wishyou.today learning

day 118 government at work

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 16 · society and government

Explain how a policy travels from the top to your street: who issues it, who approves it, who carries it out, and say what an action is based on with 经, 依, 鉴于, 基于 and 本着.

Notices on estate gates, news about new measures and every application you make in China use this language. You will read 经……批准 and 公示 on your own building's door.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
行政	xíngzhèng	administration; administrative	她在学校负责行政工作。 She is in charge of administration at the school.
机关	jīguān	government office; mechanism	他大学毕业后在政府机关工作。 After university he went to work in a government office.
国务院	guówùyuàn	the State Council (China's cabinet)	国务院是中国最高的行政机关。 The State Council is China's highest administrative body.
委员	wěiyuán	committee member	她是家长委员会的委员。 She is a member of the parents' committee.
委员会	wěiyuánhuì	committee	小区成立了一个环保委员会。 The estate has set up an environment committee.
干部	gànbù	official, cadre	村里的干部常常到农民家里了解情况。 The village officials often visit farmers at home to see how things are.
公务	gōngwù	official business	他这次去上海是办公务。 He is going to Shanghai on official business.
公职	gōngzhí	public office, government post	他离开了公职，自己开了一家公司。 He left his government job and started his own company.
公仆	gōngpú	public servant	官员应该是人民的公仆。 Officials should be servants of the people.
官僚	guānliáo	bureaucrat; bureaucratic	办一个证要跑五个地方，太官僚了！ Five offices for one certificate: what bureaucracy!
书记	shūjì	secretary (job title of an official)	新来的村书记是个大学生。 The new village head is a university graduate.
基层	jīcéng	grassroots, local level	他在基层工作了十年。 He worked at the grassroots for ten years.
上层	shàngcéng	upper level	这件事要等上层决定。 This has to wait for a decision from higher up.
管辖	guǎnxiá	to have jurisdiction over	这条街归哪个派出所管辖? Which police station covers this street?
辖区	xiáqū	area under one's jurisdiction	警察对自己辖区的情况很熟悉。 The police know their own area very well.

直辖市	zhíxiáshì	municipality (Beijing, Shanghai…)	北京和上海都是直辖市。 Beijing and Shanghai are both municipalities.
自治区	zìzhìqū	autonomous region	中国一共有五个自治区。 China has five autonomous regions.
体制	tǐzhì	system (of organisation)	教育体制改革是大家关心的话题。 Reform of the education system is something everyone cares about.
方针	fāngzhēn	policy, guiding principle	学校的方针是“安全第一”。 The school’s guiding principle is “safety first”.
纲领	gānglǐng	programme, guiding principle	这份文件是我们今后工作的纲领。 This document sets out the programme for our future work.
举措	jǔcuò	measure, step	政府出台了一系列保护老街的新举措。 The government has brought in a series of new measures to protect the old streets.
出台	chūtái	to be introduced (a policy)	新的养老政策下个月出台。 The new pension policy will be introduced next month.
颁布	bānbù	to promulgate, issue (a law)	这部法律是去年颁布的。 This law was issued last year.
颁发	bānfā	to issue, award	学校给优秀学生颁发了奖学金。 The school awarded scholarships to its best students.
施行	shīxíng	to put into effect	这部法律从明年一月一号起施行。 This law comes into force on 1 January next year.
试行	shìxíng	to try out	这个办法先试行半年。 We’ll try this method out for six months first.
试点	shìdiǎn	pilot (scheme); to run a pilot	我们小区是垃圾分类的试点。 Our estate is a pilot site for rubbish sorting.
贯彻	guànchè	to carry through, implement	新政策要贯彻到基层。 The new policy must be carried right through to the grassroots.
落实	luòshí	to put into practice	计划好做，落实难。 Making plans is easy; carrying them out is hard.
审批	shěnpī	to examine and approve	开饭馆要先通过审批。 To open a restaurant you first need official approval.
申报	shēnbào	to declare, apply	入境时，超过规定的现金要申报。 When you enter the country, cash above the limit must be declared.
申领	shēnlǐng	to apply for and collect	你可以在网上申领新的身份证。 You can apply for a new ID card online.
告示	gàoshi	notice (posted up)	门口贴着一张告示。 There’s a notice up by the door.
通告	tōnggào	public notice; to announce	物业发了通告：明天停水。 The management has put out a notice: the water will be off tomorrow.
公示	gōngshì	to publish for public comment	名单要先公示七天。 The list must first be made public for seven days.

pattern on the basis of: 经, 依, 鉴于, 基于, 本着

经 / 依 / 鉴于 / 基于 / 本着 | the basis | , the decision or action

Official Chinese starts by saying what an action rests on. 经 “after, through” (经研究, 经批准), 依 “according to” (依规定), 鉴于 “in view of”, 基于 “based on” and 本着 “in the spirit of” (本着……的原则). Today they also mix with a turn: 虽然……，但是……

经市政府批准，我们小区成为老小区改造的试点。 **jīng shì zhèngfǔ pīzhǔn wǒmen xiǎoqū chéngwéi lǎo xiǎoqū gǎizào de shìdiǎn** With the city government’s approval, our estate has become a pilot site for renovating old estates.

依规定，加装电梯要先申报，再审批。 **yī guīdìng jiā zhuāng diàntī yào xiān shēnbào zài shěnpī** Under the rules, putting in a lift has to be applied for first, then approved.

本着公开的原则，方案要在楼门口公示十天。 **běnzhe gōngkāi de yuánzé fāngàn yào zài lóu ménkǒu gōngshì shí tiān** In the spirit of openness, the plan is posted at the entrance for ten days for comment.

政策虽然出台了，资金也有了，但是落实起来并不容易。 **zhèngcè suīrán chūtái le zījīn yě yǒu le dànshì luòshí qǐlai bìng bù róngyì** The policy has come out and the money is there, but carrying it out is far from easy.

dialogue a notice at the gate

anna 陈教授，门口这张告示写的是什么？

Chénjiàoshòu ménkǒu zhè zhāng gàoshi xiě de shì shénme · Professor Chen, what does this notice at the gate say?

professor chen 是街道的通告：经市政府批准，我们小区成为老小区改造的试点，要给六层的老楼加装电梯。

shì jiēdào de tōnggào jīng shì zhèngfǔ pīzhǔn wǒmen xiǎoqū chéngwéi lǎo xiǎoqū gǎizào de shìdiǎn yào gěi liù céng de lǎo lóu jiā zhuāng diàntī · It's a notice from the street office: with the city government's approval, our estate has become a pilot site for renovating old estates, and the old six-storey blocks are getting lifts.

anna 这个政策是谁出台的？

zhège zhèngcè shì shéi chūtái de · Who brought in this policy?

professor chen 国务院几年前就定了支持老小区改造的方针，各个城市再根据自己的情况出台具体的举措。北京是直辖市，有自己的办法。

guówùyuàn jǐ nián qián jiù dìng le zhīchí lǎo xiǎoqū gǎizào de fāngzhēn gègè chéngshì zài gēnjù zìjǐ de qíngkuàng chūtái jùtǐ de jǔcuò Běijīng shì zhíxiáshì yǒu zìjǐ de bànfǎ · The State Council set the guiding principle of supporting the renovation of old estates a few years ago, and each city then brings in concrete measures to suit itself. Beijing is a municipality, so it has its own scheme.

xiaoming 去年市里颁布了新的条例，明年一月起施行。现在先在几个小区试行。

qùnián shì lǐ bānbù le xīn de tiáolì míngnián yī yuè qǐ shīxíng xiànzài xiān zài jǐ gè xiǎoqū shìxíng · Last year the city issued new regulations that come into force next January. For now they're being tried out on a few estates.

anna 那具体由谁来落实？

nà jùtǐ yóu shéi lái luòshí · So who actually carries it out?

professor chen 基层。上层定方针，基层抓落实：街道的干部和社区的工作人员，天天跑来跑去。光有纲领不行，要贯彻到每一栋楼。

jīcéng shàngcéng dìng fāngzhēn jīcéng zhuā luòshí jiēdào de gànbù hé shèqū de gōngzuò rényuán tiān tiān pǎo lái pǎo qù guāng yǒu gānglǐng bùxíng yào guànchè dào měi yí dòng lóu · The grassroots. Higher up they set the principles, and the grassroots puts them into practice: the street office officials and community workers run around every day. A programme on paper isn't enough: it has to reach every single building.

anna 装电梯要审批吗？

zhuāng diàntī yào shěnpī ma · Does a lift need official approval?

professor chen 要。依规定，先由居民申报，经三分之二以上的住户同意，再报有关部门审批。批下来以后，本着公开的原则，方案要在楼门口公示十天。

yào yī guīdìng xiān yóu jūmín shēnbào jīng sān fēn zhī èr yǐshàng de zhùhù tóngyì zài bào yǒuguān bùmén shěnpī pī xiàlái yǐhòu běnzhe gōngkāi de yuánzé fāngàn yào zài lóu ménkǒu gōngshì shí tiān · Yes. Under the rules, the residents apply first; once at least two thirds of the households agree, it goes to the authorities for approval. After it's approved, in the spirit of openness, the plan is posted at the entrance for ten days for comment.

xiaoming 这些规章，楼门口的住户须知上也写了。

zhèxiē guīzhāng lóu ménkǒu de zhùhù xūzhī shàng yě xiě le · These rules are in the residents' notes at the entrance too.

anna 鉴于很多老人爬楼困难，这个办法真好。可是谁来管这些事？

jiànyú hěn duō lǎorén pá lóu kùnnan zhège bànfǎ zhēn hǎo kěshì shéi lái guǎn zhèxiē shì · Since lots of older people struggle with the stairs, it's a great idea. But who looks after all this?

professor chen 小区成立了一个电梯委员会，我是委员之一，专门听大家的意见。这个小区归哪个街道管辖，归哪个派出所的辖区，治安由谁负责，我都清楚。

xiǎoqū chénglì le yí gè diàntī wěiyuánhuì wǒ shì wěiyuán zhī yī zhuānmén tīng dàjiā de yìjiàn zhège xiǎoqū guī nǎge jiēdào guǎnxiá guī nǎge pàichūsuǒ de xiáqū zhìān yóu shéi fùzé wǒ dōu qīngchu · The estate has set up a lift committee, and I'm one of the members: our job is to listen to what everyone thinks. I know exactly which street office the estate comes under, which police station covers it and who is in charge of public order.

xiaoming 陈教授，您以前是不是在政府机关工作过？
Chénjiàoshòu nín yǐqián shì bu shì zài zhèngfǔ jīguān gōngzuò guo · Professor Chen, did you ever work in a government office?

professor chen 没有，我一辈子在大学教书。不过我的学生里有不少人担任了公职，有的在行政机关，有的当了村里的书记，有的常常出差办公务，还去过自治区。
méiyǒu wǒ yíbèizi zài dàxué jiāo shū búguò wǒ de xuéshēng lǐ yǒu bù shǎo rén dānrèn le gōngzhí yǒude zài xíngzhèng jīguān yǒude dāng le cūn lǐ de shūjì yǒude chángcháng chūchāi bàn gōngwù hái qù guo zìzhìqū · No, I've taught at the university all my life. But plenty of my students went into public service: some in government offices, some became village heads, and some travel a lot on official business, out to the autonomous regions too.

professor chen 我总对他们说：干部是人民的公仆，办事不能官僚，更不能贪污。
wǒ zǒng duì tāmen shuō gànbù shì rénmín de gōngpú bànshì bù néng guānliáo gèng bù néng tānwū · I always tell them: officials are servants of the people; they mustn't be bureaucratic, and they must never embezzle.

anna 上个月我去申领新的工作证，跑了三个窗口，真有点儿官僚。
shàng gè yuè wǒ qù shēnlǐng xīn de gōngzuò zhèng pǎo le sān gè chuāngkǒu zhēn yǒudiǎnr guānliáo · Last month I went to apply for my new work permit and had to go to three different counters: a bit bureaucratic, if you ask me.

xiaoming 我上次去办事，也跑了好几趟。有人还说可以给工作人员送些钱，那不是贿赂吗？
wǒ shàng cì qù bànshì yě pǎo le hǎo jǐ tàng yǒu rén hái shuō kěyǐ gěi gōngzuò rényuán sòng xiē qián nà bú shì huìlù ma · When I went to sort something out last time, I had to go back several times too. Someone even said I could slip the staff some money: isn't that bribery?

professor chen 这几年好多了，很多手续在网上就能办。这也是行政体制改革的一部分。对了，上个月区里还给我们小区颁发了“文明小区”的牌子！
zhè jǐ nián hǎo duō le hěn duō shǒuxù zài wǎngshang jiù néng bàn zhè yě shì xíngzhèng tǐzhì gǎigé de yí bùfen duì le shàng gè yuè qū lǐ hái gěi wǒmen xiǎoqū bānfā le wénmíng xiǎoqū de páizi · It's much better these days: lots of things can be done online. That's part of the reform of the administrative system too. Oh, and last month the district gave our estate a "model estate" plaque!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

舆 yú the public (old: carriage)	
曝 bào expose to sun	
乞 qǐ beg	
忠 zhōng loyal	

good to know · 颁布 is to issue a law or rule; 颁发 is to award a certificate, prize or licence; 出台 is when a policy comes out. 公示 is a public posting for comment: plans, lists of prize-winners and promotions are often 公示 for 5 to 15 days so people can object.

From the State Council to your stairwell: you can now follow a policy all the way down to the notice on your own gate.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 119 votes and voices

Talk about elections, votes and public opinion in a neutral way, from a student union to a residents' committee, and link cause, result and purpose with 故, 以至于 and 以.

Elections happen everywhere: in schools, clubs, companies and neighbourhoods. And 故, 以至于 and 以 are the written links you meet in every report of a vote.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
选举	xuǎnjǔ	election; to elect	学生会每年选举一次。 The student union holds elections every year.
选民	xuǎnmín	voter	选民可以在网上了解候选人。 Voters can find out about the candidates online.
竞选	jìngxuǎn	to run for (office)	她决定竞选学生会主席。 She has decided to run for student union president.
候选人	hòuxuǎnrén	candidate	这次一共有三位候选人。 There are three candidates this time.
提名	tímíng	to nominate	他被提名为{wei2}最佳男演员。 He has been nominated for best actor.
推选	tuīxuǎn	to choose, elect (by agreement)	大家推选她当代表。 Everyone chose her as their representative.
表决	biǎojué	to vote (on a motion)	这个方案需要大家举手表决。 We need a show of hands on this plan.
否决	fǒujué	to vote down, veto	这个提议被大多数人否决了。 The proposal was voted down by the majority.
决议	juéyì	resolution	会议通过了一项决议。 The meeting passed a resolution.
弃权	qìquán	to abstain; to forfeit	表决的时候，有两个人弃权。 Two people abstained in the vote.
连任	liánrèn	to be re-elected, serve again	她连任了三届班长。 She was class monitor three years running.
任期	rènqī	term of office	主任的任期是三年。 The director's term is three years.
罢免	bàmiǎn	to recall, remove from office	选民有权罢免不为大家办事的代表。 Voters have the right to remove a representative who does nothing for them.
下台	xiàtái	to step down; to get out of a fix	你这么说，让他怎么下台? If you say that, how is he going to save face?
宣誓	xuānshì	to take an oath	新医生毕业的时候要宣誓。 New doctors take an oath when they graduate.
席位	xíwèi	seat (in a body)	这个委员会一共有十五个席位。 The committee has fifteen seats in all.
政党	zhèngdǎng	political party	很多国家有不同的政党。 Many countries have several political parties.

党	dǎng	(political) party	这个国家有两个大党。 That country has two big parties.
派别	pàibié	faction, school (of thought)	这个协会里有好几个派别，常常意见不同。 There are several factions in the association, and they often disagree.
阵营	zhènyíng	camp, side	在这个问题上，大家分为两个阵营。 On this question, people split into two camps.
团员	tuányuán	member (of a group, a tour)	旅游团的团员都到齐了。 All the members of the tour group are here.
同志	tóngzhì	comrade	在老电影里，大家都互相叫“同志”。 In old films, everyone calls each other “comrade”.
民意	mínyì	public opinion	这次调查反映了民意。 This survey reflects public opinion.
呼声	hūshēng	voice, call (of the public)	要求修地铁的呼声越来越高。 The calls for a metro line are getting louder.
呼吁	hūyù	to appeal, call on	专家呼吁大家少用塑料袋。 Experts are calling on everyone to use fewer plastic bags.
倡导	chàngdǎo	to advocate, promote	学校倡导绿色出行。 The school encourages green ways of getting about.
倡议	chàngyì	to propose; proposal	我们倡议每个家庭节约用水。 We propose that every family save water.
鼓动	gǔdòng	to urge, egg on	是他鼓动我去参加比赛的。 He was the one who talked me into entering the competition.
煽动	shāndòng	to incite, stir up	有人在网上煽动不满情绪。 Someone is stirring up resentment online.
动员	dòngyuán	to mobilise, get people involved	学校动员学生参加公益活动。 The school is getting students to take part in community work.
集会	jíhuì	to assemble; a rally	周末广场上有一个环保集会。 There’s an environmental rally in the square this weekend.
游行	yóuxíng	to parade, march; parade	节日那天，街上有盛大的游行。 On the festival day there’s a grand parade in the street.
示威	shìwēi	to demonstrate; to show strength	比赛前，球迷大声唱歌，向对手示威。 Before the match the fans sang at the top of their voices to show the other side who was boss.
抗议	kàngyì	to protest	居民抗议工厂太吵。 Residents are protesting that the factory is too noisy.
抗争	kàngzhēng	to fight against, resist	她一直在和疾病抗争。 She has been fighting her illness all along.

pattern **cause, result and purpose: (因)……故……, 以至于, ……以……**

(因) cause | ，故 / 以至于 result | ·action，以 + purpose

Written Chinese has short links. (因)……，故…… is “because …, therefore …”: 故 is the formal 所以. ……，以至于…… is “so much so that …”, for a result that went far. ……，以…… puts a purpose after the action: “in order to”.

因去年参加的人太少，故今年改在网上投票。 **yīn qùnián cānjiā de rén tài shǎo gù jīnnián gǎi zài wǎngshang tóupiào** Because too few people took part last year, voting will be online this year.

去年开会的人少得可怜，以至于很多事都定不下来。 **qùnián kāihuì de rén shǎo de kělián yǐzhìyú hěn duō shì dōu dìng bu xialai** So pitifully few people came to meetings last year that a lot of things couldn’t be decided.

小区重新讨论电梯的方案，以争取更多住户的支持。 **xiǎoqū chóngxīn tǎolùn diàntī de fāngàn yǐ zhēngqǔ gèng duō zhùhù de zhīchí** The estate is discussing the lift plan again, in order to win the support of more households.

dialogue two elections

little sister 安娜，我决定竞选学生会主席了！是你鼓动我的，你得帮我！
Ānnà wǒ juédìng jìngxuǎn xuéshēng huì zhǔxí le shì nǐ gǔdòng wǒ de nǐ děi bāng wǒ · Anna, I've decided to run for student union president! You talked me into it, so you have to help!

anna 太好了！有几个候选人？
tài hǎo le yǒu jǐ gè hòuxuǎnrén · Fantastic! How many candidates are there?

little sister 三个。我是同学们推选出来的，老师也提名了我。我倡导“少开会，多做事”，还倡议食堂晚上开到十点。
sān gè wǒ shì tóngxuémen tuīxuǎn chulai de lǎoshī yě tímíng le wǒ wǒ chàngdǎo shǎo kāihuì duō zuò shì hái chàngyì shítáng wǎnshang kāi dào shí diǎn · Three. My classmates chose me, and a teacher nominated me too. I'm all for "fewer meetings, more action", and I'm proposing the canteen stays open till ten at night.

anna 同学们的呼声你都听到了。民意就在食堂里！
tóngxuémen de hūshēng nǐ dōu tīng dào le mínyì jiù zài shítáng lǐ · You've heard what your classmates are calling for. Public opinion lives in the canteen!

little sister 对！我还要在食堂门口张贴海报，让大家都知道。
duì wǒ hái yào zài shítáng ménkǒu zhāngtiē hǎibào ràng dàjiā dōu zhīdào · Right! And I'll put up posters at the canteen door so everyone knows.

little sister 因去年参加投票的人太少，故今年改在网上投票，以方便大家。我还要动员合唱团的团员都来投票。
yīn qùnián cānjiā tóupiào de rén tài shǎo gù jīnnián gǎi zài wǎngshang tóupiào yǐ fāngbiàn dàjiā wǒ hái yào dòngyuán héchàng tuán de tuányuán dōu lái tóupiào · Because too few people voted last year, the vote is online this year, to make it easier for everyone. And I'm going to get everyone in the choir to vote.

professor chen 我们小区下个月也要选举新的居民委员会。十八岁以上的居民都是选民。
wǒmen xiǎoqū xià gè yuè yě yào xuǎnjǔ xīn de jūmín wěiyuánhuì shíbā suì yǐshàng de jūmín dōu shì xuǎnmín · Our estate is electing a new residents' committee next month too. Every resident over eighteen is a voter.

anna 委员的任期多长？
wěiyuán de rènqī duō cháng · How long is a member's term?

professor chen 五年，可以连任。如果委员不为大家办事，居民也可以依法罢免他。
wǔ nián kěyǐ liánrèn rúguǒ wěiyuán bú wèi dàjiā bànshì jūmín yě kěyǐ yīfǎ bàmiǎn tā · Five years, and they can be re-elected. If a member does nothing for people, the residents can also remove them according to the law.

professor chen 去年小区开会的人少得可怜，以至于很多事都定不下来。所以街道干部呼吁大家都来参加选举。
qùnián xiǎoqū kāihuì de rén shǎo de kělián yǐzhìyú hěn duō shì dōu dìng bu xialai suǒyǐ jiēdào gànbù hūyù dàjiā dōu lái cānjiā xuǎnjǔ · So few people came to the estate's meetings last year that a lot of things couldn't be decided. That's why the street office officials are urging everyone to take part in the election.

anna 电梯的方案也要表决吗？
diàntī de fāngàn yě yào biǎojué ma · Does the lift plan go to a vote too?

professor chen 要。上次一楼的几户反对，方案被否决了。这次我们重新讨论，以争取更多人支持。表决的时候也可以弃权。会议通过的决议，大家都要遵守。
yào shàng cì yì lóu de jǐ hù fǎnduì fāngàn bèi fǒujué le zhè cì wǒmen chóngxīn tǎolùn yǐ zhēngqǔ gèng duō rén zhīchí biǎojué de shíhou yě kěyǐ qìquán huìyì tōngguò de juéyì dàjiā dōu yào zūnshǒu · Yes. Last time a few ground-floor households were against it, and the plan was voted down. This time we're discussing it again to win more support. You can also abstain when it comes to the vote. Whatever resolution the meeting passes, everyone has to abide by it.

anna 这样做公开透明，是个好举措。
zhèyàng zuò gōngkāi tòumíng shì gè hǎo jǔcuò · That's open and transparent: a good measure.

professor chen 要求装电梯的呼声越来越高，可是选举要讲道理，不能在网上煽动情绪。我的一个老同学一直在和疾病抗争，他坐着轮椅也要来投票。
yāoqiú zhuāng diàntī de hūshēng yuè lái yuè gāo kěshì xuǎnjǔ yào jiǎng dàolǐ bù néng zài wǎngshang

shāndòng qíngxù wǒ de yí gè lǎo tóngxué yìzhí zài hé jíbìng kàngzhēng tā zuò zhe lúnyǐ yě yào lái tóupiào · The calls for a lift are getting louder, but an election should be about reason, not stirring up feelings online. An old classmate of mine has been fighting an illness for years, and he's coming to vote in his wheelchair.

anna 在英国，大选的时候，新闻里天天讲：两个大党争夺席位，选民分为两个阵营；除了大党，还有几个小政党和派别。

zài Yīngguó dà xuǎn de shíhou xīnwén lǐ tiān tiān jiǎng liǎng gè dà dǎng zhēngduó xíwèi xuǎnmín fēnwéi liǎng gè zhènyíng chúle dà dǎng hái yǒu jǐ gè xiǎo zhèngdǎng hé pàibié · In the UK, at election time the news talks about nothing else: the two big parties fight for seats and voters split into two camps; besides the big parties there are several small parties and factions.

anna 选举以前，街上有很多集会和游行，有时候也有人示威、抗议。选完以后，有人连任，有人下台，新当选的人要宣誓。

xuǎnjǔ yǐqián jiē shàng yǒu hěn duō jíhuì hé yóuxíng yǒu shíhou yě yǒu rén shìwēi kàngyì xuǎn wán yǐhòu yǒu rén liánrèn yǒu rén xiàtái xīn dāngxuǎn de rén yào xuānshì · Before an election there are lots of rallies and marches in the streets, and sometimes demonstrations and protests too. Afterwards, some are re-elected, some step down, and the newly elected take an oath.

professor chen 我年轻的时候，大家见面都叫“同志”，连机关里的领导也一样。现在这个词只在老电影里听得到了。

wǒ niánqīng de shíhou dàjiā jiànmiàn dōu jiào tóngzhì lián jīguān lǐ de lǐngdǎo yě yíyàng xiànzài zhège cí zhǐ zài lǎo diànyǐng lǐ tīng de dào le · When I was young, everyone called each other “comrade”, even the bosses in government offices. Now you only hear that word in old films.

little sister 下周的竞选辩论我好紧张。要是对方问的问题我答不上来，我就下不了台了！

xià zhōu de jìngxuǎn biànlùn wǒ hǎo jǐnzhāng yàoshi duìfāng wèn de wèntí wǒ dá bu shanglai wǒ jiù xià bu liǎo tái le · I'm so nervous about next week's campaign debate. If I can't answer the other side's questions, I'll be left with no way out!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

聆 líng listen

骚 sāo disturb, grievance

辩 biàn to argue, to debate

阐 chǎn explain

good to know · 选举 is the election; 竞选 is to run in it; 候选人 is a candidate; 选民 is a voter; 投票 is to cast a vote; 当选 is to be elected. 下台 is literally “to get off the stage”: to step down, but also to get out of an awkward spot. 下不了台 means “to be left with no way to save face”.

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Follow news about summits, treaties and alliances, deal with your consulate, and build sentences with one condition inside another.

International news is full of summits, talks and agreements, and as a foreigner in China you will need your consulate one day. Conditions inside conditions are how officials and journalists say exactly what happens if, and if not.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
共和国	gònghéguó	republic	中华人民共和国成立于1949年。 The People's Republic of China was founded in 1949.
国徽	guóhuī	national emblem	护照上印着国徽。 The passport has the national emblem printed on it.
国土	guótǔ	(national) territory, land	中国的国土面积很大。 China covers a very large area.
领土	lǐngtǔ	territory	每个国家都有自己的领土。 Every country has its own territory.
主权	zhǔquán	sovereignty	尊重各国主权是国际关系的基本原则。 Respect for each country's sovereignty is a basic principle of international relations.
国民	guómín	citizens, the nation's people	提高国民的健康水平很重要。 Improving the nation's health matters a great deal.
外籍	wàijí	foreign (nationality)	我们公司有不少外籍员工。 Our company has quite a few foreign staff.
元首	yuánshǒu	head of state	两国元首在北京见面。 The two heads of state met in Beijing.
首脑	shǒunǎo	leader (at a summit), head	二十个国家的首脑都来了。 The leaders of twenty countries all came.
峰会	fēnghuì	summit	今年的峰会在上海举行。 This year's summit is held in Shanghai.
会谈	huìtán	talks; to hold talks	两国领导人进行了会谈。 The two countries' leaders held talks.
会晤	huìwù	to meet (formally)	双方在会晤中谈到了经济合作。 At the meeting the two sides discussed economic cooperation.
接见	jiējiàn	to receive (a visitor)	校长接见了获奖的学生。 The head teacher received the prize-winning students.
出访	chūfǎng	to visit abroad (officially)	总统下个月出访欧洲。 The president visits Europe next month.
使者	shǐzhě	envoy, messenger	|大熊猫{==giant panda}被称为“和平使者”。 Giant pandas are called “ambassadors of peace”.

领事	lǐngshì	consul	领事负责帮助在国外的本国公民。 A consul helps their own country's citizens abroad.
领事馆	lǐngshìguǎn	consulate	护照丢了，要马上联系领事馆。 If you lose your passport, contact the consulate at once.
双边	shuāngbiān	bilateral	两国签了一项双边协议。 The two countries signed a bilateral agreement.
多边	duōbiān	multilateral	这个问题需要多边合作。 This problem needs multilateral cooperation.
单边	dānbiān	unilateral	单边的做法解决不了问题。 Going it alone won't solve the problem.
单方面	dānfāngmiàn	one-sided; unilaterally	房东不能单方面提高房租。 A landlord can't raise the rent unilaterally.
条约	tiáoyuē	treaty	两国签订了和平条约。 The two countries signed a peace treaty.
公约	gōngyuē	convention, pact	很多国家加入了保护环境的公约。 Many countries have joined the convention on protecting the environment.
协定	xiédìng	(formal) agreement	两国签订了贸易协定。 The two countries signed a trade agreement.
宣言	xuānyán	declaration	双方发表了一份共同宣言。 The two sides issued a joint declaration.
联盟	liánméng	alliance, league	几家公司组成了联盟。 Several companies have formed an alliance.
同盟	tóngméng	alliance; to ally	历史上，两国曾经结成同盟。 In history, the two countries were once allies.
盟友	méngyǒu	ally	这两个国家是多年的盟友。 The two countries have been allies for many years.
中立	zhōnglì	neutral; to stay neutral	在这件事上，我保持中立。 I'm staying neutral on this.
干涉	gānshè	to interfere	父母不应该过多干涉孩子的选择。 Parents shouldn't interfere too much in their children's choices.
干预	gānyù	to intervene	医生及时干预，病人很快好了。 The doctor stepped in in time, and the patient soon recovered.
介入	jièrù	to get involved, step in	警察已经介入调查。 The police have stepped in to investigate.
施压	shīyā	to put pressure on	员工向公司施压，要求提高工资。 The staff are pressing the company for a pay rise.
软实力	ruǎnshílì	soft power	文化是国家软实力的一部分。 Culture is part of a country's soft power.
和平共处	hépínggòngchǔ	peaceful coexistence	不同的国家应该和平共处。 Different countries should live together in peace.

pattern conditions inside conditions

如果 A，就 B ； **如果不 A / 但是如果 C，就 D**

A long condition sentence can set out two cases side by side (如果……就……；如果不……就……), or put a second condition inside the first (只要……就……，但是如果……，那么……). Read each 如果 / 只要 / 要是 as the start of a new case. And today's old friend: ……不说，还…… "not only …, but also …".

如果材料齐全，两周就能拿到新护照；如果不齐全，就要再等一个月。 **rúguǒ cáiliào qíquán liǎng zhōu jiù néng ná dào xīn hùzhào rúguǒ bù qíquán jiù yào zài děng yí gè yuè** If your documents are complete, you get your new passport in two weeks; if not, you wait another month.

只要双方愿意谈，就有希望；但是如果一方单方面退出，那么协定就没有用了。 **zhǐyào shuāngfāng yuànyì tán jiù yǒu xīwàng dànshì rúguǒ yì fāng dānfāngmiàn tuìchū nàme xiédìng jiù méi yǒuyòng le** As long as both sides are willing to talk, there is hope; but if one side pulls out unilaterally, the agreement is worthless.

开峰会那几天，路上堵车不说，地铁还特别挤。 **kāi fēnghuì nà jǐ tiān lùshang dǔchē bù shuō dìtiě hái tèbié jǐ** During the summit, not only were the roads jammed, the metro was packed too.

dialogue summit week

anna 林编辑，我下午要去大使馆，护照快到期了。
Línbiānjí wǒ xiàwǔ yào qù dà shǐguǎn hùzhào kuài dàoqī le · Editor Lin, I'm going to the embassy this afternoon: my passport's about to expire.

editor lin 办护照要多久？
bàn hùzhào yào duō jiǔ · How long does a passport take?

anna 领事说，如果材料齐全，两周就能拿到；如果不齐全，就要再等一个月。我们国家在中国有不少公民，大使馆一直很忙。
lǐngshì shuō rúguǒ cáiliào qíquán liǎng zhōu jiù néng ná dào rúguǒ bù qíquán jiù yào zài děng yí gè yuè wǒmen guójiā zài Zhōngguó yǒu bù shǎo gōngmín dà shǐguǎn yìzhí hěn máng · The consul says if the documents are complete, two weeks; if not, another month. Lots of our citizens live in China, so the embassy is always busy.

editor lin 你护照封面上的图案是你们的国徽吧？我这周忙死了，要报道峰会：二十个国家的元首和首脑都来北京了，光是外籍记者就有几百个。
nǐ hùzhào fēngmiàn shàng de túàn shì nǐmen de guóhuī ba wǒ zhè zhōu máng sǐ le yào bàodào fēnghuì èrshí gè guójiā de yuánshǒu hé shǒunǎo dōu lái Běijīng le guāng shì wàijí jìzhě jiù yǒu jǐ bǎi gè · The design on your passport cover is your national emblem, right? I'm run off my feet this week covering the summit: the heads of state and government of twenty countries are in Beijing, and there are hundreds of foreign journalists alone.

anna 怪不得！开峰会这几天，路上堵车不说，地铁还特别挤。
guàibude kāi fēnghuì zhè jǐ tiān lùshang dǔchē bù shuō dìtiě hái tèbié jǐ · That explains it! This summit week, not only are the roads jammed, the metro is packed too.

editor lin 各国领导人先举行多边会谈，然后两两会晤，讨论双边合作。主人还要接见各国的代表。有的总统开完会还要出访别的国家。
gè guó lǐngdǎo rén xiān jǔxíng duōbiān huìtán ránhòu liǎngliǎng huìwù tǎolùn shuāngbiān hézuò zhǔrén hái yào jiējiàn gè guó de dàibiǎo yǒude zǒngtǒng kāi wán huì hái yào chūfǎng biéde guójiā · The leaders hold multilateral talks first, then meet in pairs to discuss bilateral cooperation. The host will also receive each country's delegation. Some presidents are going on to visit other countries after the summit.

dr zhou 我只关心气候。这次峰会会不会发表一份共同宣言，支持保护环境的公约？
wǒ zhǐ guānxīn qìhòu zhè cì fēnghuì huì bu huì fābiǎo yí fèn gòngtóng xuānyán zhīchí bǎohù huánjìng de gōngyuē · All I care about is the climate. Will the summit issue a joint declaration backing the environmental convention?

editor lin 可能会。不过各国的利益不同：有的国家只想签双边协定，有的愿意签多边条约。
kěnéng huì búguò gè guó de lìyì bù tóng yǒude guójiā zhǐ xiǎng qiān shuāngbiān xiédìng yǒude yuànyì qiān duōbiān tiáoyuē · Possibly. But countries have different interests: some only want bilateral agreements, others are willing to sign multilateral treaties.

dr zhou 气候不是一个国家的事，单边的做法解决不了问题。只要大家一起做，就有希望；但是如果有的国家单方面退出，那么别的国家做得再多也不够。
qìhòu bú shì yí gè guójiā de shì dānbiān de zuòfǎ jiějué bu liǎo wèntí zhǐyào dàjiā yìqǐ zuò jiù yǒu xīwàng dànshì rúguǒ yǒude guójiā dānfāngmiàn tuìchū nàme biéde guójiā zuò de zài duō yě búgòu · The climate isn't one country's business: going it alone won't solve anything. As long as everyone acts together, there's hope; but if some countries pull out unilaterally, then however much the others do, it won't be enough.

editor lin 这些年，保护环境的呼声越来越高了。
zhèxiē nián bǎohù huánjìng de hūshēng yuè lái yuè gāo le · Calls to protect the environment have grown louder in recent years.

anna 国际关系真复杂。别的国家出了大事，要不要干预呢？
guójì guānxì zhēn fùzá biéde guójiā chū le dàshì yào búyào gānyù ne · International relations are so complicated. If something big happens in another country, should others intervene?

editor lin 这是个难题。一般来说，国际关系的原则是尊重各国的主权和领土完整，不干涉别的国家内部的事，和平共处。如果对方请求帮助，国际社会就可以介入；如果没有请求，介入就可能被看成干涉。

zhè shì gè nántí yìbān lái shuō guójì guānxì de yuánzé shì zūnzhòng gè guó de zhǔquán hé lǐngtǔ wánzhěng bù gānshè biéde guójiā nèibù de shì hépíng gòngchǔ rúguǒ duìfāng qǐngqiú bāngzhù guójì shèhuì jiù kěyǐ jièrù rúguǒ méiyǒu qǐngqiú jièrù jiù kěnéng bèi kàn chéng gānshè · It's a hard question. Generally, the principles of international relations are respect for each country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-interference in other countries' internal affairs, and peaceful coexistence. If a country asks for help, the international community can step in; if not, stepping in may be seen as interference.

dr zhou 有的国家一直保持中立，不参加任何联盟；也有的国家结成同盟，是多年的盟友，常常一起向别的国家施压。

yǒude guójiā yìzhí bǎochí zhōnglì bù cānjiā rènhé liánméng yě yǒude guójiā jié chéng tóngméng shì duō nián de méngyǒu chángcháng yìqǐ xiàng biéde guójiā shīyā · Some countries have always stayed neutral and joined no alliances; others have formed alliances and been allies for years, often putting pressure on other countries together.

anna 我觉得文化也很重要。大熊猫到了哪个国家，哪个国家的人都喜欢。

wǒ juéde wénhuà yě hěn zhòngyào dàxióngmāo dào le nǎge guójiā nǎge guójiā de rén dōu xǐhuan · I think culture matters a lot too. Wherever giant pandas go, people love them.

editor lin 对，大熊猫被称为“和平使者”。电影、音乐、美食，都是一个国家的软实力。

duì dàxióngmāo bèi chēngwéi hépíng shǐzhě diànyǐng yīnyuè měishí dōu shì yí gè guójiā de ruǎnshílì · Yes: giant pandas are called “ambassadors of peace”. Films, music and food are all part of a country's soft power.

anna 难怪电影节总是倡导大家多看看别的国家的电影。

nánguài diànyǐng jié zǒngshì chàngdǎo dàjiā duō kàn kan biéde guójiā de diànyǐng · No wonder the film festival always encourages people to watch more films from other countries.

dr zhou 中国国土面积这么大，北方下雪的时候，南方还很暖和。光是美食，就够世界学很多年了。

Zhōngguó guótǔ miànjī zhème dà běifāng xià xuě de shíhou nánfāng hái hěn nuǎnhuo guāng shì měishí jiù gòu shìjiè xué hěn duō nián le · China is so huge that when it snows in the north, it's still warm in the south. The food alone could keep the world learning for years.

anna 那我下午先去大使馆，晚上再看你的峰会报道。中华人民共和国成立以来，北京一定开过很多这样的会吧?

nà wǒ xiàwǔ xiān qù dà shǐguǎn wǎnshang zài kàn nǐ de fēnghuì bàodào Zhōnghuá rénmín gònghéguó chénglì yǐlái Běijīng yídìng kāi guo hěn duō zhèyàng de huì ba · Then I'll go to the embassy this afternoon and read your summit report tonight. Beijing must have hosted lots of meetings like this since the People's Republic was founded.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

诠
quán
explain

谎
huǎng
lie

贬
biǎn
lower, demote

侃
kǎn
chat, banter

good to know · 会谈 is talks; 会晤 is a formal meeting between leaders; 接见 is when someone senior receives a visitor; 出访 is an official visit abroad. 干涉 is to interfere (negative); 干预 is to intervene (more neutral: a doctor can 干预 too); 介入 is simply to get involved.

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day 121 rich and poor

Talk respectfully about wealth, poverty, discrimination and help for people in need, and say "even …, let alone …" with 连……都……，更不用说……了.

Livelihoods, migrant workers and fairness are among the most discussed topics in China, in the news and at the dinner table. Talking about them kindly and accurately takes exactly these words.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
阶层	jiēcéng	social stratum	社会各个阶层的人都关心教育。 People from every walk of life care about education.
阶级	jiējí	(social) class	这本书|写的是十九世纪英国的工人阶级。 The book is about the working class in 19th-century Britain.
底层	dǐcéng	bottom (of society, a pile)	这部电影讲的是城市底层人的生活。 The film is about the lives of people at the bottom of city life.
低下	dīxià	low (status, ability)	过去，女性的社会地位很低下。 In the past, women had a very low place in society.
精英	jīngyīng	elite	这所大学培养了很多社会精英。 This university has trained many of society's elite.
弱势	ruòshì	disadvantaged; a weak position	社会要多关心弱势群体。 Society should do more for disadvantaged groups.
歧视	qíshì	to discriminate against	我们反对任何形式的歧视。 We oppose discrimination in any form.
种族	zhǒngzú	race, ethnic group	不管什么种族，人人平等。 Whatever their race, all people are equal.
农民工	nóngmíngōng	migrant worker (from the countryside)	城市的发展离不开农民工。 Cities couldn't grow without migrant workers.
流浪	liúlàng	to wander; homeless, stray	她收养了一只流浪猫。 She has adopted a stray cat.
乞丐	qǐgài	beggar	故事里，王子和乞丐换了衣服。 In the story, the prince and the beggar swap clothes.
乞讨	qǐtǎo	to beg	他小时候曾经在街上乞讨。 As a child he once begged in the street.
贫穷	pínqióng	poor; poverty	教育是改变贫穷的好办法。 Education is a good way out of poverty.
小康	xiǎokāng	moderately well-off	现在村里家家都过上了小康生活。 Now every family in the village is comfortably off.
民生	mínshēng	people's livelihood	住房、看病、上学都是民生问题。 Housing, healthcare and schooling are all livelihood issues.

剥削	bōxuē	to exploit	在旧社会，工人受到严重的剥削。 In the old society, workers were badly exploited.
压迫	yāpò	to oppress	这部小说写的是对压迫的反抗。 The novel is about resistance to oppression.
压榨	yāzhà	to squeeze, exploit	有的老板压榨员工，天天让他们加班。 Some bosses squeeze their staff, making them work overtime every day.
特权	tèquán	privilege	在法律面前，谁都没有特权。 No one is privileged before the law.
权威	quánwēi	authority; authoritative	他是这个领域的权威。 He is an authority in this field.
声势	shēngshì	momentum, impact	这次活动声势很大，全城都知道了。 The campaign made a big splash: the whole city heard about it.
世人	shìrén	people (of the world)	长城让世人看到了古代中国人的智慧。 The Great Wall shows the world the wisdom of the ancient Chinese.
半边天	bànbiāntiān	“half the sky”: women	妇女能顶半边天。 Women hold up half the sky.
风气	fēngqì	general mood, common practice	公司里形成了互相帮助的好风气。 A good habit of helping each other has grown up in the company.
腐败	fǔbài	corrupt; rotten	反对腐败是每个国家的大事。 Fighting corruption matters to every country.
人道	réndào	humane; humanity	这样对待动物太不人道了。 Treating animals like that is inhumane.
外援	wàiyuán	foreign aid; foreign player	这支球队请了两名外援。 The team has signed two foreign players.
援助	yuánzhù	to aid; assistance	很多国家向灾区提供了援助。 Many countries have sent aid to the disaster area.
支援	zhīyuán	to support, assist	城里的医生去农村支援。 Doctors from the city are going to help out in the countryside.
扶持	fúchí	to support, help (to grow)	政府扶持小企业发展。 The government helps small businesses grow.
补助	bǔzhù	subsidy, allowance	学校给贫困学生发补助。 The school gives allowances to poor students.
抚恤	fǔxù	to compensate (a bereaved family)	政府为牺牲的消防员家属提供了抚恤。 The government gave support to the families of the firefighters who died.
安置	ānzhì	to settle, find a place for	政府把受灾的居民安置在学校里。 The government housed the flood victims in a school.
迁移	qiānyí	to migrate, move	每年秋天，这些鸟都会向南迁移。 Every autumn these birds migrate south.
驱逐	qūzhú	to expel, drive out	他因为违法被驱逐出境。 He was deported for breaking the law.

pattern 连……都……，更不用说……了: even …, let alone …

连 A 都 / 也 … | ，更不用说 | B | 了

连 A 都 … picks the most basic case (“even A”); 更不用说 B 了 adds the bigger case that obviously follows (“let alone B”). It often sits inside a climbing sentence: 不但……而且……甚至……

他连工资都拿不到，更不用说保险了。 **tā lián gōngzī dōu ná bu dào gèng búyòng shuō bǎoxiǎn le** He can’t even get his wages, let alone insurance.

他们不但工作累，而且工资低，甚至连住的地方都没有。 **tāmen búdàn gōngzuò lèi érqiě gōngzī dī shènzhì lián zhù de dìfang dōu méiyǒu** Not only is their work exhausting and their pay low, some don’t even have a place to live.

这么难的问题，连老师都要想一会儿，更不用说学生了。 **zhème nán de wèntí lián lǎoshī dōu yào xiǎng yíhuìr gèng búyòng shuō xuéshēng le** A question this hard makes even the teacher stop and think, let alone the students.

dialogue an essay on migrant workers

little sister 爸爸，我在写社会学的论文，题目是“城市里的农民工”。可以采访你吗？
bàba wǒ zài xiě shèhuì xué de lùnwén tímù shì chéngshì lǐ de nóngmíngōng kěyǐ cǎifǎng nǐ ma · Dad, I'm writing a sociology essay called “Migrant workers in the city”. Can I interview you?

dr li 好题目。城市的发展离不开农民工，我们医院的新楼就是他们盖的。
hǎo tímù chéngshì de fāzhǎn lí bu kāi nóngmíngōng wǒmen yīyuàn de xīn lóu jiùshì tāmen gài de · Good topic. Cities couldn't grow without migrant workers: they built our hospital's new wing.

little sister 很多农民工从农村迁移到城市，干最累的工作，可是工资低。有的老板压榨他们，连工资都不按时发，更不用说保险了。
hěn duō nóngmíngōng cóng nóngcūn qiānyí dào chéngshì gàn zuì lèi de gōngzuò kěshì gōngzī dī yǒude lǎobǎn yāzhà tāmen lián gōngzī dōu bú ànshí fā gèng búyòng shuō bǎoxiǎn le · Lots of migrant workers move from the countryside to the city and do the hardest work, but the pay is low. Some bosses squeeze them: they don't even pay wages on time, let alone insurance.

ms zhang 这几年好多了，政府颁布了不少保护他们的规定，他们的孩子也能在城里上学了。
zhè jǐ nián hǎo duō le zhèngfǔ bānbù le bù shǎo bǎohù tāmen de guīdìng tāmen de háizi yě néng zài chéng lǐ shàngxué le · It's much better these days: the government has issued lots of rules to protect them, and their children can go to school in the city now.

dr li 以前有些人瞧不起农民工，这是歧视。不管是什么人，什么种族，都应该平等对待。
yǐqián yǒuxiē rén qiáo bu qǐ nóngmíngōng zhè shì qíshì bùguǎn shì shénme rén shénme zhǒngzú dōu yīnggāi píngděng duìdài · Some people used to look down on migrant workers: that's discrimination. Whoever someone is, whatever their race, they should be treated as equals.

little sister 我们老师是这个领域的权威。他说，社会有不同的阶层：精英阶层收入高，底层的人收入低，社会地位也低下。社会要多关心弱势群体。
wǒmen lǎoshī shì zhège lǐngyù de quánwēi tā shuō shèhuì yǒu bù tóng de jiēcéng jīngyīng jiēcéng shōurù gāo dǐcéng de rén shōurù dī shèhuì dìwèi yě dīxià shèhuì yào duō guānxīn ruòshì qúntǐ · Our teacher is an authority in the field. He says society has different strata: the elite earn a lot, people at the bottom earn little and have a low social standing too. Society should do more for disadvantaged groups.

anna 我在英国读书的时候，读过很多写十九世纪工人阶级的小说。工人不但受剥削，而且受压迫，甚至连孩子都要去工厂干活。
wǒ zài Yīngguó dúshū de shíhou dú guo hěn duō xiě shíjiǔ shìjì gōngrén jiējí de xiǎoshuō gōngrén búdàn shòu bōxuē érqiě shòu yāpò shènzhì lián háizi dōu yào qù gōngchǎng gànhuó · When I was studying in the UK I read lots of novels about the 19th-century working class. Workers were not only exploited but oppressed, and even children had to work in the factories.

dr li 那是过去。现在大家讲民生：住房、看病、上学都是民生问题。在法律面前，谁都没有特权。
nà shì guoqu xiànzài dàjiā jiǎng mínshēng zhùfáng kànbìng shàngxué dōu shì mínshēng wèntí zài fǎlǜ miànqián shéi dōu méiyǒu tèquán · That was the past. These days the talk is of livelihoods: housing, healthcare and schooling are all livelihood issues. And no one is privileged before the law.

ms zhang 这些年反对腐败的声势很大，社会风气也好多了。我们公司每年都支援山区的学校，扶持当地的小企业，还给贫困学生发补助。
zhèxiē nián fǎnduì fǔbài de shēngshì hěn dà shèhuì fēngqì yě hǎo duō le wǒmen gōngsī měi nián dōu zhīyuán shānqū de xuéxiào fúchí dāngdì de xiǎo qǐyè hái gěi pínkùn xuéshēng fā bǔzhù · The fight against corruption has had a lot of momentum in recent years, and the general climate is much better. Every year our company supports schools in the mountains, helps local small businesses, and gives allowances to poor students.

little sister 几十年里，中国有几亿人走出了贫穷，世人都很关注。现在很多村子都过上了小康生活。
jǐ shí nián lǐ Zhōngguó yǒu jǐ yì rén zǒu chū le pínqióng shìrén dōu hěn guānzhù xiànzài hěn duō cūn zi dōu guò shàng le xiǎokāng shēnghuó · Over a few decades, hundreds of millions of people in China have left poverty behind, and the world has taken notice. Many villages are now comfortably off.

anna 这件事在国际上影响也很大，很多外籍记者都来报道过。
zhè jiàn shì zài guójì shàng yǐngxiǎng yě hěn dà hěn duō wàijí jìzhě dōu lái bàodào guo · It has made a big

impression internationally too: lots of foreign journalists have come to report on it.

anna 我在地铁里见过一个乞讨的老人，不知道该不该给钱。小时候我读过一本书，讲王子和乞丐换衣服，我一直很同情乞丐。

wǒ zài dìtiě lǐ jiàn guo yí gè qǐtǎo de lǎorén bù zhīdào gāi bu gāi gěi qián xiǎoshíhou wǒ dú guo yì běn shū jiǎng wángzǐ hé qǐgài huàn yīfu wǒ yìzhí hěn tóngqíng qǐgài · I've seen an old man begging in the metro and didn't know whether to give him money. As a child I read a book about a prince and a beggar who swap clothes, and I've always felt for beggars.

dr li 真有困难的人，可以去救助站。政府会安置流浪的人，帮他们回家。

zhēn yǒu kùnnan de rén kěyǐ qù jiùzhù zhàn zhèngfǔ huì ānzhì liúlàng de rén bāng tāmen huí jiā · People in real need can go to a relief centre. The government finds places for homeless people and helps them get home.

ms zhang 女性的变化也很大。过去女性的地位很低下，现在妇女能顶半边天：我们公司一半的经理是女的。

nǚxìng de biànhuà yě hěn dà guòqù nǚxìng de dìwèi hěn dīxià xiànzài fùnǚ néng dǐng bànbiāntiān wǒmen gōngsī yíbàn de jīnglǐ shì nǚ de · Things have changed a lot for women too. Women used to have a very low standing; now women hold up half the sky: half the managers at our company are women.

dr li 上个月有个消防员救火时牺牲了，政府给他的家属提供了抚恤。地震的时候，很多国家也提供了人道援助。帮助别人，这就是讲人道。

shàng gè yuè yǒu gè xiāofáng yuán jiù huǒ shí xīshēng le zhèngfǔ gěi tā de jiāshǔ tígōng le fǔxù dìzhèn de shíhou hěn duō guójiā yě tígōng le réndào yuánzhù bāngzhù biérén zhè jiùshì jiǎng réndào · Last month a firefighter died fighting a fire, and the government gave support to his family. When there was an earthquake, many countries sent humanitarian aid too. Helping others: that's what being humane means.

little sister 说到外援，我们学校的篮球队今年请了两名外援！

shuō dào wàiyuán wǒmen xuéxiào de lánqiú duì jīnnián qǐng le liǎng míng wàiyuán · Talking of foreign help, our university basketball team has signed two foreign players this year!

anna 哈哈！我们外国人在中国要守法，要是违法，可能会被驱逐出境。所以我的签证从来不过期！

hā hā wǒmen wàiguó rén zài Zhōngguó yào shǒu fǎ yàoshi wéifǎ kěnéng huì bèi qūzhú chūjìng suǒyǐ wǒ de qiānzhèng cónglái bú guòqī · Ha! We foreigners in China have to keep the law: break it and you could be deported. That's why my visa never runs out!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

嚷 rǎng to shout, to yell											
吼 hǒu to roar, to bellow											
哼 hēng to hum; to snort											
宪 xiàn constitution											

good to know · 援助, 支援 and 扶持 are all “help”: 援助 is aid (often from outside), 支援 is support sent to where it is needed, 扶持 is helping something grow. 外援 is foreign aid, but in sport it is a foreign player: 这支球队有三名外援.

Class, livelihoods, discrimination and help: you can now talk about fairness in Chinese with care and the right words.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 122 power and reform

Talk about the rise and fall of dynasties and about reform today, extend a topic across a paragraph with 不仅如此, 此外 and 与此同时, and use the pattern 无A不B.

History books, museum labels and news about reform all build long paragraphs that add point after point. Knowing the linking words lets you follow, and write, a whole paragraph, not just a sentence.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
政权	zhèngquán	regime, political power	历史上，这个政权只存在了十五年。 In history, this regime lasted only fifteen years.
专制	zhuānzhì	autocratic; autocracy	古代的皇帝大多是专制的。 Most emperors in ancient times ruled as autocrats.
主义	zhǔyì	-ism, doctrine	他是个乐观主义者。 He is an optimist.
社会主义	shèhuìzhǔyì	socialism	这本课本介绍了社会主义和其他几种经济制度。 The textbook describes socialism and several other economic systems.
局势	júshì	situation (overall)	比赛的局势突然变了。 The match suddenly swung the other way.
动荡	dòngdàng	turbulent, unstable	那是一个动荡的年代。 It was a turbulent time.
骚乱	sāoluàn	riot, disturbance	历史书上记载了这次骚乱。 The history books record the riot.
颠覆	diānfù	to overturn, subvert	智能手机颠覆了人们的生活方式。 The smartphone turned the way we live upside down.
分裂	fēnliè	to split	这个乐队因为意见不同而分裂了。 The band split up because of disagreements.
崛起	juéqǐ	to rise (to power, fame)	这座城市在十年里迅速崛起。 The city rose fast in just ten years.
复兴	fùxīng	to revive; revival	这条老街正在复兴。 This old street is coming back to life.
振兴	zhènxīng	to revitalise	发展旅游业可以振兴乡村经济。 Tourism can revitalise the rural economy.
富强	fùqiáng	prosperous and strong	每个人都希望自己的国家富强。 Everyone wants their country to be prosperous and strong.
昌盛	chāngshèng	flourishing, prosperous	那是一个繁荣昌盛的时代。 It was an age of prosperity.
太平	tàipíng	peaceful	只有天下太平，老百姓才能过好日子。 Only when the world is at peace can ordinary people live well.
造福	zàofú	to benefit, bring good to	这条新铁路将造福沿线的居民。 The new railway will benefit people living along the line.

整治	zhěngzhì	to clean up, sort out	政府正在整治河道污染。 The government is cleaning up the river.
放宽	fàngkuān	to relax (rules)	很多城市放宽了落户条件。 Many cities have relaxed the conditions for registering as a resident.
废除	fèichú	to abolish	这条旧规定早就被废除{fei4chu2}了。 This old rule was abolished long ago.
解散	jiěsàn	to dissolve, disband	那个乐队去年解散了。 The band broke up last year.
抵制	dǐzhì	to boycott, resist	我们要抵制假冒产品。 We should boycott counterfeit goods.
争端	zhēngduān	dispute	两国通过谈判解决了争端。 The two countries settled their dispute through negotiation.
监察	jiānchá	to supervise, inspect (officials)	监察部门负责调查官员的问题。 The supervisory department investigates problems with officials.
监管	jiānguǎn	to supervise, regulate	食品安全需要严格监管。 Food safety needs strict regulation.
视察	shìchá	to inspect (on an official visit)	市长来学校视察。 The mayor is coming to inspect the school.
巡视	xúnshì	to make an inspection tour	校长每天早上在校园里巡视一圈。 The head teacher does a round of the school every morning.
授予	shòuyǔ	to award, confer	学校授予他“优秀教师”称号。 The school gave him the title “outstanding teacher”.
表彰	biǎozhāng	to commend, honour	公司表彰了今年的优秀员工。 The company honoured this year’s outstanding staff.
锦旗	jǐnqí	silk banner (a thank-you gift)	病人给医生送了一|面锦旗。 The patient gave the doctor a silk banner.
旗帜	qízhì	flag, banner	运动员举着旗帜走进体育场。 The athletes marched into the stadium carrying banners.
征集	zhēngjí	to collect, call for	博物馆正在向市民征集老照片。 The museum is asking the public for old photos.
公办	gōngbàn	state-run	这是一所公办幼儿园，学费不高。 This is a state-run kindergarten, and the fees are low.
公立	gōnglì	public (school, hospital)	他在公立医院工作。 He works in a public hospital.
民办	mínbàn	privately run	民办学校的学费一般比较高。 Private schools usually charge higher fees.
民用	mínyòng	civilian, for civil use	这种技术现在也用在民用飞机上了。 This technology is now used on civilian planes too.

pattern extending a topic: 不仅如此, 此外, 与此同时 (and 无a不b)

topic sentence。 **不仅如此 / 此外 / 与此同时 / 更重要的是，** **the next point。**

A good paragraph states its topic, then adds to it. 不仅如此 “what’s more” raises the stakes, 此外 “besides” adds another point, 与此同时 “at the same time” adds something happening alongside, and 更重要的是 saves the key point for last. Also back today: 无A不B, “there’s no A that isn’t B”: 无人不知 (everyone knows), 无处不在 (it’s everywhere).

以前这条河又脏又臭。不仅如此，河边还堆满了垃圾。与此同时，工厂越开越多，河水越来越差。 **yǐqián zhè tiáo hé yòu zāng yòu chòu bùjǐn rúcǐ hé biān hái duī mǎn le lājī yǔ cǐ tóngshí gōngchǎng yuè kāi yuè duō hé shuǐ yuè lái yuè chà** This river used to be dirty and smelly. What’s more, its banks were piled with rubbish. At the same time, more and more factories opened and the water got worse and worse.

政府开始整治河道，废除了旧的规定，加强了监管。此外，还放宽了条件，鼓励民办企业参加。 **zhèngfǔ kāishǐ zhěngzhì hé dào fèichú le jiù de guīdìng jiāqiáng le jiānguǎn cǐwài hái fàngkuān le tiáojiàn gǔlì mínbàn qǐyè cānjiā** The government began to clean up the river, abolished the old rules and tightened regulation. Besides that, it relaxed the conditions to encourage private firms to take part.

现在，河边的公园无人不知。更重要的是，它造福了沿线的居民。 **xiànzài hé biān de gōngyuán wú rén bù zhī gèng zhòngyào de shì tā zàofú le yánxiàn de jūmín** Now everyone knows the riverside park. More importantly, it has benefited the people who live along the river.

dialogue a thousand years of a river

professor chen 这个展览讲的是城里这条河的一千年。你们看，第一部分讲的是古代：一个政权建立，一个政权灭亡，河边的城市也跟着变化。

zhège zhǎnlǎn jiǎng de shì chéng lǐ zhè tiáo hé de yìqiān nián nǐmen kàn dì yī bùfen jiǎng de shì gǔdài yí gè zhèngquán jiànlì yí gè zhèngquán mièwáng hé biān de chéngshì yě gēn zhe biànhuà · This exhibition tells the story of our city's river over a thousand years. Look: the first part is about ancient times: one regime rises, another falls, and the city by the river rises and falls with them.

little sister 古代的皇帝大多是专制的吧？他们都有很多特权。

gǔdài de huángdì dàduō shì zhuānzhì de ba tāmen dōu yǒu hěn duō tèquán · Most ancient emperors were autocrats, weren't they? They all had lots of privileges.

professor chen 对。天下太平的时候，国家富强，城市繁荣昌盛，唐朝、宋朝都是这样。可是到了动荡的年代，常有骚乱，老百姓很贫穷，国家甚至分裂。

duì tiānxià tàipíng de shíhou guójiā fùqiáng chéngshì fánróng chāngshèng Tángcháo Sòngcháo dōu shì zhèyàng kěshì dào le dòngdàng de niándài cháng yǒu sāoluàn lǎobǎixìng hěn pínqióng guójiā shènzhì fēnliè · Yes. When the land was at peace, the country was rich and strong and the cities flourished: the Tang and the Song were like that. But in turbulent times there were often riots, ordinary people were poor, and the country even split apart.

anna 这条河见过多少朝代的变化啊！

zhè tiáo hé jiàn guo duōshao cháodài de biànhuà a · How many dynasties has this river seen rise and fall!

professor chen 第二部分讲近代：城市怎样一步步崛起。那个时候，各种主义都有人讲，课本上也讲了社会主义和其他几种经济制度。

dì èr bùfen jiǎng jìndài chéngshì zěnyàng yí bù bu juéqǐ nàge shíhou gèzhǒng zhǔyì dōu yǒu rén jiǎng kèběn shàng yě jiǎng le shèhuì zhǔyì hé qítā jǐ zhǒng jīngjì zhìdù · The second part is about modern times: how the city rose step by step. Back then people argued for all kinds of "-isms", and textbooks described socialism and several other economic systems.

little sister 第三部分最有意思，讲的是这条河的整治。以前河水又脏又臭。不仅如此，河边还堆满了垃圾。

dì sān bùfen zuì yǒu yìsi jiǎng de shì zhè tiáo hé de zhěngzhì yǐqián hé shuǐ yòu zāng yòu chòu bùjǐn rúcǐ hé biān hái duī mǎn le lājī · The third part is the most interesting: it's about cleaning up the river. The water used to be dirty and smelly. What's more, the banks were piled with rubbish.

professor chen 后来政府开始整治：废除了一些旧规定，加强了监管，监察部门也查了不少问题。此外，还放宽了条件，鼓励民办企业参加。与此同时，市长多次来视察，河边天天有人巡视。

hòulái zhèngfǔ kāishǐ zhěngzhì fèichú le yìxiē jiù guīdìng jiāqiáng le jiānguǎn jiānchá bùmén yě chá le bù shǎo wèntí cǐwài hái fàngkuān le tiáojiàn gǔlì mínbàn qǐyè cānjiā yǔ cǐ tóngshí shì zhǎng duō cì lái shìchá hé biān tiān tiān yǒu rén xúnshì · Then the government started the clean-up: it abolished some old rules and tightened regulation, and the supervisory department looked into a lot of problems. Besides that, it relaxed the conditions to encourage private firms to join in. At the same time, the mayor came to inspect it several times, and people patrolled the banks every day.

anna 现在河边的公园在这里无人不知。周末那里无处不是散步的人。

xiànzài hé biān de gōngyuán zài zhèlǐ wú rén bù zhī zhōumò nàlǐ wú chù bú shì sànbù de rén · Now everyone here knows the riverside park. At weekends there are people out walking everywhere you look.

professor chen 更重要的是，它造福了沿线的居民。旁边还新开了一所公办幼儿园和一家公立医院，振兴了这一带的经济。

gèng zhòngyào de shì tā zàofú le yánxiàn de jūmín pángbiān hái xīn kāi le yì suǒ gōngbàn yòuéryuán hé yì jiā gōnglì yīyuàn zhènxīng le zhè yídài de jīngjì · More importantly, it has benefited the people living along the river. A state kindergarten and a public hospital have opened nearby too, and the local economy has been revitalised.

anna 政府还扶持了河边的小店，很多人都过上了小康生活。

zhèngfǔ hái fúchí le hé biān de xiǎo diàn hěn duō rén dōu guò shàng le xiǎokāng shēnghuó · The government also supported the little shops by the river, and lots of people are comfortably off now.

little sister 这面锦旗是谁送的?
zhè miàn jǐnqí shì shéi sòng de · Who gave this silk banner?

professor chen 是河边的居民送给清洁工人的。市里还授予他们“优秀集体”称号，在大会上表彰了他们，大家举着旗帜给他们鼓掌。
shì hé biān de jūmín sòng gěi qīngjié gōngrén de shì lǐ hái shòuyǔ tāmen yōuxiù jítǐ chēnghào zài dàhuì shàng biǎozhāng le tāmen dàjiā jǔ zhe qízhì gěi tāmen gǔzhǎng · The residents by the river gave it to the cleaning workers. The city also gave them the title “outstanding team” and honoured them at a big ceremony, where everyone waved flags and applauded them.

anna 以前也有过争端吗?
yǐqián yě yǒu guo zhēngduān ma · Were there ever any disputes?

professor chen 有。上游的工厂和下游的村子争了很多年。最后，污染大的工厂被要求解散或者搬走，大家也开始抵制污染环境的产品，社会风气变了。
yǒu shàngyóu de gōngchǎng hé xiàyóu de cūn zi zhēng le hěn duō nián zuìhòu wūrǎn dà de gōngchǎng bèi yāoqiú jiěsàn huòzhě bān zǒu dàjiā yě kāishǐ dǐzhì wūrǎn huánjìng de chǎnpǐn shèhuì fēngqì biàn le · Yes. The factories upstream and the villages downstream argued for years. In the end, the most polluting factories were made to close down or move, people started boycotting products that pollute, and attitudes in society changed.

little sister 最后一部分讲未来：智能手机颠覆了人们的生活方式，很多新技术将来也会用在民用领域，比如用小飞机送快递。局势变得真快!
zuìhòu yí bùfen jiǎng wèilái zhìnéng shǒujī diānfù le rénmen de shēnghuó fāngshì hěn duō xīn jìshù jiānglái yě huì yòng zài mínyòng lǐngyù bǐrú yòng xiǎo fēijī sòng kuàidì júshì biàn de zhēn kuài · The last part is about the future: smartphones have turned our lives upside down, and lots of new technology will be put to civilian use in future, like little aircraft delivering parcels. Things are changing so fast!

professor chen 博物馆还在向市民征集老照片。安娜，你拍的河边照片，也可以送来。
bówùguǎn hái zài xiàng shìmín zhēngjí lǎo zhàopiàn Ānnà nǐ pāi de hé biān zhàopiàn yě kěyǐ sòng lái · The museum is also collecting old photos from the public. Anna, you could bring in your photos of the river too.

anna 好啊！我觉得这条河也在复兴，就像一个老人又年轻了。
hǎo a wǒ juéde zhè tiáo hé yě zài fùxīng jiù xiàng yí gè lǎorén yòu niánqīng le · I'd love to! I feel the river is coming back to life too, like an old man growing young again.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

刑
xíng
punishment

讼
sòng
dispute in court

冤
yuān
an injustice; unfair, not worth it

逮
dǎi
to catch (spoken)

good to know · 公办 and 公立 are state-run (公立学校, 公立医院); 民办 is privately run. 民用 is civilian, as opposed to military (军用). 复兴 is a revival (文艺复兴 the Renaissance), 振兴 is to revitalise (振兴乡村 revitalise the countryside), 崛起 is a rise.

Dynasties, reforms and a river brought back to life: you can now follow, and build, a whole paragraph in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 123 crisis and danger

Describe a crisis, a hidden danger and a hard time in life, chain several causes and effects in one sentence, and switch topics smoothly with 说到, 至于 and 话说回来.

Every news story about an emergency, and every talk about a hard life, uses these words. And chains of causes are how people explain how things got so bad.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
危及	wēijí	to endanger	吸烟会危及健康。 Smoking endangers your health.
危急	wēijí	critical, in danger	情况危急，马上叫救护车！ It's an emergency: call an ambulance now!
紧迫	jǐnpò	pressing, urgent	时间紧迫，我们得快一点。 Time is short: we need to hurry.
急迫	jípò	urgent, eager	他急迫地想知道考试结果。 He is desperate to know his exam results.
严峻	yánjùn	severe, grim	我们面临的形势很严峻。 The situation we face is grim.
艰巨	jiānjù	arduous, formidable	这是一项艰巨的任务。 This is a formidable task.
艰险	jiānxiǎn	hardships and dangers	登山的路十分艰险。 The path up the mountain is hard and dangerous.
棘手	jíshǒu	thorny, tricky	这个问题很棘手。 This is a tricky problem.
困境	kùnjìng	predicament, difficult position	公司现在陷入了困境。 The company is now in difficulties.
逆境	nìjìng	adversity	在逆境中，他也没有放弃。 He didn't give up, even in adversity.
难关	nánguān	difficulty, crisis	大家一起努力，度过难关。 Let's pull together and get through this.
难处	nánchù	difficulty (that one faces)	每个人都有自己的难处。 Everyone has their own troubles.
处境	chǔjìng	situation, plight	他现在的处境很困难。 He is in a difficult position now.
境地	jìngdì	plight, position	他把自己逼到了没有退路的境地。 He has backed himself into a corner.
境遇	jìngyù	circumstances, lot (in life)	她很同情这些孩子的境遇。 She feels for these children and what they've been through.
坎坷	kǎnkě	rough, full of setbacks	他的人生道路很坎坷。 His life has been full of setbacks.
曲折	qūzhé	winding, complicated	这个故事的情节很曲折。 The story has a twisting plot.

波折	bōzhé	setback, twists and turns	事情经过了一番波折，终于解决了。 After a few twists and turns, the matter was finally settled.
周折	zhōuzhé	trouble, hassle	费了一番周折，才拿到签证。 It took quite a bit of trouble to get the visa.
磨难	mónàn	tribulation, hardship	经历了许多磨难，她变得更坚强了。 After many hardships, she has grown stronger.
苦难	kǔnàn	suffering, misery	这部电影讲的是战争带来的苦难。 The film is about the suffering that war brings.
祸害	huòhai	scourge; to wreck, ruin	这些老鼠祸害了地里的粮食。 The rats have ruined the grain in the fields.
遭殃	zāoyāng	to suffer (disaster), be hit	大水来了，地里的庄稼全遭殃了。 When the flood came, all the crops were ruined.
隐患	yǐnhuàn	hidden danger, hazard	楼道里堆东西，有火灾隐患。 Stacking things in the stairwell is a fire hazard.
导火索	dǎohuǒsuǒ	fuse; trigger, spark	一句玩笑成了这场争吵的导火索。 A joke was what sparked the row.
不妙	bùmiào	not good, ominous	他一看情况不妙，马上回家了。 As soon as he saw things weren't looking good, he went straight home.
失控	shīkòng	out of control	车突然失控，撞到了树上。 The car suddenly went out of control and hit a tree.
紊乱	wěnluàn	disordered, out of order	经常熬夜会让身体的节奏紊乱。 Staying up late a lot throws your body's rhythm out.
风波	fēngbō	disturbance, storm (fig.)	这件事在网上引起了一场风波。 The incident caused a storm online.
风云	fēngyún	the situation; wind and cloud	他是这几年体育界的风云人物。 He has been the big name in sport these last few years.
惨重	cǎnzhòng	heavy (losses)	这次地震造成了惨重的损失。 The earthquake caused heavy losses.
恶化	èhuà	to worsen	病人的情况突然恶化了。 The patient suddenly got worse.
激化	jīhuà	to intensify, sharpen (conflict)	双方的矛盾越来越激化了。 The conflict between the two sides is getting sharper.
濒临	bīnlín	to be on the verge of	这家老店曾经濒临倒闭。 This old shop once came close to closing down.
地步	dìbù	point, extent (usu. bad)	事情怎么会发展到这个地步？ How did it come to this?

pattern chains of cause and effect (and switching topics)

由于 / 因为 A，加上 B **，所以 C** **，因此 / 结果 D**

A cause can have two parts (由于 A，加上 B) and a result can lead to a further result (所以 C，因此 / 结果 D). Follow the chain link by link. Today's returning point is switching topic in a paragraph: 说到 (speaking of), 至于 (as for), 另外 (besides), 话说回来 (that said, coming back to it).

由于楼太老，加上资金不够，所以工程很艰巨，因此需要大家一起想办法。 **yóuyú lóu tài lǎo jiāshàng zījīn búgòu suǒyǐ gōngchéng hěn jiānjù yīncǐ xūyào dàjiā yìqǐ xiǎng bànfǎ** Because the building is so old and the money is short, the work is a huge task, so everyone needs to put their heads together.

因为没有电梯，抬病人下楼花了二十分钟，结果他的病情恶化了。 **yīnwèi méiyǒu diàntī tái bìngrén xià lóu huā le èrshí fēnzhōng jiéguǒ tā de bìngqíng èhuà le** Because there was no lift, it took twenty minutes to carry the patient downstairs, and as a result he got worse.

电梯的事就说到这儿。至于资金，政府有一部分补助。话说回来，最难的还是让大家同意。 **diàntī de shì jiù shuō dào zhèr zhìyú zījīn zhèngfǔ yǒu yí bùfen bǔzhù huà shuō huilai zuì nán de háishi ràng dàjiā tóngyì** That's enough about the lift itself. As for the money, the government pays part of it. That said, the hardest thing is still getting everyone to agree.

dialogue trouble at the estate

professor chen 小明，安娜，你们来得正好。电梯的事遇到了大难关。
Xiǎomíng Ānnà nǐmen lái de zhènghǎo diàntī de shì yùdào le dà nánguān · Xiaoming, Anna, perfect timing. The lift project has hit a big obstacle.

xiaoming 怎么了？
zěnme le · What's happened?

professor chen 检查的人来了，发现老楼有很多安全隐患：水管太旧，电路乱七八糟，楼道里还堆满了东西。
jiǎnchá de rén lái le fāxiàn lǎo lóu yǒu hěn duō ānquán yǐnhuàn shuǐ guǎn tài jiù diàn lù luànqībāzāo lóudào lǐ hái duī mǎn le dōngxi · The inspectors came and found lots of hidden dangers in the old blocks: the pipes are worn out, the wiring is a mess, and the stairwells are full of junk.

xiaoming 我是工程师，我看看……情况不妙。电路这么紊乱，会危及整栋楼的安全。形势很严峻。
wǒ shì gōngchéngshī wǒ kàn kan qíngkuàng búmiào diàn lù zhème wěnluàn huì wēijí zhěng dòng lóu de ānquán xíngshì hěn yánjùn · I'm an engineer, let me look… This isn't good. With the wiring in such a muddle, the whole building is at risk. It's a grim situation.

professor chen 不只这样，小区的群里还起了一场风波。本来只是一位老太太的一句玩笑，结果成了导火索。
bù zhǐ zhèyàng xiǎoqū de qún lǐ hái qǐ le yì chǎng fēngbō běnlái zhǐshì yí wèi lǎotàitai de yí jù wán xiào jiéguǒ chéng le dǎohuǒsuǒ · And that's not all: there's been a storm in the estate's chat group. It started with a joke from an old lady, and that was the spark.

professor chen 因为一楼和六楼的意见不同，又有人在群里乱说，所以矛盾越来越激化，最后几乎失控了。邻居之间的关系一度濒临破裂。
yīnwèi yì lóu hé liù lóu de yìjiàn bù tóng yòu yǒu rén zài qún lǐ luàn shuō suǒyǐ máodùn yuè lái yuè jīhuà zuìhòu jīhū shīkòng le línjū zhījiān de guānxì yídù bīnlín pòliè · Because the ground floor and the sixth floor disagreed, and some people said things they shouldn't in the group, the conflict kept getting sharper until it nearly got out of control. For a while, relations between neighbours were close to breaking point.

anna 怎么会发展到这个地步？
zěnme huì fāzhǎn dào zhège dìbù · How did it come to this?

professor chen 每家都有自己的难处。一楼的人用不上电梯，还怕电梯挡住阳光；六楼的老人天天爬楼，处境很困难。
měi jiā dōu yǒu zìjǐ de nánchù yì lóu de rén yòng bu shàng diàntī hái pà diàntī dǎng zhù yángguāng liù lóu de lǎorén tiān tiān pá lóu chǔjìng hěn kùnnan · Every household has its own problems. The ground-floor families won't use the lift and worry it'll block their light; the old people on the sixth floor climb the stairs every day, and they're in a hard spot.

anna 对老人来说，爬六楼就像爬一座艰险的山。
duì lǎorén lái shuō pá liù lóu jiù xiàng pá yí zuò jiānxiǎn de shān · For an elderly person, climbing to the sixth floor is like climbing a dangerous mountain.

dr li 说到六楼，昨天晚上出了一件事。六楼的刘爷爷突然病了，情况危急。救护车来了，可是没有电梯，几个人抬着他走楼梯，花了二十分钟。
shuō dào liù lóu zuótiān wǎnshang chū le yí jiàn shì liù lóu de Liú yéye tūrán bìng le qíngkuàng wēijí jiùhùchē lái le kěshì méiyǒu diàntī jǐ gè rén tái zhe tā zǒu lóutī huā le èrshí fēnzhōng · Speaking of the sixth floor, something happened last night. Grandpa Liu on the sixth floor suddenly fell ill, and it was an emergency. The ambulance came, but there's no lift, so several people had to carry him down the stairs: it took twenty minutes.

anna 后来呢？
hòulái ne · And then?

dr li 因为送得太晚，所以到医院的时候，他的病情已经恶化了。幸好抢救及时，现在没有危险了。
yīnwèi sòng de tài wǎn suǒyǐ dào yīyuàn de shíhou tā de bìngqíng yǐjīng èhuà le xìnghǎo qiǎngjiù jíshí xiànzài

méiyǒu wēixiǎn le · Because he got there late, his condition had already got worse by the time he reached hospital. Luckily he was treated in time, and he's out of danger now.

professor chen 这件事让大家都明白了：装电梯的事很紧迫。六楼的老人们都急迫地盼着电梯。
zhè jiàn shì ràng dàjiā dōu míngbai le zhuāng diàntī de shì hěn jǐnpò liù lóu de lǎorénmen dōu jípò de pàn zhe diàntī · This has made everyone see that the lift is urgent. The old people on the sixth floor are desperate for it.

anna 政府应该放宽条件，让老楼更快装上电梯。
zhèngfǔ yīnggāi fàngkuān tiáojiàn ràng lǎo lóu gèng kuài zhuāng shàng diàntī · The government should relax the conditions so old blocks can get lifts faster.

xiaoming 由于楼太老，加上资金不够，再加上住户的意见不统一，所以这个工程很艰巨。小区现在真是陷入了困境。
yóuyú lóu tài lǎo jiāshàng zījīn búgòu zài jiāshàng zhùhù de yìjiàn bù tǒngyī suǒyǐ zhège gōngchéng hěn jiānjù xiǎoqū xiànzài zhēnshi xiànrù le kùnjìng · Because the building is so old, money is short and the residents don't agree, this is a huge job. The estate really is in a tight spot now.

professor chen 是啊，为了这个方案，我们费了很多周折，经历了不少波折。去年夏天下大雨，地下室进水，老鼠到处祸害，一楼的几家全遭殃了，损失惨重。
shì a wèile zhège fāngàn wǒmen fèi le hěn duō zhōuzhé jīnglì le bù shǎo bōzhé qùnián xiàtiān xià dà yǔ dìxià shì jìn shuǐ lǎoshǔ dàochù huòhai yì lóu de jǐ jiā quán zāoyāng le sǔnshī cǎnzhòng · Yes: this plan has cost us a lot of trouble, with plenty of twists and turns. Last summer a heavy rain flooded the basement, rats ran riot, and several ground-floor families were badly hit: they lost a great deal.

anna 至于资金，政府不是有补助吗?
zhìyú zījīn zhèngfǔ bú shì yǒu bǔzhù ma · As for the money, isn't there a government subsidy?

professor chen 有，可是不够。话说回来，大家一起努力，没有过不去的难关。
yǒu kěshì búgòu huà shuō huilai dàjiā yìqǐ nǔlì méiyǒu guòbuqù de nánguān · There is, but it isn't enough. That said, if everyone pulls together, there's no obstacle we can't get past.

xiaoming 要是电梯装好了，市里说不定还会表彰我们小区。
yàoshi diàntī zhuāng hǎo le shì lǐ shuōbudìng hái huì biǎozhāng wǒmen xiǎoqū · If the lift goes in, the city might even commend our estate.

dr li 刘爷爷这一辈子很坎坷。年轻的时候他是厂里的风云人物，后来经历过不少苦难和磨难，可是在逆境中也没有放弃。他说，人生的路总是曲折的。
Liú yéye zhè yíbèizi hěn kǎnkě niánqīng de shíhou tā shì chǎng lǐ de fēngyún rénwù hòulái jīnglì guo bù shǎo kǔnàn hé mónàn kěshì zài nìjìng zhōng yě méiyǒu fàngqì tā shuō rénshēng de lù zǒngshì qūzhé de · Grandpa Liu has had a hard life. When he was young he was the big name at his factory; later he went through a lot of suffering and hardship, but he never gave up, even in adversity. He says the road of life always twists and turns.

professor chen 他的境遇让大家很感动。今天，一楼的老太太也说，她理解六楼人的处境了，不想让任何人再落到那样危险的境地。
tā de jìngyù ràng dàjiā hěn gǎndòng jīntiān yì lóu de lǎotàitai yě shuō tā lǐjiě liù lóu rén de chǔjìng le bù xiǎng ràng rènhé rén zài luò dào nàyàng wēixiǎn de jìngdì · Everyone has been moved by what he's been through. Today the old lady on the ground floor said she understands the sixth floor's situation now, and doesn't want anyone ever to end up in such danger again.

xiaoming 那这个问题就没那么棘手了。下次开会，我来讲安全隐患，再把大家的意见征集一下。
nà zhège wèntí jiù méi nàme jíshǒu le xià cì kāihuì wǒ lái jiǎng ānquán yǐnhuàn zài bǎ dàjiā de yìjiàn zhēngjí yíxià · Then the problem isn't so thorny any more. At the next meeting, I'll talk about the safety hazards and gather everyone's views.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

贼
zéi
thief; sly

绑
bǎng
to tie, bind

赎
shú
to redeem, ransom

辖
xiá
govern

good to know · 危及 (wēijí) is a verb, “to endanger”: 危及生命. 危急 (also wēijí) is an adjective, “critical”: 情况危急. Same sound, different 及 / 急. Hard times, from mild to heavy: 周折 (hassle), 波折 (setback), 坎坷 (a bumpy road), 磨难 (ordeal), 苦难 (suffering).

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day 124 mission: the community meeting

Follow a whole residents' meeting in Chinese: the notice, an election, a heated debate, a peace deal between two buildings and the results, using this unit's words for government, votes, diplomacy, fairness, reform and crisis.

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chapter 1 chapter 1: the notice in the lobby

anna （读）“通告：本小区居民大会定于本周五晚上七点在社区中心举行。会议内容如下：

dú tōnggào běn xiǎoqū jūmín dàhuì dìng yú běn zhōu wǔ wǎnshang qī diǎn zài shèqū zhōngxīn jǔxíng huìyì nèiróng rúxià · (reading) “Notice: The estate’s residents’ meeting will be held at 7 p.m. this Friday at the community centre. The agenda is as follows:

anna 一、选举新一届居民委员会。委员任期五年，可以连任。候选人由居民提名，名单已经公示七天。十八岁以上的居民都是选民，可以投票，也可以弃权。

yī xuǎnjǔ xīn yí jiè jūmín wěiyuánhuì wěiyuán rènqī wǔ nián kěyǐ liánrèn hòuxuǎnrén yóu jūmín tímíng míngdān yǐjīng gōngshì qī tiān shíbā suì yǐshàng de jūmín dōu shì xuǎnmín kěyǐ tóupiào yě kěyǐ qìquán · 1. Election of the new residents’ committee. Members serve five-year terms and may be re-elected. Candidates are nominated by residents; the list has been posted publicly for seven days. All residents over eighteen are voters and may vote or abstain.

anna 二、加装电梯试点方案。根据国务院支持老小区改造的方针，以及市里出台、明年一月起施行的办法，经三分之二以上住户同意，方案就可以申报，由有关部门审批。今年市里放宽了申报条件，政府对每部电梯提供补助。

èr jiā zhuāng diàntī shìdiǎn fāngàn gēnjù guówùyuàn zhīchí lǎo xiǎoqū gǎizào de fāngzhēn yǐjí shì lǐ chūtái míngnián yī yuè qǐ shīxíng de bànfǎ jīng sān fēn zhī èr yǐshàng zhùhù tóngyì fāngàn jiù kěyǐ shēnbào yóu yǒuguān bùmén shěnpī jīnnián shì lǐ fàngkuān le shēnbào tiáojiàn zhèngfǔ duì měi bù diàntī tígōng bǔzhù · 2. The pilot plan for adding lifts. In line with the State Council’s guiding principle of supporting the renovation of old estates, and the rules the city has brought in, which take effect next January, once more than two thirds of households agree, the plan may be submitted for approval by the authorities. This year the city has relaxed the conditions, and the government provides a subsidy for each lift.

anna 三、楼道安全隐患的整治。四、会后颁发“好邻居”证书。新的停车证请到社区中心申领。请各位住户积极参加，共同落实小区的各项举措。”

sān lóudào ānquán yǐnhuàn de zhěngzhì sì huì hòu bānfā hǎo línjū zhèngshū xīn de tíngchē zhèng qǐng dào shèqū zhōngxīn shēnlǐng qǐng gèwèi zhùhù jījí cānjiā gòngtóng luòshí xiǎoqū de gè xiàng jǔcuò · 3. Clearing up safety hazards in the stairwells. 4. After the meeting, “good neighbour” certificates will be presented. New parking permits can be collected at the community centre. All residents are invited to take part and help carry out the estate’s measures together.”

little sister 门口还贴着一张告示：“会议由街道干部主持，社区书记和区里的委员也会来视察。”

ménkǒu hái tiē zhe yì zhāng gàoshi huìyì yóu jiēdào gànbù zhǔchí shèqū shūjì hé qū lǐ de wěiyuán yě huì lái shìchá · There’s another notice by the door: “The meeting will be chaired by an official from the street office; the community secretary and members from the district will also come to observe.”

xiaoming 街道是区政府在基层的行政机关。我们小区归这个街道管辖，辖区里一共有十二个小区。

jiēdào shì qū zhèngfǔ zài jīcéng de xíngzhèng jīguān wǒmen xiǎoqū guī zhège jiēdào guǎnxiá xiáqū lǐ yígòng yǒu shíèr gè xiǎoqū · The street office is the district government’s administrative office at the grassroots. Our estate comes under this street office, and there are twelve estates in its area.

anna 我还不是这个小区的居民，又是外国人，没有选举权。但是陈教授说，我可以去听，也可以发表意见。对了，我上午去领事馆拿了新护照，领事还问我住得怎么样呢！

wǒ hái bú shì zhège xiǎoqū de jūmín yòu shì wàiguó rén méiyǒu xuǎnjǔ quán dànshì Chénjiàoshòu shuō wǒ kěyǐ qù tīng yě kěyǐ fābiǎo yìjiàn duì le wǒ shàngwǔ qù lǐngshìguǎn ná le xīn hùzhào lǐngshì hái wèn wǒ zhù de zěnmeyàng ne · I don’t live on this estate yet, and I’m a foreigner, so I don’t have a vote. But Professor Chen says I can go and listen, and have my say too. Oh, and this morning I picked up my new passport at the consulate: the consul even asked how I was getting on with my flat!

chapter 2 chapter 2: two candidates

professor chen 各位街坊，我参加竞选，希望能连任。这五年，大家推选我当委员，我一直把自己看成大家的公仆，不是官。年轻的时候，大家都叫我“陈同志”，现在叫我“陈教授”，我还是那个为大家跑腿的人。

gèwèi jiēfang wǒ cānjiā jìngxuǎn xīwàng néng liánrèn zhè wǔ nián dàjiā tuīxuǎn wǒ dāng wěiyuán wǒ yìzhí bǎ zìjǐ kàn chéng dàjiā de gōngpú bú shì guān niánqīng de shíhou dàjiā dōu jiào wǒ Chén tóngzhì xiànzài jiào wǒ Chénjiàoshòu wǒ háishi nàge wèi dàjiā pǎo tuǐ de rén · Neighbours, I'm standing for re-election. For five years you chose me as a committee member, and I've always seen myself as your servant, not an official. When I was young everyone called me "Comrade Chen"; now it's "Professor Chen", but I'm still the one who runs your errands.

professor chen 我的纲领很简单：第一，落实电梯试点；第二，整治安全隐患；第三，多关心小区里的弱势群体：老人、残疾人和收入低的家庭。电梯不是小事，是民生问题。

wǒ de gānglǐng hěn jiǎndān dì yī luòshí diàntī shìdiǎn dì èr zhěngzhì ānquán yǐnhuàn dì sān duō guānxīn xiǎoqū lǐ de ruòshì qúntǐ lǎorén cánjí rén hé shōurù dī de jiātíng diàntī bú shì xiǎo shì shì mínshēng wèntí · My programme is simple: first, carry out the lift pilot; second, clear up the safety hazards; third, do more for the vulnerable on our estate: the elderly, the disabled and low-income families. A lift is no small matter: it's about people's livelihoods.

teacher wang 我是王老师，也是候选人。是邻居们鼓动我参加的，我以前从来没担任过公职。我倡导“有事大家商量”，倡议每个月开一次小会，有意见当面说，不要在群里吵。

wǒ shì Wánglǎoshī yě shì hòuxuǎnrén shì línjūmen gǔdòng wǒ cānjiā de wǒ yǐqián cónglái méi dānrèn guo gōngzhí wǒ chàngdǎo yǒu shì dàjiā shāngliang chàngyì měi gè yuè kāi yí cì xiǎo huì yǒu yìjiàn dāngmiàn shuō búyào zài qún lǐ chǎo · I'm Teacher Wang, and I'm a candidate too. My neighbours talked me into standing; I've never held public office before. I stand for "talk things over together", and I propose a small meeting every month, so people raise their concerns face to face instead of quarrelling in the chat group.

teacher wang 这几个月，要求装电梯的呼声越来越高，这就是民意。可是办事不能官僚，也不能只听上层的，要从基层做起。不管是哪个阶层的人，在小区里谁也没有特权。

zhè jǐ gè yuè yāoqiú zhuāng diàntī de hūshēng yuè lái yuè gāo zhè jiùshì mínyì kěshì bànshì bù néng guānliáo yě bù néng zhǐ tīng shàngcéng de yào cóng jīcéng zuò qǐ bùguǎn shì nǎge jiēcéng de rén zài xiǎoqū lǐ shéi yě méiyǒu tèquán · These past months the calls for a lift have grown louder and louder: that's public opinion. But we mustn't be bureaucratic or only listen to those higher up: we have to start from the grassroots. Whoever you are, nobody on this estate gets special privileges.

professor chen 选举要讲道理，不能煽动大家的情绪。我们小区的选举不分派别，也不分阵营。委员会有七个席位，我们两个人都可能当选。我呼吁大家都来投票，不要弃权。

xuǎnjǔ yào jiǎng dàolǐ bù néng shāndòng dàjiā de qíngxù wǒmen xiǎoqū de xuǎnjǔ bù fēn pàibié yě bù fēn zhènyíng wěiyuánhuì yǒu qī gè xíwèi wǒmen liǎng gè rén dōu kěnéng dāngxuǎn wǒ hūyù dàjiā dōu lái tóupiào búyào qìquán · An election should be about reason, not stirring up feelings. Our estate's election has no factions and no camps. The committee has seven seats, so we could both be elected. I urge everyone to vote and not to abstain.

teacher wang 如果当选的委员不为大家办事，大家可以罢免他；如果我没选上，我就高高兴兴地下台，继续当好邻居。大会通过的决议，我都会遵守。

rúguǒ dāngxuǎn de wěiyuán bú wèi dàjiā bànshì dàjiā kěyǐ bàmiǎn tā rúguǒ wǒ méi xuǎn shàng wǒ jiù gāogāoxìngxìng de xiàtái jìxù dāng hǎo línjū dàhuì tōngguò de juéyì wǒ dōu huì zūnshǒu · If an elected member does nothing for you, you can remove them; if I'm not elected, I'll happily step aside and carry on being a good neighbour. Whatever resolution the meeting passes, I'll abide by it.

xiaoming 这次街道动员得真好，来了三百多人，比去年多一倍，声势很大。合唱团的团员也都来了。去年来的人太少，以至于什么都定不下来。

zhè cì jiēdào dòngyuán de zhēn hǎo lái le sānbǎi duō rén bǐ qùnián duō yí bèi shēngshì hěn dà héchàng tuán de tuányuán yě dōu lái le qùnián lái de rén tài shǎo yǐzhìyú shénme dōu dìng bu xialai · The street office has really got people out this time: over three hundred came, twice as many as last year, and there's quite a buzz. The whole choir has come too. Last year so few came that nothing could be decided.

chapter 3 chapter 3: the lift debate

professor chen 下面讨论电梯方案。上次表决，方案被否决了。今天，鉴于刘爷爷的事，大家再谈一谈。

xiàmiàn tǎolùn diàntī fāngàn shàng cì biǎojué fāngàn bèi fǒujué le jīntiān jiànyú Liú yéye de shì dàjiā zài tán yi tan · Next, the lift plan. At the last vote it was rejected. Today, in view of what happened to Grandpa Liu, let's discuss it again.

dr li 我是医生，说几句。那天晚上情况危急，因为没有电梯，抬刘爷爷下楼花了二十分钟，所以到医院的时候，他的病情已经恶化了。没有电梯，会危及老人的生命。让老人天天爬六楼，太不人道了。

wǒ shì yīshēng shuō jǐ jù nà tiān wǎnshang qíngkuàng wēijí yīnwèi méiyǒu diàntī tái Liú yéye xià lóu huā le èrshí fēnzhōng suǒyǐ dào yīyuàn de shíhou tā de bìngqíng yǐjīng èhuà le méiyǒu diàntī huì wēijí lǎorén de shēngmìng ràng lǎorén tiān tiān pá liù lóu tài bù réndào le · I'm a doctor, so let me say a few words. That night it was an emergency. Because there's no lift, it took twenty minutes to carry Grandpa Liu downstairs, so by the time he reached hospital he'd got worse. Without a lift, old people's lives are at risk. Making them climb six floors every day is inhumane.

xiaoming 我是工程师。由于楼太老，加上电路紊乱，楼道里又堆满东西，所以隐患很多，因此装电梯以前，要先整治。形势很严峻，任务也很艰巨，可是时间紧迫。要是再不整治，等出了事，大家都要遭殃，损失会很惨重。

wǒ shì gōngchéngshī yóuyú lóu tài lǎo jiāshàng diàn lù wěnluàn lóudào lǐ yòu duī mǎn dōngxi suǒyǐ yǐnhuàn hěn duō yīncǐ zhuāng diàntī yǐqián yào xiān zhěngzhì xíngshì hěn yánjùn rènwu yě hěn jiānjù kěshì shíjiān jǐnpò yàoshi zài bù zhěngzhì děng chū le shì dàjiā dōu yào zāoyāng sǔnshī huì hěn cǎnzhòng · I'm an engineer. Because the buildings are old, the wiring is a mess and the stairwells are full of junk, there are a lot of hazards, so before any lift goes in, they have to be fixed. The situation is serious and the task is huge, but time is short. If we don't fix things now, when something goes wrong we'll all suffer, and the losses will be heavy.

teacher wang 一楼的邻居也有难处。如果电梯挡住阳光，就要给他们补偿；如果不挡，也要保证施工的时候不太吵。施工期间，一楼的老人可以安置在社区中心休息。

yì lóu de línjū yě yǒu nánchù rúguǒ diàntī dǎng zhù yángguāng jiù yào gěi tāmen bǔcháng rúguǒ bù dǎng yě yào bǎozhèng shīgōng de shíhou bú tài chǎo shīgōng qījiān yì lóu de lǎorén kěyǐ ānzhì zài shèqū zhōngxīn xiūxi · Our ground-floor neighbours have their problems too. If the lift blocks their light, they should be compensated; if it doesn't, the building work still mustn't be too noisy. While the work goes on, older ground-floor residents can rest at the community centre.

professor chen 有人说，老人可以迁移到有电梯的小区去。这不现实：他们在这里住了一辈子。只要大家愿意让一步，就有办法；但是如果谁都不让，那么这件事永远办不成。

yǒu rén shuō lǎorén kěyǐ qiānyí dào yǒu diàntī de xiǎoqū qù zhè bú xiànshí tāmen zài zhèlǐ zhù le yíbèizi zhǐyào dàjiā yuànyì ràng yí bù jiù yǒu bànfǎ dànshì rúguǒ shéi dōu bú ràng nàme zhè jiàn shì yǒngyuǎn bàn bùchéng · Some say the old people could move to estates that have lifts. That's not realistic: they've lived here all their lives. As long as everyone is willing to give a little, there's a way; but if no one gives an inch, this will never get done.

anna 我可以说一句吗？我在英国的老房子也没有电梯。我奶奶七十岁的时候，连下楼买菜都很困难，更不用说去公园了。电梯会让老人的生活完全不一样。

wǒ kěyǐ shuō yí jù ma wǒ zài Yīngguó de lǎo fángzi yě méiyǒu diàntī wǒ nǎinai qīshí suì de shíhou lián xià lóu mǎi cài dōu hěn kùnnan gèng búyòng shuō qù gōngyuán le diàntī huì ràng lǎorén de shēnghuó wánquán bù yíyàng · May I say something? My old house in the UK had no lift either. When my grandma was seventy, even going downstairs to buy food was hard, let alone going to the park. A lift changes old people's lives completely.

ms zhang 我是来看朋友的。我们小区去年装了电梯：政府扶持，住户出一部分钱，区里还派工程师来支援，工程由公办和民办的公司一起做，整个工程都有严格的监管。补助的每一分钱都要公开，不能有任何腐败。现在老人都愿意下楼了。

wǒ shì lái kàn péngyou de wǒmen xiǎoqū qùnián zhuāng le diàntī zhèngfǔ fúchí zhùhù chū yí bùfen qián qū lǐ hái pài gōngchéngshī lái zhīyuán gōngchéng yóu gōngbàn hé mínbàn de gōngsī yìqǐ zuò zhěnggè gōngchéng dōu yǒu yángé de jiānguǎn bǔzhù de měi yì fēn qián dōu yào gōngkāi bù néng yǒu rènhé fǔbài xiànzài lǎorén dōu yuànyì xià lóu le · I'm only here visiting a friend. Our estate put in lifts last year: the government helped, the

households paid part, the district sent engineers to help out, state-run and private firms did the work together, and the whole job was strictly supervised. Every cent of the subsidy has to be public: no corruption of any kind. Now the old people are happy to come downstairs.

professor chen 好，现在请大家举手表决……二百一十户同意，八户反对，五户弃权。超过三分之二，方案通过！

hǎo xiànzài qǐng dàjiā jǔ shǒu biǎojué èrbǎiyīshí hù tóngyì bā hù fǎnduì wǔ hù qìquán chāoguò sān fēn zhī èr fāngàn tōngguò · Right, let's have a show of hands… 210 households in favour, 8 against, 5 abstentions. That's over two thirds: the plan is passed!

chapter 4 chapter 4: a summit between two blocks

professor chen 最后一个问题，也是最棘手的：三号楼和四号楼的争端。两栋楼为了停车位吵了一年，邻居之间的矛盾越来越激化。怎么会闹到这个地步？

zuìhòu yí gè wèntí yě shì zuì jíshǒu de sān hào lóu hé sì hào lóu de zhēngduān liǎng dòng lóu wèile tíng chēwèi chǎo le yì nián línjū zhījiān de máodùn yuè lái yuè jīhuà zěnme huì nào dào zhège dìbù · One last issue, and the thorniest: the dispute between Block 3 and Block 4. The two blocks have been arguing over parking for a year, and the conflict between the neighbours keeps getting sharper. How did it come to this?

xiaoming 开始只是一辆车停错了地方，结果成了导火索。后来群里的风波一场接一场，有一次几乎失控，小区差点儿分裂成两派。

kāishǐ zhǐshì yí liàng chē tíng cuò le dìfang jiéguǒ chéng le dǎohuǒsuǒ hòulái qún lǐ de fēngbō yì chǎng jiē yì chǎng yǒu yí cì jīhū shīkòng xiǎoqū chàdiǎnr fēnliè chéng liǎng pài · It started with one car parked in the wrong place, and that was the spark. After that, one storm in the chat group followed another; once it nearly got out of hand, and the estate almost split into two sides.

little sister 这简直是两个国家开峰会！四号楼说那些车位是他们的“领土”，有“主权”。两栋楼的“首脑”要先会晤，再签条约。

zhè jiǎnzhí shì liǎng gè guójiā kāi fēnghuì sì hào lóu shuō nàxiē chēwèi shì tāmen de lǐngtǔ yǒu zhǔquán liǎng dòng lóu de shǒunǎo yào xiān huìwù zài qiān tiáoyuē · This is practically a summit between two countries! Block 4 says those parking spaces are its “territory” and it has “sovereignty”. The two blocks’ “leaders” must meet first, then sign a treaty.

teacher wang 哈哈，那我保持中立，当和平使者。我们不干涉各家的私事，可是公共的地方属于大家，谁也不能单方面霸占。单边的做法只会让事情恶化。

hā hā nà wǒ bǎochí zhōnglì dāng hépíng shǐzhě wǒmen bù gānshè gè jiā de sīshì kěshì gōnggòng de dìfang shǔyú dàjiā shéi yě bù néng dānfāngmiàn bàzhàn dānbiān de zuòfǎ zhǐ huì ràng shìqing èhuà · Ha, then I’ll stay neutral and be the peace envoy. We won’t interfere in anyone’s private business, but shared spaces belong to everyone: nobody can unilaterally take them over. Going it alone only makes things worse.

xiaoming 三号楼说，四号楼的人向物业施压，还去物业抗议过；四号楼说，三号楼和旁边的几栋楼结成了同盟。周末两栋楼的孩子在球场上还互相示威呢。

sān hào lóu shuō sì hào lóu de rén xiàng wùyè shīyā hái qù wùyè kàngyì guo sì hào lóu shuō sān hào lóu hé pángbiān de jǐ dòng lóu jié chéng le tóngméng zhōumò liǎng dòng lóu de háizi zài qiúchǎng shàng hái hùxiāng shìwēi ne · Block 3 says Block 4 has been putting pressure on the management and even went to protest there; Block 4 says Block 3 has formed an alliance with the blocks next door. At weekends the kids of the two blocks even square up to each other on the court.

little sister 联盟、盟友都有了！要不要请外援？

liánméng méngyǒu dōu yǒu le yào búyào qǐng wàiyuán · Alliances and allies already! Shall we call in foreign help?

professor chen 街道本来不想介入，也不想干预。今天我接见了两栋楼的代表，大家都说不想再吵了。

jiēdào běnlái bù xiǎng jièrù yě bù xiǎng gānyù jīntiān wǒ jiējiàn le liǎng dòng lóu de dàibiǎo dàjiā dōu shuō bù xiǎng zài chǎo le · The street office didn’t want to get involved or step in. Today I received representatives from both blocks, and they all said they don’t want to fight any more.

teacher wang 我的办法是：两栋楼先进行双边会谈，然后全小区一起定一个多边的协定，车位按时间轮流用。大家也要抵制乱停车。

wǒ de bànfǎ shì liǎng dòng lóu xiān jìnxíng shuāngbiān huìtán ránhòu quán xiǎoqū yìqǐ dìng yí gè duōbiān de xiédìng chēwèi àn shíjiān lúnliú yòng dàjiā yě yào dǐzhì luàn tíngchē · My suggestion: the two blocks hold bilateral talks first, then the whole estate draws up a multilateral agreement, and the parking spaces are shared on a rota. And everyone has to say no to parking anywhere they like.

professor chen 好主意。我们再写一份居民公约，大家签字，就像一份和平宣言：邻居之间，和平共处。

hǎo zhǔyi wǒmen zài xiě yí fèn jūmín gōngyuē dàjiā qiānzì jiù xiàng yí fèn hépíng xuānyán línjū zhījiān hépíng gòngchǔ · Good idea. And we’ll write a residents’ code that everyone signs, like a declaration of peace: neighbours living together in peace.

anna 这才是真正的软实力：不靠吵，靠商量。

zhè cái shì zhēnzhèng de ruǎnshílì bú kào chǎo kào shāngliang · That's real soft power: not shouting, but talking it through.

chapter 5 chapter 5: the results

anna 选举结果公示了！陈教授连任，王老师也当选了委员。委员会七个委员里，有四个是女的，妇女能顶半边天！

xuǎnjǔ jiéguǒ gōngshì le Chénjiàoshòu liánrèn Wánglǎoshī yě dāngxuǎn le wěiyuán wěiyuánhuì qī gè wěiyuán lǐ yǒu sì gè shì nǚ de fùnǚ néng dǐng bànbiāntiān · The election results are up! Professor Chen has been re-elected, and Teacher Wang has been elected to the committee too. Four of the seven members are women: women hold up half the sky!

professor chen 谢谢大家。下周新委员会宣誓以后，第一件事就是贯彻电梯方案，第二件事是整治楼道。委员们每天都会去工地巡视。

xièxie dàjiā xià zhōu xīn wěiyuánhuì xuānshì yǐhòu dì yī jiàn shì jiùshì guànchè diàntī fāngàn dì èr jiàn shì shì zhěngzhì lóudào wěiyuánmen měi tiān dōu huì qù gōngdì xúnshì · Thank you, everyone. Once the new committee has taken its oath next week, the first job is to carry through the lift plan, and the second is to clear up the stairwells. Committee members will check the building site every day.

teacher wang 区里来视察的委员说，我们小区的做法很好，要在全区试行。街道还要表彰帮刘爷爷下楼的几个年轻人，授予他们“好邻居”称号。

qū lǐ lái shìchá de wěiyuán shuō wǒmen xiǎoqū de zuòfǎ hěn hǎo yào zài quán qū shìxíng jiēdào hái yào biǎozhāng bāng Liú yéye xià lóu de jǐ gè niánqīng rén shòuyǔ tāmen hǎo línjū chēnghào · The district member who came to observe said our estate’s approach is excellent and should be tried across the district. And the street office is going to honour the young people who carried Grandpa Liu downstairs, giving them the title “good neighbours”.

dr li 刘爷爷出院了。他一辈子很坎坷，经历过不少苦难，和疾病抗争了很多年，在逆境中从来没放弃。他家人要给那几个年轻人送一面锦旗。

Liú yéye chūyuàn le tā yíbèizi hěn kǎnkě jīnglì guo bù shǎo kǔnàn hé jíbìng kàngzhēng le hěn duō nián zài nìjìng zhōng cónglái méi fàngqì tā jiārén yào gěi nà jǐ gè niánqīng rén sòng yí miàn jǐnqí · Grandpa Liu is out of hospital. He has had a hard life, been through a great deal of suffering and fought illness for years, and never gave up, even in adversity. His family want to give those young people a silk banner.

xiaoming 修电梯的工人大多是农民工，他们干活特别认真。我们应该好好招待他们，不能有任何歧视。

xiū diàntī de gōngrén dàduō shì nóngmíngōng tāmen gànhuó tèbié rènzhēn wǒmen yīnggāi hǎohǎo zhāodài tāmen bù néng yǒu rènhé qíshì · Most of the workers building the lift are migrant workers, and they work so carefully. We should look after them well, with no discrimination whatsoever.

little sister 社区中心还在征集小区的老照片，要办一个展览，叫“老小区的复兴”。开幕那天，我要举着旗帜去！

shèqū zhōngxīn hái zài zhēngjí xiǎoqū de lǎo zhàopiàn yào bàn yí gè zhǎnlǎn jiào lǎo xiǎoqū de fùxīng kāimù nà tiān wǒ yào jǔ zhe qízhì qù · The community centre is collecting old photos of the estate for an exhibition called “The old estate comes back to life”. I’m going to the opening with a flag!

ms zhang 电梯会造福全楼的人。老小区就这样一点一点振兴起来了。小区的风气好，大家住得放心。

diàntī huì zàofú quán lóu de rén lǎo xiǎoqū jiù zhèyàng yìdiǎn yìdiǎn zhènxīng qǐlai le xiǎoqū de fēngqì hǎo dàjiā zhù de fàngxīn · The lift will benefit everyone in the building. That’s how old estates come back to life, bit by bit. With a good spirit on the estate, people can live here with peace of mind.

professor chen 这一年，我们费了不少周折，经历了不少波折，好在终于度过了难关。我是个乐观主义者：只要大家一起努力，就没有办不成的事。

zhè yì nián wǒmen fèi le bù shǎo zhōuzhé jīnglì le bù shǎo bōzhé hǎozài zhōngyú dù guò le nánguān wǒ shì gè lèguān zhǔyì zhě zhǐyào dàjiā yìqǐ nǔlì jiù méiyǒu bàn bùchéng de shì · This year has cost us a lot of trouble, with plenty of twists and turns, but luckily we’ve finally got through the worst. I’m an optimist: as long as everyone works together, there’s nothing we can’t do.

anna 我决定了：如果这里有合适的房子，我就搬过来；如果暂时没有，我就先等一等。反正，我已经爱上这个小区了！

wǒ juédìng le rúguǒ zhèlǐ yǒu héshì de fángzi wǒ jiù bān guolai rúguǒ zànshí méiyǒu wǒ jiù xiān děng yi deng

fǎnzhèng wǒ yǐjīng ài shàng zhège xiǎoqū le · I've made up my mind: if there's a suitable flat here, I'll move in; if there isn't one for now, I'll wait a bit. Either way, I've already fallen in love with this estate!

An election, a vote, a peace deal and a lift: you followed a whole community meeting in Chinese, and you could have spoken up in it.
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