wishyou.today learning

day 177 pros, cons and nonsense

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 24 · reason and argument

Weigh pros and cons, call out nonsense and say what is proper, and frame a judgement with 归根到底, 无论如何 and 总而言之.

Arguments are won by finding the crux and spotting the absurd. These words let you do both, politely or bluntly.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
利弊	lìbì	pros and cons	做决定以前，要先权衡利弊。 Before deciding, weigh up the pros and cons.
利害	lìhài	gains and losses, stakes	这件事跟我们没有直接的利害关系。 We have no direct stake in this.
要害	yàohài	vital point, crux	他一句话就说到了问题的要害。 With one sentence he went straight to the heart of the problem.
要紧	yàojǐn	important, urgent	这件事很要紧，你马上去办吧。 This is urgent: go and deal with it right away.
要领	yàolǐng	essentials, the knack	游泳的要领是放松。 The trick to swimming is to relax.
症结	zhēngjié	crux, sticking point	问题的症结在于沟通不够。 The crux of the problem is poor communication.
疑点	yídiǎn	point of doubt	这件事还有很多疑点。 There are still a lot of unanswered questions about this.
可疑	kěyí	suspicious	门口有个可疑的人，你快报警。 There's someone suspicious at the door: call the police.
蹊跷	qīqiao	odd, fishy	这件事有点儿蹊跷。 There's something fishy about this.
误区	wùqū	misconception, pitfall	少吃饭就能减肥，这是一个误区。 Thinking that eating less rice makes you lose weight is a misconception.
荒诞	huāngdàn	absurd, fantastic	这个故事很荒诞，但是很有意思。 The story is absurd, but very entertaining.
荒谬	huāngmiù	absurd, preposterous	这种说法太荒谬了，没有人会信。 That claim is preposterous: nobody will believe it.
荒唐	huāngtáng	ridiculous, outrageous	他的想法太荒唐了。 His idea is ridiculous.
离谱儿	lípǔr	outrageous, way off	这个价格太离谱儿了！ That price is outrageous!
无理	wúlǐ	unreasonable	他的要求很无理。 His demands are unreasonable.

不当	bùdàng	improper, unsuitable	他用词不当，让大家误会了。 His poor choice of words caused a misunderstanding.
得当	dédàng	proper, appropriate	她处理得很得当，没人有意见。 She handled it very well: nobody had any complaints.
妥	tuǒ	appropriate, settled	我觉得这样说不太妥。 I don't think that's quite the right thing to say.
妥当	tuǒdàng	appropriate, proper	这样安排比较妥当。 This arrangement seems the most suitable.
妥善	tuǒshàn	well arranged, properly	这件事已经妥善处理了。 The matter has been properly dealt with.
稳妥	wěntuǒ	safe, reliable	先在两个班试一试，比较稳妥。 It's safer to try it in two classes first.
合乎	héhū	to conform to, accord with	这样做合乎规定。 This is in line with the rules.
吻合	wěnhé	to match, tally	他说的跟监控录像完全吻合。 What he said matches the CCTV footage exactly.
同等	tóngděng	equal, of the same rank	男女做一样的工作，就应该得到同等的报酬。 Men and women doing the same work should get equal pay.
媲美	pìměi	to rival, compare favourably with	这家小店的菜可以媲美大饭店。 The food at this little place rivals a big restaurant's.
雷同	léitóng	identical, duplicated (pejorative)	这两篇文章内容雷同。 These two articles are practically identical.
反差	fǎnchā	contrast	新楼和旧楼形成了很大的反差。 The new building and the old one make a striking contrast.
对照	duìzhào	to compare, contrast	对照原文，看看译得对不对。 Check it against the original and see if the translation is right.
参照	cānzhào	to refer to, use as a reference	我们参照了别的学校的做法。 We followed the example of other schools.
先例	xiānlì	precedent	这种情况以前没有先例。 There's no precedent for this.
特例	tèlì	special case	这次是特例，以后可不行。 This is a special case: it won't happen again.
个案	gèàn	individual case	这只是个案，不能说明所有的问题。 This is just one case: it doesn't explain everything.
效仿	xiàofǎng	to imitate, follow the example of	别的学校纷纷效仿这种做法。 Other schools followed suit one after another.
无条件	wútiáojiàn	unconditional	父母对孩子的爱是无条件的。 Parents' love for their children is unconditional.
次要	cìyào	secondary, less important	价格是次要的，质量最重要。 Price is secondary: quality matters most.

pattern review: 归根到底, 无论如何 and 总而言之 in an argument

pros, cons, details | **，归根到底 / 总而言之** | **，your judgement**

In a debate, 归根到底 digs down to the root of the problem, 总而言之 gathers your points into one verdict, and 无论如何 shows a line you will not move from: 无论如何不能作弊.

好处和坏处我们都说了，总而言之，还是好处大于坏处。 **hǎochù hé huàichù wǒmen dōu shuō le zǒngéryánzhī háishi hǎochù dàyú huàichù** We've covered the pros and the cons; all in all, the pros win.

问题看起来很多，归根到底，是准备不够。 **wèntí kàn qǐlai hěn duō guīgēn dàodǐ shì zhǔnbèi búgòu** There seem to be lots of problems, but at root, we didn't prepare enough.

稿子可以写得不好，但是无论如何不能抄。 **gǎozi kěyǐ xiě de bù hǎo dànshì wúlùn rúhé bù néng chāo** Your speech can be badly written, but whatever happens, you mustn't copy it.

dialogue the motion is announced

professor chen 各位，今年的大辩论定在下个月，辩题是：“人工智能进课堂，好处大于坏处。”今年第一次由毕业生队对学生队。

gèwèi jīnnián de dà biànlùn dìng zài xià gè yuè biàn tí shì réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng hǎochù dàyú huàichù jīnnián dì yī cì yóu bìyèshēng duì duì xuéshēng duì · Everyone, this year’s great debate is next month, and the motion is: “AI in the classroom does more good than harm.” And for the first time, it’s the graduates against the students.

little sister 这个辩题好！利弊都很明显，大家的分歧很大，谁也说服不了谁。我是学生队的队长。

zhège biàn tí hǎo lìbì dōu hěn míngxiǎn dàjiā de fēnqí hěn dà shéi yě shuōfú bu liǎo shéi wǒ shì xuéshēng duì de duìzhǎng · Great motion! The pros and cons are both obvious, opinions are deeply divided, and nobody will convince anybody. I’m the students’ captain.

anna 辩论的宗旨不是赢，是让大家把道理说清楚。

biànlùn de zōngzhǐ bú shì yíng shì ràng dàjiā bǎ dàolǐ shuō qīngchu · The point of a debate isn’t winning: it’s getting everyone to make their reasoning clear.

xiaoming 我和安娜代表毕业生队，我无论如何都要参加！我们是正方还是反方？

wǒ hé Ānnà dàibiǎo bìyèshēng duì wǒ wúlùn rúhé dōu yào cānjiā wǒmen shì zhèng fāng háishi fǎn fāng · Anna and I are on the graduates’ team, and I wouldn’t miss it for anything! Are we for or against?

professor chen 抽签决定。不管抽到哪一方，先界定概念，分析利害，再找对方的要害。辩论的要领就一条：不说无理的话，不打不当的比方。

chōuqiān juédìng bùguǎn chōu dào nǎ yì fāng xiān jièdìng gàiniàn fēnxī lìhài zài zhǎo duìfāng de yàohài biànlùn de yàolǐng jiù yì tiáo bù shuō wúlǐ de huà bù dǎ búdàng de bǐfang · That’s decided by drawing lots. Whichever side you get, first define your terms, work out what’s at stake, then find the other side’s weak spot. There’s only one rule to debating: never say anything unreasonable, and never use a misleading comparison.

anna 我先讲一个我们公司的个案。去年我们给一所中学做学习软件，做法比较稳妥：先在两个班试，再跟别的班对照。结果，两个班的成绩都提高了，跟我们的估算基本吻合。

wǒ xiān jiǎng yí gè wǒmen gōngsī de gèàn qùnián wǒmen gěi yì suǒ zhōngxué zuò xuéxí ruǎnjiàn zuòfǎ bǐjiào wěntuǒ xiān zài liǎng gè bān shì zài gēn biéde bān duìzhào jiéguǒ liǎng gè bān de chéngjì dōu tígāo le gēn wǒmen de gūsuàn jīběn wěnhé · Let me tell you about one case at my company. Last year we made learning software for a secondary school, and we played it safe: first we tried it in two classes, then compared them with the other classes. Both classes’ marks went up, more or less in line with our estimates.

anna 可是我们也发现了一个误区：有的家长以为有了人工智能，老师就是次要的了。

kěshì wǒmen yě fāxiàn le yí gè wùqū yǒude jiāzhǎng yǐwéi yǒu le réngōng zhìnéng lǎoshī jiùshì cìyào de le · But we also found a misconception: some parents thought that with AI, teachers had become secondary.

little sister 这个想法太荒唐了！我坚信，人工智能再聪明，也没法跟好老师媲美。

zhège xiǎngfǎ tài huāngtáng le wǒ jiānxìn réngōng zhìnéng zài cōngmíng yě méifǎ gēn hǎo lǎoshī pìměi · That’s ridiculous! I firmly believe that however clever AI gets, it can’t compare with a good teacher.

xiaoming 我觉得说“没法”有点儿不妥。问题的症结不在机器，在人怎么用。效果好不好，取决于老师。

wǒ juéde shuō méifǎ yǒudiǎnr bù tuǒ wèntí de zhēngjié bú zài jīqì zài rén zěnme yòng xiàoguǒ hǎo bu hǎo qǔjué yú lǎoshī · I’m not sure “can’t” is quite fair. The crux of the problem isn’t the machine, it’s how people use it. Whether it works depends on the teacher.

professor chen 说得对，要找到症结。还有一件要紧的事：去年的比赛有点儿蹊跷，两个队的稿子有三段完全雷同。

shuō de duì yào zhǎo dào zhēngjié hái yǒu yí jiàn yàojǐn de shì qùnián de bǐsài yǒudiǎnr qīqiao liǎng gè duì de gǎozi yǒu sān duàn wánquán léitóng · Quite right: find the crux. And there’s something important: last year’s debate had something fishy about it. Three paragraphs of the two teams’ speeches were exactly the same.

little sister 我记得！很可疑。后来查清楚了吗？

wǒ jìde hěn kěyí hòulái chá qīngchu le ma · I remember! Very suspicious. Did anyone ever get to the bottom of

it?

professor chen 查了。疑点很多，最后发现两个队都参照了网上同一篇文章。这在我们辩论社没有先例，后来也妥善处理了。所以今年规定：稿子必须自己写，不能效仿别人。
chá le yídiǎn hěn duō zuìhòu fāxiàn liǎng gè duì dōu cānzhào le wǎngshang tóngyī piān wénzhāng zhè zài wǒmen biànlùn shè méiyǒu xiānlì hòulái yě tuǒshàn chǔlǐ le suǒyǐ jīnnián guīdìng gǎozi bìxū zìjǐ xiě bù néng xiàofǎng biérén · Yes. There were plenty of doubtful points, and in the end we found both teams had drawn on the same article online. There was no precedent in our club, and it was dealt with properly. So this year the rule is: you write your own speech, and you don't copy anyone else's.

little sister 他们的初衷可能是好的，可是做法不当。
tāmen de chūzhōng kěnéng shì hǎo de kěshì zuòfǎ búdàng · Maybe they meant well, but what they did was wrong.

anna 这个规定很妥当。那用人工智能写稿子呢?
zhège guīdìng hěn tuǒdàng nà yòng réngōng zhìnéng xiě gǎozi ne · That's a sensible rule. What about using AI to write your speech?

professor chen 好问题！跟抄别人的稿子同等对待，一律不行，没有特例。这是无条件的，也是我们的底线，这样才合乎辩论的精神。
hǎo wèntí gēn chāo biérén de gǎozi tóngděng duìdài yílǜ bùxíng méiyǒu tèlì zhè shì wútiáojiàn de yě shì wǒmen de dǐxiàn zhèyàng cái héhū biànlùn de jīngshén · Good question! It's treated the same as copying someone else's speech: not allowed, no exceptions. That's unconditional, and it's our bottom line: it's the only way that fits the spirit of debate.

xiaoming 这个准则很合理。
zhège zhǔnzé hěn hélǐ · That's a fair rule.

little sister 哈哈，辩论“人工智能进课堂”，却不能用人工智能，反差真大，像一个荒诞的笑话！
hā hā biànlùn réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng què bù néng yòng réngōng zhìnéng fǎnchā zhēn dà xiàng yí gè huāngdàn de xiàohua · Ha! Debating “AI in the classroom” but not allowed to use AI: what a contrast, it's like some absurd joke!

professor chen 这不是荒谬，是规则。用得得当，是工具；用得离谱儿，就是作弊。总而言之：辩题可以讨论，规则不能讨论。
zhè bú shì huāngmiù shì guīzé yòng de dédàng shì gōngjù yòng de lípǔr jiùshì zuòbì zǒngéryánzhī biàn tí kěyǐ tǎolùn guīzé bù néng tǎolùn · It isn't absurd, it's the rules. Used properly, it's a tool; used outrageously, it's cheating. In a word: the motion is up for debate, the rules are not.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

蹊
qī
path

跷
qiao
strange

good to know · Three ways to say “absurd”: 荒谬 (logically wrong), 荒唐 (ridiculous, reckless), 荒诞 (bizarre, like a surreal story). 离谱儿 is the chatty one: way off. 要紧 is most common in the negative: 不要紧 “it doesn't matter, never mind”.

You can now take an argument apart in Chinese: find the crux, call out the absurd and say what's proper.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 178 hidden depths

Talk about hidden costs, subtle meanings and hard choices, finish with 罢了 (that's all) and 也罢 (all right then), and describe a loop with X了Y，Y了X.

A good argument looks beneath the surface. These words name what is hidden, implied, potential or subtle, and these endings make your Chinese sound relaxed.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
不及	bùjí	to be not as good as; too late to	我的中文远远不及她。 My Chinese is nowhere near as good as hers.
呈	chéng	to show, assume (a form)	今年学生人数呈上升趋势。 Student numbers are on the rise this year.
暧昧	àimèi	ambiguous, vague (attitude)	他的态度很暧昧，不说同意，也不说反对。 His attitude is vague: he neither agrees nor objects.
变通	biàntōng	to be flexible, adapt	规定是死的，人是活的，要学会变通。 Rules are fixed, but people aren't: learn to adapt.
辩证	biànzhèng	dialectical; seeing both sides	看问题要辩证，不能只看一面。 Look at problems from both sides, not just one.
打消	dǎxiāo	to give up (an idea), dispel	听了医生的|话，他打消了去爬山的念头。 After hearing the doctor, he gave up the idea of going climbing.
大意	dàyì	main idea, gist	请用几句话说说这篇文章的大意{da4yi4}。 Sum up the main idea of this article in a few sentences.
低估	dīgū	to underestimate	千万别低估你的对手。 Never underestimate your opponent.
反面	fǎnmiàn	reverse side; negative	这次失败是一个反面的例子。 This failure is an example of what not to do.
概况	gàikuàng	general situation, overview	先给大家介绍一下公司的概况。 First, a quick overview of the company.
感性	gǎnxìng	perceptual, emotional	孩子学东西很感性，喜欢看得见、摸得着的东西。 Children learn through their senses: they like things they can see and touch.
功利	gōnglì	utilitarian, materialistic	学习不能太功利，只为了分数。 Learning shouldn't be so utilitarian that it's only about marks.
构想	gòuxiǎng	idea, plan; to conceive	这只是一个构想，还没有开始做。 This is only an idea: we haven't started on it yet.
固有	gùyǒu	inherent, intrinsic	每个城市都有自己固有的文化。 Every city has its own culture.

观望	guānwàng	to wait and see	很多人还在观望，不敢马上买房子。 Lots of people are waiting to see what happens before buying a flat.
境界	jìngjiè	level (of understanding), realm	学习的最高境界是自己想学。 The highest level of learning is wanting to learn.
抉择	juézé	choice, to choose (a hard one)	留下还是回国，这是一个很难的抉择。 Stay or go home: it's a hard choice.
名义	míngyì	name, in the name of	他是以个人的名义来的，不代表公司。 He came in a personal capacity, not on behalf of the company.
内在	nèizài	inner, intrinsic	内在的美比外在的美更重要。 Inner beauty matters more than outward beauty.
潜在	qiánzài	potential, latent	这种做法有潜在的风险。 This approach carries hidden risks.
切忌	qièjì	must avoid	跑步切忌一开始就跑得太快。 Whatever you do, don't start a run too fast.
深奥	shēnào	profound, abstruse	这本书太深奥了，我看不懂。 This book is too deep for me: I can't follow it.
缩影	suōyǐng	epitome, microcosm	这条老街是北京变化的缩影。 This old street is Beijing's changes in miniature.
透彻	tòuchè	thorough, penetrating	他把这个问题讲得很透彻。 He explained the problem thoroughly.
外在	wàizài	external, outward	别只看一个人外在的东西。 Don't judge a person only by the outside.
微妙	wēimiào	subtle, delicate	两个人的关系变得很微妙。 The relationship between the two has become delicate.
未知数	wèizhīshù	unknown quantity	明天谁会赢，还是一个未知数。 Who'll win tomorrow is still anyone's guess.
虚假	xūjiǎ	false, fake	这条消息是虚假的，别相信。 This news is false: don't believe it.
选项	xuǎnxiàng	option	这道题有四个选项。 This question has four options.
演绎	yǎnyì	to act out; to deduce	他用一个小故事演绎了这个道理。 He brought the idea to life with a little story.
隐含	yǐnhán	to imply, contain	这句话隐含着批评的意思。 This sentence implies criticism.
隐性	yǐnxìng	hidden, invisible	加班也有隐性的代价，比如健康。 Overtime has hidden costs too, like your health.
蕴含	yùnhán	to contain, hold (meaning)	这个小故事蕴含着深刻的道理。 This little story holds a deep truth.
酌情	zhuóqíng	to use one's judgement, as appropriate	罚不罚，老师会酌情决定。 The teacher will decide case by case whether to punish anyone.

pattern review: 罢了, 也罢, 矣 and x了y，y了x

statement **罢了 / 也罢 / 矣**

罢了 at the end plays something down: “that’s all”. 也罢 says “oh well, all right then”, and A也罢，B也罢 means “whether A or B”. 矣 is a written 了 (足矣 “that is enough”). From day 27: X了Y，Y了X describes an endless loop: 问了抄，抄了问 “ask, copy, ask, copy”.

我没有反对，只是提个问题罢了。 **wǒ méiyǒu fǎnduì zhǐshì tí gè wèntí bàle** I’m not against it: I’m just asking a question, that’s all.

抽到反方？也罢，反方更有意思。 **chōu dào fǎn fāng yěbà fǎn fāng gèng yǒu yìsi** We drew the “against” side? Oh well, it’s more interesting anyway.

有的学生用机器写作业，问了抄，抄了问。 **yǒude xuéshēng yòng jīqì xiě zuòyè wèn le chāo chāo le wèn** Some students do homework with a machine: ask, copy, ask, copy.

一个好例子，足矣。 **yí gè hǎo lìzi zú yǐ** One good example is enough.

dialogue the “against” side

xiaoming 抽签结果出来了：我们是反方，要说人工智能进课堂坏处大于好处。我本来想当正方的。

chōuqiān jiéguǒ chūlái le wǒmen shì fǎn fāng yào shuō réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng huàichù dàyú hǎochù wǒ běnlái xiǎng dāng zhèng fāng de · The draw is in: we're against, so we have to argue that AI in the classroom does more harm than good. I wanted to be for.

anna 也罢，反方更有意思。正方的观点谁都想得到，反方要讲出那些隐含的问题。

yěbà fǎn fāng gèng yǒu yìsi zhèng fāng de guāndiǎn shéi dōu xiǎng de dào fǎn fāng yào jiǎng chū nàxiē yǐnhán de wèntí · Oh well, the "against" side is more fun. Anyone can think of the arguments for; we have to bring out the hidden problems.

dr zhou 我是你们的"科学顾问"。先说概况：现在很多学校在用人工智能，效果呈两种情况，有的很好，有的很差。

wǒ shì nǐmen de kēxué gùwèn xiān shuō gàikuàng xiànzài hěn duō xuéxiào zài yòng réngōng zhìnéng xiàoguǒ chéng liǎng zhǒng qíngkuàng yǒude hěn hǎo yǒude hěn chà · I'm your "science adviser". First, the general picture: lots of schools are using AI now, and the results fall into two camps: some very good, some very poor.

xiaoming 那我们有哪些选项？说它完全没用？太虚假了，评委不会信的。

nà wǒmen yǒu nǎxiē xuǎnxiàng shuō tā wánquán méi yòng tài xūjiǎ le píngwěi bú huì xìn de · So what are our options? Say it's completely useless? That would be dishonest, and the judges won't buy it.

anna 对，说它没用太荒谬了。我们的出发点应该是：怎么用才得当。

duì shuō tā méi yòng tài huāngmiù le wǒmen de chūfādiǎn yīnggāi shì zěnme yòng cái dédàng · Right, saying it's useless would be absurd. Our starting point should be: how do you use it properly?

dr zhou 切忌说过头。说得太离谱儿，对方一下子就能抓住要害。要辩证地看：先承认它的好处，再讲它潜在的风险和隐性的代价。

qièjì shuō guòtóu shuō de tài lípǔr duìfāng yíxià zi jiù néng zhuā zhù yàohài yào biànzhèng de kàn xiān chéngrèn tā de hǎochù zài jiǎng tā qiánzài de fēngxiǎn hé yǐnxìng de dàijià · Whatever you do, don't overstate it. Go too far and the other side will go straight for your weak spot. Look at both sides: admit the benefits first, then talk about the potential risks and the hidden costs.

anna 譬如，学生太依赖它，自己就不想了。有的学生写作业，问了抄，抄了问。

pìrú xuéshēng tài yīlài tā zìjǐ jiù bù xiǎng le yǒude xuéshēng xiě zuòyè wèn le chāo chāo le wèn · For example, students lean on it so much they stop thinking. Some do their homework like this: ask, copy, ask, copy.

xiaoming 这就是很多家长的误区：以为用了机器，学生就一定学得好。还有，学习变得很功利，只看外在的分数，不管内在的兴趣。学习的最高境界是自己想学，机器给不了。

zhè jiùshì hěn duō jiāzhǎng de wùqū yǐwéi yòng le jīqì xuéshēng jiù yídìng xué de hǎo hái yǒu xuéxí biàn de hěn gōnglì zhǐ kàn wàizài de fēnshù bùguǎn nèizài de xìngqù xuéxí de zuì gāo jìngjiè shì zìjǐ xiǎng xué jīqì gěi bù le · That's where a lot of parents go wrong: they think that once there's a machine, students are bound to learn well. And learning becomes purely about results: only the marks on the outside, never the interest inside. The highest form of learning is wanting to learn, and a machine can't give you that.

dr zhou 好。还有一个大家都低估的问题：孩子学东西很感性。机器能把深奥的道理讲得很透彻，可是不及老师的一个微笑、一句鼓励。人和人之间那种微妙的东西，是课堂固有的。

hǎo hái yǒu yí gè dàjiā dōu dīgū de wèntí háizi xué dōngxi hěn gǎnxìng jīqì néng bǎ shēnào de dàolǐ jiǎng de hěn tòuchè kěshì bùjí lǎoshī de yí gè wēixiào yí jù gǔlì rén hé rén zhījiān nà zhǒng wēimiào de dōngxi shì kètáng gùyǒu de · Good. There's another problem everyone underestimates: children learn through feeling. A machine can explain a deep idea thoroughly, but it can't match a teacher's smile or a word of encouragement. That subtle something between people is part of what a classroom is.

anna 我的构想是：开头用一个小故事，演绎一个整天跟机器学习的孩子。他的一天，就是这个时代的缩影。这个故事蕴含的道理，比数字更有力。

wǒ de gòuxiǎng shì kāitóu yòng yí gè xiǎo gùshi yǎnyì yí gè zhěng tiān gēn jīqì xuéxí de háizi tā de yì tiān jiùshì zhège shídài de suōyǐng zhège gùshi yùnhán de dàolǐ bǐ shùzì gèng yǒulì · My idea is to open with a little story that acts out the day of a child who learns with a machine all day long. His day is our times in miniature. The point that story holds is more powerful than any figures.

dr zhou 好主意。你们先用三句话说说发言的大意。一个好例子，足矣。不过对方会说：机器可以根据每个学生的情况酌情调整，比老师更了解学生。你们要准备好回答。

hǎo zhǔyi nǐmen xiān yòng sān jù huà shuō shuo fāyán de dàyì yí gè hǎo lìzi zú yǐ búguò duìfāng huì shuō jīqì kěyǐ gēnjù měi gè xuéshēng de qíngkuàng zhuóqíng tiáozhěng bǐ lǎoshī gèng liǎojiě xuéshēng nǐmen yào zhǔnbèi hǎo huídá · Good idea. First sum up the gist of your speech in three sentences. One good example is enough. But the other side will say a machine can adapt to each student case by case, and knows them better than a teacher. Be ready with an answer.

xiaoming 说实话，我还在观望：我们真能赢吗？对方有好几个高手，结果还是个未知数。

shuō shíhuà wǒ hái zài guānwàng wǒmen zhēn néng yíng ma duìfāng yǒu hǎo jǐ gè gāoshǒu jiéguǒ háishi gè wèizhīshù · Honestly, I'm still not sure: can we really win? They've got several really good speakers, and the result is anyone's guess.

dr zhou 别动摇。你们的框架很清楚，论证也很有力。

bié dòngyáo nǐmen de kuàngjià hěn qīngchu lùnzhèng yě hěn yǒulì · Don't waver. Your framework is clear and your arguments are strong.

anna 打消这个念头吧！别大意，也别害怕。我们不是以公司的名义去的，是以老学生的名义去的。输赢不过是一场比赛罢了，重要的是说得有道理。

dǎxiāo zhège niàntou ba bié dàyi yě bié hàipà wǒmen bú shì yǐ gōngsī de míngyì qù de shì yǐ lǎo xuéshēng de míngyì qù de shū yíng búguò shì yì chǎng bǐsài bàle zhòngyào de shì shuō de yǒu dàolǐ · Put that thought out of your head! Don't get careless, and don't be scared. We're not going in the company's name, we're going as old students. Win or lose, it's only a debate; what matters is that we make sense.

dr zhou 记住，对方的说法有时候会很暧昧，你们要会变通，不要只背稿子。在机器和老师之间，学校不需要做抉择，这也是一个反面的观点，你们要想好怎么回答。

jì zhù duìfāng de shuōfǎ yǒu shíhou huì hěn àimèi nǐmen yào huì biàntōng búyào zhǐ bèi gǎozi zài jīqì hé lǎoshī zhījiān xuéxiào bù xūyào zuò juézé zhè yě shì yí gè fǎnmiàn de guāndiǎn nǐmen yào xiǎng hǎo zěnme huídá · Remember, the other side will sometimes be vague, so you need to adapt, not just recite your notes. And schools don't actually have to choose between machines and teachers: that's a counter-argument too, so think about how you'll answer it.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

暧
ài
dim

抉
jué
pick out

good to know · 大意 has two readings: dàyì "the gist" (文章的大意) and dàyi "careless" (别大意). 切忌 (must avoid) and 切记 (must remember) sound the same, qièjì, but give opposite advice.

You can now look beneath the surface of an argument in Chinese and say what is hidden, subtle or still unknown.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 179 reason, logic and order

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 24 · reason and argument

Argue with logic in Chinese: use idioms for what follows, what differs and what matters most, say “more or less” with 或多或少 (或A或B), and close with 综上所述.

Four-character idioms are the backbone of formal argument. A few in the right place make a speech sound clear, educated and confident.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
综上所述	zōngshàngsuǒshù	to sum up (all of the above)	综上所述，我们认为这个方案是可行的。 To sum up, we believe this plan is workable.
理所当然	lǐsuǒdāngrán	only natural, a matter of course	帮助朋友是理所当然的。 Helping friends is only natural.
理直气壮	lǐzhíqìzhuàng	bold and confident (because right)	他理直气壮地说：“我没错！” He said boldly: “I’m not wrong!”
天经地义	tiānjīngdìyì	perfectly natural and right	父母照顾孩子，这是天经地义的。 Parents looking after their children: nothing could be more natural.
顺理成章	shùnlǐchéngzhāng	logical, follows naturally	他工作很努力，当上经理是顺理成章的事。 He worked hard, so it followed naturally that he became manager.
顺其自然	shùnqízìrán	to let nature take its course	别太着急，顺其自然吧。 Don’t rush it: let things take their course.
自然而然	zìránérrán	naturally, of its own accord	住久了，自然而然就习惯了。 Live there long enough and you get used to it without trying.
岂有此理	qǐyǒucǐlǐ	outrageous! how absurd!	岂有此理！他怎么能这样说？ That’s outrageous! How can he say that?
似是而非	sìshìérfēi	plausible but wrong	这个说法似是而非，听起来对，其实不对。 This claim is specious: it sounds right but it isn’t.
自相矛盾	zìxiāngmáodùn	to contradict oneself	他前面说同意，后面又说反对，自相矛盾。 First he says he agrees, then he says he’s against: he contradicts himself.
相提并论	xiāngtíbìnglùn	to put on a par	这两个人的水平不能相提并论。 The two of them aren’t remotely in the same league.
相辅相成	xiāngfǔxiāngchéng	to complement each other	理论和实践是相辅相成的。 Theory and practice complement each other.
息息相关	xīxīxiāngguān	closely bound up	环境和每个人的生活息息相关。 The environment is closely bound up with everyone’s life.
一概而论	yīgàiérlùn	to lump together, generalise	每个人的情况不同，不能一概而论。 Everyone’s situation is different: you can’t generalise.

因人而异	yīnrénéryì	to vary from person to person	学习方法因人而异。 The best way to learn varies from person to person.
因地制宜	yīndìzhìyí	to suit local conditions	种{zhong4}什么菜要因地制宜。 What vegetables to grow depends on local conditions.
截然不同	jiéránbùtóng	completely different	南方和北方的饮食习惯截然不同。 Eating habits in the south and the north are completely different.
大同小异	dàtóngxiǎoyì	much the same	这两种手机大同小异。 These two phones are much the same.
与众不同	yǔzhòngbùtóng	out of the ordinary, unique	她的想法总是与众不同。 Her ideas are always out of the ordinary.
独一无二	dúyīwúèr	unique, one of a kind	每个人都是独一无二的。 Everyone is unique.
诸如此类	zhūrúcǐlèi	and so on, things like that	吃饭、睡觉、交通，诸如此类的问题都要考虑。 Food, sleep, transport: all that sort of thing needs thinking about.
举足轻重	jǔzúqīngzhòng	to play a decisive role	他在公司里举足轻重。 He carries a lot of weight in the company.
重中之重	zhòngzhōngzhīzhòng	the most important thing of all	安全是重中之重。 Safety comes before everything.
当务之急	dāngwùzhījí	the most urgent task	当务之急是把病人送到医院。 The first priority is to get the patient to hospital.
刻不容缓	kèbùrónghuǎn	extremely urgent	保护环境，刻不容缓。 Protecting the environment can't wait.
恰到好处	qiàdàohǎochù	just right	菜里的盐放得恰到好处。 There's just the right amount of salt in this dish.
恰如其分	qiàrúqífèn	just right, apt (of words, praise)	他的评价恰如其分。 His assessment was spot on.
面面俱到	miànmiànjùdào	thorough, covering every aspect	他考虑问题面面俱到。 He thinks through every aspect of a problem.
有条不紊	yǒutiáobùwěn	methodical, in perfect order	她做事有条不紊。 She does things methodically.
自始至终	zìshǐzhìzhōng	from start to finish	他自始至终没说一句话。 He didn't say a word from start to finish.
一干二净	yīgānèrjìng	completely, thoroughly	他把这件事忘得一干二净。 He completely forgot about it.
一塌糊涂	yītāhútú	in a terrible mess	我的房间乱得一塌糊涂。 My room is in a terrible mess.
优胜劣汰	yōushèngliètài	survival of the fittest	市场竞争，优胜劣汰。 In the market, the best survive and the weak fall away.
新陈代谢	xīnchéndàixiè	metabolism; the new replacing the old	运动可以加快新陈代谢。 Exercise speeds up your metabolism.

在所难免	zàisuǒnánmiǎn	unavoidable	第一次做，出错是在所难免的。 Making a few mistakes the first time is unavoidable.

pattern 或a或b (more or less) and 综上所述 (to sum up)

或 A 或 B

或A或B puts two opposite words side by side: “A or B, one way or the other”. 或多或少 more or less, 或早或晚 sooner or later, 或大或小 big or small. 综上所述 “to sum up all of the above” opens the last paragraph of a speech or report; it is more formal than 总而言之.

人工智能或多或少会改变课堂。 **réngōng zhìnéng huòduō huòshǎo huì gǎibiàn kètáng** AI will change the classroom to some extent.

问题或大或小，都要认真对待。 **wèntí huò dà huò xiǎo dōu yào rènzhēn duìdài** Big or small, every problem has to be taken seriously.

综上所述，人工智能进课堂，好处大于坏处。 **zōngshàngsuǒshù réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng hǎochù dàyú huàichù** To sum up: AI in the classroom does more good than harm.

“我们要准备得面面俱到。”“可不是嘛，一点儿都不能大意。” **wǒmen yào zhǔnbèi de miànmiàn jùdào kěbùshi ma yìdiǎnr dōu bù néng dàyi** “We need to prepare every angle.” “Absolutely: we can’t be careless about anything.”

dialogue a practice round

professor chen 我们来练习一下。正方，你先说。
wǒmen lái liànxí yíxià zhèng fāng nǐ xiān shuō · Let's have a practice round. Speaker for the motion, off you go.

little sister 人工智能进课堂，是理所当然的事。时代在变，学校也要变，这是天经地义的道理！
réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng shì lǐsuǒdāngrán de shì shídài zài biàn xuéxiào yě yào biàn zhè shì tiānjīng dìyì de dàolǐ · AI in the classroom is a matter of course. The times are changing, so schools must change too: that is the natural order of things!

professor chen 停。“理所当然”“天经地义”，说得理直气壮，可是没有证据。评委会觉得你的话似是而非。
tíng lǐsuǒdāngrán tiānjīng dìyì shuō de lǐzhí qìzhuàng kěshì méiyǒu zhèngjù píngwěi huì juéde nǐ de huà sìshì érfēi · Stop. “A matter of course”, “the natural order”: very bold, but no evidence. The judges will think your claims sound right but aren't.

teacher wang 还有，你说“所有学生都喜欢人工智能”，这不能一概而论。效果因人而异，城市和农村也不一样，要因地制宜。
hái yǒu nǐ shuō suǒyǒu xuéshēng dōu xǐhuan réngōng zhìnéng zhè bù néng yígàiérlùn xiàoguǒ yīnrénéryì chéngshì hé nóngcūn yě bù yíyàng yào yīndì zhìyí · And you said “all students love AI”: you can't generalise like that. Results vary from person to person, and cities and the countryside are different too: it has to suit local conditions.

professor chen 切忌把话说得太满。可以先讲概况，再举一个个案。
qièjì bǎ huà shuō de tài mǎn kěyǐ xiān jiǎng gàikuàng zài jǔ yí gè gèàn · Above all, don't overstate things. Give the general picture first, then one individual case.

little sister 可不是嘛，我太着急了。那我换个说法：人工智能和老师不是截然不同的两种东西，而是相辅相成的。
kěbùshi ma wǒ tài zháojí le nà wǒ huàn gè shuōfǎ réngōng zhìnéng hé lǎoshī bú shì jiérán bùtóng de liǎng zhǒng dōngxi ér shì xiāngfǔ xiāngchéng de · You're right, I rushed it. Let me put it another way: AI and teachers aren't two completely different things; they complement each other.

professor chen 好！这样就顺理成章了。可是对方会说：你前面说机器跟老师一样好，后面又说老师更重要，这不是自相矛盾吗？
hǎo zhèyàng jiù shùnlǐ chéngzhāng le kěshì duìfāng huì shuō nǐ qiánmiàn shuō jīqì gēn lǎoshī yíyàng hǎo hòumiàn yòu shuō lǎoshī gèng zhòngyào zhè bú shì zìxiāng máodùn ma · Good! Now it follows naturally. But the other side will say: first you say machines are as good as teachers, then you say teachers matter more. Isn't that contradicting yourself?

little sister 岂有此理，我可没这么说！
qǐyǒucǐlǐ wǒ kě méi zhème shuō · That's outrageous, I never said that!

professor chen 哈哈，别激动。比赛的时候，对方的话或真或假，你都要冷静。
hā hā bié jīdòng bǐsài de shíhou duìfāng de huà huò zhēn huò jiǎ nǐ dōu yào lěngjìng · Ha, calm down. In the debate, whether what they say is true or not, you have to stay cool.

teacher wang 其实很多队的说法都大同小异，有的几乎雷同。你们要讲出与众不同的地方，独一无二的例子。
qíshí hěn duō duì de shuōfǎ dōu dàtóng xiǎoyì yǒude jīhū léitóng nǐmen yào jiǎng chū yǔzhòng bùtóng de dìfang dúyì wúèr de lìzi · Actually, lots of teams say much the same thing, and some are almost identical. You need to show what makes yours different: an example nobody else has.

little sister 我们的例子是农村的小学：没有音乐老师，就用人工智能上音乐课。这对那些孩子来说，举足轻重。
wǒmen de lìzi shì nóngcūn de xiǎoxué méiyǒu yīnyuè lǎoshī jiù yòng réngōng zhìnéng shàng yīnyuè kè zhè duì nàxiē háizi lái shuō jǔzú qīngzhòng · Our example is a village primary school: they have no music teacher, so they use AI for music lessons. For those children, it makes all the difference.

teacher wang 这个例子很感性，也很有说服力。可是别低估对方，他们会说这只是一个特例。
zhège lìzi hěn gǎnxìng yě hěn yǒu shuōfú lì kěshì bié dīgū duìfāng tāmen huì shuō zhè zhǐshì yí gè tèlì · That

example speaks to the heart, and it's convincing. But don't underestimate the other side: they'll say it's just a special case.

professor chen 这个例子好，教育公平是重中之重。不过别把话说满：农村学校的当务之急，还是请到好老师，这件事刻不容缓。不能把机器和老师相提并论。

zhège lìzi hǎo jiàoyù gōngpíng shì zhòngzhōngzhīzhòng búguò bié bǎ huà shuō mǎn nóngcūn xuéxiào de dāngwùzhījí háishi qǐng dào hǎo lǎoshī zhè jiàn shì kèbùrónghuǎn bù néng bǎ jīqì hé lǎoshī xiāngtí bìnglùn · Good example: fairness in education matters above all. But don't overstate it: what village schools need most urgently is still good teachers, and that can't wait. You can't put machines and teachers on a par.

teacher wang 发言要有条不紊，自始至终围绕一个观点。不要面面俱到，什么都说。用词要恰到好处，评价对方要恰如其分。

fāyán yào yǒutiáo bùwěn zìshǐ zhìzhōng wéirào yí gè guāndiǎn búyào miànmiàn jùdào shénme dōu shuō yòng cí yào qiàdào hǎochù píngjià duìfāng yào qiàrú qífèn · Your speech has to be orderly and stick to one point from start to finish. Don't try to cover everything. Choose your words just right, and be fair when you judge the other side.

little sister 明白了，这就是辩论的要领。上次练习，我的稿子写得一塌糊涂，今天全改了，旧的那些我已经忘得一干二净。那结尾呢？

míngbai le zhè jiùshì biànlùn de yàolǐng shàng cì liànxí wǒ de gǎozi xiě de yìtāhútú jīntiān quán gǎi le jiù de nàxiē wǒ yǐjīng wàng de yìgān èrjìng nà jiéwěi ne · Got it: that's the essence of debating. Last practice my speech was a total mess. I've rewritten all of it today, and I've completely forgotten the old version. What about the ending?

professor chen 用“综上所述”，把前面的观点收起来：人工智能跟学习息息相关，或多或少会改变课堂。教育也有新陈代谢，可是在优胜劣汰中被淘汰的，不是老师，是老的方法。

yòng zōngshàngsuǒshù bǎ qiánmiàn de guāndiǎn shōu qǐlai réngōng zhìnéng gēn xuéxí xīxī xiāngguān huòduō huòshǎo huì gǎibiàn kètáng jiàoyù yě yǒu xīnchén dàixiè kěshì zài yōushèng liètài zhōng bèi táotài de bú shì lǎoshī shì lǎo de fāngfǎ · Use 综上所述 to gather up your points: AI is closely bound up with learning and will change the classroom to some degree. Education renews itself too, but what gets left behind isn't teachers, it's old methods.

teacher wang 第一次比赛，紧张是在所难免的。诸如此类的问题，顺其自然吧，练多了，自然而然就不紧张了。

dì yī cì bǐsài jǐnzhāng shì zàisuǒnánmiǎn de zhūrú cǐlèi de wèntí shùnqízìrán ba liàn duō le zìránérrán jiù bù jǐnzhāng le · Nerves are unavoidable in your first debate. Things like that: let them take their course. Practise enough and the nerves go away of their own accord.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

岂
qǐ
how

good to know · 综上所述 is for the end of something formal: a report, a thesis, a debate. In conversation, say 总之 or 总而言之. Use idioms like spices: one or two in a paragraph sound educated; five in a row sound like a textbook.

You can now build an argument with the idioms that real debaters use, and land it with 综上所述. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 180 talk, thought and decisions

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 24 · reason and argument

Describe how people speak, keep quiet, hesitate and decide, using idioms, and say “sometimes A, sometimes B” with 时A时B (时好时坏).

From meetings to dinner parties, Chinese loves a vivid idiom for how someone talks. These are the ones you will hear at work, in the news and in family stories.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
各抒己见	gèshūjǐjiàn	everyone airs their views	会上大家各抒己见，讨论得很热烈。 At the meeting everyone had their say, and the discussion was lively.
见仁见智	jiànrénjiànzhì	opinions differ	这部电影好不好，见仁见智。 Whether the film is any good is a matter of opinion.
集思广益	jísīguǎngyì	to pool ideas	大家集思广益，想出了一个好办法。 Everyone pooled their ideas and came up with a good solution.
求同存异	qiútóngcúnyì	to agree to differ	朋友之间要求同存异。 Between friends, find common ground and accept your differences.
针锋相对	zhēnfēngxiāngduì	tit for tat, point against point	两个队针锋相对，谁也不让谁。 The two teams went point for point, and neither gave an inch.
侃侃而谈	kǎnkǎnértán	to speak with ease and confidence	她在台上侃侃而谈，一点儿也不紧张。 She spoke easily and confidently on stage, without a trace of nerves.
夸夸其谈	kuākuāqítán	to talk big, prattle	他总是夸夸其谈，从来不做事。 He’s all talk and never does anything.
出口成章	chūkǒuchéngzhāng	eloquent, every word polished	她才八岁，说起话来出口成章。 She’s only eight, but every sentence she says is beautifully put.
绘声绘色	huìshēnghuìsè	vivid, lively (in telling)	爷爷把小时候的故事讲得绘声绘色。 Grandpa told the stories of his childhood vividly.
有声有色	yǒushēngyǒusè	vivid, full of life	这次活动办得有声有色。 The event was a lively success.
头头是道	tóutóushìdào	clear and logical (in speech)	他讲起道理来头头是道。 When he explains something, every point makes sense.
实话实说	shíhuàshíshuō	to tell it straight	我实话实说，这个方案不行。 I’ll be honest: this plan won’t work.
脱口而出	tuōkǒuérchū	to blurt out	他一着急，不该说的话就脱口而出。 When he’s flustered, things he shouldn’t say just slip out.
异口同声	yìkǒutóngshēng	with one voice	大家异口同声地说：“同意！” Everyone said with one voice: “Agreed!”

交头接耳	jiāotóujiēěr	to whisper to each other	上课的时候不要交头接耳。 No whispering in class.
指手画脚	zhǐshǒuhuàjiǎo	to gesticulate; to boss people about	他自己不干活，还对别人指手画脚。 He does no work himself, yet tells everyone else what to do.
一言不发	yīyánbùfā	to not say a word	开会的时候，他一言不发。 He didn't say a word in the meeting.
一声不吭	yīshēngbùkēng	to keep silent	他一声不吭地走了。 He left without a sound.
鸦雀无声	yāquèwúshēng	total silence	老师一进来，教室里鸦雀无声。 When the teacher came in, the classroom fell silent.
抑扬顿挫	yìyángdùncuò	with rising and falling tones (of speech)	他朗读得抑扬顿挫，很好听。 He read aloud with lovely rise and fall.
斩钉截铁	zhǎndīngjiétiě	firm and decisive	她斩钉截铁地说：“不行！” She said flatly: “No!”
当机立断	dāngjīlìduàn	to decide on the spot	情况紧急，他当机立断，马上报警。 It was an emergency, so he made an instant decision and called the police.
举棋不定	jǔqíbùdìng	to waver, can't make up one's mind	他在两个工作之间举棋不定。 He can't decide between the two jobs.
犹豫不决	yóuyùbùjué	hesitant, undecided	别再犹豫不决了，机会不等人。 Stop dithering: opportunities don't wait.
思前想后	sīqiánxiǎnghòu	to think it over from every angle	我思前想后，还是决定留下。 I thought it over again and again, and decided to stay.
胡思乱想	húsīluànxiǎng	to let one's imagination run wild	别胡思乱想了，早一点儿睡吧。 Stop letting your mind run away with you: get some sleep.
异想天开	yìxiǎngtiānkāi	wildly fanciful	他想骑自行车去月亮，真是异想天开。 He wants to ride a bike to the moon: what a wild idea.
恍然大悟	huǎngrándàwù	to suddenly see the light	听了老师的解释，我恍然大悟。 After the teacher's explanation, it suddenly all made sense.
灵机一动	língjīyīdòng	to have a sudden inspiration	他灵机一动，想出了一个好主意。 Inspiration struck, and he came up with a good idea.
急中生智	jízhōngshēngzhì	quick-witted in an emergency	她急中生智，用手机的灯照亮了路。 Thinking fast, she lit the way with her phone torch.
胸有成竹	xiōngyǒuchéngzhú	to have a well-thought-out plan	他准备得很充分，胸有成竹。 He's well prepared and confident of success.
一目了然	yīmùliǎorán	clear at a glance	这张图一目了然。 This chart is clear at a glance.
显而易见	xiǎnéryìjiàn	obvious	显而易见，他没有说真话。 Obviously, he wasn't telling the truth.
可想而知	kěxiǎngérzhī	one can imagine	一个人在国外过春节，心情可想而知。 Spending the Spring Festival alone abroad: you can imagine how it feels.

pattern 时a时b: sometimes a, sometimes b

时 A 时 B

时A时B joins two opposite one-character words to describe something that keeps changing: 时好时坏 “sometimes good, sometimes bad”, 时快时慢 “now fast, now slow”, 时冷时热, 时高时低. It works like a four-character idiom.

他说话时快时慢，评委听得很累。 **tā shuōhuà shí kuài shí màn píngwěi tīng de hěn lèi** He speaks now fast, now slow, and the judges find it tiring.

这几天天气时冷时热，小心感冒。 **zhè jǐ tiān tiānqì shí lěng shí rè xiǎoxīn gǎnmào** The weather’s been hot and cold these last few days: watch you don’t catch a cold.

他的声音时高时低，听不清楚。 **tā de shēngyīn shí gāo shí dī tīng bu qīngchu** His voice keeps going up and down: you can’t hear him properly.

dialogue two judges at lunchtime

manager liu 听说你们要参加辩论？中午就在会议室练吧，我和林编辑当评委。
tīngshuō nǐmen yào cānjiā biànlùn zhōngwǔ jiù zài huìyì shì liàn ba wǒ hé Línbiānjí dāng píngwěi · I hear you're in a debate? Practise in the meeting room at lunch: Editor Lin and I will judge.

xiaoming 太好了！我最近状态时好时坏：有时候侃侃而谈，有时候一紧张就一言不发。一着急，不该说的话还会脱口而出。
tài hǎo le wǒ zuìjìn zhuàngtài shíhǎo shíhuài yǒu shíhou kǎnkǎnértán yǒu shíhou yì jǐnzhāng jiù yìyán bùfā yì zháojí bù gāi shuō de huà hái huì tuōkǒuérchū · Brilliant! My form comes and goes these days: sometimes I talk away easily, and sometimes I get nervous and can't say a word. And when I'm flustered, things I shouldn't say just slip out.

anna 我们还举棋不定：用一个故事开头，还是直接说数字？思前想后两个星期了，还是犹豫不决。
wǒmen hái jǔqí búdìng yòng yí gè gùshi kāitóu háishi zhíjiē shuō shùzì sīqián xiǎnghòu liǎng gè xīngqī le háishi yóuyù bùjué · And we still can't decide: open with a story, or go straight to the figures? We've been going round in circles for two weeks and we still haven't made up our minds.

manager liu 在公司开会，我最怕的就是这种情况。要当机立断！我建议用故事，讲得绘声绘色，评委就记住了。
zài gōngsī kāihuì wǒ zuì pà de jiùshì zhè zhǒng qíngkuàng yào dāngjī lìduàn wǒ jiànyì yòng gùshi jiǎng de huìshēng huìsè píngwěi jiù jì zhù le · That's exactly what I dread in meetings at work. Decide on the spot! I'd go with the story: tell it vividly and the judges will remember it.

xiaoming 那我先试试……怎么样？
nà wǒ xiān shì shi zěnmeyàng · Let me try it, then… How was that?

editor lin 实话实说：前面有声有色，后面有点儿夸夸其谈，像在背广告。说话要抑扬顿挫，别时快时慢。
shíhuà shíshuō qiánmiàn yǒushēng yǒusè hòumiàn yǒudiǎnr kuākuā qítán xiàng zài bèi guǎnggào shuōhuà yào yìyáng dùncuò bié shí kuài shí màn · I'll be honest: the start was lively, but the end turned into hot air, like reciting an advert. Let your voice rise and fall, and don't speed up and slow down.

xiaoming 明白了。我上次讲得一塌糊涂，这次已经好多了。还有，对方队长，也就是我妹妹，说起话来头头是道，出口成章，我们怎么办？
míngbai le wǒ shàng cì jiǎng de yìtāhútú zhè cì yǐjīng hǎo duō le hái yǒu duìfāng duìzhǎng yě jiùshì wǒ mèimei shuō qǐ huà lái tóutóu shìdào chūkǒu chéngzhāng wǒmen zěnme bàn · Got it. Last time I made a total mess of it; this time was much better. And their captain, my own sister, makes perfect sense every time she opens her mouth, every word beautifully put. What do we do about that?

manager liu 别胡思乱想。紧张是在所难免的。辩论不是比谁的话多，是比谁的理由硬。对方说得再好，你们也要针锋相对，一句一句地回答。
bié húsī luànxiǎng jǐnzhāng shì zàisuǒnánmiǎn de biànlùn bú shì bǐ shéi de huà duō shì bǐ shéi de lǐyóu yìng duìfāng shuō de zài hǎo nǐmen yě yào zhēnfēng xiāngduì yí jù yí jù de huídá · Don't let your imagination run away with you. Nerves are unavoidable. A debate isn't about who talks most, it's about whose reasons are strongest. However well they speak, go point for point and answer them one line at a time.

anna 我刚才灵机一动：对方说“机器能教音乐”，我们就问：“机器能不能听出一个孩子今天心情不好？”
wǒ gāngcái língjī yídòng duìfāng shuō jīqì néng jiāo yīnyuè wǒmen jiù wèn jīqì néng bu néng tīng chū yí gè háizi jīntiān xīnqíng bù hǎo · Inspiration just struck: when they say “machines can teach music”, we ask: “Can a machine hear that a child is having a bad day?”

editor lin 好！这个问题简单，一目了然。一问出来，全场一定鸦雀无声。显而易见，机器做不到。
hǎo zhège wèntí jiǎndān yímù liǎorán yí wèn chulai quán chǎng yídìng yāquè wúshēng xiǎnéryìjiàn jīqì zuò bu dào · Excellent! It's simple and clear at a glance. Ask it and the whole hall will go silent. Obviously, a machine can't do that.

anna 这个问题跟每个孩子都息息相关。
zhège wèntí gēn měi gè háizi dōu xīxī xiāngguān · That question matters to every child.

xiaoming 我恍然大悟！原来一个好问题，比说一大段话更有力。我还想过让大白上台呢，是不是太异想天开了？
wǒ huǎngrán dàwù yuánlái yí gè hǎo wèntí bǐ shuō yí dà duàn huà gèng yǒulì wǒ hái xiǎng guo ràng Dàbái shàngtái ne shì bu shì tài yìxiǎng tiānkāi le · Now I get it! A good question is stronger than a long speech. I even thought of bringing Dabai on stage: is that too crazy an idea?

manager liu 哈哈，太异想天开了。还有，比赛的时候，队员之间别交头接耳，也别对评委指手画脚。对方发言，你们就一声不吭地听，记下要点。
hā hā tài yìxiǎng tiānkāi le hái yǒu bǐsài de shíhou duìyuán zhījiān bié jiāotóu jiēěr yě bié duì píngwěi zhǐshǒu huàjiǎo duìfāng fāyán nǐmen jiù yìshēng bùkēng de tīng jì xià yàodiǎn · Ha, far too crazy. And during the debate, no whispering to each other, and no waving your hands at the judges. While the other side speaks, listen in silence and note down their points.

editor lin 至于能不能赢，还是个未知数，见仁见智，每个评委的看法都不一样。
zhìyú néng bu néng yíng háishi gè wèizhīshù jiànrén jiànzhì měi gè píngwěi de kànfǎ dōu bù yíyàng · As for whether you'll win, that's still anyone's guess: it's a matter of opinion, and every judge sees it differently.

xiaoming 评委的看法因人而异，那我们就顺其自然吧。
píngwěi de kànfǎ yīnrényì nà wǒmen jiù shùnqízìrán ba · Judges vary from person to person, so we'll just let things take their course.

anna 周末我们再请大家来集思广益，各抒己见。意见不一样也没关系，求同存异。
zhōumò wǒmen zài qǐng dàjiā lái jísī guǎngyì gèshū jǐjiàn yìjiàn bù yíyàng yě méi guānxi qiútóng cúnyì · At the weekend we'll get everyone together again to pool ideas and say what they think. It doesn't matter if we disagree: we'll find common ground and leave the rest.

xiaoming 那我斩钉截铁地说一句：这次我们一定拼尽全力！
nà wǒ zhǎndīng jiétiě de shuō yí jù zhè cì wǒmen yídìng pīn jìn quánlì · Then let me say it loud and clear: this time we're giving it everything!

anna 对！
duì · Yes!

manager liu 你们俩异口同声，可想而知，比赛一定很精彩。准备得胸有成竹，到时候才能急中生智。
nǐmen liǎ yìkǒu tóngshēng kěxiǎngérzhī bǐsài yídìng hěn jīngcǎi zhǔnbèi de xiōngyǒuchéngzhú dào shíhou cáinéng jízhōng shēngzhì · You two speak with one voice: you can imagine what a great debate it'll be. Prepare until you're sure of yourselves, and on the day you'll think fast when you need to.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

吭
kēng
utter

鸦
yā
crow

good to know · Praise or criticism? 侃侃而谈, 头头是道, 出口成章 and 绘声绘色 are praise; 夸夸其谈 and 指手画脚 are criticism. 胸有成竹 comes from the Song painter 文与可, who was said to have the whole bamboo in his mind before he picked up the brush.

You can now describe how anyone talks, from the eloquent to the silent, and how they make up their minds.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 181 values and morals

Talk about character, conscience and values, praise integrity and condemn what is shameful, and recycle 或多或少 and 综上所述.

Values are where debates get personal. These words let you praise someone's character or call out bad behaviour, in the measured way Chinese prefers.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
价值观	jiàzhíguān	values	每一代人的价值观都不一样。 Every generation has different values.
美德	měidé	virtue	诚实是一种美德。 Honesty is a virtue.
品德	pǐndé	moral character	学校不只教知识，也教品德。 Schools teach not only knowledge but also character.
品行	pǐnxíng	conduct, behaviour	这孩子学习好，品行也好。 This child does well at school and behaves well too.
人格	réngé	personality, dignity	我们要尊重每个人的人格。 We must respect every person's dignity.
人品	rénpǐn	moral quality, character	他的人品很好，大家都信任他。 He's a man of good character, and everyone trusts him.
人性	rénxìng	human nature	这本小说写出了复杂的人性。 This novel captures the complexity of human nature.
良心	liángxīn	conscience	做事要对得起自己的良心。 Act so that your conscience is clear.
正气	zhèngqì	integrity, healthy atmosphere	我们公司要有一股正气。 Our company needs a spirit of integrity.
廉洁	liánjié	honest, incorruptible	他当了二十年干部，一直很廉洁。 He was an official for twenty years and never took a bribe.
廉正	liánzhèng	honest and upright	大家都说这位法官很廉正。 Everyone says this judge is honest and upright.
公道	gōngdao	fair, just	说句公道话，这件事不能全怪他。 To be fair, this isn't all his fault.
端正	duānzhèng	upright, correct (attitude)	学习态度要端正。 You need the right attitude to learning.
崇高	chónggāo	lofty, noble	当老师是一份崇高的工作。 Teaching is a noble profession.
崇尚	chóngshàng	to advocate, uphold	我们公司崇尚诚实。 Our company values honesty above all.
无私	wúsī	selfless	母亲对孩子的爱是无私的。 A mother's love for her child is selfless.

慷慨	kāngkǎi	generous	他对朋友很慷慨，常常请大家吃饭。 He's generous with his friends and often treats everyone to dinner.
胸怀	xiōnghuái	mind, breadth of heart	她有宽广的胸怀，从来不为小事生气。 She's broad-minded and never gets angry over small things.
心胸	xīnxiōng	breadth of mind	他心胸很宽，不会生你的气。 He's big-hearted: he won't be angry with you.
心眼儿	xīnyǎnr	mind, intention; heart	她心眼儿好，总是帮助别人。 She has a kind heart and always helps others.
心血	xīnxuè	painstaking effort	这本书花了他十年的心血。 This book cost him ten years of hard work.
苦心	kǔxīn	pains, trouble taken	父母的一片苦心，孩子长大了才明白。 Children only understand their parents' efforts once they grow up.
恳切	kěnqiè	earnest, sincere	他的态度很恳切。 He was very sincere.
骨气	gǔqì	backbone, moral courage	他很有骨气，从来不求别人。 He has backbone: he never begs anyone for anything.
可贵	kěguì	valuable, admirable	这种精神非常可贵。 This spirit is truly admirable.
可耻	kěchǐ	shameful	骗老人的钱，真可耻！ Cheating old people out of their money is shameful!
不像话	bùxiànghuà	outrageous, unacceptable	你这么晚才回来，太不像话了！ Coming home this late is just not on!
过错	guòcuò	fault, mistake	这不是你的过错。 This isn't your fault.
恶	è	evil; fierce	他没有那么恶，只是脾气不好。 He isn't that nasty: he just has a bad temper.
恶意	èyì	malice	我说这些话没有恶意。 I don't mean anything bad by saying this.
堕落	duòluò	to degenerate, go to the bad	他交了坏朋友，慢慢堕落了。 He fell in with a bad crowd and gradually went off the rails.
败坏	bàihuài	to ruin, corrupt	这种行为败坏了学校的名声。 Behaviour like this ruins the school's reputation.
放纵	fàngzòng	to indulge, let run wild	对孩子不能太放纵。 You can't let children do whatever they like.
小人	xiǎorén	petty person	他在背后说别人坏话，真是个小人。 He badmouths people behind their backs: what a petty man.
无赖	wúlài	rogue; shameless	他借钱不还，真是个无赖。 He borrows money and never pays it back: a real scoundrel.

pattern review: 或a或b (more or less) and 综上所述 (to sum up)

或 A 或 B ..... 综上所述，conclusion

Two tools from day 179. 或A或B with opposites (或多或少, 或善或恶) admits a range: “to some degree, one way or the other”. 综上所述 closes a formal argument by gathering everything said above.

每个孩子或多或少都会犯错。 **měi gè háizi huòduō huòshǎo dōu huì fàn cuò** Every child makes mistakes to some degree.

人或善或恶，要看环境，也要看教育。 **rén huò shàn huò è yào kàn huánjìng yě yào kàn jiàoyù** Whether people turn out good or bad depends on their surroundings and on their education.

综上所述，品德要靠人来教。 **zōngshàngsuǒshù pǐndé yào kào rén lái jiāo** To sum up, character has to be taught by people.

dialogue can a machine teach character?

ms zhang 妹妹今天去同学家了，说不能听你们的“秘密”。来，边吃边讨论，大家各抒己见。
mèimei jīntiān qù tóngxué jiā le shuō bù néng tīng nǐmen de mìmì lái biān chī biān tǎolùn dàjiā gèshū jǐjiàn · Your sister’s gone to a friend’s today: she says she mustn’t hear your “secrets”. Come on, let’s talk while we eat, and everyone can have their say.

xiaoming 我们想加一个观点：学校不只教知识，还教品德、教价值观。这一点，机器做不到。
wǒmen xiǎng jiā yí gè guāndiǎn xuéxiào bù zhǐ jiāo zhīshi hái jiāo pǐndé jiāo jiàzhíguān zhè yìdiǎn jīqì zuò bu dào · We want to add a point: schools don’t just teach knowledge, they teach character and values. A machine can’t do that.

dr li 我同意。我当了三十年医生，最看重的就是人品。上个月一位病人的家人给我塞了一个红包，我当场就退回去了。医生要廉洁，这是起码的本分。
wǒ tóngyì wǒ dāng le sānshí nián yīshēng zuì kànzhòng de jiùshì rénpǐn shàng gè yuè yí wèi bìngrén de jiārén gěi wǒ sāi le yí gè hóngbāo wǒ dāngchǎng jiù tuì huiqu le yīshēng yào liánjié zhè shì qǐmǎ de běnfèn · I agree. I’ve been a doctor for thirty years, and what I value most is character. Last month a patient’s family slipped me a red envelope, and I gave it straight back. A doctor has to be clean: that’s the very least of the job.

anna 叔叔真是廉正无私！
shūshu zhēn shì liánzhèng wúsī · You’re so honest and selfless!

xiaoming 爸爸一直都这样，在他看来，这是天经地义的事。
bàba yìzhí dōu zhèyàng zài tā kànlái zhè shì tiānjīng dìyì de shì · Dad’s always been like that: to him, it’s simply the right thing to do.

dr li 这算不上什么崇高，做人对得起良心就行。可是也有极少数人收钱，真是可耻，败坏了医生的声誉。
zhè suàn bu shàng shénme chónggāo zuò rén duìdeqǐ liángxīn jiù xíng kěshì yě yǒu jí shǎoshù rén shōu qián zhēn shì kěchǐ bàihuài le yīshēng de shēngyù · Nothing noble about it: you just need a clear conscience. But there’s the odd one who takes the money: it’s shameful, and it ruins doctors’ good name.

ms zhang 做生意也一样。我们公司崇尚诚实，谁要是有恶意骗客户，马上开除。人格比钱重要。
zuò shēngyi yě yíyàng wǒmen gōngsī chóngshàng chéngshí shéi yàoshi yǒu èyì piàn kèhù mǎshàng kāichú réngé bǐ qián zhòngyào · Business is the same. My company values honesty above all: anyone who sets out to cheat a client is fired on the spot. Your integrity matters more than money.

xiaoming 我小时候特别淘气，有一次骗了同学的零花钱。爸爸知道了，斩钉截铁地说：“太不像话了！”罚我一个月不能看电视。
wǒ xiǎoshíhou tèbié táoqì yǒu yí cì piàn le tóngxué de línghuāqián bàba zhīdào le zhǎndīng jiétiě de shuō tài búxiànghuà le fá wǒ yí gè yuè bù néng kàn diànshì · When I was little I was really naughty, and once I tricked a classmate out of his pocket money. When Dad found out he said flatly: “That is just not on!” and banned me from TV for a month.

dr li 那不是为了罚你，是为了让你知道自己的过错。每个孩子或多或少都会犯错，要紧的是品行端正。
nà bú shì wèile fá nǐ shì wèile ràng nǐ zhīdào zìjǐ de guòcuò měi gè háizi huòduō huòshǎo dōu huì fàn cuò yàojǐn de shì pǐnxíng duānzhèng · That wasn’t about punishing you: it was so you’d understand what you’d done wrong. Every child makes mistakes to some degree; what matters is that they grow up to behave well.

anna 那人性到底是善还是恶？古人不是争论过吗？
nà rénxìng dàodǐ shì shàn háishi è gǔrén bú shì zhēnglùn guo ma · So is human nature good or evil? Didn’t the ancients argue about that?

dr li 古人有两种说法：一种说人性本善，一种说人性本恶。我觉得人或善或恶，要看环境，也要看教育。从小太放纵，孩子就容易堕落。
gǔrén yǒu liǎng zhǒng shuōfǎ yì zhǒng shuō rénxìng běn shàn yì zhǒng shuō rénxìng běn è wǒ juéde rén huò shàn huò è yào kàn huánjìng yě yào kàn jiàoyù cóngxiǎo tài fàngzòng háizi jiù róngyì duòluò · The ancients had two views: one said human nature is good, the other that it’s evil. I think whether people turn out good or bad depends on their surroundings and on their education. Spoil a child from the start, and they can easily go astray.

xiaoming 显而易见，教育对品德的影响很大。
xiǎnéryìjiàn jiàoyù duì pǐndé de yǐngxiǎng hěn dà · Clearly, education has a big influence on character.

ms zhang 所以老师的苦心特别可贵。王老师的妈妈当年教工人认字，不知道花了多少心血！那就是美德，那就是一股正气。
suǒyǐ lǎoshī de kǔxīn tèbié kěguì Wánglǎoshī de māma dāngnián jiāo gōngrén rèn zì bù zhīdào huā le duōshao xīnxuè nà jiùshì měidé nà jiùshì yì gǔ zhèngqì · That's why the trouble teachers take is so precious. Teacher Wang's mother, teaching workers to read all those years ago: think of the effort she put in! That's virtue, that's integrity.

anna 王老师也是这样。她心眼儿好，对学生很慷慨，常常自己出钱给学生买书。我刚来北京的时候，遇到一个像无赖一样的房东，也是她帮我找到了新房子。
Wánglǎoshī yě shì zhèyàng tā xīnyǎnr hǎo duì xuéshēng hěn kāngkǎi chángcháng zìjǐ chū qián gěi xuéshēng mǎi shū wǒ gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou yùdào yí gè xiàng wúlài yíyàng de fángdōng yě shì tā bāng wǒ zhǎo dào le xīn fángzi · Teacher Wang is the same. She has a kind heart and is generous to her students: she often buys them books out of her own pocket. When I first came to Beijing and ran into a landlord who was a real scoundrel, she was the one who found me a new place.

xiaoming 王老师胸怀真大。不像有些人，心胸很小，一点儿小事就记一辈子，还在背后说别人坏话，真是小人。
Wánglǎoshī xiōnghuái zhēn dà bú xiàng yǒuxiē rén xīnxiōng hěn xiǎo yìdiǎnr xiǎo shì jiù jì yíbèizi hái zài bèihòu shuō biérén huài huà zhēn shì xiǎorén · Teacher Wang is so big-hearted. Not like some people: so petty that they remember the smallest thing for life, and badmouth people behind their backs. Real small-minded types.

dr li 有骨气的人，不靠别人，也不说别人。人和人的差别，不在钱，在品德。
yǒu gǔqì de rén bú kào biérén yě bù shuō biérén rén hé rén de chābié bú zài qián zài pǐndé · People with backbone don't lean on others and don't talk about them either. The difference between people isn't money, it's character.

anna 叔叔说得真好，我恍然大悟。
shūshu shuō de zhēn hǎo wǒ huǎngrán dàwù · Beautifully put, Uncle: suddenly it all makes sense.

ms zhang 不过说句公道话，学生队的观点也很有道理，说起来头头是道。你们别太骄傲。
búguò shuō jù gōngdao huà xuéshēng duì de guāndiǎn yě hěn yǒu dàolǐ shuō qǐlai tóutóu shìdào nǐmen bié tài jiāoào · But to be fair, the students' team has a good case too, and every point they make adds up. Don't get cocky.

anna 谢谢叔叔阿姨这么恳切的意见！
xièxie shūshu āyí zhème kěnqiè de yìjiàn · Thank you both for such heartfelt advice!

xiaoming 我来总结：机器能教知识，教不了做人。综上所述，品德要靠人来教。王老师她妈妈那句话就是最好的例子：教人先教心！
wǒ lái zǒngjié jīqì néng jiāo zhīshi jiāo bu liǎo zuò rén zōngshàngsuǒshù pǐndé yào kào rén lái jiāo Wánglǎoshī tā māma nà jù huà jiùshì zuìhǎo de lìzi jiāo rén xiān jiāo xīn · Let me sum up: a machine can teach knowledge, but not how to be a person. To sum up, character has to be taught by people. Teacher Wang's mother's words are the best example: to teach people, first teach the heart!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

慨
kǎi
generous

慷
kāng
generous

good to know · Chinese friends' parents are 叔叔 (uncle) and 阿姨 (auntie) to you: warm and respectful, never 李医生 at the dinner table. 小人 (a petty person) is the classic opposite of 君子 (a person of honour), a pair that goes back to Confucius.

You can now talk about character and conscience in Chinese, and disagree about human nature over dinner.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 182 loyal and open-minded

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 24 · reason and argument

Describe loyalty, character and attitudes, from open-minded to stubborn, recycle 时A时B, and use the written 乃 (is, is indeed).

Teams win or lose on character. These words describe the people you work with, and yourself on a good or a bad day.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
忠诚	zhōngchéng	loyal	他对朋友很忠诚。 He's very loyal to his friends.
忠实	zhōngshí	faithful, true	他是这家店的忠实顾客。 He's a loyal customer of this shop.
忠心	zhōngxīn	loyalty, devotion	他对这个辩论社一片忠心。 He is utterly devoted to this debate club.
忠于	zhōngyú	to be loyal to, true to	记者要忠于事实。 A reporter must stay true to the facts.
忠贞	zhōngzhēn	faithful, constant	爷爷奶奶结婚五十多年，对彼此一直很忠贞。 Grandpa and Grandma have been married over fifty years and always faithful to each other.
保守	bǎoshǒu	conservative	他的想法有点儿保守。 His ideas are a bit conservative.
开明	kāimíng	enlightened, open-minded	她的父母很开明，让她自己选择专业。 Her parents are open-minded and let her choose her own subject.
务实	wùshí	practical, down-to-earth	她做事很务实，从来不说空话。 She's practical and never talks empty talk.
严谨	yánjǐn	rigorous, careful	做研究一定要严谨。 Research has to be rigorous.
苛刻	kēkè	harsh, demanding	这个老板对员工太苛刻了。 This boss is far too harsh on his staff.
软弱	ruǎnruò	weak, feeble	你的态度太软弱了，要坚持自己的意见。 You're being too soft: stand up for your view.
无能	wúnéng	incompetent, useless	输了一次，不代表你无能。 Losing once doesn't mean you're useless.
不肖	bùxiào	unworthy (of one's parents or teacher)	他笑着说自己是陈教授的“不肖学生”。 He laughed and called himself Professor Chen's “unworthy student”.
本色	běnsè	true character, natural colour	他当了经理，还是保持着工人的本色。 Even as manager, he stayed the down-to-earth worker he always was.
出身	chūshēn	family background, origin	他出身农民家庭，靠自己考上了大学。 He comes from a farming family and got into university on his own merits.

品位	pǐnwèi	taste (in style, art)	林编辑很有品位，不喜欢夸张的|话。 Editor Lin has good taste: she doesn't like exaggerated language.
敷衍	fūyǎn	to do perfunctorily, brush off	他回答问题很敷衍，一看就没准备。 He answered the questions half-heartedly: clearly he hadn't prepared.
计较	jìjiào	to fuss over, haggle	他从来不计较这些小事。 He never fusses over small things like that.
接纳	jiēnà	to accept, take in	一个好团队，要能接纳不同的意见。 A good team can take on board different views.
露面	lòumiàn	to show up, appear	他很少露面，大家都不太认识他。 He hardly ever shows up, so not many people know him.
吓唬	xiàhu	to frighten, scare	别吓唬孩子，他已经很害怕了。 Don't frighten the child: he's scared enough already.
心意	xīnyì	regard, kindly feelings; a small gift	这是我的一点儿心意，请收下。 This is just a little something from me: please accept it.
卑微	bēiwēi	humble, lowly	不管出身多么卑微，都可以有大理想。 However humble your background, you can have big dreams.
功力	gōnglì	skill, (kung fu) mastery	她写文章的功力很深。 Her writing is the work of a real master.
果断	guǒduàn	decisive	她做事很果断，从不犹豫。 She's decisive and never hesitates.
精神	jīngshén	spirit	我们要学习这种不怕困难的精神{jing1shen2}。 We should learn from this spirit of not fearing difficulty.
拧	nǐng	to twist; at cross purposes	你们俩别越说越拧{ning3}了。 You two, stop talking yourselves into opposite corners.
强硬	qiángyìng	tough, unyielding	对方的态度很强硬。 The other side took a hard line.
自如	zìrú	with ease, freely	她说中文已经很自如了。 She speaks Chinese with ease now.

pattern review: 乃 (is indeed) and 时a时b

A **乃** **B (a judgement)**

乃 is a written, rather classical word for 是 "is, is indeed" (from day 28). You meet it in sayings and formal writing: 胜败乃常事 "winning and losing are normal". And 时A时B (day 180) describes something that keeps swinging: 时冷时热, 时好时坏.

胜败乃常事，别太在意。 **shèng bài nǎi cháng shì bié tài zàiyì** Winning and losing are part of the game: don't take it too hard.

诚实乃做人之本。 **chéngshí nǎi zuò rén zhī běn** Honesty is the foundation of a good life.

他的态度时冷时热，让人看不懂。 **tā de tàidù shí lěng shí rè ràng rén kàn bu dǒng** He blows hot and cold: you can't make him out.

dialogue the last practice

professor chen 评委名单定了：王老师、林编辑、周博士。王老师严谨，林编辑务实，周博士很开明。林编辑还很有品位，最不喜欢夸张的话。

píngwěi míngdān dìng le Wánglǎoshī Línbiānjí Zhōubóshì Wánglǎoshī yánjǐn Línbiānjí wùshí Zhōubóshì hěn kāimíng Línbiānjí hái hěn yǒu pǐnwèi zuì bù xǐhuan kuāzhāng de huà · The judges are confirmed: Teacher Wang, Editor Lin and Dr Zhou. Teacher Wang is rigorous, Editor Lin practical and Dr Zhou open-minded. Editor Lin also has excellent taste, and can't stand exaggeration.

xiaoming 太好了！不过听说学生队请了一位教练，辩论的功力很深。

tài hǎo le búguò tīngshuō xuéshēng duì qǐng le yí wèi jiàoliàn biànlùn de gōnglì hěn shēn · Great! But I hear the students' team has a coach who's a real master of debate.

manager liu 别被吓唬住。对方要是很强硬，你们就冷静；对方要是回答得很敷衍，你们就追问。

bié bèi xiàhu zhù duìfāng yàoshi hěn qiángyìng nǐmen jiù lěngjìng duìfāng yàoshi huídá de hěn fūyǎn nǐmen jiù zhuīwèn · Don't let that scare you. If they take a hard line, stay calm; if they brush off a question, press them.

anna 对，准备得胸有成竹，到时候才能急中生智。

duì zhǔnbèi de xiōngyǒuchéngzhú dào shíhou cái néng jízhōng shēngzhì · Right: if we're well prepared, we'll think on our feet when it counts.

xiaoming 可是我觉得安娜的开头太软弱了，应该更强硬一点儿。

kěshì wǒ juéde Ānnà de kāitóu tài ruǎnruò le yīnggāi gèng qiángyìng yìdiǎnr · But I think Anna's opening is too soft: it should be tougher.

anna 我不同意。我们不是去吓唬人的，是去讲道理的。你的想法太保守了，辩论不一定要吵，更不用指手画脚。

wǒ bù tóngyì wǒmen bú shì qù xiàhu rén de shì qù jiǎng dàolǐ de nǐ de xiǎngfǎ tài bǎoshǒu le biànlùn bù yídìng yào chǎo gèng búyòng zhǐshǒu huàjiǎo · I disagree. We're not there to scare anyone, we're there to reason. You're being old-fashioned: a debate doesn't have to be a shouting match, let alone a lot of finger-wagging.

manager liu 好了，你们俩别越说越拧了。一个团队，要能求同存异，接纳不同的意见。还有，小明，你别再计较谁先发言了。

hǎo le nǐmen liǎ bié yuè shuō yuè nǐng le yí gè tuánduì yào néng qiútóng cúnyì jiēnà bù tóng de yìjiàn hái yǒu Xiǎomíng nǐ bié zài jìjiào shéi xiān fāyán le · All right, you two, stop arguing yourselves into corners. A team has to find common ground and take different views on board. And Xiaoming, stop fussing about who speaks first.

anna 其实我心里也没底。在对方面前，我有时候觉得自己很卑微：她们天天练，我们只是业余的。

qíshí wǒ xīnlǐ yě méi dǐ zài duìfāng miànqián wǒ yǒu shíhou juéde zìjǐ hěn bēiwēi tāmen tiān tiān liàn wǒmen zhǐshì yèyú de · Honestly, I'm not confident either. Next to them I sometimes feel very small: they practise every day, and we're only amateurs.

professor chen 别这么说。评委都很公道，辩论不看出身，不看你是谁，只看你说得有没有道理。

bié zhème shuō píngwěi dōu hěn gōngdao biànlùn bú kàn chūshēn bú kàn nǐ shì shéi zhǐ kàn nǐ shuō de yǒu méiyǒu dàolǐ · Don't say that. The judges are fair: a debate doesn't care about your background or who you are, only whether you make sense.

manager liu 而且你们有自己的本色：务实，说真话，人品好。不要为了赢，变成另一个样子。

érqiě nǐmen yǒu zìjǐ de běnsè wùshí shuō zhēn huà rénpǐn hǎo búyào wèile yíng biànchéng lìng yí gè yàngzi · And you have your own character: practical, honest, decent people. Don't turn into someone else just to win.

anna 说得对，诚实是最可贵的。

shuō de duì chéngshí shì zuì kěguì de · You're right: honesty is what counts most.

xiaoming 我想起大学时候的事。那时候我是队长，比赛前很果断，可是一上台就胡思乱想，状态时好时坏，说话一点儿也不自如。

wǒ xiǎng qǐ dàxué shíhou de shì nà shíhou wǒ shì duìzhǎng bǐsài qián hěn guǒduàn kěshì yí shàngtái jiù húsī luànxiǎng zhuàngtài shíhǎo shíhuài shuōhuà yìdiǎnr yě bú zìrú · It reminds me of university. I was captain, very decisive before the debates, but once I was on stage my mind ran wild, my form came and went, and I couldn't speak freely at all.

professor chen 那次你们输了，你难过了一个星期，说自己无能。我对你说：胜败乃常事。
nà cì nǐmen shū le nǐ nánguò le yí gè xīngqī shuō zìjǐ wúnéng wǒ duì nǐ shuō shèng bài nǎi cháng shì · You lost that time, and you were miserable for a week, saying you were useless. I told you: winning and losing are part of the game.

xiaoming 对，我还说自己是您的“不肖学生”。
duì wǒ hái shuō zìjǐ shì nín de búxiào xuéshēng · Yes, and I called myself your “unworthy student”.

professor chen 哈哈，你从来不是。你对辩论社一片忠心，毕业十年，每年都回来露面。这就是忠诚。
hā hā nǐ cónglái bú shì nǐ duì biànlùn shè yí piàn zhōngxīn bìyè shí nián měi nián dōu huílái lòumiàn zhè jiùshì zhōngchéng · Ha, you never were. You’re utterly devoted to the club: ten years after graduating, you still show up every year. That’s loyalty.

manager liu 小明心眼儿好，对朋友也很无私。
Xiǎomíng xīnyǎnr hǎo duì péngyou yě hěn wúsī · Xiaoming has a good heart, and he’s selfless with his friends.

xiaoming 说到忠诚，我爷爷奶奶结婚五十多年，对彼此一直很忠贞，那才叫忠诚。
shuō dào zhōngchéng wǒ yéye nǎinai jiéhūn wǔshí duō nián duì bǐcǐ yìzhí hěn zhōngzhēn nà cái jiào zhōngchéng · Speaking of loyalty, my grandparents have been married over fifty years and always true to each other: now that’s loyalty.

manager liu 我们公司也需要这种精神：忠于团队，也忠于事实。
wǒmen gōngsī yě xūyào zhè zhǒng jīngshén zhōngyú tuánduì yě zhōngyú shìshí · That’s the spirit my company needs too: loyal to the team, and true to the facts.

anna 那我们就忠实地说我们相信的东西。
nà wǒmen jiù zhōngshí de shuō wǒmen xiāngxìn de dōngxi · Then let’s say what we truly believe.

xiaoming 好，不计较了。安娜，你开头，我结尾。
hǎo bú jìjiào le Ānnà nǐ kāitóu wǒ jiéwěi · Fine, no more fuss. Anna, you open and I’ll close.

professor chen 这才是一个队。这两支笔是我的一点儿心意，比赛的时候记要点用。
zhè cái shì yí gè duì zhè liǎng zhī bǐ shì wǒ de yìdiǎnr xīnyì bǐsài de shíhou jì yàodiǎn yòng · Now that’s a team. These two pens are a little something from me: for taking notes during the debate.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

贞
zhēn
constant

苛
kē
harsh

good to know · 心意 is the polite word when you give a gift: 一点儿心意，请收下 “just a little something, please accept it”. 精神 has two readings: jīngshén “spirit” (团队精神) and jīngshen “lively, full of energy” (你今天很精神).

You can now describe the character of the people around you, and hold a team together, in Chinese. Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 183 hold, tie and wrap

Talk about practical jobs with your hands: stack, fold, tie, wrap, nail, pour and spill, and recycle 打 “from” and the prepositions 当着 and 就.

These short verbs are the Chinese of real life: setting up a room, packing a bag, cooking, cleaning up a mess. Natives use them all the time.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
持	chí	to hold; to maintain	双方持不同的看法。 The two sides hold different views.
搁	gē	to put, leave (somewhere)	箱子先搁在门口吧。 Leave the box by the door for now.
放置	fàngzhì	to place, put	请把手机放置在指定的地方。 Please put your phones in the designated place.
置	zhì	to place, set	把奖杯置于台子正中间。 Set the trophy right in the middle of the stage.
揣	chuāi	to tuck (into clothing)	他把稿子揣在口袋里。 He tucked the speech into his pocket.
捎	shāo	to take or bring (for someone)	你去超市，顺便帮我捎一瓶水。 If you’re going to the supermarket, could you bring me a bottle of water?
码	mǎ	to stack, pile up neatly	把椅子码{ma3-7b}整齐。 Stack the chairs neatly.
叠	dié	to fold; to pile up	把衣服叠好，放进箱子里。 Fold the clothes and put them in the case.
折叠	zhédié	to fold; folding	仓库里有两百把可以折叠的椅子。 There are two hundred folding chairs in the storeroom.
捆	kǔn	to tie up, bundle	把旧报纸捆起来。 Tie the old newspapers into a bundle.
绑	bǎng	to tie, bind	把横幅绑在柱子上。 Tie the banner to the pillar.
拴	shuān	to tie (to a post), tether	他把狗拴在门口。 He tied the dog up by the door.
缠	chán	to wind, twine; to pester	电线缠在一起了。 The cables are all tangled up.
缠绕	chánrào	to wind round, coil	把电线缠绕在架子上。 Coil the cable round the stand.
绞	jiǎo	to twist, wring	把毛巾绞干{gan1}，再擦桌子。 Wring out the towel, then wipe the table.
裹	guǒ	to wrap, bind	用布把奖杯裹好。 Wrap the trophy carefully in cloth.
勒	lēi	to tie tight, strap	绳子别勒得太紧。 Don’t pull the rope too tight.

绷	bēng	to stretch tight, tense	横幅要绷紧，不然不好看。 The banner needs to be pulled tight, or it won't look good.
钉	dìng	to nail, sew on	把牌子钉{ding4-7}在墙上。 Nail the sign to the wall.
镶	xiāng	to inlay, set	奖杯上镶了一块小石头。 A little stone is set into the trophy.
拼接	pīnjiē	to piece together, splice	这张海报是两张纸拼接起来的。 This poster is two sheets of paper joined together.
切割	qiēgē	to cut (apart)	用刀把纸切割成两半。 Cut the paper in two with a knife.
筛	shāi	to sift, sieve; sieve	把面粉筛一遍。 Sift the flour once.
淘	táo	to wash in a pan (rice, beans)	煮饭以前，先把米淘干净。 Before cooking rice, rinse it clean.
捞	lāo	to fish out, scoop up	我的钥匙掉进水桶里了，快帮我捞出来！ My keys have fallen into the bucket: quick, fish them out!
涂	tú	to smear, paint	这块牌子涂了三遍颜色。 This sign has had three coats of paint.
抹	mǒ	to smear, wipe	她脸上抹了一道墨水。 She has a streak of ink across her face.
沾	zhān	to be stained with, touch	我手上沾了墨水。 I've got ink on my hands.
溅	jiàn	to splash	小心，别把水溅到桌子上。 Careful: don't splash water on the table.
淌	tǎng	to drip, trickle, flow	他热得满头大汗，汗一直往下淌。 He was so hot that the sweat kept trickling down.
溢	yì	to overflow	水太满了，溢出来了。 The water was too full and spilled over.
灌	guàn	to fill, pour into	往水壶里灌满开水。 Fill the flask with boiling water.
注	zhù	to pour (into); note	往杯子里注满茶。 Fill the cups with tea.
埋藏	máicáng	to lie hidden, bury	这个老礼堂里埋藏着很多故事。 This old hall holds many stories.

pattern review: 打 (from), 当着 (in front of) and 就 (about)

打 | a time or place | 起 / 来

Three prepositions from day 28. Spoken 打 means “from”: 打明天起 “from tomorrow”, 打北京来 “from Beijing”. 当着……的面 is “in front of someone”. 就 + topic means “about, on the subject of”: 就这个问题谈一谈.

打明天起，我们每天下午都在这里练习。 **dǎ míngtiān qǐ wǒmen měi tiān xiàwǔ dōu zài zhèlǐ liànxí** From tomorrow on, we practise here every afternoon.

当着大家的面，陈教授把奖杯包好了。 **dāngzhe dàjiā de miàn Chénjiàoshòu bǎ jiǎngbēi bāo hǎo le** In front of everyone, Professor Chen wrapped up the trophy.

评委会就你们的观点提问。 **píngwěi huì jiù nǐmen de guāndiǎn tíwèn** The judges will ask questions about your points.

dialogue setting up the hall

professor chen 大学的礼堂在装修，王老师把她学校的老礼堂借给了我们。打明天下午起，这里就归辩论社用了。两个队一起干活！

dàxué de lǐtáng zài zhuāngxiū Wánglǎoshī bǎ tā xuéxiào de lǎo lǐtáng jiè gěi le wǒmen dǎ míngtiān xiàwǔ qǐ zhèlǐ jiù guī biànlùn shè yòng le liǎng gè duì yìqǐ gànhuó · The university hall is being renovated, so Teacher Wang has lent us the old hall at her school. From tomorrow afternoon, it's the debate club's. Both teams, let's get to work!

little sister 先放置椅子。仓库里有两百把可以折叠的椅子，我们已经搁在门口了。

xiān fàngzhì yǐzi cāngkù lǐ yǒu liǎngbǎi bǎ kěyǐ zhédié de yǐzi wǒmen yǐjīng gē zài ménkǒu le · Chairs first. There are two hundred folding chairs in the storeroom: we've left them by the door.

professor chen 两个队交替着搬，别都挤在门口。

liǎng gè duì jiāotì zhe bān bié dōu jǐ zài ménkǒu · Take turns carrying them, team by team: don't all crowd round the door.

xiaoming 我来，这种活我最拿手。打开以后码整齐，一排二十把。旧报纸叠好，捆起来，放回仓库。

wǒ lái zhè zhǒng huó wǒ zuì náshǒu dǎkāi yǐhòu mǎ zhěngqí yì pái èrshí bǎ jiù bàozhǐ dié hǎo kǔn qǐlai fàng huí cāngkù · I'll do it: this kind of job is my speciality. Open them up and stack them neatly, twenty to a row. And fold the old newspapers, tie them in bundles and put them back in the storeroom.

anna 横幅谁来挂？绳子我捎来了。

héng fú shéi lái guà shéngzi wǒ shāo lái le · Who's putting up the banner? I've brought some rope.

little sister 我们俩来。左边绑在柱子上，右边拴在窗户上，要绷紧，不然不好看。上面的牌子钉在墙上。

wǒmen liǎ lái zuǒbian bǎng zài zhùzi shàng yòubian shuān zài chuānghu shàng yào bēng jǐn bùrán bù hǎokàn shàngmiàn de páizi dìng zài qiáng shàng · The two of us will. Tie the left side to the pillar and the right side to the window, and pull it tight, or it won't look good. The sign on top gets nailed to the wall.

xiaoming 话筒的电线太长，全缠在一起了，放在地上也碍事。我把它缠绕在这个架子上。

huàtǒng de diànxiàn tài cháng quán chán zài yìqǐ le fàng zài dì shàng yě àishì wǒ bǎ tā chánrào zài zhège jiàzi shàng · The microphone cable is too long and it's all tangled, and it gets in the way on the floor. I'll coil it round this stand.

professor chen 别勒得太紧，电线会坏的。

bié lēi de tài jǐn diànxiàn huì huài de · Don't pull it too tight, or the cable will break.

anna 这张海报是我们拼接的：一张纸太小，我们用刀切割了另一张，接在一起。上面的字涂了三遍颜色。

zhè zhāng hǎibào shì wǒmen pīnjiē de yì zhāng zhǐ tài xiǎo wǒmen yòng dāo qiēgē le lìng yì zhāng jiē zài yìqǐ shàngmiàn de zì tú le sān biàn yánsè · We made this poster by joining two sheets: one was too small, so we cut another with a knife and joined them up. The letters have had three coats of paint.

xiaoming 你们真严谨，连颜色都这么讲究，很有品位。

nǐmen zhēn yánjǐn lián yánsè dōu zhème jiǎngjiu hěn yǒu pǐnwèi · You're so meticulous, even about the colours: very tasteful.

little sister 我手上沾了墨水，脸上也抹了一道！

wǒ shǒu shàng zhān le mòshuǐ liǎn shàng yě mǒ le yí dào · I've got ink on my hands, and a streak of it on my face!

professor chen 奖杯在这儿，我用布把它裹好了，底下还镶了一块小石头。明天把它置于台子正中间。

jiǎngbēi zài zhèr wǒ yòng bù bǎ tā guǒ hǎo le dǐxia hái xiāng le yí kuài xiǎo shítou míngtiān bǎ tā zhì yú tái zi zhèng zhōngjiān · Here's the trophy: I've wrapped it in cloth, and there's a little stone set into the base. Tomorrow it goes right in the middle of the stage.

anna 我去烧水……哎呀！水壶灌得太满，水溢出来了，溅了一地，还淌到门口了！

wǒ qù shāo shuǐ āiyā shuǐ hú guàn de tài mǎn shuǐ yì chulai le jiàn le yí dì hái tǎng dào ménkǒu le · I'll boil some water… Oh no! I filled the kettle too full, it's spilled over, splashed all over the floor and run right to the door!

little sister 我来擦！毛巾先绞干。哎，小明，你的钥匙掉进水桶里了！
wǒ lái cā máojīn xiān jiǎo gān āi Xiǎomíng nǐ de yàoshi diào jìn shuǐ tǒng lǐ le · I'll wipe it up! Wring out the towel first. Hey, Xiaoming, your keys have fallen in the bucket!

xiaoming 快帮我捞出来！明天的稿子我揣在口袋里了，可别掉进去。
kuài bāng wǒ lāo chulai míngtiān de gǎozi wǒ chuāi zài kǒudai lǐ le kě bié diào jinqu · Quick, fish them out! I've got tomorrow's speech tucked in my pocket: don't let that fall in too.

anna 捞上来了！还好稿子没掉进去。
lāo shanglai le hái hǎo gǎozi méi diào jinqu · Got them! And luckily the speech didn't fall in.

little sister 哥哥真不像话，那么重要的东西也不放好。明天的茶点我们包了：我妈妈做豆子包，豆子先淘干净，煮烂了，再用筛子筛一遍。到时候给每个杯子都注满茶。
gēge zhēn búxiànghuà nàme zhòngyào de dōngxi yě bú fàng hǎo míngtiān de chá diǎn wǒmen bāo le wǒ māma zuò dòuzi bāo dòuzi xiān táo gānjìng zhǔ làn le zài yòng shāi zi shāi yí biàn dào shíhou gěi měi gè bēizi dōu zhù mǎn chá · Honestly, brother, leaving something that important lying around! We're doing tomorrow's refreshments: my mum is making bean buns. You rinse the beans, cook them soft, then press them through a sieve. And we'll fill every cup with tea.

professor chen 好。当着大家的面，我说一句：明天就这个辩题，两个队持不同的看法，可是比完以后，大家还是一家人。这个老礼堂里埋藏着七十年的故事，明天，又会多一个。
hǎo dāngzhe dàjiā de miàn wǒ shuō yí jù míngtiān jiù zhège biàn tí liǎng gè duì chí bù tóng de kànfǎ kěshì bǐ wán yǐhòu dàjiā háishi yì jiā rén zhège lǎo lǐtáng lǐ máicáng zhe qīshí nián de gùshi míngtiān yòu huì duō yí gè · Good. In front of you all, let me say this: tomorrow, on this motion, the two teams hold opposite views, but once it's over, you're all one family again. This old hall holds seventy years of stories, and tomorrow there'll be one more.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

捎 shāo — to take or bring (for someone)

捆 kǔn — to tie up, bundle

拴 shuān — to tie (to a post), tether

绞 jiǎo — to twist, wring

good to know · Several of today's verbs are northern and spoken: 搁 (put), 码 (stack), 捎 (bring along). In writing, use 放, 摆, 带. Watch the readings: 钉 dìng to nail, dīng a nail; 揣 chuāi to tuck in, chuǎi to guess; 勒 lēi to tie tight.

You can now get stuck in to any practical job in Chinese, and deal with the mess when the water spills.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 184 mission: the great debate

Follow a whole debate in Chinese: the rules, two opening speeches, a heated free debate, the closing speeches and the judges' verdict, using this unit's words for reasons, values, idioms of argument and practical jobs.

A debate packs everything into one hour: reasons, objections, idioms, values and nerves. If you can follow this, you can follow almost any argument in Chinese.

chapter 1 chapter 1: the rules

xiaoming 两百把椅子，坐得满满的！我现在有点儿胡思乱想，思前想后，还是举棋不定：开头要不要改？

liǎngbǎi bǎ yǐzi zuò de mǎn mǎn de wǒ xiànzài yǒudiǎnr húsī luànxiǎng sīqián xiǎnghòu háishi jǔqí búdìng kāitóu yào búyào gǎi · Two hundred chairs, every one taken! My mind's running away with me: I keep going back and forth, and I still can't decide whether to change our opening.

anna 别再犹豫不决了，我们早就胸有成竹。当机立断：不改！

bié zài yóuyù bùjué le wǒmen zǎo jiù xiōngyǒuchéngzhú dāngjī lìduàn bù gǎi · Stop dithering: we've had this planned for ages. Decision made: we're not changing it!

xiaoming 好，我斩钉截铁地说一句：不改！稿子我揣在口袋里了。

hǎo wǒ zhǎndīng jiétiě de shuō yí jù bù gǎi gǎozi wǒ chuāi zài kǒudai lǐ le · Fine, I'll say it once and for all: no change! I've got the speech in my pocket.

manager liu 记住，实话实说，别夸夸其谈。对方说得再好，也别一言不发。

jì zhù shíhuà shíshuō bié kuākuā qítán duìfāng shuō de zài hǎo yě bié yìyán bùfā · Remember: tell it straight, no hot air. However well the other side speaks, don't go quiet.

xiaoming 我昨天手上沾的墨水，今天才洗得一干二净。你看，奖杯已经置于台子正中间，横幅绷得紧紧的，左边绑在柱子上，右边拴在窗户上。

wǒ zuótiān shǒu shàng zhān de mòshuǐ jīntiān cái xǐ de yìgān èrjìng nǐ kàn jiǎngbēi yǐjīng zhì yú tái zi zhèng zhōngjiān héng fú bēng de jǐn jǐn de zuǒbian bǎng zài zhùzi shàng yòubian shuān zài chuānghu shàng · The ink I got on my hands yesterday only came off completely today. Look: the trophy's right in the middle of the stage, and the banner is pulled tight, tied to the pillar on the left and the window on the right.

little sister 哥哥，安娜，等一下我可不客气了。我们队员个个都能侃侃而谈。

gēge Ānnà děng yíxià wǒ kě búkèqi le wǒmen duìyuán gè gè dōu néng kǎnkǎnértán · Brother, Anna: in a minute, I'm not going easy on you. Every one of us can talk the hind legs off a donkey.

anna 我们也是。不过比完以后，还是一家人。

wǒmen yě shì búguò bǐ wán yǐhòu háishi yì jiā rén · Nor are we. But once it's over, we're family again.

professor chen （读）“各位来宾：今天晚上的辩题是‘人工智能进课堂，好处大于坏处’。正方为学生队，反方为毕业生队。本次比赛的规则如下：

dú gèwèi láibīn jīntiān wǎnshang de biàn tí shì réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng hǎochù dàyú huàichù zhèng fāng wéi xuéshēng duì fǎn fāng wéi bìyèshēng duì běn cì bǐsài de guīzé rúxià · (reading) “Ladies and gentlemen: tonight's motion is 'AI in the classroom does more good than harm'. The students' team is for the motion, the graduates' team against. The rules of this debate are as follows:

professor chen 一、所有稿子必须由队员自己撰写，不得用人工智能写稿子，不得参照、效仿别人的稿子。抄袭是可耻的，会败坏辩论社的名声。这一条无条件执行，没有特例。

yī suǒyǒu gǎozi bìxū yóu duìyuán zìjǐ zhuànxiě bùdé yòng réngōng zhìnéng xiě gǎozi bùdé cānzhào xiàofǎng biérén de gǎozi chāoxí shì kěchǐ de huì bàihuài biànlùn shè de míngshēng zhè yì tiáo wútiáojiàn zhíxíng méiyǒu tèlì · One: all speeches must be written by the team members themselves. No AI may be used to write them, and no one may draw on or imitate anyone else's speech. Plagiarism is shameful and would ruin the club's good name. This rule applies without exception.

professor chen 二、发言时间由评委计时，超时的部分不算。三、比赛中，队员不得交头接耳，不得对评委指手画脚，不得对对方有任何恶意。四、评委就双方的观点、论证和表达打分，名次由三位评委共同判定。请大家把手机放置在门口的盒子里。”

èr fāyán shíjiān yóu píngwěi jì shí chāo shí de bùfen bú suàn sān bǐsài zhōng duìyuán bùdé jiāotóu jiēěr bùdé duì píngwěi zhǐshǒu huàjiǎo bùdé duì duìfāng yǒu rènhé èyì sì píngwěi jiù shuāngfāng de guāndiǎn lùnzhèng hé biǎodá dǎ fēn míngcì yóu sān wèi píngwěi gòngtóng pàndìng qǐng dàjiā bǎ shǒujī fàngzhì zài ménkǒu de hézi lǐ · Two: speaking time is kept by the judges, and anything over time does not count. Three: during the debate, team members may not whisper to each other, gesture at the judges or show any ill will to the other side. Four: the judges will mark both sides on their points, their reasoning and their delivery, and the result will be decided jointly by all three. Please leave your phones in the box by the door.”

professor chen 好，比赛开始！先请正方发言。

hǎo bǐsài kāishǐ xiān qǐng zhèng fāng fāyán · Right, let the debate begin! First, the side for the motion.

chapter 2 chapter 2: two opening speeches

little sister

各位评委，各位来宾：人工智能进课堂，利弊都有，可是问题的要害不在机器，在怎么用。人工智能和学习息息相关，进课堂是顺理成章、自然而然的事。人工智能和老师不是截然不同的两种东西，而是相辅相成的。

gèwèi píngwěi gèwèi láibīn réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng lìbì dōu yǒu kěshì wèntí de yàohài bú zài jīqì zài zěnme yòng réngōng zhìnéng hé xuéxí xīxī xiāngguān jìn kètáng shì shùnlǐ chéngzhāng zìránérrán de shì réngōng zhìnéng hé lǎoshī bú shì jiérán bùtóng de liǎng zhǒng dōngxi ér shì xiāngfǔ xiāngchéng de · Judges, ladies and gentlemen: AI in the classroom has pros and cons, but the crux isn't the machine, it's how we use it. AI is closely bound up with learning, and its arrival in the classroom follows naturally. AI and teachers aren't two completely different things: they complement each other.

little sister

举一个例子：一所农村小学没有音乐老师，就用人工智能上音乐课。孩子们第一次会唱歌、会看乐谱。对他们来说，这一点举足轻重。教育要因地制宜，不能一概而论。

jǔ yí gè lìzi yì suǒ nóngcūn xiǎoxué méiyǒu yīnyuè lǎoshī jiù yòng réngōng zhìnéng shàng yīnyuè kè háizimen dì yī cì huì chàng gē huì kàn yuèpǔ duì tāmen lái shuō zhè yìdiǎn jǔzú qīngzhòng jiàoyù yào yīndì zhìyí bù néng yígàiérlùn · Take an example: a village primary school has no music teacher, so it uses AI for music lessons. For the first time, the children can sing and read music. For them, that makes all the difference. Education has to suit local conditions; you can't generalise.

little sister

时代在变，教育也有新陈代谢，优胜劣汰。刚开始出点问题，在所难免。拒绝新的工具，并不稳妥，反而会让孩子输在起点上。谢谢！

shídài zài biàn jiàoyù yě yǒu xīnchén dàixiè yōushèng liètài gāng kāishǐ chū diǎn wèntí zàisuǒnánmiǎn jùjué xīn de gōngjù bìng bù wěntuǒ fǎnér huì ràng háizi shū zài qǐdiǎn shàng xièxie · Times change; education renews itself too, and the better methods win out. A few problems at the start are unavoidable. Turning away new tools isn't the safe choice: if anything, it leaves children behind from the start. Thank you!

anna

谢谢主席。我先讲一个小故事。有一个十岁的孩子，每天的作业都交给机器：问了抄，抄了问。他的分数时高时低，可是他从来不想“为什么”。

xièxie zhǔxí wǒ xiān jiǎng yí gè xiǎo gùshi yǒu yí gè shí suì de háizi měi tiān de zuòyè dōu jiāo gěi jīqì wèn le chāo chāo le wèn tā de fēnshù shí gāo shí dī kěshì tā cónglái bù xiǎng wèi shénme · Thank you, Chair. Let me start with a little story. There's a ten-year-old who hands all his homework to a machine: ask, copy, ask, copy. His marks go up and down, but he never once wonders "why".

anna

他的一天，就是这个时代的缩影。对方只讲了外在的好处，却低估了隐性的代价：学习变得很功利，只看分数，不看内在的兴趣。学习的最高境界，是自己想学。

tā de yì tiān jiùshì zhège shídài de suōyǐng duìfāng zhǐ jiǎng le wàizài de hǎochù què dīgū le yǐnxìng de dàijià xuéxí biàn de hěn gōnglì zhǐ kàn fēnshù bú kàn nèizài de xìngqù xuéxí de zuì gāo jìngjiè shì zìjǐ xiǎng xué · His day is our times in miniature. The other side only talked about the visible benefits and underestimated the hidden costs: learning becomes purely about results, about marks rather than real interest. The highest form of learning is wanting to learn.

anna

还有一个潜在的风险：机器能教知识，可是教不了品德、价值观和人格。孩子的良心、骨气和胸怀，是从老师身上学来的。一位好老师的无私、严谨和忠诚，机器给不了。

hái yǒu yí gè qiánzài de fēngxiǎn jīqì néng jiāo zhīshi kěshì jiāo bu liǎo pǐndé jiàzhíguān hé réngé háizi de liángxīn gǔqì hé xiōnghuái shì cóng lǎoshī shēn shàng xué lái de yí wèi hǎo lǎoshī de wúsī yánjǐn hé zhōngchéng jīqì gěi bù le · And there's a potential risk: a machine can teach knowledge, but not character, values or integrity. Children learn conscience, backbone and generosity of spirit from their teachers. A good teacher's selflessness, rigour and loyalty: a machine can't give them that.

anna

孩子学东西很感性，需要人和人之间那种微妙的东西。机器能把深奥的道理讲得很透彻，可是不及老师的一个微笑。这个故事蕴含的道理，比任何数字都清楚。谢谢！

háizi xué dōngxi hěn gǎnxìng xūyào rén hé rén zhījiān nà zhǒng wēimiào de dōngxi jīqì néng bǎ shēnào de dàolǐ jiǎng de hěn tòuchè kěshì bùjí lǎoshī de yí gè wēixiào zhège gùshi yùnhán de dàolǐ bǐ rènhé shùzì dōu qīngchu xièxie · Children learn through feeling, and need that subtle something between people. A machine can explain the deepest idea thoroughly, but it can't match a teacher's smile. The truth in that story is clearer than any figures. Thank you!

xiaoming （小声）讲得真好，一点儿也不软弱。

xiǎo shēng jiǎng de zhēn hǎo yìdiǎnr yě bù ruǎnruò · (whispering) Brilliant, and not soft at all.

chapter 3 chapter 3: the free debate

xiaoming 对方说人工智能和老师相辅相成，可是又说机器能代替音乐老师，这不是自相矛盾吗？

duìfāng shuō réngōng zhìnéng hé lǎoshī xiāngfǔ xiāngchéng kěshì yòu shuō jīqì néng dàitì yīnyuè lǎoshī zhè bú shì zìxiāng máodùn ma · The other side says AI and teachers complement each other, but then says a machine can replace a music teacher. Isn't that contradicting yourselves?

little sister 这是似是而非的说法。我们说的是：没有老师的时候，有机器总比什么都没有好。这是理所当然的。对方的态度太保守了。

zhè shì sìshì érfēi de shuōfǎ wǒmen shuō de shì méiyǒu lǎoshī de shíhou yǒu jīqì zǒng bǐ shénme dōu méiyǒu hǎo zhè shì lǐsuǒdāngrán de duìfāng de tàidù tài bǎoshǒu le · That sounds right but isn't. What we said is: when there's no teacher, a machine is better than nothing. That's only common sense. The other side is being far too conservative.

xiaoming 我们不是保守，是严谨。对方举的只是一个个案，不能代表所有的学校。

wǒmen bú shì bǎoshǒu shì yánjǐn duìfāng jǔ de zhǐshì yí gè gèàn bù néng dàibiǎo suǒyǒu de xuéxiào · We're not conservative, we're rigorous. The other side has given us one single case, and it doesn't represent every school.

anna 我们参照了二十所学校的数据，跟我们的结论完全吻合。没有先例的事，要先试，要稳妥。对方说机器可以酌情调整，可是机器不懂人性。那我请问对方：机器能不能听出一个孩子今天心情不好？

wǒmen cānzhào le èrshí suǒ xuéxiào de shùjù gēn wǒmen de jiélùn wánquán wěnhé méiyǒu xiānlì de shì yào xiān shì yào wěntuǒ duìfāng shuō jīqì kěyǐ zhuóqíng tiáozhěng kěshì jīqì bù dǒng rénxìng nà wǒ qǐngwèn duìfāng jīqì néng bu néng tīng chū yí gè háizi jīntiān xīnqíng bù hǎo · We drew on data from twenty schools, and it matches our conclusion exactly. Where there's no precedent, you try things first and play it safe. The other side says machines can adjust case by case, but machines don't understand human nature. So let me ask the other side: can a machine hear that a child is having a bad day?

professor chen 全场鸦雀无声。请正方回答。

quán chǎng yāquè wúshēng qǐng zhèng fāng huídá · You could hear a pin drop. The side for, your answer please.

little sister ……能不能听出来，因人而异。可是老师也不是每次都能听出来！显而易见，一个班四十个孩子，老师也有看不到的时候。

néng bu néng tīng chulai yīnrénéryì kěshì lǎoshī yě bú shì měi cì dōu néng tīng chulai xiǎnéryìjiàn yí gè bān sìshí gè háizi lǎoshī yě yǒu kàn bu dào de shíhou · …Whether it can tell varies from person to person. But teachers can't always tell either! Obviously, with forty children in a class, there are times a teacher misses things.

xiaoming 那就更要多请老师，而不是多买机器！我们公司的机器……哦不，我是说……

nà jiù gèng yào duō qǐng lǎoshī ér bú shì duō mǎi jīqì wǒmen gōngsī de jīqì ò bù wǒ shì shuō · Then hire more teachers, not more machines! Our company's machines… oh no, I mean…

little sister 对方脱口而出，说明他们心里也知道机器有用！

duìfāng tuōkǒuérchū shuōmíng tāmen xīnlǐ yě zhīdào jīqì yǒuyòng · The other side has let it slip: they know perfectly well machines are useful!

xiaoming 这种说法太离谱儿了，岂有此理！

zhè zhǒng shuōfǎ tài lípǔr le qǐyǒucǐlǐ · That's outrageous, absurd!

little sister 对方的问题有点儿蹊跷：我们从来没说机器能代替老师，对方却一直这么说，这是一个疑点。

duìfāng de wèntí yǒudiǎnr qīqiao wǒmen cónglái méi shuō jīqì néng dàitì lǎoshī duìfāng què yìzhí zhème shuō zhè shì yí gè yídiǎn · There's something fishy about the other side's question: we never said machines can replace teachers, yet they keep saying we did. That's a point to question.

xiaoming 你们的数据跟我们的对照一下，反差很大。我们的说法没有一句是虚假的。

nǐmen de shùjù gēn wǒmen de duìzhào yíxià fǎnchā hěn dà wǒmen de shuōfǎ méiyǒu yí jù shì xūjiǎ de · Compare your data with ours and the contrast is huge. Not one thing we've said is false.

little sister 可是对方说人工智能会让孩子堕落、放纵自己，这太荒谬了。
kěshì duìfāng shuō réngōng zhìnéng huì ràng háizi duòluò fàngzòng zìjǐ zhè tài huāngmiù le · But the other side says AI will make children go to the bad and run wild: that's preposterous.

anna 我们没说堕落！我们只是举了一个反面的例子。
wǒmen méi shuō duòluò wǒmen zhǐshì jǔ le yí gè fǎnmiàn de lìzi · We never said go to the bad! We just gave an example of what can go wrong.

little sister 对方的态度很暧昧：一会儿说机器有用，一会儿说没用。
duìfāng de tàidù hěn àimèi yíhuìr shuō jīqì yǒuyòng yíhuìr shuō méi yòng · The other side is very vague: one minute machines are useful, the next they're not.

anna 我们的观点自始至终只有一个：好处和坏处，要放在同等的位置上看。对方只讲好处，不讲坏处，这才荒唐。
wǒmen de guāndiǎn zìshǐ zhìzhōng zhǐyǒu yí gè hǎochù hé huàichù yào fàng zài tóngděng de wèizhì shàng kàn duìfāng zhǐ jiǎng hǎochù bù jiǎng huàichù zhè cái huāngtáng · Our position has been the same from start to finish: the pros and cons have to be weighed equally. The other side only talks about the pros: that's what's ridiculous.

little sister 我们承认有坏处，但是坏处是次要的。看问题要辩证，不要面面俱到，什么都怕。
wǒmen chéngrèn yǒu huàichù dànshì huàichù shì cìyào de kàn wèntí yào biànzhèng búyào miànmiàn jùdào shénme dōu pà · We admit there are downsides, but they're secondary. You have to see both sides, not worry about every possible thing.

professor chen 时间到！双方针锋相对，真是有声有色。
shíjiān dào shuāngfāng zhēnfēng xiāngduì zhēn shì yǒushēng yǒusè · Time's up! Point for point on both sides: what a lively exchange.

chapter 4 chapter 4: closing speeches

xiaoming 各位评委：对方的说法头头是道，出口成章，可是有一个误区：以为孩子缺什么，机器就能补什么。我们不是要打消大家对新东西的兴趣，我们也愿意接纳新的工具；我们的态度不是苛刻，是务实。我们的观点一目了然：机器是工具，或多或少会改变课堂，可是教育的重中之重，是人。

gèwèi píngwěi duìfāng de shuōfǎ tóutóu shìdào chūkǒu chéngzhāng kěshì yǒu yí gè wùqū yǐwéi háizi quē shénme jīqì jiù néng bǔ shénme wǒmen bú shì yào dǎxiāo dàjiā duì xīn dōngxi de xìngqù wǒmen yě yuànyì jiēnà xīn de gōngjù wǒmen de tàidù bú shì kēkè shì wùshí wǒmen de guāndiǎn yímù liǎorán jīqì shì gōngjù huòduō huòshǎo huì gǎibiàn kètáng kěshì jiàoyù de zhòngzhōngzhīzhòng shì rén · Judges: the other side argued very cleverly and very eloquently, but they fall into one trap: thinking that whatever a child lacks, a machine can make up for. We don't want to put anyone off new things, and we're happy to take on new tools; we're not being harsh, we're being practical. Our point is clear at a glance: a machine is a tool, and will change the classroom more or less, but in education, people matter above all.

xiaoming 当务之急不是买更多的机器，而是请到更多的好老师，这件事刻不容缓。孩子需要老师，这是天经地义的。可想而知，一个只跟机器学习的孩子，会少了多少东西。综上所述，我方认为：人工智能进课堂，坏处大于好处。谢谢！

dāngwùzhījí bú shì mǎi gèng duō de jīqì ér shì qǐng dào gèng duō de hǎo lǎoshī zhè jiàn shì kèbùrónghuǎn háizi xūyào lǎoshī zhè shì tiānjīng dìyì de kěxiǎngérzhī yí gè zhǐ gēn jīqì xuéxí de háizi huì shǎo le duōshao dōngxi zōngshàngsuǒshù wǒ fāng rènwéi réngōng zhìnéng jìn kètáng huàichù dàyú hǎochù xièxie · The most urgent job isn't buying more machines, it's finding more good teachers, and that can't wait. Children need teachers: nothing could be more natural. You can imagine how much a child who only learns from a machine would miss. To sum up, our side believes that AI in the classroom does more harm than good. Thank you!

little sister 各位评委：今天我们针锋相对，可是双方其实有很多共同点，很多观点大同小异。我们都同意，好老师独一无二，机器不能和老师相提并论。

gèwèi píngwěi jīntiān wǒmen zhēnfēng xiāngduì kěshì shuāngfāng qíshí yǒu hěn duō gòngtóng diǎn hěn duō guāndiǎn dàtóng xiǎoyì wǒmen dōu tóngyì hǎo lǎoshī dúyì wúèr jīqì bù néng hé lǎoshī xiāngtí bìnglùn · Judges: tonight we've gone point for point, but the two sides actually agree on a lot; many of our points are much the same. We both agree that good teachers are irreplaceable, and that machines and teachers aren't in the same league.

little sister 可是在没有老师的地方，在老师忙不过来的时候，批改作业、准备材料，诸如此类的事，机器都能帮忙。对方的观点隐含着一个意思：机器会代替老师。可我们的构想从来不是这样。我们不是在机器和老师之间做抉择，而是让机器帮老师。综上所述，我方理直气壮地认为：好处大于坏处。谢谢！

kěshì zài méiyǒu lǎoshī de dìfang zài lǎoshī máng bu guolai de shíhou pī gǎi zuòyè zhǔnbèi cáiliào zhūrú cǐlèi de shì jīqì dōu néng bāngmáng duìfāng de guāndiǎn yǐnhán zhe yí gè yìsi jīqì huì dàitì lǎoshī kě wǒmen de gòuxiǎng cónglái bú shì zhèyàng wǒmen bú shì zài jīqì hé lǎoshī zhījiān zuò juézé ér shì ràng jīqì bāng lǎoshī zōngshàngsuǒshù wǒ fāng lǐzhí qìzhuàng de rènwéi hǎochù dàyú huàichù xièxie · But where there are no teachers, or when teachers can't cope, marking homework, preparing material and things like that, machines can help. The other side's view implies that machines will replace teachers, but that has never been our idea. We aren't choosing between machines and teachers, we're letting machines help teachers. To sum up, our side is confident that the good outweighs the harm. Thank you!

anna （小声）她讲得有条不紊，抑扬顿挫，恰到好处。

xiǎo shēng tā jiǎng de yǒutiáo bùwěn yìyáng dùncuò qiàdào hǎochù · (whispering) Calm, orderly, beautifully paced and just right.

xiaoming （小声）我妹妹的功力真深，我心服口服。

xiǎo shēng wǒ mèimei de gōnglì zhēn shēn wǒ xīn fú kǒu fú · (whispering) My sister really knows her stuff. I'm won over.

chapter 5 chapter 5: the verdict, and clearing up

editor lin 我先说说观感。双方都很务实，没有人敷衍，也没有人夸夸其谈，两个队的稿子也没有一句雷同。正方的例子与众不同；反方的故事讲得绘声绘色，安娜的那个问题，全场一下子安静了。

wǒ xiān shuō shuo guāngǎn shuāngfāng dōu hěn wùshí méiyǒu rén fūyǎn yě méiyǒu rén kuākuā qítán liǎng gè duì de gǎozi yě méiyǒu yí jù léitóng zhèng fāng de lìzi yǔzhòng bùtóng fǎn fāng de gùshi jiǎng de huìshēng huìsè Ānnà de nàge wèntí quán chǎng yíxià zi ānjìng le · Let me give my impressions first. Both sides were practical: nobody coasted, nobody spouted hot air, and not one line of the two teams' speeches was alike. The side for had an unusual example; the side against told their story vividly, and Anna's question silenced the whole hall.

dr zhou 从科学的角度看，正方的数据更可靠，回答问题也很果断、自如。反方有几个说法不太妥当，比如“机器完全听不出心情”，这一点还是个未知数。

cóng kēxué de jiǎodù kàn zhèng fāng de shùjù gèng kěkào huídá wèntí yě hěn guǒduàn zìrú fǎn fāng yǒu jǐ gè shuōfǎ bú tài tuǒdàng bǐrú jīqì wánquán tīng bu chū xīnqíng zhè yìdiǎn háishi gè wèizhīshù · From a scientific point of view, the side for had more reliable data and answered questions decisively and with ease. A few of the claims against weren't quite right: "machines can't hear feelings at all", for example, is still an open question.

teacher wang 我的评价是：正方说理透彻，反方情理动人。双方态度端正，都有一股正气。安娜忠实、恳切，这是她的本色；正方队长的语言很有品位。这种精神很可贵。不过比赛总要有结果：经过三位评委判定，正方学生队赢了！最佳辩手：反方，安娜！

wǒ de píngjià shì zhèng fāng shuō lǐ tòuchè fǎn fāng qínglǐ dòngrén shuāngfāng tàidù duānzhèng dōu yǒu yì gǔ zhèngqì Ānnà zhōngshí kěnqiè zhè shì tā de běnsè zhèng fāng duìzhǎng de yǔyán hěn yǒu pǐnwèi zhè zhǒng jīngshén hěn kěguì búguò bǐsài zǒng yào yǒu jiéguǒ jīngguò sān wèi píngwěi pàndìng zhèng fāng xuéshēng duì yíng le zuìjiā biàn shǒu fǎn fāng Ānnà · My verdict: the side for argued thoroughly, and the side against moved us. Both sides had the right attitude and real integrity. Anna was true and sincere, as she always is, and the students' captain spoke with real taste. That spirit is precious. But a debate needs a result: the three judges have decided that the students' team, for the motion, has won! Best speaker: Anna, against!

xiaoming 输了也罢，这个结果恰如其分。妹妹，祝贺你！刚才我脱口而出，真不像话，是我的过错。我这个哥哥输给了妹妹，不算无能吧？

shū le yěbà zhège jiéguǒ qiàrú qífèn mèimei zhùhè nǐ gāngcái wǒ tuōkǒuérchū zhēn búxiànghuà shì wǒ de guòcuò wǒ zhège gēge shū gěi le mèimei bú suàn wúnéng ba · Losing is fine: it's a fair result. Congratulations, sis! And what I let slip earlier was ridiculous: my fault entirely. Losing to my little sister doesn't make me useless, does it?

little sister 谢谢哥哥！其实结果见仁见智。你们的问题差点儿把我吓唬住了，幸好我急中生智。

xièxie gēge qíshí jiéguǒ jiànrén jiànzhì nǐmen de wèntí chàdiǎnr bǎ wǒ xiàhu zhù le xìnghǎo wǒ jízhōng shēngzhì · Thanks! Honestly, it could have gone either way. Your question nearly frightened me out of my wits; luckily I thought fast.

professor chen 你不是无能，也不是不肖学生。你每年都露面，对辩论社一片忠心。这次比赛，大家付出了很多心血，特别要谢谢王老师，慷慨地借出了礼堂。

nǐ bú shì wúnéng yě bú shì búxiào xuéshēng nǐ měi nián dōu lòumiàn duì biànlùn shè yí piàn zhōngxīn zhè cì bǐsài dàjiā fùchū le hěn duō xīnxuè tèbié yào xièxie Wánglǎoshī kāngkǎi de jiè chū le lǐtáng · You're not useless, and you're not an unworthy student either. You show up every year, utterly devoted to the club. Everyone put a lot of effort into this debate, and special thanks to Teacher Wang for generously lending us the hall.

professor chen 好！当着大家的面，我把奖杯交给学生队。胜败乃常事，大家各抒己见，求同存异，这才是辩论。明年的辩题，我已经想好了：人性本善，还是本恶？

hǎo dāngzhe dàjiā de miàn wǒ bǎ jiǎngbēi jiāo gěi xuéshēng duì shèng bài nǎi cháng shì dàjiā gèshū jǐjiàn qiútóng cúnyì zhè cái shì biànlùn míngnián de biàn tí wǒ yǐjīng xiǎng hǎo le rénxìng běn shàn háishi běn è · Good! In front of you all, I hand the trophy to the students' team. Winning and losing are part of the game. Everyone had their say, found common ground and accepted their differences: that's what debate is. And I've already decided next year's motion: is human nature good, or evil?

professor chen 现在大家一起收拾：椅子折叠好，码在墙边；横幅解下来，捆好；电线缠绕在架子上，别勒得太紧；奖杯用布裹好；海报用刀切割一下，叠好；墙上钉的牌子先别拆。

xiànzài dàjiā yìqǐ shōushi yǐzi zhédié hǎo mǎ zài qiáng biān héng fú jiě xialai kǔn hǎo diànxiàn chánrào zài jiàzi shàng bié lēi de tài jǐn jiǎngbēi yòng bù guǒ hǎo hǎibào yòng dāo qiēgē yíxià dié hǎo qiáng shàng dìng de páizi xiān bié chāi · Now let's all clear up: fold the chairs and stack them by the wall; take down the banner and tie it in a bundle; coil the cables round the stand, not too tight; wrap the trophy in cloth; cut the poster down with a knife and fold it up; and leave the sign nailed to the wall for now.

anna 哎呀，茶又溢出来了，溅到我的衣服上了！

āiyā chá yòu yì chulai le jiàn dào wǒ de yīfu shàng le · Oh no, the tea's spilled over again, all over my clothes!

ms zhang 别急，毛巾在这儿，先绞干。水还淌了一地，我再去灌一壶新的。吃个豆子包吧，豆子是我昨天淘的，又筛了一遍。

bié jí máojīn zài zhèr xiān jiǎo gān shuǐ hái tǎng le yí dì wǒ zài qù guàn yì hú xīn de chī gè dòuzi bāo ba dòuzi shì wǒ zuótiān táo de yòu shāi le yí biàn · Don't worry, here's a towel: wring it out first. And there's water all over the floor: I'll go and fill a fresh kettle. Have a bean bun: I rinsed the beans myself yesterday and put them through a sieve.

xiaoming 我再拿两个揣在口袋里，捎回去给大白！

wǒ zài ná liǎng gè chuāi zài kǒudai lǐ shāo huiqu gěi Dàbái · I'll tuck two more in my pocket and take them home for Dabai!

teacher wang 我妈妈说，七十年前，她的学生出身都很卑微，可是个个有骨气，也在这个礼堂里这样争论，争完了一起吃饭。这是她的一点儿心意：一本她当年用的教科书，送给今天的冠军。

wǒ māma shuō qīshí nián qián tā de xuéshēng chūshēn dōu hěn bēiwēi kěshì gè gè yǒu gǔqì yě zài zhège lǐtáng lǐ zhèyàng zhēnglùn zhēng wán le yìqǐ chī fàn zhè shì tā de yìdiǎnr xīnyì yì běn tā dāngnián yòng de jiàokēshū sòng gěi jīntiān de guànjūn · My mother says that seventy years ago her students all came from humble backgrounds, but every one had backbone, and they argued like this in this very hall, then ate together afterwards. And here's a little something from her: a textbook she used back then, for tonight's champions.

little sister 太珍贵了！我会好好保存。这个老礼堂里埋藏的故事，今天又多了一个。

tài zhēnguì le wǒ huì hǎohǎo bǎocún zhège lǎo lǐtáng lǐ máicáng de gùshi jīntiān yòu duō le yí gè · That's so precious! I'll take good care of it. The stories hidden in this old hall have one more tonight.

You have just followed a whole debate in Chinese, from the rules to the trophy. Next time someone disagrees with you, you know exactly what to say.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**