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day 185 love and admiration

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 25 · taste, talent and admiration

Talk about admiration, passion, gratitude and nostalgia, and sum up with 总的来说 (on the whole), alongside 或多或少 and 综上所述.

Thanking a teacher, toasting a colleague, writing a farewell card: these are the words that carry real feeling in Chinese.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
爱慕	àimù	to adore; to crave (vanity)	她一点儿也不爱慕虚荣。 She doesn't care in the least about vanity.
爱惜	àixī	to cherish, take good care of	她很爱惜书，每本都包着书皮。 She takes great care of her books: every one has a cover.
珍视	zhēnshì	to value, treasure	我们要珍视身边的人。 We should treasure the people around us.
偏爱	piānài	to favour, have a soft spot for	奶奶最偏爱小孙子。 Grandma has a soft spot for her youngest grandson.
迷恋	míliàn	to be infatuated with, be hooked on	他迷恋上了读书。 He became hooked on reading.
痴迷	chīmí	to be obsessed with	他痴迷于历史，一看书就是一整天。 He's obsessed with history: once he opens a book, the whole day goes.
痴心	chīxīn	devotion; infatuated	她对教书一片痴心。 She is utterly devoted to teaching.
着迷	zháomí	to be fascinated	孩子们听故事听得着迷了。 The children were spellbound by the story.
陶醉	táozuì	to be intoxicated (with), revel in	大家都陶醉在美丽的音乐中。 Everyone was lost in the beautiful music.
沉迷	chénmí	to be addicted to, wallow in	他沉迷电脑游戏，学习越来越差。 He's addicted to computer games, and his schoolwork keeps getting worse.
沉浸	chénjìn	to be immersed in	她沉浸在回忆里。 She was lost in her memories.
热衷	rèzhōng	to be keen on	他热衷于公益活动。 He's keen on charity work.
狂热	kuángrè	fanatical; fanaticism	学东西要有热情，但是不要太狂热。 Be passionate about learning, but not fanatical.
喜好	xǐhào	liking, preference	每个人的喜好都不一样。 Everyone's tastes are different.
青睐	qīnglài	favour, attention	这本书很受年轻人青睐。 This book is very popular with young people.

钦佩	qīnpèi	to admire	我很钦佩她的勇气。 I really admire her courage.
敬佩	jìngpèi	to admire, respect deeply	大家都很敬佩这位老医生。 Everyone has great respect for this old doctor.
敬畏	jìngwèi	to revere, hold in awe	我们要对大自然有敬畏之心。 We should hold nature in awe.
崇敬	chóngjìng	to revere	学生们对这位老教授非常崇敬。 The students hold this old professor in the highest esteem.
推崇	tuīchóng	to hold in esteem, praise highly	很多学校都推崇她的教学方法。 Many schools hold her teaching methods in high regard.
由衷	yóuzhōng	heartfelt	我由衷地感谢你。 I thank you from the bottom of my heart.
衷心	zhōngxīn	heartfelt, sincere	衷心感谢大家的帮助！ Heartfelt thanks to everyone for your help!
深切	shēnqiè	deep, heartfelt; profound	我们表示深切的感谢。 We express our deepest thanks.
深情	shēnqíng	deep feeling; affectionately	她深情地看着自己的学生。 She looked at her students with deep affection.
真情	zhēnqíng	true feelings	这封信写的都是真情。 Every word of this letter comes from the heart.
情怀	qínghuái	feelings, sentiments (for a cause)	她有很深的教育情怀。 She has a deep feeling for education.
情结	qíngjié	complex, attachment	他对老北京有很深的情结。 He has a deep attachment to old Beijing.
怀旧	huáijiù	nostalgic; to feel nostalgic	人老了，就喜欢怀旧。 As people get older, they like to look back.
留恋	liúliàn	to be reluctant to leave	毕业的时候，大家都很留恋学校。 At graduation, everyone was sad to leave the school.
缅怀	miǎnhuái	to remember (the dead)	我们缅怀那些已经去世的老师。 We remember the teachers who are no longer with us.
回味	huíwèi	to call to mind, savour (memories)	那次旅行，我到现在还常常回味。 I still often think back fondly on that trip.
感恩	gǎnēn	grateful; gratitude	我们要有一颗感恩的心。 We should have a grateful heart.
感触	gǎnchù	feelings, thoughts (on reflection)	读了这本书，我感触很深。 Reading this book left a deep impression on me.
感慨	gǎnkǎi	to sigh with emotion	回到老家，他感慨万分。 Back in his home town, he was overcome with emotion.
感叹	gǎntàn	to sigh (with feeling), exclaim	她常常感叹：时间过得真快！ She often sighs: how time flies!

pattern 总的来说: on the whole

details, good and bad ，总的来说 ，**an overall judgement**

总的来说 “on the whole, all in all” gives your overall view after the details. It is softer and more spoken than 综上所述 (a formal conclusion) and less final than 总而言之 (in a word). Our other tools come back too: 或多或少 “to some degree”.

有好有坏，总的来说，还是好的多。 **yǒu hǎo yǒu huài zǒng de lái shuō háishi hǎo de duō** There’s good and bad, but on the whole, more good.

告别会不用太正式，总的来说，温暖就好。 **gàobié huì búyòng tài zhèngshì zǒng de lái shuō wēnnuǎn jiù hǎo** The farewell party needn’t be too formal: on the whole, warm is what matters.

每个学生或多或少都受过她的影响。 **měi gè xuéshēng huòduō huòshǎo dōu shòu guo tā de yǐngxiǎng** Every student has been influenced by her to some degree.

综上所述，王老师是我们最敬佩的老师。 **zōngshàngsuǒshù Wánglǎoshī shì wǒmen zuì jìngpèi de lǎoshī** To sum up, Teacher Wang is the teacher we admire most.

dialogue planning a farewell

anna 你们听说了吗？王老师这个学期结束就退休了，由一位年轻老师接替她。

nǐmen tīngshuō le ma Wánglǎoshī zhège xuéqī jiéshù jiù tuìxiū le yóu yí wèi niánqīng lǎoshī jiētì tā · Have you heard? Teacher Wang is retiring at the end of term, and a younger teacher is taking over from her.

little sister 真的？我有点儿感慨。她是学校的创始人，教了四十年书，学校是她一辈子的心血。她一定很留恋。

zhēn de wǒ yǒudiǎnr gǎnkǎi tā shì xuéxiào de chuàngshǐrén jiāo le sìshí nián shū xuéxiào shì tā yíbèizi de xīnxuè tā yídìng hěn liúliàn · Really? That makes me a bit emotional. She founded the school and has taught for forty years: it's her life's work. She must be so sad to leave it.

xiaoming 我们给她办一个告别会吧！把她教过的学生都请来。

wǒmen gěi tā bàn yí gè gàobié huì ba bǎ tā jiāo guo de xuéshēng dōu qǐng lái · Let's throw her a farewell party! We'll invite all the students she's ever taught.

anna 好主意！邀请函我来写，再捎给几位老学生。总的来说，我想办得温暖一点儿，不要太正式。每个人或多或少都受过她的影响，我想请大家写几句心里话，表达我们的感恩。

hǎo zhǔyi yāoqǐng hán wǒ lái xiě zài shāo gěi jǐ wèi lǎo xuéshēng zǒng de lái shuō wǒ xiǎng bàn de wēnnuǎn yìdiǎnr búyào tài zhèngshì měi gè rén huòduō huòshǎo dōu shòu guo tā de yǐngxiǎng wǒ xiǎng qǐng dàjiā xiě jǐ jù xīnlǐ huà biǎodá wǒmen de gǎnēn · Great idea! I'll write the invitations and take them round to some of her old students. On the whole, I'd like it to be warm rather than too formal. Everyone has been influenced by her to some degree, so I'd like to ask everyone to write a few words from the heart, to say how grateful we are.

little sister 我第一次见她，就很钦佩她：一个人办学校，一点儿也不爱慕虚荣，不追求名利，只热衷教书。她对教书真是一片痴心。

wǒ dì yī cì jiàn tā jiù hěn qīnpèi tā yí gè rén bàn xuéxiào yìdiǎnr yě bú àimù xūróng bù zhuīqiú mínglì zhǐ rèzhōng jiāo shū tā duì jiāo shū zhēn shì yí piàn chīxīn · The first time I met her I admired her: running a school on her own, not caring at all about show or about fame and fortune, only about teaching. She's utterly devoted to it.

xiaoming 她也很爱惜学生。她偏爱那些学得慢的学生，总说："慢一点儿没关系。"很多学校都推崇她的方法。

tā yě hěn àixī xuéshēng tā piānài nàxiē xué de màn de xuéshēng zǒng shuō màn yìdiǎnr méi guānxi hěn duō xuéxiào dōu tuīchóng tā de fāngfǎ · And she really cares for her students. She has a soft spot for the slow learners, and always says, "Slow is fine." Lots of schools think very highly of her methods.

little sister 她辛勤工作了四十年，是所有老师的典范。我的论文也是她帮的。我由衷地敬佩她，也有点儿敬畏她：她看我一眼，就知道我有没有准备好。

tā xīnqín gōngzuò le sìshí nián shì suǒyǒu lǎoshī de diǎnfàn wǒ de lùnwén yě shì tā bāng de wǒ yóuzhōng de jìngpèi tā yě yǒudiǎnr jìngwèi tā tā kàn wǒ yì yǎn jiù zhīdào wǒ yǒu méiyǒu zhǔnbèi hǎo · She's worked hard for forty years: she's a model for every teacher. She helped with my thesis too. I admire her from the bottom of my heart, and I'm a bit in awe of her as well: one look and she knows whether I've prepared.

anna 我刚来北京的时候，对汉字特别着迷，有一段时间简直是痴迷：走在路上，看到招牌就停下来认字。王老师说："学东西要有热情，但是不能太狂热，要沉浸在里面，慢慢就会陶醉在汉字的美里。"

wǒ gāng lái Běijīng de shíhou duì Hànzì tèbié zháomí yǒu yí duàn shíjiān jiǎnzhí shì chīmí zǒu zài lùshang kàn dào zhāopai jiù tíng xialai rèn zì Wánglǎoshī shuō xué dōngxi yào yǒu rèqíng dànshì bù néng tài kuángrè yào chénjìn zài lǐmiàn màn màn jiù huì táozuì zài Hànzì de měi lǐ · When I first came to Beijing I was fascinated by characters; for a while I was practically obsessed: I'd stop in the street to read every shop sign. Teacher Wang said: "Be passionate about learning, but not fanatical. Immerse yourself in it, and slowly you'll fall in love with the beauty of the characters."

xiaoming 我上中学的时候沉迷电脑游戏，是她让我迷恋上了读书。学生们对她都很崇敬。

wǒ shàng zhōngxué de shíhou chénmí diànnǎo yóuxì shì tā ràng wǒ míliàn shàng le dúshū xuéshēngmen duì tā dōu hěn chóngjìng · At secondary school I was addicted to computer games: she's the one who got me hooked on books. All her students hold her in the highest esteem.

anna

她有很深的教育情怀，对夜校也有很深的情结，因为她妈妈是夜校老师。

tā yǒu hěn shēn de jiàoyù qínghuái duì yèxiào yě yǒu hěn shēn de qíngjié yīnwèi tā māma shì yèxiào lǎoshī · She has a deep feeling for education, and a deep attachment to night schools too, because her mother was a night-school teacher.

little sister

告别会上我们放老照片吧，把它们拼接成一张大照片。王老师喜欢怀旧，可以一起回味以前的日子，也缅怀那些已经去世的老夜校老师。

gàobié huì shàng wǒmen fàng lǎo zhàopiàn ba bǎ tāmen pīnjiē chéng yì zhāng dà zhàopiàn Wánglǎoshī xǐhuan huáijiù kěyǐ yìqǐ huíwèi yǐqián de rìzi yě miǎnhuái nàxiē yǐjīng qùshì de lǎo yèxiào lǎoshī · Let's show old photos at the party, pieced together into one big picture. Teacher Wang loves looking back: we can all remember the old days together, and pay tribute to the night-school teachers who are no longer with us.

xiaoming

音乐我负责。王老师的喜好是京剧和老歌，她的书法也很受学生青睐，我们可以请她现场写几个字。

yīnyuè wǒ fùzé Wánglǎoshī de xǐhào shì jīngjù hé lǎo gē tā de shūfǎ yě hěn shòu xuéshēng qīnglài wǒmen kěyǐ qǐng tā xiànchǎng xiě jǐ gè zì · I'll do the music. Teacher Wang loves Peking opera and old songs, and her calligraphy is a big hit with her students: we could ask her to write a few characters on the spot.

little sister

我们再准备一个小礼物，用红纸包好，表达一点儿心意。写论文的时候，我感触很深。王老师常常感叹：时间过得真快，一转眼，学生都长大了。

wǒmen zài zhǔnbèi yí gè xiǎo lǐwù yòng hóng zhǐ bāo hǎo biǎodá yìdiǎnr xīnyì xiě lùnwén de shíhou wǒ gǎnchù hěn shēn Wánglǎoshī chángcháng gǎntàn shíjiān guò de zhēn kuài yì zhuǎnyǎn xuéshēng dōu zhǎng dà le · Let's get her a little present too, wrapped in red paper, as a small token of our thanks. Writing my thesis left a deep impression on me. Teacher Wang often sighs: "How time flies: in the blink of an eye, my students have all grown up."

anna

所以我们要珍视和她在一起的时间。最后，我们用真情写一封信，深情地读给她听，表达我们深切的感谢：衷心感谢您，王老师！

suǒyǐ wǒmen yào zhēnshì hé tā zài yìqǐ de shíjiān zuìhòu wǒmen yòng zhēnqíng xiě yì fēng xìn shēnqíng de dú gěi tā tīng biǎodá wǒmen shēnqiè de gǎnxiè zhōngxīn gǎnxiè nín Wánglǎoshī · So let's treasure the time we have with her. And at the end, we'll write her a letter straight from the heart, read it to her with all our love, and say how deeply grateful we are: heartfelt thanks, Teacher Wang!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

抹
mǒ
to smear, wipe

溅
jiàn
to splash

good to know · 衷心 (heartfelt: 衷心感谢) and 忠心 (loyalty: 一片忠心) sound the same, zhōngxīn. Thanks are always 衷心. 缅怀 is only for those who have died or for a past age: 缅怀先人. For the living, say 怀念 or 想念.

You can now say thank you in Chinese the way it is meant: with admiration, gratitude and a little nostalgia.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 186 noise, quiet and heat

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 25 · taste, talent and admiration

Describe sounds, silence, wind and heat, from a noisy street to a peaceful courtyard, and recycle 时A时B and 简而言之.

Choosing a place, complaining about a restaurant, describing the weather: Chinese has a precise word for every kind of noise and every kind of quiet.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
嘈杂	cáozá	noisy	这家饭馆太嘈杂了，说话都听不清。 This restaurant is too noisy: you can't hear yourself speak.
喧哗	xuānhuá	to make a racket	请不要在图书馆里大声喧哗。 Please don't make noise in the library.
喧闹	xuānnào	noisy, bustling	放学的时候，学校门口很喧闹。 When school's out, the gate is noisy and busy.
轰	hōng	to bang, rumble; boom	一辆大卡车轰的一声开了过去。 A big lorry roared past.
刺耳	cìěr	ear-piercing, grating	汽车的喇叭声很刺耳。 Car horns are ear-splitting.
洪亮	hóngliàng	loud and clear, resonant	老师的声音很洪亮。 The teacher has a ringing voice.
响亮	xiǎngliàng	loud and clear	他的回答很响亮。 His answer rang out loud and clear.
悦耳	yuèěr	pleasant to the ear	她的声音很悦耳。 Her voice is lovely to listen to.
清脆	qīngcuì	clear and sweet (sound)	鸟叫声清脆悦耳。 The birdsong is clear and sweet.
寂静	jìjìng	quiet, silent	夜里的山村一片寂静。 At night the mountain village is utterly silent.
宁静	níngjìng	peaceful, tranquil	我喜欢乡下宁静的生活。 I love the peace of country life.
清静	qīngjìng	quiet, peaceful (no disturbance)	王老师喜欢清静，不喜欢热闹。 Teacher Wang likes peace and quiet, not crowds.
僻静	pìjìng	secluded, out of the way	这条小胡同很僻静。 This little hutong is quiet and out of the way.
祥和	xiánghé	peaceful, harmonious	晚上的院子里，气氛很祥和。 In the courtyard in the evening, the atmosphere is calm and peaceful.
宜人	yírén	pleasant, agreeable (climate, scenery)	秋天的北京气候宜人。 Beijing's weather is delightful in autumn.

动静	dòngjing	sound of activity, movement	外面有什么动静? What's that noise outside?
静止	jìngzhǐ	motionless, at a standstill	湖面好像静止了一样。 The surface of the lake seemed perfectly still.
熙熙攘攘	xīxīrǎngrǎng	bustling, swarming with people	节日的街上熙熙攘攘。 On holidays the streets are packed with people.
急促	jícù	hurried, rapid	电话里他的声音很急促。 His voice on the phone was hurried and urgent.
徐徐	xúxú	slowly, gently	微风徐徐吹来。 A light breeze blew gently.
断断续续	duànduànxùxù	on and off, intermittently	雨断断续续地|下了一天。 It rained on and off all day.
迅猛	xùnměng	swift and violent	这场雨来得很迅猛。 The rain came down fast and hard.
猛	měng	fierce, violent; suddenly	雨下得很猛。 It's pouring.
猛烈	měngliè	fierce, violent	空调的风太猛烈了。 The air conditioning is blowing far too hard.
强劲	qiángjìng	powerful, strong	今天晚上有强劲的大风。 There'll be strong winds tonight.
威力	wēilì	power, might	这场大风的威力很大。 This gale is very powerful.
微弱	wēiruò	faint, weak	她的声音很微弱，我听不清。 Her voice was so faint I couldn't hear it.
微微	wēiwēi	slightly, faintly	她微微一笑。 She gave a little smile.
轻微	qīngwēi	slight, light	他有轻微的感冒。 He has a slight cold.
细微	xìwēi	tiny, subtle	她注意到了一个细微的变化。 She noticed a tiny change.
柔和	róuhé	gentle, soft	灯光很柔和。 The light is soft.
火辣辣	huǒlàlà	scorching, burning	太阳火辣辣的，晒得人受不了。 The sun is scorching: it's unbearable.
火热	huǒrè	burning hot; fervent, passionate	大家的心都是火热的。 Everyone's heart is full of warmth.
灼热	zhuórè	scorching, burning hot	中午的地面很灼热。 At midday the ground is scorching.
暖烘烘	nuǎnhōnghōng	nice and warm	冬天晒着太阳，身上暖烘烘的。 Sitting in the winter sun, you feel lovely and warm.

pattern review: 时a时b and 简而言之

时 A 时 B

Two old friends. 时A时B describes something that keeps switching: 时冷时热 “now cold, now hot”, 时大时小 “now heavy, now light”. 简而言之 “in short” cuts a long complaint down to one line.

饭馆里的空调时冷时热，真受不了。 **fànguǎn lǐ de kōngtiáo shí lěng shí rè zhēn shòubuliǎo** The air conditioning in the restaurant blows hot and cold: it’s unbearable.

雨时大时小，断断续续地下了一天。 **yǔ shí dà shí xiǎo duànduànxùxù de xià le yì tiān** The rain came and went, on and off all day.

外面熙熙攘攘，里面也很嘈杂。简而言之，这里太吵了。 **wàimiàn xīxī rǎngrǎng lǐmiàn yě hěn cáozá jiǎnéryánzhī zhèlǐ tài chǎo le** It’s crowded outside and noisy inside. In short, it’s too loud here.

dialogue too loud, too hot, just right

anna 这家饭馆太嘈杂了，大家都在大声喧哗，我连你的声音都听不清。
zhè jiā fànguǎn tài cáozá le dàjiā dōu zài dà shēng xuānhuá wǒ lián nǐ de shēngyīn dōu tīng bu qīng · This restaurant is far too noisy: everyone's shouting, and I can't even hear you.

little sister 外面的街上熙熙攘攘，大卡车轰的一声开过去，喇叭声特别刺耳。
wàimiàn de jiē shàng xīxī rǎngrǎng dà kǎchē hōng de yì shēng kāi guoqu lǎba shēng tèbié cìěr · The street outside is heaving, lorries roar past and the horns are ear-splitting.

anna 而且太阳火辣辣的，地面灼热，饭馆里的空调风又太猛烈，时冷时热。简而言之：这里不行，王老师喜欢清静。
érqiě tàiyáng huǒlàlà de dìmiàn zhuórè fànguǎn lǐ de kōngtiáo fēng yòu tài měngliè shí lěng shí rè jiǎnéryánzhī zhèlǐ bùxíng Wánglǎoshī xǐhuan qīngjìng · And the sun is scorching, the pavement's burning hot, and in here the air conditioning is blasting, hot one minute and cold the next. In short: this won't do. Teacher Wang likes peace and quiet.

xiaoming 喂？你们……在哪儿？……听得见吗？
wèi nǐmen zài nǎr tīng de jiàn ma · Hello? Where… are you? …Can you hear me?

little sister 哥哥，你的声音断断续续的，太微弱了！你那边什么动静？刚才你说话那么急促，我还以为出事了。
gēge nǐ de shēngyīn duànduànxùxù de tài wēiruò le nǐ nàbiān shénme dòngjing gāngcái nǐ shuōhuà nàme jícù wǒ hái yǐwéi chū shì le · Brother, you keep cutting out, and you're so faint! What's going on your end? You sounded so urgent just now, I thought something had happened.

xiaoming 没事！好消息：新校长说，学校的院子可以借给我们。这里很僻静，大树下面凉快极了，特别宜人。你们快过来！
méishì hǎo xiāoxi xīn xiàozhǎng shuō xuéxiào de yuànzi kěyǐ jiè gěi wǒmen zhèlǐ hěn pìjìng dà shù xiàmiàn liángkuai jí le tèbié yírén nǐmen kuài guolai · Nothing's wrong! Good news: the new head says we can borrow the school courtyard. It's quiet and tucked away, it's lovely and cool under the big tree, really pleasant. Come over now!

anna 太好了！王老师对这个院子有很深的情结。
tài hǎo le Wánglǎoshī duì zhège yuànzi yǒu hěn shēn de qíngjié · Perfect! Teacher Wang has a deep attachment to this courtyard.

little sister 真的好宁静！只听得见鸟叫，清脆悦耳，我都陶醉了。
zhēn de hǎo níngjìng zhǐ tīng de jiàn niǎo jiào qīngcuì yuèěr wǒ dōu táozuì le · It's so peaceful! All you can hear is the birds, clear and sweet: I'm enchanted.

anna 风徐徐地吹过来，树微微地动。一点儿也不热了。院子里寂静得好像时间都静止了。
fēng xúxú de chuī guolai shù wēiwēi de dòng yìdiǎnr yě bú rè le yuànzi lǐ jìjìng de hǎoxiàng shíjiān dōu jìngzhǐ le · The breeze blows gently and the tree sways a little. It isn't hot at all any more. The courtyard is so still that time seems to stand still.

little sister 王老师最喜欢这种安宁的地方。
Wánglǎoshī zuì xǐhuan zhè zhǒng ānníng de dìfang · Teacher Wang loves peaceful places like this.

xiaoming 下午放学的时候，孩子们很喧闹；晚上七点以后就安静了。点上灯，光线很柔和，气氛一定很祥和。
xiàwǔ fàngxué de shíhou háizimen hěn xuānnào wǎnshang qī diǎn yǐhòu jiù ānjìng le diǎn shàng dēng guāngxiàn hěn róuhé qìfēn yídìng hěn xiánghé · When school's out in the afternoon it's noisy with children, but after seven it's quiet. With the lights on, the light will be soft and the atmosphere really peaceful.

little sister 可是要是下雨怎么办？天气预报说晚上有雷阵雨，来得很迅猛，雨下得很猛，风也很强劲。
kěshì yàoshi xià yǔ zěnme bàn tiānqì yùbào shuō wǎnshang yǒu léi zhènyǔ lái de hěn xùnměng yǔ xià de hěn měng fēng yě hěn qiángjìng · But what if it rains? The forecast says thunderstorms tonight, coming in fast and hard, heavy rain and strong winds.

xiaoming 礼堂就在旁边，椅子可以先搁在里面。雨的威力再大，我们进礼堂就行了。
lǐtáng jiù zài pángbiān yǐzi kěyǐ xiān gē zài lǐmiàn yǔ de wēilì zài dà wǒmen jìn lǐtáng jiù xíng le · The hall is

right next door, and we can leave the chairs in there to start with. However hard it rains, we just move into the hall.

anna 还有一个细微的问题：王老师的耳朵有轻微的问题，声音太小她听不见。
hái yǒu yí gè xìwēi de wèntí Wánglǎoshī de ěrduo yǒu qīngwēi de wèntí shēngyīn tài xiǎo tā tīng bu jiàn · And one small detail: Teacher Wang is a little hard of hearing, so she can't hear quiet voices.

xiaoming 那我们准备一个话筒。王老师的声音很洪亮，可是我们讲话的声音也要响亮一点儿。
nà wǒmen zhǔnbèi yí gè huàtǒng Wánglǎoshī de shēngyīn hěn hónglìang kěshì wǒmen jiǎnghuà de shēngyīn yě yào xiǎngliàng yìdiǎnr · Then we'll get a microphone. Teacher Wang has a ringing voice, but we'll need to speak up too.

anna 冬天坐在这里晒太阳，一定暖烘烘的。王老师在这个院子里教了二十年书，她一定很留恋这里。
dōngtiān zuò zài zhèlǐ shài tàiyáng yídìng nuǎnhōnghōng de Wánglǎoshī zài zhège yuànzi lǐ jiāo le èrshí nián shū tā yídìng hěn liúliàn zhèlǐ · In winter it must be lovely and warm sitting here in the sun. Teacher Wang has taught in this courtyard for twenty years: she must be so attached to it.

xiaoming 老学生们都很怀旧，回到这里一定感触很深。
lǎo xuéshēngmen dōu hěn huáijiù huí dào zhèlǐ yídìng gǎnchù hěn shēn · The old students are all nostalgic: coming back here will move them deeply.

little sister 就这里了！告别会那天，天气热不热不要紧，大家的心一定是火热的。
jiù zhèlǐ le gàobié huì nà tiān tiānqì rè bu rè búyàojǐn dàjiā de xīn yídìng shì huǒrè de · This is the place! On the day of the party, it doesn't matter whether it's hot or not: everyone's hearts will be warm.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

嘈
cáo
noisy

喧
xuān
loud

good to know · Quiet words: 安静 everyday quiet, 清静 free from disturbance, 宁静 peaceful, 寂静 silent, 僻静 quiet because out of the way. 请勿喧哗 "please keep quiet" is a common sign in libraries, museums and hospitals.

You can now describe any place in Chinese by its sounds and its weather, and choose the perfect spot for a party.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 187 rare, odd and ordinary

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 25 · taste, talent and admiration

Describe what is rare, strange or ordinary, fine or clumsy, neat or scrawled, write a short text in logical order, and sum up with 总的来说.

Shopping for a gift, judging quality, telling a strange story: these words help you notice and say exactly what makes something special.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
寻常	xúncháng	ordinary, usual	今天的天气很不寻常。 Today's weather is most unusual.
难得一见	nándéyījiàn	rarely seen	这种鸟在城市里难得一见。 You rarely see this bird in the city.
随处可见	suíchùkějiàn	to be found everywhere	这种小店在北京随处可见。 Little shops like this are everywhere in Beijing.
离奇	líqí	bizarre, strange	这个故事太离奇了，我不太相信。 This story is too bizarre: I don't quite believe it.
怪异	guàiyì	weird, strange	那个房间里有一种怪异的声音。 There's a weird noise in that room.
反常	fǎncháng	unusual, abnormal	他今天一句话也不说，很反常。 He hasn't said a word all day: that's not like him.
酷似	kùsì	to look just like	他长{zhang3}得酷似他爸爸年轻的时候。 He looks just like his father did when he was young.
相近	xiāngjìn	similar, close	这两种颜色很相近。 These two colours are very close.
悬殊	xuánshū	vast (difference), wide apart	两支笔的价格很悬殊。 There's a huge difference in price between the two pens.
逊色	xùnsè	to be inferior, pale in comparison	他的中文一点儿也不比中国人逊色。 His Chinese is every bit as good as a native speaker's.
优越	yōuyuè	superior, favourable	现在孩子的学习条件比以前优越多了。 Children today have far better conditions for learning than before.
良	liáng	good	她的批评很严，可是良药苦口。 Her criticism was harsh, but good medicine tastes bitter.
精	jīng	refined, skilled, expert	学东西要精，不要多。 When you learn, go for depth, not quantity.
精华	jīnghuá	essence, the best part	我们只选这些信里的精华。 We'll choose only the best of these letters.
精巧	jīngqiǎo	exquisite, ingenious	这个小盒子做得很精巧。 This little box is exquisitely made.

精细	jīngxì	fine, meticulous	笔上的花纹很精细。 The pattern on the pen is very fine.
工整	gōngzhěng	neat, tidy (handwriting)	他的字写得很工整。 His handwriting is very neat.
拙劣	zhuōliè	clumsy, inferior	这幅画模仿得很拙劣，一看就是假{jia3}的。 This painting is a clumsy copy: you can tell at a glance it's fake.
潦草	liáocǎo	scrawled, sloppy	他的字太潦草了，我看不懂。 His writing is such a scrawl that I can't read it.
瑕疵	xiácī	flaw, blemish	这块玉有一点儿瑕疵。 This jade has a slight flaw.
万能	wànnéng	all-powerful, universal	人工智能不是万能的。 AI can't do everything.
无穷	wúqióng	endless, infinite	她对我们的影响是无穷的。 Her influence on us is endless.
无形	wúxíng	invisible, intangible	父母的|话对孩子有一种无形的影响。 Parents' words have an invisible influence on their children.
隐形	yǐnxíng	invisible, hidden	他戴的是隐形眼镜。 He wears contact lenses.
隐约	yǐnyuē	faint, indistinct	我隐约记得那天|下着雨。 I vaguely remember it was raining that day.
逼真	bīzhēn	lifelike	这幅画画得很逼真。 This painting is very lifelike.
鲜活	xiānhuó	vivid, lively	她把人物写得很鲜活。 She brings her characters vividly to life.
像样	xiàngyàng	presentable, decent	我们得{dei3}准备一个像样的礼物。 We need to get a decent present.
可观	kěguān	considerable	这个月的收入很可观。 This month's income is considerable.
海量	hǎiliàng	massive amount	网上有海量的信息。 There's a massive amount of information online.
形形色色	xíngxíngsèsè	all kinds of	市场上的东西形形色色，什么都有。 The market has all sorts of things: everything you can think of.
重重	chóngchóng	layer upon layer, one after another	这件事困难重重。 This is full of difficulties.

pattern review: a paragraph in order, ending with 总的来说

首先 其次 最后 …… 总的来说

A clear Chinese paragraph walks through its points in order (day 167): 首先 first, 其次 next, 最后 finally, and then sums up with 总的来说 “on the whole” (day 185).

纪念册首先放老照片，其次放大家的信，最后放王老师自己的话。 **jìniàn cè shǒuxiān fàng lǎo zhàopiàn qícì fàng dàjiā de xìn zuìhòu fàng Wánglǎoshī zìjǐ de huà** The album will have old photos first, then everyone’s letters, and finally Teacher Wang’s own words.

有的字工整，有的潦草，总的来说，每一封信都很真诚。 **yǒude zì gōngzhěng yǒude liáocǎo zǒng de lái shuō měi yì fēng xìn dōu hěn zhēnchéng** Some handwriting is neat and some is scrawled, but on the whole, every letter is sincere.

挑旧钢笔，首先看样子，其次看有没有瑕疵，最后才看价格。 **tiāo jiù gāngbǐ shǒuxiān kàn yàngzi qícì kàn yǒu méiyǒu xiácī zuìhòu cái kàn jiàgé** When choosing an old fountain pen, look first at how it looks, then at whether it has flaws, and only last at the price.

dialogue a pen, and a pile of letters

xiaoming 这里熙熙攘攘，东西形形色色，什么都有。可是真正的老东西难得一见。
zhèlǐ xīxī rǎngrǎng dōngxi xíngxíngsèsè shénme dōu yǒu kěshì zhēnzhèng de lǎo dōngxi nándé yí jiàn · It's bustling here, with every kind of thing for sale. But genuinely old things are rare.

anna 我们要找一支老钢笔，最好酷似王老师妈妈当年用的那种。我们得准备一个像样的礼物。
wǒmen yào zhǎo yì zhī lǎo gāngbǐ zuìhǎo kùsì Wánglǎoshī māma dāngnián yòng de nà zhǒng wǒmen děi zhǔnbèi yí gè xiàngyàng de lǐwù · We're looking for an old fountain pen, ideally just like the one Teacher Wang's mother used. We need a proper present.

xiaoming 市场里太嘈杂了，我们说话得响亮一点儿。你看这支！做得很精巧，笔上的花纹也很精细。
shìchǎng lǐ tài cáozá le wǒmen shuōhuà děi xiǎngliàng yìdiǎnr nǐ kàn zhè zhī zuò de hěn jīngqiǎo bǐ shàng de huāwén yě hěn jīngxì · The market's so noisy that we'll have to speak up. Look at this one! It's exquisitely made, and the pattern on it is really fine.

anna 可是上面有一点儿细微的瑕疵。老板说是五十年代的。价格也很悬殊：这支三百，那支三千。
kěshì shàngmiàn yǒuyìdiǎnr xìwēi de xiácī lǎobǎn shuō shì wǔshí niándài de jiàgé yě hěn xuánshū zhè zhī sānbǎi nà zhī sānqiān · But it's got a tiny flaw. The stallholder says it's from the fifties. And the prices are worlds apart: this one's three hundred, that one three thousand.

xiaoming 三千那支是假的，做得很拙劣。这里假的东西随处可见，要小心。
sānqiān nà zhī shì jiǎ de zuò de hěn zhuōliè zhèlǐ jiǎ de dōngxi suíchù kě jiàn yào xiǎoxīn · The three-thousand one is fake, and a clumsy fake at that. Fakes are everywhere here: you have to be careful.

anna 那就买这支。虽然有瑕疵，可是一点儿也不比新笔逊色。
nà jiù mǎi zhè zhī suīrán yǒu xiácī kěshì yìdiǎnr yě bù bǐ xīn bǐ xùnsè · Then let's buy this one. It has a flaw, but it's every bit as good as a new pen.

xiaoming 王老师一定会珍视这份礼物。
Wánglǎoshī yídìng huì zhēnshì zhè fèn lǐwù · Teacher Wang will treasure this present, I'm sure.

little sister 我这边收到了海量的信，加起来很可观！王老师教过的学生形形色色：有工程师、医生，还有一位院士。
wǒ zhèbiān shōudào le hǎiliàng de xìn jiā qǐlai hěn kěguān Wánglǎoshī jiāo guo de xuéshēng xíngxíngsèsè yǒu gōngchéngshī yīshēng hái yǒu yí wèi yuànshì · I've had a mountain of letters, quite a pile all together! Teacher Wang's students are every kind of person: engineers, doctors, even an academician.

anna 字写得怎么样？
zì xiě de zěnmeyàng · What's the handwriting like?

little sister 有的很工整，有的很潦草。还有一封信很离奇：说王老师二十年前帮他找回了一只猫！
yǒude hěn gōngzhěng yǒude hěn liáocǎo hái yǒu yì fēng xìn hěn líqí shuō Wánglǎoshī èrshí nián qián bāng tā zhǎo huí le yì zhī māo · Some is very neat, some a terrible scrawl. And one letter is really strange: it says that twenty years ago Teacher Wang helped him find his lost cat!

xiaoming 这太怪异了吧？王老师一向怕猫，这件事很反常。
zhè tài guàiyì le ba Wánglǎoshī yíxiàng pà māo zhè jiàn shì hěn fǎncháng · Isn't that weird? Teacher Wang has always been scared of cats: that's not like her at all.

little sister 我也觉得不寻常。可是信里写得很逼真、很鲜活，好像就是昨天的事。我隐约记得，她好像说过这件事。
wǒ yě juéde bù xúncháng kěshì xìn lǐ xiě de hěn bīzhēn hěn xiānhuó hǎoxiàng jiùshì zuótiān de shì wǒ yǐnyuē jìde tā hǎoxiàng shuō guo zhè jiàn shì · I thought it was odd too. But the letter is so lifelike and vivid, as if it happened yesterday. And I vaguely remember her mentioning it.

anna 要是真的，那也是一件很感人的事，值得回味。纪念册我想这样安排：首先放老照片，其次放大家的信，最后放王老师自己的话。信太多了，我们只选其中的精华。总

的来说，要像样，但是不要太正式。

yàoshi zhēn de nà yě shì yí jiàn hěn gǎnrén de shì zhídé huíwèi jìniàn cè wǒ xiǎng zhèyàng ānpái shǒuxiān fàng lǎo zhàopiàn qícì fàng dàjiā de xìn zuìhòu fàng Wánglǎoshī zìjǐ de huà xìn tài duō le wǒmen zhǐ xuǎn qízhōng de jīnghuá zǒng de lái shuō yào xiàngyàng dànshì búyào tài zhèngshì · If it's true, it's a very touching story, one worth savouring. Here's how I'd arrange the album: old photos first, then everyone's letters, and finally Teacher Wang's own words. There are too many letters, so we'll just choose the best. On the whole, it should look good without being too formal.

xiaoming 还有一位学生画了一张王老师的画，跟照片很相近。我们小时候的条件没有现在优越，可是王老师教会了我们：学东西要精，不要多。

hái yǒu yí wèi xuéshēng huà le yì zhāng Wánglǎoshī de huà gēn zhàopiàn hěn xiāngjìn wǒmen xiǎoshíhou de tiáojiàn méiyǒu xiànzài yōuyuè kěshì Wánglǎoshī jiāo huì le wǒmen xué dōngxi yào jīng búyào duō · And one student has painted Teacher Wang, very close to the photo. When we were young, our conditions weren't as good as today's, but Teacher Wang taught us: in learning, go for depth, not quantity.

anna 她的批评有时候很严，声音也很洪亮，可是良药苦口。她常说：“人工智能不是万能的，老师也不是。”

tā de pīpíng yǒu shíhou hěn yán shēngyīn yě hěn hóngliàng kěshì liáng yào kǔ kǒu tā cháng shuō réngōng zhìnéng bú shì wànnéng de lǎoshī yě bú shì · Her criticism could be tough at times, and loud and clear too, but good medicine tastes bitter. She always says: “AI can't do everything, and neither can teachers.”

little sister 她对我们的影响是无形的，好像一种隐形的力量，也是无穷的。这次告别会要保密，困难重重，可是一定值得。

tā duì wǒmen de yǐngxiǎng shì wúxíng de hǎoxiàng yì zhǒng yǐnxíng de lìliàng yě shì wúqióng de zhè cì gàobié huì yào bǎomì kùnnan chóngchóng kěshì yídìng zhídé · Her influence on us is invisible, like a hidden force, and it goes on for ever. Keeping this party a secret is one problem after another, but it'll definitely be worth it.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

潦 liáo careless												
瑕 xiá spot on jade												

good to know · 不寻常, 反常, 离奇, 怪异: 不寻常 out of the ordinary (often good), 反常 abnormal, not like someone, 离奇 bizarre (of a story), 怪异 weird, eerie. 工整 is the highest praise for handwriting at school; 潦草 the classic teacher's complaint.

You can now describe what makes something rare or ordinary, fine or clumsy, and shop for a gift like a local.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

wishyou.today learning

day 188 short, sharp and detailed

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 25 · taste, talent and admiration

Talk about writing that is brief, concise, vague or long-winded, describe faces, figures, marks and moods, and recycle manner adverbs (不由得, 趁早, 照例) and the subject that comes later.

A good speech is short and concrete. These are the words editors use, and the words that turn a vague memory into a picture.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
斑点	bāndiǎn	spot, speck	围巾上有几个小斑点。 There are a few little spots on the scarf.
背影	bèiyǐng	figure seen from behind	看着妈妈的背影，我突然很想哭。 Watching my mother walk away, I suddenly wanted to cry.
标	biāo	to mark, label	请在地图上标出学校的位置。 Please mark where the school is on the map.
标记	biāojì	mark, sign; to mark	我在书上做了一个标记。 I put a mark in the book.
标识	biāoshí	sign, logo, marker	门口有停车的标识。 There's a parking sign at the entrance.
标示	biāoshì	to mark, indicate	地图上用红色标示出了出口。 The exits are marked in red on the map.
丑陋	chǒulòu	ugly	我写的第一个汉字很丑陋。 The first character I ever wrote was hideous.
纯粹	chúncuì	pure; purely	我这么做，纯粹是为了帮她。 I did it purely to help her.
刺骨	cìgǔ	piercing (cold)	冬天的风冷得刺骨。 In winter the wind is bitterly cold.
粗略	cūlüè	rough, sketchy	我粗略地算|了一下，大概有五百人。 I did a rough count: about five hundred people.
单薄	dānbó	thin (clothing); frail	天这么冷，你穿得太单薄了。 It's so cold, and you're dressed far too thinly.
晃	huǎng	to flash past; to dazzle	一晃{huang3}十年过去了。 Ten years have flashed by.
记号	jìhao	mark, sign	她在我的作业上画了一个笑脸做记号。 She drew a smiley face on my homework as a mark.
架势	jiàshi	posture, stance; manner	看他这个架势，是要大干一场。 Judging by his manner, he's gearing up for something big.
简短	jiǎnduǎn	brief, short	他的讲话很简短。 His speech was brief.
简洁	jiǎnjié	concise, succinct	写文章要简洁。 Writing should be concise.

简要	jiǎnyào	brief, to the point	请简要地介绍一下你的计划。 Please give a brief outline of your plan.
简易	jiǎnyì	simple, basic	教室很简易：一块黑板，几张桌子。 The classroom was basic: a blackboard and a few desks.
紧凑	jǐncòu	compact, tight	这次的安排很紧凑。 The schedule is tight this time.
笼统	lǒngtǒng	vague, general	你说得太笼统了，能不能具体一点儿? That's too vague: can you be more specific?
裸	luǒ	bare, naked	他光着脚，裸着上身在河边游泳。 He was swimming by the river, barefoot and bare-chested.
裸露	luǒlù	exposed, bare	墙上的砖都裸露着。 The bricks in the wall were all exposed.
闷	mēn	stuffy, muggy	天气很闷{men1}，好像要下雨。 It's muggy: it looks like rain.
面貌	miànmào	appearance, look	十年来，学校的面貌发生了很大的变化。 Over ten years, the school has changed beyond recognition.
平淡	píngdàn	plain, ordinary, flat	生活虽然平淡，可是很幸福。 Life may be quiet and ordinary, but it's happy.
气息	qìxī	smell, atmosphere	教室里有一股书的气息。 The classroom smells of books.
浅显	qiǎnxiǎn	simple, easy to understand	她把深奥的道理讲得很浅显。 She explains deep ideas in simple terms.
冗长	rǒngcháng	long-winded	他的讲话太冗长了。 His speech was far too long-winded.
深邃	shēnsuì	deep, profound	她的目光很深邃。 Her gaze is deep.
身影	shēnyǐng	figure, form	远远地，我看见一个熟悉的身影。 In the distance, I saw a familiar figure.
详尽	xiángjìn	detailed, exhaustive	这本书写得很详尽。 This book is very detailed.
严密	yánmì	tight, watertight	他的推理很严密。 His reasoning is watertight.
扎实	zhāshi	solid, sound	她的中文基础很扎实。 She has a solid foundation in Chinese.
周密	zhōumì	careful, thorough	他们准备了一个很周密的计划。 They've drawn up a very thorough plan.
足迹	zújì	footprint, track	这本书记录了学校二十年的足迹。 This book records twenty years of the school's journey.

pattern review: manner adverbs (不由得, 趁早, 照例, 刻意) and the subject that comes later

(no subject) first clause **，subject** **+ manner adverb + verb**

Manner adverbs from day 29 say how something is done: 不由得 “can’t help”, 趁早 “as early as possible”, 照例 “as usual”, 刻意 “deliberately”, 尽情 “to your heart’s content”. And from day 169: in a story, name the person once, in the second clause: 一走进学校，我就看见了她.

一走进学校，我就看见了王老师。 **yì zǒu jìn xuéxiào wǒ jiù kànjiàn le Wánglǎoshī** As soon as I walked into the school, I saw Teacher Wang.

看我冻得发抖，她不由得笑了。 **kàn wǒ dòng de fādǒu tā bùyóude xiào le** Seeing me shivering, she couldn’t help smiling.

讲话的稿子要趁早写好，那天就可以尽情地玩了。 **jiǎnghuà de gǎozi yào chènzǎo xiě hǎo nà tiān jiù kěyǐ jìnqíng de wán le** Write your speech early, and on the day you can enjoy yourself to the full.

王老师每天照例七点到学校。 **Wánglǎoshī měi tiān zhàolì qī diǎn dào xuéxiào** Teacher Wang always gets to school at seven.

dialogue three minutes, not three pages

anna 林编辑，告别会上我要讲几句话。我写了三页，是不是太冗长了？
Línbiānjí gàobié huì shàng wǒ yào jiǎng jǐ jù huà wǒ xiě le sān yè shì bu shì tài rǒngcháng le · Editor Lin, I have to say a few words at the farewell party. I've written three pages: is that far too long-winded?

editor lin 太长了。按说三分钟就够了。能省略的都省略，要简短、简洁。内容可以简要，但是不能笼统。
tài cháng le ànshuō sān fēnzhōng jiù gòu le néng shěnglüè de dōu shěnglüè yào jiǎnduǎn jiǎnjié nèiróng kěyǐ jiǎnyào dànshì bù néng lǒngtǒng · Far too long. Normally three minutes is plenty. Leave out whatever you can, and keep it short and concise. The content can be brief, but it mustn't be vague.

anna 那怎么写才不笼统？
nà zěnme xiě cái bù lǒngtǒng · So how do I write it so it isn't vague?

editor lin 写细节。一个具体的画面，比一大段详尽的介绍更有力。写写你第一天见到王老师的样子。
xiě xìjié yí gè jùtǐ de huàmiàn bǐ yí dà duàn xiángjìn de jièshào gèng yǒulì xiě xie nǐ dì yī tiān jiàn dào Wánglǎoshī de yàngzi · Write details. One concrete picture beats a long, detailed introduction. Write about the first day you met Teacher Wang.

anna 那是十年前的一月。风又冷又猛，冷得刺骨，我只穿了一件单薄的外套，两只手裸在外面，冻得很疼。一走进学校，我就看见门口站着一个身影，是王老师。
nà shì shí nián qián de yī yuè fēng yòu lěng yòu měng lěng de cìgǔ wǒ zhǐ chuān le yí jiàn dānbó de wàitào liǎng zhī shǒu luǒ zài wàimiàn dòng de hěn téng yì zǒu jìn xuéxiào wǒ jiù kànjiàn ménkǒu zhàn zhe yí gè shēnyǐng shì Wánglǎoshī · It was January, ten years ago. The wind was fierce and bitterly cold, and I had on just one thin coat, my bare hands aching with cold. As soon as I walked into the school, I saw a figure standing at the door: it was Teacher Wang.

anna 她看我冻得发抖，不由得笑了，把自己的围巾给了我。围巾上有几个小斑点，是墨水留下的。她的目光很深邃，好像一眼就能看到你心里。
tā kàn wǒ dòng de fādǒu bùyóude xiào le bǎ zìjǐ de wéijīn gěi le wǒ wéijīn shàng yǒu jǐ gè xiǎo bāndiǎn shì mòshuǐ liúxia de tā de mùguāng hěn shēnsuì hǎoxiàng yì yǎn jiù néng kàn dào nǐ xīnlǐ · Seeing me shivering, she couldn't help smiling, and gave me her own scarf. There were a few little spots on it, ink stains. She had a deep gaze, as if she could see straight into your heart.

editor lin 好！这就是画面，这些细节写得很有真情。然后呢？
hǎo zhè jiùshì huàmiàn zhèxiē xìjié xiě de hěn yǒu zhēnqíng ránhòu ne · Good! That's a picture: these details really come from the heart. And then?

anna 第一节课的教室很简易：一块黑板，几张桌子，墙上的砖都裸露着。可是她讲得很浅显，我一下子就懂了。我写的第一个汉字很丑陋，她在旁边画了一个笑脸做记号，说："不错！"
dì yī jié kè de jiàoshì hěn jiǎnyì yí kuài hēibǎn jǐ zhāng zhuōzi qiáng shàng de zhuān dōu luǒlù zhe kěshì tā jiǎng de hěn qiǎnxiǎn wǒ yíxià zi jiù dǒng le wǒ xiě de dì yī gè Hànzì hěn chǒulòu tā zài pángbiān huà le yí gè xiào liǎn zuò jìhao shuō búcuò · The classroom for my first lesson was very basic: a blackboard, a few desks, the bricks in the wall all bare. But she explained things so simply that I understood straight away. The first character I wrote was hideous, and she drew a smiley face next to it as a mark and said: "Not bad!"

editor lin 后来呢？学校的面貌变了吗？
hòulái ne xuéxiào de miànmào biàn le ma · And after that? Has the school changed?

anna 变了很多。一晃十年，墙刷了，书多了，教室里有了一股书的气息。王老师还是照例每天七点到学校。
biàn le hěn duō yì huǎng shí nián qiáng shuā le shū duō le jiàoshì lǐ yǒu le yì gǔ shū de qìxī Wánglǎoshī háishi zhàolì měi tiān qī diǎn dào xuéxiào · A lot. Ten years flashed by: the walls have been painted, there are more books, and the classrooms smell of books. And Teacher Wang still gets in at seven every day, as always.

editor lin 这一段写得很深情，读的时候声音柔和一点儿。结构很紧凑。要删的段落，我在稿子上做了标记。开头的架势太大了："尊敬的各位领导"，太正式。王老师要的不是这

个。

zhè yí duàn xiě de hěn shēnqíng dú de shíhou shēngyīn róuhé yìdiǎnr jiégòu hěn jǐncòu yào shān de duànluò wǒ zài gǎozi shàng zuò le biāojì kāitóu de jiàshi tài dà le zūnjìng de gèwèi lǐngdǎo tài zhèngshì Wánglǎoshī yào de bú shì zhège · This part is full of feeling: read it gently. The structure is nice and tight. I've marked the paragraphs to cut on your draft. And the opening is far too grand: "Respected leaders" is much too formal. That's not what Teacher Wang wants.

anna 那我刻意写得平淡一点儿?

nà wǒ kèyì xiě de píngdàn yìdiǎnr · So should I deliberately make it plainer?

editor lin 不是刻意平淡，是纯粹说真话。学校二十年的足迹，粗略地说两句就行。你的中文基础很扎实，照样写下去就好。

bú shì kèyì píngdàn shì chúncuì shuō zhēn huà xuéxiào èrshí nián de zújì cūlüè de shuō liǎng jù jiù xíng nǐ de Zhōngwén jīchǔ hěn zhāshi zhàoyàng xiě xiaqu jiù hǎo · Not deliberately plain: just purely the truth. As for the school's twenty-year journey, a couple of rough lines will do. Your Chinese is solid: just carry on like that.

anna 好，我今天晚上重新撰写一遍。小明他们准备了一个很周密的计划，节目表上标了每个人讲话的时间，我的只有三分钟。他还在门口做了停车的标识，地图上用红色标示出了院子的位置。

hǎo wǒ jīntiān wǎnshang chóngxīn zhuànxiě yí biàn Xiǎomíng tāmen zhǔnbèi le yí gè hěn zhōumì de jìhuà jiémù biǎo shàng biāo le měi gè rén jiǎnghuà de shíjiān wǒ de zhǐyǒu sān fēnzhōng tā hái zài ménkǒu zuò le tíngchē de biāoshí dìtú shàng yòng hóngsè biāoshì chū le yuánzi de wèizhì · OK, I'll rewrite it tonight. Xiaoming and the others have drawn up a really thorough plan: the programme marks how long everyone speaks, and I only get three minutes. He's even put up parking signs by the gate, and marked the courtyard in red on the map.

editor lin 他们想得真严密，连天气都考虑到了?

tāmen xiǎng de zhēn yánmì lián tiānqì dōu kǎolǜ dào le · They've thought of everything. Even the weather?

anna 连天气都想到了：那天可能很闷，他准备了扇子。最后一句我想写："王老师，您的背影，我会一直记得。"

lián tiānqì dōu xiǎng dào le nà tiān kěnéng hěn mēn tā zhǔnbèi le shànzi zuìhòu yí jù wǒ xiǎng xiě Wánglǎoshī nín de bèiyǐng wǒ huì yìzhí jìde · Even the weather: it might be muggy that day, so he's got fans ready. And for my last line I want to write: "Teacher Wang, I will always remember the sight of you walking away."

editor lin 很好，这句话让人感叹。趁早写好，那天就尽情享受吧。

hěn hǎo zhè jù huà ràng rén gǎntàn chènzǎo xiě hǎo nà tiān jiù jìnqíng xiǎngshòu ba · Lovely: that line will move people. Finish it early, and on the day, just enjoy yourself.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

粹
cuì
unmixed

冗
rǒng
superfluous

good to know · 简短 short, 简洁 concise, 简要 brief and to the point, 简易 simple and basic: all start with 简 "simple". Readings to watch: 闷 mēn (muggy, stuffy) vs mèn (bored); 晃 huǎng (flash, dazzle) vs huàng (sway); 薄 bó in 单薄.

You can now cut a long draft down to three good minutes, and turn a memory into a picture.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**

day 189 breaking down

Talk about things breaking, wearing out, stalling and being saved, and recycle mood adverbs (偏偏, 幸亏, 索性, 不妨, 难怪) and carrying on without repeating the subject.

Things go wrong, and Chinese has a precise verb for every kind of breakdown, from a cracked cup to a computer crash to a shattered dream.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
崩溃	bēngkuì	to collapse; to break down	电脑突然崩溃了，文件都打不开了。 The computer suddenly crashed, and none of the files will open.
瓦解	wǎjiě	to disintegrate, collapse	工厂关门以后，那个夜校也慢慢瓦解了。 After the factory closed, its night school slowly fell apart.
解体	jiětǐ	to break up, disintegrate	那家老工厂八十年代就解体了。 That old factory broke up back in the eighties.
垮	kuǎ	to collapse; to break down	树枝掉下来，把桌子砸垮了。 The branch came down and smashed the table.
塌	tā	to collapse, cave in	后面的旧墙塌了一块。 Part of the old wall at the back has collapsed.
倾倒	qīngdǎo	to topple, collapse; to pour out	那面墙好像要往外倾倒。 That wall looks as if it's about to topple outwards.
断裂	duànliè	to break, snap	大风把一根树枝吹得断裂了。 The wind snapped off a branch.
裂	liè	to split, crack	杯子掉在地上，裂了。 The cup fell on the floor and cracked.
破碎	pòsuì	broken, smashed to pieces	地上全是破碎的玻璃。 The floor is covered in broken glass.
破灭	pòmiè	to be shattered (hopes, dreams)	他的梦想破灭了。 His dream was shattered.
毁	huǐ	to ruin, destroy	大雨把花园全毁了。 The heavy rain completely ruined the garden.
毁坏	huǐhuài	to damage	这场大风毁坏了很多房子。 The gale damaged many houses.
毁灭	huǐmiè	to destroy completely	一场大火毁灭了这座古城。 A great fire destroyed the old city completely.
摧残	cuīcán	to wreck, devastate	大风大雨摧残了院子里的花。 The wind and rain battered the flowers in the courtyard.
糟蹋	zāotà	to waste, spoil	别糟蹋粮食。 Don't waste food.
磨损	mósǔn	to wear out, abrade	这双鞋已经磨损得很厉害了。 These shoes are very worn.

报废	bàofèi	to scrap, write off	这台打印机已经报废了，不能修了。 This printer has been written off: it can't be repaired.
作废	zuòfèi	to be void, invalid	这张票已经作废了。 This ticket is no longer valid.
失效	shīxiào	to lose effect, expire	这种药已经失效了，不能吃了。 This medicine has expired: don't take it.
残	cán	damaged, incomplete	那面墙残了一半。 Half of that wall has crumbled.
残留	cánliú	to remain, be left over	衣服上还残留着一点儿墨水。 There's still a trace of ink on the clothes.
腐朽	fǔxiǔ	rotten, decayed	木头的窗户都腐朽了。 The wooden windows have all rotted.
老化	lǎohuà	to age, deteriorate	这栋老楼的电线已经老化了。 The wiring in this old building has deteriorated.
僵化	jiānghuà	rigid, ossified	年纪大了，思想不能僵化。 Getting older doesn't mean your thinking has to set in stone.
固化	gùhuà	to solidify, become fixed	学习方法一旦固化，就很难改。 Once your study habits harden, they're hard to change.
停滞	tíngzhì	to stagnate	那几年，经济发展停滞了。 In those years, economic growth stagnated.
停顿	tíngdùn	to pause, halt	他说到一半，停顿了一下。 Halfway through, he paused.
滞后	zhìhòu	to lag behind	这个地方的教育有点儿滞后。 Education in this area lags a little behind.
迟缓	chíhuǎn	slow, sluggish	工程的进度有点儿迟缓。 Progress on the project is a bit slow.
搁浅	gēqiǎn	to run aground; to be stalled	因为没有钱，这个计划搁浅了。 The plan has stalled for lack of money.
搁置	gēzhì	to shelve, put aside	这件事|先搁置一下，以后再说。 Let's put this aside for now and come back to it later.
闲置	xiánzhì	to lie idle, be unused	仓库里有一台旧电视，闲置了十年。 There's an old television in the storeroom that has sat unused for ten years.
埋没	máimò	to bury, stifle (talent)	很多有才华的人被埋没了。 Many talented people never got their chance.
抹杀	mǒshā	to obliterate, deny	他的功劳不能被抹杀。 His contribution must not be written off.
销毁	xiāohuǐ	to destroy (documents, goods)	这些旧文件按规定要销毁。 These old documents must be destroyed according to the rules.

pattern review: mood adverbs (偏偏, 幸亏, 索性, 不妨, 难怪) and carrying on without the subject

mood adverb **what happened** **, (no subject) what followed**

Mood adverbs (day 29) show how you feel about what happened: 偏偏 “of all times”, 幸亏 / 好在 “luckily”, 索性 “might as well”, 不妨 “why not”, 难怪 “no wonder”, 何必 “why bother”. And from day 170: once the subject is named, carry on without it: 树枝断了，掉下来，砸垮了桌子.

一根树枝被风吹断了，掉下来，砸垮了两张桌子。 **yì gēn shù zhī bèi fēng chuī duàn le diào xialai zá kuǎ le liǎng zhāng zhuōzi** A branch was snapped off by the wind, came down and smashed two tables.

电脑偏偏在这个时候崩溃了。 **diànnǎo piānpiān zài zhège shíhou bēngkuì le** Of all times, the computer had to crash now.

幸亏文件有备份，不然就全毁了。 **xìngkuī wénjiàn yǒu bèifèn bùrán jiù quán huǐ le** Luckily the files were backed up, or everything would have been lost.

打印机报废了，我们索性去外面打印吧。 **dǎyìnjī bàofèi le wǒmen suǒxìng qù wàimiàn dǎyìn ba** The printer’s dead: we might as well go and print somewhere else.

dialogue the morning after the storm

little sister 我快崩溃了！昨天晚上的大风大雨来得很迅猛，偏偏在告别会的前一天来了。
wǒ kuài bēngkuì le zuótiān wǎnshang de dà fēng dà yǔ lái de hěn xùnměng piānpiān zài gàobié huì de qián yì tiān lái le · I'm about to lose it! Last night's storm came on so fast, and it had to come the day before the farewell party, of all days.

xiaoming 昨天晚上的风太猛烈了。那棵老树断裂了一根大树枝，掉下来，把两张桌子砸垮了。
zuótiān wǎnshang de fēng tài měngliè le nà kē lǎo shù duànliè le yì gēn dà shù zhī diào xialai bǎ liǎng zhāng zhuōzi zá kuǎ le · Last night's wind was ferocious. A big branch snapped off the old tree, came down and smashed two tables.

anna 后面那面旧墙也被强劲的大风毁坏了，塌了一块，剩下的残了一半，好像要往外倾倒。木头的窗户都腐朽了，玻璃也裂了，地上全是破碎的玻璃。
hòumiàn nà miàn jiù qiáng yě bèi qiángjìng de dà fēng huǐhuài le tā le yí kuài shèng xià de cán le yíbàn hǎoxiàng yào wǎng wài qīngdǎo mùtou de chuānghu dōu fǔxiǔ le bōli yě liè le dì shàng quán shì pòsuì de bōli · The strong wind has damaged the old wall at the back too: part of it has collapsed, and what's left is half crumbled and looks ready to topple outwards. The wooden windows have rotted, the glass has cracked, and the ground is covered in broken glass.

xiaoming 窗户先用木头钉住，免得玻璃掉下来伤人。
chuānghu xiān yòng mùtou dìng zhù miǎnde bōli diào xialai shāng rén · Let's nail some wood over the windows first, so the glass doesn't fall and hurt anyone.

professor chen 幸亏是晚上，没有人受伤。那面墙务必不要靠近。
xìngkuī shì wǎnshang méiyǒu rén shòushāng nà miàn qiáng wùbì búyào kàojìn · Luckily it was at night and nobody was hurt. Whatever you do, keep away from that wall.

little sister 还有更糟的：我的电脑也崩溃了，纪念册的文件差点儿全毁了！
hái yǒu gèng zāo de wǒ de diànnǎo yě bēngkuì le jìniàn cè de wénjiàn chàdiǎnr quán huǐ le · And it gets worse: my computer crashed too, and the album files were nearly all lost!

anna 那怎么办？我们的计划要搁浅了吗？
nà zěnme bàn wǒmen de jìhuà yào gēqiǎn le ma · So what now? Is our plan dead in the water?

little sister 好在我有备份。可是打印机也坏了，修理的人说已经报废了。
hǎozài wǒ yǒu bèifèn kěshì dǎyìnjī yě huài le xiūlǐ de rén shuō yǐjīng bàofèi le · Luckily I have a backup. But the printer's broken too: the repair man says it's a write-off.

anna 有备份就好，文件都能复原。打印机坏了不要紧。
yǒu bèifèn jiù hǎo wénjiàn dōu néng fùyuán dǎyìnjī huài le búyàojǐn · Thank goodness for the backup: the files can all be restored. The printer doesn't matter.

xiaoming 何必修呢？我们索性去外面打印。仓库里那台旧电视闲置了十年，也该报废了。
hébì xiū ne wǒmen suǒxìng qù wàimiàn dǎyìn cāngkù lǐ nà tái jiù diànshì xiánzhì le shí nián yě gāi bàofèi le · Why bother repairing it? We might as well print somewhere else. And that old TV in the storeroom has sat unused for ten years: it should go too.

professor chen 难怪新校长说，这栋老楼的电线老化了，下个月要大修。
nánguài xīn xiàozhǎng shuō zhè dòng lǎo lóu de diànxiàn lǎohuà le xià gè yuè yào dà xiū · No wonder the new head says the wiring in this old building has deteriorated and needs a major overhaul next month.

anna 大修？是不是要拆了？那王老师二十年的心血不就毁灭了吗？
dà xiū shì bu shì yào chāi le nà Wánglǎoshī èrshí nián de xīnxuè bú jiù huǐmiè le ma · An overhaul? Are they going to knock it down? Wouldn't that destroy twenty years of Teacher Wang's work?

professor chen 不会。新校长说，老礼堂要保护，只是修。过去的东西不能都抹杀。八十年代很多工厂解体，夜校也慢慢瓦解了，很多有才华的工人被埋没了。王老师的学校让夜校的精神活了下来。
bú huì xīn xiàozhǎng shuō lǎo lǐtáng yào bǎohù zhǐshì xiū guòqù de dōngxi bù néng dōu mǒshā bāshí niándài hěn duō gōngchǎng jiětǐ yèxiào yě màn màn wǎjiě le hěn duō yǒu cáihuá de gōngrén bèi máimò le Wánglǎoshī de xuéxiào ràng yèxiào de jīngshén huó le xialai · No. The new head says the old hall will be protected, only repaired. You can't just wipe out the past. In the eighties many factories broke up, the night schools slowly fell

apart, and a lot of talented workers never got their chance. Teacher Wang's school kept the night schools' spirit alive.

xiaoming 大修也不会停顿，只是进度可能迟缓一点儿。学校的发展不会停滞，也不会滞后。
dà xiū yě bú huì tíngdùn zhǐshì jìndù kěnéng chíhuǎn yìdiǎnr xuéxiào de fāzhǎn bú huì tíngzhì yě bú huì zhìhòu · The work won't stop, either; progress might just be a bit slow. The school won't stand still, and it won't fall behind.

little sister 我在仓库里还找到一堆旧作业本和作废的学生证，按规定要销毁吗？
wǒ zài cāngkù lǐ hái zhǎo dào yì duī jiù zuòyè běn hé zuòfèi de xuéshēng zhèng àn guīdìng yào xiāohuǐ ma · I found a pile of old exercise books and expired student cards in the storeroom too. Do they have to be destroyed by the rules?

professor chen 学生证早就失效了，可以销毁。不过作业本上残留着很多老学生的字迹，你们不妨留几本，放进纪念册。
xuéshēng zhèng zǎo jiù shīxiào le kěyǐ xiāohuǐ búguò zuòyè běn shàng cánliú zhe hěn duō lǎo xuéshēng de zìjì nǐmen bùfáng liú jǐ běn fàng jìn jìniàn cè · The student cards expired long ago, so yes. But the exercise books still carry so much of the old students' handwriting: why not keep a few for the album?

anna 好主意！这事就这么定了。至于墙怎么修，先搁置一下，交给新校长。
hǎo zhǔyi zhè shì jiù zhème dìng le zhìyú qiáng zěnme xiū xiān gēzhì yíxià jiāo gěi xīn xiàozhǎng · Great idea! That's settled, then. As for how to fix the wall, let's put that aside for now and leave it to the new head.

xiaoming 院子里的花都被大风大雨摧残了。别糟蹋了，捡起来，还能插在瓶子里。桌子腿也磨损得很厉害，正好换新的。
yuànzi lǐ de huā dōu bèi dà fēng dà yǔ cuīcán le bié zāotà le jiǎn qǐlai hái néng chā zài píngzi lǐ zhuōzi tuǐ yě mósǔn de hěn lìhai zhènghǎo huàn xīn de · The storm has battered all the flowers in the courtyard. Don't waste them: pick them up and they'll still do in a vase. And the table legs were badly worn anyway: now we can get new ones.

little sister 地上的泥水我来扫，小心别溅到身上。我刚才以为一切都破灭了，现在反倒觉得，有点儿乱也好，像生活一样。
dì shàng de ní shuǐ wǒ lái sǎo xiǎoxīn bié jiàn dào shēn shàng wǒ gāngcái yǐwéi yíqiè dōu pòmiè le xiànzài fǎndào juéde yǒudiǎnr luàn yěhǎo xiàng shēnghuó yíyàng · I'll sweep up the mud: careful it doesn't splash on you. A minute ago I thought everything was ruined. Now, if anything, I think a bit of mess is fine: it's like life.

professor chen 说得好。人和学校一样，最怕的不是老，是思想僵化、固化。王老师就从来不这样。
shuō de hǎo rén hé xuéxiào yíyàng zuì pà de bú shì lǎo shì sīxiǎng jiānghuà gùhuà Wánglǎoshī jiù cónglái bú zhèyàng · Well said. People are like schools: the worst thing isn't growing old, it's letting your thinking set in stone. Teacher Wang has never been like that.

write it trace the grey, then write your own

垮
kuǎ
to collapse; to break down

崩
bēng
collapse

good to know · 崩溃 started as a word for armies and economies collapsing; today everyone uses it for a computer crash and for feeling overwhelmed: 我要崩溃了！ Readings: 埋没 máimò (没 mò, not méi); 磨损 mósǔn; 倾倒 qīngdǎo (topple) vs qīngdào (pour out).

You can now describe anything breaking down in Chinese, and, with 幸亏 and 好在, how you saved the day.
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day 190 eyes, faces and fists

Chinese HSK 7–9 in 193 days
unit 25 · taste, talent and admiration

Describe how people look, glance, stare, grin and touch, and how a dog sniffs, licks and struggles, and recycle 无论如何, 归根到底 and 总的来说.

A story comes alive in its gestures: a glance, a grin, a hug. Chinese has a single verb for each, and you will meet them in every novel and film.

words

word	pinyin	meaning	example
瞅	chǒu	to look, have a look (northern)	你瞅瞅，这是谁来了? Look, who's this?
盯	dīng	to stare at, keep an eye on	他一直盯着手机。 He keeps staring at his phone.
瞪	dèng	to glare, stare (wide-eyed)	别瞪我，又不是我的错! Don't glare at me: it isn't my fault!
眯	mī	to narrow one's eyes, squint	她眯着眼睛笑了。 She smiled with her eyes crinkling up.
眨眼	zhǎyǎn	to blink; in a blink	一眨眼，孩子就长大了。 In the blink of an eye, the children have grown up.
凝视	níngshì	to gaze at	她久久地凝视着那张老照片。 She gazed at the old photo for a long time.
注视	zhùshì	to watch closely	大家都注视着台上的人。 Everyone watched the person on stage closely.
直视	zhíshì	to look straight at	她总是直视你的眼睛，认真听你说话。 She always looks you in the eye and really listens.
仰望	yǎngwàng	to look up at; to look up to	我们躺在草地上，仰望天空。 We lie on the grass, looking up at the sky.
俯视	fǔshì	to look down at; to look down on	从山上俯视，整个城市都在眼前。 Looking down from the hill, the whole city lies before you.
俯首	fǔshǒu	to bow one's head; to submit	在困难面前，她从来不俯首。 She has never bowed her head to hardship.
眺望	tiàowàng	to look into the distance	站在楼上，可以眺望远处的山。 From upstairs you can see the hills far away.
打量	dǎliang	to size up, look someone up and down	她上下打量了我一下。 She looked me up and down.
察看	chákàn	to inspect, look into	工人来察看昨天被风毁坏的墙。 The workers came to inspect the wall damaged by the wind yesterday.
目睹	mùdǔ	to witness	他亲眼目睹了那次事故。 He witnessed the accident with his own eyes.

视线	shìxiàn	line of sight; view	大树挡住了我的视线。 The big tree blocks my view.
眼色	yǎnsè	meaningful glance, wink	他给我使了个眼色，让我别说话。 He gave me a look that told me to keep quiet.
眼神	yǎnshén	look in someone's eyes, expression	她的眼神里全是笑。 Her eyes were full of laughter.
扭头	niǔtóu	to turn one's head	她扭头看了我一眼。 She turned her head and glanced at me.
咧嘴	liězuǐ	to grin	他咧嘴一笑。 He broke into a grin.
叼	diāo	to hold in the mouth	大白叼着一个包子跑了。 Dabai ran off with a bun in his mouth.
舔	tiǎn	to lick	小狗舔了舔我的手。 The puppy licked my hand.
嗅	xiù	to sniff, smell	大白在桌子下面嗅来嗅去。 Dabai is sniffing about under the table.
搂	lǒu	to hug, hold in one's arms	妈妈把孩子搂在怀里。 The mother held the child in her arms.
抚摸	fǔmō	to stroke, caress	她轻轻地抚摸着狗的头。 She gently stroked the dog's head.
触摸	chùmō	to touch	请不要触摸这些画。 Please don't touch these paintings.
蹭	cèng	to rub against	小猫在我腿上蹭来蹭去。 The kitten keeps rubbing against my leg.
巴掌	bāzhang	palm, hand; slap	大家拍着巴掌唱歌。 Everyone clapped and sang.
耳光	ěrguāng	slap in the face	戏里那一个耳光，其实只是做做样子。 That slap in the play is just pretend.
拳头	quántóu	fist	他握紧拳头，给自己加油。 He clenched his fists to psych himself up.
揍	zòu	to beat up, hit	小时候，他说谁欺负妹妹，他就揍谁。 As a boy, he said he'd thump anyone who picked on his sister.
踹	chuài	to kick	孩子睡觉总是踹被子。 The child always kicks off the quilt in his sleep.
搏斗	bódòu	to fight, struggle	大白和一只猫在院子里“搏斗”了半天。 Dabai had a long “fight” with a cat in the courtyard.
挣扎	zhēngzhá	to struggle	大白挣扎着|想跑出去。 Dabai struggled to get away.
捕捉	bǔzhuō	to catch, capture	她用相机捕捉到了那个美好的瞬间。 She caught that lovely moment on camera.

pattern review: 无论如何, 归根到底 and 总的来说

无论如何 / 归根到底 / 总的来说 **，what you insist on, the root, or the overall view**

Three markers to frame what you say: 无论如何 “whatever happens” before something you insist on; 归根到底 “at root, in the end” for the real reason; 总的来说 “on the whole” for an overall view.

无论如何，明天以前不能让王老师知道。 **wúlùn rúhé míngtiān yǐqián bù néng ràng Wánglǎoshī zhīdào** Whatever happens, Teacher Wang mustn’t find out before tomorrow.

我们准备了这么多，归根到底，是想说一句谢谢。 **wǒmen zhǔnbèi le zhème duō guīgēn dàodǐ shì xiǎng shuō yí jù xièxie** We’ve prepared all this, but at root, we just want to say thank you.

还有一点儿小问题，总的来说，准备得差不多了。 **hái yǒuyìdiǎnr xiǎo wèntí zǒng de lái shuō zhǔnbèi de chàbuduō le** There are still a few small problems, but on the whole we’re just about ready.

dialogue footsteps in the courtyard

xiaoming 大家注意，最后一件事：挂灯。我把大白也带来了，用绳子拴在门口，它可以帮我们看门。

dàjiā zhùyì zuìhòu yí jiàn shì guà dēng wǒ bǎ Dàbái yě dài lái le yòng shéngzi shuān zài ménkǒu tā kěyǐ bāng wǒmen kàn mén · Listen up, one last job: hanging the lights. And I've brought Dabai: I've tied him up by the gate so he can guard it for us.

little sister 它能看什么门？你瞅瞅，它正在桌子下面嗅来嗅去，一直盯着那盘包子。

tā néng kàn shénme mén nǐ chǒu chou tā zhèngzài zhuōzi xiàmiàn xiù lái xiù qù yìzhí dīng zhe nà pán bāozi · Guard the gate? Look at him: sniffing about under the table, staring at that plate of buns.

anna 大白，别动！……它叼着一个包子跑了！

Dàbái bié dòng tā diāo zhe yí gè bāozi pǎo le · Dabai, stay! ...He's run off with a bun in his mouth!

xiaoming 大白，回来！（搂住大白）别挣扎了！上次它跟一只猫在院子里“搏斗”了半天，还把椅子踹倒了。

Dàbái huílái lǒu zhù Dàbái bié zhēngzhá le shàng cì tā gēn yì zhī māo zài yuànzi lǐ bódòu le bàntiān hái bǎ yǐzi chuài dǎo le · Dabai, come back! (grabbing him) Stop wriggling! Last time he had a great "fight" with a cat in the courtyard and kicked a chair over.

anna 大白最热衷的就是吃。

Dàbái zuì rèzhōng de jiùshì chī · What Dabai loves most is eating.

little sister 哥哥，别瞪我，又不是我带它来的。无论如何，明天以前不能让王老师知道。……等等，外面有动静！我听见脚步声了！是王老师！

gēge bié dèng wǒ yòu bú shì wǒ dài tā lái de wúlùn rúhé míngtiān yǐqián bù néng ràng Wánglǎoshī zhīdào děng deng wàimiàn yǒu dòngjing wǒ tīngjiàn jiǎobù shēng le shì Wánglǎoshī · Don't glare at me, brother: I didn't bring him. Whatever happens, Teacher Wang mustn't find out before tomorrow. ...Wait, there's something outside! I can hear footsteps! It's Teacher Wang!

anna （小声）快藏起来！脚步声越来越急促了！小明在给我使眼色呢，我们在桌子后面注视着她。

xiǎo shēng kuài cáng qǐlai jiǎobù shēng yuè lái yuè jícù le Xiǎomíng zài gěi wǒ shǐ yǎnsè ne wǒmen zài zhuōzi hòumiàn zhùshì zhe tā · (whispering) Quick, hide! The footsteps are getting faster! Xiaoming's giving me a look. We're watching her from behind the table.

teacher wang 哎？院子里怎么摆了这么多桌子？（眯着眼睛，上下打量着院子）谁在那儿？

āi yuànzi lǐ zěnme bǎi le zhème duō zhuōzi mī zhe yǎnjing shàngxià dǎliang zhe yuànzi shéi zài nàr · Hm? Why are there so many tables in the courtyard? (narrowing her eyes and looking the courtyard up and down) Who's there?

xiaoming （小声）糟了，大白跑过去了！它在蹭王老师的腿，还舔她的手！

xiǎo shēng zāo le Dàbái pǎo guoqu le tā zài cèng Wánglǎoshī de tuǐ hái tiǎn tā de shǒu · (whispering) Oh no, Dabai's run over! He's rubbing against her legs and licking her hand!

teacher wang 大白？你怎么在这儿？（抚摸着大白的头）你的主人呢？

Dàbái nǐ zěnme zài zhèr fǔmō zhe Dàbái de tóu nǐ de zhǔrén ne · Dabai? What are you doing here? (stroking his head) Where's your owner?

little sister （小声）王老师一向偏爱大白。

xiǎo shēng Wánglǎoshī yíxiàng piānài Dàbái · (whispering) Teacher Wang has always had a soft spot for Dabai.

anna 王老师！是我……我们来察看一下昨天被大风毁坏的墙。

Wánglǎoshī shì wǒ wǒmen lái chákàn yíxià zuótiān bèi dà fēng huǐhuài de qiáng · Teacher Wang! It's me... We came to inspect the wall the wind damaged yesterday.

teacher wang （轻轻触摸着墙上的砖）是吗？那桌子上的花，也是来察看墙的？

qīng qīng chùmō zhe qiáng shàng de zhuān shì ma nà zhuōzi shàng de huā yě shì lái chákàn qiáng de · (gently touching the bricks) Oh yes? And the flowers on the tables: have they come to inspect the wall too?

little sister 那是……捡回来的花，不能糟蹋。

nà shì jiǎn huilai de huā bù néng zāotà · That's... flowers we picked up. We couldn't let them go to waste.

teacher wang （咧嘴一笑）好吧，我什么也没目睹。年纪大了，视线不好。（扭头就走）明天见！
liězuǐ yí xiào hǎo ba wǒ shénme yě méi mùdǔ niánjì dà le shìxiàn bù hǎo niǔtóu jiù zǒu míngtiān jiàn · (with a grin) All right, I didn't witness a thing. I'm getting old, my eyesight isn't what it was. (turning away) See you tomorrow!

anna 她走了，院子里又安静下来了。
tā zǒu le yuànzi lǐ yòu ānjìng xialai le · She's gone. The courtyard is quiet again.

xiaoming 她是不是知道了？
tā shì bu shì zhīdào le · Does she know?

anna 你看她刚才的眼神，我觉得她知道，可是不说，给我们留着惊喜。
nǐ kàn tā gāngcái de yǎnshén wǒ juéde tā zhīdào kěshì bù shuō gěi wǒmen liú zhe jīngxǐ · Did you see the look in her eyes? I think she knows, but she's not saying, so we can keep our surprise.

little sister 我用相机捕捉到了那一瞬间！你看，她扭头的时候，还对我们眨眼。
wǒ yòng xiàngjī bǔzhuō dào le nà yí shùnjiān nǐ kàn tā niǔtóu de shíhou hái duì wǒmen zhǎyǎn · I caught that moment on camera! Look: as she turned away, she even winked at us.

xiaoming 小时候有人欺负我妹妹，我握着拳头说要去揍他，是王老师拦住了我。她说：“打人一巴掌、一个耳光，都很容易，难的是说一句对不起。”
xiǎoshíhou yǒu rén qīfu wǒ mèimei wǒ wò zhe quántóu shuō yào qù zòu tā shì Wánglǎoshī lán zhù le wǒ tā shuō dǎ rén yì bāzhang yí gè ěrguāng dōu hěn róngyì nán de shì shuō yí jù duìbuqǐ · When we were small, someone picked on my sister, and I clenched my fists and said I'd thump him. Teacher Wang stopped me. She said: “A slap is easy; the hard thing is saying sorry.”

anna 她从来不俯视学生，总是直视你的眼睛，凝视着你，认真听你说话。在困难面前，她也从来不俯首。我们都仰望着她。
tā cónglái bù fǔshì xuéshēng zǒngshì zhíshì nǐ de yǎnjing níngshì zhe nǐ rènzhēn tīng nǐ shuōhuà zài kùnnan miànqián tā yě cónglái bù fǔshǒu wǒmen dōu yǎngwàng zhe tā · She never looks down on her students: she always looks you in the eye, holds your gaze and really listens. And she has never bowed her head to hardship. We all look up to her.

little sister 归根到底，我们准备这么多，就是想说一句谢谢。总的来说，准备得差不多了。你们看，站在这里，可以眺望整个院子，灯就挂在这儿，用绳子绑在树上！
guīgēn dàodǐ wǒmen zhǔnbèi zhème duō jiùshì xiǎng shuō yí jù xièxie zǒng de lái shuō zhǔnbèi de chàbuduō le nǐmen kàn zhàn zài zhèlǐ kěyǐ tiàowàng zhěnggè yuànzi dēng jiù guà zài zhèr yòng shéngzi bǎng zài shù shàng · In the end, all this is just our way of saying thank you. On the whole, we're nearly ready. Look: from here you can see the whole courtyard. The lights go here, tied to the tree with rope!

write it trace the grey, then write your own

瞅 chǒu — to look, have a look (northern)

盯 dīng — to stare at, keep an eye on

眯 mī — to narrow one's eyes, squint

叼
diāo
to hold in the mouth

舔
tiǎn
to lick

搂
lǒu
to hug, hold in one's arms

蹭
cèng
to rub against

揍
zòu
to beat up, hit

good to know · Ways of looking: 看 look, 瞅 look (northern), 盯 stare at, 瞪 glare, 眯 squint, 凝视 gaze, 注视 watch closely, 打量 size up, 眺望 look into the distance. 使眼色 is the silent "look" that says "don't say anything" or "let's go". Every Chinese child knows their mother's.

You can now tell a scene through glances, grins and gestures, the way a good storyteller does.
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day 191 mission: the farewell party

Follow a whole farewell party in Chinese: the surprise, the gifts, a short speech, a letter read aloud and a teacher's reply, using this unit's words for admiration, sounds, quality, detail, breakdowns and gestures, and the whole course behind them.

Saying thank you and goodbye well is one of the most human things you can do in any language. This is the last story of the course, and it is about the person who taught Anna her very first word.

chapter 1 chapter 1: the surprise

xiaoming 王老师到门口了！大家安静，别喧哗！
Wánglǎoshī dào ménkǒu le dàjiā ānjìng bié xuānhuá · Teacher Wang's at the gate! Quiet, everyone, no noise!

little sister 刚才院子里还熙熙攘攘、喧闹得像个市场，一下子就寂静了。连大白都一声不吭，盯着门口。我粗略地数了一下，来了一百多人。
gāngcái yuànzi lǐ hái xīxī rǎngrǎng xuānnào de xiàng gè shìchǎng yíxià zi jiù jìjìng le lián Dàbái dōu yìshēng bùkēng dīng zhe ménkǒu wǒ cūlüè de shǔ le yíxià lái le yìbǎi duō rén · A minute ago the courtyard was packed and as noisy as a market, and now it's silent. Even Dabai hasn't made a sound: he's staring at the gate. I did a rough count: over a hundred people have come.

teacher wang （走进院子，愣住了）这……这是怎么回事？我扭头一看，院子里全是人！
zǒu jìn yuànzi lèng zhù le zhè zhè shì zěnme huí shì wǒ niǔtóu yí kàn yuànzi lǐ quán shì rén · (walking into the courtyard and stopping short) What… what's all this? I turn round, and the whole courtyard is full of people!

anna 王老师，欢迎您！今天不是简单的晚饭，是您的告别会。您教过的一百多个学生都来了！
Wánglǎoshī huānyíng nín jīntiān bú shì jiǎndān de wǎnfàn shì nín de gàobié huì nín jiāo guo de yìbǎi duō gè xuéshēng dōu lái le · Welcome, Teacher Wang! This isn't a simple dinner: it's your farewell party. Over a hundred of your former students are here!

teacher wang （眯着眼睛，看了看大家，咧嘴笑了）我昨天就猜到了。你们昨天晚上来察看墙的时候，我什么都目睹了。我的视线不好，可是你们给我使的眼色，我看得清清楚楚。
mī zhe yǎnjing kàn le kan dàjiā liězuǐ xiào le wǒ zuótiān jiù cāi dào le nǐmen zuótiān wǎn shanglai chákàn qiáng de shíhou wǒ shénme dōu mùdǔ le wǒ de shìxiàn bù hǎo kěshì nǐmen gěi wǒ shǐ de yǎnsè wǒ kàn de qīngqīngchuchu · (narrowing her eyes, looking round at everyone, then grinning) I guessed yesterday. When you came to "inspect the wall" last night, I saw everything. My eyesight isn't good, but I could see those looks you were giving each other perfectly well.

xiaoming 哈哈，我们就知道！大白，别蹭了！它又在舔王老师的手。
hā hā wǒmen jiù zhīdào Dàbái bié cèng le tā yòu zài tiǎn Wánglǎoshī de shǒu · Ha, we knew it! Dabai, stop rubbing against her! He's licking Teacher Wang's hand again.

dr li 王老师，我们全家都要谢谢您：两个孩子小时候都在您这儿上过课。
Wánglǎoshī wǒmen quán jiā dōu yào xièxie nín liǎng gè háizi xiǎoshíhou dōu zài nín zhèr shàng guo kè · Teacher Wang, our whole family wants to thank you: both our children took classes with you when they were little.

teacher wang （上下打量着小明）我记得！小明那时候总在课上画画，画的老师一点儿也不像我，丑陋得很！
shàngxià dǎliang zhe Xiǎomíng wǒ jìde Xiǎomíng nà shíhou zǒng zài kè shàng huà huà huà de lǎoshī yìdiǎnr yě bú xiàng wǒ chǒulòu de hěn · (looking Xiaoming up and down) I remember! Xiaoming was always drawing in class, and the teachers he drew looked nothing like me: hideous, every one!

ms zhang 外面街上很嘈杂，汽车轰轰地开过去，喇叭声很刺耳；可是一进院子，就清静了。这里真僻静，真宜人。门口的停车标识也做得很好，地图上标示得清清楚楚。
wàimiàn jiē shàng hěn cáozá qìchē hōng hōng de kāi guoqu lǎba shēng hěn cìěr kěshì yí jìn yuànzi jiù qīngjìng le zhèlǐ zhēn pìjìng zhēn yírén ménkǒu de tíngchē biāoshí yě zuò de hěn hǎo dìtú shàng biāoshì de qīngqīngchuchu · The street outside is so noisy, with cars roaring by and ear-splitting horns; but step into the courtyard and it's all peace and quiet. It's so secluded here, so pleasant. And the parking signs at the gate are great: the map shows everything clearly.

dr zhou 前天的雨来得那么迅猛，风那么强劲，威力那么大，大树还断裂了一根树枝，花也被摧残了，差点儿把告别会毁了。中午太阳火辣辣的，地面很灼热，现在终于凉快了。
qiántiān de yǔ lái de nàme xùnměng fēng nàme qiángjìng wēilì nàme dà dà shù hái duànliè le yì gēn shù zhī huā yě bèi cuīcán le chàdiǎnr bǎ gàobié huì huǐ le zhōngwǔ tàiyáng huǒlàlà de dìmiàn hěn zhuórè xiànzài zhōngyú liángkuai le · The storm the day before yesterday came in so fast, the wind was so strong and so powerful: it snapped a branch off the big tree and battered the flowers, and nearly ruined the party. At midday today the sun was scorching and the ground was burning hot, but now at last it's cool.

teacher wang 灯光这么柔和，鸟叫声这么清脆，风徐徐吹来，一点儿也不闷，气氛这么祥和，比我想象的更好。

dēngguāng zhème róuhé niǎo jiào shēng zhème qīngcuì fēng xúxú chuī lái yìdiǎnr yě bù mēn qìfēn zhème xiánghé bǐ wǒ xiǎngxiàng de gèng hǎo · The lights are so soft, the birdsong so clear, the breeze so gentle, it isn't muggy at all, and the atmosphere is so peaceful: it's even better than I imagined.

chapter 2 chapter 2: the gifts

xiaoming 王老师，这是我们送您的第一件礼物：一支老钢笔，酷似您妈妈当年用的那一支。旧货市场的东西形形色色，真东西难得一见，假的随处可见，做得很拙劣，价格也很悬殊。我们找了好久。

Wánglǎoshī zhè shì wǒmen sòng nín de dì yī jiàn lǐwù yì zhī lǎo gāngbǐ kùsì nín māma dāngnián yòng de nà yì zhī jiù huò shìchǎng de dōngxi xíngxíngsèsè zhēn dōngxi nándé yí jiàn jiǎ de suíchù kě jiàn zuò de hěn zhuōliè jiàgé yě hěn xuánshū wǒmen zhǎo le hǎojiǔ · Teacher Wang, here's our first present: an old fountain pen, just like the one your mother used. The second-hand market has every kind of thing, but genuine old pieces are rare, while clumsy fakes are everywhere, and the prices are worlds apart. It took us ages to find.

teacher wang （凝视着钢笔，轻轻抚摸着）这么精巧……上面的花纹真精细。这儿有一点儿瑕疵，跟我妈妈那支一模一样！这件礼物太不寻常了。

níngshì zhe gāngbǐ qīng qīng fǔmō zhe zhème jīngqiǎo shàngmiàn de huāwén zhēn jīngxì zhèr yǒuyìdiǎnr xiácī gēn wǒ māma nà zhī yìmú yíyàng zhè jiàn lǐwù tài bù xúncháng le · (gazing at the pen, stroking it gently) So exquisite… and the pattern is so fine. There's a little flaw just here, exactly like my mother's! This is no ordinary present.

little sister 第二件礼物是这本纪念册。首先是老照片，其次是大家的信，最后是您说过的话。信太多了，海量的，加起来很可观，我们只选了其中的精华。为了保密，困难重重！

dì èr jiàn lǐwù shì zhè běn jìniàn cè shǒuxiān shì lǎo zhàopiàn qícì shì dàjiā de xìn zuìhòu shì nín shuō guo de huà xìn tài duō le hǎiliàng de jiā qǐlai hěn kěguān wǒmen zhǐ xuǎn le qízhōng de jīnghuá wèile bǎomì kùnnan chóngchóng · The second present is this album. First the old photos, then everyone's letters, and last the things you've said. There were a mountain of letters, quite a pile all together, so we only chose the best. Keeping it secret was one problem after another!

teacher wang （触摸着纪念册上的照片）这个字写得这么工整，是谁？那个字这么潦草，一看就是小明！

chùmō zhe jìniàn cè shàng de zhàopiàn zhège zì xiě de zhème gōngzhěng shì shéi nàge zì zhème liáocǎo yí kàn jiùshì Xiǎomíng · (touching the photos in the album) Who wrote this so neatly? And this scrawl: that's Xiaoming, I'd know it anywhere!

xiaoming 被您认出来了！

bèi nín rèn chulai le · You've found me out!

teacher wang 还有这封信，说我二十年前帮他找回了一只猫？这件事太离奇了……我想起来了！我一向怕猫，那天很反常，也很怪异：那个孩子哭得太可怜了，我就去了。我隐约还记得那只猫的样子。

hái yǒu zhè fēng xìn shuō wǒ èrshí nián qián bāng tā zhǎo huí le yì zhī māo zhè jiàn shì tài líqí le wǒ xiǎng qǐlai le wǒ yíxiàng pà māo nà tiān hěn fǎncháng yě hěn guàiyì nàge háizi kū de tài kělián le wǒ jiù qù le wǒ yǐnyuē hái jìde nà zhī māo de yàngzi · And this letter, saying I helped him find a cat twenty years ago? How bizarre… Now I remember! I've always been scared of cats, so it was most unlike me, and very strange: but the boy was crying so pitifully that I went. I can still vaguely picture that cat.

anna 这张画也是一位老学生画的，跟您很相近，画得很逼真，很鲜活，一点儿也不比照片逊色。

zhè zhāng huà yě shì yí wèi lǎo xuéshēng huà de gēn nín hěn xiāngjìn huà de hěn bīzhēn hěn xiānhuó yìdiǎnr yě bù bǐ zhàopiàn xùnsè · And this painting is by one of your old students too: so close to you, so lifelike and so vivid, every bit as good as a photo.

teacher wang 你们这些学生，什么人都有：工程师、医生、编辑、院士。可是在我眼里，你们永远是我的学生。我以前对你们很严，可是良药苦口。我常说：学东西要精，不要多。

nǐmen zhèxiē xuéshēng shénme rén dōu yǒu gōngchéngshī yīshēng biānjí yuànshì kěshì zài wǒ yǎn lǐ nǐmen yǒngyuǎn shì wǒ de xuéshēng wǒ yǐqián duì nǐmen hěn yán kěshì liáng yào kǔ kǒu wǒ cháng shuō xué dōngxi yào jīng búyào duō · You lot are every kind of person: engineers, doctors, editors, academicians. But in my eyes, you'll always be my students. I used to be strict with you, but good medicine tastes bitter. I always said: in learning, go for depth, not quantity.

professor chen 纪念册里还夹着几页老作业本，每页都标了日期，上面有您当年用红笔做的标记。

jìniàn cè lǐ hái jiā zhe jǐ yè lǎo zuòyè běn měi yè dōu biāo le rìqī shàngmiàn yǒu nín dāngnián yòng hóng bǐ zuò

de biāojì · There are a few pages from old exercise books tucked into the album too, each one dated, with the marks you made in red pen all those years ago.

teacher wang

（沉浸在回忆里）这些作业本，我以为早就销毁了……真让人怀旧。现在有人说人工智能是万能的，可是你们这份心意，机器做不出来。准备得这么像样，你们一定花了很多心血。

chénjìn zài huíyì lǐ zhèxiē zuòyè běn wǒ yǐwéi zǎo jiù xiāohuǐ le zhēn ràng rén huáijiù xiànzài yǒu rén shuō réngōng zhìnéng shì wànnéng de kěshì nǐmen zhè fèn xīnyì jīqì zuò bu chulai zhǔnbèi de zhème xiàngyàng nǐmen yídìng huā le hěn duō xīnxuè · (lost in memories) I thought these exercise books were destroyed long ago... It makes me so nostalgic. These days some people say AI can do anything, but no machine could have done what you've done here. You've put this together so beautifully: it must have taken so much work.

chapter 3 chapter 3: three minutes

anna 王老师，各位老同学：我只讲三分钟，所以讲得简短一点儿。

Wánglǎoshī gèwèi lǎo tóngxué wǒ zhǐ jiǎng sān fēnzhōng suǒyǐ jiǎng de jiǎnduǎn yìdiǎnr · Teacher Wang, fellow students: I'm only speaking for three minutes, so I'll keep it short.

anna 十年前的一月，风冷得刺骨，我只穿了一件单薄的外套，两只手裸在外面。一走进这个院子，我就看见门口站着一个身影。那就是王老师。

shí nián qián de yī yuè fēng lěng de cìgǔ wǒ zhǐ chuān le yí jiàn dānbó de wàitào liǎng zhī shǒu luǒ zài wàimiàn yì zǒu jìn zhège yuànzi wǒ jiù kànjiàn ménkǒu zhàn zhe yí gè shēnyǐng nà jiùshì Wánglǎoshī · One January ten years ago, the wind was bitterly cold; I had on just one thin coat, and my hands were bare. As soon as I walked into this courtyard, I saw a figure standing at the door. That was Teacher Wang.

anna 她看我冻得发抖，不由得笑了，把自己的围巾给了我。围巾上有几个小斑点，是墨水留下的。那条围巾，我到现在还留着。

tā kàn wǒ dòng de fādǒu bùyóude xiào le bǎ zìjǐ de wéijīn gěi le wǒ wéijīn shàng yǒu jǐ gè xiǎo bāndiǎn shì mòshuǐ liúxia de nà tiáo wéijīn wǒ dào xiànzài hái liú zhe · Seeing me shivering, she couldn't help smiling, and gave me her own scarf. There were a few little spots on it, ink stains. I still have that scarf today.

anna 那时候，第一节课的教室很简易，墙上的砖都裸露着。我只会说一句中文："你好。"我写的第一个汉字很丑陋，她在旁边画了一个笑脸做记号。她讲得浅显，可是我的基础学得很扎实。

nà shíhou dì yī jié kè de jiàoshì hěn jiǎnyì qiáng shàng de zhuān dōu luǒlù zhe wǒ zhǐ huì shuō yí jù Zhōngwén nǐhǎo wǒ xiě de dì yī gè Hànzì hěn chǒulòu tā zài pángbiān huà le yí gè xiào liǎn zuò jìhao tā jiǎng de qiǎnxiǎn kěshì wǒ de jīchǔ xué de hěn zhāshi · Back then, the classroom for my first lesson was very basic, the bricks in the wall all bare. I could say exactly one thing in Chinese: 你好. The first character I wrote was hideous, and she drew a smiley face beside it. She explained things simply, but the foundations she gave me were solid.

anna 一晃十年，学校的面貌变了，教室里有了书的气息，这里留下了很多人的足迹。生活有时候很平淡，可是有一样东西没有变：王老师的目光，还是那么深邃，那么温暖；她的心还是那么纯粹，只想把学生教好。

yì huǎng shí nián xuéxiào de miànmào biàn le jiàoshì lǐ yǒu le shū de qìxī zhèlǐ liúxia le hěn duō rén de zújì shēnghuó yǒu shíhou hěn píngdàn kěshì yǒu yíyàng dōngxi méiyǒu biàn Wánglǎoshī de mùguāng háishi nàme shēnsuì nàme wēnnuǎn tā de xīn háishi nàme chúncuì zhǐ xiǎng bǎ xuéshēng jiāo hǎo · Ten years have flashed by. The school looks different now, the classrooms smell of books, and so many people have passed through here. Life is sometimes quiet and ordinary, but one thing hasn't changed: Teacher Wang's gaze is as deep and as warm as ever, and her heart is as pure as ever: all she wants is to teach her students well.

anna 总的来说，我想说的只有一句：王老师，您的背影，我会一直记得。谢谢您！

zǒng de lái shuō wǒ xiǎng shuō de zhǐyǒu yí jù Wánglǎoshī nín de bèiyǐng wǒ huì yìzhí jìde xièxie nín · All in all, I only want to say one thing: Teacher Wang, I will always remember you. Thank you!

editor lin （小声）简要、紧凑，可是一点儿也不笼统，一句冗长的话都没有。三分钟，一秒不多，安排得真周密。

xiǎo shēng jiǎnyào jǐncòu kěshì yìdiǎnr yě bù lǒngtǒng yí jù rǒngcháng de huà dōu méiyǒu sān fēnzhōng yì miǎo bù duō ānpái de zhēn zhōumì · (whispering) Brief and tight, but not vague at all, and not one long-winded sentence. Three minutes, not a second more: perfectly planned.

little sister （小声）你瞅瞅，王老师在擦眼泪，大家都拍起了巴掌。看这个架势，今天要聊到半夜了。

xiǎo shēng nǐ chǒu chou Wánglǎoshī zài cā yǎnlèi dàjiā dōu pāi qǐ le bāzhang kàn zhège jiàshi jīntiān yào liáo dào bànyè le · (whispering) Look at that: Teacher Wang is wiping her eyes, and everyone's clapping. From the look of things, we'll be talking till midnight.

chapter 4 chapter 4: the letter

little sister （读）“亲爱的王老师：这封信，是您一百多个学生一起写的。我们有的出身卑微，有的从小条件优越；有的学得快，有的学得慢。可是在您的课堂上，我们都是同等的。

dú qīnài de Wánglǎoshī zhè fēng xìn shì nín yìbǎi duō gè xuéshēng yìqǐ xiě de wǒmen yǒude chūshēn bēiwēi yǒude cóngxiǎo tiáojiàn yōuyuè yǒude xué de kuài yǒude xué de màn kěshì zài nín de kètáng shàng wǒmen dōu shì tóngděng de · (reading) “Dear Teacher Wang: This letter was written by more than a hundred of your students together. Some of us come from humble backgrounds, some had every advantage growing up; some learned fast, some slowly. But in your classroom, we were all equal.

little sister 您偏爱学得慢的学生，常常说：“慢一点儿没关系。”您爱惜每一本书，珍视每一个学生。您从来不俯视我们，总是直视我们的眼睛，认真听我们说话。在困难面前，您从来不俯首。

nín piānài xué de màn de xuéshēng chángcháng shuō màn yìdiǎnr méi guānxi nín àixī měi yì běn shū zhēnshì měi yí gè xuéshēng nín cónglái bù fǔshì wǒmen zǒngshì zhíshì wǒmen de yǎnjing rènzhēn tīng wǒmen shuōhuà zài kùnnan miànqián nín cónglái bù fǔshǒu · You had a soft spot for slow learners, and always said: “Slow is fine.” You cherished every book and treasured every student. You never looked down on us: you always looked us in the eye and really listened. And you never bowed your head to hardship.

little sister 您热衷教书，对汉字痴迷，可是从来不狂热；您对教书一片痴心，一点儿也不爱慕虚荣。您有很深的教育情怀，也有夜校的情结。我们有的人小时候沉迷游戏，是您让我们迷恋上了读书；有的人对汉字着迷，是您让我们陶醉在汉字的美里。您的影响是无形的，也是无穷的。

nín rèzhōng jiāo shū duì Hànzì chīmí kěshì cónglái bù kuángrè nín duì jiāo shū yí piàn chīxīn yìdiǎnr yě bú àimù xūróng nín yǒu hěn shēn de jiàoyù qínghuái yě yǒu yèxiào de qíngjié wǒmen yǒude rén xiǎoshíhou chénmí yóuxì shì nín ràng wǒmen míliàn shàng le dúshū yǒude rén duì Hànzì zháomí shì nín ràng wǒmen táozuì zài Hànzì de měi lǐ nín de yǐngxiǎng shì wúxíng de yě shì wúqióng de · You loved teaching and were passionate about characters, but never fanatical; you were utterly devoted to teaching and never cared for show. You have a deep feeling for education, and a deep attachment to the night schools. Some of us were hooked on games as children, and you got us hooked on books instead; some of us were fascinated by characters, and you helped us fall in love with their beauty. Your influence on us is invisible, and it has no end.

little sister 我们钦佩您，由衷地敬佩您，也带着一点儿敬畏；我们崇敬您，也推崇您的教学方法。今天，我们用最深切的真情，表达我们的感恩：衷心感谢您，王老师！我们也缅怀那些已经去世的老夜校老师，他们的功劳，谁也不能抹杀。

wǒmen qīnpèi nín yóuzhōng de jìngpèi nín yě dài zhe yìdiǎnr jìngwèi wǒmen chóngjìng nín yě tuīchóng nín de jiàoxué fāngfǎ jīntiān wǒmen yòng zuì shēnqiè de zhēnqíng biǎodá wǒmen de gǎnēn zhōngxīn gǎnxiè nín Wánglǎoshī wǒmen yě miǎnhuái nàxiē yǐjīng qùshì de lǎo yèxiào lǎoshī tāmen de gōngláo shéi yě bù néng mǒshā · We admire you, from the bottom of our hearts, with a little awe as well; we revere you, and we hold your way of teaching in the highest regard. Today, with our deepest and truest feelings, we want to say how grateful we are: heartfelt thanks, Teacher Wang! We also remember the old night-school teachers who are no longer with us: nobody can ever wipe away what they did.

little sister 您的学生们敬上。”

nín de xuéshēngmen jìng shàng · Your students.”

teacher wang （把纪念册搂在怀里，一眨眼，眼泪就流下来了）你们……让我说什么好呢？

bǎ jìniàn cè lǒu zài huái lǐ yì zhǎyǎn yǎnlèi jiù liú xialai le nǐmen ràng wǒ shuō shénme hǎo ne · (holding the album to her chest; in the blink of an eye, the tears come) You… what can I say?

dr zhou 王老师，您什么都不用说。您的眼神，大家都看见了。你瞅，大家都在注视着您。

Wánglǎoshī nín shénme dōu búyòng shuō nín de yǎnshén dàjiā dōu kànjiàn le nǐ chǒu dàjiā dōu zài zhùshì zhe nín · Teacher Wang, you don’t need to say anything. We’ve all seen the look in your eyes. Look: everyone’s watching you.

xiaoming 知道您的喜好，我们还请了一位老学生唱京剧。您的书法最受学生青睐，等一会儿，请您给大家写几个字！

zhīdào nín de xǐhào wǒmen hái qǐng le yí wèi lǎo xuéshēng chàng jīngjù nín de shūfǎ zuì shòu xuéshēng

qīnglài děng yíhuìr qǐng nín gěi dàjiā xiě jǐ gè zì · We know what you love, so we've asked an old student to sing some Peking opera. And your calligraphy is everyone's favourite: in a little while, please write a few characters for us!

chapter 5 chapter 5: not goodbye

teacher wang （深情地看着大家）谢谢大家。我教了四十年书，感触很多，今天更是感慨万分。我常常感叹：时间过得真快。这栋老楼也老了：电线老化了，窗户腐朽了，玻璃破碎了，墙也塌了一块，有的地方裂了，可是它没有倾倒。

shēnqíng de kàn zhe dàjiā xièxie dàjiā wǒ jiāo le sìshí nián shū gǎnchù hěn duō jīntiān gèng shì gǎnkǎi wànfēn wǒ chángcháng gǎntàn shíjiān guò de zhēn kuài zhè dòng lǎo lóu yě lǎo le diànxiàn lǎohuà le chuānghu fǔxiǔ le bōli pòsuì le qiáng yě tā le yí kuài yǒude dìfang liè le kěshì tā méiyǒu qīngdǎo · (looking at everyone with deep affection) Thank you, everyone. I've taught for forty years and felt a great deal, and today I'm overcome. I often sigh at how fast time goes. This old building has grown old too: the wiring is worn out, the windows have rotted, the glass is broken, part of the wall has collapsed and there are cracks here and there, but it hasn't toppled.

teacher wang 这四十年，我的计划搁浅过，被搁置过；夜校瓦解过，教室闲置过，很多工人差点儿被埋没；我也跟困难搏斗过、挣扎过，差点儿崩溃过。可是学校没有垮，因为有你们。

zhè sìshí nián wǒ de jìhuà gēqiǎn guo bèi gēzhì guo yèxiào wǎjiě guo jiàoshì xiánzhì guo hěn duō gōngrén chàdiǎnr bèi máimò wǒ yě gēn kùnnan bódòu guo zhēngzhá guo chàdiǎnr bēngkuì guo kěshì xuéxiào méiyǒu kuǎ yīnwèi yǒu nǐmen · In these forty years, my plans have run aground and been shelved; the night schools fell apart, classrooms stood empty, and many workers nearly never got their chance; I've fought and struggled with hardship myself, and nearly broken down. But the school didn't collapse, because of you.

teacher wang 作业本磨损了，学生证作废了、失效了，可是你们的字迹还残留在这里。人会老，可是只要思想不僵化、不固化，教育就不会停顿，也不会滞后。我的梦想从来没有破灭。

zuòyè běn mósǔn le xuéshēng zhèng zuòfèi le shīxiào le kěshì nǐmen de zìjì hái cánliú zài zhèlǐ rén huì lǎo kěshì zhǐyào sīxiǎng bù jiānghuà bú gùhuà jiàoyù jiù bú huì tíngdùn yě bú huì zhìhòu wǒ de mèngxiǎng cónglái méiyǒu pòmiè · The exercise books are worn, the student cards have expired and are void, but your handwriting is still here. People grow old, but as long as their thinking doesn't harden and set, education never stops and never falls behind. My dream has never been shattered.

teacher wang 我很留恋这个院子，可是我不说再见。退休以后，我每个星期六晚上，在老礼堂免费上一节课，什么人都可以来，就像我妈妈当年的夜校一样。

wǒ hěn liúliàn zhège yuànzi kěshì wǒ bù shuō zàijiàn tuìxiū yǐhòu wǒ měi gè xīngqīliù wǎnshang zài lǎo lǐtáng miǎnfèi shàng yì jié kè shénme rén dōu kěyǐ lái jiù xiàng wǒ māma dāngnián de yèxiào yíyàng · I'll miss this courtyard, but I'm not saying goodbye. After I retire, every Saturday evening I'll teach a free class in the old hall, open to anyone: just like my mother's night school back then.

professor chen 好！夜校又回来了！这才叫“教人先教心”。站在这里，可以眺望整个院子，我好像看见了七十年前的夜校。

hǎo yèxiào yòu huílái le zhè cái jiào jiāo rén xiān jiāo xīn zhàn zài zhèlǐ kěyǐ tiàowàng zhěnggè yuànzi wǒ hǎoxiàng kànjiàn le qīshí nián qián de yèxiào · Wonderful! The night school is back! That's what "to teach people, first teach the heart" really means. Standing here, looking out over the whole courtyard, I can almost see the night school of seventy years ago.

teacher wang 安娜，第一节课，你来帮我教，好不好？你还记得你学的第一句中文吗？

Ānnà dì yī jié kè nǐ lái bāng wǒ jiāo hǎo bu hǎo nǐ hái jìde nǐ xué de dì yī jù Zhōngwén ma · Anna, will you help me teach the first class? Do you still remember the first thing you ever learned in Chinese?

anna 当然记得：“你好。”

dāngrán jìde nǐhǎo · Of course I do: 你好.

teacher wang 那第一节课，就由你来教“你好”。十年前，你从这句话开始；今天，你用它去帮别人开始。

nà dì yī jié kè jiù yóu nǐ lái jiāo nǐhǎo shí nián qián nǐ cóng zhè jù huà kāishǐ jīntiān nǐ yòng tā qù bāng biérén kāishǐ · Then in the first class, you'll teach 你好. Ten years ago, you started with those words; now you'll use them to help someone else start.

anna （搂住王老师）王老师，我一定去！

lǒu zhù Wánglǎoshī Wánglǎoshī wǒ yídìng qù · (hugging Teacher Wang) Teacher Wang, I'll be there!

xiaoming 我也去！我负责把大白拴在门口看门。大白，别叼包子！它又在嗅蛋糕了！

wǒ yě qù wǒ fùzé bǎ Dàbái shuān zài ménkǒu kàn mén Dàbái bié diāo bāozi tā yòu zài xiù dàngāo le · Me too! I'll be in charge of tying Dabai up at the gate to keep watch. Dabai, put that bun down! Now he's sniffing the cake!

little sister 我用相机捕捉到了这一刻！总的来说，这是我见过的最好的告别会，因为它根本不是告别。

wǒ yòng xiàngjī bǔzhuō dào le zhè yí kè zǒng de lái shuō zhè shì wǒ jiàn guo de zuìhǎo de gàobié huì yīnwèi tā gēnběn bú shì gàobié · I've caught this moment on camera! All in all, it's the best farewell party I've ever been to, because it isn't a farewell at all.

teacher wang （仰望着院子上面的星星）今天，我会常常回味的。好了，大家吃饭吧！

yǎngwàng zhe yuànzi shàngmiàn de xīngxing jīntiān wǒ huì chángcháng huíwèi de hǎo le dàjiā chī fàn ba · (looking up at the stars above the courtyard) I'll often think back on today. Right, everyone: let's eat!

You started this journey with 你好. Today you followed a whole farewell party in Chinese, every word of it. Thank you for learning with us: now go and help someone else start.
Do this day interactively, with audio and games, free at **wishyou.today/learning**