 5 have you ever...?

Say what you have done before, how many times, and how often you do things.

"Have you ever...?" is how people find out what you share, from dumplings to trips.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
过	guo	(after a verb: have ever done)	我去过北京。 I've been to Beijing.
次	cì	time (how many times)	我去过两次。 I've been twice.
画	huà	draw, paint; picture	她画得很好。 She draws really well.
从小	cóngxiǎo	since childhood	我从小喜欢运动。 I've loved sport since I was little.
经常	jīngcháng	often	我经常去超市。 I often go to the supermarket.
有时	yǒushí	sometimes	我有时在家吃饭。 Sometimes I eat at home.
有意思	yǒuyìsi	interesting, fun	这个电影很有意思。 This film is really interesting.
没意思	méiyìsi	boring	这本书没意思。 This book is boring.
意思	yìsi	meaning	这个字是什么意思? What does this character mean?
球	qiú	ball; ball game	大白很喜欢玩球。 Dabai loves playing with a ball.
每	měi	every, each	我每天学汉语。 I study Chinese every day.

pattern verb + 过: have done before

who | verb | 过 | what

过 after a verb says you have done it at some time before: 我去过北京, I've been to Beijing. Say no with 没: 我没去过. Count the times with 次: 去过两次, been twice.

你吃过北京的包子吗? **nǐ chī guo Běijīng de bāozi ma** Have you ever had Beijing steamed buns?

我没去过上海。 **wǒ méi qù guo Shànghǎi** I've never been to Shanghai.

我学过一点儿汉语。 **wǒ xué guo yìdiǎnr Hànyǔ** I've studied a bit of Chinese.

他来过我家两次。 **tā lái guo wǒ jiā liǎng cì** He's been to my place twice.

dialogue a picture of dabai

anna 妹妹，你在做什么呢?
mèimei nǐ zài zuò shénme ne · What are you up to, little one?

little sister 我在画画！我从小喜欢画画。
wǒ zài huà huà wǒ cóngxiǎo xǐhuan huà huà · I'm drawing! I've loved drawing since I was little.

anna 画得真好！这是什么?
huà de zhēn hǎo zhè shì shénme · That's really good! What is it?

little sister 这是大白。它在玩球。
zhè shì Dàbái tā zài wán qiú · It's Dabai. He's playing with his ball.

anna 大白每天都玩球吗?
Dàbái měi tiān dōu wán qiú ma · Does Dabai play with his ball every day?

little sister 对！它经常跟我一起玩。
duì tā jīngcháng gēn wǒ yìqǐ wán · Yes! He often plays with me.

little sister 姐姐，你去过上海吗?
jiějie nǐ qù guo Shànghǎi ma · Anna, have you ever been to Shanghai?

anna 去过一次。上海很有意思！
qù guo yí cì Shànghǎi hěn yǒu yìsi · Once. Shanghai is really interesting!

little sister 我没去过。每天都在家，真没意思！
wǒ méi qù guo měi tiān dōu zài jiā zhēn méi yìsi · I've never been. Staying home every day is so boring!

anna 下次我们一起去吧！你想坐火车还是坐飞机?
xià cì wǒmen yìqǐ qù ba nǐ xiǎng zuò huǒchē háishi zuò fēijī · Next time, let's go together! Would you like to go by train or by plane?

write it trace the grey, then write your own

过
guò
pass, cross, go past

次
cì
time (how many times)

good to know · 过 is about experience: 我吃过 (I have eaten it, some time). 了 says it happened: 我吃了 (I ate). 有时 and 有时候 both mean "sometimes". 有时…有时… is "sometimes…, other times…": 我有时在家吃饭，有时去饭馆.

Now you can swap stories about what you've done and how often: the heart of every chat with a new friend.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 6 left, right, inside

Say where things are (on the left, next to, inside) and how they are (the door is open).

Finding the toilet, your phone or a friend: you need position words every single day.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
左	zuǒ	left	他左看看，右看看。 He looked left and right.
右	yòu	right (side)	我左看看，右看看，没看见小明。 I looked left and right, but I couldn't see Xiaoming.
左边	zuǒbian	the left, on the left	书店在左边。 The bookshop is on the left.
右边	yòubian	the right, on the right	洗手间在右边。 The toilet is on the right.
旁边	pángbiān	next to, beside	我家在学校旁边。 My home is next to the school.
上面	shàngmiàn	on top, above	书在桌子上面。 The book is on the table.
下面	xiàmiàn	under, below	猫在椅子下面。 The cat is under the chair.
里面	lǐmiàn	inside	里面有人吗? Is anyone in there?
外面	wàimiàn	outside	外面很冷。 It's cold outside.
面	miàn	side; face	我们明天见面吧。 Let's meet up tomorrow.
门	mén	door, gate	门开着。 The door is open.
洗手间	xǐshǒujiān	toilet, restroom	请问，洗手间在哪儿? Excuse me, where's the toilet?
着	zhe	(after a verb: a lasting state)	他穿着新衣服。 He's wearing new clothes.

pattern 上面, 左边...: where things are

thing **在** **place** **上面 / 旁边...**

To say where something is: thing + 在 + place + position word: 书在桌子上面. Position words end in 边 or 面: 左边, 右边, 旁边, 上面, 下面, 里面, 外面. On their own they mean “on the left”, “outside”...: 他在外面.

猫在桌子下面。 **māo zài zhuōzi xiàmiàn** The cat is under the table.

我家在超市旁边。 **wǒ jiā zài chāoshì pángbiān** My home is next to the supermarket.

书店在左边，饭馆在右边。 **shūdiàn zài zuǒbian fànguǎn zài yòubian** The bookshop is on the left, and the restaurant is on the right.

外面很冷，里面很热。 **wàimiàn hěn lěng lǐmiàn hěn rè** It’s cold outside and hot inside.

dialogue where is everything?

anna 小明，洗手间在哪儿？我左看看，右看看，都没看见。
Xiǎomíng xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr wǒ zuǒ kàn kan yòu kàn kan dōu méi kànjiàn · Xiaoming, where’s the toilet? I’ve looked left and right and I can’t see it.

xiaoming 在里面。你看，门上写着“洗手间”。
zài lǐmiàn nǐ kàn mén shàng xiě zhe xǐshǒujiān · It’s further in. Look, the door says “toilet”.

anna 我看见了！谢谢！
wǒ kànjiàn le xièxie · I see it! Thanks!

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

xiaoming 不在桌子上面吗？
bú zài zhuōzi shàngmiàn ma · Isn’t it on the table?

anna 没有。也不在下面。
méiyǒu yě bú zài xiàmiàn · No. It’s not under it either.

xiaoming 你看，在你的杯子旁边呢！
nǐ kàn zài nǐ de bēizi pángbiān ne · Look, it’s right next to your cup!

anna 啊，在这儿！
a zài zhèr · Ah, there it is!

xiaoming 外面下着雨呢，我们再喝一杯茶吧。
wàimiàn xià zhe yǔ ne wǒmen zài hē yì bēi chá ba · It’s raining outside. Let’s have another cup of tea.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

左
zuǒ
left

右
yòu
right (side)

good to know · 着 after a verb describes a lasting state: 门开着 (the door is open), 他穿着新衣服 (he's wearing new clothes). Place + verb + 着 + thing: 门上写着字, there's writing on the door. 边 and 面 are mostly the same: 上边 = 上面, 外边 = 外面. 旁边 always takes 边. 门 "door" is also a part of other characters: look for it in 问 (ask), 们 and 间 (a room, coming on day 18).

Now you can find the toilet, your phone and your friends, and say where things are and how they are. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 7 is it far?

Ask how far a place is, how to get there, and give simple directions.

Subway, bus or on foot: getting around a Chinese city starts with “is it far?”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
离	lí	(distance) from	我家离学校很近。 My home is close to school.
远	yuǎn	far	车站远不远? Is the station far?
近	jìn	near, close	超市很近。 The supermarket is very close.
路	lù	road, way	路不远，我们走路去吧。 It’s not far: let’s walk.
走	zǒu	walk; go, leave	我们走吧! Let’s go!
走路	zǒulù	walk, go on foot	我每天走路去学校。 I walk to school every day.
往	wǎng	towards	往前走。 Go straight on.
从	cóng	from	我从英国来。 I’m from the UK.
车站	chēzhàn	station, stop	车站在哪儿? Where’s the station?
站	zhàn	stop, station	坐三站就到了。 It’s just three stops.
地铁	dìtiě	subway, metro	我们坐地铁去吧。 Let’s take the subway.
公交车	gōngjiāochē	bus	我坐公交车去上班。 I take the bus to work.
就	jiù	just, right (there); then	车站就在前面。 The station is just ahead.

pattern a 离 b 远, 从……到……, 往 + direction

A 离 **B** 远 / 近

离 measures the distance between two places: 我家离学校很近, my home is close to school. 从 A 到 B means from A to B: 从这儿到车站. 往 + a direction says which way: 往前走, go straight on.

学校离这儿远吗? **xuéxiào lí zhèr yuǎn ma** Is the school far from here?

从这儿到地铁站要五分钟。 **cóng zhèr dào dìtiě zhàn yào wǔ fēnzhōng** It's five minutes from here to the subway station.

往左走，就到了。 **wǎng zuǒ zǒu jiù dào le** Turn left and you're there.

我坐公交车去学校。 **wǒ zuò gōngjiāochē qù xuéxiào** I take the bus to school.

dialogue is it far?

teacher wang 安娜，你家离学校远吗?
Ānnà nǐ jiā lí xuéxiào yuǎn ma · Anna, is your home far from school?

anna 不太远。我每天坐地铁来。
bú tài yuǎn wǒ měi tiān zuò dìtiě lái · Not too far. I come by subway every day.

teacher wang 坐地铁要几分钟?
zuò dìtiě yào jǐ fēnzhōng · How many minutes is it on the subway?

anna 从我家到学校，坐三站，要十五分钟。
cóng wǒ jiā dào xuéxiào zuò sān zhàn yào shíwǔ fēnzhōng · From my place to school it's three stops, fifteen minutes.

teacher wang 不错！我家很近，我每天走路来。
búcuò wǒ jiā hěn jìn wǒ měi tiān zǒulù lái · Not bad! My home is close, so I walk here every day.

anna 老师，我想去书店。书店在哪儿?
lǎoshī wǒ xiǎng qù shūdiàn shūdiàn zài nǎr · Teacher, I want to go to the bookshop. Where is it?

teacher wang 很近！往前走五分钟，就在超市旁边。
hěn jìn wǎng qián zǒu wǔ fēnzhōng jiù zài chāoshì pángbiān · It's really close! Go straight on for five minutes: it's right next to the supermarket.

anna 走路去还是坐公交车去?
zǒulù qù háishi zuò gōngjiāochē qù · Should I walk or take the bus?

teacher wang 走路去吧，路不远。
zǒulù qù ba lù bù yuǎn · Walk, it's not far.

anna 好，谢谢老师！
hǎo xièxie lǎoshī · OK, thank you, Teacher!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

地
de
(links a describing word to a verb)



离 lí (distance) from										

good to know · How you travel comes before where you go: 坐地铁去学校, literally “ride subway go school”. Same with 走路去, go on foot. 就 makes things sound near, soon or easy: 就在前面, just ahead; 就到了, and you’re there. 辶 is the “walking” part: it runs under 远, 近, 这, 边 and 过. Many characters about going places have it.

Now you can ask how far, how long and which way: you’re ready to find your way round any Chinese city.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 8 in and out

Say come in, go out, come back, go up and down, all with 来 and 去.

Doors, stairs, guests and dogs: every visit to a Chinese home is full of “come in!” and “come back!”

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
出	chū	go out, come out	出了学校，往左走。 When you come out of the school, turn left.
进	jìn	enter, go in	请进！ Come in!
出来	chūlái	come out	你出来吧！ Come on out!
出去	chūqù	go out	我们出去玩吧！ Let’s go out and have fun!
进来	jìnlái	come in	快进来吧！ Come on in!
进去	jìnqù	go in	我们进去吧。 Let’s go in.
回来	huílái	come back	妈妈回来了！ Mum’s back!
回去	huíqù	go back	我要回去了。 I’ve got to go back now.
出门	chūmén	go out, leave the house	我八点出门。 I leave home at eight.
上来	shànglái	come up	你上来吧！ Come on up!
上去	shàngqù	go up	我们走上去吧。 Let’s walk up.
下来	xiàlái	come down	你下来吧！ Come on down!
下去	xiàqù	go down	我们下去吧。 Let’s go down.

pattern 进来, 出去...: 来 towards me, 去 away from me

verb | 上/下/进/出/回 | 来 / 去

来 points towards the speaker, 去 away from the speaker: 进来 is “come in” (to where I am), 进去 is “go in”. Put 来 or 去 after 上, 下, 进, 出 or 回 for the direction, and put a verb like 走, 跑 or 坐 in front for the way you move: 走进来, 跑出去.

你上来吧！ **nǐ shànglái ba** Come on up!

我们下去吧。 **wǒmen xiàqù ba** Let’s go down.

我们进去看看吧。 **wǒmen jìnqù kàn kan ba** Let’s go in and have a look.

他从房间里跑出来了。 **tā cóng fángjiān lǐ pǎo chulai le** He came running out of the room.

dialogue come in, it’s cold!

anna 小明，我到了！
Xiǎomíng wǒ dào le · Xiaoming, I’m here!

xiaoming 门开着，快进来吧！外面很冷。
mén kāi zhe kuài jinlai ba wàimiàn hěn lěng · The door’s open, come on in! It’s cold outside.

anna 大白呢?
Dàbái ne · Where’s Dabai?

xiaoming 它跟妹妹出去玩了，下午回来。
tā gēn mèimei chūqù wán le xiàwǔ huílái · He’s gone out to play with my sister. They’ll be back this afternoon.

ms zhang 安娜，你来了！快坐下来喝茶吧。
Ānnà nǐ lái le kuài zuò xialai hē chá ba · Anna, you’re here! Come and sit down and have some tea.

anna 谢谢！小明，奶奶在家吗?
xièxie Xiǎomíng nǎinai zài jiā ma · Thank you! Xiaoming, is Grandma in?

xiaoming 奶奶出门了，她去跳舞了。
nǎinai chūmén le tā qù tiàowǔ le · Grandma’s gone out. She’s gone dancing.

anna 她几点回来?
tā jǐ diǎn huílái · What time will she be back?

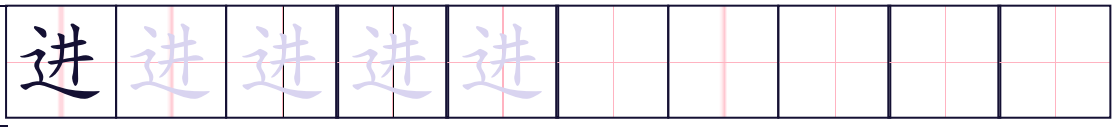
ms zhang 六点回来。你今天就在这儿吃饭吧！
liù diǎn huílái nǐ jīntiān jiù zài zhèr chī fàn ba · At six. Why don’t you stay and eat with us today!

anna 好啊，谢谢！
hǎo a xièxie · I’d love to, thank you!

write it trace the grey, then write your own



进
jìn
enter, go in



good to know · 来 is “towards me”, 去 is “away from me”. If you’re inside, say 进来; if you’re outside sending someone in, say 进去. 请进 (please come in) is the answer to a knock at the door: short and polite.

Now you can come in, go out, run upstairs and come back, all with two little words: 来 and 去.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 9 come and help!

Ask for help, offer it, get someone to do something, and say “don’t!”

Carrying, opening, waiting: helping out is how you become part of a Chinese household.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
帮	bāng	help	你能帮我吗? Can you help me?
帮忙	bāngmáng	help (out), do a favour	要我帮忙吗? Do you need a hand?
拿	ná	take, carry, hold	我来拿吧。 Let me carry it.
过	guò	pass, cross, go past	过{guo4}了车站，往左走。 Go past the station, then turn left.
过来	guòlái	come over	你过来一下! Come over here a moment!
过去	guòqù	go over	你过去看看吧。 Go over and have a look.
起来	qǐlái	get up, stand up	快起来! Get up, quick!
打开	dǎkāi	open; turn on	请打开电脑。 Please turn on the computer.
动	dòng	move	别动! Don’t move!
让	ràng	let; make (someone do)	让我看看! Let me see!
别	bié	don’t	别走! Don’t go!
等	děng	wait (for)	请等一下。 Just a moment, please.
门口	ménkǒu	doorway, entrance	我在门口等你。 I’ll wait for you at the entrance.

pattern 让/请/叫 someone do something

who | **让 / 请 / 叫** | **someone** | **do**

To get someone to do something, use 让 (let, have), 请 (ask politely, invite) or 叫 (tell), then the person, then the action: 妈妈让我回家. The person in the middle is both the one asked and the one who does it.

王老师让我们写汉字。 **Wáng lǎoshī ràng wǒmen xiě Hànzì** Teacher Wang has us write characters.

我请你吃饭！ **wǒ qǐng nǐ chī fàn** Dinner’s on me!

妈妈叫我回家。 **māma jiào wǒ huí jiā** Mum’s telling me to come home.

让我看看！ **ràng wǒ kàn kan** Let me see!

dialogue everybody help!

grandma 小明，过来帮忙！
Xiǎomíng guòlái bāngmáng · Xiaoming, come over and give me a hand!

xiaoming 来了！奶奶，别动，让我来！
lái le nǎinai bié dòng ràng wǒ lái · Coming! Grandma, don't move, let me do it!

anna 我也来帮忙！东西在哪儿?
wǒ yě lái bāngmáng dōngxi zài nǎr · I'll help too! Where is it?

grandma 在门外面。安娜，你过去帮我打开门，好吗?
zài mén wàimiàn Ānnà nǐ guòqù bāng wǒ dǎkāi mén hǎo ma · Outside the door. Anna, could you go over and open the door for me?

anna 好！门打开了。
hǎo mén dǎkāi le · Sure! The door's open.

xiaoming 大白，别过来！你跑得太快了，在门口等着！
Dàbái bié guòlái nǐ pǎo de tài kuài le zài ménkǒu děng zhe · Dabai, don't come over here! You're too fast. Wait by the door!

anna 小明，等一下！这个很大，我们一起拿吧。
Xiǎomíng děng yíxià zhège hěn dà wǒmen yìqǐ ná ba · Xiaoming, wait a second! It's big: let's carry it together.

xiaoming 好，一、二、三，拿起来！
hǎo yī èr sān ná qǐlai · OK: one, two, three, lift!

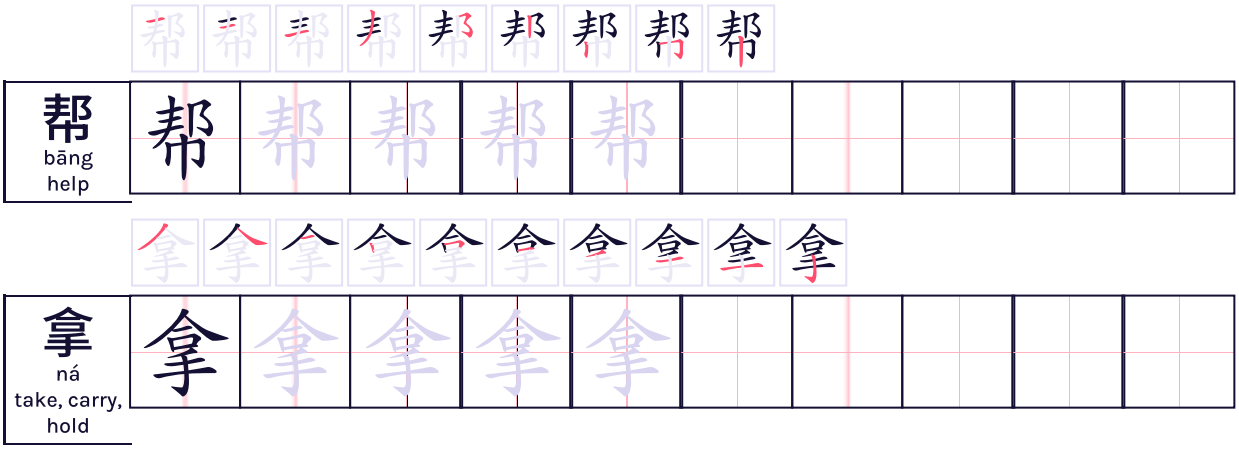
grandma 谢谢你们！今天我请你们吃饺子！
xièxie nǐmen jīntiān wǒ qǐng nǐmen chī jiǎozi · Thank you both! Dumplings are on me today!

anna 太好了！下次让我自己做吧！
tài hǎo le xià cì ràng wǒ zìjǐ zuò ba · Brilliant! Next time, let me make them myself!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

帮
bāng
help

拿
ná
take, carry, hold



good to know · 让我来! (let me!) is a kind thing to say when someone is carrying or cooking. Expect a polite "no, no" first: offer again. 别 + verb tells someone not to do something: 别动, 别走. To say what you won't do yourself, use 不: 我不去. 扌 is a hand: it's on the left of 打 and 找. 拿 (carry) has the whole 手 "hand" at the bottom.

Now you can ask for help, offer it, and stop someone in their tracks: **别动**!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 10 mission: a saturday in town

Chinese HSK 2 in 22 days
unit 2 · around town

Follow a whole Saturday in Chinese: directions, a café, sport and dancing in the park, and getting home.

Days 1–9 all meet in one day out: reasons, comparisons, hobbies, places and directions.

chapter 1 which exit?

xiaoming 喂，安娜，你在哪儿?
wèi Ānnà nǐ zài nǎr · Hi, Anna, where are you?

anna 不好意思，我今天出门晚了，还在地铁上。
bù hǎoyìsi wǒ jīntiān chūmén wǎn le hái zài dìtiě shàng · Sorry, I left home late today. I'm still on the subway.

xiaoming 没关系，我等你。你从哪个门出来?
méi guānxi wǒ děng nǐ nǐ cóng nǎge mén chūlái · No problem, I'll wait. Which exit are you coming out of?

anna 我不知道。左边的还是右边的?
wǒ bù zhīdào zuǒbian de háishi yòubian de · I don't know. The left one or the right one?

xiaoming 右边的。我告诉你怎么走：出了地铁站，往左走。
yòubian de wǒ gàosu nǐ zěnme zǒu chū le dìtiě zhàn wǎng zuǒ zǒu · The right one. I'll tell you how to get here: when you come out of the station, turn left.

anna 离你那儿远吗？要坐公交车吗?
lí nǐ nàr yuǎn ma yào zuò gōngjiāochē ma · Is it far from you? Do I need to take a bus?

xiaoming 不远，很近！走路五分钟就到了。我们在书店门口见面吧。
bù yuǎn hěn jìn zǒulù wǔ fēnzhōng jiù dào le wǒmen zài shūdiàn ménkǒu jiàn miàn ba · Not far, it's really close! Five minutes on foot. Let's meet outside the bookshop.

anna 好！……我出来了！
hǎo wǒ chūlái le · OK! ...I'm out!

xiaoming 往前走，过了车站，就是书店。
wǎng qián zǒu guò le chēzhàn jiù shì shūdiàn · Go straight on. Past the bus stop, and that's the bookshop.

anna 啊，我看见你了！你个子高，真好找。我们去喝奶茶吧!
a wǒ kànjiàn nǐ le nǐ gèzi gāo zhēn hǎo zhǎo wǒmen qù hē nǎichá ba · Ah, I can see you! You're tall, so you're easy to spot. Let's go and get a milk tea!

chapter 2 milk tea and a drawing

xiaoming 你点红茶还是绿茶？这儿的绿茶很不错。
nǐ diǎn hóngchá háishi lǜchá zhèr de lǜchá hěn búcuò · Are you having black tea or green tea? The green tea here is really good.

anna 我还是喝奶茶吧！这儿的奶茶最好喝。
wǒ háishi hē nǎichá ba zhèr de nǎichá zuì hǎo hē · I think I'll have milk tea! The milk tea here is the best.

xiaoming 你为什么每天都喝奶茶？
nǐ wèi shénme měi tiān dōu hē nǎichá · Why do you drink milk tea every day?

anna 因为好喝啊！所以我经常来。你看，那个女孩儿在画画，画得真好！
yīnwèi hǎo hē a suǒyǐ wǒ jīngcháng lái nǐ kàn nàge nǚháir zài huà huà huà de zhēn hǎo · Because it's delicious! That's why I come here so often. Look, that girl is drawing. She draws really well!

xiaoming 她是我朋友的女儿，从小就喜欢画画。
tā shì wǒ péngyou de nǚér cóngxiǎo jiù xǐhuan huà huà · She's my friend's daughter. She's loved drawing since she was little.

anna 她画的是我们吗？
tā huà de shì wǒmen ma · Is she drawing us?

xiaoming 是啊！左边个子高的是我，右边眼睛大的是你。
shì a zuǒbian gèzi gāo de shì wǒ yòubian yǎnjing dà de shì nǐ · Yes! The tall one on the left is me, and the one with big eyes on the right is you.

anna 真有意思！画上面还写着字。这个字是什么意思？
zhēn yǒu yìsi huà shàngmiàn hái xiě zhe zì zhège zì shì shénme yìsi · How fun! There's writing on the top of the picture too. What does this character mean?

xiaoming “朋友”！她比我画得好。我画过一次，没意思，我还是喜欢打篮球。
péngyou tā bǐ wǒ huà de hǎo wǒ huà guo yí cì méi yìsi wǒ háishi xǐhuan dǎ lánqiú · “Friend”! She draws better than me. I tried drawing once, it was boring. I'd rather play basketball.

anna 那我们下午去运动吧！
nà wǒmen xiàwǔ qù yùndòng ba · Then let's do some sport this afternoon!

chapter 3 football and dancing

anna 小明，你看，那些男孩儿在踢足球。
Xiǎomíng nǐ kàn nàxiē nánháir zài tī zúqiú · Xiaoming, look, those boys are playing football.

xiaoming 我从小就爱踢足球，有时也跟他们一起踢。……安娜，球！快踢过去！
wǒ cóngxiǎo jiù ài tī zúqiú yǒushí yě gēn tāmen yìqǐ tī Ānnà qiú kuài tī guoqu · I've loved football since I was little. Sometimes I play with them. ...Anna, the ball! Kick it back, quick!

anna 我踢得不好……啊，踢过去了！
wǒ tī de bù hǎo a tī guoqu le · I'm no good at kicking... Ah, it went back!

xiaoming 踢得不错！你的爱好是什么？
tī de búcuò nǐ de àihào shì shénme · Nice kick! What are your hobbies?

anna 我经常跑步，有时也去游泳。但是我跑得很慢。
wǒ jīngcháng pǎobù yǒushí yě qù yóuyǒng dànshì wǒ pǎo de hěn màn · I often go running, and sometimes swimming. But I run really slowly.

xiaoming 慢没关系。你看，我奶奶在那儿跳舞呢！
màn méi guānxi nǐ kàn wǒ nǎinai zài nàr tiàowǔ ne · Slow is fine. Look, my grandma's dancing over there!

grandma 安娜，过来！大家好，我来介绍一下，这位是我的外国朋友安娜。她自己一个人在北京学汉语！
Ānnà guòlái dàjiā hǎo wǒ lái jièshào yíxià zhè wèi shì wǒ de wàiguó péngyou Ānnà tā zìjǐ yí gè rén zài Běijīng xué Hànyǔ · Anna, come over! Everyone, let me introduce my friend from abroad, Anna. She's in Beijing on her own, learning Chinese!

anna 大家好！奶奶，我不会跳舞……
dàjiā hǎo nǎinai wǒ bú huì tiàowǔ · Hello, everyone! Grandma, I can't dance...

grandma 没关系！我丈夫也不会跳，他每天都在旁边看。
méi guānxi wǒ zhàngfu yě bú huì tiào tā měi tiān dōu zài pángbiān kàn · Never mind! My husband can't dance either. He watches from the side every day.

anna 爷爷今天也来了吗？
yéye jīntiān yě lái le ma · Is Grandpa here today too?

grandma 来了，你看，他在那边坐着呢。我们去年跳舞拿了第一名，来，跳得慢也没关系！
lái le nǐ kàn tā zài nàbiān zuò zhe ne wǒmen qùnián tiàowǔ ná le dì yī míng lái tiào de màn yě méi guānxi · Yes, look, he's sitting over there. Our dance group came first last year. Come on, it doesn't matter if you dance slowly!

chapter 4 dabai, come back!

grandma 我家离这儿很近，我们走回去吧。
wǒ jiā lí zhèr hěn jìn wǒmen zǒu huiqu ba · Our home is close to here. Let's walk back.

anna 奶奶，这个东西很大，让我帮您拿吧！
nǎinai zhège dōngxi hěn dà ràng wǒ bāng nín ná ba · Grandma, this is big. Let me carry it for you!

xiaoming 到了，我们走上去吧。我来打开门……大白！别出去！
dào le wǒmen zǒu shangqu ba wǒ lái dǎkāi mén Dàbái bié chūqù · We're here. Let's walk up. I'll open the door… Dabai! Don't go out!

anna 它跑出去了，跑得真快！它跑下去了！
tā pǎo chuqu le pǎo de zhēn kuài tā pǎo xiaqu le · He's run out. He's so fast! He's gone downstairs!

xiaoming 大白，别动！快上来！
Dàbái bié dòng kuài shanglai · Dabai, stay! Come back up, quick!

grandma 大白，过来，奶奶有肉！
Dàbái guòlái nǎinai yǒu ròu · Dabai, come here, Grandma's got meat!

ms zhang 你们回来了！外面很冷，快进来吧。安娜，你坐下来休息一下。
nǐmen huílái le wàimiàn hěn lěng kuài jinlai ba Ānnà nǐ zuò xialai xiūxi yíxià · You're back! It's cold outside, come in, quick. Anna, sit down and have a rest.

anna 我来帮忙！请问，洗手间在哪儿?
wǒ lái bāngmáng qǐngwèn xǐshǒujiān zài nǎr · Let me help! Excuse me, where's the bathroom?

xiaoming 在里面，右边那个门。
zài lǐmiàn yòubian nàge mén · Further in, the door on the right.

ms zhang 今天晚上我们吃鱼！大家等一下，饭快好了。
jīntiān wǎnshang wǒmen chī yú dàjiā děng yíxià fàn kuài hǎo le · We're having fish tonight! Wait a moment, everyone, dinner's nearly ready.

A whole Saturday in Chinese: subway, café, square and home. You followed it with nine days of HSK 2.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 11 back to school

Say that you've finished, understood or got something wrong.

"I didn't catch that" and "I've finished" are lines you'll use every day, in class and at work.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
开学	kāixué	school starts; term begins	明天开学。 School starts tomorrow.
高中	gāozhōng	senior high school	我妹妹上高中了。 My little sister is in high school now.
班	bān	class (a group of students)	我们班有二十个学生。 There are twenty students in our class.
教室	jiàoshì	classroom	教室里有很多桌子和椅子。 There are lots of desks and chairs in the classroom.
教	jiāo	to teach	王|老师教我们汉语。 Teacher Wang teaches us Chinese.
本子	běnzi	notebook	我的本子在书包里。 My notebook is in my schoolbag.
笔	bǐ	pen, pencil	我没有笔。 I don't have a pen.
书包	shūbāo	schoolbag	你的书包里有什么? What's in your schoolbag?
词	cí	word	这个词是什么意思? What does this word mean?
题	tí	question, exercise (on a test)	这个题我不会。 I can't do this question.
懂	dǒng	to understand	我懂了! I get it!
错	cuò	wrong; a mistake	对不起，我说错了。 Sorry, I said it wrong.
完	wán	to finish; to be over	你吃完了吗? Have you finished eating?

pattern verb + 完/懂/错/好/会: the result

who **verb** **完 / 懂 / 错 / 好 / 会** **了**

Chinese adds the result straight after the verb: 听 listen + 懂 understand = 听懂, to catch what you hear. 写完 is “finish writing”, 说错 “say it wrong”, 学会 “learn how”. For “didn’t”, use 没 and drop 了: 我没听懂. The thing can also go first, as the topic: 汉字我写完了.

我看懂了。 **wǒ kàn dǒng le** I understood it (reading).

我没听懂，请再说一次。 **wǒ méi tīng dǒng qǐng zài shuō yí cì** I didn’t catch that. Could you say it again, please?

汉字我写完了。 **Hànzì wǒ xiě wán le** I’ve finished writing the characters.

我学会了！ **wǒ xué huì le** I’ve got it! (I’ve learned how.)

dialogue first day of term

teacher wang 同学们好！今天开学了。我来介绍一下，这是我们的新教室。
tóngxuémen hǎo jīntiān kāixué le wǒ lái jièshào yíxià zhè shì wǒmen de xīn jiàoshì · Hello, everyone! Term starts today. Let me show you round: this is our new classroom.

anna 我们班的新教室真不错！
wǒmen bān de xīn jiàoshì zhēn búcuò · Our class’s new classroom is really nice!

teacher wang 请大家打开本子。
qǐng dàjiā dǎkāi běnzi · Everyone, please open your notebooks.

anna 王老师，不好意思，我的本子不在书包里。
Wáng lǎoshī bù hǎoyìsi wǒ de běnzi bú zài shūbāo lǐ · Sorry, Teacher Wang, my notebook isn’t in my bag.

teacher wang 没关系，这个本子给你。今天我教你们写汉字，第一个是我的姓：“王”！
méi guānxi zhège běnzi gěi nǐ jīntiān wǒ jiāo nǐmen xiě Hànzì dì yī gè shì wǒ de xìng Wáng · That’s OK, you can have this one. Today I’ll teach you to write characters. The first one is my surname: 王!

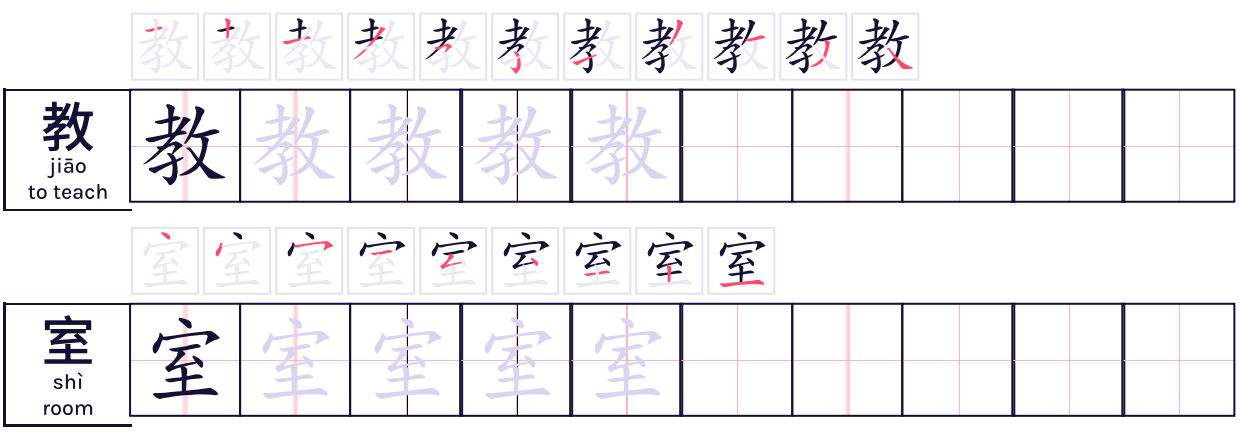
teacher wang 安娜，你写完了吗？
Ānnà nǐ xiě wán le ma · Anna, have you finished writing?

anna 写完了。但是这个字我写错了。
xiě wán le dànshì zhège zì wǒ xiě cuò le · Yes. But I wrote this character wrong.

teacher wang 没事，再写一次。……你看，写好了！写得很不错。
méishì zài xiě yí cì nǐ kàn xiě hǎo le xiě de hěn búcuò · No problem, write it once more... Look, you’ve got it! That’s really good.

anna 谢谢老师！我学会了。
xièxie lǎoshī wǒ xué huì le · Thank you! I know how to do it now.

write it trace the grey, then write your own



good to know · No 了 in the “didn’t” form: 我没写完, not 我没写完了. To say you can’t, put 不 inside: 听不懂 “can’t understand (by listening)”. You’ll hear 我听不懂 a lot in your first year! 讠 means speech: it’s on the left of 说, 语, 请, 谢 and today’s 词 (word).

Finished, understood, got it wrong: now you can tell your teacher exactly where you are.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 12 the exam is coming

Say what's about to happen, what has already happened, and what happens the moment something else does.

Exams, trains, films: life is full of things that are about to start. This is how you say it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
考	kǎo	to take a test; to test	明天考汉语。 We have a Chinese test tomorrow.
考试	kǎoshì	exam; to take an exam	快要考试了。 The exam is coming up soon.
准备	zhǔnbèi	to prepare; to get ready	你准备好了吗? Are you ready?
开始	kāishǐ	to start, to begin	考试九点开始。 The exam starts at nine.
记得	jìde	to remember	你记得他的名字吗? Do you remember his name?
忘	wàng	to forget	对不起，我忘了。 Sorry, I forgot.
快要	kuàiyào	about to; soon	快要九点了。 It's almost nine.
已经	yǐjīng	already	他已经走了。 He has already left.
时	shí	time; when (in …时)	上课时别说话。 Don't talk during class.

pattern 快要……了: it's about to happen

快要 / 就要 **what happens** **了**

Put 快要 (or just 要) before the event and 了 at the end: 快要考试了, the exam is almost here; 要下雨了, it's going to rain. With a time word, use 就要: 明天就要考试了. 已经……了 says it has already happened, and 都……了 adds surprise: it's already eleven!

快要九点了。 **kuàiyào jiǔ diǎn le** It's almost nine.

明天就要考试了！ **míngtiān jiù yào kǎoshì le** The exam is tomorrow!

要下雨了，我们快回家吧。 **yào xià yǔ le wǒmen kuài huí jiā ba** It's going to rain. Let's hurry home.

都十一点了，你还不睡觉? **dōu shíyī diǎn le nǐ hái bú shuìjiào** It's eleven already and you're still not in bed?

dialogue revising together

xiaoming 安娜，快要考试了吧?
Ānnà kuàiyào kǎoshì le ba · Anna, your exam is coming up soon, isn't it?

anna 是啊，下星期一就要考了。
shì a xià xīngqīyī jiù yào kǎo le · Yes, it's next Monday.

xiaoming 你喝咖啡还是奶茶?
nǐ hē kāfēi háishi nǎichá · Coffee or milk tea?

anna 咖啡！今天我不能睡觉。
kāfēi jīntiān wǒ bù néng shuìjiào · Coffee! No sleeping for me today.

xiaoming 你准备得怎么样?
nǐ zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng · How's your revising going?

anna 汉字我都记得，但是一考试就忘！
Hànzì wǒ dōu jìde dànshì yì kǎoshì jiù wàng · I remember all the characters, but the moment there's an exam, I forget them!

xiaoming 没关系，我来帮你。我说词，你写汉字。
méi guānxi wǒ lái bāng nǐ wǒ shuō cí nǐ xiě Hànzì · Don't worry, I'll help you. I'll say the words, you write the characters.

anna 好啊！我们现在就开始吧。
hǎo a wǒmen xiànzài jiù kāishǐ ba · Great! Let's start right now.

xiaoming 都十点了，你还不回家?
dōu shí diǎn le nǐ hái bù huí jiā · It's ten already. Aren't you going home?

anna 我还是再写十个吧，写完就回家！
wǒ háishi zài xiě shí gè ba xiě wán jiù huí jiā · I'd better do ten more. Then I'll go home!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

考
kǎo
to take a test; to test

试
shì
to try

good to know · 快要 can't take an exact time. Say 明天就要考试了, never 明天快要考试了. China's biggest exam is the 高考, the university entrance exam, held every year in early June. 再 can mean "then, after that": 吃了饭再去, eat first, then go. 就 is "right away": 吃了饭就去, go straight after eating.

Coming soon, already done, the moment that: you can now tell a little story in time order.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 13 i don't feel well

Say what hurts, how you feel, and how long something lasted.

When you feel unwell far from home, a few clear words get you help fast.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
身体	shēntǐ	body; health	您身体好吗? How is your health?
手	shǒu	hand	你的手怎么了? What's wrong with your hand?
头	tóu	head	我的头有点儿疼。 My head hurts a bit.
疼	téng	to hurt; sore	我的手很疼。 My hand really hurts.
舒服	shūfu	comfortable; to feel well	你哪儿不舒服? Where don't you feel well?
药	yào	medicine	你吃药了吗? Have you taken your medicine?
药店	yàodiàn	pharmacy, chemist's	药店在医院旁边。 The pharmacy is next to the hospital.
累	lèi	tired	我今天很累。 I'm really tired today.
可能	kěnéng	maybe; possible	他可能不来了。 He probably isn't coming.
一会儿	yīhuìr	a moment; a little while	请等一会儿。 Please wait a moment.
游	yóu	to swim; to travel around	他游得很快。 He swims fast.

pattern verb + how long: 睡了八个小时

who | verb | 了 | how long

How long something lasts goes after the verb: 睡了八个小时, slept for eight hours. With a split verb like 游泳 or 帮忙, the time or the "who" goes in the middle: 游了一个小时泳, 帮我一个忙. After an adjective, 一点儿 means "a bit more": 好一点儿, a bit better.

我休息了一会儿。 **wǒ xiūxi le yíhuìr** I rested for a while.

她跳了两个小时舞。 **tā tiào le liǎng gè xiǎoshí wǔ** She danced for two hours.

你好一点儿了吗? **nǐ hǎo yìdiǎnr le ma** Are you feeling a bit better?

你能帮我一个忙吗? **nǐ néng bāng wǒ yí gè máng ma** Could you do me a favour?

dialogue too much revising

xiaoming 安娜，你怎么了？身体不舒服吗?
Ānnà nǐ zěnme le shēntǐ bù shūfu ma · Anna, what's wrong? Aren't you feeling well?

anna 我头疼，手也有点儿疼。
wǒ tóu téng shǒu yě yǒudiǎnr téng · I've got a headache, and my hand hurts a bit too.

dr li 你经常头疼吗?
nǐ jīngcháng tóu téng ma · Do you often get headaches?

anna 不经常，有时会疼。
bù jīngcháng yǒushí huì téng · Not often, just sometimes.

dr li 你昨天睡了几个小时?
nǐ zuótiān shuì le jǐ gè xiǎoshí · How many hours did you sleep last night?

anna 四个小时。因为快要考试了，我写了很多汉字。
sì gè xiǎoshí yīnwèi kuàiyào kǎoshì le wǒ xiě le hěn duō Hànzì · Four. The exam's coming up, so I wrote loads of characters.

dr li 你可能太累了，眼睛也很累。别看书了，休息一会儿吧。
nǐ kěnéng tài lèi le yǎnjing yě hěn lèi bié kàn shū le xiūxi yíhuìr ba · You're probably just too tired, and your eyes are tired too. No more books; rest for a while.

anna 我要去药店买药吗?
wǒ yào qù yàodiàn mǎi yào ma · Should I go to the pharmacy for some medicine?

dr li 今天别吃药，好好睡觉。明天就好了，也要多运动!
jīntiān bié chī yào hǎo hǎo shuìjiào míngtiān jiù hǎo le yě yào duō yùndòng · No medicine today. Just get a good sleep, and you'll be fine tomorrow. And get more exercise!

dr li 我让我妻子多做一个菜，你在我们家吃吧。
wǒ ràng wǒ qīzi duō zuò yí gè cài nǐ zài wǒmen jiā chī ba · I'll ask my wife to make an extra dish. Eat with us here.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

身
shēn
body

体
tǐ
body, form

good to know · To say what hurts, name the body part, then 疼: 头疼, 手疼. It's the "topic + comment" pattern from day 2, like 他个子很高. 可能 before a verb means "maybe, probably": 他可能不来了. It's softer than saying it for sure. 疼 and 病 share 疒, the "sickbed" part. 药 has 艹 "grass" on top, like 茶 and 菜: many old medicines were plants.

Now you can tell a friend, a doctor or a pharmacist what's wrong, and for how long.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 14 sunny, then cloudy

Talk about the weather and say “although…, but…”.

Weather is the easiest small talk in any language, and a “but” makes it sound like real conversation.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
晴	qíng	sunny, clear	今天是晴天。 It’s a sunny day today.
阴	yīn	cloudy, overcast	明天可能是阴天。 It’ll probably be cloudy tomorrow.
虽然	suīrán	although	虽然很冷，但是天气很好。 It’s cold, but the weather is lovely.
但	dàn	but	我很累，但很高兴。 I’m tired but happy.
周	zhōu	week	一周有七天。 A week has seven days.
长	cháng	long	雨下了很长时间。 It rained for a long time.
这么	zhème	so, this (much)	今天怎么这么热? Why is it so hot today?
那么	nàme	so, that (much); then	上海没有北京那么冷。 Shanghai isn’t as cold as Beijing.
这样	zhèyàng	like this, this way	这样写对吗? Is it right to write it like this?
那样	nàyàng	like that, that way	别那样说。 Don’t say it like that.

pattern 虽然……但是……: although…

虽然 + a fact + 但是 / 但 + the surprise

English says “although” or “but”. Chinese happily uses both: 虽然 starts the first part, 但是 (or the shorter 但) starts the second. You can drop 虽然, but keep 但是.

虽然下雨，但是我们还是去跑步了。 **suīrán xià yǔ dànshì wǒmen háishi qù pǎobù le** It was raining, but we still went running.

虽然他个子不高，但篮球打得很好。 **suīrán tā gèzi bù gāo dàn lánqiú dǎ de hěn hǎo** He isn’t tall, but he plays basketball really well.

虽然今天是阴天，但不冷。 **suīrán jīntiān shì yīn tiān dàn bù lěng** It’s cloudy today, but it isn’t cold.

dialogue sun at last

grandma 安娜，你看，天晴了！我们可以出门了。
Ānnà nǐ kàn tiān qíng le wǒmen kěyǐ chūmén le · Anna, look, it's cleared up! We can go out now.

anna 太好了！这周每天都是阴天。
tài hǎo le zhè zhōu měi tiān dōu shì yīn tiān · Great! It's been cloudy every day this week.

grandma 是啊，雨下了这么长时间。
shì a yǔ xià le zhème cháng shíjiān · Yes, it rained for so long.

anna 奶奶，您今天还去跳舞吗？
nǎinai nín jīntiān hái qù tiàowǔ ma · Grandma, are you still going dancing today?

grandma 去！虽然我七十岁了，但是我每天都跳。
qù suīrán wǒ qīshí suì le dànshì wǒ měi tiān dōu tiào · Of course! I may be seventy, but I dance every day.

anna 您身体真好！
nín shēntǐ zhēn hǎo · You're so fit and healthy!

grandma 你跟我一起去吧。跳舞没有考试那么累！
nǐ gēn wǒ yìqǐ qù ba tiàowǔ méiyǒu kǎoshì nàme lèi · Come with me. Dancing isn't as tiring as exams!

anna 好啊！是那样跳吗？
hǎo a shì nàyàng tiào ma · OK! Do I dance like that?

grandma 不是那样，是这样……对，就这样！
bú shì nàyàng shì zhèyàng duì jiù zhèyàng · Not like that, like this… Yes, just like that!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

长
cháng
long

晴
qíng
sunny, clear

good to know · 这么 is "this" (这么热, this hot); 那么 is "that", for something compared: 没有北京那么冷. Ask with 有: 上海有北京那么冷吗? Is it as cold as Beijing? Dancing in squares and parks, 广场舞, is a favourite pastime of many older people in China, often in the evening. 晴 "sunny" has 日 "sun" on the left, like 明 and 昨. And 雨 "rain" sits on top of 雪 "snow".

Sun, clouds, and a "but": you can now make real small talk with anyone.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 15 mission: exam week

Get through a whole exam week in Chinese: revise, sit the exam and hear your results.

A mission puts everything from this unit together in one story, the way you'll really use it.

chapter 1 the night before

xiaoming 喂，安娜，你在做什么?
wèi Ānnà nǐ zài zuò shénme · Hello, Anna, what are you doing?

anna 我在准备考试。明天就要考了！
wǒ zài zhǔnbèi kǎoshì míngtiān jiù yào kǎo le · I'm revising. The exam is tomorrow!

xiaoming 你准备得怎么样?
nǐ zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng · How's it going?

anna 汉字我都写完了，但是有的词我还不懂。“舒服”是什么意思?
Hànzì wǒ dōu xiě wán le dànshì yǒude cí wǒ hái bù dǒng shūfu shì shénme yìsi · I've written out all the characters, but there are still some words I don't understand. What does 舒服 mean?

xiaoming 就是身体很好，不累。你现在舒服吗?
jiù shì shēntǐ hěn hǎo bú lèi nǐ xiànzài shūfu ma · It means your body feels good, not tired. Do you feel good now?

anna 不太舒服。我写了三个小时，手很累，头也有点儿疼。
bú tài shūfu wǒ xiě le sān gè xiǎoshí shǒu hěn lèi tóu yě yǒudiǎnr téng · Not really. I've been writing for three hours. My hand is tired and my head hurts a bit too.

xiaoming 都十一点了！别看书了，快睡觉吧。我妹妹上高中了，她也有考试，已经睡了。
dōu shíyī diǎn le bié kàn shū le kuài shuìjiào ba wǒ mèimei shàng gāozhōng le tā yě yǒu kǎoshì yǐjīng shuì le · It's already eleven! Stop studying and go to bed. My sister's in high school now. She has exams too, and she's already asleep.

anna 好，我一写完这个题就睡。
hǎo wǒ yì xiě wán zhège tí jiù shuì · OK, I'll go to sleep as soon as I finish this question.

xiaoming 明天早上我给你打电话。你记得拿笔！
míngtiān zǎoshang wǒ gěi nǐ dǎ diànhuà nǐ jìde ná bǐ · I'll call you tomorrow morning. Remember your pen!

chapter 2 exam day

teacher wang 同学们，请进教室。我们班的考试九点开始，时间很长，有两个小时。
tóngxuémen qǐng jìn jiàoshì wǒmen bān de kǎoshì jiǔ diǎn kāishǐ shíjiān hěn cháng yǒu liǎng gè xiǎoshí · Everyone, please come into the classroom. Our class's exam starts at nine. It's a long one: two hours.

teacher wang 考试时，别忘了写你们的姓名。
kǎoshì shí bié wàng le xiě nǐmen de xìngmíng · During the exam, don't forget to write your names.

anna 王老师，不好意思，我的笔不在书包里。
Wáng lǎoshī bù hǎoyìsi wǒ de bǐ bú zài shūbāo lǐ · Teacher Wang, sorry, my pen isn't in my bag.

teacher wang 安娜！开学的时候你忘了本子，今天也忘了笔！好吧，我的笔给你。
Ānnà kāixué de shíhou nǐ wàng le běnzi jīntiān yě wàng le bǐ hǎo ba wǒ de bǐ gěi nǐ · Anna! At the start of term you forgot your notebook, and today it's your pen! All right, have my pen.

anna 谢谢老师！
xièxie lǎoshī · Thank you!

teacher wang 九点了，现在开始！
jiǔ diǎn le xiànzài kāishǐ · It's nine. You may begin!

teacher wang 还有十分钟。
hái yǒu shí fēnzhōng · Ten minutes left.

anna 老师，我已经做完了！
lǎoshī wǒ yǐjīng zuò wán le · I've already finished!

teacher wang 那你再看一下，看看有没有写错的字。
nà nǐ zài kàn yíxià kàn kan yǒu méiyǒu xiě cuò de zì · Then look it over again and check for any wrong characters.

chapter 3 caught in the rain

xiaoming 安娜！考得怎么样？
Ānnà kǎo de zěnmeyàng · Anna! How did it go?

anna 不错！题我都看懂了，但头还有点儿疼。
búcuò tí wǒ dōu kàn dǒng le dàn tóu hái yǒudiǎnr téng · Not bad! I understood all the questions, but my head still hurts a bit.

xiaoming 你可能太累了。我们去药店买一点儿药吧。
nǐ kěnéng tài lèi le wǒmen qù yàodiàn mǎi yìdiǎnr yào ba · You're probably just too tired. Let's go to the pharmacy and get some medicine.

anna 好。你看，阴天了！早上是晴天啊！
hǎo nǐ kàn yīn tiān le zǎoshang shì qíng tiān a · OK. Look, it's clouded over! It was sunny this morning!

xiaoming 北京的天气就是这样。快要下雨了，我们快走吧！
Běijīng de tiānqì jiù shì zhèyàng kuàiyào xià yǔ le wǒmen kuài zǒu ba · That's Beijing weather for you. It's about to rain. Let's go, quick!

anna 虽然下雨了，但是我很高兴。考试完了！
suīrán xià yǔ le dànshì wǒ hěn gāoxìng kǎoshì wán le · It's raining, but I'm happy. The exam is over!

xiaoming 雨这么大，我们在药店里等一会儿吧。
yǔ zhème dà wǒmen zài yàodiàn lǐ děng yíhuìr ba · The rain is so heavy. Let's wait in the pharmacy for a bit.

anna 你看外面那些人，跑得那么快！
nǐ kàn wàimiàn nàxiē rén pǎo de nàme kuài · Look at those people outside, running so fast!

xiaoming 我们别那样跑，路不好走。等一会儿，雨就不大了。
wǒmen bié nàyàng pǎo lù bù hǎo zǒu děng yíhuìr yǔ jiù bú dà le · Let's not run like that; the road's slippery. Wait a bit, and the rain will ease off.

chapter 4 the results

teacher wang 安娜，你考得很好！
Ānnà nǐ kǎo de hěn hǎo · Anna, you did really well in the exam!

anna 真的吗？
zhēn de ma · Really?

teacher wang 真的。你的汉字写得很好，一个也没写错。
zhēn de nǐ de Hànzì xiě de hěn hǎo yí gè yě méi xiě cuò · Really. Your characters are great: you didn't get a single one wrong.

anna 因为我每天都写一个小时！
yīnwèi wǒ měi tiān dōu xiě yí gè xiǎoshí · That's because I write for an hour every day!

teacher wang 很好。但是也要休息，别太累了。你的头还疼吗？
hěn hǎo dànshì yě yào xiūxi bié tài lèi le nǐ de tóu hái téng ma · Very good. But rest too. Don't wear yourself out. Does your head still hurt?

anna 不疼了。我吃了药，睡了十个小时！
bù téng le wǒ chī le yào shuì le shí gè xiǎoshí · Not any more. I took some medicine and slept for ten hours!

teacher wang 那就好。下周我教你们新的词。
nà jiù hǎo xià zhōu wǒ jiāo nǐmen xīn de cí · Good. Next week I'll teach you some new words.

anna 好的，老师。这周我休息，想去游一个小时泳。下周再开始学习！
hǎo de lǎoshī zhè zhōu wǒ xiūxi xiǎng qù yóu yí gè xiǎoshí yǒng xià zhōu zài kāishǐ xuéxí · OK. This week I'll rest, and I want to go for an hour's swim. Next week I'll start studying again!

Revise, sit, survive the rain, celebrate: a whole exam week, all in Chinese. Well done!
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 16 at the mall

Shop for clothes: ask for a colour, compare prices and say how much more something costs.

Shopping is where your Chinese pays off right away, sometimes literally.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
商场	shāngchǎng	shopping mall	我们去商场吧。 Let's go to the mall.
颜色	yánsè	colour	你喜欢什么颜色? What colour do you like?
白色	báisè	white	我喜欢白色。 I like white.
黑色	hēisè	black	黑色的很好看。 The black one looks nice.
红色	hóngsè	red	红色很漂亮。 Red is really pretty.
绿色	lǜsè	green	那个绿色的包很好看。 That green bag looks nice.
裤子	kùzi	trousers, pants	这条裤子多少钱? How much are these trousers?
条	tiáo	measure word: long, thin things	我买了一条鱼。 I bought a fish.
包	bāo	bag; to wrap; a pack of	你的包真漂亮! Your bag is really pretty!
手表	shǒubiǎo	watch (on your wrist)	我的手表是新的。 My watch is new.
花	huā	to spend (money, time)	你花了多少钱? How much did you spend?
万	wàn	ten thousand	一万块太贵了! Ten thousand yuan is far too expensive!

pattern a 比 b + adjective + how much

A **比** **B** **adjective** **how much**

After 比, put the difference at the very end: 贵一百块, 100 yuan more expensive. For “much more”, add 多了: 大多了, much bigger. For “a bit more”, add 一点儿: 便宜一点儿. Never put 很 before the adjective in a 比 sentence.

这条裤子比那条贵一百块。 **zhè tiáo kùzi bǐ nà tiáo guì yìbǎi kuài** These trousers are 100 yuan more than those.

这个商场比那个大多了。 **zhège shāngchǎng bǐ nàge dà duō le** This mall is much bigger than that one.

白色的比绿色的便宜一点儿。 **báisè de bǐ lǜsè de piányi yìdiǎnr** The white one is a bit cheaper than the green one.

我买了两包茶，比超市便宜十块。 **wǒ mǎi le liǎng bāo chá bǐ chāoshì piányi shí kuài** I bought two packs of tea, ten yuan cheaper than at the supermarket.

dialogue a pair of trousers

ms zhang 这儿衣服、裤子、手表什么的都有。安娜，你想买什么？
zhèr yīfu kùzi shǒubiǎo shénme de dōu yǒu Ānnà nǐ xiǎng mǎi shénme · They have clothes, trousers, watches and so on here. Anna, what would you like to buy?

anna 我想买一条裤子。我们进去看看吧！
wǒ xiǎng mǎi yì tiáo kùzi wǒmen jìnqù kàn kan ba · I’d like a pair of trousers. Let’s go in and have a look!

little sister 你喜欢什么颜色？红色的很漂亮！
nǐ xǐhuan shénme yánsè hóngsè de hěn piàoliang · What colour do you like? The red ones are really pretty!

anna 我喜欢黑色的。
wǒ xǐhuan hēisè de · I like the black ones.

little sister 这条黑色的比那条红色的便宜五十块。
zhè tiáo hēisè de bǐ nà tiáo hóngsè de piányi wǔshí kuài · This black pair is fifty yuan cheaper than that red pair.

anna 太好了，就要这条！
tài hǎo le jiù yào zhè tiáo · Great, I’ll take these!

ms zhang 我也想买一个包。你们看，右边那个绿色的包怎么样？
wǒ yě xiǎng mǎi yí gè bāo nǐmen kàn yòubian nàge lǜsè de bāo zěnmeyàng · I’d like a bag too. Look, what do you think of that green one on the right?

little sister 妈妈，那个包要一万块！
māma nàge bāo yào yí wàn kuài · Mum, that bag costs ten thousand yuan!

ms zhang 这么贵！那我们别买了。
zhème guì nà wǒmen bié mǎi le · That much! Then let’s not.

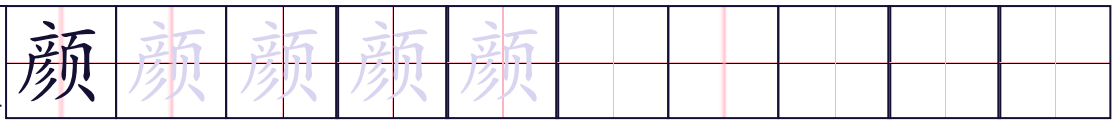
anna 我们今天花钱花得太多了！
wǒmen jīntiān huā qián huā de tài duō le · We’ve spent far too much today!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

场
chǎng
open space, place



颜
yán
face; colour



good to know · 条 counts long, thin things: 一条裤子, 一条鱼. 位 counts people politely: 两位老师. 名 is formal: 二十名学生. 包 is a pack: 两包茶. 黑色的, 我买的: put 的 after a word or phrase and it means “the … one”. 我买的裤子 is “the trousers I bought”.

Colours, prices and “that much?!”: you’re ready for any mall in China.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 17 happy birthday!

Wish someone a happy birthday, give a present and say who you do something for.

Birthdays and New Year are when Chinese friends and families come together. Now you can join in.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
生日	shēngrì	birthday	你的生日是几月几号? When is your birthday?
快乐	kuàilè	happy, joyful	生日快乐! Happy birthday!
送	sòng	to give (as a present); to see off	我送你一本书。 I'll give you a book.
花	huā	flower	这些花{hua1-2}真漂亮! These flowers are so pretty!
希望	xīwàng	to hope; a hope	我希望明天是晴天。 I hope it's sunny tomorrow.
笑	xiào	to laugh; to smile	你笑什么? What are you laughing at?
过年	guònián	celebrate the (Chinese) New Year	你们回家过年吗? Are you going home for New Year?
小时候	xiǎoshíhou	childhood; as a child	我小时候很喜欢画画。 I loved drawing when I was little.

pattern 给 + someone + verb: for or to someone

who | 给 | someone | does what

给 before a person means "for" or "to": 给妈妈打电话, phone Mum; 给你做饭, cook for you. With 送 "give as a present", the person comes right after 送给: 送给奶奶一本书. Doubling a verb makes it light and friendly: 看看, "have a look".

我给你看看。 **wǒ gěi nǐ kàn kan** Let me show you.

妈妈给我们做饭。 **māma gěi wǒmen zuòfàn** Mum cooks for us.

这本书送给你。 **zhè běn shū sòng gěi nǐ** This book is a present for you.

你等一等，我给他打个电话。 **nǐ děng yi deng wǒ gěi tā dǎ gè diànhuà** Hang on, I'll give him a call.

dialogue grandma's birthday

anna 奶奶，生日快乐！这些花送给您。
nǎinai shēngrì kuàilè zhèxiē huā sòng gěi nín · Happy birthday, Grandma! These flowers are for you.

grandma 谢谢你，安娜！花真漂亮。
xièxie nǐ Ānnà huā zhēn piàoliang · Thank you, Anna! They're beautiful.

xiaoming 奶奶，这两包红茶是我自己去买的，送给您！
nǎinai zhè liǎng bāo hóngchá shì wǒ zìjǐ qù mǎi de sòng gěi nín · Grandma, I went and bought these two packs of black tea myself. They're for you!

grandma 好！我最喜欢喝茶了。
hǎo wǒ zuì xǐhuan hē chá le · Lovely! Tea is my favourite.

anna 奶奶，您今天跳舞了吗？
nǎinai nín jīntiān tiàowǔ le ma · Grandma, did you go dancing today?

grandma 跳了！我跳了两个小时舞，真快乐！
tiào le wǒ tiào le liǎng gè xiǎoshí wǔ zhēn kuàilè · I did! I danced for two hours. I'm so happy!

anna 奶奶，请告诉我，您小时候怎么过生日？
nǎinai qǐng gàosu wǒ nín xiǎoshíhou zěnme guò shēngrì · Grandma, tell me: how did you celebrate your birthday when you were little?

grandma 小时候我们不过生日，过年的时候最快乐！
xiǎoshíhou wǒmen bú guò shēngrì guònián de shíhou zuì kuàilè · When I was little, we didn't celebrate birthdays. New Year was the happiest time!

xiaoming 我希望奶奶每年都这么高兴！
wǒ xīwàng nǎinai měi nián dōu zhème gāoxìng · I hope Grandma is this happy every year!

grandma 我也希望你们学习好，身体好，天天笑！
wǒ yě xīwàng nǐmen xuéxí hǎo shēntǐ hǎo tiān tiān xiào · And I hope you all do well at school, stay healthy and laugh every day!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

乐
lè
joy, happy

送
sòng
to give (as a present); to see off

good to know · A bowl of long noodles, 长寿面, is a classic birthday dish in China: long noodles for a long life. Doubling makes words light: 看看, 等一等, 高高兴兴. For a quick action that's done, 了 goes in the middle: 看了看. Two-character verbs double whole: 休息休息.

Wishes, presents and a "this is for you": you can make someone's day in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 18 off we go

Talk about a trip: say when, how and with whom you went, and which floor you're on.

Travel talk is all about details that already happened: when you landed, how you got there, who bought the tickets.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
旅游	lǚyóu	to travel (for fun); tourism	我想去中国旅游。 I'd like to go travelling in China.
机场	jīchǎng	airport	我们打车去机场。 We're taking a taxi to the airport.
机票	jīpiào	plane ticket	机票贵不贵? Are the plane tickets expensive?
飞	fēi	to fly	飞机飞得很快。 Planes fly fast.
酒店	jiǔdiàn	hotel	这个酒店很不错。 This hotel is really nice.
门票	ménpiào	entrance ticket	门票多少钱? How much is the entrance ticket?
票	piào	ticket	票在哪儿买? Where can I buy tickets?
出国	chūguó	to go abroad	我明年想出国旅游。 I'd like to travel abroad next year.
打车	dǎchē	to take a taxi	我们打车去吧。 Let's take a taxi.
路上	lùshang	on the way; on the road	我在路上了。 I'm on my way.
楼	lóu	building; floor (storey)	我家在八楼。 My flat is on the eighth floor.
间	jiān	measure word for rooms	这间教室很大。 This classroom is big.

pattern 是……的: when, where, how, who

who | 是 | when / where / how | verb | 的

When something has already happened and you talk about the details (when, where, how, with whom), wrap the detail in 是……的: 我是坐飞机来的, I came by plane. In speech 是 is often dropped, but 的 stays.

你是什么时候到的? **nǐ shì shénme shíhou dào de** When did you arrive?

我是坐飞机来的。 **wǒ shì zuò fēijī lái de** I came by plane.

你是跟谁一起去的? **nǐ shì gēn shéi yìqǐ qù de** Who did you go with?

这个包是在上海买的。 **zhège bāo shì zài Shànghǎi mǎi de** I bought this bag in Shanghai.

dialogue a call from mum

ms zhang 喂，小明，你们到上海了吗?
wèi Xiǎomíng nǐmen dào Shànghǎi le ma · Hello, Xiaoming, have you got to Shanghai?

xiaoming 到了，妈妈。我们已经在酒店了。
dào le māma wǒmen yǐjīng zài jiǔdiàn le · Yes, Mum. We're already at the hotel.

ms zhang 你们是几点到的?
nǐmen shì jǐ diǎn dào de · What time did you get in?

xiaoming 下午两点到的。从机场到酒店，路上走了一个多小时。
xiàwǔ liǎng diǎn dào de cóng jīchǎng dào jiǔdiàn lùshang zǒu le yí gè duō xiǎoshí · At two in the afternoon. Getting from the airport to the hotel took over an hour.

anna 飞机上有二十多个外国人，还有十几个小孩儿!
fēijī shàng yǒu èrshí duō gè wàiguó rén hái yǒu shí jǐ gè xiǎoháir · There were twenty-odd foreigners on the plane, and ten or so kids!

ms zhang 酒店怎么样? 离机场远吗?
jiǔdiàn zěnmeyàng lí jīchǎng yuǎn ma · What's the hotel like? Is it far from the airport?

anna 很好! 我们住在二十八楼，每个人一间，房间都很大。
hěn hǎo wǒmen zhù zài èrshíbā lóu měi gè rén yì jiān fángjiān dōu hěn dà · Really nice! We're on the 28th floor, one room each, and the rooms are big.

ms zhang 明天你们在酒店休息还是出去玩?
míngtiān nǐmen zài jiǔdiàn xiūxi háishi chūqù wán · Tomorrow, are you resting at the hotel or going out?

xiaoming 出去玩! 我们买了好多门票，明天一起床就去!
chūqù wán wǒmen mǎi le hǎo duō ménpiào míngtiān yì qǐchuáng jiù qù · Going out! We've bought loads of tickets. We're off as soon as we get up!

ms zhang 好! 今天晚上好好休息休息，别忘了给奶奶打电话。
hǎo jīntiān wǎnshang hǎo hǎo xiūxi xiūxi bié wàng le gěi nǎinai dǎ diànhuà · Good! Get a proper rest tonight, and don't forget to call Grandma.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

旅
lǚ
to travel

票
piào
ticket

good to know · 多 after a round number means "and a bit": 二十多个人, twenty-odd people; 一个多小时, over an hour. 十几 is "ten-something", 11 to 19. Many buildings in China skip the 4th floor, because 四 sounds like the word for "death", a bit like 13 in some Western buildings.

When, how, with whom: you can now tell the story of any trip you've taken.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 19 what are you doing?

Say what you're doing right now, and how you do things: slowly, happily.

"What are you doing?" is the first line of half the phone calls and messages you'll ever get.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
正	zhèng	right now (in the middle of)	我正吃饭呢。 I'm eating right now.
上网	shàngwǎng	to go online	我想上网。 I want to go online.
网上	wǎngshang	online; on the internet	我在网上买的。 I bought it online.
坏	huài	bad; broken	我的手机坏了。 My phone is broken.
事情	shìqing	thing, matter, business	有什么事情吗? Is anything the matter?
鸟	niǎo	bird	小鸟在唱歌。 The little bird is singing.
床	chuáng	bed	床上有一只猫。 There's a cat on the bed.
洗	xǐ	to wash	我去洗手。 I'm going to wash my hands.
地	de	(links a describing word to a verb)	他慢慢地走了。 He walked off slowly.

pattern 正……呢: right in the middle of it

who | 正 | verb (+着) | 呢

To say something is going on right now, put 正 before the verb and 呢 at the end: 我正洗手呢, I'm washing my hands. Add 着 after the verb for something that keeps going: 外面正下着雨呢. You already know 正在; 正 is the same idea, very spoken.

我正吃饭呢。 **wǒ zhèng chī fàn ne** I'm eating right now.

外面正下着雨呢。 **wàimiàn zhèng xià zhe yǔ ne** It's raining outside right now.

你给我打电话的时候，我正洗衣服呢。 **nǐ gěi wǒ dǎ diànhuà de shíhou wǒ zhèng xǐ yīfu ne** When you called, I was washing clothes.

dialogue a slow morning

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

anna 我正上网呢，看看今天的天气。
wǒ zhèng shàngwǎng ne kàn kan jīntiān de tiānqì · I'm online, checking today's weather.

xiaoming 怎么样?
zěnmeyàng · And?

anna 上午是晴天，下午可能有雨。你呢?
shàngwǔ shì qíng tiān xiàwǔ kěnéng yǒu yǔ nǐ ne · Sunny this morning, maybe rain this afternoon. What about you?

xiaoming 我还在床上呢。房间里的电视坏了，我昨天晚上看手机看到两点。
wǒ hái zài chuáng shàng ne fángjiān lǐ de diànshì huài le wǒ zuótiān wǎnshang kàn shǒujī kàn dào liǎng diǎn · I'm still in bed. The TV in my room is broken, so I was on my phone till two last night.

anna 两点！快起床吧。外面的小鸟都在唱歌呢!
liǎng diǎn kuài qǐchuáng ba wàimiàn de xiǎo niǎo dōu zài chàng gē ne · Two! Get up! Even the birds outside are singing!

xiaoming 好，我起来了。还有什么事情吗?
hǎo wǒ qǐlái le hái yǒu shénme shìqing ma · OK, I'm up. Anything else?

anna 有！你慢慢地吃早饭，我在楼下门口等你。
yǒu nǐ màn màn de chī zǎofàn wǒ zài lóu xià ménkǒu děng nǐ · Yes! Take your time over breakfast. I'll wait for you at the door downstairs.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

网
wǎng
net

坏
huài
bad; broken

good to know · Online is "up the net": 上网 go online, 网上 on the internet. 在网上买 is "buy online". Three ways to write de: 的 before a noun (我的书), 地 before a verb (慢慢地走), 得 after a verb (跑得很快).

Right now, slowly, happily: you can tell anyone what you're up to and how.
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day 20 mission: a trip to shanghai

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Handle a whole trip in Chinese: the airport, shopping for presents, a hotel morning and a birthday back home.

A mission puts everything from this unit together in one story, the way you'll really use it.

chapter 1 to the airport

anna 小明，我们打车去机场吧！
Xiǎomíng wǒmen dǎchē qù jīchǎng ba · Xiaoming, let's take a taxi to the airport!

xiaoming 好。路上要一个多小时，我们现在就走吧。
hǎo lùshang yào yí gè duō xiǎoshí wǒmen xiànzài jiù zǒu ba · OK. It takes over an hour to get there, so let's go now.

anna 你看，机场里好多人啊！
nǐ kàn jīchǎng lǐ hǎo duō rén a · Look at all the people in the airport!

xiaoming 是啊，今天是星期五，很多人去旅游。
shì a jīntiān shì xīngqīwǔ hěn duō rén qù lǚyóu · Yes, it's Friday. Lots of people are going away.

anna 我们的飞机几点飞？
wǒmen de fēijī jǐ diǎn fēi · What time does our plane leave?

xiaoming 十点，还有四十多分钟。你的机票呢？
shí diǎn hái yǒu sìshí duō fēnzhōng nǐ de jīpiào ne · Ten. We've got forty-odd minutes. Where's your ticket?

anna 在我的包里……不好意思，不在！
zài wǒ de bāo lǐ bù hǎoyìsi bú zài · In my bag... Oh no, it isn't!

xiaoming 没事，机票是我在网上买的，在我的手机上。
méishì jīpiào shì wǒ zài wǎngshang mǎi de zài wǒ de shǒujī shàng · No worries. I bought the tickets online; they're on my phone.

anna 太好了！小明，你出过国吗？
tài hǎo le Xiǎomíng nǐ chū guo guó ma · Phew! Xiaoming, have you ever been abroad?

xiaoming 没出过。我希望明年能出国旅游！
méi chū guo wǒ xīwàng míngnián néng chūguó lǚyóu · Never. I hope I can travel abroad next year!

anna 那我们去喝一杯咖啡吧！
nà wǒmen qù hē yì bēi kāfēi ba · Then let's go and have a coffee!

chapter 2 presents for the family

anna 这个商场真大！我想给你妹妹买一个包。
zhège shāngchǎng zhēn dà wǒ xiǎng gěi nǐ mèimei mǎi yí gè bāo · This mall is huge! I'd like to buy your sister a bag.

xiaoming 她喜欢白色的。你看那个白色的怎么样？
tā xǐhuan báisè de nǐ kàn nàge báisè de zěnmeyàng · She likes white. What about that white one?

anna 很漂亮！但是比那个黑色的贵三百块。
hěn piàoliang dànshì bǐ nàge hēisè de guì sānbǎi kuài · Very pretty! But it's 300 yuan more than the black one.

xiaoming 虽然贵一点儿，但是好看多了。
suīrán guì yìdiǎnr dànshì hǎokàn duō le · It's a bit more expensive, but it looks much nicer.

anna 好，就买这个！奶奶的生日快到了，你给她买什么？
hǎo jiù mǎi zhège nǎinai de shēngrì kuài dào le nǐ gěi tā mǎi shénme · OK, this one, then! It's nearly Grandma's birthday. What are you getting her?

xiaoming 奶奶喜欢跳舞，我想送给她一条裤子。
nǎinai xǐhuan tiàowǔ wǒ xiǎng sòng gěi tā yì tiáo kùzi · Grandma loves dancing, so I'd like to give her a pair of trousers.

anna 什么颜色的？红色的还是绿色的？
shénme yánsè de hóngsè de háishi lǜsè de · What colour? Red or green?

xiaoming 红色的！奶奶最喜欢红色。你看，下面那个手表要两万块！
hóngsè de nǎinai zuì xǐhuan hóngsè nǐ kàn xiàmiàn nàge shǒubiǎo yào liǎng wàn kuài · Red! Grandma loves red. Look, that watch down there costs twenty thousand yuan!

anna 这么贵！我们别看了。我再买两包绿茶，送给王老师。
zhème guì wǒmen bié kàn le wǒ zài mǎi liǎng bāo lǜchá sòng gěi Wáng lǎoshī · That much! Let's not look. I'll just get two packs of green tea for Teacher Wang.

xiaoming 我们今天花了好多钱啊！
wǒmen jīntiān huā le hǎo duō qián a · We've spent so much money today!

chapter 3 a rainy morning

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

anna 我正上网呢。今天是阴天，下午可能下雨。
wǒ zhèng shàngwǎng ne jīntiān shì yīn tiān xiàwǔ kěnéng xià yǔ · I'm online. It's cloudy today, and it might rain this afternoon.

xiaoming 我还在床上呢。我房间的电视坏了，我给酒店打电话了。
wǒ hái zài chuáng shàng ne wǒ fángjiān de diànshì huài le wǒ gěi jiǔdiàn dǎ diànhuà le · I'm still in bed. The TV in my room is broken, so I called the hotel.

anna 这个酒店有一千多间房间，他们很忙！外面的小鸟正唱着歌呢，快起来吧！
zhège jiǔdiàn yǒu yìqiān duō jiān fángjiān tāmen hěn máng wàimiàn de xiǎo niǎo zhèng chàng zhe gē ne kuài qǐlai ba · This hotel has over a thousand rooms; they're busy! The birds outside are singing. Get up!

xiaoming 好！我洗个手就下来。我们在三楼吃早饭吧。
hǎo wǒ xǐ gè shǒu jiù xiàlái wǒmen zài sān lóu chī zǎofàn ba · OK! I'll wash my hands and come down. Let's have breakfast on the third floor.

anna 今天的门票你买了吗？
jīntiān de ménpiào nǐ mǎi le ma · Have you bought today's tickets?

xiaoming 买了，是在网上买的。两个人的票一百多块。
mǎi le shì zài wǎngshang mǎi de liǎng gè rén de piào yìbǎi duō kuài · Yes, online. Over a hundred yuan for the two of us.

anna 太好了！今天我们慢慢地玩，别太累了。
tài hǎo le jīntiān wǒmen màn màn de wán bié tài lèi le · Great! Let's take it slowly today and not wear ourselves out.

xiaoming 还有一件事情：明天是奶奶的生日，我们早上就回北京。
hái yǒu yí jiàn shìqing míngtiān shì nǎinai de shēngrì wǒmen zǎoshang jiù huí Běijīng · One more thing: tomorrow is Grandma's birthday, so we're going back to Beijing in the morning.

chapter 4 happy birthday, grandma!

anna 奶奶，生日快乐！这些花是我们送给您的。
nǎinai shēngrì kuàilè zhèxiē huā shì wǒmen sòng gěi nín de · Happy birthday, Grandma! These flowers are from us.

grandma 谢谢你们！花真漂亮。你们在上海玩得怎么样？
xièxie nǐmen huā zhēn piàoliang nǐmen zài Shànghǎi wán de zěnmeyàng · Thank you! The flowers are lovely. How was Shanghai?

xiaoming 很好玩儿！奶奶，这是我在上海给您买的。
hěn hǎowánr nǎinai zhè shì wǒ zài Shànghǎi gěi nín mǎi de · So much fun! Grandma, this is something I bought you in Shanghai.

grandma 红色的裤子！我最喜欢红色了。小时候过年，我妈妈也给我买红色的衣服。
hóngsè de kùzi wǒ zuì xǐhuan hóngsè le xiǎoshíhou guònián wǒ māma yě gěi wǒ mǎi hóngsè de yīfu · Red trousers! Red is my favourite. When I was little, my mum bought me red clothes for New Year too.

anna 奶奶，您穿上看看。
nǎinai nín chuān shàng kàn kan · Try them on, Grandma.

grandma 怎么样？
zěnmeyàng · Well?

anna 太漂亮了！您可以穿着这条裤子去跳舞。
tài piàoliang le nín kěyǐ chuān zhe zhè tiáo kùzi qù tiàowǔ · They look wonderful! You can wear them dancing.

xiaoming 你看，奶奶笑得多高兴！
nǐ kàn nǎinai xiào de duō gāoxìng · Look how happily Grandma is smiling!

grandma 明天我就穿着它去跳舞！我希望你们每天都这么快乐。谢谢你们，好孩子！
míngtiān wǒ jiù chuān zhe tā qù tiàowǔ wǒ xīwàng nǐmen měi tiān dōu zhème kuàilè xièxie nǐmen hǎo háizi · Tomorrow I'll wear them to go dancing! I hope you're this happy every day. Thank you, my dears!

Airport, mall, hotel, home: a whole trip in Chinese. That's unit 4 done!
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