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day 1 kind and honest

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 1 · people and character

Describe kind, honest and good-hearted people, and read “our” in formal Chinese: 我国, 我方, 我公司.

Character words are how Chinese colleagues, friends and the news talk about people, and formal 我 is on every official notice.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
诚恳	chéngkěn	sincere, earnest	他的态度非常诚恳。 His attitude was completely sincere.
诚意	chéngyì	sincerity, good faith	只要双方都有诚意，问题就能解决。 As long as both sides act in good faith, the problem can be solved.
诚挚	chéngzhì	sincere, cordial (formal)	向各位表示诚挚的感谢。 We extend our sincere thanks to you all.
纯洁	chúnjié	pure, innocent	孩子的心是纯洁的。 A child’s heart is pure.
纯朴	chúnpǔ	simple and honest	这里的人非常纯朴。 The people here are very simple and honest.
淳朴	chúnpǔ	simple and honest	他身上有一种淳朴的气质。 There is something simple and honest about him.
慈祥	cíxiáng	kindly (of an older person)	爷爷笑得很慈祥。 Grandpa smiled kindly.
敦厚	dūnhòu	honest and kind-hearted	他是个敦厚的老实人。 He’s an honest, good-hearted man.
憨厚	hānhòu	simple, honest and good-natured	他笑起来憨厚极了。 He has the most good-natured smile.
厚道	hòudao	decent, kind (to others)	做人要厚道。 You should treat people decently.
和蔼	héǎi	kindly, amiable	王老师对学生总是很和蔼。 Teacher Wang is always kind to her students.
和气	héqi	polite, friendly, good-natured	店老板说话很和气。 The shop owner speaks in a friendly way.
宽厚	kuānhòu	generous, magnanimous	她对人一向宽厚。 She has always been generous towards people.
宽容	kuānróng	tolerant; to forgive	请对新同事宽容一点。 Please be a little more patient with new colleagues.
包容	bāoróng	tolerant, accepting; to include	这座城市很包容，欢迎各种人。 This city is open-minded and welcomes all kinds of people.
仁慈	réncí	merciful, benevolent	他是一位仁慈的老人。 He is a merciful, kindly old man.

善	shàn	kind, good; good at	她心善，见到小动物总要喂一喂。 She's kind-hearted: whenever she sees a little animal, she feeds it.
善意	shànyì	goodwill, good intentions	他的批评是出于善意。 His criticism was well meant.
好心	hǎoxīn	good intentions; kind-hearted	好心的路人把钱包送了回来。 A kind passer-by brought the wallet back.
好意	hǎoyì	kindness, good intention	谢谢你的好意，我自己来吧。 Thanks for the kind offer, but I'll do it myself.
友善	yǒushàn	friendly	当地人对游客很友善。 The locals are friendly to tourists.
亲和力	qīnhélì	warmth, approachability	新来的主持人很有亲和力。 The new host is very approachable.
真心	zhēnxīn	sincere; wholehearted	我真心希望你快乐。 I sincerely hope you're happy.
真挚	zhēnzhì	sincere, heartfelt	他们之间有一份真挚的友谊。 They share a sincere friendship.
坦诚	tǎnchéng	candid, open and honest	我们坦诚地谈了一次。 We had a frank talk.
坦率	tǎnshuài	frank, straightforward	坦率地说，这个方案不太好。 Frankly, this plan isn't very good.
耿直	gěngzhí	blunt, honest and upright	他性格耿直，有什么说什么。 He's blunt by nature and says whatever he thinks.
正直	zhèngzhí	upright, honest	法官必须正直。 A judge must be honest and upright.
朴实	pǔshí	plain, down to earth	她的文章写得很朴实。 Her writing is plain and honest.
质朴	zhìpǔ	simple, unadorned	这些木头家具很质朴。 This wooden furniture is simple and unadorned.
心肠	xīncháng	heart, nature (good or bad)	他是个心肠很好的人。 He has a really good heart.
蒙	méng	to receive (a favour); to cover	这次蒙您帮忙，太感谢了。 I'm so grateful for your help this time.
殷勤	yīnqín	attentive, eager to please	服务员殷勤地给客人倒茶。 The waiter attentively poured tea for the guests.
平和	pínghé	calm, even-tempered; mild	他说话的语气很平和。 He spoke in a calm tone.

pattern 我 + institution: "our" in formal chinese

我 **国 / 方 / 公司 / 市** **= our country / side / company / city**

In formal writing and speeches, 我 goes straight before an institution and means “our”: 我国 (our country), 我方 (our side in a deal), 我公司, 我市. There is no 的. Use it only for institutions, never for people: it is 我妈妈 and 我的朋友.

我公司诚挚邀请您参加十周年活动。 **wǒ gōngsī chéngzhì yāoqǐng nín cānjiā shí zhōunián huódòng** Our company cordially invites you to our tenth-anniversary event.

我方愿意坦诚地讨论合同里的每一个问题。 **wǒ fāng yuànyì tǎnchéng de tǎolùn hétóng lǐ de měi yí gè wèntí** Our side is willing to discuss every point in the contract openly.

我国自古以来就重视朴实、宽厚的品质。 **wǒ guó zì gǔ yǐlái jiù zhòngshì pǔshí kuānhòu de pǐnzhì** Since ancient times, our country has valued plain honesty and generosity of spirit.

dialogue lunch with xiaoming: my new team

xiaoming 你的新团队怎么样？同事们好相处吗？
nǐ de xīn tuánduì zěnmeyàng tóngshìmen hǎo xiāngchǔ ma · How's your new team? Are your colleagues easy to get on with?

anna 挺好的。刘经理说话坦率，有问题就直接指出来。
tǐng hǎo de Liújīnglǐ shuōhuà tǎnshuài yǒu wèntí jiù zhíjiē zhǐ chulai · Pretty good. Manager Liu is frank: if there's a problem, she points it out right away.

xiaoming 坦率的领导好，你不用整天猜她在想什么。
tǎnshuài de lǐngdǎo hǎo nǐ búyòng zhěng tiān cāi tā zài xiǎng shénme · A frank boss is a good thing: you don't have to spend all day guessing what she's thinking.

anna 坐我旁边的老张很耿直，上午就说我的方案有问题。
zuò wǒ pángbiān de lǎo zhāng hěn gěngzhí shàngwǔ jiù shuō wǒ de fāngàn yǒu wèntí · Lao Zhang, who sits next to me, is very blunt: this morning he told me my plan had a problem.

xiaoming 耿直的人一般都很厚道，他是真心想帮你。
gěngzhí de rén yìbān dōu hěn hòudao tā shì zhēnxīn xiǎng bāng nǐ · Blunt people are usually decent. He genuinely wants to help you.

anna 对。他不太爱说话，人却很敦厚，中午还殷勤地帮我拿了外卖。
duì tā bú tài ài shuōhuà rén què hěn dūnhòu zhōngwǔ hái yīnqín de bāng wǒ ná le wàimài · Yes. He doesn't talk much, but he's good-hearted: at lunch he even kindly fetched my takeaway for me.

xiaoming 看来他的意见全是善意的。那个新来的实习生呢？
kànlái tā de yìjiàn quán shì shànyì de nàge xīn lái de shíxí shēng ne · So his comments were all well meant. And the new intern?

anna 她是从农村来的，人特别朴实，穿得也很质朴。她说她们村的人都很纯朴。
tā shì cóng nóngcūn lái de rén tèbié pǔshí chuān de yě hěn zhìpǔ tā shuō tāmen cūn de rén dōu hěn chúnpǔ · She's from the countryside: very down to earth, and she dresses simply. She says everyone in her village is like that, simple and honest.

xiaoming 这样的人往往最好相处。
zhèyàng de rén wǎngwǎng zuìhǎo xiāngchǔ · People like that are often the easiest to get on with.

anna 没错。她性格平和，很有亲和力，对谁都和气、友善。
méi cuò tā xìnggé pínghé hěn yǒu qīnhélì duì shéi dōu héqi yǒushàn · Exactly. She's even-tempered and very approachable, friendly and pleasant to everyone.

xiaoming 你自己呢？第一天表现得怎么样？
nǐ zìjǐ ne dì yī tiān biǎoxiàn de zěnmeyàng · And you? How did your first day go?

anna 我开会时说错了一个数字，大家都很宽容，刘经理也很宽厚，只是和蔼地笑了笑。
wǒ kāihuì shí shuō cuò le yí gè shùzì dàjiā dōu hěn kuānróng Liújīnglǐ yě hěn kuānhòu zhǐshì héǎi de xiào le xiao · I got a number wrong in the meeting, but everyone was understanding, and Manager Liu, generous as she is, just gave a kind smile.

xiaoming 你们团队真不错，大家心肠都好，又懂得包容。
nǐmen tuánduì zhēn búcuò dàjiā xīncháng dōu hǎo yòu dǒngde bāoróng · Your team sounds great: kind-hearted people who know how to be tolerant.

anna 是啊，这几天蒙大家照顾，我打算请他们喝咖啡，表示一点诚意。
shì a zhè jǐ tiān méng dàjiā zhàogù wǒ dǎsuàn qǐng tāmen hē kāfēi biǎoshì yìdiǎn chéngyì · Yes. They've looked after me so well these past few days that I'm going to buy them coffee, as a small sign of my thanks.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

恳
kěn
earnest

慈
cí
loving, kind

仁
rén
kindness, benevolence

坦
tǎn
flat, open

good to know · 我 straight before an institution means “our”: 我国 (our country), 我方 (our side), 我公司. Use it only in formal writing and speeches; at home, say 我们公司. 殷勤 is warm and attentive service; 献殷勤 means sucking up to someone. Context decides.

You can now say what you like about someone in Chinese, precisely and warmly. Your colleagues will notice.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 2 proud, rude and mean

Describe arrogant, rude, mean and cruel people, and read the prefixes 后- (post-) and 亲- (-friendly).

Villains in dramas, rude clients, stingy bosses: the strong words for bad character are everywhere in reviews, gossip and the news.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
傲	ào	proud, haughty	她有点傲，很少主动跟人打招呼。 She's a bit proud and rarely says hello first.
傲慢	àomàn	arrogant	他对服务员的态度很傲慢。 He's arrogant towards waiters.
高傲	gāoào	proud, haughty	她看起来很高傲，其实很害羞。 She looks haughty, but she's actually shy.
霸道	bàdào	overbearing, bossy	他在家里很霸道，什么都要听他的。 He's bossy at home: everything has to be his way.
卑鄙	bēibǐ	despicable, contemptible	用这种办法赢得比赛，太卑鄙了。 Winning the match that way is despicable.
粗暴	cūbào	rough, brutal	他粗暴地打断了我。 He rudely cut me off.
粗鲁	cūlǔ	rude, crude	对老人说话不能这么粗鲁。 You can't talk to old people so rudely.
狡猾	jiǎohuá	cunning, sly	那只猫很狡猾，总能偷到鱼。 That cat is very sly: it always manages to steal the fish.
奸诈	jiānzhà	treacherous, crafty	小说里的商人奸诈又贪心。 The merchant in the novel is crafty and greedy.
吝啬	lìnsè	stingy, mean	他对自己很大方，对别人却很吝啬。 He's generous with himself but stingy with others.
冷淡	lěngdàn	cool, indifferent	她的回答很冷淡。 Her reply was cool.
冷酷	lěngkù	cold and cruel, grim	现实有时候很冷酷。 Reality can be harsh.
冷漠	lěngmò	indifferent, uncaring	城市生活让一些人变得冷漠。 City life makes some people indifferent.
无情	wúqíng	heartless, ruthless	时间是无情的。 Time shows no mercy.
无耻	wúchǐ	shameless	抄别人的文章还说是自己的，真无耻！ Copying someone's article and calling it your own: how shameless!
自私	zìsī	selfish	别太自私，也想想别人。 Don't be so selfish: think of others too.
贪	tān	greedy; to covet	他太贪了，什么都想要。 He's too greedy: he wants everything.

贪婪	tānlán	greedy, avaricious	贪婪的人永远不会满足。 Greedy people are never satisfied.
虚伪	xūwěi	hypocritical, false	我不喜欢他那种虚伪的笑容。 I don't like that fake smile of his.
虚荣	xūróng	vanity; vain	买名牌只是为了虚荣。 Buying designer brands is just vanity.
狭隘	xiáài	narrow, narrow-minded	这种想法太狭隘了。 That way of thinking is far too narrow-minded.
嚣张	xiāozhāng	arrogant, aggressive	他说话的语气太嚣张了。 His tone was far too arrogant.
猖狂	chāngkuáng	rampant, unrestrained	这几年，网上的骗子越来越猖狂。 Online scammers have become more and more brazen in recent years.
放肆	fàngsì	impudent, out of line	在老师面前不能放肆。 You mustn't take liberties in front of the teacher.
邪	xié	evil; strange, weird	这事真邪，东西放在桌子上就不见了。 This is so weird: I put it on the table and it vanished.
邪恶	xiéè	evil, wicked	故事里，善良最后战胜了邪恶。 In the story, good finally defeats evil.
凶	xiōng	fierce, fearsome	那只狗看起来很凶，其实很温和。 That dog looks fierce but is actually very gentle.
凶残	xiōngcán	brutal, savage	鲨鱼并不像电影里那么凶残。 Sharks are not as savage as in the films.
凶恶	xiōngè	ferocious, fierce-looking	门口站着一个表情凶恶的保安。 A security guard with a fierce expression stood at the door.
凶狠	xiōnghěn	vicious, ruthless	他说话的样子很凶狠。 He looked vicious when he spoke.
残酷	cánkù	cruel, brutal	比赛的规则很残酷，输一场就要回家。 The rules are brutal: lose one match and you go home.
残忍	cánrěn	cruel, ruthless	伤害小动物是残忍的行为。 Hurting small animals is cruel.
野蛮	yěmán	barbaric, rough	他这种做法太野蛮了。 That way of doing things is far too rough.
丑恶	chǒuè	ugly, hideous (morally)	这本小说写出了社会上的丑恶现象。 This novel shows the ugly side of society.

pattern 后- "post-" and 亲- "-friendly"

后 | a period: 现代, 工业时代 | = post-... | 亲 | a thing: 水, 民 | = ...-friendly

Modern Chinese builds new words with prefixes. 后 before a period or movement means “post-”: 后现代 (postmodern), 后工业时代 (the post-industrial age). 亲 before a noun means “close to, friendly to”: 亲水 (waterside, where you can touch the water), 亲民 (close to ordinary people).

这座城市进入了后工业时代，旧工厂都变成了博物馆。 **zhè zuò chéngshì jìnrù le hòu gōngyè shídài jiù gōngchǎng dōu biànchéng le bówùguǎn** The city has entered its post-industrial age, and the old factories have all become museums.

网上的信息有真也有假，有人把今天叫作“后真相时代”。 **wǎngshang de xìnxī yǒu zhēn yě yǒu jiǎ yǒu rén bǎ jīntiān jiàozuò hòu zhēnxiàng shídài** Online information is a mix of true and false, and some people call today “the post-truth era”.

河边新建了一个亲水公园，孩子们可以在里面玩水。 **hé biān xīn jiàn le yí gè qīn shuǐ gōngyuán háizimen kěyǐ zài lǐmiàn wán shuǐ** A new waterside park has been built by the river, where children can play in the water.

dialogue villains on screen, and one in real life

little sister 安娜，你看过这部电视剧吗？里面的坏人一个比一个凶，一个比一个狡猾。
Ānnà nǐ kàn guo zhè bù diànshìjù ma lǐmiàn de huài rén yí gè bǐ yí gè xiōng yí gè bǐ yí gè jiǎohuá · Anna, have you seen this drama? Each villain is fiercer and more cunning than the last.

anna 看过。那个老板最可怕，表面上很热情，其实又虚伪又贪婪。
kàn guo nàge lǎobǎn zuì kěpà biǎomiàn shàng hěn rèqíng qíshí yòu xūwěi yòu tānlán · I have. The boss is the scariest: warm on the surface, but really a hypocrite, and greedy.

little sister 对！他为了钱什么都做得出来，简直无耻。
duì tā wèile qián shénme dōu zuò de chulai jiǎnzhí wúchǐ · Yes! He'd do anything for money. He's utterly shameless.

anna 他手下那几个人长得很凶恶，对老百姓又凶狠又残忍。
tā shǒu xià nà jǐ gè rén zhǎng de hěn xiōngè duì lǎobǎixìng yòu xiōnghěn yòu cánrěn · And his men look ferocious: vicious and cruel to ordinary people.

little sister 他儿子也不好，又高傲又虚荣，整天开着跑车到处跑。
tā érzi yě bù hǎo yòu gāoào yòu xūróng zhěng tiān kāi zhe pǎo chē dàochù pǎo · His son's no better: proud and vain, driving his sports car around all day.

anna 最让我生气的是，他们对别人的痛苦那么冷酷无情。
zuì ràng wǒ shēngqì de shì tāmen duì biérén de tòngkǔ nàme lěngkù wúqíng · What makes me angriest is how cold and heartless they are about other people's suffering.

little sister 有一场戏，坏人特别野蛮，导演把他们的凶残拍得太真实了，我都不敢看。
yǒu yì chǎng xì huài rén tèbié yěmán dǎoyǎn bǎ tāmen de xiōngcán pāi de tài zhēnshí le wǒ dōu bù gǎn kàn · In one scene the villains are really savage: the director shows their brutality so realistically that I couldn't watch.

anna 导演就是想让我们看清这些人有多邪恶。他们越猖狂，观众就越生气。
dǎoyǎn jiùshì xiǎng ràng wǒmen kàn qīng zhèxiē rén yǒu duō xiéè tāmen yuè chāngkuáng guānzhòng jiù yuè shēngqì · The director wants us to see how evil these people are. The more brazen they get, the angrier the audience gets.

little sister 我觉得电视剧想说的是：贪是一切丑恶的开始。
wǒ juéde diànshìjù xiǎng shuō de shì tān shì yíqiè chǒuè de kāishǐ · I think the drama is saying that greed is where all ugliness begins.

anna 说得好！现实里坏人没那么多，不过今天我就遇到了一个客户，特别傲慢，还很霸道。
shuō de hǎo xiànshí lǐ huài rén méi nàme duō búguò jīntiān wǒ jiù yùdào le yí gè kèhù tèbié àomàn hái hěn bàdào · Well said! Real life doesn't have that many villains, but today I met a client who was incredibly arrogant, and bossy too.

little sister 他怎么了？
tā zěnme le · What did he do?

anna 他让我们改了十次方案，最后还在大家面前骂我们。
tā ràng wǒmen gǎi le shí cì fāngàn zuìhòu hái zài dàjiā miànqián mà wǒmen · He made us redo the plan ten times, and in the end he told us off in front of everyone.

little sister 太嚣张、太放肆了！刘经理怎么说？
tài xiāozhāng tài fàngsì le Liújīnglǐ zěnme shuō · How arrogant! That's outrageous! What did Manager Liu say?

anna 她很冷静，只是对他的态度有点冷淡。说来也邪，我一提到他，他就打电话来了！
tā hěn lěngjìng zhǐshì duì tā de tàidù yǒu diǎn lěngdàn shuō lái yě xié wǒ yì tídào tā tā jiù dǎ diànhuà lái le · She stayed calm and was just a bit cool with him. And the strange thing is, the moment I mention him, he calls!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

蒙
méng
to receive (a favour); to cover

卑
bēi
low

诈
zhà
to cheat

耻
chǐ
shame

good to know · 后 + a period means “post-”: 后现代, 后工业时代, 后真相时代. 亲 + a noun means “friendly to, close to”: 亲水公园 (a park where you can touch the water), 亲民 (close to the people). Strong words like 无耻 and 卑鄙 are insults when said to someone’s face. In reviews and stories they are fine.

You can now say exactly what is wrong with someone’s behaviour, in Chinese, without shouting. That’s power.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 3 how much: degree words

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 1 · people and character

Say exactly how much with written degree adverbs (颇, 略微, 尤为, 万分, 越发) and describe how people act (拼命, 趁机, 公然, 刻意).

Degree and manner adverbs are what make news reports, emails and speeches sound educated; HSK 7–9 texts are full of them.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
大为	dàwéi	greatly (written)	新方法让效率大为提高。 The new method has greatly improved efficiency.
分外	fènwài	especially, unusually	老朋友见面，分外亲切。 When old friends meet, it feels especially warm.
何等	héděng	how (in exclamations)	这是何等重要的一天！ What an important day this is!
极度	jídù	extremely	他当时极度紧张。 He was extremely nervous at the time.
极力	jílì	to do one's utmost	他极力反对这个计划。 He strongly opposed the plan.
略	lüè	slightly; brief; to omit	今天比昨天略冷一些。 It's slightly colder today than yesterday.
略微	lüèwēi	slightly, a little	请把声音略微调{tiao2-5}小一点。 Please turn the volume down a little.
颇	pō	quite, rather (written)	他的发言颇有道理。 His speech made quite a lot of sense.
稍稍	shāoshāo	slightly, a little	请稍稍等一下。 Please wait just a moment.
万分	wànfēn	extremely, very much	听到这个好消息，她万分激动。 She was overjoyed at the good news.
微	wēi	slightly (written); tiny	他微感意外，但没说什么。 He was slightly surprised but said nothing.
尤为	yóuwéi	especially (before 2 syllables)	这一点尤为重要。 This point is particularly important.
愈加	yùjiā	all the more, even more	到了晚上，天气愈加寒冷了。 In the evening it grew even colder.
越发	yuèfā	more and more, all the more	几年不见，她越发漂亮了。 I haven't seen her for a few years, and she's even prettier.
愈	yù	the more ... (愈……愈……)	他愈想愈生气。 The more he thought about it, the angrier he got.
按理	ànlǐ	normally, by rights	按理他应该先告诉我。 By rights he should have told me first.

按说	ànshuō	normally, by rights	按说这时候已经下班了。 Normally everyone would have finished work by now.
百般	bǎibān	in every possible way	父母对他百般照顾。 His parents look after him in every way.
不由得	bùyóude	can't help (doing)	想起小时候，她不由得笑了。 Remembering her childhood, she couldn't help smiling.
趁机	chènjī	to take the chance	他趁机提出了自己的想法。 He took the chance to put forward his idea.
趁早	chènzǎo	as early as possible	有病要趁早看医生。 If you're ill, see a doctor as soon as you can.
大肆	dàsì	wantonly, on a large scale	他们在媒体上大肆宣传。 They advertised massively in the media.
断然	duànrán	resolutely, flatly	她断然拒绝了这个要求。 She flatly refused the request.
公然	gōngrán	openly, brazenly	他公然违反规定。 He openly broke the rules.
火速	huǒsù	at top speed	救护车火速赶到了现场。 The ambulance rushed to the scene.
竭力	jiélì	to do one's utmost	我们会竭力满足您的要求。 We will do our utmost to meet your requirements.
尽情	jìnqíng	to one's heart's content	假期里孩子们尽情地玩。 In the holidays, the children play to their heart's content.
就近	jiùjìn	nearby, locally	孩子可以就近上学。 Children can go to a school nearby.
刻意	kèyì	deliberately, painstakingly	他没有刻意打扮，看起来却很精神。 He didn't make any special effort to dress up, yet he looked great.
拼命	pīnmìng	with all one's might	他拼命地跑，终于赶上了车。 He ran as hard as he could and just caught the bus.
强行	qiángxíng	to force, by force	不能强行让孩子学钢琴。 You can't force a child to learn the piano.
任意	rènyì	at will, arbitrarily	公园里的花不能任意摘。 You can't pick the flowers in the park as you please.
日趋	rìqū	day by day, increasingly	两国关系日趋紧密。 Relations between the two countries are getting closer every day.

pattern written degree adverbs: slightly, quite, especially, extremely

略微 / 稍稍 / 微 | 颇 / 大为 | 尤为 / 分外 | 极度 / 万分 | + adjective or verb

Written Chinese has its own scale of “how much”. Slightly: 略(微), 稍稍, 微. Quite, greatly: 颇, 大为. Especially: 尤为, 分外. Extremely: 极度, 万分. More and more: 越发, 愈加 (and 愈……愈……). 何等 means “how …!” in an exclamation.

对您的帮助，我们万分感谢。 **duì nín de bāngzhù wǒmen wànfēn gǎnxiè** We are extremely grateful for your help.

这个结果颇令人意外。 **zhège jiéguǒ pō lìng rén yìwài** The result was rather surprising.

那时候的生活是何等艰难！ **nà shíhou de shēnghuó shì héděng jiānnán** How hard life was back then!

经过这件事，他愈加小心了。问题愈拖愈难解决。 **jīngguò zhè jiàn shì tā yùjiā xiǎoxīn le wèntí yù tuō yù nán jiějué** After that, he became even more careful. The longer a problem is left, the harder it is to solve.

dialogue launch week, and a copycat

manager liu 安娜，发布会还有三天，准备得怎么样了？
Ānnà fābù huì hái yǒu sān tiān zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng le · Anna, the launch is in three days. How are the preparations going?

anna 基本好了，只是介绍产品的部分还得稍稍改一下。
jīběn hǎo le zhǐshì jièshào chǎnpǐn de bùfen hái děi shāoshāo gǎi yíxià · Nearly done. The product presentation just needs a few small changes.

manager liu 好。对了，你听说了吗？对手公司公然抄了我们的设计。
hǎo duì le nǐ tīngshuō le ma duìshǒu gōngsī gōngrán chāo le wǒmen de shèjì · Good. By the way, have you heard? A rival company has openly copied our design.

anna 听说了，他们还在网上大肆宣传，说是自己的新产品。
tīngshuō le tāmen hái zài wǎngshang dàsì xuānchuán shuō shì zìjǐ de xīn chǎnpǐn · I have. And they're advertising it all over the internet as their own new product.

manager liu 孙律师已经在火速处理了。他们想谈条件，我方断然拒绝了。
Sūnlǜshī yǐjīng zài huǒsù chǔlǐ le tāmen xiǎng tán tiáojiàn wǒ fāng duànrán jùjué le · Lawyer Sun is already dealing with it at top speed. They wanted to negotiate, and we flatly refused.

anna 他们会不会趁机降价，抢我们的客户？
tāmen huì bu huì chènjī jiàngjià qiǎng wǒmen de kèhù · Might they take the chance to cut prices and steal our customers?

manager liu 很有可能。所以我们得趁早联系老客户，竭力留住他们。
hěn yǒu kěnéng suǒyǐ wǒmen děi chènzǎo liánxì lǎo kèhù jiélì liú zhù tāmen · Quite possibly. So we need to contact our regular customers early and do our utmost to keep them.

anna 明白。孙律师也会极力保护我们的设计吧？
míngbai Sūnlǜshī yě huì jílì bǎohù wǒmen de shèjì ba · Understood. And Lawyer Sun will do everything he can to protect our design?

manager liu 当然。这些天大家拼命加班，越发紧张了，你也别太累。
dāngrán zhèxiē tiān dàjiā pīnmìng jiābān yuèfā jǐnzhāng le nǐ yě bié tài lèi · Of course. Everyone's been working flat out these days and getting more and more tense. Don't wear yourself out.

anna 按说这个项目不该这么赶，是客户强行把日期提前了。
ànshuō zhège xiàngmù bù gāi zhème gǎn shì kèhù qiángxíng bǎ rìqī tíqián le · By rights this project shouldn't be such a rush. The client forced the date forward.

manager liu 是啊，他们总是任意改要求，我百般解释，他们才同意不再改。
shì a tāmen zǒngshì rènyì gǎi yāoqiú wǒ bǎibān jiěshì tāmen cái tóngyì bú zài gǎi · Yes, they keep changing their demands as they like. I explained it every way I could before they agreed to stop.

anna 这段时间我真的极度紧张。发布会结束以后，我们一定要尽情放松一下！
zhè duàn shíjiān wǒ zhēn de jídù jǐnzhāng fābù huì jiéshù yǐhòu wǒmen yídìng yào jìnqíng fàngsōng yíxià · I've been extremely stressed lately. After the launch, we really must relax and enjoy ourselves!

manager liu 没问题。到时候就近找个餐厅，我请客。
méi wèntí dào shíhou jiùjìn zhǎo gè cāntīng wǒ qǐngkè · No problem. We'll find a restaurant nearby and it's on me.

anna 太好了！那天我不会刻意少吃的。
tài hǎo le nà tiān wǒ bú huì kèyì shǎo chī de · Great! I won't be deliberately eating less that day.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

贪
tān
greedy; to covet

伪
wěi
fake

狭
xiá
narrow

肆
sì
unrestrained

good to know · 颇, 略, 尤为, 极度 and 万分 belong to writing and formal speech. In chat, people say 挺, 有点儿, 特别 and 非常. 尤为 and 极为 go before two-syllable words: 尤为重要, never 尤为好.

Slightly, especially, extremely, more and more: you now have the fine controls of written Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 4 stubborn, silly, careless

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 1 · people and character

Tease and criticise: stubborn, fussy, careless, silly, lazy and shallow, and read word-building suffixes like -然, -为 and -制.

Family dinners, team reviews and online comments are full of these words, usually said with a smile, sometimes not.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
固执	gùzhi	stubborn, obstinate	他太固执了，谁劝都不听。 He's too stubborn to listen to anyone.
倔强	juéjiàng	unbending, strong-willed	她性格倔强，从不轻易认输。 She is strong-willed and never gives up easily.
倔	juè	gruff, stubborn (spoken)	这个老人脾气很倔。 The old man has a stubborn streak.
顽固	wángù	stubborn, die-hard	这种顽固的老观念很难改变。 Such stubborn old ideas are hard to change.
任性	rènxìng	wilful, headstrong	别那么任性，想想别人。 Don't be so wilful; think of others.
挑剔	tiāoti	fussy, nit-picking	这位客户非常挑剔。 This client is very picky.
娇气	jiāoqì	delicate, soft, pampered	别那么娇气，走几步路就喊累。 Don't be so soft: you complain you're tired after a few steps.
急躁	jízào	impatient, irritable	遇到问题别急躁，慢慢来。 When there's a problem, don't get impatient. Take it slowly.
暴躁	bàozào	hot-tempered, irascible	他脾气暴躁，一点小事就发脾气。 He's hot-tempered and loses his temper at the slightest thing.
鲁莽	lǔmǎng	reckless, rash	这么做太鲁莽了。 That's far too rash.
草率	cǎoshuài	careless, hasty, sloppy	结婚是大事，不能草率。 Marriage is a big decision; you can't rush it.
不慎	bùshèn	carelessly, by accident	他不慎摔倒，伤了腿。 He slipped and hurt his leg.
疏忽	shūhu	to neglect; an oversight	这是我的疏忽，对不起。 That was my oversight, sorry.
大意	dàyi	careless, inattentive	别大意，考试前再检查一遍。 Don't be careless; check once more before the exam.
糊涂	hútu	muddled, confused	我真糊涂，把日期记错了。 How silly of me: I got the date wrong.

蠢	chǔn	stupid, dumb	这个问题问得太蠢了。 That was a really stupid question.
笨蛋	bèndàn	idiot, fool	你这个笨蛋，又把伞忘了！ You idiot, you've forgotten your umbrella again!
傻瓜	shǎguā	fool, silly thing	别哭了，小傻瓜。 Don't cry, you little silly.
愚蠢	yúchǔn	stupid, foolish	这是一个愚蠢的决定。 That's a foolish decision.
愚昧	yúmèi	ignorant, unenlightened	那种愚昧的看法早就过时了。 That ignorant view is long out of date.
无知	wúzhī	ignorant	承认自己无知，是学习的开始。 Admitting your ignorance is where learning begins.
幼稚	yòuzhì	childish, naive	这个想法有点幼稚。 That idea is a bit naive.
迟钝	chídùn	slow, sluggish (to react)	他对别人的感情有点迟钝。 He's a bit slow to pick up on other people's feelings.
笨拙	bènzhuō	clumsy, awkward	他笨拙地向她道歉。 He apologised to her awkwardly.
懒惰	lǎnduò	lazy, idle	懒惰的人很难成功。 Lazy people rarely succeed.
偷懒	tōulǎn	to slack off, skive	别偷懒，快干活！ No slacking, get to work!
松懈	sōngxiè	slack, relaxed (in effort)	快考试了，千万不能松懈。 The exam is coming: whatever you do, don't let up.
浮躁	fúzào	impetuous, restless, superficial	现在的年轻人有些浮躁。 Some young people today are a bit restless.
肤浅	fūqiǎn	shallow, superficial	只看外表是很肤浅的。 Judging only by looks is shallow.
庸俗	yōngsú	vulgar, tacky	这个广告太庸俗了。 This advert is so tacky.
平庸	píngyōng	mediocre, ordinary	我不想过平庸的一生。 I don't want to live an ordinary life.
盲目	mángmù	blind (uncritical)	不要盲目跟别人学。 Don't blindly copy others.
自负	zìfù	conceited, full of oneself	他有点自负，但确实很有能力。 He's a bit conceited, but he really is very capable.
自满	zìmǎn	complacent, self-satisfied	取得一点成绩就自满，是不对的。 It's wrong to become complacent after one small success.

pattern word-building suffixes: -然, -为, -制 and more

a root + 然 = **-ly: 显然, 居然, 果然** + 为 = **as: 视为, 称为** + 制 = **system: 合同制, 会员制**

Chinese makes new words with suffixes. -然 makes adverbs (显然 obviously, 居然 unexpectedly, 果然 as expected); -为 means “as” (把A视为B: regard A as B); -制 means “system” (合同制 contract system, 会员制 members only). Others work the same way: 人生观 (outlook on life), 教育界 (the education world), 文坛 (the literary scene), 胆小鬼 (a coward).

他居然连自己的生日都忘了，真糊涂。 **tā jūrán lián zìjǐ de shēngrì dōu wàng le zhēn hútu** He actually forgot his own birthday. How muddle-headed!

把考试成绩视为一切，这种想法很肤浅。 **bǎ kǎoshì chéngjì shìwéi yíqiè zhè zhǒng xiǎngfǎ hěn fūqiǎn** Treating exam results as everything is a shallow way of thinking.

我们公司实行合同制，每年签一次合同。 **wǒmen gōngsī shíxíng hétóng zhì měi nián qiān yí cì hétóng** Our company works on a contract system: we sign a new contract every year.

他果然又盲目相信了网上的广告，显然没有吸取教训。 **tā guǒrán yòu mángmù xiāngxìn le wǎngshang de guǎnggào xiǎnrán méiyǒu xīqǔ jiàoxùn** As expected, he blindly believed an online advert again: he clearly hasn’t learned his lesson.

dialogue family dinner, family faults

ms zhang 小明，听说你上周在公司犯了个错?
Xiǎomíng tīngshuō nǐ shàng zhōu zài gōngsī fàn le gè cuò · Xiaoming, I hear you made a mistake at work last week?

xiaoming 别提了，我一时大意，不慎把客户的资料删了。
bié tí le wǒ yìshí dàyi búshèn bǎ kèhù de zīliào shān le · Don't remind me. I wasn't paying attention and accidentally deleted a client's files.

little sister 你也太粗心了吧!
nǐ yě tài cūxīn le ba · How careless can you get!

xiaoming 是我太松懈了。项目快结束了，我就开始偷懒。
shì wǒ tài sōngxiè le xiàngmù kuài jiéshù le wǒ jiù kāishǐ tōulǎn · I got too relaxed. The project was nearly over, so I started slacking off.

ms zhang 承认错误就好。最怕的是自满，觉得自己什么都懂。
chéngrèn cuòwù jiù hǎo zuì pà de shì zìmǎn juéde zìjǐ shénme dōu dǒng · Admitting it is good. The worst thing is complacency, thinking you know everything.

little sister 就像爸爸那样，又固执又顽固，旧手机都不肯换。
jiù xiàng bàba nàyàng yòu gùzhi yòu wángù jiù shǒujī dōu bù kěn huàn · Like Dad: stubborn and set in his ways, he won't even replace his old phone.

dr li 我那不叫顽固，叫节约！你呢？又挑剔又娇气，还任性。
wǒ nà bú jiào wángù jiào jiéyuē nǐ ne yòu tiāoti yòu jiāoqì hái rènxìng · That's not stubbornness, it's thrift! And you? Fussy, delicate and spoiled.

little sister 我哪里娇气了？我只是不想过庸俗的生活!
wǒ nǎlǐ jiāoqì le wǒ zhǐshì bù xiǎng guò yōngsú de shēnghuó · How am I delicate? I just don't want to live a vulgar life!

ms zhang 好了好了。你们俩一个暴躁，一个急躁，一说话就吵。
hǎo le hǎo le nǐmen liǎ yí gè bàozào yí gè jízào yì shuōhuà jiù chǎo · All right, all right. One of you is hot-tempered and the other impatient: you argue the moment you open your mouths.

dr li 我承认我脾气有点急。不过我们医院新来的那个年轻人，做事才叫鲁莽。
wǒ chéngrèn wǒ píqi yǒu diǎn jí búguò wǒmen yīyuàn xīn lái de nàge niánqīng rén zuò shì cái jiào lǔmǎng · I admit I have a bit of a temper. But that new young man at our hospital, now he's reckless.

xiaoming 年轻人难免幼稚一点，慢慢就成熟了。
niánqīng rén nánmiǎn yòuzhì yìdiǎn màn màn jiù chéngshú le · Young people are bound to be a bit immature. They grow up in time.

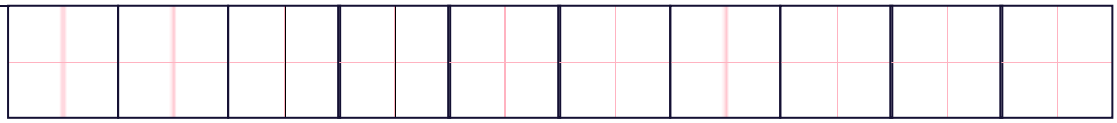
dr li 幼稚不要紧，最怕的是无知还自负，觉得别人都是傻瓜。有些想法简直愚昧。
yòuzhì búyàojǐn zuì pà de shì wúzhī hái zìfù juéde biérén dōu shì shǎguā yǒuxiē xiǎngfǎ jiǎnzhí yúmèi · Immaturity doesn't matter. The worst is ignorance plus arrogance, thinking everyone else is a fool. Some of his ideas are downright backward.

little sister 爸爸，你说的不会是你自己年轻的时候吧?
bàba nǐ shuō de bú huì shì nǐ zìjǐ niánqīng de shíhou ba · Dad, you're not talking about yourself when you were young, are you?

dr li 你这个小笨蛋！快吃饭吧。
nǐ zhège xiǎo bèndàn kuài chī fàn ba · You little rascal! Eat your dinner.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

邪
xié
evil; strange, weird



凶
xiōng
fierce, fearsome

颇
pō
quite, rather (written)

愈
yù
the more … (愈……愈……)

good to know · Chinese builds many words with a suffix: -然 (-ly: 显然, 居然, 果然), -为 (as: 视为, 称为), -制 (system: 合同制, 会员制), -观 (outlook: 人生观), -界 (world of: 教育界), -坛 (circle: 文坛), -鬼 (-aholic, person: 胆小鬼). You will meet the last four again later. 笨蛋 and 傻瓜 are fine with close friends and family; with anyone else they are insults.

You can now tease a friend, criticise a plan and admit your own mistakes in Chinese. That's real closeness.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 5 calm, quick and clever

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 1 · people and character

Praise people for staying calm, thinking fast and being good company, and use 不是……吗？ and 不是我说你 in conversation.

When something goes wrong, the words for calm, quick and clever are the ones you want to hear about yourself, and 不是……吗 is one of the most common moves in spoken Chinese.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
沉稳	chénwěn	steady, composed	他虽然年轻，做事却很沉稳。 He's young, but he handles things steadily.
沉着	chénzhuó	calm, unruffled	比赛最后一分钟，她依然沉着冷静。 In the last minute of the match, she stayed cool and composed.
从容	cóngróng	calm, unhurried	时间还多，我们可以从容地准备。 There's plenty of time; we can prepare at leisure.
镇定	zhèndìng	calm, composed	遇到危险时，他表现得很镇定。 When danger came, he stayed calm.
镇静	zhènjìng	calm, unagitated	请大家保持镇静，按顺序离开。 Please stay calm and leave in order.
稳健	wěnjiàn	steady, sound	这家公司发展得很稳健。 The company is growing steadily.
稳重	wěnzhòng	steady, serious, mature	他看起来比实际年龄稳重。 He seems more mature than his age.
慎重	shènzhòng	careful, prudent	签合同以前，一定要慎重。 Be very careful before you sign a contract.
理智	lǐzhì	rational; reason	生气的时候很难保持理智。 It's hard to stay rational when you're angry.
明智	míngzhì	wise, sensible	现在离开是明智的选择。 Leaving now is the sensible choice.
英明	yīngmíng	wise, brilliant (of leaders)	这是一个英明的决定。 That was a brilliant decision.
精明	jīngmíng	shrewd, astute	她是个精明的商人。 She's a shrewd businesswoman.
高明	gāomíng	brilliant, clever (idea, skill)	这个办法真高明！ What a brilliant idea!
机灵	jīling	smart, quick-witted	这孩子很机灵，一教就会。 This kid is so sharp: show him once and he's got it.
机智	jīzhì	resourceful, quick-witted	他机智地回答了这个难题。 He gave a witty answer to the tricky question.
灵	líng	quick, clever; effective	这个办法真灵，试一次就好了。 This trick really works: one try and it was

			fixed.
灵敏	língmǐn	sensitive, keen	狗的鼻子特别灵敏。 Dogs have a very keen sense of smell.
灵巧	língqiǎo	dexterous, nimble	她的手很灵巧，会自己做衣服。 She's good with her hands: she makes her own clothes.
敏捷	mǐnjié	nimble, quick	猫的动作非常敏捷。 Cats move very quickly.
敏锐	mǐnruì	sharp, perceptive	记者对新闻非常敏锐。 Reporters have a sharp nose for news.
利索	lìsuo	quick and neat, efficient	他干活很利索。 He works quickly and neatly.
乖	guāi	well-behaved, good (child, pet)	宝宝今天很乖，一点也没哭。 The baby was very good today: not a single tear.
乖巧	guāiqiǎo	sweet and clever (child)	这个小姑娘很乖巧，大家都喜欢她。 This little girl is sweet and clever; everyone loves her.
懂事	dǒngshì	sensible, understanding (of a child)	孩子长大了，越来越懂事了。 The children are growing up and becoming more and more sensible.
开朗	kāilǎng	cheerful, open	她性格开朗，很爱笑。 She's cheerful and laughs a lot.
外向	wàixiàng	outgoing, extroverted	外向的人喜欢交朋友。 Outgoing people like making friends.
内向	nèixiàng	introverted, reserved	他很内向，不太爱说话。 He's introverted and doesn't talk much.
腼腆	miǎntiǎn	shy, bashful	第一次见面时，他有点腼腆。 He was a bit shy the first time we met.
豁达	huòdá	open-minded, easy-going	他很豁达，从不为小事生气。 He's easy-going and never gets angry over little things.
潇洒	xiāosǎ	free and easy, stylish	他穿上西装显得很潇洒。 He looks very dashing in a suit.
风趣	fēngqù	witty, humorous	他讲课很风趣，学生都爱听。 His lectures are witty, and the students love them.
滑稽	huájī	funny, comical	他学猫走路，样子非常滑稽。 He walked like a cat, and it looked hilarious.
大大咧咧	dàdaliēliē	happy-go-lucky, careless	他大大咧咧的，常常忘带东西。 He's so laid-back that he often forgets things.
低调	dīdiào	low-key, modest	他很有钱，但生活很低调。 He's rich but lives a low-key life.
高调	gāodiào	high-profile, showy	这家公司高调宣布了新计划。 The company announced its new plan with great fanfare.

pattern 不是……吗？ didn't you ...? and 不是我说你

你 不是 说… / 要… / 很… 吗? = Didn’t you …? Aren’t you …?

不是……吗？ points at a gap between what was said or expected and what is happening: 他不是很内向吗？ “Isn’t he supposed to be shy?” At the start of a reply, 不是，…… means “No, I mean …”. 不是我说你，…… softens a criticism: “I don’t mean to nag, but …”.

你不是说今天不来吗？怎么又来了？ **nǐ bú shì shuō jīntiān bù lái ma zěnme yòu lái le** Didn’t you say you weren’t coming today? Why are you here?

不是我说你，你做事也太不慎重了。 **bú shì wǒ shuō nǐ nǐ zuò shì yě tài bú shènzhòng le** I don’t mean to nag, but you really aren’t careful enough.

不是，我的意思是我们应该更理智一点。 **bú shì wǒ de yìsi shì wǒmen yīnggāi gèng lǐzhì yìdiǎn** No, what I mean is that we should be a bit more rational.

dialogue the launch that nearly went wrong

xiaoming 发布会怎么样？听说中间出了点问题？
fābù huì zěnmeyàng tīngshuō zhōngjiān chū le diǎn wèntí · How was the launch? I heard something went wrong halfway through?

anna 别提了！讲到一半，电脑突然坏了，屏幕全黑了。
bié tí le jiǎng dào yíbàn diànnǎo tūrán huài le píngmù quán hēi le · Don't ask! Halfway through, the computer suddenly died and the screen went black.

xiaoming 那你们怎么办？
nà nǐmen zěnme bàn · So what did you do?

anna 刘经理特别镇定，笑着说："大家先休息五分钟。"
Liújīnglǐ tèbié zhèndìng xiào zhe shuō dàjiā xiān xiūxi wǔ fēnzhōng · Manager Liu was completely calm. She smiled and said, "Let's all take a five-minute break."

xiaoming 真高明！她没取消发布会，这个决定很明智。她一向精明稳重，做事稳健。
zhēn gāomíng tā méi qǔxiāo fābù huì zhège juédìng hěn míngzhì tā yíxiàng jīngmíng wěnzhòng zuò shì wěnjiàn · Brilliant! Not cancelling the launch was a wise decision. She's always been shrewd and level-headed, and she plays it safe.

anna 老张反应最敏捷，两分钟就把电脑修好了。他的手特别灵巧，动作也利索。
lǎo zhāng fǎnyìng zuì mǐnjié liǎng fēnzhōng jiù bǎ diànnǎo xiū hǎo le tā de shǒu tèbié língqiǎo dòngzuò yě lìsuo · Lao Zhang was the quickest: he fixed the computer in two minutes. He's got clever hands and he works fast.

xiaoming 他不是很内向吗？平时都不太说话。
tā bú shì hěn nèixiàng ma píngshí dōu bú tài shuōhuà · Isn't he really introverted? He hardly ever talks.

anna 内向归内向，他脑子灵，关键时候特别机智。而且他很低调，事后什么也没说。
nèixiàng guī nèixiàng tā nǎozi líng guānjiàn shíhou tèbié jīzhì érqiě tā hěn dīdiào shìhòu shénme yě méi shuō · Introverted, yes, but he's quick-witted and brilliant in a crisis. And he's modest: he didn't say a word about it afterwards.

xiaoming 那你呢？你不是最怕在大家面前讲话吗？
nà nǐ ne nǐ bú shì zuì pà zài dàjiā miànqián jiǎnghuà ma · And you? Aren't you terrified of speaking in front of people?

anna 不是怕，是有点紧张。不过那天我居然很镇静，还讲了个笑话，样子挺滑稽的。
bú shì pà shì yǒu diǎn jǐnzhāng búguò nà tiān wǒ jūrán hěn zhènjìng hái jiǎng le gè xiàohua yàngzi tǐng huájī de · Not terrified, just a bit nervous. But that day I was amazingly calm, and I even told a joke. I must have looked pretty funny.

xiaoming 你什么时候变得这么风趣了？
nǐ shénme shíhou biàn de zhème fēngqù le · Since when are you so witty?

anna 跟实习生学的。她看起来大大咧咧的，其实很敏锐，什么都看得见。
gēn shíxí shēng xué de tā kàn qǐlai dàdaliēliē de qíshí hěn mǐnruì shénme dōu kàn de jiàn · I learned it from the intern. She seems happy-go-lucky, but she's actually very perceptive and notices everything.

xiaoming 刘经理真英明，选的人都这么好。她自己也挺豁达的吧？
Liújīnglǐ zhēn yīngmíng xuǎn de rén dōu zhème hǎo tā zìjǐ yě tǐng huòdá de ba · Manager Liu really is wise: she picks great people. And she's pretty easy-going herself, isn't she?

anna 是啊，事后她说："失败一次没什么。"说完就潇洒地走了。下次我们要更高调一点！
shì a shìhòu tā shuō shībài yí cì méi shénme shuō wán jiù xiāosǎ de zǒu le xià cì wǒmen yào gèng gāodiào yìdiǎn · Yes. Afterwards she said, "Failing once is nothing," and strolled off without a care. Next time, we're going big!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

竭
jié
to exhaust

倔
juè
gruff, stubborn (spoken)

躁
zào
dry, restless

疏
shū
loose, careless

good to know · 不是……吗？ is not a real question: 你不是说不来吗？ means “Didn’t you say you weren’t coming?” It shows surprise that things don’t match what was said. 不是我说你，…… means “I don’t mean to nag, but …”. It softens a criticism between friends and family.

Next time a friend keeps their cool, you can tell them so in Chinese, warmly and exactly.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 6 moved and worn out

Say what moved you, what wore you out and how you really felt, and use the written “all / only” adverbs: 均, 皆, 统统, 一概, 唯独, 唯有, 无非.

Speeches, reviews and notices use these words to say “everyone”, “without exception” and “only”, and feelings words let you answer when someone asks how you are.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
触动	chùdòng	to touch, move (emotionally)	这个故事触动了很多人。 This story touched a lot of people.
激荡	jīdàng	to surge, stir	听到这个消息，他心中激荡。 When he heard the news, his heart was stirred.
激起	jīqǐ	to arouse, stir up	这件事激起了大家的不满。 This stirred up everyone’s anger.
唤起	huànqǐ	to arouse, call up	老照片唤起了她的回忆。 The old photo brought back her memories.
澎湃	péngpài	surging, overflowing	想到明天的比赛，他心情澎湃。 Thinking about tomorrow’s match, his heart was racing with excitement.
共鸣	gòngmíng	resonance, sympathy	他的演讲引起了大家的共鸣。 His speech struck a chord with everyone.
同感	tónggǎn	the same feeling, agreement	对这一点，我深有同感。 I completely agree with you on that.
流露	liúlù	to reveal, show (feelings)	她的眼中流露出不安。 Unease showed in her eyes.
神情	shénqíng	expression, look	他的神情有些紧张。 He looked a little nervous.
神态	shéntài	bearing, manner, look	老人的神态很平和。 The old man had a calm air.
留念	liúniàn	to keep as a souvenir	我们在长城上拍照留念。 We took a photo on the Great Wall as a souvenir.
交集	jiāojí	to mingle; overlap, intersection	我们俩的工作没有什么交集。 Our two jobs hardly overlap at all.
解脱	jiětuō	to free oneself; release	考试结束了，我终于解脱了！ The exams are over: I’m finally free!
折磨	zhémó	to torment; torment	这场病把他折磨得很瘦。 The illness wore him down to skin and bone.
疲惫	píbèi	exhausted, weary	他拖着疲惫的身体回到家。 He dragged his weary body home.
疲倦	píjuàn	tired, weary	开了一天车，他感到很疲倦。 After driving all day, he felt worn out.
劳累	láolèi	overworked, tired out	你要注意身体，不要太劳累。 Look after yourself and don’t overwork.

不平	bùpíng	indignant; unfair	看到有人插队，他感到很不平。 Seeing someone push in, he felt indignant.
疯	fēng	mad, crazy	这么多作业，我快疯了！ So much homework, I'm going mad!
抵触	dǐchù	to resist, be in conflict with	孩子对学钢琴有点抵触。 The child is a bit resistant to learning the piano.
可笑	kěxiào	ridiculous, laughable	这个理由太可笑了。 That excuse is ridiculous.
怜惜	liánxī	to pity, care tenderly for	看着这只受伤的小鸟，她心里充满了怜惜。 Looking at the injured bird, she was full of tenderness.
大体	dàtǐ	roughly, by and large	我大体同意你的看法。 I broadly agree with you.
概	gài	all, without exception (written)	过期的票概不退换。 Expired tickets cannot be refunded, without exception.
皆	jiē	all, each (written)	他们两人皆是北京人。 They are both from Beijing.
尽	jǐn	to give priority to; to the utmost	好座位先尽{jin3-7}着客人坐。 Let the guests have the best seats first.
均	jūn	all, without exception; equal	两个队的成绩均有提高。 Both teams' results have improved.
通通	tōngtōng	all, entirely (spoken)	把这些旧衣服通通扔了吧。 Let's throw all these old clothes out.
统统	tǒngtǒng	all, completely (spoken)	你们统统给我出去！ All of you, out!
唯	wéi	only, alone (written)	如今唯你还记得这件事。 Now you are the only one who still remembers it.
唯独	wéidú	only, alone, except	大家都来了，唯独他没来。 Everyone came except him.
唯有	wéiyǒu	only (if)	唯有努力，才有希望。 Only through effort is there hope.
无非	wúfēi	nothing but, merely	他这么说，无非是想让你高兴。 He only said it to make you happy.
一概	yīgài	without exception, totally	别人的东西，他一概不要。 He never accepts anything from others.
无不	wúbù	all, without exception	听了这个故事，大家无不感动。 Everyone who heard the story was moved.

pattern all, every one, only: written scope adverbs

subject | **均 / 皆 / 统统 / 一概** | **= all, without exception** | **唯独 / 唯有** | **= only, except** | **无非** | **= merely, just**

These adverbs say how far something reaches. All, every one: 均, 皆 (written), 通通 / 统统 (spoken, “the whole lot”), 一概 (without exception, often with 不), 无不 (there is none that doesn’t). Only: 唯 / 唯独 (only, all except), 唯有……才…… (only … can …). 大体 means “by and large”, and 无非 plays things down: “nothing more than”.

参加比赛的选手均来自我国各地。 **cānjiā bǐsài de xuǎnshǒu jūn láizì wǒ guó gèdì** The competitors all come from different parts of our country.

大家都同意了，唯独他反对。 **dàjiā dōu tóngyì le wéidú tā fǎnduì** Everyone agreed except him.

唯有坚持，才能成功。 **wéiyǒu jiānchí cáinéng chénggōng** Only by keeping at it can you succeed.

他说来说去，无非是想多休息几天。 **tā shuō lái shuō qù wúfēi shì xiǎng duō xiūxi jǐ tiān** For all his talk, he just wants a few more days off.

dialogue twenty years of the school

teacher wang 安娜，你来了！看你的神态，好像很累？
Ānnà nǐ lái le kàn nǐ de shéntài hǎoxiàng hěn lèi · Anna, you made it! You look tired?

anna 王老师好！最近工作太劳累了，一个月没休息，整个人都很疲倦。
Wánglǎoshī hǎo zuìjìn gōngzuò tài láolèi le yí gè yuè méi xiūxi zhěnggè rén dōu hěn píjuàn · Hello, Teacher Wang! Work has been really draining: no break for a month, I'm worn out.

teacher wang 辛苦了。今天放松一下，学校二十周年，老学生统统回来了。
xīnkǔ le jīntiān fàngsōng yíxià xuéxiào èrshí zhōunián lǎo xuéshēng tǒngtǒng huílái le · You've worked hard. Relax tonight: it's the school's twentieth year, and all the old students are back.

anna 刚才您说“在我国学汉语的外国人越来越多”，我心里一阵激荡。
gāngcái nín shuō zài wǒ guó xué Hànyǔ de wàiguó rén yuè lái yuè duō wǒ xīnlǐ yízhèn jīdàng · Just now, when you said “more and more foreigners are learning Chinese in our country”, my heart was stirred.

teacher wang 你当年的作文我还留着呢。你写你刚来北京被出租车司机骗了，心里很不平。
nǐ dāngnián de zuòwén wǒ hái liú zhe ne nǐ xiě nǐ gāng lái Běijīng bèi chūzūchē sījī piàn le xīnlǐ hěn bùpíng · I still have your old essay. You wrote that a taxi driver cheated you when you first came to Beijing, and how indignant you were.

anna 现在想起来真可笑！不过那时候天天想家，很受折磨。
xiànzài xiǎng qǐlai zhēn kěxiào búguò nà shíhou tiān tiān xiǎng jiā hěn shòu zhémó · It seems so silly now! But back then I was homesick every day, and it was torture.

teacher wang 我记得。后来你说，学汉语让你从孤独中解脱出来了。
wǒ jìde hòulái nǐ shuō xué Hànyǔ ràng nǐ cóng gūdú zhōng jiětuō chulai le · I remember. Later you said learning Chinese freed you from loneliness.

anna 对。最初我对汉字有点抵触，觉得太难了，学得快疯了。
duì zuìchū wǒ duì Hànzì yǒu diǎn dǐchù juéde tài nán le xué de kuài fēng le · Yes. At first I resisted the characters a bit: they were so hard, I was going crazy.

teacher wang 刚开始学的人，皆是如此。当年那个班的学生，如今唯你还在北京。
gāng kāishǐ xué de rén jiē shì rúcǐ dāngnián nàge bān de xuéshēng rújīn wéi nǐ hái zài Běijīng · Everyone is like that at the beginning. Of that class, you're the only one still in Beijing.

anna 您那时候特别怜惜我们这些一个人在国外的学生。
nín nà shíhou tèbié liánxī wǒmen zhèxiē yí gè rén zài guó wài de xuéshēng · You always had such a soft spot for those of us who were alone, far from home.

teacher wang 你的经历一定能激起新学生的兴趣。下周你能来给他们讲讲吗？
nǐ de jīnglì yídìng néng jīqǐ xīn xuéshēng de xìngqù xià zhōu nǐ néng lái gěi tāmen jiǎng jiang ma · Your story would really get the new students interested. Could you come and talk to them next week?

anna 当然可以！很多人会跟我有同感吧。我们的生活本来没有交集，是汉语把我们连在了一起。
dāngrán kěyǐ hěn duō rén huì gēn wǒ yǒu tónggǎn ba wǒmen de shēnghuó běnlái méiyǒu jiāojí shì Hànyǔ bǎ wǒmen lián zài le yìqǐ · Of course! Lots of them will feel the same. Our lives had nothing in common, and Chinese brought us together.

teacher wang 说得真好。来，大家一起拍张照片留念！
shuō de zhēn hǎo lái dàjiā yìqǐ pāi zhāng zhàopiàn liúniàn · Beautifully put. Come on, everyone, let's take a photo to remember this!

anna 好！座位不够，先尽着老师们坐吧。
hǎo zuòwèi búgòu xiān jǐn zhe lǎoshīmen zuò ba · Great! There aren't enough seats: let the teachers sit first.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

涂
tú
to smear, paint

蠢
chǔn
stupid, dumb

愚
yú
foolish

昧
mèi
dark, ignorant

good to know · 均, 皆 and 概 are written “all”: 均已到齐 (all have arrived), 人人皆知 (everyone knows). In speech, say 都 and 全. 唯独 picks out the one exception (都同意了，唯独他反对); 唯有……才…… means “only … can …”.

Being moved, being worn out, finding some relief: you can now tell the whole story of a feeling in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 7 idioms about people

Praise and criticise people with four-character idioms, and open a frank opinion with 不瞒你说 and its cousins 说实话, 老实说.

Chengyu are how educated Chinese sum a person up in four syllables: in references, award speeches, gossip and the news.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
彬彬有礼	bīnbīnyǒulǐ	polite and refined, courteous	服务员对客人彬彬有礼。 The waiters are courteous to the guests.
大公无私	dàgōngwúsī	selfless, impartial	他是一位大公无私的法官。 He is a completely impartial judge.
德才兼备	décáijiānbèi	having both integrity and ability	公司需要德才兼备的人才。 The company needs people with both integrity and ability.
光明磊落	guāngmínglěiluò	honest and above board	他做事光明磊落，从不搞小动作。 He's straight and above board and never plays dirty tricks.
见义勇为	jiànyìyǒngwéi	to act bravely for a just cause	这位司机见义勇为，救了落水的孩子。 The driver bravely jumped in and saved a child who had fallen into the water.
见利忘义	jiànlìwàngyì	to forget loyalty at the sight of profit	见利忘义的人很难交到真朋友。 People who drop their friends for profit rarely make real friends.
损人利己	sǔnrénlìjǐ	to harm others for one's own gain	损人利己的事，我们不能做。 We must never benefit ourselves at others' expense.
以身作则	yǐshēnzuòzé	to set an example	父母要以身作则，孩子才会学好。 Parents must set an example if children are to turn out well.
足智多谋	zúzhìduōmóu	wise and full of ideas, resourceful	遇到难题，大家都去找他，因为他足智多谋。 When there's a hard problem, everyone goes to him, because he's full of ideas.
心灵手巧	xīnlíngshǒuqiǎo	clever and skilful (with one's hands)	她心灵手巧，衣服都是自己做的。 She's clever with her hands: she makes all her own clothes.
一技之长	yījìzhīcháng	a special skill	学一门技术，就有了一技之长。 Learn a technical skill, and you have something to live by.
见多识广	jiànduōshíguǎng	experienced and knowledgeable	他去过很多国家，见多识广。 He's been to many countries and knows a lot about the world.
孤陋寡闻	gūlòuguǎwén	ignorant, ill-informed	对不起，我孤陋寡闻，第一次听说。 Sorry, I'm out of touch: this is the first I've heard of it.
井底之蛙	jǐngdǐzhīwā	a frog at the bottom of a well	不出去看看，就会变成井底之蛙。 If you never go out and look around, you'll become a frog in a well.

自以为是	zìyǐwéishì	to think one is always right	他总是自以为是，听不进意见。 He always thinks he knows best and won't listen.
盛气凌人	shèngqìlíngrén	overbearing, arrogant	他对新同事总是盛气凌人。 He's always overbearing with new colleagues.
一毛不拔	yīmáobùbá	stingy, tight-fisted	他有钱，却一毛不拔。 He's rich, but he won't part with a penny.
丢三落四	diūsānlàsì	scatterbrained, always forgetting things	他总是丢三落四，钥匙已经丢了三把了。 He's so scatterbrained: he's already lost three sets of keys.
粗心大意	cūxīndàyì	careless, inattentive	考试时不能粗心大意。 You can't be careless in an exam.
小心翼翼	xiǎoxīnyìyì	very carefully, cautiously	他小心翼翼地把杯子放好。 He set the cup down very carefully.
一丝不苟	yīsībùgǒu	meticulous, scrupulous	他做实验一丝不苟。 He's meticulous in his experiments.
脚踏实地	jiǎotàshídì	down to earth, steady	做事要脚踏实地，不能只想不做。 You have to get on with it steadily, not just dream.
实事求是	shíshìqiúshì	to seek truth from facts	我们应该实事求是地看问题。 We should look at problems realistically.
自力更生	zìlìgēngshēng	to stand on one's own feet, self-reliant	他从小自力更生，靠自己读完了大学。 He's been self-reliant since childhood and paid his own way through university.
自强不息	zìqiángbùxī	to strive constantly	爷爷一辈子自强不息，八十岁还在学习。 Grandpa has striven all his life: at eighty, he's still learning.
默默无闻	mòmòwúwén	unknown, obscure	很多人默默无闻地工作了一辈子。 Many people work their whole lives without recognition.
大名鼎鼎	dàmíngdǐngdǐng	famous, celebrated	这位大名鼎鼎的作家来我们城市了。 The famous writer has come to our city.
鹤立鸡群	hèlìjīqún	to stand out from the crowd	他的成绩在班里鹤立鸡群。 His results stand head and shoulders above the rest of the class.
脱颖而出	tuōyǐngérchū	to stand out, come to the fore	她在比赛中脱颖而出。 She stood out in the competition.
凤毛麟角	fèngmáolínjiǎo	extremely rare	这样的人才在今天是凤毛麟角。 Talent like that is extremely rare.
数一数二	shǔyīshǔèr	one of the very best	他做的菜在我们小区数一数二。 His cooking is among the best in our neighbourhood.
难能可贵	nánnéngkěguì	commendable, admirable (rare)	他这么年轻就这么懂事，实在难能可贵。 To be so sensible at his age is admirable.
当之无愧	dāngzhīwúkuì	fully deserving	他获得这个奖，当之无愧。 He fully deserves this prize.
名副其实	míngfùqíshí	worthy of the name, true	这里的风景名副其实，美极了。 The scenery here lives up to its reputation: it's stunning.

pattern 不瞒你说: to be honest with you

不瞒你说 | 说实话 / 老实说 / 实话跟你说 | , | a confession or a frank opinion

不瞒你说 (literally “not hiding it from you”) warns the listener that something honest is coming: a confession, a worry or an opinion they may not like. It goes at the very start, followed by a comma. 说实话, 老实说 and 实话跟你说 do the same job and are just as common in speech.

老实说，我一开始觉得他有点自以为是。 **lǎoshi shuō wǒ yì kāishǐ juéde tā yǒu diǎn zìyǐwéishì** To be honest, at first I thought he was a bit full of himself.

说实话，像她这样德才兼备的人实在是凤毛麟角。 **shuō shíhuà xiàng tā zhèyàng décái jiānbèi de rén shízài shì fèngmáo línjiǎo** Honestly, people with both her talent and her integrity are extremely rare.

实话跟你说，这次比赛我没什么把握。 **shíhuà gēn nǐ shuō zhè cì bǐsài wǒ méi shénme bǎwò** I’ll be honest with you: I’m not at all sure about this competition.

dialogue employee of the year

manager liu 安娜，年度最佳员工的评选，你有什么想法？
Ānnà niándù zuìjiā yuángōng de píngxuǎn nǐ yǒu shénme xiǎngfǎ · Anna, any thoughts on employee of the year?

anna 我想推荐老张。他工作脚踏实地，从来不粗心大意，也不丢三落四。
wǒ xiǎng tuījiàn lǎo zhāng tā gōngzuò jiǎotàshídì cónglái bù cūxīn dàyì yě bù diūsān làsì · I'd like to nominate Lao Zhang. He's solid and dependable: never careless, never forgets a thing.

manager liu 老张确实不错，就是太默默无闻了，很多人都不认识他。
lǎo zhāng quèshí búcuò jiùshì tài mòmò wúwén le hěn duō rén dōu bú rènshi tā · Lao Zhang is good, it's true, but he's so quiet that lots of people don't even know him.

anna 可是发布会那天，是他足智多谋，几分钟就解决了问题。上个月他还在地铁上见义勇为，帮警察抓住了小偷。
kěshì fābù huì nà tiān shì tā zúzhì duōmóu jǐ fēnzhōng jiù jiějué le wèntí shàng gè yuè tā hái zài dìtiě shàng jiànyì yǒngwéi bāng jǐngchá zhuā zhù le xiǎo tōu · But on launch day it was his quick thinking that solved the problem in minutes. And last month he bravely helped the police catch a thief on the underground.

manager liu 他做人光明磊落，这一点我很欣赏。就是有点一毛不拔，从来不请大家喝咖啡！
tā zuò rén guāngmíng lěiluò zhè yìdiǎn wǒ hěn xīnshǎng jiùshì yǒu diǎn yìmáo bùbá cónglái bù qǐng dàjiā hē kāfēi · He's honest and above board, and I admire that. He's just a bit tight-fisted: he never buys anyone coffee!

anna 哈哈。销售部的小王呢？他的销售成绩在公司数一数二。
hā hā xiāoshòu bù de xiǎo Wáng ne tā de xiāoshòu chéngjì zài gōngsī shǔyì shǔèr · Ha! What about Xiao Wang in sales? His sales figures are among the best in the company.

manager liu 说实话，小王能力很强，但有点盛气凌人，对新人不太客气。
shuō shíhuà xiǎo Wáng nénglì hěn qiáng dàn yǒu diǎn shèngqì língrén duì xīnrén bú tài kèqi · To be honest, Xiao Wang is very capable, but he can be overbearing, and he isn't very nice to new people.

anna 我也听说了。上次他抢了同事的客户，有点损人利己。还有人说他见利忘义，不过可能是误会。
wǒ yě tīngshuō le shàng cì tā qiǎng le tóngshì de kèhù yǒu diǎn sǔnrén lìjǐ hái yǒu rén shuō tā jiànlì wàngyì búguò kěnéng shì wùhuì · I've heard that too. Last time he stole a colleague's client, which was pretty selfish. Some say he'd sell out anyone for a profit, but that may be a misunderstanding.

manager liu 我们得实事求是，不能只听别人说。那个实习生呢？
wǒmen děi shíshì qiúshì bù néng zhǐ tīng biérén shuō nàge shíxí shēng ne · We have to stick to the facts, not just listen to gossip. What about the intern?

anna 她虽然刚来，但见多识广，大学学的是后现代艺术，做事小心翼翼，在实习生里鹤立鸡群，难能可贵。
tā suīrán gāng lái dàn jiànduō shíguǎng dàxué xué de shì hòu xiàndài yìshù zuò shì xiǎoxīn yìyì zài shíxí shēng lǐ hèlìjīqún nánnéng kěguì · She's new, but she's seen a lot of the world, she studied postmodern art at university, she's careful, and she stands head and shoulders above the other interns. That's rare.

manager liu 年轻人里像她这样的，确实是凤毛麟角。
niánqīng rén lǐ xiàng tā zhèyàng de quèshí shì fèngmáo línjiǎo · Young people like her really are few and far between.

anna 不过最佳员工还是老张，他当之无愧。他从农村考上大学，一直自力更生、自强不息。
búguò zuìjiā yuángōng háishi lǎo zhāng tā dāngzhīwúkuì tā cóng nóngcūn kǎo shàng dàxué yìzhí zìlì gēngshēng zìqiáng bùxī · But employee of the year should still be Lao Zhang: he truly deserves it. He got into university from a village and has always stood on his own two feet and kept pushing himself.

manager liu 好，就选老张。他是名副其实的技术高手，以后在公司就大名鼎鼎了！
hǎo jiù xuǎn lǎo zhāng tā shì míngfùqíshí de jìshù gāoshǒu yǐhòu zài gōngsī jiù dàmíng dǐngdǐng le · All right, Lao Zhang it is. He's a tech expert in every sense of the word, and soon he'll be famous around the company!

anna 哈哈，他肯定会很不好意思。
hā hā tā kěndìng huì hěn bù hǎoyìsi · Ha, he'll be so embarrassed.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

懈
xiè
slack

庸
yōng
ordinary, mediocre

乖
guāi
well-behaved, good (child, pet)

豁
huō
to slit, crack; give up (at any cost)

good to know · 不瞒你说 (literally “not hiding it from you”) opens a confession or a frank opinion: 不瞒你说，我也没准备. Its everyday cousins 说实话, 老实说 and 实话跟你说 work the same way. You’ll meet 瞒 “to hide” on its own later in the course. Some idioms are praise (德才兼备, 名副其实), some are sharp criticism (见利忘义, 损人利己). Use the critical ones about people, not to them.

Thirty-four ways to sum someone up in four characters. You can now write a reference like a native. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 8 mission: anna's new team

Follow a four-part story about Anna's team and describe everyone in it: kind or rude, calm or rash, ordinary or one in a million.

A mission pulls the whole unit together: every character word, idiom and adverb you learned this week, in one story.

chapter 1 chapter 1: good news and bad

manager liu 大家早！先说一个好消息：我公司和上海一家大企业的合作基本谈成了。
dàjiā zǎo xiān shuō yí gè hǎo xiāoxi wǒ gōngsī hé Shànghǎi yì jiā dà qǐyè de hézuò jīběn tán chéng le · Morning, everyone! Good news first: our company's partnership with a big Shanghai firm is as good as agreed.

anna 太好了！对方不是一直很傲慢吗？怎么突然同意了？
tài hǎo le duìfāng bú shì yìzhí hěn àomàn ma zěnme tūrán tóngyì le · Great! Weren't they always so arrogant? Why did they suddenly agree?

manager liu 我方表现出了最大的诚意，价格也略微降了一点，对方的态度就大为改变了。
wǒ fāng biǎoxiàn chū le zuì dà de chéngyì jiàgé yě lüèwēi jiàng le yìdiǎn duìfāng de tàidù jiù dàwéi gǎibiàn le · We showed the greatest good faith and lowered our price slightly, and their attitude changed completely.

anna 他们曾经趁机压低价格，多亏您极力坚持，我们才没有损失。这次合作对我公司何等重要！
tāmen céngjīng chènjī yā dī jiàgé duōkuī nín jílì jiānchí wǒmen cái méiyǒu sǔnshī zhè cì hézuò duì wǒ gōngsī héděng zhòngyào · They once used the chance to push the price down. Thanks to you holding firm, we lost nothing. This partnership matters so much to our company!

lawyer sun 我补充一点。那家公然抄我们设计的公司已经道歉了，态度还算诚恳。
wǒ bǔchōng yìdiǎn nà jiā gōngrán chāo wǒmen shèjì de gōngsī yǐjīng dàoqiàn le tàidù hái suàn chéngkěn · Let me add something. The company that openly copied our design has apologised, and quite sincerely.

anna 按说他们早该道歉了。他们当时在网上大肆宣传，太嚣张、太猖狂了！
ànshuō tāmen zǎo gāi dàoqiàn le tāmen dāngshí zài wǎngshang dàsì xuānchuán tài xiāozhāng tài chāngkuáng le · By rights they should have apologised long ago. They advertised it all over the internet: so arrogant, so brazen!

lawyer sun 是啊。说实话，对方的律师也很精明，不过我们火速收集了证据，证据均已齐全，他们只好承认了。
shì a shuō shíhuà duìfāng de lǜshī yě hěn jīngmíng búguò wǒmen huǒsù shōují le zhèngjù zhèngjù jūn yǐ qíquán tāmen zhǐhǎo chéngrèn le · Yes. To be honest, their lawyer was very shrewd, but we gathered evidence at top speed, and with all the evidence in place they had to admit it.

lawyer sun 这类事一定要慎重，不能鲁莽，也不能草率接受道歉。他们提出的条件，我方都断然拒绝了。
zhè lèi shì yídìng yào shènzhòng bù néng lǔmǎng yě bù néng cǎoshuài jiēshòu dàoqiàn tāmen tíchū de tiáojiàn wǒ fāng dōu duànrán jùjué le · Things like this need care: you can't be rash, and you can't accept an apology too hastily. We flatly turned down their terms.

anna 能谈成这次合作，我万分高兴！这几天大家拼命加班，都累得快疯了。
néng tán chéng zhè cì hézuò wǒ wànfēn gāoxìng zhè jǐ tiān dàjiā pīnmìng jiābān dōu lèi de kuài fēng le · I'm so happy we got this deal! Everyone's been working flat out these days; we're all so tired we're going mad.

manager liu 辛苦了，孙律师，也辛苦大家了。现在竞争日趋激烈，我们一刻也不能松懈，更不能自满。
xīnkǔ le Sūnlǜshī yě xīnkǔ dàjiā le xiànzài jìngzhēng rìqū jīliè wǒmen yí kè yě bù néng sōngxiè gèng bù néng zìmǎn · Thank you, Lawyer Sun, and thank you all. Competition is getting fiercer by the day, so we can't relax for a moment, and we certainly can't get complacent.

anna 我也要说一件事。上周我一时疏忽大意，差点把合同发错，多亏老张发现了。
wǒ yě yào shuō yí jiàn shì shàng zhōu wǒ yìshí shūhu dàyi chà diǎn bǎ hétóng fā cuò duōkuī lǎo zhāng fāxiàn le · I have something to confess too. Last week, in a careless moment, I nearly sent a contract to the wrong person. Thank goodness Lao Zhang spotted it.

manager liu 人都有犯糊涂的时候，下次小心一点就好。为了感谢大家，公司决定周末带团队去杭州玩两天。
rén dōu yǒu fàn hútu de shíhou xià cì xiǎoxīn yìdiǎn jiù hǎo wèile gǎnxiè dàjiā gōngsī juédìng zhōumò dài tuánduì qù Hángzhōu wán liǎng tiān · We all have our muddled moments; just be a bit more careful next time. To thank everyone, the company is taking the team to Hangzhou for two days this weekend.

anna	全部门都去吗? **quán bùmén dōu qù ma** · The whole department?
manager liu	统统都去，唯独老张说家里有事，可能去不了。 **tǒngtǒng dōu qù wéidú lǎo zhāng shuō jiā lǐ yǒu shì kěnéng qù bu liǎo** · Every one of you, except Lao Zhang, who says he has family matters and may not be able to come.
anna	他不是最喜欢西湖吗？我们竭力劝他来吧。让他趁早决定。 **tā bú shì zuì xǐhuan xī hú ma wǒmen jiélì quàn tā lái ba ràng tā chènzǎo juédìng** · Doesn't he love West Lake more than anything? Let's do our best to persuade him, and get him to decide soon.
manager liu	好。大家这段时间都很疲惫，这次就尽情放松，工作的事一概不谈！ **hǎo dàjiā zhè duàn shíjiān dōu hěn píbèi zhè cì jiù jìnqíng fàngsōng gōngzuò de shì yígài bù tán** · Good. Everyone's been exhausted lately, so this time we relax and enjoy ourselves: absolutely no work talk!

chapter 2 chapter 2: who's who on the train

xiaoming 安娜？真巧！你也去杭州？

Ānnà zhēn qiǎo nǐ yě qù Hángzhōu · Anna? What a coincidence! You're going to Hangzhou too?

anna 小明！我们团队去玩两天。你呢？

Xiǎomíng wǒmen tuánduì qù wán liǎng tiān nǐ ne · Xiaoming! My team's going for two days. And you?

xiaoming 我陪爱人去看她父母。他们都很慈祥和蔼，对我特别宽厚。她爸爸说话耿直，但心很善；她妈妈性格开朗、外向，特别爱笑。

wǒ péi àiren qù kàn tā fùmǔ tāmen dōu hěn cíxiáng héǎi duì wǒ tèbié kuānhòu tā bàba shuōhuà gěngzhí dàn xīn hěn shàn tā māma xìnggé kāilǎng wàixiàng tèbié ài xiào · I'm going with my wife to see her parents. They're both so kind and gentle, and very generous to me. Her dad is blunt but has a good heart; her mum is cheerful and outgoing and laughs all the time.

anna 真好。你看，窗边那位穿得很朴素的就是刘经理。她看起来很低调，其实非常精明，做事一丝不苟。

zhēn hǎo nǐ kàn chuāng biān nà wèi chuān de hěn pǔsù de jiùshì Liújīnglǐ tā kàn qǐlai hěn dīdiào qíshí fēicháng jīngmíng zuò shì yìsī bùgǒu · How lovely. Look, the one by the window, dressed simply, is Manager Liu. She seems low-key, but she's very shrewd and meticulous.

anna 刚见面的时候我觉得她有点冷淡，后来才发现她又正直又厚道。她英明、豁达，做事稳健，有时候还挺潇洒的。

gāng jiànmiàn de shíhou wǒ juéde tā yǒu diǎn lěngdàn hòulái cái fāxiàn tā yòu zhèngzhí yòu hòudao tā yīngmíng huòdá zuò shì wěnjiàn yǒu shíhou hái tǐng xiāosǎ de · When I first met her I thought she was a bit cool, but then I found out how honest and decent she is. She's wise and easy-going, steady in what she does, and quite stylish at times.

xiaoming 那个笑得很憨厚的人呢？

nàge xiào de hěn hānhòu de rén ne · And the man with the good-natured smile?

anna 那是老张，他果然还是来了！他性格内向，有点腼腆，不过很机灵，心肠也好。他的手特别灵巧，动作敏捷又利索，人也机智，眼光很敏锐。

nà shì lǎo zhāng tā guǒrán háishi lái le tā xìnggé nèixiàng yǒu diǎn miǎntiǎn búguò hěn jīling xīncháng yě hǎo tā de shǒu tèbié língqiǎo dòngzuò mǐnjié yòu lìsuo rén yě jīzhì yǎnguāng hěn mǐnruì · That's Lao Zhang: sure enough, he came after all! He's introverted and a bit shy, but he's quick and kind-hearted. He's great with his hands, fast and neat, quick-witted, with a sharp eye.

xiaoming 那个大声说话的年轻人好像有点放肆。

nàge dà shēng shuōhuà de niánqīng rén hǎoxiàng yǒu diǎn fàngsì · That young man talking loudly seems a bit out of line.

anna 那是小王。老实说，他有点自负，又有点急躁，说话粗暴，对新人也不太和气。不过他的销售成绩数一数二。

nà shì xiǎo Wáng lǎoshi shuō tā yǒu diǎn zìfù yòu yǒu diǎn jízào shuōhuà cūbào duì xīnrén yě bú tài héqi búguò tā de xiāoshòu chéngjì shǔyī shǔèr · That's Xiao Wang. Honestly, he's conceited and impatient, he can be rough, and he isn't very friendly to new people. But his sales are among the best.

xiaoming 他不会是那种虚伪、狡猾的人吧？

tā bú huì shì nà zhǒng xūwěi jiǎohuá de rén ba · He's not the two-faced, sly type, is he?

anna 不是。他只是有点高傲，又有点虚荣，喜欢名牌。有时候也很高调、很任性，对吃的特别挑剔。

bú shì tā zhǐshì yǒu diǎn gāoào yòu yǒu diǎn xūróng xǐhuan míngpái yǒu shíhou yě hěn gāodiào hěn rènxìng duì chī de tèbié tiāoti · No. He's just a bit proud and a bit vain: he likes designer labels. Sometimes he's showy and headstrong, and he's very fussy about food.

xiaoming 你们的实习生呢？

nǐmen de shíxí shēng ne · And your intern?

anna 那个戴眼镜的姑娘。她来自农村，朴实质朴，很有亲和力，又乖巧懂事、见多识广，还很风趣。

nàge dài yǎnjìng de gūniang tā láizì nóngcūn pǔshí zhìpǔ hěn yǒu qīnhélì yòu guāiqiǎo dǒngshì jiànduō shíguǎng hái hěn fēngqù · The girl with glasses. She's from the countryside, down to earth and unpretentious, very approachable, sweet and sensible, she knows a lot about the world, and she's funny.

xiaoming 听起来你们团队里各种性格的人都有，而且大家都很坦诚、很真挚。

tīng qǐlai nǐmen tuánduì lǐ gèzhǒng xìnggé de rén dōu yǒu érqiě dàjiā dōu hěn tǎnchéng hěn zhēnzhì · Sounds like your team has every kind of personality, and everyone's open and sincere.

anna 是啊。刚来的时候我有点抵触，担心大家冷漠、难相处。没想到大家都那么友善、那么包容。

shì a gāng lái de shíhou wǒ yǒu diǎn dǐchù dānxīn dàjiā lěngmò nán xiāngchǔ méi xiǎng dào dàjiā dōu nàme yǒushàn nàme bāoróng · Yes. When I first arrived I was a bit reluctant, worried they'd be cold and hard to get on with. It turns out they're all so friendly and accepting.

xiaoming 你自己也变了。以前你多大大咧咧啊，现在越发稳重了。

nǐ zìjǐ yě biàn le yǐqián nǐ duō dàdaliēliē a xiànzài yuèfā wěnzhòng le · You've changed too. You used to be so happy-go-lucky, and now you're more and more level-headed.

anna 哈哈，谢谢夸奖！

hā hā xièxie kuājiǎng · Ha, thanks for the compliment!

chapter 3 chapter 3: trouble at west lake

anna 刘经理，你看那边，围了好多人，发生什么事了？
Liújīnglǐ nǐ kàn nàbiān wéi le hǎoduō rén fāshēng shénme shì le · Manager Liu, look over there: there's a crowd. What's happened?

manager liu 好像是一个游客在跟卖水的老奶奶吵架。他样子很凶恶，说话很凶狠，态度非常粗鲁。
hǎoxiàng shì yí gè yóukè zài gēn mài shuǐ de lǎo nǎinai chǎojià tā yàngzi hěn xiōngè shuōhuà hěn xiōnghěn tàidù fēicháng cūlǔ · It looks like a tourist is arguing with an old lady selling water. He looks ferocious, he's talking viciously, and he's being really rude.

anna 那个人太霸道了，还强行把老奶奶的东西推到地上！他说是老奶奶的错，太无耻了。
nà gè rén tài bàdào le hái qiángxíng bǎ lǎo nǎinai de dōngxi tuī dào dì shàng tā shuō shì lǎo nǎinai de cuò tài wúchǐ le · He's so overbearing: he's shoved her things onto the ground! And he says it's her fault. Shameless.

manager liu 为了两块钱这样对待老人，又冷酷又无情，太野蛮、太卑鄙了，也很可笑。
wèile liǎng kuài qián zhèyàng duìdài lǎorén yòu lěngkù yòu wúqíng tài yěmán tài bēibǐ le yě hěn kěxiào · Treating an old woman like that over two yuan: cold, heartless, savage and low. Ridiculous, too.

anna 快看，老张不由得走了过去！他不是最内向吗？
kuài kàn lǎo zhāng bùyóude zǒu le guoqu tā bú shì zuì nèixiàng ma · Look, Lao Zhang just couldn't help going over! Isn't he the shyest of us all?

manager liu 他很镇定，从容地扶起老奶奶，又坦率地批评了那个人。
tā hěn zhèndìng cóngróng de fú qǐ lǎo nǎinai yòu tǎnshuài de pīpíng le nà gè rén · He's completely calm: he helped the old lady up and told the man straight what he thought of him.

anna 那个人一开始还很凶，可是老张一直很沉着，处理得又理智又明智，没有跟他打起来。
nà gè rén yì kāishǐ hái hěn xiōng kěshì lǎo zhāng yìzhí hěn chénzhuó chǔlǐ de yòu lǐzhì yòu míngzhì méiyǒu gēn tā dǎ qǐlai · The man was fierce at first, but Lao Zhang kept his cool and handled it sensibly and wisely, without a fight.

manager liu 后来那个人大概也觉得不好意思，就走了。周围的人无不为老张鼓掌。见义勇为，难能可贵啊！
hòulái nà gè rén dàgài yě juéde bù hǎoyìsi jiù zǒu le zhōuwéi de rén wúbú wèi lǎo zhāng gǔzhǎng jiànyì yǒngwéi nánnéng kěguì a · In the end the man must have felt embarrassed, because he left. Everyone around applauded Lao Zhang. Stepping in like that: admirable!

anna 刚才看到老奶奶受委屈，我心里很不平。现在心情激荡，好感动！
gāngcái kàn dào lǎo nǎinai shòu wěiqu wǒ xīnlǐ hěn bùpíng xiànzài xīnqíng jīdàng hǎo gǎndòng · Seeing the old lady treated so unfairly made me so indignant. Now I'm all stirred up. It's so moving!

manager liu 老奶奶拉着老张的手，神情很激动，眼里流露出感激，一直说他是好心人。
lǎo nǎinai lā zhe lǎo zhāng de shǒu shénqíng hěn jīdòng yǎn lǐ liúlù chū gǎnjī yìzhí shuō tā shì hǎoxīn rén · The old lady is holding Lao Zhang's hand, looking very emotional, gratitude in her eyes, calling him a good man.

anna 她说卖水很劳累，可她出来卖水，无非是想给孙子挣点学费。
tā shuō mài shuǐ hěn láolèi kě tā chūlái mài shuǐ wúfēi shì xiǎng gěi sūnzi zhèng diǎn xuéfèi · She says selling water is exhausting, but she only does it to earn a bit of money for her grandson's school fees.

manager liu 这么大年纪还要受这种折磨，真让人怜惜。这件事激起了大家的共鸣，你看，好几个人都过来买水了。
zhème dà niánjì hái yào shòu zhè zhǒng zhémó zhēn ràng rén liánxī zhè jiàn shì jīqǐ le dàjiā de gòngmíng nǐ kàn hǎo jǐ gè rén dōu guòlái mǎi shuǐ le · To go through that at her age: it breaks your heart. It struck a chord with everyone: look, lots of people have come over to buy water.

anna 我也有同感。这件事唤起了我刚来北京时的回忆：那时候我也遇到过很多善意的陌生人。
wǒ yě yǒu tónggǎn zhè jiàn shì huànqǐ le wǒ gāng lái Běijīng shí de huíyì nà shíhou wǒ yě yùdào guo hěn duō shànyì de mòshēng rén · Me too. It brings back memories of when I first came to Beijing: I met lots of kind strangers then too.

manager liu 看着湖边新建的亲水平台和这么多热心的人，我真的被触动了，心里分外温暖。来，我们跟老奶奶拍张照片留念吧。

kàn zhe hú biān xīn jiàn de qīn shuǐ píngtái hé zhème duō rèxīn de rén wǒ zhēn de bèi chùdòng le xīnlǐ fènwài wēnnuǎn lái wǒmen gēn lǎo nǎinai pāi zhāng zhàopiàn liúniàn ba · Looking at the new waterside deck by the lake and all these warm-hearted people, I'm really touched, and I feel especially warm inside. Come on, let's take a photo with the old lady to remember this.

chapter 4 chapter 4: employee of the year

manager liu 各位，今天晚上除了吃饭，还有一件尤为重要的事：宣布年度最佳员工。
gèwèi jīntiān wǎnshang chúle chī fàn hái yǒu yí jiàn yóuwéi zhòngyào de shì xuānbù niándù zuìjiā yuángōng · Everyone, tonight we have something especially important besides dinner: announcing employee of the year.

anna 大家都很激动！老张不慎把茶洒了，样子特别滑稽。
dàjiā dōu hěn jīdòng lǎo zhāng búshèn bǎ chá sǎ le yàngzi tèbié huájī · Everyone's so excited! Lao Zhang has spilled his tea, and he looks so funny.

manager liu 今年的最佳员工是老张！他工作脚踏实地、实事求是，从不丢三落四、粗心大意，今天又在西湖边见义勇为，当之无愧！
jīnnián de zuìjiā yuángōng shì lǎo zhāng tā gōngzuò jiǎotàshídì shíshì qiúshì cóng bù diūsān làsì cūxīn dàyì jīntiān yòu zài xī hú biān jiànyì yǒngwéi dāngzhīwúkuì · This year's employee of the year is Lao Zhang! He's steady and factual, never careless or forgetful, and today he stood up for someone at West Lake. He thoroughly deserves it!

anna 太好了！老张平时默默无闻，今天终于脱颖而出了。以后在公司就大名鼎鼎了！
tài hǎo le lǎo zhāng píngshí mòmò wúwén jīntiān zhōngyú tuōyǐngérchū le yǐhòu zài gōngsī jiù dàmíng dǐngdǐng le · Wonderful! Lao Zhang is usually so quiet, and today he finally stood out. He'll be famous around the company!

manager liu 说实话，像老张这样德才兼备、光明磊落的人，实在是凤毛麟角。他从农村考上大学，一直自力更生、自强不息，是名副其实的技术高手。
shuō shíhuà xiàng lǎo zhāng zhèyàng décái jiānbèi guāngmíng lěiluò de rén shízài shì fèngmáo línjiǎo tā cóng nóngcūn kǎo shàng dàxué yìzhí zìlì gēngshēng zìqiáng bùxī shì míngfùqíshí de jìshù gāoshǒu · To be honest, people like Lao Zhang, with talent and integrity, honest and above board, are very rare. He got into university from a village, has always stood on his own feet and kept pushing himself. He's a true tech expert.

anna 在我们团队里，老张鹤立鸡群，可他对谁都彬彬有礼。大家都把他视为团队的骄傲。
zài wǒmen tuánduì lǐ lǎo zhāng hèlìjīqún kě tā duì shéi dōu bīnbīn yǒulǐ dàjiā dōu bǎ tā shìwéi tuánduì de jiāoào · In our team Lao Zhang stands head and shoulders above the rest, yet he's courteous to everyone. We all see him as the pride of the team.

manager liu 老张自己说，他年轻时又固执又倔强，常常跟领导吵。
lǎo zhāng zìjǐ shuō tā niánqīng shí yòu gùzhi yòu juéjiàng chángcháng gēn lǐngdǎo chǎo · Lao Zhang says that when he was young he was stubborn and headstrong and often argued with his bosses.

anna 年轻人难免幼稚、浮躁一点嘛。他还说他只有一技之长，别的方面都很平庸。
niánqīng rén nánmiǎn yòuzhì fúzào yìdiǎn ma tā hái shuō tā zhǐyǒu yíjìzhīcháng biéde fāngmiàn dōu hěn píngyōng · Young people are bound to be a bit naive and restless. He also says he has only one skill and is ordinary at everything else.

manager liu 他太谦虚了。真正平庸的，是那些自以为是、盛气凌人，或者自私、贪婪，只会损人利己的人。
tā tài qiānxū le zhēnzhèng píngyōng de shì nàxiē zìyǐwéishì shèngqì língrén huòzhě zìsī tānlán zhǐ huì sǔnrén lìjǐ de rén · He's too modest. The truly mediocre are the know-it-alls who push people around, or the selfish, greedy ones who gain at others' expense.

manager liu 做领导的更要以身作则、大公无私，这一点我也要向老张学习。
zuò lǐngdǎo de gèng yào yǐshēn zuòzé dàgōng wúsī zhè yìdiǎn wǒ yě yào xiàng lǎo zhāng xuéxí · A leader has even more need to set an example and put the common good first. On that, I have things to learn from Lao Zhang too.

anna 说实话，我刚来中国的时候孤陋寡闻，就像井底之蛙。以前我觉得自己什么都懂，现在想想，那时候真的很愚蠢、很肤浅。是你们让我看到了更大的世界。
shuō shíhuà wǒ gāng lái Zhōngguó de shíhou gūlòu guǎwén jiù xiàng jǐngdǐzhīwā yǐqián wǒ juéde zìjǐ shénme dōu dǒng xiànzài xiǎng xiang nà shíhou zhēn de hěn yúchǔn hěn fūqiǎn shì nǐmen ràng wǒ kàn dào le gèng dà de shìjiè · Honestly, when I first came to China I knew so little: I was like a frog at the bottom of a well. I used to think I knew everything; looking back, I was really foolish and shallow. You've shown me a much bigger world.

manager liu 唯有真心，才能换来真心。好了，今天晚上大家尽情吃！老张，你今天可别一毛不拔，得请大家喝杯茶！

wéiyǒu zhēnxīn cáinéng huàn lái zhēnxīn hǎo le jīntiān wǎnshang dàjiā jìnqíng chī lǎo zhāng nǐ jīntiān kě bié yìmáo bùbá děi qǐng dàjiā hē bēi chá · Only sincerity wins sincerity. Right, everyone eat as much as you like tonight! Lao Zhang, don't be tight-fisted today: the tea's on you!

anna 哈哈！这个周末大家通通放松了，我也终于从工作中解脱了。这次旅行让我们团队愈加团结了。

hā hā zhège zhōumò dàjiā tōngtōng fàngsōng le wǒ yě zhōngyú cóng gōngzuò zhōng jiětuō le zhè cì lǚxíng ràng wǒmen tuánduì yùjiā tuánjié le · Ha! This weekend everyone's relaxed, and I've finally escaped from work too. This trip has brought our team even closer together.

manager liu 是啊。大家性格不同，但都真心对待彼此，这就是团队的力量。

shì a dàjiā xìnggé bù tóng dàn dōu zhēnxīn duìdài bǐcǐ zhè jiùshì tuánduì de lìliàng · Yes. We all have different personalities, but we treat each other sincerely. That's what makes a team strong.

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