wishyou.today learning

day 125 disaster and rescue

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 17 · environment and change

Follow news of a flood and a rescue, and talk about helping: evacuating, sheltering, donating, volunteering.

Disaster news is full of words you rarely hear elsewhere, and knowing them lets you understand, and help.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
海啸	hǎixiào	tsunami	地震以后，海边的人马上撤离，防止发生海啸。 After the earthquake, people on the coast left at once in case of a tsunami.
泛滥	fànlàn	to flood, overflow; spread unchecked	连下了三天暴雨，河水泛滥了。 After three days of heavy rain, the river overflowed.
涝	lào	waterlogged (fields)	今年雨水太多，田里涝了。 There's been too much rain this year, and the fields are waterlogged.
防汛	fángxùn	flood prevention	每年七月是防汛最紧张的时候。 July is the most tense time of year for flood prevention.
堤	dī	dyke, embankment	河边那道堤是去年修的。 The embankment by the river was built last year.
堤坝	dībà	dykes and dams	大家日夜守在堤坝上。 Everyone guarded the dykes day and night.
闸	zhá	sluice gate; to dam, stop	上游开闸放水了，下游要做好准备。 They've opened the sluice gates upstream: downstream needs to get ready.
倒塌	dǎotā	to collapse, fall down	地震中，一座老楼倒塌了。 An old building collapsed in the earthquake.
烧毁	shāohuǐ	to burn down, destroy by fire	一场大火烧毁了半个村子。 A big fire burned down half the village.
失事	shīshì	(of a plane or ship) to crash, be wrecked	那架飞机失事以后，大家都很难过。 After that plane crashed, everyone was very sad.
空难	kōngnàn	air crash	坐飞机其实很安全，空难很少发生。 Flying is actually very safe: air crashes are rare.
遇难	yùnàn	to die in a disaster or accident	幸好这次没有人遇难。 Luckily nobody was killed this time.
遇险	yùxiǎn	to be in danger, in distress	一条船在海上遇险，正在等待救援。 A boat is in distress at sea, waiting to be rescued.
丧生	sàngshēng	to lose one's life	这次山火中有两名消防员丧生。 Two firefighters lost their lives in this wildfire.

幸存	xìngcún	to survive	这本书讲的是一个幸存的孩子的故事。 This book tells the story of a child who survived.
幸免	xìngmiǎn	to escape by luck	大火烧了整条街，只有这家小店幸免。 The fire burned the whole street; only this little shop escaped.
逃生	táoshēng	to escape with one's life	记住楼里的逃生路线。 Learn the escape routes in the building.
避难	bìnàn	to take refuge, shelter	学校成了大家避难的地方。 The school became everyone's shelter.
撤离	chèlí	to evacuate, withdraw	水位还在上涨，大家必须马上撤离。 The water is still rising: everyone must evacuate now.
疏散	shūsàn	to evacuate, disperse; sparse	警察正在疏散商场里的顾客。 The police are evacuating the shoppers from the mall.
搜救	sōujiù	search and rescue	搜救工作进行了三天三夜。 The search and rescue went on for three days and nights.
营救	yíngjiù	to rescue	消防员从楼顶营救了五个人。 Firefighters rescued five people from the roof.
解救	jiějiù	to rescue, free	他们把困在电梯里的老人解救了出来。 They freed the old man who was stuck in the lift.
拯救	zhěngjiù	to save, rescue (often grand)	这位医生拯救了很多人的生命。 This doctor has saved many lives.
打捞	dǎlāo	to salvage, dredge up	他们从河里打捞起一辆车。 They pulled a car out of the river.
应急	yìngjí	emergency; to meet an emergency	家里最好准备一些应急的东西。 It's best to keep a few emergency supplies at home.
预警	yùjǐng	early warning; to warn in advance	气象台提前发出了暴雨预警。 The weather service issued a rainstorm warning in advance.
救济	jiùjì	relief; to help those in need	政府给受灾的家庭发了救济。 The government gave relief to the families hit by the disaster.
收留	shōuliú	to take in, give shelter to	她收留了一只没有家的小狗。 She took in a little stray dog.
慈善	císhàn	charitable, charity	他把一半的收入都捐给了慈善机构。 He gave half his income to charity.
捐献	juānxiàn	to donate, contribute	很多人去医院捐献血液。 Many people went to the hospital to give blood.
募捐	mùjuān	to raise donations	学生们在校园里为灾区募捐。 The students raised money on campus for the disaster area.
基金会	jījīnhuì	foundation (charity)	这个基金会帮助山区的孩子上学。 This foundation helps children in the mountains go to school.
义工	yìgōng	volunteer	周末我在动物医院做义工。 At weekends I volunteer at an animal hospital.

荒	huāng	to neglect, let go to waste	这块地荒了好几年了。 This land has lain waste for years.

pattern 无a可b and 别看…… in the news

无 | a noun (A) | 可 | a verb (B)

无A可B means “there is no A to B”: 无家可归 “no home to return to”, 无路可走 “no way out”. 别看……，…… means “it may look …, but …”: 别看这条河很安静，发起大水来很可怕. Both turn up a lot in news reports.

大水过后，很多人无家可归。 **dà shuǐ guòhòu hěn duō rén wújiā kěguī** After the flood, many people had no home to go back to.

路都被冲断了，车无路可走。 **lù dōu bèi chōng duàn le chē wú lù kě zǒu** The roads were washed away, and cars had nowhere to go.

别看她个子小，搜救的时候比谁都快。 **biékàn tā gèzi xiǎo sōujiù de shíhou bǐ shéi dōu kuài** She may be small, but in a search and rescue she’s faster than anyone.

dialogue a call from the flood

editor lin 安娜，你看，南方那条河泛滥了。周博士的研究站就在河边那个小镇上。
Ānnà nǐ kàn nánfāng nà tiáo hé fànlàn le Zhōubóshì de yánjiū zhàn jiù zài hé biān nàge xiǎo zhèn shàng · Anna, look: that river in the south has burst its banks. Dr Zhou's research station is in the little town right by it.

anna 天啊！她没事吧？情况不妙，我马上给她打视频电话。
tiān a tā méishì ba qíngkuàng búmiào wǒ mǎshàng gěi tā dǎ shìpín diànhuà · Oh no! Is she all right? This doesn't look good: I'll video-call her right away.

dr zhou 我没事！昨天晚上收到暴雨预警，镇上提前疏散了老人和孩子，我们也连夜撤离了。
wǒ méishì zuótiān wǎnshang shōudào bàoyǔ yùjǐng zhèn shàng tíqián shūsàn le lǎorén hé háizi wǒmen yě liányè chèlí le · I'm fine! We got the rainstorm warning last night: the town evacuated the old people and children in advance, and we left overnight too.

editor lin 镇上的堤坝怎么样？网上说有一段堤倒塌了。
zhèn shàng de dībà zěnmeyàng wǎngshang shuō yǒu yí duàn dī dǎotā le · How are the town's dykes? People online are saying a section of embankment collapsed.

dr zhou 对，东边那段。上游开闸放水以后，水一下子就冲过来了，田里全涝了。
duì dōng biān nà duàn shàngyóu kāi zhá fàngshuǐ yǐhòu shuǐ yíxià zi jiù chōng guolai le tián lǐ quán lào le · Yes, the eastern stretch. After they opened the sluices upstream, the water came over all at once, and the fields are all waterlogged.

editor lin 水再涨下去，就会危及整个小镇。
shuǐ zài zhǎng xiaqu jiù huì wēijí zhěnggè xiǎo zhèn · If the water keeps rising, it'll put the whole town in danger.

anna 有人遇险吗？
yǒu rén yùxiǎn ma · Is anyone in danger?

dr zhou 有一家人困在楼顶上，搜救队用船把他们营救了出来。还有一辆车被冲进河里，刚刚打捞上来，车里没人。
yǒu yì jiā rén kùn zài lóu dǐng shàng sōujiù duì yòng chuán bǎ tāmen yíngjiù le chulai hái yǒu yí liàng chē bèi chōng jìn hé lǐ gānggāng dǎlāo shanglai chē lǐ méi rén · A family was stuck on their roof, and the rescue team got them out by boat. A car was also swept into the river and has just been pulled out: nobody was in it.

editor lin 那就好。我做了这么多年新闻，空难、海啸、大火烧毁整个村子……最怕听到有人遇难、丧生。
nà jiù hǎo wǒ zuò le zhème duō nián xīnwén kōngnàn hǎixiào dà huǒ shāohuǐ zhěnggè cūn zi zuì pà tīng dào yǒu rén yùnàn sàngshēng · Thank goodness. I've covered news for years: air crashes, tsunamis, fires burning down whole villages… What I dread most is hearing that people have died.

dr zhou 这次大家都幸存了，可是很多房子没能幸免，不少人无家可归。
zhè cì dàjiā dōu xìngcún le kěshì hěn duō fángzi méi néng xìngmiǎn bù shǎo rén wújiā kěguī · This time everyone survived, but a lot of houses didn't escape, and many people have nowhere to live.

anna 那他们现在在哪儿避难？
nà tāmen xiànzài zài nǎr bìnàn · So where are they sheltering now?

dr zhou 镇上的中学收留了两百多人。别看学校不大，应急的东西准备得很全：水、被子、方便面都有。
zhèn shàng de zhōngxué shōuliú le liǎngbǎi duō rén biékàn xuéxiào bú dà yìngjí de dōngxi zhǔnbèi de hěn quán shuǐ bèizi fāngbiànmiàn dōu yǒu · The town's secondary school has taken in over two hundred people. It may not be big, but it's well stocked for emergencies: water, quilts, instant noodles, the lot.

editor lin 我听说一个慈善基金会已经开始募捐了，政府也会发救济。
wǒ tīngshuō yí gè císhàn jījīnhuì yǐjīng kāishǐ mùjuān le zhèngfǔ yě huì fā jiùjì · I hear a charity foundation has already started raising money, and the government will give relief too.

anna 我们公司也可以捐献一些钱和物品。我还想去当义工！
wǒmen gōngsī yě kěyǐ juānxiàn yìxiē qián hé wùpǐn wǒ hái xiǎng qù dāng yìgōng · Our company could donate some money and supplies too. And I want to go and volunteer!

dr zhou 太好了！等水退了，要帮忙的事很多，任务很艰巨。田要是一直没人管，就荒了。
tài hǎo le děng shuǐ tuì le yào bāngmáng de shì hěn duō rènwu hěn jiānjù tián yàoshi yìzhí méi rén guǎn jiù huāng le · Wonderful! Once the water goes down there'll be lots to do: it's a huge task. If nobody looks after the fields, they'll go to waste.

editor lin 这次逃生的故事，我想写一篇报道。“防汛救人”，题目还可以再想想。
zhè cì táoshēng de gùshi wǒ xiǎng xiě yì piān bàodào fángxùn jiù rén tímù hái kěyǐ zài xiǎng xiang · I want to write a piece on how people got out this time. “Fighting the flood, saving lives”: the headline needs work.

dr zhou 写写那些不怕艰险、解救别人的普通人吧。拯救生命的，不只是英雄。
xiě xie nàxiē bú pà jiānxiǎn jiějiù biérén de pǔtōng rén ba zhěngjiù shēngmìng de bù zhǐshì yīngxióng · Write about the ordinary people who braved the danger to rescue others. It isn't only heroes who save lives.

anna 失事、遇难这些词，我希望在你的报道里一个都不要出现。
shīshì yùnàn zhèxiē cí wǒ xīwàng zài nǐ de bàodào lǐ yí gè dōu búyào chūxiàn · Words like “crash” and “killed”: I hope not one of them appears in your report.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

纲 gāng main rope

党 dǎng (political) party

吁 yù appeal

盟 méng alliance

good to know · 难 read nàn means disaster: 遇难 die in a disaster, 避难 take refuge, 空难 an air crash. Read nán it means difficult. Four ways to rescue: 救 (everyday), 营救 (an organised rescue), 解救 (free someone trapped), 拯救 (save, often grandly).

You can now follow disaster news in Chinese, and, more importantly, ask how to help.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 126 resources and pollution

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 17 · environment and change

Talk about natural resources, energy and pollution, and explain what makes a flood worse.

Energy and the environment come up everywhere, from the news to your electricity bill.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
采矿	cǎikuàng	to mine	这座山下面有煤，以前很多人在这里采矿。 There's coal under this mountain, and many people used to mine here.
开采	kāicǎi	to extract, mine	这里的石油已经开采了五十年。 The oil here has been extracted for fifty years.
勘探	kāntàn	to prospect, survey (for resources)	他们在沙漠里勘探了三年，终于找到了石油。 They prospected in the desert for three years and finally found oil.
矿	kuàng	mine; ore	这个矿已经关了十年了。 This mine has been closed for ten years.
矿藏	kuàngcáng	mineral deposits	这个地区的矿藏非常丰富。 This region is very rich in mineral deposits.
矿产	kuàngchǎn	minerals, mineral products	矿产资源不是用不完的。 Mineral resources won't last for ever.
储量	chǔliàng	reserves	专家说，这里的天然气储量很大。 Experts say the natural gas reserves here are large.
蕴藏	yùncáng	to hold in store, contain	大海里蕴藏着丰富的资源。 The sea holds rich resources.
煤炭	méitàn	coal	很多城市已经不再用煤炭取暖了。 Many cities no longer burn coal for heating.
炭	tàn	charcoal	爷爷用炭火烤红薯。 Grandpa roasts sweet potatoes over a charcoal fire.
柴油	cháiyóu	diesel	大卡车一般烧柴油。 Big lorries usually run on diesel.
燃油	rányóu	fuel oil, fuel	燃油价格又上涨了。 Fuel prices have gone up again.
燃气	ránqì	gas (for cooking, heating)	做完饭，记得关好燃气。 When you finish cooking, remember to turn off the gas.
能耗	nénghào	energy consumption	这台新冰箱的能耗比旧的低一半。 This new fridge uses half the energy of the old one.
尾气	wěiqì	exhaust (fumes)	汽车尾气是城市空气污染的原因之一。 Car exhaust is one of the causes of air pollution in cities.

超标	chāobiāo	to exceed the standard	检查发现，这家工厂排放的尾气超标了。 Tests found that the fumes from this factory exceed the limit.
泄漏	xièlòu	to leak	工厂的燃气泄漏了，附近的人都被疏散了。 Gas leaked from the factory, and people nearby were evacuated.
焚烧	fénshāo	to burn, incinerate	城市的垃圾不能随便焚烧。 A city's rubbish can't just be burned anywhere.
废品	fèipǐn	scrap, waste (items)	我把旧报纸当废品卖了。 I sold the old newspapers as scrap.
废弃	fèiqì	to discard; abandoned	山上有一个废弃的矿。 There's an abandoned mine on the mountain.
废物	fèiwù	waste; (insult) good-for-nothing	工厂的废物不能直接倒进河里。 Factory waste can't be dumped straight into the river.
净化	jìnghuà	to purify	湿地可以净化水。 Wetlands can purify water.
砍伐	kǎnfá	to fell, cut down (trees)	这片森林被砍伐了一大半。 More than half of this forest has been cut down.
流失	liúshī	to be lost, drain away	人才流失是这个小镇最大的问题。 Losing talented people is this town's biggest problem.
水土	shuǐtǔ	water and soil	树少了，水土就容易流失。 With fewer trees, the soil is easily washed away.
水源	shuǐyuán	water source	这条河是整个城市的水源。 This river is the whole city's water source.
水利	shuǐlì	water conservancy	这座水坝是这里最大的水利工程。 This dam is the biggest water project here.
湿地	shīdì	wetland	湿地被称为“地球之肾”。 Wetlands are called “the kidneys of the earth”.
绿地	lǜdì	green space	新小区里有一大片绿地。 The new housing estate has a big green space.
温室	wēnshì	greenhouse	冬天也能吃到温室里种的西红柿。 Even in winter you can eat tomatoes grown in greenhouses.
枯竭	kūjié	dried up, exhausted	这口井已经枯竭了。 This well has dried up.
灭绝	mièjué	to become extinct	这种鸟一百年前就灭绝了。 This bird became extinct a hundred years ago.
绝迹	juéjì	to disappear, die out	这种老手艺几乎已经绝迹了。 This old craft has almost died out.
濒危	bīnwēi	endangered, on the brink	大熊猫现在已经不再是濒危动物了。 Giant pandas are no longer an endangered species.
珍稀	zhēnxī	rare and precious	湿地是很多珍稀鸟类的家。 Wetlands are home to many rare birds.

pattern conditions inside conditions, and 虽说……但……

如果 A， **只要 B，** **就 C**

At this level one sentence can hold several conditions: 如果 sets the big “if”, and inside it 只要……就…… or 要是……就…… adds a smaller one. 虽说……，但/可…… means “true, …, but still …”, a softer, more spoken 虽然.

如果上游的森林还在，只要湿地不被填平，水就不会涨得这么快。 **rúguǒ shàngyóu de sēnlín hái zài zhǐyào shīdì bú bèi tián píng shuǐ jiù bú huì zhǎng de zhème kuài** If the forests upstream were still there, then as long as the wetlands weren’t filled in, the water wouldn’t rise this fast.

要是工厂不改，即使罚了款，河水也净化不了。 **yàoshi gōngchǎng bù gǎi jíshǐ fá le kuǎn hé shuǐ yě jìnghuà bu liǎo** If the factory doesn’t change, the river won’t get clean even if it is fined.

虽说煤炭便宜，可尾气和废物太多了。 **suīshuō méitàn piányi kě wěiqì hé fèiwù tài duō le** Coal may be cheap, but it leaves far too much exhaust and waste.

dialogue why the river rose

little sister 周博士，网上有人说，这次洪水就是天气不好，跟人没关系。您怎么看？
Zhōubóshì wǎngshang yǒu rén shuō zhè cì hóngshuǐ jiùshì tiānqì bù hǎo gēn rén méi guānxi nín zěnme kàn · Dr Zhou, people online say this flood was just bad weather and nothing to do with people. What do you think?

dr zhou 虽说雨下得特别大，可是人也有责任。你们看地图：上游这片山，三十年前全是森林，后来被砍伐了，水土大量流失。
suīshuō yǔ xià de tèbié dà kěshì rén yě yǒu zérèn nǐmen kàn dìtú shàngyóu zhè piàn shān sānshí nián qián quán shì sēnlín hòulái bèi kǎnfá le shuǐtǔ dàliàng liúshī · The rain was unusually heavy, true, but people are responsible too. Look at the map: thirty years ago these mountains upstream were all forest. Then they were cut down, and the soil washed away.

anna 我还听说那里以前有很多矿。
wǒ hái tīngshuō nàlǐ yǐqián yǒu hěn duō kuàng · I also heard there used to be a lot of mines there.

dr zhou 对。山里蕴藏着丰富的矿产，勘探的人一来，大家就开始采矿。煤炭、还有别的矿藏，开采了几十年。
duì shān lǐ yùncáng zhe fēngfù de kuàngchǎn kāntàn de rén yì lái dàjiā jiù kāishǐ cǎikuàng méitàn hái yǒu biéde kuàngcáng kāicǎi le jǐ shí nián · Yes. The mountains are rich in minerals: once the prospectors came, everyone started mining. Coal and other deposits were dug out for decades.

little sister 现在呢？
xiànzài ne · And now?

dr zhou 储量差不多枯竭了，留下一个个废弃的矿。下雨的时候，矿里的废物都被冲进河里，水源也被污染了，检查结果严重超标。
chǔliàng chàbuduō kūjié le liúxia yí gè gè fèiqì de kuàng xià yǔ de shíhou kuàng lǐ de fèiwù dōu bèi chōng jìn hé lǐ shuǐyuán yě bèi wūrǎn le jiǎnchá jiéguǒ yánzhòng chāobiāo · The reserves are almost exhausted, and there's one abandoned mine after another. When it rains, waste from the mines washes into the river, and the water supply gets polluted: the test results were way over the limit.

anna 那湿地呢？以前河边不是有一大片湿地吗？
nà shīdì ne yǐqián hé biān bú shì yǒu yí dàpiàn shīdì ma · What about the wetlands? Wasn't there a big wetland by the river?

dr zhou 湿地是天然的“海绵”：既能净化水，又能吸收洪水。可是后来湿地被填平，盖了温室和工厂。如果湿地还在，只要上游不再砍树，水就不会涨得这么快。
shīdì shì tiānrán de hǎimián jì néng jìnghuà shuǐ yòu néng xīshōu hóngshuǐ kěshì hòulái shīdì bèi tián píng gài le wēnshì hé gōngchǎng rúguǒ shīdì hái zài zhǐyào shàngyóu bú zài kǎn shù shuǐ jiù bú huì zhǎng de zhème kuài · Wetlands are natural sponges: they purify water and soak up floods. But they were filled in to build greenhouses and factories. If the wetland were still there, then as long as no more trees were cut upstream, the water wouldn't rise this fast.

little sister 我还看到新闻说，镇上一家工厂的燃气泄漏了，工人都疏散了。
wǒ hái kàn dào xīnwén shuō zhèn shàng yì jiā gōngchǎng de ránqì xièlòu le gōngrén dōu shūsàn le · I also saw news that gas leaked at a factory in town, and the workers were all evacuated.

dr zhou 幸好发现得早，没有人遇险。还有人在河边焚烧垃圾和废品，柴油、燃油到处都是。
xìnghǎo fāxiàn de zǎo méiyǒu rén yùxiǎn hái yǒu rén zài hé biān fénshāo lājī hé fèipǐn cháiyóu rányóu dàochù dōu shì · Luckily they found it early, and nobody was in danger. People had also been burning rubbish and scrap by the river, with diesel and fuel oil everywhere.

anna 我们在城市里也一样：汽车尾气、空调、暖气，能耗越来越高。
wǒmen zài chéngshì lǐ yě yíyàng qìchē wěiqì kōngtiáo nuǎnqì nénghào yuè lái yuè gāo · It's the same in the city: car exhaust, air conditioning, heating, using more and more energy.

dr zhou 所以要多种树、多留绿地。连我们家的炭火锅，我都改成电的了。
suǒyǐ yào duō zhòng shù duō liú lǜdì lián wǒmen jiā de tàn huǒguō wǒ dōu gǎi chéng diàn de le · So we need more trees and more green space. I've even switched our charcoal hotpot to an electric one.

little sister 那里的动物怎么样？
nàlǐ de dòngwù zěnmeyàng · How are the animals there?

dr zhou 河边有一种珍稀的鸟，现在是濒危动物。在别的地方，它已经绝迹了。如果再不保护，它就会灭绝。

hé biān yǒu yì zhǒng zhēnxī de niǎo xiànzài shì bīnwēi dòngwù zài biéde dìfang tā yǐjīng juéjì le rúguǒ zài bù bǎohù tā jiù huì mièjué · There's a rare bird by the river that is now endangered. Everywhere else, it has already disappeared. If it isn't protected, it will become extinct.

anna 政府打算怎么办？

zhèngfǔ dǎsuàn zěnme bàn · What is the government planning to do?

dr zhou 要修新的水利工程，还要把废弃的矿变成森林和湿地。要是大家都支持，用不了十年，就能看到变化。

yào xiū xīn de shuǐlì gōngchéng hái yào bǎ fèiqì de kuàng biànchéng sēnlín hé shīdì yàoshi dàjiā dōu zhīchí yòng bu liǎo shí nián jiù néng kàn dào biànhuà · They will build new water projects and turn the abandoned mines back into forest and wetland. If everyone supports it, we'll see the change within ten years.

anna 我们公司可以和慈善基金会一起捐献一些钱，帮镇上种树。

wǒmen gōngsī kěyǐ hé císhàn jījīnhuì yìqǐ juānxiàn yìxiē qián bāng zhèn shàng zhòng shù · Our company could work with a charity foundation and donate some money to help the town plant trees.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

驱
qū
drive

崛
jué
rise abruptly

昌
chāng
flourishing

彰
zhāng
make known

good to know · 废 means useless or abandoned: 废品 scrap, 废物 waste, 废弃 abandoned, 废水 waste water, 废话 nonsense. 矿 builds the mining words: 采矿 mine, 矿产 minerals, 矿藏 deposits, 煤矿 a coal mine, 矿泉水 mineral water.

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day 127 change and reform

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 17 · environment and change

Describe how a place or a company changes: starting out, turning points, reforms and milestones.

Every business plan, history book and news story about China talks about change, and it has dozens of words for it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
变革	biàngé	to transform; transformation	互联网给我们的生活带来了一场变革。 The internet has revolutionised our lives.
变更	biàngēng	to change, alter (plans, details)	会议时间有变更，请大家注意通知。 The meeting time has changed: please watch for the notice.
变故	biàngù	unforeseen misfortune	家里发生了变故，他只好回老家。 Something bad happened in his family, so he had to go home.
变换	biànhuàn	to vary, alternate	舞台上的灯光不停地变换颜色。 The stage lights kept changing colour.
变迁	biànqiān	changes (over time)	这本书|写的是一个小镇一百年的变迁。 This book is about a hundred years of change in a small town.
变形	biànxíng	to be deformed, lose shape	这个箱子被压得变形了。 This box has been crushed out of shape.
剧变	jùbiàn	drastic change	这几年，整个行业发生了剧变。 In the last few years the whole industry has changed beyond recognition.
沧桑	cāngsāng	great changes, the ups and downs of life	爷爷的脸上写满了沧桑。 Grandpa's face shows everything he has been through.
演变	yǎnbiàn	to evolve	汉字是从图画慢慢演变来的。 Chinese characters slowly evolved from pictures.
转化	zhuǎnhuà	to transform, convert	太阳能可以转化成电能。 Solar energy can be converted into electricity.
转型	zhuǎnxíng	to transform (a company, an economy)	这家老工厂正在转型，开始做新能源。 This old factory is transforming itself and moving into new energy.
转折	zhuǎnzhé	a turn, twist (in events)	这个故事的转折太突然了。 The twist in this story is too sudden.
转折点	zhuǎnzhédiǎn	turning point	那次比赛是他人生的转折点。 That match was the turning point of his life.
转机	zhuǎnjī	turn for the better	病人的情况有了转机{zhuan3ji1-7}。 The patient's condition has taken a turn for the better.

改动	gǎidòng	to alter, modify	这篇文章我只改动了几个字。 I only changed a few words in this article.
改观	gǎiguān	to change in appearance, look different	经过两年的努力，小镇大为改观。 After two years of work, the town looks completely different.
改良	gǎiliáng	to improve (a breed, method)	他们改良了这种水稻，产量高了很多。 They improved this rice variety and the yield went up a lot.
改装	gǎizhuāng	to refit, convert	他把一辆旧车改装成了咖啡车。 He converted an old car into a coffee van.
更改	gēnggǎi	to change, alter	密码已经更改了。 The password has been changed.
更正	gēngzhèng	to correct (a statement)	昨天的报道有一个错误，今天我们更正一下。 Yesterday's report had a mistake, which we're correcting today.
修正	xiūzhèng	to amend, revise	专家修正了原来的计划。 The experts revised the original plan.
革新	géxīn	to innovate	技术不断革新，手机越来越轻。 Technology keeps improving, and phones get lighter and lighter.
刷新	shuāxīn	to break (a record); refresh	他又刷新了自己的世界纪录。 He broke his own world record again.
首创	shǒuchuàng	to pioneer; first of its kind	这种做法是这个小镇首创的。 This approach was pioneered by this town.
创	chuàng	to create, start; achieve	他三十岁就创了一家公司。 He started a company at thirty.
开辟	kāipì	to open up	这里开辟了一条新的公交线路。 A new bus route has been opened here.
开拓	kāituò	to open up, pioneer	公司今年开拓了海外市场。 The company opened up overseas markets this year.
起步	qǐbù	to start, take the first step	我们的公司起步很晚，但是发展很快。 Our company started late, but it has grown fast.
入手	rùshǒu	to start with, begin from	学一门语言，要从听说入手。 To learn a language, start with listening and speaking.
着手	zhuóshǒu	to set about, get down to	我们已经着手准备新的项目了。 We've already got started on the new project.
下手	xiàshǒu	to start, get to work; make a move	这么多事，我都不知道从哪儿下手。 There's so much to do, I don't know where to start.
步入	bùrù	to step into, enter (a stage)	他们的公司已经步入了快速发展的时期。 Their company has entered a period of fast growth.
划时代	huàshídài	epoch-making	智能手机是一个划时代的产品。 The smartphone was an epoch-making product.
里程碑	lǐchéngbēi	milestone	这次合作是我们公司的里程碑。 This partnership is a milestone for our company.

突破口	tūpòkǒu	breakthrough point	解决这个问题，要先找到突破口。 To solve this problem, first find the breakthrough point.

pattern 尚且……何况…… and 到这个地步

A	尚且	can't / must	，何况	B	?

……尚且……，(更)何况…… argues from the stronger case: "even A …, so all the more B". X到这个地步 (or 到这个份上) says things have gone so far: 污染到这个地步 "polluted to this extent". Both make an argument sound urgent.

大城市尚且来不及预警，更何况一个小镇？ **dà chéngshì shàngqiě láibují yùjǐng gèng hékuàng yí gè xiǎo zhèn** Even big cities can't warn people in time, let alone a small town.

专家尚且说不清楚，何况我们？ **zhuānjiā shàngqiě shuō bu qīngchu hékuàng wǒmen** Even the experts can't explain it clearly, never mind us.

公司都困难到这个地步了，再不转型就晚了。 **gōngsī dōu kùnnan dào zhège dìbù le zài bù zhuǎnxíng jiù wǎn le** The company is in such trouble that if it doesn't change now, it'll be too late.

dialogue a town that changed

manager liu 安娜，周博士那个小镇怎么样了？
Ānnà Zhōubóshì nàge xiǎo zhèn zěnmeyàng le · Anna, how is Dr Zhou's town doing?

anna 水退了，可是大家心里都不好受。周博士给我讲了那里三十年的变迁，真是一部沧桑的历史。
shuǐ tuì le kěshì dàjiā xīnlǐ dōu bù hǎoshòu Zhōubóshì gěi wǒ jiǎng le nàlǐ sānshí nián de biànqiān zhēnshi yí bù cāngsāng de lìshǐ · The water has gone down, but everyone is shaken. Dr Zhou told me about thirty years of change there: quite a history of ups and downs.

manager liu 说来听听。
shuō lái tīng ting · Tell me.

anna 小镇是靠采矿起步的，后来矿藏枯竭了，经济剧变，年轻人都走了。很多家庭都经历过变故。
xiǎo zhèn shì kào cǎikuàng qǐbù de hòulái kuàngcáng kūjié le jīngjì jùbiàn niánqīng rén dōu zǒu le hěn duō jiātíng dōu jīnglì guo biàngù · The town started out on mining. Then the deposits ran out, the economy collapsed, and the young people left. Many families went through hard times.

manager liu 很多地方都是这样演变的。后来呢？
hěn duō dìfang dōu shì zhèyàng yǎnbiàn de hòulái ne · A lot of places have evolved like that. And then?

anna 十年前小镇开始转型，开辟了一片茶园，把旧工厂改装成了民宿，还改良了茶叶。小镇大为改观。
shí nián qián xiǎo zhèn kāishǐ zhuǎnxíng kāipì le yí piàn chá yuán bǎ jiù gōngchǎng gǎizhuāng chéng le mínsù hái gǎiliáng le cháyè xiǎo zhèn dàwéi gǎiguān · Ten years ago the town started to reinvent itself: it opened a tea garden, converted the old factory into guesthouses and improved its tea. The place looks completely different now.

manager liu 那这次洪水是一个转折，说不定也是小镇的转机。
nà zhè cì hóngshuǐ shì yí gè zhuǎnzhé shuōbudìng yě shì xiǎo zhèn de zhuǎnjī · So this flood is a turning point, and maybe a chance for the town to turn things around.

anna 对。我想做一个划时代的东西：给小镇做一个洪水预警的手机应用。大城市尚且来不及预警，何况一个小镇？
duì wǒ xiǎng zuò yí gè huàshídài de dōngxi gěi xiǎo zhèn zuò yí gè hóngshuǐ yùjǐng de shǒujī yìngyòng dà chéngshì shàngqiě láibují yùjǐng hékuàng yí gè xiǎo zhèn · Yes. I want to make something groundbreaking: a flood early-warning app for small towns. Even big cities can't warn people in time, let alone a small town.

manager liu 有意思。说实话，我们公司也正想开拓新的方向。老业务做到这个地步，不革新不行了。这对我们也是一场变革。
yǒu yìsi shuō shíhuà wǒmen gōngsī yě zhèng xiǎng kāituò xīn de fāngxiàng lǎo yèwù zuò dào zhège dìbù bù géxīn bùxíng le zhè duì wǒmen yě shì yì chǎng biàngé · Interesting. To be honest, our company is looking for a new direction too. The old business has got to the point where we have to innovate. It'll be a revolution for us too.

anna 我已经着手准备了。周博士说，可以从河边的水位数据入手，这就是突破口。
wǒ yǐjīng zhuóshǒu zhǔnbèi le Zhōubóshì shuō kěyǐ cóng hé biān de shuǐ wèi shùjù rùshǒu zhè jiùshì tūpòkǒu · I've already started on it. Dr Zhou says we can start with the river's water-level data: that's our way in.

manager liu 镇上的人刚刚从大水里逃生，这个应用对他们很重要。
zhèn shàng de rén gānggāng cóng dà shuǐ lǐ táoshēng zhège yìngyòng duì tāmen hěn zhòngyào · The people in that town have only just escaped the flood: this app matters a lot to them.

manager liu 计划要是有变更，或者要更改时间，先跟我说。
jìhuà yàoshi yǒu biàngēng huòzhě yào gēnggǎi shíjiān xiān gēn wǒ shuō · If the plan changes, or the timing needs altering, tell me first.

anna 好的。手机屏幕会根据危险程度变换颜色：绿色、黄色、红色。
hǎo de shǒujī píngmù huì gēnjù wēixiǎn chéngdù biànhuàn yánsè lǜsè huángsè hóngsè · Of course. The screen will change colour depending on the danger: green, amber, red.

manager liu 计划书写好以后给我看。上次的报告里有个数字错了，记得更正一下。
jìhuà shū xiě hǎo yǐhòu gěi wǒ kàn shàng cì de bàogào lǐ yǒu gè shùzì cuò le jìde gēngzhèng yíxià · Show me the proposal when it's written. One figure in your last report was wrong: remember to correct it.

anna 已经修正了。我只改动了那一个地方。
yǐjīng xiūzhèng le wǒ zhǐ gǎidòng le nà yí gè dìfang · It's already fixed. That was the only change I made.

manager liu 不过别急着下手。先把需求想清楚，再把技术转化成产品。
búguò bié jí zhe xiàshǒu xiān bǎ xūqiú xiǎng qīngchu zài bǎ jìshù zhuǎnhuà chéng chǎnpǐn · But don't rush in. Get clear on what people need first, then turn the technology into a product.

anna 明白。要是做成了，这就是全国首创。
míngbai yàoshi zuò chéng le zhè jiùshì quán guó shǒuchuàng · Understood. If we pull it off, it'll be the first of its kind in the country.

manager liu 那就是公司的一个里程碑。我们也算步入新的阶段了。
nà jiùshì gōngsī de yí gè lǐchéngbēi wǒmen yě suàn bùrù xīn de jiēduàn le · Then it'll be a milestone for the company. We'll be entering a new stage.

anna 说不定还能刷新我们的下载纪录！
shuōbudìng hái néng shuāxīn wǒmen de xiàzài jìlù · We might even break our download record!

manager liu 先别想纪录了。我们创过不少纪录，可是这一次，是为了救人。
xiān bié xiǎng jìlù le wǒmen chuàng guo bù shǎo jìlù kěshì zhè yí cì shì wèile jiù rén · Forget records for now. We've set plenty of records before, but this time it's about saving lives.

anna 对了，我的手机都被我摔得变形了，项目一开始就得换一个！
duì le wǒ de shǒujī dōu bèi wǒ shuāi de biànxíng le xiàngmù yì kāishǐ jiù děi huàn yí gè · Oh, and I've dropped my phone so often it's bent out of shape: I'll need a new one as soon as the project starts!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

帜 zhì banner

峻 jùn steep

涝 lào waterlogged (fields)

堤 dī dyke, embankment

good to know · 转 starts the words for turning: 转型 transform (a business), 转折 a twist, 转折点 turning point, 转机 a turn for the better, 转化 convert. Where to start? 起步 start out, 入手 start from (a point), 着手 set about, 下手 get to work (or, careful, "make a move against").

Turning points, milestones, a way in: you can now pitch a plan for change in Chinese.
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day 128 trends and signs

Talk about trends, early signs and turning points, and say whether things are likely to happen.

Reports, news and meetings are full of trends and signs: this is the language of forecasts.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
动向	dòngxiàng	movement, trend	我们要随时关注市场的动向。 We need to keep an eye on how the market is moving.
走向	zǒuxiàng	direction, trend; to head towards	这次会议会影响整个行业的走向。 This meeting will shape the direction of the whole industry.
流向	liúxiàng	direction of flow	我们要查清楚这笔钱的流向。 We need to find out where this money went.
势头	shìtou	momentum, trend	今年的销售势头很好。 Sales have good momentum this year.
态势	tàishì	situation, posture	两家公司形成了竞争的态势。 The two companies are now squaring up to compete.
事态	shìtài	state of affairs (usually bad)	政府正在努力控制事态。 The government is trying to keep the situation under control.
大局	dàjú	the overall situation	他做事总是从大局出发。 He always acts with the bigger picture in mind.
全局	quánjú	the situation as a whole	当领导的要看全局，不能只看自己的部门。 A leader must see the whole picture, not just their own department.
格局	géjú	pattern, structure, layout	这套房子的格局很好，客厅很大。 The layout of this flat is good: the living room is big.
趋于	qūyú	to tend towards	天气趋于稳定，这周不会再下大雨了。 The weather is settling: no more heavy rain this week.
迹象	jìxiàng	sign, indication	现在还没有下雨的迹象。 There's no sign of rain yet.
苗头	miáotou	early sign (often of trouble)	发现不好的苗头，要马上处理。 When you spot early signs of trouble, deal with them at once.
预示	yùshì	to herald, foreshadow	早上的乌云预示着下午会有暴雨。 The dark clouds this morning signal a storm this afternoon.
曙光	shǔguāng	dawn; first light of hope	新药的出现给病人带来了曙光。 The new drug has brought a glimmer of hope to patients.
契机	qìjī	opportunity, moment	这次危机也是一个改变的契机。 This crisis is also a chance for change.

巧合	qiǎohé	coincidence; coincidental	我们穿了一样的衣服，真是巧合！ We're wearing the same outfit: what a coincidence!
热潮	rècháo	craze, upsurge	最近又掀起了一股学中文的热潮。 There's a new wave of enthusiasm for learning Chinese.
冷门	lěngmén	unpopular; a long shot	十年前，这还是个冷门专业。 Ten years ago, this was still an unpopular subject.
超前	chāoqián	ahead of its time; to be ahead	他的设计太超前了，当时没人理解。 His design was too far ahead of its time: nobody understood it then.
空前	kōngqián	unprecedented	这次比赛的规模是空前的。 This competition is on an unprecedented scale.
进程	jìnchéng	process, course (of events)	城市化的进程越来越快。 Urbanisation is speeding up.
历程	lìchéng	course, journey (of experience)	她在书里写了自己创业的历程。 In her book she writes about her journey as an entrepreneur.
漫	màn	to overflow; everywhere	河水漫过了路面。 The river overflowed onto the road.
有望	yǒuwàng	to be hopeful of, be likely to	这个项目有望在年底完成。 The project should be finished by the end of the year.
注定	zhùdìng	to be destined, doomed	这样做注定会失败。 Doing it this way is doomed to fail.
自发	zìfā	spontaneous	很多年轻人自发组织起来去救灾。 Many young people organised themselves to help in the disaster.
诱发	yòufā	to cause, trigger	压力太大，诱发了他的心脏病。 Too much stress brought on his heart problems.
衍生	yǎnshēng	to derive, produce (new things)	这个电影衍生出了很多玩具和游戏。 This film spun off lots of toys and games.
滋生	zīshēng	to breed, grow (usually bad things)	天气潮湿，容易滋生细菌。 Damp weather easily breeds bacteria.
酝酿	yùnniàng	to brew; prepare (a plan)	公司正在酝酿一个大计划。 The company is preparing a big plan.
迭起	diéqǐ	to happen one after another	比赛中高潮迭起，观众都站了起来。 The match had one high point after another, and the crowd was on its feet.
迸发	bèngfā	to burst out	大家的热情一下子迸发了出来。 Everyone's enthusiasm suddenly burst out.
掀起	xiānqǐ	to set off (a wave)	这篇文章掀起了一场讨论。 This article set off a debate.
显现	xiǎnxiàn	to appear, become visible	改革的效果已经开始显现。 The effects of the reform are starting to show.
显露	xiǎnlù	to reveal, show	她脸上显露出了一丝笑容。 A faint smile showed on her face.

pattern x也好，y也罢 and 不知……才好

X | **也好，** | **Y** | **也罢，** | **it's the same**

X也好，Y也罢 means "whether X or Y, it makes no difference", and the next clause says what stays the same. 不知X是好 / 不知X才好 means "not know what to X": 不知怎么办才好 "not know what to do".

下雨也好，不下雨也罢，预警都要提前发。 **xià yǔ yěhǎo bú xià yǔ yěbà yùjǐng dōu yào tíqián fā** Rain or no rain, the warnings have to go out early.

大城市也好，小镇也罢，都需要应急计划。 **dà chéngshì yěhǎo xiǎo zhèn yěbà dōu xūyào yìngjí jìhuà** Big city or small town, everyone needs an emergency plan.

事态发展得这么快，大家都不知怎么办才好。 **shìtài fāzhǎn de zhème kuài dàjiā dōu bù zhī zěnme bàn cái hǎo** Things moved so fast that nobody knew what to do.

dialogue thirty years of rain

dr zhou 你们看这张图。三十年来，这条河的雨量趋于集中，暴雨越来越多。这个走向很明显。

nǐmen kàn zhè zhāng tú sānshí nián lái zhè tiáo hé de yǔ liàng qūyú jízhōng bàoyǔ yuè lái yuè duō zhège zǒuxiàng hěn míngxiǎn · Look at this chart. Over thirty years, the river's rain has come in shorter, heavier bursts, with more and more storms. The trend is very clear.

anna 这么多年的数据，看得我都不知说什么才好。

zhème duō nián de shùjù kàn de wǒ dōu bù zhī shuō shénme cái hǎo · Looking at this many years of data, I don't know what to say.

dr zhou 更可怕的是，暴雨很容易诱发别的灾害。洪水退了，又会滋生细菌。

gèng kěpà de shì bàoyǔ hěn róngyì yòufā biéde zāihài hóngshuǐ tuì le yòu huì zīshēng xìjūn · Worse still, heavy rain easily triggers other disasters. And when the floodwater goes, it breeds bacteria.

editor lin 那今年的洪水是巧合，还是早就注定了？

nà jīnnián de hóngshuǐ shì qiǎohé háishi zǎo jiù zhùdìng le · So was this year's flood bad luck, or was it bound to happen?

dr zhou 不是巧合。几年前就有苗头了：河水好几次漫过路面，只是没有人重视。这些迹象都预示着会有大洪水。

bú shì qiǎohé jǐ nián qián jiù yǒu miáotou le hé shuǐ hǎo jǐ cì màn guò lùmiàn zhǐshì méiyǒu rén zhòngshì zhèxiē jìxiàng dōu yùshì zhe huì yǒu dà hóngshuǐ · Not bad luck. There were early signs years ago: the river spilled over the road several times, but nobody took it seriously. All of it pointed to a big flood.

anna 那现在的态势呢？

nà xiànzài de tàishì ne · And where do things stand now?

dr zhou 现在天气趋于稳定，水的流向也正常了，事态已经控制住了。不过从全局来看，危险并没有过去。

xiànzài tiānqì qūyú wěndìng shuǐ de liúxiàng yě zhèngcháng le shìtài yǐjīng kòngzhì zhù le búguò cóng quánjú lái kàn wēixiǎn bìng méiyǒu guòqù · The weather is settling and the water is flowing normally again, so the situation is under control. But looking at the whole picture, the danger hasn't passed.

editor lin 我有个好消息：我的报道发出去以后，网上掀起了一股做义工的热潮。几千个年轻人自发报名去小镇帮忙，这是空前的。

wǒ yǒu gè hǎo xiāoxi wǒ de bàodào fā chuqu yǐhòu wǎngshang xiānqǐ le yì gǔ zuò yìgōng de rècháo jǐ qiān gè niánqīng rén zìfā bàomíng qù xiǎo zhèn bāngmáng zhè shì kōngqián de · I have good news: since my story went out, there's been a wave of volunteering online. Thousands of young people have signed up on their own to help the town: it's never happened before.

anna 太好了！大家的热情一下子迸发出来了。

tài hǎo le dàjiā de rèqíng yíxià zi bèngfā chulai le · Wonderful! Everyone's enthusiasm has just burst out.

editor lin 后面的事也是高潮迭起：有人捐钱，有人捐车，还衍生出了一个“小镇的故事”的视频系列。

hòumiàn de shì yě shì gāocháo diéqǐ yǒu rén juān qián yǒu rén juān chē hái yǎnshēng chū le yí gè xiǎo zhèn de gùshi de shìpín xìliè · And it hasn't stopped: people donating money, people donating cars, and it's even spun off a video series, “Stories from the town”.

anna 听说这个视频系列还刷新了网站的纪录！

tīngshuō zhège shìpín xìliè hái shuāxīn le wǎngzhàn de jìlù · I heard the video series has even broken the site's record!

dr zhou 这对小镇是一个契机，说不定还是一个转机。灾难过后，总会显现出一些新的曙光。

zhè duì xiǎo zhèn shì yí gè qìjī shuōbudìng háishi yí gè zhuǎnjī zāinàn guòhòu zǒng huì xiǎnxiàn chū yìxiē xīn de shǔguāng · This is an opportunity for the town, maybe even a turn for the better. After a disaster, new hope always starts to show.

anna 我们公司也在酝酿一个预警应用，我已经着手设计了。刘经理说要从大局出发，不能只想着赚钱。

wǒmen gōngsī yě zài yùnniàng yí gè yùjǐng yìngyòng wǒ yǐjīng zhuóshǒu shèjì le Liújīnglǐ shuō yào cóng dàjú chūfā bù néng zhǐ xiǎng zhe zhuàn qián · Our company is preparing an early-warning app too, and I've already started designing it. Manager Liu says we have to think of the bigger picture, not just making money.

editor lin 这个应用会不会太超前了？小镇上很多老人不会用智能手机。
zhège yìngyòng huì bu huì tài chāoqián le xiǎo zhèn shàng hěn duō lǎorén bú huì yòng zhìnéng shǒujī · Isn't the app a bit ahead of its time? Lots of old people in the town can't use smartphones.

anna 我们也想到了。手机也好，广播也罢，预警都要让每个人收到。
wǒmen yě xiǎng dào le shǒujī yěhǎo guǎngbō yěbà yùjǐng dōu yào ràng měi gè rén shōudào · We've thought of that. Phone or radio, every warning has to reach everyone.

dr zhou 那你们要关注一下政府防汛工作的动向，最好一起合作。
nà nǐmen yào guānzhù yíxià zhèngfǔ fángxùn gōngzuò de dòngxiàng zuìhǎo yìqǐ hézuò · Then keep an eye on what the government is doing on flood prevention: ideally, work with them.

editor lin 我想写一篇长文章，讲讲小镇从洪水到重建的整个历程，还有城市化进程中的小镇格局。
wǒ xiǎng xiě yì piān cháng wénzhāng jiǎng jiang xiǎo zhèn cóng hóngshuǐ dào chóngjiàn de zhěnggè lìchéng hái yǒu chéngshì huà jìnchéng zhōng de xiǎo zhèn géjú · I want to write a long piece on the town's whole journey from the flood to rebuilding, and how small towns fit into the urbanisation picture.

anna 小镇这个题目，以前是冷门，现在大家都在看。
xiǎo zhèn zhège tímù yǐqián shì lěngmén xiànzài dàjiā dōu zài kàn · Small towns used to be a niche subject. Now everyone's reading about them.

dr zhou 只要势头不变，这个应用有望年底上线。
zhǐyào shìtou bú biàn zhège yìngyòng yǒuwàng niándǐ shàng xiàn · If things keep going like this, the app could be live by the end of the year.

editor lin 周博士，说到这儿，您脸上终于显露出笑容了。
Zhōubóshì shuō dào zhèr nín liǎn shàng zhōngyú xiǎnlù chū xiàoróng le · Dr Zhou, you're finally smiling.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

闸
zhá
sluice gate; to dam, stop

塌
tā
to collapse, cave in

捞
lāo
to fish out, scoop up

募
mù
collect, recruit

good to know · 向 makes direction words: 动向 where something is moving, 走向 the way it is heading, 流向 where water or money flows. Bad signs and good signs: 苗头 is usually an early warning of trouble; 曙光 is the first light of hope.

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day 129 gathering and spreading

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 17 · environment and change

Describe people and things coming together and spreading: crowds gathering, help pouring in, news spreading.

Whether it is water, money, people or news, gathering and spreading is how reports describe big events.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
汇合	huìhé	to join, converge	两条河在城外汇合。 The two rivers meet outside the city.
汇集	huìjí	to collect, compile	这本书汇集了一百个小故事。 This book collects a hundred short stories.
汇聚	huìjù	to gather, assemble	广场上汇聚了几千人。 Several thousand people gathered in the square.
凝聚	níngjù	to bring together, unite; condense	这次活动凝聚了大家的力量。 This event brought everyone's strength together.
积	jī	to accumulate, pile up	桌子上积了厚厚的一层土。 A thick layer of dust has built up on the table.
累积	lěijī	to accumulate	他在这家公司累积了十年的经验。 He built up ten years of experience at this company.
吸纳	xīnà	to take in, absorb	这个城市每年吸纳很多年轻人。 This city takes in lots of young people every year.
容纳	róngnà	to hold, have room for	这个体育馆能容纳一万人。 This stadium holds ten thousand people.
涵盖	hángài	to cover, include	这门课涵盖了中国两千年的历史。 This course covers two thousand years of Chinese history.
纳入	nàrù	to bring into, include in	这个项目已经被纳入了明年的计划。 This project has been included in next year's plan.
夹杂	jiāzá	to be mixed with	风里夹杂着雨点。 The wind was mixed with drops of rain.
交织	jiāozhī	to interweave	她心里高兴和难过交织在一起。 Joy and sadness were mixed up together inside her.
贯穿	guànchuān	to run through	这条河贯穿整个城市。 This river runs right through the city.
渗透	shèntòu	to seep; permeate	雨水渗透到了地下。 The rain seeped into the ground.
波及	bōjí	to spread to, affect	这次洪水波及了五个县。 This flood affected five counties.

散落	sànluò	to be scattered	地上散落着很多纸。 There are bits of paper scattered all over the floor.
融	róng	to melt; blend in	春天到了，山上的雪开始融了。 Spring has come, and the snow on the mountains is starting to melt.
消	xiāo	to disappear, subside; dispel	等水消了，我们再回去。 We'll go back once the water has gone down.
销	xiāo	to sell; cancel	这批货一个星期就销完了。 This batch of goods sold out in a week.
泄	xiè	to let out, release; vent	他们把水库里的水泄出去一部分。 They let some of the water out of the reservoir.
充	chōng	to fill, charge	我的手机没电了，在哪儿能充一下? My phone's dead: where can I charge it?
充斥	chōngchì	to be full of, flood (usually bad)	网上充斥着各种假消息。 The internet is flooded with all kinds of fake news.
饱和	bǎohé	saturated	这个市场已经饱和了。 This market is already saturated.
爆满	bàomǎn	to be packed, full house	演出那天，剧场爆满。 On the night of the show, the theatre was packed.
增添	zēngtiān	to add	这些小花给房间增添了不少颜色。 These little flowers add a lot of colour to the room.
占用	zhànyòng	to occupy, take up	对不起，占用你几分钟时间。 Sorry, can I take a few minutes of your time?
动用	dòngyòng	to use, draw on (resources)	这次救灾，政府动用了大量的人力。 The government drew on huge numbers of people for this disaster relief.
借用	jièyòng	to borrow, make use of	我借用一下你的笔，可以吗? Can I borrow your pen for a moment?
选用	xuǎnyòng	to choose and use	我们选用了最好的材料。 We chose the best materials.
沿用	yányòng	to continue to use	这个小镇一直沿用老名字。 The town has always kept its old name.
启用	qǐyòng	to start using, bring into use	新的火车站下个月启用。 The new railway station opens next month.
依托	yītuō	to rely on, be based on	这个应用依托当地的气象数据。 This app relies on local weather data.
惯	guàn	to be used to; to spoil (a child)	别把孩子惯坏了。 Don't spoil the child.
开动	kāidòng	to start (a machine), set going	车开动了，大家向我们挥手。 The truck set off, and everyone waved to us.

pattern chains of cause and effect, and 不a而b

由于 A，　(加上 B，)　所以 C，　因此 D

One sentence can hold a chain: 由于 A (加上 B), 所以 C, 因此 D: each result becomes the cause of the next. 不A而B means “B without A”: 不约而同 “do the same thing without arranging it”, 不言而喻 “it goes without saying”.

由于消息传得快，加上大家都很热心，所以东西汇集得很快，因此我们提前出发了。
yóuyú xiāoxi chuán de kuài jiāshàng dàjiā dōu hěn rèxīn suǒyǐ dōngxi huìjí de hěn kuài yīncǐ wǒmen tíqián chūfā le
Because word spread fast and everyone was so keen, the donations came in quickly, so we set off early.

因为河水上涨，所以堤坝被冲坏了，结果整个小镇都被波及了。 **yīnwèi hé shuǐ shàngzhǎng suǒyǐ dībà bèi chōng huài le jiéguǒ zhěnggè xiǎo zhèn dōu bèi bōjí le** The river rose and washed away the dyke, so the whole town was affected.

看到小镇的照片，大家不约而同地哭了。 **kàn dào xiǎo zhèn de zhàopiàn dàjiā bùyuēértóng de kū le**
Seeing the pictures of the town, everyone started crying at the same time.

dialogue loading the trucks

xiaoming 哇，体育馆能容纳一万人，今天都爆满了！
wā tǐyùguǎn néng róngnà yí wàn rén jīntiān dōu bàomǎn le · Wow, the sports centre holds ten thousand people, and today it's packed!

little sister 我们班的同学不约而同都来了。我只在群里说了一句，大家就从城市各个地方汇聚到这儿。这完全是自发的。
wǒmen bān de tóngxué bùyuēértóng dōu lái le wǒ zhǐ zài qún lǐ shuō le yí jù dàjiā jiù cóng chéngshì gègè dìfang huìjù dào zhèr zhè wánquán shì zìfā de · Everyone in my class turned up without even planning it. I only posted one line in our group chat, and people came from all over the city. It was completely spontaneous.

anna 林编辑说，这次洪水一共波及了五个县，那个小镇最严重。
Línbiānjí shuō zhè cì hóngshuǐ yígòng bōjí le wǔ gè xiàn nàge xiǎo zhèn zuì yánzhòng · Editor Lin says the flood hit five counties in all, and that town was the worst.

xiaoming 由于消息传得快，加上大家都很热心，所以东西汇集得特别快，因此卡车提前开动了。
yóuyú xiāoxi chuán de kuài jiāshàng dàjiā dōu hěn rèxīn suǒyǐ dōngxi huìjí de tèbié kuài yīncǐ kǎchē tíqián kāidòng le · Because word spread fast and everyone was so keen, the donations came in really quickly, so the trucks are leaving early.

little sister 可是网上也充斥着假消息，说捐的钱都被人借用了。
kěshì wǎngshang yě chōngchì zhe jiǎ xiāoxi shuō juān de qián dōu bèi rén jièyòng le · But the internet is full of fake stories too, saying the donated money has been "borrowed".

anna 所以基金会把每一笔捐款都纳入了公开的系统，谁都能查。这次的捐款涵盖了水、药、被子和孩子的书。
suǒyǐ jījīnhuì bǎ měi yì bǐ juānkuǎn dōu nàrù le gōngkāi de xìtǒng shéi dōu néng chá zhè cì de juānkuǎn hángài le shuǐ yào bèizi hé háizi de shū · That's why the foundation puts every donation into a public system that anyone can check. The donations cover water, medicine, quilts and books for the children.

xiaoming 政府也动用了很多人和车。听说镇上新的学校下个月启用。
zhèngfǔ yě dòngyòng le hěn duō rén hé chē tīngshuō zhèn shàng xīn de xuéxiào xià gè yuè qǐyòng · The government has also brought in lots of people and vehicles. I hear the town's new school opens next month.

anna 还是沿用以前的名字，选用的是更结实的材料。我们的预警应用也会依托学校的广播。
háishi yányòng yǐqián de míngzi xuǎnyòng de shì gèng jiēshi de cáiliào wǒmen de yùjǐng yìngyòng yě huì yītuō xuéxiào de guǎngbō · It's keeping its old name, but they've chosen stronger materials. Our warning app will use the school's loudspeakers too.

xiaoming 听说镇上的义工已经饱和了，基金会说新报名的人先别去。
tīngshuō zhèn shàng de yìgōng yǐjīng bǎohé le jījīnhuì shuō xīn bàomíng de rén xiān bié qù · I hear the town already has more volunteers than it can use: the foundation says new sign-ups should hold off.

little sister 安娜，占用你一分钟：这些书放哪儿？
Ānnà zhànyòng nǐ yì fēnzhōng zhèxiē shū fàng nǎr · Anna, give me a minute: where do these books go?

anna 放在第三辆车上。小心，地上散落着很多瓶子。
fàng zài dì sān liàng chē shàng xiǎoxīn dì shàng sànluò zhe hěn duō píngzi · On the third truck. Careful, there are bottles all over the floor.

xiaoming 周博士说，镇上的积水还没消，水已经渗透到墙里了。上游的水库还在往外泄水，不过水位已经有下降的迹象了。
Zhōubóshì shuō zhèn shàng de jī shuǐ hái méi xiāo shuǐ yǐjīng shèntòu dào qiáng lǐ le shàngyóu de shuǐkù hái zài wǎng wài xiè shuǐ búguò shuǐ wèi yǐjīng yǒu xiàjiàng de jìxiàng le · Dr Zhou says the standing water in the town still hasn't gone, and it's soaked into the walls. The reservoir upstream is still letting water out, but there are signs the level is starting to drop.

little sister 那里的人会不会住不惯临时的房子？
nàlǐ de rén huì bu huì zhù bú guàn línshí de fángzi · Will people there be able to get used to temporary housing?

anna 慢慢就惯了。这次的事凝聚了大家的力量，镇上的人说，他们感觉自己不是一个人。
màn màn jiù guàn le zhè cì de shì níngjù le dàjiā de lìliàng zhèn shàng de rén shuō tāmen gǎnjué zìjǐ bú shì yí gè rén · They'll get used to it. This has brought everyone together: the townspeople say they don't feel alone.

xiaoming 我们公司也吸纳了几个小镇的年轻人，给他们一个工作。
wǒmen gōngsī yě xīnà le jǐ gè xiǎo zhèn de niánqīng rén gěi tāmen yí gè gōngzuò · Our company has also taken on a few young people from the town and given them jobs.

little sister 我的手机快没电了，哪儿能充一下？我要拍视频！
wǒ de shǒujī kuài méi diàn le nǎr néng chōng yíxià wǒ yào pāi shìpín · My phone's nearly dead: where can I charge it? I want to film this!

anna 那边有电。你的视频一定能给活动增添不少人气。
nàbiān yǒu diàn nǐ de shìpín yídìng néng gěi huódòng zēngtiān bù shǎo rénqì · There's power over there. Your video is sure to bring the event a lot of attention.

xiaoming 这些天，难过和感动交织在一起。累积了这么多年的经验，我第一次觉得工作这么有意义。
zhèxiē tiān nánguò hé gǎndòng jiāozhī zài yìqǐ lěijī le zhème duō nián de jīngyàn wǒ dì yī cì juéde gōngzuò zhème yǒu yìyì · These past few days, sadness and being moved have been all mixed up together. After all these years of work, it's the first time I've felt it really means something.

little sister 风里夹杂着雨点，又要下雨了吗？
fēng lǐ jiāzá zhe yǔ diǎn yòu yào xià yǔ le ma · There's rain in the wind: is it going to rain again?

anna 不会，天气预报说下午就晴了。看，第一辆车开动了！
bú huì tiānqì yùbào shuō xiàwǔ jiù qíng le kàn dì yī liàng chē kāidòng le · No, the forecast says it'll clear up this afternoon. Look, the first truck is off!

xiaoming 两条路上的车会在城外汇合，一起去小镇。帮助别人的意义，不言而喻。
liǎng tiáo lùshang de chē huì zài chéng wài huìhé yìqǐ qù xiǎo zhèn bāngzhù biérén de yìyì bùyánéryù · The trucks on the two roads will meet up outside the city and go to the town together. Why we do this goes without saying.

little sister 这些温暖贯穿了整个夏天。我的心都要融了！
zhèxiē wēnnuǎn guànchuān le zhěnggè xiàtiān wǒ de xīn dōu yào róng le · This warmth has run through the whole summer. My heart is melting!

xiaoming 对小镇来说，这就是新的曙光。
duì xiǎo zhèn lái shuō zhè jiùshì xīn de shǔguāng · For the town, this is a new dawn.

anna 还有好消息：小镇的茶叶在网上卖得特别好，一个星期就销完了！
hái yǒu hǎo xiāoxi xiǎo zhèn de cháyè zài wǎngshang mài de tèbié hǎo yí gè xīngqī jiù xiāo wán le · And more good news: the town's tea is selling brilliantly online. It sold out in a week!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

炭
tàn
charcoal

拓
tuò
expand

凝
níng
condense

渗 shèn seep, soak through														

good to know · 汇 means streams flowing together: 汇合 join up, 汇集 collect, 汇聚 gather. 聚 is people gathering; 集 is things being collected. 用 at the end: 占用 take up, 动用 draw on, 借用 borrow, 选用 choose, 沿用 keep using, 启用 start using. The first character says how.

Crowds gathering, help pouring in, news spreading: you can now describe a whole city coming together.
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day 130 change in four characters

Describe change, surprise and variety with four-character idioms, and use the frames 可A可B, 连A带B and 自A自B.

Good written Chinese packs a whole story into four characters: editors expect it, and readers enjoy it.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
日新月异	rìxīnyuèyì	changing with each passing day	这几年，科技的发展日新月异。 Technology is changing by the day.
千变万化	qiānbiànwànhuà	ever-changing	山里的天气千变万化。 The weather in the mountains is always changing.
变幻莫测	biànhuànmòcè	changeable and unpredictable	市场变幻莫测，谁也说不准。 The market is unpredictable: nobody can say for sure.
翻天覆地	fāntiānfùdì	earth-shaking, world-changing	这三十年，小镇发生了翻天覆地的变化。 The town has changed out of all recognition in thirty years.
焕然一新	huànrányīxīn	looking brand new	房子重新装修以后，焕然一新。 After the renovation, the house looks brand new.
面目全非	miànmùquánfēi	changed beyond recognition (for the worse)	大水过后，老街面目全非。 After the flood, the old street was unrecognisable.
一成不变	yīchéngbùbiàn	unchanging, set in its ways	世界在变，我们的方法不能一成不变。 The world is changing: our methods can't stay the same for ever.
一如既往	yīrújìwǎng	just as before, as always	我们会一如既往地支持你。 We'll support you just as we always have.
与时俱进	yǔshíjùjìn	to keep up with the times	传统的手艺也要与时俱进。 Even traditional crafts have to move with the times.
与日俱增	yǔrìjùzēng	to grow day by day	他对中国文化的兴趣与日俱增。 His interest in Chinese culture grows by the day.
愈演愈烈	yùyǎnyùliè	to get worse and worse	雨愈演愈烈，到了晚上变成了暴雨。 The rain got heavier and heavier, and by night it was a storm.
欣欣向荣	xīnxīnxiàngróng	thriving, flourishing	春天到了，到处欣欣向荣。 Spring has come, and everything is flourishing.
朝气蓬勃	zhāoqìpéngbó	full of youthful energy	这些年轻人朝气蓬勃，让小镇热闹了起来。 These young people are full of energy and have brought the town to life.
势不可当	shìbùkědāng	unstoppable	新能源汽车的发展势不可当。 The rise of electric cars is unstoppable.

摇摇欲坠	yáoyáoyùzhuì	tottering, about to fall	那座老桥已经摇摇欲坠了。 That old bridge is on the verge of collapse.
突如其来	tūrúqílái	sudden, out of the blue	一场突如其来的暴雨打乱了我们的计划。 A sudden storm upset our plans.
措手不及	cuòshǒubùjí	caught off guard	水来得太快，大家措手不及。 The water came so fast that everyone was caught off guard.
出人意料	chūrényìliào	unexpected, surprising	比赛的结果出人意料。 The result of the match was a surprise.
意想不到	yìxiǎngbùdào	unexpected, unimaginable	这次旅行给了我很多意想不到的收获。 This trip gave me a lot of things I never expected.
难以置信	nányǐzhìxìn	hard to believe	他一个人跑了一百公里，真是难以置信。 He ran a hundred kilometres on his own: it's hard to believe.
化险为夷	huàxiǎnwéiyí	to turn danger into safety	幸好船长{zhang3=head, chief}很有经验，大家化险为夷。 Luckily the captain was experienced, and everyone came through safely.
峰回路转	fēnghuílùzhuǎn	a turn for the better, a twist	本来以为没希望了，没想到峰回路转。 We thought there was no hope, then things took an unexpected turn.
此起彼伏	cǐqǐbǐfú	to rise and fall one after another	体育馆里掌声此起彼伏。 Applause rose again and again around the stadium.
接二连三	jiēèrliánsān	one after another	最近坏消息接二连三。 Bad news has been coming one piece after another.
三番五次	sānfānwǔcì	again and again	我三番五次提醒他，他还是忘了。 I reminded him again and again, but he still forgot.
日复一日	rìfùyīrì	day after day	他日复一日地练习，终于成功了。 He practised day after day and finally succeeded.
翻来覆去	fānláifùqù	over and over; toss and turn	我翻来覆去睡不着。 I tossed and turned and couldn't sleep.
没完没了	méiwánméiliǎo	endless, on and on	他没完没了地说，我都听累了。 He went on and on, and I got tired of listening.
错综复杂	cuòzōngfùzá	intricate, tangled	这件事的原因错综复杂。 The causes of this are complicated and tangled.
千姿百态	qiānzībǎitài	in all shapes and forms	公园里的花千姿百态。 The flowers in the park come in every shape and form.
五花八门	wǔhuābāmén	all kinds of, a wide variety	网上卖的东西五花八门。 They sell all kinds of things online.
包罗万象	bāoluówànxiàng	all-embracing, covering everything	这个博物馆的展览包罗万象。 This museum's exhibitions cover everything.
应有尽有	yīngyǒujìnyǒu	everything you could want	这家超市里吃的喝的应有尽有。 This supermarket has everything you could want to eat and drink.

一应俱全	yīyīngjùquán	complete with everything	宾馆的房间不大，但是一应俱全。 The hotel room isn't big, but it has everything.

pattern three idiom frames: 可a可b, 连a带b, 自a自b

可 A 可 B ·连 A 带 B ·自 A 自 B

可A可B: either will do (可有可无 "not really needed", 可长可短). 连A带B: doing A and B at once (连说带笑 "talking and laughing", 连蹦带跳). 自A自B: by or to oneself (自言自语 "talk to yourself", 自产自销 "make and sell your own"). A and B are usually one character each.

这句话可有可无，删了吧。 **zhè jù huà kě yǒu kě wú shān le ba** This sentence doesn't add anything: cut it.

老人们连说带笑地走进了新家。 **lǎorénmen lián shuō dài xiào de zǒu jìn le xīn jiā** The old people walked into their new homes chatting and laughing.

他一边写，一边自言自语。 **tā yìbiān xiě yìbiān zìyán zìyǔ** He talked to himself as he wrote.

小镇的茶叶都是自产自销。 **xiǎo zhèn de cháyè dōu shì zì chǎn zì xiāo** The town grows its own tea and sells it itself.

dialogue the red pen

editor lin 安娜，你的文章写得很真实，就是太平了。我们一句一句来。第一句：“小镇这三十年变化很大。”

Ānnà nǐ de wénzhāng xiě de hěn zhēnshí jiùshì tài píng le wǒmen yí jù yí jù lái dì yī jù xiǎo zhèn zhè sānshí nián biànhuà hěn dà · Anna, your article is very honest, just a bit flat. Let’s go line by line. First sentence: “The town has changed a lot in thirty years.”

anna 那应该怎么写？

nà yīnggāi zěnme xiě · So how should I put it?

editor lin “这三十年，小镇发生了翻天覆地的变化。”比原来有力多了吧？

zhè sānshí nián xiǎo zhèn fāshēng le fāntiān fùdì de biànhuà bǐ yuánlái yǒulì duō le ba · “In thirty years, the town has been turned upside down.” Much stronger, isn’t it?

anna 对！这样写，文章的格局一下子就大了。下一段是洪水。我写的是“水来得很快，大家没有准备”。

duì zhèyàng xiě wénzhāng de géjú yíxià zi jiù dà le xià yí duàn shì hóngshuǐ wǒ xiě de shì shuǐ lái de hěn kuài dàjiā méiyǒu zhǔnbèi · Yes! Written like that, the whole piece feels bigger. The next paragraph is the flood. I wrote “The water came fast and nobody was ready.”

editor lin 可以说“雨愈演愈烈，洪水突如其来，大家措手不及”。坏消息接二连三，老街面目全非。

kěyǐ shuō yǔ yùyǎn yùliè hóngshuǐ tūrú qílái dàjiā cuòshǒu bùjí huài xiāoxi jiēèr liánsān lǎo jiē miànmù quánfēi · You could say: “The rain grew fiercer and fiercer, the flood came out of nowhere, and everyone was caught off guard.” Bad news came one after another, and the old street was unrecognisable.

anna 有一家人在楼顶上等了一夜，最后被船救了出来。

yǒu yì jiā rén zài lóu dǐng shàng děng le yí yè zuìhòu bèi chuán jiù le chulai · One family waited all night on their roof and were finally rescued by boat.

editor lin 这就是“化险为夷”。本来没有希望了，又峰回路转，真是出人意料。

zhè jiùshì huàxiǎnwéiyí běnlái méiyǒu xīwàng le yòu fēnghuí lùzhuǎn zhēnshi chūrényìliào · That’s “turning danger into safety”. It seemed hopeless, then things turned around: quite a surprise.

anna 镇上的老人说，他们看到房子倒了，连哭带喊，有的人还自言自语：“没了，都没了。”

zhèn shàng de lǎorén shuō tāmen kàn dào fángzi dào le lián kū dài hǎn yǒude rén hái zìyán zìyǔ méi le dōu méi le · The old people in the town said that when they saw the houses fall, they cried and shouted, and some kept muttering to themselves, “It’s gone, all gone.”

editor lin 这一句可以留下，很感人。这句“天气千变万化，变幻莫测”有点多，可有可无，删了吧。

zhè yí jù kěyǐ liúxia hěn gǎnrén zhè jù tiānqì qiānbiàn wànhuà biànhuàn mòcè yǒu diǎn duō kě yǒu kě wú shān le ba · Keep that line: it’s very moving. This one, “the weather is ever-changing and unpredictable”, says the same thing twice and doesn’t add much: cut it.

anna 好。后面我写了义工：三番五次地来，日复一日地帮忙，人数与日俱增，最后汇聚了几千人。

hǎo hòumiàn wǒ xiě le yìgōng sānfān wǔcì de lái rìfùyīrì de bāngmáng rénshù yǔrì jùzēng zuìhòu huìjù le jǐ qiān rén · OK. Then I wrote about the volunteers: they came again and again, helped day after day, and their numbers grew by the day until thousands had gathered.

editor lin 这些年轻人朝气蓬勃，连说带笑，镇上的笑声此起彼伏。这样写就更有画面了。

zhèxiē niánqīng rén zhāoqì péngbó lián shuō dài xiào zhèn shàng de xiào shēng cǐqǐ bǐfú zhèyàng xiě jiù gèng yǒu huàmiàn le · These young people are full of energy, chatting and laughing, and laughter rings out all over town. Write it like that, and you can see it.

anna 最后一段写新的小镇：新学校一应俱全，超市里应有尽有，茶园欣欣向荣，以前摇摇欲坠的老桥也焕然一新。

zuìhòu yí duàn xiě xīn de xiǎo zhèn xīn xuéxiào yìyīng jùquán chāoshì lǐ yīngyǒu jìnyǒu chá yuán xīnxīn xiàngróng yǐqián yáoyáo yùzhuì de lǎo qiáo yě huànrán yìxīn · The last paragraph is about the new town: the

new school has everything it needs, the supermarket has everything you could want, the tea garden is flourishing, and the old bridge that was about to fall down looks brand new.

editor lin 好！不过“与时俱进”这个词，网上的文章用得没完没了，换一个吧。
hǎo búguò yǔshí jùjìn zhège cí wǎngshang de wénzhāng yòng de méiwán méiliǎo huàn yí gè ba · Good! But “keeping up with the times”: online articles use it endlessly. Swap it for something else.

anna 那我写“小镇没有一成不变，可是镇上的人一如既往地热情”。
nà wǒ xiě xiǎo zhèn méiyǒu yìchéng búbiàn kěshì zhèn shàng de rén yìrú jìwǎng de rèqíng · Then I’ll write: “The town hasn’t stood still, but its people are as warm as ever.”

editor lin 很好。原因写得也清楚：错综复杂，有天气的原因，有人的原因，还有历史的原因。
hěn hǎo yuányīn xiě de yě qīngchu cuòzōng fùzá yǒu tiānqì de yuányīn yǒu rén de yuányīn hái yǒu lìshǐ de yuányīn · Very good. You’ve explained the causes clearly too: tangled, some about weather, some about people, some about history.

anna 我还想写写镇上的茶：五花八门、千姿百态的茶叶，全都自产自销。
wǒ hái xiǎng xiě xie zhèn shàng de chá wǔhuā bāmén qiānzī bǎitài de cháyè quándōu zì chǎn zì xiāo · I’d also like to write about the town’s tea: all kinds of it, leaves of every shape, all grown and sold by the town itself.

editor lin 这是你的第一篇中文文章？真是难以置信！有些地方写得意想不到地好，看得出你累积了不少经验。
zhè shì nǐ de dì yī piān Zhōngwén wénzhāng zhēnshi nányǐ zhìxìn yǒuxiē dìfang xiě de yìxiǎng búdào de hǎo kàn de chū nǐ lěijī le bù shǎo jīngyàn · This is your first article in Chinese? Hard to believe! Some bits are surprisingly good: you can tell you’ve built up plenty of experience.

anna 哪里哪里。我昨天晚上翻来覆去睡不着，一直在想怎么写。
nǎlǐ nǎlǐ wǒ zuótiān wǎnshang fānlái fùqù shuì bu zháo yìzhí zài xiǎng zěnme xiě · Not at all. I tossed and turned all last night thinking about how to write it.

editor lin 看得出来。这个小镇的故事包罗万象：有灾难，有希望，有变化。新能源、新应用，这样的变化势不可当。
kàn de chulai zhège xiǎo zhèn de gùshi bāoluó wànxiàng yǒu zāinàn yǒu xīwàng yǒu biànhuà xīnnéngyuán xīn yìngyòng zhèyàng de biànhuà shìbùkědāng · It shows. The town’s story has everything: disaster, hope, change. New energy, new apps: change like this is unstoppable.

anna 那题目呢？可长可短吗？
nà tímù ne kě cháng kě duǎn ma · And the title? Can it be long or short?

editor lin 最好短一点：“日新月异的小镇”。这个题目有望吸引更多读者。
zuìhǎo duǎn yìdiǎn rìxīn yuèyì de xiǎo zhèn zhège tímù yǒuwàng xīyǐn gèng duō dúzhě · Shorter is better: “A Town Changing by the Day”. A title like that should draw more readers.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

蓬
péng
flourishing

勃
bó
vigorous

good to know · Good change or bad? 焕然一新 and 欣欣向荣 are good; 面目全非 and 摇摇欲坠 are bad; 翻天覆地 and 日新月异 are huge, and usually good. Surprises in four: 突如其来 (sudden), 措手不及 (caught off guard), 出人意料 and 意想不到 (unexpected), 难以置信 (hard to believe).

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day 131 by hand, on the spot

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 17 · environment and change

Talk about work done by hand and on the spot, and use the frame 非A非B and the adverbs of a written report.

These little adverbs (亲手, 就地, 奋力, 不惜) are what make Chinese reports and speeches sound precise.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
不算	bùsuàn	not count as, not really	这点雨不算什么，大家继续干吧。 This bit of rain is nothing: let's keep going.
不愧	bùkuì	to be worthy of, live up to	他不愧是这里最好的医生。 He truly lives up to being the best doctor here.
不经意	bùjīngyì	inadvertently, without noticing	她不经意的一句话，让我想了很久。 Something she said in passing made me think for a long time.
不乏	bùfá	to be no lack of	来帮忙的人里不乏专家。 There are plenty of experts among the helpers.
不惜	bùxī	to not hesitate to, spare no	为了救孩子，他不惜一切。 He would do anything to save the child.
除去	chúqù	apart from; to remove	除去周末，我每天都在小镇。 Apart from weekends, I'm in the town every day.
从头	cóngtóu	from the beginning, all over again	文件丢了，只好从头再写。 The file was lost, so I had to write it all over again.
凑巧	còuqiǎo	by coincidence, as it happens	真凑巧，我也要去那儿。 What luck, I'm going there too.
当众	dāngzhòng	in public, in front of everyone	他当众表扬了这位义工。 He praised the volunteer in front of everyone.
独	dú	alone, only	别人都走了，独她一个人还在干活。 Everyone else had gone; only she was still working.
非	fēi	not; to be not (written); non-	这件事非你不可。 Only you can do this.
奋力	fènlì	with all one's strength	他奋力把孩子拉上了船。 He pulled the child into the boat with all his strength.
附带	fùdài	incidentally; attached, additional	我附带说一句，明天早一点儿来。 By the way, come a bit earlier tomorrow.
好歹	hǎodǎi	anyway, at least; good or bad	你好歹吃一点儿再走。 At least eat something before you go.
好似	hǎosì	to seem, be just like	远处的山好似一幅画。 The mountains in the distance look just like a painting.

即可	jíkě	then it's OK, will do	报名很简单，填好表格即可。 Signing up is easy: just fill in the form.
继	jì	following, after (written)	继上次洪水之后，这里又下了一场大雨。 After the last flood, there has been another heavy rain here.
暨	jì	and (formal, in titles)	新学校开学典礼暨捐赠仪式明天举行。 The new school's opening ceremony and donation ceremony will be held tomorrow.
继而	jìér	then, after that	先是下大雨，继而发了洪水。 First came the heavy rain, then the flood.
竞相	jìngxiāng	to vie with each other to	各家公司竞相推出新产品。 Companies are competing to launch new products.
就地	jiùdì	on the spot	这些旧砖可以就地使用。 These old bricks can be used right here.
牢牢	láoláo	firmly, fast	他牢牢地抓住了绳子。 He held the rope tight.
老大	lǎodà	very, greatly; eldest	他老大不高兴地走了。 He left in a very bad mood.
连同	liántóng	together with, along with	他把钱连同一封信寄给了学校。 He sent the money to the school together with a letter.
偏	piān	deliberately, contrary to what's expected	叫他别去，他偏要去。 We told him not to go, but he insisted on going.
亲手	qīnshǒu	with one's own hands	这些椅子都是他亲手做的。 He made these chairs with his own hands.

pattern 非a非b, and turns inside turns

非 A 非 B = neither A nor B

非 is the written "not": 非A非B means "neither A nor B", as in 非亲非故 "neither relatives nor old friends", said of strangers who help anyway. A long sentence can also turn more than once: 虽然……，但是……；然而/可是…… gives the story a second twist.

他们和小镇非亲非故，却来帮了一个月。 **tāmen hé xiǎo zhèn fēi qīn fēi gù què lái bāng le yí gè yuè** They have no ties to the town, yet they came to help for a month.

虽然房子修好了，但是很多人还不敢回来；然而孩子们已经在新学校上课了。 **suīrán fángzi xiū hǎo le dànshì hěn duō rén hái bù gǎn huílái ránér háizimen yǐjīng zài xīn xuéxiào shàngkè le** The houses are repaired, but many people still daren't come back; the children, though, are already in class at the new school.

大水冲走了一切，可是没有冲走大家的希望，反而让大家更团结了。 **dà shuǐ chōng zǒu le yíqiè kěshì méiyǒu chōng zǒu dàjiā de xīwàng fǎnér ràng dàjiā gèng tuánjié le** The flood swept everything away, but not people's hope: if anything, it brought them closer together.

dialogue a weekend in the river town

dr zhou 真凑巧，你们也是今天到的！继上次洪水之后，这里又下了一场雨，不过不算大。
zhēn còuqiǎo nǐmen yě shì jīntiān dào de jì shàng cì hóngshuǐ zhīhòu zhèlǐ yòu xià le yì chǎng yǔ búguò bú suàn dà · What luck, you got here today too! There's been another rain since the flood, but it wasn't heavy.

xiaoming 这点雨不算什么。今天我们干什么？
zhè diǎn yǔ bú suàn shénme jīntiān wǒmen gàn shénme · That bit of rain is nothing. What are we doing today?

dr zhou 先把倒了的墙修好。旧砖都可以就地使用，不用从外面运。
xiān bǎ dào le de qiáng xiū hǎo jiù zhuān dōu kěyǐ jiùdì shǐyòng búyòng cóng wàimiàn yùn · First we fix the wall that fell down. The old bricks can be used right here: no need to bring any in.

xiaoming 这面墙早在洪水以前就摇摇欲坠了。
zhè miàn qiáng zǎo zài hóngshuǐ yǐqián jiù yáoyáo yùzhuì le · This wall was tottering long before the flood.

anna 这么多活，好歹先吃一点东西吧。
zhème duō huó hǎodāi xiān chī yìdiǎn dōngxi ba · So much to do: at least let's eat something first.

xiaoming 你看那位老师傅，大家都休息了，独他一个人还在奋力地搬砖。
nǐ kàn nà wèi lǎo shīfu dàjiā dōu xiūxi le dú tā yí gè rén hái zài fènlì de bān zhuān · Look at that old craftsman: everyone else is having a break, and he alone is still heaving bricks.

dr zhou 他是镇上做家具的老师傅。学校里的桌子椅子都是他亲手做的。他不惜花了一个月的时间，一分钱都没要。
tā shì zhèn shàng zuò jiājù de lǎo shīfu xuéxiào lǐ de zhuōzi yǐzi dōu shì tā qīnshǒu zuò de tā bùxī huā le yí gè yuè de shíjiān yì fēn qián dōu méi yào · He's the town's furniture maker. He made all the school's desks and chairs with his own hands. He gave up a whole month for it and didn't take a penny.

anna 不愧是老师傅！我们和他们非亲非故，可是在这儿，好似一家人。
búkuì shì lǎo shīfu wǒmen hé tāmen fēi qīn fēi gù kěshì zài zhèr hǎosì yì jiā rén · A true master! We're not related to these people, but here it feels like we're family.

xiaoming 我刚才叫老师傅休息一下，他偏不，还老大不高兴地说：“我又不老！”
wǒ gāngcái jiào lǎo shīfu xiūxi yíxià tā piān bù hái lǎodà bù gāoxìng de shuō wǒ yòu bù lǎo · I just told the old man to take a break, and he flatly refused. He got quite cross: “I'm not old!”

dr zhou 先是下大雨，继而发洪水，他的家也被冲坏了。虽然家还没修好，但是他先来修学校；然而到现在，还没有人去帮他修自己的房子。
xiān shì xià dà yǔ jìér fā hóngshuǐ tā de jiā yě bèi chōng huài le suīrán jiā hái méi xiū hǎo dànshì tā xiān lái xiū xuéxiào ránér dào xiànzài hái méiyǒu rén qù bāng tā xiū zìjǐ de fángzi · First came the rain, then the flood, and his own house was damaged. His home still isn't repaired, but he came to fix the school first; and yet, so far, nobody has gone to help him fix his own house.

anna 我刚才不经意看到，他一边修墙，一边自言自语：“孩子们要上学，孩子们要上学。”
wǒ gāngcái bù jīngyì kàn dào tā yìbiān xiū qiáng yìbiān zìyán zìyǔ háizimen yào shàngxué háizimen yào shàngxué · I happened to notice just now: as he fixed the wall, he kept saying to himself, “The children need their school, the children need their school.”

dr zhou 他已经日复一日地干了一个月了。
tā yǐjīng rìfùyīrì de gàn le yí gè yuè le · He's been at it day after day for a month now.

xiaoming 来帮忙的人里不乏专家，还有很多大学生。各个公司也竞相捐东西，捐的东西五花八门。
lái bāngmáng de rén lǐ bùfá zhuānjiā hái yǒu hěn duō dàxuéshēng gègè gōngsī yě jìngxiāng juān dōngxi juān de dōngxi wǔhuā bāmén · There's no shortage of experts among the helpers, and lots of university students too. And companies are competing to donate things, all sorts of things.

dr zhou 明天是新学校开学典礼暨捐赠仪式。安娜，你的公司要当众讲几句话，这件事非你不可。
míngtiān shì xīn xuéxiào kāixué diǎnlǐ jì juānzèng yíshì Ānnà nǐ de gōngsī yào dāngzhòng jiǎng jǐ jù huà zhè

jiàn shì fēi nǐ bù kě · Tomorrow is the new school's opening and donation ceremony. Anna, your company has to say a few words in public, and only you can do it.

anna 我？那我要说的话得从头准备了。

wǒ nà wǒ yào shuō de huà děi cóngtóu zhǔnbèi le · Me? Then I'll have to prepare what to say from scratch.

dr zhou 不用长，讲三分钟即可。附带说一句，你们捐的电脑，连同那些书，都已经到了。

búyòng cháng jiǎng sān fēnzhōng jíkě fùdài shuō yí jù nǐmen juān de diànnǎo liántóng nàxiē shū dōu yǐjīng dào le · It doesn't need to be long: three minutes will do. And by the way, the computers your company donated have arrived, along with the books.

xiaoming 那我先去把电脑装好。除去这件事，还有什么要做？

nà wǒ xiān qù bǎ diànnǎo zhuāng hǎo chúqù zhè jiàn shì hái yǒu shénme yào zuò · Then I'll go and set up the computers. Apart from that, what else needs doing?

dr zhou 把这根绳子牢牢地系在树上，明天要挂一条红布。

bǎ zhè gēn shéngzi láoláo de jì zài shù shàng míngtiān yào guà yì tiáo hóng bù · Tie this rope tight to the tree: tomorrow we're hanging a red banner.

anna 好。今天晚上我就准备，一定写得让大家记住这一天。

hǎo jīntiān wǎnshang wǒ jiù zhǔnbèi yídìng xiě de ràng dàjiā jì zhù zhè yì tiān · OK. I'll prepare it tonight, and make sure everyone remembers this day.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

暨
jì
and
(formal, in titles)

good to know · 不 starts many of today's words: 不算 (doesn't count as), 不愧 (lives up to), 不经意 (without noticing), 不乏 (no shortage of), 不惜 (spare no cost). Formal notices love 即可 (will do), 暨 (and), 继……之后 (following) and 连同 (together with). In speech you would say 就行, 和, 在……以后 and 和……一起.

By hand, on the spot, with all your strength: you can now report on hard work like a newspaper, and thank the people who did it.
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day 132 mission: the flood

Tell the whole story of a flood and a town's recovery in Chinese: the disaster, the causes, the help and the change.

Everything in this unit comes together on one day in the river town: rescue, resources, reform, trends, crowds and four-character idioms.

chapter 1 chapter 1: the notice at the gate

anna （读）“通知：新学校开学典礼暨捐赠仪式定于今天上午十点举行。三个月前，一场突如其来的洪水波及了我镇和附近四个县。河水泛滥，堤坝倒塌，学校和一百多座房子没能幸免。

dú tōngzhī xīn xuéxiào kāixué diǎnlǐ jì juānzèng yíshì dìng yú jīntiān shàngwǔ shí diǎn jǔxíng sān gè yuè qián yì chǎng tūrú qílái de hóngshuǐ bōjí le wǒ zhèn hé fùjìn sì gè xiàn hé shuǐ fànlàn dībà dǎotā xuéxiào hé yìbǎi duō zuò fángzi méi néng xìngmiǎn · (reading) “Notice: the opening ceremony of the new school and the donation ceremony will be held at ten this morning. Three months ago, a sudden flood struck our town and four nearby counties. The river burst its banks, the dykes collapsed, and the school and over a hundred houses were not spared.

anna 幸好镇上提前收到预警，连夜疏散了老人和孩子，全镇无一人遇难。在此，我们感谢搜救队、慈善基金会、各个公司和几千名义工。参加典礼的人员，请在门口领取一张地图即可。

xìnghǎo zhèn shàng tíqián shōudào yùjǐng liányè shūsàn le lǎorén hé háizi quán zhèn wú yì rén yùnàn zài cǐ wǒmen gǎnxiè sōujiù duì císhàn jījīnhuì gègè gōngsī hé jǐ qiān míng yìgōng cānjiā diǎnlǐ de rényuán qǐng zài ménkǒu lǐngqǔ yì zhāng dìtú jíkě · Thanks to an early warning, the old and the young were evacuated overnight, and not one person in the town lost their life. We thank the rescue teams, the charity foundation, the companies and the thousands of volunteers. Guests attending the ceremony need only collect a map at the gate.

anna 典礼结束后，学校将正式启用。学校的体育馆可容纳五百人，以后也是镇上的应急避难的地方。”

diǎnlǐ jiéshù hòu xuéxiào jiāng zhèngshì qǐyòng xuéxiào de tǐyùguǎn kě róngnà wǔbǎi rén yǐhòu yě shì zhèn shàng de yìngjí bìnàn de dìfang · After the ceremony, the school will officially open. Its gym holds five hundred people and will also be the town’s emergency shelter.”

xiaoming 读得不错！“全镇无一人遇难”，这句话我每次看都很感动。

dú de búcuò quán zhèn wú yì rén yùnàn zhè jù huà wǒ měi cì kàn dōu hěn gǎndòng · Nicely read! “Not one person in the town lost their life”: that line moves me every time I see it.

dr zhou 那天晚上的事，我到现在还记得。雨愈演愈烈，水一下子就漫过了堤，大家措手不及。

nà tiān wǎnshang de shì wǒ dào xiànzài hái jìde yǔ yùyǎn yùliè shuǐ yíxià zi jiù màn guò le dī dàjiā cuòshǒu bùjí · I still remember that night. The rain got heavier and heavier, the water came over the embankment all at once, and nobody was ready.

xiaoming 听说有一家人困在楼顶上，是搜救队营救出来的？

tīngshuō yǒu yì jiā rén kùn zài lóu dǐng shàng shì sōujiù duì yíngjiù chulai de · I heard a family was trapped on a roof and the rescue team got them out?

dr zhou 对，还有一位老人被困在倒塌的房子里，大家奋力把他解救了出来，真是化险为夷。一辆车被冲进了河里，第二天才打捞上来。

duì hái yǒu yí wèi lǎorén bèi kùn zài dǎotā de fángzi lǐ dàjiā fènlì bǎ tā jiějiù le chulai zhēnshi huàxiǎnwéiyí yí liàng chē bèi chōng jìn le hé lǐ dì èr tiān cái dǎlāo shanglai · Yes, and an old man was trapped in a collapsed house: everyone pulled him out with all their strength, and he came through safely. A car was swept into the river and only pulled out the next day.

anna 那时候很多人无家可归，是这所中学收留了他们。

nà shíhou hěn duō rén wújiā kěguī shì zhè suǒ zhōngxué shōuliú le tāmen · Back then lots of people had nowhere to live, and this secondary school took them in.

dr zhou 那天晚上还有一条小船在河上遇险，船上的人跳进水里逃生，游到了岸边。

nà tiān wǎnshang hái yǒu yì tiáo xiǎo chuán zài hé shàng yùxiǎn chuán shàng de rén tiào jìn shuǐ lǐ táoshēng yóu dào le àn biān · That night a little boat got into trouble on the river too: the people on it jumped into the water and swam to the bank.

xiaoming 我以前只在新闻里看到海啸、空难、飞机失事，没想到洪水也这么可怕。

wǒ yǐqián zhǐ zài xīnwén lǐ kàn dào hǎixiào kōngnàn fēijī shīshì méi xiǎng dào hóngshuǐ yě zhème kěpà · I’d only ever seen tsunamis, air crashes and plane accidents on the news: I never thought a flood could be so frightening.

dr zhou 大火烧毁房子，洪水冲走房子，都一样可怕。幸存的人最需要的是救济，也需要有人陪。

dà huǒ shāohuǐ fángzi hóngshuǐ chōng zǒu fángzi dōu yíyàng kěpà xìngcún de rén zuì xūyào de shì jiùjì yě xūyào yǒu rén péi · A fire that burns your house down, a flood that washes it away: both are terrifying. What survivors need most is relief, and someone to be with them.

anna 我记得撤离以后，田里全涝了，有的地到现在还荒着。

wǒ jìde chèlí yǐhòu tián lǐ quán lào le yǒude de dào xiànzài hái huāng zhe · I remember that after the evacuation all the fields were waterlogged, and some land is still lying waste.

xiaoming 基金会募捐了很多钱，还有很多人去医院捐献了血。拯救生命的，不只是英雄。

jījīnhuì mùjuān le hěn duō qián hái yǒu hěn duō rén qù yīyuàn juānxiàn le xiě zhěngjiù shēngmìng de bù zhǐshì yīngxióng · The foundation raised a lot of money, and lots of people went to give blood. It isn't only heroes who save lives.

xiaoming 现在学校焕然一新，跟三个月前比，好似两个地方。

xiànzài xuéxiào huànrán yìxīn gēn sān gè yuè qián bǐ hǎosì liǎng gè dìfang · Now the school looks brand new: compared with three months ago, it's like a different place.

chapter 2 chapter 2: along the new embankment

dr zhou 你们看，这就是新修的堤。上游也加了两道闸，防汛的能力比以前强多了。
nǐmen kàn zhè jiùshì xīn xiū de dī shàngyóu yě jiā le liǎng dào zhá fángxùn de nénglì bǐ yǐqián qiáng duō le · Look, this is the new embankment. Two more sluice gates have been added upstream too: flood defence is much stronger than before.

anna 河对面那一大片是什么?
hé duìmiàn nà yí dàpiàn shì shénme · What's that big area on the other side of the river?

dr zhou 那是新的湿地，以前是废弃的矿。山里蕴藏着丰富的矿产，大家开采了几十年，储量都快枯竭了，留下了很多废物。
nà shì xīn de shīdì yǐqián shì fèiqì de kuàng shān lǐ yùncáng zhe fēngfù de kuàngchǎn dàjiā kāicǎi le jǐ shí nián chǔliàng dōu kuài kūjié le liúxia le hěn duō fèiwù · That's the new wetland: it used to be an abandoned mine. The mountains hold a lot of minerals, people mined them for decades until the reserves nearly ran out, and they left a lot of waste behind.

xiaoming 那些废物不会泄漏到河里吗?
nàxiē fèiwù bú huì xièlòu dào hé lǐ ma · Won't that waste leak into the river?

dr zhou 以前会，检查结果严重超标。现在湿地可以净化水，还能吸收洪水。上游也不准再砍伐森林了，水土流失少多了。
yǐqián huì jiǎnchá jiéguǒ yánzhòng chāobiāo xiànzài shīdì kěyǐ jìnghuà shuǐ hái néng xīshōu hóngshuǐ shàngyóu yě bù zhǔn zài kǎnfá sēnlín le shuǐtǔ liúshī shǎo duō le · It used to: the tests were way over the limit. Now the wetland purifies the water and soaks up floods. And no more forest can be cut upstream, so there's much less soil erosion.

xiaoming 那以前为什么有那么多人来勘探?
nà yǐqián wèi shénme yǒu nàme duō rén lái kāntàn · So why did so many prospectors come here before?

dr zhou 因为大家都说地下的矿藏很多。镇上的卡车也烧柴油，尾气很大。现在都换成了电的，燃油也省了。
yīnwèi dàjiā dōu shuō dìxià de kuàngcáng hěn duō zhèn shàng de kǎchē yě shāo cháiyóu wěiqì hěn dà xiànzài dōu huàn chéng le diàn de rányóu yě shěng le · Because everyone said there were lots of deposits underground. The town's lorries burned diesel too, with filthy exhaust. Now they're all electric, and they save on fuel.

anna 镇上的人用什么取暖？以前是煤炭吧?
zhèn shàng de rén yòng shénme qǔnuǎn yǐqián shì méitàn ba · What do people in the town use for heating? It used to be coal, right?

dr zhou 对，以前烧煤炭，河边还有人焚烧废品。现在大部分家庭用燃气和太阳能，能耗也低了。只有老人们冬天还喜欢用炭火烤红薯。镇上还留了一片绿地，盖了几座温室种菜。
duì yǐqián shāo méitàn hé biān hái yǒu rén fénshāo fèipǐn xiànzài dà bùfen jiātíng yòng ránqì hé tàiyángnéng nénghào yě dī le zhǐyǒu lǎorénmen dōngtiān hái xǐhuan yòng tàn huǒ kǎo hóngshǔ zhèn shàng hái liú le yí piàn lǜdì gài le jǐ zuò wēnshì zhòng cài · Yes, they used to burn coal, and some people burned scrap by the river. Now most homes use gas and solar power, and they use less energy too. Only the old people still like roasting sweet potatoes over charcoal in winter. The town has also kept a green space and built a few greenhouses for vegetables.

xiaoming 河边那种珍稀的鸟呢?
hé biān nà zhǒng zhēnxī de niǎo ne · And that rare bird by the river?

dr zhou 还是濒危动物，不过在湿地里又出现了。在别的地方，它几乎已经绝迹了。要是湿地保护得好，只要上游不再污染，它就不会灭绝。
háishi bīnwēi dòngwù búguò zài shīdì lǐ yòu chūxiàn le zài biéde dìfang tā jīhū yǐjīng juéjì le yàoshi shīdì bǎohù de hǎo zhǐyào shàngyóu bú zài wūrǎn tā jiù bú huì mièjué · It's still endangered, but it has come back to the wetland. Everywhere else it has almost disappeared. If the wetland is well protected, then as long as there's no more pollution upstream, it won't die out.

anna 虽说这些工程花了很多钱，可是很值得。
suīshuō zhèxiē gōngchéng huā le hěn duō qián kěshì hěn zhídé · These projects cost a lot of money, true, but

they’re worth it.

dr zhou 一个小镇的水源，就是全镇人的命。水利做不好，什么都谈不上。

yí gè xiǎo zhèn de shuǐyuán jiùshì quán zhèn rén de mìng shuǐlì zuò bu hǎo shénme dōu tán bu shàng · A town’s water source is the life of everyone in it. If you don’t get water right, nothing else matters.

chapter 3 chapter 3: news from manager liu

manager liu 安娜！我刚到。好消息：我们的预警应用下个月就能上线了，这是全国首创。
Ānnà wǒ gāng dào hǎo xiāoxi wǒmen de yùjǐng yìngyòng xià gè yuè jiù néng shàng xiàn le zhè shì quán guó shǒuchuàng · Anna! I've just arrived. Good news: our warning app goes live next month, the first of its kind in the country.

anna 太好了！从这个小镇入手，真的找到了突破口。
tài hǎo le cóng zhège xiǎo zhèn rùshǒu zhēn de zhǎo dào le tūpòkǒu · Wonderful! Starting with this town really was our way in.

manager liu 对公司来说，这也是一个里程碑。老业务做到那个地步，再不转型就晚了。这次洪水，反而成了我们变革的契机。
duì gōngsī lái shuō zhè yě shì yí gè lǐchéngbēi lǎo yèwù zuò dào nàge dìbù zài bù zhuǎnxíng jiù wǎn le zhè cì hóngshuǐ fǎnér chéng le wǒmen biàngé de qìjī · For the company it's a milestone too. With the old business where it was, if we hadn't changed direction it would have been too late. This flood actually turned into our chance to transform.

dr zhou 应用依托我们研究站的数据：水位、雨量、河水的流向。数据显示，这几年暴雨的势头越来越强，这个走向很明显。
yìngyòng yītuō wǒmen yánjiū zhàn de shùjù shuǐ wèi yǔ liàng hé shuǐ de liúxiàng shùjù xiǎnshì zhè jǐ nián bàoyǔ de shìtou yuè lái yuè qiáng zhège zǒuxiàng hěn míngxiǎn · The app runs on our research station's data: water levels, rainfall, the direction of the river's flow. The data shows heavy rain getting stronger in recent years: the trend is very clear.

manager liu 说实话，一开始我觉得这个想法太超前了，市场也变幻莫测。可是现在，各家公司都在竞相做同样的东西。
shuō shíhuà yì kāishǐ wǒ juéde zhège xiǎngfǎ tài chāoqián le shìchǎng yě biànhuàn mòcè kěshì xiànzài gè jiā gōngsī dōu zài jìngxiāng zuò tóngyàng de dōngxi · To be honest, at first I thought the idea was too far ahead of its time, and the market is so unpredictable. But now every company is racing to make the same thing.

anna 镇上很多老人不用智能手机，所以我们的应用也会连同学校的广播一起发预警。手机也好，广播也罢，每个人都要收到。
zhèn shàng hěn duō lǎorén búyòng zhìnéng shǒujī suǒyǐ wǒmen de yìngyòng yě huì liántóng xuéxiào de guǎngbō yìqǐ fā yùjǐng shǒujī yěhǎo guǎngbō yěbà měi gè rén dōu yào shōudào · Lots of old people in the town don't use smartphones, so our app will send warnings through the school loudspeakers too. Phone or loudspeaker, everyone has to get it.

manager liu 有一个变更：上线以前要先在三个小镇试一试。计划我修正了一下，你看看要不要再改动。
yǒu yí gè biàngēng shàng xiàn yǐqián yào xiān zài sān gè xiǎo zhèn shì yi shi jìhuà wǒ xiūzhèng le yíxià nǐ kàn kan yào búyào zài gǎidòng · One change: before launch we'll trial it in three towns. I've revised the plan a bit: see if you want to alter anything.

anna 我看看……这个日期要更改一下，周博士下个月在外地。
wǒ kàn kan zhège rìqī yào gēnggǎi yíxià Zhōubóshì xià gè yuè zài wàidì · Let me see… this date needs changing: Dr Zhou is away next month.

manager liu 好。从起步到现在，你们只用了三个月，这个进程比我想的快多了。
hǎo cóng qǐbù dào xiànzài nǐmen zhǐ yòng le sān gè yuè zhège jìnchéng bǐ wǒ xiǎng de kuài duō le · Fine. From the start to now, you've taken just three months: much faster than I expected.

dr zhou 小镇从采矿到种茶，从洪水到重建，这个历程，也是很多小镇的故事。三十年的沧桑，经济剧变，很多家庭经历过变故，小镇一步一步演变成今天的样子。
xiǎo zhèn cóng cǎikuàng dào zhòng chá cóng hóngshuǐ dào chóngjiàn zhège lìchéng yě shì hěn duō xiǎo zhèn de gùshi sānshí nián de cāngsāng jīngjì jùbiàn hěn duō jiātíng jīnglì guo biàngù xiǎo zhèn yí bù yí bù yǎnbiàn chéng jīntiān de yàngzi · From mining to tea, from flood to rebuilding: the town's journey is the story of a lot of small towns. Thirty years of ups and downs, an economy turned upside down, many families through hard times: step by step, the town has become what it is today.

anna 镇上开辟了新的茶园，还改良了茶叶。旧工厂改装成了民宿，小镇大为改观。这次洪水是一个转折，也是一个转机。

zhèn shàng kāipì le xīn de chá yuán hái gǎiliáng le cháyè jiù gōngchǎng gǎizhuāng chéng le mínsù xiǎo zhèn dàwéi gǎiguān zhè cì hóngshuǐ shì yí gè zhuǎnzhé yě shì yí gè zhuǎnjī · The town has opened new tea gardens and improved its tea. The old factory has been converted into guesthouses, and the town looks completely different. This flood was a turning point, and a chance to turn things around.

manager liu 对我们公司也是一样。这个应用是我们步入新阶段的转折点，说不定还是一个划时代的产品。

duì wǒmen gōngsī yě shì yíyàng zhège yìngyòng shì wǒmen bùrù xīn jiēduàn de zhuǎnzhédiǎn shuōbudìng háishi yí gè huàshídài de chǎnpǐn · Same for our company. This app is our turning point into a new stage, and it might even be groundbreaking.

anna 我们已经着手准备第二个版本了：屏幕会根据危险程度变换颜色，还能把雨量数据转化成简单的图。

wǒmen yǐjīng zhuóshǒu zhǔnbèi dì èr gè bǎnběn le píngmù huì gēnjù wēixiǎn chéngdù biànhuàn yánsè hái néng bǎ yǔ liàng shùjù zhuǎnhuà chéng jiǎndān de tú · We've already started on version two: the screen changes colour with the level of danger, and it can turn rainfall data into simple charts.

manager liu 别急着下手，先把第一个版本做好。还有，上次报告里的错误更正了吗？

bié jí zhe xiàshǒu xiān bǎ dì yī gè bǎnběn zuò hǎo hái yǒu shàng cì bàogào lǐ de cuòwù gēngzhèng le ma · Don't rush into it: get version one right first. And did you correct the mistake in your last report?

anna 早就更正了！我们还在不停地革新，下载量有望刷新公司的纪录。

zǎo jiù gēngzhèng le wǒmen hái zài bù tíng de géxīn xiàzài liàng yǒuwàng shuāxīn gōngsī de jìlù · Long ago! And we keep improving: downloads could break the company record.

dr zhou 从全局来看，现在的态势还不错，天气也趋于稳定。可是一发现不好的苗头，比如有迹象预示会有暴雨，就要马上通知大家。

cóng quánjú lái kàn xiànzài de tàishì hái búcuò tiānqì yě qūyú wěndìng kěshì yì fāxiàn bù hǎo de miáotou bǐrú yǒu jìxiàng yùshì huì yǒu bàoyǔ jiù yào mǎshàng tōngzhī dàjiā · Looking at the whole picture, things are in good shape now, and the weather is settling. But the moment there are early signs of trouble, say anything that points to heavy rain, everyone must be told at once.

manager liu 事态控制住了，大局也稳定了。我们要关注防汛工作的动向，跟政府一起合作。

shìtài kòngzhì zhù le dàjú yě wěndìng le wǒmen yào guānzhù fángxùn gōngzuò de dòngxiàng gēn zhèngfǔ yìqǐ hézuò · The situation is under control and the bigger picture is stable. We need to follow what's happening in flood prevention and work with the government.

anna 以前小镇是个冷门话题，现在大家的关注是空前的。不过我觉得这不是巧合：好的故事，注定会有人看。

yǐqián xiǎo zhèn shì gè lěngmén huàtí xiànzài dàjiā de guānzhù shì kōngqián de búguò wǒ juéde zhè bú shì qiǎohé hǎo de gùshi zhùdìng huì yǒu rén kàn · Small towns used to be a niche subject; now the attention is unprecedented. But I don't think it's luck: a good story is bound to find readers.

chapter 4 chapter 4: anna's speech

xiaoming 院子里汇聚了几百人，都爆满了！镇上的人从各个村子赶来，跟义工们在门口汇合。
yuànzi lǐ huìjù le jǐ bǎi rén dōu bàomǎn le zhèn shàng de rén cóng gègè cūn zi gǎn lái gēn yìgōngmen zài ménkǒu huìhé · There are hundreds of people in the yard: it's packed! People have come from all the villages and met up with the volunteers at the gate.

anna 大家好！三个月前，我在北京的办公室里，看到这个小镇面目全非的照片。那时候，网上充斥着各种消息，我不知怎么办才好。
dàjiā hǎo sān gè yuè qián wǒ zài Běijīng de bàngōngshì lǐ kàn dào zhège xiǎo zhèn miànmù quánfēi de zhàopiàn nà shíhou wǎngshang chōngchì zhe gèzhǒng xiāoxi wǒ bù zhī zěnme bàn cái hǎo · Hello, everyone! Three months ago, in my office in Beijing, I saw pictures of this town, unrecognisable. The internet was full of all kinds of stories, and I didn't know what to do.

anna 后来，网上掀起了一股做义工的热潮。几千个年轻人自发报名，大家不约而同地来到这里。我们和这里的人非亲非故，可是在这儿，大家像一家人。
hòulái wǎngshang xiānqǐ le yì gǔ zuò yìgōng de rècháo jǐ qiān gè niánqīng rén zìfā bàomíng dàjiā bùyuēértóng de lái dào zhèlǐ wǒmen hé zhèlǐ de rén fēi qīn fēi gù kěshì zài zhèr dàjiā xiàng yì jiā rén · Then a wave of volunteering started online. Thousands of young people signed up on their own, and everyone came here without being asked. We aren't related to anyone here, but here we are like family.

anna 由于大家都很热心，加上捐款汇集得快，所以学校只用三个月就修好了，因此孩子们今天就能上课。
yóuyú dàjiā dōu hěn rèxīn jiāshàng juānkuǎn huìjí de kuài suǒyǐ xuéxiào zhǐ yòng sān gè yuè jiù xiū hǎo le yīncǐ háizimen jīntiān jiù néng shàngkè · Because everyone was so keen, and the donations came in so fast, the school was rebuilt in just three months, and so the children can start lessons today.

anna 我还记得一位做家具的老师傅。他日复一日地修墙，三番五次地说："孩子们要上学。"这些桌子椅子，都是他亲手做的。
wǒ hái jìde yí wèi zuò jiājù de lǎo shīfu tā rìfùyīrì de xiū qiáng sānfān wǔcì de shuō háizimen yào shàngxué zhèxiē zhuōzi yǐzi dōu shì tā qīnshǒu zuò de · I remember a furniture maker. Day after day he mended the walls, and again and again he said, "The children need their school." He made these desks and chairs with his own hands.

anna 这三十年，小镇发生了翻天覆地的变化。洪水来了，坏消息接二连三，可是小镇没有倒下。今天，茶园欣欣向荣，孩子们朝气蓬勃。
zhè sānshí nián xiǎo zhèn fāshēng le fāntiān fùdì de biànhuà hóngshuǐ lái le huài xiāoxi jiēèr liánsān kěshì xiǎo zhèn méiyǒu dǎo xià jīntiān chá yuán xīnxīn xiàngróng háizimen zhāoqì péngbó · In thirty years, this town has changed beyond recognition. The flood came, bad news followed bad news, but the town did not fall. Today the tea gardens are flourishing and the children are full of life.

anna 占用大家几分钟，我再说几件事。这次的捐款涵盖了水、药、被子和书，每一笔都纳入了公开的系统。政府也动用了很多人和车。新学校选用了最好的材料，名字还是沿用以前的。
zhànyòng dàjiā jǐ fēnzhōng wǒ zàishuō jǐ jiàn shì zhè cì de juānkuǎn hángài le shuǐ yào bèizi hé shū měi yì bǐ dōu nàrù le gōngkāi de xìtǒng zhèngfǔ yě dòngyòng le hěn duō rén hé chē xīn xuéxiào xuǎnyòng le zuìhǎo de cáiliào míngzi háishi yányòng yǐqián de · Let me take a few more minutes of your time. The donations covered water, medicine, quilts and books, and every one went into a public system. The government also brought in a great many people and vehicles. The new school is built from the best materials, and it keeps its old name.

anna 这件事凝聚了大家的力量。我们公司也吸纳了几个镇上的年轻人。科技日新月异，可是帮助别人的心一成不变。
zhè jiàn shì níngjù le dàjiā de lìliàng wǒmen gōngsī yě xīnà le jǐ gè zhèn shàng de niánqīng rén kējì rìxīn yuèyì kěshì bāngzhù biérén de xīn yìchéng búbiàn · All this brought everyone's strength together. Our company has also taken on a few young people from the town. Technology changes by the day, but the wish to help others never changes.

anna 未来也许还会有暴雨，可是我们会一如既往地和大家在一起。谢谢！
wèilái yěxǔ hái huì yǒu bàoyǔ kěshì wǒmen huì yìrú jìwǎng de hé dàjiā zài yìqǐ xièxie · There may be more storms in future, but we'll stand with you just as we always have. Thank you!

xiaoming	你听，掌声此起彼伏！老人们都连说带笑。我对这个小镇的感情真是与日俱增。 **nǐ tīng zhǎngshēng cǐqǐ bǐfú lǎorénmen dōu lián shuō dài xiào wǒ duì zhège xiǎo zhèn de gǎnqíng zhēnshi yǔrì jùzēng** · Listen to that applause, wave after wave! The old people are all chatting and laughing. I love this town more every day.
manager liu	讲得真好，不愧是我们的项目经理。说了五分钟，一句可有可无的话都没有。 **jiǎng de zhēn hǎo búkuì shì wǒmen de xiàngmù jīnglǐ shuō le wǔ fēnzhōng yí jù kě yǒu kě wú de huà dōu méiyǒu** · Beautifully done: a true project manager. Five minutes, and not one unnecessary word.
dr zhou	你看那位老师傅，他好像在自言自语，眼睛都红了。 **nǐ kàn nà wèi lǎo shīfu tā hǎoxiàng zài zìyán zìyǔ yǎnjing dōu hóng le** · Look at the old furniture maker: he seems to be talking to himself, and his eyes are red.

chapter 5 chapter 5: evening by the river

xiaoming 今天真累。不过这点累不算什么。
jīntiān zhēn lèi búguò zhè diǎn lèi bú suàn shénme · What a tiring day. But a bit of tiredness is nothing.

little sister 安娜，小明！我也来了！真凑巧，我坐的车跟刘经理的车一起到的。
Ānnà Xiǎomíng wǒ yě lái le zhēn còuqiǎo wǒ zuò de chē gēn Liújīnglǐ de chē yìqǐ dào de · Anna, Xiaoming! I'm here too! What a coincidence: my bus arrived at the same time as Manager Liu's car.

anna 你怎么来了？不是说今天要考试吗？
nǐ zěnme lái le bú shì shuō jīntiān yào kǎoshì ma · What are you doing here? Didn't you have an exam today?

little sister 考完了！大家都叫我别来，我偏要来。我拍了很多视频，还衍生出了一个新的系列。
kǎo wán le dàjiā dōu jiào wǒ bié lái wǒ piān yào lái wǒ pāi le hěn duō shìpín hái yǎnshēng chū le yí gè xīn de xìliè · It's over! Everyone told me not to come, but I insisted. I've filmed loads, and it's spun off a new series.

xiaoming 你好歹先吃点东西。镇上的饭馆一应俱全，吃的喝的应有尽有。
nǐ hǎodǎi xiān chī diǎn dōngxi zhèn shàng de fànguǎn yìyīng jùquán chī de hē de yīngyǒu jìnyǒu · At least eat something first. The town's restaurant has everything: anything you could want to eat or drink.

little sister 好。我刚才不经意听到老师傅说，他打算把旧砖都就地用起来，修一座小桥。
hǎo wǒ gāngcái bù jīngyì tīng dào lǎo shīfu shuō tā dǎsuàn bǎ jiù zhuān dōu jiùdì yòng qǐlai xiū yí zuò xiǎo qiáo · OK. Just now I happened to overhear the old furniture maker say he plans to use the old bricks right here to build a little bridge.

dr zhou 那座老桥以前摇摇欲坠，大家早就想修了。他为了小镇不惜一切。
nà zuò lǎo qiáo yǐqián yáoyáo yùzhuì dàjiā zǎo jiù xiǎng xiū le tā wèile xiǎo zhèn bùxī yíqiè · The old bridge was about to fall down: people have wanted to fix it for ages. He'd do anything for this town.

dr zhou 院子里散落着很多红纸，明天要从头打扫一遍。
yuànzi lǐ sànluò zhe hěn duō hóng zhǐ míngtiān yào cóngtóu dǎsǎo yí biàn · There's red paper scattered all over the yard: tomorrow it all needs sweeping from one end to the other.

xiaoming 除去打扫，明天还有什么事？
chúqù dǎsǎo míngtiān hái yǒu shénme shì · Apart from sweeping, what else is there tomorrow?

dr zhou 附带说一句，回北京的车早上八点开动，别迟到。
fùdài shuō yí jù huí Běijīng de chē zǎoshang bā diǎn kāidòng bié chídào · And by the way, the bus back to Beijing leaves at eight in the morning: don't be late.

little sister 我拍视频拍得手机都没电了，刚才在学校充了一下。我已经住惯这里了，都不想走了！
wǒ pāi shìpín pāi de shǒujī dōu méi diàn le gāngcái zài xuéxiào chōng le yíxià wǒ yǐjīng zhù guàn zhèlǐ le dōu bù xiǎng zǒu le · I filmed so much my phone died; I just charged it at the school. I'm so used to this place now, I don't want to leave!

anna 你们看，河上的天空千姿百态，好像一幅画。
nǐmen kàn hé shàng de tiānkōng qiānzī bǎitài hǎoxiàng yì fú huà · Look, the sky over the river changes shape all the time, like a painting.

dr zhou 别看现在这么安静，到了夏天，河水还是可能会上涨。所以防汛一天都不能放松……
biékàn xiànzài zhème ānjìng dào le xiàtiān hé shuǐ háishi kěnéng huì shàngzhǎng suǒyǐ fángxùn yì tiān dōu bù néng fàngsōng · It may look calm now, but come summer the river could still rise. That's why…

anna 周博士，今天就别说工作了！
Zhōubóshì jīntiān jiù bié shuō gōngzuò le · Dr Zhou, no work talk today!

dr zhou 好吧。我今天心里有很多事交织在一起：难过，感动，还有希望。
hǎo ba wǒ jīntiān xīnlǐ yǒu hěn duō shì jiāozhī zài yìqǐ nánguò gǎndòng hái yǒu xīwàng · All right. A lot of things are all mixed up in my heart today: sadness, being moved, and hope.

xiaoming 我们要牢牢地记住今天。三个月前，谁能想到会有这么意想不到的结局？
wǒmen yào láoláo de jì zhù jīntiān sān gè yuè qián shéi néng xiǎng dào huì yǒu zhème yìxiǎng búdào de jiéjú · We have to remember today, always. Three months ago, who could have imagined it would end like this?

anna 是啊，峰回路转。真是难以置信。

shì a fēnghuí lùzhuǎn zhēnshi nányǐ zhìxìn · Yes, what a turnaround. It's hard to believe.

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