wishyou.today learning

day 169 school and degrees

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 23 · study and research

Talk about schools, degrees and studying as an adult, and leave out a subject that comes later in the sentence (蒙后省略), as in 一下班，他就去夜校.

Everyone in China has a story about exams, dorm rooms and night classes. These are the words for telling yours, and for understanding theirs.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
办学	bànxué	to run a school	这所学校已经办学五十年了。 This school has been running for fifty years.
私立	sīlì	private (school, hospital)	他在一所私立中学当老师。 He teaches at a private secondary school.
师范	shīfàn	teacher training	她是师范大学毕业的。 She graduated from a teachers' university.
师资	shīzī	teaching staff, teachers	这所学校的师资很强。 This school has very strong teaching staff.
师长	shīzhǎng	teachers (respectful)	毕业以后，他常常回学校看望师长。 After graduating, he often goes back to visit his old teachers.
夜校	yèxiào	night school, evening classes	他下了班就去夜校学外语。 After work he goes to evening classes to learn a foreign language.
寝室	qǐnshì	(student) dormitory room	我们寝室住了四个人。 Four of us share our dorm room.
礼堂	lǐtáng	assembly hall, auditorium	开学典礼在学校礼堂举行。 The opening ceremony is held in the school hall.
社团	shètuán	(student) club, society	她参加了学校的摄影社团。 She joined the university photography club.
新生	xīnshēng	new student	九月一号，新生来学校报到。 On the first of September the new students arrive and register.
学子	xuézǐ	students, scholars (written)	每年都有很多学子来北京求学。 Every year many young people come to Beijing to study.
学业	xuéyè	studies, schoolwork	他一边工作，一边完成学业。 He finished his studies while working.
求学	qiúxué	to pursue one's studies	她十八岁离开家乡，到上海求学。 At eighteen she left her home town to study in Shanghai.
攻读	gōngdú	to study for (a degree)	他正在攻读历史学博士。 He's doing a PhD in history.
进修	jìnxiū	to do further study or training	公司送她去国外进修了一年。 Her company sent her abroad for a year of further training.
深造	shēnzào	to pursue advanced studies	大学毕业后，他想出国深造。 After university he wants to go abroad for

			further study.
学士	xuéshì	bachelor's degree; scholar	她明年就能拿到学士学位了。 She'll get her bachelor's degree next year.
文凭	wénpíng	diploma, certificate	有的公司更看重能力，不太看重文凭。 Some companies care more about ability than about diplomas.
院士	yuànshì	academician	这位老院士八十岁了还在做研究。 This academician is eighty and still doing research.
知识分子	zhīshifènzǐ	intellectual	他的父母都是知识分子，一个是教授，一个是医生。 His parents are both intellectuals: one is a professor and the other a doctor.
工科	gōngkē	engineering (as a subject)	他是学工科的，现在当工程师。 He studied engineering and is now an engineer.
人文	rénwén	the humanities	这所大学的人文学科很有名。 This university is famous for its humanities.
学识	xuéshí	learning, scholarship	陈教授学识很深，却一点儿也不骄傲。 Professor Chen is very learned, yet not in the least proud.
学说	xuéshuō	theory, doctrine	这本书介绍了几种不同的教育学说。 This book introduces several different theories of education.
测验	cèyàn	test, quiz; to test	每个星期五都有一次小测验。 There's a little quiz every Friday.
考查	kǎochá	to assess, examine (learning)	这门课主要考查学生的阅读能力。 This course mainly assesses students' reading skills.
旷课	kuàngkè	to skip class	他这个月已经旷课三次了。 He has already skipped class three times this month.
作弊	zuòbì	to cheat (in an exam)	考试作弊是绝对不允许的。 Cheating in exams is absolutely not allowed.
抄袭	chāoxí	to plagiarise	他的论文抄袭了别人的文章。 His thesis plagiarised someone else's article.
减负	jiǎnfù	to lighten the burden (on pupils)	为了给学生减负，学校减少了作业。 To lighten the pupils' load, the school cut down on homework.
备课	bèikè	to prepare lessons	王老师每天晚上都要备课。 Teacher Wang prepares her lessons every evening.
温习	wēnxí	to review, revise (lessons)	考试前，他把课本又温习了一遍。 Before the exam he went over the textbook once more.
背诵	bèisòng	to recite, learn by heart	小时候，我们每天都要背诵古诗。 As children, we had to recite old poems every day.
训	xùn	to lecture, scold; to train	他上课说话，被老师训了一顿。 He talked in class and got a telling-off from the teacher.
灌输	guànshū	to instil, cram (ideas) into	好老师不只是给学生灌输知识。 A good teacher doesn't just cram knowledge into pupils.

pattern say the subject once, later (蒙后省略), and 这不

first clause (no subject) **，subject** **second clause**

English says “she” in both halves: “When she heard the news, she cried.” Chinese often names the subject only once, in the second clause, and leaves it out of the first: 听到这个消息，她哭了. This is 蒙后省略, “leaving out what comes after”. And 这不 (from day 149) brings in a live example: “see?”

刚到北京求学的时候，她连一个朋友也没有。 **gāng dào Běijīng qiúxué de shíhou tā lián yí gè péngyou yě méiyǒu** When she first came to Beijing to study, she didn’t have a single friend.

拿到学士文凭以后，他又去英国攻读硕士。 **ná dào xuéshì wénpíng yǐhòu tā yòu qù Yīngguó gōngdú shuòshì** After getting his bachelor’s degree, he went to the UK to do a master’s.

听说有人抄袭了她的文章，她气得一夜没睡。 **tīngshuō yǒu rén chāoxí le tā de wénzhāng tā qì de yí yè méi shuì** When she heard someone had plagiarised her article, she was so angry she didn’t sleep all night.

现在的学生学业压力太大了。这不，我妹妹天天温习到半夜。 **xiànzài de xuéshēng xuéyè yālì tài dà le zhè bù wǒ mèimei tiān tiān wēnxí dào bànyè** Students are under so much pressure these days. Look at my sister: she revises till midnight every night.

dialogue an interview about night schools

little sister

王老师，谢谢您抽时间！我的毕业论文写的是北京夜校的历史，想先来向您取经，听听您的故事。

Wánglǎoshī xièxie nín chōu shíjiān wǒ de bìyè lùnwén xiě de shì Běijīng yèxiào de lìshǐ xiǎng xiān lái xiàng nín qǔjīng tīng ting nín de gùshi · Teacher Wang, thank you for making the time! My graduation thesis is on the history of Beijing's night schools, and I've come to learn from you first and hear your story.

teacher wang

说起夜校，这栋楼七十年前就是一所夜校。白天在工厂上班，下了班，工人们就来这里学认字。这栋楼见证了好几代人的变化。

shuō qǐ yèxiào zhè dòng lóu qīshí nián qián jiùshì yì suǒ yèxiào báitiān zài gōngchǎng shàngbān xià le bān gōngrénmen jiù lái zhèlǐ xué rèn zì zhè dòng lóu jiànzhèng le hǎo jǐ dài rén de biànhuà · Speaking of night schools, seventy years ago this building was one. After a day in the factory, the workers came here to learn to read. This building has seen several generations change.

anna

难怪楼后面有个老礼堂！我第一次来上课，还以为那是个电影院呢。

nánguài lóu hòumiàn yǒu gè lǎo lǐtáng wǒ dì yī cì lái shàngkè hái yǐwéi nà shì gè diànyǐngyuàn ne · No wonder there's an old hall behind the building! The first time I came for a class, I thought it was a cinema.

teacher wang

二十年前开始办学的时候，我看中的就是这个礼堂。我们是私立学校，钱不多，可是师资很好，老师大多是师范大学毕业的，功底都很深。

èrshí nián qián kāishǐ bànxué de shíhou wǒ kànzhòng de jiùshì zhège lǐtáng wǒmen shì sīlì xuéxiào qián bù duō kěshì shīzī hěn hǎo lǎoshī dàduō shì shīfàn dàxué bìyè de gōngdǐ dōu hěn shēn · When I started the school twenty years ago, it was that hall that won me over. We're a private school without much money, but our teachers are very good: most of them trained at teachers' universities and have a deep grounding.

little sister

现在来进修的都是什么人？

xiànzài lái jìnxiū de dōu shì shénme rén · Who comes to study here now?

teacher wang

什么人都有：刚工作的年轻人，想出国深造的学子，还有一位八十岁的老院士。这不，他昨天又来问我测验的时间了。

shénme rén dōu yǒu gāng gōngzuò de niánqīng rén xiǎng chūguó shēnzào de xuézǐ hái yǒu yí wèi bāshí suì de lǎo yuànshì zhè bù tā zuótiān yòu lái wèn wǒ cèyàn de shíjiān le · All sorts: young people who've just started work, students hoping to study abroad, and an academician of eighty. In fact, he came by only yesterday to ask me when the next quiz is.

anna

我认识他！他年轻的时候学的是工科，现在退休了，想补补人文的课。学识那么深，还那么谦虚，这才是真正的知识分子。

wǒ rènshi tā tā niánqīng de shíhou xué de shì gōngkē xiànzài tuìxiū le xiǎng bǔ bu rénwén de kè xuéshí nàme shēn hái nàme qiānxū zhè cái shì zhēnzhèng de zhīshi fènzǐ · I know him! He studied engineering when he was young, and now he's retired he wants to catch up on the humanities. So learned and still so modest: that's a true intellectual.

teacher wang

对，他是我们学校所有学生的楷模。

duì tā shì wǒmen xuéxiào suǒyǒu xuéshēng de kǎimó · Yes, he's a model for every student in our school.

little sister

您觉得夜校跟大学最大的不同是什么？

nín juéde yèxiào gēn dàxué zuì dà de bù tóng shì shénme · What do you think is the biggest difference between a night school and a university?

teacher wang

来这里的人都是自己想学，没有人旷课，更没有人作弊、抄袭。我们考查的不是背诵，是会不会用。

lái zhèlǐ de rén dōu shì zìjǐ xiǎng xué méiyǒu rén kuàngkè gèng méiyǒu rén zuòbì chāoxí wǒmen kǎochá de bú shì bèisòng shì huì bu huì yòng · People here come because they want to learn. Nobody skips class, let alone cheats or copies. What we test isn't reciting, it's whether you can use it.

little sister

我们的老师常常只是往我们脑子里灌输各种学说。为了完成学业，我们只能拼命温习、背诵。

wǒmen de lǎoshī chángcháng zhǐshì wǎng wǒmen nǎozi lǐ guànshū gèzhǒng xuéshuō wèile wánchéng xuéyè wǒmen zhǐ néng pīnmìng wēnxí bèisòng · Our lecturers often just cram theories into our heads. To get through our degrees, all we can do is revise and memorise like mad.

teacher wang 所以大家都说要给学生减负。我每天备课的时候也在想：怎么让学生自己愿意学?
suǒyǐ dàjiā dōu shuō yào gěi xuéshēng jiǎnfù wǒ měi tiān bèikè de shíhou yě zài xiǎng zěnme ràng xuéshēng zìjǐ yuànyì xué · That's why everyone says students' load needs lightening. Every day when I prepare my lessons I ask myself the same thing: how do I make students want to learn?

little sister 您有什么诀窍吗?
nín yǒu shénme juéqiào ma · Do you have a knack for it?

teacher wang 没什么秘诀，就是让学生亲身去用：去市场买菜，去医院挂号。
méi shénme mìjué jiùshì ràng xuéshēng qīnshēn qù yòng qù shìchǎng mǎi cài qù yīyuàn guàhào · No secret: I just get students to use it themselves: buying food at the market, registering at the hospital.

anna 王老师以前还训过我呢："安娜，别光记生词，要开口说！"
Wánglǎoshī yǐqián hái xùn guo wǒ ne Ānnà bié guāng jì shēng cí yào kāi kǒu shuō · Teacher Wang used to scold me, you know: "Anna, don't just learn words, open your mouth and speak!"

teacher wang 那时候夜校的新生一入学，就可以参加读书社团。很多人在这里拿到了学士文凭，后来又攻读了硕士，都很有出息。毕业多年，他们还会回来看望师长。
nà shíhou yèxiào de xīnshēng yí rùxué jiù kěyǐ cānjiā dúshū shètuán hěn duō rén zài zhèlǐ ná dào le xuéshì wénpíng hòulái yòu gōngdú le shuòshì dōu hěn yǒu chūxi bìyè duō nián tāmen hái huì huílái kànwàng shīzhǎng · Back then, as soon as new students enrolled at the night school, they could join the reading club. Many earned their bachelor's degrees here and later went on to do master's degrees, and they all did well. Years after graduating, they still came back to visit their teachers.

little sister 太好了，我想去找这些老学生！我在寝室里列个采访名单，求学的故事一定很多。
tài hǎo le wǒ xiǎng qù zhǎo zhèxiē lǎo xuéshēng wǒ zài qǐnshì lǐ liè gè cǎifǎng míngdān qiúxué de gùshi yídìng hěn duō · Brilliant, I want to find those old students! I'll make a list of people to interview back in my dorm: there must be so many stories about studying.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

旷
kuàng
neglect

good to know · Degrees: 学士 bachelor's, 硕士 master's, 博士 doctorate. 攻读 is the verb for working towards one: 攻读硕士学位. 进修 is further training once you have started work; 深造 is going on to a higher level, often abroad. Both sound positive and a little formal.

You can now tell the story of your own studies, from the dorm room to the degree certificate, in Chinese.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 170 reading and writing

Talk about books, notes, formats and characters while you write a long piece, and leave out a subject or object that was just mentioned (承前省略).

A thesis, a report or a long email to a Chinese colleague all need this vocabulary, and dropping what was just said is what makes Chinese prose flow.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
教科书	jiàokēshū	textbook	这本教科书已经用了二十年了。 This textbook has been in use for twenty years.
读物	dúwù	reading matter, books	图书馆里有很多适合孩子的读物。 The library has lots of books for children.
手册	shǒucè	handbook, manual	新生入学的时候，每人会拿到一本学生手册。 Each new student gets a student handbook on arrival.
指南	zhǐnán	guide, guidebook	这本旅游指南写得很详细。 This travel guide is very detailed.
百科全书	bǎikēquánshū	encyclopedia	小时候，我最喜欢翻那套百科全书。 As a child, my favourite thing was leafing through that set of encyclopedias.
辞典	cídiǎn	dictionary (of words)	他翻开辞典，查了这个词的意思。 He opened the dictionary and looked up the meaning of the word.
参见	cānjiàn	see (also), refer to	详细的数字，请参见第五页。 For the detailed figures, see page five.
引用	yǐnyòng	to quote, cite	他在文章里引用了一句古诗。 He quoted a line of classical poetry in his article.
注释	zhùshì	note, annotation; to annotate	这本古书的注释比书本身还长。 The notes in this old book are longer than the book itself.
摘要	zhāiyào	abstract, summary; to summarise	每篇论文前面都有一段摘要。 Every paper begins with an abstract.
提纲	tígāng	outline (of a talk or essay)	写文章以前，先写一个提纲。 Before you write an essay, draft an outline.
大纲	dàgāng	outline, syllabus	老师第一节课就发了这门课的大纲。 The teacher handed out the course syllabus in the very first class.
纲要	gāngyào	outline, programme (formal)	这份计划纲要只有三页，但是内容很多。 The outline of the plan is only three pages, but it covers a lot.
概论	gàilùn	introduction (to a subject)	我们大一的第一门课是“历史学概论”。 Our first course in first year was “An Introduction to History”.
专著	zhuānzhù	monograph, scholarly book	陈教授写过三本关于唐朝的专著。 Professor Chen has written three scholarly books on the Tang dynasty.

撰写	zhuànxiě	to write (formal)	她正在撰写一篇关于城市历史的文章。 She is writing an article on the history of the city.
论述	lùnshù	to discuss, expound	这一章主要论述了夜校的作用。 This chapter mainly discusses the role of night schools.
论证	lùnzhèng	to argue, prove; argument	你的观点很好，可是论证还不够。 Your point is good, but the argument for it isn't strong enough yet.
答辩	dábiàn	to defend (a thesis), reply in a defence	下个月，她要参加论文答辩。 Next month she has her thesis defence.
篇幅	piānfú	length, space (of writing)	由于篇幅有限，这里不再举例子了。 For reasons of space, we won't give more examples here.
段落	duànluò	paragraph, section	这个段落太长了，最好分成两段。 This paragraph is too long: better split it in two.
格式	géshi	format, layout	请按照学校规定的格式写论文。 Please write your thesis in the format set by the university.
省略	shěnglüè	to leave out, omit	时间不够，这一部分我就省略了。 There isn't enough time, so I'll skip this part.
通顺	tōngshùn	(of writing) smooth, readable	这篇文章写得很通顺。 This piece reads very smoothly.
简称	jiǎnchēng	short form, abbreviation	“北大”是北京大学的简称。 “Beida” is short for Peking University.
标点	biāodiǎn	punctuation	这句话的标点用错了。 The punctuation in this sentence is wrong.
括号	kuòhào	brackets	第一次出现的时候，把简称写在括号里。 The first time it appears, put the short form in brackets.
墨水	mòshuǐ	ink	爷爷写字还用钢笔和墨水。 Grandpa still writes with a fountain pen and ink.
字迹	zìjì	handwriting	这封信的字迹已经看不清了。 The handwriting on this letter can hardly be read any more.
字体	zìtǐ	typeface, font; style of writing	论文的字体和大小都有规定。 There are rules about the font and size in your thesis.
错别字	cuòbiézì	wrongly written character	这篇作文里有五个错别字。 There are five wrongly written characters in this essay.
繁体字	fántǐzì	traditional character	一百年前，中国人写的都是繁体字。 A hundred years ago, Chinese people all wrote traditional characters.
简体字	jiǎntǐzì	simplified character	很多简体字比繁体字的笔画少。 Many simplified characters have fewer strokes than the traditional ones.
部首	bùshǒu	radical (dictionary heading)	查字典的时候，可以先找部首。 To look something up in a dictionary, you can start with the radical.

偏旁	piānpáng	component of a character, side part	“河”和“湖”的偏旁都跟水有关。 The side components of 河 and 湖 both have to do with water.

pattern don’t say it twice: leaving out what was just said (承前省略)

subject | first action | ，(no subject) next action | ，(no subject) next action

Once a person or thing has been named, Chinese simply carries on without naming it again: 她打开电脑，看了看提纲，开始写. The same goes for an object: 这本书我看过，写得很好 (the book is understood). This is 承前省略, “leaving out what came before”. Repeating 她 or 它 each time sounds like a translation.

她打开电脑，看了看提纲，开始撰写第三章。 **tā dǎkāi diànnǎo kàn le kan tígāng kāishǐ zhuànxiě dì sān zhāng** She switched on her computer, glanced at the outline and started writing chapter three.

这本手册我翻了一下午，越看越有意思。 **zhè běn shǒucè wǒ fān le yí xiàwǔ yuè kàn yuè yǒu yìsi** I spent the afternoon leafing through this handbook: the more I read, the more interesting it got.

这些老笔记是在仓库里找到的，墨水都淡了，字迹还看得清。 **zhèxiē lǎo bǐjì shì zài cāngkù lǐ zhǎo dào de mòshuǐ dōu dàn le zìjì hái kàn de qīng** These old notebooks were found in the storeroom: the ink has faded, but the handwriting is still readable.

以前查资料要翻百科全书和辞典，现在上网就行了。 **yǐqián chá zīliào yào fān bǎikē quánshū hé cídiǎn xiànzài shàngwǎng jiù xíng le** You used to have to search encyclopedias and dictionaries to look things up; now you just go online.

dialogue red pen in professor chen’s office

little sister 陈教授，这是我毕业论文的提纲和第一章，您帮我看看？
Chénjiàoshòu zhè shì wǒ bìyè lùnwén de tígāng hé dì yī zhāng nín bāng wǒ kàn kan · Professor Chen, here's the outline and first chapter of my thesis: could you take a look?

professor chen 题目好，提纲也清楚。不过第一章的篇幅太长了，两万字，学士论文一共才要一万五。
tímù hǎo tígāng yě qīngchu búguò dì yī zhāng de piānfú tài cháng le liǎng wàn zì xuéshì lùnwén yígòng cái yào yí wàn wǔ · Good topic, and the outline is clear. But the first chapter is far too long: twenty thousand characters, and a bachelor's thesis only needs fifteen thousand in total.

little sister 材料太多了：当年夜校的教科书、课外读物、学生手册，还有一本“夜校教学指南”，我都舍不得省略。这些材料能揭示夜校的来历。
cáiliào tài duō le dāngnián yèxiào de jiàokēshū kè wài dúwù xuéshēng shǒucè hái yǒu yì běn yèxiào jiàoxué zhǐnán wǒ dōu shěbude shěnglüè zhèxiē cáiliào néng jiēshì yèxiào de láilì · There's so much material: the night school's old textbooks, reading books, the student handbook, and a Teaching Guide for Night Schools. I can't bear to leave any of it out. This material shows where the night schools came from.

professor chen 材料多是好事，但是要会选。跟主题关系不大的段落，删掉；真想留，就放进注释里。
cáiliào duō shì hǎo shì dànshì yào huì xuǎn gēn zhǔtí guānxì bú dà de duànluò shān diào zhēn xiǎng liú jiù fàng jìn zhùshì lǐ · Lots of material is a good thing, but you have to choose. Paragraphs that aren't really on topic: cut them. If you really want to keep them, put them in the notes.

anna 我在英国写论文的时候，老师也这么说。还有，引用别人的话，一定要写清楚参见哪本专著、哪一页，格式和字体都有规定。
wǒ zài Yīngguó xiě lùnwén de shíhou lǎoshī yě zhème shuō hái yǒu yǐnyòng biérén de huà yídìng yào xiě qīngchu cānjiàn nǎ běn zhuānzhù nǎ yí yè géshi hé zìtǐ dōu yǒu guīdìng · When I wrote my dissertation in the UK, my tutor said the same. And when you quote someone, you must say exactly which book and which page to see: there are rules for the format and even the font.

professor chen 对。你这里引用了一本“中国教育概论”，作者是谁？哪年出版的？都要写清楚，不然别人会以为是抄袭。
duì nǐ zhèlǐ yǐnyòng le yì běn Zhōngguó jiàoyù gàilùn zuòzhě shì shéi nǎ nián chūbǎn de dōu yào xiě qīngchu bùrán biérén huì yǐwéi shì chāoxí · Right. Here you quote An Introduction to Chinese Education: who wrote it? When was it published? You have to give all that, or people will think it's plagiarism.

little sister 明白了。还有，“北京第三工人夜校”太长了，我想用简称“三夜”，可以吗？
míngbai le hái yǒu Běijīng dì sān gōngrén yèxiào tài cháng le wǒ xiǎng yòng jiǎnchēng sān yè kěyǐ ma · Got it. And “Beijing No. 3 Workers' Night School” is so long: may I use the short form “Sanye”?

professor chen 可以。第一次出现的时候写全名，后面加个括号，写上简称就行。
kěyǐ dì yī cì chūxiàn de shíhou xiě quán míng hòumiàn jiā gè kuòhào xiě shàng jiǎnchēng jiù xíng · Yes. The first time it comes up, write the full name and put the short form after it in brackets.

anna 您看这些老笔记！是在王老师学校的仓库里找到的，墨水都淡了，字迹还看得清，写的都是繁体字。
nín kàn zhèxiē lǎo bǐjì shì zài Wánglǎoshī xuéxiào de cāngkù lǐ zhǎo dào de mòshuǐ dōu dàn le zìjì hái kàn de qīng xiě de dōu shì fántǐzì · Look at these old notebooks! We found them in the storeroom at Teacher Wang's school. The ink has faded, but you can still read the handwriting, and it's all in traditional characters.

professor chen 一九五六年以前，大家写的都是繁体字。后来国家公布了简体字，夜校的课本也跟着改了。这个学生还写了一个错别字，“学”字下面少了一笔。
yījiǔwǔliù nián yǐqián dàjiā xiě de dōu shì fántǐzì hòulái guójiā gōngbù le jiǎntǐzì yèxiào de kèběn yě gēn zhe gǎi le zhège xuéshēng hái xiě le yí gè cuòbiézì xué zì xiàmiàn shǎo le yì bǐ · Before 1956 everybody wrote traditional characters. Then the state announced the simplified characters, and the night schools' textbooks changed with them. This student has written a character wrong, too: 学 is missing a stroke at the bottom.

anna 这些笔记都是实物，能追溯到七十年前的夜校。
zhèxiē bǐjì dōu shì shíwù néng zhuīsù dào qīshí nián qián de yèxiào · These notebooks are the real thing: they

go back to the night school seventy years ago.

professor chen 当年的夜校不是私立学校，几乎不收钱，很多工人就是在那里求学的。
dāngnián de yèxiào bú shì sīlì xuéxiào jīhū bù shōu qián hěn duō gōngrén jiùshì zài nàlǐ qiúxué de · The night schools back then weren't private: they charged almost nothing, and many workers got their education there.

little sister 我奶奶也是在夜校认的字。她说老师先教部首和偏旁，比如“河”“湖”“海”，偏旁都是三点水，都跟水有关。
wǒ nǎinai yě shì zài yèxiào rèn de zì tā shuō lǎoshī xiān jiāo bùshǒu hé piānpáng bǐrú hé hú hǎi piānpáng dōu shì sān diǎn shuǐ dōu gēn shuǐ yǒuguān · My grandma learned to read at a night school too. She says the teacher started with radicals and components: 河, 湖 and 海 all have the three-drop water component, and all have to do with water.

professor chen 这个例子很直观，可以写进论文。论述不能只讲道理，要用例子来论证。还有，这几句的标点要改改，读起来不通顺。
zhège lìzi hěn zhíguān kěyǐ xiě jìn lùnwén lùnshù bù néng zhǐ jiǎng dàolǐ yào yòng lìzi lái lùnzhèng hái yǒu zhè jǐ jù de biāodiǎn yào gǎi gai dú qǐlai bù tōngshùn · That example is very clear: it can go in your thesis. You can't just state principles: you need examples to prove your point. And fix the punctuation in these lines: they don't read smoothly.

little sister 好的，我回去重新撰写第一章，摘要和大纲下周给您。
hǎo de wǒ huíqù chóngxīn zhuànxiě dì yī zhāng zhāiyào hé dàgāng xià zhōu gěi nín · All right, I'll go back and rewrite chapter one. You'll have the abstract and the outline next week.

professor chen 好。下个月就要答辩了，学校发的那份答辩纲要，你先看一遍。
hǎo xià gè yuè jiù yào dábiàn le xuéxiào fā de nà fèn dábiàn gāngyào nǐ xiān kàn yí biàn · Good. Your defence is next month, so read through the defence guidelines the university handed out first.

little sister 好的。我今天晚上就在寝室里把它读一遍。
hǎo de wǒ jīntiān wǎnshang jiù zài qǐnshì lǐ bǎ tā dú yí biàn · All right. I'll read it through in my dorm tonight.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

撰
zhuàn
compose

good to know · Chinese counts the length of a text in characters (字), not words: a 一万字 thesis is about 6,000 to 7,000 English words. 部首 and 偏旁 overlap: every radical is a component, but a dictionary files each character under just one radical. 河 is filed under 氵, the water radical.

You can now talk through a draft in Chinese, from the outline to the last bracket, and write prose that doesn't say everything twice.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 171 learning from others

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 23 · study and research

Talk about learning from teachers, books and colleagues, and frame what you say with 归根到底 (in the final analysis), 无论如何 (whatever happens) and 总而言之 (in a word).

These three markers turn a list of thoughts into a speech with a point. You will hear them in every lecture, meeting and wedding toast.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
会意	huìyì	to understand (without words); ideograph	他看了我一眼，会意地笑了。 He glanced at me and smiled: he knew what I meant.
文	wén	writing, written language	古人说“文如其人”。 The ancients said: “The writing is like the writer.”
文盲	wénmáng	illiterate person; illiteracy	七十年前，村里很多老人是文盲。 Seventy years ago, many old people in the village couldn’t read.
译	yì	to translate (written)	这本小说已经被译成了二十种语言。 This novel has been translated into twenty languages.
阅览	yuèlǎn	to read (in a library)	图书馆二楼是阅览室。 The reading room is on the library’s first floor.
涉猎	shèliè	to read widely, dip into	他读书很广，历史、科学、文学都有涉猎。 He reads widely: history, science, literature, he’s dipped into it all.
汲取	jíqǔ	to draw (lessons, strength) from	我们要从失败中汲取经验。 We should learn from our failures.
钻研	zuānyán	to study in depth	他退休以后，一直在钻研书法。 Since he retired, he has been studying calligraphy in depth.
切磋	qiēcuō	to learn from each other, compare notes	两个学校的老师常常在一起切磋。 Teachers from the two schools often get together to compare notes.
观摩	guānmó	to observe and learn from	今天有十几位老师来观摩她的课。 A dozen or so teachers came to observe her class today.
启迪	qǐdí	to inspire; inspiration	这本书给了我很多启迪。 This book has given me a lot to think about.
启蒙	qǐméng	to teach the basics, enlighten	我的启蒙老师是一位小学老师。 The person who first taught me was a primary-school teacher.
陶冶	táoyě	to shape, cultivate (character)	音乐可以陶冶人的心灵。 Music can nourish the soul.
熏陶	xūntáo	to influence gradually, nurture	从小受到父母的熏陶，她也爱上了读书。 Nurtured by her parents from an early age,

			she too came to love reading.
聚焦	jùjiāo	to focus on	这次会议聚焦农村的教育问题。 This conference focuses on education in the countryside.
亮相	liàngxiàng	to appear, make one's debut	新的阅览室今天第一次亮相。 The new reading room makes its first appearance today.
灵通	língtōng	well-informed, quick (of news)	你的消息真灵通，我刚知道你就知道了！ You're so well-informed: you knew the moment I found out!
归根到底	guīgēndàodǐ	in the final analysis, at root	归根到底，学习是自己的事。 In the final analysis, learning is up to you.
无论如何	wúlùnrúhé	whatever happens, in any case	无论如何，我都要把论文写完。 Whatever happens, I'm going to finish my thesis.
总而言之	zǒngéryánzhī	in a word, in short	总而言之，学语言没有捷径。 In a word, there are no shortcuts to learning a language.
到头来	dàotóulái	in the end, after all	他忙了一年，到头来什么也没得到。 He worked hard for a whole year, and in the end got nothing for it.
反之	fǎnzhī	conversely, otherwise	多读书，进步就快；反之，进步就慢。 Read a lot and you make fast progress; otherwise, it's slow.
好比	hǎobǐ	to be like, can be compared to	读书好比交朋友。 Reading is like making friends.
譬如	pìrú	for example	有些汉字很好记，譬如“人”和“口”。 Some characters are easy to remember: for example 人 and 口.
可不是	kěbùshi	exactly! isn't it just!	可不是，今天真热！ You can say that again: it's so hot today!

pattern 归根到底, 无论如何 and 总而言之: getting to the point

details, reasons , **归根到底 / 总而言之** , **the core point**

归根到底 “in the final analysis” digs down to the real cause or point. 总而言之 “in a word” sums up a list at the end. 无论如何 “whatever happens, no matter what” comes before a firm decision, usually with 都 or 也: 无论如何都要去.

方法有很多种，归根到底，还是要多练。 **fāngfǎ yǒu hěn duō zhǒng guīgēn dàodǐ háishi yào duō liàn**
There are lots of methods, but in the final analysis, it comes down to practice.

明天的答辩，你无论如何不能迟到。 **míngtiān de dábiàn nǐ wúlùn rúhé bù néng chídào** Whatever happens, you mustn't be late for your defence tomorrow.

观摩别人的课，跟同事切磋，自己钻研，总而言之，要向别人学习。 **guānmó biérén de kè gēn tóngshì qiēcuō zìjǐ zuānyán zǒngéryánzhī yào xiàng biérén xuéxí** Watch other people teach, compare notes with colleagues, study on your own: in a word, learn from others.

dialogue an open class

anna

今天学校怎么这么热闹?

jīntiān xuéxiào zěnme zhème rènao · Why is the school so busy today?

teacher wang

别的学校来了十几位老师，观摩我的课。新的阅览室今天也第一次亮相。

biéde xuéxiào lái le shí jǐ wèi lǎoshī guānmó wǒ de kè xīn de yuèlǎn shì jīntiān yě dì yī cì liàngxiàng · A dozen teachers from other schools have come to watch my class. And the new reading room makes its debut today.

little sister

王老师，您的消息真灵通，我刚说要写夜校，您就把老笔记找出来了！今天讲什么?

Wánglǎoshī nín de xiāoxi zhēn língtōng wǒ gāng shuō yào xiě yèxiào nín jiù bǎ lǎo bǐjì zhǎo chulai le jīntiān jiǎng shénme · Teacher Wang, you're so well-informed: I'd only just said I was writing about night schools and you'd already dug out the old notebooks! What's today's class?

teacher wang

讲会意字。很多会意字由两个偏旁组成。譬如“从”，是一个人跟着另一个人走；“看”，是把手放在眼睛上面，往远处看。学生一看就会意了。

jiǎng huìyì zì hěn duō huìyì zì yóu liǎng gè piānpáng zǔchéng pìrú cóng shì yí gè rén gēn zhe lìng yí gè rén zǒu kàn shì bǎ shǒu fàng zài yǎnjing shàngmiàn wǎng yuǎn chù kàn xuéshēng yí kàn jiù huìyì le · Ideographs: characters that join two meanings. Many are made of two components. For example 从: one person following another. Or 看: a hand held over an eye, looking into the distance. Students get it at a glance.

anna

以前我常写错别字，就是因为没弄懂一个字为什么这么写。我刚来北京的时候，差不多是个“中文文盲”，是王老师给我启蒙的。

yǐqián wǒ cháng xiě cuòbiézì jiùshì yīnwèi méi nòng dǒng yí gè zì wèi shénme zhème xiě wǒ gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou chàbuduō shì gè Zhōngwén wénmáng shì Wánglǎoshī gěi wǒ qǐméng de · I used to write characters wrong all the time, because I hadn't understood why a character is written the way it is. When I first came to Beijing I was more or less illiterate in Chinese. Teacher Wang taught me my first steps.

little sister

夜校的老学生也这么说。我奶奶那时候是文盲，她说夜校的老师不只教她认字，还启迪她去想：人为什么要读书。

yèxiào de lǎo xuéshēng yě zhème shuō wǒ nǎinai nà shíhou shì wénmáng tā shuō yèxiào de lǎoshī bù zhǐ jiāo tā rèn zì hái qǐdí tā qù xiǎng rén wèi shénme yào dúshū · The night school's old students say the same. My grandma couldn't read back then. She says the teachers didn't just teach her characters: they got her thinking about why people read at all.

teacher wang

一开始大家只想认几个字，到头来，很多人什么书都涉猎，有的还开始钻研历史和文学。

yì kāishǐ dàjiā zhǐ xiǎng rèn jǐ gè zì dàotóulái hěn duō rén shénme shū dōu shèliè yǒude hái kāishǐ zuānyán lìshǐ hé wénxué · At first people only wanted to learn a few characters, and in the end lots of them read everything they could find; some even started studying history and literature seriously.

little sister

很多人后来还继续进修，有的去大学深造了。

hěn duō rén hòulái hái jìxù jìnxiū yǒude qù dàxué shēnzào le · Many of them went on to further study later, and some went to university.

anna

上个月，我把一首唐朝的诗译成了我的母语，查了好几本辞典。可惜译完以后，诗的味道少了一半。

shàng gè yuè wǒ bǎ yì shǒu Tángcháo de shī yì chéng le wǒ de mǔyǔ chá le hǎo jǐ běn cídiǎn kěxī yì wán yǐhòu shī de wèidào shǎo le yíbàn · Last month I translated a Tang poem into my own language, and looked things up in several dictionaries. Pity that once it was translated, half the flavour was gone.

teacher wang

古人说“文如其人”，诗也一样，很难完全译出来。不过译的时候，你一定汲取了很多东西。

gǔrén shuō wén rú qí rén shī yě yíyàng hěn nán wánquán yì chulai búguò yì de shíhou nǐ yídìng jíqǔ le hěn duō dōngxi · The ancients said “the writing is like the writer”, and poems are the same: you can never fully translate them. But I'm sure you took a lot from it as you translated.

little sister

您除了备课，平时怎么提高自己的教学?

nín chúle bèikè píngshí zěnme tígāo zìjǐ de jiàoxué · Besides preparing lessons, how do you keep improving your teaching?

teacher wang 跟别的老师切磋，去别的学校观摩，自己读书。总而言之，向别人学习。
gēn biéde lǎoshī qiēcuō qù biéde xuéxiào guānmó zìjǐ dúshū zǒngéryánzhī xiàng biérén xuéxí · I compare notes with other teachers, observe classes at other schools and read. In a word: learn from others.

anna 王老师还给我们列了一份课外读物的清单。
Wánglǎoshī hái gěi wǒmen liè le yí fèn kè wài dúwù de qīngdān · Teacher Wang even made us a list of extra reading.

little sister 我觉得夜校最好的是那种气氛：大家在一起读书，慢慢就受到了熏陶。
wǒ juéde yèxiào zuìhǎo de shì nà zhǒng qìfēn dàjiā zài yìqǐ dúshū màn màn jiù shòudào le xūntáo · I think the best thing about the night schools was the atmosphere: everyone reading together, and gradually it rubs off on you.

teacher wang 可不是。读书好比交朋友，可以陶冶人的心灵；反之，只为考试读书，就没意思了。归根到底，学习是自己的事。
kěbùshi dúshū hǎobǐ jiāo péngyou kěyǐ táoyě rén de xīnlíng fǎnzhī zhǐ wèi kǎoshì dúshū jiù méi yìsi le guīgēn dàodǐ xuéxí shì zìjǐ de shì · Exactly. Reading is like making friends: it nourishes the soul. Read only for exams, on the other hand, and it's no fun. In the final analysis, learning is down to you.

teacher wang 好了，上课了！今天的观摩课聚焦一个问题：怎么让学生爱上汉字。你的论文呢，无论如何要按时交！
hǎo le shàngkè le jīntiān de guānmó kè jùjiāo yí gè wèntí zěnme ràng xuéshēng ài shàng Hànzì nǐ de lùnwén ne wúlùn rúhé yào ànshí jiāo · Right, class is starting! Today's open class focuses on one question: how to make students fall in love with characters. As for your thesis: whatever happens, hand it in on time!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

汲
jí
draw water

迪
dí
guide

good to know · 归根到底 and 归根结底 mean the same: "in the final analysis". Both are common. 可不是 (可不是嘛, 可不) is a warm, spoken way to agree strongly: "You can say that again!"

With these three little markers, your Chinese now has a beginning, a middle and a point.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 172 thinking it over

Talk about thinking, remembering and weighing up a decision, and sum things up with 简而言之 (in short) and 总而言之 (in a word).

Chinese has a word for every shade of thinking, from 琢磨 (turning it over) to 权衡 (weighing up). They are how people talk about big choices.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
沉思	chénsī	to ponder, be lost in thought	她坐在窗前，陷入了沉思。 She sat by the window, lost in thought.
深思	shēnsī	to think deeply about	这个问题值得我们深思。 This question deserves serious thought.
思索	sīsuǒ	to think hard, search one's mind	他思索了很久，才回答我的问题。 He thought for a long time before answering my question.
思绪	sīxù	train of thought; mood	外面太吵，打断了我的思绪。 The noise outside broke my train of thought.
琢磨	zuómo	to turn over in one's mind, puzzle over	这件事我琢磨了好几天。 I've been turning this over in my mind for days.
推敲	tuīqiāo	to weigh one's words, polish (writing)	这句话我又推敲了一遍。 I went over the wording of this sentence once again.
斟酌	zhēnzhuó	to consider carefully, weigh	写结论的时候，每个字都要斟酌。 When you write the conclusion, every word has to be weighed.
揣摩	chuǎimó	to try to figure out, fathom	他一直在揣摩老板的意思。 He keeps trying to work out what the boss means.
揣测	chuǎicè	to guess, speculate	别乱揣测别人的想法。 Don't go guessing what other people are thinking.
猜想	cāixiǎng	to guess, suppose; conjecture	这只是我的猜想，还没有证据。 This is only my guess: there's no evidence yet.
盘算	pánsuan	to figure, plan, calculate	他心里盘算着明年去哪儿工作。 He's quietly working out where to work next year.
考量	kǎoliáng	to consider; consideration	选学校的时候，他的考量主要是离家近。 When choosing a school, his main consideration was being close to home.
权衡	quánhéng	to weigh up	他权衡了很久，最后决定留在北京。 He weighed it up for a long time, and in the end decided to stay in Beijing.
顾及	gùjí	to take into account, give thought to	做决定的时候，也要顾及家人的感受。 When you make a decision, take your family's feelings into account too.

着眼	zhuóyǎn	to have in mind, focus on	我们要着眼于长远。 We should keep the long term in view.
着重	zhuózhòng	to stress, emphasise	这次会议着重讨论了教育问题。 This meeting concentrated on education.
侧重	cèzhòng	to focus on, lay stress on	这门课侧重口语，不太考语法。 This course focuses on speaking, and doesn't test much grammar.
心思	xīnsi	thoughts, mind; mood	她的心思全在论文上。 Her mind is entirely on her thesis.
念头	niàntou	idea, thought, notion	我突然有了一个念头。 A thought suddenly came to me.
脑海	nǎohǎi	mind, memory	那张老照片一直在我脑海里。 That old photo stays in my mind.
浮现	fúxiàn	to appear, come to mind	一闭上眼睛，她的样子就浮现|在我眼前。 As soon as I close my eyes, I see her face.
回想	huíxiǎng	to think back, recall	回想起来，那是我最快乐的一年。 Looking back, that was the happiest year of my life.
回首	huíshǒu	to look back (on the past)	回首过去的十年，我很感谢身边的人。 Looking back on the past ten years, I'm grateful to the people around me.
遗忘	yíwàng	to forget	这些老故事不应该被遗忘。 These old stories shouldn't be forgotten.
牢记	láojì	to keep firmly in mind	老师的|话，我一直牢记在心。 I've always kept my teacher's words close to my heart.
铭记	míngjì	to engrave on one's mind	我们要铭记历史。 We must never forget history.
切记	qièjì	be sure to remember	切记：出门前关好门窗。 Be sure to close the doors and windows before you go out.
记性	jìxing	memory (ability to remember)	我的记性越来越差了。 My memory is getting worse and worse.
下意识	xiàyìshí	subconscious; instinctively	一紧张，她就下意识地摸头发。 Whenever she's nervous, she touches her hair without thinking.
直觉	zhíjué	intuition	我的直觉告诉我，他说的是真话。 My gut tells me he's telling the truth.
预感	yùgǎn	premonition; to have a feeling	我有一种预感，明天会有好消息。 I have a feeling there'll be good news tomorrow.
预见	yùjiàn	to foresee; foresight	十年前，谁也没有预见到今天的变化。 Ten years ago, nobody foresaw today's changes.
远见	yuǎnjiàn	vision, foresight	他是一个很有远见的人。 He's a man of great vision.
预言	yùyán	to predict, prophesy; prophecy	他的预言后来真的实现了。 His prediction later came true.
展望	zhǎnwàng	to look ahead; outlook	文章的最后，作者展望了未来。 At the end of the article, the author looks ahead to the future.

pattern review: 简而言之 (in short) and 总而言之 (in a word)

a long explanation or a list ，简而言之 / 总而言之 ，the short version

简而言之 “in short” squeezes one long explanation into a line: it often comes after you have talked for a while. 总而言之 “in a word” gathers several points into one conclusion. Both are a little formal; in chat, people also say 简单地说.

这个问题我想了很久，简而言之，就是时间不够。 **zhège wèntí wǒ xiǎng le hěn jiǔ jiǎnéryánzhī jiùshì shíjiān búgòu** I’ve thought about it for a long time. In short: there isn’t enough time.

有人想读书，有人想工作，有人想出国，总而言之，每个人的路都不一样。 **yǒu rén xiǎng dúshū yǒu rén xiǎng gōngzuò yǒu rén xiǎng chūguó zǒngéryánzhī měi gè rén de lù dōu bù yíyàng** Some want to study, some want to work, some want to go abroad: in a word, everyone’s path is different.

结论不用长，简而言之：说清楚你发现了什么。 **jiélùn búyòng cháng jiǎnéryánzhī shuō qīngchu nǐ fāxiàn le shénme** The conclusion needn’t be long. In short: say clearly what you found.

dialogue what’s on her mind

ms zhang 安娜，你来得正好。她在桌子前坐了一下午，一动不动，不知道在沉思什么。
Ānnà nǐ lái de zhènghǎo tā zài zhuōzi qián zuò le yí xiàwǔ yídòng búdòng bù zhīdào zài chénsī shénme · Anna, perfect timing. She's been sitting at her desk all afternoon without moving, lost in thought about who knows what.

little sister 在推敲结论呢。最后一段我改了五遍，每个字都要斟酌，篇幅也不能太长。前面几章侧重历史，结论要着重写今天的意义，还要着眼未来，写一点展望。
zài tuīqiāo jiélùn ne zuìhòu yí duàn wǒ gǎi le wǔ biàn měi gè zì dōu yào zhēnzhuó piānfú yě bù néng tài cháng qiánmiàn jǐ zhāng cèzhòng lìshǐ jiélùn yào zhuózhòng xiě jīntiān de yìyì hái yào zhuóyǎn wèilái xiě yìdiǎn zhǎnwàng · I'm polishing my conclusion. I've rewritten the last paragraph five times: every word has to be weighed, and it can't be too long either. The earlier chapters focus on history, so the conclusion has to stress what it all means today, look to the future and add a bit of an outlook.

ms zhang 我揣摩着，你的心思不只在论文上吧？
wǒ chuǎimó zhe nǐ de xīnsi bù zhǐ zài lùnwén shàng ba · I have a feeling your mind isn't only on your thesis, is it?

little sister 妈妈，您真会揣测别人的心思。我有一个念头：毕业以后，跟陈教授读历史硕士。可是我的思绪很乱，一想到这件事，就下意识地摸头发。
māma nín zhēn huì chuǎicè biérén de xīnsi wǒ yǒu yí gè niàntou bìyè yǐhòu gēn Chénjiàoshòu dú lìshǐ shuòshì kěshì wǒ de sīxù hěn luàn yì xiǎng dào zhè jiàn shì jiù xiàyìshí de mō tóufa · Mum, you're so good at guessing what people are thinking. I've had an idea: after I graduate, to do a master's in history with Professor Chen. But my thoughts are all over the place: whenever I think about it, I start touching my hair without noticing.

ms zhang 这件事要好好权衡。读书要好几年，工作的机会也不能不顾及。陈教授怎么说？
zhè jiàn shì yào hǎohǎo quánhéng dúshū yào hǎo jǐ nián gōngzuò de jīhuì yě bù néng bú gùjí Chénjiàoshòu zěnme shuō · You need to weigh this up carefully. Studying takes years, and you have to think about job opportunities too. What does Professor Chen say?

little sister 他说，读书不只是学业上的考量，还要想清楚自己喜欢什么，做研究要肯钻研。我已经琢磨了好几天了。
tā shuō dúshū bù zhǐshì xuéyè shàng de kǎoliáng hái yào xiǎng qīngchu zìjǐ xǐhuan shénme zuò yánjiū yào kěn zuānyán wǒ yǐjīng zuómo le hǎo jǐ tiān le · He says it isn't only an academic decision: I need to be clear about what I love, and research means being willing to dig deep. I've been turning it over for days.

ms zhang 这是你自己的前程，要自主决定。
zhè shì nǐ zìjǐ de qiánchéng yào zìzhǔ juédìng · It's your own future: you have to decide for yourself.

anna 我当年来中国，也盘算了很久，家里人都觉得我太冒险。可是我的直觉告诉我：一定要来。
wǒ dāngnián lái Zhōngguó yě pánsuan le hěn jiǔ jiā lǐ rén dōu juéde wǒ tài màoxiǎn kěshì wǒ de zhíjué gàosu wǒ yídìng yào lái · When I came to China, I spent ages working it out too, and my family thought it was far too risky. But my gut told me: you have to go.

little sister 你后悔过吗？
nǐ hòuhuǐ guo ma · Have you ever regretted it?

anna 从来没有。回首这些年，很多事我都遗忘了，可是第一节中文课，我一直牢记在心。回想起来，那时候我连“你好”都说不清楚。王老师却预言：“你一定能学好。”
cónglái méiyǒu huíshǒu zhèxiē nián hěn duō shì wǒ dōu yíwàng le kěshì dì yī jié Zhōngwén kè wǒ yìzhí láojì zài xīn huíxiǎng qǐlai nà shíhou wǒ lián nǐhǎo dōu shuō bu qīngchu Wánglǎoshī què yùyán nǐ yídìng néng xué hǎo · Never. Looking back on these years, I've forgotten a lot, but I still remember my first Chinese class. When I think back, I couldn't even say 你好 properly. And yet Teacher Wang predicted: "You'll learn it well, you'll see."

little sister 王老师是你的启蒙老师吧？
Wánglǎoshī shì nǐ de qǐméng lǎoshī ba · Teacher Wang was the one who first taught you, wasn't she?

ms zhang 王老师有远见。十年前，谁能预见你今天会看中文报纸？可惜我的记性不好，那时候的事都记不清了。
Wánglǎoshī yǒu yuǎnjiàn shí nián qián shéi néng yùjiàn nǐ jīntiān huì kàn Zhōngwén bàozhǐ kěxī wǒ de jìxing

bù hǎo nà shíhou de shì dōu jì bu qīng le · Teacher Wang has vision. Ten years ago, who could have foreseen you reading Chinese newspapers today? Shame my memory's so bad: I can't remember much from back then.

little sister 我还在想另一件事。在那些老笔记里，我找到一张老照片：一位年轻的女老师站在夜校门口。这几天她的样子总在我脑海里浮现。我有一种预感，她跟王老师有关系。我想好好探究一下。

wǒ hái zài xiǎng lìng yí jiàn shì zài nàxiē lǎo bǐjì lǐ wǒ zhǎo dào yì zhāng lǎo zhàopiàn yí wèi niánqīng de nǚ lǎoshī zhàn zài yèxiào ménkǒu zhè jǐ tiān tā de yàngzi zǒng zài wǒ nǎohǎi lǐ fúxiàn wǒ yǒu yì zhǒng yùgǎn tā gēn Wánglǎoshī yǒu guānxì wǒ xiǎng hǎohǎo tànjiū yíxià · There's something else I keep thinking about. Among those old notebooks I found an old photo: a young woman teacher standing at the gate of the night school. Her face keeps coming back to me. I have a feeling she has something to do with Teacher Wang. I want to look into it properly.

anna 是直觉，还是有证据？

shì zhíjué háishi yǒu zhèngjù · Is that intuition, or do you have evidence?

little sister 只是猜想。照片后面写着一行字：“切记：教人先教心。”这句话值得深思，我想把它铭记在心。

zhǐshì cāixiǎng zhàopiàn hòumiàn xiě zhe yì háng zì qièjì jiāo rén xiān jiāo xīn zhè jù huà zhídé shēnsī wǒ xiǎng bǎ tā míngjì zài xīn · Just a guess. On the back of the photo there's a line: “Remember: to teach people, first teach the heart.” That's worth thinking about, and I want to keep it close to my heart.

anna 这句话对我也很有启迪。

zhè jù huà duì wǒ yě hěn yǒu qǐdí · That line speaks to me too.

ms zhang 好了，你们俩别再思索了，先吃饭。简而言之：饭凉了！

hǎo le nǐmen liǎ bié zài sīsuǒ le xiān chī fàn jiǎnéryánzhī fàn liáng le · Right, you two, enough deep thinking: dinner first. In short: the food's getting cold!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

揣
chuāi
to tuck (into clothing)

琢
zuó
carve jade

good to know · 推敲 comes from a Tang story: the poet 贾岛 could not decide whether a visitor “pushes” (推) or “knocks on” (敲) a moonlit gate, and walked into a high official's procession while miming both. 记性 is your ability to remember (我记性不好); 记忆 is memory as what you remember (美好的记忆).

You can now talk about a big decision in Chinese, from the first 念头 to the final 权衡.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 173 seeing clearly

Talk about noticing, telling things apart and understanding at last, agree strongly with 可不是嘛, and order a piece of reasoning step by step.

Spotting a detail, telling two things apart and suddenly seeing the light: this is the language of research, detective stories and everyday life.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
领会	lǐnghuì	to grasp, understand	我领会您的意思了。 I see what you mean.
领悟	lǐngwù	to come to understand, realise	读了这本书，我才领悟到父母的用心。 It was only after reading this book that I understood what my parents had meant for me.
领略	lǐnglüè	to experience, appreciate	我们在西安领略了这座古城的风采。 In Xi'an we got a taste of the old city's splendour.
觉悟	juéwù	awareness, consciousness; to realise	这位老师的觉悟很高，从来不收学生的礼物。 This teacher has high principles and never accepts presents from students.
觉醒	juéxǐng	to awaken	读书让很多普通人觉醒了。 Reading awakened many ordinary people.
醒悟	xǐngwù	to wake up to the truth, see the light	他到了四十岁才醒悟，健康最重要。 Only at forty did he wake up to the fact that health matters most.
心得	xīndé	what one has learned, insights	请大家写一写这次实习的心得。 Please write a little about what you learned on this internship.
见识	jiànshi	knowledge, experience; to see, experience	他去过很多国家，见识很广。 He has been to many countries and seen a lot of the world.
阅历	yuèlì	life experience	他阅历很丰富，看问题很全面。 He has a lot of life experience and sees problems from every side.
眼界	yǎnjiè	horizons, field of vision	旅行可以开阔眼界。 Travel broadens the mind.
视野	shìyě	field of vision; horizons	读书让孩子的视野更开阔。 Reading opens up children's horizons.
视角	shìjiǎo	perspective, angle	换一个视角看问题，也许会有新的发现。 Look at the problem from a different angle, and you may find something new.
发觉	fājué	to find, realise	我走到楼下才发觉忘了带钥匙。 Only when I got downstairs did I realise I'd forgotten my keys.
察觉	chájué	to notice, become aware of	她很快察觉到了朋友的不安。 She soon sensed her friend's unease.

留心	liúxīn	to be careful, pay attention	过马路要留心来往的车。 Watch out for the traffic when you cross the road.
留意	liúyì	to pay attention, keep an eye out	我没留意他是什么时候走的。 I didn't notice when he left.
辨别	biànbié	to distinguish, tell apart	要学会辨别网上消息的真假{jia3}。 You need to learn to tell true news from fake online.
辨认	biànrèn	to recognise, identify	照片太旧了，人的样子已经很难辨认了。 The photo is so old that the faces are hard to make out.
分辨	fēnbiàn	to distinguish	黑白照片很难分辨衣服的颜色。 In a black-and-white photo it's hard to tell the colours of the clothes.
鉴别	jiànbié	to authenticate, appraise	专家正在鉴别这幅画是真|是假{jia3}。 Experts are working out whether this painting is genuine.
不解	bùjiě	to not understand, be puzzled	他突然生气了，大家都很不解。 He suddenly got angry, and nobody could understand why.
困惑	kùnhuò	puzzled, confused	这个问题让很多学生感到困惑。 This question leaves many students confused.
迷惑	míhuò	puzzled; to confuse, mislead	别被他的|话迷惑了。 Don't be taken in by what he says.
混淆	hùnxiáo	to confuse, mix up	这两个词意思很像，很容易混淆。 These two words mean nearly the same, so they're easy to mix up.
错觉	cuòjué	false impression, illusion	我有一种错觉，好像她在看着我。 I have the strange feeling she's looking at me.
幻觉	huànjué	hallucination	刚才是我的幻觉吗？我好像听到有人叫我。 Was I imagining it just now? I thought I heard someone call me.
幻影	huànyǐng	phantom, unreal image	雾里的高楼像一个幻影。 In the fog the tall building looks like a mirage.
梦幻	mènghuàn	dreamlike, magical	晚上的湖边，灯光很梦幻。 By the lake at night the lights look like something out of a dream.
虚幻	xūhuàn	unreal, illusory	网上的生活有时候很虚幻。 Life online can feel unreal at times.
空想	kōngxiǎng	daydream; to daydream	光空想没有用，要去做。 Daydreaming is no use: you have to do it.
妄想	wàngxiǎng	wishful thinking; to vainly hope	一个月就学好中文？那简直是妄想。 Master Chinese in a month? That's a fantasy.
玄	xuán	mysterious, far-fetched	你说得太玄了，我不信。 That sounds far-fetched: I don't believe it.
玄机	xuánjī	hidden meaning, mystery	这幅画里藏着很多玄机。 There are lots of hidden meanings in this painting.

奥秘	àomì	mystery, secret (of nature)	科学家们一直在探索宇宙的奥秘。 Scientists keep exploring the mysteries of the universe.
谜团	mítuán	mystery, riddle	这张照片里藏着一个谜团。 There's a mystery hidden in this photo.

pattern 可不(是嘛): "exactly!", and reasoning in order

A says something **可不(是嘛)!** **B backs it up with more**

可不是嘛 (or 可不是, or just 可不) is a warm spoken "isn't it just!": you agree strongly, then usually add a detail of your own. And when you explain how you reached a view, keep it in order: 首先……，其次……，最后…… (from day 167).

"这张照片真老啊。""可不是嘛，差不多七十年了。" **zhè zhāng zhàopiàn zhēn lǎo a kěbùshi ma chàbuduō qīshí nián le** "This photo is so old." "Isn't it just: almost seventy years."

"做研究要特别留心细节。""可不是！一个小细节就能改变结论。" **zuò yánjiū yào tèbié liúxīn xìjié kěbùshi yí gè xiǎo xìjié jiù néng gǎibiàn jiélùn** "In research you have to watch the details." "Absolutely! One small detail can change your conclusion."

鉴别一张老照片，首先看衣服，其次看背景，最后看照片后面的字。 **jiànbié yì zhāng lǎo zhàopiàn shǒuxiān kàn yīfu qícì kàn bèijǐng zuìhòu kàn zhàopiàn hòumiàn de zì** To date an old photo, first look at the clothes, then the background, and finally the writing on the back.

dialogue reading an old photo

little sister 陈教授，您帮我鉴别一下这张照片吧。我琢磨了好几天，越看越困惑。
Chénjiàoshòu nín bāng wǒ jiànbié yíxià zhè zhāng zhàopiàn ba wǒ zuómo le hǎo jǐ tiān yuè kàn yuè kùnhuò · Professor Chen, could you help me date this photo? I've been turning it over for days, and the more I look, the more puzzled I get.

professor chen 我看看。鉴别老照片，首先看衣服，其次看背景，最后看照片后面的字。
wǒ kàn kan jiànbié lǎo zhàopiàn shǒuxiān kàn yīfu qícì kàn bèijǐng zuìhòu kàn zhàopiàn hòumiàn de zì · Let me see. To date an old photo, you look first at the clothes, then at the background, and last at any writing on the back.

little sister 我先回想一下：照片是在王老师学校的仓库里找到的，夹在一本老笔记里。
wǒ xiān huíxiǎng yíxià zhàopiàn shì zài Wánglǎoshī xuéxiào de cāngkù lǐ zhǎo dào de jiā zài yì běn lǎo bǐjì lǐ · Let me think back first: the photo was found in the storeroom at Teacher Wang's school, tucked inside an old notebook.

anna 她的衣服很朴素，头发很短。黑白照片虽然分辨不出颜色，可是看样子像五十年代。
tā de yīfu hěn pǔsù tóufa hěn duǎn hēi bái zhàopiàn suīrán fēnbiàn bu chū yánsè kěshì kàn yàngzi xiàng wǔshí niándài · Her clothes are very plain and her hair is short. You can't make out the colours in a black-and-white photo, but it looks like the fifties.

professor chen 可不是嘛！你的眼光不错。再看背景：门上的牌子写的是“第三工人夜校”，字已经淡了，不留意的话看不出来，可是还能辨认出来。
kěbùshi ma nǐ de yǎnguāng búcuò zài kàn bèijǐng mén shàng de páizi xiě de shì dì sān gōngrén yèxiào zì yǐjīng dàn le bù liúyì dehuà kàn bu chulai kěshì hái néng biànrèn chulai · Exactly! You've got a good eye. Now the background: the sign on the gate says "No. 3 Workers' Night School". It's faded, and you'd miss it if you weren't paying attention, but you can still make it out.

little sister 我一开始没察觉，后来才发觉牌子旁边还有两个小字：“东城”。当年北京有好几所“第三夜校”，很容易混淆。
wǒ yì kāishǐ méi chájué hòulái cái fājué páizi pángbiān hái yǒu liǎng gè xiǎo zì dōng chéng dāngnián Běijīng yǒu hǎo jǐ suǒ dì sān yèxiào hěn róngyì hùnxiáo · I didn't notice at first, but later I realised there are two small characters beside the sign: "Dongcheng", the district. Back then Beijing had several "No. 3 night schools", so they're easy to mix up.

professor chen 所以要留心细节。这是我做了四十年研究的心得：细节里常常有玄机。网上的老照片很多，要学会辨别真假，别被迷惑了。
suǒyǐ yào liúxīn xìjié zhè shì wǒ zuò le sìshí nián yánjiū de xīndé xìjié lǐ chángcháng yǒu xuánjī wǎngshang de lǎo zhàopiàn hěn duō yào xuéhuì biànbié zhēn jiǎ bié bèi míhuò le · That's why you have to watch the details. It's what forty years of research have taught me: details often hide the key. There are lots of old photos online, and you have to learn to tell real from fake and not be taken in.

anna 您看她的眼睛。她的样子一直在我脑海里。我有一种错觉，好像她马上就要说话了。
nín kàn tā de yǎnjing tā de yàngzi yìzhí zài wǒ nǎohǎi lǐ wǒ yǒu yì zhǒng cuòjué hǎoxiàng tā mǎshàng jiù yào shuōhuà le · Look at her eyes. I can't get her face out of my mind. I have the oddest feeling she's about to speak.

little sister 我也是！有时候我觉得是幻觉，她像一个梦幻里的幻影。哈哈，我是不是太累了？
wǒ yě shì yǒu shíhou wǒ juéde shì huànjué tā xiàng yí gè mènghuàn lǐ de huànyǐng hā hā wǒ shì bu shì tài lèi le · Me too! Sometimes I think I'm imagining it, like a phantom in a dream. Ha, am I just too tired?

professor chen 你不是累，是想知道历史的奥秘。不过不能空想。切记：没有证据，结论就是虚幻的。
nǐ bú shì lèi shì xiǎng zhīdào lìshǐ de àomì búguò bù néng kōngxiǎng qièjì méiyǒu zhèngjù jiélùn jiùshì xūhuàn de · You're not tired, you want to know history's secrets. But you can't just daydream. Remember: without evidence, a conclusion is an illusion.

little sister 我领会您的意思了。我以前以为一个月就能写完论文，现在才醒悟过来：那简直是妄想。
wǒ lǐnghuì nín de yìsi le wǒ yǐqián yǐwéi yí gè yuè jiù néng xiě wán lùnwén xiànzài cái xǐngwù guolai nà jiǎnzhí shì wàngxiǎng · I see what you mean. I used to think I could write my thesis in a month; only now do I realise that was pure fantasy.

professor chen 写论文要反复推敲，急不得。那时候很多工人刚刚觉醒，相信读书能改变命运；夜校的老师觉悟也很高，晚上不要钱，教大家认字。

xiě lùnwén yào fǎnfù tuīqiāo jí bude nà shíhou hěn duō gōngrén gānggāng juéxǐng xiāngxìn dúshū néng gǎibiàn mìngyùn yèxiào de lǎoshī juéwù yě hěn gāo wǎnshang búyào qián jiāo dàjiā rèn zì · A thesis needs polishing again and again: you can't rush it. Back then many workers had just woken up to the idea that reading could change their lives, and the night-school teachers had a strong sense of duty: they taught people to read in the evenings for nothing.

anna 我在中国这么多年，见识了不少，可是这段历史，我今天才第一次领略到。阅历再多，眼界还是不够宽。

wǒ zài Zhōngguó zhème duō nián jiànshi le bù shǎo kěshì zhè duàn lìshǐ wǒ jīntiān cái dì yī cì lǐnglüè dào yuèlì zài duō yǎnjiè háishi búgòu kuān · I've been in China all these years and seen a lot, but today is the first time I've had a real sense of this part of history. However much you've lived, your horizons are never wide enough.

professor chen 换一个视角看，这张照片也是一份历史资料，它让我们的视野从课本走进了普通人的生活。

huàn yí gè shìjiǎo kàn zhè zhāng zhàopiàn yě shì yí fèn lìshǐ zīliào tā ràng wǒmen de shìyě cóng kèběn zǒu jìn le pǔtōng rén de shēnghuó · Seen from another angle, this photo is a historical source too: it takes us out of the textbooks and into ordinary people's lives.

anna 陈教授，您的话我会牢记在心。

Chénjiàoshòu nín dehuà wǒ huì láojì zài xīn · Professor Chen, I'll keep your words in mind.

little sister 可我还是不解：她到底是谁？照片后面写的是繁体字，字迹跟王老师的有点儿像。

kě wǒ háishi bùjiě tā dàodǐ shì shéi zhàopiàn hòumiàn xiě de shì fántǐzì zìjì gēn Wánglǎoshī de yǒudiǎnr xiàng · But I still don't get it: who is she? The back of the photo is written in traditional characters, and the handwriting looks a bit like Teacher Wang's.

professor chen 这就说得太玄了，字迹像，说明不了什么。你去问问王老师吧，也许这个谜团很快就解开了。

zhè jiù shuō de tài xuán le zìjì xiàng shuōmíng bu liǎo shénme nǐ qù wèn wen Wánglǎoshī ba yěxǔ zhège mítuán hěn kuài jiù jiě kāi le · Now that's far-fetched: similar handwriting proves nothing. Go and ask Teacher Wang: perhaps the mystery will soon be solved.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

辨
biàn
tell apart

玄
xuán
mysterious, far-fetched

good to know · 发觉, 察觉, 留意: 发觉 is to realise, 察觉 to sense something small or hidden, 留意 to keep an eye out (often in the negative: 我没留意). 可不 (kěbù) on its own also means "exactly!": "这天气真热。" "可不！"

You can now follow a line of reasoning in Chinese, notice the detail that matters and agree warmly with 可不是嘛.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 174 reasoning

Reason your way from evidence to a conclusion in Chinese: assume, estimate, infer, verify, define and sum up, and keep naming the subject only once, later in the sentence.

Whether you are solving a puzzle, planning a project or writing a thesis, this is how Chinese sounds when it thinks clearly.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
推理	tuīlǐ	to reason, infer; reasoning	他最喜欢看推理小说。 His favourite books are detective novels.
推论	tuīlùn	to infer; inference	这只是一个推论，还需要证据。 This is only an inference: we still need evidence.
推断	tuīduàn	to infer, deduce	从脚印推断，他是往东边走的。 Judging by the footprints, he went east.
推算	tuīsuàn	to calculate, work out	根据照片上的年份，可以推算出她的年龄。 From the year on the photo, you can work out her age.
估算	gūsuàn	to estimate	我估算了一下，这次旅行要花五千块。 I've estimated that this trip will cost five thousand yuan.
计	jì	plan, idea; to count, calculate	那些老师教课，从来不计报酬。 Those teachers never counted the pay for their lessons.
假定	jiǎdìng	to suppose, assume	我们先假定这个数字是对的。 Let's assume for now that this figure is right.
断定	duàndìng	to conclude, determine	现在还不能断定是谁做的。 We can't yet say for certain who did it.
判定	pàndìng	to judge, decide (officially)	比赛的结果由裁判判定。 The result of the match is decided by the referee.
评定	píngdìng	to assess, evaluate	论文的成绩由老师们共同评定。 Theses are marked jointly by the teachers.
定论	dìnglùn	final conclusion, accepted view	这个问题到现在还没有定论。 There's still no settled view on this question.
求证	qiúzhèng	to seek proof, verify	网上的消息，要先求证再转发。 Check news you see online before you share it.
印证	yìnzhèng	to confirm, bear out	实验的结果印证了他的猜想。 The results of the experiment bore out his hypothesis.
确切	quèqiè	exact, precise	我想知道确切的时间。 I'd like to know the exact time.
确凿	quèzáo	conclusive, irrefutable	警察已经找到了确凿的证据。 The police have found conclusive evidence.
确信	quèxìn	to be sure, firmly believe	我确信他会来的。 I'm sure he'll come.

坚信	jiānxìn	to firmly believe	她坚信自己的选择是对的。 She firmly believes she made the right choice.
当真	dàngzhēn	to take seriously; really	我开玩笑的，你别当真。 I was joking: don't take it seriously.
归纳	guīnà	to sum up, generalise	请把文章的要点归纳一下。 Please sum up the main points of the article.
归结	guījié	to sum up, put down to	他把成功归结为{wei2}运气好。 He puts his success down to good luck.
归于	guīyú	to belong to, be attributed to	这次比赛的成功归于每一个人。 The credit for this match goes to everyone.
取决	qǔjué	to depend on	去不去，取决于天气。 Whether we go depends on the weather.
梳理	shūlǐ	to sort out, put in order	写论文以前，要先梳理一下材料。 Before writing your thesis, sort through your material.
条理	tiáolǐ	order, method (in thinking or writing)	他说话很有条理。 He speaks very clearly and logically.
脉络	màiluò	thread, overall structure	这一章的脉络不太清楚。 The thread of this chapter isn't very clear.
框架	kuàngjià	framework	先搭好框架，再写细节。 Set up the framework first, then write the details.
界定	jièdìng	to define (the limits of)	首先，要界定一下“夜校”这个概念。 First, we need to define the term “night school”.
范畴	fànchóu	category, domain	这个问题属于法律的范畴。 This question belongs to the field of law.
属性	shǔxìng	attribute, nature	这种材料有很多特殊的属性。 This material has many special properties.
广义	guǎngyì	broad sense	广义的“书”，也包括网上的电子书。 “Book” in the broad sense also includes e-books online.
狭义	xiáyì	narrow sense	狭义的“夜校”，只指给工人办的学校。 A “night school” in the narrow sense means only the schools set up for workers.
宏观	hóngguān	macro, big-picture	从宏观上看，经济还在增长。 Seen from the big picture, the economy is still growing.
共性	gòngxìng	common feature	这些学校有很多共性。 These schools have a lot in common.
主体	zhǔtǐ	main body, main part	夜校学生的主体是工人。 Most night-school students were workers.

pattern review: the subject comes later (蒙后省略), and 可不是嘛

first clause (no subject) **，subject** **second clause**

In a chain of reasoning, Chinese often starts with what was done and names who did it only in the second clause: 推算了一下，小明觉得…… “Having worked it out, Xiaoming thinks…”. And when someone makes a point you agree with, back them up with 可不是嘛 plus a reason.

仔细梳理了所有的材料以后，她发现了一个共同点。 **zǐxì shūlǐ le suǒyǒu de cáiliào yǐhòu tā fāxiàn le yí gè gòngtóng diǎn** Having gone carefully through all the material, she found something they had in common.

看了照片后面的字，大家都推断她是一位老师。 **kàn le zhàopiàn hòumiàn de zì dàjiā dōu tuīduàn tā shì yí wèi lǎoshī** Having seen the writing on the back of the photo, everyone concluded she was a teacher.

“推理要有证据。”“可不是嘛，光凭感觉可不行。” **tuīlǐ yào yǒu zhèngjù kěbùshi ma guāng píng gǎnjué kě bùxíng** “Reasoning needs evidence.” “Absolutely: gut feeling alone won’t do.”

dialogue three detectives

xiaoming 听说你们在破案？什么谜团，给我看看那张照片。我是工程师，最喜欢推理了。
tīngshuō nǐmen zài pòàn shénme mítuán gěi wǒ kàn kan nà zhāng zhàopiàn wǒ shì gōngchéngshī zuì xǐhuan tuīlǐ le · I hear you're solving a case? What's the mystery? Let me see this photo. I'm an engineer: I love a bit of deduction.

little sister 不是破案，是求证。陈教授说，没有确凿的证据，就不能下定论。
bú shì pòàn shì qiúzhèng Chénjiàoshòu shuō méiyǒu quèzáo de zhèngjù jiù bù néng xià dìnglùn · It's not a case, we're looking for proof. Professor Chen says that without conclusive evidence, you can't draw a conclusion.

xiaoming 好。我们先假定照片是一九五六年拍的。看样子，她大概二十岁。这样推算，她是一九三六年左右出生的，今天应该九十岁了。
hǎo wǒmen xiān jiǎdìng zhàopiàn shì yījiǔwǔliù nián pāi de kàn yàngzi tā dàgài èrshí suì zhèyàng tuīsuàn tā shì yījiǔsānliù nián zuǒyòu chūshēng de jīntiān yīnggāi jiǔshí suì le · Fine. Let's assume the photo was taken in 1956. She looks about twenty. Working from that, she was born around 1936, so she'd be ninety today.

anna 王老师六十岁左右。按年龄估算，这位老师可能是她的妈妈，也可能是她的奶奶。
Wánglǎoshī liùshí suì zuǒyòu àn niánlíng gūsuàn zhè wèi lǎoshī kěnéng shì tā de māma yě kěnéng shì tā de nǎinai · Teacher Wang is about sixty. Going by the ages, this teacher could be her mother, or her grandmother.

xiaoming 照片后面的字，我也辨认不出是谁写的。
zhàopiàn hòumiàn de zì wǒ yě biànrèn bu chū shì shéi xiě de · I can't make out whose handwriting is on the back of the photo either.

little sister 可不是嘛！可这只是推论，不能断定。字迹像不像，也要请专家来鉴别、判定。
kěbùshi ma kě zhè zhǐshì tuīlùn bù néng duàndìng zìjì xiàng bu xiàng yě yào qǐng zhuānjiā lái jiànbié pàndìng · Exactly! But that's only an inference: we can't be sure. Whether the handwriting matches is something an expert has to examine and decide.

xiaoming 你们俩太当真了。这些都只是猜想，也许她们一点儿关系都没有。
nǐmen liǎ tài dàngzhēn le zhèxiē dōu zhǐshì cāixiǎng yěxǔ tāmen yìdiǎnr guānxì dōu méiyǒu · You two are taking this far too seriously. It's all guesswork: maybe they're not related at all.

anna 我有一种预感：她们有关系。我坚信这一点。
wǒ yǒu yì zhǒng yùgǎn tāmen yǒu guānxì wǒ jiānxìn zhè yìdiǎn · I have a feeling they're related. I'm sure of it.

little sister 我也确信。可是“确信”不等于知道确切的答案。王老师这个星期去外地看亲戚了，答辩那天才回来。到时候我当面问她，看她的回答能不能印证我们的推断。
wǒ yě quèxìn kěshì quèxìn bù děngyú zhīdào quèqiè de dáàn Wánglǎoshī zhège xīngqī qù wàidì kàn qīnqi le dábiàn nà tiān cái huílái dào shíhou wǒ dāngmiàn wèn tā kàn tā de huídá néng bu néng yìnzhèng wǒmen de tuīduàn · So am I. But being sure isn't the same as knowing the exact answer. Teacher Wang is out of town visiting relatives this week and won't be back until the day of my defence. I'll ask her then, face to face, and see whether her answer bears out what we've worked out.

xiaoming 好，那我们这几天多留意别的线索。那论文呢？准备得怎么样了？
hǎo nà wǒmen zhè jǐ tiān duō liúyì biéde xiànsuǒ nà lùnwén ne zhǔnbèi de zěnmeyàng le · OK, then over the next few days let's keep an eye out for other clues. And the thesis? How's it coming along?

little sister 正在梳理材料。陈教授说我的第二章没有条理，有两所夜校还被我混淆了，看不出脉络，要重新搭一个框架。
zhèngzài shūlǐ cáiliào Chénjiàoshòu shuō wǒ de dì èr zhāng méiyǒu tiáolǐ yǒu liǎng suǒ yèxiào hái bèi wǒ hùnxiáo le kàn bu chū màiluò yào chóngxīn dā yí gè kuàngjià · I'm sorting through the material. Professor Chen says chapter two is disorganised, I've even mixed up two night schools, and you can't follow the thread, so I need to build a new framework.

xiaoming 写论文跟设计机器一样：先有框架，再装零件。你先界定一下，什么叫“夜校”？
xiě lùnwén gēn shèjì jīqì yíyàng xiān yǒu kuàngjià zài zhuāng língjiàn nǐ xiān jièdìng yíxià shénme jiào yèxiào · Writing a thesis is like designing a machine: first the frame, then the parts. Start by defining your terms: what counts as a “night school”?

little sister 广义的夜校，包括所有晚上上课的学校；狭义的，只指五六十年代给工人办的夜校。我的论文属于后一个范畴。这些夜校的属性很特别：既是学校，也是工人的俱乐部。

guǎngyì de yèxiào bāokuò suǒyǒu wǎnshang shàngkè de xuéxiào xiáyì de zhǐ zhǐ wǔliùshí niándài gěi gōngrén bàn de yèxiào wǒ de lùnwén shǔyú hòu yí gè fànchóu zhèxiē yèxiào de shǔxìng hěn tèbié jì shì xuéxiào yě shì gōngrén de jùlèbù · In the broad sense, a night school is any school with classes in the evening; in the narrow sense, only the schools set up for workers in the fifties and sixties. My thesis belongs in the second category. Those night schools had an unusual character: they were schools and workers' clubs at the same time.

xiaoming 这么说我就领会了：你写的是狭义的夜校。
zhème shuō wǒ jiù lǐnghuì le nǐ xiě de shì xiáyì de yèxiào · Put like that, I get it: you're writing about night schools in the narrow sense.

anna 那它们有什么共性？
nà tāmen yǒu shénme gòngxìng · So what did they have in common?

little sister 我归纳了三点：第一，学生的主体是工人；第二，老师大多不计报酬；第三，都在下班以后上课。最后，我把夜校的作用归结为一句话：让普通人有了读书的机会。
wǒ guīnà le sān diǎn dì yī xuéshēng de zhǔtǐ shì gōngrén dì èr lǎoshī dàduō bú jì bàochou dì sān dōu zài xiàbān yǐhòu shàngkè zuìhòu wǒ bǎ yèxiào de zuòyòng guījié wéi yí jù huà ràng pǔtōng rén yǒu le dúshū de jīhuì · I've boiled it down to three points: first, most of the students were workers; second, most teachers didn't count the pay; third, classes were always after work. And I sum up what the night schools did in one sentence: they gave ordinary people the chance to read.

xiaoming 从宏观上看，是一个国家在学认字；换个视角，从每个人看，是一个人在改变命运。这份功劳归于谁，就看你的证据了。
cóng hóngguān shàng kàn shì yí gè guójiā zài xué rèn zì huàn gè shìjiǎo cóng měi gè rén kàn shì yí gè rén zài gǎibiàn mìngyùn zhè fèn gōngláo guīyú shéi jiù kàn nǐ de zhèngjù le · In the big picture, it's a whole country learning to read; from another angle, for each person, it's someone changing their life. Who the credit belongs to: that depends on your evidence.

little sister 对。论文的成绩由答辩委员会评定，好不好，就取决于我的论证了。
duì lùnwén de chéngjì yóu dábiàn wěiyuánhuì píngdìng hǎo bu hǎo jiù qǔjué yú wǒ de lùnzhèng le · Right. The thesis is marked by the defence committee, and how well I do depends on how I argue my case.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

畴
chóu
category

good to know · 推断, 断定, 判定: 推断 is to infer, 断定 to say for certain, 判定 to rule officially (a referee, a court, an expert). 当真 is read dàngzhēn: 别当真 "don't take it seriously"; 你当真要去？ "are you really going?"

You can now reason out loud in Chinese, from a first guess to a conclusion you can defend.
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day 175 views and principles

Talk about opinions, principles and intentions: agree and disagree politely, explain what you really meant, and sum up with 概括来说.

Every serious conversation, from a meeting to a family row, turns on what people meant, what they believe is right and where their bottom line is.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
见解	jiànjiě	view, opinion, insight	她对这个问题有独到的见解。 She has original views on this question.
高见	gāojiàn	your wise opinion (polite)	这件事您有什么高见? What's your view on this?
观感	guāngǎn	impressions	请谈谈你对这部电影的观感。 Tell us your impressions of the film.
共识	gòngshí	consensus	经过讨论，大家终于达成了共识。 After discussion, everyone finally reached a consensus.
分歧	fēnqí	difference (of opinion); divergent	我们在这个问题上有分歧。 We disagree on this point.
异议	yìyì	objection	如果没有异议，我们就这样决定了。 If there are no objections, we'll go ahead.
偏见	piānjiàn	prejudice, bias	我对他没有偏见。 I have nothing against him.
偏向	piānxiàng	to be partial to; tendency	他的看法有点儿偏向一方。 His view leans a little towards one side.
偏差	piānchā	deviation, error	数据有一点偏差，要再算一遍。 The data is a bit off: it needs working out again.
是非	shìfēi	right and wrong; gossip	孩子要学会分辨是非。 Children need to learn to tell right from wrong.
真理	zhēnlǐ	truth	他一生都在追求真理。 All his life he has searched for the truth.
情理	qínglǐ	reason, sense (what people feel is right)	他这么生气，也在情理之中。 It's understandable that he's so angry.
常理	chánglǐ	common sense, normal logic	按常理，他早该到了。 By rights he should have arrived ages ago.
伦理	lúnlǐ	ethics	做研究也要讲伦理。 Research has to follow ethics too.
教条	jiàotiáo	dogma; dogmatic	学习方法不能太教条。 Your way of studying mustn't be too rigid.
准则	zhǔnzé	norm, standard (of conduct)	诚实是做人的基本准则。 Honesty is a basic rule for how to live.

尺度	chǐdù	yardstick, scale	评判对错，要用同一个尺度。 To judge right and wrong, you have to use the same yardstick.
基准	jīzhǔn	benchmark, standard	我们以去年的数字为{wei2}基准。 We take last year's figures as the benchmark.
水准	shuǐzhǔn	level, standard	她的中文水准很高。 Her Chinese is of a very high standard.
底线	dǐxiàn	bottom line	说实话是我的底线。 Telling the truth is my bottom line.
宗旨	zōngzhǐ	aim, purpose (of an organisation)	我们学校的宗旨是“让每个人都能学”。 Our school's aim is “learning for everyone”.
出发点	chūfādiǎn	starting point; motive	他的出发点是好的。 He meant well.
初衷	chūzhōng	original intention	不管多忙，都不要忘了初衷。 However busy you are, don't forget why you started.
本意	běnyì	original meaning or intention	对不起，我的本意不是这样。 Sorry, that's not what I meant.
用意	yòngyì	intention, purpose	我明白你的用意了。 I see what you're getting at.
意图	yìtú	intention; to intend	他这么做的意图是什么? What is he trying to achieve by doing that?
意向	yìxiàng	intention, interest (to do a deal)	这家出版社有意向出版她的书。 This publisher is interested in publishing her book.
意愿	yìyuàn	wish, will	要尊重孩子自己的意愿。 You should respect the child's own wishes.
意味	yìwèi	meaning, hint, flavour	她的笑里有一点儿批评的意味。 There was a hint of criticism in her smile.
意料	yìliào	to expect, anticipate	结果完全在我的意料之外。 The result took me completely by surprise.
企图	qǐtú	to attempt (usually bad); attempt	有人企图用假{jia3}照片骗人。 Someone is trying to fool people with fake photos.
导向	dǎoxiàng	guidance, orientation; to guide	新闻不能以点击量{liang4-5}为{wei2}导向。 News mustn't be driven by clicks.
指向	zhǐxiàng	to point to; direction	所有的证据都指向同一个|人。 All the evidence points to the same person.
定向	dìngxiàng	directional; targeted	这所大学为农村定向培养老师。 This university trains teachers specifically for the countryside.
动摇	dòngyáo	to waver, shake	不管别人怎么说，她的决心都没有动摇。 Whatever people said, her resolve never wavered.

pattern review: 概括来说 (to sum up), and saying it only once

several points ，概括来说 ，**one summary**

概括来说 “to sum up, broadly speaking” (from day 156) wraps a discussion into one line. And remember 承前省略 from day 170: once the person is named, the next actions follow without naming them again: 老人看完稿子，想了想，同意了.

我们讨论了两个小时，概括来说，分歧不大。 **wǒmen tǎolùn le liǎng gè xiǎoshí gàikuò lái shuō fēnqí bú dà** We talked for two hours; to sum up, there isn’t much disagreement.

林编辑看完我的文章，提了三条意见，概括来说，就是“少写自己，多写别人”。 **Línbiānjí kàn wán wǒ de wénzhāng tí le sān tiáo yìjiàn gàikuò lái shuō jiùshì shǎo xiě zìjǐ duō xiě biérén** Editor Lin read my piece and made three points; in short: “Write less about yourself and more about others.”

老人看完稿子，想了想，同意我们发表。 **lǎorén kàn wán gǎozi xiǎng le xiang tóngyì wǒmen fābiǎo** The old lady read the draft, thought it over and agreed to let us publish it.

当年很多夜校老师是师范学校定向培养的。 **dāngnián hěn duō yèxiào lǎoshī shì shīfàn xuéxiào dìngxiàng péiyǎng de** Back then many night-school teachers were trained by teachers’ colleges specially for the job.

dialogue a story she can’t tell

little sister 林编辑、陈教授，我想听听你们的高见。我采访了一位九十岁的老学生，她讲了一个家里的故事，很感人，可是她说：“别写进去。”

Línbiānjí Chénjiàoshòu wǒ xiǎng tīng ting nǐmen de gāojiàn wǒ cǎifǎng le yí wèi jiǔshí suì de lǎo xuéshēng tā jiǎng le yí gè jiā lǐ de gùshi hěn gǎnrén kěshì tā shuō bié xiě jinqu · Editor Lin, Professor Chen, I’d like your advice. I interviewed a former student who’s ninety. She told me a family story, a very moving one, but then she said: “Don’t put that in.”

editor lin 那就不能写。我们做新闻有一条准则，也是底线：被采访的人不同意，就不发表。我们网站的宗旨是讲真实的故事，但是不伤害任何人。

nà jiù bù néng xiě wǒmen zuò xīnwén yǒu yì tiáo zhǔnzé yě shì dǐxiàn bèi cǎifǎng de rén bù tóngyì jiù bù fābiǎo wǒmen wǎngzhàn de zōngzhǐ shì jiǎng zhēnshí de gùshi dànshì bù shānghài rènhé rén · Then you can’t. In news we have a rule, and it’s our bottom line too: if the person interviewed doesn’t agree, it isn’t published. Our website’s aim is to tell true stories without hurting anyone.

little sister 可是这个故事最能说明夜校的作用，我的出发点是好的。

kěshì zhège gùshi zuì néng shuōmíng yèxiào de zuòyòng wǒ de chūfādiǎn shì hǎo de · But that story shows better than anything what the night schools did. I mean well.

professor chen 出发点好，不等于做法对。研究也要讲伦理，要尊重被采访的人的意愿，顾及她的尊严。你的初衷是记录历史，不是让老人难过。

chūfādiǎn hǎo bù děngyú zuòfǎ duì yánjiū yě yào jiǎng lúnlǐ yào zūnzhòng bèi cǎifǎng de rén de yìyuàn gùjí tā de zūnyán nǐ de chūzhōng shì jìlù lìshǐ bú shì ràng lǎorén nánguò · Meaning well doesn’t make it the right thing to do. Research has its ethics too: you respect the wishes of the people you interview and think of their dignity. You set out to record history, not to upset an old lady.

little sister 那我把名字改了，可以吗？

nà wǒ bǎ míngzi gǎi le kěyǐ ma · What if I change her name?

editor lin 按常理是可以的。可是她那条街上谁都认识她，大家一看就知道是谁。合不合情理，要站在她的角度想。

àn chánglǐ shì kěyǐ de kěshì tā nà tiáo jiē shàng shéi dōu rènshi tā dàjiā yí kàn jiù zhīdào shì shéi hé bu hé qínglǐ yào zhàn zài tā de jiǎodù xiǎng · Normally that would be fine. But everyone on her street knows her: they’d see at once who it was. Whether it’s fair, you have to judge from where she stands.

professor chen 你先回去问问她的本意：是不想写名字，还是根本不想让人知道这件事？弄清楚她的用意，再决定。

nǐ xiān huíqù wèn wen tā de běnyì shì bù xiǎng xiě míngzi háishi gēnběn bù xiǎng ràng rén zhīdào zhè jiàn shì nòng qīngchu tā de yòngyì zài juédìng · Go back and ask what she really meant: is it her name she doesn’t want in, or does she not want anyone to know at all? Once you know what she intends, then decide.

little sister 好，我先跟她求证一下，再仔细斟酌。还有一件事：我跟另一位老师有分歧。他觉得夜校的水准不高，只教认字；我觉得夜校改变了很多人的一生。他说话的时候，带着一点儿看不起的意味，好像对夜校有偏见。

hǎo wǒ xiān gēn tā qiúzhèng yíxià zài zǐxì zhēnzhuó hái yǒu yí jiàn shì wǒ gēn lìng yí wèi lǎoshī yǒu fēnqí tā juéde yèxiào de shuǐzhǔn bù gāo zhǐ jiāo rèn zì wǒ juéde yèxiào gǎibiàn le hěn duō rén de yìshēng tā shuōhuà de shíhou dài zhe yìdiǎnr kànbuqǐ de yìwèi hǎoxiàng duì yèxiào yǒu piānjiàn · All right, I’ll check with her first, then think it over carefully. One more thing: I disagree with another lecturer. He thinks the night schools were low-level and only taught reading; I think they changed many people’s lives. When he talks about them there’s a hint of contempt, as if he’s biased against them.

professor chen 有异议很正常。学术上的是非，要靠确凿的证据，不是看谁的声音大，能不能达成共识，也不要紧。不过你的看法也有点儿偏向夜校，要小心出现偏差。

yǒu yìyì hěn zhèngcháng xuéshù shàng de shìfēi yào kào quèzáo de zhèngjù bú shì kàn shéi de shēngyīn dà néng bu néng dáchéng gòngshí yě búyàojǐn búguò nǐ de kànfǎ yě yǒudiǎnr piānxiàng yèxiào yào xiǎoxīn chūxiàn piānchā · Disagreement is perfectly normal. In scholarship, right and wrong come down to hard evidence, not to who shouts loudest, and it doesn’t matter whether you reach a consensus. But your own view leans a bit towards the night schools too, so watch out for bias.

editor lin 没有证据，就别轻易下定论。写新闻也一样。真理不怕讨论。评判一篇文章，要用同一个尺度、同一个基准，不能以点击量为导向。有的网站企图用老人的故事赚点击，那种意图就不对了。

méiyǒu zhèngjù jiù bié qīngyì xià dìnglùn xiě xīnwén yě yíyàng zhēnlǐ bú pà tǎolùn píngpàn yì piān wénzhāng yào yòng tóngyī gè chǐdù tóngyī gè jīzhǔn bù néng yǐ diǎnjī liàng wéi dǎoxiàng yǒude wǎngzhàn qítú yòng lǎorén de gùshi zhuàn diǎnjī nà zhǒng yìtú jiù bú duì le · Without evidence, don't rush to a conclusion. News is just the same. The truth isn't afraid of debate. When you judge a piece, you use the same yardstick, the same benchmark, and you don't let clicks drive you. Some websites try to use old people's stories to rake in clicks: that kind of motive is wrong.

anna 林编辑，你对她的论文观感怎么样？我觉得她把夜校的历史梳理得很有条理。你的见解一向很准。

Línbiānjí nǐ duì tā de lùnwén guāngǎn zěnmeyàng wǒ juéde tā bǎ yèxiào de lìshǐ shūlǐ de hěn yǒu tiáolǐ nǐ de jiànjiě yíxiàng hěn zhǔn · Editor Lin, what's your impression of her thesis? I think she's set out the night schools' history in very good order. Your judgement is always spot on.

editor lin 很好！说实话，比我意料的还要好。我们网站有意向发表她论文的摘要，这意味着会有很多人看到夜校的故事。

hěn hǎo shuō shíhuà bǐ wǒ yìliào de hái yào hǎo wǒmen wǎngzhàn yǒu yìxiàng fābiǎo tā lùnwén de zhāiyào zhè yìwèizhe huì yǒu hěn duō rén kàn dào yèxiào de gùshi · Very good! Honestly, it's even better than I expected. Our website would like to publish her abstract, which means a lot of people would get to read about the night schools.

little sister 真的吗？太好了！不过我得先通过答辩……

zhēn de ma tài hǎo le búguò wǒ děi xiān tōngguò dábiàn · Really? That's wonderful! But first I have to pass my defence…

anna 我确信你一定能通过。

wǒ quèxìn nǐ yídìng néng tōngguò · I'm sure you'll pass.

professor chen 别太教条，也别太紧张。你的方向是对的，所有证据都指向同一个结论，只要你自己不动摇就行。概括来说：尊重材料，尊重人。

bié tài jiàotiáo yě bié tài jǐnzhāng nǐ de fāngxiàng shì duì de suǒyǒu zhèngjù dōu zhǐxiàng tóngyī gè jiélùn zhǐyào nǐ zìjǐ bú dòngyáo jiù xíng gàikuò lái shuō zūnzhòng cáiliào zūnzhòng rén · Don't be too rigid, and don't be too nervous. You're on the right track, all the evidence points to the same conclusion, and as long as you don't waver you'll be fine. To sum up: respect your material, and respect people.

good to know · 本意, 用意, 意图, 企图: 本意 what you really meant, 用意 the purpose behind it, 意图 an intention (neutral), 企图 an attempt (usually bad). 高见 is polite when you ask (您有什么高见？) but sarcastic if you say it about someone's silly idea: 这就是你的高见?

You can now disagree politely in Chinese, explain what you meant, and hold a line you won't cross. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 176 mission: the thesis defence

Follow a whole thesis defence in Chinese: the notice, a twelve-minute talk, the committee's questions, a mystery solved and the result, using this unit's words for study, writing, thinking and reasoning.

A defence, a pitch or a big presentation: in every one of them you explain, answer objections and stand by your evidence. Today you watch someone do it, start to finish.

chapter 1 chapter 1: the notice on the door

anna （读）“通知：本届历史专业学士学位论文答辩定于本周五上午九点在学校礼堂举行。答辩委员会由五位教师组成，论文成绩由委员会共同评定。

dú tōngzhī běn jiè lìshǐ zhuānyè xuéshì xuéwèi lùnwén dábiàn dìng yú běn zhōu wǔ shàngwǔ jiǔ diǎn zài xuéxiào lǐtáng jǔxíng dábiàn wěiyuánhuì yóu wǔ wèi jiàoshī zǔchéng lùnwén chéngjì yóu wěiyuánhuì gòngtóng píngdìng · (reading) “Notice: This year’s bachelor’s thesis defences for the history students will be held at 9 a.m. this Friday in the university hall. The defence committee is made up of five teachers, who will mark each thesis together.

anna 每位学生先用十二分钟论述论文的主要内容，再回答委员的问题。答辩主要考查学生独立研究的能力。请按学校规定的格式准备材料：论文、中文和外文摘要、提纲；引用的专著、教科书、辞典等，都要写在注释里。论文篇幅不少于一万字；段落、标点、括号、字体都要符合要求，不能有错别字。

měi wèi xuéshēng xiān yòng shíèr fēnzhōng lùnshù lùnwén de zhǔyào nèiróng zài huídá wěiyuán de wèntí dábiàn zhǔyào kǎochá xuéshēng dúlì yánjiū de nénglì qǐng àn xuéxiào guīdìng de géshi zhǔnbèi cáiliào lùnwén Zhōngwén hé wài wén zhāiyào tígāng yǐnyòng de zhuānzhù jiàokēshū cídiǎn děng dōu yào xiě zài zhùshì lǐ lùnwén piānfú bù shǎo yú yí wàn zì duànluò biāodiǎn kuòhào zìtǐ dōu yào fúhé yāoqiú bù néng yǒu cuòbiézì · Each student will first spend twelve minutes setting out the main content of the thesis, then answer the committee’s questions. The defence mainly assesses the student’s ability to do research independently. Please prepare your material in the format set by the university: the thesis, an abstract in Chinese and in a foreign language, and an outline; all scholarly books, textbooks, dictionaries and so on that you quote must be given in the notes. Theses must be at least ten thousand characters long; paragraphs, punctuation, brackets and fonts must follow the rules, and there must be no wrongly written characters.

anna 切记：凡是抄袭别人成果、在答辩中作弊的，一律取消答辩资格，不发文凭。欢迎师长、同学和亲人来观摩。”

qièjì fánshì chāoxí biérén chéngguǒ zài dábiàn zhōng zuòbì de yílǜ qǔxiāo dábiàn zīgé bù fā wénpíng huānyíng shīzhǎng tóngxué hé qīnrén lái guānmó · Please note: anyone who has plagiarised the work of others or cheats during the defence will be disqualified and will not receive a diploma. Teachers, fellow students and families are welcome to come and watch.”

xiaoming 五个委员！你紧张吗？

wǔ gè wěiyuán nǐ jǐnzhāng ma · Five on the committee! Are you nervous?

little sister 紧张得要命。我们专业的师资很强，委员都很严格。去年有个学生抄袭了别人的学说，当场就被取消了资格。

jǐnzhāng de yàomìng wǒmen zhuānyè de shīzī hěn qiáng wěiyuán dōu hěn yángé qùnián yǒu gè xuéshēng chāoxí le biérén de xuéshuō dāngchǎng jiù bèi qǔxiāo le zīgé · Terrified. Our subject has very strong staff, and the committee members are all strict. Last year a student plagiarised someone else’s theory and was disqualified on the spot.

xiaoming 听说今天还有一位老院士来观摩。他是学工科的，可是对人文也很有兴趣，学识很深。

tīngshuō jīntiān hái yǒu yí wèi lǎo yuànshì lái guānmó tā shì xué gōngkē de kěshì duì rénwén yě hěn yǒu xìngqù xuéshí hěn shēn · I hear an elderly academician is coming to watch today, too. He’s an engineer by training, but he’s very interested in the humanities, and extremely learned.

little sister 你的消息真灵通！我现在思绪很乱，脑海里全是委员会可能问的问题。一紧张，我就下意识地摸头发。昨天晚上在寝室里温习到两点，开头那段已经背诵下来了。

nǐ de xiāoxi zhēn língtōng wǒ xiànzài sīxù hěn luàn nǎohǎi lǐ quán shì wěiyuánhuì kěnéng wèn de wèntí yì jǐnzhāng wǒ jiù xiàyìshí de mō tóufa zuótiān wǎnshang zài qǐnshì lǐ wēnxí dào liǎng diǎn kāitóu nà duàn yǐjīng bèisòng xialai le · You’re so well-informed! My thoughts are all over the place right now: my head is full of questions the committee might ask. When I’m nervous I touch my hair without noticing. I was revising in my dorm until two last night, and I’ve learned the opening by heart.

anna 你从新生到现在，学业一直很好，连一次小测验都没缺过。外文摘要是我帮你译的，我猜想他们会问数字的问题。

nǐ cóng xīnshēng dào xiànzài xuéyè yìzhí hěn hǎo lián yí cì xiǎo cèyàn dōu méi quē guo wài wén zhāiyào shì

wǒ bāng nǐ yì de wǒ cāixiǎng tāmen huì wèn shùzì de wèntí · From your first year till now you've always done well: you never even missed a single quiz. I translated your foreign-language abstract for you, and my guess is they'll ask about your figures.

xiaoming 别揣摩他们的心思了。刚上大学的时候你参加了那么多社团，不也都过来了吗?

bié chuǎimó tāmen de xīnsi le gāng shàng dàxué de shíhou nǐ cānjiā le nàme duō shètuán bù yě dōu guòlái le ma · Stop trying to read their minds. In first year you were in so many clubs, and you got through all that, didn't you?

anna 别光背。王老师以前训我的一句话，我送给你：“话是说给人听的，不是背给人听的。”

bié guāng bèi Wánglǎoshī yǐqián xùn wǒ de yí jù huà wǒ sòng gěi nǐ huà shì shuō gěi rén tīng de bú shì bèi gěi rén tīng de · Don't just recite it. Here's something Teacher Wang once told me off with, and now it's yours: “You speak to people; you don't recite at them.”

little sister 王老师呢？她说今天无论如何都会来。

Wánglǎoshī ne tā shuō jīntiān wúlùn rúhé dōu huì lái · Where's Teacher Wang? She said she'd come today whatever happened.

xiaoming 她刚发了消息，说火车晚点了，十点以前一定到，还说要带一个人来。

tā gāng fā le xiāoxi shuō huǒchē wǎndiǎn le shí diǎn yǐqián yídìng dào hái shuō yào dài yí gè rén lái · She's just texted: her train is late, but she'll definitely be here before ten, and she says she's bringing someone.

little sister 带谁？算了，现在我没心思琢磨这个。

dài shéi suànle xiànzài wǒ méi xīnsi zuómo zhège · Bringing who? Never mind, I can't think about that now.

anna 深呼吸。归根到底，论文是你自己写的，没有人比你更了解它。

shēn hūxī guīgēn dàodǐ lùnwén shì nǐ zìjǐ xiě de méiyǒu rén bǐ nǐ gèng liǎojiě tā · Deep breath. In the end, you wrote this thesis yourself: nobody knows it better than you.

chapter 2 chapter 2: twelve minutes

little sister 各位老师好。我的论文题目是“五六十年代的北京工人夜校”。首先，我界定一下研究的范畴：本文的“夜校”是狭义的，只指当年给工人办的学校，不包括广义上所有晚上上课的学校。

gèwèi lǎoshī hǎo wǒ de lùnwén tímù shì wǔliùshí niándài de Běijīng gōngrén yèxiào shǒuxiān wǒ jièdìng yíxià yánjiū de fànchóu běn wén de yèxiào shì xiáyì de zhǐ zhǐ dāngnián gěi gōngrén bàn de xuéxiào bù bāokuò guǎngyì shàng suǒyǒu wǎnshang shàngkè de xuéxiào · Good morning, everyone. My thesis is called “Beijing’s Workers’ Night Schools in the 1950s and 60s”. First, let me define the scope: “night school” here is meant in the narrow sense, the schools set up for workers at that time, not every school with evening classes in the broad sense.

little sister 其次，论文的框架分三部分：第一部分梳理夜校的历史脉络；第二部分分析夜校的教学，比如用什么教科书和读物，老师怎么备课，学生怎么温习；第三部分换一个视角，从学生的角度看夜校怎样改变了他们的生活。

qícì lùnwén de kuàngjià fēn sān bùfen dì yī bùfen shūlǐ yèxiào de lìshǐ màiluò dì èr bùfen fēnxī yèxiào de jiàoxué bǐrú yòng shénme jiàokēshū hé dúwù lǎoshī zěnme bèikè xuéshēng zěnme wēnxí dì sān bùfen huàn yí gè shìjiǎo cóng xuéshēng de jiǎodù kàn yèxiào zěnyàng gǎibiàn le tāmen de shēnghuó · Next, the framework has three parts. Part one traces the history of the night schools; part two looks at how they taught, for example which textbooks and readers they used, how the teachers prepared lessons and how the students revised; part three changes perspective and looks, from the students’ side, at how the night schools changed their lives.

little sister 论文着重分析第二部分，侧重老师怎么教认字：先教部首和偏旁，再讲会意字。当年用的是繁体字，一九五六年以后，课本才改成了简体字。学生用钢笔和墨水写字，我找到的老笔记，字迹到现在还很清楚。

lùnwén zhuózhòng fēnxī dì èr bùfen cèzhòng lǎoshī zěnme jiāo rèn zì xiān jiāo bùshǒu hé piānpáng zài jiǎng huìyì zì dāngnián yòng de shì fántǐzì yījiǔwǔliù nián yǐhòu kèběn cái gǎi chéng le jiǎntǐzì xuéshēng yòng gāngbǐ hé mòshuǐ xiě zì wǒ zhǎo dào de lǎo bǐjì zìjì dào xiànzài hái hěn qīngchu · The thesis concentrates on part two, with the focus on how teachers taught reading: radicals and components first, then ideographs. At first they used traditional characters; only after 1956 did the textbooks switch to simplified ones. The students wrote with fountain pens and ink, and the old notebooks I found are still perfectly legible.

little sister 材料方面，我参考了当年的教学指南、教学大纲和几本教育概论，还采访了二十多位老学生。时间有限，有些细节我就省略了。以下把“第三工人夜校”简称为“三夜”。

cáiliào fāngmiàn wǒ cānkǎo le dāngnián de jiàoxué zhǐnán jiàoxué dàgāng hé jǐ běn jiàoyù gàilùn hái cǎifǎng le èrshí duō wèi lǎo xuéshēng shíjiān yǒuxiàn yǒuxiē xìjié wǒ jiù shěnglüè le yǐxià bǎ dì sān gōngrén yèxiào jiǎnchēng wéi sān yè · For sources, I used teaching guides and syllabuses from the time and several introductions to education, and I interviewed over twenty former students. Time is short, so I’ll leave some details out. From here on I’ll call the “No. 3 Workers’ Night School” “Sanye” for short.

little sister 我归纳了这些夜校的三个共性：学生的主体是工人；老师大多是师范学校定向培养的，很多人不计报酬；课都在下班以后上。

wǒ guīnà le zhèxiē yèxiào de sān gè gòngxìng xuéshēng de zhǔtǐ shì gōngrén lǎoshī dàduō shì shīfàn xuéxiào dìngxiàng péiyǎng de hěn duō rén bú jì bàochou kè dōu zài xiàbān yǐhòu shàng · I have identified three features these night schools shared: most students were workers; most teachers had been trained by teachers’ colleges specifically for this, and many took no pay; and classes were always held after work.

little sister 从宏观上看，夜校让成千上万的文盲认了字。从每个人看，夜校是他们的启蒙。一位九十岁的老学生对我说，那时候她第一次觉醒：原来读书可以改变命运。

cóng hóngguān shàng kàn yèxiào ràng chéngqiān shàngwàn de wénmáng rèn le zì cóng měi gè rén kàn yèxiào shì tāmen de qǐméng yí wèi jiǔshí suì de lǎo xuéshēng duì wǒ shuō nà shíhou tā dì yī cì juéxǐng yuánlái dúshū kěyǐ gǎibiàn mìngyùn · In the big picture, the night schools taught tens of thousands of illiterate people to read. For each person, the night school was where their mind was first opened. A ninety-year-old former student told me that back then she woke up for the first time to the idea that reading could change her life.

little sister “三夜”还有一间阅览室，工人下了班就在那里阅览报纸。他们常常在一起切磋，有的什么书都涉猎，从书里汲取力量，有的开始钻研技术。这段历史对今天也有启迪：

我们现在常说要给学生减负，当年没有人给工人减负，可是他们学得很快乐。

sān yè hái yǒu yì jiān yuèlǎn shì gōngrén xià le bān jiù zài nàlǐ yuèlǎn bàozhǐ tāmen chángcháng zài yìqǐ qiēcuō yǒude shénme shū dōu shèliè cóng shū lǐ jíqǔ lìliàng yǒude kāishǐ zuānyán jìshù zhè duàn lìshǐ duì jīntiān yě yǒu qǐdí wǒmen xiànzài cháng shuō yào gěi xuéshēng jiǎnfù dāngnián méiyǒu rén gěi gōngrén jiǎnfù kěshì tāmen xué de hěn kuàilè · Sanye also had a reading room, where workers read the papers after their shifts. They often studied together and compared notes; some read anything they could lay hands on and drew strength from books, and some started studying their trade in depth. This history has a lesson for today too: we often talk about lightening students' load, and nobody lightened the workers' load back then, yet they loved learning.

little sister 很多学生后来又进修、深造，有的成了工程师，有的成了知识分子。总而言之，夜校不只是教人认字，也在熏陶人、陶冶人。到头来，它给学生最多的，不是文凭，而是求学的勇气。谢谢各位老师。

hěn duō xuéshēng hòulái yòu jìnxiū shēnzào yǒude chéng le gōngchéngshī yǒude chéng le zhīshi fènzǐ zǒngéryánzhī yèxiào bù zhǐshì jiāo rén rèn zì yě zài xūntáo rén táoyě rén dàotóulái tā gěi xuéshēng zuì duō de bú shì wénpíng ér shì qiúxué de yǒngqì xièxie gèwèi lǎoshī · Many students later went on to further training and study; some became engineers, some intellectuals. In a word, the night schools didn't only teach people to read: they shaped and nurtured them. In the end, what they gave students most was not a diploma but the courage to keep learning. Thank you.

anna （小声）讲得真通顺，一点儿也不像背的。

xiǎo shēng jiǎng de zhēn tōngshùn yìdiǎnr yě bú xiàng bèi de · (whispering) That flowed so well: it didn't sound recited at all.

xiaoming （小声）可不是嘛！条理清楚，论证也有力。陈教授一直在点头。

xiǎo shēng kěbùshi ma tiáolǐ qīngchu lùnzhèng yě yǒulì Chénjiàoshòu yìzhí zài diǎntóu · (whispering) Isn't it just! Clear and well organised, and a strong argument too. Professor Chen hasn't stopped nodding.

chapter 3 chapter 3: the committee's questions

xiaoming 怎么样？他们都问了什么？

zěnmeyàng tāmen dōu wèn le shénme · Well? What did they ask?

little sister 第一位老师问：论文里的数字确切吗？我说，每个数字都参见了当年的报纸和档案，有的我还求证过两次。有些数字是我推算和估算的，譬如我假定每所夜校平均有一百个学生，这些我都在注释里说明了，没有把它们当作定论。

dì yī wèi lǎoshī wèn lùnwén lǐ de shùzì quèqiè ma wǒ shuō měi gè shùzì dōu cānjiàn le dāngnián de bàozhǐ hé dàngàn yǒude wǒ hái qiúzhèng guo liǎng cì yǒuxiē shùzì shì wǒ tuīsuàn hé gūsuàn de pìrú wǒ jiǎdìng měi suǒ yèxiào píngjūn yǒu yìbǎi gè xuéshēng zhèxiē wǒ dōu zài zhùshì lǐ shuōmíng le méiyǒu bǎ tāmen dàngzuò dìnglùn · The first one asked whether my figures are exact. I said every figure was checked against newspapers and archives from the time, and some I verified twice. Some figures I worked out or estimated, for example I assumed an average of a hundred students per night school, and I explained all that in the notes rather than treating them as settled.

little sister 第二位老师有异议。她说我的看法有点儿偏向夜校，写历史要用同一个尺度，不能只看好的一面。她说话的时候，带着一点儿批评的意味，这个问题完全在我的意料之外。我沉思了几秒钟，才开始回答。

dì èr wèi lǎoshī yǒu yìyì tā shuō wǒ de kànfǎ yǒudiǎnr piānxiàng yèxiào xiě lìshǐ yào yòng tóngyī gè chǐdù bù néng zhǐ kàn hǎo de yímiàn tā shuōhuà de shíhou dài zhe yìdiǎnr pīpíng de yìwèi zhège wèntí wánquán zài wǒ de yìliào zhī wài wǒ chénsī le jǐ miǎo zhōng cái kāishǐ huídá · The second one had an objection. She said my view leans a bit in the night schools' favour, and that history has to be judged by one yardstick: you can't only look at the good side. There was a hint of criticism in her voice, and I really hadn't expected that question. I thought for a few seconds before I answered.

anna 你怎么回答的？

nǐ zěnme huídá de · How did you answer?

little sister 我说她的见解很有道理。论文里也写了夜校的问题：有的老师水准不高，有的课太教条，只会往学生脑子里灌输。我也承认，有些推论还需要更多的证据。人人都可能有偏见，所以我一直很留心，努力分辨哪些材料可靠。有的材料很容易混淆，让我困惑了很久。

wǒ shuō tā de jiànjiě hěn yǒu dàolǐ lùnwén lǐ yě xiě le yèxiào de wèntí yǒude lǎoshī shuǐzhǔn bù gāo yǒude kè tài jiàotiáo zhǐ huì wǎng xuéshēng nǎozi lǐ guànshū wǒ yě chéngrèn yǒuxiē tuīlùn hái xūyào gèng duō de zhèngjù rén rén dōu kěnéng yǒu piānjiàn suǒyǐ wǒ yìzhí hěn liúxīn nǔlì fēnbiàn nǎxiē cáiliào kěkào yǒude cáiliào hěn róngyì hùnxiáo ràng wǒ kùnhuò le hěn jiǔ · I said she had a very good point. My thesis does cover the night schools' problems: some teachers weren't very good, and some classes were too rigid, just cramming things into students' heads. And I admitted that some of my inferences still need more evidence. Anyone can be biased, so I've been careful all along to sort reliable sources from unreliable ones. Some sources are easy to mix up, and they had me puzzled for a long time.

anna 我坐在下面听，观感很好。你没有动摇，也没有生气。

wǒ zuò zài xiàmiàn tīng guāngǎn hěn hǎo nǐ méiyǒu dòngyáo yě méiyǒu shēngqì · Sitting in the audience, I thought it went really well. You didn't waver, and you didn't get cross.

professor chen 回答得很好。学术上有分歧很正常，大家不一定要达成共识。是非对错，要靠证据。她的本意不是批评你，她的用意是让论文更好。能听进不同的意见，就会进步；反之，就会停在原地。

huídá de hěn hǎo xuéshù shàng yǒu fēnqí hěn zhèngcháng dàjiā bù yídìng yào dáchéng gòngshí shìfēi duì cuò yào kào zhèngjù tā de běnyì bú shì pīpíng nǐ tā de yòngyì shì ràng lùnwén gèng hǎo néng tīng jìn bù tóng de yìjiàn jiù huì jìnbù fǎnzhī jiù huì tíng zài yuán dì · Well answered. Disagreement is normal in scholarship, and people don't have to reach a consensus. Right and wrong come down to evidence. She didn't mean to criticise you: her aim was to make the thesis better. If you can take other views on board, you improve; if not, you stand still.

little sister 第三位老师问的是伦理：采访老人的时候，怎么尊重他们的意愿？我讲了那位老学生的故事：她家里的那件事，我没写进去，因为那是她的底线。

dì sān wèi lǎoshī wèn de shì lúnlǐ cǎifǎng lǎorén de shíhou zěnme zūnzhòng tāmen de yìyuàn wǒ jiǎng le nà

wèi lǎo xuéshēng de gùshi tā jiā lǐ de nà jiàn shì wǒ méi xiě jinqu yīnwèi nà shì tā de dǐxiàn · The third asked about ethics: how did I respect the wishes of the old people I interviewed? I told them about that former student: I left out her family story, because that was her line.

professor chen 这个回答好。这个问题值得每个人深思。做研究，出发点和初衷都要对得起被采访的人。有的人企图用别人的故事来证明自己的观点，那种意图就不对了。

zhège huídá hǎo zhège wèntí zhídé měi gè rén shēnsī zuò yánjiū chūfādiǎn hé chūzhōng dōu yào duìdeqǐ bèi cǎifǎng de rén yǒude rén qǐtú yòng biérén de gùshi lái zhèngmíng zìjǐ de guāndiǎn nà zhǒng yìtú jiù bú duì le · Good answer. That's a question everyone should think hard about. In research, your motives and your aims have to do right by the people you interview. Some people try to use other people's stories just to prove their own point: that kind of motive is wrong.

xiaoming 他们问没问那张照片？

tāmen wèn méi wèn nà zhāng zhàopiàn · Did they ask about the photo?

little sister 问了。我说，我根据衣服、背景和字迹推断，照片是一九五六年左右拍的。可是照片上的人是谁，现在还没有确凿的证据，不能断定。

wèn le wǒ shuō wǒ gēnjù yīfu bèijǐng hé zìjì tuīduàn zhàopiàn shì yījiǔwǔliù nián zuǒyòu pāi de kěshì zhàopiàn shàng de rén shì shéi xiànzài hái méiyǒu quèzáo de zhèngjù bù néng duàndìng · They did. I said that from the clothes, the background and the handwriting, I infer it was taken around 1956. But who the person in it is, there's no conclusive evidence yet, so I can't say for certain.

professor chen 不知道就说不知道，不乱揣测，这就是学者的准则。答辩好比一次考试，也好比一次聊天。我看了几十年答辩，你的心得可以写进下一届学生的手册里了！

bù zhīdào jiù shuō bù zhīdào bú luàn chuǎicè zhè jiùshì xuézhě de zhǔnzé dábiàn hǎobǐ yí cì kǎoshì yě hǎobǐ yí cì liáotiān wǒ kàn le jǐ shí nián dábiàn nǐ de xīndé kěyǐ xiě jìn xià yí jiè xuéshēng de shǒucè lǐ le · If you don't know, say so, and don't speculate wildly: that's a scholar's rule. A defence is like an exam, and also like a conversation. I've sat through decades of defences, and what you've learned could go into next year's student handbook!

chapter 4 chapter 4: the woman in the photo

teacher wang 对不起，来晚了！这位是我妈妈，今年九十岁了。她听说你在写夜校，非要来看看。
duìbuqǐ lái wǎn le zhè wèi shì wǒ māma jīnnián jiǔshí suì le tā tīngshuō nǐ zài xiě yèxiào fēi yào lái kàn kan · Sorry I'm late! This is my mother: she's ninety this year. When she heard you were writing about night schools, she insisted on coming.

little sister 阿姨好！王老师，我一直很不解：这张照片怎么会在您学校的仓库里？您认识照片上的人吗？
āyí hǎo Wánglǎoshī wǒ yìzhí hěn bùjiě zhè zhāng zhàopiàn zěnme huì zài nín xuéxiào de cāngkù lǐ nín rènshi zhàopiàn shàng de rén ma · How do you do! Teacher Wang, there's something I've never understood: how did this photo end up in your school's storeroom? Do you know who this is?

teacher wang 这……这是我妈妈！照片虽然旧了，我一眼就能辨认出来。你看，我妈妈看了照片，先笑了，又哭了。一看到照片，她的眼睛就亮了，过去的事一件件浮现在她眼前。
zhè zhè shì wǒ māma zhàopiàn suīrán jiù le wǒ yì yǎn jiù néng biànrèn chulai nǐ kàn wǒ māma kàn le zhàopiàn xiān xiào le yòu kū le yí kàn dào zhàopiàn tā de yǎnjing jiù liàng le guòqù de shì yí jiàn jiàn fúxiàn zài tā yǎnqián · This… this is my mother! The photo may be old, but I'd know her anywhere. Look: my mother has looked at it, smiled, and now she's crying. The moment she saw it, her eyes lit up, and the past is coming back to her, one thing after another.

anna 真的是她！我们的推理被印证了！我一直坚信她们有关系。
zhēn de shì tā wǒmen de tuīlǐ bèi yìnzhèng le wǒ yìzhí jiānxìn tāmen yǒu guānxì · It really is her! Our reasoning was right! I was always sure they were connected.

xiaoming 我还说你们太当真了。这件事说起来真玄，我还以为是我的错觉呢。
wǒ hái shuō nǐmen tài dàngzhēn le zhè jiàn shì shuō qǐlai zhēn xuán wǒ hái yǐwéi shì wǒ de cuòjué ne · And I said you were taking it too seriously. It sounds far-fetched, I'd have thought I was imagining it.

teacher wang 我妈妈是师范学校毕业的，二十岁被分到东城的第三工人夜校教书，晚上教工人认字，从来不要钱。她那一代老师觉悟很高，心里只有一个念头：让每个工人都能看报纸。照片后面那行字，是她写的。
wǒ māma shì shīfàn xuéxiào bìyè de èrshí suì bèi fēn dào dōng chéng de dì sān gōngrén yèxiào jiāo shū wǎnshang jiāo gōngrén rèn zì cónglái búyào qián tā nà yídài lǎoshī juéwù hěn gāo xīnlǐ zhǐyǒu yí gè niàntou ràng měi gè gōngrén dōu néng kàn bàozhǐ zhàopiàn hòumiàn nà háng zì shì tā xiě de · My mother trained at a teachers' college, and at twenty she was sent to teach at the No. 3 Workers' Night School in Dongcheng. In the evenings she taught workers to read, and never took a penny. Teachers of her generation had a real sense of duty, and only one thought in their heads: that every worker should be able to read a newspaper. The line on the back of the photo is in her handwriting.

little sister "切记：教人先教心。"
qièjì jiāo rén xiān jiāo xīn · "Remember: to teach people, first teach the heart."

teacher wang 对，这句话我一直牢记在心。二十年前我开始办学，看中那栋老楼，就是因为妈妈在那里教过书。我们学校的宗旨，就来自这句话。我妈妈记性不太好了，可是她说，那时候的学生白天干活，晚上上课，一个都不旷课。
duì zhè jù huà wǒ yìzhí láojì zài xīn èrshí nián qián wǒ kāishǐ bànxué kànzhòng nà dòng lǎo lóu jiùshì yīnwèi māma zài nàlǐ jiāo guo shū wǒmen xuéxiào de zōngzhǐ jiù láizì zhè jù huà wǒ māma jìxing bú tài hǎo le kěshì tā shuō nà shíhou de xuéshēng báitiān gànhuó wǎnshang shàngkè yí gè dōu bú kuàngkè · Yes, and I've always kept it close to my heart. Twenty years ago, when I started the school, I chose that old building because my mother had taught there. Our school's motto comes from that line. My mother's memory isn't what it was, but she says the students back then worked all day and came to class at night, and not one of them ever skipped.

professor chen 她们那一代老师很有远见，早就预见到：一个国家要发展，先要让人人都能读书。我们应该铭记她们。
tāmen nà yídài lǎoshī hěn yǒu yuǎnjiàn zǎo jiù yùjiàn dào yí gè guójiā yào fāzhǎn xiān yào ràng rén rén dōu néng dúshū wǒmen yīnggāi míngjì tāmen · Teachers of that generation had real vision: they saw long ago that for a country to develop, everyone must first be able to read. We should never forget them.

little sister 王老师，我能把阿姨的故事写进论文吗？我要先尊重她自己的意愿。
Wánglǎoshī wǒ néng bǎ āyí de gùshi xiě jìn lùnwén ma wǒ yào xiān zūnzhòng tā zìjǐ de yìyuàn · Teacher Wang,

may I put your mother's story in my thesis? I want to respect her own wishes first.

teacher wang 她刚才跟我说：“写吧，这些事不应该被遗忘。”

tā gāngcái gēn wǒ shuō xiě ba zhèxiē shì bù yīnggāi bèi yíwàng · She's just told me: "Write it. These things shouldn't be forgotten."

professor chen 一张照片，解开了一个谜团，也连起了两代老师。历史的奥秘和玄机，比任何推理小说都好看。

yì zhāng zhàopiàn jiě kāi le yí gè mítuán yě lián qǐ le liǎng dài lǎoshī lìshǐ de àomì hé xuánjī bǐ rènhé tuīlǐ xiǎoshuō dōu hǎokàn · One photo has solved a mystery and joined up two generations of teachers. History's secrets beat any detective novel.

chapter 5 chapter 5: the result

professor chen 结果出来了：答辩通过，成绩优秀！委员会一致认为，你的论证很有说服力，对不同意见的态度也很好。
jiéguǒ chūlái le dábiàn tōngguò chéngjì yōuxiù wěiyuánhuì yízhì rènwéi nǐ de lùnzhèng hěn yǒu shuōfú lì duì bù tóng yìjiàn de tàidù yě hěn hǎo · The result is in: you passed, with distinction! The committee agreed that your argument is very convincing, and that you handled the objections well.

little sister 真的吗？我还以为第二位老师会给我打低分呢。
zhēn de ma wǒ hái yǐwéi dì èr wèi lǎoshī huì gěi wǒ dǎ dī fēn ne · Really? I thought the second one would mark me down.

professor chen 就是她提议给你优秀的。她说，能领会别人的批评，比没有批评更难得。成绩取决于论证，不取决于结论。这份功劳归于你自己，也归于那些愿意讲故事的老人。
jiùshì tā tíyì gěi nǐ yōuxiù de tā shuō néng lǐnghuì biérén de pīpíng bǐ méiyǒu pīpíng gèng nándé chéngjì qǔjué yú lùnzhèng bù qǔjué yú jiélùn zhè fèn gōngláo guīyú nǐ zìjǐ yě guīyú nàxiē yuànyì jiǎng gùshi de lǎorén · She was the one who proposed the distinction. She said that taking criticism on board is rarer than having none. The mark depends on how you argue, not on what you conclude. The credit belongs to you, and to the old people who were willing to tell their stories.

ms zhang 祝贺你！这下能拿到学士文凭了。林编辑刚给我发消息，说她们网站下周就发表你的摘要，标题她还在推敲。
zhùhè nǐ zhè xià néng ná dào xuéshì wénpíng le Línbiānjí gāng gěi wǒ fā xiāoxi shuō tāmen wǎngzhàn xià zhōu jiù fābiǎo nǐ de zhāiyào biāotí tā hái zài tuīqiāo · Congratulations! Now you'll get your bachelor's degree. Editor Lin has just messaged me: her website is publishing your abstract next week, and she's still polishing the headline.

little sister 撰写这篇论文花了半年。回首这半年，我领略了一段历史，长了见识，也多了一点儿阅历。我把我的心得归结为三句话：做研究不能空想，要求证；写文章要推敲、要斟酌；对被采访的人要尊重。
zhuànxiě zhè piān lùnwén huā le bàn nián huíshǒu zhè bàn nián wǒ lǐnglüè le yí duàn lìshǐ zhǎng le jiànshi yě duō le yìdiǎnr yuèlì wǒ bǎ wǒ de xīndé guījié wéi sān jù huà zuò yánjiū bù néng kōngxiǎng yào qiúzhèng xiě wénzhāng yào tuīqiāo yào zhēnzhuó duì bèi cǎifǎng de rén yào zūnzhòng · Writing this thesis took six months. Looking back, I've had a taste of a whole chapter of history, seen more of the world and lived a little more. I'd sum up what I've learned in three sentences: in research you can't just daydream, you have to check; in writing you have to weigh every word; and you have to respect the people you interview.

little sister 我现在才醒悟：以前以为一个月就能写完论文，简直是妄想！
wǒ xiànzài cái xǐngwù yǐqián yǐwéi yí gè yuè jiù néng xiě wán lùnwén jiǎnzhí shì wàngxiǎng · Only now do I see it: I used to think I could write a thesis in a month. What a fantasy!

ms zhang 毕业以后，你打算怎么办？
bìyè yǐhòu nǐ dǎsuàn zěnme bàn · So what are you going to do after you graduate?

little sister 我盘算了很久，既要考量家里的情况，也要顾及自己的兴趣，还要着眼长远。无论如何，我还想继续读书。也许马上攻读硕士，也许先工作几年再深造，具体怎么走，我还要好好想想。
wǒ pánsuan le hěn jiǔ jì yào kǎoliáng jiā lǐ de qíngkuàng yě yào gùjí zìjǐ de xìngqù hái yào zhuóyǎn chángyuǎn wúlùn rúhé wǒ hái xiǎng jìxù dúshū yěxǔ mǎshàng gōngdú shuòshì yěxǔ xiān gōngzuò jǐ nián zài shēnzào jùtǐ zěnme zǒu wǒ hái yào hǎohǎo xiǎng xiang · I've been working it out for a long time: I have to consider the family's situation, think about what I actually love, and keep the long term in view. Whatever happens, I want to keep studying. Maybe go straight on to a master's, maybe work for a few years first and then go back. Exactly which way, I still have to think about properly.

anna 我有一种预感，不，我敢预言：不管走哪条路，你都会走得很好。
wǒ yǒu yì zhǒng yùgǎn bù wǒ gǎn yùyán bùguǎn zǒu nǎ tiáo lù nǐ dōu huì zǒu de hěn hǎo · I have a feeling, no, I'll make a prediction: whichever way you go, you'll do brilliantly.

teacher wang 不管走哪条路，都要记住我妈妈那句话：教人先教心，做人也一样。
bùguǎn zǒu nǎ tiáo lù dōu yào jì zhù wǒ māma nà jù huà jiāo rén xiān jiāo xīn zuò rén yě yíyàng · Whichever

way you go, remember my mother's words: to teach people, first teach the heart. And the same goes for how you live.

professor chen 展望未来，你们这一代人眼界更宽，视野更开阔。可是归根到底，读书的初衷没有变：让自己，也让别人，活得更明白。

zhǎnwàng wèilái nǐmen zhè yídài rén yǎnjiè gèng kuān shìyě gèng kāikuò kěshì guīgēn dàodǐ dúshū de chūzhōng méiyǒu biàn ràng zìjǐ yě ràng biérén huó de gèng míngbai · Looking ahead, your generation sees further and wider than we did. But in the final analysis, the reason we read hasn't changed: to help ourselves, and others, see life more clearly.

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