day 37 back to school

Talk about school, subjects and exams, and list things with 以及 and 同.

School is a huge topic in China: every family talks about exams, results and which university will take whom.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
学年	xuénián	school year	新学年开始了，我们都换了新教室。 The new school year has started, and we've all moved to new classrooms.
学分	xuéfēn	credit (for a course)	这门{=(measure word for courses)}课有两个学分，不及格就拿不到。 This course is worth two credits, and you don't get them if you fail.
学科	xuékē	subject, discipline	数学是她最喜欢的学科。 Maths is her favourite subject.
学历	xuélì	education, qualifications	这份工作对学历要求很高。 This job asks for a high level of education.
证书	zhèngshū	certificate	考试通过以后，你会拿到一张证书。 When you pass the exam, you'll get a certificate.
录取	lùqǔ	to admit (to a school)	她被北京的一所大学录取了。 She's been accepted by a university in Beijing.
宿舍	sùshè	dormitory	我们宿舍住四个|人，大家相处得很好。 There are four of us in our dorm room, and we all get on well.
初级	chūjí	elementary, beginner	我刚来中国的时候，只{zhi3}会说一点儿初级汉语。 When I first came to China, I only spoke a little beginner's Chinese.
中级	zhōngjí	intermediate	我的汉语现在是中级水平。 My Chinese is at an intermediate level now.
级	jí	level, grade; step	我现在准备考五级。 I'm preparing for level 5 now.
及格	jígé	to pass (a test)	我只{zhi3}考了60分，刚好及格。 I only got 60, just enough to pass.
试卷	shìjuàn	exam paper	老师把试卷发下来了，大家开始做题。 The teacher handed out the papers, and everyone started on the questions.
题目	tímù	question (in a test); title	这道题目太难了，我看了三遍还是不懂。 This question is so hard. I've read it three times and still don't get it.
提问	tíwèn	to ask a question	有问题的同学可以举手提问。 If you have a question, put your hand up and ask.
教材	jiàocái	textbook, teaching materials	这套教材很适合自学。 This set of textbooks is great for teaching yourself.

图书	túshū	books	这家书店的图书种类很多。 This bookshop has a wide range of books.
尺子	chǐzi	ruler	你的尺子能借我用一下吗? Can I borrow your ruler for a second?
橡皮	xiàngpí	eraser, rubber	写错了没关系，用橡皮擦掉就行了。 Don't worry if you get it wrong, just rub it out.
毛笔	máobǐ	writing brush	爷爷每天早上都用毛笔写字。 Grandpa writes with a brush every morning.
幼儿园	yòuéryuán	kindergarten	我小时候上的幼儿园就在我们家旁边。 The kindergarten I went to as a child was right next to our home.
语文	yǔwén	Chinese (school subject)	她数学很好，语文就差|一点儿。 She's great at maths, but not quite as good at Chinese.
以及	yǐjí	and, as well as	考试的时间、地点以及要求都写在通知上了。 The time, the place and the rules of the exam are all in the notice.
及	jí	and (written)	本店出售各种图书及杂志。 We sell all kinds of books and magazines.
勤奋	qínfèn	hardworking, diligent	他很勤奋，每天早上六点就起来读书。 He's very hardworking: he's up at six every morning to study.
专心	zhuānxīn	focused, with full attention	上课的时候要专心，别玩手机。 Concentrate in class, and leave your phone alone.

pattern 以及 and 同: and, as well as

A、B | 以及 | C | A | 同 | B

以及 joins words or phrases, usually in front of the last item of a list: A、B以及C. It sounds written, so you meet it in notices, news and talks. 同 can join two nouns just like 和 (我同他), a bit more formal, and also means "with" (同他说话).

请准备好尺子、橡皮以及两支笔。 **qǐng zhǔnbèi hǎo chǐzi xiàngpí yǐjí liǎng zhī bǐ** Please have a ruler, an eraser and two pens ready.

本店出售各种图书及杂志。 **běn diàn chūshòu gèzhǒng túshū jí zázhì** We sell all kinds of books and magazines.

这件事我已经同王老师说过了。 **zhè jiàn shì wǒ yǐjīng tóng Wánglǎoshī shuō guò le** I've already talked to Teacher Wang about this.

dialogue exam season

anna
这么巧！你也来书店买东西？
zhème qiǎo nǐ yě lái shūdiàn mǎi dōngxi · What a coincidence! You're shopping at the bookshop too?

little sister
安娜！下个月就考试了，我来买尺子和橡皮。哦，还有毛笔！
Ānnà xià gè yuè jiù kǎoshì le wǒ lái mǎi chǐzi hé xiàngpí ò hái yǒu máobǐ · Anna! The exam is next month, so I'm buying a ruler and an eraser. Oh, and a brush!

anna
你复习得怎么样了？哪个学科最难？
nǐ fùxí de zěnmeyàng le nǎge xuékē zuì nán · How's the revision going? Which subject is hardest?

little sister
数学还行，语文最难。试卷上的题目太多了，我老是做不完。
shùxué hái xíng yǔwén zuì nán shìjuàn shàng de tímù tài duō le wǒ lǎoshì zuò bu wán · Maths is OK; Chinese is the hardest. There are so many questions on the paper that I never finish.

anna
数学、语文以及外语都要考吗？
shùxué yǔwén yǐjí wàiyǔ dōu yào kǎo ma · Do you have exams in maths, Chinese and a foreign language too?

anna
做题的时候要专心，先做会的，再做难的。
zuò tí de shíhou yào zhuānxīn xiān zuò huì de zài zuò nán de · Stay focused when you do the paper: easy ones first, then the hard ones.

little sister
我知道。我最大的愿望是被北京的大学录取，然后住宿舍！
wǒ zhīdào wǒ zuì dà de yuànwàng shì bèi Běijīng de dàxué lùqǔ ránhòu zhù sùshè · I know. My biggest wish is to get into a university in Beijing and live in a dorm!

anna
住宿舍？你在家里不舒服吗？
zhù sùshè nǐ zài jiā lǐ bù shūfu ma · A dorm? Aren't you comfortable at home?

little sister
我哥哥同我爸爸妈妈天天问我复习得怎么样，没完没了！
wǒ gēge tóng wǒ bàba māma tiān tiān wèn wǒ fùxí de zěnmeyàng méi wán méi liǎo · My brother and my mum and dad ask me every day how the revision's going. It never ends!

anna
哈哈，他们是关心你。在中国，大家都很看重学历，从幼儿园就开始了。
hā hā tāmen shì guānxīn nǐ zài Zhōngguó dàjiā dōu hěn kàn zhòng xuélì cóng yòuéryuán jiù kāishǐ le · Ha ha, they care about you. In China everyone takes education seriously, starting from kindergarten.

little sister
是啊。对了，你今天晚上不是也开始上课吗？加油！
shì a duì le nǐ jīntiān wǎnshang bú shì yě kāishǐ shàngkè ma jiāyóu · True. Oh, doesn't your class start tonight too? Good luck!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

录
lù
to record; to copy down

尺
chǐ
a Chinese foot; ruler

good to know · 以及 and 及 are for lists in writing. In everyday speech, 和 is still the word you'll use most. Chinese pupils call their Chinese lessons 语文, not 汉语: 语文课, 语文老师.

Exams, subjects and school worries: you can now chat about them with any Chinese family, and they'll have plenty to say.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 38 words, words, words

Talk about pronunciation, vocabulary and speeches, and put several adverbials in the right order.

At this level your sentences get longer: knowing where “when”, “where” and “how” go makes them sound natural, not translated.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
词汇	cíhuì	vocabulary	多看中文书，是积累词汇最好的办法。 Reading lots of Chinese books is the best way to build up your vocabulary.
读音	dúyīn	pronunciation (of a character)	这个字有两个读音，意思也不一样。 This character has two readings, with different meanings.
发音	fāyīn	pronunciation; to pronounce	你的发音很标准，像中国人似的。 Your pronunciation is so standard, you sound like a native speaker.
拼音	pīnyīn	pinyin	刚开始学汉语的时候，我每个字都要看拼音。 When I first started learning Chinese, I needed the pinyin for every character.
字母	zìmǔ	letter (of an alphabet)	汉语拼音是用字母写的，所以不难学。 Pinyin is written with letters, so it isn’t hard to learn.
语音	yǔyīn	speech sounds; voice message	我现在不方便打字，给你发语音吧。 I can’t type right now. I’ll send you a voice message.
用法	yòngfǎ	usage, how to use	这两个词意思差不多，但是用法不一样。 These two words mean about the same, but they’re used differently.
比喻	bǐyù	metaphor; to compare (to)	他用了一个很生动的比喻，大家一下子就明白了。 He used a vivid metaphor, and everyone got it at once.
念	niàn	to read aloud; to study	请你把这段课文念一遍。 Please read this passage aloud.
录音	lùyīn	to record (sound); recording	老师，上课的时候可以录音吗? Excuse me, may I record the class?
录	lù	to record; to copy down	我用手机把老师的话录了下来。 I recorded what the teacher said on my phone.
重复	chóngfù	to repeat	请你再重复一遍，我没听清楚。 Could you say that again? I didn’t catch it.
记忆	jìyì	memory; to remember	他的记忆特别好，看一遍就能记住。 He has an amazing memory: he can remember something after one look.
称	chēng	to call, to name	北京人称{cheng1-b}这种小路为{wei2}“胡同”。 People in Beijing call these little lanes “hutongs”.

名称	míngchēng	name (of a thing)	这家公司的名称很好记。 This company's name is easy to remember.
如何	rúhé	how; what (formal)	我们今天来讨论如何提高写作水平。 Today we'll talk about how to improve your writing.
如下	rúxià	as follows	这次演讲比赛的要求如下。 The rules of this speech contest are as follows.
记录	jìlù	to record, note down; record	她把每天学的生词都记录在本子上。 She writes down every new word she learns in a notebook.
参考	cānkǎo	to consult, refer to	写作文的时候，你可以参考这几本书。 When you write your essay, you can look at these books.
常识	chángshí	common sense; general knowledge	天冷了要多穿衣服，这是常识。 When it gets cold you wrap up warm. That's common sense.
请教	qǐngjiào	to ask for advice	王老师，我有个问题想请教您。 Teacher Wang, there's something I'd like to ask you.
写作	xiězuò	writing (as a skill)	她的写作水平提高得很快。 Her writing is improving fast.
演讲	yǎnjiǎng	speech; to give a speech	下个月学校有一个汉语演讲比赛。 Next month the school is holding a Chinese speech contest.
评	píng	to judge, assess	王老师请大家评一评谁讲得最好。 Teacher Wang asked everyone to judge who spoke best.
主题	zhǔtí	theme, topic	这次演讲的主题是“我的中国朋友”。 The theme of this speech is “My Chinese friend”.

pattern several adverbials: when, then where, then how

who | when | 都 / 也 / 常常 | where | how / with whom | verb

Everything that describes a verb goes in front of it, usually in this order: time → little adverbs like 都, 也, 常常 → place → manner or person (认真地, 跟/向 someone) → verb. The time can also go before the subject: 明天我们都在…

王老师常常在课上用比喻给我们解释新词。 **Wánglǎoshī chángcháng zài kè shàng yòng bǐyù gěi wǒmen jiěshì xīn cí** Teacher Wang often explains new words to us in class with metaphors.

他昨天在家一个人念了两个小时的课文。 **tā zuótiān zài jiā yí gè rén niàn le liǎng gè xiǎoshí de kèwén** Yesterday he spent two hours at home reading the text aloud by himself.

我们明天都在教室里跟王老师一起录音。 **wǒmen míngtiān dōu zài jiàoshì lǐ gēn Wánglǎoshī yìqǐ lùyīn** Tomorrow we'll all be recording with Teacher Wang in the classroom.

dialogue getting ready for the speech contest

anna 王老师，我报名参加了下个月的演讲比赛，有几个问题想请教您。
Wánglǎoshī wǒ bàomíng cānjiā le xià gè yuè de yǎnjiǎng bǐsài yǒu jǐ gè wèntí xiǎng qǐngjiào nín · Teacher Wang, I've signed up for next month's speech contest, and there are a few things I'd like to ask you.

teacher wang 好啊！比赛的要求是什么？
hǎo a bǐsài de yāoqiú shì shénme · Of course! What are the rules?

anna 要求如下：时间五分钟，主题是“如何学好汉字”。
yāoqiú rúxià shíjiān wǔ fēnzhōng zhǔtí shì rúhé xué hǎo Hànzì · They're as follows: five minutes, on the theme "How to learn characters well".

teacher wang 你的词汇没问题，要注意的是发音。很多同学只看拼音字母，不听录音，所以字老是念错。
nǐ de cíhuì méi wèntí yào zhùyì de shì fāyīn hěn duō tóngxué zhǐ kàn pīnyīn zìmǔ bù tīng lùyīn suǒyǐ zì lǎoshì niàn cuò · Your vocabulary is fine; what you need to watch is pronunciation. Lots of students only look at the pinyin letters and don't listen to recordings, so they keep misreading characters.

anna 我知道。我现在每天晚上都在家里把演讲录下来，发语音给小明听。
wǒ zhīdào wǒ xiànzài měi tiān wǎnshang dōu zài jiā lǐ bǎ yǎnjiǎng lù xialai fā yǔyīn gěi Xiǎomíng tīng · I know. Every evening I record my speech at home and send it to Xiaoming as a voice message.

teacher wang 很好。你还可以用几个比喻。很多东西的名称很有意思，比如“电脑”就是“电的大脑”。
hěn hǎo nǐ hái kěyǐ yòng jǐ gè bǐyù hěn duō dōngxi de míngchēng hěn yǒu yìsi bǐrú diànnǎo jiùshì diàn de dànǎo · Good. You could also use a few metaphors. Lots of names of things are fun: 电脑, a computer, is an "electric brain".

anna 这个比喻好！可是我练的时候，讲快了也不是，讲慢了也不是。
zhège bǐyù hǎo kěshì wǒ liàn de shíhou jiǎng kuài le yě bú shì jiǎng màn le yě bú shì · That's a great one! But when I practise, it feels wrong if I go fast and wrong if I go slowly.

teacher wang 别紧张，正常讲就行。你可以参考去年的演讲，网上都有。
bié jǐnzhāng zhèngcháng jiǎng jiù xíng nǐ kěyǐ cānkǎo qùnián de yǎnjiǎng wǎngshang dōu yǒu · Don't be nervous; just speak normally. You can look at last year's speeches; they're all online.

anna 可是我的记忆不太好，五分钟的内容，我怕记不住。
kěshì wǒ de jìyì bú tài hǎo wǔ fēnzhōng de nèiróng wǒ pà jì bu zhù · But my memory isn't great. Five minutes of material, I'm afraid I won't remember it.

teacher wang 哪怕忘了几句，也没关系。你的写作这么好，同学们都称你为“小作家”呢！
nǎpà wàng le jǐ jù yě méi guānxi nǐ de xiězuò zhème hǎo tóngxuémen dōu chēng nǐ wéi xiǎo zuòjiā ne · Even if you forget a few lines, it doesn't matter. Your writing is so good, your classmates call you "the little writer"!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

拼
pīn
to go all out; to piece together

汇
huì
to gather

good to know · Try the order on your own day: 我今天早上在地铁上用手机学了二十个词. Time, place, how, then the verb. 念 is “read aloud” (念课文); 读 can be aloud or silent. Some people also say 念大学 for “to be at university”. 重 chóng is also a verb, “to duplicate, overlap”: 这两个字重了 these two words repeat each other, 重名 to share a name. Don’t mix it up with zhòng, “heavy”.

Longer sentences with when, where and how in the right order: that’s what makes Chinese sound like Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 39 how we think

Talk about ideas, thinking and conclusions, and say “not only didn’t it…, it actually…” with 不但不……，反而……

Discussions, opinions and “what does it really mean?” are the heart of HSK 5 reading, and of any good conversation.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
思考	sīkǎo	to think (carefully)	遇到问题先别着急，认真思考一下。 When you hit a problem, don’t panic. Think it through first.
思维	sīwéi	thinking, way of thinking	学一门{=(measure word for courses)}外语，也是学一种新的思维方式。 Learning a foreign language also means learning a new way of thinking.
思想	sīxiǎng	thought, ideas	这本书的思想很深刻，我看了好几遍。 The ideas in this book are profound. I’ve read it several times.
想象	xiǎngxiàng	to imagine; imagination	我很难想象没有手机的生活。 I can hardly imagine life without a phone.
逻辑	luójí	logic	这篇文章的逻辑很清楚，很好懂。 The logic of this article is very clear, so it’s easy to follow.
分析	fēnxī	to analyse	我们来分析一下这次考试的问题。 Let’s look at what went wrong in this exam.
概念	gàiniàn	concept, idea	这个概念有点儿难，我再举个例子。 This idea is a bit hard, so let me give another example.
观察	guānchá	to observe, watch closely	孩子们在认真地观察树上的小鸟。 The children are watching the birds in the tree closely.
观念	guānniàn	idea, notion, values	年轻人和老人的观念常常不一样。 Young people and older people often see things differently.
理论	lǐlùn	theory	理论再好，也要在生活中试一试。 However good a theory is, you have to try it out in real life.
结论	jiélùn	conclusion	现在下结论还太早。 It’s too early to draw a conclusion.
本质	běnzhì	essence, nature	这两个问题看起来不同，本质上是一样的。 These two problems look different, but they’re the same at heart.
意识	yìshí	to realise; awareness	我这才意识到自己说错了。 Only then did I realise I’d said the wrong thing.
意义	yìyì	meaning, significance	这次活动很有意义。 This event is really worthwhile.

智慧	zhìhuì	wisdom	老人的经验里有很多生活的智慧。 There's a lot of everyday wisdom in what older people have learned.
深刻	shēnkè	deep, profound	这部电影给我留下了深刻的印象。 This film made a deep impression on me.
疑问	yíwèn	question, doubt	大家还有什么疑问吗? Does anyone have any more questions?
忽视	hūshì	to overlook, neglect	学语言的时候，千万别忽视发音。 When you learn a language, never neglect pronunciation.
体会	tǐhuì	to come to understand; experience	当了老师以后，我才体会到老师的辛苦。 Only after becoming a teacher did I understand how hard teachers work.
体现	tǐxiàn	to reflect, show	这个小礼物体现了他对朋友的关心。 This little gift shows how much he cares about his friends.
必然	bìrán	inevitable, certain	不复习就去考试，考不好是必然的。 If you sit an exam without revising, doing badly is a given.
必要	bìyào	necessary	没有必要为这么小的事生气。 There's no need to get upset over something so small.
必需	bìxū	to need, be essential	对今天的人来说，手机已经是必需的东西了。 For people today, a phone has become a necessity.
应当	yīngdāng	should, ought to	做错了事，就应当说“对不起”。 When you've done something wrong, you ought to say sorry.
进一步	jìnyībù	further	我们需要进一步了解学生的想法。 We need to understand the students' views better.

pattern 不但不……，反而……: not only not …, but instead …

不但不 / 不但没（有） **what you'd expect** ，反而 **the opposite**

Use it when things go the opposite way to what you'd expect. The first part says the expected thing didn't happen: 不但不 (now, habits) or 不但没（有） (in the past). 反而 then brings in the surprise: “on the contrary”.

雨不但没停，反而越下越大了。 **yǔ búdàn méi tíng fǎnér yuè xià yuè dà le** Far from stopping, the rain got heavier and heavier.

老师批评了他，他不但没放弃，反而更勤奋了。 **lǎoshī pīpíng le tā tā búdàn méi fàngqì fǎnér gèng qínfèn le** The teacher criticised him, and instead of giving up he worked even harder.

担心太多不但没有必要，反而会让人更紧张。 **dānxīn tài duō búdàn méiyǒu bìyào fǎnér huì ràng rén gèng jǐnzhāng** Worrying too much doesn't just do no good; it makes you more nervous.

dialogue what are we really learning?

professor sun 今天我们来思考一个问题：学一门外语，究竟学的是什么？
jīntiān wǒmen lái sīkǎo yí gè wèntí xué yì mén wàiyǔ jiūjìng xué de shì shénme · Today let's think about a question: when we learn a foreign language, what exactly are we learning?

anna 我觉得是词汇、语法以及发音。
wǒ juéde shì cíhuì yǔfǎ yǐjí fāyīn · I'd say vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

professor sun 这些都很重要。但是从本质上说，学外语也是在学一种新的思维方式。
zhèxiē dōu hěn zhòngyào dànshì cóng běnzhì shàng shuō xué wàiyǔ yě shì zài xué yì zhǒng xīn de sīwéi fāngshì · Those all matter. But at heart, learning a foreign language is also learning a new way of thinking.

anna 我有个疑问：中国人和外国人的思维真的不一样吗？
wǒ yǒu gè yíwèn Zhōngguó rén hé wàiguó rén de sīwéi zhēn de bù yíyàng ma · I have a question: do Chinese people and foreigners really think differently?

professor sun 你可以自己观察。比如时间的概念，中文说“上个月”“下个月”，好像时间是从上往下走的。
nǐ kěyǐ zìjǐ guānchá bǐrú shíjiān de gàiniàn Zhōngwén shuō shàng gè yuè xià gè yuè hǎoxiàng shíjiān shì cóng shàng wǎng xià zǒu de · You can observe it yourself. Take the idea of time: Chinese says “up month” for last month and “down month” for next month, as if time ran from top to bottom.

xiaoming 我从来没想过！我们天天这么说，却忽视了里面的逻辑。
wǒ cónglái méi xiǎng guò wǒmen tiān tiān zhème shuō què hūshì le lǐmiàn de luójí · I've never thought of that! We say it every day and never notice the logic in it.

professor sun 没错。一种语言体现了人们的思想、观念以及生活的智慧。
méi cuò yì zhǒng yǔyán tǐxiàn le rénmen de sīxiǎng guānniàn yǐjí shēnghuó de zhìhuì · Exactly. A language reflects people's thoughts, their values and their everyday wisdom.

anna 原来是这样！我学了这么多年，不但没觉得汉语越来越难，反而觉得越来越有意思了。
yuánlái shì zhèyàng wǒ xué le zhème duō nián búdàn méi juéde Hànyǔ yuè lái yuè nán fǎnér juéde yuè lái yuè yǒu yìsi le · So that's it! After all these years, instead of finding Chinese harder and harder, I find it more and more interesting.

professor sun 真有你的！这就是学语言的意义。下次我们进一步讨论这个理论。
zhēn yǒu nǐ de zhè jiùshì xué yǔyán de yìyì xià cì wǒmen jìnyíbù tǎolùn zhège lǐlùn · Good for you! That's what learning a language is all about. Next time we'll go further into this theory.

xiaoming 今天的课真深刻，我回去得好好体会一下。
jīntiān de kè zhēn shēnkè wǒ huíqù děi hǎohǎo tǐhuì yíxià · That was a really thought-provoking class. I need to go home and let it sink in.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

析
xī
to split

义
yì
meaning; right

good to know · 究竟 adds “exactly, on earth” to a question, like 到底 but more written. As a noun it means “the whole story”: 我想问个究竟, I want to get to the bottom of it. 必需 (essential: 必需的东西) and 必须 (must: 你必须去) sound the same. One is a need, the other is an order.

Big ideas in Chinese: thinking, logic and meaning. You can now follow a discussion, not just a chat.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 40 a research project

Plan a small survey, talk about lectures and research, and say “it’s not just…, there’s also…” with 不是……，还……

Projects, surveys and presentations are part of study and work in China, and the words come up in every HSK 5 reading paper.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
论文	lùnwén	paper, thesis	小明大学最后一年一直在写论文。 Xiaoming spent his last year at university writing his thesis.
学术	xuéshù	academic; scholarship	孙教授下个星期要参加一个学术会议。 Professor Sun is going to an academic conference next week.
学者	xuézhě	scholar	他是一位很有名的历史学者。 He’s a well-known historian.
哲学	zhéxué	philosophy	她大学学的是哲学。 She studied philosophy at university.
问卷	wènjuàn	questionnaire	请大家花五分钟填一下这份问卷。 Please take five minutes to fill in this questionnaire.
讲座	jiǎngzuò	lecture, talk	今天晚上的讲座是关于中国历史的。 Tonight’s talk is about Chinese history.
培养	péiyǎng	to foster, train, develop	父母应当从小培养孩子读书的习惯。 Parents should help children get into the habit of reading from an early age.
系	xì	department (of a university)	我姐姐是北京大学中文系{xi4-5}的学生。 My sister studies in the Chinese department at Peking University.
对比	duìbǐ	to compare, contrast	对比一下这两张照片，你会发现很多不同。 Compare these two photos and you’ll find lots of differences.
预测	yùcè	to predict, forecast	谁也不能准确地预测明天会发生什么。 No one can say for sure what will happen tomorrow.
预计	yùjì	to expect, estimate	飞机预计晚上八点到达。 The plane is expected to land at eight this evening.
原则	yuánzé	principle	我学习的原则是：不懂就问。 My rule when studying is: if you don’t understand, ask.
针对	zhēnduì	to target, aim at	王老师针对每个学生的问题给了建议。 Teacher Wang gave advice aimed at each student’s problems.
模式	móshì	model, pattern, mode	网上上课已经是一种新的学习模式了。 Online classes have become a new way of learning.
情景	qíngjǐng	scene, situation	我还记得第一次来北京的情景。 I still remember what it was like when I first

			came to Beijing.
背景	bèijǐng	background	这张照片的背景是长城。 The Great Wall is in the background of this photo.
把握	bǎwò	to grasp, seize; confidence	这次考试我很有把握。 I feel confident about this exam.
反	fǎn	reversed, inside out; against	你的衣服穿反了！ You've got your top on inside out!
显得	xiǎnde	to look, seem	穿上这件衣服，你显得年轻多了。 You look much younger in that.
深远	shēnyuǎn	far-reaching	这件事对他的影响非常深远。 This had a lasting effect on him.
展示	zhǎnshì	to show, present	下面我给大家展示一下我们的调查结果。 Now I'll show you the results of our survey.
展现	zhǎnxiàn	to show, reveal	这部电影展现了普通北京人的生活。 This film shows the lives of ordinary people in Beijing.
包括	bāokuò	to include	一共有十个|人报名，包括我。 Ten people have signed up, including me.
包含	bāohán	to contain	这个句子包含了两层意思。 This sentence has two layers of meaning.
属于	shǔyú	to belong to	这些书属于学校图书馆，不能带回家。 These books belong to the school library, so you can't take them home.

pattern 不是……，还……: it's not just …, there's also …

不是 | the simple part | ，还 / 还是 | something more

This pattern goes one step further: the first part says it isn't only the simple thing, and 还 adds the bigger thing that comes on top. It often appears as 不是……就完了/就行了，还要…… With a noun after it, 还是 means "is also".

写论文不是一天两天的事，还要做很多调查。 **xiě lùnwén bú shì yì tiān liǎng tiān de shì hái yào zuò hěn duō diàochá** Writing a paper isn't a matter of a day or two: you also have to do a lot of research.

孙教授不是一般的学者，还是一位有名的作家。 **Sūnjiàoshòu bú shì yìbān de xuézhě háishi yí wèi yǒumíng de zuòjiā** Professor Sun is no ordinary scholar: he's also a well-known writer.

培养一个好习惯，不是坚持一个月就行了，还要坚持好几年。 **péiyǎng yí gè hǎo xíguàn bú shì jiānchí yí gè yuè jiù xíng le hái yào jiānchí hǎo jǐ nián** Building a good habit isn't just keeping it up for a month: you have to keep going for years.

dialogue advice after the lecture

anna 孙教授，您今天的讲座太精彩了！您讲的内容包含了很多我从来没听过的故事。
Sūnjiàoshòu nín jīntiān de jiǎngzuò tài jīngcǎi le nín jiǎng de nèiróng bāohán le hěn duō wǒ cónglái méi tīng guò de gùshi · Professor Sun, your lecture today was brilliant! It was full of stories I'd never heard.

professor sun 谢谢！你们也对学术感兴趣？
xièxie nǐmen yě duì xuéshù gǎn xìngqù · Thank you! Are you interested in academic work too?

xiaoming 我们在做一个小研究，对比中国人和外国人学外语的模式。
wǒmen zài zuò yí gè xiǎo yánjiū duìbǐ Zhōngguó rén hé wàiguó rén xué wàiyǔ de móshì · We're doing a small study comparing how Chinese people and foreigners learn foreign languages.

anna 我们准备了一份问卷，包括二十个问题。可是我们没有把握，问题是不是太多了。
wǒmen zhǔnbèi le yí fèn wènjuàn bāokuò èrshí gè wèntí kěshì wǒmen méiyǒu bǎwò wèntí shì bu shì tài duō le · We've made a questionnaire with twenty questions. But we're not sure if there are too many.

professor sun 做调查有一个原则：每个问题都要有用。你们预计有多少人填？
zuò diàochá yǒu yí gè yuánzé měi gè wèntí dōu yào yǒuyòng nǐmen yùjì yǒu duōshao rén tián · There's one rule for surveys: every question has to be useful. How many people do you expect to fill it in?

anna 我们希望有一百个人以上。不过有几个问题属于哲学问题，比如“学习的意义是什么”，很难回答。
wǒmen xīwàng yǒu yìbǎi gè rén yǐshàng búguò yǒu jǐ gè wèntí shǔyú zhéxué wèntí bǐrú xuéxí de yìyì shì shénme hěn nán huídá · We hope for over a hundred. But a few of the questions are really philosophy questions, like "What is the point of learning?", which are hard to answer.

professor sun 那就把这几个问题拿掉。问卷不是写完就完了，还要先找几个人试一试。
nà jiù bǎ zhè jǐ gè wèntí ná diào wènjuàn bú shì xiě wán jiù wán le hái yào xiān zhǎo jǐ gè rén shì yi shi · Then take those out. And a questionnaire isn't done once it's written: you also need to try it on a few people first.

xiaoming 明白了。结果出来以后，我们想在班上展示一下。
míngbai le jiéguǒ chūlái yǐhòu wǒmen xiǎng zài bān shàng zhǎnshì yíxià · Got it. When the results are in, we'd like to present them to the class.

professor sun 好主意。别忘了先说明调查的背景，这样会显得更专业。
hǎo zhǔyi bié wàng le xiān shuōmíng diàochá de bèijǐng zhèyàng huì xiǎnde gèng zhuānyè · Good idea. Don't forget to explain the background of the survey first. It'll look more professional.

xiaoming 谢谢您！我们下个星期都在学校里做调查，到时候再来请教您。
xièxie nín wǒmen xià gè xīngqī dōu zài xuéxiào lǐ zuò diàochá dào shíhou zài lái qǐngjiào nín · Thank you! We'll all be doing the survey at school next week. We'll come back for more advice then.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

测
cè
to measure, test

含
hán
to contain; hold in the mouth

good to know · 预计 is for numbers and times you expect (预计八点到); 预测 is for forecasting what will happen (预测天气, 预测结果). 包括 lists members (包括我); 包含 is what's inside (包含两层意思). 属于 says what something belongs to (属于学校). 根据 "according to" is also a noun, "basis, grounds": 有什么根据? what's that based on?, 没有根据 groundless.

Surveys, lectures and research questions: you can now take part in a real project in Chinese, from the first idea to the results.
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day 41 exam day

Talk about results, averages and gaps, and link ideas with 从而, 可见, 假如 and 总之.

Written Chinese leans on linking words: spot 从而, 可见 and 总之 and a long paragraph suddenly makes sense.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
必	bì	must, certainly (written)	来北京，长城是必去的地方。 If you come to Beijing, the Great Wall is a must.
从不	cóngbù	never	他从不迟到，今天是怎么了？ He's never late. What's happened today?
要不是	yàobùshì	if it weren't for	要不是你提醒我，我早就忘了。 If you hadn't reminded me, I'd have forgotten.
无奈	wúnài	helpless; having no choice	听到这个消息，他无奈地笑了笑。 When he heard the news, he gave a helpless little smile.
顺	shùn	along; smooth	顺着这条路一直走，就能看到学校。 Follow this road straight on and you'll see the school.
平均	píngjūn	average; equal	我们班这次考试平均75分。 Our class averaged 75 in this test.
从而	cóngér	thus, thereby	他每天坚持练习，从而提高了口语水平。 He kept practising every day, and so his speaking improved.
可见	kějiàn	which shows that	他连这么简单的题都错了，可见没有认真复习。 He got even this easy question wrong, which shows he didn't revise properly.
假如	jiǎrú	if, supposing	假如明天下雨，我们就改天再去。 If it rains tomorrow, we'll go another day.
总之	zǒngzhī	in short, anyway	总之，多听多说才是最好的办法。 In short, listening and speaking a lot is the best way.
数	shǔ	to count	你数{shu3}一数{shu3}，一共来了多少人。 Count how many people have come.
轻易	qīngyì	easily, lightly	别轻易放弃，再试一次吧。 Don't give up so easily. Try once more.
突出	tūchū	outstanding; to highlight	她的阅读成绩特别突出。 Her reading results are outstanding.
完整	wánzhěng	complete, whole	请用完整的句子回答问题。 Please answer in full sentences.
完美	wánměi	perfect	世界上没有完美的人。 Nobody in the world is perfect.
相对	xiāngduì	relatively; opposite	听力相对容易，写作比较难。 Listening is relatively easy; writing is harder.
相关	xiāngguān	related, relevant	请准备好和这次考试相关的材料。 Please get the materials for this exam ready.

一致	yīzhì	in agreement, the same	大家的意见很一致。 Everyone is of the same opinion.
不符	bùfú	not to match	你说的情况和事实不符。 What you've described doesn't match the facts.
差别	chābié	difference	这两个词的差别不大。 There isn't much difference between these two words.
差距	chājù	gap, distance	我的口语和他比还有很大差距。 My speaking still has a long way to go compared with his.
由此	yóucǐ	from this	由此可见，每天练习非常重要。 This shows how important it is to practise every day.
以	yǐ	with, by, as; so as to	他以第一名的成绩考上了大学。 He got into university with the top score.
掌握	zhǎngwò	to master, grasp	学了半年，她已经掌握了基本的语法。 After six months she's got the hang of the basic grammar.
运用	yùnyòng	to use, apply	学过的词要多运用，才能真正记住。 Use the words you've learned a lot, and they'll really stick.

pattern 从而, 可见, 假如, 总之: thus, which shows, if, in short

fact or cause **，从而 / ，可见** **result / what it shows**

从而 adds the result an action leads to: "and so, thereby". 可见 (or 由此可见) draws a conclusion from a fact: "which shows that". 假如 is a written 如果 (often with 就), and 总之 sums up: "in short".

他每天坚持练习，从而掌握了这些用法。 **tā měi tiān jiānchí liànxí cóngér zhǎngwò le zhèxiē yòngfǎ** He practised every day and so got these usages down.

题目这么简单，大家却都错了，可见没有认真看。 **tímù zhème jiǎndān dàjiā què dōu cuò le kějiàn méiyǒu rènzhēn kàn** The question was so easy, yet everyone got it wrong. Clearly no one read it carefully.

假如你是老师，你会如何回答？ **jiǎrú nǐ shì lǎoshī nǐ huì rúhé huídá** If you were the teacher, how would you answer?

总之，和考试相关的材料都要带好。 **zǒngzhī hé kǎoshì xiāngguān de cáiliào dōu yào dài hǎo** In short, bring everything you need for the exam.

dialogue the results are in

teacher wang 安娜，上星期的考试成绩出来了。你考得相当不错！
Ānnà shàng xīngqī de kǎoshì chéngjì chūlái le nǐ kǎo de xiāngdāng búcuò · Anna, last week's exam results are out. You did really well!

anna 真的吗？考试那天一点儿也不顺。我数了数，作文只写了三百字。
zhēn de ma kǎoshì nà tiān yìdiǎnr yě bú shùn wǒ shǔ le shu zuòwén zhǐ xiě le sānbǎi zì · Really? Nothing went right that day. I counted, and my essay was only three hundred characters.

teacher wang 你的阅读成绩特别突出：全班平均70分，你考了90分。
nǐ de yuèdú chéngjì tèbié tūchū quán bān píngjūn fēn nǐ kǎo le fēn · Your reading was outstanding: the class average was 70, and you got 90.

anna 要不是您常常让我们读文章，我的阅读不会提高得这么快。
yàobúshì nín chángcháng ràng wǒmen dú wénzhāng wǒ de yuèdú bú huì tígāo de zhème kuài · If you didn't have us read so many articles, my reading wouldn't have improved so fast.

teacher wang 听力相对也不错，可是写作的差距还比较大。你的作文不太完整，最后一段太短了。
tīnglì xiāngduì yě búcuò kěshì xiězuò de chājù hái bǐjiào dà nǐ de zuòwén bú tài wánzhěng zuìhòu yí duàn tài duǎn le · Your listening is fairly good too, but your writing is still well behind. Your essay isn't complete: the last paragraph is too short.

anna 时间不够了，我也很无奈。
shíjiān búgòu le wǒ yě hěn wúnài · I ran out of time. There was nothing I could do.

teacher wang 可见安排时间很重要。下次先花五分钟想清楚要写什么，从而节省后面的时间。
kějiàn ānpái shíjiān hěn zhòngyào xià cì xiān huā wǔ fēnzhōng xiǎng qīngchu yào xiě shénme cóngér jiéshěng hòumiàn de shíjiān · Which shows how important it is to plan your time. Next time, spend five minutes deciding what to write first; that saves time later.

anna 明白了。我的问题是：学过的词都掌握了，可是写作的时候不会运用。
míngbai le wǒ de wèntí shì xué guò de cí dōu zhǎngwò le kěshì xiězuò de shíhou bú huì yùnyòng · I see. My problem is that I know all the words I've learned, but I can't use them when I write.

teacher wang 老师们的意见很一致：你得多写。每天写一篇小作文，这是必做的练习。总之，别轻易放弃！
lǎoshīmen de yìjiàn hěn yízhì nǐ děi duō xiě měi tiān xiě yì piān xiǎo zuòwén zhè shì bì zuò de liànxí zǒngzhī bié qīngyì fàngqì · All the teachers agree: you need to write more. One short piece a day: that's a must. In short, don't give up easily!

anna 好！哪怕再忙，我每天也写一篇。
hǎo nǎpà zài máng wǒ měi tiān yě xiě yì piān · OK! However busy I am, I'll write one every day.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

均
jūn
equal

致
zhì
to reach, send

good to know · 从而 keeps the same subject and adds the result: 他坚持练习，从而提高了水平. Don't start a new sentence with it. 差别 is any difference; 差距 is a gap where one side is behind: 我和他的差距还很大.

Results, averages and "which shows that…": you can now talk about how an exam went, and what to do next.
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day 42 mission: the class presentation

Follow a whole class project in Chinese, from the survey results to the questions after the talk.

A mission puts days 37–41 to work together: school words, speeches, ideas, research and linking words, all in one story.

chapter 1 the notice on the board

teacher wang 大家看一下这个通知，我读一读：
dàjiā kàn yíxià zhège tōngzhī wǒ dú yi du · Everyone, have a look at this notice. I'll read it out:

teacher wang “各位同学：本学年的汉语演讲比赛下个月开始。比赛分初级和中级两个级，题目由大家自己选。比赛的时间、地点及要求，请看学校的网站。假如你想参加，请在本周五以前报名。成绩好的同学可以得到证书，还可以拿到两个学分。”
gèwèi tóngxué běn xuénián de Hànyǔ yǎnjiǎng bǐsài xià gè yuè kāishǐ bǐsài fēn chūjí hé zhōngjí liǎng gè jí tímù yóu dàjiā zìjǐ xuǎn bǐsài de shíjiān dìdiǎn jí yāoqiú qǐng kàn xuéxiào de wǎngzhàn jiǎrú nǐ xiǎng cānjiā qǐng zài běn zhōu wǔ yǐqián bàomíng chéngjì hǎo de tóngxué kěyǐ dédào zhèngshū hái kěyǐ ná dào liǎng gè xuéfēn · “Dear students: this school year's Chinese speech contest starts next month. There are two levels, elementary and intermediate, and you choose your own topic. For the time, the place and the rules, see the school website. If you'd like to take part, please sign up before this Friday. Students who do well receive a certificate and two course credits.”

anna 我想参加中级的！不过我们的研究也要在班上展示，时间够吗？
wǒ xiǎng cānjiā zhōngjí de búguò wǒmen de yánjiū yě yào zài bān shàng zhǎnshì shíjiān gòu ma · I want to enter the intermediate level! But we also have to present our research in class. Will there be time?

teacher wang 够。你们可以把研究的结果作为演讲的题目。学校图书馆里有很多图书和教材，你们可以去查。
gòu nǐmen kěyǐ bǎ yánjiū de jiéguǒ zuòwéi yǎnjiǎng de tímù xuéxiào túshūguǎn lǐ yǒu hěn duō túshū hé jiàocái nǐmen kěyǐ qù chá · Yes. You can make the results of your research the topic of your speech. The school library has lots of books and textbooks you can look things up in.

little sister 安娜姐姐，我也在准备考试。试卷上的题目太多了，我得专心。
Ānnà jiějie wǒ yě zài zhǔnbèi kǎoshì shìjuàn shàng de tímù tài duō le wǒ děi zhuānxīn · Anna, I'm getting ready for exams too. There are so many questions on the paper: I have to concentrate.

anna 上次你买的尺子、橡皮以及毛笔都用上了吗？
shàng cì nǐ mǎi de chǐzi xiàngpí yǐjí máobǐ dōu yòng shàng le ma · Did you use the ruler, the eraser and the brush you bought last time?

little sister 都用上了！我希望被北京的大学录取，住宿舍，学一个新学科。我们语文老师说，现在的人学历越来越高。
dōu yòng shàng le wǒ xīwàng bèi Běijīng de dàxué lùqǔ zhù sùshè xué yí gè xīn xuékē wǒmen yǔwén lǎoshī shuō xiànzài de rén xuélì yuè lái yuè gāo · All of them! I hope to get into a university in Beijing, live in a dorm and study a new subject. Our Chinese teacher says people's qualifications keep getting higher.

teacher wang 是啊，很多孩子从幼儿园就开始学外语了。
shì a hěn duō háizi cóng yòuéryuán jiù kāishǐ xué wàiyǔ le · That's right: lots of children start learning a foreign language at kindergarten.

chapter 2 what the numbers say

xiaoming 问卷都收回来了，一共一百二十份，包括四十份外国人填的。
wènjuàn dōu shōu huilai le yígòng yìbǎièrshí fèn bāokuò sìshí fèn wàiguó rén tián de · All the questionnaires are back: a hundred and twenty, including forty filled in by foreigners.

anna 太好了！我们先对比一下：中国人和外国人每天平均学多长时间外语?
tài hǎo le wǒmen xiān duìbǐ yíxià Zhōngguó rén hé wàiguó rén měi tiān píngjūn xué duō cháng shíjiān wàiyǔ · Great! Let's compare first: on average, how long do Chinese people and foreigners spend on a foreign language each day?

xiaoming 中国人平均四十分钟，外国人只有二十五分钟。
Zhōngguó rén píngjūn sìshí fēnzhōng wàiguó rén zhǐ yǒu èrshíwǔ fēnzhōng · Chinese people forty minutes on average; foreigners only twenty-five.

anna 可是外国人的口语成绩反而更好。可见时间不是最重要的。
kěshì wàiguó rén de kǒuyǔ chéngjì fǎnér gèng hǎo kějiàn shíjiān bú shì zuì zhòngyào de · And yet the foreigners do better at speaking. Which shows time isn't the most important thing.

xiaoming 我数了数：问卷里包含二十个问题，有三个问题的结果跟我们的预计不符。
wǒ shǔ le shu wènjuàn lǐ bāohán èrshí gè wèntí yǒu sān gè wèntí de jiéguǒ gēn wǒmen de yùjì bùfú · I counted: the questionnaire had twenty questions, and the results of three didn't match what we'd expected.

anna 我们原来预测中国人的口语会更好，结果正好反了。这说明两种人的学习观念有很大的差别。
wǒmen yuánlái yùcè Zhōngguó rén de kǒuyǔ huì gèng hǎo jiéguǒ zhènghǎo fǎn le zhè shuōmíng liǎng zhǒng rén de xuéxí guānniàn yǒu hěn dà de chābié · We predicted Chinese people would speak better, and it turned out exactly the other way round. That shows there's a big difference in how the two groups think about learning.

xiaoming 别急着下结论。我们得再分析一下他们是如何学的。
bié jí zhe xià jiélùn wǒmen děi zài fēnxī yíxià tāmen shì rúhé xué de · Don't jump to conclusions. We need to look at how they learn first.

anna 我们应当把这些数字写进论文吗?
wǒmen yīngdāng bǎ zhèxiē shùzì xiě jìn lùnwén ma · Should we put these numbers in the paper?

xiaoming 有必要。不过别轻易下结论，要先观察更多的情景。
yǒu bìyào búguò bié qīngyì xià jiélùn yào xiān guānchá gèng duō de qíngjǐng · We need to. But let's not jump to conclusions: we should look at more situations first.

anna 你看这个问题：外国人一般说“跟朋友聊天”，中国人一般说“做题”。
nǐ kàn zhège wèntí wàiguó rén yìbān shuō gēn péngyou liáotiān Zhōngguó rén yìbān shuō zuò tí · Look at this question: foreigners mostly said “chatting with friends”, Chinese people mostly said “doing exercises”.

xiaoming 这就是两种不同的学习模式！总之，结果很有意思。
zhè jiùshì liǎng zhǒng bù tóng de xuéxí móshì zǒngzhī jiéguǒ hěn yǒu yìsi · So that's two different ways of learning! In short, the results are really interesting.

anna 那我们的主题就叫“学外语：做题还是聊天？”
nà wǒmen de zhǔtí jiù jiào xué wàiyǔ zuò tí háishi liáotiān · Then let's call our talk “Learning a language: exercises or chatting?”

chapter 3 the rehearsal

anna 王老师，我们想请您听一下我们的演讲，可以吗？
Wánglǎoshī wǒmen xiǎng qǐng nín tīng yíxià wǒmen de yǎnjiǎng kěyǐ ma · Teacher Wang, could you listen to our talk for us?

teacher wang 当然可以。开始吧，我把它录下来，你们回去可以自己听。
dāngrán kěyǐ kāishǐ ba wǒ bǎ tā lù xialai nǐmen huíqù kěyǐ zìjǐ tīng · Of course. Go ahead. I'll record it so you can listen to it yourselves later.

anna 大家好！今天我们想跟大家展示一下我们的调查结果……
dàjiā hǎo jīntiān wǒmen xiǎng gēn dàjiā zhǎnshì yíxià wǒmen de diàochá jiéguǒ · Hello, everyone! Today we'd like to show you the results of our survey…

teacher wang 停一下。“展示”这个词，你的发音不太对，请你再重复一遍。
tíng yíxià zhǎnshì zhège cí nǐ de fāyīn bú tài duì qǐng nǐ zài chóngfù yí biàn · Stop for a second. Your pronunciation of 展示 isn't quite right. Say it again, please.

anna 展示……展示。这样对吗？
zhǎnshì zhǎnshì zhèyàng duì ma · 展示… 展示. Is that right?

teacher wang 对了！还有，别一直看手机念，要看着大家讲。
duì le hái yǒu bié yìzhí kàn shǒujī niàn yào kàn zhe dàjiā jiǎng · That's it! And don't just read off your phone: look at the audience while you talk.

anna 有的字的读音我老是忘，只能看拼音字母。
yǒude zì de dúyīn wǒ lǎoshì wàng zhǐ néng kàn pīnyīn zìmǔ · I keep forgetting how some characters are pronounced, so I can only look at the pinyin letters.

teacher wang 多听录音，记忆就会好一些。你的词汇已经很丰富了，写作也不错。
duō tīng lùyīn jìyì jiù huì hǎo yìxiē nǐ de cíhuì yǐjīng hěn fēngfù le xiězuò yě búcuò · Listen to recordings a lot and your memory will get better. Your vocabulary is already rich, and your writing is good too.

teacher wang 还有，你这一页的两个“展示”重了，拿掉一个吧。
hái yǒu nǐ zhè yí yè de liǎng gè zhǎnshì chóng le ná diào yí gè ba · And on this page the word 展示 is repeated: take one of them out.

anna 好，我把您的意见都记录下来了。我还想请教一下：我用“电脑是电的大脑”这个比喻，合适吗？
hǎo wǒ bǎ nín de yìjiàn dōu jìlù xialai le wǒ hái xiǎng qǐngjiào yíxià wǒ yòng diànnǎo shì diàn de dànǎo zhège bǐyù héshì ma · OK, I've noted down all your comments. Can I ask you one more thing: is it all right to use the metaphor “a computer is an electric brain”?

teacher wang 很合适，大家都会觉得很生动。很多东西的名称都很有意思，这是常识，可是很多人忽视了。
hěn héshì dàjiā dōu huì juéde hěn shēngdòng hěn duō dōngxi de míngchēng dōu hěn yǒu yìsi zhè shì chángshí kěshì hěn duō rén hūshì le · It's fine: everyone will find it vivid. The names of lots of things are interesting: it's common knowledge, but many people overlook it.

xiaoming 我每天晚上给安娜发语音，帮她练习这些词的用法。
wǒ měi tiān wǎnshang gěi Ānnà fā yǔyīn bāng tā liànxí zhèxiē cí de yòngfǎ · Every evening I send Anna voice messages to help her practise how these words are used.

teacher wang 很好。比赛的时候，老师们会评你的发音和内容。
hěn hǎo bǐsài de shíhou lǎoshīmen huì píng nǐ de fāyīn hé nèiróng · Good. In the contest, the teachers will judge your pronunciation and your content.

xiaoming 我讲的那一部分，时间是不是太长了？
wǒ jiǎng de nà yí bùfen shíjiān shì bu shì tài cháng le · Is my part too long?

teacher wang 有一点儿。你的内容很完整，但是有些例子跟主题不太相关，可以拿掉。
yǒuyìdiǎnr nǐ de nèiróng hěn wánzhěng dànshì yǒuxiē lìzi gēn zhǔtí bú tài xiāngguān kěyǐ ná diào · A little. Your content is complete, but some of your examples aren't really on topic, so you can cut them.

chapter 4 presentation day

teacher wang 今天孙教授也来了，欢迎！下面请安娜和小明给大家展示他们的研究。
jīntiān Sūnjiàoshòu yě lái le huānyíng xiàmiàn qǐng Ānnà hé Xiǎomíng gěi dàjiā zhǎnshì tāmen de yánjiū · Professor Sun is here with us today. Welcome! And now Anna and Xiaoming will present their research.

anna 谢谢王老师！首先介绍一下背景：很多人每天都很勤奋地学外语，可是口语还是不好。
xièxie Wánglǎoshī shǒuxiān jièshào yíxià bèijǐng hěn duō rén měi tiān dōu hěn qínfèn de xué wàiyǔ kěshì kǒuyǔ háishi bù hǎo · Thank you, Teacher Wang! First, the background: lots of people study a foreign language hard every day, and their speaking is still weak.

xiaoming 所以我们发了一份问卷，一共收回一百二十份。结果如下。
suǒyǐ wǒmen fā le yí fèn wènjuàn yígòng shōu huí yìbǎièrshí fèn jiéguǒ rúxià · So we sent out a questionnaire and got a hundred and twenty back. Here are the results.

anna 我们同四十个外国学生以及八十个中国学生都聊了聊。
wǒmen tóng sìshí gè wàiguó xuéshēng yǐjí bāshí gè Zhōngguó xuéshēng dōu liáo le liao · We talked with the forty foreign students and the eighty Chinese students as well.

anna 做题多的人，语法相对好一些；聊天多的人，口语更好。
zuò tí duō de rén yǔfǎ xiāngduì hǎo yìxiē liáotiān duō de rén kǒuyǔ gèng hǎo · People who do lots of exercises have relatively better grammar; people who chat a lot speak better.

xiaoming 有的人每天做两个小时题，口语不但没有提高，反而越来越不敢说了。
yǒude rén měi tiān zuò liǎng gè xiǎoshí tí kǒuyǔ búdàn méiyǒu tígāo fǎnér yuè lái yuè bù gǎn shuō le · Some people do two hours of exercises a day, and instead of improving, they get more and more afraid to speak.

anna 假如你每天只做题，不说话，口语必然不会好。
jiǎrú nǐ měi tiān zhǐ zuò tí bù shuōhuà kǒuyǔ bìrán bú huì hǎo · If all you do every day is exercises and you never speak, your speaking is bound not to improve.

xiaoming 学外语，从本质上说，是学一种新的思维。语言体现了人们的思想和智慧。我们必须掌握语法，也要在生活中运用。
xué wàiyǔ cóng běnzhì shàng shuō shì xué yì zhǒng xīn de sīwéi yǔyán tǐxiàn le rénmen de sīxiǎng hé zhìhuì wǒmen bìxū zhǎngwò yǔfǎ yě yào zài shēnghuó zhōng yùnyòng · Learning a language is, at heart, learning a new way of thinking. A language reflects people's ideas and their wisdom. We have to master the grammar, and we also have to use it in daily life.

anna 由此可见，学外语不是做完题就行了，还要多跟人交流。
yóu cǐ kějiàn xué wàiyǔ bú shì zuò wán tí jiù xíng le hái yào duō gēn rén jiāoliú · This shows that learning a language isn't just doing exercises: you also need to talk with people a lot.

xiaoming 总之，我们的建议是：做题和聊天都要有，从而让语法和口语一起提高。
zǒngzhī wǒmen de jiànyì shì zuò tí hé liáotiān dōu yào yǒu cóngér ràng yǔfǎ hé kǒuyǔ yìqǐ tígāo · In short, our advice is: do both exercises and chatting, so that grammar and speaking improve together.

teacher wang 讲得很清楚！大家有什么疑问，可以提问。
jiǎng de hěn qīngchu dàjiā yǒu shénme yíwèn kěyǐ tíwèn · Very clear! If anyone has questions, go ahead and ask.

chapter 5 a question from the professor

professor sun 你们的研究很有意义。我想问个究竟：一百二十个人，这个结论有什么根据？你们的问卷是针对什么人的？
nǐmen de yánjiū hěn yǒu yìyì wǒ xiǎng wèn gè jiūjìng yìbǎièrshí gè rén zhège jiélùn yǒu shénme gēnjù nǐmen de wènjuàn shì zhēnduì shénme rén de · Your research is very worthwhile. I'd like to get to the bottom of it: with a hundred and twenty people, what is this conclusion based on? Who was your questionnaire aimed at?

anna 主要针对大学生，包括中文系的学生。
zhǔyào zhēnduì dàxuéshēng bāokuò Zhōngwén xì de xuéshēng · Mainly university students, including students from the Chinese department.

xiaoming 您说得对，人数不太多。我们的结论还不完整，只能参考。
nín shuō de duì rénshù bú tài duō wǒmen de jiélùn hái bù wánzhěng zhǐ néng cānkǎo · You're right, it isn't many people. Our conclusion isn't complete yet; it's only a pointer.

anna 所以我们打算进一步调查，下个学年再找三百个人填问卷。
suǒyǐ wǒmen dǎsuàn jìnyíbù diàochá xià gè xuénián zài zhǎo sānbǎi gè rén tián wènjuàn · So we're planning to look further: next school year we'll get three hundred more people to fill in the questionnaire.

professor sun 很好。做研究有一个原则：有多少根据，就说多少。
hěn hǎo zuò yánjiū yǒu yí gè yuánzé yǒu duōshao gēnjù jiù shuō duōshao · Good. Research has one rule: claim only as much as your evidence supports.

professor sun 不过你们的逻辑很清楚，概念也很明确，显得很专业。下个月我有一个讲座，讲语言的理论，你们可以来听。
búguò nǐmen de luójí hěn qīngchu gàiniàn yě hěn míngquè xiǎnde hěn zhuānyè xià gè yuè wǒ yǒu yí gè jiǎngzuò jiǎng yǔyán de lǐlùn nǐmen kěyǐ lái tīng · But your logic is clear and your ideas are well defined: it all looks very professional. Next month I'm giving a lecture on the theory of language: come and listen.

anna 太好了！我从来没想象过自己能跟学者讨论学术问题，就像哲学家似的！
tài hǎo le wǒ cónglái méi xiǎngxiàng guo zìjǐ néng gēn xuézhě tǎolùn xuéshù wèntí jiù xiàng zhéxué jiā shìde · Brilliant! I never imagined I'd be discussing academic questions with a scholar, like a philosopher!

professor sun 学校应当培养这样的学生。好的研究，意义很深远。
xuéxiào yīngdāng péiyǎng zhèyàng de xuéshēng hǎo de yánjiū yìyì hěn shēnyuǎn · Schools should train students like you. Good research has far-reaching value.

teacher wang 孙教授，您觉得他们的演讲能及格吗？
Sūnjiàoshòu nín juéde tāmen de yǎnjiǎng néng jígé ma · Professor Sun, do you think their presentation gets a pass?

professor sun 哪怕是我的大学生，也很少有人讲得这么好。真有你们的！
nǎpà shì wǒ de dàxuéshēng yě hěn shǎo yǒu rén jiǎng de zhème hǎo zhēn yǒu nǐmen de · Even among my university students, few could present this well. You two are something else!

teacher wang 老师们的意见很一致：你们讲得很顺，展现了大家的努力。
lǎoshīmen de yìjiàn hěn yízhì nǐmen jiǎng de hěn shùn zhǎnxiàn le dàjiā de nǔlì · All the teachers agree: your talk went smoothly and showed how hard everyone worked.

anna 谢谢！不过我的演讲还不完美，跟孙教授的学生比，还有差距。
xièxie búguò wǒ de yǎnjiǎng hái bù wánměi gēn Sūnjiàoshòu de xuéshēng bǐ hái yǒu chājù · Thank you! But my talk isn't perfect yet: compared with Professor Sun's students, I'm still behind.

professor sun 你从不放弃，以这样的速度，明年必能通过考试。
nǐ cóng bú fàngqì yǐ zhèyàng de sùdù míngnián bì néng tōngguò kǎoshì · You never give up. At this rate, you're sure to pass the exam next year.

anna 今天的体会很深刻。我意识到，研究也可以很有意思。
jīntiān de tǐhuì hěn shēnkè wǒ yìshí dào yánjiū yě kěyǐ hěn yǒu yìsi · Today taught me a lot. I've realised research can be really interesting.

anna 谢谢孙教授！要不是王老师帮我们练了那么多遍，我们一定会很紧张。
xièxie Sūnjiàoshòu yàobúshì Wánglǎoshī bāng wǒmen liàn le nàme duō biàn wǒmen yídìng huì hěn jǐnzhāng ·

Thank you, Professor Sun! If Teacher Wang hadn't rehearsed with us so many times, we'd have been really nervous.

xiaoming 今天回家，我要把这个好消息告诉我妹妹，她一定也想做研究！

jīntiān huí jiā wǒ yào bǎ zhège hǎo xiāoxi gàosu wǒ mèimei tā yídìng yě xiǎng zuò yánjiū · When I get home I'm telling my little sister the good news. She'll want to do research too!

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