wishyou.today learning

day 88 emperors and dynasties

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 12 · history

Talk about emperors, dynasties and the rise and fall of empires, and say “easier said than done” with 谈何.....

Chinese history is told in dynasties: museums, TV dramas and everyday sayings all assume you know how an empire rises and falls.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
帝国	dìguó	empire	这个帝国存在了一千多年。 This empire lasted for more than a thousand years.
王朝	wángcháo	dynasty	这个王朝统治了近三百年。 This dynasty ruled for nearly three hundred years.
王国	wángguó	kingdom, realm	这个小王国只有几十万人。 This little kingdom has only a few hundred thousand people.
皇宫	huánggōng	imperial palace	皇宫里有九千多间房子。 The imperial palace has more than nine thousand rooms.
皇后	huánghòu	empress	这件衣服是皇后穿过{guo}的。 This robe was worn by the empress.
皇上	huángshang	Your Majesty, the emperor (spoken, old)	电视剧里，大臣们总是说：“皇上，万万不可！” In TV dramas the ministers always say: “Your Majesty, you mustn’t!”
皇室	huángshì	imperial family, royal family	英国皇室的新闻很多人都关心。 Lots of people follow news about the British royal family.
宫廷	gōngtíng	the (imperial) court	这道菜以前是宫廷菜，只有皇帝能吃。 This dish used to be court cuisine, only for the emperor.
贵族	guìzú	nobility, aristocrat	古代只有贵族的孩子才能读书。 In ancient times only noble children could go to school.
官吏	guānlì	officials (of old)	古代的官吏要通过考试选出来。 In ancient times officials were chosen through exams.
功臣	gōngchén	hero of a success; meritorious official	这个项目成功了，她是头号功臣。 The project succeeded, and she deserves the most credit.
状元	zhuàngyuan	top scorer in the imperial exam; top scorer	他是我们省今年的高考状元。 He was this year’s top scorer in our province’s college entrance exam.
商贾	shānggǔ	merchants (written)	丝绸之路上，各国的商贾来来往往。 Merchants from many countries came and went along the Silk Road.

奴隶	núlì	slave	不要做金钱的奴隶。 Don't be a slave to money.
庄园	zhuāngyuán	manor, estate	这座庄园以前是一个贵族家的。 This estate used to belong to a noble family.
封建	fēngjiàn	feudal; feudalism	这种想法太封建了。 That way of thinking is so old-fashioned.
统治	tǒngzhì	to rule, govern	这个王朝统治了三百年。 This dynasty ruled for three hundred years.
历代	lìdài	successive dynasties, past generations	历代皇帝都在这里住过。 Emperors of successive dynasties all lived here.
世代	shìdài	for generations	他家|世代住在这个村子里。 His family has lived in this village for generations.
后世	hòushì	later generations, posterity	他的诗对后世影响很大。 His poems had a great influence on later generations.
中叶	zhōngyè	the middle (of a dynasty or century)	十九世纪中叶，这座城市开始变化。 In the mid-nineteenth century, the city began to change.
长征	chángzhēng	long march; long journey	学中文就像一次长征，要一步一步走。 Learning Chinese is a long march: you take it one step at a time.
废墟	fèixū	ruins	这座古城现在只剩下一片废墟。 All that is left of the ancient town is a field of ruins.
浩劫	hàojié	catastrophe, great disaster	那场大火对古城来说是一场浩劫。 That great fire was a catastrophe for the old town.
灭亡	mièwáng	to perish, be destroyed (of a state)	这个王朝最后在战争中灭亡了。 The dynasty finally fell in war.
推翻	tuīfān	to overthrow; overturn (a view)	新的发现推翻了以前的说法。 The new discovery overturned the old theory.
打倒	dǎdǎo	to knock down, defeat	困难没有把他打倒。 Hardship didn't get him down.
瓜分	guāfēn	to carve up, divide up	这个市场被几家大公司瓜分了。 The market has been carved up by a few big companies.
征服	zhēngfú	to conquer	这位歌手用她的声音征服了观众。 The singer won over the audience with her voice.
征	zhēng	to go on a campaign; levy, recruit	古代一有战争，王朝就要征很多年轻人当兵。 In ancient times, whenever war came, the dynasty would call up many young men as soldiers.
凯旋	kǎixuán	to return in triumph	球队凯旋，球迷们在机场欢迎他们。 The team returned in triumph, and fans welcomed them at the airport.
烈士	lièshì	martyr, someone who died for a cause	这座纪念碑是为了纪念烈士而建的。 This monument was built to honour those who gave their lives.
壮烈	zhuàngliè	heroic (death, deed)	这是一段壮烈的历史。 This is a heroic chapter of history.

勋章	xūnzhāng	medal, decoration	爷爷的勋章一直挂在墙上。 Grandpa's medal has always hung on the wall.
牺牲	xīshēng	to sacrifice, give up (one's life, time)	她牺牲了很多休息时间来照顾老人。 She gave up a lot of her free time to look after the elderly.

pattern 谈何……: how could it be …?

something hard ，谈何 容易 / 简单

谈何 means "how can you even talk of …?" It almost always comes as 谈何容易 "easier said than done", after you describe a hard task. It sounds thoughtful and a little bookish.

要改变人的老观念，谈何容易。 **yào gǎibiàn rén de lǎo guānniàn tán hé róngyì** Changing people's old ideas is easier said than done.

一年学会一门语言？谈何容易！ **yì nián xuéhuì yì mén yǔyán tán hé róngyì** Learn a language in a year? Easier said than done!

要把废墟修成原来的样子，谈何容易。 **yào bǎ fèixū xiū chéng yuánlái de yàngzi tán hé róngyì** Restoring the ruins to how they were: that's no easy task.

dialogue three thousand years in one exhibition

anna 陈教授，我们公司要给西安的一家历史博物馆做一个手机讲解。刘经理让我负责，可是我对中国历史只知道一点儿。

Chénjiàoshòu wǒmen gōngsī yào gěi Xīān de yì jiā lìshǐ bówùguǎn zuò yí gè shǒujī jiǎngjiě Liújīnglǐ ràng wǒ fùzé kěshì wǒ duì Zhōngguó lìshǐ zhǐ zhīdào yìdiǎnr · Professor Chen, my company is making a phone guide for a history museum in Xi'an. Manager Liu has put me in charge, but I only know a little Chinese history.

professor chen 西安好啊！那儿的历史源远流长，历代有十几个王朝把那儿当作首都，有的统治了好几百年。

Xīān hǎo a nàr de lìshǐ yuányuǎn liúcháng lìdài yǒu shí jǐ gè wángcháo bǎ nàr dàngzuò shǒudū yǒude tǒngzhì le hǎo jǐ bǎi nián · Xi'an, wonderful! Its history goes back a very long way: more than ten dynasties had their capital there over the ages, some ruling for centuries.

anna 我们想把三千年的历史放进一个展览，您觉得可能吗？

wǒmen xiǎng bǎ sānqiān nián de lìshǐ fàng jìn yí gè zhǎnlǎn nín juéde kěnéng ma · We want to fit three thousand years of history into one exhibition. Do you think it's possible?

professor chen 谈何容易！不过可以抓住几条线：皇帝和皇宫，宫廷里的生活，还有普通人：官吏、商贾、农民。

tán hé róngyì búguò kěyǐ zhuā zhù jǐ tiáo xiàn huángdì hé huánggōng gōngtíng lǐ de shēnghuó hái yǒu pǔtōng rén guānlì shānggǔ nóngmín · Easier said than done! But you can follow a few threads: the emperors and their palaces, life at court, and ordinary people too: officials, merchants, farmers.

anna 普通人？我还以为历史就是皇上、皇后、皇室和贵族的故事。

pǔtōng rén wǒ hái yǐwéi lìshǐ jiùshì huángshang huánghòu huángshì hé guìzú de gùshi · Ordinary people? I thought history was all about emperors, empresses, the imperial family and nobles.

professor chen 电视剧里是这样。可是一个帝国靠的是千千万万普通人，有的人甚至是奴隶，一辈子在贵族豪华的庄园里干活。

diànshìjù lǐ shì zhèyàng kěshì yí gè dìguó kào de shì qiānqiān wànwàn pǔtōng rén yǒude rén shènzhì shì núlì yíbèizi zài guìzú háohuá de zhuāngyuán lǐ gànhuó · In TV dramas, yes. But an empire rests on millions of ordinary people, some of them even slaves, working all their lives on the nobles' luxurious estates.

anna 以西安为首都的王朝里，哪个最有名？

yǐ Xīān wèi shǒudū de wángcháo lǐ nǎge zuì yǒumíng · Of the dynasties based in Xi'an, which is the most famous?

professor chen 大概是一千多年前的那个王朝。它很开放，丝绸之路上，各国的商贾都来西安做生意。读书人通过考试当官，考第一名的叫状元。

dàgài shì yìqiān duō nián qián de nàge wángcháo tā hěn kāifàng sīchóu zhī lùshang gè guó de shānggǔ dōu lái Xīān zuò shēngyi dúshū rén tōngguò kǎoshì dāng guān kǎo dì yī míng de jiào zhuàngyuan · Probably the one from over a thousand years ago. It was very open: merchants from many countries came to Xi'an along the Silk Road. Scholars became officials through exams, and the one who came top was called the zhuangyuan.

anna 那它是怎么灭亡的？

nà tā shì zěnme mièwáng de · So how did it fall?

professor chen 八世纪中叶发生了一场大乱，对这座城市来说是一场浩劫，很多宏伟的宫殿成了废墟。以后王朝越来越弱，最后被推翻了。

bā shìjì zhōngyè fāshēng le yì chǎng dà luàn duì zhè zuò chéngshì lái shuō shì yì chǎng hàojié hěn duō hóngwěi de gōngdiàn chéng le fèixū yǐhòu wángcháo yuè lái yuè ruò zuìhòu bèi tuīfān le · In the mid-eighth century a great rebellion broke out: a catastrophe for the city, with many magnificent palaces left in ruins. After that the dynasty grew weaker and weaker, and in the end it was overthrown.

anna 一个强大的帝国，最后也会被打倒。

yí gè qiángdà de dìguó zuìhòu yě huì bèi dǎdǎo · Even a mighty empire can be brought down in the end.

professor chen 是啊。古代的皇帝想征服别的国家、瓜分土地，一有战争，就征很多年轻人当兵，打赢了就凯旋回城。可是战争中牺牲的，大多是普通人。

shì a gǔdài de huángdì xiǎng zhēngfú biéde guójiā guāfēn tǔdì yì yǒu zhànzhēng jiù zhēng hěn duō niánqīng rén dāng bīng dǎ yíng le jiù kǎixuán huí chéng kěshì zhànzhēng zhōng xīshēng de dàduō shì pǔtōng rén · Yes.

Emperors of old wanted to conquer other states and carve up their land: whenever war came they called up young men as soldiers, and came home in triumph if they won. But most of those who died in the wars were ordinary people.

anna 我们的展览也要讲这些。博物馆门口有一座纪念碑，是纪念烈士的吧?
wǒmen de zhǎnlǎn yě yào jiǎng zhèxiē bówùguǎn ménkǒu yǒu yí zuò jìniànbēi shì jìniàn lièshì de ba · Our exhibition should talk about that too. There's a monument at the museum entrance: is it in memory of people who died for their country?

professor chen 对，那是近代的历史，很壮烈。博物馆里还有一些老兵的勋章。
duì nà shì jìndài de lìshǐ hěn zhuàngliè bówùguǎn lǐ hái yǒu yìxiē lǎo bīng de xūnzhāng · Yes, that's modern history, and very heroic. The museum also has some old soldiers' medals.

anna 统治、封建、王国，还有出土的青铜器、珍藏的古籍……这么多新词，做这个项目就像一次长征。
tǒngzhì fēngjiàn wángguó hái yǒu chūtǔ de qīngtóngqì zhēncáng de gǔjí zhème duō xīn cí zuò zhège xiàngmù jiù xiàng yí cì chángzhēng · Rule, feudal, kingdom, unearthed bronzes, treasured ancient books... so many new words: this project is going to be a long march.

professor chen 话又说回来，你们年轻人学得快。历史不只是过去，它对后世的影响一直都在。很多家庭世代都住在西安，他们本身就是历史。
huà yòu shuō huilai nǐmen niánqīng rén xué de kuài lìshǐ bù zhǐshì guòqù tā duì hòushì de yǐngxiǎng yìzhí dōu zài hěn duō jiātíng shìdài dōu zhù zài Xīān tāmen běnshēn jiùshì lìshǐ · Then again, you young people learn fast. History isn't just the past: its influence on later generations is always there. Many families have lived in Xi'an for generations: they are history themselves.

anna 幸亏有您帮忙，不然我真不知道从哪儿开始。您就是我们项目的头号功臣!
xìngkuī yǒu nín bāngmáng bùrán wǒ zhēn bù zhīdào cóng nǎr kāishǐ nín jiùshì wǒmen xiàngmù de tóuhào gōngchén · Luckily you're helping: otherwise I really wouldn't know where to start. You're the hero of our project!

professor chen 说得太早了，展览还没开始做呢。
shuō de tài zǎo le zhǎnlǎn hái méi kāishǐ zuò ne · You're speaking too soon: we haven't even started the exhibition.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

臀
tún
buttocks (formal)

腹
fù
belly, abdomen (written)

筋
jīn
tendon, sinew; vein

肾
shèn
kidney

good to know · Dynasties are named + 朝: 唐朝, 宋朝, 明朝, 清朝. 王朝 is the general word, 帝国 an empire, 王国 a kingdom. 皇帝 is the emperor in general; 皇上 is how people spoke to him ("Your Majesty"), so you hear it in every TV drama.

Empires, dynasties and their fall: you can now follow a Chinese history documentary.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 89 armies and weapons

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 12 · history

Talk about armies, weapons and military history in a museum, and say “surely it won’t come to that” with 何至于.....

History museums, news and films are full of military words: you need them to understand, and to talk about peace.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
军事	jūnshì	military affairs; military	他从小就对军事历史很感兴趣。 He has been interested in military history since he was a boy.
军官	jūnguān	army officer	他爷爷以前是一名军官。 His grandfather used to be an army officer.
官兵	guānbīng	officers and soldiers, troops	洪水来了，几千名官兵赶来帮忙。 When the flood came, thousands of troops rushed in to help.
司令	sīlìng	commander	司令站在前面，大声说了几句话。 The commander stood at the front and said a few words loudly.
参谋	cānmóu	staff officer; to give advice	买房子这件事，我请朋友帮我参谋参谋。 I asked a friend to help me think it over before buying the flat.
战士	zhànshì	soldier, fighter	这些战士在山上守了三年。 These soldiers held the mountain for three years.
战友	zhànyǒu	comrade-in-arms	爷爷和他的老战友每年都见一次面。 Grandpa meets up with his old comrades once a year.
海军	hǎijūn	navy	他哥哥在海军当兵。 His older brother serves in the navy.
陆军	lùjūn	army (land forces)	陆军、海军和空军一起参加了演习。 The army, navy and air force all took part in the exercise.
空军	kōngjūn	air force	她小时候的理想是当空军。 As a child she dreamed of joining the air force.
军舰	jūnjiàn	warship	港口里停着几艘军舰。 A few warships are moored in the harbour.
潜艇	qiántǐng	submarine	潜艇可以在海底待几个月。 A submarine can stay under the sea for months.
坦克	tǎnkè	tank (vehicle)	博物馆门口停着一辆旧坦克。 An old tank stands outside the museum.
导弹	dǎodàn	missile	这个博物馆里还有一枚旧导弹。 The museum even has an old missile.
核武器	héwǔqì	nuclear weapon	很多国家都希望世界上不再有核武器。 Many countries hope for a world without nuclear weapons.

炸弹	zhàdàn	bomb; (figurative) bombshell	这条新闻像一颗炸弹，让大家都很吃惊。 The news was a bombshell: everyone was stunned.
炸药	zhàyào	explosive	以前修山路，要用炸药把石头炸{zha4}开。 Building mountain roads used to mean blasting the rock with explosives.
子弹	zǐdàn	bullet	博物馆里陈列着一百年前的子弹。 The museum displays bullets from a hundred years ago.
炮	pào	cannon, artillery	城墙上还放着几门古代的炮。 A few ancient cannons still sit on the city wall.
弓	gōng	bow (weapon)	古代的战士用弓和箭打仗。 Ancient soldiers fought with bows and arrows.
干戈	gāngē	weapons; war (written)	两个人吵了几句，差点儿动起干戈来。 The two of them argued and nearly came to blows.
武力	wǔlì	force, military power	用武力解决不了问题。 Force can't solve the problem.
武装	wǔzhuāng	armed forces; to arm	他带了三台相机，|全副{==fully}武装地去拍照。 He went to take photos fully equipped, with three cameras.
国防	guófáng	national defence	每个国家都很重视国防。 Every country takes national defence seriously.
驻	zhù	to be stationed, based (at)	我们公司有一个小团队常驻西安。 Our company has a small team based in Xi'an.
驻扎	zhùzhā	to be stationed (troops)	古代的军队在这里驻扎过很多年。 Ancient armies were stationed here for many years.
操练	cāoliàn	to drill, train (troops)	战士们每天早上在广场上操练。 The soldiers drill on the square every morning.
演习	yǎnxí	(military) exercise; drill	今天学校有消防演习。 There's a fire drill at school today.
口令	kǒulìng	word of command; password	大家跟着口令一起做动作。 Everyone moves together on the word of command.
代号	dàihào	code name	这个项目|的代号叫"凤凰"。 The project's code name is "Phoenix".
情报	qíngbào	intelligence, information	你的情报真准，那家店今天果然打折。 Your info was spot on: the shop really does have a sale today.
士气	shìqì	morale	赢了这场比赛，全队士气大增。 Winning this match gave the whole team a big boost in morale.
威慑	wēishè	to deter; deterrence	有人认为核武器的作用主要是威慑。 Some people believe the main role of nuclear weapons is deterrence.

pattern 何至于……: why would it come to …?

a small cause **，何至于** **such a big reaction** **？**

何至于 asks “how could it go so far as …?” It says a reaction or result is out of proportion: 何至于这么紧张 “why get so nervous?”. Put the small cause first, then 何至于 + the overblown result, as a question.

他只是迟到了五分钟，何至于发这么大的火？ **tā zhǐshì chídào le wǔ fēnzhōng hé zhìyú fā zhème dà de huǒ** He was only five minutes late: why fly into such a rage?

只是一次演习，何至于这么紧张？ **zhǐshì yí cì yǎnxí hé zhìyú zhème jǐnzhāng** It’s just an exercise: why so nervous?

要是早一点儿准备，何至于现在这么忙？ **yàoshi zǎo yìdiǎnr zhǔnbèi hé zhìyú xiànzài zhème máng** If we’d prepared earlier, would we be this busy now?

dialogue the hall of weapons

xiaoming 我对军事历史最感兴趣了。这次正好来西安出差，就跟你们一起来了。
wǒ duì jūnshǐ lìshǐ zuì gǎn xìngqù le zhè cì zhènghǎo lái Xīān chūchāi jiù gēn nǐmen yìqǐ lái le · Military history is my favourite thing. I happened to be in Xi'an on business, so I came along.

anna 欢迎！我们这个项目的代号叫“凤凰”。今天先看看这里。
huānyíng wǒmen zhège xiàngmù de dàihào jiào fènghuáng jīntiān xiān kàn kan zhèlǐ · Welcome! Our project's code name is "Phoenix". Today we're starting here.

professor chen 历代的军队都在西安驻扎过。这儿陈列着两千多年前的弓、刀，城墙上用过的炮，还有一百年前的子弹。
lìdài de jūnduì dōu zài Xīān zhùzhā guo zhèr chénliè zhe liǎngqiān duō nián qián de gōng dāo chéngqiáng shàng yòng guo de pào hái yǒu yìbǎi nián qián de zǐdàn · Armies of every dynasty were stationed in Xi'an. Here they show bows and blades from over two thousand years ago, cannons used on the city wall, and bullets from a hundred years ago.

anna 所谓“干戈”，就是这些武器吧?
suǒwèi gāngē jiùshì zhèxiē wǔqì ba · So 干戈 means weapons like these?

professor chen 对，“干戈”原来是两种武器，后来就指战争。我们常说，不要动干戈，要用和平的办法解决问题。
duì gāngē yuánlái shì liǎng zhǒng wǔqì hòulái jiù zhǐ zhànzhēng wǒmen cháng shuō búyào dòng gāngē yào yòng hépíng de bànfǎ jiějué wèntí · Yes: 干戈 were originally two weapons, and later the word came to mean war. We often say: don't take up arms, solve problems peacefully.

xiaoming 外面广场上还有一辆旧坦克，一枚旧导弹。另一边讲的是海军、陆军和空军，还有军舰、潜艇的模型。
wàimiàn guǎngchǎng shàng hái yǒu yí liàng jiù tǎnkè yì méi jiù dǎodàn lìng yìbiān jiǎng de shì hǎijūn lùjūn hé kōngjūn hái yǒu jūnjiàn qiántǐng de móxíng · Outside on the square there's an old tank and an old missile. Another section covers the navy, army and air force, with models of warships and submarines.

anna 你怎么知道得这么清楚?
nǐ zěnme zhīdào de zhème qīngchu · How do you know all this?

xiaoming 我的情报很准吧？昨天晚上在网上查的。我爷爷以前是军官，小时候常给我讲他和战友的故事。
wǒ de qíngbào hěn zhǔn ba zuótiān wǎnshang zài wǎngshang chá de wǒ yéye yǐqián shì jūnguān xiǎoshíhou cháng gěi wǒ jiǎng tā hé zhànyǒu de gùshi · Good intelligence, eh? I looked it up online last night. My grandpa was an army officer, and when I was little he often told me stories about him and his comrades.

anna 古代的皇帝靠军队统治帝国，打赢了就凯旋回城。
gǔdài de huángdì kào jūnduì tǒngzhì dìguó dǎ yíng le jiù kǎixuán huí chéng · Emperors of old ruled their empires through their armies, and came home in triumph when they won.

professor chen 展览的最后一部分讲核武器。很多国家都在努力，希望有一天世界上不再有核武器。
zhǎnlǎn de zuìhòu yí bùfen jiǎng héwǔqì hěn duō guójiā dōu zài nǔlì xīwàng yǒu yì tiān shìjiè shàng bú zài yǒu héwǔqì · The last part of the exhibition is about nuclear weapons. Many countries are working towards a day when the world has none.

anna 有人说核武器的作用主要是威慑，可是我还是觉得太可怕了。
yǒu rén shuō héwǔqì de zuòyòng zhǔyào shì wēishè kěshì wǒ háishi juéde tài kěpà le · Some say their main role is deterrence, but I still find them terrifying.

professor chen 所以和平才这么珍贵。国防是为了保护家园，不是为了征服别人。
suǒyǐ hépíng cái zhème zhēnguì guófáng shì wèile bǎohù jiāyuán bú shì wèile zhēngfú biérén · That's why peace is so precious. National defence is for protecting your home, not conquering others.

anna 我们的讲解要不要放一段战士们操练的视频？跟着口令一起动，很整齐。
wǒmen de jiǎngjiě yào búyào fàng yí duàn zhànshìmen cāoliàn de shìpín gēn zhe kǒulìng yìqǐ dòng hěn zhěngqí · Should our guide include a video of soldiers drilling? Moving together on the word of command, all in step.

xiaoming 好主意。那些官兵在洪水的时候也来帮忙救人，司令自己都下水了。
hǎo zhǔyi nàxiē guānbīng zài hóngshuǐ de shíhou yě lái bāngmáng jiù rén sīlìng zìjǐ dōu xià shuǐ le · Good idea. Those troops also came to help in the floods: the commander went into the water himself.

anna 刘经理刚发来消息，说我们的计划书要改，明天就得交。
Liújīnglǐ gāng fā lái xiāoxi shuō wǒmen de jìhuà shū yào gǎi míngtiān jiù děi jiāo · Manager Liu just messaged: our proposal needs changing, and it's due tomorrow.

xiaoming 只是改一改，何至于这么紧张？今天晚上我给你参谋参谋。
zhǐshì gǎi yi gai hé zhìyú zhème jǐnzhāng jīntiān wǎnshang wǒ gěi nǐ cānmóu cānmóu · It's just a few changes: why get so worked up? I'll help you think it through tonight.

anna 好！你一说，我的士气又回来了。
hǎo nǐ yì shuō wǒ de shìqì yòu huílái le · Great! Now you say that, my morale's back.

professor chen 你们公司有一个小团队常驻这儿吧？明天大家一起全副武装：电脑、相机、笔记本。
nǐmen gōngsī yǒu yí gè xiǎo tuánduì cháng zhù zhèr ba míngtiān dàjiā yìqǐ quánfù wǔzhuāng diànnǎo xiàngjī bǐjìběn · Your company has a small team based here, right? Tomorrow everyone comes fully equipped: laptops, cameras, notebooks.

anna 对了，这条消息像一颗炸弹：博物馆说下个月就要开幕！
duì le zhè tiáo xiāoxi xiàng yì kē zhàdàn bówùguǎn shuō xià gè yuè jiù yào kāimù · Oh, and this news is a bombshell: the museum says it's opening next month!

xiaoming 非得这么快吗？那我们要像修山路一样，用炸药把困难都炸开！
fēiděi zhème kuài ma nà wǒmen yào xiàng xiū shān lù yíyàng yòng zhàyào bǎ kùnnan dōu zhà kāi · Does it have to be so soon? Then we'll have to blast through the problems like building a mountain road with explosives!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

搏
bó
beat, fight

秃
tū
bald; bare

桑
sāng
mulberry
(here for
sound)

嗅
xiù
to sniff,
smell

good to know · 军 makes the forces: 陆军 army, 海军 navy, 空军 air force, 军官 officer, 军舰 warship, 军事 military affairs. 参谋 is also an everyday verb: 帮我参谋参谋 "help me think it over" before a big purchase or decision.

From bows to submarines, you can now follow a military museum, and talk about why peace matters.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 90 attack and siege

Retell a siege from history, use battle words for sport and work, and answer “true, but …” with 话是这么说.

Battle words are everywhere in Chinese: news headlines, football commentary and office talk “attack” markets and “gear up” for exams.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
攻	gōng	to attack; to study hard at	她白天上班，晚上攻外语。 She works by day and studies foreign languages hard at night.
进攻	jìngōng	to attack, go on the offensive	下半场我们队一直在进攻。 Our team was on the attack all through the second half.
攻势	gōngshì	offensive, attack (noun)	对手的攻势很强，我们要守住。 The other side is attacking hard: we have to hold on.
攻克	gōngkè	to capture; to crack (a hard problem)	科学家们终于攻克了这个难题。 The scientists have finally cracked this hard problem.
突击	tūjī	sudden attack; to do in a rush (cram)	考试前一天他才突击复习。 He only crammed the day before the exam.
袭击	xíjī	to strike, hit (by surprise)	台风袭击了南方沿海城市。 A typhoon struck the cities on the southern coast.
轰炸	hōngzhà	to bomb; (figurative) bombard	每天手机上都有广告轰炸，真烦人。 Every day my phone bombards me with ads: so annoying.
侵略	qīnlüè	to invade (aggression)	这个国家历史上多次受到侵略。 This country was invaded many times in its history.
入侵	rùqīn	to invade, intrude	电脑被病毒入侵了。 The computer has been infected by a virus.
侵占	qīnzhàn	to seize, occupy illegally	公共的地方不能被私人侵占。 Public space must not be taken over by private owners.
占领	zhànlǐng	to occupy, capture; take over (a market)	这款手机很快占领了市场。 This phone quickly took over the market.
掠夺	lüèduó	to plunder, loot	不能为了发展而掠夺大自然的资源。 We mustn’t plunder nature’s resources for the sake of development.
屠杀	túshā	to massacre	纪念碑上记录着那段历史：很多百姓被屠杀了。 The monument records that history: many ordinary people were massacred.
歼灭	jiānmiè	to wipe out (an enemy force)	书上说，那一次敌人的一万多人被全部歼灭。 The book says that time more than ten thousand enemy troops were wiped out.

摧毁	cuīhuǐ	to destroy, smash	大地震摧毁了这个小城。 The great earthquake destroyed the little town.
重创	zhòngchuāng	to inflict heavy losses on, badly damage	这次台风重创了当地的农业。 The typhoon dealt a heavy blow to local farming.
斩	zhǎn	to chop, cut off	他一刀斩断了绳子。 He cut the rope with a single stroke.
包围	bāowéi	to surround, encircle	歌手一出来，就被歌迷包围了。 As soon as the singer came out, she was surrounded by fans.
封锁	fēngsuǒ	to block off, seal off	大雪封锁了上山的路。 Heavy snow has blocked the road up the mountain.
埋伏	máifú	to lie in ambush; ambush	我们在门后埋伏好，等他一进门就喊“生日快乐”！ We'll hide behind the door and shout “Happy birthday!” the moment he walks in!
潜伏	qiánfú	to lie hidden, be latent	这种病毒在身体里可以潜伏很多天。 This virus can lie hidden in the body for many days.
掩护	yǎnhù	to cover, shield (someone)	你先走，我来掩护你。 You go first: I'll cover for you.
交锋	jiāofēng	to cross swords, clash	这两支球队今天晚上再次交锋。 The two teams meet again tonight.
对峙	duìzhì	to stand off, confront each other	两边对峙了三个月，谁也不让步。 The two sides faced off for three months, and neither gave way.
作战	zuòzhàn	to fight, do battle	我们是一个团队，要一起作战。 We're a team: we fight together.
出征	chūzhēng	to set out (on a campaign or competition)	国家队明天出征世界杯。 The national team sets off for the World Cup tomorrow.
出动	chūdòng	to set out, be sent out (police, crews)	火灾发生后，消防队马上出动了。 After the fire broke out, the fire brigade was sent out at once.
进军	jìnjūn	to march on; to move into (a market)	这家公司准备进军国外市场。 The company is getting ready to move into markets abroad.
部署	bùshǔ	to deploy, arrange	经理已经部署好了下个月的工作。 The manager has already planned out next month's work.
备战	bèizhàn	to prepare for war; gear up (for an exam)	同学们都在紧张地备战高考。 The students are busy gearing up for the college entrance exam.
补给	bǔjǐ	supplies; to supply	爬山的人在半山腰补给了水和食物。 The climbers took on water and food halfway up the mountain.
两翼	liǎngyì	both wings, both flanks	球队从两翼进攻，打得很漂亮。 The team attacked down both wings and played beautifully.
前线	qiánxiàn	front line	护士们一直在前线救人。 The nurses have been saving lives on the front line all along.

阵地	zhèndì	position (held by troops); front, platform	士兵们守住了阵地。 The soldiers held their position.
战场	zhànchǎng	battlefield	这里以前是战场，现在是一片农田。 This used to be a battlefield; now it's farmland.

pattern 话是这么说: that may be so, but ...

someone's advice + 。话是这么说， + (可是 / 不过) the reality

话是这么说 accepts what someone said in principle, then points to the reality: "that's all very well, but ...". It is usually followed by 可是, 不过 or 但是. Use it to disagree politely.

"别担心。""话是这么说，可是明天就要交了。" **bié dānxīn huà shì zhème shuō kěshì míngtiān jiù yào jiāo le** "Don't worry." "That's all very well, but it's due tomorrow."

话是这么说，可是谁有那么多时间呢? **huà shì zhème shuō kěshì shéi yǒu nàme duō shíjiān ne** True enough, but who has that much time?

多运动对身体好。话是这么说，不过我每天都加班。 **duō yùndòng duì shēntǐ hǎo huà shì zhème shuō búguò wǒ měi tiān dōu jiābān** Exercise is good for you. That may be so, but I work late every day.

dialogue the wall under siege

professor chen 为了安全起见，城墙晚上不开放，我们趁现在走一段。这座城墙几百年来经历过很多次战争。
wèile ānquán qǐ jiàn chéngqiáng wǎnshang bù kāifàng wǒmen chèn xiànzài zǒu yí duàn zhè zuò chéngqiáng jǐ bǎi nián lái jīnglì guo hěn duō cì zhànzhēng · For safety's sake the wall is closed at night, so let's walk a stretch now. Over the centuries this wall has been through many wars.

anna 敌人来进攻的时候，城里的人怎么办？
dírén lái jìngōng de shíhou chéng lǐ de rén zěnme bàn · What did people in the city do when an enemy attacked?

professor chen 敌人常常先包围城市，封锁所有的路，让城里得不到补给。然后从两翼一起攻城，攻势很强。
dírén chángcháng xiān bāowéi chéngshì fēngsuǒ suǒyǒu de lù ràng chéng lǐ dé bu dào bǔjǐ ránhòu cóng liǎngyì yìqǐ gōng chéng gōngshì hěn qiáng · The enemy would often surround the city first and block every road so no supplies could get in. Then they attacked the walls from both flanks, with a fierce assault.

xiaoming 守城的战士就在城墙上作战，用弓和炮守住阵地吧？
shǒu chéng de zhànshì jiù zài chéngqiáng shàng zuòzhàn yòng gōng hé pào shǒu zhù zhèndì ba · And the soldiers defending it fought from the wall, holding their position with bows and cannons?

professor chen 对。有时候两边对峙好几个月。也有人晚上出城打听情报、突击敌人，或者在城外埋伏，袭击敌人的补给，斩断他们的后路。有一次，守城的人歼灭了敌人的一支部队。
duì yǒu shíhou liǎng biān duìzhì hǎo jǐ gè yuè yě yǒu rén wǎnshang chū chéng dǎting qíngbào tūjī dírén huòzhě zài chéng wài máifú xíjī dírén de bǔjǐ zhǎn duàn tāmen de hòu lù yǒu yí cì shǒu chéng de rén jiānmiè le dírén de yì zhī bùduì · Yes. Sometimes the two sides faced off for months. Some would slip out at night to gather intelligence and make surprise attacks, or lie in ambush outside the walls to raid the enemy's supplies and cut off their retreat. Once, the defenders wiped out a whole enemy unit.

anna 这儿以前就是战场啊。最后城被攻克了吗？
zhèr yǐqián jiùshì zhànchǎng a zuìhòu chéng bèi gōngkè le ma · So this was a battlefield. Was the city captured in the end?

professor chen 有几次被攻克了。侵略者占领城市以后，掠夺财物，摧毁房子，甚至屠杀百姓，城市受到重创，那是一场浩劫。我们记住这些历史，是为了珍惜和平。
yǒu jǐ cì bèi gōngkè le qīnlüè zhě zhànlǐng chéngshì yǐhòu lüèduó cáiwù cuīhuǐ fángzi shènzhì túshā bǎi xìng chéngshì shòudào zhòngchuāng nà shì yì chǎng hàojié wǒmen jì zhù zhèxiē lìshǐ shì wèile zhēnxī hépíng · A few times. When invaders took the city they looted it, destroyed houses, and even massacred its people: the city suffered terribly; it was a catastrophe. We remember this history so that we treasure peace.

anna 我们的讲解里，前线的官兵和城里的普通人都要讲。
wǒmen de jiǎngjiě lǐ qiánxiàn de guānbīng hé chéng lǐ de pǔtōng rén dōu yào jiǎng · Our guide should cover both the troops on the front line and the ordinary people in the city.

xiaoming 好了，历史讲完了，回酒店！今天晚上我们也要作战：计划书明天早上就要交。
hǎo le lìshǐ jiǎng wán le huí jiǔdiàn jīntiān wǎnshang wǒmen yě yào zuòzhàn jìhuà shū míngtiān zǎoshang jiù yào jiāo · Right, history's done: back to the hotel! We have a battle of our own tonight: the proposal's due tomorrow morning.

anna 刘经理像司令一样，已经部署好了：我写文字，小张做图，你帮我们检查。我们一起备战，士气很高，一定能攻克。
Liújīnglǐ xiàng sīlìng yíyàng yǐjīng bùshǔ hǎo le wǒ xiě wénzì xiǎo zhāng zuò tú nǐ bāng wǒmen jiǎnchá wǒmen yìqǐ bèizhàn shìqì hěn gāo yídìng néng gōngkè · Manager Liu has it all planned out like a commander: I write, Xiao Zhang does the graphics, and you check our work. We're gearing up together and morale is high: we'll crack it.

xiaoming 那你先早一点儿休息，十二点以后的部分我来。
nà nǐ xiān zǎo yìdiǎnr xiūxi shíèr diǎn yǐhòu de bùfen wǒ lái · Then you get some rest first: I'll do the part after midnight.

anna 话是这么说，可是我怎么睡得着？电视上还有球赛呢！
huà shì zhème shuō kěshì wǒ zěnme shuì de zháo diànshì shàng hái yǒu qiú sài ne · That's all very well, but

how could I sleep? There's a match on TV!

xiaoming 今天晚上是两个老对手交锋。你看，我们的队一直在进攻，从两翼突击，打得真漂亮！
jīntiān wǎnshang shì liǎng gè lǎo duìshǒu jiāofēng nǐ kàn wǒmen de duì yìzhí zài jìngōng cóng liǎngyì tūjī dǎ de zhēn piàoliang · Tonight two old rivals meet. Look, our team is on the attack all the time, breaking down both wings: beautiful football!

anna 我的电脑怎么这么慢？不会被病毒入侵了吧？
wǒ de diànnǎo zěnme zhème màn bú huì bèi bìngdú rùqīn le ba · Why is my laptop so slow? It can't have been hit by a virus, can it?

xiaoming 有的病毒能在电脑里潜伏很久。别担心，技术部已经出动了，马上来修。
yǒude bìngdú néng zài diànnǎo lǐ qiánfú hěn jiǔ bié dānxīn jìshù bù yǐjīng chūdòng le mǎshàng lái xiū · Some viruses can hide in a computer for a long time. Don't worry, IT has been sent out and will fix it now.

anna 手机上的广告也在轰炸我……对了，小张说你的位子被别人侵占了？
shǒujī shàng de guǎnggào yě zài hōngzhà wǒ duì le xiǎo zhāng shuō nǐ de wèizi bèi biérén qīnzhàn le · And my phone's bombarding me with ads… oh, Xiao Zhang says someone's taken your seat?

xiaoming ……你们在门后干什么？
nǐmen zài mén hòu gàn shénme · …What are you all doing behind the door?

anna 生日快乐！我们在这儿埋伏了半天了！小张帮我们掩护，你一点儿都没发现。
shēngrì kuàilè wǒmen zài zhèr máifú le bàntiān le xiǎo zhāng bāng wǒmen yǎnhù nǐ yìdiǎnr dōu méi fāxiàn · Happy birthday! We've been lying in ambush for ages! Xiao Zhang covered for us, and you didn't notice a thing.

xiaoming 你们……我还以为今天晚上真的要出征呢！
nǐmen wǒ hái yǐwéi jīntiān wǎnshang zhēn de yào chūzhēng ne · You lot… I thought we really were going into battle tonight!

anna 吃完蛋糕，再进军计划书！
chī wán dàngāo zài jìnjūn jìhuà shū · Cake first, then we march on the proposal!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

泌
mì
seep

痰
tán
phlegm

苏
sū
revive

喘
chuǎn
to pant, gasp

good to know · Battle words at work and in sport: 进军市场 (move into a market), 占领市场 (take over a market), 备战高考 (gear up for exams), 突击复习 (cram), 攻克难题 (crack a problem). 进攻, 攻势, 两翼, 交锋 are all standard football commentary words.

Sieges, ambushes and offensives: you can follow a history programme, and a football match.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 91 defence and peace

Talk about defence, retreat and peace in history and in daily life, and argue "even supposing …" with 退一步说.

Defending, giving way and holding firm are what every negotiation, debate and family argument is made of.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
战略	zhànlüè	strategy	公司制定了新的发展战略。 The company has drawn up a new development strategy.
战术	zhànshù	tactics	教练在比赛中换了战术。 The coach changed tactics during the match.
战役	zhànyì	battle, campaign	这场战役改变了整个战争。 This battle changed the whole war.
防御	fángyù	to defend; defence	这支球队防御很强，很难进球。 This team's defence is so strong it's hard to score.
防卫	fángwèi	to defend (oneself)	遇到危险的时候，人有权利防卫自己。 When in danger, people have the right to defend themselves.
保卫	bǎowèi	to defend, safeguard	人们拿起武器保卫自己的家园。 People took up arms to defend their homes.
捍卫	hànwèi	to uphold, defend (rights, honour)	我们要捍卫自己的权利。 We must stand up for our rights.
守护	shǒuhù	to guard, watch over	妈妈一夜守护在孩子身边。 The mother watched over her child all night.
戒备	jièbèi	to be on guard, on alert	大会期间，城里戒备很严。 During the conference, security in the city is tight.
堡垒	bǎolěi	fortress, stronghold	这座古城像一座堡垒，很难攻下来。 The old city was like a fortress, very hard to take.
屏障	píngzhàng	barrier, protective screen	这片山是城市北边的天然屏障。 These mountains are the city's natural barrier to the north.
抵挡	dǐdǎng	to keep out, withstand	这件大衣抵挡不了这么冷的风。 This coat can't keep out such a cold wind.
抵御	dǐyù	to resist, guard against	古人修长城是为了抵御北方的进攻。 People of old built the Great Wall to fend off attacks from the north.
反击	fǎnjī	to strike back, counter-attack	讨论的时候，他马上反击了。 In the discussion, he hit back at once.
反抗	fǎnkàng	to resist, rebel against	受到不公平的对待，他们开始反抗。 Treated unfairly, they began to resist.

撤退	chètuì	to retreat, withdraw	天气太差了，登山队决定撤退。 The weather was too bad, so the climbing team decided to turn back.
退却	tuìquè	to retreat; shrink back	遇到困难，她从来不退却。 She never shrinks back from a difficulty.
投降	tóuxiáng	to surrender	好了好了，我投降，你说得对。 All right, all right, I give up: you're right.
俘虏	fúlǔ	prisoner of war; to capture	战争结束后，俘虏们都回家了。 After the war, the prisoners all went home.
俘获	fúhuò	to capture; win (hearts)	这部电影俘获了很多观众的心。 The film won the hearts of many viewers.
逃亡	táowáng	to flee, go into exile	战争中，很多人不得不逃亡到外地。 In the war, many people had to flee to other places.
收复	shōufù	to recover (lost territory)	几年以后，他们收复了失去的城市。 A few years later, they recovered the cities they had lost.
冷战	lěngzhàn	cold war; (figurative) silent treatment	他们俩吵完架，已经冷战三天了。 After their row, the two of them haven't spoken for three days.
海盗	hǎidào	pirate	孩子们最喜欢玩海盗游戏。 The kids love playing pirates.
矛头	máotóu	spearhead; target (of criticism)	大家把矛头都对准了经理。 Everyone turned their criticism on the manager.

pattern 退一步说: even supposing …, at the very least

退一步说， **就算 / 即使 the worst case** **，也 it's not so bad**

退一步说 "taking a step back" concedes the worst case for argument's sake: "even supposing …". It is usually followed by 就算 or 即使 and a clause with 也. Use it to calm a worry or win an argument.

退一步说，就算没赶上，下次还有机会。 **tuì yí bù shuō jiùsuàn méi gǎnshàng xià cì hái yǒu jīhuì** Even supposing we miss it, there'll be another chance.

退一步说，即使展览推迟，我们也有更多时间准备。 **tuì yí bù shuō jíshǐ zhǎnlǎn tuīchí wǒmen yě yǒu gèng duō shíjiān zhǔnbèi** At worst, if the exhibition is postponed, we get more time to prepare.

退一步说，就算你不喜欢他，也要尊重他。 **tuì yí bù shuō jiùsuàn nǐ bù xǐhuan tā yě yào zūnzhòng tā** Even if you don't like him, you should respect him.

dialogue the hall of peace

professor chen 最后一部分讲防御与和平。西安南边的山是这座城市的天然屏障，城墙就像一座堡垒。

zuìhòu yí bùfen jiǎng fángyù yǔ hépíng Xīān nán biān de shān shì zhè zuò chéngshì de tiānrán píngzhàng chéngqiáng jiù xiàng yí zuò bǎoděi · The last section is about defence and peace. The mountains south of Xi'an are the city's natural barrier, and the wall was like a fortress.

anna 古人修长城，也是为了抵御北方的进攻吧?

gǔrén xiū Chángchéng yě shì wèile dǐyù běifāng de jìngōng ba · And people of old built the Great Wall to fend off attacks from the north, right?

professor chen 对。可是光靠城墙抵挡不了敌人的攻势。打仗要有战略，每一场战役还要有好的战术。防御好了，才能反击。

duì kěshì guāng kào chéngqiáng dǐdǎng bu liǎo dírén de gōngshì dǎzhàng yào yǒu zhànlüè měi yì chǎng zhànyì hái yào yǒu hǎo de zhànshù fángyù hǎo le cáinéng fǎnjī · Yes. But walls alone can't hold back an enemy's assault. War needs a strategy, and every battle needs good tactics. Only with a good defence can you strike back.

xiaoming 有一个故事说，城里的人坚持保卫自己的家园，敌人包围了城市，攻了三个月，最后只好撤退了。

yǒu yí gè gùshi shuō chéng lǐ de rén jiānchí bǎowèi zìjǐ de jiāyuán dírén bāowéi le chéngshì gōng le sān gè yuè zuìhòu zhǐhǎo chètuì le · One story says the townspeople held firm defending their homes: the enemy surrounded the city and attacked for three months, and in the end had to withdraw.

professor chen 也有失败的时候：有的城被敌人占领了，有的投降了，士兵成了俘虏，百姓不得不逃亡。过了几年，才收复回来。

yě yǒu shībài de shíhou yǒude chéng bèi dírén zhànlǐng le yǒude tóuxiáng le shìbīng chéng le fúlǔ bǎi xìng bùdébù táowáng guò le jǐ nián cái shōufù huilai · There were defeats too: some cities were occupied, some surrendered, the soldiers were taken prisoner and the people had to flee. Only years later were the cities recovered.

anna 城被封锁的时候，普通人也会反抗吗?

chéng bèi fēngsuǒ de shíhou pǔtōng rén yě huì fǎnkàng ma · When a city was blockaded, did ordinary people resist too?

professor chen 会。面对侵略，很多人没有退却，用生命捍卫了自己的城市。

huì miànduì qīnlüè hěn duō rén méiyǒu tuìquè yòng shēngmìng hànwèi le zìjǐ de chéngshì · They did. Faced with invasion, many didn't shrink back, and defended their city with their lives.

anna 这部分的最后，我想讲二十世纪的冷战，再放一句话：“守护和平，比赢得战争更难。”

zhè bùfen de zuìhòu wǒ xiǎng jiǎng èrshí shìjì de lěngzhàn zài fàng yí jù huà shǒuhù hépíng bǐ yíngdé zhànzhēng gèng nán · At the end of this part I want to cover the Cold War, then show one line: "Keeping the peace is harder than winning a war."

professor chen 好！这句话一定能俘获观众的心。

hǎo zhè jù huà yídìng néng fúhuò guānzhòng de xīn · Good! That line is sure to win visitors' hearts.

xiaoming 儿童区可以做一个海盗游戏：海盗来袭击，孩子们学会怎么防卫，又不打人。

értóng qū kěyǐ zuò yí gè hǎidào yóuxì hǎidào lái xíjī háizimen xuéhuì zěnme fángwèi yòu bù dǎ rén · The children's area could have a pirate game: the pirates attack, and kids learn how to defend themselves without hurting anyone.

anna 刘经理来电话了……什么？开幕可能要推迟?

Liújīnglǐ lái diànhuà le shénme kāimù kěnéng yào tuīchí · Manager Liu's calling... what? The opening might be postponed?

xiaoming 会上大家肯定七嘴八舌，矛头都会对准我们。

huì shàng dàjiā kěndìng qīzuǐ bāshé máotóu dōu huì duì zhǔn wǒmen · At the meeting everyone will talk at once, and they'll all point the finger at us.

anna 我这几天忽冷忽热，现在头更疼了。
wǒ zhè jǐ tiān hūlěng hūrè xiànzài tóu gèng téng le · I've had a fever on and off these last few days, and now my headache's worse.

professor chen 别急。退一步说，就算推迟一个星期，也不是什么大事。说不定我们还能准备得更好。
bié jí tuì yí bù shuō jiùsuàn tuīchí yí gè xīngqī yě bú shì shénme dàshì shuōbudìng wǒmen hái néng zhǔnbèi de gèng hǎo · Don't panic. Even supposing it's postponed a week, that's no big deal. We might even be better prepared.

xiaoming 这几天你东奔西走，太累了。好好休息，别跟我们打冷战就行。
zhè jǐ tiān nǐ dōngbēn xīzǒu tài lèi le hǎohǎo xiūxi bié gēn wǒmen dǎ lěngzhàn jiù xíng · You've been running around all week: you're worn out. Get some rest, and don't give us the silent treatment.

anna 好了好了，我投降。不过博物馆最近戒备很严，明天进门别忘了带证件。
hǎo le hǎo le wǒ tóuxiáng búguò bówùguǎn zuìjìn jièbèi hěn yán míngtiān jìn mén bié wàng le dài zhèngjiàn · All right, all right, I give up. But security at the museum is tight right now, so don't forget your ID tomorrow.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

胀
zhàng
swollen, bloated

瘫
tān
paralysed; to collapse

聋
lóng
deaf

哑
yǎ
mute; hoarse

good to know · 保卫 (defend a place), 捍卫 (uphold rights, honour, the truth), 守护 (watch over someone you love), 防卫 (defend yourself), 防御 (defence in general, also in sport). Everyday war words: 冷战 (the silent treatment), 我投降 (I give up), 矛头对准 (to point the finger at).

Defend, retreat, hold firm, give in gracefully: you can now argue a case in Chinese and know when to step back.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 92 how long and in what order

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 12 · history

Talk about time, schedules and order (first, in parallel, overlapping), and give a cause with 因……而……

Every project lives on a timeline: countdowns, overlaps, what goes first. This is the language of planning.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
时隔	shígé	(after) an interval of …	时隔十年，他又回到了这座城市。 Ten years later, he came back to the city.
时段	shíduàn	time slot, period	晚上七点到九点是看电视的黄金时段。 Seven to nine in the evening is prime time for TV.
耗时	hàoshí	to take time, be time-consuming	这个工作很耗时，要慢慢来。 This job is time-consuming: take it slowly.
历时	lìshí	to last, take (a period)	这座桥历时三年才修好。 The bridge took three years to build.
短暂	duǎnzàn	brief, short-lived	我们的见面虽然很短暂，但是很愉快。 Our meeting was brief, but very pleasant.
流逝	liúshì	to pass, slip away (time)	时间流逝得真快，一年又过去了。 Time flies: another year has gone.
推移	tuīyí	to pass, move on (time)	随着时间的推移，大家慢慢忘了这件事。 As time went on, people gradually forgot about it.
消磨	xiāomó	to while away, wear down	他每天在网上消磨时间。 He whiles away his time online every day.
适时	shìshí	timely, at the right moment	老师适时地给了他一些鼓励。 The teacher encouraged him at just the right moment.
同期	tóngqī	the same period (last year, etc.)	今年游客比去年同期多了两成。 Visitors are up 20 per cent on the same period last year.
历届	lìjiè	all previous (sessions, years)	历届毕业生的照片都挂在这面墙上。 Photos of every past graduating class hang on this wall.
年均	niánjūn	annual average; average per year	这个城市年均气温十五度。 The city's average annual temperature is 15 degrees.
年限	niánxiàn	fixed number of years, term	这台机器的使用年限是十年。 This machine has a service life of ten years.
倒计时	dàojìshí	countdown; to count down	离开幕还有十天，倒计时开始了！ Ten days until the opening: the countdown has begun!
倒数	dàoshǔ	to count backwards; from the bottom	他考了全班倒数第一。 He came bottom of the class.

中途	zhōngtú	halfway, on the way	他看电影看到中途就睡着了。 He fell asleep halfway through the film.
间隙	jiànxì	gap, interval, break	他利用工作的间隙学习中文。 He studies Chinese in the gaps in his work.
空隙	kòngxì	gap, space; spare moment	书架上已经没有空隙了。 There's no space left on the bookshelf.
临近	línjìn	to approach, be close to	临近春节，火车票越来越难买。 As Spring Festival approaches, train tickets get harder to buy.
临	lín	just before; to face	临走的时候，他把钥匙给了我。 Just before leaving, he gave me the key.
旬	xún	period of ten days; ten years (of age)	爷爷已经年过七旬了。 Grandpa is already over seventy.
首批	shǒupī	the first batch	首批游客明天上午就到。 The first group of visitors arrives tomorrow morning.
序	xù	order, sequence; preface	这本书的序是一位老教授写的。 The preface to this book was written by an old professor.
序列	xùliè	series, sequence	这些文物按时间顺序排成一个序列。 These relics are arranged in a time sequence.
次序	cìxù	order, sequence	请大家按次序进场。 Please go in in order.
编号	biānhào	serial number; to number	每件藏品都有一个编号。 Every item in the collection has a serial number.
行列	hángliè	ranks, ranks of (people)	越来越多的年轻人加入了志愿者的行列。 More and more young people are joining the ranks of volunteers.
并列	bìngliè	to be side by side, tie	他们俩并列第一名。 The two of them tied for first place.
并行	bìngxíng	to run side by side, in parallel	这两个项目可以并行，不用等。 These two projects can run in parallel: no need to wait.
平行	píngxíng	parallel; at the same time	这两条路是平行的，永远不会碰到一起。 These two roads are parallel: they will never meet.
重叠	chóngdié	to overlap	这两个会议的时间重叠了。 The two meetings overlap.
重合	chónghé	to coincide, overlap exactly	两张图放在一起，正好重合。 Put the two pictures together and they match exactly.
交叉	jiāochā	to cross, intersect	两条路在这里交叉。 The two roads cross here.
环绕	huánrào	to surround, revolve around	这座小城被青山环绕着。 The little town is surrounded by green hills.
纵横	zònghéng	criss-cross; vertical and horizontal	老城里的小街纵横交错。 The little streets of the old town criss-cross each other.

pattern 因……而……: because of …, (so) …

subject 因 cause 而 result

因 + cause + 而 + result is the written way to say “because of …, …”. Both parts sit inside one clause: 开幕因施工而推迟 “the opening was delayed because of building work”. It is common in news, notices and essays.

很多航班因大雪而取消。 **hěn duō hángbān yīn dà xuě ér qǔxiāo** Many flights were cancelled because of heavy snow.

他因工作忙而没来参加。 **tā yīn gōngzuò máng ér méi lái cānjiā** He didn’t come because he was busy with work.

这座城因丝绸之路而出名。 **zhè zuò chéng yīn sīchóu zhī lù ér chūmíng** This city became famous because of the Silk Road.

dialogue the countdown

anna 博物馆发了通知：“兹定于三月下旬举行开幕式。”开幕因施工而推迟了十天。
bówùguǎn fā le tōngzhī zī dìng yú sān yuè xiàxún jǔxíng kāimùshì kāimù yīn shīgōng ér tuīchí le shí tiān · The museum has sent a notice: “The opening ceremony is hereby set for late March.” It’s been pushed back ten days because of building work.

xiaoming 这样一来，我们正好可以把藏品的次序重新排一下。
zhèyàng yì lái wǒmen zhènghǎo kěyǐ bǎ cángpǐn de cìxù chóngxīn pái yíxià · That gives us the chance to put the exhibits back in the right order.

professor chen 展览分为若干部分，按时间顺序排成一个序列。不过有几个王朝是并行的，时间有重叠，不能简单地排成一条线。
zhǎnlǎn fēnwéi ruògān bùfen àn shíjiān shùnxù pái chéng yí gè xùliè búguò yǒu jǐ gè wángcháo shì bìngxíng de shíjiān yǒu chóngdié bù néng jiǎndān de pái chéng yì tiáo xiàn · The exhibition is divided into several parts, arranged as a time sequence. But some dynasties ran in parallel and overlap, so you can’t just put them in one line.

anna 那我们画两条平行的时间线，在重合的地方交叉一下？
nà wǒmen huà liǎng tiáo píngxíng de shíjiān xiàn zài chónghé de dìfang jiāochā yíxià · Then shall we draw two parallel timelines that cross where they coincide?

professor chen 好主意。每件藏品都有一个编号，你们按编号放进去就行。
hǎo zhǔyi měi jiàn cángpǐn dōu yǒu yí gè biānhào nǐmen àn biānhào fàng jinqu jiù xíng · Good idea. Every object has a serial number: just put them in by number.

xiaoming 一共两千多件，这个工作太耗时了，简直是一场战役。
yígòng liǎngqiān duō jiàn zhège gōngzuò tài hàoshí le jiǎnzhí shì yì chǎng zhànyì · More than two thousand items: this is going to take forever. It’s a real campaign.

anna 我们可以把文字和图片两个部分并行做，不用等。
wǒmen kěyǐ bǎ wénzì hé túpiàn liǎng gè bùfen bìngxíng zuò búyòng děng · We can do the text and the images in parallel: no need to wait.

professor chen 还有，西安被群山环绕，这些山就是城市的屏障。老城里的街道纵横交错，地图那部分要画清楚。
hái yǒu Xīān bèi qún shān huánrào zhèxiē shān jiùshì chéngshì de píngzhàng lǎo chéng lǐ de jiēdào zònghéng jiāo cuò dìtú nà bùfen yào huà qīngchu · And Xi’an is surrounded by mountains, which act as the city’s barrier, and the old town’s streets criss-cross: the map section has to be clear.

anna 博物馆说，这里年均有三百万游客。今年春节的游客比去年同期多了两成。首批游客开幕那天上午就到。
bówùguǎn shuō zhèlǐ niánjūn yǒu sānbǎi wàn yóukè jīnnián Chūnjié de yóukè bǐ qùnián tóngqī duō le liǎng chéng shǒupī yóukè kāimù nà tiān shàngwǔ jiù dào · The museum says it gets three million visitors a year on average, and this Spring Festival visitor numbers were up 20 per cent on the same period last year. The first group arrives the morning of the opening.

xiaoming 怎么着？还要准备一个历届展览的回顾？
zěnmezhe hái yào zhǔnbèi yí gè lìjiè zhǎnlǎn de huígù · What’s this? We’re also preparing a look back at all their previous exhibitions?

anna 对，刘经理临走的时候说的。不过这个可以放在最后。
duì Liújīnglǐ lín zǒu de shíhou shuō de búguò zhège kěyǐ fàng zài zuìhòu · Yes, Manager Liu said so just before she left. But it can go last.

professor chen 这么着吧，你们先做第一部分。我利用上课的间隙帮你们看文字。
zhèmezhe ba nǐmen xiān zuò dì yī bùfen wǒ lìyòng shàngkè de jiànxì bāng nǐmen kàn wénzì · Tell you what: you do the first part first. I’ll check your text in the gaps between my classes.

xiaoming 离开幕还有二十天，倒计时开始了！大家准备作战！
lí kāimù hái yǒu èrshí tiān dàojìshí kāishǐ le dàjiā zhǔnbèi zuòzhàn · Twenty days to the opening: the countdown has begun! Everyone get ready for battle!

anna 时间流逝得真快。随着时间的推移，我越来越喜欢这个项目了。
shíjiān liúshì de zhēn kuài suízhe shíjiān de tuīyí wǒ yuè lái yuè xǐhuan zhège xiàngmù le · Time flies. The longer it goes on, the more I love this project.

xiaoming 你可别中途投降，也别在网上消磨时间。
nǐ kě bié zhōngtú tóuxiáng yě bié zài wǎngshang xiāomó shíjiān · Don't surrender halfway, and don't waste time online.

anna 放心吧！我们一定不会倒数第一。上次公司比赛，我们和另一个团队并列第一呢。
fàngxīn ba wǒmen yídìng bú huì dàoshǔ dì yī shàng cì gōngsī bǐsài wǒmen hé lìng yí gè tuánduì bìngliè dì yī ne · Don't worry! We definitely won't come last. In the last company contest we tied for first place.

xiaoming 不过这些电脑的使用年限快到了，开幕以前得换新的。
búguò zhèxiē diànnǎo de shǐyòng niánxiàn kuài dào le kāimù yǐqián děi huàn xīn de · But these computers are nearly at the end of their service life: we need new ones before the opening.

professor chen 人生很短暂，能做一件有意义的事，就值得。历史上，很多文人也加入过记录历史的行列。
rénshēng hěn duǎnzàn néng zuò yí jiàn yǒu yìyì de shì jiù zhídé lìshǐ shàng hěn duō wénrén yě jiārù guo jìlù lìshǐ de hángliè · Life is short: if you can do one meaningful thing, it's worth it. In history, many scholars joined the ranks of those who recorded the past.

anna 陈教授，您年过七旬，还这么忙，真让人佩服。
Chénjiàoshòu nín nián guò qī xún hái zhème máng zhēn ràng rén pèifú · Professor Chen, you're over seventy and still so busy: it's really admirable.

professor chen 哈哈，我还差几年呢！对了，书的序我写好了，你适时放在展览的开头吧。
hā hā wǒ hái chà jǐ nián ne duì le shū de xù wǒ xiě hǎo le nǐ shìshí fàng zài zhǎnlǎn de kāitóu ba · Ha ha, I've still got a few years to go! By the way, I've written the preface for the book: put it at the start of the exhibition at the right moment.

xiaoming 时隔一千年，这些东西又要跟大家见面了。
shí gé yìqiān nián zhèxiē dōngxi yòu yào gēn dàjiā jiànmiàn le · After a thousand years, these objects are about to meet the public again.

anna 黄金时段的新闻也会报道。书架上的空隙，就留给开幕那天的照片吧！
huángjīn shíduàn de xīnwén yě huì bàodào shūjià shàng de kòngxì jiù liú gěi kāimù nà tiān de zhàopiàn ba · The prime-time news will cover it too. And the gap on the bookshelf: let's save it for a photo from opening day!

xiaoming 这座桥历时三年才修好，我们历时一个月，也算快了。
zhè zuò qiáo lìshí sān nián cái xiū hǎo wǒmen lìshí yí gè yuè yě suàn kuài le · That bridge took three years to build; our project took a month, which is pretty fast.

anna 临近开幕，大家一起加油！那两个会议的时间重叠了，我们分开去开。
línjìn kāimù dàjiā yìqǐ jiāyóu nà liǎng gè huìyì de shíjiān chóngdié le wǒmen fēnkāi qù kāi · With the opening close, let's all push on! Those two meetings overlap, so let's split up and go to one each.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

瘸
qué
to limp, be lame

尿
niào
urine; to pee

屎
shǐ
excrement, poo

癌
ái
cancer

good to know · A month has three 旬 of ten days: 上旬 (1st–10th), 中旬 (11th–20th), 下旬 (21st to the end). 年过七旬 means “over seventy”. 兹 “hereby” opens formal notices: 兹定于…… “it is hereby set for …”, 兹通知如下 “notice is hereby given as follows”.

Countdowns, overlaps, first batches and parallel tracks: you can now plan a project in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 93 turning points

Describe deadlocks, setbacks and turning points, and wave away thanks or blame with 说到哪儿去了.

Every project has its crisis and its turning point: telling that story well is a skill in any language.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
关头	guāntóu	crucial moment, juncture	在这个关键关头，大家一定要团结。 At this crucial moment, everyone must stick together.
僵局	jiāngjú	deadlock, stalemate	谈判陷入了僵局。 The talks have reached a deadlock.
瓶颈	píngjǐng	bottleneck	公司的发展遇到了瓶颈。 The company's growth has hit a bottleneck.
弊病	bìbìng	malady, flaw (in a system)	这种管理方法有很多弊病。 This way of managing has many flaws.
弊端	bìduān	drawback, abuse	每种制度都有它的弊端。 Every system has its drawbacks.
出路	chūlù	way out, prospects	只有改革，才有出路。 Only reform offers a way out.
出头	chūtóu	to make it; just over (an age)	他三十出头就当上了经理。 He became a manager just after turning thirty.
余地	yúdì	room, leeway	这件事还有商量的余地。 There's still room to discuss this.
极限	jíxiàn	limit (of what is possible)	这已经是我的极限了，跑不动了。 That's my limit: I can't run any more.
下场	xiàchǎng	fate, end (usually bad)	做坏事的人不会有好下场。 People who do bad things come to a bad end.
挫败	cuòbài	to defeat, frustrate; setback	一次挫败不能说明什么。 One setback doesn't prove anything.
受挫	shòucuò	to suffer a setback	计划受挫以后，他没有放弃。 After his plan hit a setback, he didn't give up.
经受	jīngshòu	to undergo, withstand	这座老桥经受住了大洪水的考验。 The old bridge withstood the great flood.
挨	ái	to suffer, endure (criticism, hunger)	他今天挨{ai2-7}了经理的批评。 He got told off by the manager today.
陷	xiàn	to sink, get stuck	车陷在泥里，出不来了。 The car is stuck in the mud and can't get out.
降临	jiànglín	to arrive, descend (night, chance)	机会降临的时候，你要准备好。 When the chance comes, you have to be ready.

情境	qíngjìng	situation, scene, setting	游客好像走进了一千年前的情境。 Visitors feel as if they've walked into a scene from a thousand years ago.
归属	guīshǔ	to belong to; belonging	在这个团队里，我很有归属感。 I have a real sense of belonging in this team.
着落	zhuóluò	whereabouts; a sure source	项目的钱还没有着落。 There's still no sure source for the project's money.
分割	fēngē	to cut apart, separate	这块地被一条河分割成两半。 The land is cut in two by a river.
分化	fēnhuà	to split, polarise	在这个问题上，大家的意见分化了。 On this question, opinion is split.
颠倒	diāndǎo	to reverse, turn upside down	这两件藏品的次序颠倒了。 These two items are in the wrong order.
扭曲	niǔqū	to distort, twist	历史不能被扭曲。 History must not be distorted.
扭转	niǔzhuǎn	to turn around, reverse (a situation)	最后十分钟，他们扭转了局面。 In the last ten minutes they turned the game around.
飞跃	fēiyuè	leap; to leap forward	这项技术让我们的工作有了很大的飞跃。 This technology took our work a great leap forward.
跨越	kuàyuè	to span, leap across	这个展览跨越了三千年。 The exhibition spans three thousand years.
深化	shēnhuà	to deepen	两国要继续深化合作。 The two countries want to deepen their cooperation.
升华	shēnghuá	to raise to a higher level, sublimate	这首歌让友情升华了。 This song lifts friendship to something higher.
凸显	tūxiǎn	to bring out, highlight	这个设计凸显了展览的主题。 This design brings out the theme of the exhibition.
引领	yǐnlǐng	to lead, guide	这家公司引领了手机的潮流。 This company set the trend in phones.
着力	zhuólì	to put effort into, focus on	我们要着力解决这个问题。 We need to focus our efforts on solving this problem.
加紧	jiājǐn	to step up, speed up	离开幕只有十天了，大家加紧准备。 Only ten days to the opening: everyone is stepping up preparations.
提速	tísù	to speed up	新的软件让工作提速了一倍。 The new software has doubled the pace of work.
一体	yītǐ	a single whole, one body	这两个城市已经连成一体了。 The two cities have grown into one.
无力	wúlì	powerless, unable; weak	面对这么大的问题，我一个人感到很无力。 Facing such a big problem alone, I feel powerless.

pattern 说到哪儿去了: not at all! (polite denial)

thanks / an apology / a wrong guess **——说到哪儿去了！** **(the truth)**

说到哪儿去了 literally asks “where has your talk wandered off to?” It politely brushes off thanks, an apology or a wrong accusation: “not at all!”, “what are you on about?”. You can add the real situation after it. The tone is warm, never rude.

“真不好意思，让你等了这么久。”“说到哪儿去了，我也刚到。” **zhēn bù hǎoyìsi ràng nǐ děng le zhème jiǔ shuō dào nǎr qù le wǒ yě gāng dào** “So sorry to keep you waiting.” “Not at all, I just got here.”

“你是不是不想帮我？”“说到哪儿去了！我是真的没时间。” **nǐ shì bu shì bù xiǎng bāng wǒ shuō dào nǎr qù le wǒ shì zhēn de méi shíjiān** “You don’t want to help me, do you?” “Don’t be silly! I really don’t have time.”

“这次全靠你了。”“说到哪儿去了，是大家一起做的。” **zhè cì quán kào nǐ le shuō dào nǎr qù le shì dàjiā yìqǐ zuò de** “This is all thanks to you.” “Not at all: we did it together.”

dialogue the turning point

anna 临近开幕，博物馆突然要改最后一部分，可是我们的意见分化了，谈了一上午，还是僵局。

línjìn kāimù bówùguǎn tūrán yào gǎi zuìhòu yí bùfen kěshì wǒmen de yìjiàn fēnhuà le tán le yí shàngwǔ háishi jiāngjú · With the opening so close, the museum suddenly wants to change the last part, but we're split on it: we talked all morning and it's still deadlocked.

xiaoming 更麻烦的是软件。游客一多，特别是在高峰时段，手机讲解就卡，这是技术上的瓶颈。

gèng máfan de shì ruǎnjiàn yóukè yì duō tèbié shì zài gāofēng shíduàn shǒujī jiǎngjiě jiù kǎ zhè shì jìshù shàng de píngjǐng · Worse is the software. When there are lots of visitors, especially at peak times, the phone guide freezes: a technical bottleneck.

anna 还有，最后那部分的钱还没有着落。我今天还挨了刘经理的批评。

hái yǒu zuìhòu nà bùfen de qián hái méiyǒu zhuóluò wǒ jīntiān hái ái le Liújīnglǐ de pīpíng · And there's still no money confirmed for the last part. Manager Liu told me off today too.

xiaoming 三天改完？谈何容易！这次的难度不亚于修一座城墙。

sān tiān gǎi wán tán hé róngyì zhè cì de nándù búyàyú xiū yí zuò chéngqiáng · Finish the changes in three days? Easier said than done! This is every bit as hard as building a city wall.

anna 我觉得已经到了极限了。一个人面对这么多问题，感到很无力。

wǒ juéde yǐjīng dào le jíxiàn le yí gè rén miànduì zhème duō wèntí gǎndào hěn wúlì · I feel I've hit my limit. Facing so many problems on my own, I feel powerless.

professor chen 别灰心。一次受挫没什么。这座城墙经受过多少次战争，现在不是还在吗？

bié huīxīn yí cì shòucuò méi shénme zhè zuò chéngqiáng jīngshòu guo duōshao cì zhànzhēng xiànzài bú shì hái zài ma · Don't lose heart. One setback is nothing. Think how many wars this city wall has been through: isn't it still standing?

anna 陈教授，这么晚还来帮我们，给您添麻烦了。

Chénjiàoshòu zhème wǎn hái lái bāng wǒmen gěi nín tiān máfan le · Professor Chen, coming to help us so late: I'm sorry to put you out.

professor chen 说到哪儿去了！我们是一个团队。现在是关键关头，越是这种时候，越要冷静。

shuō dào nǎr qù le wǒmen shì yí gè tuánduì xiànzài shì guānjiàn guāntóu yuè shì zhè zhǒng shíhou yuè yào lěngjìng · Not at all! We're a team. This is the crucial moment, and the harder it gets, the calmer we have to be.

professor chen 我看了你们的方案：问题不在内容，在次序。有两部分颠倒了，序列也乱了，还有一个地方把历史讲得有点儿扭曲。

wǒ kàn le nǐmen de fāngàn wèntí bú zài nèiróng zài cìxù yǒu liǎng bùfen diāndǎo le xùliè yě luàn le hái yǒu yí gè dìfang bǎ lìshǐ jiǎng de yǒudiǎnr niǔqū · I've looked at your plan: the problem isn't the content, it's the order. Two parts are the wrong way round, the sequence is muddled, and in one place the history comes out a bit distorted.

anna 真的！我们一直着力写文字，没注意到。

zhēn de wǒmen yìzhí zhuólì xiě wénzì méi zhùyì dào · You're right! We were so focused on the writing that we didn't notice.

professor chen 旧的方法有弊病：每一部分都被分割开了。要让游客走进当时的情境，展览要成为一体。

jiù de fāngfǎ yǒu bìbìng měi yí bùfen dōu bèi fēngē kāi le yào ràng yóukè zǒu jìn dāngshí de qíngjìng zhǎnlǎn yào chéngwéi yìtǐ · The old approach has a flaw: every part is cut off from the others. To let visitors step into the scene of the time, the exhibition has to work as one whole.

xiaoming 我也想到一个办法！把讲解的声音先放在手机里，这样一来，网络不好也不卡。工作一下子提速了。

wǒ yě xiǎng dào yí gè bànfǎ bǎ jiǎngjiě de shēngyīn xiān fàng zài shǒujī lǐ zhèyàng yì lái wǎngluò bù hǎo yě bù kǎ gōngzuò yíxià zi tísù le · I've thought of something too! Store the guide's audio on the phone first: then it won't freeze even with a bad connection. That speeds everything right up.

anna 太好了，这是一个大飞跃！我们终于有出路了。
tài hǎo le zhè shì yí gè dà fēiyuè wǒmen zhōngyú yǒu chūlù le · Brilliant, that's a huge leap! At last there's a way out.

professor chen 还有商量的余地：钱的事，博物馆说可以先用明年的。
hái yǒu shāngliang de yúdì qián de shì bówùguǎn shuō kěyǐ xiān yòng míngnián de · And there's room to discuss the money: the museum says it can use next year's budget first.

xiaoming 你看，机会降临了！我们终于走出来了，局面完全扭转了。
nǐ kàn jīhuì jiànglín le wǒmen zhōngyú zǒu chulai le júmiàn wánquán niǔzhuǎn le · See, the chance has come! We're through it, and things have completely turned around.

anna 我差点儿以为自己要落个丢了工作的下场了。
wǒ chàdiǎnr yǐwéi zìjǐ yào luò gè diū le gōngzuò de xiàchǎng le · I almost thought I'd end up losing my job.

professor chen 展览跨越三千年，你们的讲解要凸显一个主题：每一个普通人都是历史的一部分。这样，感情就升华了。
zhǎnlǎn kuàyuè sānqiān nián nǐmen de jiǎngjiě yào tūxiǎn yí gè zhǔtí měi yí gè pǔtōng rén dōu shì lìshǐ de yí bùfen zhèyàng gǎnqíng jiù shēnghuá le · The exhibition spans three thousand years: your guide should highlight one theme: every ordinary person is part of history. That lifts the whole thing to another level.

anna 我好像又有了力气。在这个团队里，我很有归属感。
wǒ hǎoxiàng yòu yǒu le lìqi zài zhège tuánduì lǐ wǒ hěn yǒu guīshǔ gǎn · I feel I've got my strength back. I have such a sense of belonging in this team.

xiaoming 那我们加紧做吧。不过别像上次那样，车在中途陷在雪里，差点儿赶不上飞机。
nà wǒmen jiājǐn zuò ba búguò bié xiàng shàng cì nàyàng chē zài zhōngtú xiàn zài xuě lǐ chàdiǎnr gǎn bu shàng fēijī · Then let's step it up. Just don't be like last time, when the car got stuck in the snow halfway and we nearly missed the plane.

professor chen 你们三十出头，正是能引领一个项目的年纪。做完这个，我们的合作还可以深化。
nǐmen sānshí chūtóu zhèng shì néng yǐnlǐng yí gè xiàngmù de niánjì zuò wán zhège wǒmen de hézuò hái kěyǐ shēnhuà · You're just over thirty: exactly the age to lead a project. When this is done, we can take our work together further.

anna 谢谢陈教授！这次是一次挫败，也是一次学习。
xièxie Chénjiàoshòu zhè cì shì yí cì cuòbài yě shì yí cì xuéxí · Thank you, Professor Chen! This was a setback, and a lesson too.

professor chen 每种方法都有弊端，重要的是不断改。
měi zhǒng fāngfǎ dōu yǒu bìduān zhòngyào de shì búduàn gǎi · Every method has its drawbacks: what matters is to keep improving.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

瘤
liú
growth, tumour

疤
bā
scar

绷
bēng
to stretch tight, tense

敷 fū to apply (a compress, ointment)													

good to know · 挨 has two readings: ái “to suffer” (挨批评, 挨饿) and āi “next to, in turn” (挨着, 挨个儿). Crisis words: 僵局 deadlock, 瓶颈 bottleneck, 关头 crucial moment; turning words: 扭转 turn around, 飞跃 leap, 出路 a way out.

Deadlock, setback, breakthrough: you can now tell the story of a crisis, and of how you got out of it. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 94 carry, push and dig

Describe hands-on work (unload, shift, prop, dig, carry), and say someone did a lot of something with V了一通.

Setting up an exhibition, moving house, a dig: physical work needs exact verbs, and 通 lets you grumble about it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
背负	bēifù	to carry on one's back; bear (a burden)	他背负着全家的希望。 He carries the hopes of the whole family.
负	fù	to bear, shoulder; negative	这件事由我负全部责任。 I take full responsibility for this.
负重	fùzhòng	to carry a heavy load	他们负重爬了三个小时的山。 They climbed for three hours carrying heavy loads.
担	dān	to carry on a pole; take on (a task)	这份责任，我来担{dan1-7}。 I'll take on this responsibility.
担子	dànzi	load (on a carrying pole); burden	经理一走，这副担子就落到了她身上。 Once the manager left, the whole burden fell on her.
撤	chè	to remove, take away; withdraw	把桌子上的东西都撤了吧。 Clear everything off the table.
卸	xiè	to unload; remove	工人们正在卸货。 The workers are unloading the goods.
挪	nuó	to move, shift (a little)	帮我把这张桌子往左挪一下。 Help me shift this table a bit to the left.
拣	jiǎn	to pick up; pick out	他从地上拣起了一张旧照片。 He picked an old photo up off the floor.
揽	lǎn	to take on, take upon oneself; hold	他把所有的工作都揽到了自己身上。 He took all the work on himself.
搀	chān	to help (someone) by the arm	她搀着奶奶慢慢地走。 She walked slowly, holding her grandma's arm.
抵	dǐ	to prop against, hold back	他用身体抵住门，不让风吹开。 He leaned against the door to stop the wind blowing it open.
挤压	jǐyā	to squeeze, press	箱子里的东西被挤压坏了。 The things in the box got crushed.
搅	jiǎo	to stir, mix; disturb	咖啡里放了糖，要搅一搅。 You've put sugar in your coffee: give it a stir.
粉碎	fěnsuì	smashed to pieces; to crush	杯子掉在地上，摔得粉碎。 The cup fell and smashed to pieces.
磨	mó	to grind, wear; dawdle	新鞋把脚磨破了。 My new shoes have rubbed my feet raw.

堆积	duījī	to pile up	仓库里的箱子堆积如山。 Boxes are piled sky-high in the storeroom.
丢弃	diūqì	to throw away, discard	请不要随便丢弃垃圾。 Please don't drop litter.
滚动	gǔndòng	to roll; scroll	大屏幕上滚动播放着展览的介绍。 An introduction to the exhibition scrolls across the big screen.
挖掘	wājué	to excavate, dig; unearth (stories, talent)	我们要挖掘历史背后的故事。 We want to dig out the stories behind history.
撵	niǎn	to drive away, chase off	鸽子总飞进来，他只好把它们撵出去。 Pigeons kept flying in, so he had to chase them out.
阻拦	zǔlán	to stop, hold back	谁也阻拦不了她。 No one can stop her.
挑	tiǎo	to raise (on a stick); stir up	他用棍子把灯笼挑{tiao3}了起来。 He lifted the lantern up on a stick.
耍	shuǎ	to play with; throw (a tantrum), play (tricks)	孩子累了，就开始耍脾气。 When the kids get tired, they start throwing tantrums.
勾	gōu	to tick; hook; draw (an outline)	在表上把你要的东西勾一下。 Tick the things you want on the form.
拱	gǒng	to push with the snout or body; arch	小猪用鼻子在地上拱来拱去。 The piglet nosed around in the earth.
豁	huō	to slit, crack; give up (at any cost)	搬的时候，这个碗豁了一个口子。 This bowl got chipped in the move.
料理	liàolǐ	to take care of, manage; cuisine	奶奶把家里的事料理得井井有条。 Grandma keeps the household beautifully in order.
煤气	méiqì	(coal) gas, cooking gas	出门前别忘了关煤气。 Don't forget to turn off the gas before you go out.
玩意儿	wányìr	thing, gadget (spoken)	这是什么玩意儿？怎么用？ What's this thing? How does it work?
筑	zhù	to build (walls, roads)	古人用土筑起了高高的城墙。 People of old built tall city walls out of earth.

pattern v了一通: a whole bout of ...

verb | 了一 | 通

通 (read tòng) counts a bout of an action that goes on and on, usually noisy or tiring: 骂了一通 "gave a good telling-off", 忙了一通 "rushed around for a while", 说了一通 "went on and on". It often sounds a little exasperated or funny.

他把我骂了一通。 **tā bǎ wǒ mà le yí tòng** He gave me a real telling-off.

我们找了一通，还是没找到。 **wǒmen zhǎo le yí tòng háishi méi zhǎo dào** We searched high and low and still couldn't find it.

孩子们闹了一通，就睡着了。 **háizimen nào le yí tòng jiù shuì zháo le** The kids made a racket for a while, then fell asleep.

dialogue crates, screens and a dig

xiaoming 车到了！开幕倒计时只剩五天，工人们正在卸货，一共四十个箱子。
chē dào le kāimù dàojìshí zhǐ shèng wǔ tiān gōngrénmen zhèngzài xiè huò yígòng sìshí gè xiāngzi · The truck's here! Only five days left on the countdown, and the workers are unloading: forty crates in all.

anna 小心，别挤压了！里面有一件陶瓷，摔了就粉碎了。这个箱子的角已经豁了一个口子。
xiǎoxīn bié jǐyā le lǐmiàn yǒu yí jiàn táocí shuāi le jiù fěnsuì le zhège xiāngzi de jiǎo yǐjīng huō le yí gè kǒuzi · Careful, don't crush anything! There's a piece of porcelain inside: if it falls, it'll shatter. The corner of this crate already has a split in it.

xiaoming 这个柜子太大了，帮我往左挪一下，跟墙平行。
zhège guìzi tài dà le bāng wǒ wǎng zuǒ nuó yíxià gēn qiáng píngxíng · This cabinet's too big: help me shift it a bit to the left, parallel to the wall.

anna 只是挪一下柜子，你何至于累成这样？
zhǐshì nuó yíxià guìzi nǐ hé zhìyú lèi chéng zhèyàng · It's only a cabinet: why are you so worn out?

xiaoming 我今天负重走了一天了！你用身体抵住门，别让风吹开。
wǒ jīntiān fùzhòng zǒu le yì tiān le nǐ yòng shēntǐ dǐ zhù mén bié ràng fēng chuī kāi · I've been hauling heavy loads all day! Lean against the door so the wind doesn't blow it open.

anna 大家忙了一通，终于把箱子都卸完了。旧的牌子也都撤了。
dàjiā máng le yí tòng zhōngyú bǎ xiāngzi dōu xiè wán le jiù de páizi yě dōu chè le · After a frantic round of work, we've finally unloaded all the crates. The old signs are down too.

xiaoming 仓库里纸箱子堆积如山。这些没用的，可以丢弃吗？
cāngkù lǐ zhǐ xiāngzi duījī rú shān zhèxiē méi yòng de kěyǐ diūqì ma · The cardboard boxes in the storeroom are piled sky-high. Can we throw out the ones we don't need?

anna 先别扔，有的里面还有小东西。我刚从地上拣起一个小玩意儿，不知道是什么。
xiān bié rēng yǒude lǐmiàn hái yǒu xiǎo dōngxi wǒ gāng cóng dì shàng jiǎn qǐ yí gè xiǎo wányìr bù zhīdào shì shénme · Don't throw them yet: some still have bits and pieces in them. I just picked a little gadget up off the floor, no idea what it is.

xiaoming 这玩意儿是屏幕的插头！大屏幕要滚动播放展览的介绍，没它可不行。
zhè wányìr shì píngmù de chā tóu dà píngmù yào gǔndòng bōfàng zhǎnlǎn de jièshào méi tā kě bùxíng · That thing is the plug for the screen! The big screen has to scroll the exhibition introduction: we can't do without it.

anna 还有几只鸽子总飞进来，我把它们撵出去三次了。
hái yǒu jǐ zhī gēzi zǒng fēi jinlai wǒ bǎ tāmen niǎn chuqu sān cì le · And some pigeons keep flying in: I've chased them out three times.

professor chen 下午我带你们去城外的考古工地看看，很多藏品就是在那儿挖掘出来的。
xiàwǔ wǒ dài nǐmen qù chéng wài de kǎogǔ gōngdì kàn kan hěn duō cángpǐn jiùshì zài nàr wājué chulai de · This afternoon I'll take you to the dig site outside town: a lot of the collection was excavated there.

professor chen 你们看，古人就是用土一层一层筑起城墙的，一段城墙要历时好几年。考古的人每天背负着工具，在地里一点儿一点儿地挖。
nǐmen kàn gǔrén jiùshì yòng tǔ yì céng yì céng zhù qǐ chéngqiáng de yí duàn chéngqiáng yào lìshí hǎo jǐ nián kǎogǔ de rén měi tiān bēifù zhe gōngjù zài dì lǐ yìdiǎnr yìdiǎnr de wā · Look: people of old built walls by packing earth layer by layer, and one stretch could take years. Archaeologists carry their tools on their backs every day and dig a little at a time.

anna 我的新鞋把脚都磨破了。那边那只小猪在地上拱来拱去，好可爱。
wǒ de xīn xié bǎ jiǎo dōu mó pò le nàbiān nà zhī xiǎo zhū zài dì shàng gǒng lái gǒng qù hǎo kěài · My new shoes have rubbed my feet raw. That piglet over there nosing about in the dirt: so cute.

professor chen 它要是拱到工地上就麻烦了。来，路不好走，我搀着这位老师傅。
tā yàoshi gǒng dào gōngdì shàng jiù máfan le lái lù bù hǎo zǒu wǒ chān zhe zhè wèi lǎo shīfu · If it gets onto the site, we're in trouble. Come on, the path is rough: I'll give this old craftsman my arm.

anna 我们要把这些挖掘的故事也放进讲解里，让游客走进当时的情境。
wǒmen yào bǎ zhèxiē wājué de gùshi yě fàng jìn jiǎngjiě lǐ ràng yóukè zǒu jìn dāngshí de qíngjìng · We should

put these stories of the dig into the guide too, so visitors can step into the scene of the time.

manager liu 大家好，我刚下飞机。看了你们的进度，我必须说你们一通：晚了两天！现在可是关键关头。
dàjiā hǎo wǒ gāng xià fēijī kàn le nǐmen de jìndù wǒ bìxū shuō nǐmen yí tòng wǎn le liǎng tiān xiànzài kěshì guānjiàn guāntóu · Hi everyone, I've just landed. I've seen your progress and I have to tell you off: you're two days behind! This is the crucial moment.

anna 刘经理，这是我的责任，我来担。
Liújīnglǐ zhè shì wǒ de zérèn wǒ lái dān · Manager Liu, it's my responsibility: I'll take it on.

manager liu 别什么都揽到自己身上。这副担子太重，一个人负不起，别把自己逼到极限。大家一起来。
bié shénme dōu lǎn dào zìjǐ shēn shàng zhè fù dànzi tài zhòng yí gè rén fù bu qǐ bié bǎ zìjǐ bī dào jíxiàn dàjiā yìqǐ lái · Don't take everything on yourself. This burden is too heavy for one person: don't push yourself to the limit. Let's all do it together.

xiaoming 我们都豁出去了，无论成功与否，都要尽力！
wǒmen dōu huōchuqu le wúlùn chénggōng yǔ fǒu dōu yào jìnlì · We're all going all out: success or not, we'll give it everything!

manager liu 好！谁也阻拦不了我们，不过工作得加紧。小明，你别在那儿耍嘴皮子了，去把表上做完的工作都勾一下。
hǎo shéi yě zǔlán bu liǎo wǒmen búguò gōngzuò děi jiājǐn Xiǎomíng nǐ bié zài nàr shuǎ zuǐ pí zi le qù bǎ biǎo shàng zuò wán de gōngzuò dōu gōu yíxià · Good! No one can stop us, but we need to step it up. Xiaoming, stop being clever and tick off the finished tasks on the list.

xiaoming 是！对了，晚上回酒店谁做饭？厨房的煤气好像有问题。
shì duì le wǎnshang huí jiǔdiàn shéi zuòfàn chúfáng de méiqì hǎoxiàng yǒu wèntí · Yes, boss! By the way, who's cooking at the hotel tonight? The kitchen gas seems to be playing up.

anna 别做了，去外面吃吧。我来料理晚饭的事，你们把灯笼挑起来，挂在门口。
bié zuò le qù wàimiàn chī ba wǒ lái liàolǐ wǎnfàn de shì nǐmen bǎ dēnglong tiǎo qǐlai guà zài ménkǒu · Forget cooking, let's eat out. I'll sort out dinner; you hang the lanterns up by the door on a pole.

professor chen 咖啡给你们，糖放好了，自己搅一搅。今天大家辛苦了。
kāfēi gěi nǐmen táng fàng hǎo le zìjǐ jiǎo yi jiao jīntiān dàjiā xīnkǔ le · Coffee for you all: sugar's in, give it a stir. Thank you all for today's hard work.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

衷
zhōng
inner heart

兹
zī
this; now (very formal, written)

哨
shào
whistle

役
yì
service

good to know · Carrying, continued: 背 on the back, 担 on a shoulder pole, 挑 tiāo also on a pole (tiǎo means to lift on a stick or stir up), 搀 someone by the arm. 通 as a verbal measure is read tòng: 骂了一通, 忙了一通, 找了一通. As “get through” (通过, 打通) it is tōng.

Unload, shift, prop, pile up, dig: you can now talk your way through a day of real work.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 95 mission: the museum of the old capital

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 12 · history

Guide a visitor through a history museum in Chinese, from dynasties and sieges to defence and peace.

Everything in this unit comes together on opening day: emperors, armies, timelines, turning points and a lot of heavy lifting.

chapter 1 chapter 1: opening morning

anna （读）“开幕通知：兹定于三月二十五日上午九点举行本博物馆新展览开幕式。本展览跨越三千年，分为若干部分：王朝与宫廷、军事与战争、防御与和平。凡是带学生证的游客，均可免费参观。

dú kāimù tōngzhī zī dìng yú sān yuè èrshíwǔ rì shàngwǔ jiǔ diǎn jǔxíng běn bówùguǎn xīn zhǎnlǎn kāimùshì běn zhǎnlǎn kuàyuè sānqiān nián fēnwéi ruògān bùfen wángcháo yǔ gōngtíng jūnshì yǔ zhànzhēng fángyù yǔ hépíng fánshì dài xuéshēng zhèng de yóukè jūn kě miǎnfèi cānguān · (reading) “Opening notice: the opening ceremony of our new exhibition is hereby set for 9 a.m. on 25 March. The exhibition spans three thousand years and is divided into several parts: dynasties and the court, the military and war, defence and peace. All visitors with a student card may enter free.

anna 首批游客请按次序进场，每人可在门口领取一张有编号的地图。为了安全起见，博物馆内请勿奔跑，请勿随便丢弃垃圾。开幕式因场地有限而只请了二百位客人，请大家原谅。”

shǒupī yóukè qǐng àn cìxù jìn chǎng měi rén kě zài ménkǒu lǐngqǔ yì zhāng yǒu biānhào de dìtú wèile ānquán qǐ jiàn bówùguǎn nèi qǐng wù bēnpǎo qǐng wù suíbiàn diūqì lājī kāimùshì yīn chǎngdì yǒuxiàn ér zhǐ qǐng le èrbǎi wèi kèrén qǐng dàjiā yuánliàng · The first visitors are asked to go in in order; everyone can collect a numbered map at the door. For safety’s sake, please don’t run inside or drop litter. Because space is limited, only two hundred guests have been invited to the ceremony: we ask for your understanding.”

xiaoming 离开幕还有一个小时，倒计时开始了！大屏幕上已经在滚动播放介绍了。

lí kāimù hái yǒu yí gè xiǎoshí dàojìshí kāishǐ le dà píngmù shàng yǐjīng zài gǔndòng bōfàng jièshào le · One hour to the opening: the countdown has begun! The introduction is already scrolling on the big screen.

manager liu 安娜，你们这一个月辛苦了。上次我把你们说了一通，别往心里去。

Ānnà nǐmen zhè yí gè yuè xīnkǔ le shàng cì wǒ bǎ nǐmen shuō le yí tòng bié wǎng xīnlǐ qù · Anna, you’ve all worked so hard this month. Last time I gave you a real talking-to: don’t take it to heart.

anna 说到哪儿去了！要不是您，我们也不会加紧做完。

shuō dào nǎr qù le yàobúshì nín wǒmen yě bú huì jiājǐn zuò wán · Not at all! Without you, we wouldn’t have stepped up and finished.

manager liu 你们三十出头，就能引领这么大的项目，我很佩服。这次我们一起经受住了考验。

nǐmen sānshí chūtóu jiù néng yǐnlǐng zhème dà de xiàngmù wǒ hěn pèifú zhè cì wǒmen yìqǐ jīngshòu zhù le kǎoyàn · You’re just over thirty and already leading a project this size: I’m impressed. We’ve come through this test together.

anna 临走前，我把大家的任务又部署了一遍：小明管屏幕，我管讲解，大家一起备战！

lín zǒu qián wǒ bǎ dàjiā de rènwu yòu bùshǔ le yí biàn Xiǎomíng guǎn píngmù wǒ guǎn jiǎngjiě dàjiā yìqǐ bèizhàn · Before we came out I went over everyone’s tasks again: Xiaoming on the screens, me on the guide. We’re all geared up!

xiaoming 我昨天晚上还检查了一遍，没有病毒入侵，屏幕也不会中途停下来。

wǒ zuótiān wǎnshang hái jiǎnchá le yí biàn méiyǒu bìngdú rùqīn píngmù yě bú huì zhōngtú tíng xialai · I checked again last night: no virus has got in, and the screens won’t stop halfway.

manager liu 门口的游客排成了长长的行列，比去年同期多了一倍。我看这次展览不亚于任何一次大的展览。

ménkǒu de yóukè pái chéng le cháng cháng de hángliè bǐ qùnián tóngqī duō le yí bèi wǒ kàn zhè cì zhǎnlǎn búyàyú rènhé yí cì dà de zhǎnlǎn · The visitors outside are queuing in a long line, twice as many as the same time last year. I’d say this exhibition is as good as any major show.

xiaoming 博物馆说，这里年均有三百万游客。今天这个时段人最多。

bówùguǎn shuō zhèlǐ niánjūn yǒu sānbǎi wàn yóukè jīntiān zhège shíduàn rén zuì duō · The museum says it gets three million visitors a year on average. This time slot is the busiest of the day.

manager liu 临近九点了。说实话，这个项目很耗时，从开始到现在历时一个月。离开幕还有几分钟，我们倒数吧！

línjìn jiǔ diǎn le shuō shíhuà zhège xiàngmù hěn hàoshí cóng kāishǐ dào xiànzài lìshí yí gè yuè lí kāimù hái yǒu jǐ fēnzhōng wǒmen dàoshǔ ba · It’s nearly nine. To be honest this project took a lot of time: a whole month from start to finish. A few minutes to go: let’s count down!

chapter 2 chapter 2: dynasties and the court

professor chen 各位好，欢迎来到西安这座古城。历代有十几个王朝以这里为首都，有的统治了好几百年。

gèwèi hǎo huānyíng lái dào Xīān zhè zuò gǔ chéng lìdài yǒu shí jǐ gè wángcháo yǐ zhèlǐ wèi shǒudū yǒude tǒngzhì le hǎo jǐ bǎi nián · Hello everyone, and welcome to the ancient city of Xi'an. Over the ages more than ten dynasties made it their capital, some ruling for centuries.

professor chen 这一部分讲帝国的宫廷生活。这件衣服是一位皇后穿过的，旁边是皇室用过的东西。

zhè yí bùfen jiǎng dìguó de gōngtíng shēnghuó zhè jiàn yīfu shì yí wèi huánghòu chuān guo de pángbiān shì huángshì yòng guo de dōngxi · This part is about life at the imperial court. This robe was worn by an empress, and next to it are things used by the imperial family.

anna 讲解里还有皇宫的样子：大臣们在宫殿里对皇上说话，贵族住在城里，官吏通过考试选出来，考第一名的叫状元。

jiǎngjiě lǐ hái yǒu huánggōng de yàngzi dàchénmen zài gōngdiàn lǐ duì huángshang shuōhuà guìzú zhù zài chéng lǐ guānlì tōngguò kǎoshì xuǎn chulai kǎo dì yī míng de jiào zhuàngyuan · The guide also shows the imperial palace: ministers addressing the emperor in the halls, nobles living in the city, officials chosen by exam, and the top scorer called the zhuangyuan.

professor chen 不过，一个帝国靠的不只是皇帝和功臣。丝绸之路上来来往往的商贾，在庄园里干活的农民，甚至奴隶，都是历史的一部分。

búguò yí gè dìguó kào de bù zhǐshì huángdì hé gōngchén sīchóu zhī lùshang lái lai wǎngwǎng de shānggǔ zài zhuāngyuán lǐ gànhuó de nóngmín shènzhì núlì dōu shì lìshǐ de yí bùfen · But an empire doesn't rest only on its emperor and his great ministers. The merchants travelling the Silk Road, the farmers working the estates, even the slaves: they are all part of history.

anna 封建王朝最后都灭亡了吗？

fēngjiàn wángcháo zuìhòu dōu mièwáng le ma · Did all the feudal dynasties fall in the end?

professor chen 对。八世纪中叶的一场大乱对这座城市是一场浩劫，很多宫殿成了废墟。以后王朝越来越弱，最后被推翻了，土地被几方瓜分。

duì bā shìjì zhōngyè de yì chǎng dà luàn duì zhè zuò chéngshì shì yì chǎng hàojié hěn duō gōngdiàn chéng le fèixū yǐhòu wángcháo yuè lái yuè ruò zuìhòu bèi tuīfān le tǔdì bèi jǐ fāng guāfēn · Yes. A great rebellion in the mid-eighth century was a catastrophe for the city, and many palaces were left in ruins. The dynasty grew ever weaker, and in the end it was overthrown and its land carved up.

xiaoming 你们看这条时间线：有几个王朝是并行的，时间有重叠，所以我们画成两条平行的线，在重合的地方交叉。

nǐmen kàn zhè tiáo shíjiān xiàn yǒu jǐ gè wángcháo shì bìngxíng de shíjiān yǒu chóngdié suǒyǐ wǒmen huà chéng liǎng tiáo píngxíng de xiàn zài chónghé de dìfang jiāochā · Look at this timeline: some dynasties ran in parallel and overlapped, so we drew two parallel lines that cross where they coincide.

professor chen 这本书的序我也写好了，讲解开头适时放一段，让游客走进当时的情境。

zhè běn shū de xù wǒ yě xiě hǎo le jiǎngjiě kāitóu shìshí fàng yí duàn ràng yóukè zǒu jìn dāngshí de qíngjìng · I've finished the preface for the book too: put a section of it at the start of the guide at the right moment, to take visitors into the scene of the time.

anna 历届展览都没讲过普通人的故事，我们这次是第一次。古代的皇帝出兵征服别的国家，打赢了就凯旋，可是后世记住的，往往只是皇帝的名字。

lìjiè zhǎnlǎn dōu méi jiǎng guo pǔtōng rén de gùshi wǒmen zhè cì shì dì yī cì gǔdài de huángdì chū bīng zhēngfú biéde guójiā dǎ yíng le jiù kǎixuán kěshì hòushì jì zhù de wǎngwǎng zhǐshì huángdì de míngzi · None of the previous exhibitions told ordinary people's stories: ours is the first. Emperors of old sent armies to conquer other states and returned in triumph, but later generations often remember only the emperors' names.

professor chen 是啊，一有战争，王朝就要征很多年轻人。很多人的下场很惨。

shì a yì yǒu zhànzhēng wángcháo jiù yào zhēng hěn duō niánqīng rén hěn duō rén de xiàchǎng hěn cǎn · Yes: whenever there was a war, the dynasty called up huge numbers of young men. Many met a terrible end.

anna 时隔一千年，这些东西又跟大家见面了。有的家庭世代住在西安，他们看了一定很感动。

shí gé yìqiān nián zhèxiē dōngxi yòu gēn dàjiā jiànmiàn le yǒude jiātíng shìdài zhù zài Xīān tāmen kàn le yídìng hěn gǎndòng · After a thousand years, these objects are on show again. Some families have lived in Xi'an for generations: they're sure to be moved.

chapter 3 chapter 3: armies and sieges

professor chen 这一部分讲军事。古代的军队在西安驻扎过很多年。这儿有战士用的弓、城墙上的炮，还有一百年前的子弹。

zhè yí bùfen jiǎng jūnshì gǔdài de jūnduì zài Xīān zhùzhā guo hěn duō nián zhèr yǒu zhànshì yòng de gōng chéngqiáng shàng de pào hái yǒu yìbǎi nián qián de zǐdàn · This part is about the military. Ancient armies were stationed in Xi'an for many years. Here are bows used by soldiers, cannons from the city wall, and bullets from a hundred years ago.

xiaoming 这一边讲古代军队的生活：战士们每天在广场上操练，听司令的口令，参谋帮他们出主意。打赢了，大家的士气就大增。

zhè yìbiān jiǎng gǔdài jūnduì de shēnghuó zhànshìmen měi tiān zài guǎngchǎng shàng cāoliàn tīng sīlìng de kǒulìng cānmóu bāng tāmen chū zhǔyi dǎ yíng le dàjiā de shìqì jiù dà zēng · This side is about life in an ancient army: soldiers drilling on the square every day to the commander's orders, with staff officers giving advice. After a victory, the whole army's morale soared.

anna 还有一个小游戏：游客要找到藏在画里的“情报”，像潜伏的士兵一样，不能被发现。

hái yǒu yí gè xiǎo yóuxì yóukè yào zhǎo dào cáng zài huà lǐ de qíngbào xiàng qiánfú de shìbīng yíyàng bù néng bèi fāxiàn · And there's a little game: visitors have to find the "intelligence" hidden in a picture, like soldiers lying hidden, without being spotted.

xiaoming 外面广场上还有一辆旧坦克。另一边是海军、陆军和空军的介绍，还有军舰和潜艇的模型。

wàimiàn guǎngchǎng shàng hái yǒu yí liàng jiù tǎnkè lìng yìbiān shì hǎijūn lùjūn hé kōngjūn de jièshào hái yǒu jūnjiàn hé qiántǐng de móxíng · Outside on the square there's an old tank. On the other side there's an introduction to the navy, army and air force, with models of warships and submarines.

anna 这个城墙模型最受欢迎。讲解会告诉游客，敌人怎样包围城市、封锁道路，让城里得不到补给，再从两翼进攻。

zhège chéngqiáng móxíng zuì shòu huānyíng jiǎngjiě huì gàosu yóukè dírén zěnyàng bāowéi chéngshì fēngsuǒ dàolù ràng chéng lǐ dé bu dào bǔjǐ zài cóng liǎngyì jìngōng · This model of the city wall is the most popular thing. The guide tells visitors how an enemy would surround the city, block the roads so no supplies got in, then attack on both flanks.

professor chen 守城的官兵在城墙上作战，守住阵地。有时候两边对峙几个月，也有人晚上出城突击，或者在城外埋伏，袭击敌人。

shǒu chéng de guānbīng zài chéngqiáng shàng zuòzhàn shǒu zhù zhèndì yǒu shíhou liǎng biān duìzhì jǐ gè yuè yě yǒu rén wǎnshang chū chéng tūjī huòzhě zài chéng wài máifú xíjī dírén · The troops defending the city fought from the wall and held their position. Sometimes the two sides faced off for months; some slipped out at night for surprise attacks, or lay in ambush outside to strike the enemy.

anna 城被攻克以后，侵略者占领了城市，掠夺财物，摧毁房子，甚至屠杀百姓，这座城市受到重创。这里曾经是战场。我们记住这些，是为了珍惜和平。

chéng bèi gōngkè yǐhòu qīnlüè zhě zhànlǐng le chéngshì lüèduó cáiwù cuīhuǐ fángzi shènzhì túshā bǎi xìng zhè zuò chéngshì shòudào zhòngchuāng zhèlǐ céngjīng shì zhànchǎng wǒmen jì zhù zhèxiē shì wèile zhēnxī hépíng · After the city fell, the invaders occupied it, looted, destroyed homes and even massacred its people: the city suffered terribly. This was once a battlefield. We remember this so that we treasure peace.

professor chen 也有守城的人反击成功的时候：他们从城门出动，掩护百姓出城，还歼灭了一部分敌人。

yě yǒu shǒu chéng de rén fǎnjī chénggōng de shíhou tāmen cóng chéng mén chūdòng yǎnhù bǎi xìng chū chéng hái jiānmiè le yí bùfen dírén · There were times when the defenders struck back successfully too: they sallied out through the gates, covered the people as they left the city, and even wiped out part of the enemy force.

xiaoming 有个小朋友问我，核武器和导弹在哪儿。我说，世界上最好不要有这些东西。

yǒu gè xiǎopéngyǒu wèn wǒ héwǔqì hé dǎodàn zài nǎr wǒ shuō shìjiè shàng zuìhǎo búyào yǒu zhèxiē dōngxi · A little boy asked me where the nuclear weapons and missiles were. I said the world would be better without such things.

professor chen 说得好。用武力解决不了问题。有人说武器是一种威慑，可是干戈再多，也换不来真正的和平。国防是为了保护家园，不是为了进攻别人。

shuō de hǎo yòng wǔlì jiějué bu liǎo wèntí yǒu rén shuō wǔqì shì yì zhǒng wēishè kěshì gāngē zài duō yě huàn bu lái zhēnzhèng de hépíng guófáng shì wèile bǎohù jiāyuán bú shì wèile jìngōng biérén · Well said. Force can't solve problems. Some say weapons are a deterrent, but however many there are, they can't buy real peace. National defence is for protecting your home, not attacking others.

anna 我们的讲解有一个代号，叫“凤凰”。爷爷当过军官的游客听了以后，说想起了他的老战友。

wǒmen de jiǎngjiě yǒu yí gè dàihào jiào fènghuáng yéye dāng guo jūnguān de yóukè tīng le yǐhòu shuō xiǎng qǐ le tā de lǎo zhànyǒu · Our guide has a code name: “Phoenix”. A visitor whose grandfather was an army officer said listening to it reminded him of his grandfather's old comrades.

chapter 4 chapter 4: defence and peace

professor chen 最后一部分讲防御与和平。西安南边的山是这座城市的天然屏障，城墙就像一座堡垒，抵御了一次又一次的进攻。

zuìhòu yí bùfen jiǎng fángyù yǔ hépíng Xīān nán biān de shān shì zhè zuò chéngshì de tiānrán píngzhàng chéngqiáng jiù xiàng yí zuò bǎoděi dǐyù le yí cì yòu yí cì de jìngōng · The last part is about defence and peace. The mountains south of Xi'an are the city's natural barrier, and the wall was like a fortress that fended off attack after attack.

anna 打仗要有战略，每一场战役还要有好的战术。可是有的城投降了，士兵成了俘虏，百姓不得不逃亡，过了很多年才收复。

dǎzhàng yào yǒu zhànlüè měi yì chǎng zhànyì hái yào yǒu hǎo de zhànshù kěshì yǒude chéng tóuxiáng le shìbīng chéng le fúlǔ bǎi xìng bùdébù táowáng guò le hěn duō nián cái shōufù · War needs strategy, and every battle good tactics. But some cities surrendered, the soldiers were taken prisoner and the people had to flee, and it took years to win the cities back.

professor chen 面对侵略，很多普通人没有退却。他们拿起武器保卫自己的家园，捍卫自己的城市，很多人牺牲了。广场上的纪念碑，就是纪念这些烈士的。

miànduì qīnlüè hěn duō pǔtōng rén méiyǒu tuìquè tāmen ná qǐ wǔqì bǎowèi zìjǐ de jiāyuán hànwèi zìjǐ de chéngshì hěn duō rén xīshēng le guǎngchǎng shàng de jìniànbēi jiùshì jìniàn zhèxiē lièshì de · Faced with invasion, many ordinary people didn't shrink back. They took up arms to defend their homes and their city, and many gave their lives. The monument on the square honours them.

xiaoming 儿童区的海盗游戏特别受欢迎，孩子们学会了怎样防卫自己，又不打人。

értóng qū de hǎidào yóuxì tèbié shòu huānyíng háizimen xuéhuì le zěnyàng fángwèi zìjǐ yòu bù dǎ rén · The pirate game in the children's area is a big hit: kids learn to defend themselves without hurting anyone.

anna 这部分的最后是二十世纪的冷战，还有一句话："守护和平，比赢得战争更难。"

zhè bùfen de zuìhòu shì èrshí shìjì de lěngzhàn hái yǒu yí jù huà shǒuhù hépíng bǐ yíngdé zhànzhēng gèng nán · The part ends with the Cold War of the twentieth century, and one line: "Keeping the peace is harder than winning a war."

xiaoming 这句话俘获了很多游客的心，大家都在那儿拍照。

zhè jù huà fúhuò le hěn duō yóukè de xīn dàjiā dōu zài nàr pāizhào · That line has won lots of visitors' hearts: everyone is taking photos there.

manager liu 这次项目差点儿陷入僵局：意见分化，技术有瓶颈，钱也没有着落。是你们扭转了局面。

zhè cì xiàngmù chàdiǎnr xiànrù jiāngjú yìjiàn fēnhuà jìshù yǒu píngjǐng qián yě méiyǒu zhuóluò shì nǐmen niǔzhuǎn le júmiàn · This project nearly got stuck in deadlock: opinions split, a technical bottleneck, and no money confirmed. You turned it all around.

anna 那时候我觉得到了极限，一个人面对这么多问题，感到很无力。旧方法的弊病是每部分都被分割开了，没有成为一体。

nà shíhou wǒ juéde dào le jíxiàn yí gè rén miànduì zhème duō wèntí gǎndào hěn wúlì jiù fāngfǎ de bìbìng shì měi bùfen dōu bèi fēngē kāi le méiyǒu chéngwéi yìtǐ · Back then I felt I'd hit my limit: facing so many problems alone, I felt powerless. The flaw in the old approach was that every part was cut off from the rest, not one whole.

xiaoming 受挫以后，我们找到了出路：把讲解的声音先放在手机里，工作一下子提速了。机会就这么降临了。

shòucuò yǐhòu wǒmen zhǎo dào le chūlù bǎ jiǎngjiě de shēngyīn xiān fàng zài shǒujī lǐ gōngzuò yíxià zi tísù le jīhuì jiù zhème jiànglín le · After that setback we found a way out: store the audio on the phone first, which sped everything right up. That's how the chance came.

professor chen 一次挫败没什么，重要的是着力解决问题，还要留一点儿商量的余地。

yí cì cuòbài méi shénme zhòngyào de shì zhuólì jiějué wèntí hái yào liú yìdiǎnr shāngliang de yúdì · One setback means nothing: what matters is to put your effort into solving the problem, and leave a bit of room for discussion.

anna 那是关键关头，陈教授指出了我们的问题：次序颠倒了，有的地方把历史讲得有点儿扭曲。

nà shì guānjiàn guāntóu Chénjiàoshòu zhǐchū le wǒmen de wèntí cìxù diāndǎo le yǒude dìfang bǎ lìshǐ jiǎng de yǒudiǎnr niǔqū · At the crucial moment, Professor Chen pointed out our problems: the order was the wrong way round, and in places the history came out distorted.

professor chen 话是这么说，可是改起来谈何容易？是你们自己一点儿一点儿改好的。

huà shì zhème shuō kěshì gǎi qǐlai tán hé róngyì shì nǐmen zìjǐ yìdiǎnr yìdiǎnr gǎi hǎo de · That's true, but making the changes was easier said than done. You fixed it bit by bit yourselves.

xiaoming 退一步说，就算没有成功，这一个月我们也学到了很多。

tuì yí bù shuō jiùsuàn méiyǒu chénggōng zhè yí gè yuè wǒmen yě xué dào le hěn duō · Even supposing it hadn't worked, we'd have learned a lot this month.

manager liu 这次展览的主题很清楚：每一个普通人都是历史的一部分。你们的工作让这个主题凸显出来了，这是一次飞跃。

zhè cì zhǎnlǎn de zhǔtí hěn qīngchu měi yí gè pǔtōng rén dōu shì lìshǐ de yí bùfen nǐmen de gōngzuò ràng zhège zhǔtí tūxiǎn chulai le zhè shì yí cì fēiyuè · The theme of this exhibition is clear: every ordinary person is part of history. Your work brought that theme out: it's a real leap forward.

chapter 5 chapter 5: after closing time

xiaoming 最后一位游客走了。今天我们忙了一通，脚都磨破了。
zuìhòu yí wèi yóukè zǒu le jīntiān wǒmen máng le yí tòng jiǎo dōu mó pò le · The last visitor has gone. We've been rushing around all day: my feet are rubbed raw.

anna 只是站了一天，何至于累成这样？
zhǐshì zhàn le yì tiān hé zhìyú lèi chéng zhèyàng · You only stood around all day: why are you this worn out?

xiaoming 你说得轻松！我帮工人卸货、挪柜子、搀老人上台阶，还把几只鸽子撵出去了。
nǐ shuō de qīngsōng wǒ bāng gōngrén xiè huò nuó guìzi chān lǎorén shàng táijiē hái bǎ jǐ zhī gēzi niǎn chuqu le · Easy for you to say! I helped unload, shifted cabinets, gave old people my arm on the steps, and chased out a few pigeons.

anna 好好好，你是今天的头号功臣。仓库里的纸箱子堆积如山，明天再料理吧。
hǎo hǎohǎo nǐ shì jīntiān de tóuhào gōngchén cāngkù lǐ de zhǐ xiāngzi duījī rú shān míngtiān zài liàolǐ ba · All right, all right, you're today's hero. The cardboard boxes in the storeroom are piled sky-high: let's deal with them tomorrow.

manager liu 这副担子以后会更重。博物馆想跟我们深化合作，下一个项目是城外的考古工地：把挖掘的故事也做进讲解里。
zhè fù dànzi yǐhòu huì gèng zhòng bówùguǎn xiǎng gēn wǒmen shēnhuà hézuò xià yí gè xiàngmù shì chéng wài de kǎogǔ gōngdì bǎ wājué de gùshi yě zuò jìn jiǎngjiě lǐ · The burden will only get heavier. The museum wants to take our work further: the next project is the dig site outside town, putting the stories of the excavation into a guide.

xiaoming 我今天背负的东西太多了，负重走了一天。你们看，这个箱子的角都豁了。
wǒ jīntiān bēifù de dōngxi tài duō le fùzhòng zǒu le yì tiān nǐmen kàn zhège xiāngzi de jiǎo dōu huō le · I've carried way too much today: I've been hauling loads all day. Look, the corner of this crate has split.

anna 我从地上拣起一张小纸条，上面写着：“厨房的煤气记得关。”是谁写的？
wǒ cóng dì shàng jiǎn qǐ yì zhāng xiǎo zhǐ tiáo shàngmiàn xiě zhe chúfáng de méiqì jìde guān shì shéi xiě de · I picked a little note up off the floor that says: “Remember to turn off the kitchen gas.” Who wrote that?

xiaoming 我写的！我只是怕忘了。你别笑我，也别跟我耍脾气。
wǒ xiě de wǒ zhǐshì pà wàng le nǐ bié xiào wǒ yě bié gēn wǒ shuǎ píqi · Me! I was just afraid I'd forget. Don't laugh at me, and don't get cross with me either.

anna 刘经理，考古工地那个项目，我愿意担起来！无论成功与否，我都会尽力。
Liújīnglǐ kǎogǔ gōngdì nàge xiàngmù wǒ yuànyì dān qǐlai wúlùn chénggōng yǔ fǒu wǒ dōu huì jìnlì · Manager Liu, I'm happy to take on the dig-site project! Whether it succeeds or not, I'll give it my all.

professor chen 时间流逝得真快。随着时间的推移，今天也会成为历史。
shíjiān liúshì de zhēn kuài suízhe shíjiān de tuīyí jīntiān yě huì chéngwéi lìshǐ · Time flies. As time passes, today will become history too.

anna 陈教授，这一个月给您添了这么多麻烦，真不好意思。
Chénjiàoshòu zhè yí gè yuè gěi nín tiān le zhème duō máfan zhēn bù hǎoyìsi · Professor Chen, I'm so sorry for all the trouble we caused you this month.

professor chen 说到哪儿去了！我在这个团队里很有归属感。人生短暂，能跟你们一起做这件事，我很高兴。
shuō dào nǎr qù le wǒ zài zhège tuánduì lǐ hěn yǒu guīshǔ gǎn rénshēng duǎnzàn néng gēn nǐmen yìqǐ zuò zhè jiàn shì wǒ hěn gāoxìng · Not at all! I feel I belong in this team. Life is short, and I'm glad I could do this with you.

xiaoming 那我们去吃饭庆祝吧！我饿得什么玩意儿都能吃下去。
nà wǒmen qù chī fàn qìngzhù ba wǒ è de shénme wányìr dōu néng chī xiaqu · Then let's go and celebrate over dinner! I'm so hungry I could eat anything.

manager liu 走吧，今天晚上我请客。谁也别阻拦我！
zǒu ba jīntiān wǎnshang wǒ qǐngkè shéi yě bié zǔlán wǒ · Let's go: dinner's on me tonight. Nobody try to stop me!

You just guided a whole museum in Chinese: three thousand years, one opening day.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**